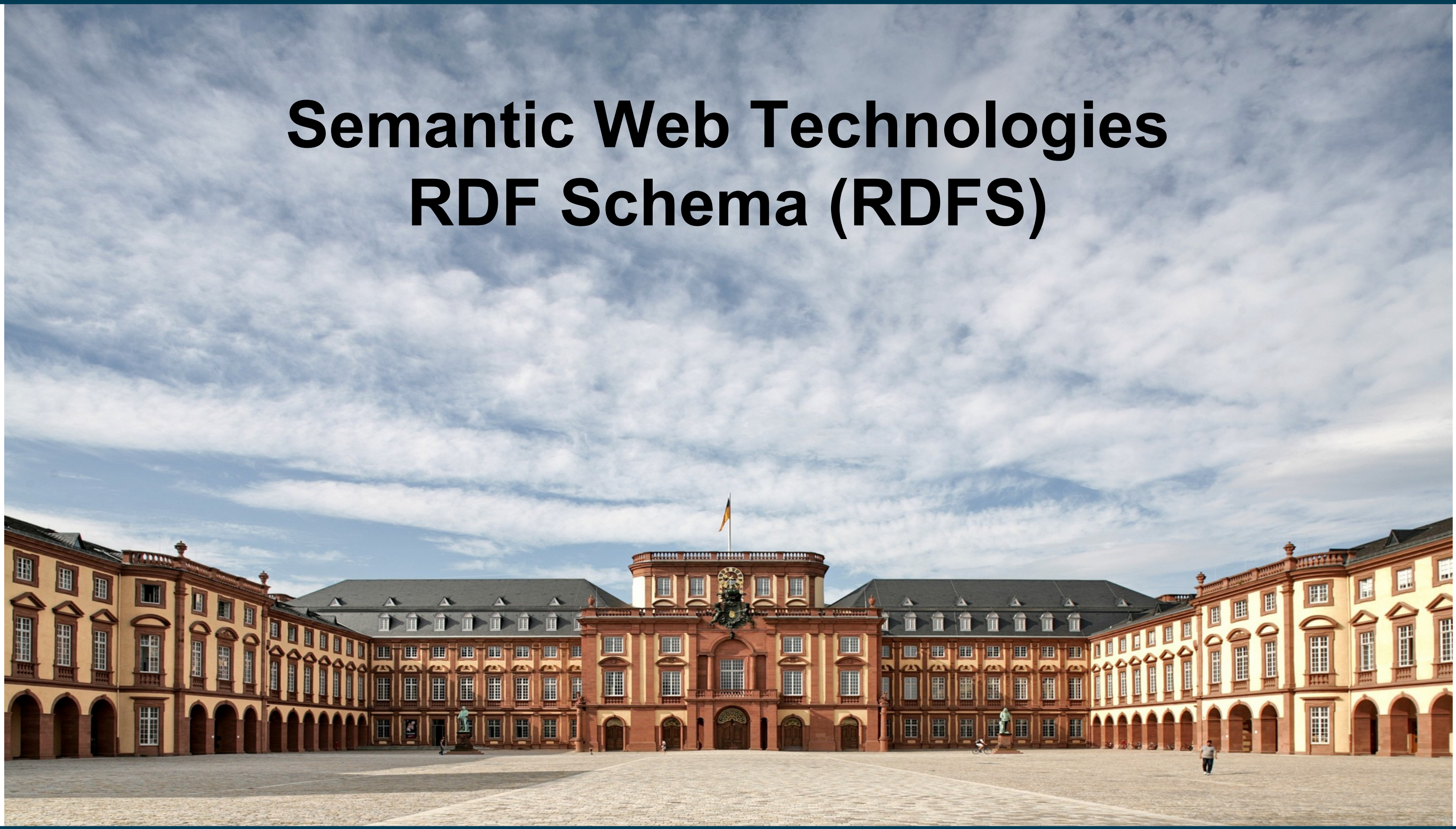
UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM

Semantic Web Technologies
RDF Schema (RDFS)



Heiko Paulheim

Previously on “Semantic Web Technologies”

- Is RDF more powerful than XML?

- XML is a markup language for information
- In XML, arbitrary elements and attributes can be defined
- XML tag names are meaningless for a computer

- RDF is a markup language for information
- In RDF, arbitrary classes and predicates can be defined
- RDF class and predicate names are meaningless for a computer

Today: Schemas and Ontologies

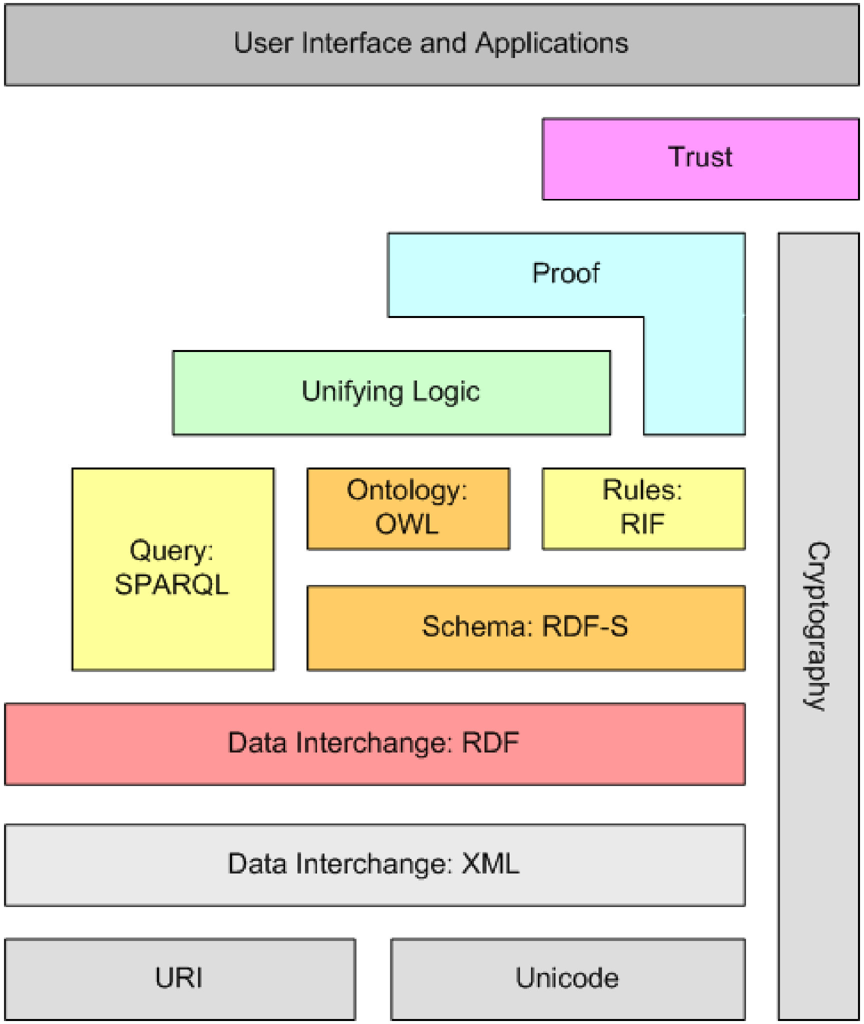
- They bring the Semantics to the Semantic Web (finally!)
  - Building simple ontologies with RDF Schema
  - Elements of RDF Schema
  - Automatic deduction with RDF Schema

Semantic Web – Architecture

here be dragons...

Semantic Web
Technologies
(This lecture)

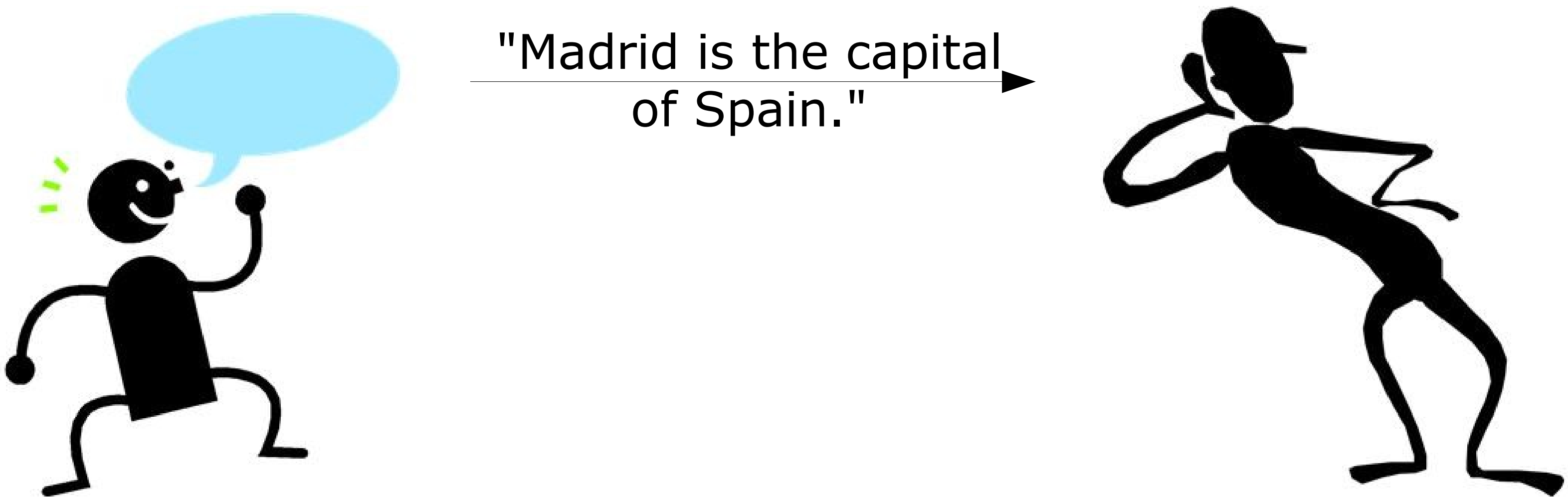
Technical
Foundations



Berners-Lee (2009): *Semantic Web and Linked Data*
http://www.w3.org/2009/Talks/0120-campus-party-tbl/

What is Missing up to Now?

