The Turing degrees below generics and randoms

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Abstract

If $x_0$ and $x_1$ are both generic, the theories of the degrees below $x_0$ and $x_1$ are the same. The same is true if both are random. We show that the $n$-genericity or $n$-randomness of $x$ do not suffice to guarantee that the degrees below $x$ have these common theories. We also show that these two theories (for generics and randoms) are different. These results answer questions of Jockusch as well as Barmpalias, Day and Lewis.

1 Introduction

There are two common notions of what it means for a real number (which we identify with a binary string in Cantor space and so also a subset of $\mathbb{N}$) to be a “typical” real. One definition, of a “generic” real, is in terms of category and so topological. The other, of a “random” real, is given in terms of measure (usually Lesbegue). In each case there is a specified collection of large sets (comeager or measure 1) and their complements the small sets (meager or measure 0). The typical reals are thought of as being in every large set (or no small set). Of course, this is not literally possible as every singleton is a small set. A now standard procedure is to restrict the sets being considered to some countable family given in computability or definability theoretic terms and then require that a typical real be in every large (no small) set in the family of interest.

As usual, this provides a hierarchy of notions based on the extent of the family of sets being considered. This hierarchy begins with the levels of definability given by formulas of first order arithmetic (measured by quantifier complexity) and corresponds

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in computability theoretic terms to ones describably recursively (computably) in some iteration of the Turing jump, i.e. of the halting problem. (Precise definitions are given below in Definitions 2.1-2.3.)

Our concerns here are with the computability theoretic properties of such typical reals. More specifically, we are interested in the structure of relative complexity of computation as specified by Turing reducibility. We say that one set \( A \) is Turing computable from, or recursive in, another \( B \), \( A \leq_T B \), if there is a (program for a) Turing machine \( \Phi_e \) which, when equipped with an oracle for \( B \) (i.e. a procedure that answers all questions of the form “is \( n \in B \)” that the machine generates), computes membership in \( A \). The equivalence classes of sets under this transitive relation are called the (Turing) degrees. We want to analyze the structure of this relation on the degrees computable from a typical set \( X \) for both notions of typicalness.

Our starting point is an old result of Jockusch [1980] that says that the first order structure of the degrees below a (fully, i.e. for all formulas of arithmetic) generic \( G \) is independent of the choice of \( G \). This follows from either an application of classical \( 0 \rightarrow 1 \) laws for category or by a standard analysis of genericity in terms of (Cohen like) forcing. In either case, the only relevant fact is that the degree of a set (infinite binary string) is invariant under finite changes. We denote this common theory (in the language with just \( \leq_T \)) by \( Th(\leq G) \). Jockusch (personal communication) asked long ago if any finite level \( n \) of genericity (as in Definition 2.1) suffices to guarantee that the degrees below an \( n \)-generic set have the same first order theory as those below a fully generic set.

Now the analogous \( 0 \rightarrow 1 \) laws or forcing analysis (for Solovay like forcing) apply to measure as well as category and so if \( R \) and \( \bar{R} \) are both fully random (again for all levels of first order arithmetic), the theories of the degrees below each of them are the same. We call this common theory \( Th(\leq R) \). Barmpalias, Day and Lewis [2012] have recently extensively analyzed many degree theoretic properties of random reals and the amount of randomness needed to guarantee each of them. They explicitly ask the question for measure analogous to the one above for category (Question 8): Does some level \( n \) of randomness (as in Definition 2.2) suffice to guarantee that the theory of the degrees below an \( n \)-random real will be this common theory. They also ask (Question 7) if the two common theories, \( Th(\leq G) \) and \( Th(\leq R) \), are the same.

