

**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

**Winter 2024 Examination Period**

**SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Second Year PRACTICE Examination for the Degrees  
of  
Bachelor of Science  
Master of Engineering**

**COMS20007W  
Programming Languages and Computation**

**TIME ALLOWED:  
3 Hours**

This paper contains *three* questions, worth *40*, *30* and *30* marks respectively. Answer *all* questions. The maximum for this paper is *100 marks*. Credit will be given for partial answers.

**Other Instructions:**

**Candidates may bring to the exam room 1 double-sided A4 page of notes in any format. A reminder of key definitions is provided at the back of this paper.**

**TURN OVER ONLY WHEN TOLD TO START WRITING**

**Q1.** This question is about syntax.

- \*(a) Consider the following grammar over terminal symbols  $\{a, b\}$ :

$$S \longrightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid \epsilon$$

- i. Give two examples of words over  $\{a, b\}$  that are derivable in the grammar.
- ii. Give two examples of words over  $\{a, b\}$  that are not derivable in the grammar.
- iii. Is the following statement true or false? Every word derivable in the grammar has even length.

[5 marks]

- \*(b) Consider each of the following grammars over the alphabet  $\{a, b, c\}$ . In each case, the start symbol is  $S$ .

1.

$$S \longrightarrow aSaS \mid bS \mid cS \mid \epsilon$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow TabbT \mid TbbaT \\ T &\longrightarrow aT \mid bT \mid cT \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

3.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow bTb \\ T &\longrightarrow aT \mid bT \mid cT \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

4.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow XSX \mid \epsilon \\ X &\longrightarrow a \mid b \mid c \end{aligned}$$

5.

$$S \longrightarrow bS \mid cS \mid \epsilon$$

Match each of the following descriptions of languages to the regular expression above that denotes it:

- i. The language of all words that start and end with  $b$ .
- ii. The language of all words that do not contain  $a$ .
- iii. The language of all even length words.
- iv. The language of all words containing an even number of  $a$ .
- v. The language of all words that either contain  $abb$  or  $bba$  as a substring.

[5 marks]

- \*(c) Consider the following grammar for the syntax of Combinatory Logic:

$$M \longrightarrow \text{var} \mid k \mid s \mid M M \mid ( M )$$

whose 5 terminal symbols are:

$$\text{var} \quad k \quad s \quad ( \quad )$$

(cont.)

- i. Compute nullable, and the first and follow sets for this grammar.
- ii. Draw the parse table for this grammar.
- iii. Is the grammar LL(1)?

[10 marks]

\*\* (d) For each of the following sets of words over  $\{a, b\}$ , design a context-free grammar that expresses the set:

- i. All words whose length is a multiple of 3, e.g. *abb*, *ababba*.
- ii. All words that start and end with a different letter, e.g. *abbaab*.
- iii. All words that contain a letter *b* exactly two places from the end, e.g. *aabab*, *baa*.
- iv. All words that do not contain the substring *aa*.

[6 marks]

\*\* (e) Give an LL(1) grammar equivalent to the following context-free grammar:

$$S \longrightarrow \emptyset \mid ( S ) \mid \text{atom} \mid S \cup S \mid S \cap S \mid S^c$$

whose terminal symbols are:

$$\emptyset \quad ( \quad ) \quad \text{atom} \quad \cup \quad \cap \quad ^c$$

[4 marks]

\*\*\* (f) Show that the following language over  $\{0, 1\}$  can be expressed by a context-free grammar and justify your construction.

$$\{1^k w \mid k \geq 1, w \in \Sigma^*, \#_1(w) \geq k\}$$

where  $\#_1(v)$  counts the number of 1 characters in the word  $v$ , e.g.  $\#_1(00101110) = 3$ .

[5 marks]

\*\*\* (g) Define the following indexed family of words  $w_i$  by recursion on  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$w_0 = a$$

$$w_{k+1} = a + w_k$$

For example,  $w_3 = a + a + a + a$  and  $w_5 = a + a + a + a + a + a$ .

