

BILL, RECORD LECTURE!!!!

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An Application of Ramsey's Theorem to Proving Programs Terminate: An Exposition

William Gasarch-U of MD

Who is Who

1. Work by
 - 1.1 **Floyd,**
 - 1.2 **Byron Cook, Andreas Podelski, Andrey Rybalchenko,**
 - 1.3 **Lee, Jones, Ben-Amram**
 - 1.4 Others

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4. This talk is for a PL audience so I will skip the **Intro to Ramsey** stuff in it, even though I will be listed as one of the topics.

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Problem: Given a program we want to prove it terminates no matter what user does (called TERM problem).

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1. **Impossible in general**- Harder than Halting.
2. **But** can do this on some simple progs. (We will.)

Overview II

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1. Do examples of **traditional method** to prove progs terminate.
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5. Do example with **Ramsey Theory** and Matrices.

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means that x gets **some** value from A that the user decides.
3. **Note:** we will want to show that **no matter what the user does** the program will halt.
4. The code

$$(x, y) = (f(x, y), g(x, y))$$

means that **simultaneously** x gets $f(x, y)$ and y gets $g(x, y)$.

Example of Traditional Method

```
(x,y,z) = (input(INT), input(INT), input(INT))
```

```
While x>0 and y>0 and z>0
```

```
    control = input(1,2,3)
```

```
    if control == 1 then
```

```
        (x,y,z)=(x+1,y-1,z-1)
```

```
    else
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    if control == 2 then
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Discuss Can you prove this program **always** terminates?

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Whatever the user does $x+y+z$ is decreasing.

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Discuss Can you prove this program **always** terminates?

Whatever the user does $x+y+z$ is decreasing.

Eventually $x+y+z=0$ so prog terminates there or earlier.

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1. in every iteration $f(x,y,z)$ **decreases**
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Note: Method is more general- can map to a well founded order such that in every iteration $f(x,y,z)$ decreases in that order, and if $f(x,y,z)$ is ever a min element then program must have halted.

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Note: $(4, 10^{100}, 10^{10!}) < (5, 0, 0)$.

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In every iteration (x, y, z) **decreases in this ordering.**

If hits bottom then all vars are 0 so **must halt then or earlier.**

Well Ordering is Key!

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\mathbb{Z} in its usual ordering is NOT well founded.

Lex order on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ is well founded. Discuss.

Notes about Proof

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2. **Good News:** We only had to reason about what happens in **one** iteration.

Keep these in mind- our later proof will use a **nice** ordering but will need to reason about a **block** of instructions.

Digression Into Ramsey Theory (Parties!)

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3. If you have 2^{2k-1} people at a party then either k of them mutually know each other or k of them mutually do not know each other.
4. If you have an **infinite** number of people at a party then either there exists an **infinite** subset that all know each other or an **infinite** subset that all do not know each other.

Digression Into Ramsey Theory (Math!)

Def Let $c, k, n \in \mathbb{N}$. K_n is the **complete graph on n vertices (all pairs are edges)**. $K_{\mathbb{N}}$ is the **infinite complete graph**. A **c -coloring of K_n** is a c -coloring of the edges of K_n . A **homog set** is a subset H of the vertices such that every pair has the same color (e.g., 10 people all of whom know each other).

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Alt Proof Using Ramsey

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Proof of termination

If program does not halt then there is infinite sequence $(x_1, y_1, z_1), (x_2, y_2, z_2), \dots$, representing state of vars.

Reasoning about Blocks

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Look at $(x_i, y_i, z_i), \dots, (x_j, y_j, z_j)$.

1. If control is ever 1 then $x_i > x_j$.
2. If control is never 1 then $y_i > y_j$.

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1. If control is ever 1 then $x_i > x_j$.
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Upshot: For all $i < j$ either $x_i > x_j$ or $y_i > y_j$.

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For all $i < j$ either $x_i > x_j$ or $y_i > y_j$.

Define a 2-coloring of the edges of K_N :

$$COL(i, j) = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } x_i > x_j \\ Y & \text{if } y_i > y_j \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

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If color is Y then $y_{i_1} > y_{i_2} > y_{i_3} > \dots$

In either case will have eventually have a var ≤ 0 and hence program must terminate. **Contradiction.**

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4. Ramsey Proof had to reason about blocks of steps—complicated!

What do YOU think?

VOTE:

1. Traditional Proof!
2. Ramsey Proof!

Another Example

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Reasoning about Blocks

If program does not halt then there is infinite sequence $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots$, representing state of vars.
We look at a block $(x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$.

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$x+y$ decreases.

Use Ramsey!

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In either case will have eventually have a var ≤ 0 and hence program must terminate. **Contradiction.**

Comments

1. The condition
 $x_i > x_j$ OR $x_i + y_i > x_j + y_j$.
in the last proof is called a **Termination Invariant**. It is used to strengthen the induction hypothesis.
2. The proof was **found by the system** of B. Cook et al.
3. Looking for a Termination Invariant is the hard part to automate but they have automated it.
4. Can we use these techniques to solve a fragment of Termination Problem?

Model control=1 via a Matrix

if control == 1 then $(x,y)=(x-1,x)$

Model as a matrix A indexed by $x,y,x+y$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & \infty \\ \infty & \infty & \infty \\ \infty & \infty & \infty \end{pmatrix}$$

For $a,b \in \{x,y,x+y\}$

Entry (a,b) is difference between NEW b and OLD a .

Entry (a,a) is most interesting- if neg then a decreased.

Model control=2 via a Matrix

if control == 2 then $(x,y)=(y-2,x+1)$

Model as a matrix B indexed by $x,y,x+y$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \infty & 1 & \infty \\ -2 & \infty & \infty \\ \infty & \infty & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Redefine Matrix Mult

A and B matrices, $C=AB$ defined by

$$c_{ij} = \min_k \{a_{ik} + b_{kj}\}.$$

Lemma

If matrix A models a statement s_1 and matrix B models a statement s_2 then matrix AB models what happens if you run $s_1; s_2$.

Matrix Proof that Program Terminates

- ▶ A is matrix for control=1. B is matrix for control=2.
- ▶ Show: any prod of A's and B's some diag is negative.
- ▶ Hence in any finite seg one of the vars decreases.
- ▶ Hence, by Ramsey proof, the program always terminates

General Program

