

# Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems

## Reference Pages

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## 1 Gödel's incompleteness theorem (weak version)

### 1.1 Abstract Framework for the Incompleteness Theorems

1.  $E$  - set of expressions.
2.  $S \subseteq E$  - set of sentences.
3.  $N \subseteq E$  - set of numerals.
4.  $P \subseteq E$  - set of predicates.
5. A Gödel function:  $g : E \rightarrow N$ , denoted by  $g(\psi) = \lceil \psi \rceil$ .
6. A function  $\Phi : P \times N \rightarrow S$ , i.e  $\Phi(h, n) = h(n)$ .
7.  $T \subseteq S$  - representing intuitively the set of "true" sentences.

### Definition

1. We say a predicate  $h \in P$   $T$ -defines the set  $B \subseteq N$  of numerals, if for all  $n \in N$ ,  $n \in B \iff h(n) \in T$ .
2. We say a predicate  $h \in P$   $T$ -defines the set  $B \subseteq S$  of sentences, if for all  $\psi \in S$ ,  $\psi \in B \iff h(\lceil \psi \rceil) \in T$ .
3. We say a predicate  $H \in P$   $T$ -defines the set  $B \subseteq P$  of predicates, if for all  $h \in P$ ,  $h \in B \iff H(\lceil h \rceil) \in T$ .

### Definition(Diagonalization)

1. Let  $B \subseteq S$ ; The diagonalization function is defined as follows:

$$D(B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{h \in P \mid h(\lceil h \rceil) \in B\} .$$

2. We say that  $T \subseteq B$  satisfies the diagonalization condition if when  $B$  is  $T$ -definable then  $D(B)$  is  $T$ -definable.

**Proposition:**

1. if  $T$  satisfies the diagonalization condition then for every  $T$ -definable set of sentences  $B$  there is a (Gödel) sentence  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi \in T \iff \varphi \in B$ .
2. if  $T$  satisfies the diagonalization condition then  $S \setminus T$  is not  $T$ -definable.
3. (Tarski Theorem - abstract version) if  $T$  satisfies the diagonalization condition and for every  $T$ -definable set  $B \subseteq S$ ,  $S \setminus B$  is also  $T$ -definable then  $T$  is not  $T$ -definable.

**Theorem:** application I (Concrete Tarski)

Let  $L$  be a FOL with infinitely many closed terms. Let  $M$  be a Model for  $L$  and  $T_M$  the set of true sentences of  $M$ . if  $T_M$  satisfies the diagonalization condition then  $T_M$  is not  $T_M$ -definable.

**Theorem:** application II (Gödel's incompleteness theorem (weak version))

Let  $L$  be a FOL with infinitely many closed terms. Let  $M$  be a Model for  $L$  and  $T_M$  the set of true sentences of  $M$ .

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a theory such that  $M \models \mathcal{T}$ .

Let  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  denote the set of sentences that are provable in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

If for some coding we have that:

- (i)  $T_M$  satisfies the diagonalization condition;
- (ii)  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  is  $T_M$ -definable

then  $T_M \neq Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$ . That is, there are true sentences that are not provable in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

**Theorem:** Application I: Concrete Tarski's theorem for  $AE$  (arithmetic with exponentiation)

Let  $T_N$  be the set of  $AE$  sentences that are true in  $N$ , then  $T_N$  is not  $T_N$ -definable.

**Theorem:** Application II for  $AE$ : Gödel's incompleteness theorem (weak version) for  $AE$ 

The language -  $AE$ ; the model -  $N$ ;  $T_N$  - the set of  $AE$  sentences that are true in  $N$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be  $PA$  + the following two more axiom for exponent:

- (i)  $x^0 = 1$
- (ii)  $x^{s(n)} = x^n \cdot x$

$Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  is the provable sentences of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

If for some coding we have that:

- (i)  $T_M$  satisfies the diagonalization condition;
- (ii)  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  is  $T_M$ -definable

then  $T_M \neq Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$ . That is, there are true sentences that are not provable in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Application II: Gödel's incompleteness theorem (weak version) for  $PA$ .

