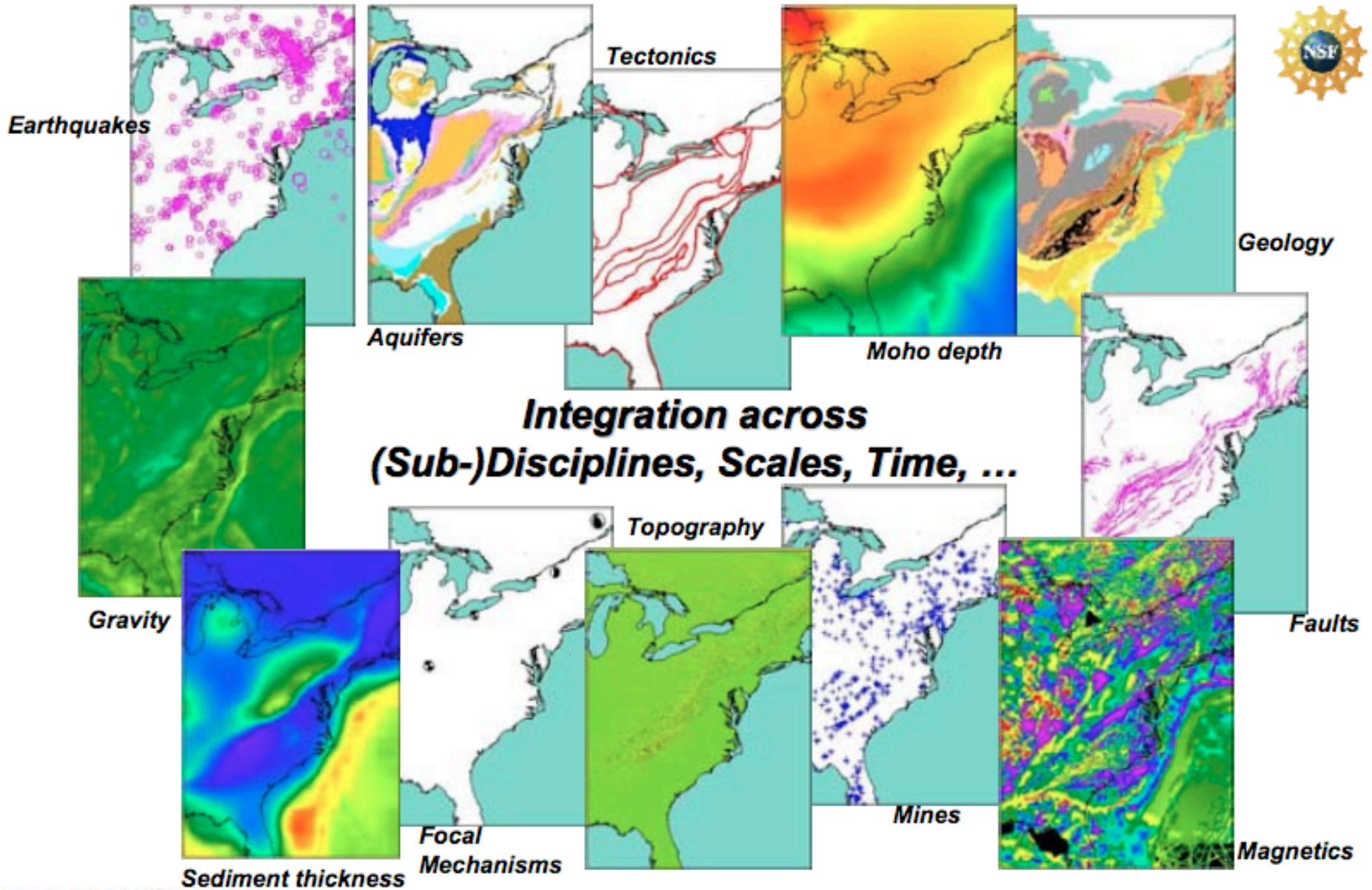




# **Metadata and Semantic Technologies for Science**

Bill Howe





# Metadata

- Literally: **data about data**
- Descriptive (meta-)information about the “actual” data
- Distinction between data and metadata is not always clear
- “Someone’s metadata is someone else’s data”
- Related notions:
  - schema, data dictionary, conceptual model, ontology,
- **Traditional example: Library catalog card** contains metadata about the contents and location of books



## Perspectives on Metadata

### ■ Digital Library perspective?

- **Resource descriptions**
- **Operation: retrieval**

### ■ Database perspective?

- **Schema, describing the logical (“almost physical”) structure of the data**
- **Operation: query (query as “computation” -- more than retrieval)**

*paraphrasing Bertram Ludascher*



## Metadata Standards

### ■ Content standards:

- which pieces of information are to be recorded (e.g. DC)

### ■ Value standards:

- how is the information to be recorded (= DC *encoding schemes*)
- formats (ISO date format, NCA name formats, AACR)
- lists of valid values (thesauri, controlled vocabularies, authority files)

### ■ Structure standards:

- how the information is to be grouped and labelled for use by computers and humans (XML schemas, MARC)



## **Content Standard Example: Dublin Core**

- 1. Title
- 2. Creator
- 3. Subject
- 4. Description
- 5. Publisher
- 6. Contributor
- 7. Date
- 8. Type
- 9. Format
- 10. Identifier
- 11. Source
- 12. Language
- 13. Relation
- 14. Coverage
- 15. Rights

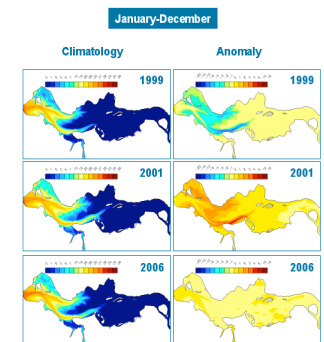
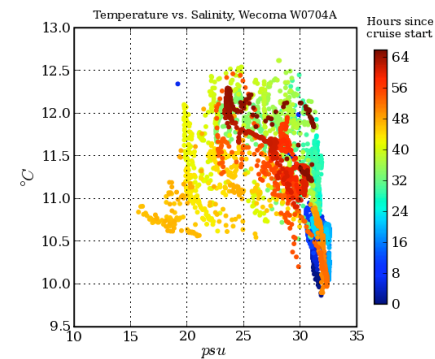
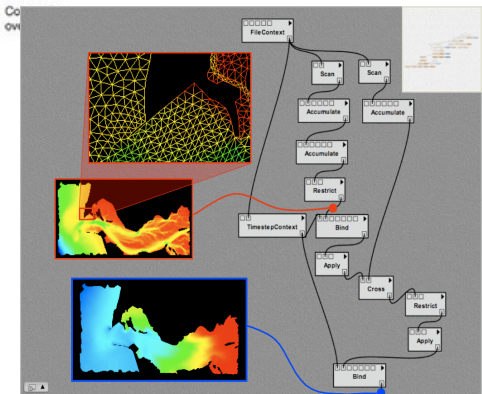
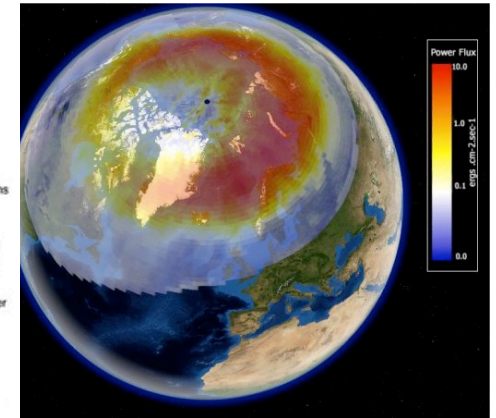
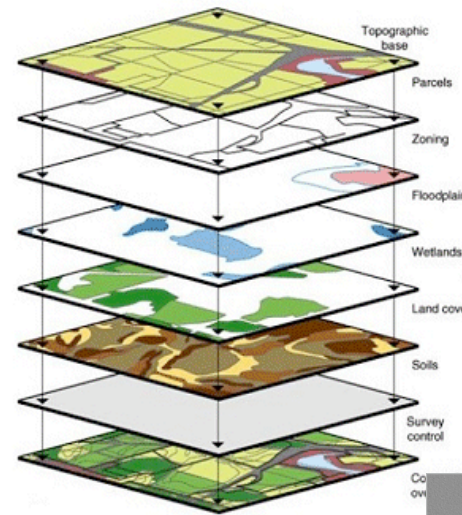


# Why Metadata?



# Types of Integration

- Spatiotemporal co-registration/“overlay”
  - **“Desktop integration”**
- Schema-oriented integration
  - **View-based**
  - **Task: Derive mediated schema**
  - **Global as View or Local as View**
- Application/Process Integration
  - **Workflows, Mashups**
- “Manual”, Programmatic Integration
  - **Statistics, Visualization**





## What's Missing?

- Spatiotemporal co-registration
  - **Assumes agreement on coordinate systems**
- Schema-oriented integration
  - **Assumes agreement on (complex) data model**
- Application integration
  - **Assumes agreement on process descriptions**
- Programmatic integration
  - **Few assumptions, but no real help either**
- All of these assume agreement on semantics



## Goal: Interoperability

Resolve heterogeneity in...

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Synthesis | Workflow, applications, “the science” |
| Semantics | RDF, OWL                              |
| Structure | XML, RDBMS                            |
| System    | files, byte-order, networking         |

*Paraphrasing Bertram Ludascher*

## Example: XML

No commitment to  
or specification of  
semantics

What is a “name”?

What are the units of  
“length”?

