

Finding paths through narrow and wide trees

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Abstract

We consider two axioms of second-order arithmetic. These axioms assert, in two different ways, that *infinite but narrow* binary trees always have infinite paths. We show that both axioms are strictly weaker than Weak König's Lemma, and incomparable in strength to the dual statement (WWKL) that *wide* binary trees have paths.

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1 Introduction

We investigate here two new subsystems of second-order arithmetic and compare their logical strengths to those of known systems. We are concerned in particular with subsystems that are strictly weaker than Weak König's Lemma (WKL) and, more specifically, those consisting of axioms that dictate the existence of infinite paths through binary

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trees. Of course any axiom that implies the existence of at least one path through *every* infinite binary tree is at least as strong as WKL, but we will apply such path-existence axioms to restricted sets of trees. This direction of inquiry is informed by work done by Simpson [13], Giusto, Brown [3] and others on the axiom WWKL, Weak Weak König's Lemma. WWKL states that every tree of positive measure (defined in terms of first-order properties of the tree) has a path. This is shown to be strictly weaker than WKL and significant reversals were established to theorems of analysis. The fact that WWKL is weaker than WKL appeals to the intuition as one feels that it should be easier to find a path through a tree that has *many* paths in some sense. Indeed if one chooses *left* or *right* at random one always has a nonvanishing probability of finding a path through such a tree. It is perhaps slightly paradoxical that an opposite heuristic is also applicable. That is, if a tree has few paths in some sense, then it is also relatively easy to find a path. If one imagines that one is at an infinitely extendible node σ on some infinite binary tree and having to make a decision of whether to proceed to the left or right, one can wait until it becomes apparent that the tree above $\sigma 0$ or the tree above $\sigma 1$ is finite (we are assuming here that the set of nodes on the tree is known). If σi is finite, we take the path through $\sigma(1 - i)$. This strategy will work in allowing us to decide on an infinitely extendible extension of σ if and only if there is only one such extension - that is if σ is not a *branching node* of T . The intuition behind our weakening of WKL is that it is easier to find paths through trees that have a small set of branching nodes - again in some particular sense of *small*.

This leaves just the question about the appropriate definition of *small*. There are of course some obvious candidates. One is that the set of branching nodes is finite; another is that the set of branching nodes has a maximal (in the sense of extension) element. In both situations the above strategy of waiting until it becomes clear which direction to take will succeed in finding a path if one starts at this maximal branching node (or at the root of the tree if no branching nodes exist). However these notions of *smallness* are too strong in the sense that in both cases RCA_0 proves that every tree with a small set of branching nodes has a path. We thus weaken these notions to give us principles that are strictly stronger than RCA_0 . We do this with the help of *bounding witnesses*.

Suppose $\Phi(n, m)$ is a formula in second order arithmetic, with free variables n, m . We say f is a *strong bounding witness* for Φ if

$$\forall n \exists m \leq f(n) \Phi(n, m).$$

And we say f is a *weak bounding witness* for Φ if

$$\exists^\infty n \exists m \leq f(n) \Phi(n, m).$$

The revised concepts of *smallness* that we use in the paper are as follows:

1. the set of branching nodes $\text{Br}(T)$ is *small* if there is no weak witness for the predicate

$$\Phi_1(n, \sigma) \equiv [\sigma \in \text{Br}(T) \wedge \sigma \geq n];$$

2. the set of branching nodes is *small* if there is no strong witness for the predicate

$$\Phi_2(\sigma, \tau) \equiv [\sigma \in \text{Ext}(T) \rightarrow (\tau \in \text{Br}(T) \wedge \tau \supseteq \sigma)],$$

where $\text{Ext}(T)$ is the set of nodes on T with infinitely many extensions.

For any infinite binary tree T , $\forall n \exists \sigma \Phi_1(n, \sigma)$ is true if and only if T has infinitely many branching nodes, and $\forall \sigma \exists \tau \Phi_2(\sigma, \tau)$ is true if and only if T is perfect. The two axioms that these give rise to are:

1. VSMALL: If T is an infinite binary tree and there is no weak bounding witness for the predicate Φ_1 , then T has a path.
2. DIM: If T is an infinite binary tree T and there is no strong bounding witness for the predicate Φ_2 , then T has a path.

In the next section we give slightly different but equivalent versions of these two axioms. DIM is evidently stronger than VSMALL as if a tree has a strong bounding witness for its perfection, the same witness serves as a weak bounding witness for the infinitude of its set of branching nodes. Our main result is that both DIM and VSMALL are independent of WWKL and the DNR axiom.