- Our mission: make computers understand information on the Web
- But what does *understand* actually mean?



Semantics

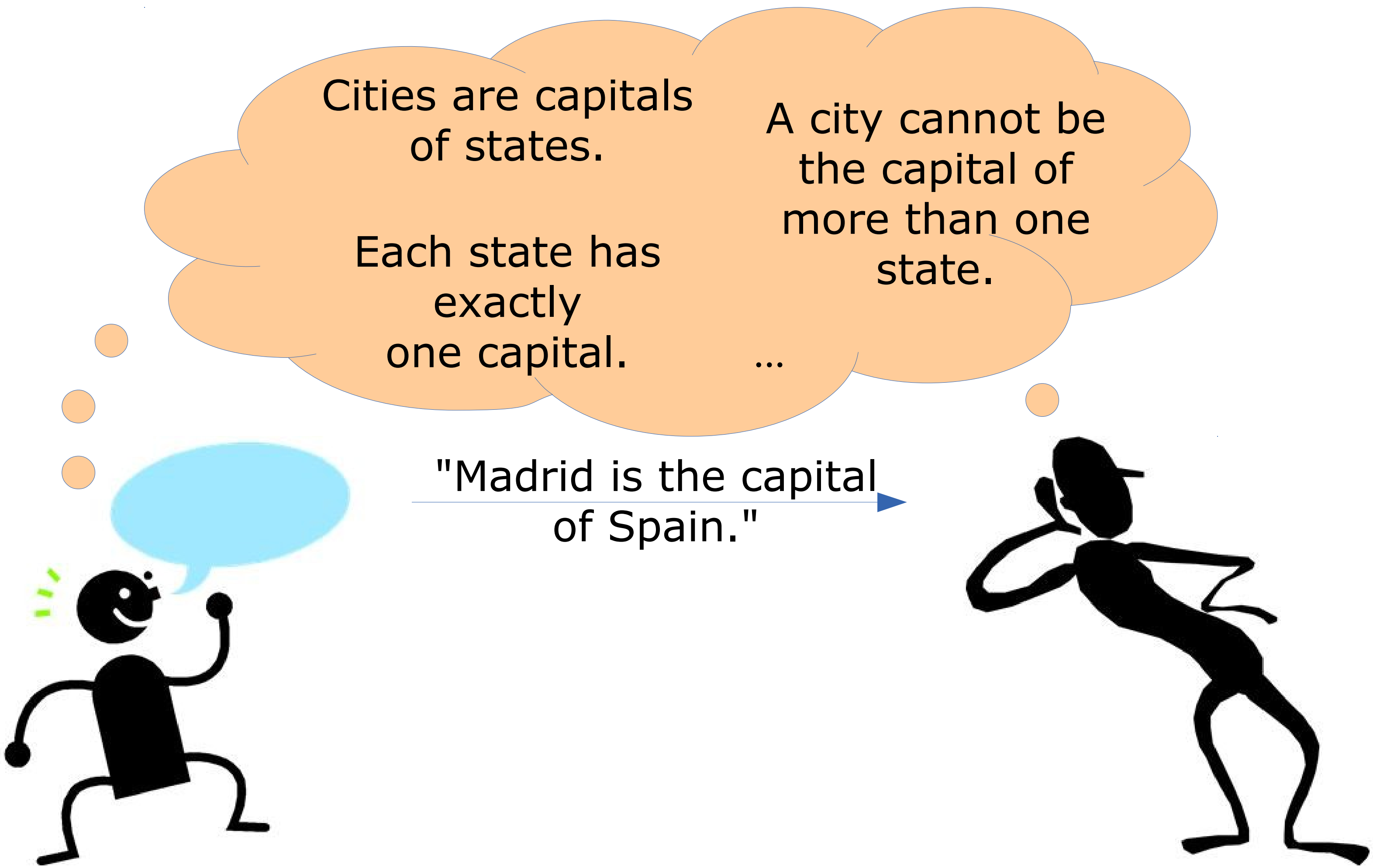
- Let's look at that sentence:
  - "Madrid is the capital of Spain."
- Published on the Semantic Web (i.e., using RDF):
  - :Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
- How many pieces of information can we (i.e., humans) derive from that sentence?
  - (1 piece of information = 1 statement <S,P,O>)
  - Estimations? Opinions?

Semantics

- Let's look at that sentence:
  - "Madrid is the capital of Spain."

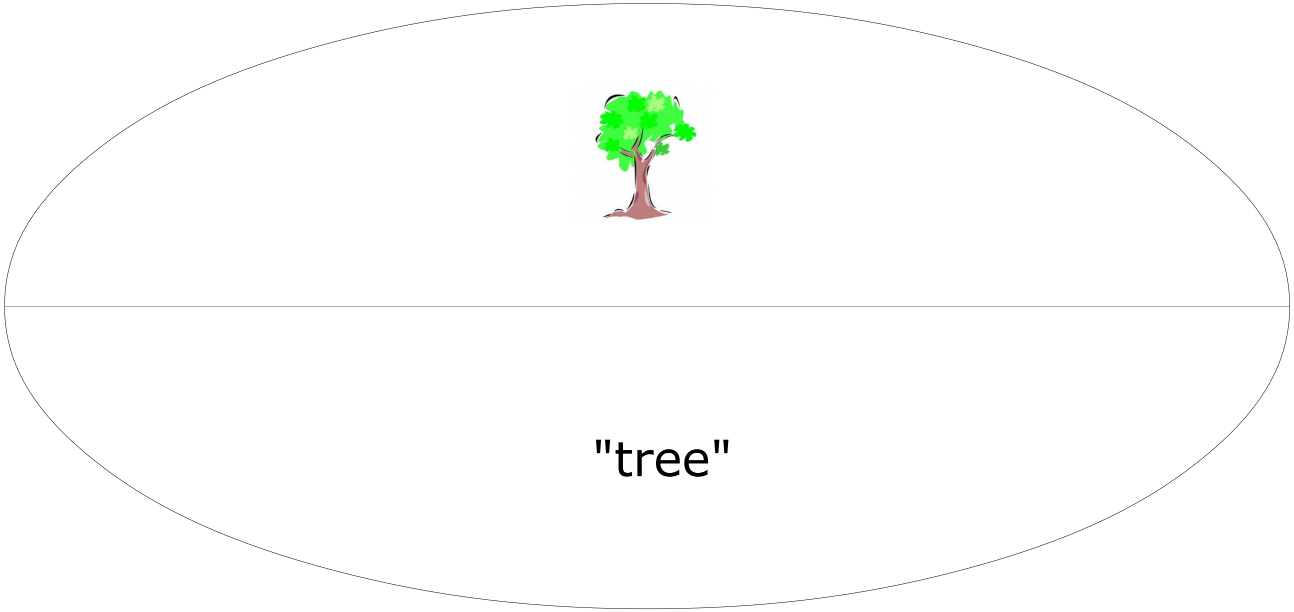
- We can get the following information:
  - "Madrid is the capital of Spain."
  - "Spain is a state."
  - "Madrid is a city."
  - "Madrid is located in Spain."
  - "Barcelona is not the capital of Spain."
  - "Madrid is not the capital of France."
  - "Madrid is not a state."
  - ...

How do Semantics Work?



