

# Computability theory, reverse mathematics, and Hindman's Theorem

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We can think of such a principle as a **problem**.

An **instance** of such a problem is an  $X$  s.t.  $\Phi(X)$  holds.

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This is a natural context for computability-theoretic analysis.

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**ACA<sub>0</sub>** proves that for every  $X$ , the jump  $X'$  exists, and hence that so does each finite iterate  $X^{(n)}$ .



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**ACA<sub>0</sub><sup>+</sup>** adds to **ACA<sub>0</sub>** that for every  $X$ , the  $\omega^{\text{th}}$  jump  $X^{(\omega)}$  exists.

## Thm (Blass, Hirst, and Simpson).

1. Every computable instance of HT has an  $\emptyset^{(\omega+1)}$ -computable solution.
2. There is a computable instance of HT all of whose solutions compute  $\emptyset'$ .
3.  $ACA_0^+ \rightarrow HT$ .
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4.  $HT \rightarrow ACA_0$ .

**Open Question.** Does HT hold arithmetically? Does  $ACA_0 \rightarrow HT$ ?

**Iterated Hindman's Theorem (IHT):** For instances  $c_0, c_1, \dots$  of HT, there are  $x_0 < x_1 < \dots$  s.t. each  $\{x_i : i \geq n\}$  is a solution to  $c_n$ .

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One way to prove (I)HT is to use idempotent ultrafilters.

Let  $A - k = \{n : n + k \in A\}$ .

The set of ultrafilters on  $\mathbb{N}$  is a semigroup under the operation

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**Hirst** showed that IHT is equivalent to the existence of certain countable approximations to idempotent ultrafilters.



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**Open Question.** Is the existence of an idempotent ultrafilter conservative over  $ACA_0$ ?

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**Thm (Carlucci, Kołodziejczyk, Lepore, and Zdanowski).**  
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**Question (Dzhafarov, Jockusch, Solomon, and Westrick).** Is  $HT^{=2}$  computably true? Is it provable in  $RCA_0$ ?

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Problem: interactions between the strategies for different  $i$ 's.

Think of the  $c(n)$ 's as mutually independent random variables, with values 0 and 1 each having probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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So we need to know that when events with “sufficiently small” probability are “sufficiently independent” then it is possible to avoid them all *effectively*.

To do this, we use the **Computable Lovász Local Lemma** of **Rumyantsev and Shen**, in the form of the following corollary:



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For each  $q \in (0, 1)$  there is an  $M$  s.t. the following holds.

Let  $E_0, E_1, \dots$  be a computable sequence of finite sets, each of size at least  $M$ .

Suppose that for each  $m \geq M$  and  $n$ , there are at most  $2^{qm}$  many  $i$  s.t.  $|E_i| = m$  and  $n \in E_i$ , and that we can compute the set of all such  $i$  given  $m$  and  $n$ .

Then there is a computable  $c : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2$  s.t. for each  $i$  the set  $E_i$  is not monochromatic for  $c$ .

Building a computable instance  $c : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2$  of  $\text{HT}^2$  with no computable solution:

Wait for a sufficiently large finite  $F_i \subseteq W_i$ .

Use the computable LLL to ensure that  $F_i + s$  is not monochromatic for all sufficiently large  $s$ .

Building a computable instance  $c : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2$  of  $\text{HT}^{\neq 2}$  with no computable solution:

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We can work with  $W_i^{0'}$  instead, to obtain a  $c$  with no  $\Sigma_2^0$  solution.

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The sizes of the  $F_i$  can be computably bounded, so we can also ensure that solutions to  $c$  are effectively immune relative to  $\emptyset'$ .

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**Thm (Csima, Dzhamalov, Hirschfeldt, Jockusch, Solomon, and Westrick).** There is a computable instance of  $\text{HT}^2$  s.t. every solution is diagonally noncomputable (DNC) relative to  $\emptyset'$ .

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**Thm (J. Miller)**.  $\text{RRT}_2^2 \leftrightarrow 2\text{-DNC}$ .

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**Open Question**. Does  $2\text{-DNC} \rightarrow \text{HT}^2$ ?

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We can pass between  $HT^{=2}(0)$  and  $HT^{=2}(n)$  by translating the coloring by  $2n$  and then translating the solution back by  $n$ .

Thus every  $HT^{=2}(n)$  is equivalent to  $HT^{\leq 2}$ .

HT is equivalent to the **Finite Union Theorem (FUT)**: For every coloring of the finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  with finitely many colors, there are nonempty finite sets  $F_0 < F_1 < F_2 < \dots$  such that all nonempty finite unions of the  $F_i$ 's have the same color.

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Hirst considered the following variation, motivated by a lemma of Hilbert:

**HIL**: For every coloring of the finite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  with finitely many colors, there are distinct nonempty finite sets  $F_0, F_1, F_2, \dots$  such that all nonempty finite unions of the  $F_i$ 's have the same color.



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**Thm (Hirst)**.  $\text{HIL} \leftrightarrow \text{RT}^1$ .

Thus HIL is computably true (though not quite provable in  $\text{RCA}_0$ ).

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$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  **satisfies apartness** if for all  $m < n$  in  $S$ , we have  $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$ .

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Thinking of HT as FUT makes apartness natural.

$HT_k$  and  $HT_k$  with apartness are equivalent to  $FUT_k$  and hence to each other.

**Thm (Carlucci, Kołodziejczyk, Lepore, and Zdanowski).**

1.  $\text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$  with apartness is equivalent to  $\text{FUT}_k^{\leq n}$ , and also for  $=n$ .

## Thm (Carlucci, Kołodziejczyk, Lepore, and Zdanowski).

1.  $\text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$  with apartness is equivalent to  $\text{FUT}_k^{\leq n}$ , and also for  $=n$ .
2.  $\text{HT}_{2k}^{\leq n}$  implies  $\text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$  with apartness.

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1.  $\text{HT}_3^{\leq 3}$  implies  $\text{ACA}_0$ .
2.  $\text{HT}_2^{\leq 2}$  implies the stable version of  $\text{RT}_2^2$  over  $\text{B}\Sigma_2^0$ .