

The complexity within well-partial-orderings

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1 Background on WQOs

2 WQOs in Proof Theory

- Kruskal's theorem and the graph-minor theorem
- Linear orderings and Fraïssé's Conjecture

3 WPOs in Computability Theory

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The reverse mathematics and computability theory of these equivalences
was been studied in [Cholak-Marcone-Solomon 04].

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- Finite strings over a WPO are a WPO (Higman, 1952).
- Finite trees with labels from a WPO are a WPO (Kruskal, 1960).
- Transfinite sequences with labels from a WPO which use only finitely many labels are a WPO (Nash-Williams, 1965).

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Theorem: [De Jongh, Parikh 77] $o(\mathcal{P}) + 1 = \text{rk}(\mathbb{B}\text{ad}(\mathcal{P}))$.

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Corollary: [Friedman] (RCA_0) Kruskal's theorem $\Rightarrow \Gamma_0$ well-ordered.
Therefore,

$\text{ATR}_0 \not\vdash$ Kruskal's theorem.

The “big five” subsystems of 2nd-order arithmetic

Axiom systems:

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WKL_0 :

ACA_0 :

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$\Pi_1^1\text{-}CA_0$:

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- For every \mathcal{P} , if \mathcal{P} is a WQO, then so is $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P})$, where $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{P})$ is the set of finite trees with labels in \mathcal{P} , ordered by $T \preceq S$ if $\exists f: T \rightarrow S$ which preserves $<$ and increasing on labels.

The minor-graph theorem

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Let \mathcal{G} be the set of **finite graphs** ordered by the minor relation.

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Corollary: [Friedman, Robertson, Seymour]

(RCA_0) The minor-graph theorem $\Rightarrow \phi_0(\epsilon_{\Omega_\omega+1})$ well-ordered.

Therefore,

$\Pi_1^1\text{-CA}_0 \not\vdash$ minor-graph theorem.

Fraïssé's Conjecture

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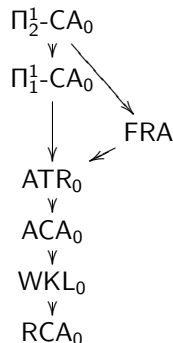
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Theorem[Shore '93]

FRA implies ATR_0 over RCA_0 .

Conjecture:[Clote '90][Simpson '99][Marcone]

FRA is equivalent to ATR_0 over RCA_0 .



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Theorem ([M. 05])

The following are equivalent over RCA_0

- *FRA;*
- *Every scattered lin. ord. is a finite sum of indecomposables;*
- *Every indecomposable lin. ord. is either an ω -sum or an ω^* -sum of indecomposable l.o. of smaller rank.*
- *Jullien's characterization of extendible linear orderings*

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Theorem (*): [Laver '72]

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Theorem ([Kach–Marcone–M.–Weiermann 2011])

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Note: $\epsilon_{\epsilon_{\dots}}$ is the proof-theoretic ordinal of ACA^+ ,
where ACA^+ is the system $\text{RCA}_0 + \forall X (X^{(\omega)} \text{ exists})$.

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Theorem ([Marcone, M 08])

That \mathbb{I}_ω is a WQO,

- follows from $\text{ACA}^+ + \text{“}\epsilon_{\epsilon_{\epsilon_{\dots}}}\text{ is well-ordered”}$,
- but not from ACA^+ .

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3 WPOs in Computability Theory

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Question [Schmidt 1979]:

Is the length of a computable WPO computable?

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We mentioned that $o(\mathcal{P}) + 1 = \text{rk}(\mathbb{B}\text{ad}(\mathcal{P}))$, where

$$\mathbb{B}\text{ad}(\mathcal{P}) = \{\langle x_0, \dots, x_{n-1} \rangle \in W^{<\omega} : \forall i < j (x_i \not\leq_{\mathcal{P}} x_j)\},$$

Since $\mathbb{B}\text{ad}(\mathcal{P})$ is computable and well-founded, it has rank $< \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$.
So, $o(\mathcal{P})$ is a computable ordinal.

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Does every **computable** WPO have a **computable** maximal linearization?

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Theorem ([M 2007])

Let \mathbf{a} be a Turing degree. TFAE:

- 1** \mathbf{a} uniformly computes maximal linearizations of computable WPOs.
- 2** \mathbf{a} uniformly computes $0^{(\beta)}$ for every $\beta < \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$.

The height of a WPO

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Q: How difficult is it to compute maximal chains?

Computing maximal chains

Theorem ([Marcone-Shore 2010])

Every computable WPO \mathcal{P} has a hyperarithmetical maximal chain.

(Recall: $X \subseteq \omega$ is hyperarithmetical iff it's Δ_1^1 .)

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Theorem ([Marcone-M.-Shore 2012])

Let $\alpha < \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$.

There exists a computable WPO \mathcal{P} such that

$0^{(\alpha)}$ does not compute any maximal chain of \mathcal{P} .

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- Suppose that \mathcal{P} has cofinality $\omega^{\alpha+1}$.
- Then, build an operator $\Phi_\alpha^{\mathcal{P}, G}$, that returns a sequence of computable sub-partial orderings $P_0 \leq P_1 \leq \dots$, such that, if G is generic, then infinitely many of the P_i will have cofinality ω^α .

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- Then use effective transfinite recursion.