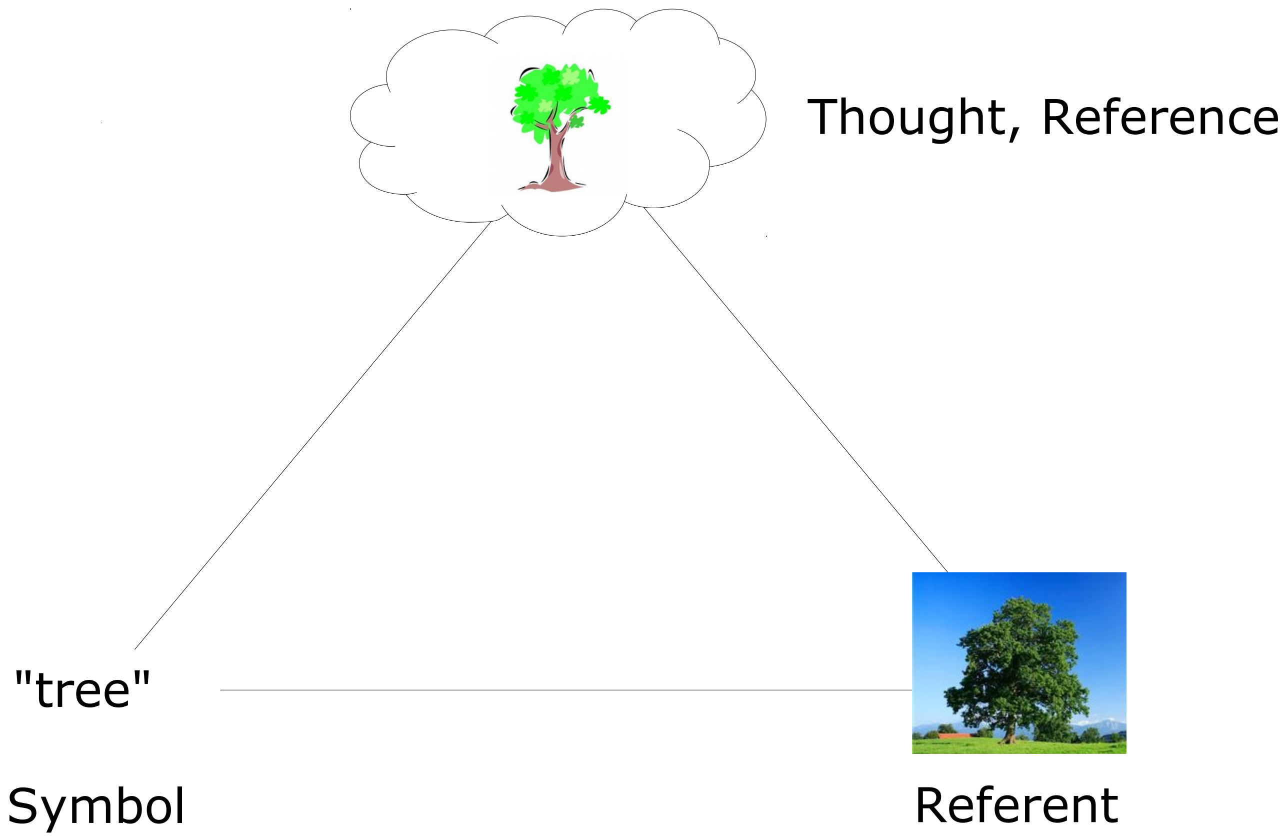
An Excursion to Linguistics

- Saussure's idea of a *linguistic sign*
- Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913):
  - Signifier (signifiant) and signified (signifié) cannot be separated from each other



An Excursion to Linguistics

- The triangle of reference



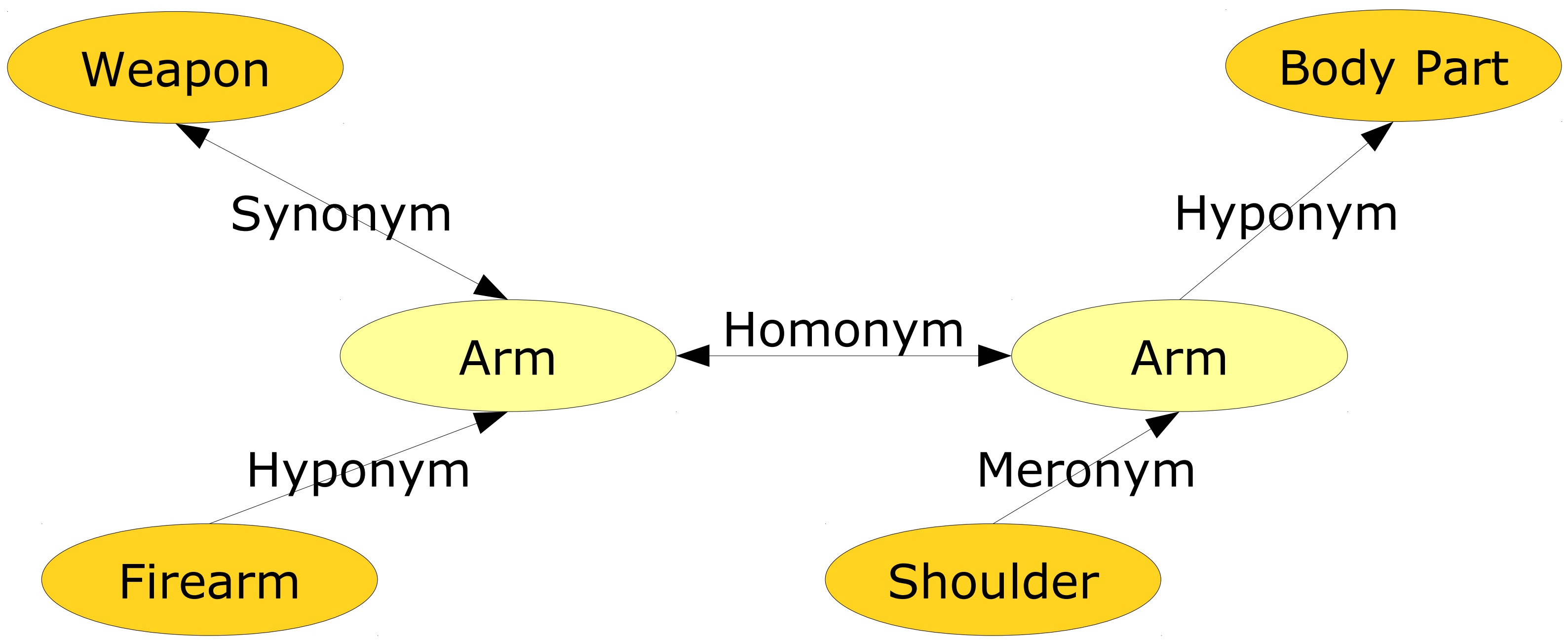
Charles Odgen (1923): *The Meaning of Meaning.*

So, how do Semantics Work?

- Lexical semantics
  - Meaning of a word is defined by relations to other words
- Extensional semantics
  - Meaning of a word is defined by the set of its instances
- Intensional semantics, e.g., feature-based semantics
  - Meaning of a word is defined by features of the instances
- Prototype semantics
  - Meaning of a word is defined by proximity to a prototypical instance
- ...

Lexical Semantics

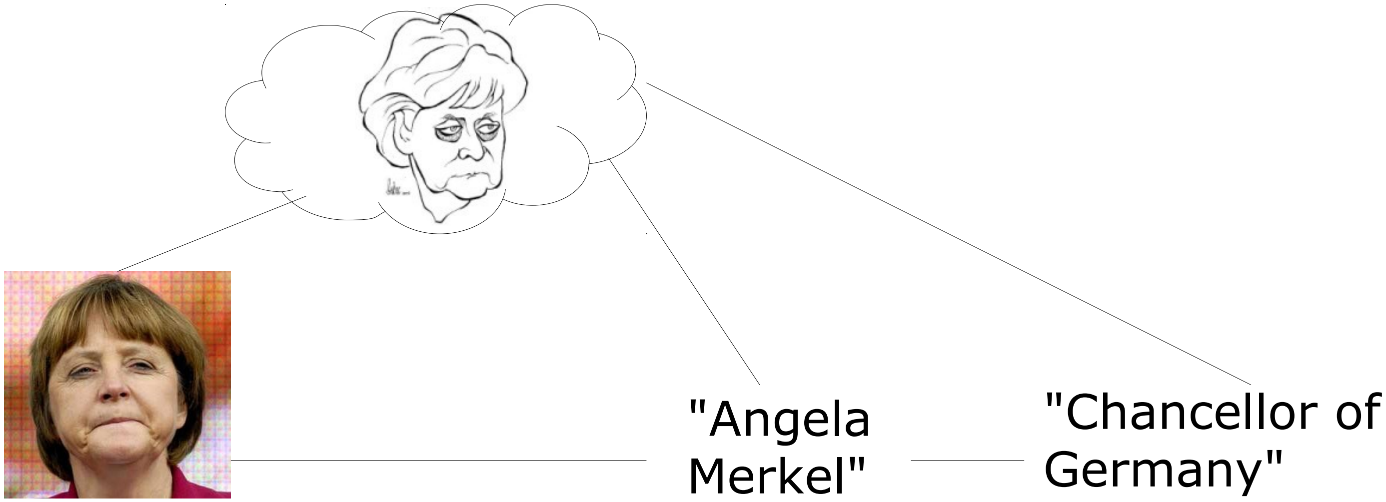
- Defining semantics by establishing relations between words



Extensional Semantics

- Listing instances
  - EU members are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, …, Sweden, UK.

- *Angela Merkel == Chancellor of Germany*
  - both terms have the same extension



Intensional Semantics

- Describes features of things, i.e., *semes*
- A seme is a feature that distinguishes the meaning of two words

Word	has wings	can swim	has fur	can fly
Duck	+	+	-	+
Bird	+	O	-	O
Bee	+	-	-	+
Dolphin	-	+	-	-
...				

