

# Semi-Automatically Modeling Web APIs to Create Linked APIs

Mohsen Taheriyan, Craig A. Knoblock,  
Pedro Szekely, and Jose Luis Ambite  
USC Information Sciences Institute

## About: **Downtown Los Angeles** [Sponge](#) [Permalink](#)

An Entity of Type : [Neighborhoods in Los Angeles, California](#), within Data Space : [dbpedia.org](#)

Type:

*Downtown Los Angeles is the central business district of Los Angeles, California, United States, located close to the geographic center of the metropolitan area. The area features many of the city's major arts institutions and sports facilities, sightseeing opportunities, a variety of skyscrapers and associated large multinational corporations and an array of public art and unique shopping opportunities. Downtown is the hub of the city's freeway network and growing Metro rapid transit system.*

[leader title](#)

City Council  
 U.S. House  
 State Senate  
 State Assembly

[population total](#)

39537(xsd:integer)

[area total \(km2\)](#)

8.538  
 13.73988692533248

[foaf:homepage](#)

<http://www.downtownla.com>

[foaf:depiction](#)



not

dbpedia.org

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Downtown Los Angeles is the central business district of Los Angeles, the center of the metropolitan area. The area features many of the city's best shopping opportunities, a variety of skyscrapers and associated large multi-story shopping opportunities. Downtown is the hub of the city's freeway system.

The Weather Channel

Los Angel... 73°F

Los Angel... 70°F

+

Weather

Lifestyle

Social

Maps

Video

News

TV

Local

National Forecast


Severe Weather

Alerts

Hurricane Central

Los Angeles Weather ☆

Local Pollen Alert



73°F

Sunny

Feels like 73°F

Right Now

Updated: May 23, 2012, 3:45pm PDT

From 10 mph

sw WIND

51%

HUMIDITY

54°

DEW POINT

9.0 mi

VISIBILITY

29.74 in →

PRESSURE

5 - Moderate

UV INDEX

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8.538  
13.73988692533246

Current temperature  
Wind  
Humidity  
Dew Point

73°F  
10 mph SW  
51%  
54°

Live weather

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Type: `yago:NeighborhoodsInLosAngeles,California`

*Downtown Los Angeles is the central business district and center of the metropolitan area. The area features many opportunities, a variety of skyscrapers and associated shopping opportunities. Downtown is the hub of the city.*

### Events for May. 2012



#### Film

Transparent Cities  
5/1/2012  
REDCAT Theater

#### Meeting

Saving Our Sons: A Community Conversation  
5/2/2012  
Los Angeles Trade Tech College

#### Special Event

Autumn Lights Night  
5/3/2012  
401 s Main Street

#### Concert

Martin Hasselbock Leads LACO's Baroque  
Conversations  
2012  
Turn School of Performing Arts

### Ongoing Events

#### Exhibit

A Nation Emerges: The Mexican Revolution  
Revealed  
9/8/2011 - 6/3/2012  
LA Public Library - Central

#### Museum

Justice, Balance and Achievement: African  
Americans in the California Courts  
1/12/2012 - 5/27/2012  
California African American Museum

#### Exhibit

Trouble In Paradise: Music and Los Angeles,  
1945-1975  
2/22/2012 - 6/3/2012  
GRAMMY Museum

#### Exhibit

Xploration Lab 2012  
3/17/2012 - 6/17/2012

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Events	Transparent Cities 5/1/2012 REDCAT Theater Saving Our Sons : A Community Conversatio... ...
--------	---



Events

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Events	Transparent Cities 5/1/2012 Saving Our Sons : A Community Conversation ...
--------	--

Twitter Feed	Los Angeles becomes the largest U.S. city to ban... Plastic grocery bags will now be banned in... ...
--------------	---



**Yale Environment 360** @YaleE360

18m

Los Angeles becomes the largest U.S. city to ban **plastic bags**  
[bit.ly/JA0PdX](#) #LosAngeles #plasticbagban

[Expand](#)



**DestinationTampaBay** @DestTampaBay

48m

**Plastic** grocery **bags** will now be banned in #LosAngeles. What do you think of that concept for #Florida?

[Expand](#)



**annmarie anderson** @AnnmarieCloud

55m

"@HuffingtonPost: The nation's second largest city has just banned **plastic bags** in grocery stores [huff.to/Jygs5N](#)" #LosAngeles #green

[Expand](#)



**gomaam** @gomaam

1h

#LosAngeles is now the largest U.S. city to #ban #**plastic bags**  
[dlvr.it/1cX0bW](#)

[Expand](#)



**Ozzyopolis** @Ozzyopolis

3h

Los Angeles Becomes Largest U.S. City to Ban **Plastic Bags**:  
[bit.ly/Jpl9xw](#) via @TreeHugger #LosAngeles #plasticbagban

[Expand](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#)

Live Twitter Feed



# But, the Information is Available in Web APIs ....

## About: Downtown Los Angeles

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Type: `yago:NeighborhoodsInLosAngeles`

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	...

Twitter Feed	Los Angeles becomes the largest U.S. city to ban plastic grocery bags will now be banned in ...
	...

## World Weather Online API

[Summary](#) [Mashups \(1\)](#) [How-To \(1\)](#) [Developers \(1\)](#) [Comments](#)



World Weather Online provides weather forecast and weather information for worldwide city and towns. The Developer Weather API allows developers and programmers to access free 5-day weather forecasts.

## Eventful API

[Summary](#) [Mashups \(46\)](#) [How-To](#) [Developers \(30\)](#) [Comments](#)



Eventful is the world's largest collection of events, taking place in markets throughout the world, from concerts and sports events and political rallies. Eventful.com is built upon a REST API.

## Twitter API

[Summary](#) [Mashups \(709\)](#) [How-To \(34\)](#) [Developers \(432\)](#) [API](#)



The Twitter micro-blogging service includes two REST APIs. The Twitter REST API methods allow developers to access and post data to the Twitter service.

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13.739

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Humidity

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Dew Point

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Events

Trans

Saving


...

Twitter Feed

Los A

Plasti

...



**Hot APIs »** [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Google Maps](#) [Flickr](#) [LinkedIn](#) [More »](#)

[Home](#) [API News](#) [API Directory](#) [Mashups](#) [Community](#) [How-to](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Tour](#)

Keeping you up to date with APIs, mashups and the Web as platform.

