

# IMMUNITY PROPERTIES AND THE $n$ -C.E. HIERARCHY

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ABSTRACT. We extend Post's programme to finite levels of the Ershov hierarchy of  $\Delta_2$  sets, and characterise, in the spirit of Post [9], the degrees of the immune and hyperimmune d.c.e. sets. We also show that no properly d.c.e. set can be hh-immune, and indicate how to generalise these results to  $n$ -c.e. sets,  $n > 2$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1944, Post [9] set out to relate computational structure to its underlying information content. Since then, many computability-theoretic classes have been captured, in the spirit of Post, via their relationships to the lattice of computably enumerable (c.e.) sets. In particular, we have Post's [9] characterisation of the non-computable c.e. Turing degrees as those of the simple, or hypersimple even, sets; Martin's Theorem [6] showing the high c.e. Turing degrees to be those containing maximal sets; and Shoenfield's [10] characterisation of the non-low<sub>2</sub> c.e. degrees as those of the atomless c.e. sets (that is, of co-infinite c.e. sets without maximal supersets).

In this article, and in Afshari, Barmpalias and Cooper [1], we initiate the extension of Post's programme to computability-theoretic classes of the  $n$ -c.e. sets.

For basic terminology and notation, see Cooper [4], Soare [11], or Odifreddi [7].

## 2. ON THE DEGREES OF IMMUNE AND HYPERIMMUNE D.C.E. SETS

Theorems 1 and 2 below fully characterise the degrees of the immune and hyperimmune d.c.e. sets. The techniques needed are somewhat more complicated — and different — to those applicable in the c.e. cases.

**Theorem 1.** *Every non-computable d.c.e.  $bT$  (that is,  $wtt$ ) degree contains an immune d.c.e. set.*

*Proof.* Suppose we are given a non-computable d.c.e. set  $W$ . We wish to construct a d.c.e. set  $A \equiv_{bT} W$  which is immune i.e. for every infinite c.e.

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set  $V$ ,  $V \not\subseteq A$ . We consider each number enumerated in  $V$  as a guess about members of  $A$ . We want to construct  $A$  such that it is impossible for such a guessing procedure to guess always correctly. We consider an effective enumeration  $V_0, V_1, \dots$  of all c.e. sets *filtered* in the following way: we enumerate  $n$  into  $V_j$  at stage  $s$  if it currently belongs to both the  $j$ -th c.e. set *and*  $A$ , the set we are constructing. These c.e. sets may not exhaust the class of c.e. sets, but if a c.e. set is subset of  $A$  it will be in that list. So  $(V_j)$  is an enumeration of all potential opponents and it suffices to construct  $A \equiv_{bT} W$  such that

$$\mathcal{I}_j : \exists i(i \in V_j \wedge i \notin A) \text{ or } V_j \text{ is finite}$$

for all  $j$ . An  $\mathcal{I}$  requirement asks to extract a number which has appeared in  $A$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $W$  is not immune and that  $(p_{kt})$  is a double sequence of members of  $W$  which is increasing on both arguments (indeed, every d.c.e. set is  $bT$ -equivalent with a non-immune d.c.e. set). Let  $P \subset W$  be the set of these terms and

$$P_j = \{p_{jk} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

In the d.c.e. approximation of  $W$  that we use we assume that numbers in  $P$  are never extracted. For any  $n, j \in \mathbb{N}$  define the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$  to be  $(p_{j,k-j}, \dots, p_{jk})$  where  $k$  is the largest such that  $p_{jk} < n$ . That is, the sequence of the largest  $j+1$  numbers in  $P_j$  which are smaller than  $n$ . Note that for each  $j$  almost all  $n$  have a  $j$ -sequence. If some  $\mathcal{I}_j$  acts by extracting some  $n \notin P$  then the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$  becomes the  $\mathcal{I}_j$ -sequence for the rest of the construction. The idea of the construction is to control the membership of  $n$  w.r.t.  $A$  according to its membership w.r.t.  $W$  and simultaneously let the  $\mathcal{I}$  requirements extract numbers. The problem is that some  $n$  may be extracted from  $W$  while  $n$  has been previously extracted from  $A$  by some  $\mathcal{I}_j$ . In that case we notify  $A$  by enumerating the largest number of the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$  into  $A$ . This notification may later be extracted from  $A$  by some  $\mathcal{I}_i$ ,  $i < j$  but then the previous term of that  $j$ -sequence will enter  $A$ . Eventually (since there are only  $j$  requirements of higher priority than  $\mathcal{I}_j$ ) some notification will remain in the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$ . The priority ordering of the requirements is the obvious one ( $\mathcal{I}_i$  has higher priority than  $\mathcal{I}_j$  iff  $i < j$ ). There will be no injury: once a requirement is satisfied it will remain so. Let  $U$  be a c.e. non-computable set such that  $U \leq_{bT} W$ . Assume an effective 1-1 enumeration  $(u_s)$  of  $U$ .

