

Mathematical Logic

HOMEWORK 7

Due: Apr 17 (Wed)

1.* Prove the following theorems, noting first that Lovász's theorem is a special case of Łoś–Tarski. Nonetheless, I suggest proving Lovász's theorem first because it's more approachable.

- (a) **Łoś–Tarski Theorem.** Let σ be a finite signature and \mathcal{C} be a finitely axiomatizable class of σ -structured. Then \mathcal{C} is closed under finitely generated substructures¹ if and only if \mathcal{C} is axiomatized by a universal σ -sentence.
- (b) Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and call a (potentially infinite) graph **k -coverable** if it admits $\leq k$ vertices such that each edge is incident to at least one of them.

Lovász's Theorem. For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists finitely many finite graphs H_1, H_2, \dots, H_m (forbidden patterns) such that for every graph G , we have that G is k -coverable if and only if it does not contain any of the H_i as a subgraph.

HINT: First prove that if every finite subcover of a graph G is k -coverable, then such is G . Then take the collection of minimal counter-examples to k -coverability and prove that this collection has to be finite.

REMARK: Lovász's original proof is

2. Let $\sigma_S := (0, S)$ where 0 is a constant symbol and S is a unary function symbol. Let T_S be the σ_S -theory consisting of the following (infinitely-many) axioms:

- (S1) Zero has no predecessor: $\forall x(S(x) \neq 0)$.
- (S2) The successor function is one-to-one: $\forall x \forall y(S(x) = S(y) \rightarrow x = y)$.
- (S3) Any nonzero number is a successor of something: $\forall x(x \neq 0 \rightarrow \exists y(x = S(y)))$.
- (S4[∞]) There are no cycles: $\varphi_n := \forall x(S^n(x) \neq x)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- (a) Observe that $N_S := (\mathbb{N}, 0, S)$ is a (standard) model of T_S and describe all models of T_S .
- (b) Prove that T_S is κ -categorical for each uncountable cardinal κ , and deduce that T_S is complete.

3. Let K be a field and let \bar{K} be an algebraic closure of K . A nonconstant polynomial $f \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ is called *irreducible* if whenever $f = gh$ for some $g, h \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$, either $\deg(g) = 0$ or $\deg(h) = 0$. Furthermore, f is called *absolutely irreducible* if it is irreducible in $\bar{K}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ (view f as an element of $\bar{K}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$).

For example, the polynomial $X^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ is irreducible, but it is not absolutely irreducible since $X^2 + 1 = (X + i)(X - i)$ in $\mathbb{C}[X]$. On the other hand, $XY - 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ is absolutely irreducible.

¹By this we mean that if a σ -structure is in \mathcal{C} then so are all of its finitely generated substructures.

Let $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ and prove the following:

Theorem (Noether–Ostrowski Irreducibility Theorem). *For $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ and prime p , let f_p denote the polynomial in $\mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ obtained by applying the canonical map $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ to the coefficients of f (i.e. mod-ing out the coefficients by p). For all $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$, f is absolutely irreducible (as an element of $\mathbb{Q}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$) if and only if f_p is absolutely irreducible (as an element of $\mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$) for all sufficiently large primes p .*

HINT: Your proof should be shorter than the statement of the theorem.

REMARK: The original algebraic proof of this theorem is quite involved.