

Rigorously Speaking, What are We?

Bringsjord v. Granger

Some Roots of the Debate



The grammar of mammalian brain capacity

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ABSTRACT

Uniquely human abilities may arise from special-purpose brain circuitry, or from concerted general capacity increases due to our outsized brains. We forward a novel hypothesis of the relation between computational capacity and brain size, linking mathematical formalisms of grammars with the allometric increases in cortical-subcortical ratios that arise in large brains. In sum, i) thalamocortical loops compute formal grammars; ii) successive cortical regions describe grammar rewrite rules of increasing size; iii) cortical-subcortical ratios determine the quantity of stacks in single-stack pushdown grammars; iv) quantitative increase of stacks yields grammars with qualitatively increased computational power. We arrive at the specific conjecture that human brain capacity is equivalent to that of indexed grammars – far short of full Turing-computable (recursively enumerable) systems. The work provides a candidate explanatory account of a range of existing human and animal data, addressing longstanding questions of how repeated similar brain algorithms can be successfully applied to apparently dissimilar computational tasks (e.g., perceptual versus cognitive, phonological versus syntactic); and how quantitative increases to brains can confer qualitative changes to their computational repertoire.

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1. Brain growth shows surprisingly few signs of evolutionary pressure

Different animals exhibit different mental and behavioral abilities, but it is not known which abilities arise from specializations in the brain, i.e., circuitry to specifically support or enable particular capacities. Evolutionary constraints on brain construction severely narrow the search for candidate specializations. Although mammalian brain sizes span four orders of magnitude [1], the range of structural variation differentiating those brains is extraordinarily limited.

An animal's brain size can be roughly calculated from its body size [2], but much more telling is the relationship between the sizes of brains and of their constituent parts: the size of almost every component brain circuit can be computed with remarkable accuracy just from the overall size of that brain [1,3–5], and thus the ratios among brain parts (e.g. cortical to subcortical size ratios) increase in a strictly predictable allometric fashion as overall brain size increases [6,7] (Fig. 1).

These allometric regularities obtain even at the level of individual brain structures (e.g., hippocampus, basal ganglia, cortical areas). There are a few specific exceptions to the well-documented allometric rule (such as the primate olfactory system [8]), clearly demonstrating that at least some brain structure sizes can be differentially regulated in evolution, yet despite this capability, it is extremely rare for telencephalic structures ever to diverge from the allometric rule [4,6,7,9]. Area 10, the frontal pole, is the most disproportionately expanded structure in the human brain, and has sometimes been argued to be selected for differential expansion, yet the evidence has strongly indicated that area 10 (and the rest of anterior cortex) are nonetheless precisely the size that is predicted allometrically [6,7,10,11].

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The modal argument for hypercomputing minds

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Abstract

We now know both that hypercomputation (or super-recursive computation) is mathematically well-understood, and that it provides a theory that according to some accounts for some real-life computation (e.g., operating systems that, unlike Turing machines, never simply output an answer and halt) better than the standard theory of computation at and below the “Turing Limit.” But one of the things we do not know is whether the human mind hypercomputes, or merely computes—this despite informal arguments from Gödel, Lucas, Penrose and others for the view that, in light of incompleteness theorems, the human mind has powers exceeding those of TMs and their equivalents. All these arguments fail; their fatal flaws have been repeatedly exposed in the literature. However, we give herein a novel, formal *modal* argument showing that since it's mathematically *possible* that human minds are hypercomputers, such minds *are* in fact hypercomputers. We take considerable pains to anticipate and rebut objections to this argument. © 2003 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

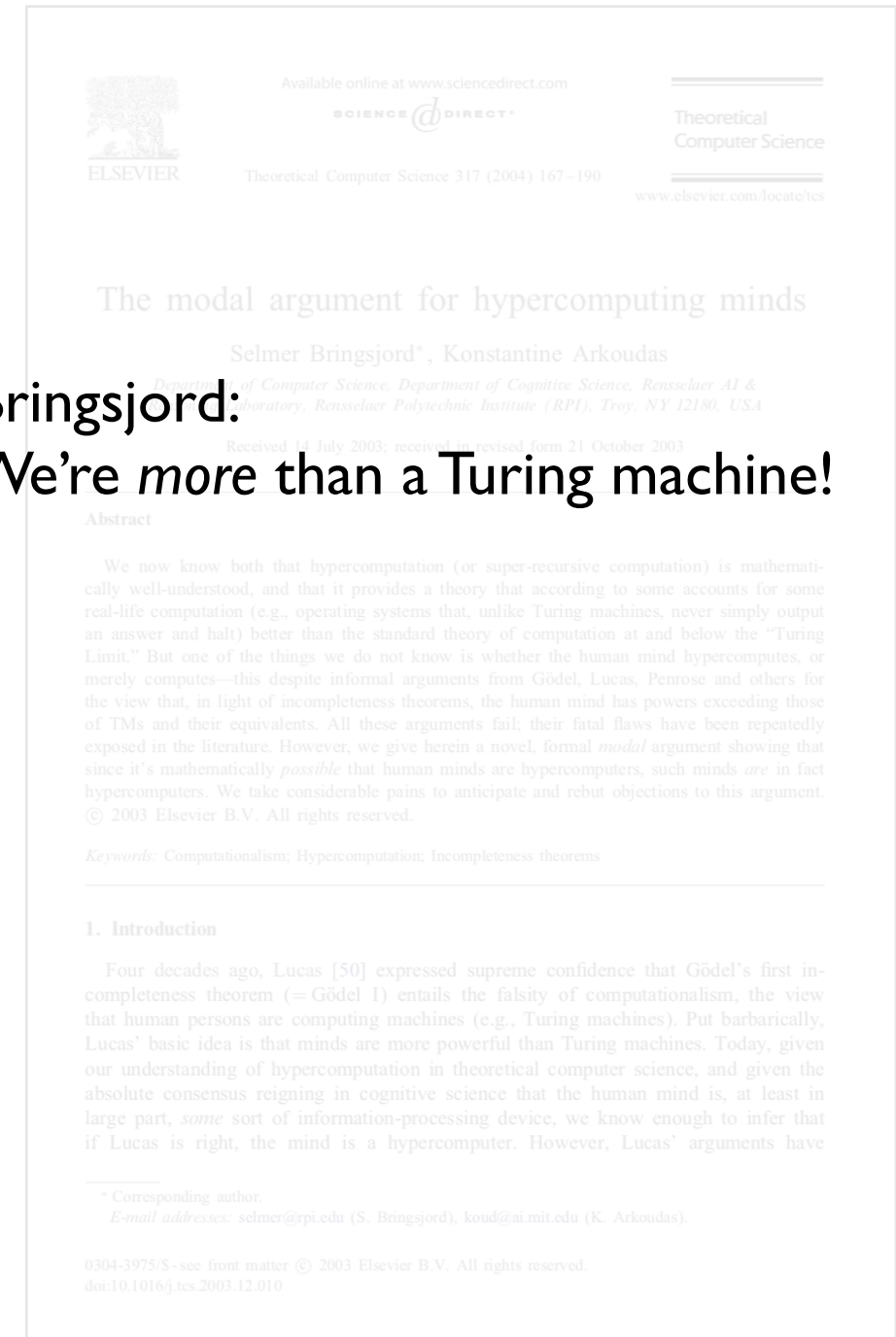
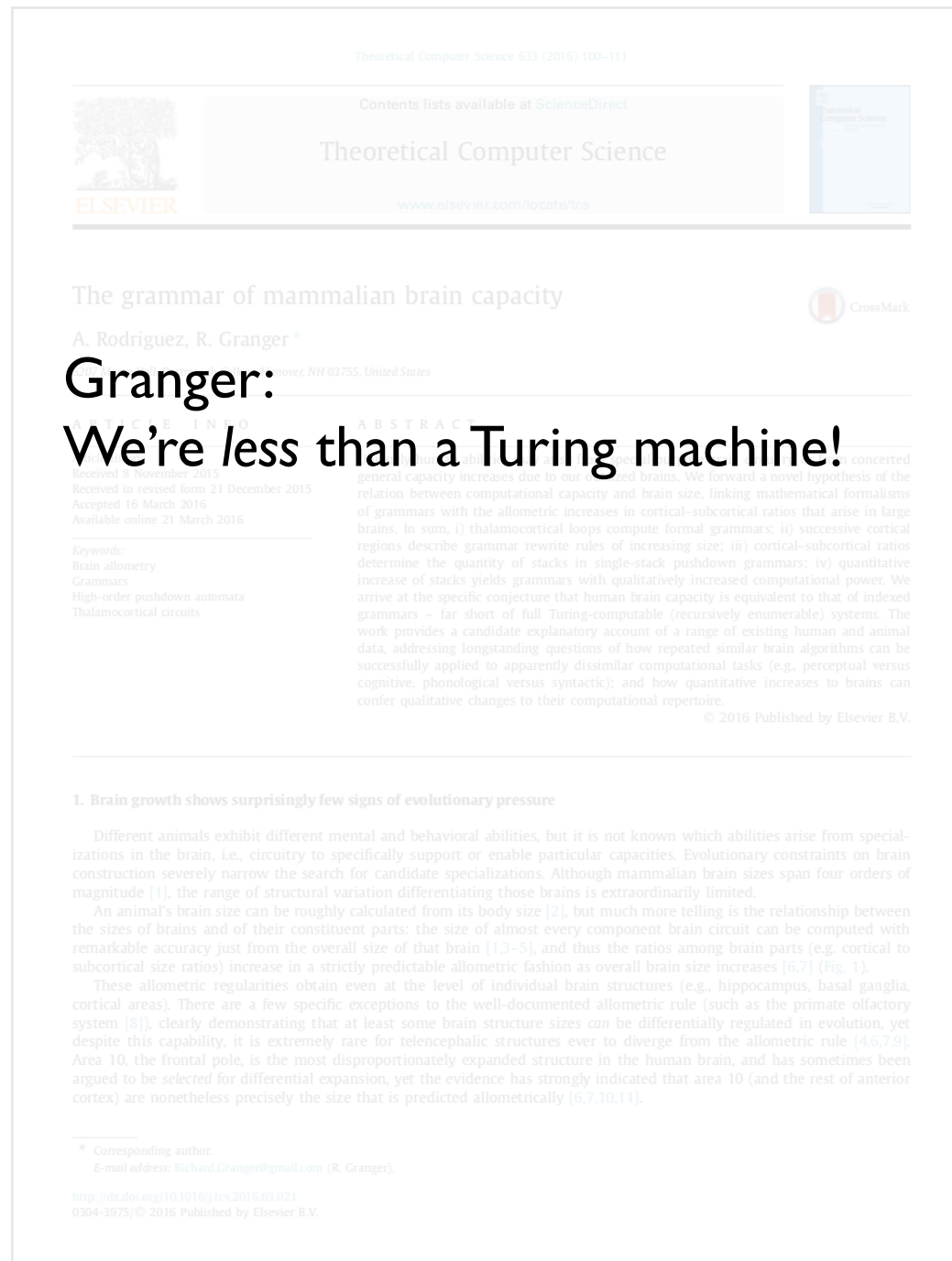
Keywords: Computationalism; Hypercomputation; Incompleteness theorems

1. Introduction

Four decades ago, Lucas [50] expressed supreme confidence that Gödel's first incompleteness theorem (=Gödel I) entails the falsity of computationalism, the view that human persons are computing machines (e.g., Turing machines). Put barbarically, Lucas' basic idea is that minds are more powerful than Turing machines. Today, given our understanding of hypercomputation in theoretical computer science, and given the absolute consensus reigning in cognitive science that the human mind is, at least in large part, *some* sort of information-processing device, we know enough to infer that if Lucas is right, the mind is a hypercomputer. However, Lucas' arguments have

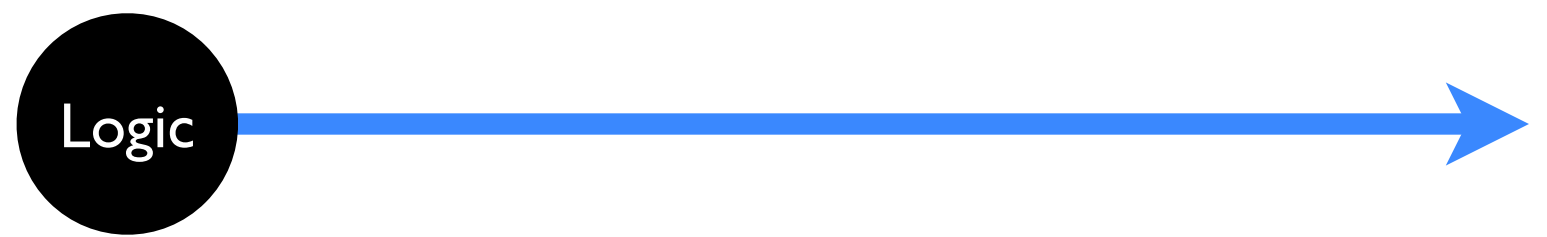
* Corresponding author.
E-mail addresses: selmer@rpi.edu (S. Bringsjord), koud@ai.mit.edu (K. Arkoudas).

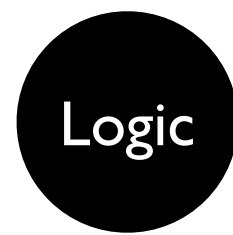
Some Roots of the Debate

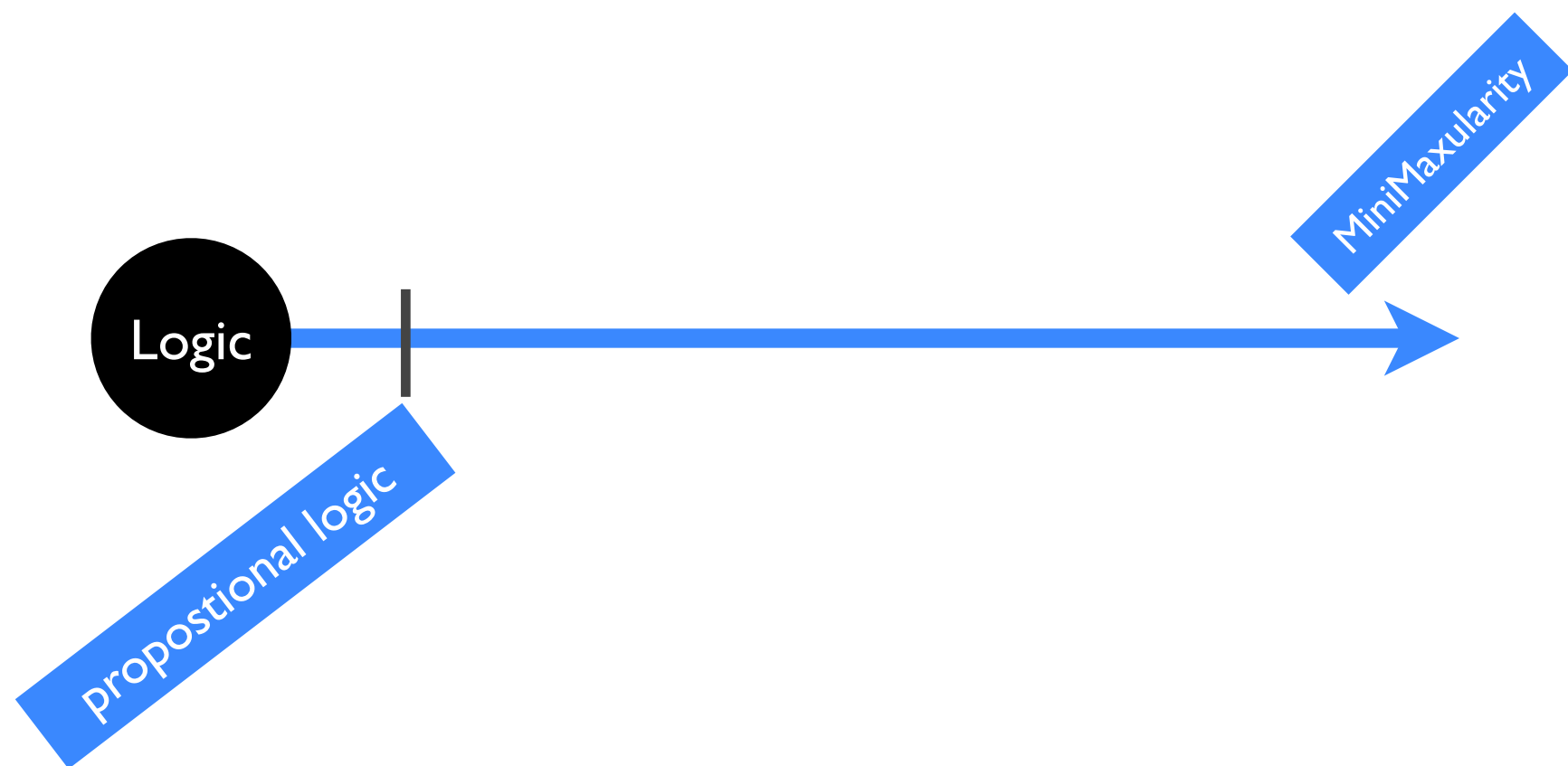


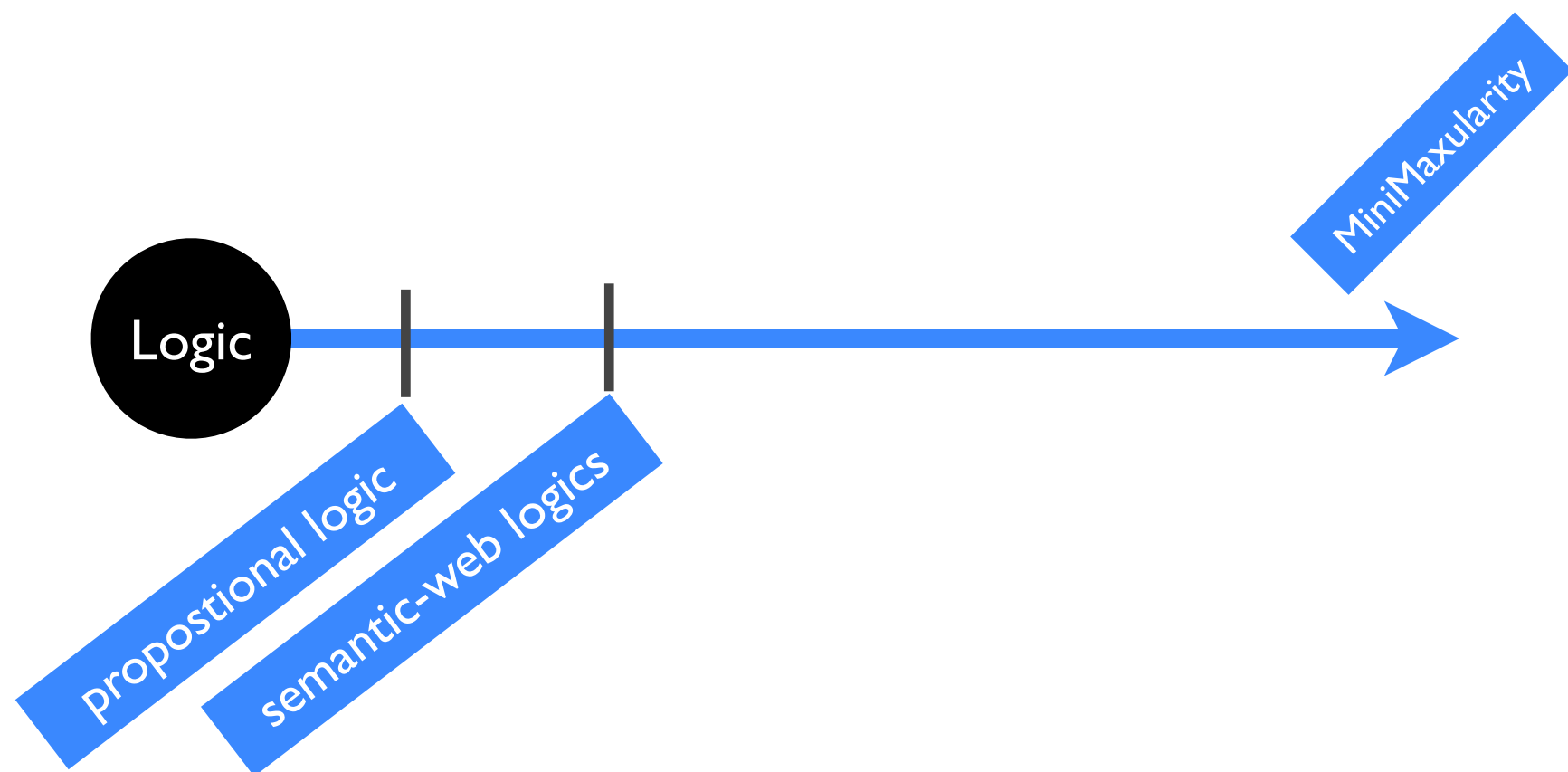
“I don’t yet know how to handle ‘non-linearity’ in all of this, precisely. Maybe you can help. Here are some pointers, thoughts, initial constraints/structures ...”

