

Deskolemization: From Tableaux to Proof Certificates

CHoCoLa Meeting

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VeriDis Team
University of Lorraine
CNRS, Inria, LORIA



✓ Interactive Theorem Proving (ITP)

- Proof assistants
- Guided search
- Proof certificate
- Nice logos



...



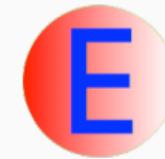
Automated Theorem Proving (ATP)

- Click-and-prove software
- Autonomous search
- Statement or proof-like trace
- Less nice logos but at least they smile



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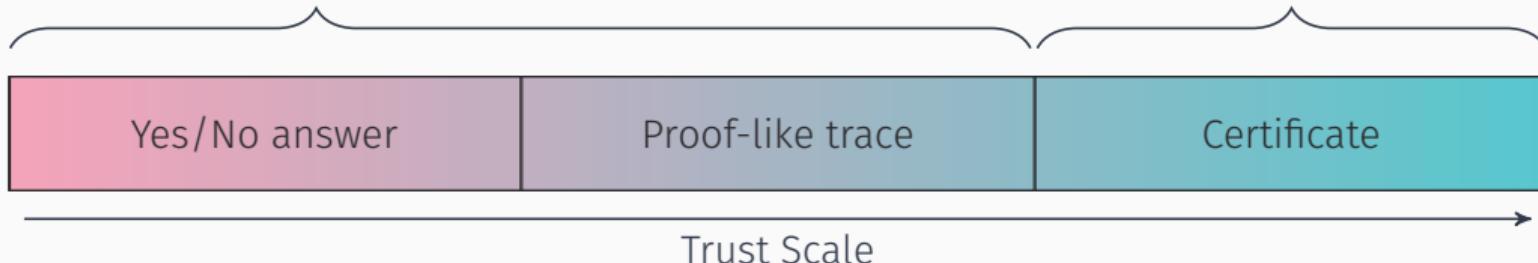
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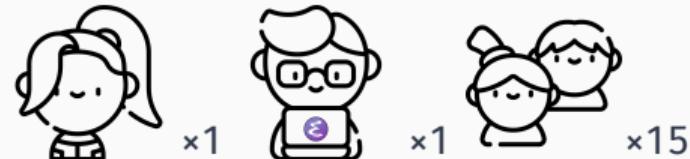
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● Automated Reasoning in FOL

- First-order classical logic
- Analytic tableaux

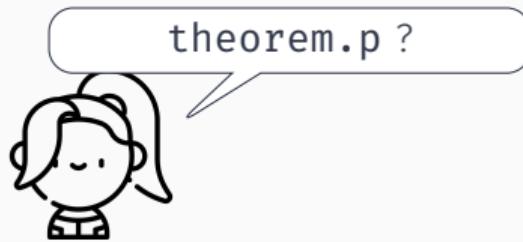


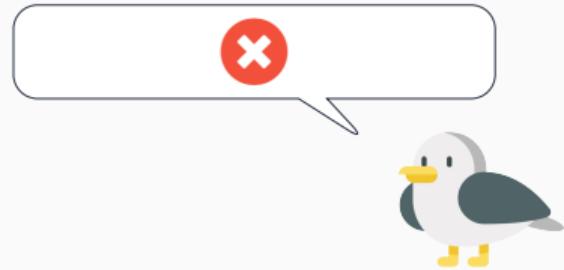
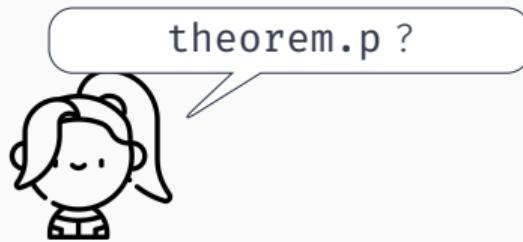
● The Goéland Tool

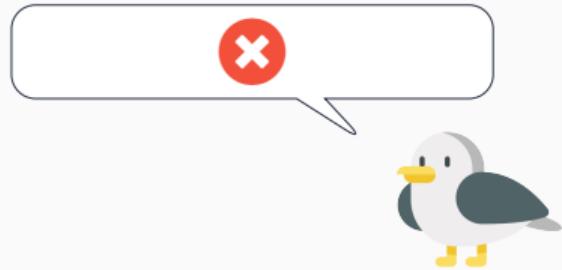
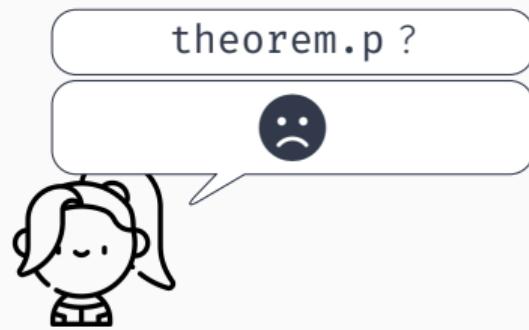
- A concurrent theorem prover
- 40 000 lines of code (Go)
- 345L of interns' tears
- Equality reasoning, deduction modulo theory, second-class polymorphism¹, ...

¹Thank you, Johann!



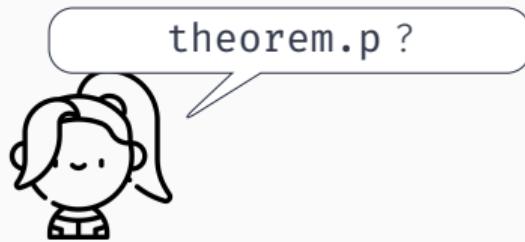


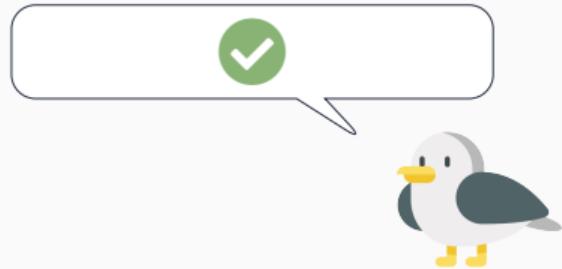
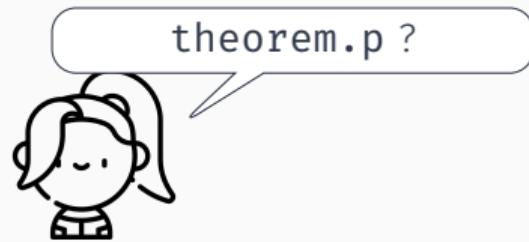


