

- Project #2 - should be underway...
- Talk to a TA if you want to change your project, or it has drifted from what was originally proposed.

“Pascal [Java] is for building pyramids – imposing, breathtaking, static structures built by armies pushing heavy blocks into place. Lisp [Haskell/Prolog] is for building organisms – imposing, breathtaking, dynamic structures built by squads fitting fluctuating myriads of simpler organisms into place.

...

the pyramid must stand unchanged for a millennium; the organism must evolve or perish.”

– Alan J. Perlis, Foreword to *“Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs”*, 1985, 1996

Last time

- difference lists
- definite clause grammars
- natural language interfaces to databases
- computer algebra and calculus
- Knowledge graphs, triples, reification, URI, RDF, triple store

Today

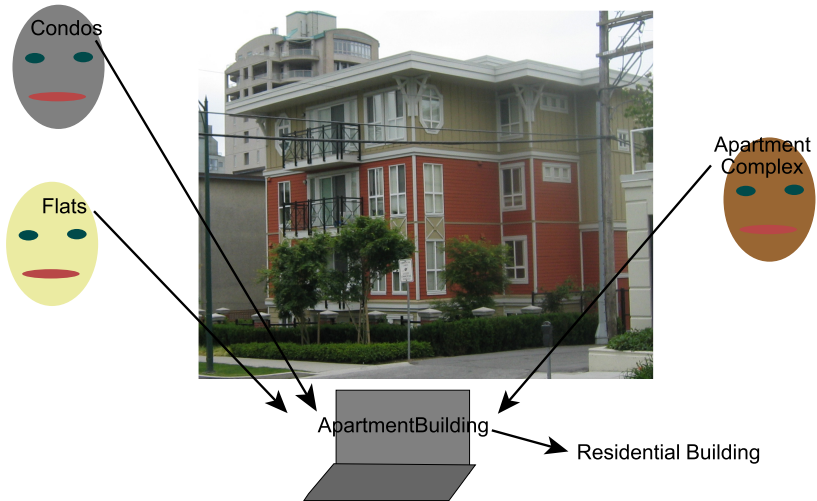
- Semantic web
- Ontologies

Building large knowledge repositories:

- Knowledge often comes from multiple sources.
- Fields have their own terminology and division of the world.
- Systems evolve over time and it is difficult to anticipate all future distinctions that should be made.
- Designers must agree on what individuals, classes and relationships to represent. The world is not divided into individuals.
- It is often difficult to remember what notation means:
 - ▶ Given a symbol used in the computer, what does it mean?
 - ▶ Given a concept in someone's mind, what symbol to use?
 - ▶ Has the concept already been defined?
 - ▶ If already defined, what symbol has been used for it?
 - ▶ If not already defined, what can it be defined in terms of?

- Idea: Let's better represent an intended interpretation, so that computers as well as people can understand it.
- A **conceptualization** is a map from the problem domain into the representation. A conceptualization specifies:
 - ▶ What sorts of individuals are being modeled
 - ▶ The vocabulary for specifying individuals, relations and properties
 - ▶ The meaning or intention of the vocabulary
- If more than one person is building a knowledge base, they must be able to share the conceptualization.
→ challenge: inter-operability of separately designed knowledge bases.
- An **ontology** is a specification of a conceptualization. An ontology specifies the meanings of the symbols in an information system.

Mapping from a conceptualization to a symbol



- Ontologies are published on the web in machine readable form.
- Builders of knowledge bases or web sites adhere to and refer to a published ontology:
 - ▶ A symbol defined by an ontology means the same thing across web sites that obey the ontology.
 - ▶ If someone wants to refer to something not defined, they publish an ontology defining the terminology. Others adopt the terminology by referring to the new ontology. In this way, ontologies evolve.
 - ▶ Separately developed ontologies can have mappings between them published.

