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# СИБИРСКИЕ ЭЛЕКТРОННЫЕ МАТЕМАТИЧЕСКИЕ ИЗВЕСТИЯ

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## SPECIAL CLASSES OF POSITIVE PREORDERS

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ABSTRACT. We study positive preorders relative to computable reducibility. An approach is suggested to lift well-known notions from the theory of ceers to positive preorders. It is shown that each class of positive preoders of a special type (precomplete, *e*-complete, weakly precomplete, effectively finite precomplete, and effectively inseparable ones) contains infinitely many incomparable elements and has a universal object. We construct a pair of incomparable dark positive preorders that possess an infimum. It is shown that for every non-universal positive preorder P, there are infinitely many pairwise incomparable minimal weakly precomplete positive preorders that are incomparable with P.

**Keywords:** positive preorder, ceer, computable reducibility, precomplete, weakly precomplete, minimal preorder.

# INTRODUCTION

The work is dedicated to studying positive preorders on the set of natural numbers  $\omega$ . By a positive preorder we mean a computably enumerable reflective and transitive binary relation. A special case of a positive preorder—positive equivalence (ceer)—is sufficiently well studied. Classic works in this area include the works by Yu.L. Ershov [1], K. Bernardi and A. Sorbi [2], A. Lachlan [3], S.A. Badaev [4], S. Gao and P. Gerdes [5]. The current state of study the ceers is given in [6], articles [7]–[10], and works by other authors.

If E is a ceer, then it is possible to define functions and relations on the factor set  $\omega/E$  and obtain interesting structures with relatively computable properties. Our motivation for such approach was the work by F. Montagna and A. Sorbi [11], where

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for E the provable equivalence relation for propositions from Peano arithmetic is taken, and operations on  $\omega/E$  are naturally generated by logical connectives. Some modern studies in the area of ceers go in the opposite direction, solving, for example, issues on representability of linear orders [9] or Boolean algebras [10] in the form of a quotient structure  $\omega/E$  for a suitable ceer E. In this work, for every positive preorder P we introduce the notion of so called *support* E of preorder P, that is, the maximal ceer contained in the preorder P, and actually work with a partially ordered set  $\omega/E$ . Based on the notion of support, we generalize some known notions and results of the theory of ceers to the positive preorders.

If R and S are preorders on  $\omega$ , we say that R is computably reducible to S (denoted by  $R \leq_c S$ ), if there exists a computable function f, such that  $xRy \Leftrightarrow f(x)Sf(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \omega$ . Preorders R and S are said to be equivalent (denoted by  $R \equiv_c S$ ), if  $R \leq_c S$  and  $S \leq_c R$ . Preorders R and S are called computably isomorphic, if there exists a computable permutation of the set  $\omega$ , that reduces R to S. A positive preorder is called universal, if any positive preorder is computably reducible to it. A well-known notion of universal ceer has been introduced in a similar way, as the maximal one among all ceers relative to computable reducibility.

In Section 1 of this work, we provide definitions of precompleteness, weak precompleteness, e-completeness, effectively finite precompleteness, and effective inseparability of positive preorders, and prove the existence of universal positive preorders of the above-mentioned types. In Section 2, we study the questions of existence of supremum and infimum of incomparable positive preorders. And in Section 3, we show for an arbitrary non-universal positive preorder P the existence of an infinite number of pairwise incomparable weakly precomplete minimal positive preorders, incomparable to P.

### 1. Special classes of positive preorders

Recall some notions that turned out to be helpful in the studies on universal ceers. The notion of precomplete equivalence was introduced by A.I. Maltsev in work [12]. It played a significant role in different areas of the computability theory, including the theory of ceers. An equivalence E is called *precomplete*, if it contains at least two equivalence classes and for every partial computable function  $\varphi$  there exists a computable function f such that  $\varphi(x)Ef(x)$  for all  $x \in \operatorname{dom}(\varphi)$ .

According to the definition by Lachlan [3], a ceer S is called *e-complete* (from *extension complete*), if for every ceer R, every finite function f, which is an embedding of  $\langle \operatorname{dom}(f), R \upharpoonright \operatorname{dom}(f) \rangle$  into  $\langle \omega, S \rangle$ , and any number  $i \in \omega \setminus \operatorname{dom}(f)$ , by the number i, a canonical index of the function f, and a computably enumerable index of the relation R, it is possible to effectively find a number j such that  $f \cup \{\langle i, j \rangle\}$  is an embedding of  $\langle \operatorname{dom}(f) \cup \{i\}, R \rangle$  into  $\langle \omega, S \rangle$ . In [3], it was established that *e*-complete ceers and precomplete ceers are universal and form two different types of computable isomorphism.

