

# Kaboom

**Pieces and Board:** Kaboom is played on a rectangular  $i$  rows by  $j$  columns board. The X pieces belong to X-player, and O pieces to O-player. \* symbolizes X-player's bomb, while @ symbolizes O-player's bomb. Your implementation must handle an arbitrary number of rows, columns, and number of pieces needed in a row to win. The example game (Figure 1) has 4 rows by 4 with each player only able to place 1 bomb, and needing 4-in-a-row to win. Pieces have been placed on the board.

**To Move:** The game begins with a blank board. On one's turn, a player "drops" their piece or bomb into a column from the top. It falls vertically until it reaches another piece, or end of the column. On their turn, a player may choose to detonate a bomb instead of dropping a piece, which removes the bomb and all adjacent pieces to the bomb (i.e. left, right, top, bottom pieces). If another bomb happens to be one of the adjacent pieces, it is also detonated. You must move if you can. I.e., If the board is full but has one of your bombs in it, you must detonate it.

**To Win:** n number pieces/bombs in a row from the same player causes a win for that player. Pieces or bombs may connect vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. If both players have n-in-a-row as a result of detonation, it is a draw. If the board becomes full with no n-in-a-rows and no bombs remaining to detonate, it is also a draw.

**Compulsory Rule Changes:**

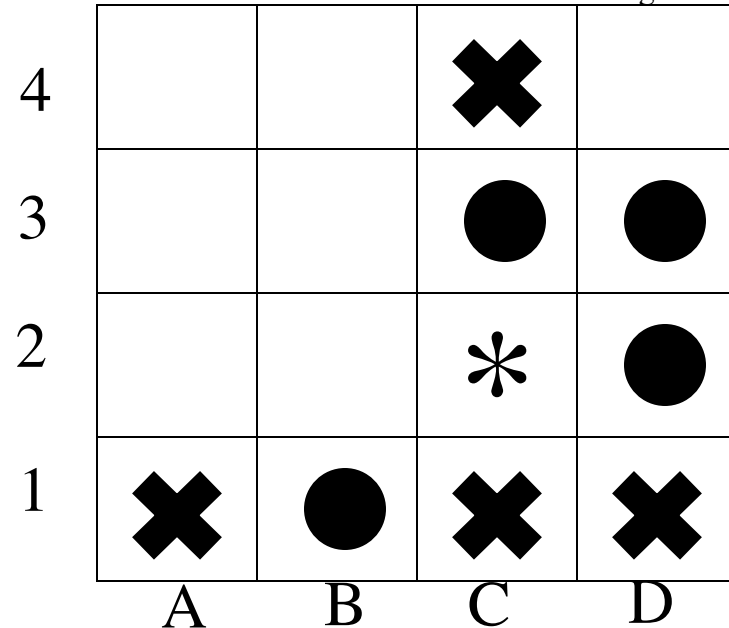
- Misère Rules: The player who connects n pieces loses.
- Super-bomb: bombs remove entire rows and columns

**Position Representation:**

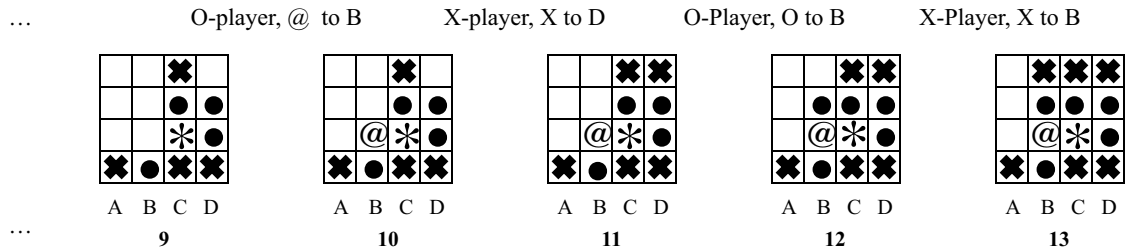
- (Player  $x$  bombs left  $o$  bombs left row row row ...)

Player stores whose turn it is (x or o).  $x$  bombs left and  $o$  bombs left store X-player and O-player's number of remaining bombs, respectively. Each row is in the form  $pppp...$  where  $p$  is "x", "o", "\*", or "@", representing the corresponding piece or bomb on the board; "-" if blank.

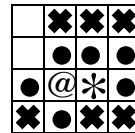
Figure 1



Example game (we came in late, this is position #9, O to play):



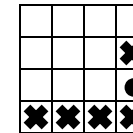
O-Player, O to A



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X-Player, Detonate.

Normally that would only take out pieces C1,B2,C2,D2,C3, but since B2 is also a bomb, it explodes, thus also removing B1, A1 and B3. Pieces B4 and C4 fall into B1 and B2...



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X-Player has four X pieces in a row. X-Player wins.

Representation for position 9: (o 0 1 xoxx --\*o --oo --x-)

...and position #14: (x 0 0 xoxx o@\*o -ooo -xxx)