

Double your safe tiles! Mahjong discard reading drills

By Hirasawa Genki (平澤元気)

Translated by anon

Contents

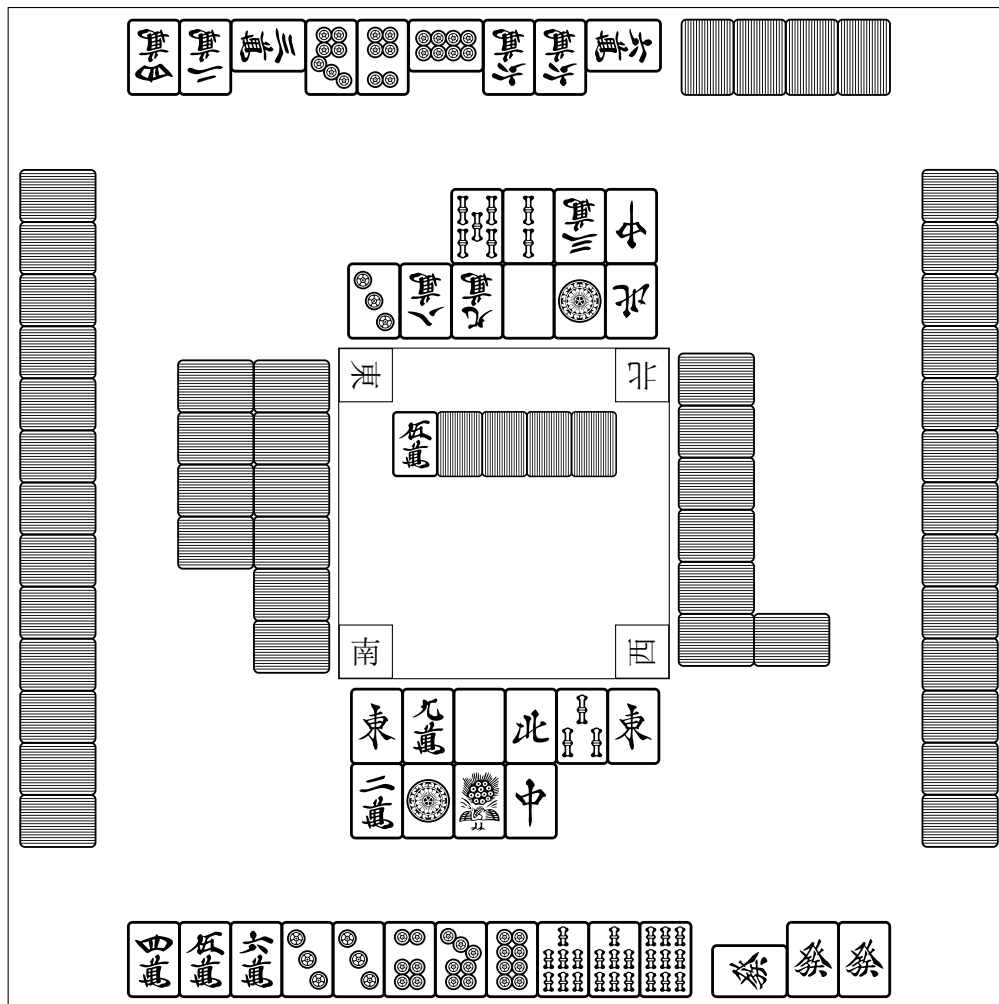
Introduction	3
1 Fundamentals of call reading	4
Call reading drills 1-21	5
2 Applied reading	47
Call reading drills 22-41	48
3 Practical reading and exceptions to theory	88
Call reading drills 42-60	89
4 Complex reads and comprehensive questions	127
Call reading drills 61-80	129

Introduction

Chapter 1

Fundamentals of call reading: organizing open information




—Call reading drill **1**—




Unless otherwise indicated, the round is east 1. Face down tiles are irrelevant to the question.

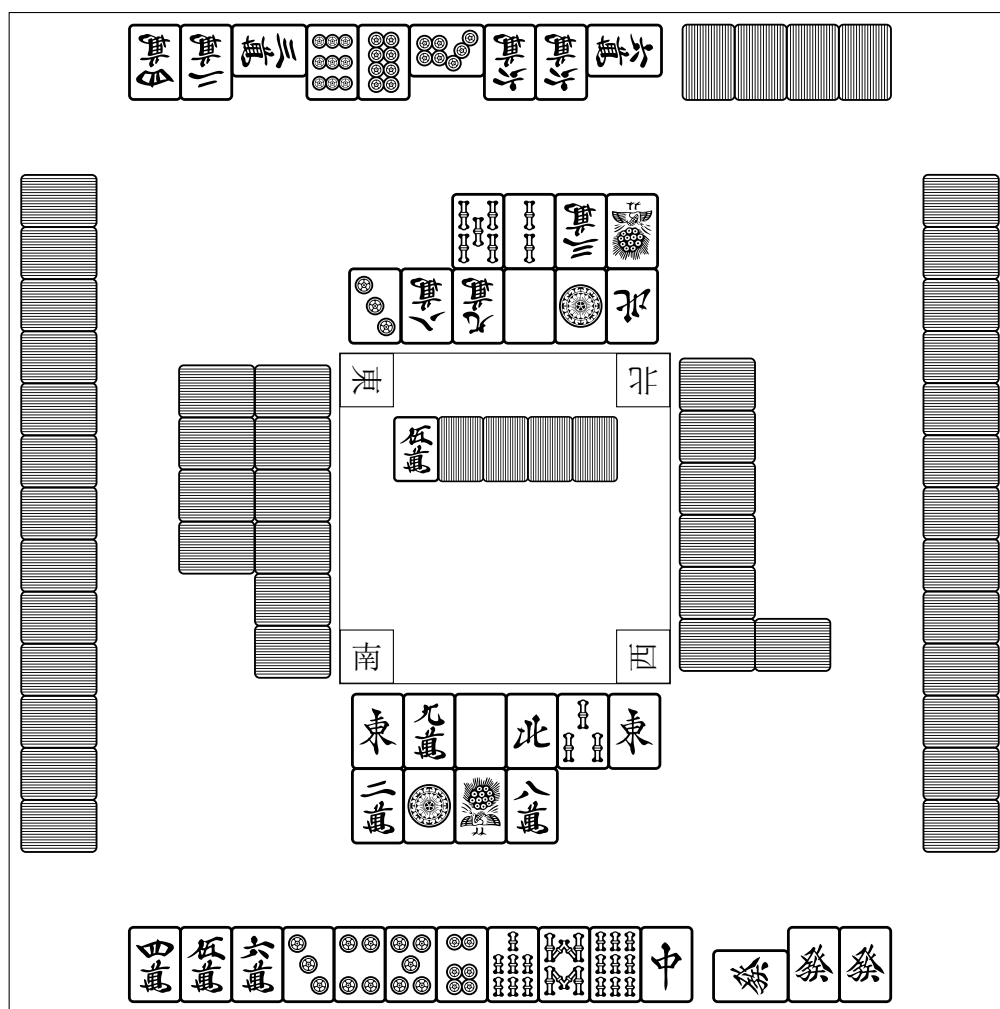
Toimen has made 3 calls including a dora pon. Our hand is also in tenpai, but which wait should we take?

Answer

Since one copy of  is visible,  kanchan has more winning tiles, but toimen's yaku is very likely to be tanyao. There is no reason to deliberately risk dealing in and discard .


With a difference of 1 copy, it seems good to discard the safer . Even if it is not possible to precisely read an opponent's wait, if the the yaku can be narrowed down, then the danger level of tiles can be estimated, so beginners should start by considering “what is my opponent's yaku?”




—Call reading drill **2**—






Toimen has made 3 calls including a dora pon. Our hand is also in tenpai, but which wait should we take?

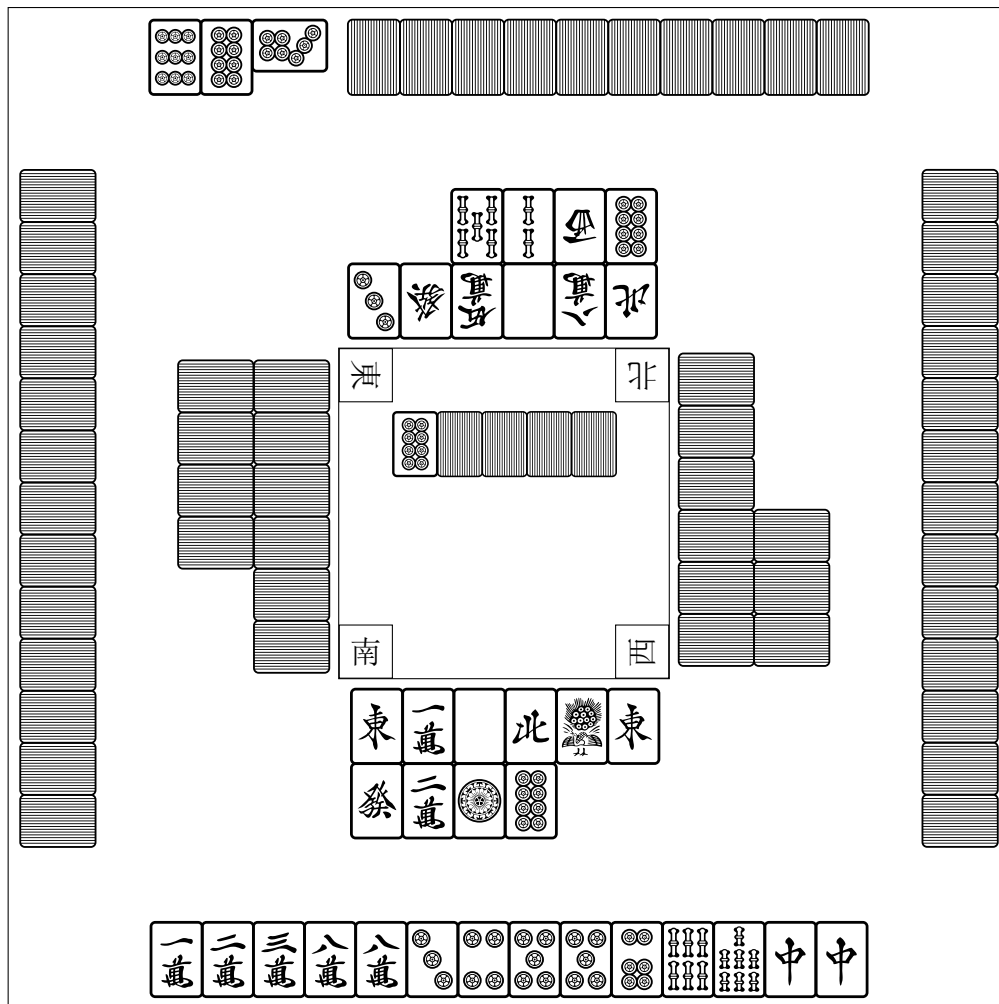
Answer

This time toimen has called  chii, so the possibility of tanyao is eliminated; yakuhai is essentially the only possible yaku for toimen to have.

Since toimen is the north player, the possible yakuhai are the 5 tiles of , and **other than , the other 4 types are all visible on the board, so toimen's yaku is almost certainly .**

There is a nonzero chance that toimen has an ankou of  and a tanki wait, but betting on this possibility is reckless. With the best case scenario of reaching tenpai ryuukyoku this round in mind, keep  and **discard  genbutsu.**

—Call reading drill **3**—



Based on toimen's calls, how should this hand be advanced?

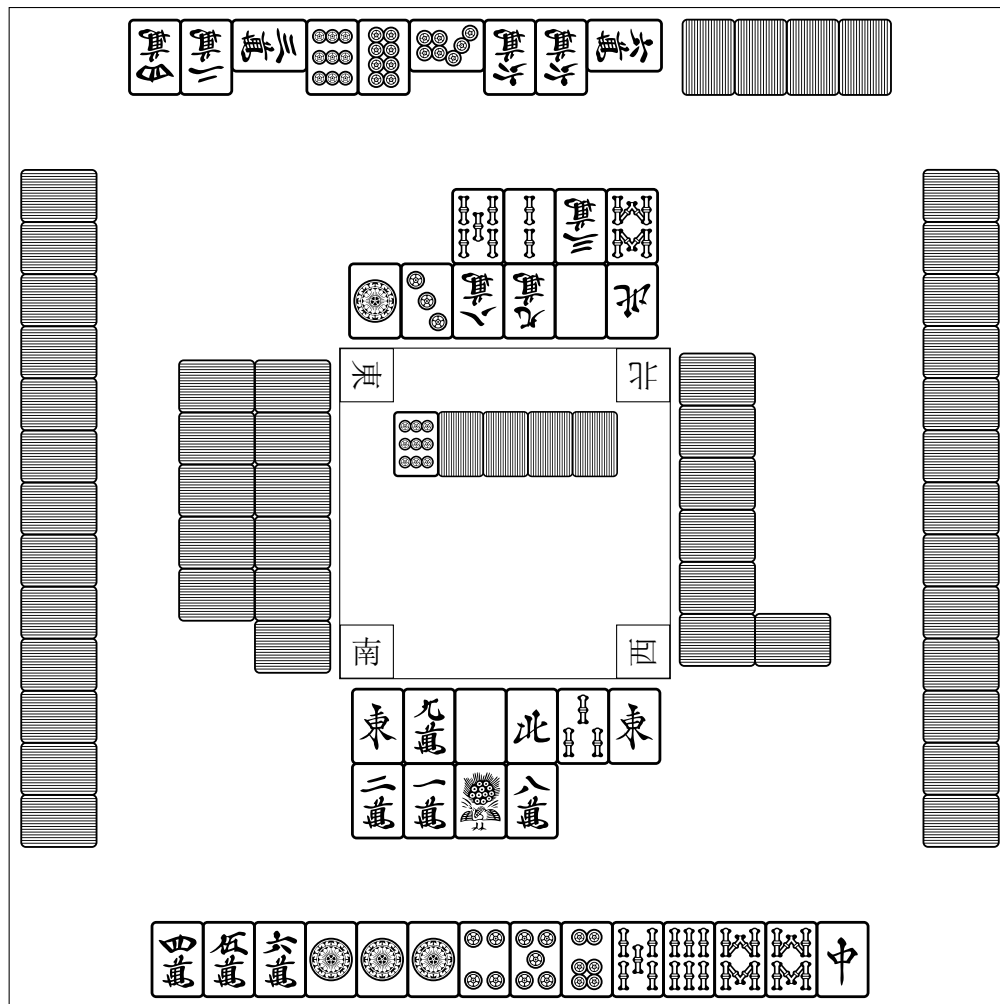
Answer

Since toimen has only made 1 call, it is not certain that their hand relies on yakuhai. Chanta, sanshoku, ittsum (although this seems unlikely), and honitsu are possible.

Nonetheless, yakuhai are often used together with these yaku to aim for value, and hands containing these yaku are often advanced in a way that also keeps yakuhai possible. Ultimately, the fact remains that **caution towards yakuhai should be taken the moment a call involving 1 or 9 is made.**




With this in mind, discarding $\boxed{\text{中}}$, the only live yakuhai remaining, is not an option. Moreover, considering our own chances of winning, it is fairly likely that toimen has the other pair of $\boxed{\text{中}}$, so it seems good to **make $\boxed{\text{中}}$ the head and discard $\boxed{\text{入}}$** and not hope to pon or draw ankou.




—Call reading drill **4**—



Toimen has made 3 calls and our hand is also in tenpai. Should we straightforwardly declare riichi?

Answer


The live yakuhai are  and . Toimen's yaku is almost certainly yakuhai, so  is fairly likely to deal in.





Nonetheless, our hand is ryanmen tenpai for yasume mangan and takame haneman. Moreover, toimen has discarded dora . Supposing that  deals in, toimen's hand is at most chun, aka 1 for 2000 points. As such, the risk here is well worth the reward, so **discarding  and declaring riichi here is good.**


Reading the value of hands will be discussed later, but the point is that just because a tile is dangerous does not mean that it must not ever be discarded. When studying reading, there will be more situations will make you think “this tile is dangerous so I cannot discard it,” but your hand is the most important factor in mahjong. **When your hand is good, being overly afraid of dealing in is to be misled by reading.**

To master reading is to be able to take risks while understanding the danger levels.

Answer

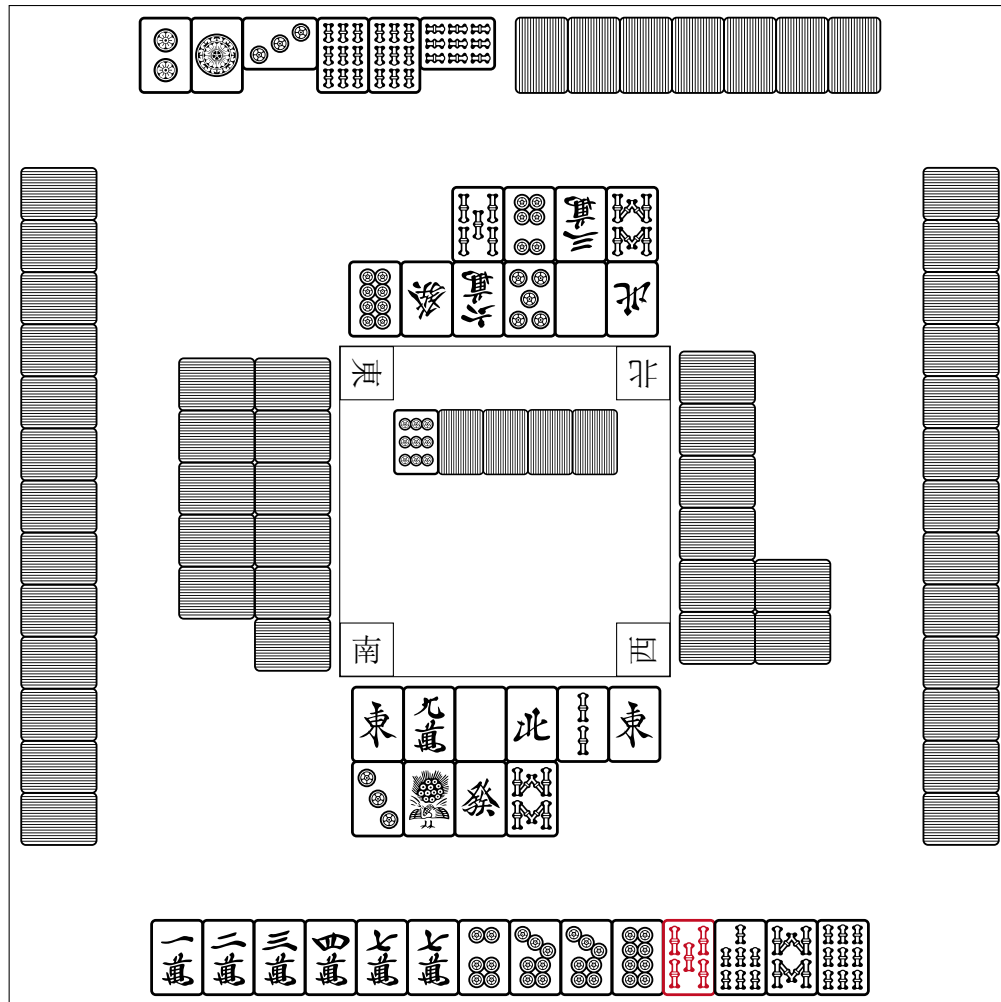
Toimen's yaku is likely to be , but sanshoku and chanta are also possible.

 is necessary for both sanshoku and chanta. In addition to possibly  dealing into chanta, discarding it results in the same acceptance as discarding  since  cannot be discarded.

After also taking into account the fact that our hand has bad shapes, **making the defensive discard of  seems good.**

The majority of open hands are tanyao or yakuhai, so first taking caution against these yaku is enough, but in cases like this where **2 calls that are compatible with other yaku (sanshoku, chanta, ittsumu, honitsu, etc.) have been made, those yaku should be considered as well.**

—Call reading drill **6**—



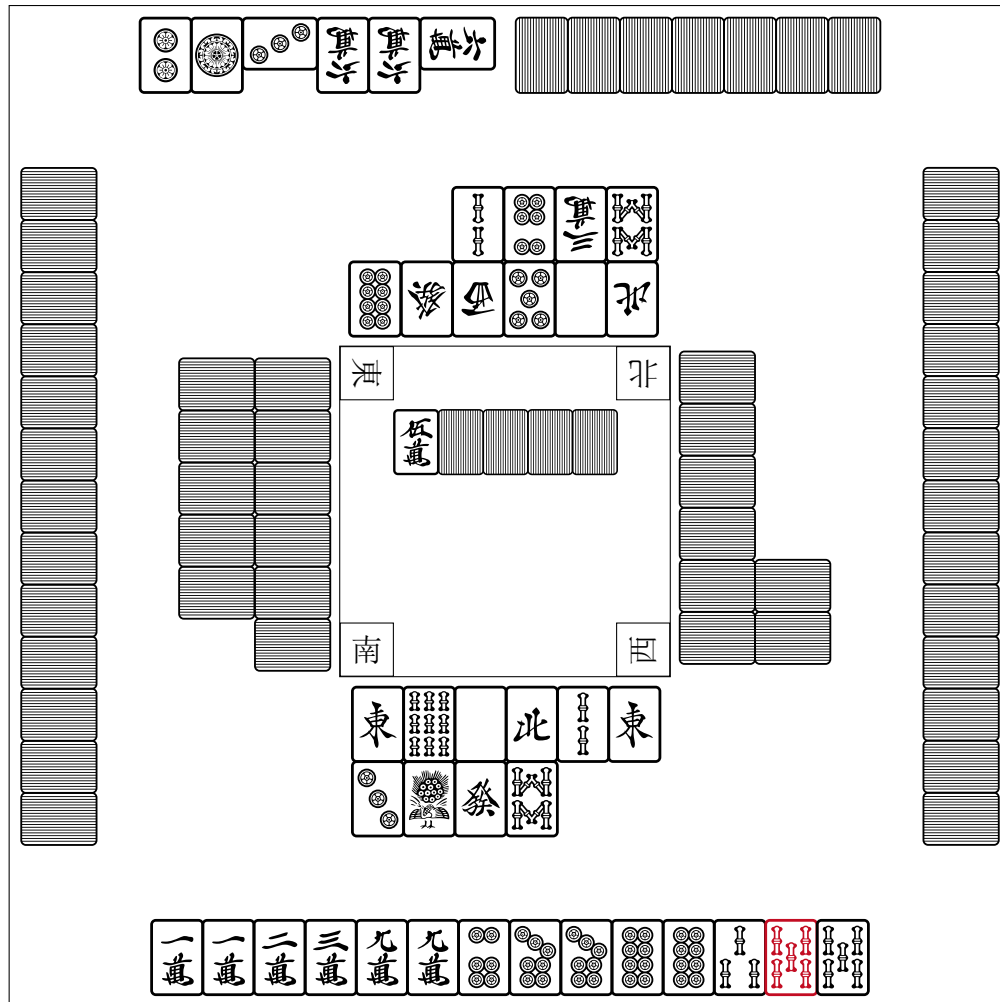
Our hand is good shape 1 shanten, but what should we discard based on toimen's calls?

Answer

This time toimen's yaku is most likely $\boxed{\text{中}}$, but with 2 calls involving terminals, chanta is also possible. Especially when the dora is a terminal, even junchan dora 1 is 3900 points, and with a 2nd copy of the dora or sanshoku the hand becomes mangan, often more expensive than the case of yakuhai, so caution is necessary.

Therefore, $\boxed{\text{一}}$ must not be discarded and instead **fight by discarding** $\boxed{\text{中}}$. This time the round is assumed to be east 1, but in with point standings like in south round where this hand does not necessarily have to be won, but taking tenpai would still be good, there might also be a case for discarding $\boxed{\text{一}}$ so that 1 more copy of $\boxed{\text{一}}$ can be absorbed.

—Call reading drill **7**—



Toimen has called pon on the dora. Our hand can become both chiitoitsu or a normal hand, but how should we advance?

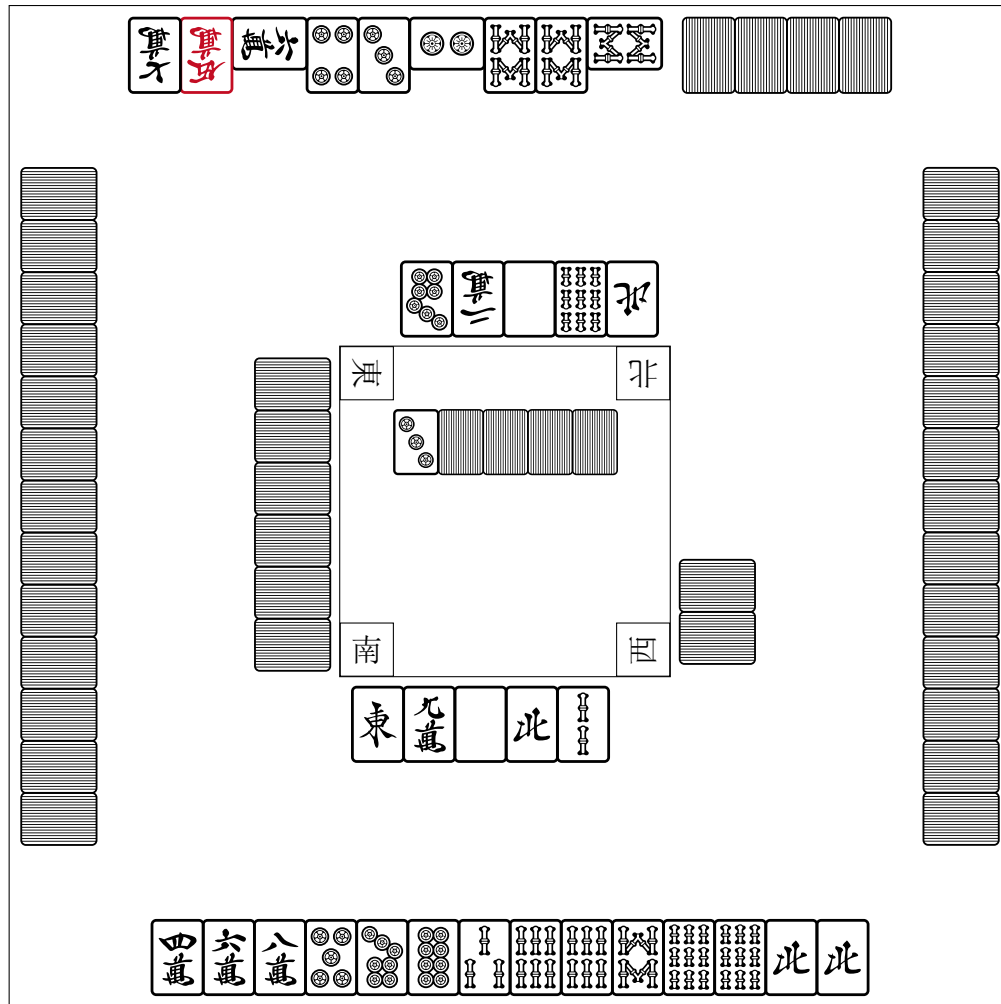
Answer

In general the yaku to be cautious of are tanyao and yakuhai. As mentioned before, caution should be taken against other yaku (like sanshoku) when 2 compatible calls have been made. This time toimen has called . It is not possible to deduce a specific yaku from these calls, so this is essentially a situation where caution should be taken against yakuhai.

However, toimen has called pon on the dora. **Since the opponent's hand is expensive, it is good to err on the side of caution and be careful of 123 sanshoku as well.**

As such, and are difficult to discard, and chiitoitsu is the safer way of aiming for tenpai. Maintaining chiitoitsu 1 shanten and **discarding or genbutsu seems good.**

—Call reading drill 8—





Based on toimen's calls, how should this round be progressed?

Answer

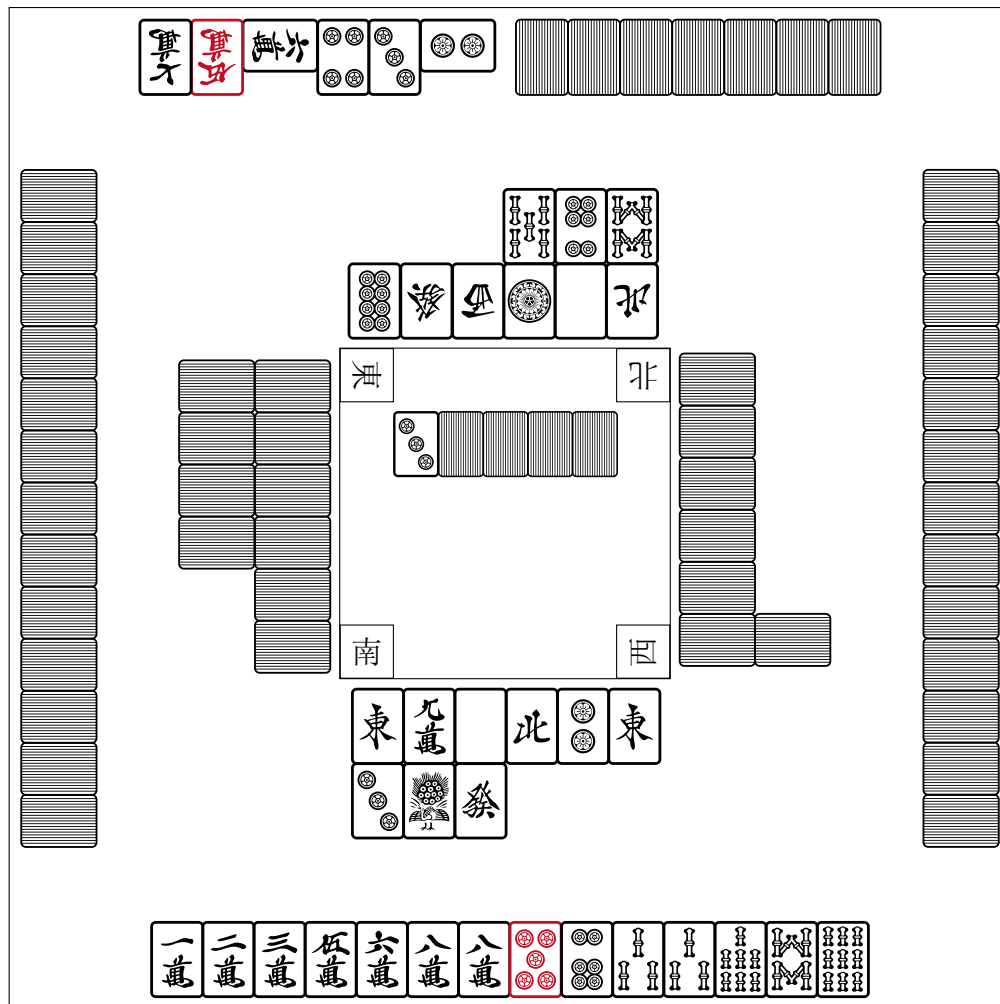
This question is about when to start being cautious of an opponent's open hand. It is good to suspect that **an opponent should be tenpai soon when they have made 3 calls on the 1st row of discards, 2 calls on the 2nd row of discards, or 1 call on the 3rd row of discards** as a rough guideline.



As such, this time toimen has made 3 calls on the 1st row of discards, so they should be tenpai soon. It is of course possible that they are not in tenpai, and even if they are, it is unknown which tiles will deal in.

However, whereas **the opponent has a hand that is very likely to be tenpai, our hand does not have a single completed set**. You cannot win at mahjong if you deal in with a mess of a hand like this. Therefore, the plan this time is to fold.  is good to keep against another opponent's riichi, so drop the  pair for now and see how things develop.

Conversely, if our hand was 1 shanten with good value, then it is acceptable to push somewhat dangerous tiles.


—Call reading drill **9**—







Toimen has called chii on  and discarded .


What should be discarded to advance the hand as safely as possible?

