



Home Cage BEST Game

Breakthrough, Euphoria, Strife and Triumph



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How to Play:

Players: 2-4

Duration: ~10-15 minutes

Setup:

1. Place the board in the centre.
2. Place the red & green cards face down in separate piles.
3. Each player picks a mouse game piece and places it on Start.
4. Decide who goes first by rolling the die (highest roll starts).
5. Turns proceed clockwise.

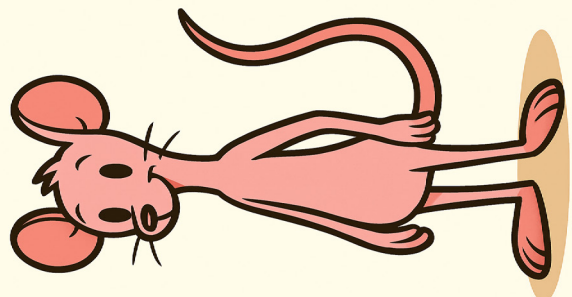
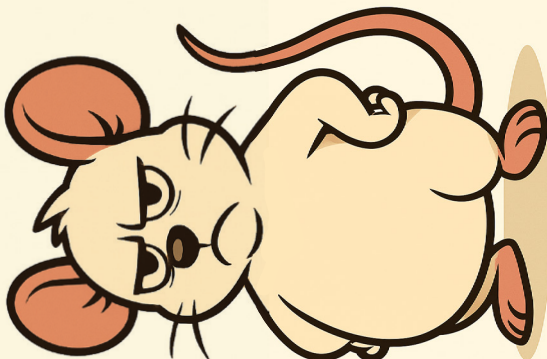
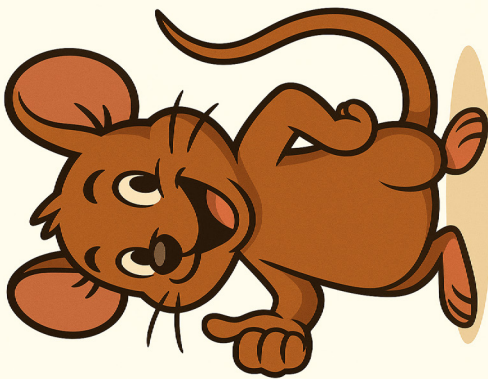
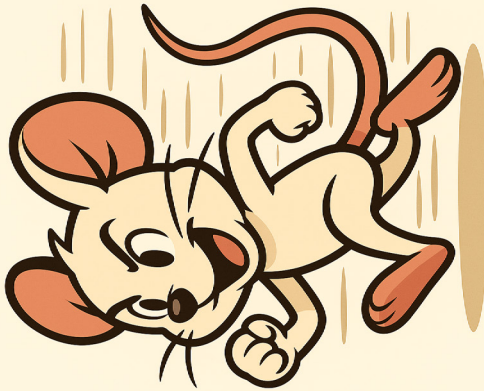
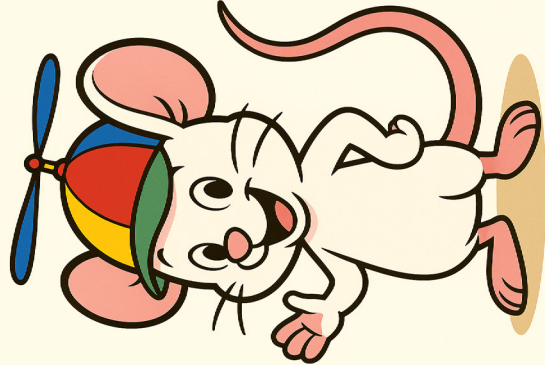
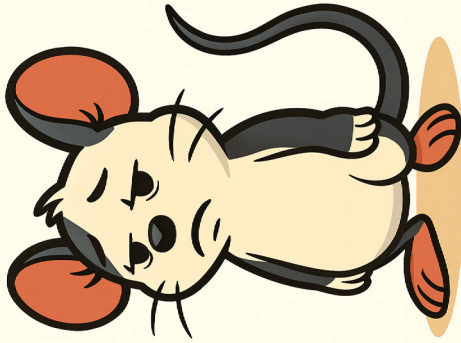
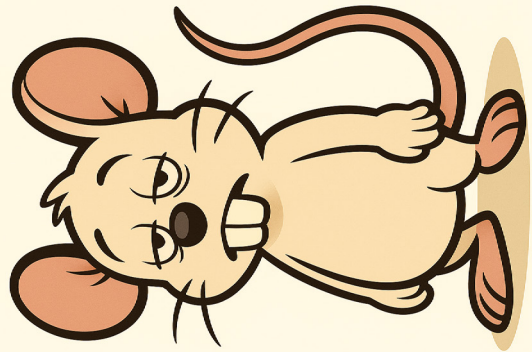
How to Play:

On your turn, roll the dice and move forward the number of spaces shown. Check the colour of the space you land on:

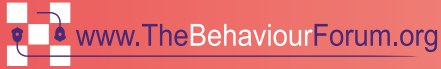
- **Red Box:** Pick up a Red Card. Miss a turn.
- **White Box:** Nothing happens.
- **Green Box:** Pick up a Green Card. Take another turn.

The first player to reach or pass the finish line wins!

Game Pieces



Red Cards



IT Blackout

You waited too long to talk to IT. Now your setup violates the network policy.

**They pull the plug.
You're out this round.**

***Hint:** Communicate with infrastructure teams early. DIY doesn't mean solo.*

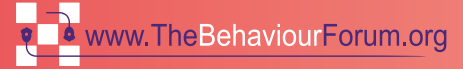


No Results, No Report

You got null results, but didn't publish. Now someone else just ran the same failed study.

The cycle repeats. Sit this one out.

***Hint:** Publishing all results (positive or not) prevents animal waste and accelerates science.*



Ghostware

That open-source software you loved? It's now abandoned.

No updates, no support, no hope.

Pause and reflect. Skip a turn.

***Hint:** Open-source tools age fast. Check community support and long-term viability before committing.*

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PCA Panic

You tested your new system with PCA to find a phenotype from an old test... but PCA isn't your pal today.

Tears stream down your face.

You can't continue this round.

***Hint:** Cluster analysis would've been better. You're checking if the system can detect a known phenotype, not just exploring variation!*

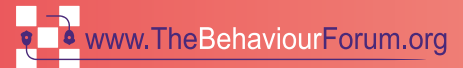


Rack Wrecker

You bought a fancy system that doesn't fit your setup, and stressed your mice.

**You scramble to fix it.
Skip your next turn.**

***Hint:** Consult husbandry and facilities before buying gear. Planning prevents pain.*



Scope Creep Spiral

You added tracking, lights, sound, AI... but forgot the research question.

Now it's spaghetti.

Lost in the wires. Sit out.

***Hint:** Start focused. Grow modularly. Don't let scope kill purpose.*

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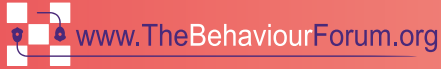
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Red Cards



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Night Light Nightmare

Found a cheap night-vision cam with 650nm IR... but mice can see it.

You just gave them eternal daylight.

Report the incident. Sit out.

Hint: Use 850nm IR or higher to keep your mice in their proper dark phase.



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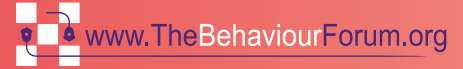
Hacker's Regret

Bought RFID hardware but skipped the software. "I'll just code it myself!"

Three weeks later: existential crisis.

Reconsider your life choices. Miss a go.

Hint: Budget smarts include time costs. Sometimes, buying the full package saves your sanity.



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Frame Fail

You tried fancy distance tracking on old camera footage. Surprise!

