

# Regressive versions of Hindman's Theorem

Leonardo Mainardi

Department of Computer Science, Sapienza University of Rome

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# Introduction

- In Reverse Mathematics, Hindman's Theorem represents an active line of research: for instance, the strength of the theorem itself is a long-standing open question.
- The same applies to many of its variants formulated over the decades.
- We isolate a new natural variant of Hindman's Theorem, called the [Regressive Hindman's Theorem](#), modelled on Kanamori-McAloon's Regressive Ramsey's Theorem.
- We investigate its strength in terms of provability over  $\text{RCA}_0$  and in terms of computable reductions.

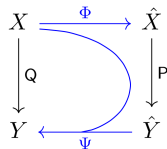
# Introduction

In terms of computable reductions, we focus on Weihrauch reductions.

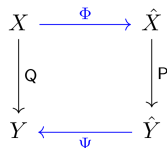
They concern principles in the form  $(\forall X)[\varphi(X) \rightarrow (\exists Y) \psi(X, Y)]$ .

We call  $X$  s.t.  $\varphi(X)$  an **instance** and  $Y$  s.t.  $\psi(X, Y)$  a **solution** for  $X$ .

- 1  $Q$  is **Weihrauch reducible** to  $P$  (denoted  $Q \leq_W P$ ) if there exist Turing functionals  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  such that for every instance  $X$  of  $Q$  we have that  $\Phi(X)$  is an instance of  $P$ , and if  $\hat{Y}$  is a solution to  $P$  for  $\Phi(X)$  then  $\Psi(X \oplus \hat{Y})$  is a solution to  $Q$  for  $X$ .



- 2  $Q$  is **strongly Weihrauch reducible** to  $P$  (denoted  $Q \leq_{sW} P$ ) if there exist Turing functionals  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  such that for every instance  $X$  of  $Q$  we have that  $\Phi(X)$  is an instance of  $P$ , and if  $\hat{Y}$  is a solution to  $P$  for  $\Phi(X)$  then  $\Psi(\hat{Y})$  is a solution to  $Q$  for  $X$ .



# Ramsey's Theorem

- Let us recall the **Infinite Ramsey's Theorem (RT)**:

## Theorem (Ramsey, 1930)

For all  $n > 0$ ,  $k > 0$  and  $c : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow k$  there exists an infinite set  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that  $c$  is constant on  $[H]^n$ .

- The set  $H$  is called **homogeneous** or **monochromatic** for  $c$ .
- For  $n > 0, k > 0$ , we use  $\text{RT}_k^n$  to denote the restriction of RT to colourings of  $n$ -tuples into  $k$  colours, while we use  $\text{RT}^n$  to indicate  $\forall k \text{RT}_k^n$ .

# Canonical Ramsey's Theorem

- The following Erdős and Rado's **Canonical Ramsey's Theorem (canRT)** is a generalization of RT to infinitely many colours.

## Theorem (Erdős-Rado, 1950)

For all  $n > 0$  and  $c : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite set  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  and a subset  $S$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that for any  $I \in [H]^n$ ,  $c(I)$  is determined only by the elements of  $I$  with indexes in  $S$ .

- The set  $H$  is called **canonical** for  $c$ .
- We use **canRT<sup>n</sup>** to denote the restriction of canRT to colourings of  $n$ -tuples.

# Regressive Ramsey's Theorem

- In order to introduce a further variation of RT, we need the following definition:

## Definition (Regressive functions)

Let  $n > 0$ . A function  $c : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  is called **regressive** if and only if, for all  $I \in [\mathbf{N}]^n$ ,  $c(I) < \min(I)$  if  $\min(I) > 0$ , else  $c(I) = 0$ .

- By applying canRT to regressive functions, we obtain the **Regressive Ramsey's Theorem (regRT)**:

## Theorem (Kanamori-McAloon, 1987)

For all  $n > 0$  and all regressive  $c : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that, for any  $I, J \in [H]^n$ ,  $\min(I) = \min(J)$  implies  $c(I) = c(J)$ .

- The set  $H$  is called **min-homogeneous** for  $c$ .
- We denote by **regRT<sup>n</sup>** the principle regRT restricted to colourings of  $n$ -tuples.