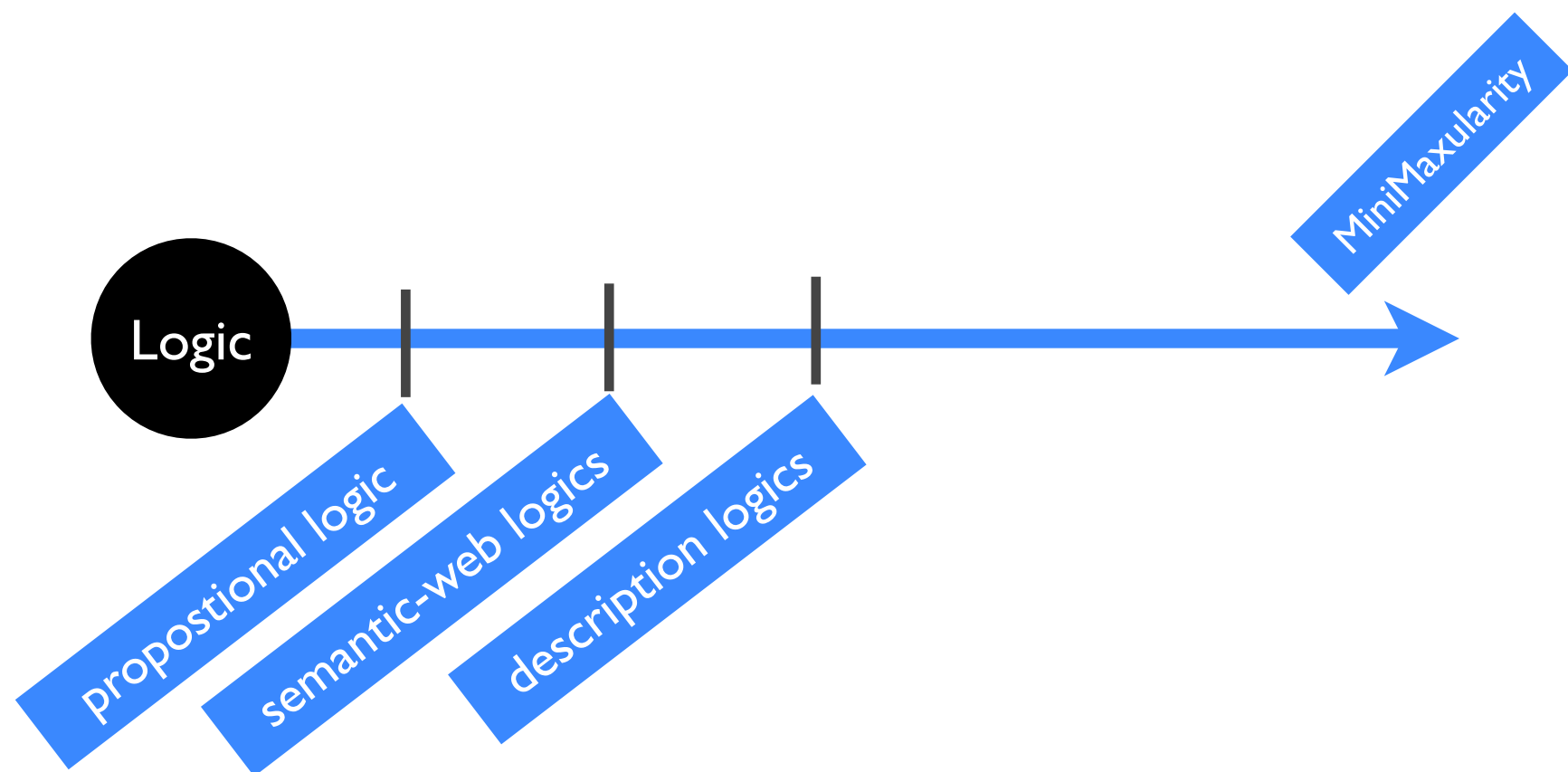


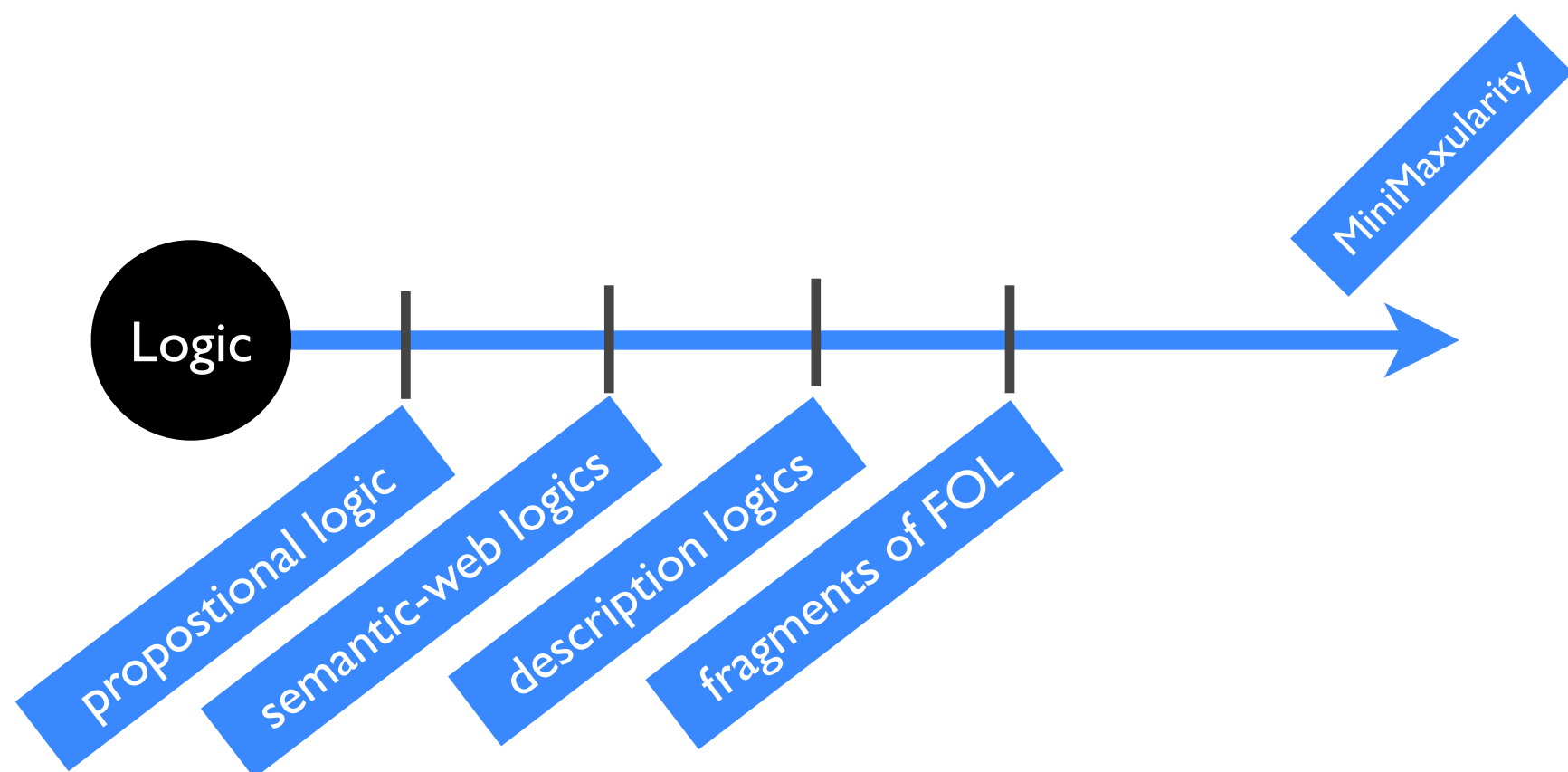


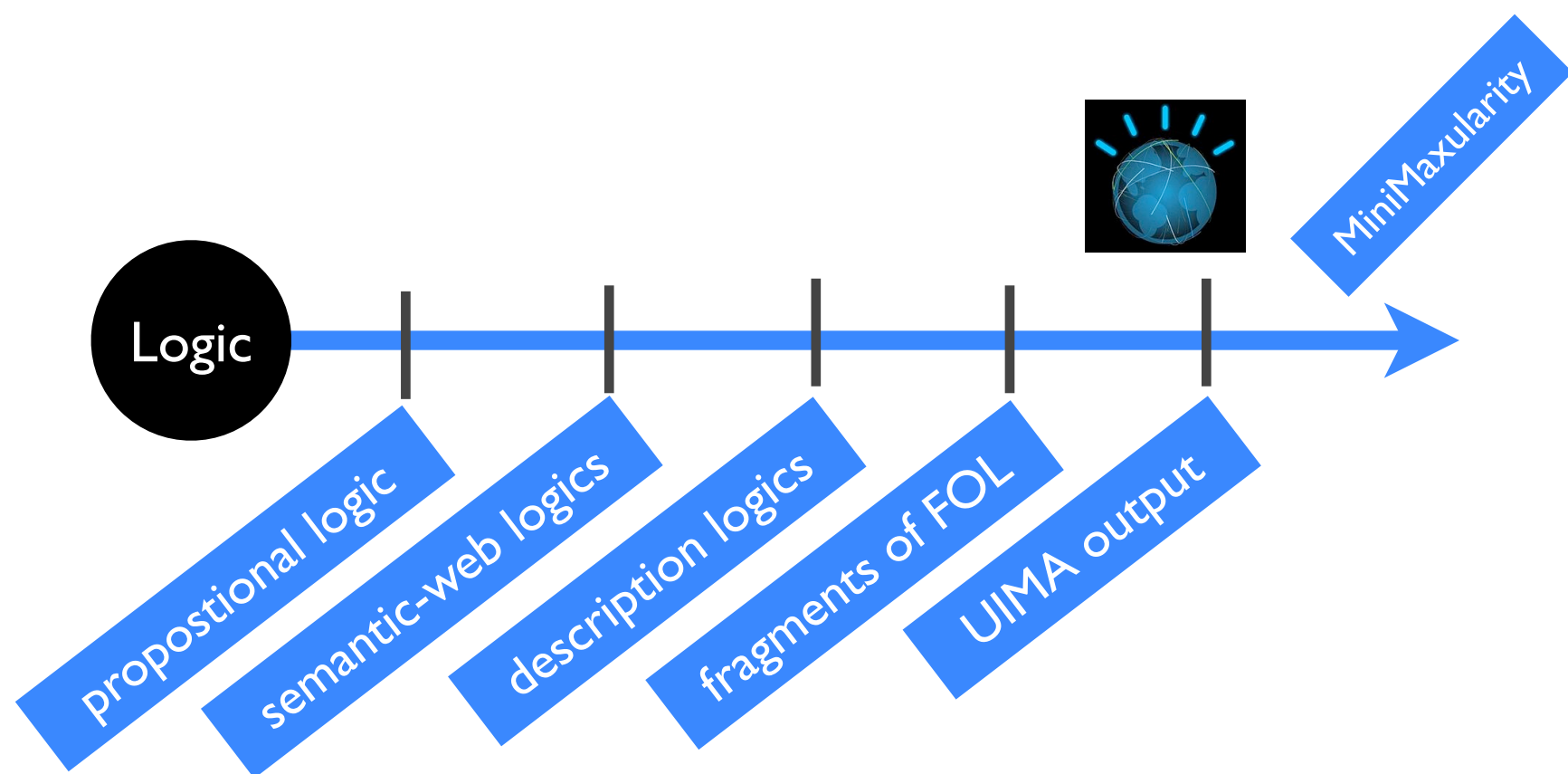


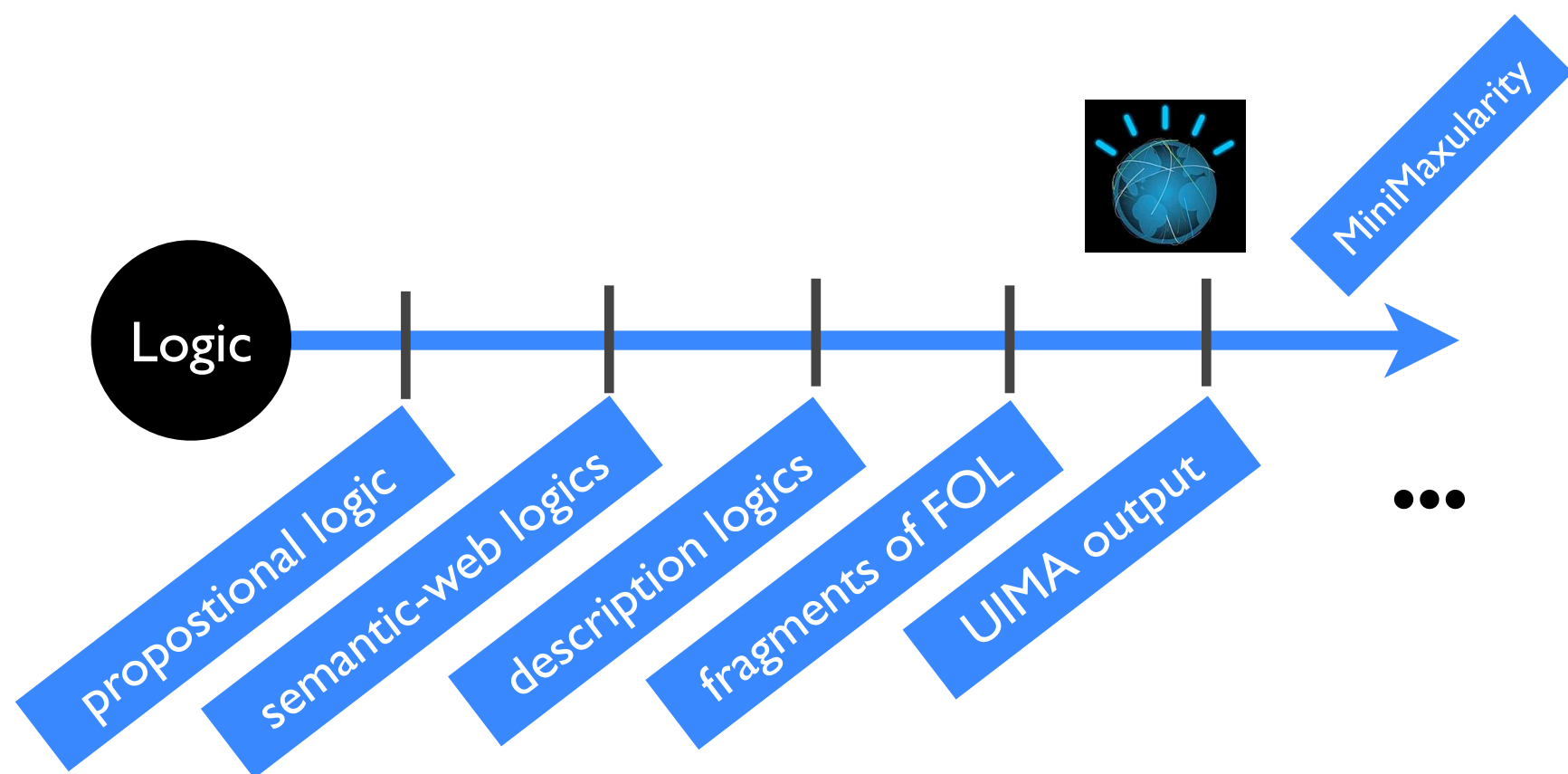


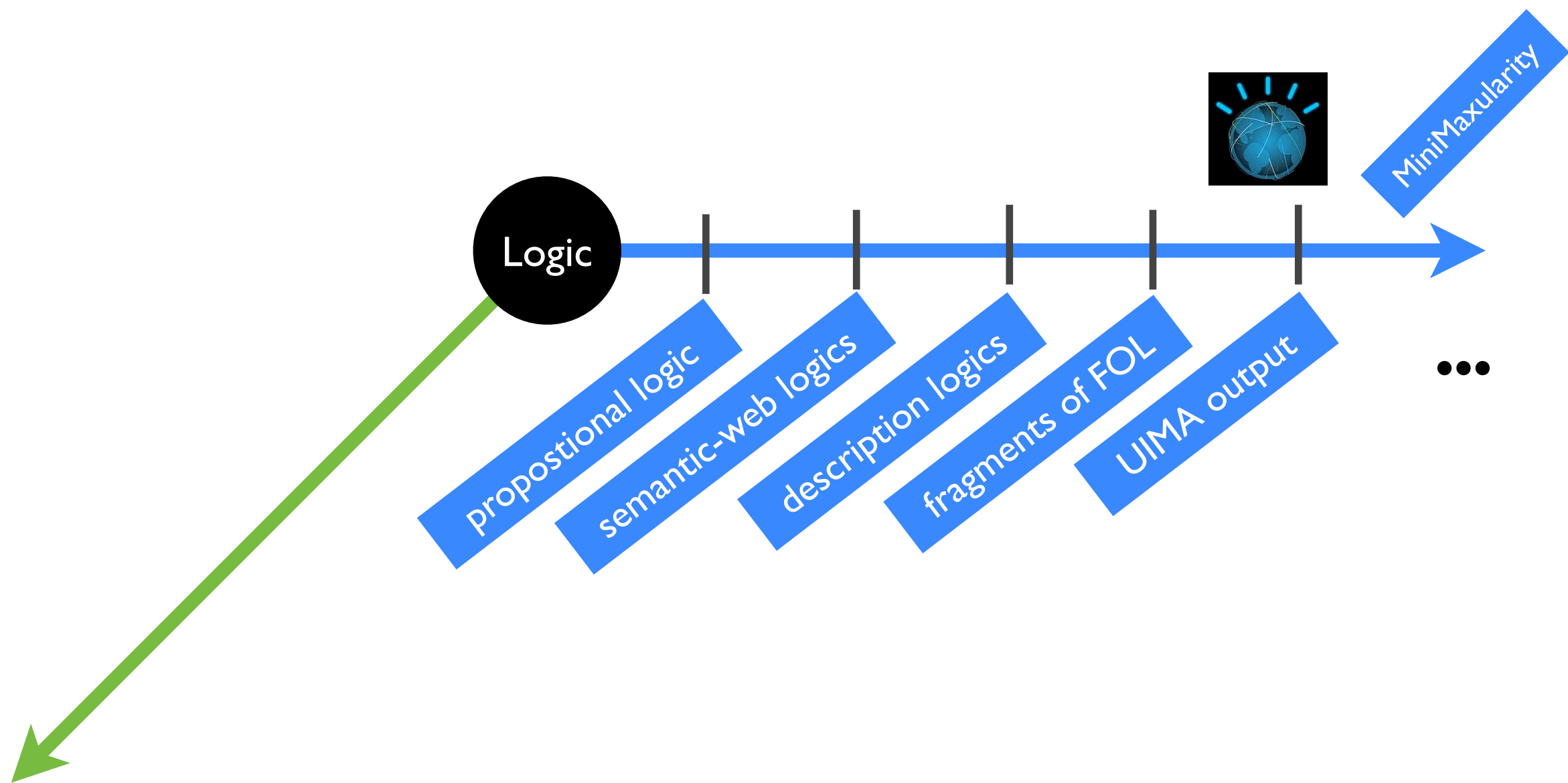


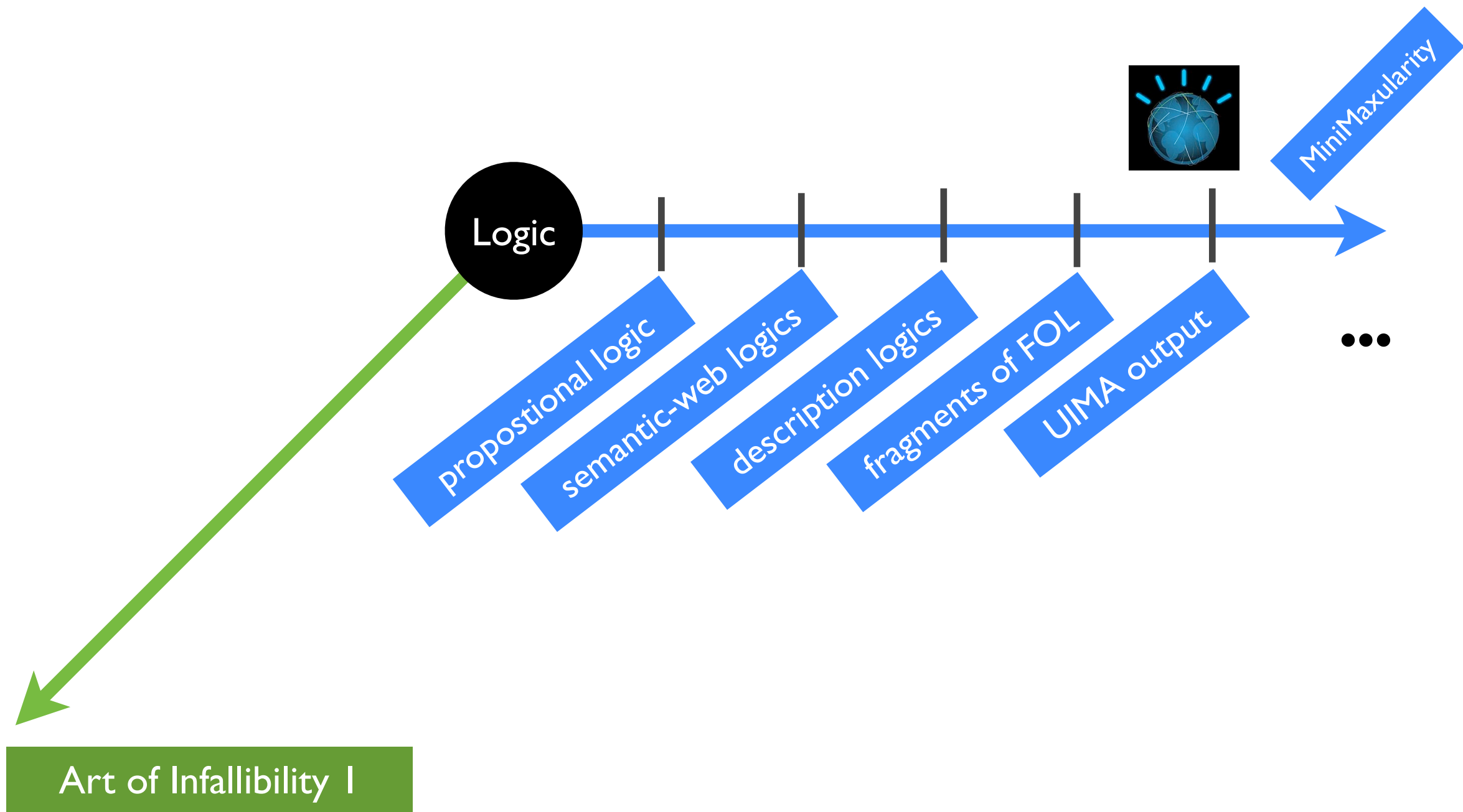






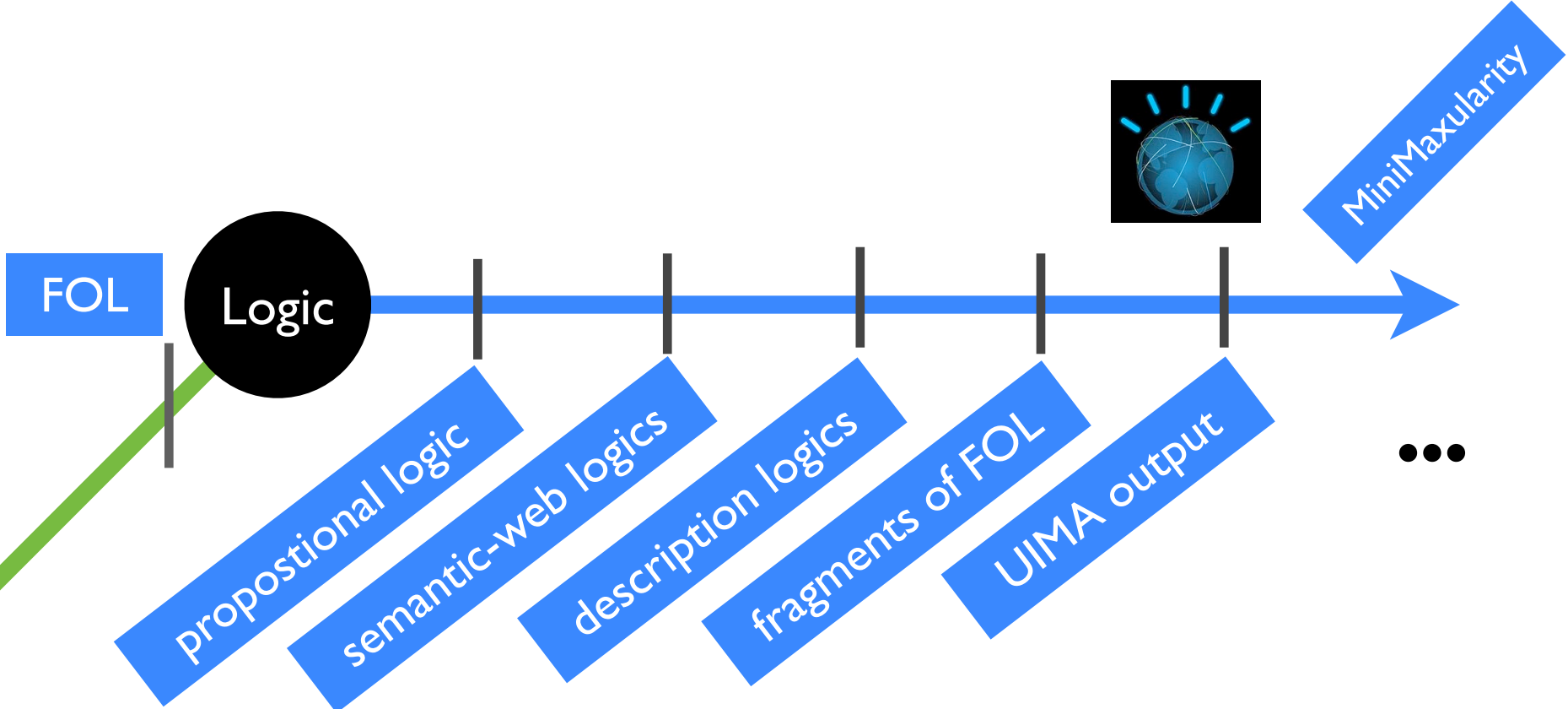


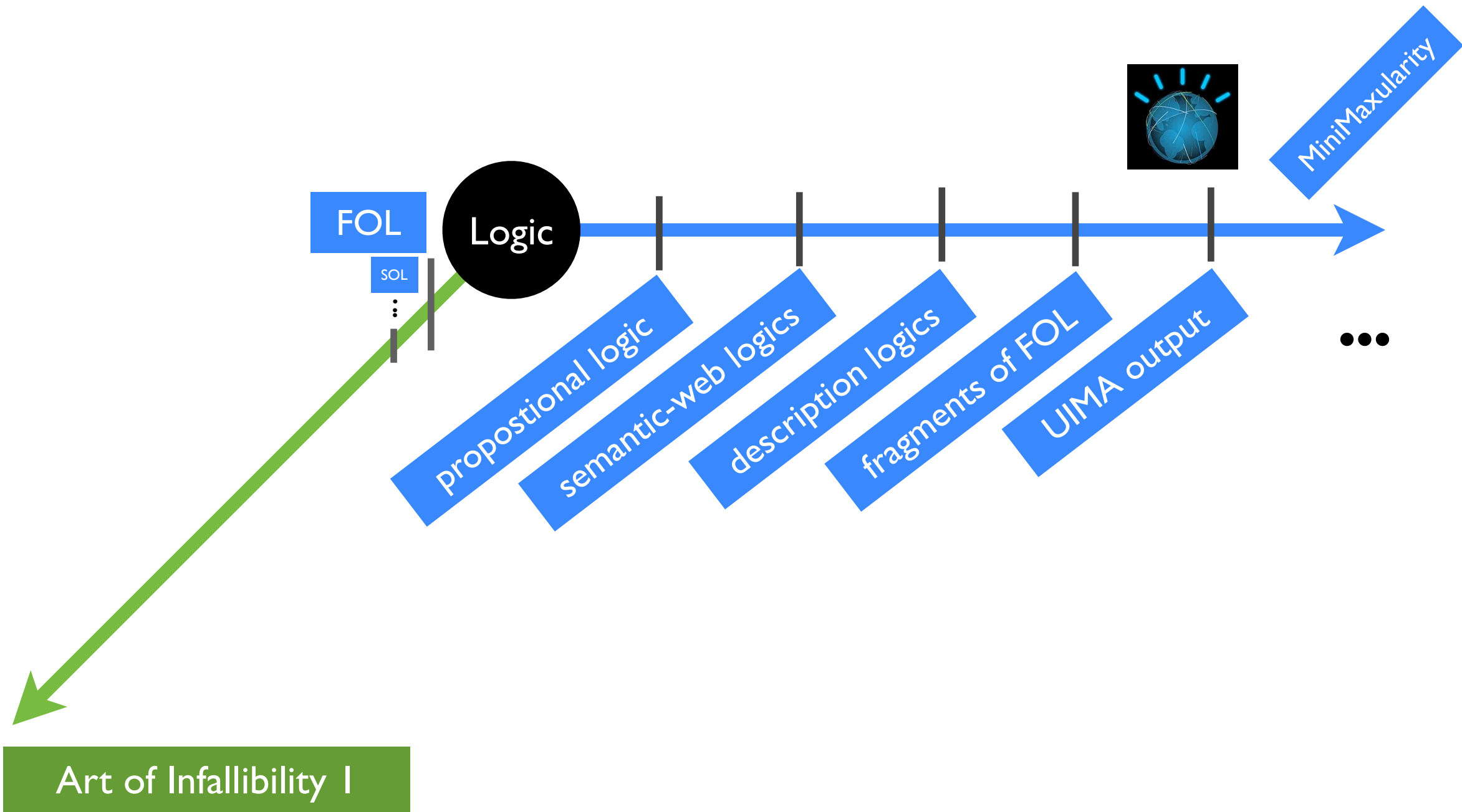


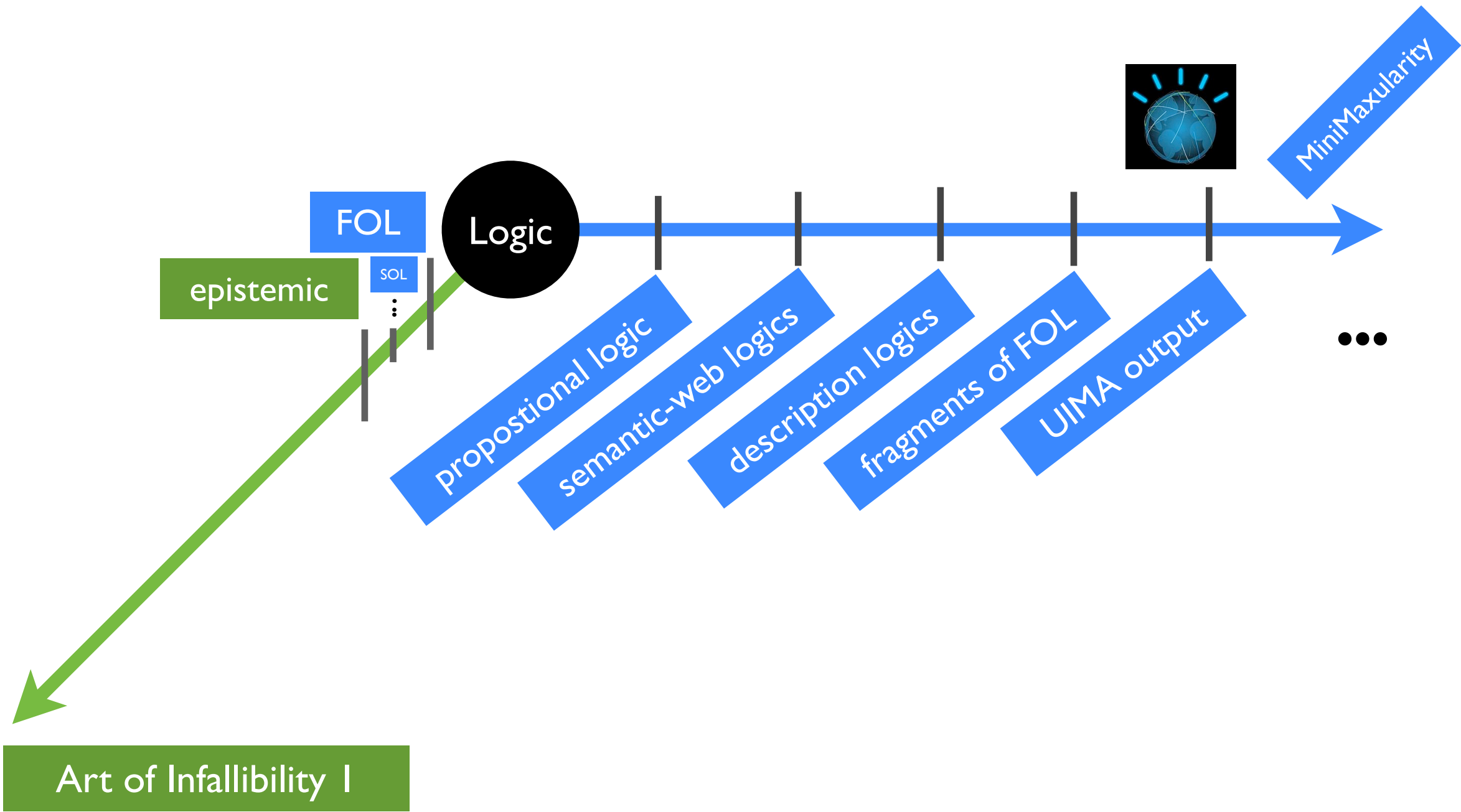


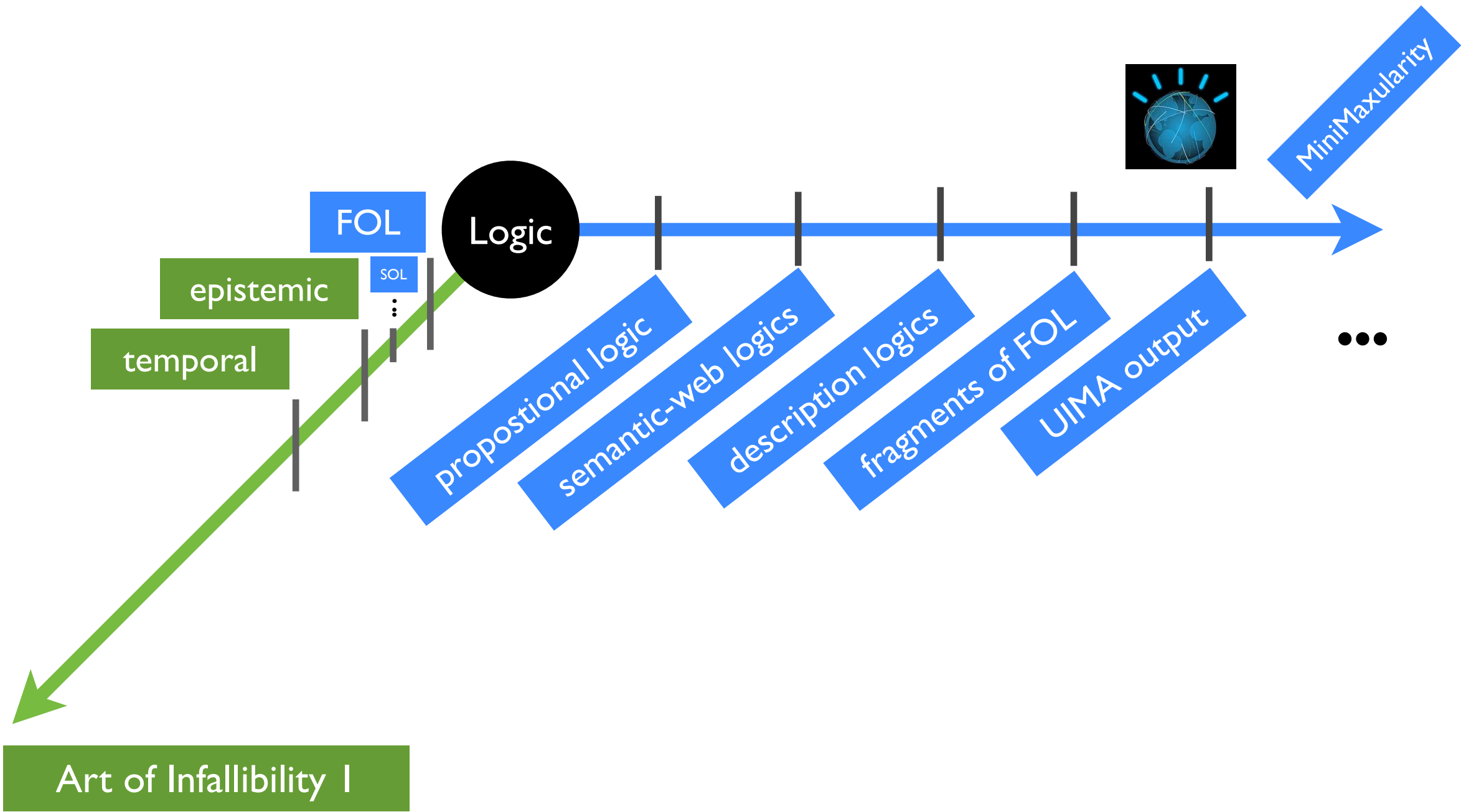


Art of Infallibility I



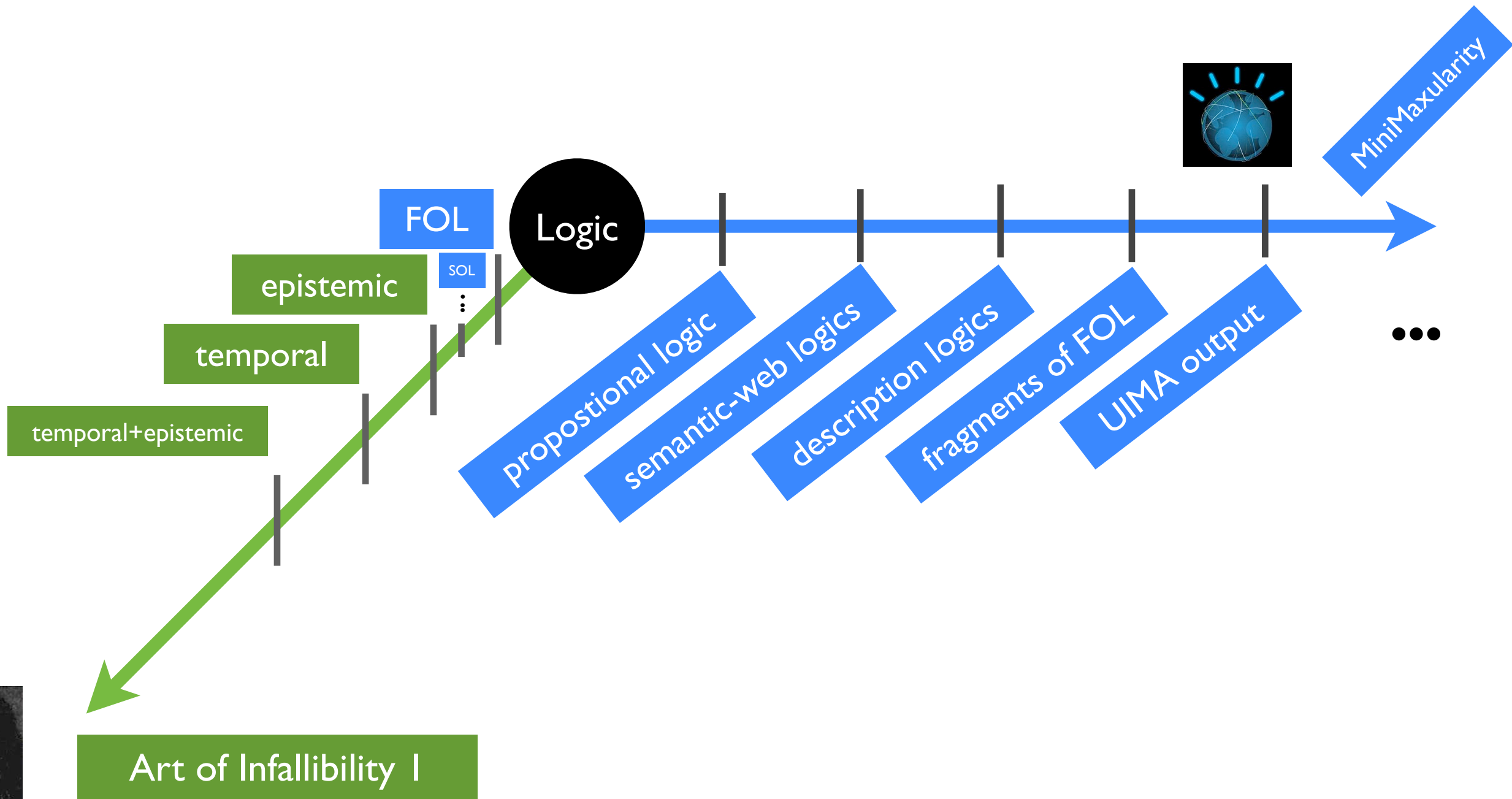








Art of Infallibility I





Art of Infallibility I

temporal+epistemic+deontic

temporal+epistemic

temporal

epistemic

FOL

SOL

...

