

## ♥ Faith in mathematics ♥

**34th Chaos Communication Congress**

*Questions are very much welcome! Please interrupt me mid-sentence.*

Ingo Blechschmidt (University of Augsburg)  
with thanks to Matthias Hutzler and Christian Ittner

1 The foundational crisis in mathematics

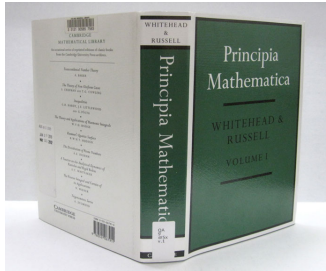
2 Truth and provability

3 True but unprovable statements

4 Fundamental incompleteness

# Part I

## The foundational crisis in mathematics



\*54.42.  $\vdash :: \alpha \in 2, \supset :: \beta \subset \alpha, \ulcorner! \beta, \beta \neq \alpha, \equiv, \beta \in t''\alpha$

*Dem.*

$\vdash, *54.4, \supset \vdash :: \alpha = t'x \cup t'y, \supset :$

$$\beta \subset \alpha, \ulcorner! \beta, \equiv: \beta = \Lambda, \vee, \beta = t'x, \vee, \beta = t'y, \vee, \beta = \alpha: \ulcorner! \beta:$$

$$[*24.53-56, *51.161] \quad \equiv: \beta = t'x, \vee, \beta = t'y, \vee, \beta = \alpha \quad (1)$$

$\vdash, *54.25, \text{Transp.}, *52.22, \supset \vdash: x \neq y, \supset, t'x \cup t'y \neq t'x, t'x \cup t'y \neq t'y:$

$$[*13.12] \quad \supset \vdash: \alpha = t'x \cup t'y, x \neq y, \supset, \alpha \neq t'x, \alpha \neq t'y \quad (2)$$

$\vdash, (1), (2), \supset \vdash: \alpha = t'x \cup t'y, x \neq y, \supset :$

$$\beta \subset \alpha, \ulcorner! \beta, \beta \neq \alpha, \equiv: \beta = t'x, \vee, \beta = t'y:$$

$$[*51.235] \quad \equiv: (\ulcorner! z), z \in \alpha, \beta = t'z:$$

$$[*37.6] \quad \equiv: \beta \in t''\alpha \quad (3)$$

$\vdash, (3), *11.11.35, *54.101, \supset \vdash, \text{Prop}$

\*54.43.  $\vdash: \alpha, \beta \in 1, \supset: \alpha \cap \beta = \Lambda, \equiv, \alpha \cup \beta \in 2$

*Dem.*

$\vdash, *54.26, \supset \vdash: \alpha = t'x, \beta = t'y, \supset: \alpha \cup \beta \in 2, \equiv, x \neq y,$

$$[*51.231] \quad \equiv, t'x \cap t'y = \Lambda,$$

$$[*13.12] \quad \equiv, \alpha \cap \beta = \Lambda \quad (1)$$

$\vdash, (1), *11.11.35, \supset$

$$\vdash: (\ulcorner! x, y), \alpha = t'x, \beta = t'y, \supset: \alpha \cup \beta \in 2, \equiv, \alpha \cap \beta = \Lambda \quad (2)$$

$\vdash, (2), *11.54, *52.1, \supset \vdash, \text{Prop}$

From this proposition it will follow, when arithmetical addition has been defined, that  $1 + 1 = 2$ .

\*54.44.  $\vdash: z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, \supset_{z,w}, \phi(z, w) \equiv: \phi(x, x), \phi(x, y), \phi(y, x), \phi(y, y)$

*Dem.*

$\vdash, *51.234, *11.62, \supset \vdash: z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, \supset_{z,w}, \phi(z, w) \equiv:$

$$x \in t'x \cup t'y, \supset_z, \phi(z, x), \phi(x, y):$$

$$[*51.234, *10.29] \equiv: \phi(x, x), \phi(x, y), \phi(y, x), \phi(y, y): \supset \vdash, \text{Prop}$$

\*54.441.  $\vdash: z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, z \neq w, \supset_{z,w}, \phi(z, w) \equiv: z = y, \vee, \phi(x, y), \phi(y, x)$

*Dem.*

$\vdash, *5.6, \supset \vdash: z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, z \neq w, \supset_{z,w}, \phi(z, w) \equiv:$

$$z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, \supset_{z,w}: z = w, \vee, \phi(z, w):$$

$$[*54.44] \quad \equiv: z = x, \vee, \phi(x, x): z = y, \vee, \phi(x, y):$$

$$y = x, \vee, \phi(y, x): y = y, \vee, \phi(y, y):$$

$$[*13.15] \quad \equiv: z = y, \vee, \phi(x, y): y = x, \vee, \phi(y, x):$$

$$[*13.16, *4.41] \equiv: z = y, \vee, \phi(x, y), \phi(y, x)$$

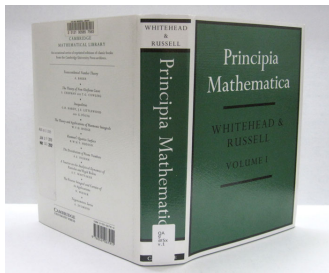
This proposition is used in \*163.42, in the theory of relations of mutually exclusive relations.

