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ON FINITE SUMS OF REGRESSIVE ISOLS

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Our paper deals with isols that can be represented as a finite sum of regressive isols, and with recursive functions of one variable that have canonical extensions that map isols such as these into the isols.

1. **Preliminaries.** We shall use familiar notation in the theory of isols. We denote by ω , A and A_R respectively, the sets of non-negative integers (*numbers*), isols, and regressive isols. If f is any recursive function, in any number of variables, then f_i denotes the *canonical extension* of f to the isols. The *degree of unsolvability* of a regressive isol is defined in the following way, as it is introduced in [3]. Each regressive isol contains a retraceable set, and all retraceable sets that belong to the same regressive isol will have the same Turing degree of unsolvability. If a is a regressive isol, then its *degree of unsolvability* is defined to be the Turing degree of any retraceable set that is a member of a . For a regressive isol a , Δ_a will denote the degree of unsolvability of a . It is proved in [3], that if a and b are any infinite regressive isols, then

1. $a \leq b \longrightarrow \Delta_a = \Delta_b$,
2. $a \leq^* b \longrightarrow \Delta_b \leq \Delta_a$, and
3. $a + b$ regressive implies $\Delta_a = \Delta_b$.

Several times in the paper we use refinement property of isols. This property refers to the following feature of the isols, and it is obtained in [6, corollary to Theorem 19]. If y and a_0, \dots, a_m are any isols, and

$$y \leq a_0 + \dots + a_m,$$

then there will be isols y_0, \dots, y_m with $y = y_0 + \dots + y_m$ and with each $y_i \leq a_i$.

2. **Finite sums of regressive isols.** Let $m \geq 1$ be any number. We set

$$mA_R = \{a_0 + \dots + a_{m-1} \mid a_0, \dots, a_{m-1} \in A_R\}.$$

When $m = 1$ then mA_R is simply the collection of all regressive isols. It is easy to see from their definitions, that one has

$$\omega \subset A_R \subset 2A_R \subset 3A_R \subset \dots$$

Each of the inclusions that appear above will be proper. That the first two are, follows from the work of J. C. E. Dekker in [3]. Each of the remaining ones may be shown to proper by an approach similar to the one applied in [3], for showing the second inclusion is proper. We do this next. Let a_0, \dots, a_m be $m + 1$ infinite regressive isols, selected to have mutually distinct degrees of unsolvability. Then, it is clear, the isol $y = a_0 + \dots + a_m$ is in $(m + 1)A_R$. But y is not a member of mA_R . For if otherwise, it then would follow, from the refinement property for isols, that there exist infinite b_i and b_j with $i \neq j$, $b_i \leq a_i$, $b_j \leq a_j$, and $b_i + b_j$ regressive. This would mean that b_i and b_j have the same degree of unsolvability, and therefore also, that a_i and a_j have the same degree of unsolvability, and thus contradicting our selection of the isols a_i and a_j . Thus each mA_R is a proper subset of $(m + 1)A_R$. It follows from this fact that also each of the collections mA_R for $m \geq 1$ is not closed under addition.

Let $m \geq 1$ and let $y \in mA_R$. Then it is easy to see that each of the isols $y + 1, y + 2, \dots$ and $2y, 3y, \dots$ is also a member of mA_R . These are similar features that the collections mA_R share with the collection of regressive isols. In contrast, it will not necessarily be true that y^2 is a member of mA_R . This fact will follow from Proposition 2 that appears below. The next result establishes two analogues for the collections mA_R of properties well-known for the regressive isols.

