

As Natural as 0, 1, 2

Philip Wadler

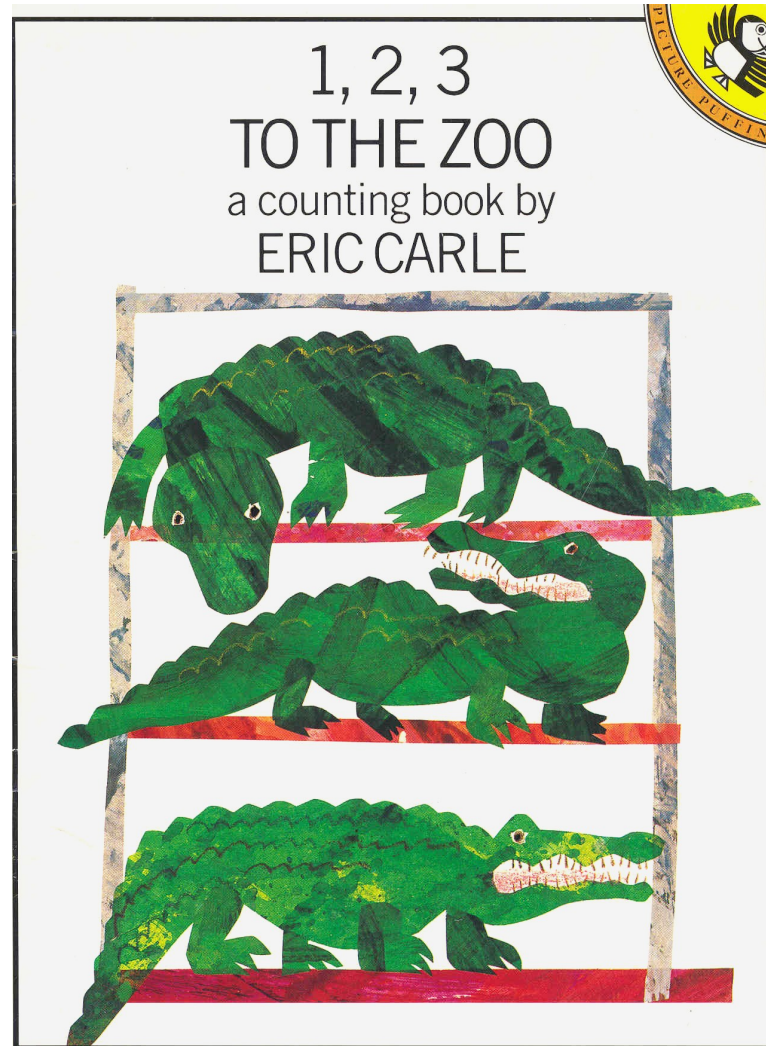
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Part 0

Counting starts at zero

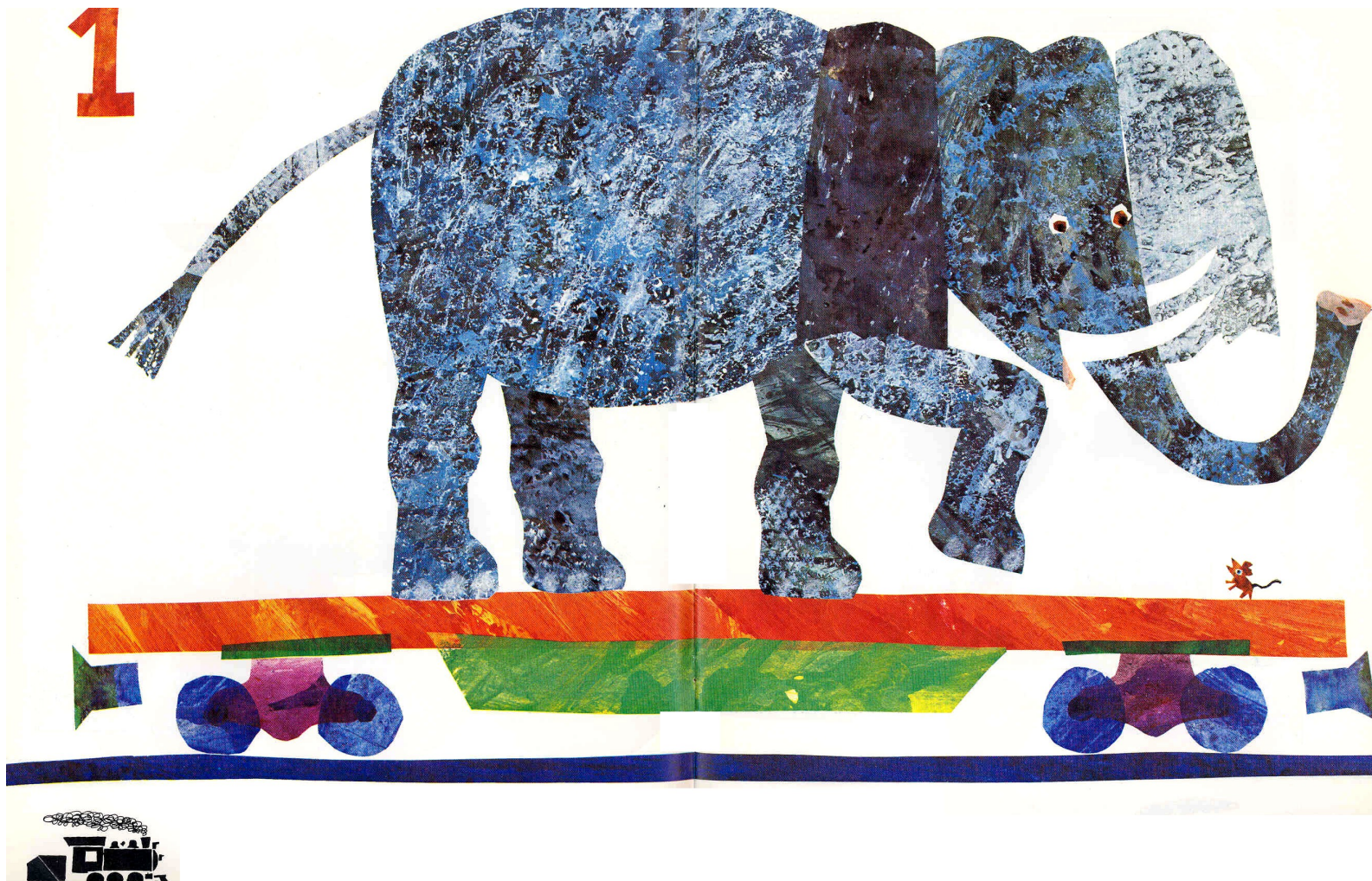
Carle



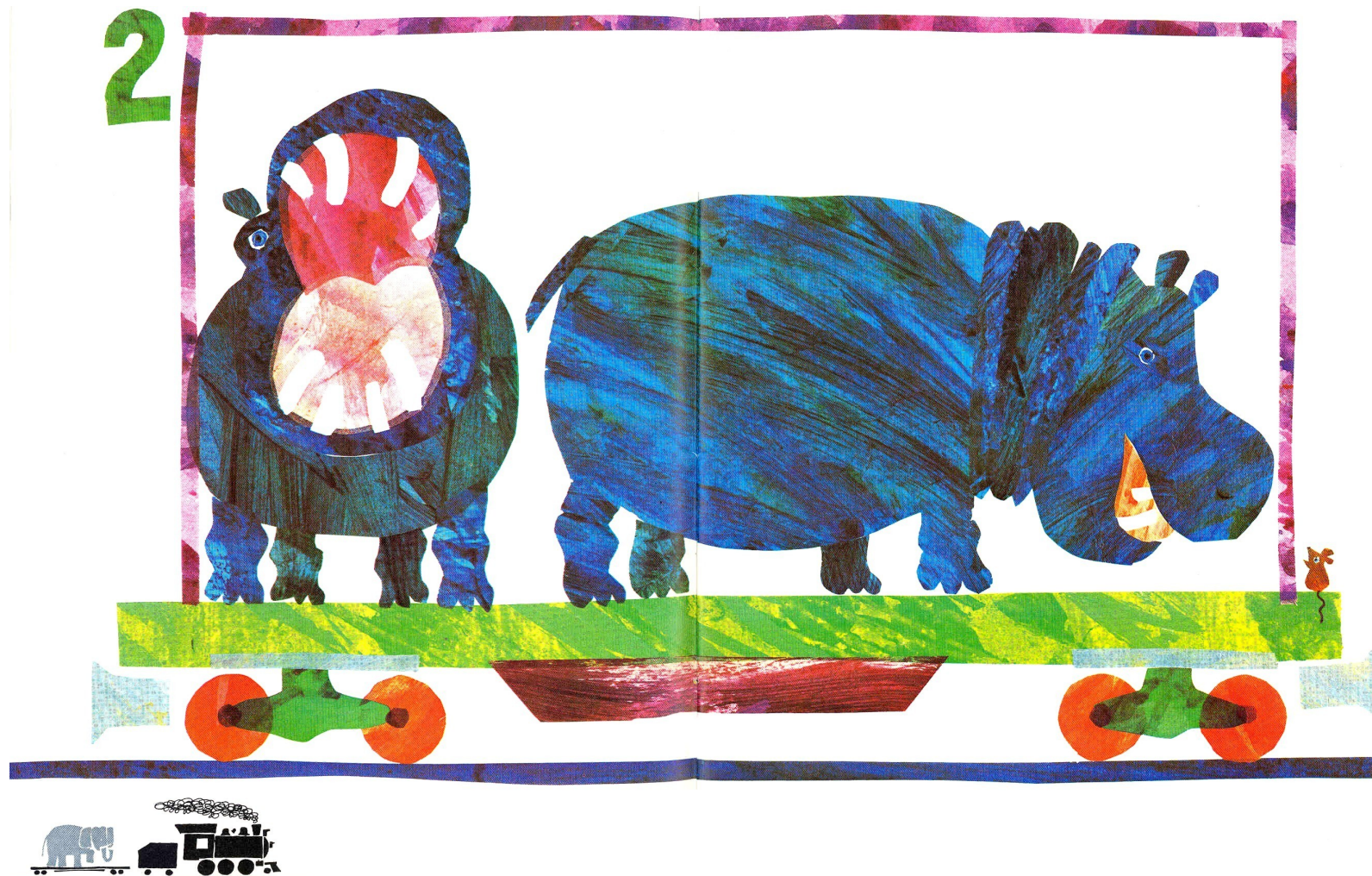
Carle



Carle



Carle

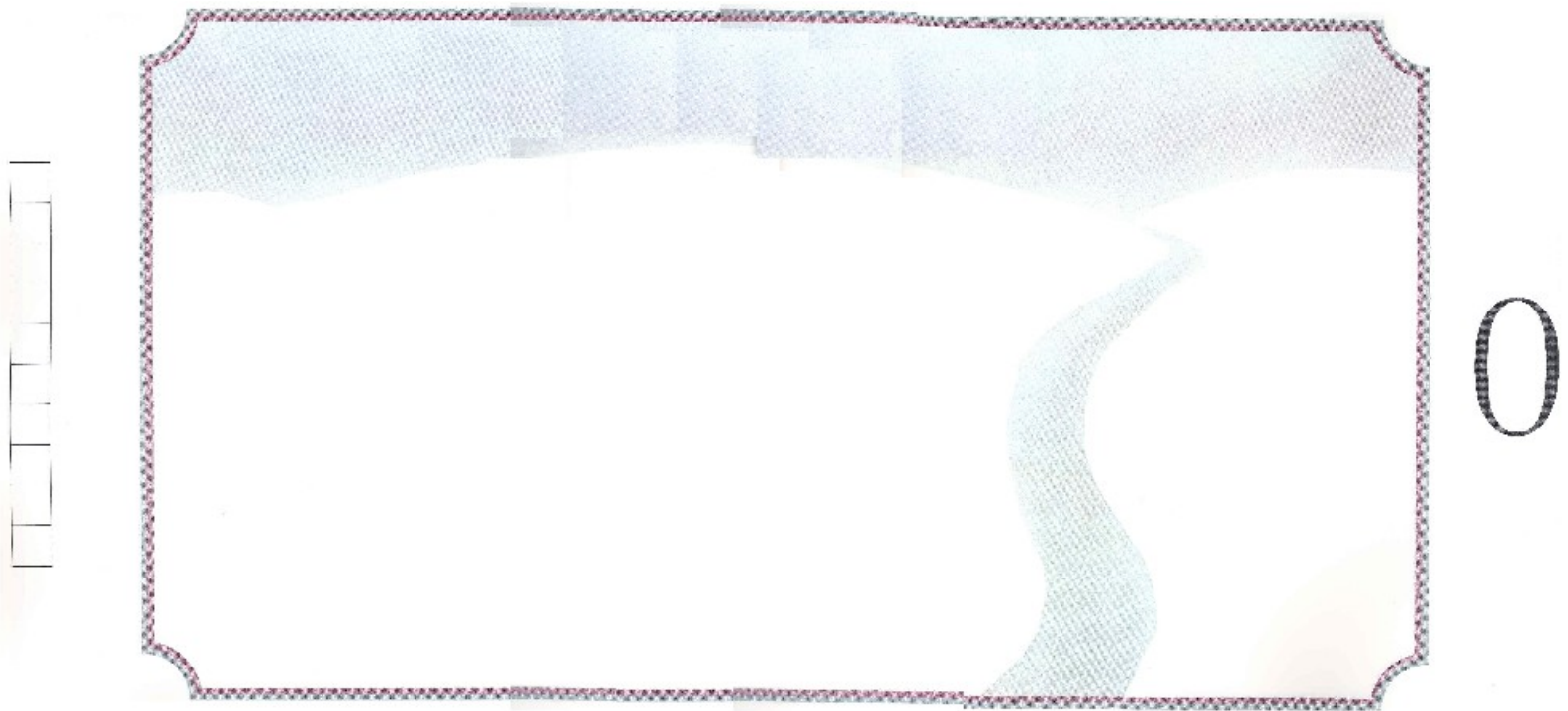


Anno

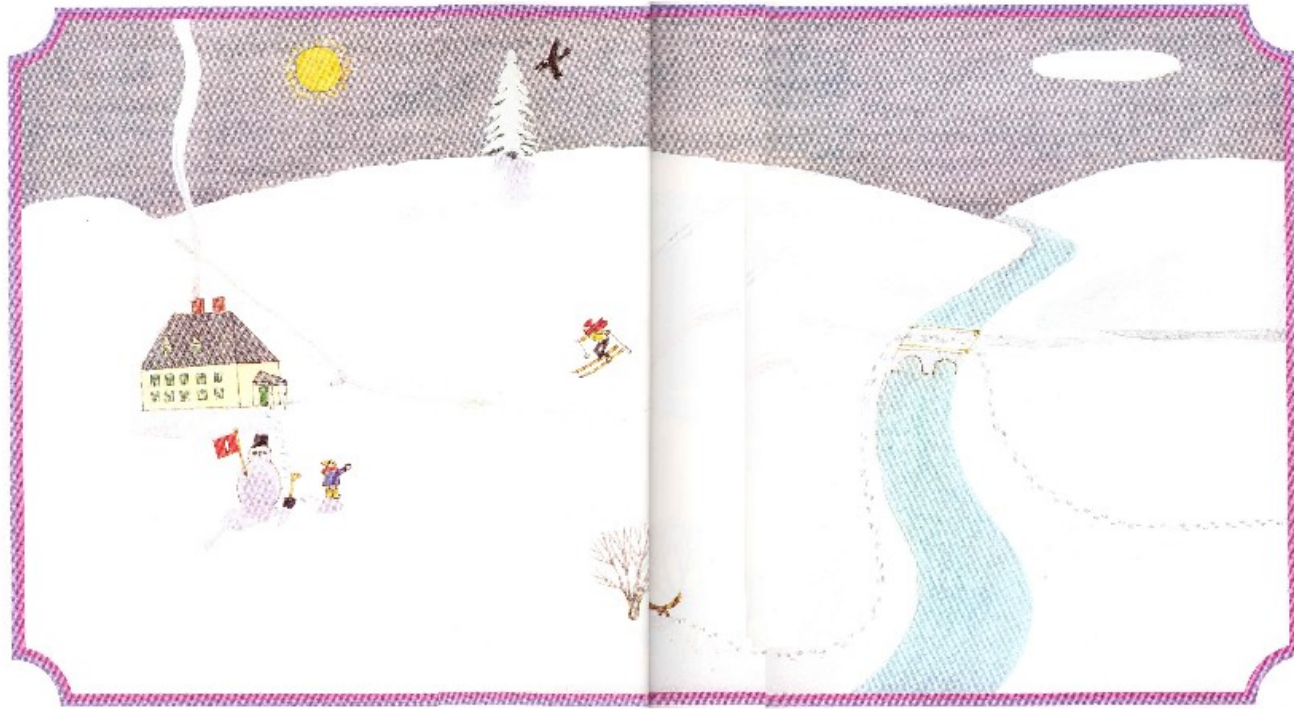
