

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM Università di Bologna

# Semantic Web An Introduction

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#### Outline

#### 1. Introduction

The map of the Web (accordingly to Tim Berners-Lee)

The current Web and its limits

The Semantic Web idea

#### 2. Semantic Information (a bird's eye view)

Semantic Models

Ontologies

Few examples

#### 3. Semantic Web Tools

Unique identifiers - URI

XML

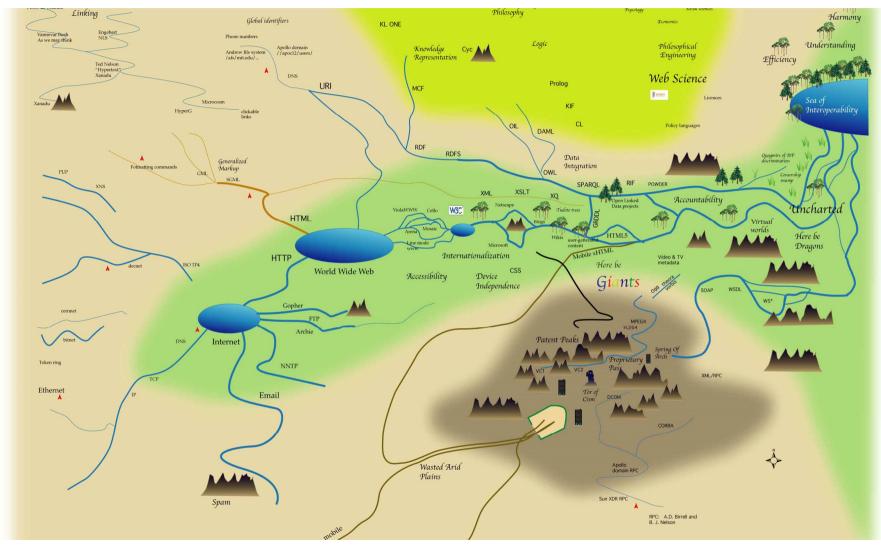
RDF and SPARQL

OWL

#### 4. Semantic Web: where are we? Problems against the success of SW proposal Critics against SW Few considerations Few links to start with



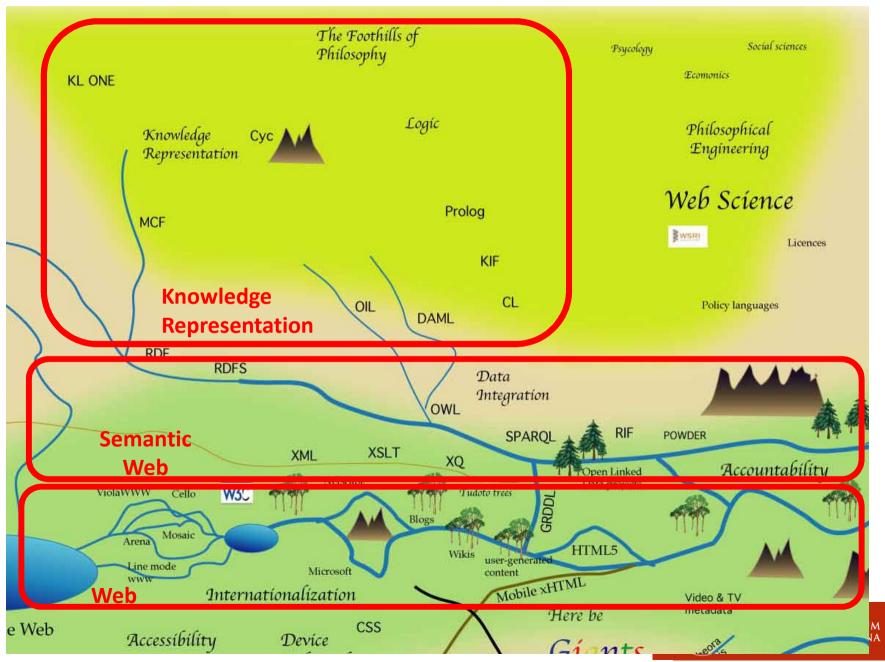
#### The Web Map (by Berners-Lee)



©Tim Berners-Lee, http://www.w3.org/2007/09/map/main.jpg



#### About the content



Information represented by means of:

- Natural language
- Images, multimedia, graphic rendering/aspect

Human Users easily exploit all this means for:

- Deducting facts from partial information
- Creating mental asociations (between the facts and, e.g., the images)
- They use different communication channels at the same time (contemporary use of many primitive senses)



The content is published on the web with the principal aim of being "human-readable"

- Standard HTML is focused on how to represent the content
- There is no notion of what is represented
- Few tags (e.g. <title>) provide an implicit semantics but ...
  - ... their content is not structured
  - ... their use is not really standardized



#### pembrava tutto fatto, invece approvato un solo articolo. All'origine del blocco il no di Mastella all'art.91 Finanziaria, il voto slitta a domani Al Senato va in scena l'assurdo

Dini ripete: "Mani libere fino all'ultimo". Prodi ottimista di CLAUDIA FUSANI



Lamberto Dini

vivace. Si e no sono state fatte una decina di votazioni. Un impasse assurdo, kafkiano, che racconta una delle pagine più incredibili di questa

votazioni. Un impasse assurdo, katkiano, che racconta una delle pagine più incredibili di questa

<h1>

alle monovre di palazzo. Doveva essere il giorno

dell'atteso e faticoso voto finale alla Finanziaria. Alle

We can identify the title by means of its representation (<h1>, <b>) ...

what if tomorrow the designer changes the format of the web pages?

<!-- inizio TITOLO --> <B>Finanziaria, il voto slitta a domani<br> Al Senato va in scena 1'assurdo</B> <!-- fine TITOLO --> </h1>



Web pages contain also links to other pages, but ...

