

# Knowledge Representation

## Lecture 4: Description Logic Axioms, Reasoning and OWL

**Patrick Koopmann** (reusing some content originally by Stefan Borgwardt)

November 6, 2023

# The Story so far...

## Ontologies:

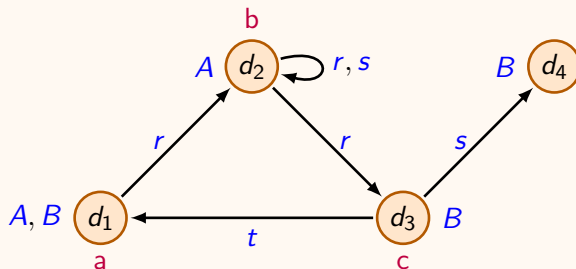
- ▶ Formalize **conceptualizations**
- ▶ Fix the **meaning** of **terminology**

## Description Logics:

- ▶ Formalism for specifying ontologies
- ▶ The vocabulary consists of **concept names**, **role names** and **individual names**
- ▶ **Interpretations** fix their meaning
- ▶  $\mathcal{ALC}$  **Concepts** can be build using the operators  $\top$ ,  $\perp$ ,  $\sqcap$ ,  $\sqcup$ ,  $\neg$ ,  $\exists$ , and  $\forall$
- ▶ A DL **ontology** is a set of **axioms**, consisting of to parts:
  - ▶ **TBox**: terminological axioms (GCIs, equivalence axioms)
  - ▶ **ABox**: assertional axioms (concept and role assertions)

## Exercise: Axioms

Let's get back to the interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  from last week:



Which of the following axioms does it satisfy:

1.  $(a, b) : r$

2.  $c : A$

3.  $c : \exists s.B$

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.  $\exists r.\perp \sqsubseteq B$

9.  $\exists r.A \sqsubseteq \forall s.A$

# Ontologies

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

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}$  is an **ABox**, a finite set of assertions,
- ▶  $\mathcal{T}$  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  $\mathcal{O}$ .

# Ontologies

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

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}$  is an **ABox**, a finite set of assertions,
- ▶  $\mathcal{T}$  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  $\mathcal{O}$ .

# Ontologies

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

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}$  is an **ABox**, a finite set of assertions,
- ▶  $\mathcal{T}$  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

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{WN-KC137} : \text{Room}, (\text{WN-KC137}, \text{W\&N}) : \text{partOf} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{partOf} . \text{Building}, \\ \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Room} \}$

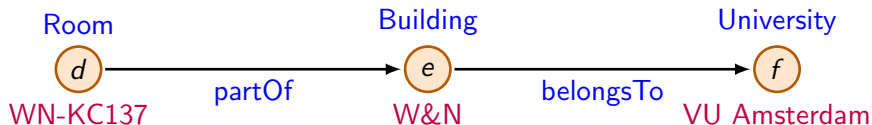
## Example: An Ontology

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{WN-KC137} : \text{Room}, (\text{WN-KC137}, \text{W\&N}) : \text{partOf} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{partOf}.\text{Building}, \\ \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Room} \}$

This ontology has many models, for example the following:





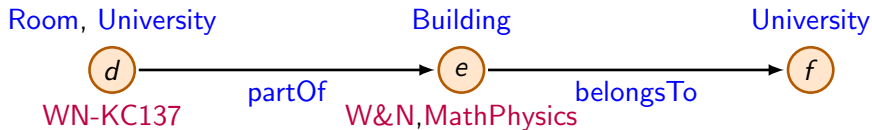
## Example: An Ontology

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{WN-KC137} : \text{Room}, (\text{WN-KC137}, \text{W\&N}) : \text{partOf} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Room} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{partOf}.\text{Building}, \\ \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{University}, \text{Building} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Room} \}$

The following interpretation is not a model of the ontology:



# Flashback: What is Knowledge Representation?

- ▶ KR as **surrogate**
- ▶ KR as expression of **ontological commitment**
- ▶ **KR as theory of intelligent reasoning**
  - ▶ How to deduce *implicit information*
  - ▶ What can be deduced? What should be deduced?
  - ▶ Foundation in logics one, but not the only possibility
- ▶ KR as medium for **efficient computation**
- ▶ KR as medium of **human expression**

# Reasoning

**Reasoning** allows us to discover new insights from the knowledge represented in the ontology.

# Reasoning

**Reasoning** allows us to discover new insights from the knowledge represented in the ontology.

The central reasoning task is **entailment**:

$\mathcal{O}$  **entails** an axiom  $\alpha$  ( $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$ ) if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  is also a model of  $\alpha$ .

# Reasoning

**Reasoning** allows us to discover new insights from the knowledge represented in the ontology.

The central reasoning task is **entailment**:

$\mathcal{O}$  **entails** an axiom  $\alpha$  ( $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$ ) if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  is also a model of  $\alpha$ .

