
Finitely non-standard models of Robinson arithmetic

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To the best of my knowledge, there is no systematic study of finitely non-standard models of Robinson arithmetic¹---that is, there is no systematic study of those models of Robinson arithmetic that have a non-empty finite set of non-standard numbers. I have made a modest attempt at such a systematic study (Lundstedt, 2025).

The main results are that for each such finitely non-standard model:

- The successor function is a permutation of the set of non-standard numbers (this follows trivially from the axioms). As is well-known, each permutation of a finite set has a unique decomposition into cycles on disjoint orbits.

- The restriction of addition to

$$\{\langle a, n \rangle : a \text{ non-standard, } n \text{ standard}\}$$

is “tame”, in the sense that this restriction is determined already by the permutation given by the successor function:

$$\begin{aligned} a+n &= \\ &\text{the result of starting at } a \text{ and taking } n \text{ steps in its} \\ &\text{cycle.} \end{aligned}$$

¹ I work with Robinson's (1950) original axiomatization:

$$\begin{aligned} Sx &\neq 0 \\ Sx = Sy &\rightarrow x = y \\ x = 0 &\vee \exists y: x = Sy \\ x+0 &= x \\ x+Sy &= S(x+y) \\ x \times 0 &= 0 \\ x \times Sy &= x \times y + x. \end{aligned}$$

- The restriction of addition to

$$\{\langle \alpha, a \rangle : \alpha \text{ standard or non-standard, } a \text{ non-standard}\}$$

is “wild”. Contrary to the previous restriction, this one is not determined by the successor function, but subject to some constraints---in particular, its range may only consist of non-standard numbers.

- Similar to the case of addition, the restriction of multiplication to

$$\{\langle a, n \rangle : a \text{ non-standard, } n \text{ standard}\}$$

is determined by the successor function and addition, whereas the restriction of multiplication to

$$\{\langle \alpha, a \rangle : \{\alpha \text{ standard or non-standard, } a \text{ non-standard}\}$$

is not uniquely determined (by the successor function and addition), but subject to some constraints.

REFERENCES

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