Challenges of building ontologies

- They can be huge: finding the appropriate terminology for a concept may be difficult.
- How one divides the world can depend on the application. Different ontologies describe the world in different ways.
- People can fundamentally disagree about an appropriate structure.
- Different knowledge bases can use different ontologies.
- To allow KBs based on different ontologies to inter-operate, there must be mapping between ontologies.
- It has to be in user's interests to use an ontology.
- The computer doesn't understand the meaning of the symbols. The formalism can constrain the meaning, but can't define it.

Semantic Web Technologies Revisited

- **RDF** the Resource Description Framework is a language of triples, including the property `rdf:type` and containers (bags, lists, etc)
- **RDF-S** RDF Schema is RDF plus the class: `rdfs:Class`, and properties: `rdfs:domain`, `rdfs:range`, `rdfs:subClassOf`, `rdfs:subPropertyOf`, ...
- Lots of alternative syntaxes: XML, Turtle, N-Triples, Json ...
- **OWL** the Web Ontology Language, defines some primitive properties that can be used to define terminology. (Uses multiple alternative syntaxes).
- **SPARQL** Query Language for RDF
- **SWRL** Semantic web rule language

Main Components of an Ontology

- **Individuals** the things / objects in the world (not usually specified as part of the ontology)
- **Classes** sets of individuals
- **Properties** between individuals and their values

- Individuals are things that can be named.
- Unique names assumption (UNA): different names refer to different individuals.
- The UNA is not an assumption you can universally make: “Lewis Carroll”, “Charles Lutwidge Dodgson”, “the author of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” etc.
- Without the determining equality, we can’t count!
Joe’s mother is in the room. Sam’s cousin is there. Chris’s football coach is there. How many people are in the room?
- Using OWL:
 $(i_1, \text{'owl:SameIndividual'}, i_2)$
 $(i_1, \text{'owl:DifferentIndividuals'}, i_3)$

- A class is a set of individuals. E.g., `house`, `officeBuilding`
- One class can be a subclass of another
 - (`house`, `'rdfs:SubClassOf'`, `building`)
 - (`officeBuilding`, `'rdfs:SubClassOf'`, `building`)
 - (or `'owl:subClassOf'`)
- The most general class is `'owl:Thing'`.
- Classes can be declared to be the same or to be disjoint:
 - (`house`, `'owl:EquivalentClasses'`, `singleFamilyDwelling`)
 - (`house`, `'owl:DisjointClasses'`, `officeBuilding`)
- Different classes are not necessarily disjoint.
E.g., a building can be both a commercial building and a residential building.

see http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~poole/cs312/2024/prolog/sem_web_schema.pl

Example Concepts in an Ontology

The following are some of the concepts in an ontology for documents.

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/projects/plus/DAML/onts/docmnt1.0.daml>

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| homepage | correspondence | publication |
| letter | periodical | article |
| book | email | magazine |
| journal | document | communication |
| workshopPaper | journalPaper | discussion |
| newspaper | PersonalHomepage | speech |

- A property is between an individual and a value.
- A property has a domain and a range.
- An *ObjectProperty* is a property whose range is an individual.
- A *DatatypeProperty* is one whose range isn't an individual, e.g., is a number or string.
- There can also be property hierarchies:

`rdfs:domain(livesIn, person)`

`rdfs:range(livesIn, placeOfResidence)`

`rdfs:subPropertyOf(livesIn, enclosure)`

`rdfs:subPropertyOf(principalResidence, livesIn)`

Clicker Question

Suppose we are given the following triple as true:

```
years_eligibility 'rdfs:domain' student.  
sam years_eligibility 3.
```

Which of the following can we infer

- A Sam is a student
- B Sam could a student (but maybe isn't)
- C All students have value 3 for years_eligibility
- D We can infer nothing about whether Sam is a student

Clicker Question

Suppose we are given the following triples as true:

`years_eligibility 'rdfs:domain' student.`

`years_eligibility 'rdfs:domain' athlete.`

`sam years_eligibility 3.`

Which of the following is true

- A Sam is both a student and an athlete.
- B Sam could be either student or an athlete.
- C We can infer nothing about whether Sam is an athlete or a student
- D There are no student athletes.
- E The facts are inconsistent, and couldn't possibly all be true

Clicker Question

RDF-schema provides a vocabulary for classes and properties.
RDF-schema has a syntax for *domain* and *range* of a property.
schema.org does not use `rdfs:domain` and `rdfs:range`. Why?