The DNR axiom is related to the simplest way of producing a non-computable function - diagonalisation. Take a computable enumeration of the partial computable functions $\langle \varphi_e \rangle$. Let $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be such that $f(e) \neq \varphi_e(e)$ for all e . DNR is the principle that asserts the existence of such a function.

In [14] it is shown that DNR is a strictly weaker principle than WWKL, but is still non-constructive in the sense that there are models of RCA_0 in which it fails. In fact it is a general rule that any principle which implies the existence of a non-computable set or function is non-constructive in this sense. This is so because there is a model of RCA_0 all of whose sets are computable. We show that our axioms are independent of both DNR and WWKL.

We follow standard notation. \mathbb{N} is the set of natural numbers, $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is the powerset of \mathbb{N} with standard topology and measure. φ_e is the e^{th} partial recursive function, and $\langle ., . \rangle$ is a fixed computable bijection between \mathbb{N} and $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$. We will identify subsets of \mathbb{N} with their characteristic functions without comment. Lowercase Greek letters σ, τ, γ and so on will be used to denote elements of $2^{<\mathbb{N}}$ and upper case Roman letters X, Y and Z will usually denote elements of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ or, equivalently, subsets of \mathbb{N} . The letters f, g and h will be used to denote functions from \mathbb{N} to \mathbb{N} , that is for elements of $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$. $\sigma \subset X$ or $\sigma \subseteq \tau$ expresses the fact that the infinite binary sequence X or string τ extends σ . σi is the concatenation of σ and $\langle i \rangle$. A *tree* will be a subset of $2^{<\mathbb{N}}$, with \subseteq as its partial order relation. The root of all trees will be the empty string λ . A *path* through a tree T is the union of an infinite maximal linearly ordered subset of T . The set of paths through T is denoted $[T]$. The cardinality of a set D is denoted $||D||$.

2 The axiom systems VSMALL and DIM

It is easy to prove that any infinite binary tree with only finitely many branching nodes must have a path. In fact one can prove, just from the axiom system RCA_0 , that any infinite binary tree with a maximal branching node must have a path (such a path is Δ_1^0 -definable). In this paper we consider infinite binary trees whose sets of branching nodes are small in some sense. Translating into the language of second order arithmetic we describe axioms which state that if an infinite binary tree has only a small set of branching nodes, then the tree must have a path.

Definition 2.1. If T is a binary tree, then $s \in T$ is an *extendible node* of T if the set $\{\tau \in T : \tau \supseteq \sigma\}$ is infinite. The set of extendible nodes of T is denoted $\text{Ext}(T)$. If $P = [T]$, then by $\text{Ext}(P)$ we mean $\text{Ext}(T)$. $\sigma \in T$ is a *branching node* of T if both $\sigma 0$ and $\sigma 1$ are extendible nodes. The set of branching nodes of T is denoted $\text{Br}(T)$, and similarly for $\text{Br}(P)$ if $P = [T]$.

The two axioms we consider are:

VSMALL: If T is an infinite binary tree with the property that there is no function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\exists^\infty n \exists \sigma [f(n) \leq |\sigma| < f(n+1) \wedge \sigma \in \text{Br}(T)]$$

then T has a path.

VSMALL is evidently a strengthening of the statement, provable in RCA_0 , that every infinite tree with finitely many branching nodes has an infinite path. The second axiom deals with perfect trees. A tree is *perfect* if every extendible node of T is extended by a branching node. The second axiom we look at captures the notion of a witness to the perfection of a tree.

DIM: If T is an infinite binary tree with the property that there is no function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that,

$$\forall \sigma \in \text{Ext}(T) \exists \tau \in \text{Br}(T) [\tau \supseteq \sigma \wedge |\tau| \leq f(|\sigma|)],$$

then T has a path.

If such an f as referred to in DIM existed, it would also serve to contradict VSMALL. Thus $\text{DIM} + \text{RCA}_0$ is sufficient to prove VSMALL. We show in the following sections that $\text{DIM} + \text{RCA}_0$ is not sufficient to prove DNR, and that $\text{WWKL} + \text{RCA}_0$ is not sufficient to prove VSMALL. Consequently, both DIM and VSMALL are independent of both WWKL and DNR. Finally we prove that $\text{VSMALL} + \text{RCA}_0$ is not sufficient to prove DIM.

3 $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{WWKL} \not\vdash \text{VSMALL}$

The following four lemmas are well-known or are easy extensions of the cited results.

