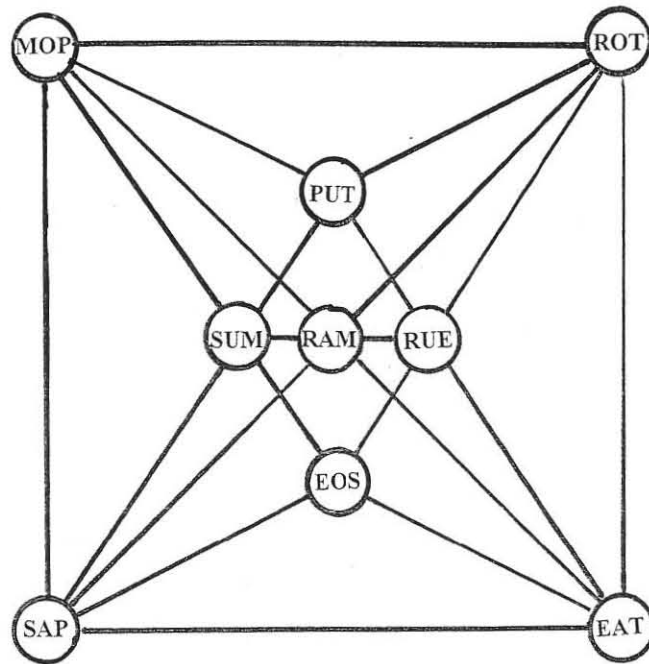


O'BEIRNE'S MOUSETRAP GAME

Jeremiah Farrell
Indianapolis, Indiana



This is a solution to the puzzle on the back cover. If your solution differs you may use it instead for the game.

Rules: Two players alternately place their distinctive tokens on the nodes. The first player to obtain a letter triangle wins. However, each player is allowed only four tokens and if first does not win in four plays she loses.

This game has a forced win for one of the players. A complete discussion of the situation can be found in "Configuration Games" by Jeremiah Farrell, Martin Gardner, and Thomas Rodgers in *Tribute to a Mathematician*, ed. Barry Cipra, Erik D. Demaine, Martin L. Demaine and Thomas Rodgers, 2005, AK Peters, Ltd, Wellesley, MA.