

Sack Splitting Theorem. Let  $A$  be r.e. but not recursive.

Then  $A$  can be partitioned into two incomparable r.e. sets.

Proof: Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  be an enumeration of  $A$ .

At stage  $s$ , we'll put  $a_s$  in either  $B$  or  $C$ .

Let  $R_{e,B}: \chi_A \neq \Phi_e^B$  and  $R_{e,C}: \chi_A \neq \Phi_e^C$ .

[These requirements suffice because collectively they say  $A \not\leq_T B$  and  $A \not\leq_T C$ , and so if  $B \leq_T C$  then, for any  $x$ , to see if  $x \in A$  we can use our oracle for  $C$  to see if  $x \in C$  and if  $x \in B$ . So  $A \leq_T C$ , a contradiction so  $B \not\leq_T C$  (and similarly  $C \not\leq_T B$ ).

Consider  $R_{1,B}$ . We will use a length of agreement argument.

- DEFN: 1.  $\varphi_e^B(k)[s] = 1 + \text{the rightmost position of the oracle head during the computation } \Phi_e^B(k)[s]$ .
- length of agreement  $\rightarrow$  2.  $l(e, B, s) = \max \{n: (\forall k < n) \chi_A(k)[s] = \Phi_e^B(k)[s]\}$  where  $A_s = \{a_0, \dots, a_s\}$ .
- high-water mark  $\rightarrow$  3.  $L(e, B, s) = \max_{t \leq s} l(e, B, t)$
4.  $u(e, B, s) = \max_{k < L(e, B, s)} \varphi_e^B(k)[s]$

(and all four for  $C$  instead of  $B$  too).

We prioritize the requirements as follows:

$$R_{1,B} \prec R_{1,C} \prec R_{2,B} \prec R_{2,C} \prec \dots$$

Here's the construction:

Stage 0:

$$B \leftarrow \emptyset$$

$$L(e, B, 0) \leftarrow 0$$

$$C \leftarrow \emptyset$$

$$L(e, C, 0) \leftarrow 0$$

Stage  $s+1$ :

If there's an  $e \leq s$  s.t.  $a_s < u(e, B, s)$  or  $a_s < u(e, C, s)$

then  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} e \leftarrow \text{a least such } \# \\ \text{If } a_s < u(e, B, s) \text{ then } C \leftarrow C \cup \{e\} \\ \text{else } B \leftarrow B \cup \{e\} \end{array} \right.$

else  $B \leftarrow B \cup \{a_s\}$  (or  $C \leftarrow C \cup \{a_s\}$  it doesn't matter).

Update the  $u$  function on each weaker priority than  $u(s, C, s+1)$ .

We'll first argue that  $R_{1,B}$  is met.

Lemma 1:  $(\exists m)(\forall s)[l(1, B, s) < m]$  (i.e.  $R_{1,B}$  has a high water mark).

Pf Assume the contrary, i.e. that  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} l(1, B, s) = \infty$ . Then  $\forall k, \exists$  inf. many stages  $s$  such that  $l(1, B, s) > k$ . For each such stage,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Phi_{1,k}^B & = & \Phi_{1,k}^B(s) & = & A_s(k) = A(k) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \textcircled{1} & & \textcircled{2} & & \textcircled{3} \end{array}$$

① is true because elements less than  $u(1, B, s)$  are prevented from entering  $B$  after stage  $s$ .

② is true because the length of agreement is  $> k$ .

③ is true because, if  $k \in A_s \subset A$  then  $k \in A$ .

if  $k \notin A$  then by ① and ②,  $\Phi_{1,k}^B(s) = 0$  and since  $l(1, B, s)$  is unbounded we have  $k \notin A$ .

So we can decide if  $k \in A$  by running construction until  $l(1, B, s) > k$ , so  $A$  is recursive,  $\delta$

Let  $m = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} l(1, B, s)$ .

Lemma 2 at least one number  $y \leq m$  is a permanent witness

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to  $R_{1,B}$ .

Proof Let  $s$  be the first stage at which the high water mark is hit, i.e.  $m = L(1, B, s)$ . If  $\exists y < m$  that enters  $A$  at stage  $\hat{s} > s$ , then  $y$  is a permanent witness for  $R_{1,B}$ , in particular  $(\forall t \geq \hat{s}) [A_t(y) = 1 \neq 0 = \Phi_e^B(y)[t]]$ , because  $\Phi_e^B(y)[\hat{s}] \downarrow = 0$ , and we forever prevent elements below  $u(1, B, s)$  from entering  $B$ .