

Strengthened Ramsey's theorem, finitary Ramsey's theorem and their iteration

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Strengthened Ramsey and finitary Ramsey
 - Strengthened Ramsey's theorem
 - Finitary Ramsey's theorem
 - Strengthened vs finitary
- 3 Iterated versions
 - Iterated Paris-Harrington principle
 - Iterated finitary vs infinite Ramsey's theorem

(Infinite) Ramsey's theorem

Ramsey's theorem is well-studied in reverse mathematics.

Definition (Ramsey's theorem.)

- RT_k^n : for any $P : [\mathbb{N}]^n \rightarrow k$, there exists an infinite set $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ such that $|P([H]^n)| = 1$.
(H is said to be a *homogeneous set* for P .)
- $RT^n := \forall k RT_k^n$. (In this talk, we may say RT_∞^n .)
- $RT := \forall n RT^n$. (In this talk, we may say RT_∞ .)

Over RCA_0 , we have the following:

- $RT_k^n \Rightarrow RT_{k+1}^n$.
- $RT_2^{n+1} \Rightarrow RT^n$.

Thus, we have

$$RT_2^1 \leq RT^1 \leq RT_2^2 \leq RT^2 \leq RT_2^3 \leq RT^3 \leq RT_2^4 \leq \dots$$

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Ramsey's theorem and independent statements from PA

It is well-known that several finite variations of Ramsey's theorem provide independent statements from Peano Arithmetic (PA).

- The first such example was found by Paris (in paper 1978). An “iteration version of Finite Ramsey's theorem with relatively largeness”.
- A simplification by Harrington (in manuscript 1977). “Paris-Harrington Principle (PH): Finite Ramsey's theorem with relatively largeness”.

Here, $X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$ is *relatively large* if $|X| > \min X$. Then,

- PH_k^n : for any $a \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $P : [X]^n \rightarrow k$, there exists a homogeneous set $H \subseteq X$ which is relatively large and $\min H > a$.
- $\text{PH}^n \equiv \forall k \text{PH}_k^n$, and $\text{PH} \equiv \forall n \text{PH}^n$.

Infinite vs finite Ramsey's theorem

Observation

Infinite Ramsey's theorem implies corresponding finite Ramsey's theorem (with some largeness notion), but the usual proof requires weak König's lemma / compactness argument.

This cause the following.

Fact

Iterated version of infinite Ramsey's theorem cannot prove iterated version of finite Ramsey's theorem.

Note that this happens because of the lack of Σ_1^1 -induction, but infinite Ramsey's theorem as itself does not prove such a strong induction.

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What is essential for iterated Ramsey's theorem?

A technical interest:

Question

Is there any good notion extending Ramsey's theorem which implies PH-like statement "naturally" and thus iteration available without any stronger induction?

- ⇒ Strengthen Ramsey's theorem for coloring families (\mathcal{Y})
- ⇒ "Finitary version" of Ramsey's theorem (Pelupessy, Murakami)

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Strengthened Ramsey's theorem

We first consider a strengthened version of Ramsey's theorem.

Definition (coloring family)

- An (n, k) -finite coloring is a function $P : [F]^n \rightarrow k$ where $F = \text{dom}(P) \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$.
- An (n, k) -coloring family is a set \mathcal{P} of (n, k) -finite colorings which is closed under restriction.
- $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is in the domain of \mathcal{P} (write $X \in [\text{dom } \mathcal{P}]$) if for any $Y \subseteq_{\text{fin}} X$, there exists $P \in \mathcal{P}$ such that $Y = \text{dom}(P)$.
- $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is said to be homogeneous for \mathcal{P} if $H \in [\text{dom } \mathcal{P}]$ then there exists a constant function $P \in [\mathcal{P}]$ (i.e., $P = \bigcup_i P_i$ for some $\{P_i\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}$) such that $H = \text{dom}(P)$.

Note that an (infinite) coloring $P : [\mathbb{N}]^n \rightarrow k$ can be considered as a coloring family $\mathcal{P} = \{P \upharpoonright [X]^n \mid X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}\}$.

Strengthened Ramsey's theorem

Definition (Strengthened Ramsey's theorem)

RT_k^{n+} asserts the following:

for any (n, k) -coloring family \mathcal{P} , there exists an infinite homogeneous set H for \mathcal{P} .