- No information on the link itself ...
  - ... what does a link represent?
  - ... what does the linked page/resource represent?
- E.g.: in my home page there are links to other home pages
   ...
  - Which ones link to colleagues?
  - Which ones link to friends?



# Actual Web = Layout + Routing

# The problem: it is not possible to automatically reason about the data



We can see the Web as an immense database, every day queried by millions of users

- Users access it through search engines and keywords ...
- ... successfull search depends on many parameters
  - the "quality" of the indexing and search algorithm
  - the number of total pages that have been indexed
  - the (meta-)content of the pages
  - E.g.: google, US election in 2005, and the keyword "stupid"



# The web is **global**

- Any page can link to anything
- Approximatively, anyone can publish anything on the web, about any topic
  - Distribution of the information
  - Inconsistency of the information
  - Incompleteness of the information
- Some recent attempts to limit such freedom (with mixed results)



Web 2.0 (ten years ago...)

Term referring to O'Reilly Media Web 2.0 Conference, 2004 (but no coined there).

A new way of using the web (rather than technical advances)

Roughly (but really roughly) speaking:

- Possibility of user of adding/sharing content (without being web editors)
- Strong, unpredictable (???) social participation (blogs, wikis, social networking, participation, youtube, folksonomies)
- Possibility of net-distributing applications (hosted services, web services, cloud computing, web-office)



#### **Semantic Web**

# Goal: "use" and "reason upon" all the available data on the internet automatically

How? By *extending* the current web with *knowledge* about the content (*semantic information*)



#### **Semantic Web**

"The Semantic Web is about two things. It is about common formats for integration and combination of data drawn from diverse sources, where on the original Web mainly concentrated on the interchange of documents. It is also about language for recording how the data relates to real world objects. That allows a person, or a machine, to start off in one database, and then move through an unending set of databases which are connected not by wires but by being about the same thing."

SOURCE: W3C Semantic Web Initiative



#### **Semantic Web**

Principles SW would like to preserve:

Globality Informaton distribution Information inconsistency

- Content inconsistency
- Link inconsistency

Information incompleteness

- ... of contents
- ... of routing information (links)



# Adding information about the content

Adding information is not enough

Information should be structured (e.g., Linneo classification for the living world)

- Ontologies?

There is the need of some inference mechanism (e.g., sillogism, FOL, DL algorithm)

- Logic?

We should be able to infer new knowledge

- We need the proofs that originated such new knowledge



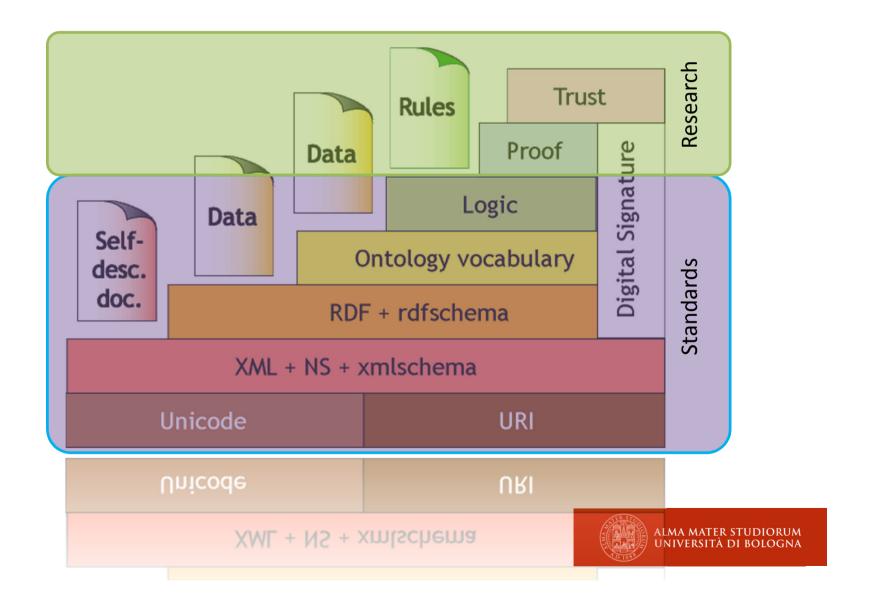
#### **Proof and Trust**

We could exchange the proofs to ...

- ... justify new inferred knowledge
- ... overcome the definitory aspect of IT
- ... reason upon the trust...



#### Semantic Web Architecture



# SW – Applications?

SW is cross-domain (as ICT): standards and tools have application fields in every possible domain.

To cite some:

- Search engines
- Intelligent Assistant
- Database Integration
- Digital libraries (XMP Adobe)
- Web services and cloud computing (Semantic Web Services)



#### **Applications – Document search**

Industries (mid-size and more) needs to index and easily access/retrieve all the documentation

- GSA Google Search Applaince
  - (2007 prices: \$1,995 up to 50.000 docs, \$30,000 up to 500.000 docs )
  - (2015 prices: not available, 2-3 yrs contract, depend on the number of indexed documents)
- Microsoft Sharepoint Search Services/Server



# Applications – Other portals ...

- Sun's White Paper and System Handbook
- Harper's Online magazine papers linked by means of an internal ontology
- Oracle virtual press room
- Opera's community site
- Yahoo! Food
- FAO's Food
- Nutrition and Agriculture Journal



