Mind The GAPP Vol. 27

Genuinely Approachable Pencil Puzzles from the CtC Discord

January 1, 2024 - January 31, 2024

Time flies🪰, doesn't it? One month has already passed in 2024, and now the first Mind the GAPP edition of 2024 is here! Or that's what I would've said if we got this out earlier, as now we're almost 2 months into 2024. We're sorry for the late MtG -- everyone's been busy this month!

To make up for it, here's a bonus bonus puzzle. The answer to this puzzle is a common English word.

This month also saw the first round of Puzzle Ramayan 2024, where we gave out otters 🦦 to everyone who participated. If this is your first time participating in a puzzle competition, we hope you enjoyed it! Even if you're not trying to go fast, these puzzles will still be fun to solve on their own, so we encourage doing that.

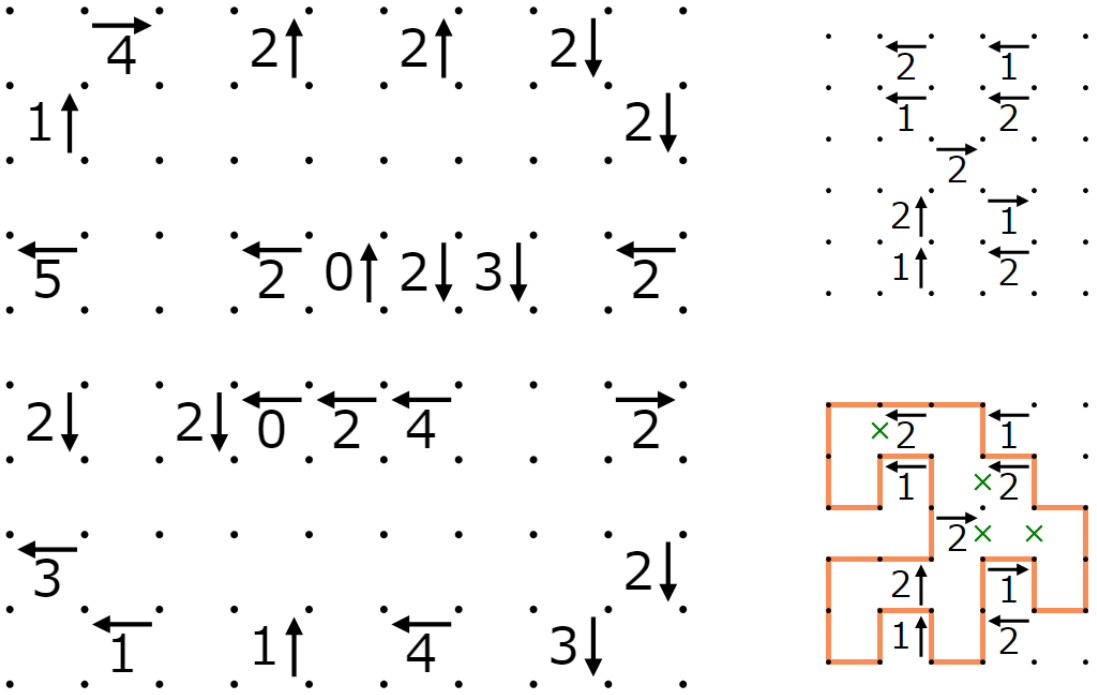
January 1, 2024: Line of Sight

shye

Happy New Year! ...to some people. If you live in places like Bolivia, Chile, Nova Scotia, or Puerto Rico then you're probably busy watching fireworks and messaging family right now. It's a bit hard to give the same new years wishes online, I did debate making 38 puzzles but figured that would be hard to stay awake for 🫠 Did you know there are technically 38 timezones? I didn't until I looked it up, turns out there are a lot of countries opting for half-hour compromises. Here in Australia there's even a GMT +8:45 timezone for a couple of small towns on the Nullabor, a compromise between WA's +8:00 and SA's +9:30. Meanwhile directly north in Kununurra they don't seem to give a shit 

Anyone have any new years resolutions? Let us know what you're 👁️ looking 👁️ forward to after you solve today's **Line of Sight**!

Rules: Connect some pairs of orthogonally adjacent dots to form a single non-intersecting loop. A clue represents the length of the first straight line segment seen in the indicated direction



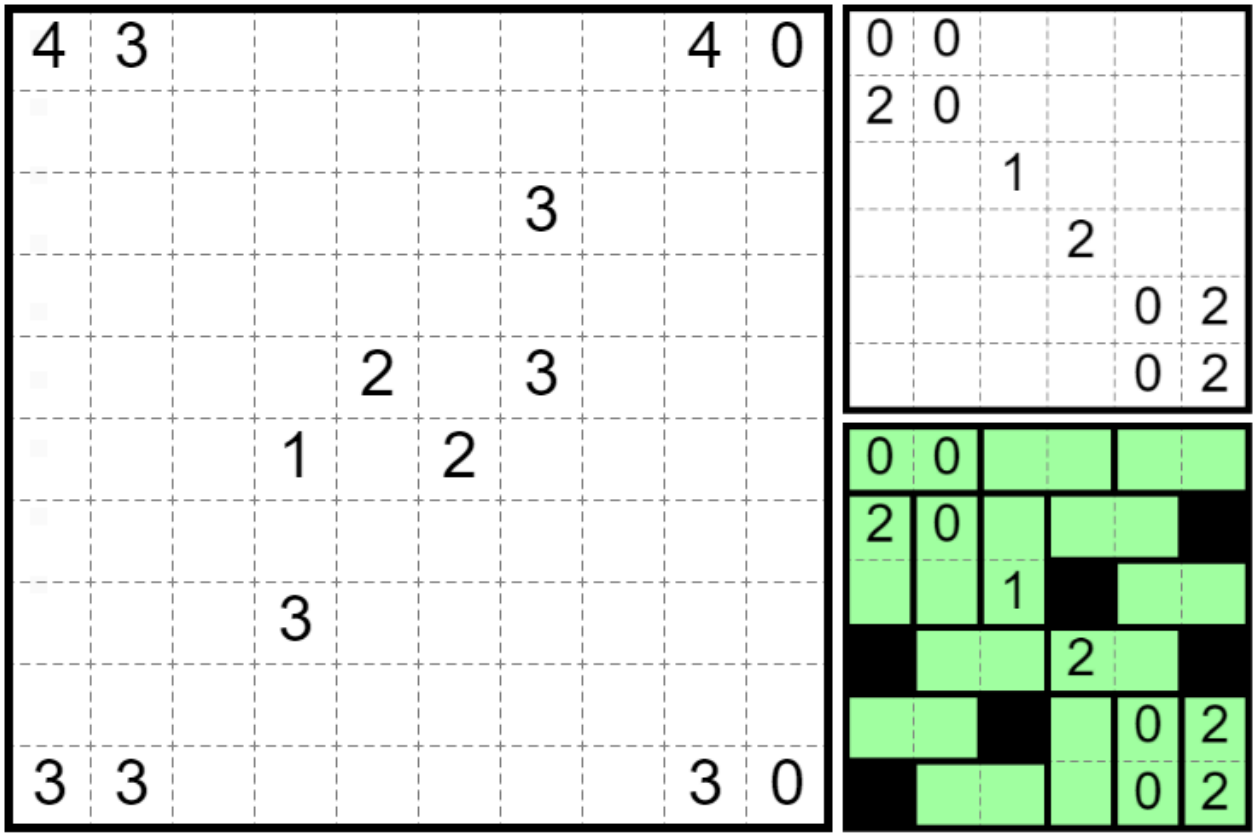
Example (puzz.link) by bakpao: https://tinyurl.com/246pfrx4
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/55nsd56m
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/f8YC0bBKMeM

January 2, 2024: La Paz

Menderbug

Since yesterday's Happy New Year came too early for some parts of the world, such as Bolivia, Happy New Year from me as well with a **La Paz**.

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and divide the remaining unshaded cells into two-cell regions. Clued cells cannot be shaded. A clue indicates the number of shaded cells which lie entirely within the same row or column as the region containing the clue.



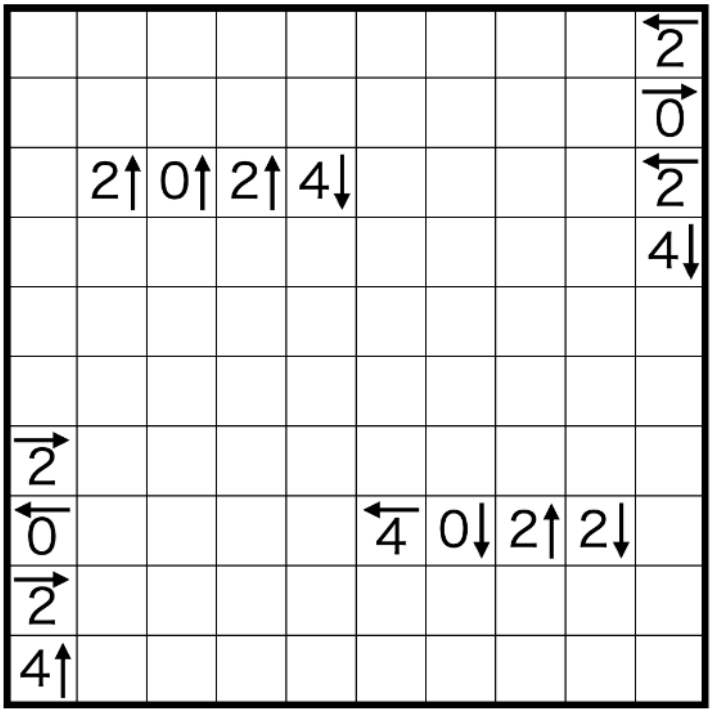
Example (puzz.link) by Shye: https://tinyurl.com/4t5a7hf5
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/4xzvacby
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/tdU6bSHyP7s

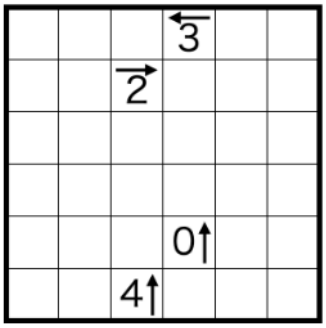
January 3, 2024: Tetrochain

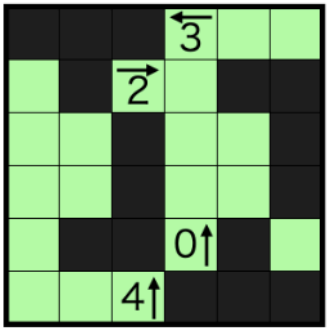
Freddie Hand

In case there are any UTC-1:12:00 folks, here's another New Year's 2024 puzzle. An alien civilisation may be very confused by this **Tetrochain** by the time it comes round to 4022.

Rules: Shade some tetrominoes of cells such that no two tetrominoes touch each other orthogonally, but all tetrominoes form one diagonally connected network. Two tetrominoes of the same shape may not touch diagonally, counting rotations and reflections as the same. Clues cannot be shaded, and represent the number of shaded cells in a straight line in the indicated direction.







Example (Puzz.link) by Eric Fox: http://tinyurl.com/24xk35wx
GAPP (Puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/mrx7f24h
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/7AmOQxuPZaw

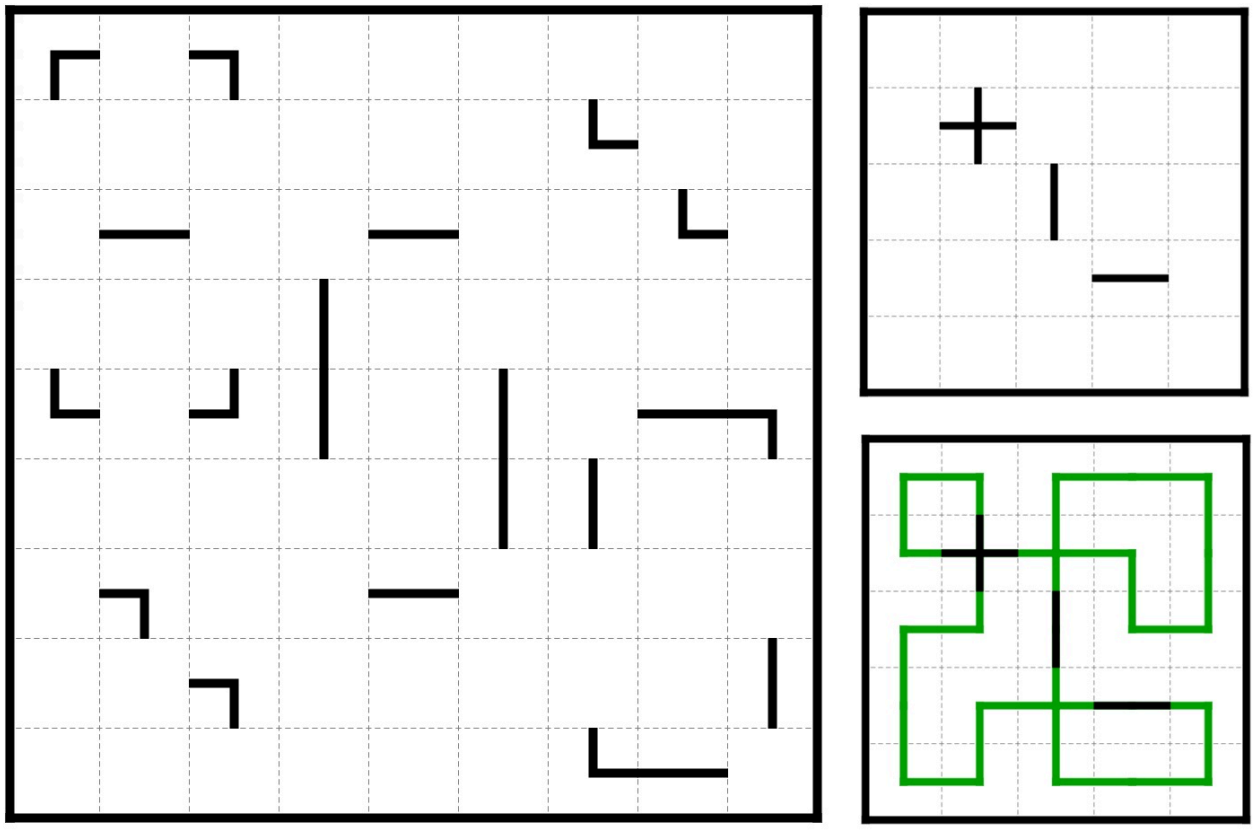
January 4, 2024: Pipelink

Walker

Today is the 800th GAPP puzzle, and I got a **Pipelink** neon sign to celebrate! If you turn on the **Color each line** option (at the top, above the timer) and trace over the given pipes, you can see the sign light up in brilliant color! (And Color each line should make it easier to connect up the rest of the sign afterwards, too.)

Rules: Draw a loop through the centers of all cells. Two perpendicular line segments may intersect each other, but not turn at their intersection or otherwise overlap. A clue shows how the loop crosses through the cell it's in.

Interface Note: You can **mark X**s on cell borders by right clicking (or tapping, on mobile). These are very useful - and remember to mark Xs next to the given pipes!