- RT_k^{n+} is a generalization of RT_k^n .
- RT_k^{n+} directly implies PH_k^n as follows:
For given $a \in \mathbb{N}$, we want $X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$ such that any $P : [X]^n \rightarrow k$ has a (\dagger) relatively large homogeneous set H with $\min H > a$. If not, put $\mathcal{P} := \{P \mid P \text{ has no } (\dagger)\}$, then $\mathbb{N} \in [\text{dom } \mathcal{P}]$. By RT_k^{n+} , \mathcal{P} has an infinite homogeneous set, which leads a contradiction.
- RT_k^{n+} splits into RT_k^n plus a version of "Ramsey type König's lemma", and we have $\text{RT}_k^n \leq \text{RT}_k^{n+} \leq \text{RT}_k^n + \text{WKL}$.

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Finitary version?

What is “finitary” version?

- Inspired by Terrence Tao's essay in his blog in 2007, Gaspar and Kohlenbach (2010) studied several finitary versions of the pigeon hole principle.
- Pelupessy generalized the G/K study and introduced finitary Ramsey's theorem FinRT_k^n , and showed $\text{RT}_k^n \leq \text{FinRT}_k^n \leq \text{RT}_k^n + \text{WKL}$.
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Finitary Ramsey's theorem

We generalize PH by using largeness notion given by a finitary operation.

- For a given $F : [\mathbb{N}]^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, a set $X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$ is said to be F -large if $|X| > F(X)$.
- “relatively large” \leftrightarrow “ r -large” for $r(X) = \min X$.
- $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$: there exists $X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $P : [X]^n \rightarrow k$, there exists a homogeneous set $H \subseteq X$ which is F -large.
- In case F is a constant function, $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$ corresponds to “finite Ramsey's theorem”.

Of course, $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$ would be false if F is not appropriate. Roughly speaking, F needs to make infinite set “large”.

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Of course, $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$ would be false if F is not appropriate. Roughly speaking, F needs to make infinite set “large”.

Finitary Ramsey's theorem

- F is said to be asymptotically stable ($F \in AS$) if for any infinite set X ,
 $\forall A_n \nearrow X \exists M \in \mathbb{N} \forall^\infty n F(A_n) \leq M$.
- F is said to be weakly stable ($F \in WS$) if for any infinite set X ,
 $\exists A_n \nearrow X \exists M \in \mathbb{N} \forall^\infty n F(A_n) \leq M$.
- F is said to be strongly stable ($F \in SS$) if for any infinite set X ,
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Definition (Finitary Ramsey's theorem)

The following are equivalent over RCA_0 .

- FinRT_k^n : for any $F \in AS$, $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$ holds. (Pelupessy)
- FinRT_k^{n+} : for any $F \in WS$, $\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$ holds.
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We may loosely write FinRT_k^n for one of the above.

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RT_k^{n+} vs $FinRT_k^n$

- Trivially, $FinRT_k^n$ is a generalization of PH_k^n .
- On the other hand, $FinRT_k^n$ implies RT_k^n although it looks like a “finite variation”.

In fact, we have the following.

Theorem

The following are equivalent over RCA_0 .

- 1 RT_k^{n+} .
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Each of them is a technical variant of RT_k^n or PH_k^n , but it seems that they are reasonably stable notion.

- Note that we can define a version of RT^+ or $FinRT$ corresponding to $RT_{<\infty}^n$ or the full RT , but we need to do that carefully.

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 - Iterated finitary vs infinite Ramsey's theorem

Density notion

We first consider the iterated version of PH introduced by Paris.

Definition (Paris)

- A finite set X is said to be 0 -dense(n, k) if X is relatively large, i.e., $|X| > \min X$.
- A finite set X is said to be $m + 1$ -dense(n, k) if for any $P : [X]^n \rightarrow k$, there exists $Y \subseteq X$ which is m -dense(n, k) and P -homogeneous.

Note that “ X is m -dense(n, k)” can be expressed by a Σ_0^0 -formula.

Iterated PH

Using the density notion, we can naturally define the iterated version of PH.

Definition

- $m\text{PH}_k^n$: for any $a \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists an m -dense(n, k) set X such that $\min X > a$.
 - $\text{ItPH}_k^n \equiv \forall m m\text{PH}_k^n$.
- Original Paris's independent statement from PA is ItPH_2^3 .
- It is equivalent to the full PH and to the Σ_1 -soundness of PA.

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Iterated PH and the strength of Ramsey's theorem

Iterated version of PH is useful to understand the strength of infinite Ramsey's theorem.

Theorem (Paris, Bovykin/Weiermann)

The following two theories have the same Π_2^0 -consequences.

- 1 $WKL_0 + RT_k^n$.
- 2 $I\Sigma_1^0 + \{mPH_k^n \mid m \in \omega\}$.