- ▶ We need to consider what **all models have in common**.
- ▶ This is the same as in propositional and first-order logic.

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

This ontology entails:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \exists \text{teaches.T}$

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

This ontology entails:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \exists \text{teaches.T}$
2.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \text{TeachingPersonal}$



## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

This ontology entails:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \exists \text{teaches.T}$
2.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \text{TeachingPersonal}$
3.  $KR : \text{Course}$

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

This ontology entails:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \exists \text{teaches.T}$
2.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \text{TeachingPersonal}$
3.  $KR : \text{Course}$
4.  $\text{mrsAbadi} : \text{Student}$

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

This ontology entails:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \exists \text{teaches.T}$
2.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \text{TeachingPersonal}$
3.  $KR : \text{Course}$
4.  $\text{mrsAbadi} : \text{Student}$
5.  $\text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course}$

## Example: Entailment

$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T}$  with

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{drKoopmann} : \text{AssistantProfessor}, \quad (\text{drKoopmann}, KR) : \text{teaches}, \\ (\text{mrsAbadi}, KR) : \text{attends} \}$

$\mathcal{T} = \{ \text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \text{TeachingPersonal}, \quad \exists \text{attends.Course} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}, \\ \text{TeachingPersonal} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{teaches.Course} \}$

It does **not** entail:

1.  $\text{drKoopmann} : \neg \text{Student}$
2.  $\text{mrsAbadi} : \neg \text{TeachingPersonal}$
3.  $\text{AssistantProfessor} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{teaches.Course}$

Because in each case, we can build a model of the ontology in which the axiom is not satisfied.

Entailment is a quite general reasoning task.

With ontologies, we usually have more specific questions we want to answer.

Typical reasoning tasks are the following:

- ▶ Subsumption-relationships between concepts
- ▶ Individuals in a given concept
- ▶ Consistency and coherence of an ontology

## Reasoning: Relationships between Concepts

Let  $C, D$  be concepts and  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ .

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ , we say that  $C$  is **subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \equiv D$ , we say that  $C$  is **equivalent** to  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$  and  $C \not\equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$ ,  $C$  is **strictly subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubset_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$ , we say that  $C$  and  $D$  are **disjoint** wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## Reasoning: Relationships between Concepts

Let  $C, D$  be concepts and  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ .

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ , we say that  $C$  is **subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \equiv D$ , we say that  $C$  is **equivalent** to  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$  and  $C \not\equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$ ,  $C$  is **strictly subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubset_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$ , we say that  $C$  and  $D$  are **disjoint** wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

$\{AllLecture \sqsubseteq Lecture, Lecture \sqsubseteq Course\} \models AllLecture \sqsubseteq Course$   
 $\{AllLecture \sqsubseteq Lecture, Lecture \sqcap Room \sqsubseteq \perp\} \models AllLecture \sqcap Room \sqsubseteq \perp$

# Reasoning: Relationships between Concepts

Let  $C, D$  be concepts and  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ .

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ , we say that  $C$  is **subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \equiv D$ , we say that  $C$  is **equivalent** to  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $C \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}} D$  and  $C \not\equiv_{\mathcal{O}} D$ ,  $C$  is **strictly subsumed** by  $D$  wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $C \sqsubset_{\mathcal{O}} D$
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$ , we say that  $C$  and  $D$  are **disjoint** wrt.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

$\{AllLecture \sqsubseteq Lecture, Lecture \sqsubseteq Course\} \models AllLecture \sqsubseteq Course$   
 $\{AllLecture \sqsubseteq Lecture, Lecture \sqcap Room \sqsubseteq \perp\} \models AllLecture \sqcap Room \sqsubseteq \perp$

If  $C \sqsubset D$ , then  $C$  is **more specific** than  $D$  (w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ ), and  $D$  is **more general** than  $C$  (w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ ).



## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

- ▶ An inconsistent ontology contains contradictory statements.

## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

- ▶ An inconsistent ontology contains contradictory statements.
- ▶ An inconsistent ontology entails all axioms, even if they are nonsensical.

## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

- ▶ An inconsistent ontology contains contradictory statements.
- ▶ An inconsistent ontology entails all axioms, even if they are nonsensical.

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

- ▶ An inconsistent ontology contains contradictory statements.
- ▶ An inconsistent ontology entails all axioms, even if they are nonsensical.

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent **iff**  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

$\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model.

- ▶ An inconsistent ontology contains contradictory statements.
- ▶ An inconsistent ontology entails all axioms, even if they are nonsensical.

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent **iff**  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

This means that checking consistency is a kind of (non-)entailment test.

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model.



## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .  
( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:**  $(\Rightarrow)$  By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .  
 $(\Leftarrow)$  Assume  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . Then, for every model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . Then, for every model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . This means,  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \emptyset$ .

