

# **Gödel's Speedup Theorem (GST)**

## **Selmer Bringsjord**

Rensselaer AI & Reasoning (RAIR) Lab  
Department of Cognitive Science  
Department of Computer Science  
Lally School of Management & Technology  
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IFLAI2  
Sep 27 2021



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**Note:** This is a version designed for those who have had at least one serious, proof-intensive university-level course in formal logic.



# Background Context ...

# Gödel's Great Theorems (OUP)

by Selmer Bringsjord

- Introduction (“The Wager”)
- Brief Preliminaries (e.g. the propositional calculus & FOL)
- The Completeness Theorem
- The First Incompleteness Theorem
- The Second Incompleteness Theorem
- The Speedup Theorem
- The Continuum-Hypothesis Theorem
- The Time-Travel Theorem
- Gödel’s “God Theorem”
- Could a Finite Machine Match Gödel’s Greatness?



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*Switching to more expressive logics can produce a level of speedup beyond the reaching of standard computation.*

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*Switching to more expressive logics can produce a level of speedup beyond the reaching of standard computation. By far the greatest of GGT; Selm's analysis based Sherlock Holmes' mystery “Silver Blaze.”*

# Ascending Acceleration

# Ascending Acceleration



2 sec: 60 mph    5.5 sec: 100 mph    7.5 sec: 150 mph

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2 sec: 60 mph    5.5 sec: 100 mph    7.5 sec: 150 mph



20 sec: 268 mph                  520 sec: 17,000 mph

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1 sec: 20,000 mph

light-gas gun

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Primitive Recursion:  $h(x, 0) = f(x); h(x, y') = g(x, y, h(x, y))$

# Ascending Acceleration



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exponentiation:  $x^y = x \cdot x \cdot \dots \cdot x$  (row of  $y$  xs)

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## Ackermann Function

# Ascending Acceleration



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$\alpha(x, y, z) = x \langle y \rangle z$  and  $\gamma(x) = \alpha(x, x, x)$ ; then:

**Ackermann  
Function**

$$\gamma(0) = 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$\gamma(1) = 1 \cdot 1 = 0$$

$$\gamma(2) = 2^2 = 4$$

$$\gamma(3) = 3^{3^3} = 3 \uparrow\uparrow 3 = 7,625,597,484,987$$

$$\gamma(4) = 4 \uparrow\uparrow 4 => 10^{1000} \text{ (note: } 10^{100} \text{ is googol)}$$

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$\Sigma : \mathbb{Z}^+ \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^+$  where  $\Sigma(k) =$  max productivity of a  $k$ -state TM

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

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$a$  is a llama, as is  $b$ ,  $a$  likes  $b$ , and the father of  $a$  is a llama as well.

# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

$Llama(a) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(a, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(a))$

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

There's some thing which is a llama and likes  $b$  (which is also a llama), and whose father is a llama too.

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$$\exists x \exists y \exists R [R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge Likes(x, y) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ ,  
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**SOL**

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2s y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

**SOL**  $\exists x \exists y \exists R [R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge Likes(x, y) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property (and  $x$  likes  $y$ ).

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

$\exists x, y \exists R, R^2[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge R^2(x, y) \wedge Positive(R^2) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2 y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

**SOL**

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

**TOL**

$$\exists x, y \exists R, R^2[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge R^2(x, y) \wedge Positive(R^2) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2 y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

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$$\exists x, y \exists R, R^2[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge R^2(x, y) \wedge Positive(R^2) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$$

$\mathcal{L}_3$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2 y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

**SOL**

$$\exists x \exists y \exists R[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge Likes(x, y) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$$

$\mathcal{L}_2$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property (and  $x$  likes  $y$ ).

**FOL**

$$\exists x [Llama(x) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(x, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(x))]$$

$\mathcal{L}_1$

There's some thing which is a llama and likes  $b$  (which is also a llama), and whose father is a llama too.

