# **Logic, Computability and Incompleteness**

**Theories** 

Wolfgang Schwarz

17 October 2025

# **Theories**

## Theories

A (first-order) **theory** *T* is a set of sentences closed under entailment.

Notation:  $T \vdash A$  (synonym of  $A \in T$ ).

By completeness,  $T \vdash A$  iff  $T \models A$ .

*T* is **axiomatized** by  $\Gamma$  iff  $T = \{A : \Gamma \vdash A\}$ .

# Language of first-order arithmetic

• Symbols: 0, s, +,  $\times$ .

All computable number-theoretic properties and relations are definable from  $0, s, +, \times$ .

- $x < y \text{ iff } \exists z (x + s(z) = y).$
- t is prime iff

$$s(0) < t \land \forall y (\exists z (z \times y = t) \rightarrow (y = s(0) \lor y = t)).$$

# Robinson's Q:

Q1 
$$\forall x \forall y (s(x) = s(y) \rightarrow x = y)$$

$$Q2 \quad \forall x \, 0 \neq s(x)$$

Q3 
$$\forall x (x \neq 0 \rightarrow \exists y x = s(y))$$

$$\mathbf{Q4} \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \, (\mathbf{x} + 0 = \mathbf{x})$$

Q5 
$$\forall x \forall y (x + s(y) = s(x + y))$$

**Q6** 
$$\forall x (x \times 0 = 0)$$

Q7 
$$\forall x \forall y (x \times s(y) = (x \times y) + x)$$

# First-Order Peano Arithmetic (PA):

Q1 
$$\forall x \forall y (s(x) = s(y) \rightarrow x = y)$$
  
Q2  $\forall x \ 0 \neq s(x)$   
Ind  $A(0) \land \forall x (A(x) \rightarrow A(s(x))) \rightarrow \forall x \ A(x)$   
Q4  $\forall x (x + 0 = x)$   
Q5  $\forall x \forall y (x + s(y) = s(x + y))$   
Q6  $\forall x (x \times 0 = 0)$   
Q7  $\forall x \forall y (x \times s(y) = (x \times y) + x)$ 

# **Second-Order Peano Arithmetic (PA2):**

Q1 
$$\forall x \forall y (s(x) = s(y) \rightarrow x = y)$$
  
Q2  $\forall x \ 0 \neq s(x)$   
Ind2  $\forall X (X(0) \land \forall y (X(y) \rightarrow X(s(y))) \rightarrow \forall y X(y)$   
Q4  $\forall x (x + 0 = x)$   
Q5  $\forall x \forall y (x + s(y) = s(x + y))$   
Q6  $\forall x (x \times 0 = 0)$   
Q7  $\forall x \forall y (x \times s(y) = (x \times y) + x)$ 

# Nonstandard models of Q and PA (and $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{A})$ )

- Add a new constant c and sentences  $c \neq 0$ ,  $c \neq s(0)$ ,  $c \neq s(s(0))$ , . . .
- Every finite subset has a model.
- By compactness: there is a model of Q/PA/ $\operatorname{Th}(\mathfrak{A})$  where c is not any  $s^n(0)$ .

No first-order theory can exclude extra elements beyond the standard  $0, 1, 2, \ldots$ 

#### No nonstandard models of PA2

The second-order Induction axiom excludes nonstandard elements:

$$\forall X(X(0) \land \forall y (X(y) \rightarrow X(s(y))) \rightarrow \forall y X(y)$$

Let 
$$X(y) \iff \forall Z(Z(0) \land \forall x (Z(x) \rightarrow Z(s(x))) \rightarrow Z(y)$$

All models of PA2 are isomorphic.

Compactness fails in second-order logic.

# **Gödel's First Incompleteness Theorem**

Every consistent, computably axiomatizable extension T of Q is incomplete: there is a sentence G such that neither  $T \vdash G$  nor  $T \vdash \neg G$ .

