# The Computer Olympiad 2020

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Abstract. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Computer Olympiad was held November/December 2020. As a consequence of the global pandemic, for the first time the competitions were fought online. This involved creating new rules that were, in large part, dependent on having the participants cooperate on organizing and conducting the events. The event was a success and will be repeated online in 2021.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic has forced many events to move online, and the Computer Olympiad was no exception. Initially the Olympiad, Computers and Games conference, and World Computer Chess Championship were to be held in June 2020 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, as part of the European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI). ECAI eventually was moved online and held at the end of August 2020. Unfortunately the timeline was too tight for the ICGA to move our events online in time to co-locate with ECAI. In the end, the Computer Olympiad was held online in November/December 2020, the Computers and Games conference was cancelled, and the World Computer Chess Championships cancelled. At the time of this writing, the 2021 Computer Olympiad will be held online in August, the Advances in Computer Games conference in November, and the World Computer Chess Championships are yet to be determined.

This report is a summary of the 2020 Computer Olympiad. Previously there had been 22 Olympiads going back to the first one in 1989. All had been face-to-face events. Moving online faced some challenges, but in the end, everything worked well and we had a successful event.

#### 2. PREPARATION

The ICGA held off moving the Olympiad online, holding out hope for the usual in-person event (along with a conference and the chess championships). When reality set in, we quickly moved to the online format. A revised call for participation reflected the changes needed for the venue change (2020 Computer Olympiad, 2021).

Although we had concerns about our community's willingness to move from an in-person to an online format, they proved unfounded. Everyone recognized there was only one reasonable possibility – it was either an online Olympiad or no Olympiad.

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The ideal scenario was that all competitions would move to the same online server. To facilitate that, the ICGA partnered with the LUDII project (Cameron Browne, project lead). "LUDII is a general game system designed to play, evaluate and design a wide range of games, including board games, card games, dice games, mathematical games, and so on" (Ludii, 2021). With some additional game support which the LUDII team enthusiastically carried out, the system offered us the opportunity to have a single uniform venue for the Olympiad. Unfortunately, this meant that Olympiad contestants would have to use the LUDII API (Application Programming Interface). This turned out to be a barrier for some (it meant additional programming) and alternatives were sought (the path of least effort).

The online event required creating an additional set of rules to govern the new format (2020 Computer Olympiad Rules, 2021). Essentially, we made each event to be self-organized by the participants. It could be held using LUDII, using an existing server (some games already had well-established servers), or some other communication method (e.g., playing using a video conferencing tool). As it turned out, most of the events were held using existing servers.

For each event, the participants were asked to agree on the following competition details (November 25–29):

- Format, with a round-robin being the standard.
- Number of games played between competitors.
- Time controls (most games had a standard setting).
- Playoffs. Some events agreed on the final round-robin standings serving for decisions on the medals. Other competitions had 1, 2 or 4-game matches to determine the final results.

Additional rules were introduced to accommodate the reality of online play, including lost Internet connections. Any disputes were to be handled by the three authors of this article.

Each event had 10 days to complete all the non-playoff games (November 30 to December 9), and an additional four days for playoffs (December 11–14). These dates slipped by a few days for some of the competitions.

#### 3. RESULTS

Twenty-one competitions were held, with a total of 65 participants. In terms of the number of events, it was the third largest in Olympiad history, behind 24 in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad (Macau, 2019) and 22 in the 21<sup>st</sup> Olympiad (Taipei, 2018). The number of participating programs was the 8<sup>th</sup> in Olympiad history, behind 108 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Olympiad (Kanazawa, Japan, 2010).

The event ran smoothly, with no disputes. It ran a few days longer than expected, the result of trying to accommodate people's schedules.

The ICGA congratulations all the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medal winners, and thanks all the participants of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Computer Olympiad. There were many interesting results, but two accomplishments stand out for special recognition:

- Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave entered nine competitions, winning an impressive five Gold Medals and one Silver Medal.
- Ton Tillemams won his sixth Gold Medal in draughts ( $10 \times 10$  checkers).

Congratulations to Quentin, Tristan, and Ton!