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes" ?>
<!-- This XML document was generated by RCCOB.XML -->
- <TRAINDOC>
- <SOAP-ENV:Envelope
  xmlns:SOAP-ENV="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap"
  xmlns:uk="http://www.greenwichmeantime.co.uk"
  xmlns:us="http://www.easternstandardtime.com">
- <SOAP-ENV:Body>
- <TRAIN Date="18/03/2003" Time="13:00">
- <LOCOMOTIVE>
  <Name>Thomas</Name>
  <Length>12,500.00</Length>
  <Weight>3,400</Weight>
</LOCOMOTIVE>
- <CARRIAGE>
  <Name>Annie</Name>
  <Length>10,000.00</Length>
  <Weight>2,000</Weight>
- <Other_Information>
  Room for
  <count>100</count>
  standing & seated
</Other_Information>
</CARRIAGE>
- <CARRIAGE>
  <Name>Clarabel</Name>
  <Length>12,500.00</Length>
  <Weight />
</CARRIAGE>
</TRAIN>
</SOAP-ENV:Body>
</SOAP-ENV:Envelope>
</TRAINDOC>
```



## Example: Relational

| type       | name     | length | weight | other        |
|------------|----------|--------|--------|--------------|
| locomotive | Thomas   | 12,500 | 3,400  |              |
| carriage   | Annie    | 10,000 | 2,000  | room for 100 |
| carriage   | Clarabel | 12,500 |        |              |

No commitment to or specification of semantics

*What is a “name”?*

*What are the units of “length”?*



## **Semantic Web**

- “The Semantic Web is an extension of the current Web in which information is given well-defined meaning, enabling computers and people to work in better cooperation”
- “The web will reach its full potential when it becomes an environment where data can be shared and processed by automated tools as well as by people.”

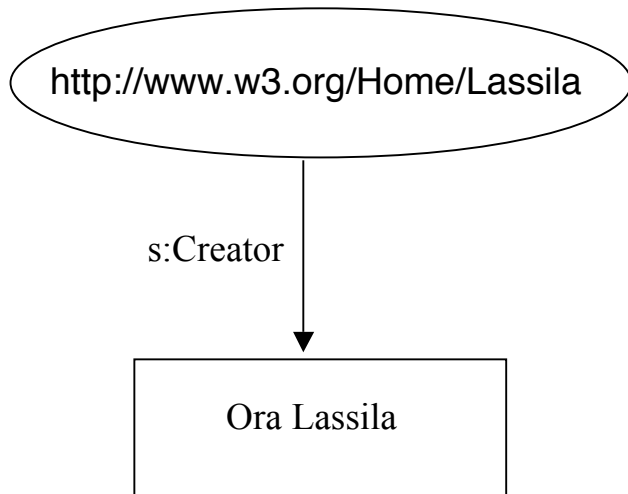
-- Tim Berners-Lee and Eric Miller



## RDF: Web based data model

- Semantic Web: beyond machine readable to *machine understandable*.
- Resource Description Framework *is the W3C language for describing metadata on the Web.*
- RDF consists of two parts
  1. **RDF Model (a set of triples)**
  2. **RDF Syntax (different XML serialization syntaxes)**
    - **RDF a small set of modelling primitives + syntax**
    - **RDF *does not* commit to a domain vocabulary**
- RDF Schema for definition of Vocabularies (simple Ontologies) for RDF (and in RDF)

# A simple RDF example



## Triples

Resource (subject)  
`http://www.w3.org/Home/Lassila`

Property (predicate)  
`http://www.schema.org/#Creator`

Value (object) "Ora Lassila"

- Resources
  - **A thing you can reference (URI)**
  - **RDF definitions are themselves Resources.**
- Properties
  - **slots, defines relationship to other resources or atomic values**
  - **Similar to Frames.**
- Statements
  - **“Resource has Property with Value”**
  - **Values can be resources or atomic XML Schema data types.**
- Directed graph



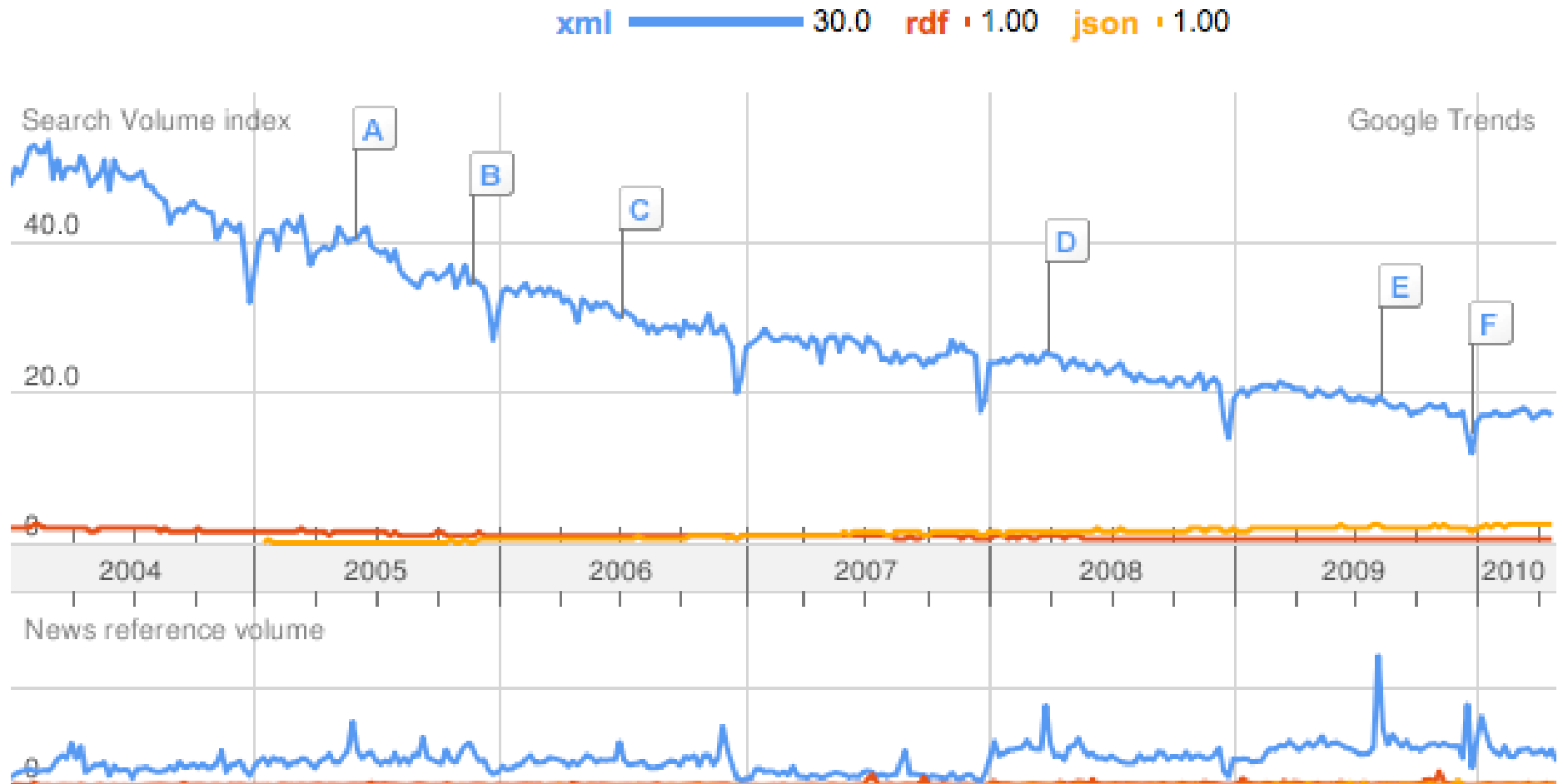


## Why RDF? 1st Attempt

- Universal machine-readable standard for representing semantics
- “Push-based” integration
  - **Describe everything precisely up-front, and integration is easier**
  - **So easy, in fact, that little autonomous agents will be able to scurry around the web booking flights on your behalf**

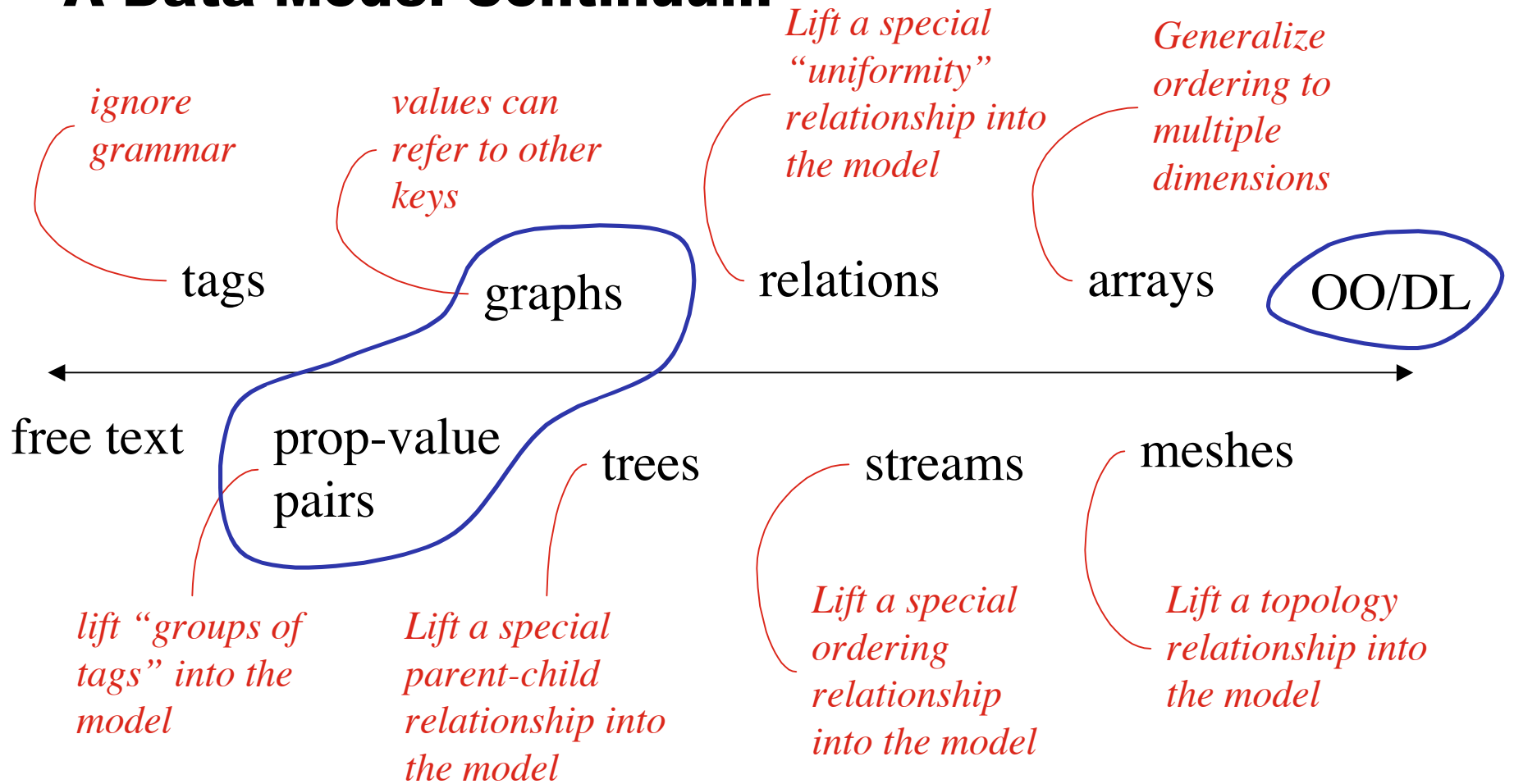


# An allegory





# A Data Model Continuum

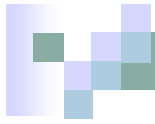


*higher-level services, stronger guarantees, up-front design, difficulty in optimization*



## Why RDF? 2nd attempt

- “Lowest common denominator” data model
- Just enough structure to represent explicit machine-readable relationships
  - **unlike free text, tags, key-value pairs**
- Not so much structure as to require complicated, brittle modeling decisions
  - **unlike XML, RDBMS, OO**



## Roadmap

- Background and Motivation
- Overview of Ontologies and Reasoning
- Storing and Querying RDF
- Papers



# Ontologies

## ■ What is an ontology? An ontology usually

- specifies a theory (a set of logic models models) by...
- defining and relating ...
- concepts representing features of a domain of interest

## ■ Also overloaded (sloppy) for:

- **Controlled vocabularies**
- **Database schema** (relational, XML Schema/DTD)
- **Conceptual schema** (ER, UML)
- **Thesauri** (synonyms, broader term/narrower term)
- **Taxonomies** (classifications)
- **Informal/semi-formal knowledge representations** Concept spaces, concept maps, Labeled graphs / semantic networks (RDF)
- **Formal ontologies**, e.g., in [Description] Logic (OWL) formalization of a specification constrains possible interpretation of terms

*src: Carole Goble*

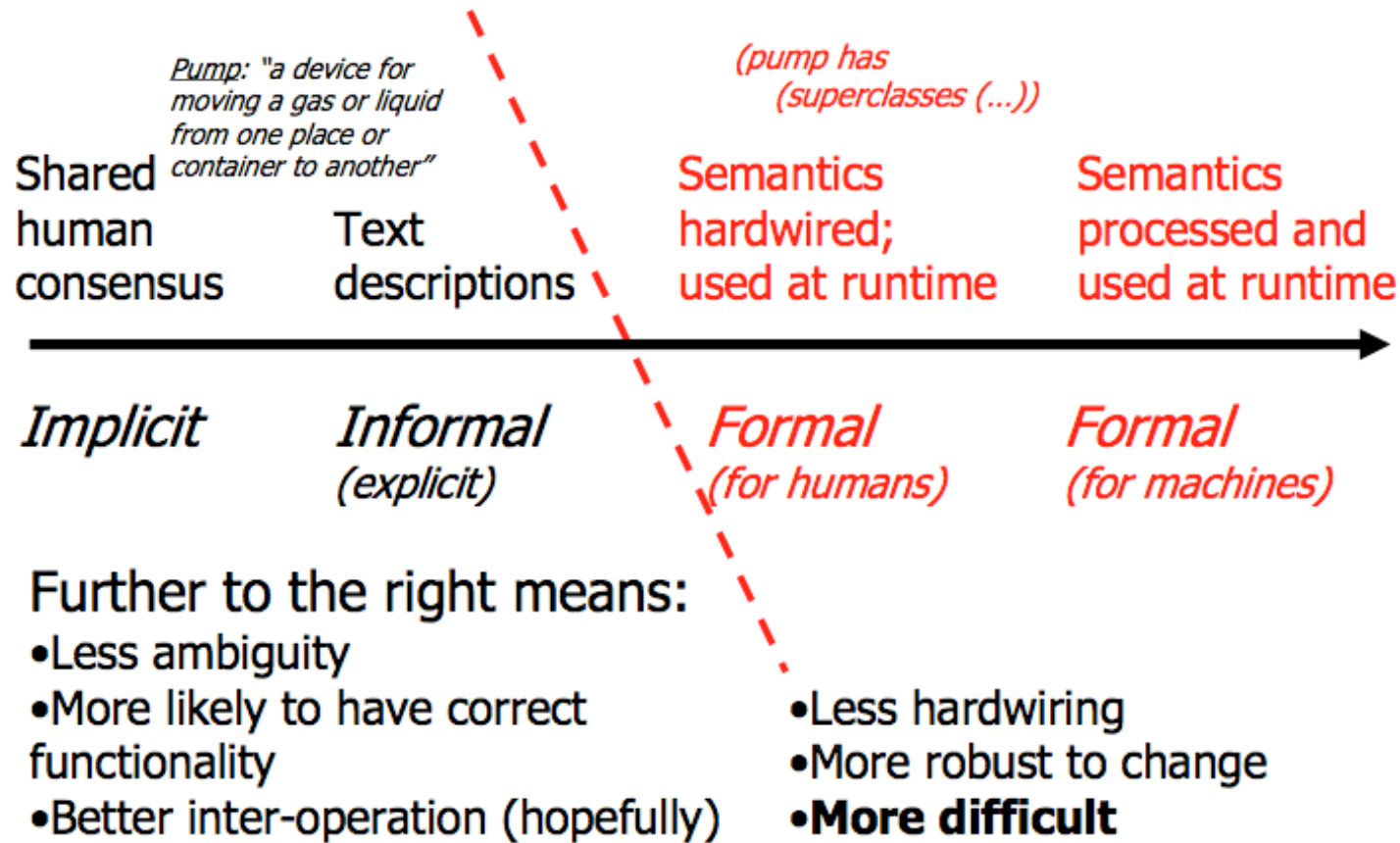


## Inference machinery

- Any knowledge is
  - **A language representation +**
  - **An inference mechanism for deduction**
  
- First order calculus + resolution method
- Frames + matcher
- Semantic net + graph traversal
- Description logics + theorem prover



# Ontologies: A Semantic Continuum



Src: [Mike Uschold, Boeing Corp]





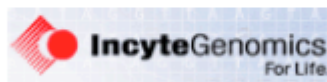
## Example: Gene Ontology (GO)

- Well-known life science ontology
- Three things described
  - **sub-cellular localization**
  - **molecular function (what the gene does)**
  - **biological process (the cellular, developmental or physiological events the gene product is involved in)**
- Example:
  - Taking 4 kinases at random from 4 different organisms (Fly: ZWIM, Mouse: DAPK2 and Arabidopsis: KIPK and yeast: WEE1), based on gene nomenclature it is not clear that all of these genes encode protein kinases!
  - However, in GO, all 4 genes are annotated to the term "*protein kinase activity*" making it simple to find genes with similar functions in diverse species.

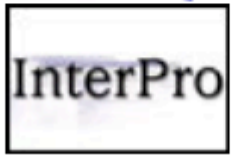
WormBase

FlyBase

AstraZeneca



UniProt  
the universal protein resource



<http://www.geneontology.org/GO.people.shtml>

## **RDF Schema (RDFS)**

- RDF just defines the data model.
- Need for definition of vocabularies for the data model - an Ontology Language!
- RDF-Schemas describe rules for using RDF properties
  - **Define a domain vocabulary for RDF**
  - **Organise this vocabulary in a typed hierarchy**
- RDF Schemas are Web resources (and have URIs) and can be described using RDF.
- Are not to be confused with XML Schemas.
- RDFS is the *framework for a vocabulary*.

## **RDF Schema Model**

- Each property specifies what classes of subjects and objects it relates. New properties can be added to a class without modifying the class
  - **resource, class, subclassOf, type**
  - **property, subPropertyOf**
  - **domain, range, constraintResource, constraintProperty**
- Definitions can include constraints which express validation conditions
  - **domain constraints link properties with classes**
  - **range constraints limit property values**
- BUT expressive inadequacy and poorly defined semantics



## Blank Nodes

- Existentially quantified variables

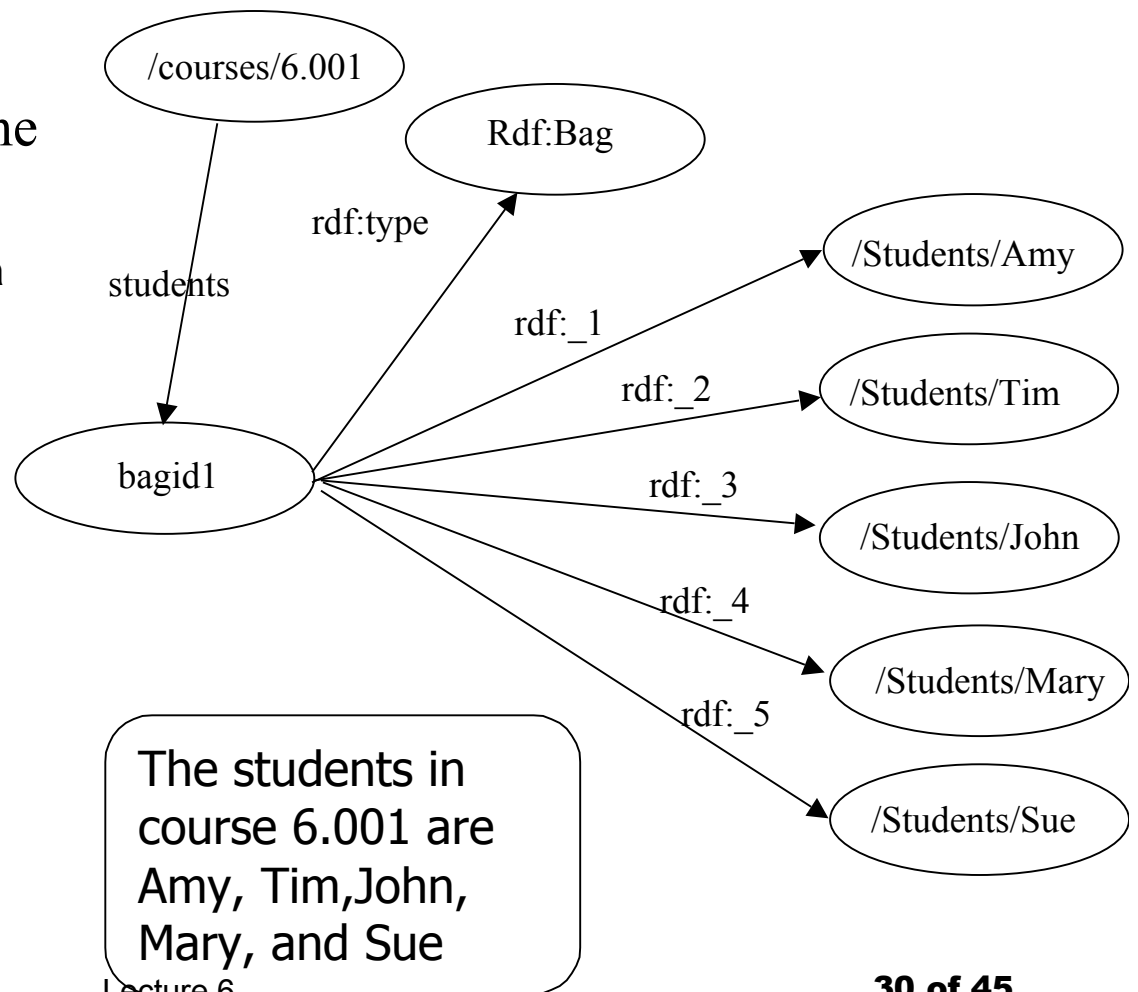
```
ex:John foaf:knows _:p1
_:p1 foaf:birthDate 04-21
```

- Use cases

- Reasoning/Graph entailment
- Modeling complex structures; Collections
- Anonymous classes in OWL

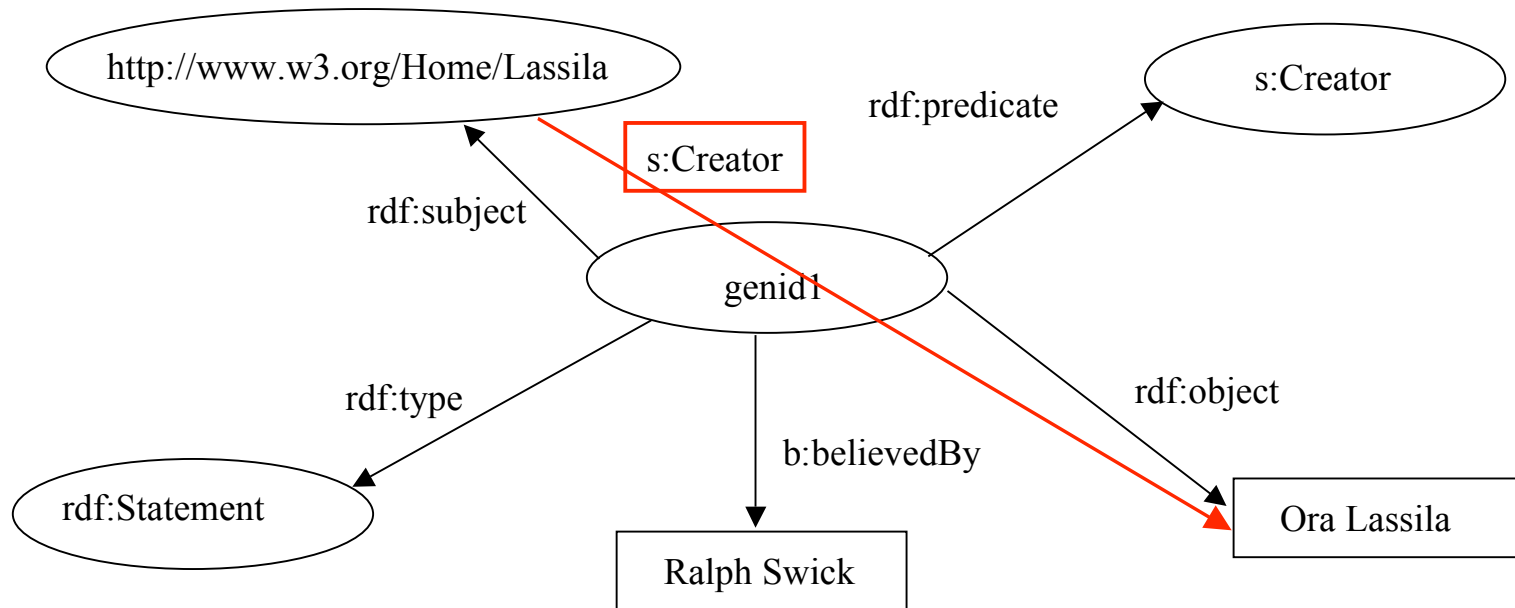
# Collection Containers

- Multiple occurrences of the same PropertyType doesn't establish a relation between the values
  - **The Millers own a boat, a bike, and a TV set**
- RDF defines three special Resources:
  - **Bag**
  - **Sequence**
  - **Alternative**



# Reification: Statements about statements

- Transform them into Resources.
- *Ralph Swick believes that*
  - **the creator of the resource**  
***http://www.w3.org/Home/Lassila is Ora Lassila***



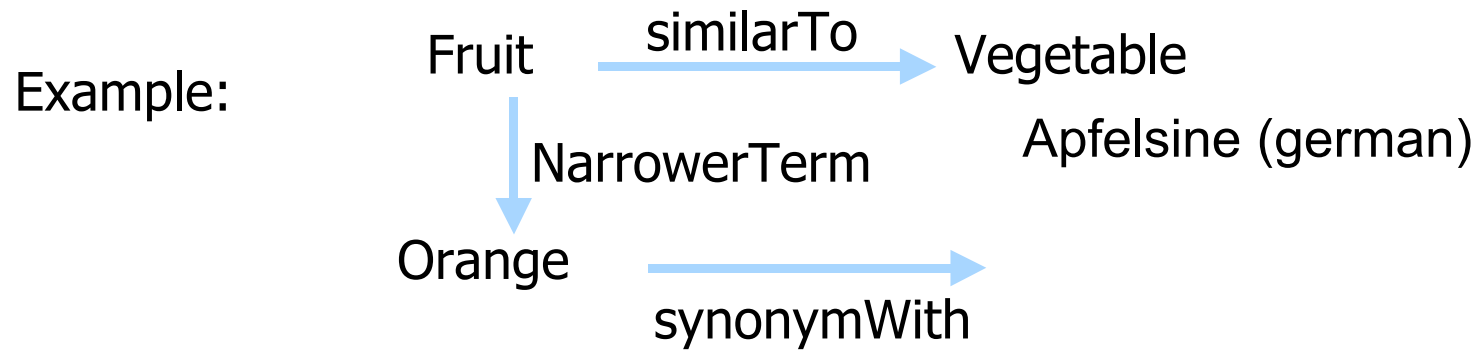


## **Related Concept: Controlled Vocabulary**

- Domain model
- No relationships
- Standardizes terminology to reduce semantic heterogeneity



## Related concept: Thesauri



- Graph with labels edges (similar, nt, bt, synonym)
- Fixed set of edge labels (aka relations)
- no instances
  
- Well known in library science
- cf. terminologies / classifications (Dewey)



## Related Concept: Topic Maps

- Topics
  - **concepts/categories/classes/etc.**
- Associations
  - **n-ary relationships (key difference with RDF)**
- Occurrences
  - **instances**
  
- Standardized: ISO/IEC 13250:2003
- To enable information resources to be classified and navigated in a consistent manner



## Related Technology: Description Logics

- KL-ONE [Brachman and Schmolze, 1985]
  - **Inheritance**
- AL
  - **Atomic negation, Concept intersection, Universal restrictions, existential quantification**
- ALC (+concept complement)
- SHIQ (+cardinality restrictions, inverse relationships)
- Many more permutations...

## **Related Concept: Description Logics**

- DAML+ OIL equivalent to the expressive Description Logic (an extension of) SHIQ DL
- The descendants of frame systems and object hierarchies via KL-ONE.
- Core distinction between (T-Box  $\approx$  Schema) and (A-Box  $\approx$  Database tuples)
- Many years of DL research
  - Well defined semantics
  - Formal properties well understood (complexity, decidability)
  - Known reasoning algorithms
  - Implemented systems (highly optimised)



## **OO languages**

- How are they different?
- What relationships are “lifted” into the model?



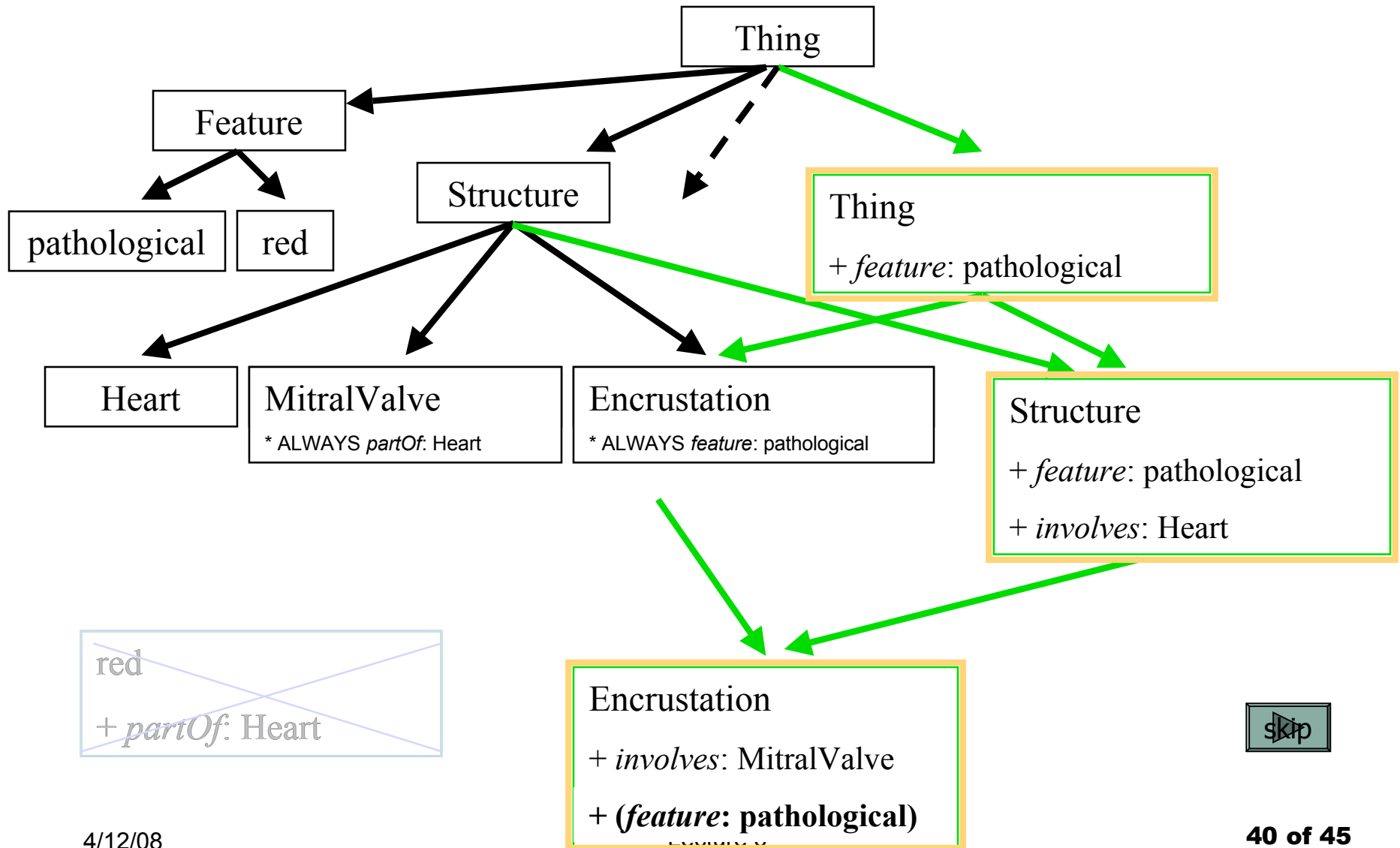
## History: DAML+OIL

- OIL : developed by group of (largely) European researchers.
- DAML- ONT: developed by group of (largely) US researchers (in DARPA DAML programme).
- Efforts merged to produce DAML+ OIL.
- Development was overseen by joint EU/ US committee.
- Now submitted to W3C as basis for standardisation  
WebOnt working group developing language standard.
- Subsumed by OWL

# OWL Semantics

| Abstract Syntax   | DL Syntax         | Semantics  |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Descriptions ( $C$ )  |                   |  |
| $A$ (URI Reference)   | $A$               | $A^I \subseteq \Delta^I$                                     |
| <code>owl:Thing</code>  | $\top$            | $\text{owl:Thing}^I = \Delta^I$                              |
| <code>owl:Nothing</code>  | $\perp$           | $\text{owl:Nothing}^I = \emptyset$                           |
| <code>intersectionOf(<math>C_1 C_2 \dots</math>)</code>                 | $C_1 \sqcap C_2$  | $C_1^I \cap C_2^I$   |
| <code>unionOf(<math>C_1 C_2 \dots</math>)</code>                        | $C_1 \sqcup C_2$  | $C_1^I \cup C_2^I$   |
| <code>complementOf(<math>C</math>)</code>                               | $\neg C$          | $\Delta^I \setminus C^I$                                     |
| <code>oneOf(<math>o_1 \dots</math>)</code>                              | $\{o_1, \dots\}$  | $\{o_1^I, \dots\}$   |
| <code>restriction(<math>R</math> someValuesFrom(<math>C</math>))</code> | $\exists R.C$     | $\{x \mid \exists y (x, y) \in R^I \cup y \in C^I\}$         |
