Tapa Variations Contest

TVC XXI

2021/04/09-14

AUTHORS

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Tapa Rules: Shade some empty cells black to create a single connected wall. Numbers in a cell indicate the length of consecutive shaded blocks in the neighboring cells. If there is more than one number in a cell, then there must be at least one white (unshaded) cell between the black cell groups. Cells with numbers cannot be shaded, and the shaded cells cannot form a 2×2 square anywhere in the grid.
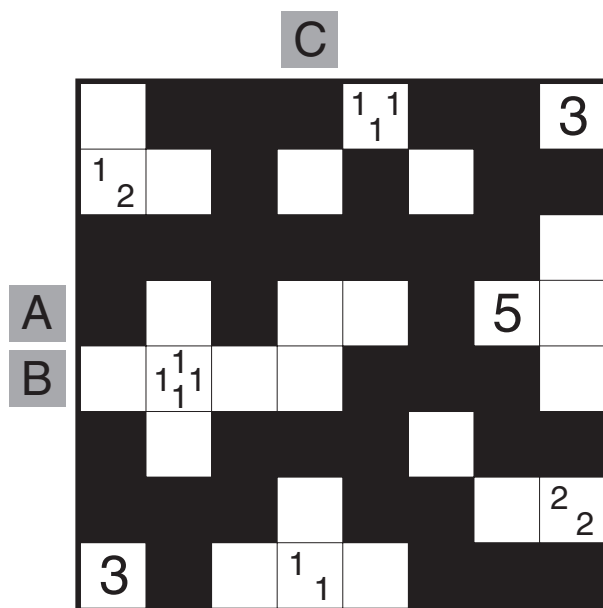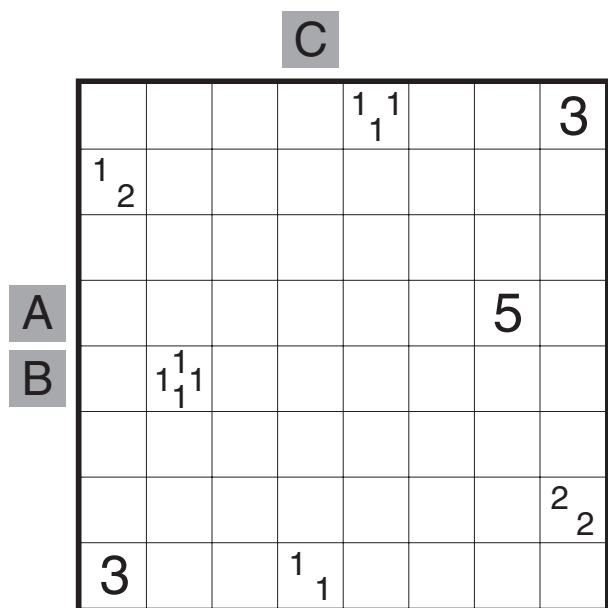
TVC 2021 Scoring System:
i. The best 3 results out of 4 will be considered in the final ratings.
ii. Time bonus will be applied.
iii. Total points of each test will be 1000 points. After each test, the scores will be normalized such as the best player gets 100 points, other players' scores calculated accordingly.

TVC 2021 General Answer Format: Write the lengths of seperate blackened cell blocks in the marked rows and columns.
The answer for the example would be: 111, 3, 111
If the puzzle has a different answer format, it will be stated on the page.

TVC Structure: The series has a unique structure, the best of 3, extra time, penalty points, previously on TVC and the poll.
Duration: 75 minutes
Extra time: 5 minutes
Penalty points: When you submit any (right/wrong) answer during extra time, you will be penalized.
The poll: After TVC XXI, we will give chance to all participants to select 5 variations for next TVC.
Time bonus: If a competitor finishes all puzzles correctly before ending 75 minutes, he/she will get bonus points. Time bonus will be computed only after bonus is claimed.
Best of 3: TVC started with "Best of 3 rule", because in that time we couldn't organize the competitions with time flexibility. So everyone couldn't have a chance to participate in all TVC's regularly in exact time and date. So we ran Best of 3 rule. We know that this is not necessary anymore because LMI has great infrastructure; but as we noticed Best of 3 is a trademark of TVC Series. Therefore it will be applied in 2021 competitions too.
Puzzle file: Puzzle file will not contain examples.
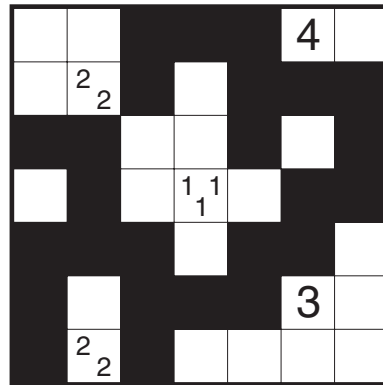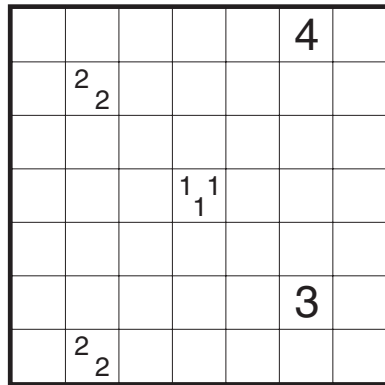**TVC 2021 Schedule:**
TVC XXI - 09/14 April 2021
TVC XXII - 04/09 June 2021
TVC XXIII - 06/11 August 2021
TVC XIV - ...
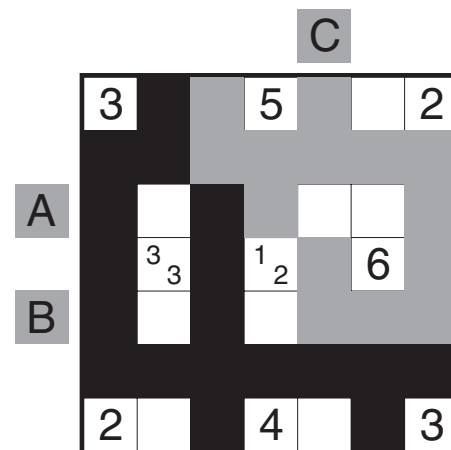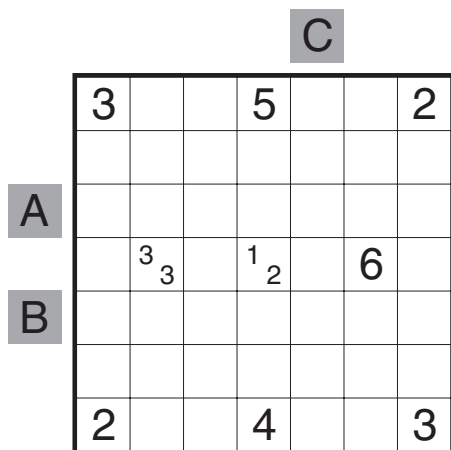
1. Tapa (Line) 27 + 30 points

Standard Tapa rules. Also, there may not be four consecutive black cells in any row or column.
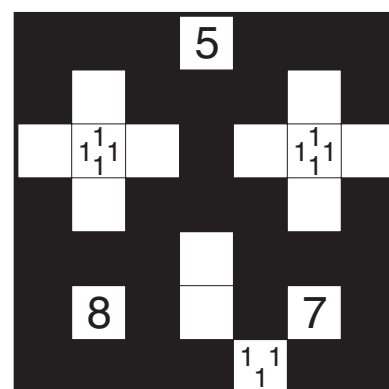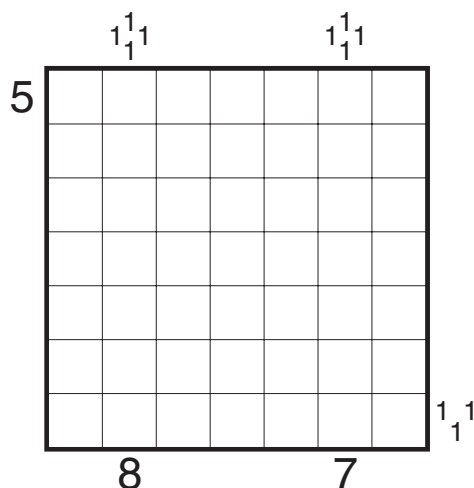

