

Solutions

5th candidates

Label	Informal Role	Power Gain	Complexity	Risks to Minimality	Solves Which Claims
R (Primitive Recursor)	R base step n (unary δ -chain iterator)	High (PR closure)	Moderate	Adds arithmetic bias	C14, C23, strengthens EqNat completeness
Iter (Fold / Catamorphism)	fold t f acc general structural fold	Very High (arbitrary structural recursion)	High	May look like cheating ("meta recursion smuggled in")	Wide: substitution, proof enumeration
Mu (Well-Founded Fixpoint)	mu F seed reduces while measure drops	High (internal diagonal & derivability)	High	Harder termination proof	Diagonal, D1–D3
EqW (Equality Witness)	eqW a b \rightarrow void iff nf(a)=nf(b) else canonical non-void	Medium	Low	Focused, simple	Removes external Bool / DecEq reliance
Search (Bounded Existential)	seek B P tries P(0..B)	Medium	Low–Med	Narrow semantics	Σ_1 prov existential, provability bounding
Quote (Self Code)	quote t returns code trace	Medium	Low	Adds reflection primitive	Cleaner diagonal; still need recursion
Pairing Recursor (PR on pairs)	R2 base step m n	High	Moderate	More arity complexity	Encodes multi-arg PR without meta loops

Opinion 1:

1 Adopt S1 (rec Δ +eqW). It supplies primitive-recursive power, internal equality, and a credible path to purge Bool/Nat while preserving strong normalization and critical-pair tractability. S2 jeopardizes termination, complicates confluence, and dilutes minimality. Focus resources on lemmas L1–L9, then revisit minimization needs; defer $\mu\Pi$ until SN proof secured.

2 MINIMALITY IMPACT

rec Δ +eqW: +2 constructors, +4 rules; +6 critical pairs; still PR-bounded.

$\mu\Pi$ only: +1 constructor, +3 rules; +5 pairs; admits general recursion \Rightarrow heavier than rec Δ in SN proof.

rec Δ +eqW preserves tighter minimality.

3 TERMINATION & CONFLUENCE

rec Δ rules: size decreases on δ -height; no β -creation; critical peaks with β ,ann,void solved by eager δ -reduction. Newman hinges unchanged.

eqW: single-step to void/witness, measure = paired nf size; confluence if witness is canonical (left-biased).

$\mu\Pi$: body may re-grow term, cannot supply monotone measure \Rightarrow SN doubtful; peaks with β unresolved.

4 EQUALITY-WITNESS DESIGN

Root-only version: eqW $a \ b \rightarrow (\text{void} \mid \text{integrate } \dots)$; recursive fold only on outermost nf; Sound: $\text{nf}(a)=\text{nf}(b) \Rightarrow \text{void}$; Complete: $\text{nf}(a) \neq \text{nf}(b) \Rightarrow$ witness normal-forms unequal; Irreflexive fail avoided by canonical witness $\text{integrate}(\text{merge } x \ y)$ with $x \neq y$ ordered by syntactic $<$.

5 INTERNAL RECURSION COVERAGE

rec Δ gives primitive recursion on Nat-like δ -chains \Rightarrow addition, mult, bounded search definable.

Minimization needs $\mu\Pi$ or explicit δ -bounded loop lemma. $\mu\Pi$ exceeds PR; may code any general μ giving SN risk.

6 GÖDEL PIPELINE

eqW allows plateau detection: define $\text{diag}(F): \mu n. \text{eqW } (F \ n) \ n$. Remaining gaps: (i) code injectivity lemma, (ii) complement uniqueness, (iii) $\text{Prov } \Sigma_1$.

7 SECOND INCOMPLETENESS

rec Δ : D1–D3 encodable via explicit proof-concatenation; SN preserved.

$\mu\Pi$: Lack of SN blocks internal derivability induction; risky.

8 BOOLEAN / NUMERAL PURGE VALIDATION (post-rec Δ +eqW)

Residual Bool uses: none (if if/DecEq rewritten via merge).

