## Computability Theory and Infinitary Combinatorics

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## Before I begin speaking,

## I'd like to say thanks.

## Motivation - Mathematical Logic

From Paul Shafer:
I describe calculus as the mathematics of change[,] geometry as the mathematics of shape,
... [and math] logic as the mathematics of mathematics.
We take mathematical theorems, proofs, and constructions as our objects of study, specifically from infinitary ${ }^{1}$ combinatorics.

The goal is to understand the foundational mechanics of mathematics:
e.g.,

- discern underlying connections in seemingly disparate mathematical theorems
- determine the necessary ingredients in any proof of a particular theorem.

Computability theory provides a powerful viewpoint from which to conduct this analysis.
${ }^{1}$ countably infinite

## Two Frameworks

## Reverse Mathematics

Prove results of the form:
Over a weak base theory $\mathcal{B}$, the axiom $A$ is both necessary and sufficient to prove the familiar theorem $\xi$.

$$
\mathcal{B} \vdash A \Longleftrightarrow \xi
$$

## Computability Theoretic Reductions

Reduce the problem of finding one desired mathematical object to finding another object by use of a computable transformation.
$X \quad-\Phi \rightarrow$
commutative ring, $R$

$\leftarrow \Psi-$ infinite binary tree, $T$

infinite path, $f$

## Two Frameworks

## Reverse Mathematics

Prove results of the form:
Over a weak base theory $\mathcal{B}$, the axiom $A$ is both necessary and sufficient to prove the familiar theorem $\xi$.

## ZF set theory $\vdash$ Axiom of Choice $\Longleftrightarrow$ Zorn's Lemma

## Computability Theoretic Reductions

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## Essentials of Computability Theory

Fix an effective enumeration of the partial computable functions on $\mathbb{N}$

$$
\Phi_{0}, \Phi_{1}, \Phi_{2}, \ldots, \Phi_{e}, \Phi_{e+1}, \ldots
$$

A set $C$ is computable if its characteristic function $\chi_{C}=\Phi_{e}$ for some e.

The set $\emptyset^{\prime}=\left\{e: \Phi_{e}(e)\right.$ halts $\}$ is the canonical noncomputable set.

Given a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, we relativize each $\Phi_{e}$ to $\Phi_{e}^{A}$. Another set $B$ is $A$-computable if $\chi_{B}=\Phi_{e}^{A}$ for some $e$. The set $A^{\prime}=\left\{e: \Phi_{e}^{A}(e)\right.$ halts $\}$ is the canonical set that $A$ cannot compute. We call $A^{\prime}$ the Turing jump of $A$.


## Computable Transformations

We can view each total computable function $\Phi$ as a functional on subsets of $\mathbb{N}$ or $2^{\mathbb{N}}$.

Ex Suppose $\Phi^{A}=\chi_{B}$ with

$$
\begin{gathered}
A=\{2 k: k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \text { and } B=\{p \in \mathbb{Z}: p \text { is prime }\} \\
A:\langle 1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0, \ldots\rangle \\
\mid \\
\begin{array}{c}
\downarrow \\
B:\langle 0,0,1,1,0,1,0,1,0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0, \ldots\rangle
\end{array}
\end{gathered}
$$

In this way, we can transform a countable ring $R(\operatorname{coded}$ in $\mathbb{N})$ to an infinite binary tree $T=\Phi^{R}($ coded in $\mathbb{N})$.

## Interregnum - A combinatorial preview

## Posets and Graphs


$13 \leq 10 \leq 6 \leq 1 ; \quad 15 \leq 16 \leq 2 ; \quad 15$ and 11 are incomparable $\ldots$

## Reverse Mathematics with the Big Five

Goal: Determine exactly which axiom(s) are needed in the proof of a (countable analogue of a) particular theorem.

Method: Given a theorem $\xi$, fix a weak base axiom system $\mathcal{B}$ which cannot prove $\xi$ and find an additional axiom $A$ such that:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathcal{B} \vdash \mathrm{A} \rightarrow \xi \\
\text { a "regular" proof } \\
\mathrm{ZF} \vdash \mathrm{AC} \rightarrow \mathrm{ZL} \\
\text { a "regular" proof }
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\mathcal{B} \vdash \xi \rightarrow \mathrm{A}
$$

a "reversed" proof
$\mathrm{ZF} \vdash \mathrm{ZL} \rightarrow \mathrm{AC}$
a "reversed" proof

Traditionally, we use $\mathrm{RCA}_{0}$ as the base system and require only four additional set existence axioms to conduct this analysis.

