# Prototyping Natural Language Understanding with GF Adding Semantics and Inference

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#### whoami

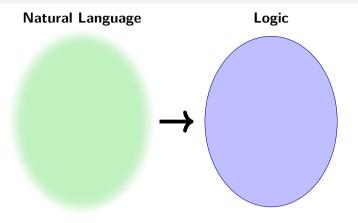
- Just started my PhD (Semantics Extraction in STEM)
- FAU (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) in Germany
- KWARC research group:
  - Led by Michael Kohlhase
  - Knowledge representation and reasoning techniques
  - Focus on mathematical content

#### Talk in Stellenbosch:

- GF + MMT for semantics
- Mathematical language

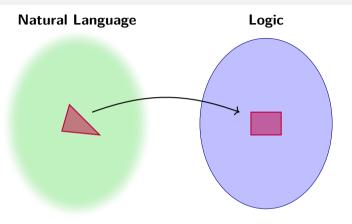
#### Today:

- Extended and more mature system
- Less mathematical language



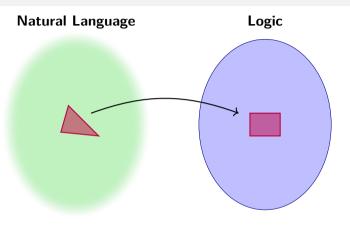
How do we get from messy language to formal logic?

Montague [Mon70]: Look at a "nice" subset and map into logic.



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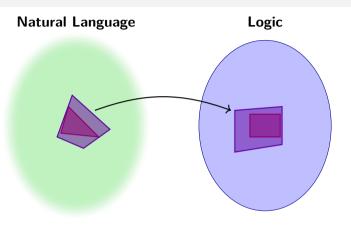


"Ahmed paints and Berta is quiet."

"Ahmed doesn't paint."

$$p(a) \wedge q(b)$$

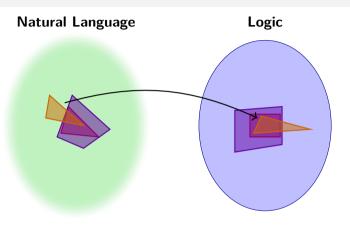
 $\neg p(a)$ 



"Every student paints and is quiet."

"Nobody paints."

$$\forall x.s(x) \Rightarrow (p(x) \land q(x))$$
$$\neg \exists x.p(x)$$



"Ahmed isn't allowed to paint."

"Ahmed and Berta must paint."

$$\neg \Diamond p(a)$$

$$(\Box p(a)) \wedge \Box p(b)$$

#### Hand-waving is problematic:

"Ahmed paints. He is quiet."  $\stackrel{?}{\leadsto}$   $p(a) \land q(a)$ 

#### Montague: Specify

grammar,

fixes NL subset

- target logic,
- semantics construction.

maps parse trees to logic

#### Example from [Mon74]

- T11. If  $\phi, \psi \in P_t$  and  $\phi, \psi$  translate into  $\phi', \psi'$  respectively, then  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  translates into  $[\phi \land \psi], \phi$  or  $\psi$  translates into  $[\phi \lor \psi]$ .
- T12. If  $\gamma, \delta \in P_{IV}$  and  $\gamma, \delta$  translate into  $\gamma', \delta'$  respectively, then  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  translates into  $\hat{x}[\gamma'(x) \wedge \delta'(x)], \gamma$  or  $\delta$  translates into  $\hat{x}[\gamma'(x) \vee \delta'(x)]$ .
- T13. If  $\alpha, \beta \in P_T$  and  $\alpha, \beta$  translate into  $\alpha', \beta'$  respectively, then  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  translates into  $\widehat{P}[\alpha'(P) \vee \beta'(P)]$ .

Claim: That doesn't scale well → We need prototyping!

### How can we implement such fragments (with the help of GF)?

- Use GF for parsing
- 4 ideas how to continue





parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed paints and Berta is quiet" | linearize -lang=Logic p ( a )  $\wedge$  q ( b )



parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed paints and Berta is quiet" | linearize -lang=Logic p (a)  $\land$  q (b)

```
abstract Grammar = {
    -- ...
fun
    and_S : S -> S -> S;
    makeS : NP -> VP -> S;
    ahmed : NP;
    paint : VP;
    -- ...
}
```



parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed is quiet and paints" | linearize -lang=Logic q (a)  $\land$  p (a) ???

