

# TURING ZETA FUNCTIONS AND PARTIAL RANDOMNESS

Mike Stay  
email: [mike@math.ucr.edu](mailto:mike@math.ucr.edu)

(Work done at University of Auckland  
with Cristian Calude)

# What is Information?

1686 - Year before Newton's *Princi*

- How to distinguish a world describable by science from one that isn't?

- "Lawful behavior"

- Data fitting

- Law is a smaller description of the data

# What's a description?

1934 - Church's lambda calculus

Everything's a function

Numbers as functions: Church numerals

$$n(f)(z) = f^n(z) = f(f(\dots(f(z))))$$

$$\text{zero}(f)(z) = z$$

$$\text{one}(f)(z) = f(z)$$

⋮

$$\text{inc}(n)(f) = f(n)$$

$$\text{inc}(\text{zero})(f)(z) = f(\text{zero}(f)(z))$$

$$= f(\text{zero}(f)(z))$$

$$= f(z)$$

$$= \text{one}(f)(z)$$

so

$$\text{inc}(\text{zero}) = \text{one}$$

All of arithmetic

If / then:

$$K(x)(y) = x$$

$$I(x) = x$$

$$P(x)(y)(z) = z(x)(y)$$

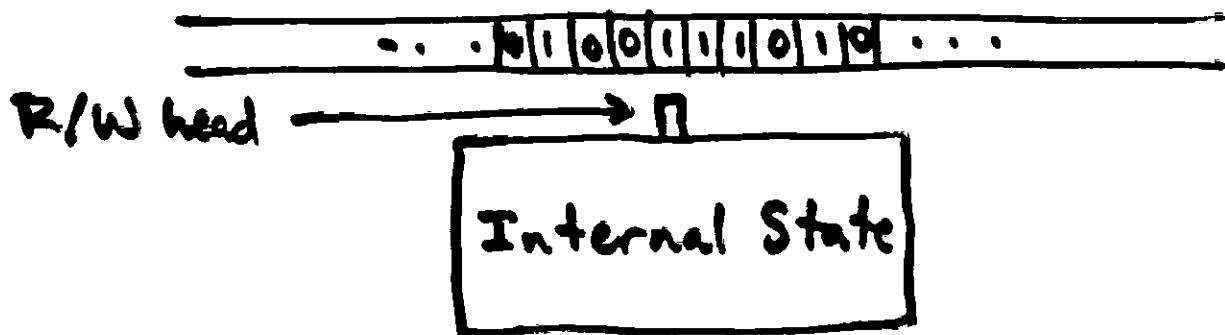
$$P(x)(y)(K) = K(x)(y) = x$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(x)(y)(K(I)) &= K(I)(x)(y) \\ &= I(y) \\ &= y \end{aligned}$$

Seems complicated because it's so simple  
But LISP, Haskell, Javascript, PERL all  
use the idea of functions of functions. The  
first two have little else: "Lambda  
calculus with syntactic sugar"

# 1934 Turing Machines

## Infinite tape



Up to Three possible operations at each step

- change bit
- change state
- move L/R

Turing showed they compute the same class of functions.

Formally, we say a Turing Machine is a partial computable function from strings to strings

$$T: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$$

"partial", i.e. may not be defined

# Universal Turing Machine

A TM  $U$  is universal if  
for any TM  $S$ ,  $\exists c$ , s.t.  $\forall x \exists x'$  s.t.  
 $U(x') = S(x)$  and  $|x'| < |x| + c$ .

A Universal machine can simulate any other machine with only a constant difference in the length of the input.

## Domain of a Turing Machine

$\text{dom}(T)$  is that subset of  $\{0,1\}^*$  on which  $T$  is defined (i.e. infinite loops and syntax errors are not in the domain)

# Algorithmic Information Theory

"A description of data is a program whose output is that data."

(Relative to choice of programming language)

The complexity  $H(x)$  of a string  $x$  is

$$H(x) = \min \{ |p| : U(p) = x \}$$

The complexity is the length of the elegant program for  $x$ , where an elegant program is the shortest with that output.

Kolmogorov, Levin, Solomonoff, Chaitin  
mid 1960's

# FAS

- Axioms
- Rules  $\Rightarrow$  ◦ Theorems

## Theorem checker

- Does this theorem prove that the program  $P$  is elegant?
- Is  $|P| > |FAS| + |\text{Theorem checker}|$ ?
- If yes to both, run  $U(P)$  and return the same result.

Contradiction or No such proofs for  $|P| > N$ !

# Chaitin's Omega (1974)

$$\Omega = \sum_{p \in \text{dom}(U)} 2^{-|p|}$$

Thm. Bits of  $\Omega$  are random, i.e.

$$H(\Omega[m]) \geq m - c,$$

where  $x[m]$  denotes ~~the first~~

$$\frac{\lfloor 2^m x \rfloor}{2^m}$$

Proof.

Given  $\Omega$  up to  $2^{-m}$ , we know the halting status of all programs whose length is  $\leq m$ :

Run the programs in parallel

1  
1 2  
1 2 3  
1 2 3 4  
1 x 3 4 5  
1 3 4 5 6  
1 3 x 5 6 7  
1 3 5 6 7 8  
⋮

Add up contributions of halted programs.

