

The reflective Milawa theorem prover is sound down to the machine code that runs it

ITP'14, Vienna

Magnus O. Myreen — Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge, UK
Jared Davis — Centaur Technology, Inc., Austin TX, USA

Soundness

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This talk: explains how **soundness** was proved for **the Milawa theorem prover**.

Previous work



A self-verifying theorem prover

Jared Davis — PhD work

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Jitawa
verified
LISP

A verified runtime for a verified theorem prover

Magnus Myreen, Jared Davis — ITP'11

Proving Milawa sound



Jitawa
verified
LISP

Milawa theorem prover
(kernel approx. 2000 lines of Milawa Lisp)

Lisp semantics

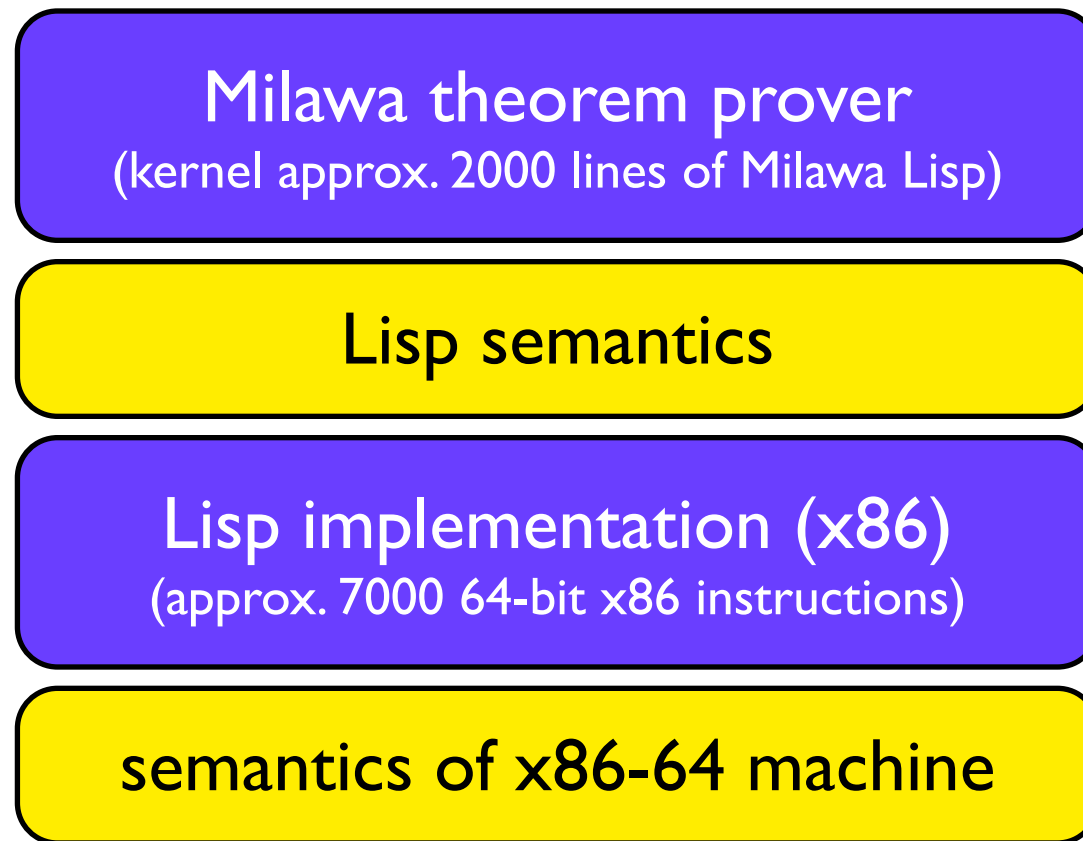
Lisp implementation (x86)
(approx. 7000 64-bit x86 instructions)

