

Sqy
MARTIN GARDNER

No. 3-iy-(the) A0755
problem

10 EUCLID AVENUE
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
NEW YORK 10706

Dear Ron:

4 Nov 76

Here's what I've received so far. Hope all the solutions check out (I know how easy it is to overlook 3 in line!). Apparently the one found by hand isn't on the list of 29 found by computer. I don't know who Meieruth is.

Best,

(M. Gardner)

October 29, 1976

Sir:

I have now discovered a total of 29 solutions for the no-three-in-line problem for a 13×13 square as well as 1 solution for a 15×15 square. I'm currently working on an algorithm that may discover solutions for much larger squares. If there is indeed a largest square for which there is a solution and if it isn't 'ridiculously' large then I may come up with a possible suspect.

Yours truly,
Michael Meierorth

METERIC
21-80 33rd Rd.
L.I.C.
N.Y. 11106

M. Meierorth
21-80 33rd Rd.
L.I.C., N.Y. 11106

October 26, 1976

Martin Gardner
Scientific American
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Enclosed is a solution to the "no three in line" problem for a 13×13 checkerboard which I found after several hours of pushing vitamin pills around a piece of graph paper. I have verified the solution twice.

I found it very helpful to use a checkerboard colored in a repeating pattern of four colors as below:

red	green
blue	yellow

I am a "business type" computer program at University of Minnesota Hospitals and was a math major in college. I've been a reader of Scientific American for about 15 years now

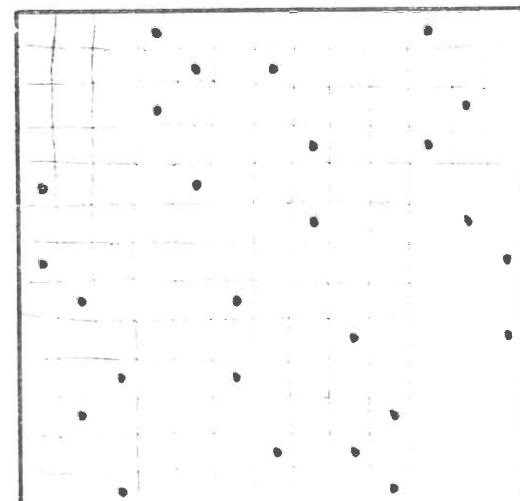
and have thoroughly enjoyed the Mathematics column, though this is the first time I've sent in a problem solution.

I'm anxiously awaiting an article about the recent proof of the Four-Color Theorem.

Once again, thanks for your excellent column. May it continue for many more years.

Sincerely,

Richard Jacobson
1650 West Hwy 36-353
Roseville, Minn. 55113



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