

ON THE STRUCTURE OF COMPUTABLE REDUCIBILITY ON EQUIVALENCE RELATIONS OF NATURAL NUMBERS

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Abstract. We examine the degree structure \mathbf{ER} of equivalence relations on ω under computable reducibility. We examine when pairs of degrees have a least upper bound. In particular, we show that sufficiently incomparable pairs of degrees do not have a least upper bound but that some incomparable degrees do, and we characterize the degrees which have a least upper bound with every finite equivalence relation. We show that the natural classes of finite, light, and dark degrees are definable in \mathbf{ER} . We show that every equivalence relation has continuum many self-full strong minimal covers, and that $\mathbf{d} \oplus \mathbf{Id}_1$ needn't be a strong minimal cover of a self-full degree \mathbf{d} . Finally, we show that the theory of the degree structure \mathbf{ER} as well as the theories of the substructures of light degrees and of dark degrees are each computably isomorphic with second-order arithmetic.

§1. Introduction. The study of the complexity of equivalence relations has been a major thread of research in diverse areas of logic. The most popular way for evaluating this complexity is by defining a suitable reducibility. A reduction of an equivalence relation R on a domain X to an equivalence relation S on a domain Y is a (nice) function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$x R y \Leftrightarrow f(x) S f(y).$$

That is, f pushes down to an injective map on the quotient sets $X_R \mapsto Y_S$. It is natural to impose a bound on the complexity of the reduction f , as otherwise, if the size of X_R is not larger than the size of Y_S , then the Axiom of Choice alone would guarantee the existence of a reduction from R to S ; thus we would not be able to distinguish equivalence relations with the same number of equivalence classes. In the literature, there are two main definitions for this reducibility, designed to deal, respectively, with the uncountable case and the countable case:

- In descriptive set theory, *Borel reducibility* (\leq_B) is defined by assuming that X and Y are Polish spaces and f is Borel.
- In computability theory, *computable reducibility* (\leq_c) is defined by assuming that $X = Y$ coincide with the set ω of natural numbers and f is computable.

The theory of Borel equivalence relations (as surveyed in, e.g., [15, 17]) is a central field of modern descriptive set theory and it shows deep connections with topology, group theory, combinatorics, model theory, and ergodic theory—to name a few.

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Research on computable reducibility dates back to the work of Ershov [11, 12] and the theory of numberings. It concentrates on two main focuses: first, to calculate the complexity of natural equivalence relations on ω , proving, e.g., that provable equivalence in Peano Arithmetic is Σ_1^0 -complete [9], Turing equivalence on c.e. sets is Σ_4^0 -complete [18], and the isomorphism relations on several familiar classes of computable structures (e.g., trees, torsion abelian groups, and fields of characteristic 0 or p) are Σ_1^1 -complete [14]; secondly, to understand the structure of the collection of equivalence relations of a certain complexity Γ (e.g., lying at some level of the arithmetical [10], analytical [8], or Ershov hierarchy [7, 21]).

Regarding the latter focus, computably enumerable equivalence relations—known by the acronym *ceers* [16], or called *positive* equivalence relations in the Russian literature—received special attention. Historically, the emphasis was on combinatorial classes of *universal ceers*, i.e., ceers to which all other ceers computably reduce (see, e.g., [1, 2]). But recently, there has been a growing interest in pursuing a systematic study of **Ceers**, the poset of degrees of ceers, whose structure turns out to be extremely rich. Andrews, Schweber, and Sorbi [4] proved that the first-order theory of **Ceers** is as complicated as true arithmetic (see also [5] for a structural analysis of **Ceers** focused on joins, meets, and definability).

In this paper, we focus rather on **ER**, the poset of degrees of *all* equivalence relations with domain ω . Our interest in **ER** is twofold.

On the one hand, we want to explore to what extent techniques coming from the theory of ceers can be applied to equivalence relations of arbitrary complexity. Some proofs will move smoothly from **Ceers** to **ER** (proving that the underlying results are independent from the way in which the equivalence relations are presented), but the analogy between the two structures often breaks down (see, e.g., Theorem 3.8), or new ideas will be required to recast analogous results from the setting of ceers (see, e.g., Theorem 2.21).

On the other hand, we regard **ER** as a natural structure, interesting and worth studying *per se*. After all, **ER** is to **Ceers** as, e.g., the global structure of all Turing degrees (\mathcal{D}_T) is to the local structure of c.e. degrees (\mathcal{R}_T)—and we consider it only a historical anomaly that, for equivalence relations, the local structure has been analyzed in great detail with no parallel investigation of the global structure.

We add a final piece of motivation. Dealing with a seemingly distant problem (i.e., Martin's conjecture), Bard [6] recently proved that \mathcal{D}_T is Borel reducible to **ER**. This may be regarded as evidence that **ER** is complex. In this paper, we push this analysis further by fully characterizing the complexity of the theory of **ER** (Theorem 4.1).

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In the remainder of this section, we offer a number of preliminaries to make the paper self-contained. In Section 2, we focus on first-order definability of some natural fragments of **ER** and analyze when least upper bounds exist. In Section 3, we study minimal and strongly minimal covers of equivalence relations, and we also introduce generic covers. Through this study, we exhibit many disanalogies between **ER** and **Ceers**. Finally, in Section 4, we show that the first-order theory of **ER** (and in fact, that of two natural fragments of **ER**) is as complex as possible, being computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic.

Our computability theoretic terminology and notation is standard, and as in [24].

1.1. Preliminary material. Throughout this subsection we assume that R and S are equivalence relations. The R -equivalence class of a natural number x is denoted by $[x]_R$. For a set $A \subseteq \omega$, the R -saturation of A (i.e., $\bigcup_{x \in A} [x]_R$) is denoted by $[A]_R$. We denote the collection of all R -equivalence classes by ω_R . If f is a computable function witnessing that $R \leq_c S$, then we write $f: R \leq_c S$. If $f: R \leq_c S$, then f^* is the injective mapping from ω_R to ω_S induced by f . In our proofs, it will sometimes be useful to consider the *orbit* of a number or of an equivalence class along all iterations of a given reduction: for $x \in \omega$ and $X \in \omega_R$, denote by $\text{orb}_f(x)$ the set $\{f^{(i)}(x) : i > 0\} \subseteq \omega$ and by $\text{orb}_f(X)$ the set $\{f^{*(i)}(X) : i > 0\} \subseteq \omega_R$. The following lemma, which is immediate to prove, will be used many times in the paper, often implicitly.

LEMMA 1.1. *Let $f: R \leq_c S$. For all $X \in \omega_R$, $X \leq_m f^*(X)$ so also $X \leq_m S$.*

DEFINITION 1.2. For any nonempty c.e. set W and equivalence relation R , we let $R \upharpoonright W$ be the equivalence relation given by $x R \upharpoonright W y$ if and only if $h(x) R h(y)$, where $h: \omega \rightarrow W$ is any computable surjection (note that up to \equiv_c , the definition does not depend on the choice of surjection h).

REMARK 1.3. For any nonempty c.e. set W and equivalence relation R , observe that h (as in the definition) gives a reduction of $R \upharpoonright W$ to R , which we call the inclusion map. Also, if $f: X \leq_c Y$, then $X \equiv_c Y \upharpoonright \text{range}(f)$.

If $f: R \leq_c S$ and $\text{range}(f) \cap X \neq \emptyset$ for some $X \in \omega_S$, then we say that f hits X ; otherwise, we say that f avoids X . We say that R is *self-full* if every reduction of R to itself hits all elements of ω_R . The notion of self-fullness plays a prominent role in the theory of ceers (see, e.g., [3–5]). To name just a couple of examples: the degrees of self-full ceers are definable in **Ceers**, as they coincide with the nonuniversal degrees which are meet-irreducible; moreover, the existence of self-full strong minimal covers is fundamental to prove that the first-order theory of the degrees of light ceers is computably isomorphic to true arithmetic.

By the notation $f \oplus g$, we denote the following function:

$$f \oplus g(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & \text{if } x \text{ is even,} \\ g(x), & \text{if } x \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

The *uniform join*¹ $R \oplus S$ is the equivalence relation that encodes R on the evens and S on the odds, i.e., $x R \oplus S y$ if and only if either $x = 2u, y = 2v$, and $u R v$; or $x = 2u + 1, y = 2v + 1$, and $u S v$. For the sake of exposition, we often say R -classes (respectively, S -classes) for the equivalence classes of $R \oplus S$ consisting of even (odd) numbers. The operation \oplus is clearly associative, up to \equiv_c , so we will generally be lax and write expressions such as $R_0 \oplus \dots \oplus R_n$.

The following easy lemma was stated for ceers in [4, Fact 2.3] but goes through for arbitrary equivalence relations with exactly the same proof.

LEMMA 1.4. *If $X \leq_c R \oplus S$, then there are $R_0 \leq_c R$ and $S_0 \leq_c S$ such that $X \equiv_c R_0 \oplus S_0$.*

¹To avoid potential ambiguities between the terms “uniform join” and “join,” we use the term “least upper bound” to refer to a join of degrees in the poset **ER**.

PROOF. Let $f : X \leq_c R \oplus S$ and denote $\text{range}(f)$ by W . Then

$$X \equiv_c R \oplus S \upharpoonright W \equiv_c R \upharpoonright V_1 \oplus S \upharpoonright V_2,$$

where $V_1 := \{x : 2x \in W\}$ and $V_2 := \{x : 2x + 1 \in W\}$. ⊣

If $A \subseteq \omega \times \omega$, then R/A is the equivalence relation generated by the set of pairs $R \cup A$. We say that R/A is a *quotient* of R , and a quotient is *proper* if $R/A \neq R$. To improve readability, we often omit braces, e.g., writing $R_{(x,y)}$ instead of $R_{\{(x,y)\}}$. Of particular interest for this paper will be quotients of uniform joins. A quotient $R \oplus S/A$ is *pure* if it does not collapse distinct R -classes, or distinct S -classes, i.e.,

$$R \oplus S/A \upharpoonright \text{Evens} = R \oplus S \upharpoonright \text{Evens} \text{ and } R \oplus S/A \upharpoonright \text{Odds} = R \oplus S \upharpoonright \text{Odds} .$$

The quotient $R \oplus S/A$ is a *total* quotient if every odd number is equivalent to an even number and vice versa.