```
X = (input(INT), ..., input(INT))
While x[1]>0 and x[2]>0 and ... x[n]>0
  control = input(1,2,3,...,m)
  if control==1
    X = F1(X,input(INT),...,input(INT))
  else
    if control==2
      X = F2(X,input(INT),...,input(INT))
    else...
  else
    if control==m
      X = Fm(X,input(INT),...,input(INT))
```

Fragment of TERM decidable?

Def The **TERMINATION PROBLEM**: Given F_1, \dots, F_m can we determine if the following holds:

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- ▶ Hilbert thought there was such an algorithm and that this was a problem in Number Theory.
- ▶ Over time (next slide) it was proven that there is NO such algorithm and that this is a problem in Logic.

Computable and C.E. Sets

Def: A set A is **computable** if there is a Java program (Turing Machine, other models) J (on one var) that halts on all inputs such that

If $x \in A$ then $J(x)=\text{YES}$

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Known: There are sets that are c.e. but not computable. Here is one: Let J_x be the x th Java program in some reasonable ordering.

$$\{(x, y) : J_x(y) \text{ halts} \} = \{(x, y) : (\exists t)[J_x(y) \text{ halts in } \leq t \text{ steps}] \}$$

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4. From this you can conclude that TERM is undecidable.

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3. **OPEN**: Determine which subsets of F_i make this decidable? Σ_1^1 -complete? Other?

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2. **Transitive Ramsey Thm** is weaker than **Ramsey's Thm**.

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3. **Proof Theory:** Over the axiom system RCA_0 , R implies TR, but TR does not imply R.

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2. Some subcases of **TERMINATION PROBLEM** are decidable. Of interest to **PL** and **Logic**.
3. Full strength of Ramsey not needed. Interest to **Logicians** and **Combinatorists**.