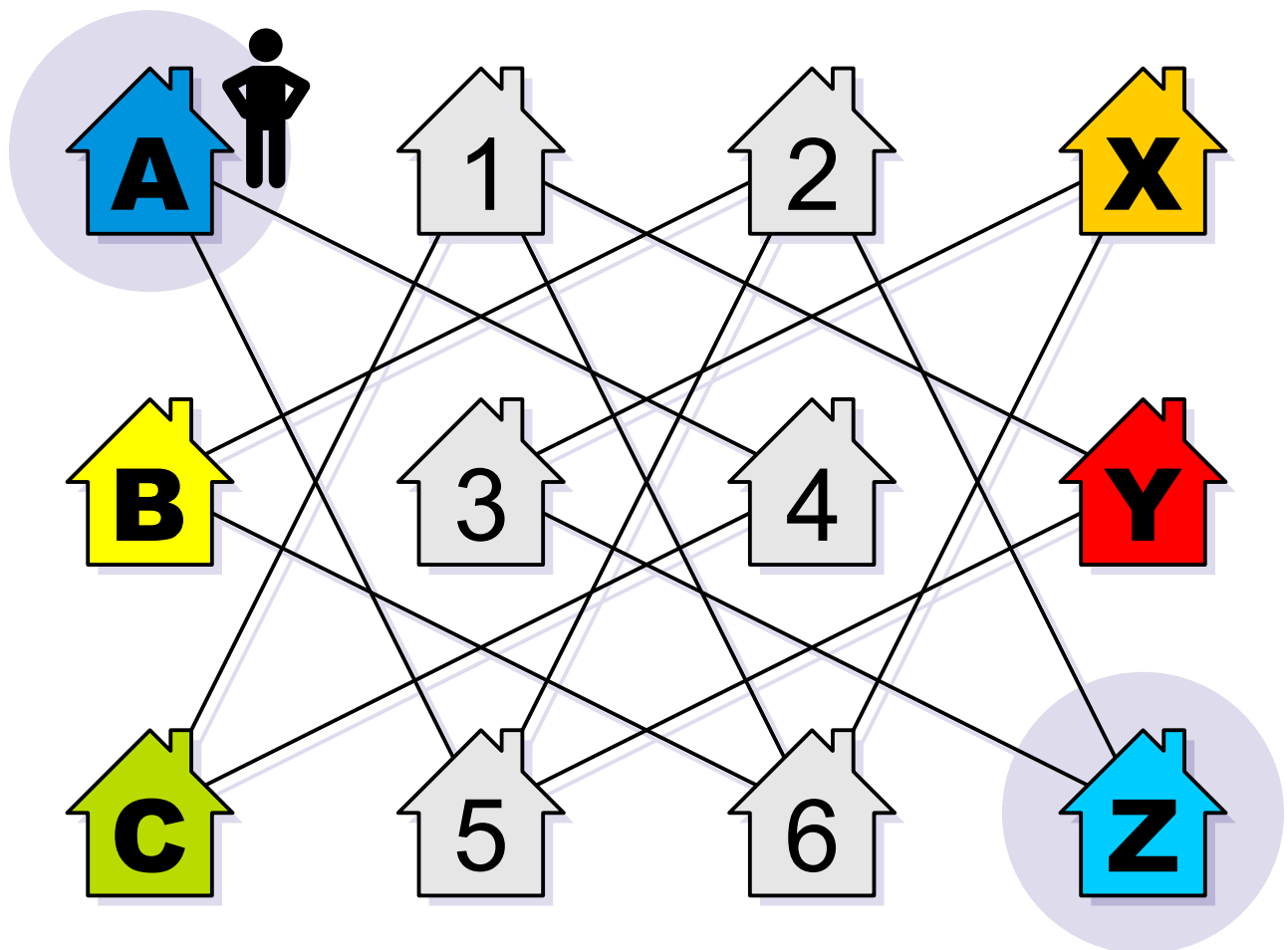


Route of the Six Stops

by Sam Loyd

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Today the Postman has to deliver the letters to six houses - the A, B, C houses on the left and the X, Y, Z - on the right. Unfortunately, the houses are not linked with each other by direct paths and thus, the Postman's route has to pass through around other six houses - marked with the numbers 1-6 on the diagram. The Postman starts at house A in the upper left corner and wishes to finish his route at house Z in the lower right corner - where he knows he will be treated with a cup of coffee after all the letters are delivered.