Find APIs, mashups, code and developers

**Popular searches:** [photo](#) [google](#) [flash](#) [mapping](#) [enterprise](#) [sms](#)

**6052**  
APIs

# The Problem

Web-service  
Invocation request

## World Weather Online API

Summary

Mashups (1)

How-To (1)

Developers (1)

Comments



World Weather Online provides weather forecast and we for worldwide city and towns. The Developer Weather AP developers and programmers to access free 5 day weath

<http://free.worldweatheronline.com/feed/....format=csv>

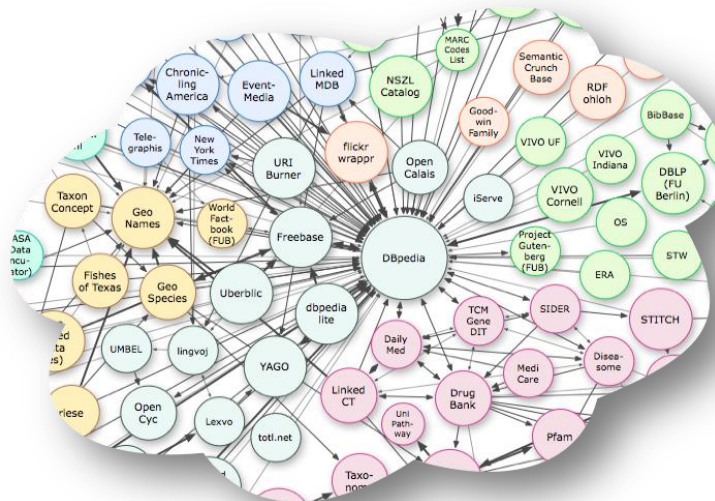
JSON/XML

?

?

RDF/SPARQL Query

RDF

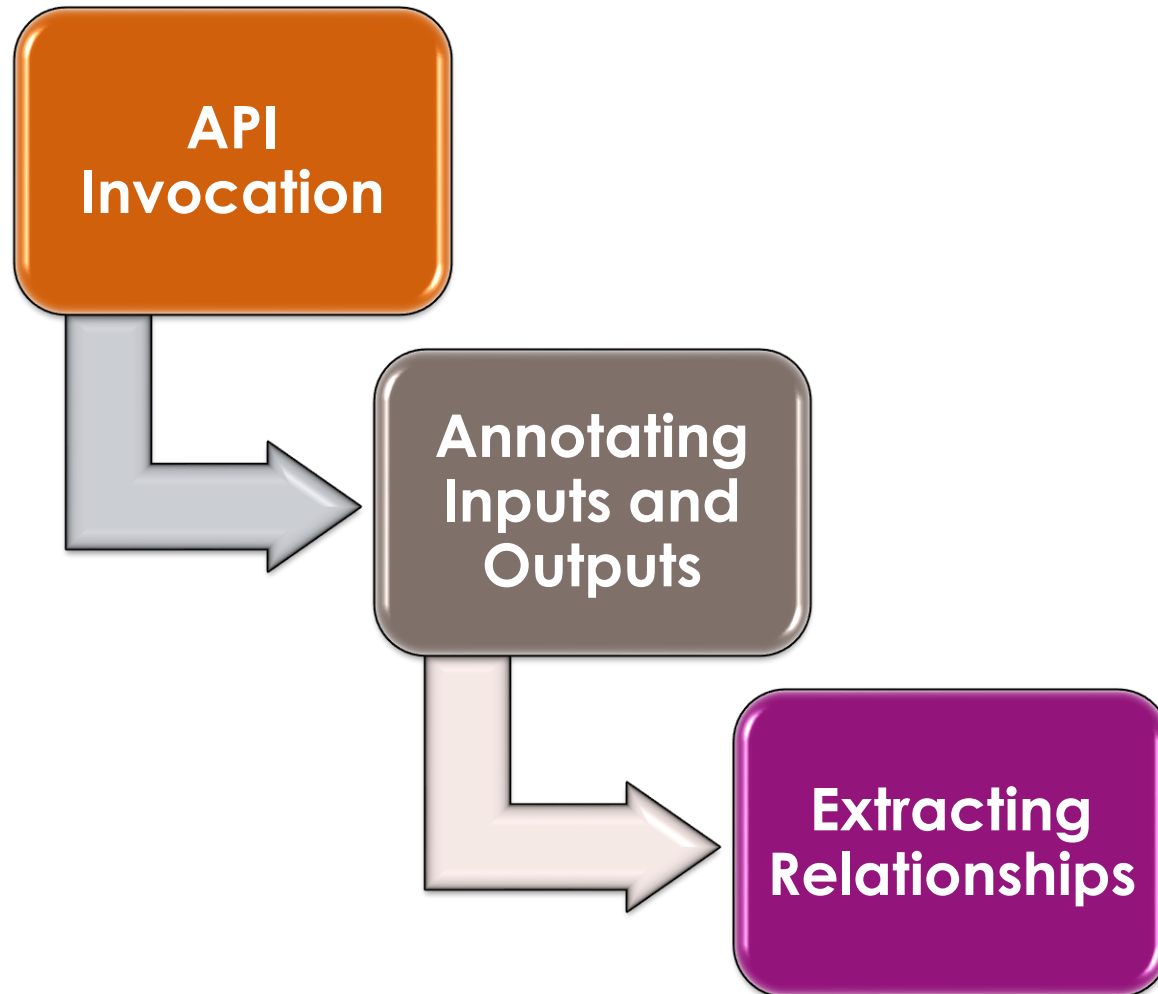




# Modeling APIs

- Input
  - Examples of the request URLs
  - Ontology
- Output
  - A semantic model of the API built interactively

# Approach



# Service Invocation

## KARMA



Sample Request  
URLs

example-requests	
URL	
<a href="http://example.com/weather?city=Irvine&amp;state=CA">http://example.com/weather?city=Irvine&amp;state=CA</a>	
<a href="http://example.com/weather?city=Chicago&amp;state=IL">http://example.com/weather?city=Chicago&amp;state=IL</a>	
<a href="http://example.com/weather?city=Miami&amp;state=FL">http://example.com/weather?city=Miami&amp;state=FL</a>	
<a href="http://example.com/weather?city=New+York&amp;state=NY">http://example.com/weather?city=New+York&amp;state=NY</a>	
Show: 10 20 50 records Previous Next	

