min moves

one point to note is that if we maintain a sliding window of n, the gaps in it would denote no. of min moves

take following eg.

x o o o x x x x o x o x o o o x

n = 7

x o o o x x x x o x o x o o o x

you can see there are two gaps in this window of length 7
& we can move the side words values to fill these two gaps in 2 moves.

If there are three gaps it would take 3 min moves

XOOO XXXOOOXOOOXX

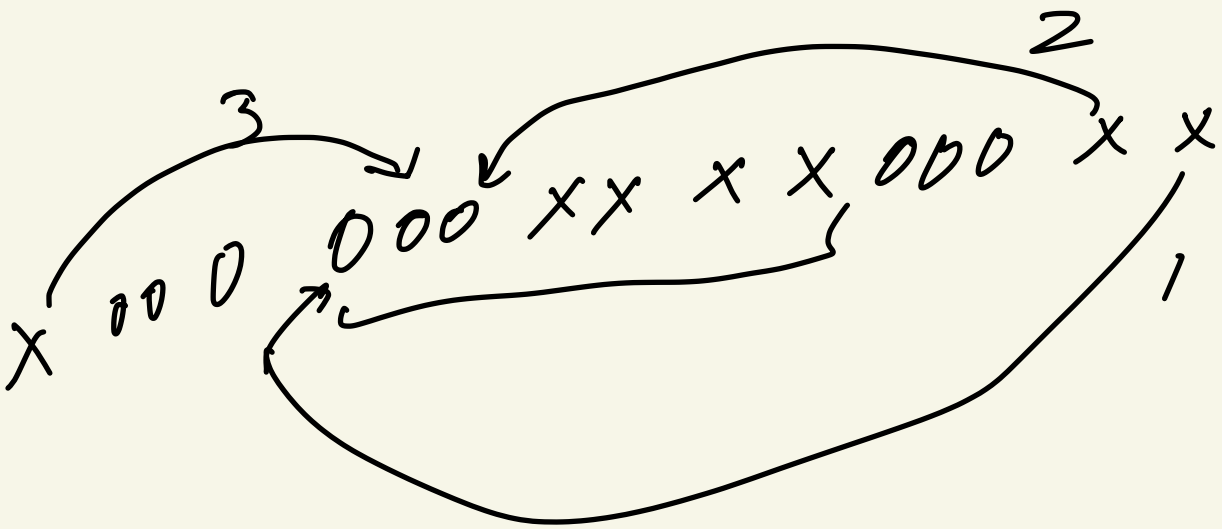
n = 7

imp. pt to note here is that no matter the position of those 3 gaps they can always be filled with

3 moves

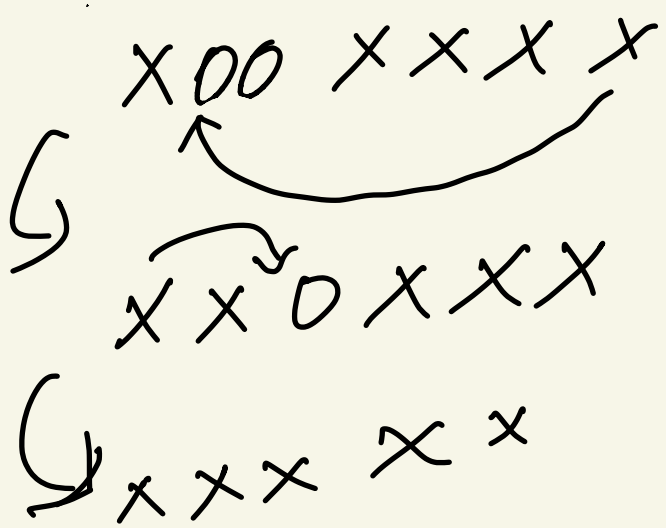
XOOO XXXOOOXOOOXX

n = 7



special case: If n-1 consecutive stones are present we would take 2 moves (not 1 move)

XOOXXXXX



2 moves

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for considering the sliding window it is sufficient to consider sliding windows that are ending on the stones

as considering sliding windows ending at gaps would only increase the gaps ie. more moves

but we are calculating min_moves so considering those windows wont reduce the min moves.