semantics of x86-64 machine

Proving Milawa sound



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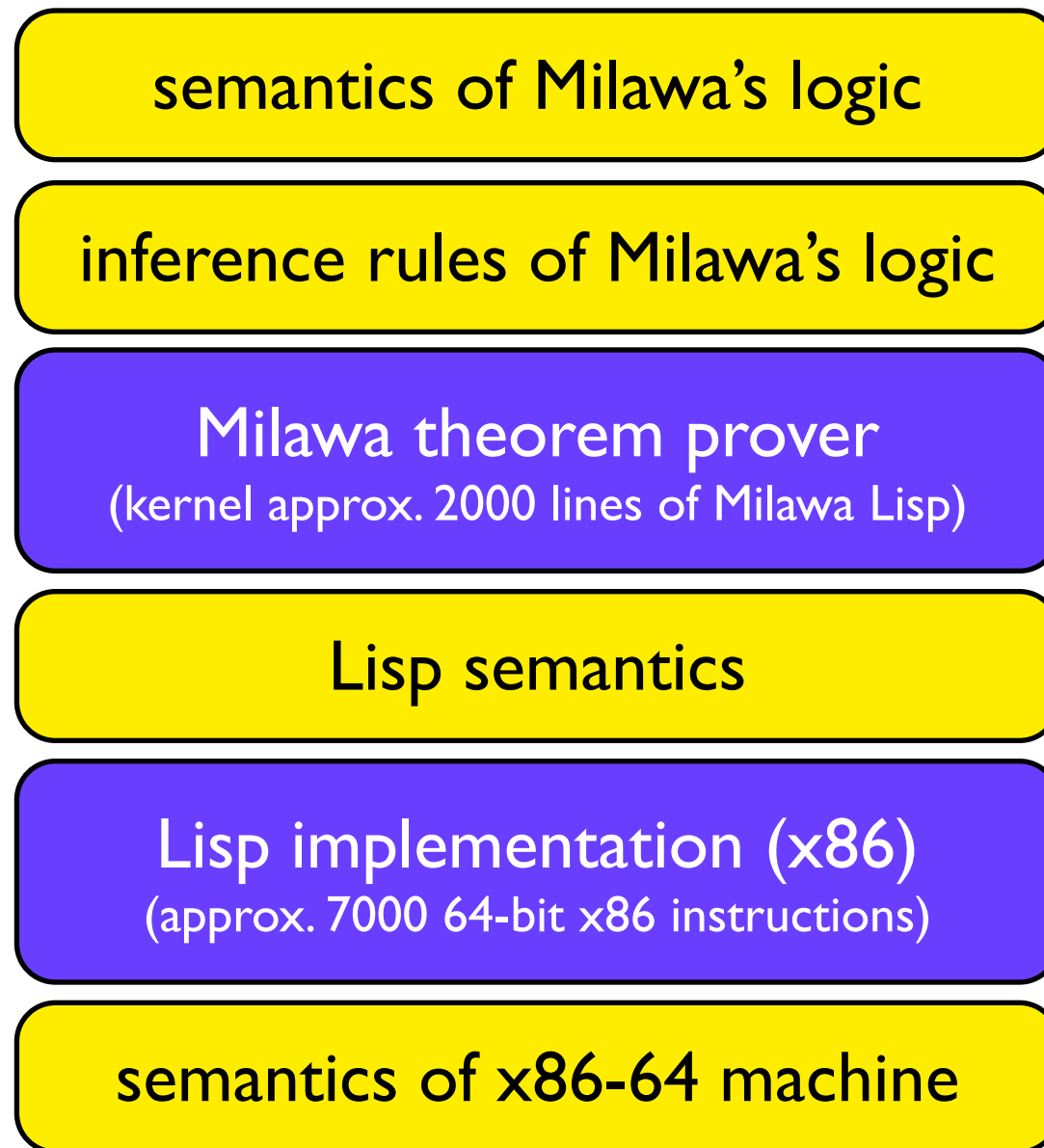


verification of a Lisp
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[ITP'11]

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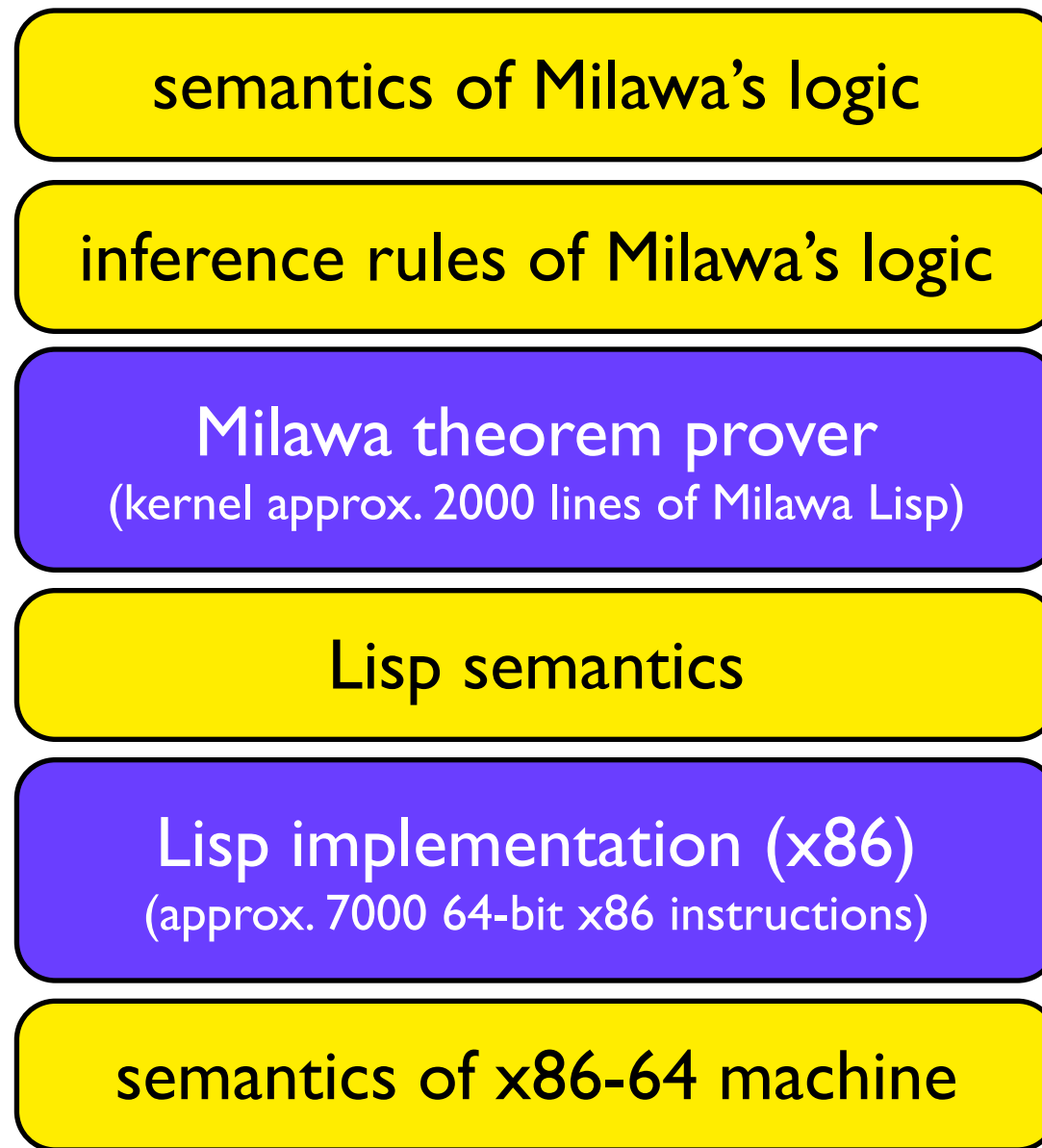


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This paper
[ITP'14]

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A very short introduction



- Milawa is styled after theorem provers such as **NQTHM** and **ACL2**,
- has a **small trusted logical kernel** similar to LCF-style provers,
- ... but does **not suffer** the **performance hit of LCF's** fully expansive approach.