Intensional vs. Extensional Semantics

- Intensionally different things can have the same extension
- Classic example: morning star and evening star

Word	Celestial body	bright	visible in the morning	visible in the evening
Morning star	+	+	+	-
Evening star	+	+	-	+
...				

- both have the same extension (i.e., Venus)

Intensional vs. Extensional Semantics

- The extension can change over time without the intension changing
  - e.g., “student”
  - does that change the semantics?

- Intension may also change over time
  - technological achievements (e.g., intension of *ship*)
  - changes in moral values (e.g., intension of *marriage*)

- Extension may also be empty, e.g.
  - Unicorn
  - Martian
  - Yeti (?)

Intensional vs. Extension Semantics

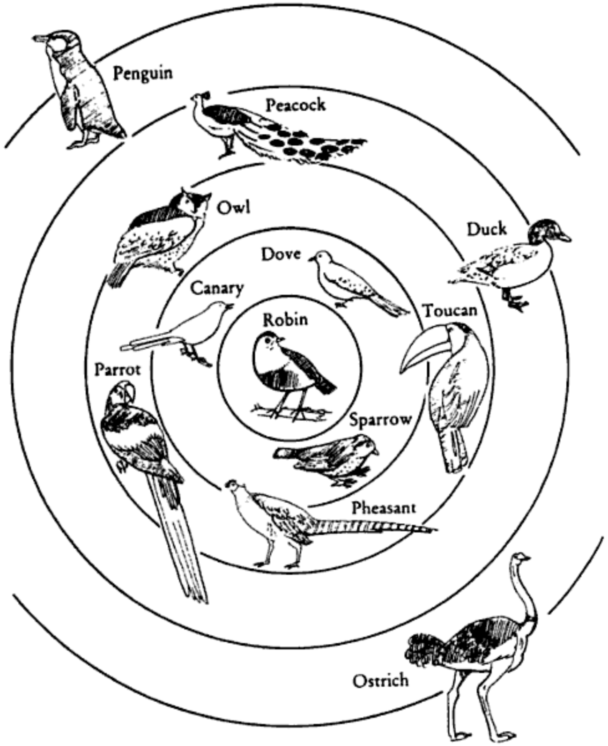
- ...explained by two well-known experts in the field :-)

Prototype Semantics

- A small experiment:
  - Close your eyes, and imagine a bird!

Prototype Semantics

- So far, intensional and extensional semantics
  are based on boolean logics (i.e., there's only “true” and “false”)
- Prototype Semantics: a more fuzzy variant



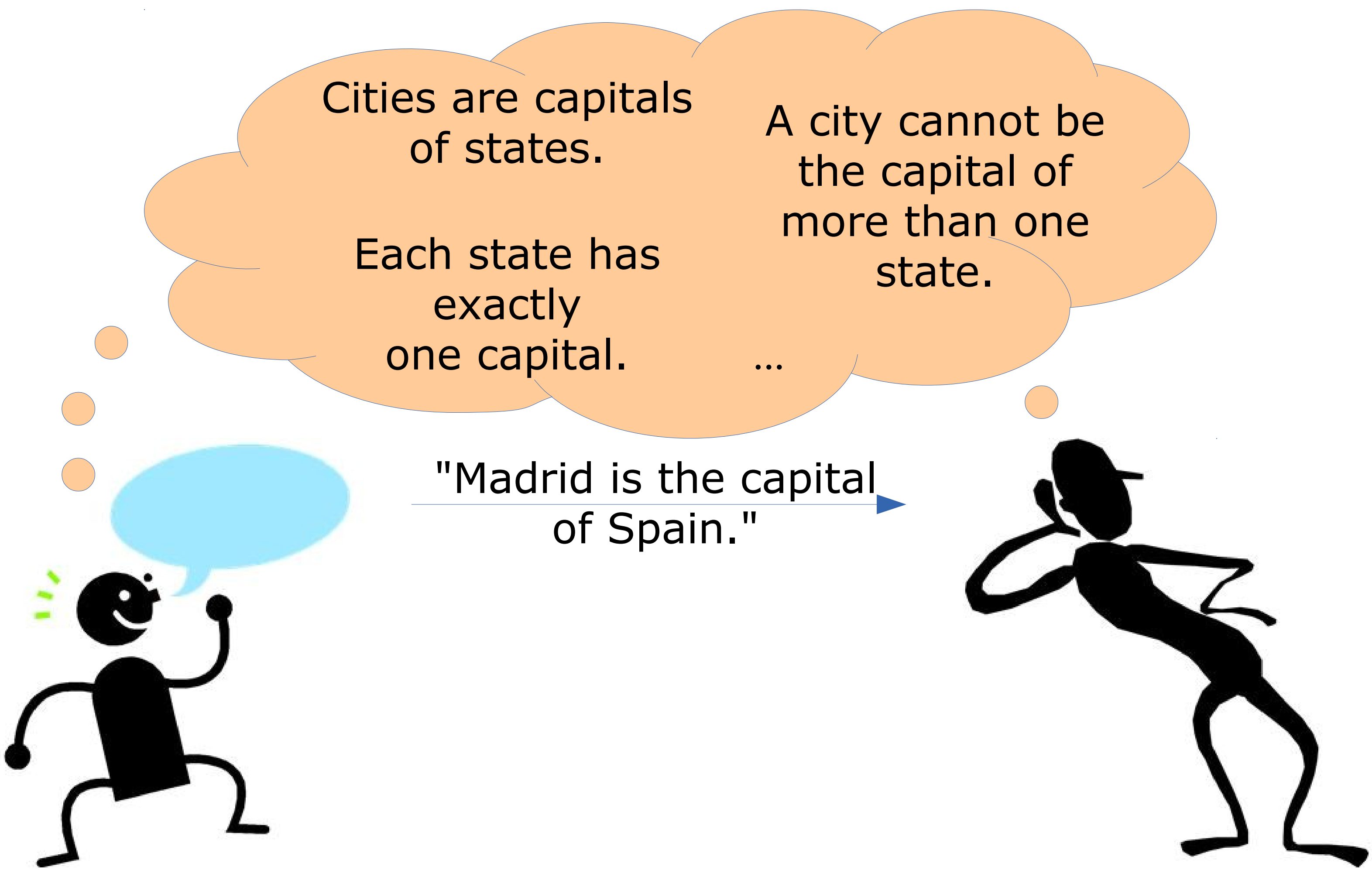
Jean Aitchison: Words in the Mind (1987)

How do Semantics Work?

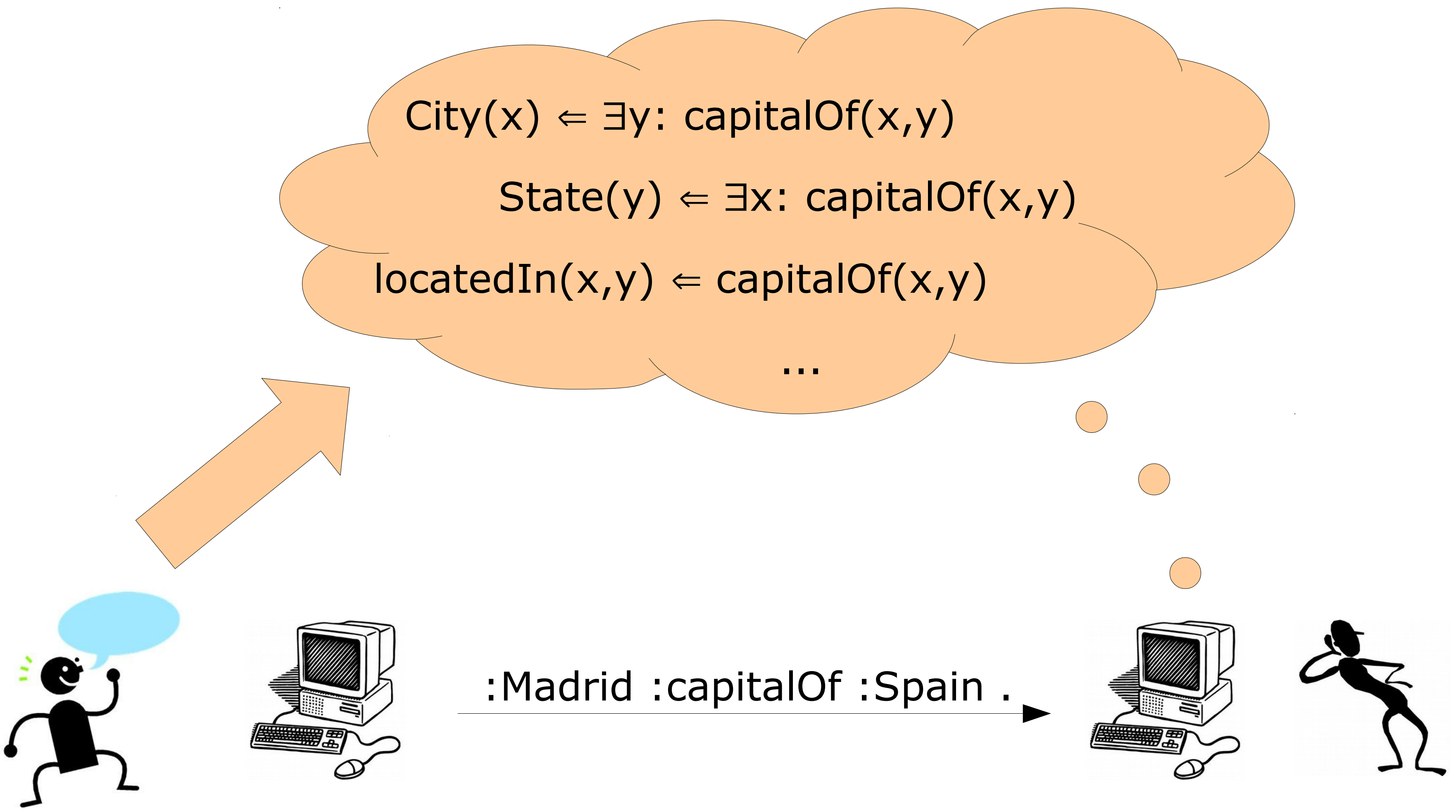
- We have learned: Semantics define the meaning of words
- That is what we do in the Semantic Web
  - using methods from lexical, intensional, and extensional semantics

