

# 1. The Theorem

## 1.1 Formal Statement

Given  $m, n \geq 1$ , there exists a computable total function  $s_{m,n} : \mathbb{N}^{m+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $e \in \mathbb{N}, \vec{x} \in \mathbb{N}^m, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{N}^n$ :

$$\phi_e^{(m+n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \phi_{s_{m,n}(e, \vec{x})}^{(n)}(\vec{y})$$

## 1.2 Intuitive Meaning

The s-m-n theorem allows us to:

- "Hard-code" parameters into programs
- Transform an  $(m + n)$ -ary function into an  $n$ -ary function
- Create new programs that have some inputs "built in"

# 2. Common Applications

## 2.1 Basic Parameter Fixing

Given:  $f(x, y) = x * y$

Want:  $g(y) = 5 * y$

Solution:

1. Let  $e$  be index where  $\phi_e(x, y) = x * y$
2. By s-m-n theorem,  $\exists s$  such that:  
 $\phi_{s(e, 5)}(y) = \phi_e(5, y)$
3. Therefore  $g = \phi_{s(e, 5)}$

## 2.2 Function Construction

To construct function  $h$  with specific properties:

1. Define  $g(x, y)$  with desired behavior
2. Use s-m-n to get  $s$  where  $\phi_s(x)(y) = g(x, y)$
3. Use  $s(x)$  as index of constructed function

# 3. Problem-Solving Template

## 3.1 General Approach

1. Define helper function  $g(x,y)$  that implements desired behavior
2. Apply s-m-n theorem to get  $s$  where  $\phi_s(x)(y) = g(x,y)$
3. Prove  $s$  has required properties

## 3.2 Example Template

To prove existence of function  $k: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  where  $\phi_k(n)(x) = [\text{property}]$ :

1. Define  $g(n,x) = \{$   
     $[\text{desired behavior involving } n \text{ and } x]$   
     $\}$
2. By s-m-n theorem,  $\exists k$  computable total where:  
     $\phi_k(n)(x) = g(n,x)$
3. Verify  $\phi_k(n)$  has required properties

## 4. Common Use Cases

### 4.1 Reductions

To reduce  $A \leq_m B$ :

1. Define  $g(x,y)$  behavior to connect  $A$  and  $B$
2. Get  $s$  where  $\phi_s(x)(y) = g(x,y)$
3. Prove  $s$  is reduction function

### 4.2 Fixed Point Constructions

To find  $e$  where  $\phi_e$  has special property:

1. Define  $g$  to implement property
2. Use s-m-n to get  $s$
3. Apply fixed point theorem

## 5. Practical Examples

### 5.1 Root Function Example

Goal: Show  $\exists k$  total computable where  $\phi_k(n)(x) = \lfloor \sqrt[n]{x} \rfloor$

1. Define  $g(n,x) = \mu y \leq x \text{ " } ((y+1)^n > x) \text{ "}$

2. By s-m-n theorem,  $\exists k$  where:  
 $\phi_{k(n)}(x) = g(n, x)$
3. Verify:  $\phi_{k(n)}(x)$  computes  $n$ th root

## 5.2 Domain Modification Example

Goal: Find  $k$  where  $W_{k(n)} = \{x^n \mid x \in \mathbb{N}\}$

1. Define  $g(n, x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \exists y(y^n = x) \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
2. Get  $k$  where  $\phi_{k(n)}(x) = g(n, x)$
3. Verify  $W_{k(n)}$  has required property

## 6. Common Pitfalls

1. Not ensuring helper function  $g$  is computable
2. Confusing parameters vs arguments
3. Forgetting totality requirements
4. Incorrect handling of undefined cases

## 7. Verification Steps

For any s-m-n construction:

1. Check computability:
  - Is helper function  $g$  computable?
  - Are all used functions computable?
2. Verify parameters:
  - Are all parameters properly fixed?
  - Is arity correct?
3. Confirm behavior:
  - Does construction do what's required?
  - Are all cases handled?
4. Check properties:
  - Is function total if required?

- Are domain/range correct?