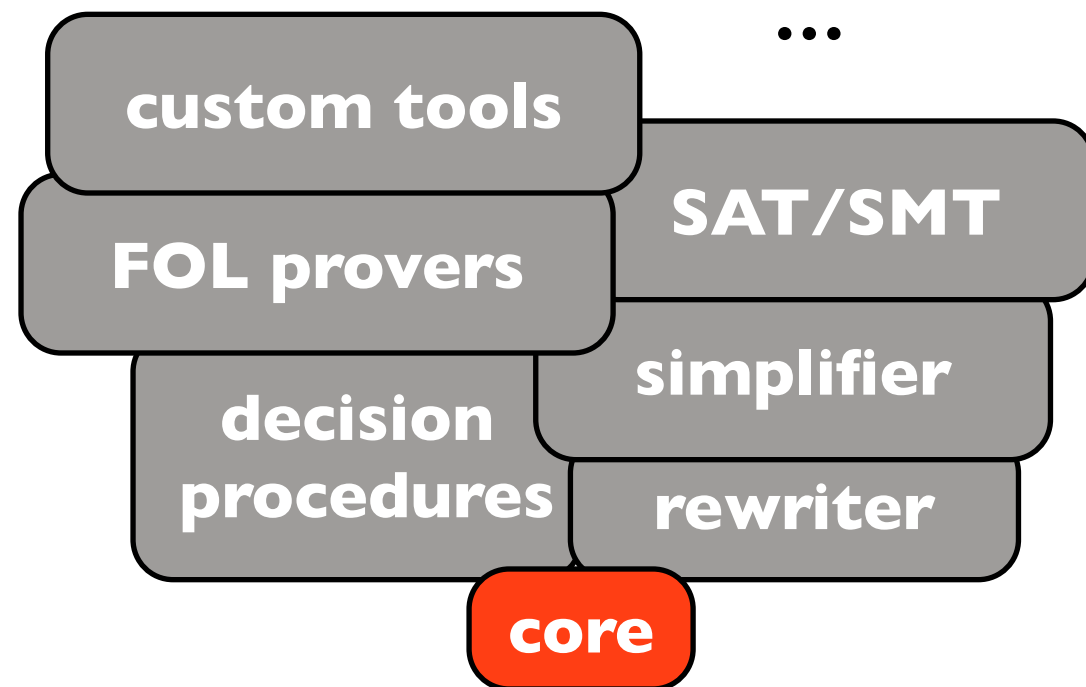
Comparison with LCF approach

core

LCF-style approach

- all proofs pass through the core's primitive inferences
- extensions steer the core

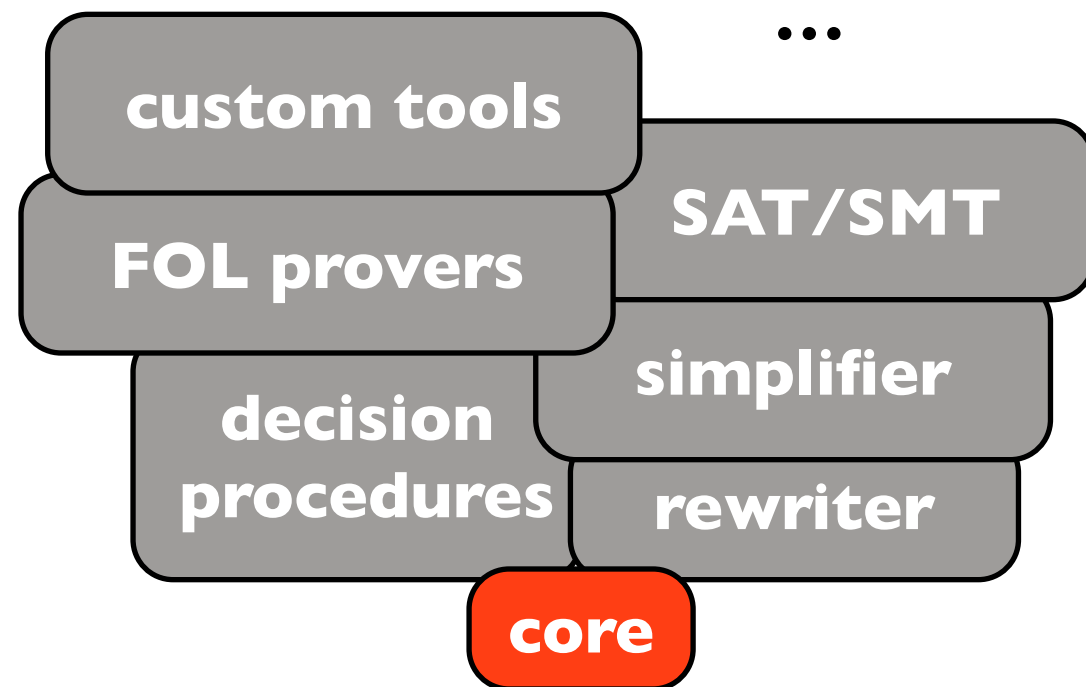
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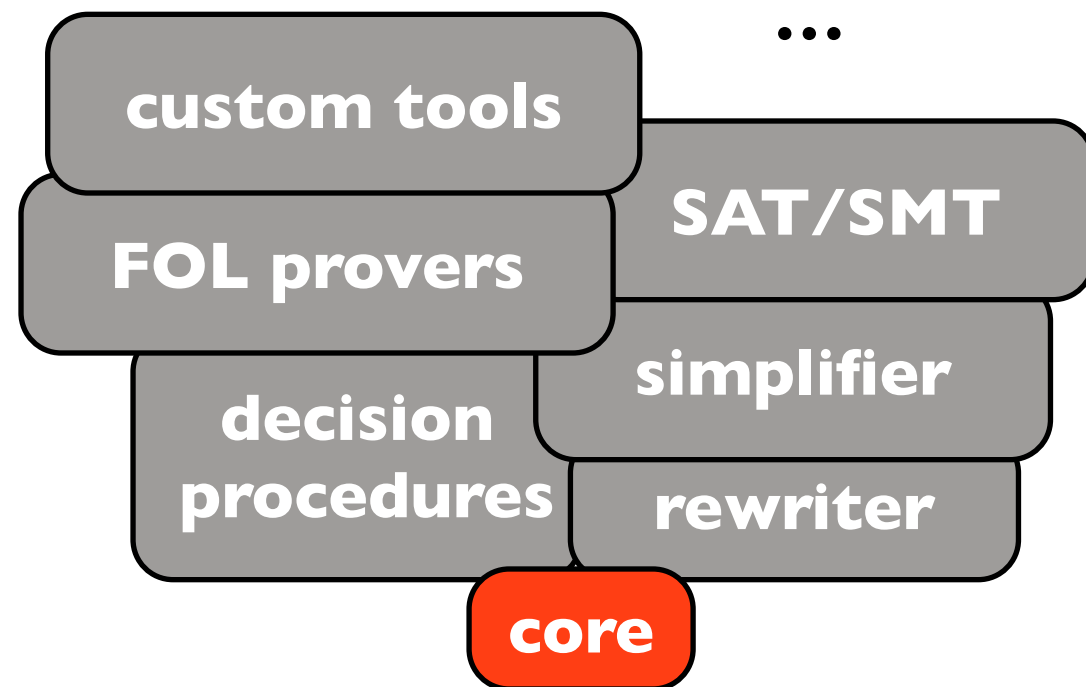
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- all proofs must pass the core
- the **core proof checker** can be **replaced** at runtime