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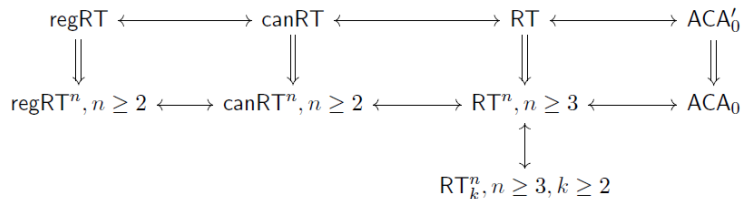
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For all  $n > 0$  and all regressive  $c : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that, for any  $I, J \in [H]^n$ ,  $\min(I) = \min(J)$  implies  $c(I) = c(J)$ .

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# Versions of Ramsey's Theorem

We can graphically summarize the relations - over  $\text{RCA}_0$  - between the versions of RT presented above as follows (double arrows indicate strict implications):



*These results are mainly due to Clote, Hirst, Jockusch, Mileti and Simpson.*



# Hindman's Theorem

- We denote by  $\text{FS}(X)$  the set of all finite non-empty sums of distinct elements of  $X \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ .

## Theorem (Hindman, 1972)

For all  $k > 0$  and for all  $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow k$  there exists an infinite set  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that  $c$  is constant on  $\text{FS}(H)$ .

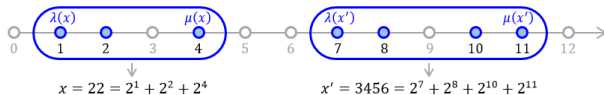
- Similarly to RT, for  $n > 0, k > 0$ , we use  $\text{HT}_k^{\overline{n}}$  and  $\text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$  to denote, respectively, the restrictions of HT to sums of exactly  $n$  elements ( $\text{FS}_k^{\overline{n}}$ ) and to sums of at most  $n$  elements ( $\text{FS}_k^{\leq n}$ ).
- Again,  $\text{HT}^{\overline{n}}$  means  $\forall k \text{HT}_k^{\overline{n}}$  and  $\text{HT}^{\leq n}$  means  $\forall k \text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$ .

# Versions of Hindman's Theorem

- For  $n = 2^{t_1} + \dots + 2^{t_p}$  with  $t_1 < \dots < t_p$ , let  $\lambda(n) = t_1$  and  $\mu(n) = t_p$ .

## Definition (Apartness)

A set  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  satisfies the **apartness** condition if for all  $x, x' \in X$  such that  $x < x'$ , we have  $\mu(x) < \lambda(x')$ .



- If  $P$  is a Hindman-type principle, we denote by  $P[\text{ap}]$  the principle  $P$  with the apartness condition imposed on the solution set.

## Proposition

Over  $\text{RCA}_0$ ,  $\text{HT}$  and  $\text{HT}[\text{ap}]$  are equivalent.

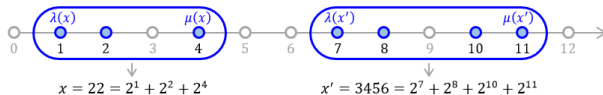
- It is unknown whether the same applies to  $\text{HT}_k^=n$  and  $\text{HT}_k^{\leq n}$ .

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# Versions of Hindman's Theorem

- We denote by  $\text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$  the set of non-empty finite subsets of  $\mathbf{N}$ .
- Taylor proved the analogous version of canRT for HT, i.e. the **Canonical Hindman's Theorem (canHT)**:

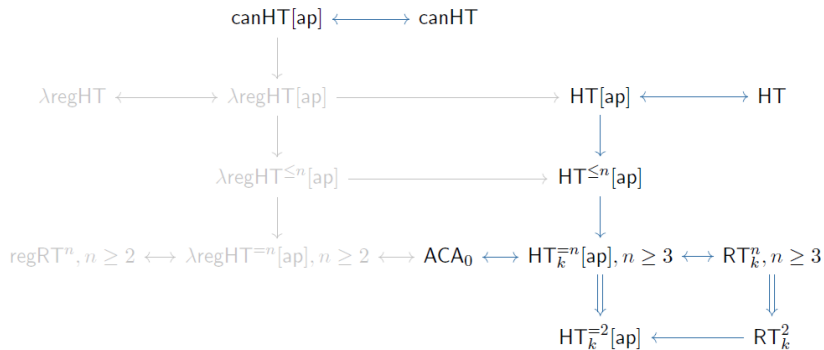
## Theorem (Taylor, 1976)

For all  $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite set  $H = \{h_0 < h_1 < \dots\} \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that one of the following holds:

- ① For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$ .
  - ② For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $I = J$ .
  - ③ For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\min(I) = \min(J)$ .
  - ④ For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\max(I) = \max(J)$ .
  - ⑤ For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\min(I) = \min(J)$  and  $\max(I) = \max(J)$ .
- The set  $H$  is called **canonical** for  $c$ .