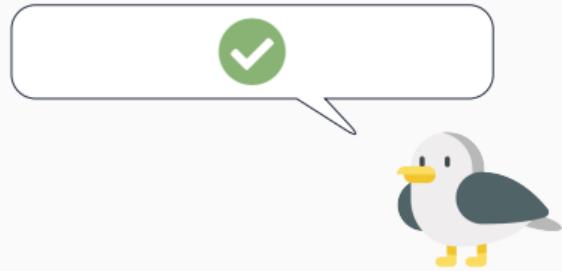
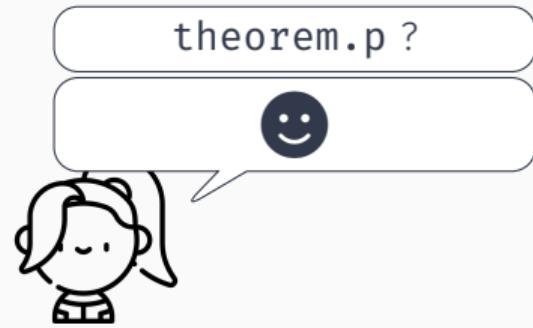


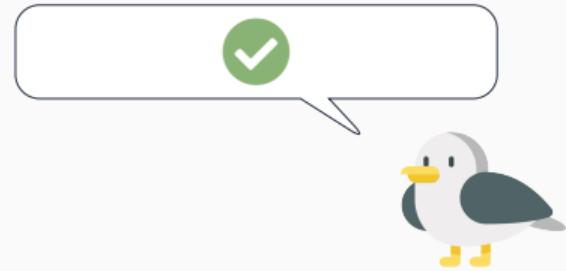
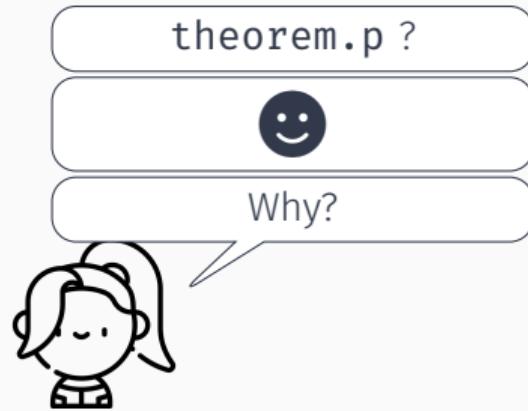
Some debugging later...

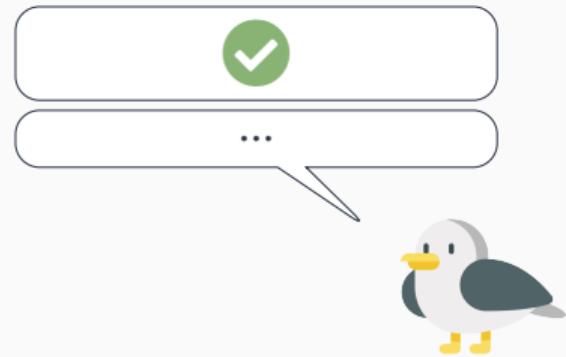
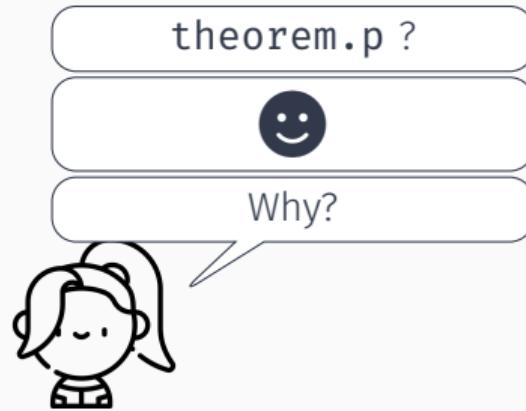


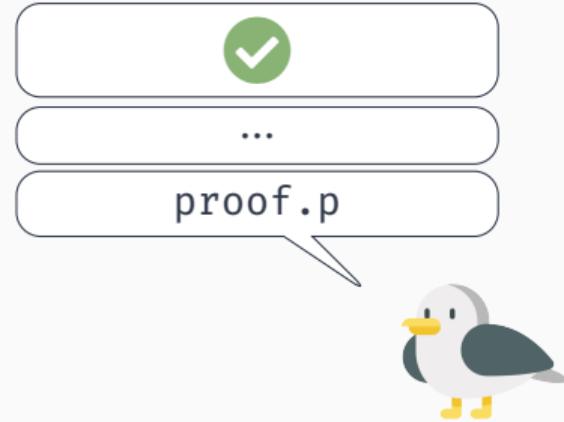
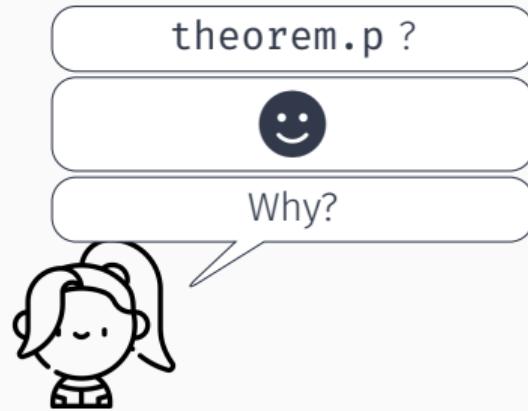








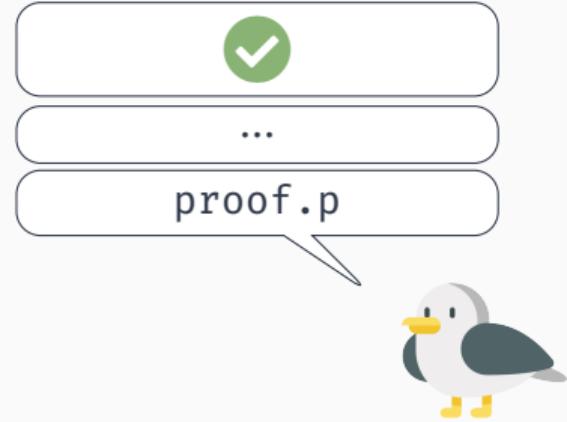
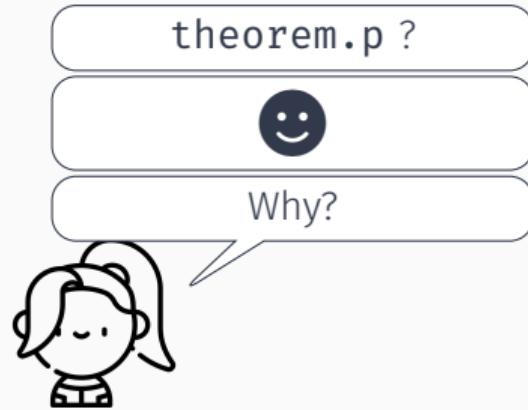