Anno's Counting Book



Anno



Anno



1

Anno



2

Zero appears in India, 7th century CE



Counting in Japanese

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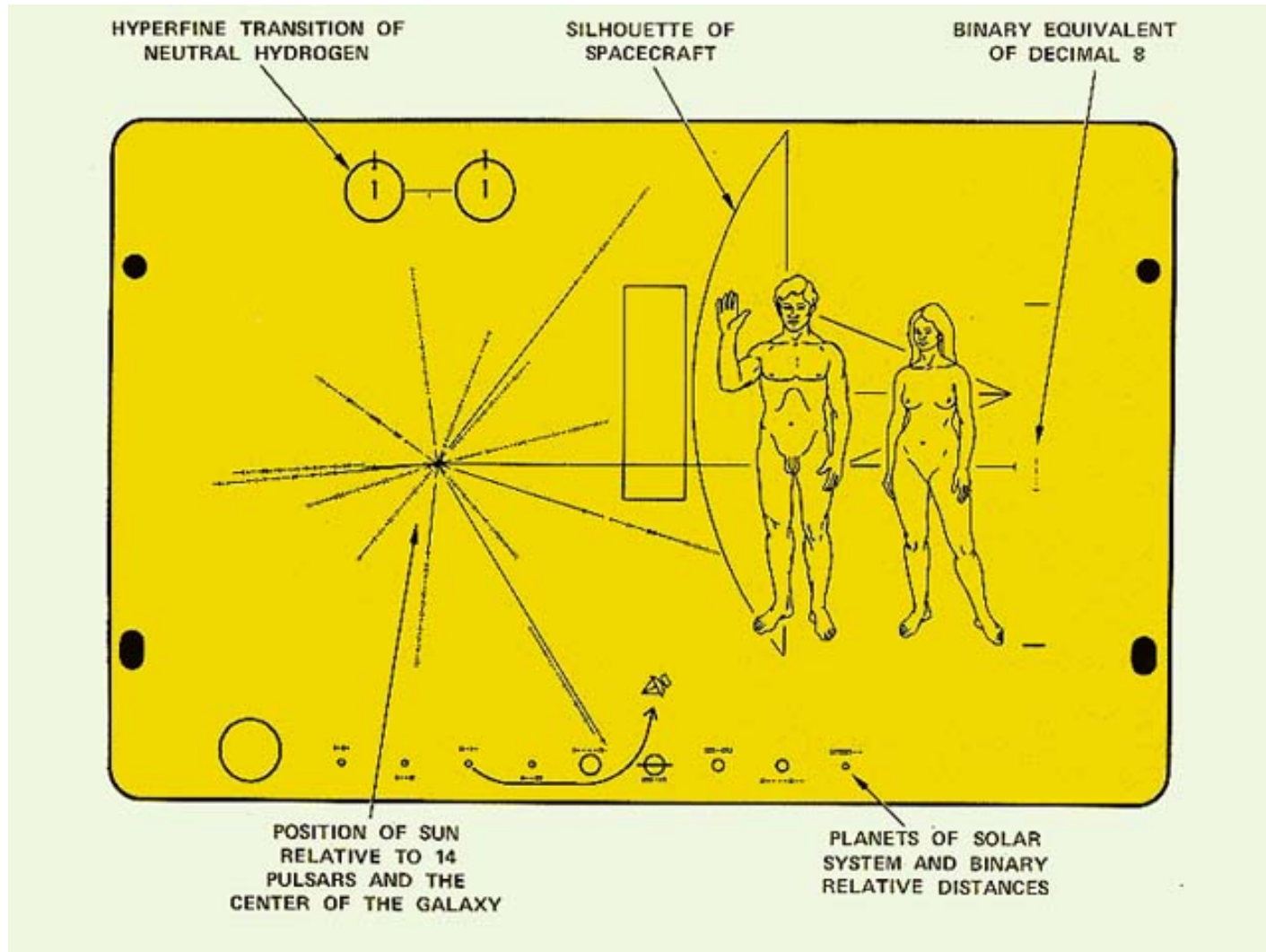
五

