

Computability Assignment

Year 2013/14 - Number 1

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1 Question

Define a binary property $p(x, y)$ over natural numbers that satisfies both the requisites:

1. $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}. \exists y \in \mathbb{N}. p(x, y)$ and
2. *it is false that* $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \exists x \in \mathbb{N}. p(x, y)$

Provide a definition for p , and a proof for the above claims.

1.1 Answer

Let's define $p(x, y) = x < y$, in that case the both the requisites are satisfied:

1. For $x = 0$ the formula in 1 is satisfied because $\exists y \in \mathbb{N}. p(0, y)$ holds ($p(0, y)$ is satisfied $\forall y \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$). For the general case indeed taking $x = n$ for a generic $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the property holds for $y = n + 1$ so the property 1 is satisfied.
2. For proving that 2 holds we need to prove that $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \exists x \in \mathbb{N}. p(x, y)$ is false. In order to do that is enough to find an $y \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\neg \exists x \in \mathbb{N}. p(x, y)$. For $y = 0$ in fact doesn't exist an $x \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x < 0$ because $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. So $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \exists x \in \mathbb{N}. p(x, y)$ is false and the the second property holds.