WPF SUDOKU/PUZZLE GRAND PRIX 2026

ROUND 1

WPF PUZZLE GP 2026 COMPETITION BOOKLET

Host Country: Serbia

Zoran Tanasić, Nikola Živanović, Čedomir Milanović

Special Notes: None.

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1. Battleships (Phrase) [Nikola Živanović] (20 points)

Locate the indicated fleet of ships in the grid. Each ship piece occupies a single cell. Ships can be rotated. Ships do not touch each other, not even diagonally (that is, if two ship pieces are in cells that share an edge or a corner, they must be part of the same ship).

The letters in the cells containing ship parts should precisely match the given phrase (ignoring spaces) when read in rows (left-to-right, then top-to-bottom).

The numbers above the grid are for Answer purposes only.

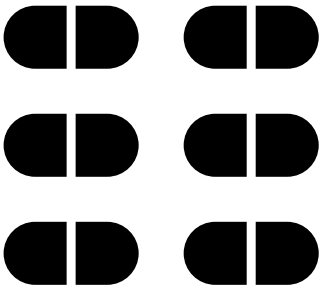
Answer: For each row from top to bottom, enter the number of the first column from the left where a ship piece appears (the number on the far top of that column). Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' if the first ship piece appears in column 10. If the row is empty, enter '0'.

Example Answer: 514242

	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	A	T	A	E	(A)	T
1	(L	L)	A	S	B	E
4	A	S	L	(T	E	B
2	E	(H)	T	E	B	A
4	E	T	A	(B)	B	(E
2	B	(S)	T	E	E	T)

1

1	2	3	4	5	6
S	S	E	S	E	E
R	B	R	B	B	I
R	I	R	A	R	A
N	R	O	R	N	R
N	N	R	O	O	U
U	N	D	U	N	D



SERBIAN ROUND

2. Skyscrapers [Zoran Tanasić] (10 points)

Place a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears exactly once in each row and column. (X is the number of cells in each row.) Each number represents a skyscraper of its respective height. The numbers outside the grid indicate how many skyscrapers can be seen in the respective row or column from the respective direction; shorter skyscrapers are hidden behind taller ones. Some numbers may already be filled in for you.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Do *not* include any numbers outside the grid.

Example Answer: 45312,23541

				5		
→	4	5	3	1	2	3
	5	4	1	2	3	3
4	1	2	4	3	5	
→ 3	2	3	5	4	1	
	3	1	2	5	4	
		4	2			

2

		4			
4					
					4
3					
		4			

3. LITS [Zoran Tanasić] (16 points)

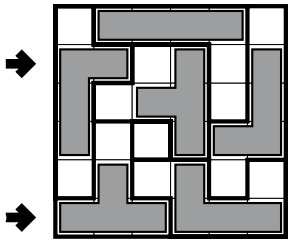
Shade exactly four connected cells in each outlined region (with at least four cells) to form a tetromino, so that the following conditions are true: (1) All tetrominoes are connected into one large shape along their edges; (2) No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely shaded; (3) When two tetrominoes share an edge, they must not be of the same shape, regardless of rotations or reflections. (Not all four possible shapes have to be present in the grid; for example, it is possible for your solution to not have any "I" shapes.)

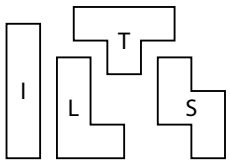
Regions with fewer than four cells will not have any shaded cells.

A list of shapes to the letters "LITS" is provided. This is only needed for entering your answer.

Answer: For each designated row, enter the contents of each cell, from left to right. For each cell, its contents are the letter of the tetromino occupying that cell, or the letter 'X' if the cell is not shaded.

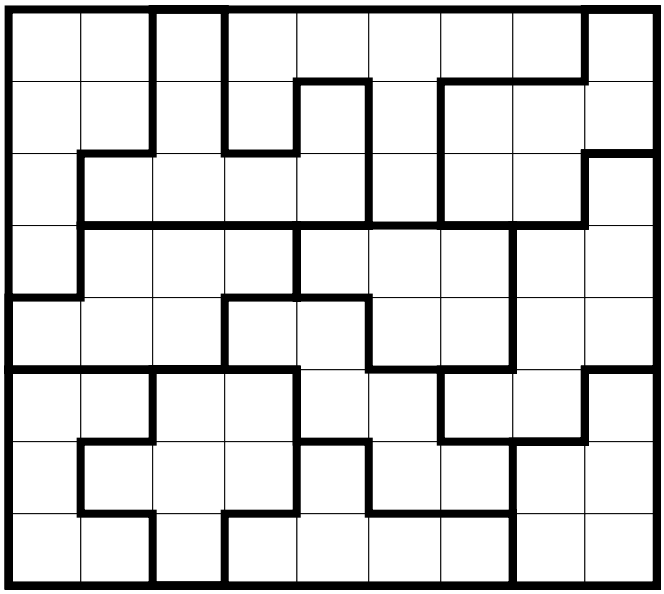
Example Answer: LLXTXL,TTTLLL





3a

3b



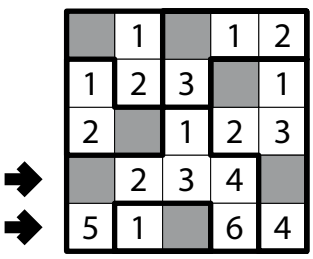
4. Number Parades [Nikola Živanović] (23 points)

Place numbers into some cells, no more than one number per cell, such that all the numbers in each outlined region are in consecutive numerical order (starting with 1) when read in rows (left-to-right, then top-to-bottom). (For example, if there are three numbers in a region, they must be 1, 2, and 3.) Each region must have at least one cell left empty (but may have more). Empty cells cannot share an edge. Identically numbered cells cannot share an edge. All numbered cells connect along edges to create a single connected group (however, connecting numbered cells within a region might require going through numbers outside that region).

The displayed solution shades in the empty cells, but this is not required for a correct solution.

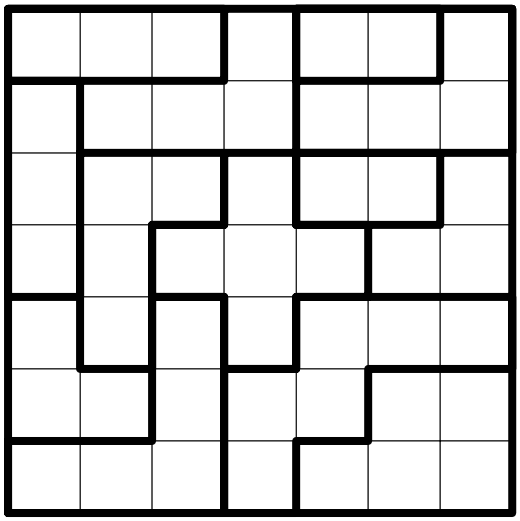
Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents, from left to right. Use 'X' for an empty cell. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' for the number 10.

