

## REPRESENTATION IN H

Hunter's System H is (i) respectable, (ii) has a decidable set of wff, and (iii) a decidable set of proofs. It thus follows that *H is not negation-complete* (from Generalized Gödel Theorem), and that *H is undecidable* (from "Generalized Undecidability" Theorem). And since H is a finite extension of  $QS^-$ , the undecidability of H means that  *$QS^-$  is undecidable* (Church's Theorem).

We consider (ii) and (iii) in a later handout. Here, we will establish (i). Recall that:

*Definition:* A formal system of arithmetic is **respectable** iff:

- (a) The system is consistent.
- (b) Every decidable set of natural numbers is represented in it.
- (c) An open wff is a theorem iff some closure of it is.

Actually, we simply assume that (a) is true of H. Also, (c) is true of H since H is built to be a first-order theory in Hunter's sense. Thus, we will be concerned below only to show that (b) is true of H. [The Representation Theorem for H]

### Preliminary: Recursion Theory

The premises behind the Representation Theorem for H will make reference to recursive sets and recursive functions...

*Definitions.* A set A is a **recursive set** iff its characteristic function  $f_A$  is a recursive function. In what follows, assume  $f_A$  is the **characteristic function** for a set A iff, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$f_A(n) = \begin{array}{ll} 0 & \text{if } n \in A \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{array}$$

*Definition.* A function  $f$  is a **recursive function** iff  $f$  is one of the base functions, or is obtainable from these by finitely many applications of composition and/or the  $\mu$ -operation.<sup>1</sup>

Base:  $x + 1$  [successor],  $x + y$  [addition],  $x \cdot y$  [multiplication],  $x^y$  [exponentiation],  $x \div y$  [arithmetic difference, i.e.,  $x - y$  if  $x > y$ ; 0 otherwise].

Composition:  $h$  is obtained from functions  $f$  and  $g$  by composition iff:

$$h(\dots, x, \dots, y, \dots) = f(\dots, x, \dots, g(\dots, y, \dots), \dots)$$

-where any variable to the right of '=' also appears on the left.

Patently, if  $f$  and  $g$  are computable, then so is  $h$ .

$\mu$ -operation: Roughly,  $\mu$  is a minimization operator that operates on a certain type of function  $f$ . Specifically,  $f$  must be *computable* and a *total*  $n+1$ -ary function on  $\mathbb{N}$  where, for *any*  $n$ -tuple  $\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ , there is a  $y$  such that  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n, y) = 0$ . Given such an  $f$ , an  $n$ -ary function  $g$  is obtained by the  $\mu$ -operation iff:

<sup>1</sup> Usually, recursive functions also include those obtained by the operation of "primitive recursion." But the copious axioms of System H render such an operation unnecessary. (This, in turn, allows us to skip the notorious "Beta function lemma" in the proof of the Expressibility Lemma, thank god.)

$g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \mu y \{f(x_1, \dots, x_n, y) = 0\}$   
 -where the right-hand expression means “the least  $y$  such that  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n, y) = 0$ .”  
 It is clear that any such  $g$  is computable.

*Examples of recursive functions:*

$$f(x, y) = x \cdot (x \div y) \qquad f_2(x, y, z) = (x \cdot (x \div y))^z \qquad g(x) = \mu y \{x \cdot (x \div y) = 0\}$$

*But not:*

$$f_3(x) = \mu y \{x + y = 0\} \qquad [\text{b/c no such } y \text{ when } x > 0]$$

### **56.20 Representation Theorem for H**

56.20: Any decidable set of natural numbers is represented in H. [Representation Theorem]

Premises:

CT: Any decidable set is a recursive set. [Church’s Thesis, in one of its formulations]

56.18: Any recursive function is represented in H.

*Definition.* A set  $X$  of natural numbers is **represented** in a formal system  $S$  iff there is a formula  $A$ , with just one free variable  $v$ , such that for each natural number  $n$ :

$$\vdash_s A\bar{n}/v \text{ iff } n \in X$$

*Definition.* An  $n$ -ary function  $f$  is **represented** in a formal system  $S$  iff there is a formula  $A(v_1 \dots v_{n+1})$  with  $n+1$  free variables such that, for each  $n+1$ -tuple of natural numbers  $\langle k_1 \dots k_{n+1} \rangle$ ,

$$\vdash_s A(\underline{k}_1, \dots, \underline{k}_{n+1}) \text{ iff } f(k_1 \dots k_n) = k_{n+1}.$$

***The Basic Argument:***

Given CT, the representation of a decidable set in H is really just a special case of the representation of a recursive function. Suppose that  $S$  is decidable. Then given CT, its characteristic function  $f_s$  is a recursive function. So by 56.18,  $f_s$  is represented in H by some formula  $A(x, y)$  such that  $\vdash_H A(\underline{n}, \underline{0})$  iff  $f_s(n) = 0$ . Since  $\underline{0}$  is a name, this means there is a one-place formula  $A(x, \underline{0})$  such that  $\vdash_H A(\underline{n}, \underline{0})$  iff  $n \in S$ . That suffices for  $S$  to be represented in H.