LEMMA 1.5. *Every pure quotient of $R \oplus S$ is an upper bound of R and S .*

PROOF. Assume that $R \oplus S/A$ is pure. It is immediate to observe that R is computably reducible to $R \oplus S/A$ via the function $x \mapsto 2x$ and S is computably reducible to $R \oplus S/A$ via the function $x \mapsto 2x + 1$. ⊣

LEMMA 1.6. *Let $R \oplus S/A$ be a total quotient of $R \oplus S$. Suppose that $f : X \leq_c R \oplus S/A$ and $\text{range}(f) \cap \text{Odds}$ is finite. Then $X \leq_c R$.*

PROOF. For each $x \in \text{range}(f) \cap \text{Odds}$, fix an even number x' so that $x R \oplus S/A x'$. Let

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & \text{if } f(x) \text{ is even,} \\ f(x)', & \text{if } f(x) \text{ is odd,} \end{cases}$$

and observe that h is a reduction of X to $R \oplus S/A$ with range contained in the evens, so $x \mapsto \frac{h(x)}{2}$ is a reduction of X to R . ⊣

Let us now fix notation for some natural families of equivalence relations of natural numbers. They will serve as benchmark relations for our structural analysis of **ER**. Some terminology naturally generalizes from the theory of ceers (see, e.g., [5]).

- Define Id_n by $x \text{ Id}_n y$ if $x \equiv y \pmod n$. Define $\text{Id} = \text{Id}_\omega$ by $x \text{ Id } y$ if $x = y$. For convenience in inductive arguments, we also consider Id_0 to be the empty relation. We define \mathcal{I} to be the family of equivalence relations that are equivalent to some Id_n for $1 \leq n \in \omega$.
- An equivalence relation R is *finite*, if R has finitely many equivalence classes². Otherwise R is *infinite*. \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F}_n denote respectively the family of all finite equivalence relations and the family of equivalence relations with exactly n equivalence classes. Observe that each element of \mathcal{F}_2 naturally encodes a set and its complement: $E(X) \in \mathcal{F}_2$ denotes the equivalence relation consisting of exactly two classes, X and \bar{X} .

²This terminology, which is standard in the theory of ceers, differs from usage in descriptive set theory, where finite equivalence relations are those with all equivalence classes being finite. In [16], ceers with all equivalence classes being finite are called *FC* (standing for *finite classes*).

- An equivalence relation R is *light* if $\text{Id} \leq_c R$. It is easy to see that the light equivalence relations are exactly the infinite equivalence relations which have a computable *transversal*, i.e., a computable sequence $\{x_i\}_{i \in \omega}$ of pairwise nonequivalent numbers;
- An equivalence relation R is *dark* if R is infinite and $\text{Id} \not\leq_c R$.
- For each of these families, the boldface version represents the collection of **ER**-degrees containing members of the class. For example, \mathcal{F} is the set of degrees of finite equivalence relations, **Dark** is the set of degrees of dark equivalence relations, etc.

As is clear from the above, **ER** is partitioned into \mathcal{F} , **Light**, and **Dark**. Moreover, $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$. Inside **ER**, computable equivalence relations can be readily characterized.

OBSERVATION 1.7 [16, Propositions 3.3 and 3.4]. *The degrees of computable equivalence relations form an initial segment of **ER** of order type $\omega + 1$, and are exactly $\mathcal{I} \cup \{\text{Id}\}$.*

PROOF. First, note that

$$\text{Id}_1 < \dots < \text{Id}_n < \text{Id}_{n+1} < \dots < \text{Id}.$$

So, the family $\mathcal{I} \cup \{\text{Id}\}$ of equivalence relations has order type $\omega + 1$.

Let R be a computable equivalence relation. Then the set

$$S := \{x : \min[x]_R = x\}$$

is computable. Let $S = \{c_0 < c_1 < c_2 < \dots\}$. Then the function which sends each $[c_i]_R$ to i is a computable function giving a reduction of R to $\text{Id}_{|\omega_R|}$ (letting $\text{Id}_\omega = \text{Id}$). Further, this function is onto the classes of $\text{Id}_{|\omega_R|}$ and the inverse function on classes is also computable, so $R \equiv_c \text{Id}_{|\omega_R|}$. ⊣

The following is an easy, but useful fact about taking a uniform join with Id_1 , and how it essentially “cancels out” collapsing a computable class with another class.

LEMMA 1.8. *If E is an equivalence relation with a computable class C , and B is any other E -class, then $E_{/(\min C, \min B)} \oplus \text{Id}_1 \equiv_c E$.*

PROOF. To show $E_{/(\min C, \min B)} \oplus \text{Id}_1 \leq_c E$, let $f : E_{/(\min C, \min B)} \leq_c E$ be defined by sending every element of C to $\min B$ and be the identity on \overline{C} . Then notice that the class of C is avoided by f . This lets us extend f to a reduction of $E_{/(\min C, \min B)} \oplus \text{Id}_1 \leq_c E$ by sending the Id_1 -class to the class C in E . The function $g(x) = 2x$ for every $x \notin C$ and $g(x) = 1$ for $x \in C$ gives a reduction $g : E \leq_c E_{/(\min C, \min B)} \oplus \text{Id}_1$. ⊣

Note that **Ceers**, \mathcal{F} , and $\bigcup_{i \leq n} \mathcal{F}_i$ for each n are each initial segments of **ER**. An obvious elementary difference between **Ceers** and **ER** is that the former degree structure is bounded and the latter is not.

OBSERVATION 1.9. ***ER** has a least element, but no maximal element.*

PROOF. Every constant function computably reduces Id_1 to any given equivalence relation. Hence, Id_1 is the least degree of **ER**. On the other hand, for a given R , let X be $\text{deg}_T(R)$ and consider $E(X')$. We have that $E(X') \not\leq_c R$, as otherwise X' would

be $\leq_m R$ by Lemma 1.1, but R is strictly Turing below X' . So, $R <_c R \oplus E(X')$ and R is not maximal. \dashv

We now turn to some facts about dark equivalence relations. The next two lemmas are adapted from the setting of ceers [5, Lemmas 4.6 and 4.7]. The proof is essentially the same.

LEMMA 1.10. *Dark equivalence relations are self-full.*

PROOF. Let R be dark. Suppose that there is $f : R \leq_c R$ which avoids a given $X \in \omega_R$. Let $x \in X$ and consider $\text{orb}_f(x)$. From the fact that f is a self-reduction of R and $X \not\subseteq \text{range}(f^*)$, it follows that $\text{orb}_f(x)$ is a c.e. infinite transversal of R , contradicting the darkness of R . \dashv

LEMMA 1.11. *If R is dark, then R is not reducible to any of its proper quotients.*

PROOF. Towards a contradiction, suppose that a dark R is reducible to one of its proper quotients $R_{/A}$, via some f . Note that, since R is dark, $R_{/A}$ must be infinite. Now, let $X, Y \in \omega_R$ be two equivalence classes that are collapsed in $R_{/A}$ and choose $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$. We claim that at least one of $\text{orb}_f(x)$ or $\text{orb}_f(y)$ cannot intersect $X \cup Y$. Indeed, suppose that $i, j > 0$ are minimal so that $\{f^{(i)}(x), f^{(j)}(y)\} \subseteq X \cup Y$, and, without loss of generality, suppose $i \geq j$. Since X and Y are collapsed in $R_{/A}$, we have that $f^{(i)}(x) R_{/A} f^{(j)}(y)$. But since $f : R \leq_c R_{/A}$ and $R_{/A} \supseteq R$, this would imply that $f^{(i-j)}(x) R y$, which either contradicts $x \not\mathcal{R} y$, if $i = j$, or contradicts the minimality of i , if $i > j$.

So, one can assume that $\text{orb}_f(x) \cap (X \cup Y) = \emptyset$. Now suppose that, for $i > j$, $f^{(i)}(x) R f^{(j)}(x)$. Reasoning as above, we obtain that $f^{(i-j)}(x) R x$, a contradiction. Hence, $\text{orb}_f(x)$ would be a c.e. transversal of R . But this contradicts the darkness of R . \dashv

We now introduce the dark minimal equivalence relations.

DEFINITION 1.12. An equivalence relation R is *dark minimal* if it is dark and its degree is minimal over \mathcal{F} , i.e., if $S <_c R$ then S is finite.

Dark minimal equivalence relations exist (see [5, Theorem 4.10] for examples of dark minimal ceers) and they will occur several times in this paper, as their combinatorial properties will facilitate our study of the logical complexity of **ER**. We conclude the preliminaries highlighting a couple of fundamental features of dark minimal equivalence relations.

LEMMA 1.13. *Let R be a dark minimal equivalence relation. Let W be a c.e. set which intersects infinitely many R -classes. Then W must intersect every R -class.*

PROOF. Suppose W intersects infinitely many R -classes. Consider the equivalence relation $R \upharpoonright W$ and note that $R \upharpoonright W \equiv_c R$ since $R \upharpoonright W$ is not in \mathcal{F} and R is minimal over \mathcal{F} . Thus, we have reductions $R \leq R \upharpoonright W \leq R$ with the second reduction given by inclusion. Since R is dark, it is self-full by Lemma 1.10, so the reduction of R to itself through $R \upharpoonright W$ must hit every R -class. In particular, W must intersect every R class. \dashv

For the next lemma, recall that two sets of natural numbers A, B are *computably separable* if there is a computable set C such that $A \subseteq C$ and $C \cap B = \emptyset$.

LEMMA 1.14. *Let R be a dark minimal equivalence relation. Then the elements of ω_R are pairwise computably inseparable.*

PROOF. Let C be any computable set. Either C or $\omega \setminus C$ intersects infinitely many R -classes. Thus by Lemma 1.13, either C or $\omega \setminus C$ intersects every R -class, so C cannot separate two R -classes. \dashv

§2. Definability in ER and existence of least upper bounds. A natural way of understanding the logical complexity of a structure is by exploring which of its fragments are definable. In this section, we show that many natural families of equivalence relations are first-order definable without parameters.

2.1. Defining the class of finite equivalence relations. In the case of ceers, the equivalence relations with finitely many equivalence classes are easily characterized: A ceer R has n equivalence classes if and only if $R \equiv_c \text{Id}_n$. Hence in **Ceers**, \mathcal{F} coincides with \mathcal{I} (and therefore it has order type ω). These form an initial segment of **Ceers** and they are definable as the collection of nonuniversal ceers which are comparable to every ceer.

In **ER**, the picture is much more delicate. For the moment, just observe that $\mathcal{F} \not\subseteq \mathcal{I}$: to see this, take $E(X)$ with X noncomputable. Moreover, while Id bounds \mathcal{I} , no equivalence relation can bound \mathcal{F} (see the proof of Observation 1.9).

We will show that \mathcal{I} is definable in **ER** as the collection of degrees which have a least upper bound with any other degree, and from that definition will easily follow that \mathcal{F} is also definable. To obtain this result, throughout this section we will focus on the existence of least upper bounds of equivalence relations, obtaining several structural results of independent interest.

The following lemma describes the shape of a potential least upper bound of equivalence relations. An upper bound T of equivalence relations R, S is *minimal* if there is no upper bound V of R, S such that $V <_c T$.

LEMMA 2.1. *Suppose $f : R \leq_c T$ and $g : S \leq_c T$. Then there is a pure quotient U of $R \oplus S$ and reductions $f_0 : R \leq_c U$ given by $f_0(x) = 2x$ and $g_0 : S \leq_c U$ given by $g_0(x) = 2x + 1$ and $h : U \leq_c T$ so that $f = h \circ f_0$ and $g = h \circ g_0$.*

In particular, if T is a minimal upper bound of equivalence relations R and S , then T is equivalent to a pure quotient of $R \oplus S$.

PROOF. Let $f : R \leq_c T$, $g : S \leq_c T$, and $A := \{(2x, 2y + 1) : f(x) T g(y)\}$. Then $R \oplus S/A$ is a pure quotient of $R \oplus S$. Now, observe that $R \oplus S/A \leq_c T$ via the function $h = f \oplus g$. And observe that $f = h \circ (x \mapsto 2x)$ and $g = h \circ (x \mapsto 2x + 1)$. \dashv

In **ER**, to have a least upper bound is a rather strong property. The next result will state that any pair of equivalence relations which are sufficiently incomparable cannot have a least upper bound.

DEFINITION 2.2. Define $R \leq_F S$, if there is computable set A so that $R \upharpoonright A \leq_c S$ and $R \upharpoonright \bar{A}$ is finite.

Obviously, \leq_c -reducibility implies \leq_F -reducibility. The converse does not hold as there are \leq_c -incomparable $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$, but $X \equiv_F Y$.

THEOREM 2.3. *If R and S are equivalence relations which are \leq_F -incomparable, then R and S do not have a least upper bound in **ER**.*

Proof. Suppose towards a contradiction that T is the least upper bound for R and S . By Lemma 2.1, we can assume that T is a pure quotient of $R \oplus S$. We will build by stages another pure quotient $V (= \bigcup V_s)$ of $R \oplus S$ such that $T \not\leq V$, contradicting the supposition. To do so, we let V_0 be $R \oplus S$ and, at further stages, we will collapse R -classes and S -classes in V to diagonalize against all potential reductions from T to V . We note that we are constructing V to be c.e. in the Turing degree $\text{deg}_T(R) \vee \text{deg}_T(S) \vee \text{deg}_T(T) \vee \mathbf{0}'$.

2.1.1. The construction. At stage s , we may restrain some V_s -classes so that, at the end of the construction, they will be V -classes. When we say that numbers are restrained, we mean that they come from restrained classes.

2.1.2. Stage 0. Let $V_0 := R \oplus S$. Do not restrain any equivalence class.

2.1.3. Stage $e + 1$. If φ_e is nontotal, let $V_{e+1} := V_e$. Otherwise, search for a pair of distinct numbers (u, v) such that $\varphi_e(u) \downarrow = x_e, \varphi_e(v) \downarrow = y_e$, and

- (a) either $u \equiv_T v \not\equiv x_e \equiv y_e$,
- (b) or $u \not\equiv v$ and x_e and y_e have different parity and they are both unrestrained.

We will show in Claim 2.4 that such a pair will always be found. If the outcome is (a), let $V_{e+1} := V_e$ and restrain the V_e -classes of x_e and y_e . If the outcome is (b), let $V_{e+1} := V_e / (x_e, y_e)$ and we restrain the common V_{e+1} -class of x_e and y_e .

2.1.4. The verification. The verification relies on the following claim.

CLAIM 2.4. *The action defined at stage $e + 1$ (i.e., the search of a pair of numbers satisfying either (a) or (b)) always terminates.*

PROOF. Suppose that there is a stage $e + 1$ at which no pair (u, v) is found. This means that φ_e is total and $\varphi_e : T \leq_c V_e$; otherwise, we would reach outcome (a). Next, observe that φ_e cannot hit infinitely many equivalence classes of both $V_e \upharpoonright \text{Evens}$ and $V_e \upharpoonright \text{Odds}$; otherwise, since only finitely many equivalence classes are restrained at each stage and V_e coincides with $R \oplus S/A$ for a finite set A , there would be a pair of numbers of different parity which are unrestrained and we would reach outcome (b).

So, without loss of generality, assume that φ_e hits only finitely many classes in $V_e \upharpoonright \text{Odds}$. Let f be the following partial computable function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\varphi_e(x)}{2}, & \varphi_e(x) \text{ is even,} \\ \uparrow, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We have that $f : T \upharpoonright \text{dom}(f) \leq_c R$ and $T \upharpoonright \overline{\text{dom}(f)}$ is finite. Thus, $T \leq_F R$. Since $S \leq_c T$ and $T \leq_F R$, we obtain that $S \leq_F R$, which contradicts the fact that R and S are \leq_F -incomparable. ⊥

It follows from the above construction that V is a pure quotient of $R \oplus S$. In particular, every time we collapse an odd with an even class, we restrain all members

of that class, so it cannot be part of any future collapse. Hence, by Lemma 1.5, V is an upper bound of R and S . Towards a contradiction, assume that $T \leq_c V$ via some φ_i . Claim 2.4 ensures that the action defined at stage $i + 1$ terminates with either disproving that φ_i is a reduction from T to V_i or by providing two equivalence classes that will be V -collapsed to diagonalize against φ_i . That is, the restraints and the fact that V is a quotient of V_i guarantee that $\varphi_i: T \not\leq_c V$, a contradiction.

COROLLARY 2.5. *No dark equivalence relation has a least upper bound with Id.*

PROOF. It suffices to show that no dark equivalence relation R can be F -comparable with Id. On the one hand, note that $\text{Id} \upharpoonright A \equiv \text{Id}$ for any cofinite A and thus $\text{Id} \upharpoonright A \not\leq_c R$ since R is dark. Therefore $\text{Id} \not\leq_F R$. On the other hand, suppose $R \upharpoonright A \leq_c \text{Id}$ with $R \upharpoonright \bar{A}$ finite. Observe that $R \upharpoonright A \not\equiv_c \text{Id}$, as otherwise R would be light because $\text{Id} \leq_c R \upharpoonright A \leq_c R$. So, $R \upharpoonright A <_c \text{Id}$ and, by Observation 1.7, this means that $R \upharpoonright A$ is finite. As $R \upharpoonright \bar{A}$ is also finite, it follows that R is finite, contradicting its darkness. \dashv

Obviously, if $R \in \mathcal{F}$, then R is F -reducible to any given equivalence relation S . This property does not guarantee that R has a least upper bound with every other equivalence relation (see Theorem 2.20). The next lemma says that the finite equivalence relations are the only ones which are F -comparable with any other equivalence relation.

LEMMA 2.6. *If R is infinite, then there is an infinite S so that R and S are \leq_F -incomparable.*

PROOF. If R is dark, let S be Id and use Corollary 2.5. If R is light, then let S be any dark equivalence relation such that $\{Y \in \omega_S : Y \not\leq_m R\}$ is infinite. We will show that such S exists after verifying its \leq_F -incomparability with R .

Note that if $R \upharpoonright \bar{A}$ is finite, then $R \upharpoonright A$ must be light, because R is light. It follows that $R \not\leq_F S$. Next, let A be so that $S \upharpoonright \bar{A}$ is finite. There exists $[y]_S \subseteq A$ which is not $\leq_m R$. But, by Lemma 1.1 this shows that $S \upharpoonright A \not\leq_c R$.

To see that such an S exists, we begin with any dark ceer S_0 and we partition ω_{S_0} into infinitely many infinite families \mathcal{M}_i . Next, define

$$\mathcal{N}_i := \left\{ \bigcup_{I \in \mathcal{J}} I : \text{for } \mathcal{J} \subseteq \mathcal{M}_i \right\}.$$

Each \mathcal{N}_i is obviously uncountable and so it contains a set X_i whose m -degree does not reduce to the degree of R . Let S be a quotient of S_0 such that $X_i \in \omega_S$, for all i . Since a quotient of a dark equivalence relation is dark, this S satisfies our requirements. \dashv

Combining the last lemma with Theorem 2.3, we immediately obtain the following.

COROLLARY 2.7. *If R is infinite, then there is an infinite S so that R fails to have a least upper bound with S .*

It might seem at this point that any pair of degrees ought to not have a least upper bound, but we now show that there are pairs of infinite degrees which have a least upper bound.

THEOREM 2.8. *There are incomparable equivalence relations $R, S \notin \mathcal{F}$ which have a least upper bound.*

PROOF. Let R_0 be a dark equivalence relation with all computable classes (the existence of such equivalence relation follows from, e.g., [16, Proposition 5.6]) and let $S_0 \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \mathcal{I}$. Let $R := R_0 \oplus \text{Id}$ and $S := S_0 \oplus \text{Id}$. First, we note that R and S are incomparable. Indeed, on the one hand, there must be a noncomputable S -class, since $S_0 \notin \mathcal{I}$. By Lemma 1.1, this suffices to guarantee that $S \not\leq_c R$, as all R -classes are computable. On the other hand, suppose that $i : R \leq_c S$. Then, the following c.e. set

$$\{x : i(2x) \in \text{Odds and, for all } y < x, i(2x) \neq i(2y)\}$$

would be an infinite transversal of R_0 , contradicting its darkness.

Next, we will prove that $R \oplus S \equiv_c R_0 \oplus S_0 \oplus \text{Id}$ is a least upper bound of R and S . Let U be any equivalence relation with reductions $f_0 : R \leq_c U$ and $g : S \leq_c U$. We claim that there is $f_1 : R \leq_c U$ whose image is disjoint from the image of the S_0 -classes given by g . To prove this, define the following collection of equivalence classes of R :

$$\mathcal{C} := \{X \in \omega_R : f_0^*(X) \cap \text{range}(g \upharpoonright \text{Evens}) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Let \mathcal{C} be $\{C_0, \dots, C_k\}$ (\mathcal{C} is finite since $S_0 \in \mathcal{F}$). Moreover, note that all elements of \mathcal{C} are computable. Let $m = \max(\{\min(C_i) : i \leq k\})$.

The following function is constructed from f_0 by suitably shifting the elements in Id to avoid the finite overlap with $g \upharpoonright \text{Evens}$:

$$f_1(x) := \begin{cases} f_0(2(u + k + m) + 1), & (\exists u)(x = 2u + 1), \\ f_0(2(i + m) + 1), & (\exists i \leq k)(x \in C_i), \\ f_0(x), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It is straightforward to check that f_1 is a computable reduction from R to U which satisfies the property that $\text{range}(f_1) \cap \text{range}(g \upharpoonright \text{Evens})$ is empty. It is exactly this property which allows to combine g and f_1 in a natural way so as to obtain the desired reduction from $R_0 \oplus S_0 \oplus \text{Id}$ to U :

$$h(x) := \begin{cases} f_1(2u), & (\exists u)(x = 3u), \\ g(2u), & (\exists u)(x = 3u + 1), \\ f_1(2u + 1), & (\exists u)(x = 3u + 2). \end{cases}$$

This concludes the proof. ⊖

We are now in position to show that \mathcal{I} is definable.

THEOREM 2.9. *\mathcal{I} is definable in **ER** as the collection of degrees which have least upper bounds with every other degree.*

PROOF. We first verify that every member of \mathcal{I} has a least upper bound with every other equivalence relation.

LEMMA 2.10. *If $E \in \mathcal{I}$, then E has a least upper bound with any equivalence relation R .*

PROOF. Let $E = \text{Id}_k$. If R has at least k classes, then R is the least upper bound of Id_k and R , as $\text{Id}_k \leq_c R$. Otherwise, let $n < k$ be $|\omega_R|$. We prove that $R \oplus \text{Id}_{k-n}$ is the least upper bound of Id_k and R . First, it is immediate that both R and Id_k reduce to $R \oplus \text{Id}_{k-n}$. Next, suppose that R and Id_k are reducible to some S and let $f : R \leq_c S$. Then, f can only hit n equivalence classes of S , but $|\omega_S| \geq k$ because $\text{Id}_k \leq_c S$. Let $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_{k-n}\}$ be a set of representatives from $k - n$ equivalence classes which f avoids. By letting g agree with f on elements from R and send the classes of Id_{k-n} to the numbers in A , we get a reduction $g : R \oplus \text{Id}_{k-n} \leq_c S$. \dashv

Corollary 2.7 guarantees that no infinite equivalence relation can have a least upper bound with every other equivalence relation. So, to prove the theorem, it suffices to show that the same is true for any finite equivalence relation which is noncomputable.

We note that the following lemma also follows from Theorem 2.20, but we include a proof here for self-containment of this section.

LEMMA 2.11. *If $R \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \mathcal{I}$, then there is $S \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \mathcal{I}$ so that R and S do not have a least upper bound.*

PROOF. Let $|\omega_R| = k$, and since $R \notin \mathcal{I}$, fix C to be a noncomputable R -class. Let $\omega = X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_k$ be a partition of ω so that each X_i is m -incomparable with all noncomputable $Y \in \omega_R$. Next, let S be the equivalence relation with classes X_i for $i \leq k$. Towards a contradiction, suppose that T is a least upper bound of R and S . We may assume that T is a pure quotient $R \oplus S/A$ by Lemma 2.1.

First, observe that T has exactly k classes: if there were fewer, then $R \not\leq_c T$; if there were more, then we can take Z to be a pure quotient of $R \oplus S$ which has exactly k classes and we would have $T \not\leq_c Z$. Thus C is collapsed via A with some class X_i in T .

Now, let $f : T \leq_c R \oplus S$, and consider the image of C in the composed reduction $R \leq_c R \oplus S/A \leq_c R \oplus S$. Since $C \not\leq_m X_j$ for any $j \leq k$, the image must be contained in the evens. Similarly, consider the image of X_i under the composed reduction $S \leq_c R \oplus S/A \leq_c R \oplus S$. Since $X_i \not\leq_m K$ for any $K \in \omega_R$, the image must be contained in the odds. But C and X_i are A -collapsed in T , which contradicts f being a reduction. \dashv

This completes the proof of Theorem 2.9. \dashv

The next corollary immediately follows from the definability of \mathcal{I} .

COROLLARY 2.12. *For all k ,*

- Id_k is definable as the unique degree in \mathcal{I} which has exactly $k - 1$ predecessors;
- \mathcal{F}_k is definable in \mathbf{ER} as the degrees which bound Id_k and not Id_{k+1} ;
- \mathcal{F} is definable in \mathbf{ER} as the degrees which do not bound every member of \mathcal{I} .

2.2. Defining the identity. In this section, we give a combinatorial characterization for the degrees which have least upper bounds with every member of \mathcal{F} . We will then use this analysis to give a definition of the degree Id (and thus **Light** and **Dark**) in \mathbf{ER} as a combination of its minimality over \mathcal{F} along with the property of having least upper bounds with every degree in \mathcal{F} .

We will need the following combinatorial lemma:

LEMMA 2.13. *Let R be an equivalence relation with a uniformly computable sequence $(C_i)_{i \in \omega}$ of distinct computable R -classes. Let $S \subset \omega$ be a finite set. Then there is a reduction of R to itself which avoids every C_i for $i \in S$.*

Proof. We construct the reduction $f : R \leq_c R$ in stages. At every stage s , we will construct a partial function f_s and a parameter X_s , which will be a finite subset of ω . At stage $s + 1$, we will ensure $f_{s+1}(s)$ is defined.

Stage 0. Let $f_0 = \emptyset$ and $X_0 = S$.

Stage $s + 1$. We distinguish three cases.

- (1) If $s \notin \bigcup_{n \in X_s} C_n$, let $f_{s+1} := f_s \cup \{(s, s)\}$ and let $X_{s+1} := X_s$.
- (2) $s \in C_n$ for some $n \in X_s$ and there is some $k < s$ in C_n . Then let $f_{s+1} := f_s \cup \{(s, f(k))\}$ and $X_{s+1} := X_s$.
- (3) $s \in C_n$ for $n \in X_s$ and s is $\min(C_n)$. Then let m be least so that $m \notin X_s$ and $\text{range } f_s \cap C_m = \emptyset$. Let $f_{s+1} := f_s \cup \{(s, \min C_m)\}$ and let $X_{s+1} := X_s \cup m$.

We argue by induction that every f_s is a partial reduction of R to itself and no member of C_n , for $n \in S$, is in the range of f_s . For each s , let $Y_s = \bigcup_{i \in X_s} C_i$. We note that f_s is the identity on $\overline{Y_s}$ and $\text{range}(f_s \upharpoonright Y_s) \subseteq Y_s$, so we only need to show that $a R b \leftrightarrow f_s(a) R f_s(b)$ for $a, b \in Y_s$ and that no element of Y_s is sent into a class C_n for $n \in S$. Note that when a number n first enters X_k for $k < s$, then C_n is neither in the domain nor range of f_{k-1} . Thus, for every $n \in X_s$, case (2) ensures that each class is sent via f to the same location. That is, $a R b \rightarrow f(a) R f(b)$ for $a, b \in Y_s$. In case (3), we define f for an element of a class C_i with $i \in X_s$, and note that we send it to a class which is not in the range of f_s . Thus, if $a \not R b$ then $f_s(a) \not R f_s(b)$ for $a, b \in Y_s$. Similarly, note that in case (3), we only send these new classes to classes C_m for m outside of X_s . In particular, $m \notin X_0$, so we never put C_m for $m \in S$ into the range of f_s .

The next lemma identifies a natural way in which a uniformly computable sequence of computable classes may arise.

LEMMA 2.14. *Let $f : R \leq_c R$ and let $C \in \omega_R$ be a computable R -class. Suppose that $f^*(C)$ is not a computable R -class. Then either there is some $i \in \omega$ so that $f^{(i)}$ avoids C or there is a uniformly computable sequence of distinct computable R -classes $(C_i)_{i \in \omega}$.*

PROOF. Suppose that there is no $i \in \omega$ so that $f^{(i)}$ avoids C , and let $C_i = \{x : f^{(i)}(x) \in C\}$. It is immediate that this is a uniformly computable sequence of computable classes. We need only verify that they are distinct. Suppose that $C_i = C_j$ with $i < j$. Further, suppose that i is minimal for such an example. Then $i = 0$, as otherwise, we would have $C_{i-1} = C_{j-1}$ since f is a reduction of R to R . Thus we have some $C_j = C_0 = C$. But then $f^*(C) = f^*(C_j) = C_{j-1}$ is computable, contrary to hypothesis. \dashv

Putting the previous two lemmas together, we get a general result about avoiding classes.

COROLLARY 2.15. *If $f : R \leq_c R$ and $C \in \omega_R$ is a computable R -class so that $f^*(C)$ is a noncomputable R -class D , then there is some reduction $g : R \leq_c R$ so that g avoids C . Thus also $f \circ g$ avoids D .*

PROOF. We have two cases from Lemma 2.14. The first possibility is that $g = f^{(i)}$ avoids C for some i . The second possibility is that there is a uniformly computable sequence of distinct computable R -classes $(C_i)_{i \in \omega}$. Then we can apply Lemma 2.13 to give a reduction g which avoids C . Then $f \circ g$ avoids D . \dashv

We now present the combinatorial condition which we will show is equivalent to having a least upper bound with every member of \mathcal{F} .

DEFINITION 2.16. An equivalence relation R is *noncomputably avoiding* if, for every finite collection \mathcal{C} of noncomputable equivalence classes of R , there is a reduction $f : R \leq_c R$ which avoids all the equivalence classes in \mathcal{C} .

First we observe that avoiding any one noncomputable class is equivalent to avoiding any finite set of noncomputable classes.

LEMMA 2.17. *Let R be an equivalence relation so that for any noncomputable class C , there is a reduction of R to itself that avoids C . Then R is noncomputably avoiding.*

PROOF. We proceed by induction on k to show that for any set of size k of noncomputable classes, there is a reduction of R to itself which avoids every class in the set. For $k = 0$, the claim is trivial. For $k = 1$, the claim follows from the assumption about R .

Next, for $k > 1$, let $S = \{C_1, \dots, C_{k+1}\}$ be a collection of noncomputable classes. By inductive hypothesis, there is a reduction $f : R \leq_c R$ which avoids C_2, \dots, C_{k+1} . We consider three cases depending on what type of class is sent to C_1 via f : If there is no class sent to C_1 via f , then f avoids every class in S . If there is a noncomputable class X sent via f to C_1 , then by assumption there is a reduction $g : R \leq_c R$ which avoids X . Then $f \circ g$ avoids every class in S . Lastly, if a computable class X is sent via f to C_1 , then Corollary 2.15 shows that there is a reduction $g : R \leq_c R$ which avoids X . Then $f \circ g$ avoids every class in S . \dashv

Next, we show that the property of noncomputable avoidance is degree invariant.

OBSERVATION 2.18. *If R is noncomputably avoiding and $R \equiv_e S$, then S is also noncomputably avoiding.*

PROOF. Let S be equivalent to some noncomputably avoiding R via $f : R \leq_c S$ and $g : S \leq_c R$. Given any noncomputable S -class C , we need to build $h : S \leq_c S$ such that h avoids C .

If $C \notin \text{range}(f^*)$, then $f \circ g$ is a reduction of S to itself which avoids C . So, let K be an R -class so that $f^*(K) = C$. It suffices to find a reduction ℓ of R to itself avoiding K . Once we have this, $h = f \circ \ell \circ g$ is a reduction of S to itself avoiding C .

