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# Decidability of Logical Theories

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# Can we mechanize mathematics?

# Inhalt

First-Order Logic

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, +)$  – A Decidable Theory

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, +, \times)$  – An Undecidable Theory

Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem

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# First-Order Logic

# Syntax

$$\forall q \exists p \forall x \forall y \left[ R_1(p, q) \wedge \left( \neg (R_1(x, 1) \wedge R_1(y, 1)) \vee R_2(x, y, p) \right) \right]$$

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Simplified here:

- mostly "sentences"  
(no free variables)
- only prenex normal form  
(all quantifiers on the left)

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$\stackrel{!}{=} \text{"There are infinitely many prime numbers."}$

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$$= \forall q \exists p \forall x, y [p > q \wedge (x, y > 1 \rightarrow xy \neq p)]$$

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$$\forall q \exists p \forall x, y [p > q \wedge (x, y > 1 \rightarrow xy \neq p)]$$

$$\text{vs. } [(x + x = y) \vee (x \geq y)]$$

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    - sentences that make sense in  $\mathcal{M}$
    - here  $L(\mathbb{N}, >_2, (\times \neq)_3)$
  - *theory*  $\text{Th}(\mathcal{M})$ 
    - true sentences formed with  $\mathcal{M}$
    - here  $\text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, >_2, (\times \neq)_3)$

# What Is Decidability?

- here: for logic (there is a more general definition)
- let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a model,  $\varphi \in L(\mathcal{M})$

$\text{Th}(\mathcal{M})$  decidable  $:=$

there is an algorithm that decides whether  $\varphi$  is true in  $\mathcal{M}$

# $\text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, +)$ – A Decidable Theory

# Theorem 1

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i.e., there is an algorithm that can decide,  
whether a sentence  $\varphi \in L(\mathbb{N}, +)$  is true or false.

# Proof of Theorem 1

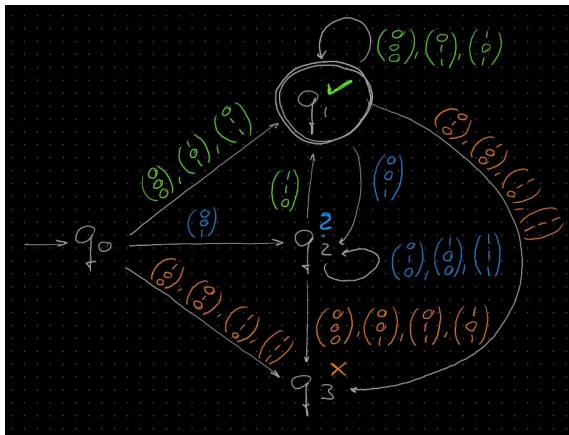
**Idea:** Construct an automaton that accepts an (almost) empty input iff the given sentence is true.

Let  $i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$  and define  $\Sigma_i := \{0, 1\}^i$  and  $\Sigma_0 := \{()\}$ .  
An example for a word in  $\Sigma_3$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Review: Automata



Example automaton that accepts  $+_3$  encoded in  $\Sigma_3$

# Proof of Theorem 1

Now, let

- $i \in \{0, \dots, l\}$
- $\varphi = Q_1 x_1 \dots Q_l x_l [\psi(x_1, \dots, x_l)] \in L(\mathbb{N}, +)$  where  $Q_1, \dots, Q_l \in \{\forall, \exists\}$

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- $\varphi_i(a_1, \dots, a_i) := Q_{i+1} x_{i+1} \dots Q_l x_l [\psi(a_1, \dots, a_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_l)]$

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$\Rightarrow \varphi_l$  is only a Boolean expression.

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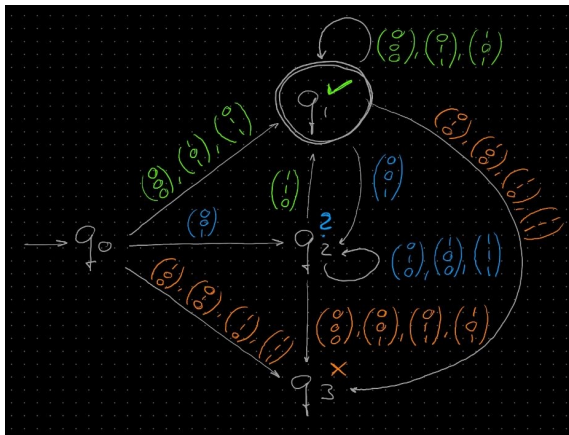
Construct an automaton  $A_I$  that behaves like  $\varphi_I = \psi$ , meaning  $A_I$  accepts exactly the tuples  $(a_1, \dots, a_I) \in \mathbb{N}^I$  for which  $\varphi_I(a_1, \dots, a_I)$  is true:

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Addition automaton

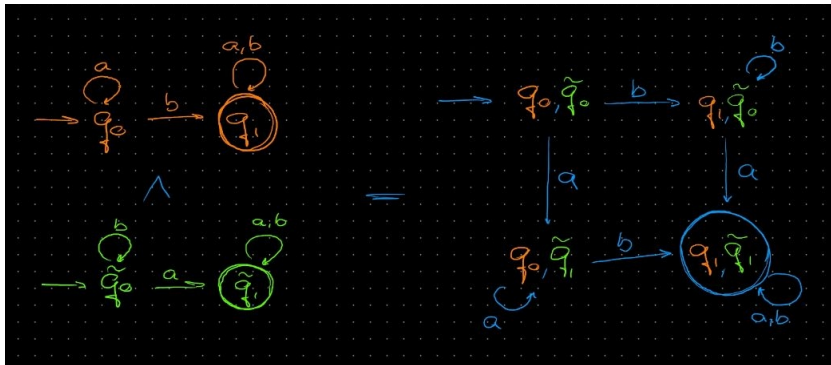


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  - Combine them:
    - automaton product for  $\wedge$
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    - automaton complement for  $\neg$
- in a way that they behave like  $\varphi_I$ .

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Conjunction of two simple automata

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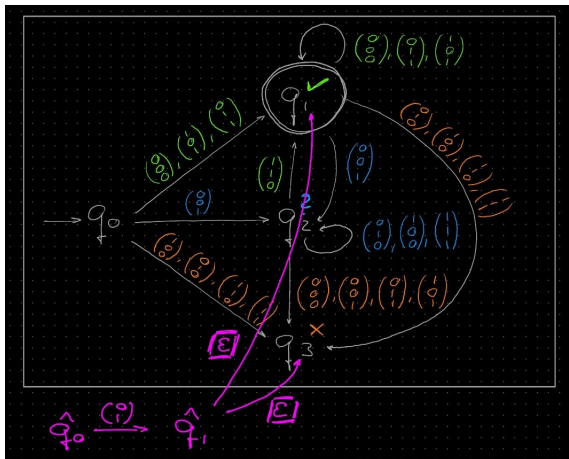
**Important:** There is an algorithm that constructs  $A_I$  from  $\varphi_I$

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If  $Q_i = \exists$ , construct automaton  $A_i$  from  $A_{i+1}$  by

- copying  $A_{i+1}$
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Example construction of non-deterministic guessing

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Let the algorithm return " $\varphi \in \text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, +)$ "  $\Leftrightarrow A_0$  accepts input  $()$

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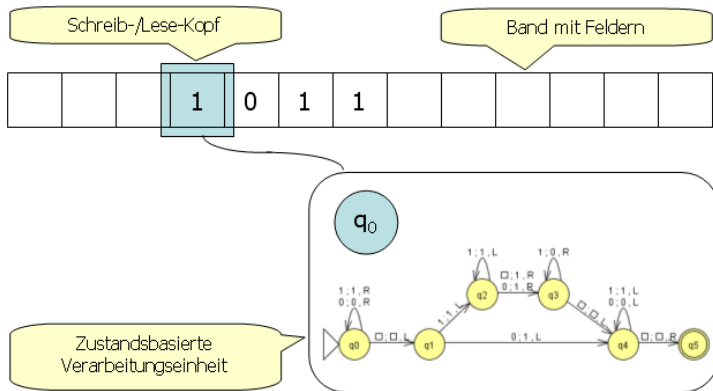
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# Turing Machines



Example turing machine  
source: [2]

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# Proof Idea for Theorem 2

- **The word problem for Turing machines is undecidable.** ([5], Satz 5.6)  $\nexists$
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- $\Rightarrow$   $\nexists$

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2. There is a (true) statement in  $\text{Th}(\mathbb{N}, +, \times)$  that is not provable.

**Proof idea:** Contradiction to Theorem 2 by using 1.



# Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem



# A True, Unprovable Statement

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- Delete the input
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$\Rightarrow \varphi$  is the wanted statement.

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- ⇒ Mathematics cannot be mechanized.
- ⇒ No sound arithmetical system can be complete.

# References

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