Answer

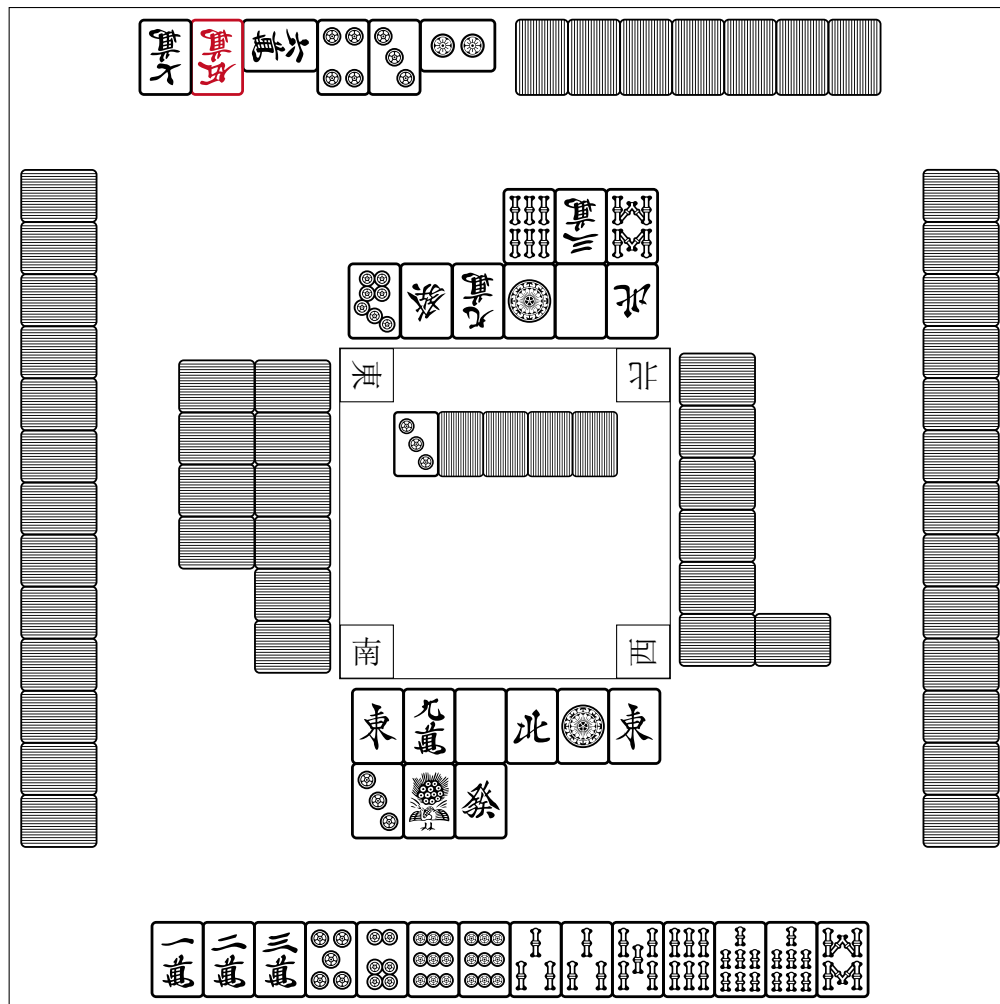
The shape of our hand is such that we would like to drop either the  or  pair. We will consider which one is safer.

Here the important theory to be aware of is that **the area around tiles discarded after chii by an opponent who is close to tenpai is dangerous.**

This time toimen has made 2 calls on the 2nd row of discards, so it would not be strange for them to be in tenpai. At this point, the  discarded after chii may have come from the shapes  or , so the  matagi (assuming that toimen is in tenpai) is fairly likely to deal in.

Nonetheless, it is uncertain whether toimen is in tenpai, and their hand is not so threatening such that betaori is necessary, so **drop the  pair and attack with riichi if the hand reaches tenpai.**

—Call reading drill 10—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . What should be discarded to advance this hand as safely as possible?

Answer

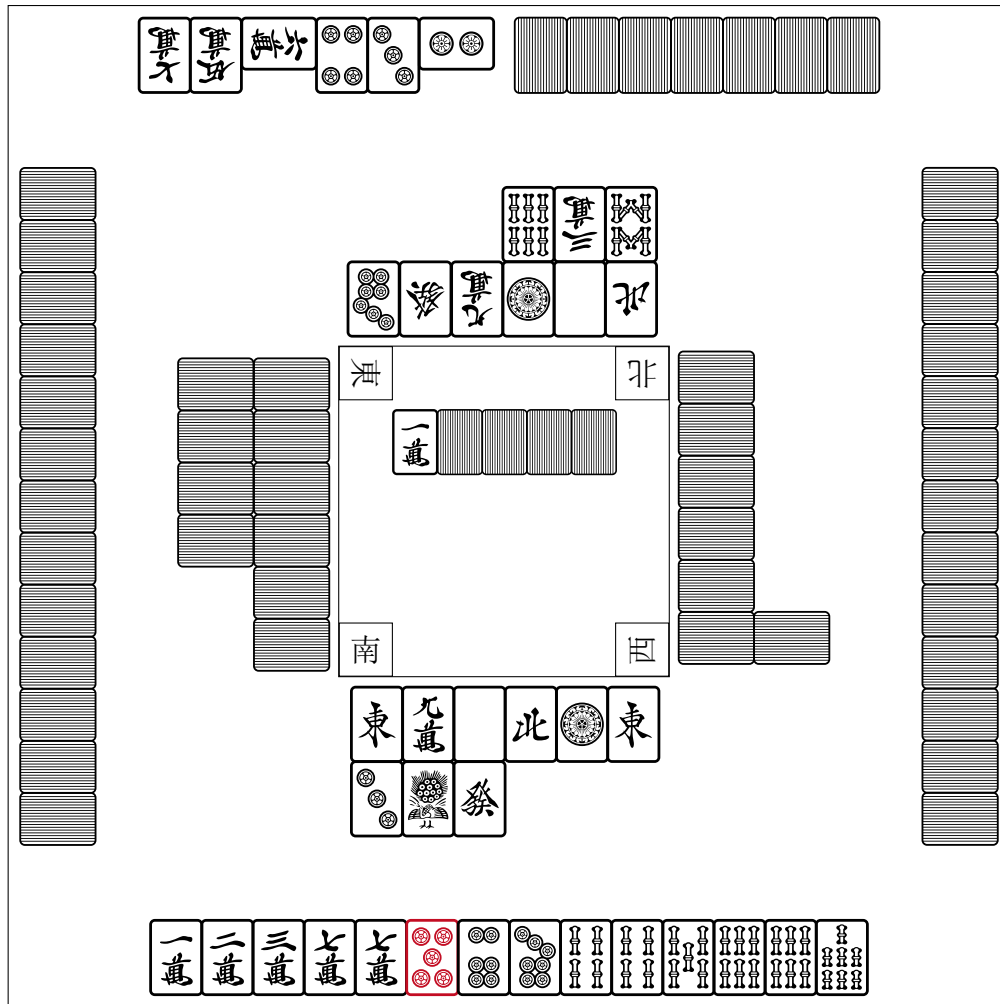
The shape of our hand is such that we would like to drop the $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ pair, but discarding $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ is wider since doing so allows acceptance for $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ kanchan.





However, this time the opponent has called chii and discarded $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$. The previous question had explained that tiles in the vicinity of $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ are dangerous. **The tiles in the vicinity of $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ include not only the $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ matagi waits, but also kanchan $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ after having discarded $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ from $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ\circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$.**

Other shapes are of course possible, so $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ is not guaranteed to deal in, but $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ has been discarded this time so a $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ\circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ wait is eliminated, and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ is rather dangerous. In contrast, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ will not deal in if toimen has tanyao.











If the loss in acceptance here is only 1 type, then this seems like a good situation to compromise and **discard the safer $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$** . Even if $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ is kept and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ\circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ drawn as planned, the need to discard the dangerous $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \circ \\ \hline \circ\circ \\ \hline \end{array}$ is another disadvantage.

—Call reading drill 11—




Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Our hand will be tenpai if we discard  or . Based on toimen's discards, what should we discard?



Answer

Toimen has made 2 calls on the 2nd row, so it would not be strange if they were in tenpai, and the vicinity of the  discarded after chii is dangerous. In particular, since  has passed this time, the possibility of toimen discarding  from  (for a  wait) is eliminated, and the possibility that toimen discarded  from  or  increases. That is,  is very likely to deal in, and discarding  in contrast allows for tenpai to be safely taken.


Having understood all this, **riichi should be called here discarding .**

Considering our hand, discarding  is better for both wait quality and value. This hand is more than valuable enough to be game changing, whereas toimen's hand value is unclear and it is unconfirmed whether they are in tenpai or not. Ultimately it is our hand here that is the most important. **If you are in good shape tenpai for mangan, a game changing hand, ignore the opponent's calls and decide based on your own circumstances.**

Answer

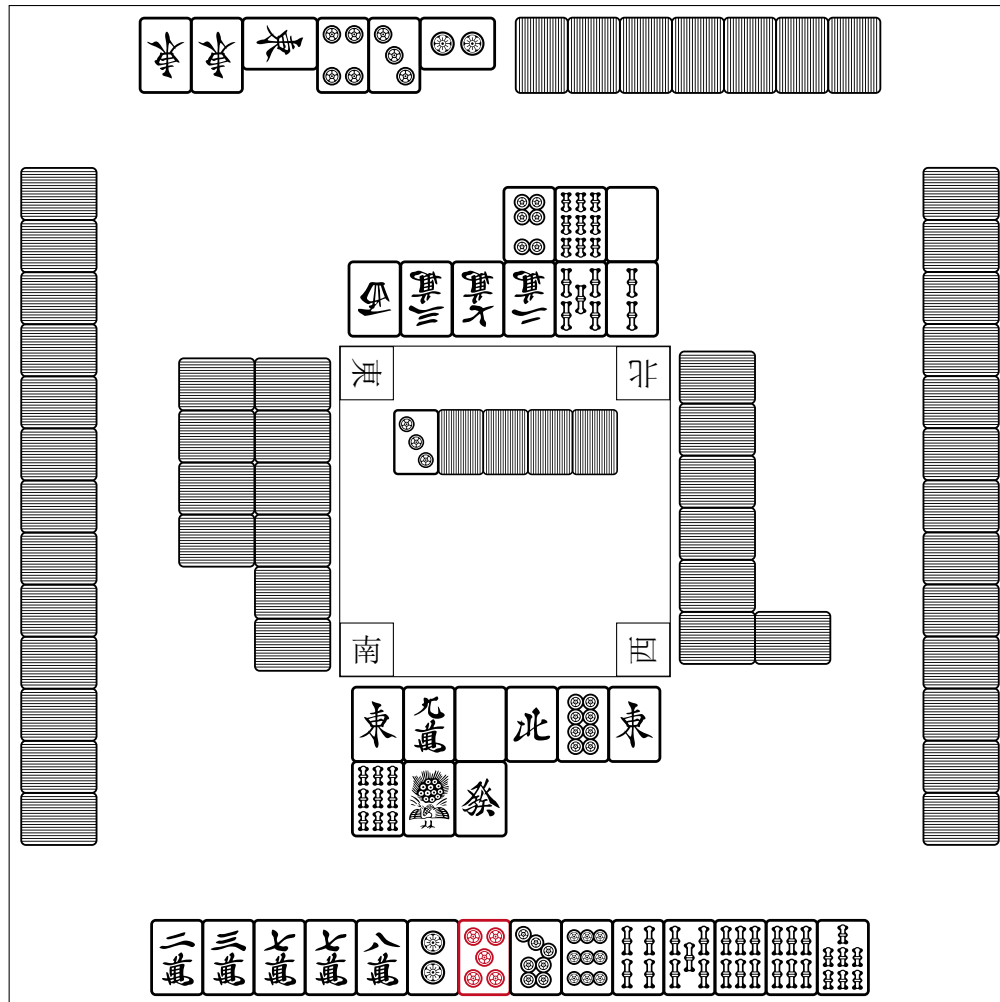
Unlike the previous question, the opponent's hand is confirmed to be expensive. 5800 points were confirmed the moment that double  and dora  were revealed. With aka ari rules, it is very possible that toimen has 1 more dora. Be prepared to pay 12000 points upon dealing in. Moreover, the opponent is the dealer, so giving them renchan is another disadvantage.


Even though toimen has made 2 calls on the 2nd row of discards both this time and the previous, the damage taken (risk) upon dealing in differs vastly. **Be very careful against open hands like these where 3 han is confirmed just in the open portion.**

Another point here is that our hand is 1 shanten. Playing based just on our own circumstances is dangerous. Although doing so makes our hand slightly narrower, **discarding  is good.**

- Possible tenpai + 3 han visible = caution required

—Call reading drill **13**—








Toimen has called  and discarded . After reading toimen's hand, in what direction should we proceed?

Answer

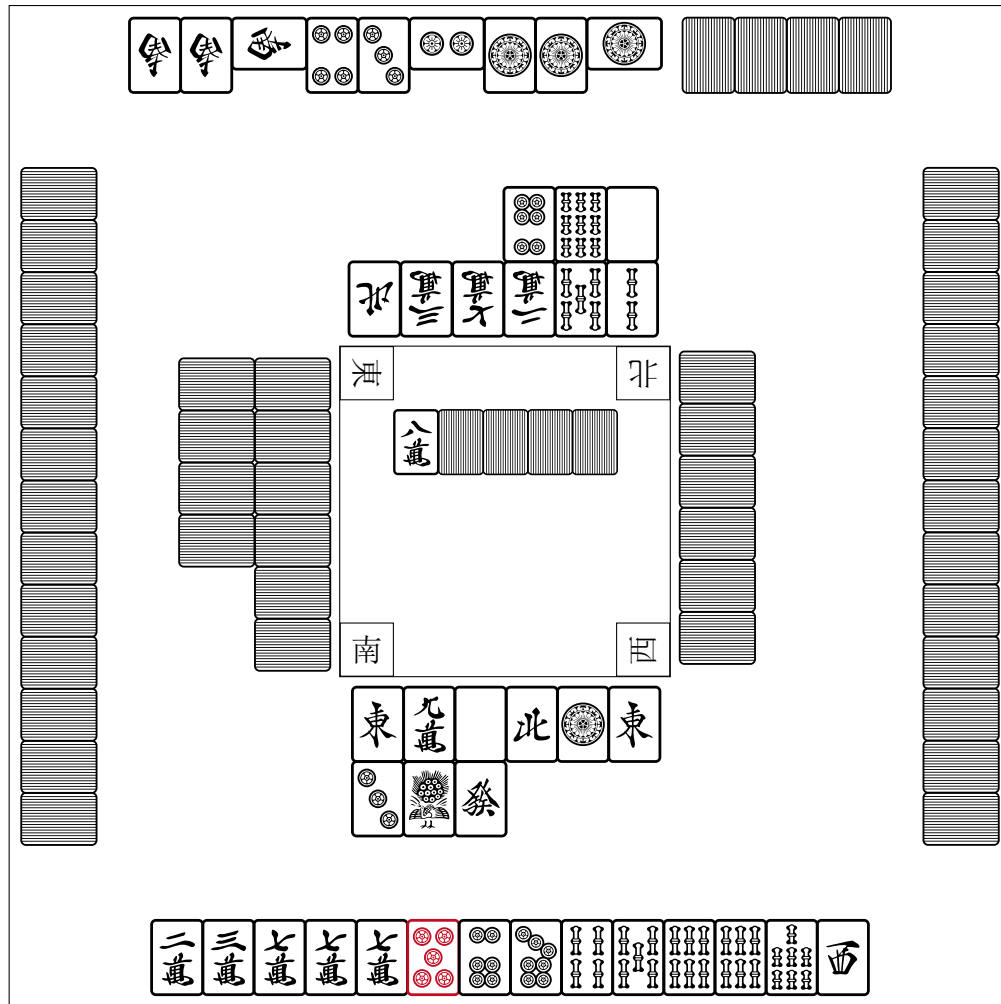
The point this time is that toimen can be read to have a single suit hand (honitsu, chinitsu).



This time the discards are fairly obvious, so even if it can be noticed that toimen is going for honitsu, it is important whether or not it can be noticed in live play when the opponent's discards are slightly more subtle.

In the case of honitsu, other than the number of calls, another read that can be used is that **if tiles of the required suit are discarded then tenpai is highly likely**. As such, this time the easy to use  has overflowed, so tenpai is highly likely.



We of course cannot cut , and suji  is also hard to discard. If so, then this hand is difficult to win with in the current situation. **Proceed by cutting  or  manzu and only step forward when pinzu pass.**



—Call reading drill **14**—





Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

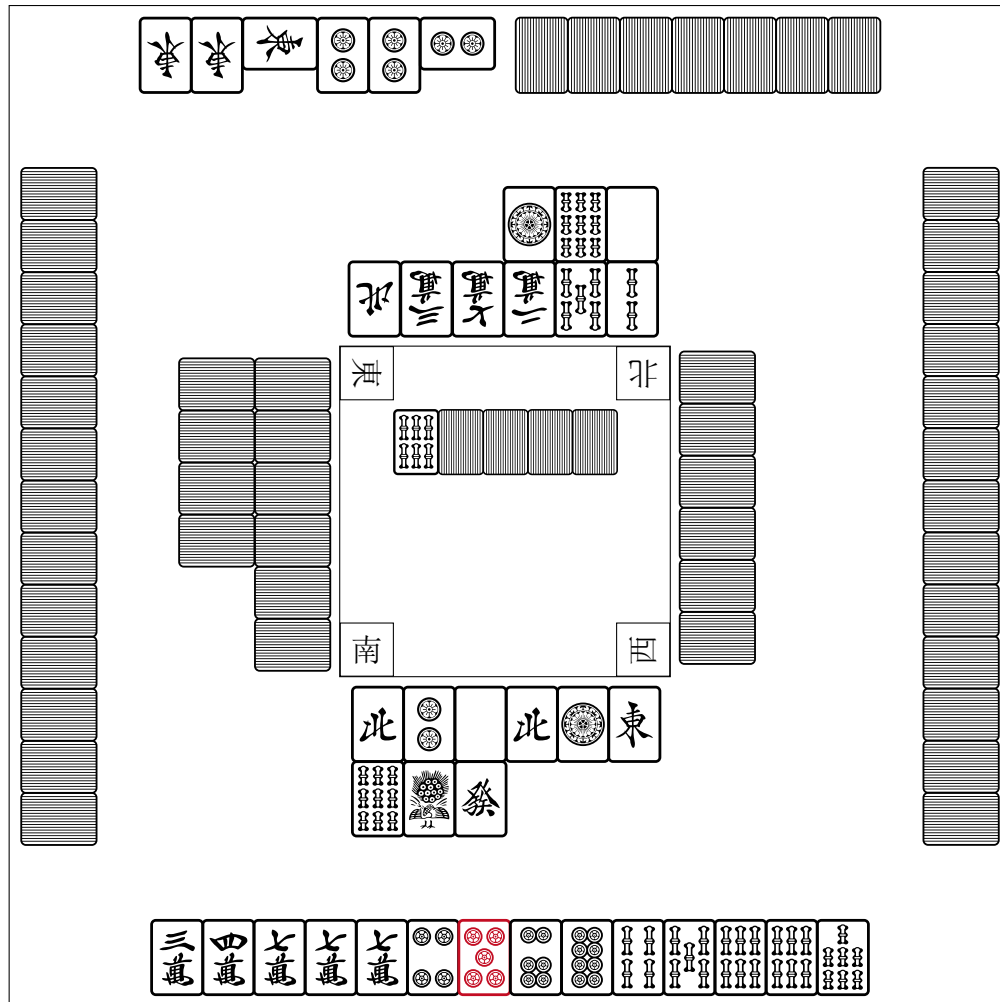
This time toimen's hand looks like honitsu, and tenpai seems likely since  was discarded. Honors and pinzu are dangerous...but **discard  here.**

What is important is the value of the opponent's hand. This time dora is not pinzu, and yakuhai are not incorporated in toimen's 3 calls. Moreover, we have the , so if we deal in with the guest wind , it is unlikely to be expensive.

Specifically, a tanki wait like  will be worth 5300 points, but generally shanpon waits worth 2600 points like  are more common.


Caution is required against honitsu as it is a yaku that can easily become mangan even when open, but **there is no need to be worried in cases where it can be read that “even if this tile deals in it will likely be honitsu nomi.”**

—Call reading drill **15**—







Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?


Answer

This time toimen's hand looks like honitsu, and  has been discarded so they...may or may not be tenpai.


First, an opponent who is going for honitsu is likely to be tenpai when they discard tiles of the required suit because **mahjong is a game where unnecessary tiles are discarded in sequence, so a player who discards tiles that they need has a hand that has progressed pretty far.**

This logic can also be applied against hands other than honitsu to read that a player who has discarded middle tile dora (easy to use and high value) has a fast hand.


Now then, this time toimen has indeed discarded pinzu, but 4 copies of  are visible and the discarded  is the second copy. This  is difficult to use even for honitsu, so it cannot be said that  is a tile necessary for toimen's hand. **Be aware that an opponent is not necessarily in tenpai when they discard tiles such as difficult to use terminals like this.**

Of course, when our hand is a mess we should still be careful, but this time **the shape of our hand is rather good, so pay no mind and discard .**

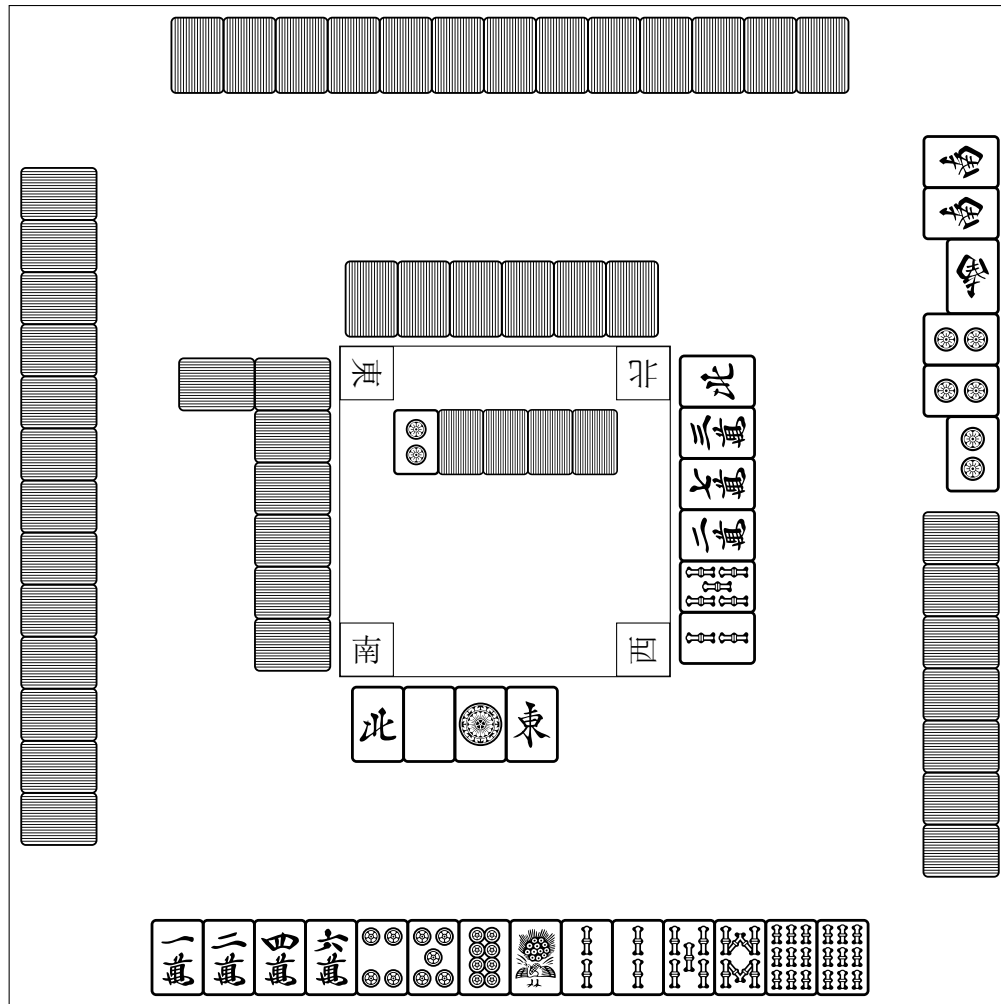
Answer

This time toimen's hand looks like honitsu. The only tile compatible with honitsu that has been discarded so far is the twice discarded ; nothing can be read about how fast toimen's hand is. For now it is fine to assume that the chance of tenpai is low.

At times like these, consider making a wait on a suit different than what the opponent is using for honitsu. There is no need to be concerned about this for a ryanmen wait, but **it is rather difficult to win with a bad wait in an opponent's honitsu suit.**

Thus, despite there being a risk of toimen calling pon, **discard  and increase the likelihood of reaching tenpai on another suit.** Being just a little too late will make it no longer possible to cut tiles of the honitsu suit, so it is important to be aware of where to make 5 blocks when noticing that an opponent is going for honitsu.

—Call reading drill **17**—





This time shimocha has called. Consider what to do this round.

Answer

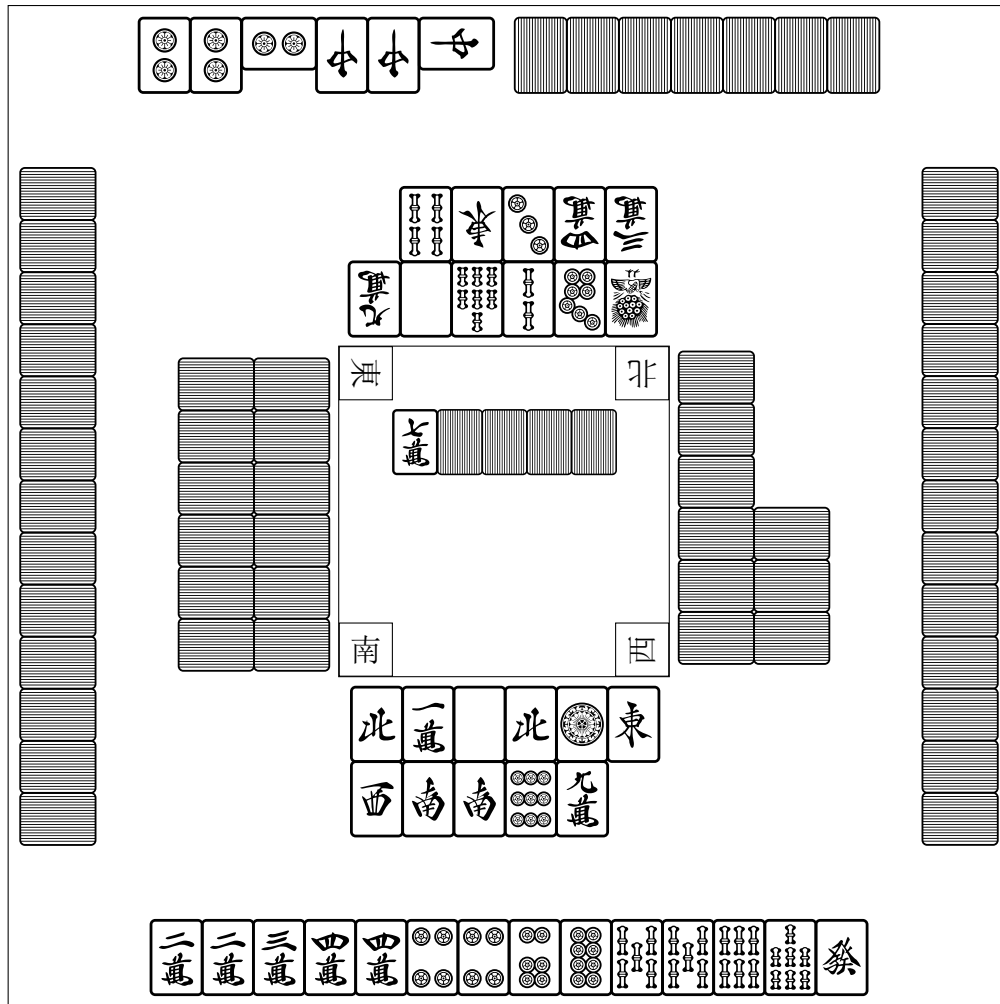
This time shimocha's hand looks like honitsu. Shimocha going for honitsu means that any pinzu we discard might let shimocha call chii.

Choking generally brings little benefit to ourselves. In this case, not discarding pinzu and keeping unnecessary tiles in our hand only denies shimocha calls and brings relatively more benefit to toimen and kamicha. Therefore, **if our hand is sufficiently good, there is no need to care too much.**

The criteria also depend on factors such as the turn, but shimocha has already made 2 calls and will likely be tenpai on the next call, so **it does not seem like we have much of a fighting chance if our hand is not at least 1 shanten.**

As such, this time our hand is too much of a mess, so **proceed defensively by choking pinzu and discarding**  **or** .

—Call reading drill 18—





Based on toimen's calls, what is their yaku and how should we advance our hand?
 Kamicha and shimocha's discards provide no information.

Answer



Starting from the conclusion, suspect that toimen's hand is toitai. First, 2 calls of pon including 1 of yakuhai have been. At this point, 2 calls that fulfill the criteria of the yaku have been made.

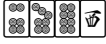

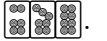
Of course, deciding that toimen has toitai based just on this is hasty, but toimen's hand does not seem like honitsu, and many middle tiles have been discarded. Toitai does not require sequences to be made, so players going for toitai often have discards indicating that lone middle tiles are unnecessary.





Therefore, even it cannot be said with absolute certainty that toimen going for toitai this time, **it is necessary to recognize that the chance of toitai is plenty high, and toimen's hand seems pretty expensive if it is the case they have toitai.** As such, , **the only live yakuhai, is likely to deal in**, and it is difficult to push from an 1 shanten with 2 bad shapes.



What to discard will also depend on kamicha and shimocha's discards, but the route of **discarding  genbutsu and aim for chiitoitsu** seems good.

Answer

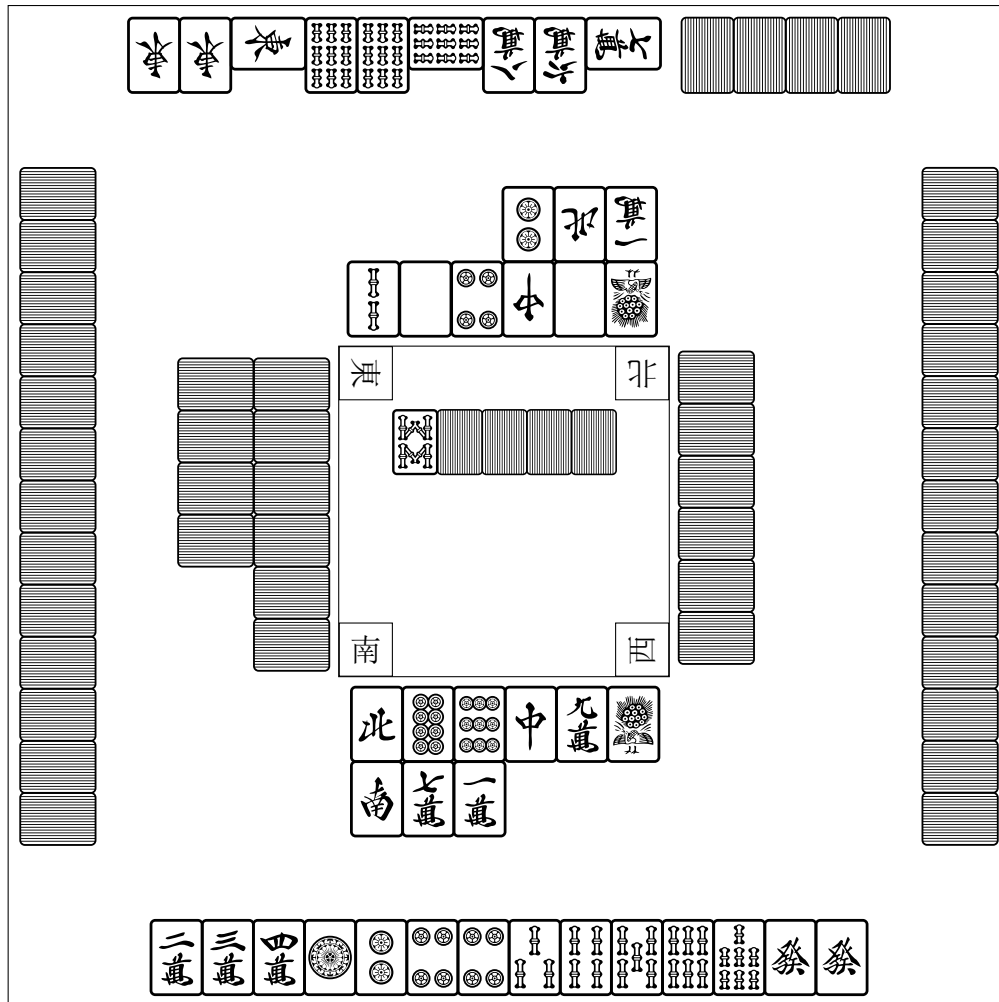
Since all yakuhai have been discarded at least once (it is possible that toimen has an ankou of  or ) , toimen's yaku **is most likely sanshoku**.

Toimen has made 3 calls and has 4 tiles in their hand. In the case of 678 sanshoku, toimen either has  with sanshoku completed and is waiting on tanki, or has  with a head and is waiting on something to complete .

