1908. Game of Nim

Medium | Topics | Hint

Alice and Bob take turns playing a game with **Alice starting first**.

In this game, there are n piles of stones. On each player's turn, the player should remove any **positive** number of stones from a non-empty pile **of his or her choice**. The first player who cannot make a move loses, and the other player wins.

Given an integer array `piles`, where `piles[i]` is the number of stones in the ith pile, return `true` if Alice wins, or `false` if Bob wins.

Both Alice and Bob play **optimally**.

Example 1:

```
Input: piles = [1]
Output: true
Explanation: There is only one possible scenario:
- On the first turn, Alice removes one stone from the first pile. piles = [0].
- On the second turn, there are no stones left for Bob to remove. Alice wins.
```
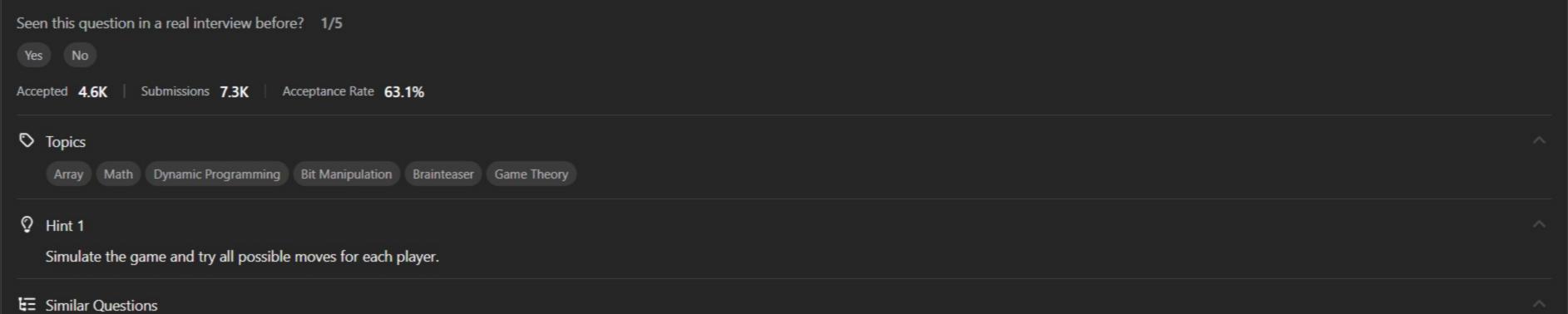
Example 2:

```
Input: piles = [1,1]
Output: false
Explanation: It can be proven that Bob will always win. One possible scenario is:
- On the first turn, Alice removes one stone from the first pile. piles = [0,1].
- On the second turn, Bob removes one stone from the second pile. piles = [0,0].
- On the third turn, there are no stones left for Alice to remove. Bob wins.
```

Example 3:

```
Input: piles = [1,2,3]
Output: false
Explanation: It can be proven that Bob will always win. One possible scenario is:
- On the first turn, Alice removes three stones from the third pile. piles = [1,2,0].
- On the second turn, Bob removes one stone from the second pile. piles = [1,1,0].
- On the third turn, Alice removes one stone from the first pile. piles = [0,1,0].
- On the fourth turn, Bob removes one stone from the second pile. piles = [0,0,0].
- On the fifth turn, there are no stones left for Alice to remove. Bob wins.
```

Constraints:

- `n == piles.length`
- `1 <= n <= 7`
- `1 <= piles[i] <= 7`

Follow-up: Could you find a linear time solution? Although the linear time solution may be beyond the scope of an interview, it could be interesting to know.

Seen this question in a real interview before? 1/5

Yes   No

Accepted **4.6K** | Submissions **7.3K** | Acceptance Rate **63.1%**

🏷 Topics

Array | Math | Dynamic Programming | Bit Manipulation | Brainteaser | Game Theory

💡 Hint 1

Simulate the game and try all possible moves for each player.

🗂 Similar Questions

Subtree Removal Game with Fibonacci Tree 🔒   Hard

💬 Discussion (2)