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    paint : VP;
    -- ...
}
```



```
parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed is quiet and paints" | linearize -lang=Logic (\lambda x. q (x) \wedge p (x)) ( a ) \leadsto_{\beta} q(a) \wedge p(a)
```

```
abstract Grammar = {
    -- ...
fun
    and_S : S -> S -> S;
    makeS : NP -> VP -> S;
    ahmed : NP;
    paint : VP;
    and_VP : VP -> VP -> VP;
}
```

# Idea 2: Abstract Syntax for Logic



```
abstract Logic = {
  cat
    Prop; Term;
  fun
    and : Prop -> Prop -> Prop;
    a : Term;
    b : Term;
    p : Term -> Prop;
    q : Term -> Prop;
}
```

# Idea 2: Abstract Syntax for Logic



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  fun
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```

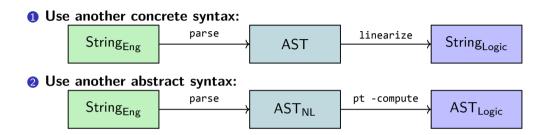
# Idea 2: Abstract Syntax for Logic



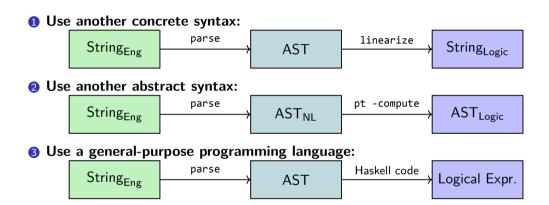
```
abstract Logic = {
   cat
     Prop; Term;
   fun
     and : Prop -> Prop -> Prop;
     a : Term;
     b : Term;
     p : Term -> Prop;
     q : Term -> Prop;
}
```

parse -lang=Eng -cat=Prop "Ahmed is quiet and paints" | put\_tree -compute
and (q a) (p a)

#### All 4 Ideas



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#### All 4 Ideas

**1** Use another concrete syntax: parse linearize StringEng StringLogic **AST 2** Use another abstract syntax: pt -compute parse StringEng  $AST_{Logic}$ **AST<sub>NI</sub> 3** Use a general-purpose programming language: parse Haskell code StringEng Logical Expr. **AST 4** Use a logic development framework: parse MMT stuff StringEng **AST** MMT term

- Tool for logic development and knowledge representation
- Developed by KWARC group
- "Bring your own logic"
- Implement syntax, semantics, calculi
- Lots of logics already implemented
- Supports type theory underlying GF
- Three steps:
  - Represent abstract syntax in MMT
  - 2 Declare target logic
  - 3 Declare mapping from 1. to 2.

we are biased towards MMT

"rapid prototyping"

LATIN2 project

- Represent abstract syntax in MMT
- ② Declare target logic
- 3 Declare mapping from 1. to 2.

```
abstract Grammar = {
                                                theory Grammar =
  cat
    S;
                                                     S : type
   VP;
                                                    VP : type
   NP;
                                                    NP : tvpe
  fun
    makeS : NP -> VP -> S;
                                                    makeS : NP \rightarrow VP \rightarrow S
abstract More = Grammar ** {
                                                theory More =
  fun
                                                     include Grammar
    ahmed : NP;
                                                     ahmed : NP
    paint : VP;
                                                     paint : VP
```

- Represent abstract syntax in MMT
- **2** Declare target logic
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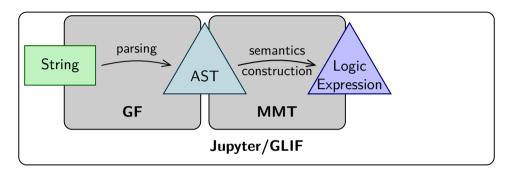
```
view Semantics : Grammar -> Logic = S = o NP = \iota VP = \iota \longrightarrow o and\_S = \lambda x, y, x \wedge y makeS = \lambda n, v. v n ahmed = a paint = p // \dots
```

- Represent abstract syntax in MMT
- ② Declare target logic
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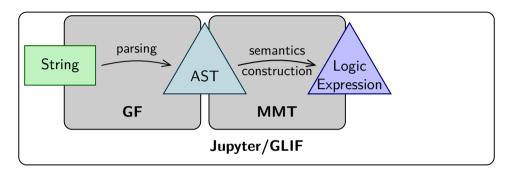
is automated

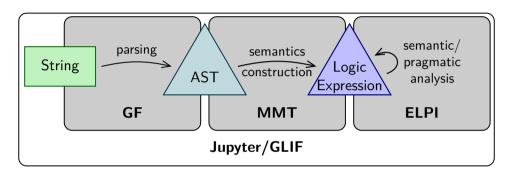
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```

parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed is quiet and paints" | construct view=Semantics  $q(a) \wedge p(a)$ 



