

2.5 Nikoli marathon

Nikoli is a Japanese logic puzzle magazine that has invented many varieties of logic puzzle. This puzzle begins as the Nikoli puzzle type Akari (or Light Up), whose rules can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_Up. One way to realize this is to notice that the dark squares spell out 'akari'; another is to look up rules of different Nikoli puzzle types to see which one looks like it could reasonably fit this puzzle. The solution is as follows, with lightbulbs indicated by yellow squares:

5 E	7 H	3 C	1 R	10 T	0 T	6 S	2 A	13 O
4 H	3 I	4 E	8 N	1 W	2 S	5 L	7 N	3 H
4 W	2 I	2 A	1 F	1 S	10 G	2 E	5 E	9 Y
2 N	1 H	9 A	15 H	3 I	2 O	2 T	0 C	8 T
2 I	2 S	1 P	6 R	4 V	9 D	2 U	11 R	1 Z
2 S	2 X	1 I	7 A	15 E	3 V	9 O	5 Q	1 U
2 K	3 Z	3 U	3 A	5 L	0 F	2 E	10 R	1 R
2 N	2 O	3 O	5 P	6 D	1 T	8 N	3 M	2 W
9 O	7 W	9 K	4 W	1 L	1 P	10 O	6 A	2 M

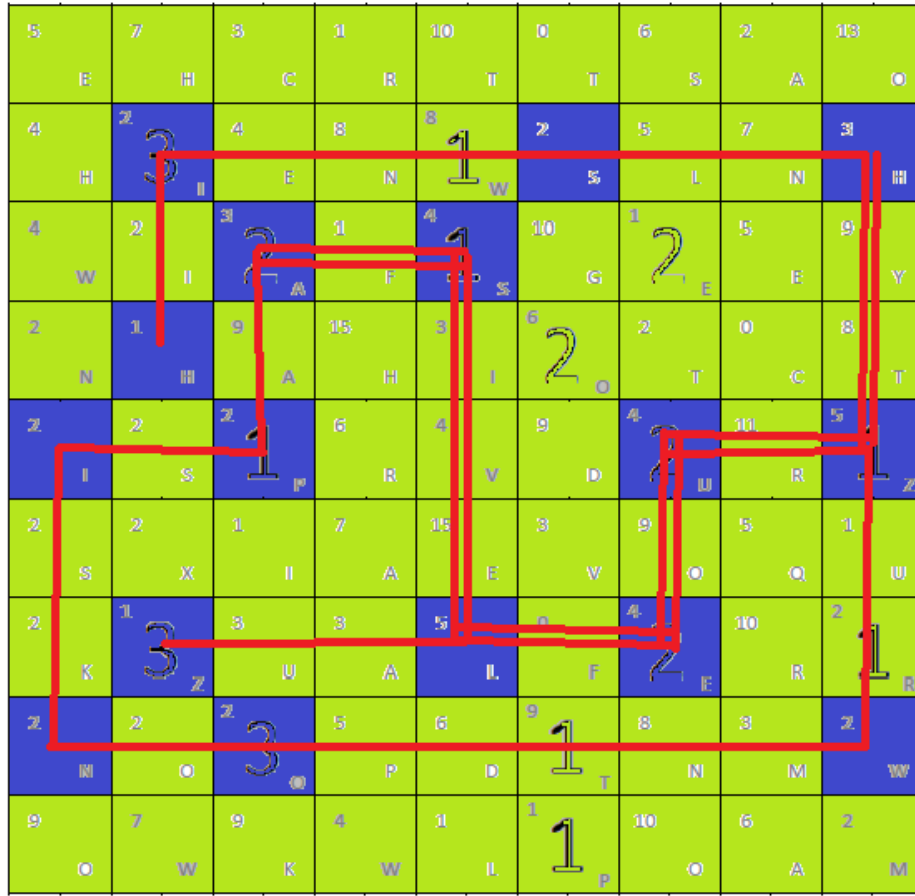
The letters on the lightbulbs (bottom right corner) spell out THE LIGHTS DO KURODOKO. Take the numbers on the lightbulbs (upper left corner) as the givens for a Kurodoko puzzle (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuromasu>).

The solution to the Kurodoku is as follows, with 'black' cells indicated in blue, and empty cells in green (and the givens still yellow).

5 E	7 H	3 C	1 R	10 T	10 T	6 S	2 A	13 O
4 H	² 3 I	4 E	8 N	⁸ 1 W	2 S	5 L	7 N	3 H
4 W	2 I	³ 2 A	1 F	⁴ 1 S	10 G	¹ 2 E	5 E	9 Y
2 N	1 H	9 A	15 H	3 I	⁶ 2 O	2 T	0 C	8 T
2 I	2 S	² 1 P	6 R	4 V	9 D	⁴ 2 U	10 R	⁵ 1 Z
2 S	2 X	1 I	7 A	15 E	3 V	9 O	5 O	1 W
2 K	¹ 3 Z	3 U	3 A	5 L	0 F	⁴ 2 E	10 R	² 1 R
2 H	2 O	² 3 O	5 P	6 D	⁹ 1 T	8 N	3 M	2 W
9 O	7 W	9 K	4 W	1 L	¹ 1 P	10 O	6 A	2 M

Once again you read the small letters on the (blue) solution squares, which say IS HASHI PUZZLE NOW. Take the numbers on those squares as the givens for a Hashiwokakero (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashiwokakero>).

The Hashiwokakero solution is as follows.



There is one path consisting entirely of double bridges. Reading along it, starting from the left and ignoring the islands, gives you the answer FIVE FORTY (or 540).