

# The computational content of Zorn's lemma

Thomas Powell

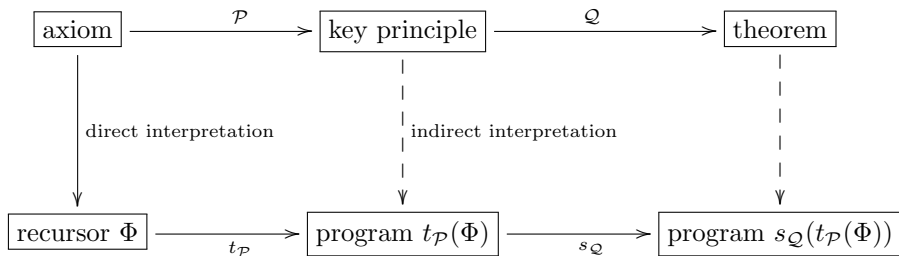
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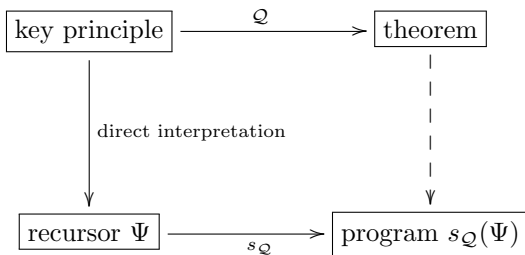
PROOF, COMPUTATION, COMPLEXITY (PCC 2016)  
SPECIAL SESSION DEDICATED TO ULRICH BERGER

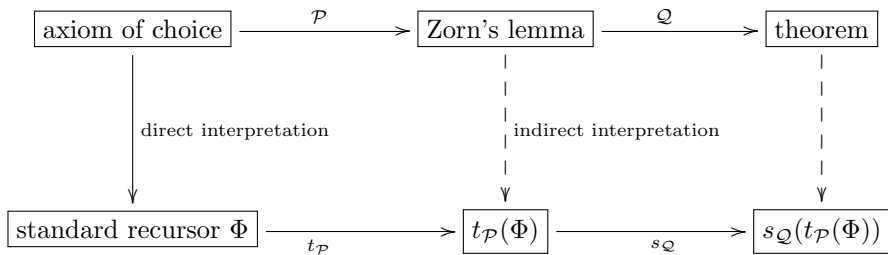
LMU Munich  
Germany  
5 May 2016

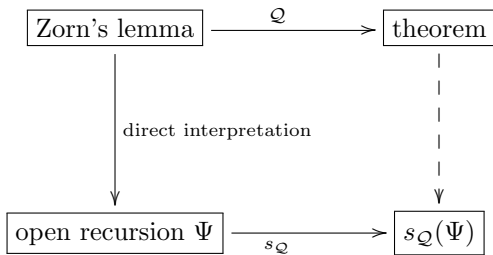
# Outline

- 1 Past: The realizability interpretation of open induction
- 2 Present: A functional interpretation of open induction
- 3 Future: Open questions on open induction









A partial order  $(X, <)$  is *chain complete* if every non-empty chain  $\gamma$  has a greatest lower bound  $\bigwedge \gamma$ .

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A predicate  $O$  is *open* if  $O(\bigwedge \gamma) \rightarrow \exists x \in \gamma O(x)$ .

Equivalently,  $\forall x \in \gamma \neg O(x) \rightarrow \neg O(\bigwedge \gamma)$  i.e. the set  $S := \{x \in X : \neg O(x)\}$  is chain complete.



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By Zorn's lemma, if  $S \neq \emptyset$  then  $S$  has a minimal element:

$$\exists x \neg O(x) \rightarrow \exists y (\neg O(y) \wedge \forall z < y O(z)).$$

A partial order  $(X, \prec)$  is *chain complete* if every non-empty chain  $\gamma$  has a greatest lower bound  $\bigwedge \gamma$ .

