Extensions of Classic Combinatorial Games

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Extensions of Classic Combinatorial Games 1 / 35

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Rules

There are two piles of matchsticks. Each player has two types of moves:

- Type I Take a positive number of matches from one pile.
- Type II Take the same positive number of matches from both piles.

The player who takes the last matchstick wins.



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Game Positions

We write (a_1, \ldots, a_n) to denote a position with *n* piles of sizes a_1, \ldots, a_n . For Wythoff's game, n = 2.

Definition

A game is at a P-position when the person who played **Previously** will win, provided both players play optimally.

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A game is at a P-position when the person who played **Previously** will win, provided both players play optimally.

Definition

A game is at an N-position when the person to play **Next** will win, provided both players play optimally.

- All positions are either P-positions or N-positions.
- Every move from a P-position leads to an N-position.
- From every N-position, there exists a move to a P-position.
- One can always compute whether a position is a P-position or an N-position.

Theorem (Wythoff, 1907)

All positions of the form $(\lfloor n\phi \rfloor, \lfloor n\phi^2 \rfloor)$ or $(\lfloor n\phi^2 \rfloor, \lfloor n\phi \rfloor)$, for nonnegative integers n, are P-positions. All other positions are N-positions. Here $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

For example, (0, 0), (1, 2), (2, 1), (3, 5), (5, 3), (4, 7), (7, 4), ... are all P-positions.

Rules

There are two piles of matchsticks. Each player has two types of moves:

- Type I Take a positive number of matches from one pile.
- Type II Take a matches from one pile and b matches from the other, provided that a and b are positive and $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$.

The player who takes the last matchstick wins.





Nelson Niu

Extensions of Classic Combinatorial Games

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3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}									
2	\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}									
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

13 / 35

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5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}									
4	\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}								
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}									
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}		\mathcal{N}	
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

14 / 35

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0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

15 / 35

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1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

16 / 35

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4	\mathcal{N}										
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

17 / 35

10	\mathcal{N}										
9	\mathcal{N}										
8	\mathcal{N}										
7	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
6	\mathcal{N}										
5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}						
4	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}						
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

18 / 35

10	\mathcal{N}										
9	\mathcal{N}										
8	\mathcal{N}										
7	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
6	\mathcal{N}										
5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}						
4	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}						
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

19 / 35

10	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
9	\mathcal{N}										
8	\mathcal{N}										
7	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
6	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}									
5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	$ \mathcal{N} $
4	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}						
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

20 / 35

10	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
9	\mathcal{N}										
8	\mathcal{N}										
7	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
6	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}									
5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}						
4	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}						
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

21 / 35

Theorem (N.)

Let a_m be the unique integer for which $\lfloor a_m \phi \rfloor < m \leq \lfloor (a_m + 1)\phi \rfloor$. Then the P-positions of m-modular Wythoff consist of the set $\mathcal{P}_{a_m} =$ $\{(0,0), (\lfloor \phi \rfloor, \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor), (\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor, \lfloor \phi \rfloor), \dots, (\lfloor a_m \phi \rfloor, \lfloor a_m \phi^2 \rfloor), (\lfloor a_m \phi^2 \rfloor, \lfloor a_m \phi \rfloor)\}.$ Here $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

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Note that

$$\mathcal{P}_{a_2} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{a_3} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{a_4} \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{P},$$

where \mathcal{P} is the set of P-positions for the original Wythoff's game.

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Generalizations of *m*-modular Wythoff

3 piles: What should the possible moves be?

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• Any subset of piles

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$$(0,0,-3)$$
 or $(-4,-8,-6)$ or $(-5,0,-3)$ for $m=2$

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 - (0,0,-3) or (-4,-8,-6) or (-5,0,-3) for m=2
- One pile or all nonempty piles, positive amount per pile
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 - 2 piles left...?

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Rules

There are n piles of matchsticks. Each player has two types of moves:

- Type I Take a positive number of matches from one pile.
- Type II Take a_1 matches from the first pile, a_2 matches from the second pile, and so on such that $a_1 \equiv a_2 \equiv \cdots \equiv a_n \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ and $a_1 + \cdots + a_n > 0$.

The player who takes the last matchstick wins.



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P-positions of 2-pile Matchbox Game, m = 2

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6	\mathcal{N}										
5	\mathcal{N}										
4	\mathcal{N}										
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}						
1	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}								
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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P-positions of 2-pile Matchbox Game, m = 3

10	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
9	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
8	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
7	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
6	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
5	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
4	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}						
3	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
2	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}							
1	\mathcal{N}	${\mathcal P}$	\mathcal{N}								
0	\mathcal{P}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}	\mathcal{N}
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

31 / 35

P-positions of 2-pile Matchbox Game, any m

Theorem (N.)

• There are m² P-positions in the 2-pile Matchbox Game.

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Theorem (N.)

- There are m² P-positions in the 2-pile Matchbox Game.
- Each integer from 0 to $m^2 1$ appears exactly once as the first pile and once as the second pile in the set of all P-positions.

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- There are m² P-positions in the 2-pile Matchbox Game.
- Each integer from 0 to m² 1 appears exactly once as the first pile and once as the second pile in the set of all P-positions.
- Each of the m² ordered residue pairs modulo m, from (0,0) to (m − 1, m − 1), appears exactly once in the set of all P-positions.

Using the properties of the Matchbox Game, we can prove the following:

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Using the properties of the Matchbox Game, we can prove the following:

Theorem (N.)

There are a finite number of P-positions in the "one pile or all piles, nonnegative amount per pile" 3-pile generalization of m-modular Wythoff's Game.

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For generalizations of the m-modular Wythoff Game and the Matchbox Game:

- Are there a finite number of P-positions?
- What properties do the P-position satisfy?
- Is there a formula for the P-positions?

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For generalizations of the m-modular Wythoff Game and the Matchbox Game:

- Are there a finite number of P-positions?
- What properties do the P-position satisfy?
- Is there a formula for the P-positions?

In general, what property must a set of Type II moves satisfy that will ensure that a game has a finite number of P-positions?

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