

Ontology as manifold: towards symbolic and numerical artificial embedding

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Ontology as manifold: towards symbolic and numeric artificial embedding

Chloé Mercier, Frédéric Alexandre, Thierry Viéville



How to model human cognition with regard to...

Psychologically inspired symbolic reasoning

Biologically plausible spiking neural networks

We propose a geometric mapping of ontologies onto neuronal manifolds

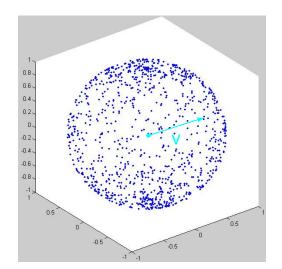
RDF(S): Resource Description Framework (Schema)

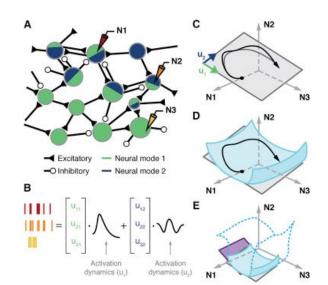
OWL: Web Ontology Language

VSA: Vector Symbolic Architecture SPA: Semantic Pointer Architecture NEF: Neural Engineering Framework



- Each symbol encoded as a vector sampled from the unit hypersphere
- High-dimensional vector space => random vectors approximately orthogonal





The neural manifold hypothesis (Gallego et al, 2017)



- Each symbol encoded as a vector sampled from the unit hypersphere
- High-dimensional vector space => random vectors approximately orthogonal
- Dot product as a similarity measure:

compares the semantic meaning of 2 vectors.



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compares the semantic meaning of 2 vectors.

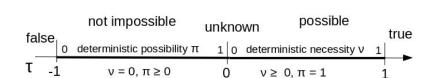
Closed-world reasoning	Open-world reasoning
Anything that cannot be stated true is false	Anything might be true, unless proven false
$\tau \in \{0,1\}$	τ ∈ {-1, 0, 1}



- Each symbol encoded as a vector sampled from the unit hypersphere
- High-dimensional vector space => random vectors approximately orthogonal
- Dot product as a similarity measure:

compares the semantic meaning of 2 vectors.

Closed-world reasoning	Open-world reasoning	Possibility theory
Anything that cannot be stated true is false	Anything might be true, unless proven false	Anything has a certain degree of possibility and necessity
$\tau \in \{0,1\}$	$\tau \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$	$\tau \in [-1,1]$





Structuring the universe of discourse

- symbols: resources
 - classes (concepts)
 - individuals (instances)
 - properties (roles)
- facts: (weighted) *triples*

(subject, predicate, object), τ



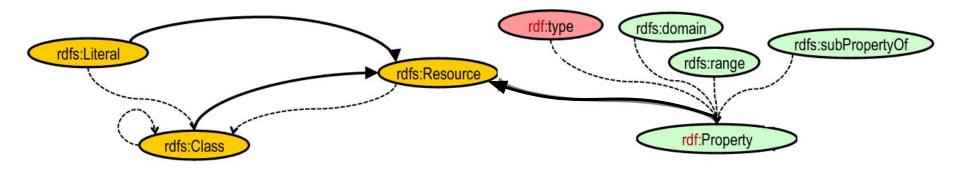
Structuring the universe of discourse

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 - properties (roles)
- facts: (weighted) triples





RDF/RDFS: Resource Description Framework (Schema)

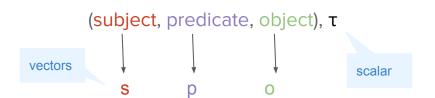


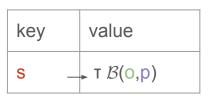
- RDF: Resource Description Framework
 - → syntax: (subject, predicate, object) triples
- RDFS: RDF Schema
 - → metamodel of RDF, written in RDF
 - → allows to write (lightweight) ontologies and draw inferences



A triplestore using associative memories









(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁), T₁

key	value
s ₁ _	► T ₁ β(o ₁ ,p ₁)



(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁), τ₁
(subject₂, predicate₂, object₂), τ₂

key	value
s ₁ _	_► τ ₁ Β(ο ₁ ,ρ ₁)
s ₂ -	► τ ₂ β(ο ₂ ,ρ ₂)