**ZOL**

$$Llama(a) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(a, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(a))$$

$\mathcal{L}_0$

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# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

⋮

**TOL**

$\exists x, y \exists R, R^2[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge R^2(x, y) \wedge Positive(R^2) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_3$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2 y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

**SOL**

$\exists x \exists y \exists R[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge Likes(x, y) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_2$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property (and  $x$  likes  $y$ ).

**FOL**

$\exists x [Llama(x) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(x, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_1$

There's some thing which is a llama and likes  $b$  (which is also a llama), and whose father is a llama too.

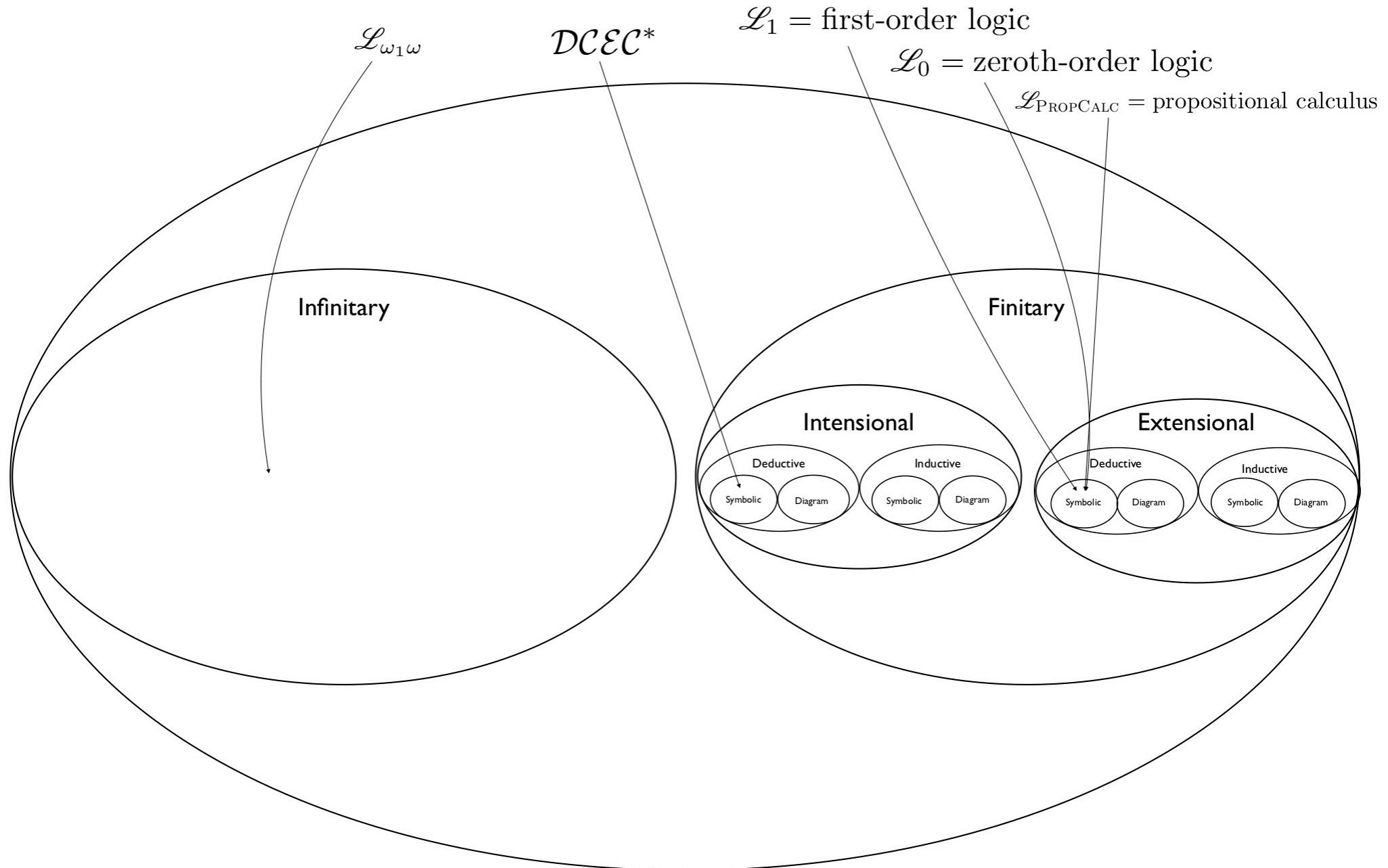
**ZOL**

$Llama(a) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(a, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(a))$

