

# Gödel's 1st Non-completeness Theorem

<https://math.uni-pannon.hu/~szalkai/Godel-sk.pdf> (Godel-sk-jav.tex, 2019.05.10.)

In this chapter we prove **Gödel's 1'st Non-Completeness Theorem:**

*If  $\Gamma$  is recursive, consistent and  $\Gamma \vdash PA$  then  $\Gamma$  is not complete.*

First we code every expression  $k \in K(\mathcal{L})$  and formulae  $\varphi \in F(\mathcal{L})$  with a natural number  $\nu(k)$  and  $\nu(\varphi) \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we prove Gödel's 1st Non-completeness Theorem. Let us emphasize in advance that *not* the technical details of the coding  $\nu$  are important but only the *existence* of such a coding! In other words, other coding functions also would do. In fact, every coding function of finite sequences (strings) with natural numbers are usually called "Gödel-coding".

Before we need the notion and properties of primitive and general recursive functions.

## 1. Primitive recursive functions

For the definitions and explanations of primitive/partial recursive and recursive-enumerable functions and sets please refer to the 3rd Part of the green book "Diszkrét matematika és az algoritmuselmélet alapjai" by I.Szalkai (in Hungarian).

**Definition:** Any set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is *recursive* (decidable), if its characteristic function  $\chi_A : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is recursive, i.e. there is a T.M. which decides " $n \in A$ " for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## 2. Gödel-coding

**Lemma 1:** There is a primitive recursive function

$$\beta : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

with the property: for every number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and every finite sequence of natural numbers length of  $n$

$$\vec{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$$

there is a  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ , the **code of  $\vec{a}$** , such that

$$\beta(c, 0) = n \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(c, i) = a_i \quad (i \leq n) \quad . \quad \square$$

**Definition 2:** Clearly  $\beta$  induces a coding function

$$s : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$s(\vec{a}) = c \quad . \quad \square$$

(For example, we can have:  $s(a_1, \dots, a_n) := p_1^{a_1+1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_n^{a_n+1}$  where  $p_i$  is the  $i$ 'th prime number.)

**Lemma 3:** The set of codes

$$C := \{c \in \mathbb{N} : c \text{ is the code for some } \vec{a} \in \mathbb{N}^*\}$$

is primitive recursive (i.e. the statement "  $c \in \mathbb{N}$  is a code for a finite sequence" is primitive recursive decidable).  $\square$

**Lemma 4:** The decoding function

$$B : C \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$$

is primitive recursive.  $\square$

**Lemma 5:** The predicate "  $B(c)$  is an **initial segment** of  $B(d)$ " is primitive recursive, too. (We mean that  $B(c) = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$  and  $B(d) = (a_1, \dots, a_m)$  where  $n \leq m$ .)  $\square$

**Lemma 6:** The function  $\ell : C \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  where  $\ell(c)$  is the length of the sequence  $B(c)$  (coded by  $c$ ) is primitive recursive.  $\square$

**Note 7:** Since  $C \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is primitive recursive and the functions  $s : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow C$ ,  $B : C \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$  both are bijective (one-to-one and onto) and primitive recursive, we do *not* distinguish the sequences  $\vec{a} \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and their codes  $c = s(\vec{a}) \in \mathbb{N}$  at all, in what follows.

Now we code all the expressions and formulas.

Let  $\mathcal{L} = (f_1, \dots, f_n, P_1, \dots, P_m)$  be any first order (fixed) language. Clearly  $\mathcal{L}$  contains also the symbols  $\lceil, \vee, \exists, (, ), ,$  and the variable symbols  $x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots$ .

Let first

$$\nu_0 : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

be any fixed bijection. Extend then  $\nu_0$  to  $K(\mathcal{L}) \cup F(\mathcal{L})$  as (for example):

**Definition 8:** (i)  $\nu(x_0) := s(\nu_0(x_i))$  if  $k = x_i$  is a 0-order expression,

(ii)

$$\nu(k) := s(\nu_0(\mathbf{f}_i), \nu_0(()), \nu(\mathbf{k}_1), \nu_0(,), \nu(\mathbf{k}_2), \nu_0(,), \dots, \nu_0(,), \nu(k_\mu), \nu_0(()))$$

if  $k = f_i(k_1, \dots, k_\mu)$  is a  $\nu + 1$ -order expression,

(iii)

$$\nu(\varphi) := s(\nu_0(\mathbf{P}_j), \nu_0(()), \nu(\mathbf{k}_1), \nu_0(,), \nu(\mathbf{k}_2), \nu_0(,), \dots, \nu_0(,), \nu(k_\nu), \nu_0(()))$$

if  $\varphi = P_j(k_1, \dots, k_\nu)$  is a 0-order formula,

(iv)