PROPOSITION 1. *Let $m \geq 1$ and let $y \in mA_R$. Then for all isols a and b ,*

$$(1) \quad a \leq y \Rightarrow a \in mA_R, \quad \text{and}$$

$$(2) \quad (a \leq y \text{ and } b \leq y) \implies a + b \in mA_R.$$

Proof. In the special case $m = 1$ then both results are proved by Dekker in [3]. For the general setting, let $y = y_0 + \dots + y_{m-1}$ with each y_i a regressive isol. If $a \leq y$, then by the refinement property, it will follow that $a = a_0 + \dots + a_{m-1}$ where for each i , one has $a_i \leq y_i$. Then each of the isols a_i is regressive, and therefore $a \in mA_R$. This verifies (1). To verify statement (2), assume both $a \leq y$ and $b \leq y$. Then we obtain,

$$a = a_0 + \dots + a_{m-1}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$b = b_0 + \dots + b_{m-1},$$

with $a_i \leq y_i$ and $b_i \leq y_i$ for each i . Since each y_i is regressive, then also is each of the sums $a_i + b_i$. Hence the isol

$$a + b = (a_0 + b_0) + \cdots + (a_{m-1} + b_{m-1})$$

belongs to $m\mathcal{A}_R$. This verifies (2), and completes the proof.

In the next result it is shown that when a and b are each infinite regressive isols and $y = a + b$, then the degrees Δ_a and Δ_b are comparable if y^2 is an element of $2\mathcal{A}_R$. If we would therefore select such isols a and b to have incomparable degrees, then the associated isol y will belong to $2\mathcal{A}_R$ but the isol y^2 will not. Our proof below will assume some familiarity with the notion of the *minimum of two regressive isols* and with the relation of \leq^* among isols. Each of these notions is introduced and studied in [3].

PROPOSITION 2. *Let a and b be infinite regressive isols, and let $y = a + b$. Let u and v be regressive isols with $y^2 = u + v$. Then either $\Delta_a \leq \Delta_b$ or $\Delta_b \leq \Delta_a$.*

Proof. Because $y = a + b$ it follows that

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = u + v,$$

and therefore also, since $\min(a, b) \leq ab$, one has

$$(1) \quad a + \min(a, b) + b \leq u + v.$$

It is known, from [3], that $\min(a, b) \leq^* a$ and $\min(a, b) \leq^* b$. From the refinement property of isols, it follows from (1) that one of the cases below will necessarily occur.

Case 1. There are infinite regressive isols a' and z with $a' \leq a$, $z \leq \min(a, b)$, and either $a' + z \leq u$ or $a' + z \leq v$.

In this case then a' and z will have the same degree of unsolvability. The degree of a' is the same as the degree of a . The degree of z will be the same as the degree of $\min(a, b)$, which is known to have the property $\Delta_b \leq \Delta_{\min(a, b)}$. Thus it will follow that $\Delta_b \leq \Delta_a$.

Case 2. There are infinite regressive isols b' and z with $b' \leq b$, $z \leq \min(a, b)$, and either $b' + z \leq u$ or $b' + z \leq v$.

In this case, it will follow, in a similar way as in Case 1, that $\Delta_a \leq \Delta_b$. We will omit the details for showing this.

Case 3. There are infinite regressive isols a' and b' with $a' \leq a$, $b' \leq b$, and either $a' + b' \leq u$ or $a' + b' \leq v$.

In this case, it will follow that both a' and b' have the same degree of unsolvability. Since both a' and a , and b' and b , share the same degree one obtains $\Delta_a = \Delta_b$.

In view of the three cases considered above, it follows that the degrees Δ_a and Δ_b will be comparable, and this completes the proof.

3. Canonical extensions of recursive functions. Let $m \geq 1$. In this section we characterize the recursive functions of one variable with the property that their canonical extensions map mA_n into A . We are grateful to E. Ellentuck for showing us how to obtain this result based upon his work in [7], and our proof of Theorem 2 is based upon his ideas. We also obtain in this section a characterization of the recursive functions of one variable with canonical extensions that map mA_n into the isols and that are order preserving on mA_n with respect to the relation of \leq among isols. In the case $m = 1$ the latter result was first proved by F. Sansone in [11]. We first introduce some definitions and results, taken mainly from the work of Ellentuck in [7].