Prove that every word in the language  $\{w_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is derivable in the following grammar (whose start symbol is  $S$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow a U \\ U &\longrightarrow + a U \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

[5 marks]

**Q2.** This question is about semantics.

- \* (a) For each of the following, indicate whether it represents a valid arithmetic expression, a valid Boolean expression, or neither. In each case, if the expression is valid, evaluate the appropriate denotation function in the state  $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2, z \mapsto 3]$ .

- i.  $x + 10 < 6 * (-42 - y)$
- ii.  $x \leftarrow z - (42 + y)$
- iii.  $\text{true} \ \&\& \ (\text{false} \ || \ 42 * x < 0)$
- iv.  $\text{true} = \text{true}$
- v.  $w * 2 = c + d$

[5 marks]

- \*\* (b) Suppose we add a new form of arithmetic expressions — the *integer exponentiation* operator so that the grammar of arithmetic expressions is now defined as follows:

$$A \longrightarrow n \mid x \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A \mid A \wedge A$$

We extended the denotation function for arithmetic expressions with the equation:

$$\llbracket e_1 \wedge e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) < 0 \\ \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- i. Find two arithmetic expressions  $e_1 \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $e_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  such that the arithmetic expression  $x \wedge (e_1 + e_2)$  is *not* semantically equivalent to the arithmetic expression  $(x \wedge e_1) \cdot (x \wedge e_2)$ .
- ii. Prove that the arithmetic expression  $e \wedge 2$  is semantically equivalent to the arithmetic expression  $e * e$  for an any given arithmetic expression  $e \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- iii. Let  $S_1 \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $S_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  be arbitrary While statements. Prove that the statement “if  $x = 1$  then  $x \leftarrow x \wedge x$ ;  $S_1$  else  $S_2$ ” and the statement “if  $x = 1$  then  $S_1$  else  $S_2$ ” are semantically equivalent.

[10 marks]

- \*\*\* (c) Consider the While program shown in Figure 1.

```
while  $b \leq a$  do
   $a \leftarrow a - b$ ;
   $q \leftarrow q + 1$ 
```

Figure 1: A simple While program

- i. For each of the following states, indicate whether the program terminates when executed in that initial state, and the values of  $q$  and  $a$  in the final state (if it exists). You do not need to state the corresponding derivation.
  1.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto 3]$

(cont.)

2.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto -12]$
  3.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto 0]$
  4.  $[a \mapsto -25, b \mapsto 10]$
  5.  $[a \mapsto 10, b \mapsto 3]$
- ii. Prove that this program in fact terminates when executed in any initial state in which  $b$  is positive. That is, for any  $\sigma \in \text{State}$  such that  $\sigma(b) > 0$ , show that there exists some  $\sigma' \in \text{State}$  such that  $P, \sigma \Downarrow \sigma'$  where  $P$  is the aforementioned program. You will need to use the strong induction principle.

*[15 marks]*

**Q3.** This question is about computability.

\* (a) Show that the function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by

$$f(x) \begin{cases} \simeq 2^x - 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is even} \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is computable.

[5 marks]

\* (b) State whether each of the following statements is true or false.

- The set of prime numbers is decidable.
- If a function has an inverse, it must be an injection.
- Every surjection has an inverse.
- WHILE programs compute partial functions.
- If a function is computable then it must be an injection.

[5 marks]

\*\* (c) Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$ . Show that if  $g \circ f : A \rightarrow C$  is injective, then so is  $f$ .

[3 marks]

\*\* (d) Show that the predicate

$$U = \{ \ulcorner S \urcorner \mid \text{for all } k \leq 2023 \text{ it is true that } \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k) = \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k+1) \}$$

is semi-decidable. (The use of “=” here means that both sides of the equality must be defined and equal.)

[5 marks]

\*\*\* (e) Show that the predicate

$$V = \{ \ulcorner S \urcorner \mid \text{there exists } k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k) = \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k+1) \}$$

is undecidable (The use of “=” here means that both sides of the equality must be defined and equal.)

