

# MODULARITY FOR ONTOLOGIES: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Yevgeny Kazakov

(based on joint works with Bernardo Cuenca Grau,  
Ian Horrocks and Ulrike Sattler)

The University of Oxford

November 20, 2007





# OUTLINE

**1** BACKGROUND

2 MOTIVATION

3 THEORY

4 PRACTICE

# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- **Ontologies are vocabularies of terms for specific subjects**
  - drugs (NCI)
  - genes (GO)
  - human anatomy (Galen, SNoMed)
  - biological processes (BioPAX)
  - geography (Ordnance Survey)
  - wines (Wine)
  - pizzas (Pizzas)
  - tourism (Travel)
  - ...



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- Two types of axioms

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- Two types of axioms
  - Terminalogical axiom [Schema]

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- Two types of axioms
  - Terminalogical axiom [Schema]
  - **Assertions [Data]**

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The syntax

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The syntax
  - Atomic concepts [Classes]

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap \exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The syntax
  - Atomic concepts [Classes]
  - Atomic roles [Properties]

Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\sqsubseteq$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The syntax
  - Atomic concepts [Classes]
  - Atomic roles [Properties]
  - **Individuals**

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894: Heart



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The syntax
  - Atomic concepts [Classes]
  - Atomic roles [Properties]
  - Individuals
  - **Constructors**

Heart  $\sqsupseteq$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap \sqsupseteq$  sPartOf.CirculatorySystem  
O\_Id7894  $\sqsupseteq$  Heart



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The semantics

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



# DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

- The semantics
  - Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

## ■ The semantics

- Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

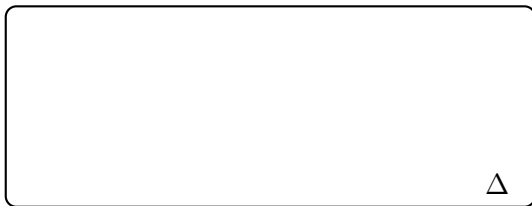
## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

## ■ The semantics

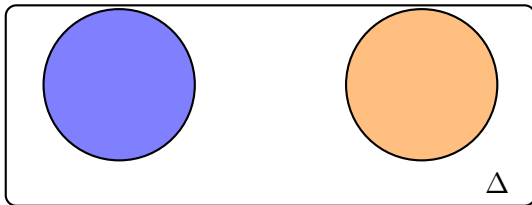
■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function

Atomic concepts  $\Rightarrow$  sets

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart





## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

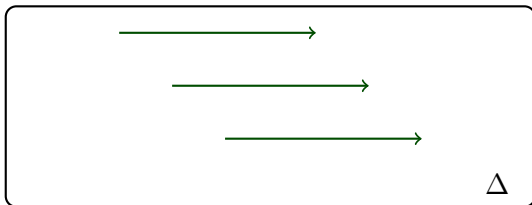
- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function

Atomic concepts  $\Rightarrow$  sets

Atomic roles  $\Rightarrow$  binary relations

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function

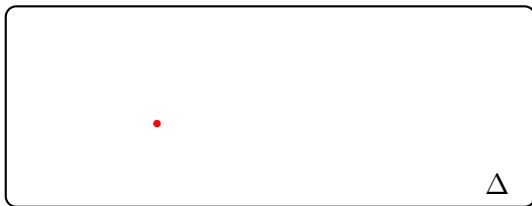
Atomic concepts  $\Rightarrow$  sets

Atomic roles  $\Rightarrow$  binary relations

Individuals  $\Rightarrow$  elements

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894: Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

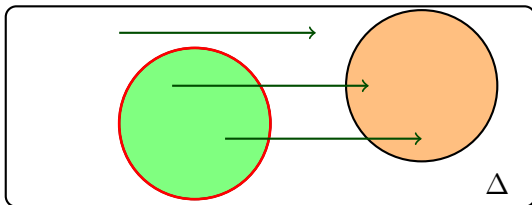
## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function
- Constructors  $\Rightarrow$  **set operators**

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

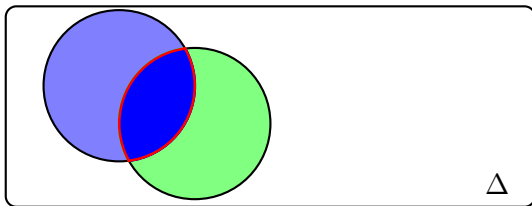
## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function
- Constructors  $\Rightarrow$  **set operators**