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$$\exists x \neg O(x) \rightarrow \exists y (\neg O(y) \wedge \forall z \prec y O(z)).$$

The contrapositive of this is the principle of *open induction* is given by

$$\forall y (\forall z \prec y O(z) \rightarrow O(y)) \rightarrow \forall x O(x).$$

Open induction is a generalisation of induction to non well-founded relations  $\prec$ , but it now only works for open formulas.

Consider  $(X^{\mathbb{N}}, <_{\text{lex}})$  where

$$\alpha <_{\text{lex}} \beta := \exists n (\bar{\alpha}n = \bar{\beta}n \wedge \alpha(n) < \beta(n)).$$

The relation  $<_{\text{lex}}$  is not well-founded, but it is chain-complete.

Call a predicate  $O$  on  $X^{\mathbb{N}}$  piecewise if  $O(\alpha) := \exists k \varphi(\bar{\alpha}k)$  for  $\varphi$  quantifier-free. Then  $O$  is open w.r.t.  $<_{\text{lex}}$ .

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Lexicographic open induction  $\text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$  is defined to be open induction over  $<_{\text{lex}}$  where  $O$  ranges over piecewise formulas i.e.

$$\text{OI}_{\text{lex}} : \forall \alpha (\forall n, x < \alpha(n), \beta O(\bar{\alpha}n * x @ \beta) \rightarrow O(\alpha)) \rightarrow \forall \alpha O(\alpha).$$

where

$$\bar{\alpha}n * x @ \beta := \alpha(0), \dots, \alpha(n-1), x, \beta(n+1), \beta(n+2), \dots$$

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$\text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$  is classically equivalent to countable dependent choice, but can be used to give very short and elegant proofs to many theorems in mathematics e.g. Kruskal's theorem.

## Berger (2004):

Define open recursion to be recursion over  $<_{\text{lex}}$ , where the output type is restricted to being  $\mathbb{N}$ :

$$\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}^F(\alpha) =_{\mathbb{N}} F_{\alpha}(\lambda n, x, \beta . \text{OR}_{\text{lex}}^F(\bar{\alpha}n * x @ \beta) \text{ if } x < \alpha(n)).$$

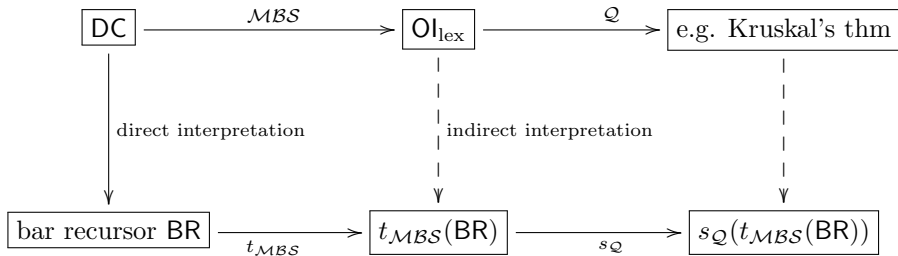
Then there is a term  $\Phi$  definable in  $T + \text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  such that  $\Phi \text{ mr } \text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$ , provably in the model of continuous functionals  $\mathcal{C}^{\omega}$ .

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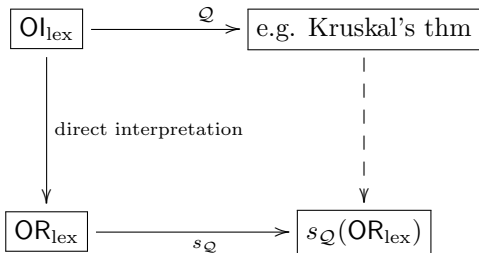


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Let's take another look at the open recursor:

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Why does this make sense, even though  $<_{\text{lex}}$  is not well-founded?

Because in continuous models, totality of  $\text{OR}^F(\alpha)$  only depends on a finite initial segment of  $\bar{\alpha}n$  of  $\alpha$ , i.e. totality is a piecewise and therefore an *open* formula.

So just as well-founded recursion can be justified via well-founded induction, open recursion  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  can be justified by open induction  $\text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$  *plus* continuity.

