

Fundamentele Informatica 3

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10. Computable Functions

10.1. Primitive Recursive Functions

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Exercise 10.1.

Let F be the set of partial functions from \mathbb{N} to \mathbb{N} . Then $F = C \cup U$, where the functions in C are computable and the ones in U are not.

Show that C is countable and U is not.

Example.

Let L be language that is not recursive, e.g. $L = SA$

Then χ_L is not computable.

Exercise 7.37.

Show that if there is a TM T computing the function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, then there is another one, T' , whose tape alphabet is $\{1\}$.

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Suggestion: Suppose T has tape alphabet $\Gamma = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$. Encode Δ and each of the a_i 's by a string of 1's and Δ 's of length $n + 1$ (for example, encode Δ by $n + 1$ blanks, and a_i by $1^i \Delta^{n+1-i}$). Have T' simulate T , but using blocks of $n + 1$ tape squares instead of single squares.

Exercise.

How many Turing machines are there having n nonhalting states q_0, q_1, \dots, q_{n-1} and tape alphabet $\{0, 1\}$?

Exercise 10.2.

The *busy-beaver function* $b : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined as follows.

The value $b(0)$ is 0.

For $n > 0$, there are only a finite number of Turing machines having n nonhalting states q_0, q_1, \dots, q_{n-1} and tape alphabet $\{0, 1\}$. Let T_0, T_1, \dots, T_m be the TMs of this type that eventually halt on input 1^n , and for each i , let n_{T_i} be the number of 1's that T_i leaves on its tape when it halts after processing the input string 1^n . The number $b(n)$ is defined to be the maximum of the numbers $n_{T_0}, n_{T_1}, \dots, n_{T_m}$.

Show that the total function $b : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is not computable.

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Show that the total function $b : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is not computable.

Suggestion: Suppose for the sake of contradiction that T_b is a TM that computes b . Then we can assume without loss of generality that T_b has tape-alphabet $\{0, 1\}$.

Definition 10.1. Initial Functions

The initial functions are the following:

1. *Constant* functions: For each $k \geq 0$ and each $a \geq 0$, the constant function $C_a^k : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined by the formula

$$C_a^k(X) = a \quad \text{for every } X \in \mathbb{N}^k$$

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3. *Projection* functions: For each $k \geq 1$ and each i with $1 \leq i \leq k$, the projection function $p_i^k : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined by the formula

$$p_i^k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = x_i$$

Composition:

$$h(x) = f(g(x))$$

Definition 10.2. The Operations of Composition and Primitive Recursion

1. Suppose f is a partial function from \mathbb{N}^k to \mathbb{N} , and for each i with $1 \leq i \leq k$, g_i is a partial function from \mathbb{N}^m to \mathbb{N} .

The partial function obtained from f and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k by composition is the partial function h from \mathbb{N}^m to \mathbb{N} defined by the formula

$$h(X) = f(g_1(X), g_2(X), \dots, g_k(X)) \text{ for every } X \in \mathbb{N}^m$$

Recursion: if $f(k) = k!$, then

$$f(0) = 0! = 1 \quad f(k+1) = (k+1)! = (k+1)k! = (k+1)f(k)$$

Definition 10.2. The Operations of Composition and Primitive Recursion (continued)

2. Suppose $n \geq 0$ and g and h are functions of n and $n + 2$ variables, respectively. (By “a function of 0 variables,” we mean simply a constant.)

The function obtained from g and h by the operation of *primitive recursion* is the function $f : \mathbb{N}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ defined by the formulas

$$\begin{aligned} f(X, 0) &= g(X) \\ f(X, k + 1) &= h(X, k, f(X, k)) \end{aligned}$$

for every $X \in \mathbb{N}^n$ and every $k \geq 0$.