http://walkinthewords.blogspot.com/2008/05/linguistic-cartoon-favorites-semantics.html

How do Semantics Work?



Semantics in the Semantic Web



Ontologies

$\text{City}(x) \Leftarrow \exists y: \text{capitalOf}(x,y)$

$\text{Country}(y) \Leftarrow \exists x: \text{capitalOf}(x,y)$

$\text{locatedIn}(x,y) \Leftarrow \text{capitalOf}(x,y)$

...

- "An ontology is an explicit specification of a conceptualization."[1]

- Ontologies encode the knowledge about a domain
- They form a common vocabulary
  - and describe the semantics of its terms

[1] Gruber (1993): *Toward Principles for the Design of Ontologies Used for Knowledge Sharing.* In: International Journal Human-Computer Studies Vol. 43, Issues 5-6, pp. 907-928.

What is an Ontology?

- Ontology (without *a* or *the*) is the philosophical study of being
  - greek: *όντος* (things that are), *λόγος* (the study)
  - A sub discipline of philosophy

- In computer science (with *a* or *the*)
  - a formalized description of a domain
  - a shared vocabulary
  - a logical theory

Ontologies – Further Definitions

- Guarino und Giaretta (1995):

  "a logical theory which gives an **explicit**, **partial** account of a conceptualization"

- Uschold und Gruninger (1996):

  "**shared** understanding of some domain of interest"
  "an **explicit** account or representation of some **part of** a conceptualisation"

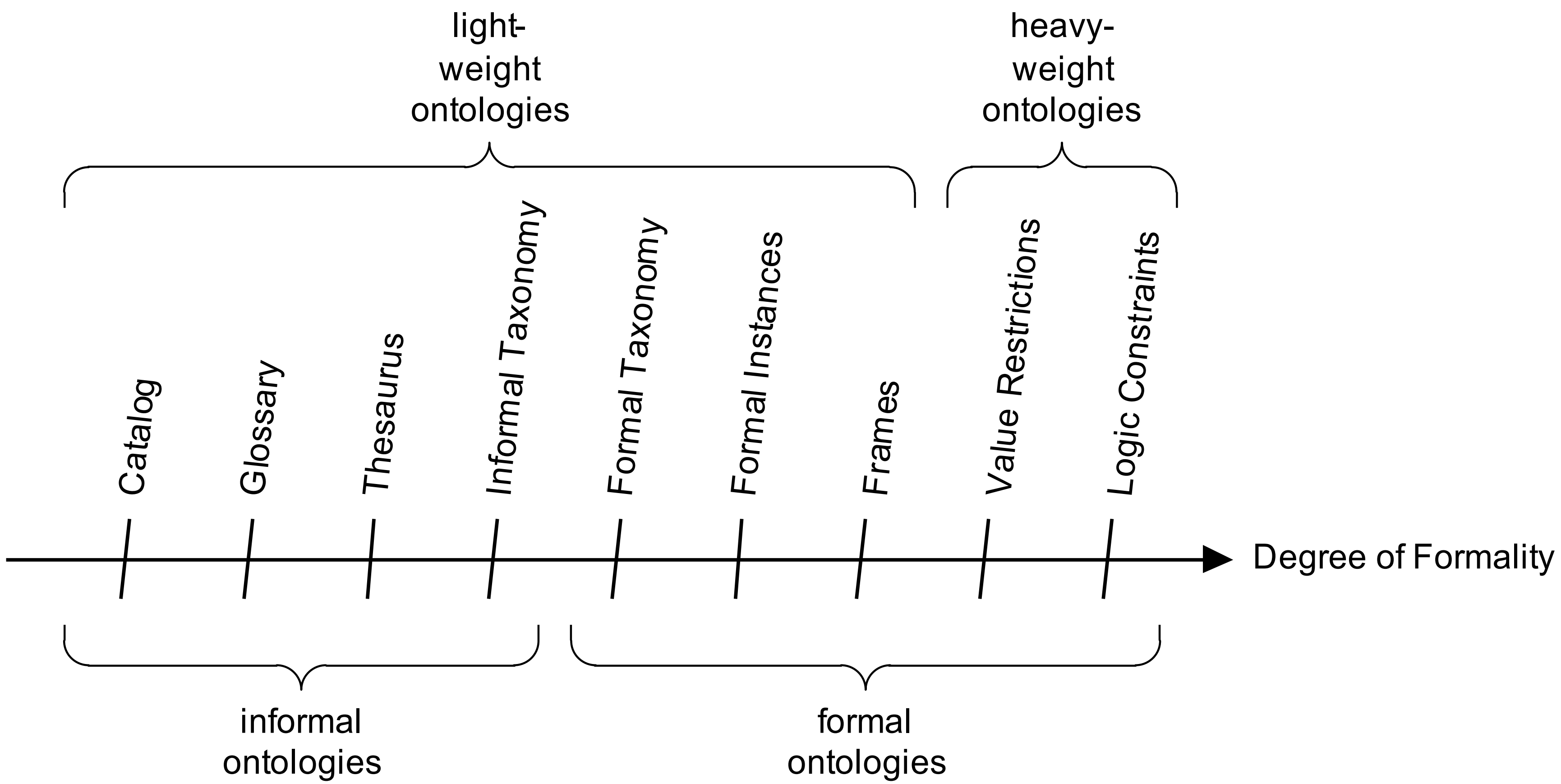
- Guarino (1998):

  "a set of **logical axioms** designed to account for the intended meaning of a vocabulary"

Essential Properties of Ontologies

- Explicit
  - Meaning is not “hidden” between the lines
- Formal
  - e.g., using logic or rule languages
- Shared
  - Martin Hepp: "Autists don't build ontologies"
  - An ontology just for one person does not make much sense
- Partial
  - There will (probably) never be a full ontology of everything in the world

Classifications of Ontologies



Lassila & McGuiness (2001): *The Role of Frame-Based Representation on the Semantic Web.* In: Linköping Electronic Articles in Computer and Information Science 6(5).

The Oldest Ontology

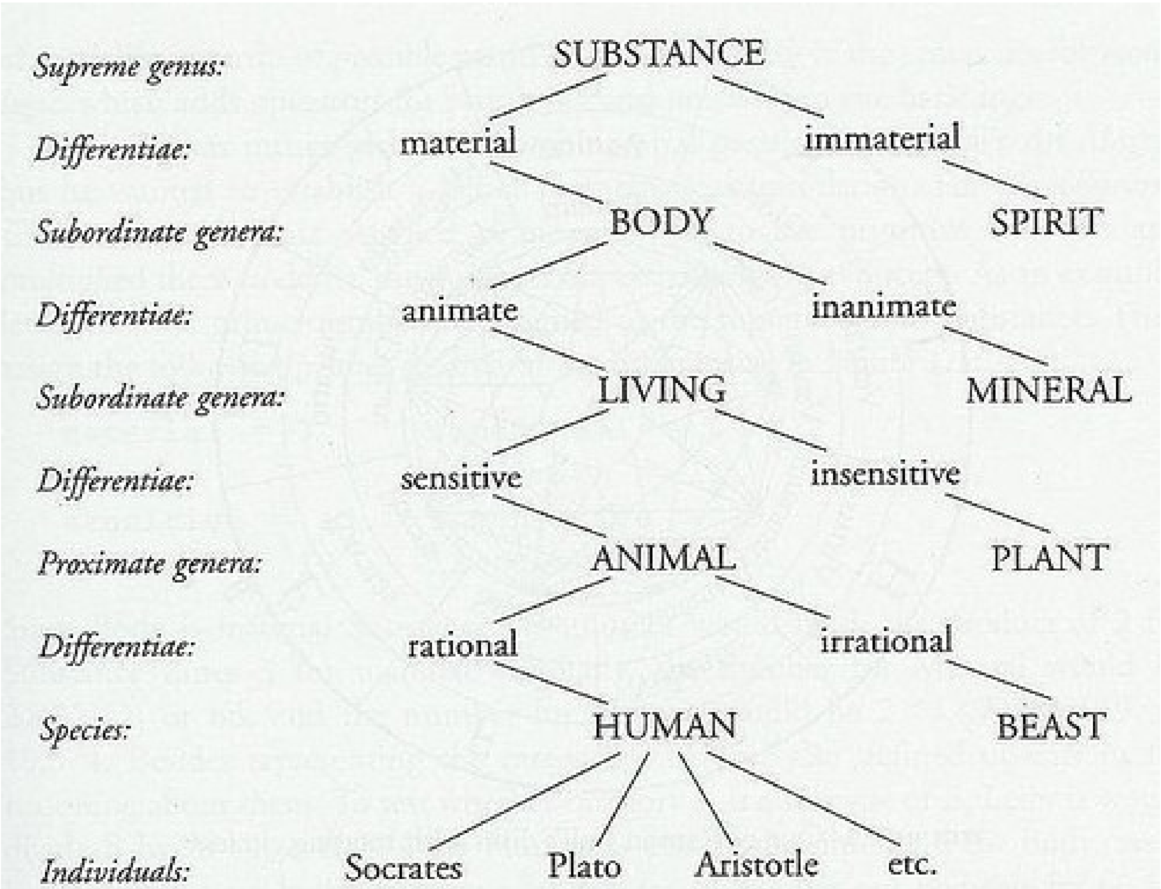


FIGURE 1.1 Tree of Porphyry, translated from a version by Peter of Spain (1239)

Porphyry, Greek philosopher, ca. 234-305

Encoding Simple Ontologies: RDFS

- A W3C Standard since 2004
- Most important element: classes

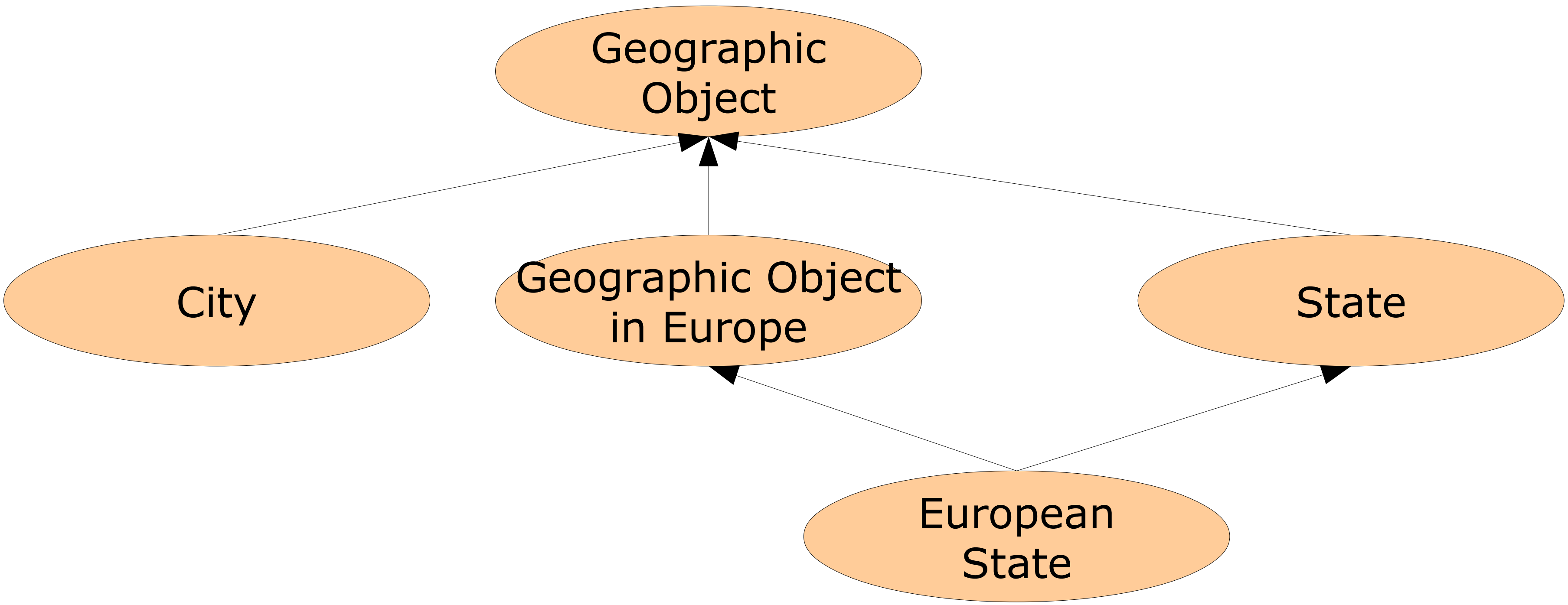
```
:State a rdfs:Class .
```

- Classes form hierarchies

```
:EuropeanState rdfs:subClassOf :State .
```

Class Hierarchies in RDF Schema

- Multiple inheritance is possible



Convention for this course: unlabeled arrows = rdfs:subClassOf

Properties in RDF Schema

- Properties are the other important element
- resemble two-valued predicates in predicate logic

```
:Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
:capitalOf a rdf:Property .
```

- Properties also form hierarchies

```
:capitalOf rdfs:subPropertyOf :locatedIn .
```

Domains and Ranges of Properties

- In general, properties exist independently from classes
  - i.e., they are *first class citizens*
  - this is different than OOP or ERM

- Defining the domain and range of a property:

```
:capitalOf rdfs:domain :City .
:capitalOf rdfs:range :Country .
```

- Domain and range are inherited by sub properties
  - They can also be further restricted

Predefined Properties

- We have already seen

```
rdf:type
rdfs:subClassOf
rdfs:subPropertyOf
rdfs:domain
rdfs:range
```

Further Predefined Properties

- Labels:

```
:Germany rdfs:label "Deutschland"@de .
:Germany rdfs:label "Germany"@en .
```

- Comments:

```
:Germany rdfs:comment "Germany as a political
entity."@en .
```

- Links to other resources:

```
:Germany rdfs:seeAlso <http://www.deutschland.de/> .
```

- Link to defining schema:

```
:Country rdfs:isDefinedBy
<http://foo.bar/countries.rdfs> .
```

URIs vs. Labels

- A URI is only a unique identifier
  - it does not need to be interpretable

```
http://www.countries.org/4327893
```

- Labels are made for human interpretation
- ...and can come in different languages:

```
countries:4327893 rfds:label "Deutschland"@de .
countries:4327893 rdfs:label "Germany"@en .
countries:4327893 rdfs:label "Tyskland"@sv .
...
```

URIs vs. Labels

- Labels and comments can also be assigned to RDFS elements:

```
:Country a rdfs:Class .
:Country rdfs:label "Land"@de .
:Country rdfs:label "Country"@en .

:locatedIn a rdf:Property .
:locatedIn rdfs:label "liegt in"@de .
:locatedIn rdfs:label "is located in"@en .
:locatedIn rdfs:comment "refers to geography"@en .
```

RDF Schema and RDF

- Every RDF Schema document is also an RDF document
- This means: all properties of RDF also hold for RDFS!

- Non-unique Naming Assumption

```
schema1:Country a rdfs:Class .
schema2:State a rdfs:Class .
```

- Open World Assumption

```
:Country rdfs:subClassOf :GeographicObject .
:City rdfs:subClassOf : GeographicObject .
```

