

Playing games until the end of time

MINGLE '18

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Let's play a stupid game

Let's play a stupid game

I pick a natural number n_0

Let's play a stupid game

I pick a natural number n_0

You pick another natural number n_1

Let's play a stupid game

I pick a natural number n_0

You pick another natural number n_1

You win if $n_1 > n_0$

Let's model the stupid game

I
II

Let's model the stupid game


I n_0
II

Let's model the stupid game

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{I} & n_0 \\ \text{II} & n_1 \end{array}$$


Let's model the stupid game

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{I} & n_0 \\ \text{II} & n_1 \end{array}$$


1 round

Let's model the stupid game


$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{I} & n_0 \\ \text{II} & n_1 \end{array}$$


1 round

You always have a **winning strategy**

Let's model the stupid game

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{I} & n_0 \\ \text{II} & n_1 \end{array}$$


1 round

You always have a winning strategy

For every n_0 there's an n_1 such that $n_1 > n_0$

Let's model the stupid game

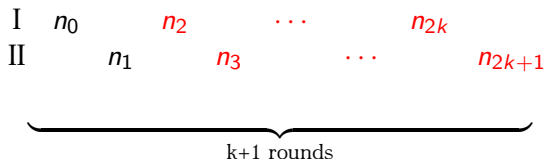
I n_0
II n_1


1 round

You always have a winning strategy

$$\forall n_0 \exists n_1 : n_1 > n_0$$

Let's model the generalised stupid game



You always have a winning strategy

$$\forall n_0 \exists n_1 \forall n_2 \exists n_3 \dots \forall n_{2k} \exists n_{2k+1} : n_{2k+1} > n_{2k}$$

Why are we playing stupid games?

First of all, games aren't stupid. Calm down.

Why are we playing silly games?

We saw that player II has a winning strategy iff
$$\forall n_0 \exists n_1 \forall n_2 \exists n_3 \cdots \forall n_{2k} \exists n_{2k+1} : n_{2k+1} > n_{2k}$$

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Analogously, player I has a winning strategy iff

$$\exists n_0 \forall n_1 \exists n_2 \forall n_3 \cdots \exists n_{2k} \forall n_{2k+1} : n_{2k+1} \leq n_{2k}$$

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But these two are just negations of each other, so one of them is true

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We say that finite games are **determined**

Chess is determined



Chess is determined



(if we remove draws)

Chess is determined



Chess is determined



(say White wins if it's a draw)

Infinite chess?



Infinite chess?

Same rules, same pieces, infinite board

Infinite chess?

Same rules, same pieces, infinite board

Still determined?

Infinite chess!

Note that if white loses then they've lost at a **finite** stage

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If Black doesn't have a winning strategy then
White can start out by playing a **non-losing move**

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If Black doesn't have a winning strategy then
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Keep playing non-losing moves

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Keep playing non-losing moves

If White loses then they've lost at a finite stage,
but they're playing non-losing moves, **contradiction!**

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Keep playing non-losing moves

If White loses then they've lost at a finite stage,
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So **infinite chess is determined**

I know what you're thinking

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Yes, there are non-determined games out there

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Let's do that another time

