



4.2 Home Base

- Jinghan Xia

You return to the supercomputer to find out any identifying information about the Tsar. Nothing appears out of the ordinary apart from one very large folder consisting of several nonsensical files.

Footsteps approach. Snatching the USB stick out of its slot, you sketch two transmutation circles on the wall - one to shake up the vicinity a little to loosen the dust, the other to create air currents for the dust to obfuscate the immediate view of your unwanted company. You slip away unnoticed.

Back home, you plug the USB stick into your laptop, hoping to decipher the contents of the mysterious folder. Upon opening one of the files in a text editor, a series of numbers and arrows jump out at you.

It is going to be a long night.

23

296954 → 11981 →

31

5696035 → 65662 →
259606559 → 923834 →
259697084 → 926999 →
36078053 → 182165 →
7190653675 → 8354005 →
2032672698 → 2900331 →
5474635628 → 6570389 →
1121305464 → 1855230 →
62358969125 → 28852136 →

29

171767 → 7170 →
166383621 → 837267 →
38095010080 → 26186247 →
20585157 → 103100 →
679698729 → 1440206 →
42443704 → 220840 →
195206 → 8037 →
186186729 → 927191 →

30

220382169 → 922929 →
2284370166 → 3406926 →
29269954 → 164254 →
197022841 → 837481 →
31706138 → 194918 →
29330256 → 166956 →
31756591 → 196531 →
31758332 → 196712 →
4274164 → 58924 →
3117860190 → 4896930 →
29217663 → 162423 →