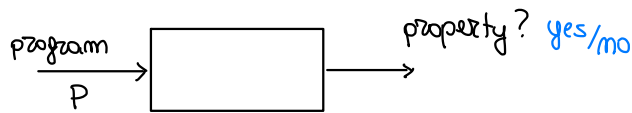


COMPUTABILITY (25/11/2025)

RICE'S THEOREM



every property of programs

which concerns to I/O behaviour

is undecidable

"P is terminating on every input"

"P has some fixed $m \in \mathbb{N}$ in output"

"P has dead code"

"P computes function f "

⋮

undecidable

"the length of P is ≤ 10 "

"the program P is not using jumps"

decidable

What is a behavioural property of programs?

$A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$

↑

set of programs

(property of programs)

$$T = \{ m \mid P_m = \gamma^{-1}(m) \text{ is terminating on every input} \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m \text{ is total} \}$$

$$ONE = \{ m \mid P_m \text{ is a correct implementation of } \mathbb{1} \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m = \mathbb{1} \}$$

$A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ (program property) is behavioural property if for all programs $m \in \mathbb{N}$

the fact that $m \in A$ or $m \notin A$ only depends on φ_m

Def (saturated / extensional set) : $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is saturated (extensional)

if $\forall m, n$

if $m \in A$ and $\varphi_m = \varphi_n$ then $n \in A$

\Downarrow

$$A = \{ m \mid \varphi_m \text{ satisfies a property } \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m \in A \}$$

for suitable $A \subseteq \mathcal{F}$

\uparrow
property of functions

Examples

$$* \quad T = \{ m \mid P_m \text{ is terminating on every input} \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m \text{ is total} \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m \in T \} \quad T = \{ f \mid f \text{ is total} \}$$

$$* \quad \text{ONE} = \{ m \mid \varphi_m \text{ is a correct implementation of } \mathbb{1} \}$$

$$= \{ m \mid \underbrace{\varphi_m = \mathbb{1}}_{\varphi_m \in \{\mathbb{1}\}} \}$$

$$* \quad \text{LEN}_{10} = \{ m \mid P_m = \gamma^{-1}(m) \text{ has } \leq 10 \text{ times} \}$$

$$m \in \text{LEN}_{10}$$

$$\text{and } \varphi_m = \varphi_n$$

$$n \notin \text{LEN}_{10}$$

e.g. $m = \gamma(z(1))$

$$\varphi_m(x) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

$$m \in \text{LEN}_{10}$$

$$\varphi_m = \varphi_n$$

$$m = \gamma \left(\begin{matrix} z(1) \\ s(2) \\ s(2) \\ \vdots \\ s(2) \end{matrix} \right) \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{matrix} z(1) \\ s(2) \\ s(2) \\ \vdots \\ s(2) \end{matrix}} \right\} 10 \text{ times}$$

$$\varphi_m(x) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

$$m \notin \text{LEN}_{10}$$

* $\text{NODEAD} = \{ m \mid P_m \text{ has no dead code} \}$

$$m = \gamma(Z(1))$$

$$m \in \text{NODEAD}$$

$$\varphi_m = \varphi_m = \perp$$

$$m = \gamma \left(\begin{array}{c} Z(1) \\ J(1,1,\text{END}) \\ S(1) \leftarrow \text{never executed} \\ \text{END:} \end{array} \right)$$

* $K = \{ m \mid \varphi_m(m) \downarrow \}$

$$= \{ m \mid \varphi_m \in K \}$$

where $K = \{ f \mid f(?) \downarrow \}$ apparently not extensional

to conclude K not saturated we need $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$m \in K$$

$$\varphi_m(m) \downarrow$$

$$m \notin K$$

$$\varphi_m(m) \uparrow$$

and

$$\varphi_m = \varphi_m$$

assume that we are able to show that there is a program $m \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$\varphi_m(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x=m \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(*)

we have

① $m \in K$ $\varphi_m(m) = 1 \downarrow$

② for a computable functions there are infinitely many programs
hence there is $n \neq m$ s.t.

