Running OSCAR in Windows

To run OSCAR, first download and install ACL5.0. It may take a couple of hours to download it. You can install several different "editions". I do not think it makes any difference which you install.

Download the OSCAR files and store them somewhere on your hard drive. Then open the oscar-loader file and edit the definition of *oscar-pathname*, as indicated in the file itself. This should be the path on your computer to the OSCAR files. For example, if they are at c:\documents\OSCAR\, the pathname will be "c:\\documents\\OSCAR\\". Note that "\"s have to be replaced by "\\"s.

To run OSCAR, you must first run LISP. Start ACL in Windows. A window will open called "Allegro Common Lisp Console". At the prompt, type

(load "c:\\...\\oscar-loader.lisp")

 replacing the first part of the pathname by the proper pathname on your computer. This will load OSCAR.

A word about LISP. All expressions you type at the LISP prompt must be either single terms, like numbers, or be enclosed in parentheses, like the LOAD command.

Note that I have provided both uncompiled ".lisp" files and compiled ".fasl" files. The oscar-loader will automatically try to load the compiled files, which run much faster and load faster. If the compiled files do not work for you, you should recompile OSCAR_3.31.lisp) by typing

(compile-file "c:\\...\ OSCAR_3.31.lisp)

at the LISP prompt. The other compiled files should not be problematic. Before compiling this file, I recommend executing the following command at the prompt:

(proclaim '(optimize (safety 3)))

OSCAR comes with a set of problems in Compiled-files.lisp. You can run the entire problem set by typing

(test)

at the LISP prompt, or you can run problem n by typing

(test n)

at the LISP prompt.

The output merely shows that OSCAR has done the problem. To have OSCAR display a proof, first type (proof-on) at the LISP prompt. Typing (proof-off) turns off the display of proofs. To display the reasoning OSCAR is doing, type (display-on) at the prompt. Type (display-off) to turn that off.

Some of the other files contain more interesting problems. We will talk about them in class.