Let $n \geq 1$. For $x \in \omega^n$, we write $x = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1})$, with x_i denoting the $(i + 1)$ st component of x , and set $\min x = \text{minimum}(x_0, \dots, x_{n-1})$. For $k \in \omega$, we write k for the particular element of ω^n , each of whose components is equal to k . For all $x, y \in \omega^n$ (respectively A^n), we write $x + y$ for the element of ω^n (respectively A^n) with $(x + y)_i = x_i + y_i$. Let g be any function from ω^n into ω . With g associate a new function \hat{g} from ω^n into ω , defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g}(x) &= 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \min x = 0, \\ \hat{g}(x) &= g(y) \quad \text{where} \quad y + 1 = x, \quad \text{if} \quad \min x \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

For each $j < n$ define n -ary functions $E_j g$ and $\Delta_j g$ by

$$\begin{aligned} E_j g(x) &= g(y) \quad \text{where} \quad y_j = x_j + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad y_i = x_i \quad \text{for} \quad i \neq j, \quad \text{and} \\ \Delta_j g(x) &= (E_j g(x)) - g(x). \end{aligned}$$

Let $\Delta = \Delta_0 \cdots \Delta_{n-1}$ be the composition of the Δ_j 's. A function $g: \omega^n \rightarrow \omega$ is called *recursive increasing* if g is recursive and $\Delta \hat{g}(x) \geq 0$ for every $x \in \omega^n$, and is called *eventually recursive increasing* if there is a value $k \in \omega^n$ such that the function $g(x + k)$ is recursive increasing.

In the special case that we are considering a function of only one variable, as $f(x)$, then we let $x = x_0$ and $\Delta f(x) = \Delta_0 f(x)$, and define, for each number m ,

$$\Delta^0 f(x) = f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta^{m+1} f(x) = \Delta(\Delta^m f(x)).$$

Later in the paper we will want to examine when for a particular function of one variable, as $f(x)$, the associated function $\Delta^m f(x)$ is eventually recursive increasing. From the definition above, it is

easy to check that in this case one has the following characterization: $\Delta^m f(x)$ is eventually recursive increasing if and only if $f(x)$ is recursive and there exists a number $k \in \omega$ such that $\Delta^{m+1} f(x+k) \geq 0$ for all numbers x . It is this latter characterization that is applied later in the paper.

We introduce next the ideas associated with the concept of an *almost recursive increasing function*; as these are introduced in [7]. If α is a finite set then the cardinality of α is denoted by $\text{card. } \alpha$. Let $\nu(0) = \phi$ and for $n \geq 1$, let $\nu(n) = (0, \dots, n-1)$. Then $\text{card. } \nu(n) = n$ for each number n . Let h, α, d and j together satisfy the following properties:

- (1) $\alpha \subset \nu(n)$, $h: \alpha \rightarrow \omega$, $\text{card. } (\nu(n) - \alpha) = d$ with $d > 0$, and $j: \nu(d) \rightarrow (\nu(n) - \alpha)$ is strictly increasing.

With h associate a new function $h_n^*: \omega^d \rightarrow \omega^n$, defined in the following way: $h_n^*(x) = y$ where $y_i = h(i)$ for $i \in \alpha$, and $y_{j(i)} = x_i$ for $i < d$.

A function $g: \omega^n \rightarrow \omega$ is called *almost recursive increasing*, if for every function h that satisfies (1), the composition function $g \circ h_n^*$ is eventually recursive increasing. An almost recursive increasing function will be recursive, and also, will be eventually recursive increasing, for one may select as a function h in (1) one with $\alpha = \phi$. The following theorem is proved in [7].

THEOREM 1. (*Ellentuck*). *Let $n \geq 1$ and let $g: \omega^n \rightarrow \omega$ be a recursive function. Then g_A maps A_R^n into A if and only if g is an almost recursive increasing function.*

We characterize next the recursive functions of one variable with canonical extensions that map mA_R into A . Our proof below is due to E. Ellentuck.

