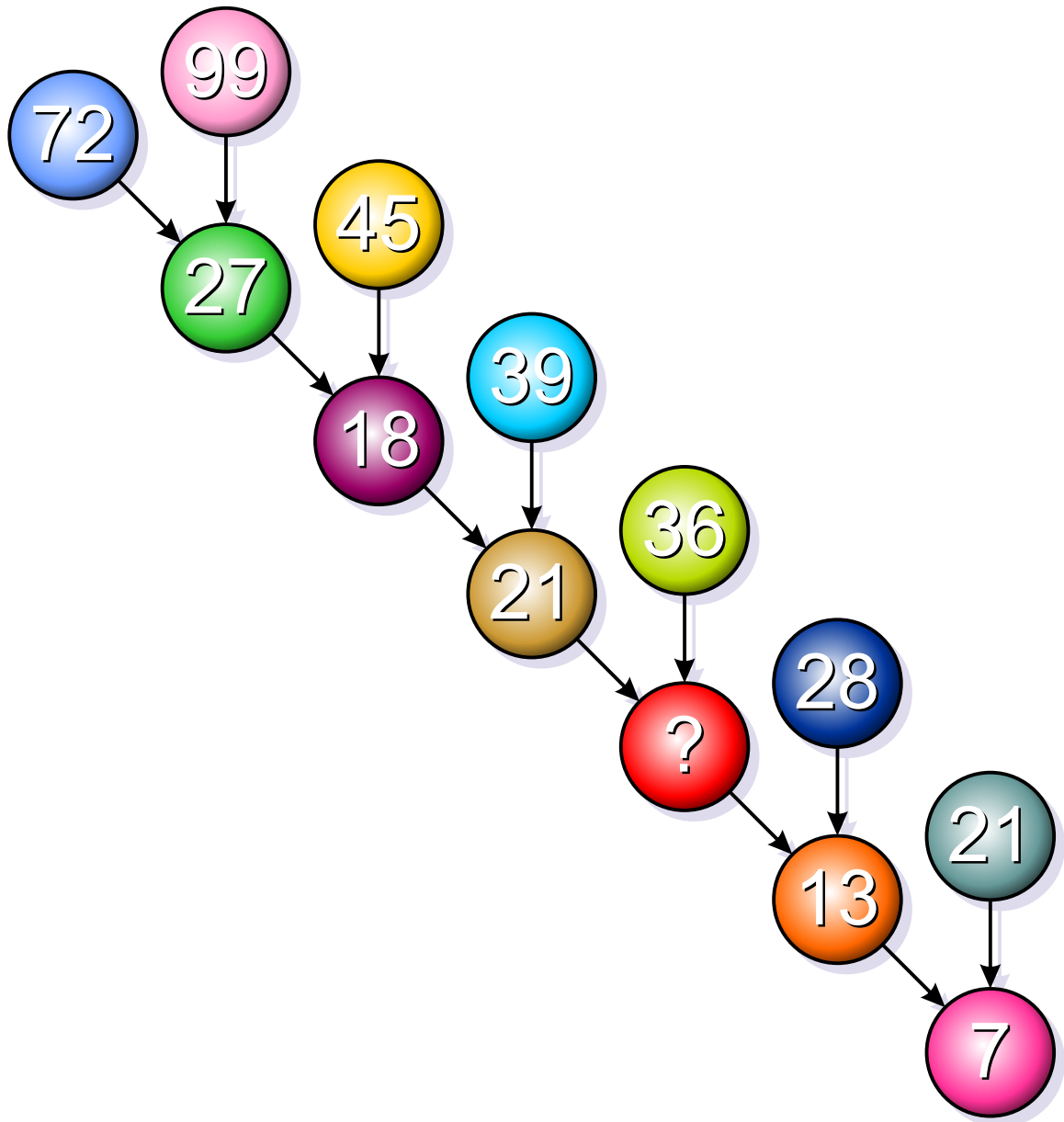


Nob's Number Tree

by Nob Yoshigahara

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Numbers which make a tree shown in the diagram are put in its nodes observing a certain rule. Which number should be put instead of the question mark?

Can you figure out what was the final scheme and what is the greatest possible number of roses which can be "hidden behind" the paths?