```
In [18]:
            1 // the semantics construction maps symbols in the grammar to symbols in the logic. It
              view Semantics : ?Grammar -> ?Logic =
                  S = 0
                  NP = \iota I
                  VP = \iota \rightarrow o I
                  and VP = [v1, v2] [x] (v1 x) \wedge (v2 x) I
                  and S = [s1, s2] s1 \land s2
                  makeS = [n,v] v n I
           10
                  ahmed = a I
                  berta = b I
                  paint = p I
           13
                   be quiet = q I
          14
          Successfully imported Semantics.mmt
In [19]: 1 parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed is quiet and paints" | construct -no-simplify
          ([n,v]v n) a (([v1,v2][x](v1 x) \land (v2 x)) q p)
In [20]: 1 parse -lang=Eng "Ahmed is guiet and paints" | construct
          (q a) ∧ (p a)
```





```
GF (= grammar framework)
+ MMT (= logic framework)
+ ELPI (= inference framework)

= GLIF (= natural language understanding framework)
```

• Extension of  $\lambda Prolog$ 

- supports higher-order abstract syntax
- Generic inference/reasoning step after semantics construction
- Goal: Use it for semantic/pragmatic analysis

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Example: Discard wrong readings in controlled natural language

"the ball has a mass of  $5 \text{kg"} \longrightarrow \text{AST} \longrightarrow \text{mass}(\text{theball}, \text{quant}(5, \text{kilo gram}))$ 

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$$\text{AST}_1 \longrightarrow \lambda x. E_{\text{kin}}(x, \text{quant}(2, \textbf{milli Newton})) \\ \text{``a kinetic energy of } 12 \text{mN''} \\ \text{$\longrightarrow$} \text{AST}_2 \longrightarrow \lambda x. E_{\text{kin}}(x, \text{quant}(2, \textbf{meter} \cdot \textbf{Newton})) \\ }$$

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Extension of λProlog

- supports higher-order abstract syntax
- Generic inference/reasoning step after semantics construction

# Example: "pairwise disjoint"

```
"A, B and C are pairwise disjoint" disjoint(A, B) \land disjoint(A, C) \land disjoint(B, C)
```

#### Approach 1

Semantics construction with lots of  $\lambda s$ :

 $\mathsf{disjoint}(A,B) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(A,C) \land \top \land \mathsf{disjoint}(B,C) \land \top \land \top \land \top$ 

Simplify with ELPI:

 $\mathsf{disjoint}(A,B) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(A,C) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(B,C)$ 

13 / 25

difficult!

# Example: "pairwise disjoint"

```
"A, B and C are pairwise disjoint" disjoint(A, B) \land disjoint(A, C) \land disjoint(B, C)
```

#### Approach 1

Semantics construction with lots of  $\lambda$ s:

difficult!

$$disjoint(A, B) \wedge disjoint(A, C) \wedge disjoint(B, C)$$

#### Approach 2

Semantics construction creates preliminary expression:

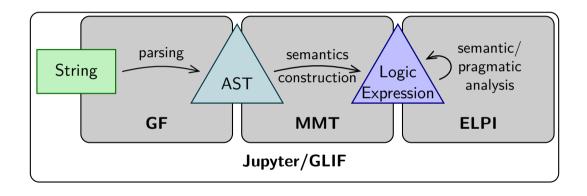
 $\mathsf{disjoint}(A,B) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(A,C) \land \top \land \mathsf{disjoint}(B,C) \land \top \land \top \land \top$ 

Convert with ELPI:

easier

$$\mathsf{disjoint}(A,B) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(A,C) \land \mathsf{disjoint}(B,C)$$

# The "Normal" GLIF Pipeline



# Example: Epistemic Q&A

```
John knows that Mary or Eve knows that Ping has a dog. (S_1) Mary doesn't know if Ping has a dog. (S_2) Does Eve know if Ping has a dog? (Q)
```

$$\begin{split} S_1 &= \Box_{john}(\Box_{mary}hd(ping) \vee \Box_{eve}hd(ping)) \\ S_2 &= \neg(\Box_{mary}hd(ping) \vee \Box_{mary}\neg hd(ping)) \\ Q &= \Box_{eve}hd(ping) \vee \Box_{eve}\neg hd(ping) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{array}{lllll} S_1, S_2 \vdash_{S5_n} Q & \leadsto & \text{yes} \\ S_1, S_2 \vdash_{S5_n} \neg Q & \leadsto & \text{no} \\ \text{else} & \leadsto & \text{maybe} \end{array}$$

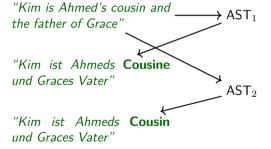
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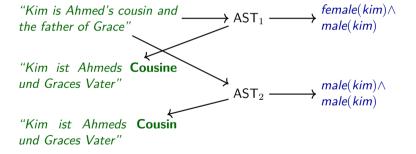
```
1 p -cat=QSeq "John knows that Mary has a dog . does Mary have a dog ?" | construct -elpi
Yes!
1 p -cat=QSeq "Mary has a dog . does John know that Mary has a dog ?" | construct -elpi |
Maybe...
```

$$S_1, S_2 \vdash_{S5_n} Q \quad \leadsto \quad \text{yes}$$
 $S_1, S_2 \vdash_{S5_n} \neg Q \quad \leadsto \quad \text{no}$ 
else  $\quad \leadsto \quad \text{maybe}$ 

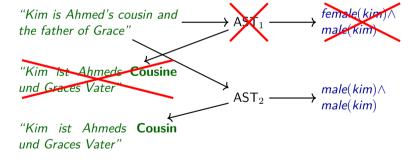
- Two German words for "cousin", depending on the gender
- Two entries in abstract syntax: cousin\_female and cousin\_male
- Use inference to discard ASTs



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- Two entries in abstract syntax: cousin\_female and cousin\_male
- Use inference to discard ASTs

```
-- GLIF keeps track of the ASTs, so we can linearize the remaining readings into German:

parse -lang=Eng "Kim is Ahmed's cousin and the father of Grace" | construct |

filter -notc -predicate=check | linearize -lang=Ger

Kim ist Ahmeds Cousin und Graces Vater

-- With all this effort we removed one of the translations we would have gotten without filtering:
parse -lang=Eng "Kim is Ahmed's cousin and the father of Grace" | linearize -lang=Ger

Kim ist Ahmeds Cousine und Graces Vater

Kim ist Ahmeds Cousin und Graces Vater
```

"Kim ist Ahmeds **Cousir** und Graces Vater"

#### Prover Generation

- Can describe inference rules in MMT
- $\vdash$ X is the type of proofs of X
- Example rules:

```
andEl : \{A,B\} \vdash A \land B \rightarrow \vdash A
andEr : \{A,B\} \vdash A \land B \rightarrow \vdash B
contra : \{X\} \vdash male(X) \rightarrow \vdash fem(X) \rightarrow \{A,B\} \vdash A \land B \rightarrow \vdash B
```

"Judgments as types"

#### **Prover Generation**

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- ⊢X is the type of proofs of X

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Example rules:

```
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andEr : \{A,B\} \vdash A \land B \rightarrow \vdash B
contra : \{X\} \vdash male(X) \rightarrow \vdash fem(X) \rightarrow
```

Generate Prolog/ELPI rules:

```
provable(A) :- provable(A\landB).
provable(B) :- provable(A\landB).
contradiction() :- provable(male(X)), provable(fem(X)).
```

Extra predicates to guide proof search

iterative deepening, ...

#### Prover Generation

```
1 -- generate a prover from the `calculus` theory
   elpigen -mode=simpleprover calculus
 3 -- generate signature of DDT
   elpigen DDT
Successfully created calculus.elpi
Successfully created DDT.elpi
   elpi-notc: checker
   accumulate calculus. % generated prover
   accumulate Grammar. % signature of ASTs (we don't use them here)
   accumulate DDT. % signature of discourse domain theory
 6 % The `check` predicate fails if the prover found a contradiction (using iterative deepening up to depth 7)
   check Item :- glif.getLog Item P, ded/hyp P => contradiction (idcert 7), !, fail.
 8 check .
Successfully imported checker.elpi
checker.elpi is the new default file for ELPI commands
```

Extra predicates to guide proof search

iterative deepening,

# Example: Input Language for SageMath

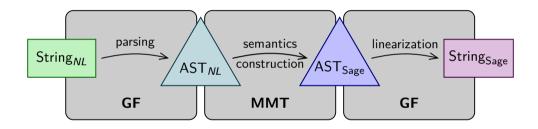
• Can we make a natural input language for SageMath?

Wolfram Alpha-like

