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Decidability of Logical Theories

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Basics

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

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

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First-Order Logic

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

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- only prenex normal form

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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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What Is Decidability?

For logic (there is a more general definition):

- \mathcal{M} model, $\varphi \in L(\mathcal{M})$
- $\text{Th}(\mathcal{M})$ decidable \coloneqq there is an algorithm that decides whether φ is true in \mathcal{M}

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

Theorem 1

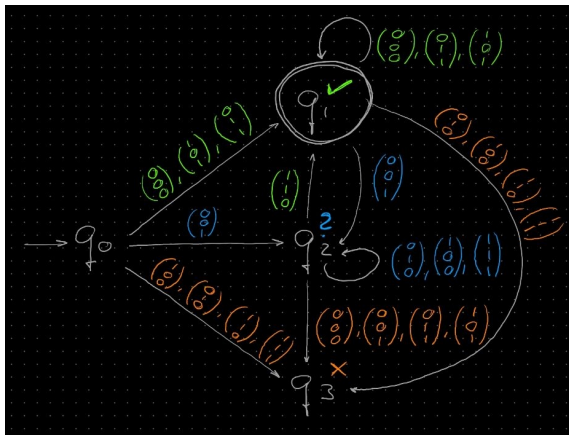
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i.e., there is an algorithm that can decide, whether a sentence $\varphi \in L(\mathbb{N}, +)$ is true or false.

Review: Automata



Example automaton that accepts all correct binary additions

Proof of Theorem 1

Let $i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ and define $\Sigma_i := \{0, 1\}^i$ and $\Sigma_0 := \{()\}$.
An example for a word in Σ_2 :

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

Proof of Theorem 1

Now, let

- $i \in \{1, \dots, l\}$
- $\varphi = Q_1 x_1 \dots Q_l x_l [\psi(x_1, \dots, x_l)] \in L(\mathbb{N}, +)$ where $Q_1, \dots, Q_l \in \{\forall, \exists\}$
- $\varphi_i := Q_{i+1} x_{i+1} \dots Q_l x_l [\psi(x_1, \dots, x_l)]$ and by convention $\varphi_l := \psi$
- $\varphi_i(a_1, \dots, a_i) := Q_{i+1} x_{i+1} \dots Q_l x_l [\psi(a_1, \dots, a_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_l)]$

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

Proof of Theorem 1

- Calculate one addition automaton for each addition term in φ_I
- Combine them:
 - automaton product for \wedge
 - automaton union for \vee
 - automaton complement for \neg

in a way that they behave like φ_I , i. e. that the resulting automaton accepts 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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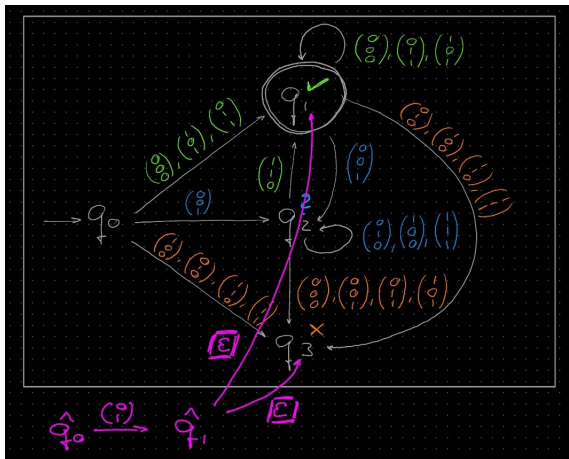
Important: There is an algorithm that constructs A_I from $\varphi_I = \psi$.

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

- copying A_{i+1}
- adding a new start state and one state for each character in Σ_i
- making A_i guess the right a_{i+1} non-deterministically

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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 $()$

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

Theorem 2

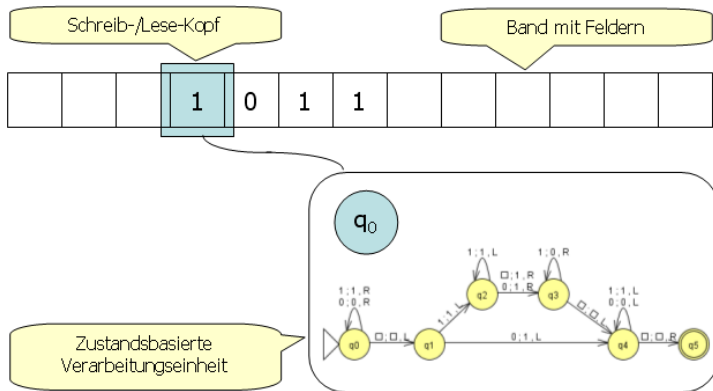
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i.e., there is no algorithm that can decide, whether a sentence $\varphi \in L(\mathbb{N}, +)$ is true or false.

Turing Machines



Example turing machine
source: [2]

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- \Rightarrow ⚡

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Assumptions:

A_1 Proofs can be checked by a machine.

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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



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$\implies \neg \exists x [\varphi_{M,0}]$ is the wanted statement.

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\Rightarrow Incompleteness 😊

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

References

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