WPF SUDOKU/PUZZLE **GRAND PRIX** 2026

ROUND 3

WPF PUZZLE GP 2026 INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

Host Country: Poland

Piotr Gdowski, Krystian Świderski, Tomasz Stróżak

Special Notes: None.

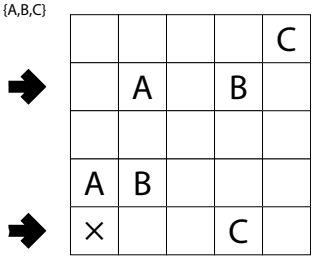
Points:		
1.	**Fuzuli**	**11**
2.	**Fuzuli (toroidal regions)**	**46**
3.	**Fuzuli (toroidal regions)**	**55**
4.	**Yin Yang**	**18**
5.	**Yin Yang (matryoshka)**	**42**
6.	**Yin Yang (inverse regions)**	**58**
7.	**Yin Yang (thermo)**	**53**
8.	**Snake**	**33**
9.	**Snake**	**37**
10.	**Snake (equal regions)**	**65**
11.	**Star Division**	**7**
12.	**Star Division**	**27**
13.	**Star Division**	**49**
14.	**Star Division**	**46**
15.	**No Three**	**10**
16.	**No Three**	**46**
17.	**No Three**	**71**
18.	**Rail Pool (complete liar)**	**9**
19.	**Rail Pool (complete liar)**	**63**
20.	**Rail Pool (complete liar)**	**29**
21.	**Top Heavy**	**15**
22.	**Top Heavy (toroidal regions)**	**30**
23.	**Top Heavy (toroidal regions)**	**130**
24.	**No Same Sums**	**17**
26.	**No Same Sums**	**64**
25.	**No Same Sums**	**46**
27.	**Traffic Loop**	**10**
28.	**Traffic Loop**	**41**
29.	**Traffic Loop**	**113**
TOTAL:		1241

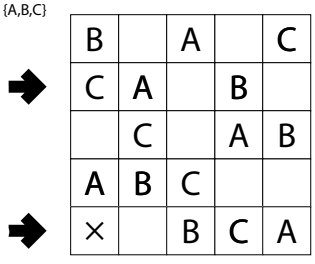
1. Fuzuli [Piotr Gdowski] (11 points)

Place letters of the specified list into some cells, no more than one letter per cell, so that each letter appears exactly once in each row and column. No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely filled with letters. Some cells may already be filled in for you and some cells may contain a cross ('×'); do not place any (more) letters into those cells.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents. Use 'X' for a cell without a letter from the list.

Example Answer: CAXBX, XXBCA





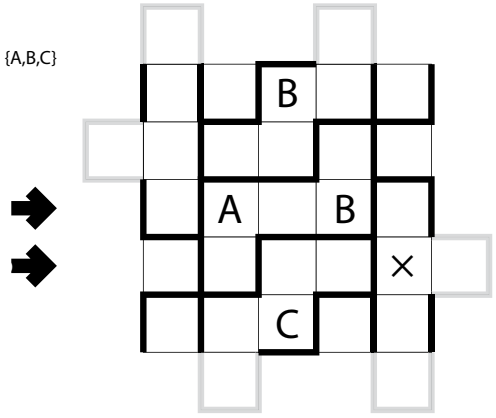
2-3. Fuzuli (toroidal regions) [Piotr Gdowski] (46, 55 points)

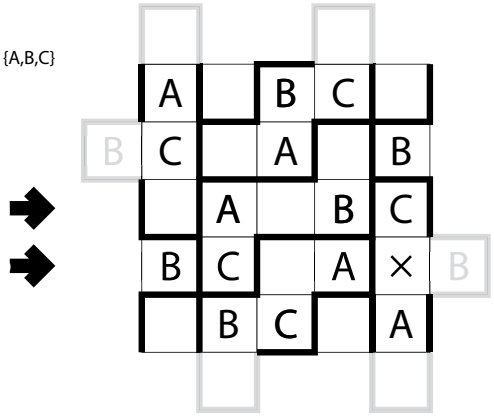
Place letters of the specified list into some cells, no more than one letter per cell, so that each letter appears exactly once in each row and column. No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely filled with letters. Some cells may already be filled in for you and some cells may contain a cross ('×'); do not place any (more) letters into those cells.

Some regions are designated in the grid with thick borders. Each letter must appear exactly once in each region. Some regions might "wrap around" to the other side of the grid (faded copies of some cells are added outside the grid to help you visualize the connections). (The "2×2 group of cells" constraint does *not* apply for groups that "wrap around" and have cells on opposite sides of the grid.)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents. Use 'X' for a cell without a letter from the list. (Do not enter any contents for the copies of cells added outside the grid.)

Example Answer: XAXBC, BCXAX



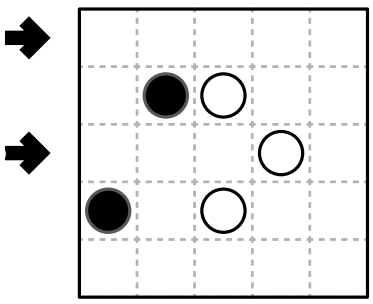


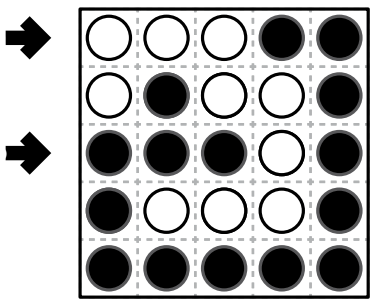
4. Yin Yang [Krystian Świderski] (18 points)

Put a black circle or a white circle into each cell. All cells with black circles must be connected orthogonally, and all cells with white circles must be connected orthogonally. Every 2×2 group of cells must contain at least one black circle and at least one white circle. Some cells are already filled in for you.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a cell with a white circle and 'X' for a cell with a black circle. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: OOOXX, XXXOX





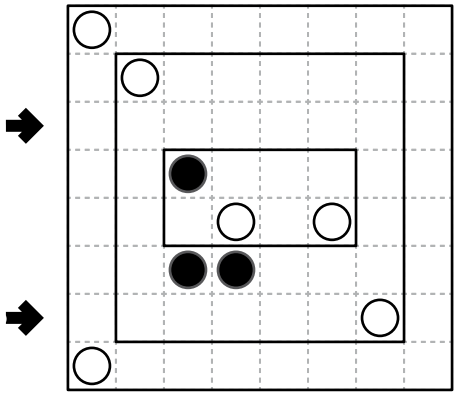
5. Yin Yang (matryoshka) [Krystian Świderski] (42 points)

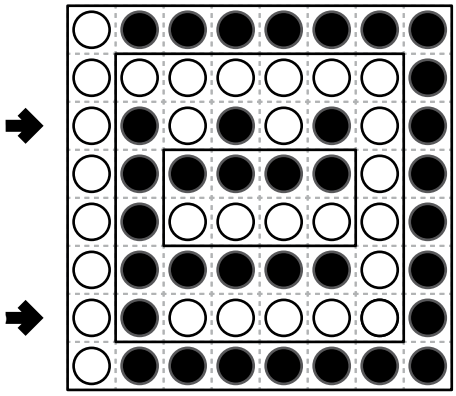
Put a black circle or a white circle into each cell. All cells with black circles must be connected orthogonally, and all cells with white circles must be connected orthogonally. Every 2×2 group of cells must contain at least one black circle and at least one white circle. Some cells are already filled in for you.

Some rectangles (or squares) are highlighted in the grid. Every rectangle is also a valid puzzle, and so must obey these same rules.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a cell with a white circle and 'X' for a cell with a black circle. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: OXOXOXOX, OXOOOOOX





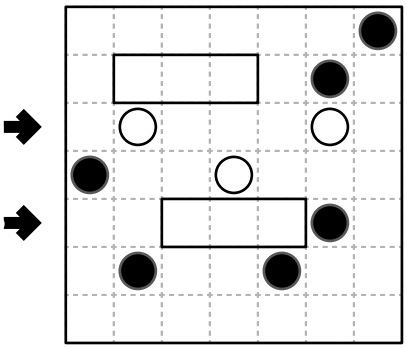
6. Yin Yang (inverse regions) [Krystian Świderski] (58 points)

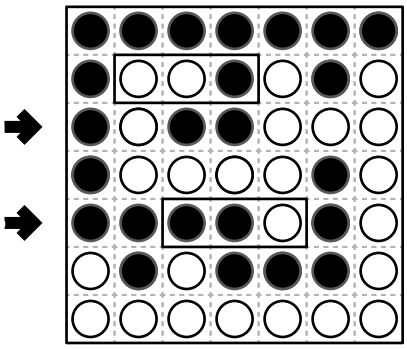
Put a black circle or a white circle into each cell. All cells with black circles must be connected orthogonally, and all cells with white circles must be connected orthogonally. Every 2×2 group of cells must contain at least one black circle and at least one white circle. Some cells are already filled in for you.