Our First Ontology

- States, cities, and capitals

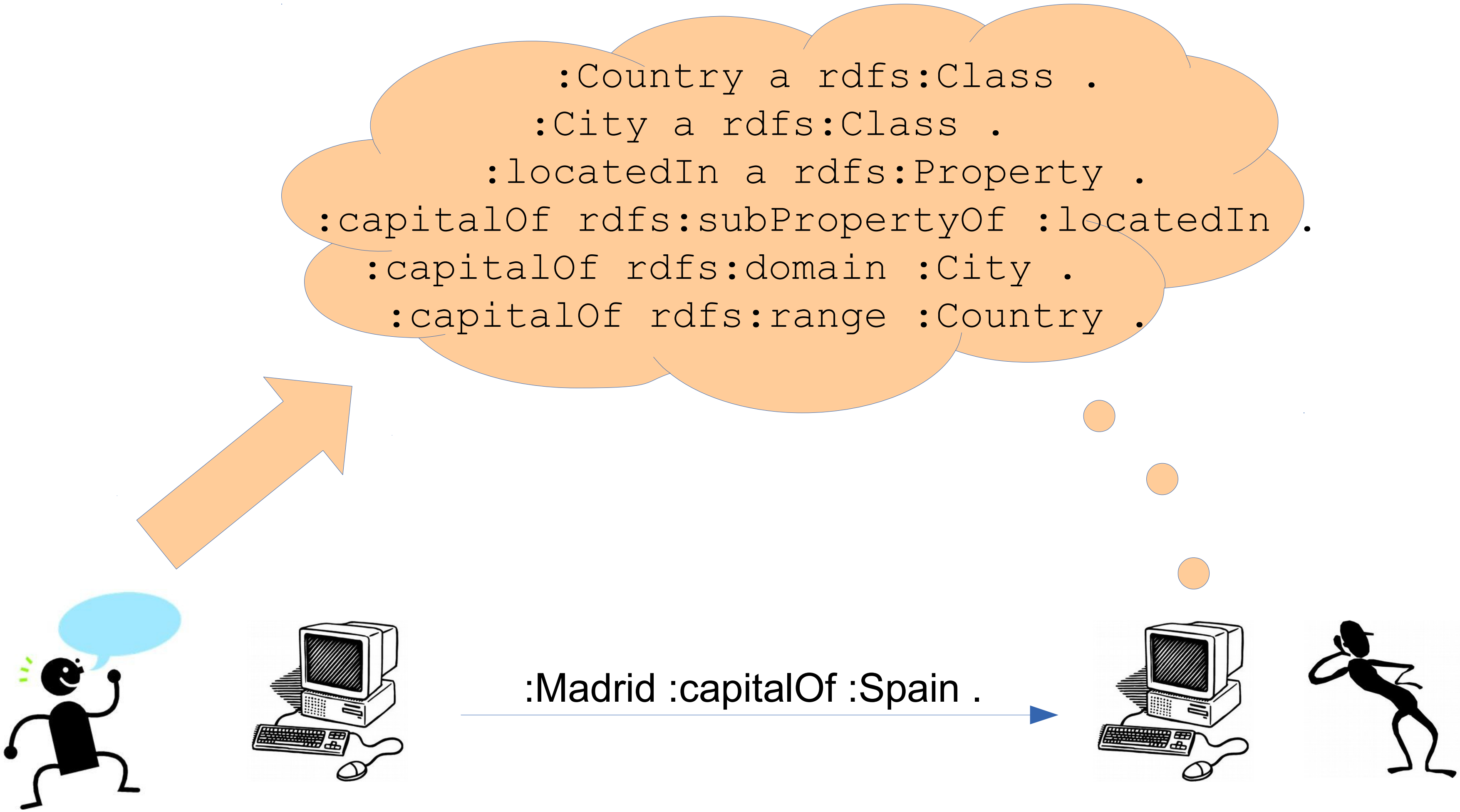
```
:State a rdfs:Class .
:City a rdfs:Class .
:locatedIn a rdf:Property .
:capitalOf rdfs:subPropertyOf :locatedIn .
:capitalOf rdfs:domain :City .
:capitalOf rdfs:range :State .

:Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
```

Definition of the Terminology (T-Box)

Definition of the Assertions (A-box)

What do We Gain Now?



What do We Gain Now?

```
   :Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
+  :capitalOf rdfs:domain :City
→  :Madrid a :City .
```

```
   :Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
+  :capitalOf rdfs:range:Country
→  :Spain a :Country .
```

```
   :Madrid :capitalOf :Spain .
+  :capitalOf rdfs:subPropertyOf :locatedIn .
→  :Madrid :locatedIn :Spain .
```

Reasoning with RDF

- RDF Schema allows for *deductive* reasoning on RDF
- This means:
  - given facts and rules,
  - we can derive new facts
- The corresponding tools are called *reasoner*

- Opposite of deduction: *induction*
  - deriving models from facts
  - see, e.g., lectures on data mining and machine learning

A Bit of History

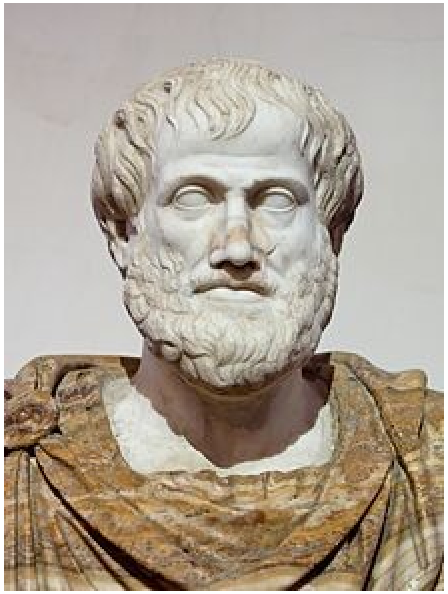
- Aristotle (384 – 322 BC)
- Syllogisms
  - Deriving facts using rules

- Example:

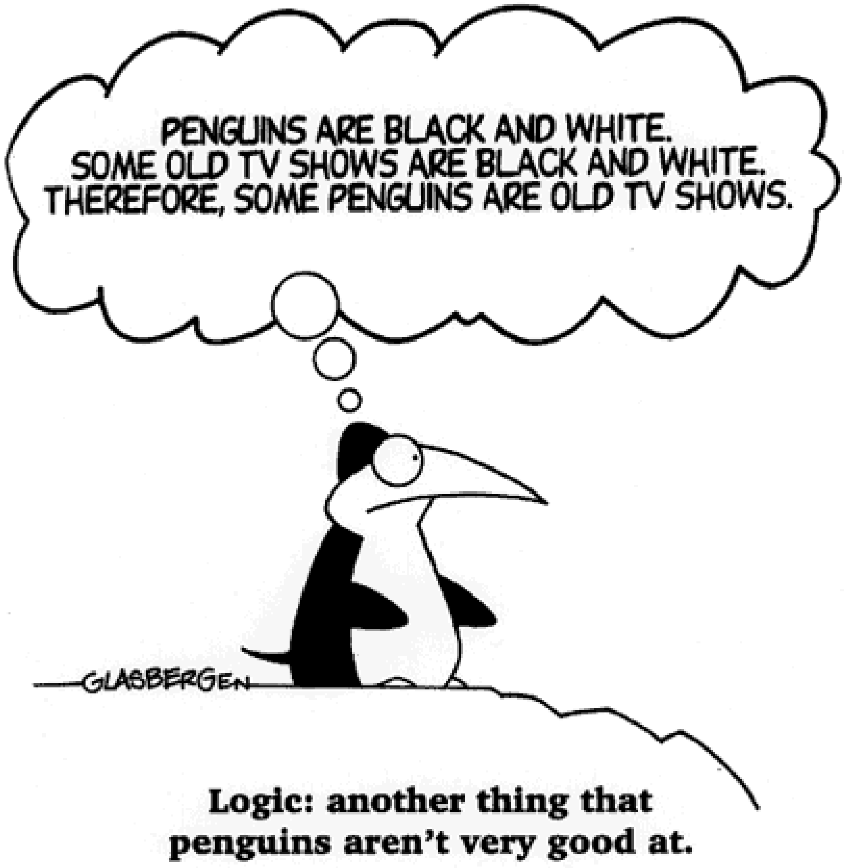
  All men are mortal.

  Socrates is a man.

  → Socrates is mortal.



A Bit of History



Cartoon Copyright: Randy Glasbergen, http://www.glasbergen.com/

Interpretation and Entailment

- Entailment
  - The set of all consequences of a graph
- Mapping a graph to an entailment is called *interpretation*
- Simplest Interpretation:
  - $<s,p,o> \in G \rightarrow <s,p,o> \in$ Entailment
- This interpretation creates all statements explicitly contained in the graph.
- But the *implicit* statements are the interesting ones!

Interpretation using Deduction Rules

- RDF interpretation can be done using RDFS deduction rules
- Those create an entailment
  - using existing resources, literals, and properties
  - creating additional triples like <s,p,o>
  - e.g.,
    - <Madrid, rdf:type, City>
    - <Madrid, located_in, Spain>
- Note:
  - no *new* resources, literals, or properties are created!

Reasoning with Deduction Rules

- Deduction rules are an interpretation function
- Simple reasoning algorithm (a.k.a. *forward chaining*):

```
Given: an RDF Graph G
a set of deduction rules R
Entailment E = G
Repeat
       M := { }
       For all rules in R
              For each statement S in E
                     Apply R to S
                     If E does not contain consequence
                            Add consequence to M
       Add all elements in M to E
until M = { }
```

Deduction Rules for RDF Schema (1)

ID	Condition	Consequence
rdf1	s p o .	p rdf:type rdf:Property .
rdfs1	s p l . l is a Literal	l rdf:type rdfs:Literal .
rdfs2	s p o . p rdfs:domain c .	s rdf:type c .
rdfs3	s p o . p rdfs:range c .	o rdf:type c .
rdfs4a	s p o .	s rdf:type rdfs:Resource .
rdfs4b	s p o . o is a URI or blank node	o rdf:type rdfs:Resource .
rdfs5	p1 rdfs:subPropertyOf p2 . p2 rdfs:subPropertyOf P3 .	p1 rdfs:subPropertyOf p3 .
rdfs6	p rdf:type rdf:Property .	p rdfs:subPropertyOf p .

