Rover's Escape Plans

by Trevor Birenbaum

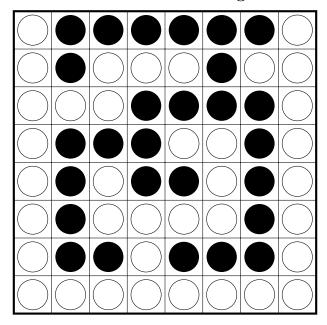
Each scenario represents a logic puzzle involving representing cells as white and black, either through the placement of pearls (Scenarios 1 and 3) or through shading (Scenarios 2, 4, and 5). Expert solvers can determine the genre of logic puzzle from each scenario's flavor and the letters surrounding the grid, and Casual solvers are given rulesets. The logic puzzles can be solved as follows.

Scenario 1: Masyu

Scenario 2: Corral

2		5		2	
			3		
2					
					5
		2			
	2		6		2

 $Scenario\ 3:\ \mathbf{Yin}\text{-}\mathbf{Yang}$



Scenario 4: Choco Banana

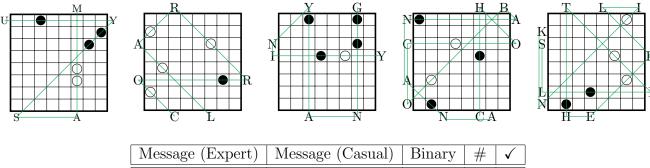
	4						
	4		4		4	4	6
	9			11			
9							
							3
			1			2	
8	2	8		1		7	
						1	

Scenario 5: Slitherlink

		3		3			3
3		0				2	
		3			2	3	
	2			2		1	
	1		2			1	
	2	2			0		
	2				2		1
3			2		0		

Each puzzle contains five yellow cells. Each of these cells is or can be colored white or black in the solution to the puzzle, implying a five-bit binary extract (the standard white=0, black=1 is used). However, an ordering mechanism for the bits is needed.¹

For each puzzle, a path consisting of line segments pointing in cardinal or ordinal directions can be drawn between the letters surrounding the grid to form a word or phrase. In the Expert puzzles, this is the genre of the logic puzzle, and in the Casual puzzles, this is a type of street Rover may plan to escape via; the paths are the same in both versions.



Message (Expert)	Message (Casual)	Binary	#	√
MASYU	ALLEY	00111	7	G
CORRAL	BRIDGE	01000	8	Н
YINYANG	HIGHWAY	01111	15	0
CHOCO BANANA	NATURE TRAIL	10011	19	S
SLITHERLINK	SERVICE ROAD	10100	20	Т

Reading down the last column, the answer to the puzzle is GHOST.

¹The Masyu has yellow pearls intentionally placed adjacent to each other to imply a relationship between extraction squares and the path connecting letters to form each logic puzzle's word or phrase.