Two identically-shaped regions are highlighted in the grid. If a cell in the first region has a black circle, the corresponding cell in the second region must have a white circle. If a cell in the first region has a white circle, the corresponding cell in the second region must have a black circle.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a cell with a white circle and 'X' for a cell with a black circle. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: XOXXOOO, XXXXOXO





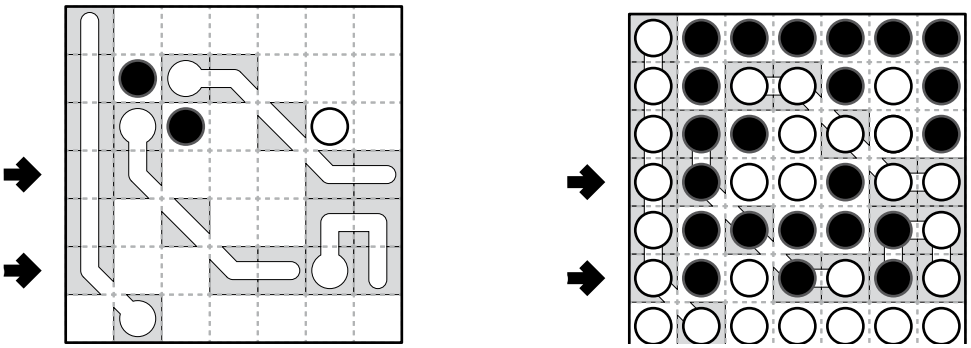
7. Yin Yang (thermo) [Krystian Świderski] (53 points)

Put a black circle or a white circle into each cell. All cells with black circles must be connected orthogonally, and all cells with white circles must be connected orthogonally. Every 2×2 group of cells must contain at least one black circle and at least one white circle. Some cells are already filled in for you.

Thermometers are given in the grid. Each thermometer has a bulb (a large round end) in one cell and connects several other cells in a path, ending at the "top" of the thermometer. Within each thermometer the black circles must be "filled in from the bulb to the top"; that is, there is no white circle closer (along the path of the thermometer) to the bulb than any black circle. (It is permissible for a thermometer to be all black or all white.)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a cell with a white circle and 'X' for a cell with a black circle. (Ignore any thermometers in the cell.) You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: OXOOXOO, OXOXOXO



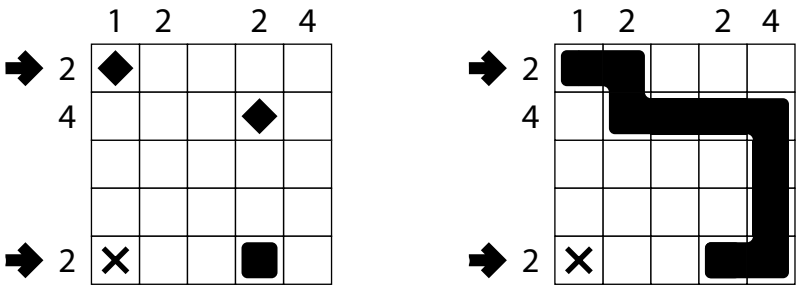
8-9. Snake [Tomasz Stróżak, Piotr Gdowski] (33, 37 points)

Locate a "snake" in the grid. The snake is a path that starts in a cell, goes through some number of cells orthogonally, and ends in a cell. Each cell is used at most once by the snake. The snake cannot loop around to touch itself, not even diagonally. (In other words, if two cells in the snake touch orthogonally, then they must be exactly one cell apart along the path of the snake, and if two cells in the snake touch diagonally, then they must be exactly two cells apart along the path of the snake.) Numbers outside the grid, if given, indicate how many cells in that row or column are occupied by the snake.

