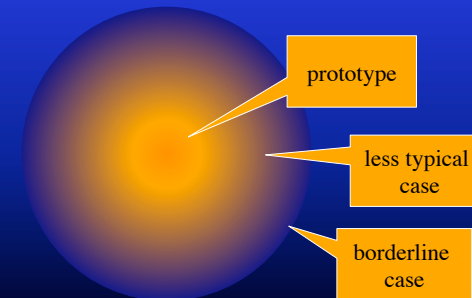


Standardization of Legal and Scientific Terms: Similarities and Differences

Pius ten Hacken
Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck



The Meaning of Words



Terms and Prototypes



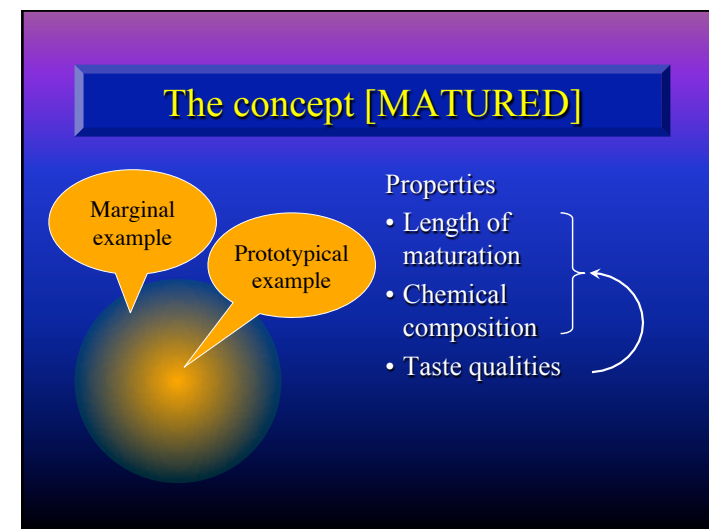
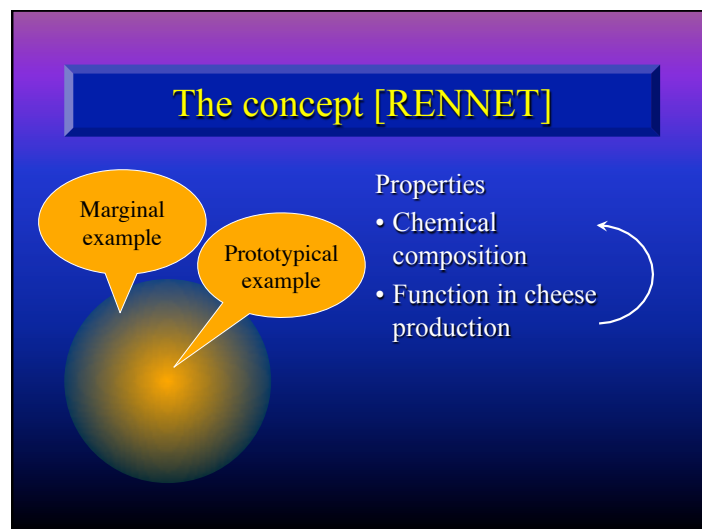
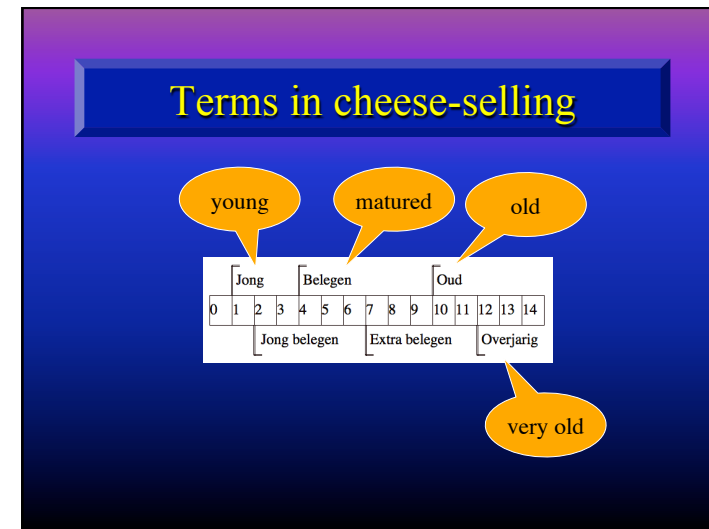
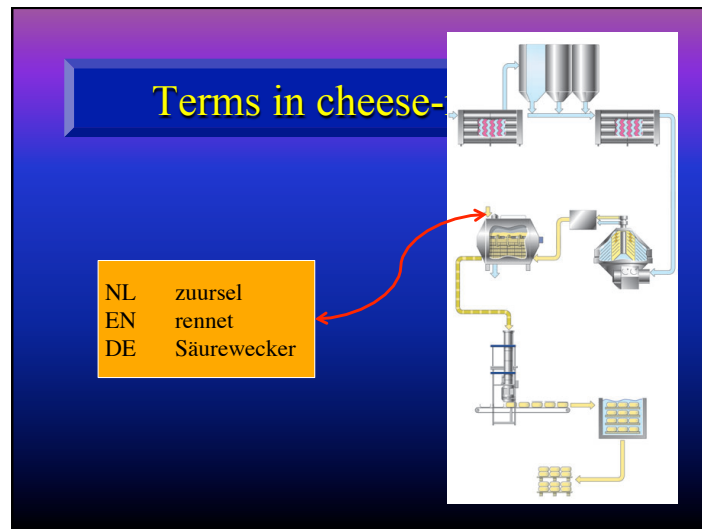
Italian: *ponticello*
English: *bridge*
Dutch: *kam*

