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Commentationes Mathematicae Universitatis Carolinae, Vol. 7 (1966), No. 3, 401--409

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/105072>

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AN UNDECIDABLE THEOREM CONCERNING FULL EMBEDDINGS INTO
CATEGORIES OF ALGEBRAS

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Similarly as in [3], a category which is isomorphic with a full subcategory of algebras is called boundable. In [4] J.R. Isbell raised a question to find a concrete category which is not boundable. The aim of the present note is to show that the boundability of a category depends on the used set theory. The category, given as an example, is the category of sets with inclusions. It is not boundable in a (rather odd) set theory and boundable in a usual one, in which the last result implies e.g. the following theorem: to any set A there exists a grupoid (graph, topological space, resp.) $G(A)$ such that $A \subset B$ is equivalent with the existence of exactly one homomorphism (graph-homomorphism, local homeomorphism, resp.) from $G(A)$ into $G(B)$ and if $A \not\subset B$, then it does not exist.

In any set theory, the inclusions as morphisms and sets as objects form a category, which we designate by \mathcal{N}_2 . By a concrete category we mean any category, which is isomorphic with a subcategory of sets and their mappings \mathcal{P} . Evidently, \mathcal{N}_2 is a concrete category. It turns out that the boundability of \mathcal{N}_2 depends substantially on the

following axiom:

(V) There is one-to-one mapping F of the universal class V onto the class of all ordinals O_n .

We shall work in the set theory Σ_o^* , i.e. in the Gödel-Bernays set theory with the axioms of groups A, B, C and the axiom of choice E . We shall need also the following axiom:

(M) There is a cardinal σ such that two valued σ -additive measure on any set is γ -additive for any cardinal γ .

The main result of this note may be described by two theorems:

Theorem 1. In the set theory $\Sigma_o^* + (V) + (M)$, \mathfrak{R}_i^2 is boundable.

Theorem 2. In the set theory $\Sigma_o^* + (non V)$, \mathfrak{R}_i^2 is not boundable.

It is easy to see that, if Σ_o^* is consistent, $\Sigma_o^* + (M) + (V)$ is consistent. Really, it follows from the consistency of Σ_o^* that Σ^* (Σ^* denotes $\Sigma_o^* +$ the axiom of regularity D) is consistent. The axiom (V) is provable in Σ^* . Denote by (I) the following axiom:

(I) There exists an inaccessible cardinal.

Then, if Σ^* is consistent, $\Sigma^* + (M)$ is consistent, as e.g. Σ^* consistent implies $\Sigma^* + (non I)$ is consistent, and in the last theory (M) is provable even for $\sigma = \aleph_0$.

If $\Sigma_o^* + (I)$ is consistent, then $\Sigma_o^* + (non V)$ is consistent. Really, in the set theory $\Sigma_o^* + (I)$ it

is possible to construct a model of $\Sigma_0^* + (\text{non } V)$.

Thus, we may derive the following corollary:

Corollary. If (I) is undecidable in Σ_0^* , then the assertion " \mathcal{N}_i is boundable" is undecidable in Σ_0^* .

To prove theorem 1, we use a result of [3] and the construction defined in [1]. The idea of the proof of theorem 2 is very simple.

Proof of theorem 1.

Denote by \mathcal{O} the following category: the objects are all non-limit ordinals, α , $\alpha > 1$. On every object - we remark that, by definition, an ordinal α is the set of all ordinals, β , $\beta < \alpha$ - there is exactly one morphism, namely the identity transformation of α , and there are no other morphisms in \mathcal{O} .

Lemma 1. Assuming (M), \mathcal{O} is a boundable category. Hence, \mathcal{O} is isomorphic with a full subcategory of \mathcal{R} (for definition see [2] or [3]).

Proof. We shall show that \mathcal{O} is a full subcategory of $\mathcal{P}((P^-, \{2\}), (I, \{1\}))$ defined in [3].

Really, in [3] it has been proved that the category \mathcal{M} - the trivial category of ordinals - is a full subcategory of $\mathcal{P}(P^-, \{2\})$ by introduction of a binary relation κ on $P^-(\alpha)$, α an arbitrary ordinal. If α is a non-limit ordinal, define on $P^-(\alpha)$ the binary relation κ , and a unary relation on α "to be the greatest element of α ". If α, β are non-limit ordinals, $f: \alpha \rightarrow \beta$, then $P^-(f)$ is compatible with the relations κ if and only if $\alpha \leq \beta$ and f is a natural

inclusion. Now, $f: \alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{P}((P^-, \{2\}), (I, \{1\}))$, if and only if $\alpha \leq \beta$, f is a natural inclusion and the last element in α is sent by f into the last element of β . Hence, $\alpha = \beta$. By [3], $\mathcal{P}((P^-, \{2\}) (I, \{1\}))$ is boundable, and by [2], \mathcal{U} can be fully embedded into \mathcal{R} .