A cross in a cell (when provided) indicates that the snake cannot go through the cell. A diamond in a cell (when provided) indicates that the snake must go through (or end in) that cell. A rounded square in a cell (when provided) indicates that that cell must be an end of a snake.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a cell occupied by the snake and 'X' for a cell not occupied by the snake. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: OOXXX, XXXOO



10. Snake (equal regions) [Piotr Gdowski] (65 points)

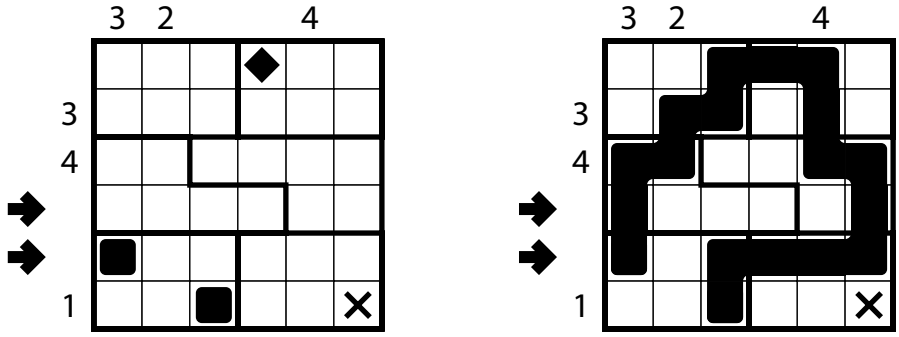
Locate a "snake" in the grid. The snake is a path that starts in a cell, goes through some number of cells orthogonally, and ends in a cell. Each cell is used at most once by the snake. The snake cannot loop around to touch itself, not even diagonally. (In other words, if two cells in the snake touch orthogonally, then they must be exactly one cell apart along the path of the snake, and if two cells in the snake touch diagonally, then they must be exactly two cells apart along the path of the snake.) Numbers outside the grid, if given, indicate how many cells in that row or column are occupied by the snake.

A cross in a cell (when provided) indicates that the snake cannot go through the cell. A diamond in a cell (when provided) indicates that the snake must go through (or end in) that cell. A rounded square in a cell (when provided) indicates that that cell must be an end of a snake.

Some regions are designated in the grid with thick borders. The snake occupies the same number of cells in every region. (It is up to you to determine that number.)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents. Use `O` for a cell occupied by the snake and `X` for a cell not occupied by the snake. Alternatively, you may use any two distinct characters instead of '`XO`'.

Example Answer: `OXXXXO, OXOOOO`



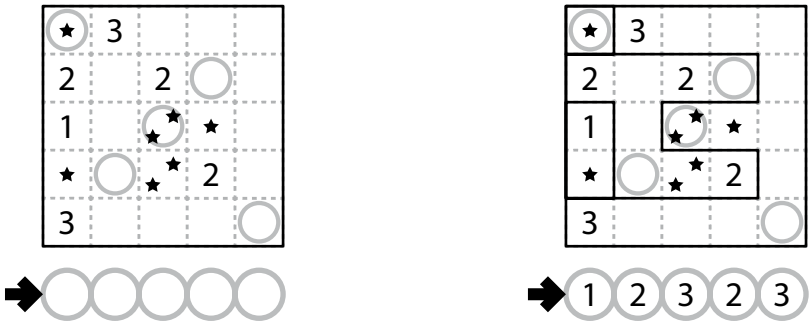
11-14. Star Division [Tomasz Stróżak] (7, 27, 49, 46 points)

Divide the grid along the dashed lines into regions such that each cell is part of exactly one region. No region can contain any 2×2 group of cells. Inside some cells are stars; each region must contain at least one star. Inside some cells are numbers; every number must equal the number of stars in the region it belongs to. A region may contain zero, one, or more given numbers.

The circles in cells are only used for entering your answers.

Answer: Enter the number of stars in the region each circle is in, reading the circles from left to right. (Ignore which row the circles are in.) Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '`0`' for a circle in a region with 10 stars.

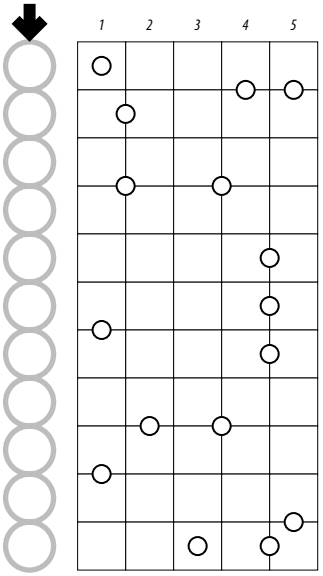
Example Answer: `12323`

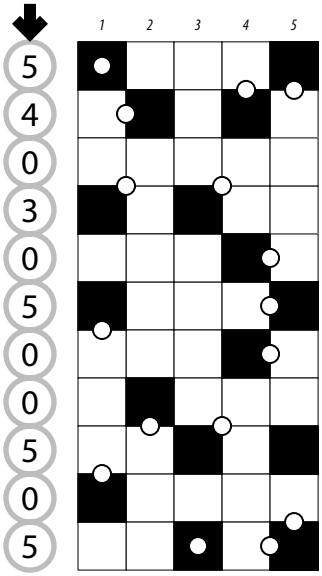


15-17. No Three [Tomasz Stróżak] (10, 46, 71 points)

