

COMPUTATIONAL SEMANTICS

Johan Bos

University of Groningen

www.rug.nl/staff/johan.bos



WHAT IS COMPUTATIONAL SEMANTICS?

Reinterpretation

Turn left ~~and~~ or right
to reach San Marco.

What is
semantics
about?



Truth Verification

Bolt is faster than everyone else. **YES**

Bolt is in last position. **NO**

What is
semantics
about?



Checking for new information

.. when there's more trade, there's more commerce!



Checking for new information

.. when there's more trade, there's more commerce!



Checking for new information

.. when there's more trade, there's more commerce!



Contradiction Checking

What is semantics about?



Contradiction Checking

What is semantics about?



Machine Translation

What is semantics about?

English Dutch Italian German - detected



Dutch English Spanish

Translate

Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof.



I understand only station.



Wrong?

English Dutch Italian Dutch - detected



Dutch English Spanish

Translate

Dat neemt niet weg dat er problemen zijn.



That does not mean that there are problems.



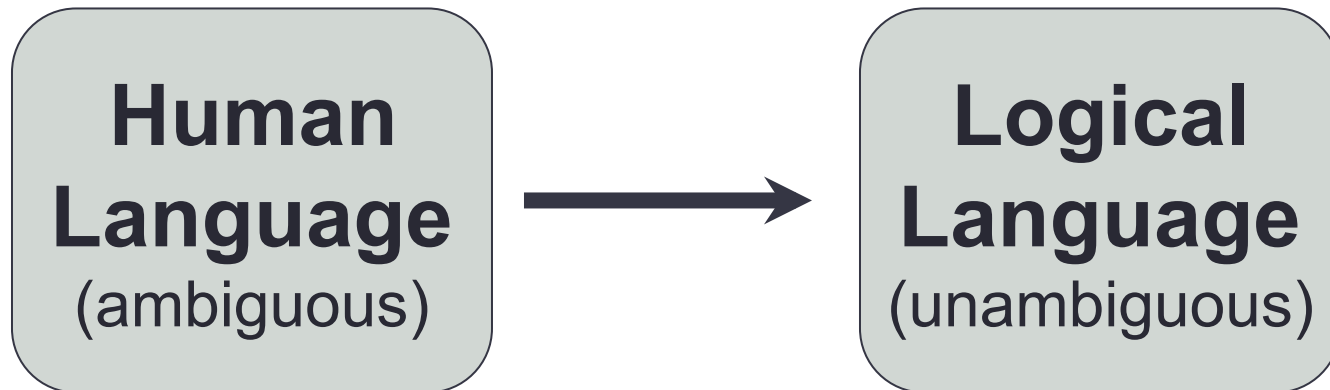
Wrong?

COMPUTATIONAL SEMANTICS IS ABOUT MAKING INFERENCES

With the help of meanings. But what are meanings?

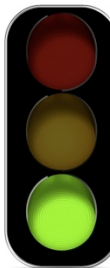
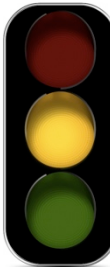
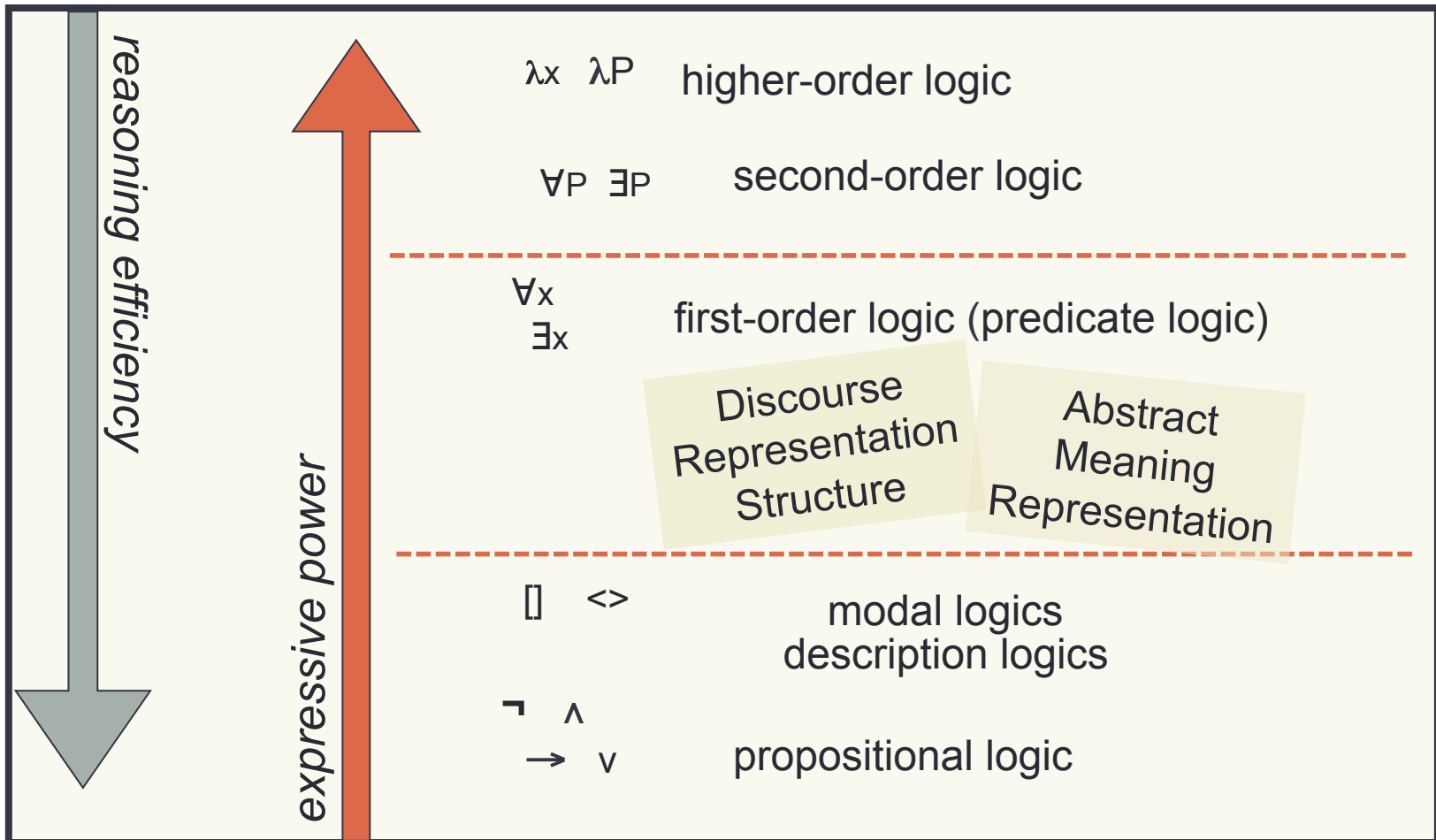
The big idea of computational semantics

- Automate the process of associating semantic representations with expressions of natural language

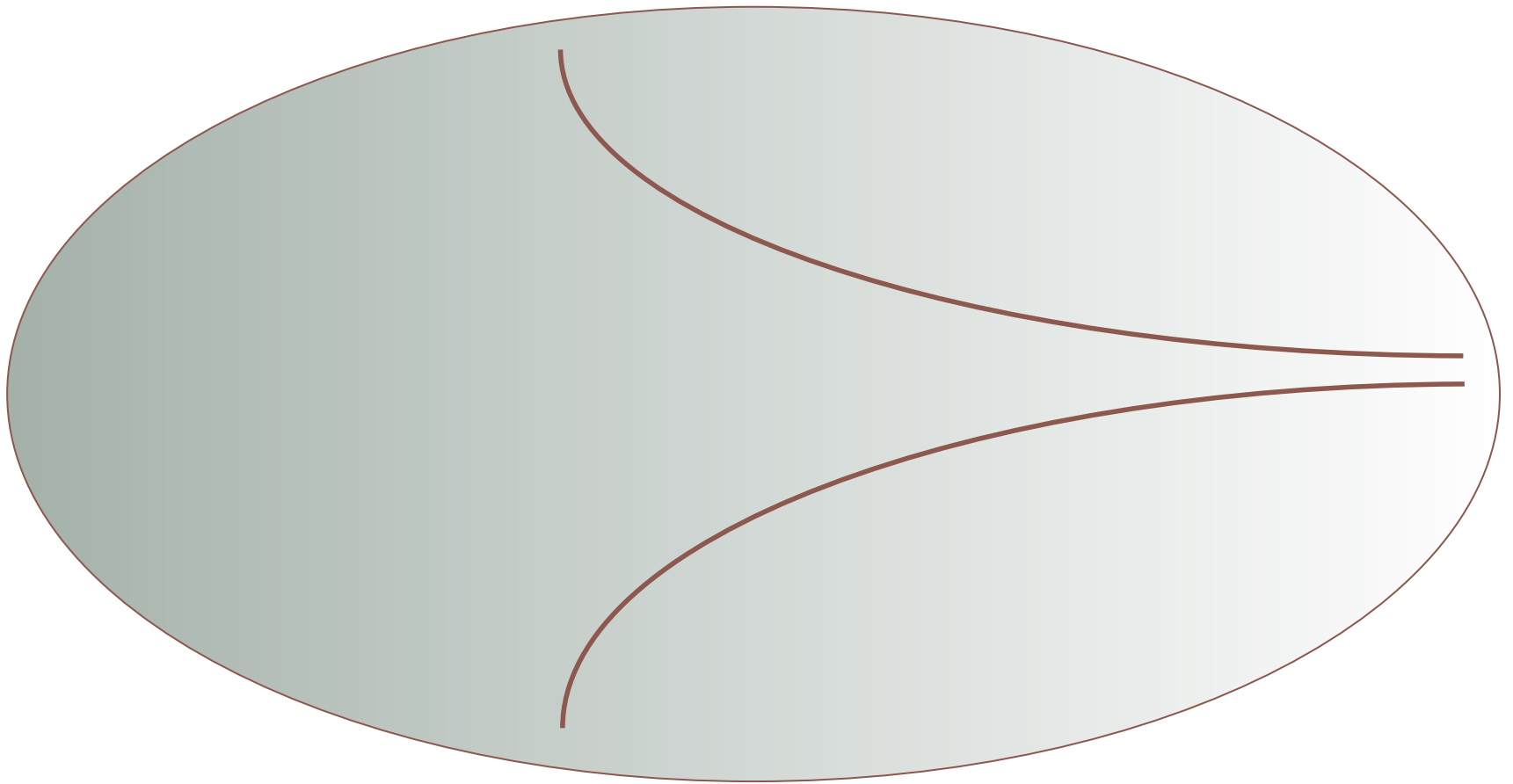


- Use logical representations of natural language to automate the process of drawing inferences

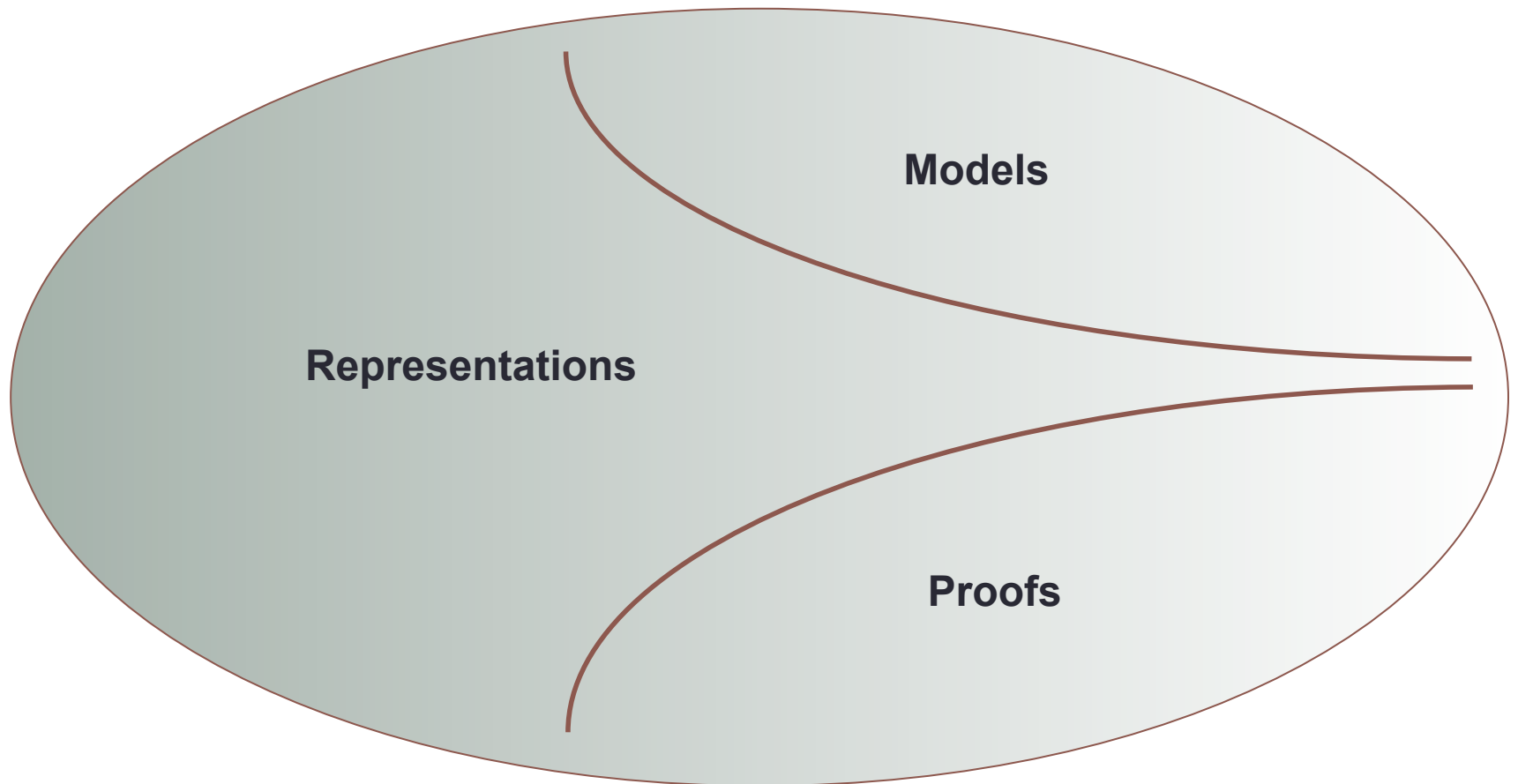
Controlling Inference



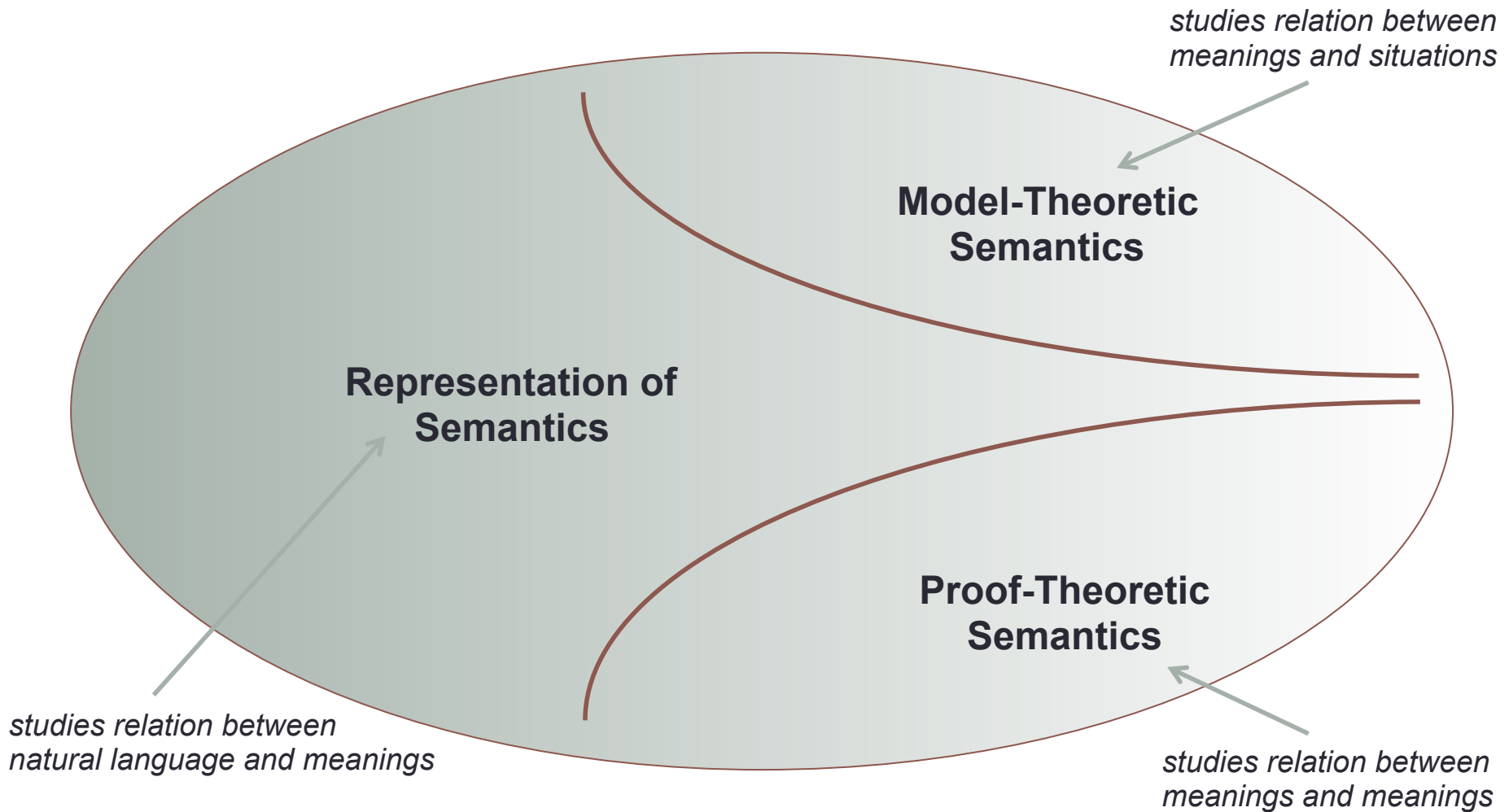
Planet X



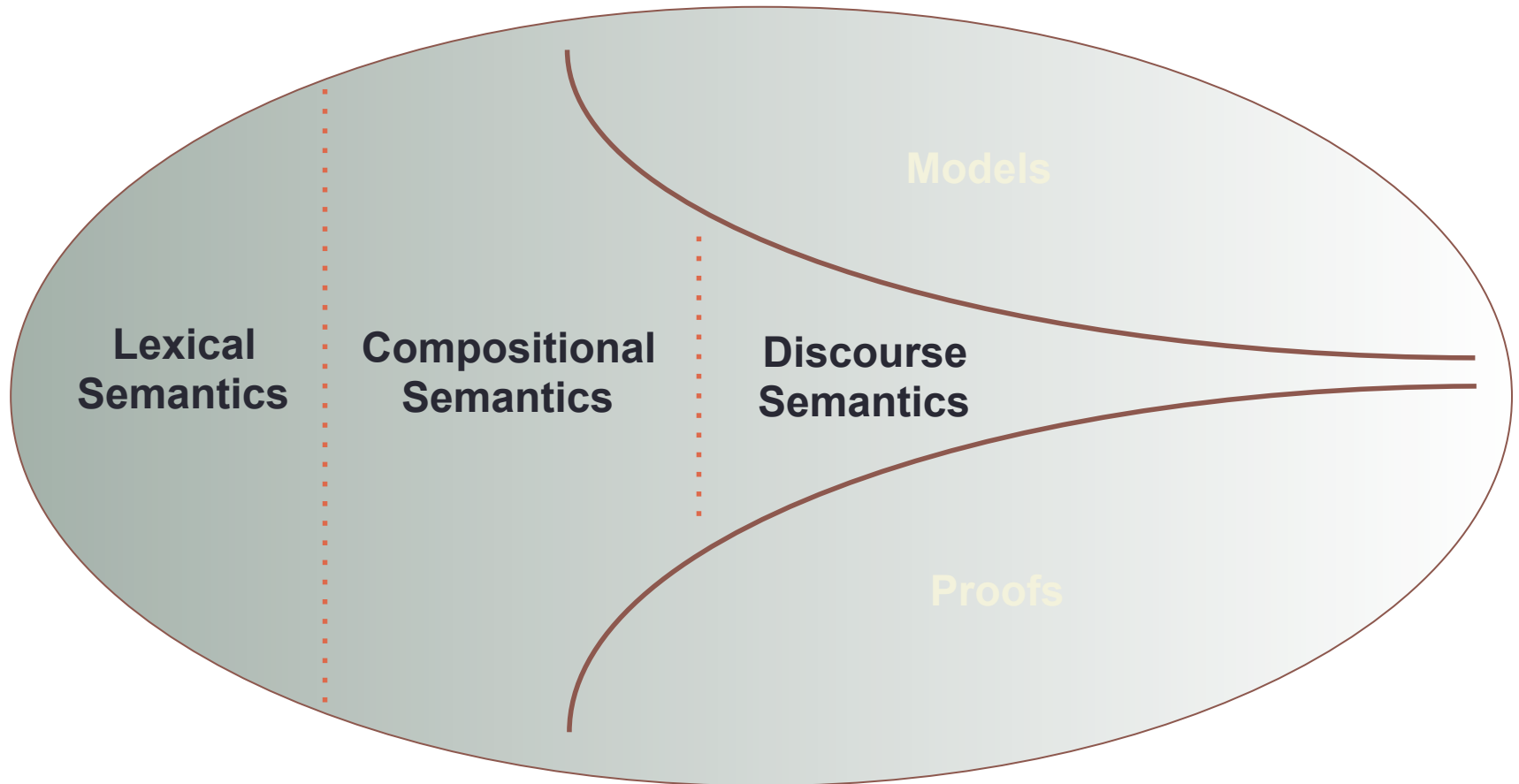
Planet Semantics



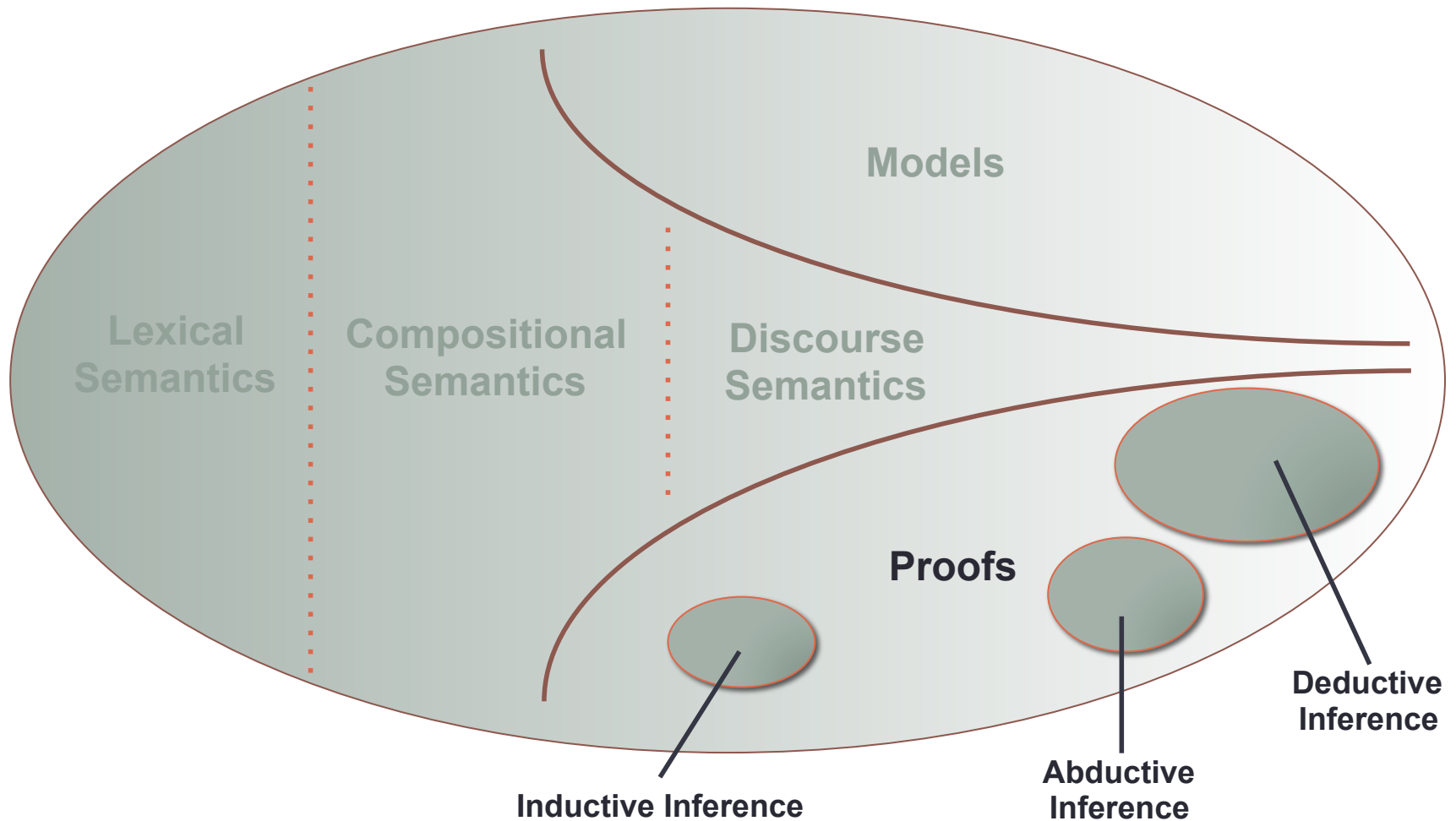
Planet Semantics



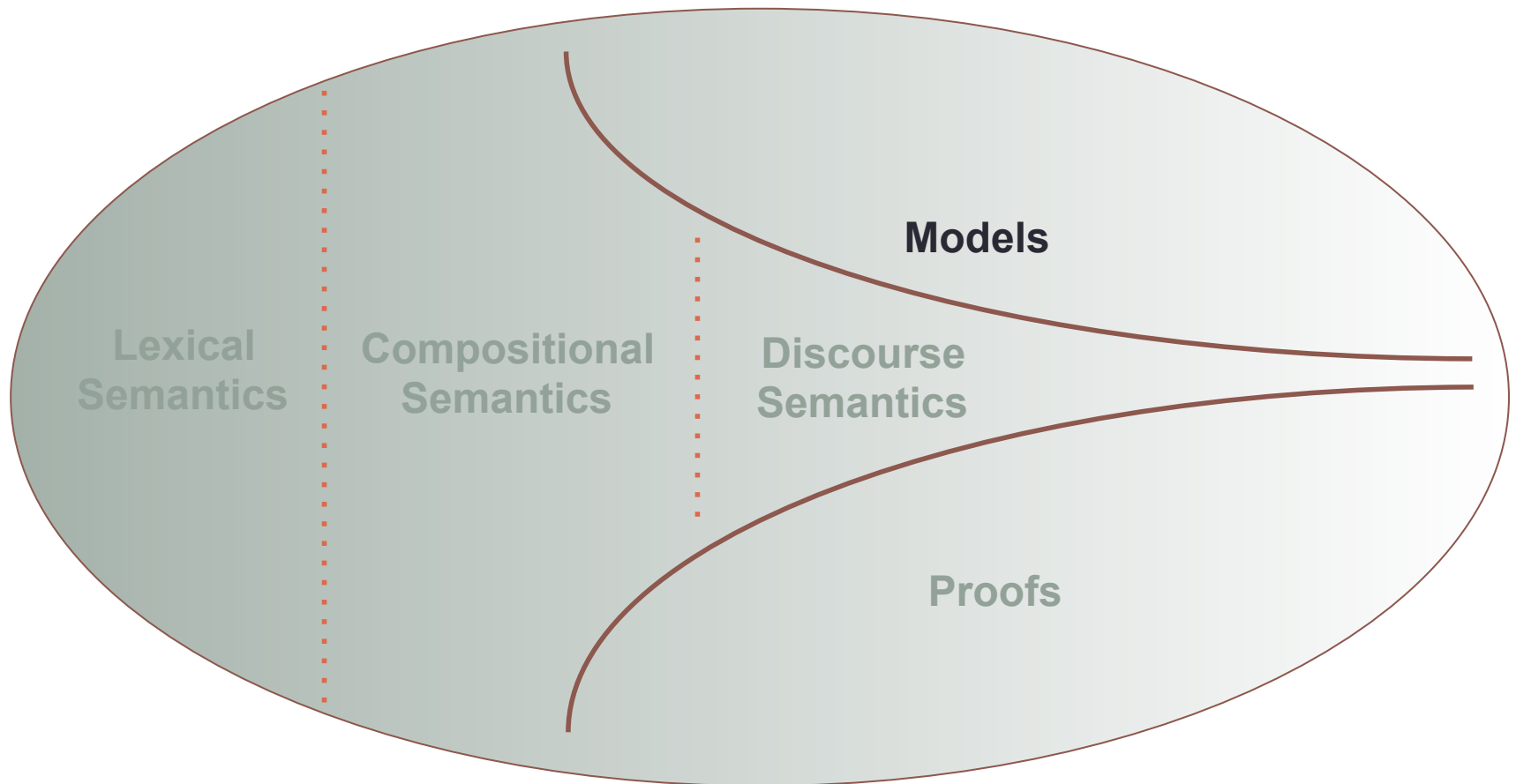
Representation



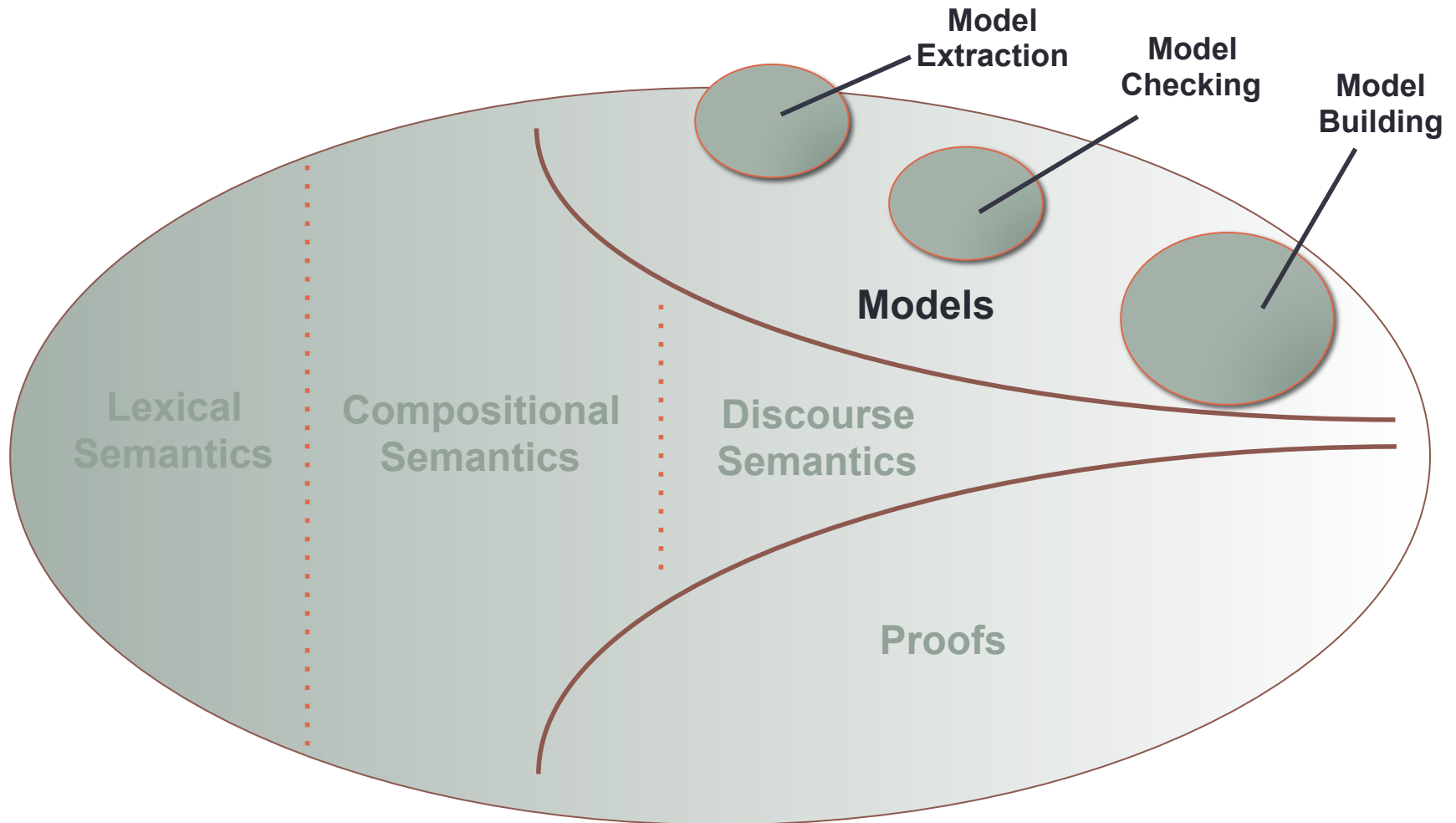
Proof-Theoretical Semantics



Model-Theoretic Semantics



Model-Theoretic Semantics



Computational Semantics

- **Day 1: Exploring Models**
- **Day 2: Meaning Representations**
- **Day 3: Computing Meanings**
- **Day 4: Drawing Inferences**
- **Day 5: Meaning Banking**



Computational Semantics

- **Day 1: Exploring Models**
 - What are models?
 - Vocabularies
 - Static and dynamic situations
 - Modelling events



Computational Semantics

- **Day 2: Meaning Representations**
 - **First-order logic syntax**
 - **Model checking (including an amazing demo)**
 - **DRS (Discourse Representation Structure)**
 - **AMR (Abstract Meaning Representation)**