Logic

propositional logic

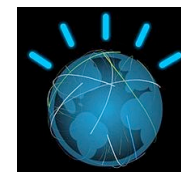
semantic-web logics

description logics

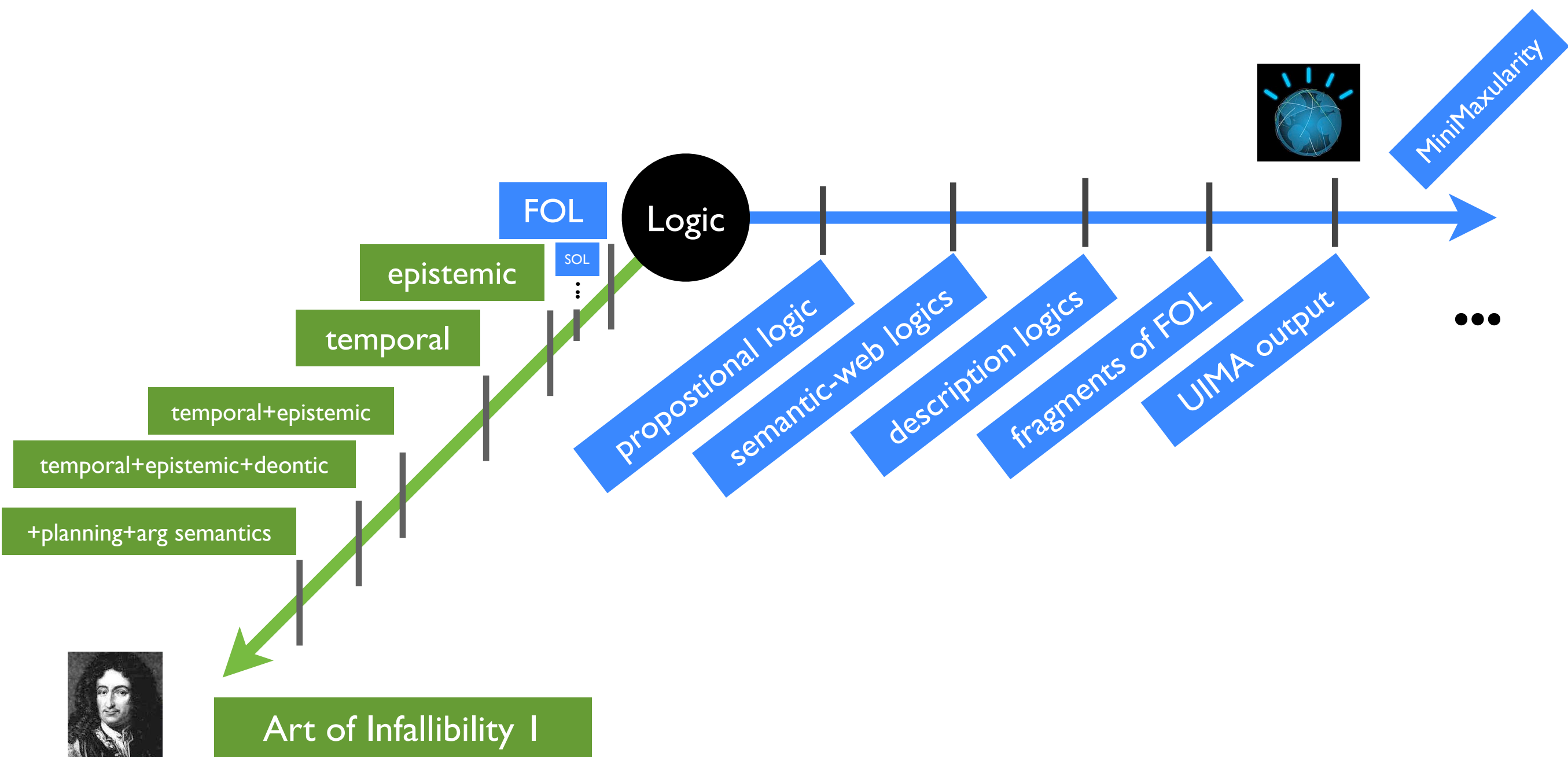
fragments of FOL

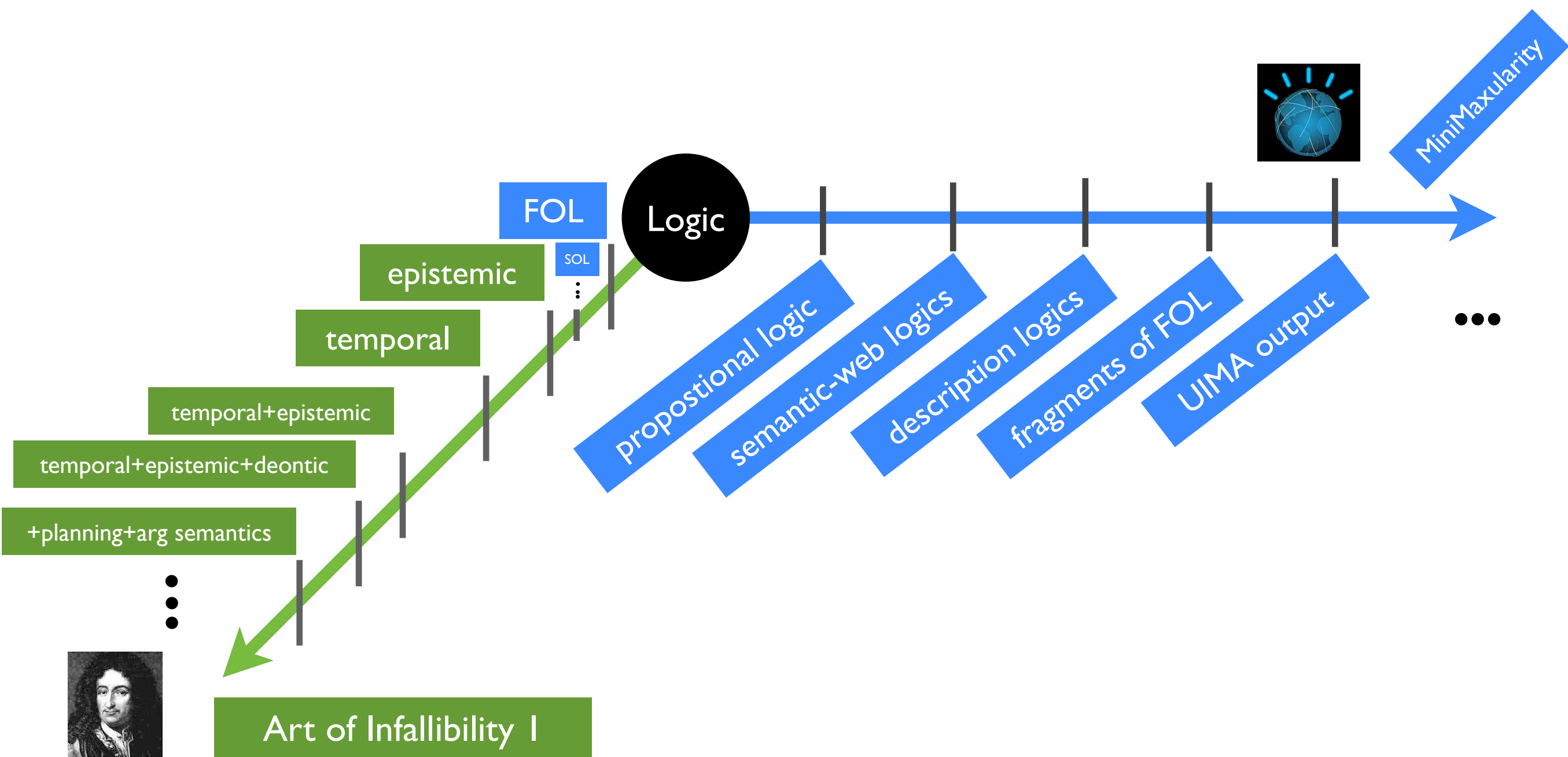
UIMA output

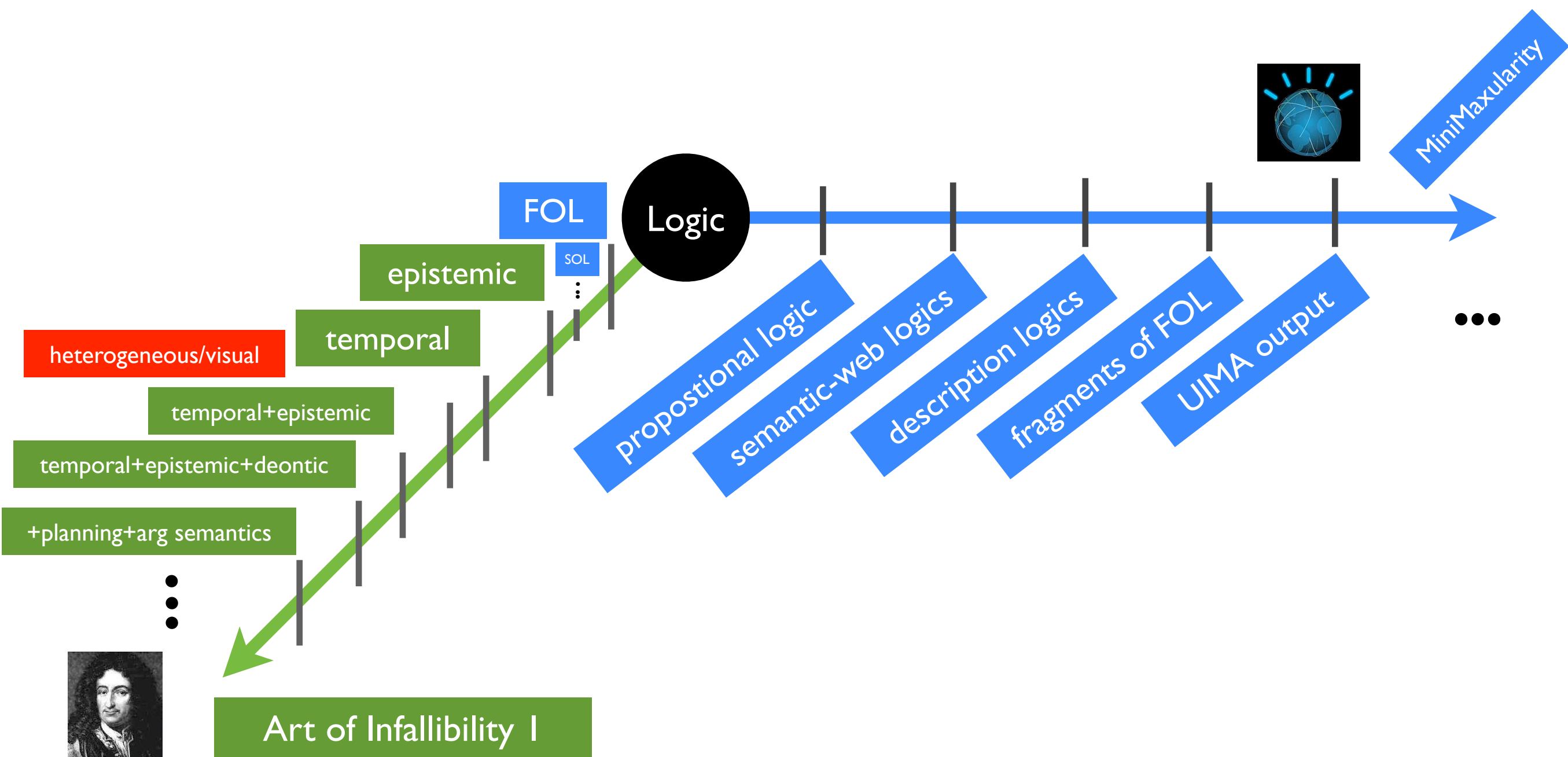
MiniMaxularity

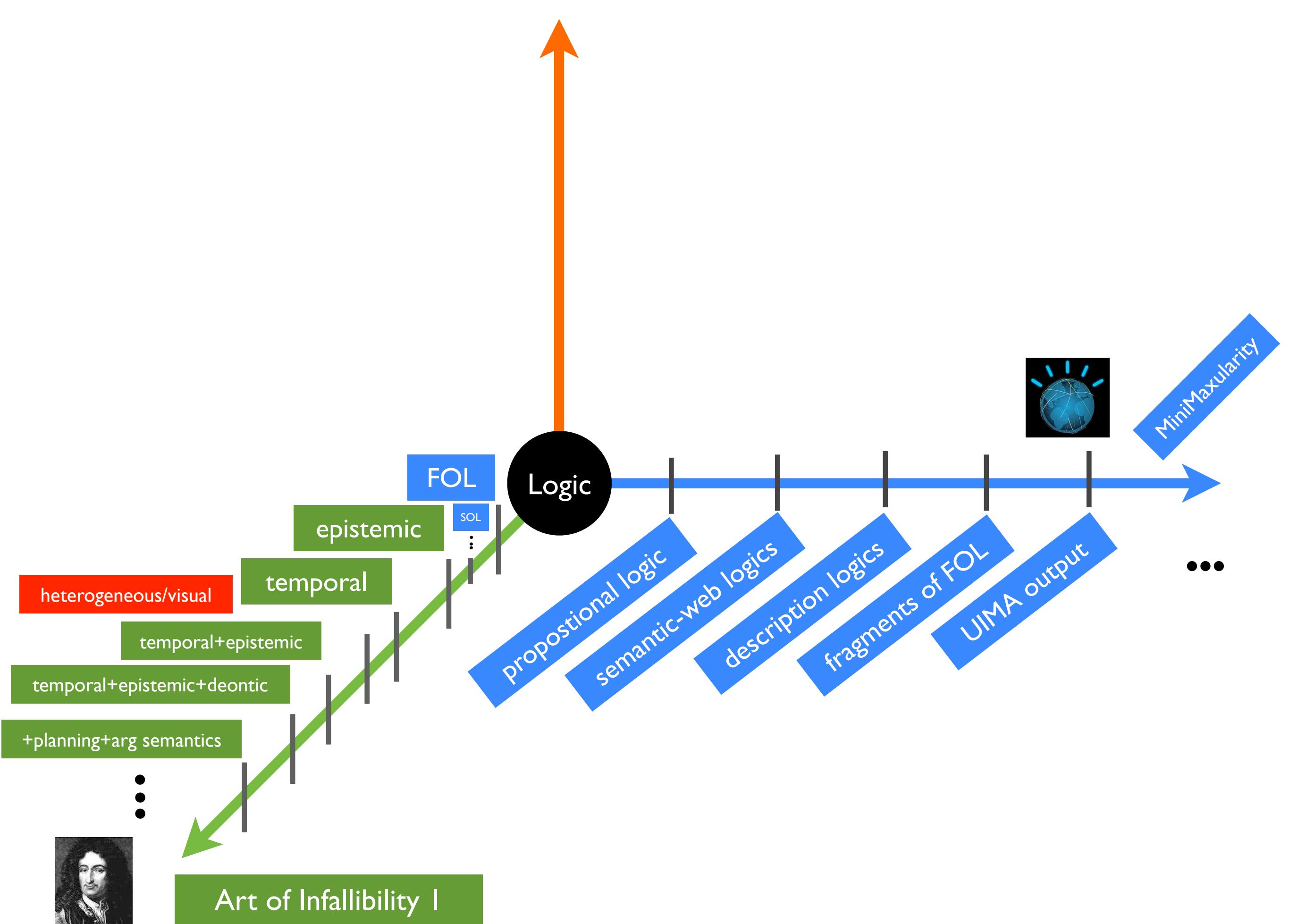


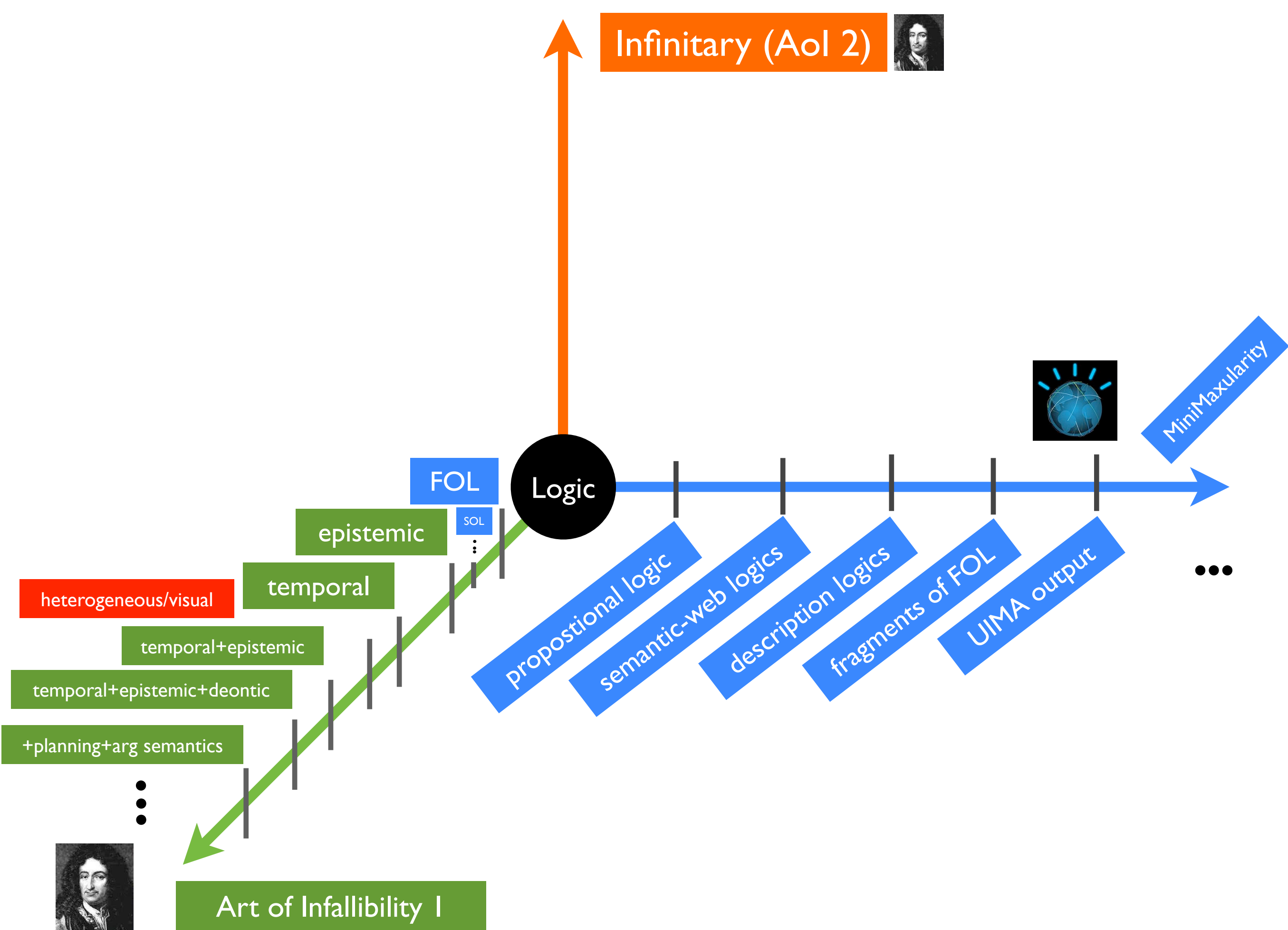
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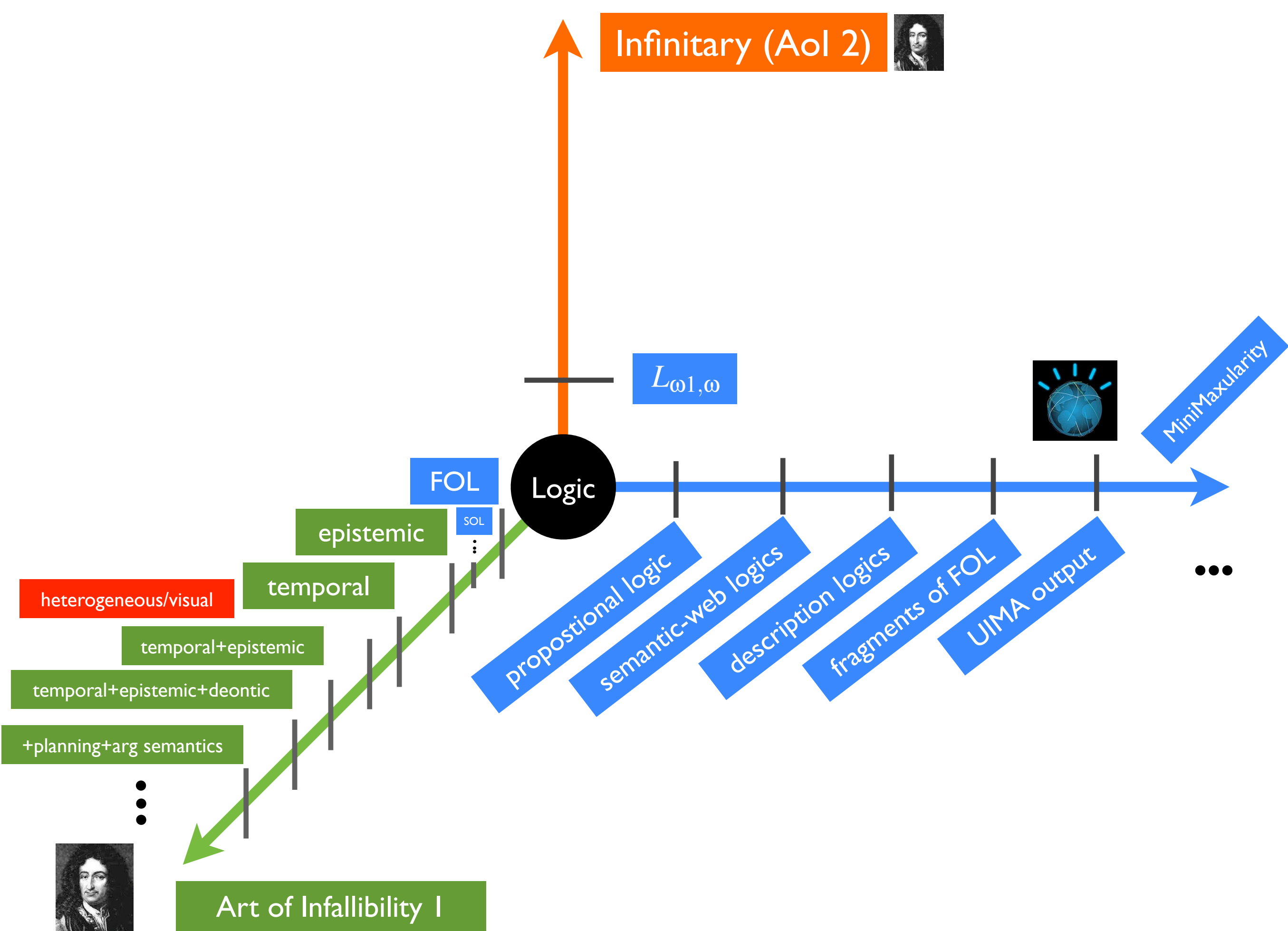


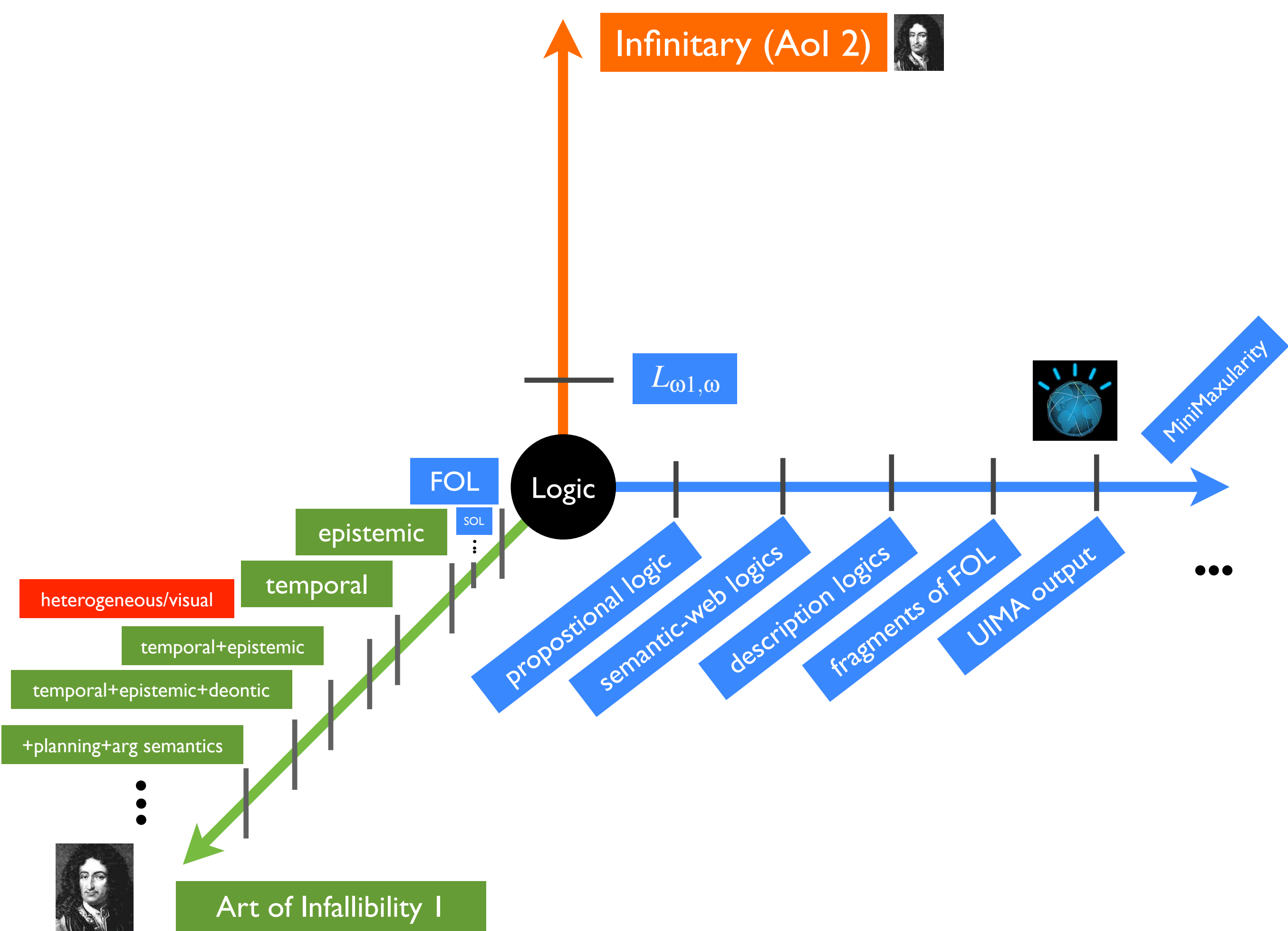


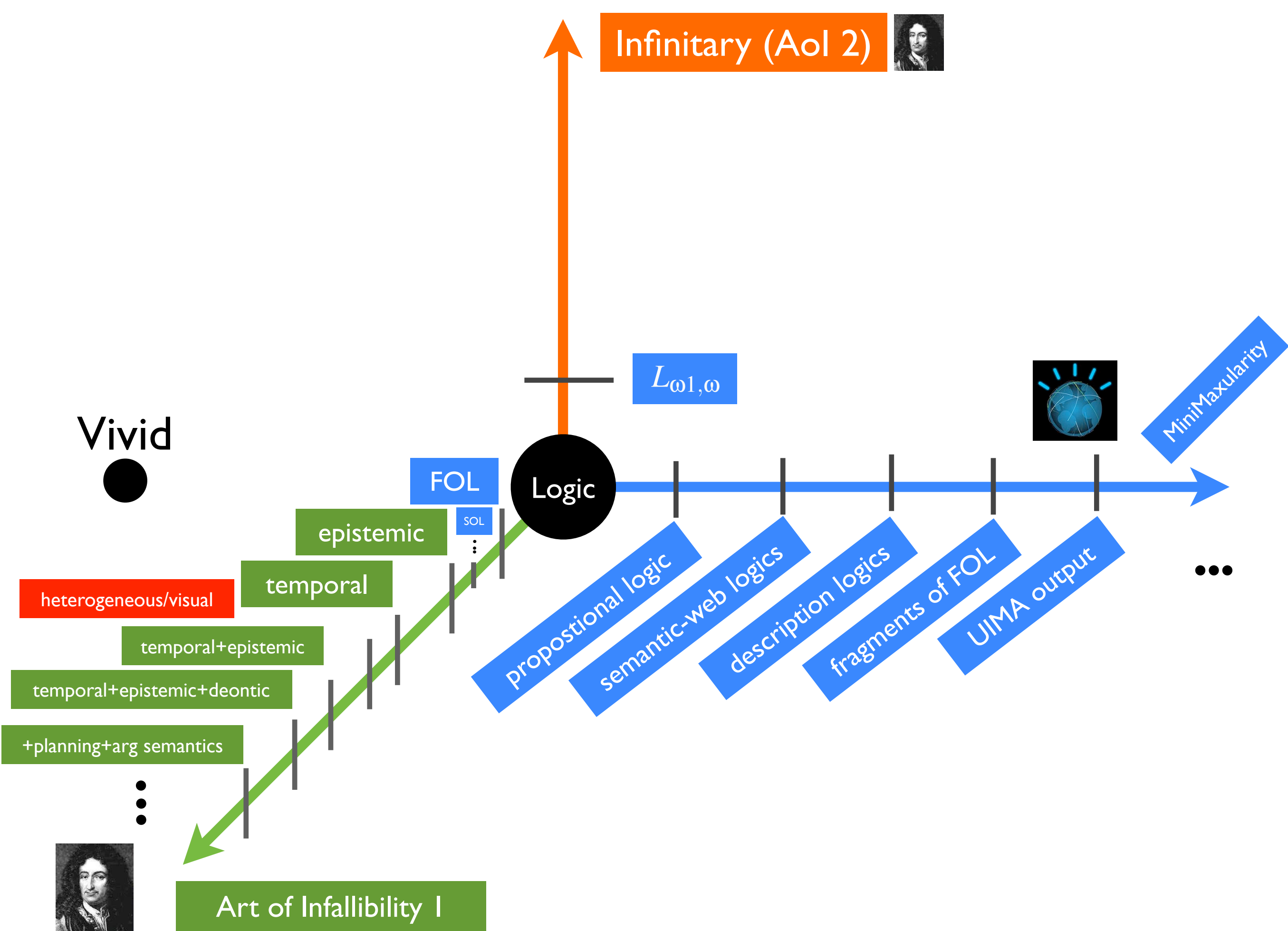


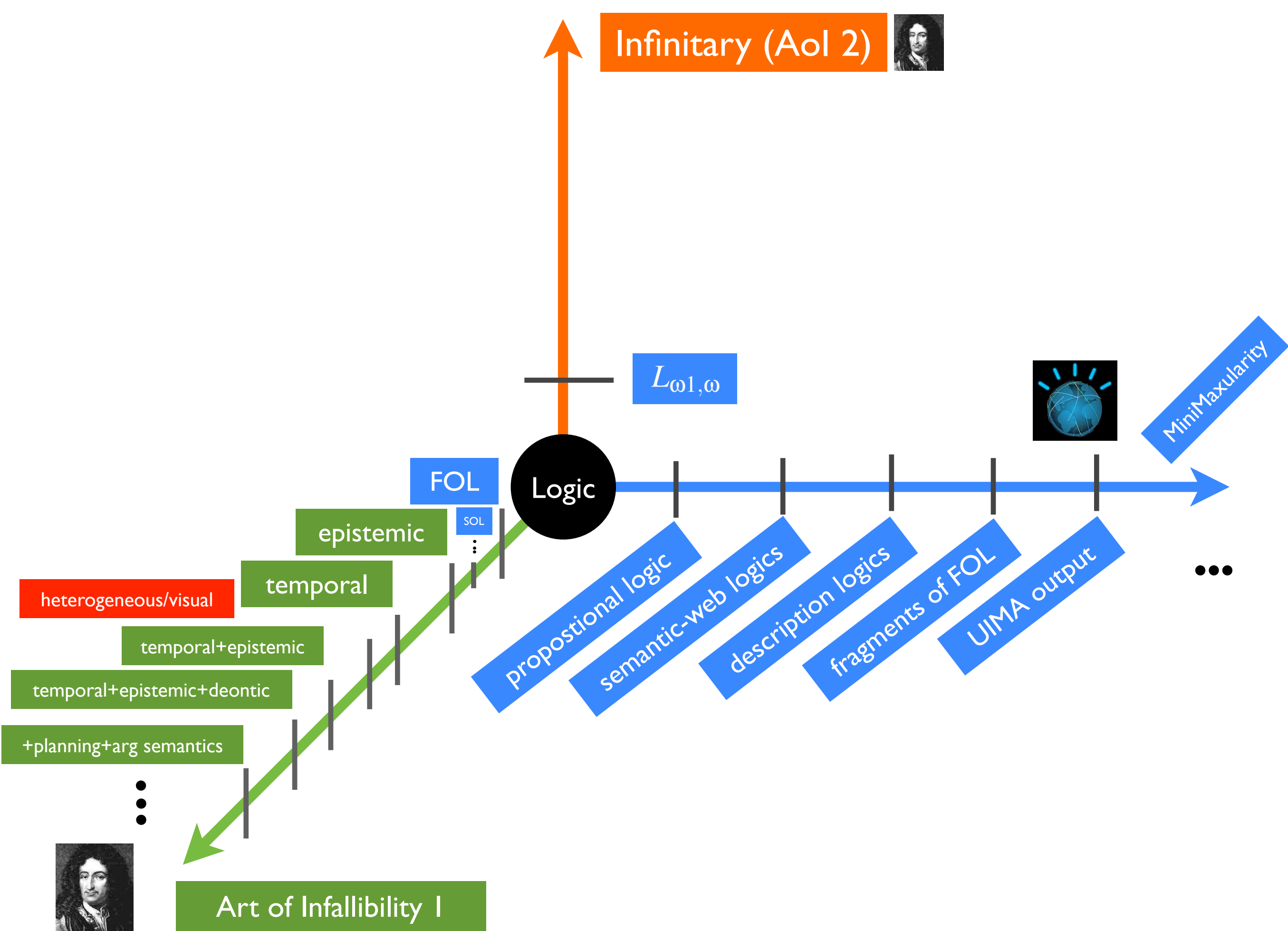












$\mathcal{DCEC}^*$

Deontic Cognitive Event Calculus
(with Castañeda's *)

Infinitary (Aol 2)



$L_{\omega 1, \omega}$

FOL

SOL

Logic

epistemic

temporal

heterogeneous/visual

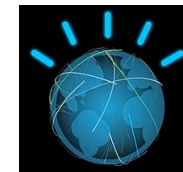
temporal+epistemic

temporal+epistemic+deontic

+planning+arg semantics

...

Art of Infallibility I



MiniMaxularity

...

propositional logic
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mirror test for self-consciousness ...)
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4. biz & econ simulation

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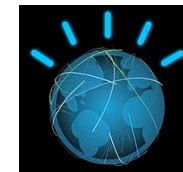
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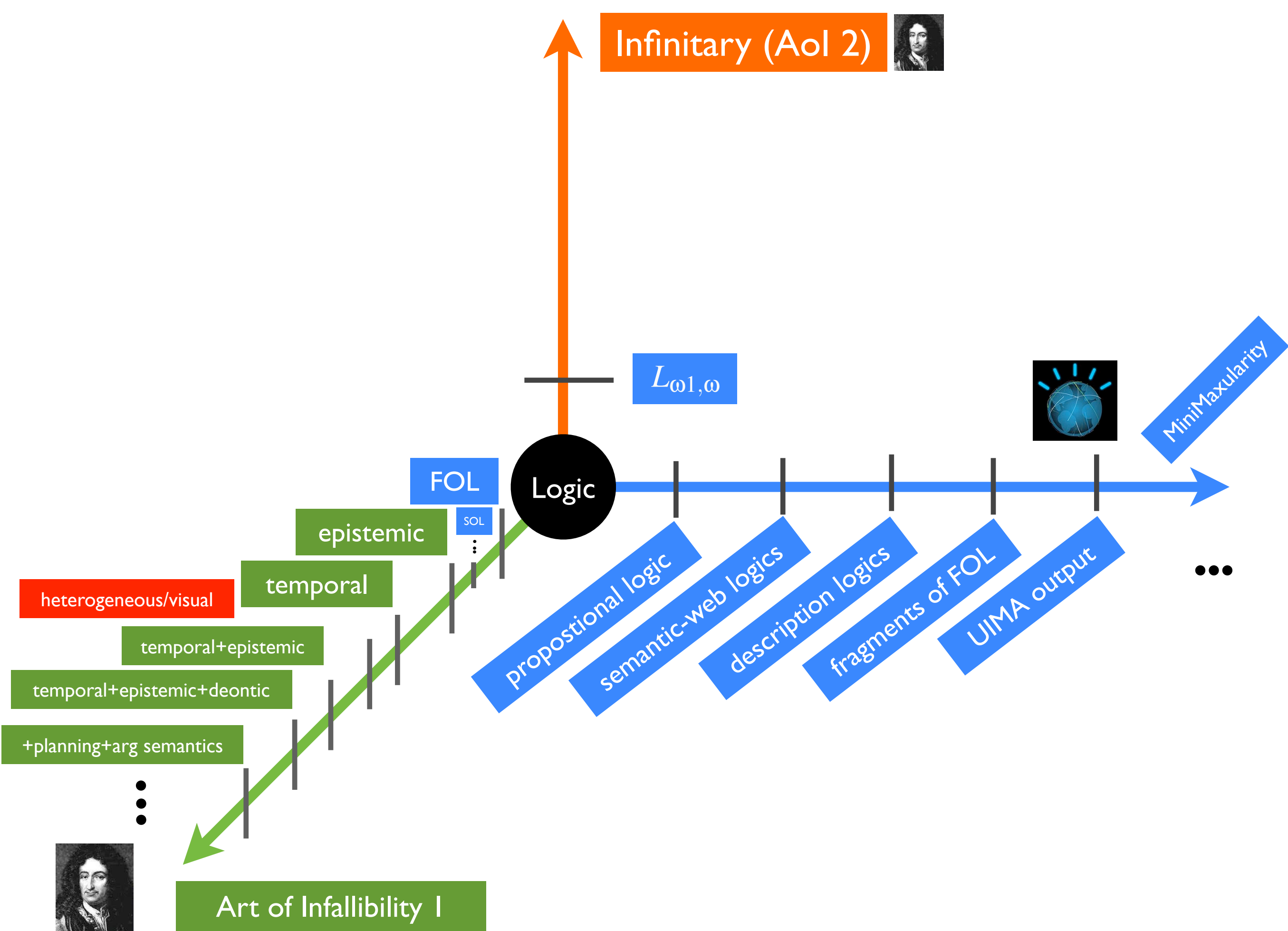
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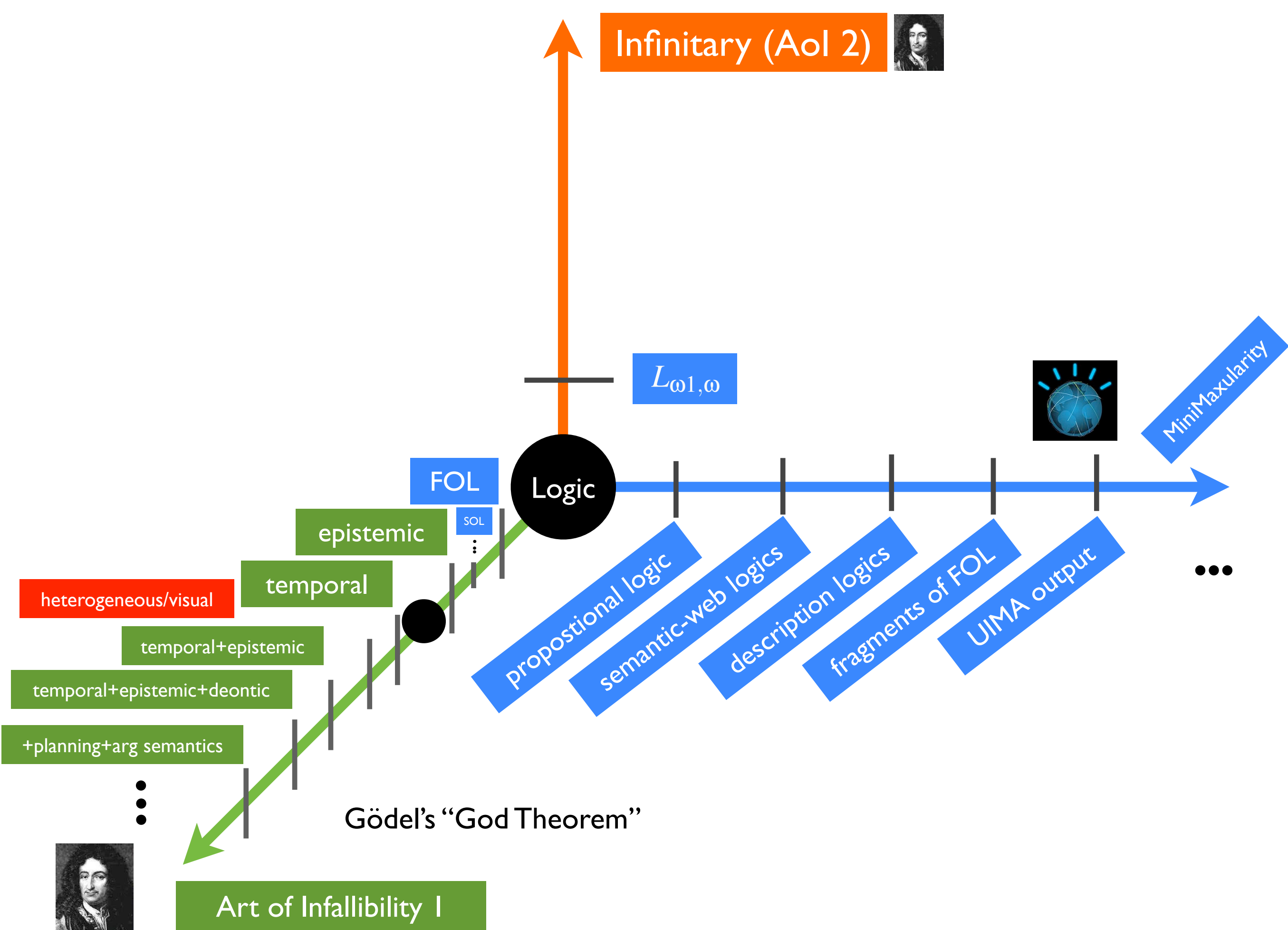
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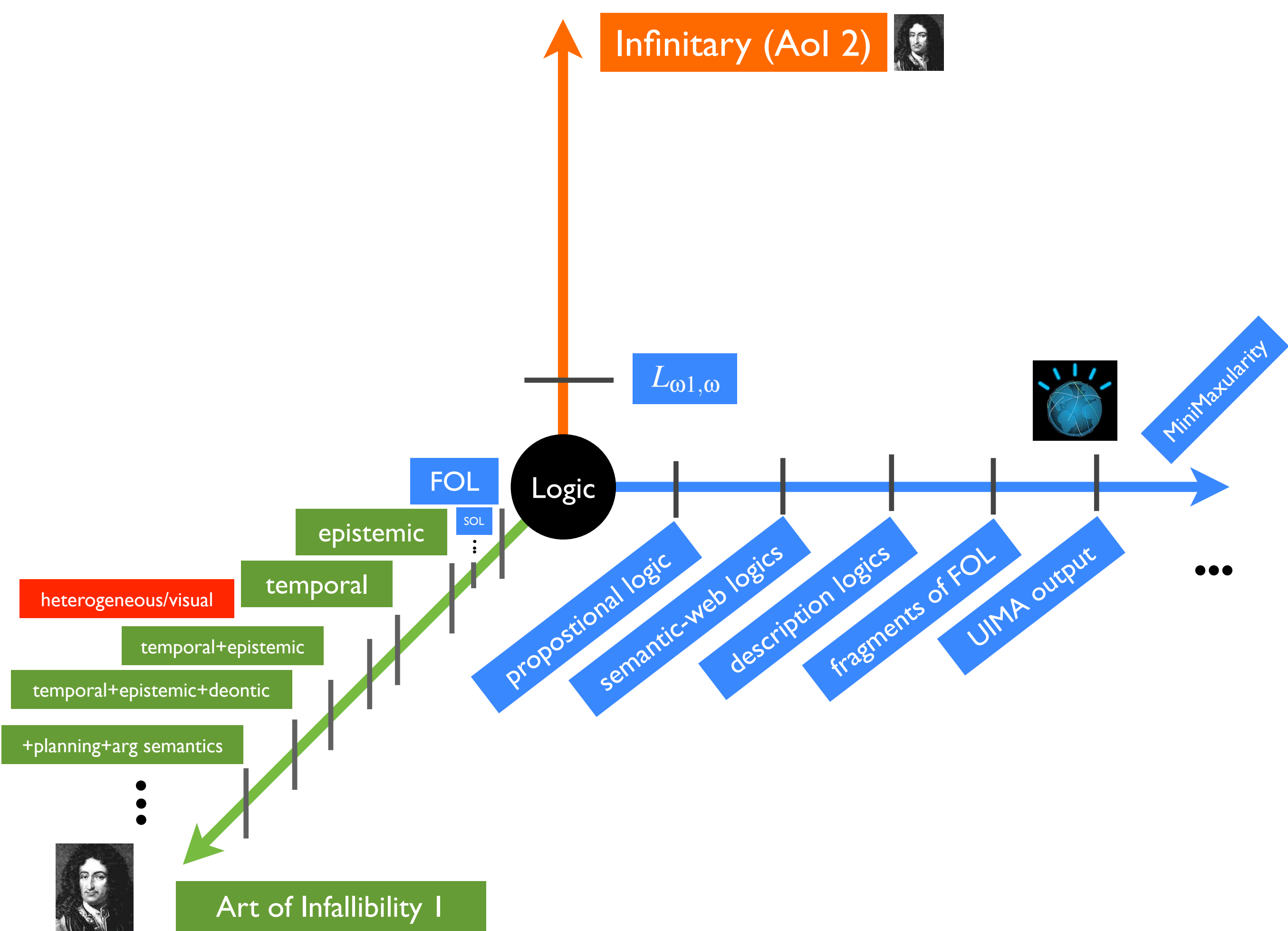
description logics

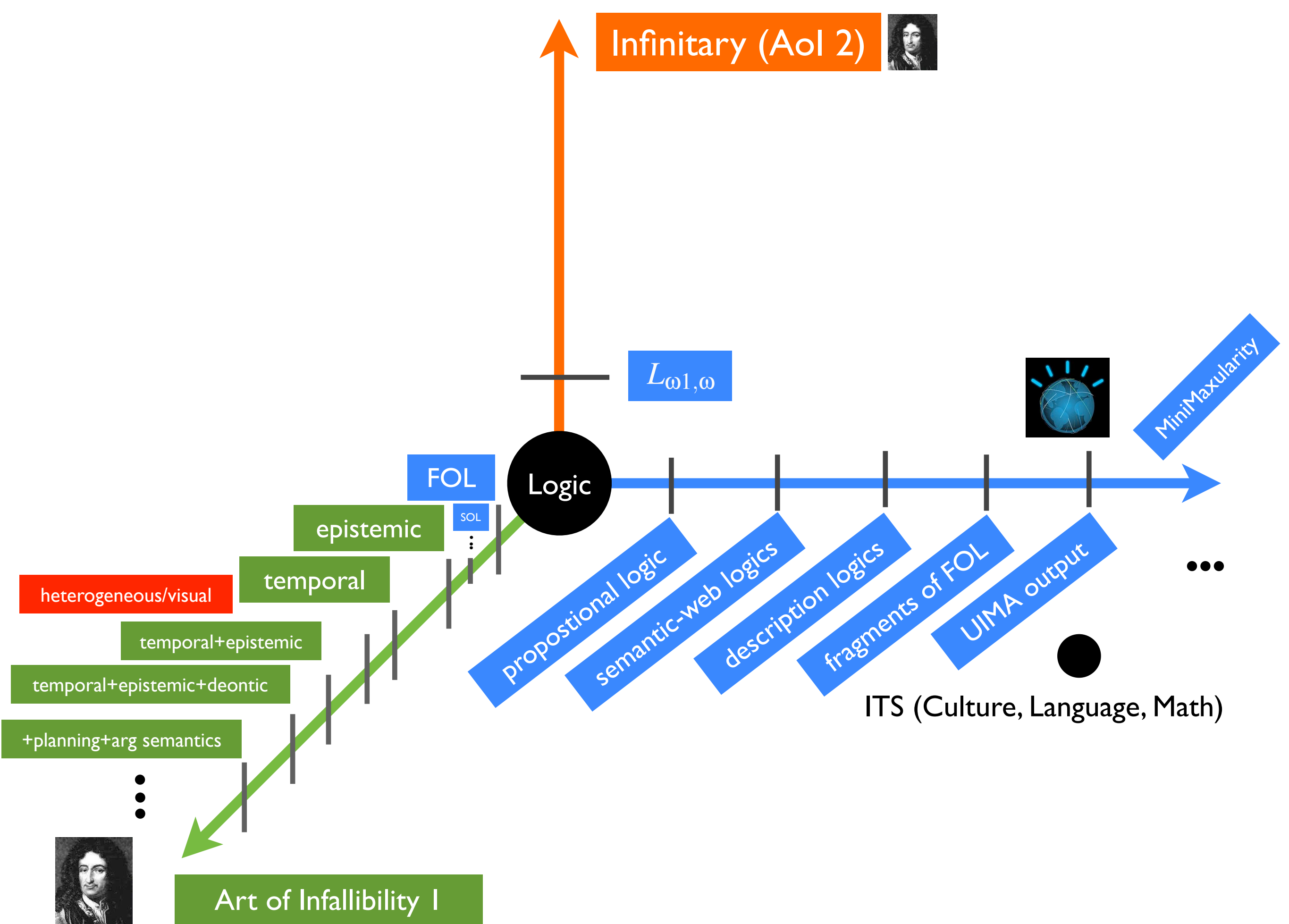
fragments of FOL

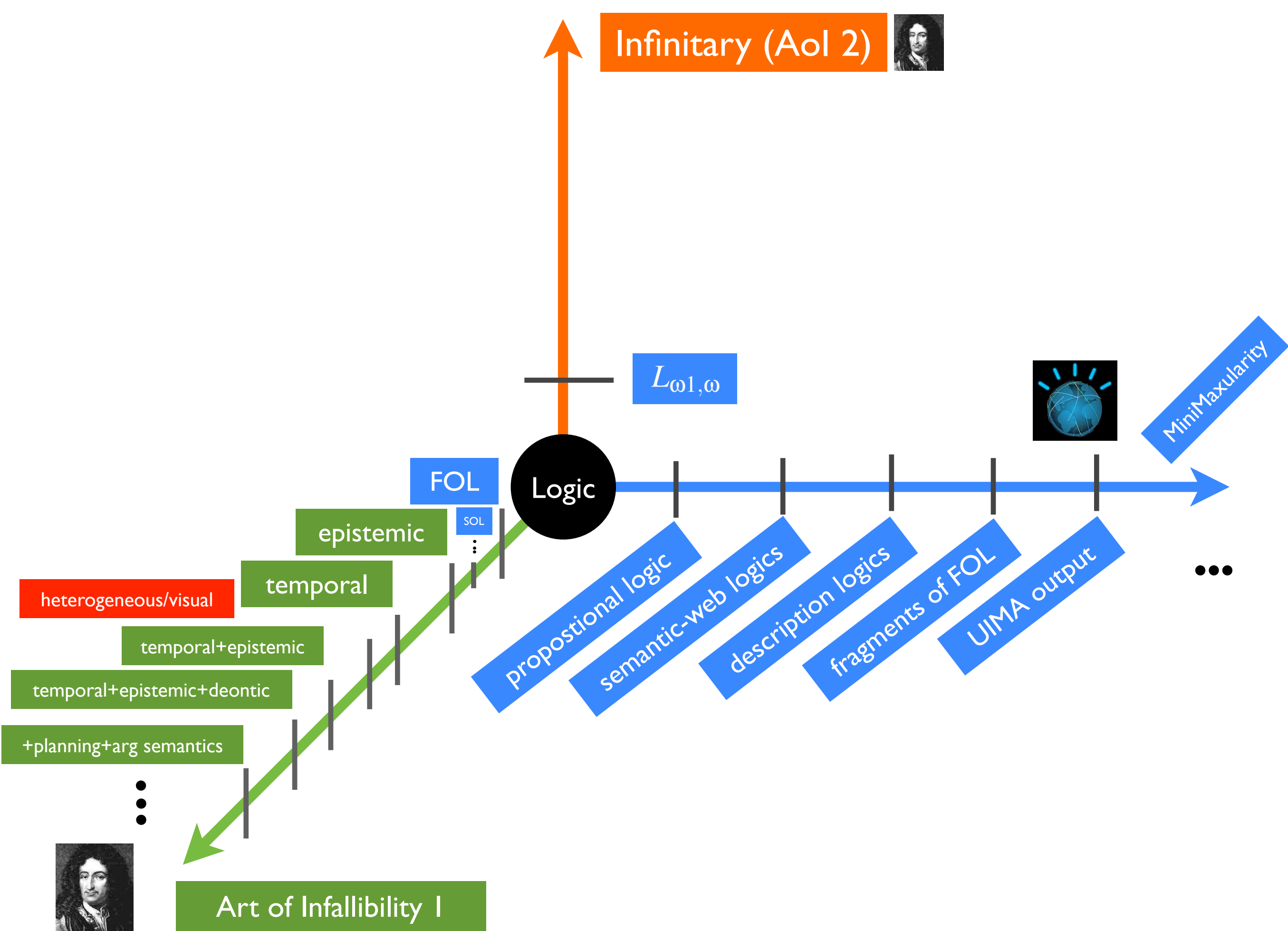
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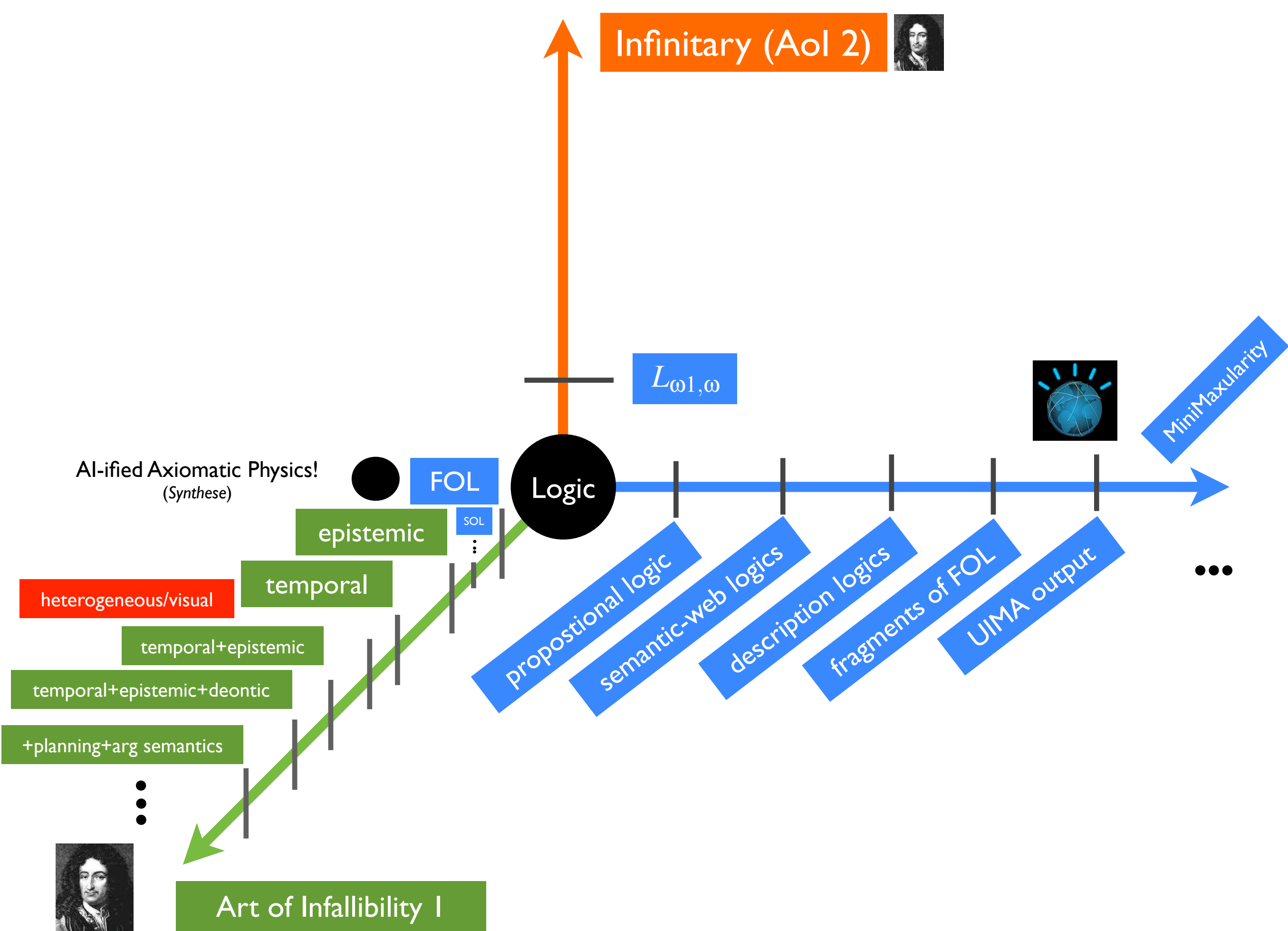


