Lecture 5: Three More Models Models of Computation

https://clegra.github.io/moc/moc.html

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July 11, 2025

Course overview

Monday, July 7 10.30 – 12.30	Tuesday, July 8 10.30 – 12.30	Wednesday, July 9 10.30 - 12.30	Thursday, July 10 10.30 – 12.30	Friday, July 11
intro		classic models		additional models
Introduction to Computability	Machine Models	Recursive Functions	Lambda Calculus	
computation and decision problems, from logic to computability, overview of models of computation relevance of MoCs	Post Machines, typical features, Turing's analysis of human computers, Turing machines, basic recursion theory	primitive recursive functions, Gödel-Herbrand recursive functions, partial recursive funct's, partial recursive = = Turing-computable, Church's Thesis	$\begin{array}{ll} \lambda\text{-terms, }\beta\text{-reduction,}\\ \lambda\text{-definable functions,}\\ \text{partial recursive}\\ =\lambda\text{-definable}\\ =\text{Turing computable} \end{array}$	
	imperative programming	algebraic programming	functional programming	
				14.30 – 16.30
				Three more Models of Computation
				Post's Correspondence Problem, Interaction-Nets, Fractran comparing computational power

Some Models of Computation

machine model	mathematical model	sort
Turing machine Post machine register machine	Combinatory Logic \(\lambda\text{-calculus}\) Herbrand-Gödel recursive functions partial-recursive/\(\mu\text{-recursive functions}\) Post canonical system (tag system) Post's Correspondence Problem Markov algorithms Lindenmayer systems	classical
	Fractran	less well known
cellular automata neural networks	term rewrite systems interaction nets logic-based models of computation concurrency and process algebra ς-calculus evolutionary programming/genetic algorithms abstract state machines	modern
hypercomputation		speculative
	quantum computing bio-computing reversible computing	physics-/biology- inspired

Overview

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- Compare computational power of models of computation
- Fractran (by John Horton Conway, 1987, [2])

Post's Correspondence Problem (PCP)

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"A Variant of a Recursively Unsolvable Problem" Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, 1946.

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Instance of PCP:

$$I = \{\langle g_1, g_1' \rangle, \dots, \langle g_k, g_k' \rangle \}, \text{ where } k \ge 1, \ g_i, g_i' \in \Sigma^+ \text{ for } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}.$$

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Question: Is I solvable?

Do there exist $n \ge 1$, and $i_1, \ldots, i_n \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$ such that:

$$g_{i_1}g_{i_2}\dots g_{i_n}=g'_{i_1}g'_{i_2}\dots g'_{i_n}$$
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Theorem

Codings of solvable instances of PCP:

$$\{\left\langle \overbrace{\{\langle g_1,g_1'\rangle,\ldots,\langle g_k,g_k'\rangle\mid k\geq 1,g_i,g_i'\in\Sigma^+\}}^{\textit{PCP instance }I}\right\rangle \mid I \textit{ is solvable}\}$$

form a set that is recursively enumerable, but not recursive.

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- electric circuits:
 - ▶ agents [≙] gates,
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- electric circuits:
 - ▶ agents [≙] gates,
 - ▶ edges [≙] wires
- agents as computation entities:
 - interaction rules specify behavior

Models of computation, viewed abstractly

A(n abstractly viewed) model of computation (MoC) is a class \mathcal{M} of machines/systems/... such that every $M \in \mathcal{M}$ it holds:

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 ightharpoonup O_M$, which maps some end-configurations of M to output objects of M; ω_M is computable, and membership of end-configurations in $dom(\omega_M)$ is decidable.

Simulations between models of computation

models $M_1 \in \mathcal{M}_1$ and $M_2 \in \mathcal{M}_2$ simulate each other with respect to computable coding $\cdot \cdot : I_{\mathcal{M}_1} \to I_{\mathcal{M}_2}$ and decoding $\cdot \cdot : O_{\mathcal{M}_2} \to O_{\mathcal{M}_1}$ if:

$$x_1 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_1} \qquad \qquad x_2 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_2} \qquad \qquad x_1 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_1} \qquad \qquad x_2 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_2} \qquad \qquad x_1 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_1} \qquad \qquad x_2 \in I_{\mathcal{M}_2} \qquad \qquad \alpha_{\mathcal{M}_2} \qquad$$

(defines a Galois connection)

▶ Simulation of models of computation $\mathcal{M}_1 = \langle D_1, \mathcal{F}_1 \rangle$, $\mathcal{M}_2 = \langle D_2, \mathcal{F}_2 \rangle$:

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$$\forall f_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1 \ \exists f_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2 \ (f_2 \ \text{simulates} \ f_1 \ \text{via} \ \rho)$$

Weak requirements on encodings (Boker/Dershowitz)

Traditional requirements on encodings are:

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- (i) *injective* functions
- (ii) bijective functions

Definition (power subsumption pre-order [Boker/Dershowitz 2006 [1]])

- (i) $\mathcal{M}_1 \lesssim \mathcal{M}_2$ if: there is an injective ρ such that $\mathcal{M}_1 \lesssim_{\rho} \mathcal{M}_2$
- (ii) $\mathcal{M}_1 \lesssim_{\text{bijective}} \mathcal{M}_2$ if: there is a bijective ρ such that $\mathcal{M}_1 \lesssim_{\rho} \mathcal{M}_2$

Anomalies for decision models

However, we found anomalies of these definitions.

$$\mathcal{M} = \langle D, \mathcal{F} \rangle$$
 is a decision model if $\{0,1\} \subseteq D$, $\forall f \in \mathcal{F} (f[D] \subseteq \{0,1\})$.