(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁), τ₁
(subject₂, predicate₂, object₂), τ₂
(subject₂, predicate₃, object₃), τ₃

key	value
s ₁ –	$_{\rightarrow}$ T ₁ $\mathcal{B}(o_1,p_1)$
s ₂ -	$+ \tau_2 \mathcal{B}(o_2, p_2) + \tau_3 \mathcal{B}(o_3, p_3)$



```
(subject<sub>1</sub>, predicate<sub>1</sub>, object<sub>1</sub>), τ<sub>1</sub>
(subject<sub>2</sub>, predicate<sub>2</sub>, object<sub>2</sub>), τ<sub>2</sub>
(subject<sub>2</sub>, predicate<sub>3</sub>, object<sub>3</sub>), τ<sub>3</sub>
```

key	value
s ₁ –	$_{\rightarrow}$ T ₁ $\mathcal{B}(o_1,p_1)$
s ₂ -	$+ T_2 \mathcal{B}(o_2, p_2) + T_3 \mathcal{B}(o_3, p_3)$

Need to introduce:

- scalar multiplication a = та
- vector superposition c = a + b
- vector binding $c = \mathcal{B}(a,b)$
- ⇒ Semantic Pointer Architecture (Eliasmith et al. 2013)



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A Semantic Pointer triplestore

(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁), τ₁
(subject₂, predicate₂, object₂), τ₂
(subject₂, predicate₃, object₃), τ₃

key	value
s ₁ –	$_{\rightarrow}$ T ₁ $\mathcal{B}(o_1,p_1)$
s ₂ -	$+ \tau_2 \mathcal{B}(o_2, p_2) + \tau_3 \mathcal{B}(o_3, p_3)$

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Vector-derived Transformation Binding

(Gosmann and Eliasmith, 2019)

- Square dimensionality d with d'² = d
- Binding operation defined as:

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{B_y x} = egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B_y'} & 0 & 0 \ 0 & \mathbf{B_y'} & 0 \ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{B_y'} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \quad \text{where } \mathbf{B_y'} = d^{rac{1}{4}} egin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_{d'} \ y_{d'+1} & y_{d'+2} & \dots & y_{2d'} \ dots & dots & \ddots & dots \ y_{d-d'+1} & y_{d-d'+2} & \dots & y_{d} \ \end{pmatrix}$$

- Non commutative, non associative
- Distributive and bilinear
- Admits right identity and right inverse

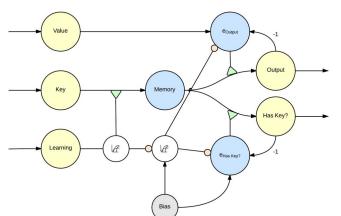


(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁), τ₁
(subject₂, predicate₂, object₂), τ₂
(subject₂, predicate₃, object₃), τ₃

key	value
s ₁ –	$_{\rightarrow}$ T ₁ $\mathcal{B}(o_1,p_1)$
s ₂ -	$+ \tau_2 \mathcal{B}(o_2, p_2) + \tau_3 \mathcal{B}(o_3, p_3)$

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NEF Associative Memory (Voelker et al, 2014)

yellow circles: passthrough nodes blue circles: neuron ensembles orange connections: inhibitory green connections: modulatory



(subject₁, predicate₁, object₁)

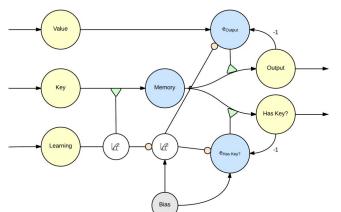
(subject₂, predicate₂, object₂)

(subject₂, predicate₃, object₃)

key	value
s ₁ _	$\rightarrow \mathcal{B}(o_1,p_1)$
s ₂ -	$-\mathcal{B}(o_2, p_2) + \mathcal{B}(o_3, p_3)$

Need to introduce:

- scalar multiplication a = та
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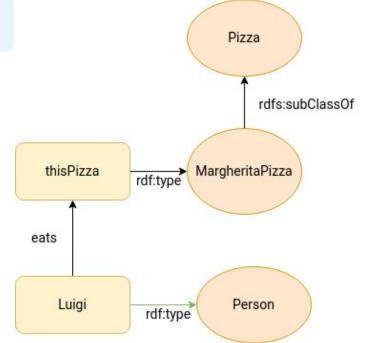
Example of inference

inspired by

https://protege.stanford.edu/ ontologies/pizza/pizza.owl

Inheritance inference rule:

 $x \text{ rdf:type } c & c \text{ rdfs:subClassOf } c' \Rightarrow x \text{ rdf:type } c'$





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inspired by https://protege.stanford.edu/ ontologies/pizza/pizza.owl