Example Answer: X234X,51X64



4a

4b



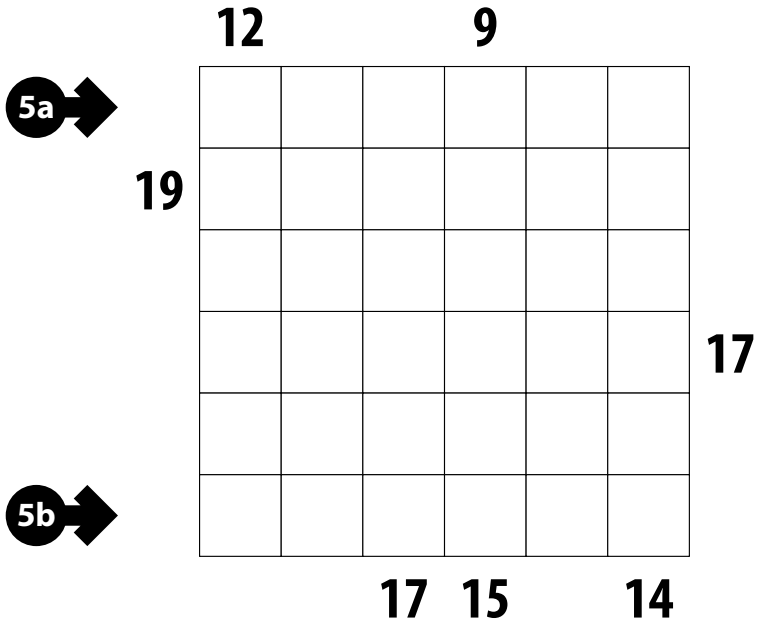
5. Skyscrapers (Sums) [Zoran Tanasić] (28 points)

Place a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears exactly once in each row and column. (X is the number of cells in each row.) Each number represents a skyscraper of its respective height. The numbers outside the grid indicate the sum of the heights of the skyscrapers that can be seen in the respective row or column from the respective direction; smaller skyscrapers are hidden behind higher ones. Some numbers may already be filled in for you.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents. Do *not* include any numbers outside the grid.

Example Answer: `3214,2341`

			4		
	5	1	4	2	3	7
→		3	2	1	4	
		4	1	3	2	
→	9	2	3	4	1	
				7		



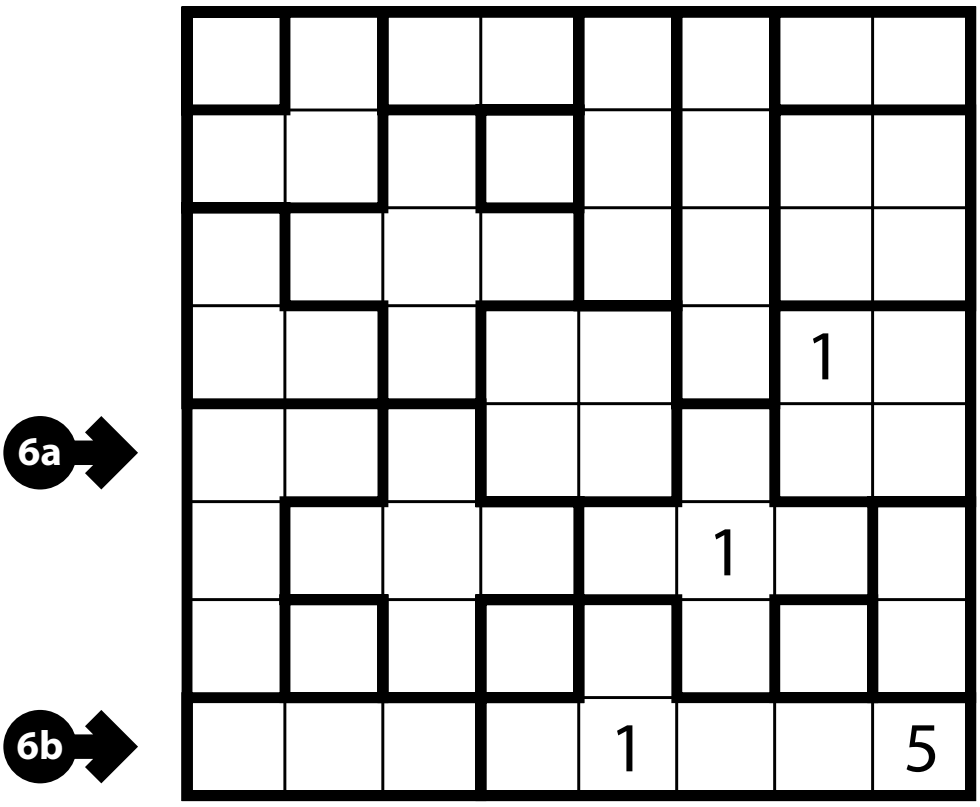
6. Ripple Effect [Zoran Tanasić] (51 points)

Place a number into each cell so that each outlined region contains the numbers from 1 to X, where X is the number of cells in the region. Cells containing the same number N within the same row (or column) must have at least N cells between them in that row (or column). (For example, cells containing "1" cannot touch along an edge, cells containing "2" cannot touch or have exactly one cell between them in the same row or column, and so on.) Some numbers may be already filled in the grid.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right (including any given numbers).

Example Answer: `121314,213241`

→	1	2	1	3	1	4
	3	1	2	4	3	2
	4	3	5	1	2	3
→	2	1	3	2	4	1

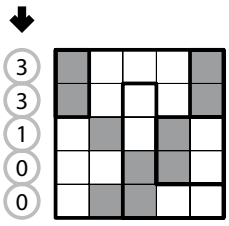


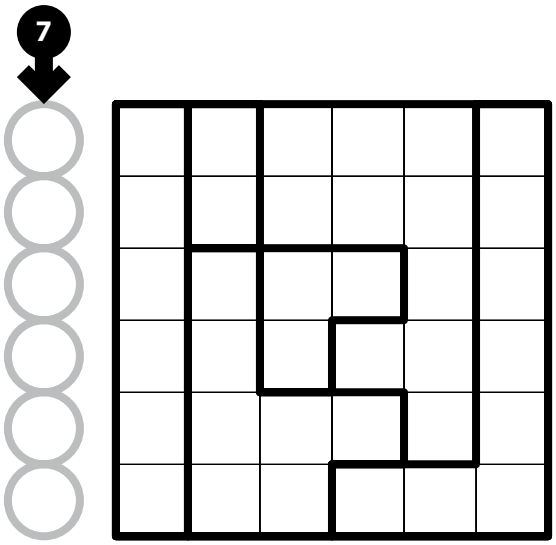
7-9. Vama [Zoran Tanasić, Maurice Blount, Nikola Živanović] (7, 13, 60 points)

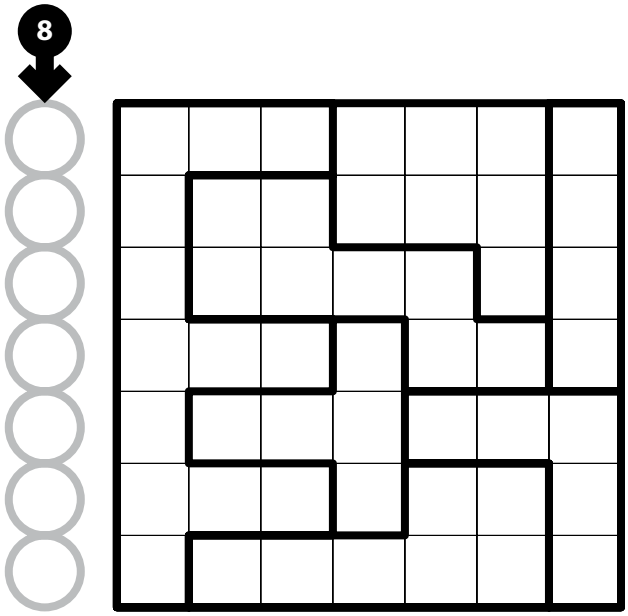
Shade some cells in the grid such that each row, each column, and each outlined region contains exactly two shaded cells. All shaded cells must be connected into one group (both corner and edge connections are allowed).