The same as above, only for  $PA$ .

## 2 Gödel's incompleteness theorem (strong version)

Our goal now is to prove the following:

**Theorem:** (Gödel's incompleteness theorem (strong version) - application III)

*Let  $L$  be a FOL with infinitely many closed terms.*

*Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a consistent theory of  $L$ .*

*Let  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  denote the set of sentences that are provable in  $\mathcal{T}$  ; Thus, "truth" here is actually "provability".*

*If for some coding we have that:*

*(i)  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  satisfies the diagonalization condition ;*

*(ii)  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$  is  $Pr_{\mathcal{T}}$ -definable*

*then  $\mathcal{T}$  is incomplete.*

### 2.1 Safety Relations

**Goal:** To make  $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_k)$  safe for  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , when for all  $k$  numerals  $n_1, \dots, n_k$ , the question  $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n, n_1, \dots, n_k)$  can be computed *effectively*: there is a finite number of  $n$ -tuples, and there is an effective way to find them. Therefore we have,

**Definition:**  $A \succ$  safety relation between a set of formulas and sets of variables is a relation that satisfy the following conditions:

1.  $A \succ X, Z \subseteq X \implies A \succ Z$  .
2.  $x \notin Fv(t) \implies t = x \succ \{x\}$  and  $x = t \succ \{x\}$  .
3.  $A \succ \emptyset \implies \neg A \succ \emptyset$  .
4.  $A \succ X, B \succ X \implies A \vee B \succ X$  <sup>1</sup>
5.  $A \succ X, B \succ Z, Z \cap Fv(A) = \emptyset \implies A \wedge B \succ X \cup Z$  and  $B \wedge A \succ X \cup Z$
6.  $A \succ X, y \in X \implies \exists y. A \succ X \setminus \{y\}$  .
7.  $A \equiv B, A \succ X \implies B \succ X$  .

**Definition:** If  $t$  is a term and  $X \subseteq Fv(t)$  then we say that  $t \succ X$  if  $t = z \succ X$  when  $z \notin Fv(t)$  .

Remark:  $t \succ \emptyset$  for all  $t$ .

### 2.2 Implementation of Safety Relations

**Definition:**  $A(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \succ_N \bar{x}$  if for all  $\bar{n} \in N^k$  the set  $\{\bar{x} \mid A(\bar{x}, \bar{n})\}$  is finite.

proposition:  $\succ_N$  is a safety relation.

<sup>1</sup>Notice that both  $A$  and  $B$  are safe in respect to  $X$ , since if for example,  $x \leq y \succ y$  and  $z \leq w \succ w$  then its not the case that  $x \leq y \vee z \leq w \succ \{y, w\}$ , because all  $x$ 's are valid when we fix the  $w$ , for instance.

### 2.2.1 Safety relations in Arithmetic

**Definition:**

1. Bounded Safety: We define the  $b \succ$  safety relation as follows:

(i)  $x \leq y \quad b \succ x$

(ii) By induction, all the other conditions (1-7) of the safety relations hold.

Remark: Actually, it is sufficient to say that  $b \succ$  is a safety relation such that  $x \leq y \quad b \succ x$ . Since, if  $b \succ$  is a safety relation then all other conditions of the definition of safety relation hold.

2. Polynomial safety,  $p \succ$ :

(i)  $s(x) \quad p \succ x$

(ii)  $x + y \quad p \succ \{x, y\}$

(iii)  $s(x) \cdot s(y) = z \quad p \succ \{x, y\}$

3. Exponential safety,  $E \succ$ :

(i)  $x^y = z \quad E \succ z$

(ii)  $s(s(x))^y = z \quad E \succ \{x, y\}$

All of the above are effective safety relations in respect to  $N$ . That is, if  $\varphi(x, y) \succ \{x\}$ , then given  $y \in N$ , we can effectively find a finite set of  $x$ 's that satisfy  $\varphi$ .