Definition 3.1. If $X = \{x_0 < x_1 < x_2 \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, then the principal function of X p_X is the function $n \mapsto x_n$.

Lemma 3.2 ([5] Theorem 1.2). *There exists a c.e. set A such that for almost all $X \in 2^\mathbb{N}$, and for all $Y \leq_T X$, the principal function of $\mathbb{N} \setminus A$ dominates Y .*

Lemma 3.3 ([6] Theorem 5.3). *A Π_1^0 class is a separating class if it is of the form*

$$\{X \in 2^\mathbb{N} : \forall n[(n \in A \rightarrow n \in X) \wedge (n \in B \rightarrow n \notin X)]\}$$

for some disjoint c.e. sets A and B . If $S \subseteq 2^\mathbb{N}$ is a Π_1^0 separating class with no computable element, then the set $\{X \in 2^\mathbb{N} : \exists Y \in S \ X \geq_T Y\}$ has measure zero.

Lemma 3.4 ([7]). *The set of 1-random reals has measure 1.*

Definition 3.5. $f \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ is of *hyperimmune-free degree* if for all $g \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ such that $g \leq_T f$, g is dominated by a computable function. If $h \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$, then f is of *hyperimmune-free degree relative to h* if for all $g \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ such that $g \leq_T f$, g is dominated by an h -computable function.

Lemma 3.6 ([6]). *If $f \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ and if T is an infinite binary f -computable tree, then there is a $g \in [T]$ such that $g \oplus f$ is of hyperimmune-free degree relative to f . If f is of hyperimmune-free degree, then $g \oplus f$ is of hyperimmune-free degree.*

Proof. This is just the hyperimmune basis theorem of [6] relativised to f . □

Definition 3.7. An infinite binary tree T is *very small* if the principal function of its set of branching nodes $\text{Br}(T)$ dominates every computable function. $P = [T]$ is *very small* if T is.

If T is an infinite binary tree, then define the *branching level set* of T to be the set $\{|\tau| : \tau \in \text{Br}(T)\}$. The principal function of this set we call the *branching level function* of T . It is proved in [1] that an infinite computable binary tree is very small if and only if its branching level function dominates every computable function. We use this in the following result.

Theorem 3.8. $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{WWKL} \not\vdash \text{VSMALL}$

Proof. Let A be as in Lemma 3.2, and let A_0 and A_1 be infinite c.e. sets such that $A_0 \cup A_1 = A$ and $A_0 \cap A_1 = \emptyset$ and such that no computable $X \in 2^\mathbb{N}$ separates A_0 and A_1 (such a partition is possible for any c.e. set - see [11]). Let S be the separating class of A_0 and A_1 . Then the principal function of $\mathbb{N} \setminus A$ is the branching level function of S .

Now let $R \in 2^\mathbb{N}$ be such that

1. R is 1-random
2. R does not compute any element of S
3. For all $g \leq_T R$ the principal function of $\mathbb{N} \setminus A$ dominates g .

Such an R exists as the classes from Lemmas 3.2 3.3 and 3.4 are of measure 1 and hence their intersection is non-empty.

Let R_i be the i^{th} column of R (that is let $R_i(j) = R(\langle i, j \rangle)$ for all j) and let $X_n = \bigoplus_{i=0}^n R_i$. We claim that the ω -model \mathfrak{M} whose second order part is given by $\{Y : \exists n Y \leq_T X_n\}$ is a model of WWKL but not of VSMALL.

To see that it is a model of WWKL, let T be a tree of positive measure in \mathfrak{M} . T is then computable from some X_n and therefore, for every $R' \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ which is 1-random relative to X_n , $R' \oplus X_n$ computes an element of $[T]$ (see [7]). But R_{n+1} is 1-random relative to X_n as every column of a 1-random is random relative to the join of finitely many other columns.

Thus $R_{n+1} \oplus X_n$ computes a path through T and hence \mathfrak{M} is a model of WWKL.

That it is not a model of VSMALL is seen in the fact that every set in \mathfrak{M} is computable from R and hence cannot compute a path through S (by 2 above). So S has no paths in \mathfrak{M} . But S is a nonempty Π_1^0 class and is thus the set of paths through some infinite computable tree T_S which must be in \mathfrak{M} . Furthermore the branching level function of T_S is the set $\mathbb{N} \setminus A$ which dominates everything computable from R . Thus any function dominating the branching level function of T_S is not computable from R and hence not in \mathfrak{M} . So T_S satisfies the provisions of VSMALL and yet does not have a path. Therefore \mathfrak{M} is not a model of VSMALL. \square

4 $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{DIM} \not\models \text{DNR}$

The published version of this section contains an error. This error and some of its consequences are here indicated in red.