$\mathcal{L}_0$

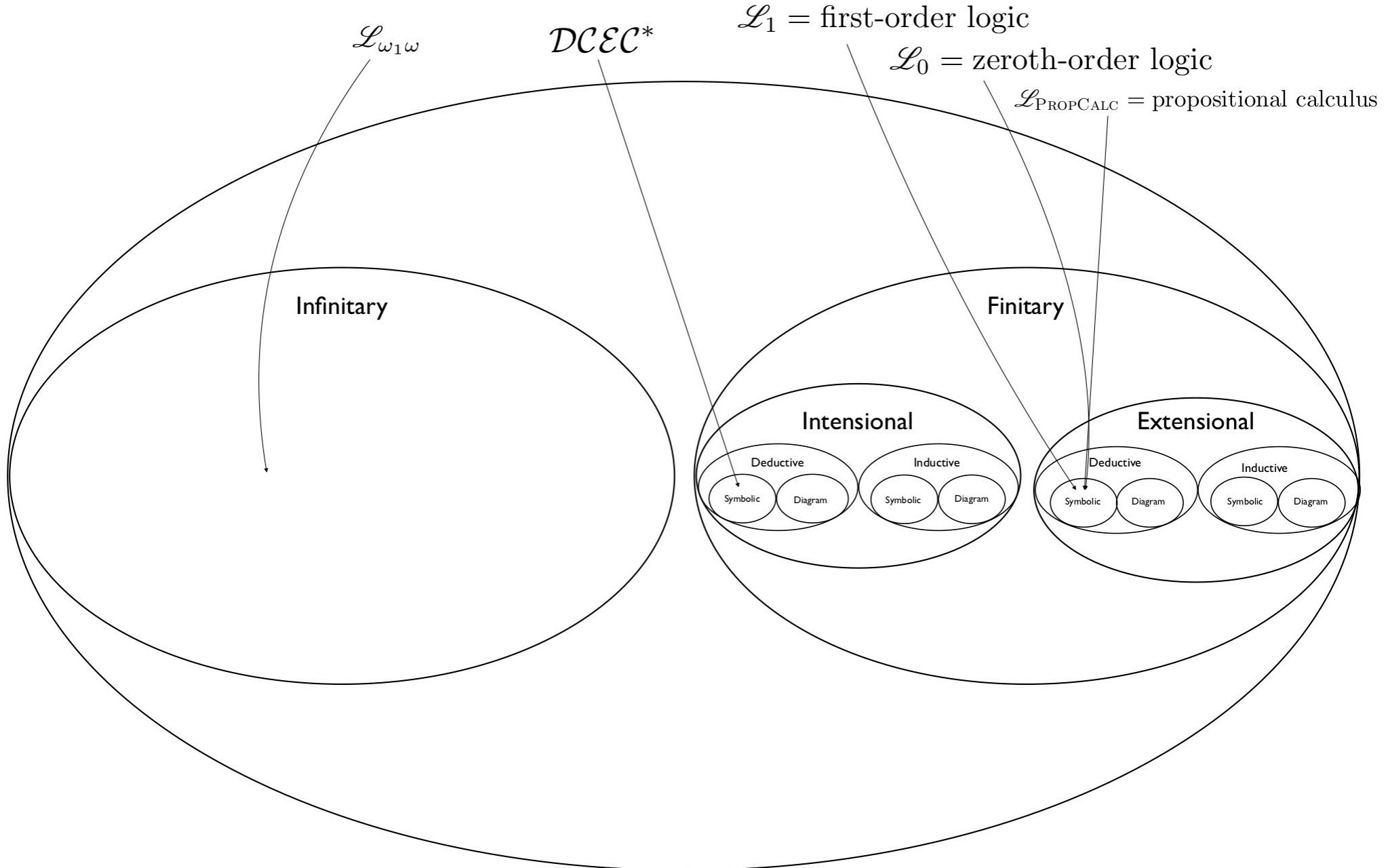
$a$  is a llama, as is  $b$ ,  $a$  likes  $b$ , and the father of  $a$  is a llama as well.