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . Then, for every model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . This means,  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \emptyset$ . By definition,  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is never empty in an interpretation.

## Reasoning: Consistency

**Theorem:** If  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent, then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$  for any axiom  $\alpha$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent and  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary axiom.  $\mathcal{O}$  has no model. Therefore, there is no model  $\mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ . This means  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  in every model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . □

**Theorem:** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent iff  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By the previous theorem, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is inconsistent,  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\mathcal{O} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . Then, for every model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$ . This means,  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \emptyset$ . By definition,  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is never empty in an interpretation. Therefore, there cannot be any model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ , and  $\mathcal{O}$  must be inconsistent. □



## Other Reasoning Problems

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$ , then  $a$  is an **instance** of  $C$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## Other Reasoning Problems

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$ , then  $a$  is an **instance** of  $C$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \not\models C \sqsubseteq \perp$ , then  $C$  is **satisfiable** w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

- ▶ Some concepts are unsatisfiable w.r.t. any consistent ontology, e.g.  $\exists r.\perp$ .

## Other Reasoning Problems

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$ , then  $a$  is an **instance** of  $C$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \not\models C \sqsubseteq \perp$ , then  $C$  is **satisfiable** w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If all concept names in  $\mathcal{O}$  are satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ , then  $\mathcal{O}$  is **coherent**.

- ▶ Unsatisfiable concept names indicate an error in the ontology:  
Why use a concept name  $A$  if it can only be interpreted as  $A^{\mathcal{I}} = \perp^{\mathcal{I}} = \emptyset$ ?
- ▶ Consistency and coherence are basic requirements for any ontology.

## Other Reasoning Problems

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$ , then  $a$  is an **instance** of  $C$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \not\models C \sqsubseteq \perp$ , then  $C$  is **satisfiable** w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If all concept names in  $\mathcal{O}$  are satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ , then  $\mathcal{O}$  is **coherent**.
- ▶ **Classification** is the task of computing all entailments of the form  $\mathcal{O} \models A \sqsubseteq B$ , where  $A, B \in \mathbf{C}$ .

## Other Reasoning Problems

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$ , then  $a$  is an **instance** of  $C$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{O} \not\models C \sqsubseteq \perp$ , then  $C$  is **satisfiable** w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .
- ▶ If all concept names in  $\mathcal{O}$  are satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ , then  $\mathcal{O}$  is **coherent**.
- ▶ **Classification** is the task of computing all entailments of the form  $\mathcal{O} \models A \sqsubseteq B$ , where  $A, B \in \mathbf{C}$ .
- ▶ **Materialization** is the task of computing all entailments of the form  $\mathcal{O} \models a : A$  and  $\mathcal{O} \models (a, b) : r$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbf{I}$ ,  $A \in \mathbf{C}$ , and  $r \in \mathbf{R}$ .

- ▶ Classification and materialization make explicit much of the knowledge that is implicitly given by the ontology.

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human} \}$$

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Cat}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal}, \quad (\textcolor{red}{Felix}, \textcolor{red}{Toby}) : \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}. \top \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human} \}$$

is consistent and coherent, and entails  $\textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Human}$ .

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human} \}$$

is consistent and coherent, and entails  $\textit{Felix} : \textit{Human}$ .

$$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human}, \quad \textit{Human} \sqcap \textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp \}$$



## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human} \}$$

is consistent and coherent, and entails  $\textit{Felix} : \textit{Human}$ .

$$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human}, \quad \textit{Human} \sqcap \textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp \}$$

is inconsistent.

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Cat}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal}, \quad (\textcolor{red}{Felix}, \textcolor{red}{Toby}) : \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}. \top \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human} \}$$

is consistent and coherent, and entails  $\textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Human}$ .

$$\{ \textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Cat}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal}, \quad (\textcolor{red}{Felix}, \textcolor{red}{Toby}) : \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}. \top \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp \}$$

is inconsistent.

$$\{ \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Werewolf} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Wolf}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Wolf} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \}$$

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$$\{ \textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Cat}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal}, \quad (\textcolor{red}{Felix}, \textcolor{red}{Toby}) : \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}. \top \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human} \}$$

is consistent and coherent, and entails  $\textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Human}$ .

$$\{ \textcolor{red}{Felix} : \textcolor{blue}{Cat}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal}, \quad (\textcolor{red}{Felix}, \textcolor{red}{Toby}) : \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}, \\ \exists \textcolor{blue}{hasFather}. \top \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp \}$$

is inconsistent.

$$\{ \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Werewolf} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Human} \sqcap \textcolor{blue}{Wolf}, \quad \textcolor{blue}{Wolf} \sqsubseteq \textcolor{blue}{Animal} \}$$

is consistent, but not coherent, because  $\textcolor{blue}{Werewolf}$  is unsatisfiable.