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



## DL-BASED ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

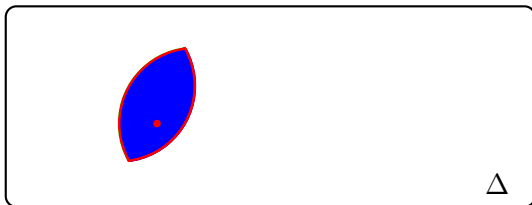
## ■ The semantics

■ Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ 

- $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation domain (non-empty set)
- $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function
- Constructors  $\Rightarrow$  set operators
- $\mathcal{I}$  is a **model** iff all axioms hold

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$  isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart



# A HIERARCHY OF ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES

Name	DL syntax	First-Order syntax	
intersection	$C_1 \sqcap C_2$	$C_1(x) \wedge C_2(x)$	
union	$C_1 \sqcup C_2$	$C_1(x) \vee C_2(x)$	= $\mathcal{A}$
complement	$\neg C$	$\neg C(x)$	$\mathcal{L}$
value restriction	$\forall r.C$	$\forall y.[r(x, y) \rightarrow C(y)]$	$\mathcal{C}$
existential restr.	$\exists r.C$	$\exists y.[r(x, y) \wedge C(y)]$	
concept assertion	$i : C$	$C(i)$	
role assertion	$(i_1, i_2) : r$	$r(i_1, i_2)$	
transitivity	$Trans(r)$	$\forall xyz.[r(x, y) \wedge r(y, z) \rightarrow r(x, z)]$	= $\mathcal{S}$
functionality	$Funct(r)$	$\forall xyz.[r(x, y) \wedge r(x, z) \rightarrow y \simeq z]$	+ $\mathcal{F}$
role inclusion	$r_1 \sqsubseteq r_2$	$\forall xy.[r_1(x, y) \rightarrow r_2(x, y)]$	+ $\mathcal{H}$
inverse roles	$[\dots r^- \dots]$	$[\dots r(y, x) \dots]$	+ $\mathcal{I}$
number restriction	$\leq n r$	$\exists^{\leq n} y.r(x, y)$	+ $\mathcal{N}$
qualified nr. restr.	$\leq n r.C$	$\exists^{\leq n} y.[r(x, y) \wedge C(y)]$	+ $\mathcal{Q}$
nominals	$\{i\}$	$x \simeq i$	+ $\mathcal{O}$

e.g. W3C standard OWL DL  $\rightsquigarrow$  **SHOIN**



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan





# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan

## REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan
  - O\_Id7894 :  $\exists$ isPartOf.(MuscularSystem  $\sqcap$  CirculatorySystem)



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan
  - O\_Id7894 :  $\exists$ isPartOf.(MuscularSystem  $\sqcap$  CirculatorySystem)
- Standard reasoning tasks:



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan
  - O\_Id7894 :  $\exists$ isPartOf.(MuscularSystem  $\sqcap$  CirculatorySystem)
- Standard reasoning tasks:
  - **Classification:**
    - compute all subsumptions  $A \sqsubseteq B$  between named classes



# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan
  - O\_Id7894 :  $\exists$ isPartOf.(MuscularSystem  $\sqcap$  CirculatorySystem)
- Standard reasoning tasks:
  - **Classification:**
    - compute all subsumptions  $A \sqsubseteq B$  between named classes
  - **Instance retrieval:**
    - compute all (implicit) instances  $i$  of a class  $C$ .





# REASONING IN ONTOLOGIES

Heart  $\equiv$  MuscularOrgan  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

MuscularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.MuscularSystem

CardiovascularOrgan  $\equiv$  Organ  $\sqcap$   $\exists$ isPartOf.CirculatorySystem

O\_Id7894 : Heart

- Ontology reasoning = extracting implicit information
  - Heart  $\sqsubseteq$  CardiovascularOrgan
  - O\_Id7894 :  $\exists$ isPartOf.(MuscularSystem  $\sqcap$  CirculatorySystem)
- Standard reasoning tasks:
  - **Classification:**
    - compute all subsumptions  $A \sqsubseteq B$  between named classes
  - **Instance retrieval:**
    - compute all (implicit) instances  $i$  of a class  $C$ .
- Ontology reasoners: FaCT++, Pellet, Racer, KAON2, CEL,