# The Universe of Logics



$\mathcal{L}_3$   
 $\mathcal{L}_2$

# The Universe of Logics



# The Universe of Logics

$\mathcal{L}_3$

$\mathcal{L}_2$

$\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1 \omega}$

$\mathcal{DCEC}^*$

$\mathcal{L}_1$  = first-order logic

$\mathcal{L}_0$  = zeroth-order logic

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PROPCALC}}$  = propositional calculus

Infinitary

Finitary

Intensional

Deductive

Symbolic

Diagram

Inductive

Symbolic

Diagram

Extensional

Deductive

Symbolic

Diagram

Inductive

Symbolic

Diagram



# Climbing the $k$ -order Ladder

⋮

**TOL**

$\exists x, y \exists R, R^2[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge R^2(x, y) \wedge Positive(R^2) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_3$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property; and,  $x R^2 y$ , where  $R^2$  is a positive property.

**SOL**

$\exists x \exists y \exists R[R(x) \wedge R(y) \wedge Likes(x, y) \wedge R(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_2$

Things  $x$  and  $y$ , along with the father of  $x$ , share a certain property (and  $x$  likes  $y$ ).

**FOL**

$\exists x [Llama(x) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(x, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(x))]$

$\mathcal{L}_1$

There's some thing which is a llama and likes  $b$  (which is also a llama), and whose father is a llama too.

**ZOL**

$Llama(a) \wedge Llama(b) \wedge Likes(a, b) \wedge Llama(fatherOf(a))$

$\mathcal{L}_0$

$a$  is a llama, as is  $b$ ,  $a$  likes  $b$ , and the father of  $a$  is a llama as well.



# **Gödel's Speedup Theorem**

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Then there is an infinite family  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $\Pi_1^0$  formulae such that:

1.  $\forall \phi \in \mathcal{F}, Z_i \vdash \phi$ ; and
2.  $\forall \phi \in \mathcal{F}$ , if  $k$  is the least integer s.t.  $Z_{i+1} \vdash^k$  symbols  $\phi$ , then  $Z_i \not\vdash^{f(k)}$  symbols  $\phi$ .

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# The Received View in AI

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## Expressiveness and tractability in knowledge representation and reasoning<sup>1</sup>

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*Key words:* knowledge representation, description subsumption, complexity of reasoning, first-order logic, frames, semantic networks, databases.

Cet article étudie une limitation computationnelle fondamentale du raisonnement automatique et examine ses effets sur la représentation de connaissances. A la base le problème tient en ce qu'il peut être plus difficile de raisonner avec un langage de représentation qu'avec un autre et que cette difficulté augmente considérablement à mesure que croît le pouvoir expressif du langage. Ceci donne lieu à un compromis entre le pouvoir expressif d'un langage de représentation et sa tractibilité computationnelle. Nous montrons que ce compromis peut être vu comme l'une des causes fondamentales de la différence qui existe entre nombre de formalismes de représentation existants et peut motiver plusieurs recherches courantes en représentation de connaissances.

*Mots clés :* représentation de connaissances<sup>2</sup>, complexité du raisonnement, logique du premier ordre, schémas, réseaux sémantiques, bases de données.