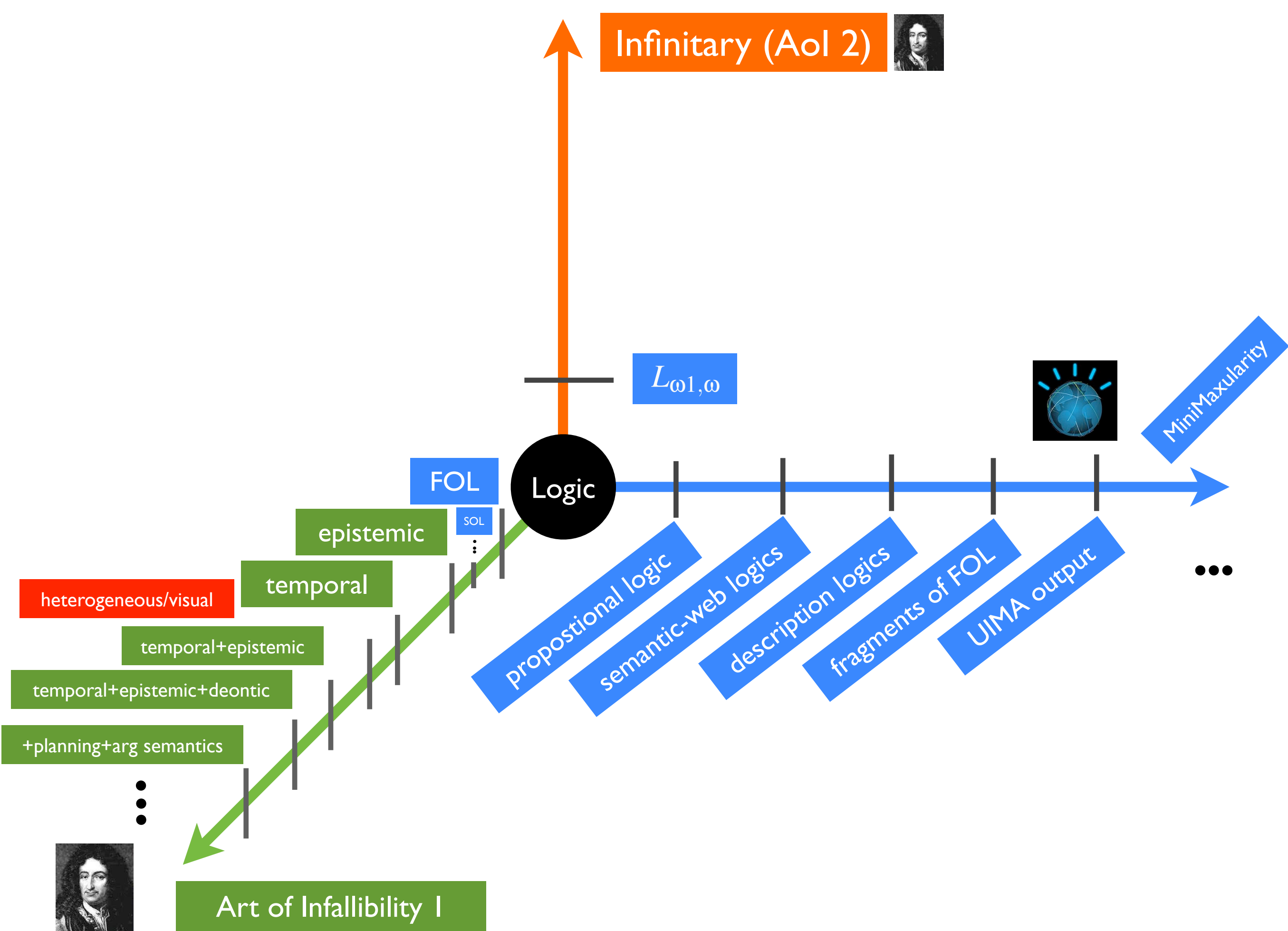


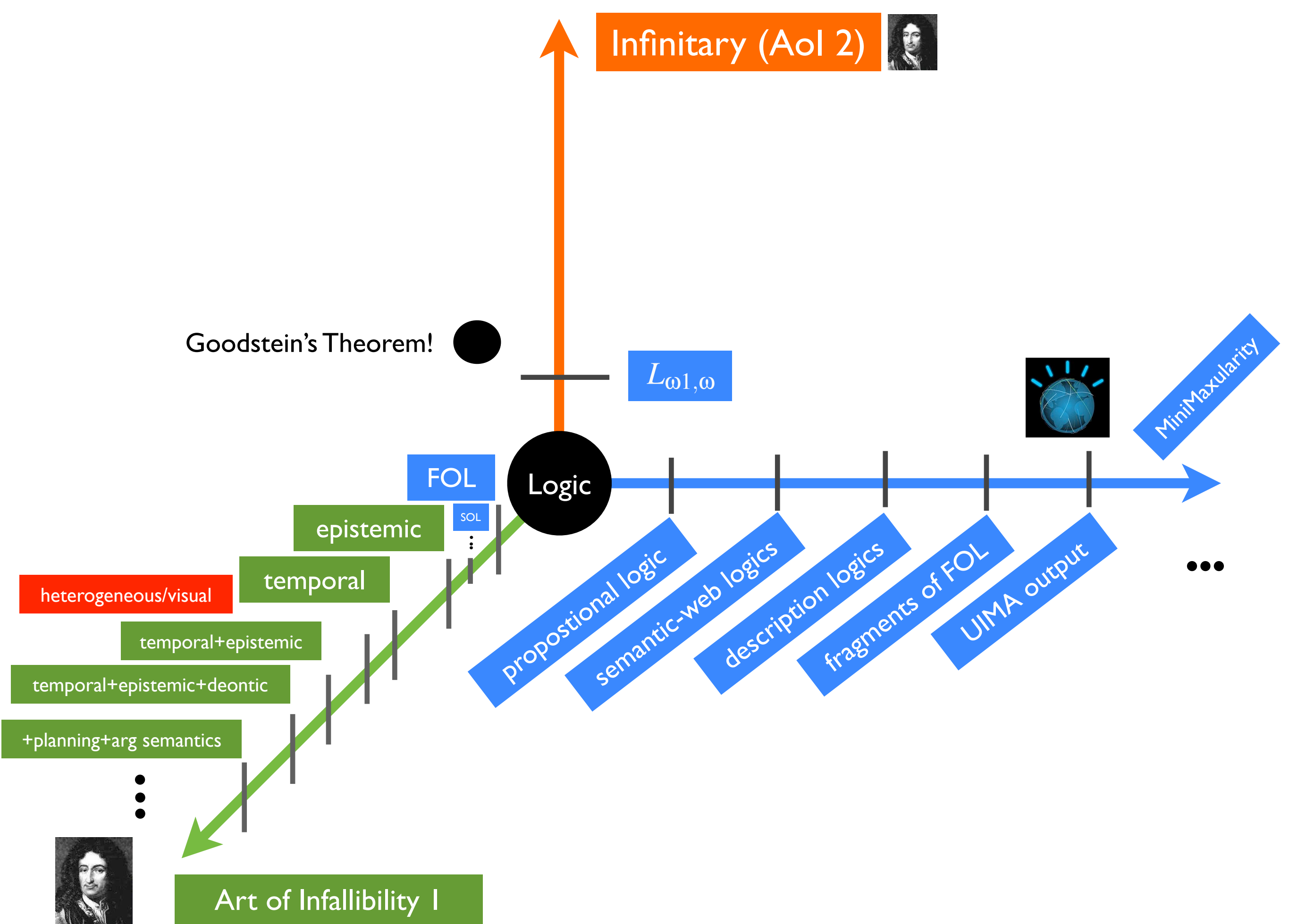


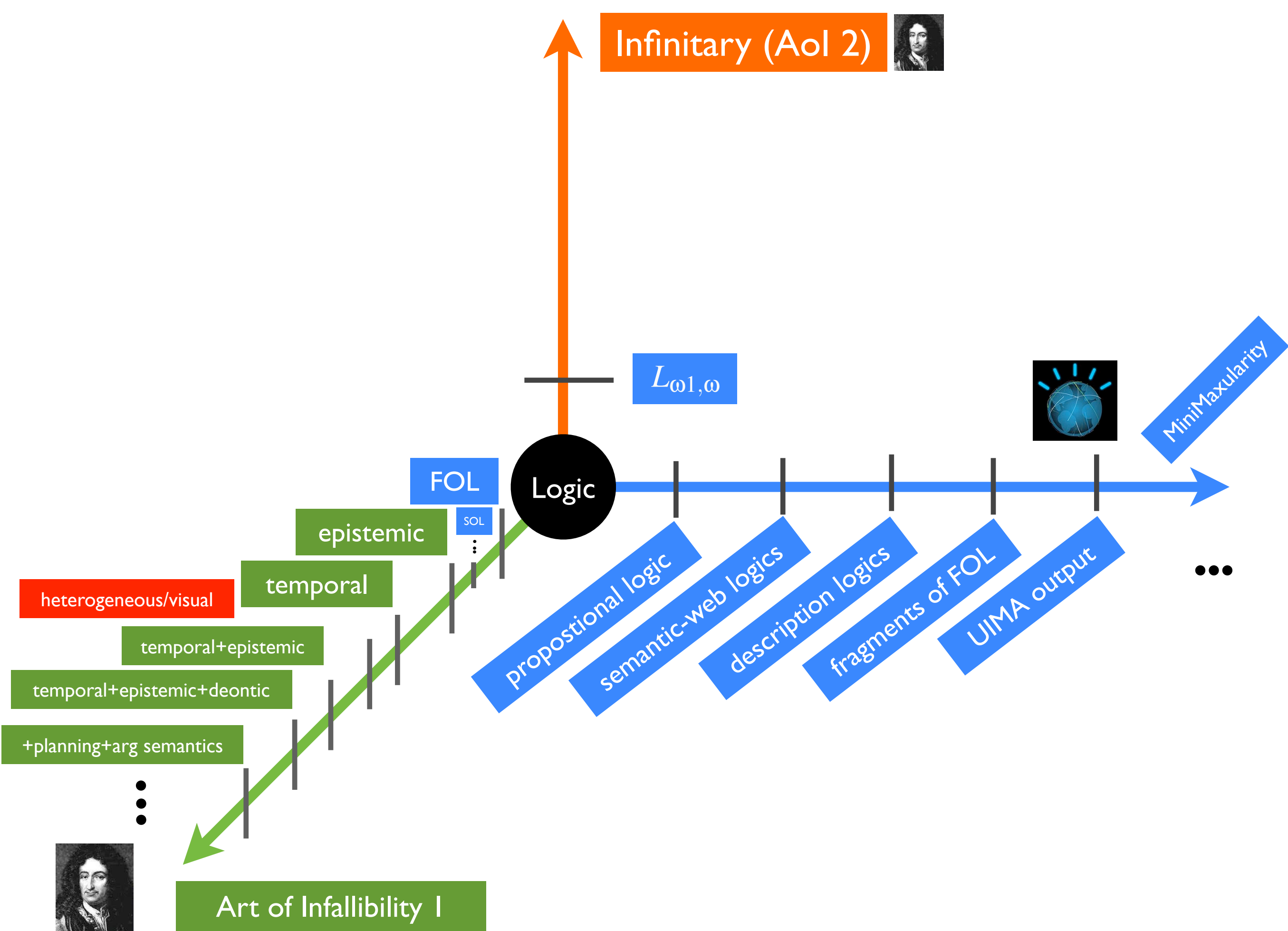












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4. Basis for RL: **Learning Ex Nihilo**

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MiniMaxularity



Animal-Level AI

Super-Serious Human Cognitive Power

Serious Human Cognitive Power

Mere Calculative Cognitive Power

Entscheidungsproblem

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Serious Human Cognitive Power

Mere Calculative Cognitive Power

Entscheidungsproblem

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

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Mere Calculative Cognitive Power

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy

Polynomial Hierarchy

Entscheidungsproblem

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy

Entscheidungsproblem

Polynomial Hierarchy

$P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME \subseteq NEXPTIME \subseteq EXPSPACE$

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy

$\vdots$
 Π_2
 Σ_2
 Π_1
 Σ_1
 Σ_0

Entscheidungsproblem

Polynomial Hierarchy

$$P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME \subseteq NEXPTIME \subseteq EXPSPACE$$

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy

Go:AlphaGo



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Animal-Level AI

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Arithmetical Hierarchy

Jeopardy!: **Watson**

Go: AlphaGo

$\vdots$
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 Σ_2
 Π_1
 Σ_1
 Σ_0

Entscheidungsproblem

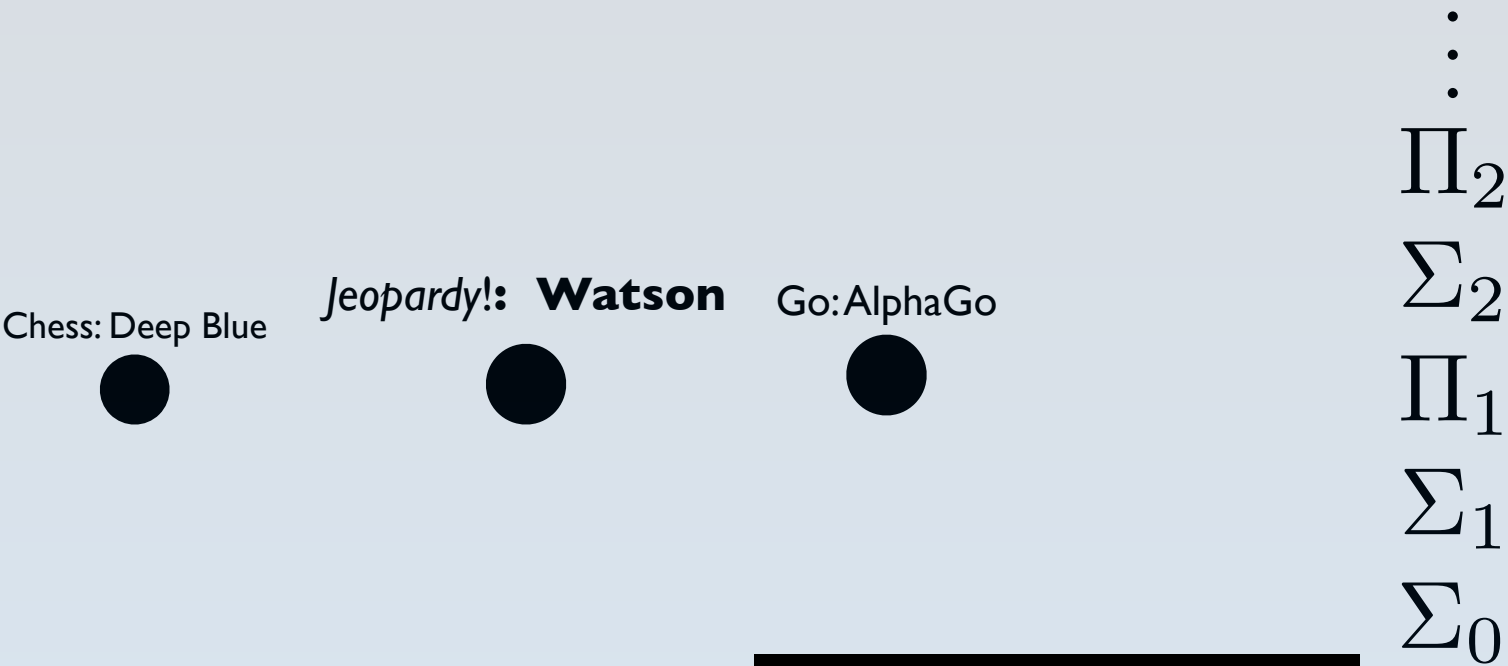
Polynomial Hierarchy

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Animal-Level AI

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Entscheidungsproblem

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Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy

Checkers: Chinook

Chess: Deep Blue

Jeopardy!: **Watson**

Go: AlphaGo

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Entscheidungsproblem

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Animal-Level AI

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Entscheidungsproblem

Polynomial Hierarchy

Jeopardy!: **Watson**

Chess: Deep Blue

Checkers: Chinook

Go: AlphaGo

$\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{NP} \subseteq \mathbf{PSPACE} = \mathbf{NPSPACE} \subseteq \mathbf{EXPTIME} \subseteq \mathbf{NEXPTIME} \subseteq \mathbf{EXPSPACE}$

Animal-Level AI

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Chess: Deep Blue
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Go: AlphaGo



$P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME \subseteq NEXPTIME \subseteq EXPSPACE$

Animal-Level AI

Analytical Hierarchy

Arithmetical Hierarchy



Church

$\vdots$
 Π_2
 Σ_2
 Π_1
 Σ_1
 Σ_0

Entscheidungsproblem

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Church



Turing

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Checkers: Chinook

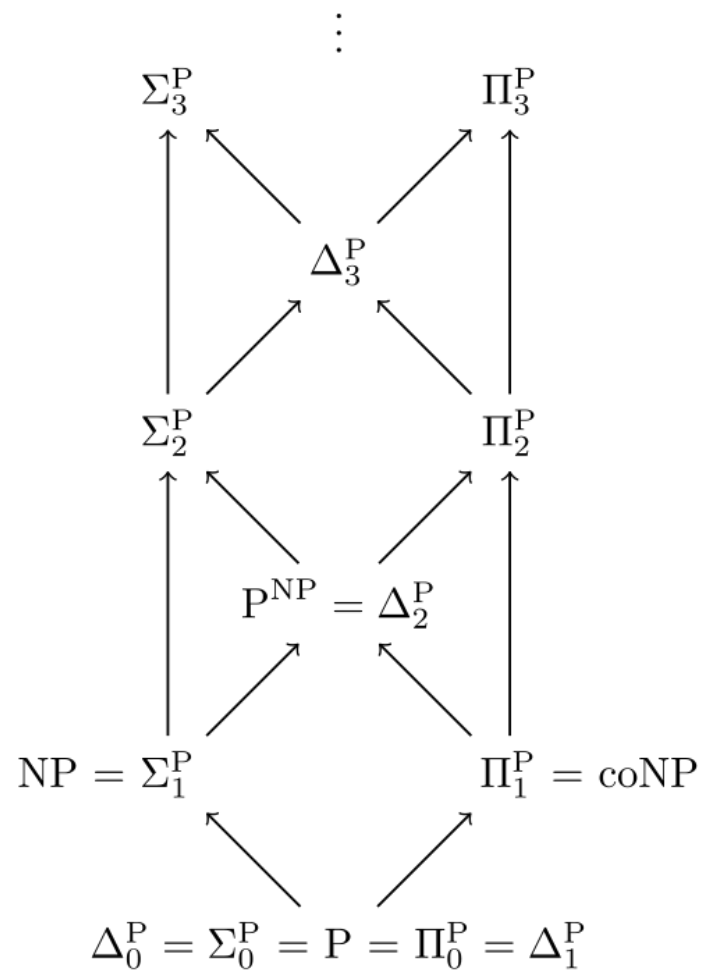
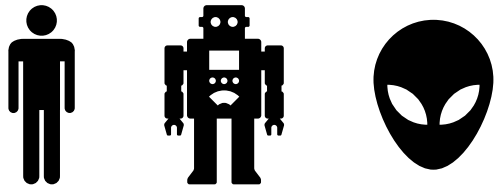
Go: AlphaGo



$P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME \subseteq NEXPTIME \subseteq EXPSPACE$

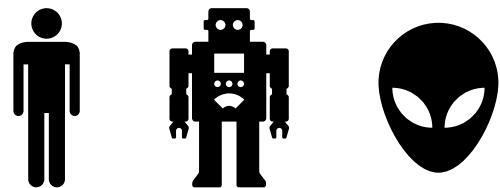
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)

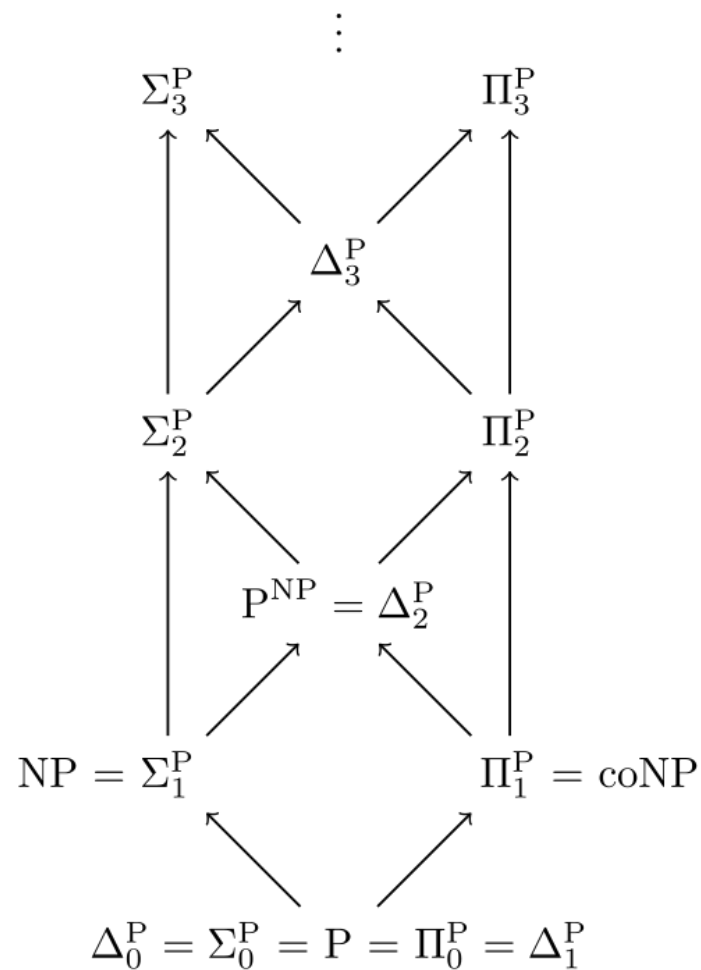


Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

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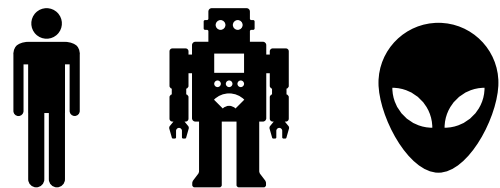


We say that a relation $R(u, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is polytime iff there is a deterministic Turing Machine $\mathfrak{m}$ and a polynomial p s.t. $\mathfrak{m}$ decides this relation in $p(|u|)$.



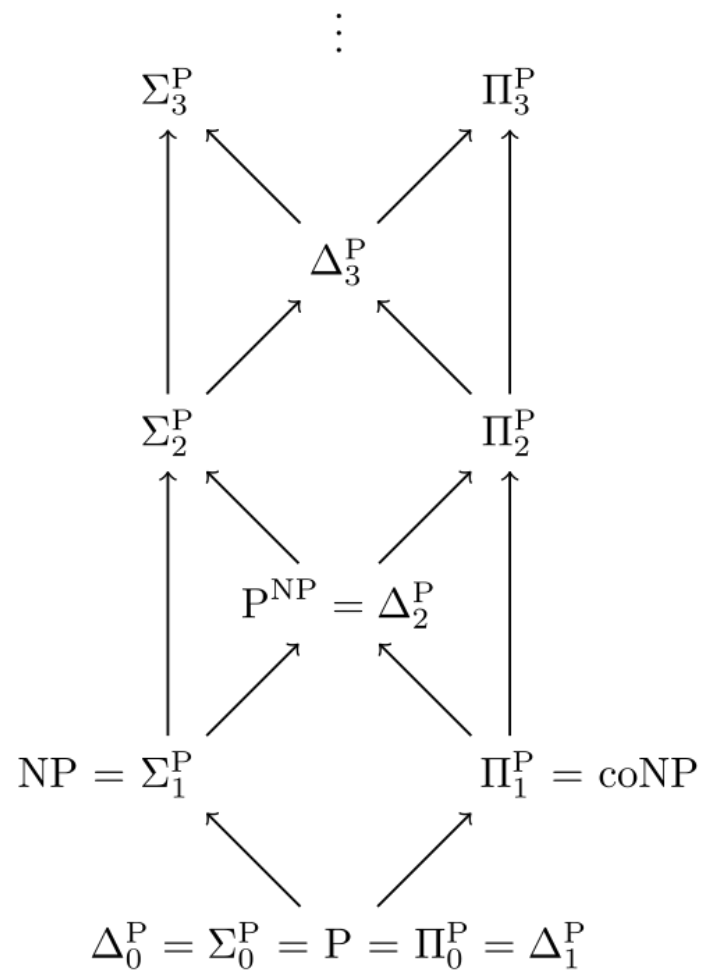
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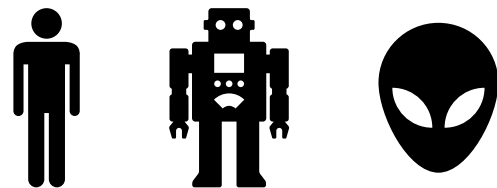
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$L \in \mathbf{NP}$ iff: there's a polytime relation R s.t. $u \in L$ iff $\exists y R(u, y)$.



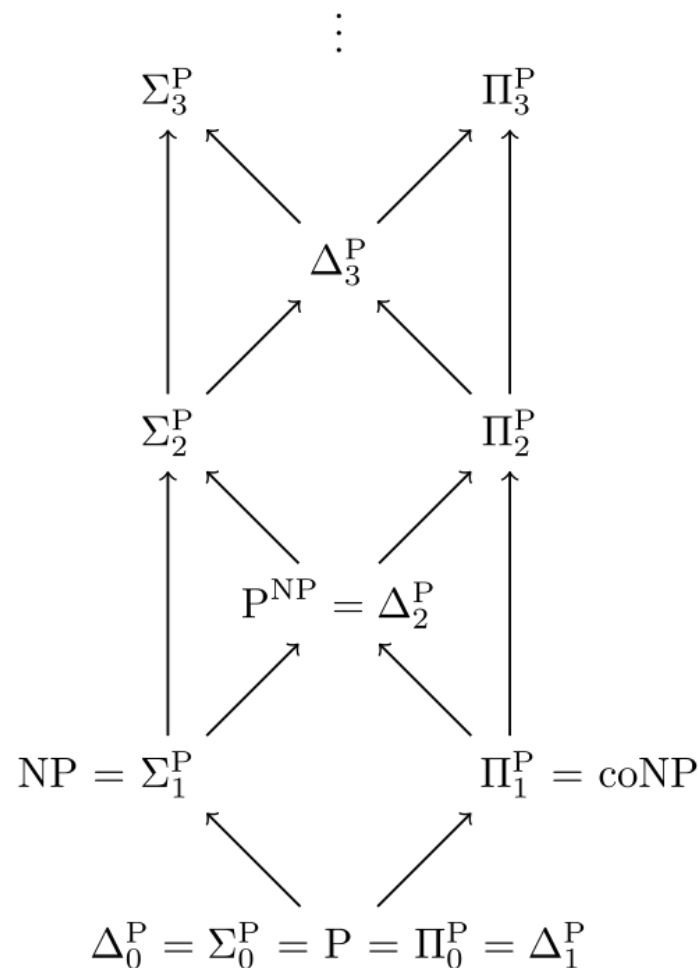
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)



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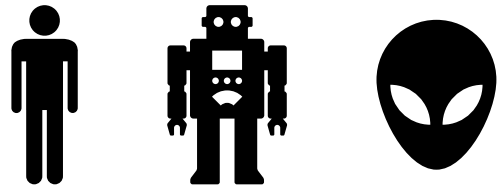
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Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)

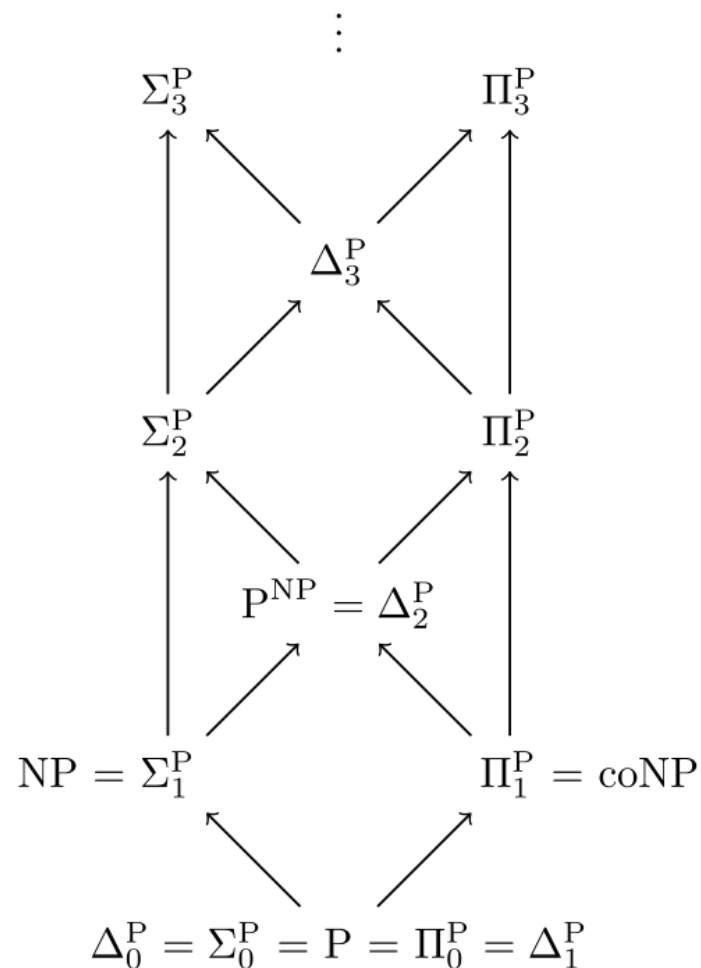


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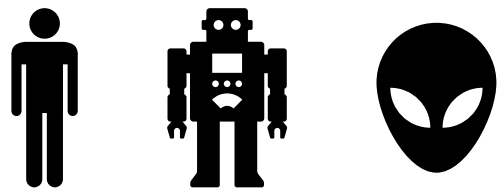
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Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)



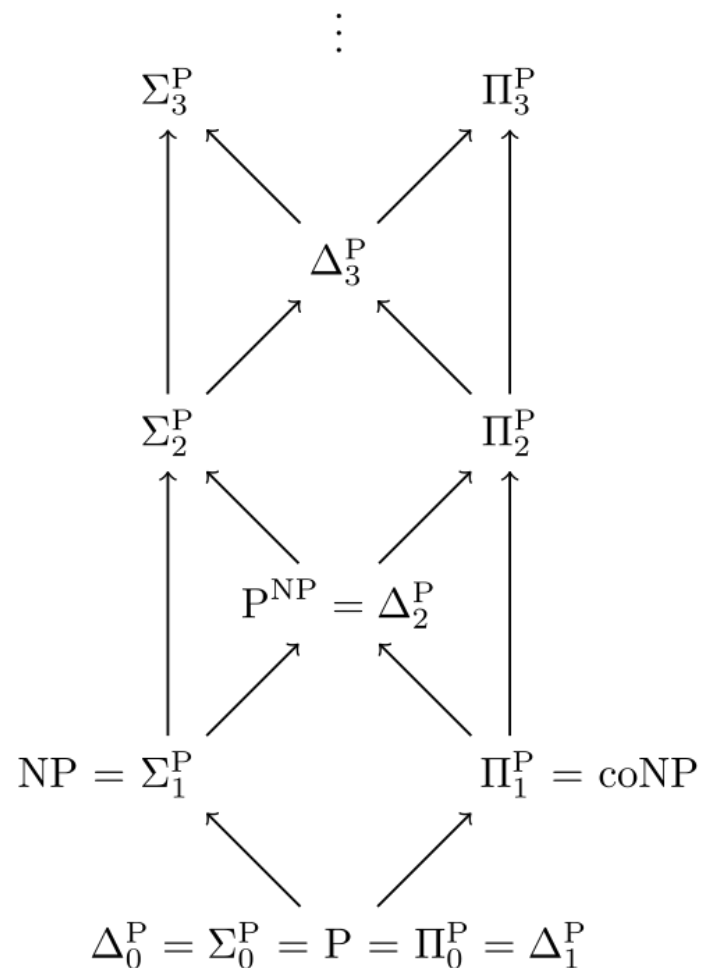
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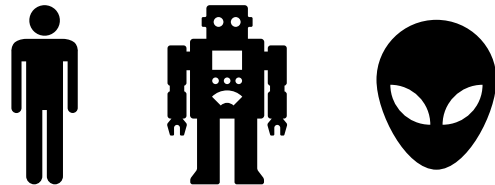
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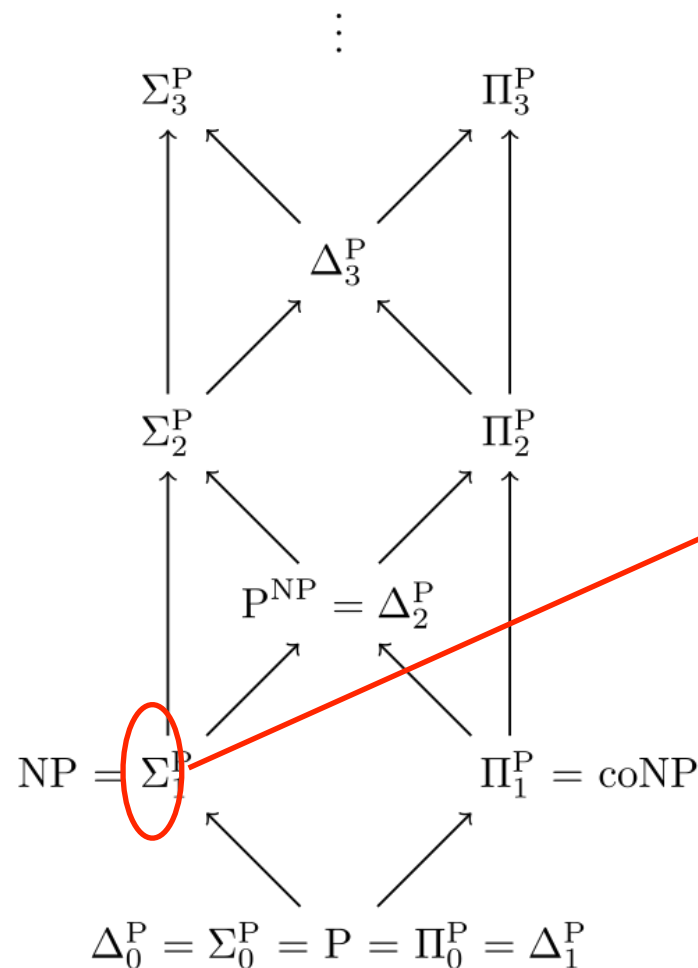
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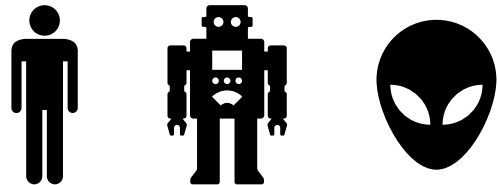
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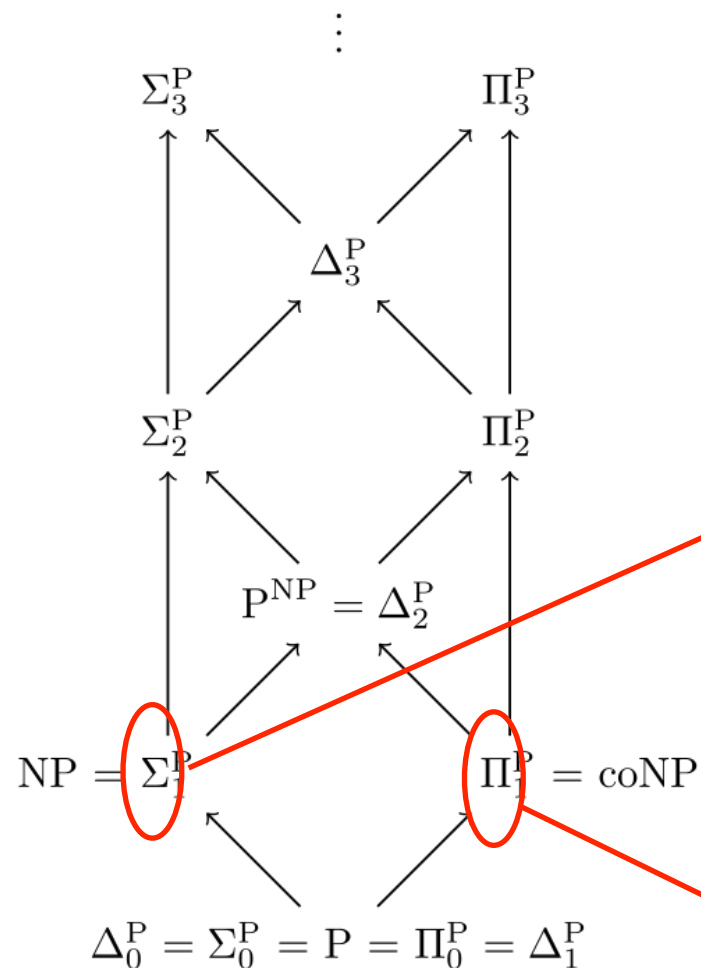
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

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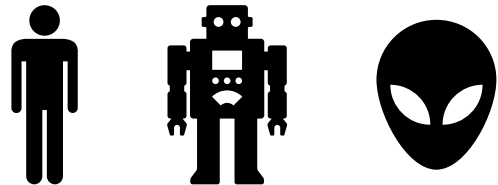
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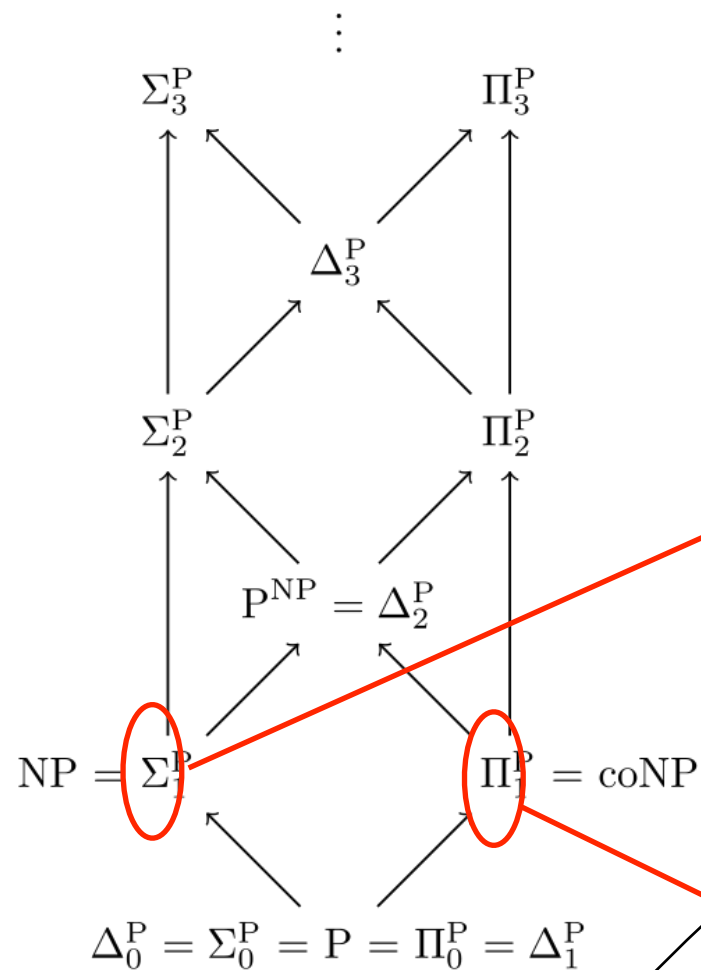
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

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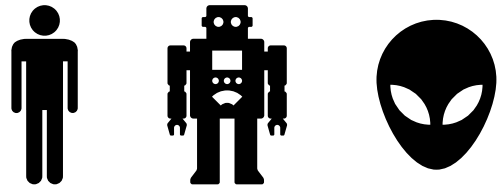
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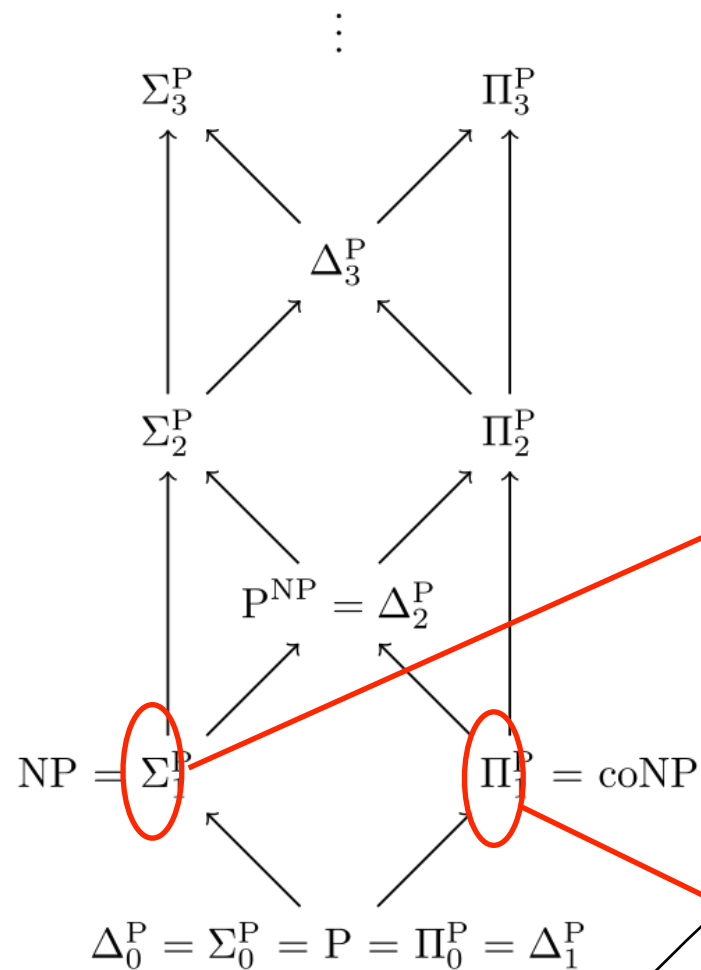
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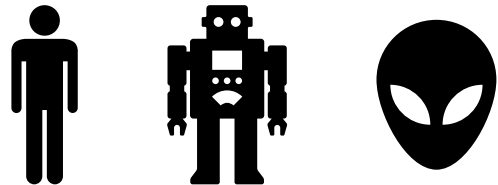
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(Or a truth-tree y in $\mathbf{HS}^{\circledR}$ with at least one open branch.)