We now prove the second half of the main result. Our strategy is to create a model satisfying DIM whose second-order part consists entirely of noncomplex elements of hyperimmune-free degree. Theorem 6 in [16] states that a real wtt-computes a DNR function if and only if it is complex. It is well-known that if X is of hyperimmune-free degree and $X \geq_T Y$, then $X \geq_{\text{wtt}} Y$. Thus if every real in the model we construct is hyperimmune and noncomplex, no element in the model computes a DNR function and hence our model will not satisfy the DNR axiom. We make use of the following definitions and lemmas.

Definition 4.1. A tree T is *computably perfect* if there is a strictly increasing computable function f such that for all n and all $\sigma \in \text{Ext}(T)$ of length $f(n)$, there are at least two

distinct extensions τ_1, τ_2 of σ in $\text{Ext}(T)$ of length $f(n+1)$. If $P = [T]$, then we say P is computably perfect if T is.

Definition 4.2. An infinite tree T is *diminutive* if no computable tree T' with $[T'] \subseteq [T]$ is computably perfect. If $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$, then T is *f-diminutive* if no f -computable subtree is computably perfect. $P = [T]$ is *(f-)diminutive* if T is.

For the rest of the paper we will make extensive use of the concept of the *Kolmogorov complexity* of a binary string σ , denoted $C(\sigma)$. For an overview of Kolmogorov complexity see [9]. There will be no need in what follows to distinguish between plain complexity and prefix-free complexity.

Definition 4.3. A real $X \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is *complex* if there is a computable function f such that

$$\forall n [C(X \upharpoonright f(n)) \geq n].$$

If $g \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$, then X is *g-complex* if there is a computable function f such that

$$\forall n [C^g(X \upharpoonright f(n)) \geq n],$$

where $C^g(\sigma)$ denotes the Kolmogorov complexity relative to g - the shortest description of σ on a universal machine using g as an oracle.

In [2] it is shown that a computable tree contains a computably perfect subtree if and only if it contains a complex path. We relativise this in one direction here.

Lemma 4.4. *No path through an infinite f-diminutive f-computable tree is f-complex.*

Proof. Suppose T is an f -computable and f -diminutive infinite binary tree, and A is an infinite path through T . Let $g(n)$ be any increasing computable function - a putative witness to the complexity of the A . Let $u \in \mathbb{N}$ and define a new computable function h by

1. $h(0) = g(0)$
2. $h(n+1) = g(2h(n) + u)$.

Eventually we will use the Recursion Theorem to choose a u that suits our purposes, but until then we treat it as a fixed parameter.

The set of paths through T is a Π_1^f class P , and we can let $P = \bigcap_s P_s$ where each P_s is a clopen subclass of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $\langle P_s \rangle_{s \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an f -computable sequence. Consider the Π_1^f class $Q \subseteq P$ defined as follows. Let $Q_0 = 2^{\mathbb{N}}$. If Q_s has been defined, let $S_s \subseteq 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$ be the set

$$\{\sigma \in \text{Ext}(Q_s) : \exists n \leq s [|\sigma| = h(n) \wedge \exists! \tau \in \text{Ext}(Q_s) [\tau \supseteq \sigma \wedge |\tau| = h(n+1)]]\}.$$

If $S_s^* = \{X \in 2^{\mathbb{N}} : \exists \sigma \in S_s X \supset \sigma\}$, then define $Q_{s+1} = P_{s+1} \cap Q_s \setminus S_s^*$. Q is then $\bigcap_s Q_s$.

Q as defined is apparently computably perfect - witnessed by h - and a Π_1^f class, and thus the paths through some f -computable computably perfect tree. But as P is diminutive, Q must be empty. Thus there is a stage s such that $A \in S_s^*$, and there is an n such that $A \upharpoonright h(n) \in S_s$.

Now consider a machine M that works as follows. M takes $\sigma \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ as input and tests to see if it is of length $h(n)$ for some $n \leq |\sigma|$. If it is, it uses f to search for an t such that $\sigma \in S_t$. If it finds such an t , it outputs the unique extension of σ of length $h(n+1)$ on Q_t . We call this output τ , and we have $C^f(\tau) < |\sigma| + \mathcal{O}(1)$.