Invoking  
API

CITY	STATE	DATE	ICAO	TEMPERATURE	DEWPOINT	HUMIDITY	WINDSPEED	SKYCONDITION
Irvine	CA	1-Mar-12	KLOX	61	53	67%	07	Mainly clear
Chicago	IL	1-Mar-12	KMDW	54	48	45%	11	Some sun with spotty showers
Miami	FL	1-Mar-12	KMIA	60	57	60%	06	Turning cloudy
New York	NY	1-Mar-12	KJFK	27	26	70%	08	Mostly sunny
Previous Next								

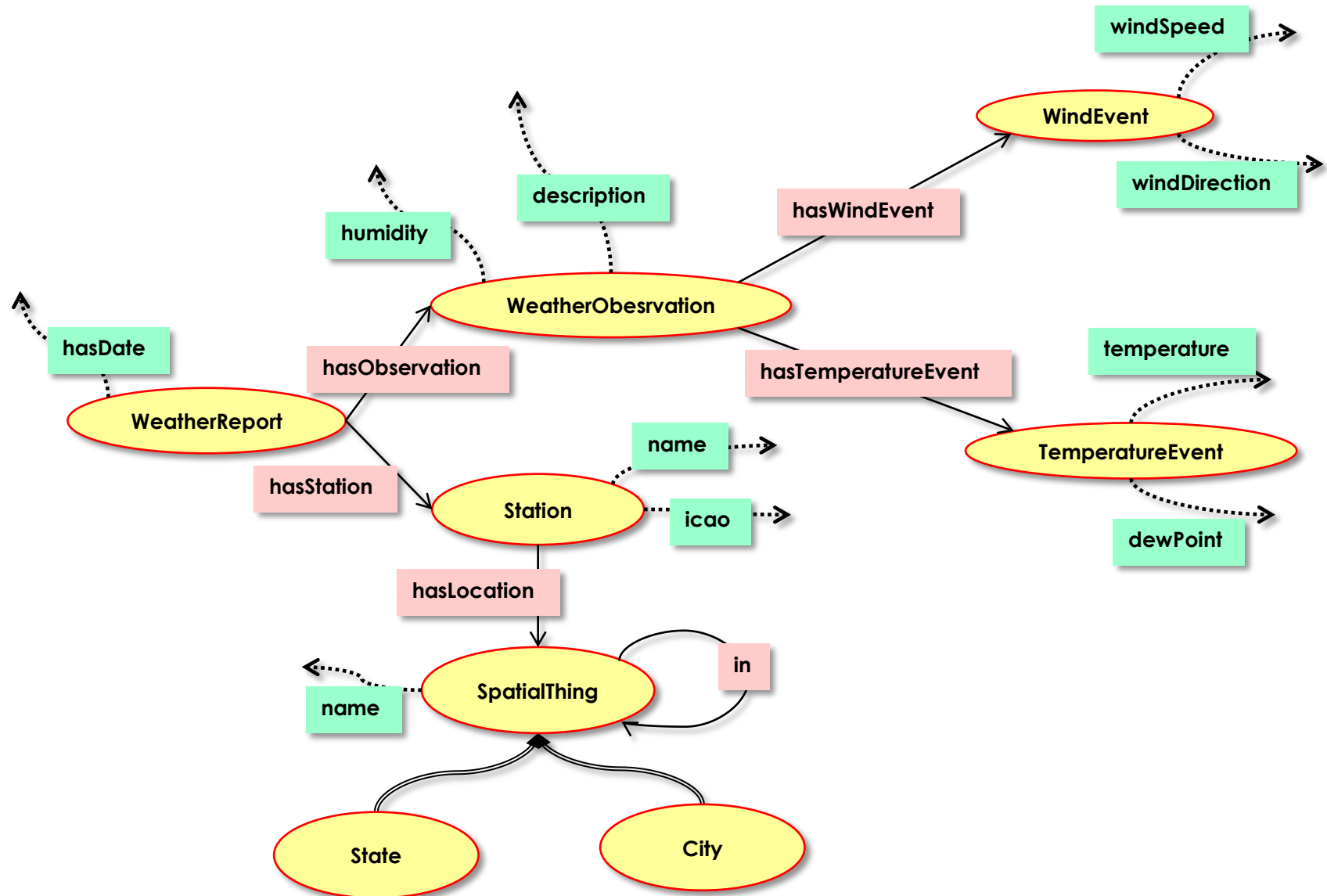
Inputs

Outputs

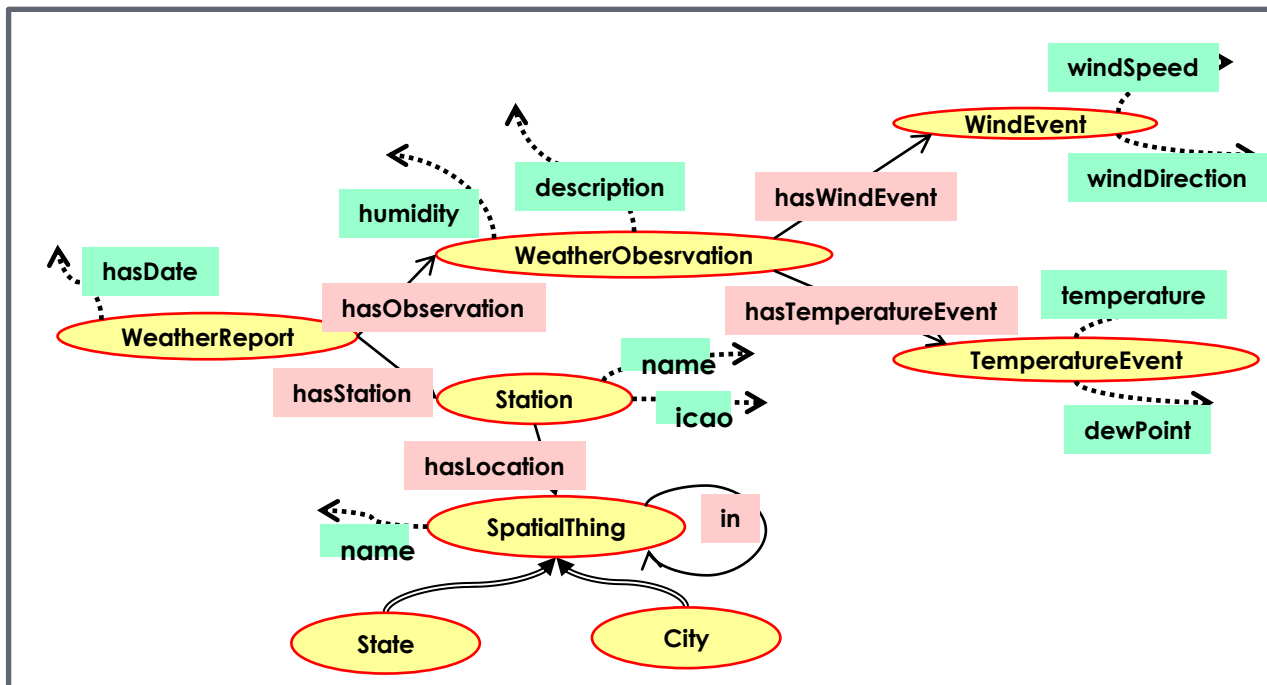
# Annotating Inputs and Outputs

- Using Conditional Random Fields (CRF) to assign a semantic type to each column
- Semantic Types
  - Class
  - Data property and domain
- Example
  - OWL Class: **State**
    - <http://dbpedia.org/page/California>
  - OWL Data Property, Domain class: **State.name**