\*54.442.  $\vdash: z \neq y, \supset: z, w \in t'x \cup t'y, z \neq w, \supset_{z,w}, \phi(z, w) \equiv: \phi(x, y), \phi(y, x)$

[\*54.441]

# Part I

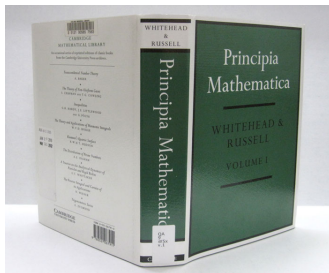
## The foundational crisis in mathematics



“Let  $U$  be the set of all those sets which don’t contain themselves.”

# Part I

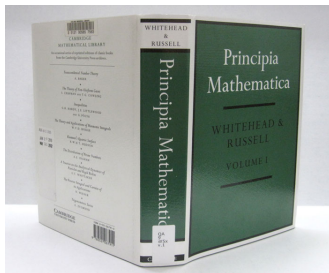
## The foundational crisis in mathematics



“Let  $U$  be the set of all those sets which don't contain themselves.”  
Naive mathematics is **inconsistent**, rendering it **unreliable**. ☹

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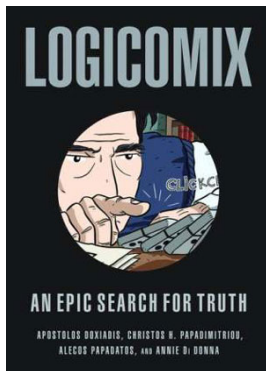
## The foundational crisis in mathematics



“Let  $U$  be the set of all those sets which don't contain themselves.”  
Naive mathematics is **inconsistent**, rendering it **unreliable**. ☹  
Thus the **axiomatic method** was born.

# Part I

## The foundational crisis in mathematics





# Part II

## Truth and provability

### A syntactic quality

A statement is **provable** if and only if it has a **formal proof** using only the **Peano axioms**.

**Example.**  $1 + 1 = S(0) + S(0) = S(S(0) + 0) = S(S(0)) = 2$ .

### A semantic quality

A statement is **true** if and only if it holds in the **standard model**.

## Mathematical induction and:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 S(n) \neq 0 & S(n) = S(m) \Rightarrow n = m \\
 n + 0 = n & n + S(m) = S(n + m) \\
 n \cdot 0 = 0 & n \cdot S(m) = n \cdot m + n
 \end{array}$$

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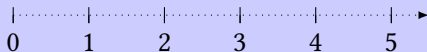
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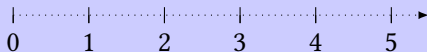
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### A semantic quality

A statement is **true** if and only if it holds in the **standard model**.

Provable statements are true.

True statements are **not** necessarily provable.



# Part III

## True but unprovable statements

For statements about **specific numbers**, there is no difference between provability and truth. But all of the following are unprovable:

- “This statement is not provable.”  
But **take care**: Consider “This statement is not true”.
- “Hercules can kill any hydra.”
- “ $\text{BB}(9000) = x$ .” (for the correct value  $x$ )
- “There is no proof of  $1 = 0$ .” (“Peano arithmetic is consistent.”)

Also: “There is an infinity/no infinity between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ .”

# Part IV

## Fundamental incompleteness

Gödel discovered:

**Any** consistent and recursively axiomatizable formal system is **incomplete**.

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## Fundamental incompleteness

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Peano arithmetic can **not** prove “Peano arithmetic is consistent”.

Proof idea: Get “this statement is not provable” to work.

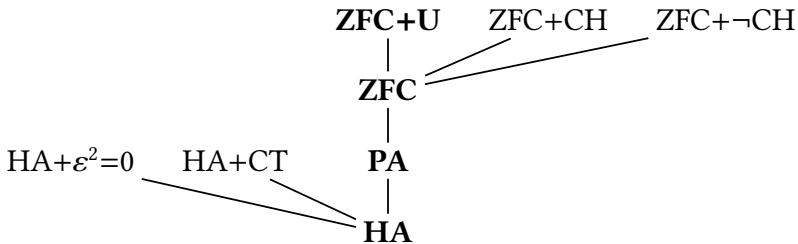
- Express provability using numbers (think ASCII).
- Rewrite self-referentiality like this:  
*“»yields an unprovable statement when preceded by its quotation« yields an unprovable statement when preceded by its quotation.”*

If the system is consistent, then that statement is true, but neither it nor its negation are provable.



# Outlook

- We use the axiomatic method to make maths **reliable**.
- But any axiomatization is **incomplete**.



- If a statement holds in **all** models, it's provable.

