Knowledge Representation

Lecture 3: Introduction to Description Logics

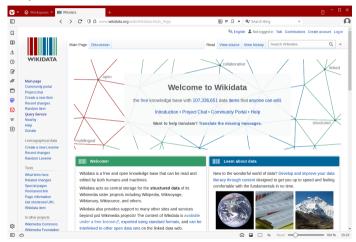
Patrick Koopmann (using parts by Stefan Borgwardt)

November 3, 2023

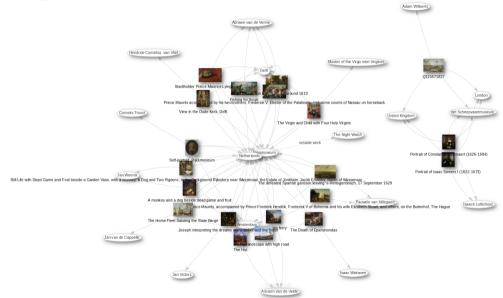
Knowledge Graphs and Ontologies

KR Formalisms You Might Know: Knowledge Graphs / Wikidata

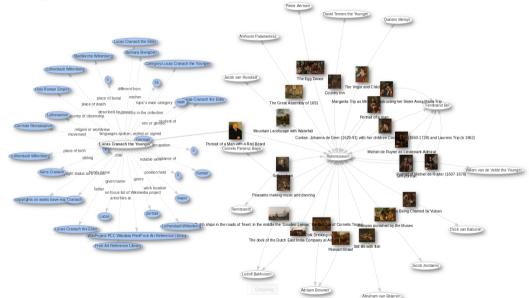
Do you also know Wikidata?



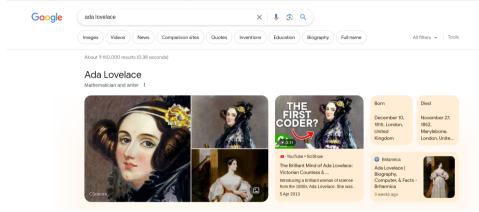
Knowledge Graph Wikidata



Knowledge Graph Wikidata



Knowledge Graphs in Google





Ada Lovelace

Lovelace, identified as Ada Augusta Byron, is portrayed by Lily Lesser in the second season of The Frankenstein Chronicles. She is employed as an "analyst" to ...
Ada Lovelace (microarchitecture) · Earl of Lovelace · Analytical engine · Lady Byron

People also ask :

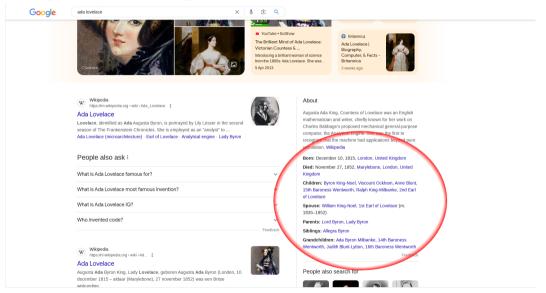


About

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace was an English mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. She was the first to recognise that the machine had applications beyond pure calculation. Wikinedia

Born: December 10, 1815, London, United Kingdom

Knowledge Graphs in Google



Knowledge Graphs

Knowledge graphs are used in many places:

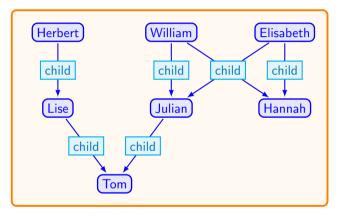
- Wikidata and DBPedia reflect knowledge of Wikipedia
- Search Engines: Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.
- Question answering systems: WolframAlpha, Siri, Alexa
- Social Networks: Facebook, LinkedIn

Having explicit representations of knowledge has also advantages for AI systems

Knowledge graphs on their own are powerful, but they also have limitations:

- we only have the explicit knowledge
- graphs may be incomplete
- ▶ it is not straightforward to link different knowledge sources

Example: Family Tree



Consider the following queries:

- Who are the grandparents of Tom?
- ▶ Who is the aunt of Tom?
- Who is a parent?
- Who has a parent?

