# Bean bag tossing Lecture 7b: 2022-03-02 

 MAT A02 - Winter 2022 - UTSCProf. Yun William Yu

Exercise taken from Inspiring Mathematics: Lessons from the Navajo Nation Math Circles by Dave Auckly, Bob Klein, Amanda Serenevy, and Tatiana Shubin

## Instructions

- Divide up into groups of around 10 people each.
- Choose two numbers, a modulus $n$ and a tossing number $t$, each between 1 and 10.
- Arrange $n$ people into a circle.
- Toss the object around the circle in steps of size $t$.
- Does everyone get the object eventually?

$$
n=6, \quad t=2
$$



# Fill in the table on the chalkboard 

|  | Modulus $n$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tossing number $t$ | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Fill in the table on the chalkboard 

|  | Modulus $n$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | N |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tossing number $t$ | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Fill in the table on the chalkboard

Modulus $n$

Tossing number $t$

|  | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | N | N | N |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Y | N | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | N |

## Fill in the table on the chalkboard



## Pattern finding

## Reply in chat or out loud

- Can you find a pattern as to when everyone gets tossed the bean bag?
- We only tried numbers from 1 to 10 . What can you conjecture about what happens for other numbers?


## Tossing number theorem

- When the modulus and the tossing number are relatively prime, all of the people will catch the bean bag. Otherwise, some people will not have a turn to catch it.

