

Introduction to Computable Analysis

Lecture 1: Motivation & Introduction

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Introduction I

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- 2 Are union and intersection of closed subsets of the real plane computable?
- 3 Are differentiation and integration computable operators?
- 4 Is zero-finding for complex polynomials computable?

Introduction II

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The conflict has its roots in another age-old conflict, that between the continuous and the discrete [...]. Algorithms are primarily a means to solve practical problems. There is not even a formal definition of algorithm in the subject [of numerical analysis]. [...] Thus, we view numerical analysis as an eclectic subject with weak foundations; this certainly in no way denies the great achievements through the centuries.

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We merge the concepts of limit and approximation with machine models and discrete computation.

Type-1 Theory of Effectivity

While (numerical) analysis have a very long tradition, it was not until the 1930s that S. Kleene, A. Church, A. Turing and others proposed various definitions of “effectively calculable” functions on the natural numbers. There is a well-established and rich theory of computability and complexity for functions on the natural numbers or on finite words.

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Although a number of authors also studied computability on the real numbers, computable analysis is still underdeveloped. Moreover, there are several non-equivalent suggestions of how to model effectivity in analysis, and in particular, computability of real functions.

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K. Weihrauch (2000) presents a new coherent foundation of computable analysis, rooted in the definition of computable real functions based on the work by A. Grzegorzczyk (1955) and J. Hauck (1973, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982). To distinguish it from others he called it “Type-2 Theory of Effectivity” (TTE).

Notational Conventions I

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A “correspondence” or “multi-valued partial function” from A to B is a triple $f = (A, B, R_f)$ such that $R_f \subseteq A \times B$, where A is called the source, B is the target, and R_f the graph of f .

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For $X \subseteq A$, we define the image of X under f by $f[X] := \{b \in B \mid \exists a \in X, (a, b) \in R_f\}$, the inverse of f , $f^{-1} = (B, A, R_f^{-1})$, and the range and domain $\text{range}(f) = f[A]$, $\text{dom}(f) = f^{-1}[B]$.

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Composition is defined in the obvious way, and id_X denotes the identity function on X .

Words and Concatenation I

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Concatenation in $\Sigma^* \times \Sigma^*$ is defined in the obvious way, and can be extended to $\Sigma^* \times \Sigma^\omega$.

Words and Concatenation II

If $x = uvw \in \Sigma^*$ and $q = uvp \in \Sigma^\omega$, then u is a prefix of x and q ($u \sqsubseteq x$, $u \sqsubseteq q$), and v is a subword of x and q ($v \triangleleft x$, $v \triangleleft q$).

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When Σ is a non-empty finite set, we may call it an alphabet, and write words over that alphabet in double quotes.

Numberings I

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For a given alphabet $\Sigma = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, define the bijective standard numbering $\nu_\Sigma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ of Σ^* as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_\Sigma^{-1}(\lambda) &= 0, \\ \nu_\Sigma^{-1}(a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_0}) &= i_k \cdot n^k + \cdots + i_0 \cdot n^0.\end{aligned}$$

Then $f : \subseteq \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is “computable” iff $\nu_\Sigma \circ f \circ \nu_\Sigma^{-1}$ is computable (and correspondingly for $f : \subseteq \mathbb{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$).

Numberings II

The bijective Cantor pairing function $\langle , \rangle : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ defined by $\langle x, y \rangle := y + \frac{(x+y)(x+y+1)}{2}$ is computable, as well as the projections $\langle \rangle_1$, $\langle \rangle_2$ of its inverse.

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This will allow us to extend the definition of computable functions to functions of mixed type by calling ν_Σ and ν_Σ^{-1} computable and closing under composition (e.g. $A \subseteq \Sigma^* \times \mathbb{N} \times \Sigma^*$).

A Sketch of TTE

Type-2 Theory of Effectivity extends ordinary (Type-1) computability (and complexity) theory. TTE admits two levels of effectivity: continuity and computability as a specialization of continuity. We will present an overview of TTE informally, without using a mathematically precise model of computation.

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In TTE, infinite sequences are used as names of real numbers, and machines in which transfer infinite sequences to infinite sequences are used to compute (real) numbers. DIAGRAM

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For now, we define a name of a real number $x \in \mathbb{R}$ to be a sequence (I_0, I_1, \dots) of closed rational intervals $[a, b]$ ($a < b$, $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$) such that $I_{n+1} \subseteq I_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n = \{x\}$.

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We assume, tacitly, that intervals are encoded appropriately, such that, strictly speaking, a name of a real number is an infinite sequence of symbols.

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Example 3

$\log_3 5$ is computable.

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It turns out that the elementary real functions $\exp, \sin, \log, \arcsin$, etc are computable, and that computable real number functions map computable real numbers to computable real numbers. Moreover, the computable real functions are closed under composition.

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Example 5

The real square root is computable.

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As a consequence, simple real functions like the step function are not computable! One must not confuse easily definable with computable. As far as we know, the step function, or indeed any non-continuous function cannot be computed by physical devices.

Recursive Subsets

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The distance function $d_A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $d_A(x) := \inf_{y \in A} |y - x|$ is a more useful generalization of the discrete characterization function. We call a (closed) subset $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ recursive iff its distance function $d_A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is computable. DIAGRAM

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Example 7

The closed intervals with computable endpoints are recursive, and so is the graph of any computable $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Defining Computability

For defining computability on subsets of \mathbb{R} , we introduce naming systems for sets of subsets. Unfortunately $2^{\mathbb{R}}$ has cardinality too large, so we restrict ourselves to naming, for example, the open subsets of \mathbb{R} .

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Example 8

The open intervals with computable endpoints are r.e., as is $\{(x, y) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x < y\}$. In fact, $\{(x, y) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x \leq y\}$ is recursive.

The Space $C[0, 1]$

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$$d(f, p) = \max_{x \in [0, 1]} |f(x) - p(x)|.$$

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$$d(f, p) = \max_{x \in [0, 1]} |f(x) - p(x)|.$$

A name of a continuous function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a sequence (B_0, B_1, \dots) where B_n is a function ball of radius 2^{-n} the center of which is a rational polygon.

The Space $C[0, 1]$

We call $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a rational polygon iff its graph is a polygon with finitely many vertices with rational coordinates.

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A function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ can have a computable name, and can be computable (by a machine transforming each name of $x \in [0, 1]$ to a name of $f(x)$). It will turn out that these notions are equivalent!

Closing Remarks I

Our naming systems of \mathbb{R} and $C[0, 1]$ make the evaluation function $\text{Apply} : C[0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $\text{Apply}(f, x) := f(x)$, computable. That is, there is a machine which transforms any name of any f and any name of any x to some name of $f(x)$.

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Example 9

Integration $f \mapsto \int_0^1 f(x)dx$ is an important computable operator (when $f \in C[0, 1]$), while differentiation $f \mapsto f'$ for a continuously differentiable $f \in C[0, 1]$ is not computable in general.

Closing Remarks II

Example 10

By the IVT, every $f \in C[0, 1]$ with $f(0) < 0 < f(1)$ has a zero. Unfortunately, there is no computable operator for zero-finding, working correctly for all $f \in C[0, 1]$ with $f(0) < 0 < f(1)$. However, if we restrict ourselves to only such f that are increasing, then the operator that returns the unique zero is computable.

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Next time we will look at generalizing a definition of Turing Machines as to allow infinite inputs, allowing us to handle computability of infinite names. Ultimately, we will see that computability can actually be induced by our choice of naming system.