On input $A \upharpoonright h(n)$ M will output the unique string on Q_s of length $h(n+1)$ extending $A \upharpoonright h(n)$. That is, it will output $A \upharpoonright h(n+1)$. So

$$C^f(A \upharpoonright h(n+1)) < h(n) + \mathcal{O}(1),$$

or

$$C^f(A \upharpoonright g(h(n) + u)) < h(n) + \mathcal{O}(1).$$

The last equation suggests that if we choose u propitiously, we can ensure that g does not witness the fact that A is f -complex. We do this now.

The value of the constant on the right-hand side of the equation depends only on the index for the Π_1^f class Q (or more precisely on an index for the sequence $\langle S_s \rangle_{s \in \mathbb{N}}$), and there is a computable function k such that if e is any index for Q , then $C^f(\tau) \leq |\sigma| + k(e)$. Furthermore, there is a computable function φ that, given the parameter u , will give an index for Q . Thus

$$C^f(A \upharpoonright g(h(n) + u)) \leq h(n) + k(\varphi(u)).$$

Using the Recursion Theorem, we fix a value e such that the Π_1^f class with index $\varphi(k(e))$ is equal to the Π_1^f class with index e . Now we choose the parameter u to be equal to $k(e)$. So we have

$$C^f(A \upharpoonright g(h(n) + k(e))) < h(n) + k(\varphi(k(e))).$$

But as $\varphi(k(e))$ and e index the same Π_1^f class,

$$C^f(A \upharpoonright g(h(n) + k(e))) < h(n) + k(e),$$

and A is not f -complex. □

Definition 4.5. A set $A \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is *(f-)hyperimmune* if its principal function is not dominated by any (f) -computable function.

In [16] it is shown that a set X is not wtt-reducible to a hyperimmune set if and only if X is complex. We need a limited relativisation of this theorem here and we present just the direction we require. The proof closely follows [16] Theorem 10.

Lemma 4.6 ([16]). *If f is of hyperimmune-free degree and A is not wtt-reducible to an f -hyperimmune set, then A is f -complex.*

Proof. Suppose A is not wtt-reducible to any f -hyperimmune set. We identify, without further comment, the binary string σ with the natural number whose binary expansion is 1σ . Suppose C^f is calculated using the universal f -oracle machine U^f and choose $d \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $C^f(\sigma) \leq |\sigma| + d$ for all σ . Let $g(n)$ be the least σ such that $U^f(\sigma) \downarrow \supseteq A \upharpoonright n$. Now let

$$B := \{\langle n, \sigma \rangle : g(n) = \sigma \wedge \forall k < n [g(k) \neq \sigma]\},$$

and observe that $A \leq_{\text{wtt}} B$. [As pointed out by Laurent Bienvenu and Paul Shafer (personal communication, 2012) it seems that the reduction of A to B also requires oracle access to f .] (Given n one finds the maximum σ of length at most $n + 1 + d$ such that $\langle m, \sigma \rangle \in B$ for some $m \leq n + 1$. Then $U^f(\sigma, n) = A(n)$ and the queries to B are bounded by $(2^{n+d+2} - 1) \times (n + 1)$.) Therefore B is not f -hyperimmune. Let h be an f -computable function such that there are more than 2^{n+1} elements of B in the rectangle

$$\{0, 1, \dots, h(n) - 1\} \times \{0, 1, \dots, 2^{h(n)+d} - 1\}.$$

As h is f -computable and f is of hyperimmune-free degree, there is a computable function h' such that $h'(n) \geq h(n)$ for all n . Therefore there are more than 2^{n+1} elements of B in the rectangle

$$\{0, 1, \dots, h'(n) - 1\} \times \{0, 1, \dots, 2^{h'(n)+d} - 1\}.$$

Then $g(h'(n)) \geq 2^n$ and $C^f(A \upharpoonright h'(n)) \geq n$ and so A is f -complex. \square

Corollary 4.7. *If f is of hyperimmune-free degree, then A is complex if and only if it is f -complex.*

Proof. The right to left direction is trivial. If f is hyperimmune-free, then it is easy to see that all hyperimmune sets are f -hyperimmune. Lemma 4.6 and Theorem 10 in [16] completes the proof. \square

Corollary 4.8. *If f is of hyperimmune-free degree, then no path of hyperimmune-free degree through an infinite f -computable f -diminutive tree computes a DNR function.*

[This is false, as pointed out by Laurent Bienvenu and Paul Shafer (personal communication, 2012): take f to be a ML-random of hyperimmune-free degree, and $A = f$; then A is complex but not f -complex.]