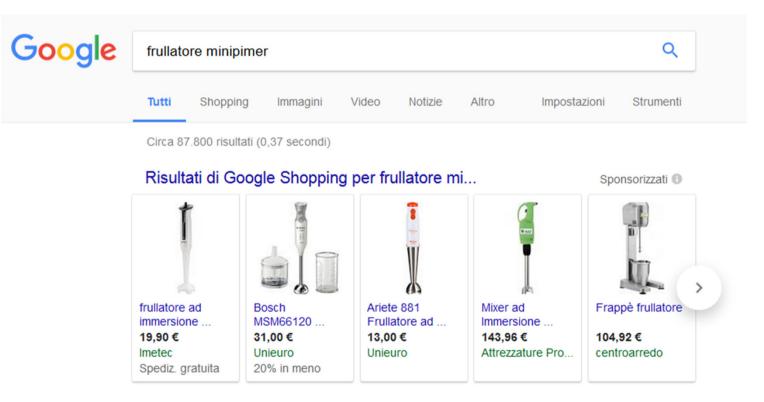
## **Applications – Microdata and micro formats**

- Google and shopping...
- https://support.google.com/merchants/answer/6069143?hl=en
- schema.org (ownership: Google, Microsoft, Yahoo and Yandex)
  - Creative works: CreativeWork, Book, Movie, MusicRecording, Recipe, TVSeries ...
  - Embedded non-text objects: AudioObject, ImageObject, VideoObject
  - Event
  - Health and medical types: notes on the health and medical types under MedicalEntity.
  - Organization
  - Person
  - Place, LocalBusiness, Restaurant ...
  - Product, Offer, AggregateOffer
  - Review, AggregateRating
  - Action



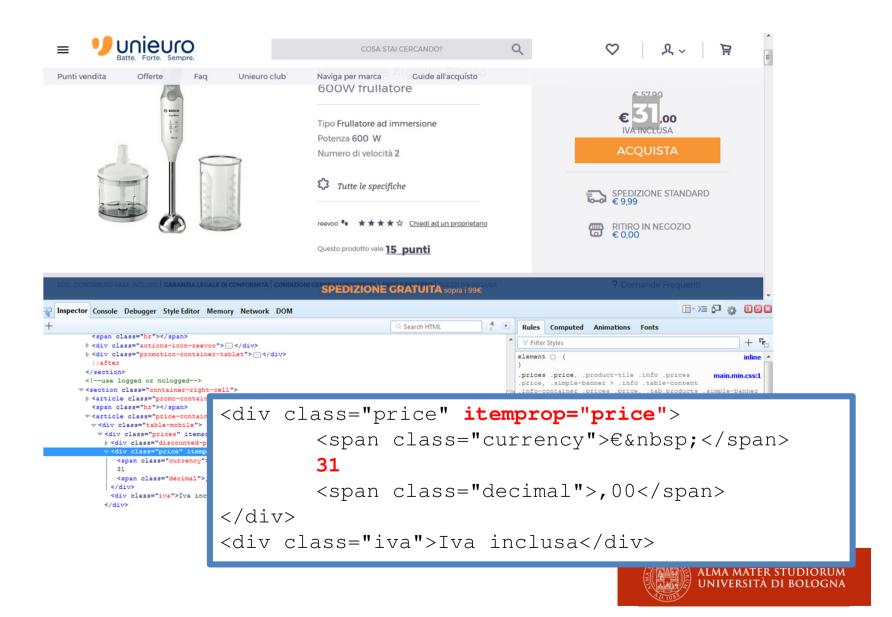
#### **Applications – Microdata and micro formats**

• Google shopping example:





#### **Applications – Microdata and micro formats**





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# **Semantic Information**

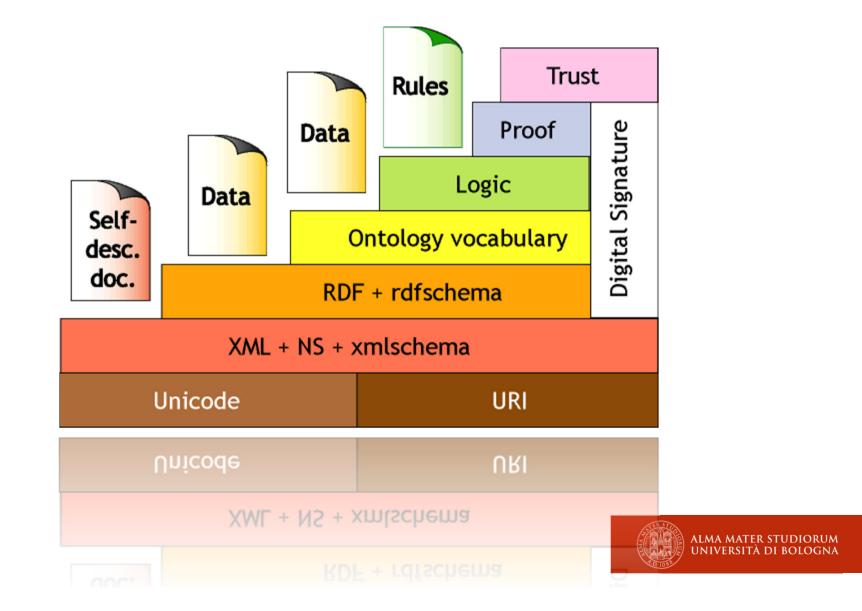
How to represent semantic information?