    - California

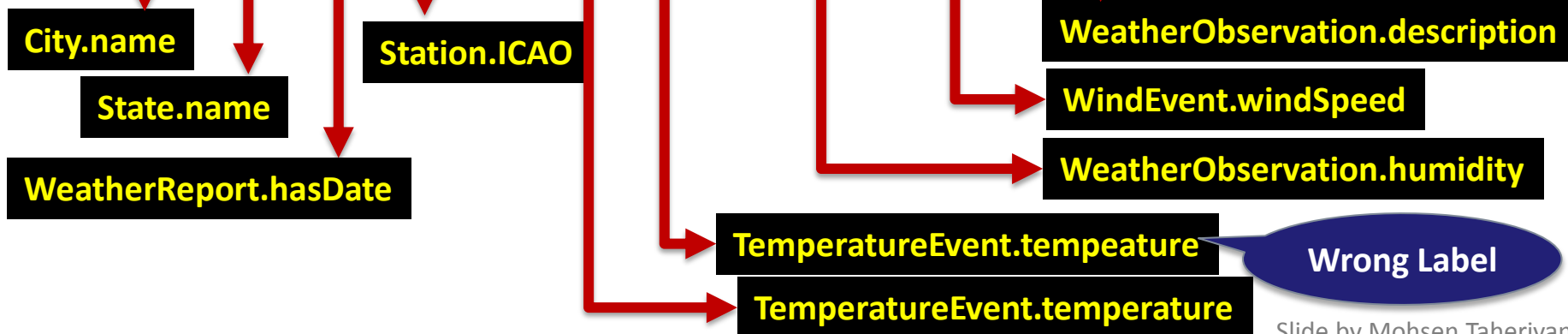
# Weather Ontology







CITY	STATE	DATE	ICAO	TEMPERATURE	DEWPOINT	HUMIDITY	WINDSPEED	SKYCONDITION
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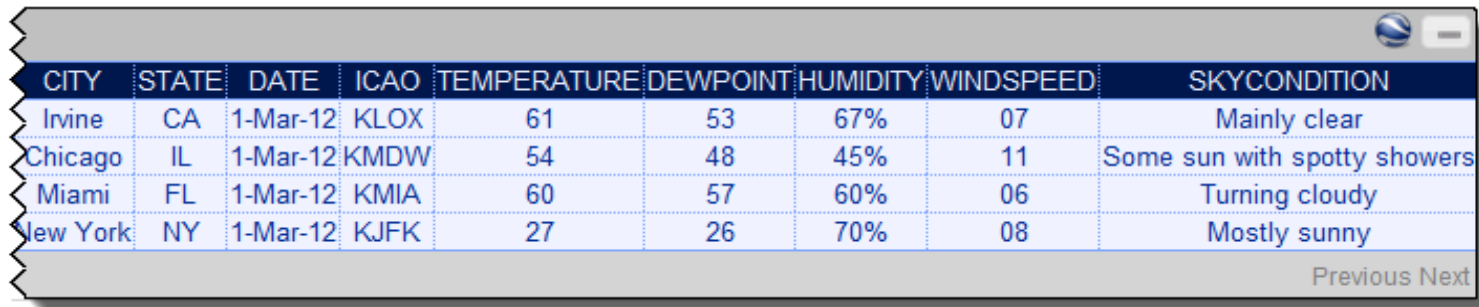


# Extracting the Relationships

- Construct a graph from
  - Assigned Semantic Types
  - Ontology Graph
- Select minimal tree that connects all semantic types
  - A customized Steiner tree algorithm
- Steiner minimal tree (SMT)
  - $G=(V,E)$  ,  $S \subset V$ ,  $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ( $S$ : Steiner Nodes)
  - Shortest network connecting vertices of  $T$
  - Approximation Alg. [Kou & Markowsky, 1981]
    - $O(|V|^2|S|)$  , Approximation Ratio: less than 2

