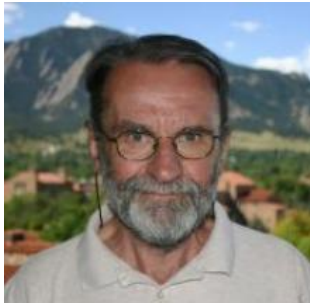


Omitting Types



“Any fool can realize a type, but it takes a model theorist to omit one.” —from Saturated Model Theory, G. Sacks

Omitting Types Theorem. (A. Ehrenfeucht.) Let T be a satisfiable theory in a countable language L . If Φ is a countable set of unsupported partial types over T . There is a countable model of T that omits all types in Φ .

Idea: Copy Henkin’s proof of the Completeness Theorem to extend T to a complete theory T_∞ with witnesses.

As the construction progresses, for each $p \in \Phi$, ensure that for every tuple \mathbf{c} of constants, $\neg\varphi(\mathbf{c})$ is added to T_∞ for some formula with $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) \in p$.

The Henkin model cannot realize any type in Φ , because we forced that.

Organization of proof for $\Phi = \{p\}$ a single n -type

- 1 Let L_∞ be the language obtained from L by adding countably many new constant symbols.
- 2 Enumerate with ω all L_∞ -sentences: $\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \dots$
- 3 Enumerate with ω all n -tuples of constant symbols $\mathbf{c}_0, \mathbf{c}_1, \dots$
- 4 Construct a sequence of increasingly stronger L_∞ -sentences $\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots$

Goals:

- 1 $T \cup \{\theta_i \mid i \in \omega\}$ is a Henkin L_∞ -theory.
- 2 The Henkin model omits p .

Want T_∞ to

(1) be complete, (2) have witnesses, (3) omit p

We decide θ_{i+1} depending on the strength of $T \cup \{\theta_i\}$.

① (Stage $i = 3k + 1$: ensuring completeness)

Decide which of $\sigma_k, \neg\sigma_k$ to put in T_∞ :

If $i + 1 = 3k + 1$, and $T \cup \{\theta_i\} \models \sigma_k$, then let $\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i \wedge \sigma_k$, else let $\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i \wedge \neg\sigma_k$.

② (Stage $i = 3k + 2$: ensuring witnesses)

Assume that σ_k is $(\exists x)\varphi(x)$ where $T \cup \{\theta_i, (\exists x)\varphi(x)\}$ is consistent.

Choose a constant c that does not appear in $T \cup \{\theta_i\}$.

Let $\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i \wedge \varphi(c)$.

If $T \cup \{\theta_i, (\exists x)\varphi(x)\}$ is not consistent, do nothing. ($\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i$.)

① (Stage $i = 3k + 3$: ensuring type omission)

Let \mathbf{c}_k be the next n -tuple to be considered.

Write θ_i so that it is a statement about \mathbf{c}_k :

Let $\gamma(x_1, \dots, x_n, \mathbf{y})$ be the formula obtained from sentence θ_i by (i) replacing each $c_{k,i}$ with x_i and (ii) replacing every other constant d_j from θ_i with some variable y_j . So θ_i is $\gamma(\mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{d})$.

Then $\delta(\mathbf{x}) = (\exists \mathbf{y})\gamma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ is an L -formula, which cannot support p .

There must exist $\psi(\mathbf{x}) \in p$ such that $T \not\models (\forall \mathbf{x})(\delta(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \psi(\mathbf{x}))$.

Hence, some model M of T has a tuple \mathbf{s} realizing $\delta(\mathbf{x})$ that does not realize $\psi(\mathbf{x})$.

Interpret $\mathbf{c}_k = \mathbf{s}$. $M \models \delta(\mathbf{c}_k) = (\exists \mathbf{y})\gamma(\mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{y})$, so there is a choice for \mathbf{d} so that $M \models \gamma(\mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{d}) = \theta_i$.

$M_{\mathbf{cd}}$ is a model of $T \cup \{\theta_i\}$ in which $M \not\models \psi(\mathbf{c}_k)$.

Let $\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i \wedge \neg\psi(\mathbf{c}_k)$.

$$T_\infty = T \cup \{\theta_i \mid i \in \omega\}.$$

T is a Henkin theory in which no tuple of constants realizes p .

The Henkin model will not realize p . \square

Remark.

Theorem is false as stated for uncountable languages.

Example. Let L be a language with constants only,

$$\{c_i \mid i \in \omega\} \cup \{d_j \mid j \in \omega_1\}.$$

Let T be the theory axiomatized by sentences saying that all constants interpret differently (e.g. $c_i \neq c_j$, $c_i \neq d_j$, $d_i \neq d_j$).

Let $p(x)$ be the partial 1-type consisting of all $(x \neq c_i)$.

p is not supported, but cannot be omitted.

A carefully worded restatement of the theorem is true for uncountable languages.