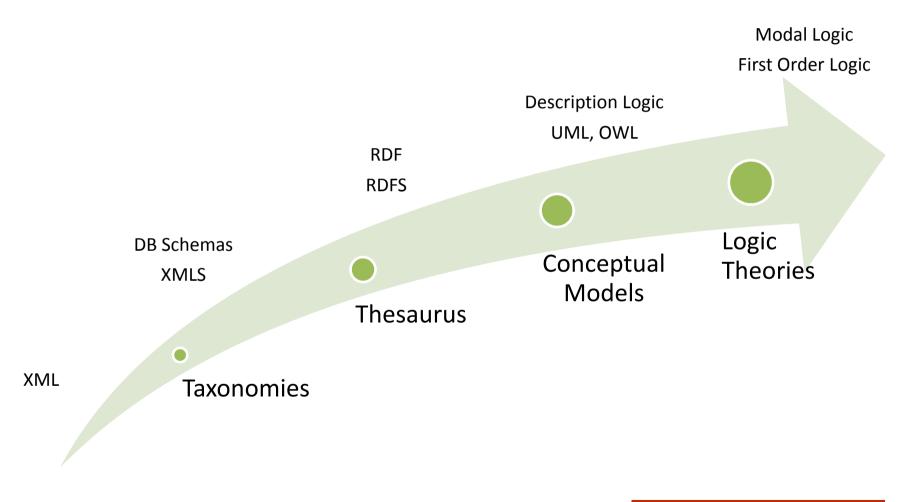
- Which language?
- Which expressivity?
- Reasoning? What about performances?

At this point, Semantic Web meets the Knowledge Representation research field (from AI)



#### **Semantic Web Architecture**







- Taxonomy: a set of terms, hierarchically organized
  - Allows to represent that there are relations among terms ...
  - ... but does not permit to describe the nature of such relations
  - Tipically, father/child node relation
  - Search of a term is efficient only if you already know where to look for....



An example of taxonomy we have to deal with: IEEE Computer Society Keywords http://www.computer.org/portal/web/publications/acmtaxonomy , approximatively 1766 terms hierarchically structured ...

IV. K	Knowledge	Representation	Formalisms	and	Methods
-------	-----------	----------------	------------	-----	---------

- I. Agent communication languages
- II. Distributed representations
- III. Frames and scripts
- IV. Knowledge base management
- V. Knowledge base verification

#### Caterogy: Artificial Intelligence

VII. Predicate logic

VI. Modal logic

- VIII. Relation systems
- IX. Representation languages
- X. Representations (procedural and rule-based)
- XI. Semantic networks
- XII. Storage mechanisms
- XIII. Temporal logic
- V. Programming Languages and Software
  - I. Expert and knowledge-intensive system tools and techniques



- Thesaurus: orignally from linguistic research field, it is a set of terms togehter with (linguistic) relations among them:
  - Synonym
  - Hyperonyms
  - Hyponims
  - Holonyms
  - Meronyms
  - ...

They address typical problems in natural language, such as ambiguity and redundancy

WordNet (©Princeton University), <a href="http://wordnet.princeton.edu/">http://wordnet.princeton.edu/</a>



#### Semantic Model: Thesaurus

WordNet 2.1 Browser		]	
File History Options Help			
Search Word: fox			
Searches for fox: Noun Verb	Senses:		
The noun fox has 7 senses (first 2 from tagged texts)	×		
<ol> <li>(3) fox (alert carnivorous mammal with pointed muzzle and e do not hunt in packs)</li> <li>(1) dodger, fox, slyboots (a shifty deceptive person)</li> </ol>	File History Options Help		
<ol> <li>fox (the grey or reddish-brown fur of a fox)</li> <li>Fox, Charles James Fox (English statesman who supported A Revolution (1749-1806))</li> </ol>	Search Word: fox Searches for fox: Noun Verb	Redisplay Overview Senses:	
<ul> <li>5. Fox, George Fox (English religious leader who founded the S</li> <li>6. Fox (a member of an Algonquian people formerly living west</li> <li>7. Fox (the Algonquian language of the Fox)</li> <li>The verb fox has 3 senses (no senses from tagged texts)</li> <li>1. flim-flam, trick, fob, fox, pull a fast one on, play a trick on (o into thinking that class would be cancelled next week")</li> <li>2. confuse, throw, fox, befuddle, fuddle, bedevil, confound, disco cause to be unable to think clearly; "These questions confuse ev threw me"; "This question befuddled even the teacher")</li> <li>3. fox (become discolored with, or as if with, mildew spots)</li> </ul>	Sense 2 dodger, fox, slyboots (a shifty deceptive person) => deceiver, cheat, cheater, trickster, beguiler, slicker (someone who leads you to believe something that is not true) => wrongdoer, offender (a person who transgresses moral or civil law) => bad person (a person who does harm to others) => person, individual, someone, somebody, mortal, soul (a human being; "there was too much for one person to do") => organism, being (a living thing that has (or can develop) the ability to act or function		
	=> entity (that which is per existence (living or nonliving)) Sense 3 fox (the grey or reddish-brown fur of a fox) => fur, pelt (the dressed hairy coat of a mar		
	"Hypernyms (this is a kind of)" search for noun "fox"		

- Conceptual models: focused on a particular domain area. They specify:
  - Domain entitites
  - Relations between the entitites (properties and attributes)
  - Rules about classes, roles and relations
  - Inference mechanisms -> Logic theories!!!



