

# Epistemic Arithmetic

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Lecture 2, ESSLLI 2025

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# Plan

- ✓ Introduction: Smullyan's Machine
- ▶ Background
  - ✓ Formal Arithmetic
  - ✓ Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems
    - ▶ Names and Gödel numbering
  - ✓ Fixed Point Theorem
- ▶ Provability predicate and Löb's Theorem
- ▶ Provability logic
- ▶ Predicate approach to modality
- ▶ A Primer on Epistemic and Doxastic Logic
- ▶ Anti-Expert Paradoxes
- ▶ The Knower Paradox and variants
- ▶ Epistemic Arithmetic
- ▶ Gödel's Disjunction

H. Gaifman (2006). *Naming and Diagonalization, From Cantor to Gödel to Kleene.* Logic Journal of the IGPL, pp. 709 - 728.

# What's in a name?

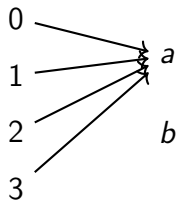
Functions from  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  to  $\{a, b\}$

	0	1	2	3

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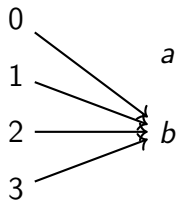
	0	1	2	3
	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$



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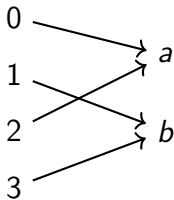
	0	1	2	3
$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$
$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$



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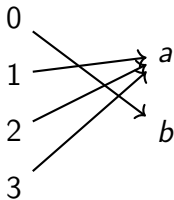
	0	1	2	3
$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$
$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$
	$a$	$b$	$a$	$b$



# What's in a name?

Functions from  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  to  $\{a, b\}$

	0	1	2	3
$f$	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$
$g$	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$
$h$	$a$	$b$	$a$	$b$
$i$	$b$	$a$	$a$	$a$

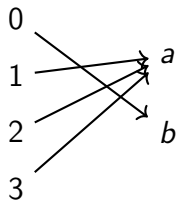




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Functions from  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  to  $\{a, b\}$

	0	1	2	3
$\alpha$	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$
$\beta$	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$
$\gamma$	$a$	$b$	$a$	$b$
$\delta$	$b$	$a$	$a$	$a$



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$\gamma$	$a$	$b$	$a$	$b$
$\delta$	$b$	$a$	$a$	$a$

$$g(n) = \begin{cases} b & \text{if } \gamma(n) = a \\ a & \text{if } \gamma(n) = b \end{cases}$$

0	
1	$a$
2	$b$
3	

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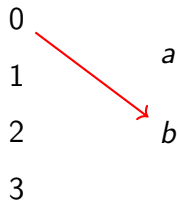
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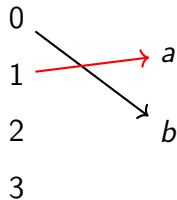


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	0	1	2	3
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$\delta$	$b$	$a$	$a$	$a$

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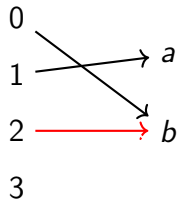


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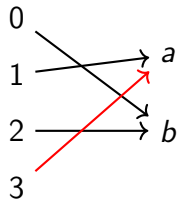


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	0	1	2	3
[0]	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
[1]	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
[2]	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
[3]	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>

0

1

2

3

*a*

*b*



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	0	1	2	3
[0]	$a$	$a$	$a$	$a$
[1]	$b$	$b$	$b$	$b$
[2]	$a$	$b$	$a$	$b$
[3]	$b$	$a$	$a$	$a$

$$diag(n) = \begin{cases} b & \text{if } [n](n) = a \\ a & \text{if } [n](n) = b \end{cases}$$

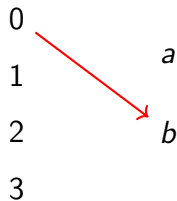
0	
1	$a$
2	$b$
3	

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[0]	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
[1]	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
[2]	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
[3]	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>

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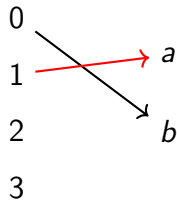


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[0]	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
[1]	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
[2]	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
[3]	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>

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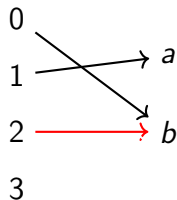


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	0	1	2	3
[0]	a	a	a	a
[1]	b	b	b	b
[2]	a	b	a	b
[3]	b	a	a	a

$$\text{diag}(n) = \begin{cases} b & \text{if } [n](n) = a \\ a & \text{if } [n](n) = b \end{cases}$$

