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Axiomatic Truth, Syntax and Metatheoretic Reasoning

Richard Heck in [2] and Volker Halbach in [1] have recently manifested much interest in an unconventional way of constructing (axiomatic) theories of truth, in which syntactic and logical notions concerning the object theory O are formalised in a disjoint theory of syntax S. In the talk, I shall first argue for the proposed alternative. I will then present the theory CTD[O], standing for compositional theory of truth with 'disentangled' syntax for the object theory O, in which the syntax of O is formalised in a theory of hereditarily finite sets. Some strengthenings of CTD[O] will be presented: in particular, we will consider extending the schemata of O, if present, to the entire vocabulary of the language of CTD[O] and to add bridge laws between the syntactic and the mathematical domain. Finally, we will discuss some applications of the theories just presented: on the one hand, we will see how they can offer a formalisation of our informal metamathematical practice; on the other, they seem to be relevant for the debate about the so-called conservativeness argument against the deflationary conception of the truth predicate.

Bibliography

[1] Halbach, V. (2011), *Axiomatic Theories of Truth*, Cambridge University Press.

[2] Heck, R. (unpublished), *The Strength of Truth Theories*, unpublished manuscript.