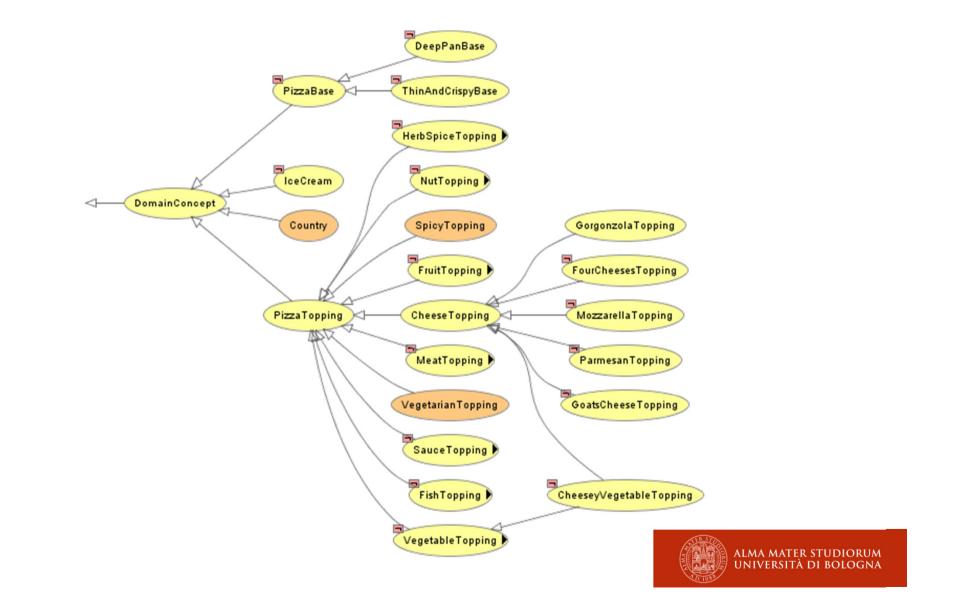
**Ontologies – a definition** 

An ontology is a formal, explicit description of a domain of interest

- Classes
- Semantic relation between classes (roles)
- Properties associated to a concept (e.g., restrictions)
- Logic (axioms, inference rules)



#### **Ontologies – an example**





An ontology is a formal, explicit description of a domain of interest

- They are a fundamental piece, independently of Semantic Web
- The issues are in the "subtle distinction of meaning"
- They have been a research field in AI since the beginning



Ontologies – Do we really miss them?

# Crisis of dotCom market (2001)

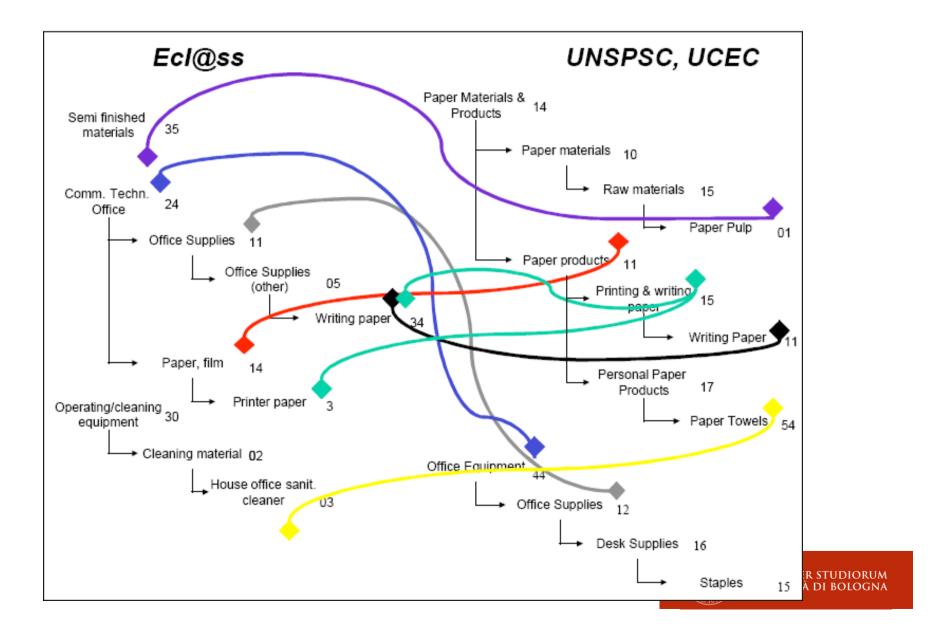
Harvard Business Review, October 2001:

"Trying to engage with too many partners too fast is one of the main reasons that so many online market makers have foundered.

The transactions they had viewed as simple and routine actually involved many **subtle distinctions in terminology and meaning** 



#### **Ontologies – Do we really miss them?**



**Ontologies – XML is not enough?** 

"XML is only the first step to ensuring that computers can communicate freely. XML is an alphabet for computers and as everyone who travels in Europe knows, knowing the alphabet doesn't mean you can speak Italian or French"

Business Week, March 18, 2002



# Why ontologies?

- An ontology provides a structured model of a (business) domain
  - Solves term ambiguity
  - Clarifies/simplifies domain peculiarities
  - As a consequence, deep analysis and understanding of a (business) domain ...
  - ... high competitive advantage !



#### Ontologies (now vocabularies in the W3C terminology)

Few examples:

- Dublin Core, focussed on documents
- WordNet (better example, BabelNet)
- Gene Ontology, genomic
- Protein Ontology, proteomics
- SnoMed, a very important ontology in the medical field



#### Linked Data

Ontologies comprise:

- the terms (the concepts, aka TBox)
- the instances (effective data, aka ABox)

Great emphasis in the last years for linking (open) data (LOD initiative) using SW tools

Example (and starting point): http://dbpedia.org/



#### **Linked Data Principles**

(Tim Berners-Lee, 2006)

- On the web
- Machine-readable
- Non-proprietary format
- RDF standards
- Linked RDF



#### **Ontologies**

From the formal viewpoint, based on **Description Logics** 

- A family of logics
- A number of different logic operators
- "Recipies": depending on which logic operators are choosen, a different logic is obtained
- Up to almost 10.000 different logics...
- Complexity: http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/~ezolin/dl/



### **Ontologies**

Key idea:

- Classes or concepts
- Individuals
- Relations
- A-Box and T-Box
- Subsumption as the main reasoning mechanism



- Differently by many other formalisms, Description Logics are based on an Open World Assumption.
- If a sentence cannot be inferred, then its truthness value is unknown.
- Note: somehow this characteristics is linked to the idea of distributed information in the Web.



- Oedipus killed his father...
- ... married his mother lokaste ...
- ... had children with her, among them Polyneikes.
- Finally, also Polyneikes had children, among them Thersandros.