**Definition:**

1.  $\varphi$  is safe if  $\varphi \succ Fv(\varphi)$ .
2.  $\varphi$  is effective if  $\varphi \succ \emptyset$ .

### 2.3 r.e. and $\Sigma_1$

**Definition:** Let  $\succ$  be a safety relation. A formula  $\varphi$  is said to be in  $\Sigma_1$  if it is of the form:  $\exists x_1, \dots, x_k. \varphi$ , where  $\varphi \succ \emptyset$ .

Remarks:

- (1)  $\Sigma_1$  formulas are also called *semi-effective* formulas.
- (2) We shall usually treat  $\Sigma_1$  formulas as formulas of the form  $\exists x_1, \dots, x_k. \psi$ , where  $\psi$  is  $p \succ$  (that is,  $\psi$  is in a language of  $N$ .)

**Definition:** r.e. or  $\Sigma$  formulae are defined as follows:

- (i) Every  $b \succ$  effective or  $p \succ$  effective formula is r.e. formula.
- (ii) If  $A$  and  $B$  are r.e. formulae then so is  $A \vee B$  and  $A \wedge B$ .
- (iii) If  $A$  is a r.e. formula then so is  $\exists x. A$ .
- (iv) IF  $A \quad b \succ \bar{x}$  or  $A \quad p \succ \bar{x}$  and  $B$  is r.e., then  $\forall \bar{x} (A \rightarrow B)$  is r.e. .

**Proposition:** Every r.e. formula is equivalent to a  $\Sigma_1$  formula over  $N$ .

**Definition**(Varinat of Church's Thesis):

1. A relation is semi-effective iff it is definable by a P-semi-effective formula.
2. A relation  $R$  is effective if both  $R$  and  $\neg R$  is P-semi-effective (semi-effective).

**Definition:**

1. We say a relation  $R \in N^k$  is defined in  $N$  by a formula  $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  when  $\bar{x} \in R \iff N \models \psi(\bar{x})$ .
2. A relation  $R$  over  $N$  is r.e. iff  $R$  is definable in  $N$  by a r.e. formula  $\psi$  iff there is a  $\Sigma_1$  formula  $\phi$  such that  $N \models \psi \leftrightarrow \phi$ .
3. A theory  $T$  is axiomatic if the set of its axioms is r.e.
4. We say a relation  $R$  over  $N$  is decidable or recursive if both  $R$  and  $\bar{R}$  is r.e.

**Proposition:** P-semi-effective is equivalent to E-semi-effective.  
proof. To be completed.

**Proposition:**

1. If a theory  $T$  is axiomatic then the set of all its theorems is r.e.
2. If a theory  $T$  is exponentially safe, i.e. for all its axioms  $A$ ,  $A \text{ }_{E>} Fv(A)$ , and thus E-effective<sup>2</sup>, then the syntax predicates 1-11 are all r.e. and exponentially safe. 12 is not anymore effective.
3. If  $T$  is not  $_{E>}$  safe but rather semi-effective, that is, in  $\Sigma_1$ , then 12 is also semi-effective (since,  $\Sigma_1$  is closed under  $\exists$ .)

## 2.4 Numeral Accurate Theories

**Definition( $T>$ ):**

Let  $T$  be a consistent theory that satisfies these conditions:

- (i) If  $k \neq n$  then  $T \vdash \bar{k} \neq \bar{n}$ .
- (ii) If  $t(\bar{y})$  is a term then for every  $\bar{n}$  there is a  $k$  such that  $T \vdash t(\bar{n}) = k$ .