If K is noncomputable, then we use the hypothesis that R is noncomputably avoiding to give the reduction ℓ , and we are done. So, suppose K is computable. Observe that $g \circ f : R \leq_c R$ and $(g \circ f)^*(K)$ is not computable because C is not computable. Thus, we can apply Corollary 2.15 to get a reduction ℓ of R to itself avoiding the class K . \dashv

Noncomputably avoiding equivalence relations exist. For instance, any equivalence relation having all computable classes (and note that there are dark equivalence relations with this property; see, e.g., [13, Lemma 3.4] or [16, Proposition 5.6]) is obviously noncomputably avoiding. A less trivial example is provided by the following observation.

OBSERVATION 2.19. *The degree of universal ceers is noncomputably avoiding.*

PROOF. Let U be a universal ceer. Let $V = U \oplus U$ and note that $V \equiv_c U$ since V is also a ceer. Any noncomputable class C is either contained in Evens or Odds. So, we can reduce V to the copy of U on the Odds or, respectively, Evens of V . This gives a reduction of V to itself avoiding the class C . Thus, V is noncomputably avoiding by Lemma 2.17 and U is noncomputably avoiding by Lemma 2.18. \dashv

We now give the main result of this section characterizing the degrees which have a least upper bound with every equivalence relation in \mathcal{F} .

THEOREM 2.20. *An equivalence relation R is noncomputably avoiding if and only if R has a least upper bound with every equivalence relation in \mathcal{F} .*

PROOF. (\Rightarrow) Let R be noncomputably avoiding. Fix $S \in \mathcal{F}$ and let $k = |\omega_S|$. Fix a_1, \dots, a_k representing the k distinct S -classes. Let $j \leq k$ be the minimum of k and the number of computable R -classes, and fix C_1, \dots, C_j to be computable R -classes. We will show that $X := R \upharpoonright \overline{\bigcup_{i \leq j} C_i} \oplus S$ is a least upper bound for R and S . First note that X is an upper bound for R (and trivially S) via the function $f(x) = 2a_i + 1$ if $x \in C_i$ for $i \leq j$ and otherwise $f(x) = 2x$.

By Lemma 2.1, it suffices to show that X is reducible to any pure quotient $R \oplus S_{/A}$ of $R \oplus S$. Fix a pure quotient $R \oplus S_{/A}$. Let $h : R \leq_c R$ be a reduction of R to itself which avoids every noncomputable R -class which is A -collapsed with an S -class in $R \oplus S_{/A}$. Let K_1, \dots, K_m enumerate the R -classes so that $h^*(K_i)$ is A -collapsed with an S -class. Note that these all must be computable, and $m \leq j$. If any K_{i_0} equals some C_{i_1} for $i_0, i_1 \leq m$, then reorder the K 's so that $i_0 = i_1$.

Let g be a reduction of R to itself which swaps K_i with C_i for $i \leq m$. That is,

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x \notin \bigcup_{i \leq m} C_i \cup \bigcup_{i \leq m} K_i, \\ \min K_i, & x \in C_i, \\ \min C_i, & x \in K_i. \end{cases}$$

Then all R -classes which are sent via $h \circ g$ to an R -class A -collapsed with an S -class are among the classes C_i for $i \leq m$. Thus, taking the restriction of $h \circ g$ to the set $\overline{\bigcup_{i \leq j} C_i}$ gives a reduction f of $R \upharpoonright \overline{\bigcup_{i \leq j} C_i}$ to R which avoids every R -class which is A -collapsed with an S -class. Then we can make a reduction f' of $R \upharpoonright \overline{\bigcup_{i \leq j} C_i} \oplus S$ to $R \oplus S_{/A}$ by following f on $R \upharpoonright \overline{\bigcup_{i \leq j} C_i}$ and being the identity map on S -classes.

(\Leftarrow) Assume that R has a least upper bound with every finite equivalence relation, and fix a noncomputable class $A \in \omega_R$. Let Y be a set so that Y and \bar{Y} are m -incomparable with every noncomputable R -class. Let T be the least upper bound of R and $E(Y)$. We will show that the existence of the least upper bound T will imply that there is a reduction $f : R \leq_c R$ which avoids the class A . By Lemma 2.17, this suffices to show that R is noncomputably avoiding.

By Lemma 2.1, we may assume $T = R \oplus E(Y)_{/\sim}$, a pure quotient of $R \oplus E(Y)$. Since $T \leq_c R \oplus E(Y)$, we see that no noncomputable R -class C can be collapsed in T to an $E(Y)$ -class. This is because then $f: T \leq_c R \oplus E(Y)$ would give an m -reduction from $C \oplus Y$ (or $C \oplus \bar{Y}$) to either some $E(Y)$ -class (giving an m -reduction of C to Y or \bar{Y}) or to an R -class (giving an m -reduction of Y or \bar{Y} to an R -class). So, we know $T = R \oplus E(Y)_{/\sim}$ where \sim collapses at most 2 R -classes, each of which must be computable, with the odd classes.

Fix any R -class $B \neq A$ and let

$$S := R \oplus E(Y)_{/(2 \min A, 2 \min Y+1), (2 \min B, 2 \min \bar{Y}+1)},$$

i.e., we collapse A with the Y -class in $E(Y)$ and B with the \bar{Y} class in $E(Y)$. Next, consider the reduction $g: T \leq_c S$. Consider the two T -classes of Y and \bar{Y} (possibly collapsed also with computable R -classes). Since these do not m -reduce to any R -class, their g -images must intersect the odds. Thus, the image of the evens under g , with the exception of two classes, must avoid each class containing the odds. In other words, we have a reduction $h: R \upharpoonright Z \leq R$ where $Z = \bar{C}$ for C the union of the (at most 2) computable R -classes which are \sim -collapsed in T with odd classes, and h avoids the classes A and B . Thus, by extending h to the computable classes, we get a reduction $\hat{h}: R \leq_c R$ and if A has an \hat{h} -preimage, this preimage must be a computable class. If A is not in the image of \hat{h} (e.g., if $T = R \oplus E(Y)$ and \sim does not collapse any computable R -class to an $E(Y)$ -class), then we are done. So, suppose the class D is computable and is sent to A via \hat{h} . Then we apply Corollary 2.15 to show that there is a reduction of R to itself which avoids A . \dashv

We turn to showing that **Id** is definable in **ER** as the unique noncomputably avoiding degree minimal over \mathcal{F} . From there, we define **Light** and **Dark**.

THEOREM 2.21. *In **ER**, **Id** is definable as the unique noncomputably avoiding degree which is minimal over \mathcal{F} .*

PROOF. The fact that **Id** is minimal over \mathcal{F} is easy ($\text{Id} \upharpoonright W \equiv_c \text{Id}_{|W|}$ for any c.e. W), and **Id** is obviously noncomputably avoiding.

We now verify that **Id** is the only minimal noncomputably avoiding degree. Every other degree minimal over \mathcal{F} is self-full by Lemma 1.10 and has a noncomputable class by Lemma 1.14. Clearly any self-full equivalence relation with a noncomputable class is not noncomputably avoiding. \dashv

COROLLARY 2.22. ***Light** and **Dark** are definable in **ER**.*

PROOF. $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{Light}$ if and only if $\mathbf{Id} \leq \mathbf{d}$. $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{Dark}$ if and only if $\mathbf{d} \notin \mathcal{F} \cup \mathbf{Light}$. \dashv

Having defined the degree **Id**, we wonder which other degrees are definable in **ER**. In particular, we ask if the degree of the universal ceer is definable:

QUESTION 1. *Is the degree of the universal ceer, or equivalently the substructure **Ceers**, definable in **ER**?*

§3. Covers and Branching. We now turn our attention to further structural properties in **ER**. We consider the existence of minimal covers and strong minimal

covers, and we explore which degrees are branching. Here, many of the results differ from their analogues in the theory of ceers.

In a degree structure, a *minimal cover* for a degree \mathbf{d} is a minimal upper bound of $\{\mathbf{d}\}$, i.e., a degree $\mathbf{c} > \mathbf{d}$ such that there is no degree strictly between \mathbf{c} and \mathbf{d} ; a minimal cover \mathbf{c} of \mathbf{d} is *strong* if anything strictly below \mathbf{c} is bounded by \mathbf{d} , i.e.,

$$(\forall \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{b} < \mathbf{c} \Rightarrow \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{d}).$$

A degree is *branching* if it is the meet of two incomparable degrees.

In **Ceers**, not all degrees are branching. Andrews and Sorbi [5] proved that a ceer R is self-full if and only if $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is the unique strong minimal cover of R . Further, it has the following upward covering property: If $X > R$, then $X \geq R \oplus \text{Id}_1$. This implies that the degree of R cannot branch. In fact, they show that the branching degrees in **Ceers** are precisely the non-self-full degrees [5, Theorem 7.8]. In **ER**, the situation is quite different. In this section, we will show that every degree has continuum many strong minimal covers, and therefore every degree is branching. Before proving these results, we will concentrate on the $\oplus \text{Id}_k$ operation for self-full equivalence relations (where $R \oplus \text{Id}_k >_c R$). We show that though $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is a minimal cover of any self-full equivalence relation R (Corollary 3.4), it is not always a strong minimal cover. That is, surprisingly and in contrast with the case of ceers, there are equivalence relations R such that $R \oplus \text{Id}_1 >_c S$, for some S , but S is not computably reducible to R .

THEOREM 3.1. *If R is self-full and $R \leq_c S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_k$, then there is some $j \leq k$ so that $S \equiv_c R \oplus \text{Id}_j$.*

PROOF. We prove this by induction on k . For $k = 0$, the result is trivial. Next, let $f : R \leq_c S$, $g : S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_k$, and suppose that S is not equivalent to $R \oplus \text{Id}_j$ for any $j \leq k$.

CLAIM 3.2. *The range of f intersects every S -class.*

PROOF. If the range of f did not intersect every S -class, then we would have $R \oplus \text{Id}_1 \leq_c S$. But then we could use the inductive hypothesis, since $R \oplus \text{Id}_1 \leq_c S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_1 \oplus \text{Id}_{k-1}$. Thus, we would know that $S \equiv_c R \oplus \text{Id}_1 \oplus \text{Id}_j$ for some $j \leq k - 1$, but then it would follow that $S \equiv_c R \oplus \text{Id}_{j'}$ for some $j' \leq k$. \dashv

CLAIM 3.3. *The range of g intersects every $R \oplus \text{Id}_k$ -class.*

PROOF. If the range of g did not intersect every $R \oplus \text{Id}_k$ -class, then we would have $S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_{k-1}$. But then, since $R \leq_c S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_{k-1}$, we could use the inductive hypothesis to show that $S \equiv_c R \oplus \text{Id}_j$ for some $j \leq k - 1$. \dashv

Let $h := g \circ f$ be the composite reduction of R to $R \oplus \text{Id}_k$ through S . Fix any odd number a and let $C_i := \{x : h \circ (\frac{h}{2})^{(i)}(x) R \oplus \text{Id}_k a\}$. Note that the C_i 's so defined for $i \geq 1$ are a uniform sequence of computable R -classes. Thus Lemma 2.13 yields a contradiction by showing that R is not self-full. \dashv

Applying this to $k = 1$, we get that if R is self-full, then $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is a minimal cover of R .