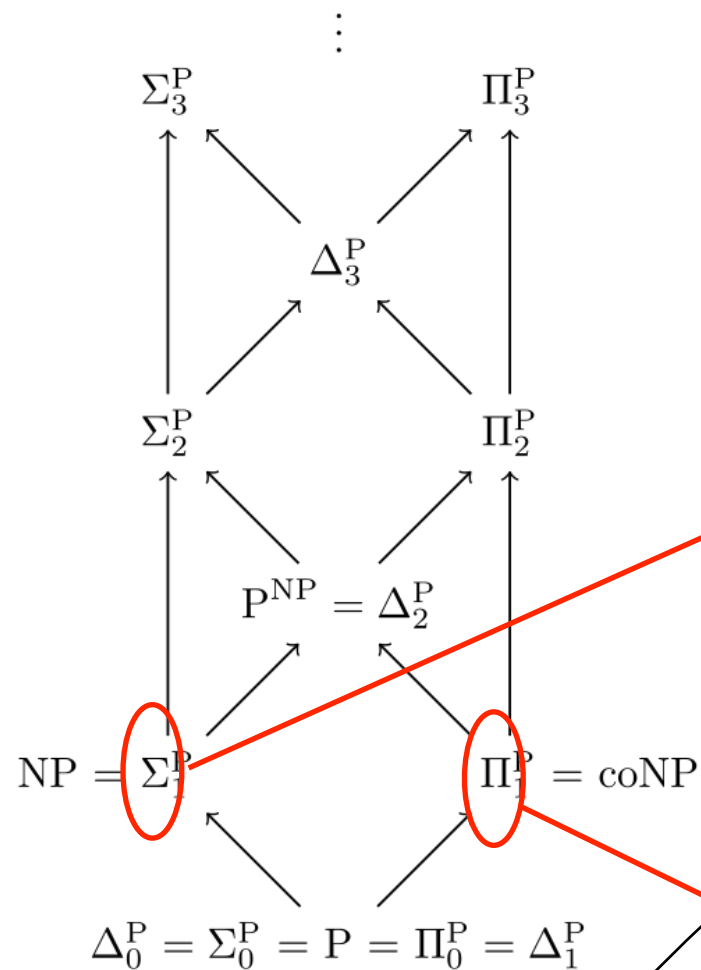
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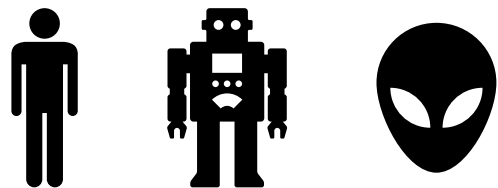
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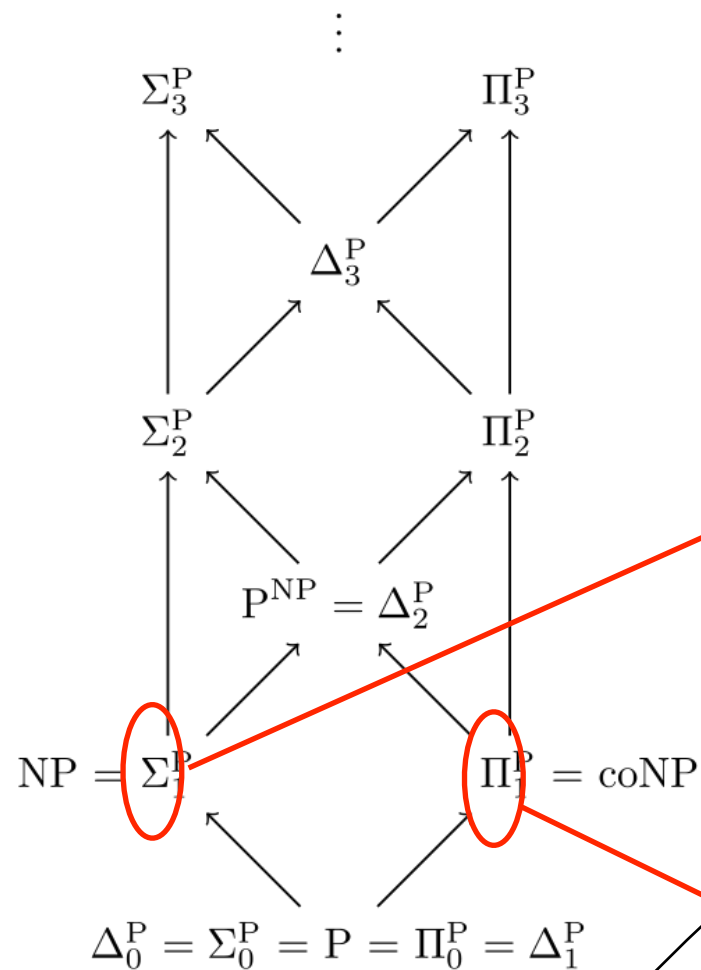
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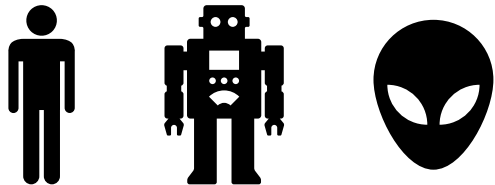
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(Or a truth-tree y in $\mathbf{HS}^{\circledast}$ with at least one open branch.)

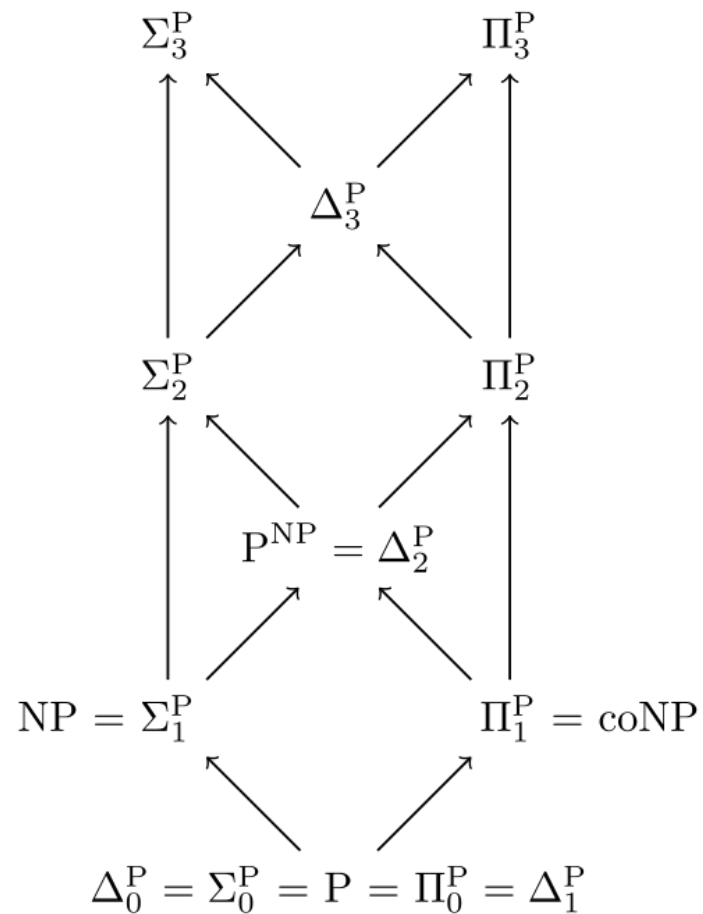
(Or every truth-tree y in $\mathbf{HS}^{\circledast}$ has no open branch.)

Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)

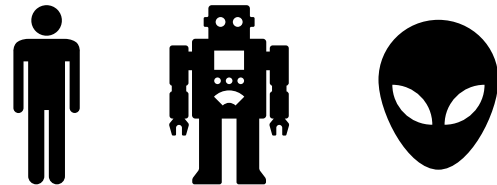


⋮

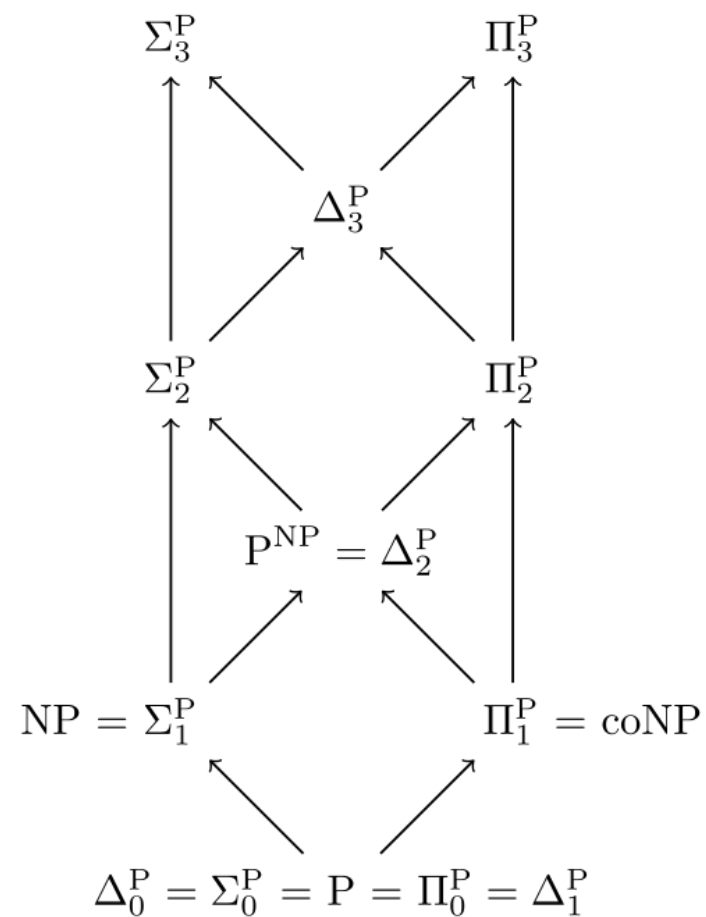


Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

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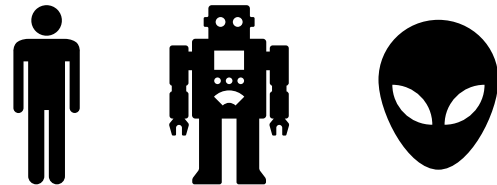
⋮



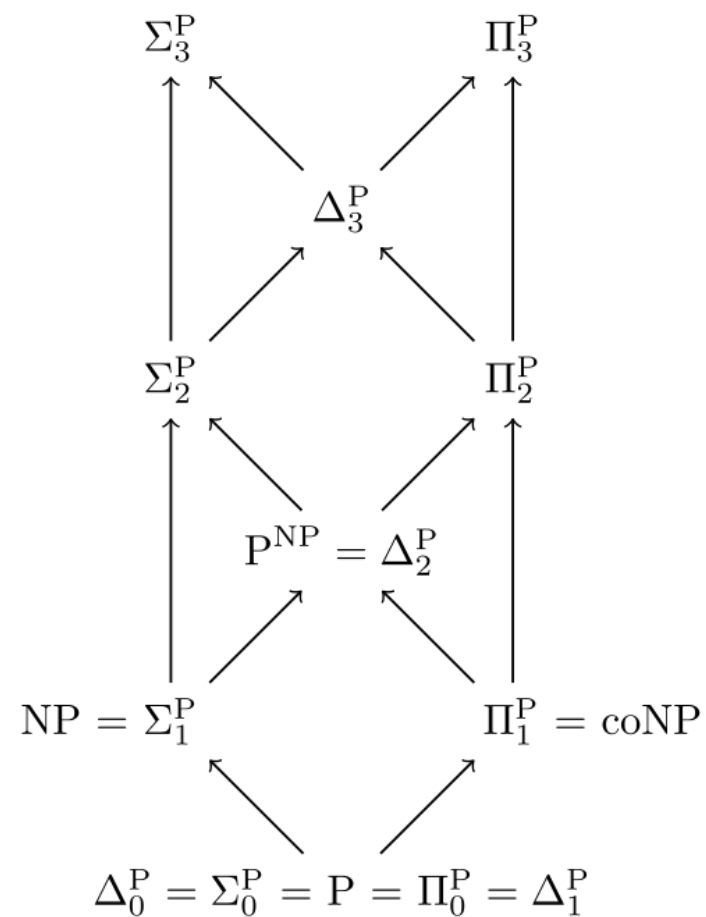
“What’s that $\Delta??$ ”

Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)



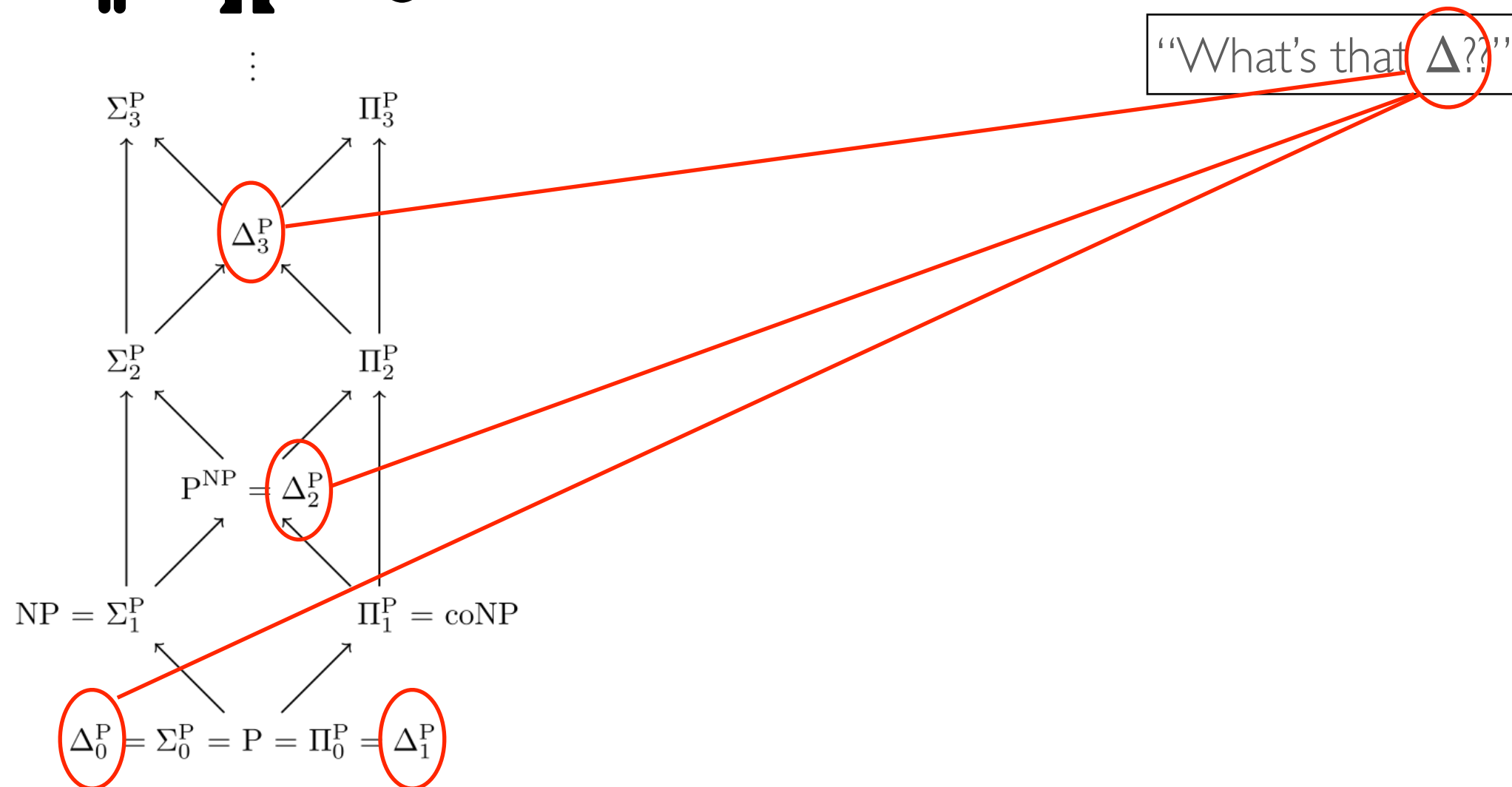
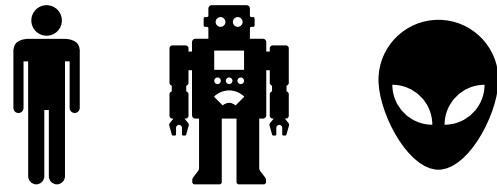
⋮



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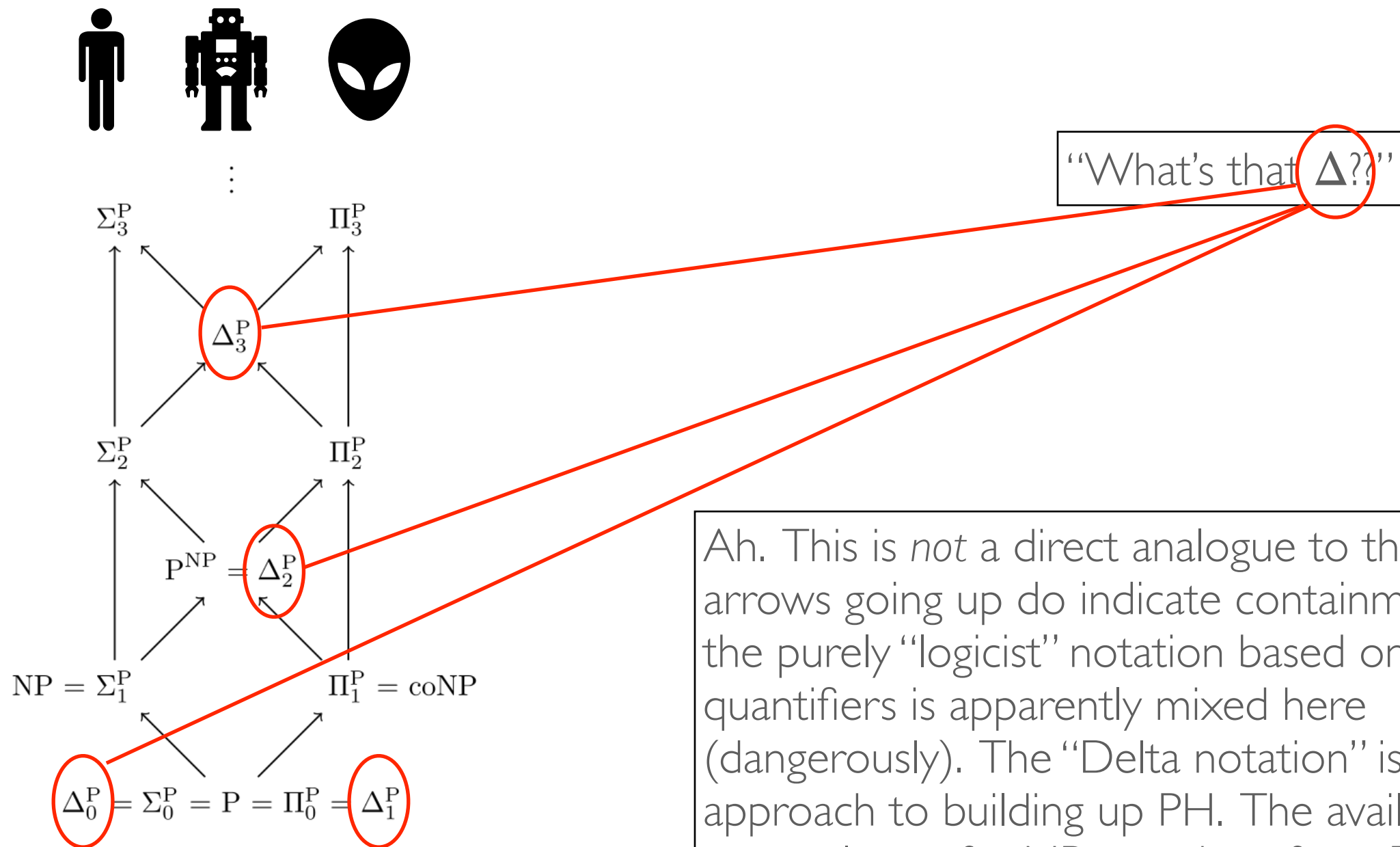
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

(via formal logic, directly; a start)



Polynomial Hierarchy, Part I

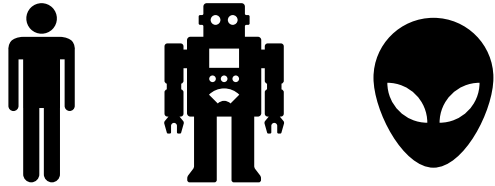
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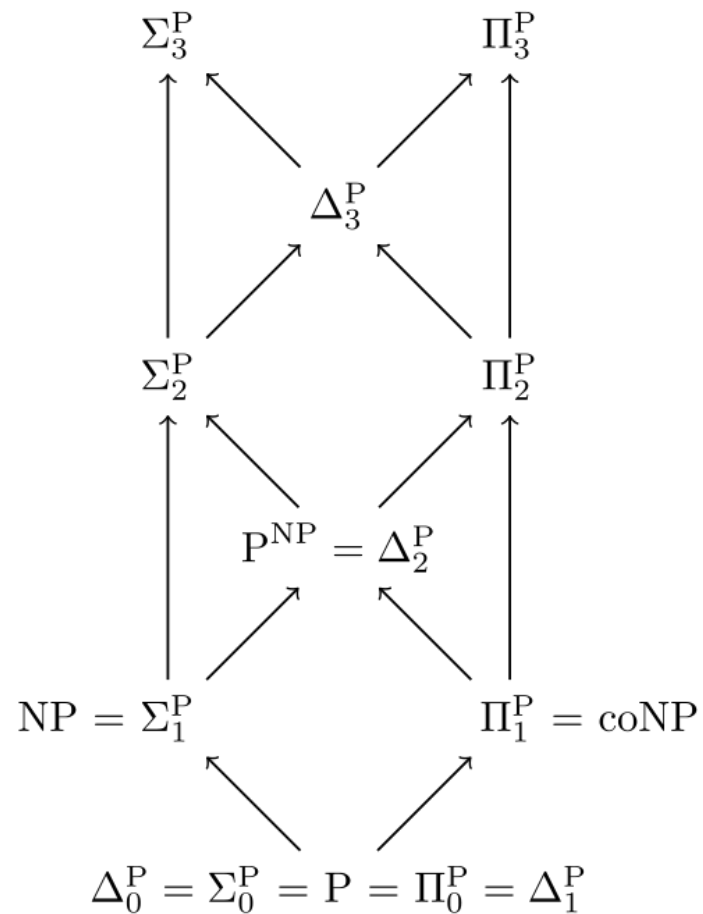
Ah. This is *not* a direct analogue to the AH. The arrows going up do indicate containment, but the purely “logician” notation based on quantifiers is apparently mixed here (dangerously). The “Delta notation” is the oracle approach to building up PH. The availability of an oracle e.g. for NP questions from P-solving machine would subsume both NP and coNP, etc.

Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)

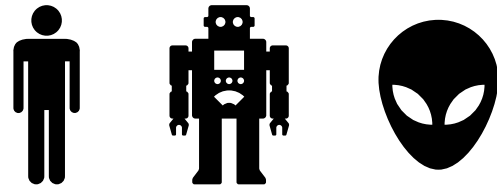


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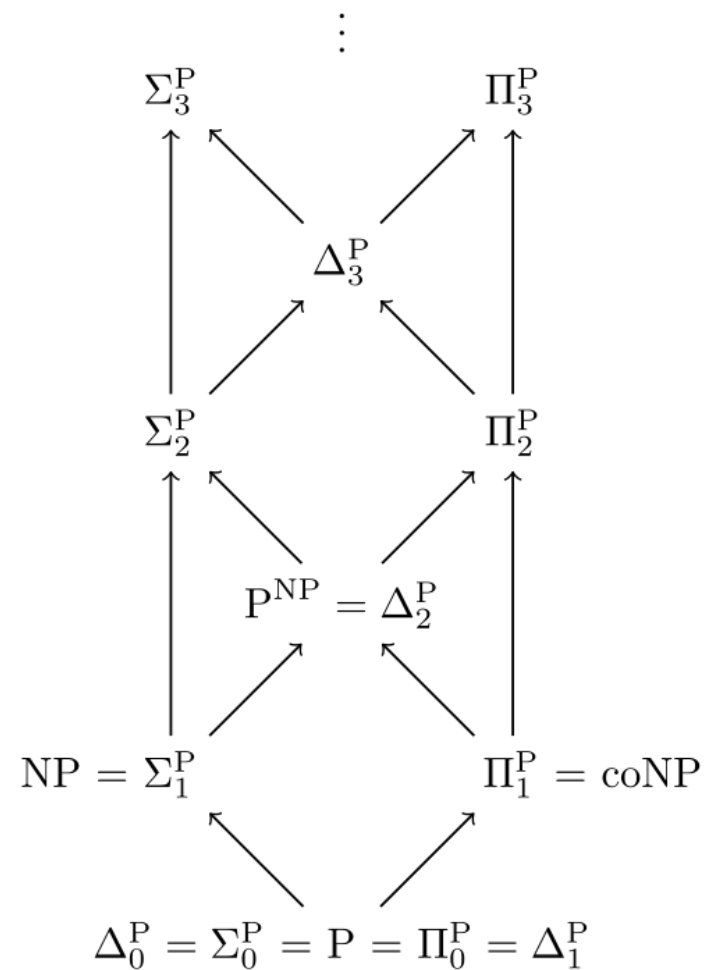


Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)

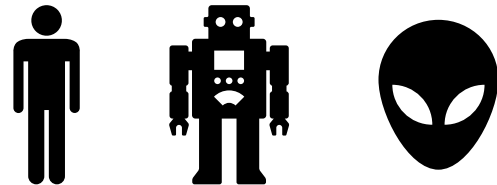


Eg:



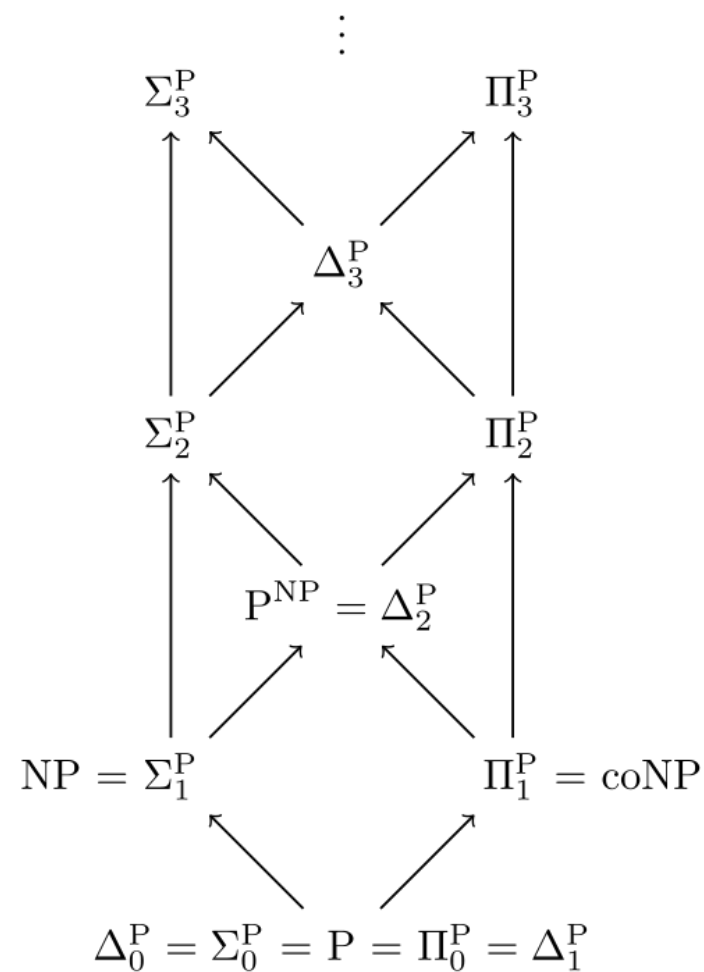
Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

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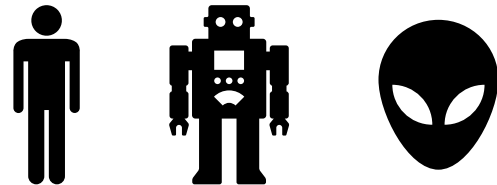
Eg:

$$\langle \phi_1, k \rangle \in L \text{ iff } \exists \phi_2 \forall \alpha KLogEquiv(\phi_1, \phi_2, |\phi_2| \leq k, \alpha(\phi_1) = \alpha(\phi_2))$$



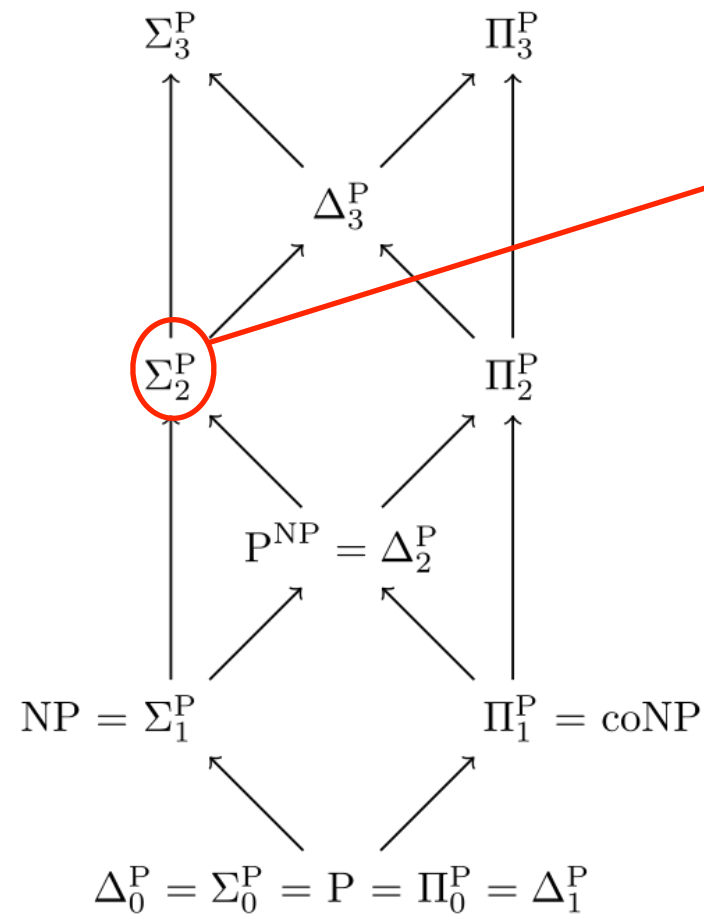
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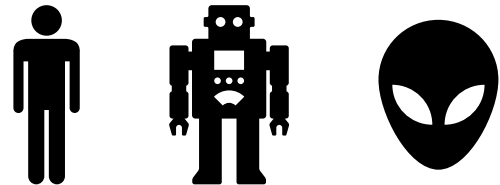
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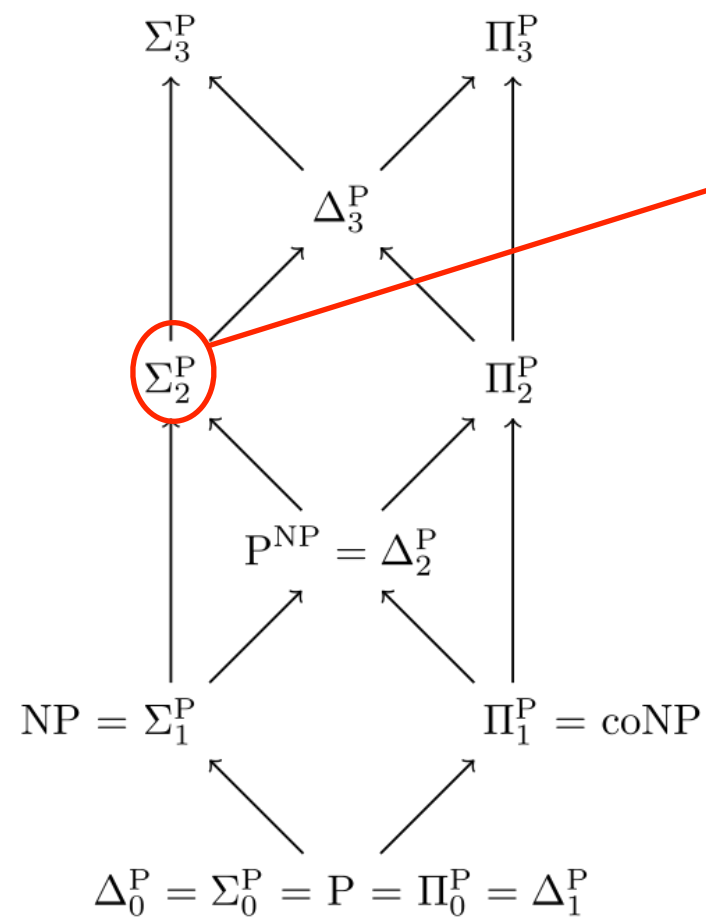


Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)



⋮



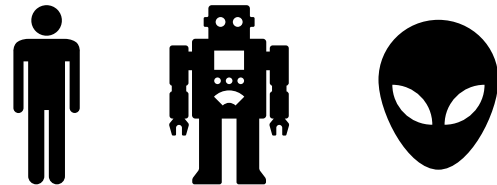
free variables

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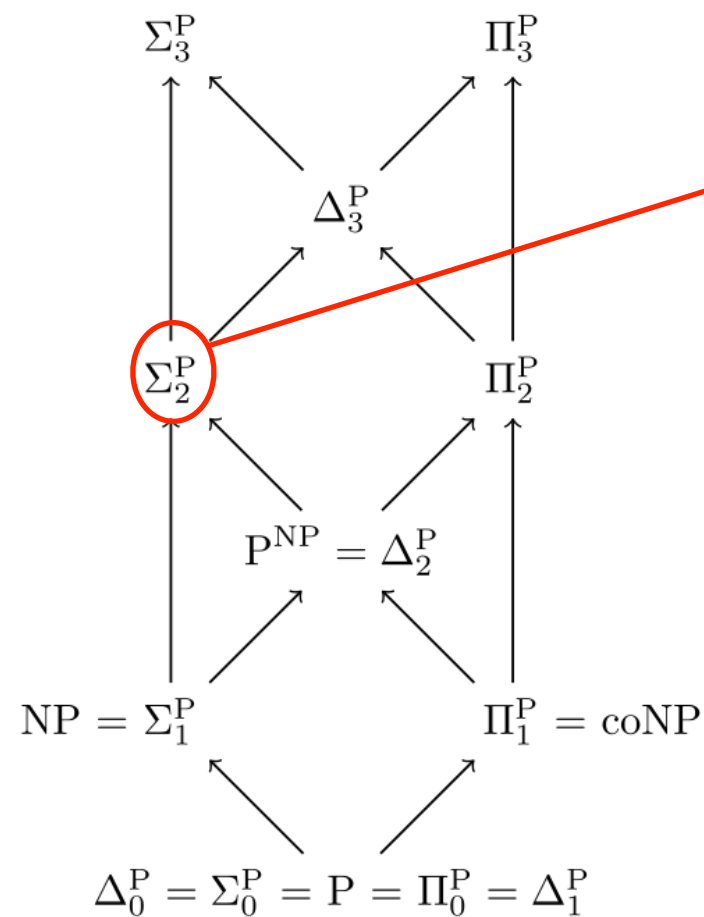
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Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)



