

§ Lecture 2.0

Thursday, 13 August 2026

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We have 5 Peano axioms.

Assumption:

There exists a number system N , whose elements

We will call natural numbers, for which

axioms 1-5 are true.

Why is it an assumption?

⇒ Peano axioms can be checked if a 'number system' already exists. Otherwise you can have all axioms you like, there might not be any realization.

⇒ More importantly, there will eventually be a need to assume something

- Gödel's incompleteness theorems.

Let us assume notions of "finite" and "infinite".

Then all natural numbers are finite assuming 0 is finite.

Proof: $P(n) = n$ is finite.

$P(0) = 0$ is finite (true by assumption)

Assume $P(n) = "n \text{ is finite}"$ is true.

Then $P(n++) = "n++ \text{ is finite}"$ is also true.

⇒ All natural numbers are finite.

However, there are infinitely many natural numbers as the increment op. never stops.

Proposition (Recursive definitions) :-

Let $f_n : N \rightarrow N$ be functions for each natural number

n . Let c be a natural number. Then for each n

We can assign an unambiguous - exactly one -

natural number a_n s.t. $a_0 = c$ and $a_{n++} = f_n(a_n)$

for each n .

Proof: a_n cannot be redefined, however

the values of a_n can be same for many n .

Induction on n :

By assumption $a_0 = c$. This cannot be

redefined again otherwise it will demand

$n++ = 0$ for some n . [This will violate axiom 3]

Assume a_n is assigned unambiguously.

Then a_{n++} is also unambiguous otherwise

we will have $n++ = m++$ for some $m \neq n$.

[Violates assumption 4]

⇒ a_n is defined unambiguously for each n .

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Addition: Let m be a natural number. To

add zero to it we define $0+m := m$.

Now suppose inductively that we defined

adding n to m . Then

$$n_{++} + m := (n+m)_{++}.$$

$$\Rightarrow 1+m = 0_{++} + m = (0+m)_{++} = m_{++}$$

$$2+m = 1_{++} + m = (1+m)_{++} = (m_{++})_{++}$$

⋮

What we didn't define

$$m+0 = ?$$

$$m+n_{++} = ?$$

$$m+n \stackrel{?}{=} n+m.$$

We defined $0+m$ & $n_{++}+m = (n+m)_{++}$

Claim 1: $m+0 = m$ $\forall$ natural numbers m .

Proof: Induction on m :

$$\rightarrow m=0 \quad ; \quad \text{LHS} = 0+0 = 0$$

$$\text{RHS} = 0$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}.$$

$\rightarrow$ Assume it is true for m , i.e. $m+0 = m$

We need to prove that $m_{++}+0 = m_{++}$.

$$m_{++}+0 = (m+0)_{++}$$

$$= m_{++}.$$

$\Rightarrow m+0 = m$ is true for all m .

Claim 2: $m+n_{++} = (m+n)_{++}$.

Proof: Let us do induction on m .

$\Rightarrow$ For $m=0$

$$\text{LHS} = 0+n_{++} = n_{++}$$

$$\text{RHS} = (0+n)_{++} = n_{++}$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}.$$

$\Rightarrow$ Assume $m+n_{++} = (m+n)_{++}$

Then we need to show that $m_{++}+n_{++} = (m_{++}+n)_{++}$

$$\rightarrow m_{++}+n_{++} = (m+n_{++})_{++}$$

$$= ((m+n)_{++})_{++}$$

$$= (m_{++}+n)_{++}$$

Thus $m+n_{++} = (m+n)_{++} \quad \forall m$.

Claim 3 $m+n = n+m$ for all natural numbers.

Proof: Induction on m .

$\Rightarrow m=0$ case

$$\text{LHS} = 0+n = n$$

$$\text{RHS} = n+0 = n.$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}.$$

$\Rightarrow$ Assume $m+n = n+m$ for some m .

Then we need to show that $m_{++}+n = n+m_{++}$.

$$\rightarrow m_{++}+n = (m+n)_{++}$$

$$= (n+m)_{++}$$

$$= n+m_{++}$$

Thus $m+n = n+m$ $\forall$ natural numbers m, n .

Other properties:

$$1. \quad (a+b)+c = a+(b+c)$$

Apply induction on c keeping a, b fixed.

$$\rightarrow c=0 \text{ case: } (a+b) = a+(b+0) = a+b.$$

$$\rightarrow (a+b)+c_{++} = ((a+b)+c)_{++}$$

$$= (a+(b+c))_{++}$$

$$= a+(b+c)_{++}$$

$$= a+(b+c_{++}).$$

$$2. \quad a+b = c+b \Rightarrow a=c.$$

Definition (Positive natural numbers):

A natural number is said to be positive

iff it is not zero.

Claim: If a is positive and b is any natural

number then $a+b$ is positive.

[Induction on b].

Claim: $a+b=0 \Rightarrow a=0$ & $b=0$.

Ordering of natural numbers:

Let n, m be natural numbers. We say that

n is greater than or equal to m , $n \geq m$

or $m \leq n$ iff $n = m+a$ for some

natural number a .

We say that n is strictly greater than m

$n > m$ or $m < n$ iff $n \geq m$ & $n \neq m$.

Claims:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad a \geq a \quad [a = a+0]$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad a \geq b \text{ and } b \geq c \Rightarrow a \geq c.$$

$$a = b+d; \quad b = c+e \Rightarrow a = c+d+e$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad a \geq b \wedge b \geq a \Rightarrow a=b$$

$$a = b+d, \quad b = a+c$$

$$a = a+c+d \Rightarrow 0 = c+d \Rightarrow c=0 \wedge d=0$$

$$\Rightarrow a=b.$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad a \geq b \text{ iff } a+c \geq b+c.$$

$$\Rightarrow a \geq b \Rightarrow a = b+c \Rightarrow a+c = (b+c)+c$$

$$\Rightarrow a+c \geq b+c.$$

$$\Leftarrow a+c \geq b+c \Rightarrow a+c = b+c+d \Rightarrow a = b+d$$

$$\Rightarrow a \geq b.$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad a < b \text{ iff } a_{++} \leq b.$$

$$\Rightarrow a < b \Rightarrow a \leq b; \quad a \neq b$$

$$\Rightarrow a+c = b, \quad a \neq b$$

$$\Rightarrow a+c = b, \quad c \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a+d_{++} = b$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{++}+d = b$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{++} \leq b.$$

$$\Leftarrow a_{++} \leq b \Rightarrow a_{++}+d = b$$

$$\Rightarrow (a+d)_{++} = b$$

$$\Rightarrow a+d_{++} = b$$

$$\Rightarrow a \leq b$$

if $a=b$ then

$$a+0 = a = a+d_{++}$$

$$\Rightarrow d_{++}=0 \quad \text{can't be true}$$

$$\Leftarrow a \neq b \wedge a \leq b \Rightarrow a < b.$$