

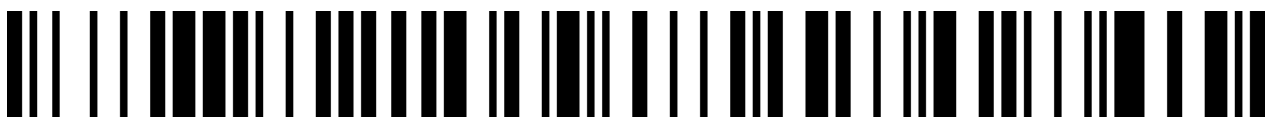
From: Greg Peszek

SOLUTION: Search in Time

This puzzle contains 4 word searches of increasing dimensions, hinted by the flavor text "A word search that gets more complicated with time". The first is a 6 long 1D word search, the second is 5x5 2D word search, the third is a 4x4x4 3D word search, and the last is a 3x3x3x3 4D word search. A hint as to how to best solve them is hidden in the words to search for. Reading them in order says: "**SEARCH EVERY ROUTE MINUS CROSS WAYS, FIND EACH WORLD THEN LOOK HARD. NEXT STEP WILL SHOW**". This is a clue to search each dimension, excluding diagonals, and once all the words are found the next step will appear. A more subtle clue to notice is that there is only 1 six letter word, 4 five letter words, 11 four letter words, and 27 three letter words. That means that the 6 letter word can only be found in the first word search, and while the smaller words could potentially be found in the larger word searches however this is not the case – only the words of maximum length for each word search.

While the 1D search is easy (especially since there is only one word!) and the 2D search is what you'd typically see the 3D and 4D searches require a bit of mental gymnastics to solve! A straightforward way to approach the 3D search could be to think of as a cube (X, Y, Z coordinates) and the 4D could be thought of as a cube that changes over time (T coordinate). Things are simplified quite a bit as hinted in the first clue that there are no diagonals and words are found when changing only one coordinate. That means that no word is found by altering more than one coordinate at a time while navigating through each word search.

After finding the words in each word search, the remaining letters are used to spell out a message. Be careful! The order of how the remaining letters are read is important, especially for the 4D puzzle, otherwise the hidden text will become garbled. Read correctly (X → Y → Z → T) the text spells: "**NAME FOR THE FOUR DIMENSIONAL HYPERCUBE MINUS ESSE**". A 4 dimensional hypercube is also known as a TESSERACT, following the directions the answer is **TRACT**.



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KEY:

- X dimension always reads "left to right".
- Y dimensions always reads "up to down".
- Z dimension always reads "top to bottom".
- T dimension always reads "earliest to latest".

An easy way to think about how the dimensions are laid out is that old dimensions are preserved to the next search when a new dimension is added.

Answers are found by searching in the specified direction starting at the coordinates provided. For example in the 1D word search "SEARCH" is found by starting at X=5 "(5)" and moving in the negative X direction "-X". In the 4D word search "ACE" is found by starting at X=0, Y=0, Z=2, T=1 "(0,0,2,1)" and moving in the negative Z direction "-Z".

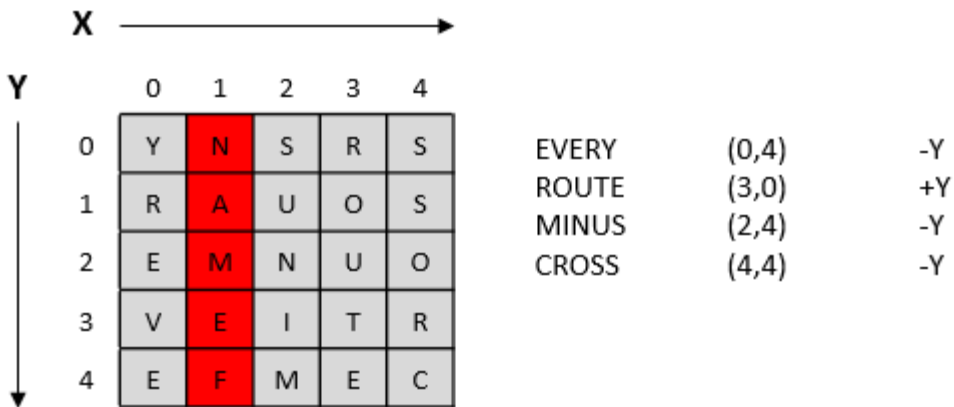
1D (6) Word Search:



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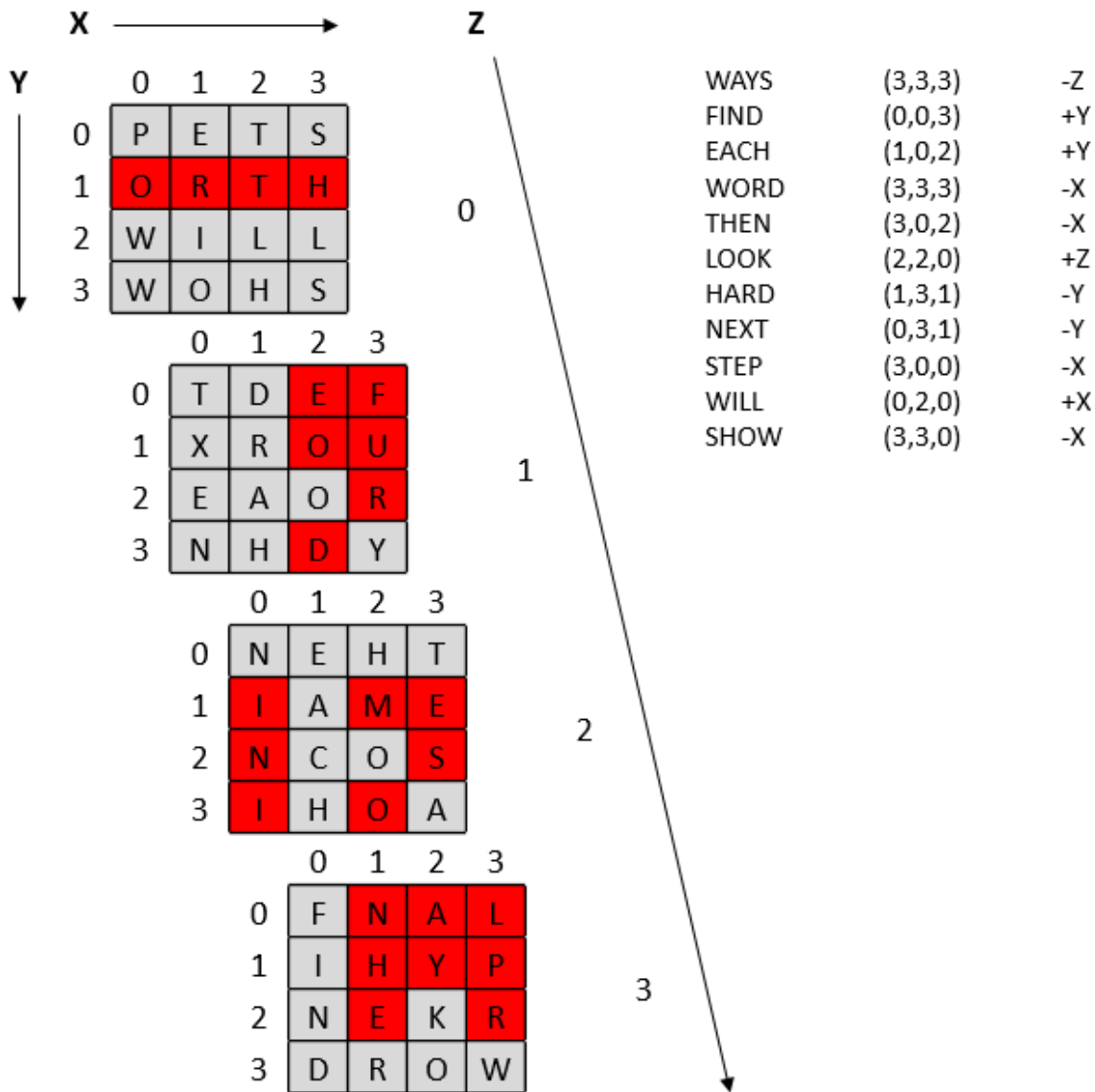
2D (5x5) Word Search:



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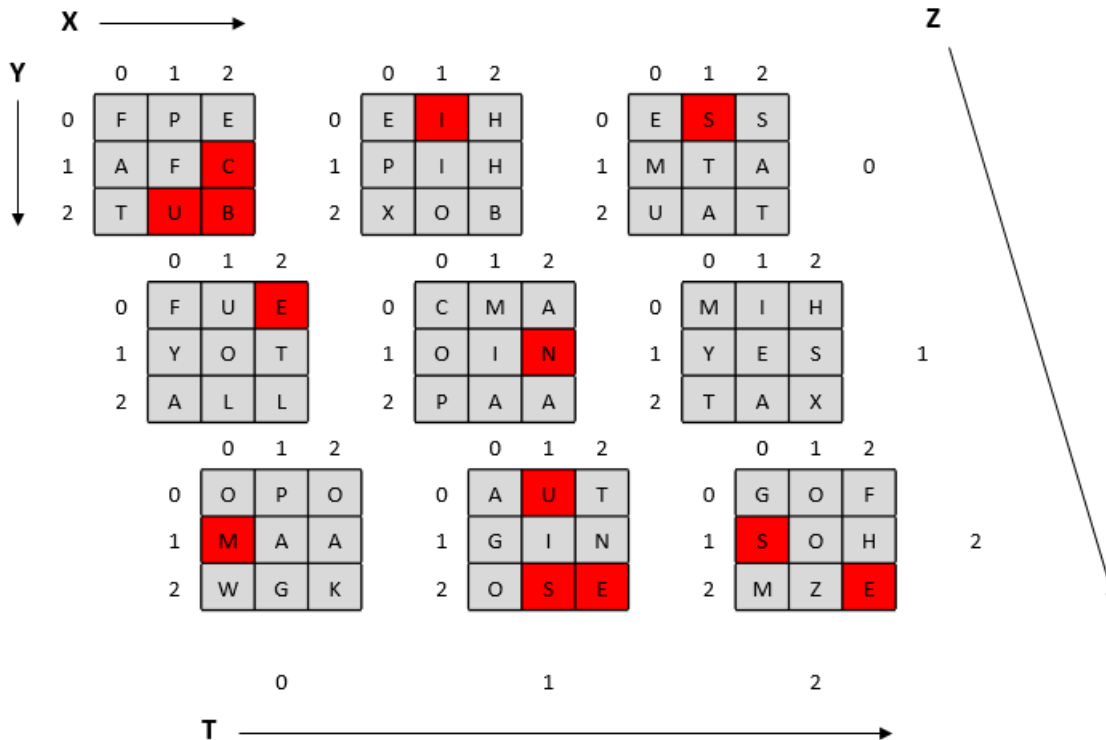
3D (4x4x4) Word Search:



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4D (3x3x3x3) Word Search:



ACE	(0,0,2,1)	-Z	HAT	(2,0,0,1)	+Z
AIM	(1,2,1,1)	-Y	HIM	(2,0,1,2)	-X
ALL	(0,2,1,0)	+X	HIP	(2,1,0,1)	-X
ASH	(2,1,0,2)	+Z	LAX	(2,2,1,0)	+T
BOX	(2,2,0,1)	-X	MOW	(0,2,2,2)	-T
COP	(0,0,1,1)	+Y	OAK	(2,0,2,0)	+Y
EMU	(0,0,0,2)	+Y	OFF	(0,0,2,0)	-Z
FAT	(0,0,0,0)	+Y	PUP	(1,0,0,0)	+Z
FEE	(0,0,0,0)	+T	SHE	(2,0,0,2)	-T
FIT	(1,1,0,0)	+T	TAU	(2,2,0,2)	-X
FOG	(2,0,2,2)	-X	TAX	(0,2,1,2)	+X
GAP	(1,2,2,0)	-Y	TOY	(2,1,1,0)	-X
GIN	(0,1,2,1)	+X	YES	(0,1,1,2)	+X
			ZOO	(1,2,2,2)	-Y

TRACT

