

Largeness and partial conservation

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Let $\mathcal{P}$ be a decidable property closed under superset

Suppose that every **infinite** set satisfies $\mathcal{P}$

How **large** must be a **finite** set to satisfy $\mathcal{P}$?

Example: the class of sets X such that for every $f : [X]^2 \rightarrow 2$, there is an f -homogeneous set $F \subseteq X$ such that $|F| > \min F$.

α -largeness

Generalizes the notion of cardinality

What we want

Let T be a reasonable theory of second-order arithmetic with proof-theoretic ordinal β .

If for some Σ_1^0 property $\mathcal{P}$
 $T \vdash$ “Every infinite set satisfies $\mathcal{P}$ ”

Then there is some $\alpha < \beta$ such that
 $T \vdash$ “Every α -large set satisfies $\mathcal{P}$ ”

Given $\alpha < \epsilon_0$ in short Cantor normal form $\beta + \omega^\gamma$

$$\{\beta + \omega^\gamma\}(x) = \begin{cases} \beta & \text{if } \gamma = 0, \\ \beta + \omega^{\gamma-1} \cdot x & \text{if } \gamma \text{ is successor,} \\ \beta + \omega^{\{\gamma\}(x)} & \text{if } \gamma \text{ is limit.} \end{cases}$$

$$\{0\}(x) = 0$$

Given a finite set $X = \{x_0 < \dots < x_s\}$

$$\{\alpha\}(X) = \{\dots \{\{\alpha\}(x_0)\}(x_1) \dots\}(x_s)$$

X α -large iff $\{\alpha\}(X) = 0$

n -large

n elements

ω -large

x_0

x_0 elements

$\omega^n \cdot k$ -large

k blocks

ω^n -large

$\dots$

ω^n -large

ω^{n+1} -large

x_0

x_0 blocks

ω^n -large

$\dots$

ω^n -large

$$\alpha \gg \beta$$

least exponent of $\alpha \geq$
greatest exponent of β .

$$\omega^5 + \omega^4 \gg \omega^4 + \omega^3$$

$$\omega^4 \cdot 2 \gg \omega^4 \cdot 6$$

Theorem (Ketonen and Solovay)

Suppose $\alpha, \beta < \epsilon_0$ with $\alpha \gg \beta$. Then

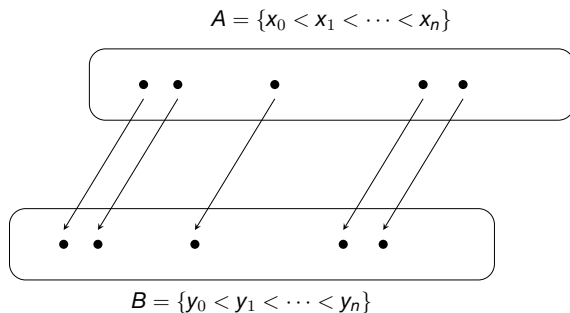
$(\alpha + \beta)$ -large

iff

β -large

α -large

Regularity



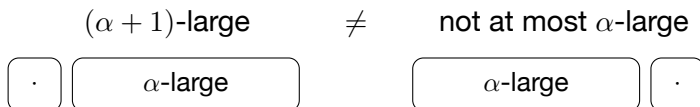
Theorem (Ketonen and Solovay)

If A is α -large and $y_i \leq x_i$ for every i , then B is α -large.

Partition

X at most α -large

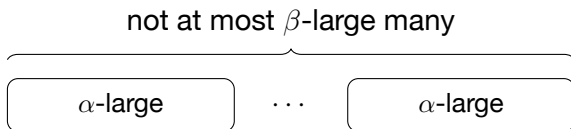
$X \setminus \{\max X\}$ is not α -large



Theorem (Le Houérou and P.)

Let $\alpha, \beta < \epsilon_0$ and $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ be at most α -large and β -large, respectively. Then $A \cup B$ is at most $(\alpha \oplus \beta)$ -large.

Deconstruction



Theorem (Le Hou  rou and P.)