**IMPORTANT REMARK.** If the outcome type of  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  is not discrete e.g.  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}(\alpha) : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  is not well-defined in general.

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Suppose we want to give a computational interpretation to induction over some well-founded relation  $<$ , for a  $\Sigma_1^0$ -formula  $\exists i|P|_x^i$ . Realizability takes the following approach:

$$\forall y(\forall z < y \exists k|P|_z^k \rightarrow \exists j|P|_y^j) \rightarrow \forall x \exists i|P|_x^i$$

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The output type of  $\Phi$  is the same as the type of  $i$ , so if  $i: \mathbb{N}$  (as for a piecewise open formula) then  $\Phi Fx : \mathbb{N}$ . Roughly speaking, this is how we extend well-founded induction to open induction (although there plenty of details)!

Now consider the functional interpretation of well-founded induction (it's not necessary to follow all of the details!)

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Now consider the functional interpretation of well-founded induction (it's not necessary to follow all of the details!)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \forall y (\forall z < y \exists k |P|_z^k \rightarrow \exists j |P|_y^j) \rightarrow \forall x \exists i |P|_x^i \\
\rightsquigarrow & \forall y, \phi (\forall z < y |P|_z^{\phi z} \rightarrow \exists j |P|_y^j) \rightarrow \forall x \exists i |P|_x^i \\
\rightsquigarrow & \forall y, \phi \exists j, z ([z < y \rightarrow |P|_z^{\phi z}] \rightarrow |P|_y^j) \rightarrow \forall x \exists i |P|_x^i \\
\rightsquigarrow & \exists F \forall y, \phi ([F_1 y \phi < y \rightarrow |P|_{F_1 y \phi}^{\phi(F_1 y \phi)}] \rightarrow |P|_y^{F_0 y \phi}) \rightarrow \forall x \exists i |P|_x^i \\
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\rightsquigarrow & \exists \Phi \forall F, x \left\{ \begin{array}{l} ([F_1(\Phi_{1,2} F x) \phi < \Phi_1 F x \rightarrow |P|_{F_1(\Phi_{1,2} F x)}^{(\Phi_2 F x)(F_1(\Phi_{1,2} F x))}] \rightarrow |P|_{\Phi_1 F x}^{F_0(\Phi_{1,2} F x)}) \\ \rightarrow |P|_x^{\Phi_0 F x} \end{array} \right.
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\end{aligned}$$

The output type of  $\Phi$  must now encode  $i, y, \phi$  i.e. is at least a function type.

How do we extend the realizability interpretation of  $\text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$  via  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  to the setting of the functional interpretation?

FIRST CHALLENGE. The recursive equations that must be solved are completely different:

$$\exists \Phi (\forall F [\forall y, \phi (\forall z < y |P|_z^{\phi z} \rightarrow |P|_y^{Fy\phi}) \rightarrow \forall x |P|_x^{\Phi Fx}])$$

□ vs □

$$\exists \Phi \forall F, x \left\{ \begin{array}{l} ([F_1(\Phi_{1,2}Fx)\phi < \Phi_1Fx \rightarrow |P|_{F_1(\Phi_{1,2}Fx)}^{(\Phi_2Fx)(F_1(\Phi_{1,2}Fx))}] \rightarrow |P|_{\Phi_1Fx}^{F_0(\Phi_{1,2}Fx)}) \\ \rightarrow |P|_x^{\Phi_0Fx} \end{array} \right.$$

SECOND CHALLENGE. The output type of the open recursor will now be  $> 0$ , so open recursion  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$  will no longer be valid in  $\mathcal{C}^\omega$ .