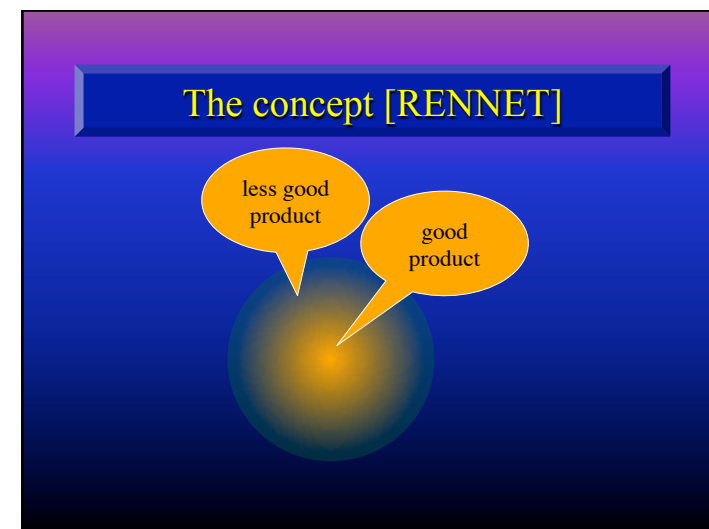
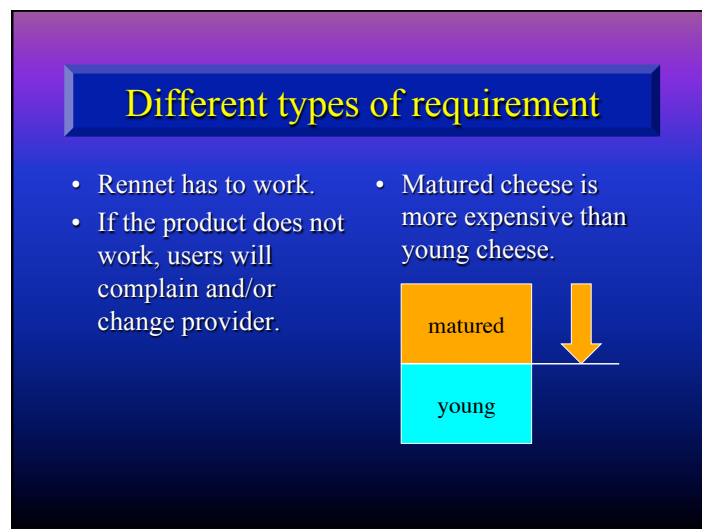
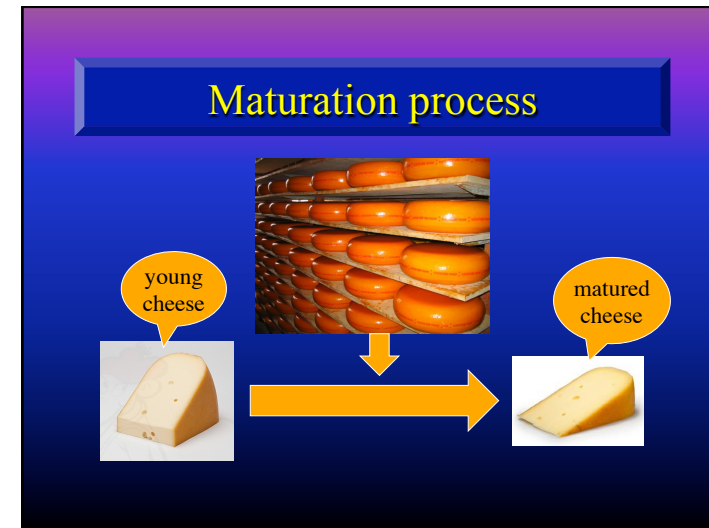
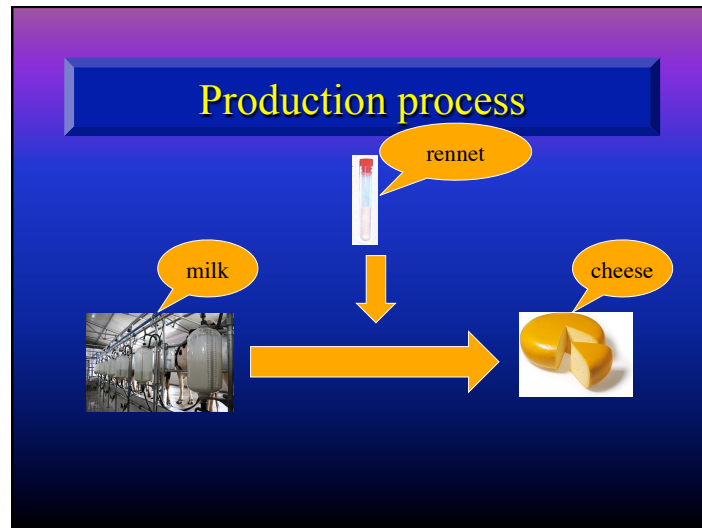