When  $n$  bits match, no more  $P$ 's can halt, because otherwise the contribution  $2^{-|P|} > 2^{-m}$  and one of the bits would change!

bit

There is a program  $\Psi(\Omega[m])$  that computes the outputs of the halting programs and chooses a string not in that set. Call the string  $x$ . Then

$$H(\Psi(\Omega[m])) = H(x) > m$$

By universality of  $U$ ,

$$H(\Psi) + H(\Omega[m]) \geq H(x) > m$$

so

$$H(\Omega[m]) \geq m - H(\Psi) = m - c$$

□

Given a FAS and a theorem checker that looks for proofs about the value of the first  $m$  bits of  $\omega$ , we can find its length

$$N = |\text{FAS}| + |\text{Theorem Checker}|$$

This program cannot prove the values of more than  $m = N + c$  bits! So ZFC can't tell you more than a little bit of  $\Omega$ .

Add  $k$  bits' worth of axioms and rules to ZFC. Will be able to prove at most  $k$  more bits of  $\Omega$ .

The bits of  $\Omega$  are irreducible information.

Given  $\sim 100000$  bits of  $\Omega$  for C or LISP or some such, could easily solve (in principle) all the Millenium Problems, many harder ones.

If you believe, like Wolfram or Fredkin, that the Universe is a digital computation on a Turing machine, then Omega becomes Borges' Aleph.

2002 Tadaki

Generalized Halting Probability

$$\Omega(s) = \sum_{p \in \text{dom}(U)} 2^{-s|p|}$$

For computable real  $s > 1$ ,  $\Omega(s)$  is

$\frac{1}{s}$ -random, i.e.

$$H(\Omega(s)[m]) \geq \frac{m}{s} - c$$

2005 Stay

## Zeta function of a Turing Machine

Let  $\text{bin}(n): \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$  be the binary expansion of  $n$  without the leading 1:

| $n_{10}$ | $n_2$ | $\text{bin}(n)$ |
|----------|-------|-----------------|
| 1        | 1     | -               |
| 2        | 10    | 0               |
| 3        | 11    | 1               |
| 4        | 100   | 00              |
| 5        | 101   | 01              |
| 6        | 110   | 10              |
| 7        | 111   | 11              |
| 8        | 1000  | 000             |
| ⋮        | ⋮     | ⋮               |

The zeta function of a Turing machine  $T$

$$\zeta_T(s) = \sum_{\text{bin}(n) \in \text{dom}(T)} n^{-s}$$

For universal  $U$ , computable  $s \geq 1$

$$H(\zeta_u(s)[m]) \geq \frac{m}{s} - c$$

$K(x)$  is the complexity of  $x$   
given the length of  $x$  for free.

Thm There are no random sequences with respect to  $K$ .

Pf. Assume  $\exists$  binary sequence  $x$  such that

$$K(x[m]) \geq m - c.$$

Take  $c+1$  bits of  $x$  and interpret them as a length  $L$ . Then  $K(x[c+1+L])$  is at most  $L$ , since the first  $c+1$  bits don't give any new information: we could compute them from the last  $L$  bits. But  $L < m - c = L + c + 1 - c = L + 1$ .

□

Thm(Stay) There exist  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $K$ -random sequences for all computable real  $s > 1$ .

Proof follows from Chaitin's. The problem with  $s=1$  is that the zeta function for a universal Turing machine diverges when you get the length for free.

Let

$$\eta(x) = \min \{ n : U(\text{bin}(n)) = x \}$$

This is a better complexity measure for  $\zeta_u$ ; it is the elegant program itself rather than its length.

Given  $\zeta_u(i)[m]$ , what are upper & lower bounds on its complexity?

$$2^{m-c} \leq \eta(\zeta_u(i)[m]) \leq 2^{m+c} = \underbrace{\text{print}}_{c \cdot 2^1} \underbrace{\text{"_____"}_m}_{(=\zeta_u(i)[m])^1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \Delta\eta &= 2^{m+c} - 2^{m-c} = 2^m (2^c - 2^{-c}) \quad c \geq 1 \\ &> 2^m (2 - 2^{-c}) \\ &> 2^m \end{aligned}$$

What are upper and lower bounds on  $\zeta_u(i)$ ?

$$\zeta_u(i)[m] < \zeta_u(i) < \zeta_u(i)[m] + 2^{-m}$$

$$\text{So } \Delta\zeta = 2^{-m}$$

$$\Delta \eta \Delta \zeta > 1$$

Heisenberg!

Suppose that some FAS could compute bits of  $Z_u(i)$ , but not in order — we've seen that's impossible.

Alas, this fails, too. If the FAS can prove infinitely many bits, then we just need to supply the ones in between. Once we get more than  $c$  bits from the FAS, we supply less than  $m-c$  bits to produce  $Z_u(i)[m]$ , which violates the inequality above.

Next: The next step implies  $T_{\text{complete}} = m$