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The Abstract Structure of Misère Impartial Games, Part 2

Combinatorial games in misère play have been the subject of increasing interest in recent years, yet much still remains unknown about the structure of misère impartial games under classical (Conway) equality. In this talk, I will discuss the abstract structure of the canonical monoid \mathcal{M} of misère games. I will give a proof of Conway's theorem that \mathcal{M} is cancellable; then I will present a few new results, including a proof that \mathcal{M} is "almost" torsion-free.

This talk is a follow-up to a previous talk presented at the online CGT seminar in March 2021. However, the material is mostly independent, and it is not necessary to have attended the prior talk. Some of the work presented in this talk was joint work with John Conway and Dan Hoey.