Proof. By Lemma 4.4, any path through such a tree is not f -complex. Hence by the previous lemma, it is not complex and does not wtt-compute a DNR function. As it is of hyperimmune-free degree, it does not Turing compute a DNR function. \square

Theorem 4.9. $RCA_0 + DIM \not\vdash DNR$

Proof. To construct a model of DIM that is not a model of DNR, we first define a sequence $\mathbb{N} = X_0, X_1, \dots$ of elements of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that for all $i > 0$

1. $X_i \leq_T X_{i+1}$,
2. X_i is of hyperimmune-free degree,
3. X_{i+1} is a path through some X_i -diminutive X_i -computable tree.

The second order part of our model will be $\{Y : \exists i Y \leq_T X_i\}$. As usual $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is a computable bijection from $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ onto \mathbb{N} and we can assume that $\langle m, n \rangle \geq m$ for all n and m . Suppose that X_i has properties 1, 2, and 3 for all $0 < i \leq \langle m, n \rangle$. Now we define $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1}$. If $T = \{n\}^{X_m}$ is not an infinite binary $X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ -diminutive tree, then let $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1} = X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$. Otherwise, as $X_m \leq_T X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$, T is also $X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ -computable and, by Lemma 3.6, there is a $Y \in [T]$ such that $Y \oplus X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ is of hyperimmune-free degree relative to $X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$. As $X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ is of hyperimmune-free degree by 2, $Y \oplus X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ is also of hyperimmune-free degree by Lemma 3.6. Set $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1} = Y \oplus X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$. Properties 1 and 2 are satisfied immediately.

To prove property 3, first observe that if $X_{\langle m, n \rangle} = X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1}$, then $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1}$ is a path through the nonbranching tree $\{X_{\langle m, n \rangle} \upharpoonright s : s \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Otherwise $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1}$ is a path through the tree T' consisting of the extendible nodes of

$$\{f \oplus X_{\langle m, n \rangle} : f \in [T]\},$$

where $[T]$ is as above. But the branching nodes of T' are uniformly sparser than the branching nodes of T (each branching node of T' is exactly twice the length of the corresponding branching node in T), and as T is $X_{\langle m, n \rangle}$ -diminutive, so is T' . As $X_{\langle m, n \rangle + 1}$ is a path through T' , property 3 is satisfied.

The model of DIM will be the ω -model with second order part $\{f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} : \exists i f \leq_T X_i\}$.

Lemma 4.8 then gives that no X_i computes a DNR function for any i . As every element in the second-order part of the model is computable from some X_i , no element in our model computes a DNR function. So our model does not satisfy the DNR axiom. \square

Theorems 3.8 and 4.9 together show that VSMALL and DIM are independent of both DNR and WWKL.

Finally we show that DIM and VSMALL are distinct.

5 $\text{RCA}_0 + \text{VSMALL} \not\vdash \text{DIM}$.

In this section we produce a model \mathfrak{M} of VSMALL that is not a model of DIM. To construct the model we use a method very similar to the one used in Section 4 but instead of using diminutive trees, we use *very small* trees. Recall from Definition 3.7 that a tree T is *very small* if the principal function of $\text{Br}(T)$ dominates every computable function. Equivalently, if the principal function of $\{|\sigma| : \sigma \in \text{Br}(T)\}$ dominates every computable function. Furthermore, instead of using the concept of f -complexity to distinguish DIM from DNR as in Theorem 4.9, now we use the concept of *computable traceability* to distinguish VSMALL and DIM.

Definition 5.1. The *canonical index* of a finite set $\{x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is

$$\prod_{i=1}^n p_i^{x_i},$$

where p_i is the i^{th} prime number. We denote by D_n the finite set with canonical index n . A *(h-)computable array* is an infinite sequence of canonically indexed finite sets $\langle D_{r(n)} \rangle$ with r a *(h-)computable* function.

Definition 5.2. $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is *computably traceable (relative to h)* if for all nondecreasing unbounded computable functions φ and for all $g \leq_T f$, there is a *(h-)computable* array $\langle D_{r(n)} \rangle$ of finite sets such that

1. $\forall n \ ||D_{r(n)}|| \leq \varphi(n)$
2. $\forall n \ g(n) \in D_{r(n)}$

Lemma 5.3. *If f is computably traceable, and g computably traceable relative to f , then g is computably traceable.*

Proof. Fix any nondecreasing unbounded computable function φ and any function $h \leq_T g$. As g is computably traceable relative to f , there is an f -computable index function $r(n)$ satisfying

1. $\forall n \ ||D_{r(n)}|| \leq \sqrt{\varphi(n)}$
2. $\forall n \ h(n) \in D_{r(n)}$.