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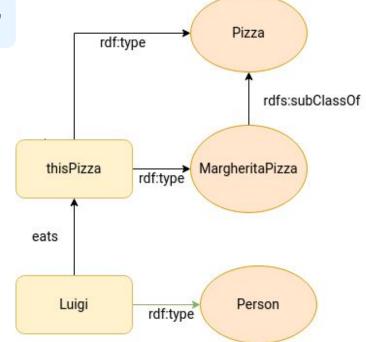
Sufficient condition:

f Btype f Bsubclass o f Btype

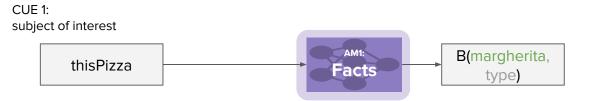
"inference rule" stored into a 2nd AM:

type ⊘ subclass → type

where $x \circ y$ is such that $B_{x \circ y} = B_x B_y$

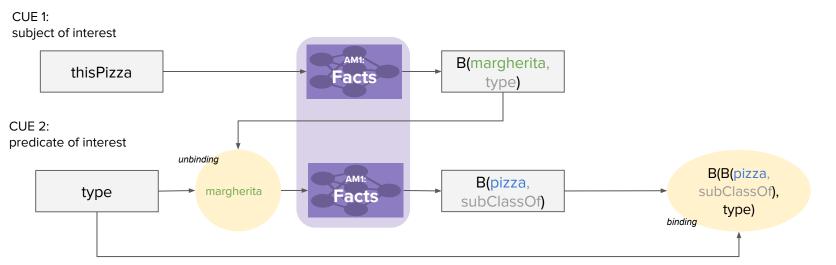




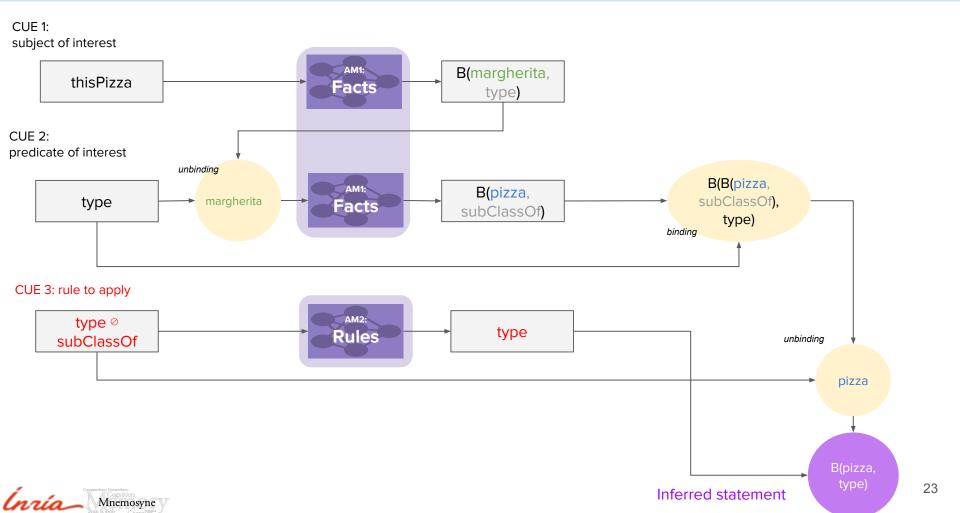


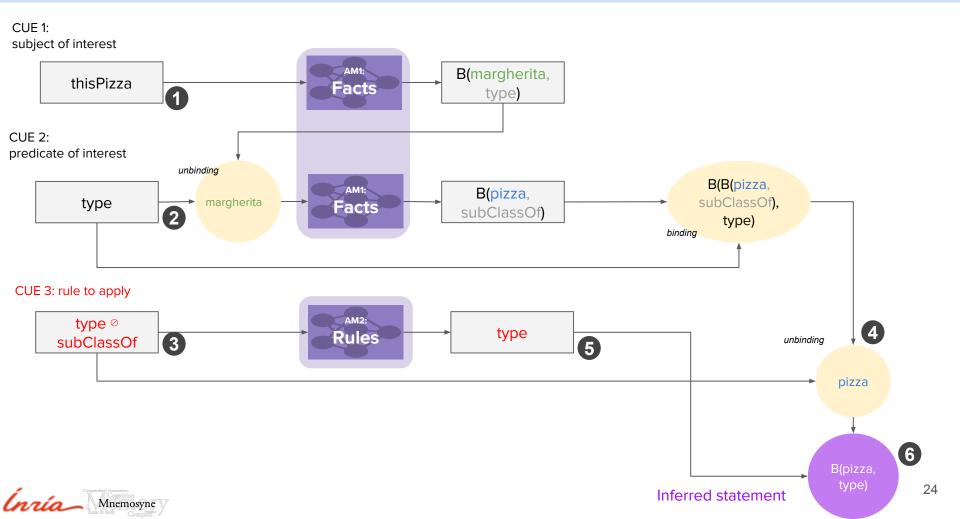


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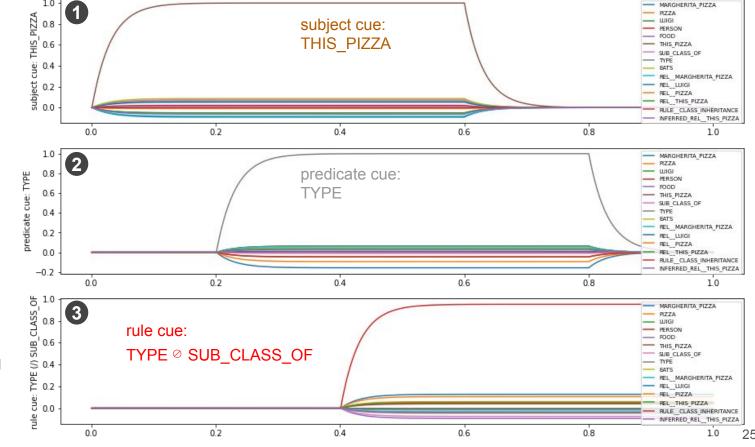








Simulation on Nengo

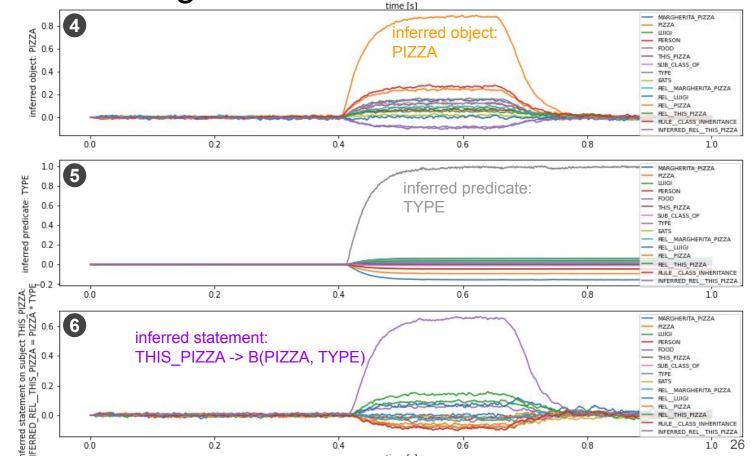


Plotted here are the input cue signals: accounting respectively for the subject, the predicate and the rule to apply.



Simulation on Nengo

Plotted here are the outputs given by the model: the object associated to the given subject and predicate, the simplified predicate obtained from the rule (subClass * type -> type, from the 2nd AM) and the final statement inferred.





Underlying mathematics



Vector-derived Transformation Binding (VTB)

(Gosmann and Eliasmith, 2019)

- Square dimensionality d with d'² = d
- Binding operation defined as:

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{x} = egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}' & 0 & 0 \ 0 & \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}' & 0 \ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}' \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \qquad ext{where} \qquad \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}' = d^{rac{1}{4}} egin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_{d'} \ y_{d'+1} & y_{d'+2} & \dots & y_{2d'} \ dots & dots & dots & \ddots & dots \ y_{d-d'+1} & y_{d-d'+2} & \dots & y_d \end{bmatrix}$$