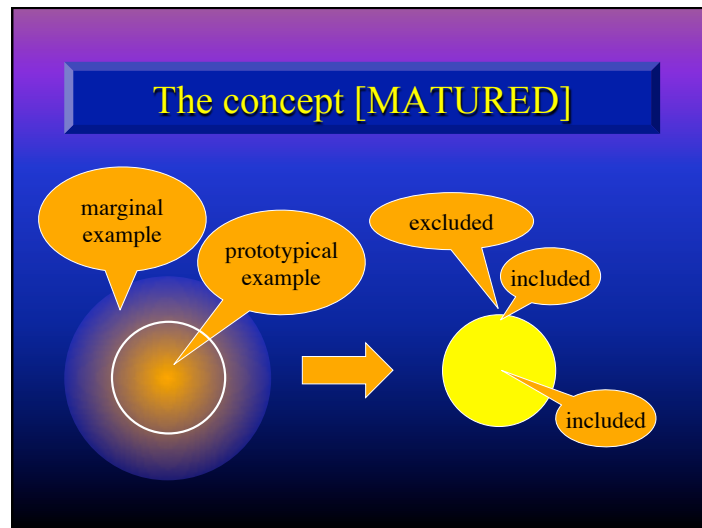
Example: Cheese

culture-specific
prototype









Terms of two types

Specialized vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions that are used in a specialized sense • Expressions that are used in a limited community of speakers • The precise boundary is not of crucial interest. 	Terms in the narrow sense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions for which the meaning has been determined explicitly and precisely • For each case, it is possible to determine whether it is an instance of the concept or not.
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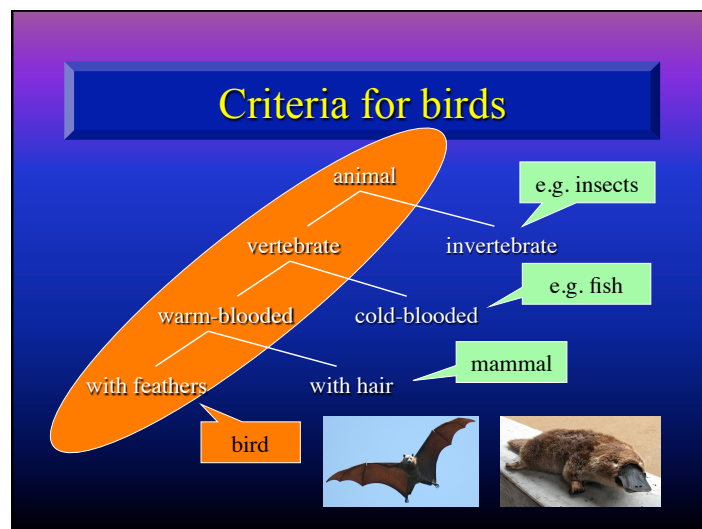
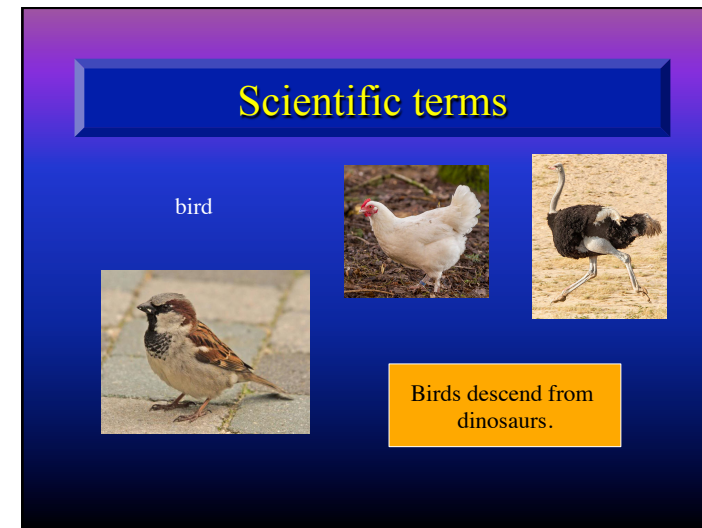
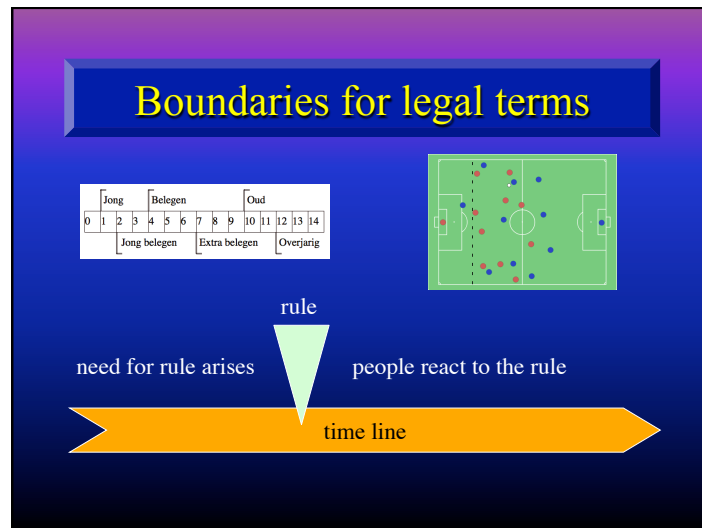
Terms in Football

A player is in an *offside position* if:

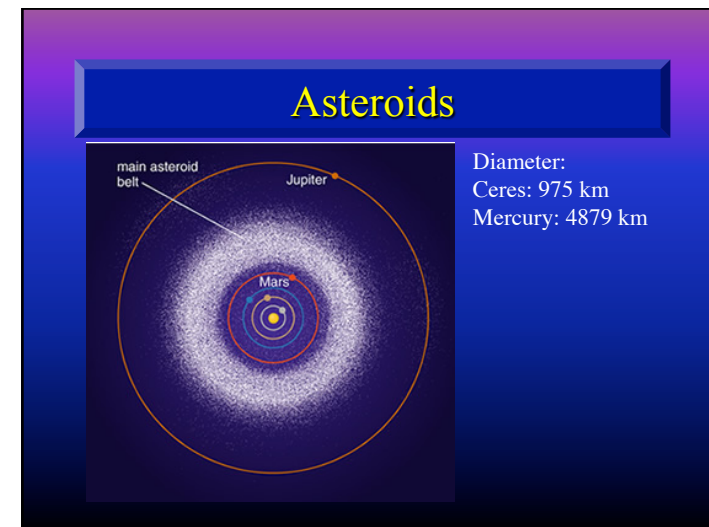
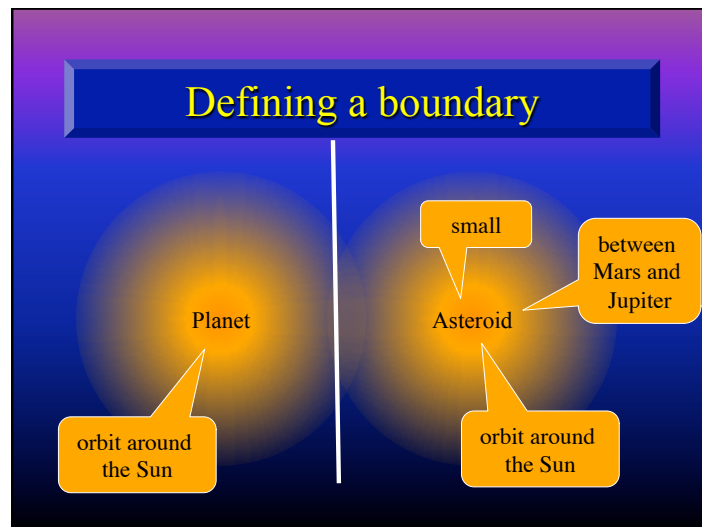
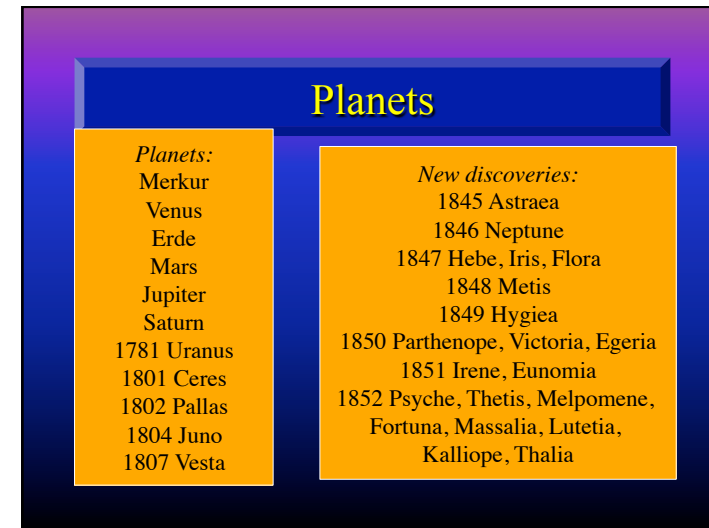
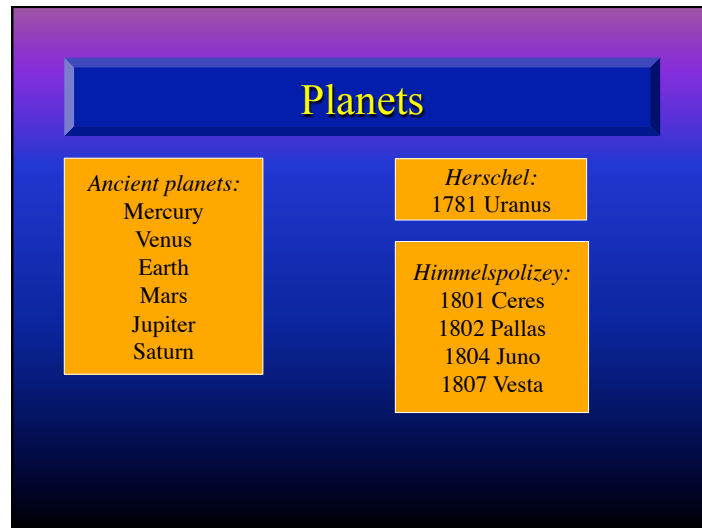
- The player is in the opposing team's half of the field.
- The player is closer to the opposing goal line than the ball is.
- There are one or zero opposing players between the player and the opposing goal line.