**Construction.** At stage  $s$  do the following.

Step 1 (*Coding*)

- If some  $n \notin P$  enters  $W$  then  $n \setminus A$ .
- If some  $n$  is extracted from  $W$  and  $n \in A$ , extract  $n$  from  $A$ .
- If some  $n$  is extracted from  $W$  but  $n \notin A$  then find which  $\mathcal{I}_j$  has extracted  $n$  from  $A$  and enumerate into  $A$  the largest term of the  $\mathcal{I}_j$  sequence.

Step 2 (*Satisfaction of  $\mathcal{I}$* ) We say that  $\mathcal{I}_j$  *requires attention* if it has not acted so far,  $V_j \subseteq A$  and one of the following cases holds.

- There is  $n \in V_j$  such that  $n \notin P$ ,  $u_s < n$  and there is a  $j$ -sequence of  $n$ .
- There is  $n \in V_j$  such that  $n \in P_i$  for some  $i > j$  and  $u_s < n$ .

Consider the least  $j$  such that  $\mathcal{I}_j$  requires attention and *act* as follows (saying that  $\mathcal{I}_j$  *acts on*  $n$ ):

- If  $n \notin P$  extract  $n$  from  $A$  and define the  $\mathcal{I}_j$  *sequence* to be the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$ .
- If  $n \in P_i$  extract  $n$  from  $A$  and enumerate its predecessor in the  $\mathcal{I}_i$  sequence.

Go to the next stage.

**Verification.**

**Lemma 1.**  *$A$  is d.c.e.*

*Proof.* We show that in the approximation to  $A$  given by the construction no number  $n$  can be extracted from  $A$  and later re-enter  $A$ . Indeed, if  $n \notin P$  then it follows from the fact that the approximation of  $W$  is d.c.e. If  $n \in P$  and is part of the sequence of  $\mathcal{I}_j$ , once extracted  $\mathcal{I}_j$  will not act again and only smaller terms of the sequence can change in the approximation (via the actions of  $\mathcal{I}_i$ ,  $i < j$ ).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** *If the sequence of some  $\mathcal{I}_j$  is defined during the construction (i.e.  $\mathcal{I}_j$  acts on some  $m \notin P$ ) then the only elements of  $P_j$  that may ever be enumerated into  $A$  are the terms of that sequence (the  $j$ -sequence of  $m$ ). In particular, for each  $j$  only finitely many numbers in  $P_j$  will ever be enumerated into  $A$ .*

*Proof.* The sequence of  $\mathcal{I}_j$  is defined when  $\mathcal{I}_j$  acts on (i.e. extracts) a number  $m \in \mathbb{N} - P$ . This happens at most once and no number  $P_j$  can enter  $A$  before that. Once the sequence is defined its terms will be used one by one from the larger to the smaller ones. If the largest enters  $A$  (because of the extraction of  $m$  from  $W$ ), it may later be extracted and in this case its predecessor will enter  $A$ , and so on. This progression happens by the action of some  $\mathcal{I}_i$ ,  $i < j$  (which extracts an element of  $P_j$ ). So it can happen at most  $j + 1$  times (including the initial enumeration due to  $W$ ), the length of the sequence.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Every  $\mathcal{I}_j$  acts at most once and is satisfied.*

*Proof.* Suppose that this holds for  $\mathcal{I}_i$ ,  $i < j$ . When  $\mathcal{I}_j$  acts it extracts a number from  $A$  which has already been enumerated in that set. According to the proof of lemma 1 this will not re-enter  $A$  and so  $\mathcal{I}_j$  will remain satisfied. If it does not act it means that it never requires attention after a certain stage; then  $V_j$  must be finite (by the usual permitting argument, since  $U$  is non-computable and higher priority requirements act only finitely many times) and so  $\mathcal{I}_j$  is satisfied.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.**  $A \leq_{bT} W$ .