THEOREM 2. *Let $m \geq 1$ and let $f(x)$ be a recursive function. Then f_A maps mA_R into A if and only if, for each $j < m$, $\Delta^j f(x)$ is an eventually recursive increasing function.*

Proof. (*Ellentuck*). Let the function $g: \omega^m \rightarrow \omega$ be defined by $g(x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}) = f(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1})$. Then g is a recursive function. Also, $g(x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}) = f(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1})$, for all isols x_0, \dots, x_{m-1} . From Theorem 1, one obtains the following equivalent statements:

- f_A maps mA_R into A , if and only if
- g_A maps A_R^m into A , if and only if
- g is almost recursive increasing.

To obtain the desired result, we will verify that g is almost recursive increasing, if and only if, for each $j < m$, $\Delta^j f(x)$ is an eventually recursive increasing function.

Let $j \geq 1$. Consider the following set of equations.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2) \quad & \Delta \hat{g}(x_0 + 1, \dots, x_{j-1} + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \\
 &= (\prod_{i < j} \Delta_i) \hat{g}(x_0 + 1, \dots, x_{j-1} + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \\
 &= (\prod_{i < j} \Delta_i) g(x_0, \dots, x_{j-1}, 0, \dots, 0) \\
 &= (\prod_{i < j} \Delta_i) f(x_0 + \dots + x_{j-1}) \\
 &= (\Delta^j f)(x_0 + \dots + x_{j-1}).
 \end{aligned}$$

The first three equalities follow from definitions. The last equality holds because $\Delta_r f(x_0 + \dots + x_{j-1}) = \Delta_s f(x_0 + \dots + x_{j-1})$, for all $r, s < j$. Therefore, the particular function $g(x_0, \dots, x_{j-1}, 0, \dots, 0)$ is recursive increasing, if and only if, $\Delta^{j-1} f(x)$ is recursive increasing. Combining the definition of an almost recursive increasing function and the way in which the function g is defined in terms of f , it follows from the equations in (2) that g is almost recursive increasing if and only if $\Delta^j f(x)$ is eventually recursive increasing for each $j < m$. This completes the proof.

Let $m \geq 1$ and let $f(x)$ be a recursive function. We say that f_A is *order preserving* on mA_R , if f_A maps mA_R into A , and if for all $a, b \in mA_R$ one has $a \leq b$ implies $f_A(a) \leq f_A(b)$. F. Sansone, in [11], characterized the recursive functions f that have f_A order preserving on A_R . In the next result we consider the corresponding problem for an arbitrary value for m .

THEOREM 3. *Let $m \geq 1$ and let $f(x)$ be a recursive function of one variable. Let $\Delta^j f(x)$ be eventually (recursive) increasing, for each $j < m$. Then the following three conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $\Delta^m f(x)$ is eventually recursive increasing,
- (2) $f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1}) \leq f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1} + x_m)$, for all regressive isols x_0, \dots, x_m ,
- (3) f_A is order preserving on mA_R .

Proof. For the case $m = 1$, the equivalence of statements (1) and (3) was proved by F. Sansone in [11].

Define the functions g and h , from ω^{m+1} into ω , by

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(x_0, \dots, x_m) &= f(x_0 + \dots + x_m), \\
 h(x_0, \dots, x_m) &= g(x_0, \dots, x_m) - g(x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}, 0).
 \end{aligned}$$

From these equations it follows that both g and h are recursive functions, and, in addition, one also obtains, for all isols x_0, \dots, x_m ,

$$(4) \quad h_A(x_0, \dots, x_m) = f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_m) - f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1}).$$

Let us assume that statement (1) holds. Let x_0, \dots, x_m be any regressive isols. By Theorem 2, both $f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_m)$ and $f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1})$ are isols. Also, from (4), it follows that

$$f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_{m-1}) \leq f_A(x_0 + \dots + x_m)$$

holds, if and only if, $h_A(x_0, \dots, x_m)$ is an isol. Therefore, (2) will follow if h_A maps A_k^{m+1} into A . By Theorem 1, this property is equivalent to h being an almost recursive increasing function. We now verify that h has this feature.