# Versions of Hindman's Theorem

Based on the previous propositions and on some well-known results, we can start drawing some implications.



*These results are mainly due to Carlucci, Hindman, Kołodziejczyk, Lepore and Zdanowski.*

# Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- In order to formulate our regressive version of Hindman's Theorem, we need the following definition:

## Definition ( $\lambda$ -regressive functions)

A function  $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  is called  $\lambda$ -regressive if and only if, for all  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $c(n) < \lambda(n)$  if  $\lambda(n) > 0$  and  $c(n) = 0$  if  $\lambda(n) = 0$ .

- Then, by applying canHT to  $\lambda$ -regressive functions, we finally obtain the **Regressive Hindman's Theorem** ( $\lambda$ regHT):

## Theorem (Carlucci-M., 2022)

For all  $\lambda$ -regressive  $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that  $\text{FS}(H)$  is min-term-homogeneous, i.e. for all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ , if  $\min(I) = \min(J)$  then  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$ .

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# Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- Now, we want to **investigate the strength of this novel theorem**, in terms of implications over  $\text{RCA}_0$  and of computable reductions.
- First, we can observe that **canHT implies  $\lambda\text{regHT}[\text{ap}]$** , since canHT is equivalent to canHT[ap] and, by apartness and  $\lambda$ -regressivity, only case 1 and case 3 of canHT can occur.

Recall the five conditions of canHT are:

- 1 For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$ .
- 2 For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $I = J$ .
- 3 For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\min(I) = \min(J)$ .
- 4 For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\max(I) = \max(J)$ .
- 5 For all  $I, J \in \text{FIN}(\mathbf{N})$ ,  $c(\sum_{i \in I} h_i) = c(\sum_{j \in J} h_j)$  iff  $\min(I) = \min(J)$  and  $\max(I) = \max(J)$ .



# Regressive Hindman's Theorem

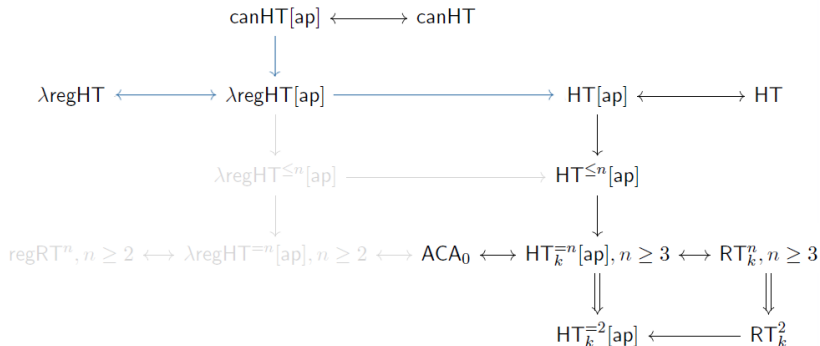
- Also, similarly to HT and to canHT, we have that  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  and  $\lambda\text{regHT}[\text{ap}]$  are **equivalent** over  $\text{RCA}_0$ , since  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  implies  $\text{RT}^1$  and  $\text{RT}^1$  can be used to get apartness.
- Moreover, we can easily prove that  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  implies  $\text{HT}[\text{ap}]$ , by simply applying  $\lambda\text{regHT}[\text{ap}]$  to the colouring:

$$g(n) = \begin{cases} f(n) & \text{if } f(n) < \lambda(n), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where  $f : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow k$  is the original colouring. Then, apartness guarantees that all but at most the first  $k$  elements of the solution of  $\lambda\text{regHT}[\text{ap}]$  for  $g$  fall into the second case; so, we just need an application of  $\text{RT}^1$  to obtain a solution of  $\text{HT}[\text{ap}]$  for  $f$  (that is why the argument does not witness a Weihrauch reduction).

# Regressive Hindman's Theorem

Then, we can draw some additional implications (in blue) in our schema.