Then  $T>$  is defined as follows:

$\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \text{ }_{T>} \bar{x}$  if for all  $\bar{k}$  there exists a finite set  $A$  such that:

$$T \vdash \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{k}) \leftrightarrow \bar{x} \in A$$

**Definition(BA):**

(i) A numeral accurate consistent theory that satisfies both (i) and (ii) conditions for  $T>$  is a theory in which the following conditions hold for every  $n, k$  and  $m$  (BA):

1. If  $n \neq k$  then  $T \vdash \bar{n} \neq \bar{k}$
2. If  $n + k = m$  then  $T \vdash \bar{n} + \bar{k} = \bar{m}$

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<sup>2</sup>Notice that if a formula  $A$  is safe for some  $>$  then it is also effective. But the opposite is not always true.

3. If  $n \cdot k = m$  then  $T \vdash \bar{n} \cdot \bar{k} = \bar{m}$

(ii)  $T$  is accurate with respect to a formula  $\varphi$  if for every closed instance  $\varphi'$  of  $\varphi$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} N \models \varphi' &\iff T \vdash \varphi' \\ N \not\models \varphi' &\iff T \vdash \neg\varphi' \end{aligned}$$

Note: from now on  $T$  is a numeral accurate theory.

**Definition(B.N.):** *PA without induction scheme is a numeral accurate and finite theory (i.e. includes BA).*

**Definition:**  $T$  respects a safety relation  $\succ \subseteq {}_N\succ$  when

1.  ${}_T\succ \supseteq \succ$
2.  $T$  is accurate with respect to every formula  $\varphi$  that is  $\succ$ -effective (i.e.  $\varphi \succ \emptyset$ ).

**Proposition:**  $T$  respects a safety relation  $\succ \subseteq {}_N\succ$  that is defined by a standard induction on the basic rules (2) if for every basic rule of the form  $\varphi \succ X$ :

- (i)  $\varphi \succ_T X$ .
- (ii)  $T$  is accurate with respect to  $\varphi$ .

**Proposition:** ( $RR^-$ )

Let  $RR^-$  be an infinite theory containing BA and all formulae of the form

$$T \vdash \forall x \leq k \iff (x = 0) \vee (x = 1) \vee \dots \vee (x = k).$$

Then a consistent theory  $T$  respects  $b$ -safety iff it includes  $RR^-$  (i.e. it proves all axioms of  $RR^-$ .)

**Definition(Q):** The theory  $Q$  is obtained from B.N. by adding the axiom:

$$\forall x(x = 0 \vee \exists y.x = s(y))$$

(The  $\leq$  is not in the language of  $Q$  and is defined by the  $+$  and  $=$  signs.)

## 2.5 $\Sigma_1$ - consistency

**Proposition:** If  $T$  is a consistent extension of  $RR^-$  and  $\varphi$  is a true  $\Sigma_1$  sentence then  $T \vdash \varphi$ .

**Definition( $\Sigma_1$  - consistency):**

A theory  $T$  is  $\Sigma_1$  - consistent if for every  $\Sigma_1$  formula  $\varphi = \exists \bar{x}.\psi(\bar{x})$ , i.e. such that  $\psi(\bar{x})$  is  $p$ -effective:

$$T \vdash \varphi \implies \exists \bar{n} \in N. T \vdash \psi(\bar{n}).$$

**Proposition:** If  $T$  is a  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent extension of  $RR^-$  and  $\varphi$  is a  $\Sigma_1$  sentence then  $T \vdash \varphi$  iff  $\varphi$  is a true sentence.

Note: from now on  $T$  is an axiomatic,  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent extension of  $RR^-$ .