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Comput. Intell. 3, 78–93 (1987)

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This paper examines from a general point of view a basic computational limit on automated reasoning, and the effect that it has on knowledge representation (KR). The problem is essentially that it can be more difficult to reason correctly with one representational language than with another and, moreover, that this difficulty increases as the expressive power of the language increases. There is a tradeoff between the expressiveness of a representational language and its computational tractability. What we attempt to show is that this tradeoff underlies differences among a number of representational formalisms (such as first-order logic, databases, semantic networks, and frames) and motivates many current research issues in KR (such as the role of analogues, syntactic encodings, and de-

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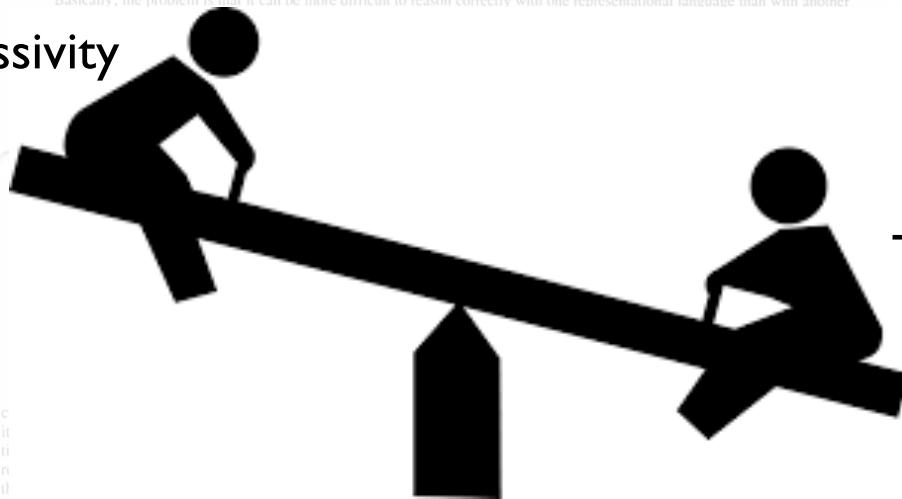
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Expressivity