As such, even though  is suji, it is very likely to deal into the few configurations compatible with sanshoku. In contrast,  only deals in if toimen deliberately cut  to wait on  tanki.






Therefore, **even though  is suji, discarding  is correct**. Tracking tedashi and tsumogiri takes quite a bit of effort, but much information can be read even without being able to do so.











—Call reading drill **20**—







Toimen called chii on  and discarded . Assuming that toimen is in tenpai, what tiles are particularly dangerous?

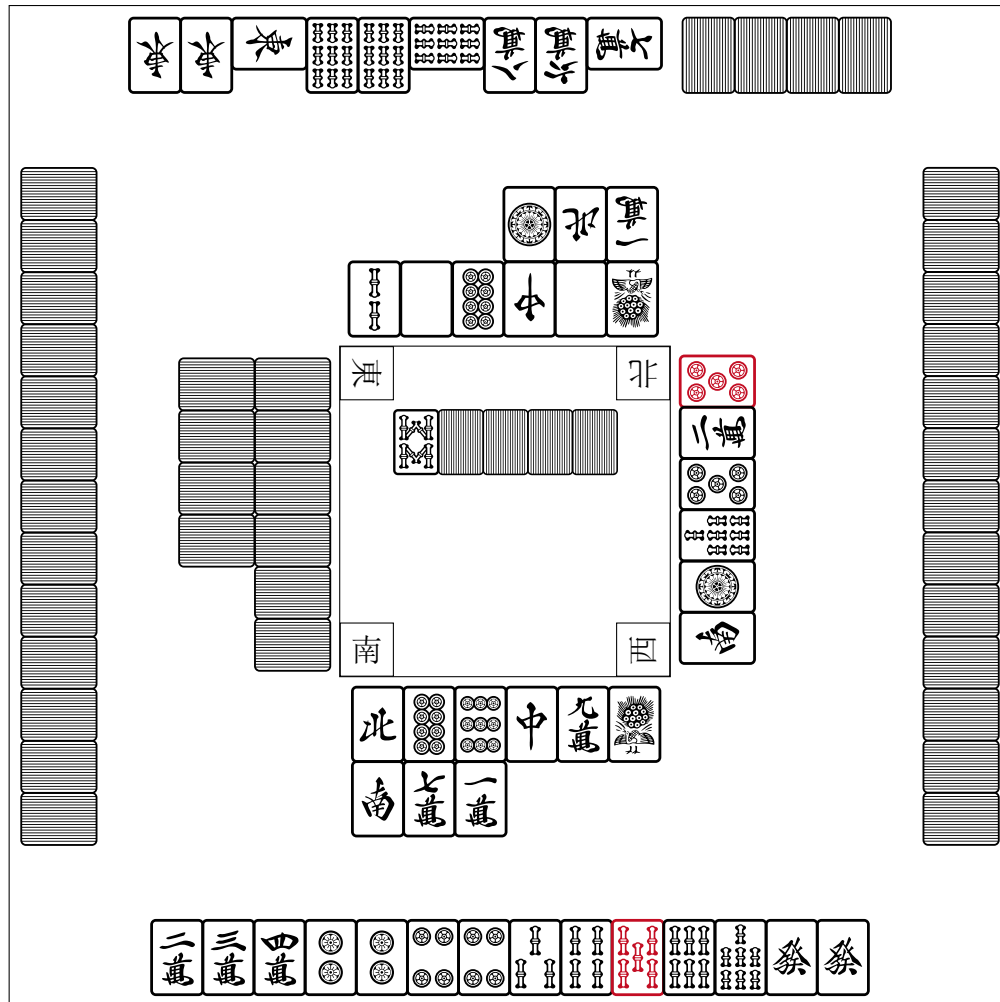
Answer



This is another case where the tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii are dangerous; tiles near  are likely to deal in. However, since  has been discarded this time, only  and  remain.  is especially dangerous.

Considering why toimen would keep  in their hand after discarding  shows that toimen either has , , or . Shanpon tenpai is often taken from , so  is the most likely case. **When an opponent discards  → other tiles → , even though  is suji, it is comparable to musuji in danger level, so be careful.**


Discarding  from our hand this time has high acceptance and allows for tenpai with  pon. However, our hand is 1 shanten with no dora, not good enough to justify pushing the very dangerous  against an opponent with dora pon. **Discard  genbutsu here and consider again whether to push or to fold upon reaching tenpai.**









—Call reading drill 21—








Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Assuming that toimen is in tenpai, what tiles are particularly dangerous?

Answer

This is another case where tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii is dangerous, but since the discarded tile is , there is no matagi ryanmen wait.

When terminals are discarded like this, the wait is often the adjacent  (shanpon, kanchan, penchan) or  after discarding  from . Normally  is often discarded from  for tenpai, but in the case that  is aka dora  might also be discarded so caution is necessary.

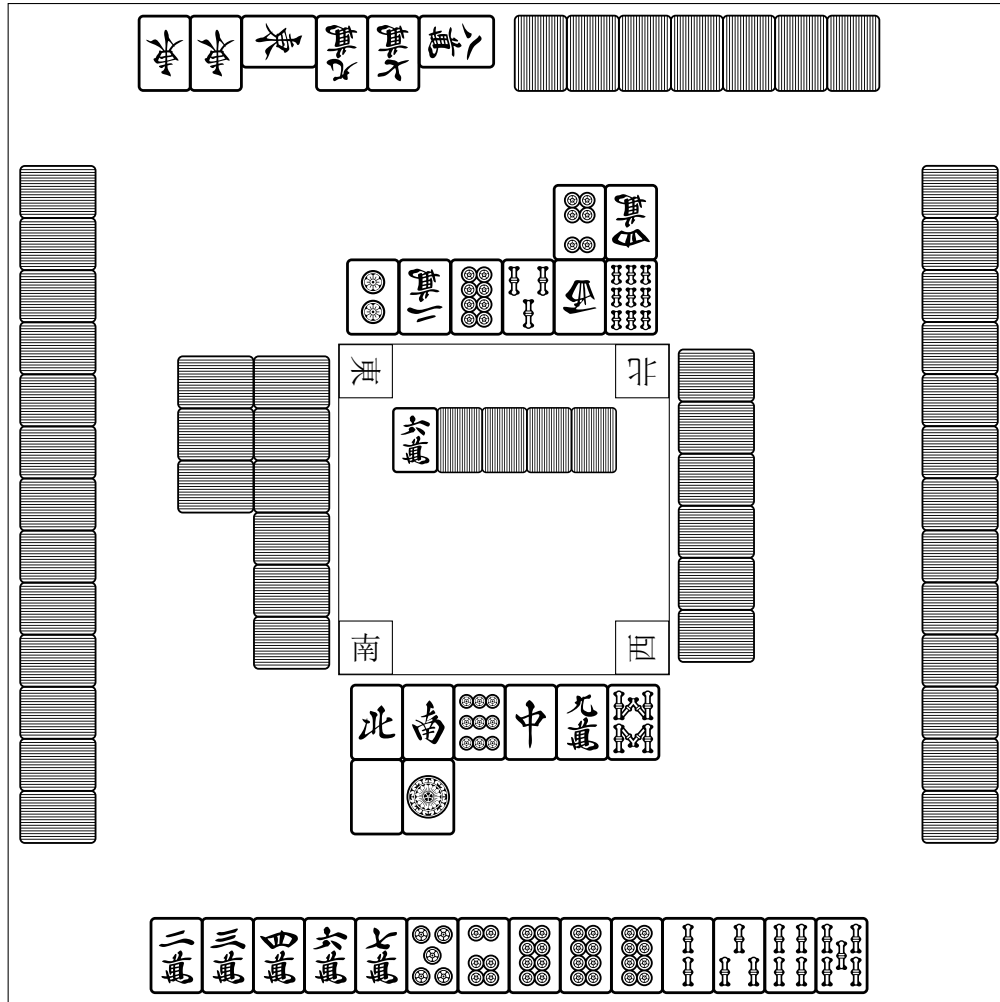
This time 1 copy of  is visible so that is less of a worry;  **are rather dangerous** and  **is comparatively better**.



As noted above, assuming that a terminal was cut for tenpai, there are more non ryanmen tenpai configurations, so the live  is also dangerous. Overall, **discarding  from this hand seems good**.

Chapter 2

Applied reading

—Call reading drill **22**—








Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Determine how to play based on what tiles are dangerous due to structural considerations of the opponent's hand.



Answer

Consider the block structure of toimen's hand. Reading the block structure of hands is difficult, but generally,





1. Tiles between 2 tiles of the same suit discarded early are dangerous
2. Tiles in the vicinity of tedashi in the mid game or later are dangerous




If these 2 points are remembered then block reading can be done somewhat well. (2) requires tracking tedashi and tsumogiri, so at first it can only be applied to tiles discarded after chii, but (1) can be used regardless of tedashi and tsumogiri.




In regards to toimen's discards this time, the tiles between the  discarded early, that is  and , are dangerous. In contrast, the  to the outside of  are safer.

There are of course exceptions, but **our hand is valuable enough, so it is fine to push something like**  **that is sotogawa to** .

Answer

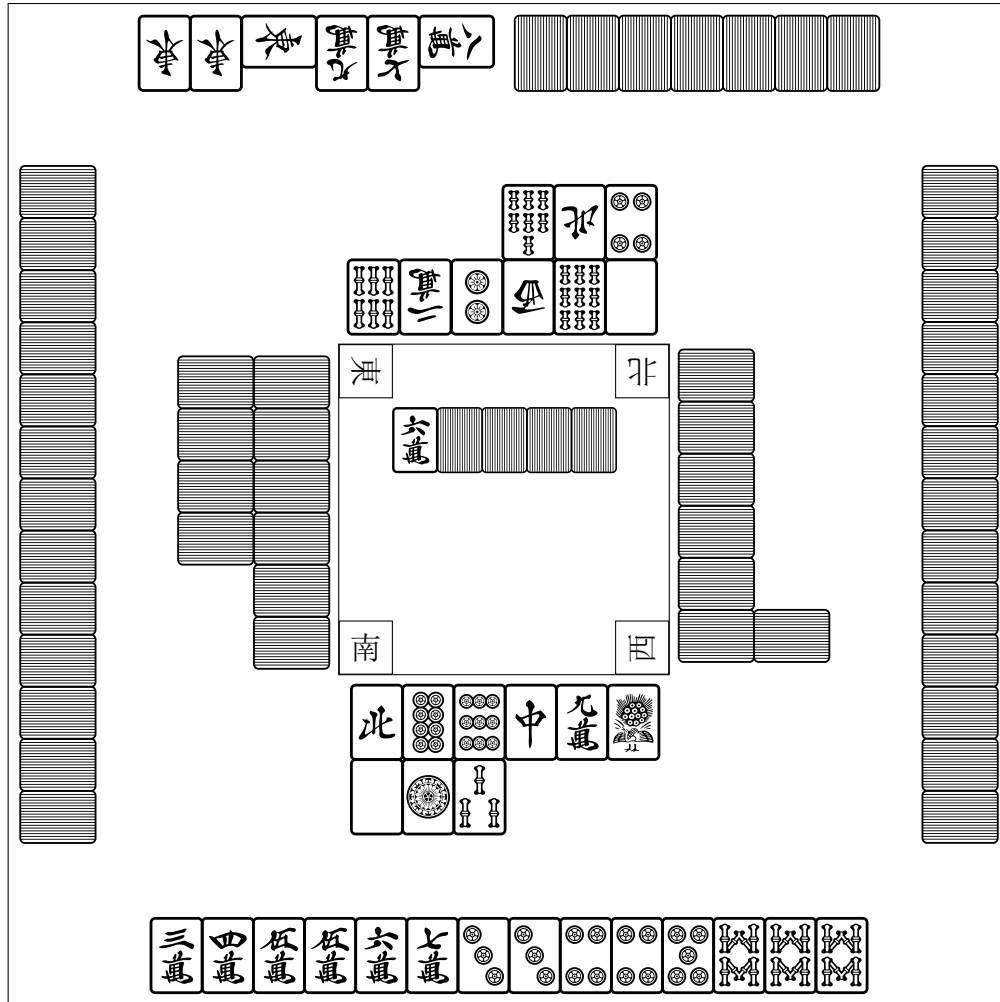
 has just passed and is temporarily safe against toimen, but discarding  would lose 3 total tiles of acceptance in . Our hand has 2 dora and is a hand that we will absolutely fight with, so beginners should just discard  and take the largest acceptance.



However, as mentioned in the previous question,  are extremely dangerous based on toimen's discards. An opponent who has called twice on the 2nd row of discards is likely enough to be in tenpai to warrant some suspicion. That is,  **may have passed now because toimen is not yet in tenpai, but may soon reach tenpai on a**  **wait.**

Therefore,  and  which can be read to be dangerous from toimen's discards should be taken care of while they are safe; **endure some loss of acceptance and discard**  **here.**





Always be considering how the blocks in an opponent's hand might be structured; anticipating that middle souzu are dangerous will allow for rapid responses in situations like this.

—Call reading drill **24**—










Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . These discards indicate that some tiles are extremely likely to deal in; what are they?

Answer

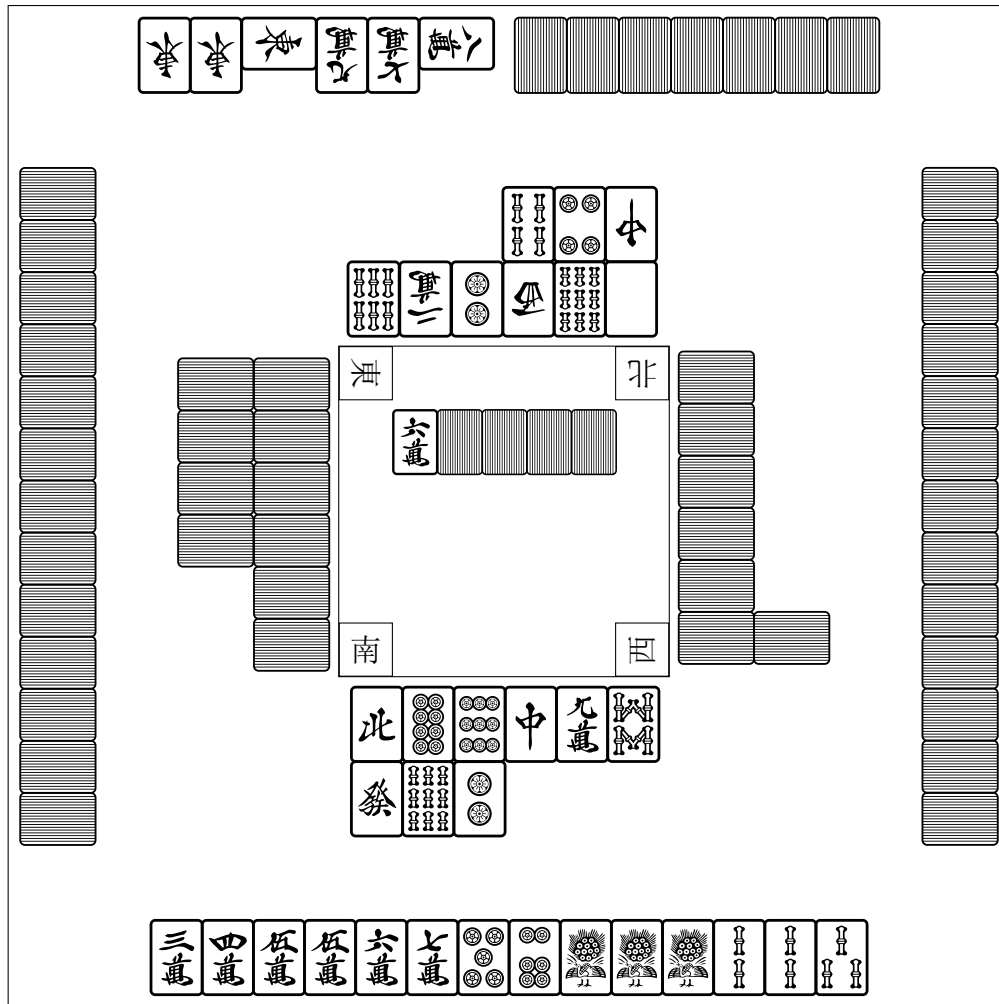
Notice that toimen has dropped  ryanmen. Even without accurately looking at tedashi and tsumogiri, knowing that toimen cut  after chii (i.e.  is tedashi) shows that toimen is likely to have dropped  ryanmen.




Moreover, since other tiles have been discarded between  and ,  can likely be read as having value even after discarding .

In this case it is very likely that toimen had discarded  from . Toimen may have kept  to call pon and kept it until tenpai. Assuming that toimen is now in tenpai,  is extremely likely to deal in.

We can cut  from our hand to aim for pinfu and iipeikou, but against toimen this  ranks among the most dangerous tiles in this book, so **reluctantly discard  and riichi.**

—Call reading drill 25—



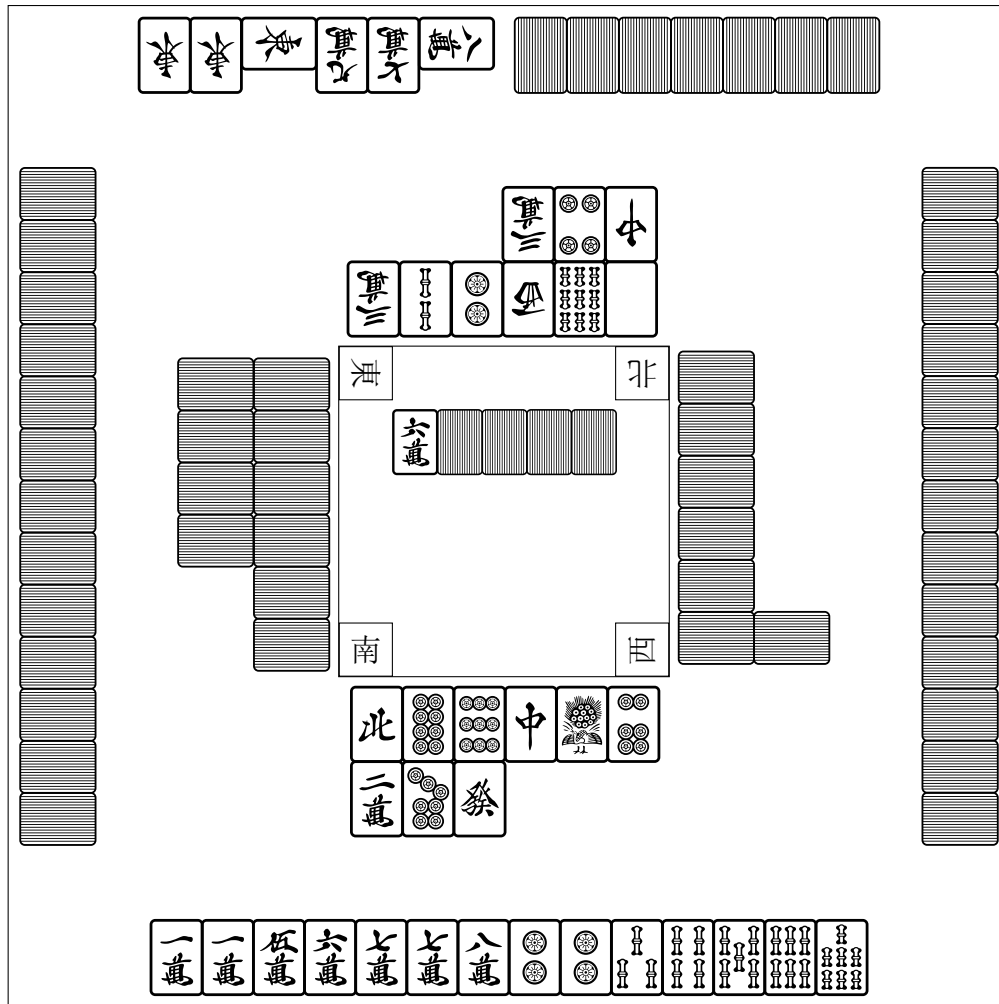
Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . If we discard either of  our hand will be tenpai, but what should we discard?



Answer

This time toimen has discarded a kanchan joint in the order $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \text{other tiles} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$.
The basic line of thought is the same as the previous question.

Considering hands from which $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ is discarded but $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ is still useful, the most common shape is $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$, where discarding $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ leaves $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ in the hand; i.e. a $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ wait.

If we consider only our hand then we may want to discard $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ for pinfu, but this time there is a big difference between the danger levels of $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$, so **discard $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ and riichi.**

—Call reading drill **26**—

Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Based on the same logic as what was used up until now, what tiles are particularly dangerous this time?

Answer

This time toimen has dropped a pair in the order $\boxed{\text{三}} \rightarrow \text{other tiles} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{三}}$. **When a pair is dropped, ryanmen waits matagi to the dropped pair are rare**, since if toimen currently has $\boxed{\text{三}}\boxed{\text{四}}$ or $\boxed{\text{二}}\boxed{\text{三}}$ then they would have had $\boxed{\text{三}}$ ankou.

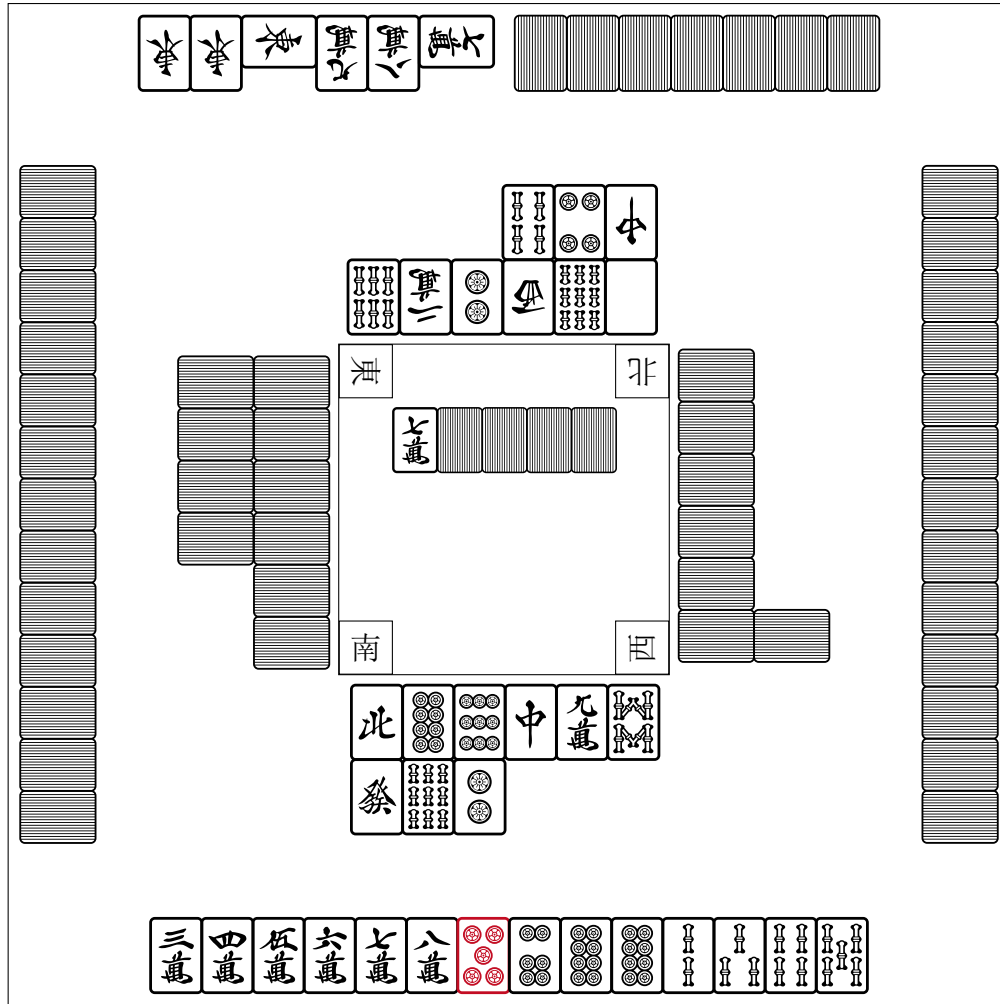
As for what cases are possible, toimen might have shanpon waiting on a nearby tile.

Cutting 1 copy of $\boxed{\text{三}}$ from $\boxed{\text{一}}\boxed{\text{一}}\boxed{\text{三}}\boxed{\text{三}}$ or $\boxed{\text{三}}\boxed{\text{三}}\boxed{\text{四}}\boxed{\text{四}}$ is natural.

Therefore, this time $\boxed{\text{一}}$ is rather dangerous. **Discard $\boxed{\text{三}}$ even though it would mean giving up on tanyao.**

Incidentally, consecutively discarding $\boxed{\text{三}}\boxed{\text{三}}$ without any intervening tiles may also be a simple pair drop, so in that case the danger level of $\boxed{\text{一}}$ is comparatively lower.

—Call reading drill 27—



Toimen has called chii on and discarded . If we discard one of then our hand will be tenpai, but what should we discard?

Answer

Toimen's discards are identical to those in drill 25. That is, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ are fairly dangerous. **Nevertheless, the point of this question is that trying to mawashi with tanyao pinfu dora 2 tenpai is over reading disease.**

$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ are fairly dangerous, but it is of course possible that toimen's wait is elsewhere, and it is even possible that toimen is not yet tenpai. Our hand is well worth gambling on these possibilities, so do not be overly afraid.

Another point to consider is which of $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ is more dangerous. As previously mentioned, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ is often discarded from a $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{東} & \text{南} & \text{東} & \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ shape, but $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{東} & \text{南} & \text{東} & \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ is also common. In contrast, with $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{東} & \text{南} & \text{東} & \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ the discard order would usually be $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$, so from these discards it can be read that shanpon with $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ and something else is likely, but $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ ryanmen not so much. Therefore, from this hand, **cutting $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ instead of $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ has a slightly lower deal in rate.**

Answer




This time the discard order is also $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \text{other tiles} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$, so $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ is extremely dangerous. Moreover, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ were discard early, so $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ is also a dangerous suji.


In the questions until now, there were choices other than $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ that maintained the shape of the hand; these questions were to show that “the choice other than $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ is better.” However, this time the hand cannot progress without discarding either $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$. In essence, the point of this question is that with the knowledge that $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ is dangerous, from what kinds of hands in live play should $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ not be discarded from?

This will depend very much on intuition, but pushing tiles like $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ here **is similar in danger level to pushing middle tile musuji against an opponent who has declared riichi**. On one hand the wait is more easily narrowed down than a usual riichi hand, but on the other hand it is possible that an open hand is not yet in tenpai. These opposing effects make pushing $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ seem similar to pushing musuji against riichi.

This time our hand is 1 shanten for pinfu aka 1. Supposing that an opponent is in riichi, this is a hand where we would fold if we must push 2 musuji. Thus, this time **discard $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \\ \hline \end{array}$ and mawashi**.



Answer

This time the dora is . The deal in rate of  itself doesn't change much, but pushing of course becomes more difficult as the value of an opponent's hand increases, so this time pushing  is akin to pushing dora middle tile musuji against an opponent in riichi (this again depends very much on intuition).

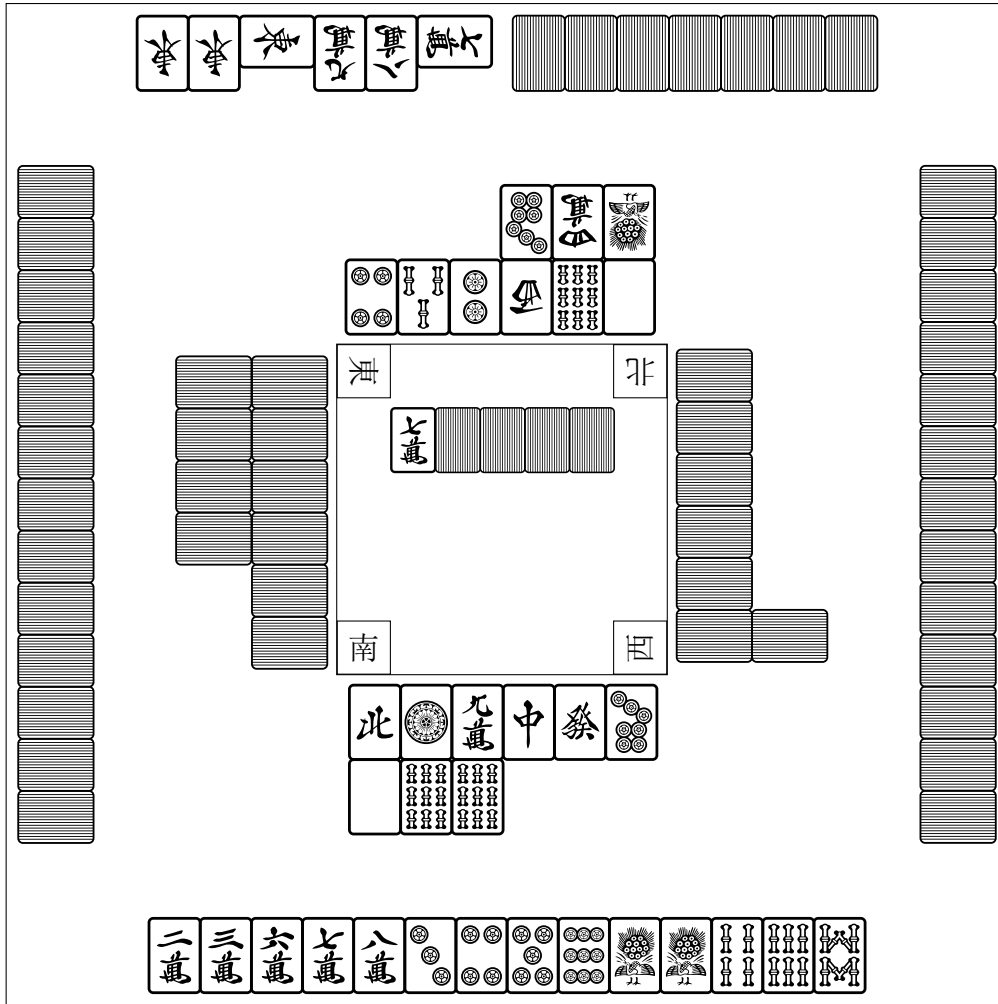
Our hand is in tenpai for pinfu aka 1. Checking the typical push/fold criteria shows that it is fine to **discard  and declare riichi.**




Nevertheless, this is a fairly borderline decision. With the same discards and same hands, in situations like

- 1st place in south 2 with 45000 points
- South round when playing with rules where 4th place avoidance is important and dealing in to mangan sends us to last




choosing not to discard  is completely reasonable. **It is difficult to set definite criteria for questions about push/fold judgment, but this time  is borderline.**



—Call reading drill 30—





Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . What kind of shapes might be expected given this  discard?

Answer

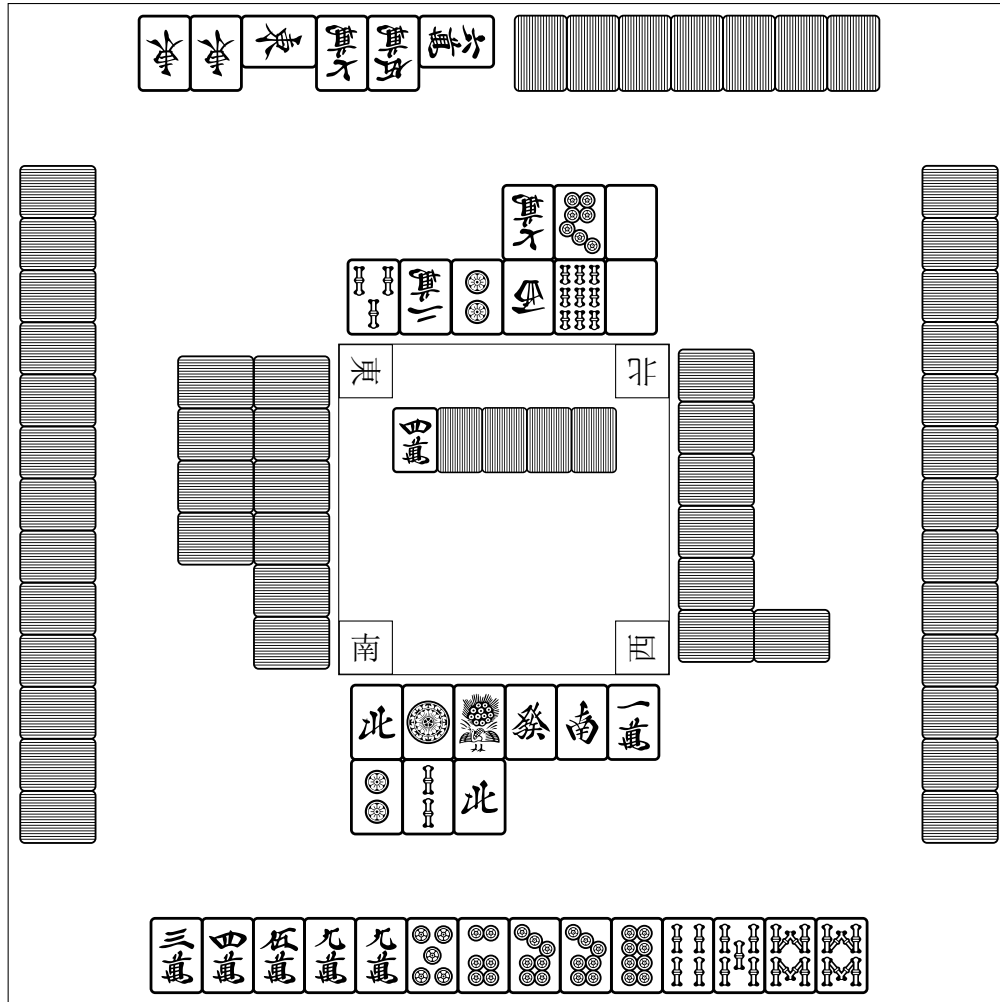
This time  did not come from dropping a joint or dropping a pair, but it is nonetheless dangerous. To begin with, tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii are dangerous, but when  has been discarded like it has this time, the danger level of tiles in the vicinity of  further increases.

 being discarded several rounds before reaching tenpai means that toimen does not have tiles in the vicinity of  or has already completed a group, but since it is necessary to make 5 blocks in mahjong, blocks that have less information tend to be relatively more likely to be the opponent's wait.

