

Hi-q

What is the quickest solution of the game Hi-Q (also called Solitaire)?

For those of you who aren't sure what the game looks like:

32 movable pegs ("+") are arranged on the following board such that only the middle position is empty ("-"). Just to be complete: the board consists of only these 33 positions.

```
    1 2 3 4 5 6 7
1      + + +
2      + + +
3 + + + + + + +
4 + + + - + + +
5 + + + + + + +
6      + + +
7      + + +
```

A piece moves on this board by jumping over one of its immediate neighbor (horizontally or vertically) into an empty space opposite. The peg that was jumped over, is hit and removed from the board. A move can contain multiple hits if you use the same peg to make the hits.

You have to end with one peg exactly in the middle position (44).

Solution:

```
1:      46*44
2:      65*45
3:      57*55
4:      54*56
5:      52*54
6:      73*53
7:      43*63
8:      75*73*53
9:      35*55
10:     15*35
11:     23*43*63*65*45*25
12:     37*57*55*53
13:     31*33
14:     34*32
15:     51*31*33
16:     13*15*35
17:     36*34*32*52*54*34
18:     24*44
```

Found by Ernest Bergholt in 1912 and was proved to be minimal by John Beasley in 1964.

see also entry "peg.solitaire"

References (out of print, unfortunately):

The Ins and Outs of Peg Solitaire
John D Beasley
Oxford U press, 1985
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Berlekamp, E.R.
Academic Press, 1982
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