Skipped frames ruined your analysis.

Time to fix it. Join us after the next turn.

Hint: Dependencies matter. Validate basics before adding bells and whistles.

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Scriptless Scramble

You meant to automate backups... eventually. Your system crashed.

Data gone.

The regret is real. Miss your next move.

Hint: Set it and forget it. Cron jobs and automation = peace of mind.



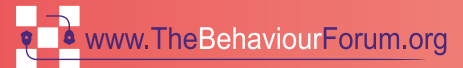
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Overfit Overkill

Your model is 99% accurate on the training set. But fails spectacularly in the field.

Back to basics. Skip a turn.

Hint: Generalization beats perfection. Always test with new, unseen data.



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Docu-what?

Your build is cool... but undocumented. It breaks, and nobody can fix it.

Not even you.

Frozen in fear. Sit this one out.

Hint: Documentation is part of design. Future-you will thank present-you.

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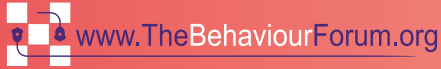
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Red Cards



Silent Weekend

You set up a perfect weekend-long data run. Monday morning? No data.

Power outage at 3 AM killed everything.

**You spiral into despair.
Sit this one out.**

***Hint:** Alerts and event logs = your safety net. Machines fail. Be ready!*



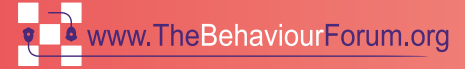
Mouse Mix-Up

You trained your model on black mice, now your collaborator uses white CD1s.

The model's confused. So are you.

**Back to the drawing board!
Sit this round.**

***Hint:** ML models need diverse examples. Always test with edge cases before scaling up!*



Power Trip

Added cool new components without checking power requirements? Now you're stuck in brownout city, losing precious data!

Rage quits.

You lose your path. Miss a turn.

***Hint:** Match your power supply to your system's needs. Leave room for upgrades!*

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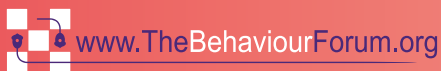
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FAIR? Barely.

You claimed your data was FAIR, but it's in Excel files with missing metadata.

Reviewers aren't impressed. Skip a go.

***Hint:** FAIR isn't a buzzword, it's a process. Follow the full guidelines.*

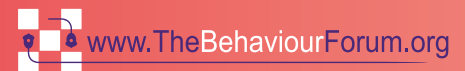


Locked & Lost

You kept your data private. Now your hard drive's dead and no one can verify your work.

Lesson learned. Miss a turn

***Hint:** Data transparency isn't just noble, it's safe. Back up and share.*



Plug & Pray

You ran your plug-and-play image analysis on the training dataset and wowed your supervisor!

You're riding high on Euphoria!

**Too high. You lose focus.
Rest this round.**

***Hint:** Never trust a model only on training data. Use test data to check real performance!*

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Green Cards



Spectral Sage

You double-checked the camera's IR range. It is 850nm. The mice sleep soundly, the data flows freely.

Perfect balance. Roll again!

***Hint:** Animals can see more than you think. Spectral compatibility is critical.*



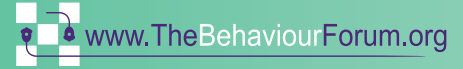
Budget Boss

You bought the complete RFID kit with documentation and support. The setup took 15 minutes.

No breakdowns, no regrets.

You get your weekends back. Roll again!

***Hint:** Time is money. Full packages often pay off in the long run.*



Frame Checker

Before analysing that vintage footage, you ran a frame consistency check. Turns out it was a mess, but now you're using new, clean data.

Smooth sailing ahead. Roll again!

***Hint:** Validate your source data before building on it. Garbage in, garbage out.*

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Quiet Genius

That benchtop commercial rig didn't fit your rack. But you worked with the vendor and husbandry team.

Problem solved!

Peace for mice and mind. Roll again!

