

# More on Hilbert's Tenth Problem

# Recall Hilbert's Tenth Problem

**Hilbert's 10th problem (in modern language)** Give an algorithm that will, given  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  determine if there exists  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $p(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$ .

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**Thm** There is no such algorithm.

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1. Show that many sets can be expressed using polynomials.
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We will discuss expressing sets using polynomials.



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We use the first one on slides. We may use second on HW.

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$$= \{x : (\exists y_1, y_2)[(x \geq 0) \wedge ((x - y_1^2)^2 + (x - 3y_2)^2 = 0)]\}.$$

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$$A \cap B = \{x : (\exists y_1, \dots, y_n, z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

$$[(x \geq 0) \wedge (p_A(y_1, \dots, y_n, x)^2 + p_B(z_1, \dots, z_n, x)^2 = 0)]\}.$$

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**Next Slide**

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**Thm** There exists a polynomial  $p(x_1, \dots, x_9)$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a \in \text{HALT}$  iff  $(\exists a_1, \dots, a_8 \in \mathbb{Z})[p(a_1, \dots, a_8, a) = 0]$ .

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**Cor** There is no algorithm that will, given a polynomial  $q(x_1, \dots, x_8)$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , determine if there exists  $a_1, \dots, a_8 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $q(a_1, \dots, a_8) = 0$ .

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2. Output if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

# H10 AS AN UNDEC THEORY

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The original proof was much harder.

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3. Later we will look at theories that are decidable.

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5. The symbols  $+$ ,  $\times$ , and  $=$ .

# Examples of Formulas and Sentences

## Formula

$$x^2 + 3y - 10xy + z^3 = 0$$

NONE of  $x, y, X$  are quantified over, so its a formula.

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## Sentence

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ALL of the vars are quantified over.

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is an Atomic Formula.

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3. If  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a H10 Formula then so is  $(\exists x_i)[\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)]$

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In fact, H10 restricted to just  $\exists$ -statements is undecidable.

# H10 Implies Godel's Inc Theorem

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However, we need to state Godel's Incompleteness Theorem more carefully.

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This is impressive since almost all of number theory can be derived in PA.

# Whats so Special about Peano Arithmetic?

Godel's technique applies to **any** (with caveats) system that has  $+$  and  $\times$ . So its not really about PA.

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Since we are assuming **every** true statement is derivable in PA, then this algorithm must terminate and correctly determine if  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  has an integer solution.



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The following algorithm solves H10, a contradiction.

1. Input  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . So we are asking if  $(\exists a_1, \dots, a_n)[p(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0]$  is TRUE.
2. For  $s = 1$  to infinity
  - 2.1 Find all statements that can be derived in PA using  $\leq s$  steps.
  - 2.2 If one of them is  $(\exists x_1, \dots, x_n)[p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0]$  then output YES and halt.
  - 2.3 If one of them is  $\neg(\exists x_1, \dots, x_n)[p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0]$  then output NO and halt.
  - 2.4 If neither of those happens then go to the next  $s$

Since we are assuming **every** true statement is derivable in PA, then this algorithm must terminate and correctly determine if  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  has an integer solution. Contradiction!

# Variants of H10

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4. Resolving the ones that are unknown seems hard.



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6. Other domains: Mostly unknown.