

Computing In The Realm Of The Uncountable

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Generalizing Recursion Theory

Key characteristics of a computable procedure:

- Driven by an algorithm
- Mechanizable via a (Turing) machine

Church-Turing thesis: What is intuitively computable is indeed computable

Motivation for a generalized recursion theory (GRT):

- 1 The notion of computation should be applicable, in a broad sense, to domains other than \mathbb{N} ;

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- 1 There is only one correct generalization but it is not clear which.
- 2 There are possibilities too many to enumerate.

Kreisel's view. There are only a few GRT's which

- 1 Have the potential to advance classical recursion theory (CRT);
- 2 Can enhance our understanding of the mathematical character of CRT.

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Defining characteristics of the central notions of CRT

- R.E. = Σ_1 -definable (in the language of Peano arithmetic)
- Recursive = Δ_1 -definable
- “Finite” = coded by a number in \mathbb{N}

Guiding principle: These characterizations should be central to any generalization.

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Computing in an uncountable domain: Example 1

(Kripke-Platek, Takeuti, Kreisel-Sacks) *Admissible recursion theory*:

(L_α, \in) , $\alpha \geq \omega$ a limit ordinal, which satisfies Σ_1 -replacement.

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- There is a well-developed theory of computation for (L_α, \in)
- The notion of an α -degree provides a natural way of calibrating the relative complexity of subsets of α .
- Ideas and methods from α -recursion theory have been adapted to study GRT over nonstandard models of fragments of PA.
- These have been successfully applied to investigate Ramsey type combinatorial problems in reverse mathematics.

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Some striking differences with \mathbb{N} :

An r.e. set is *maximal* if it is maximal in the lattice of r.e. sets modulo finite sets.

- (Martin) In \mathbb{N} , an r.e. degree \mathbf{a} contains a maximal set iff it is high, i.e. $\mathbf{a}' = \mathbf{0}''$.
- (Leman-Simpson) If α is an uncountable admissible ordinal, then there is no maximal set in (L_α, \in) .
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- (Sacks) If $\alpha \geq \omega$ is countable and admissible, then $\alpha = \omega_1^T$ for some $T \subseteq \omega$, i.e. α is the least ordinal for which $(L_\alpha[T], \in)$ is admissible.
- (S. Friedman) If $\kappa > \omega$ is a regular cardinal, then there exist admissibles $\kappa < \alpha < \kappa^+$ such that *no* $X \subset \kappa$ satisfies “ $(L_\alpha[X], \in)$ is admissible”.

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In \mathbb{N} , the following holds for Turing degrees:

(*) $\forall \mathbf{a} \geq \mathbf{0}' \exists \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2 > \mathbf{a} (\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2 \text{ are incomparable})$

- (S. Friedman) Assume $V = L$. The Turing degrees in $(L_{\omega_{\omega_1}}, \leq)$ above $\mathbf{0}'$ are well-ordered, with successor being the Turing jump.
- (Harrington, Solovay) There exist incomparable \aleph_ω -degrees above $\mathbf{0}'$.
- In general, (*) holds for regular cardinals and singular cardinals κ of countable cofinality, and is false otherwise.
- In fact for such κ , if $V = L$ or if V is a forcing extension of L that preserves *GCH* at κ , then there is a $\mathbf{d} \geq \mathbf{0}'$ such that $\{\mathbf{e} : \mathbf{e} \geq \mathbf{d}\}$ are well-ordered with Turing jump as successor.

Hence (*) is a property about countable cofinality.

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The statement

- $\{\mathbf{0}^{(n)} : n \in \omega\}$ has a least upper bound

is false in \mathbb{N} but true in (L_{ω_1}, \in) under the assumption $2^\omega \subset L$.

Question. How much do these results reflect the true nature of computation in the uncountable realm?

For example,

- Can the \aleph_{ω_1} -degrees above $\mathbf{0}'$ be indeed well-ordered with Turing jump as the successor, if “ $V = \text{Ultimate } L$ ” (assuming *GCH* holds at \aleph_{ω_1})?
- How much computation theory can one develop over an uncountable domain which is not endowed with an effective well-ordering?

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Computation over \mathbb{C}

Questions.

- 1 What is the “correct” notion of a basic unit in \mathbb{C} ?
- 2 What operations on \mathbb{C} are “computable”?
- 3 When is $X \subset \mathbb{C}$ a “finite” set?