COROLLARY 3.4. *Let R be self-full. Then $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is a minimal cover of R .*

Now, we will show that, contrary to the case of ceers, there are self-full equivalence relations R so that $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is not a strong minimal cover of R . To do so, we introduce generic covers of equivalence relations. Intuitively, a generic cover S of a given equivalence relation R codes R into the evens and is generic given this property.

DEFINITION 3.5. A *generic cover* S of an equivalence relation R is any equivalence relation of the form $R \oplus \text{Id}_{/\text{graph}(f)}$, where $f : \text{Odds} \rightarrow \text{Evens}$ is 1-generic over the Turing degree of R .

Clearly, R is computably reducible to any generic cover of R via the map $x \rightarrow 2x$. We now see how reductions into the odds must intersect the classes of S .

LEMMA 3.6. *Let S be a generic cover of R and $Z \subseteq \text{Odds}$ be an infinite set which is c.e. in the Turing degree of R . Then, Z intersects every S -class infinitely. It follows that $S \not\leq_c R$.*

PROOF. Assume that S , R , and Z are as in the statement of the lemma. In particular, $S = R \oplus \text{Id}_{/\text{graph}(f)}$. Observe that the following sets of strings are c.e. in $\text{deg}_T(R)$,

$$V_{a,k} := \{\sigma \in \text{Evens}^{<\text{Odds}} : (\exists^k x)(x \in Z \wedge \sigma(x) = 2a)\}.$$

Further, since Z is infinite, $V_{a,k}$ is dense in $\text{Evens}^{<\text{Odds}}$. Therefore f meets every $V_{a,k}$ by genericity of f , and Z intersects the S -class of every even number, so every S class, infinitely often.

Next, suppose $f : S \leq_c R$ and take any odd number a . Let $Z = \{b \in \text{Odds} : f(b) R f(a)\}$. Necessarily Z is an infinite R -c.e. set since Z contains $[a]_S \cap \text{Odds}$ (and the set Odds intersects every S -class infinitely by the above). Therefore, Z meets every S -class, contradicting that f is a reduction. \dashv

So, R is properly reducible to a generic cover of R , but the way in which S covers R is quite different from the way in which $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ covers R :

LEMMA 3.7. *If S is a generic cover of R , then, for all n , the only equivalence relations which reduce to both $R \oplus \text{Id}_n$ and S are the equivalence relations reducible to R .*

PROOF. Suppose that, for some equivalence relation X , there are $f : X \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_n$ and $g : X \leq_c S$. Let A and B be any two X -classes. Note that $A, B \leq_m R \oplus \text{Id}_n \equiv_T R$ by Lemma 1.1. Consider the R -c.e. sets $\text{Odds} \cap \text{range}(g \upharpoonright A)$ and $\text{Odds} \cap \text{range}(g \upharpoonright B)$. These must both be finite, as otherwise Lemma 3.6 would show that $g \upharpoonright A$ would hit $g^*(A)$ or $g \upharpoonright B$ would hit $g^*(B)$. Thus $\text{range}(g) \cap \text{Odds}$ is finite. So, Lemma 1.6 shows that $X \leq_c R$. \dashv

In **Ceers**, $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is a strong minimal cover (in fact, the only one) of a given self-full ceer R . Hence, any ceer which is below $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is already reducible to R . But the dual property also holds: $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ reduces to any ceer which is above R (see [5, Lemma 4.5] for details). The next theorem uses generic covers to show that these properties both fail in **ER**.

THEOREM 3.8. *The following hold.*

- (1) *Let R be any self-full equivalence relation. There is S such that $R <_c S$ but $R \oplus \text{Id}_1 \not\leq_c S$.*

- (2) *There exist a self-full equivalence relation R such that, for some S , $S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ but $S \not\leq_c R$.*

PROOF. (1): Let S be a generic cover of R . S is above R and, by Lemma 3.7, we have that S is incomparable with $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$.

(2): Let S_0 be any self-full equivalence relation, let R be a generic cover of S_0 , and denote $S_0 \oplus \text{Id}_1$ by S . It is immediate that $S \leq_c R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ as $S_0 \leq_c R$. But S and R are incomparable by Lemma 3.7. ⊥

Having shown that $R \oplus \text{Id}_1$ is not a strong minimal cover for some self-full R , it is natural to ask whether every self-full degree has a strong minimal cover. The next theorem answers this question affirmatively. In fact, *all* equivalence relations aside from Id_1 have continuum many strong minimal covers, and such covers can be chosen to be self-full.

THEOREM 3.9. *Let R be any equivalence relation $\neq \text{Id}_1$. Then there are continuum many strong minimal covers of R which are self-full.*

PROOF. In [5, Theorem 4.10], it is proven that there is a ceer E_0 which satisfies the following properties:

- (1) $E_0 \upharpoonright \text{Evens} = \text{Id}$;
- (2) There are infinitely many classes which contain no even number;
- (3) If W is any c.e. set which intersects infinitely many E_0 -classes which contain no even number, then W intersects every E_0 -class.

There, it is shown that such a ceer is a self-full strong minimal cover of Id . Here, we let S_0 be the quotient of E_0 formed by collapsing $2n$ with $2m$ if and only if $n R m$. Note that $S_0 \upharpoonright \text{Evens} = R$.

Let S be the set of quotients of S_0 which collapse every S_0 -class which contains no even number to exactly one S_0 -class which does contain an even number. That is,

$$S := \{S_{0/A} : S_{0/A} \upharpoonright \text{Evens} = R \text{ and } [\text{Evens}]_{S_{0/A}} = \omega\}.$$

Since E_0 , and thus also S_0 , has infinitely many classes which contain no even number, and $|\omega_R| > 1$, we have $|\mathcal{S}| = 2^{\aleph_0}$. Thus, there are continuum many elements of \mathcal{S} which are not $\leq_c R$, and there is a continuum sized \leq_c -antichain in \mathcal{S} . It suffices to show that for $S \in \mathcal{S}$, if $X <_c S$, then $X \leq_c R$. It suffices by Remark 1.3 to prove that either $S \leq_c S \upharpoonright W$ or $S \upharpoonright W \leq_c R$ for any c.e. set W .

We argue by cases:

- (1) If W intersects only finitely many E_0 -classes which do not contain an even number, then we build a reduction of $S \upharpoonright W$ to R as follows:

Let a_1, \dots, a_n represent the E_0 -classes which contain no even number and are intersected by W . Let b_1, \dots, b_n be even numbers so that $a_i S b_i$. Then define $g(x)$ to be the first member of $\text{Evens} \cup \{a_i : i \leq n\}$ found to be E_0 -equivalent to x (note that we are using that E_0 is a ceer). Then let $h(x) = g(x)$ if $g(x)$ is even and $h(x) = b_i$ if $g(x) = a_i$. This gives a reduction of $S \upharpoonright W$ to S whose range is contained in the evens. So, this gives a reduction of $S \upharpoonright W$ to $S \upharpoonright \text{Evens} = R$.

- (2) If W intersects infinitely many E_0 -classes which do not contain an even number, then we know that W intersects every E_0 -class. We then give a reduction of S to $S \upharpoonright W$ by sending x to the first member of W found to be E_0 -equivalent to x . Since S is a quotient of E_0 , this is the identity map on classes, so a reduction of S to $S \upharpoonright W$.

Lastly, we check that S is self-full. Suppose f is a function reducing S to itself. Let W be $\text{range}(f)$. Since $R <_c S$, we cannot be in case (1) above, so W must intersect every E_0 -class, so also every S -class. \dashv

COROLLARY 3.10. *In \mathbf{ER} , every degree is branching.*

PROOF. Every degree \mathbf{d} has two incomparable strong minimal covers. The meet of these two degrees is \mathbf{d} . \dashv

So, contrary to the case of ceers, the self-full equivalence relations cannot be characterized in terms of their strong minimal covers. We ask:

QUESTION 2. *Is the collection of self-full degrees first-order definable in \mathbf{ER} ?*

§4. The complexity of the first-order theory of \mathbf{ER} . In this last section, we characterize the complexity of $\text{Th}(\mathbf{ER})$, the first-order theory of \mathbf{ER} . Our analysis contributes to a longstanding research thread. Indeed, computability theorists have been investigating the first-order complexity of degree structures generated by reducibilities for decades.

Since a reducibility r is typically a binary relation on subsets of ω , one can effectively translate first-order sentences regarding the corresponding degree structure \mathcal{D}_r to second-order sentences of arithmetic, obtaining a 1-reduction from $\text{Th}(\mathcal{D}_r)$ to $\text{Th}^2(\mathbb{N})$. Remarkably, the converse reduction often holds, e.g., the first-order theories of the following degree structures are 1-equivalent (and so, by Myhill Isomorphism Theorem, computably isomorphic) to second-order arithmetic: the Turing degrees \mathcal{D}_T [22]; the m -degrees \mathcal{D}_m , the 1-degrees \mathcal{D}_1 , the tt -degrees \mathcal{D}_{tt} , the wtt -degrees \mathcal{D}_{wtt} [20]; and the enumeration degrees \mathcal{D}_e [23]. Here, we add \mathbf{ER} to this list, namely, we prove:

THEOREM 4.1. *$\text{Th}(\mathbf{ER})$ is computably isomorphic to $\text{Th}^2(\mathbb{N})$.*

In fact, we will show that the theorem is also true for each of the definable substructures **Dark** and **Light** of \mathbf{ER} .

4.1. Our strategy. Equivalence relations are straightforwardly encoded into subsets of ω ; hence $\text{Th}(\mathbf{ER}) \leq_1 \text{Th}^2(\mathbb{N})$ trivially holds. So, to prove Theorem 4.1, it suffices to prove the converse reduction. Our strategy for coding second-order arithmetic into \mathbf{ER} is based on coding all countable graphs as second-order objects into this degree structure. The justification for such approach relies on well-known facts. Second-order arithmetic is 1-reducible to second-order logic on countable sets, which is in turn 1-reducible to the theory of second-order countable graphs [19]. So, one can effectively translate any question about second-order arithmetic into a question about a graph which encodes the standard model of Robinson's arithmetic \mathbf{Q} .

Finally, let us mention that our encodings are similar to the way in which graphs are coded in **Ceers**, as in [4]. But there are three major differences. Firstly, in what

follows we code any countable graph, rather than just computable graphs. Secondly, we must code subsets of the set of vertices of our graph. Thirdly, since we are giving codes for subsets, we do not need to code functions between different codings of natural numbers; that means that we do not need to distinguish the natural numbers from non-standard models of Robinson's Q as being embeddable into any other such model (thus needing to code functions), because the second-order theory distinguishes the standard model of Robinson's Q as the only one with no proper inductive subset.