| <code>restriction(<math>R</math> allValuesFrom(<math>C</math>))</code>  | $\forall R.C$     | $\{x \mid \forall y (x, y) \in R^I \rightarrow y \in C^I\}$  |
| <code>restriction(<math>R</math> hasValue(<math>o</math>))</code>       | $R : o$           | $\{x \mid (x, o^I) \in R^I\}$                                |
| <code>restriction(<math>R</math> minCardinality(<math>n</math>))</code> | $\geq nR$         | $\{a \in \Delta^I \mid  \{b \mid (a, b) \in R^I\}  \geq n\}$ |
| <code>restriction(<math>R</math> maxCardinality(<math>n</math>))</code> | $\leq nR$         | $\{a \in \Delta^I \mid  \{b \mid (a, b) \in R^I\}  \leq n\}$ |
| <code>restriction(<math>U</math> someValuesFrom(<math>D</math>))</code> | $\exists U.D$     | $\{x \mid \exists y (x, y) \in U^I \cup y \in D^D\}$         |
| <code>restriction(<math>U</math> allValuesFrom(<math>D</math>))</code>  | $\forall U.D$     | $\{x \mid \forall y (x, y) \in U^I \rightarrow y \in D^D\}$  |
| <code>restriction(<math>U</math> hasValue(<math>v</math>))</code>       | $U : v$           | $\{x \mid (x, v^D) \in U^I\}$                                |
| <code>restriction(<math>U</math> minCardinality(<math>n</math>))</code> | $\geq nU$         | $\{a \in \Delta^I \mid  \{b \mid (a, b) \in U^I\}  \geq n\}$ |
| <code>restriction(<math>U</math> maxCardinality(<math>n</math>))</code> | $\leq nU$         | $\{a \in \Delta^I \mid  \{b \mid (a, b) \in U^I\}  \leq n\}$ |
| Data Ranges ( $D$ )   |                   |  |
| $D$ (URI reference)   | $D$               | $D^D \subseteq \Delta_D^I$                                   |
| <code>oneOf(<math>v_1 \dots</math>)</code>                              | $\{v_1 \dots, \}$ | $\{v_1^D \dots, \}$  |
| Object Properties ( $R$ )   |                   |  |
| $R$ (URI reference)   | $R$               | $\Delta^I \times \Delta^I$                                   |
|   | $R^-$             | $(R^I)^-$  |
| Datatype Properties ( $U$ )   |                   |  |
| $U$ (URI reference)   | $U$               | $U^I \subseteq \Delta^I \times \Delta_D^I$                   |
| Individuals ( $o$ )   |                   |  |
| $o$ (URI reference)   | $o$               | $o^I \in \Delta^I$   |
| Data Values ( $v$ )   |                   |  |
| $v$ (RDF literal)   | $v$               | $v^D$  |

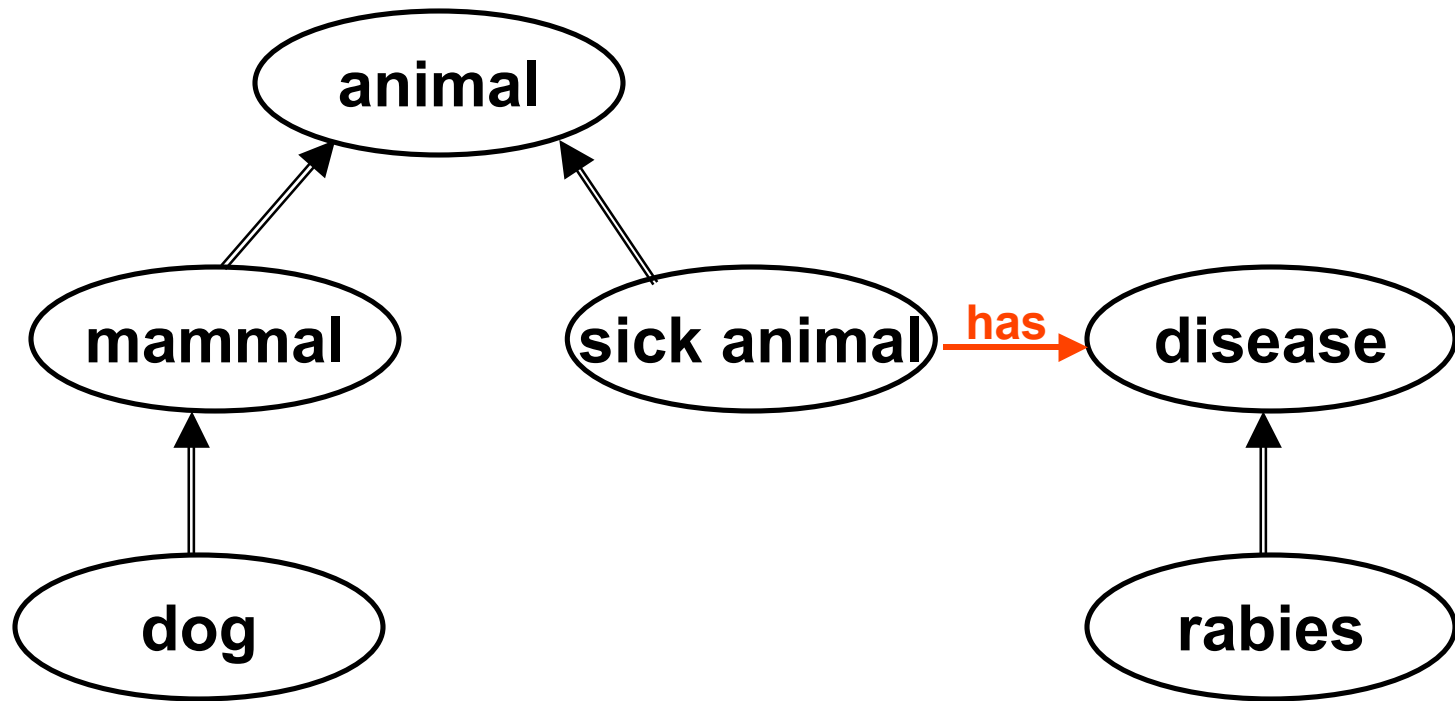
# Logic Based Ontologies





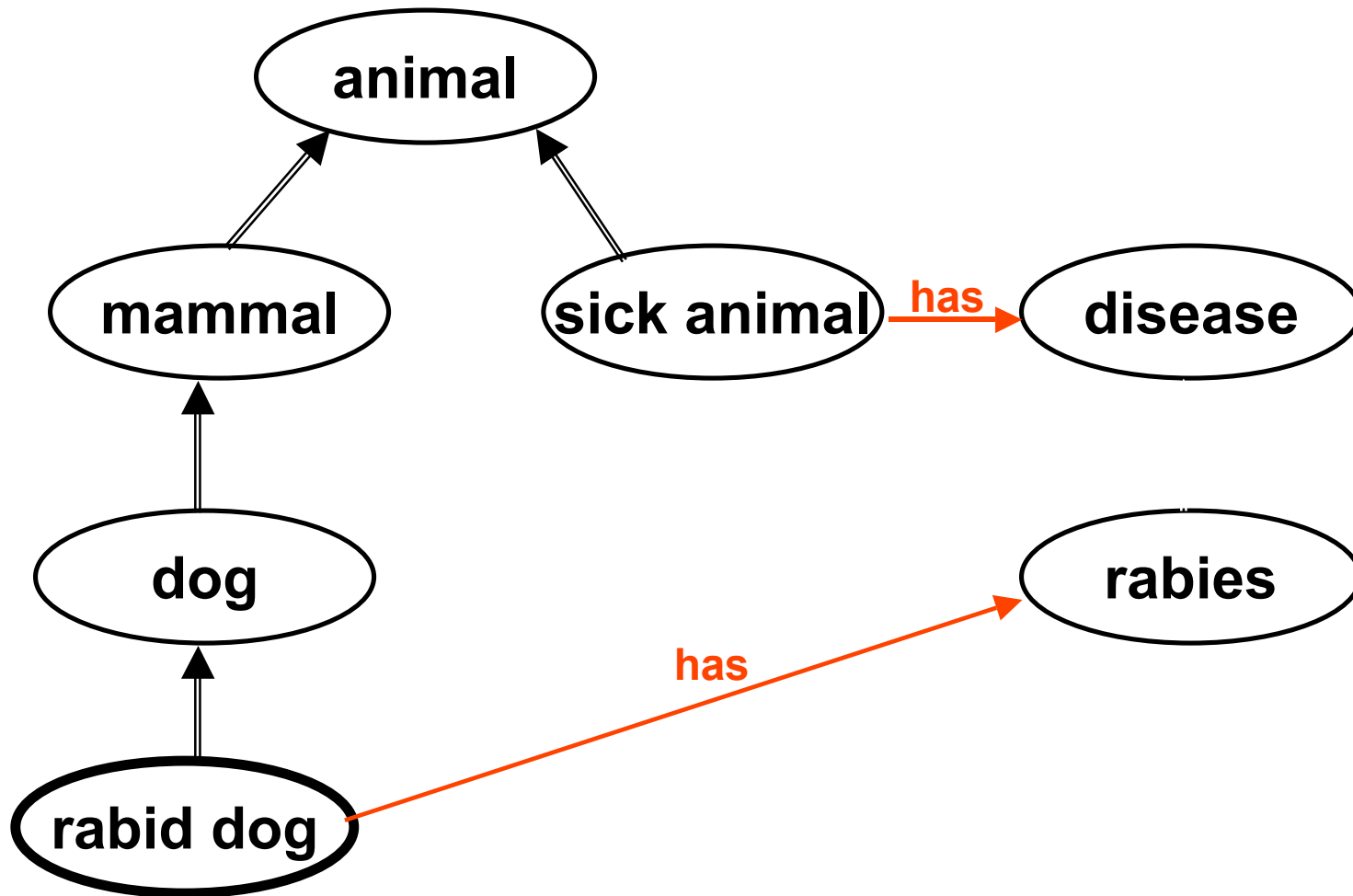


## A Simple Ontology [Swartout]





## Defining a “rabid dog”



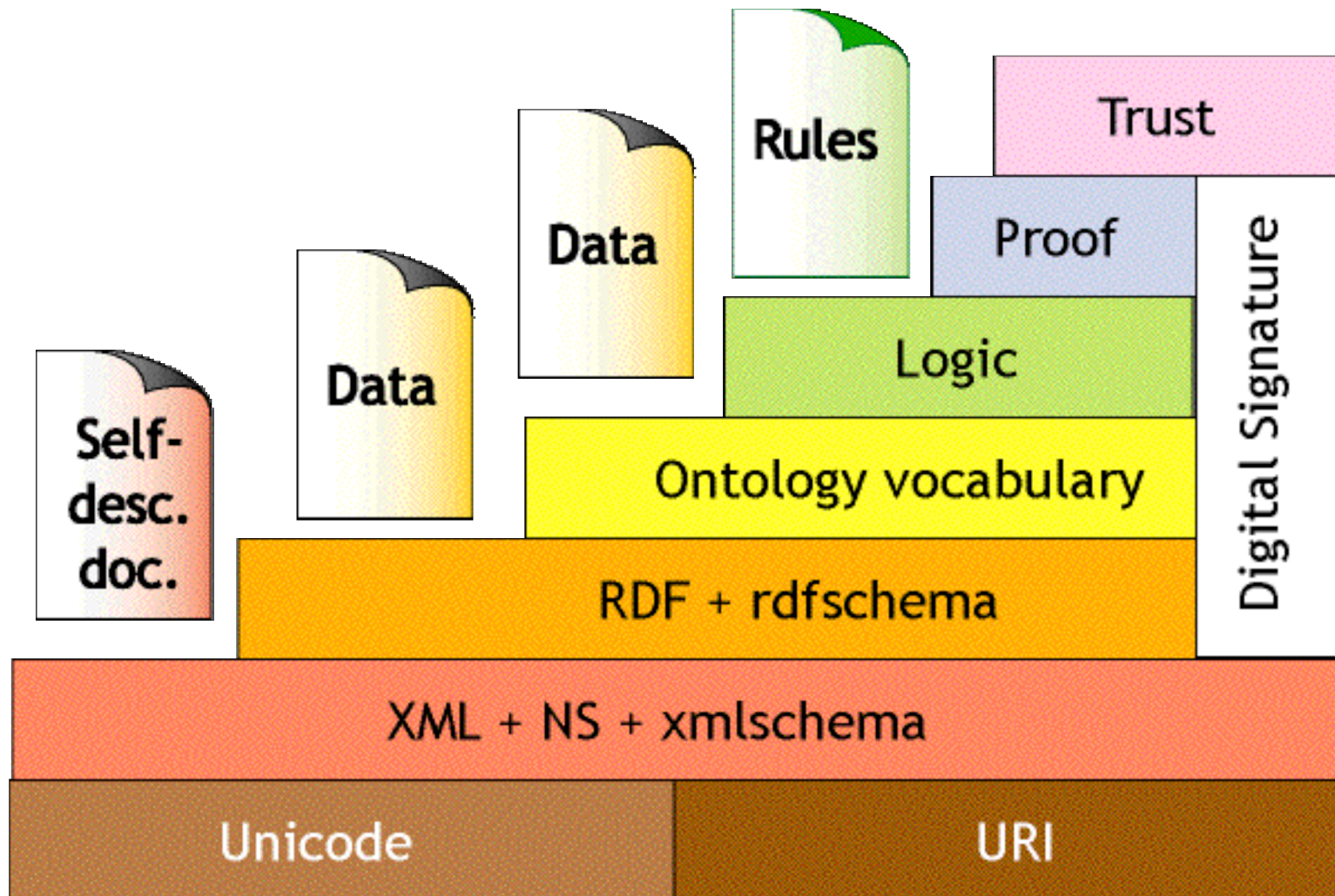


# Reasoning Tasks

- Satisfiability of a concept
  - **determine whether a description of the concept is not contradictory, i.e., whether an individual can exist that would be instance of the concept.**
- Subsumption of concepts
  - **determine whether concept C subsumes concept D, i.e., whether description of C is more general than the description of D.**
- Consistency of individuals with respect to concept
  - **determine whether individuals in ABox do not violate descriptions and axioms described by TBox.**
- Membership
  - **check whether the individual is an instance of a concept**
- Compute Extent
  - **find all individuals that are instances of a concept**
- Realization of an individual
  - **find all concepts which the individual belongs to, especially the most specific ones**



## Stack of languages:





## Web Language Stack summary

- **XML:**
  - **interchange syntax, no semantics**
- **RDF:**
  - **Data model, some semantics & inference**
- **RDF Schema:**
  - **concept modelling, more semantics & inference**
- **OWL:**
  - **more expressive ontology language;**
  - **quite expressive; expensive inference**



## Roadmap

- Background and Motivation
- Ontologies and Reasoning
- Storing and Querying RDF
- Papers

# OWL Example

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Lookout">
  <owl:equivalentClass>
    <owl:Class rdf:ID="Scout"/>
  </owl:equivalentClass>
  <rdfs:label>Lookout</rdfs:label>
</owl:Class>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Person">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="http://..."/>
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Class rdf:about="http://..."/>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Class rdf:about="http://..."/>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
  <rdfs:comment xml:lang="en">
    An individual human being.
  </rdfs:comment>
  <rdfs:label>Person</rdfs:label>
</owl:Class>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="PoliceOfficer">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Person"/>
  <rdfs:comment xml:lang="en">
    A warranted employee of a police force.
  </rdfs:comment>
  <rdfs:label>Police Officer</rdfs:label>
</owl:Class>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="#Scout">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Person"/>
  <rdfs:label>Scout</rdfs:label>
</owl:Class>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="CashierPost">
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:someValuesFrom>
        <owl:Class rdf:ID="Cashier"/>
      </owl:someValuesFrom>
      <owl:onProperty>
        <owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="associatedWith"/>
      </owl:onProperty>
    </owl:Restriction>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Class rdf:ID="Post"/>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
  <rdfs:label>Cashier Post</rdfs:label>
</owl:Class>
```



