

# Under what reducibilities are KLR and MLR Medvedev equivalent?

David J. Webb

Department of Mathematics, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Midwest Computability Seminar

## Open Question

Do Martin-Löf randomness (MLR) and Kolmogorov-Loveland randomness (KLR) coincide?

**Known:** If  $A \in \text{MLR}$ , then  $A \in \text{KLR}$ . So  $\text{KLR} \leq_s \text{MLR}$ .

## Theorem 1 (Merkle et al.)

If  $A = A_0 \oplus A_1$  is KL-random, then at least one of the  $A_i$  is ML-random.

**Corollary:** As mass problems,  $\text{MLR} \leq_w \text{KLR}$ .

**Question:** (Miyabe) Is there a uniform reduction?

## Theorem 2

As mass problems,  $\text{MLR} \leq_s \text{KLR}$ .

**Proof Idea:** Output bits from  $A_i$ , switching whenever  $A_i$  “doesn’t seem random”.

- $A_i \in \text{MLR}$  iff  $\exists c \forall n \forall s K_s(A_i \upharpoonright n) \geq n - c$ .
- Approximate  $K(A_i \upharpoonright n)$  from above by  $K_s(A_i \upharpoonright n)$ .
- Test values of  $c$ , starting at  $c = 0$ .
- If at a stage  $s + 1$ , an  $n \leq s + 1$  has  $K_{s+1}(A_i \upharpoonright n) < n - c_s$ , switch to outputting  $A_{1-i}$  and set  $c_{s+1} = c_s + 1$ .



Only  $2n$  bits of  $A$  are needed to compute  $\Phi^A(n)$ . So in fact  $\text{MLR} \leq_{s,tt} \text{KLR}$ .

## Definition

$\Phi^X$  is a truth-table reduction if there is a computable function  $f$  such that for each  $n$  and  $X$ ,  $n \in \Phi^X$  iff  $X \models \sigma_{f(n)}$ .

- $\{\sigma_n \mid n \in \omega\}$  is a uniformly computable list of all the finite propositional formulas in variables  $v_1, v_2, \dots$
- The variables in  $\sigma_n$  are  $v_{n_1}, \dots, v_{n_d}$ , where  $d$  depends on  $n$ .
- $X \models \sigma_n$  if  $\sigma_n$  is true with  $X(n_1), \dots, X(n_d)$  substituted for  $v_{n_1}, \dots, v_{n_d}$ .

## Question

For what reducibilities  $*$  is it true that  $\text{MLR} \leq_{s,*} \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$ ?

## Definition

$\text{Either}(\mathcal{C}) = \{A \oplus B : A \in \mathcal{C} \text{ or } B \in \mathcal{C}\}$

# Reducibilities

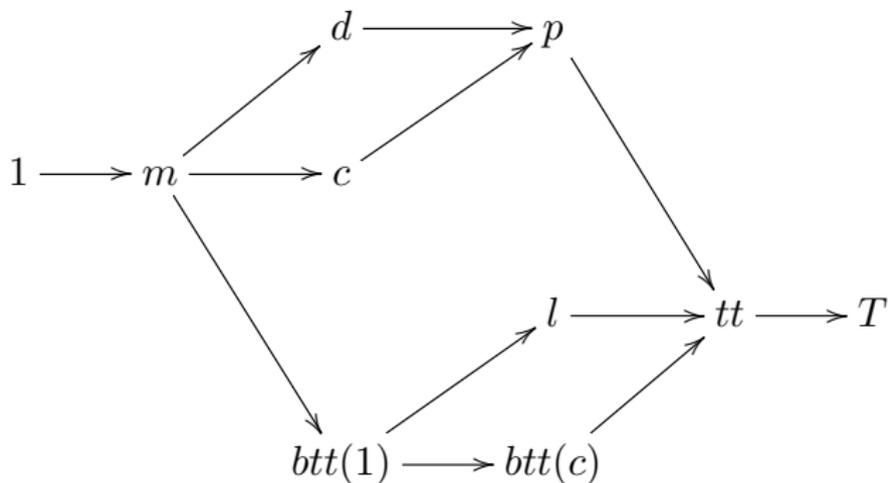


Figure: Reducibilities related to  $tt$

## Theorem

Positive, linear, and bounded truth-table reductions do not witness  $\text{MLR} \leq_s \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$

# Positive Reducibility Cannot Be Used

Here each  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  is a CNF of the form  $\bigwedge_{k=1}^{t_n} \bigvee_{i=1}^{m_k} v_{f(n),i,k}$ .