## Example: Consistency and Coherence

$\{ \textit{Felix} : \textit{Cat}, \quad \textit{Cat} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal}, \quad (\textit{Felix}, \textit{Toby}) : \textit{hasFather},$   
 $\exists \textit{hasFather}.\top \sqsubseteq \textit{Human}, \quad \textit{Human} \sqcap \textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp \}$

$\{ \textit{Human} \sqcap \textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \perp, \quad \textit{Werewolf} \sqsubseteq \textit{Human} \sqcap \textit{Wolf}, \quad \textit{Wolf} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal} \}$

**Disjointness axioms** ( $C \sqsubseteq \neg D$ , or equivalently  $C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$ ) are very useful for debugging ontologies, because they can expose hidden contradictions.

## Last Exercise on Reasoning

$$\mathcal{O} = \{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{Alive} \sqsubseteq \textit{Animal} \sqcup \textit{Plant} \\ \textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \exists \textit{hasParent}.\textit{Male} \sqcap \exists \textit{hasParent}.\textit{Female} \\ \textit{thomas} : \textit{Alive} \\ \textit{thomas} : \forall \textit{hasParent}.\perp \end{array} \}$$

What can we say about Thomas?

# Reasoning in Practice

- ▶ Later in this course, we will learn algorithms to perform these reasoning tasks.
- ▶ Until then, we will use special programs (reasoners) for that.
- ▶ But first, a few important aspects of DL ontologies.

# DL Ontologies are not Programs

- ▶ There is no “execution order” of axioms
- ▶ There is no “direction” in which axioms are applied:

$$\mathcal{O} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} A \sqsubseteq \exists r.B, & \exists r.B \sqsubseteq C, \\ a : A, & b : \neg C \end{array} \right\}$$

We have both  $\mathcal{O} \models a : C$  and  $\mathcal{O} \models b : \neg A$

# Open World and Open Domain

DLs make the **open-world assumption**, i.e. facts that are not entailed are not necessarily false, but simply unknown.

$\{(Bob, Fred) : hasChild\}$  does not entail  $Bob : Father$  or  $Bob : \neg Father$ .



# Open World and Open Domain

DLs make the **open-world assumption**, i.e. facts that are not entailed are not necessarily false, but simply unknown.

$\{(Bob, Fred) : hasChild\}$  does not entail  $Bob : Father$  or  $Bob : \neg Father$ .

They also make the **open-domain assumption**, i.e. there may be individuals we do not know, and that have no name.

$\mathcal{O} = \{ Human \sqsubseteq \exists hasParent.Mother, peter : Human \}$

$\models peter : \exists hasParent.Mother$

$\not\models a : Mother$  for any  $a \in \mathbf{I}$

## Binary vs. $n$ -ary Relations

Description logics can only express unary and binary relations.

$n$ -ary relations with  $n \geq 3$  can be simulated, but not without loss of generality.

## Binary vs. $n$ -ary Relations

Description logics can only express unary and binary relations.

$n$ -ary relations with  $n \geq 3$  can be simulated, but not without loss of generality.

*hasDiagnosis*(*Bob*, *Flu*, *High*)

could be reformulated as

*Diagnosis*(*d112*),    *hasDiagnosis*(*Bob*, *d112*),  
*associatedDisease*(*d112*, *Flu*),    *associatedProbability*(*d112*, *High*)

This process is called **reification**.

## Binary vs. $n$ -ary Relations

Description logics can only express unary and binary relations.

$n$ -ary relations with  $n \geq 3$  can be simulated, but not without loss of generality.

*hasDiagnosis*(*Bob*, *Flu*, *High*)

could be reformulated as

*Diagnosis*(*d112*),    *hasDiagnosis*(*Bob*, *d112*),  
*associatedDisease*(*d112*, *Flu*),    *associatedProbability*(*d112*, *High*)

This process is called **reification**.

This can lead to more complex axioms, because one has to refer to several roles.

$\exists \textit{hasDiagnosis}.\exists \textit{associatedDisease}.\textit{InfectiousDisease} \sqsubseteq \textit{Infectious}$

# Ontologies in Practice: OWL

# Flashback: What is Knowledge Representation?

- ▶ KR as **surrogate**
- ▶ KR as expression of **ontological commitment**
- ▶ KR as theory of **intelligent reasoning**
- ▶ KR as medium for **efficient computation**
- ▶ **KR as medium of human expression**
  - ▶ humans produce, consume and work with representations
  - ▶ representations must be human understandable, but also manageable by humans

# Ontologies as Medium of Human Expression

- ▶ DL syntax convenient for teaching and research
  - ▶ Concise
  - ▶ Convenient to write with a pen
  - ▶ DLs are *logics*

# Ontologies as Medium of Human Expression

- ▶ DL syntax convenient for teaching and research
  - ▶ Concise
  - ▶ Convenient to write with a pen
  - ▶ DLs are *logics*
- ▶ Requirements for real ontologies:
  - ▶ easily editable on a computer
  - ▶ machine-processable
  - ▶ manage large, complex ontologies
  - ▶ collaboration



