

Ontologies and Knowledge Sharing

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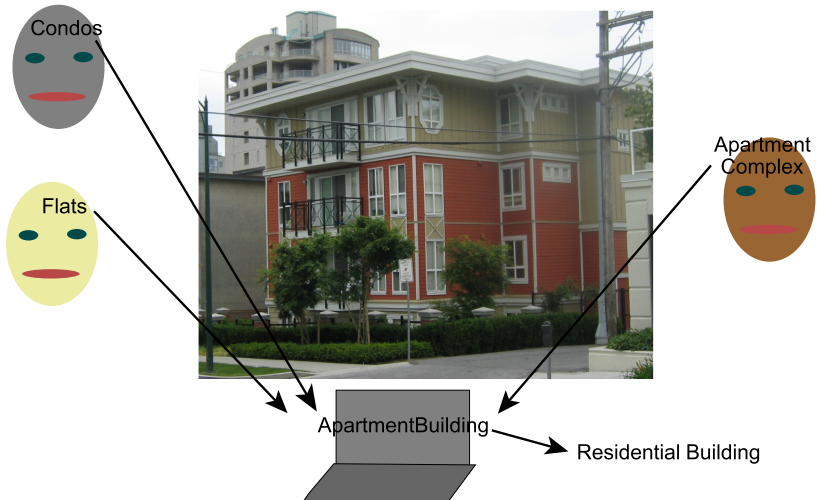
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 - ▶ If not already defined, what can it be defined in terms of?

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→ 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



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 - ▶ Separately developed ontologies can have mappings between them published.

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- 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.

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- **OWL** the Web Ontology Language, defines some primitive properties that can be used to define terminology. (Uses multiple alternative syntaxes).

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

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Joe’s mother was in the room. Sam’s cousin was there.
Chris’s football coach was there. How many people were in the room?
- Using OWL:
 $(i_1, \text{'owl:SameIndividual', } i_2)$
 $(i_1, \text{'owl:DifferentIndividuals', } i_3)$

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- Different classes are not necessarily disjoint.
E.g., a building can be both a commercial building and a residential building.

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

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- 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: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.

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- 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.
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owl:subClassOf(homeOwner, person)

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

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- Tools for mapping one ontology to another allow inter-operation of different knowledge bases.
- The semantic web promises to allow two pieces of information to be combined if
 - ▶ they both adhere to an ontology
 - ▶ these are the same ontology or there is a mapping between them.

Example: Apartment Building

An apartment building is a residential building with more than two units and they are rented.

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```
Declaration(ObjectProperty(:numberOfunits))  
FunctionalObjectProperty(:numberOfunits)  
ObjectPropertyDomain(:numberOfunits :ResidentialBuilding)  
ObjectPropertyRange(:numberOfunits  
                    ObjectOneOf(:two :one :moreThanTwo))
```

```
Declaration(Class(:ApartmentBuilding))  
EquivalentClasses(:ApartmentBuilding  
    ObjectIntersectionOf(  
        :ResidentialBuilding  
        ObjectHasValue(:numberOfunits :moreThanTwo)  
        ObjectHasValue(:ownership :rental)))
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Example: hotel ontology

Define the following:

- Room
- BathRoom
- StandardRoom - what is rented as a room in a hotel
- Suite
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- Hotel
- HasForRent
- AllSuitesHotel
- NoSuitesHotel
- HasSuitesHotel

A top-level ontology

- provides a definition of *everything* at a very abstract level.
- provides a useful categorization on which to base other ontologies.
- facilitates the integration of domain ontologies.

At the top is **entity**. OWL calls the top of the hierarchy **thing**. Essentially, everything is an entity.

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E.g., 17, set of all mammals on Earth, an email, a course

Continuants vs Occurrents

- A **continuant** exists in an instance of time and maintains its identity through time.
Examples: person, a finger, a country, a smile, the smell of a flower, an email, Newtonian mechanics
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Alternative: a four-dimensional or **perdurant** view where objects exist in the space-time.

- A person is a trajectory through space and time
- At any time, a person is a snapshot of the four-dimensional trajectory.

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For example, the end of a lecture, the first goal in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final.

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 - ▶ What processing has been done to the data?

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- *Reusable* – the data uses rich metadata, including provenance, and an appropriate open license, so that the community can use the data.

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