

COMPUTABILITY (28/10/2025)

* Class of partial recursive functions $\mathcal{R}$

least rich class of functions i.e. least class of functions

→ including the BASIC FUNCTIONS

→ closed under

1. COMPOSITION
2. PRIMITIVE RECURSION
3. UNBOUNDED MINIMALISATION

Theorem : $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{C}$

proof

$(\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{C})$ $\mathcal{C}$ is rich

$(\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{R})$

Let $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a function in $\mathcal{C}$

and let P a URM-program for f

Define

$$\begin{cases} C_P^1 : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ C_P^1(\vec{x}, t) = \text{content of register } R_1 \text{ after } t \text{ steps of } P(\vec{x}) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} J_P : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ J_P(\vec{x}, t) = \begin{cases} \text{instruction to be executed after } t \text{ steps of } P(\vec{x}) \\ 0 & \text{if } P(\vec{x}) \text{ halts in } t \text{ or fewer steps} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$f(\vec{x}) = C_P^1(\vec{x}, \mu t. J_P(\vec{x}, t))$$

We conclude by proving $C_P^1, J_P \in \mathcal{R}$

program P (in std form)

I_1
 I_2
 $\rightarrow \vdots$
 I_s

memory

x_1	x_2		x_m	0	0	...
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1	2	3	4	5	...
2	0	1	0	0	...

$$C = \prod_{i=1}^m p_i^{x_i} = \prod_{i=1}^m p_i^{x_i}$$

$$x_i = (C)_i$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 C &= p_1^2 p_2^0 p_3^1 p_4^0 p_5^0 \dots \\
 &= 2^2 \cdot 3^0 \cdot 5^1 \dots \\
 &= 20
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(20)_3 = 1$$

$$\begin{cases}
 C_P : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
 C_P^t(\vec{x}, t) = \text{content of memory after } t \text{ steps of } P(\vec{x})
 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases}
 J_P : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
 J_P(\vec{x}, t) = \begin{cases} \text{instruction to be executed after } t \text{ steps of } P(\vec{x}) \\ 0 & \text{if } P(\vec{x}) \text{ halts in } t \text{ or fewer steps} \end{cases}
 \end{cases}$$

define C_P, J_P by primitive recursion

$$\begin{cases}
 C_P(\vec{x}, 0) = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{x_i} \\
 J_P(\vec{x}, 0) = 1
 \end{cases}$$

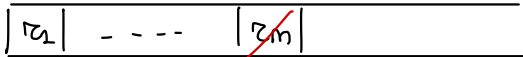
x_1	...	x_k	0	...
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iteration cases

we define $C_P(\vec{x}, t+1)$, $J_P(\vec{x}, t+1)$

by using $\underbrace{C_P(\vec{x}, t)}_C$ and $\underbrace{J_P(\vec{x}, t)}_J$

$$c_p(\vec{x}, t+1) = \begin{cases} qt(p_m^{(c)_m}, c) & \text{if } 1 \leq j \leq \ell(P) \\ & \text{and } I_j = Z(m) \\ \\ c \cdot p_m & \text{if } 1 \leq j \leq \ell(P) \\ & \text{and } I_j = S(m) \\ \\ p_m^{(c)_m} \cdot qt(p_m^{(c)_m}, c) & \text{if } 1 \leq j \leq \ell(P) \\ & \text{and } I_j = T(m, m) \\ \\ c & \text{otherwise} \\ & (j=0 \text{ or } 1 \leq j \leq \ell(P) \\ & \text{and } I_j = j(m, m, u)) \end{cases}$$



c
 $\begin{bmatrix} |c_1| & \dots & |z_m| \end{bmatrix}$



$p_1^{r_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_m^{r_m} \cdot \dots$

$z_m = (c)_m$

$$\bar{J}_P(\vec{x}, t+1) = \begin{cases} J+1 & \begin{aligned} &\text{if } 1 \leq J < \ell(P) \\ &\text{and } I_J \neq \text{jump} \\ &\text{or } (I_J = J(m, m, u) \\ &\quad \text{and } (c)_m \neq (c)_m) \end{aligned} \\ u & \text{if } 1 \leq J \leq \ell(P) \\ & \text{and } I_J = J(m, m, u), (c)_m = (c)_m \\ & \text{and } u \leq \ell(P) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Hence $c_p, j_p \in \mathbb{R}$