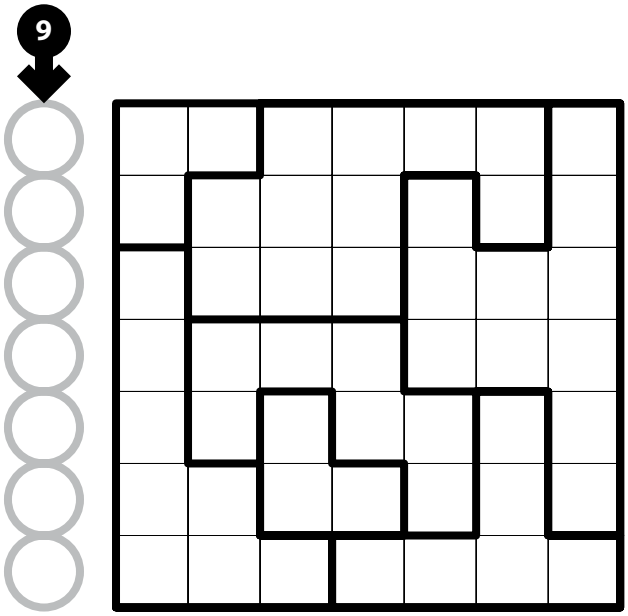
Answer: For each row from top to bottom, enter the number of unshaded cells between the two shaded cells in that row. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' if there are 10 unshaded cells between the two shaded cells.

Example Answer: 33100







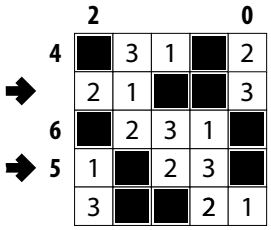


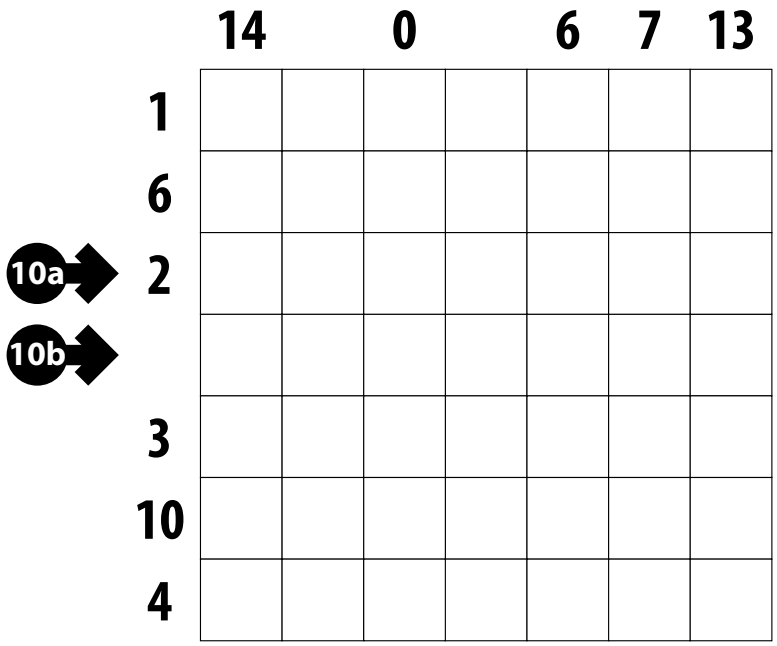
10-11. Doppelblock [Zoran Tanasić] (21, 25 points)

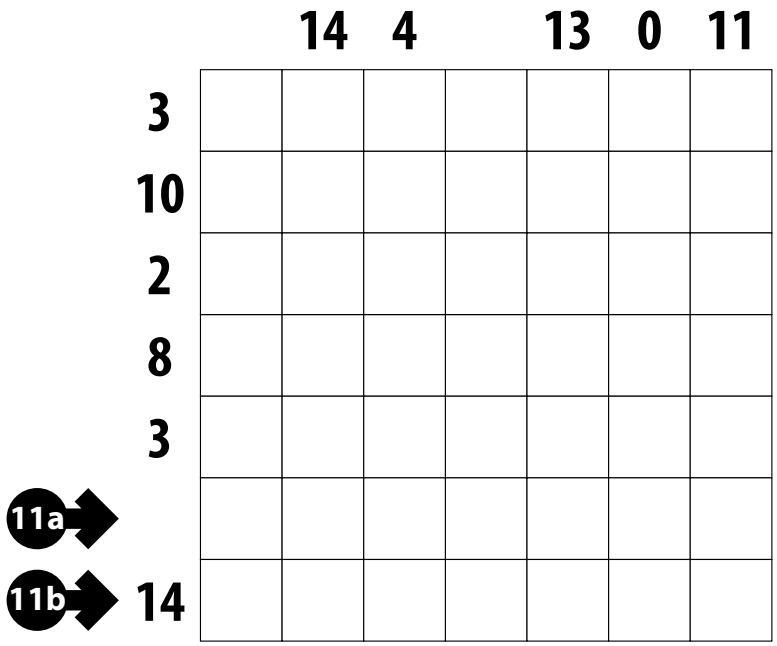
Place either a block or a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears exactly once in each row and each column. (X is two fewer than the number of cells in each row.) Each row and each column will therefore have exactly two cells with blocks in them. The numbers outside the grid indicate the sum of the numbers between the two blocks in that row or column. Some cells may already be filled in for you.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'X' to denote a block. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' for the number 10. Do *not* include any given numbers outside the grid.