- Non commutative, non associative
- Distributive and bilinear



VT unbinding

(Gosmann and Eliasmith, 2019)

- VTB admits right approximate inverses:
 - the right approximate inverse **y~** for **y** is such that:

$$orall \mathbf{x}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}),\mathbf{y}^\sim)) = \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{v}^\sim} \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$$

- \circ $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}$ almost orthogonal: $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{v}^{\sim}} = \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{v}}^{ op}$
 - => just permute the elements of y to get y~
- Right identity vector is such that $\forall x, \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{i_B}) = \mathbf{x}$ ie $\mathbf{B_{i_B}} = \mathbf{I}$



VT unbinding

Check if a property is a predicate for a given resource and, if so, retrieve the corresponding object:

$$\mathbf{x} o \mathbf{z} = \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p})$$

- Unbind p: $\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{z},\mathbf{p}^{\sim}) = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathbf{y},\mathbf{p}),\mathbf{p}^{\sim}) = \mathbf{y}$
- Check if the result belongs to the vocabulary: $\exists \mathbf{y}' \in \text{voc}, \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{y}' = 1$? (if similarity is -1 < τ < 1, the statement is possible to some extent)



VT unbinding

What if want to check if two resources are linked to each other by a predicate and, if so, retrieve the corresponding property (left unbinding)?

