

- MELISSA ANTONELLI, UGO DAL LAGO, DAVIDE DAVOLI, ISABEL OITAVEM AND PAOLO PISTONE, *Enumerating Error Bounded Polytime Algorithms Through Arithmetical Theories*.

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Since its early days, computer science has profoundly benefitted from the several interactions with mathematical logic. Among these, there is the possibility of characterizing fundamental complexity classes within a purely logical framework [6, 8], thus considering them from a new viewpoint, less dependent on concrete machine models and explicit resource bounds. Yet, classes defined on the bases of *randomized* algorithms [10] have remained difficult to capture with the tools of logic and this is especially true for semantic classes, as **BPP**, which are, by their nature, more challenging to enumerate via recursion-theoretic means. Currently, it is simply not known whether an effective enumeration of the aforementioned probabilistic classes is possible. In fact, the definition of **BPP**, being based on error-bounded machines, is not amenable to an enumeration, but nobody knows if alternative presentations of this same class support it. Indeed, the sparse contributions along these lines are usually themselves *semantic* [5, 9] or restricted to deal with syntactic randomized classes, like **PP** [3, 4].

The present work makes a step towards a logical characterization of randomized classes by considering a language in which the probability of error can be kept under control *from within* the logic. Concretely, we introduce a minimal extension of the language of arithmetic, such that the bounded formulas provably total in a suitably-defined theory *à la* Buss [2, 7] (expressed in this new language) precisely capture polytime *random* functions. Then, we provide two characterizations of **BPP**, obtained by internalizing the error-bound check *within* a logical system: one relies on measurement-sensitive quantifiers [1], the other expresses the “measurement” via standard first-order quantification. This leads us to the introduction of a family of effectively-enumerable subclasses of **BPP**, each consisting of languages captured by probabilistic Turing machines whose underlying error can be proved bounded in the corresponding arithmetical theory. As a paradigmatic consequence, we establish that polynomial identity testing is in **BPP**_{PA}.

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