

Internal Set Theory Uniqueness Principle

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In Edward Nelson's original paper on Internal Set Theory, he gave a proof that if

- (1) $P(x)$ is a formula in Internal Set Theory with one free variable x ,
- (2) $P(x)$ is relativized to a standard set V (i.e. all quantifiers are of the form "for all x in V ", "for some x in V ", "for all standard x in V ", "for some standard x in V ",
- (3) there is a unique value of x in V for which $P(x)$ holds,

then the unique value of x in V , such that $P(x)$ holds, is standard.

My question is that if

- (1) $P(u, v_1, \dots, v_k)$ is a formula in Internal Set Theory,
- (2) y_1, \dots, y_k are standard,
- (3) there exists exactly one x such that $P(x, y_1, \dots, y_k)$ holds,

then is it necessarily true that the unique value of x specified in (3) is standard?

Nelson answered the question in the case where there is only one free variable and the formula is relativized to a standard set V , with the answer being in the affirmative. Nelson's proof is easily extendible to the case where there is more than one free variable. I am curious about the more general case (i.e. when the formula is not relativized to a standard set).

If there is a proof in the general case that x must be standard, I would be grateful to see it. If it is not true in general that x must be standard, please give an example. Thanks.

David

"But I'm always true to you, darlin', in my fashion,
Yes, I'm always true to you, darlin', in my way."
-- Lois Lane