Nat uses survive only in meta-termination proofs. Variable indices replaced by δ -vectors via rec Δ traversals.

Opinion 2:

Pick **ONE of these two designs**:

Option A (Leanest, Safe Minimality): Equality-Guided Primitive Recursor $\text{rec}\Delta$

Purpose: Supply *total primitive recursion on δ -chains* and internal equality tests via its base case branch outcome—killing external Bool and enabling Σ_1 completeness for all PR predicates you actually need (Prov, SubF, substitution counters, size bounds).

Signature (core calculus extension)

css

CopyEdit
rec Δ b s n

- b : base trace (value for 0)
- s : step operator expecting current accumulator
- n : δ -chain acting as unary numeral

Rewrite Rules (Left \rightarrow Right)

3623. rec Δ b s void \rightarrow b

3624. rec Δ b s (delta n) \rightarrow s (rec Δ b s n) (where s x is encoded as app s x or merge (tag step) (pair s x) depending on your encoding choice)

Side Conditions: None (structural). Termination obvious: δ -height decreases.

Measure Impact: Adds a " Δ height(n)" component—strictly drops each step.

Derivable Additions:

- Addition: add m n := rec Δ n (λ r. delta r) m
- Multiplication: mul m n := rec Δ void (λ r. add r n) m
- Equality witness: eqNatW a b := rec Δ (testBase a b) (λ r. testStep r a b) (maxDepth a b) (below I'll show simpler EqW alternative)

Pros:

- Still *arithmetically flavored* but tiny and orthodox (reviewers accept primitive recursion).
- Easy termination & confluence integration (orthogonal critical pairs).

Cons:

- Only handles unary loops—multi-argument primitive recursion requires pairing encodings (acceptable).

Option B (More Dramatic, "Breakthrough Branding"): Reflective Fixpoint / Search

Operator $\mu\Gamma$

Signature:

$\mu\Gamma$ F seed M

- F : transformer (expects a code and a candidate)
- seed : initial trace
- M : measure budget (δ -chain) guaranteeing finitude

Rewrite Scheme:

4826. $\mu\Gamma$ F seed void \rightarrow seed

4827. $\mu\Gamma$ F seed (delta m) \rightarrow stabilize(seed, F seed, $\mu\Gamma$ F (F seed) m)

Where stabilize(x, Fx, rest) reduces to x **if** an *internal equality witness* (see EqW below) shows $\text{nf}(x) = \text{nf}(Fx)$, otherwise rest.

Pros:

- Directly internalizes *bounded* fixpoint iteration, diagonal plateau, Löb prerequisites.
- Lets you *drop* several ad hoc enumeration gadgets.

Cons:

- Heavier termination argument (must show each non-stable iteration decrements M).

- Risk of reviewer saying you imported a reflective engine disguised as a primitive.

If you pick Option B you *still need* an equality witness primitive or to embed it inside `stabilize`. That effectively makes EqW implicit anyway.

4. Equality Witness Primitive (If NOT Using Recursor First)

Even with Option A you likely still want **EqW** because it surgically removes external Bool / DecEq. It is ultra-cheap:

Operator: `eqW a b`

Rewrite Rules (on fully normalized or as part of normalization):

5857. If pattern-structural match succeeds (constructor by constructor) \rightarrow `void` .

5858. First mismatch position \rightarrow `integrate (merge a b)` (or any canonical non-void marker with both original subtraces embedded for refutational info).

Implementation Tactic:

- Structural evaluator returns either `void` or `delta` marker but you can *stay purely rewrite* by expanding `eqW` into a one-step decision after recursively normalizing children.
- Confluence unaffected (deterministic, no overlapping left sides—only one root rule once children normalized).

Payoff:

- All prior `beq` usages become `eqW` .
- Diagonal plateau detection internal: `test eqW ψ (F ψ)` .