- ullet Q, PA, PA2 are all computably axiomatizable;  $\operatorname{Th}({\mathfrak A})$  is not.
- Q, PA, PA2 are all incomplete;  $\operatorname{Th}(\mathfrak{A})$  is complete.
- But PA2  $\models$  A for all  $A \in Th(\mathfrak{A})$  (all models of PA2 are isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{A}$ ).
- So PA2  $\models$  G or PA2  $\models$   $\neg$ G, even though PA2  $\not\vdash$  G and PA2  $\not\vdash$   $\neg$ G.
- So second-order logic has no sound and complete proof system.

# The cumulative hierarchy $\lor$

• 
$$V_0 = \emptyset$$

• 
$$V_1 = \mathcal{P}(V_0) = \{\emptyset\}$$

• 
$$V_2 = \mathcal{P}(V_1) = \{\varnothing, \{\varnothing\}\}$$

• 
$$V_{\omega} = \bigcup_{k < \omega} V_k$$

• 
$$V_{\omega+1} = \mathcal{P}(V_{\omega})$$

• 
$$V_{\omega+\omega} = \bigcup_{n<\omega} V_{\omega+n}$$

• At limit ordinals  $\lambda$ :  $V_{\lambda} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} V_{\alpha}$ .

# Language and contextual definitions

• Non-logical symbol: ∈;

#### Define ∅ via:

•  $A(\varnothing)$  iff  $\exists x (\forall y \neg y \in x \land A(x))$ .

#### **ZFC axioms:**

- Z1 Extensionality:  $\forall x \forall y (\forall z (z \in x \leftrightarrow z \in y) \rightarrow x = y)$
- Z2 Separation (schema):  $\forall y \exists z \forall x (x \in z \leftrightarrow (x \in y \land A(x)))$
- Z3 Empty set:  $\exists x \forall y (y \notin x)$
- Z4 Union:  $\forall x \exists u \forall y (y \in u \leftrightarrow \exists z (z \in x \land y \in z))$
- *Z5 Power set:*  $\forall x \exists p \forall y (y \in p \leftrightarrow y \subseteq x)$
- *Z6 Pairing:*  $\forall x \forall y \exists z \forall v (v \in z \leftrightarrow (v = x \lor v = y))$
- *Z7 Infinity:*  $\exists x (\emptyset \in x \land \forall y (y \in x \rightarrow y \cup \{y\} \in x))$
- **Z8** Foundation:  $\forall x (x \neq \emptyset \rightarrow \exists y (y \in x \land x \cap y = \emptyset))$
- Z9 Replacement (schema): if A defines a function whose domain is a set, then its image is a set.
- Z10 Choice: from any set of nonempty sets, there is a choice function selecting one element from each.

#### **Von Neumann ordinals**

- $0 = \varnothing$ ,
- $1 = \{0\} = \{\emptyset\},$
- $2 = \{0, 1\} = \{\varnothing, \{\varnothing\}\}$ ,
- ...

Successor:  $s(x) = x \cup \{x\}$ .

PA is **interpretable** in ZFC: every PA axiom translates to a theorem of ZFC.

## **Von Neumann ordinals**

- $0 = \varnothing$ ,
- $1 = \{0\} = \{\emptyset\},$
- $2 = \{0, 1\} = \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}\$ ,
- ...
- $\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- $\omega + 1 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega\}$
- $\omega + 2 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1\}$
- ...
- $\omega \cdot 2 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1, \omega + 2, \dots\}$
- ...

An ordinal is any set that is transitive and  $\in$ -ordered.

#### **Cardinals as ordinals**

The cardinality of a set *X* is the least ordinal equinumerous with *X*.

- $|\varnothing| = 0 = \varnothing$
- $\bullet \ |\{\varnothing\}|=1=\{\varnothing\}$
- $|\mathbb{N}| = \aleph_0 = \omega$
- $|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| > \omega$

#### **Cardinals as ordinals**

- $|\mathbb{N}| = \aleph_0 = \omega$
- $|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| > \omega$

# The Continuum Hypothesis (CH): $|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})| = \aleph_1$

- Gödel (1938): ZFC ⊬ ¬CH (if ZFC consistent).
- Cohen (1963): ZFC ⊬ CH (if ZFC consistent).