⋮



free variables

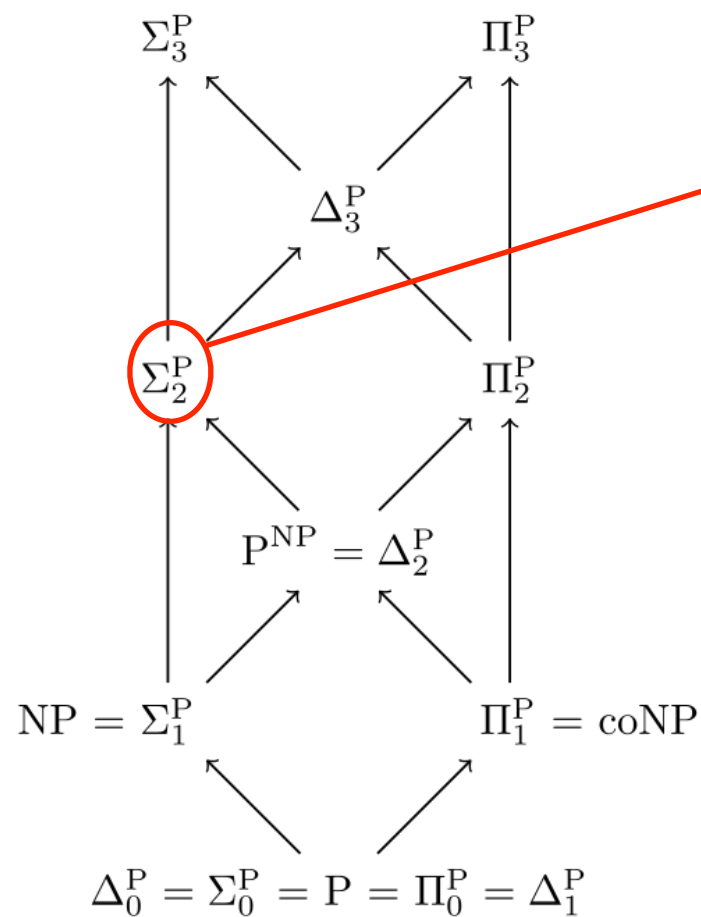
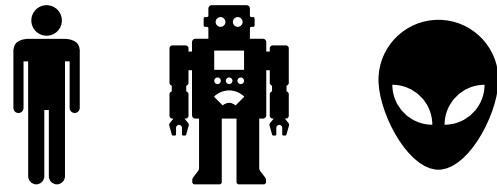
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Now we generalize:

Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)



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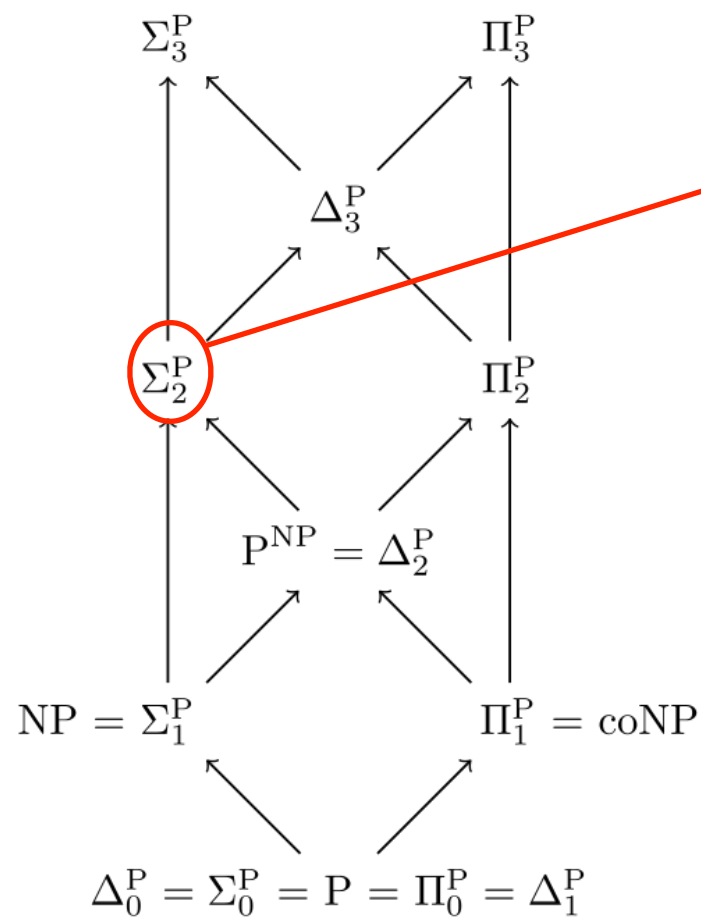
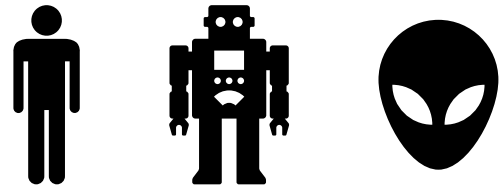
Now we generalize:

$$x \in \Sigma_i \text{ iff } \exists R \exists y_1 \forall y_2 \cdots Q_i y_i R(x, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_i)$$

($Q_i = \forall$ if i even; $Q_i = \exists$ if i odd)

Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)



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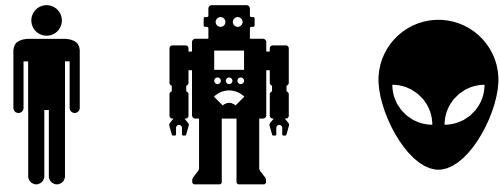
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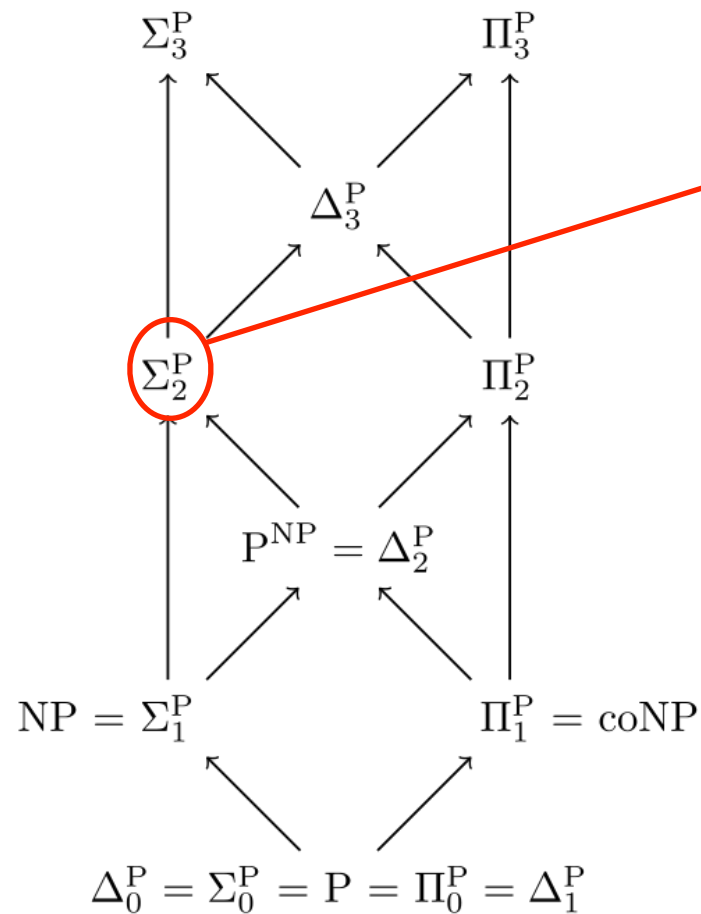
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Polynomial Hierarchy, Part II

(via formal logic, directly)



⋮




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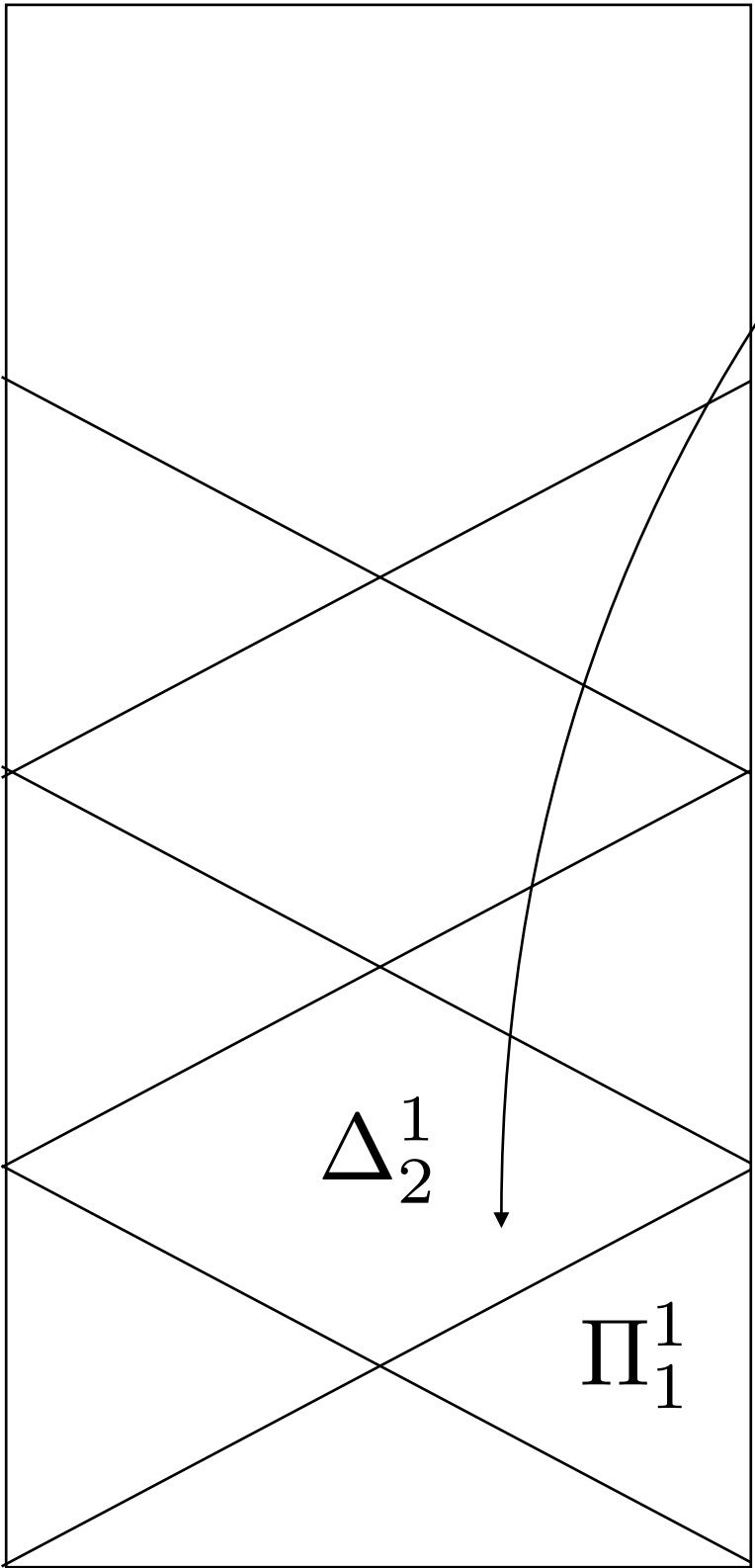
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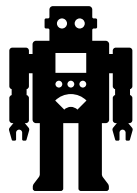
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$\mathcal{LM}$

$\mathcal{A}^n\mathcal{H}$ (Analytic Hierarchy)



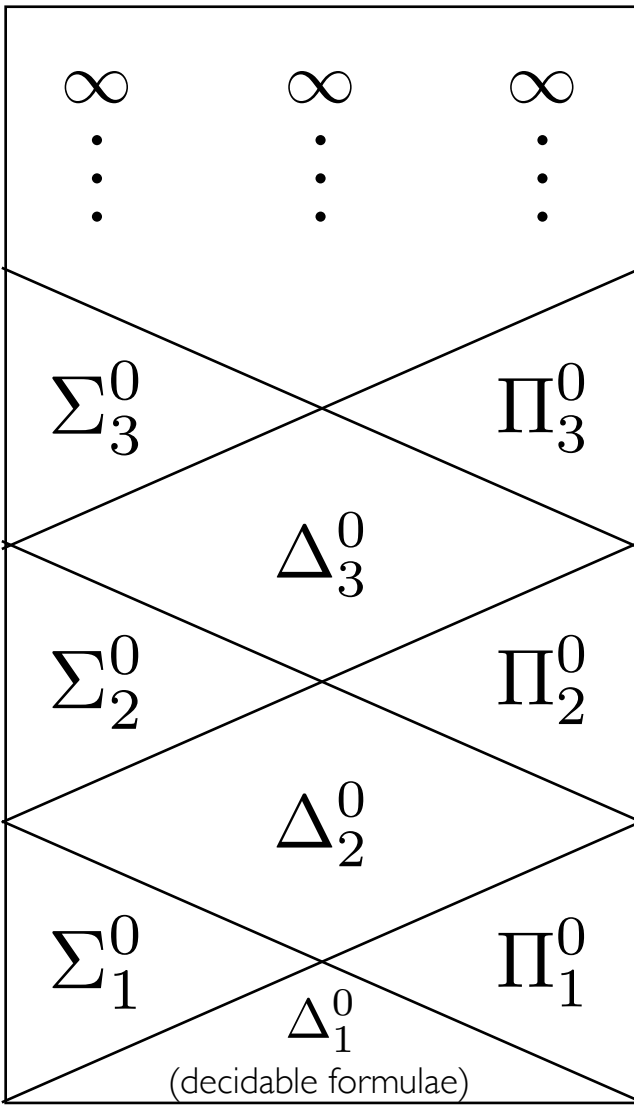
CogSci and AI need to say more about where AI falls/can fall in the landscape.



Infinite Time Turing Machines (ITTTMs)

Human Persons
(according to Bringsjord)

$\mathcal{A}^r\mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



Human Brains
(according to Granger)



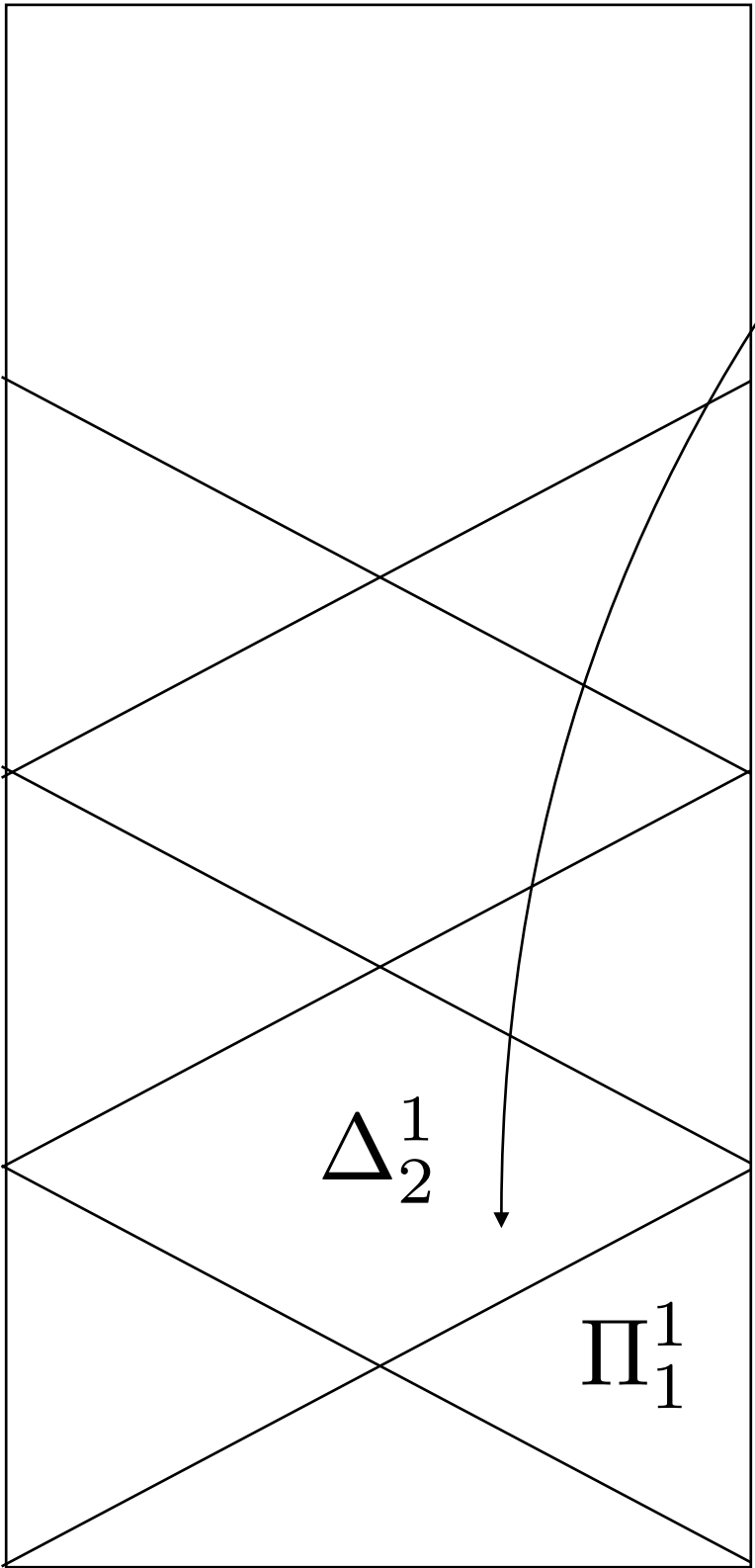
$\mathcal{CH}$ (Chomsky Hierarchy)

Turing Machines (TMs)
Linear Bounded Automata (LBAs)
Push Down Automata (PDAs)
Finite State Automata (FSAs)

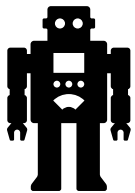


$\mathcal{LH}$

$\mathcal{A}^n \mathcal{H}$ (Analytic Hierarchy)



CogSci and AI need to say more about where AI falls/can fall in the landscape.

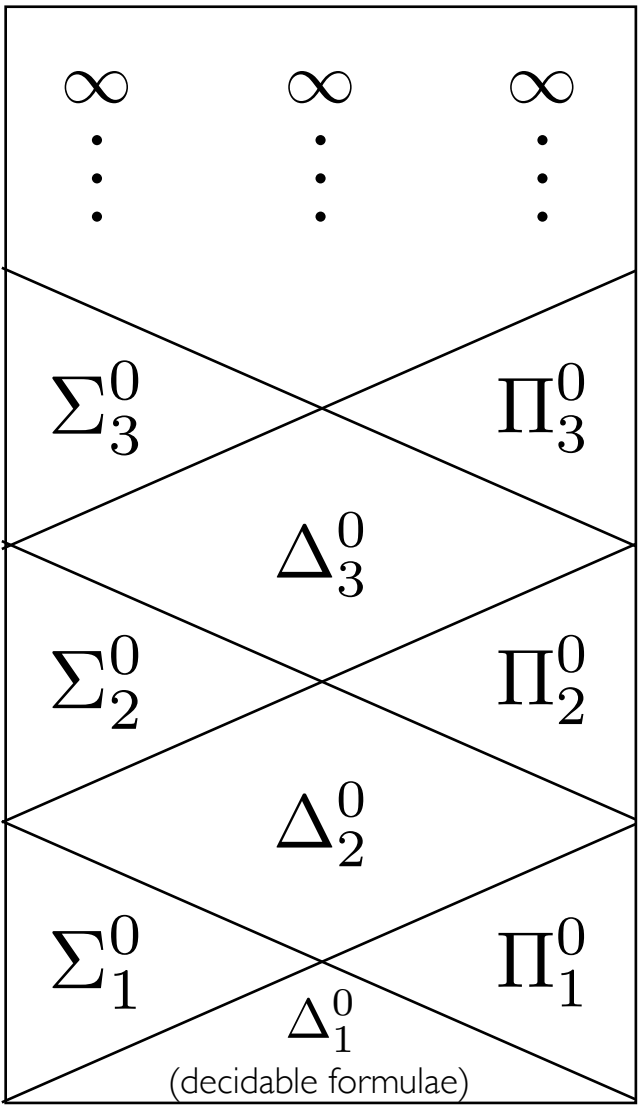


Infinite Time Turing Machines (ITTMs)

Human Persons
(according to Bringsjord)

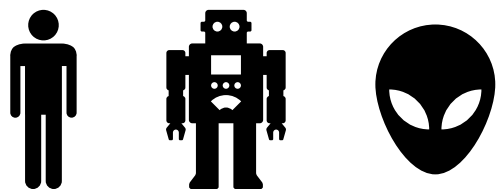
Human Brains
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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



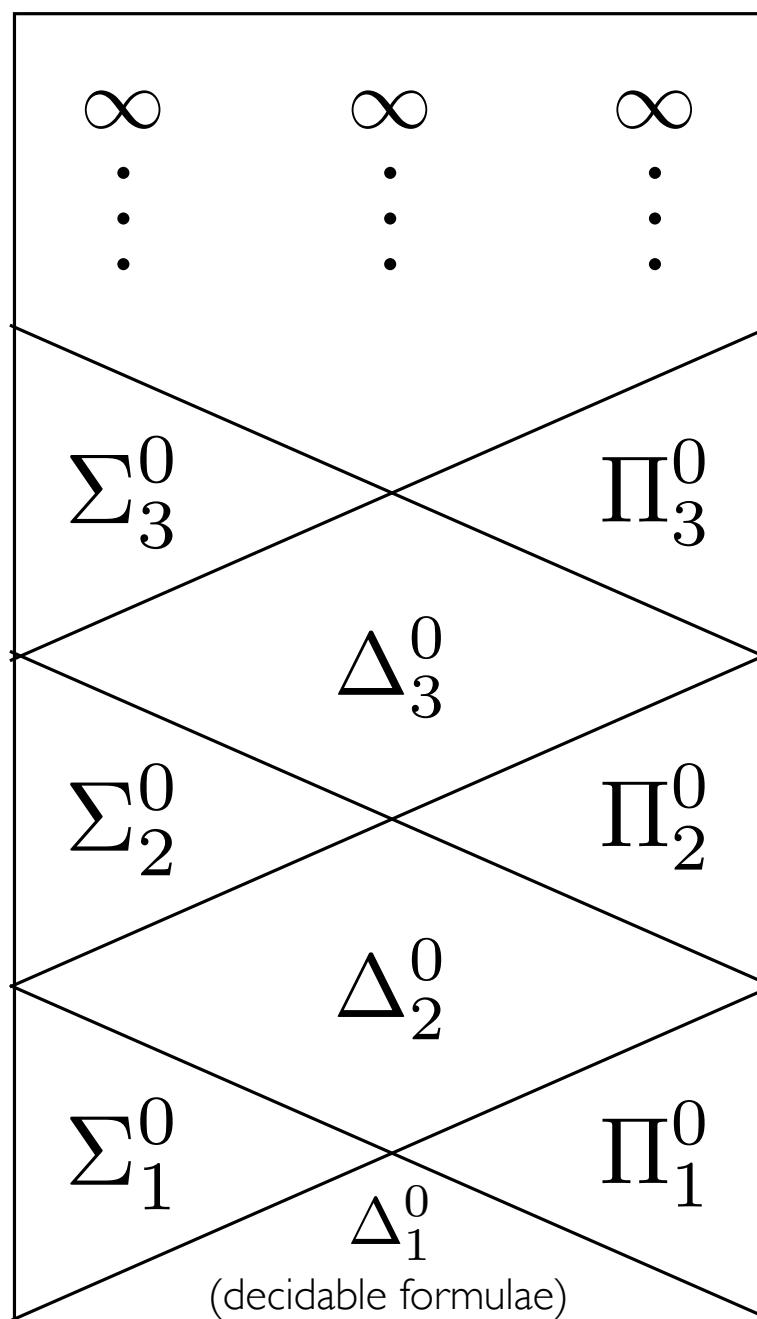
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Turing Machines (TMs)
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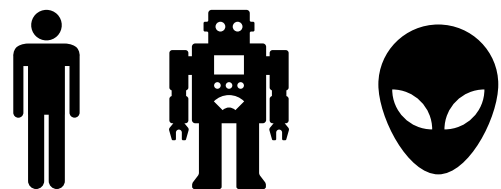
$$\mathbf{2SAMEFUNC} := \{\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2 : \forall u \forall v [\exists k (\langle \mathbf{m}_1, u \rangle : v, k \leftrightarrow \exists k' (\langle \mathbf{m}_2, u \rangle : v, k'))]\}$$

$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



$$\Delta_1^0 = \Sigma_1^0 \cap \Pi_1^0$$

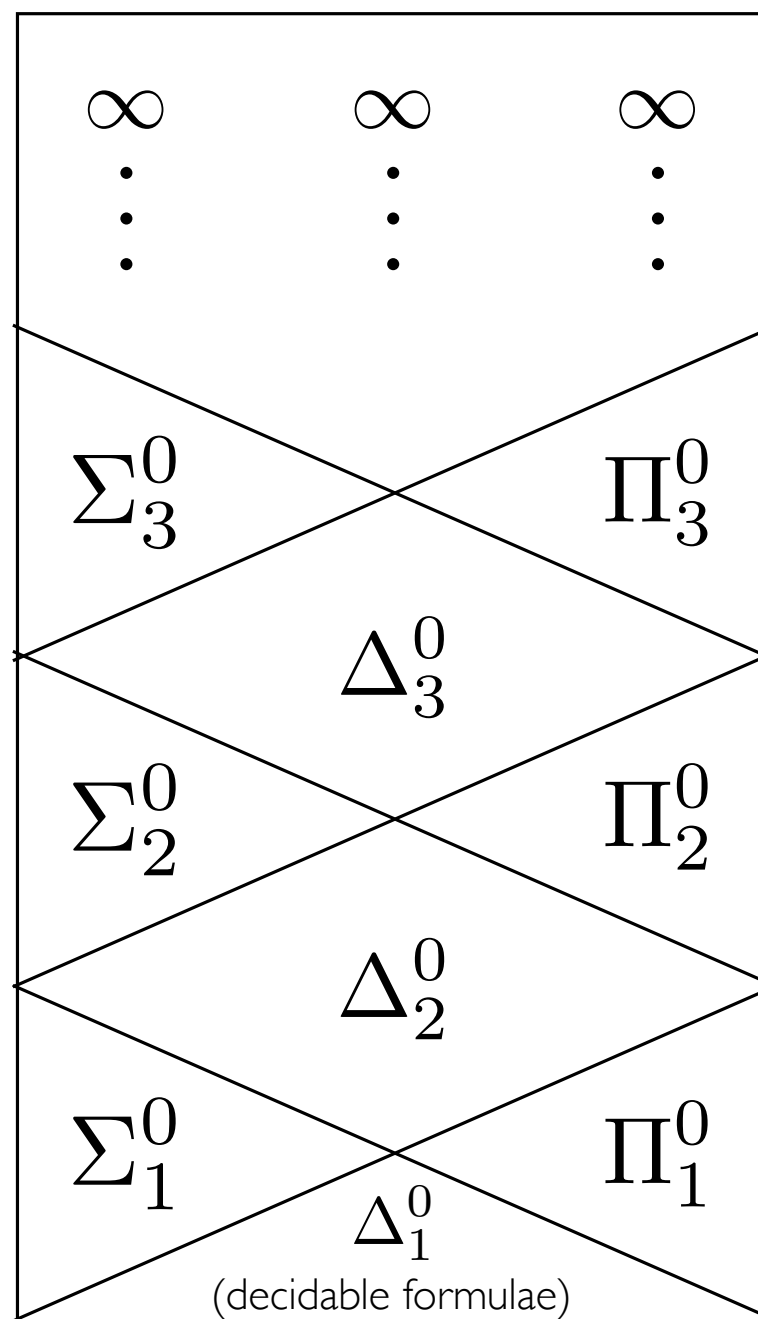
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



Can you see the carryover from PH?

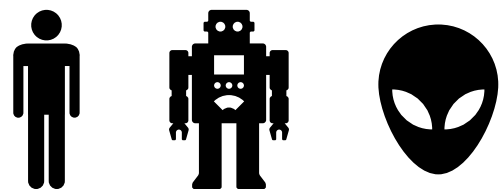
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$\mathcal{A}^r\mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



$$\Delta^0_1 = \Sigma^0_1 \cap \Pi^0_1$$

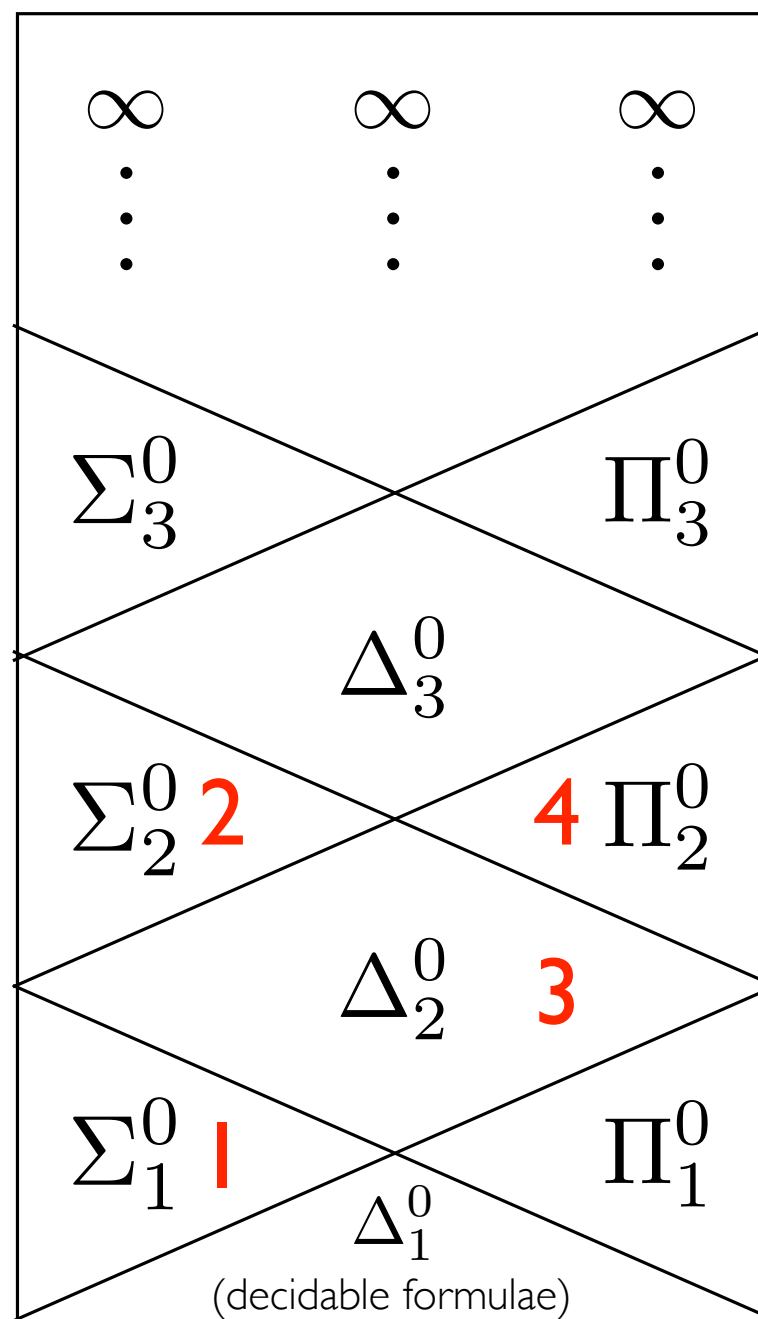
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



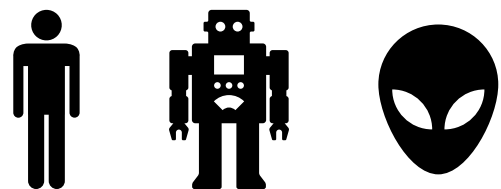
Let R be a Turing-decidable (= decidable, *simpliciter*) dyadic relation. Where is the set:
 $\{x : \exists y R(x, y)\}$,

1 2 3 or 4?

semi-decidable

$$\Delta_1^0 = \Sigma_1^0 \cap \Pi_1^0$$

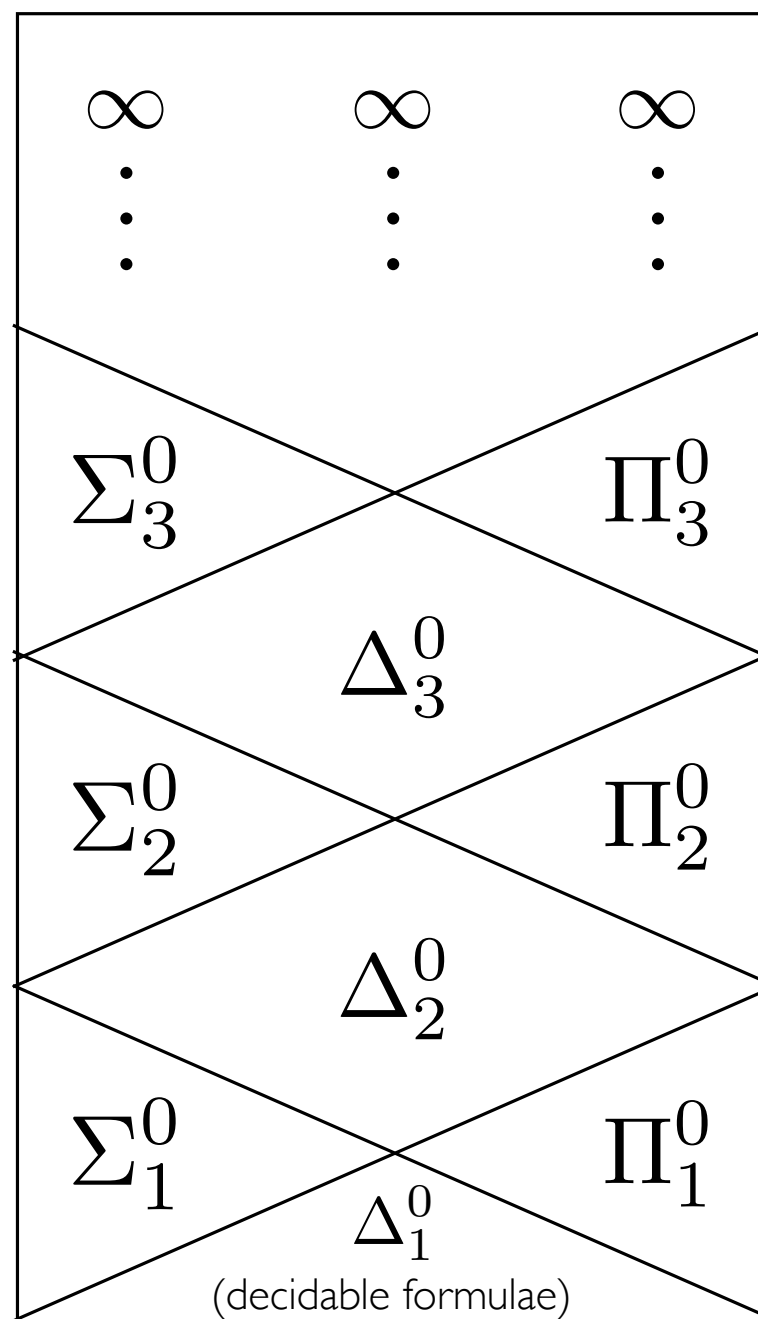
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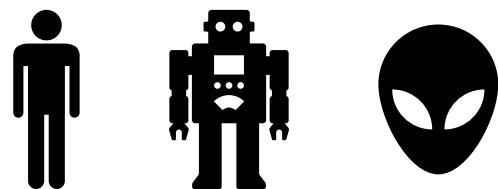
$\mathcal{A}^r\mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



semi-decidable

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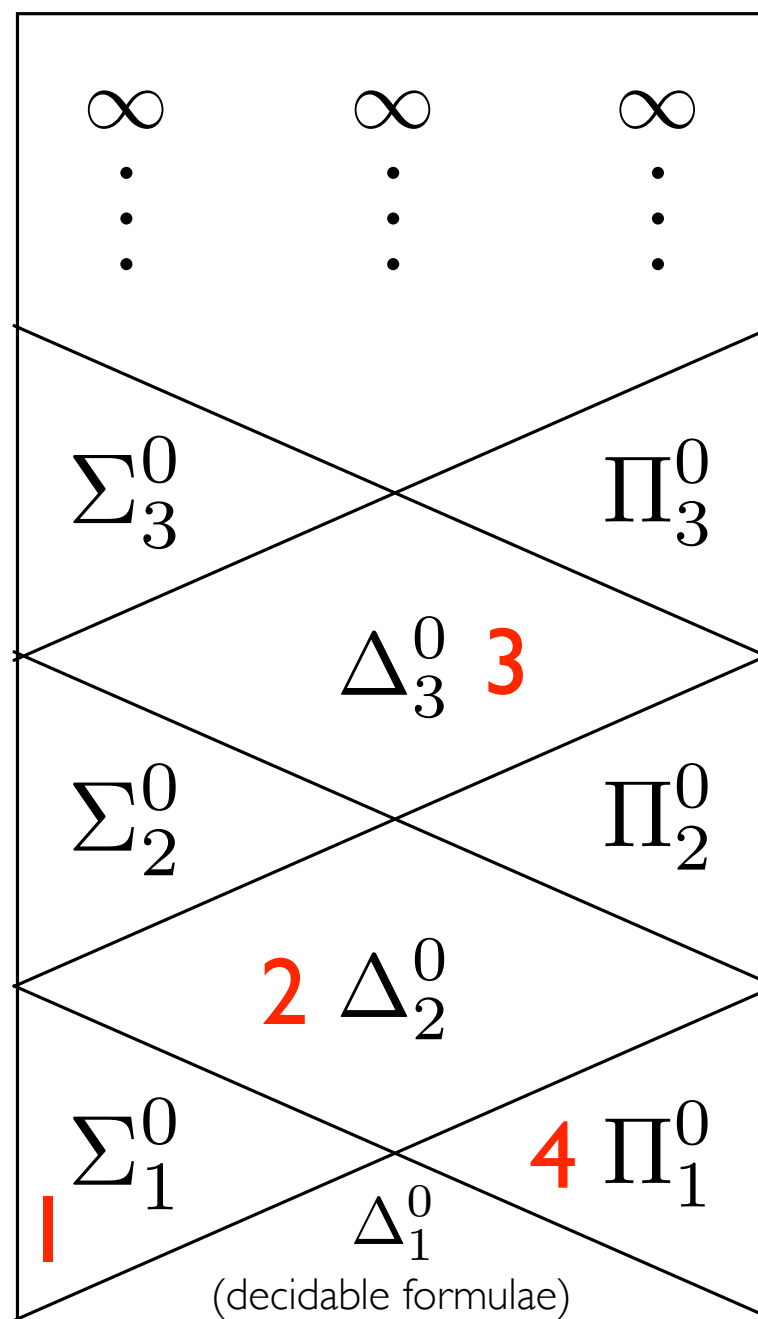
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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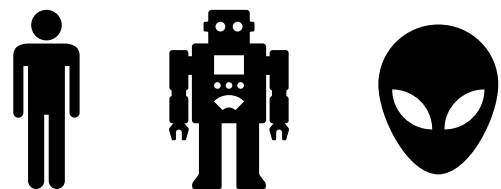
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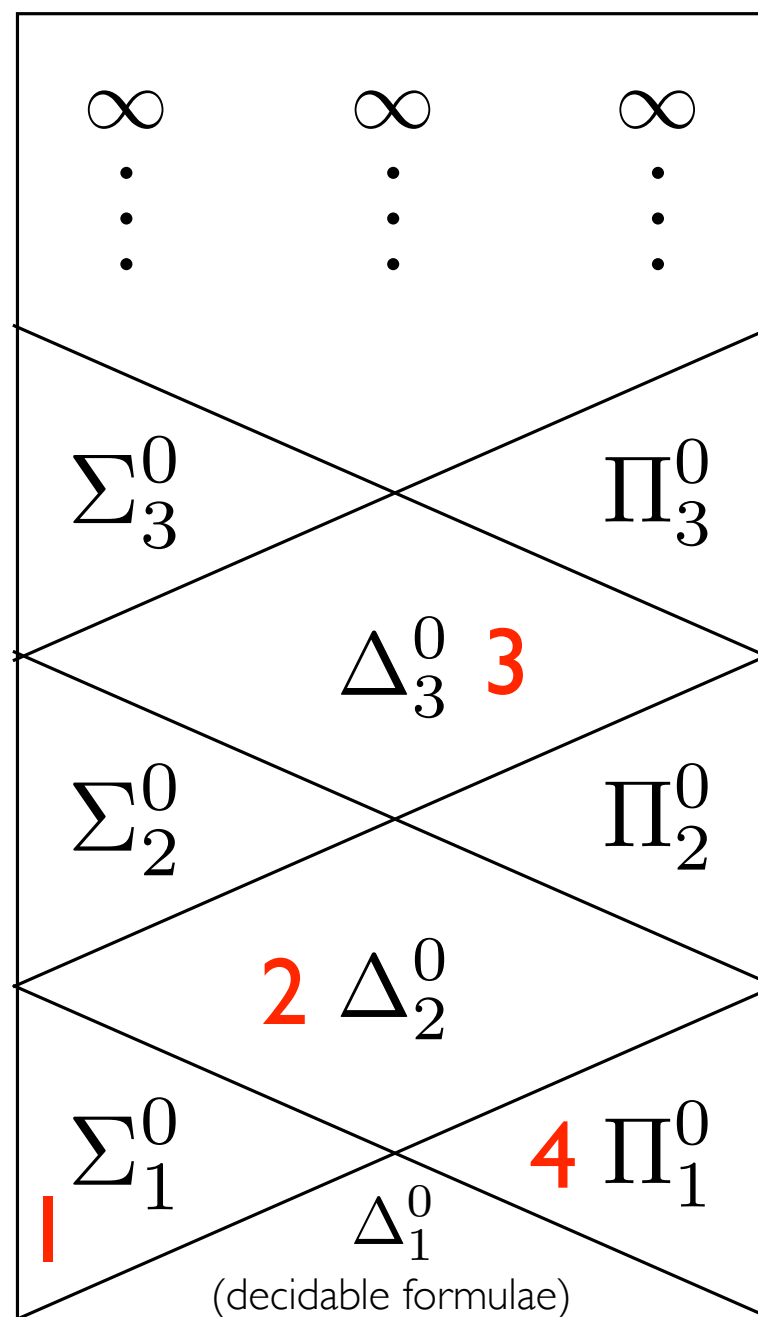
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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