[5 marks]

\*\*\* (f) Show that the following predicate is undecidable:

$$P = \{ \langle \ulcorner S_1 \urcorner, \ulcorner S_2 \urcorner \rangle \mid \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}: \llbracket S_1 \rrbracket_x(n) \simeq 1 \text{ iff } \llbracket S_2 \rrbracket_x(n) \simeq k \text{ where } k \neq 1 \}$$

[7 marks]

## Reminder of Important Definitions

### Grammars

A *Context Free Grammar (CFG)* consists of four components:

- An alphabet of *terminal* symbols, which we shall usually write as  $\Sigma$  (capital letter sigma)
- A finite, non-empty set of *non-terminal* symbols, disjoint from the terminals, which we shall usually write as  $\mathcal{N}$
- A finite set of *production rules*, which we shall usually write as  $\mathcal{R}$ , each of which has shape:  $X \longrightarrow \alpha$ .
- A designated non-terminal from  $\mathcal{N}$ , called the *start symbol*, which we will usually write as  $S$ .

A *sentential form*, usually  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and so on, is just a finite sequence of terminals (from  $\Sigma$ ) and nonterminals (from  $\mathcal{N}$ ).

The *one-step derivation relation* is a binary relation on sentential forms with two sentential forms  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  related, written  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ , just if  $\alpha$  is of shape  $\alpha_1 X \alpha_2$  and there is a production rule  $X \longrightarrow \gamma$  and  $\beta$  is exactly  $\alpha_1 \gamma \alpha_2$ .

We write  $\alpha \rightarrow^* \beta$ , and say  $\beta$  is *derivable from*  $\alpha$  just if  $\beta$  can be derived from  $\alpha$  in any (finite) number of steps, including zero steps.

We say that a word  $w$  is in the *language of a grammar*  $G$  with start symbol  $S$ , and write  $w \in L(G)$  just if  $S \rightarrow^* w$ .

### While Concrete Syntax

The concrete syntax of the While programming language can be described by the following grammar:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\longrightarrow \text{skip} \mid V \leftarrow A \mid S; S \mid \text{if } B \text{ then } S \text{ else } S \mid \text{while } B \text{ do } S \mid \{ S \} \\
 B &\longrightarrow \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid A \leq A \mid A = A \mid !B \mid B \&\& B \mid B \parallel B \mid (B) \\
 A &\longrightarrow V \mid N \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A \mid (A) \\
 D &\longrightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 9 \\
 E &\longrightarrow D E \mid \epsilon \\
 L &\longrightarrow a \mid b \mid \dots \mid z \\
 U &\longrightarrow A \mid B \mid \dots \mid Z \mid ' \\
 M &\longrightarrow L M \mid U M \mid \epsilon \\
 V &\longrightarrow L M \\
 N &\longrightarrow D E
 \end{aligned}$$

(cont.)

## Nullable

On nonterminals:

$$\text{Nullable}(X) \text{ iff } X \rightarrow^* \epsilon$$

On sentential forms:

$$\text{Nullable}_s(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } \alpha = \epsilon \\ \text{false} & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } a\beta \\ \text{Nullable}(X) \wedge \text{Nullable}_s(\beta) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \end{cases}$$

To calculate Nullable, first set the approximation Nullable[X] to false for each nonterminal X, then repeatedly perform the following iteration until a fixed point is reached:

- For each production  $X \rightarrow \alpha$ :
  - $\text{Nullable}[X] := \text{Nullable}[X] \vee \text{Nullable}_s(\alpha)$

## First

On nonterminals:

$$\text{First}(X) = \{a \in \Sigma \mid \exists \beta. X \rightarrow^* a\beta\}$$

On sentential forms:

$$\text{First}_s(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } \alpha = \epsilon \\ \{a\} & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } a\beta \\ \text{First}(X) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \text{ and } \neg \text{Nullable}(X) \\ \text{First}(X) \cup \text{First}_s(\beta) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \text{ and } \text{Nullable}(X) \end{cases}$$

To calculate First, first set the approximation First[X] to the empty set  $\emptyset$  for each nonterminal X. Then repeatedly perform the following iteration until a fixed point is reached:

- For each production  $X \rightarrow \alpha$ :
  - $\text{First}[X] := \text{First}[X] \cup \text{First}_s(\alpha)$

## Follow

On nonterminals:

$$\text{Follow}(X) = \{a \in \Sigma \mid \exists \alpha\beta. S \rightarrow^* \alpha X a \beta\}$$