- Oedipus killed his father...
- ... married his mother lokaste ...
- ... had children with her, among them Polyneikes.
- Finally, also Polyneikes had children, among them Thersandros.

We want to know...

... if lokaste has a child that is a patricide and that itself has a child that is not a patricide...



# Hypothesis 1: the child we are looking for is Oedipus

Indeed, we know Oedipus is a patricide...

We know also he has a son, Polyneikes, but we do not know if Polyneikes is a patricide or not...



Hypothesis 2: the child we are looking for is Polyneikes...

Indeed, we know Polyneikes has a son, Thersandors, and we know Thersandros is not a patricide.....

... but we do not know if Polyneikes is a patricide or not...



#### But indeed...

In all possible models, either Polyneikes is a patricide, or he is not. All possible models can be split up in two classes: one in which Polyneikes is a patricide, one where he is not a patricide.

In the first class, the child (we are looking for) is Polyneikes. In the second class, the child (we are looking for) is Oedipus.

In ALL models lokaste has a child that is a patricide and that itself has a child that is not a patricide. The answer to the previous question is YES.

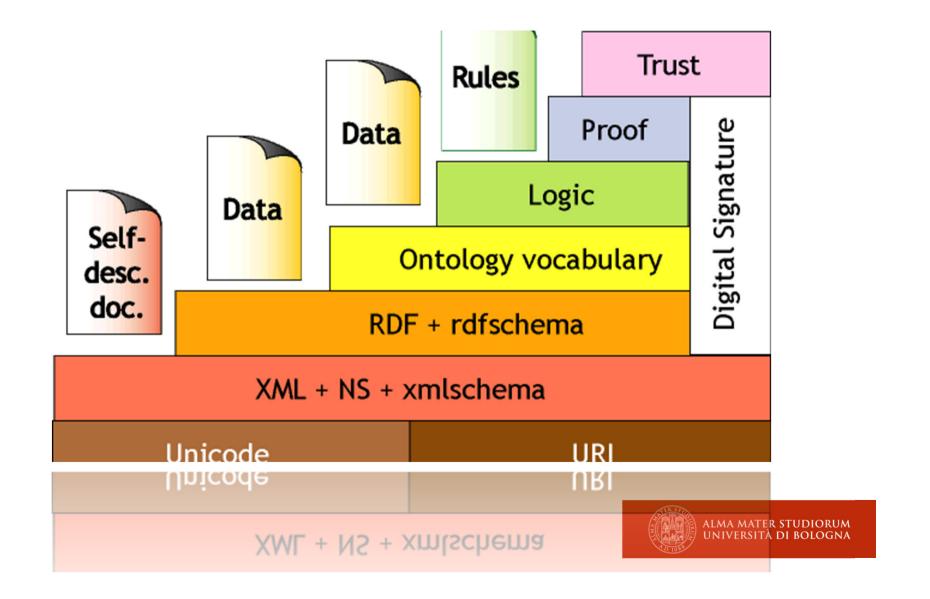




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# Semantic Web Tools

#### **Recalling the Semantic Web Cake**



## A unique way for identifying concepts

How to uniquely identified concepts?
 -> by means of a name system ...

- SW exploits an already available name systems, URIs (Uniform Resource Identifier)
  - By definition, URI guarantees unicity of the names
  - To each URI corresponds one and only one concept ...
  - ... but more URI can refer to the same concept!
  - NOTE: differently from the web, it is not necessary that to each URI corresponds some content!

Examples: http://www.repubblica.it federico.chesani@unibo.it ISBN 88-7750-483-8



#### eXtensible Markup Language - XML

- Created for supporting data exchange between heterogeneous systems (hardware and software)
  - No presentation information
  - Human readable and machine readable
- Extensible, so that anyone can represent any type of data
- Hierarchically structured by means of tags
- An XML document can contain, in a preamble, a description of the grammar used in such document (optional) (self-describing document!!!)
- Very mature technology!



#### Resource Description Framework (RDF/RDFS)

- Standard W3C
- XML-based language for representing "knowledge"
- A design criteria:provide a "minimalist" tool
- Based on the concept of triple:

< subject, predicate, object>

< resource, attribute, value>

 Some different representations (N3, Graph, RDF/XML)



#### **RDF – Graph Representation**

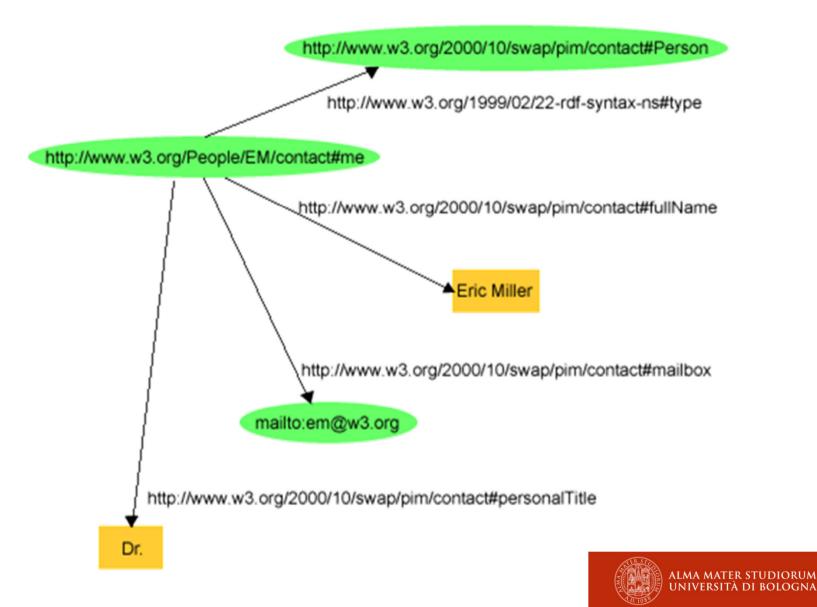
- A node for the subject
- A node for the object
- A labeled arc for the predicate