**Definition 1.** Let P be an arbitrary preorder. We will refer to the equivalence relation  $E = \{(x, y) : xPy \& yPx\}$  as a support of the preorder P and denote the equivalence E by supp(P).

Obviously, the support  $\operatorname{supp}(P)$  of a positive preorder P is a ceer. However, the inverse is not correct. Indeed, if X is not a computably enumerable set, then the preorder  $Q = \{(2x, 2x + 1) : x \in X\}$  is not positive, but its support is the identity equivalence relation Id.

**Remark 1.** Given any preorders  $P_1, P_2$ , if  $P_1 \leq_c P_2$ , then  $\operatorname{supp}(P_1) \leq_c \operatorname{supp}(P_2)$ .

The inverse statement is not true. For example,  $\operatorname{supp}(Q) \leq_c \operatorname{supp}(\operatorname{Id})$ , but  $Q \not\leq_c \operatorname{Id}$ .

**Definition 2.** We refer to a preorder P as precomplete (weakly precomplete, ecomplete, effectively finite precomplete, or effectively inseparable), if the support of the preorder P is a precomplete (weakly precomplete, e-complete, effectively finite precomplete, or effectively inseparable, respectively) equivalence.

**Theorem 1.** For every positive preorder P, there exists a precomplete positive preorder Q such that  $P \leq_c Q$ .

*Proof.* Let P be an arbitrary positive preorder, and E be a universal precomplete ceer. Then  $\operatorname{supp}(P) \leq_c E$  by some computable function f. We define the positive preorder Q in the following way: for all  $x, y \in \omega$ ,

 $xQy \Leftrightarrow xEy \lor (\exists u)(\exists v)[xEf(u) \& yEf(v) \& uPv]$ 

It is easy to see that  $P \leq_c Q$  and  $\operatorname{supp}(Q) = E$ . Due to the choice of E, the preorder Q is precomplete.

**Corollary 1.** Universal precomplete positive preorders exist.

*Proof.* It is sufficient to take any universal positive preorder for P in the proof of the theorem [13].

Precomplete ceers are universal [2], and therefore, they all are pairwise equivalent. Moreover, nontrivial precomplete ceers form the unique type of computable isomorphism [3]. For precomplete positive preorders, the picture is completely different, as it follows from the next corollary. In particular, precomplete positive preorders can be non-universal.

**Corollary 2.** There are infinitely many non-equivalent precomplete positive preorders.

*Proof.* Consider a computable sequence  $\{P_k\}_{k\in\omega}$  of positive preorders, such that

- $\operatorname{supp}(P_k) = \operatorname{Id}_{k+1},$
- $(\forall i \leq j \leq k)([i]_{\mathrm{Id}_{n+1}}P_k[j]_{\mathrm{Id}_{n+1}}).$

Every  $P_k$  is a positive preorder, whose quotient over the support is a linear order, isomorphic to the order  $\{0 < 1 < 2 < \ldots < k\}$ . Obviously,  $P_j \not\leq_c P_i$  for all i < j. We denote by  $Q_k$  a positive preorder which can be constructed similarly as in the proof of Theorem 1, where for P we take a positive preorder  $P_k$ . Then  $Q_j \not\leq_c Q_i$ for all i < j.

It is well known that every of the following classes:

- weakly precomplete ceers,
- *e*-complete ceers,
- effectively finite precomplete ceers,
- effectively inseparable ceers,-

contains universal equivalences, see the survey [6]. Applying the construction from the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain the following

**Corollary 3.** For every positive preorder P there exists a preorder Q from each of the classes listed above, such that  $P \leq_c Q$ .

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## 2. SUPREMA AND INFIMA

Relative to computable reducibility  $\leq_c$ , the set of positive preorders is a preorder structure whose quotient structure over the equivalence  $\equiv_c$  forms a partially ordered set with respect to the ordering induced by  $\leq_c$ . Not entirely correctly, we will say that a positive preorder P consists of equivalence classes (to be exact, equivalence classes of its support supp(P)), connected by the relation P.

