

# Minima of initial segments of sequences of reals

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Subsystems of second order arithmetic for reverse math

$\text{RCA}_0$ : First order arithmetic with  
induction restricted to  $\Sigma_1^0$  formulas  
plus set comprehension for  $\Delta_1^0$  sets.

$\text{WKL}_0$ : All axioms of  $\text{RCA}_0$   
plus Weak König's Lemma:  
“Every infinite 0–1 tree has an infinite path.”

## Models

$\omega$  with the computable sets models  $\text{RCA}_0$ .

Every  $\omega$  model of  $\text{WKL}_0$  includes noncomputable sets.

## Reverse Math

**Theorem 1.** ( $\text{RCA}_0$ ) *The following are equivalent:*

1.  $\text{WKL}_0$ .

2. *If  $f$  and  $g$  are injections with disjoint ranges, then there is a set  $Y$  such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ ,*

$$f(t) \in Y \text{ and } g(t) \notin Y.$$

## Encoding the reals

A *real number* is a function  $x : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  such that

$$\forall k \forall i \quad |x(k) - x(k+i)| \leq 2^{-k}$$

(that is,  $\langle x(i) \rangle_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a rapidly converging Cauchy sequence of rationals.)

## Examples of reals

$\sqrt{2}$  :      1, 1.4, 1.41, 1.414, 1.4142, ...

$\pi$  :        3, 3.1, 3.14, 3.141, 3.1415, ...

0 :        1,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{16}$ , ...

0 :        0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ...

## Relationships between reals

$x = y$  means:  $\forall k \ |x(k) - y(k)| \leq 2^{-k+1}$

$x \leq y$  means:  $\forall k \ (x(k) \leq y(k) + 2^{-k+1})$

$y < x$  means  $x \not\leq y$ ,  
which is  $\exists k \ (y(k) + 2^{-k+1} < x(k))$

## Sequences of minima

**Theorem 2.** (RCA<sub>0</sub>) *Let  $\langle x_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of reals. Then there is a sequence of reals  $\langle u_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that for each  $k$ ,  $u_k = \min\{x_j \mid j \leq k\}$ . That is, for each  $k$  we have:*

1.  $\forall j \leq k (u_k \leq x_j)$  and
2.  $\exists j \leq k (u_k = x_j)$ .

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $\langle x_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a computable sequence of computable real numbers. Then there is a computable sequence of computable reals  $\langle u_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that for each  $k$  we have  $u_k = \min\{x_j \mid j \leq k\}$ .*

## Picking the minima

Let  $u_k(j) = \min\{x_n(j) \mid n \leq k\}$ .

Example:

$x_0$ :	1	1.4	1.41	1.414	1.4142	...	$(\sqrt{2})$
$x_1$ :	3	3.1	3.14	3.141	3.1415	...	$(\pi)$
$x_2$ :	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	...	$(0)$
$x_3$ :	0	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{16}$	$\frac{7}{32}$	$\frac{15}{64}$	...	$(\frac{1}{4})$

## Picking the indices

Rather than constructing real number codes for the minima of initial segments, suppose we want to pick the (index of the) actual sequence element...

**Theorem 4.** ( $\text{RCA}_0$ ) *The following are equivalent:*

1.  $\text{WKL}_0$
2. *If  $\langle x_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence of reals, then there is a sequence of integers  $\langle \mu_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that*

$$\forall k (x_{\mu_k} = \min\{x_j \mid j \leq k\}).$$



Sketch of (2) implies  $WKL_0$

Suppose  $f$  and  $g$  are injections with disjoint ranges. Use a sequence of indices of minima to construct a separating set.

If  $f(3) = 0$ ,  $g(2)=1$ , and  $2 \notin \text{Ran } f \cup \text{Ran } g$ , build:

$x_{0,f} :$	0	0	0	-.9999	...
$x_{0,g} :$	0	0	0	0	...
$x_{1,f} :$	-1	-1	-1	-1	...
$x_{1,g} :$	-1	-1	-1.001	-1.001	...
$x_{2,f} :$	-2	-2	-2	-2	...
$x_{2,g} :$	-2	-2	-2	-2	...

## Computability theoretic corollaries

**Corollary 5.** *There is a computable sequence of computable reals such that no sequence of indices of minima of initial segments is computable.*

**Corollary 6.** *Given any computable sequence of computable reals, we can find a sequence of indices of minima of initial segments that is of low degree. (That is, the degree of the sequence of indices is  $\mathbf{a}$  where  $\mathbf{a}' \leq_{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{0}'$ .)*

Question: Is there ever a computable sequence of indices?

Answer: Sometimes.

**Theorem 7.** (RCA<sub>0</sub>) *If  $\langle x_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a **nonrepeating** sequence of reals, then there is a sequence of integers  $\langle \mu_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\forall k (x_{\mu_k} = \min\{x_j \mid j \leq k\})$ .*

**Corollary 8.** *If  $\langle x_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a **nonrepeating** computable sequence of computable reals, then there is a computable sequence of integers  $\langle \mu_k \rangle_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that*

$$\forall k (x_{\mu_k} = \min\{x_j \mid j \leq k\}).$$

## Picking $\mu_k$

Example (of a nonrepeating sequence):

$x_0:$	1	1.4	1.41	1.414	1.4142	...	$(\sqrt{2})$
$x_1:$	3	3.1	3.14	3.141	3.1415	...	$(\pi)$
$x_2:$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	...	$(0)$
$x_3:$	0	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{16}$	$\frac{7}{32}$	$\frac{15}{64}$	...	$(\frac{1}{4})$

## Constructive Analysis vs. Computable Analysis

Computable Analyst:

We can select minima of initial segments.

We can't select the indices of the minima.

Constructive Analyst:

We can't select the indices, so we can't select the minima.

We can select the minima of nonrepeating sequences.

## Reverse Mathematics

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## Constructive Analysis

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