Example (puzz.link) by Jovi: http://tinyurl.com/35cvcnj7
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/5zhdkcry
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/VyICVHpjDpQ

January 5, 2024: Battenberg Painting
Lavaloid

Today's ✨ *Fun with Food Friday* ✨ is a **Battenberg Painting**! Yes, it's spelled Battenberg, not Battenburg like the Sudoku variant. You may also notice when solving or examining the example solution that some of the checkerboard symbols appear lighter than the others, even if they're the same color! Isn't it funny how our brain wo-- ***LOUD SIREN NOISE***

⚠️ NEGATIVE CONSTRAINT ALERT ⚠️ NEGATIVE CONSTRAINT ALERT ⚠️

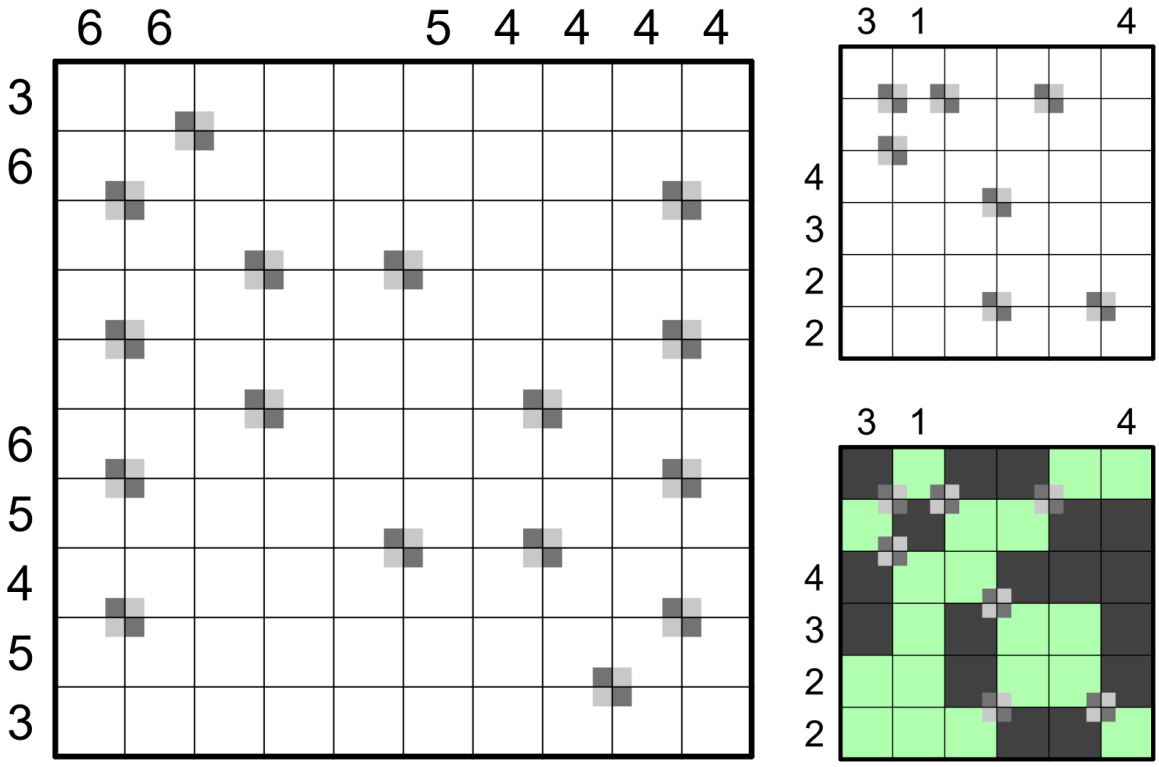
Rules: Shade some cells such that clues at the top indicate the number of shaded cells in that column, and clues on the left indicate the number of shaded cells in that row. Checkerboard symbols indicate **ALL** 2x2 areas that are shaded in a checkerboard pattern.

Two **GAPP 101**s: (ROT13)

- N purpxreobneq pyhr pbagevohgrf rknpgyl bar funqrq gb rnpu bs gur ebj/pbyhzaf vg gbhpurf. Guvf zrnaf fbzr bs gur ebjf/pbyhzaf ner nyernql ng gurve znkvzhz/zvavzhz inyhr.
- N purpxreobneq pyhr unf bayl gjb cbffvoyr pbasvthengvbaf. Ybbx sbe cynprf jurer bar bs gur pbasvthengvbaf jbhyq erfhyg va na hapyhrq purpxreobneq.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



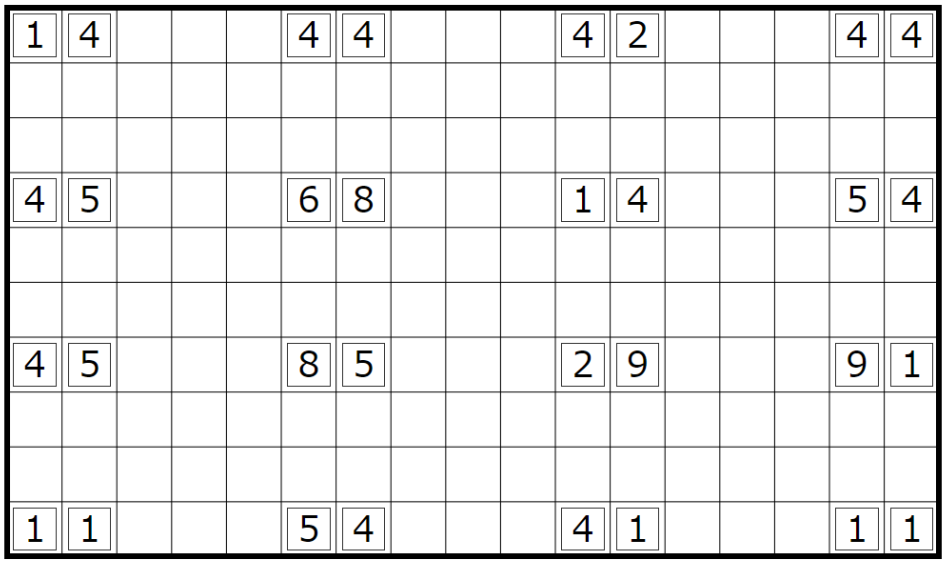
Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yw5wzk33
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yneh5kfj
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/HzXj9ii3j-o

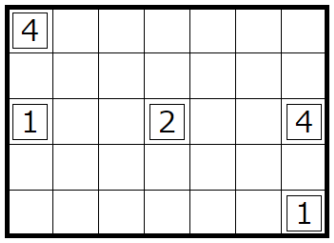
January 6, 2024: Tasquare
shye

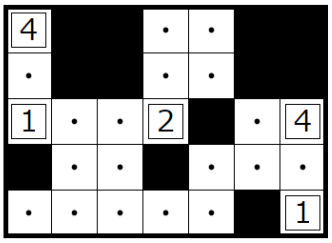
It's **Supersized Saturday** and I'm feeling superdried up'rday on intro ideas. I turned to ChatGPT but we all know how well that goes. Sigh...

Hey Puzzlers, brace yourselves for the **Tasquare** Tango! Today's puzzle is a real square dance where shaded cells team up to create perfect squares, but no need for fancy footwork – just sharp logic! It's like trying to organize a box of mismatched puzzle pieces, only with a few clues to guide you. Let's see if you can square the deal and solve this Tasquare teaser in no time. Remember, even in the world of pencil puzzles, thinking inside the square is always a good idea! 💡🧩 #TasquareTwist #PuzzleChampion

Rules: Shade some cells so that each orthogonally connected area of shaded cells is in the shape of a square and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clued cells cannot be shaded, and represent the total size of the shaded squares that share an edge with the clue





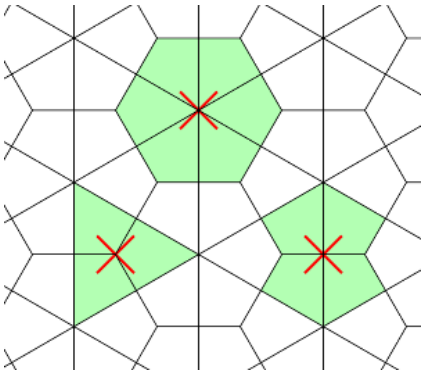


Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/26vmnfht
GAPP (puzz.link, landscape): http://tinyurl.com/52csmp7v
GAPP (puzz.link, portrait): http://tinyurl.com/y2vkzets
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/NpRgFmj6-4s

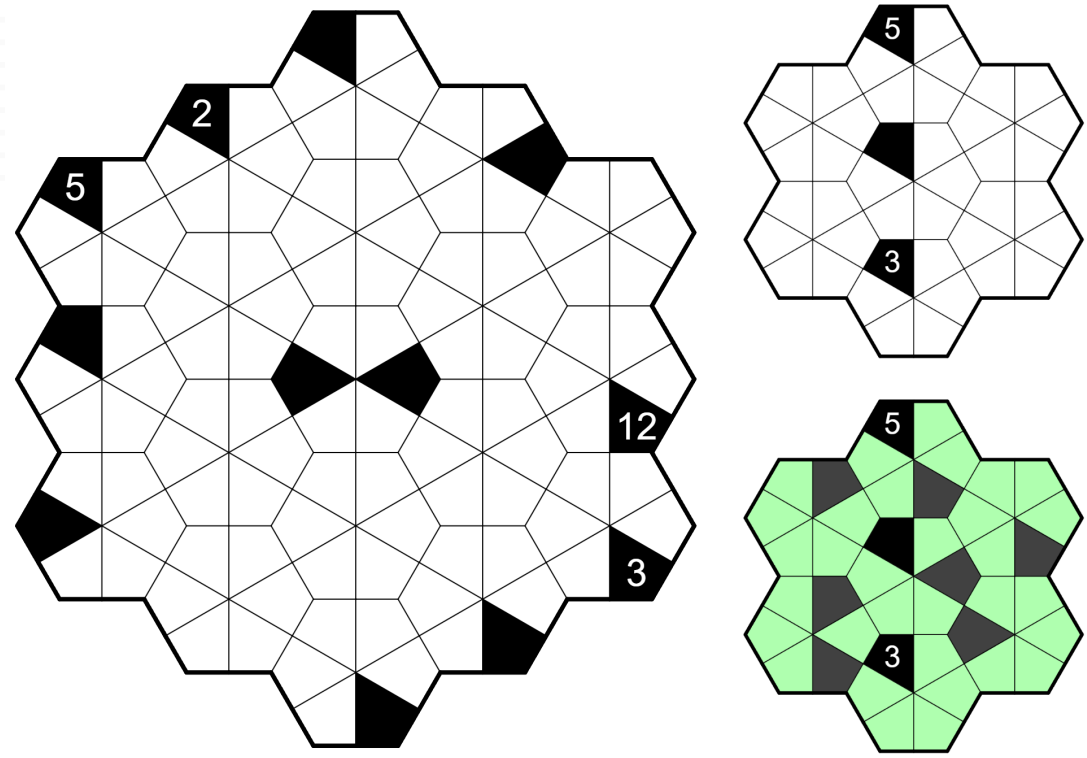
January 7, 2024: Aquapelago (Deltodial Trihexagonal)

Menderbug

I have the honour of bringing you this year's first Strange-Shaped Sunday. And what a strange shape we have today. This **Aquapelago** uses a **Deltoidal Trihexagonal** grid. Transferring the no-unshaded-2x2 rule to this grid might take a little getting used to, so I've included a diagram showing the three disallowed configurations. I hope the almost-symmetry of the main puzzle doesn't cause any excessive twitching of eyelids, but I already spent way too long on trying to make this puzzle work at all. 😩



Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are share an edge and the remaining unshaded cells form one edge-connected area. No internal grid vertex can be surrounded entirely by unshaded cells. Clued cells must be shaded, and indicate the number of shaded cells in the vertex-connected group they belong to.



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yl6rk7gg
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yk9cn33b
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/y-m-T6uuOeQ

January 8, 2024: Myopia

Freddie Hand

They say that eating carrots gives you night vision. What they don't tell you is that you'll turn orange first. Source: some Tom Scott video from around 14 years ago, probably.

Solving thousands of **Myopia** at a time will make you smarter, with absolutely no side effects.

Rules: Connect some pairs of orthogonally adjacent dots to form a single non-intersecting loop. Clued cells contain arrows indicating all of the orthogonal directions in which a loop segment appears closest to the clued cell.

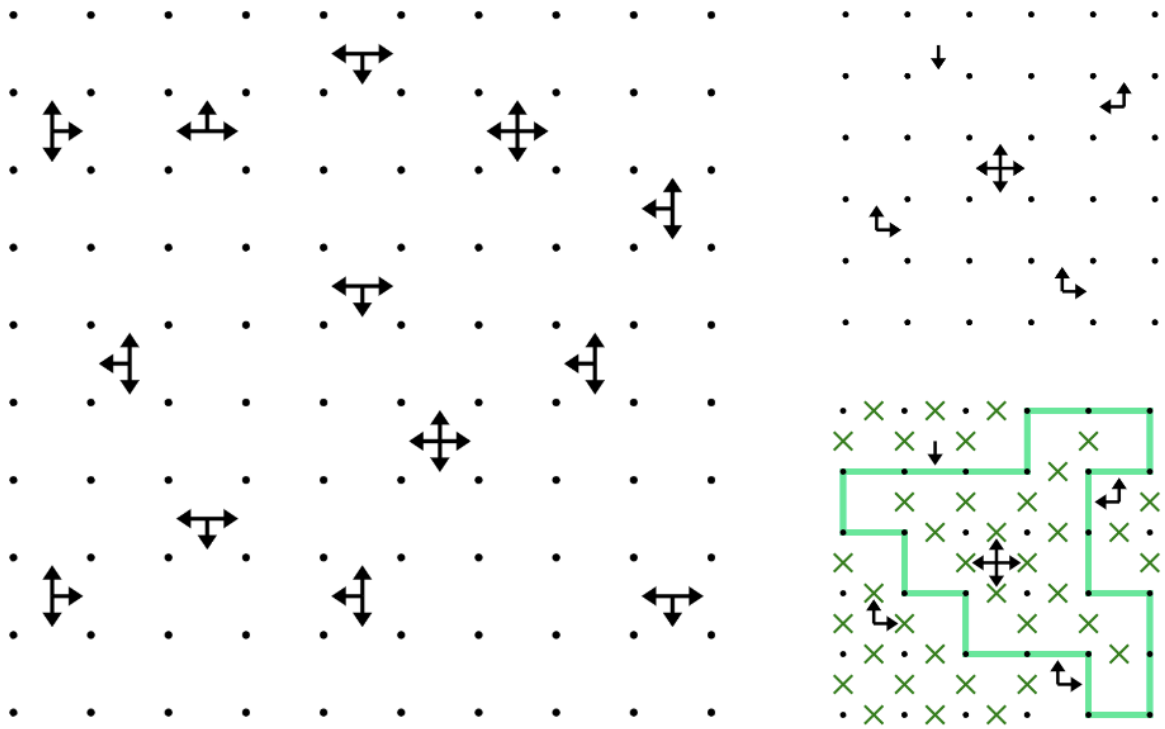
Note: This last rule does mean that if in two or more directions there's a tie for the closest line segment, all of those directions are shown. Directions without arrows must have the nearest segment be further than directions with arrows.

Here's a couple of little **GAPP 101**'s: (ROT13)

- 4-qverpgvbany pyhrf ner dhvgr erfgevpgrq: va cnegvphyne, gurer pnaabg or nal yvar frtzragf nqwnprag gb gur pyhr, fvapr guvf jbhyq sbez n bar-ol-bar ybbc.
- 3-qverpgvbany pyhrf ner nyfb snveyl erfgevpgrq: vs gurer vf yvar frtzrag nqwnprag gb gur pyhr, gur yvar frtzragf nebhaq gur pyhr sbez n "H-funcr", juvpu pna fbzrgvzrf or ceboyrzngvp.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



Example (puzz.link) by Eric Fox: http://tinyurl.com/2p8ybmba
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/ma3jtmb5
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/R-mgis7498M

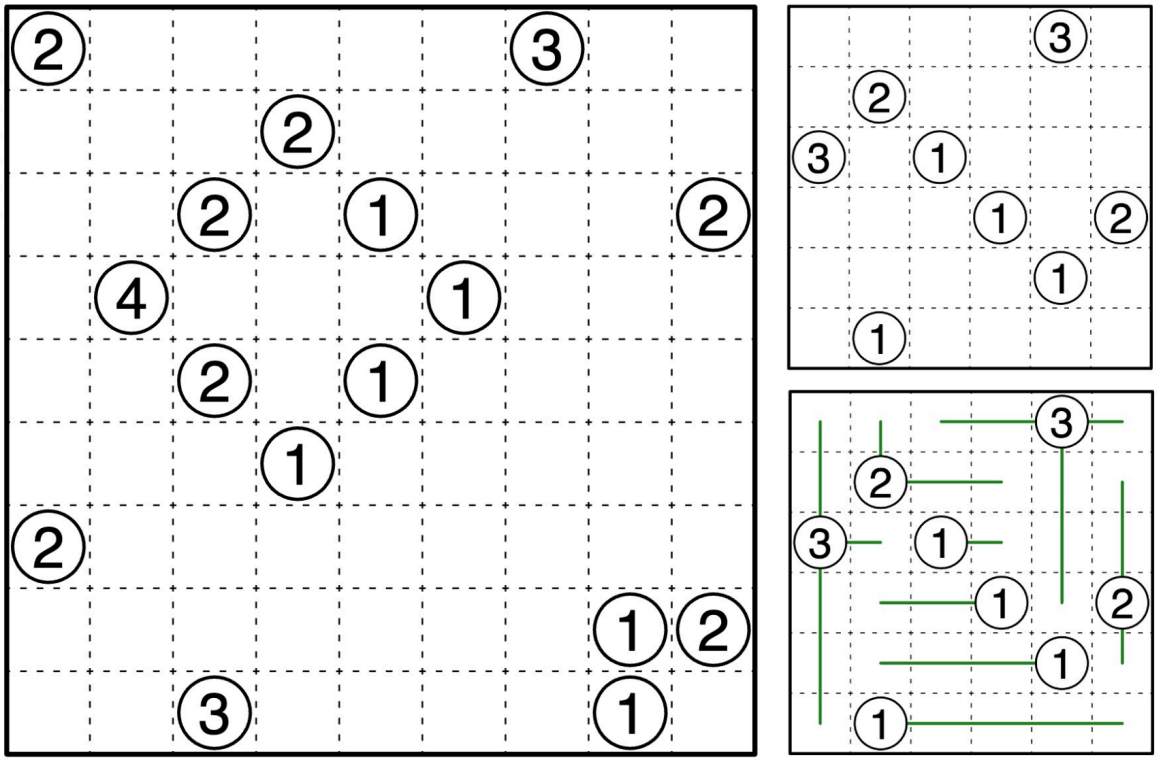
January 9, 2024: Rumble Wall

Walker

Hello, this is Walker, reporting the weather live from GAPP HQ. ⛈️ 🎙️ It looks like we're in for quite a storm today - I can already see a wall of dark clouds coming in from the east. With that rumbling, roaring sound of thunder, I'd guess it's a **Rumble Wall** storm. While there should be little rain, expect to see Four strong Winds, blowing in each of the cardinal directions. As for the rest of the week? Maybe Clouds... or maybe we'll be able see the Moon and Sun! Well, I Hope It's Sunny, at least...