## 2.6 Definability of Relations and Functions

**Definition:**

1. We say a relation  $P \subseteq N^k$  is enumerable in  $T$  by a formula  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  if for all  $\bar{n} \in N$ :

$$T \vdash \varphi\{\bar{n}/\bar{x}\} \iff \bar{n} \in P.$$

2. We say a relation  $P \subseteq N^k$  is binumerable in  $T$  by a formula  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  if for all  $\bar{n} \in N$ :

$\varphi(\bar{x})$  enumerates  $P$  in  $T$ ;

$\neg\varphi(\bar{x})$  enumerates  $\bar{P}$  in  $T$ .

propositions of proof of simple diagonalization theorem. (lecture 9)

**Proposition:** If an r.e. relation  $P$  is ('semantically') defined by  $\varphi$  in  $N$ , then for every  $T$ , a  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent extension of  $RR^-$ ,  $\varphi$  enumerates  $P$  in  $T$ .

**Corollary:** If a  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent extension of  $RR^-$ ,  $T$ , is axiomatic then  $Pr_T$  is enumerable in  $T$ .

**Definition:** We say a function  $f$  is representable in a theory  $T$  by a formula  $\varphi$  if:

1.  $\varphi$  enumerates  $f$  in  $T$ .
2. for all  $\bar{n}$  we have:
  - (i)  $T \vdash \exists y. \varphi(\bar{n}, y)$
  - (ii)  $T \vdash \varphi(\bar{n}, y_1) \wedge \varphi(\bar{n}, y_2) \longrightarrow y_1 = y_2$ .

**Proposition:** Let  $T$  be a consistent and axiomatic extension of  $RR^-$ , then the diagonalization function  $d(n) = \ulcorner E_n(\ulcorner E_n \urcorner) \urcorner$  is representable in  $T$ .

## 3 Results: Gödel's incompleteness theorem (strong version)

**Theorem:** ((Simple) Diagonalization Theorem)

If  $\varphi(x)$  is a formula, with  $x$  as its single free variable, then there exists a Gödel sentence  $E_n$  for  $\varphi$  such that  $RR^- \vdash E_n \iff \varphi(\ulcorner E_n \urcorner)$ , where  $E_n$  is a sentence with  $n$  as its Gödel number.

**Reminder :** The two conditions for Gödel's incompleteness theorem, *strong* variant:

- (i)  $Pr_T$  is enumerable in  $T$ .
- (ii) Diagonalization condition holds in  $T$ , according to the diagonalization theorem.

**Theorem:** (Tarski on truth definitions)

Let  $\psi$  be a truth definition for  $T$  in  $T$  such that for every sentence  $A$ :

$$T \vdash A \iff \psi(\ulcorner A \urcorner).$$

If  $T$  is a consistent extension of  $RR^-$  then  $T$  has no truth definition in  $T$ .

**Theorem:** (Gödel's incompleteness theorem) Let  $T$  be an axiomatic and consistent extension of  $RR^-$ , then:

1. There exists a true  $\Pi_1$  sentence,  $\varphi$ , such that  $T \not\vdash \varphi$ .
2. If  $T$  is  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent then also  $T \not\vdash \neg\varphi$  and thus  $T$  is incomplete.
3. Moreover,  $T$  in (2) is  $\omega$ -incomplete; that is, there exists a sentence  $\forall x.A(x)$  such that  $T \not\vdash \forall x.A(x)$  and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$   $T \vdash A\{n/x\}$ .

## 4 Church's and Gödel-Rosser's theorems

**Proposition:** The following propositions are equivalent with respect to a relation  $R \subseteq N^k$ :

- (i)  $R$  is r.e.
- (ii)  $R$  is enumerable in some axiomatic theory  $T$ .
- (iii)  $R$  is enumerable in every axiomatic  $\Sigma_1$ -consistent extension of  $RR^-$ .

**Definition(RR):**  $RR$  is the formal system obtained from  $RR^-$  by adding for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the axiom:

$$x \leq n \vee n \leq x$$

**Proposition:** A relation  $R$  is decidable iff it is binumerable in some (any) axiomatic consistent extension of  $RR$ .

**Theorem:** (Church) Every consistent extension of  $RR$  is incomplete.

**Theorem:** (Gödel - Rosser) Let  $T$  be an axiomatic and consistent extension of  $RR$ , then  $T$  is incomplete.