Put simply, when several tiles of a suit are discarded, the tiles in the vicinity of a tile from the same suit discarded later increase in danger level.






This time  is as dangerous against toimen's discards as in the previous questions, so discarding it from our bad shape 0 dora 1 shanten hand is risky. **Mawashi discarding  is recommended.**





—Call reading drill 31—












Toimen has called chii on 七萬 and discarded 七萬. Predict which suji are particularly dangerous and determine what to play.

Answer

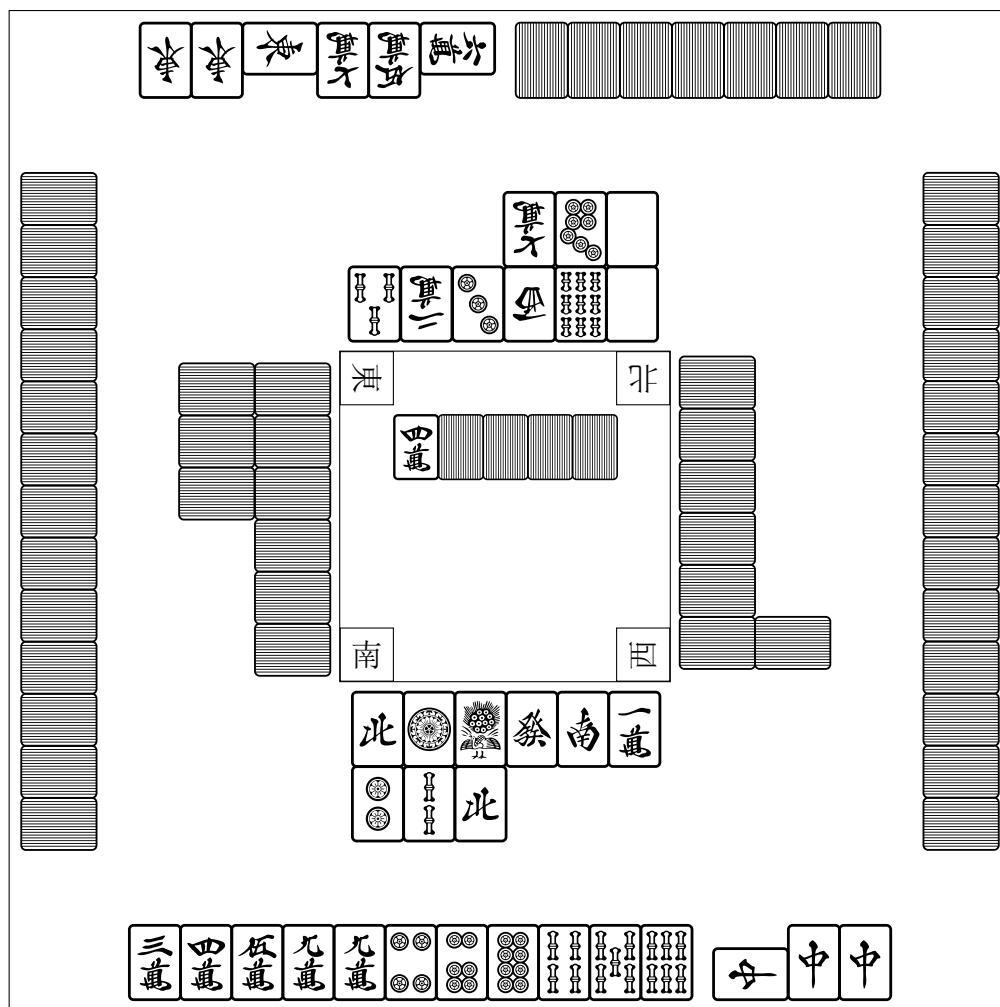
Toimen has just discarded  and  is dangerous, so giving up on tanyao here and discarding ...was a common theme in questions until now, but this time **the danger level of  is not especially high, so just discard .**

Normally the tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii is dangerous, but this time the  discarded was revealed to be originally part of . **The tiles in that area have already completed as a group.**

Of course there is a nonzero chance that toimen called from a  shape and is waiting on shanpon with  and something else, but the middle souzu tiles,  and , that seem likely based on the block structure of toimen's hand are far more dangerous.


It is basic theory that tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii are dangerous, but **if the tile discarded after chii was part of the block that was called, then the wait is likely just in the areas that seem likely based on the block structure of the opponent's hand.**







—Call reading drill 32—









Toimen has called chii on and discarded . Our hand will be tenpai if we discard either or , but which should we discard?

Answer

As explained previously, the tiles in the vicinity of  are not especially dangerous, but **in that case the particularly dangerous areas are those that toimen are likely to have based on the block structure of their hand and the vicinity of the previous tedashi.**

In this case, if  was tedashi, then first discarding  from  and then calling chii on  and discarding  is very natural. The tiles in the vicinity of  are dangerous for the same reason that tiles in the vicinity of a tile discarded after chii are dangerous.

This time tedashi and tsumogiri are not specified, but players who cannot spare the effort to look at tedashi and tsumogiri should first keep in mind that tiles matagi to the tile discarded the previous turn are also dangerous.

As such, this time  is dangerous, but  is not. It is uncommon to discard  on turn 4 from . Of course in a situation where dealing in must absolutely be avoided there are other choices, but assuming that tenpai will be taken, **even after accounting for the 1 visible copy of , discarding  is better.**

Answer

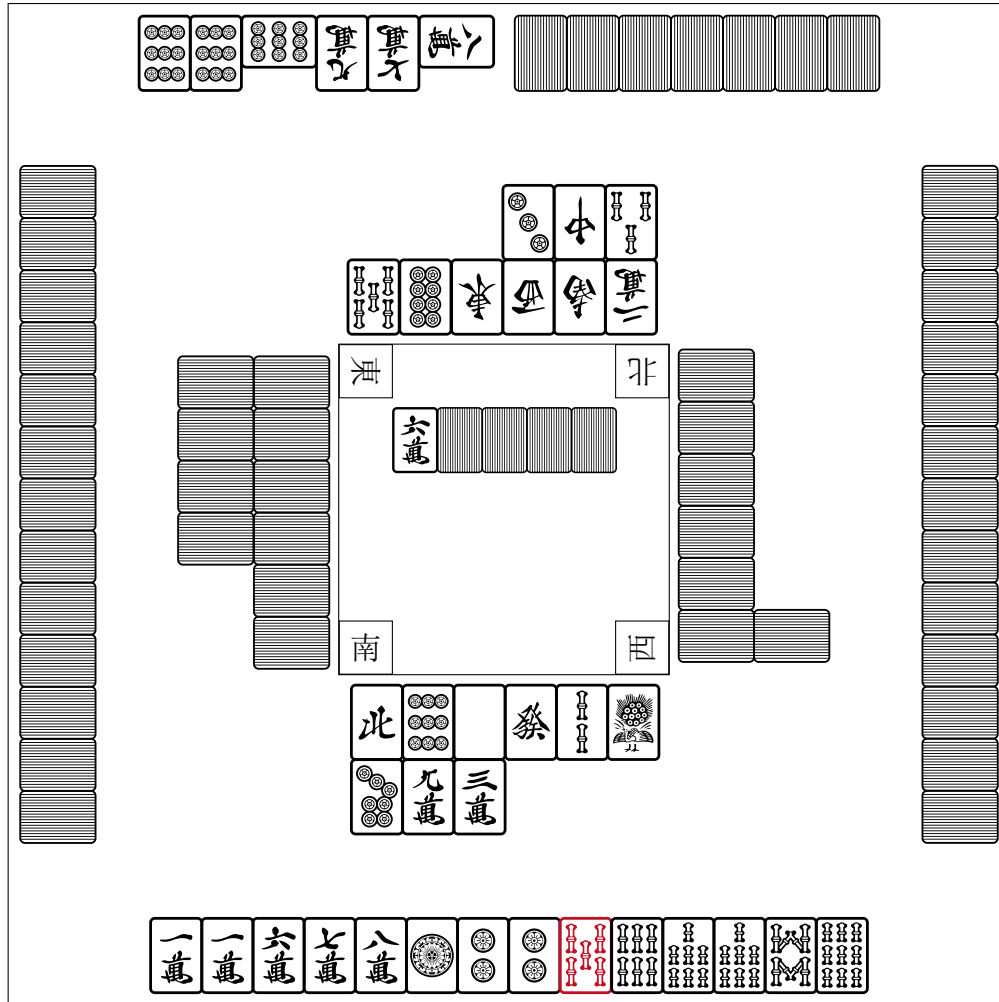
Note that toimen has discarded $\boxed{\text{北}}$ the previous turn. Regardless of whether this was tedashi or tsumogiri, toimen at least momentarily had $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{北}}\boxed{\text{北}}$ from which $\boxed{\text{北}}$ was discarded. **If an opponent discards $\boxed{\text{北}}$ from $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{北}}\boxed{\text{北}}$ like this, a ryanmen wait matagi to their next tedashi is essentially impossible.**



From a shape like $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{北}}\boxed{\text{北}}\boxed{\text{北}}$ + head, $\boxed{\text{南}}$ would be discarded instead of $\boxed{\text{北}}$. Deliberately making manzu a bad shape by discarding $\boxed{\text{北}}$ first means that the opponent likely also has a bad wait in the vicinity of $\boxed{\text{南}}$.

Therefore a kanchan $\boxed{\text{南}}$ wait from $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}$ is more natural than a ryanmen wait from a shape like $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}$.


This time $\boxed{\text{南}}$ has been discarded, so $\boxed{\text{南}}\boxed{\text{南}}$ ryanmen is not possible, so $\boxed{\text{南}}$ is safer than suji $\boxed{\text{南}}$. **Although doing so has a difference of 1 tile in acceptance, discard $\boxed{\text{南}}$.**







—Call reading drill 34—




Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Our hand will be tenpai if we discard a tile from pinzu, but which wait should we take?

Answer

Tiles in the vicinity of the  are dangerous, but toimen of course cannot win without a yaku. **Since all of the yakuhai are visible this time, only terminal based yaku are likely.**

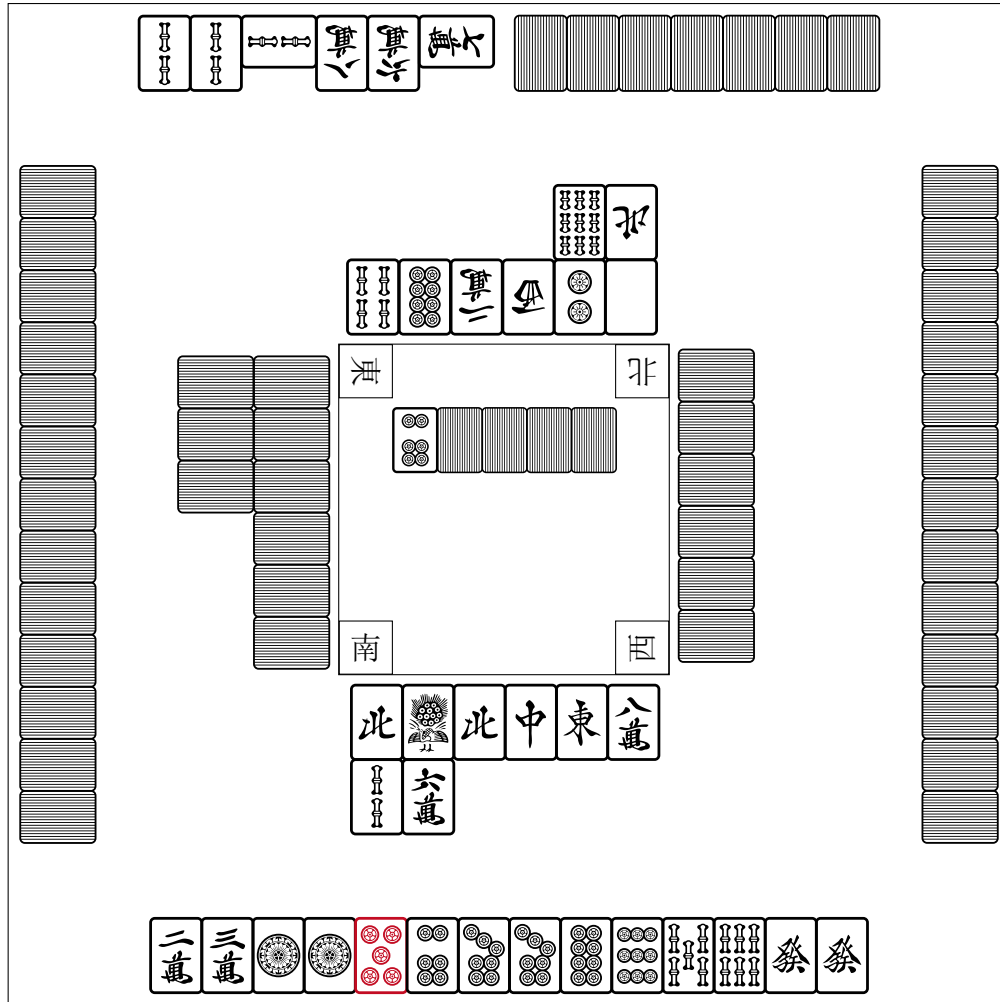
Therefore, a  ryanmen wait from  is unlikely, and discarding  from  raises the question as to why toimen would keep  even though drawing  into an ankou would result in no yaku.

In contrast, discarding  from  is very natural, so  is more dangerous than .

The shanpon wait seems easier to win on, but dealing in would result in no chance of winning at all. **Discard  here and riichi.**








To tell the truth, the choices in the question are about whether to prioritize wait quality or safety and only result in minute differences, but try to learn to narrow down an opponent's by thinking about the opponent's yaku and using the fact that tiles near a tiles discarded after chii are dangerous.




—Call reading drill 35—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Consider how to respond based on toimen's yaku.

Answer

Normally, when an opponent makes calls like  or  it is fine to think that they have tanyao for the time being, but this time toimen discarded  by tedashi.  was discarded the previous turn so toimen kept  with the intention to use it in their hand and not as a safe tile. Therefore when pon was called on , toimen could envision a hand that could be won even if  is used.

As such, this time, , the only yakuhai that is not visible on the board, is the top candidate. Of course, it is uncertain whether  will deal in, and even if it does toimen's hand might be worth 1000 points and so is not very threatening, but in either case it would be troublesome for a valuable dora 3 hand to be wasted, so **discard  here and aim for riichi dora 3.**

Incidentally, those who can track tedashi and tsumogiri can apply the same reasoning to tedashi terminals that are not discarded immediately after calling chii.






Answer







An opponent calling $\begin{bmatrix} \text{東} & \text{七} & \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ chii and discarding $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ means that they originally had $\begin{bmatrix} \text{東} & \text{七} & \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ ryankan in their hand. It is very natural to have this shape, so **normally such a call does not reveal much information, indicating only that the opponent got rid of a ryankan and so the vicinity of $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ is not particularly dangerous. However, when the opponent's calls look like tanyao things are different.**

This time the safe $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ was discarded the previous turn, so keeping $\begin{bmatrix} \text{東} & \text{七} & \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ means that a $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} & \text{八} & \text{九} \end{bmatrix}$ group could also have been used, and at that point the $\begin{bmatrix} \text{東} & \text{七} & \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ call was made, so this time $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ is dangerous.

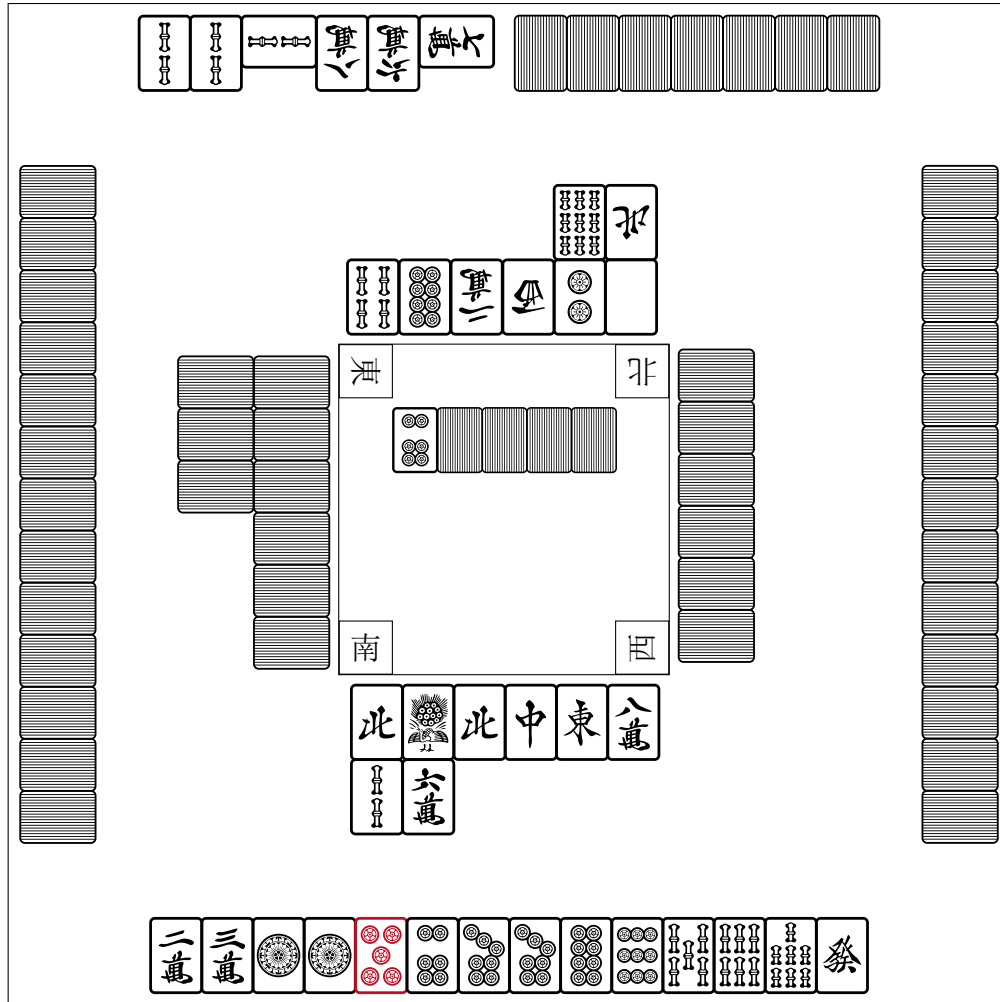
Discard $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ this time too. If $\begin{bmatrix} \text{東} & \text{七} & \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ was the first call then it is also possible that toimen had intended to use $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} & \text{八} & \text{九} \end{bmatrix}$ if their hand remained closed but called $\begin{bmatrix} \text{北} \end{bmatrix}$ for open tanyao, so the logic used here cannot be applied.

Answer

In contrast to the previous question, this time  was discarded from  early. **Even if toimen draws , it is likely that they cannot use  in their hand, so it can be read that toimen has tanyao and  is rather safe.**

Of course, if dealing in to toimen must be absolutely avoided then  is safer (the only yaku that allows toimen to win on  is  ankou), but discarding  has the advantage of pinfu and lets us keep the once discarded  as a safe tile, so **there is no problem with simply discarding  here.**

—Call reading drill **38**—



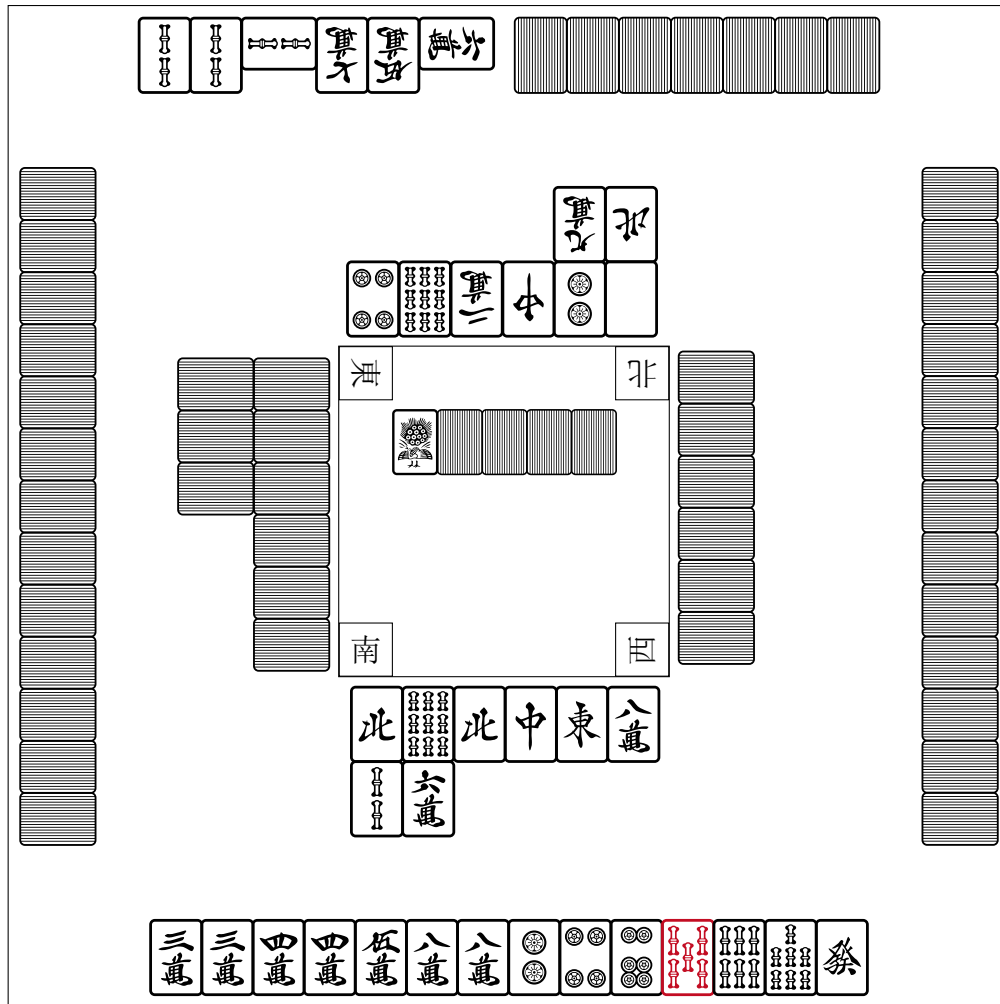
Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Regarding reads the same ideas apply as those from before, but is it worth cutting  from this hand?

Answer

The discards are exactly the same as those in drill 35, so 𠄎 atozuke is once again a possible yaku for toimen. **However, our hand is in tenpai for dora 3, so we of course push.**

In drill 35 it was explained that **we want to avoid having our hand destroyed by pon or ron on 𠄎, but this time things are different because we are already in tenpai.** Instead of discarding 𠄎 and aiming to win with 𠄎 pair or tanki, it is much better to pray that 𠄎 passes (betting on the possibilities like toimen only calling pon on 𠄎 or toimen having discarded 𠄎 and 𠄎 haphazardly) and push as is. **In live games, these sorts of push/fold decisions are far more important than making reads.**

There may be those who have thoughts like whether toimen would go for atozuke 𠄎 with 2 calls or that 𠄎 atozuke may indicate that toimen has at least 2 dora. When repeatedly facing the same opponents, reading people becomes important, so in such cases it is good to grasp the habits of specific opponents.

—Call reading drill **39**—

This is a question about push fold judgment. Toimen has called chii on 六萬 and discarded 七萬. As previously explained, 六萬 is dangerous, but should this hand be pushed?

Answer

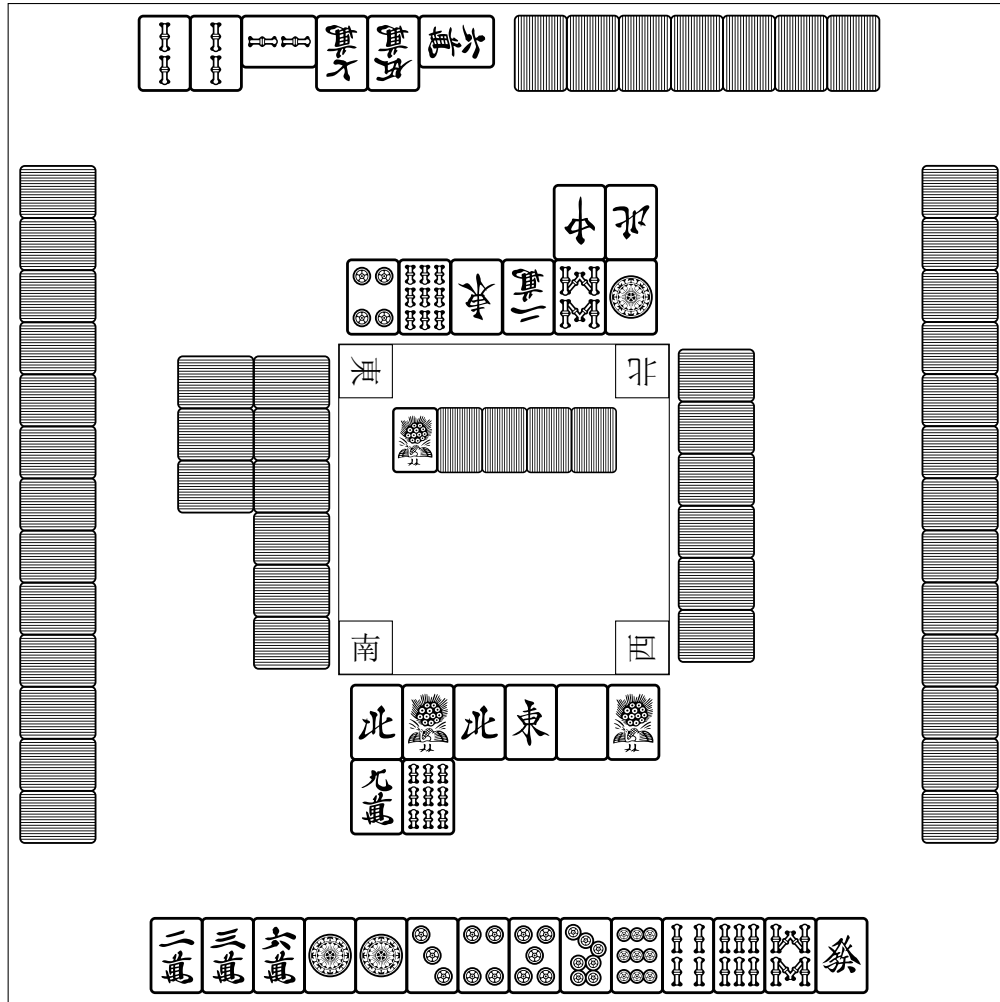
As previously explained, 𠄎 is dangerous since toimen maintained 𠄎𠄎𠄎, but an important consideration is “what sort of hand should 𠄎 not be discarded from.”



Reads made in mahjong are ultimately uncertain, and there are essentially no cases where 𠄎 must absolutely not be discarded because it will 100% deal in. As an extreme case, it is possible that toimen was haphazard in comparing 𠄎 and 𠄎.

As such (the discard order issue above is a factor whose likelihood changes greatly depending on the player, so this applies for opponents who play reasonably correctly) the shape of this hand is such that 𠄎 should not be discarded until the very last moment.

If there are other conditions that favor pushing, for example if aka rewards special points, if toimen did not have dora pon, or if the point standings favor pushing then push, but **looking just at this situation alone it is better to not push.**

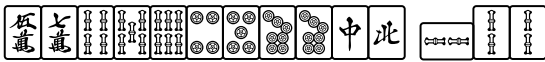
—Call reading drill 40—



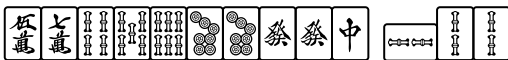
Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Is toimen's yaku something other than tanyao this time? If so, for what reason might such a read be made?

Answer

Note the discard order of 中 and 此 this time. 此 is safer since 2 copies have already been discarded, so toimen prioritized pairing up 中 over safety.





For example, would pairing up 中 be desirable from this shape? Even if 中 pairs up it seems likely to end up being discarded. If so, 此 would be kept. In contrast,












if 中 pairs up here then cutting 板七萬 or 筒索 gives a more balanced shape. Therefore, **we should not cut 索 from our mess of a hand.**

Remember that **when players already have a yakuhai pair, they tend to hold on to other yakuhai (especially live yakuhai)**. This time 此 being twice discarded makes it easy to understand, but even when this is not the case carefully observing the discard order of guest wind and yakuhai will reveal such differences.

Answer

First note that  are all live. Normally when an opponent makes a call like  it can be read that they are going for yakuhai atozuke.

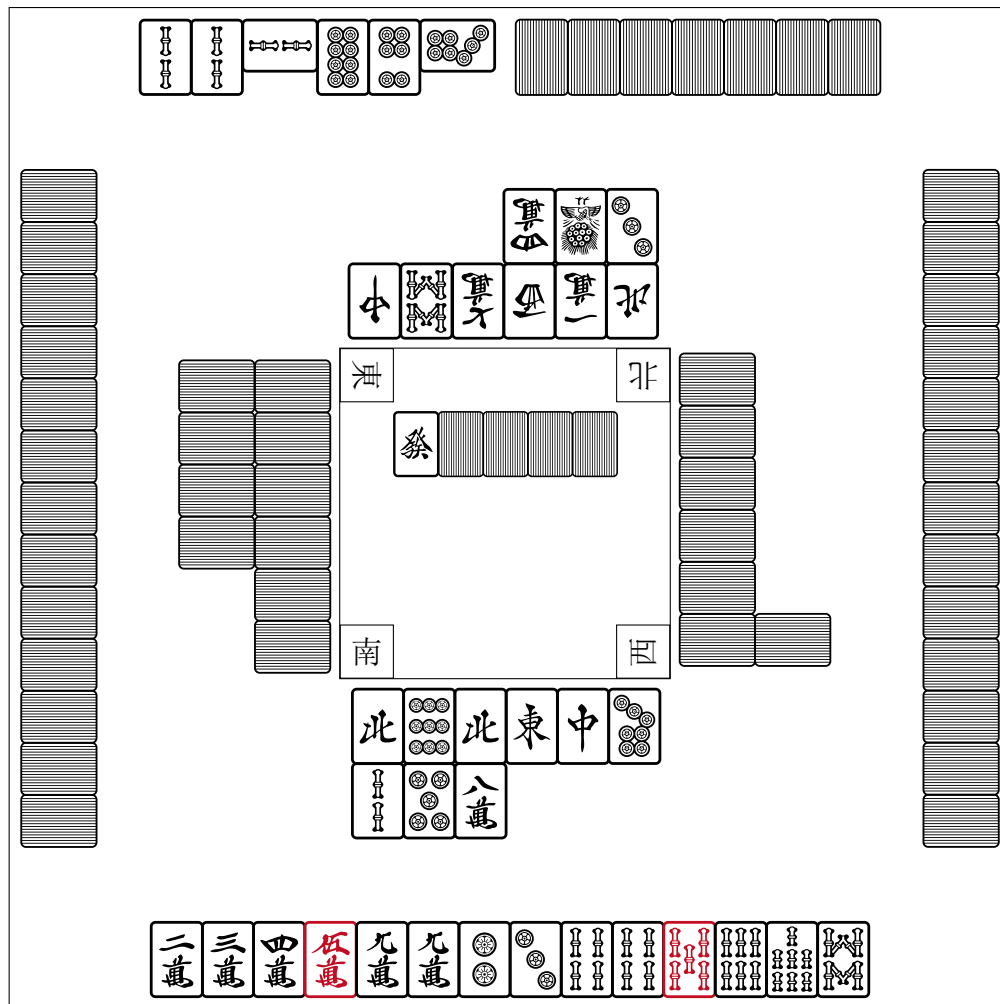
However, this time toimen discarding  the previous turn should draw some suspicion.  was discarded from , that is  and  are unneeded, and **it can be expected that  is necessary for toimen's yaku.** Therefore toimen's hand is likely to be chanta or 789 sanshoku. Additionally, forcing yaku is not often done from a hand that seems able to complete closed, so toimen likely has a bad shape near  that must be called. As such, chanta seems the most likely.