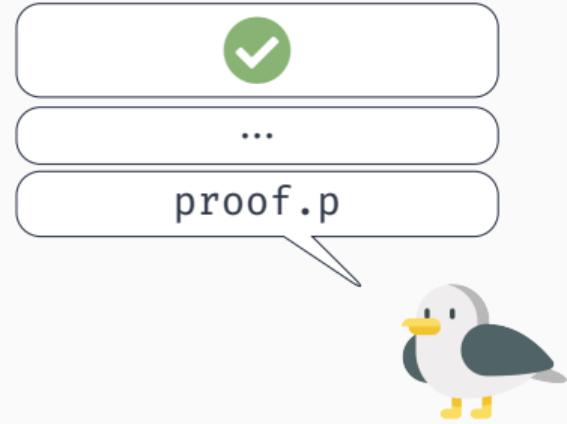
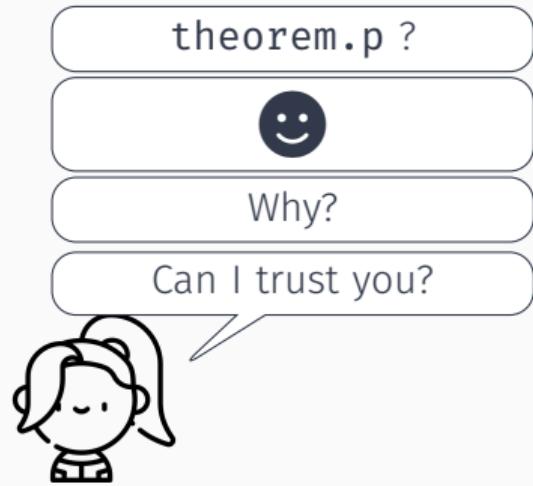
```
fof(f4, assumption, [(a => b), b] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
    inference(hyp, [status(thm), 1, 3], [])).
fof(f3, assumption, [(a => b), ~a] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
    inference(hyp, [status(thm), 1, 2], [])).
fof(f2, plain, [(a => b)] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
    inference(magic, [status(thm), 0], [f3, f4])).
fof(f1, plain, [(a => b)] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b)],
    inference(rightOr, [status(thm), 1], [f2])).
fof(f0, plain, [] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b))],
    inference(rightImp, [status(thm), 0], [f1])).
fof(my_conjecture, conjecture, ((a => b) => (~a | b))).
```

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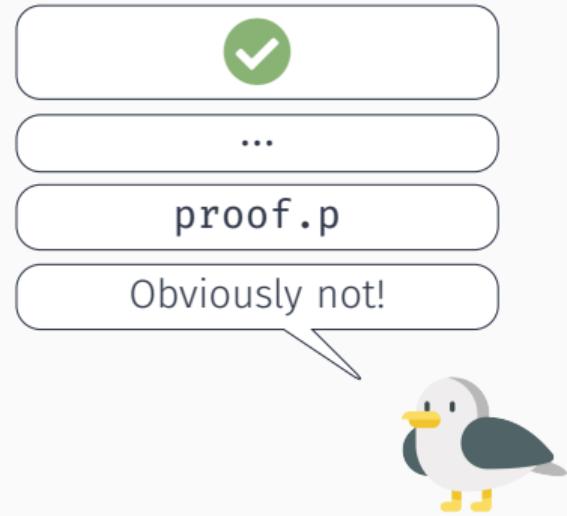
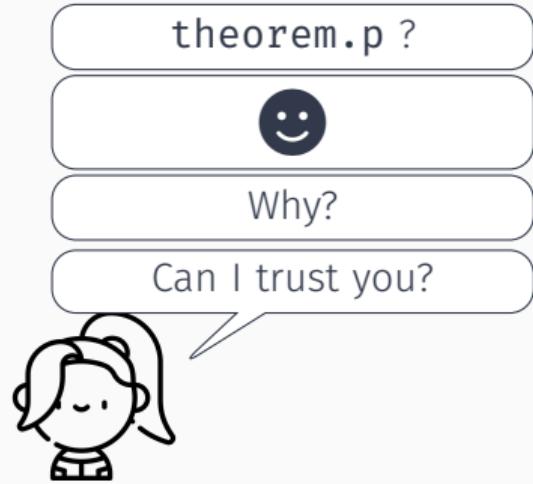
Trust Issues



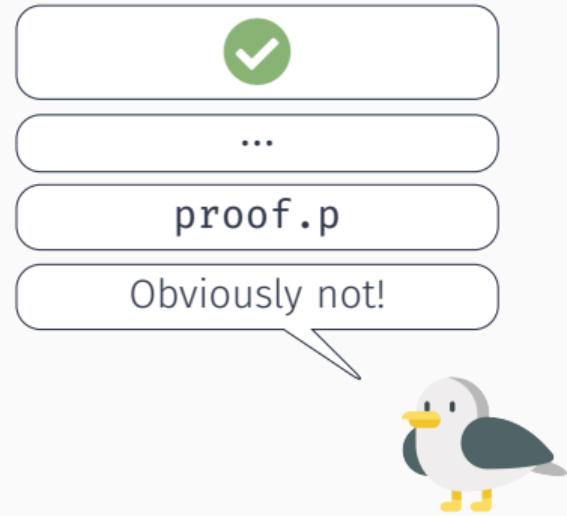
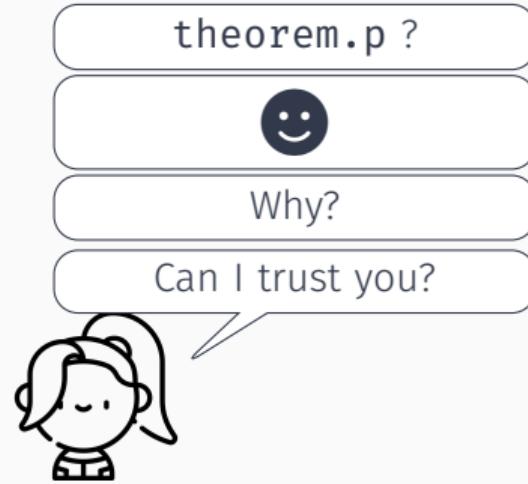
Trust Issues



Trust Issues



Trust Issues



“The only purpose of tableaux is their ability to produce proofs”

— Gilles DOWEK

• Tableaux

• Sequents (GS3)