5. Which Combination Maximizes “Breakthrough” with Minimal Rework?

Combo	New Primitives	Covered Gaps	Risk	Marketing Strength
Rec Δ + EqW	2	PR closure, Σ_1 repr., equality, diagonal plateau (still need simple iteration wrapper)	Low	“Minimal arithmetic + intrinsic equality”
$\mu\Pi$ (with baked EqW)	1 (but richer)	Equality, diagonal, search, partial recursion	Medium	“Single reflective fixpoint primitive”
EqW only	1	Equality / Bool removal	Low	Too small (doesn’t solve Σ_1 completeness)

Recommended:RecΔ + EqW if you want *credibility first*; **μΠ** only if you're prepared to write a very clean termination + safety section so it doesn't look like a magical oracle.

6. Formal Specs (You Can Paste Into Draft)

6.1 Grammar Extension

```
go
CopyEdit
t ::= ... | recΔ t t t | eqW t t
```

6.2 Measures

Extend measure triple to quadruple: $\mu(t) = (\beta\text{Sites}(t), \text{annSites}(t), \delta\text{Height}(t), \text{size}(t))$

- $\text{rec}\Delta\ b\ s\ n$ contributes $\delta\text{Height}(n)$ to third component.
- Rule application strictly decreases third component (or earlier components if inside β or annihilation contexts).

6.3 Critical Pair Audit (New)

Overlap	Reason Safe
$\text{rec}\Delta$ inside β redex body	β reduces first; measure: βSites drop.
$\text{rec}\Delta$ and annihilation (integrate/delta)	Independent root symbols.
eqW vs structural normalizer	eqW only fires after children in NF; no overlap.

6.4 Key Lemmas (Lean Skeleton Names)

Lemma	Statement Intent
recΔ_decrease	$\mu(\text{rec}\Delta\ b\ s\ (\text{delta}\ n)) > \mu(s\ (\text{rec}\Delta\ b\ s\ n))$
recΔ_total	Termination & NF existence for all δ -chains.
eqW_sound	$\text{eqW}\ a\ b = \text{void} \rightarrow \text{nf}\ a = \text{nf}\ b.$
eqW_complete	$\text{nf}\ a = \text{nf}\ b \rightarrow \text{eqW}\ a\ b = \text{void}.$
eqW_irrefl_nonvoid	$\text{eqW}\ a\ b \neq \text{void} \rightarrow \text{nf}\ a \neq \text{nf}\ b.$
add_repr	$\text{add}\ m\ n \equiv \delta^{\{\text{eval}\ m + \text{eval}\ n\}}\ \text{void}.$
mul_repr	Analogous for multiplication.
prov_sigma1_full	Uses $\text{rec}\Delta$ to bound enumeration internal.
diag_fixed_internal	Uses eqW as plateau test instead of external Bool.

7. Impact on Existing Claims

Claim (Cx)	Status After RecΔ + EqW (If Proved)
C16–C18 (freedom claims)	Move from NOT-COHERENT → PROVABLE ONCE Bool purged.
C14 Primitive Recursive Representability	Becomes NOW after addition + proofs.
C23 Σ_1 Completeness (restricted PR)	Downgrade from NEW-PRIM to LEMMA-MISSING (the primitive itself now exists).
Diagonal Lemma	Simplifies; no meta equality.
Derivability (second incompleteness)	Easier: can define internal reflection by iterating proof height encodings via $\text{rec}\Delta$.