## RDF Example

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.jhuapl.edu/merc/ba-instance-example#edge-31066">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#Statement"/>
  <rdf:subject rdf:resource="#Person-24"/>
  <rdf:predicate rdf:resource="http://bethew11-wd1.dom1.jhuapl.edu/Ontology/BAOntology.owl#meetswith"/>
  <rdf:object rdf:resource="#Person-23"/>
  <ba:beginTime rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"> 78397</ba:beginTime>
</rdf:Description>
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.jhuapl.edu/merc/ba-instance-example#edge-31067">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#Statement"/>
  <rdf:subject rdf:resource="#Person-15"/>
  <rdf:predicate rdf:resource="http://bethew11-wd1.dom1.jhuapl.edu/Ontology/BAOntology.owl#gf"/>
  <rdf:object rdf:resource="#Person-21"/>
  <ba:beginTime rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"> 78399</ba:beginTime>
  <ba:endTime rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer">78439</ba:endTime>
</rdf:Description>
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.jhuapl.edu/merc/ba-instance-example#edge-31068">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#Statement"/>
  <rdf:subject rdf:resource="#Person-15"/>
  <rdf:predicate rdf:resource="http://bethew11-wd1.dom1.jhuapl.edu/Ontology/BAOntology.owl#signals"/>
  <rdf:object rdf:resource="#Person-21"/>
  <ba:beginTime rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"> 78399</ba:beginTime>
</rdf:Description>
```



# SPARQL Example