***Hint:** Don't assume hardware fits every environment. Talk to everyone involved... early.*

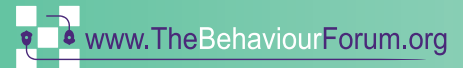


Focused Genius

You didn't overbuild. You aimed at one specific behavioral outcome & nailed it.

Clarity wins! Roll again.

***Hint:** Avoid "DIY mission creep." Build what answers your question best, then evolve modularly.*



Cron Commander

You built in cron jobs and reboot routines. Your data is safe, your system stable.

Rock-solid performance earns you another roll!

***Hint:** Backup. Automate. Reboot. These boring steps save you big time.*

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Alert Architect

You set up text alerts and watchdog timers. A 3AM outage hit, but your system rebooted and emailed you logs.

Crisis averted! Roll again!

***Hint:** Automation saves data and sanity. Prepare for worst-case scenarios.*



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Model Multiverse

You trained on multiple mouse strains, including outliers. Your system's predictions hold up in the real world.

Science applauds you. Roll again!

***Hint:** Model robustness grows with diversity. Expect edge cases, test for them early.*



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Power Planner

You calculated your power budget before installing extra components. Nothing fries. Everything runs.

The lights stay on. Roll again!

***Hint:** Always plan for headroom in your power supply. Surges are silent killers.*

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Model Whisperer

Your model's 88% accurate, and you know exactly when it fails.

That's gold.

**Publish with confidence.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** No model is perfect. Know its limits and be transparent.*



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Modular Mastermind

Your DIY system is aging gracefully.

Why? Because it's modular, documented, and easy to fix.

**You're a DIY legend.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** Plan for the future. Know your parts and their dependencies!*



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FAIR & Famous

You made your dataset FAIR and now it's in 5 new publications!

No extra animals used.

**The research gods smile upon you.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** FAIR data multiplies impact and enables new discoveries in unexpected places.*

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Green Cards



Clustering Champ

You used cluster analysis to detect known phenotypes - clear, logical, and interpretable results followed.

**Your PI nods approvingly.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** Use the right tool for the right task. PCA is for exploration. Clustering is for identification.*



Train-Test Titan

You split your dataset early and evaluated on real-world conditions.

Now your model actually works outside the lab.

**You're a true ML scientist.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** Always separate test data. Performance on training ≠ performance in reality.*



Mini Pilot, Major Win

Before that big collaboration, you ran a small feasibility test. The model needed extra training for different mouse strains. You caught that early!

Now your system is robust, your collaborator is impressed, & your timeline is intact.

You planned like a pro. Roll again!

***Hint:** Always pilot test when adapting systems to new conditions. Small studies reveal big pitfalls & save you time, stress, and resources.*

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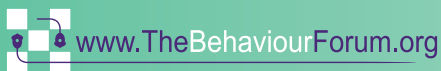
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IT MVP

Told your IT team early about your system. Now your workflow is smooth, and support services love you.

**Bask in their admiration.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** Early communication = streamlined planning. External hard drives aren't the answer.*

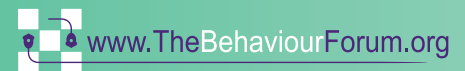


Data Hero

Shared your data, metadata and analysis openly! Now everyone wants to collaborate with you.

**Your future is bright.
Roll again!**

***Hint:** Open data = more reproducibility, less redundancy, better science.*



Pre-Reg Pro

You pre-registered your study and published it, positive or not!

You're a shining star of science.

Roll again!