Let $\alpha, \beta < \epsilon_0$, and let X be $(\omega^{\alpha \oplus \beta} + \omega^\alpha)$ -large with $\min X \geq 1$. Then there are ω^α -large sets $X_0 < \dots < X_d \subseteq X$ such that $\{\max X_i : i < d\}$ is ω^β -large.

Ketonen, Solovay (1981)

X is **always** 0-large;

X is $(\alpha + 1)$ -large iff $X \setminus \{\min X\}$ is α -large;

X is λ -large (λ limit) iff $X \setminus \{\min X\}$ is $\{\lambda\}(\min X)$ -large.

Ratajczyk (1988)

X is 0-large* iff $X \neq \emptyset$;

X is $(\alpha + 1)$ -large* iff $X \setminus \{\min X\}$ is α -large*;

X is λ -large* (λ limit) iff X is $\{\lambda\}(\min X)$ -large*.

$$\begin{array}{lll} (\alpha + 1)\text{-large} & \Rightarrow & \alpha\text{-large}^* \\ (\alpha + 1)\text{-large}^* & \Rightarrow & \alpha\text{-large} \end{array} \quad (\text{drop } +1 \text{ if } \alpha \geq \omega)$$

Ramsey's theorem

Ramsey's theorem

$[X]^n$ is the set of **unordered n -tuples** of elements of X

A **k -coloring of $[X]^n$** is a map $f : [X]^n \rightarrow k$

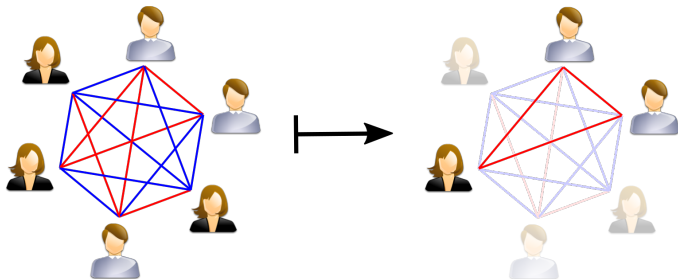
A set $H \subseteq X$ is **homogeneous** for f if $|f([H]^n)| = 1$.

RT_k^n

Every k -coloring of $[\mathbb{N}]^n$ admits
an infinite homogeneous set.

Ramsey's theorem for pairs

RT_k^2 Every k -coloring of the infinite clique admits an infinite monochromatic subclique.



X is RT_k^n - α -large

for every $f : [X]^n \rightarrow k$, there is an α -large homogeneous subset $Y \subseteq X$.

Given α , what is the least β such that every β -large set is RT_k^n - α -large?

Colorings of pairs, $\alpha < \omega^\omega$

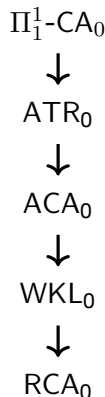
- ▶ (Ketonen and Solovay), 1981
If X is ω^{k+4} -large and $\min X \geq 3$, then X is RT_k^2 - ω -large.
- ▶ (Bigorajski and Kotlarski), 2002
If X is $\omega^{\omega^m \cdot 2}$ -large*, then X is RT_2^2 - ω^m -large*.
- ▶ (Kotlarski, Piekart and Weiermann), 2007
If X is RT_k^2 - ω^m -large*, then X is ω^{km} -large*.
- ▶ (P. and Yokoyama), 2018
 $\forall m \exists k$ such that every ω^k -large set is RT_2^2 - ω^m -large.
- ▶ (Kołodziejczyk and Yokoyama), 2020
If X is $\omega^{144(m+1)}$ -large and $\min X \geq 3$, then X is RT_2^2 - ω^m -large.
- ▶ (Le Houérou and P.), 2026
If X is ω^{km+4} -large and $\min X \geq 2$, then X is RT_k^2 - ω^m -large.

Conservation theorems

Reverse mathematics

Mathematics are
computationally
very structured

Almost every theorem is
empirically equivalent to one
among five big subsystems.