thus $f(\vec{x}) = \left(c_P(\vec{x}, \mu t, J_P(\vec{x}, t)) \right)_1$

there fore $f \in \mathbb{R}$



* Primitive Recursive Functions

PR least class of functions

→ including the basic functions

→ closed under

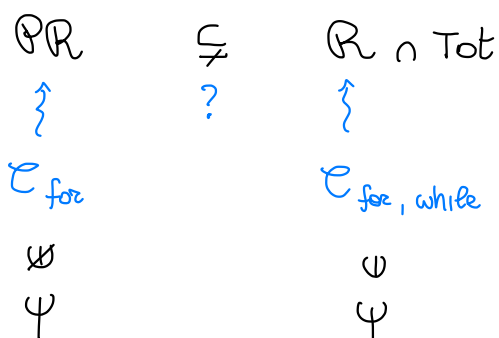
① composition

② primitive recursion

↔ for loop

③ ~~minimisation~~

↔ while loop



Ackermann's Function

$$\psi: \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

- (1) ψ total
- (2) $\psi \in \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{R}$
- (3) $\psi \notin \text{PR}$

$$\begin{cases} \psi(0, y) = y+1 \\ \psi(x+1, 0) = \psi(x, 1) \\ \psi(x+1, y+1) = \psi(x, \underbrace{\psi(x+1, y)}_u) \end{cases}$$

$$(x+1, 0) >_{\text{lex}} (x, 1)$$

$$(x+1, y+1) >_{\text{lex}} (x+1, y)$$

$$(x+1, y+1) >_{\text{lex}} (x, u)$$

$$(\mathbb{N}^2, \leq_{\text{lex}}) \quad (x, y) \leq_{\text{lex}} (x', y') \quad \text{if} \quad (x < x') \quad \text{or} \quad (x = x' \quad \text{and} \quad y \leq y')$$

$$(9, 10000000) <_{\text{lex}} (10, 0)$$

$$(10, 10000000) >_{\text{lex}} (10, 0)$$

$$f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } z \geq 0 \\ f(z-1) & \text{if } z < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} f(-1) \\ | \\ f(-2) \\ | \\ f(-3) \end{array}$$

* partial order

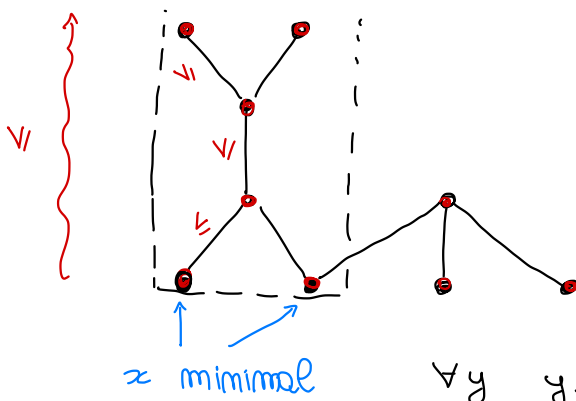
$$(D, \leq)$$

$\leq$ reflexive
antisymmetric
transitive

$$x \leq x$$

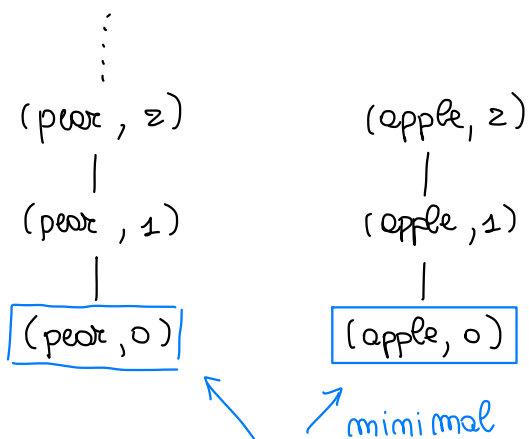
$$x \leq y \text{ and } y \leq x \text{ then } x = y$$

$$x \leq y \text{ and } y \leq z \text{ then } x \leq z$$



$$\forall y \quad y \leq x \Rightarrow y = x$$

$$D = \{ (\text{pear}, m), (\text{apple}, m) \mid m \in \mathbb{N} \}$$



$$(x, y) \leq (x', y')$$

$$\text{if } x = x' \text{ and } y \leq y'$$

* Well founded partial order

$(D, \leq)$ is well founded if every $X \subseteq D$ $X \neq \emptyset$ has a minimal element