*Proof.* It suffices to show  $A \leq_{bT} W \oplus U$ . To decide ‘ $n \in A$ ?’ do the following

- If  $n \notin P$ , find a stage  $s$  where  $U \upharpoonright n$  has settled; then  $n \in A$  iff  $n \in W$  unless it has been extracted by stage  $s$  (in which case  $n \notin A$ ). This is because extraction via the  $\mathcal{I}$  strategies needs a change in  $U \upharpoonright n$ .
- If  $n \in P_j$  computably find a number  $t$  which bounds the (finitely many) numbers in  $\mathbb{N} - P$  which have  $n$  as a member of their  $j$ -sequence. Find a stage  $s$  at which  $U \upharpoonright t$  has settled and the approximation to  $W \upharpoonright t$  is correct. Then the approximation of the membership of  $n$  to  $A$  is also correct: if  $n \in A$  it cannot be extracted as there is no  $U \upharpoonright n$  permission (only  $\mathcal{I}$  strategies extract numbers in  $P$ ); if  $n \notin A$  it cannot be enumerated by some  $\mathcal{I}$  (as this requires  $U \upharpoonright t$ -permission). If it was later enumerated due to the extraction of some  $m$  from  $W$ ,  $m$  would be one of the numbers in  $\mathbb{N} - P$  whose  $j$ -sequence contains  $n$ . That  $m < t$  must be in  $W$  at  $s$ , since  $\mathcal{I}_j$  cannot act on (i.e. extract)  $m$  after  $s$  (there will be no  $U$ -permission). But that is a contradiction by the choice of  $s$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.**  $W \leq_{bT} A$ .

*Proof.* Suppose we want to answer ‘ $n \in W$ ?’ for  $n \notin P$  (otherwise  $n \in W$  since  $P \subset W$ ). Wait until a stage  $s$  where the approximation to  $A \upharpoonright (n+1)$  is correct. Then the approximation to  $W(n)$  is also correct:

- if  $n \in W$  and  $n \in A$  at  $s$  then  $n$  cannot be extracted from  $A$ , and so  $n$  cannot be extracted from  $W$ ;
- if  $n \in W$  and  $n \notin A$  at  $s$  then the extraction of  $n$  from  $W$  would imply an enumeration  $t \searrow A \upharpoonright n$  (a member of the sequence of  $\mathcal{I}_j$  which extracted  $n$ ). Of course  $t$  may later be extracted but another  $t_1 < t$  (of the same sequence) would enter  $A$  and so on, eventually guaranteeing that  $A \upharpoonright n$  at  $s$  is different than the final limit;
- if  $n \notin W$  at  $s$  and it is enumerated later,  $A \upharpoonright (n+1)$  at  $s$  will be different than the final limit:  $n$  would enter  $A$  and even if it is extracted by some  $\mathcal{I}_j$ , some member of the  $j$ -sequence of  $n$  (whose members are not in  $A$  at  $s$ ) will stay in  $A$ .  $\square$

This concludes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

For more information on the behaviour of hyperimmunity in the weak truth table degrees (particularly in the c.e. case) see [2, 3].

**Theorem 2.** *Every non-computable d.c.e. degree contains a hyperimmune d.c.e. set.*

*Proof.* Suppose we are given a d.c.e. set  $W$ . Then there is a non-computable c.e. set  $U \leq_T W$ . We wish to construct a d.c.e. set  $A \equiv_T W$  which is hyperimmune i.e. for every computable sequence  $D = (D_i)$  of disjoint segments of  $\mathbb{N}$  there is an  $i$  such that  $D_i \cap A = \emptyset$ . We consider each member of

$D$  as a guess about members of  $A$ . We want to construct  $A$  such that it is impossible for such a guessing procedure to guess always correctly. We consider an effective enumeration  $D^0, D^1, \dots$  of all partial computable sequences of disjoint segments of  $\mathbb{N}$  ( $D^j = (D_i^j)$ ) i.e. an enumeration of all potential opponents. It suffices to construct  $A \equiv_T W$  such that

$$\mathcal{H}_j : \exists i (D_i^j \cap A = \emptyset) \text{ or } D^j \text{ is not total}$$

for all  $j$ . There are two main differences with the proof of theorem 1 where we just have to consider immunity. One is that now it is harder to keep the codes small, as our opponent can guess with entire segments of  $\mathbb{N}$  of unbounded length. The other one, perhaps less apparent, is that the requirements  $\mathcal{H}$  do not just ask to extract elements but also not to let numbers enter  $A$  in certain segments (even if they have not appeared yet).