Definition of disjoint sum of sets and relations. Let

K be a class of ordinals. For every $\alpha \in K$, let X_α be a set, R_α a binary relation on X_α . If A is a set, $A \subset K$, we define a set $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha$ (a disjoint union)

by:

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha = \{ (x, \alpha) \mid \alpha \in A, x \in X_\alpha \},$$

and a binary relation $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} R_\alpha$ on $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha$ by:

$$((x, \alpha), (y, \beta)) \in \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} R_\alpha \iff \alpha = \beta, (x, y) \in R_\alpha.$$

We designate by K_0 the class of all non-limit ordinals α , $\alpha > 1$.

Lemma 2. There exists a class of couples (X_α, R_α) , X_α a set, R_α a binary relation on X_α , $\alpha \in K_0$, with the following property:

if $A, B \subset K_0$ are sets, $f: \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha \rightarrow \bigcup_{\beta \in B} X_\beta$ such

that

$$(1) ((x, \alpha), (y, \alpha')) \in \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} R_\alpha \implies (f((x, \alpha)), f((y, \alpha'))) \in \bigcup_{\beta \in B} R_\beta,$$

then $A \subset B$ and $f((x, \alpha)) = (x, \alpha)$ for every

$$(x, \alpha) \in \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} X_\alpha.$$

Proof. By lemma 1, \mathcal{U} is isomorphic with a full subcategory of \mathcal{R} . It means that, with every $\alpha \in K_0$, we may associate a set Y_α and a binary relation S_α on Y_α such that if $\alpha, \beta \in K_0$, $f: Y_\alpha \rightarrow Y_\beta$ which is

$S_\alpha S_\beta$ -compatible, then $\alpha = \beta$ and f is the identity transformation. We remark that these sets and relations need not fulfil the condition of lemma 2.

If R is a binary relation on a set X , we define a relation \hat{R} on X by: $(x, x') \in \hat{R}$ if and only if one of the following conditions holds: $x = x'$, $(x, x') \in R$, $(x', x) \in R$. A couple (x, x') is called to belong to the same component according to \hat{R} - we write $(x, x') \in C(\hat{R})$ - if there exists a finite sequence x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n such that $x = x_1$, $x' = x_n$, $(x_i, x_{i+1}) \in \hat{R}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$. The relation $C(\hat{R})$ is an equivalence relation and their equivalence classes are called components of R . Evidently, every compatible mapping sends each component into a component. A relation R on X is called connected, if there is only one equivalence class according to $C(\hat{R})$, namely X .

Observe, that if all relations S_α on Y_α , $\alpha \in K_0$, are connected, then they fulfil the condition of lemma 2. Really, by definition of $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$, (x, α) and (y, β) cannot be in the relation $C(\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha)$ for $\alpha \neq \beta$. Hence, the components according to $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ are exactly the sets $\{(x, \alpha) \mid \alpha \text{ fixed, } x \text{ arbitrary in } Y_\alpha\}$. By definition, the relation $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ restricted to the component of $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ defined by α is isomorphic with the relation S_α on Y_α . Now, let f fulfil the implication (1) of the lemma. Then f must map every component of $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ according to $\bigcup_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ into a component of $\bigcup_{\beta \in B} Y_\beta$ according to

$\prod_{\beta \in B} S_\beta$. As the components are isomorphic with (Y_α, S_α) , we get that, for every $\alpha \in A$, there is $\beta \in B$ such that the restriction of $\prod_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha$ onto a component defined by α - say f_α - is a mapping from Y_α into Y_β which is $S_\alpha S_\beta$ -compatible. But it is possible if and only if $\alpha = \beta$ and f_α is the identity. Hence, lemma 2 would be proved, if all the relations S_α on Y_α are connected. But, generally, the relations need not be connected. It is the reason, why we use the construction from [1], which will change all the relations into connected ones, leaving them all the useful properties.

If S_α is a relation on a set Y_α , we define a set X_α and a relation R_α on X_α by the construction in [1] putting $X = Y_\alpha$, $i = 1$, $R_1 = S_\alpha$ (this is the reason why we have assumed $\alpha \in K_0$ implies $\alpha > 1$), $t_1 = 2$, $X_T = X_\alpha$, $R_T = R_\alpha$. Using the same method as in [1] it is easy to prove that $f: X_\alpha \rightarrow X_\beta$, $\alpha, \beta \in K_0$, is a $R_\alpha R_\beta$ -compatible mapping if and only if $\alpha = \beta$ and f is the identity. Moreover, by definition, it is evident that every R_α , $\alpha \in K_0$, is a connected relation. Hence, the relations R_α on X_α fulfil the requirements of lemma 2.

