

# Randomness in the Weihrauch degrees

Rupert Hölzl



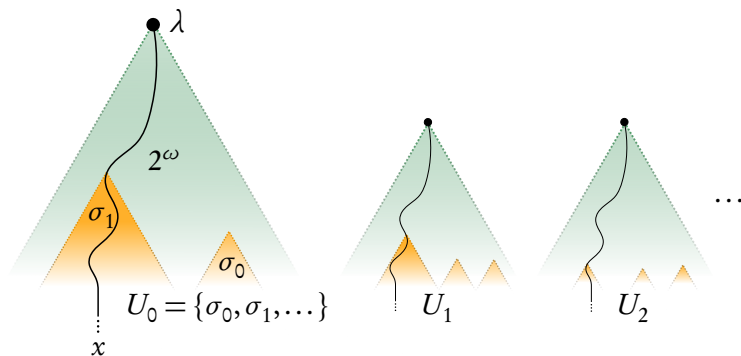
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Joint work with Vasco Brattka and Guido Gherardi  
Joint work with Paul Shafer

These slides (*now!*) at <https://db.tt/bECt6WnC>

*“What can be computed with access to randomness?”*

# Formal definition of randomness



- 1 Martin-Löf randomness.** Real is not random if in the intersection of an effective sequence of c.e. classes, whose measure tends to 0 at a guaranteed minimum speed.

# A first answer: The Kučera-Gács-Theorem

- 1 Theorem.** For *every* sequence  $A$  there is a Martin-Löf random sequence  $X$  with  $A \leq_T X$ .
- 2 But this is not satisfactory.**
  - We are not really using the randomness of  $X$ .
  - If we did, then every other, “equally random”  $Y$  would work.
  - But in fact only a measure 0 set works.
  - In the proof  $X$  is “cherry-picked”.
- 3 What we really want.** We want to know what we can compute given access to *any* sufficiently random sequence.

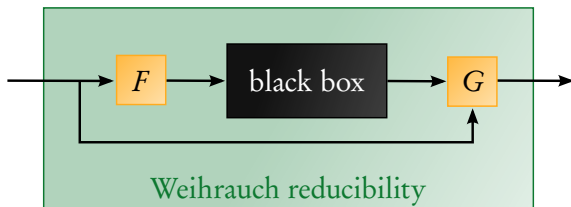
# A second answer: Sacks' theorem

- 1 Theorem.** If  $A$  is computable from every  $X$  in a set of positive measure, then  $A$  is computable.
- 2 This is unsatisfactory as well.**
  - We do not want to compute a single sequence  $A$ .
  - We want to know what *mathematical tasks* can be done with randomness.
  - For a given task there may be many allowed solutions; this breaks the majority vote mechanic in the proof of Sacks' theorem.

# Therefore: Weihrauch degrees

- 1 General idea.** We look at mathematical tasks where a problem is given to a black box, and the black box has to give back a solution to the problem.
- 2 Example.** Given a bounded sequence of rationals, the black box has to produce an accumulation point.
- 3 Reducibility.** Assume we have a black box solving a certain problem  $\mathcal{A}$ . Can we use it to solve another problem  $\mathcal{B}$ ?
- 4 Approach.**
  - Code an instance  $B$  of problem  $\mathcal{B}$  into a valid instance  $A$  of problem  $\mathcal{A}$ .
  - Run the black box for  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $A$ .
  - Convert the solution for  $A$  back into a solution for  $B$ .

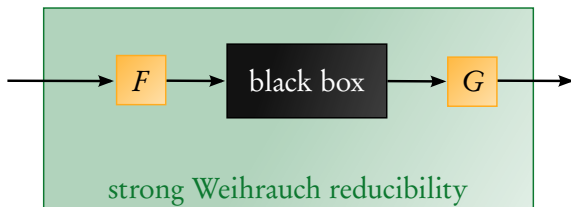
# Formally: Weihrauch degrees



- 1  $F$  and  $G$  are both Turing functionals.
- 2 **Weak reducibility.** The decoding procedure  $G$  has access to the original input.
- 3 That is, if  $B$  is the black box, the computed function is

$$x \mapsto G(\langle B(F(x)), x \rangle).$$

# Formally: Weihrauch degrees



- 1  $F$  and  $G$  are both Turing functionals.
- 2 **Strong reducibility.** The decoding procedure  $G$  *does not* have access to the original input.
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# The Weihrauch degree of MLR

