

Mathematics for Informatics

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Sets and computability theory

When we talk of a set A of natural numbers we can think of the characteristic function of that set.

$$A(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Hence, a set can be:

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Hence, a set can be:

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- ▶ primitive recursive

Theorem

Let A, B be sets in a PRC class \mathcal{C} . Then $A \cup B$, $A \cap B$ and \overline{A} are \mathcal{C} .

Recursively enumerable sets

As with functions

- ▶ there are computable sets, for example
 - ▶ \emptyset
 - ▶ \mathbb{N}
 - ▶ $\{p : p \text{ is prime}\}$

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 - ▶ $\{\langle x, y \rangle : \text{HALT}(x, y)\}$
 - ▶ $\{\langle x, \langle y, z \rangle \rangle : \Phi_x(y) = z\}$

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A set A is **recursively enumerable (r.e.)** when there is a partially computable function $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$A = \{x : g(x) \downarrow\}$$

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- ▶ we can algorithmically decide if an element **does** belongs to A , but when an element **does not** belongs to A , the algorithms is undefined
- ▶ these are usually call **semi-decision** algorithms: the solve an approximation to the problem of deciding membership of an element in a set A

Some properties of r.e. sets

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If A is computable then A is r.e.

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Let P_A be a program for [the characteristic function of] A . Let's consider the following program P :

[C] IF $P_A(X) = 0$ GOTO C

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Then

$$\psi_P(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in A \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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$$\Psi_P(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in A \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and then

$$A = \{x : \Psi_P(x) \downarrow\}$$



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Let $A = \{x : \Phi_p(x) \downarrow\}$, $B = \{x : \Phi_q(x) \downarrow\}$

$(A \cap B)$ The following program R computes $A \cap B$:

$Y \leftarrow \Phi_p(x)$

$Y \leftarrow \Phi_q(x)$

Indeed, $\Psi_R(x) \downarrow$ iff $\Phi_p(x) \downarrow$ **and** $\Phi_q(x) \downarrow$.

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$(A \cup B)$ The following program R' computes $A \cup B$:

[C] IF $\text{STP}^{(1)}(X, p, T) = 1$ GOTO E

IF $\text{STP}^{(1)}(X, q, T) = 1$ GOTO E

$T \leftarrow T + 1$

GOTO C

Indeed, $\Psi_{R'}(x) \downarrow$ iff $\Phi_p(x) \downarrow$ **or** $\Phi_q(x) \downarrow$.

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(\Leftarrow) suppose that A and \bar{A} are r.e.

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(\Leftarrow) suppose that A and \overline{A} are r.e.

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Consider P :

```
[C]    IF STP(1)(X, p, T) = 1 GOTO F
        IF STP(1)(X, q, T) = 1 GOTO E
        T ← T + 1
        GOTO C
[F]    Y ← 1
```

For each x , $x \in A$ or $x \in \overline{A}$. Then Ψ_P computes A .

Enumeration theorem

Let's define

$W_n = \{x : \Phi_n(x) \downarrow\}$ = the domain of the n -th program

Theorem

A set A is r.e. iff there is an n such that $A = W_n$.

There is an enumeration of all the r.e. sets

$$W_0, W_1, W_2, \dots$$

The halting problem (seen as a set)

Remember that

$$W_n = \{x : \Phi_n(x) \downarrow\}$$

Let's define

$$K = \{n : n \in W_n\}$$

Observe that

$$n \in W_n \quad \text{iff} \quad \Phi_n(n) \downarrow \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{HALT}(n, n)$$

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K is r.e. but it is not computable.