Let $d \leq m + 1$ and consider the following two separate computations that involve $\Delta \hat{h}$.

Case 1. When $d \leq m$. Let $k \in \omega$ and let $u = x_0 + \dots + x_{d-1}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \hat{h}(x_0 + 1, \dots, x_{d-1} + 1, 1, \dots, 1, k + 1) \\ &= \Delta h(x_0, \dots, x_{d-1}, 0, \dots, 0, k) \\ &= (\prod_{j < d} \Delta_j) h(x_0, \dots, x_{d-1}, 0, \dots, 0, k) \\ &= (\prod_{j < d} \Delta_j) [g(x_0, \dots, x_{d-1}, 0, \dots, 0, k) \\ &\quad - g(x_0, \dots, x_{d-1}, 0, \dots, 0, 0)], \end{aligned}$$

and, by representing the last expression in terms of u and the function f , the equations may be continued, to give,

$$\begin{aligned} &= \Delta^d [f(u + k) - f(u)] \\ &= \Delta^d [\sum_{i < k} \Delta f(u + i)] \\ &= \sum_{i < k} \Delta^{d+1} f(u + i). \end{aligned}$$

Case 2. When $d = m + 1$. Let $v = x_0 + \dots + x_m$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \hat{h}(x_0 + 1, \dots, x_m + 1) &= \Delta h(x_0, \dots, x_m) \\ &= \Delta [g(x_0, \dots, x_m) - g(x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}, 0)] \\ &= (\prod_{j < m+1} \Delta_j) [g(x_0, \dots, x_m) - g(x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}, 0)] \\ &= (\prod_{j < m+1} \Delta_j) g(x_0, \dots, x_m) \\ &= \Delta^{m+1} f(v). \end{aligned}$$

By combining both the hypothesis in the theorem and the assumed property in statement (1), it follows that each of the expressions computed for $\Delta \hat{h}$, in Cases 1 and 2, is nonnegative. As in the proof of Theorem 2, this fact implies that h is an almost increasing function. Thus we obtain statement (2).

Let us assume now that statement (2) holds. Let a and b be any members of $m\mathcal{A}_R$ with $a \leq b$. Let

$$b = b_0 + \cdots + b_{m-1},$$

with each of b_0, \dots, b_{m-1} a regressive isol. Because $a \leq b$ it follows that we may represent a as,

$$a = a_0 + \cdots + a_{m-1},$$

where for each i , a_i is regressive and $a_i \leq b_i$. For each i let the isol r_i be defined by $r_i = b_i - a_i$. Let $r = r_0 + \cdots + r_{m-1}$. Then each r_i is regressive and $a + r = b$. We may now obtain the desired result, statement (3), by successively applying the property given in statement (2), as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f_A(a) &= f_A(a_0 + \cdots + a_{m-1}) \\ &\leq f_A(a_0 + \cdots + a_{m-1} + r_0) \\ &= f_A(b_0 + a_1 + \cdots + a_{m-1}) \\ &\vdots \\ &= f_A(b_0 + \cdots + b_{m-1}) \\ &= f_A(b). \end{aligned}$$

To complete the proof we now show that statement (3) implies statement (1). Assume statement (1) does not hold. Then, from Theorem 2, the canonical extension of the function $\Delta f(x) = f(x + 1) - f(x)$ to the isols will not map $m\mathcal{A}_R$ into \mathcal{A} . There then will exist an isol $a \in m\mathcal{A}_R$ with $f_A(a + 1) - f_A(a)$ being a value in the isolic integers but not in the isols. This is equivalent to having, $f_A(a) \leq f_A(a + 1)$ not holding true. Since $a \leq a + 1$, and, $a \in m\mathcal{A}_R$ implies $a + 1 \in m\mathcal{A}_R$, it follows that f_A is not order preserving on $m\mathcal{A}_R$. Hence, if statement (1) does not hold, then statement (2) does not hold also. This completes our proof.