Rules: Draw straight arrows extending from each clue such that every empty cell is used by an arrow. Arrows may not cross each other or clued cells. A clue indicates the number of arrows extending from it. Two arrows of the same length may not extend from the same clue.

Interface Note: This puzzle uses Line mode for entering the answer; you don't need to mark the arrowheads on the ends of arrows.



Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/yn7qtmpd
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/yvsq3oan
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/_0Qf6X2tavQ

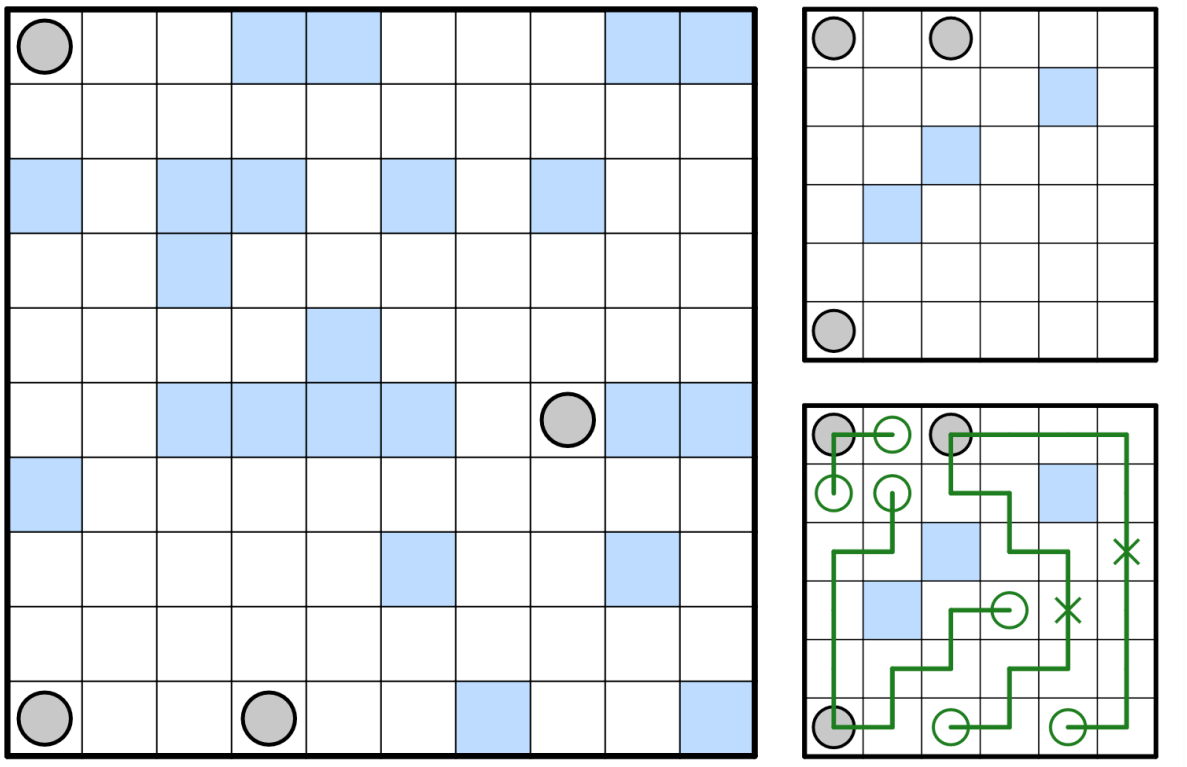
January 10, 2024: Leg Day

Lavaloid

Today's ✨ *Workout Wednesday* ✨ is a **Leg Day**, because exercising is good for your health! Just be careful not to overdo it, if you don't want your legs to end up like the guys in the puzzle.

Rules: Draw two legs (orthogonal paths between centres of empty cells) of equal length from each guy (circle clue) such that every empty cell is used by a leg. Legs cannot intersect themselves or each other. Feet (endpoints of the paths) cannot be orthogonally adjacent to a rug (shaded cell).

Interface note: The example uses O to mark ends of legs, and X to mark every 5th leg cell, which makes it easier to count. You may want to use them for other purposes (e.g. X to mark cells that cannot be ends of legs).



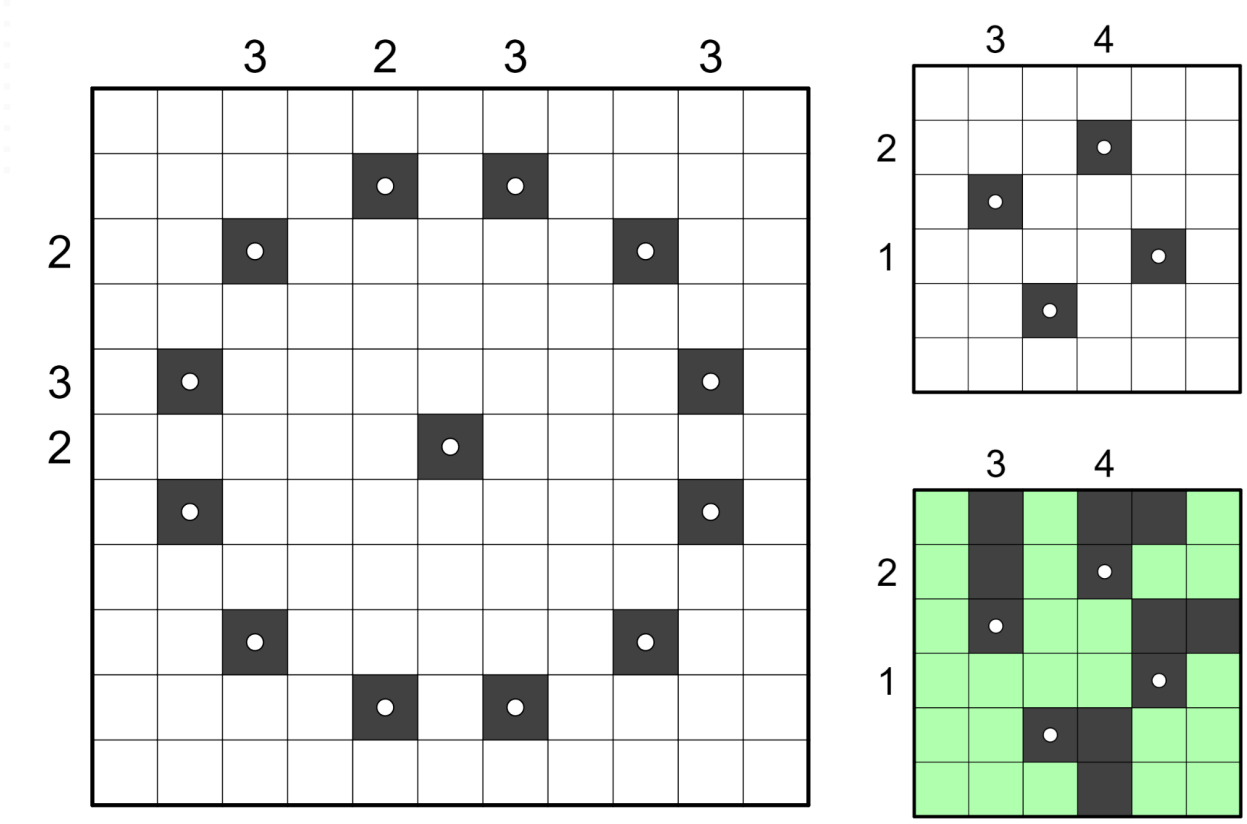
Legsample (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yvts8hs4
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ymuq32bj
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/qMNZoqnJ2Cg

January 11, 2024: Koi Pond

Menderbug

No one expects ~~the Spani...~~ a surprise Menderbug puzzle! I'm swapping with Shye, so you'll get her puzzle tomorrow. Here is a **Koi Pond**, which is a very recent (like, earlier this week) invention by `@jkd`.

Rules: Shade some fish, which are orthogonally connected groups of exactly 3 cells. Fish must not touch each other orthogonally. The head of each fish is given as a white dot. The numbers outside of the grid specify the amount of shaded cells in that row or column.



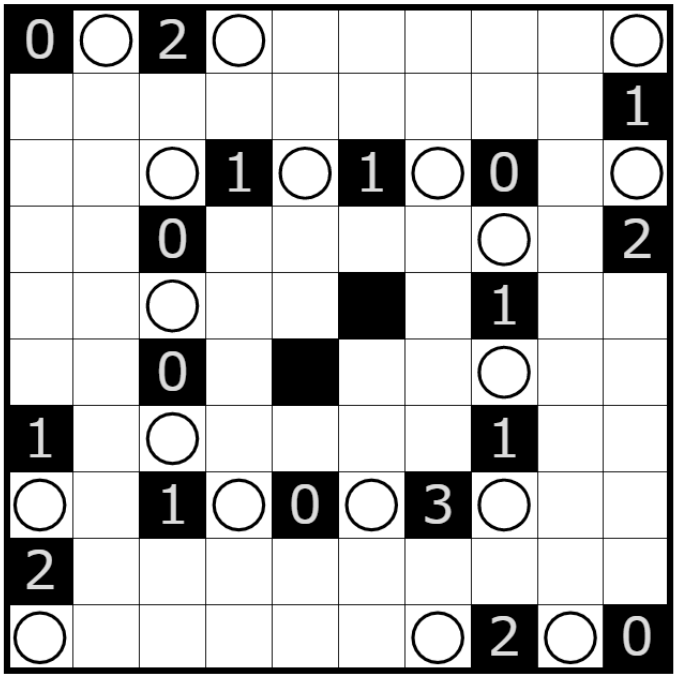
Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yl6n469c
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ytfkfywy
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/yZvFZotTChU

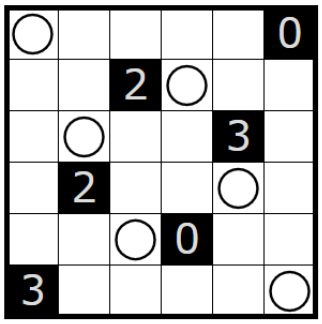
January 12, 2024: Brownies

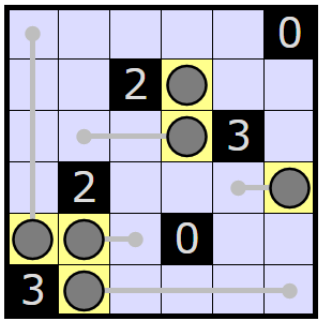
shye

When I first heard about today's genre **Brownies**, I assumed it had something to do with the popular dessert. But what makes more sense themeatically is if it was named after the mythical Scottish goblins, known for being a bit mischievous, tangling hair and hiding objects.

Rules: Move some circles such that each clue has the indicated number of circles in the (up to) 3x3 area surrounding it. A circle may move only in one straight line vertically or horizontally, and may not pass through black cells. Circles' paths may not cross each other, other circles, or other circles' starting points







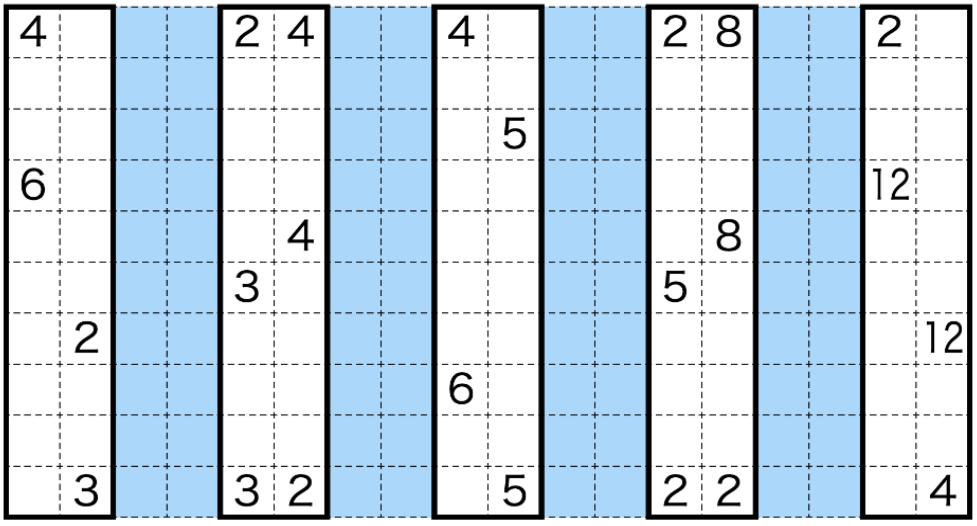
Example (puzz.link) by Mender: https://tinyurl.com/4jcr9tyn
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/yyf6cbbr
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/R_TUVaSsHSY

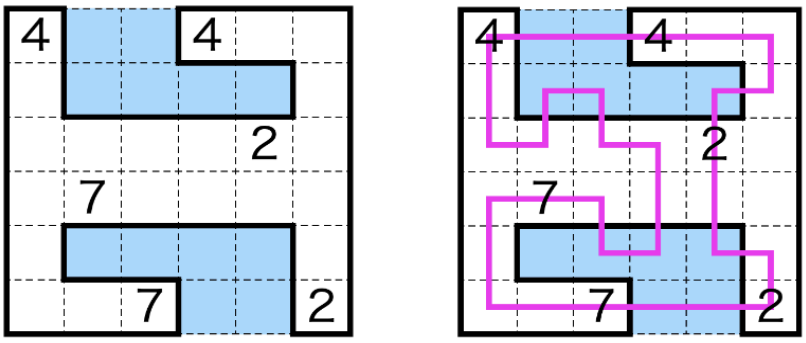
January 13, 2024: Water Walk
Freddie Hand

It's a funny thing, snow. It might be one the few things that's almost universally loved by children and hated by adults. And yes I'm a huge fan of Pinkfong.

Fortunately, this supersized **Water Walk** doesn't have any snow or ice, but try your best to not to step in too many puddles. Or if you want the kid version, make each visit to the water last for at least 3 cells. (Don't try this, it doesn't work)

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop through the centres of some cells which passes through each numbered cell. The loop may not travel through more than two water cells in a row. A number indicates how many cells make up the continuous non-water section of the loop that the number is on. (Note: The loop can't cross itself anywhere, including on water cells.)





