

**PART II AUTOMATA AND FORMAL LANGUAGES**  
**MICHAELMAS 2025-26**  
**EXAMPLE SHEET 4**

(1) Let  $A$  be a recursive set, and define the set

$$B = \{2n \mid n \in A\} \cup \{2n + 1 \mid n \in \mathbb{K}\}.$$

(a) Is  $B$  recursive? If not, which of  $B$  and  $\mathbb{N} \setminus B$  are r.e. (if any), and why?

(b) By replacing  $A$  in the construction of  $B$  with a suitably chosen set, construct a set  $C \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that neither  $C$  nor  $\mathbb{N} \setminus C$  are r.e.

(2) Give examples, with proofs, of infinite collections of recursive sets whose union:

- (a) Is recursive.
- (b) Is r.e. but not recursive.
- (c) Is not r.e., and its complement is not r.e. either.

(3) Give an example of an infinite collection of recursive sets  $\{W_n\}_{n \in I}$ , whose index set  $I$  is r.e., for which

$$\bigcap_{n \in I} W_n$$

is not r.e.

(4) Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet, and  $L$  be a regular language over  $\Sigma$ .

- (a) Fix an ordering of  $\Sigma$ , and use this to describe a bijection  $b$  from  $\Sigma^*$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- (b) Using this ordering of  $\Sigma^*$ , show that  $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid b^{-1}(n) \in L\}$  is a recursive set.

(5) Show that if  $g : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is total recursive, then there is some  $e \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$f_{e,1}(y) = g(e, y) \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Use this to show there exists some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $W_m$  has exactly  $m$  elements.

(6) Prove that the set  $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid |W_n| > 5\}$  is r.e., but not recursive.

(7) Show that there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $W_n = \{n\}$ .

(8) Assume that we have two subsets  $X, Y$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  which are neither  $\mathbb{N}$  nor  $\emptyset$ . Show that the Turing join  $X \oplus Y$  is the least upper bound of  $X$  and  $Y$  with respect to the relation  $\leq_m$ , namely if we have  $Z \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  with both  $X, Y \leq_m Z$ , then  $X \oplus Y \leq_m Z$ .

(9) Show that **Emp**  $\leq_m \mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{K}$  and  $\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{K} \leq_m \mathbf{Emp}$ . [Hint. Recall that the set  $\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{K}$  is  $\Pi_1$ -complete. Why?]

(10) Prove that  $\mathbb{K}$  is not an index set.

(11) Prove that **Inf** and **Tot** are neither  $\Sigma_1$  nor  $\Pi_1$ .

(12) Given an explicit code  $m$  for a register machine  $P_m$ , consider the set

$$T_m := \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid W_m \subseteq W_n\}.$$

Construct two explicit codes  $m, m'$  such that  $T_m$  is recursive, and  $T_{m'}$  is not r.e.

(13) Let  $g : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a total computable function. Consider  $\mathbf{Eq}(g) := \{n : f_{n,k} = g\}$  and show that **Tot**  $\leq_m \mathbf{Eq}(g)$ .