

# NIM Games for Tyler and Noei

William Gasarch-U of MD

## 7 Mints, 1-2-3 Moves, Game

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Play the game and see if one of the players can **always win**.

# Tyler Can Always Win

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1. Tyler removes **3** mints.

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1. Tyler removes **3** mints. There are now **4** mints.

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  - 2.3 If Noei removes **3** mint, Tyler removes **1**.

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  - 2.2 If Noei removes **2** mint, Tyler removes **2**. Tyler wins.
  - 2.3 If Noei removes **3** mint, Tyler removes **1**. Tyler wins.

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints?

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **6** mints?
3. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **7** mints? (Yes)
4. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **8** mints?

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints? Answers

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with 5 mints?

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints? Answers

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?  
Tyler removes 1, there are now 4. Same as before.
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **6** mints?

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints? Answers

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?  
Tyler removes 1, there are now 4. Same as before.
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **6** mints?  
Tyler removes 2, there are now 4. Same as before.

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints? Answers

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?  
Tyler removes 1, there are now 4. Same as before.
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **6** mints?  
Tyler removes 2, there are now 4. Same as before.
3. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **7** mints? (Yes)

# What about 5,6,7,8 Mints? Answers

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?  
Tyler removes 1, there are now 4. Same as before.
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Tyler removes 2, there are now 4. Same as before.
3. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **7** mints? (Yes)  
Tyler removes 3, there are now 4. Same as before.



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Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **5** mints?  
Tyler removes 1, there are now 4. Same as before.
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **6** mints?  
Tyler removes 2, there are now 4. Same as before.
3. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **7** mints? (Yes)  
Tyler removes 3, there are now 4. Same as before.
4. What about **8**? Next Side.

# What about 8 Mints? Answers

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Noei Wins!

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1. If Tyler removes 1 then Noei removes 3.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.

# What about 8 Mints? Answers

Noei Wins!

1. If Tyler removes 1 then Noei removes 3.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.
2. If Tyler removes 2 then Noei removes 2.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.

# What about 8 Mints? Answers

Noei Wins!

1. If Tyler removes 1 then Noei removes 3.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.
2. If Tyler removes 2 then Noei removes 2.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.
3. If Tyler removes 3 then Noei removes 1.  
Now Tyler is looking at 4 mints and Noei can win.

# What about 1,2,3,4 Mints?

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **0** mints?

# What about 1,2,3,4 Mints?

Work on:

1. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **0** mints?  
No, he can't move.
2. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **1** mints?



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No, he can't move.
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Yes-Remove 1.
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No, he can't move.
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Yes-Remove 1.
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Yes-Remove 2
4. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **3** mints?  
Yes-Remove 3
5. Can Tyler always win if the game begins with **4** mints?  
Noei wins-whatever. Tyler does, Noei can remove the rest of the mints.

# Table of Who Wins

I means player I. Has been Tyler.

II means player II. Has been Noei.

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Numb mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Who Wins:	II	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II

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What is the pattern?

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What is the pattern?

Player I wins if the Numb of Mints IS NOT divisible by 4.

Player II wins if the Numb of Mints IS divisible by 4.



# 1-2-3-4 Moves, Game

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Try to figure out:

When Player I wins.

When Player II wins.

# 1-4-5 Game

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1. 0 mints:

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1. 0 mints: II wins—I can't move.

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2. 1 mint:

# 1-4-5 Game

1. 0 mints: II wins—I can't move.
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8. 7 mints:

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Wins:	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

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We want a way to describe this pattern.

# Notation

For 1-2-3 Game we said

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n$  is not divisible by 4
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- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$
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# Notation

For 1-3-4 Game we said

- ▶ Player I wins if when  $n$  is divisible by 7 get a remainder that is NOT 0 or 2.
- ▶ Player II wins if when divide  $n$  by 7 get a remainder of 0 or 2.

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Means that  $n$  is divisible by 7.

$$n \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$$

Means that when you divide  $n$  by 7 the remainder is 2.

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# 1-4-5

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wins:	11	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	11

# 1-4-5

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wins:	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

▶ Player I wins if

# 1-4-5

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wins:	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}$ .

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Wins:	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}$ .
- ▶ Player II wins if  $n \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{8}$

# Patterns of Patterns!

Recall:

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1. 1-2-3 Game:

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- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4 \pmod{5}$ .

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2. 1-2-3-4 Game:

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2. 1-2-3-4 Game:

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4 \pmod{5}$ .
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3. 1-2-3-4-5 Game:

# Patterns of Patterns!

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3. 1-5-6 Game: I leave this to you
4. General Pattern: I leave this to you.

# 1-5-6

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wins:	11	1	11	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	11



# 1-5-6

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

▶ Player I wins if

# 1-5-6

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 \pmod{11}$ .

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Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 \pmod{11}$ .
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Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 \pmod{11}$ .
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# 1-6-7

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wins:	11	1	11	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	11

# 1-6-7

Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

▶ Player I wins if

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Mints:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

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Wins:	II	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	II

- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 \pmod{11}$ .
- ▶ Player II wins if  $n \equiv 0, 2, 4 \pmod{12}$

# Patterns for $1-a-a+1$ , $a$ odd

1-3-4

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- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \equiv 0, 2, 4, 6 \pmod{15}$ .

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$1-a-a+1$  for  $a$  ODD

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- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \not\equiv 0, 2, \dots, a-1 \pmod{2a-1}$ .

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- ▶ Player I wins if  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ .
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1-4-5

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1-6-7

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