

## Boson

Boson is a two-player board game.

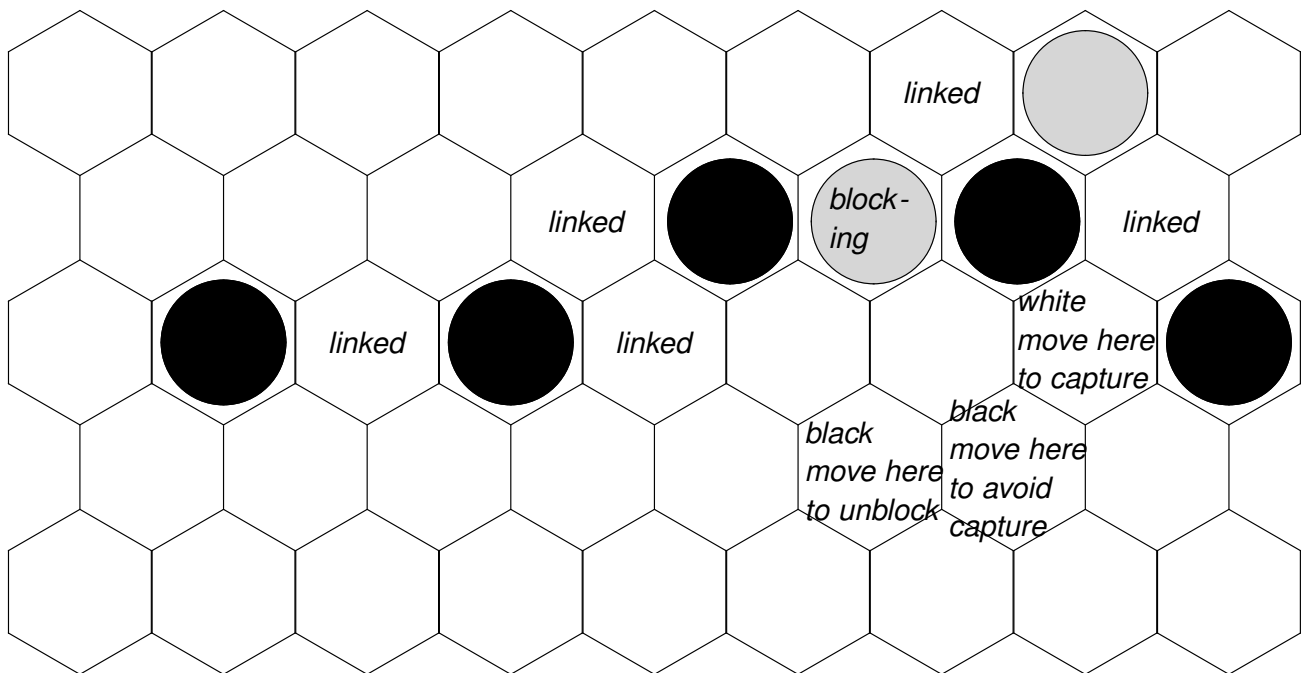
Each player takes it in turn to place one of their pieces on the board. No piece may be placed on top of another piece or next to a piece of the same colour or in a hexagon that is surrounded by three opposing pieces.

If a piece is placed so that three pieces of one colour surround a piece of the opposing colour, the opposing piece is captured.

The game ends when all the pieces have been placed or when no player can make a legal move.

The winner is the player with the most *linked* pieces. A piece is linked if another piece of the same colour is separated from it by exactly one empty hexagon.

The board is  $9 \times 9$  hexagons; each player has 18 pieces each (36 pieces in total).



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A note on tactics.

If a piece is vulnerable to being surrounded, for example, if there are already two opposing pieces beside it, it may be possible to prevent the capture by placing a piece so that the position where the third opposing piece must go to capture it is itself surrounded.