One of the most important problems in studying of any ordered structure is the question of existence of the least upper bounds and greatest lower bounds. In paper [7], the questions of existence of suprema and infima with respect to computable reducibility were studied. The results of this work are presented in the tables below:

X	Y	$X \wedge Y?$
light	light	-sometimes NO
		-sometimes YES
$\operatorname{dark}$	dark	NO
light	dark	NO

**Table 1.** The existence of infima inthe structure of ceers

X	Y	$X \lor Y?$
light	light	-sometimes NO
		-sometimes YES
dark	dark	NO
light	dark	-sometimes NO
		-sometimes YES

**Table 2.** The existence of suprema inthe structure of ceers

Of course, in these tables, incomparable ceers X and Y were considered.

Recall (see, for example, [6]) that by  $\mathrm{Id}_n$  we denote an equivalence with n computable classes. By Id the identity equivalence is denoted. An equivalence E is called *dark*, if E is incomparable to Id. An equivalence E with infinitely many classes is called *light*, if it is not dark.

Using the natural approach outlined in Section 1, we will introduce the notions of dark, light, and finite preorders in the following way.

**Definition 3.** A positive preorder P is called dark (finite, light), if the support supp(P) is a dark equivalence (consists of a finite number of classes; is neither finite nor dark equivalence).

Note that in work [8] a slightly different notion of a dark positive preorder P was introduced for the case where P induces a linear order on supp(P).

Since ceers are positive preorders, for the questions of existence of suprema and infima in the tables provided above we do not have to consider cases with answers of the kind "sometimes YES, sometimes NO". In this paper, we will only consider the case where both preorders are dark.

**Theorem 2.** There exist dark positive preorders that have the greatest lower bound.

*Proof.* Let S be a simple set. Then  $R_S = \{(x, y) : x = y \lor \{x, y\} \subseteq S\}$  is a dark ceer. We define preorders P and Q in the following way:

$$P = R_S \oplus \mathrm{Id}_1;$$

$$Q = R_S \oplus \mathrm{Id}_1 \cup \{(2x, 2y+1) : x \in S\}.$$

Obviously, the positive preorders P and Q are dark. We will show that they are incomparable, and  $R_S$  is their greatest lower bound. It is easy to see that the preorder P is a ceer and that the positive preorder Q has exactly two related equivalence classes 2S and  $2\omega + 1$ , in particular, Q is not an equivalence. Obviously, each preorder that is computably reducible to an equivalence is an equivalence itself. Therefore, we directly obtain that  $Q \not\leq_C P$ .

Let us prove that  $P \nleq_c Q$ . Assume that  $P \leq_c Q$  by a computable function f. Due to reducibility, the image of the function f cannot intersect both Q-classes 2S and  $2\omega + 1$ . If range $(f) \cap 2S = \emptyset$ , then 2S is the preimage of a computable set, which is impossible. But if range $(f) \cap 2S \neq \emptyset$ , then the function  $f([\frac{x}{2}])$  provides the non-surjective reducibility  $R_S \leq_c R_S$ , which is also impossible. Hence, the positive preorders P and Q are incomparable.

It is clear that  $R_S$  is a lower bound of P and Q. Suppose that a positive preorder T is a lower bound of the preorders P and Q. Since P is an equivalence and  $T \leq_c P$ , then the preorder T is also an equivalence. Let  $T \leq_c Q$  by a computable function g. Similarly to the above, note that range(g) cannot intersect both related Q-classes 2S and  $2\omega + 1$  and consider two cases.

Case 1. range $(g) \cap 2S = \emptyset$ . Since all Q-classes of equivalence, except for the class 2S, are computable, then all equivalence classes T are also computable. We will prove by contradiction that the number of equivalence classes in T is finite. Assume that T has infinitely many equivalence classes. Then range(g) consists of an infinite number of Q-classes. Therefore, the computably enumerable set range $(g) \setminus (2\omega + 1 \cup 2S)$  is infinite, which is impossible since the set S is simple. Hence, T is a partition of  $\omega$  into a finite number of computable sets, and therefore,  $T \leq_c R_S$ .

Case 2. range $(g) \cap 2S \neq \emptyset$ . Then range $(g) \cap 2\omega + 1 = \emptyset$  and the computable function  $\frac{g(x)}{2}$  provides the reducibility of the equivalence T to  $R_S$ .