It is unclear whether toimen is in tenpai yet or not, and even if toimen is in tenpai their hand value cannot be read, so we of course take tenpai and riichi, but dealing into chanta with  is unpleasant even if it only happens 1 out of every 10 times, so **discard  and riichi.**

Chapter 3


Practical reading and exceptions to theory



—Call reading drill **42**—






Toimen has called  and discarded . We would like to fight with this hand, but what should we consider when choosing how to play?

Answer

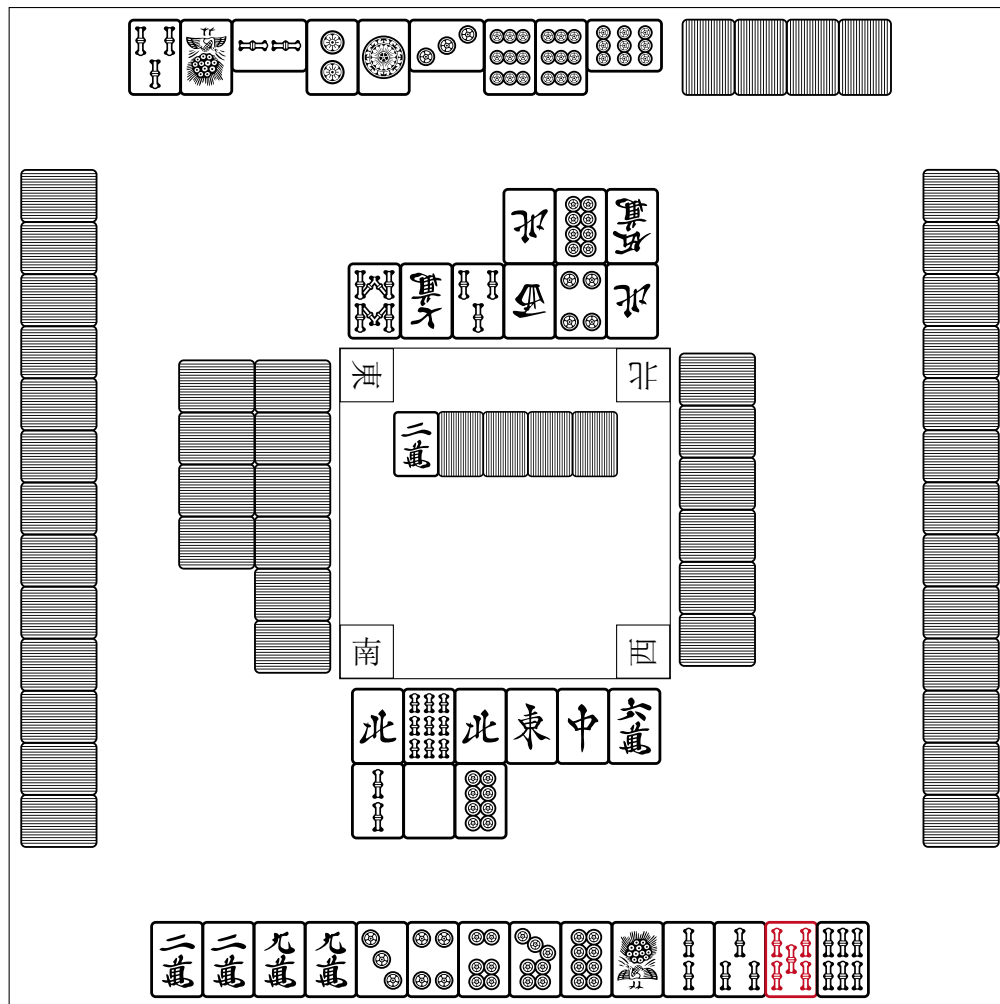
Based on toimen's calls and discards, dangerous areas are the vicinity of the  discarded after chii and souzu from  and below where it seems likely for toimen to have blocks.



We must push  and , 2 tiles that fall into these dangerous areas—a rather painful situation.

Despite this, **discard  and push.** The point is toimen's value. Toimen's yaku is very likely to be tanyao, but **since open tanyao cannot be combined with easy to use yaku like pinfu, iipeikou, or menzen tsumo (excluding yaku like honitsu or toitoi that are easy to read from calls), any value will essentially rely on dora.**



This time toimen has cut dora , and we hold 2 of the aka dora, so toimen has at most . Even if we deal in we only lose 2000 points. In contrast, our hand is good shape 1 shanten for possible mangan. As such we can push worrying about dealing in. An opponent who calls often reveals the value of their hand, so in addition to reading an opponent's wait, also try to read the value of their hand.






—Call reading drill 43—



Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

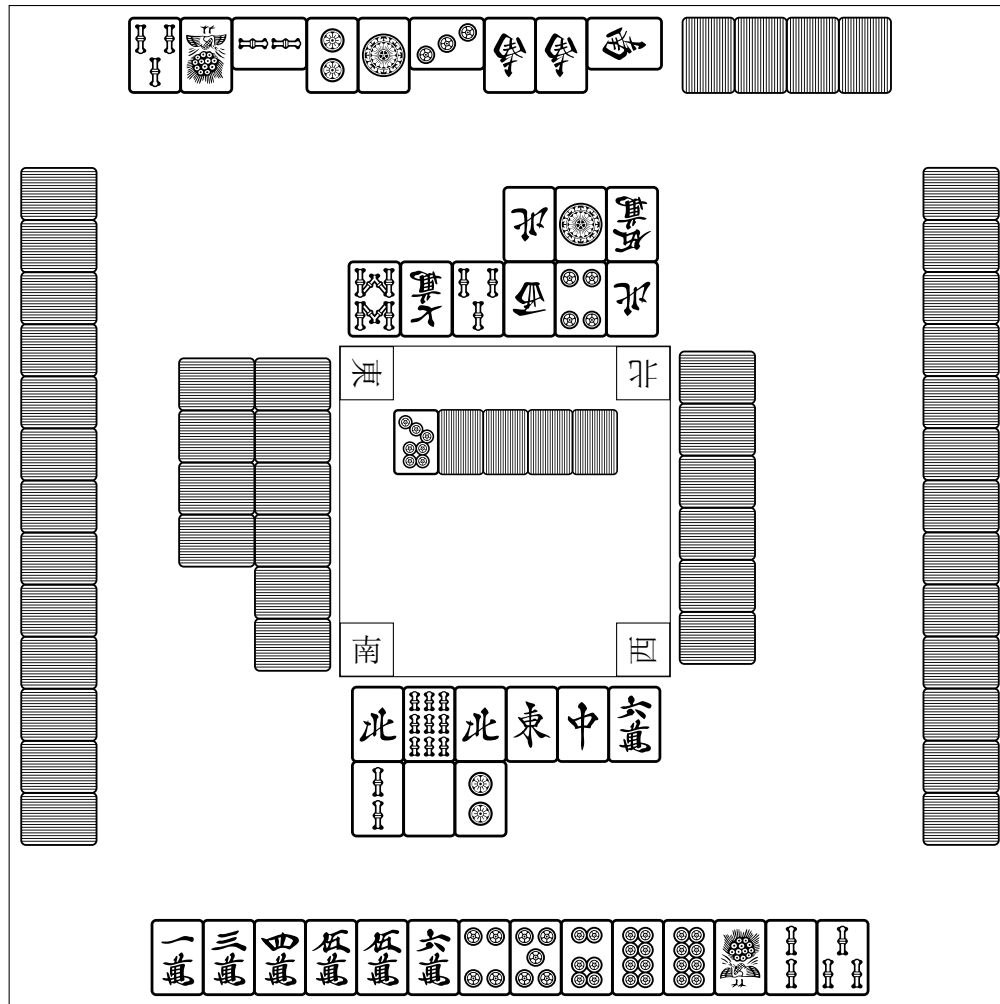
Toimen's calls are those of a terminal based hand no matter how they are looked at. If so, the consideration that  is dangerous and should not be discarded...should not be made; **cutting  here is correct.**

If  deals into a terminal based hand on a shanpon or ryanmen wait the most that such a hand will be worth is junchan nomi. Only the case of  tanki wait is expensive, but toimen had discarded  early, so this is less likely (if toimen had  then they would be in tenpai with  as the head).

In contrast,  possibly deals into  for junchan sanshoku dora 1 mangan.


The value of an open tanyao hand is determined by dora, but **since the value of open terminal based hands changes based on various factors like whether the hand has junchan, yakuhai, or sanshoku, it is important to consider which shapes give expensive hands and not discard tiles compatible with such shapes.**






—Call reading drill **44**—








Toimen has called pon on 南 and discarded 北. How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

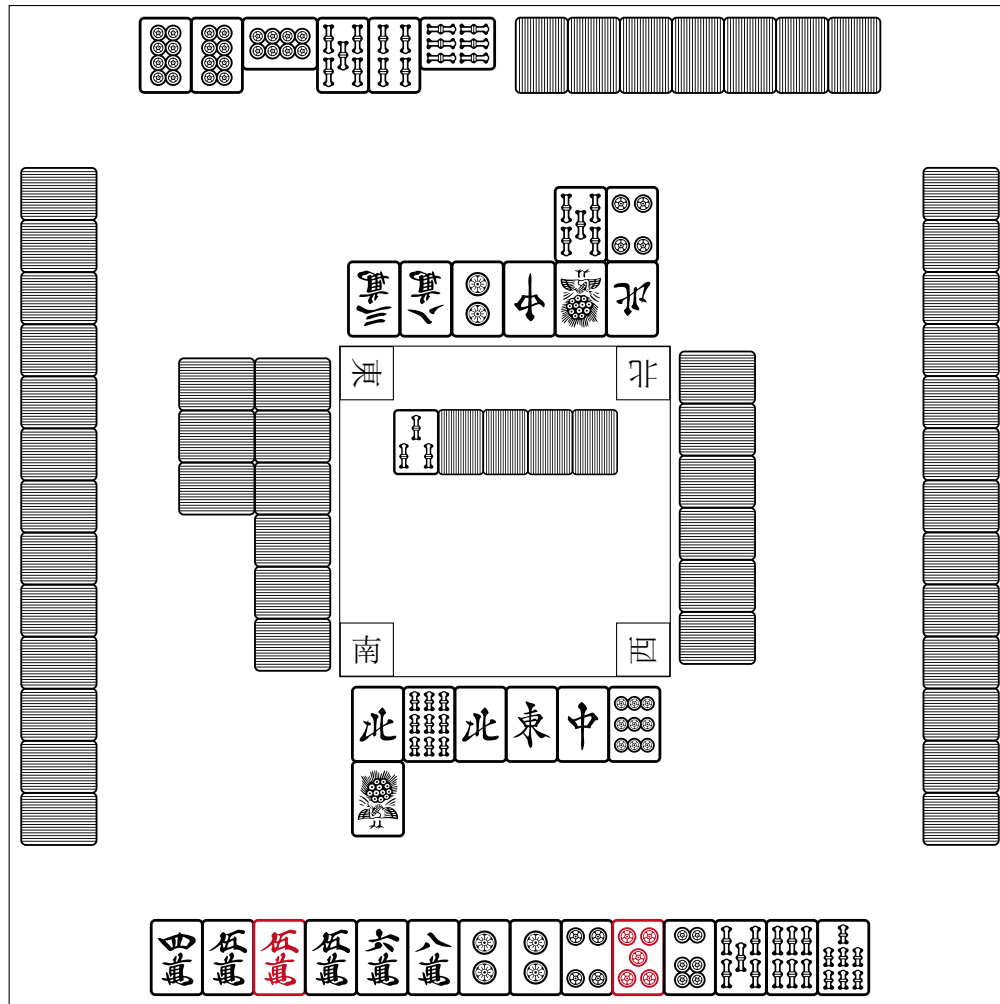
Similar to the previous question, thinking that  might deal in to chanta or sanshoku and not discarding it is...not good.

This time toimen has called pon on  instead of , eliminating the possibility of junchan, and the dora is . With 3 calls made, toimen cannot have both  with dora and  for sanshoku.

That is, even if  deals into sanshoku, it will be chanta sanshoku for 2000 points or perhaps sanshoku dora 2 for 3900 points.

Of course  will definitely pass and we have dora 2, so if it can be read that  is in the wall then riichi discarding  is an option, but in general ignoring 2000 point hands and **committing to our hand by calling riichi discarding  is correct.**

—Call reading drill 45—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

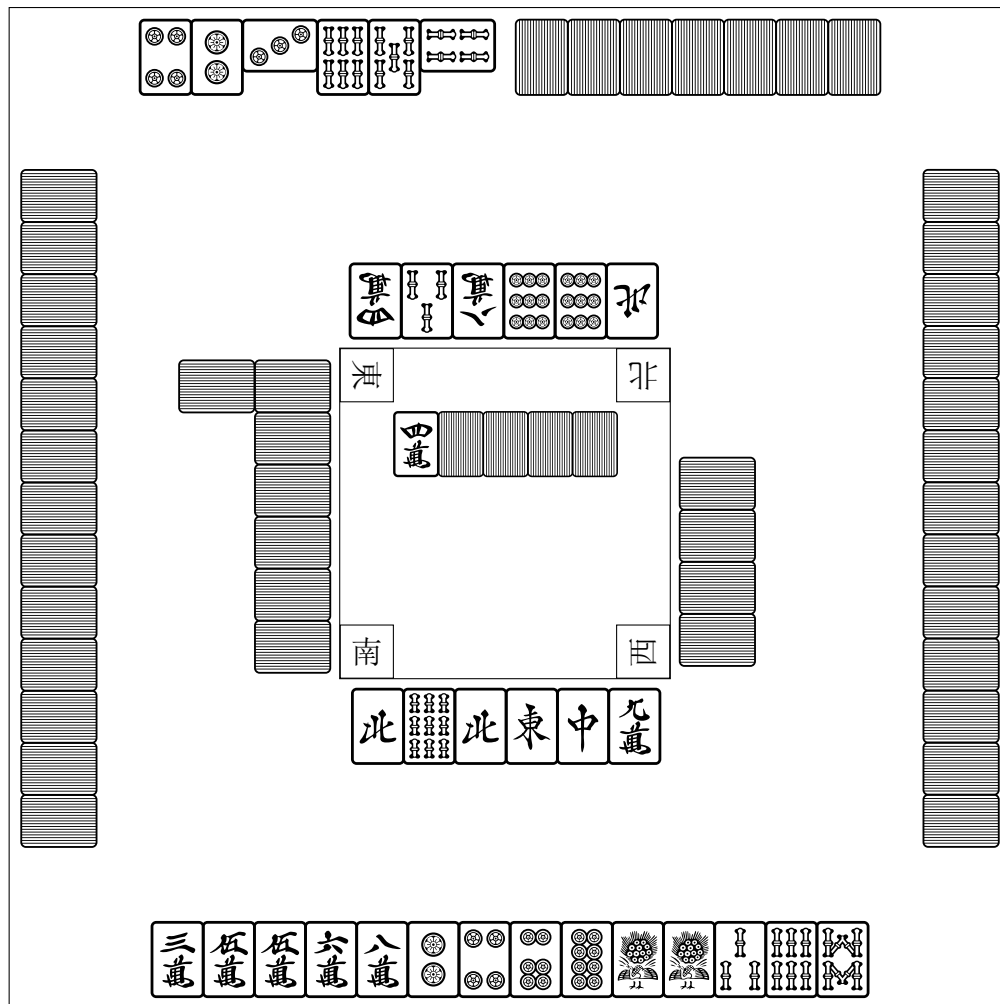
Answer

We would like to discard ♠7 and riichi, but considering the block structure of toimen's hand suggest that ♠7 is rather dangerous. The question here is what to do. Toimen's hand is most likely tanyao, and since the dora are not visible their hand value is unclear.

However, this time toimen discarded ♠7 after calling chii, so there are fewer cases where ♠7 was kept in the hand together with ♠1-6 (♠1-6 chii would not be necessary from ♠1-6) or ♠1-5 (toimen would already be in tenpai if they had ♠1-6 ; rare but not impossible). It is likely that toimen does not have souzu (dora). Since we have ♠1 and ♠2 , toimen's hand would then be tanyao dora 1 for 2000 points.

Indeed, we would also be tenpai for an expensive hand if we discard ♠7 genbutsu, but the wait is bad, so fear not and **discard ♠7 here.**

—Call reading drill 46—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

Previously it was stated that as a rule, suspect that an opponent is in tenpai if they have made 2 calls on the 2nd row of discards, but strictly speaking this of course changes depending on the opponent's discards. Until now the focus has been on learning to read an opponent's wait and value, so the probability of tenpai has not been discussed, but let us consider it this time.

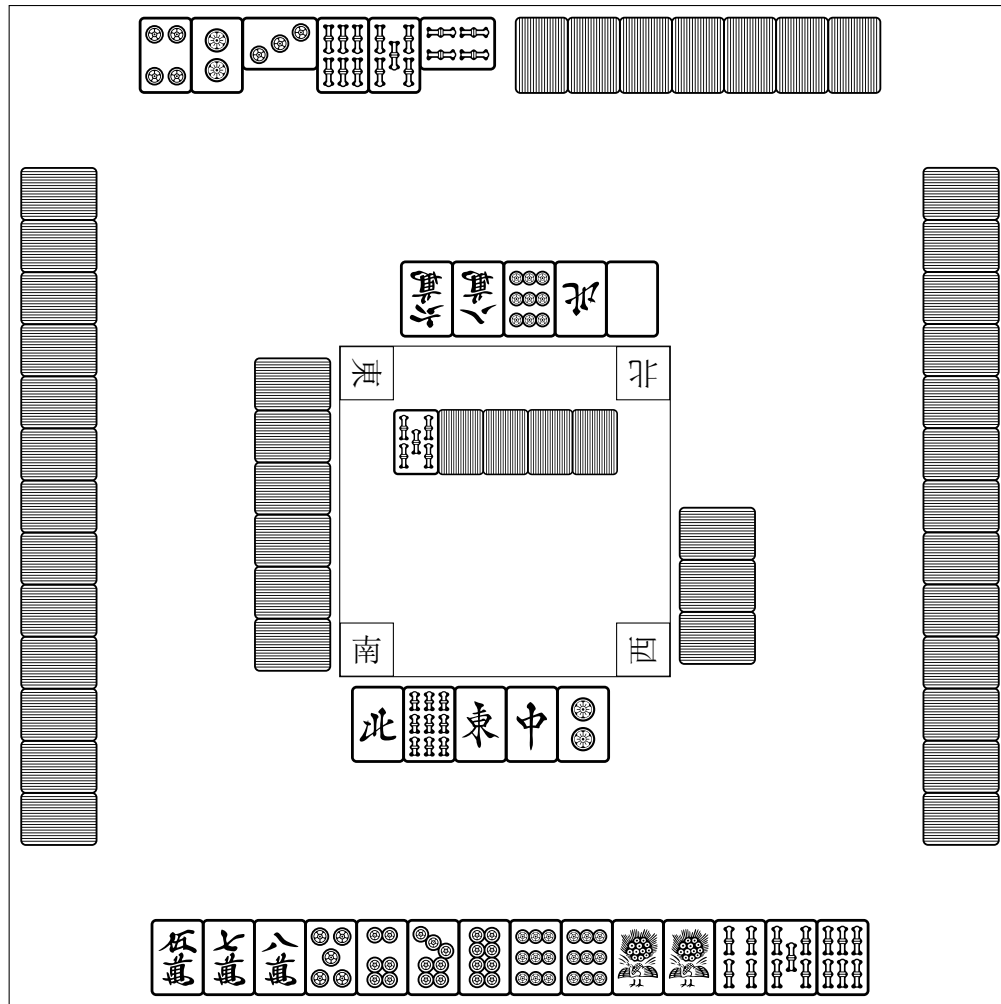
Generally, an opponent going for honitsu is very likely to be in tenpai if they discard tiles of the suit they need. By the same reasoning, **if an opponent discards tiles necessary for their yaku then it can be read that tenpai is very likely.**



This time toimen's hand looks like tanyao, and tiles necessary for tanyao are tiles from 3 to 7 of each suit and middle tiles in the vicinity of the dora. This time both have been discarded so tenpai is very likely.

For those who can check tedashi and tsumogiri, tenpai is even more likely if toimen had dropped a  pair.

In any case, toimen seems to be in tenpai despite still being on the first row of discards. **Our hand is a mess, so discard  or  and mawashi.**

—Call reading drill 47—






Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

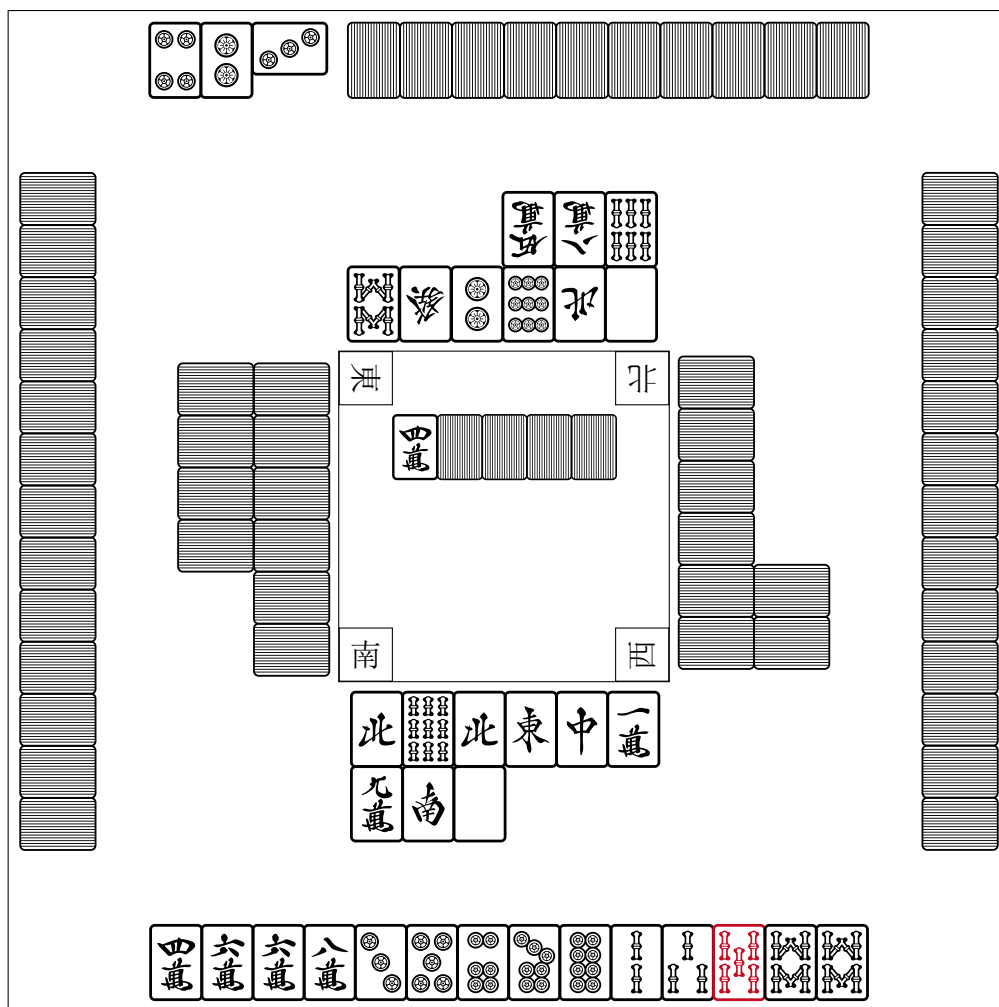
This question is about reading the speed of tanyao. **Other than the tiles necessary for tanyao, blocks (groups, pairs) are another important point.** This is obvious; blocks are necessary to win.



To discard those blocks is to declare that you already have 5 other blocks; an opponent who has done so is at the very least 1 shanten, and most likely is in tenpai.

As such, this time toimen is very likely to be in tenpai. Moreover, the block structure of toimen's hand suggests that lower manzu is dangerous, so **keep**  **for now and discard** .


That being said, toimen's value is unclear. If tenpai is reached later then there is no problem with cutting  and declaring riichi.



—Call reading drill 48—



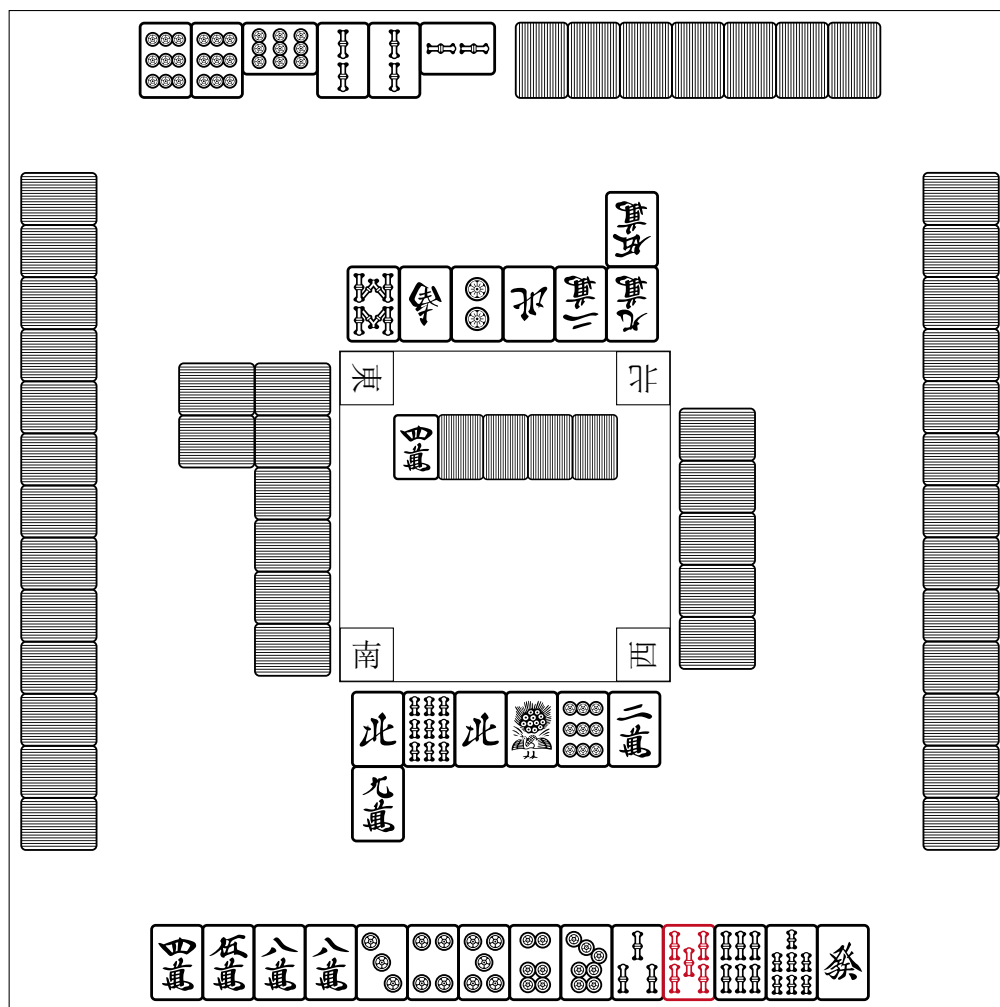
Toimen had called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

This is even more simple to understand. **If an opponent discards middle tile dora then their hand has advanced considerably.** Toimen is going for open tanyao and still has 10 tiles in their hand, but it is certain that they cannot use dora —basically impossible unless they are already 1 shanten or in tenpai. Since this is true regardless of tedashi or tsumogiri, this is important information for beginning and intermediate players.

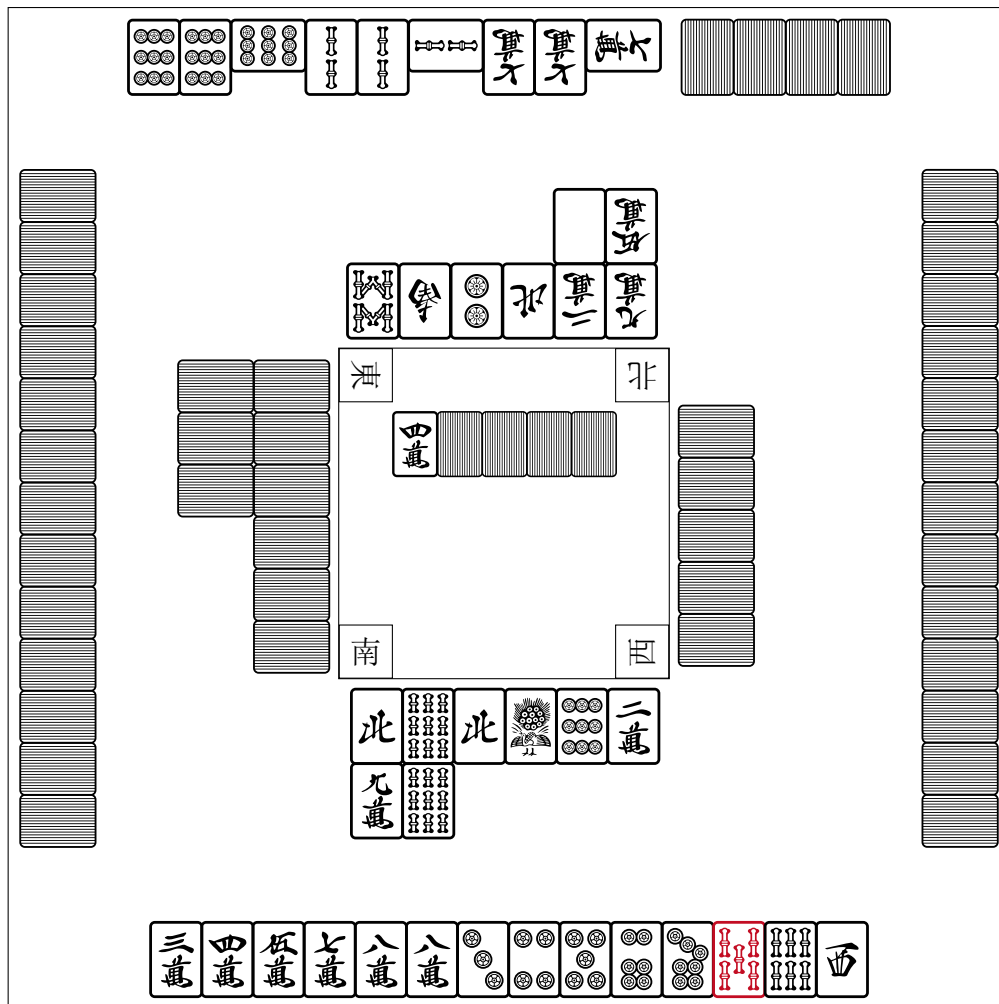
Moreover, the block structure of toimen's hand suggests that upper pinzu, middle and lower souzu, and middle and lower manzu are dangerous. Several tiles from those areas must be discarded if we straightforwardly advance our hand. **Discard  or  and mawashi here.** It looks likely that we will fold here anyway, so keep the next honor to prepare for kamicha or shimocha calling riichi.