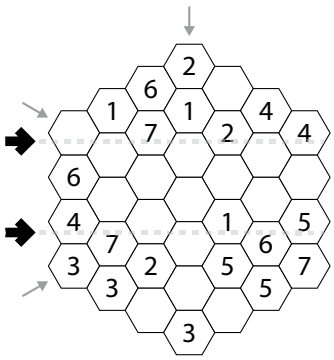
Example Answer: `21XX3,1X23X`







12. Hexagon Code [Nikola Živanović] (51 points)



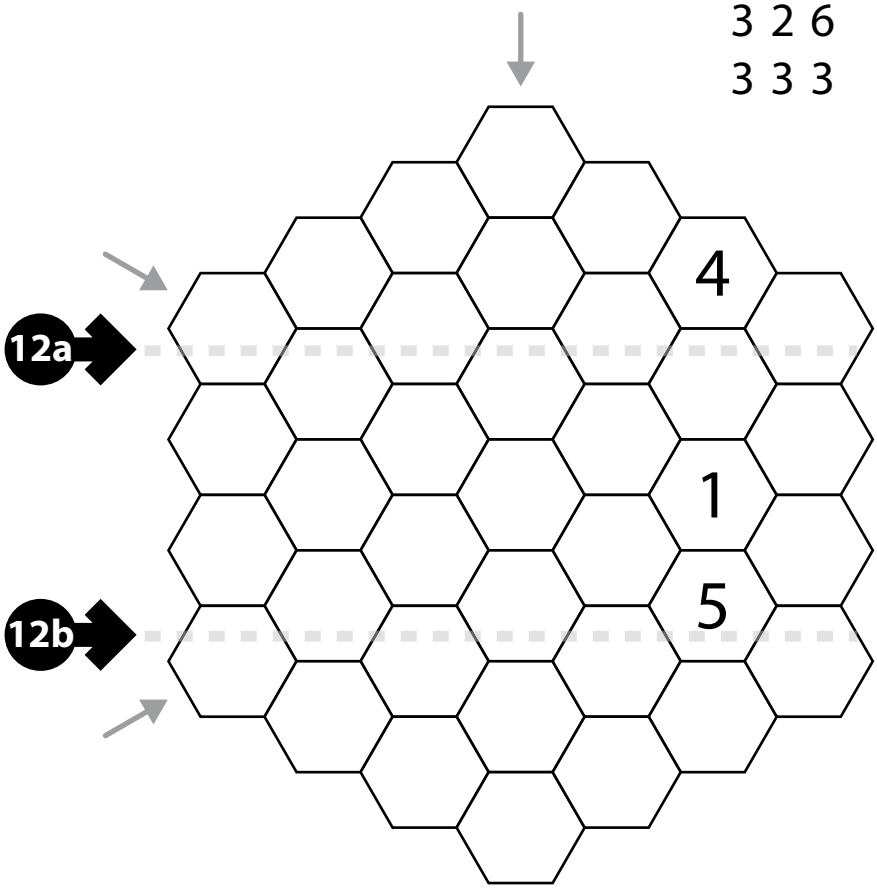
Place a number from 1 to X into some cells so that each number appears exactly three times in the hexagonal grid. (X is the number of columns.) The provided list of three-digit numbers must read along the columns from top-to-bottom and the diagonal rows from left to right. (These directions are indicated by the grey arrows.) Empty cells are ignored when reading numbers. Some numbers are given to you in the grid.

The dashed lines are only used for entering your answer.

Answer: For each designated horizontal row, enter its contents, using 'X' for an empty cell. (Note that the horizontal rows "zigzag" across the diagonal rows, and are indicated with dashed lines.)

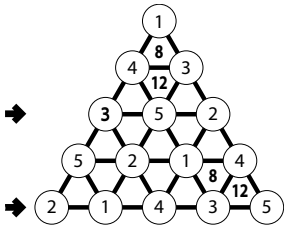
Example Answer: XX7X2X4,47XX165

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



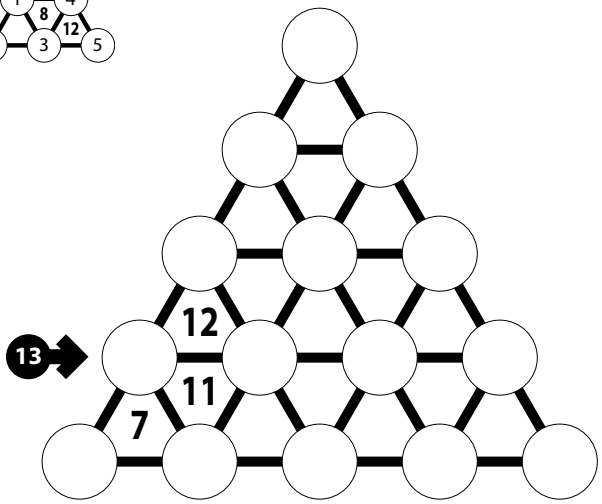
13-15. Trid [Zoran Tanasić] (10, 11, 97 points)

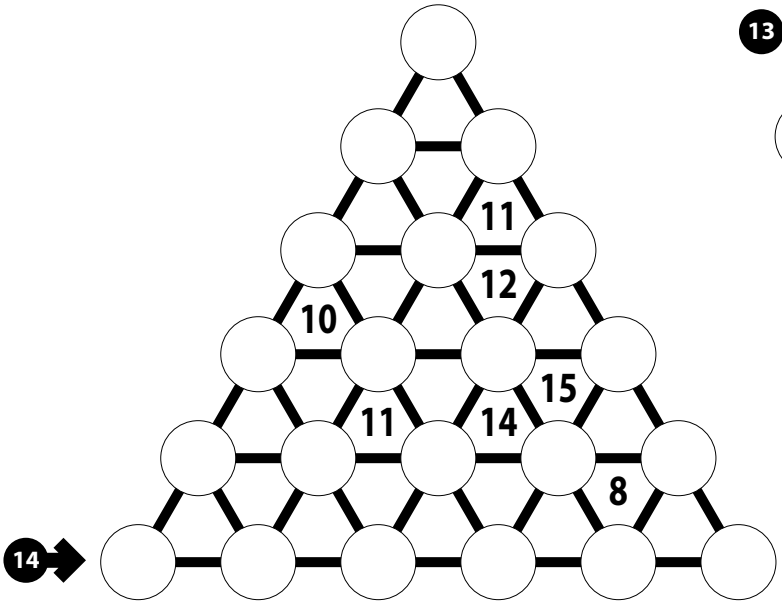
Place a number from 1 to X into each circled cell so that the numbers along each line are all different. (X is the number of cells along the longest line.) The numbers inside the grid indicate the sum of the three numbers in the adjacent circled cells. Some cells may already be filled in for you.

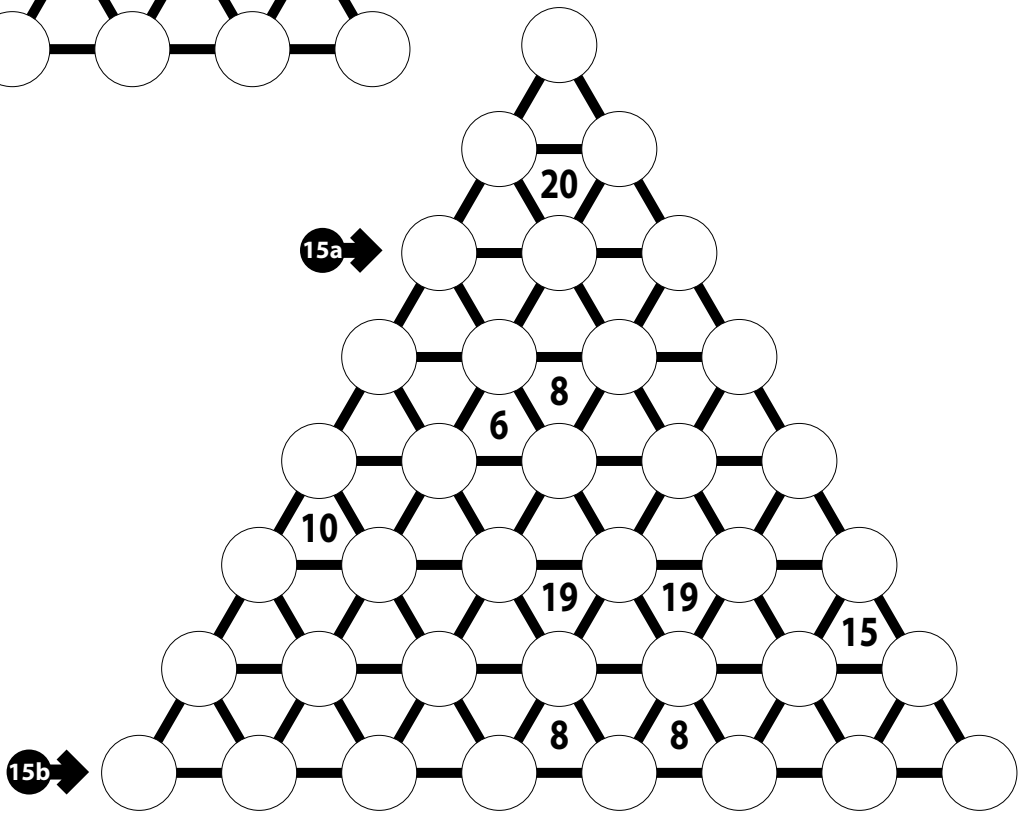


Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' for the number 10. Do not include any numbers not in circles.