Note that we can even characterize Π_3^0 or Π_4^0 -part of RT_k^n by using some modification of mPH .

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Iterated PH and the strength of Ramsey's theorem

Iterated version of PH also characterize the consistency strength of RT_k^n . The following is a generalization of the original Paris/Harrington's result.

Theorem

The following are equivalent over $I\Sigma_1^0$.

- 1 $ItPH_k^n$.
- 2 Σ_1 -soundness of $WKL_0 + RT_k^n$.

Thus, we cannot prove $ItPH_k^n$ from RT_k^n .

Question

What is needed to prove $ItPH_k^n$?

Density notion

We can naturally consider the iterated version of finitary Ramsey's theorem.

Definition

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Note that “ X is m -dense(n, k, F)” can be expressed by a Σ_0^0 -formula.

Iterated FinRT

Definition

- $mPH_k^{n,F}$: there exists an m -dense(n, k, F) set.
- $ItPH_k^{n,F} \equiv \forall m mPH_k^{n,F}$.
- $ItFinRT_k^n \equiv \forall F \in AS ItPH_k^{n,F}$

Since $ItFinRT_k^n$ proves the consistency of RT_k^n , it is strictly stronger than RT_k^n .

Question

What is the strength of $ItFinRT_k^n$?

Iterated FinRT

Definition

- $m\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$: there exists an m -dense(n, k, F) set.
- $\text{ItPH}_k^{n,F} \equiv \forall m m\text{PH}_k^{n,F}$.
- $\text{ItFinRT}_k^n \equiv \forall F \in \text{AS } \text{ItPH}_k^{n,F}$

Since ItFinRT_k^n proves the consistency of RT_k^n , it is strictly stronger than RT_k^n .

Question

What is the strength of ItFinRT_k^n ?

Iterated infinite Ramsey

A naive approach: does multiple applications of RT_k^n imply the iterated versions of PH_k^n or $FinRT_k^n$?

Definition

- mRT_k^n : for any finite sequence $\langle P_i : [\mathbb{N}]^n \rightarrow k \mid i < m \rangle$, there exists an infinite set $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ such that H is homogeneous for any P_i .
- $ItRT_k^n \equiv \forall m mRT_k^n$.

However, $ItRT_k^n$ is just equivalent to $RT_{<\infty}^n$, thus, it cannot prove $ItPH_k^n$ in general.

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Iterated infinite Ramsey

Next approach: does multiple applications of RT_k^{n+} imply the iterated versions of PH_k^n or $FinRT_k^n$?

Definition

- mRT_k^{n+} : for any finite sequence of (n, k) -coloring families $\langle \mathcal{P}_i \mid i < m \rangle$, there exists an infinite set $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ such that H is homogeneous for any \mathcal{P}_i .
- $ItRT_k^{n+} \equiv \forall m mRT_k^{n+}$.

Note that one can easily show by induction (outside of the system) that RT_k^{n+} implies mRT_k^{n+} for any $m \in \omega$ over RCA_0 .

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Iterated infinite vs finitary Ramsey

This time, mRT_k^{n+} naturally implies mPH_k^n , and in fact, we have the following.

Theorem

Over RCA_0 , we have

$$\forall m(mRT_k^{n+} \leftrightarrow mFinRT_k^n).$$

We can lift up several known results for PH via this equivalence.

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Iterated infinite vs finitary Ramsey

Recall that $\text{ItPH}_2^3 \Leftrightarrow \text{PH} \Leftrightarrow \Sigma_1\text{-soundness of PA over } \text{I}\Sigma_1^0$.

Theorem

For $n \geq 3$ and $k \geq 2$, the following are equivalent over RCA_0 .

- 1 ItRT_k^{n+} .
- 2 ItFinRT_k^n .
- 3 RT .
- 4 A restricted version of Σ_1^1 -soundness of ACA_0 (???)

Conjecture

The following are equivalent over RCA_0 .

- 1 ItFinRT_k^n .
- 2 A restricted version of Σ_1^1 -soundness of RT_k^{n+} .

Questions

The situation around RT_2^2 is left open.

Question

- Does RT_2^2 imply mPH_2^2 for $m \in \omega$?

Question

We have $RT_2^2 \leq RT_2^{2+} \equiv \text{Fin}RT_2^2 \leq RT_2^2 + \text{WKL}$.

- Which of the above is/are strict?

Question

We have $RT_2^2 \leq RT_{<\omega}^2 \leq \text{ItFin}RT_2^2 \leq \text{ItFin}RT_{<\omega}^2$.

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- Especially, does $RT_{<\omega}^2$ imply ItPH_2^2 ?

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