• Tableaux

- Original formula

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• Tableaux

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- Set of inference rules

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Tableaux

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1–1 mapping

Sequents (GS3)

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Tableaux

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- Proof search

1–1 mapping

Sequents (GS3)

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1-1 mapping

Sequents (GS3)

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \\
 \hline
 \neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \quad \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \hline
 D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \quad \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \hline
 \neg D(f(X)) \quad \delta_{\neg\forall} \\
 \hline
 \neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \quad \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \hline
 D(X_2), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \quad \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \hline
 \sigma = \{X_2 \mapsto f(X)\} \quad \odot_\sigma
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \dots, \neg D(c') \vdash} \neg\exists \\
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 \frac{}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\forall \\
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 \hline
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 \end{array}$$

From Sequents to Rocq

```
Require Export Classical.

Lemma goeland_notnot : forall P:Prop,
  P → (~ P → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_nottrue :
  (~True → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_and : forall P Q:Prop,
  (P → (Q → False)) → (P ∧ Q → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_or : forall P Q:Prop,
  (P → False) → (Q → False) → (P ∨ Q → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_imply : forall P Q:Prop,
  (~P → False) → (Q → False) → ((P → Q) → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_equiv : forall P Q:Prop,
  (~P → ~Q → False) → (P → Q → False) → ((P ↔ Q) → False).
Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_notand : forall P Q:Prop,
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From Sequents to Rocq

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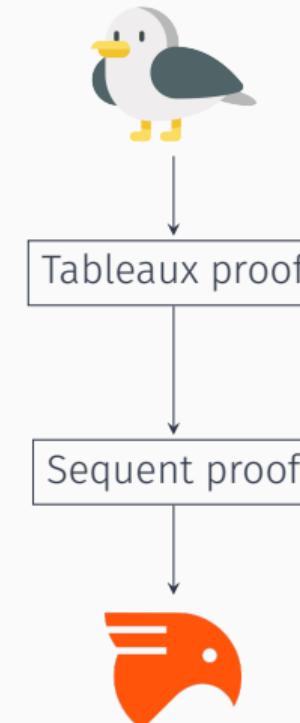
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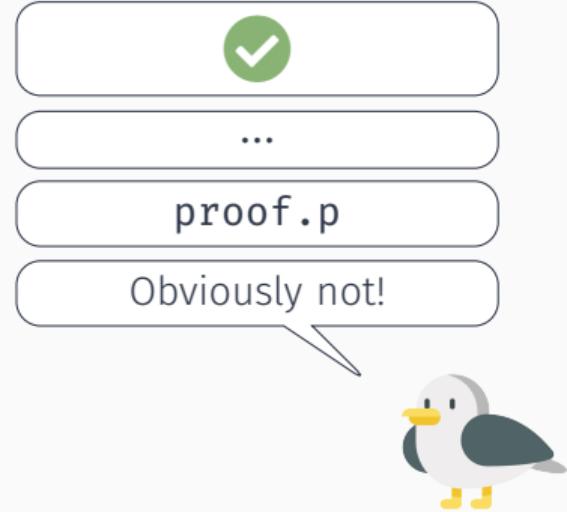
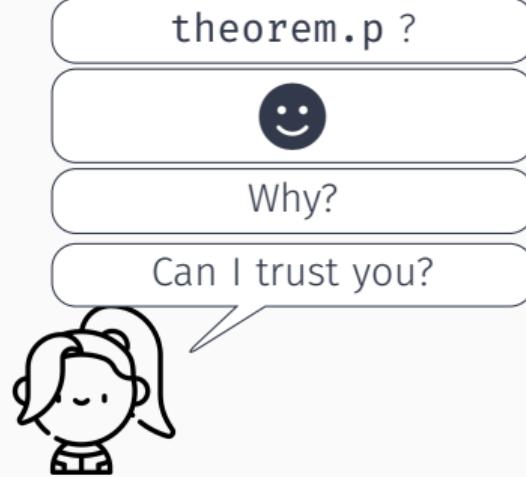
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```