Example Answer: 352, 21435







16-17. Kropki (Outside) [Zoran Tanasić, Nikola Živanović] (18, 60 points)

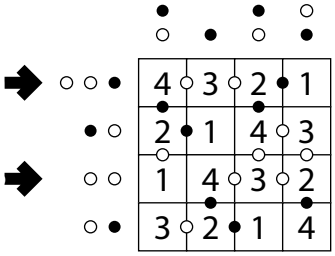
Place a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears at most once in each row and column. (X is the number of cells in each row.) A white dot on the edge between two cells indicates that those two cells must contain consecutive numbers; a black dot on the edge between two cells indicates that a number in one of those cells is double the value of the number in the other cell. If 1 and 2 are in adjacent cells, then the dot between them could be either color. If there is no dot on the edge between two cells, it means neither a black nor a white dot could go there.

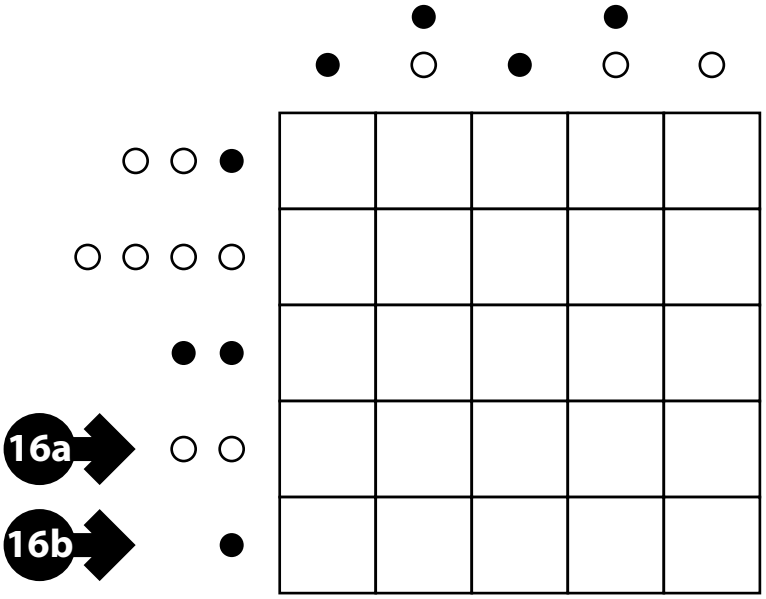
The dots have been moved above and to the left of the grid, staying in their corresponding row (or column) in the same relative order; it is up to you to figure out the original location of the dots.

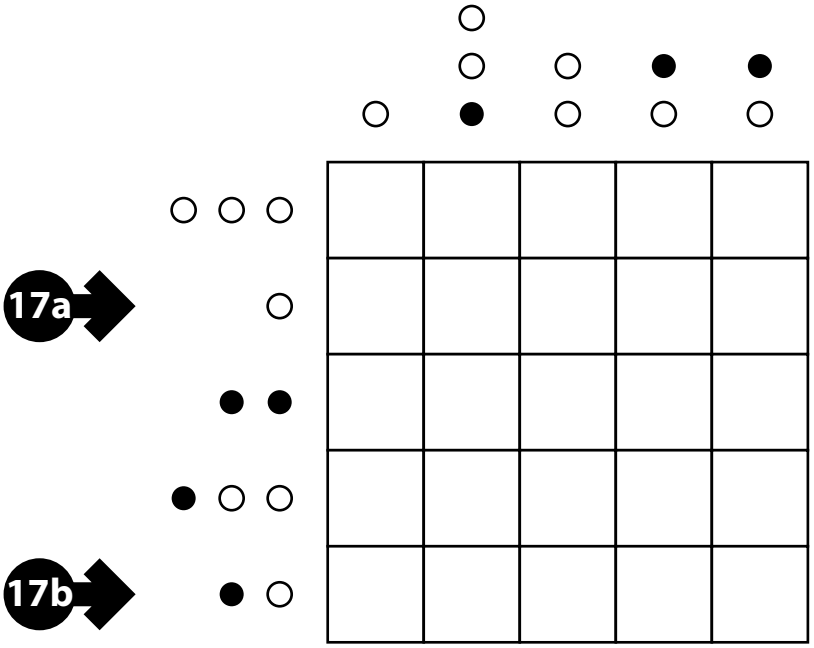
The displayed solution puts dots in the correct locations, but this is not required for a correct solution.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right.

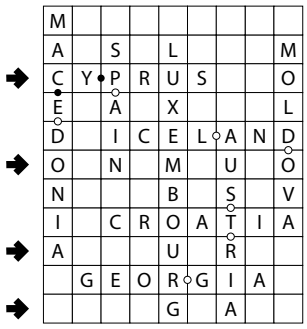
Example Answer: `4321,1432`







18. Scrabble (Kropki) [Zoran Tanasić] (33 points)



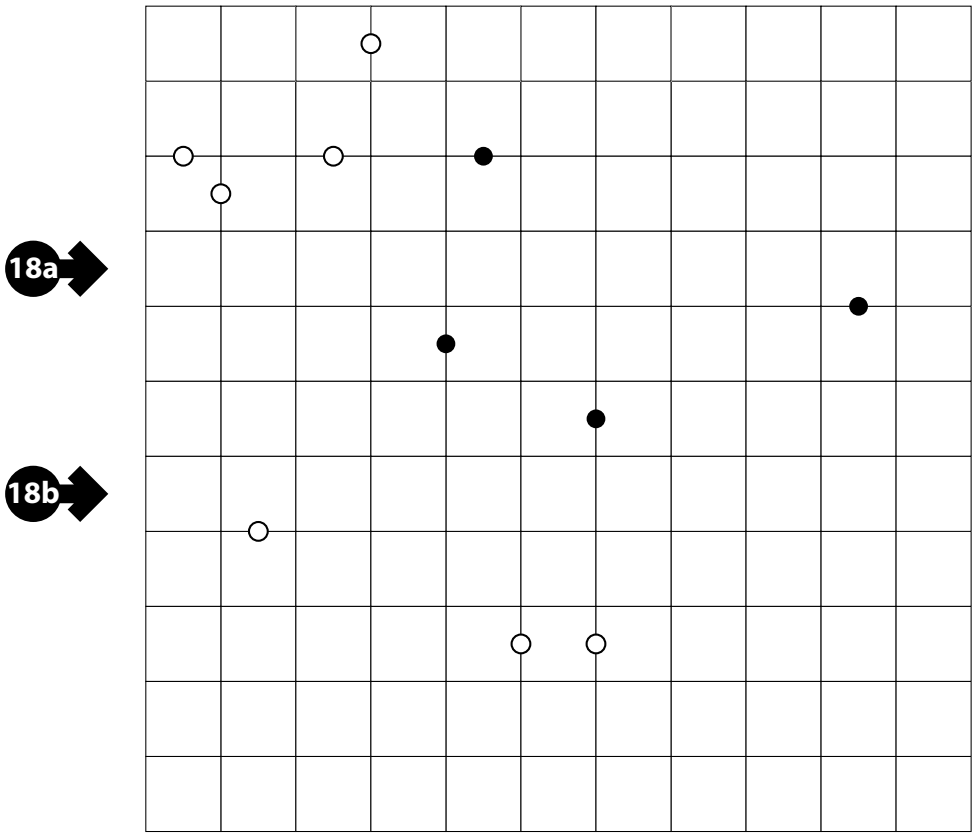
Put at most one letter into each cell so that the given words can be read either across (left-to-right) or down (top-to-bottom) in consecutive cells in the grid. Every word must appear in the grid exactly once, and no other words of two or more letters may appear in the grid (that is, if two cells are filled and are adjacent orthogonally, then there must be a word that uses both of them). Every word must have either a blank cell or the edge of the grid before and after it. All letters must be (orthogonally) connected in a single group.