The Big Five Phenomenon

## The Big Five subsystems of $Z_{2}$

$\mathrm{RCA}_{0}$ : Axioms for first-order arithmetic, a weak induction principle, and the "recursive comprehension axiom."

Algorithmically definable sets exist.
$W_{K L}{ }_{0}: R C A_{0}+$ weak Kőnig's lemma Every infinite binary tree has an infinite path.

ACA $_{0}:$ RCA $_{0}+$ "arithmetical comprehension axiom" Sets definable with number quantifiers exist.

ATR ${ }_{0}: A C A_{0}+$ (axioms for) "arithmetical transfinite recursion" Sets definable by recursion on a given countable well-order exist.
$\Pi_{1}^{1}-C A_{0}: A C A_{0}+" \Pi_{1}^{1}$ comprehension axiom"
Sets definable with one universal set quantifier exist.

## The Big Five Phenomenon in Algebra

RCA $_{0} \vdash \quad$ Every countable field has an algebraic closure. T
$\mathrm{WKL}_{\mathbf{0}} \leftrightarrow$ Every countable commutative ring with identity has a prime ideal.
$\mathrm{ACA}_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Every countable commutative ring with identity has a maximal ideal.

ATR $_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Ulm's theorem: Any two countable reduced Abelian p-groups which the same Ulm invariants are isomorphic.
$\Pi_{1}^{1}-\mathrm{CA}_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Every countable Abelian group is the direct sum of a divisible group and a reduced group.

## The Big Five Phenomenon in Analysis

$\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash$ The intermediate value theorem. T
$W_{K L} L_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Heine/Borel: every covering of $[0,1]$ with a sequence of open intervals has a finite subcovering.
$A C A_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Balzano/Weierstraß: every bounded sequence of real numbers has a convergent subsequence.

ATR $_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Perfect set theorem: every uncountable closed set has a perfect subset.
$\Pi_{1}^{1}$-CA $\leftrightarrow$ Cantor/Bendixson: Every closed subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ is the union of a countable set and a perfect set.

## The Big Five Phenomenon in Combinatorics

$\mathrm{RCA}_{\mathbf{0}} \quad \vdash \quad$ Every finite bipartite graph satisfying Hall's condition T has a perfect matching.
$W K L_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Every infinite 2-branching tree has an infinite path.
$A C A_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Kőnig's lemma: every infinite finitely-branching tree has an infinite path.

ATR $R_{0} \leftrightarrow$ Any two countable well-orders are comparable.
$\Pi_{1}^{1}-\mathrm{CA}_{0} \leftrightarrow \quad$ Every tree has a largest perfect subtree.

## Graphs and hypergraphs in reverse mathematics

A hypergraph $H=(V, E)$ consists of a set $V \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ of vertices and a collection $E=\left\{e_{0}, e_{1}, e_{2}, \ldots\right\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(V)$ of edges. We say $u, v \in V$ are adjacent if $u, v \in e$ for some edge $e \in E$.
A graph $G=(V, E)$ is a hypergraph in which every edge has size 2 .
A graph is bipartite if $V=X \sqcup Y$ and for every $e \in E$, we have $e \nsubseteq X$ and $e \nsubseteq Y$.

A proper $k$-coloring of a (hyper)graph is a map
$c: V \rightarrow\{0,1, \ldots, k-1\}$ which is nonconstant on every edge $e \in E$.
Fact: A graph $G$ is bipartite if and only if there exists a proper 2-coloring of $G$.


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## Unique matchings

A matching of a bipartite graph $G=(X \cup Y, E)$ is an injection $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that $\{x, f(x)\} \in E$ for all $x \in X$.

We use $A(x)$ to denote the set of vertices adjacent to $x$ : $A(x)=\{y:\{x, y\} \in E\}$. The size of $A(x)$ is the degree of $x$.
A graph $G=(V, E)$ is locally finite if $A(x)$ is finite for all $x \in V$.
Theorem (with Jeff Hirst)
A locally finite bipartite graph $G=(X \cup Y, E)$ has a unique matching if and only if there is an enumeration $\left\langle x_{i}\right\rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ of the vertices in $X$ such that for all $n$ :

$$
\left|A\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)\right|=n+1
$$

## Theorem

A bipartite graph $G=(X \cup Y, E)$ has a unique matching if and only if there is a well-order $(X, \preceq)$ such that for every $x \in X$ there is a unique $y \in Y$ with

$$
A(x)-A\left(\left\{x^{\prime}: x^{\prime} \prec x\right\}\right)=\{y\} .
$$

## Unique matchings

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$$
\left|A\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)\right|=n+1
$$

Let MTE denote the "only if" direction and ETM denote the "if" direction.