We can flip the order of the operands using a well-chosen matrix $\; {f B}_{\leftrightarrow}$: $\; {\cal B}({f y},{f p}) = {f B}_{\leftrightarrow} {\cal B}({f p},{f y})$

- => Check if two resources are linked to each other by a predicate and, if so, retrieve the corresponding property:
 - Flip the operands (multiply by $\mathbf{B}_{\leftrightarrow}$)
 - Unbind y (multiply by the transpose of By)
 - Check if the result is semantically close to a word from the vocabulary (compute the dot product)



About the operator ∅

We introduce a vector composition operator making explicit the composition of two VTB operations, namely:

$$\mathbf{B_v} = \mathbf{B_v} \, \mathbf{B_x} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{v} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \mathbf{y} \oslash \mathbf{x}$$
 computable in $O\left(d^{rac{3}{2}}
ight)$

$$[\mathbf{v}]_i = \sqrt{d'} \sum_{k=1}^{k=d'} [\mathbf{y}]_{k+(i-1) \text{ div } d'} [\mathbf{x}]_{1+d'(k-1)+(i-1) \text{ mod } d'}$$

It commutes with the approximate inverse:(vérifier formulation)

$$(\mathbf{y} \oslash \mathbf{x})^\sim = \mathbf{x}^\sim \oslash \mathbf{y}^\sim$$
 where $\mathbf{x}^\sim \oslash \mathbf{x} \simeq \mathbf{i}_{\mathrm{B}}$



Towards more reasoning power



Beyond the type inheritance inference

- Covering all RDFS entailments reduced to the rule schema developed here, e.g.:
 - property inference (e.g., if Bob is the son of Ali then Bob is of the same family as Ali)
 - o range inference (e.g., if Bob is the son of Ali, then Bob is a male)
 - o domain inference (e.g., if Bob is the son of Ali, then Ali is a human) etc...
- To what extent could it be applicable to description logics and OWL entailment rules?
- SWRL rules (i.e., inference rules expressed directly as rewriting rules on variables) stored in associative memories?



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All RDFS entailments

- Everything is a resource
 - o IF x p y THEN
 - x rdf:type rdfs:Resource
 - y rdf:type rdfs:Resource
- Any class is a subclass of rdfs:Resource
 - F c rdf:type rdfs:Class THEN
 - c rdfs:subClassOf rdfs:Resource
- Type propagation
 - o **IF** c2 rdfs:subClassOf c1
 - o AND x rdf:type c2
 - THEN x rdf:type c1
- Subsumption reflexivity
 - o **IF** c rdf:type rdfs:Class
 - THEN c rdfs:subClassOf c
- Subsumption transitivity
 - o **IF** c2 rdfs:subClassOf c1
 - o AND c3 rdfs:subClassOf c3
 - THEN c3 rdfs:subClassOf c1

- Property propagation
 - o **IF** p2 rdfs:subPropertyOf p1
 - o AND x p2 y
 - THEN x p1 y
- Property subsumption reflexivity
 - IF p rdf:type rdf:Property
 - THEN p rdfs:subPropertyOf p
- Property subsumption transitivity
 - o **IF** p2 rdfs:subPropertyOf p1
 - o AND p3 rdfs:subPropertyOf p2
 - THEN p3 rdfs:subPropertyOf p1
- Type inference (domain)
 - Fp rdfs:domain d AND x p y
 - THEN x rdf:type d
- Type inference (range)
 - IF p rdfs:range r AND x p y
 - THEN v rdf:type r



Type inheritance

inspired by https://protege.stanford.edu/ ontologies/pizza/pizza.owl

 $x \text{ rdf:type } c & c \text{ rdfs:subClassOf } c' \Rightarrow x \text{ rdf:type } c'$

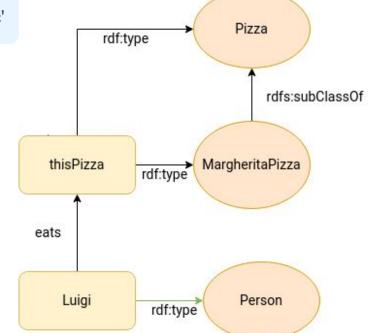
Sufficient condition:

f Btype f Bsubclass o f Btype

"inference rule" stored into a 2nd AM:

type ⊘ subclass → type

where $x \circ y$ is such that $B_{x \circ y} = B_x B_y$



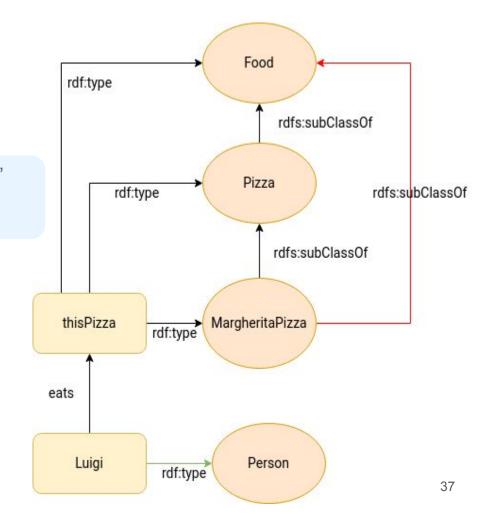
Subsumption transitivity

C rdfs:subClassOfC' & C'rdfs:subClassOf C"