# OUTLINE

1 BACKGROUND

2 MOTIVATION

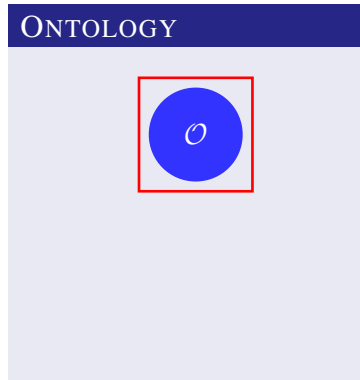
3 THEORY

4 PRACTICE



# REASONING SUPPORT FOR ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

- Debugging:





# REASONING SUPPORT FOR ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

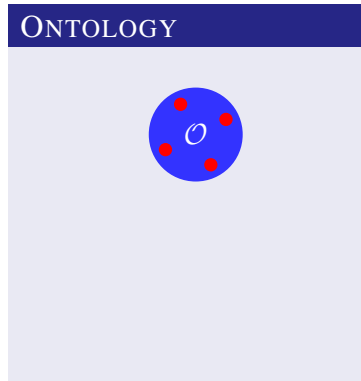
- Debugging:
  - ✓ Checking global consistency





# REASONING SUPPORT FOR ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

- Debugging:
  - ✓ Checking global consistency
  - ✓ **Detecting unsatisfiable classes**





# REASONING SUPPORT FOR ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

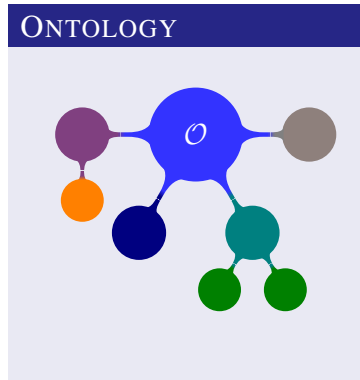
- Debugging:
  - ✓ Checking global consistency
  - ✓ Detecting unsatisfiable classes
  - ✓ **Detecting unintended  
subsumptions**





# REASONING SUPPORT FOR ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

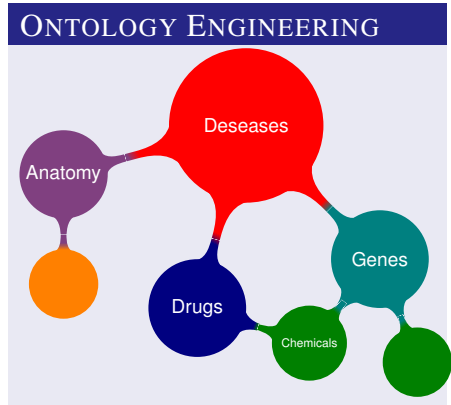
- Debugging:
  - ✓ Checking global consistency
  - ✓ Detecting unsatisfiable classes
  - ✓ Detecting unintended subsumptions
- Not sufficient for large-scale ontology development
- Ontologies ~ Wikipedia





# ONTOLOGY ENGINEERING AT THE LARGE SCALE

- Sharing of resources
- Collaborative development
- Continuous process
- The notion of **modularity** becomes apparent

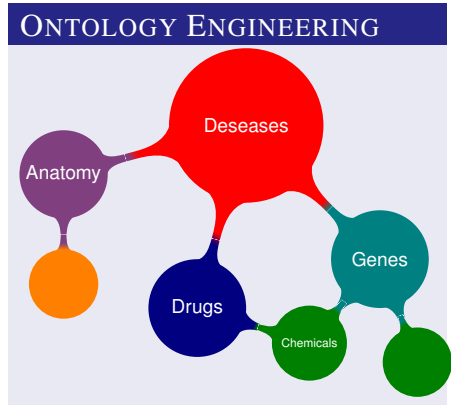






# ONTOLOGY ENGINEERING AT THE LARGE SCALE

- Sharing of resources
- Collaborative development
- Continuous process
- The notion of modularity becomes apparent
- **Challenges:**
  - 1 Safe integration
  - 2 Partial reuse





# A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

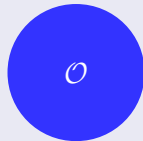
EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

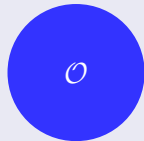
EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

GeneticDisorder  $\equiv$  ...

CysticFibrosis  $\equiv$  ...