### **56.17 The Correspondence or Expressibility Lemma for H**

56.17: Any recursive function is strongly represented in H. [Expressibility Lemma or EL]<sup>2</sup>

*Definition.* An  $n$ -ary function  $f$  is **strongly represented** or **(numeralwise) expressible** in a formal system  $S$  iff there is a formula  $A(v_1, \dots, v_{n+1})$  with  $n+1$  free variables such that, for each  $n+1$ -tuple of natural numbers  $\langle k_1, \dots, k_{n+1} \rangle$ , two conditions are met:

- (i)  $\vdash_s A(\underline{k}_1, \dots, \underline{k}_{n+1})$  if  $f(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k_{n+1}$ , and
- (ii)  $\vdash_s \sim A(\underline{k}_1, \dots, \underline{k}_{n+1})$  if  $f(k_1, \dots, k_n) \neq k_{n+1}$ .

<sup>2</sup> Hunter shows the even stronger result that recursive functions are (what he calls) “definable.” But the extra strength is unnecessary and we’ll skip it. (Caution: Boolos et al. refer to strong representability as “definability,” and Tarski’s “definability” theorem uses the term in yet a third sense.)

-56.18 will follow immediately from EL, assuming H is consistent.

### Inductive Argument for EL

Premises: Where  $m$  and  $n$  are any natural numbers...

Def: The numeral for any natural number  $n$  is  $\underline{n}$

56.5:  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \text{S}\underline{n} = \underline{n+1} \urcorner^3$

56.2: If  $m < n$ , then  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \underline{m} < \underline{n} \urcorner$ .

56.3: If  $m \neq n$ , then  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \sim \underline{m} = \underline{n} \urcorner$ .

56.6:  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{m+n} \urcorner$ .

**Basis:** Each base recursive function is strongly represented in H. (5 cases).

Case (1): ‘ $Sx = y$ ’ strongly represents the successor function. (Proof left as an exercise.)

Case (2): ‘ $x + y = z$ ’ strongly represents addition.

*Condition (i):* Suppose  $m + n = k$ . Then,  $\underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{k}$ , by definition. And by 56.6,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{m+n} \urcorner$ . Therefore,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{k} \urcorner$ .

*Condition (ii):* Suppose  $m + n \neq k$ . Then by 56.3,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \sim \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{k} \urcorner$ . Since by 56.6,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{m+n} \urcorner$ , axiom 3 assures us that  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \sim \underline{m} + \underline{n} = \underline{k} \urcorner$ .

Case (3): ‘ $x \cdot y = z$ ’ strongly represents multiplication.

Case (4): ‘ $Pxy = z$ ’ strongly represents exponentiation.

Case (5): ‘ $(y < x \wedge x = y + z) \vee (\sim y < x \wedge z = 0)$ ’ strongly represents arithmetic difference.

**Inductive Step:** We want to show that if function  $h$  is obtained by  $n > 0$  applications of combination or the  $\mu$ -operation, then  $h$  is strongly represented in H.

Preliminary Lemma [PL]: Suppose  $A(x, y)$  is a wff of H such that

$\vdash_{\text{H}} \bigwedge x \bigwedge y \bigwedge z (A(x, y) \supset (A(x, z) \supset y = z))$

Then, a unary function  $f$  is strongly represented in H by  $A(x, y)$  if  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{f(m)}) \urcorner$ .

Pf. of PL:

*Condition (i).* Suppose  $f(m) = n$  so that  $\underline{f(m)}$  is  $\underline{n}$ . Then, if  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{f(m)}) \urcorner$ ,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{n}) \urcorner$ .

*Condition (ii).* Suppose  $f(m) \neq n$ . Then by 56.3,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \sim \underline{f(m)} = \underline{n} \urcorner$ . Also, since we assume the antecedent of PL, we know  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{f(m)}) \supset (A(\underline{m}, \underline{n}) \supset \underline{f(m)} = \underline{n}) \urcorner$ . So by the logical axioms,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{f(m)}) \supset (\sim \underline{f(m)} = \underline{n} \supset \sim A(\underline{m}, \underline{n})) \urcorner$ . Thus, if  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{f(m)}) \urcorner$ , then by MP twice,  $\vdash_{\text{H}} \ulcorner \sim A(\underline{m}, \underline{n}) \urcorner$ .