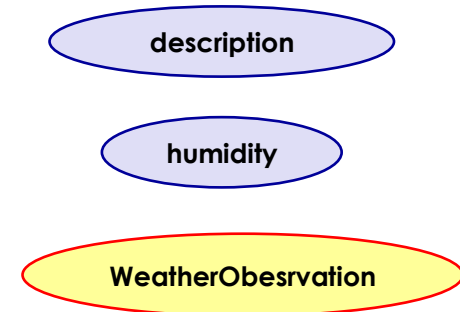
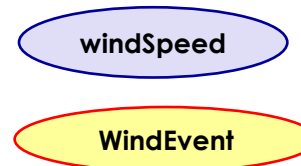
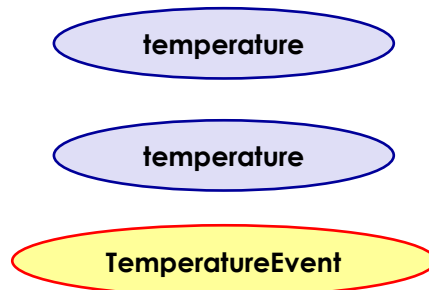
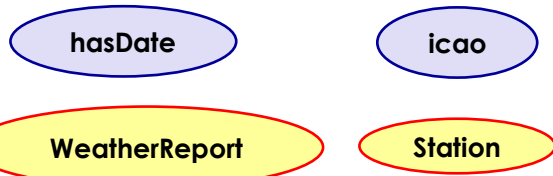
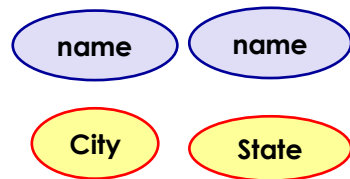
# Constructing Graph

- Graph Initialization
  - Add one node for each semantic type
  - For data property types, also add the domain (if not added before)



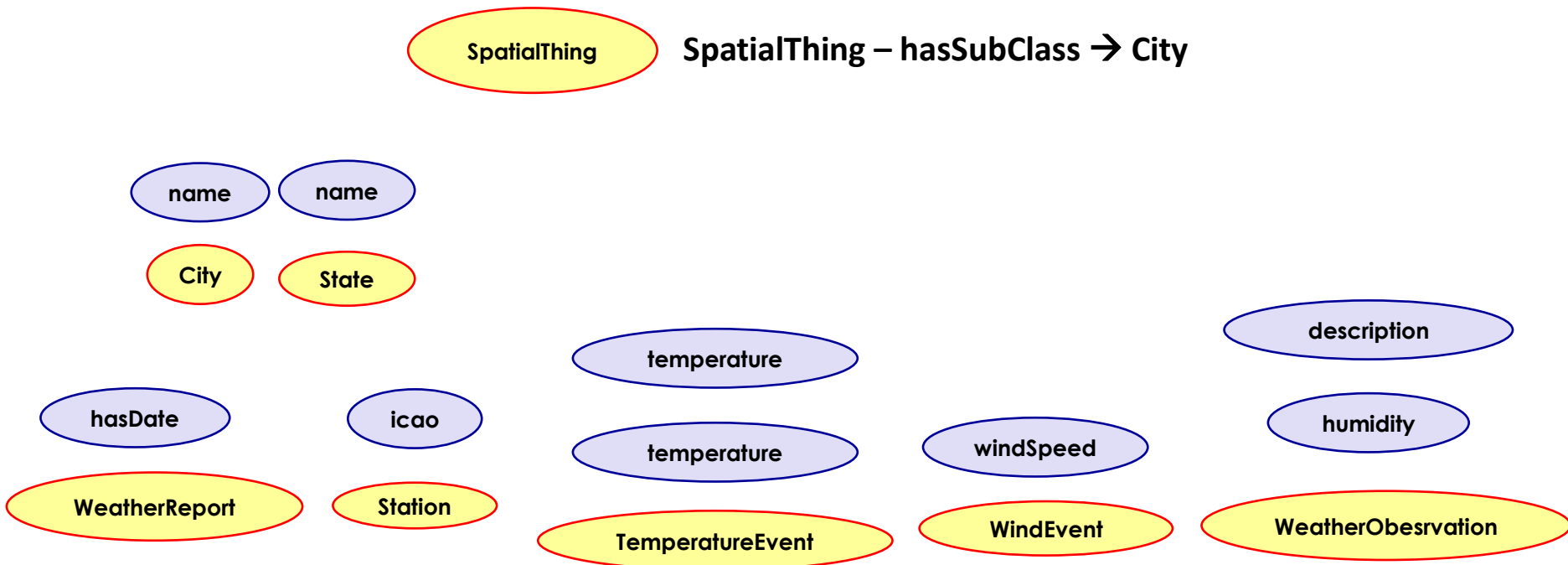
CITY	STATE	DATE	ICAO	TEMPERATURE	DEWPOINT	HUMIDITY	WINDSPEED	SKYCONDITION
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Previous Next