# Ontologies as Medium of Human Expression

- ▶ DL syntax convenient for teaching and research
  - ▶ Concise
  - ▶ Convenient to write with a pen
  - ▶ DLs are *logics*
- ▶ Requirements for real ontologies:
  - ▶ easily editable on a computer
  - ▶ machine-processable
  - ▶ manage large, complex ontologies
  - ▶ collaboration

⇒ Logic is not everything

# Requirements for Ontology Languages

Some hard requirements are as in software engineering:

- ▶ documentation / comments
- ▶ organisation of ontologies into separate modules / files

# Requirements for Ontology Languages

Some hard requirements are as in software engineering:

- ▶ documentation / comments
- ▶ organisation of ontologies into separate modules / files

Others are central to capturing *shared conceptualisations*

- ▶ unique naming of entities

# Requirements for Ontology Languages

Some hard requirements are as in software engineering:

- ▶ documentation / comments
- ▶ organisation of ontologies into separate modules / files

Others are central to capturing *shared conceptualisations*

- ▶ unique naming of entities
  - ▶ **Cow** in Ontology 1 should refer to the same concept as in Ontology 2

# Requirements for Ontology Languages

Some hard requirements are as in software engineering:

- ▶ documentation / comments
- ▶ organisation of ontologies into separate modules / files

Others are central to capturing *shared conceptualisations*

- ▶ unique naming of entities
  - ▶ **Cow** in Ontology 1 should refer to the same concept as in Ontology 2
- ▶ multi-language support
  - ▶ **Cow** means “cow” in English, “Kuh” in German, “vache” in French

# Requirements for Ontology Languages

Some hard requirements are as in software engineering:

- ▶ documentation / comments
- ▶ organisation of ontologies into separate modules / files

Others are central to capturing *shared conceptualisations*

- ▶ unique naming of entities
  - ▶ **Cow** in Ontology 1 should refer to the same concept as in Ontology 2
- ▶ multi-language support
  - ▶ **Cow** means “cow” in English, “Kuh” in German, “vache” in French

Again others are important for authorship and trust

- ▶ Who created/modified an ontology/axiom?
- ▶ When was an axiom modified?

## OWL 2: Overview

OWL 2 is a standardized ontology language based on XML and RDF that was developed for the Semantic Web, and is used in many applications.

<https://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-overview/>

- ▶ Web Ontology Language
- ▶ OWL 1 was specified in 2004 by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- ▶ OWL 2 was specified in 2009 by the W3C
- ▶ The final standard encompasses different **sublanguages**
  - ▶ more on this later

## OWL 2 Terminology

OWL 2 uses different terminology than description logics:

DL	$\rightsquigarrow$	OWL
name	$\rightsquigarrow$	entity
concept name	$\rightsquigarrow$	(named) class
role name	$\rightsquigarrow$	(named) object property
individual name	$\rightsquigarrow$	(named) individual
concept (description)	$\rightsquigarrow$	class expression
axiom	$\rightsquigarrow$	axiom



# Syntaxes

OWL 2 ontologies can be written in different formats.

**Functional Syntax** (used in the OWL 2 specification and the OWL API)

```
SubClassOf( Lecture Course )
```

**RDF/XML Syntax** (main interchange format)

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Lecture">  
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="Course">  
</owl:Class>
```

# Syntaxes II

## OWL/XML Syntax

```
<SubClassOf>  
  <Class IRI="Lecture"><Class IRI="Course">  
</SubClassOf>
```

## Turtle Syntax

```
Lecture rdfs:subClassOf Course
```

## Manchester Syntax (used by Protégé and in this lecture)

```
Class: Lecture  
  SubClassOf: Course
```

# IRIs

In OWL 2, the ontology and every **entity** (class, property, individual, datatype) is **uniquely identified** by an **Internationalized Resource Identifier (IRI)**.

