

PHILOSOPHY

GÖDEL'S PROOF

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A recent opinion article ([Nature, Aug 14](#)) has an interesting retrospective look on [Gödel's proof](#), the 1958 secondhand description of Gödel's 1931 finding that rules of logic for quoting axioms eg. substituting variables and formulating deductions are themselves mathematical operations – pretty much the same of today's object oriented programming where an object (as set of operations) is applied to another object eventually generating a new object. But what's about his

astonishing discovery of true mathematical statements that could not possibly have a formal proof

Working currently on an analysis where there is basically not available model, no empirical expert knowledge on thresholds etc with extremely rare data, Gödel's proof is a most painful insight.

There is also another aspect that came to my mind when reading the Nature essay. The author cites "How to solve it" without giving a reference to the classical text of [George Polya](#) (1945) known for

To be a good mathematician, or a good gambler, or good at anything, you must be a good guesser.

I have the 1988 edition on my book shelf. "How to solve it" is a much less theoretical than practical account that lays out an heuristical approach to solve mathematical and other problems

It is hard to have a good idea if we have little knowledge of the subject and impossible to have it if we have no knowledge.

Yea, yea.

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