⇒ C rdfs:subClassOfC"

Stored in 2nd AM as:

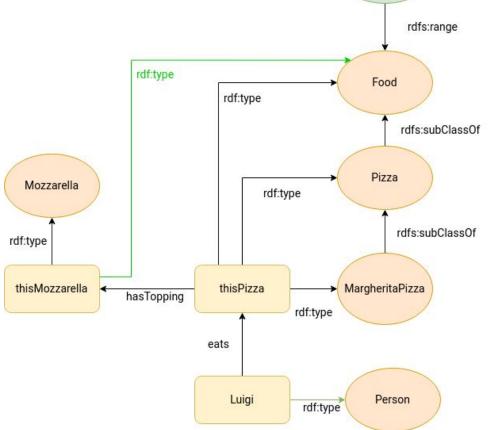
subClassOf ⊘ subClassOf → subClassOf





hasTopping

Domain and range inferences





Domain and range inferences

p rdfs:domain C & x p y

⇒ x rdf:type C

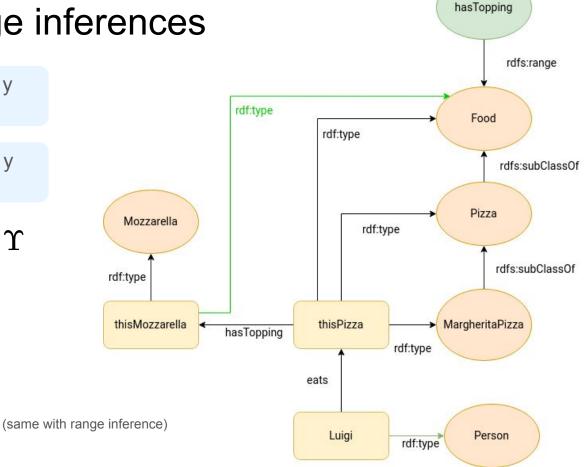
p rdfs:range C & xpy
⇒ y rdf:type C

We introduce an UNKNOWN vector Υ (accounting for OWA) such that:

$$\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{B}_{\mathrm{domain}}c}\Upsilon\Rightarrow\mathbf{B}_{\mathrm{type}}c$$

AM1 $p o \mathbf{B_{domain}} c \ x o \mathbf{B_p} \Upsilon$

AM2 $x o \mathbf{B_{type}} c$





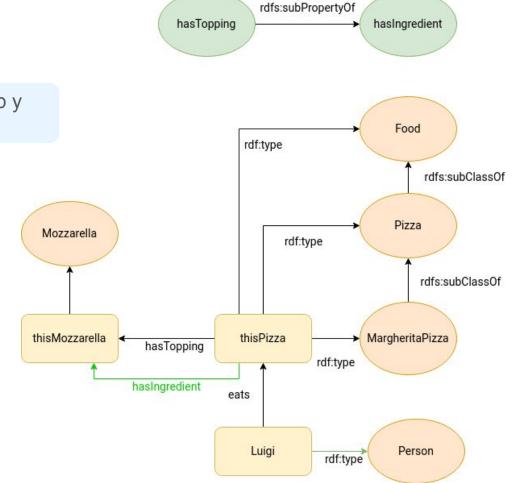
Property propagation

p rdfs:subPropertyOf q & x p y $\Rightarrow x q y$

Using our previous architecture, this kind of inference is only possible when

 ${f subPropertyOf}=i_B$

Is this consistent?
Why not do the same for all "is_a" relationships (subClassOf, type) ?... => ongoing work





Gabriel's internship: subproperty inference

$$_{s}^{po}\mathcal{B}\ _{s}^{po}\mathcal{B}\mathbf{subPropertyOf}=_{s}^{po}\mathcal{B}$$

would mean $\mathbf{subPropertyOf} = i_B$

Is this consistent? Why not do the same for all "is_a" relationships (subClassOf, type) ?... => ongoing work (requires a slightly different architecture)



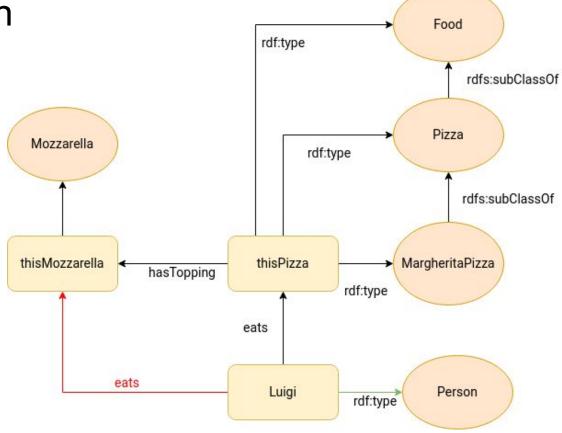
Property composition

Rules such as

eats \circ hasTopping \rightarrow eats

to infer relational compositions

(not part of RDFS entailments, but similar to OWL *property chains*)