```
http://kai.vu.nl/university-ontology#Lecture  
http://kai.vu.nl/university-ontology#Course
```

Ideally, IRIs should be dereferenceable, e.g. lead to a web page about the entity.

# IRIs

In OWL 2, the ontology and every **entity** (class, property, individual, datatype) is **uniquely identified** by an **Internationalized Resource Identifier (IRI)**.

`http://kai.vu.nl/university-ontology#Lecture`  
`http://kai.vu.nl/university-ontology#Course`

`uo:Lecture`  
`uo:Course`

Ideally, IRIs should be dereferenceable, e.g. lead to a web page about the entity.

**Prefix definitions** are used to abbreviate IRIs.

Prefix: `uo:` `http://kai.vu.nl/university-ontology#`

## Complex Expressions in OWL Manchester Syntax

Let  $C, D, r, a$  be DL names or OWL entities, depending on the context.

DL syntax	Manchester syntax	Remark
$\top$	owl:Thing	(a special named class)
$\perp$	owl:Nothing	(a special named class)
$C \sqcap D$	$C$ and $D$	
$C \sqcup D$	$C$ or $D$	
$\neg C$	not $C$	
$\exists r.C$	$r$ some $C$	
$\forall r.C$	$r$ only $C$	
$C \sqsubseteq D$	$C$ SubClassOf $D$	

# Protégé

Protégé is a freely available IDE for developing OWL ontologies

The structure of an ontology, as it is displayed in Protégé, is a bit different to what we have seen so far:

- ▶ Usually, you do not directly enter axioms
- ▶ Rather, you add information to classes (concept names):
  - ▶ what are they equivalent to
  - ▶ what are they subsumed by
- ▶ Also, you have to explicitly specify your vocabulary before you can use it
  - ▶ every class, object property and individual has to be added before you can use it

# Little Tour of Protégé

We look at some basics of Protégé:

- ▶ Adding classes and properties
- ▶ Adding logical information on classes
- ▶ Adding general class axioms
- ▶ Opening and saving OWL files
- ▶ Loading example ontologies
- ▶ Using a reasoner
- ▶ Querying complex concepts
- ▶ Explaining reasoning results

# Accessing OWL from Software

There are various [libraries](#) to access and work with OWL ontologies and reasoners:

- ▶ [OWL API](#): the most comprehensive available library, available for [Java](#)
  - ▶ Use of *software design patterns* might make this harder for less experienced software developers
- ▶ [OwlReady2](#): a library for [Python](#) that allows to integrate OWL classes with Python classes
  - ▶ Optimized for specific use cases (querying data, reasoning, ...)
- ▶ [DeepOnto](#): a [Python](#) library for ontology engineering with Deep learning
  - ▶ quite recent
- ▶ [dl4python](#): Description Logic view on OWL
  - ▶ special development for this course
  - ▶ can be used from Python, Scala and Java
  - ▶ example file illustrates relevant functionalities



# Some Advice on Creating Ontologies

# Class Hierarchy

- ▶ Before adding complex axioms, first define the **class hierarchy** ( $\sqsubseteq$ -axioms).
- ▶ Flesh out the hierarchy with **common superconcepts**, **missing siblings**.

## Organism

- ▶ Animal
  - ▶ Mammal
    - ▶ Cat
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Fish
    - ▶ Trout
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Carnivore
  - ▶ Herbivore
  - ▶ Omnivore
- ▶ Plant
  - ▶ Tree
  - ▶ Grass
  - ▶ Wheat

# Class Hierarchy

- ▶ Before adding complex axioms, first define the **class hierarchy** ( $\sqsubseteq$ -axioms).
- ▶ Flesh out the hierarchy with **common superconcepts**, **missing siblings**.
- ▶ Ideally, much of this information was already elicited, otherwise we have to ask the domain experts again.

## Organism

- ▶ Animal
  - ▶ Mammal
    - ▶ Cat
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Fish
    - ▶ Trout
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Carnivore
  - ▶ Herbivore
  - ▶ Omnivore
- ▶ Plant
  - ▶ Tree
  - ▶ Grass
  - ▶ Wheat

# Class Hierarchy

- ▶ Before adding complex axioms, first define the **class hierarchy** ( $\sqsubseteq$ -axioms).
- ▶ Flesh out the hierarchy with **common superconcepts**, **missing siblings**.
- ▶ Ideally, much of this information was already elicited, otherwise we have to ask the domain experts again.
- ▶ Once the class hierarchy is fixed, we can add **definitions**.

## Organism

- ▶ Animal
  - ▶ Mammal
    - ▶ Cat
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Fish
    - ▶ Trout
    - ▶ ...
  - ▶ Carnivore
  - ▶ Herbivore
  - ▶ Omnivore
- ▶ Plant
  - ▶ Tree
  - ▶ Grass
  - ▶ Wheat

# Definitions

Identify which terms should be defined:

- ▶ Depends on the goals of the ontology
- ▶ General terms like “Organism” probably don’t need a definition
- ▶ Some terms are easier to define than others, e.g. “Cat” vs. “Carnivore”.
- ▶ For many terms, the information about their place in the class hierarchy is enough.

# Definitions

Identify which terms should be defined:

- ▶ Depends on the goals of the ontology
- ▶ General terms like “Organism” probably don’t need a definition
- ▶ Some terms are easier to define than others, e.g. “Cat” vs. “Carnivore”.
- ▶ For many terms, the information about their place in the class hierarchy is enough.