```
sage: g = AlternatingGroup(5)
sage: g.cardinality()
60
```

"Let G be the alternating group on 5 symbols. What is the cardinality of G?"

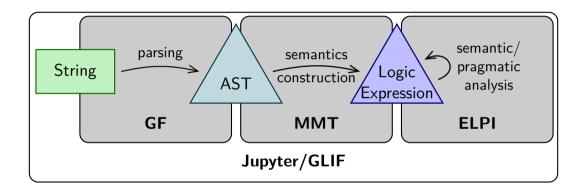
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# Example: Input Language for SageMath

```
> Let G be the alternating group on 5 symbols.
# G = AlternatingGroup(5)
> Let |H| be a notation for the cardinality of H.
# def bars(H): return H.cardinality()
> What is |G|?
# print(bars(G))
60
> Let A N be a notation for the alternating group on N symbols.
# def A(N): return AlternatingGroup(N)
> What are the cardinalities of A_4 and A_5?
# print(A(4).cardinality()); print(A(5).cardinality())
12
60
```

# The "Normal" GLIF Pipeline



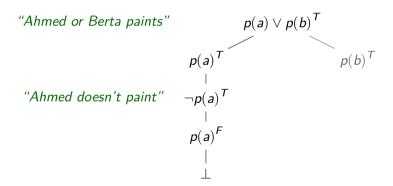
# Example: Tableaux Machine [KK03]

- Can use tableaux for model generation
- Tableau machine: pick "best" branch as model and continue there with next sentence like a human?

"Ahmed or Berta paints"  $p(a) \lor p(b)^T$  $p(a)^T \qquad p(b)^T$ 

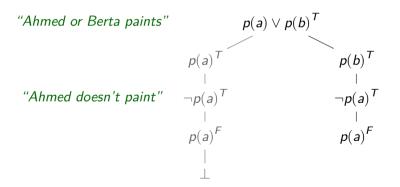
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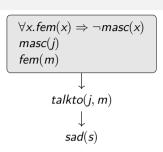
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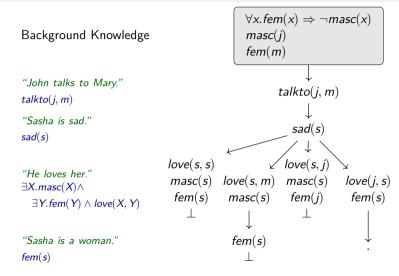


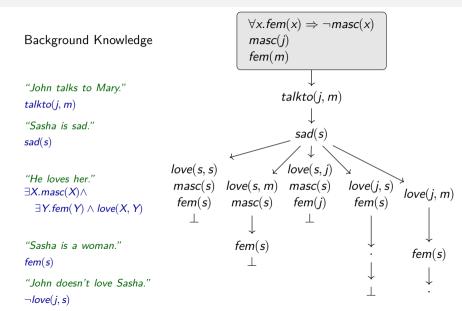
#### Background Knowledge

```
"John talks to Mary."
talkto(j, m)
"Sasha is sad."
sad(s)
```

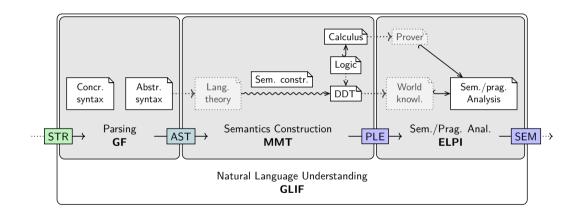