- A The scheme.org designers didn't know about it even though they used other terminology from RDF-schema
- B The scheme.org designers didn't care about domains and ranges because they just wanted to define a vocabulary.
- C schema.org does not define anything, and so does not need domain and ranges
- D The scheme.org designers did not want the meaning associated with RDF-schema's domain and range.

Properties (Cont.)

- One property can be inverse of another
`owl:InverseObjectProperties(livesIn, hasResident)`
- Properties can be declared to be transitive, symmetric, functional, or inverse-functional.
(Which of these are only applicable to object properties?)
- We can also state the minimum and maximal cardinality of a property.

`owl:minCardinality(principalResidence, 1)`

`owl:maxCardinality(principalResidence, 1)`

Property and Class Restrictions

- We can define complex descriptions of classes in terms of restrictions of other classes and properties.
E.g., A homeowner is a person who owns a house.

$$\text{homeOwner} \subseteq \text{person} \cap \{x : \exists h \in \text{house such that } x \text{ owns } h\}$$

```
owl:subClassOf(homeOwner, person)
```

```
owl:subClassOf(homeOwner,  
  owl:ObjectSomeValuesFrom(owns, house))
```

owl:Thing \equiv all individuals

owl:Nothing \equiv no individuals

owl:ObjectIntersectionOf(C_1, \dots, C_k) $\equiv C_1 \cap \dots \cap C_k$

owl:ObjectUnionOf(C_1, \dots, C_k) $\equiv C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_k$

owl:ObjectComplementOf(C) $\equiv \text{Thing} \setminus C$

owl:ObjectOneOf(I_1, \dots, I_k) $\equiv \{I_1, \dots, I_k\}$

owl:ObjectHasValue(P, I) $\equiv \{x : x P I\}$

owl:ObjectAllValuesFrom(P, C) $\equiv \{x : x P y \rightarrow y \in C\}$

owl:ObjectSomeValuesFrom(P, C) \equiv
 $\{x : \exists y \in C \text{ such that } x P y\}$

owl:ObjectMinCardinality(n, P, C) \equiv
 $\{x : \#\{y | x P y \text{ and } y \in C\} \geq n\}$

owl:ObjectMaxCardinality(n, P, C) \equiv
 $\{x : \#\{y | x P y \text{ and } y \in C\} \leq n\}$

- owl:EquivalentClasses(C_1, C_2) $\equiv C_1 \equiv C_2$
- owl:DisjointClasses(C_1, C_2) $\equiv C_1 \cap C_2 = \{\}$
- owl:EquivalentObjectProperties(P_1, P_2) $\equiv xP_1y$ if and only if xP_2y
- owl:DisjointObjectProperties(P_1, P_2) $\equiv xP_1y$ implies not xP_2y
- owl:InverseObjectProperties(P_1, P_2) $\equiv xP_1y$ if and only if yP_2x
- owl:SameIndividual(I_1, \dots, I_n) $\equiv \forall j \forall k I_j = I_k$
- owl:DifferentIndividuals(I_1, \dots, I_n) $\equiv \forall j \forall k j \neq k$ implies $I_j \neq I_k$
- owl:FunctionalObjectProperty(P) \equiv if xPy_1 and xPy_2 then $y_1 = y_2$
- owl:InverseFunctionalObjectProperty(P) \equiv
if x_1Py and x_2Py then $x_1 = x_2$
- owl:TransitiveObjectProperty(P) \equiv if xPy and yPz then xPz
- owl:SymmetricObjectProperty \equiv if xPy then yPx