- 1 The function MLR in the Weihrauch degrees is defined as

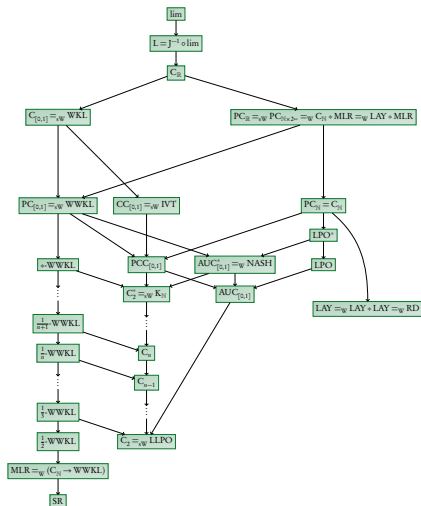
$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{MLR: } 2^\omega & \rightrightarrows & \text{MLR} \\ & \longleftarrow & \text{MLR}^A. \end{array}$$

(non-italic = the principle MLR; *italic* = set of MLR sequences)

- 2 If the input is computable this is a black box giving us an MLR object.
- 3 Using the reducibility defined before, we can now ask what can be reduced to this “principle”.

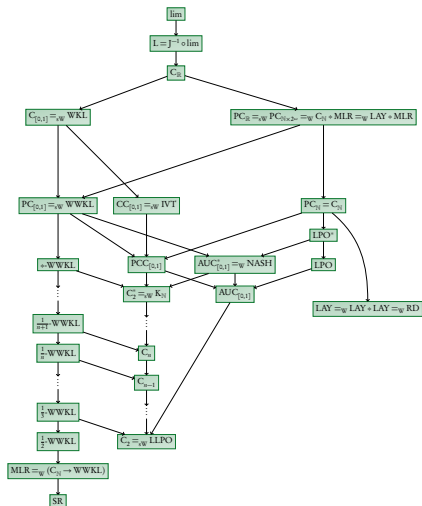
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# The Weihrauch zoo



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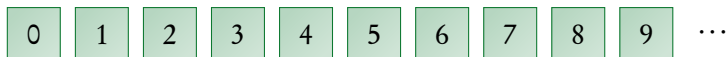


- 1 The reducibilities produce a degree structure of mathematical tasks of different levels of difficulty.
- 2 Many tasks are equivalent to *choice principles*.

# Choice principles

- 1 A choice principle is a black box solving a task as follows:
  - A set is described by giving more and more negative information, encoded into an infinite sequence in, say,  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ .
  - That is, step by step we obtain more and more information which elements are *not* in the set.
  - The task is to give an element that will never be removed.
- 2 **Example.** Choice on the natural numbers  $C_{\mathbb{N}}$ .

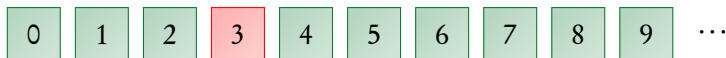
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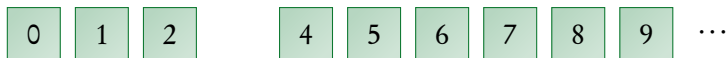
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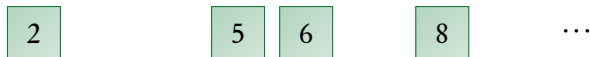








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- 3 Similarly, we can define  $C_{[0,1]}$ ,  $C_{2^{\mathbb{N}}}$ ,  $C_{\mathbb{R}}$ ,  $C_{\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}}$ , ...

# Positive choice

- 1 We will want to look at probabilistic computation, which can be modeled by a special kind of choice principle.
- 2 We will call a choice principle a *positive choice principle* if for every valid instance of the problem there exists positive measure many correct solutions.
- 3 Of course, the measure will depend on the space on which we need to make a choice.
- 4 We will use the most canonical measures for every space, but other reasonable choices produce equivalent results.
- 5 We will look at  $PC_{[0,1]}$ ,  $PC_{2^{\mathbb{N}}}$ ,  $PC_{\mathbb{R}}$ ,  $PC_{\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}}$ , ...

# More choice

- 1  $\text{AUC}_{[0,1]}$  is *all or unique choice* on  $[0, 1]$ , that is, either every point in the unit interval is an acceptable answer; or only a single real.
- 2 Clearly, here the challenge is only to know whether *anything* is ever removed or not.
- 3 For any principle  $\mathcal{P}$  in the Weihrauch degrees, define

$$\mathcal{P}^* := \bigsqcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{P}^i,$$

that is,  $\mathcal{P}^*$  solves *any finite product* of instances for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

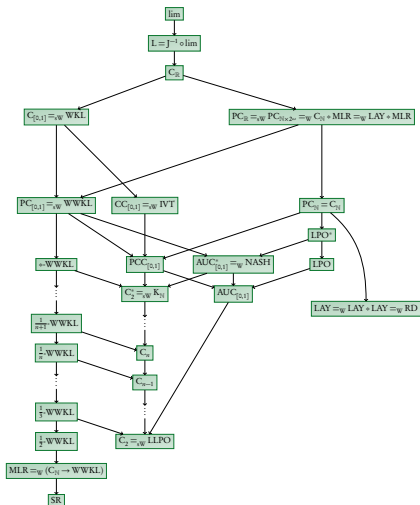
- 4 Pauly showed that  $\text{AUC}_{[0,1]}^*$  is equivalent to computing Nash equilibria.

