

Computability theory, reverse mathematics, and Hindman's Theorem

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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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ACA₀⁺ adds to **ACA₀** that for every X , the ω^{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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Open Question. Does HT hold arithmetically? Does $ACA_0 \rightarrow HT$?

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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 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 .

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We can work with $W_i^{0'}$ instead, to obtain a c with to Σ_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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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' .

Thm (Csimá, Dzhařarov, Hirschfeldt, Jockusch, Solomon, and Westrick). There is a computable instance of HT^2 s.t. every solution is diagonally noncomputable (DNC) relative to \emptyset' .

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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 RCA_0).

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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).

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Thm (Dzhafarov, Jockusch, Solomon, and Westrick).

1. $HT_3^{\leq 3}$ implies ACA_0 .
2. $HT_2^{\leq 2}$ implies the stable version of RT_2^2 over $B\Sigma_2^0$.