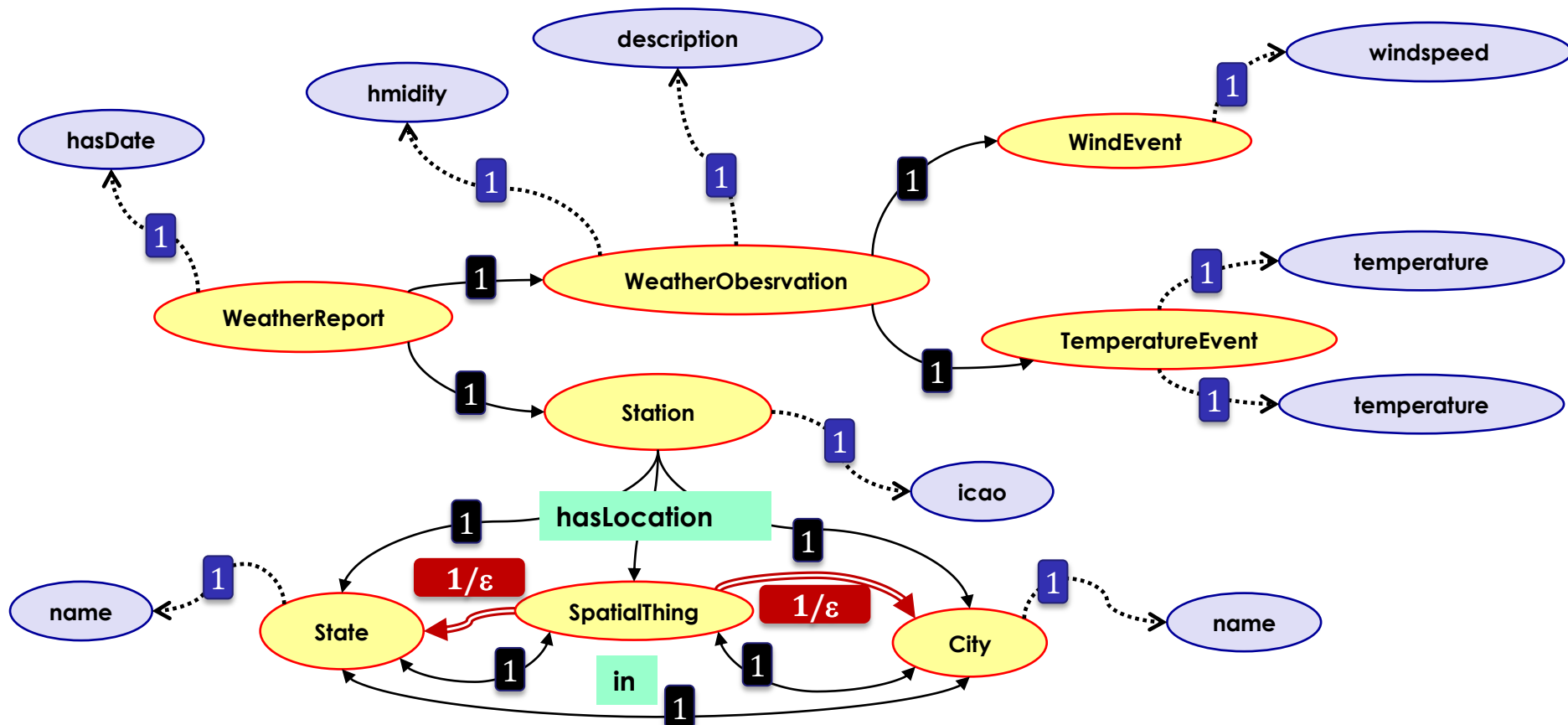
# Constructing Graph

- Compute Nodes Closure
  - Object Property or hasSubClass relations



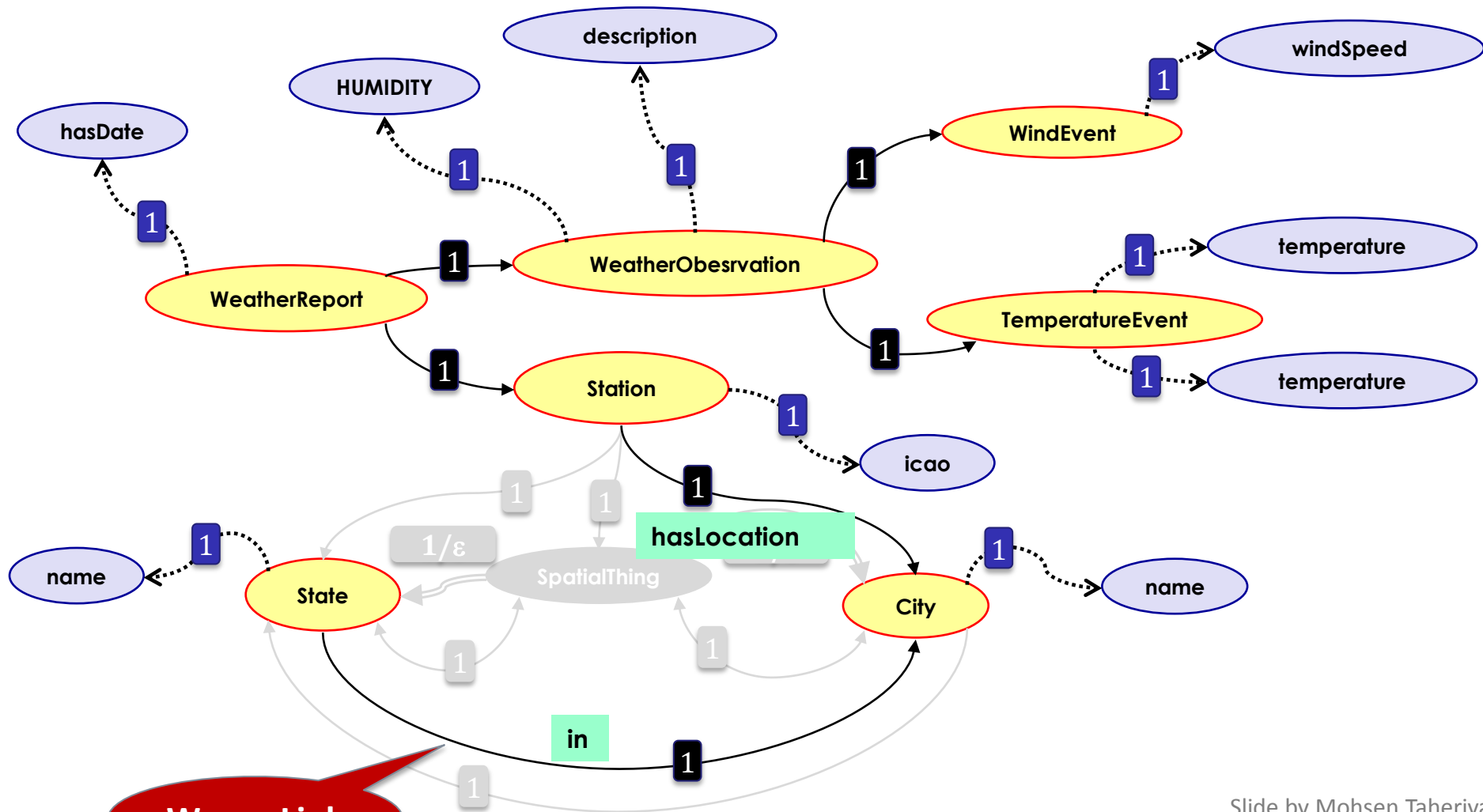
# Constructing Graph

- Adding the Links
  - Put a link with  $w=1$  from the domains to data property nodes
  - For every pair of class nodes like A and B:
    - Put a link with  $w=1$  from A to B if there is a direct or inferred object property in the ontology
    - If B is a direct or inferred subclass of A, put a link with  $w=1/\epsilon$  from A to B

