

## COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIPOS Part IB – 2025 – Paper 6

### 4 Computation Theory (tgg22)

These questions deal with the theory of partial recursive functions.

Given a subset  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , its characteristic function  $\chi_S \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is given by

$$\chi_S(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in S \\ 0 & x \notin S. \end{cases}$$

We say that  $S$  is *decidable* if  $\chi_S$  is a total recursive function.

A set  $S$  will be called *recursively enumerable* if it is empty or there is a total recursive function  $f$  such that

$$S = \{f(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Note that it may be that  $f(n) = f(m)$  for some  $m \neq n$ . That is, the enumeration may involve repeats.

- (a) Are all total partial recursive functions primitive recursive? [2 marks]
- (b) Suppose that  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is decidable. Prove that  $S$  is recursively enumerable. [6 marks]
- (c) Prove that a set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is decidable if and only if both  $S$  and its complement  $\overline{S}$  are recursively enumerable. [6 marks]
- (d) Provide a complete proof that the set  $S_0 = \{e \mid \phi_e(0) \downarrow\}$  is recursively enumerable but its complement is not. [6 marks]