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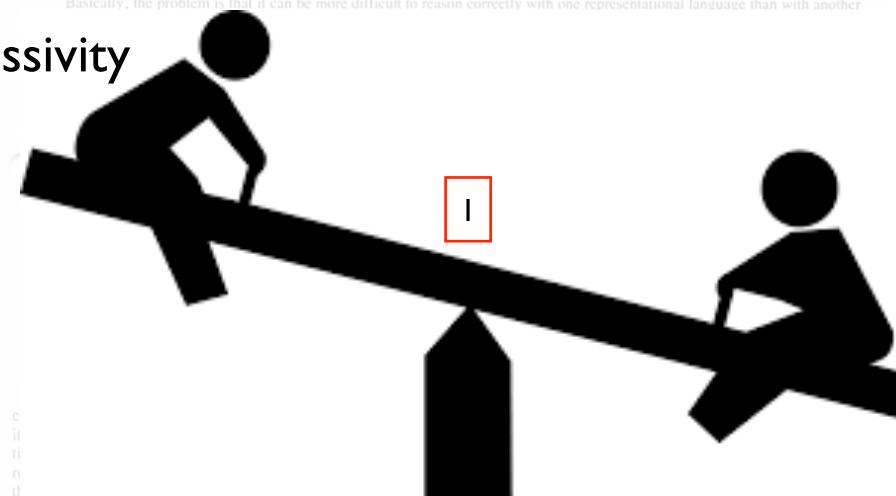
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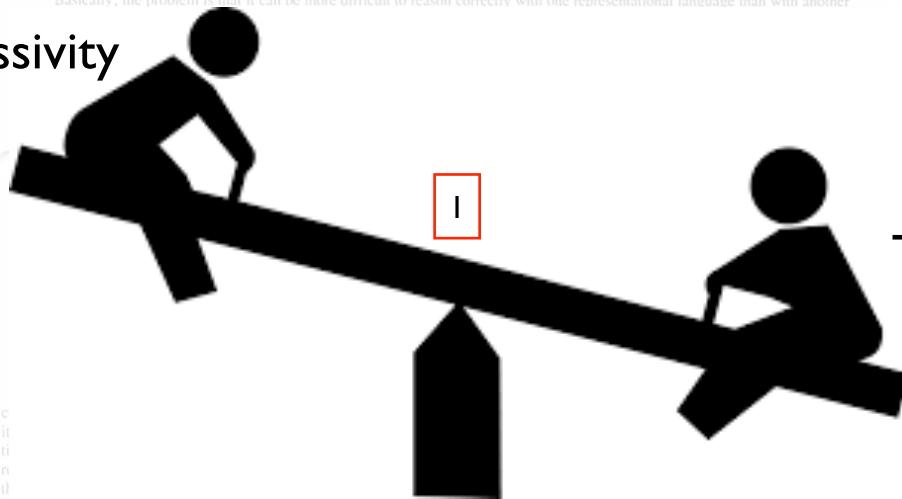
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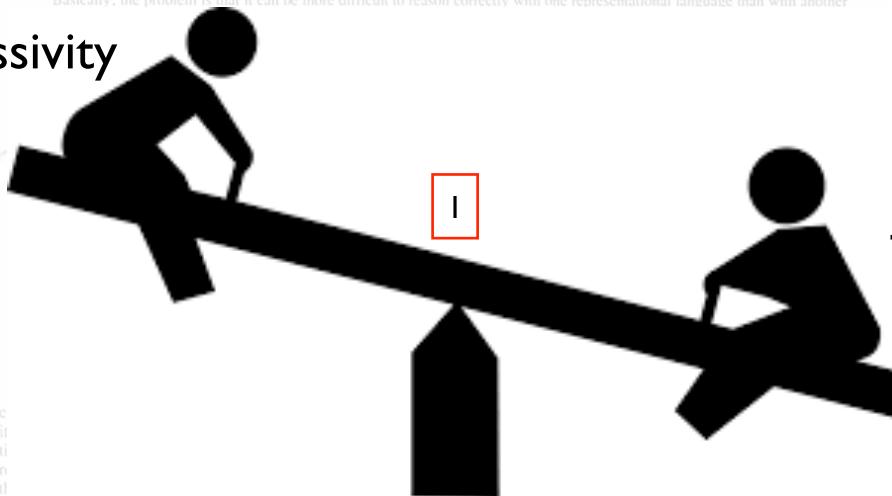
<sup>2</sup>Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

# The Received View in AI



GST  
1936

Expressivity



1987

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## Expressiveness and tractability in knowledge representation and reasoning<sup>1</sup>