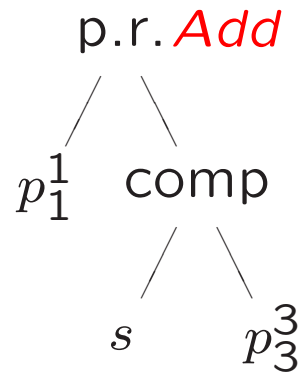
Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$\textit{Add}(x, y) = x + y$$

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Structure tree:



Definition 10.3. Primitive Recursive Functions

The set PR of *primitive recursive* functions is defined as follows.

1. All initial functions are elements of PR .
2. For every $k \geq 0$ and $m \geq 0$, if $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k : \mathbb{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ are elements of PR , then the function $f(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k)$ obtained from f and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k by composition is an element of PR .
3. For every $n \geq 0$, every function $g : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ in PR , and every function $h : \mathbb{N}^{n+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ in PR , the function $f : \mathbb{N}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ obtained from g and h by primitive recursion is in PR .

In other words, the set PR is the smallest set of functions that contains all the initial functions and is closed under the operations of composition and primitive recursion.

Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$\text{Mult}(x, y) = x * y$$

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$$\text{Sub}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x - y & \text{if } x \geq y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x \dot{-} y$$

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$$Sub(x, 0) = x \quad (\text{so } g = p_1^1)$$

$$Sub(x, k + 1) = Pred(Sub(x, k))$$

$$(\text{ } = h(x, k, Sub(x, k)), \text{ so } h = Pred(p_3^3))$$

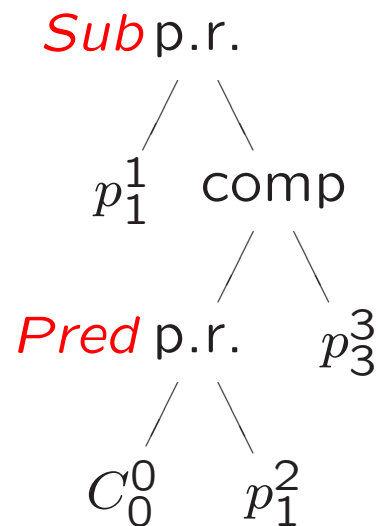
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The **partial** function obtained from f and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k by composition is the **partial** function h from \mathbb{N}^m to \mathbb{N} defined by the formula

$$h(X) = f(g_1(X), g_2(X), \dots, g_k(X)) \text{ for every } X \in \mathbb{N}^m$$

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$$\begin{aligned} f(X, 0) &= g(X) \\ f(X, k + 1) &= h(X, k, f(X, k)) \end{aligned}$$

for every $X \in \mathbb{N}^n$ and every $k \geq 0$.

Theorem 10.4.

Every primitive recursive function is total and computable.

Proof, part 1

```
for (i=1;i<=k;i++)  
{ yi = gi(x1,x2,...,xm)  
}  
return f(y1,y2,...,yk);
```

Theorem 10.4.

Every primitive recursive function is total and computable.

Proof, part 2

```
i = 0;
v = g(x);
while (i < k)
{ v = h(x, i, v);
  i ++;
}
return v;
```

Theorem 10.4.

Every primitive recursive function is total and computable.

PR:
total and computable

Turing-computable functions:
not necessarily total

Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$Sub(x, y) = \begin{cases} x - y & \text{if } x \geq y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x \dot{-} y$$

n-place predicate P is function from \mathbb{N}^n to $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$

characteristic function χ_P defined by

$$\chi_P(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } P(X) \text{ is true} \\ 0 & \text{if } P(X) \text{ is false} \end{cases}$$

We say P is primitive recursive. . .

Theorem 10.6.

The two-place predicates LT , EQ , GT , LE , GE , and NE are primitive recursive.

(LT stands for “less than,” and the other five have similarly intuitive abbreviations.)

If P and Q are any primitive recursive n -place predicates, then $P \wedge Q$, $P \vee Q$ and $\neg P$ are primitive recursive.

Proof. . .