五

Part 1

Aliens

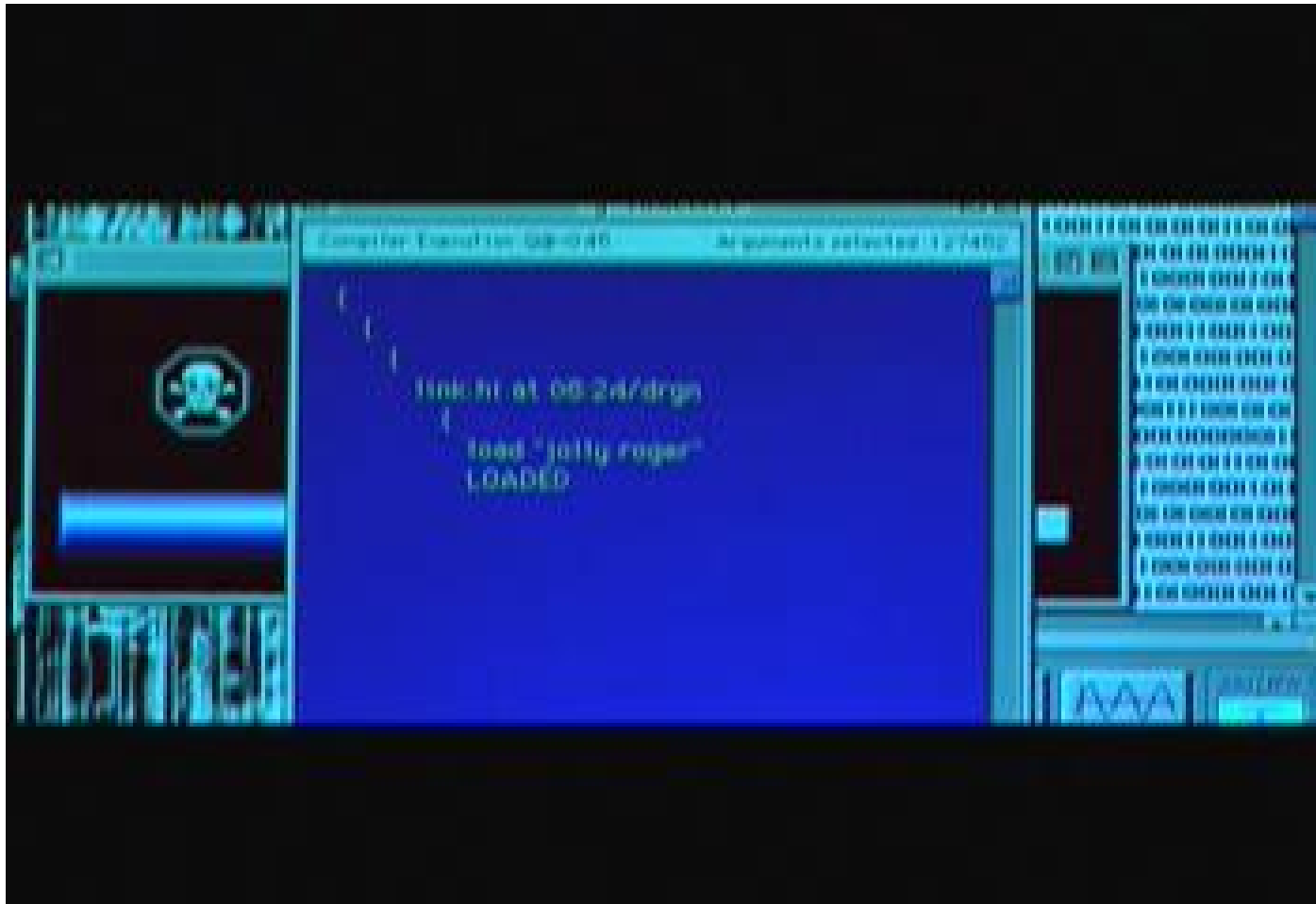
How to talk to aliens



Independence Day



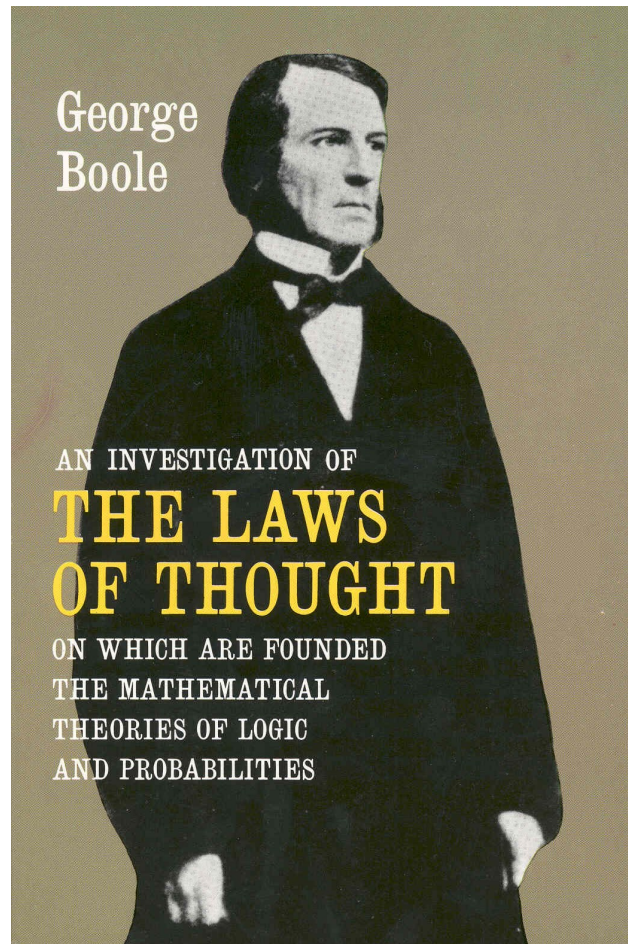
A universal programming language?



Part 2

Boolean algebra

George Boole (1815–1864)



Boole 1847: Mathematical analysis of logic

The primary canonical forms already determined for the expression of Propositions, are

All Xs are Ys,	$x(1 - y) = 0,$A.
No Xs are Ys,	$xy = 0,$E.
Some Xs are Ys,	$v = xy,$I.
Some Xs are not Ys,	$v = x(1 - y)$O.

On examining these, we perceive that E and I are symmetrical with respect to x and y , so that x being changed into y , and y into x , the equations remain unchanged. Hence E and I may be interpreted into

No Ys are Xs,
Some Ys are Xs,

respectively. Thus we have the known rule of the Logicians, that particular affirmative and universal negative Propositions admit of simple conversion. |

Boole 1854: Laws of Thought

PROPOSITION IV.

That axiom of metaphysicians which is termed the principle of contradiction, and which affirms that it is impossible for any being to possess a quality, and at the same time not to possess it, is a consequence of the fundamental law of thought, whose expression is $x^2 = x$.

