

● Title

A model-theoretic proof of an incompleteness theorem

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● Abstract

Abstract

The fragment of Peano Arithmetic with bounded induction is denoted by $I\Delta_0$. The functions ω_m , $m \geq 0$, are defined by $\omega_0(x) = x^2$, and $\omega_{m+1}(x) = 2^{\omega_m(\log x)}$, and the axiom Ω_m expresses the totality of ω_m . For a theory T , $\text{Hcon}(T)$ denotes the Herbrand Consistency of T , see [1,2,3].

For theories $T \supseteq I\Delta_0$, the question $T \vdash^? \text{Hcon}(T)$ had been of interest for some time, see [1,2,3,4,5]. Here, a model-theoretic proof of $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m \not\vdash \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m)$ for $m \geq 2$ presented in [1] is modified for $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1$, so we get a model-theoretic proof of $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1 \not\vdash \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1)$.

● Earlier results

The cut \log^m consists of the elements x whose m -th exponential power, $\exp^m(x)$, exists.

Theorem 1.1 of [1] states that for any natural n, m , there is a bounded formula $\theta(x)$ such that

(A) $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_n + \exists x \in \log^m \theta(x)$ is consistent, while $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_n + \exists x \in \log^{m+1} \theta(x)$ is not.

A formula $\text{Hcon}(T)$ is introduced in [1] that expresses the Herbrand Consistency of a theory T , and satisfies the following for $m \geq 2$:

(B) For *any* bounded formula $\theta(x)$, if $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+1} \theta(x) + \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m)$ is consistent, then so is $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+2} \theta(x)$.

● Earlier results

The proof of $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m \not\vdash \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m)$ for $m \geq 2$, in [1], is as follows:

By **(A)**, there is a bounded $\theta(x)$ such that

$I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+1} \theta(x)$ is consistent, while $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+2} \theta(x)$ is not.

Then

$I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+1} \theta(x) + \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m)$ is inconsistent, since otherwise by **(B)**,

$I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+2} \theta(x)$

should have been consistent, contradiction.

By consistency of $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m + \exists x \in \log^{m+1} \theta(x)$, it follows that

$I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m \not\vdash \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_m)$.

Q.E.D

● New results

A new formula $\text{Hcon}(T)$ expressing the Herbrand Consistency of a theory T can be constructed in such a way that **(B)** holds for the theory $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1$.

That is, for *any* bounded formula $\theta(x)$, if $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1 + \exists x \in \log^2 \theta(x) + \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1)$ is consistent, then so is $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1 + \exists x \in \log^3 \theta(x)$.

This supplies the necessary tools for a model-theoretic proof of $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1 \not\vdash \text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1)$.

● Further works

Moreover, a formalized version of **(B)** can be proved (cf. [2,4]). Let the formula $\text{Hcon}^{\log^2}(T)$ denote the Herbrand Consistency of a theory T relativized to the cut \log^2 . The following implication is provable in $I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1$ for every bounded $\theta(x)$:

$$\left(\text{Hcon}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1) \wedge \exists x \in \log^2 \theta(x) \right) \longrightarrow \\ \text{Hcon}^{\log^2}(I\Delta_0 + \Omega_1 + \exists x \in \log^3 \theta(x)).$$

The reader is invited to consult [4] for the historical remarks and technical details.

● References

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