```
...
```



I Trust You!



I Trust You!

theorem.p ?



Why?

Can I trust you?



...

proof.p

Obviously not!

But you can trust me!²



²Even if some people in this room can prove False in Rocq in 10 lines.

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theorem.p ?

Smiley face icon

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Green checkmark icon

...

proof.p

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Unfortunately, life is not that easy...

²Even if some people in this room can prove False in Rocq in 10 lines.

❶ Drinker's Principle

$$\exists x. (D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))$$

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 \frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{}{\neg D(c)} \delta^+_{\neg\forall} \\
 \frac{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}}{} \odot_\sigma
 \end{array}
 \rightsquigarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
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$$\frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(c)} \delta^+_{\neg\forall}$$

$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

\rightsquigarrow

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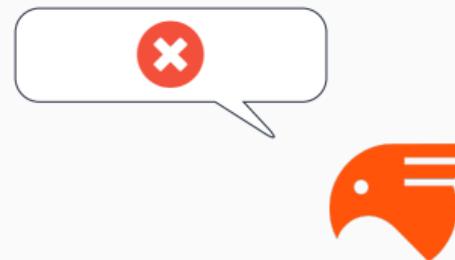
$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

↷

$$\frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax}$$

$$\frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow$$

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Further Investigation Required



Good news:

- This is a correct tableaux proof 😊

Bad news:

- This cannot be turned into a sequent proof with our current implementation 😞

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Tableaux

- Original formula
- Set of inference rules
- Proof search

1-1 mapping

Sequents (GS3)

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❶ Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

Tableaux vs Sequents

Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

Tableaux

- Free variables

Sequents

- Final value

$$\frac{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x)}{P(X)} \gamma_{\forall} \\ \frac{}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto a\}} \odot_{\sigma}$$

(a) Tableaux proof

$$\frac{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x), P(a) \vdash}{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x) \vdash} \text{ax} \\ \forall$$

(b) Sequent proof

Tableaux vs Sequents

Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

Tableaux

- Fresh Skolem symbol parametrized by the free variables of the branch

Sequents

- Fresh Skolem symbol

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x)}{P(sko(Y, Z))} \delta_{\exists}$$

(a) Tableaux proof

$$\frac{Q(a, b), P(c) \vdash}{Q(a, b), \exists x. P(x) \vdash} \exists$$

(b) Sequent proof

❶ Flavors of Skolemization

- Outer (δ): the free variables of the branch
- Inner (δ^+): the free variables of the formula
- Pre-inner (δ^{+^*}): $\delta^+ +$ reuse Skolem symbols
- $\delta^*, \delta^{*^*}, \dots$
- Shorter proofs and faster proof search!

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x, Y)}{P(sko(Y, Z), Y)} \delta_{\exists}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x, Y)}{P(sko(Y), Y)} \delta^+_{\exists}$$

(b) Inner Skolemization

What's Wrong with my Proof?

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \delta^+_{\neg\forall}$$

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$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

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(*)

What's Wrong with my Proof?

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}}{D(X), \neg D(c)} \delta^+_{\neg\forall} \rightsquigarrow \frac{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}}{\neg D(c)} \odot_\sigma$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \frac{\frac{\frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax}_{\forall} (\star)}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow_{\neg\exists}}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}$$

Outer Skolemization is equivalent to the corresponding sequent rule!

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{}{\neg D(f(X))} \delta_{\neg\forall} \\
 \frac{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{D(X_2), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{}{\sigma = \{X_2 \mapsto f(X)\}} \odot_\sigma
 \end{array}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization tableau proof

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \dots, \neg D(c') \vdash} \neg\exists \\
 \frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\exists
 \end{array}$$

(b) Equivalent sequent

Outer Skolemization is equivalent to the corresponding sequent rule!

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{}{\neg D(f(X))} \delta_{\neg\forall} \\
 \frac{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{}{D(X_2), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{}{\sigma = \{X_2 \mapsto f(X)\}} \odot_\sigma
 \end{array}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization tableau proof

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \dots, \neg D(c') \vdash} \neg\exists \\
 \frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\exists
 \end{array}$$

(b) Equivalent sequent

Can we still make use of advanced skolemization strategies while keeping the ability to turn tableaux proofs into sequents ones?

Can we still make use of advanced skolemization strategies while keeping the ability to turn tableaux proofs into sequents ones?

Yes!

⚙️ Deskolemization

Perform all Skolemization steps before the other rules, so the Skolem symbol is necessarily fresh

❑ Key Notions

- Formulas that *depend* on a Skolem symbol
- A formula F needs to be processed before another formula G iff G makes use of a Skolem symbol generated by F

Example

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}$$
$$\frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}$$
$$\frac{}{\neg D(c)} \delta_{\neg\forall}^+$$
$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

Example

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}$$
$$\frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}$$
$$\frac{}{\neg D(c)} \delta_{\neg\forall}^+$$
$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

$\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash$

Example

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}}{\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}}} \delta^+_{\neg A}$$

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\exists$$

Example

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}$$
$$\frac{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}$$
$$\frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(c)} \delta^+_{\neg A}$$
$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

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Example

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$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \Theta_\sigma$$

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow$$
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$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\Rightarrow$$