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

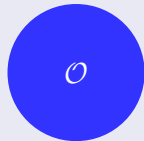
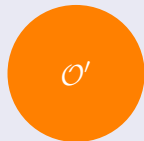
EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

GeneticDisorder  $\equiv$  ...

CysticFibrosis  $\equiv$  ...

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

 $\text{GeneticDisorder} \equiv \dots$  $\text{CysticFibrosis} \equiv \dots$  $\models \text{CysticFibrosis} \sqsubseteq \text{GeneticDisorder}$ 

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

 $\text{CysticFibrosis\_EUProject} \equiv$  $\text{EUProject} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus} . \text{CysticFibrosis}$  $\text{GeneticDisorder\_Project} \equiv$  $\text{Project} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus} . \text{GeneticDisorder}$  $\text{EUProject} \sqsubseteq \text{Project}$ 

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

 $\text{GeneticDisorder} \equiv \dots$  $\text{CysticFibrosis} \equiv \dots$  $\models \text{CysticFibrosis} \sqsubseteq \text{GeneticDisorder}$ 

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

 $\text{CysticFibrosis\_EUProject} \equiv$  $\text{EUProject} \sqcap \text{hasFocus.CysticFibrosis}$  $\text{GeneticDisorder\_Project} \equiv$  $\text{Project} \sqcap \text{hasFocus.GeneticDisorder}$  $\text{EUProject} \sqsubseteq \text{Project}$ 

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

 $\text{GeneticDisorder} \equiv \dots$  $\text{CysticFibrosis} \equiv \dots$  $\models \boxed{\text{CysticFibrosis} \sqsubseteq \text{GeneticDisorder}}$ 

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

 $\text{CysticFibrosis\_EUProject} \equiv$  $\text{EUProject} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus. } \text{CysticFibrosis}$  $\text{GeneticDisorder\_Project} \equiv$  $\text{Project} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus. } \text{GeneticDisorder}$  $\text{EUProject} \sqsubseteq \text{Project}$ 

## ONTOLOGY REUSE







# A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

GeneticDisorder  $\equiv$  ...

CysticFibrosis  $\equiv$  ...

$\models$  CysticFibrosis  $\sqsubseteq$  GeneticDisorder

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

$\models$  CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  GeneticDisorder\_Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## A MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

## ONTOLOGY OF MEDICAL TERMS

 $\text{GeneticDisorder} \equiv \dots$  $\text{CysticFibrosis} \equiv \dots$  $\models \text{CysticFibrosis} \sqsubseteq \text{GeneticDisorder}$ 

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

 $\text{CysticFibrosis\_EUProject} \equiv$  $\text{EUProject} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus} . \text{CysticFibrosis}$  $\text{GeneticDisorder\_Project} \equiv$  $\text{Project} \sqcap \exists \text{hasFocus} . \text{GeneticDisorder}$  $\text{EUProject} \sqsubseteq \text{Project}$  $\models \text{CysticFibrosis\_EUProject} \sqsubseteq \text{GeneticDisorder\_Project}$ 

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# PARTIAL ONTOLOGY REUSE

- Available ontologies are often big and contain lots of irrelevant information

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

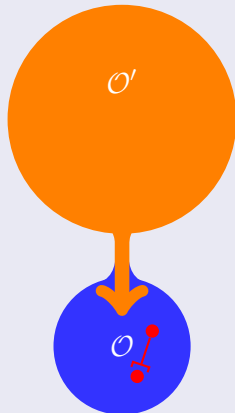
EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.CysticFibrosis

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$ hasFocus.GeneticDisorder

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# PARTIAL ONTOLOGY REUSE

- Available ontologies are often big and contain lots of irrelevant information
- A **module** is a part that “*expresses completely*” the reused vocabulary.

## ONTOLOGY OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

CysticFibrosis\_EUProject  $\equiv$

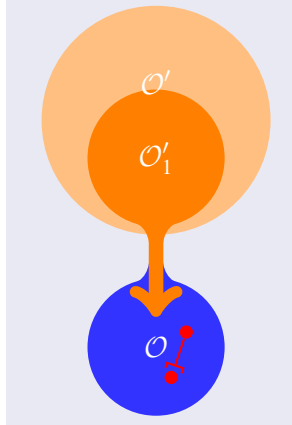
EUProject  $\sqcap \exists$  hasFocus. **CysticFibrosis**