Then, by now we know that  $ACA_0 \leq HT \leq \lambda \text{regHT} \leq \text{canHT}$  over  $RCA_0$ .

# Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- Since  $\text{ACA}_0$  is already implied by some restrictions of HT, we wonder whether this is the case for  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  as well.
- In general, we want to investigate the strength of various natural restrictions of  $\lambda\text{regHT}$ .
- Then, by defining  $\text{FS}^{\leq n}(X)$  (resp.  $\text{FS}^{=n}(X)$ ) the set of all non-empty sums of at most (resp. exactly)  $n > 0$  distinct elements of  $X \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ , we can formulate the **Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorems**:

## Definition

Let  $n \geq 1$ . We denote by  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{\leq n}$  (resp.  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}$ ) the following principle: for all  $\lambda$ -regressive  $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  there exists an infinite  $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$  such that  $\text{FS}^{\leq n}(H)$  (resp.  $\text{FS}^{=n}$ ) is min-term-homogeneous for  $c$ .

# Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- Similarly to full  $\lambda\text{regHT}$ , we have:

$$\text{RCA}_0 \vdash \lambda\text{regHT}^{\leq n}[\text{ap}] \rightarrow \text{HT}^{\leq n}[\text{ap}]$$

$$\text{RCA}_0 \vdash \lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}] \rightarrow \text{HT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$$

- However, for these bounded versions, we also have the following reductions:

$$\lambda\text{regHT}^{\leq n}[\text{ap}] \geq_c \text{HT}^{\leq n}[\text{ap}]$$

$$\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}] \geq_c \text{HT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$$

- By the previous implications and the fact that  $\text{HT}_2^{=3}[\text{ap}]$  is equivalent to  $\text{ACA}_0$ , we can easily infer that  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=3}[\text{ap}]$  implies  $\text{ACA}_0$ .
- However, by a more careful approach, we can improve this result, thus giving a lower bound for  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$  for any  $n \geq 2$ .

# Lower bound for Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

## Theorem (Carlucci-M., 2022)

Let  $n \geq 2$ . Over  $\text{RCA}_0$ ,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  implies  $\text{ACA}_0$ .

*Proof.* We prove the principle RAN (equivalent to  $\text{ACA}_0$ ) stating that for each injective function  $f : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ , the range of  $f$  (denoted  $\rho(f)$ ) exists.

Since  $x \in \rho(f) \iff \exists z (f(z) = x)$ ,  $\text{RCA}_0$  can not decide  $\rho(f)$ .

Then, our idea is to use  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  to bound the search for  $z$ .

We define  $c(m) =$  the unique  $x < \lambda(m)$  such that:

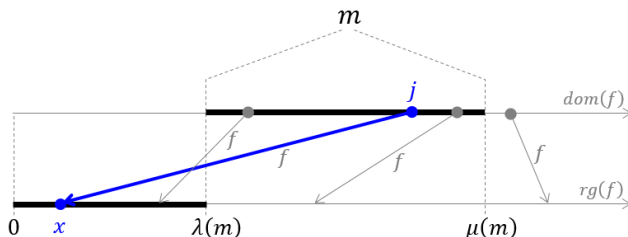
- there exists  $j \in [\lambda(m), \mu(m))$  such that  $f(j) = x$ , and
- for all  $j < j' < \mu(m)$ ,  $f(j') \geq \lambda(m)$ .

If no such  $x$  exists or  $m$  is a power of 2, we set  $c(m) = 0$ .

Intuitively  $c$  checks whether there are values  $< \lambda(m)$  in  $\rho(f \upharpoonright [\lambda(m), \mu(m)))$ . If any, it returns the latest one, i.e., the one obtained as image of the maximal  $j \in [\lambda(m), \mu(m))$  that is mapped by  $f$  below  $\lambda(m)$ .

# Lower bound for Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

Example:



In this case,  $c(m) = x$  since:

- $x < \lambda(m)$ , and
- there exists  $j \in [\lambda(m), \mu(m))$  such that  $f(j) = x$ , and
- for all  $j < j' < \mu(m)$ ,  $f(j') \geq \lambda(m)$ .

# Lower bound for Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

Let  $H = \{h_0 < h_1 < \dots\} \subseteq \mathbf{N}^+$  be an apart solution to  $\lambda\text{regHT}^2$  for  $c$ .