To calculate Follow, start by initialising Follow[X] to the empty set for each non-terminal X. Then repeatedly perform the following nested iteration until a fixed point is reached:

- For each non-terminal X:
  - For each occurrence of X on the right-hand side of a production  $Y \rightarrow \alpha X \beta$ :
    - \*  $\text{Follow}[X] := \text{Follow}[X] \cup \text{First}_s(\beta)$
    - \* if  $\text{Nullable}_s(\beta)$  then  $\text{Follow}[X] := \text{Follow}[X] \cup \text{Follow}[Y]$



## Parse Tables and LL(1)

We define the *parse table*, usually  $T$ , for a given grammar as a 2d array indexed by pairs of a nonterminal and a terminal. Each entry  $T[X, a]$  is a set of production rules from the grammar, such that some rule  $X \rightarrow \beta$  is in the set  $T[X, a]$  just if, either:

1.  $a \in \text{First}_s(\beta)$
2. or,  $\text{Nullable}_s(\beta)$  and  $a \in \text{Follow}(X)$

A grammar whose parse table contains at most one rule in each cell is called  $LL(1)$ .

## Abstract Syntax of arithmetic expressions

An *arithmetic expression* is a tree described by the following grammar:

$$A \longrightarrow n \mid x \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A$$

where  $n$  ranges over integer literals, and  $x$  ranges over variables. Parentheses are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{A}$  for the set of arithmetic expressions.

## Abstract Syntax of Boolean expressions

A *Boolean expression* is a tree described by the following grammar.

$$B \longrightarrow \text{false} \mid \text{true} \mid !B \mid B \ \&\& \ B \mid B \ \|\ B \mid A = A \mid A \leq A$$

Parentheses are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{B}$  for the set of Boolean expressions.

## Abstract Syntax of statements

A *statement* is a tree described by the following grammar:

$$S \longrightarrow \text{skip} \mid x \leftarrow A \mid S; S \mid \text{if } B \text{ then } S \text{ else } S \mid \text{while } B \ S$$

Braces “ $\{\dots\}$ ” are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{S}$  for the set of statements.

## While Program Semantics

A *state* is a total function from the set  $\text{State} = \text{Var} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $\text{Var}$  is the set of variables. We write  $[x_1 \mapsto v_1, x_2 \mapsto v_2, \dots, x_n \mapsto v_n]$  to indicate the state that maps the variable  $x_i \in \text{Var}$  to the value  $v_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $i \leq n$ . By convention, any variable not explicitly mentioned by a given state  $\sigma$  is assigned the value 0.

For a given state  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ , we write  $\sigma[x \mapsto v]$  for some variable  $x \in \text{Var}$  and  $v \in \mathbb{Z}$  to denote the state that maps the variable  $x$  to  $v$  and any other variable  $y$  to the value  $\sigma(y)$ .

(cont.)

## Semantics of arithmetic expressions

The denotation function for arithmetic expressions  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}} \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\text{State} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$ , which is defined by recursion in Figure 2. We say that two arithmetic expressions  $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  are *semantically equivalent* if, and only if,  $\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)$  for all states  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket n \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= n \\ \llbracket x \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \sigma(x) \\ \llbracket e_1 + e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) + \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 - e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) - \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 * e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \cdot \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)\end{aligned}$$

Figure 2: Definition of the denotational semantics of arithmetic expressions.

## Semantics of Boolean expressions

The denotation function for Boolean expressions  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathcal{B} \rightarrow (\text{State} \rightarrow \mathbb{B})$  is defined by recursion in Figure 3. We say that two Boolean expressions  $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{B}$  are *semantically equivalent* if, and only if,  $\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma)$  for all states  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \perp \\ \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \top \\ \llbracket !e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \neg \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 \ \&\& \ e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \wedge \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 \ || \ e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \vee \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 = e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 \leq e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \leq \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)\end{aligned}$$

Figure 3: Definition of the denotational semantics of Boolean expressions.

## Semantics of statements

The operational semantics relation  $\Downarrow \subseteq \mathcal{S} \times \text{State} \times \text{State}$  is defined inductive by the rules in Figure 4. We say that two statements  $S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  are *semantically equivalent* if, and only if:

$$S_1, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2 \Leftrightarrow S_2, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2$$

for any two states  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \text{State}$ .