Other Sources of Knowledge

Knowledge may occur in many other different forms:

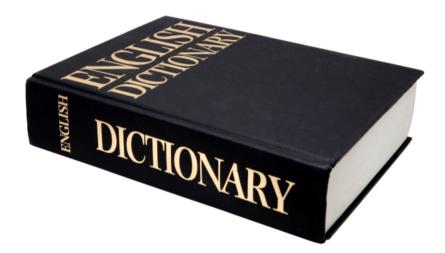
- web pages
- databases
- spreadsheets
- diagrams
- **.**..

It can be useful for an AI system to "understand" these data

- ... to infer implicit information
- ... to integrate data from different sources
- ▶ ... to intelligently answer queries

Motivation for Ontologies

Intuitively, the computer would need a dictionary...



Motivation for Ontologies

... where it can look up the meaning of the used terms.

Parent n

- 1 a father or a mother
- 2 an ancestor or precursor

Grandparent n

1 a parent of a parent

Aunt n

- 1 the sister of one's father or mother.
- 2 the wife of one's uncle.

- Such a dictionary has many advantages:
 - More intelligent querying of data
 - ► Integrating data from different sources
 - Extending incomplete data sets
- Ontologies are such "dictionaries for computer systems"

Ontologies

Ontology as a Discipline of Philosophy

Ontology philosophy the study of the nature of being [Greek on being + logy]

Branch of metaphysics

- ▶ What kinds of things/entities exist?
- What does it mean to exist?
- ► How are entities related?
- What are their basic categories? (eg. substances, property, relation, event,)
- Which entities are the most fundamental?
- "Ontology" is concerned with rather general and fundamental concepts.

Ontologies in Computer Science

Computer scientists are more pragmatic:

"For AI systems, what 'exists' is exactly that which can be represented." (Gruber, 1993)

▶ We are not concerned with *Ontology*, but with *ontologies*.

Definition of Ontologies

There are many definitions of ontologies in the literature. We use the following:

"An ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization." (Gruber 1994; Staab, Studer, 2009)

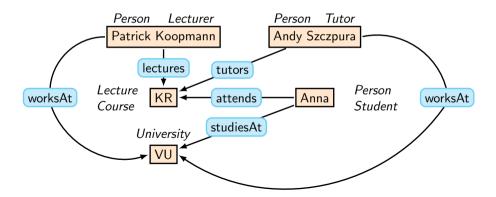
Conceptualizations

"An ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization." (Gruber 1994; Staab, Studer, 2009)

Conceptualizations (after Gruber 1994)

A conceptualization is given by:

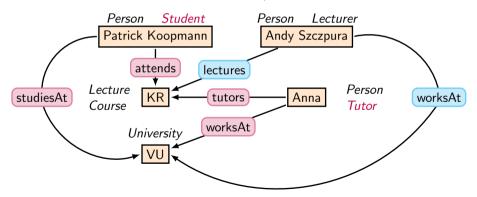
- ► a domain of discourse
- ▶ a set of conceptual relations, for example:
 - concepts (unary predicates),
 - roles or relations (binary predicates)



Conceptualizations (after Gruber 1994)

A conceptualization is given by:

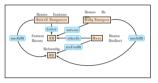
- ▶ a domain of discourse
- ► a set of conceptual relations
- ▶ for different states of the world, and different possible worlds

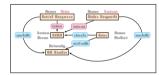


Conceptualizations (after Gruber 1994)

A conceptualization is given by:

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• •

Conceptualizations

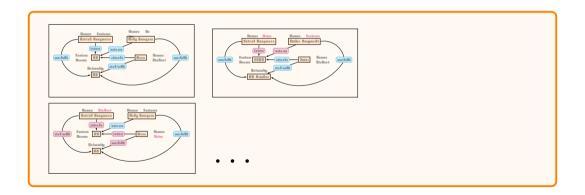
We usually consider a simplified view based on first-order structures:

- possible worlds correspond to interpretations
- the domain of discourse is not fixed
- as conceptual relations we consider concepts (unary) and roles (binary)

"An ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization." (Gruber 1994; Staab, Studer, 2009)

Extensional specification:

explicitly state the elements of the conceptual relations



Extensional specification:

explicitly state the elements of the conceptual relations

Intensional specification:

- constrain concepts and roles in the different possible worlds
- axiomatize

```
Every lecture is a course.
A TA is someone who teaches a course.
```

Every TA works at a university.