We supply negative answers (as were expected) for all of these questions. We also supply wholesale but precise information about the related theme of distinguishing between different levels of genericity or randomness in terms of the structure \( D(\leq x) \) of relative computability on sets recursive in such typical degrees \( x \). Our theorems are as follows:

**Theorem 1.1.** There are sentences \( \varphi_n \) such that, for \( n \geq 2 \), \( D(\leq x) \models \varphi_n \) for every \((n+1)\)-generic or \((n+1)\)-random \( x \) but such that \( D(\leq x) \not\models \neg\varphi_n \) for some \( n \)-generics and \( n \)-rands.

(These are the same \( \varphi_n \) for \( n \)-generic \( x \) and \( n \)-random \( x \).)
Theorem 1.2. There is a sentence $\varphi$ such that $D(\leq x) \models \varphi$ for every 3-random $x$ but $D(\leq x) \not\models \neg \varphi$ for every 3-generic $x$.

Now for $n = 1$, a sentence $\varphi_1$ witnessing Theorem 1.1 is already known: $\varphi_1$ says that there is no minimal degree. Theorem 2.7 below implies that no 2-generic or 2-random bounds a minimal degree. On the other hand, some 1-generics and 1-randoms do (Chong and Downey [1990] and Kumabe [1990] for 1-generics; Barmpalias, Day and Lewis [2012] for 1-randoms). This $\varphi_1$ is then what one might call a natural sentence distinguishing between 1 and 2 genericity and randomness. It seems quite difficult to find a wholesale collection of such “natural” sentences distinguishing between all (or indeed any of) the higher levels of genericity and randomness in terms of the first order theory of the degrees below them. Our examples $\varphi_n$ for $n \geq 2$ are of a quite different sort.

All of the sentences we supply distinguishing among these degree structures are based on interpreting arithmetic inside them. Thus we rely on a few basic facts about generics and randoms that allow us to apply the whole machinery of interpretations of true arithmetic in degree structures that has been extensively developed over the past few decades to answer these questions. Once we have explained how we can interpret arithmetic in the structures and code sets in the interpretations, one will understand that we can talk about many arithmetic properties of the degrees below $x$ inside $D(\leq x)$. Thus the sentences $\varphi_n$ essentially say that there is a definable standard model of arithmetic in which there is a code for a set not recursive in $0^{(n)}$ (the $n$th iterate of the Turing jump). As noted below in Remark 2.4, no $(n+1)$-generic or $(n+1)$-random is recursive in $0^{(n)}$. The fact that our interpretation allows us to code the top degree itself, makes $\varphi_n$ true in $D(\leq x)$ for $x$ $(n+1)$-generic or $(n+1)$-random. On the other hand, we will see (based on Proposition 2.5 and Definition 2.6) that only sets recursive in $x''$ can be coded in the defined models of arithmetic inside $D(\leq x)$. Now there are $n$-generics and $n$-randoms $x$ below $0^{(n)}$ and indeed ones with $x^{(n)} = x \oplus 0^{(n)} \leq 0^{(n)}$. (Apply Remark 2.4 to the results for $n = 1$ by Jockusch [1980] for generics and the low basis theorem applied to a $\Pi^0_1$ class of 1-randoms for randoms as mentioned, for example, in Downey and Hirschfeldt [2010, Proposition 8.1.2].) The only degrees coded below such $n$-generics or $n$-randoms are recursive in $0^{(n)}$. Thus $\varphi_n$ is false in $D(\leq x)$ for $n$-generic or $n$-random $x$ with $x'' = x \oplus 0'' \leq 0^{(n)}$.

When it comes to distinguishing between $Th(\leq G)$ and $Th(\leq R)$, our sentence $\varphi$ simply says that there is a code for a 3-random set in $D(\leq x)$. Here we rely on the fact that if $x$ is 3-generic then no 3-randoms can be computed from $x''$. This is simply the relativization to $0''$ (via Remark 2.4) of the fact that no 1-generic computes a 1-random (Demuth and Kucera [1987]) plus the fact that, for $x$ 3-generic, $x'' = x \oplus 0''$.