Let us write this equation in the form

$$x - x^2 = 0,$$

whence we have

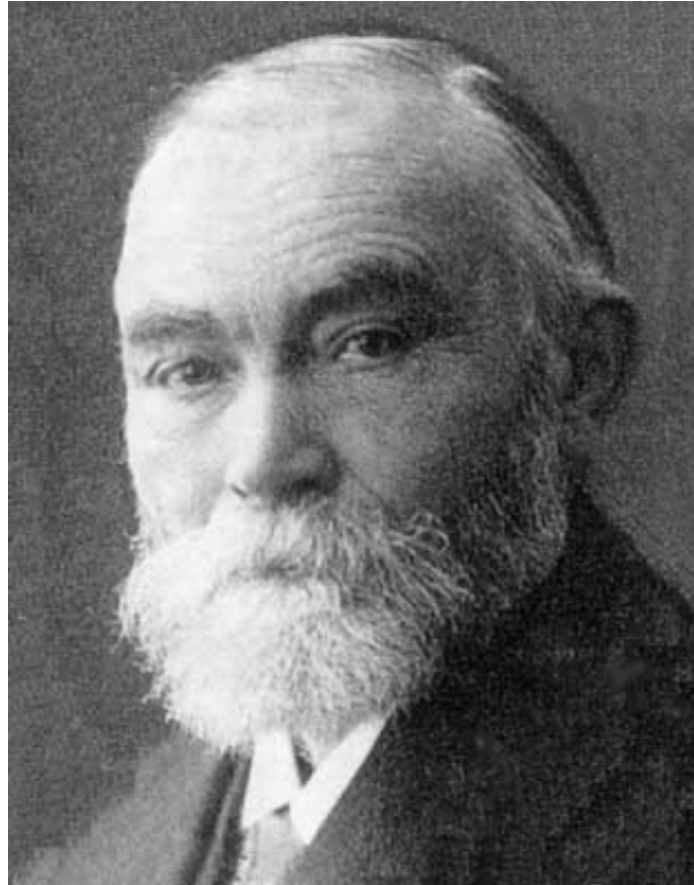
$$x(1 - x) = 0; \tag{1}$$

both these transformations being justified by the axiomatic laws of combination and transposition (II. 13). Let us, for simplicity

Part 3

Frege's *Begriffsschrift*

Gotlob Frege (1848–1925)



Frege 1879 — *modus ponens*

We could write this inference perhaps as follows :

$$\begin{array}{l} \vdash A \\ \quad \vdash B \end{array}$$
$$\vdash B$$

$$\vdash A.$$

This would become awkward if long expressions were to take the places of A and B , since each of them would have to be written twice. That is why I use the following

Frege 1879 — *modus ponens*

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$$\vdash B$$

$$\vdash A.$$

This would become awkward if long expressions were to take the places of A and B , since each of them would have to be written twice. That is why I use the following

$$\frac{B \supset A \quad B}{A}$$

Frege 1879 — quantification

It is clear also that from

$$\vdash \frac{\Phi(a)}{A}$$

we can derive

$$\vdash \frac{\frac{a}{\Phi(a)}}{A}$$

if A is an expression in which a does not occur and if a stands only in the argument places of $\Phi(a)$.¹⁴ If $\frac{a}{\Phi(a)}$ is denied, we must be able to specify a meaning for a such that $\Phi(a)$ will be denied. If, therefore, $\frac{a}{\Phi(a)}$ were to be denied and

Frege 1879 — quantification

It is clear also that from

$$\vdash \begin{array}{l} \Phi(a) \\ \quad \vdash \\ \quad A \end{array}$$

we can derive

$$\vdash \begin{array}{l} \overset{a}{\smile} \Phi(a) \\ \quad \vdash \\ \quad A \end{array}$$

if A is an expression in which a does not occur and if a stands only in the argument places of $\Phi(a)$.¹⁴ If $\overset{a}{\smile} \Phi(a)$ is denied, we must be able to specify a meaning for a such that $\Phi(a)$ will be denied. If, therefore, $\overset{a}{\smile} \Phi(a)$ were to be denied and

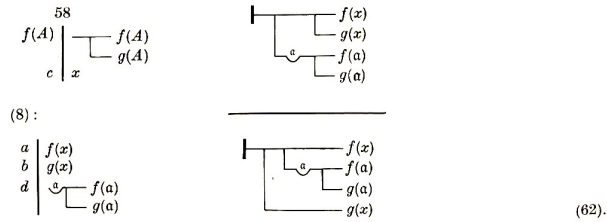
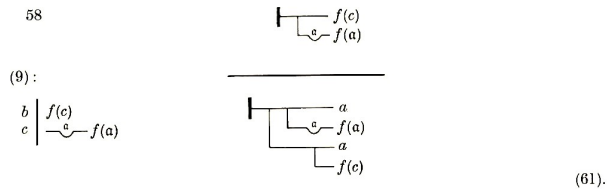
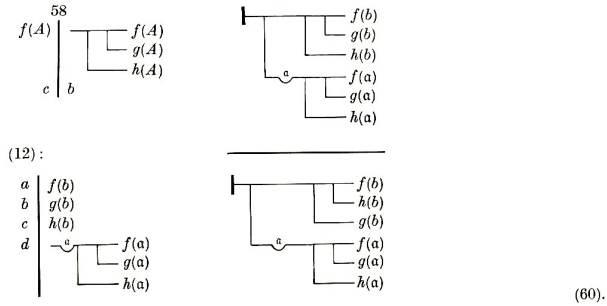
$$\frac{A \supset \Phi(a)}{A \supset \forall a. \Phi(a)}$$

Frege 1879

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FREGE

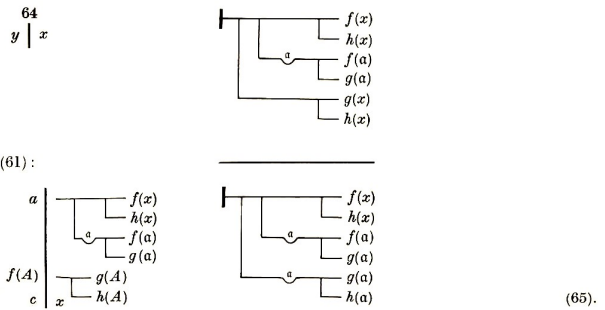
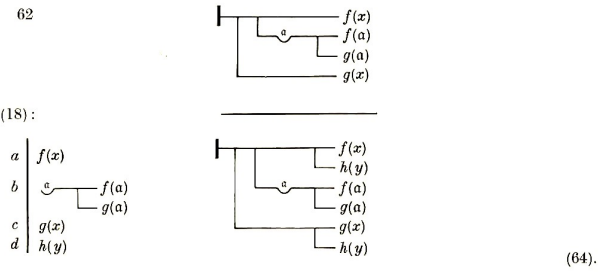
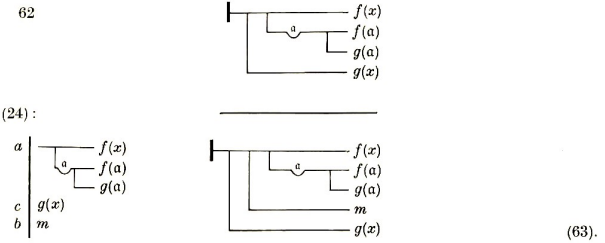
We see how this judgment replaces one mode of inference, namely, Felapton or Fesapo, between which we do not distinguish here since no subject has been singled out.



This judgment replaces the mode of inference Barbara when the minor premiss, $g(x)$, has a particular content.