2. Tapa (Double) 22 + 70 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, shade two separate Tapa walls that do not overlap or cross each other. All digits in a clue cell refer to the shading of just one Tapa wall within the puzzle and provide no information on the shading of the other wall around that clue.

Answer Format: For both Tapa, write the lengths of seperate colored cell blocks in the marked rows and columns. The answer for the example would be: 1111, 113, 221
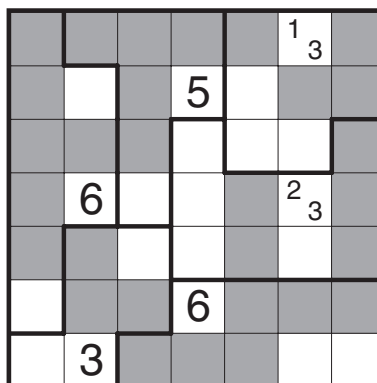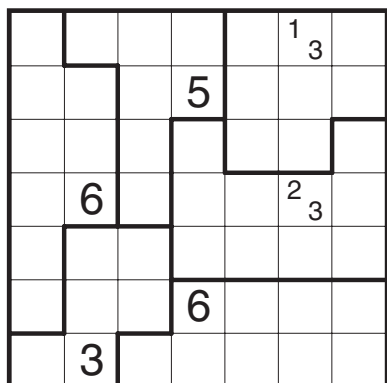

3. Tapa (Easy as) 60 + 77 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, the numbers outside the grid indicate the first clue cell seen from the corresponding direction.
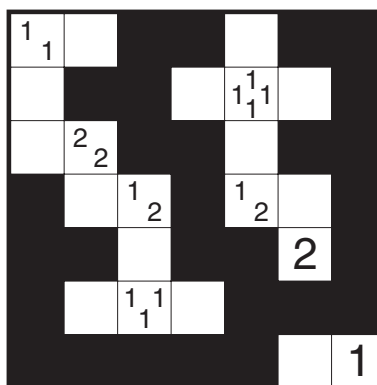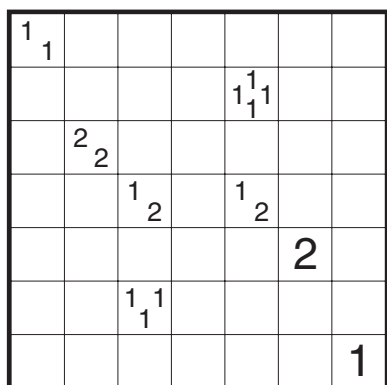
4. Tapa (Regional) 23 + 59 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, each clue serves not only as a normal Tapa clue but also as a clue for the region it is contained in, giving the size of each contiguous block of black cells in the region. Each region contains at most one clue, and there are no constraints on regions without a clue.
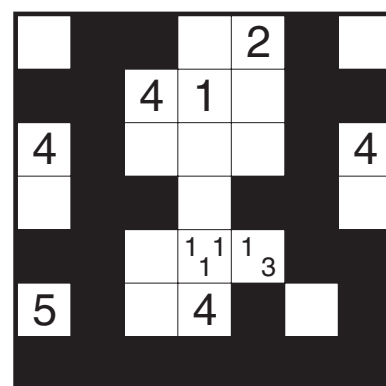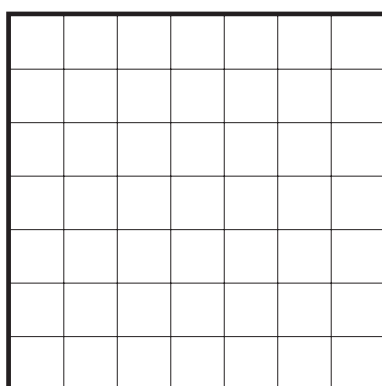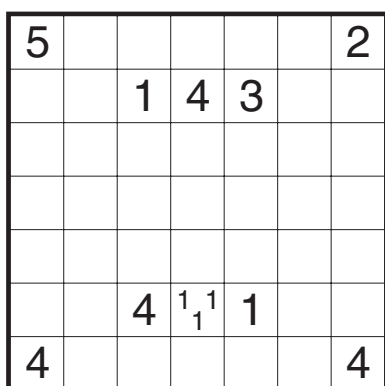
5. Pata 45 + 84 points