—Call reading drill 49—



Toimen has called pon on and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

—Call reading drill **50**—








After toimen had called pon on 北 and discarded 南 , the situation is now as shown. How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

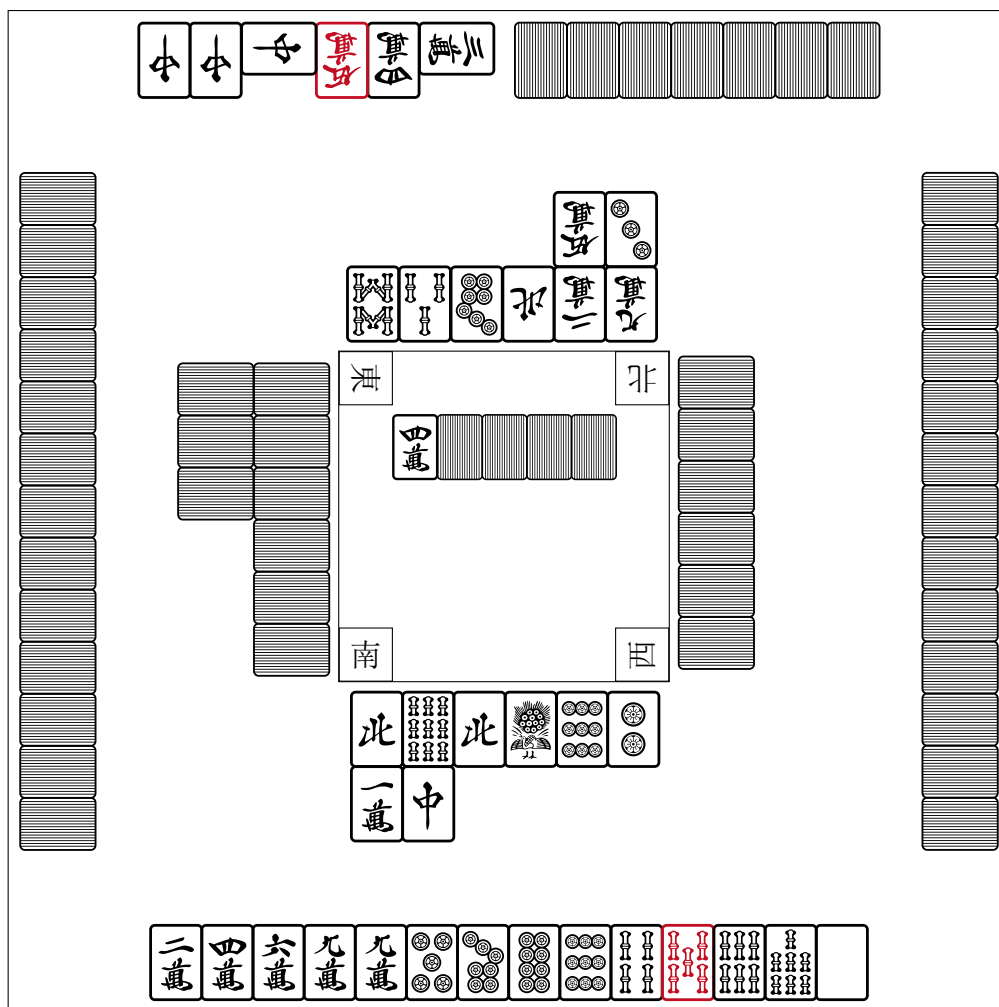
Answer

The speed of toitoi is very difficult to read, but tenpai should be expected after 3 calls and countermeasures are necessary.

As such, live honors are dangerous...but this becomes a case of reading value. All 3 of toimen's current pon calls have nothing to do with value. Moreover, toimen has discarded the dora, so the only case where they have an expensive hand (3 han or above) is when they have yakuhai.

However, in the case of ,  is yasume and not very expensive. Dealing in to the shapes  and  results in a 5200 point loss, but neither shape is very common. Our hand is 1 shanten but has enough value, so **discard**  **here**.




—Call reading drill 51—




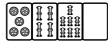

Toimen has called chii on 三萬 and discarded 四萬. How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?

Answer

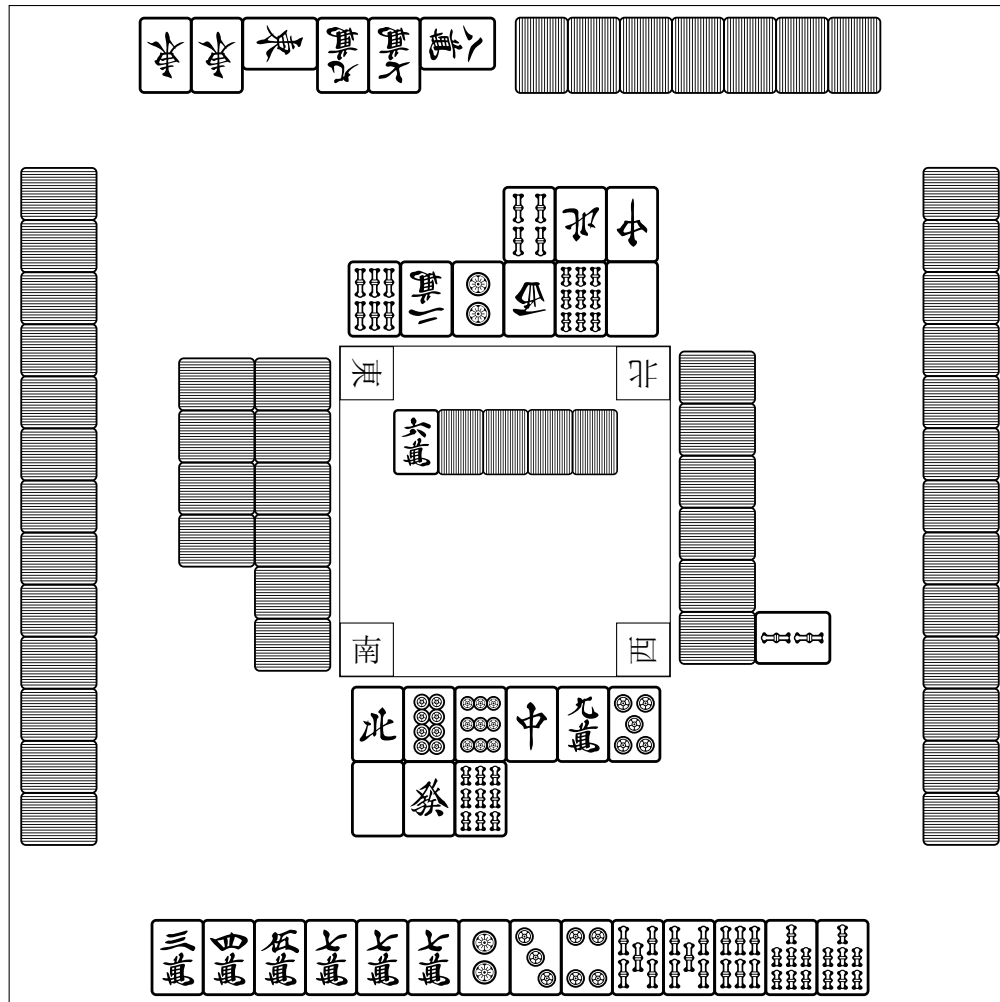
The speed of an opponent who has called yakuhai pon is also the same as that of an opponent who has called for open tanyao. It can be read that opponents who have discarded easy to use middle tiles and dora are fast.



In particular, this time  were discarded early, and toimen had just called middle manzu and discarded the dora, so it does not seem like toimen has any more manzu.  and 2 types of middle tiles were discarded on the first row, so toimen only seems to have 1 block in middle souzu.  was also discarded early, so there may be 1 to 2 blocks in lower pinzu. Toimen's hand can be read like this. **Discards from which specific information about an opponent's 5 blocks can be read like this indicate that the probability of tenpai is rather high.**

Moreover, these only restrict the areas where blocks can be made from number tiles. Since it can also be read that honor tile blocks are likely,  also increases in danger level (put simply, if many middle tiles have been cut then live honors become more dangerous).

This time we have several dangerous tiles in  and a 2 shanten hand, so discarding  and trying to mawashi is better.






—Call reading drill 52—












Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what wait should be taken? Note that one of shimocha's discards is also shown.

Answer

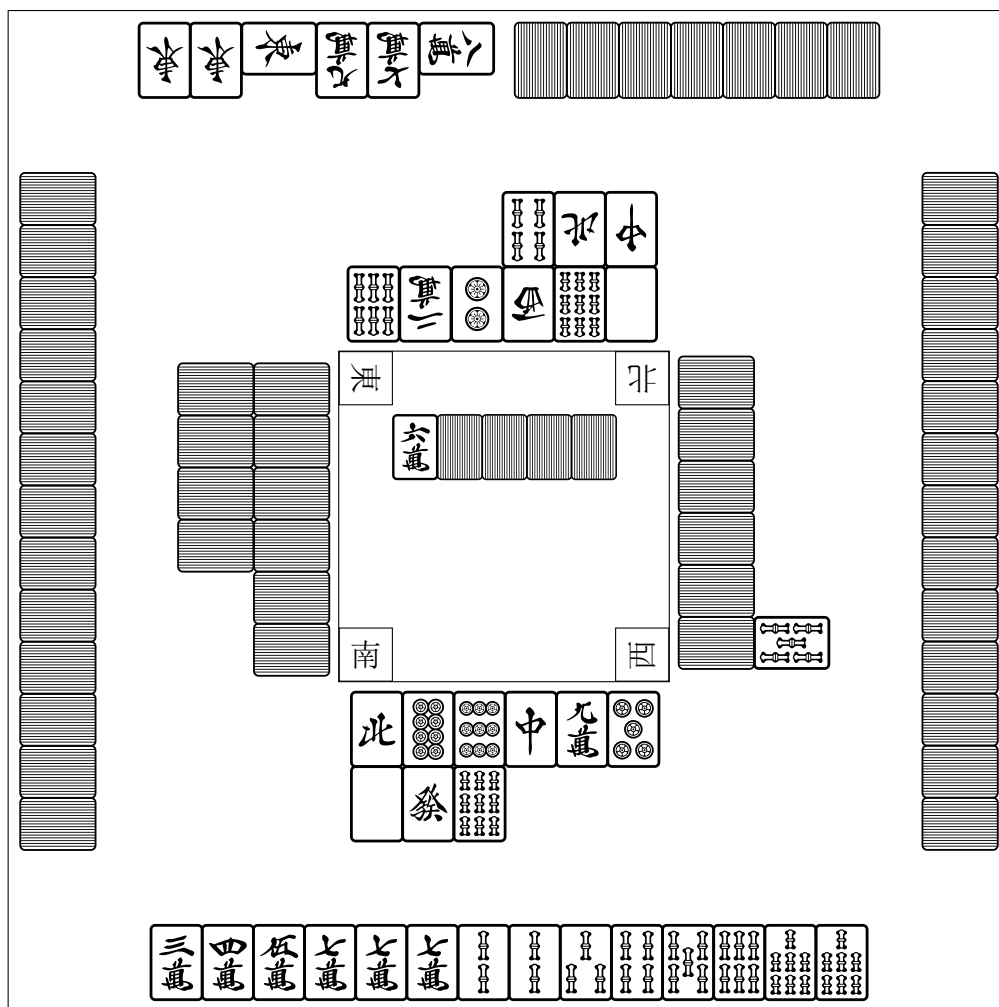
In call reading, other than “what has been called” and “what has been discarded,” there is also the information of “what has not been called.”



Assuming that toimen is in tenpai this time, the discard order  → other tiles →  makes  very likely to be their wait. However, looking at shimocha’s discards shows that  was discarded the previous turn. **Toimen not calling chii on this means that  is unlikely to be in their hand.**

If so, considering what shape that  was discarded from suggests that toimen had .  is likely to be their wait, so **discard  here and take the  wait.**

Incidentally, it is possible that toimen drew  after shimocha discarded  for a  shape. To determine this it would be ideal to check all of the tedashi and tsumogiri of an opponent that has called, but the likelihood of tsumogiri is high when the intervening discards are difficult to use honor tiles () like this time. Remembering this allows for knowledge to compensate for the lack of ability to check tedashi and tsumogiri.

—Call reading drill **53**—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what wait should be taken? Note that one of shimocha's discards is also shown.

Answer

This is basically the same as the previous question, but shimocha's discard has been changed from $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ to $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$. Toimen not calling chii on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ might suggest that they do not have $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$, but in this case shanpon on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ and something else is possible after discarding $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ from $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$.

Moreover, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ not being called means that the $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ shape that was likely in the previous question is ruled out. If toimen had that shape then they would have called chii on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ and be tenpai on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ kanchan.

Therefore, there are shapes, although limited in number, for which it is natural for $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ to deal in, whereas there are no such shapes for $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$. Thus, **discard $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ here**. Whether shimocha discards $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{南} \\ \hline \end{array}$ results in completely different conclusions—an interesting aspect of reading.

Answer

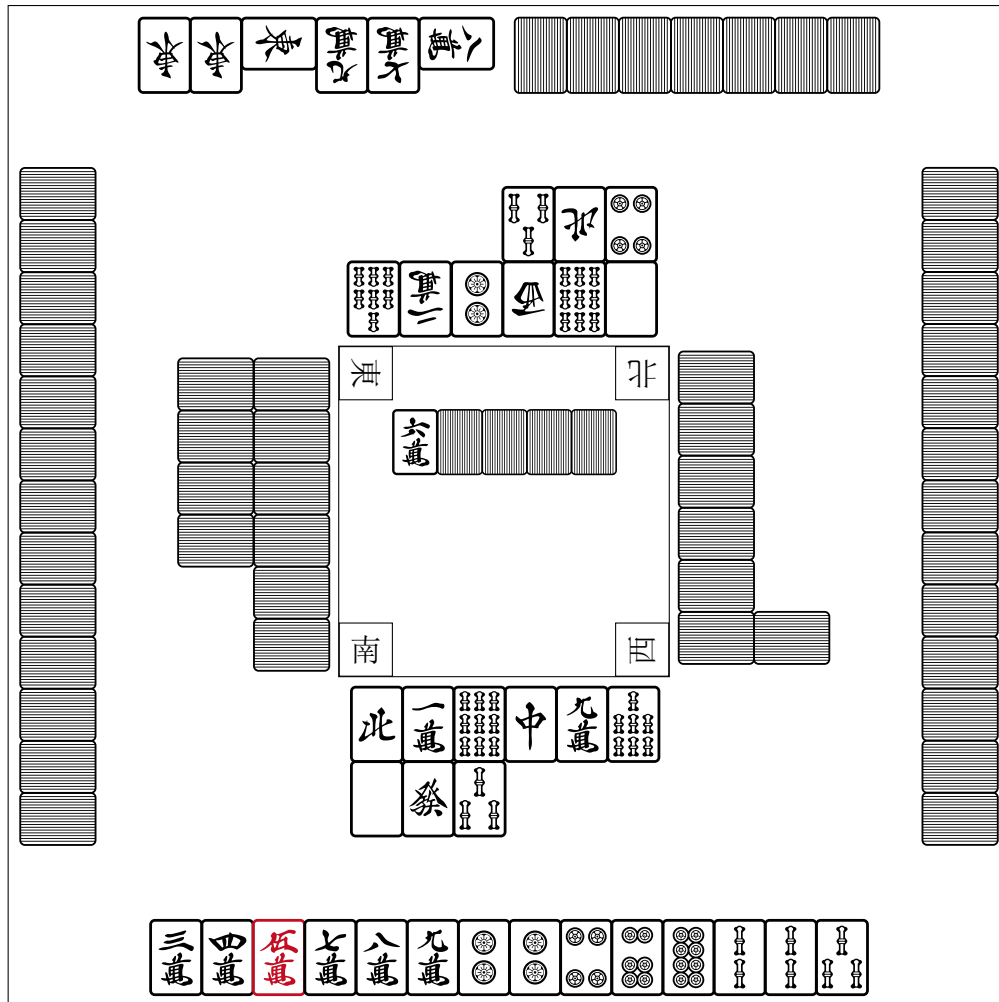
First, our hand is worth 3900 points if we call pon on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$. The premise is that we have a shape where it is generally good to stay closed for a bit longer if we have perfect 1 shanten.



However, a 3900 point open hand is also fairly valuable. In cases like this where an opponent may be in tenpai, calling chii or pon for tenpai is often done to match their speed.

Moreover, reading toimen's discards shows that they have discarded $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ \rightarrow other tiles $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$, so $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ are likely to be their wait. Soon after, $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ passed, so if $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ was related to the wait, then $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ is basically the only possibility. **Deliberately calling pon on $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ and discarding $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ is a bad play.**

Think “ $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ passed, lucky!” and advance closed here. If kamicha discards $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ then calling chii is also an option (as the safe tile $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{東} \\ \hline \end{array}$ would be discarded).







—Call reading drill 55—

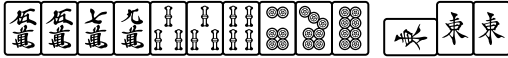




Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . How should toimen's hand be read, and what should be discarded?


Answer

While dropping  from , toimen has called and  is now dangerous.

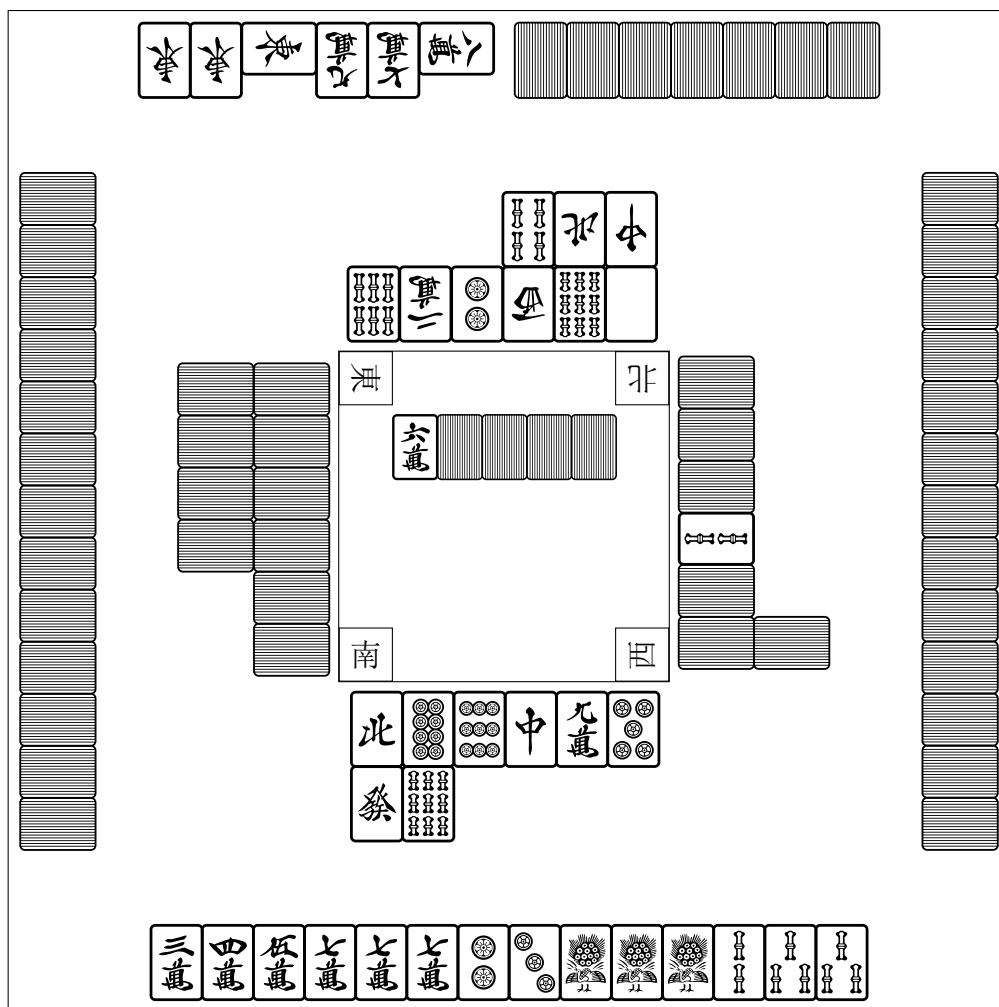
However, **there is good reason to think that this  will likely pass, so simply cut .** As for why, that is we had discarded  the previous turn. If toimen had discarded  from  then the shape of their hand before calling  would have been something like







From this shape, toimen would call pon on  and take tenpai on kanchan . Like this, there is theory that **ryanmen that is matagi to a discarded tile can be ruled out if the same tile was discarded the previous turn by another player.**







For simplicity,  passed the previous turn in this question, but those who can track tedashi and tsumogiri can apply this important theory to every tile that has passed since an opponent's previous tedashi, greatly broadening the range of reads.





—Call reading drill **56**—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . If we cut discard  or  we will be in tenpai, but which should we cut?


Answer

This question is about whether the  that shimocha discarded on turn 3 not being called provides a basis for reasoning. As previously stated, it is possible that toimen made a  group after  was discarded, so using the fact that  was not called as grounds for discarding  is overdoing it. Simply **cut the suji  that has fewer deal in patterns.**

Specifically up to how many turns ago are discards reliable then? This is a difficult question and cannot be answered without looking closely at tedashi and tsumogiri. **As an extreme example, if every one of toimen's discards from  to  was tsumogiri, then the tiles in toimen's hand will not have changed, so the read would then be “ was not called so discard  here.”**



However, for those who find tracking tedashi and tsumogiri difficult, a very rough guideline is that tiles that passed more than 1 to 2 turns ago should not be trusted.

Answer

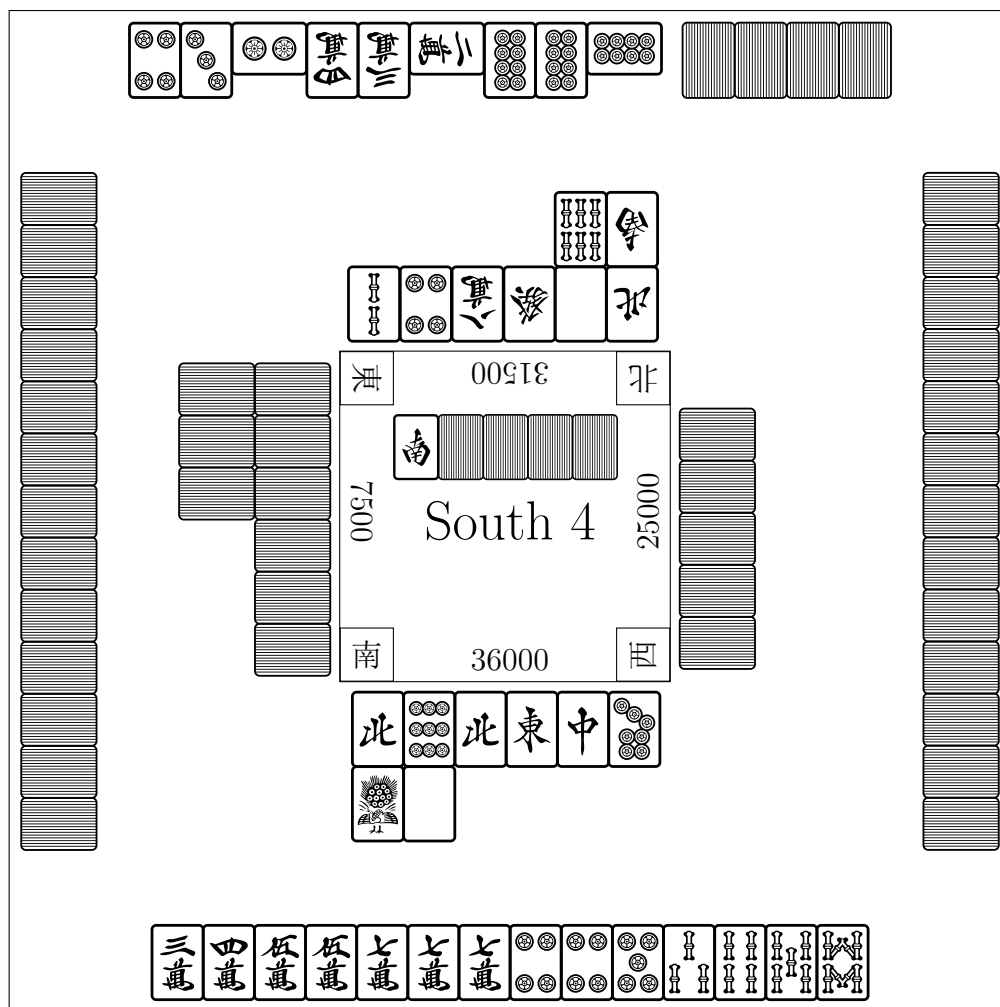
Toimen's discards are the same as those in drill 42. Dora is  and 2 aka dora are visible so it was explained that there is not much reason to be concerned.



The same holds this time but it is all last. Mahjong is a game where players fight for good placement, so the point standings is extremely important. **If an opponent's value can be read then it is necessary to take into account the point standings.**

This time toimen's hand is likely to be cheap, but toimen is dealer and dealing in would result in renchan, and even if toimen's hand was only worth 1500 points, dealing in would make it easier for kamicha or shimocha to overtake us.

Our hand is bad shape 1 shanten, so **do not discard the dangerous  and mawashi by discarding .**



—Call reading drill 58—






Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . Based on the point standings and reads of toimen's hand, what should we discard and how should we proceed?

Answer

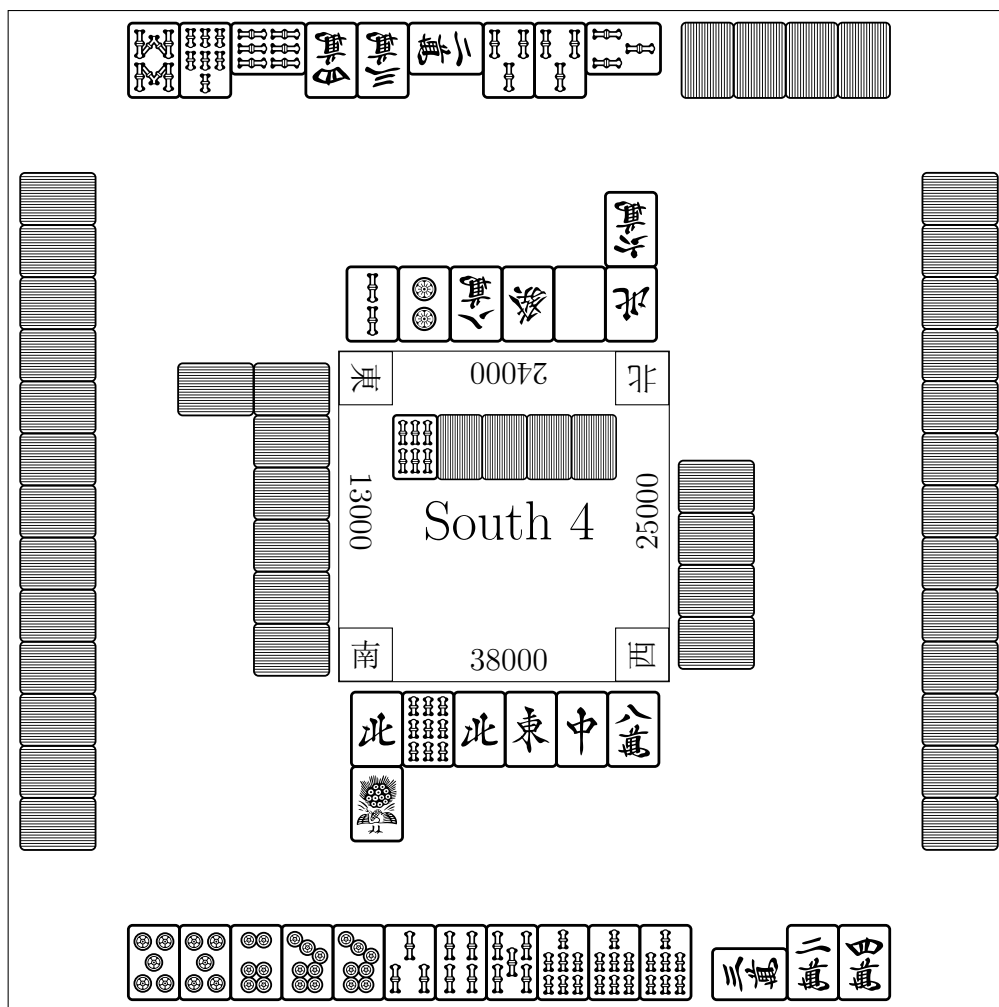
Checking the point standings, there is no realistic case of dealing into a 3 han hand from toimen. Nonetheless, it is not good to let toimen tsumo either.

In what case would toimen have a 3 han hand then? First, if toimen is using dora  then sanshoku is the only possible yaku. In that case the only tiles that can deal in are . If toimen has tanyao then the only case is when they are using 2 aka. Toimen's hand only has 4 tiles left, so the wait must necessarily be in the vicinity of the aka from 3 to 7.

In short, even if tiles other than  deal in, toimen will not be able to overtake us. There is no problem with cutting the floating  right now; even if we deal in we confirm 1st place for us. We would gladly let toimen win off this tile, so **discard  and maximize acceptance.**

In all last, it is important to consider not only what might deal in, but also why something might deal in and whether dealing in would allow an opponent to overtake us.


—Call reading drill **59**—














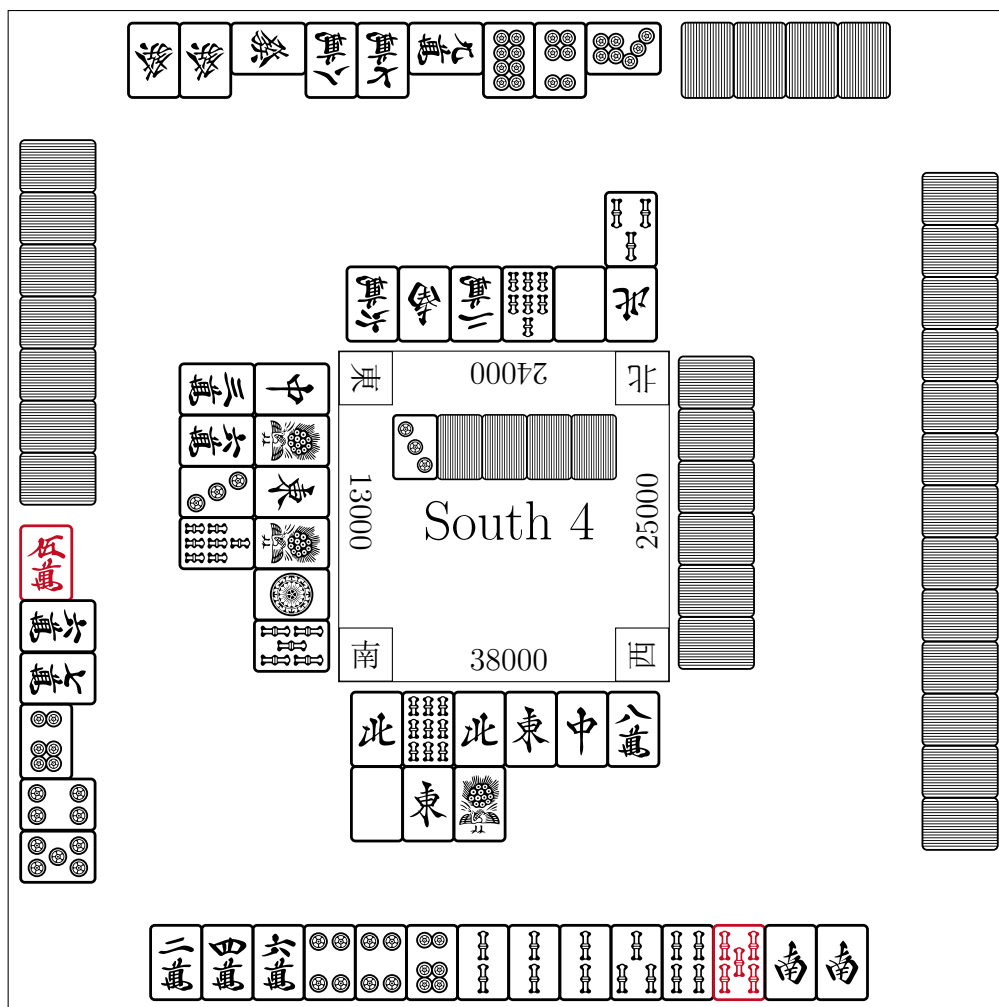
Toimen's discard order is irrelevant. Based on the point standings, what should be discarded, and should tenpai be taken?





Answer

Since toimen is fighting for 2nd place, it is entirely possible that they only have 2000 points. In that case, there is no problem even if we deal in, but we would be overtaken in the unlikely event that toimen has mangan.

That is, **this is a situation to discard tiles that will not deal into mangan; the answer is** ,




Toimen's yaku is basically tanyao. To make mangan toimen needs 2 dora in their hand, but the only dora that are not visible are  and . That is, cases where toimen has both of these are the only cases where we cannot deal in. **If an opponent has**  **and** , **the only shapes that**  **can deal into are**  **and** . **Shanpon is more likely, but in that case would toimen have discarded**  **the previous turn?** Normally the ryanmen wait would be taken. In contrast, it is normal for  or  to deal into ryanmen with  as the head.