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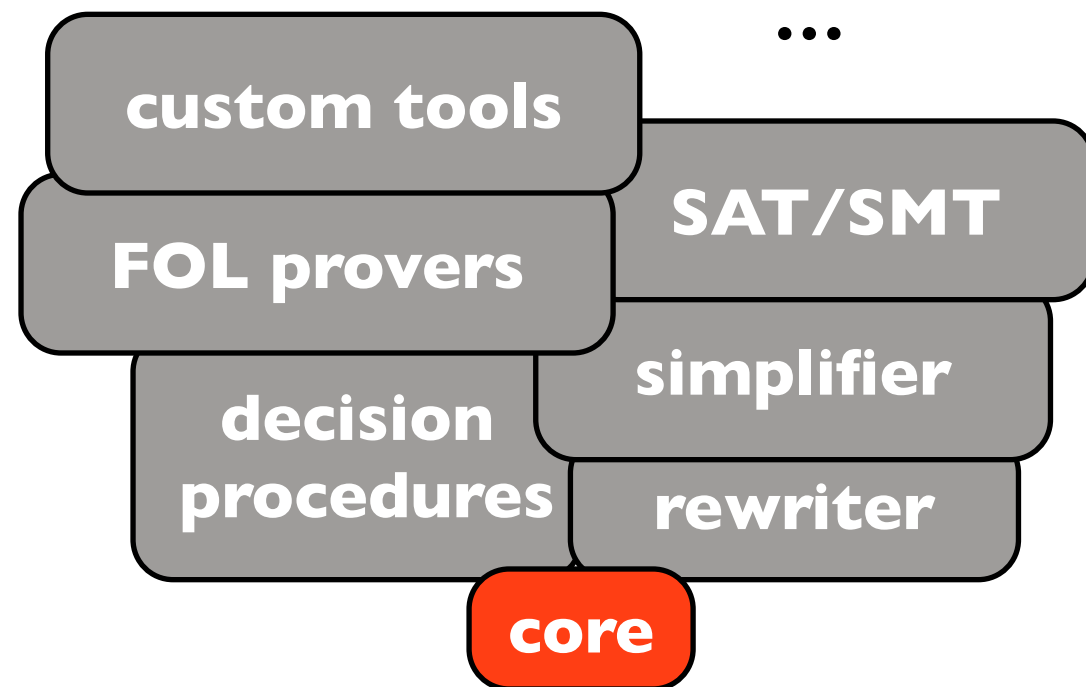
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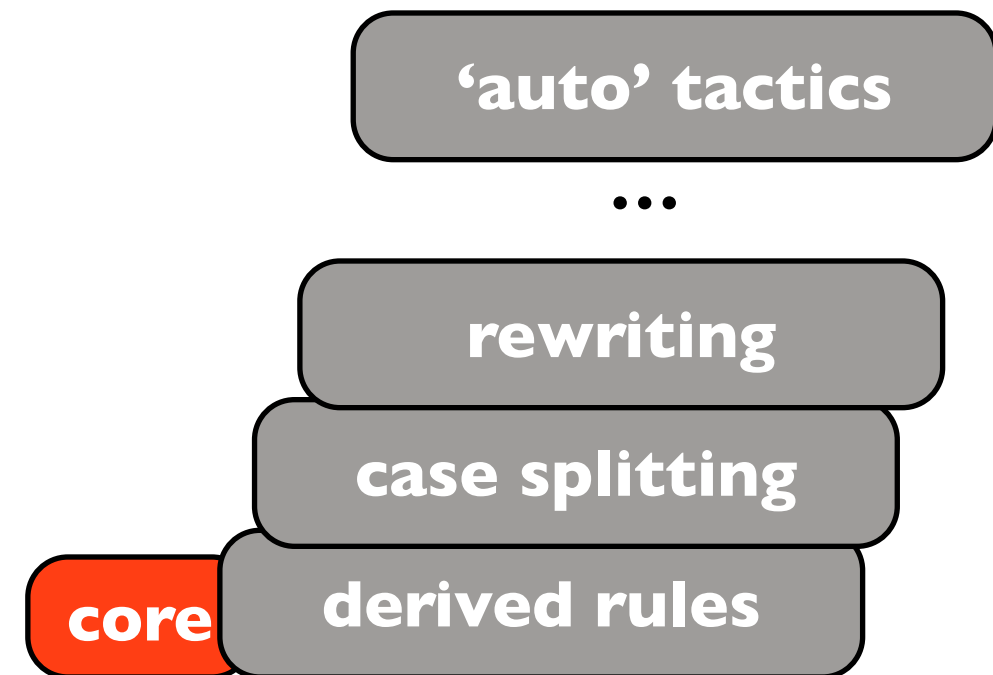
