

U.S. teen defeats “unbeatable” Tetris

Video game Tetris has met its match in 13-year-old Willis Gibson, who has “beaten” the original Nintendo version of the game – reaching the “kill screen” and crashing the game

■ **1985:** Computer engineer **Alexey Pajitnov** develops Tetris in Soviet Union

■ **1989:** Nintendo Entertainment System version launches

■ **1996:** Tetris Company founded by Pajitnov and **Henk Rogers**. Tetris becomes best-selling video game of all time

■ **Goal:** Compete against computer which drops **tetrominoes** from top of screen

■ **Rules:** Blocks can be rotated and moved around – challenge is to fill blank space in line at bottom of screen.

Line of blocks vanishes, lines above it move down to fill space and player is awarded points

■ **Kill screen:** Blocks fall faster as player gains points. Speed caps at **Level 29** when blocks fall so fast it's nearly impossible to respond

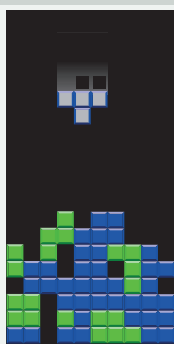
■ **Hypertapping:** In 2011, **Thor Aakerlund** reaches record **Level 30** by fast tapping to beat game's built-in speed limit

A-TYPE

STATISTICS

573
562
525
537
572
503
517

LINES-F10



TOP
999999
SCORE
999999

NEXT

LEVEL
18

LEVEL
157

■ **2018:** Record broken by **Joseph Saelee**, who reaches **Level 35**

■ **Rolling technique:** Player **Cheez** speeds up response by vibrating underside of controller. Cheez hits **Level 40** in 2021

■ **2022:** Player **EricICX** reaches **Level 95**

■ **Nov 2023:** **PixelAndy** achieves **Level 148**

■ **Dec 21:** Gibson (left) – also known as **Blue Scuti** – reaches **Level 157**

