

York University
CSE 4111 Fall 2009
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Steps Uncomputable

1. Our goal is to prove that there are more real numbers than integers, i.e. $|\mathcal{R}| > |\mathcal{N}|$.

We prove this by proving the following first order logic statement

\forall an inverse functions F^{-1} from \mathcal{N} ideally to \mathcal{R} ,

$$\exists x_{diagonal} \in \mathcal{R}, \forall i \in \mathcal{N}, F^{-1}(i) \neq x_{diagonal}$$

namely there are not enough integers to hit each real.

We prove this by playing the game.

Let F^{-1} be an arbitrary inverse function from \mathcal{N} ideally to \mathcal{R} .

Define the real $x_{diagonal} \in \mathcal{R}$ as follows.

For each $i \in \mathcal{N}$, I must define the i^{th} digit of $x_{diagonal}$.

For this, we use flip of the i^{th} diagonal element as follows.

Let x_i denote the real $F^{-1}(i)$ that the i^{th} row gives us.

Let d_i denote the i^{th} digit of x_i .

Then let the i^{th} digit of $x_{diagonal}$ be any digit d'_i other than d_i .

This completely defines $x_{diagonal}$.

Continuing the game, let $i \in \mathcal{N}$ be arbitrary.

Note $x_i = F^{-1}(i)$ and $x_{diagonal}$ differ in their i^{th} digits.

This proves that $F^{-1}(i) \neq x_{diagonal}$.

2. Our goal is to prove that there is an uncomputable computation problem P_{hard} ,

i.e. one for which each TM M fails to compute,

because there in an input I_M on which it gives the wrong answer, i.e. $M(I_M) \neq P_{hard}(I_M)$.

This is stated using the first order logic statement:

$$\exists P_{hard} \forall M \exists I_M M(I_M) \neq P_{hard}(I_M)$$

We prove this using the game.

Define P_{hard} to be the problem $\neg Problem_{diagonal}$, defined as

$\neg Problem_{diagonal}("M") = 0$ iff $M("M") = 1$, i.e. M on " M " halts and says "yes"

(assuming " M " is a valid the description of TM M).

Continuing the game, let M be an arbitrary TM.

Define input I_M to be the description " M " of TM M .

We know M does not accept $\neg Problem_{diagonal}$,

because it gives the wrong answer on input $I_M = "M"$,

i.e. $M(I_M) \neq P_{hard}(I_M)$.

This completes the proof that there is an uncomputable computation problem.