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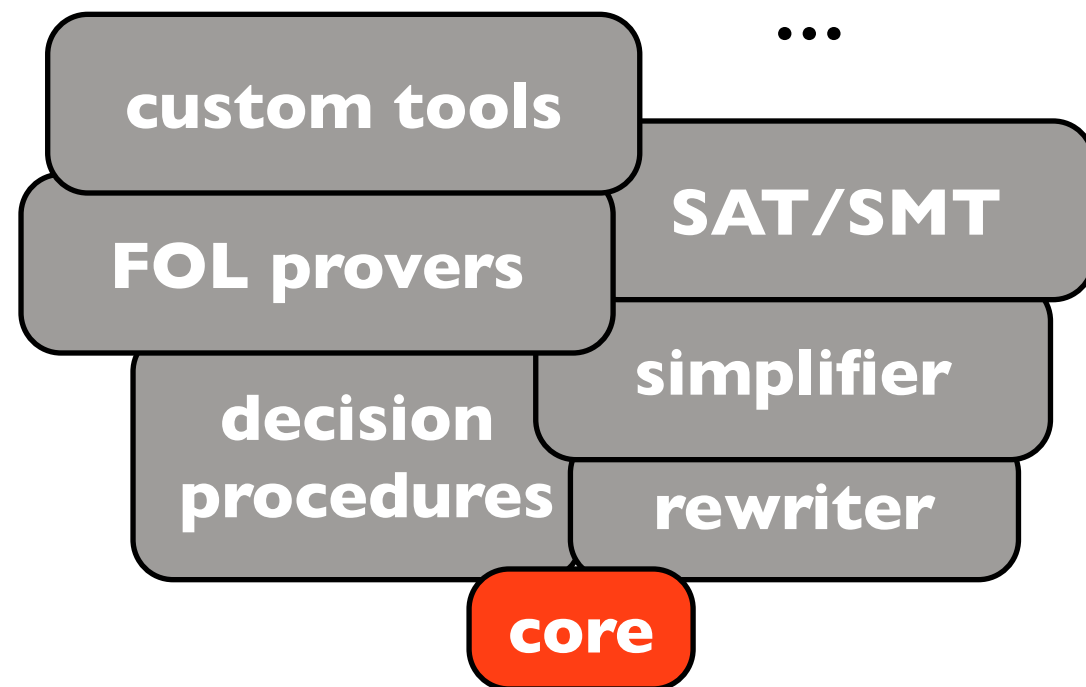
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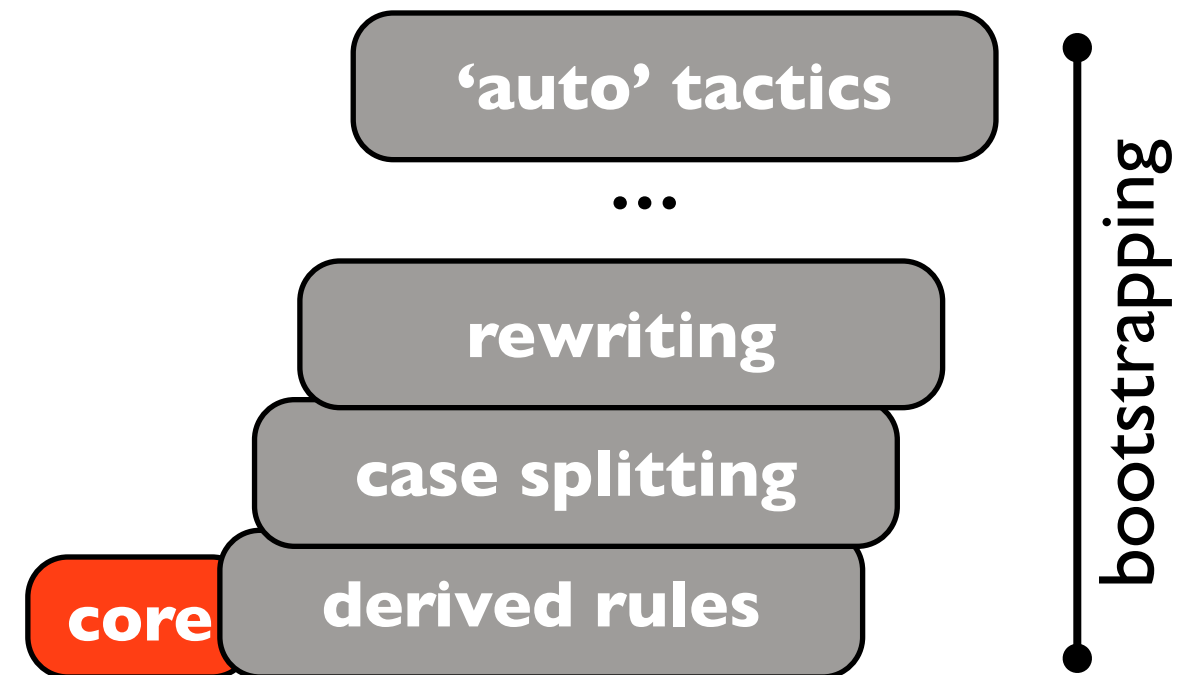
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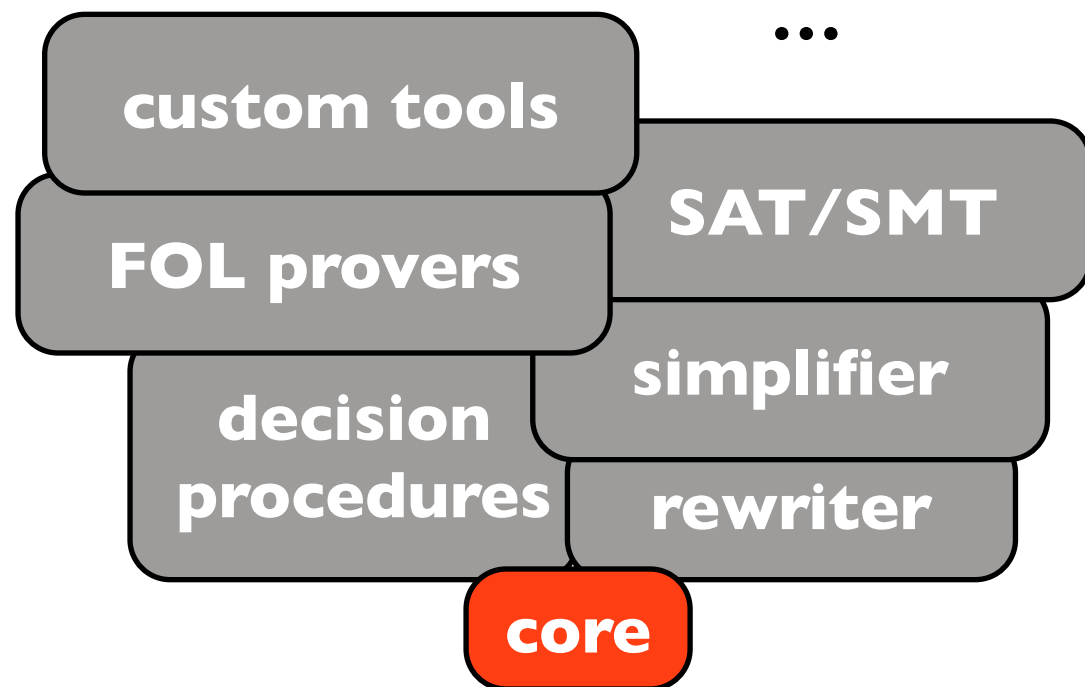
