

# Incompleteness vs. Mechanical Reasoning

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A few times lately I've had the experience of mentioning something about mechanical reasoning and then having someone mention incompleteness as if that had anything to do with what I was saying. In fact the attitude seems to be akin to that woman in the penguin-on-the-telly sketch who says "there; I've run rings around you logically."

It's puzzled me a good deal.

A thought just occurred to me: could this possibly be the result of people thinking that incompleteness is something that affects mechanical systems but not our brain? Is the idea floating around that the human mind is somehow capable of doing things not only that no \*current\* computer can do, but also that no possible future computer could ever do? Is that what's going on here?

How do I say this: I do not subscribe to that hypothesis.

Marshall

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