

# Undecidability of Peano Arithmetic

Marc Hermes

2. July 2020



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The proof of this is fully mechanised Coq.

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and most relevant for this talk:

- Hilbert's 10th Problem [Larchey-Wendling and Forster, 2019]

# Coq and Mathematics

Mathematics is in the most part implicitly framed in set theory. Coq is based on a different kind of foundational theory. (dependent type theory)

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There are a lot of intuitions mathematicians have, which are not justified in set theory, but *are* when using a type theory.

- $2 = (0, 0)$
- $\emptyset + 1 = \{\emptyset\}$
- $\sin(\cos) \in \pi$

# Coq and Mathematics

Mathematics is in the most part implicitly framed in set theory. Coq is based on a different kind of foundational theory. (dependent type theory)

There are a lot of intuitions mathematicians have, which are not justified in set theory, but *are* when using a type theory.

- $2 = \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\} = (\emptyset, \emptyset) = (0, 0)$
- $0 + 1 = 1$
- most likely  $\sin(\cos) \notin \pi$

# Coq and Mathematics

Mathematics is in the most part implicitly framed in set theory. Coq is based on a different kind of foundational theory. (dependent type theory)

There are a lot of intuitions mathematicians have, which are not justified in set theory, but *are* when using a type theory.

- $2 = (0, 0)$
- $\emptyset + 1 = \{\emptyset\}$
- $\sin(\cos) \in \pi$

In agreement with intuition, the above statements do not make sense in type theory!

# Proofs in Coq

Let's look at some proofs inside of Coq!

The screenshot shows the Coq IDE interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Options, Buffers, Tools, Coq, Proof-General, Holes, Outline, Hide/Show, YASnippet, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for State, Context, Goal, Retract, Undo, Next, Use, Goto, QED, Home, Find, Info, Command, Prooftree, Interrupt, Restart, and Help.

The main editor area is split into two panes. The left pane shows a Coq goal:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x).$   
Proof.  
|
```

The right pane shows a subgoal (ID 7):

```
1 subgoal (ID 7)  
-----  
 $\forall (X : \text{Type}) (P : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}), \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x : X, \neg P x)$ 
```

At the bottom of the right pane, there is a status bar showing:

```
U:%%- *goals* All L4 (Coq Goals +2)
```

The bottom status bar of the IDE shows:

```
U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L5 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)
```

The screenshot shows the Coq proof assistant interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Options, Buffers, Tools, Coq, Proof-General, Holes, Outline, Hide/Show, YASnippet, and Help. The toolbar contains icons for State, Context, Goal, Retract, Undo, Next, Use, Goto, QED, Home, Find, Info, Command, ProofTree, Interrupt, Restart, and Help.

The main window is divided into two panes. The left pane shows the current goal and proof state:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X.
```

The right pane shows a subgoal (ID 8) with the following text:

```
1 subgoal (ID 8)
X : Type
-----
 $\forall P : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x : X, \neg P x)$ 
```

At the bottom of the right pane, there is a status bar showing "U:%%- \*goals\* All L6 (Coq Goals +3)".

The bottom status bar of the entire window shows "U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L5 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)".

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The main editor is split into two panes. The left pane shows the current goal and proof state:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P.
```

The right pane shows a subgoal (ID 9) with the following context and goal:

```
1 subgoal (ID 9)
  X : Type
  P : X →  $\mathbb{P}$ 
  -----
   $\neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x : X, \neg P x)$ 
```

At the bottom of the right pane, there is a status bar showing "U:%%- \*goals\* All L4 (Coq Goals +3)".

The bottom status bar of the IDE shows "U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L5 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)".

File
Edit
Options
Buffers
Tools
Coq
Proof-General
Holes
Outline
Hide/Show
YASnippet
Help

State
Context
Goal
Retract
Undo
Next
Use
Goto
Qed
Home
Find
Info
Command
Prooftree
Interrupt
Restart
Help

Goal
Proof.

$$\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x).$$

intros X. intros P. split.

2 subgoals (ID 11)

X : Type
P : X →  $\mathbb{P}$

$$\neg (\exists x : X, P x) \rightarrow \forall x : X, \neg P x$$

subgoal 2 (ID 12) is:
$$(\forall x : X, \neg P x) \rightarrow \neg (\exists x : X, P x)$$

U:%%- \*goals\*
All L6
(Coq Goals +3)

U:%%- \*response\*
All L1
(Coq Response Wrap)

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L5 (Coq Script(2-) +2 yas hs Outl

Marc Hermes

Undecidability of PA

2. July 2020

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File
Edit
Options
Buffers
Tools
Coq
Proof-General
Holes
Outline
Hide/Show
YASnippet
Help

State
Context
Goal
Retract
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Use
Goto
Qed
Home
Find
Info
Command
Prooftree
Interrupt
Restart
Help

Goal
Proof.
intros X. intros P. split.
=

1 subgoal (ID 11)
X : Type
P : X → P
→ (∃ x : X, P x) → ∀ x : X, ¬ P x

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L6 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl
U:\*\*\* \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)

U:\*\*\* \*goals\* All L6 (Coq Goals +3)

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The main window is divided into two panes. The left pane shows the current goal and proof state:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .  
Proof.  
  intros X. intros P. split.  
  - intros H.
```

The right pane shows the subgoals for the current goal (ID 13):

```
1 subgoal (ID 13)  
  X : Type  
  P : X  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{P}$   
  H :  $\neg (\exists x : X, P x)$   
  -----  
   $\forall x : X, \neg P x$ 
```

At the bottom of the right pane, there is a status bar showing the number of goals and the response status:

```
U:%%- *goals* All L7 (Coq Goals +3)  
U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)
```

The bottom status bar of the entire window shows the current file and position:

```
U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L6 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)
```

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help
State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto Qed Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x.