As $r \leq_T f$ there is a computable index function s satisfying

3. $\forall n \ ||D_{s(n)}|| \leq \sqrt{\varphi(n)}$
4. $\forall n \ r(n) \in D_{s(n)}$.

Now we can define a computable function $t(n)$ so that

$$D_{t(n)} = \bigcup \{D_m : m \in D_{s(n)} \text{ and } \|D_m\| \leq \sqrt{\varphi(n)}\}.$$

For all n $\|D_{t(n)}\| \leq \sqrt{\varphi(n)} \cdot \|D_{s(n)}\| \leq \varphi(n)$ so $t(n)$ satisfies clause 1 of Definition 5.2. Also, $r(m) \in D_{s(n)}$ and $\|D_{r(m)}\| \leq \sqrt{\varphi(n)}$ so $D_{r(n)} \subseteq D_{t(n)}$. Therefore $h(n) \in D_{t(n)}$ and the second clause of Definition 5.2 is satisfied. φ and h were arbitrary so g is computably traceable. \square

Definition 5.4. Let T be a tree and $P = [T]$, the class of paths through T . For convenience we introduce the notation

$$T[n] = P[n] := \{\sigma \in \text{Ext}(T) : |\sigma| = n\}$$

for the set of extendible nodes of T or P of length n .

Lemma 5.5. *If $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and h is a hyperimmune-free element of a very small Π_1^f class P , then for all $h' \leq_T h$ h' is a hyperimmune-free element of a very small Π_1^f class.*

Proof. As $h' \leq_T h$ and h is hyperimmune-free, there is a total computable functional Φ on $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that $\Phi(h) = h'$ (see [10] Theorem VI.5.5 and Proposition III.3.2). As h is hyperimmune-free, so is h' and $h' \in \Phi[P]$. A straightforward relativisation of Theorem 4.3.6 in [1], and using the fact that f is of hyperimmune-free degree, gives that $\Phi[P]$ is a very small Π_1^f . \square

Lemma 5.6. *Let $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and g be a hyperimmune-free element of a very small Π_1^f class. Then g is computably traceable relative to f .*

Proof. Let φ be any nondecreasing unbounded computable function and suppose $h \leq_T g$. By Lemma 5.5, h is a element of some very small Π_1^f class Q . Let $\langle Q_k \rangle$ be an f -computable sequence of nested clopen sets such that $Q = \bigcap_k Q_k$.

As Q is very small there is an N such that $\|Q[n+1]\| \leq \varphi(n)$ for all $n \geq N$. And hence for each $n \geq N$ there is a k such that $\|Q_k[n+1]\| \leq \varphi(n)$. Let $s = s(n)$ be the least such k for each n . Now define an f -computable function $r(n)$ by

$$D_{r(n)} = \{\sigma(n) : \sigma \in Q_s[n+1]\}.$$

It is straightforward now to see that clauses 1 and 2 of Definition 5.2 are satisfied for h and r and for cofinitely many n . We can then finitely adjust r to satisfy 1 and 2 for all n . As h and φ were arbitrary, it follows that g is computably traceable relative to f . \square

The next lemma is based on a theorem by Robinson and Lachlan ([12], [8]). The type of construction is relatively well-known, but for completeness we include a sketch of the proof.

Lemma 5.7 (Lachlan, Robinson). *There is a co-c.e. hyperimmune set $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ and a strictly increasing computable function f such that for all co-c.e. $Y \subseteq X$ there exists infinitely many $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|\{m \in Y : m < f(n)\}| \geq n$. That is f dominates the principal function of Y infinitely often.*

Proof. (Sketch) We begin by fixing a computable partition of \mathbb{N} into intervals $\langle \alpha_i \rangle$ such that $|\alpha_i| = i \cdot 2^{i+1}$ for each i , and such that $\max \alpha_i + 1 = \min \alpha_{i+1}$. In the construction we produce a computable double sequence of finite sets $\langle \beta_{i,s} \rangle$ such that for each i and each stage s ,

1. $\beta_{i,0} = \alpha_i$,
2. $\beta_{i,s+1} \subseteq \beta_{i,s}$,

and we let $\beta_i = \lim_s \beta_{i,s}$. We produce concurrently a double sequence of markers $\langle m_{i,s} \rangle$ such that for all i and s ,

1. $m_{i,0} = i$,
2. $m_{i,s} < m_{i+1,s}$,
3. $m_{i,s+1} = m_{j,s}$ for some $j \geq i$.
4. $\lim_t m_{i,t}$ exists.