W.l.o.g. assume that  $W$  is not immune and that  $(p_{kt})$  is a double sequence of members of  $W$  which is increasing on both arguments. Let  $P \subset W$  be the set of these terms. At all stages of the construction of  $A$ , every  $n \notin P$  will have a code  $c(n)$  which corresponds to  $A$ . The default is  $c(n) = n$ . By ensuring

$$n \in W \iff c(n) \in A$$

at all times we code  $W$  to  $A$ . We sometimes think of these codes as *c-markers* on  $\mathbb{N}$ . During the construction the code  $c(n)$  of  $n$  may change to a larger number for the sake of the  $\mathcal{H}$  requirements; but it will eventually reach a limit. These limits will be computable in  $A$ . This suggests some additional coding in  $A$ , which will be made via the positions in  $P$  (which initially are free of  $c$ -codes). Positions in

$$P_j = \{p_{jk} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

will be exclusively *used* by  $\mathcal{H}_j$  (at the beginning of the construction no number has been *used*). Since we also want  $A \leq_T W$  we need some kind of permitting and for this reason we use a non-computable c.e. set  $U \leq_T W$ . Note that this introduces some non-uniformity in the proof as such a  $U$  cannot be found uniformly given an index of  $W$ . Now we will require any change of a  $c$ -code to be permitted by  $U$ .

The  $\mathcal{H}$  strategies can have one of the following two states during the construction: *satisfied* and *unsatisfied* with the latter being the default. Strategy  $\mathcal{H}_j$  will find a suitable member of  $D^j$  and evacuate all numbers belonging to that segment in the characteristic sequence of  $A$ , thus becoming *satisfied*. That member of  $D^j$  is now an *attack segment* of  $\mathcal{H}_j$ . Higher priority strategies (which do not take into account  $\mathcal{H}_j$ ) may later put a number into  $A$  which belongs to that segment. Then  $\mathcal{H}_j$  is set back to *unsatisfied* (a kind of *injury*) and it has to perform a new attack in a new segment. Eventually each strategy will settle satisfied and having used finitely many attack intervals. The priority ordering of the requirements is the obvious one ( $\mathcal{H}_i$  has higher priority than  $\mathcal{H}_j$  iff  $i < j$ ). Assume an effective 1–1 enumeration  $(u_s)$  of  $U$ .

**Construction.** At stage  $s$  do the following.

Step 1 (*Coding*) For all  $n \notin P$  ensure

$$n \in W \iff c(n) \in A$$

by enumerating in or extracting  $c(n)$  from  $A$  (if needed).

Step 2 (*Satisfaction of  $\mathcal{H}$* ). We say that  $\mathcal{H}_j$  *requires attention* if it is *unsatisfied* and there is some  $k$  such that

- $D_k^j \downarrow$  and  $u_s < \min D_k^j$
- there exists  $t$  such that  $u_s < p_{jt} < \min D_k^j$  and  $p_{jt}$  is larger than all numbers in attack intervals used so far by  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i \leq j$  and larger than any number  $p_{ik}$  that has been used by  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i \leq j$ .

Consider the highest priority strategy  $\mathcal{H}_j$  which requires attention and *act* as follows:

- Call  $p_{jt}$  the *base code* of this attack and put  $p_{jt} \searrow A$ ; set all  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i > j$  to *unsatisfied*.
- Take all numbers of  $D_k^j$  out of  $A$  and if any number in this interval is a code  $c(n)$  for some  $n$ , redefine  $c(n)$  to be a *fresh* number in  $P_j$  (i.e. greater than  $s$  and any number or interval used in the construction so far).
- Set  $\mathcal{H}_j$  to *satisfied* and say that  $p_{jt}$  and the numbers in  $P_j$  which received  $c$ -markers under the previous step were *used* by  $\mathcal{H}_j$ .

Go to the next stage.