EXAMPLE. We would like to illustrate some of the ideas of the previous discussion with one example. Let the function $f(x)$ be defined by $f(x) = \left[\frac{x+1}{2} \right] \cdot \left[\frac{x+4}{2} \right]$, where $\left[\frac{y}{2} \right]$ denotes the greatest integer obtained when y is divided by 2. It is easy to see that $f(x)$ is both a recursive and an increasing function. It is also easy to verify, perhaps easiest by computing the associated difference table, that the function Δf is neither increasing nor eventually increasing. Hence, by Theorem 2, f_A does not map $2\mathcal{A}_R$ into \mathcal{A} . On the other hand, the function $f^2(x) = (f(x))^2$ is recursive and increasing, and, in addition, has the feature that it's first difference function

Δf^2 is also increasing. This fact can perhaps best be recognized by constructing a difference table for the function $f^2(x)$. Thus, while f_A does not map $2A_R$ into A , the function f^2 will. We can apply these properties to illustrate one feature in the nature of isols. Let a and b be regressive isols such that $f_A(a + b) \notin A$. If we set $y = f_A(a + b)$ then we obtain an example of an isolic integer y , such that neither y nor $-y$ is an isol, and y^2 is an isol. (This feature of the isols is well-known now, and we first learned about it from A. Nerode.)

REMARK. We would like to indicate some connections of our work in this section with combinatorial functions and their properties.

Let $m \geq 1$ and let $f(x)$ be a recursive function. We say $f(x)$ is *increasing of order m* , if $\Delta^0 f, \dots, \Delta^{m-1} f$ are each increasing functions; and say it is *eventually increasing of order m* , if for some number c the function $f(x + c)$ is increasing of order m . If, for each $m \in \omega$, $f(x)$ is increasing of order m , then $f(x)$ is said to be a *combinatorial function*. This definition of a combinatorial function agrees with the familiar one introduced by J. Myhill in [9]. We would like to assume that the reader is familiar with some basic features of combinatorial functions. We note that $f(x)$ will be eventually increasing in each order of m , if there is a sequence of numbers c_0, c_1, \dots such that, for each m the function $f(x + c_m)$ is increasing of order m . Also, $f(x)$ is called *eventually combinatorial*, if there is a constant c such that $f(x + c)$ is combinatorial. Let

$$\omega A_R = \bigcup_{\substack{m < \omega \\ m \neq 0}} m A_R .$$

Then, from Theorem 2, it follows that f_A maps $m A_R$ into A if and only if f is eventually increasing of order m . Hence f_A maps ωA_R into A if and only if f is eventually increasing in each order of m . From the work of A. Nerode, in [10], one has that f_A maps A into A if and only if f is eventually combinatorial.

If $f(x)$ is eventually combinatorial, then it is eventually increasing in each order of m ; in this case the sequence of associated values of c_i can be selected to be constant beyond some point. The converse is not true, as there exist recursive functions that are not eventually combinatorial, yet that are eventually increasing in each order of m . Such a function $g(x)$ may be constructed in the following manner; below is an array with some of the initial values and associated difference values for $g(x)$. Values along the diagonals, in the table following, for the function $g(x)$ and its differences will all be constant.

x	$g(x)$	$\Delta g(x)$	$\Delta^2 g(x)$	$\Delta^3 g(x)$	$\Delta^4 g(x)$	$\Delta^5 g(x)$
0	2	-1	3	-4	7	-11
1	1	2	-1	3	-4	7
2	3	1	2	-1	3	-4
3	4	3	1	2	-1	3
4	7	4	3	1	2	-1
5	11	7	4	3	1	2

Recursive functions of this type will have canonical extensions which map ωA_R into A , but not map A into A . It is easy to find isols a with $a \in A - \omega A_R$, for we may let a be any infinite isol containing an infinite set which contains no infinite regressive subset.

Additional remark. In a recent paper, [8], V. L. Mikheev introduced some classes of functions like the ones we also studied in this paper.

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