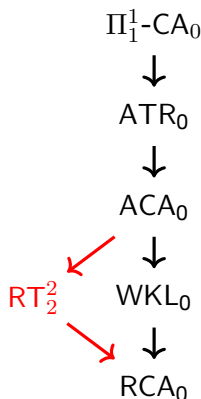


Reverse mathematics

Mathematics are
computationally
very structured

Almost every theorem is
empirically equivalent to one
among five big subsystems.

Except for Ramsey's theory...



The **first order-part** of a theory T is the set of its theorems in the language of first-order arithmetic.

What is the first-order part of
Ramsey's theorem for pairs?

RCA₀

Robinson arithmetics (Q)

$$m + 1 \neq 0$$

$$m + 1 = n + 1 \rightarrow m = n$$

$$\neg(m < 0)$$

$$m < n + 1 \leftrightarrow (m < n \vee m = n)$$

$$m + 0 = m$$

$$m + (n + 1) = (m + n) + 1$$

$$m \times 0 = 0$$

$$m \times (n + 1) = (m \times n) + m$$

Σ_1^0 induction scheme

$$\begin{aligned} &\varphi(0) \wedge \forall n(\varphi(n) \Rightarrow \varphi(n+1)) \\ &\rightarrow \forall n \varphi(n) \end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi(n)$ is a Σ_1^0 formula

Δ_1^0 comprehension scheme

$$\begin{aligned} &\forall n(\varphi(n) \Leftrightarrow \psi(n)) \\ &\rightarrow \exists X \forall n(n \in X \Leftrightarrow \varphi(n)) \end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi(n)$ is a Σ_1^0 formula where X appears freely, and ψ is a Π_1^0 formula.

Over $Q + I\Delta_0^0 + \exp$

Induction	Collection	Least principle	Regularity
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$I\Sigma_2^0 \equiv I\Pi_2^0$		$L\Pi_2^0 \equiv L\Sigma_2^0$	Σ_2^0 -regularity
$I\Delta_2^0$	$B\Sigma_2^0 \equiv B\Pi_1^0$	$L\Delta_2^0$	Δ_2^0 -regularity
$I\Sigma_1^0 \equiv I\Pi_1^0$		$L\Pi_1^0 \equiv L\Sigma_1^0$	Σ_1^0 -regularity
$I\Delta_1^0$	$B\Sigma_1^0 \equiv B\Pi_0^0$	$L\Delta_1^0$	Δ_1^0 -regularity

$$RCA_0 \equiv Q + \Delta_1^0\text{-comprehension} + I\Sigma_1^0$$

Theorem (Hirst)

$$\text{RCA}_0 \vdash \text{RT}_2^2 \rightarrow \text{B}\Sigma_2^0.$$

Theorem (Cholak, Jockusch and Slaman)

$$\text{RCA}_0 + \text{I}\Sigma_2^0 + \text{RT}_2^2 \text{ is } \Pi_1^1\text{-conservative over } \text{RCA}_0 + \text{I}\Sigma_2^0.$$

Theorem (Chong, Slaman and Yang)

$$\text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 \not\vdash \text{I}\Sigma_2^0.$$

Is $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ Π_1^1 -conservative
over $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0$?

Theorem (Fiori-Carones, Kołodziejczyk, Wong and Yokoyama)

$\text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is Π_1^1 -conservative over $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0$ iff it is
 $\forall\Pi_5^0$ -conservative over $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0$.

$\forall \Pi^0_3$ conservation

(Forcing with ω^a -large sets)

General strategy

How to prove that
 T_1 is Γ -conservative over T_0 ?

- ▶ Suppose $T_0 \not\models \varphi$ with $\varphi \in \Gamma$;
- ▶ Take a model $\mathcal{M} \models T_0 \wedge \neg\varphi$;
- ▶ Construct another model $\mathcal{N} \models T_1 \wedge \neg\varphi$;
- ▶ Thus $T_1 \not\models \varphi$.

Our strategy

How to prove that
 $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is $\forall\text{II}_3^0$ -conservative over RCA_0 ?

Given a first-order structure M and a proper cut I , let

$$\text{Cod}(M/I) = \{F \cap I : F \text{ is } M\text{-coded}\}$$

- ▶ Suppose $\text{RCA}_0 \not\models \varphi$ with $\varphi \forall\text{II}_3^0$;
- ▶ Take a model $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 \wedge \neg\varphi$;
- ▶ Construct a cut I such that $\text{Cod}(M/I) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 \wedge \neg\varphi$;
- ▶ Thus $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 \not\models \varphi$.