**Claim:** if  $x < \lambda(h_i)$  and  $x \in \rho(f)$ , then  $x \in \rho(f \upharpoonright [0, \mu(h_{i+1})])$ .

Suppose otherwise and let  $x < \lambda(h_i)$  s.t.  $x \in \rho(f)$  but  $x \notin f([0, \mu(h_{i+1})])$ . Let  $b$  be the true bound for the elements  $< \lambda(h_i)$  in  $\rho(f)$ , whose existence is given by strong  $\Sigma_1^0$ -bounding (in  $\text{RCA}_0$ ):

$$\forall n \exists b \forall i < n (\exists j (f(j) = i) \rightarrow \exists j < b (f(j) = i)).$$

Let  $h_j$  in  $H$  be such that  $h_j > h_{i+1}$  and  $\mu(h_j) \geq b$ .

$x \notin f([0, \mu(h_{i+1})])$  but  $x \in f([0, \mu(h_j)])$ , so  $c(h_i + h_{i+1}) \neq c(h_i + h_j)$ , hence contradicting min-term-homogeneity.

Then we can decide  $\rho(f)$  as follows using  $H$ : given  $x$ , pick any  $h_i \in H$  such that  $x < \lambda(h_i)$  and check whether  $x$  appears in  $f([0, \mu(h_{i+1})])$ .

The previous argument also proves that  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}] \geq_w \text{RAN}$ .

# Upper bound for Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- As for the upper bound, we can easily prove the reversal of the previous result:

Theorem (Carlucci-M., 2022)

Let  $n \geq 2$ .  $\text{ACA}_0$  proves  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$ .

- The proof is quite simple: given a  $\lambda$ -regressive colouring  $f : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ , we define a colouring  $g$  of  $n$ -tuples using the  $f$ -colour of the sum of the elements of the tuples, i.e.  $g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1 + \dots + x_n)$ . Since  $\text{ACA}_0$  implies  $\text{regRT}^n$ , we can apply it to get a min-homogeneous set for  $g$ , which is also a solution to  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$  for  $f$ .
- The previous argument also proves that  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}] \leq_{\text{sw}} \text{regRT}^n$ .



# Bounds for Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

- Since the lower bound and the upper bound for  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  coincide, we have that:

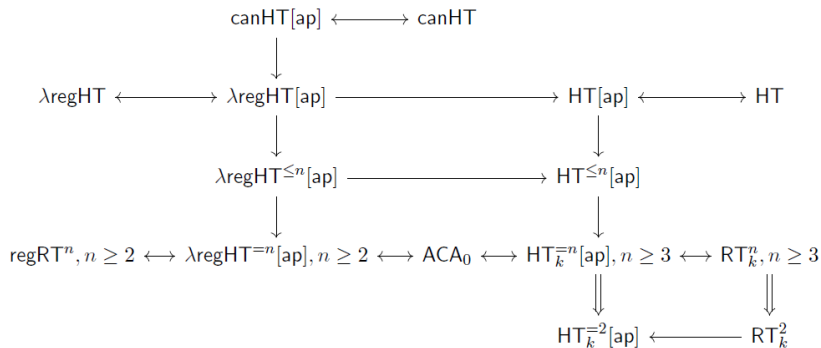
Theorem (Carlucci-M., 2022)

Over  $\text{RCA}_0$ ,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  is equivalent to  $\text{ACA}_0$ , for any  $n \geq 2$ .

- To sum up, we have that the following are equivalent over  $\text{RCA}_0$ :
  - 1  $\text{ACA}_0$ .
  - 2  $\text{regRT}^n$ , for any fixed  $n \geq 2$ .
  - 3  $\text{RT}_k^n$ , for any fixed  $n \geq 3, k \geq 1$ .
  - 4  $\text{HT}_k^n[\text{ap}]$ , for any fixed  $n \geq 3, k \geq 1$ .
  - 5  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$ , for any fixed  $n \geq 2$ .