Therefore,  $R_S$  is the greatest lower bound of the positive preorders P and Q.  $\Box$ 

### 3. Weakly precomplete minimal positive preorders

In the paper [7] by U. Andrews and A. Sorbi the following fact was established for ceers.

**Theorem 3.** Let R be a non-universal ceer. Then there exist infinitely many pairwise incomparable ceers  $\{E_l\}_{l \in \omega}$ , such that for all l and a ceer X

(1)  $E_l \nleq R$ (2)  $X \leq E_l \Rightarrow (\exists n) [X \leq \mathrm{Id}_n]$ 

Note that in Theorem 3, there is not necessary to construct an infinite sequence of equivalences  $\{E_l\}_{l \in \omega}$ , it suffices to construct only one. Moreover, we can additionally require that this equivalence was weakly precomplete. Using the reasoning from the proof of Theorem 3, we will prove its analogue for positive preorders.

**Definition 4.** A preorder P is called minimal, if for every preorder X the reducibility  $X \leq_c P$  leads to the reducibility  $P \leq_c X$  or finiteness of the number of equivalence classes of the support supp(P).

**Theorem 4.** For every non-universal positive preorder R, there exists a weakly precomplete minimal positive preorder P, which is not reducible to R.

*Proof.* Let R be a non-universal positive preorder. We will construct a positive preorder P, fulfilling the following requirements for all  $i, j, k, e \in \omega$ :

 $P_{i,j}$ : If a set  $W_i$  intersects infinitely many equivalence classes of  $\operatorname{supp}(P)$ , then it intersects the class  $[j]_{\operatorname{supp}(P)}$ .

 $T_k: \varphi_k$  is not a reducing function of P to R.

 $WP_e$ : If  $\varphi_e$  is total, then  $\exists x_e((x_e, \varphi_e(x_e)) \in \operatorname{supp}(P))$ .

The main operation in our construction is the one of reflexive and transitive closure, denoted by the symbol \*: for an arbitrary binary relation X, by  $X^*$  we denote the smallest preorder containing X. Every time when one or several pairs of numbers is added into the preorder under construction, for the obtained binary relation immediately the operation \* is performed.

We denote by  $(R^s)_{s\in\omega}$  an uniformly computable sequence of positive preorders with the following properties:  $R^0 = \mathrm{Id}, \bigcup_{s\in\omega} R^s = R$ , for all s the following relation holds:  $R^{s+1} = (R^s \cup \{(x_s, y_s)\})^*$  for some pair of numbers  $(x_s, y_s)$ .

By a *large* number we mean the one that is larger than all numbers that have already been used in the construction.

An isolated strategy for satisfying the requirement  $P_{i,j}$ :

(1) Choose a large number t.

(2) If  $W_i \cap [j]_{\mathrm{supp}(P)} = \emptyset$ , then wait until  $W_i \cap [k]_{\mathrm{supp}(P)} \neq \emptyset$  for some  $k \ge t$ .

(3) Add the pairs (j,k) and (k,j) into P.

An isolated strategy for satisfying the requirement  $T_k$ :

We fix a universal positive preorder U.

(1) Choose *fresh* (that is, never used before) numbers  $a_0, a_1$  and assume that the parameter r of this strategy equals 1.

(2) For all distinct  $i, j \leq r$ , restrain adding the pairs  $(a_i, a_j)$  in P, if they are not already in P. This restraining applies only to the strategies distinct from  $T_k$ .

(3) Wait until all values of  $\varphi_k(a_0), \varphi_k(a_1), ..., \varphi_k(a_r)$  become defined on some stage s.

(4) If for all  $i, j \leq r$ 

$$a_i P^s a_j \Leftrightarrow \varphi_k(a_i) R^s \varphi_k(a_j), \tag{\dagger}$$

then add the pairs  $(a_i, a_j)$  into P for all  $i, j \leq r$  such that  $iU^s j$ , increase by 1 the value of the parameter r, choose a fresh element  $a_r$  and go to stage (2).

An isolated strategy for satisfying the requirement  $WP_e$ :

- (1) Choose a fresh number  $x_e$ .
- (2) Wait until the value of  $\varphi_e(x_e)$  becomes defined.
- (3) Add the pairs  $(\varphi_e(x_e), x_e)$  and  $(x_e, \varphi_e(x_e))$  into P.