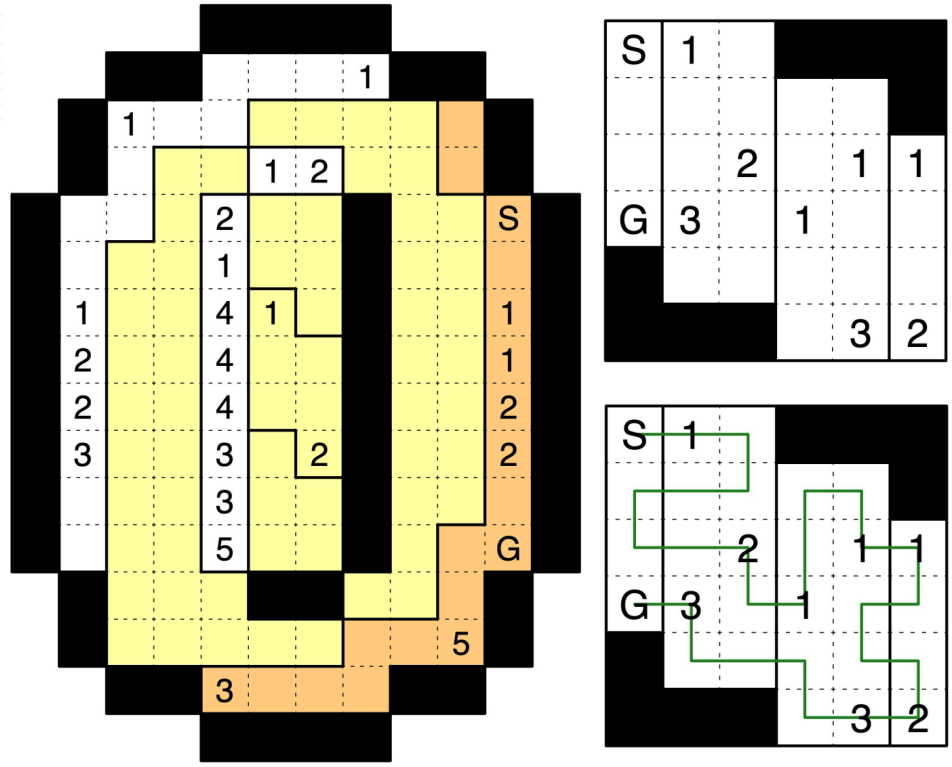
Example (puzz.link) by Walker: http://tinyurl.com/4nfa44pv
GAPP (puzz.link, Landscape): http://tinyurl.com/358t4cw2
GAPP (puzz.link, Portrait): http://tinyurl.com/3n82c9et
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/7JkEyeHXFvE

January 14, 2024: Haisu
Walker

One of the world's largest puzzle hunts, the MIT Mystery Hunt, is running this weekend! 📝 🏛️ The hunt, run yearly since 1981, brings thousands of participants to campus, with many teams between 30 and 80 solvers. The hunt culminates in a final runaround to find a "coin" 🪙 , and the first team to finish wins the responsibility of writing next year's hunt. If you're curious, I'd recommend checking the archive of past hunts; there are puzzles about all sorts of things (including some Sudoku / grid logic puzzles), so there's sure to be something you're interested in!

Speaking of, I found this oddly-shaped **Haisu** puzzle tucked behind a poster on campus. How strange… (For hunt solvers, the usual "not a puzzle" disclaimer: this puzzle is not associated with any of the puzzles in this year's Mystery Hunt.)

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting path through the centers of all unshaded cells, starting from the S (start) and finishing at the G (goal). Each clued cell must be traveled through on the path's Nth visit to the region the clue lies within, where N is the value of the clue. The colors are just for theming, and have no relevance to the solve.



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ywn9m7yj
GAPP (Penpa+, no color): http://tinyurl.com/ynq2xn7x
GAPP (Penpa+, color): http://tinyurl.com/yqqgf6h7
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/ojZ-zz-0iCs

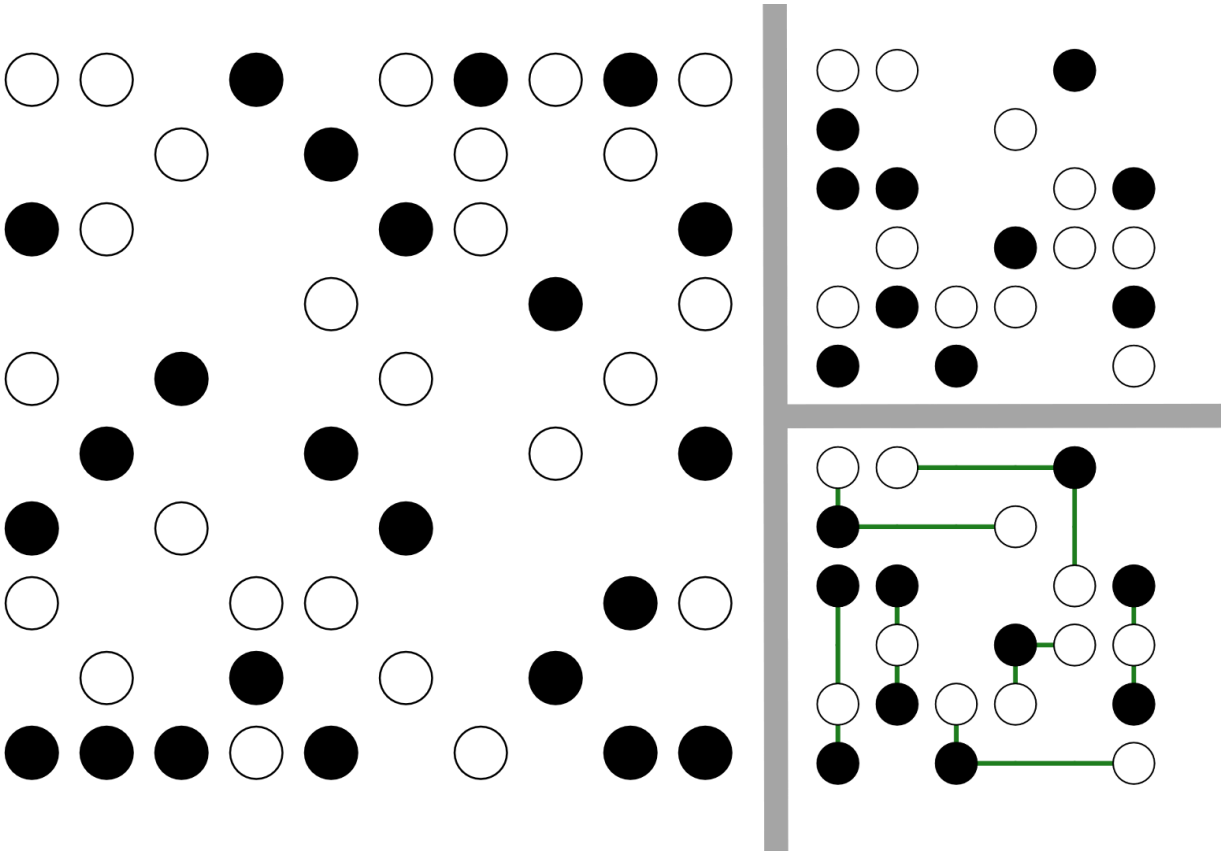
January 15, 2024: Pearl Necklace

Lavaloid

Oh no! The **Pearl Necklace** I bought online just got delivered, but I tripped in a hurry and all of the pearls fell off! I wanted to learn how to put them back together, but it seems that Googling "string theory" returns a very different result.

Rules:

- Connect pairs of circles horizontally or vertically to form connected groups of three. Connections may not cross one another.
- The circle in the middle of a group (that is, the one connected directly to the other two) must be the opposite color from the other two.
- Groups with a white circle in the middle must be straight. Groups with a black circle in the middle must have a corner in the black circle.



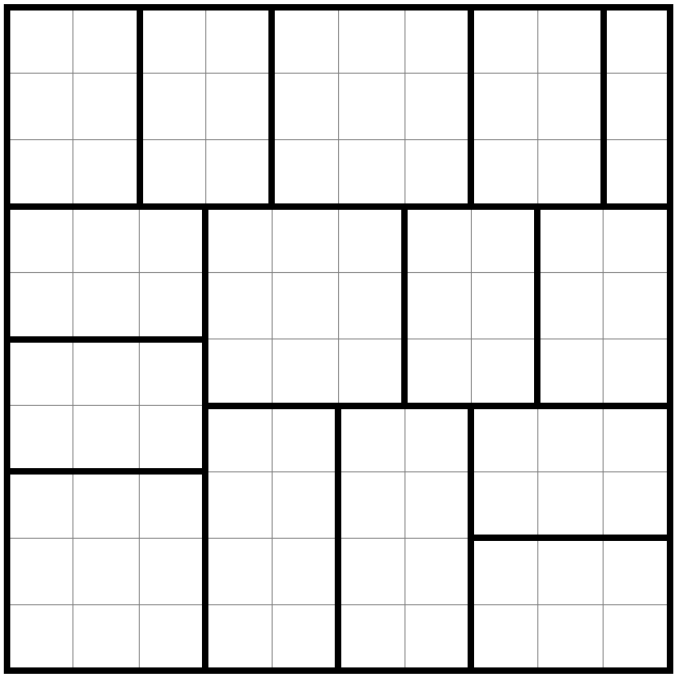
Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yph2yemw
Example (Kudamono): http://tinyurl.com/ms74vmbb
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yubdvndo
GAPP (Kudamono): http://tinyurl.com/3tk4b7wc
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/eUFPntXX9Pk

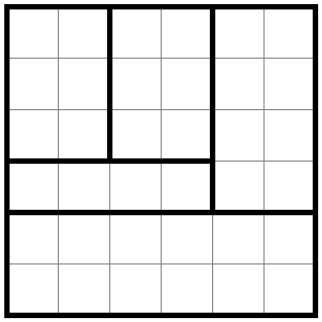
January 16, 2024: Ayeheya

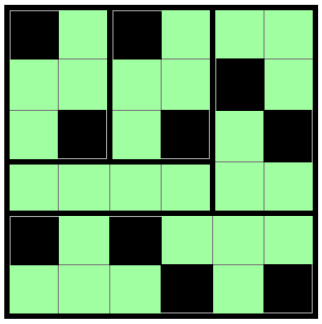
shye

When solving regular Heyawake, the first thing I look for is any numbered region where the shaded cells in it have only one working configuration. But in the variant **Ayeheya**, which often doesn't even need numbered regions, there is a different deduction I always start with 👀

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. The shaded cells within a region must have 180° rotational symmetry around the region's center. A line of consecutive unshaded cells may not cross more than one bold border







Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/bde7dunk
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/yvxkvzmx
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/3UdTZ8HgENE

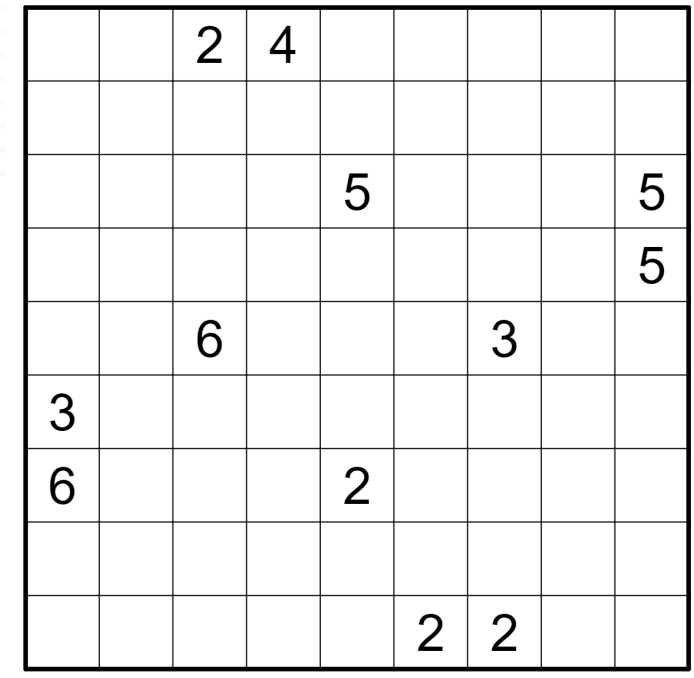
January 17, 2024: Territory

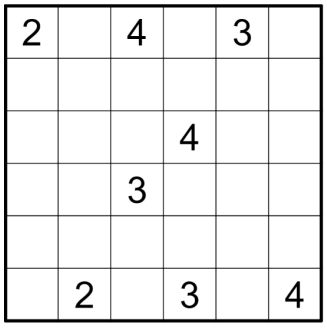
Menderbug

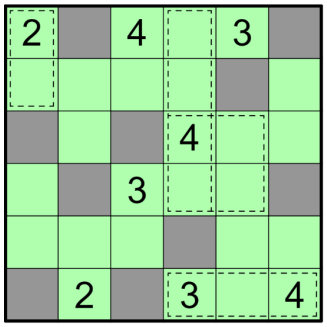
How many genres can you think of that share a name with another genre? Eric's rules document lists 7 such pairs (there might be more where one is only listed as a synonym for another). Here is another pair that is not on the document: you might be familiar with the Nikoli genre Nawabari, which until recently was called *Territory* on puzz.link (we covered it on GAPP a while back). However, the reason it was renamed is that there is also a genre called **Territory** by Naoki Inaba and it's a lot more interesting than Nawabari if you ask me.

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clues cannot be shaded, and represent the area of the largest rectangle of unshaded cells containing the clue.

In the example solution I have indicated some of these maximal rectangles. Note that a clue may be contained in multiple such rectangles (e.g. the 4 in the middle), and a clue's rectangle may encompass another clue (e.g. the 3 at the bottom).







Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/2x37bvxs
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ylbzyvzd
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/X5wnlPkmdoY

January 18, 2024: Liar Loop

Freddie Hand

We're currently just over halfway through January, which can only mean one thing - it's the start of the 📝 ✏️ competitive puzzle solving season! 📝 ✏️ The Logic Masters India *Puzzle Ramayan* has just started, of which one of the puzzles is **Liar Loop**. So here's one to practise on.

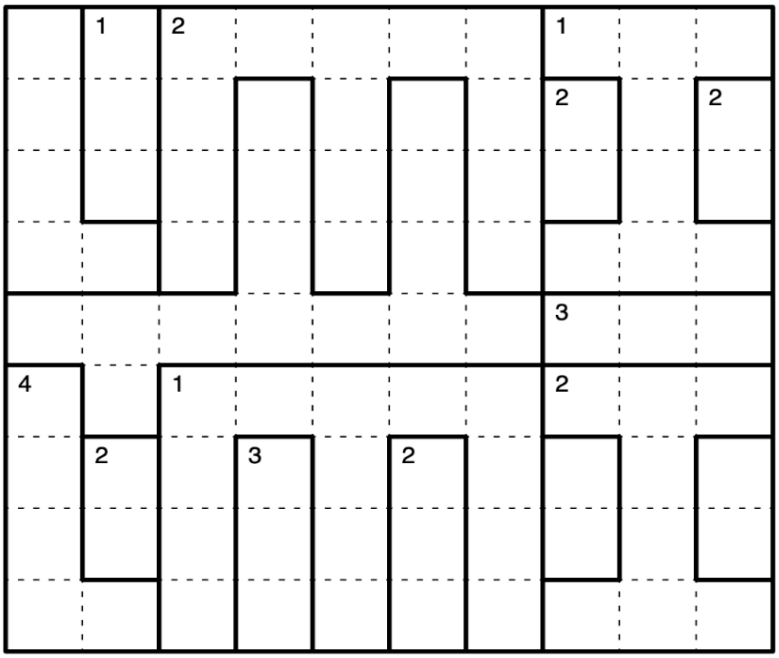
A bit more information: the contest has 22 puzzles written by Prasanna Seshadri, which you can solve in any 1-hour period between today and about a week from now. To solve the puzzles, you can either print them out or use the online integrated Penpa+ interface (with no answer check since this is a contest). This is the first round and consists of mainly fairly common genres, and there is also a bonus otter 🦦 on offer for anyone who participates!

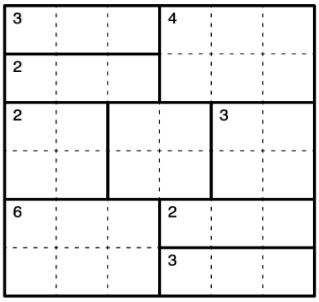
For more details, go to https://logicmastersindia.com/live/?contest=PR202401 to download the instructions booklet or get started.

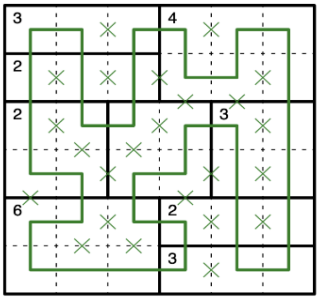
Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop through the centers of all cells. A clue in a region means that no visit the loop makes to the region may occupy exactly the indicated number of cells.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆







Example (Penpa+) by shye: http://tinyurl.com/yvkb5sb7
or with big numbers: https://tinyurl.com/yn6b9lsp
Puzzle (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yv4oer2b
or with big numbers: http://tinyurl.com/ykbqhem3
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/aIUtxqnM1rw

January 19, 2024: Skyscrapers

Walker

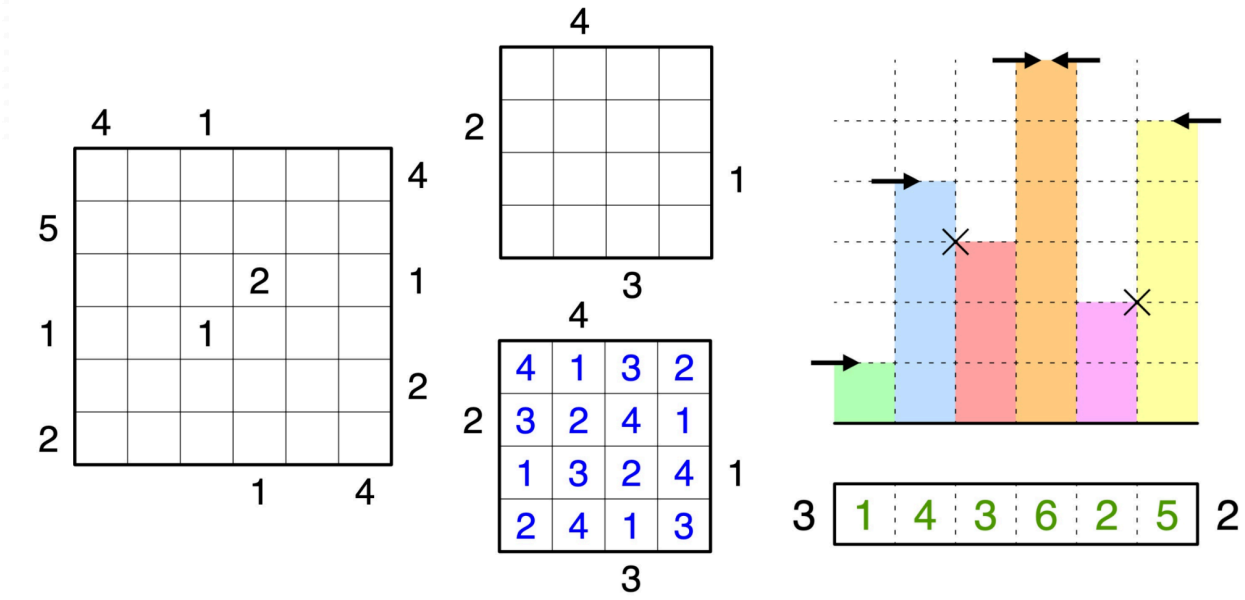
Today is another practice puzzle for Puzzle Ramayan, a **Skyscrapers**! Like my previous Doppelblock, this puzzle includes some digits given inside the grid. And remember that anyone who participates in Puzzle Ramayan will earn a **bonus otter**! 🦦 🥳

Rules: Place a number from 1 to N into each cell so that each row and column contains every number from that range with no repeats, where N is the side length of the grid. Also, each number in the grid represents the height of a building and the clues on the outside of the grid indicate how many buildings can be “seen” when looking from that direction. Taller buildings block the view of smaller buildings. Alternatively, a clue outside the grid represents how many cells in the corresponding row or column contain a larger number than all cells before it in that row or column from the direction of the clue.

For a visual interpretation of the rules, check out the bar chart image below! Looking from the left, the clue see the height 1, 4, and 6 buildings, but not the height 3 building, because it’s obscured by the 4. Looking from the right, the clue can see the 5 and 6 buildings but not the obscured 2. Because the 6 is the tallest building, a clue can’t see any buildings past it.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



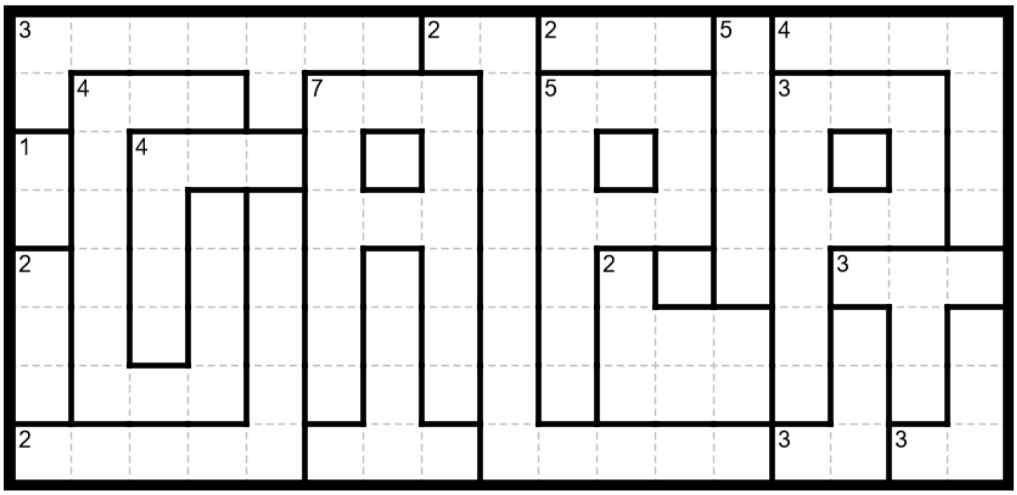
Example (Penpa+) by Freddie: https://tinyurl.com/y9glxq33
Example (puzz.link): https://tinyurl.com/24rbaazv
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yoobv35f
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/5n6e5a4u
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/acX0BrEK4aE

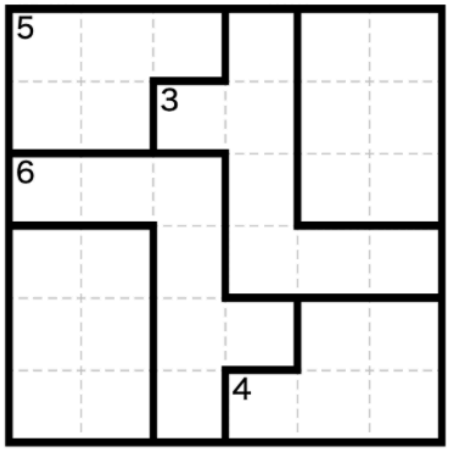
January 20, 2024: Maxi Loop

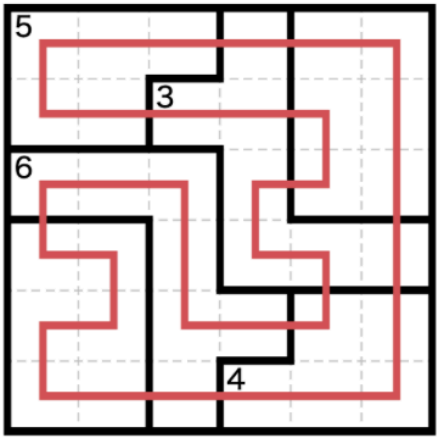
Lavaloid

Are we going to advertise Puzzle Ramayan for three days in a row? Absolutely. Today's ✨ *Supersized Saturday* ✨ is a **Maxi Loop**, another genre featured in the contest! The *Otter Offer* 🦦 still stands - if you participate in the contest you may claim an otter.

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop through the centers of all cells. A number in a region represents the number of cells occupied by the largest continuous loop segment within the region. (Note this does not have to be the strictly largest loop section - there can be multiple sections of this length)







Example (puzz.link) by Eric: https://tinyurl.com/2p9xewdd
GAPP (puzz.link, Horizontal): http://tinyurl.com/yr6njwkd
GAPP (puzz.link, Vertical): http://tinyurl.com/4kmpzsp4
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/VehcRE8tEJE

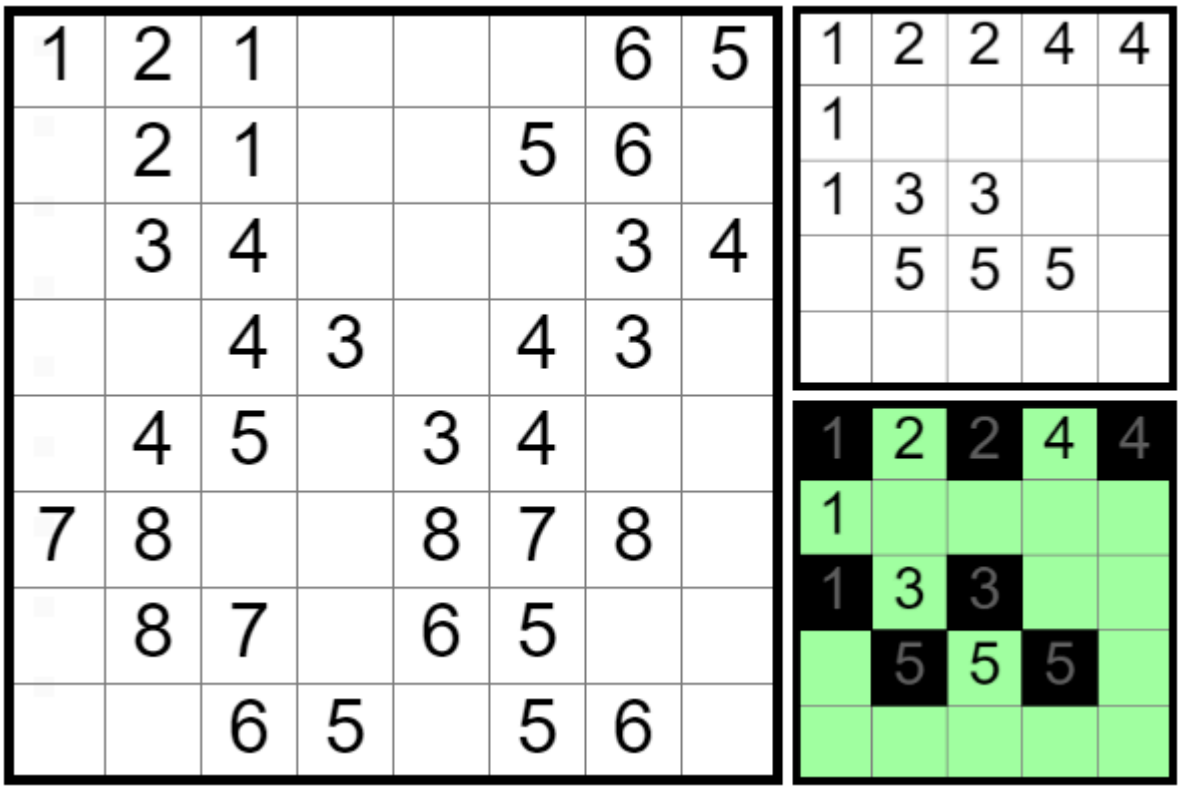
January 21, 2024: Hitori

Menderbug

We continue our tour through genres featured in this week's Puzzle Ramayan round. Whether today's puzzle should be considered Strange-Shaped depends on how strongly you believe that every **Hitori** should have numbers in every single cell. I personally think this convention is extremely silly, and while I haven't done the Puzzle Ramayan round myself yet, the gaps in the Hitori in the instruction booklet are giving me hope that the puzzles there do not obfuscate their interesting logic with lots of filler.

Round 1 of Puzzle Ramayan runs until Thursday, so there's still plenty of time to get yourself a fluffy bonus otter 🦦 by participating in the competition.

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. No two cells in the same row or column containing the same number may both be unshaded.



Example (puzz.link) by jovi, gaps by me: http://tinyurl.com/3yestfbs
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/m2wbcz67
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/iM-vDWFLWqo

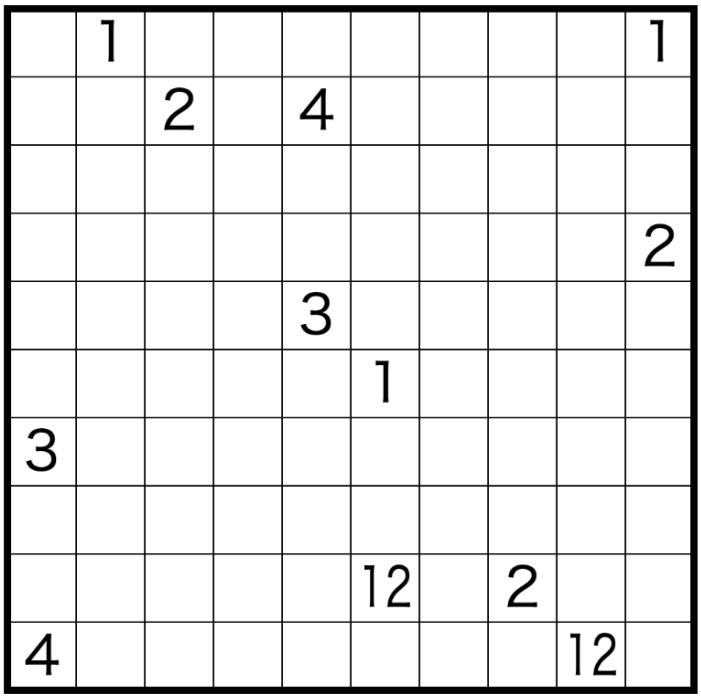
January 22, 2024: Nurikabe

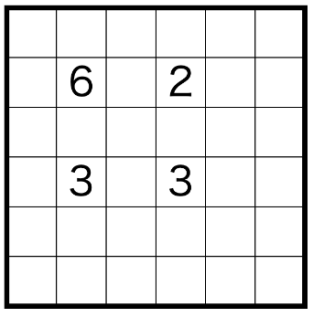
Freddie Hand

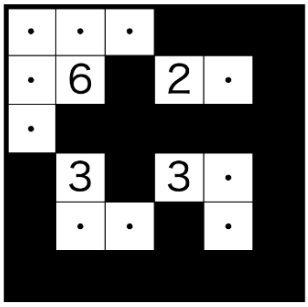
To our UK-based solvers, I hope that your roofs have managed to stay intact, and that nobody is feeling under the weather. Thankfully we haven't seen any meteorologists assuring us that there are no hurricanes on the way.

Today's **Nurikabe** is another genre that appears in the ongoing Puzzle Ramayan round. As always, there's a bonus otter 🦦 on offer for taking part, but more importantly, good puzzles! You can start the contest (or simply access the set) here: https://logicmastersindia.com/live/?contest=PR202401

Rules: Shade some cells so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area and no 2x2 region is entirely shaded. Clues cannot be shaded, and every orthogonally connected area of unshaded cells contains exactly one clue, the value of which represents the size of the area.







Example (puzz.link) by shye: https://tinyurl.com/mr446h8m
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/5a6tkfzj
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/CNCwy-kjk0g

January 23, 2024: Fillomino

Walker

Today's GAPP is a **Fillomino**, another Puzzle Ramayan genre! 🦃 Fillomino is a longtime favorite genre of mine, and it holds a special place in my personal history with puzzle setting. It was the first genre I ever wrote and shared (through paper copies!) with friends; the first genre on my puzzle blog, which brought me into the online puzzle community; and the first genre that I ever submitted for publication.

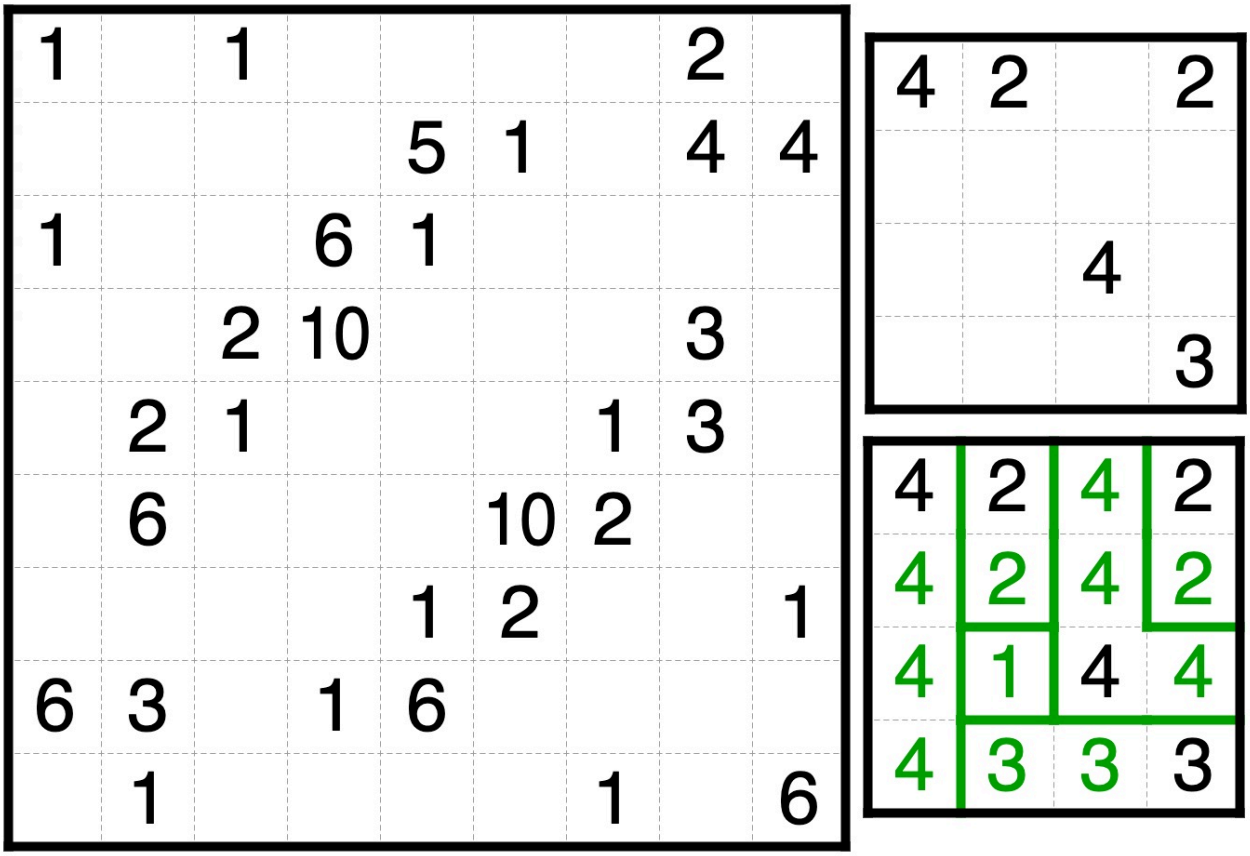
Solving and setting Fillomino brings back good memories for me. One of my favorite Fillomino puzzles, posted in 2012, is by Palmer Mebane, an author whose puzzles got me to love the genre. The note underneath says "It occurred to me recently that 1s are probably my favorite Fillomino clues, amazingly enough. Hard to pick between 3s and 4s for second place though." Personally, I've come to like 6s, which are a useful medium size for many of the deductions I like. But I have to agree that 1s are the best, and I hope that this puzzle communicates at least some of the reasons why.