8. Migration Plan (Exact Order)

Step	Action	Outcome
1	Introduce <code>eqW</code> + rewrite <code>EqNat</code> & diagonal plateau to use it	Remove all external Boolean equality cases
2	Remove <code>beq</code> , <code>Bool</code> branches in normalizer (<code>OBool</code> optional now)	Clean “boolean-free” core
3	Introduce <code>recΔ</code> & port <code>add</code> , <code>mul</code> , enumeration loops	Internal primitive recursion
4	Rewrite <code>Prov</code> enumerator using <code>recΔ</code> over size bound δ -chain	Σ_1 predicate no external <code>Nat</code> loops
5	Replace diagonal’s meta loop with <code>recΔ</code> -based bounded unfold producing (ψ_k, ψ_{k+1}) and <code>eqW</code> plateau test	Fully internal diagonal
6	Prove <code>EqNat</code> completeness via <code>recΔ</code> (induction internal)	Arithmetic closure credible
7	Add derivability skeleton using <code>recΔ</code> to replicate “proof height” reasoning	Stage for second incompleteness
8	Update paper: <i>Core now: {void, delta, integrate, merge, recΔ, eqW}</i> (justify <code>eqW</code> as <i>internal decision operator</i> ; maybe group <code>eqW</code> under “structural witness” not counted as logical axiom).	Narrative breakthrough anchored
9	Run axiom/Bool audit; attach hash	External credibility

9. Draft Language Upgrade (Sample Paragraph)

Primitive Recursor & Equality Witness. We extend the kernel with a **single arithmetic-neutral iterator** `recΔ` (primitive recursion on δ -chains) and a **structural equality witness** `eqW`. The former internalizes all bounded primitive recursive loops (addition, multiplication, enumerative provability search) without importing external numerals; the latter replaces Boolean equality with a normalization witness: `eqW a b` reduces to `void` iff `nf(a)=nf(b)`. This pair eliminates host-level Booleans, collapses meta enumeration into object computation, and enables internal diagonal fixation via plateau detection, thereby discharging the only prior external dependencies in the incompleteness pipeline.*

10. Risk & Justification

Concern	Mitigation
"You added <i>two</i> operators, not minimalist"	Argue eqw is <i>not</i> a logical constructor—just a structural <i>certificate</i> operator. Only one <i>computational</i> new constructor ($\text{rec}\Delta$).
Termination proof complexity	Trivial lex decrease on δ -height; independent of β / merge rules.
Confluence interference	No overlapping LHS with existing root symbols; minimal CP additions.
Accusation of smuggling arithmetic	Base + step only; exactly primitive recursion (same strength used in Gödel original).

11. If You Want Maximum Flash (Less Conservative)

Adopt $\mu\Pi$ instead of $\text{rec}\Delta + \text{eqw}$, but you *must* write a razor-tight termination proof based on a *supplied budget numeral* plus a lemma that any non-stable unfolding strictly consumes it. Harder to sell minimality, but you get: primitive recursion, minimization (bounded), diagonal all in one symbol. I only recommend this if you're ready to craft a dedicated "Termination of $\mu\Pi$ " subsection (formal lex measure: $(\text{budgetHeight}, \text{unfoldingHeight}, \text{size})$).

12. My Recommendation (Actionable Now)

Go with Option A: Add $\text{rec}\Delta$ and eqw . It is the *cleanest* story: "We resisted smuggling dozens of rules; we added exactly the one primitive recursion operator and a structural equality witness necessary to internalize (i) arithmetic closure, (ii) Σ_1 provability, (iii) diagonal plateau detection, while deleting *all* external Boolean / meta enumeration scaffolding." That *lands* as a tangible advancement beyond a student exercise.

13. Immediate Next Micro-Tasks (You Can Assign / Script)

Label	Task	Notes
MT1	Implement eqW (post-normalization pattern)	Replace all beq uses
MT2	Purge Bool & if in normalize; rerun build	OBool layer optional afterward
MT3	Implement rec Δ , add size/ δ Height measure & lemma	Keep code <50 LOC
MT4	Re-define add, mul, enumerateProofs via rec Δ	Remove meta loops
MT5	Rewrite diagonal to use rec Δ iteration + eqW plateau	Eliminate meta plateau check
MT6	Draft lemmas: eqW_sound, eqW_complete, rec Δ _total	Quick wins
MT7	Update paper Sections 2, 4, 7, 8, 15 + Axiom Freedom Statement	Clarify added operator rationale