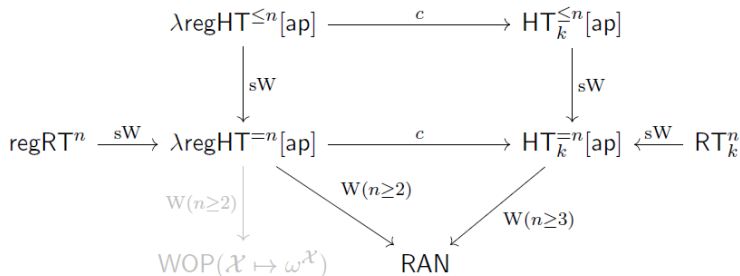
# Strength of Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

Then, the complete diagram of the implications over  $\text{RCA}_0$  is the following:



# Strength of Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

The following diagram, instead, visualizes the known reductions:



# Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem and WOP

## Definition

The **well-ordering preservation principle** for base- $\omega$  exponentiation (in symbols,  $\text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \mapsto \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$ ) is the following  $\Pi_2^1$ -principle:

$$\forall \mathcal{X} (\text{WO}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \text{WO}(\omega^{\mathcal{X}})),$$

where  $\text{WO}(Y)$  is the usual  $\Pi_1^1$ -formula stating that  $Y$  is a well-ordering.

- It is known that  $\text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \mapsto \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$  is equivalent to  $\text{ACA}_0$  [Girard, Hirst].
- To answer questions about reducibility, we can consider the contrapositive form of  $\text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \mapsto \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$ : an *instance* is an infinite descending sequence in  $\omega^{\mathcal{X}}$  and a *solution* is an infinite descending sequence in  $\mathcal{X}$ .

# Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem and WOP

## Theorem (Carlucci-M., 2022)

Let  $n \geq 2$ . Over  $\text{RCA}_0$ ,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  implies  $\text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \mapsto \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$ .  
Moreover,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}] \geq_{\text{W}} \text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \mapsto \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$ .

*Proof.* The idea is to give a procedure that, at each step, extracts from the descending sequence in  $\omega^{\mathcal{X}}$  the exponent of the "next" leftmost component that eventually decreases.

Example:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 &= \omega^9 + \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^6 + \omega^4 + \omega^3 \\ \alpha_2 &= \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^6 + \omega^4 \\ \alpha_3 &= \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^6 \\ \alpha_4 &= \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^5 + \omega^5 + \omega^5 + \omega^5 \\ \alpha_5 &= \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \omega^7 + \omega^7 + \omega^7 + \omega^7 \\ \dots \\ \alpha_i &= \omega^8 + \omega^8 + \dots \\ \dots\end{aligned}$$

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By strong  $\Sigma_1^0$ -bounding,  $\text{RCA}_0$  knows that if a component will decrease, it will do so within  $\ell$  steps, but  $\text{RCA}_0$  is not able to compute such  $\ell$ .

Thus, we adopt an approach similar to the one used to prove RAN, i.e. we use  $\lambda \text{regHT}^n[\text{ap}]$  to bound the research of  $\ell$ .

First, fixed an infinite decreasing sequence  $\alpha$  in  $\omega^{\mathcal{X}}$ , we define:

- $(\beta_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$  the sequence of all the exponents in  $\alpha$  (in the example above, we have  $\beta = \langle 9, 8, 8, 6, 4, 3, 8, 8, 8, 6, \dots \rangle$ )
- $m(n)$  the index of the element of  $\alpha$  from which  $\beta_n$  has been extracted (e.g.,  $m(7) = 2$  in the example above)
- $\text{pos}(n)$  the position of  $\beta_n$  in  $\alpha_{m(n)}$  (e.g.,  $\text{pos}(7) = 1$  in the example above)

Then, we say that  $j$  *decreases*  $i$  (and write  $\text{dec}(j, i)$ ) if  $i < j$ ,  $\text{pos}(i) = \text{pos}(j)$ ,  $\beta_i > \beta_j$  and  $j$  is minimal.

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Now we set  $c(x)$  as the unique  $i < \lambda(x)$  such that:

- there exists  $j \in [\lambda(x), \mu(x))$  such that  $j$  decreases  $i$ , and
- for all  $j < j' < \mu(x)$ , if  $j'$  decreases  $i'$  then  $i' \geq \lambda(x)$ .

If no such  $i$  exists, we set  $c(x) = 0$ .

Intuitively  $c$  checks whether there are indexes below  $\lambda(x)$  decreased by indexes in  $[\lambda(x), \mu(x))$  and, if any, it returns the latest one.

Let  $H = \{h_1 < h_2 < h_3 < \dots\}$  be an apart solution to  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{\text{=n}}$  for  $c$ .

**Claim:** For each  $h_i \in H$  and each  $j < \lambda(h_i)$ , if there exists  $k$  s.t.  $k$  decreases  $j$  then there exists such a  $k$  smaller than  $\mu(h_{i+n-1})$ .