**Proof: Case 3:** There are infinitely many tables  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  such that every  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{m_k}$  contains an **odd** literal.

- Let  $A = R \oplus 1$ , so  $A \in \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$ .
- $A \models \sigma_{f(n)}$ , as every disjunct in such a  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  is true.
- It is computable to determine if  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  is of this form.
- $\Phi^A \notin \text{IM} \supseteq \text{MLR}$ .

**Case 4:** For almost all tables  $\sigma_{f(n)}$ , there is a  $\bigvee_{i=1}^{m_k}$  containing only **even** literals.

- Set  $A = 0 \oplus R$ .
- $A \not\models \sigma_{f(n)}$ , as some disjunct is false.
- $|\Phi^A| < \infty$ , so  $\Phi^A$  is computable.

# Linear Reducibility Cannot Be Used

Now each  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  is of the form  $\bigoplus_{k=1}^{t_n} v_{f(k)}$ .

## Definition

Let  $v_{n_i}$  appear in  $\sigma_{f(n)}$ . Say that  $n_i$  is a *fresh* bit if for  $m < n$ ,  $v_{n_i}$  does not appear in  $\sigma_{f(m)}$ .

**Proof:** If  $\Phi^X$  only queries finitely many bits, it is computable regardless of  $X$ . So suppose a fresh bit can always be found.

- Without loss of generality, infinitely many of these are even.
- Changing a single bit of any  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  changes the output of the table.
- For fresh even  $n_i$ , ensure  $\bigoplus_{k=1}^{t_n} v_{f(k)} = 1$ .
- Set the odd bits of  $A$  to be random.
- It is computable to search for fresh even bits, so  $\Phi^A \notin \text{IM} \supseteq \text{MLR}$ .

## Definition

$Q(n) = \{v_{n_1}, \dots, v_{n_d}\}$ , the set of variables in  $\sigma_{f(n)}$

## Definition

$C \subseteq Q(n)$  controls  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  if some truth assignment of  $C$  ensures  $\sigma_{f(n)} = \top$ .

**Example:**  $\{p, q\}$  controls  $(p \vee q) \rightarrow r$  via the assignment  $p = q = \perp$ .  $\{r\}$  can also control the formula via  $r = \top$ .

The proof strategy for  $btt(c)$  relies on two ideas that appeared in earlier proofs:

- Computationally search for  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  with fresh  $Q(n)$
- Try to assign them to control  $\sigma_{f(n)}$

# Bounded Truth-Table Reducibility Fails

There are at most  $c$  variables in each  $\sigma_{f(n)}$ .

**Proof Sketch:** We may assume  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  is constant (i.e.  $\top$  or  $\perp$ ) only finitely often. Induct on  $c$ .

For the base case  $c = 1$ , each table queries at most one variable. So controlling these tables is easy!

If only finitely many tables query a fresh bit,  $\Phi^X$  is computable. Instead assume  $\Phi^X$  infinitely often queries a fresh bit - without loss, an even bit. Control these. Set the odd bits of  $A$  to be random.

The computable search for fresh even bits always finds another, so  $\Phi^A$  has an infinite computable subset and is not immune.

## $btt(c)$ fails: Induction Step

Now assume that for any  $btt(d)$  reduction with  $d < c$ , there is an  $B \in \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$  that defeats it.

### The Greedy Algorithm for Fresh Bits

Search for indices  $n$  such that  $\sigma_{f(n)}$  only queries fresh bits as follows:

- $n_0 = 0$
- $n_{i+1}$  is the least  $n$  such that  $Q(n) \cap \bigcup_{k < i} Q(n_k) = \emptyset$ .