```
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX ba: <http://bethew11-wd1.dom1.jhuapl.edu/Ontology/BAOntology.owl#>
PREFIX xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>
PREFIX op: <http://www.w3.org/2005/xpath-functions#>
```

```
SELECT ?a ?b ?c ?t1 ?t2 ?t3
WHERE
```

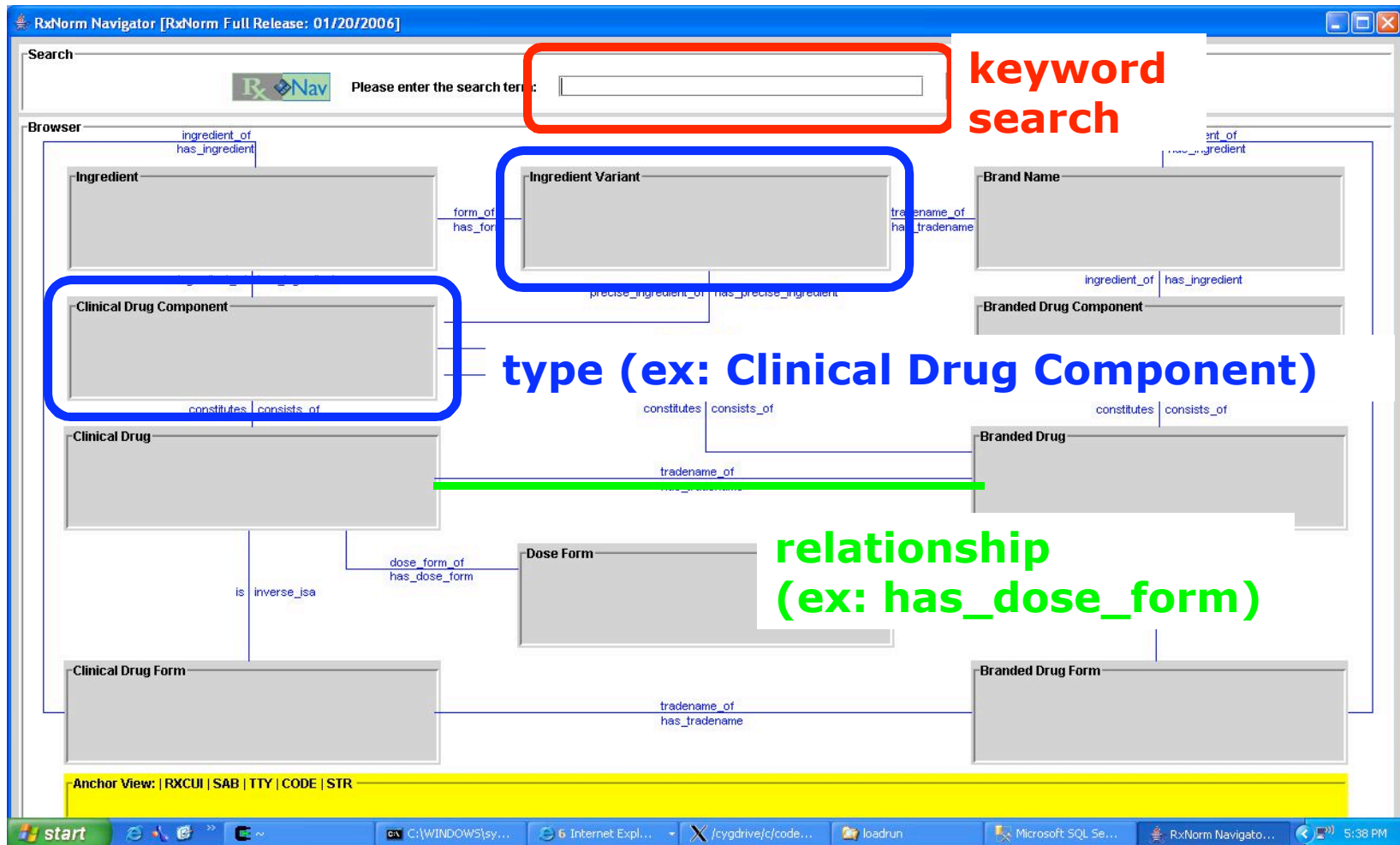
```
{
  ?s1 rdf:type rdf:Statement .
  ?s1 rdf:subject ?a .
  ?s1 rdf:predicate ba:meetswith .
  ?s1 rdf:object ?b .
  ?s1 ba:beginTime ?t1 .
```

```
  ?s2 rdf:type rdf:Statement .
  ?s2 rdf:subject ?b .
  ?s2 rdf:predicate ba:signals .
  ?s2 rdf:object ?c .
  ?s2 ba:beginTime ?t2 .
```

```
  ?s3 rdf:type rdf:Statement .
  ?s3 rdf:subject ?c .
  ?s3 rdf:predicate ba:meetswith .
  ?s3 rdf:object ?a .
  ?s3 ba:beginTime ?t3 .
```

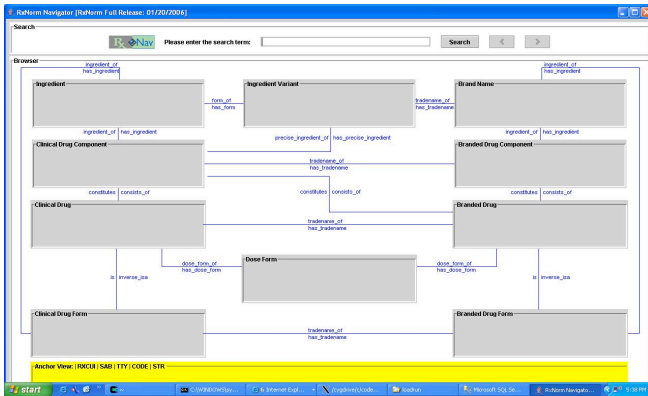
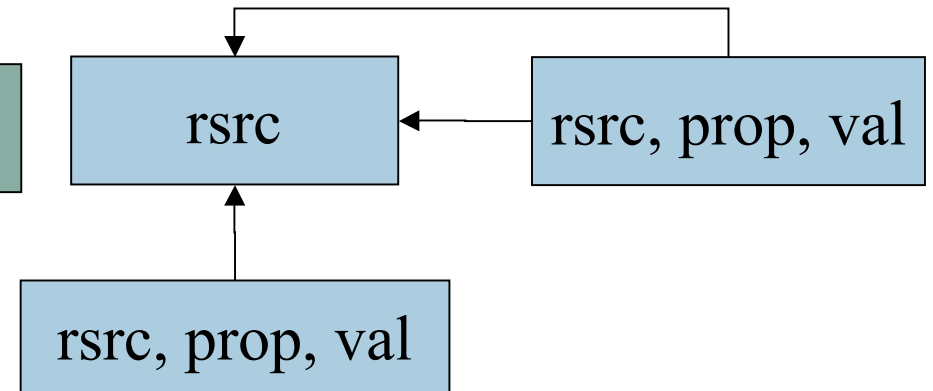
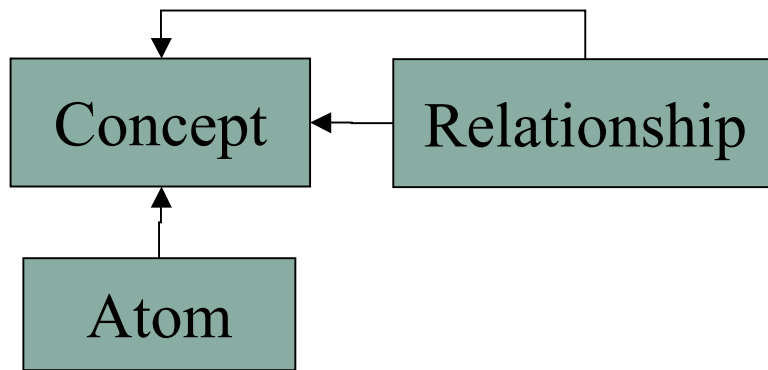
```
  FILTER (
    ((?t1 < ?t2) && (?t2 < ?t3))
    && (((xsd:integer(?t2) - xsd:integer(?t1)) <= "1200"^^xsd:integer)
    && ((xsd:integer(?t3) - xsd:integer(?t2)) <= "1200"^^xsd:integer))
  )
}
```

# Example: Medical Nomenclature



"RxNav" Interface developed by the National Library of Medicine

# Example: UMLS

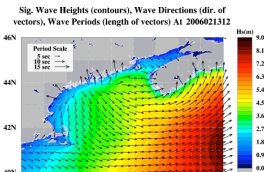


| concept | prop          | value |
|---------|---------------|-------|
| 10001   | NDC           | 1     |
| 10001   | ORIG_CODE     | 123   |
| 10001   | ingredient_of | 10004 |
| 10001   | type          | DC    |

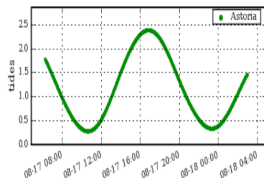
up to 23M triples describing 0.6M "concepts"

# Example: Ocean Circulation Forecasting System

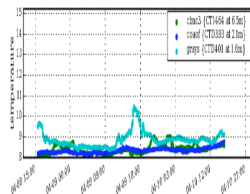
Atmospheric models



Tides

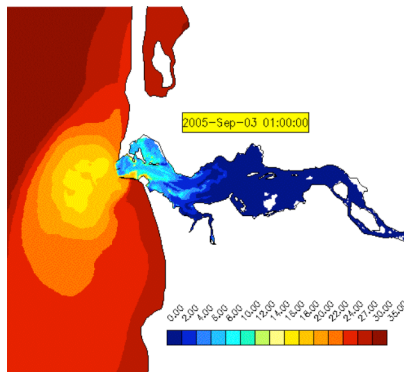


River discharge

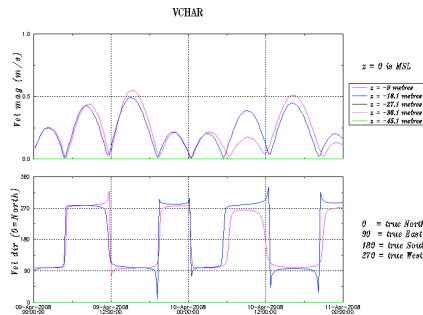


forcings (i.e., inputs)

products via the web



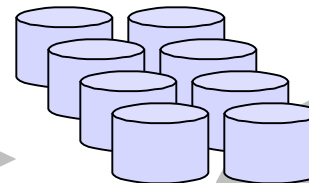
salinity isolines



station<sup>tr</sup> extractions

model-data comparisons

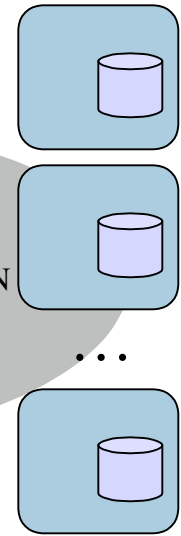
filesystem



perl and cron

FORTRAN

perl and cron

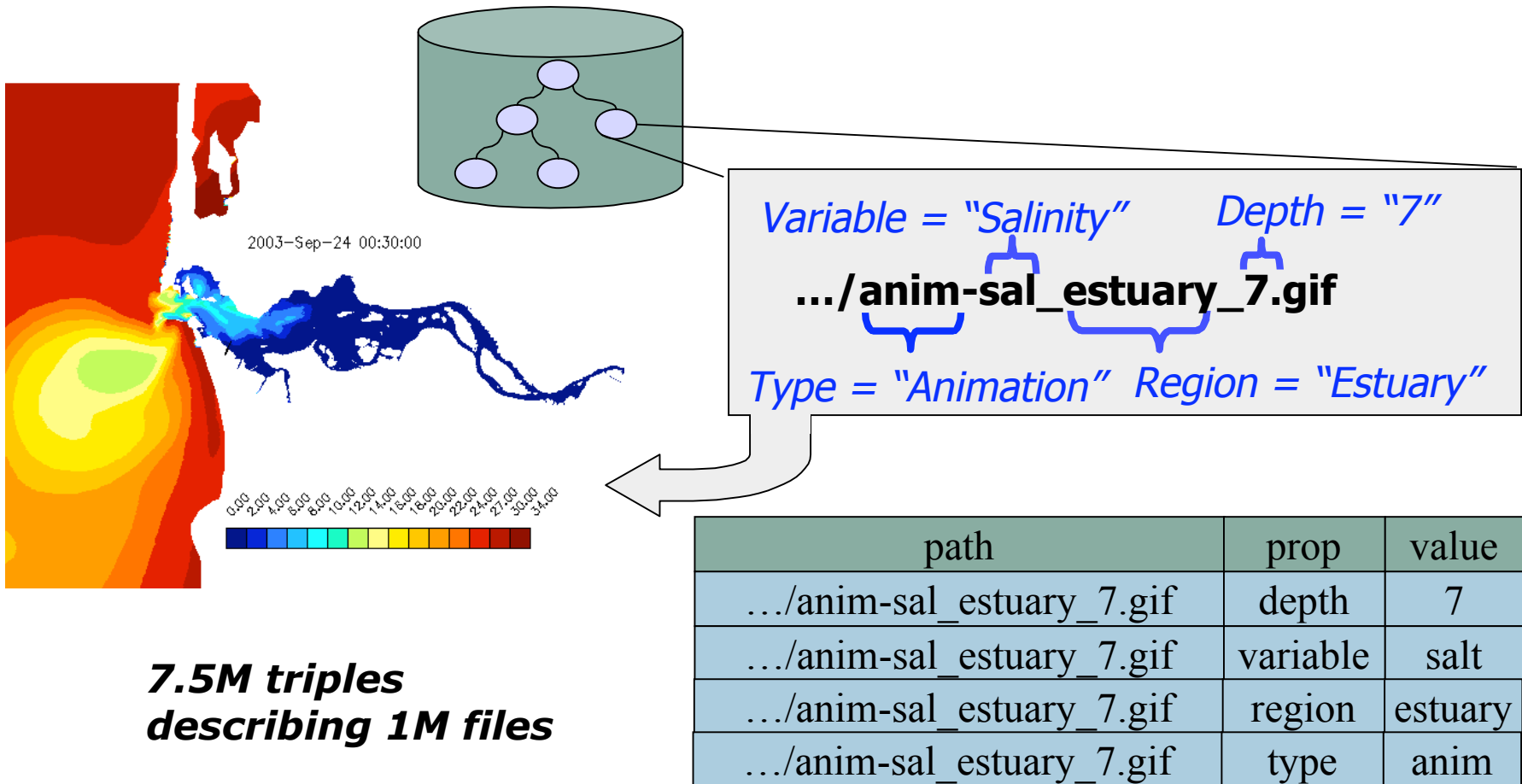


cluster

- Simulation results*
- Config and log files*
- Intermediate files*
- Annotations*
- Data Products*
- Relations*



# Example: Ocean Circulation Forecasting





## Exercise

- data1
  - **year=2004, week=24, day=1, variable=salt**
- data2
  - **year=2004, week=24, day=1, variable=temp**
- image1
  - **variable=salt, depth=7**
  - **src=data1**
- image2
  - **type=animation, variable=temp, depth=12**
  - **src=data2**

*Q1: Find all resources with variable = “salt”*

*Q2: Find all images generated from week 24 data (use “src”)*



## Some Storage Models

- Schema-dependent storage (RDFS)
  - **Chen et al 06**
  - **Pan and Heflin 03**
- Indexed Triple Store
  - **RDF-3X, 10**
  - **Sesame, Broekstra 02**
  - **YARS, Harth and Decker 05**
  - **3store, Harris and Gibbons 03**
  - **Oracle, Chong et al 05 (and ICDE 08)**
- Property Tables
  - **Jena, Wilkinson 06**
  - **C-Store, Abadi et al 07**
- Horizontal DB
  - **Agrawal 01**
- Signature-based
  - **Howe 04, 06**
  - **RDFBroker 06**



## Simple Idea: Cluster by Signature

- Resources expressing the same properties clustered together
- Posit that  $|\text{Signature}| \ll |\text{Resource}|$
- Queries evaluated transparently over Signature Extents





# 1) Triple Store

## Triples

| rsrc | prop     | value             |
|------|----------|-------------------|
| 101  | depth    | 7                 |
| 336  | variable | temp              |
| 101  | path     | .../iso_e_s_7.gif |
| 101  | variable | salt              |
| 843  | channel  | north             |
| 843  | variable | salt              |
| 336  | path     | .../trans_s_t.gif |
| 843  | path     | .../trans_n_s.gif |
| 336  | channel  | south             |
| 101  | region   | estuary           |

*One join per condition*

## A Query in SPARQL/RDQL:

```
select ?v
where
  (?r, <s:region>, <s:estuary>),
  (?r, <s:variable>, <s:salt>),
  (?r, <s:depth>, <s:7>),
  (?r, <s:path>, ?v)
```

## ... and in SQL:

```
SELECT p.value as path
FROM Triples r, Triples v,
      Triples d, Triples p
WHERE r.property = 'region'
      AND v.property = 'variable'
      AND d.property = 'depth'
      AND p.property = 'path'
      AND r.rsrc = v.rsrc
      AND v.rsrc = d.rsrc
      AND d.rsrc = p.rsrc
```

# 1) Triple Store, single pass trick

## Triples

| rsrc | prop     | value             |
|------|----------|-------------------|
| 101  | depth    | 7                 |
| 336  | variable | temp              |
| 101  | path     | .../iso e s 7.gif |
| 101  | variable | salt              |
| 843  | channel  | north             |
| 843  | variable | salt              |
| 336  | path     | .../trans s t.gif |
| 843  | path     | .../trans n s.gif |
| 336  | channel  | south             |
| 101  | region   | estuary           |

```
select ?v
where
  (?r, <s:region>, <s:estuary>),
  (?r, <s:variable>, <s:salt>),
  (?r, <s:depth>, <s:7>)
  (?r, <s:path>, ?v)
```

```
SELECT MAX(CASE WHEN property='path' THEN value END) as path
FROM Triples
GROUP BY rsrc
HAVING
  MAX(CASE WHEN property='region' THEN value END) = 'estuary'
AND MAX(CASE WHEN property='variable' THEN value END) = 'salt'
AND MAX(CASE WHEN property='region' THEN value END) = '7'
```

## 2) Property Tables

depth

| rsrc | value |
|------|-------|
| 101  | 7     |

variable

| rsrc | value |
|------|-------|
| 336  | temp  |
| 101  | salt  |
| 843  | salt  |

channel

| rsrc | value |
|------|-------|
| 843  | north |
| 336  | south |

region

| rsrc | value   |
|------|---------|
| 101  | estuary |

path

| rsrc | value             |
|------|-------------------|
| 101  | .../iso_e_s_7.gif |
| 336  | .../trans_s_t.gif |
| 843  | .../trans_n_s.gif |

```
select ?p
where
  (?r, <s:region>, <s:estuary>),
  (?r, <s:variable>, <s:salt>),
  (?r, <s:depth>, <s:7>)
  (?r, <s:path>, ?p)
```

```
select p.value
  from region r, variable v,
       depth d, path p
 where r.value = 'estuary'
       and v.value = 'salt'
       and d.value = '7'
       and r.rsrc = v.rsrc
       and v.rsrc = d.rsrc
       and d.rsrc = p.rsrc
```

### 3) Signature Tables

S1: variable, channel, path

| rsrc | variable | channel | path              |
|------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| 336  | temp     | south   | .../trans_s_t.gif |
| 843  | salt     | north   | .../trans_n_s.gif |

```
select ?p
where
  (?r, <s:region>, <s:estuary>),
  (?r, <s:variable>, <s:salt>),
  (?r, <s:depth>, <s:7>)
  (?r, <s:path>, ?p)
```

S2: depth, region, variable, path

| rsrc | depth | region  | variable | path              |
|------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| 101  | 7     | estuary | salt     | .../iso_e_s_7.gif |

```
select path
from S2
where region = 'estuary'
and variable = 'salt'
and depth = '7'
```

### 3) Signature Tables (2)

S1: variable, channel, path

| rsrc | variable | channel | path              |
|------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| 336  | temp     | south   | .../trans_s_t.gif |
| 843  | salt     | north   | .../trans_n_s.gif |

