bas.1 The Theory of a Structure

Every structure $\mathfrak{M}$ makes some sentences true, and some false. The set of all the sentences it makes true is called its *theory*. That set is in fact a theory, since anything it entails must be true in all its models, including $\mathfrak{M}$.

Definition bas.1. Given a structure $\mathfrak{M}$, the *theory* of $\mathfrak{M}$ is the set $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$ of sentences that are true in $\mathfrak{M}$, i.e., $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M}) = \{\varphi : \mathfrak{M} \vDash \varphi\}$.

We also use the term "theory" informally to refer to sets of sentences having an intended interpretation, whether deductively closed or not.

Proposition bas.2. *For any* $\mathfrak{M}$, $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$ *is complete.*

Proof. For any sentence φ either $\mathfrak{M} \vDash \varphi$ or $\mathfrak{M} \vDash \neg\varphi$, so either $\varphi \in \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$ or $\neg\varphi \in \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$. □

mod:bas:thm: prop:equiv

Proposition bas.3. *If* $\mathfrak{N} \models \varphi$ *for every* $\varphi \in \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$, *then* $\mathfrak{M} \equiv \mathfrak{N}$.

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{N} \vDash \varphi$ for all $\varphi \in \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$, $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M}) \subseteq \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{N})$. If $\mathfrak{N} \vDash \varphi$, then $\mathfrak{N} \nvDash \neg\varphi$, so $\neg\varphi \notin \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$. Since $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$ is complete, $\varphi \in \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$. So, $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{N}) \subseteq \mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{M})$, and we have $\mathfrak{M} \equiv \mathfrak{N}$. □

mod:bas:thm: remark:R

Remark 1. Consider $\mathfrak{R} = \langle \mathbb{R}, < \rangle$, the structure whose domain is the set $\mathbb{R}$ of the real numbers, in the language comprising only a 2-place predicate symbol interpreted as the $<$ relation over the reals. Clearly $\mathfrak{R}$ is non-enumerable; however, since $\mathrm{Th}(\mathfrak{R})$ is obviously consistent, by the Löwenheim–Skolem theorem it has an enumerable model, say $\mathfrak{S}$, and by Proposition bas.3, $\mathfrak{R} \equiv \mathfrak{S}$. Moreover, since $\mathfrak{R}$ and $\mathfrak{S}$ are not isomorphic, this shows that the converse of **??** fails in general.

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Bibliography