***Hint:** Publishing null results saves animals and guides future research.*

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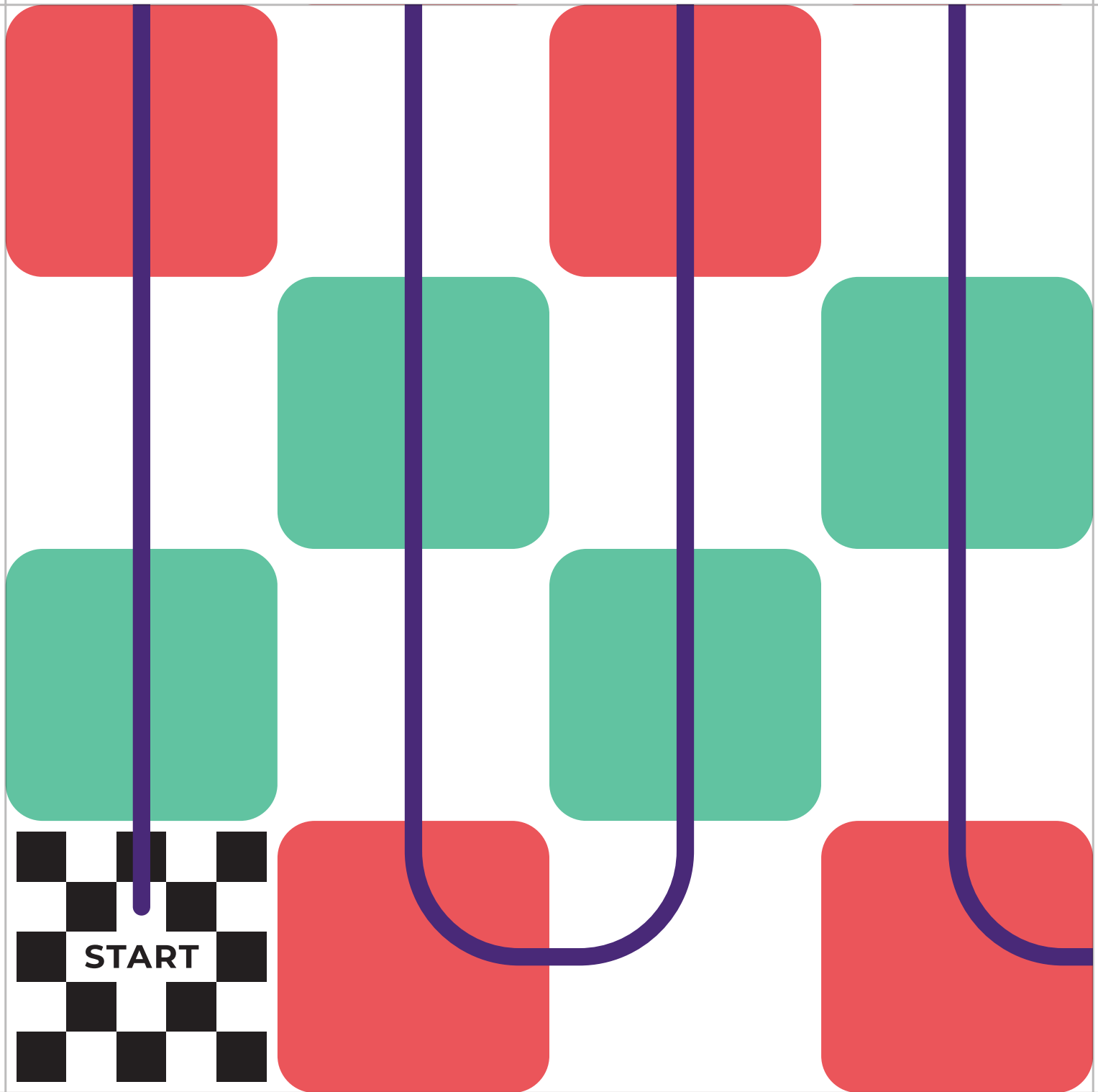