## Theorem (H.)

A bipartite graph $G=(X \cup Y, E)$ has a unique matching if and only if there is a well-order $(X, \leq x)$ such that for every $x \in X$ there is a unique $y \in Y$ with

$$
A(x)-A\left(\left\{x^{\prime}: x^{\prime} \prec x\right\}\right)=\{y\} .
$$

Let MTO denote the "only if" direction and OTM denote the "if" direction.

## Unique matchings and reverse mathematics

The enumeration provides a coding advantage when proving reversals.
Theorem (with Jeff Hirst)
Over RCA

1. the statement ETM is provable; and
2. the statement MTE is provably equivalent to $\mathrm{ACA}_{0}$.

## Theorem (H.)

1. Over $\mathrm{RCA}_{0}$, the statement OTM is provably equivalent to $\mathrm{ACA}_{0}$; and
2. the statement MTO is provable in $A C A_{0}$.

3. the statement MTO is not provable in $W K L_{0}$.

## Picture \#1 of Reverse Math: The Big Five



## Ramsey's Theorem

Let $[\mathbb{N}]^{n}$ denote the set of all $n$-element subsets of $\mathbb{N}$.

Call $c:[\mathbb{N}]^{n} \rightarrow k=\{0,1,2, \ldots, k-1\}$ a $k$-coloring of $[\mathbb{N}]^{n}$.
$\mathbf{R} \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{n}}$ : Every $k$-coloring of $[\mathbb{N}]^{k}$ has an infinite homogeneous set $H$.
$\mathrm{Ex}>\mathrm{RT}_{2}^{1}$ is the Pigeonhole Principle.
$-\mathrm{RT}_{2}^{2}$ states every infinite graph contains an infinite clique or anticlique.

Note: the combinatorial subtleties of $\mathrm{RT}_{\mathrm{k}}^{\mathrm{n}}$ collapse for $n \geq 3$ and $k \geq 2$.

## Picture \#2 of Reverse Math: The Zoo



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Note: the combinatorial subtleties of $R T_{k}^{n}$ collapse for $n \geq 3$ and $k \geq 2$.

## Picture \#2 of Reverse Math: The Zoo



## Computability Theoretic Reductions

We recast a mathematical theorem as a formal problem P made up of instances $X$ and associated solutions $Y$.

For example:

- MI: The problem whose instances $R$ are countable rings with identity with solutions $M$ which are maximal ideals in $R$.
- $\mathrm{RT}_{2}^{3}$ : The problem whose instances $c$ are 2-colorings of $[\mathbb{N}]^{3}$ with solutions $H$ which are homogeneous with respect to $c$.

Problems

$$
\mathbf{P}
$$

$$
\leq_{s W}
$$

Q


## Four Reductions - Uniform vs. Non-uniform



## A finer analysis

Seemingly different combinatorial principles that are equivalent in the reverse mathematics setting can often be distinguished using these reductions.

Showing P is not reducible to Q under one of these reductions reveals precise differences that reverse mathematics may obfuscate,
e.g. whether or not there is a uniform proof of $P$ from $Q$.

$\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash \mathrm{RT}_{2}^{3} \leftrightarrow \mathrm{RT}_{2}^{4}$
$\mathrm{RT}_{2}^{3} \not \mathrm{KW}_{\mathrm{w}} \mathrm{RT}_{2}^{4}$
$\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash \mathrm{RT}_{\mathrm{j}}^{\mathrm{n}} \leftrightarrow \mathrm{RT}_{\mathrm{k}}^{\mathrm{n}}, n \geq 1, k>j \geq 2$
$R T_{j}^{n} \not Z_{w} R T_{k}^{n}$

## Posets and Dilworth's Theorem

A partially ordered set (poset) is a pair $\left(P, \leq_{P}\right)$ where $\leq_{P}$ is a reflexive, transitive, and antisymmetric relation on $P \subseteq \omega$.

We say $X \subseteq P$ is:

- a chain if for all $x, y \in X$, either $x \leq_{p} y$ or $y \leq_{p} x$.
- an antichain if for all $x, y \in X$, we have $x \not \leq P y$ and $y \not \leq p x$.


## Theorem (Dilworth's theorem)

In any finite poser $\left(P, \leq_{P}\right)$, the size of the largest antichain equals the minimum number of chains needed to cover $P$.


Theorem (CAC: Chain-Antichain Theorem ) If $\left(P, \leq_{P}\right)$ is an infinite poser, then $P$ contains either an infinite chain or an infinite antichain.