14. Sample Lean-ish Skeleton (Conceptual)

```

lean
CopyEdit
-- NEW constructors (sketch)
inductive Trace
| void | delta (t : Trace) | integrate (t : Trace) | merge (a b : Trace)
| lam (b : Trace) | app (f x : Trace) | var (idx : Trace) -- still unary chain for index
| tag (k : Trace) | pair (a b : Trace)
| rec $\Delta$  (base step n : Trace) | eqW (a b : Trace)

-- eqW normalization (conceptual)
def normalizeEqW : Trace → Trace
| (Trace.eqW a b) =>
let na := nf a; let nb := nf b;
match structuralCompare na nb with
| .same => Trace.void
| .diff => Trace.integrate (Trace.merge na nb)
| t => t

-- rec $\Delta$  evaluation hooks into main nf:

```

```
| (Trace.recΔ b s Trace.void) => nf b
| (Trace.recΔ b s (Trace.delta n)) =>
let r := nf (Trace.recΔ b s n)
nf (Trace.app (nf s) r)
```

(You'll fold this into existing normalization pipeline.)

15. “Breakthrough” Narrative You Can Truthfully Use *After* Implementation

*“The only augmentation beyond the four original geometric constructors is a primitive δ -chain recursor and a structural equality witness. This pair subsumes all meta enumeration, arithmetization, and Boolean branching into the object calculus itself, yielding a closed, axiom-free normalization geometry that **constructively synthesizes** arithmetic, equality, provability, and self-reference without an external logical substrate.”*

Final reality-check (verdict in plain language)

Question	Short answer
Is the fully axiom-free / numeral-free / boolean-free “Operator System” in principle attainable?	Yes, but only after adding <i>at least one primitive that internalises equality and primitive recursion</i> (my recommendation: $\text{rec}\Delta + \text{eqW}$). That still keeps the kernel tiny and computationally transparent.
Can you keep the marketing line “four constructors only”?	No. Without a recursion operator you cannot internalise Σ_1 search, diagonal plateau, or EqNat completeness without falling back on Lean’s Nat / Bool . Reviewers will spot the cheat instantly.
Does adding those two operators break the philosophical “operator minimalism”?	It weakens the “four-constructors” slogan but <i>strengthens</i> the scientific claim: <i>everything</i> (arithmetic, proofs, diagonalisation) becomes executable inside the calculus, with strong-normalisation still provable. Minimality shifts from “tiny syntax” to “no external axioms”.
Is there any deeper obstruction that would force classical axioms or Peano postulates back in?	None found. Once you have structural equality (eqW) and unary primitive recursion ($\text{rec}\Delta$) you can: primitive-recursively encode addition, multiplication, bounded minimisation, proof enumeration, substitution, derivability. All the Gödel machinery goes through constructively. No need for LEM, choice, or Peano axioms.
Could one single super-operator ($\mu\Pi$) do everything?	Yes, but proving global termination for $\mu\Pi$ is <i>harder</i> and will look like you smuggled general recursion. Riskier to sell.
Bottom-line feasibility timeline (for a driven hustler):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1 – Implement eqW, purge Bool/DecEq, run confluence check on new rule. • Week 2 – Add $\text{rec}\Delta$, rewrite addition/multiplication/Prov enumerator, prove strong-normalisation (lex measure with δ-height). • Week 3 – Prove complement-uniqueness, EqNat completeness, substitution correctness. • Week 4 – Diagonal plateau with eqW, first incompleteness proof (dual unprovability). • Week 5+ – Derivability D1–D3, second incompleteness. (Aggressive but not crazy if you focus.)

How will the paper read after the upgrade?

“Six-constructor axiom-free calculus (void, delta, integrate, merge, $\text{rec}\Delta$, eqW) that internally realises primitive recursion, equality, provability and Gödel incompleteness under strong-normalisation + confluence.” That is still a novel contribution.

Verdict

Crushing honesty: The current four-operator prototype is **not** a breakthrough—too many hidden Lean crutches. *Hope-preserving honesty:* With the small equality + recursor upgrade and a disciplined Lean proof sprint, a **fully internal, axiom-free Gödel machine** is absolutely achievable. It will impress a serious proof-theory reviewer—no Einstein hype needed.

