

The world is full of objects

- ❖ For us, both physical objects and institutional facts
- ❖ Need to be able to identify objects
- ❖ Some objects have parts. Need to know which parts go with which whole
- ❖ Intuitions about physical objects misleading
- ❖ Institutional facts are records
- ❖ Records are collections of symbols
- ❖ How do we identify the institutional fact that I am licensed to drive in Queensland?

Computer representation of objects

- ❖ Information systems store institutional facts
- ❖ A computer representation of an institutional fact is a collection of literals
- ❖ So we must identify an individual fact by the literals used to represent it.
- ❖ If an institutional fact has parts, all of its parts are literals or collections.
- ❖ Nearly all institutional facts have parts. A collection of literals is a whole with parts the individual literals.