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(\lceil \psi \rceil) &: = s(\nu_0(\lceil \rceil), \nu(\psi)) , \\ \nu(\psi \vee \vartheta) &: = s(\nu(\psi), \nu_0(\vee), \nu(\vartheta)) , \\ \nu(\exists \mathbf{x}_i \psi) &: = s(\nu_0(\exists), \nu_0(\mathbf{x}_i), \nu(\psi)) , \end{aligned}$$

for the  $\nu + 1$ -order expressions  $\lceil \psi \rceil$ ,  $\psi \vee \vartheta$  and  $\exists x_i \psi$ .  $\square$

Please observe and understand the trivial base idea of coding all expressions and formulas: eg. for coding the expression  $k = f_i(k_1, \dots, k_\mu)$  we just code the sequence of the codes of the components of  $k$ :  $f_i, (, k_1, ,, \dots, k_\mu, )$ . Or, in some more detail: we code the sequence  $\nu_0(\mathbf{f}_i), \nu_0(()), \nu(\mathbf{k}_1), \nu_0(,), \nu(\mathbf{k}_2), \nu_0(,), \dots, \nu_0(,), \nu(k_\mu), \nu_0(())$ , as it is written in the definition above. Further, please take care of when to use  $\nu_0$  and when  $\nu$ .

Let us emphasize again, that not the details of the coding

$$\nu : K(\mathcal{L}) \cup F(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

but the *existence* of such coding is important. Moreover, the main aim of such codings is: to represent and examine formulas, proofs, axiom systems (everything) with natural numbers.

**Theorem 9:** The function  $\nu : K(\mathcal{L}) \cup F(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is one-to-one.  $\square$

Now we go on. All the proofs below are omitted because of their simplicity, unless it is stated otherwise. Since

$$\text{Im}(\nu) \subset \text{Im}(s) = C \quad ,$$

we can consider the following predicates (questions) :

**Theorem 10:** The following predicates and functions on  $C$  are primitive recursive ( $c, e, x, \dots \in C$ ):

**Var(c)** := "  $c$  is a  $\nu$ -code for a variable " ,

**Kif(c)** := "  $c$  is a  $\nu$ -code for an expression " ,

**Fml(c)** := "  $c$  is a  $\nu$ -code for a formula " ,

**Free(e,x)** := " Fml(e) and Var(x) and  $x$  is a  $\nu$ -code for a free variable of the formula (coded by)  $e$  " ,

**Subst(d,x, $\ell$ )** := the code for the formula, obtained by the substitution  $\varphi_{x_m}(k)$  where where  $d = \nu(\varphi)$ ,  $x = \nu(x_m)$ ,  $\ell = \nu(k)$  and (of course) Kif( $\ell$ ), Fml(d) and Var(x) yield,

**AllSubst(h,d,x, $\ell$ )** := " the substitution  $h = \text{Subst}(d,x,\ell)$  is an allowed one " ,

**LogAx(g)** := "  $g$  is a  $\nu$ -code for a logical axiom " ,

**DedRul(u,w)** := " ( $\vartheta|\eta$ ) is a deduction rule where  $u = \nu(\vartheta)$  and  $w = \nu(\eta)$  " ,

**DedRul(u,v,w)** := " ( $\vartheta, \tau|\eta$ ) is a deduction rule where  $u = \nu(\vartheta)$ ,  $v = \nu(\tau)$  and  $w = \nu(\eta)$  " ,

**Biz $_{\Gamma}$ (a,b)** := "  $b$  is a  $\nu$ -code of a proof (sequence of formulas connected with  $\&$  and deduction rules) from  $\Gamma$  of the formula coded by  $a$  " .  $\square$

Let us note that  $\Gamma$  above is a *fixed* axiom system, and moreover the set

$$\{\nu(\gamma) : \gamma \in \Gamma\} \subset C$$

must be primitive recursive.

**Definition 11:** **Köv $_{\Gamma}$ (a)** :=  $\exists b \text{ Biz}_{\Gamma}(a, b)$  ( $a$  is provable from  $\Gamma$ ).  $\square$

**Definition 12:** **Köv $_{\Gamma}$**  :=  $\{a \in C : \text{Köv}_{\Gamma}(a)\}$  (the set of consequences of  $\Gamma$ ).  $\square$

Please keep in mind that  $\Gamma$  is a *fixed* axiom system, and **Köv $_{\Gamma}$**  is the set of ( $\nu$ -codes of) the formulas which are *provable from*  $\Gamma$  ("corollaries of  $\Gamma$ "). This is not the set of ( $\nu$ -codes of) formulas *decidable* by  $\Gamma$ , but ... think a little bit on this question, please.

In general, **Köv $_{\Gamma}$**  is even *not* general recursive (see 15, 16 below).