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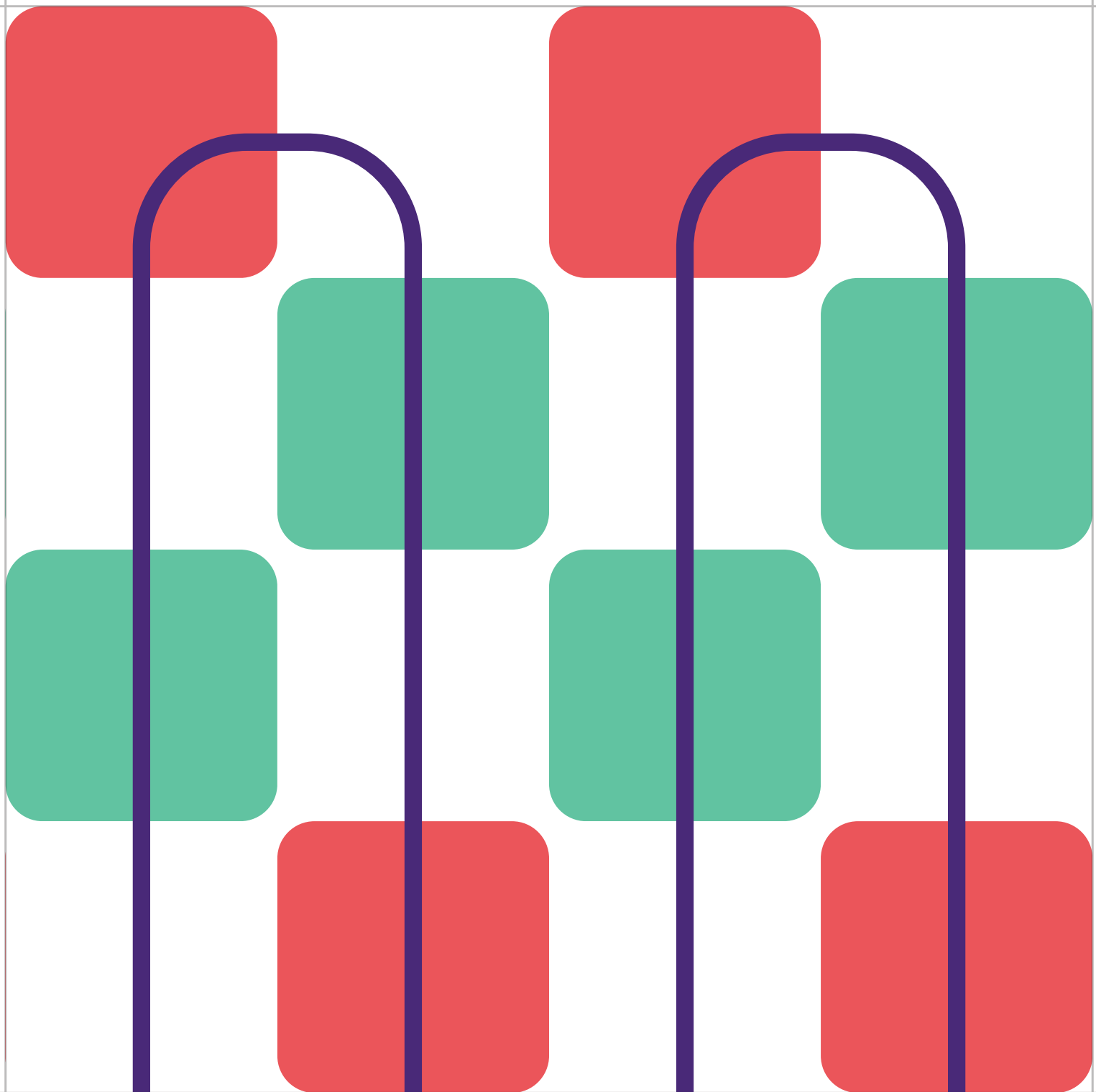
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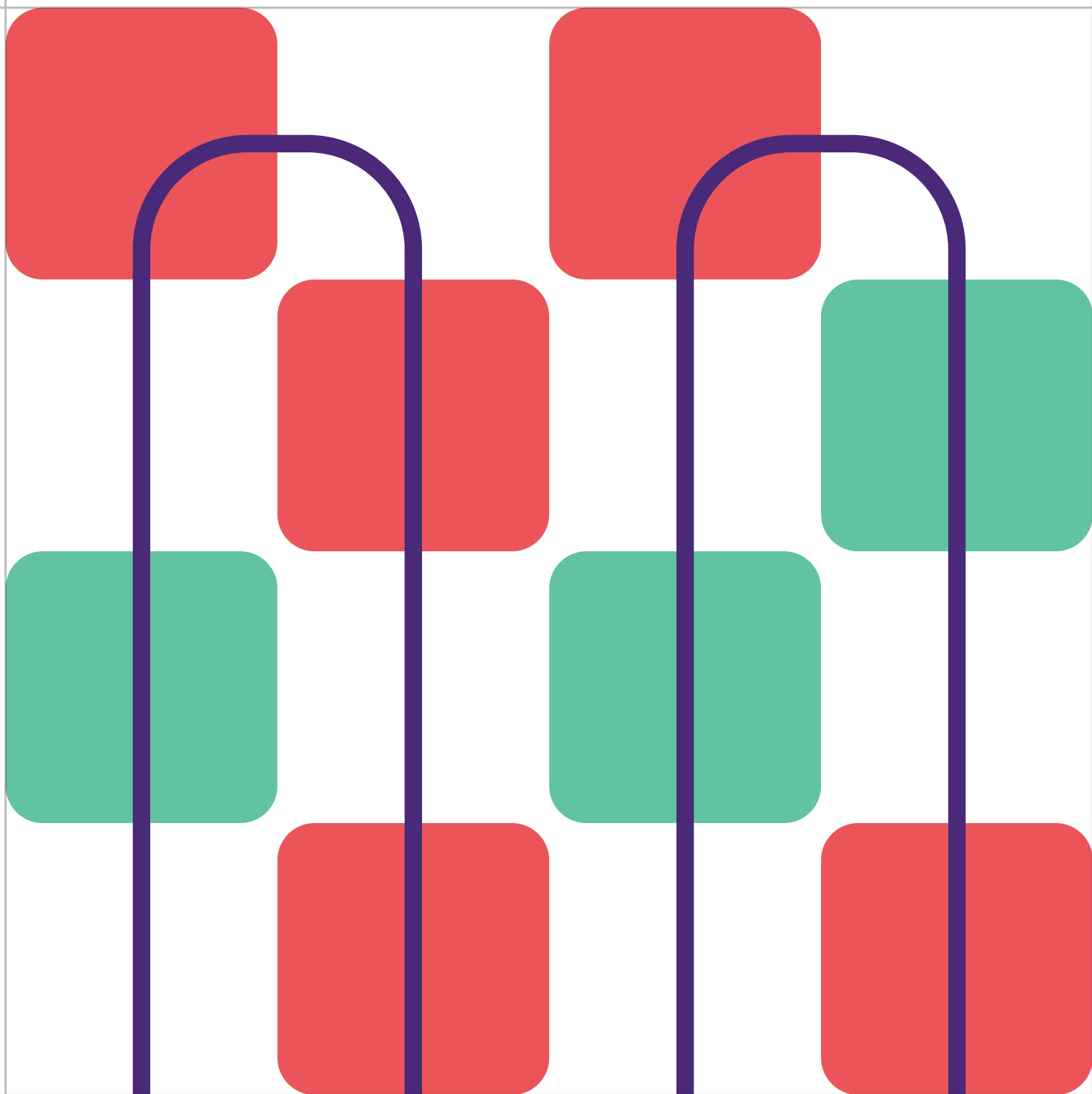
