

Self-reference Lemma. For any formula $\phi(x)$, there is a sentence ψ so that $PA \vdash (\psi \leftrightarrow \phi(\ulcorner \psi \urcorner))$.

Proof: Let d be the following calculable function:

If m has the form $\theta(x)$, $d(m) = \ulcorner \theta(\ulcorner m \urcorner) \urcorner$.

Otherwise $d(m) = 0$.

d is calculable, so there is a formula \mathcal{D} that functionally represents it. That is, for each n ,

$$PA \vdash (\forall y)(\mathcal{D}(n), y) \leftrightarrow y = [d(n)].$$

Let $\chi(x)$ be the formula $(\exists y)(\mathcal{D}(x, y) \wedge \psi(y))$.

Let $m = \ulcorner \chi(x) \urcorner$.

Let $\phi = \chi(\ulcorner m \urcorner)$, so that $\ulcorner \phi \urcorner = d(m)$. In PA, we can prove:

$$(\forall y)(\mathcal{D}(\ulcorner m \urcorner, y) \leftrightarrow y = \ulcorner \phi \urcorner).$$

$$((\exists y)(\mathcal{D}(\ulcorner m \urcorner, y) \wedge \psi(y)) \leftrightarrow \psi(\ulcorner \phi \urcorner)).$$

$$(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi(\ulcorner \phi \urcorner)).$$

First Incompleteness Theorem.

Write $y B_{\Gamma} x$ for “ y is the code of a sequence of sentences containing x , each of which is either a member of Γ , an axiom of logic, or obtained from earlier members of the sequence by modus ponens.”

B_{Γ} is decidable in PA.

$Bew_{\Gamma}(x) =_{\text{Def}} (\exists y) y B_{\Gamma} x$, i.e., x is provable in Γ

Use the self-reference lemma to find γ so that $PA \vdash (\gamma \leftrightarrow \sim Bew_{\Gamma}(\ulcorner \gamma \urcorner))$.

γ asserts its own unprovability.

If Γ is consistent, γ is unprovable.

If Γ is ω -consistent, γ is unrefutable.

This shows that, if Γ is ω -consistent, it's incomplete.

Rosser strengthened this to: If Γ is consistent, it's incomplete.