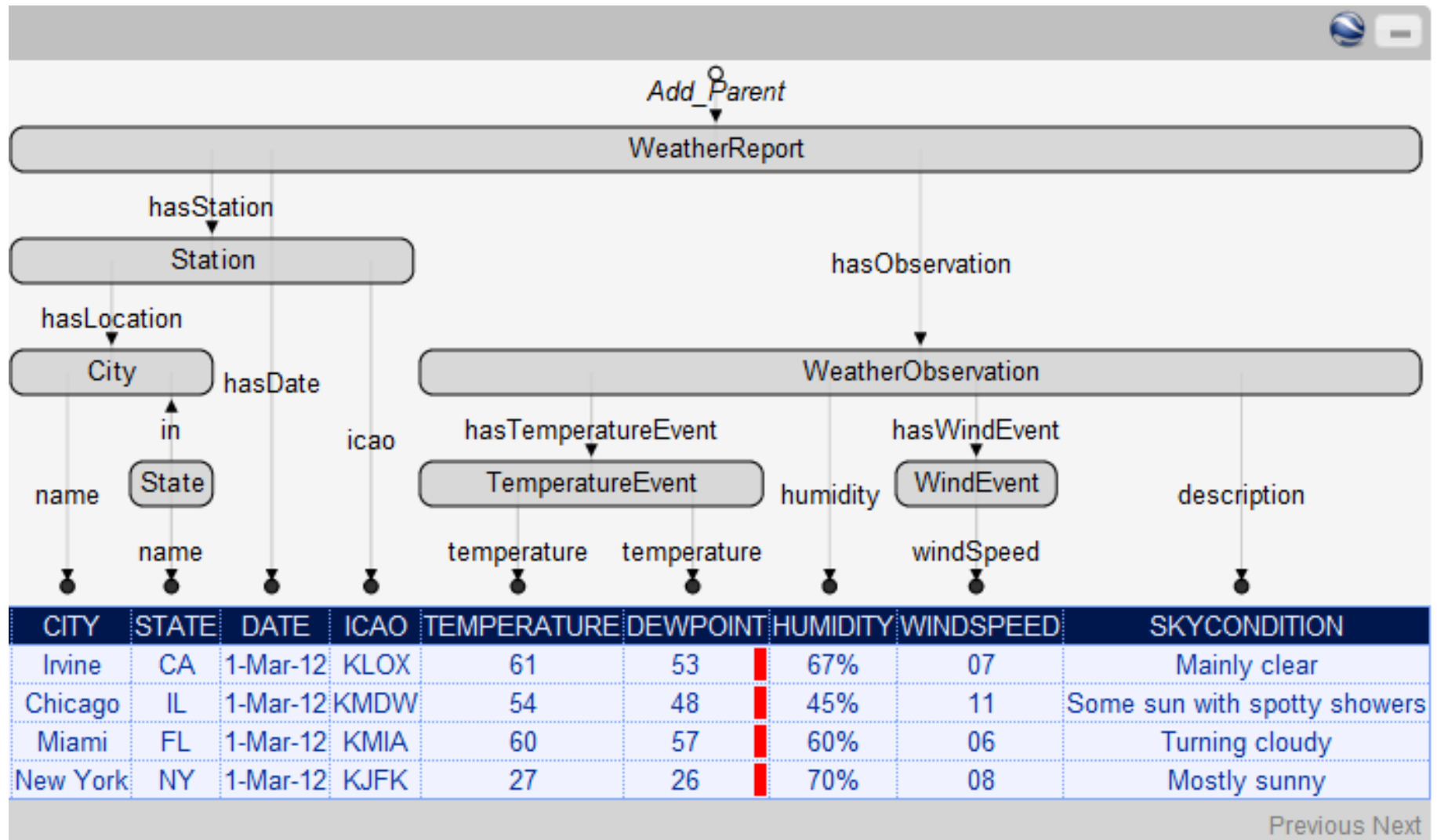




# Steiner Tree



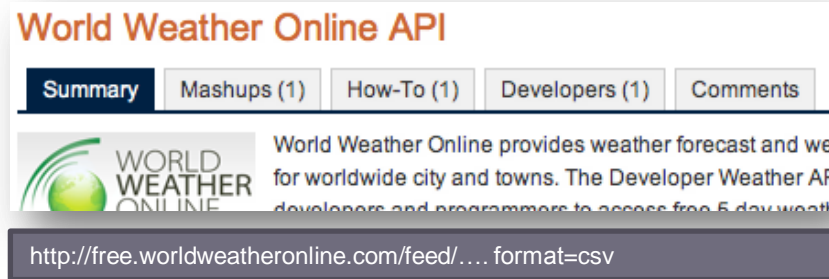
# Visualizing Model in Karma



Previous Next

# Status

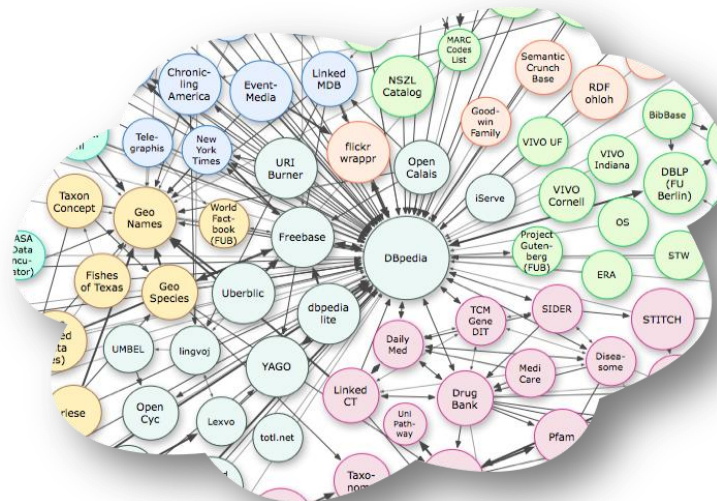
Web-service  
Invocation request



JSON/XML

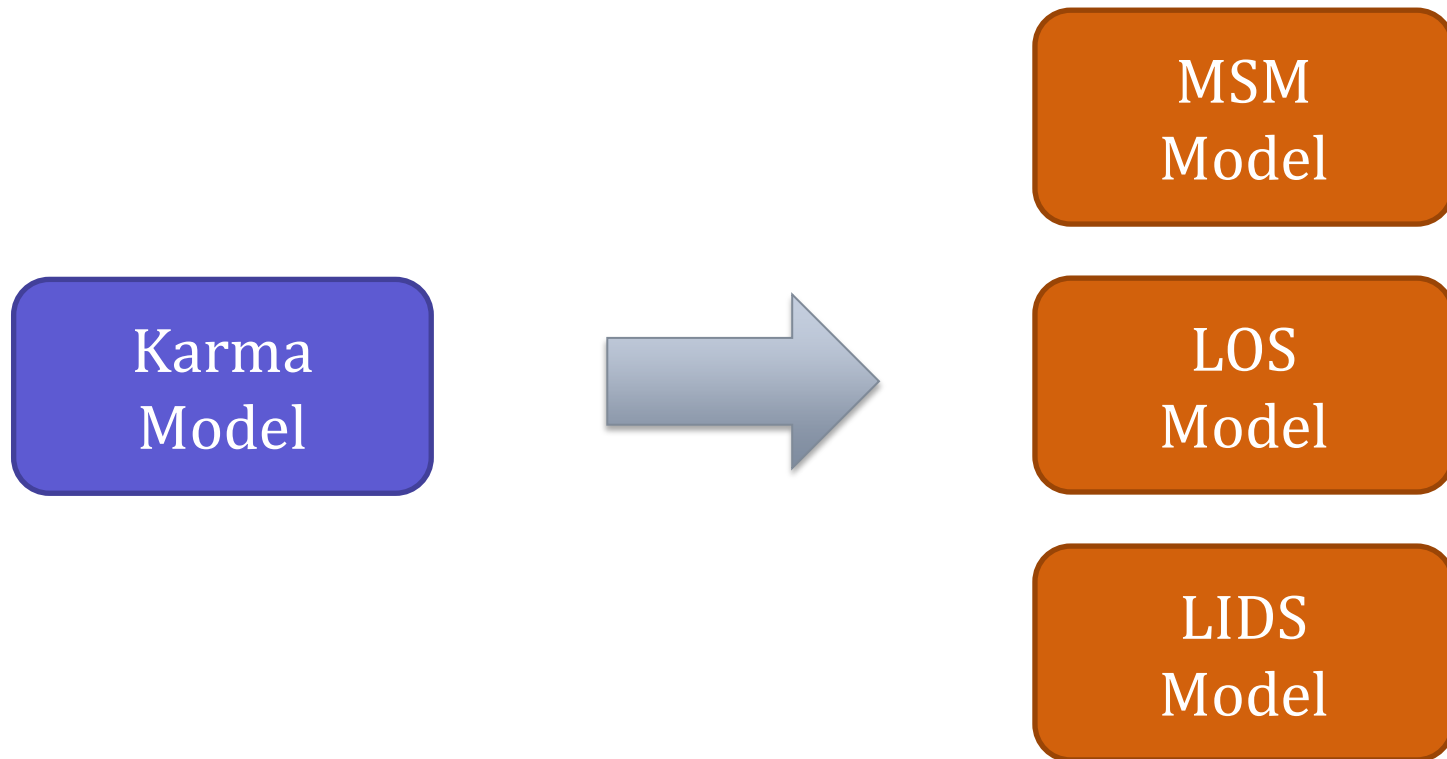
Karma

RDF/SPARQL Query



RDF

# Generate Other Models?

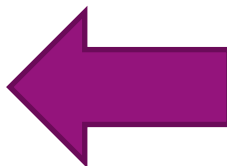
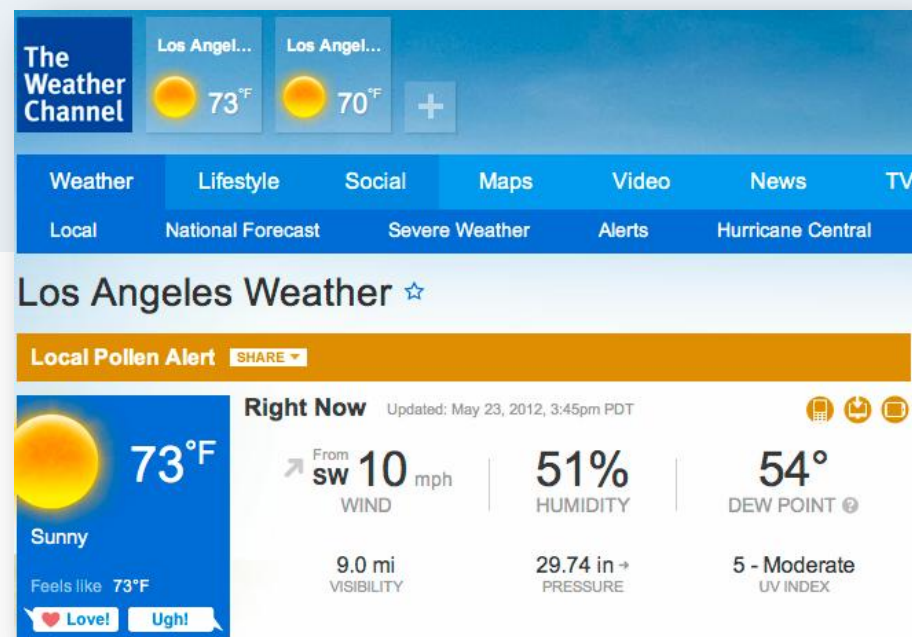


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# Challenge 1: Live Weather in DBPedia (For Every City)

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<u>area total (km2)</u>	8.538 13.73988692533248
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Humidity	51%
Dew Point	54°



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# Challenge 2: Scale-Up

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The screenshot shows the ProgrammableWeb website interface. At the top is the logo with a puzzle piece icon. Below it is a navigation bar with links: Home, API News, API Directory, Mashups, Community, and How-to. A secondary bar contains 'Hot APIs' followed by links to Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Google Maps, Flickr, LinkedIn, and a 'More »' link. Below the navigation is a sub-navigation bar with 'Dashboard' and 'Tour'. The main content area features the text 'Keeping you up to date with APIs, mashups and the Web as platform.' On the right side, a large blue badge displays '6052 APIs'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Popular searches' with links to photo, google, flash, mapping, enterprise, and sms. A large purple arrow points from the left towards the website screenshot.

