logical rules of go

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- https://tromp.github.io/go.html
- other versions https://senseis.xmp.net/?RulesOfGo
- board (grid), points, players
- positions (blocks, liberties, legal)
- points reached by a different-color point
- alternate-turn, black first
- capturing (clearing)
- pass, move
- end of game
- score
- winner



a 5×5 go game

































black wins 11 to 4



moves from another go game



moves from another go game



moves from another go game



black wins 15 to 9

rule 1.board $m \times n$ rectangular grid of points,playersblack and white



default board size 19×19

rule 2. each point can be colored black/white/empty (*position* grid with each point colored)



rule 3. point P *reaches* not-P-color C if exists P-color-path from P to a C-color point



3d 3e 4e reach B-onlyother E-points reach B,Wall B-points reach W,Eall W-points reach B,E

block connected component of same-colored points *block K liberties* all E-points that touch any point of K



3 black blocks, 3 white blocks block {d4 d5 e5} liberties: {c5 d3 e4} block {c4} liberty: {c5} other 4 blocks?

rule 4. *clear color C* empty all C-points that don't reach E



here, we cleared color W

a block is *captured* if it has no liberties rule 4 (rephrased). remove all captured C-blocks



here, we removed all captured W-blocks

rule 5. start from empty grid, players alternate turns, black moves first



rule 6. a *turn* is either *pass* (do nothing) or a move not making an earlier position (*superko*)



pass ? 1.B[b3] 2.W[c1] 3.B[pass] 4.W[d2] ...

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superko ? move 9 (illegal)

rule 7. a move by player P is (1) P-color an E-point (2) clear color Q (opponent of P) (3) clear color P



(2) is capture

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(3) is self-capture, allowed in logical rules of go, but not in Chinese/Korean/Japanese/...rules

rule 8. game ends after 2 consecutive passes



B[b3]
W[c1]
B[pass]
W[d2]
B[a2]
W[c3]
B[c2]
W[pass]
B[pass]

rule 9. *score* of player P with color C: number C-points + number E-points that reach only C



B-score 8 + 3 = 11

W-score 5 + 4 = 9

rule 10. *winner* player with higher score at game end (by prior agreement, a komi – fixed amount, e.g. 6.5 – can be added to W's final score)



here, komi 0B wins by 2(11 - 9)here, komi 6.5W wins by 4.5(9 + 6.5 - 11)

the end (logical rules of go)