

## Refutation of recursive comprehension in second-order arithmetic

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**Abstract:** We evaluate 11 basic first-order axioms of which nine are *not* tautologous. Recursive comprehension, as an abstraction of mathematical induction, is derived therefrom in second-order arithmetic and is *not* tautologous. This refutes the use of recursive comprehension in second-order arithmetic. Reverse mathematics relies on recursive comprehension and hence is also refuted.

We assume the method and apparatus of Meth8/VL4 with Tautology as the designated *proof* value, **F** as contradiction, N as truthity (non-contingency), and C as falsity (contingency). For results, the 16-valued truth table is row-major and horizontal, or repeating fragments of 128-tables, sometimes with table counts, for more variables. Reproducible transcripts for results are available. (See ersatz-systems.com.)

LET p, q, r, s: A, B, C, D;  
 ~ Not, ¬ ; + Or, ∨, ∪ ; - Not Or; & And, ∧, ∩ ; \ Not And;  
 > Imply, greater than, →, ↗, >, ∃, ⊃, ⊃, ⊃, ⊃ < Not Imply, less than, ∈, <, <;  
 = Equivalent, ≡, :=, ⇔, ↔, ≅ @ Not Equivalent, ≠;  
 % possibility, for one or some, ∃, ∃, M; # necessity, for every or all, ∀, □, L;  
 (z=z) T as tautology, ⊤, ordinal 3;  
 (z@z) **F** as contradiction, ∅, Null, ⊥, zero;  
 (%z<#z) C as contingency, Δ, ordinal 1;  
 (%z>#z) N as non-contingency, ∇, ordinal 2;  
 ~(y < x) (x ≤ y), (x ⊆ y); (A=B) (A~B).

From: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second-order\_arithmetic

The following axioms are known as the basic axioms.

Axioms governing the successor function and zero:

$$1. \forall m [ S m = 0 \rightarrow \perp ] \text{ (“the successor of a natural number is never zero”)} \quad (1.1)$$

$$(s\&\#p)>(r@r); \quad \text{TTTT TTTT TCTC TCTC} \quad (1.2)$$

$$2. \forall m \forall n [ S m = S n \rightarrow m = n ] \text{ (“the successor function is injective”)} \quad (2.1)$$

$$((s\&\#p)=(s\&\#q))>(\#p=\#q); \quad \text{TCCT TCCT TTTT TTTT} \quad (2.2)$$

$$3. \forall n [ 0 = n \vee \exists m [ S m = n ] ] \text{ (“every natural number is zero or a successor”)} \quad (3.1)$$

$$(((r@r)=\#q)\&\%p)\&((s\&p)=q); \quad \text{CTFF CTFF CFFC CFFC} \quad (3.2)$$

Addition defined recursively:

$$4. \forall m [ m + 0 = m ] \quad (4.1)$$

$$(\#p+(r@r))=\#p ; \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad (4.2)$$

$$5. \forall m \forall n [ m + S n = S ( m + n ) ] \quad (5.1)$$

$$(\#p+(s\&q))=(s\&(p+q)) ; \quad \text{T C T C} \quad \text{T C T C} \quad \text{T N T T} \quad \text{T N T T} \quad (5.2)$$

Multiplication defined recursively:

$$6. \forall m [ m \cdot 0 = 0 ]. \quad (6.1)$$

$$(\#p\&(r@r))=(r@r) ; \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad \text{T T T T} \quad (6.2)$$

$$7. \forall m \forall n [ m \cdot S n = ( m \cdot n ) + m ] \quad (7.1)$$

$$(\#p\&(s\&\#q))=((p\&q)+p) ; \quad \text{T F T F} \quad \text{T F T F} \quad \text{T F T N} \quad \text{T F T N} \quad (7.2)$$

Axioms governing the order relation "<":

$$8. \forall m [ m < 0 \rightarrow \perp ]. \quad (\text{"no natural number is smaller than zero"}) \quad (8.1)$$

$$(\#p<(r@r))>(r@r) ; \quad \text{T C T C} \quad \text{T C T C} \quad \text{T C T C} \quad \text{T C T C} \quad (8.2)$$

$$9. \forall n \forall m [ m < S n \leftrightarrow ( m < n \vee m = n ) ] \quad (9.1)$$

$$(\#p<(s\&\#q))=((\#p<\#q)+(\#p=\#q)) ; \quad \text{F N N N} \quad \text{F N N N} \quad \text{F N N F} \quad \text{F N N F} \quad (9.2)$$

$$10. \forall n [ 0 = n \vee 0 < n ]. \quad (\text{"every natural number is zero or bigger than zero"}) \quad (10.1)$$

$$((r@r)=\#q)+((r@r)<\#q) ; \quad \text{T T C C} \quad \text{T T C C} \quad \text{T T C C} \quad \text{T T C C} \quad (10.2)$$

$$11. \forall m \forall n [ ( S m < n \vee S m = n ) \leftrightarrow m < n ] \quad (11.1)$$

$$(((s\&\#p)<\#q)+((s\&\#p)=\#q))=(\#p<\#q) ; \quad \text{F N N N} \quad \text{F N N N} \quad \text{F N N F} \quad \text{F N N F} \quad (11.2)$$

For the 11 basic axioms of Eqs. 1.2-11.2 as rendered, two as 4.2 and 6.2 are tautologous, and the other nine are *not* tautologous.

From: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second-order\\_arithmetic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second-order_arithmetic)

Recursive comprehension

[From: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse\\_mathematics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse_mathematics):  
The initials "RCA" stand for "recursive comprehension axiom", where "recursive" means "computable", as in recursive function.]

The subsystem  $RCA_0$  is ... often used as the base system in reverse mathematics.

It consists of: the basic axioms [Eqs. 1.-11.1 from above] , the  $\Sigma^0_1$  induction

scheme, and the  $\Delta^0_1$  comprehension scheme. This scheme includes, for every  $\Sigma^0_1$  formula  $\varphi$  and every  $\Pi^0_1$  formula  $\psi$ , the axiom:

$$\forall m \forall X ((\forall n (\varphi(n) \leftrightarrow \psi(n))) \rightarrow \exists Z \forall n (n \in Z \leftrightarrow \varphi(n))) \quad (12.1)$$

LET  $p, q, r, s, x, z: \varphi, \psi, m, n, X, Z;$

**Remark 12.1:** For clarity, we distribute the quantifiers to each instance of a variable.

$$\begin{aligned} ((p\&\#s)=(q\&\#s)) > ((\#q < \%z)=(p\&\#s)) ; \\ & \text{TTCC TTCC TTTT TTTT (32) ,} \\ & \text{TTTT TTTT TTTC TTTC (32)} \end{aligned} \quad (12.2)$$

The formula for recursive comprehension in Eq. 12.2 as rendered is not tautologous. This refutes its use in second-order arithmetic.

We evaluate 11 basic first-order axioms of which nine are *not* tautologous. Recursive comprehension, as an abstraction of mathematical induction, is derived therefrom in second-order arithmetic and is also *not* tautologous. Reverse mathematics requires recursive comprehension and thereby is also refuted.