



Ponder This

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May 2015

[<<April](#) [May](#) [June>>](#)

Ponder This Challenge:

Three people are playing the following betting game.

Every five minutes, a turn takes place in which a random player rests and the other two bet against one another with all of their money. The player with the smaller amount of money always wins, doubling his money by taking it from the loser.

For example, if the initial amounts of money are 1, 4, and 6, then the result of the first turn can be either 2,3,6 (1 wins against 4); 1,8,2 (4 wins against 6); or 2,4,5 (1 wins against 6). If two players with the same amount of money play against one another, the game immediately ends for all three players.

Your task is to find initial amounts of money for the three players, where none of the three has more than 255, and in such a way that the game cannot end in less than one hour.

In the example above (1,4,6), there is no way to end the game in less than 15 minutes.

Update (05/05): all three numbers should be positive integers. For example, [0, 1, 2], is not a valid answer since the game would end immediately.

We will post the names of those who submit a correct, original solution! If you don't want your name posted then please include such a statement in your submission!

We invite visitors to our website to submit an elegant solution. Send your submission to the ponder@il.ibm.com.

If you have any problems you think we might enjoy, please send them in. All replies should be sent to: ponder@il.ibm.com

Challenge: 04/30/2015 @ 12:00 PM EST

Solution: 05/04/2015 @ 12:00 PM EST

List Updated: 06/03/2015 @ 12:00 PM EST

People who answered correctly:

[Robert Gerbicz](#) (04/30/2015 07:08 PM EDT)
[Radu-Alexandru Todor](#) (04/30/2015 09:09 PM EDT)
[Tobias Zurell](#) (04/30/2015 10:38 PM EDT)
[James Dow Allen](#) (05/01/2015 12:53 AM EDT)
[Chuck Carroll](#) (05/01/2015 03:06 AM EDT)
[Kang Jin Cho](#) (05/01/2015 04:21 AM EDT)
[Eli Biham](#) (05/01/2015 07:35 AM EDT)
[Jan Fricke](#) (05/01/2015 08:54 AM EDT)
[Don Dodson](#) (05/01/2015 11:36 AM EDT)
[Ofir Sasson](#) (05/01/2015 12:51 PM EDT)
[Andrei Malashevich](#) (05/01/2015 01:18 PM EDT)
[Joseph DeVincentis](#) (05/01/2015 01:35 PM EDT)
[Hakan Summakoglu](#) (05/01/2015 01:51 PM EDT)
[Graham Hemsley](#) (05/01/2015 02:01 PM EDT)
[Andreas Stiller](#) (05/01/2015 03:24 PM EDT)
[Walter Schmidt](#) (05/01/2015 04:34 PM EDT)
[Alex Fleischer](#) (05/01/2015 04:35 PM EDT)
[Rob Sessions](#) (05/01/2015 05:22 PM EDT)
[Al Zimmermann](#) (05/01/2015 06:01 PM EDT)
[Cadence Marseille](#) (05/01/2015 06:05 PM EDT)
[Ariel Landau](#) (05/01/2015 06:58 PM EDT)
[Alex Wagner](#) (05/02/2015 05:50 AM EDT)
[Dave Gower](#) (05/02/2015 06:04 AM EDT)
[Daniel Bitin](#) (05/02/2015 11:17 AM EDT)
[Todd Will](#) (05/02/2015 11:35 AM EDT)
[Alexandre Gilotte](#) (05/02/2015 12:36 PM EDT)
[Guang Gao](#) (05/02/2015 12:39 PM EDT)
[Philip Anderson](#) (05/02/2015 04:25 PM EDT)
[Jitesh Gandhi](#) (05/02/2015 06:37 PM EDT)
[Caili Shen](#) (05/02/2015 06:48 PM EDT)
[David Greer](#) (05/03/2015 12:35 AM EDT)
[Ajay Mallepally](#) (05/03/2015 03:01 AM EDT)
[Rajendran Thirupugalsamy](#) (05/03/2015 05:23 AM EDT)
[Abraham Elmahrek](#) (05/03/2015 05:56 AM EDT)
[Yoav Kaempfer](#) (05/03/2015 07:40 AM EDT)
[Harald Bögeholz](#) (05/03/2015 02:58 PM EDT)
[Liubing Yu](#) (05/03/2015 07:21 PM EDT)
[Benjamin Phillabaum](#) (05/03/2015 10:59 PM EDT)
[Serge Batalov](#) (05/04/2015 04:10 AM EDT)
[Lorenz Reichel](#) (05/04/2015 04:17 AM EDT)
[Martin Husar](#) (05/04/2015 06:21 AM EDT)
[Di Luo](#) (05/04/2015 06:56 AM EDT)
[Piotr Nadczuk](#) (05/04/2015 10:13 AM EDT)
[Dan Ismailescu](#) (05/04/2015 10:44 AM EDT)
[Alphan Karacaer](#) (05/04/2015 12:45 PM EDT)
[Peter Gerritson](#) (05/04/2015 01:44 PM EDT)
[Serge Batalov](#) (05/04/2015 03:28 PM EDT)
[Mark Pervovski](#) (05/04/2015 05:46 PM EDT)
[Victor Chang](#) (05/04/2015 06:03 PM EDT)
[Zhizhong Zhou](#) (05/04/2015 06:53 AM EDT)
[Hengfeng Tian](#) (05/04/2015 10:13 PM EDT)
[José Eduardo Gaboardi de Carvalho](#) (05/04/2015 10:19 PM EDT)
[Michael Rosola](#) (05/04/2015 10:59 PM EDT)
[Tim Cieplowski](#) (05/05/2015 01:12 AM EDT)
[Emir Haleva](#) (05/05/2015 05:59 AM EDT)
[Børge Nordli](#) (05/05/2015 07:03 AM EDT)
[Karim Alaoui](#) (05/05/2015 09:43 AM EDT)
[John Tromp](#) (05/05/2015 01:56 PM EDT)
[Susan Brommer](#) (05/05/2015 04:02 PM EDT)
[Hendrik Nigul](#) (05/05/2015 10:02 AM EDT)
[Roy St john](#) (05/05/2015 10:11 AM EDT)
[Jochen Voß](#) (05/05/2015 04:18 PM EDT)
[Aviv Nisgav](#) (05/05/2015 04:28 PM EDT)