—Call reading drill **60**—




Toimen had called chii on  and discarded . Kamicha then calls chii on the  that toimen discards and discards . Considering the two players' discards, what should be discarded for the highest chance at placing 1st?

Answer

The point standings are the same as that in the previous question; we place 1st as long as we do not deal into mangan against toimen. **If anything, dealing into the dealer who has made 2 calls is the worst case scenario, so this is a situation to aggressively try to sashikomi into toimen with tiles that do not deal into mangan and will pass against the dealer.**

As such, for toimen to have mangan they must have 3 dora in their hand.  and  are both visible, so a wait in pinzu around  is the only possibility.

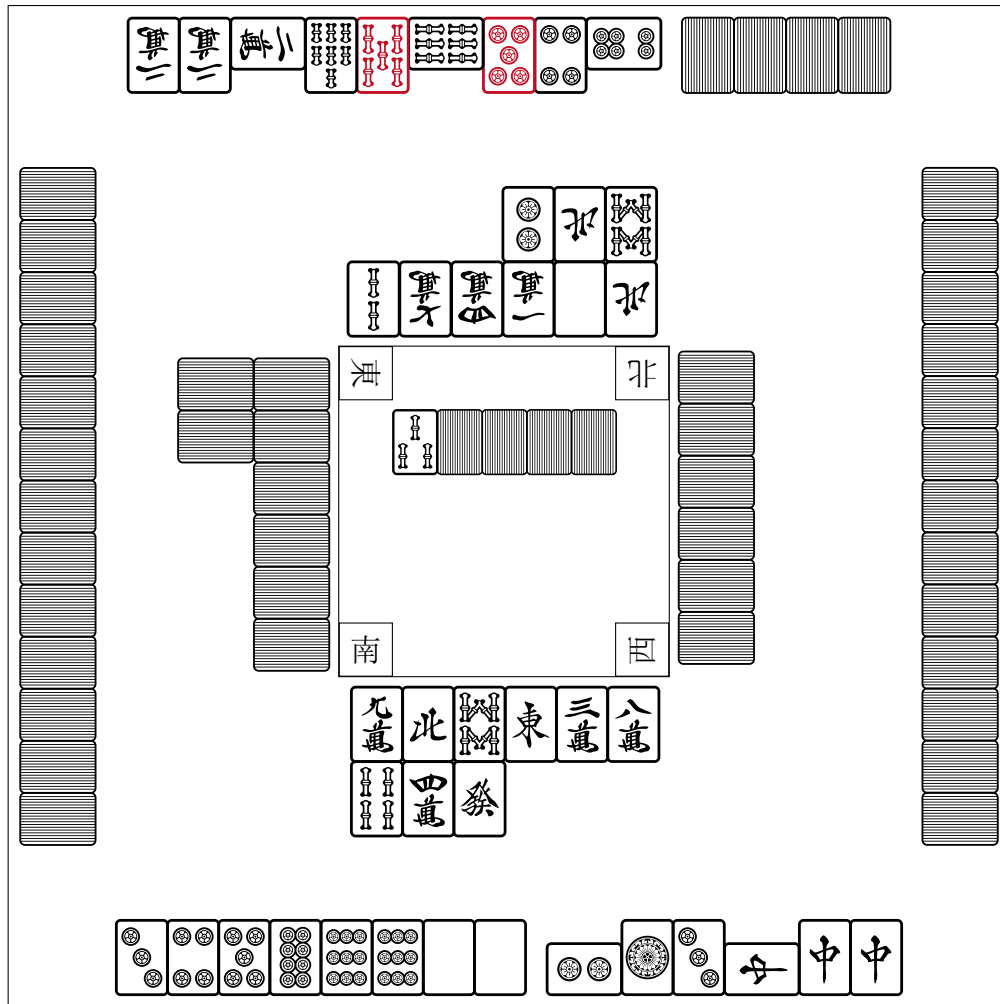
However, from toimen's perspective, this is a situation where it is better to aim for 1000 point tsumo or 2000 point ron to take 2nd rather than excessively aiming for direct hit mangan. With this in mind, assuming that toimen had progressed their hand normally, the most dangerous area is the vicinity of the last  discard after calling chii.



Here  will basically pass against the dealer (suji, shanpon is ruled out, kanchan seems unlikely), so **discard the  that we have an ankou of and try to sashikomi.** If toimen really has a  wait and the dealer gets renchan because we did not discard from the ankou, such an outcome would be due to our own mistake and would not be just a case of hindsight.

Chapter 4

Complex reads and comprehensive questions

—Call reading drill **61**—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . After reading this call, what should be discarded?

Answer

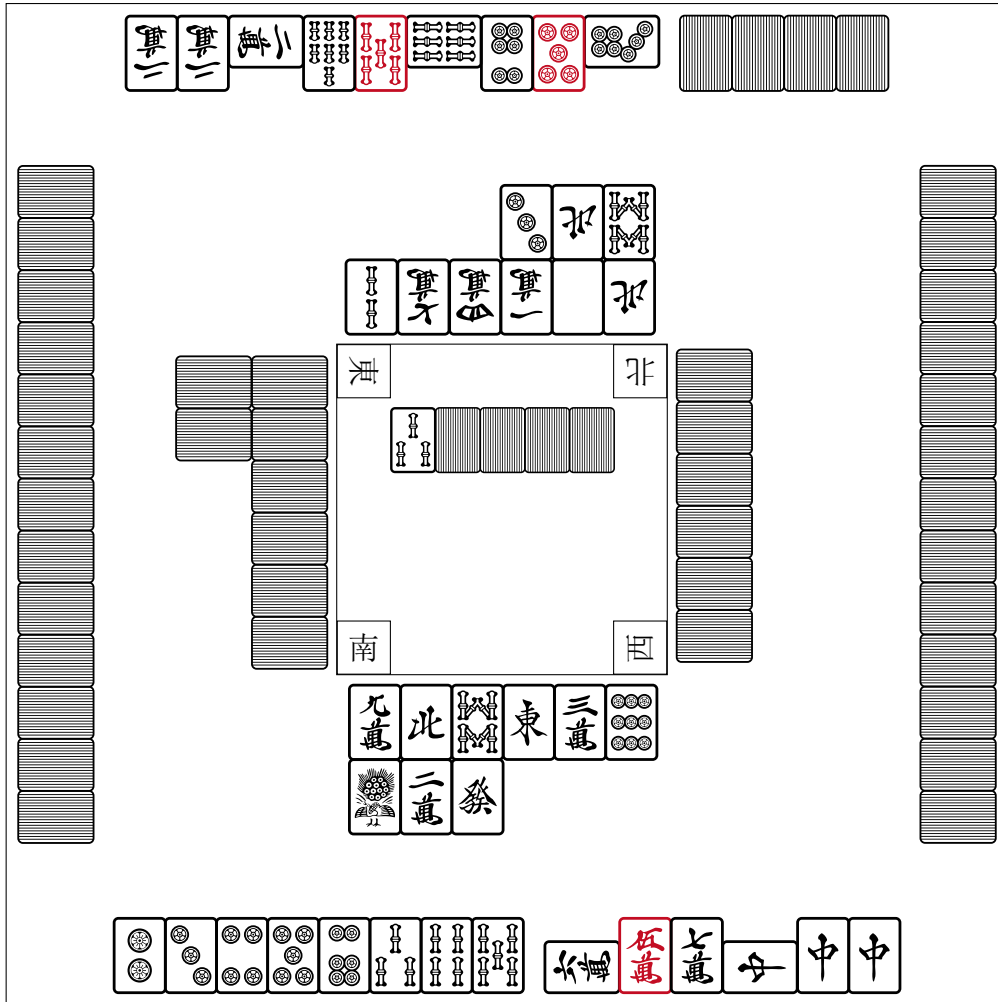
Toimen revealed and discarded . That is toimen had . Other than when very early in the game, is **not often kept when a hand has advanced to some extent. This call seems suspicious and may be kuinobashi.**

Considering what shapes can extend from , ryanmen cannot form in the direction of (maybe we can call it the left side?) so ryanmen would form on the outside of (the right side).

That is, toimen would have . Calling here would leave in toimen's hand, so is dangerous.

The shanpon has a higher win rate and can give mangan for our hand, but toimen has made 3 calls and is certainly tenpai, so if is likely to deal in then **discard here.**

—Call reading drill 62—



Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . After reading this discard, what should be discarded?

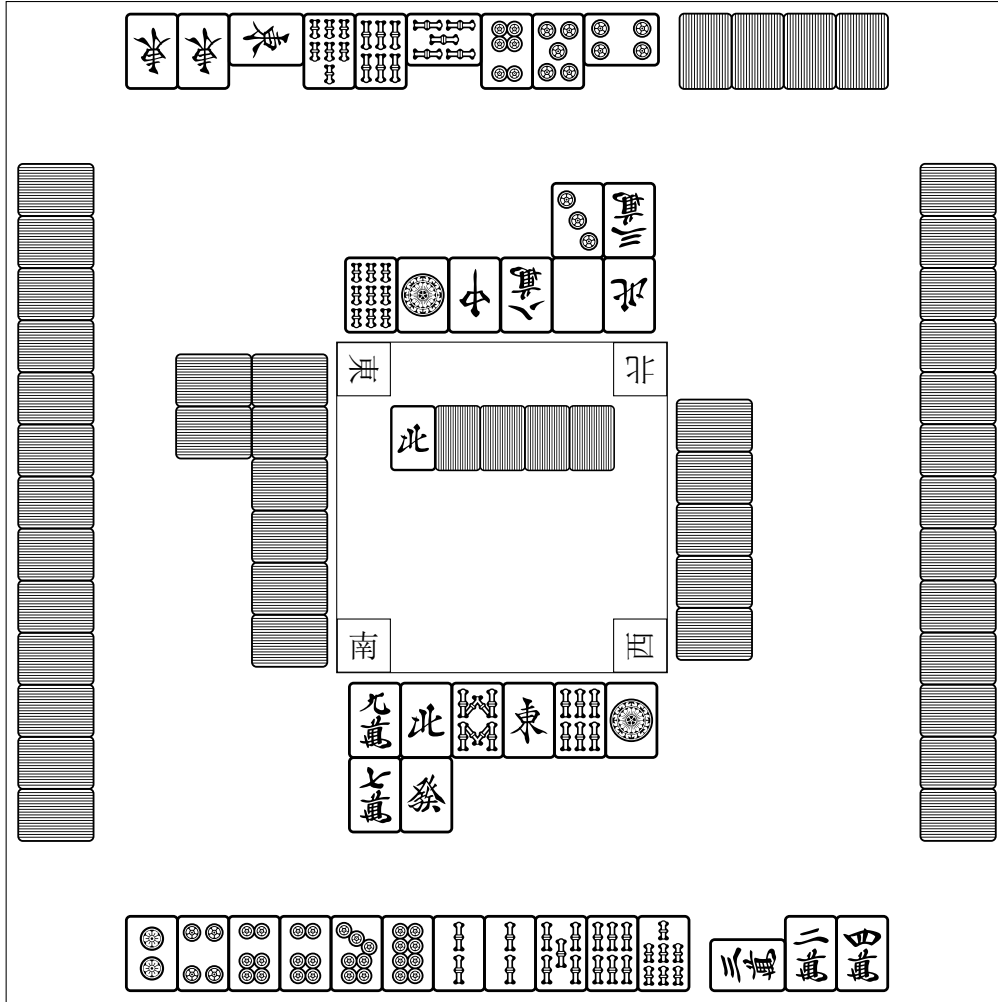
Answer





This time toimen called chii on and discarded . That is, toimen had in their hand. As in the previous question, a shape with ryanmen attached to the outside of (right side) is conceivable. If so, then is left in toimen's hand. ...might seem dangerous but look closely. **Toimen's yaku is tanyao. Would they take the trouble to change from kanchan to kata agari** ?

Thus this shape is basically impossible. As for what shapes are possible, there is the case where ryanmen was formed around : calling from . remains and the wait is . Wait change through kuinobashi is natural in this case.




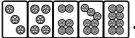






Therefore, this time **discarding is safe. are rather dangerous so do not discard them.**




—Call reading drill 63—








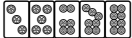
Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . We will be in tenpai if we discard either  or . Having read toimen's calls, what should we discard?

Answer

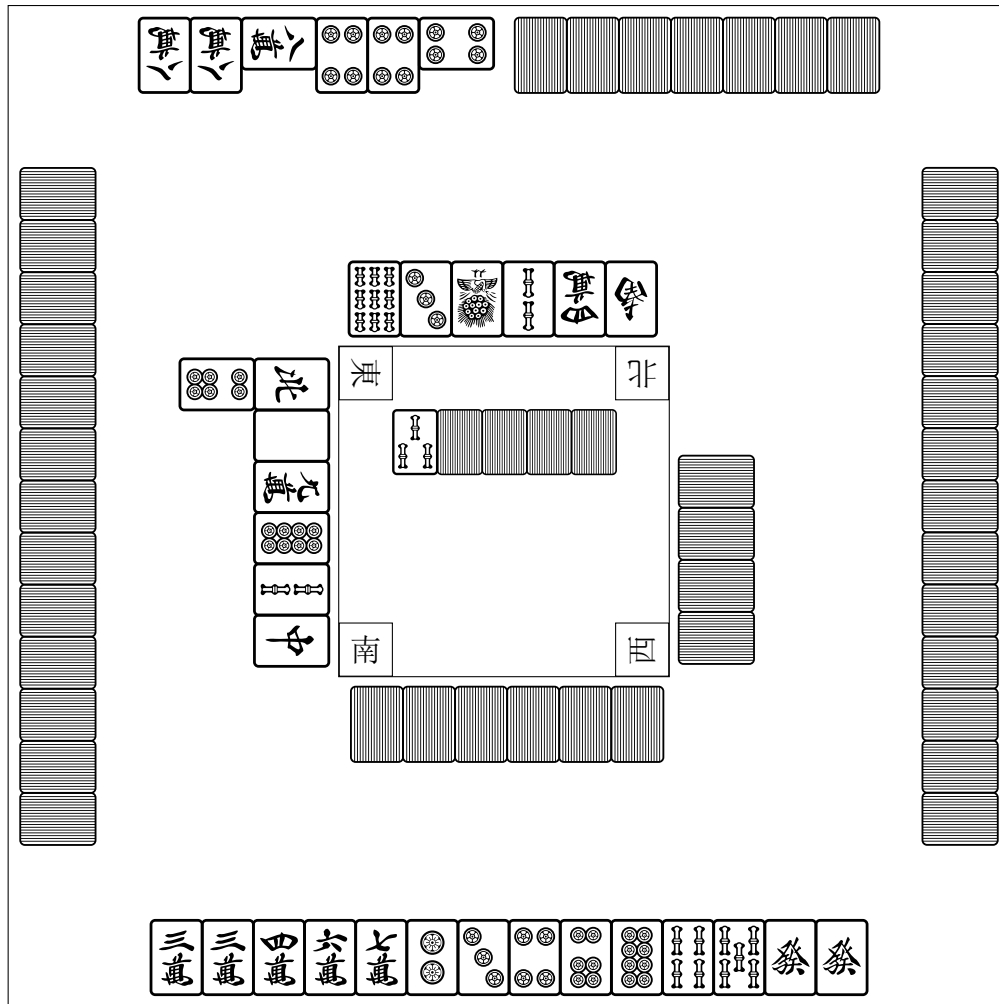
Toimen called  chii and discarded . The case where there is a ryanmen on the outside of  (right side) corresponds to the shape . In this case, calling  chii leaves  in toimen's hand. This time toimen also has  as yaku so ...may seem dangerous, but if toimen had this shape then they would have called ron on  or  chii.



A possible shape for a wait change from tenpai, then, is the same as in the previous question: .  was revealed and the wait is .

Of course, other shapes are not impossible, but between  and ,  is clearly more dangerous, so **discard** .







 and  cannot be distinguished by the shape revealed and tile discarded after a call, so it is necessary to be able to think about the differences each time like this.




—Call reading drill 64—





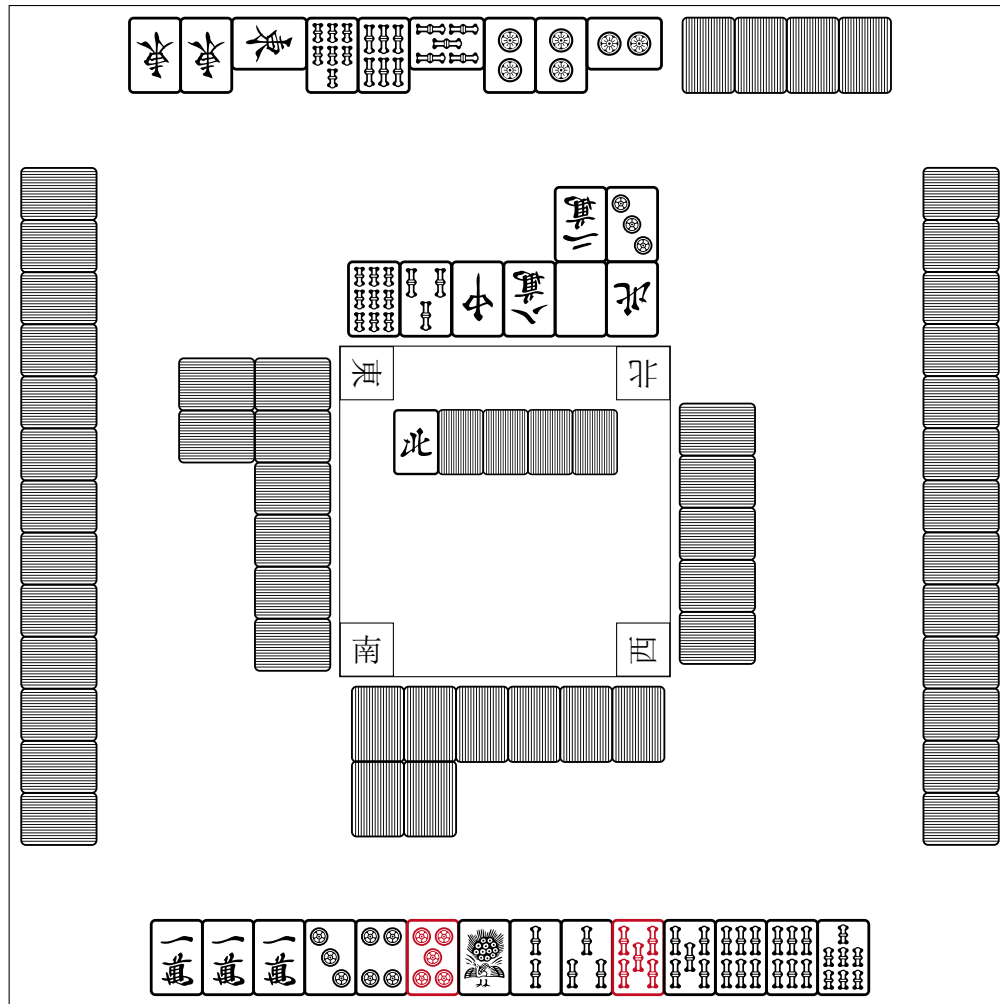
Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . What aspect of toimen's discards should we pay attention to, and what should we choose from our hand?



Answer

Our hand has 6 blocks, so dropping the  pair for tanyao is an option. However, look at toimen's  discard. Toimen had discarded  from  early and then called pon on .  was not useful as a sequence; **it is likely that toimen committed to toitoi with this play.**

If so, then discarding the  that toimen might also have a pair of and possibly allowing them to call (in the worst case it is possible that toimen calls ron) is a bad play. In contrast,  has been discarded by kamicha and toimen did not call pon, so  is comparatively easier to discard.




Discarding  for now and proceeding with the intention of declaring riichi using  as the head is good for both offense and defense this time.

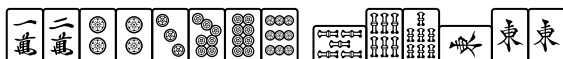
—Call reading drill **65**—








Toimen has called pon on  and discarded . What aspect of toimen's discards should we pay attention to, and what should we choose from our hand?





Answer

Toimen discarding  early and then calling pon on  should also draw some suspicion this time.

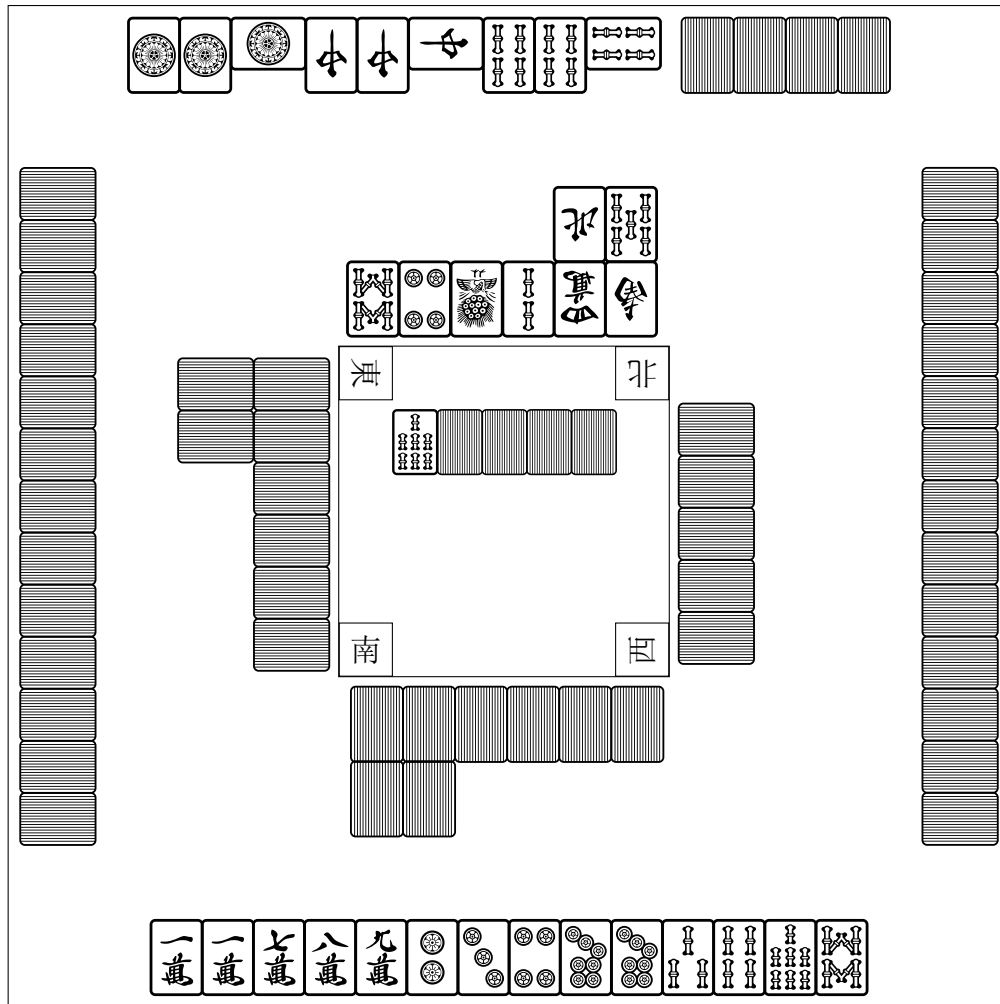
However, unlike the previous question, this time toimen called , so toitoi is clearly ruled out. The case of wait change from tenpai is relatively more common when an opponent discards  from  to fix a pair despite not going for toitoi.



For example, from this shape it is conceivable to first cut  and reach tenpai and then call pon on  and change the wait. **If the manzu portion was a good shape like  then changing the wait is unnecessary, so the shapes that come to mind are  and .** Thus,  tanki and  tanki are very likely right now.

Be careful not to deal in because of reads like “ passed the previous turn and toimen did not call pon, so that rules out a  wait.” **Do not discard  this time and cut  for riichi instead.**



—Call reading drill **66**—

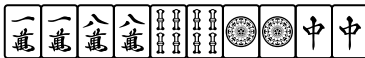
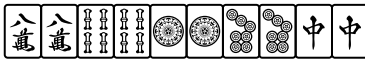


Toimen has called pon on and discarded , pon on and discarded , and pon on and discarded . What aspect of toimen's discards should we pay attention to, and what should we choose from our hand?



Answer

First, toimen has made 3 pon calls and discarded  before calling  pon, so their yaku is almost certainly toitoi.



Assuming that we will not fold, let's consider which of  or  is safer. Both tiles are live, so from an efficiency perspective there is no difference between the two. The point this time is that toimen likely committed to toitoi fairly early. **Consider what kind of hand toimen would commit to toitoi from.**






Looking only at the pairs, which of these hands would an opponent go for toitoi from? Probably the latter hand with more terminals.

Of course, this is a rather uncertain read and is not a basis to state that  will definitely pass, but **assuming that 1 of the 2 pairs will be cut,  is safer.**

Answer

 and  are both live, but let's consider which one is more likely for kamicha and shimocha to have. Of course, the tiles that kamicha and shimocha are more likely to have are less likely for toimen to have a pair of and so are safer (against toimen).





Looking at the state of the board, kamicha and shimocha both discarded upper manzu early and 3 copies of  are visible, so  is very difficult to use.

In contrast, not only is  in upper souzu which is expensive on the board, it is also next to the dora, so it is easy for kamicha and shimocha to keep in their hands.

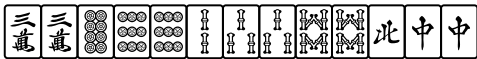
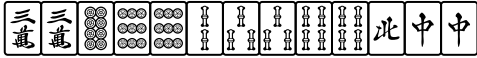
As such, toimen is more likely to have , so discard .

Tiles close to the dora are only dangerous against sequence based hands. So called **cheap but live tiles are dangerous against opponents going for toitoi.**




Answer

This time it should be noted that toimen called  pon from . If  deals into toitoi, then toimen had  when they called pon.

Of course this is not impossible, but







it is undeniable that  will be called more often from the latter shape.















 is dora, assuming that dora  will not be discarded,  is clearly the safer option to discard for tenpai.

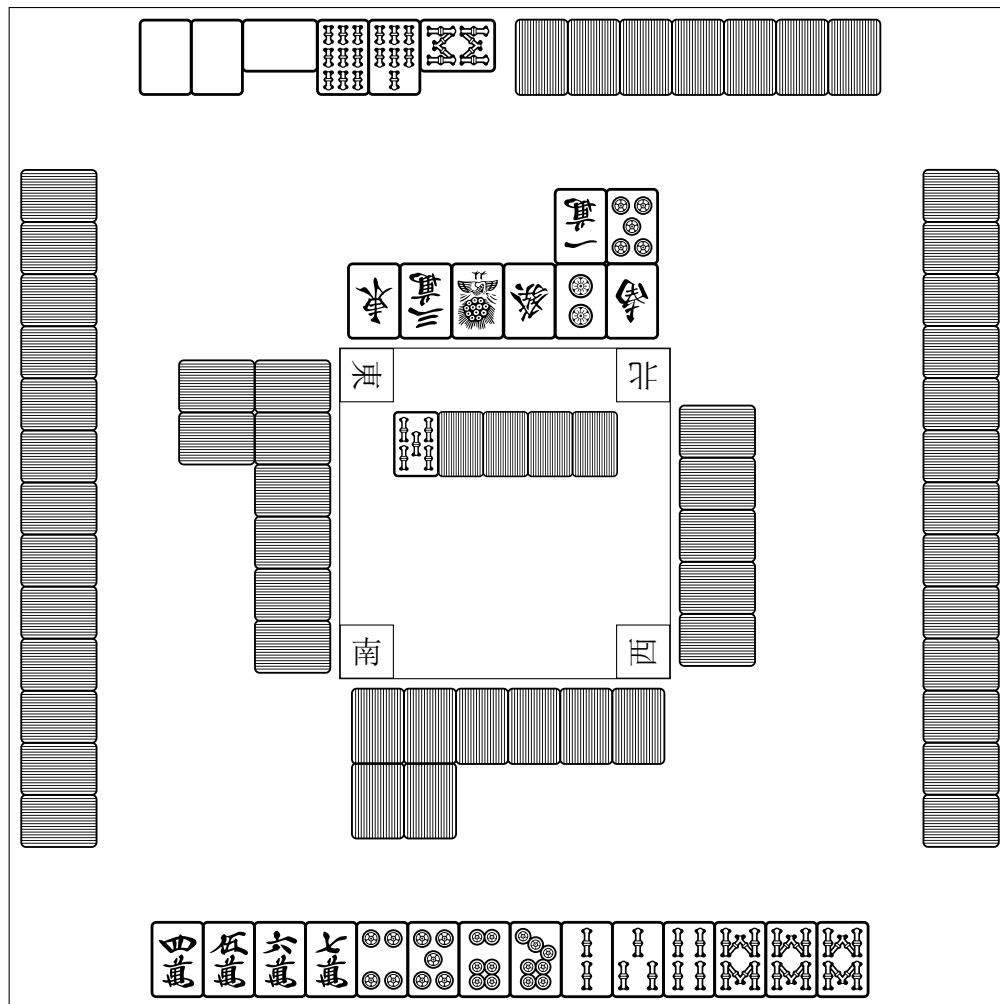
It is important to consider whether anything seems unnatural when taking into account the shape of the wait assuming that a tile will deal in together with the portion that was called like this.



Answer

Until now, most of the reads introduced in this book are usable knowing just the discard made after a call, but of course if tedashi and tsumogiri can be remembered then these reads can be applied more accurately.

Moreover, there is information that cannot be obtained without remembering tedashi and tsumogiri; this question is one such case. Starting from the answer,   are rather safe and  are dangerous, so **discard  and declare riichi.**

The reasoning is the  tedashi. Keeping  despite having discarded  is unnatural. The most common development in this case is **the so called slide: toimen originally had   , drew  and then discarded .** Assuming toimen has this shape, then since they have    in their hand, they would be furiten if they had  . Additionally, toimen's last tedashi was essentially , so tiles in that vicinity are dangerous.

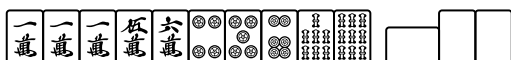
—Call reading drill **70**—

Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . The discards are the same as those in the previous question, but what differences arise?

Answer

The difference when \square is discarded after calling is that sliding is not possible as toimen could not have drawn \square .

Toimen discarded \square early, kept \square , and did not perform a slide. Essentially the only possible shape is case of \square ankou.













For example, calling \square chii from this shape and discarding \square for a \square wait. Of course the wait is unknown, but based on the block structure of toimen's hand, \square is a dangerous suji.

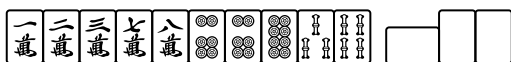
For \square , in contrast, if toimen had \square , then discarding \square at this stage results in a head without needing to discard 1 copy of \square from an ankou. This discard order is unnatural.











Therefore, the safety order of \square reverses. **Discard \square (\square might deal into chanta sanshoku)** this time.

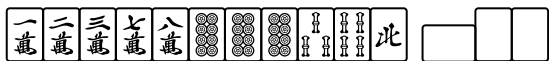
Answer

An opponent who keeps  despite having discarded  often has bad shapes like , , or .

