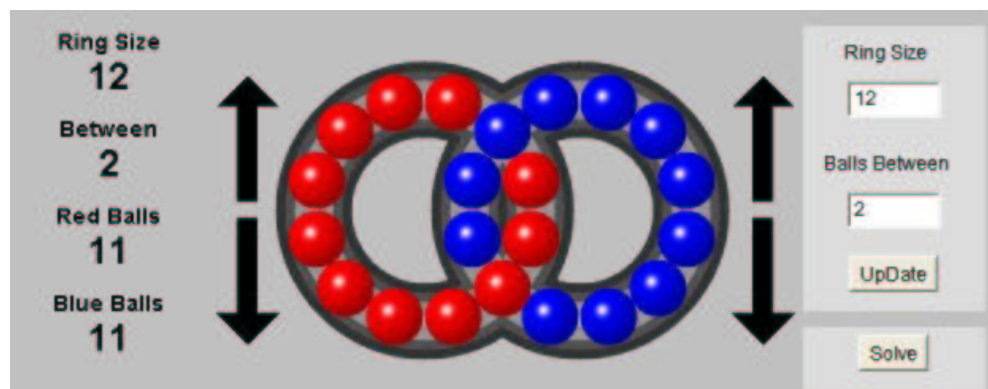


Two-color Hungarian Rings Puzzles: Mathematical and Computer Analysis

by

John Kiltinen and Barry Peterson

The standard Hungarian Rings puzzle has two intersecting ring-shaped tracks, each of which has space for 20 spheres. On each ring, there is room for 4 spheres between the two intersection points. We generalize this to a puzzle which has the same (arbitrary) number of positions on each ring and the same (arbitrary) number of positions between the intersection points. We assume the spheres are of two colors in equal numbers. We will present the preliminary results of a mathematical and computational analysis of this puzzle. These include some interesting findings about how many moves it takes to solve the puzzle.



The talk will include a discussion of the computational challenges, and some conjectures based upon the findings.

Thursday
March 16, 2006
4:00 p.m.
West Science 2911

Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium and Seminar Series