

A puzzle about Gödel's numbering

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Part 1: the puzzle

Gödel's numberings

Gödel's numbering

Historically introduced by K. Gödel to **encode** (arithmetical) **formulas into numbers**.

Allows to manipulate formulas as arithmetical objects and thus write formulas about formulas.

Proof of Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem boils down to “This sentence has no proof”.

Gödel's numbering

Historical numbering: assign a number to each symbol and use power of the n-th prime to say that the symbol is in n-th position.

Example:

“0” is 6, “=” is 5. “0=0” is $2^6 \times 3^5 \times 5^6 = 243,000,000$.

Example: “the first symbol of φ is 0” = “the power of 2 in the encoding of φ is 6”.

Used to encode Turing Machines into numbers and thus create Universal Turing Machine.

Gödel's numberings

There are many ways to encode stuff into numbers.

Example: letters can be encoded using the **ASCII** code ('H' is $1001000_{(2)} = 72$).

Example: strings can be encoded using ASCII + leading '1' ("Hello" is $1, 1001000, 1100101, 1101100, 1101100, 1101111_{(2)} = 53, 900, 686, 959$).

Example: images into .bmp files, read as one big binary number.

Example: anything stored into your computer...

In general: any injective function into the natural numbers can be considered as a Gödel's numbering.

Gödel's numbering of program

A Gödel's numbering of programs allow to manipulate programs with other programs.

Example: compilation is a manipulation between Gödel's numbering of the source and object files.

A Gödel's numbering does not need to be computable!

Example: encode uniformly terminating programs into even numbers and other into odd numbers.

Operators on programs

Binary operators on programs

If Pgms is a set of programs (C, Turing machines, ...) we can define (binary) operators on it. $\mathbb{F} : \text{Pgms} \times \text{Pgms} \rightarrow \text{Pgms}$.

Example: **sequential composition**, **parallel composition** (with or without communication), ..., other things?

Operators can be complicated: sequential composition of C programs requires some α -conversions + cleaning headers (conflicting `#define`) + ...

Operators can be non-computable: “if p and q compute inverse functions, then let $\mathbb{F}(p, q)$ be $\lambda x.x$, otherwise ...”

Operators and numberings

A **binary operator on programs** and a **Gödel's numbering** of programs automatically define a **binary operator on numbers**.

Example: if p is encoded by 132, q by 93 and $\mathbb{F}(p, q) = r$, encoded by 32789; then $F(132, 93) = 32789$.

The puzzle

The puzzle

Can you choose:

- a ~~Turing-complete programming language~~ ICC system;
- a Gödel's numbering for it;
- a binary operator on it;

such that the induced operator on numbers is “as simple as possible”?

Example: start by looking into sequential or parallel compositions (still, many choices of such operators).

Example: can the operator on numbers be increasing? convex? polynomial? addition? concatenation? “continuous”? injective? other properties?