Consider three instances:

- The ω_1 -recursion theory approach
- The computable analysis perspective
- The Blum-Shub-Smale model

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Complex dynamics of quadratic polynomials:

For $c \in \mathbb{C}$, let

$$f_c(z) = z^2 + c$$

$$f_c^{(n+1)}(z) = f_c(f_c^{(n)}(z))$$

The filled Julia set of f_c is

$$K_c = \{z : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_c^{(n)}(z) \not\rightarrow \infty\}$$

And $J_c = \partial K_c$ is the Julia set of f_c .

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- 1 The “computability” of J_c ;
- 2 Relative complexity of Julia sets;
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ω_1^L -recursion theory approach

In $L_{\omega_1^L}$,

- Every $z \in \mathbb{C}$ is “given”, hence computable.
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Define $z \in \mathbb{C}$ to be computable if it has a recursive approximation.

Define $X \subset \mathbb{C}$ to be “computable” if it has a dense subset with each member having a recursive approximation.

- Thus, X is computable if it can be “drawn on the computer” with any prescribed precision.
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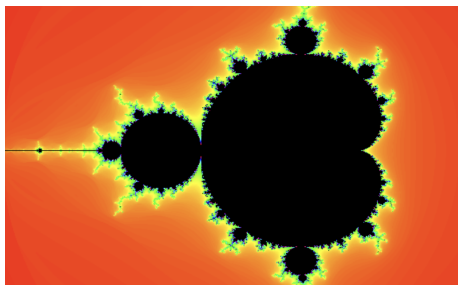
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Computable analysis approach

- For each r.e. degree in \mathbb{N} , there is a J_c of that degree.
- (Hertling) If the hyperbolicity conjecture* is true, then the Mandelbrot set is computable.



Mandelbrot set $M =$
 $\{c : J_c \text{ is connected}\}$

**Hyperbolicity Conjecture:*
Hyperbolic J_c 's are dense
in M .

Computable analysis approach

However, from the viewpoint of computation theory, there are issues to be addressed.

- 1 In the language of PA, “computable” is not Δ_1 but Δ_2 definable.
- 2 Even if J_C is computable, there is no algorithm to decide, in finite time, if a given $z \in \mathbb{C}$ is in J_C .
- 3 More generally, given a (real) finite set X , there is no procedure to decide in finite time, if $X \subset J_C$ or $X \cap J_C = \emptyset$ for such X .

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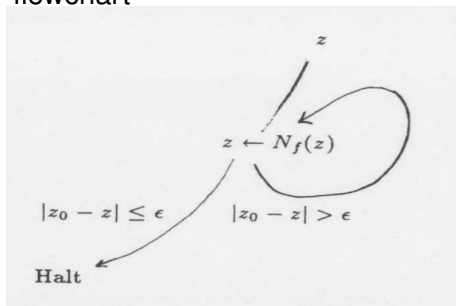
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Blum-Shub-Smale (BSS) model

- Every $z \in \mathbb{C}$ is a basic unit of the model.
- Rational maps are basic operations.
- A computation or an algorithm can be viewed as a ‘flowchart’



BSS model

- R.E = Σ_1 in a two-sorted language.
- $X \subset \mathbb{C}$ is “computable” if there is an algorithm that decides, for each z , whether $z \in X$ in (real) finite time.
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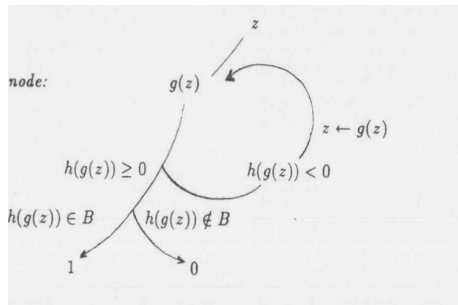
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BSS model

One can define a notion of *pointwise* Turing reducibility \leq_{wT} , allowing queries of the form “Is $z \in J_d$?” in the flowchart:



BSS model

This “weak” reducibility notion offers a way to investigate the relative complexity of Julia sets:

- (Chong) There exist $c \neq d$ such that J_c and J_d are incomparable under \leq_{wT} .
- (Chong) If J is the Julia set of a rational map which is locally connected and K_C° has more than one component, then $\emptyset <_{wT} K_C^\circ <_{wT} J_C$.

However, pointwise computability and reducibility do not capture the uncountability aspect of \mathbb{C} since only information about finite subsets are needed for a decision.

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Questions: What is the “correct” notion of

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- 2 Recursive/computable set?
- 3 Turing reducibility \leq_T in this model?

Proposal. Take the cue from α -recursion theory and focus on definability:

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Question

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