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- ▶ suppose that K is computable. Then \overline{K} would also be. Hence there is e such that $\overline{K} = W_e$. But then

$$e \in K \quad \text{iff} \quad e \in W_e \quad \text{iff} \quad e \in \overline{K}$$

More properties of r.e. sets

Theorem

If A is r.e., then there is a p.r. predicate $R : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$A = \{x : (\exists t) R(x, t)\}$$

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Then $x \in A$ when for some t , the program e with input x halts, i.e.,

$$A = \{x : (\exists t) \underbrace{\text{STP}^{(1)}(x, e, t)}_{R(x, t)}\}$$



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Theorem

If $A \neq \emptyset$ is r.e., there is a p.r. function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

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Let $a \in A$ and define

$$f(u) = \begin{cases} l(u) & \text{if } P(l(u), r(u)) \\ a & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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- ▶ $x \in A \Rightarrow$ there is t such that $P(x, t) \Rightarrow f(\langle x, t \rangle) = x$
- ▶ let x be such that $f(u) = x$ for some u . Then $x = a$ or u is of the form $u = \langle x, t \rangle$, with $P(x, t)$. Then $x \in A$.

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Proof.

Let $\Phi_p = f$. Let's define P'

```
[A]   IF STP(1)(Z, p, T) = 0 GOTO B
      IF  $\Phi_p(Z) = X$  GOTO E
[B]   Z  $\leftarrow$  Z + 1
      IF  $Z \leq T$  GOTO A
      T  $\leftarrow$  T + 1
      Z  $\leftarrow$  0
      GOTO A
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      IF  $Z \leq T$  GOTO  $A$ 
       $T \leftarrow T + 1$ 
       $Z \leftarrow 0$ 
      GOTO  $A$ 
```

Notice that $\Psi_{P'}(X) \downarrow$ if there are Z, T such that

- ▶ $Z \leq T$
- ▶ $\text{STP}^{(1)}(Z, p, T)$ is true (i.e., the program for f halts in T or less steps with input Z)
- ▶ $X = f(Z)$

$$\Psi_{P'}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in A \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Hence A is r.e.



Characterization of r.e. sets

Theorem

If $A \neq \emptyset$, then the following are equivalents:

- 1. A is r.e.*
- 2. A is the range of a primitive recursive function*
- 3. A is the range of a computable function*
- 4. A is the range of a partially computable function*

Proof.

$(1 \Rightarrow 2)$ *theorem in slide 10*

$(2 \Rightarrow 3)$ *Trivial*

$(3 \Rightarrow 4)$ *Trivial*

$(4 \Rightarrow 1)$ *theorem in slide 11*



Rice theorem

$A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is an **index** set if there is a class of partially computable functions \mathcal{C} such that $A = \{x : \Phi_x \in \mathcal{C}\}$

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If A is an index set such that $\emptyset \neq A \neq \mathbb{N}$, A is not computable.

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Let $h : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be the partially computable function:

$$h(t, x) = \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{if } t \in A \\ f(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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$$\blacktriangleright e \in A \Rightarrow \Phi_e = g \Rightarrow \Phi_e \notin \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow e \notin A$$

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$A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is an **index** set if there is a class of partially computable functions \mathcal{C} such that $A = \{x : \Phi_x \in \mathcal{C}\}$

Theorem

If A is an index set such that $\emptyset \neq A \neq \mathbb{N}$, A is not computable.

Proof.

Suppose that \mathcal{C} is such that $A = \{x : \Phi_x \in \mathcal{C}\}$ is computable. Let $f \in \mathcal{C}$ and $g \notin \mathcal{C}$ be partially computable functions.

Let $h : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be the partially computable function:

$$h(t, x) = \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{if } t \in A \\ f(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

By the Recursion theorem, there is e such that $\Phi_e(x) = h(e, x)$.

- ▶ $e \in A \Rightarrow \Phi_e = g \Rightarrow \Phi_e \notin \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow e \notin A$
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- ▶ $e \notin A \Rightarrow \Phi_e = f$

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- ▶ $e \notin A \Rightarrow \Phi_e = f \Rightarrow \Phi_e \in \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow e \in A$



Applications of Rice theorem

The theorem is a source of non computable sets:

- ▶ $\{x : \Phi_x \text{ is total}\}$
- ▶ $\{x : \Phi_x \text{ is increasing}\}$
- ▶ $\{x : \Phi_x \text{ has an infinite domain}\}$
- ▶ $\{x : \Phi_x \text{ is primitive recursive}\}$

They are all non computable, as they are all non trivial index sets.