$$\varphi_m = \varphi_n$$

③ $m \notin K$

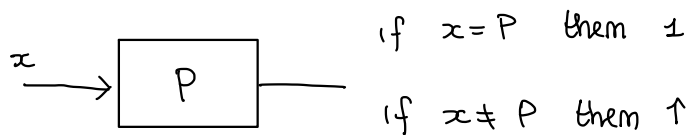
$$\varphi_m(m) = \varphi_n(m) \uparrow$$

\uparrow \uparrow
 $m \neq n$

$$\varphi_m = \varphi_n$$

K not saturated

What about assumption (*) ?



def $P(x)$:

if $x = "$ def $P(x)$:

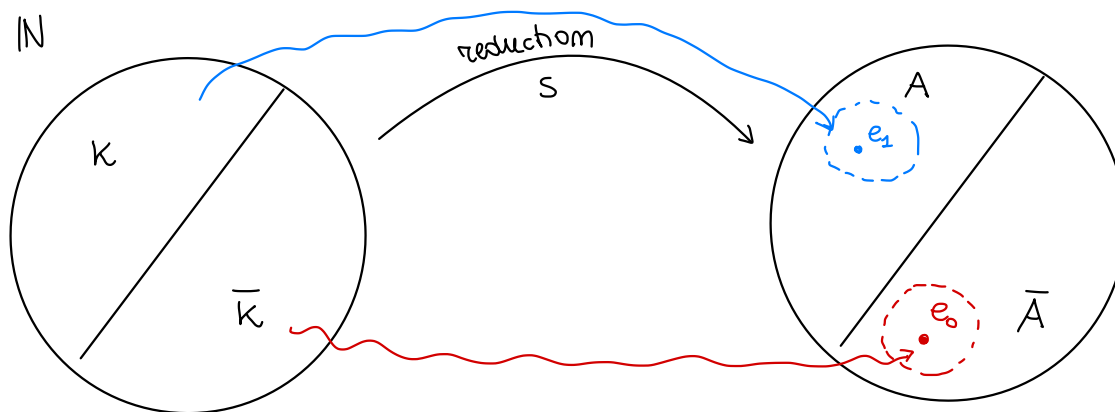
if $x = -$ "
"

RICE'S THEOREM

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ if A is saturated and $A \neq \emptyset$, $A \neq \mathbb{N}$
then A is not recursive

proof

we prove that $K \leq_m A$ (since K is not recursive we deduce that A is not recursive)



Let $e_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ be s.t. $\varphi_{e_0}(x) \uparrow \forall x$ (a program for function which is always undefined)

① Assume $e_0 \notin A$

take $e_1 \in A$ (it exists because $A \neq \emptyset$)

define

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} \varphi_{e_1}(y) & \text{if } x \in K \\ \varphi_{e_0}(y) & \text{if } x \notin K \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \varphi_{e_1}(y) & \text{if } x \in K \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$= \varphi_{e_1}(y) \cdot \mathbb{I}(\varphi_x(x))$$

$$= \varphi_{e_1}(y) \cdot \mathbb{I}(\psi_U(x, x)) \quad \text{computable}$$

By smm there is a total computable function $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall x, y$

$$\varphi_{s(x)}(y) = g(x, y) = \begin{cases} \varphi_{e_1}(y) & \text{if } x \in K \\ \varphi_{e_0}(y) & \text{if } x \notin K \end{cases}$$

I claim that s is the reduction function for $K \leq_m A$

* if $x \in K$ then $s(x) \in A$

Assume $x \in K$. Then $\forall y \quad \varphi_{s(x)}(y) = g(x, y) = \varphi_{e_1}(y)$.

Hence $\varphi_{s(x)} = \varphi_{e_1}$. Since $e_1 \in A$ and A saturated, we deduce $s(x) \in A$.

* if $x \notin K$ then $s(x) \notin A$

Assume $x \notin K$. Then $\forall y \quad \varphi_{s(x)}(y) = g(x, y) = \varphi_{e_0}(y)$.

Hence $\varphi_{s(x)} = \varphi_{e_0}$. Since $e_0 \notin A$ and A saturated, we deduce $s(x) \notin A$.