Now, we can complete the proof of theorem 1.

Let F be a one-to-one mapping of the universal class V into the class of all non-limit ordinals K_0 , $\alpha \in K_0$ implies $\alpha > 1$. Hence, for any set X , we get an ordinal $\alpha = F(X)$, $\alpha \in K_0$. Put $G(X) = X_{F(X)}$, $H(X) = R_{F(X)}$,

where X_α and R_α have the properties from lemma 2. Now, if Y is a set, put

$$S(Y) = \bigcup_{X \in Y, X \neq \emptyset} G(X), \quad R(Y) = \bigcup_{X \in Y, X \neq \emptyset} H(X)$$

(if we consider only non-void sets, the void set in the union may be omitted). It follows from lemma 2, that, if Y_1 and Y_2 are sets, then there exists a $R(Y_1) \rightarrow R(Y_2)$ -compatible mapping from $S(Y_1)$ into $S(Y_2)$ if and only if $Y_1 \subset Y_2$, which is then the natural inclusion of $S(Y_1)$ into $S(Y_2)$. We have constructed a full embedding of \mathcal{N}_2 into \mathcal{K} . It has been proved in [2], that \mathcal{K} can be fully embedded into the category of algebras with e.g. two unary operations. The proof of theorem 1 is completed.

Proof of theorem 2. First, we shall prove a lemma.

Lemma 3. In the set theory Σ_o^* , any class of mutually non-isomorphic algebras of an arbitrary fixed type can be mapped by a one-to-one mapping into the class of all ordinals O_n .

Proof. Let Δ be the type of the algebras. As any algebra is isomorphic with an algebra defined on a cardinal α , we may consider only algebras defined on cardinals. If α is a cardinal, then there is only a set $M(\alpha)$ of algebras of the type Δ defined on α . If $\alpha \neq \beta$, then $M(\alpha) \cap M(\beta) = \emptyset$. Denote by S_α the set of all well orderings of M_α , $S = \bigcup S_\alpha$, where the sum is taken over cardinals. By the axiom of choice, there exists a function AS associating with every cardinal α

a well ordering $K(\alpha)$ of the set $M(\alpha)$. Put $M = \cup M_\alpha$. If $\eta \in M$ there is exactly one cardinal α such that $\eta \in M(\alpha)$. We designate this cardinal by $\eta(\alpha)$. Now, define on M a lexicographical ordering \prec by:

$x \prec y, x, y \in M$ if and only if $x(\alpha) < y(\alpha)$ or $x(\alpha) = y(\alpha) = \alpha$ and $x < y$ in the ordering $K(\alpha)$.

The ordering \prec is evidently a well ordering, and, for every x , the class of all $y, y \prec x$, is a set. Hence, the class M can be mapped by a one-to-one mapping into \mathcal{O}_n . The lemma follows.

Lemma 3 enables us to conclude the proof of the theorem 2. Consider the class of all one-element sets Z . There is one-to-one mapping G of the universal class V onto Z , namely $G(X) = \{X\}$, for every $X \in V$. By assumption, there is no one-to-one mapping of V into \mathcal{O}_n .

If \mathcal{N}_i is boundable, then for any one point set $\{X\}$ we get an algebra $A(X)$ of a fixed type Δ . If X, Y are sets, $X \neq Y$, then $\{X\} \notin \{Y\}$ and $\{Y\} \notin \{X\}$. Therefore $A(X)$ and $A(Y)$ must not be isomorphic. By lemma 3, any class of non-isomorphic algebras of a given type may be mapped by one-to-one mapping into \mathcal{O}_n . Hence, Z can be mapped by a one-to-one mapping into \mathcal{O}_n - a contradiction. The proof of theorem 2 is finished.

Remark. If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{L} are subcategories of the category of sets and mappings \mathcal{N} , $F: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ a functor which maps \mathcal{A} onto a full subcategory of \mathcal{L} , F is called limited, if for every cardinal α , there is a cardinal β such that $\text{card } X = \alpha$ implies $\text{card } F(X) \leq \beta$.

Evidently, \mathcal{V}_i may be considered as a subcategory of \mathcal{V} . On the other hand, it is easy to see that \mathcal{V}_i cannot be fully embedded into \mathcal{R} by a limited functor. Thus, the functor which maps \mathcal{V}_i onto a full subcategory of \mathcal{R} in the set theory $\Sigma_0^* + (V) + (M)$ is an example of a functor which is not limited.

R e f e r e n c e s

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(Received May 23, 1966)