Rules: Divide the grid into regions of orthogonally connected cells. Two regions of the same size may not share an edge. Clued cells must belong to a region containing the indicated number of cells. (A region may contain any number of clues, including none at all.)

Here's a **GAPP 101**: (ROT13) Gel hfvat gur cebcregl gung n pryy arkg gb n 1 pna'g nyfb pbagnva n 1.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



Example (puzz.link) by clover: https://tinyurl.com/2p8kc8mc
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/3n9wfmnb
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/cb3P_9armPc

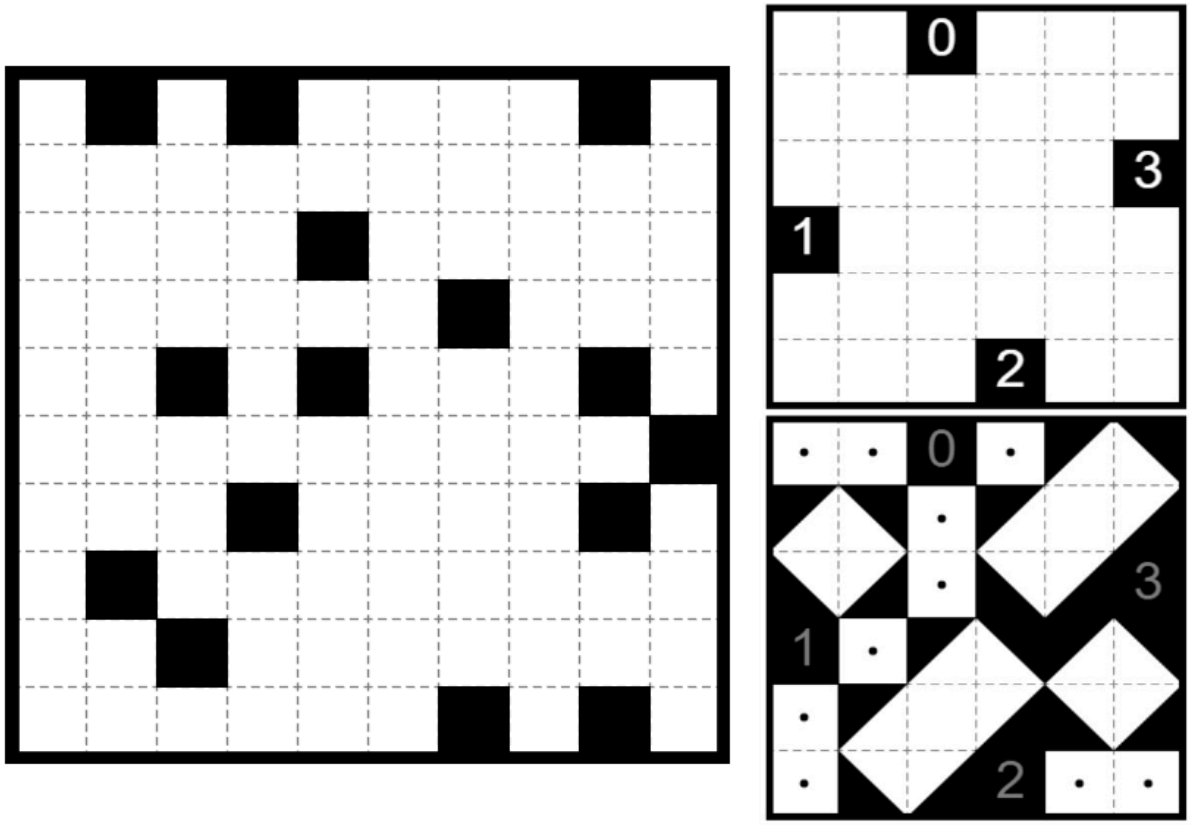
January 24, 2024: Shakashaka

Lavaloid

Oh no! I've already set a **Shakashaka** for today's GAPP, but I tripped in a hurry and all of the numbers fell off! I wonder if it's still unique? I guess there's only one way to find out.

While today's puzzle isn't a Puzzle Ramayan genre, the *Otter Offer* 🦦 is still available until the contest ends!

Rules: Shade a right triangle in some empty cells, each of which occupies exactly half the cell it's in. Each unshaded area must be rectangular in shape. A number in a cell represents how many of the (up to) four cells orthogonally adjacent to the clue contain triangles.



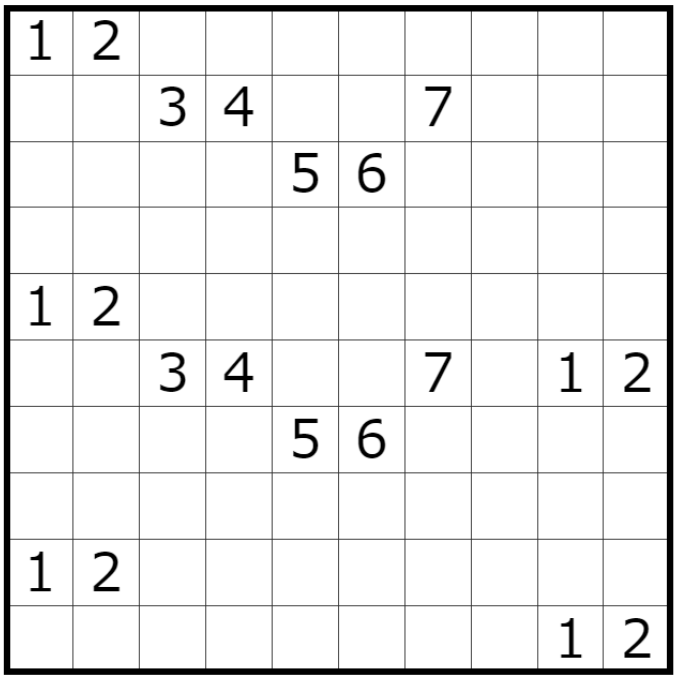
Example (puzz.link): https://tinyurl.com/36emue3c
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/ynjsz6s8
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/CpVvoeR-aNA

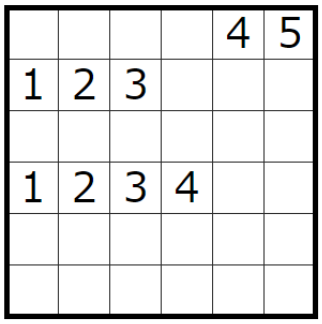
January 25, 2024: Canal View

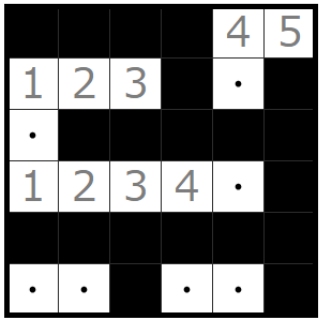
shye

Not gonna stay around long, it's a special someones birthday and I wanna be with her today. Here's a quickly put together **Canal View**

Rules: Shade some cells so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area and no 2x2 region is entirely shaded. Clues cannot be shaded, and represent the number of shaded cells connected in a straight line horizontally or vertically to the clue







Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/3jac48pw
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/3xnwdc3e
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/z2MUzQ3J5u8

January 26, 2024: Oriental House

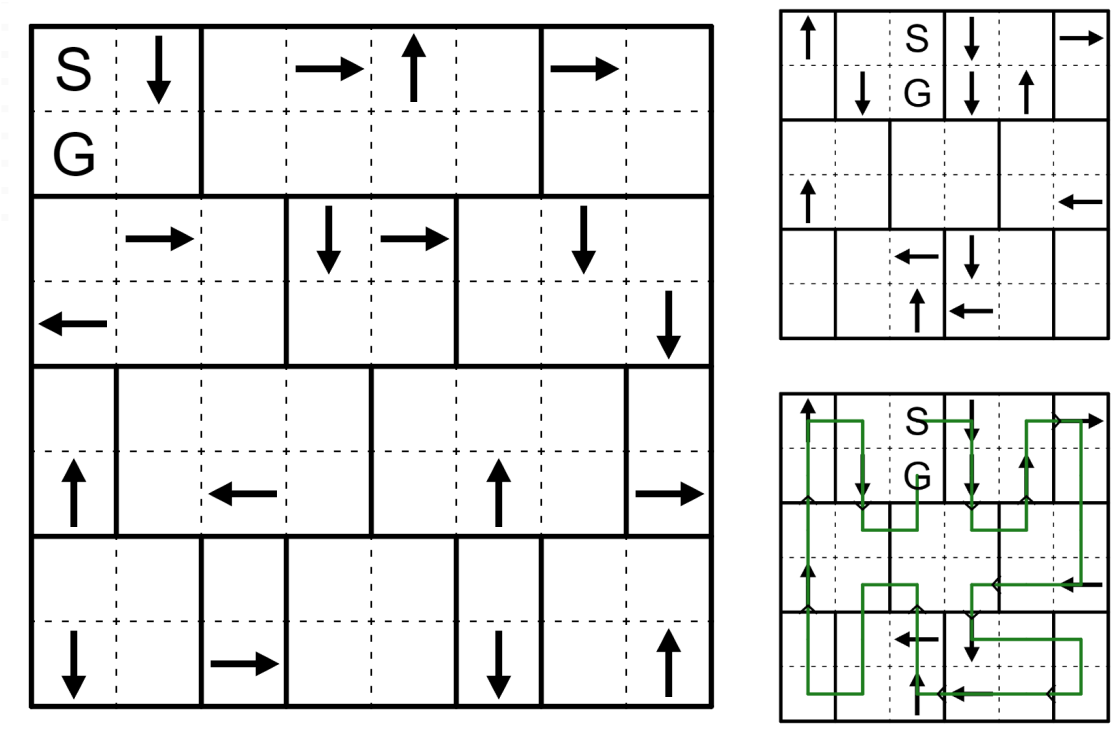
Menderbug

A few weeks ago, Swaroop added a long-awaited new composite mode for directed loops and paths to Penpa+. So we're a little overdue with a puzzle to celebrate that. Today's puzzle is an **Oriental House**. Some notes for how to use the new Penpa mode:

- On PC, you can right-click edges to cycle through cross marks and little arrows indication a direction. You can also right-click and drag from one cell to another to draw or remove an arrow in a specific direction.
- On mobile, you can just tap edges to cycle through cross marks and arrows. There's no way to draw a specific arrow directly here.

All that said, I've tried to keep the puzzle gentle enough that you should be able to get by without any arrow marks, if you prefer.

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting path through the centres of all cells, starting from the S (start) and finishing at the G (goal). Whenever the path passes through an arrow, the current visit to that region must have either entered in that direction or it must exit in that direction (or both).



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ywoktvlk
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yvsapyoq
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/21FLybhMJGk

January 27, 2024: Juosan

Freddie Hand

Every Monday, I like to pitch my wits against the quizzers on *University Challenge* and every time, I utterly fail.

But all that changed when I answered a question eluding all of the contestants:

'With examples including early Greek writings and some Etruscan texts, what term denotes the style of writing whereby alternate lines are read left to right, then right to left with the letters reversed? It comes from the Greek for "as the ox turns".'

I am announcing this fully expecting to be humiliated by how many of you will know this. But for just a moment, I felt that I could take on Mark Labbett and Anne Hegerty simultaneously.

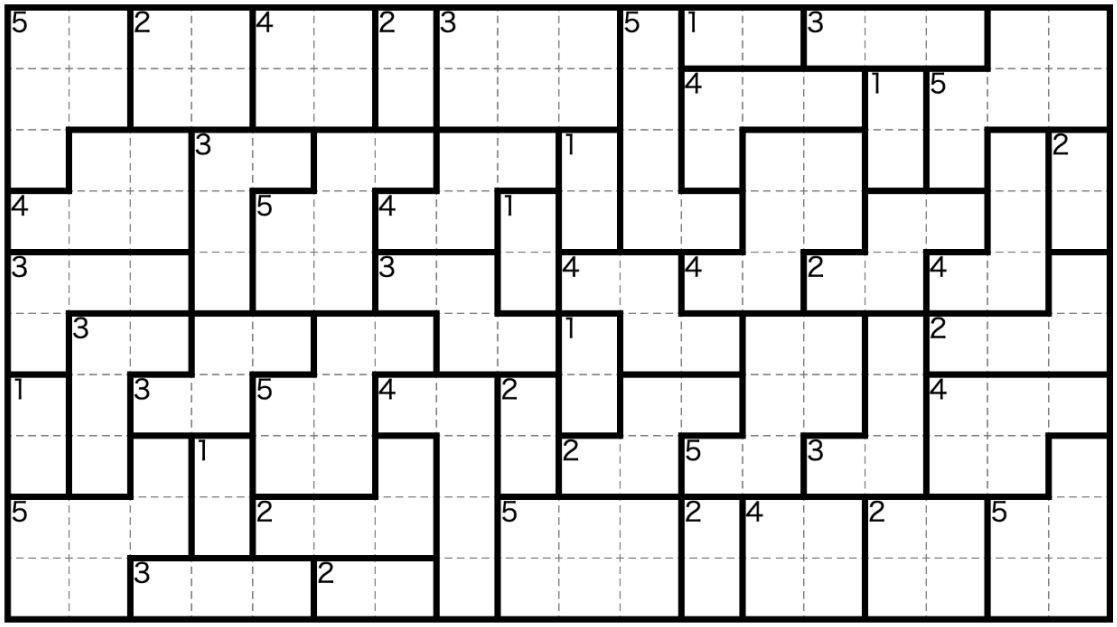
.eno tseuqer dna reswna ot nosrep tsrif eht rof elbaliava si retto sunob enO.

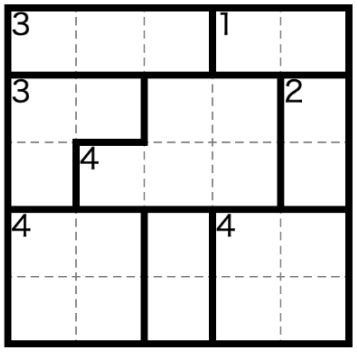
In this Supersized **Juosan**, you will need to write both vertically and horizontally.