BEGRIFFSSCHRIFT

53



Frege in modern notation

$$\frac{B \supset A \quad B}{A}$$

$$A \supset (B \supset A)$$

$$(C \supset (B \supset A)) \supset ((C \supset B) \supset (C \supset A))$$

$$(C \supset (B \supset A)) \supset (B \supset (C \supset A))$$

Part 4

Gentzen's Natural Deduction

Gerhard Gentzen (1909–1945)



Gentzen 1934: Natural Deduction

$\&-I$ $\frac{\mathcal{A} \quad \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}$	$\&-E$ $\frac{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A}} \quad \frac{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{B}}$	$\vee-I$ $\frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}} \quad \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}}$	$\vee-E$ $\frac{\mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B} \quad \begin{array}{c} [\mathcal{A}] \\ \mathcal{C} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} [\mathcal{B}] \\ \mathcal{C} \end{array}}{\mathcal{C}}$
$\forall-I$ $\frac{\mathcal{F}a}{\forall x \mathcal{F}x}$	$\forall-E$ $\frac{\forall x \mathcal{F}x}{\mathcal{F}a}$	$\exists-I$ $\frac{\mathcal{F}a}{\exists x \mathcal{F}x}$	$\exists-E$ $\frac{\exists x \mathcal{F}x \quad \begin{array}{c} [\mathcal{F}a] \\ \mathcal{C} \end{array}}{\mathcal{C}}$
$\supset-I$ $\frac{\begin{array}{c} [\mathcal{A}] \\ \mathcal{B} \end{array}}{\mathcal{A} \supset \mathcal{B}}$	$\supset-E$ $\frac{\mathcal{A} \quad \mathcal{A} \supset \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{B}}$	$\neg-I$ $\frac{\begin{array}{c} [\mathcal{A}] \\ \wedge \end{array}}{\neg \mathcal{A}}$	$\neg-E$ $\frac{\mathcal{A} \quad \neg \mathcal{A}}{\wedge} \quad \frac{\wedge}{\mathcal{D}}$

Gentzen 1934: Natural Deduction

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A]^x \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \supset B} \supset\text{-I}^x \qquad \frac{A \supset B \quad A}{B} \supset\text{-E}$$

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \& B} \&\text{-I} \qquad \frac{A \& B}{A} \&\text{-E}_0 \qquad \frac{A \& B}{B} \&\text{-E}_1$$

A proof

$$\frac{\frac{[B \& A]^z}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[B \& A]^z}{B} \&-E_0}{A \& B} \&-I$$
$$\frac{A \& B}{(B \& A) \supset (A \& B)} \supset-I^z$$

Simplifying proofs

$$\frac{\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A]^x \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \supset B} \supset\text{-I}^x \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ A \end{array}}{B} \supset\text{-E} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ A \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ A \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \& B} \&\text{-I} \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ A \end{array}}{A} \&\text{-E}_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ A \end{array}$$

Simplifying a proof

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[B \& A]^z}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[B \& A]^z}{B} \&-E_0}{A \& B} \&-I \quad \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I}{(B \& A) \supset (A \& B) \supset -I^z \quad B \& A \supset -E} \supset -E$$
$$\frac{}{A \& B}$$

Simplifying a proof

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{[B \& A]^z}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[B \& A]^z}{B} \&-E_0 \\
 \hline
 A \& B \quad \&-I \\
 \hline
 (B \& A) \supset (A \& B) \quad \supset-I^z \\
 \hline
 \frac{A \& B \quad \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I}{A \& B} \supset-E
 \end{array}$$

\Downarrow

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I \quad \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I \\
 \frac{B \& A}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{B \& A}{B} \&-E_0 \\
 \hline
 A \& B \quad \&-I
 \end{array}$$

Simplifying a proof

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{[B \& A]^z}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[B \& A]^z}{B} \&-E_0 \\
 \hline
 A \& B \quad \&-I \\
 \hline
 (B \& A) \supset (A \& B) \quad \supset-I^z \\
 \hline
 \frac{A \& B \quad \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I}{A \& B} \supset-E
 \end{array}$$

\Downarrow

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I \quad \frac{[B]^y \quad [A]^x}{B \& A} \&-I \\
 \hline
 \frac{B \& A}{A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{B \& A}{B} \&-E_0 \\
 \hline
 A \& B \quad \&-I
 \end{array}$$

\Downarrow

$$\frac{[A]^x \quad [B]^y}{A \& B} \&-I$$

Part 5

Church's Lambda Calculus

Alonzo Church (1903–1995)

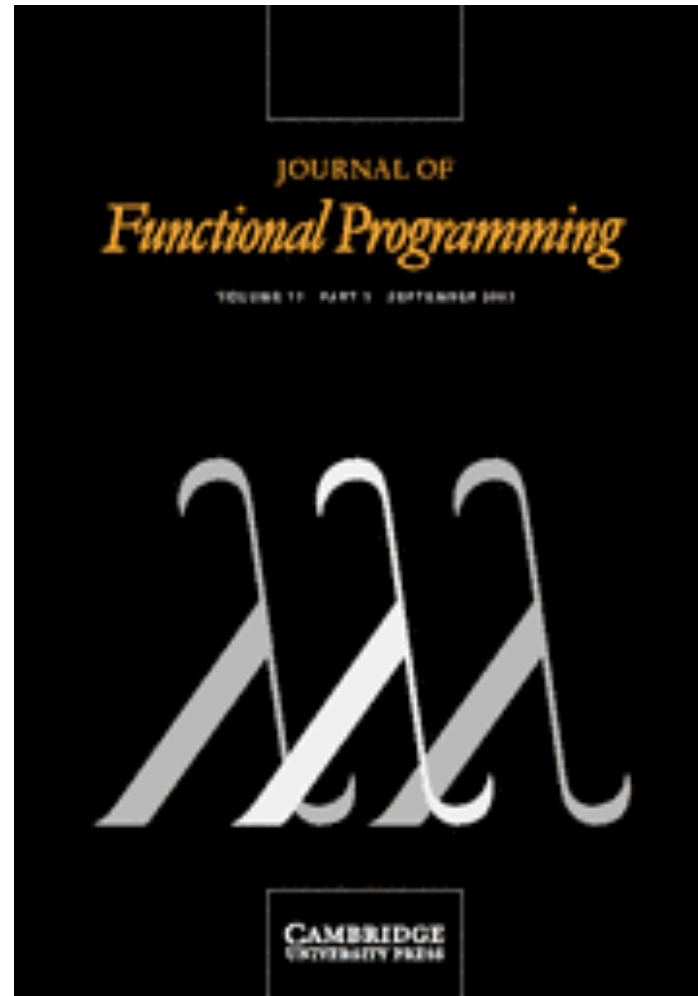


Church 1932: Lambda Calculus

An occurrence of a variable \mathbf{x} in a given formula is called an occurrence of \mathbf{x} as a *bound variable* in the given formula if it is an occurrence of \mathbf{x} in a part of the formula of the form $\lambda \mathbf{x}[\mathbf{M}]$; that is, if there is a formula \mathbf{M} such that $\lambda \mathbf{x}[\mathbf{M}]$ occurs in the given formula and the occurrence of \mathbf{x} in question is an occurrence in $\lambda \mathbf{x}[\mathbf{M}]$. All other occurrences of a variable in a formula are called occurrences as a *free variable*.

