

Re: Continuum hypothesis

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Daryl McCullough wrote:

One would think that such results would imply that the continuum hypothesis has no significant consequences for applied mathematics.

Right, and the stronger result of Platek that the generalised continuum hypothesis is conservative for Σ_2-1 statements (and thus for all of second order arithmetic) would further bolster the suspicion. On the other hand, theoretical physics is often highly abstract, dealing with all sorts of fancy stuff, even if in the end the applications made of the physics could be carried out in suitable subsystems of second-order arithmetic. Of course I'm almost totally ignorant of any actual physics and am relying entirely on what I've been told by some who aren't.

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"Wovon man nicht sprechen kann, darüber muss man schweigen"
– Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus

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