Es. $\mathbb{N}$ well-founded

$\mathbb{Z}$ not well-founded

$(D, \leq)$ well-founded iff

up to
foundational
"details"

there is no infinite descending chain

$$x_0 > x_1 > x_2 > x_3 \dots$$

* $(\mathbb{N}^2, \leq_{lex})$ well founded

let $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}^2$ $X \neq \emptyset$

$$x_0 = \min \{x \mid \exists y (x, y) \in X\}$$

$$y_0 = \min \{y \mid (x_0, y) \in X\}$$

$$(x_0, y_0) = \min X$$

Induction : $P(m) \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$

$$P(m) = " \sum_{i=0}^m i = \frac{m(m+1)}{2} "$$

$P(0)$ and for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ if $P(m)$ then $P(m+1)$

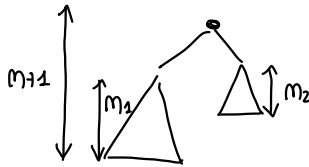


for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ $P(m)$

Strong Induction

A binary tree with height m has at most 2^m leaves

$m \rightarrow m+1$



$$m_1, m_2 \leq m$$

need inductive hypothesis
for all $m' \leq m$

for all m , assuming $P(m')$ for $m' < m$ I can deduce $P(m)$



for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ $P(m)$

Well-founded induction

$(D, \leq)$ well founded order

$P(x)$ property of elements of D

if for all $d \in D$, assuming $\forall d' < d \quad P(d')$
I can conclude $P(d)$

$\Downarrow$

$\forall d \in D \quad P(d)$

① ψ is total

$\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \quad \psi(x, y) \downarrow$

by well-founded induction on $(\mathbb{N}, \leq_{lex})$

proof

let $(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}^2$

assume $\forall (x', y') <_{lex} (x, y) \quad \psi(x', y') \downarrow$

and we show $\psi(x, y)$

$$\begin{cases} \psi(0, y) = y+1 \\ \psi(x+1, 0) = \psi(x, 1) \\ \psi(x+1, y+1) = \psi(x, \psi(x+1, y)) \end{cases}$$

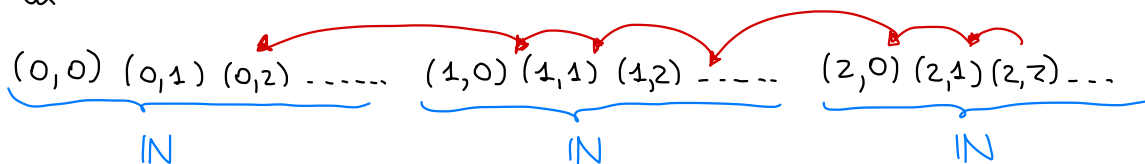
we distinguish 3 cases

$(x=0) \quad \psi(x, y) = \psi(0, y) = y+1 \downarrow$

$(x>0, y=0) \quad \psi(x, y) = \psi(\underbrace{x-1, 1}_{<_{lex} (x, y)}) \downarrow$
hence $\psi(x-1, 1) \downarrow$

$(x>0, y>0) \quad \psi(x, y) = \psi(x-1, \underbrace{\psi(x, y-1)}_{<_{lex} (x, y)}) = \psi(\underbrace{x-1, u}_{<_{lex} (x, y)}) \downarrow$
 $\leadsto \psi(x, y-1) = u \downarrow \quad \leadsto \psi(x-1, u) \downarrow$

$(\mathbb{N}^2, \leq_{lex})$



□

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \psi \in \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{C}$$

$$\psi(1,1) = \psi(0, \underbrace{\psi(1,0)}_{\psi(0,1)=2}) = \psi(0,2) = 3$$

$$(1,1,3) \quad (0,2,3) \quad (1,0,2) \quad (0,1,2)$$

valid set of triples S : informally

$$\begin{aligned} (x,y,z) \in \mathbb{N}^3 & \rightarrow z = \psi(x,y) \\ & \rightarrow S \text{ includes all triples needed to compute } \psi \text{ on } (x,y) \end{aligned}$$

formally: $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}^3$ valid if

$$\begin{cases} \psi(0,y) = y+1 \\ \psi(x+1,0) = \psi(x,1) \\ \psi(x+1,y+1) = \psi(x, \underbrace{\psi(x+1,y)}_u) \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad (0,y,z) \in S \Rightarrow z = y+1$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad (x+1,0,z) \in S \Rightarrow (x,1,z) \in S$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad (x+1,y+1,z) \in S \Rightarrow \exists u \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \begin{aligned} (x+1,y,u) &\in S \\ (x,u,z) &\in S \end{aligned}$$