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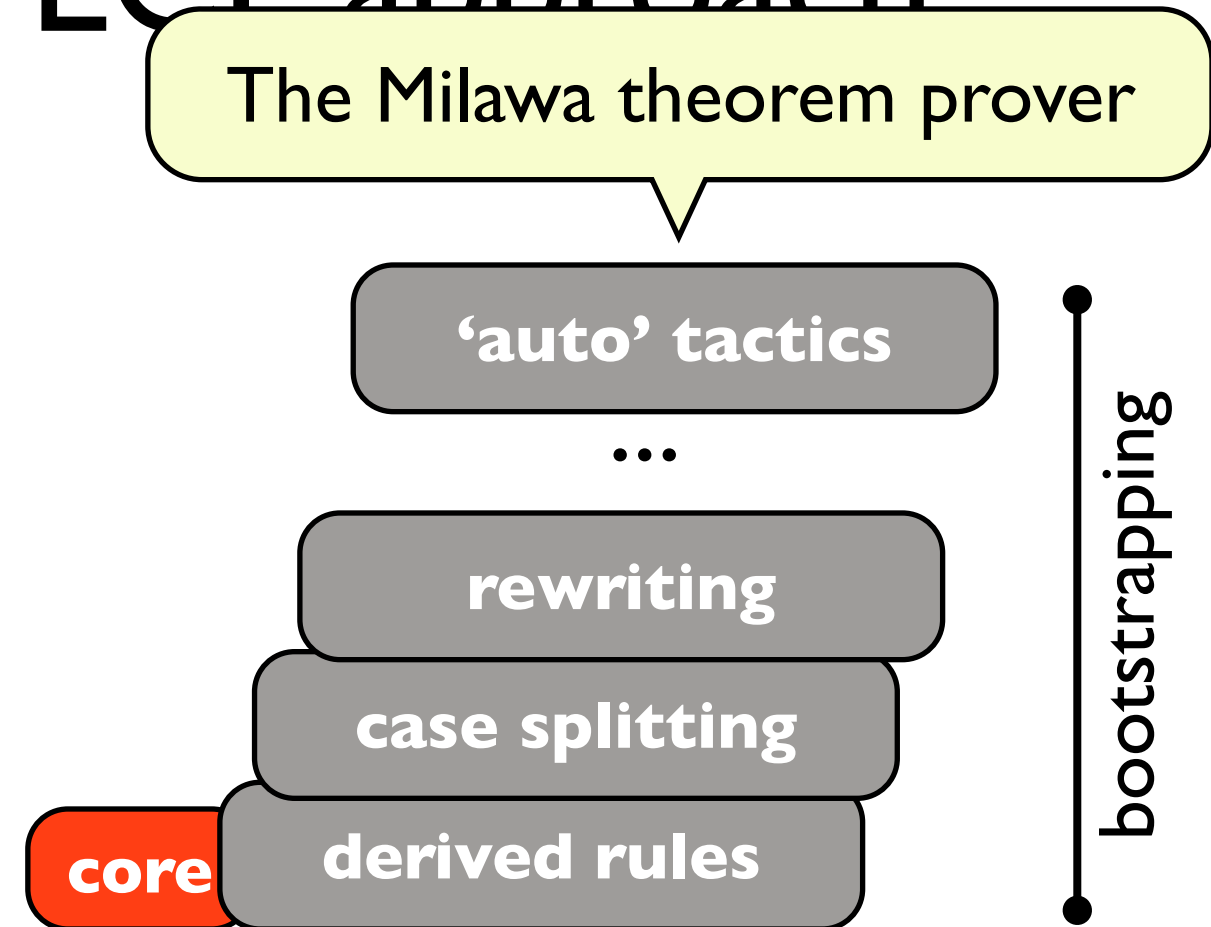
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- ▶ syntax, semantics, inference, soundness