$\text{WF}(\alpha)$: There is no infinite decreasing sequence of ordinals $< \alpha$

Lemma

$\text{RCA}_0 \vdash \forall \alpha < \epsilon_0 [\text{WF}(\alpha) \leftrightarrow \text{Every infinite set contains an } \alpha\text{-large subset}]$

Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S)$ be a countable model of RCA_0 .

$$\text{WF}(\omega^{\mathcal{M}}) = \{a \in M : \mathcal{M} \models \text{WF}(\omega^a)\}$$

- ▶ $\text{WF}(\omega^{\mathcal{M}})$ is an additive cut
- ▶ There is a model $\mathcal{M}$ and some non-standard a such that

$$\text{WF}(\omega^{\mathcal{M}}) = \sup\{a \cdot n : n \in \omega\}$$

Forcing with ω^a -large sets

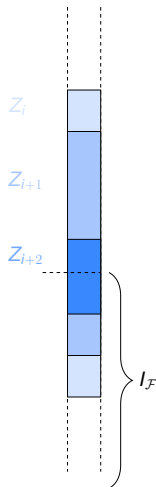
Fix a countable non-standard model
 $M \models Q + I\Sigma_1^0$.

$$(\mathbb{P}, \leq)$$

ω^a -large sets for $a \in M \setminus \omega$
ordered by inclusion.

Every filter $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ induces a **cut**

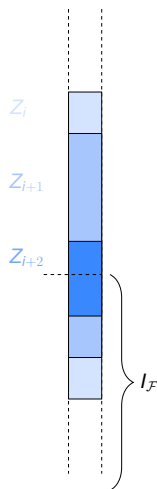
$$I_{\mathcal{F}} = \sup\{\min Z : Z \in \mathcal{F}\}$$



Forcing with ω^a -large sets

Fix a countable non-standard model
 $M \models Q + I\Sigma_1^0$.

- ▶ If $Z \in \mathcal{F}$, then $Z \cap I_{\mathcal{F}}$ is unbounded in $I_{\mathcal{F}}$.
- ▶ $Z \Vdash (\forall x \in I)\theta(x)$ if $(\forall x < \max Z)\theta(x)$.
- ▶ $Z \Vdash (\exists x \in I)\theta(x)$ if $(\exists x < \min Z)\theta(x)$.
- ▶ $Z \Vdash (\forall x \in I)(\exists y \in I)\theta(x, y)$ if
$$(\forall a, b \in Z)[a < b \rightarrow (\forall x < a)(\exists y < b)\theta(x, y)]$$



A cut is **semi-regular** if for every M -coded set $F \subseteq M$ such that $|F| \in I$, $F \cap I$ is bounded in I .

If $M \models \text{PRA}$ and I semi-regular, then $(I, \text{Cod}(M/I)) \models \text{WKL}_0$.

Lemma (Kirby and Paris)

If $M \models \text{Q} + \text{IS}_1^0$ and $\mathcal{F}$ is sufficiently generic, then $I_{\mathcal{F}}$ is semi-regular.

- ▶ Let $Z \in \mathbb{P}$ be ω^a -large and $F \subseteq M$ be M -coded with $|F| < \min Z$;
- ▶ Let $Z_0 < \dots < Z_{|F|}$ be ω^{a-1} -large subsets of Z ;
- ▶ $[\min Z_i, \max Z_i] \cap F = \emptyset$ for some $i \leq |F|$.

Lemma (Kołodziejczyk and Yokoyama)

$\mathcal{Q} + \text{IS}_1^0$ proves that if X is ω^{300a} -large and $\min X \geq 3$, then for every $f: [X]^2 \rightarrow 2$, there is an ω^a -large f -homogeneous set $H \subseteq X$.

Thus if $\mathcal{F}$ is sufficiently generic $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{RT}_2^2$.