2 Interpreting Arithmetic and Coding Sets

We want to describe the coding of arithmetic that we use in $D(\leq x)$ for $x$ at least 2-generic or 2-random. General background information about coding and interpretations
of arithmetic in degree structures can be found in Shore [2013] and arguments similar to the ones described here in Shore [2012]. First, however, our promised (standard) definitions of \((n)\)-genericity and \((n)\)-randomness.

**Definition 2.1.** \(X\) is \(n\)-generic (over \(A\)) if for every \(\Sigma^0_n (\Sigma^4_n) \ S \subseteq 2^{<\omega}\) there is a \(\sigma \in X\) such that \(\sigma \in S\) or \(\forall \tau \supseteq \tau (\tau \notin S)\).

**Definition 2.2.** \(X\) is \(n\)-random (over \(A\)) if for every uniformly \(\Sigma^0_n (\Sigma^4_n)\) collection \(V_k\) of open subsets of \(2^\omega\) of measure at most \(2^{-k}\), \(X \notin \cap V_k\). (The \(V_k\) are specified by uniformly \(\Sigma^0_n (\Sigma^4_n)\) subsets \(U_k\) of \(2^{<\omega}\) such that \(Z \in V_k \iff \exists \sigma \subseteq Z(\sigma \in U_k)\).)

**Definition 2.3.** \(X\) is generic (random) if it is \(n\)-generic \((n)\)-random for every \(n \in \mathbb{N}\).

A degree \(x\) is \((n)\)-generic or \((n)\)-random if it contains a set which is \((n)\)-generic or \((n)\)-random.

**Remark 2.4.** It is clear from the definitions that \(X\) is \((n+1)\)-generic or \((n+1)\)-random if and only if it is \(1\)-generic or \(1\)-random, respectively, over \(0^{(n)}\). Thus, for example, as it is easy to see that no \(1\)-generic or \(1\)-random can be recursive, no \((n+1)\)-generic or \((n+1)\)-random can be recursive in \(0^{(n)}\).

From now on we assume that \(x\) is \(2\)-generic or \(2\)-random. We begin our path to coding sets and arithmetic into \(D(\leq x)\) with a specific highly effective form of coding orderings of type \(\omega\) called nice effective successor structures introduced in Shore [1981]. They have been used as well in Nies, Shore and Slaman [1998] and Shore [2007] which contains (in §3) a good presentation of the details. For our purposes all we need to know is that the scheme provides a way of coding a sequence \(\langle d_n \rangle\) of independent degrees (i.e. no \(d_n\) is below the join of the rest of the degrees \(d_m\)) by finitely many parameters \(\bar{q}\) which generate (under \(\lor\) and \(\land\)) a partial lattice including the \(d_n\). We assume that the first element \(q_0\) of \(\bar{q}\) is a bound on all the other elements needed to determine this partial lattice. The crucial property of this coding is the following:

**Proposition 2.5 (Shore [1981]).** Given a \(\bar{q}\) determining a nice effective successor structure, the set of indices, relative to \(Q_0 \in q_0\), for the degrees in the ideal generated by the \(d_n\) is \(\Sigma^G_3\) and any set \(S\) such that \(S = \{n|d_n \leq g_0, g_1\}\) for any \(g_0, g_1 \leq g\) with \(q_0 \leq g\) is also \(\Sigma^G_3\). Moreover, for every \(S \in \Sigma^G_3\) with \(Q_0 \leq_T Z\), the set of indices relative to \(Z\), for the ideal generated by \(\{d_n|n \in S\}\) is \(\Sigma^G_3\). (Note also that by the independence of the \(d_n\), this ideal contains \(d_n\) if and only if \(n \in S\).)