W3C (2004): *RDF Semantics.* http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-mt/

Deduction Rules for RDF Schema (2)

ID	Condition	Consequence
rdfs7	p1 rdfs:subPropertyOf p2 . s p1 o .	s p2 o.
rdfs8	c rdf:type rdfs:Class .	c rdfs:subClassOf rdfs:Resource.
rdfs9	s rdf:type c1 . c1 rdfs:subClassOf c2 .	s rdf:type c2 .
rdfs10	c rdf:type rdfs:Class .	c rdfs:subClassOf c .
rdfs11	c1 rdfs:subClassOf c2 . c2 rdfs:subClassOf c3 .	c1 rdfs:subClassOf c3 .
rdfs12	p rdf:type rdfs:container-MembershipProperty.	p rdfs:subPropertyOf rdfs:member .
rdfs13	d rdf:type rdfs:Datatype .	d rdfs:subClassOf rdfs:Literal .

W3C (2004): *RDF Semantics.* http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-mt/

Applying Deduction Rules

- Another Example

```
:Employee a rdfs:Class .
:Employee rdfs:subClassOf :Human .
:Room a rdfs:Class .
:worksIn rdfs:subPropertyOf :hasOffice .
:hasOffice rdfs:domain :Employee .
:hasOffice rdfs:range :Room .


:Tim :worksIn :D0815 .
```

Applying Deduction Rules

- Example:

```
s=   :Tim
p1=  :worksIn
o=   :D0815
p2=  :hasOffice
```

```
:Tim :worksIn :D0815 .
:worksIn rdfs:subPropertyOf :hasOffice .
```

ID	Condition	Consequence
rdfs7	p1 rdfs:subPropertyOf p2 . s p1 o .	s p2 o.

→ :Tim :hasOffice :D0815 .

Applying Deduction Rules

- Example:

```
:Tim :hasOffice :D0815 .
:hasOffice rdfs:domain :Employee .
```

```
s= :Tim
p= :hasOffice
o= :D0815
c= :Employee
```

ID	Condition	Consequence
rdfs2	s p o . p rdfs:domain c .	s rdf:type c .

→ :Tim rdf:type :Employee .

Applying Deduction Rules

- Example:

```
:Tim rdf:type :Employee.
:Employee rdfs:subClassOf :Human .
```

```
s= :Tim
c1=:Employee
c2=:Human
```

ID	Condition	Consequence
rdfs9	s rdf:type c1 . c1 rdfs:subClassOf c2 .	s rdf:type c2 .

→ :Tim rdf:type :Human .

Forward Chaining

- Example revisited:

```
:Employee a rdfs:Class .
:Employee rdfs:subClassOf :Human .
:Room a rdfs:Class .
:worksIn rdfs:subPropertyOf :hasOffice .
:hasOffice rdfs:domain :Employee .
:hasOffice rdfs:range :Room .


:Tim :worksIn :D0815 .


→ :Tim hasOffice :D0815 .
→ :Tim rdf:type Employee .
→ :Tim rdf:type Human .
```

What if there are Multiple Domains/Ranges?

- Example for social networks:

```
:knows rdfs:domain :Person .
:knows rdfs:domain :MemberOfSocialNetwork .
```

- What should be the semantics here?
  - Everybody who knows someone
    is a person *and* a member of a social network
  - Everybody who knows someone
    is a person *or* a member of a social network

The Rules will Tell Us

```
                   :knows rdfs:domain :Person.                     (a0)
                   :knows rdfs:domain :MemberOfSocialNetwork .     (a1)
                   :Peter :knows :Stephen .                        (a2)
(rdfs2+a0+a2)      :Peter rdf:type :Person .                       (a3)
(rdfs2+a1+a2)      :Peter rdf:type :MemberOfSocialNetwork .        (a4)
                   ...
```

- This chain works for each object
  - it is always contained in both classes

    → i.e., the intersection semantics hold

What have We Gained?

- Let's look at that sentence:
  - "Madrid is the capital of Spain."

- We can get the following information:
  - "Madrid is the capital of Spain." ✓
  - "Spain is a state." ✓
  - "Madrid is a city." ✓
  - "Madrid is located in Spain." ✓
  - "Barcelona is not the capital of Spain." ✖
  - "Madrid is not the capital of France." ✖
  - "Madrid is not a state." ✖
  - ...

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- "Every state has *exactly one* capital"
  - Property cardinalities
- "Every city can only be the capital of one state."
  - Functional properties
- "A city cannot be a state at the same time."
  - Class disjointness
- ...

- For those, we need more expressive languages than RDFS!

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- "Every state has *exactly* one capital"
  - i.e., "A state can*not* have more than one capital."
- “Every city can only be the capital of one state."
  - i.e., "A city can*not* be the capital of two *different* states.*”*
- "A city can*not* be a state at the same time."

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- Note: there is no negation in RDF and RDFS

- This means, we cannot produce any contradictions
  - This makes reasoning easy
  - But it also restricts the utility
  - Example:

    Mammals do not lay eggs
    Penguins lay eggs
    → Penguins are not mammals

- We will get to know formalisms that support negation
  - and learn how to do reasoning with them

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- The missing negation perfectly fits the AAA principle
  - Anybody can say anything about anything
- ...and the Open World Assumption

- Any new knowledge will always fit to the knowledge that is already there
  - This principle is called “monotonicity”

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- Kurt Gödel (1906-1978)
- Logic systems are either
  - not very powerful or
  - not free of contradictions
- RDF Schema belongs to the first class

What we Cannot Express (up to Now)

- Jim Hendler (*1957)

- "A little semantics goes a long way."

Just a moment

- "We cannot produce any contradictions"
- so what about

  :Peter a :Baby .

  :Peter a :Adult .

- That is a contradiction!

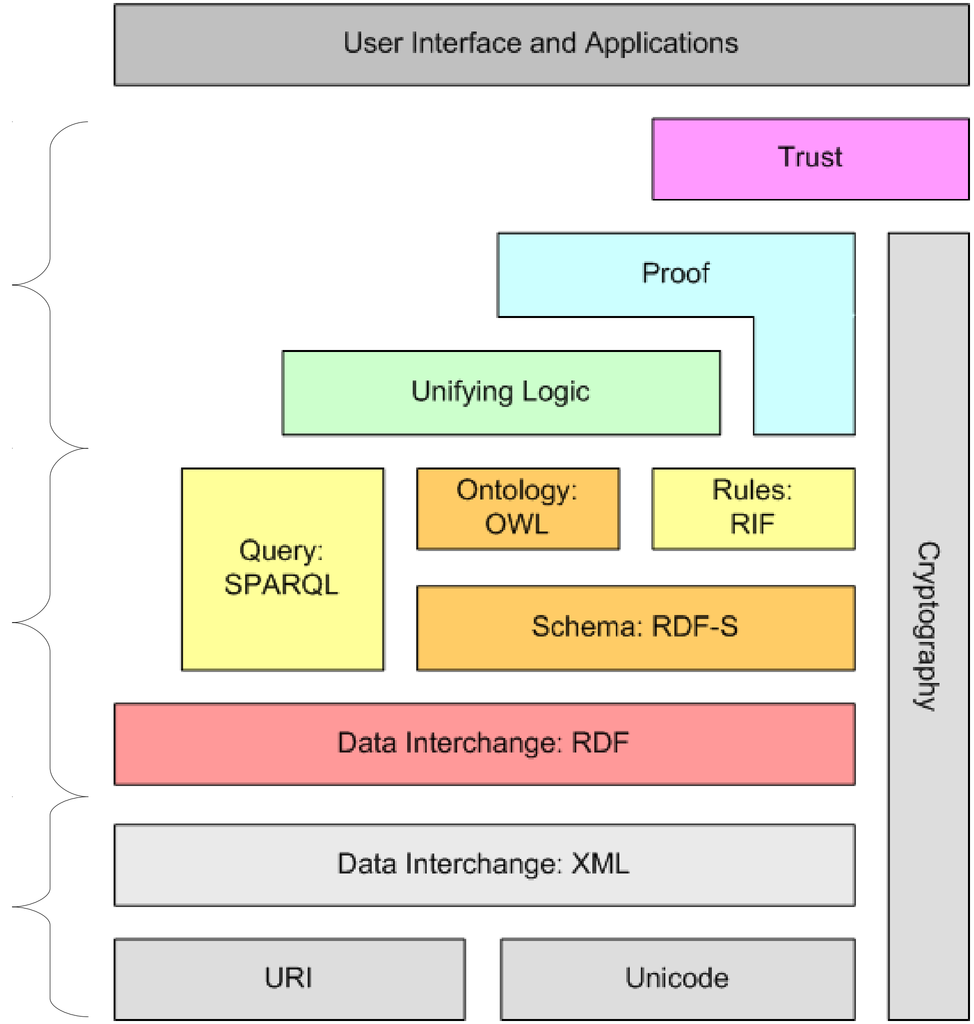
- Well, it is – for us human beings
- But a computer will not know
  - Non-unique name assumption!

Semantic Web – Architecture

here be dragons...

Semantic Web
Technologies
(This lecture)

Technical
Foundations



Berners-Lee (2009): *Semantic Web and Linked Data*
http://www.w3.org/2009/Talks/0120-campus-party-tbl/

Questions?