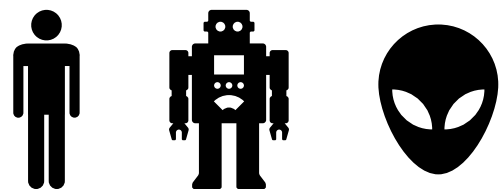
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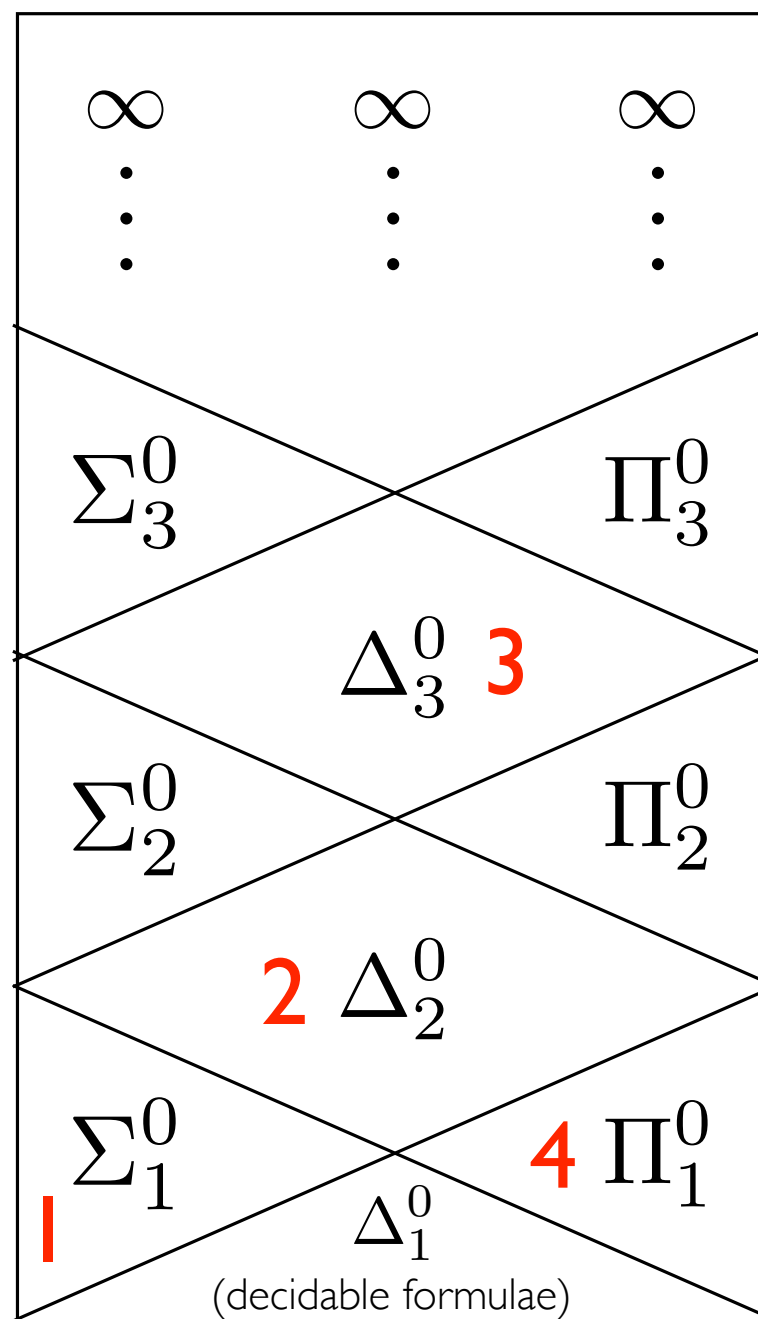
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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$\mathcal{A}^r\mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



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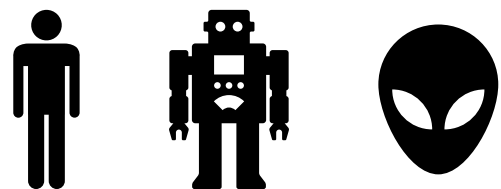
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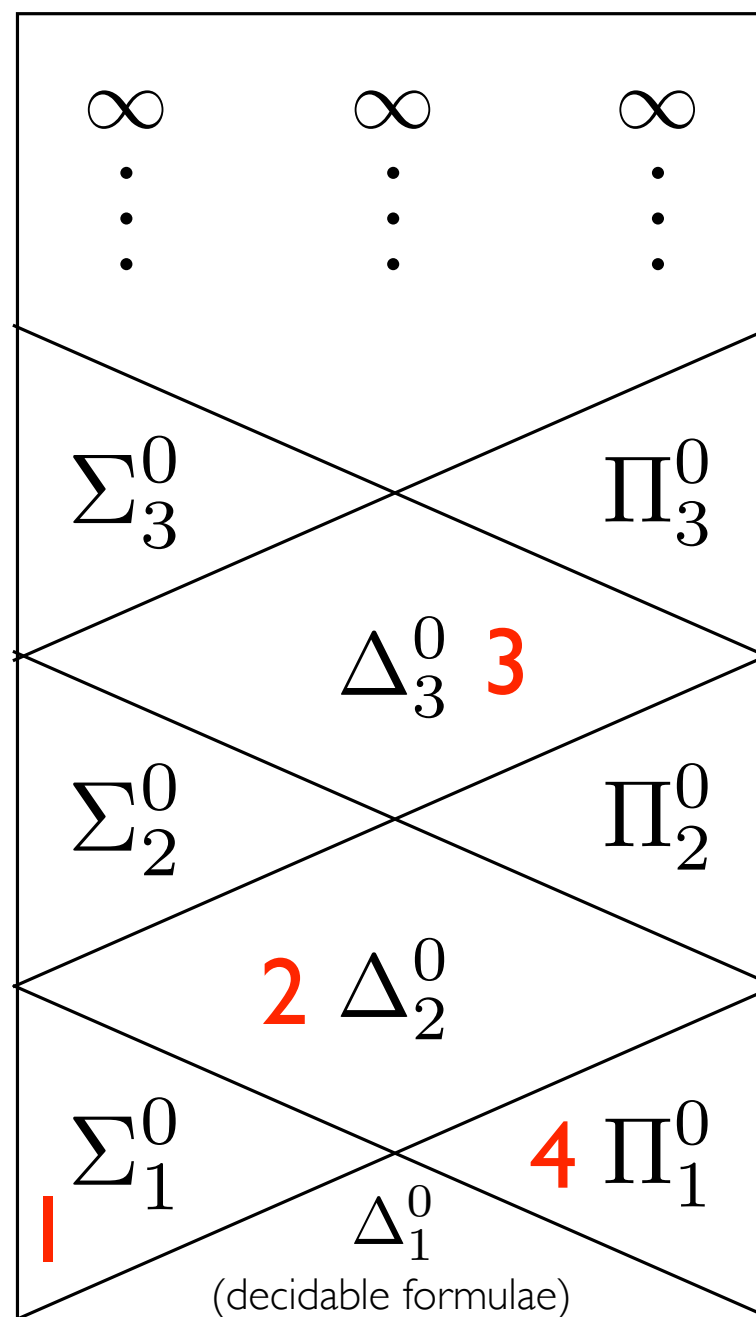
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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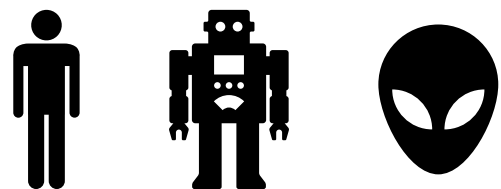
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Try your hand at classifying! ...

semi-decidable

$$\Delta_1^0 = \Sigma_1^0 \cap \Pi_1^0$$

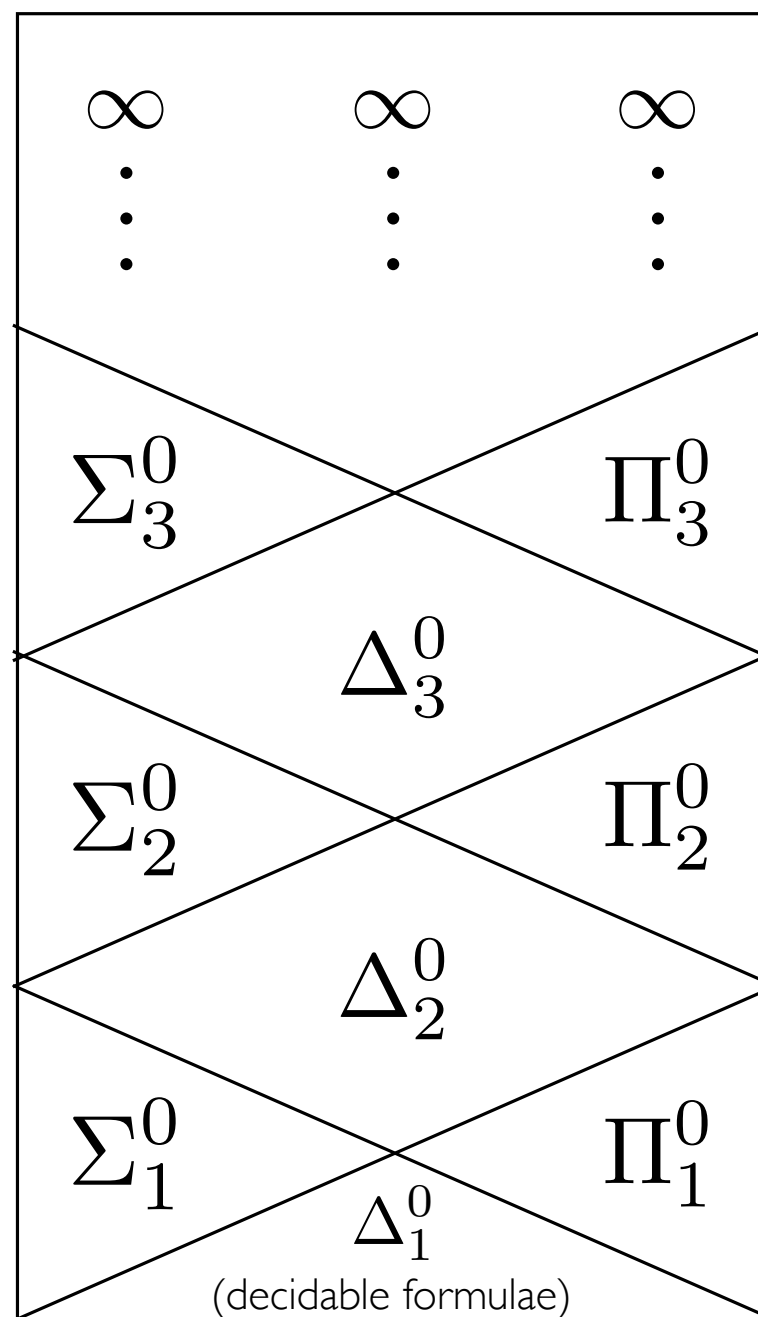
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



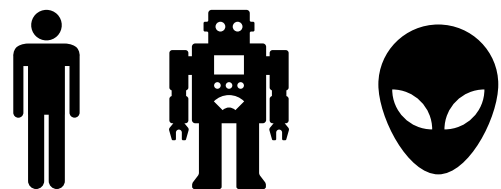
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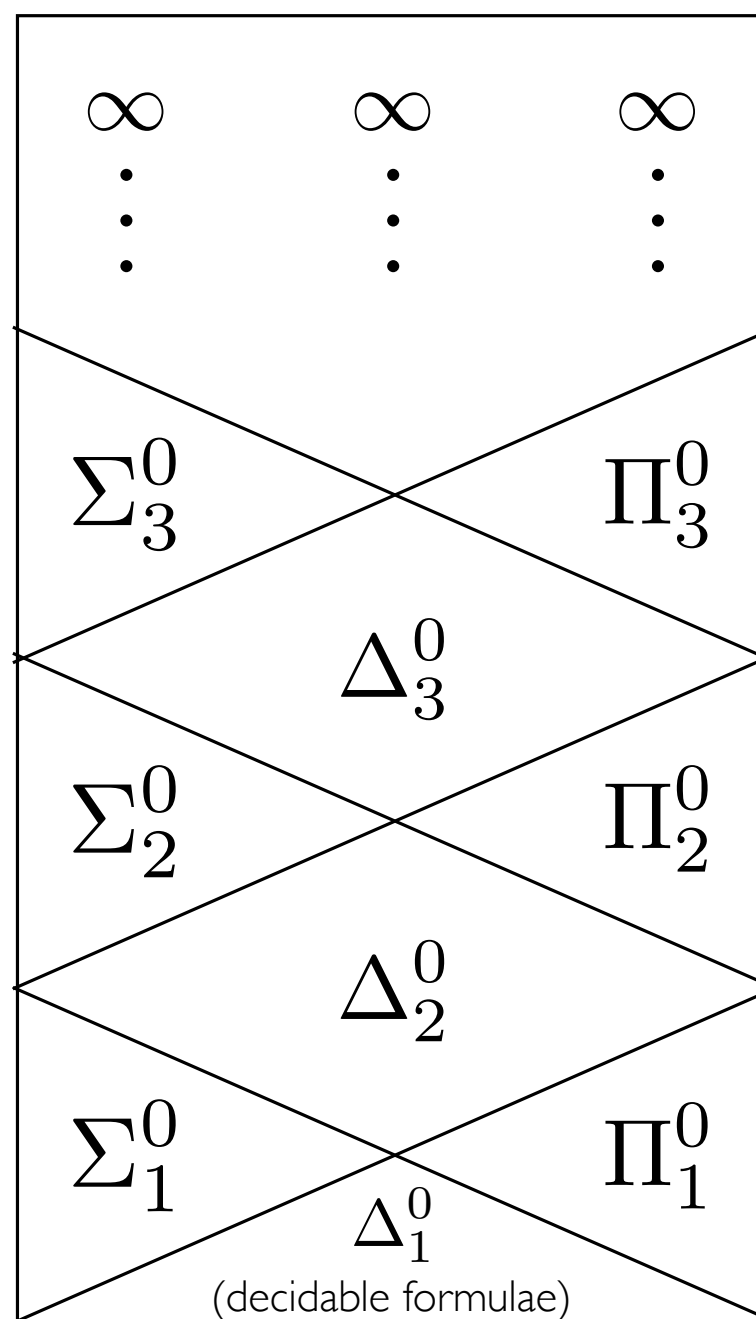
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



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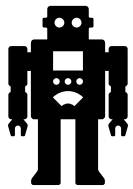
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Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I

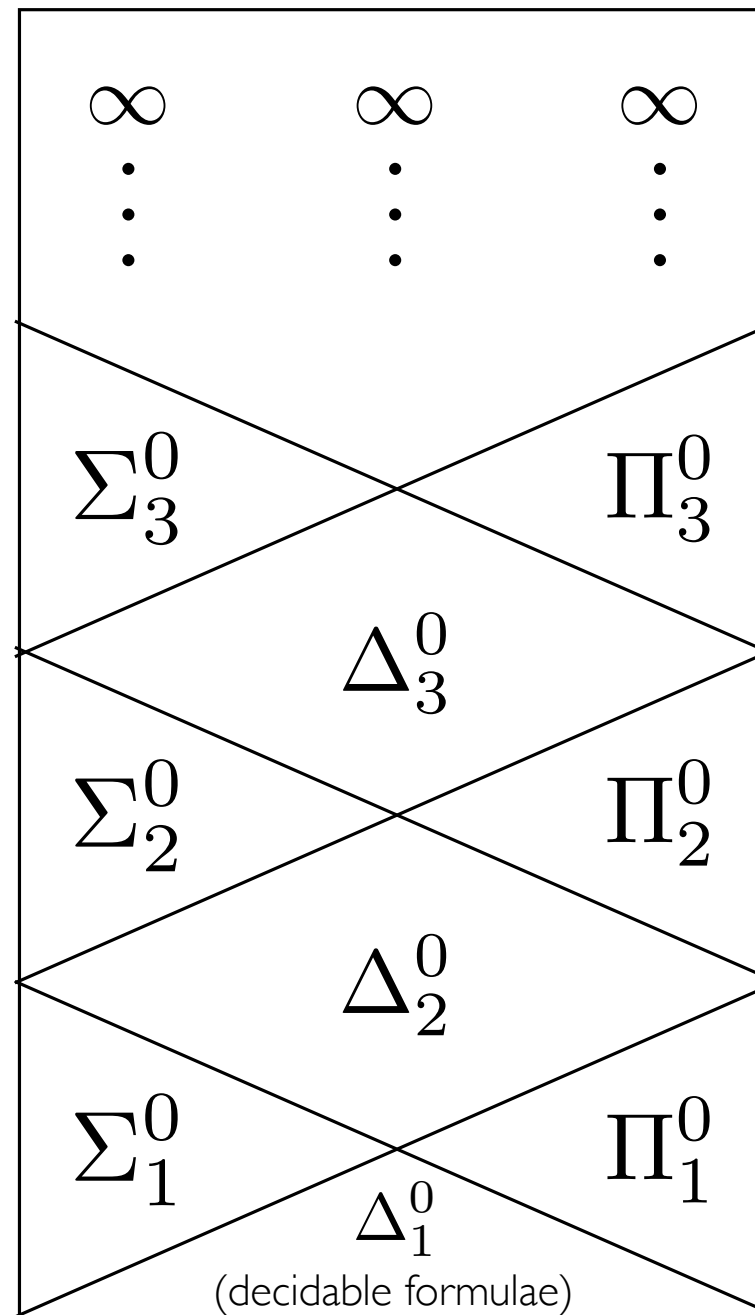




$$\mathbf{2SAMPFUNC} := \{ \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2 : \forall u \forall v [\exists k (\langle \mathbf{m}_1, u \rangle : v, k \leftrightarrow \exists k' (\langle \mathbf{m}_2, u \rangle : v, k'))] \}$$

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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



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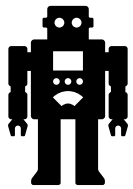
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semi-decidable

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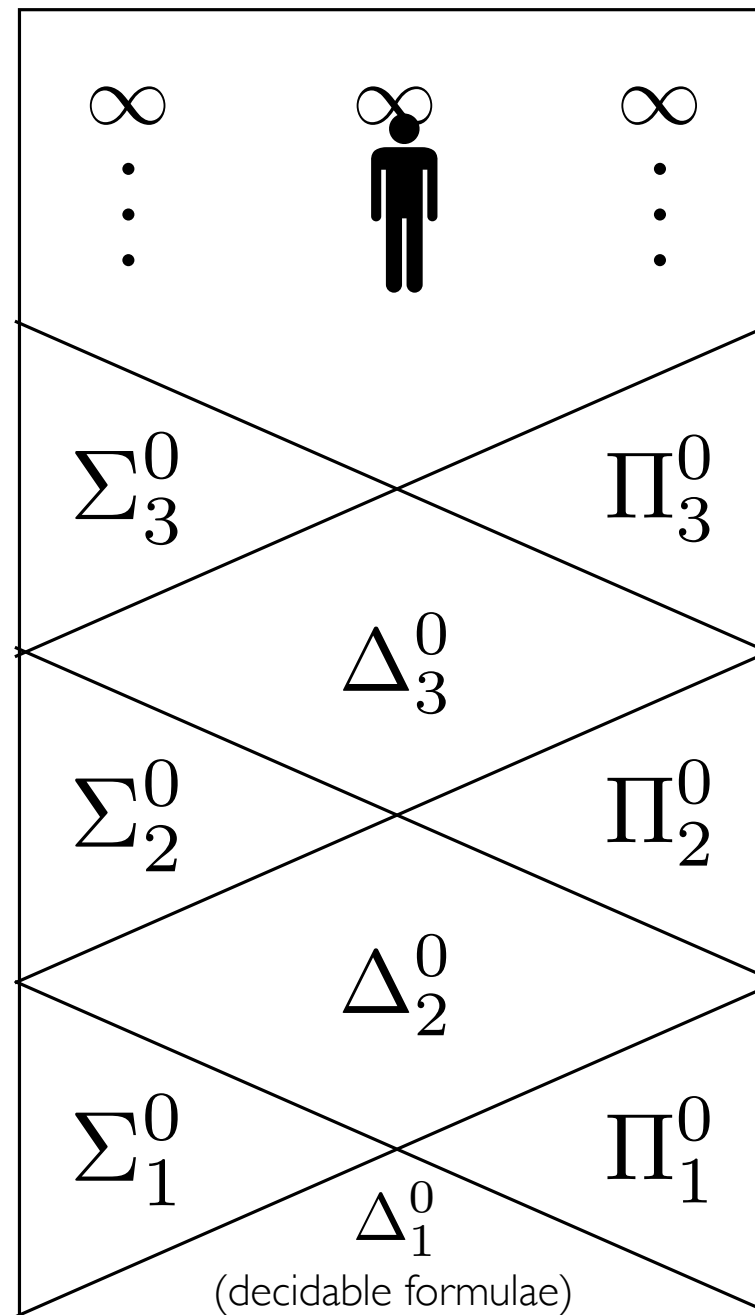
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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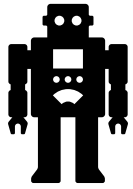
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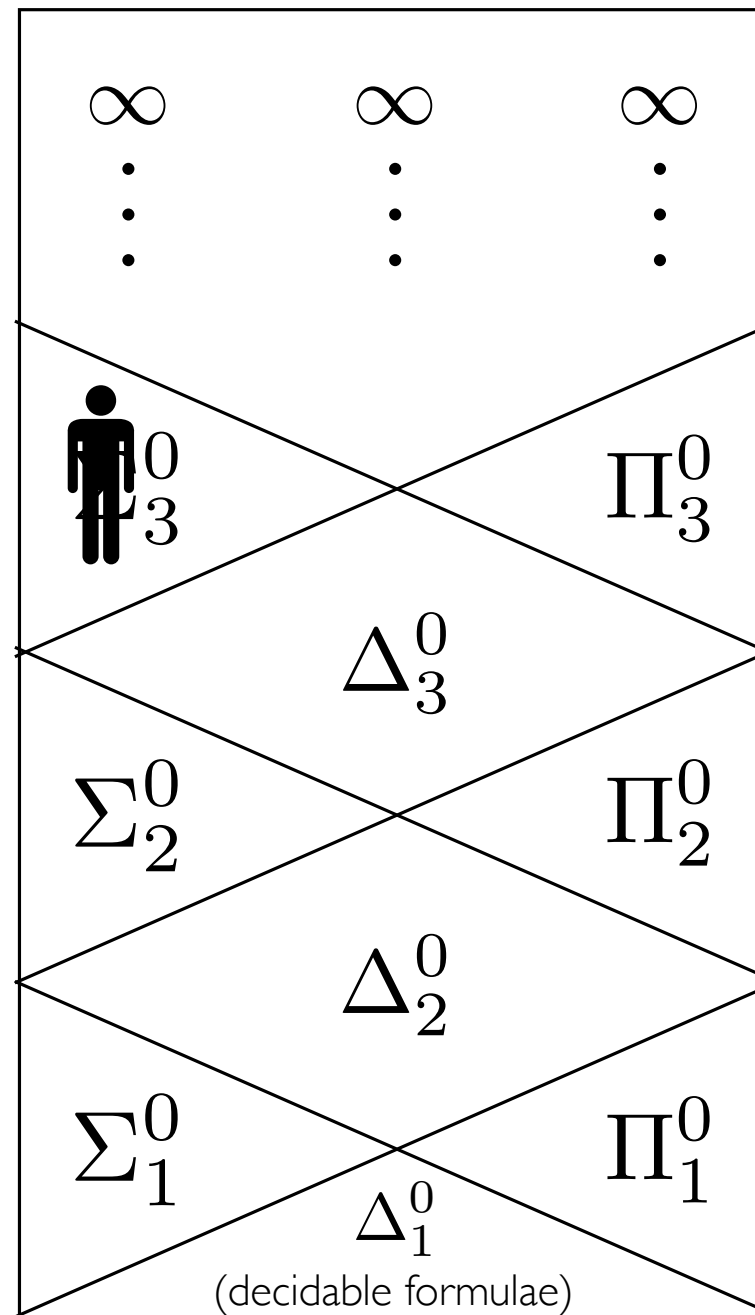
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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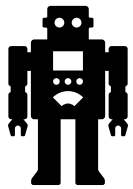
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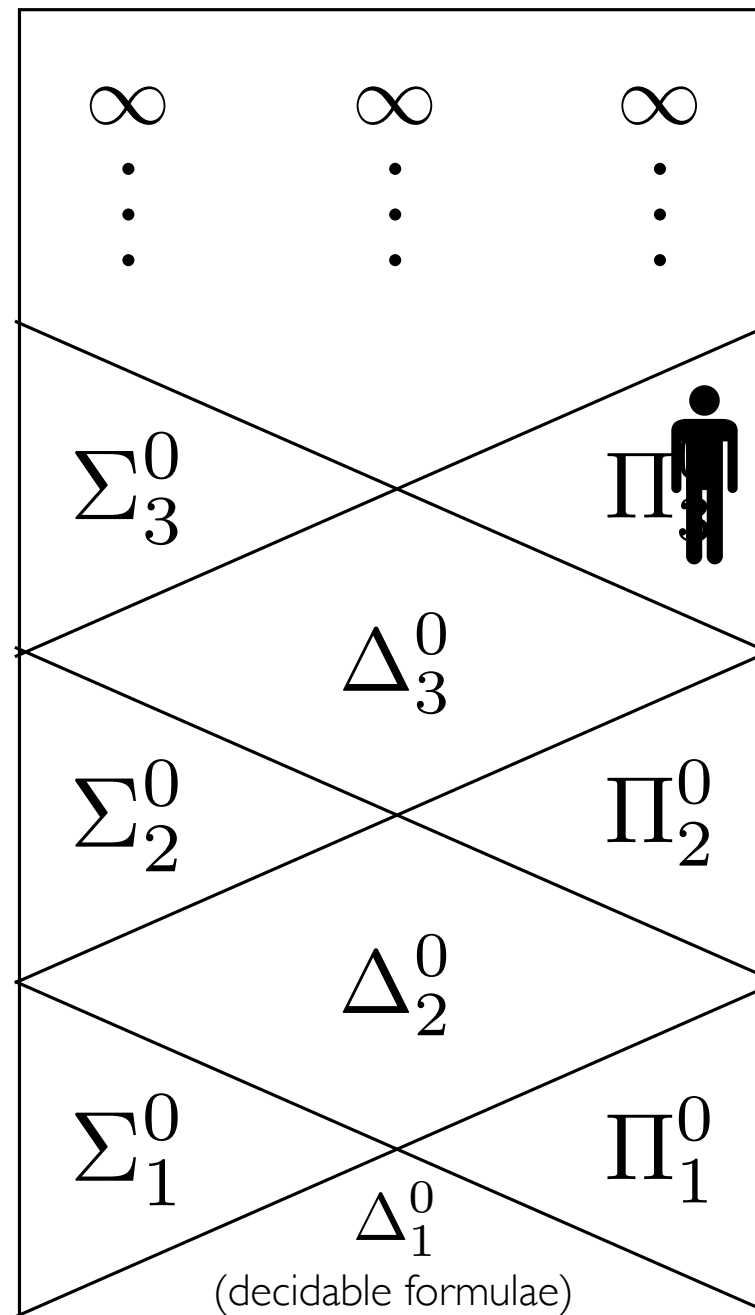
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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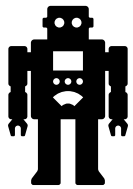
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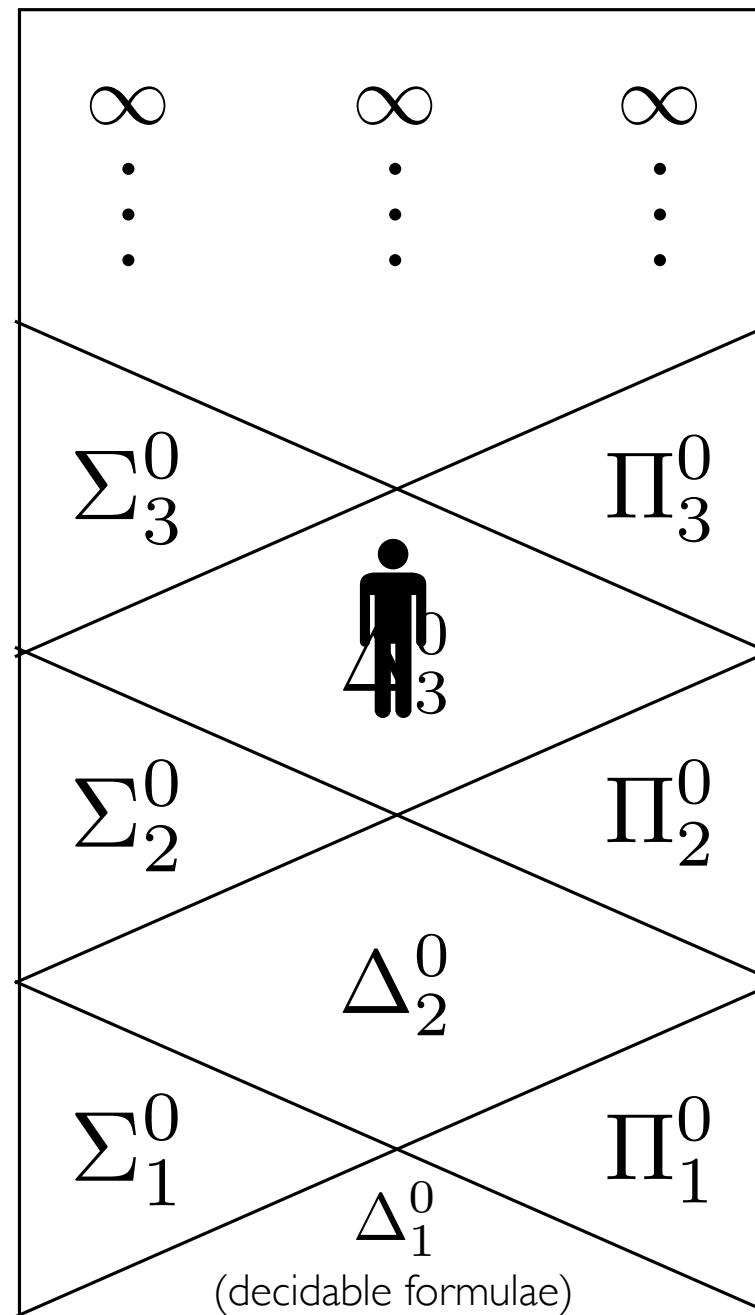
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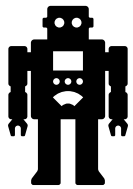
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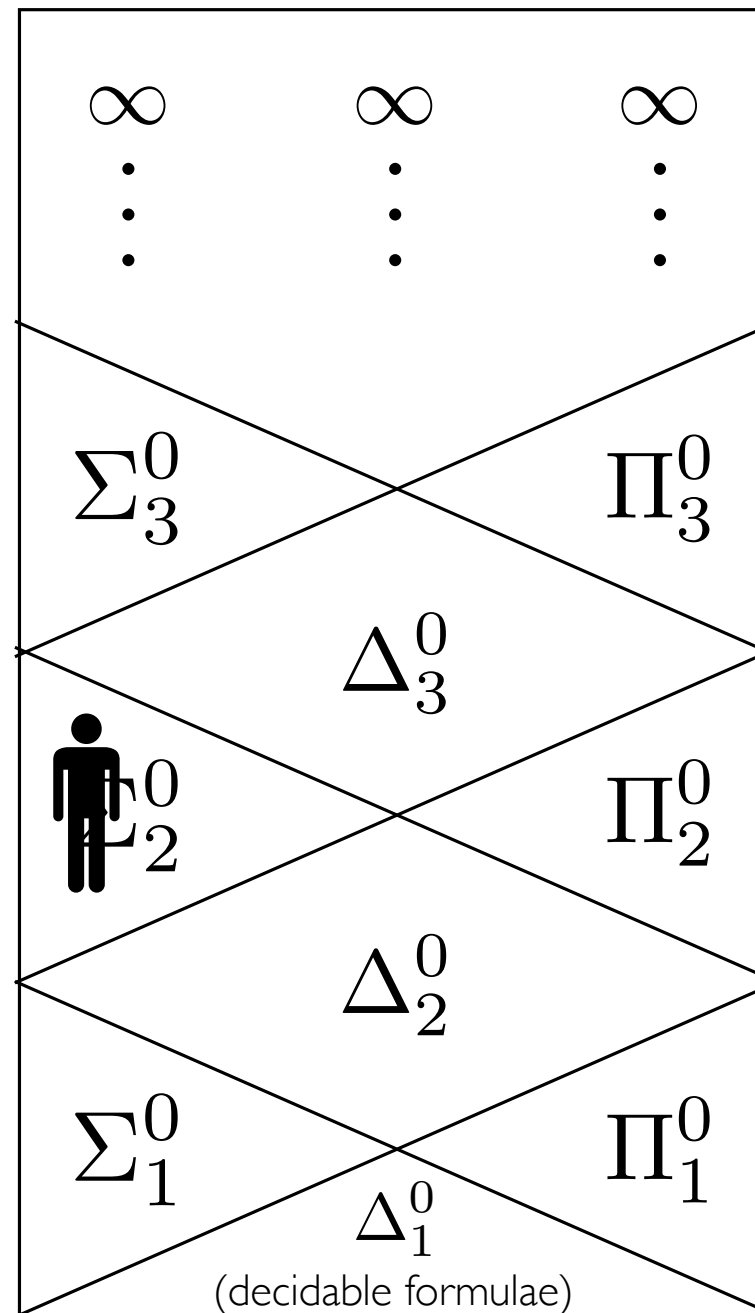
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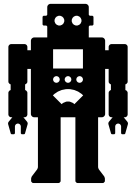
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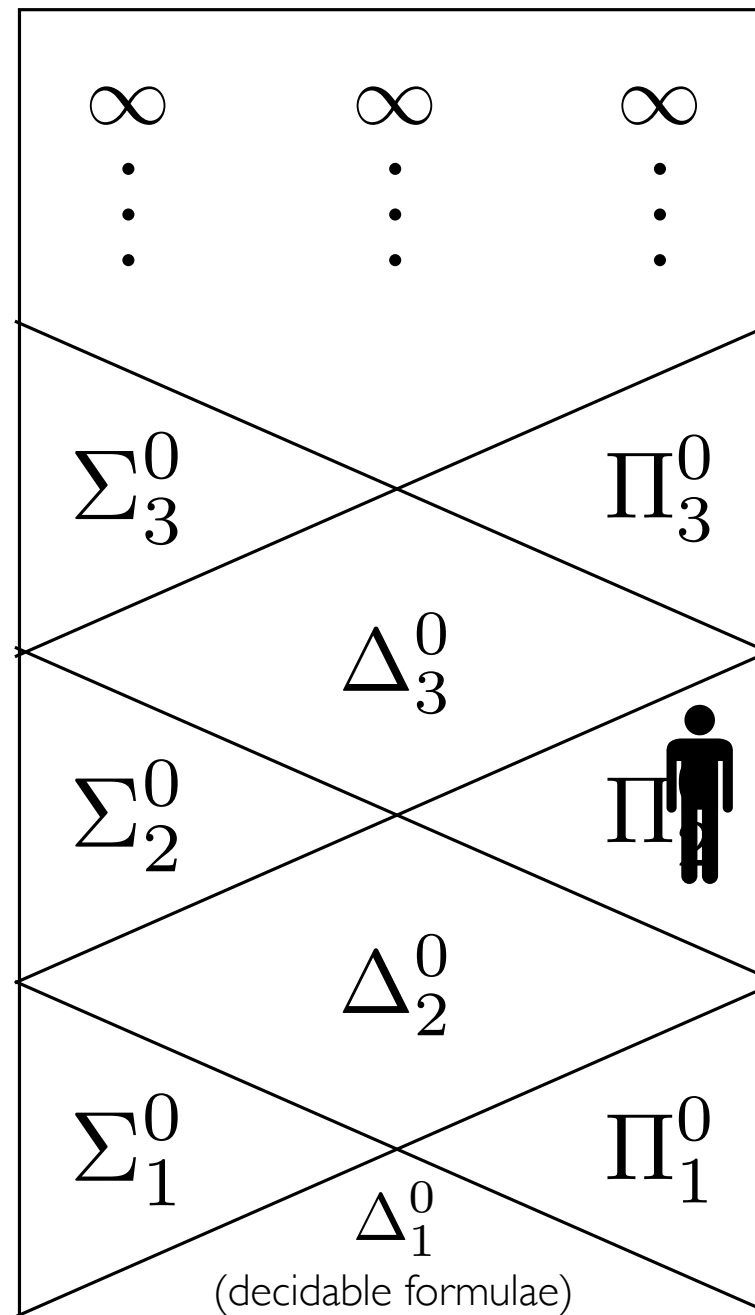
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$\mathcal{A}^r \mathcal{H}$ (Arithmetic Hierarchy)