```
\forall x. fem(x) \Rightarrow \neg masc(x)
Background Knowledge
                                                    masc(j)
                                                    fem(m)
"John talks to Mary."
                                                           talkto(j, m)
talkto(j, m)
"Sasha is sad."
                                                              sad(s)
sad(s)
                                 love(s, s)
"He loves her."
                                  masc(s)
                                              love(s, m)
\exists X.masc(X) \land
                                   fem(s)
                                               masc(s)
  \exists Y. fem(Y) \land love(X, Y)
```



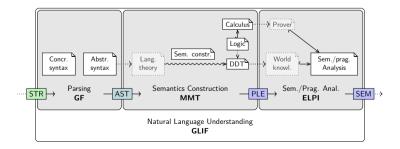


# Summary: A GLIF Specification



#### Conclusion

- GLIF = GF + MMT + ELPI
- Prototyping natural language understanding
- Access via Jupyter notebooks
- We use it for teaching



### Natural Deduction in MMT/LF

$$\begin{array}{c} (A)^1 & [B]^1 \\ A \wedge B & C & C \\ \hline C & C & VE^1 \end{array}$$

```
//\vdash X is type of proofs for X (judgments as types) \vdash: o \rightarrow type \land \texttt{El} : \Pi_{A:o}\Pi_{B:o} \vdash A \land B \rightarrow \vdash A \lor \texttt{E} : \Pi_{A:o}\Pi_{B:o}\Pi_{C:o} \vdash A \lor B \rightarrow (\vdash A \rightarrow \vdash C) \rightarrow (\vdash B \rightarrow \vdash C) \rightarrow \vdash C
```

### Generating Provers in ELPI

#### **ELPI** equivalent

direct:  $pi A \setminus pi B \setminus ded (and A B) \Rightarrow ded A$ .

syn. sugar: ded A :- ded (and A B).

### Generating Provers in ELPI

```
LF rule \wedgeE1 : \Pi_{A:o}\Pi_{B:o} \vdash A \wedge B \rightarrow \vdash A
```

#### **ELPI** equivalent

```
direct: pi A \setminus pi B \setminus ded (and A B) \Rightarrow ded A.

syn. sugar: ded A := ded (and A B).
```

#### **Example:** Or-Elimination

 $\mathsf{LF}\colon \quad \forall \mathsf{E} \ \colon \ \Pi_{\mathsf{A}:\mathsf{o}}\Pi_{\mathsf{B}:\mathsf{o}}\Pi_{\mathsf{C}:\mathsf{o}} \ \vdash \mathsf{A} \forall \mathsf{B} \ \to \ (\vdash \mathsf{A} \ \to \ \vdash \mathsf{C}) \ \to \ (\vdash \mathsf{B} \ \to \ \vdash \mathsf{C}) \ \to \ \vdash \mathsf{C}$ 

ELPI: ded C:- ded (or A B), ded A => ded C, ded B => ded C.

#### **Example:** Forall-Introduction

 $\mathsf{LF}\colon \quad \forall \mathsf{I} \; \colon \; \Pi_{\mathsf{P}: \, \mathsf{I} \; \to \; \mathsf{o}} \; \left(\Pi_{\mathsf{x}: \, \mathsf{I}} \; \vdash \mathsf{P} \; \mathsf{x}\right) \; \to \; \vdash \forall \mathsf{P}$ 

ELPI: ded (forall P) :-  $pi \times ded (P \times)$ .

# Controlling the Proof Search

- Problem: Search diverges
   searching harder than checking
- Solution: Control search with helper predicates:

inspired by ProofCert project by Miller et al.

- Intuition: Decide whether to apply rule
- Do not affect correctness
- Extra argument tracks aspects of proof state

```
Before: ded A :- ded (and A B).
```

Now: ded X A := help/andEl X A B X1, ded X1 (and A B).

# Helper Predicates

Name	Predicate	Argument
Iter. deepening	checks depth	remaining depth
Proof term	generates term	proof term
Product	calls other predicates	arguments for other predicates
Backchaining	Prolog's backchaining ( $\approx$ forward reasoning from axioms via $\Rightarrow/\forall$ elimination rules)	pattern of formula to be proven (e.g. a conjunction)

### **Example helper:** Iterative deepening

help/andEl (idcert N)  $\_$  (idcert N1) :- N > 0, N1 is N - 1.

#### Tableau Provers

LF: 
$$\wedge^F: \Pi_{A:o}\Pi_{B:o} \ A \wedge B^F \rightarrow (A^F \rightarrow \bot) \rightarrow (B^F \rightarrow \bot) \rightarrow \bot$$
  
ELPI: closed X:- help/andF X A B X1 X2 X3, f X1 (and A B),  
f/hyp A => closed X2, f/hyp B => closed X3.

With iterative deepening we get a working prover!

ightarrow Other helpers result in more efficient provers

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