

# Description Logics: a Nice Family of Logics

## — Introduction, Part 1 —

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# Welcome!

Let us know if you

- ... have questions. – **Do ask** them at any time.
- ... have difficulties understanding us/reading our writing/...

In this course, we'll

- ... ask you to **think** a lot
- ... ask you to **work** through numerous examples
- ... talk about **complex** stuff with many **fascinating** facets!



# What's in this course?

## Mon Introduction

- Origins, the basic DL  $\mathcal{ALC}$ , reasoning problems
- Ontologies, examples and exercises

Tue • Relation with other logics

## Tableau algorithms

- for  $\mathcal{ALC}$

Wed • for extensions of  $\mathcal{ALC}$

## Complexity of selected DLs

- for  $\mathcal{ALC}$  and extensions

Thu • with restrictions  
• (un)decidability border

## Fri Further reasoning problems

- modularity
- justifications



# Plan for today

- 1 Origins of DLs
- 2 DL basics
- 3 Ontologies, OWL, Protégé  $\rightsquigarrow$  Uli



# And now . . .

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# DLs: where they come from

## DLs as **knowledge representation (KR)** formalisms

- Common perception: **logic** is difficult for human conception
  - e.g., how long does it take you to read

$$\forall x \exists y \forall z ((r(x, y) \wedge s(y, z)) \Rightarrow (\neg s(a, y) \vee r(x, z)))$$

- or check that it is equivalent to

$$\forall x \exists y \forall z (r(x, z) \vee \neg r(x, y) \vee \neg s(y, z) \vee \neg s(a, y))$$

↪ It's like a new language to learn!

Only for the “mathematically gifted”

- Are there better suited alternatives?
- Can we help users learn/speak/interact with logic?

They might not even have to see it.



# Early KR formalisms

... were mostly **graphical** because graphics are

- easier to grasp:

“A picture says more than a thousand words.”

- close to how knowledge is represented in human beings (?)

Most graphical KR formalisms represent knowledge as **graphs** with

- vertices (possibly labelled)

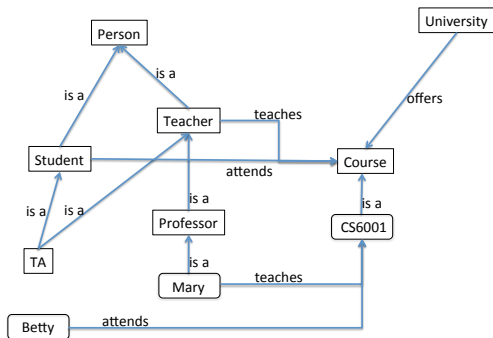
mostly representing concepts, classes, individuals etc.

- edges (possibly labelled)

mostly representing properties, relationships etc.



# A Semantic Network



What does it represent/say? Is Betty a Student?

**Problem:** missing semantics

**Remedy:** base your picture on logic or use logic directly





# Terminological Knowledge

**DLs:** designed to represent **terminological** or **conceptual knowledge**

## Goal

- Formalise basic terminology of an application domain; store it in a **TBox**
- Enable reasoning about **concepts** – e.g.:
  - Can there be Mammals?
  - Is every Mammal an Animal?
  - Are Frogs Reptiles?
- Store facts about individuals in an **ABox**
- Enable reasoning about **individuals** and **concepts** – e.g.:
  - Are my facts consistent with my terminology?
  - Is Kermit a Frog?



# Applications

## Medical

- **SNOMED CT**

(Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms)

- clinical terminology, used internationally
- 320,000 terms

- **NCI Thesaurus** (NCI = National Cancer Institute of the USA)

- vocabulary for clinical care, translational and basic research, public information, administrative activities
- 120,000 terms

- **ICD 11** (International Classification of Diseases)

used worldwide for health statistics



# Applications

## Biology

- **GO** (Gene Ontology)  
controlled vocabulary of terms for gene product characteristics and gene product annotation data
- **Bioportal**  
website that provides access to 530 bio-health ontologies

## Semantic Web

- Use terms defined in a TBox to annotate (linked open) data
- Use TBox when querying data



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# DLs: the core

Core part of a DL: its **concept language**, e.g.:

$$\text{Animal} \sqcap \exists \text{hasPart.Feather}$$

describes all animals that are related via “hasPart” to a feather.