# WWKL as randomized computation

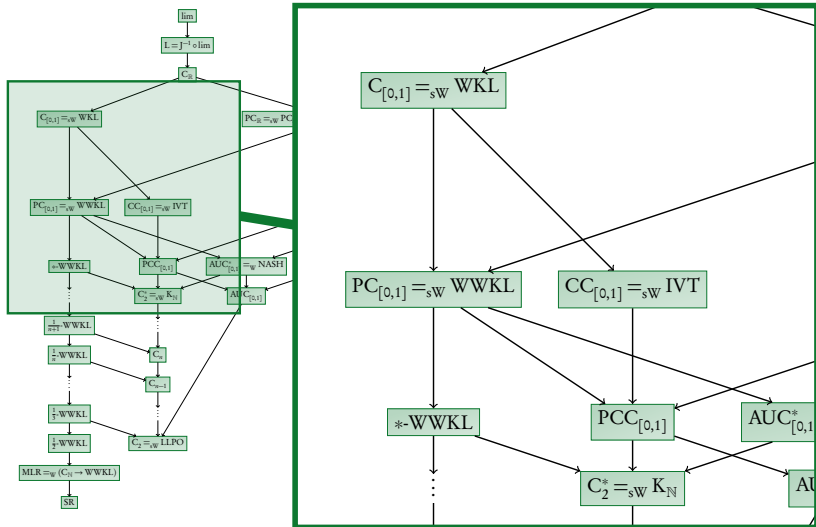
- 1 *Weak weak König's Lemma* (WWKL) is the principle that, given a closed set  $P \subseteq 2^\omega$  of positive measure, returns a path of  $P$ .
- 2 Reduction to WWKL can be seen as a type of randomized computation, namely computation by a Las Vegas machine.
- 3 A Las Vegas machine is a machine succeeding with positive probability and such that it will detect if one of the randomized computations fails.



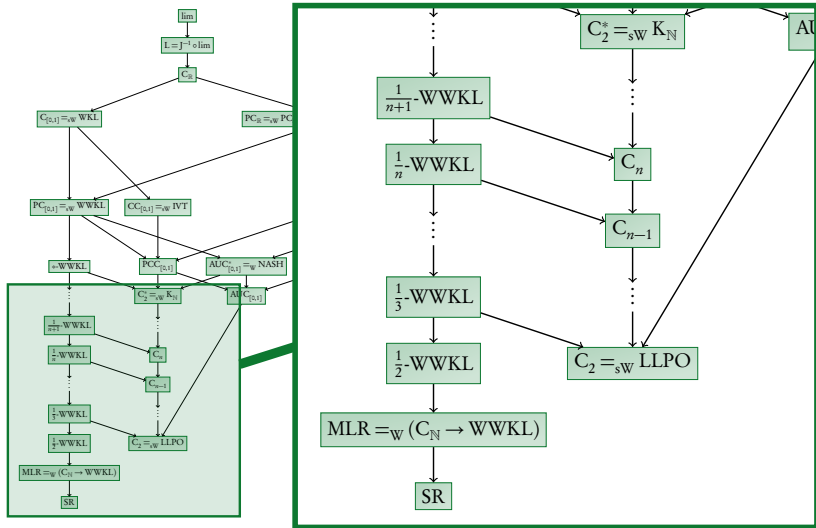
# Two types of randomized computation



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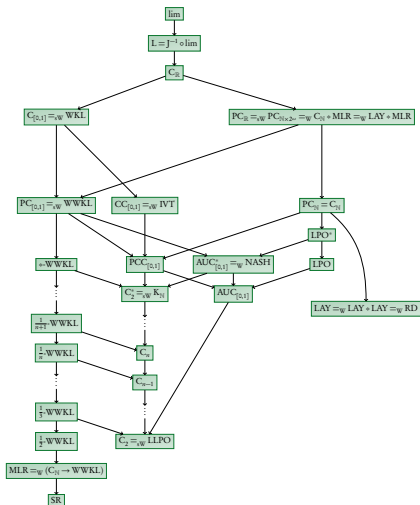
# A contrast with reverse maths

- 1 Therefore:** In the Weihrauch degrees, Las Vegas machines can do much more than MLR oracles.
  - For example, they can compute Nash equilibria while MLR cannot.
- 2** In reverse maths, the principle WWKL also exists, and has been intensively studied.
- 3** Ditto for the principle MLR, that states that for every existing set, there also exists a set MLR relative to it.
- 4** In this setting it turns out that MLR equals WWKL (shown essentially by Kučera).