**Definition 2.6.** With the notation as in Proposition 2.5, we say that the set \(S\) is coded (with respect to the structure determined by \(\bar{q}\)) by the degrees \(\tilde{g} = \langle g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3 \rangle\) if \(S = \{n|d_n \leq g_0, g_1\}\) and \(\tilde{S} = \{n|d_n \leq g_2, g_3\}\). So if the \(\tilde{g}, \tilde{q} \leq x\) then \(S \in \Delta^X_3\), i.e. \(S \leq_T X''\).

Next, we want to know that we can code these nice effective successor structures in \(D(\leq x)\) and indeed below any \(y \leq x\). We use the fact that the 1-generics are downward dense below \(x\) and that any recursive partial lattice can be embedded effectively below any 1-generic.
Theorem 2.7 (Jockusch [1980]; Barmpalias, Day and Lewis [2012]). The 1-generic degrees are downward dense below $x$, i.e. $\forall y \leq x \exists z \leq y (y$ is 1-generic).

Theorem 2.8 (Greenberg and Montalbán [2003]). For each recursive partial lattice $L$ and every 1-generic $G$, there is an embedding of $L$ into the degrees below $G$ which is uniformly recursive in $G$. So, in particular, every 1-generic $G$ compute degrees $\bar{q}$ determining a nice effective successor structure in which the $d_n$ are uniformly recursive in $q_0$.

Proposition 2.5 and Definition 2.6 say that only sets $S \in \Delta^Y_3$ can be coded by degrees below $x$ in nice effective successor structures given by $\bar{q} \leq x$. We want a converse and so a characterization of which sets can be coded in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$. Again we rely on one a fact about 2-generics and 2-randoms and one about coding.

Theorem 2.9 (Jockusch [1980]; Kautz [1991]). Our degree $x$ is RRE (relatively recursively enumerable), i.e. $\exists y < x (x$ is r.e. in $y)$.

Theorem 2.10 (Shore [1981]). If $\mathcal{I} = (\mathcal{D}(\leq b), \Sigma^R_3)$ ideal in $\mathcal{D}(\leq b)$ then there is an exact pair for $\mathcal{I}$ below $a$, i.e. $g_0, g_1 < a$ such that $\mathcal{I} = \{ z | z \leq g_0, g_1 \}$.

Thus for our $x$, the sets $S$ which can be coded by $\bar{g} \leq x$ in some nice effective successor structure given by a $\bar{q} \leq x$ are precisely the ones $\Delta^X_3$. Indeed, there is a $y \leq x$ (any in which $x$ is RRE) such that the sets $S$ so coded by $\bar{g} \leq x$ for downward dense such $\bar{q} \leq y$ are also precisely the ones $\Delta^X_3$. Thus we have our characterization.

Corollary 2.11. The sets $S$ that are coded by degrees $\bar{g}$ below $x$ in some nice effective successor structure given by $\bar{q} \leq x$ are precisely the $S \leq_T X''$.

Next we want to move from simply coding sets to coding them in standard models of arithmetic given definably in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$. This will enable us to talk about the coded sets with the full apparatus of arithmetic and so to say for example that one of them is not recursive in $0^{(n)}$ (our sentence $\varphi_n$) or is 3-random (our sentence $\varphi$) as these facts are clearly definable in first order arithmetic.