**Syntactic ingredients** of a concept language:

- **Concept names stand for sets of elements**, e.g., `Animal`
- **Role names** stand for binary relations between elements, e.g., `hasPart`
- **Constructors** to build **concept expressions**, e.g.,  $\sqcap$ ,  $\exists$



# Syntax and semantics of $\mathcal{ALC}$

Semantics given by means of an **interpretation**  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ , where

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is a nonempty set (the **domain**), and
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is a mapping (the **interpretation function**) as follows:

Constructor	Syntax	Example	Semantics
concept name	$A$	Human	$A^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$
role name	$r$	likes	$r^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$

For  $C, D$  concepts and  $r$  a role name:

conjunction	$C \sqcap D$	Human $\sqcap$ Male	$C^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}}$
disjunction	$C \sqcup D$	Nice $\sqcup$ Rich	$C^{\mathcal{I}} \cup D^{\mathcal{I}}$
negation	$\neg C$	$\neg$ Meat	$\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus C^{\mathcal{I}}$
restrictions:			
existential	$\exists r.C$	$\exists$ hasChild.Human	$\{x \mid \exists y.(x, y) \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \wedge y \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}$
value	$\forall r.C$	$\forall$ hasChild.Blond	$\{x \mid \forall y.(x, y) \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \Rightarrow y \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}$



# Understanding syntax and semantics of $\mathcal{ALC}$

We can “draw” interpretations . . .

(similarly to Kripke models if you happen to know modal logic)

**Exercise 1:** Formulate  $\mathcal{ALC}$  concepts that describe

- 1 happy pet owners
- 2 unhappy pet owners who own an old cat
- 3 pet owners who own a cat, a dog, and only cats and dogs
- 4 pet owners who own a cat, a dog, and no other animals
- 5 everything (abbreviated by  $\top$  with  $\top^{\mathcal{I}} = \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ )
- 6 nothing (abbreviated by  $\perp$  with  $\perp^{\mathcal{I}} = \emptyset^{\mathcal{I}}$ )

For each of your concepts (1)–(4),

“draw” an interpretation with an instance of that concept.



# Basic reasoning problems in $\mathcal{ALC}$

**Definition:** let  $C, D$  be  $\mathcal{ALC}$  concepts. We say that

- $e \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$  is **an instance of**  $C$  in  $\mathcal{I}$ .
- $C$  is **satisfiable** if there is an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  with  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$ .
- $C$  is **subsumed by**  $D$  (written  $\models C \sqsubseteq D$ ) if:  
for every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$ , we have that  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$ .

**Exercise 2:** Which of the following concepts is satisfiable?  
Which is subsumed by which?

(1)  $\exists r.(A \sqcap B)$

(2)  $\exists r.(A \sqcup B)$

(3)  $\forall r.(A \sqcap B)$

(4)  $\exists r.(A \sqcap \neg A)$

(5)  $\exists r.A \sqcap \forall r.B$

(6)  $\exists r.A$

(7)  $\exists r.A \sqcap \forall r.\neg A$

(8)  $\exists r.A \sqcap \forall s.\neg A$





# The TBox

## Definition

- A **general concept inclusion (GCI)** has the form  $C \sqsubseteq D$ , for  $C, D$  (possibly complex) concepts
- A **general TBox** is a finite set of GCIs:  $\mathcal{T} = \{C_i \sqsubseteq D_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$
- $\mathcal{I}$  **satisfies**  $C \sqsubseteq D$  if  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$  (written  $\mathcal{I} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ )
- $\mathcal{I}$  is a **model of TBox**  $\mathcal{T}$  if  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies every  $C_i \sqsubseteq D_i \in \mathcal{T}$
- We use  $C \equiv D$  to abbreviate  $C \sqsubseteq D, D \sqsubseteq C$

**Example:**  $\{$  Father  $\equiv$  Man  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ hasChild.Human,  
 Human  $\equiv$  Mammal  $\sqcap$   $\forall$ hasParent.Human,  
 $\exists$ favourite.Brewery  $\sqsubseteq$   $\exists$ drinks.Beer  $\}$

**Exercise 3:** Draw a model of the above TBox.

Draw an interpretation that is **not** a model of it.



# Reasoning problems with respect to a TBox

**Definition:** let  $C, D$  be concepts,  $\mathcal{T}$  a TBox. We say that

- $C$  is **satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{T}$**   
if there is a model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  with  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$
- $C$  is **subsumed by  $D$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{T}$**  (written  $\mathcal{T} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ )  
if, for every model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$ , we have  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$

**Example:**

$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A \sqsubseteq B \sqcap \exists r.C, \\ \exists r.T \sqsubseteq \neg A \end{array} \right\}$$

**Exercise 4:** Does  $\mathcal{T}$  have a model?

Are all concept names in  $\mathcal{T}$  satisfiable?

Any subsumptions that you can point out?