Dots on the edge between two cells indicate that both of those cells contain a letter, and therefore there must be a word in the grid that is separated by the dot into two parts. A white dot indicates that one of those two parts has one more letter than the other part; a black dot indicates that one of those two parts has twice as many letters as the other part. (A dot in a three-letter word can be either color. Not all possible dots are given.)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right, ignoring any blank cells (and any dots). If all cells in the row are blank, enter a single letter 'X'.

Example Answer: CYPRUSO,ONMUO,AUR,GA

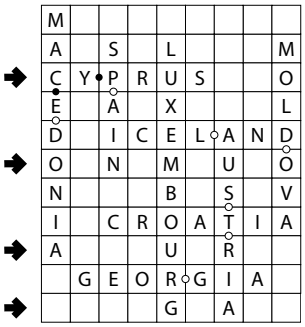
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
AUSTRALIA
GHANA
GRENADA
GUINEA
MALI
NAURU
NIGER
PERU
RWANDA
SAUDIARABIA
SOMALIA
TOGO
TONGA
UGANDA
USA



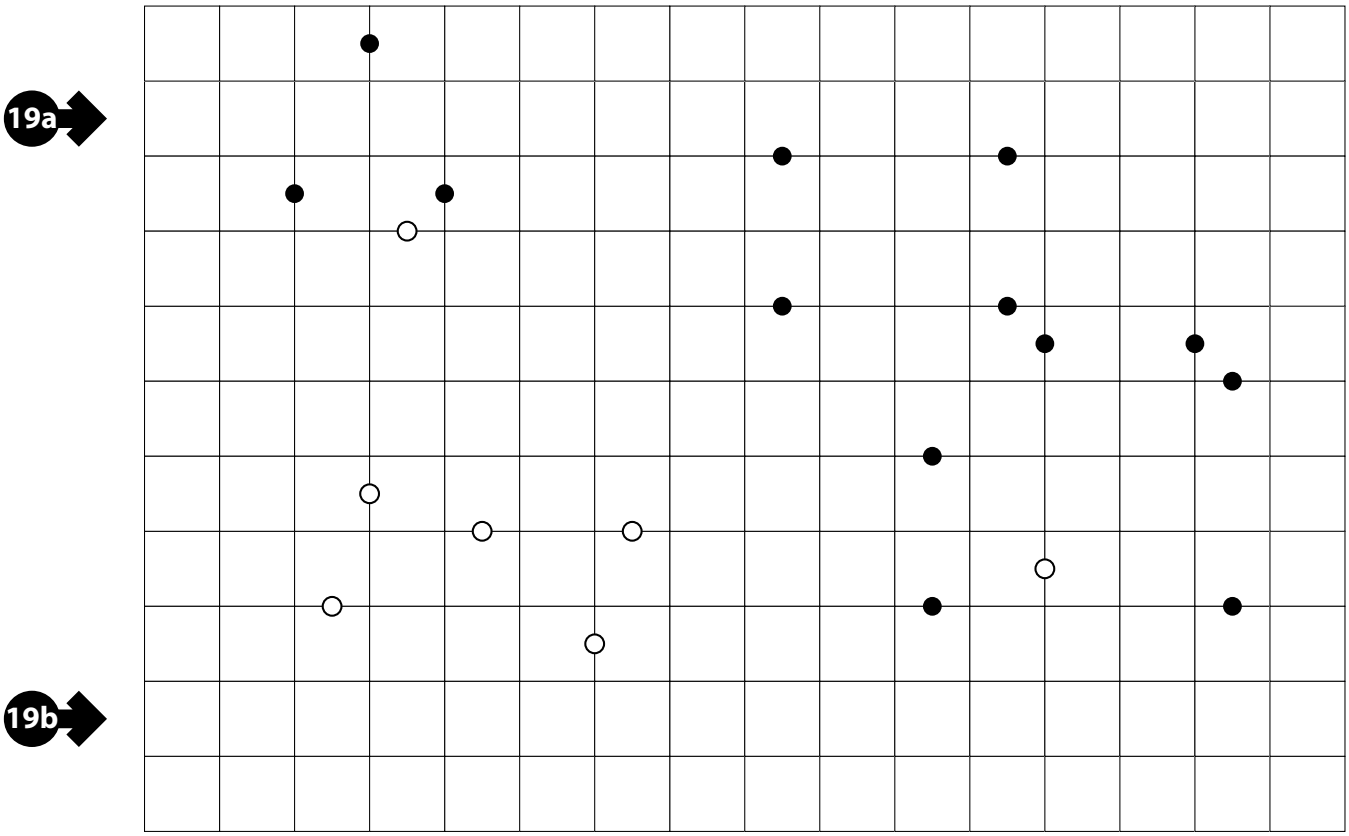
19. Scrabble (Kropki) [Čedomir Milanović] (76 points)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right, ignoring any blank cells (and any dots). If all cells in the row are blank, enter a single letter 'X'.

Example Answer: CYPRUSO,ONMUO,AUR,GA



ARAD
BERGAMO
BREMEN
CALGARY
CALI
DALIAN
DALLAS
DELHI
DOVER
DURBAN
GUADALAJARA
GUANGYUAN
LASVEGAS
LEGANES
MEERUT
RABAT
RENO
ROTTERDAM
SEMARANG
TAMPA
TAWAU
UVIRA
VALLADOLID
VAN
VIENTIANE
WALSALL



20-21. Tapa (Island Sizes) [Zoran Tanasić, Nikola Živanović] (22, 56 points)

Shade some empty cells; cells with numbers cannot be shaded. All shaded cells connect along edges to create a single connected region. (It is permissible for the region to touch itself at a corner, but touching at a corner does not connect the region.) No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely shaded.

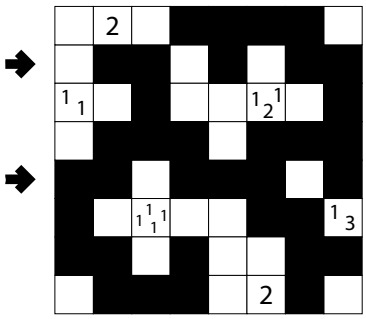
Numbers in a cell indicate the lengths of contiguous shaded cell groups along the "ring" of 8 cells touching that cell (fewer for cells along the outside edge). If there is more than one number in a cell, then there must be at least one white (unshaded) cell between the shaded cell groups. The numbers are given in *no particular order*. As a special case, if the number given in a cell is a zero (0), it means that none of the cells around that cell can be shaded.