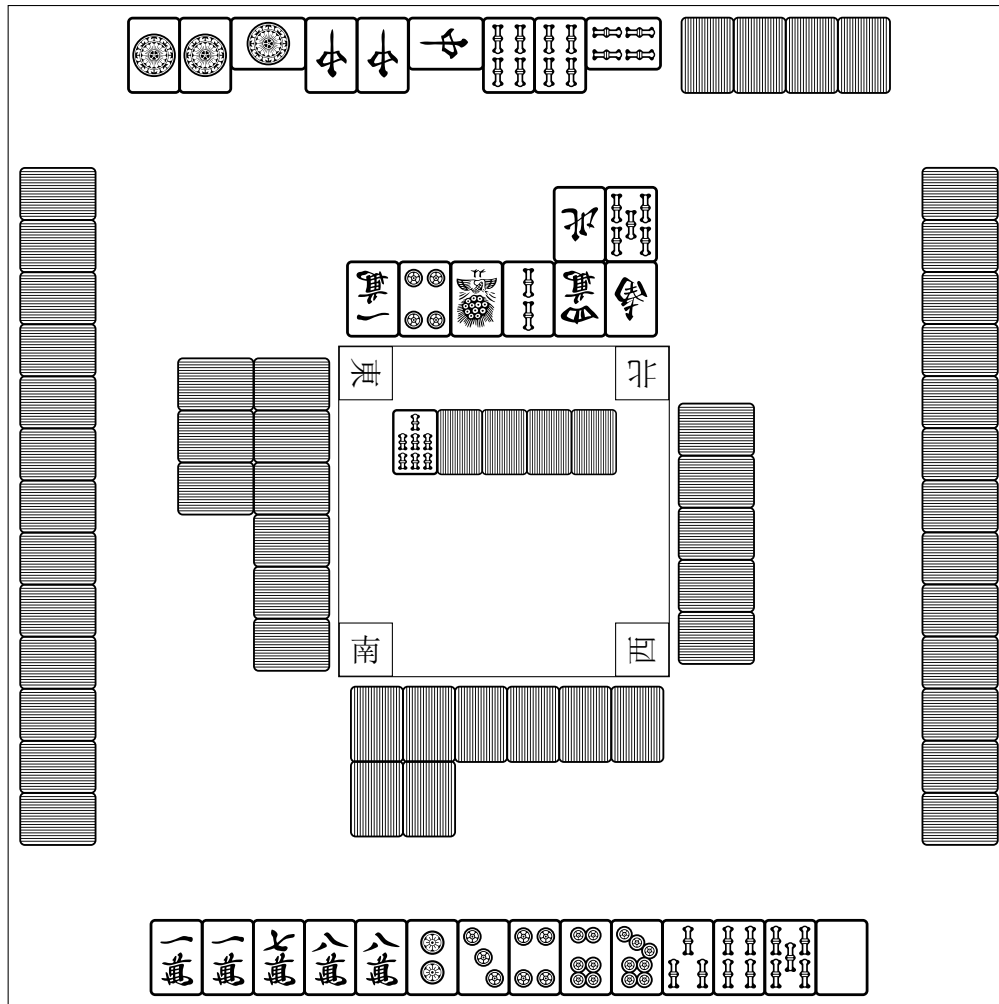
If toimen really does have a bad shape in pinzu, then they do not have a ryanmen in another suit.



From this shape (calling  chii and discarding  to wait on ryanmen from another suit) the  (safe tile) discarded the previous turn is more valuable than , so keeping  is unnatural. Therefore, although shanpon on  and  is possible, **it is not the case that  is dangerous and cannot be discarded because toimen seems to have souzu ryanmen based on the block structure of their hand. Push  to prevent toimen from winning a dora pon hand.** Incidentally, if  was not visible to us, then



rarely it is possible for an opponent to cut  from this shape, so caution is needed.

—Call reading drill **72**—

This is a question about push/fold judgment. Toimen called pon on and discarded . are both live. Should we push against toimen who appears to be going for toitoi or should we mawashi?

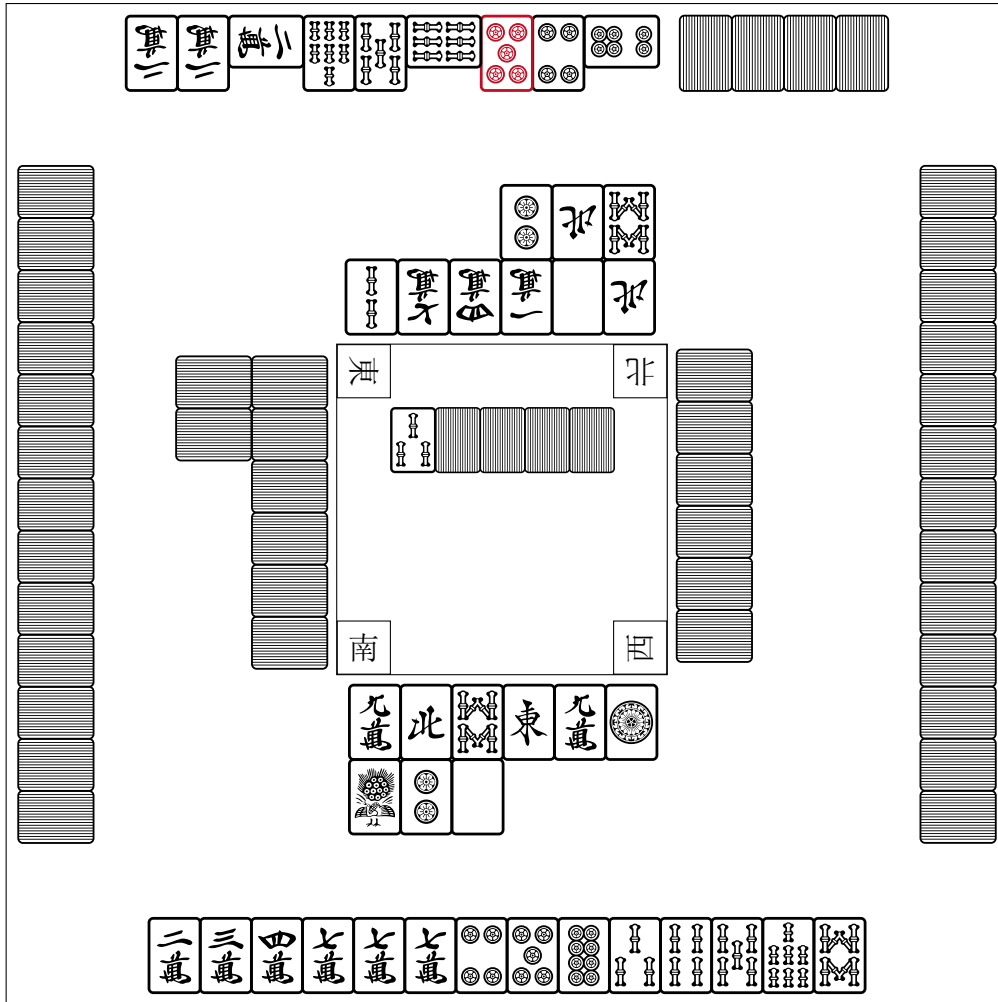
Answer




Let's compare this to push/fold decisions against riichi. The average value of riichi is 5000–6000 points, but dealing in with \square this time is at least mangan. On the other hand, it is possible that the opponent is not yet in tenpai for open hands, but with 3 calls there is little hope for that to be the case. Thus, put simply, **toimen's hand is at least as threatening (difficult to push against) as a riichi.**

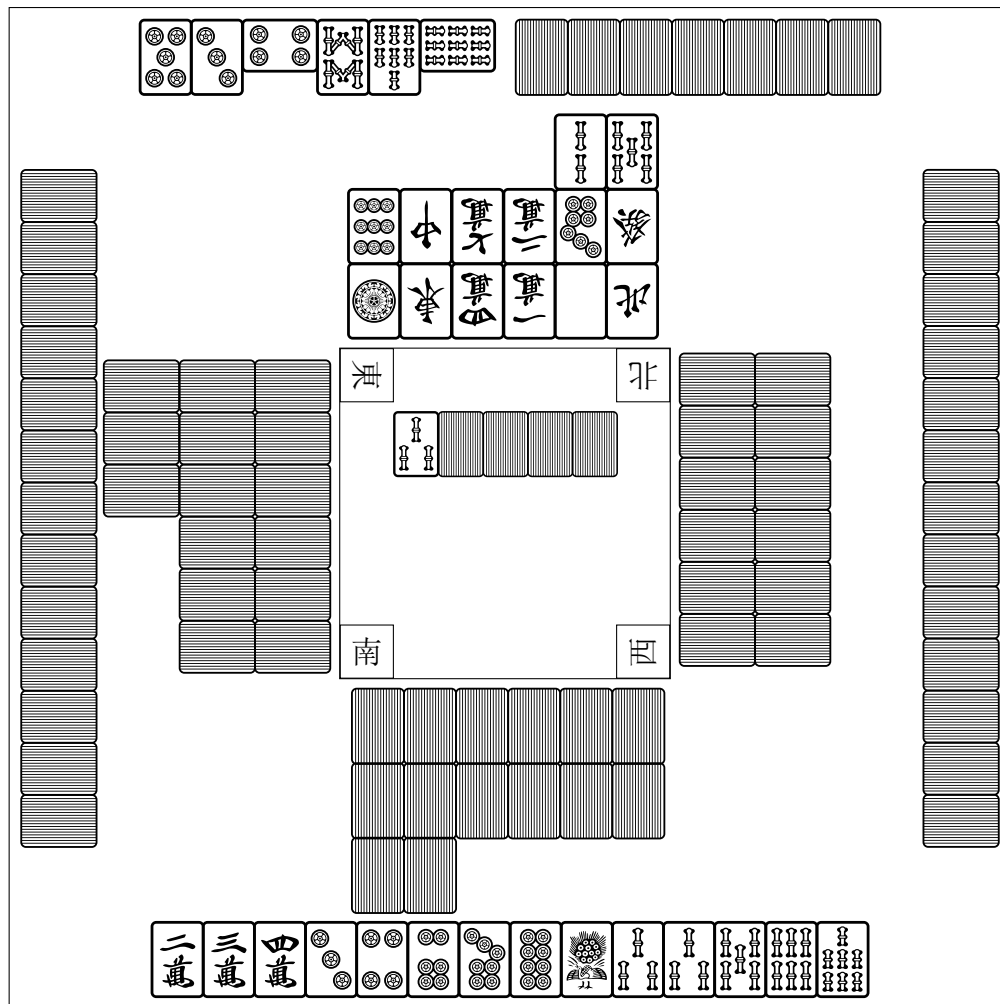
Next, consider the danger level of \square . Against a riichi, honors are not that dangerous even if they are live, but they are more dangerous against an opponent with toitoi. This of course changes based on the number of other live tiles, but pushing \square here should be regarded in the same way as pushing musuji that do not have any particular information against riichi.




This hand is 1 shanten for no dora pinfu, not a hand worth pushing 2 musuji against a riichi on turn 9. As such, **discard \square and mawashi** here.

—Call reading drill **73**—




This is a question about push fold judgment. Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Their discards are basically the same as they were in drill 61, but should  be pushed from this hand?


—Call reading drill **74**—

Toimen has called chii on  and discarded . Our hand will be tenpai if we discard , but considering toimen's yaku, should we discard it?

Answer

Read normally, toimen is likely to be in tenpai since they have made 2 calls on the 3rd row of discards. Toimen's yaku is not tanyao and all of the yakuhai have been discarded, so the possible yaku are sanshoku or souzu ittssuu.


As such,  is rather dangerous. Moreover, toimen's value must also be considered...but since this is the 3rd row of discards, one more possibility must also be considered. That is, **toimen may be going for keiten**. In general, even without a yaku, it is possible that players will call to try to take tenpai on the 3rd row of discards. This time it is unknown which of these toimen's hand falls under, but know that the possibility that an opponent is going for keiten makes dealing in less likely.

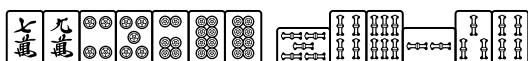
We of course **discard**  this time. Depending on kamicha's and shimocha's discards, it may be conceivable to push live yakuhai against these calls.




Answer

Toimen's calls possibly indicate that they are going for keiten or perhaps they have yaku with sanshoku or ittsumi. **This is not a black or white statement; ultimately it is a matter of probability.**

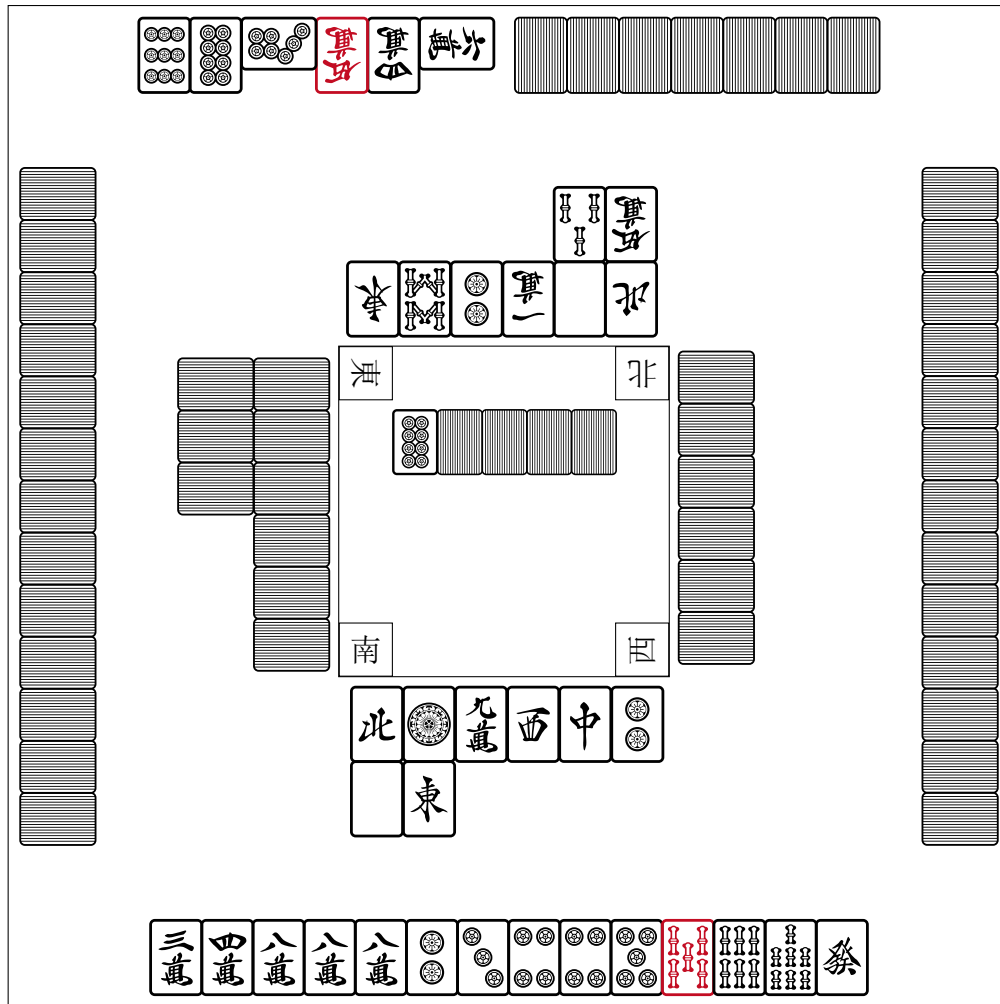
In the previous question our hand was in tenpai, giving us a clear reason to push, but this time our hand is 2 shanten, so we cannot cut tiles that may deal in. Moreover, since we are 2 shanten this late in the game and cannot win, our biggest goal is to reach tenpai at ryuukyoku.





To reach tenpai without discarding the  that is likely to deal into sanshoku or souzu that might deal into ittsumi, a shape that comes to mind is



Conveniently,  are genbutsu against toimen, so if kamicha is noten they might discard them as safe tiles. Of course, such convenient things rarely happen, but with this shape as a goal in mind, **discard genbutsu  or the comparatively safe .**

—Call reading drill **76**—

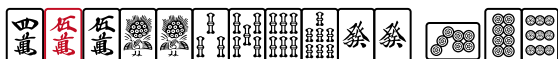


Toimen called chii on  and discarded , then called chii on  and discarded . Taking into consideration toimen's yaku, what should we discard?

Answer

𠄎 is the only live yakuhai remaining, so 𠄎 is normally not a tile that we would want to discard against toimen.

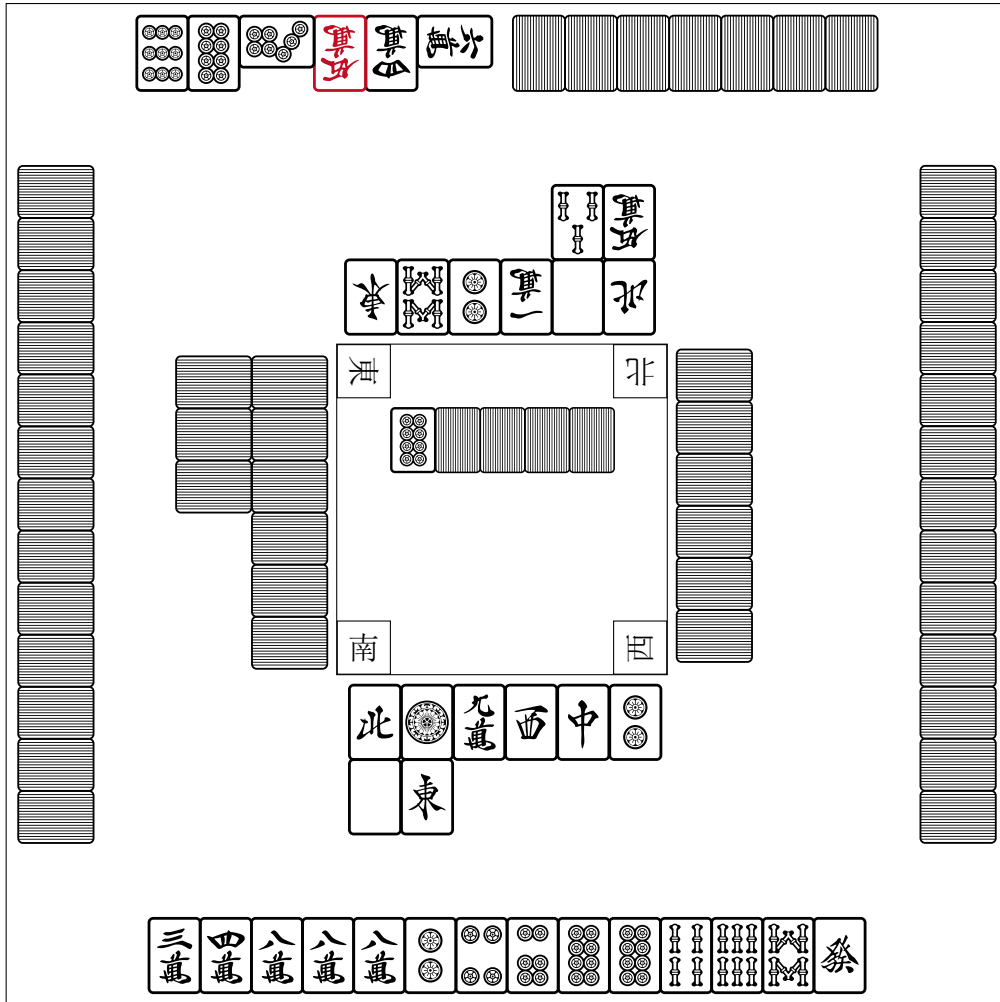
However, if toimen built his hand correctly, 𠄎 is relatively likely to pass in this specific situation. Note that toimen discarded 𠄎 from 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎. Suppose that toimen is atozuke waiting on 𠄎. If so, then toimen has no reason to keep 𠄎 in their hand.



For example, even though there is acceptance for tiles to form complete sets around 𠄎, the hand has no yaku even upon drawing 𠄎, so there is no reason to keep 𠄎. If so, it would be better to discard 𠄎 so that pon can be called on 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 for atozuke tenpai on 𠄎. As for what shapes toimen has in their hand, the likely case is 𠄎 ankou. In that case, toimen can win even upon drawing tiles around 𠄎.

Fundamentally, pairs are more valuable when building hands for yakuhai atozuke, so when it can be determined that an opponent has dismantled a pair, consider making reads like the one made this time.




—Call reading drill **77**—





Toimen called chii on and discarded , then called chii on and discarded . Taking into consideration toimen's yaku, what should we discard?

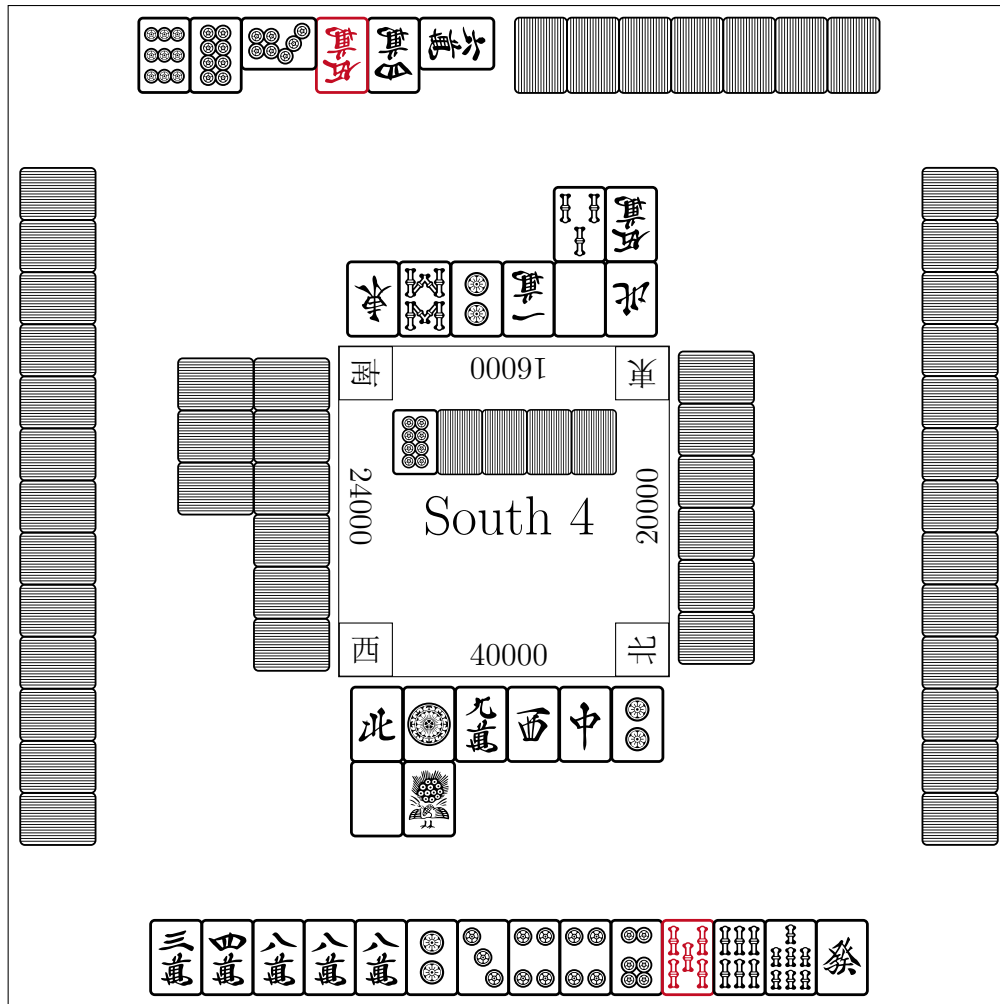
Answer



Toimen's calls and pond are the same as in the previous question, so this is a question about the accuracy of reads and push/fold judgment.

The fact that the possibility of  ankou is the same as in the previous question, but as mentioned before reads in mahjong are uncertain. For example, toimen's discards seem unnatural for yakuhai atozuke if we assume that they are in tenpai, but they could have also called from a rather distant hand and have a pair of . In this case we would let them call pon if we discard .

Ultimately, conclusions will always be made according to the state of your own hand. This time our hand is 2 shanten with 2 bad shapes with no dora, so this does not seem like hand worth discarding the only remaining live yakuhai for. **Aim to safely take tenpai by discarding something like the  that just passed, and reevaluate whether to push  or not when the hand is at a more complete stage**

—Call reading drill **78**—



Toimen called chii on  and discarded . Toimen's discards and calls have been addressed in the previous 2 questions, but what considerations change when taking into account the point standings?

Answer

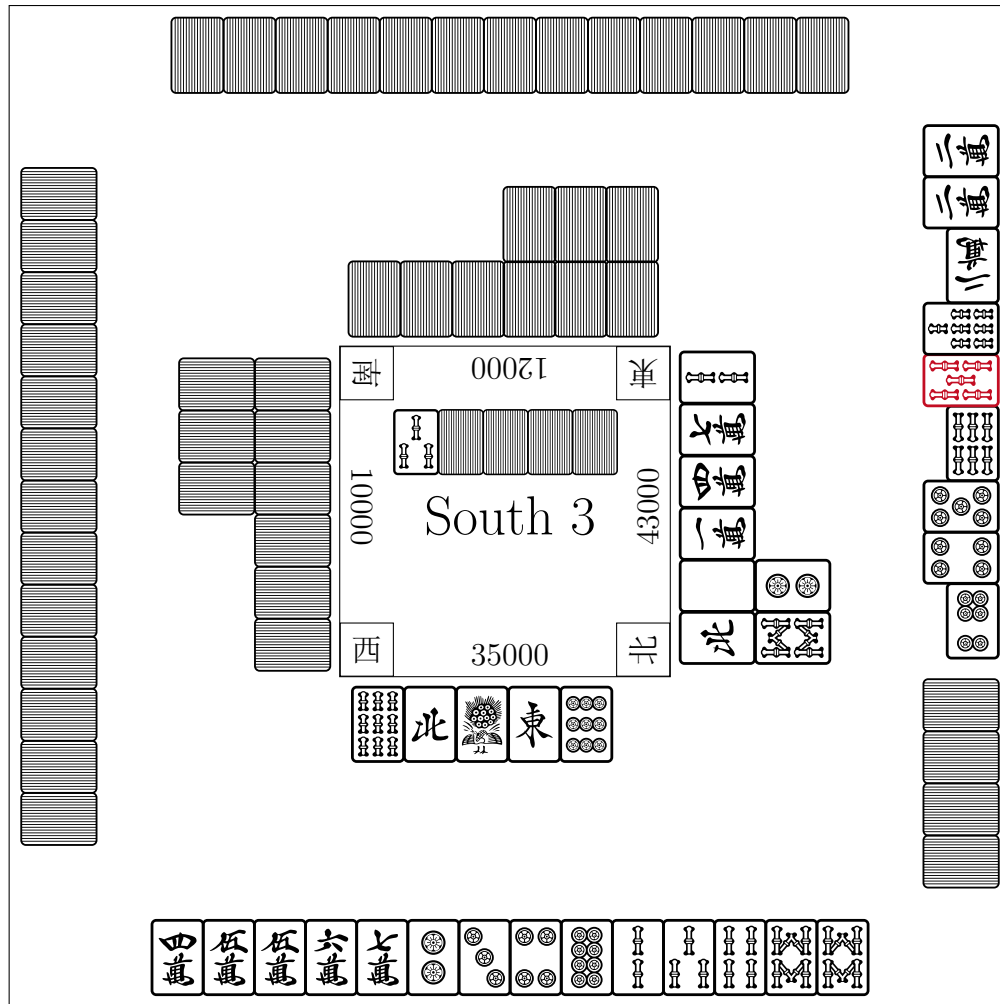
The point standings have changed, but the details of the reads have not changed much. It also follows from these placements that our opponent desperately needs points, but that doesn't really matter here since toimen is the dealer. It all comes down to the fact that 𠄎 ankou is likely.

That being said, this time we are far in the lead. The point difference is such that we can withstand a haneman tsumo from both kamicha and shimocha. If we can avoid dealing in, the only realistic case in which we are overtaken is where the dealer takes renchans and wins by tsumo or ron on other players. Thus, **this is a situation in which we must not let the dealer win.**

With that in mind, the worst case scenario of 𠄎 dealing in is unforgivable, and letting toimen call pon on 𠄎 is also a criminal offense. **Discard the 𠄎 that has passed against toimen** and consider assisting kamicha or shimocha if possible.


As you can see, **push/fold judgment changes not only with the state of our hand, but also with the point standings. Put another way, without good push/fold judgment and positional play, you will not be able to make correct decisions no matter how much you polish your skill at reading.**

—Call reading drill 79—





Shimocha discarded after calling chii on . Shimocha's calls and discards have been discussed before, but given our current hand and point standings, do we push ?

Answer

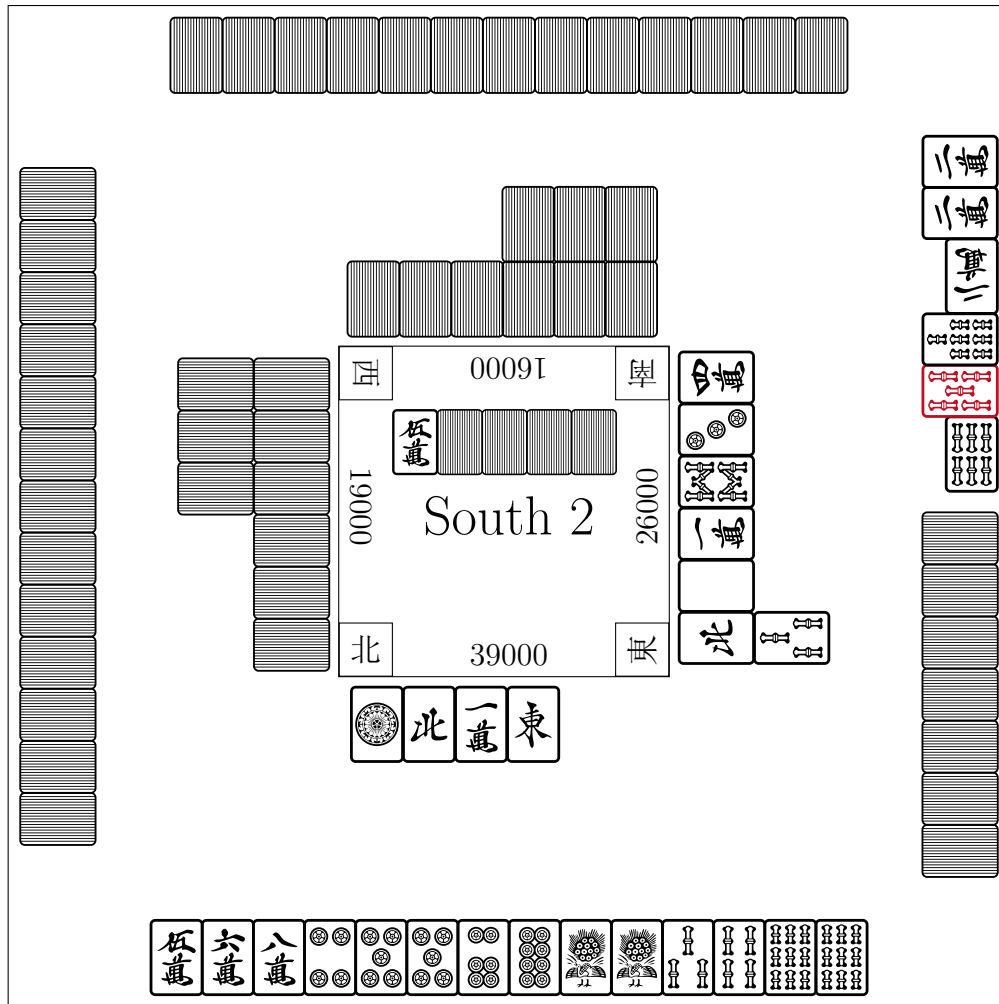
The fact that  is dangerous has been explained several times now, but we **push and riichi here**.


The point standings are such that we are competing with shimocha. If we betaori and shimocha tsumos, the point standings will be such that it will be difficult to overtake shimocha in all last.

On the other hand, even if we deal in the fact that we are in a secure 2nd place position does not change. If anything, we should consider dealing in as passing toimen's dealer turn.

The fact that  is likely to deal in does not change, but the risk of dealing in is made small by the current point standings, making it advantageous to push. There are many cases in which **the point standings completely dominate the danger level of tiles in terms of importance**. Thinking that “dealing in to a wait that I have identified is a little...” and not discarding the  in this situation is to read too much. **In a situation where we must push, it can be correct to deal into a wait that we have identified.**



—Call reading drill 80—





Shimocha just called chii on  and discarded . Taking into consideration the point standings, what should be discarded?

Answer

Shimocha currently has called with 1 dora and has not reached a point that should trigger caution just yet. However, the point standings are such that if we have a high chance at first place if we can pass shimocha's dealer turn.

Moreover, the block structure of shimocha's hand is important. Given shimocha's discards, it is quite likely that shimocha has blocks in upper pinzu and upper manzu. Even if shimocha is not yet in tenpai, straightforwardly discarding will very likely let shimocha call, so here it seems good should choke those tiles and **discard the  or  that cannot be used by tanyao.**

Incidentally, if toimen or kamicha were the dealer and shimocha has fewer points, we can also feed shimocha  or .

Reads such as these, especially reading the block structure of an opponent's hand are useful not only for avoiding dealing in, but also for controlling the progress of an opponent who has called. Acquiring this skill greatly improves the chances of maintaining first place when entering south round.

Afterword

Thank you for reading this book. I am a person who likes to make abstractions, so even when learning mahjong I did not really use resources like WWYD problems that involve many concrete details and instead got good by learning theory.

Naturally, the books that I have written are heavy on text and low on board states. These books are heavy on abstract content in my opinion.

Drawing abstractions from mahjong theory and expressing them in words is one of my strong points, but there are also many people who learn better by considering a concrete board state like in a WWYD problem. Neither approach is better than the other; the choice is up to personal preference.

This time, I have taken an uncharacteristic approach with 80 multifaceted WWYD problems—problems that I have seldom considered before. I would be glad if this book, together with my more abstract previous works are useful for your studies in mahjong.

Hirasawa Genki