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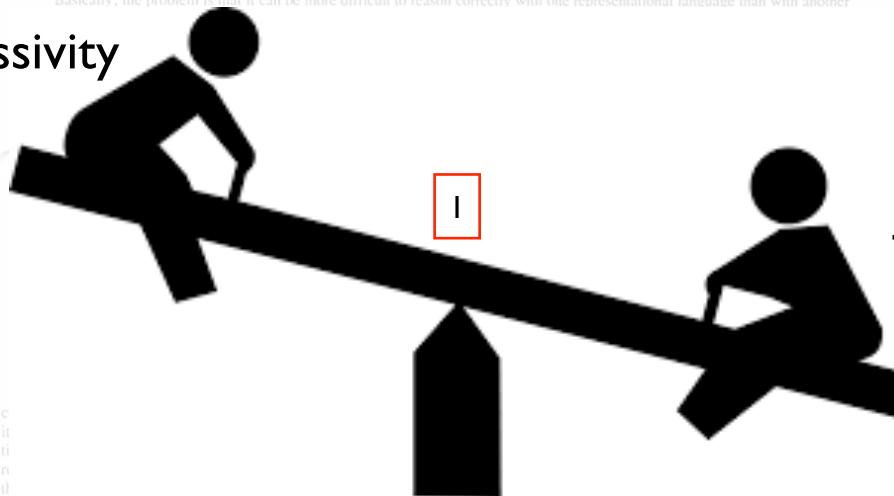
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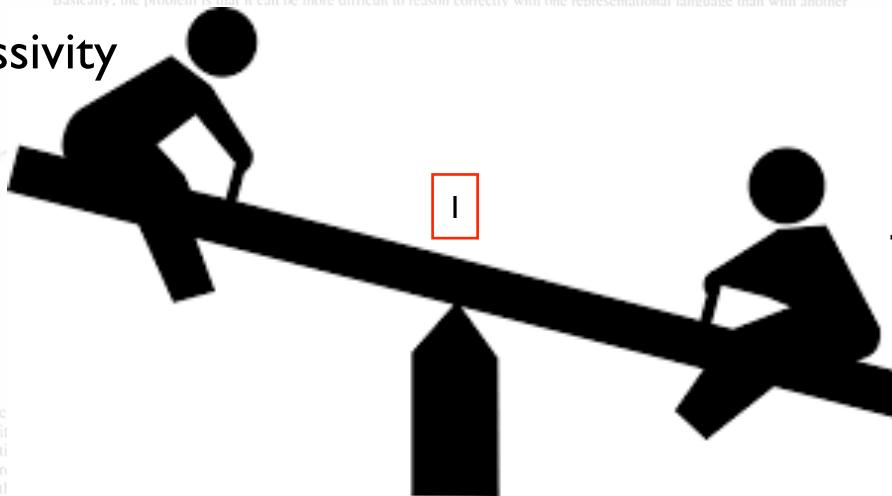
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Bringsjord: Speedup shoots this down, & hence to ignore automated reasoning in highly expressive formats would be foolish for AI.

# **A Simpler “Speedup” Theorem**

# A Simpler “Speedup” Theorem

Let  $f$  be any recursive function, and again let us refer to  $\Phi \supset \mathbf{PA}$ . Then there are arithmetic  $\mathcal{L}_1$  sentences  $\phi$  s.t.  $\Phi \vdash \phi$ , where the shortest proof  $P$  confirming this has more than  $f(n^\phi)$  symbols.

To prove GST, we shall once again allow ourselves ...

# The Fixed Point Theorem (FPT)

Assume that  $\Phi$  is a set of arithmetic sentences such that  $\text{Repr } \Phi$ . There for every arithmetic formula  $\psi(x)$  with one free variable  $x$ , there is an arithmetic sentence  $\phi$  s.t.

$$\Phi \vdash \phi \leftrightarrow \psi(n^\phi).$$

We can intuitively understand  $\phi$  to be saying:  
“I have the property ascribed to me by the formula  $\psi$ .”

Ok; so let's do it ...

**Proof:** Let  $f^*$  be an arbitrary (total) recursive function. We can clearly write a formula that expresses the property of having a proof in **PA** shorter, symbol-wise, than  $f(n^\phi)$ , for the Gödel number of any formula  $\phi$ . Let us do it like this:  $\text{Prov-sh}_\Phi(n^\phi)$ . By Repr  $\Phi$ , since a Turing machine can compute this relation, we then have:

$$(\text{Rep}^*) = (1) \text{ Prov-sh}_\Phi(n^\phi) \text{ iff } \Phi \vdash \phi$$

Next, we can instantiate the Fixed Point Theorem to yield a formula that declares “There’s no proof of me shorter than what  $f^*$  applied to me returns!” More formally, the instantiation will be:

$$(\text{FPT}^*) = (2) \Phi \vdash \bar{\pi}_{sh} \leftrightarrow \neg \text{Prov-sh}_\Phi(n^{\bar{\pi}_{sh}})$$

Now what about this self-referential sentence? Can it have a proof shorter than  $f^*$  applied to its Gödel number? Suppose for contradiction that it does. Then by left-to-right on (1) it’s provable in  $\Phi$ . But given this, combined with (2), this self-referential sentence is *not* provable by a derivation shorter than  $f^*$  applied to it — contradiction! **QED**



*Med nok penger, kan  
logikk løse alle problemer.*