http://www.example.org/index.html http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/creator

http://www.example.org/staffid/85740

http://www.example.org/index.html has a creator whose value is John Smith

## **RDF – Graph Representation**



#### **RDF – XML Representation**

<rdf:RDF

>

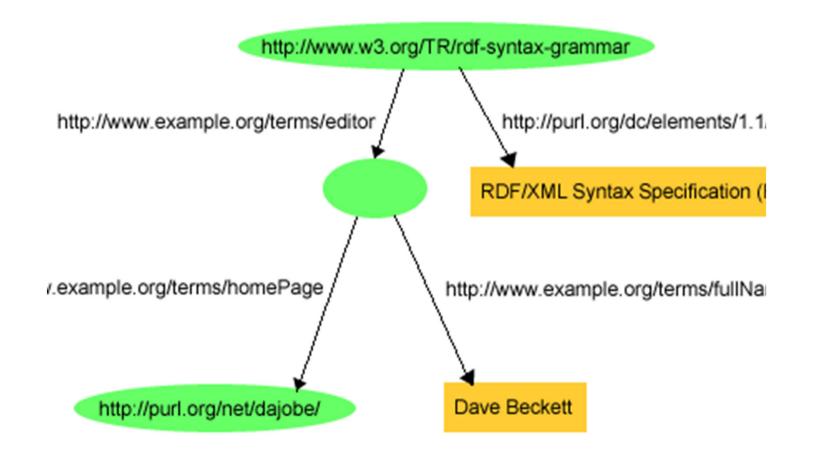
xmlns:rdf=http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#
xmlns:contact=http://www.w3.org/2000/10/swap/pim/contact#

</rdf:RDF>

I can query for the mailbox of Eric Miller, without knowing a priori if he uses mailbox or email ... ... if Eric Miller will change mailbox, search result will be coherent!



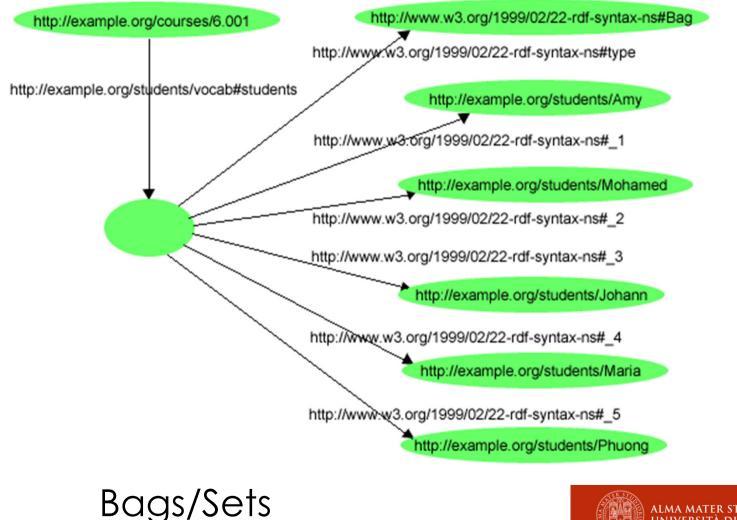
## **RDF - Examples**



# Empty Nodes



# **RDF – Examples**





#### **RDF – Expressive Power**

RDF supports:

- Types (classes) by means of the attribute type (that assume as value an URI)
- Subject/object of a sentence can be also collections (bag, sequence, alternative)
- Meta-sentences, through reification of the sentences ("Marco says that Federico is the author of web page xy")



#### **RDF Schema**

- RDF can be intended also as a description of resource attributes and of the values of such attributes
- RDFS allows to describe classes and relations with other classes/resources
  - type
  - subClassOf
  - subPropertyOf
  - range
  - domain



#### **RDF and E/R Models**

- Many similarities with E/R models ...
  - ... RDF is more expressive
- RDF to be intended as the "E/R" for the web
- Relations in RDF are "first class entities"
- In RDF the list of properties of an entity is not:
  - A priori determined by the developer
  - Centralized (DB)
    - Consequence of the fact that any one can assert anything about any one else



## **RDF and Relational Databases**

There is a direct mapping with relational db

- A record is viewed as a RDF node
- The name of a table column is viewed as rdf:propertyType
- The corresponding field value is intended as the value of the property
- RDF aims to integrate different databases with different underlying model
  - Traditional DBMS are optimized for creating new data models within the same db or within a restricted set of dbs





Many tools already available ...

Only in the W3C wiki there are citations for:

- 38 Frameworks/reasoners
- 47 RDF Triple Stores

Have a look to <a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Tools">http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Tools</a>



- RDFa is a specification for attributes to express structured data in XHTML.
- The rendered, hypertext content of XHTML is reused by the RDFa markup
  - publishers don't need to repeat significant data in the document.

Source: RDFa Primer http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/NOTE-xhtml-rdfa-primer-20081014/



#### RDFa

```
...
All content on this site is licensed under
<a rel="license" href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/">
a Creative Commons License
</a>.
```

This page has a relation of type license with the page at creative commons...

Source: RDFa Primer http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/NOTE-xhtml-rdfa-primer-20081014/



#### RDFa

```
...
<div>
<h2> The trouble with Bob </h2>
<h3> Alice </h3>
....
</div>
```

Note the reference to the DC namespace, i.e. the Dublin Core initiative <u>http://dublincore.org/</u>

Source: RDFa Primer http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/NOTE-xhtml-rdfa-primer-20081014/



# SPARQL

- SPARQL can be used to express queries across diverse data sources, whether the data is stored natively as <u>RDF</u> or viewed as <u>RDF</u> via middleware.
- SPARQL contains capabilities for querying required and optional graph patterns along with their conjunctions and disjunctions.
- Supports extensible value testing and constraining queries by source <u>RDF</u> graph.
- The results of SPARQL queries can be results sets or <u>RDF</u> graphs.

