Some Notes on Proof Theory and Elements of Ordinal Analysis

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1 Provable Recursion in $\mathbf{I}\Delta_0$

$\mathbf{I}\Delta_0$ is a theory in first-order logic in the language:

$$\{=, 0, S, P, +, \dot{-}, \cdot, exp_2\}$$

where S and P are successor and precessor functions respectively. Further, we will denote $S(x)$ and $P(x)$ as $x+1$ and $x\dot{-}1$ respectively. 2^x stands for $exp_2(x)$.

The non-logical axioms of $\mathbf{I}\Delta_0$ are the following list:

- $x + 1 \neq 0$
- $x + 1 = y + 1 \to x = y$
- $0\dot{-}1 = 0$
- $(x + 1)\dot{-}1 = x$
- $x + 0 = x$
- $x + (y + 1) = (x + y) + 1$
- $x\dot{-}0 = x$
- $x\dot{-}(y + 1) = x\dot{-}y\dot{-}1$
- $x \cdot 0 = 0$
- $x \cdot (y + 1) = x \cdot y + x$
- $2^0 = 1$
- $2^{x+1} = 2^x + 2^x$

along with the bounded induction scheme:

$$B(0) \wedge \forall x(B(x) \to B(x + 1)) \to \forall x B(x)$$

where B is a Δ-*formula*, that is a formula one of the following forms (with bounded quantifiers only):

- $B \eqcirc \forall x < tP(x) \equiv \forall x(x < t \to P(x))$
- $B \eqcirc \exists x < tP(x) \equiv \exists x(x < t \wedge P(x))$

A Σ_1-formula is a formula of the form:

$$\exists \vec{x} B(\vec{x})$$

where $B(\vec{x}) \in \Delta_0$.

Lemma 1.1. $\mathbf{I}\Delta_0$ proves (the universal closures of):

1. $x = 0 \vee x = (x \dot{-} 1) + 1$
2. $x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z$
3. $x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z$
4. $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$
5. $x + y = y + x$
6. $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$
7. $x \dot{-} (y + z) = (x \dot{-} y) \dot{-} z$
8. $2^{x+y} = 2^x \cdot 2^y$

Proof.

1. This is self-evident.
2. If $z = 0$, then $x + y = x + y$. If $z = z' + 1$, then, by applying the IH and the relevant axioms:

$$(x + (y + (z' + 1))) = (x + ((y + z') + 1)) = (x + (y + z')) + 1 = \\ ((x + y) + z') + 1 = (x + y) + (z' + 1)$$

3. If $z = 0$, then $x \cdot (y \cdot 0) = (x \cdot y) \cdot 0$. If $z = z' + 1$, then:

$$x \cdot (y \cdot (z' + 1)) = x \cdot (y \cdot z' + y) = x \cdot (y \cdot z') + x \cdot y = (x \cdot y) \cdot z' + x \cdot y = (x \cdot y) \cdot (z' + 1)$$

4. The rest of the cases are shown by induction on z. Consider the exponentiation law. If $y = 0$, then

$$2^{x+0} = 2^x = 0 + 2^x = 2^x \cdot 0 + 2^x = 2^x \cdot (0 + 1) = 2^x \cdot 2^0$$

If $y = y' + 1$, then:

$$2^{x+(y'+1)} = 2^{(x+y')+1} = 2^x \cdot 2^y + 2^x \cdot 2^y = 2^x \cdot 2^{y+1}$$

□

Lemma 1.2. $\mathbf{I}\Delta_0$ proves (the universal closures of):

1. $\neg x < 0$
2. $x \leq 0 \leftrightarrow x = 0$
3. $0 \leq x$
4. $x \leq x$

5. $x < x + 1$
6. $x < y + 1 \leftrightarrow x \leq y$
7. $x \leq y \leftrightarrow x < y \vee x = y$
8. $x \leq y \wedge y \leq z \rightarrow x \leq z$
9. $x < y \wedge y < z \rightarrow x < z$
10. $x \leq y \vee y < x$
11. $x < y \rightarrow x + z < y + z$
12. $x < y \rightarrow x \cdot (z + 1) < y \cdot (z + 1)$
13. $x < 2^x$
14. $x < y \rightarrow 2^x < 2^y$

Proof. Straightforward induction. □

Definition 1.1. A function $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is *provably* Σ_1 or *provably recursive* in an arithmetical theory if there is a Σ_1 formula $F(\vec{x}, y)$, a "defining formula" of f, such that:

1. $f(\vec{n}) = m$ iff $\omega \models f(\vec{n}) = m$
2. $T \vdash \exists y F(\vec{x}, y)$
3. $T \vdash F(\vec{x}, y) \wedge F(\vec{x}, y') \rightarrow y = y'$

If a defining formula $F \in \Delta_0$, then a function f is *provably bounded* in T if there is a term $t(\vec{x})$ such that $T \vdash F(\vec{x}, y) \rightarrow y < t(\vec{x})$.

Theorem 1.1. Let f be a provably recursive in T, then we can conservatively extend T by adding a new function symbol f along with the defining axiom $F(\vec{x}, f(\vec{x}))$.

Proof. □

2 Primitive Recursion and $\mathbf{I}\Sigma_1$

$\mathbf{I}\Sigma_1$ is an arithmetical theory where the induction scheme is restructed to Σ_1 formulas.

Lemma 2.1. Every primitive recursion is provably recursive in $\mathbf{I}\Sigma_1$.

Proof. We have to show represent each primitive recursive function f with a Σ_1 formula $F(\vec{x}, y) := \exists z C(\vec{x}, y, z)$ such that:

1. $f(\vec{n}) = m$ iff $\omega \models F(\vec{x}, y)$.

2. $\mathbf{I}\Sigma_1 \vdash \exists y F(\vec{x}, y)$.
3. $\mathbf{I}\Sigma_1 \vdash F(\vec{x}, y) \wedge F(\vec{x}, y') \rightarrow y = y'$.

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