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Theorem (Endrullis/G/Hendriks, [3])

Let Σ and Γ with $\{0,1\} \subseteq \Sigma$, Γ be alphabets.

Then for every countable decision model $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Sigma^*, \mathcal{F} \rangle$, it holds:

$$\mathcal{M} \lesssim \mathsf{DFA}(\Gamma)$$
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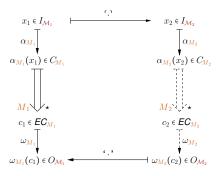
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These anomalies for decision models and bijective encodings:

- depend on uncomputable encodings
- can be extended to some moc's with unbounded output domain
- but do not extend to all moc's

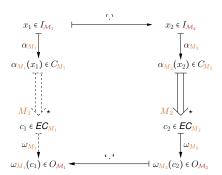
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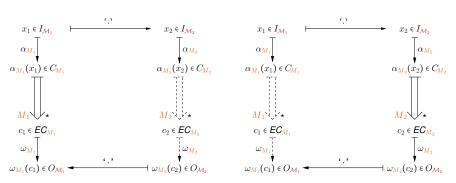
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(defines a Galois connection)

Comparing Computational Power of MoC's

Definition

Let \mathcal{M}_1 and \mathcal{M}_2 be MoC's.

1 The computational power of \mathcal{M}_1 is subsumed by that of \mathcal{M}_2 , denoted symbolically by $\mathcal{M}_1 \leq \mathcal{M}_2$, if:

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2 The computational power of \mathcal{M}_1 is equivalent to that of \mathcal{M}_2 , denoted by $\mathcal{M}_1 \sim \mathcal{M}_2$, if both $\mathcal{M}_1 \leq \mathcal{M}_2$ and $\mathcal{M}_2 \leq \mathcal{M}_1$ hold.

Comparing Computational Power of MoC's

Theorem

For all models \mathcal{M}_1 and \mathcal{M}_2 , and encoding and decoding functions $: I_{\mathcal{M}_1} \to I_{\mathcal{M}_2}$ and $: : O_{\mathcal{M}_2} \to O_{\mathcal{M}_1}$ it holds:

$$\mathcal{M}_1 \leq_{(`\cdot,\cdot,\cdot')} \mathcal{M}_2 \implies \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M}_1) \subseteq \{`\cdot,'\circ f \circ \cdot'\cdot' \mid f \in \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M}_2)\}.$$

Turing completeness and equivalence

By $\mathcal{TM}(\Sigma)$ we mean the model of Turing machines over input alphabet Σ .

Definition

Let \mathcal{M} a model of computation.

 \mathcal{M} is Turing-complete if $\mathcal{TM}(\Sigma) \leq \mathcal{M}$ for some alphabet Σ with $\Sigma \neq \emptyset$.

 \mathcal{M} is Turing-equivalent if $\mathcal{M} \sim \mathcal{TM}(\Sigma)$ for some alphabet $\Sigma \neq \emptyset$.

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Fractran

John Horton Conway:

- article:
 - FRACTRAN:
 A Simple Universal Programming Language for Arithmetic
- talk video:
 - "Fractran: A Ridiculous Logical Language"

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Summary

- ► Post's Correspondence Problem (by Emil Post, 1946, [6])
- ► Interaction Nets (by Yves Lafont, 1990, [4])
- Compare computational power of models of computation
- Fractran (by John Horton Conway, 1987, [2])

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	Fractran	less well known
cellular automata neural networks		
hypercomputation		speculative
quantum computing bio-computing reversible computing		physics-/biology- inspired

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Introduction to Computability	Machine Models	Recursive Functions	Lambda Calculus	
computation and decision problems, from logic to computability, overview of models of computation relevance of MoCs	Post Machines, typical features, Turing's analysis of human computers, Turing machines, basic recursion theory	primitive recursive functions, Gödel-Herbrand recursive functions, partial recursive funct's, partial recursive = = Turing-computable, Church's Thesis	$\begin{array}{ll} \lambda\text{-terms, }\beta\text{-reduction,}\\ \lambda\text{-definable functions,}\\ \text{partial recursive}\\ = \lambda\text{-definable}\\ = \text{Turing computable} \end{array}$	
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References I



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