**Definition 13:** Any set of formulas  $F$  is **recursive** if and only if its characteristic function  $\chi_F : C \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is recursive.  $\square$

The following theorem reveals the real importance and strength of PA, Peano's Axiom system for arithmetic): we can talk about recursive sets and formulas *inside*  $\Gamma$  :

**Theorem 14:** (Representation Theorem for Recursive Sets) For any *recursive set*  $Q \subset \mathbb{N}^n$  (predicate over  $\mathbb{N}^n$ ) there is a formula  $\varphi = \varphi_Q \in F(\mathcal{L}_{PA})$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } \vec{b} \in Q \quad \text{then} \quad PA \vdash \varphi_Q(\vec{b}), \\ \text{if } \vec{b} \notin Q \quad \text{then} \quad PA \vdash \neg \varphi_Q(\vec{b}) \end{aligned}$$

for every  $\vec{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$  .

**Proof:** Easy but boring a bit: using the inductive definition of recursive functions and sets (basic functions, operators, ...) we can actually construct the formula  $\varphi_Q$  itself (see the 3rd Part of the green book "*Diszkrét matematika és az algoritmuselmélet alapjai*" by I. Szalkai).  $\square$

**14.b.) Remark,** that we can not write "if and only if" in none of the statement lines of the previous Theorem.

Further, in the case  $\Gamma \vdash PA$  (possibly after a necessary conservative extension) we can replace  $PA$  by  $\Gamma$  in the above Theorem.

### 3. The 1st Non-completeness Theorem

**Definition:**  $\Gamma$  is *decidable* if for every  $\varphi$  the question " $\Gamma \vdash \varphi$ " can be decided.

**Statement 15:**  $\Gamma$  is decidable if and only if  $K\ddot{o}v_\Gamma$  is recursive.  $\square$

**Theorem 16:** (A. Church) If  $\Gamma \vdash PA$  and  $\Gamma$  is consistent then  $\Gamma$  is not decidable.

**Proof:** Suppose on indirect way that  $K\ddot{o}v_\Gamma$  is recursive. Then the predicates

$$P(a, b) := K\ddot{o}v_\Gamma(Subst(a, x_0, b))$$

and

$$Q(b) := \neg P(b, b)$$

both are recursive, too. Now let the formula  $\varphi \in F(\mathcal{L}_\Gamma)$  represent  $Q$  as in Theorem 14. Clearly  $V(\varphi) = \{x_0\}$ , i.e.  $\varphi$  has exactly one free variable.

This means, for every  $b \in C$  :

$$Q(b) = \uparrow \quad \text{if and only if} \quad PA \vdash \varphi_{x_0}[b] = \uparrow .$$

Denote  $a$  the  $\nu$ -code for  $\varphi$  :  $\nu(\varphi) = a$  .

Now either  $Q(a) = \uparrow$  or  $Q(a) = \downarrow$  we reach to a contradiction:

if  $Q(a) = \uparrow$  then  $\Gamma \vdash \varphi_{x_0}[a]$  then  $\neg P(a, a)$  then  $\neg K\ddot{o}v_\Gamma(Subst(a, x_0, a))$   
then  $\Gamma \not\vdash \varphi_{x_0}[a]$  contradiction,

if  $Q(a) = \downarrow$  then  $\Gamma \vdash \neg \varphi_{x_0}[a]$  then  $\Gamma \not\vdash \varphi_{x_0}[a]$  and  $P(a, a)$  then  $K\ddot{o}v_\Gamma(Subst(a, x_0, a))$   
then  $\Gamma \vdash \varphi_{x_0}[a]$  contradiction.  $\square$

Lemmae 17 and 18 below are, in some sense, the opposite of Theorem 16.

**Lemma 17:** If  $R, Q \subseteq \mathbb{N}^2$  are recursive sets and  $P \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is any subset, such that for each  $a \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(a) & \text{ if and only if } \exists u Q(a, u) \\ \neg P(a) & \text{ if and only if } \exists v R(a, v) \end{aligned}$$

then  $P$  is recursive.  $\square$

**Lemma 18:** If  $\Gamma$  is complete then it is decidable.

**Proof:** For any complete axiom system  $\Gamma$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} K\ddot{o}v_{\Gamma}(a) & \text{ if and only if } \exists u Biz_{\Gamma}(a, u) \quad , \\ \neg K\ddot{o}v_{\Gamma}(a) & \text{ if and only if } \exists v Biz_{\Gamma}(\neg a, v) \quad . \end{aligned}$$

So  $K\ddot{o}v_{\Gamma}$  must be recursive by Lemma 17, and use Statement 15.  $\square$

**Theorem 19: (Gödel's 1'st Non-Completeness Theorem)**

*If  $\Gamma \vdash PA$  and  $\Gamma$  is consistent then  $\Gamma$  is not complete.*

**Proof:** Lemma 18 contradicts to Church's Theorem 16.  $\square$

Note that Gödel's Theorem 19. is a strengthening of Church's Theorem 16.