We can prove the claim by adopting the same approach used for proving that  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{\text{=n}}$  implies  $\text{ACA}_0$  over  $\text{RCA}_0$ .

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Now, we compute an infinite decreasing sequence  $\sigma$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  as follows:

- 1 we look for the leftmost term of  $\alpha_1$  that eventually decreases, i.e. we look for the least  $i$  s.t.  $m(i) = 1 \wedge \exists j < \mu(h_{k+n-1})$  ( $j$  decreases  $i$ ), where  $h_k$  is the least element of  $H$  s.t.  $i < \lambda(h_k)$
- 2 we fix  $\sigma_1 = \beta_i$ ,  $p = \text{pos}(i)$  and  $d = m(j)$
- 3 we repeat the procedure, this time starting from  $\alpha_d$ .

Note that we are assuming that we can always find a term that eventually decreases, i.e.  $\forall i \exists i' (\exists j < lh(\alpha_i)) (i' > i \wedge e((\alpha_i)_j) >_{\mathcal{X}} e((\alpha_{i'})_j))$ , where  $e((\alpha_m)_n)$  is the exponent of the  $n$ -th term of  $\alpha_m$ .

This is true, otherwise for some  $i$  we could prove by  $\Delta_1^0$ -induction that:

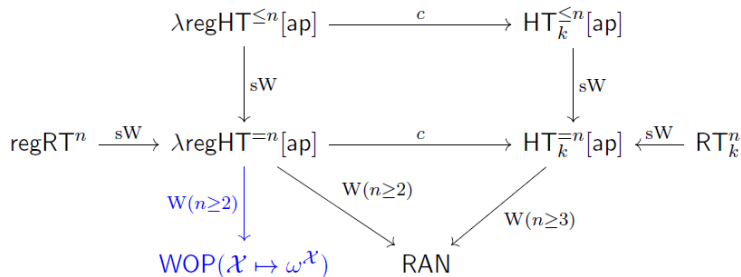
$$\forall m (m \geq i \rightarrow \alpha_{m+1} \text{ is an initial segment of both } \alpha_m \text{ and } \alpha_i)$$

which implies  $\forall m (m \geq i \rightarrow lh(\alpha_m) > lh(\alpha_{m+1}))$ , contradicting  $\text{WO}(\omega)$ .



# Strength of Bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorem

Then, we can add this last result to our diagram of computable reductions:



# Conclusions

- We formulated a novel [Regressive Hindman's Theorem](#) as a corollary of Taylor's Canonical Hindman's Theorem restricted to a suitable class of regressive functions.
- We studied the strength of this principle and of its restrictions in terms of provability over  $\text{RCA}_0$  and computable reductions.
- In particular, we showed that the weakest non-trivial restriction of our Regressive Hindman's Theorem,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=2}[\text{ap}]$ , is equivalent to  $\text{ACA}_0$ .
- This contrasts with the standard restrictions of Hindman's Theorem, which require at least sums of exactly 3 elements to reach  $\text{ACA}_0$ .
- This situation is analogous to that of  $\text{regRT}^2$  when compared to  $\text{RT}_2^3$ .
- Also, we proved that, for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$  computably reduces the corresponding restrictions of Hindman's Theorem  $\text{HT}^{=n}[\text{ap}]$ .
- Finally, we proved that  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=2}[\text{ap}] \geq_{\text{W}} \text{WOP}(\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \omega^{\mathcal{X}})$ , the well-ordering preservation principle that characterizes  $\text{ACA}_0$ .

# Conclusions

Open questions remain about the strength of the Regressive Hindman's Theorem, of its restrictions, and of related principles, for instance:

- 1 What are the optimal upper bounds for  $\text{canHT}$ , for  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  and for  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{\leq n}$ ?
- 2 Does HT imply/reduces  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  (and similarly for bounded versions)?
- 3 What is the strength of  $\lambda\text{regHT}^{=2}$  without apartness? More generally, how do the bounded Regressive Hindman's Theorems behave with respect to apartness?
- 4 Can the reductions presented above be improved to stronger reductions?

Finally, it would be interesting to investigate relations between  $\lambda\text{regHT}$  and other principles dealing with colourings with unboundedly many colours, like Hindman-type variants of the Thin Set Theorem recently investigated by Hirschfeldt and Reitzes.