If $\lim_t m_{i,t}$ is denoted m_i , then the set X required by the theorem will be $\bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \beta_{m_i}$.

The values of $m_{i,s}$ are determined to satisfy the requirement that X be hyperimmune - at each stage s if it appears that some approximation to a computable function is going to dominate the principal function of X , then the markers are moved to ensure that this fails to occur (for details on such *movable marker* arguments see for example [15]).

To determine the value of $\beta_{i,s+1}$ we find the least $j < i$ such that

1. $W_{j,s} \not\supseteq \beta_{i,s}$
2. $|W_{j,s} \cap \beta_{i,s}| \geq \frac{1}{2} |\beta_{i,s}|$

and we let $\beta_{i,s+1} = \beta_{i,s} \cap W_{j,s}$ (where $W_{e,s}$ is some standard enumeration of the c.e. sets). As $W_{j,s}$ is increasing in s and $\beta_{i,s}$ is decreasing in s , $\beta_{i,t} \subseteq W_{j,t}$ for all $t > s$ and so for any i , $\beta_{i,s+1} \neq \beta_{i,s}$ at most i times, and for each such s $|\beta_{i,s+1}| \geq \frac{1}{2} |\beta_{i,s}|$. Therefore, if $\beta_i = \lim_s \beta_{i,s}$, then $|\beta_i| \geq 2i$ for each i .

To see that X now has the required properties, first recall that the movable-marker construction makes it hyperimmune (the reduction of the β_i over time cannot conflict with this requirement, and as β_i is nonempty for all $i > 0$, X is infinite). Suppose now

that $Y = \overline{W_e}$ is an infinite co-c.e. subset of X . Therefore for infinitely many i , $W_e \not\supseteq \beta_i$. For each such $i > e$,

$$||W_e \cap \beta_i|| < \frac{1}{2}||\beta_i||,$$

(or else at some stage β_i would have been reduced so that $\beta_i \subseteq W_e$). So for infinitely many i

$$||\overline{W_e} \cap \beta_i|| \geq \frac{1}{2}||\beta_i|| \geq i.$$

The function $f(n) := \max \alpha_n$ (which is independent of e) then dominates the principal function of $\overline{W_e}$ infinitely often. \square

Theorem 5.8. $RCA_0 + VSMALL \not\vdash DIM$.

Proof. We create a model \mathfrak{M} of VSMALL by the same method as in Theorem 4.9 using very small trees rather than diminutive trees. The lemmas above then give that every element of the second-order part of the model is computably traceable. We then produce using Lemma 5.7 a diminutive Π_1^0 class that has no computably traceable element and hence no element in \mathfrak{M} .

Let X and f be as in Lemma 5.7. Let X_0 and X_1 be a c.e. partition of \overline{X} and let $S = \{Y : Y \supseteq X_0 \text{ and } Y \cap X_1 = \emptyset\}$ - the separating set of X_0 and X_1 . S is a Π_1^0 class and X_0 and X_1 can be chosen so that S has no computable element (see [11] Theorem 1). It is straightforward to show that $\{|\sigma| : \sigma \in \text{Br}(S)\} = X$ and that S is diminutive as X is hyperimmune.

Suppose now that S has a computably traceable element Z and consider the Z -computable function $n \mapsto Z \upharpoonright f(n)$. As Z is computably traceable, there is a computable sequence of canonically indexed sets of binary strings $\langle D_n \rangle$ such that $Z \upharpoonright f(n) \in D_n$ and $||D_n|| < n$ for all n . Now let

$$S' = S \cap \{Y \in 2^{\mathbb{N}} : \forall n Y \upharpoonright f(n) \in D_n\}.$$

S' is a Π_1^0 class and contains Z so is non-empty. S' is perfect as S has no computable element. Furthermore $W := \{|\sigma| : \sigma \in \text{Br}(S')\}$ is a co-c.e. subset of X . But $||\{\sigma \in \text{Ext}(S') : |\sigma| = f(n)\}|| < n$ for all n , so $||\{m \in W : m < f(n)\}|| < n$, contradicting the assumptions on X and f . Thus S is a diminutive Π_1^0 class with no computably traceable element. \square

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