Source: SPARQL W3C Working group http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/SPARQL http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-rdf-sparql-query-20080115/



#### SPARQL

Data:

```
<http://example.org/book/book1>
<http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title>
"SPARQL Tutorial" .
```

Query:

Source: SPARQL W3C Working group http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/SPARQL http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-rdf-sparql-query-20080115/



# **Ontology Web Language (OWL 1.0)**

- Standard W3C
- Based upon/extend RDF/RDFS
- Formal Semantics (Description Logic Fragments)
- Three level of espressivity/complexity
  - OWL Lite
  - OWL DL
  - OWL Full
- OWL 2.0 is already an adopted standard



#### **OWL – Features**

- Classes (categories): subClassOf, intersectionOf, unionOf, complementOf, enumeration, equivalence, disjoint
- Properties (Roles, Relations): symmetric, transitive, functional, inverse Functional, range, domain, subPropertyOf, inverseOf, equivalentProperty
- Instances (Individuals): sameIndividualAs, differentFrom, allDifferent



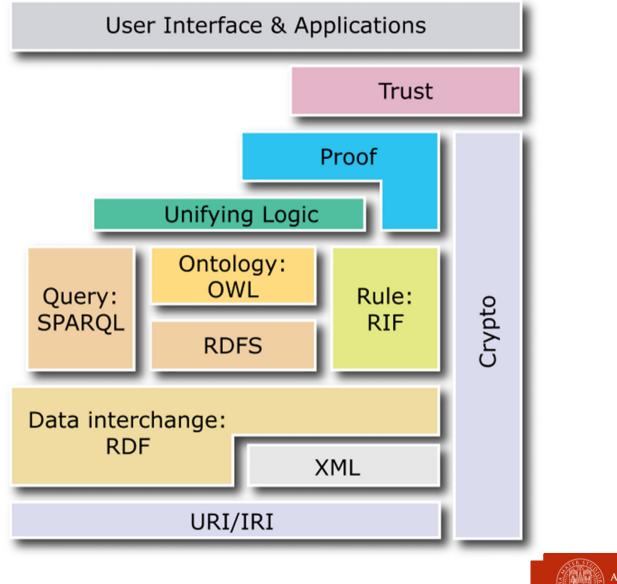
### **OWL Tools**

- Many tools for OWL
  - Editors (37 listed at <a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Category:Editor">http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Category:Editor</a>)
  - Reasoners (39 listed at <a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Category:Reasoner">http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Category:Reasoner</a>)
- Quite often integrated in a comprehensive framework

A well known (but not necessarily the best one) ontology editor: Protégé <u>http://protege.stanford.edu/</u>



## The Semantic Web Cake





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# Semantic Web: where are we?

## Semantic Web – which problems?

- SW has been officially proposed in 2001 ...
- ... it has not transformed the web (yet!)
  - Are we really sure something is not changing behind?
  - A lot of research about in the academic world
- Roughly speaking, "it is difficult to understand the benefits"



# Semantic Web – which problems?

- RDF adoption
  - Adding semantic content is expensive
  - Until a critical mass of semantic content is available on the web ...
     SW tools fail to convince.
  - W3C answer: many proposals in such directions
    - Gleaning Resource Descriptions from Dialects of Languages GRDDL
    - RDFa with HTML5
    - and .... LINKED DATA!!!!!!!
- Ontologies
  - To produce a new one is highly expensive and time-demanding
  - An ontology is "alive", it changes in time
    - Updating costs
    - Managing costs



## Semantic Web – critics?

- It cannot be done practically ... ?????
  - Metacrap problem
  - Wrong content (introduce with some bad purpose, see the wikipedia experience)
- Which use of the data?
  - Censorship problems & freedom
  - Privacy problems
- Data are already available on the web, it is sufficient to extract them
  - SW is not useful ???? But how to extract, and then represent data?
  - Mashups show some interesting results



#### Semantic Web – critics?

- Computationally expensive
  - ... but the adoption of a fragment of Description Logic is an answer
  - ... maybe we don't need in every application all the expressive power...



#### Semantic Web – but...

- A number of different things are happening anyway...
  - Linked Open Data http://linkeddata.org/
  - Microdata and micro formats (schema.org by Google and Microsoft)
  - Public bodies
    - <u>http://dati.senato.it/</u> (sparql endpoint and data batches, cc3.0)
    - http://dati.comune.bologna.it/



# Concluding...

- Semantic Web: adding semantic information to web resources (data and whatever)
- Big perspectives ...
- ... we start seeing the results after 9 years, but no revolution has been really achieved yet



# Few considerations (personal) ...

- Who is responsible to add semantic content on the web?
  - Single users (authors)
    - Metacrap 😕
    - Folksonomies (e.g. flickr) 🙂
    - Wikis 😊
  - Industry firms
    - They already have huge data collections, more or less organized ...
    - ... why they should share their knowledge?
    - Global market extremely hard and difficult... Knowledge is a key to competitive advantage in the Porter chain...



# Few considerations (personal) ...

- Cultural issues ...
  - Not in all country there is such a desire of sharing information
- SW really appealing in a intra-business scenario
- Few doubts in a inter-business scenario
  - Bussiness secrecy, NDA, and other commercial practices
  - Usually, a firm wants to have a complete control over its data
    - Which data to publish?
    - Who is using them (competitors?)
    - What are they doing with our data?



#### Few links to start with...

Official site W3C:

http://www.w3.org/standards/semanticweb/

Communities:

http://www.semanticweb.org/





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