

# A Computational and Abstract Approach to Gödel's First Incompleteness Theorem

First Bachelor seminar talk

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- ▶ Similar statement first shown by Gödel 1931
- ▶ Idea: Use logical formulas to represent provability
- ▶ Strengthened by Rosser 1936 to this modern form
- ▶ There is a folklore proof of a weaker theorem using computability theory
- ▶ Can this be strengthened?

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Proof has been mechanized in the Coq Library of Undecidability Proofs<sup>1</sup> (CLUP) by Kirst and Hermes 2021 using synthetic computability

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<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/uds-psl/coq-library-undecidability>

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*Computational* proof from Kleene 1967

We will do this computationally and abstractly!

## Definition (Formal system)

A formal system  $FS = (S, \neg, \vdash)$  such that:

- ▶  $S : \mathbb{T}$  is an enumerable and discrete type of sentences
- ▶  $\neg : S \rightarrow S$  is a negation function
- ▶  $\vdash : S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  is an enumerable provability predicate
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## Definition (Completeness)

$FS = (S, \neg, \vdash)$  is complete, if  $\forall s. \vdash s \vee \vdash \neg s$ .

## Lemma (Decidability)

In a complete formal system, provability is decidable.

## Proof.

Enumerate all provable sentences and search for a proof or refutation. □

## Definition (Weak representability)

A formal system  $\text{FS} = (S, \vdash, \neg)$  weakly represents a predicate  $P : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  if there is a representation function  $r : X \rightarrow S$  such that

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Weak representability transfers along *sound* extensions.

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## Lemma (Decidability of predicates)

Any predicate that can be weakly represented in a complete formal system is decidable.

## Definition (Partial functions)

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- ▶ diverge

We say that  $f x$  halts, if  $\exists y. f x \downarrow y$ .



## Assumption (Church's thesis<sup>23</sup>)

There is a function  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ , such that

$$\forall (f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}). \exists c. \forall xy. f x \downarrow y \longleftrightarrow \theta_c(x) \downarrow y.$$

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## Lemma (Special halting problem)

The special halting problem for  $\theta$ , that is

$$H_0 c := \theta_c(c) \text{ halts,}$$

is undecidable.

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$$\forall T \supseteq Q. \mathbb{N} \models T \longrightarrow T \text{ enumerable} \longrightarrow \\ (\forall \varphi. T \vdash \varphi \vee T \vdash \neg \varphi) \longrightarrow \text{dec } H_0 \perp$$

## Proof.

Instantiate abstract proof with first-order logic and Church's thesis for Turing machines. □

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What do we need to do to allow consistent extensions?

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Weak representability transfers along *sound* extensions.

## Definition (Value-representability)

A formal system  $FS = (S, \vdash, \neg)$  value-represents a function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  if there is a representation function  $r : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B} \rightarrow S$  such that

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## Definition

A formal system value-represents all computable functions, if

$$\forall c. \Sigma r. r \text{ value-represents } \theta_c.$$

## Definition (Consistent guessing)

A language  $L \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  fulfills consistent guessing if

$$\{(c, x) \mid \theta_c(x) \downarrow \text{true}\} \subseteq L \quad \wedge \quad \{(c, x) \mid \theta_c(x) \downarrow \text{false}\} \cap L = \emptyset.$$

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### Proof.

We write  $r_c$  for the value-representation of a code  $c$ . Let  $h : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  be the following function:

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Assuming FS is complete,  $h$  is well-defined and decides

$$L = \{(c, x) \mid h c x = \text{true}\},$$

which fulfills consistent guessing. □

## Theorem (Gödel's first incompleteness theorem)

$$\forall T \supseteq Q. \cancel{\mathbb{N}} \vdash \cancel{T} \not\vdash \perp \longrightarrow T \text{ enumerable} \longrightarrow \\ (\forall \varphi. T \vdash \varphi \vee T \vdash \neg \varphi) \longrightarrow \cancel{H_0} \perp$$

## Theorem (Gödel's first incompleteness theorem)

In any formal system that can value-represent all computable functions there is an independent sentence.

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We write  $r_c$  for the value-representation of a code  $c$ . Consider the following program  $f(c, x)$ :

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and the function  $g$ :

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Let  $c$  be the code of  $g$ . Now,  $r_c c$  true is independent in FS, that is  $\not\vdash r_c c$  true and  $\not\vdash \neg r_c c$  true.  $\square$

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I verified all of the abstract arguments using Coq.