$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\exists$$

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$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} W \times 2$$
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$$\frac{}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}$$
$$\frac{}{\neg D(c)} \delta^+$$
$$\frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_\sigma$$

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$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash \neg\forall}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg\forall$$
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$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} W \times 2$$
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❶ Beware of the Hydra

- Replaying rules leads to duplicating branches
- That duplicate the original branch
- The hydra heads are growing *without* control
- Without? No: **inter-branches dependency**

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- Replaying rules leads to duplicating branches
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❷ Kill the Hydra? But it has a Family!

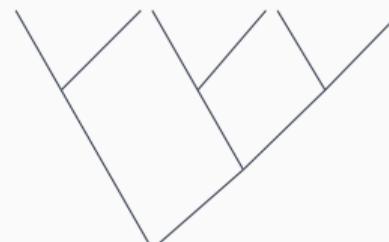
- Should keep formulas when replaying a branching rule
- But which ones? We provide **conditions**
- When satisfied, ensure termination and a well-formed proof
- (weak) requirements on existential rules to work

Evaluation Protocol

- SYN and SET categories (TPTP)
- 3 Skolemization strategies + DMT
- Number of problems solved
- **Rocq** output
- Size of the proof (number of branches)
- Average and max size increase



(a) Tableaux proof



(b) GS3 translation

Experiments

	Problems Proved	Percentage Certified	Avg. Size Increase	Max. Size Increase
Goéland	261	100 %	0 %	-
Goéland+ δ^+	272	100 %	8.1 %	5.3
Goéland+ δ^{+^+}	274	100 %	10.6 %	10.3
Goéland+DMT	363	100 %	0 %	-
Goéland+DMT+ δ^+	375	100 %	4.5 %	3.9
Goéland+DMT+ δ^{+^+}	377	100 %	7.4 %	5.2

- A generic deskolemization framework
- Soundness proof
- Instantiation for δ^+ and δ^{+^+} rules in Goéland
- Output of GS3 proof into Rocq, LambdaPi and Lisa
- Promising results
- 100% of the proofs are certified
- Far below the theoretical bound



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What About Us?

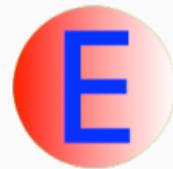


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Proof Transfers



Leo-III



...



**DEDUC
TEAM**



 Agda

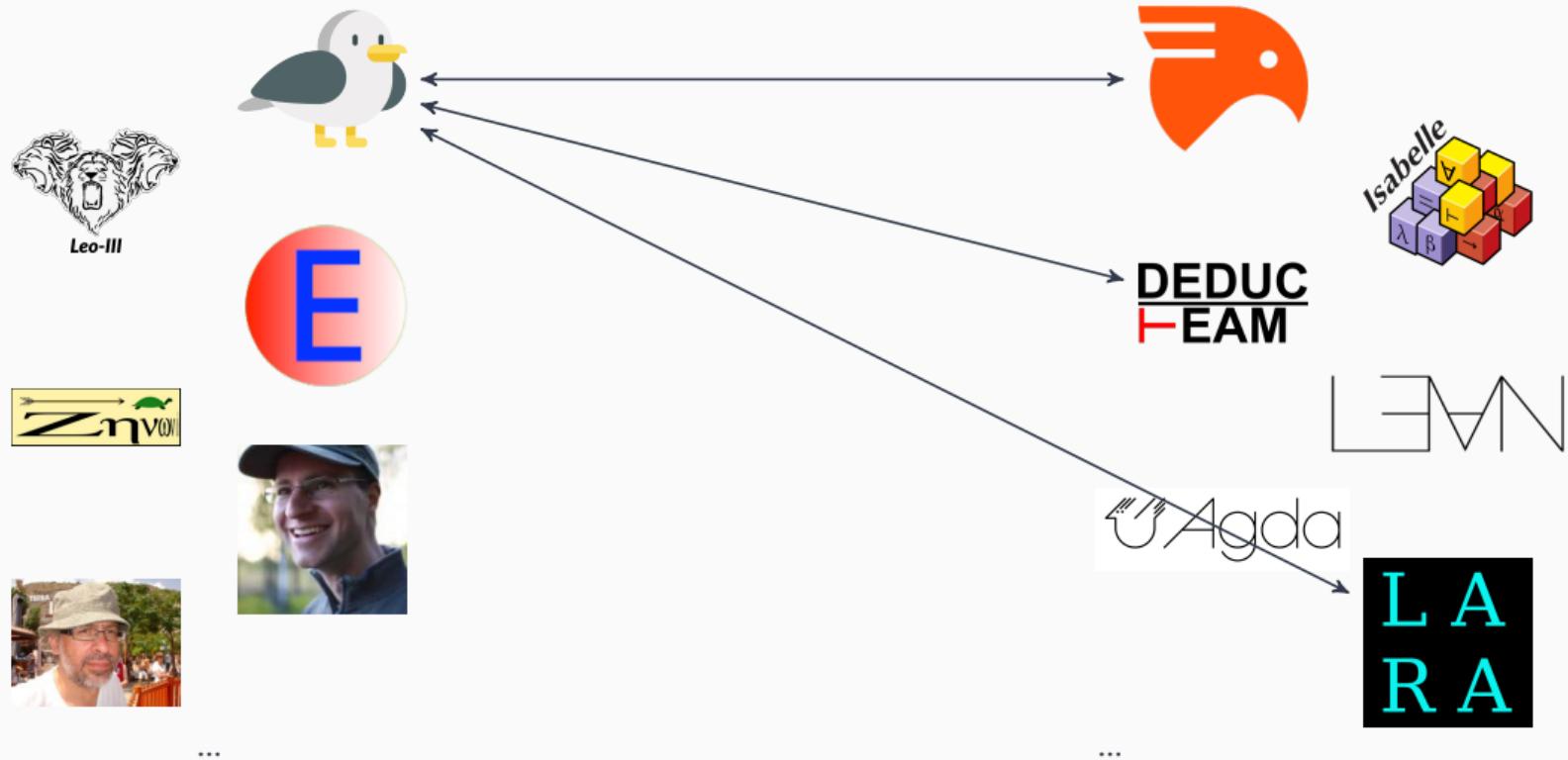
The Agda logo features a stylized symbol composed of three diagonal lines of increasing length followed by the word 'Agda' in a serif font.

...

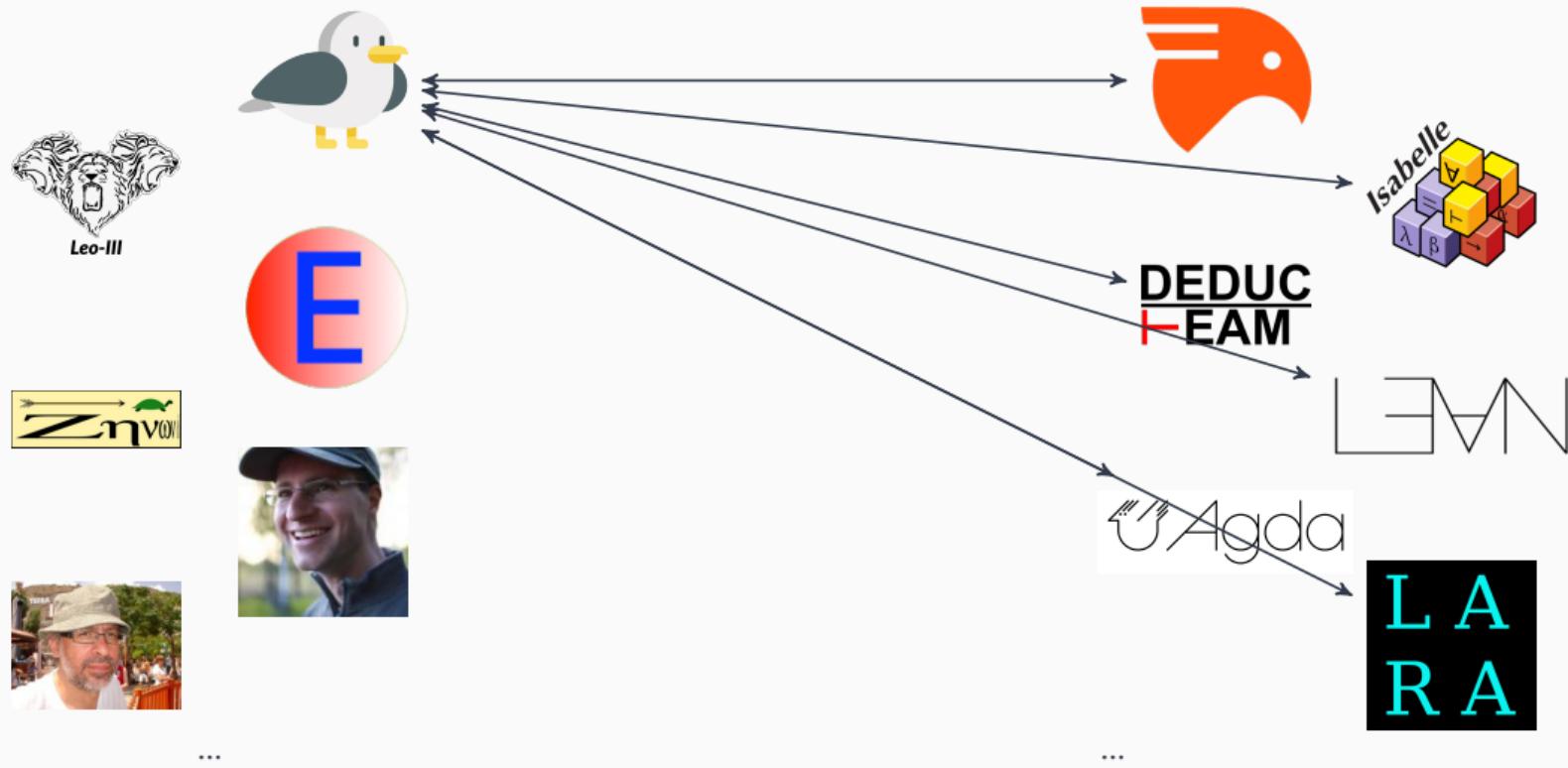
**L A
R A**

The logo for LARA is a black square containing the letters 'L A' on the top line and 'R A' on the bottom line, all in a large, light blue sans-serif font.

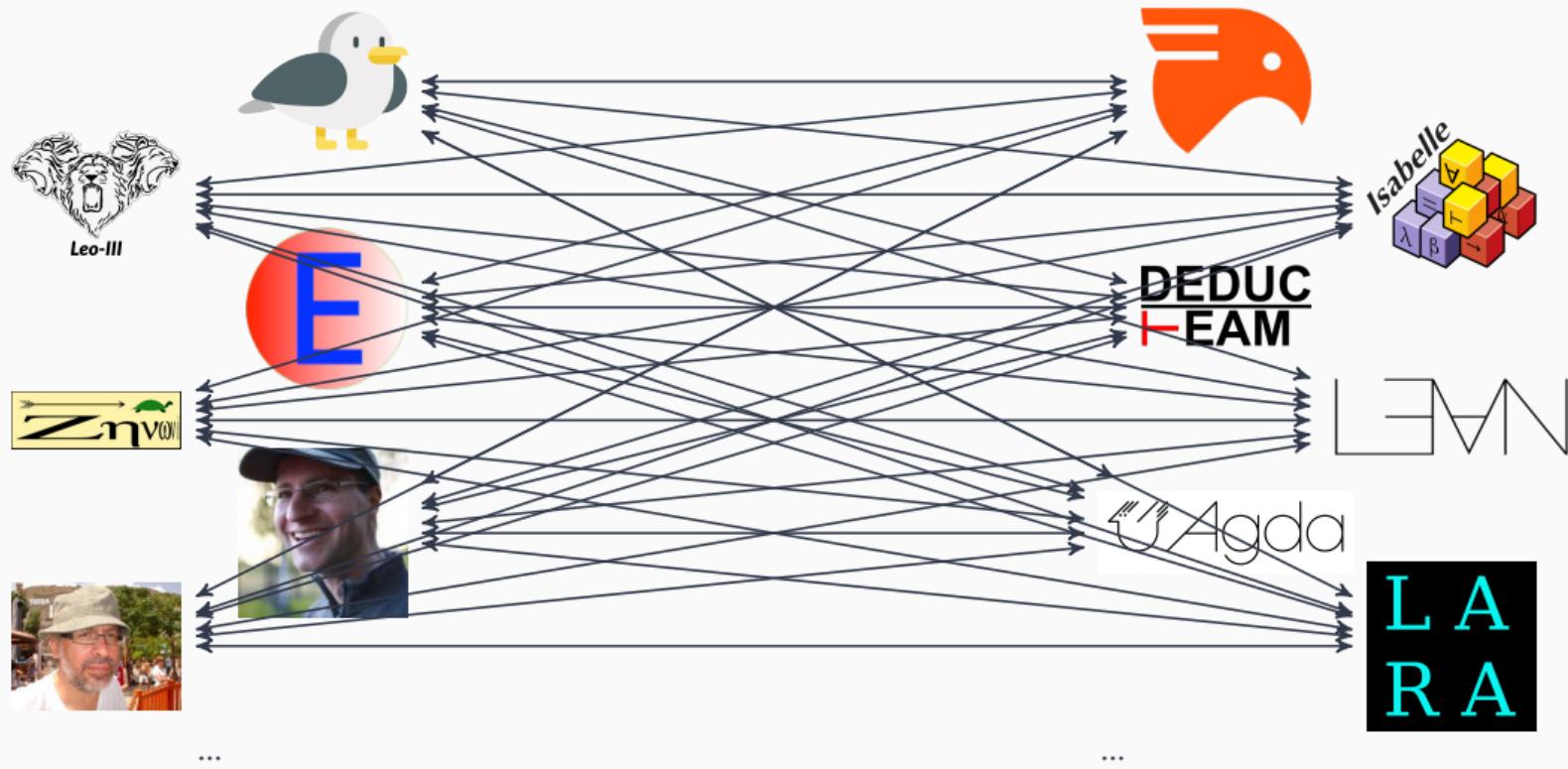
Proof Transfers



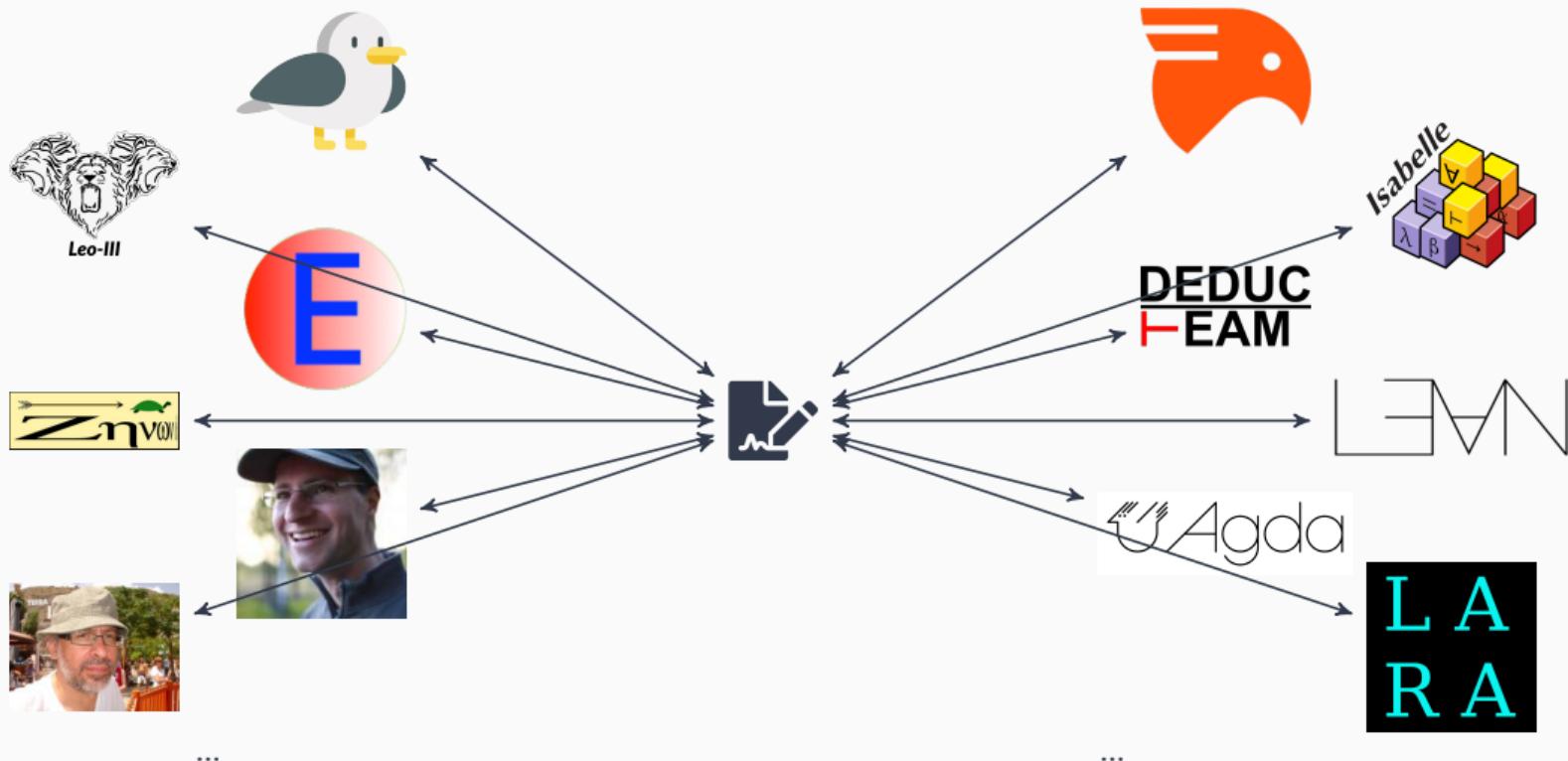
Proof Transfers



Proof Transfers



Proof Transfers

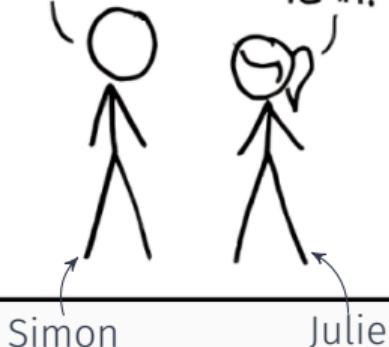


HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC)

SITUATION:
THERE ARE
14 COMPETING
STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS!
WE NEED TO DEVELOP
ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD
THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S
USE CASES.

YEAH!



Credit: xkcd (<https://xkcd.com/>)

❶ The Format

- Extension of TPTP for sequent-based calculus
- Standard input format for ATP
- Easy syntax

❷ Rules

- List of supported rules
- Level of steps
- Management of non-deductive steps