Posted: August 2, 2009

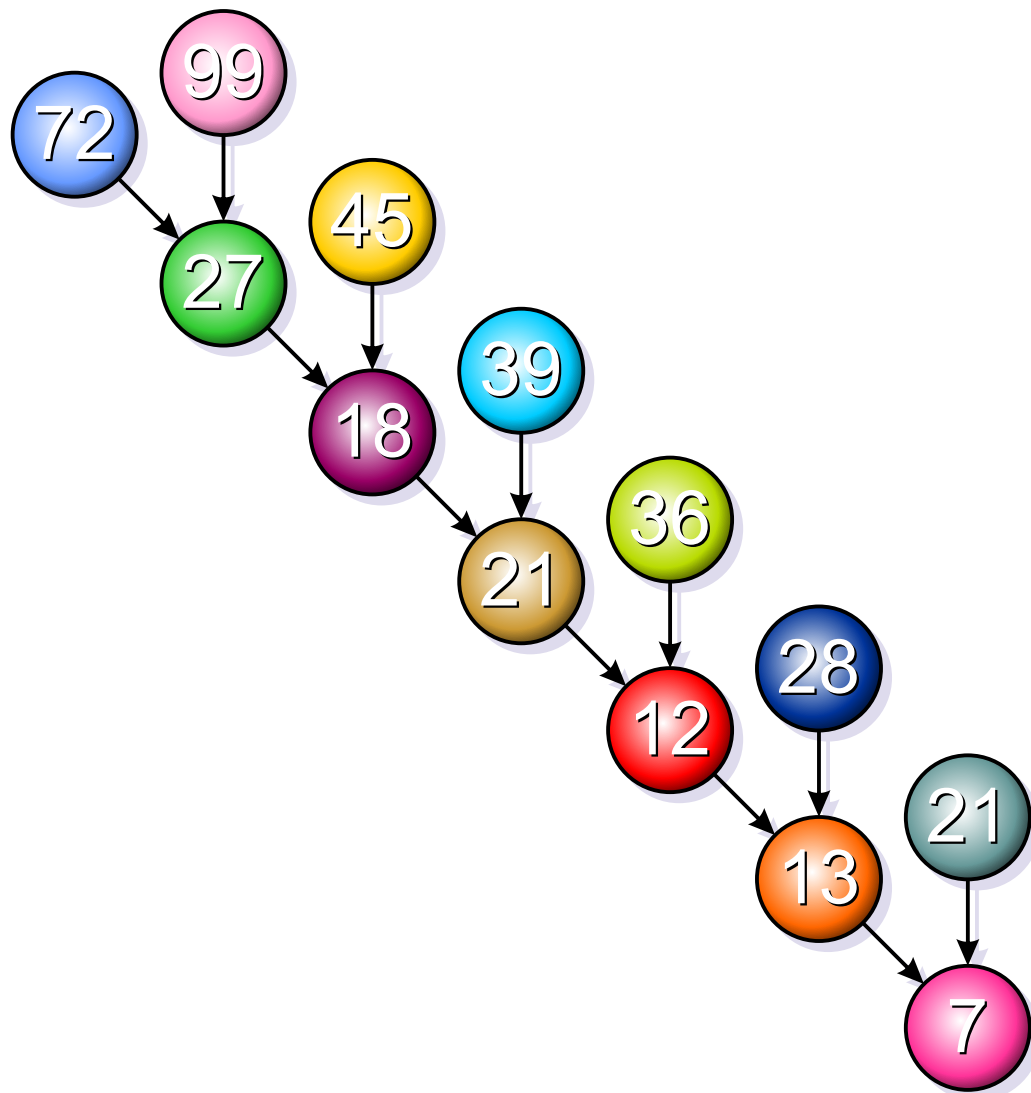
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Nob's Number Tree

Solution

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At first sight the puzzle seems to be rather easy "prompting" the one to put the "15" instead of the question mark. Unfortunately, in that case the pattern is "broken" by the lowest digit in the tree - the "7".

In fact the rule is different. It is that all the digits from any two circles pointing simultaneously to the third one are summed up producing the resulting number on that circle. For example, circles "72" and "99" are summed up in the way $7+2+9+9$ and resulting in the "27" on the circle to which the respective arrows point to. In that way the resulting number of the circle with the question mark on it is "12". I.e. $2+1+3+6 = 12$.

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