4.2. Coding graphs into Dark. To code graphs in **Dark**, we heavily use dark minimal degrees: We fix a collection $\{D_i : i \in \omega\}$ of pairwise nonequivalent dark minimal equivalence relations. In fact, since **Ceers** is an initial segment of **ER**, we may choose dark minimal ceers (as constructed in [5]).

DEFINITION 4.2. Let $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2$ be two dark minimal degrees. We say that incomparable degrees \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} are a *covering pair* of $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2$ if, for each $\mathbf{x} \in \{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}\}$, the set of dark minimal degrees below \mathbf{x} is precisely $\{\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2\}$, and there is no $\mathbf{y} < \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$ so that $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2 < \mathbf{y}$.

We now describe how to encode a countable graph by parameters in **Dark**.

DEFINITION 4.3. For any degree \mathbf{c} , let $G_{\mathbf{c}}$ be the graph with vertex set composed of the dark minimal degrees below \mathbf{c} and edges the collection of pairs $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2$ so that there are distinct $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{c}$ which form a covering pair of $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2$.

The next lemma provides an easy way of forming covering pairs of dark minimal equivalence relations.

LEMMA 4.4. *If D, E are dark minimal equivalence relations, then $D \oplus E$ and $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ form a covering pair of D and E .*

PROOF. It is immediate that D and E are both computably reducible to $D \oplus E$ and $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ (the latter being a pure quotient).

We show that the only dark minimal degrees below either $D \oplus E$ or $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ are the degrees of D and E .

Suppose $f : X \leq_c D \oplus E$, for a dark minimal X . Since X is dark minimal, its equivalence classes are computably inseparable by Lemma 1.14, so $\text{range}(f)$ must be either contained in the evens or the odds, which implies $X \leq_c D$ or $X \leq_c E$. But then $X \equiv_c D$ or $X \equiv_c E$, by minimality of D and E .

On the other hand, suppose $f : X \leq_c D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$, for a dark minimal X . Since the equivalence classes of X are computably inseparable by Lemma 1.14, $\text{range}(f)$ is contained in either

- (1) $\text{Evens} \cup [1]_{D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}}$,
- (2) or $\text{Odds} \cup [0]_{D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}}$.

Without loss of generality, we assume the former. Let h be the function given by $h(x) = x$ if x is even and 0 if x is odd. Then $h \circ f : X \leq_c D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ and $\text{range}(h \circ f) \subseteq \text{Evens}$. This induces a reduction of X to D . But then $X \equiv_c D$, by minimality of D .

Next, we consider the degrees strictly below $D \oplus E$ which might bound both D and E . Suppose that $X \leq_c D \oplus E$. Then by Lemma 1.4, $X \equiv_c D_0 \oplus E_0$ where $D_0 \leq_c D$ and $E_0 \leq_c E$. So either

- (1) $X \in \mathcal{F}$,
- (2) or $X \equiv_c D \oplus E$,
- (3) or $X \equiv_c D \oplus F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$,
- (4) or $X \equiv_c E \oplus F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$.

In the first case, X obviously does not bound D or E . In the second, X is not strictly below $D \oplus E$. In cases (3) and (4), X does not bound both D and E . To see this, suppose $X \equiv_c D \oplus F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$. Then any reduction of E to X gives a reduction of E to $D \oplus F$. But by computable inseparability of the classes of E , this reduction is either contained in the evens, giving $E \leq_c D$, or contained in the odds, giving E is finite, either way leading to a contradiction. Thus, there is no equivalence relation X which is strictly reducible to $D \oplus E$ and bounds both D and E .

Next we observe that $D \oplus E$ and $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ are incomparable. The fact that $D \oplus E \not\leq_c D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$ follows from darkness of $D \oplus E$ and Lemma 1.11. The fact that $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)} \not\leq_c D \oplus E$ follows from the previous paragraph.

Finally, by incomparability of $D \oplus E$ and $D \oplus E_{/(0,1)}$, any degree below both would have to be strictly below $D \oplus E$, so cannot bound both D and E . \dashv

We are ready to show that we can uniformly code any countable graph as a second-order structure into **Dark**, which, combined with the remarks offered in Section 4.1, will yield the following theorem.

THEOREM 4.5. *The theory of the degree structure **Dark** is computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic.*

PROOF. We first embed any countable graph as a first-order structure into **Dark**.

LEMMA 4.6. *For any countable graph G , there is some $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{Dark}$ so $G_{\mathbf{c}} \cong G$.*

PROOF. We may assume that the universe of G is ω (if G is finite, then the dark ceer C constructed below can be taken simply as the uniform join of D_i and $D_u \oplus D_{v/(0,1)}$ for pairs where $u G v$). Recall that $\{D_i : i \in \omega\}$ represents a collection of distinct dark minimal degrees.

Let X be the collection of equivalence relations

$$\{D_i : i \in \omega\} \cup \{D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)} : i G j\}$$

and fix an enumeration of $X = (X_i)_{i \in \omega}$. Fix S to be an immune set. Then we define C by $\langle x, i \rangle C \langle y, j \rangle$ if and only either $i = j$ is the n th element of S and $x X_n y$ or $i, j \notin S$.

We now argue that C is dark and $G_{\mathbf{c}} \cong G$, where \mathbf{c} is the degree of C . The proof is split into several claims.

CLAIM 4.7. *C is dark.*

PROOF. If W_e intersects infinitely many columns of ω , then by immunity of S , it enumerates two elements $\langle x, i \rangle, \langle y, j \rangle$ with $i, j \notin S$. But then $\langle x, i \rangle C \langle y, j \rangle$ and W_e is not a transversal.

If W_e intersects only finitely many columns, then W_e is enumerating a subset of $Y = \{\langle x, i \rangle : i \leq m\}$ for some m . But $C \upharpoonright Y$ is equivalent to a finite uniform join of dark ceers X_i . Thus W_e cannot be a transversal. \dashv

Next we see that the only dark minimal degrees bounded by \mathbf{c} , i.e., those which are vertices in $G_{\mathbf{c}}$, are $\{D_i : i \in \omega\}$.

CLAIM 4.8. *If $D \leq_c C$ and D is dark minimal, then $D \equiv_c D_u$ for some u .*

PROOF. Since D is dark minimal, its classes are computably inseparable by Lemma 1.14. So, either $D \leq_c D_u$, for some u , or $D \leq_c D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)}$, for some pair i, j . In the former case, dark minimality of D_u ensures $D \equiv_c D_u$, and in the latter case Lemma 4.4 ensures $D \equiv_c D_i$ or $D \equiv_c D_j$. \dashv

We now know that the map $i \mapsto \mathbf{d}_i$ is onto $G_{\mathbf{c}}$. It only remains to show that it is an embedding of G .

CLAIM 4.9. *If $u G v$, then $u G_{\mathbf{c}} v$.*

PROOF. There are three columns of C , coding D_u, D_v , and $D_u \oplus D_{v/(0,1)}$. Therefore, $D_u \oplus D_v, D_u \oplus D_{v/(0,1)}$ are both $\leq_c C$. By Lemma 4.4, these form a covering pair of D_u and D_v , so we have $u G_{\mathbf{c}} v$. \dashv

CLAIM 4.10. *If $u G_{\mathbf{c}} v$, then $u G v$.*

PROOF. Suppose that $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{c}$ form a covering pair of \mathbf{d}_u and \mathbf{d}_v and u, v are not adjacent in G . Let $A \in \mathbf{a}, B \in \mathbf{b}, D_u \in \mathbf{d}_u$, and $D_v \in \mathbf{d}_v$. Consider the composite reductions $f_u : D_u \leq_c A \leq_c C$ and $f_v : D_v \leq_c A \leq_c C$. By computable inseparability of the classes of D_u (Lemma 1.14), $\text{range}(f_u)$ must be contained in a single column of C . By incomparability of the dark minimal equivalence relations and Lemma 4.4, this column must be either D_u or $D_u \oplus D_{w/(0,1)}$ for some w with $u G w$. In particular, the column used for f_u cannot be the same as the column used for f_v . It follows that $D_u \oplus D_v \leq_c A$. Similarly for B , contradicting that \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} form a covering pair of $\mathbf{d}_u, \mathbf{d}_v$. \dashv

This completes the proof of Lemma 4.6. \dashv

Next, we show that for any \mathbf{c} , we can code any subset of $G_{\mathbf{c}}$.

LEMMA 4.11. *Let E be a countable set of dark minimal degrees. There is a degree $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{Dark}$ so that the set of dark minimal degrees $\leq \mathbf{a}$ is exactly E .*

PROOF. Apply the construction of the dark equivalence relation C of Lemma 4.6 to the empty graph and the collection of degrees in E . That is, let $(E_i)_{i \in \omega}$ be dark minimal equivalence relations representing the classes in E . Then let $\langle x, i \rangle C \langle y, j \rangle$ if and only if $i = j$ is the n th element of S (a fixed immune set) and $x E_n y$ or if $i, j \notin S$. Lemma 4.8 shows that the degrees of dark minimal equivalence relations below C are precisely E , and Lemma 4.7 shows that C is dark. \dashv

For $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{Dark}$, let $M_{\mathbf{a}}$ be the set of dark minimal degrees $\leq \mathbf{a}$. Put together, we now know that every second-order countable graph is encoded as $(G_{\mathbf{c}}, \mathcal{A})$ for some $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{Dark}$, where \mathcal{A} is the set of $M_{\mathbf{a}}$ for $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{Dark}$ which are contained in $G_{\mathbf{c}}$.

So, $\text{Th}(\mathbf{Dark})$ is \geq_1 the theory of second-order countable graphs. As remarked in Section 4.1, this is enough to conclude that $\text{Th}(\mathbf{Dark})$ is computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic. Then, Theorem 4.1 immediately follows from the fact that \mathbf{Dark} is definable in \mathbf{ER} (Corollary 2.22).

4.3. Coding graphs into Light. We now focus on light degrees, with the goal of showing that $\text{Th}(\mathbf{Light})$ is also computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic. The encoding of graphs in the light degrees will be as follows:

DEFINITION 4.12. A degree \mathbf{e} is a light minimal degree if $\mathbf{Id} < \mathbf{e}$ and there is no \mathbf{x} so that $\mathbf{Id} < \mathbf{x} < \mathbf{e}$.

Let $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$ be two light minimal degrees. We say that \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} are a *light covering pair* of $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$ if for each $\mathbf{x} \in \{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}\}$, the set of light minimal degrees below \mathbf{x} is precisely $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$ and there is no \mathbf{y} below \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} which is above $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$.

DEFINITION 4.13. For a light degree \mathbf{c} , let $H_{\mathbf{c}}$ be the graph with vertices the light minimal degrees below \mathbf{c} and edges the collection of pairs $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$ so that there are $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{c}$ which form a light covering pair of $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$.

We now show that we can uniformly encode every second-order countable graph into **Light**.