Variation of Tapa rules. The clue numbers refer to the groups of unshaded segments around that cell. Cells with numbers count as unshaded cells for adjacent clues. All other rules for the shaded Tapa are the same as usual.

6. Tapa (Hamle) 77 + 122 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, move every number in one of the four directions, so that each number indicates the length of its move. When all moves are done more than one number may be moved into the same cell. Solve a revealed Tapa with these new clues.

7. Power of Tapa 23 + 139 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, for each clue cell, take the set of numbers either as separately (hence giving a multi-number clue), or as input values to the exponentiation (hence giving a single-number clue).

Note: 0^0 is undefined and won't be used. Otherwise, $a^0=1$; $1^b=1$; $0^c=0$; $d^1=d$; $e^{f^g}=e^{(f^g)}$.

8. Tapa (Palindromes) 39 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, the pattern (of black and white squares) that each grey line passes through must form a palindrome.

9. Tapa (Black hole) 58 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, each row/column must contain N Black holes (1 for the example). Black holes must be placed on the Tapa wall. For the purposes of surrounding clues, a cell with a Black hole counts as M consecutive shaded cells instead of 1 (3 for the example). Black holes may touch each other.
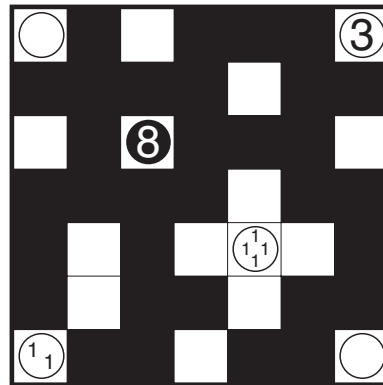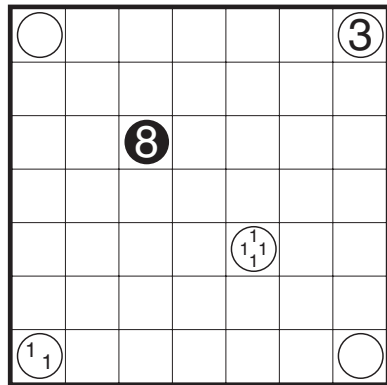
[N:1, M:3]

10. Tapa (Balance) 45 points

Standard Tapa rules. Additionally, all Tapa clues represented with a circle. For a white circle, it must have same number of shaded cells in its row as well as in its column. For a black circle, it must have different number of shaded cells in its row compared to its column.
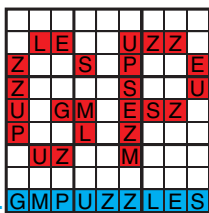

Some puzzle ideas are obtained as follows:
1. **Tapa (Line):** Palmer Mebane
2. **Tapa (Double):** Vladimir Portugalov
3. **Tapa (Easy as):** Andrey Bogdanov
4. **Tapa (Regional):** Palmer Mebane
5. **Pata:** Mehmet Murat Sevim
6. **Tapa (Hamle):** Rauno Parnits
7. **Power of Tapa:** Cihan Altay
8. **Tapa (Palindromes):** Tawan Sunathvanichkul
9. **Tapa (Black hole):** Benjamin Cosman
10. **Tapa (Balance):** Prasanna Seshadri

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