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- ▶ compose with the correctness thm from ITP'11

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A—C combine to a top-level theorem that **relates** the **logic's semantics** with the execution of the **x86 machine code**.

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Syntax

$sexp ::= Val\ num \mid Sym\ string \mid Dot\ sexp\ sexp$	S-expression
$prim ::= If \mid Equal \mid Not \mid Symbolp \mid Symbol_less \mid Natp \mid Add \mid Sub \mid Less \mid Consp \mid Cons \mid Car \mid Cdr \mid Rank \mid Ord_less \mid Ordp$	
$func ::= PrimitiveFun\ prim \mid Fun\ string$	primitive functions user-defined
$term ::= Const\ sexp \mid Var\ string \mid App\ func\ (term\ list) \mid LamApp\ (string\ list)\ term\ (term\ list)$	constant S-expression variable function application λ formals body actuals
$formula ::= \neg formula \mid formula \vee formula \mid term = term$	negation disjunction term equality

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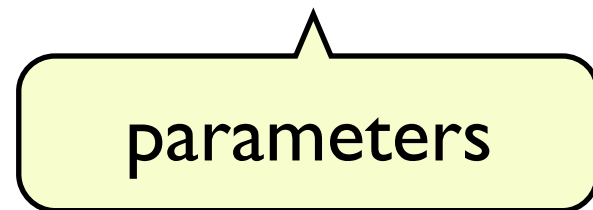
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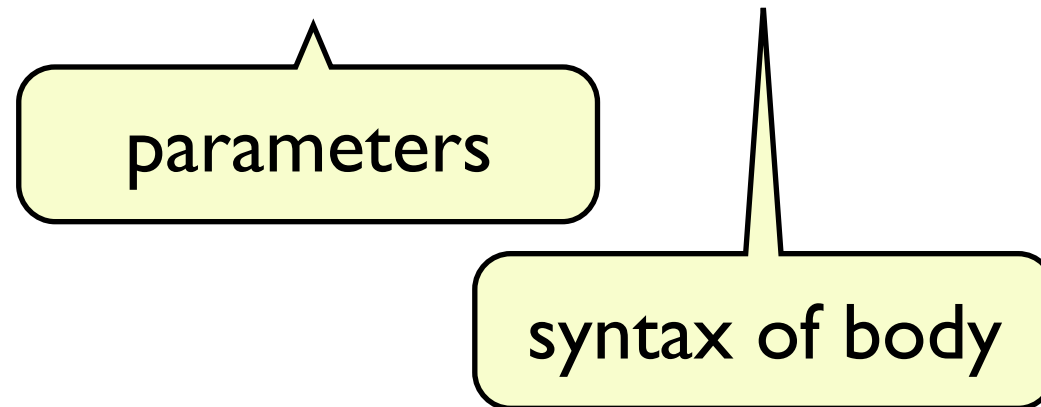