Good news: you do **not** have to torch the repo and start over. Everything you already wrote (constructors, normalizer skeleton, arithmetic sketches, proof-predicate scaffold) can be *incrementally refactored* to accommodate $\text{eqW} + \text{rec}\Delta$. Below is a concrete migration map, followed by an honest comparison with the older “5-operator Boolean-encoding” idea.

1·Zero-rewrite path: keep files, patch in place

Phase	File(s) touched	What you do	LOC delta
P1 (drop external Bool)	Basic.lean Normalizer.lean	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Introduce <code>eqW</code> constructor + one root-step rule. 2 Replace every <code>if ... then ... else ...</code> and <code>beq</code> in <code>normalize</code> / helpers with a <i>pattern match</i> on <code>eqW</code> result (<code>void</code> vs <code>integrate ...</code>). 	$\approx +40$
P2 (add δ-recursor)	Arithmetic.lean (new) Normalizer.lean	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Add <code>recΔ</code> constructor + two rewrite rules. 2 Re-encode <code>add</code>, <code>mul</code>, bounded search loops through <code>recΔ</code> instead of <code>Nat</code> recursion. 3 Extend <code>lex-measure</code> with “δ-height” component (3 lines in <code>measure</code> definition, 1 lemma proof). 	$\approx +80$
P3 (purge DecidableEq/ Nat in diagonal)	Diagonal.lean	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Replace <code>DecidableEq</code> code <code>compare</code> with <code>eqW</code> plateau test. 2 Drop meta-level <code>Nat</code> counter for plateau; reuse <code>recΔ</code> with δ-budget. 	-20
P4 (finish Bool-out)	grep-replace across repo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Remove <code>open classical</code>. 2 Delete <code>by_cases</code>, <code>decide</code>. 3 Add tiny helper <code>oboolCond</code> built from <code>merge</code> & <code>cancellation</code> if really needed (rare). 	—
P5 (update tests / CI)	lakefile.toml test/*.lean	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Add static audit: <code>grep -R "Bool DecidableEq Nat "</code> (spaces) fails CI. 2 Add quick random-trace confluence harness using new rules. 	+15

Everything else (proof-predicate skeleton, substitution predicate, confluence proof outline) stays structurally identical—only their *dependencies* swap from Lean mathlib Booleans to your own equality witness.

2 · Why `eqW` + `rec Δ` instead of the old “Boolean-encoding 5-operator” idea?

Criterion	recΔ + eqW (current plan)	“Boolean encoding” (OBool + and/or/not + cond + recursion?)
Termination proof	Easy: δ -height strictly drops; equality witness is 1-step.	Each Boolean op needs its <i>own</i> measure; conditional can <i>increase</i> size \rightarrow SN proof messier.
Kernel size	Adds 2 constructors, 4 rules.	Needs at least 4 new constructors (OBool value, <code>oand</code> , <code>onot</code> , conditional) plus a recursion operator anyway.
Confluence risk	Minimal (orthogonal root rules).	Boolean conditionals overlap with merge/annihilation unless carefully ordered.
Gödel plateau	Built-in via <code>eqW</code> .	Must still invent an equality test that returns OBool \rightarrow circles back to witness anyway.
Reviewer perception	“Primitive recursion + structural equality witness” is standard and respectable.	“Re-invented Boolean algebra inside non-Boolean calculus” looks like you smuggled <i>another</i> logic rather than eliminated it.
Axiom-free bragging rights	Kept: no truth table, just cancellation + equality witness.	Slightly diluted: OBool is basically a truth-table type; reviewers may call it a Boolean axiom in disguise.

Bottom line: **rec Δ + eqW hits the sweet-spot**—smallest patch that removes Lean Bool/DecEq/Nat dependence *and* unlocks Σ_1 recursion.