Unshaded cells also connect along edges to create multiple regions. The set of the sizes of these regions (in cells) is provided -- for example, a set of {4,4,5} indicates that there are two regions of size 4 and one region of size 5.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'X' for an unshaded cell and 'O' for a shaded cell. You may use two other letters or numbers, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer:
XOOXOXOO, OOXOOOXO

{1,1,1,1,1,7,7,10}



{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9}

20a →

		1 1 1					5		
3			3 3		6				
								6	
	1								
				3 3		1 4			4
		1 4					2		

20b →

{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9}

21a →

	1 3			6		6			
		1 2 1						2 3	
			2 4						
	2 4								
					3 3		2 4		
	1 4								3
					5				
		4							
						1			

21b →

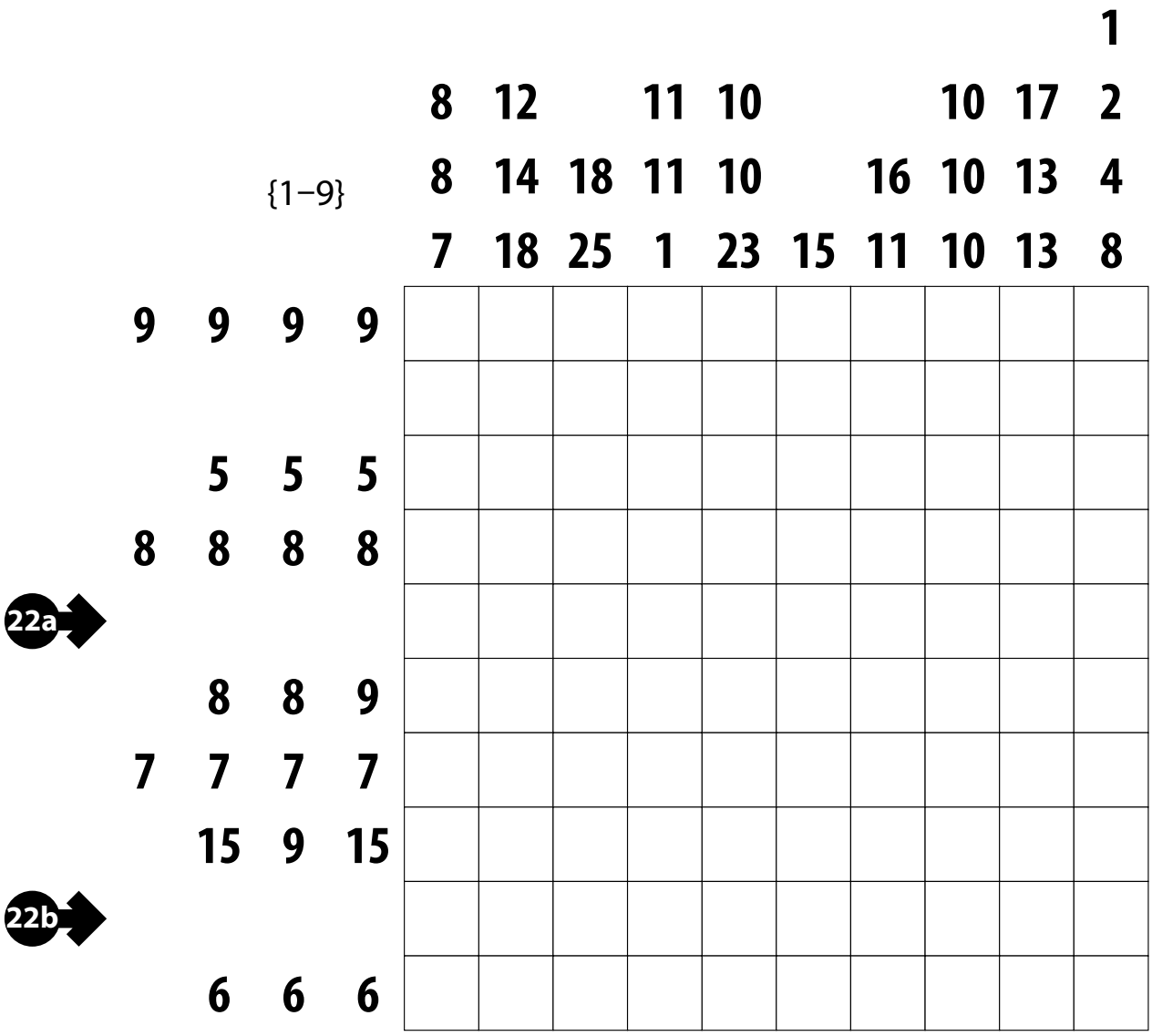
22. Japanese Sums [Zoran Tanasić] (85 points)

Place a number from the specified list into some cells so that no number appears more than once in any row or column. Cells may remain empty. Numbers outside the grid (when given) indicate *all* sums of contiguous groups of numbers (including "sums" of a single number) along that row or column, in positional order. These groups are separated by empty cells. A question mark (?) indicates an unspecified, but non-zero, sum. Some cells might be marked with a cross (×); do not put any numbers into those cells (and consider them to be empty for purposes of separating groups).

			{1–7}	3 11		6	
			13	2	19	1	24
		7 8	3	4		2	6
		18		7	5	4	2
➡	7	1 4	7		1	×	4
➡		10 5	1	2	7		5
		5 14	5		6	1	7

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents, using 'X' for an empty cell (or a cell with a cross). Do not include any numbers outside the grid.

Example Answer: `7X1X4,127X5`



23-24. Sudoku (Word Search) [Zoran Tanasić, Nikola Živanović] (24, 107 points)

Place a letter from the specified set in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column, and marked box (using the thicker lines as borders) contains exactly those letters in the specified set.

In addition, it must be possible to locate the given list of words in the grid. Words always appear along a straight line in one of the eight standard directions. Any word could appear more than once in the grid.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right.

