

Re: Uncomputable Natural Numbers

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.logic/2008-09/msg00074.html>

- *From:* george <greeneg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 5 Sep 2008 16:37:05 -0700 (PDT)
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The infinite case is not confirmable.

On Sep 4, 1:38 pm, reaste...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Neither is the finite case.

It IS SO TOO, dumbass.

You can adopt CONVENTIONS.

You can just DECREE that when such and such a string occurs, THE INPUT IS JUST *OVER*.

And WE HAVE so decreed.

THAT IS WHY WE NEED
to make the ASSUMPTION that the input is finite. That assumption
is in fact made in the usual TM paradigm.

We don't need to assume the input is finite.

BUT WE *DO, ANYWAY*.

If you don't, then the amount of trouble you get into REALLY IS great
enough

that you will find that YOU DID need to, AFTER all. My point is, we
are only

TRYING to compute with finite programs on finite inputs. Yes, other
paradigms

of computation are possible, but for purposes OF THIS discussion, WE
JUST

DON'T GIVE A SHIT about any of that, because THIS paradigm is IN FACT
ADEQUATE

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to computing anything that people can compute.

We can prove the SC can only read finite strings.

No, obviously, BY DEFINITION, you CAN'T prove that UNLESS you have ALREADY MADE ASSUMPTIONS that IMPLY that, in other words, unless you are being completely circular. Besides, if you have something that can only read finite strings in any case, why are you alleging that it can't confirm that its input is finite? Anything that was on the input tape that it DID NOT read, and that does not affect, nor ever had any potential chance to affect, the computation, IS NOT part of the input to the computation!

My proof shows we can never assume the SC never halts.

That is ridiculous.

We can never assume the SC halts if there is a symbol the SC will halt on. Since there are always unread symbols on the input tape, there is always the possibility the "halting" symbol has not been read yet.

Of course, but that is why, precisely as I said, YOU CAN confirm THE FINITE case.