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Notes on the (un)provability of consistency

We present a few remarks on the classic problem of the unprovability of consistency of some important formal systems and on some ways to (partially) circumvent it which have been proposed. We consider the impossibility of certain constructive consistency proofs for set theory, the role of local set-theoretic reflection principles and of partial or indirect consistency statements for arithmetic, with a final remark on so-called Whiteley sentences.

Keywords: unprovability of consistency, Goedel's second theorem, partial consistency, feasible consistency