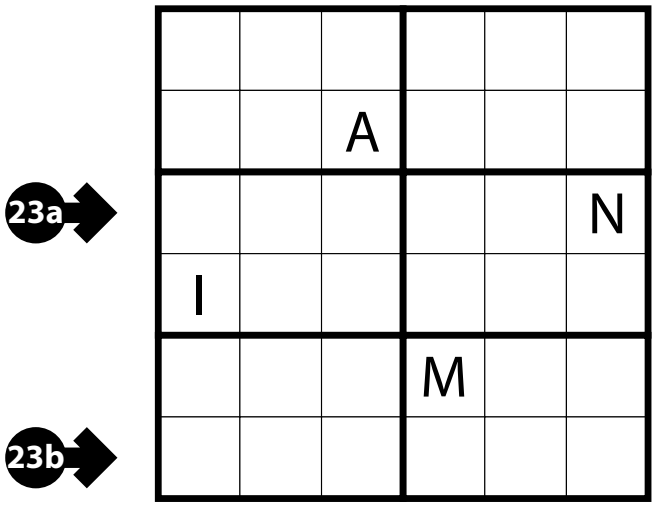
Example Answer: `DNLA,NLAD`

{A,D,L,N}

➡	L	A	D	N
	D	N	L	A
	A	D	N	L
➡	N	L	A	D

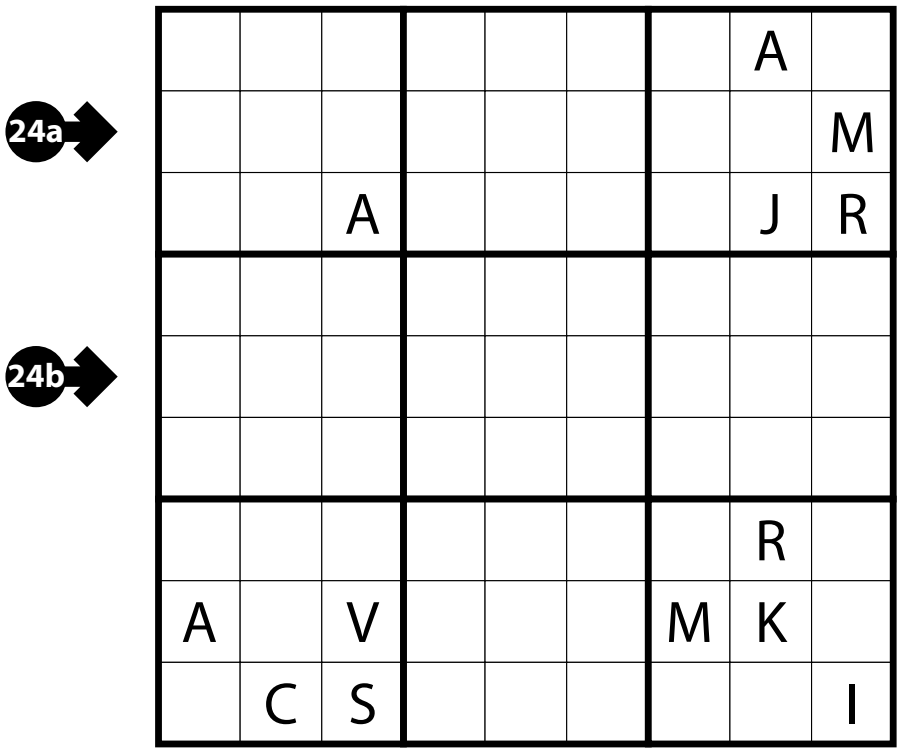
L I MA
MA I N Z
MA N I L A

{A,I,L,M,N,Z}

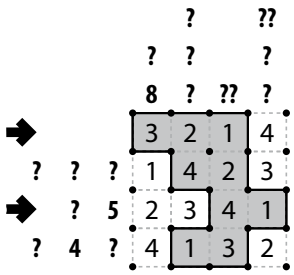


{A,C,I,J,K,M,R,S,V}

A J V A R
C V A R C I
K A J MA K
S A R MA



25. Times Out [Zoran Tanasić] (35 points)

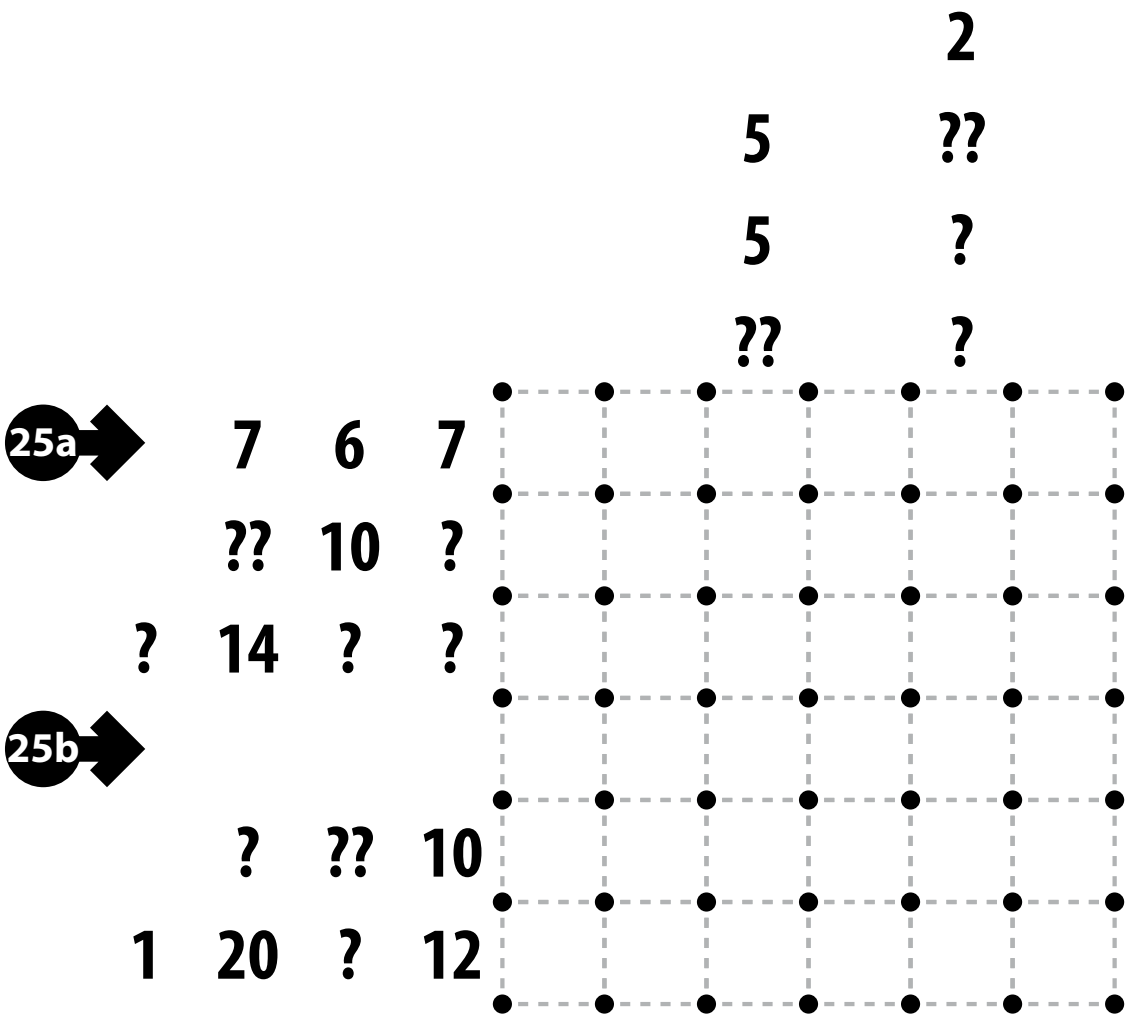


Place a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears exactly once in each row and column. (X is the number of cells in each row.) Also, draw a single, non-intersecting loop that only consists of line segments between the dots along the dashed lines.

Numbers outside the grid (when given) represent *all* contiguous groups of numbers along that row or column, in positional order. These groups are separated by cell edges that are part of the loop. A group inside the loop is represented by the sum of its numbers; a group outside the loop is represented by the product of its numbers. (A group with a single number is represented by the number itself.) Some digits may be replaced by a question mark (?); no number starts with the digit 0 (so, for example, '??' represents a number in the range 10 to 99).

Answer: For each designated row, enter the numbers in its cells from left to right. Do not include any numbers outside the grid. (You may ignore the loop for purposes of answer entry.)

Example Answer: `3214,2341`



26. Times Out [Čedomir Milanović] (96 points)

Answer: For each designated row, enter the numbers in its cells from left to right. Do not include any numbers outside the grid. (You may ignore the loop for purposes of answer entry.)

Example Answer: `3214,2341`