Subject 24.242. Logic II. HW3 Sample Answers

For each term τ , we have defined a code number $\lceil \tau \rceil$, according to the following prescription:

Pair(x,y) is, you will recall, $\frac{1}{2}(x+y)(x+y+1) + x$.

- 1. Give the Arabic numeral for (0+0). Triple(5, 0, 0) = Pair(5, Pair(0, 0)) = Pair(5, Pair(4,4)) = Pair(5,40) = 1040.
- 2. Show that a set of natural numbers is decidable if and only if it is either finite or the range of an increasing calculable total function. (A total function f is *increasing* iff, for any x and y, if x < y, then f(x) < f(y).)
 - (\Rightarrow) If S is infinite, it is the range of the following increasing total function:

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f(0) = the least element of S.
f(n+1) = the least element of S greater than f(n).
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If S is decidable, f can be calculated by testing the natural numbers, one after another, for membership in S.

(←) A finite set is obviously decidable, just by incorporating a list of the set into the program. If S is the range of an increasing, calculable total function f, we can test whether n is an element of S by calculating f(0), f(1), f(2), and so on, until we reach an i with $f(i) \ge n$. If f(i) = n, then n is in S. If f(i) > n, then $n \notin S$.