

Prop. (Gödel's Second Theorem)

Let S be a consistent recursively axiomatizable extension of \mathcal{N} . There is no proof in S of the consistency of S .

Proof Outline

1. Construct a wf \mathcal{C} of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}}$ that asserts that \mathcal{N} is consistent.
2. Demonstrate $\not\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{C}$.
3. This demonstrates the Prop for \mathcal{N} . For any recursively axiomatizable extension of \mathcal{N} , a corresponding version of \mathcal{C} can be constructed.

Step 1.

Consider the wf $A_1^2(a_1, f_1^1(a_1))$ of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}}$, abbreviated by $0 = 0'$.

Note: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \sim(0 = 0')$ (axioms N1, K5)

So: \mathcal{N} is consistent iff $\not\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} 0 = 0'$.

Now: On \mathbb{N} , there's a recursive relation $\text{Pf}(m, n)$ that holds just when m is the G -number of a proof of the wf whose G -number is n . It is expressed in \mathcal{N} by the wf $\mathcal{P}f(x_1, x_2)$.

Thus: The assertion $\not\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} 0 = 0'$ can be expressed in \mathcal{N} by the wf $\sim(\exists x_1)\mathcal{P}f(x_1, 0^{(g(0=0'))})$. This wf expresses the consistency of \mathcal{N} ; call it \mathcal{C} . (In \mathcal{N} , it says: "There is no $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that m is the G -number of a proof of the wf $0 = 0'$." In other words, "There is no proof in \mathcal{N} of the wf $0 = 0'$.")

Step 2.

Lemma: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$, where \mathcal{U} is the Gödel Sentence for \mathcal{N} .

Immediate Consequence: If $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{C}$, then $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{U}$. But $\not\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{U}$ (by the Incompleteness Theorem). So $\not\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{C}$.

Proof of Lemma:

Notation: Let $\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A})$ abbreviate the wf $(\exists x_1)\mathcal{P}f(x_1, 0^{(g(\mathcal{A}))})$. ("There's a proof in \mathcal{N} of the wf \mathcal{A} .") \mathcal{C} is then abbreviated by $\sim\exists\mathcal{P}(0 = 0')$.

Claim: The following hold. For any wfs \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}}$,

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|------|---|
| I: | If $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{A}$, then $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A})$ |
| II: | $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}) \rightarrow (\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{B}))$ |
| III: | $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}))$ |
| IV: | If $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, then $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{B})$ (from I and II) |

Ex. Proof of I. Suppose $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{A}$. Then $\text{Pf}(m, g(\mathcal{A}))$ holds in \mathbb{N} for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$. So $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{P}f(0^{(m)}, 0^{(g(\mathcal{A}))})$. Hence $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} (\exists x_1)\mathcal{P}f(x_1, 0^{(g(\mathcal{A}))})$ (since $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{A}(t) \rightarrow (\exists x_i)\mathcal{A}(x_i)$, for t free for x_i in $\mathcal{A}(x_i)$).

Now: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{U} \leftrightarrow \sim\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U})$ (definition of \mathcal{U})

So:¹ $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\sim\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}))$ (IV and definition of \leftrightarrow)

Note:² $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}))$ (III)

Note:³ $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \sim\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (0 = 0'))$ (since $\sim\mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B})$ is logically valid)

So:⁴ $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\sim\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U})) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (0 = 0'))$ (IV)

Note:⁵ $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (0 = 0'))$
 $\rightarrow (\exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U})) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(0 = 0'))$ (II)

So:⁶ $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (\exists\mathcal{P}(\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U})) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(0 = 0'))$ (HS, 1, 4, 5)

Thus: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \exists\mathcal{P}(0 = 0')$ (2, 6, and $\{\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C})\} \vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$)

Or: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \sim\exists\mathcal{P}(0 = 0') \rightarrow \sim\exists\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{U})$

Or: $\vdash_{\mathcal{N}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$