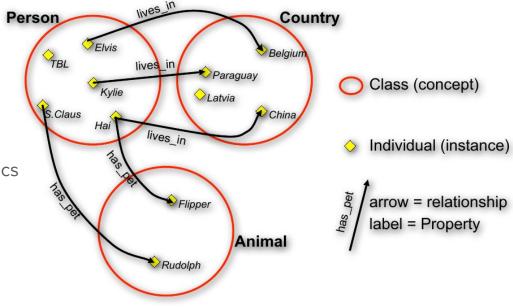


OWL: another representation for knowledge

Web Ontology Language

semantics based on description logics => fragment of 1st-order logic

more reasoning capabilities, computability and decidability under constraints









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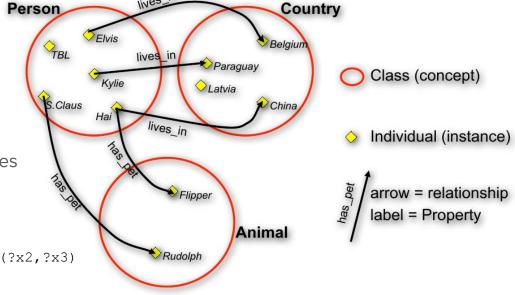
OWL + SWRL



Completes OWL with implication rules (written with variables, e.g. ?x):

hasParent(?x1,?x2) \land hasBrother(?x2,?x3)

 \Rightarrow hasUncle(?x1,?x3)





Alternate implementation: a compressed triplestore vector



An alternate implementation of entailment closure

All triplets are memorized in a store that is merely a sum of vectors:

$$\mathbf{s} = \sum_i \mathbf{B}_{\$\mathbf{p}_i} \, \mathbf{B}_{\$\mathbf{s}_i} \, \$\mathbf{o}_i = \sum_i \mathbf{B}_{\$\mathbf{p}_i \oslash \$\mathbf{s}_i} \, \$\mathbf{o}_i = \sum_i \mathbf{B}_{\$\mathbf{p}_i} \, \mathbf{B}_{\leftrightarrow} \, \mathbf{B}_{\$\mathbf{o}_i} \, \$\mathbf{s}_i$$

allowing to enumerate all (subject, object) of a property, i.e., select by predicate, also by predicate and subject or by predicate and object.

Given an entailment rule of the form:

$$(\$s_1 \$p_1 \$o_1.)$$
 and $(\$s_2 \$p_2 \$o_2.) \Rightarrow (\$s_0 \lambda \$p_0 \$o_0.)$

where $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ allows to consider approximate inference.



Note that for an efficient retrieval, when storing triples, we can index them either by subject, object or property:

$$egin{aligned} egin{aligned} egin{aligned} egin{aligned} egin{aligned} eta & \mathcal{B}(p,y) &= \mathcal{B}(p,y) &= \mathcal{B}_y p \ egin{aligned} egin$$

B is a bilinear form.



The class inheritance example:

 $(\$s \text{ rdf:type } \$c_1.) \text{ and } (\$c_1 \text{ rdfs:subClassOf } \$c_2.) \Rightarrow (\$s \text{ rdf:type } \$c_2.)$

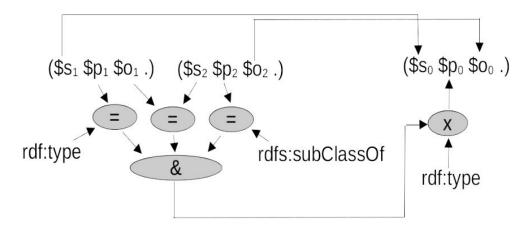
Open (new) triple box Enumerate the matched triples Iterate on new triples

Closed (known) triple box

```
input A new triple (\$s_0 \$p_0 \$o_0.) and a closed set of triples {(\$s_i \$p_i \$o_i.) \cdots }.
let \{(\$s_0 \$p_0 \$o_0)\} an "open" triple set, initialized with the new triple inside.
repeat
    pull a triple (\$s_0 \$p_0 \$o_0.) from the open triple set.
   if p_0 = rdf: type then
       for all (\$s_i \$p_i \$o_i), \$p_i = \texttt{rdfs:subClassOf} \& \$s_i = \$o_0, in the closed triple set do
           add (\$s_0 rdf:type \$o_i.) to the open triple set.
       end for
    else if p_0 = rdf:subClassOf then
       for all (\$s_i \$p_i \$o_i), \$p_i = rdf:type \& \$o_i = \$s_0, in the closed triple set do
           add (\$s_i rdf:type \$o_0.) to the open triple set.
       end for
    end if
    add the triple (\$s_0 \$p_0 \$o_0.) to the closed triple set.
until the open triple set is empty
```