It is clear that fulfillment of all the requirements  $T_k, k \in \omega$ , and  $WP_e, e \in \omega$ , ensures irreducibility of the preorder P to R and weak precompleteness of P. We will show that fulfillment of all requirements  $P_{i,j}, i, j \in \omega$ , ensures that the preorder P is minimal. Indeed, let X be an arbitrary positive preorder reducible to P by some computable function f. And suppose that  $W_i$  is the range(f). If the set  $W_i$ intersects only a finite number of equivalence classes of  $\operatorname{supp}(P)$ , then only a positive preorder whose support consists of a finite number of equivalence classes, then the strategies  $P_{i,j}, j \in \omega$ , in total yield the equality  $[\operatorname{range}(f)]_{\operatorname{supp}(P)} = \omega$ , and due to positivity of the preorder P, it is easy to construct a computable reducing function for the reducibility  $P \leq_c X$ . Therefore, P is the minimal positive preorder.

**Strategy conflicts.** Obviously, the strategies  $P_{i,j}$  and  $WP_e$  do not conflict with each other. Conflicts can arise if one of these strategies wants to add some pair of numbers in P, and this pair is already restrained by some strategy  $T_k$ . Note that restrains are only imposed by strategies  $T_k$ . It might seem that the strategy  $T_{k'}$  for  $k' \neq k$  can prevent the strategy  $T_k$  from enumerating in P the pair  $(a_i, a_j)$  when performing stage (4) by restraining this pair. But that does not happen, since the parameters  $a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_r$  in both strategies  $T_{k'}$  and  $T_k$  are chosen among fresh numbers. Due to the same reason, parameters  $x_e$ , chosen by the strategy  $WP_e$ , cannot be a component of any pair restrained by any of the strategies  $T_k$ . Therefore, in the construction of the preorder P, we only need to care about solving the conflicts between the strategies  $P_{i,j}$  and  $T_k$ .

The way of solving conflicts of such kind is well known – that is the priority argument, in this case, the finite-injury priority argument. We assume that all the strategies are linearly ordered:  $S_0, S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_k, \ldots$ , moreover, by the number k we can effectively reconstruct the type of strategy and its indices. We will say that the strategy  $S_k$  has a higher priority compared to  $S_n$ , if k < n.

On each stage s of the construction, we consider exactly one of the strategies  $S_l, l \in \omega$ , denoted by  $S^s$ , moreover,  $S^s$  is a computable function of the argument s and for every l there exist infinitely many s such that  $S^s = S_l$ . By the end of any stage s, the strategy  $S_l$  can either be *active*, or *passive*. On stage 0, all strategies are passive. The strategy that is active (passive) on stage s remains so until on some of the following stages it is declared passive (active, respectively). An active strategy that turned into a passive one can be reactivated on some of the further stages.

Activation (reactivation) of a strategy  $S_l$  means choosing its parameters: for the strategies  $P_{i,j}$ ,  $T_k$ , and  $WP_e$ , that is performing point (1) of these strategies, and the parameters are the numbers t, r,  $a_0$ ,  $a_1$ , and  $x_e$ , respectively. In the course of construction, the value of the parameter r of the strategy  $T_k$  can be increased, and fresh numbers  $a_r$  can be added to the list of its parameters, as it is described at stage (4) of this strategy. Apart from the parameters r,  $a_0$ ,  $a_1$ , the strategy  $T_k$  during its activation forms the set res(k), consisting of pairs of numbers which are restrained from adding to P by the strategy  $T_k$  to all strategies of lower priority. During activation (reactivation), res(k) consists of two pairs  $(a_0, a_1)$  and  $(a_1, a_0)$ , to which new pairs are added as the parameter r increases, based on stage (4) of the strategy  $T_k$ .

Declaring a strategy to be passive is accompanied by turning its parameters into undefined ones, and the set of restraints res(k) of the strategy  $T_k$  is emptied. After that, the strategy reactivates at a larger stage.

**Construction.** The preorder P is constructed by stages. By  $P^s$  we denote a preorder on  $\omega$ , consisting of a finite number of pairs (x, y) with  $x \neq y$ , constructed by the end of stage s.