## Stable and $\omega$-ordered poses

We say an element $x \in P$ is

- small if $x \leq_{p} y$ for all but finitely many $y \in P$
- large if $y \leq_{P} x$ for all but finitely many $y \in P$
- isolated if $\left.x\right|_{P} y$ for all but finitely many $y \in P$

We say a posen $\left(P, \leq_{P}\right)$ is

- stable if every $x \in P$ is either small or isolated, or every $x \in P$ is either large or isolated.
- $\omega$-ordered if for all $x, y \in P$, we have $x \leq p y$ implies $x \leq y$ in $\omega$.

Let SCAC be the restriction of CAC to stable poses; CA ${ }^{\text {ord }}$ be the restriction of CAC to $\omega$-ordered
 poses; and

SCAC ${ }^{\text {ord }}$ be the restriction of CAC to stable $\omega$-ordered poses.

## Chains and antichains

Theorem (Hirschfeldt and Shore)
$\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash$ CAC strictly implies SCAC.
Theorem (H.)

- $\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash \mathrm{CAC}^{\text {ord }} \leftrightarrow \mathrm{CAC}$
- $\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash$ SCAC $^{\text {ord }} \leftrightarrow$ SCAC

Coro: $\mathrm{RCA}_{0} \vdash \mathrm{CAC}^{\text {ord }}$ strictly implies SCAC ${ }^{\text {ord }}$.

Theorem (H.)

- CAC $^{\text {ord }} \mathbb{Z}_{c} C A C$
- SCAC $^{\text {ord }} \equiv_{\mathrm{c}}$ SCAC
- SCAC ${ }^{\text {ord }} \not{ }^{\text {w }}$ SCAC
- SCAC ${ }^{\text {ord }} Z_{\mathrm{sc}}$ SCAC


## There's always more math to do.

- Separate equivalent unique matching principles with $\leq_{s W}$, etc.
- Find the exact location of MTO in the reverse mathematics Zoo
- Compare $\omega$-ordered posets and weakly stable posets.
- Analyze more mathematics within these frameworks.
- Analyze the frameworks themselves!


## References

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## Unique colorings of graphs and hypergraphs - Bonus

 \#1Davis, Hirst, Pardo, and Ransom showed that there is no arithmetic way to determine if a hypergraph has a proper $k$-coloring.
Theorem (Davis, Hirst, Pardo, and Ransom)
Over $\mathrm{RCA} A_{0}$, the following statement is equivalent to $\Pi_{1}^{1}-\mathrm{CA}_{0}$ :

- If $\left\langle H_{i}\right\rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of hypergraphs then there is a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow\{0,1\}$ such that $f(i)=1$ if and only if $H_{i}$ has a proper $k$-coloring.

Theorem (H.)
Over $\mathrm{RCA}_{0}$, the following statement is equivalent to $\mathrm{ATR}_{0}$ :

- If $\left\langle H_{i}\right\rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of hypergraphs which admit at most one proper 2-coloring then there is a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow\{0,1\}$ such that $f(i)=1$ if and only if $H_{i}$ has a proper 2-coloring.


## Unique colorings of graphs and hypergraphs - Bonus

 \#1Theorem (with Jeff Hirst)
Over RCA $A_{0}$, the following statement is equivalent to $A C A_{0}$ :

- If $\left\langle G_{i}\right\rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of graphs then there is a function $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow\{0,1,2\}$ such that

$$
s(i)= \begin{cases}0 & \text { if } G_{i} \text { has no proper 2-coloring } \\ 1 & \text { if } G_{i} \text { has a unique proper 2-coloring } \\ 2 & \text { if } G_{i} \text { has many proper 2-colorings }\end{cases}
$$

Theorem (with Jeff Hirst)
Over $\mathrm{RCA}_{0}$, the following statement is equivalent to $\Pi_{1}^{1}-\mathrm{CA}_{0}$ :

- If $\left\langle H_{i}\right\rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of hypergraphs then there is a function $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow\{0,1,2\}$ satisfying (*).


## Unique matchings and reverse mathematics Bonus \#2

The enumeration provides a large advantage in the coding potential of these principles.

Theorem (with Jeff Hirst)

Over RCA

1. the statement ETM is provable; and
2. the statement MTE is provably equivalent to $\mathrm{ACA}_{0}$.

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2. the statement MTO is provable in $A C A_{0}$.
3. the statement MTO is not provable in
$\mathrm{ACA}_{0} \longleftrightarrow \mathrm{OTM} \longleftrightarrow \mathrm{MTE}$