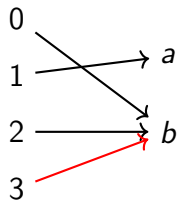


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	0	1	2	3
[0]	<b>a</b>	a	a	a
[1]	b	<b>b</b>	b	b
[2]	a	b	<b>a</b>	b
<b>[3]</b>	b	a	a	<b>a</b>

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# Cantor's Diagonalization Proof

Functions from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\{0, 1\}$

	0	1	2	3	$\dots$	$n$	$\dots$
	0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	$\dots$
	0	1	0	1	$\dots$	1	$\dots$
	0	1	1	0	$\dots$	0	$\dots$
	1	0	1	0	$\dots$	1	$\dots$
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
	0	0	1	0	$\dots$	1	$\dots$
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

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[0]	0	0	0	0	...	0	...
[1]	0	1	0	1	...	1	...
[2]	0	1	1	0	...	0	...
[3]	1	0	1	0	...	1	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
[ $n$ ]	0	0	1	0	...	1	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$$d : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

$$d(n) = 1 - [n](n)$$

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	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...
[0]	0	0	0	0	...	0	...
[1]	0	1	0	1	...	1	...
[2]	0	1	1	0	...	0	...
[3]	1	0	1	0	...	1	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
[ $n$ ]	0	0	1	0	...	1	...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$$d : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \quad d(n) = 1 - [n](n)$$

Then,  $d \neq [n]$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .



Cantor's original statement is phrased as a non-existence claim: there is no function mapping all the members of a set  $S$  onto the set of all 0, 1-valued functions over  $S$ . But the proof establishes a positive result: given any way of correlating functions with members of  $S$ , one can construct a function not correlated with any member of  $S$ .

(Gaiffman, p. 711)

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Let  $u_i$  be the real number defined by the  $i$ th definition and  $f_i(n)$  be the  $n$ th member of the decimal expansion of  $u_i$ .

Let  $u^*$  be the number whose decimal expansion is  $0.g(1)g(2)\cdots g(n)\cdots$  where  $g$  is defined by  $g(n) = f_n(n) + 1$  if  $f_n(n) < 8$ ,  $g(n) = 1$  otherwise.

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But the previous description defines a number, so  $u^* = u_i$  for some  $i$ . But, this is impossible.

## Richard's Paradox (1905)

1. Let  $A$  be the set of all positive integers that can be defined in under 100 words. Since there are only finitely many of these, there must be a smallest positive integer  $n$  that does not belong to  $A$ .

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2. Let  $B$  be the set of all reasonably interesting positive integers. Let  $n$  be the smallest integer not belonging to  $B$ .

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2. Let  $B$  be the set of all reasonably interesting positive integers. Let  $n$  be the smallest integer not belonging to  $B$ .

But surely this defining property of  $n$  makes it reasonably interesting.

Let  $f$  be a function that associates each number  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  with a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ , i.e., for all  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f(x) \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ .

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Define  $S^*$  by:

$$x \in S^* \Leftrightarrow x \notin f(x)$$

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Define  $S^*$  by:

$$x \in S^* \Leftrightarrow x \notin f(x)$$

The assumption that there is some  $z$  such that  $f(z) = S^*$  leads to a contradiction.

	0	1	2	3	$\dots$	$n$	$\dots$	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$f(0)$	0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	$\dots$	
$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	$\dots$	1	$\dots$	
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	$\dots$	0	$\dots$	
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	$\dots$	1	$\dots$	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	$\dots$	1	$\dots$	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$f(0)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$f(0)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	



	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$f(0)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$f(0)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
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$f(1)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$f(2)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$f(3)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$f(n)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$$n \in S^* \text{ iff } n \notin f(n)$$

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$\varphi_0(x)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$\varphi_1(x)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\varphi_2(x)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$\varphi_3(x)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$\varphi_n(x)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$n \in S^*$  iff  $n \notin$  set defined by  $\varphi_n(x)$

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$\varphi_0(x)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$\varphi_1(x)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\varphi_2(x)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$\varphi_3(x)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$\varphi_n(x)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$n \in S^*$  iff  $n \notin$  set defined by  $\varphi_n(x)$

Suppose that  $S^*$  is definable in our language (say by  $\varphi_m(x)$ )

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$\varphi_0(x)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$\varphi_1(x)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\varphi_2(x)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$\varphi_3(x)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$\varphi_n(x)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$n \in S^*$  iff  $n \notin$  set defined by  $\varphi_n(x)$