We will say that an active strategy  $S^{s+1}$  requires attention, if

(1)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $P_{i,j}$  for some i, j and the following condition is fulfilled: if  $W_i^s \cap [j]_{\mathrm{supp}(P^s)} = \emptyset$ , then  $W_i^s \cap [m]_{\mathrm{supp}(P^s)} \neq \emptyset$  for some  $m \ge t$  such that  $\{(j, m), (m, j)\} \cap \mathrm{res}(l') = \emptyset$  for all l' < l, or

(2)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $T_k$  and the values of

$$\varphi_k(a_0), \varphi_k(a_1), \ldots, \varphi_k(a_r)$$

are defined on stage s for all parameters  $a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_r$  of the strategy  $T_k$ and  $(\dagger)$  is fulfilled, or

(3)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $WP_e$  for some e,  $(y, \varphi_e(y)) \notin \operatorname{supp}(P^s)$  for every  $y \in \operatorname{dom}(\varphi_e^s)$  and  $\varphi_e^s(x_e)$  is defined.

**Stage 0.** Put  $P^0 = \text{Id}, \text{res}(l) = \emptyset$  for all *l*. Declare all strategies on stage 0 to be passive. Go to the next stage.

**Stage** s + 1. If the strategy  $S^{s+1}$  is passive, then activate (reactivate) it and go to the next stage. If the strategy  $S^{s+1}$  is active but does not require attention, then go to the next stage without any changes. Finally, if the strategy  $S^{s+1}$  requires attention, then consider three cases.

- (1)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $P_{i,j}$  for some i, j. If  $W_i^s \cap [j]_{supp(P^s)} \neq \emptyset$ , then go straitly to the next stage. Otherwise, choose the smallest number  $m \geq t$  such that the equivalence class  $[m]_{supp(P^s)}$  contains a number from  $W_i^s$  and both pairs (j, m), (m, j) do not belong to any of the sets  $\operatorname{res}(l'), l' < 1$ ; set  $P^{s+1} = (P^s \cup \{(j, m), (m, j)\})^*$ ; declare all the strategies  $S'_l, l > l'$ , to be passive.
- (2)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $WP_e$  for some e. Let  $x_e$  be a parameter of the strategy  $WP_e$ . Set  $P^{s+1} = (P^s \cup \{(x_e, \varphi_e(x_e)), (\varphi_e(x_e), x_e)\})^*$ . Declare all strategies  $S'_{l,l} > l'$ , to be passive.
- (3)  $S^{s+1} = S_l$  and  $S_l$  is the strategy  $T_k$  for some k. Let  $r, a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_r$  be its parameters. Set  $P^{s+1} = (P^s \cup \{(a_i, a_j) : i, j \leq r \& (i, j) \in U^s\})^*$ . Increase the value of the parameter r by one. Let the parameter  $a_{r+1}$  be equal to the smallest of the fresh numbers. Enumerate in res<sub>k</sub> all pairs of numbers  $(a_1, a_{r+1}), (a_{r+1}, a_i), i \leq r$ . Declare all strategies  $S'_l, l > l'$ , to be passive.

Go to the next stage.

**Verification.** Obviously, for all *s*, every strategy that is passive on stage *s* will be activated (reactivated) on some larger stage.

# Lemma 1. Every strategy requires attention for only a finite number of times.

*Proof.* To simplify the proof, we assume that  $S_0$  is  $T_0$ , and  $\varphi_0$  is a nowhere defined function. Then the strategy  $S_0$  is activated exactly one time and never requires attention.

Inductive step. Suppose that after some stage  $s_0$  none of the strategies

$$S_0, S_1, \ldots, S_{l-1}$$

requires attention. We will prove that after some stage  $s_1 \ge s_0$  the strategy  $S_l$  will not require attention either. It is easy to see that if  $S_l$  is one of the strategies  $P_{i,j}$ or  $WP_e$ , then after the stage  $s_0$  the strategy  $S_l$  can require attention at most once.

Now assume that  $S_l$  is the strategy  $T_k$  for some k and  $S_l$  requires attention on infinitely many stages  $s > s_0$ . Due to the choice of  $s_0$ , the strategy  $S_l$  cannot be declared passive and the relation ( $\dagger$ ) is fulfilled on all of these stages. Then the sequence of parameters  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots$  is infinite, the function  $\varphi_e$  is total, and therefore, the computable function  $\varphi_e(a_i)$  in variable *i* reduces the universal positive preorder *U* to the preorder *R*, which is impossible.