## Computable Functions

We write  $[x \mapsto n]$  for the state that maps the variable  $x$  to the number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and every other variable to 0.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\text{skip}, \sigma \Downarrow \sigma} \qquad \frac{}{x \leftarrow e, \sigma \Downarrow \sigma[x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)]} \\
\frac{S_1, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2 \quad S_2, \sigma_2 \Downarrow \sigma_3}{S_1; S_2, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_3} \qquad \frac{S_1, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2}{\text{if } e \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma_1) = \top \\
\frac{S_2, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2}{\text{if } e \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma_1) = \perp \qquad \frac{}{\text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma \Downarrow \sigma} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \perp \\
\frac{S, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_2 \quad \text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma_2 \Downarrow \sigma_3}{\text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma_1 \Downarrow \sigma_3} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma_1) = \top
\end{array}$$

Figure 4: Definition of the operational semantics of statements.

A 'while' program  $S$  *computes* a partial function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  (with respect to  $x$ ) just if  $f(m) \simeq n$  exactly when  $\langle S, [x \mapsto m] \rangle \Downarrow [x \mapsto n]$ .

A function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is *computable* just if there is a program  $S$  that computes  $f$  with respect to the variable  $x$ .

## Predicates

The *characteristic function* of  $U$  is the function

$$\begin{aligned}
\chi_U : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
\chi_U(n) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \in U \\ 0 & \text{if } n \notin U \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

The *semi-characteristic function* of  $U$  is the partial function

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi_U : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
\xi_U(n) &\begin{cases} \simeq 1 & \text{if } n \in U \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

A predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is *decidable* just if its characteristic function  $\chi_U : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is computable.

The 'while' program that computes the characteristic function  $\chi_U$  of a predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is called a *decision procedure*. Any predicate for which there is no decision procedure is called *undecidable*.

A predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is *semi-decidable* just if its semi-characteristic function  $\xi_U$  is computable.

The *Halting Problem* is the following predicate:

$$\text{HALT} = \{ \langle \ulcorner S \urcorner, n \rangle \mid \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(n) \Downarrow \}$$

(cont.)

## Bijections

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is *injective* (or 1-1) just if for any  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  we have that  $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$  implies  $a_1 = a_2$ . We sometimes write  $f : A \rightarrowtail B$  whenever  $f$  is an injection.

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is *surjective* just if for any  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . We sometimes write  $f : A \twoheadrightarrow B$  whenever  $f$  is a surjection.

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a *bijection* just if it is both injective and surjective.

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function.  $f$  is an *isomorphism* just if it has an *inverse*. That is, if there exists a function  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  such that:

- for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  we have  $f^{-1}(f(a)) = a$
- for all  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  we have  $f(f^{-1}(b)) = b$

## Encoding Data

A *pairing function* is a bijection  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$ . We assume that we have a fixed pairing function

$$\langle -, - \rangle : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

with the following inverse:

$$\text{split} : \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$$

## Reflections

Suppose we have two bijections:

$$\phi : A \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N} \quad \psi : B \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

The *reflection* of  $f : A \rightarrow B$  under  $(\phi, \psi)$  is the function

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f} : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ \tilde{f}(n) &= \psi(f(\phi^{-1}(n))) \end{aligned}$$

## Gödel Numbering

Let **Stmt** be the set of Abstract Syntax Trees of While. We assume that we have a Gödel numbering

$$\ulcorner - \urcorner : \mathbf{Stmt} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

which encodes While programs as natural numbers.

A *code transformation* is a function  $f : \mathbf{Stmt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stmt}$ .

## Universal Function

The *universal function*,  $U$ , is defined as follows:

$$U : \mathbf{Stmt} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$U(P, n) = \llbracket P \rrbracket_x(n)$$

## Reductions

Let  $U, W \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  be predicates, and let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . The function  $f$  is a *many-one reduction* from  $U$  to  $W$  just if it is computable, and it is also the case that

$$n \in U \Leftrightarrow f(n) \in W$$

We may write  $f : U \lesssim V$  (read " $f$  is a reduction from  $U$  to  $V$ ").