The first step here is to specify schemes giving an interpretation of arithmetic in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$. We need a coding scheme $S(\bar{p})$, i.e. formulas $\varphi_D(x, \bar{p}), \varphi_+(x, y, \bar{p}), \varphi_<(x, y, \bar{p})$ and $\varphi_{<}(x, y, \bar{p})$ that provide, for each choice $\bar{p}$ of parameters from $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$, an interpretation of the language of arithmetic in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ with $+, \times, \leq$ defined on $D = \{ w | \mathcal{C} \models \varphi_D(w) \}$ by the respective formulas to give a structure $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ for the language of arithmetic. (See Hodges [1993] for a general explanation of interpretations of one structure in another. Descriptions of ones designed specifically for interpreting arithmetic in degree structures can be found in Nies, Shore and Slaman [1998].) We also include a correctness condition $\varphi_C(\bar{p})$ which says (at least) that $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ is a model of some standard finite axiomatization of arithmetic.
To carry our coding results over to the definable models of arithmetic, we also require that the parameters $\mathbf{p}$ have an initial segment $\mathbf{q}$ determining a nice effective successor structure as above such that the set $\{d_n\}$ determined by $\mathbf{q}$ is (in the obvious order) an initial segment of the domain $D$ of $M(\mathbf{p})$. Providing the translation of the axioms of arithmetic is a general fact about interpretations as is saying that $d_0$ is the 0 of the structure. Saying that the $d_n$ form an initial segment is phrased by using the definition of the way $d_{n+1}$ is generated (in terms of $\lor$ and $\land$) from the degrees in $\mathbf{q}$. We also want to add a condition to $\varphi_C$ that guarantees that the models $M(\mathbf{p})$ for $\mathbf{p}$ in $D(\leq x)$ which satisfies it are all standard.

The primary tool for achieving all of these results is Slaman-Woodin forcing (Slaman and Woodin [1986]). In the setting of all the degrees $D$ this forcing is used to code arbitrary countable sets and relations on the degrees by fixed formulas (with free variables) that depend only on the arity of the relation. As one substitutes arbitrary degrees for the free variables, the formulas define all countable relations of the corresponding arity. In proper substructures of $D$ such as our $D(x)$, one has to take care to see which relations are coded in this way within the structure. The basic arguments in Slaman and Woodin [1986] immediately show that $2$-genericity (relative to a listing of the relation itself) suffices. We need a bit more.

**Theorem 2.12 (Greenberg and Montalbán [2003]).** If $c$ uniformly bounds $\{C_i|i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ and finitely many relations $R_j$ on $\{\deg(C_i)|i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ and $G$ is 1-generic over $C$, then $G$ computes a sequence $\mathbf{p}$ of degrees which define the relations $R_j$ on $\deg(C_i)$ in the sense that there are fixed formulas $\psi_n$ (independent of $C$, $C_i$ and $R_j$) such that, if $R_j$ is of arity $n$, $R_j(z) \leftrightarrow \psi_n(z,\mathbf{p})$ and, moreover, $\psi_n(z,\mathbf{p})$ holds if and only if it holds in any (equivalently all) ideals (i.e. subsets of $D$ closed downward and under join) containing the degrees in $\mathbf{p}$.

Greenberg and Montalbán [2003] show that this suffices, for example, to given an interpretation of arithmetic and a correctness condition that guarantees that any interpretation $M(\mathbf{p})$ with $\mathbf{p}$ satisfying the correctness condition is standard as long as one is working in a $D(\leq x)$ such that the 1-generic degrees are downward dense below $x$. (So in particular, the theory of $D(\leq x)$ for any such $x$ computes that or true arithmetic.) As we need to control the sets coded in such models as well, we restrict the class of structures considered by requiring that the domains of the models (or at least their standard part) form a nice effective successor structure.

Given any $z < x$, by Theorem 2.7, there are $u < v < z$ such that $u$ is 1-generic and $v$ is 1-generic over $u$ (i.e. $v$ is the degree of the join of $u \in u$ and a $G$ which is 1-generic over $U$). (One simply takes a $V \leq_T Z$ which is 1-generic and chooses $U = V^{[0]}$.) Then by Theorem 2.8 one can choose degrees $\mathbf{q} < u$ which specify a nice effective successor structure with its $d_n$, uniformly recursive in $q_0$. Theorem 2.12 then says we can code any $k$-ary relations on the $d_n$ which are uniformly recursive in $q_0$ by the corresponding $\psi_k$ by choosing degrees below $v$ to substitute for the variables of $\psi_k$ and that the relation will be correctly defined in $D(\leq x)$ by this formula and these parameters. In particular
we can extend $\bar{q}$ to a sequence $\bar{p}$ of degrees below $v$ so that they determine a model of arithmetic $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ defined in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ and indeed in $\mathcal{D}(\leq v)$ and extend our correctness condition to describe the needed facts about the nice effective successor structure given by $\bar{q}$ and which has the the $d_0$ as an initial segment of its domain. (We can explicitly say that $d_0$ is the 0 of $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$. Then we can use Slaman-Woodin forcing to say that there is a set containing $d_0$ which is closed under the operations generating the $d_n$ and that this set is an initial segment of $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ with successor given by the generation process for the $d_n$.)