**Lemma 2.** All the requirements  $P_{i,j}$ ,  $WP_e$ ,  $T_k$  are satisfied.

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*Proof.* Suppose that  $S_l$  is any of the strategies  $P_{i,j}$ ,  $WP_e$ ,  $T_k$  and  $s_0$  is the smallest stage after which none of the strategies  $S_0, S_1, \ldots, S_l$  requires attention. Existence of such stage follows from Lemma 1. We will show that the strategy  $S_l$  will be satisfied during or after the stage  $s_0$ . Consider three possible cases.

Case 1.  $S_l$  is the strategy  $P_{i,j}$  for some i, j, moreover,  $W_i$  intersects infinitely many equivalence classes  $\operatorname{supp}(P)$ , and the number j is arbitrary. Due to the choice of  $s_0$ , the set  $\bigcup_{l' < l} \operatorname{res}_{l'}$  is finite. Therefore, there are infinitely many numbers  $m \in W_i$ , different from components of all pairs of this set. Let  $s_1 + 1 > s_0$  be some stage for which one of such sufficiently large numbers m belongs to  $W_i^{s_1}$ , and  $S^{s_1+1}$ is the strategy  $P_{i,j}$ . Then  $W_i^{s_1} \cap [j]_{\operatorname{supp}(P^s)} \neq \emptyset$ , otherwise, on stage  $s_1 + 1$  the strategy  $S_l$  will require attention, which contradicts the choice of the stage  $s_0$ .

Case 2.  $S_l$  is the strategy  $WP_e$  for some e, moreover, the function  $\varphi_e$  is total. Suppose that on stage  $s_2 + 1 > s_0$ , the parameter  $x_e$  and the value of  $\varphi_e(x_e)$  are defined, and  $S^{s_2+1}$  is the strategy  $WP_e$ . Then  $(y, \varphi_e(y)) \in \text{supp}(P^{s_2})$  for some  $y \in \text{dom}(\varphi_e^{s_2})$ , otherwise, on stage  $s_2 + 1$  the strategy  $S_l$  would require attention, which contradicts the choice of the stage  $s_0$ .

Case 3.  $S_l$  is the strategy  $T_k$  for some k, moreover, the function  $\varphi_k$  is total. Since the strategy  $T_k$  does not require attention after the stage  $s_0$ , the list of its parameters stabilises on some finite set  $a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_r$ , the set of restraints res<sub>k</sub> stabilises, and by some stage  $s_3 + 1 > s_0$ , for which  $S^{s_3+1}$  is  $T_k$ , all the values of  $\varphi_k(a_0), \varphi_k(a_1), \ldots, \varphi_k(a_r)$  are defined, and for all  $i, j \leq r$  the following relations hold:

$$\varphi_k(a_i)R\varphi_k(a_j) \iff \varphi_k(a_i)R^{s_3}\varphi_k(a_j), \quad iUj \iff iU^{s_3}j.$$

Therefore, on the stage  $s_3 + 1$ , the relation (†) fails. Due to the choice of  $s_0$ , none of the pairs  $(a_i, a_j), i, j \leq r$ , can be enumerated in P by strategies of higher priority and cannot be enumerated in P by the strategies of lower priority than the priority of  $S_l$ . Hence, it follows that  $a_i P^{s_3} a_j \iff a_i P a_j$  for all  $i, j \leq r$ . Therefore, reducibility  $P \leq_c R$  by the computable function  $\varphi_k$  fails for at least on one pair of numbers  $(a_i, a_j) \in \operatorname{res}_k$ .

Therefore, in each of three considered cases, the construction provides the fulfillment of the corresponding requirement.  $\Box$ 

The theorem is proved.

**Corollary 4.** For every positive non-universal preorder R, there exist inifinitely many pairwise incomparable weakly precomplete minimal positive preorders, each of which does not reduce to R.

**Proof.** By Theorem 4, for preorder R there exists a weakly precomplete minimal preorder  $P_0$ , incomparable to R. Consider a positive preorder  $R_1 = R \oplus P_0$ . Then  $\operatorname{supp}(R_1)$  is not a universal ceer, since a universal ceer does not decompose into a direct sum of incomparable equivalences, [1]. Therefore,  $R_1$  is not a universal positive preorder. Applying Theorem 4, we obtain a weakly precomplete minimal preorder  $P_1$ , incomparable to  $R_1$ , and therefore, incomparable to R and  $P_0$ . Iterating this process, we obtain the required sequence of weakly precomplete minimal preorders.

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