LECTURE NOTES IN LOGIC

# **RECURSION THEORY**

JOSEPH R. SHOENFIELD





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### **Recursion Theory**

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In this volume, the 1st publication in the Lecture Notes in Logic series, Shoenfield gives a clear and focused introduction to recursion theory. The fundamental concept of recursion makes the idea of computability accessible to a mathematical analysis, thus forming one of the pillars on which modern computer science rests. This introduction is an ideal instrument for teaching and self-study that prepares the reader for the study of advanced monographs and the current literature on recursion theory.

JOSEPH R. SHOENFIELD works in the Department of Mathematics at Duke University, North Carolina.

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LECTURE NOTES IN LOGIC 1

# **Recursion Theory**

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ASSOCIATION FOR SYMBOLIC LOGIC



### **CAMBRIDGE** UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia 4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107168084 10.1017/9781316717011

First edition © 1993 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg This edition © 2016 Association for Symbolic Logic under license to Cambridge University Press.

Association for Symbolic Logic Richard A. Shore, Publisher Department of Mathematics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 http://www.aslonline.org

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A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-107-16808-4 Hardback

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#### Introduction

These notes originated in a one semester course given several times at Duke University. Students were generally graduate students in mathematics or computer science. They were expected to have a considerable degree of mathematical maturity. While there were no specific prerequisites, it was desirable that the student has some knowledge of elementary logic and computer programming. To appreciate some of the applications, it was desirable to have at least a slight acquaintance with some other mathematical topics, such as group theory and Borel sets.

My main object was to prepare the student for studying advanced books and journal articles in recursion theory. I therefore attempted to introduce as many as possible of the topics which are of interest in contemporary research without going deeply into any of them. One topic usually treated in the course which did not make its way into these notes is complexity theory; I hope that someone more competent than I will write an introduction to this topic suitable for serious mathematicians.

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