1 subgoal (ID 14)
  X : Type
  P : X  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{P}$ 
  H :  $\neg (\exists x : X, P x)$ 
  x : X
  -----
   $\neg P x$ 

U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L6 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:*** *response* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)
```

File
Edit
Options
Buffers
Tools
Coq
Proof-General
Holes
Outline
Hide/Show
YASnippet
Help

State
Context
Goal
Retract
Undo
Next
Use
Goto
Qed
Home
Find
Info
Command
Prooftree
Interrupt
Restart
Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .  
Proof.  
intros X. intros P. split.  
\_ intros H. intros x. unfold not.

1 subgoal (ID 16)  
  
X : Type  
P : X →  $\mathbb{P}$   
H :  $\neg (\exists x : X, P x)$   
x : X  
  
P x →  $\perp$

U:%%- \*goals\* All L8 (Coq Goals +3)

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L6 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help

State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto Qed Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .  
Proof.  
  intros X. intros P. split.  
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.

1 subgoal (ID 17)

$X : \text{Type}$   
 $P : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$   
 $H : \neg (\exists x : X, P x)$   
 $x : X$   
 $Px : P x$

$\perp$

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L6 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:\*\*\* \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)

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The left pane displays the following Coq code:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H.
```

The right pane shows a subgoal (ID 18) with the following context:

```
1 subgoal (ID 18)
X : Type
P : X →  $\mathbb{P}$ 
H :  $(\exists x : X, P x) \rightarrow \bot$ 
x : X
Px : P x
```

The goal is  $\bot$ .

The bottom status bar shows the file path `U:*** illustrative_examples.v` and the current position `Top L7 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl)`. The right side of the status bar shows the current goal and response status: `U:*** *goals* All L9 (Coq Goals +3)` and `U:*** *response* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)`.

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help

State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto Qed Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

```

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.

```

```

1 subgoal (ID 19)
X : Type
P : X →  $\mathbb{P}$ 
H :  $(\exists x : X, P x) \rightarrow \perp$ 
x : X
Px : P x
-----
 $\exists x_0 : X, P x_0$ 

```

U:%%- \*goals\* All L9 (Coq Goals +3)

U:%%- \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L7 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%-)

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help

State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto QED Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

**Goal**  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x).$   
**Proof.**  
 intros X. intros P. split.  
 - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.  
 unfold not in H. apply H.  
 $\exists x.$

1 subgoal (ID 21)

$X : \text{Type}$   
 $P : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$   
 $H : (\exists x : X, P x) \rightarrow \perp$   
 $x : X$   
 $Px : P x$

$P x$

U:%%- \*goals\* All L9 (Coq Goals +3)

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L8 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- \*response\* All L1 (Coq Response Wrap)

Auto-saving...done

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help

State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto QED Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

```

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.

```

1 subgoal (ID 12)

subgoal 1 (ID 12) is:  
 $(\forall x : X, \neg P x) \rightarrow \neg (\exists x : X, P x)$

U:%%- \*goals\* All L4 (Coq Goals +3)  
 This subproof is complete, but there are some unfocused goals.  
 Focus next goal with bullet -.

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L8 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- \*response\* All L2 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help
State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto QED Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.
  -

1 subgoal (ID 12)
X : Type
P : X  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{P}$ 
-----
( $\forall x : X, \neg P x$ )  $\rightarrow \neg (\exists x : X, P x)$ 

U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L9 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:*** *response* All L1 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)
```

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help
State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto QED Home Find Info Command ProofTree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.
  - firstorder.
```

U:\*\*\* **\*goals\*** All L1 (Coq Goals +3)  
No more subgoals.

U:\*\*\* illustrative\_examples.v Top L9 (Coq Script(0-) +2 yas hs Outl U:\*\*\* **\*response\*** All L1 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)

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The main editor area displays the following Coq code:

```
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Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists$  x. exact Px.
  - firstorder.
Qed.
```

The bottom status bar shows the file path `U:***- illustrative_examples.v`, the current line `Top L10`, and the Coq script status `(Coq Script(0-) +2 yas hs Outl`. It also displays the current goal `U:***- *goals* All L1 (Coq Goals +3)` and the response status `(Coq Response +2 Wrap)`. A message at the bottom states: `"Proof using" not set. M-x coq-insert-suggested-dependency or right click to add it. See also 'coq-accept-proof-using-suggestion'.`

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help
State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto Qed Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.
  - firstorder.
Qed.