Suppose that  $G : Y^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is continuous. Then for any  $f : Y^{\mathbb{N}}$  there is some point  $n$  such that

$$G(\overline{f, n}) < n$$

where  $\overline{f, n} = f(0), \dots, f(n-1), 0, 0, 0, \dots$

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Let  $N_{G,f}$  be the least such  $n$ . Then  $\overline{f, N_{G,f}}$  is primitive recursively definable as

$$\overline{f, N_{G,f}} = \lambda m. \begin{cases} f(m) & \text{if } \forall k \leq m (G(\overline{f, k}) \geq k) \\ 0_Y & \text{if } \exists k \leq m (G(\overline{f, k}) < k) \end{cases}$$



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Define the explicitly controlled open recursor by

$$\text{OR}_{\text{exp}}^{F,G}(\alpha) =_Z F(\underbrace{[\alpha \mid \lambda n, x < \alpha(n), \beta . \text{OR}_{\text{exp}}^{F,G}(\bar{\alpha}n * x @ \beta)]}_{f}, N_{G,f}).$$

This is similar to Berger's  $\text{OR}_{\text{lex}}$ , but now totality is controlled explicitly using an additional functional  $G$ . As a result, the output type  $Z$  can be arbitrary.

## P. (STILL IN A DRAWER)

There is a term  $\Phi$  definable in  $T + \text{OR}_{\text{exp}}$  which solves the functional interpretation of  $\text{OI}_{\text{lex}}$ .

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### The algorithmic behaviour of the term $\Phi$

The open recursive realizer  $\Phi$  can be viewed as a learning procedure which computes a ‘minimal element’ in the chain complete partial order  $\{\alpha \in X^{\mathbb{N}} : \neg O(\alpha)\}$ .

Learning and the functional interpretation will form the theme of my talk in M4C next week...

# Outline

- 1 Past: The realizability interpretation of open induction
- 2 Present: A functional interpretation of open induction
- 3 Future: Open questions on open induction

## Q1 (APPLIED PROOF THEORY)

Can we utilise either the realizability or functional interpretations of  $\mathbf{O}1_{\text{lex}}$  to extract short, intuitive open recursive programs from proofs in mathematics that use Zorn's lemma in this form?

Potential candidates:

WQO THEORY: Higman's lemma and more generally Kruskal's theorem.

ABSTRACT ALGEBRA: Krull's theorem, Wiener's theorem.

## Q2 (HIGHER ORDER COMPUTABILITY)

What is the strength of explicitly controlled open recursion  $\text{OR}_{\text{exp}}$ ?

Open recursion in the sense of Berger is not S1-S9 computable in the Kleene-Kreisel continuous functionals, as it defines the Gandy-Hyland  $\Gamma$ -functional (P. 2014), and is thus stronger than bar recursion in the sense of Spector.

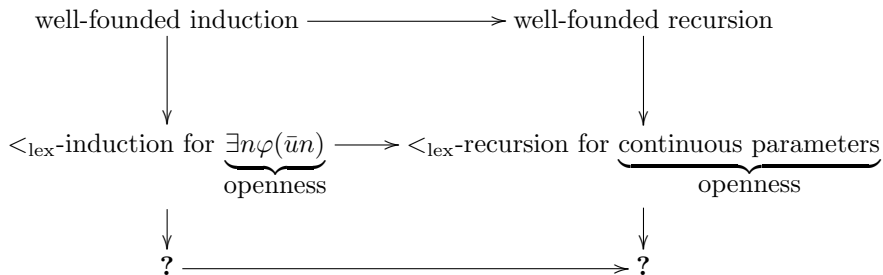
CLAIM.  $\text{OR}_{\text{exp}}$  is S1-S9 computable, and primitive recursively equivalent to Spector's bar recursion. In particular, the type 1 lexicographically recursive functions are precisely the provably recursive functions of  $\text{PA} + \text{DC}$ .

## Q3 (PROOF THEORY/TPOLOGY)

Can we give a functional interpretation to instances of open induction/Zorn's lemma over chain-complete partial orders more complex than  $<_{\text{lex}}$ ?

Logic

Recursion





- Berger's computational interpretation of open induction contains a number highly novel ideas, in particular a new form of higher-type recursion and a new approach to extracting programs from proofs which use Zorn's lemma.
- These ideas have since been lifted to several different settings, and the related forms of recursion studied.
- More importantly, they have prompted many interesting open questions in mathematics, computer science, proof theory and computability theory.