If this search succeeds, we have an infinite computable set whose tables we can try to control. **But what if the search fails?**

## $btt(c)$ fails: IS: Search Fails

- If the search fails, then for some  $N$ , all greater  $n$  have that  $Q(n) \cap \bigcup_{k < N} Q(n_k) \neq \emptyset$ .
- So  $\Phi$  is using information from  $H = \bigcup_{k < N} Q(n_k)$  over and over again. Fixing  $H$ ,  $\Phi$  acts as a  $btt(d)$ -reduction,  $d < c$ .
- $\sigma_g(n)$  is the table  $\sigma_f(n)$  with all  $v_{n_i} \in H$  replaced by  $\perp$ . This defines a  $\Psi^X$  that acts as  $\Phi^X$  on reals  $A$  with  $A \cap H = \emptyset$ .
- Each table  $\sigma_{g(n)}$  has  $|Q(n)| < c$ . Use the induction hypothesis to get  $B \in \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$  with  $\Psi^B \notin \text{MLR}$ .
- Define  $A = B \setminus H$ .  $A \in \text{Either}(\text{MLR})$  as MLR is closed under finite differences.  $\Phi^A = \Psi^B \notin \text{MLR}$ .

Finally, assume we have access to a computable set of indices  $n_i$  such that the  $Q(n_i)$  are disjoint.

**Case 1:** There are infinitely many  $n_i$  such that some  $C(n_i)$  containing only even bits controls  $\sigma_{f(n_i)}$ .

- By assumption, the  $C(n_i)$  are disjoint, so we may set their bits without issue to get  $A \models \sigma_{f(n_i)}$ .
- Set the odd bits of  $A$  to be random.
- The greedy algorithm guarantees  $\Phi^A$  is not immune.

**Case 2:** Almost all of the  $\sigma_{f(n_i)}$  cannot be controlled by subset  $C(n) \subseteq Q(n)$  containing only even bits.

- Set the **even** bits of  $A$  to be random.
- For almost all  $n_i$ , no matter how the even bits are fixed, we can assign odd bits in  $Q(n_i)$  so that  $A \not\models \sigma_{f(n_i)}$ .
- The greedy algorithm guarantees  $\Phi^A$  is not co-immune.

# Final Comments

These  $tt$ -reduction generalizes easily to any number of finite columns  $A_0 \oplus A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n$  or even the infinite case  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$  (where only one column is random).

Our proofs are really about bi-immunity:

## Theorem

If  $* \in \{p, l, btt(c)\}$ , then  $\text{BIM} \not\leq_{s,*} \text{Either}(\text{BIM})$ .

## Corollary

If  $* \in \{p, l, btt(c)\}$ , then  $1G \not\leq_{s,*} \text{Either}(1G)$ .

## Questions:

- Does  $\leq_s$  hold in either of these cases?
  - Does  $\leq_{s,tt}$ ?
- What techniques could strengthen  $\text{MLR} \leq_{s,*} \text{KLR}$  to other reducibilities?

# References

-  Bjørn Kjos-Hanssen and David J. Webb.  
KL-randomness and effective dimension under strong reducibility.  
In *Connecting with Computability*, pages 457–468, Cham, 2021.  
Springer International Publishing.
-  Wolfgang Merkle, Joseph S. Miller, André Nies, Jan Reimann, and Frank Stephan.  
Kolmogorov-Loveland randomness and stochasticity.  
*Ann. Pure Appl. Logic*, 138(1-3):183–210, 2006.
-  Kenshi Miyabe.  
Muchnik degrees and Medvedev degrees of randomness notions.  
In *Proceedings of the 14th and 15th Asian Logic Conferences*, pages 108–128. World Sci. Publ., Hackensack, NJ, 2019.
-  Piergiorgio Odifreddi.  
Strong reducibilities.  
*Bulletin (New Series) of the American Mathematical Society*, 4(1):37 – 86, 1981.