**Verification.** The verification consists of the following lemmas.

**Lemma 6.** *A is d.c.e.*

*Proof.* We show that in the approximation to  $A$  given by the construction no number can enter  $A$ , then be extracted from  $A$  and later be enumerated into  $A$  again. Indeed, if  $n \in P$ , say  $n = p_{jk}$ , it can only enter  $A$  as the base code of some attack or as a  $c$ -code (if it carries a  $c$ -marker,  $c(m) = n$  for some  $m$ ). If it is later extracted from  $A$  it must be either because of some attack interval which contains  $n$  or (in the latter case) because  $m$  is extracted from  $W$ . After this happens, according to the construction,  $n$  will not be the base code of  $\mathcal{H}_j$  again and it will not carry any  $c$ -marker again. So it will stay permanently out of  $A$ .

If  $n \notin P$  it can only enter  $A$  as a  $c$ -code. But the only  $c$ -code it will ever carry is the default  $c(n) = n$ . After the enumeration of  $n \searrow W$  it can be extracted from  $A$  either because  $n$  is extracted from  $W$  (and  $n$  is still the  $c$ -code of  $n$ ) or because an attack interval contains  $n$ . In the former case  $n$  will not enter  $W$  again and since  $n$  will not carry other  $c$ -codes (or be a base code) it will stay out of  $A$ . In the latter case  $n$  will again stay outside  $A$  as it will not be assigned a new  $c$ -code (or a base code).  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** *All  $\mathcal{H}_j$  are satisfied and cease requiring attention at some stage.*

*Proof.* Suppose that the lemma holds for  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i < j$  and that these strategies have been settled at stage  $s$ . Any attack intervals or base codes used by these strategies will be finitely many and so, bounded by some number. Since  $U$  is non-computable, by the usual permitting argument  $\mathcal{H}_j$  will require attention at some stage after  $s$  (or  $(D^j)$  is partial). It will choose an attack interval  $D$  and empty  $A$  on this interval thus being satisfied. Moreover, it will stay satisfied as no strategy can enumerate numbers of  $D$  into  $A$  from now on (as  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i < j$  have settled and lower priority strategies cannot do this).  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** *Every  $c$ -marker reaches a limit (i.e. for all  $n \notin P$ ,  $\lim_s c(n)[s] < \infty$ ). Moreover, if  $c(n)[s]$  changes to a different number  $c(n)[s + 1]$  then  $(A \upharpoonright c(n))[s]$  is never part of the  $A$ -approximation of the construction after  $s$  (in particular it is not an initial segment of  $A$ ).*

*Proof.* Indeed at first  $c(n) = n$  (for  $n \notin P$ ). If it is later moved by some  $\mathcal{H}_j$  it will sit on some number in  $P_j$ . Then it can only be moved by some  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i < j$  and so on. So it can move at most  $j + 1$  times.

For the second claim, if  $c(n)[s]$  changes to a different number  $c(n)[s + 1]$  it must be because of an action of some  $\mathcal{H}_j$ . By construction, some number  $t \in P_j$  (the base code of the attack) which has never appeared in  $A$  before will enter  $A$ . If this is never extracted the claim holds. Otherwise another attack will have taken place which used a base code  $t_1 < t$  (where  $t_1$  has not been enumerated before) and so on. Eventually one of these base codes must remain in  $A$  which proves the claim.  $\square$

**Lemma 9.**  $W \leq_T A$

*Proof.* If  $n \notin P$  (otherwise  $n \in W$ ) to answer ‘ $n \in W$ ?’ wait until a stage  $s$  where  $A \upharpoonright c(n)$  is a correct approximation of (the first  $c(n)$  bits of)  $A$ . This will be found since, according to lemma 8  $c(n)$  has a limit. It is enough to show that  $c(n)$  will not change in latter stages since, in that case,

$$n \in W \iff c(n) \in A.$$

Now if  $c(n)$  changed, according to lemma 8  $(A \upharpoonright c(n))[s]$  will not be part of any approximation of  $A$  at stages larger than  $s$ . In particular, it will not be a correct approximation of  $A$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 10.**  $A \leq_T W$

*Proof.* It is enough to show  $A \leq_T W \oplus U$ . To answer ‘ $n \in A$ ?’ find a stage  $s > n$  such that  $U \upharpoonright n$  has settled. Then no more attack intervals  $D$  with  $n \in D$  and no base codes  $\leq n$  will be used after  $s$ . If  $n$  is not a  $c$ -code at  $s$  then it will not become later on (as  $c$ -markers are defined at fresh numbers) and it will also not be chosen as a base code for an attack (since no  $U$ -permission will be given). So, according to the construction  $n \in A$  iff it is there at stage  $s$ .