Issues about being offside

- The boundary is decided in order to achieve an effect on the mode of play.
 - e.g. number of players
- The boundary influences play.
 - e.g. offside trap
- The boundary requires further specification.
 - e.g. relevant body parts



- ### Selection of criteria
- There are competing criteria that could have been selected.
 - The choice is between criteria that have almost the same consequences for classification.
 - The choice is determined by the theoretical consequences of the result.



Current definition of *planet*

A planet is an astronomical body

- orbiting a star or stellar remnant
- massive enough to be rounded by its own gravity,
- not massive enough to cause thermonuclear fusion, and
- which has cleared its neighbouring region of planetesimals.

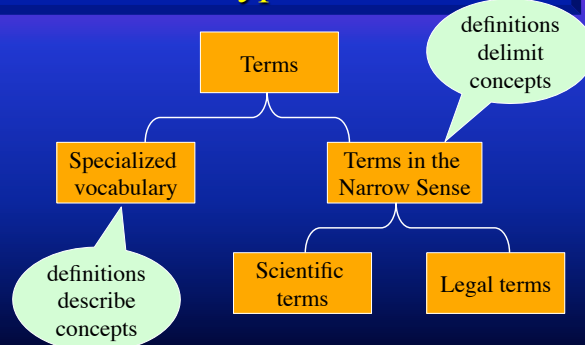
IAU 2006

Terms in Astronomy

- There is no need to draw a boundary where no instances are known.
- The decision on the criteria is based on:
 - explanatory power of the theory they come from
 - logical coherence of the set of instances

few
borderline
cases

Three Types of Term



Legal vs Scientific Terms

Legal terms

- Delimitation is necessary to impose rules.
- Choice between alternatives can be arbitrary.
- Boundaries influence behaviour.
- Revision based on moral evaluation of effects.

Scientific terms

- Delimitation is necessary to discuss theories.
- Indeterminacy is accepted while awaiting evidence.
- Boundaries are theory-dependent.
- Revision based on theoretical evaluation of new evidence.