**Intensional definitions** consist of the superclass(es) and any distinguishing characteristics.

A **cat** is a **mammal** that has **paws**, **legs**, and a **tail**.

A **carnivore** is an **animal** that **eats only meat**.

A **pet** is a **domesticated animal** that **lives with humans**.

## Definitions (II)

Distinguish between full definitions ( $\equiv$ ) and partial definitions ( $\sqsubseteq$ )!

## Definitions (II)

Distinguish between full definitions ( $\equiv$ ) and partial definitions ( $\sqsubseteq$ )!

*Carnivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Meat}$

*Herbivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Plant}$

*Pet*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{livesWith}.\text{Human}$

*Animal*  $\equiv$  *Organism*  $\sqcap \exists \text{eats}.\text{Organism}$

*Cat*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Paw} \sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Leg} \sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Tail}$

*Cow*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Grass}$



## Definitions (II)

Distinguish between full definitions ( $\equiv$ ) and partial definitions ( $\sqsubseteq$ )!

*Carnivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Meat}$

*Herbivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Plant}$

*Pet*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{livesWith}.\text{Human}$

*Animal*  $\equiv$  *Organism*  $\sqcap \exists \text{eats}.\text{Organism}$

*Cat*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Paw} \sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Leg} \sqcap \exists \text{bodyPart}.\text{Tail}$

*Cow*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}.\text{Grass}$

- ▶ Often, not everything can be fully defined, due to the restrictions of the ontology language.
- ▶ We will later see a more expressive DL, but this one will be restricted too.

## Class Hierarchy (II)

In general, the class hierarchy is not a tree, but a directed acyclic graph with **multiple inheritance**.

$Cow \sqsubseteq Mammal$        $Cow \sqsubseteq Herbivore$   
( $Mammal$  and  $Herbivore$  are unrelated)

## Class Hierarchy (II)

In general, the class hierarchy is not a tree, but a directed acyclic graph with **multiple inheritance**.

$Cow \sqsubseteq Mammal$        $Cow \sqsubseteq Herbivore$   
( $Mammal$  and  $Herbivore$  are unrelated)

Instead of specifying all subclass-superclass relationships, it is easier to specify only a tree and let the reasoner infer the implicit ones.

$Grass \sqsubseteq Plant$        $Mammal \sqsubseteq Animal$   
 $Herbivore \equiv Animal \sqcap \forall eats.Plant$   
 $Cow \sqsubseteq Mammal \sqcap \forall eats.Grass$

This entails  $Cow \sqsubseteq Herbivore$ , so we do not have to explicitly add this axiom to the ontology.

## Class Hierarchy (II)

In general, the class hierarchy is not a tree, but a directed acyclic graph with **multiple inheritance**.

$Cow \sqsubseteq Mammal$        $Cow \sqsubseteq Herbivore$   
( $Mammal$  and  $Herbivore$  are unrelated)

Instead of specifying all subclass-superclass relationships, it is easier to specify only a tree and let the reasoner infer the implicit ones.

Definitions can affect the (inferred) class hierarchy.

## Note: “Some” Does Not Mean “Only”

When writing definitions, it is not trivial to find the right one.

A common modeling error is to swap  $\forall$  and  $\exists$ :

*Grass*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Plant*

*Herbivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats} . \text{Plant}$

*Cow*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{eats} . \text{Grass}$

## Note: “Some” Does Not Mean “Only”

When writing definitions, it is not trivial to find the right one.

A common modeling error is to swap  $\forall$  and  $\exists$ :

*Grass*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Plant*

*Herbivore*  $\equiv$  *Animal*  $\sqcap \forall \text{eats}. \text{Plant}$

*Cow*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Mammal*  $\sqcap \exists \text{eats}. \text{Grass}$

*Cow* is not subsumed by *Herbivore*!

(A cow must eat “at least 1 *Grass*”, but could eat other things.)

## Note: “Only” Does Not Mean “Some”

$Cow \sqsubseteq \forall eats.Grass$

$Cow$  is not subsumed by  $\exists eats.Grass$ , not even  $\exists eats.\top$ .

(A cow can eat **only Grass**, but does not have to eat anything.)

## Note: “Only” Does Not Mean “Some”

$Cow \sqsubseteq \forall eats.Grass$

$Cow$  is not subsumed by  $\exists eats.Grass$ , not even  $\exists eats.\top$ .

(A cow can eat *only* Grass, but does not have to eat anything.)

$Animal \equiv Organism \sqcap \exists eats.Organism$

$Mammal \sqsubseteq Animal$

$Cow \sqsubseteq Mammal \sqcap \forall eats.Grass$

entails  $Cow \sqsubseteq \exists eats.Grass$ .



## Note: “And” Does Not Mean “Or”

“Cows eat grass and grain.”

$Cow \sqsubseteq \forall eats. (Grass \sqcap Grain)$        $Grass \sqsubseteq \neg Grain$

## Note: “And” Does Not Mean “Or”

“Cows eat grass and grain.”