If on the other hand  $n$  has a  $c$ -marker on it, i.e.  $n = c(m)$  for some  $m$  at stage  $s$ , then this marker will not be moved after  $s$  (since  $U$  will not give

permission for an attack which can do this). So

$$n \in A \iff c(m) \in A \iff m \in W. \quad \square$$

This concludes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

The proof of theorem 2 generalizes to all finite levels of the difference hierarchy giving the following result.

**Theorem 3.** *If  $n$  is even, every nonzero  $n$ -c.e. degree contains an  $n$ -c.e. hyperimmune set. If  $n$  is odd, every nonzero  $n$ -c.e. degree contains an  $n$ -c.e. co-hyperimmune (in the sense that no strong array intersects its complement) set.*

We sketch the proof of this generalised statement: an important fact that we used in the proof of theorem 2 is that no  $\mathcal{H}$ - requirement asks the for extraction of a number which has reached the maximum number of membership changes (which is 2 for the d.c.e. case). This enables us to prove that the set we are constructing is in the particular level of the difference hierarchy; also this is the reason why the cases  $n$  even and  $n$  odd split. Note that e.g. in the 3-c.e. case if the  $\mathcal{H}$  requirements require co-hyperimmunity, i.e. ask for certain segments of the characteristic sequence of  $A$  to be filled with 1s (instead of 0s, as in the hyperimmunity case), then this condition still holds. In the 4-c.e. case we have  $\mathcal{H}$  requiring hyperimmunity and again no requirement asks the for extraction of a number which has reached the maximum number of membership changes, and so on.

After this modification on the content of the requirements  $\mathcal{H}$  the proof (the construction and the verification) is entirely similar to that of theorem 2. The only difference is that step 1 of the construction may force up to  $n$   $A$ -membership changes to the code of a number (which is within our limits in making  $A$   $n$ -c.e.).

### 3. HH-IMMUNITY AND D.C.E. SETS

The purpose of this section is to show that hh-immunity in the finite levels of the difference hierarchy reduces to hh-immunity in the co-c.e. sets. We start with the following iterated version of Owings' spitting theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *Suppose that  $A, D$  are c.e. sets such that  $\overline{A} \cup D$  is not c.e. Then there are uniform sequences of c.e. sets  $(E_e), (F_e)$  such that*

- (1)  $\overline{E_e} \cup D, \overline{F_e} \cup D$  are not c.e.
- (2) for all  $n$ ,  $A = (\cup_{i < n} E_i) \cup F_n$
- (3)  $E_i$  are pairwise disjoint and for all  $n, i < n$ ,  $F_n \cap E_i = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* The Owings splitting theorem [8] says that given effective enumerations of  $A, D$  we can *uniformly* define effective enumerations of  $C_0, C_1$  such that  $A = C_0 \cup C_1$ ,  $C_0 \cap C_1 = \emptyset$  and  $\overline{C_i} \cup D$  are not c.e. Our claim follows by iterating this procedure: since  $\overline{C_1} \cup D$  is not c.e. we can apply the Owings



procedure to get two disjoint c.e. sets  $C_{10}, C_{11}$  such that  $C_1 = C_{10} \cup C_{11}$  and  $\overline{C_{10}} \cup D, \overline{C_{11}} \cup D$  are not c.e.; we continue with  $C_{11}$  and so on (see figure 1).

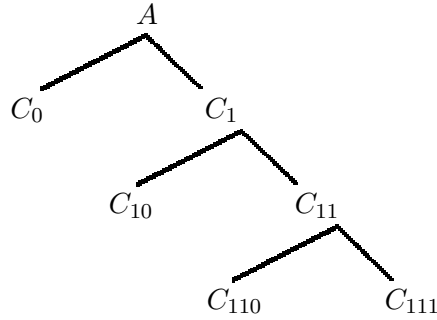


Figure 1: Iterating the Owings Splitting theorem.