Shade some cells so that all other cells are connected orthogonally and no two shaded cells share an edge. If a shaded cell is the same distance from two other shaded cells in the same row (or column), then there must be another shaded cell in that row (or column) that is of a closer distance. (In other words, no three sequential shaded cells within a row or column can be evenly spaced.) There are some circles given in the grid. Each circle must touch exactly one shaded cell (but a shaded cell can touch any number of circles).

The numbers on top of the diagram are for Answer purposes only.





Answer: For each row from top to bottom, enter the number (on top) of the *second* column from the left that has a shaded cell. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' if the second shaded cell appears in column 10. If fewer than two of the cells in the row are shaded, enter '0'.

Example Answer: 54030500505

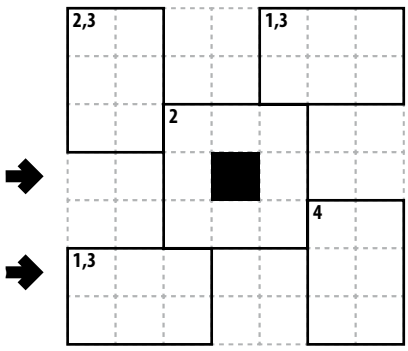
18-20. Rail Pool (complete liar) [Krystian Świderski] (9, 63, 29 points)

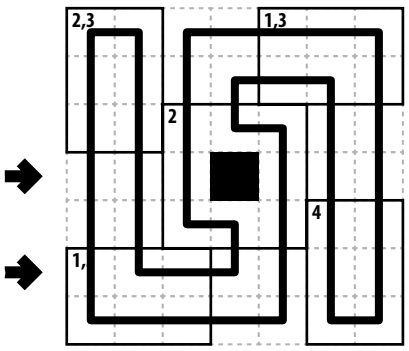
Draw a single loop that passes orthogonally through centers of all cells. The loop cannot intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once. (Blackened areas, if given, are not part of the grid; the loop may not enter them.)

Define a "stretch" to mean a straight section of the loop that begins and ends at two consecutive turns along the loop. Some regions are drawn and include a set of numbers in the upper-left corner, which **restrict** the stretches that are partially or fully in that region as follows: Each stretch's length must **not** be in the set of numbers; also, the number of different lengths of all of that region's stretches cannot equal the count of numbers in the set (for example, if there are two numbers in the set, then either all stretches for that region have the same length, or there are at least three different lengths of stretches for that region).

Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if the path goes straight through the cell, and 'L' if the path turns in the cell. You may use other letters or numbers, as long as they are distinct. Ignore any blackened areas.

Example Answer: IIIIII,ILILIII



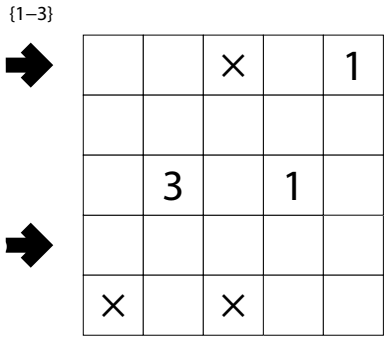


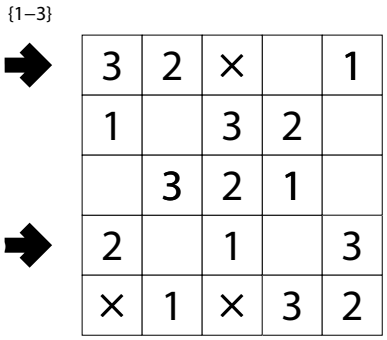
21. Top Heavy [Piotr Gdowski] (15 points)

Place numbers into some cells so that each number in the provided range appears exactly once in each row and column. Cells may remain empty. A cell cannot contain more than one number. Some numbers are already given for you. Some cells are marked with an 'X'; you cannot put a number in those cells. If two cells touch vertically and both contain numbers, the number on top must be greater than the number on the bottom.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents, using 'X' for a cell without a number.