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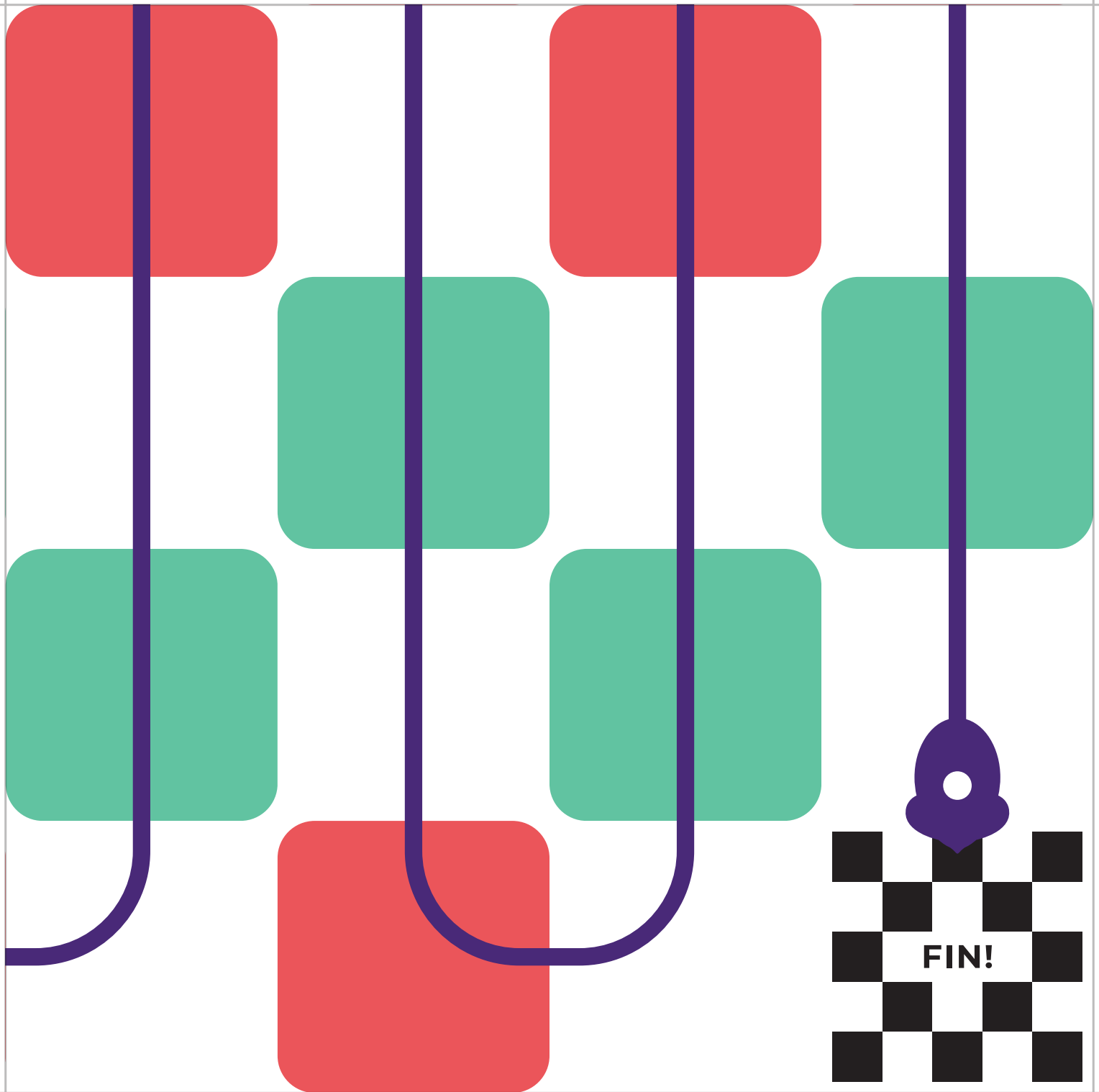
Board: Top Left



Board: Top Right



Board: Bottom Right





Developed by COST Action TEATIME
(CA20135) and supported by COST



COST is supported
by the Horizon 2020
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