THEOREM 4.14. *The theory of Light is computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic.*

PROOF. Rather than directly defining light covering pairs of light minimal degrees (as we did in Lemma 4.4), we inherit them from the dark case through the following map: let ι be the map from $\mathbf{Dark} \cup \mathcal{F}$ to **Light** given by $\iota(D) = D \oplus \mathbf{Id}$, and ι the induced map on degrees. The next two claims give two crucial properties of ι .

CLAIM 4.15. *ι gives a homomorphism of $\mathbf{Dark} \cup \mathcal{F}$ into Light whose image is an initial segment.*

PROOF. It is immediate that $D \leq_c E$ implies $\iota(D) \leq_c \iota(E)$. Now, suppose $\mathbf{Id} \leq_c X \leq_c \iota(D) = D \oplus \mathbf{Id}$, for some equivalence relation X . From Lemma 1.4, it follows $X \equiv_c D_0 \oplus A$, where $D_0 \leq_c D$ and $A \leq_c \mathbf{Id}$. Since D_0 is dark or finite, A must be light, since $\mathbf{Id} \leq_c X$. So, $A \equiv_c \mathbf{Id}$. Thus, $X \equiv_c D_0 \oplus \mathbf{Id} = \iota(D_0)$. \dashv

CLAIM 4.16. *If D is a dark minimal ceer, then $\iota(D)$ is of light minimal degree.*

PROOF. Suppose $\mathbf{Id} <_c X \leq_c \iota(D)$. Then by the proof of Claim 4.15, $X \equiv_c \iota(E)$ for some $E \leq D$. But D is a ceer, so E cannot be in \mathcal{F} as that would make $E \in \mathcal{I}$ and $X \equiv_c \mathbf{Id}$. So, $E \in \mathbf{Dark}$, and thus $E \equiv_c D$ by dark minimality of D . \dashv

Lemma 4.6 guarantees that any graph G is encodable into **Dark** via some $G_{\mathbf{c}}$. The next lemma says that we can use ι to transfer our coding of graphs into **Dark** into an encoding in **Light**.

LEMMA 4.17. *For any countable graph G , there is a degree $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{Dark}$ so that $G_{\mathbf{c}} \cong G$ is isomorphic to a substructure of $H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})}$*

PROOF. Fix dark minimal ceers $D_i \in \mathbf{d}_i$ and let \mathbf{c} be as constructed in Lemma 4.6 so $G_{\mathbf{c}} \cong G$. Lemma 4.16 shows that every $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i)$ is in $H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})}$. Let X be the subset of vertices in $H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})}$ comprised of $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i)$ for $i \in \omega$. We do not claim that there are no other light minimal degrees bounded by $\iota(\mathbf{c})$. We now show that ι gives an isomorphism of $G_{\mathbf{c}}$ with the substructure of $H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})}$ with universe X .

By Claim 4.15, ι gives a homomorphism of the degrees below \mathbf{c} onto the light degrees below $\iota(\mathbf{c})$. We argue that such a homomorphism, when restricted to the dark minimal degrees and their covering pairs, is in fact an embedding.

First observe that each distinct pair of dark minimal D_i and D_j below \mathbf{c} are sent via ι to incomparable degrees. Indeed, if $\iota(D_i) \leq_c \iota(D_j)$, then $D_i \leq_c D_j \oplus \text{Id}$. By the computable inseparability of the classes of D_i , the reduction is either to D_j or Id_k , both of which are impossible.

Now, for distinct D_i, D_j , observe that $\iota(D_i \oplus D_j)$ and $\iota(D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)})$ are sent to incomparable degrees. To see this, recall that, by Lemma 4.4, $D_i \oplus D_j$ and $D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)}$ are incomparable. Since neither of these have a computable class (because this would contradict the computable inseparability of the equivalence classes of D_i and D_j , granted by Lemma 1.14), it follows that neither can reduce to the other $\oplus \text{Id}$, as such a reduction could not make any use of Id .

CLAIM 4.18. *If $\mathbf{d}_i G_c \mathbf{d}_j$, then $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i) H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})} \iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$.*

PROOF. Let $\mathbf{d}_i G_c \mathbf{d}_j$. To show that $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i) H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})} \iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$ holds, we need to check that $\iota(D_i \oplus D_j)$ and $\iota(D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)})$ form a light covering pair of $\iota(D_i)$ and $\iota(D_j)$. It only remains to check that there is no $Y \leq_c \iota(D_i \oplus D_j), \iota(D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)})$ such that $\iota(D_i), \iota(D_j) \leq_c Y$. Suppose that such a Y existed. Consider the composite reduction $f_i: D_i \leq_c Y \leq_c D_i \oplus D_j \oplus \text{Id}$. The computable inseparability of the classes of D_i and the incomparability of D_i and D_j force f_i to go into the first column. Similarly, the reduction of $f_j: D_j \leq_c Y \leq_c D_i \oplus D_j \oplus \text{Id}$ must go into the second column. It follows that $D_i \oplus D_j \leq_c Y$. Since $Y \leq_c \iota(D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)})$, there is a reduction $D_i \oplus D_j \leq_c D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)} \oplus \text{Id}$, and thus $\iota(D_i \oplus D_j) \leq_c \iota(D_i \oplus D_{j/(0,1)})$, but we have already established that these are incomparable. \dashv

CLAIM 4.19. *If $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i) H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})} \iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$, then $\mathbf{d}_i G_c \mathbf{d}_j$.*

PROOF. Let $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i) H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})} \iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$, and let $\iota(A_0) \in \mathbf{a}, \iota(B_0) \in \mathbf{b}$ be a light covering pair of $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i), \iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$. By the computable inseparability of the classes of D_i and D_j , $D_i, D_j \leq_c A_0$ and $D_i, D_j \leq_c B_0$. Since ι is a homomorphism onto the light degrees below $\iota(\mathbf{c})$, any \mathbf{y} witnessing that \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} is not a covering pair of $\mathbf{d}_i, \mathbf{d}_j$ would be so that $\iota(\mathbf{y})$ witnesses \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} are not a light covering pair of $\iota(\mathbf{d}_i)$ and $\iota(\mathbf{d}_j)$. Thus we have $\mathbf{d}_i G_c \mathbf{d}_j$. \dashv

This concludes the proof of Lemma 4.17. \dashv

Next, we show that we can code any subset of any countable set of vertices. This will be used both for encoding the second-order part of graphs and also for selecting the substructure of $H_{\iota(\mathbf{c})}$ which is isomorphic to G .

LEMMA 4.20. *Let $\{\mathbf{b}_i : i \in \omega\}$ be a collection of distinct light minimal degrees and $S \subseteq \omega$. Then, there is a degree \mathbf{c} so that $\mathbf{b}_i \leq \mathbf{c}$ if and only if $i \in S$.*

PROOF. Fix a sequence of representatives $L_i \in \mathbf{b}_i$. Intuitively, we construct $X \in \mathbf{c}$ to encode each L_i with $i \in S$ on the columns of ω and then generically collapse equivalence classes between columns. Enumerate $S = \{a_0 < a_1 < \dots\}$.

First we define X_0 by

$$\langle n, i \rangle X_0 \langle m, j \rangle \Leftrightarrow i = j \wedge (n L_{a_i} m).$$

Let $\text{Col}_i = \{\langle x, i \rangle : x \in \omega\}$, i.e., the i th column of ω . For all i , denote by $T_i \subseteq \text{Col}_i$ a transversal of X_0 which hits all classes contained in the i th column. Next, let $(f_i)_{i \in \omega}$

be a (mutually) 1-generic sequence of permutations of ω over a Turing degree which computes every L_i .

Then let $X = X_{0/Z}$ with

$$Z = \{(T_u[v], T_0[f_u(v)]) : u, v \in \omega\},$$

where we let $T_u[v]$ denote the v th element of T_u (i.e., Z collapses the v th class in the u th column to the $f_u(v)$ th class in the 0th column of X_0).

CLAIM 4.21. For all $i \in S, L_i \leq_c X$.

PROOF. This follows from the fact that X_0 encodes each L_i for $i \in S$ as a column, and the quotient X does not collapse equivalence classes from the same column. \dashv

Suppose towards a contradiction that $g : L_j \leq X$ for some $j \notin S$.

CLAIM 4.22. There is some k so that $\text{range}(g) \subseteq^* \text{Col}_k$.

PROOF. Let V be the set of finite sequences of finite injective partial maps $(p_i)_{i \leq m}$ so that for some x, y , letting i, l, n, m be such that $g(x) \in X_0 T_i[n]$ and $g(y) \in X_0 T_l[m]$, we have $p_i(n) = p_l(m) \leftrightarrow x \not\equiv_{L_j} y$. Observe that if $\text{range}(g)$ is not almost contained in a single column, then V is dense (i.e., for any finite sequence of finite injective partial maps $(p_i)_{i \leq m}$ there is a sequence $(q_i)_{i \leq n}$ with $n \geq m$ of injective partial maps so $p_i \subseteq q_i$ for $i \leq m$, and $(q_i)_{i \leq n} \in V$). But then by genericity of $(f_i)_{i \in \omega}$, it will meet V , which contradicts g being a reduction of L_j to X . \dashv

Let i be fixed so that $\text{range}(g) \subseteq^* \text{Col}_i$. Since $\text{range}(g)$ intersects only finitely many columns, we can assume that it intersects the minimal possible number of columns. If $\text{range}(g) \subseteq \text{Col}_i$, then $L_j \leq_c L_i$, which is a contradiction to L_j and L_i being inequivalent light minimal equivalence relations. So, suppose that $\text{range}(g)$ intersects Col_k for $k \neq i$. Let us consider the finite equivalence relation $Y = L_j \upharpoonright g^{-1}(\text{Col}_k)$. If all Y -classes were computable, then we could adjust g to send each of these sets to a representative of the same class in Col_i contradicting that g uses the minimal possible number of columns. So $Y \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \mathcal{I}$ and $Y \leq L_j$ and $Y \leq L_k$. But Theorem 2.21 shows that there is a least upper bound Z of Id and Y . Then $\text{Id} <_c Z \leq L_j, L_k$ contradicting that L_j and L_k are inequivalent light minimal equivalence relations. \dashv

If \mathbf{a} is light, then let $M_{\mathbf{a}}$ be the set of light minimal degrees below \mathbf{a} . It follows that for every second-order countable graph G , there are parameters \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{b} so that $(G, P(G)) \cong (H_{\mathbf{e}} \cap M_{\mathbf{b}}, \mathcal{A})$ where \mathcal{A} is the collection of sets $H_{\mathbf{e}} \cap M_{\mathbf{b}} \cap M_{\mathbf{a}}$ for various light degrees \mathbf{a} .

As remarked in Section 4.1, this suffices to conclude that the theory of **Light** is computably isomorphic to second-order arithmetic.

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