**Combination:** [We consider only functions of one argument, but the reasoning generalizes to all functions.] The inductive hypothesis is that  $f$  and  $g$  are recursive unary functions that strongly represented in H by the formulae  $A(x, y)$  and  $B(x, y)$ , respectively. We aim to show that the function  $h(x) = f(g(x))$  is represented in H, specifically, by the formula ‘ $\forall w (B(x, w) \wedge A(w, y))$ ’.

<sup>3</sup> The corner-quoted expression denotes the result of replacing the numeral-variables inside the corner quotes with the relevant numeral(s). For instance, if  $n = 0+0$ , then  $\ulcorner \text{S}\underline{n} = \underline{n+1} \urcorner$  is the expression ‘ $S0 = 0$ ’.

Since  $A(x, y)$  and  $B(x, y)$  strongly represent functions, they satisfy the antecedent of PL. (Trust me on this.) From that, we can show  $\forall w(B(x, w) \wedge A(w, y))$  also satisfies the antecedent of PL. (You'll need to trust me here too.) So as per the consequent of PL, it suffices to show  $f(g(x))$  is strongly represented in H by proving that  $\vdash_H \ulcorner \forall w(B(\underline{m}, w) \wedge A(w, f(g(\underline{m})))) \urcorner$ .

By the strong representation of  $f$  and  $g$ , we know  $\vdash_H \ulcorner B(\underline{m}, g(\underline{m})) \urcorner$ , and that  $\vdash_H \ulcorner A(g(\underline{m}), f(g(\underline{m}))) \urcorner$ . So by  $\wedge$ -introduction,  $\vdash_H \ulcorner B(\underline{m}, g(\underline{m})) \wedge A(g(\underline{m}), f(g(\underline{m}))) \urcorner$ . And thus by existential generalization,  $\vdash_H \ulcorner \forall w(B(\underline{m}, w) \wedge A(w, f(g(\underline{m})))) \urcorner$ .

**$\mu$ -Operation:** [We consider only functions of two arguments, but...etc.] Assume  $f$  is a recursive binary function where for each  $m$ , there is an  $n$  such that  $f(m, n) = 0$ . And assume  $f$  is strongly represented in H by the formula ' $A(x, y, z)$ '. We aim to show that  $h(m) = \mu n \{f(m, n) = 0\}$  is strongly represented in H, specifically, by ' $A(x, y, 0) \wedge \bigwedge w (w < y \supset \sim A(x, w, 0))$ '.

Since ' $A(x, y, z)$ ' strongly represents a function, it satisfies the antecedent of PL. Therefore, so does ' $A(x, y, 0) \wedge \bigwedge w (w < y \supset \sim A(x, w, 0))$ '. (I invoke your trust here as well.) So as per the consequent of PL, it suffices to show  $h(m)$  is strongly represented in H by proving that  $\vdash_H \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{h}(\underline{m}), 0) \wedge \bigwedge w (w < \underline{h}(\underline{m}) \supset \sim A(\underline{m}, w, 0)) \urcorner$ .

*First conjunct:* By the definition of  $h$ , we know that  $f(m, h(m)) = 0$ , for every  $m$ . And so, by the representability of  $f$ , we know that  $\vdash_H \ulcorner A(\underline{m}, \underline{h}(\underline{m}), 0) \urcorner$ .

*Second conjunct:* Suppose for conditional proof that  $w < h(m)$ , for an arbitrary  $w$ . Then, by the definition of  $h$  and  $f$ ,  $f(m, w) \neq 0$ . So by the strong representation of  $f$ ,  $\vdash_H \ulcorner \sim A(\underline{m}, \underline{w}, 0) \urcorner$ . Thus, by logical axioms,  $\vdash_H \ulcorner \underline{w} < \underline{h}(\underline{m}) \supset \sim A(\underline{m}, \underline{w}, 0) \urcorner$ . Since  $\underline{w}$  is arbitrary, universal generalization secures that  $\vdash_H \ulcorner \bigwedge w (w < \underline{h}(\underline{m}) \supset \sim A(\underline{m}, w, 0)) \urcorner$ .<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Caveat: System H does not allow universal generalization in the form I just used. Instead, the maneuver above would require several more steps, but I'm just skipping all that.