Theorem (P. and Yokoyama)

$\text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is $\forall\Pi_3^0$ -conservative over RCA_0 .

- ▶ Suppose $\text{RCA}_0 \not\models \forall A \exists x \forall y \psi(A, x, y)$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \neg \psi(A, x, y)$ be non-standard ;
- ▶ Let $A \in S$ and $X = \{b_0 < b_1 < \dots\} \in S$ be such that $(\forall x < b_s)(\exists y < b_{s+1}) \neg \psi(A, x, y)$;
- ▶ Let $Z \subseteq X$ be ω^a -large for some $a \in M \setminus \omega$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{F}$ be sufficiently generic filter containing Z ;
- ▶ $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \neg \psi(A, x, y)$.

$\forall \Pi_4^0$ conservation

(Forcing with ω^a -large(θ) sets)

Theorem (P. and Yokoyama)

$\text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is $\forall\Pi_3^0$ -conservative over RCA_0 .

- ▶ Suppose $\text{RCA}_0 \not\models \forall A \exists x \forall y \psi(A, x, y)$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \neg \psi(A, x, y)$ be non-standard ;
- ▶ Let $A \in S$ and $X = \{b_0 < b_1 < \dots\} \in S$ be such that $(\forall x < b_s)(\exists y < b_{s+1}) \neg \psi(A, x, y)$;
- ▶ Let $Z \subseteq X$ be ω^a -large for some $a \in M \setminus \omega$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{F}$ be sufficiently generic filter containing Z ;
- ▶ $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \neg \psi(A, x, y)$.

Theorem (Erroneous Logician)

$\text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is $\forall\Pi_4^0$ -conservative over RCA_0 .

- ▶ Suppose $\text{RCA}_0 \not\models \forall A \exists x \forall y \exists z \psi(A, x, y, z)$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \neg \psi(A, x, y)$ be non-standard ;
- ▶ Let $A \in S$ and $X = \{b_0 < b_1 < \dots\} \in S$ be such that $(\forall x < b_s)(\exists y < b_{s+1}) \forall z \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$;
- ▶ Let $Z \subseteq X$ be ω^a -large for some $a \in M \setminus \omega$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{F}$ be sufficiently generic filter containing Z ;
- ▶ $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \forall z \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$.

$\text{B}\Sigma_2$ is a Π_4 -sentence which is not provable over RCA_0 .

Let $\theta(x, y, z) \equiv \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$.

$A < B$ are θ -apart

$$(\forall x < \max A)(\exists y < \min B)(\forall z < \max B)\theta(x, y, z)$$

- ▶ X is ω^0 -large(θ) if $X \neq \emptyset$.
- ▶ X is $\omega^{(n+1)}$ -large(θ) if $X \setminus \min X$ is $(\omega^n \cdot \min X)$ -large(θ)
- ▶ X is $\omega^n \cdot k$ -large(θ) if there are k θ -apart ω^n -large(θ) subsets of X

$$X_0 < X_1 < \cdots < X_{k-1}$$

Definition

$\text{WF}_\theta(\omega^a)$: Every infinite set contains an ω^a -large(θ) subset.

Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0 + \forall x \exists y \forall z \theta(x, y, z)$.

$$\text{WF}_\theta(\omega^{\mathcal{M}}) = \{a \in M : \mathcal{M} \models \text{WF}_\theta(\omega^a)\}$$

- ▶ $\text{WF}_\theta(\omega^{\mathcal{M}})$ is an additive cut
- ▶ There is a model $\mathcal{M}$ and some non-standard a such that

$$\text{WF}_\theta(\omega^{\mathcal{M}}) = \sup\{a \cdot n : n \in \omega\}$$

Forcing with ω^a -large(θ) sets

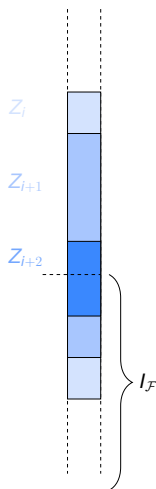
Fix a countable non-standard model
 $M \models Q + I\Delta_2^0 + \forall x \exists y \forall z \theta(x, y, z)$.

$$(\mathbb{P}, \leq)$$

ω^a -large(θ) sets for $a \in M \setminus \omega$
ordered by inclusion.