Goal  $5 + 7 = 12$ .
Proof.
  |

1 subgoal (ID 10)
-----
 $5 + 7 = 12$ 

U:%%- *goals* All L4 (Coq Goals +3)

U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L17 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)
```

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Coq Proof-General Holes Outline Hide/Show YASnippet Help
State Context Goal Retract Undo Next Use Goto Qed Home Find Info Command Prooftree Interrupt Restart Help

Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x).$ 
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.
  - firstorder.
Qed.

Goal  $5 + 7 = 12.$ 
Proof.
  compute.

1 subgoal (ID 12)
-----
12 = 12

U:%%- *goals* All L4 (Coq Goals +3)

U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L17 (Coq Script(1-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)
```

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The left pane displays two proof goals and their proofs:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x)$ .
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists$  x. exact Px.
  - firstorder.
Qed.

Goal  $5 + 7 = 12$ .
Proof.
  compute. reflexivity.
```

The right pane shows the goals and responses:

```
U:%%- *goals* All L1 (Coq Goals +3)
No more subgoals.

U:*** illustrative_examples.v Top L17 (Coq Script(0-) +2 yas hs Outl U:%%- *response* All L1 (Coq Response +2 Wrap)
```

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The main editor area contains two proof goals and their corresponding proofs:

```
Goal  $\forall X P, \neg (\exists x : X, P x) \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg P x).$ 
Proof.
  intros X. intros P. split.
  - intros H. intros x. unfold not. intros Px.
    unfold not in H. apply H.
     $\exists x$ . exact Px.
  - firstorder.
Qed.
```

  

```
Goal  $5 + 7 = 12.$ 
Proof.
  compute. reflexivity.
Qed.
```

At the bottom of the editor, there is a status bar showing the current file as `illustrative_examples.v` and the current line as `Top L18`. It also displays the Coq script and the current goal.

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# Undecidability along Reductions

## Undecidable Predicate (informally)

A predicate which has no algorithmic decision procedure.

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A predicate which has no algorithmic decision procedure.

Let  $\alpha$  be some **undecidable** predicate on a type  $A$  and  $\beta$  a predicate on  $B$ . If we have a **computable** function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  with

$$\forall x : A. \alpha(x) \leftrightarrow \beta(f(x))$$

then  $\beta$  is also undecidable.

# Undecidability along Reductions

## Undecidable Predicate (informally)

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Let  $\alpha$  be some **undecidable** predicate on a type  $A$  and  $\beta$  a predicate on  $B$ . If we have a **computable** function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  with

$$\forall x : A. \alpha(x) \leftrightarrow \beta(f(x))$$

then  $\beta$  is also undecidable.

## Intuition

$\beta$  decidable by algorithm and  $f$  computable  $\rightarrow (\beta \circ f \leftrightarrow \alpha)$  decidable. ⚡

# Reductions

## Definition

Let  $\alpha$  be some predicate on a type  $A$  and  $\beta$  a predicate on  $B$ . Then we call  $f : A \rightarrow B$  a **reduction from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$**  iff

$$\forall x : A. \alpha(x) \leftrightarrow \beta(f(x))$$

and  $f$  is **computable**.

# Reductions

## Definition

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The above gives a **synthetic notion for reductions**, which is justified by noting that from the outside we can recognise:

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# Reductions

Relevant for us: What are  $A, B, \alpha, \beta$  and  $f$  in our case?

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# Fragment FA of Peano Arithmetic

The first-order theory of PA has the following symbols:

**Function Symbols :**  $0$   $S$   $+$   $\cdot$       **Predicate Symbols :**  $\equiv$

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We define expressions containing variables, we call

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We call a list  $L = [e_1, \dots, e_n]$  of atomic equations  $e_j$  a **H10 problem** and extend  $[ \ ]_\sigma$  to problems by  $[L]_\sigma := [e_1]_\sigma \wedge \dots \wedge [e_n]_\sigma$ .

# Satisfiability of diophantine constraints

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$$L = [x + x = y, y \cdot y = x]$$

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## Examples

- $\mathbb{N} \models (x_1 + x_2 \equiv x_3) = \forall \rho. \rho(1) + \rho(2) = \rho(3)$
- $\mathbb{N} \models (\forall x. 0 + x \equiv x) = \forall n : \mathbb{N}. 0 + n = n$

# Tarski Semantics

If we replace  $\mathbb{N}$  with some other domain  $D$  providing

- $\mathbb{O} : D$
- $\mathbb{S} : D \rightarrow D$
- $\oplus : D \times D \rightarrow D$
- $\otimes : D \times D \rightarrow D$

we get the more general notion of a model  $(D, \mathbb{O}, \mathbb{S}, \oplus, \otimes)$  for arithmetic.

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# Canonical Model Homomorphism

If we have some FA model  $D$ , we can recursively define a function  $\nu : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow D$  by

## Definition

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For the proof of these equations we need the axioms we assumed for FA.

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Thank you for your attention!

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