Extensional specification:

explicitly state the elements of the conceptual relations

Intensional specification:

- constrain concepts and roles in the different possible worlds
- axiomatize
- formal languages make these specifications precise

```
\forall x. (Lecture(x) \rightarrow Course(x))
\forall x. (TA(x) \leftrightarrow \exists y. (teaches(x, y) \land Course(y)))
\forall x. (TA(x) \rightarrow \exists y. (worksAt(x, y) \land University(y)))
\vdots
```

Extensional specification:

explicitly state the elements of the conceptual relations

Intensional specification:

- constrain concepts and roles in the different possible worlds
- axiomatize
- formal languages make these specifications precise
- dedicated languages make them human readable

```
Lecture SubClassOf Course

TA EquivalentTo teaches some Course

TA SubClassOf worksAt some University
...
```

Extensional specification:

explicitly state the elements of the conceptual relations

Intensional specification:

- constrain concepts and roles in the different possible worlds
- axiomatize
- formal languages make these specifications precise
- dedicated languages make them human readable

```
Lecture \sqsubseteq Course

TA \equiv \exists teaches. Course

TA \sqsubseteq \exists worksAt. University
:
```

"An ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization." (Gruber 1994; Staab, Studer, 2009)

Ontologies allow to share a fixed conceptualization with different parties

- Al system and user
- different user groups/companies
- different systems (communication via the web)

Ontologies in Practice

Search and Semantic Web

Schema.org

- ► Launched in 2011 by Bing, Google and Yahoo!
- Selection of schemas for metadata of web content
- ▶ Influences for example search results by Google's Knowledge Graph
- ► Relatively small:
 - ▶ 797 Concepts, 1,453 Roles

SNOMED CT

- Clinical healthcare terminology
- ▶ 361,042 concepts and 242 roles
- Concepts for:
 - clinical findings,
 - symptoms
 - diagnoses
 - procedures

- body structures
- organisms and other etiologies,
- substances,

- pharmaceuticals,
- devices,
- specimens.

- Applications:
 - electronic health records
 - catalogues of clinical services
 - clinical decision support systems
 - ▶ .

SNOMED CT

7 new concepts were added to SNOMED CT on March 9, 2020.

ConceptID	Description
0.000.001	COVID-19 vaccination
840544004	Suspected COVID-19
840535000	Antibody to SARS-CoV-2
840536004	Antigen of SARS-CoV-2
840539006	COVID-19
840546002	Exposure to SARS-CoV-2
840533007	SARS-CoV-2

These were used by doctors around the world (US, UK, Germany, Argentina, India, Israel, ...) to record their diagnoses.

Gene Ontology (GO)

- Developed by the Gene Ontology consortium since 1998
- Biological processes and their interactions
- ► 63.000 concepts and 300 roles
- ► Main application: biological research

```
DNAMetabolicProcess \equiv MetabolicProcess \sqcap \exists hasParticipant.DNA \\MAPKCascade \sqsubseteq MetabolicProcess \sqcap \exists partOf.CellCommunication
```

Biology and Medicine

NCBO BioPortal

- Source of ontologies on biology and medicine
- https://bioportal.bioontology.org/
- ▶ 975 ontologies (over 100 more than last year)
- 13,794,030 concepts
- ▶ 36,286 Roles
- ► Some examples:
 - National Cancer Institute Thesaurus (NCIT)
 - SNOMED Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT)
 - Gene Ontology (GO)
 - Semantic Web for Earth and Environment Technology Ontology (SWEET)
 - COVID-19 Ontology (COVID-19)

Common Core Ontologies

- Developed by non-profit R&D company CUBRC, since 2010
- Formalize generic notions found in many applications

Time Ontology:

"A day is a temporal interval. An hour occurs during a day. The relation 'during' is transitive."