```
select ?v
where
    (?r, <s:variable>, ?v)
```

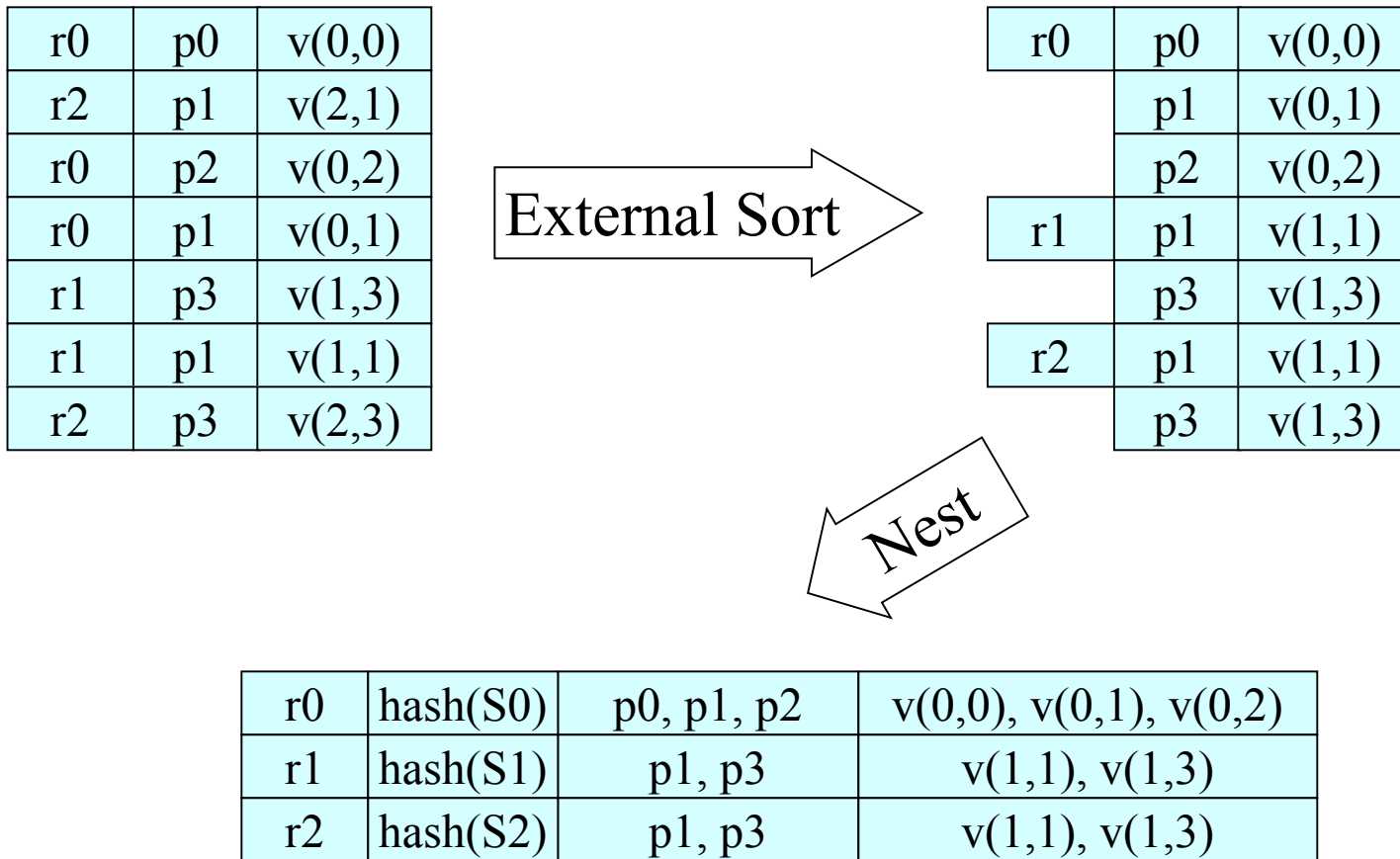
S2: depth, region, variable, path

| rsrc | depth | region  | variable | path              |
|------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| 101  | 7     | estuary | salt     | .../iso_e_s_7.gif |

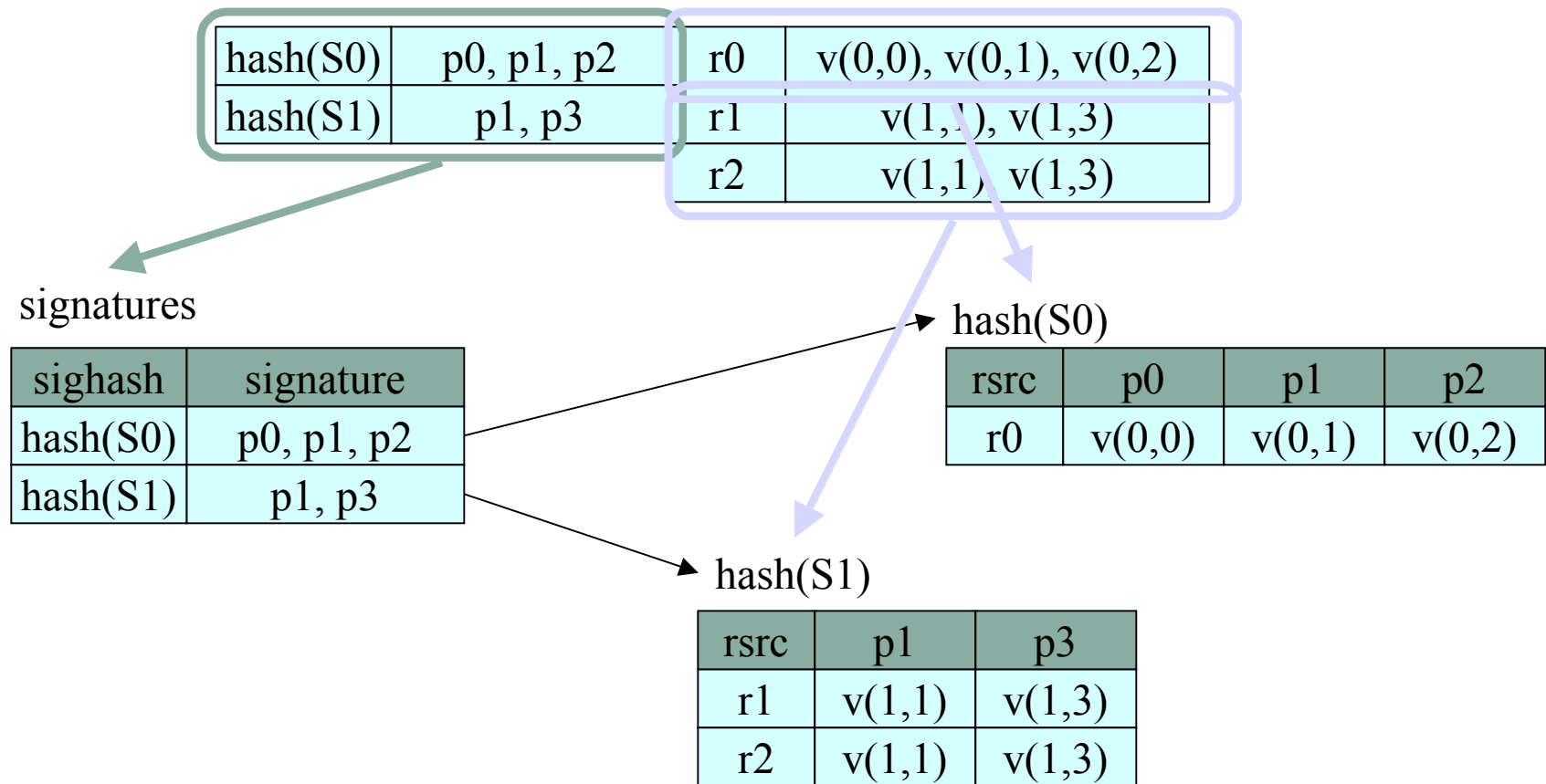
```
select variable
    from S2
UNION
select variable
    from S1
```



# Computing Signatures



# Computing Signatures





## Experimental Results

- **Yet Another RDF Store (YARS)**

- **9 B-Tree indexes in Berkeley DB**

- $rpv \rightarrow \_$
    - $pv \rightarrow r$
    - $vr \rightarrow p$
    - etc.

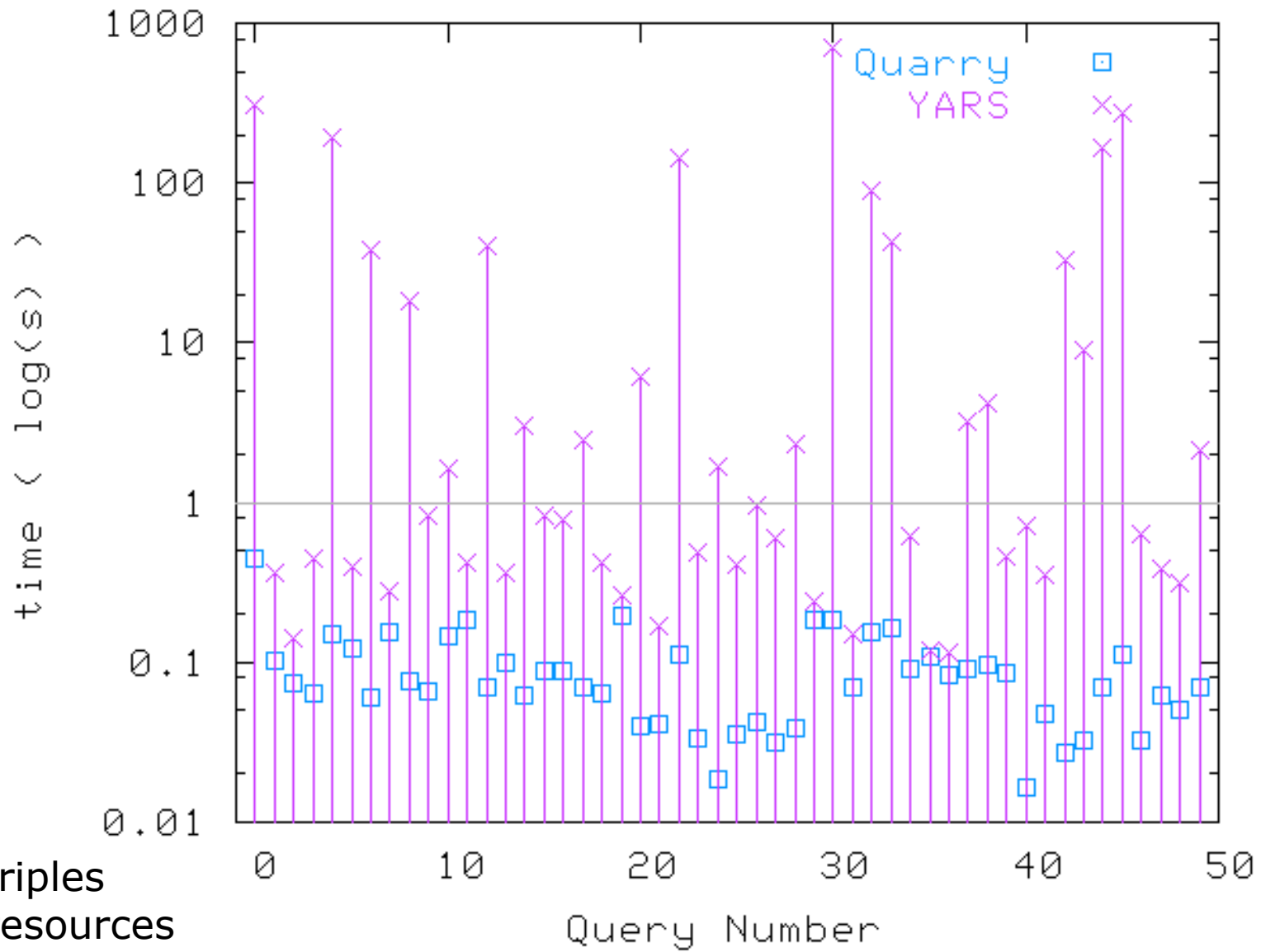
- **Authors report performance gain over Redland and Sesame**

- ~3M triples, single term queries

- Random multi-term conjunctive queries

```
?s <p0> <o0>  
?s <p1> <o1>  
:  
?s <pn> <on>
```

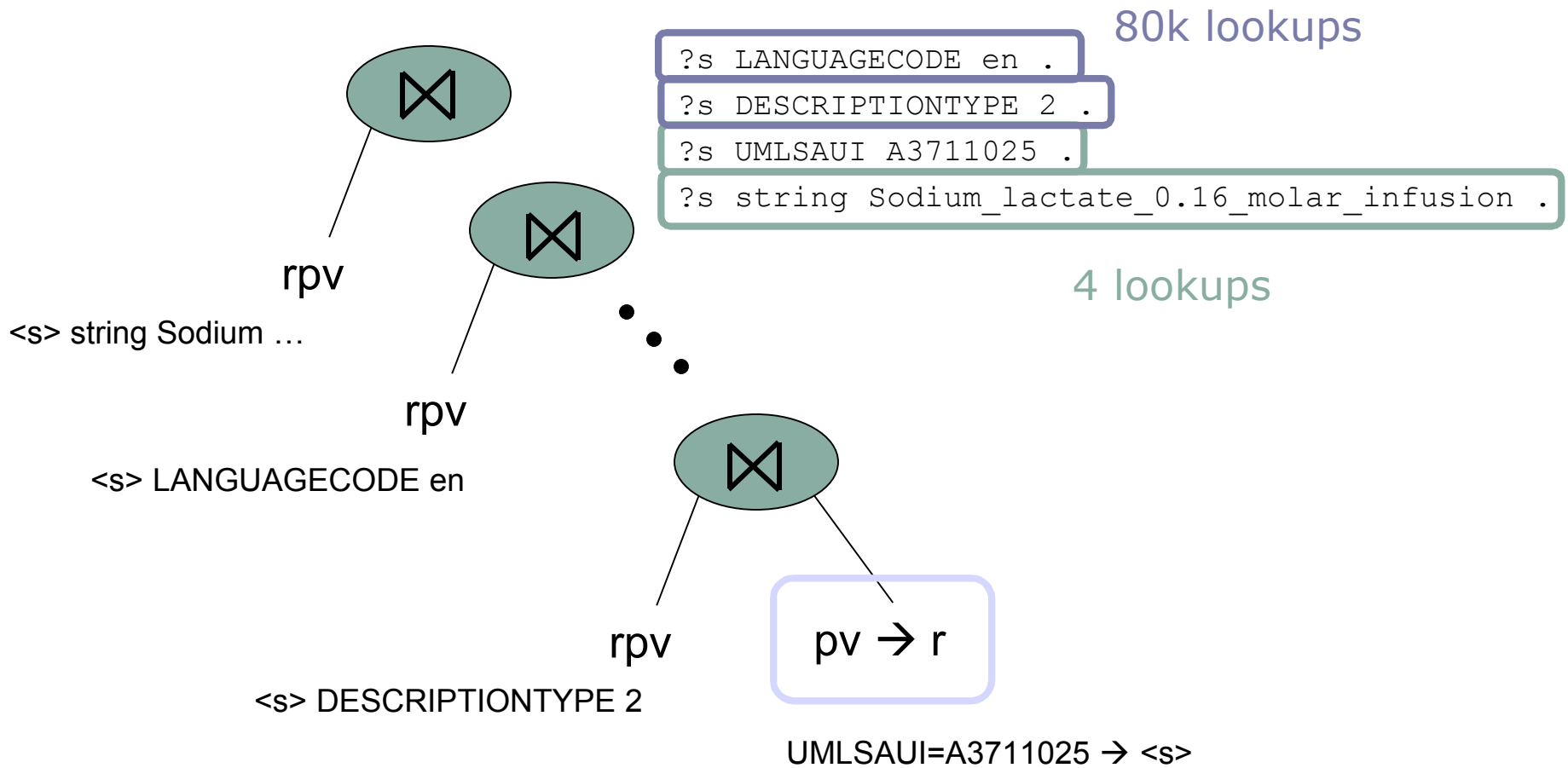




3.6M triples  
606k resources  
149 signatures



# A Common YARS Query Plan



# YARS Plan Speed