Define  $F_0 = A$  and for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E_k &= C_{1^k 0} \\ F_k &= C_{1^k} \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that these c.e. sets have been obtained uniformly and so the sequences  $(E_k), (F_k)$  are uniform sequences of c.e. sets. Moreover they have the properties (1)–(3) above since they have been obtained via Owings splittings as described above.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** *If  $A$  is d.c.e. and hh-immune then  $A$  is co-c.e.*

*Proof.* Fix a d.c.e. approximation of  $A$  and consider the set  $P_A$  of the numbers that have appeared in  $A$  at some stage of its approximation. Also, let  $D_A$  be the set of numbers in  $P_A$  which do not belong to  $A$  (i.e. those which have entered and later been removed from  $A$ , see figure 2). Note that both  $P_A$  and  $D_A$  are c.e. (the latter because once a number is extracted from  $A$  it cannot enter again).

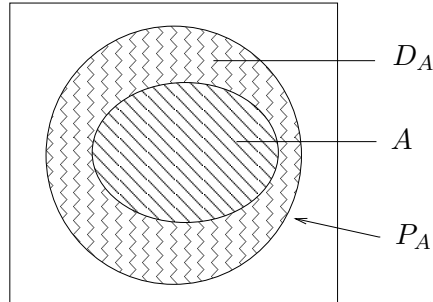


Figure 2: Approximation of a d.c.e. set  $A$

It is enough to show that if  $A$  is not co-c.e. then there is a uniform sequence of finite pairwise disjoint c.e. sets such that each of its members intersects

$A$ . If  $A$  is not co-c.e.,  $\overline{P_A} \cup D_A$  cannot be c.e. Now apply theorem 4 and get a uniform sequence of pairwise disjoint sets  $(E_i)$ , subsets of  $P_A$ , such that  $\overline{E_i} \cup D_A$  is not c.e. for any  $i$ . In particular,  $E_i \not\subseteq D_A$  and so  $E_i \cap A \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i$ . But  $E_i$  are infinite, so define:

$$\hat{E}_i[s] = \begin{cases} \hat{E}_i[s-1], & \text{if } \hat{E}_i[s-1] \cap A[s] \neq \emptyset; \\ E_i[s], & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $[s]$  denotes the state of an object at the end of stage  $s$  (the enumeration is based on that of  $A$  and  $(E_i)$ ). Since  $E_i \cap A \neq \emptyset$ , each  $\hat{E}_i$  will be finite and  $\hat{E}_i \cap A \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 6.** *If  $A$  is  $n$ -c.e. and hh-immune then  $A$  is co-c.e.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $n > 2$  and  $A$  is  $n$ -c.e. and not  $i$ -c.e. for any  $i < n$ . By induction (and the previous theorem) we may assume that the claim holds for all  $i < n$ . It is enough to show that  $A$  is not hh-immune. Suppose that it is for the sake of a contradiction. Consider an  $n$ -c.e. approximation of  $A$  and the set  $T_A$  of numbers that enter  $A$   $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  times ( $\lceil x \rceil$  is the least integer  $\geq x$ ). Note that any number during the approximation can enter  $A$  at most  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  times.

Now for  $n$  odd we immediately get a contradiction since (as a properly  $n$ -c.e. set)  $A$  contains an infinite c.e. set and so it cannot be hh-immune. If  $n$  is even,  $A \cap T_A$  is infinite (as  $A$  is properly  $n$ -c.e.), d.c.e. and hh-immune (as an infinite subset of a hh-immune set). By induction hypothesis  $A \cap T_A$  is co-c.e. and so  $A$  is  $(n-2)$ -c.e. Indeed, for an approximation with at most  $n-2$  mind changes run an enumeration of  $\overline{A \cap T_A}$  and the  $n$ -c.e. approximation of  $A$  with the following modification: when a number has already  $n-3$  mind changes (and so it is currently a 1) we only change it to 0 if

- our  $n$ -c.e. approximation requires it *and*
- the number has appeared in  $\overline{A \cap T_A}$

(and after that this number does not change anymore). This is an  $(n-2)$ -c.e. approximation and it is not hard to see that the set we get is  $A$ . This is a contradiction since we assumed that  $A$  is not  $(n-2)$ -c.e.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *If  $A$  is  $n$ -c.e. and cohesive then  $A$  is co-c.e.*

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