One lesson learned was to collect registration fees in advance. As of the day before the events began, one-third of the registrants had not paid. We started the competitions on time, rather than postponing them and inconveniencing everyone. It took another couple of months to collect the registration fees (one entrant never paid). This annoyance will be corrected for the next Olympiad.

The following gives the participants, competitive results, and medal winners for all the events. For a few of the events, there will be a separate in-depth report published in the *ICGA Journal*.

# Amazons

8QP: Johan de Koning

SherlockGo: Yupeng Zhang, Liang Shuang, Liang Tailin, Wang Jilong, Li Xiaorui, Zhou Ke

Thésée: Quentin Cohen-Solal,	Tristan Cazenave
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Program	8QP	SherlockGo	Thésée	Total
8QP	X	2	0	2
SherlockGo	0	X	0	0
Thésée	2	2	X	4

Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of *Thésée*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Amazons.

Congratulations to Johan de Koning, author of *8QP*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Amazons.

## Breakthrough

DaSoJai: Yen-Chi Chen, Wei-Lin Wu, Shun-Shii Lin

NDHU Polygames: Akeem Peters, Facebook, NDHU

R2D2: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Program	DaSoJai	NDHU Polygames	<i>R2D2</i>	Total
DaSoJai	X	0	0	0
NDHU Polygames	2	X	0	2
<i>R2D2</i>	2	2	X	4

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Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of R2D2, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Breakthrough.

Congratulations to Akeem Peters (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Breakthrough.

## Bridge (HoneyMoon)

BridgeYeh: Jyun-Tin Yeh, Shun-Shii Lin

*CYC\_HB*: YiChuan Chen

GodJimmy: Chen-En Yang, Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

Program	BridgeYeh	CYC_HB	GodJimmy	Total
BridgeYeh	X	43	26	69
CYC_HB	57	X	28	85
GodJimmy	74	72	X	146

Congratulations to Chen-En Yang, Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *GodJimmy*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Honeymoon Bridge.

Congratulations to YiChuan Chen, author of *CYC\_HB*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Honeymoon Bridge.

# **Chess (Chinese Dark)**

DarkCheese: Ping-Chun Chen

DarkKnight: Chu-Hsuan Hsueh, Wen-Jie Tseng, I-Chen Wu

PupilDarkChess: Cheng Yueh, Hung-Jui Chang

Unknow: Yu-Yan Wang

*Yanyu2.0*: Yu-Yan Wang

Program	DarkCheese	DarkKnight	PupilDark Chess	Unknow	Yanyu2.0	Total
DarkCheese	X	0.0	0.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
DarkKnight	2.0	Х	0.0	2.0	1.5	5.5
PupilDarkChess	1.5	2.0	X	2.0	1.5	7.0
Unknow	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	0.5	0.5
Yanyu2.0	00	0.5	0.5	1.5	X	2.5

Congratulations to Cheng Yueh and Hung-Jui Chang, authors of *PupilDarkChess*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Chinese Dark Chess.

Congratulations to Chu-Hsuan Hsueh, Wen-Jie Tseng, and I-Chen Wu, authors of *DarkKnight*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Chinese Dark Chess.

Congratulations to Ping-Chun Chen, author of *DarkCheese*, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Chinese Dark Chess.

#### **Chinese Checkers**

Hexagram: Zaheen Ahmad, Nathan Sturtevant

Jump: Yen-Chi, Jiunn-Haur Chern, Shun-Shii Lin

Negentropy: Yen-Chi, Lu-Nung Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

Program	Hexagram	Jump	Negentropy	Total
Hexagram	X	0	2	2
Jump	2	X	2	4
Negentropy	0	0	X	0

Congratulations to Yen-Chi, Jiunn-Haur Chern, and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *Jump*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Chinese Checkers.

Congratulations to Zaheen Ahmad and Nathan Sturtevant, authors of *Hexagram*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Chinese Checkers.

## Clobber

Calpurnia: Christian Jans

Deep Nikita: Andrew Lin

Hercule: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Klopper: Johannes Schwagereit

Pan: Johan de Koning

Program	Calpurnia	Deep Nikita	Hercule	Klopper	Pan	Total
Calpurnia	X	0-2	0-2	1-1	0-2	1
Deep Nikita	2-0	Х	0-0	0-0	1-1	3
Hercule	2-0	0-0	X	2-0	1-1	5
Klopper	1-1	0-0	0-2	X	0-2	1
Pan	2-0	1-1	1-1	2-0	X	6

Deep Nikita was unable to complete the tournament.

Playoff #1: *Hercule* 2 – *Klopper* 0. *Hercule* moves on to the Gold Medal game. *Klopper* wins the Bronze Medal.

Playoff #2: Pan 1 – Hercule 2. Hercule wins the Gold Medal. Pan wins the Silver Medal.

Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of *Hercule*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Clobber.

Congratulations to Johan de Koning, author of *Pan*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Clobber.

Congratulations to Johannes Schwagereit, author of *Klopper*, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Clobber.

# Connect6

CZF\_Connect6: Shao-Xiong Zheng, Tzu-Yee Yang, I-Chen Wu

Explorer: Xiaorui Li, Yunpeng Zhang, Yaguang Li, Yihao Wu, Miao Su, Ke Zhou

Kavalan: Jung-Kuei Yang

NDHU Polygames: Sasa Tarzn, Facebook, NDHU

Program	CZF_Connect6	Explorer	Kavalan	NDHU Polygames	Total
CZF_Connect6	X	2	2	1	5 (2)
Explorer	0	X	2	0	2
Kavalan	0	0	X	0	0
NDHU Polygames	1	2	2	Х	5 (0)

A two-game match was used to decide on the Gold Medal.

Congratulations to Shao-Xiong Zheng, Tzu-Yee Yang, and I-Chen Wu, authors of *CZF\_Connect6*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Connect6.

Congratulations to Sasa Tarzn (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Connect6.

Congratulations to Xiaorui Li, Yunpeng Zhang, Yaguang Li, Yihao Wu, Miao Su, and Ke Zhou, authors of *Explorer*, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Connect6.

## **Dots and Boxes**

Deep Nikia: Andrew Lin

Control Freak: William Fraser

Program	Deep Nikita	Control Freak
Deep Nikita	X	1-1
Control Freak	0-0	Х

Congratulations to Andrew Lin, author of *Deep Nikita*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Dots and Boxes.

## **Draughts (International)**

TDKing: Ton Tillemans

Tornado: Frank Mesander

Program	TDking	Tornado	Points
TDking	X	2-1-1-1-1-1	7
Tornado	0-1-1-1-1-1	Х	5

Congratulations to Ton Tillemans, author of *TDking*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Draughts (International).

## **EinStein Würfelt Nicht**

NDHU Polygames: Yi-Chuan Chen, Facebook, NDHU

Reinstein: Zih-Yang Hsu, Chih-Lin Chen, Chia-Jung Hsu, Chun-Wei Chang

Program	NDHU Polygames	Reinstein	VSWTN	Points
NDHU Polygames	X	7	6	13
Reinstein	5	X	1	6
VSWTN	6	11	X	17

VSWTN: Yunpeng Zhang, Wei Li, Yuxuan Zhang, Ke Zhou

Congratulations to Yunpeng Zhang, Wei Li, Yuxuan Zhang, and Ke Zhou, authors of *VSWTN*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in EinStein Würfelt Nicht.

Congratulations to Yi-Chuan Chen (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in EinStein Würfelt Nicht.

## Go (9x9)

*CGI Go Intelligence*: Ti-Rong Wu, Guan-Wen Chen, Hsiao-Chung Hsieh, Chung-Chin Shih, Meng-Yu Tsai, Yu-Shan Hsu, Chun-Jung Chen, I-Chen Wu

EzGo: Yi-Ting Chiang, Hung-Cheng Lin

Program	CGI Go Intelligence	EzGo
CGI Go Intelligence	Х	4
EzGo	0	X

Congratulations to Ti-Rong Wu, Guan-Wen Chen, Hsiao-Chung Hsieh, Chung-Chin Shih, Meng-Yu Tsai, Yu-Shan Hsu, Chun-Jung Chen, and I-Chen Wu, authors of *CGI Go Intelligence*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Go  $(9 \times 9)$ .

## Gomoku (Outer-Open)

*CZF\_Outer\_Open\_Gomoku:* Wei-Chen Liao, Po-Wei Huang, Shao-Xiong Zheng, Yuan-Hao Chen, I-Chen Wu

Fiver: Zhang Yiyang, Zhang Yunpeng, Xu Yanrui, Hao Ru, Liang Tailin, Zhou Ke

Nonoku: Jiunn-Haur Chern, Shun-Shii Lin

OOG: Chih-Hung Chen, Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

Program	CZF_Outer_Open_Gomoku	Fiver	Nonoku	OOG	Total
CZF_Outer_Open_Gomoku	Х	2	2	2	6
Fiver	0	X	2	1	3
Nonoku	0	0	X	2	2
OOG	0	1	0	X	1

Congratulations to Wei-Chen Liao, Po-Wei Huang, Shao-Xiong Zheng, Yuan-Hao Chen, and I-Chen Wu, authors of *CZF\_Outer\_Open\_Gomoku*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Gomoku (Outer-Open).

Congratulations to Zhang Yiyang, Zhang Yunpeng, Xu Yanrui, Hao Ru, Liang Tailin, and Zhou Ke, authors of *Fiver*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Gomoku (Outer-Open).

Congratulations to Jiunn-Haur Chern and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *Nonoku*, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Gomoku (Outer-Open).

## Havannah $(8 \times 8)$

Doombot-8: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

## NDHU Polygames: Tyler Eck, Facebook, NDHU

Program	Doombot-8	NDHU Polygames
Doombot-8	X	0-0
NDHU Polygames	1-1	X

Congratulations to Tyler Eck (Facebook, NDHU), authors of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Havannah ( $8 \times 8$ ).

## Hex (13 x 13)

NDHU Polygames: Sasa Tarzn, Facebook, NDHU

Ultron13: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Program	NDHU Polygames	Ultron13
NDHU Polygames	Х	1-1
Ultron13	0-0	X

Congratulations to Sasa Tarzn (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Hex  $(13 \times 13)$ .

## Hex (19 x 19)

NDHU Polygames: Sasa Tarzn, Facebook, NDH

Ultron19: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Program	NDHU Polygames	Ultron13
NDHU Polygames	Х	2
Ultron13	0	X

Congratulations to Sasa Tarzn (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Hex  $(19 \times 19)$ .

# Mahjong

SimCat: Shih-Chieh Tang, Fong-Shen Liao, I-Chen Wu

*VeryLongCat:* Shih-Chieh Tang, Li-Kai Chuang, I-Chen Wu *Zei:* Yu-Chen Lin, Shun-Shii Lin *Zio:* Zong-Han Lin, Yu-Chen Lin, Shun-Shii Lin

Program	Score
SimCat	+108,500
VeryLongCat	-76,500
Zei	-61,000
Zio	+29,000

Congratulations to Shih-Chieh Tang, Fong-Shen Liao, and I-Chen Wu, authors of *SimCat*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Mahjong.

Congratulations to Zong-Han Lin, Yu-Chen Lin, and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *Zio*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Mahjong.

Congratulations to Yu-Chen Lin and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of Zei, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Mahjong.

#### Nonogram

The competition is to be the fastest solver of 1,000 problems.

Defense: Jia-Jun Yeh, Kuo-Chan Huang, Wei-Chiao Huang, Yan-Rong Guo, De-Rong Sung, Tzung-Shuan Tsai

Requim: Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

*The Heirs*: Jia-Jun Yeh, Kuo-Chan Huang, Wei-Chiao Huang, Yan-Rong Guo, Shao-Xiong Zheng, Tzung-Shuan Tsai

Program	Problems Solved	Time (seconds)
The Heirs	1,000	370.568
Defense	1,000	389.817
Requiem	1,000	432.895

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Congratulations to Jia-Jun Yeh, Kuo-Chan Huang, Wei-Chiao Huang, Yan-Rong Guo, Shao-Xiong Zheng, and Tzung-Shuan Tsai, authors of *The Heirs*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Nonogram.

Congratulations to Jia-Jun Yeh, Kuo-Chan Huang, Wei-Chiao Huang, Yan-Rong Guo, De-Rong Sung, and Tzung-Shuan Tsai, authors of *Defense*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Nonogram.

# Othello (8×8)

Maverick: Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

NDHU Polygames: Astrid Adhipurusa, Facebook, NDHU

Réplicateur #8: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Program	Maverick	NDHU Polygames	<i>Réplicateur #8</i>	Total
Maverick	X	1-1	1-1	4
NDHU Polygames	0-0	X	0-0	0
<i>Réplicateur #8</i>	0-0	1-1	X	2

Congratulations to Yen-Chi Chen and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *Maverick*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Othello  $(8 \times 8)$ .

Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of *Réplicateur* #8, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Othello ( $8 \times 8$ ).

## Othello $(10 \times 10)$

NDHU Polygames: Astrid Adhipurusa, Facebook, NDHU

Persona: Yen-Chi Chen, Surag Nair, Nai-Yuan Chang, Shun-Shii Lin

*Réplicateur #10*: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

Program	NDHU Polygames	Persona	<i>Réplicateur #10</i>	Total
NDHU Polygames	X	1	0	1 (1)
Persona	1	X	0	1 (3)
<i>Réplicateur</i> #10	2	2	X	4

A four-game match was used to decide on the Silver Medal.

Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of *Réplicateur #10*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Othello  $(10 \times 10)$ .

Congratulations to Yen-Chi Chen, Surag Nair, Nai-Yuan Chang, and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *Persona*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Othello  $(10 \times 10)$ .

# Shogi (Mini)

NDHU Polygames: Tyler Eck, Facebook, NDHU

Nyanpass: Hsuan-Yu Wang

ShioRamen: Masahiro Shioda, Takeshi Ito

Program	NDHU Polygames	Nyanpass	ShioRamen	Total
NDHU Polygames	X	1	0	1 (2)
Nyanpass	1	X	0	1 (0)
ShioRamen	2	2	X	4

A two-game match was used to decide on the Silver Medal.

Congratulations to Masahiro Shioda and Takeshi Ito, authors of *ShioRamen*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Mini Shogi

Congratulations to Tyler Eck (Facebook, NDHU), author of *NDHU Polygames*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Mini Shogi.

## Surakarta

Athénan: Quentin Cohen-Solal, Tristan Cazenave

CZF\_Surakarta: Liang-Fu Liu

FuChou: Jia-Fong Yeh, Yen-Chi Chen, Shun-Shii Lin

VSSurakarta: Zhang Yunpeng, Li Wei, Zhang Yuxuan, Zhang Pei, Zhou Ke

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Program	Athénan	CZF_Surakarta	FuChou	VSSurakarta	Total
Athénan	X	1	1.5	2	4.5
CZF_Surakarta	1	Х	1	2	4
FuChou	0.5	1	X	2	3.5
VSSurakarta	0	0	0	X	0

Congratulations to Quentin Cohen-Solal and Tristan Cazenave, authors of *Athénan*, for winning the Gold Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Surakarta.

Congratulations to Liang-Fu Liu, author of *CZF\_Surakarta*, for winning the Silver Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Surakarta.

Congratulations to Jia-Fong Yeh, Yen-Chi Chen, and Shun-Shii Lin, authors of *FuChou*, for winning the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Computer Olympiad in Surakarta.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The 2020 Computer Olympiad was a success. This was only possible because of the cooperation of all of the participants. We are deeply appreciative of their support.

The 2021 Computer Olympiad, number 24 in the series, will begin at the end of November (2021 Computer Olympiad, 2021). We hope that you will consider participating in it!

For 2022, it appears likely that an in-person meeting will be possible. Whether we will go back to the event's 1989–2019 face-to-face format, continue with the 2020–2021 online version, or adopt a hybrid approach remains to be seen. Your thoughts on the matter are most welcome!

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