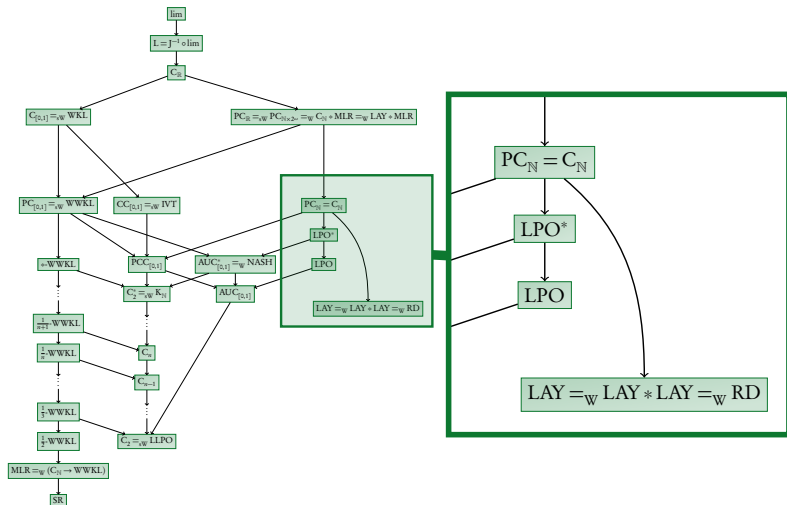
# Origin of the different behavior

- 1 So in the fine-grained Weihrauch degrees we can see a difference between two models of randomized computation.
- 2 This difference is lost in the degree structure of reverse maths.
- 3 The difference between both settings is that in reverse maths...
  - ... we can use a principle arbitrarily often in a proof, and
  - ... we can use non-uniform arguments.

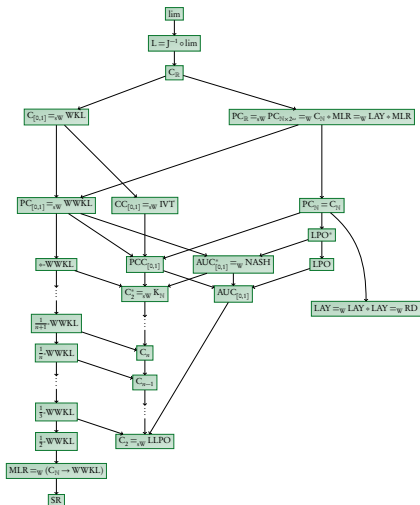
# Layerwise computability (Hoyrup & Rojas) in the lattice



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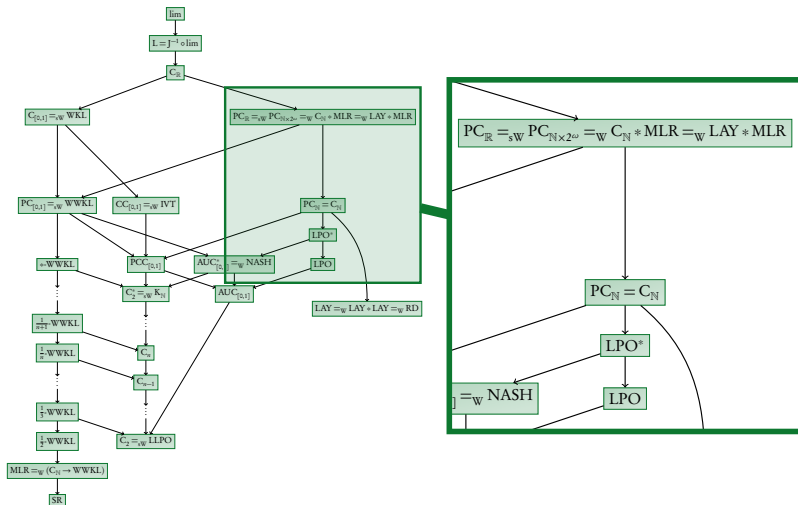


# Other principles interacting with randomness





# Other principles interacting with randomness



# Some work in progress

- 1 2-randomness:  $\text{MLR}^*_{\leq s}$  lim
  - Not yet clear how much structure of the lattice is preserved when applying the jump.
- 2 The Vitali Covering Lemma
  - Brown, Giusto, Simpson: In reverse maths equivalent to WWKL.
  - In the context of Weihrauch degrees we get a much richer picture, depending on the formalization.
  - One version is computable; another is equivalent to WWKL; yet another strictly stronger than WWKL.
  - We do not know the precise location in the lattice of that last version yet.
- 3 Other notions, theorems, etc. from algorithmic randomness in this framework.

*Thank you for your attention.*