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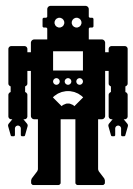
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Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I

semi-decidable

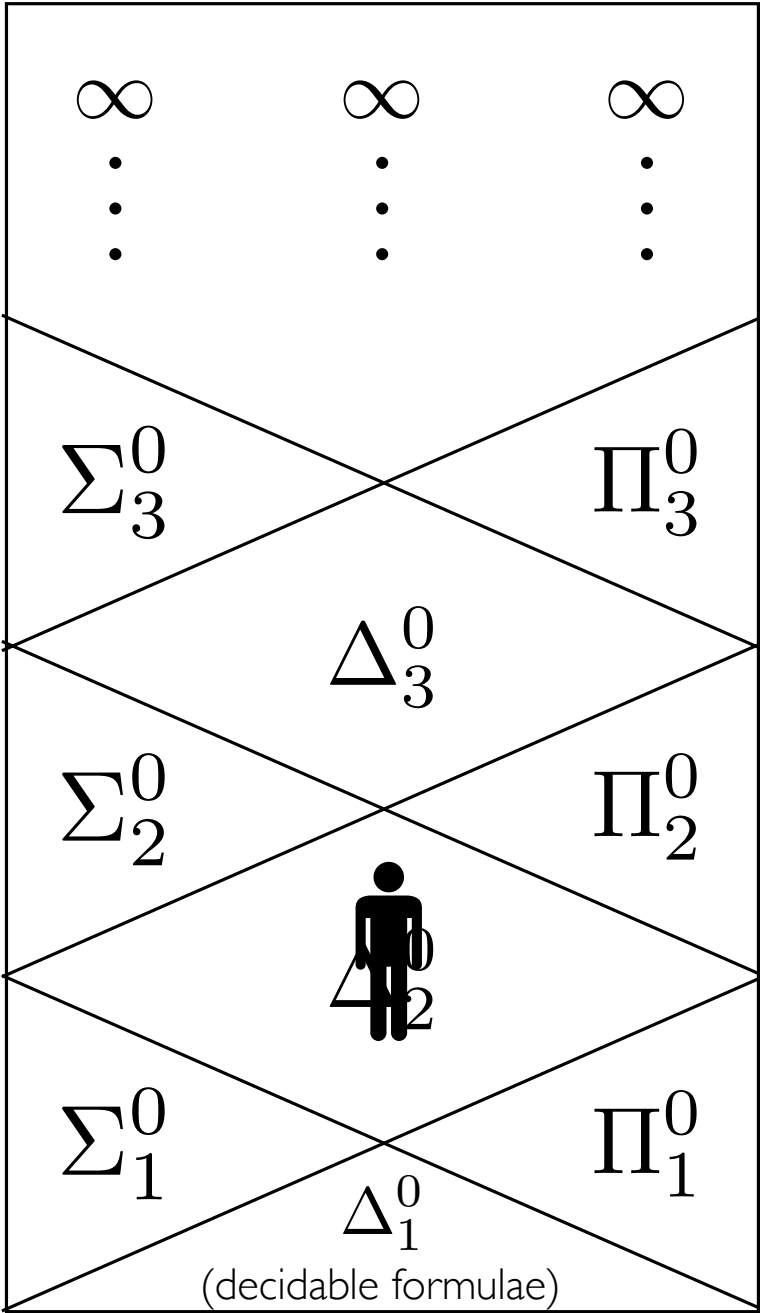




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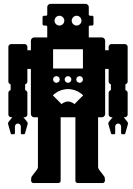
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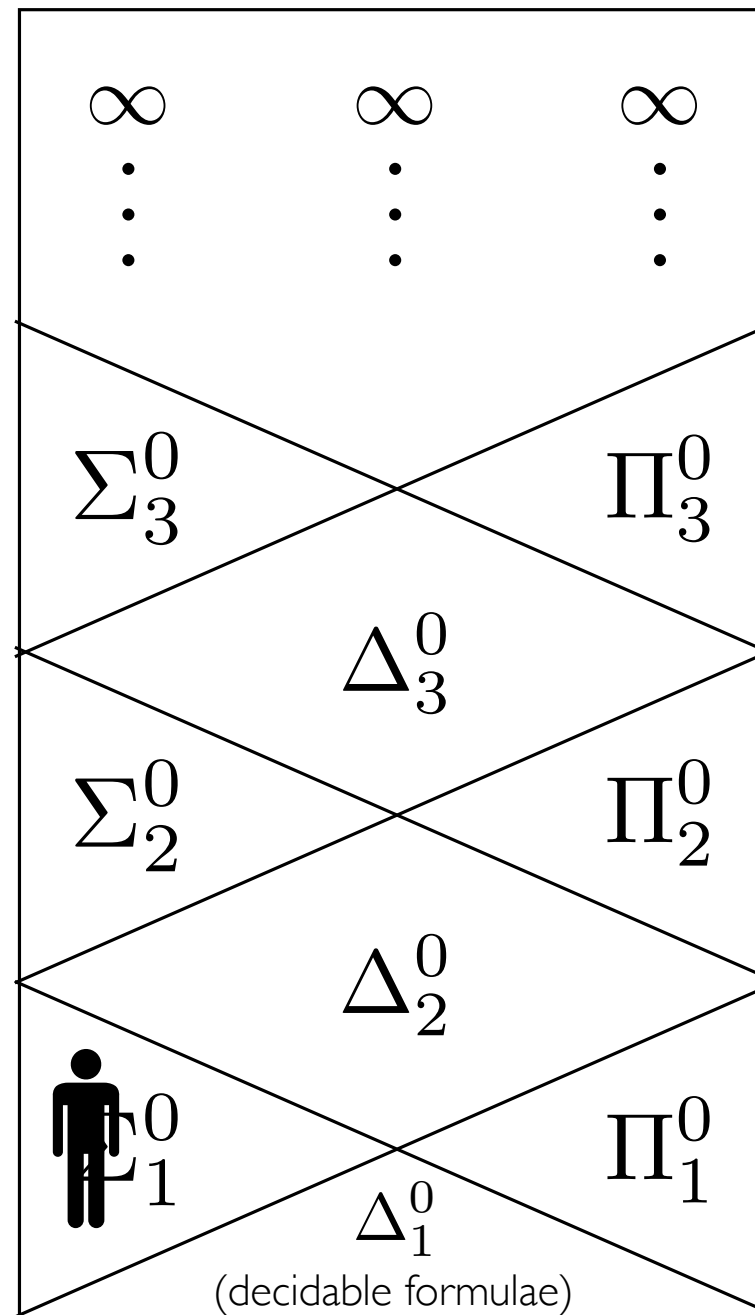
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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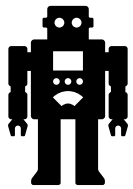
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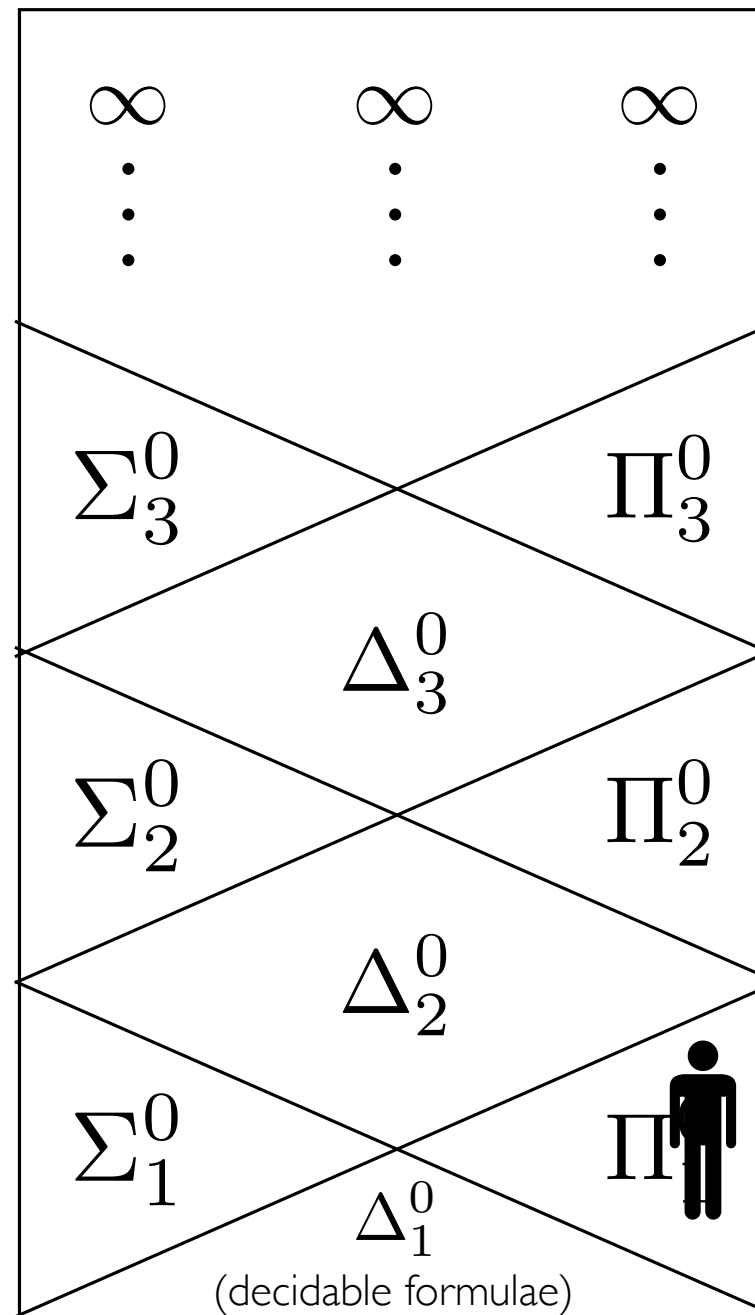
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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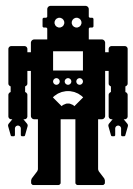
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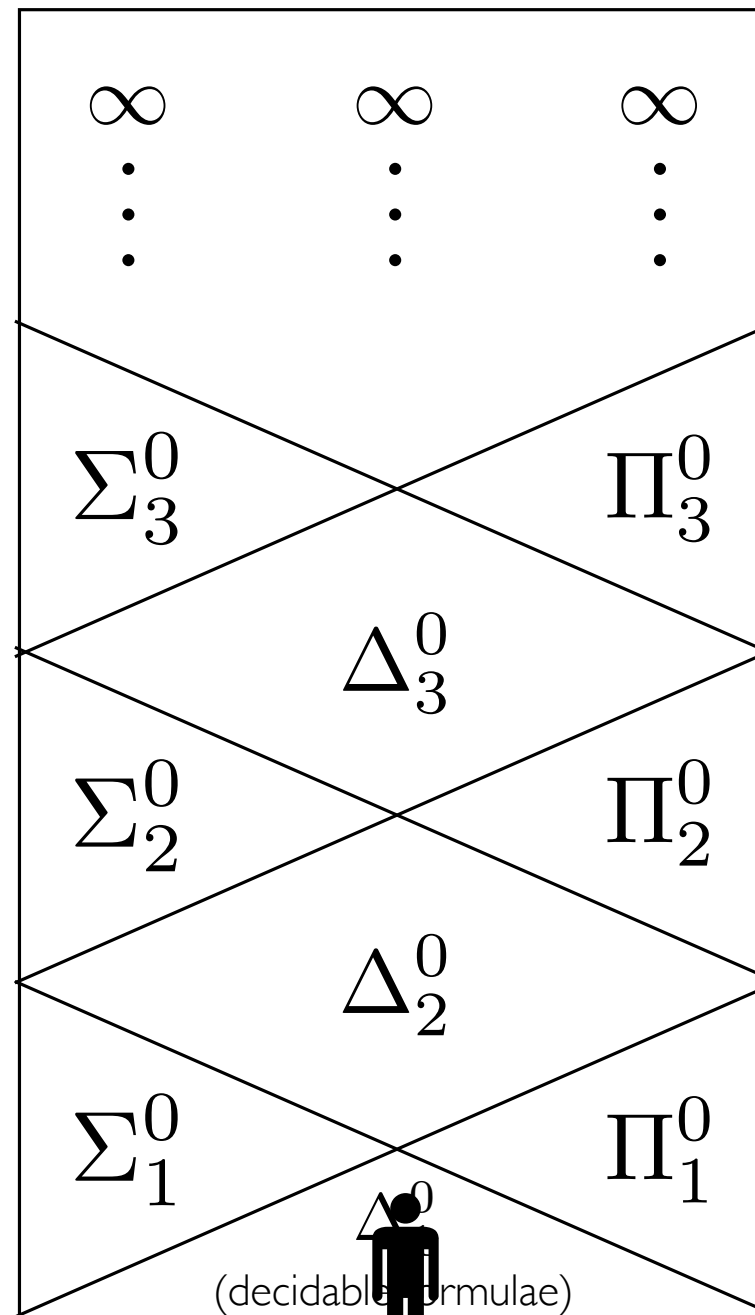
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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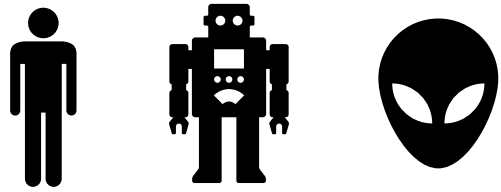
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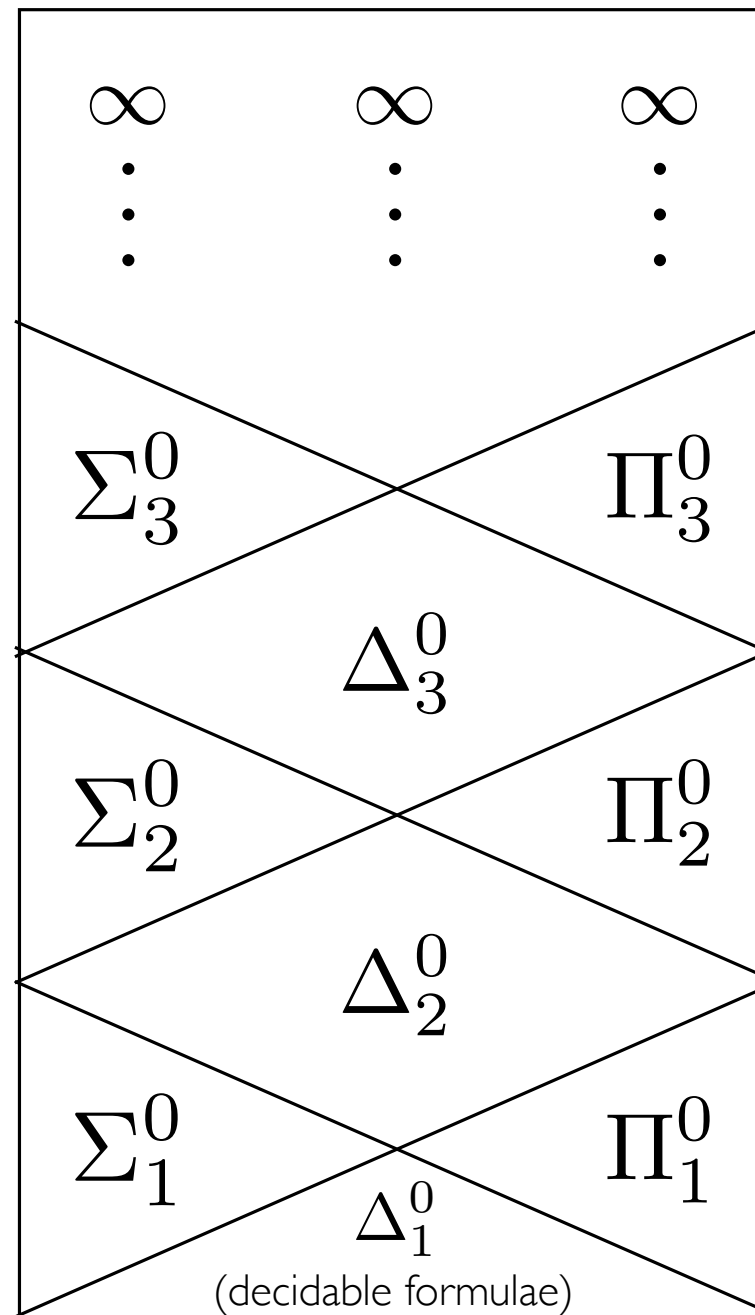
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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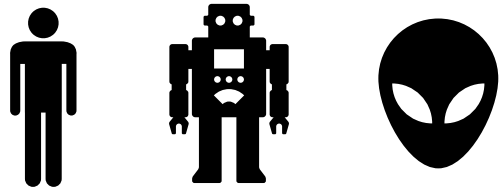
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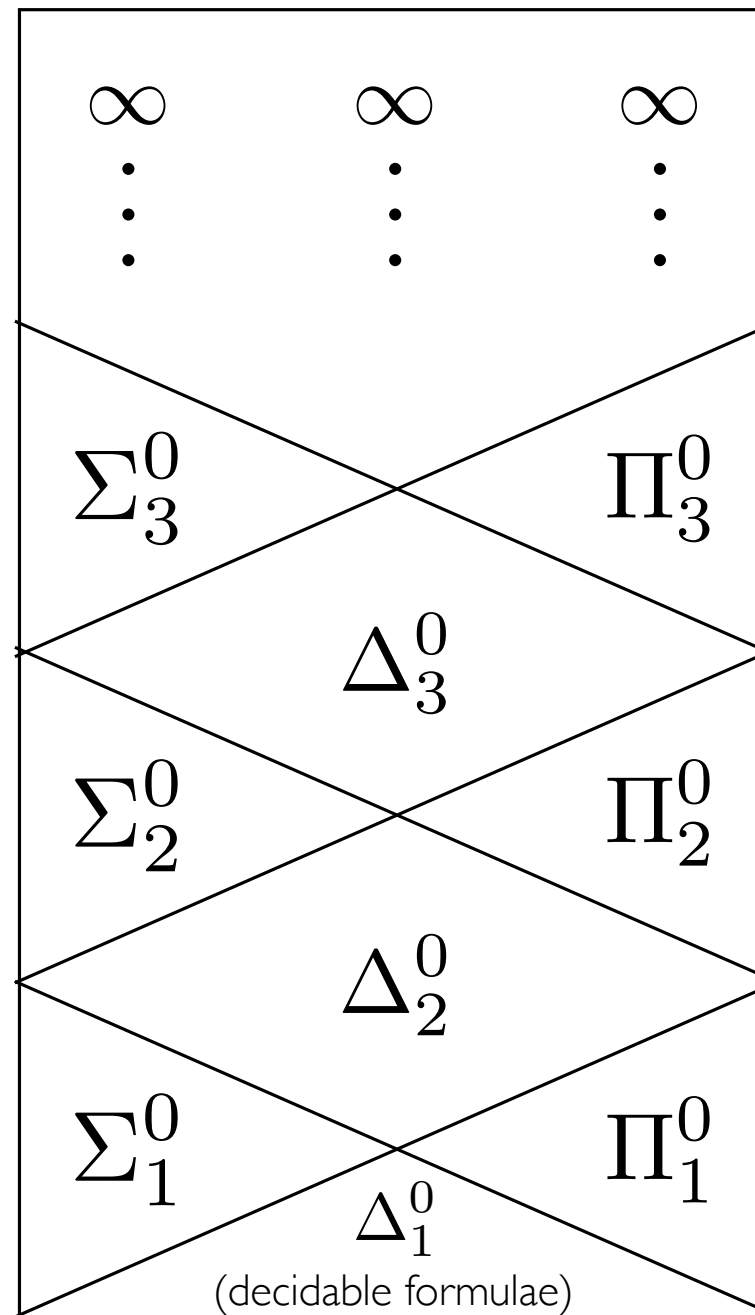
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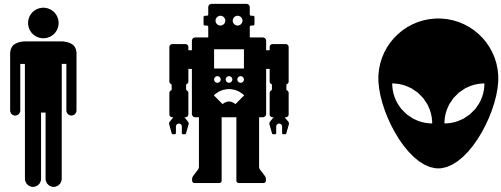
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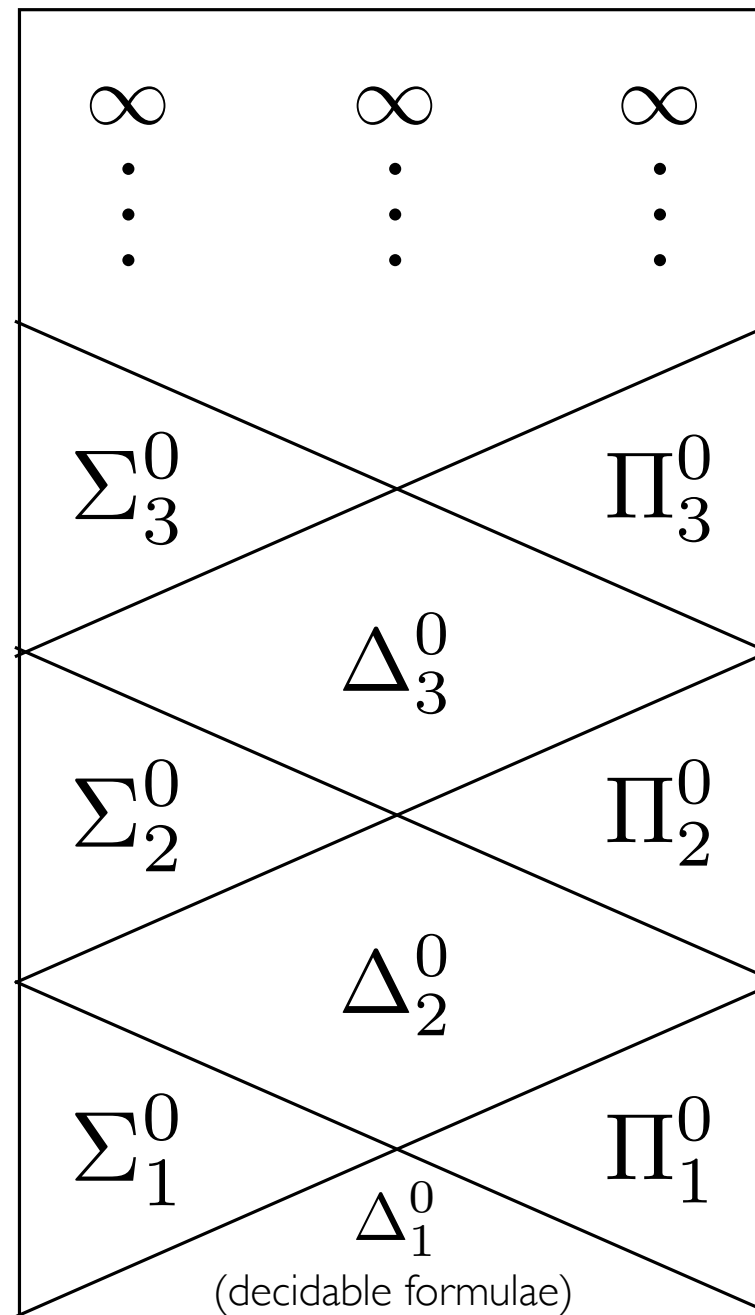
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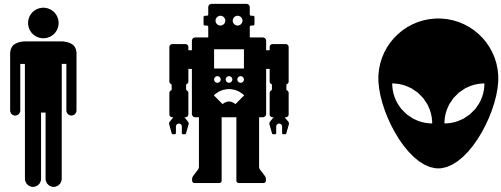
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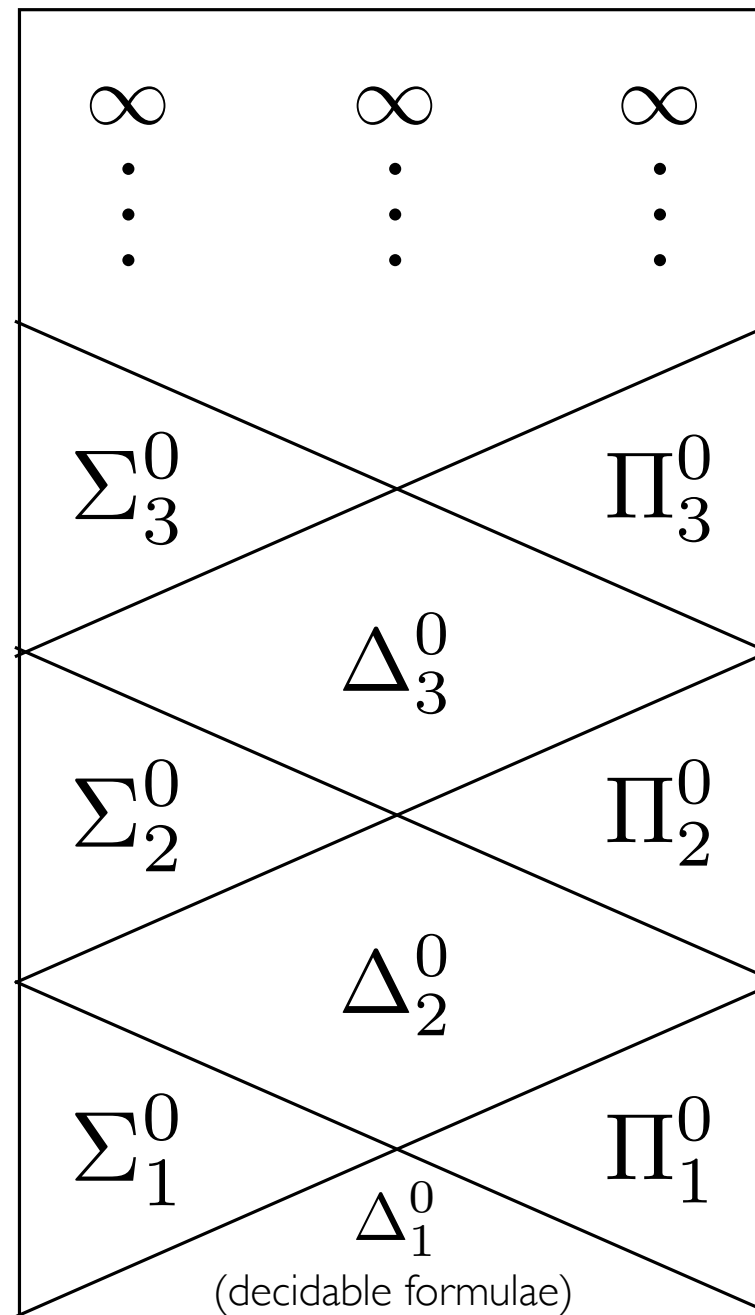
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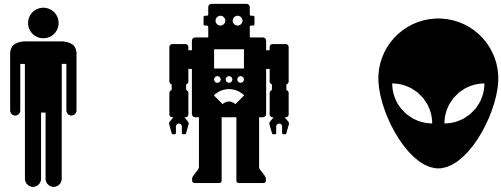
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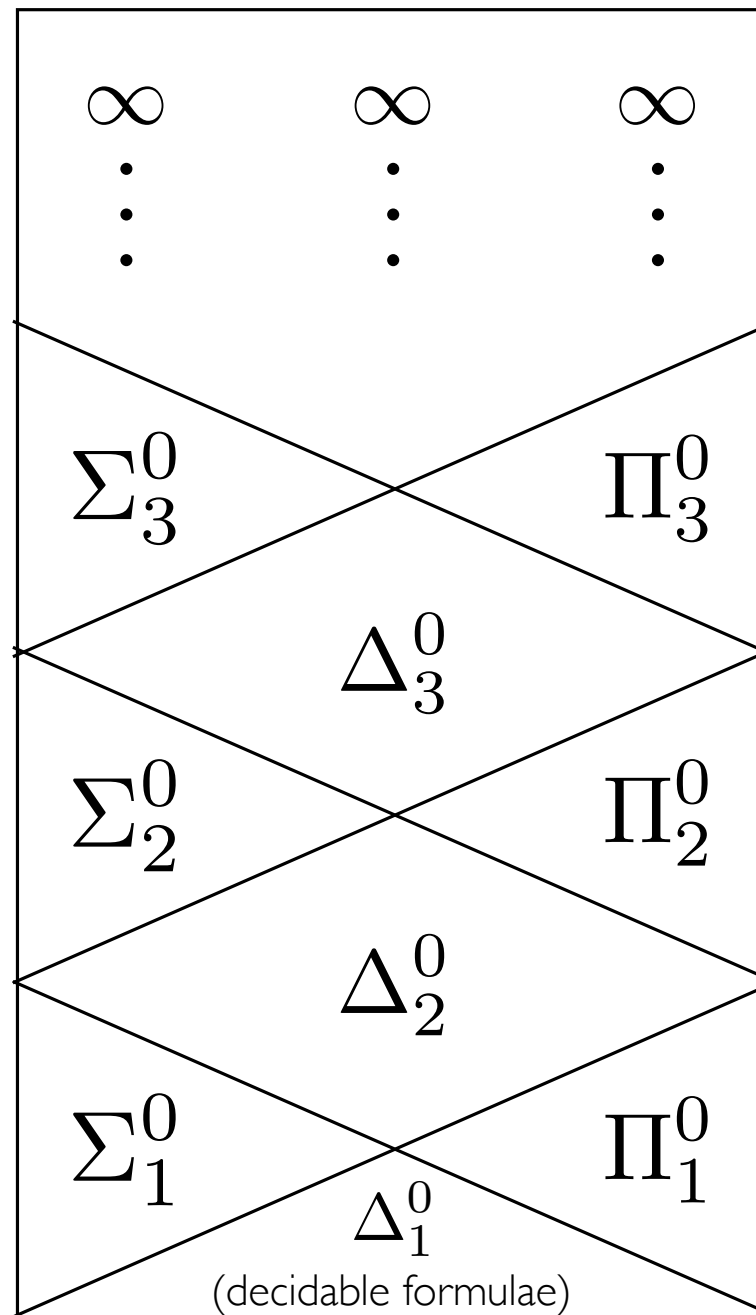
Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



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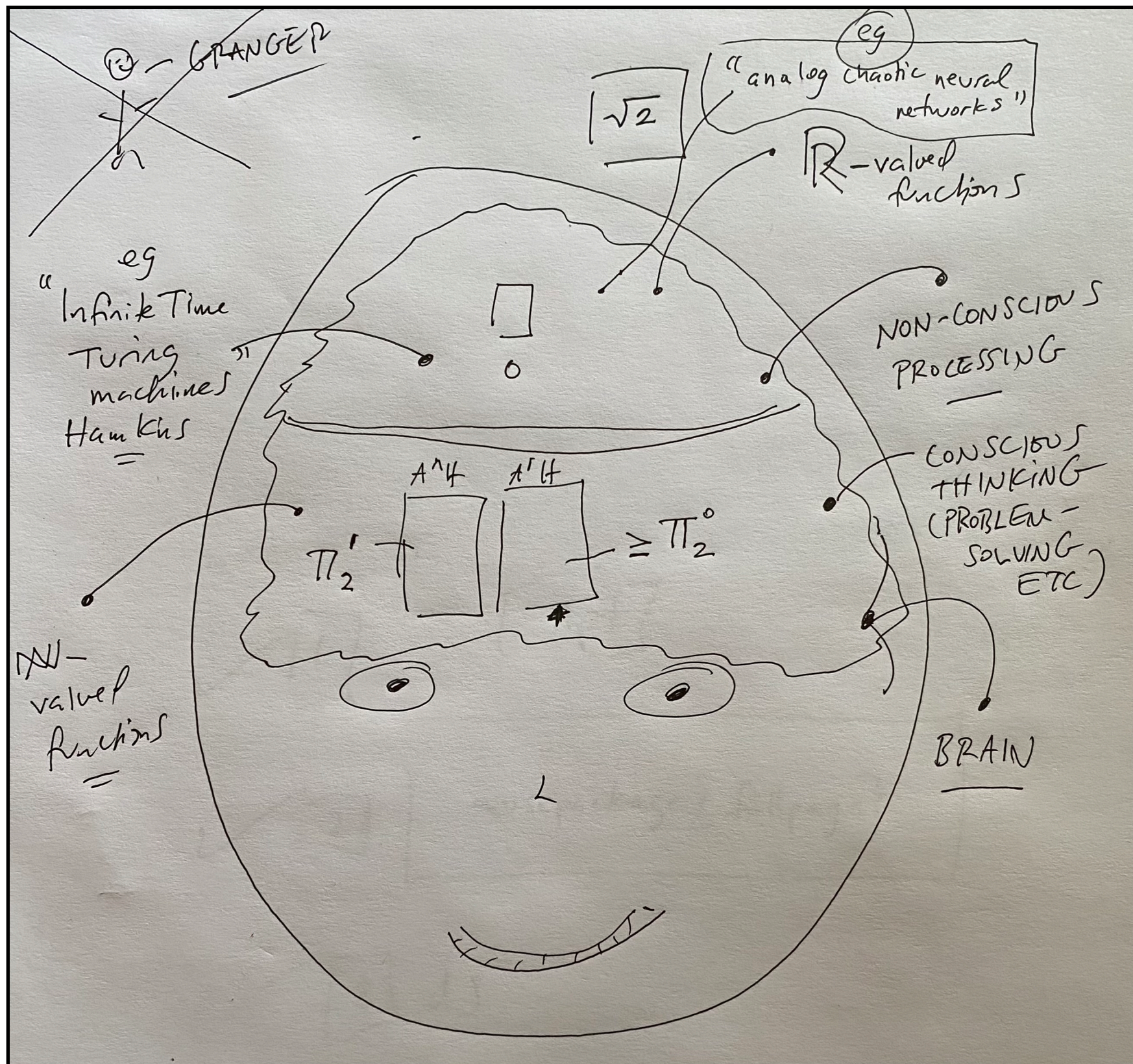
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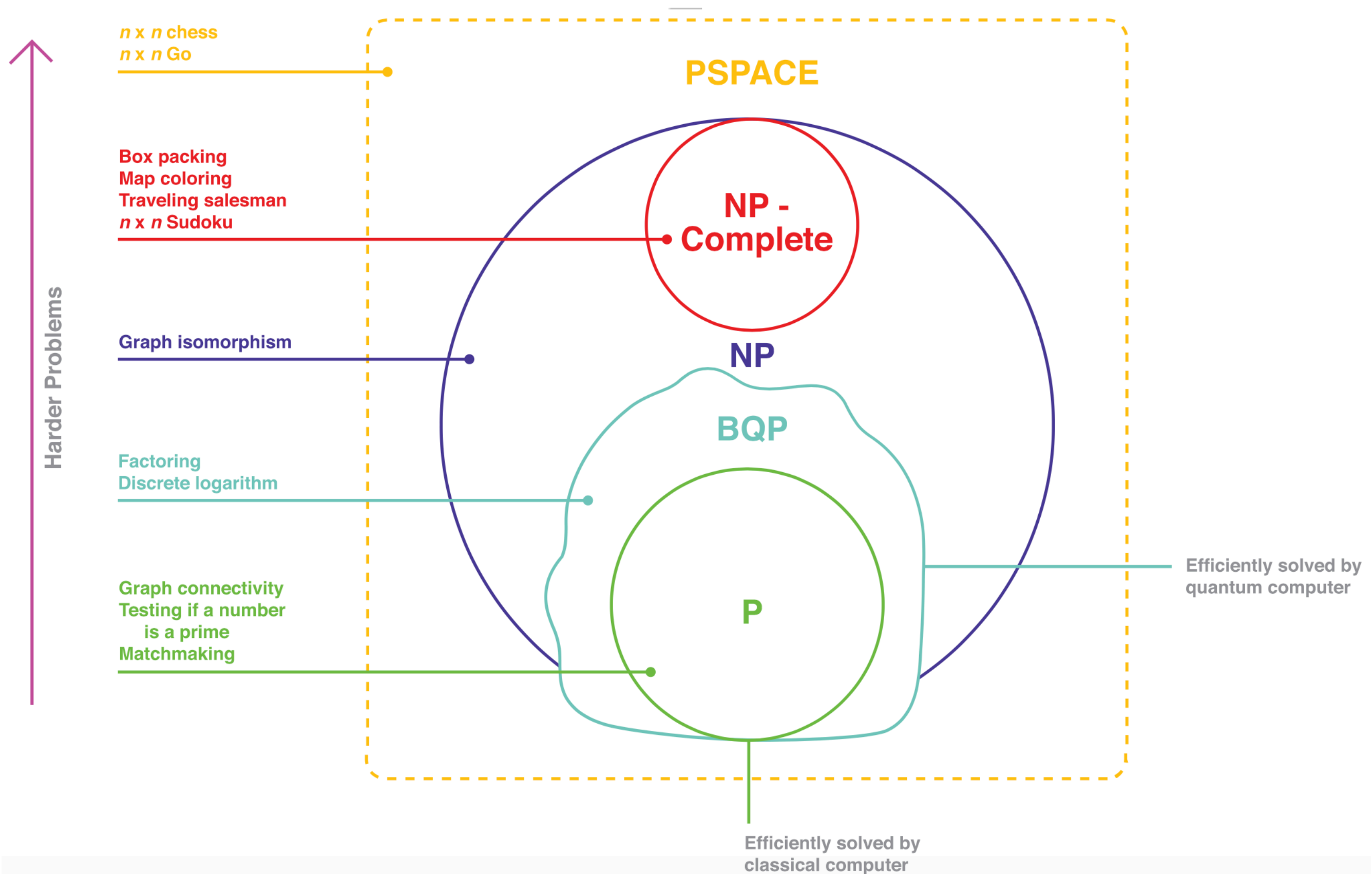
(forall (u v) (exists (k1 k2)
 (iff (comp m1 u v k1)
 (comp m2 u v k2))))

Arithmetic Hierarchy, Part I



What about (oft vaunted) quantum computers?

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