A formula is said to be *well-formed* if it is a variable, or if it is one

Lambda



Lambda



Lambda



Reduction rules

$$(\lambda x. u) t \Rightarrow u[t/x]$$

$$\text{fst } (t, u) \Rightarrow t$$

$$\text{snd } (t, u) \Rightarrow u$$

Simplifying a term

$$(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x)$$

Simplifying a term

$$(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x)$$
$$\Downarrow$$
$$(\text{snd } (y, x), \text{fst } (y, x))$$

Simplifying a term

$$(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x)$$
$$\Downarrow$$
$$(\text{snd } (y, x), \text{fst } (y, x))$$
$$\Downarrow$$
$$(x, y)$$

Church 1940: Typed Lambda Calculus

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [x : A]^x \\ \vdots \\ u : B \end{array}}{\lambda x. u : A \supset B} \supset\text{-I}^x \qquad \frac{s : A \supset B \quad t : A}{st : B} \supset\text{-E}$$

$$\frac{t : A \quad u : B}{(t, u) : A \& B} \&\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{s : A \& B}{\text{fst } s : A} \&\text{-E}_0$$

$$\frac{s : A \& B}{\text{snd } s : B} \&\text{-E}_1$$

A program

$$\frac{\frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{snd } z : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{fst } z : B} \&-E_0}{\frac{\text{snd } z : A \quad \text{fst } z : B}{(\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : A \& B} \&-I} \supset-I^z$$
$$\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : (B \& A) \supset (A \& B)$$

Simplifying programs

$$\frac{\frac{\begin{array}{c} [x : A]^x \\ \vdots \\ u : B \end{array}}{\lambda x. u : A \supset B} \supset\text{-I}^x \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ t : A \end{array}}{\frac{\lambda x. u : A \supset B \quad t : A}{(\lambda x. u) t : B} \supset\text{-E}} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ t : A \\ \vdots \\ u[t/x] : B \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ t : A \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ u : B \end{array}}{(t, u) : A \& B} \&\text{-I}}{\frac{(t, u) : A \& B}{\text{fst } (t, u) : A} \&\text{-E}_0} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ t : A \end{array}$$

Simplifying a program

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{snd } z : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{fst } z : B} \&-E_0}{(\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : A \& B} \&-I}{\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : (B \& A) \supset (A \& B)} \supset-I^z \quad \frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x) : A \& B} \supset-E$$

Simplifying a program

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{snd } z : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{fst } z : B} \&-E_0}{(\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : A \& B} \&-I}{\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : (B \& A) \supset (A \& B)} \supset-I^z \quad \frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x) : A \& B} \supset-E$$

↓

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{\text{snd } (y, x) : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{\text{fst } (y, x) : B} \&-E_0}{(\text{snd } (y, x), \text{fst } (y, x)) : A \& B} \&-I$$

Simplifying a program

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{snd } z : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{[z : B \& A]^z}{\text{fst } z : B} \&-E_0}{(\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : A \& B} \&-I}{\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z) : (B \& A) \supset (A \& B)} \supset-I^z \quad \frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{(\lambda z. (\text{snd } z, \text{fst } z)) (y, x) : A \& B} \supset-E$$

↓

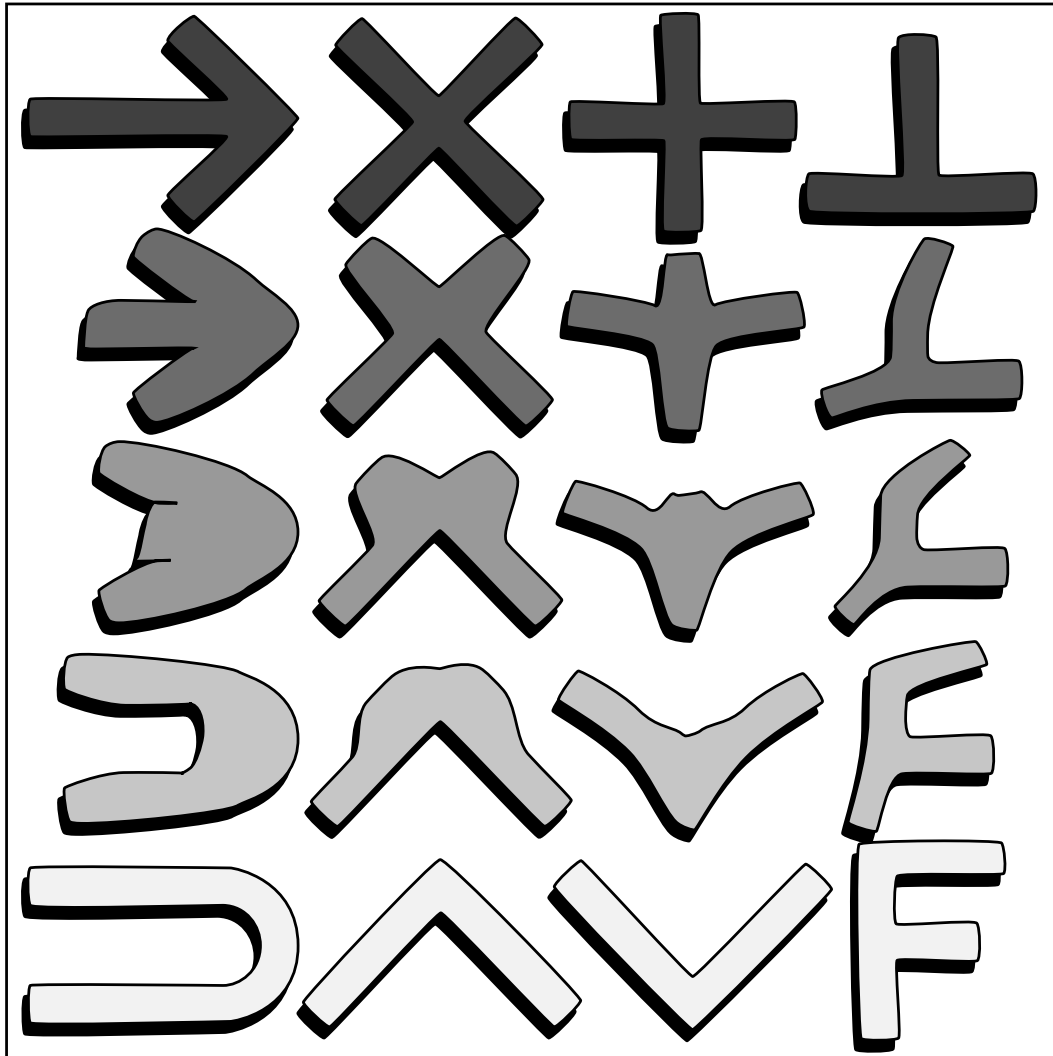
$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{\text{snd } (y, x) : A} \&-E_1 \quad \frac{\frac{[y : B]^y \quad [x : A]^x}{(y, x) : B \& A} \&-I}{\text{fst } (y, x) : B} \&-E_0}{(\text{snd } (y, x), \text{fst } (y, x)) : A \& B} \&-I$$

↓

$$\frac{[x : A]^x \quad [y : B]^y}{(x, y) : A \& B} \&-I$$

Part 6

The Curry-Howard Isomorphism



LC'90

The Curry-Howard homeomorphism

Haskell Curry (1900–1982) / William Howard



Howard 1980

THE FORMULAE-AS-TYPES NOTION OF CONSTRUCTION

W. A. Howard

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Dedicated to H. B. Curry on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The following consists of notes which were privately circulated in 1969. Since they have been referred to a few times in the literature, it seems worth while to publish them. They have been rearranged for easier reading, and some inessential corrections have been made.