3 · Refactor tip-sheet (Lean specifics)

3522. Constructor injection

3523. One-step rules added to `normalizeCore`

3524. Measure extension (pseudo):

3525. Replace every `DecidableEq`

3526. Bounded search with `rec Δ`

4 · Checklist to declare “Boolean/Numeral free”

4957. `grep -R " Bool " \rightarrow empty.`

4958. `grep -R "DecidableEq" \rightarrow empty.`

4959. `grep -R " Nat " \rightarrow allowed only inside separate TerminationProof.lean (meta).`

4960. `open classical` gone everywhere except the one termination proof file (where it is harmless meta).

4961. CI job runs `lake build`, `lake exe confluence-test`, `lake exe sn-test`.

Nothing in the literature is *exactly* the “four-constructor, cancellation-negation, axiom-free arithmetic + Gödel” design you’re pursuing. The closest families are:

System family	Pure operators?	Arithmetic / incompleteness inside?	Axiom freedom ?	Key difference vs OTC
Untyped & typed λ-calculus	yes—terms + β/η rewrites Wikipedia	only with meta-level encodings; incompleteness requires adding Peano axioms	imports Bool/Nat externally	uses variable binding & β -equality, not merge-cancellation
Combinatory Logic (SK, BCK, etc.)	yes—SK combinators & application rule Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy	arithmetic possible but proven via Church numerals & meta induction	still needs extensionality to get equality	no innate negation/cancellation; relies on meta equations
Girard’s Ludics / Geometry of Interaction / Interaction Nets	operators only; dynamics is cut-elimination nets JSTOR Uber tyrif.fr	focus on proof dynamics, not arithmetic; incompleteness not internal	uses linear-logic connectives as primitives	richer net structure; no δ -chain numerals
Deep-Inference calculi (e.g. BV, SBV)	inference rules apply anywhere in syntax tree alessio.guglielmi.name Wikipedia	arithmetic not a goal; still rely on connectives/units	assumes sequent axioms for init, cut	logic-centred, not numeral-free
Rewriting-logic foundations (Maude, ELAN)	operator sets + rewrite rules	arithmetic by inductive sorts; axioms for Nat	axioms declared as equations	allows arbitrary equational axioms

Your proposal carves out a niche none of these completely fill: *no external equality axioms, no Booleans, numerals as δ -chains, cancellation-based negation, and Gödel fixed-point internalised by normalization geometry.*

How to verify there is no prior art

2208. Database keywords.

- “axiom-free combinatory arithmetic”
- “operator-only foundation Gödel”
- “cancellation negation merge system”
- “delta chain numeral calculus”
- “ludics arithmetic incompleteness” Search in zbMATH, arXiv, MathSciNet, and DBLP.

2209. Forward & backward citation of nearest hits. Start from Schönfinkel–Curry (Combinatory Logic) and Girard’s *Locus Solum* papers; traverse citations for “arithmetic internalisation” and “Gödel” terms.

2210. Survey chapters.

- *Structural Proof Theory* (Negri & von Plato) for axiom-minimal calculi logicmatters.net
- Buss’s *Handbook of Proof Theory* intro mathweb.ucsd.edu

2211. Ask in specialist forums

- types mailing list (Type Theory)
- ProofTheory subreddit
- FOM (Foundations of Mathematics) list

2212. Google Scholar alert with `allintitle: "axiom-free" AND "operator" AND ("trace" OR "cancel")` .

If nobody shows a system with *all* your constraints (axiom-free **and** internal Gödel arithmetic **and** cancellation negation), that’s evidence you are pioneering a genuinely new blend.

Why “Boolean-encoding with five extra operators” is still different

Most known calculi either:

- encode Booleans explicitly (Church, Gödel–Church booleans) or
- retain classical units (\top , \perp) in their rule sets.

Your $\text{eqW} + \text{rec}\Delta$ plan avoids both by turning truth into *normal-form to void* and equality into a *one-step witness rewrite*—I found no published calculus that does that while also proving Gödel inside.