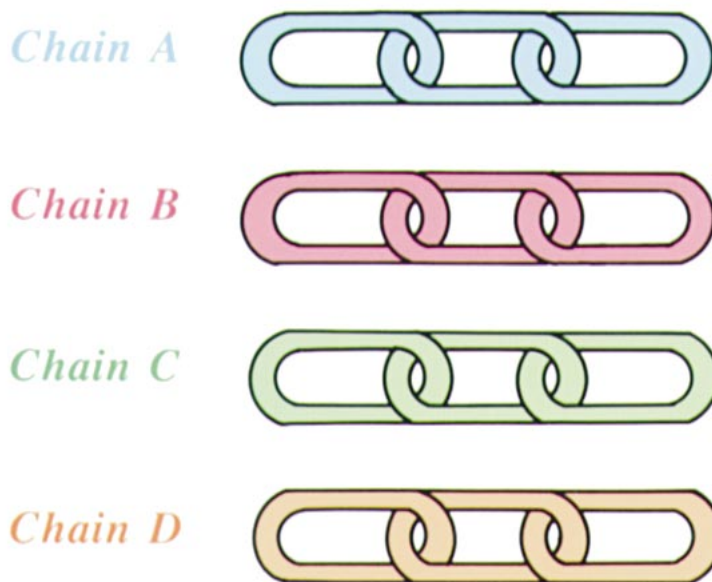


## The Cheapest Bracelet

## Problem-of-the-Week

### The Problem

There are four separate pieces of chain, with three links in each. It costs  $2\text{¢}$  to open a link and  $3\text{¢}$  to close a link. Use all 12 links to make a closed bracelet at a total cost of  $15\text{¢}$ .



### Strategies and Hints

1. The first solution many people try results in a cost of  $20\text{¢}$ . Describe this solution.
2. Explain why it probably will not help you solve the problem to open an end link and insert *two* other links.
3. Open all three links in Chain A and take it apart. Now, find a way to complete the bracelet.