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# Goals

- ▶ Complete instantiation of the abstract proof to first-order logic with  $\mathcal{Q}$ , additionally assuming a form of value-representability
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- ▶ Instantiate the proof using the halting problem with a proof of weak representability of Turing machines in  $\mathcal{Q}$  from CLUP
- ▶ Attempt to investigate Gödel's second incompleteness theorem using the abstract approach
- ▶ Investigate using recursively inseparable sets for showing the abstract theorems
- ▶ Mechanize a proof of value-representability of Turing machines in  $\mathcal{Q}$




## Theorem (Gödel's first incompleteness theorem)

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# Halting problem is undecidable

## Lemma

The predicate

$$H_0 c := \theta_c(c) \text{ halts}$$

is undecidable.

## Proof.

Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  be a function such that  $\forall c. f c = \text{true} \iff H_0 c$ .

Choose

$$g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}, g c := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f c = \text{false} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{if } f c = \text{true} \end{cases}$$

and let  $c$  be the code of  $g$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} f c = \text{false} &\iff g c = 0 \iff \theta_c(c) \text{ halts} \iff H_0 c \\ &\iff f c = \text{true} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $H_0$  is undecidable. □

# Undecidability of CG

## Lemma (Consistent guessing is undecidable)

Any language  $L \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  that fulfills consistent guessing is undecidable.

### Proof.

Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  be s.t.  $\forall cx. f c x = \text{true} \iff (c, x) \in L$ .

Consider  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}, g c := !f c c$ , let  $c$  be the code of  $g$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned} f c c = \text{true} &\longrightarrow g c = \text{false} \longrightarrow \theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{false} \longrightarrow (c, c) \notin L \\ &\longrightarrow f c c = \text{false} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f c c = \text{false} &\iff g c = \text{true} \iff \theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{true} \longrightarrow (c, c) \in L \\ &\iff f c c = \text{true}. \end{aligned}$$

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Consider  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}, g c := !f c c$ , let  $c$  be the code of  $g$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned} f c c = \text{true} &\iff g c = \text{false} \iff \theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{false} \longrightarrow (c, c) \notin L \\ &\iff f c c = \text{false} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f c c = \text{false} &\iff g c = \text{true} \iff \theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{true} \longrightarrow (c, c) \in L \\ &\iff f c c = \text{true}. \end{aligned}$$

□

## $h$ computes consistent guessing

Let  $h : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$  be the following function:

$$h\ c\ x := \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } r_c\ x\ \text{true is provable} \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

To show:  $L = \{(c, x) \mid h\ c\ x = \text{true}\}$  fulfills consistent guessing.

We have:

$\theta_c(x) \downarrow \text{true}$

$\vdash r_c\ x\ \text{true}$  by value-representability

To show:

$(c, x) \in L$

$h\ c\ x = \text{true}$

We have:

$\theta_c(x) \downarrow \text{false}$

$\vdash \neg r_c\ x\ \text{true}$  by value-representability

$\not\vdash r_c\ x\ \text{true}$  by consistency

To show:

$(c, x) \notin L$

$h\ c\ x = \text{false}$

## Proof.

We write  $r_c$  for the value-representation of a code  $c$ . Consider the following program  $f(c, x)$ :

1. enumerate all provable sentences  $s$ .
2. if  $s = r_c x$  true, accept.
3. if  $s = \neg r_c x$  true, reject.
4. otherwise, continue searching

and the function  $g$ :

$$g c := \begin{cases} \text{false} & \text{if } f(c, c) \downarrow \text{true} \\ \text{true} & \text{if } f(c, c) \downarrow \text{false} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{if } f(c, c) \text{ diverges} \end{cases}$$

Let  $c$  be the code of  $g$ . Now,  $r_c c$  true is independent in FS, that is  $\not\vdash r_c c$  true and  $\not\vdash \neg r_c c$  true.  $\square$

# Independence in FS

We have:

$\vdash r_c c \text{ true}$

To show:

$\perp$

STS:  $\vdash \neg r_c c \text{ true}$

$\theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{false}$

$g c = \text{false}$

$f(c, c) \downarrow \text{true}$

We have:

$\vdash \neg r_c c \text{ true}$

To show:

$\perp$

STS:  $\vdash r_c c \text{ true}$

$\theta_c(c) \downarrow \text{true}$

$g c = \text{true}$

$f(c, c) \downarrow \text{false}$

# Versions of Gödel's first incompleteness theorem

	No explicit sentence	Explicit sentence
Soundness	$H_0$ , KH2021	
$\omega$ -consistency		Gödel's proof
Consistency	CG 1	CG 2, Rosser's trick