Howard 1980

1. Formulation of the sequent calculus

Let $P(\supset)$ denote positive implicational propositional logic. The prime formulae of $P(\supset)$ are propositional variables. If α and β are formulae, so is $\alpha \supset \beta$. A *sequent* has the form $\Gamma \rightarrow \beta$, where Γ is a (possibly empty) finite sequence of formulae and β is a formula. The axioms and rules of inference of $P(\supset)$ are as follows.

(1.1) Axioms: all sequents of the form
$$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

(1.2)
$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \rightarrow \beta}{\Gamma \rightarrow \alpha \supset \beta}$$

(1.3)
$$\frac{\Gamma \rightarrow \alpha \quad \Delta \rightarrow \alpha \supset \beta}{\Gamma, \Delta \rightarrow \beta}$$

(1.4) Thinning, permutation and contraction rules

Howard 1980

2. *Type symbols, terms and constructions*

By a type symbol is meant a formula of $P(\supset)$. We will consider a λ -formalism in which each term has a type symbol α as a superscript (which we may not always write); the term is said to be of type α . The rules of term formation are as follows.

(2.1) Variables X^α, Y^β, \dots are terms

(2.2) λ -abstraction: from F^β get
 $(\lambda X^\alpha . F^\beta)^\alpha \supset \beta$.

(2.3) Application: from $G^\alpha \supset \beta$ and H^α
get $(G^\alpha \supset \beta . H^\alpha)^\beta$.

Part 7

Programs and Proofs

Programs

- [Lisp](#) (McCarthy, 1960)
- [Iswim](#) (Landin, 1966)
- [Scheme](#) (Steele and Sussman, 1975)
- [ML](#) (Milner, Gordon, Wadsworth, 1979)
- [Hope](#) (Burstall, MacQueen, Sannella, 1980)
- [Miranda](#) (Turner, 1985)
- [Haskell](#) (Hudak, Peyton Jones, and Wadler, 1987)
- [O'Caml](#) (Leroy, 1996)
- [Links](#) (Wadler et al, 2005)

Proofs

- [Automath](#) (de Bruijn, 1970)
- [Type Theory](#) (Martin L of, 1975)
- [ML/LCF](#) (Milner, Gordon, and Wadsworth, 1979)
- [HOL](#) (Gordon and Melham, 1988)
- [CoQ](#) (Huet and Coquand, 1988)
- [Isabelle](#) (Paulson, 1993)

Proofs/Programs

- Hindley/Milner (1969/1975)
- Girard/Reynolds (1972/1975)
- Linear Logic/Syntactic Control of Interference (1987/1978)
- Classical Logic/Continuation-Passing Style (1990)
- And dual to Or/Call-by-value dual to Call-by-name (2000)

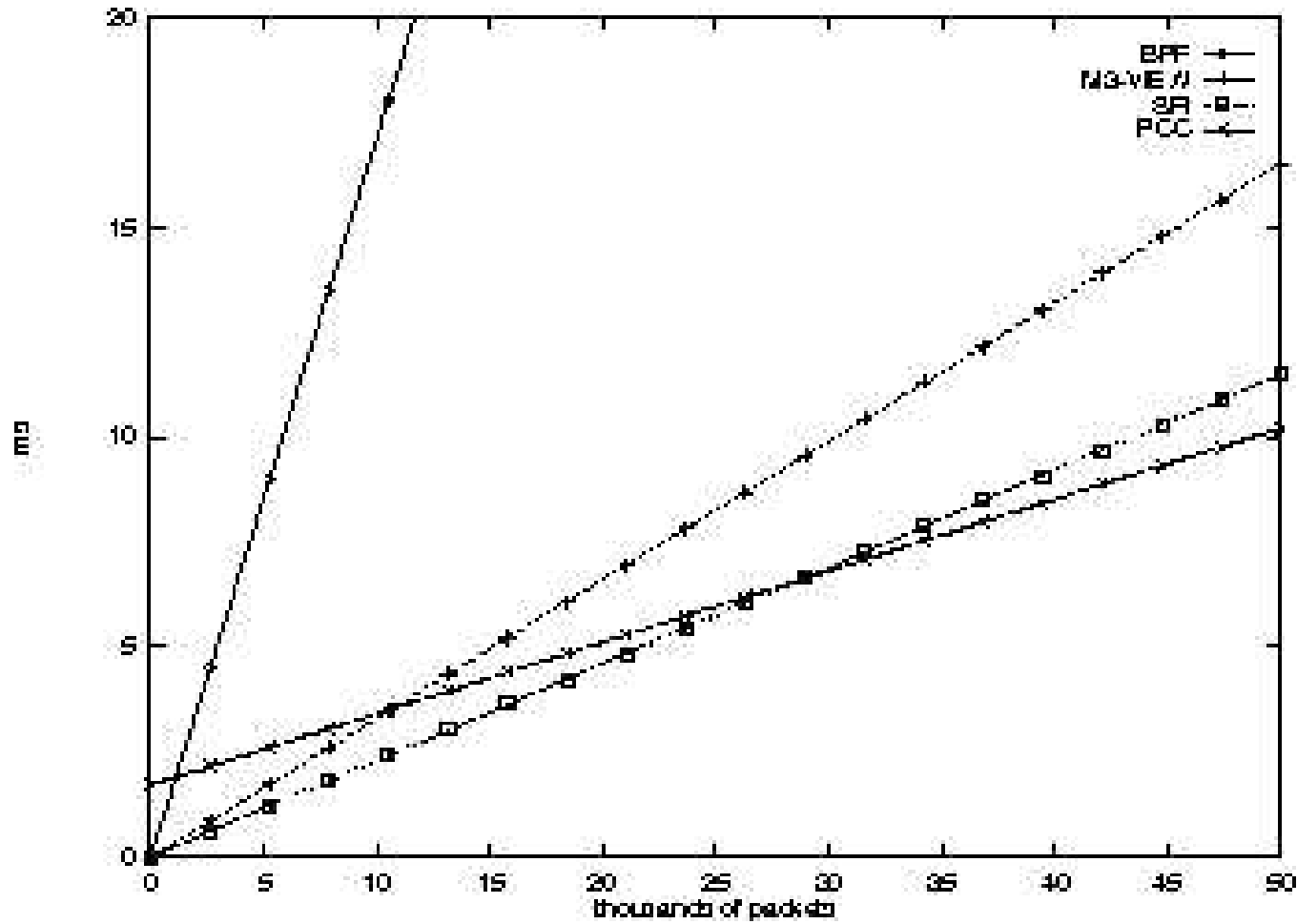
Part 8

Programs and Proofs on the Web

Java (Gosling, Joy, and Steele, 1996)



Proof-Carrying Code (Necula and Lee, 1996)



Typed Assembly Language (Morrisett et al 1998)



Typed Assembly Language (Morrisett et al 1998)



What do you want to type check today?

Part 9

Conclusion

Frege

Undone by Russell's Paradox

Church and Curry

Attended 1982 Conference on
Lisp and Functional Programming

Gentzen

“He once confided in me that he was really quite contented since now he had at last time to think about a consistency proof for analysis.”

Frege

Undone by Russell's Paradox

Church and Curry

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Lisp and Functional Programming

Gentzen

“He once confided in me that he was really quite contented since now he had at last time to think about a consistency proof for analysis.”

Died in prison, 4 August 1945

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Adam and Leora Wadler
for loaning me their books