Write  $\varphi_m(\bar{n})$  for “ $\varphi_m(x)$  is true of  $n$ ”

	0	1	2	3	...	$n$	...	$S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
$\varphi_0(x)$	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	$\emptyset$
$\varphi_1(x)$	0	1	0	1	...	1	...	$\{1, 3, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\varphi_2(x)$	0	1	1	0	...	0	...	$\{1, 2\}$
$\varphi_3(x)$	1	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{0, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$\varphi_n(x)$	0	0	1	0	...	1	...	$\{2, \dots, n, \dots\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$n \in S^*$  iff  $n \notin$  set defined by  $\varphi_n(x)$

$$\varphi_m(\bar{n}) \leftrightarrow \neg \text{True}(\ulcorner \varphi_n(\bar{n}) \urcorner)$$

where  $\ulcorner \varphi_n(\bar{n}) \urcorner$  is the term in the language representing the code of  $\varphi_n(\bar{n})$

## D-Liar

$$\varphi_m(\overline{m}) \leftrightarrow \neg \text{True}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$$

“ $m$  is true of  $\varphi_m(x)$  iff it is not true that  $m$  is true of  $\varphi_m(x)$ ”



# Gödel's Idea

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$$\varphi_m(\overline{m}) \leftrightarrow \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$$

" $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is true iff  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is not provable."

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" $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is true iff  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is not provable."

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$\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is not provable: Suppose  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is provable. Then, since we can only prove true statements,  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is true. This means that  $\neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$  is true. So,  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is not provable. Contradiction.

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$\neg \varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is not provable: Suppose that  $\neg \varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is provable. Since our system only proves true statements,  $\neg \varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is true. Then  $\neg \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$  is true. So,  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is provable. This contradicts the assumption that the system is consistent.

$$\varphi_m(\overline{m}) \leftrightarrow \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$$

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**Conclusion:** Neither  $\varphi_m(\overline{m})$  nor  $\neg \varphi_m(\overline{m})$  is provable.

$$\varphi_m(\overline{m}) \leftrightarrow \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi_m(\overline{m}) \urcorner)$$

1. Apply Richard's move to Cantor's construction to get the D-Liar
2. Replace 'true' with 'provable' on the right-hand side of the sentence
3. Proceed with the difficult task of *arithmetizing syntax* to construct the right-side of the sentence ( $\text{Prov}(v)$ ).
4. Show that the above sentence is provable within the formal system eliminating any appeal to the concept of "truth". The assumption that provable implies truth is replaced with ( $\omega$ -)consistency.

H. Gaifman (2006). *Naming and Diagonalization, From Cantor to Gödel to Kleene*. Logic Journal of the IGPL, pp. 709 - 728.



# Naming systems

Naming systems are intended as a basic framework for studying situations in which functions can be applied to their names....In a naming system we do not specify how the names are attached to functions, we assume only that there is such a correlation and that it satisfies certain minimal requirements.

H. Gaifman (2006). *Naming and Diagonalization, From Cantor to Gödel to Kleene*. Logic Journal of the IGPL, pp. 709 - 728.

# Naming systems I

$$\mathcal{D} = (D, \text{type}, \{ \})$$

such that:

- ▶  $D$  is a non-empty set.
- ▶  $\text{type}$  assigns to each  $a \in D$  its type:  $\text{type}(a)$  tells us if  $a$  is a name (of a function) and, if it is, the function's arity.

A name of arity  $n$ , or  $n$ -ary name, is one that names an  $n$ -ary function.

Types can be construed as tuples:  $(0)$ —if  $a$  is not a name,  $(1, n)$ —if it is an  $n$ -ary name.

- ▶  $\{ \}$  is a mapping that assigns to every  $n$ -ary name,  $a$ , a function:

$$\{a\} : D^n \rightarrow D$$

## Naming systems II

- ▶ There is at least one named function of arity greater than 0

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- ▶ Substitution of names (SN): If  $f$  is an  $n$ -ary named function, where  $n > 0$ , then, for every name  $a$ :

$$\lambda x_2, \dots, x_n f(a, x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ is named}$$

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- ▶ Variable permutation (VP): If  $f$  is an  $n$ -ary named function, where  $n > 0$ , and  $\pi$  is a permutation of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , then

$$\lambda x_1, \dots, x_n f(x_{\pi(1)}, x_{\pi(2)}, \dots, x_{\pi(n)}) \text{ is named}$$

## $n$ -Diagonal Function

For  $n > 0$ , an  $n$ -diagonal function, denoted  $dl_n$ , is a function that maps each  $n$ -ary name  $a$  to a name of the function:

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Thus,  $dl_n(a)$  is the name of the above function.