 $Day \sqsubseteq One Dimensional Temporal Region$

 $Hour \sqsubseteq \exists intervalDuring.Day$

intervalDuring ○ intervalDuring ⊑ intervalDuring

Common Core Ontologies

- Developed by non-profit R&D company CUBRC, since 2010
- Formalize generic notions found in many applications

Agent Ontology:

```
"An agent is an organization or person that acts in some process".
```

"A group of agents contains at least one agent and consists only of agents."

```
Agent \equiv (Organization \sqcup Person) \sqcap \exists agent In. Process
```

 $GroupOfAgents \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart.Agent \sqcap \forall hasPart.Agent$

More Examples

- GeoNames
 - ontology to specify geographical information (countries, cities, rivers, borders, etc)
 - used for GIS (Geo Information Systems)
- ► LKIF Legal Core Ontology
 - collection of ontologies for the legal domain
- General Ontology for Linguistic Description (GOLD)
 - ontology about human language
- ► Process Specification Language (PSL)
 - used to model manufactoring processes
- ► FoodOn
 - Ontology about food
- ► SWARMS
 - Ontology about autonomous underwater vehicles (submarine robots)

Ontology Languages

There are very different ontology languages used in practice:

- ► Higher order logic (SUMO)
 - relatively rare
 - limited practicality
- ► RDFS
 - "Rich Data Format Schema"
 - very common for knowledge graphs in RDF
 - limited expressivity
 - complicated semantics
 - covered in Masters course "Knowledge Representation in the Web"
- ▶ Datalog
 - Rule-based language
 - Common systems are RDFOx, VLog and Nemo
- ► OWL
 - "Web Ontology Language"
 - ▶ Most expressive decidable formalism in this list
 - ► Based on description logics

Ontologies in Practice

- Existing ontologies vary a lot in size and expressivity
 - some ontologies are just taxonomies
 - others allow for complex logical inferencing
- Many knowledge graphs are used without or with very simple ontologies
 - in Wikidata, a lot of relevant knowledge is already there
 - terms are often not used coherently enough to allow for logical reasoning
- ▶ In the context of this course, we are interested in the more expressive ontology formalisms

The Description Logic \mathcal{ALC}

Description Logics

Description logics (DLs)

- ► are decidable fragments of first-order logic
- are restricted to unary and binary predicates
- use a special syntax for formulas
- ▶ have the specification of ontologies as main use case

Vocabulary

Concepts / Classes / Categories:

Person, Student, Teacher, Room, Building, University, ...

Roles / Relations / Properties / Attributes:

attends, teaches, is part of, is a, belongs to, is employed by, \dots

Objects / Individuals:

Patrick Koopmann, KR Lecture, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, ...

Vocabulary

Formally the syntax of DLs is based on the following infinite, disjoint sets:

concept names
$$C = \{A, B, \dots\}$$

$$R = \{r, s, \dots\}$$

individual names
$$I = \{a, b, \dots\}$$

- ► Together, they are called the vocabulary.
- Concept names A describe sets.

The concept name Person denotes the set of all persons.

Role names describe binary relations.

belongsTo denotes the set of all pairs (x, y) where x belongs to y.

Individual names describe individual objects.

vrijeUniversiteit denotes this university.

Semantics

- Semantics is used to specify the meaning of DL expressions
- As for classical logics, we use interpretations for this
- Recall propositional logic:
 - Vocabulary consists of propositional variables
 - Interpretations assign **true** or **false** to those
- For the DL vocabulary, we need to talk about individual objects and their relations

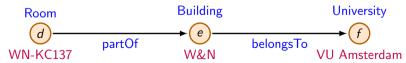
Interpretations

The semantics of DLs is based on (first-order) interpretations.

A DL interpretation is a tuple $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$, where

- $ightharpoonup \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ is a non-empty set, called the domain of \mathcal{I} ,
- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I}$ is the interpretation function that assigns meanings to names:
 - ▶ each $A \in \mathbf{C}$ is interpreted as a set $A^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$,
 - ▶ each $r \in \mathbf{R}$ is interpreted as a binary relation $r^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$,
 - ▶ each $a \in I$ is interpreted as an element $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$.

Interpretations can be represented as labeled graphs:



Example: An Interpretation



```
\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} = \{d, e, f\} \qquad Room^{\mathcal{I}} = \{d\} \qquad partOf^{\mathcal{I}} = \{(d, e)\}
WN-KC137^{\mathcal{I}} = d \qquad Building^{\mathcal{I}} = \{e\} \qquad belongsTo^{\mathcal{I}} = \{(e, f)\}
W\&N^{\mathcal{I}} = e \qquad University^{\mathcal{I}} = \{f\}
VUAmsterdam^{\mathcal{I}} = f \qquad Lecture^{\mathcal{I}} = \emptyset
```

Important Facts about Interpretations



- ▶ The domain $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ can be infinite.
- ▶ Elements of $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ are called (domain) elements, individuals, or objects.
- $ightharpoonup Room^{\mathcal{I}} = \{d\}$ is called the extension of Room
- ▶ The individual e is different from the individual name W&N.
- ▶ *f* is called belongsTo-successor of *e*.
- \triangleright e is called belongsTo-predecessor of f.

Example: Another Interpretation

Interpretations can be completely arbitrary:



- ▶ Different individual names can be interpreted as the same individual, e.g. W&N and Math&Physics are interpreted as e.
- ▶ There can be unnamed individuals, e.g. *f* , which do not have a corresponding individual name.
- Rooms can be universities, which intuitively does not make sense.
- ► The axioms in an ontology restrict the set of interpretations, e.g. by stating that rooms cannot be lectures.

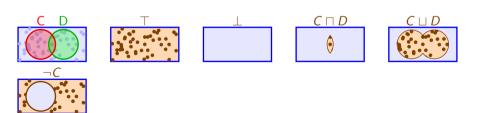
Before we introduce axioms, we introduce complex concepts

- ▶ also: concept descriptions, compound concepts, or just concepts
- describe sets of objects in an interpretation
- central elements in ontologies and ontology axioms
- ▶ the semantics of concepts is captured by the interpretation function:
 - $ightharpoonup \cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$ is extended to map concepts C to subsets $C^{\mathcal{I}}$ of the domain $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$

We define ALC concepts C and their semantics $C^{\mathcal{I}}$ inductively.

- \triangleright every concept name A is a concept with semantics $A^{\mathcal{I}}$
- ightharpoonup if C, D are concepts, then the following are also concepts:

Name:	top	bottom	conjunction	disjunction	complement
Syntax:	\top	\perp	$C \sqcap D$	$C \sqcup D$	$\neg C$
Semantics:	$\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$	Ø	$C^{\mathcal{I}}\cap D^{\mathcal{I}}$	$C^{\mathcal{I}} \cup D^{\mathcal{I}}$	$\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{I}}$



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```
Name: top bottom conjunction disjunction complement Syntax: \top \bot C \sqcap D C \sqcup D \neg C Semantics: \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \emptyset C^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}} C^{\mathcal{I}} \cup D^{\mathcal{I}} \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus C^{\mathcal{I}}
```

▶ These correspond to the operators in propositional logic.

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Examples for complex concepts:

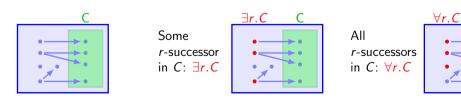
```
Room \sqcap Lecture \neg Building
```

Concepts using Roles

Additionally, we can describe outgoing role connections by specifying the concepts of the role successors.

▶ If C is a concept and r is a role, then the following are also concepts:

Name: existential restriction value restriction Syntax: $\exists r.C$ $\forall r.C$ Semantics: $\{d \mid \exists e.(d,e) \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \land e \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}$ $\{d \mid \forall e.(d,e) \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \rightarrow e \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}$



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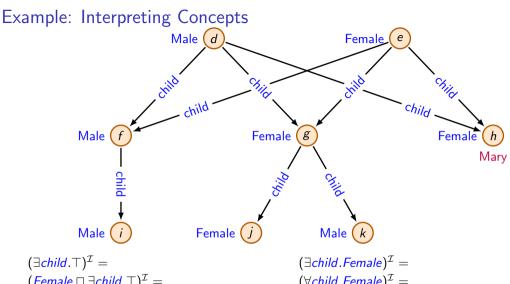
Examples:

∃hasChild.Girl $\exists hasChild. \exists hasChild. \top$ ∀eats.PlantBased $\exists belongsTo. \top$

Syntax of ALC Concepts

 \mathcal{ALC} is the description logic that allows the concept constructors \top , \bot , \sqcap , \sqcup , \neg , \exists , and \forall to build concepts.

Other DLs may use different constructors.



$$(\exists child. \top)^{\mathcal{I}} = (\exists child. Female)^{\mathcal{I}} = (Female \sqcap \exists child. \top)^{\mathcal{I}} = (\forall child. Female)^{\mathcal{I}} = (\exists child. \top)^{\mathcal{I}} = (\exists child. \bot)^{\mathcal{I}} = (\exists$$

From Concepts to Ontologies

- ► Interpretations are arbitrary
 - We usually do not know which interpretation is the correct one
- Only some will be models of our conceptualization
- ► To specify what is a model, we use axioms
- Axioms
 - express constraints on interpretations
 - relate concepts to other concepts
 - relate concepts to individuals
- ► An ontology is then a collection of axioms.

From Concepts to Ontologies

- ▶ DL ontologies are sets of axioms
- Axioms put constraints on interpretations
- ► We distinguish two types:
 - terminological axioms put concepts in relation
 - assertions relate individual names with concepts and roles
- ► They respectively form the TBox and the ABox of an ontology
- An interpretation satisfying such an axiom/ontology is a model
 - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I}$ satisfies α : $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$

Terminological Axioms

If C and D are concepts, then the following is a (terminological) axiom:

Name: general concept inclusion (GCI) equivalence axiom

Syntax: $C \sqsubseteq D$ $C \equiv D$ Semantics: $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$ $C^{\mathcal{I}} \equiv D^{\mathcal{I}}$

Lecture \sqsubseteq Course Room \sqsubseteq \neg Lecture Room \sqsubseteq Structure \sqcap \exists partOf.Building

 $TA \equiv Person \sqcap \exists teaches. Course$ $Lecturer \equiv Person \sqcap \exists teaches. Lecture$

Assertions

Assertions (also called facts) are axioms about named individuals.

Given $a, b \in I$, a concept C, and $r \in \mathbf{R}$, the following are assertions:

Name: concept assertion role assertion

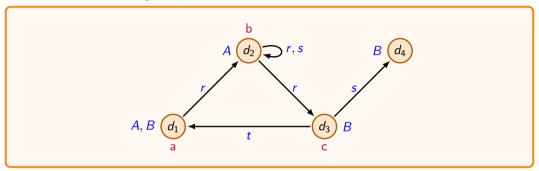
Syntax: a: C (a,b): rSemantics: $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$ $(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$

 $(a^{\mathcal{I}},b^{\mathcal{I}})\in r^{\mathcal{I}}$

WN-KC137: Room (W&N, VUAmsterdam): belongsTo

Exercise: Axioms

Let's look at the following interpretation \mathcal{I} :



Which of the following axioms does it satisfy:

- 1. (a,b): r
- 2. c: A
- 3. *c* : ∃*s*.*B*

- **4**. $A \sqsubseteq \exists r.A$
- 5. $A \sqsubseteq \forall r.(A \sqcup B)$
- 6. $A \equiv \forall r.(A \sqcup B)$

- 7. $\exists r. \top \sqsubseteq A$
- 8. $\exists r.\bot \sqsubseteq B$
- 9. $\exists r.A \sqsubset \forall s.A$

Ontologies

An ontology is a set $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$, where

- \triangleright A is an ABox, a finite set of assertions,
- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{T}$ is a TBox, a finite set of GCIs,

An interpretation is a model of \mathcal{O} (written $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$) if it is a model of all axioms in \mathcal{O} .

► The ABox contains facts about named individuals (data), the TBox contains (terminological) knowledge that applies to all individuals.

Example: An Ontology

```
\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T} with \mathcal{A} = \{WN\text{-}KC137: Room, (WN\text{-}KC137, W\&N): partOf}\} \mathcal{T} = \{Room \sqsubseteq \neg University, Room \sqsubseteq \exists partOf.Building, Building \sqsubseteq \neg University, Building \sqsubseteq \neg Room}\}
```

This ontology has many models, for example the following:



Example: An Ontology

```
\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T} with \mathcal{A} = \{WN\text{-}KC137: Room, (WN\text{-}KC137, W&N): partOf}\}
\mathcal{T} = \{Room \sqsubseteq \neg University, Room \sqsubseteq \exists partOf.Building, Building \sqsubseteq \neg University, Building \sqsubseteq \neg Room\}
```

The following interpretation is not a model of the ontology:

