

Loves Me, Loves Me Not - No Dispersal

Proposition: Let T be a configuration on the graph G with $T(v) \leq 1$ for all $v \in G$. If the weight of T is odd, then it is an \mathcal{N} -position. If the weight of T is even, then it is a \mathcal{P} -position.

Proof: We proceed by induction on the number of nonzero vertices. In the base case where there is only one such vertex, it is clearly a win for the first player, making it an \mathcal{N} -position.

Because each heap contains at most one token, a move cannot redistribute tokens to adjacent vertices. In particular, if we start with n vertices with one token each, the only possible moves are to remove one of the one-token heaps from the configuration, yielding another configuration T' where $T'(v) \leq 1$ for all $v \in G$, but with $n - 1$ nonzero vertices.

Suppose that for all configurations with odd weights less than n are \mathcal{N} -positions and all configurations with even weights less than n are \mathcal{P} positions. Then, if the weight n of T is even, then the following configuration T' must have weight $n - 1$, which is odd, making T' a \mathcal{N} -position. Since any move leads to an \mathcal{N} -position, T is a \mathcal{P} -position.

On the other hand, if the weight n of T is odd, then the following configuration T' must have weight $n - 1$, which is even, making it a \mathcal{P} -position. Since we have found a move to a \mathcal{P} -position, T is an \mathcal{N} -position.