For all  $n$ -ary names  $a$ ,

$$\{dl_n(a)\}(x_2, \dots, x_n) = \{a\}(a, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

# General Fixed-Point Theorem

**GFP Theorem.** If  $F$  is an  $(n + 1)$ -ary named function,  $n \geq 0$ , and the composition  $F(dl_{n+1}(x_0), x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is named, then there is an  $n$ -ary name,  $e$ , such that:

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$$\{e\}(\vec{x}) = \{dl_{n+1}(c)\}(\vec{x}) \quad (\text{definition of } e)$$

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- ✓ Gödel numbering
- ✓ Gödel-Carnap Fixed Point Theorem
- ✓ (Naming systems)
- ▶ Representing functions/relations

# Representability

## Definition

Suppose that  $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . We say that  $f$  is **representable** in  $\mathbf{Q}$  when there is a formula  $A_f(x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}, y)$  such that for all  $n_0, \dots, n_{k-1} \in \mathbb{N}$ : if  $f(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) = m$  then

1.  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, \overline{m})$
2.  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash \forall y (A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, y) \rightarrow y = \overline{m})$

## Equivalent definitions of representability

- ▶  $f$  is representable in  $\mathbf{Q}$  iff there is a formula  $A_f(x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}, y)$  such that for all  $n_0, \dots, n_{k-1} \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $f(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) = m$  then:

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  1. If  $f(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) = m$ , then  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, \overline{m})$
  2. If  $f(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) \neq m$ , then  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash \neg A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, \overline{m})$

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  1. if  $f(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) = m$  then  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, \overline{m})$
  2.  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash \exists! y A_f(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}}, y)$

# Exercise

Prove that all of the definitions of representability are equivalent.

# Representing Relations

A relation  $R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^k$  is **representable** in  $\mathbf{Q}$  provided that the characteristic function  $\chi_R$  is representable in  $\mathbf{Q}$ . It is not hard to see that this is equivalent to saying that  $R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^k$  is representable in  $\mathbf{Q}$  provided that there is a formula  $A_R$  such that for all  $n_0, \dots, n_{k-1} \in \mathbb{N}$ :

1. if  $(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) \in R$ , then  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash A_R(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}})$
2. if  $(n_0, \dots, n_{k-1}) \notin R$ , then  $\mathbf{Q} \vdash \neg A_R(\overline{n_0}, \dots, \overline{n_{k-1}})$

All of the following relations are representable in **Q**:

- ▶  $Sent(x)$ :  $x$  is the Gödel number of a sentence of  $\mathcal{L}_A$
- ▶  $Form(x)$ :  $x$  is the Gödel number of a formula of  $\mathcal{L}_A$
- ▶  $Term(x)$ :  $x$  is the Gödel number of a term of  $\mathcal{L}_A$
- ▶  $Axiom(x)$ :  $x$  is the Gödel number of an axiom of **Q**
- ▶  $Prf_{\mathbf{PA}}(x, y)$ :  $x$  is the Gödel number of a derivation in **PA** of a formula with Gödel number  $y$ .
- ▶ ...

# Plan

- ✓ Introduction: Smullyan's Machine
- ✓ Background
  - ✓ Formal Arithmetic
  - ✓ Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems
  - ✓ Names and Gödel numbering
  - ✓ Fixed Point Theorem
- ▶ Provability predicate and Löb's Theorem
- ▶ Provability logic
- ▶ Predicate approach to modality
- ▶ A Primer on Epistemic and Doxastic Logic
- ▶ Anti-Expert Paradoxes
- ▶ The Knower Paradox and variants
- ▶ Epistemic Arithmetic
- ▶ Gödel's Disjunction

# Proof Predicate

The proof relation  $Prf_{\mathbf{PA}}(x, y)$  is represented by a formula  $\text{Prf}_{\mathbf{PA}}$ .

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The proof relation  $Prf_{\mathbf{PA}}(x, y)$  is represented by a formula  $\text{Prf}_{\mathbf{PA}}$ .

The *proof predicate*, denoted  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(y)$ , is defined as follows:

$$\exists x \text{Prf}_{\mathbf{PA}}(x, y)$$



# Derivability Conditions

It can be shown that the provability predicate  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}$  satisfies the following:

*D1.* If  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash A$ , then  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$

*D2.*  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner A \rightarrow B \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner B \urcorner))$

*D3.*  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{PA}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \urcorner)$

# Derivability Conditions

A provability predicate for  $\mathbf{T}$ , denoted  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}$ , satisfies the following:

*D1.* If  $\mathbf{T} \vdash A$ , then  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$

*D2.*  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \rightarrow B \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner B \urcorner))$

*D3.*  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \urcorner)$

# Reflection Principle

The reflection principle for  $\mathbf{T}$  is the schema

$$\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$$

# Monotonicity Inference for the Provability Predicate

## Lemma

For any theory  $\mathbf{T}$ , if  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}$  satisfies  $D1$  and  $D2$ , then:

From  $\mathbf{T} \vdash A \rightarrow B$ , infer  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner B \urcorner)$ .