The class inheritance example:

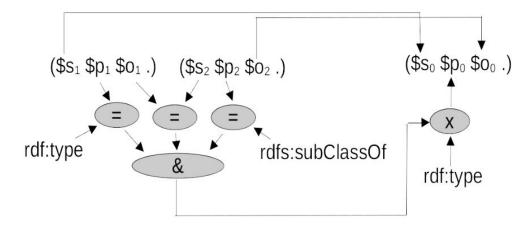
- The rule corresponds to a hardwiring of a 2 input 1 output operator
- Approximate equality (i.e. similarity) is intrinsic to the calculus
- Approximately true property is intrinsic to the calculus
- The '&' operator can be implemented as a product (but not only).





The class inheritance example:

- The rule corresponds to a hardwiring of a 2 input 1 output operator
- Approximate equality (i.e. similarity) is intrinsic to the calculus
- Approximately true property is intrinsic to the calculus
- The '&' operator can be implemented as a product (but not only).



- For "negative" inferences (i.e. $\lambda < 0$) a different (symmetric) rule is required :

$$(\$s \neg rdf:type \$c_1.)$$
 and $(\$c_2 rdfs:subClassOf \$c_2.) \Rightarrow (\$s \neg rdf:type \$c_2.)$



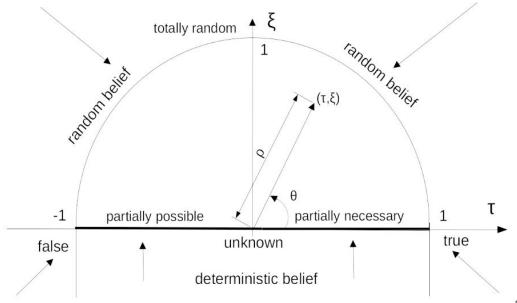
Accounting for uncertainty: possibility, necessity



$$0 \le \nu(E) \le p(E) \le \pi(E) \le 1$$

$$\tau = \pi + \nu - 1 \in [-1, 1]
\rho = \nu - \pi + 1 \in [0, 1]$$

A new interpretation of **necessity** and **possibility** as probability bounds





Given a set of a-priori knowledge K and observation O, (π,v) is properly defined as:

$$\nu(E) = \min_{\kappa \in \mathcal{K}} P_{\kappa}(E|O)$$

$$\pi(E) = \max_{\kappa \in \mathcal{K}} P_{\kappa}(E|O)$$

Given a possibility/necessity distribution (π, v) we can define

- a probability distribution of maximal entropy
- for "minimally corrected" compatible distributions $\tilde{\nu} \leq \nu, \pi \leq \tilde{\pi}$



Compatibility with Boolean and three-value logic calculus can be derived

Partially obtained by distribution monotonicity

$$E \subseteq E' \Rightarrow \nu(E) \leq \nu(E') \text{ and } \pi(E) \leq \pi(E')$$

Fully compatible in the "deterministic case" (vanilla theory)
Requires additional constraints in the 2D case for 0 or ± 1 values

In an open world (i.e. if we do not consider an exhaustive universe), logical derivation related to the the complement of an event are not possible.

The correct model underneath is modal logic.



In VSA (π, v) could be implemented either as a **pair of real numbers**, or as a **complex number**.

- Similarity can be defined as the dot product $Re(xy^*)$ in the hermitian space \mathbb{C}^d with the same interpretation
- VTB algebra and related operators seem generalizable

However there is no real "gain" to consider complex number apart from using the complex product instead of 2d matrix product.



Conclusion/Perspectives

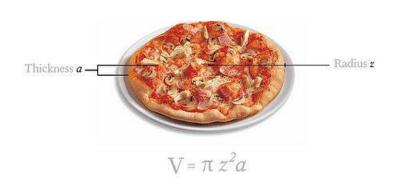
- Distributive, tightly coupled approach, drawing inspiration from biology and psychology
- 2 associative memories:
 - AM1 to store the ontological "facts"
 - AM2 to store the inference rules => used to disclose implicit relationships/memberships
- Alternate implementation: compressed triplestore (computing the transitive closure)
- Achievable inferences:
 - O RDFS entailments:
 - concept inclusion an inheritance
 - property domains and ranges
 - o extension to OWL ontologies: class complement, intersection, etc
- + Scalability, completeness, soundness on larger databases?
- + How to manage uncertainty? (possibility-necessity approach?)
- + How to update the associative memory to add the inferred relationships?
- + How to learn the inference rules from patterns discovered in AM1?

 Nengo associative memory is read-only (though some work is aiming to implement learning within AMs, cf Voelker et al 2014)



VSA ONLINE - Winter 2022 Ontology as Manifold

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