Every filter $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ induces a **cut**

$$I_{\mathcal{F}} = \sup\{\min Z : Z \in \mathcal{F}\}$$



Suppose $M \models Q + I\Sigma_1^0 + \forall x \exists y \forall z \theta(x, y, z)$.

Lemma

If $\mathcal{F}$ is sufficiently generic, then $I_{\mathcal{F}}$ is semi-regular.

- ▶ Let $Z \in \mathbb{P}$ be ω^a -large(θ) and $F \subseteq M$ be M -coded with $|F| < \min Z$;
- ▶ Let $Z_0 < \dots < Z_{|F|}$ be ω^{a-1} -large(θ) subsets of Z ;
- ▶ $[\min Z_i, \max Z_i] \cap F = \emptyset$ for some $i \leq |F|$.

Lemma

If $\mathcal{F}$ is sufficiently generic, then $I_{\mathcal{F}} \models \forall x \exists y \forall z \theta(x, y, z)$.

- ▶ Let $Z \in \mathbb{P}$ be ω^a -large(θ) and $x < \min Z$;
- ▶ Let $Z_0 < Z_1$ be θ -apart ω^{a-1} -large(θ) subsets of Z ;
- ▶ Z_1 forces $\exists y \forall z \theta(x, y, z)$.

Lemma (Le Houérou, P. and Yokoyama)

$Q + I\Sigma_1^0$ proves that if X is $\omega^{a+1}16$ -large(θ) and $\min X \geq 3$, then for every $f: [X]^2 \rightarrow 2$, there is an ω^a -large(θ) f -homogeneous set $H \subseteq X$.

Lemma (Le Houérou and P.)

$Q + I\Sigma_1^0$ proves that if X is $\omega^{12a(a+1)+\mathcal{O}(1)}$ -large(θ), then for every $f: [X]^2 \rightarrow 2$, there is an ω^a -large(θ) f -homogeneous set $H \subseteq X$.

Thus if $\mathcal{F}$ is sufficiently generic $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{RT}_2^2$.

Theorem (Le Houérou, P. and Yokoyama)

$\text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2$ is $\forall\Pi_4^0$ -conservative over $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0$.

- ▶ Suppose $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{B}\Sigma_2^0 \not\models \forall A \exists x \forall y \exists z \psi(A, x, y, z)$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{M} = (M, S) \models \text{RCA}_0 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \forall z \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$ be non-standard ;
- ▶ Let $A \in S$ be a witness and $\theta(x, y, z) \equiv \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$;
- ▶ Let $Z \subseteq M$ be ω^a -large(θ) for some $a \in M \setminus \omega$;
- ▶ Let $\mathcal{F}$ be sufficiently generic filter containing Z ;
- ▶ $(I_{\mathcal{F}}, \text{Cod}(M/I_{\mathcal{F}})) \models \text{WKL}_0 + \text{RT}_2^2 + \exists A \forall x \exists y \forall z \neg \psi(A, x, y, z)$.

Proof size

Theorem (Fiori-Carones, Kołodziejczyk, Wong and Yokoyama)

If there is a speed-up for Π_1^1 -sentences between $WKL_0 + RT_2^2$ and $RCA_0 + B\Sigma_2^0$, then $WKL_0 + RT_2^2$ is not Π_1^1 -conservative over $RCA_0 + B\Sigma_2^0$.

Theorem (Kołodziejczyk, Wong and Yokoyama)

RCA_0 polynomially simulates $WKL_0 + RT_2^2$ for $\forall\Pi_3^0$ -formulas.

Theorem (Le Houérou and P.)

$RCA_0 + B\Sigma_2^0$ polynomially simulates $WKL_0 + RT_2^2$ for $\forall\Pi_4^0$ -formulas.

Open question

Is $WKL_0 + RT_2^2$

Π_1^1 -conservative over $RCA_0 + B\Sigma_2^0$

or equivalently

$\forall \Pi_5^0$ -conservative over $RCA_0 + B\Sigma_2^0$?

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