

Entanglement

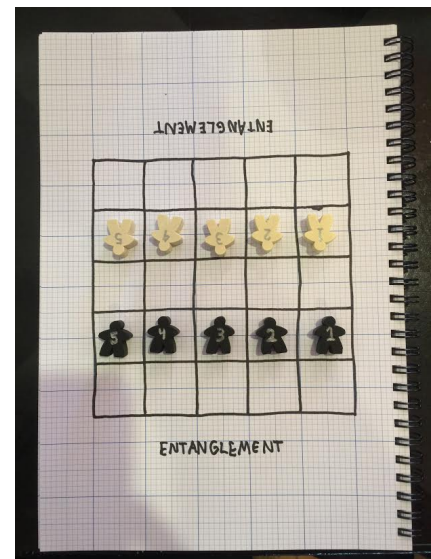
2-player abstract board game by Martin Grider

Summary

Each of your pieces is quantum entangled with one of their opponent's pieces. Move one piece, and the other piece must also move! Capture your opponent's pieces to free your own!

Setup

Place the 5x5 square game board between the players, each taking all the pieces of a single color. Each player has five pieces labeled 1 through 5. Each player places all their pieces on the row that is 2nd closest to them. (See the diagram.) Players place each of their numbered pieces across from the same numbered piece of their opponent's.



Rules

Players take turns moving one of their pieces orthogonally any number of spaces. As they move their piece, their opponent's piece of the corresponding number must also move in the same direction, the same number of spaces. If either piece runs into an obstacle (either a piece of the same color, or the edge of the game board), then neither piece may move that distance/direction.

Your piece must stop if it captures an opponent's piece.

A piece that does not have a corresponding piece of the opposite color may move any number of spaces.

Game Over

The game ends when a player has captured 3 of their opponent's pieces.

Variants

Starting Setup

Here are a couple of options to change up the game's starting position: either randomly set out the pieces on the second row of the gameboard (disregarding the rule about requiring the pieces to be across from their numerical counterparts), or play a setup phase where players take turns placing one piece each on their starting rows until all pieces have been placed.

Piece Movement

One other change that was playtested was the allowing your piece to move up to one space further than your opponent's piece is allowed to move. For instance, on the first turn of the game, a player might move any of their pieces forward exactly two spaces, while the opponent's piece could only move (in the same direction) one space.

With this rule in place, it is also possible to play the game on a larger board, 5x6 was tested, but 7x6 might also be interesting.