# Löb's Theorem

## Theorem (Löb's Theorem)

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  be an axiomatizable theory extending  $\mathbf{Q}$ , and suppose  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(y)$  is a formula satisfying conditions  $D1$ - $D3$ .

If  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$ , then  $\mathbf{T} \vdash A$ .

Suppose  $A$  is a sentence such that  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$ . Let  $B(y)$  be the formula

$$\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(y) \rightarrow A$$

Suppose  $A$  is a sentence such that  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$ . Let  $B(y)$  be the formula

$$\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(y) \rightarrow A$$

By the Fixed-Point Theorem, there is a sentence  $D$  such that

$$\mathbf{T} \vdash D \leftrightarrow B(\ulcorner D \urcorner)$$

Suppose that  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$ .

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By the Fixed-Point Theorem, there is a sentence  $D$  such that

$$\mathbf{T} \vdash D \leftrightarrow B(\ulcorner D \urcorner)$$

Suppose that  $\mathbf{T} \vdash \text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$ .

To simplify the notation, we write  $\text{Prov}(\cdot)$  instead of  $\text{Prov}_{\mathbf{T}}$



1.  $D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$  FPT
2.  $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A \urcorner)$  Lemma: 1
3.  $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$  D2
4.  $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$  PC: 2, 3

- |          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1.       | $D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$  | FPT      |
| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$  | $\vdots$ |
| 4.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$ | PC: 2, 3 |
| 5.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$  | D3       |

- |          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1.       | $D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$  | FPT      |
| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$  | $\vdots$ |
| 4.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$ | PC: 2, 3 |
| 5.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$  | D3       |
| 6.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$   | PC: 4, 5 |

- |          |   |            |
|----------|---|------------|
| 1.       | $D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$  | FPT        |
| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$  | $\vdots$   |
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| 6.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$   | PC: 4, 5   |
| 7.       | $\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$  | Assumption |

1.	$D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$	FPT
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
4.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$	PC: 2, 3
5.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$	D3
6.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$	PC: 4, 5
7.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	Assumption
8.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	PC: 6, 7

1.	$D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$	FPT
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
4.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$	PC: 2, 3
5.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$	D3
6.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$	PC: 4, 5
7.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	Assumption
8.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	PC: 6, 7
9.	$D$	PC: 1, 8

1.	$D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$	FPT
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
4.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$	PC: 2, 3
5.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$	D3
6.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$	PC: 4, 5
7.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	Assumption
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9.	$D$	PC: 1, 8
10.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner)$	D1 from 9

1.	$D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$	FPT
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
4.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$	PC: 2, 3
5.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$	D3
6.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$	PC: 4, 5
7.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	Assumption
8.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	PC: 6, 7
9.	$D$	PC: 1, 8
10.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner)$	D1 from 9
11.	$A$	PC: 8, 10



1.	$D \leftrightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A)$	FPT
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
4.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow (\text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner))$	PC: 2, 3
5.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \urcorner)$	D3
6.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow \text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner)$	PC: 4, 5
7.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner A \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	Assumption
8.	$\text{Prov}(\ulcorner D \urcorner) \rightarrow A$	PC: 6, 7
9.	$D$	PC: 1, 8
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11.	$A$	PC: 8, 10

# 'PA couldn't be more modest about its own veracity'

By Löb's Theorem, it is not true that for all sentences  $\varphi$ ,

$$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner) \rightarrow \varphi \urcorner)$$

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Statement

It is not true that...

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner)$   
implies  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash \varphi$

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$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \neg \varphi \urcorner)$   
implies  $\mathbf{PA} \not\vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner)$

It is not true that...

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner) \rightarrow \varphi$

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implies  $\mathbf{PA} \not\vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner)$

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner) \urcorner)$   
implies  $\mathbf{PA} \vdash \neg \text{Prov}(\varphi)$

It is not true that...

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner) \rightarrow \varphi$

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \neg \varphi \urcorner) \rightarrow \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner)$

$\mathbf{PA} \vdash \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner) \urcorner) \rightarrow \neg \text{Prov}(\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner)$