How many models does a TBox have?



# The ABox

- TBox**
- captures knowledge on a general, conceptual level
  - contains concept def.s + general axioms about concepts
- ABox**
- captures knowledge on an the level of individuals
  - is a finite set of
    - **concept assertions**  $a : C$  e.g., John:Man, and
    - **role assertions**  $(a, b) : r$  e.g., (John, Mary):hasChild

**Semantics:** an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$

- maps each **individual name**  $e$  to some  $e^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$
- satisfies a concept assertion  $a : C$  if  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$
- satisfies a role assertion  $(a, b) : r$  if  $(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \in r^{\mathcal{I}}$
- is a **model** of an ABox  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies every assertion in  $\mathcal{A}$

$a : C$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{A}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{A}$  satisfies  $a : C$



# The ABox

**Semantics:** an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$

*repeated from previous slide*

- maps each **individual name**  $e$  to some  $e^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$
  - satisfies a concept assertion  $a : C$  if  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$
  - satisfies a role assertion  $(a, b) : r$  if  $(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \in r^{\mathcal{I}}$
  - is a **model** of an ABox  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies every assertion in  $\mathcal{A}$
- $a : C$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{A}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{A}$  satisfies  $a : C$

**Example:**  $\mathcal{A} = \{$

$$\begin{aligned} & a : (B \sqcap \exists r.C), \\ & b : (A \sqcap \neg P \sqcap \forall s.\forall r.F), \\ & (b, a) : s \} \end{aligned}$$

**Exercise 5:** Does  $\mathcal{A}$  have a model? – Describe some of them.  
Can you see any entailments?

(Later) Can you translate this into FOL? ML?



# Ontologies: TBox and ABox

**Definition:** an **ontology** consists of

- a TBox that captures knowledge on a general, conceptual level
- an ABox that captures knowledge on the level of individuals and **uses terms described in the TBox**

Notation:  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  or  $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{A}$  – no difference!

**Semantics:**

- Int.  $\mathcal{I}$  is a **model** of  $\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  (written  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$ )  
if  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies every assertion and axiom in  $\mathcal{O}$   
alternatively:  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}$
- $\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model
- $\mathcal{O}$  is **coherent** if every conc. name  $A$  in  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$
- $C \sqsubseteq D$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{O}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfies  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$
- $a : C$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{O}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfies  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$



# Ontologies: TBox and ABox

## Semantics:

*repeated from previous slide*

- Int.  $\mathcal{I}$  is a **model** of  $\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  if  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}$
- $\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model
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- $a:C$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{O}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfies  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$

## Example:

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

**Exercise 6:** Does  $\mathcal{O}$  have a model? – Describe some of them.  
Can you see any entailments?

What about  $\mathcal{O} \cup \{b:C\}$  or  $\mathcal{O} \cup \{b:A\}$ ?



# Ontologies: TBox and ABox

## Semantics:

*repeated from previous slide*

- Int.  $\mathcal{I}$  is a **model** of  $\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  if  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}$
- $\mathcal{O}$  is **consistent** if it has a model
- $\mathcal{O}$  is **coherent** if every conc. name  $A$  in  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$
- $C \sqsubseteq D$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{O}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfies  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$
- $a:C$  is **entailed by**  $\mathcal{O}$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfies  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$

## Lemma

If  $\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  is consistent, then:

$C \sqsubseteq D$  is entailed by  $\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$  iff  $C \sqsubseteq D$  is entailed by  $\mathcal{T}$ .

**Proof:** for “ $\Leftarrow$ ” note that every model of  $\mathcal{O}$  is one of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

For “ $\Rightarrow$ ” use contraposition; combine a model witnessing  $\mathcal{T} \not\models C \sqsubseteq D$  and one of  $\mathcal{O}$  to one witnessing  $\mathcal{O} \not\models C \sqsubseteq D$ . □



# And now . . .

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# References for Day 1



Franz Baader, Diego Calvanese, Deborah L. McGuinness, Daniele Nardi, Peter F. Patel-Schneider (editors).

The Description Logic Handbook:  
Theory, Implementation and Applications.

2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2007.  
ISBN 978-0521876254.

Chapters 1–2.



Ian Horrocks, Peter F. Patel-Schneider, Frank van Harmelen.

From *SHIQ* and RDF to OWL:  
the making of a Web Ontology Language.

Journal of Web Semantics 1(1): 7–26, 2003.



# Links for Day 1



The National Center for Biomedical Ontology:  
BioPortal

<http://bioportal.bioontology.org>



Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research:  
Protégé Ontology Editor

<http://protege.stanford.edu>