What is the shortest route the Postman has to choose in order to deliver all the letters to the A-C and X-Z houses?

Posted: August 27, 2008

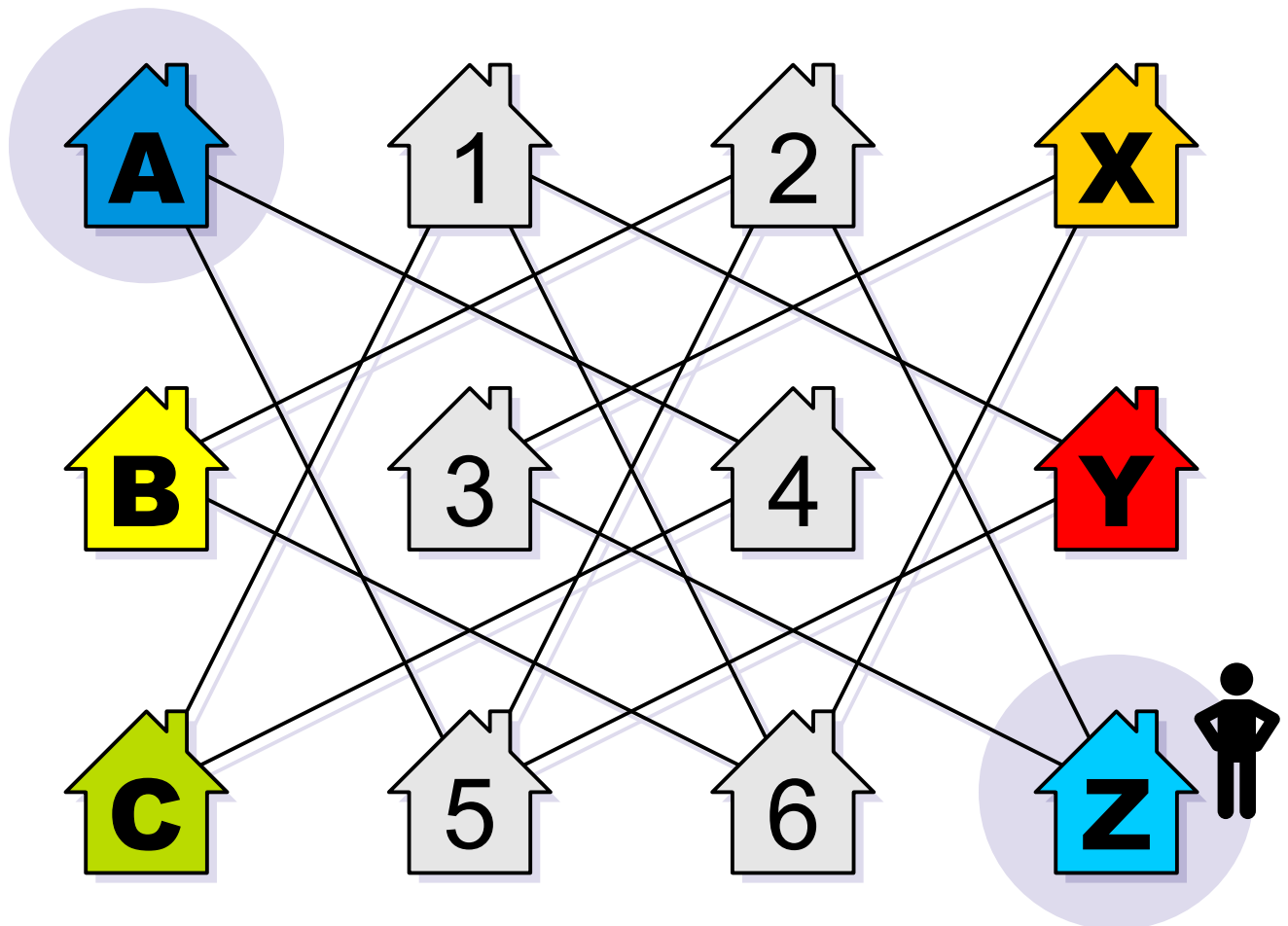
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Route of the Six Stops

Solution

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A-4-C-1-Y-5-2-B-6-X-3-Z

A product as large as 5,568 can be created if 174 is multiplied by 32 in one group and 96 by 58 in another.

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