Games, graphs, and machines



Grundy value: warm-up

 $\label{prop:continuous} \mbox{Find the Grundy value of PosetChomp for the following poset.}$

The Sprague-Grundy theorem

Theorem Two games have the same Grundy value if and only if they are equivalent.

Why? First a lemma.

Lemma If $G \sim H$, then $G + A \sim H + A$.

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H).

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H). $G \sim H \implies G + H \sim H + H$

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H). $G \sim H \implies G + H \sim H + H$ But H + H is P, so G + H is P.

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H). $G \sim H \implies G + H \sim H + H$ But H + H is P, so G + H is P. So label(G + H) = 0.

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H). $G \sim H \implies G + H \sim H + H$ But H + H is P, so G + H is P. So label(G + H) = 0. But $label(G + H) = label(G) \oplus label(H)$.

Suppose $G \sim H$. We want to show that label(G) = label(H). $G \sim H \implies G + H \sim H + H$ But H + H is P, so G + H is P. So label(G + H) = 0. But label(G + H) = label(G) \oplus label(H). So label(G) = label(H).

Suppose label(G) = label(H).

```
Suppose label(G) = label(H).
Then label(G + H) = 0
```

```
Suppose label(G) = label(H).
Then label(G + H) = 0
So G + H is a P-game.
```

```
Suppose label(G) = label(H).
Then label(G + H) = 0
So G + H is a P-game.
Then G + G + H is equivalent to both G and H.
```

```
Suppose label(G) = label(H). Then label(G+H) = 0 So G+H is a P-game. Then G+G+H is equivalent to both G and H. So G\sim H.
```