Mazes and Strategies

What's a maze?

A maze is a riddle built using splitting passageways. The maze solver must identify the passageway that leads from the entrance to the exit.
The maze presents the solver with a number of options for choosing a passageway, using critical thinking and strategies to choose the correct passageway.

A Labyrinth is a type of maze – it is a maze with only one passageway, so it is not meant to make solving difficult. We can find labyrinths in parks and other tourists' locations. These labyrinths' goal is to take tourists from point A to point B without using critical thinking or strategy.

We do not know when people began building mazes, but there are ruins and evidence of mazes from thousands of years ago. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks built mazes that led to 3,000 and more rooms.

Mazes have been built from huge rocks, plants, trees and even on pieces of paper.

In the far past, people would build mazes to protect property, mansions, royal treasures and other valuable items.

How do we build a maze?

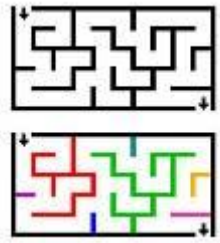
There are numerous methods used to build a maze without using computers. We have to pick the right method according to difficulty level before beginning to design a maze.

Method A:

1. Pick a beginning and ending point, and create a passageway that goes through the exact route we want.
2. After finishing designing the correct route, erase/remove walls and begin building other routes that will lead to a blocked point.

Method B:

1. Try to solve the maze we see now, and see how it is built.
2. This is how we will build our maze – using branches that will come out from the maze's walls. This way, the correct passageway basically builds itself.



Solving strategies:

There are a number of strategies that help us solving mazes:

1. The most productive strategy is called "right hand, left hand" – pick a wall on the right or on the left. Place your hand on this wall, and follow it until you reach the ending point/exit.
2. Another strategy is guessing, which does not promise results.
3. A third strategy is the most advanced one, which combines the first and second strategies with marking signals and calculating the angle of each turn.

Try to solve this maze using the strategies taught in class: