11th Protégé Conference

2009

Amsterdam Netherlands



A great year for Protégé

- 11th great Protégé Conference
- 21st anniversary of PROTÉGÉ I
- 123,612 Protégé registrations
- Major development activities shifting from Protégé 3 to Protégé 4

Lots of new stuff happening to Protégé

- Even more performance enhancements
- New features that facilitate collaboration
- New Web-based version for Protege
- Amazing new plug-ins for
 - Rules
 - Spreadsheets
 - Cognitive support
- More intergration with technology from the National Center for Biomedical Ontology
- All the work that we will hear about for the first time at this conference!

Protégé at 21

Protégé no longer gets carded

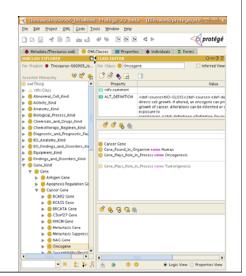
Mark A. Musen
Stanford Center for Biomedical
Informatics Research



The Protégé ontology editor

- Free, open source ontology editor and knowledge-base framework
- Support for different:
 - ontology languages (OWL, RDF(S), Frames)
 - backends: Database, XML, CLIPS, etc.
- Strong user community: more than 123K downloads
- Used widely in academic, government, and industry

http://protege.stanford.edu



PROTÉGÉ-I was build for a different world

- No Web
- No "agents"
- No notion of ontologies as engineering artifacts
- No standard languages for knowledge representation
- No significant interest in description logic
- Just tons of people trying to build rule-based expert systems—that were failing

Sample MYCIN Rule

PREMISE: (\$AND

(SAME CNTXT GRAM GRAMPOS)

(SAME CNTXT MORPH COCCUS)

(SAME CNTXT CONFORM CLUMPS))

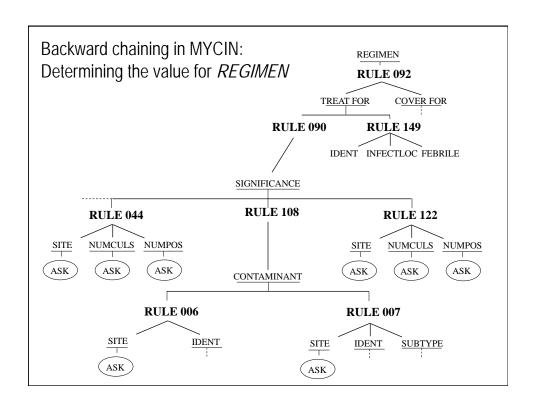
ACTION: (CONCLUDE CNTXT IDENT STAPHYLOCOCCUS TALLY 700)

IF: 1) The gram stain of the organism is grampos

- 2) The morphology of the organism is coccus
- 3) The conformation of the organism is clumps

THEN:

There is suggestive evidence (.7) that the identity of the organism is staphylococcus



Consider this rule ...

IF: (1) A "Complete Blood Count" test is available

(2) The White Blood Cell Count is less than 2500

THEN:

The following bacteria might be causing infection:

E. coli,

Pseudomonas aerugenosa

Klebsiella-pneumonia

What is implicit in this rule?

- "White Blood Cell count less than 2500" is-a-subclass-of "immunosuppressed patient," which is-asubclass-of "compromised host"
- E. coli, Pseudomonas, and Klebsiella are *instances* of "gram negative rod," which *is-a subclass-of* "bacterium normally found in the gut"
- Unless a Complete Blood Count test has been ordered, it's pointless to ask the value of the White Blood Cell Count (White Blood Count is-a-part-of a Complete Blood Count)

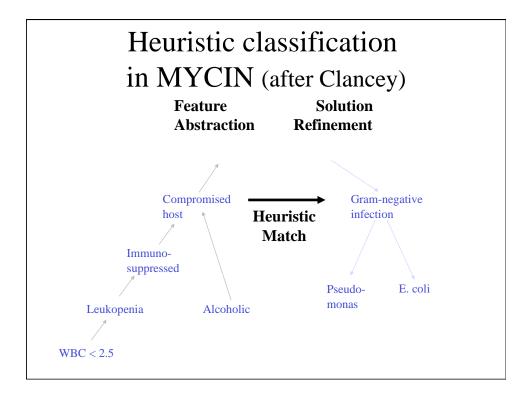
Some other screening clauses in MYCIN

- If the patient has undergone surgery and the patient has undergone neurosurgery, then ...
- If the patient is older than 17 and the patient is an alcoholic, then ...

Screening clauses coerce the system to ask questions in a certain way, while obscuring the knowledge that caused the clauses to be created in the first place.

Why rule-based systems failed

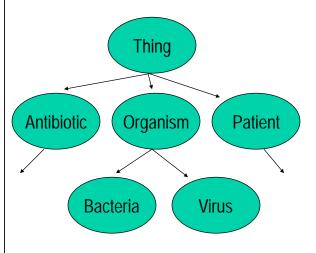
- A few hundred rules were barely manageable; a few thousand rules were impossible to keep straight.
- Developers "programmed" the systems in nonobvous ways, by tinkering with the order of rules and of clauses
- Developers could rarely tell by inspection how any element of the system contributed to problem solving



Conceptual building blocks for designing intelligent systems

- Domain ontologies
 - Characterization of concepts and relationships in an application area, providing a domain of discourse
- Problem-solving methods (PSMs)
 - Abstract algorithms for achieving solutions to stereotypical tasks (e.g., constraint satisfaction, classification, planning, Bayesian inference)

For MYCIN, those building blocks would be ...

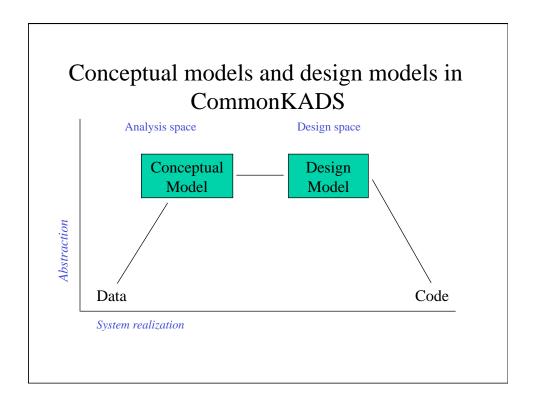


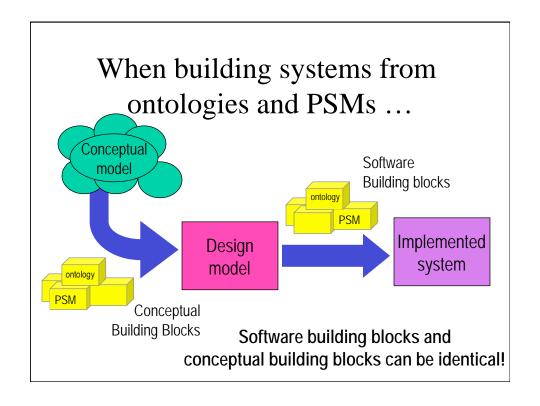
1. An ontology of infectious diseases

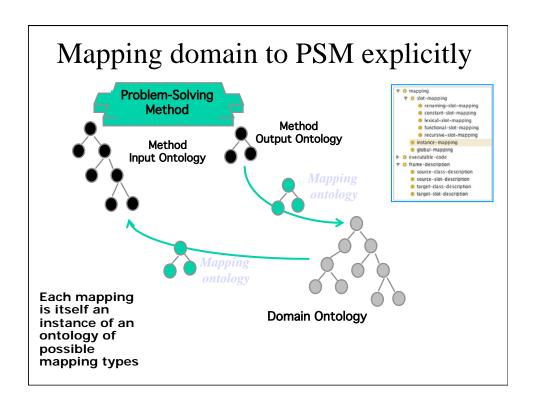
2. A problemsolving
method that
can use
the ontology
to identify
likely pathogens
and to
recommend
appropriate
treatment

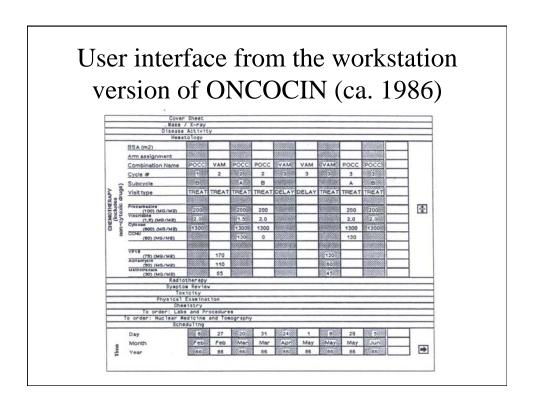
Common KADS

- Result of nearly 20 years of collaborative research in the European Union
- Centered at University of Amsterdam, with dozens of other partners
- Applies principled, software-engineering approach to development of intelligent systems
- De facto software-engineering standard for building intelligent systems









A rule from an early version of ONCOCIN (ca. 1980)

RULE075

To determine the attenuated dose for drugs in MOPP chemotherapy or for all drugs in PAVe chemotherapy

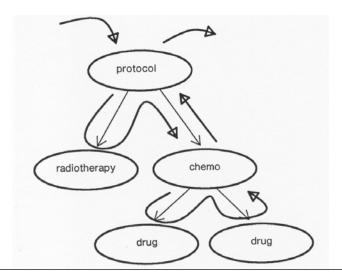
IF:

- 1) This is the start of the first cycle after a cycle as aborted, and
- 2) The blood counts do not warrant dose attenuation

THEN:

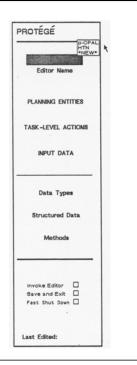
Conclude that the current attenuated dose is 75% of the previous dose

Episodic Skeletal Plan Refinement was the Problem Solver used with PROTÉGÉ I



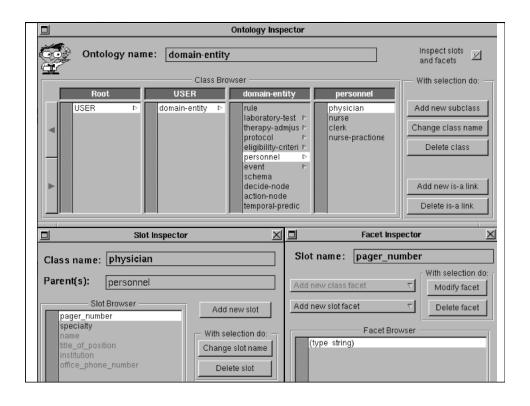
PROTÉGÉ I construed problem solving as the interplay of

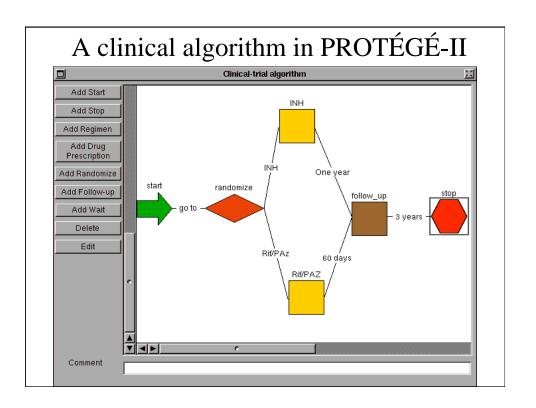
- A hierarchy of **plans** that might be invoked
- Actions that could affect the way in which the planning would take place
- **Data** input from the environment that might directly or indirectly predicate the plans to be involved or the actions to take



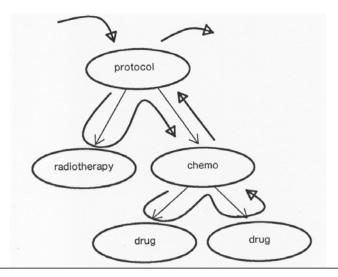
The Next Step: PROTÉGÉ-II

- Made ontologies explicit with a separate ontology editor
- Supported arbitrary problem-solving methods—dropped the dependence on ESPR
- Allowed sophisticated facilities for generating knowledgeacquisition interfaces based on the domain ontology
- Took advantage of sophisticated NeXTSTEP objectoriented UI system
- First tool to use the Protégé nerd icon!





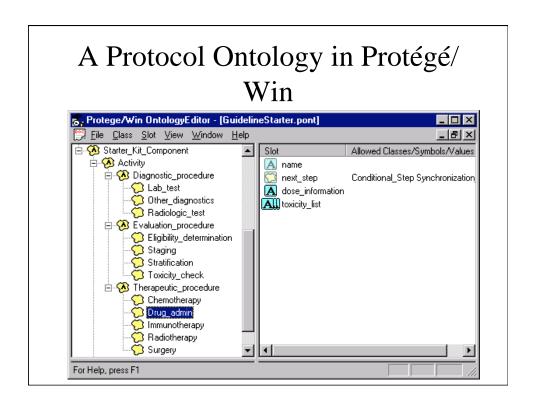
Episodic Skeletal Plan Refinement was the Problem Solver used with PROTÉGÉ I

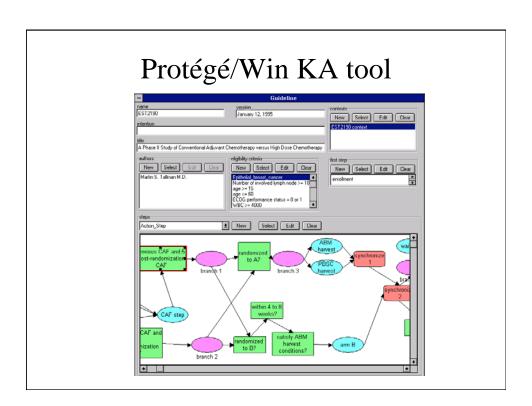


Protégé/Win

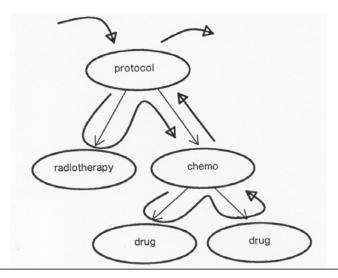
Built for the Masses!

- Moved Protégé to a widely available platform—just in time!
- Enabled integrated ontology editing and forms layout —eliminating the need for batch forms generation
- Marked the start of a growing Protégé user community





Episodic Skeletal Plan Refinement was the Problem Solver used with PROTÉGÉ I



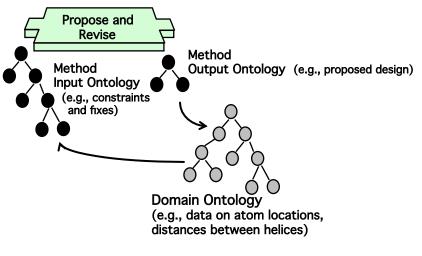
Reuse of the

propose-and-revise method

- Determination of ribosome structure from NMR data can be construed as constraint satisfaction
- Mapping propose-andrevise to a new domain ontology automates the structure-determination task

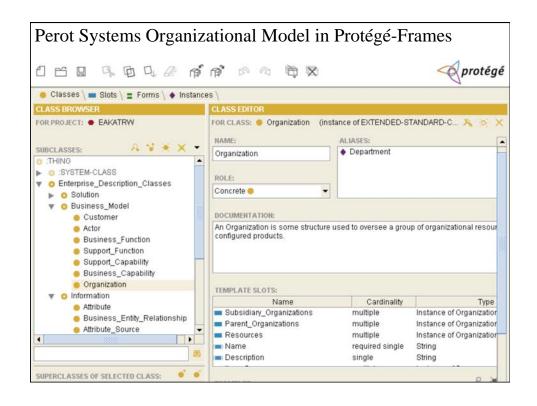


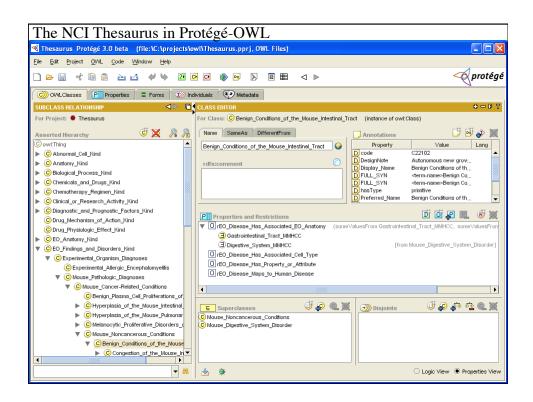
Use of *propose-and-revise* to solve the ribosome problem



The Next Step: Protégé-2000

- Ray Fergerson rewrote the whole thing in **Java**
- We provided support for the (then) OKBC frame standard
 - Metaclasses
 - Slots as first-class entities
 - Axioms
- We created an open, **plug-in** architecture





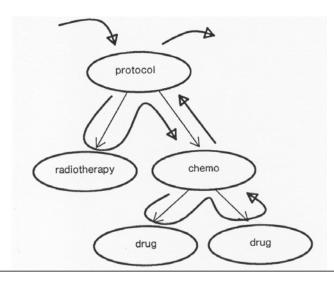
By now, everyone was concentrating on ontologies

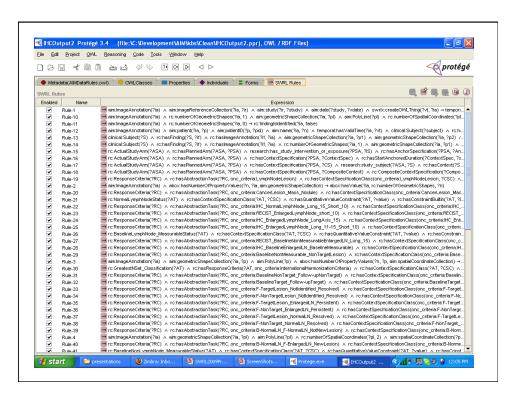
- The world rediscovered description logic
- The emphasis became building better and better knowledge representations
- Ontologies alone were great for question-anwering tasks
- Tools for building ontologies (including Protégé) flourished
- And people became less focused on problem solving

The Era of Big Ontologies was Upon Us

- Foundational Model of Anatomy
- NCI Thesaurus
- Gene Ontology
- Word Net
- SNOMED-CT
- OBI

Episodic Skeletal Plan Refinement was the Problem Solver used with PROTÉGÉ I



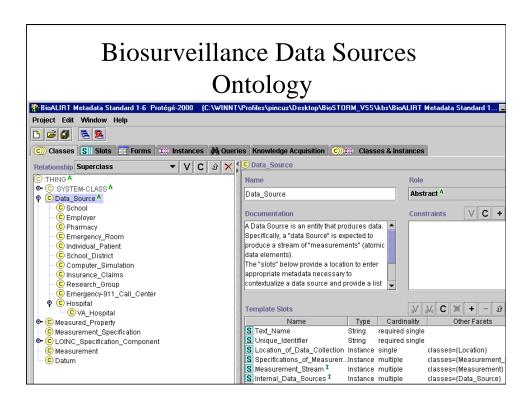


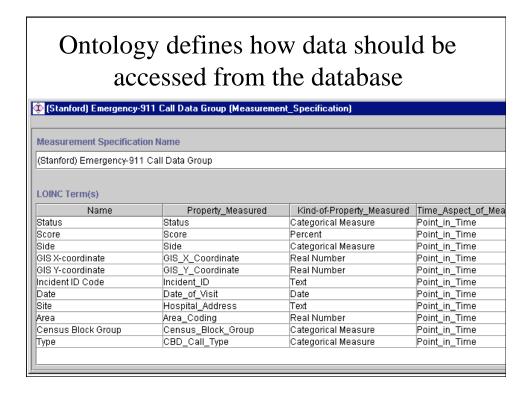
How can we evaluate ontologies independent of problem solvers?

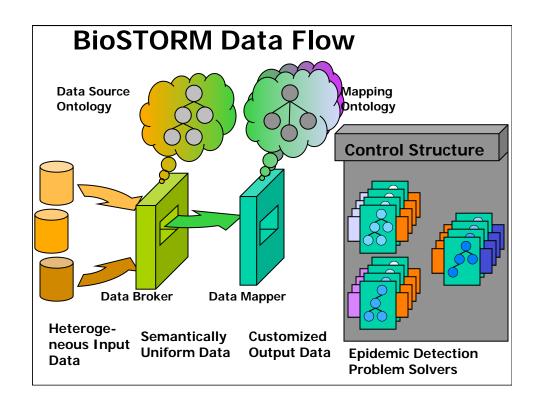
- How do we know whether they make the "right" distinctions?
- How do we know where the gaps are?
- How do we find inconsistent granularity?
- How do we know what our ontologies are actually competent at describing?

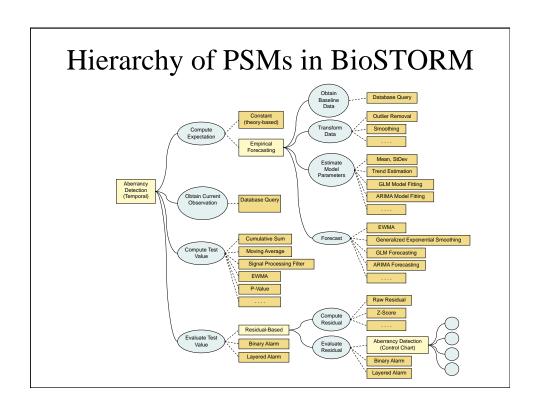
BioSTORM: A Prototype Next-Generation Surveillance Sytem

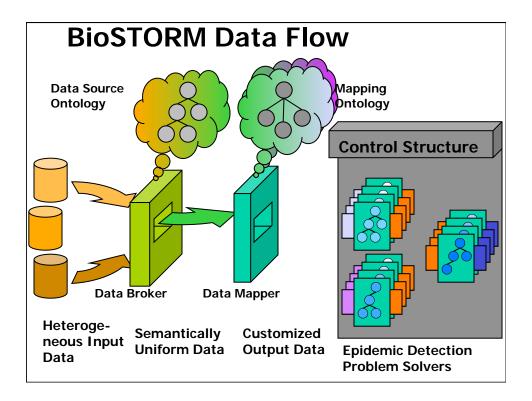
- Developed at Stanford, initially with funding from DARPA, now from CDC
- Provides a test bed for evaluating alternative data sources and alternative problem solvers
- Demonstrates
 - Use of ontologies for data acquisition and data integration
 - Use of a high-performance computing system for scalable data analysis











There is a need for balance

- Better languages and tools for building domain ontologies
- Better languages and for designing and implementing problem-solving methods
- Better methods and tools for bringing these components together
- Building systems with *use cases*—not ontologies—as the driving component

