Truth versus Provability



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Answer. <u>Axioms</u> are statements that follow from the empty collection of preceding statements!

So, a "proof system" typically specifies its axioms and also the accepted rules of deduction.

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Why do we believe that Modus Ponens is valid?

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P	Q	$P \to Q$	$P \land (P \to Q)$	$(P \land (P \to Q)) \to Q$
0	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	1
1	0	0	0	1
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There are many valid laws of deduction




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Another way to think about this is: at the first-order level, every statement has a proof or a counterexample.

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 $(\forall n)(\forall f)(\neg(f \colon n \to X \text{ is a bijection})).$

Then $\Sigma \models Q$, but $\Sigma \not\vdash Q$ for any proof system requiring finite-length proofs.

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• Theorem. If 0 < x < 1, then $x^2 < x$.

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Proof structure #2.

Assume that $x^2 \not\leq x$. Then $x \leq x^2$. Hence $0 \leq x^2 - x = x(x-1)$. Hence $0 \leq x, x-1$ or $x, x-1 \leq 0$. The first leads to $0 \leq x-1$, or $1 \leq x$, while the second leads to $x \leq 0$. Either way, 0 < x < 1 fails. \Box

Proof structure #3.

Assume that 0 < x < 1 and $x^2 \not< x$. The first leads to x > 0 and x - 1 < 0, hence x(x - 1) < 0. The second leads to $x^2 - x \not< 0$. These two statements contradict one another.

Let's try these three forms of proof on a theorem concerning \mathbb{R} .

Theorem. If 0 < x < 1, then $x^2 < x$.

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