
Tarski Lecture 2 in unicode

1 message

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Lecture 2. Reverse Mathematics: A Global View

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We view the structure of reverse mathematics as a degree structure similar to that of the Turing degrees, \mathcal{D}_T with the ordering of Turing reducibility, \leq_T . We define an ordering \leq_P on sets of sentences of second order arithmetic $S \leq_P T \Leftrightarrow RCA_0 \cup T \vdash \varphi$ for every $\varphi \in S$. As usual we consider the induced ordering \leq_P on the equivalence classes \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} and the resulting structure \mathcal{D}_P . Important substructures are \mathcal{F}_P and \mathcal{R}_P consisting of the degrees of finitely and recursively axiomatizable sets of sentences. We prove a large number of global results about \mathcal{D}_P that differ remarkably from those for the analogous questions about \mathcal{D}_T and other degree structures. A few sample results are the following.

Theorem: \mathcal{D}_P is a complete algebraic lattice (with 0 and 1) and so pseudocomplemented. \mathcal{R}_P is an incomplete algebraic lattice. For each of them the compact elements are those in \mathcal{F}_P and the pseudocomplement of T in \mathcal{D}_P is $\vee\{\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge T = 0\}$. \mathcal{F}_P is the atomless Boolean algebra.

Theorem: The (first order) theories of \mathcal{F}_P and \mathcal{D}_P with \leq_P (and so with \vee , \wedge , 0 , and 1) are decidable by applying major results of Tarski and Rabin.

Theorem: \mathcal{D}_P and \mathcal{F}_P have exactly 2^ω many automorphisms

Theorem: There are only four finite sets which are definable in \mathcal{D}_P : \emptyset , $\{0\}$, $\{1\}$ and $\{0,1\}$. There are only four countably infinite definable subsets of \mathcal{D}_P : \mathcal{F}_P , $\mathcal{F}_P -$

$\{0\}$, $\mathcal{F}_P - \{1\}$ and $\mathcal{F}_P - \{0,1\}$. In each case, no other such sets are fixed under all automorphisms of \mathcal{D}_P .

Theorem: Up to isomorphism, there are only four cones $\mathcal{D}_P^s = \{t \mid s \leq_P t\}$ in \mathcal{D}_P : $\{1\}$, $\{s, 1\}$, $\{s, s \vee t_0, s \vee t_1, 1\}$ and \mathcal{D}_P . We can characterize the few s that fall into each of the first three classes in terms of notions familiar in the general study of theories.

This analysis was prompted by my thinking about what I should talk about in these lectures. Much to my surprise, after I had worked out most of these results I discovered that Tarski had proven many of them some ninety years ago and so long before the rise of reverse mathematics.