Example Answer: `32XX1,2X1X3`





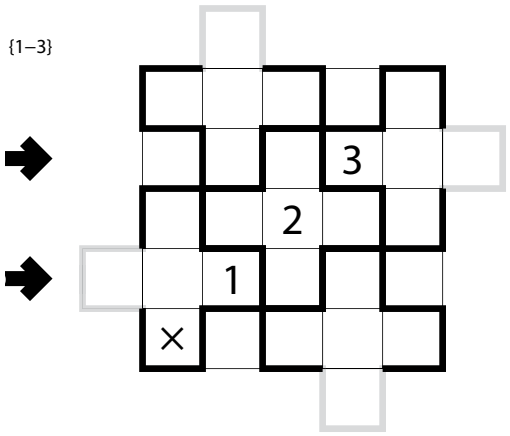
22-23. Top Heavy (toroidal regions) [Piotr Gdowski] (30, 130 points)

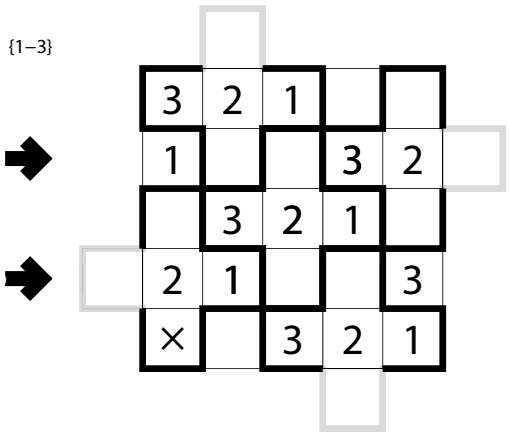
Place numbers into some cells so that each number in the provided range appears exactly once in each row and column. Cells may remain empty. A cell cannot contain more than one number. Some numbers are already given for you. Some cells are marked with an 'X'; you cannot put a number in those cells. If two cells touch vertically and both contain numbers, the number on top must be greater than the number on the bottom.

Some regions are designated in the grid with thick borders. Each number in the provided range appears exactly once in each region. Some regions might "wrap around" to the other side of the grid (faded copies of some cells are added outside the grid to help you visualize the connections). (It is allowed for a cell at the bottom of a column to have a smaller number than the number at the top of the column.)

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents, using 'X' for a cell without a number. (Do not enter any contents for the copies of cells added outside the grid.)

Example Answer: `1XX32,21XX3`





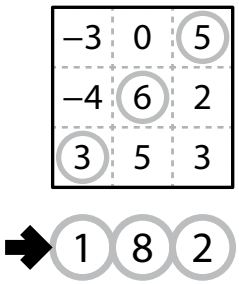
24-25. No Same Sums [Krystian Świderski] (17, 64, 46 points)

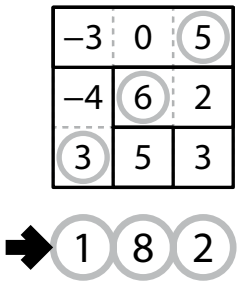
Divide the grid along the dashed lines into regions. Some cells contain numbers. No region can contain the same number more than once. If two regions touch (at an edge or a corner), no number can appear in both regions. No two regions (anywhere) may have the same sum when all numbers in the region are added together.

The circles in cells are only used for entering your answers.

Answer: Enter the sum of all numbers in the region each circle is in, reading the circles from left to right. (Ignore which row the circles are in.) If the sum is negative, treat it as the additive inverse (without the minus sign), and use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '3' for a circle in a region where the numbers sum to −13.

Example Answer: 182





27-29. Traffic Loop [Tomasz Stróżak] (10, 41, 113 points)

Draw a single loop that passes orthogonally through centers of all cells. The loop cannot intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once. (Blackened areas, if given, are not part of the grid and do not contain cells.)

The loop (unlike most loop puzzles) has a direction of travel, which is up to you to determine. Some cells are marked with a traffic sign; when the loop enters such a cell, the sign must be rotated so as to be oriented correctly for an imaginary traveller along the loop, and the traveller must obey that sign. The possible signs mean "turn left", "go straight", "turn right", and "turn left or turn right, but not straight".

Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if the loop goes straight through the cell, and 'L' if the loop turns in the cell. You may use other letters or numbers, as long as they are distinct. Ignore any blackened areas.

Example Answer: LLIILL, ILLLLI