you can prove $\forall (x,y,z) \in \mathbb{N}^3$

$$\psi(x,y) = z \quad \text{iff} \quad \exists S \subseteq \mathbb{N}^3 \text{ a finite valid set of triples s.t. } (x,y,z) \in S$$

$$\text{then} \quad \psi(x,y) = \underbrace{\mu(S,z)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{encode as a number}}} \cdot \left(S \subseteq \mathbb{N}^3 \text{ valid finite set of triples} \wedge (x,y,z) \in S \right)$$

$$S = \{(x_1, y_1, z_1), (x_2, y_2, z_2), \dots, (x_m, y_m, z_m)\}$$

$$\{ \pi(\pi(x_2, y_2), z_1), \dots, \pi(\pi(x_m, y_m), z_m) \}$$

$$k_1 \quad \dots \quad \dots$$

$$k_m$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^m p_i^{k_i}$$

$$\leadsto \psi \in \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{C}$$

③

$$\psi \in \mathcal{PR}$$

successor

$$\begin{cases} x+0 = x \\ x+(y+1) = (x+y)+1 \end{cases}$$

← successor iterated y times

$$\begin{cases} x \times 0 = 0 \\ x \times (y+1) = (x \times y) + x \end{cases}$$

← "+ x" iterated y times

$$\begin{cases} x^0 = 1 \\ x^{y+1} = x^y \times x \end{cases}$$

← " $\times x$ " iterated y times

!

idea: ψ brings the above to the "limit"

$$\begin{cases} \psi(0, y) = y+1 \\ \psi(x+1, 0) = \psi(x, 1) \\ \psi(x+1, y+1) = \psi(x, \psi(x+1, y)) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \psi_0(y) = y+1 \\ \psi_{x+1}(0) = \psi_x(1) \\ \psi_{x+1}(y+1) = \psi_x(\psi_{x+1}(y)) \end{cases}$$

consider x as fixed parameter

$$\psi_x(y) = \psi(x, y)$$

$$\psi_{x+1}(y+1) = \psi_x(\psi_{x+1}(y))$$

$$= \psi_x \psi_x (\psi_{x+1}(y-1))$$

$$= \psi_x \psi_x \psi_x (\psi_{x+1}(y-2)) \dots$$

⋮

$$= \underbrace{\psi_x \dots \psi_x}_{y+1 \text{ times}} \underbrace{\psi_{x+1}(0)}_{\psi_x(1)}$$

$$= \psi_x^{y+1}(0)$$

roughly: increasing x to $x+1$ requires iterating the function ψ_x

→ increases the number of nested primitive recursion

→ the full function would require infinitely many
nested primitive recursions

Some more ideas....

concretely:

$$\psi_0(y) = y + 1$$

$$\psi_1(y) = \psi_0^{y+1}(1) = y + 2$$

$$\psi_2(y) = \psi_1^{y+1}(1) = 2(y+1) + 1 = 2y + 3 \approx 2y$$

$$\psi_3(y) = \psi_2^{y+1}(1) \approx 2^y$$

$$\psi_4(y) = \psi_3^{y+1}(1) \approx 2^{2^{2^{\dots^2}} y}$$

$$\text{e.g.: } \psi_0(1) = 2$$

$$\psi_2(1) = 5$$

$$\psi_3(1) = 13$$

$$\psi_4(1) \approx 2^{16}$$

$$\psi_4(2) \approx 2^{2^{16}} \approx 10^{6400}$$

ONE CAN PROVE: Given a function $f: \mathbb{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{PR}$ and a program P
computing f using only "for-loops" (primitive recursion)
if J is the maximum level of nesting of for-loops

$$f(\vec{x}) < \psi_{J+1}(\max\{x_i\})$$

Now, assume $\psi \in \mathcal{PR}$, let J be the level of nesting of
for-loops (of primitive recursive defs)
for computing ψ

$$\forall (x, y)$$

$$\psi(x, y) < \psi_{J+1}(\max\{x, y\})$$

$$\text{let } x = y = j+1$$

$$\psi(j+1, j+1) < \psi_{j+1}(j+1) = \psi(j+1, j+1)$$

contradiction

$$\Rightarrow \psi \notin \mathcal{PR}$$