All that remains now to specify our definable interpretation of arithmetic is to extend the correctness condition to guarantee that the models so defined are all standard. This is already handled in Greenberg and Montalbán [2003] using the method of comparison maps and the downward density of the 1-generics. No additional issues arise because of our added requirement that an initial segment of the domain of the model be a nice effective successor structure determined by an initial segment $\bar{q}$ of $\bar{p}$. One simply requires that for any other structure $\mathcal{M}(w)$ with $w < q_0$ there are formulas (given by Slaman-Wooden coding using parameters below $x$) that define one-one order preserving maps from every initial segment of $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ to onto one of $\mathcal{M}(w)$. Our arguments already show that standard models of the form $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ in our class exist with $\bar{p}$ below any given $u < v < x$. As the required maps between initial segments of such models and any model are all finitary, they are all definable below $v$ by Theorem 2.12. Thus we have a the required definable class of standard models with defining parameters downward dense below $x$.

We can now complete the proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

Our previous analysis of which sets can be coded in the models we have described shows that all are $\Delta^X_3$ and there are such models (below $u < v < y$ where $u$ and $v$ are as we have just described and $y$ is such that $x$ is RRE in it) in which all $\Delta^X_3$ sets can be coded. It follows that there is a set $S \notin \mathcal{T}_T 0^{(n)}$ coded in such a model in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ if and only if $X'' \notin \mathcal{T}_T 0^{(n)}$. As we have noted in Remark 2.4, this condition holds for every $(n+1)$-generic and $(n+1)$-random $X$ for $n \geq 2$. Thus $\varphi_n$ is true for every such $X$. On the other hand, as explained above, there are $n$-generic and $n$-random $X$ such that $X'' \equiv \mathcal{T}_T X \oplus 0'' \leq_T 0^{(n)}$ for every $n$. For such $X$, every $S$ coded in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ is recursive in $0^{(n)}$, i.e. $\varphi_n$ fails in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ for such $x$. This proves Theorem 1.1.

As for Theorem 1.2, if $X$ is 3-random, there is clearly a 3-random set (namely $X$ itself) coded in one of our $\mathcal{M}(\bar{p})$ in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$. On the other hand, we have already noted above that no 3-random can be computed from $X''$ for any 3-generic $X$ and so $\varphi$ is false in $\mathcal{D}(\leq x)$ for every 3-generic $x$ as required to prove Theorem 1.2.

As a final point, we remark that while $Th(\leq G)$ and $Th(\leq R)$ are different theories, they have the same Turing (even $1\!-\!1$) degree. As noted above Greenberg and Montalbán [2003] show that the downward density of the 1-generics suffices to show that they each compute (even in a $1\!-\!1$ way) $0^{(\omega)}$ or, equivalently, $Th(\mathbb{N})$, the true theory of arithmetic. On the other hand the fact (Jockusch [1980] for generics and the uniformity present in
III.2.1 of Kautz [1991]) that there are generics and randoms \( X \) such that \( X^{(\omega)} \equiv_T 0^{(\omega)} \) (and indeed with the same \( 1 - 1 \) degree), shows that each of \( Th(\leq G) \) and \( Th(\leq R) \) are even \( 1 - 1 \) reducible to \( 0^{(\omega)} \) and \( Th(\mathbb{N}) \).

3 Bibliography


