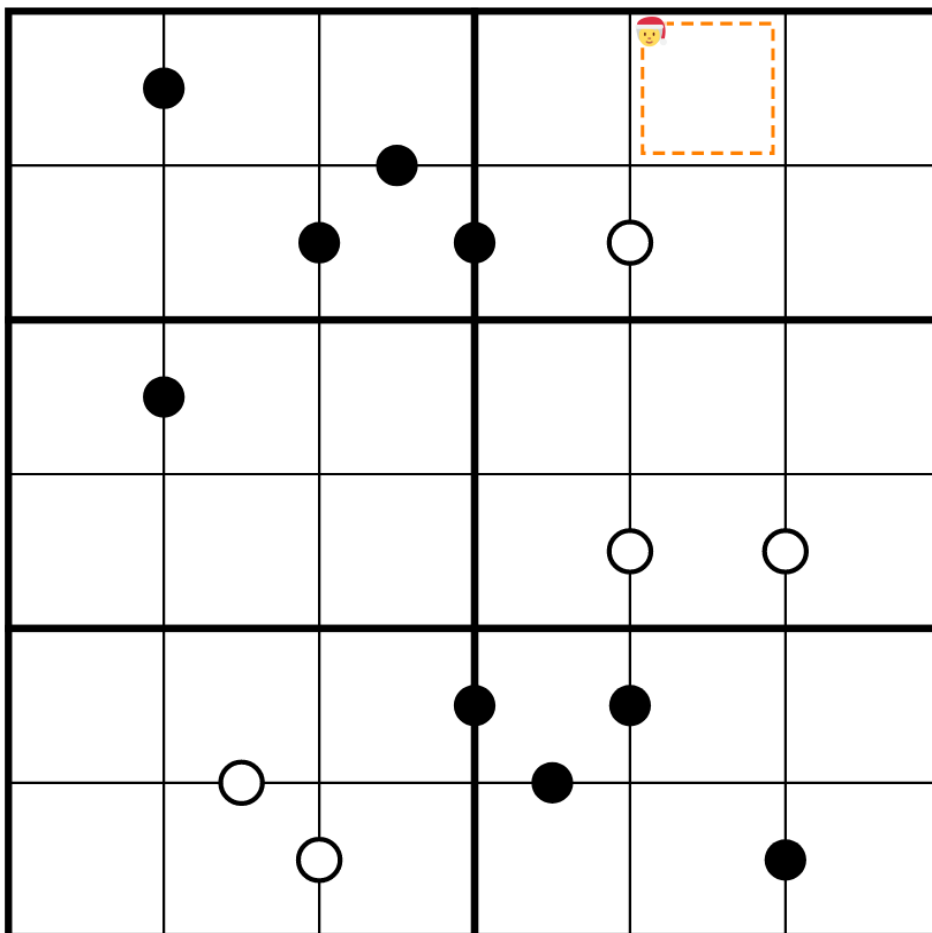


Day 20

Unsure of what to do, you decide to turn the piece of paper over and carefully write “Hello, who are you?” and the numbers from one to five, drawing dots next to each digit so that the meaning might be more clear. Eventually you return to the crack in the wall and call out to the being. When it looks up, you poke the paper back into the crack. You watch them stand, glance back, and then scurry up and take the sheet before backing away and sitting to examine what you have done. They trace the letters and numbers with, well, fingers you guess, and poke once, twice, six times at the drawings of dots next to the digits.

Several times, the — you guess you’ll think ‘person’ for now — looks at the paper, then back up at the crack, presumably at you. Finally they get up, and somehow they have what looks like a wooden frame with beads strung on wires locked into it. They approach, and you can see that some of the beads are black, and some are white. What could it be for? The person looks at you, gestures ‘away’ once more, and when you step back, they dart up and push the frame through the crack. The crack widens to accommodate the frame and then narrows again as soon as it has passed through. It clatters to the ground, and you approach the... [Alien Abacus](#).



Digits separated by a white dot must differ by exactly one.
Digits separated by a black dot must be in a ratio of 1:2