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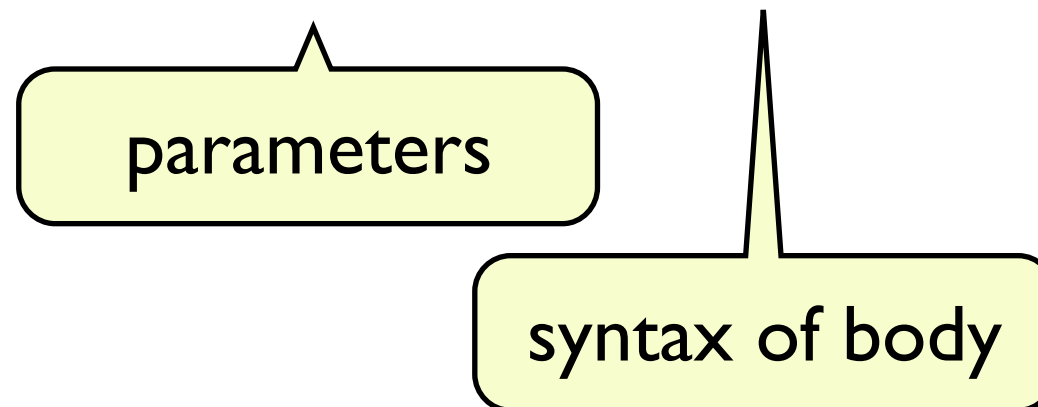
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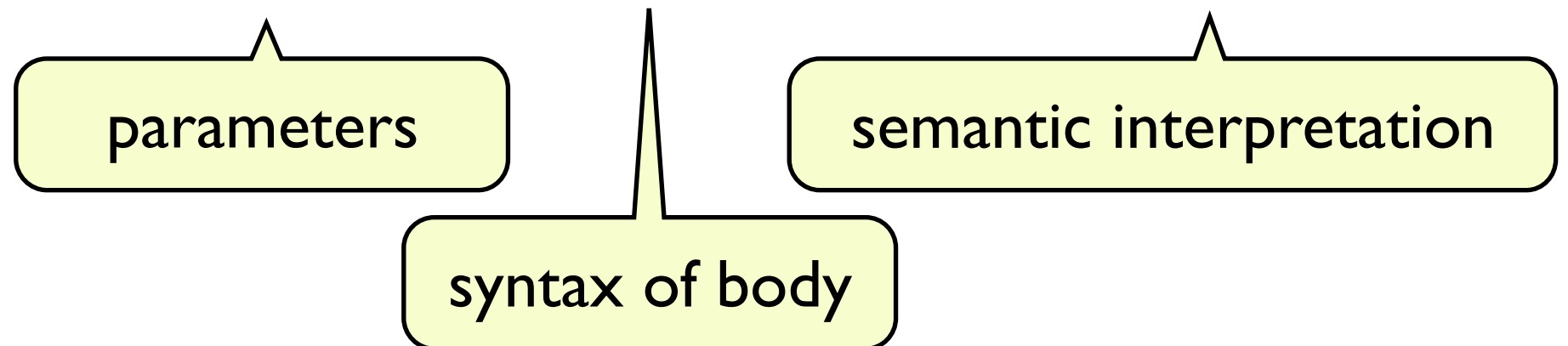


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- ▶ the **body** is well-formed w.r.t. the **context**
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Similarly for the other function types.

(a few of the) Inference rules

$$\frac{\vdash_{\pi} a \vee (b \vee c)}{\vdash_{\pi} (a \vee b) \vee c} \text{ (associativity)}$$

$$\frac{a \in \text{milawa_axioms}}{\vdash_{\pi} a} \text{ (basic axiom)}$$

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defining equation

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- ▶ **req. proving that termination conditions** imply that a **semantic interpretation exists as a function in HOL**

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1. **parse ASCII characters** into s-expressions
2. translate s-expressions into **program AST**
3. **evaluate** program **AST**
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Need to verify program down to **concrete source code**.

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becomes a program AST

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parameter list: "A", "X"

function body: If (App (PrimitiveFun Consp) [Var "X"]
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...but a shallow embedding is easier to work with.

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 (If (App (PrimitiveFun Equal) [...])
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 (App (Fun "LOOKUP-SAFE") [...]))
 (Const (Sym "NIL"))

We translate deep embedding into convenient shallow emb.
[ITP'12]

lookup_safe a x = if consp x then
 if $a = \text{car } (\text{car } x)$ then
 if consp $(\text{car } x)$ then
 $\text{car } x$
 else cons $(\text{car } (\text{car } x))$ $(\text{cdr } (\text{car } x))$
 else lookup_safe a $(\text{cdr } x)$
 else Sym "NIL"

Steps towards an easier verification

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lookup_safe a x = if consp x then
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and produce a **certificate theorem** relating the deep and shallow embeddings.

... \implies (Fun "LOOKUP-SAFE", [a, x], state) $\xrightarrow{\text{ap}}$ (lookup_safe a x, state)

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Lisp semantics

Verification proof

- ▶ prove that Milawa's (reflective) kernel is faithful to logic

A routine verification exercise.

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Points of interest:

Milawa's **initial proof checker** was a large function

Top-level loop has complicated invariant, relates:

- ▶ program state
- ▶ current Lisp op.sem. state
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Bugs found? Yes, two very minor (no soundness bugs)

Verification proof

Theorem:

$\exists ans\ k\ output\ ok.$

$milawa_main\ cmds\ init_state = (ans, (k, output, ok)) \wedge$

$(ok \implies (ans = \text{Sym "SUCCESS"})) \wedge$

$\text{let } result = \text{compute_output } cmds \text{ in}$

$\text{every_line } line_ok\ result \wedge$

$output = \text{output_string } result)$

where

$line_ok\ (\pi, l) = (l = \text{"NIL"}) \vee$
 $(\exists n. (l = \text{"(PRINT (n ...))"}) \wedge \text{is_number } n) \vee$
 $(\exists \phi. (l = \text{"(PRINT (THEOREM } \phi))"}) \wedge \text{context_ok } \pi \wedge \models_{\pi} \phi)$

This talk

A. formalise Milawa's logic

B. prove that Milawa's kernel is faithful to the logic

C. connect the verified Lisp implementation

Correctness of Jitawa Lisp [ITP'11]

Top-level correctness theorem:

$\{ \text{init_state } input * \text{pc } pc * \langle \text{terminates_for } input \rangle \}$

$pc : \text{code_for_entire_jitawa_implementation}$

$\{ \text{error_message } \vee \exists output. \langle ([], input) \xrightarrow{\text{exec}} (output, \text{true}) \rangle * \text{final_state } output \}$

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Theorem: Milawa is sound down to x86

$\forall input\ pc.$

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{ init_state (milawa_implementation ++ "(milawa-main 'input)") * pc pc }  
  pc : code_for_entire_jitawa_implementation  
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... output lines that are all true w.r.t. the semantics of the logic.

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The top-level theorem:

relates the **logic's semantics**

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