```
fof(<name>, <role>, [<formula_list>] --> [<formula_list>],  
<annotations>).  
  
fof(f2, plain, [a | b, b] --> [], ...).  
fof(f1, plain, [a | b, a] --> [], ...).  
fof(f0, plain, [a | b] --> [], inference(leftOr, [status(thm), 0], [f1,  
f2])).
```

❶ LambdaPi

- ITP-oriented
- Handle any foundation
- Hard to parse/import
- Translation from many proof assistants (+ some ATP/SMT solvers)

❷ SC-TPTP

- ATP-oriented
- Focus on proof exchanges
- Easy to parse & reconstruct
- Close to current ATP's output format

SC-TPTP Utils

- Proof checker
- Proof transformation

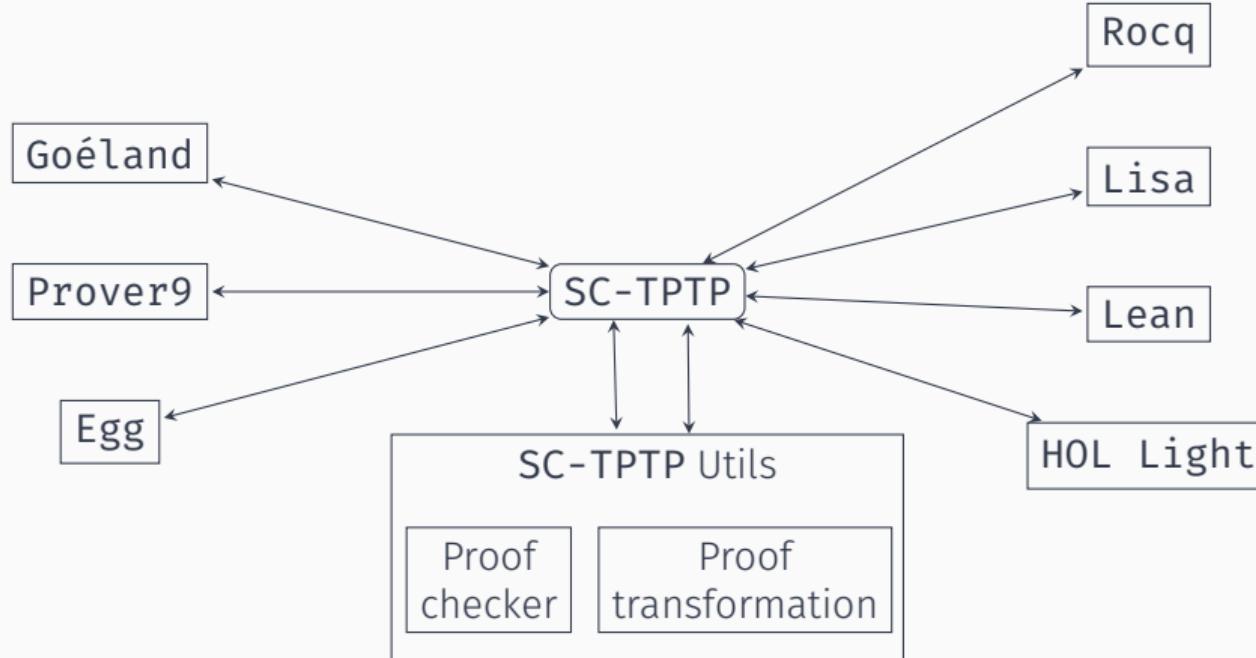
Compatible Tools

- Proof-producing ATP
- Tactics for ITP

```
example ( α : Type) [Nonempty α] (d : α → Prop) :  
  ∃ y : α, ∀ x : α, (d x → d y) := by goeland
```

```
val drinkers2 = Theorem(∃(x, ∀(y, d(x) ==> d(y))):  
  have(thesis) by Goeland
```

```
val thm = Theorem((∀(x, P(x)) ∨ ∀(y, Q(y))) ==> (P(∅) ∨ Q(∅)) ):  
  have(thesis) by Prover9
```



✓ Take Home Message

- You can perform an efficient (tableaux) proof-search while keeping the ability to produce a proof certificate
- You can use SC-TPTP to exchange proofs between various tools

● What's Next?

- Standalone tool and proof elaboration
- Integration of theories
- Framework for verification of tableaux proofs: TableauxRocq³
- Addition of tools into the SC-TPTP ecosystem
- The ProoVer competition at FLoC 2026!

³Currently under development. Actually, *right now*, depending on what Johann is doing...

Thank you! 😊

<https://github.com/GoelandProver/Goeland>



<https://github.com/SC-TPTP/sc-tptp>