So indeed $K \leq_m A$ and since K not recursive, we have A not recursive.

(2) Assume $e_0 \in A$

if we let $B = \bar{A}$ then

$$e_0 \notin B$$

$$B \neq \emptyset \quad (\text{since } A \neq \mathbb{N})$$

$$B \neq \mathbb{N} \quad (\text{ " } A \neq \emptyset)$$

$$B \text{ saturated (since } A \text{ is)}$$

} by (1) B is not recursive
" \bar{A}

Since $B = \bar{A}$ not recursive we conclude A not recursive.

□

* Output problem

$$B_m = \{x \mid m \in E_x\} \quad \nwarrow \text{programs which has } m \text{ in output}$$

→ B_m is saturated, in fact

$$B_m = \{x \mid \varphi_x \in B_m\}$$

$$\text{where } B_m = \{f \mid m \in \text{cod}(f)\}$$

→ $B_m \neq \emptyset$

e.g. let $e_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\varphi_{e_1}(x) = x$ then $m \in E_{e_1} = \mathbb{N}$, so $e_1 \in B_m$

→ $B_m \neq \mathbb{N}$

e.g. let $e_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\varphi_{e_0}(x) \uparrow \forall x$ then $m \notin E_{e_0} = \emptyset$, so $e_0 \notin B_m$

Hence, by Rice's theorem, B_m is not recursive.

EXERCISE :

$$\begin{aligned} O &= \{x \mid P_x \text{ has infinitely many outputs}\} \\ &= \{x \mid E_x \text{ is infinite}\} \end{aligned}$$

* O saturated since $O = \{x \mid \varphi_x \in O\}$

$$\text{where } O = \{f \mid \text{cod}(f) \text{ is infinite}\}$$

* $O \neq \emptyset$

if e_1 is an index for the identity (as above) $E_{e_1} = \mathbb{N}$ infinite

hence $e_1 \in O$

* $O \neq \mathbb{N}$

if e_0 an index of the function always undefined (as above)

$E_{e_0} = \emptyset$ not infinite hence $e_0 \notin O$

Hence by Rice's theorem, O is not recursive.

EXERCISE

$$A = \{ x \mid x \in W_x \cap E_x \}$$

is A saturated?

$$A = \{ x \mid \varphi_x \in \mathcal{A} \}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{ f \mid ? \in \text{dom}(f) \cap \text{cod}(f) \}$$

↑ don't know what to put here

probably not saturated, I will not use Rice's theorem, instead I use reduction

$$K \leq_m A$$

i.e. I need a function $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ total and computable s.t.

$\forall x$

$$x \in K \quad \text{iff} \quad s(x) \in A$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$s(x) \in W_{s(x)} \iff \varphi_{s(x)}(s(x)) \downarrow$$

and

$$s(x) \in E_{s(x)} \iff \exists y \quad \varphi_{s(x)}(y) = s(x)$$

↑
not necessarily $s(x)$

we define

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} y & \text{if } x \in K \\ \uparrow & \text{if } x \notin K \end{cases}$$

$$= y \cdot \mathbb{1}(\varphi_x(x)) = y \cdot \mathbb{1}(\psi_v(x, x)) \quad \text{computable}$$

By smm theorem there is $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ total computable s.t.

$\forall x, y$

$$\varphi_{s(x)}(y) = g(x, y) = \begin{cases} y & \text{if } x \in K \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

s is the reduction function for $K \leq_m A$

\rightarrow if $x \in K$ then $\varphi_{s(x)}(y) = y \quad \forall y \Rightarrow s(x) \in \underbrace{W_{s(x)}}_{\mathbb{N}} \cap \underbrace{E_{s(x)}}_{\mathbb{N}} = \mathbb{N}$
 and thus $s(x) \in A$.

\rightarrow if $x \notin K$ then $\varphi_{s(x)}(y) \uparrow \quad \forall y \Rightarrow s(x) \notin \underbrace{W_{s(x)}}_{\emptyset} \cap \underbrace{E_{s(x)}}_{\emptyset} = \emptyset$
 and thus $s(x) \notin A$

Hence $K \leq_m A$ and therefore A not recursive

□