$Cow \sqsubseteq \forall eats. (Grass \sqcap Grain)$        $Grass \sqsubseteq \neg Grain$

$Cow$  and  $\exists eats. \top$  are disjoint!

(A cow can eat only things that are at the same time  $Grass$  and  $Grain$ , which do not exist.)

## Note: “And” Does Not Mean “Or”

“Cows eat grass and grain.”

$$\text{Cow} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats} . (\text{Grass} \sqcap \text{Grain}) \quad \text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Grain}$$

*Cow* and  $\exists \text{eats} . \top$  are disjoint!

(A cow can eat only things that are at the same time *Grass* and *Grain*, which do not exist.)

Better:

$$\text{Cow} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats} . (\text{Grass} \sqcup \text{Grain}) \quad \text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Grain}$$

## Note: “And” Does Not Mean “Or”

“Cows eat grass and grain.”

$$\text{Cow} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats}.(\text{Grass} \sqcap \text{Grain}) \quad \text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Grain}$$

*Cow* and  $\exists \text{eats}.\top$  are disjoint!

(A cow can eat only things that are at the same time *Grass* and *Grain*, which do not exist.)

Better:

$$\text{Cow} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats}.(\text{Grass} \sqcup \text{Grain}) \quad \text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Grain}$$

- Axioms like  $\text{Cow} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats}.(\text{Grass} \sqcup \text{Grain})$  are called **closure axioms**, because they define the range of *eats* for all cows.

# Closure Axioms

Often, closure axioms are used in combination with existential restrictions:

$$Book \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart.Cover$$
$$Book \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart.Page$$
$$Book \sqsubseteq \forall hasPart.(Cover \sqcup Page)$$

This is like saying “A book has those parts and no other.”

# Closure Axioms

Often, closure axioms are used in combination with existential restrictions:

$$Cell \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart. PlasmaMembrane$$
$$Cell \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart. Mitochondrion$$
$$Cell \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart. EndoPlasmicReticulum$$
$$Cell \sqsubseteq \exists hasPart. Nucleus$$
$$Cell \sqsubseteq \forall hasPart. (PlasmaMembrane$$

- $\sqcup Mitochondrion$
- $\sqcup EndoPlasmicReticulum$
- $\sqcup Nucleus)$

This is like saying “A cell has those parts and no other.”

## Covering Axioms

- ▶ Closure axioms are one way of *closing* descriptions under the open world assumption
- ▶ Another such technique is using **covering axioms**
- ▶ Covering axioms work well in combination with disjointness axioms

$$\textit{Herbivore} \equiv \textit{Animal} \sqcap \forall \textit{eats}.\textit{Plant}$$
$$\textit{Carnivore} \equiv \textit{Animal} \sqcap \forall \textit{eats}.\textit{Animal}$$
$$\textit{Animal} \equiv \textit{Herbivore} \sqcup \textit{Carnivore} \sqcup \textit{Omnivore}$$
$$\textit{Animal} \sqsubseteq \neg \textit{Plant}$$

- ▶ These axioms entail:

$$\textit{Animal} \sqcap \exists \textit{eats}.\textit{Animal} \sqcap \exists \textit{eats}.\textit{Plant} \sqsubseteq \textit{Omnivore}$$

# Disjointness Axioms

- ▶ Covering axioms work well in combination with disjointness axioms
- ▶ Disjointness axioms furthermore help finding bugs via [incoherence](#)



# Disjointness Axioms

- ▶ Covering axioms work well in combination with disjointness axioms
- ▶ Disjointness axioms furthermore help finding bugs via [incoherence](#)
- ▶ OWL (and Protégé) offers convenient syntactic sugar:
  - ▶ Make a set of class expressions pair-wise disjoint
  - ▶ Define a class as disjoint union

## Note: Value Restrictions on the Left-Hand Side

Value restrictions can behave strangely on the **left-hand side of GCIs** (and therefore also in full definitions).

$$\forall \text{eats.Grass} \sqsubseteq \text{Cow}$$
$$\text{Cow} \equiv \forall \text{eats.Grass}$$

## Note: Value Restrictions on the Left-Hand Side

Value restrictions can behave strangely on the **left-hand side of GCI**s (and therefore also in full definitions).

$$\forall \text{eats.Grass} \sqsubseteq \text{Cow}$$

$$\text{Cow} \equiv \forall \text{eats.Grass}$$

With one of these axioms, **anything that does not eat is a cow**.

## Note: Value Restrictions on the Left-Hand Side

Value restrictions can behave strangely on the **left-hand side of GCI**s (and therefore also in full definitions).

$$\forall \text{eats}.\text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \text{Cow}$$

$$\text{Cow} \equiv \forall \text{eats}.\text{Grass}$$

With one of these axioms, **anything that does not eat is a cow**.

$$\text{Tornado} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Organism}$$

$$\exists \text{eats}.\top \sqsubseteq \text{Organism}$$

$$\forall \text{eats}.\text{Grass} \sqsubseteq \text{Cow}$$

entail  $\text{Tornado} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{eats}.\perp \sqsubseteq \text{Cow}$ .