Baguenaudier

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Baguenaudier (also known as the **Chinese Rings**, **Cardan's Suspension**, or **five pillars** puzzle) is a mechanical puzzle featuring a double loop of string which must be disentangled from a sequence of rings on interlinked pillars. The puzzle is thought to have been invented originally in China. Stewart Culin provided that it was invented by the Chinese general Zhuge Liang in the 2nd century AD. The name "*Baguenaudier*", however, is French.
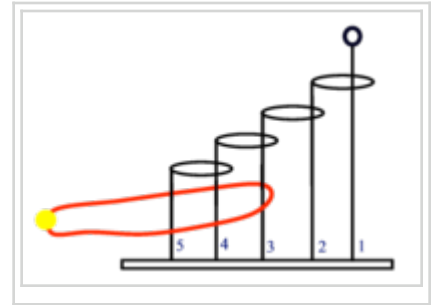
In fact, the earliest description of the puzzle in Chinese history was written by *Yang Shen*, a scholar in 16th century in his *Dan Qian Zong Lu (Preface to General Collections of Studies on Lead)*.

Édouard Lucas, the inventor of the Tower of Hanoi puzzle, was known to have come up with an elegant solution which used binary and Gray codes, in the same way that his puzzle can be solved.

Variations of the include *The Devil's Staircase*, *Devil's Halo* and the *Impossible Staircase*. Another similar puzzle is the *Giant's Causeway* which uses a separate pillar with an embedded ring.

See also

- Disentanglement puzzle
- Towers of Hanoi

External links

- A software solution in wiki source (http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Baguenaudier)
- Eric W. Weisstein, *Baguenaudier* at MathWorld.
- The Devil's Halo listing at the Puzzle Museum (http://www.puzzlemuseum.com/month/picm05/200501d-halo.htm)
- David Darling - encyclopedia (http://www.daviddarling.info/encyclopedia/C/Chinese_rings.html)

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