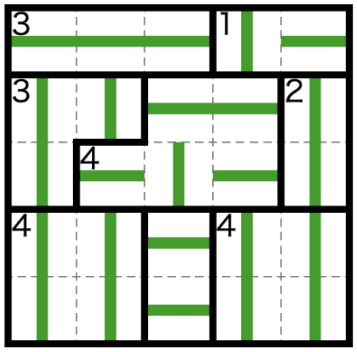
Rules: Place a horizontal or vertical line into each cell, traveling from edge to edge. A number in a region represents how many horizontal or vertical lines it contains - whichever there's at least half of. There may not exist a run of three consecutive cells containing parallel distinct lines anywhere in the grid.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆







Example (puzz.link) by jovi: https://tinyurl.com/asatajuz
GAPP (puzz.link, landscape): http://tinyurl.com/32nky8zw
GAPP (puzz.link, portrait): http://tinyurl.com/5eb3b4u2
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/VPi7x404S7I

January 28, 2024: Boomerang

Walker

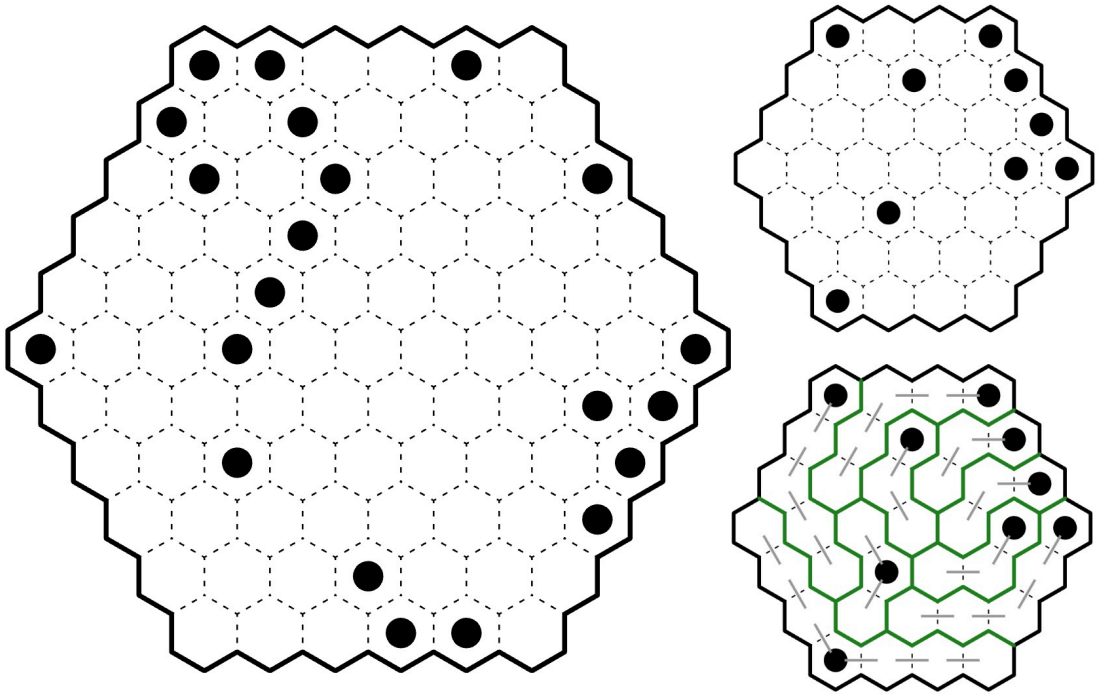
Welcome to GAPP **Boomerang** practice! 🪃 Today, we're going to be throwing your familiar two-wing, V-shaped sport boomerangs (though do check out long-distance boomerangs, which can be question mark-shaped!). When throwing, make sure to hold it vertically, not horizontally. And do you know why it comes back? The two sides of the boomerang are aerofoils, and generate lift like the wings of a plane. When the boomerang spins, the top wing generates more lift because it's spinning in the same direction as the flow. The lower wing is moving against the direction of the throw, and generates less lift. This difference in lift creates a rotational force, causing the boomerang's path to curve! (A bonus otter 🦦 to anyone who can explain why the boomerang doesn't just tilt around the direction it's flying - I spent about an hour reading about gyroscopic precession and still can't explain why 😅). Oh, and make sure to return all your boomerangs to this hexagonal crate when you're done! If you line them up with the dots, they should fit together nicely.

Rules: Divide the grid into "boomerangs", each containing exactly one dot. A "boomerang" consists of a center cell and two legs of equal length coming off the center cell at a 120-degree angle. Each cell in the grid must be part of exactly one boomerang. The legs must be of length at least 1.

Interface Note: I've defaulted to edgesub, but feel free to use line (or linex) if you prefer it! Answer check should work for either edges or lines.

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yqp3ahze
GAPP (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yobspm8r
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/6J_a65VBPbo

January 29, 2024: Fillomino (No Rectangles)
bakpao

Time for a baklog puzzle! The approved-for-GAPP version of this puzzle was only finished yesterday, and with posting it the baklog is immediately depleted again 😎
Feel free to inspire me with some other types to write to replenish it!

Today's puzzle is a **Fillomino (No Rectangles)**!

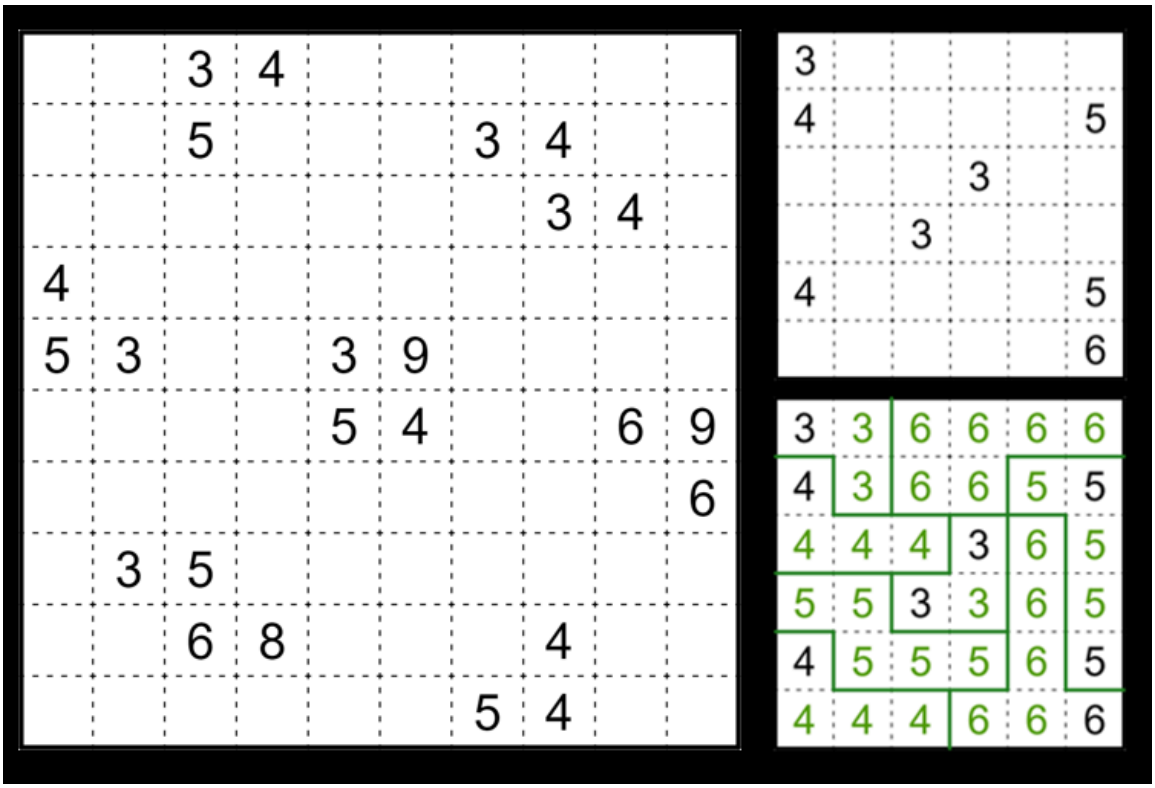
Rules: Divide the grid into regions of orthogonally connected cells. Two regions of the same size may not share an edge. Clued cells must belong to a region containing the indicated number of cells. Regions may not be rectangular in shape.

❕ **Interface note:** Answer check can be triggered in 3 different ways. Either by 1) drawing all the edges around the regions, 2) entering the correct number in every cell or 3) highlighting every region with a color such that no adjacent regions have the same color.

⚠️ **GAPP 101:** (ROT13) Va guvf inevnag, vg vf abg nyybjrq gb unir ertvbaf bs fvmr 1 naq 2, orpnhfr gurfr ner nyjnlf erpgnathyne. Nf n erfhyg, hapyhrq cbylbzvabrf graq gb or n tbbq cynpr gb sbphf, fvapr gurfr nyjnlf arrq gb tebj gb ng yrnfg fvmr 3!

⬇ Puzzle is on the next page ⬇

⬆ Rules are on the previous page ⬆



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yvbry3qe
Puzzle (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yolnt7sd
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/WKPM24DSD94

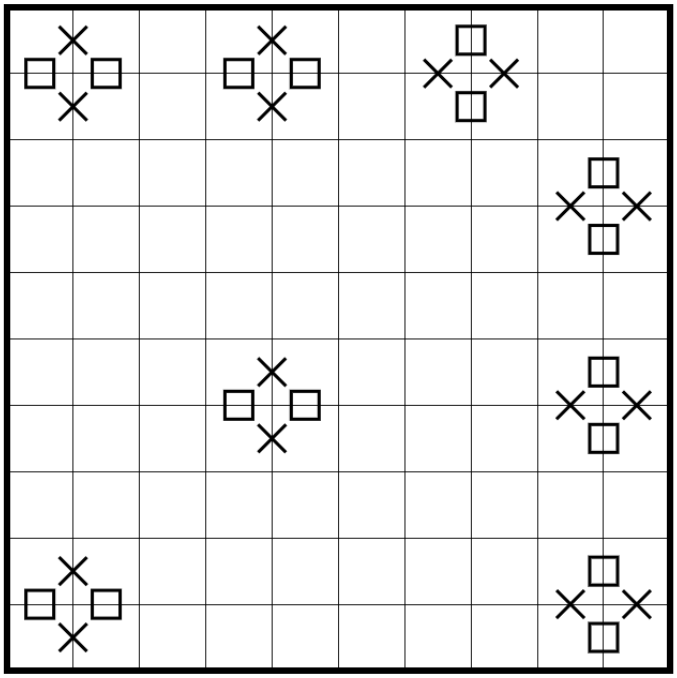
January 30, 2024: Ant Mill

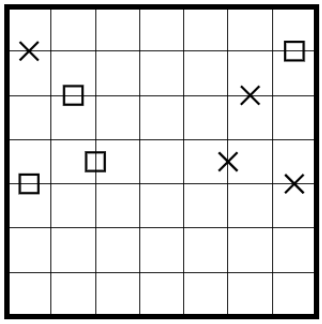
shye

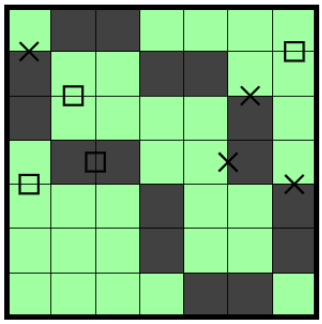
Today's **Ant Mill** comes with a useful hint that you can use on all of the other ant mill's in the puzz.link database, my gift to you

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Vs n qbzvab rire hfrf bar bs gur pbeare pryyf, vg jvyy bayl unir bar qvntbany pbaarpgvba, ohg gjb ner arrqrq gb sbez gur ybbc! Guvf hafunqrf nyy pbeare pryyf vzzrqvngryl va n fgnaqneq fdhner tevq, naq gur fnzr ybtvp pna or hfrq va bgure fvghngvbaf yngre ba gbb.

Rules: Shade some dominoes of cells. No two dominoes may touch orthogonally, but each domino must touch exactly two others by the corners such that all dominoes form a single loop. Cells separated by a square must both be shaded or both be unshaded. Cells separated by an X must not.







Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/bdz3zcha
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/33yd47j2
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/mYsT1IZTFvQ

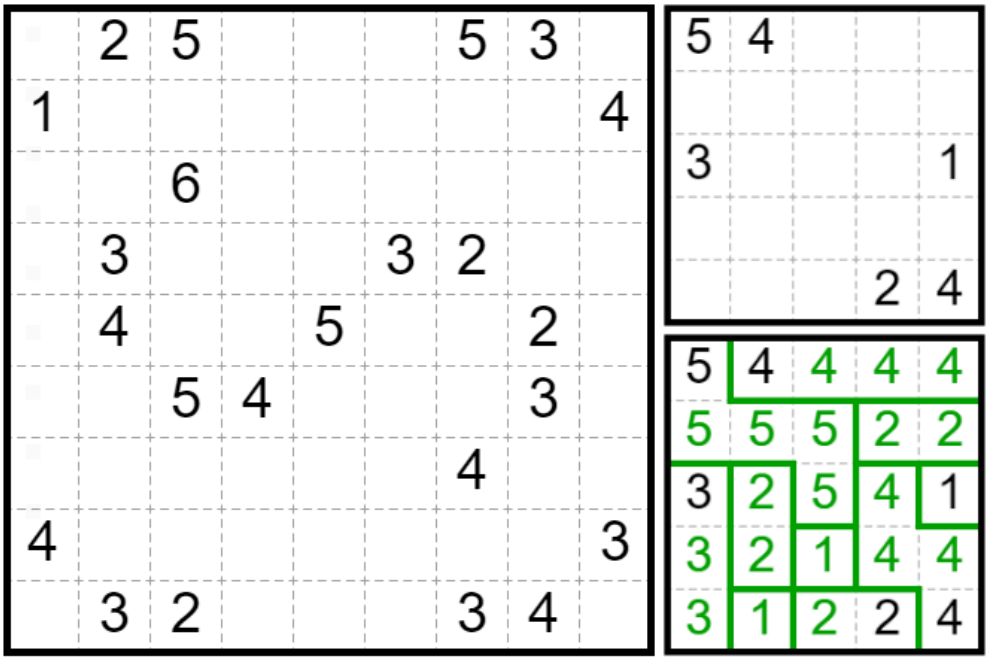
January 31, 2024: Symmetry Area

Menderbug

It hasn't even been a week since the end of round 1 of Puzzle Ramayan, but the next event on the competitive calendar is already coming up: Round 1 of this year's Puzzle Grand Prix with puzzles from Serbia is being held this upcoming weekend. One of the genres in the round is **Symmetry Area**, sometimes known as **Fillomino (Symmetry)**. However, it's billed as **Fillomino (Galaxies)** for the GP, so I here's a vaguely galaxy-themed warmup puzzle.

Rules: Divide the grid into regions of orthogonally connected cells. All regions must have 180° rotational symmetry. Two regions of the same size may not share an edge. Clued cells must belong to a region containing the indicated number of cells.

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Fznyy ertvbaf unir irel srj ninvynoyr funcrf va guvf inevnag. Vg'f snveyl rnfl gb frr jung gur bcgvbaf sbe fvmrf 3 naq 4 ner, ohg rira ng fvmr 5 gurer ner bayl guerr cbffvoyr funcrf gb pbafvqre. Pyvpx gur arkg fcbvyre vs lbh qba'g jnag gb jbex gurz bhg lbhefrys: (ROT13, further hint) bayl gur V, K, naq M cragbzvabrf ner ebgngvbanyyl flzzrgevp.

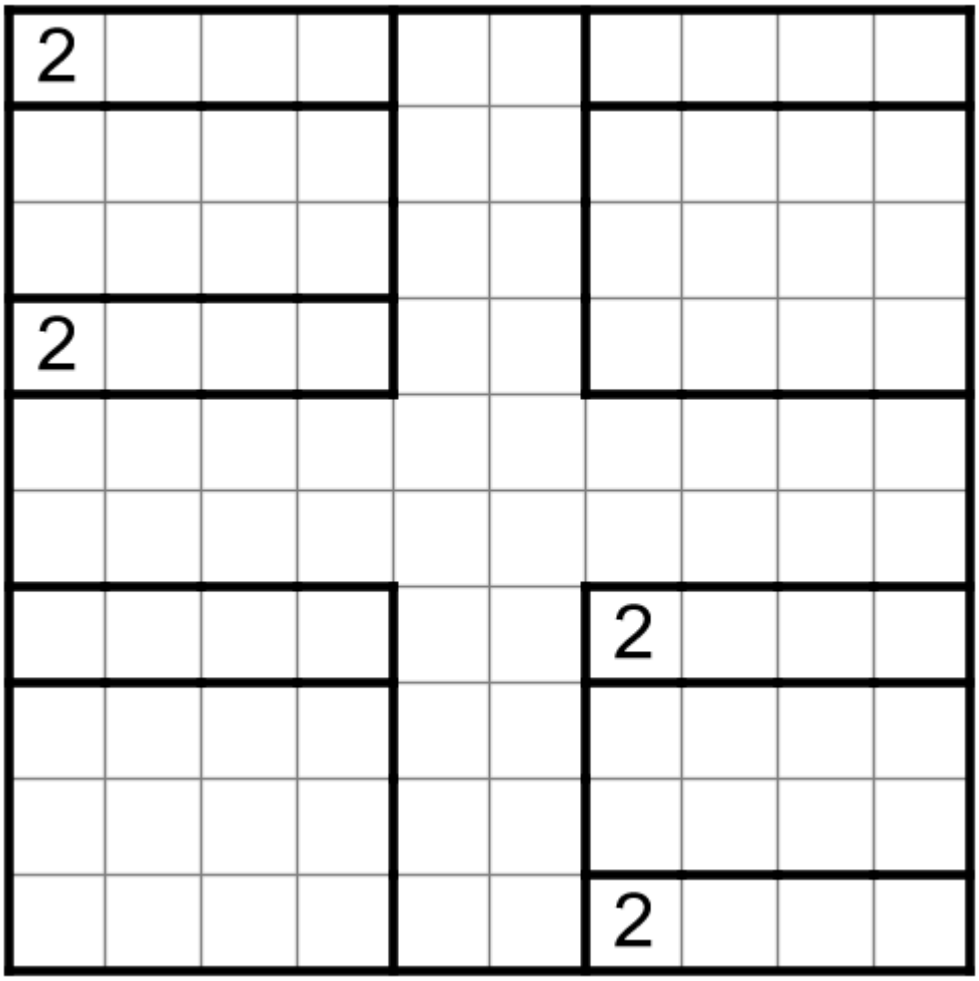


Example (puzz.link) by Freddie: https://tinyurl.com/4f2e8wvn
GAPP (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/tc5rhxfw
Walkthrough: https://youtu.be/TfrlXJ5uIN8

Bonus 1: Ayeheya

shye

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. The shaded cells within a region must have 180° rotational symmetry around the region's center. A line of consecutive unshaded cells may not cross more than one bold border

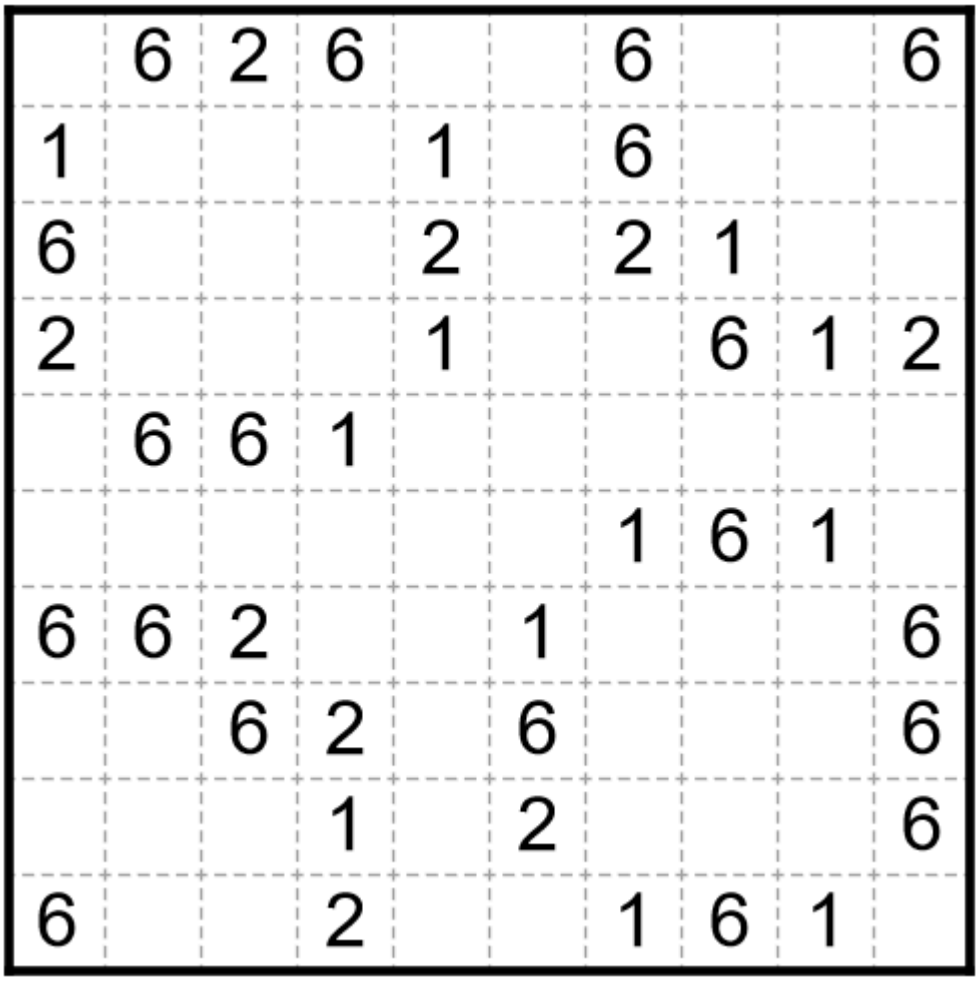


Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/bde7dunk
Bonus (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/3ym4eypc

Bonus 2: Fillomino

Walker

Rules: Divide the grid into regions of orthogonally connected cells. Two regions of the same size may not share an edge. Clued cells must belong to a region containing the indicated number of cells. (A region may contain any number of clues, including none at all.)

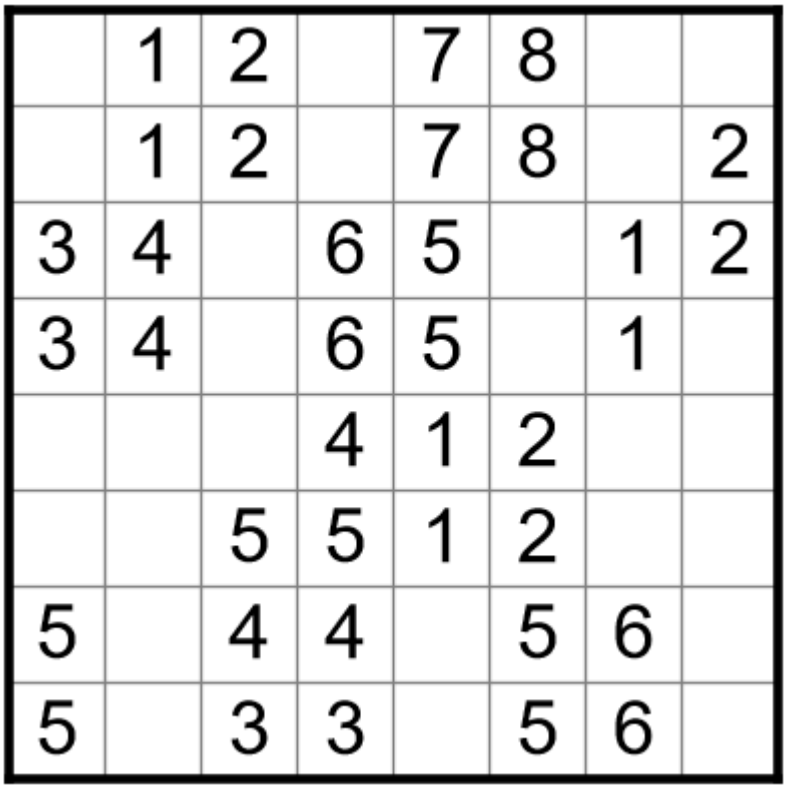


Example (puzz.link): https://tinyurl.com/2p8kc8mc
Bonus (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/mu7ycx4d

Bonus 3: Hitori

Menderbug

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. No two cells in the same row or column containing the same number may both be unshaded.



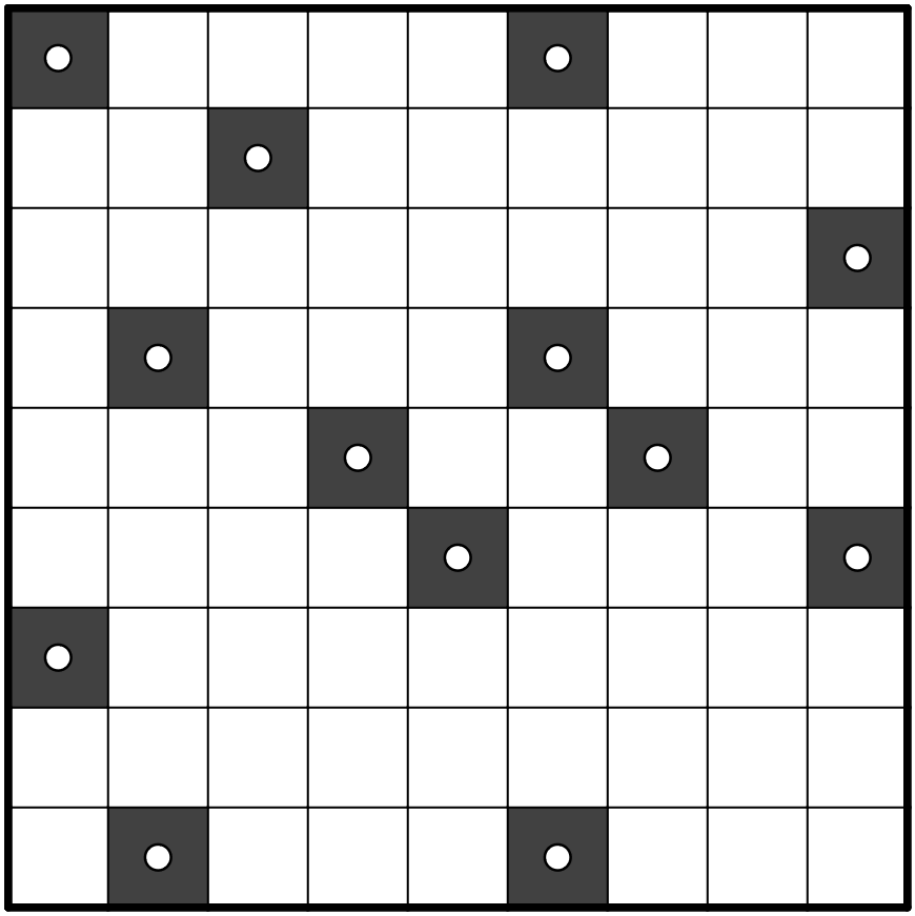
	1	2		7	8		
	1	2		7	8		2
3	4		6	5		1	2
3	4		6	5		1	
			4	1	2		
		5	5	1	2		
5		4	4		5	6	
5		3	3		5	6	

Example (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/3yestfbs
Bonus (puzz.link): http://tinyurl.com/25p46jbe

Bonus 4: Koi Pond

Menderbug

Rules: Shade some fish, which are orthogonally connected groups of exactly 3 cells. Fish must not touch each other orthogonally. The head of each fish is given as a white dot. The numbers outside of the grid specify the amount of shaded cells in that row or column.

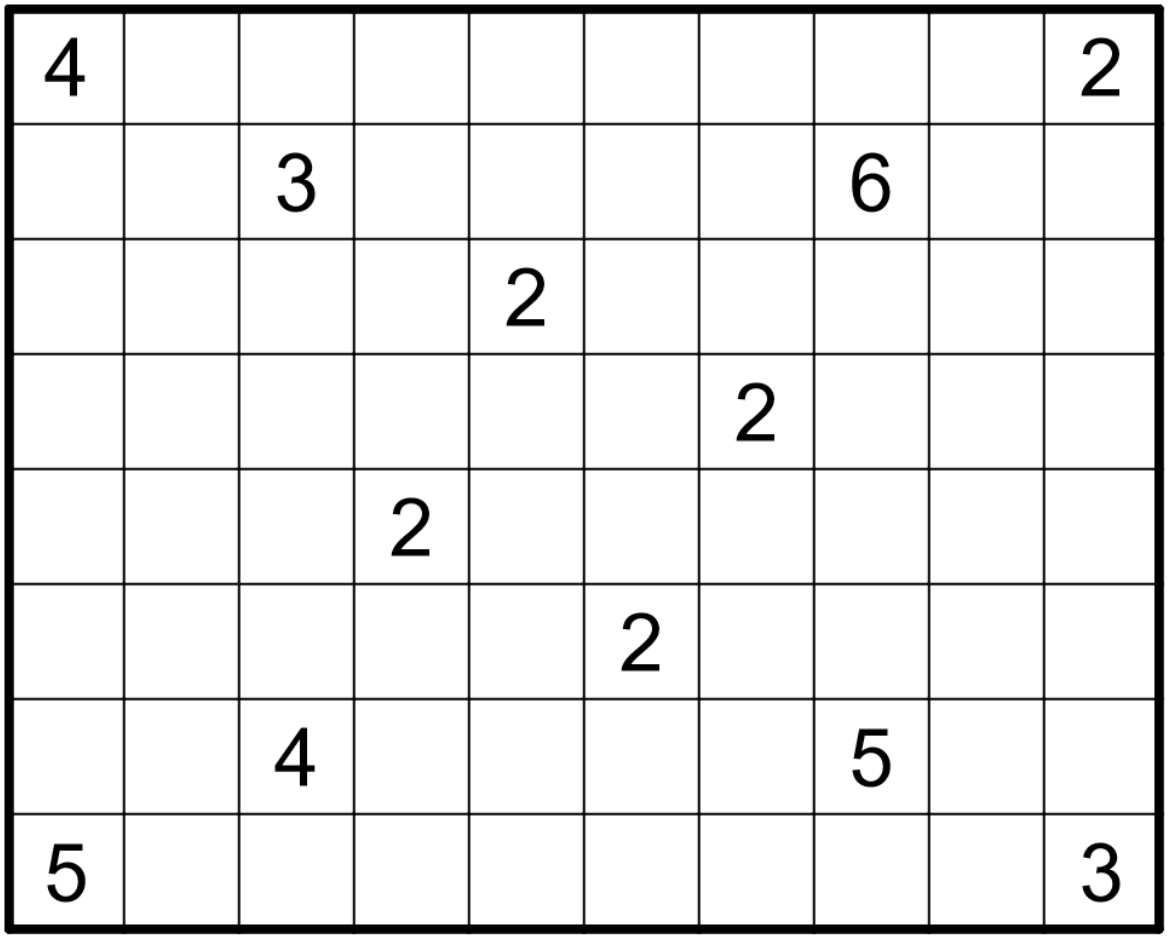


Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yl6n469c
Bonus (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/yr9dmo3f

Bonus 5: Territory

Menderbug

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clues cannot be shaded, and represent the area of the largest rectangle of unshaded cells containing the clue.



Example (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/2x37bvxs
Bonus (Penpa+): http://tinyurl.com/ys4v68me

Date	Sloth Time	Crab Time	🐦
01 Jan 2024	0:03:30	0:06:30	Year-Round Yuhina
02 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:03:45	Late Topaz
03 Jan 2024	0:02:30	0:05:00	Futuristic Fieldfare
04 Jan 2024	0:02:38	0:05:08	Glow-in-the-Dark Great Knot
05 Jan 2024	0:04:14	0:08:28	Checkerboard Chicken
06 Jan 2024	0:03:00	0:07:00	Assistant Aviceda
07 Jan 2024	0:03:00	0:06:00	Wacky Island Rail
08 Jan 2024	0:02:45	0:05:30	Narcotic Nyanza Swift
09 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:04:00	Thunderstorm Petrel
10 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:04:00	Long-legged Pipit
11 Jan 2024	0:01:45	0:03:30	Japanese Pond Heron
12 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:03:30	Crafty Crow
13 Jan 2024	0:06:00	0:12:30	Thawing Tabar Pitta
14 Jan 2024	0:03:00	0:06:00	Mystery Hunter's Sunbird
15 Jan 2024	0:02:02	0:04:04	Pearl Kite
16 Jan 2024	0:02:45	0:04:45	Ajaja Ajaja
17 Jan 2024	0:02:30	0:05:00	Inaba Woodstar
18 Jan 2024	0:03:30	0:07:00	Deceitful Dark Pewee
19 Jan 2024	0:02:30	0:05:00	City Canary
20 Jan 2024	0:04:30	0:09:00	Maximum Magpie
21 Jan 2024	0:01:00	0:02:00	Sparse Sparrow
22 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:04:15	Counting Cachar Bulbul
23 Jan 2024	0:03:01	0:06:01	One-Clued Becard
24 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:04:00	Clumsy Cockatiel

25 Jan 2024	0:03:00	0:05:00	Busy Bustard
26 Jan 2024	0:03:30	0:06:00	Oriental Darter
27 Jan 2024	0:05:00	0:10:00	Linear Least ~~Squares~~ Tern
28 Jan 2024	0:02:30	0:05:00	Coming-Back Brolga
29 Jan 2024	0:04:30	0:09:00	Rule-breaking Returning Rifleman
30 Jan 2024	0:02:00	0:04:20	Useful Yuhina
31 Jan 2024	0:02:30	0:05:00	Symmetric Galah