GeneticDisorder\_Project  $\equiv$

Project  $\sqcap \exists$  hasFocus. **GeneticDisorder**

EUProject  $\sqsubseteq$  Project

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# OUTLINE

1 BACKGROUND

2 MOTIVATION

**3 THEORY**

4 PRACTICE



# SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## INFORMALLY

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  **safely reuses** ontology  $\mathcal{O}'$  if  $\mathcal{O}$  does not change the “meaning” of the reused symbols from  $\mathcal{O}'$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## DEFINITION (1)

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a **conservative extension** of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t. ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every axiom  $\alpha$  over  $\mathcal{O}'$  expressed in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{O}' \models \alpha$$

### INFORMALLY

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  **safely reuses** ontology  $\mathcal{O}'$  if  $\mathcal{O}$  does not change the “meaning” of the reused symbols from  $\mathcal{O}'$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## DEFINITION (1)

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a **conservative extension** of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t. ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every axiom  $\alpha$  over  $\mathcal{O}'$  expressed in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{O}' \models \alpha$$

## EXAMPLE (1)

$$\mathcal{O}' = \begin{cases} A \equiv \dots \\ B \equiv \dots \end{cases} \quad \not\models B \sqsubseteq A$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{cases} C_1 \equiv A \sqcap C_2 \\ B \sqsubseteq C_1 \end{cases} \quad \models B \sqsubseteq A$$

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is **not** a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





## SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## DEFINITION (1)

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a **conservative extension** of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t. ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every axiom  $\alpha$  over  $\mathcal{O}'$  expressed in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{O}' \models \alpha$$

## EXAMPLE (2)

$$\mathcal{O}' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A \equiv \dots \\ \not\models T \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp \end{array} \right.$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a : (A \sqcap B) \\ b : (A \sqcap \neg B) \end{array} \right. \quad \not\models T \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp$$

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## DEFINITION (1)

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a **conservative extension** of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t. ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every axiom  $\alpha$  over  $\mathcal{O}'$  expressed in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{O}' \models \alpha$$

## EXAMPLE (2)

$$\mathcal{O}' = \{ A \equiv \dots \quad \not\models T \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{cases} a : (A \sqcap B) & \not\models T \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp \\ b : (A \sqcap \neg B) & \models |A| \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathit{ACC}$

The “meaning” of  $A$  has changed, but  $\mathcal{L} = \mathit{ACC}$  cannot “see” the change.

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## SAFE REUSE OF ONTOLOGIES

## DEFINITION (2)

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a **model conservative extension** of  $\mathcal{O}'$  if every model of  $\mathcal{O}'$  can be expanded to a model of  $\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$ :

$$\forall \mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}' \exists \mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O} : \mathcal{I}|_{\mathcal{O}'} = \mathcal{J}|_{\mathcal{O}'}$$

## EXAMPLE (2)

$$\mathcal{O}' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A \equiv \dots \\ \neq \top \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp \end{array} \right.$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a : (A \sqcap B) \\ b : (A \sqcap \neg B) \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \neq \top \sqsubseteq A, A \sqsubseteq \perp \\ \models |A| \geq 2 \end{array}$$

$\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$ , but not model conservative

The “meaning” of  $A$  has changed, but  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$  cannot “see” the change.

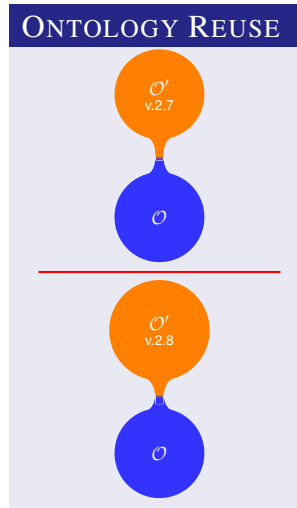
## ONTOLOGY REUSE





# SAFETY FOR EVOLVING ONTOLOGIES

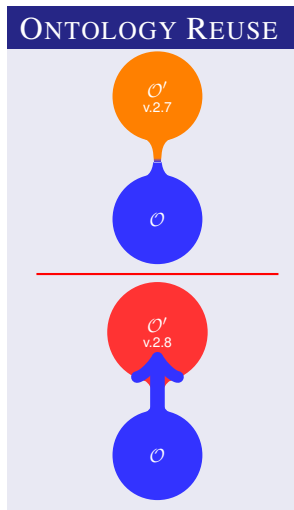
- Ontologies **evolve** over time





# SAFETY FOR EVOLVING ONTOLOGIES

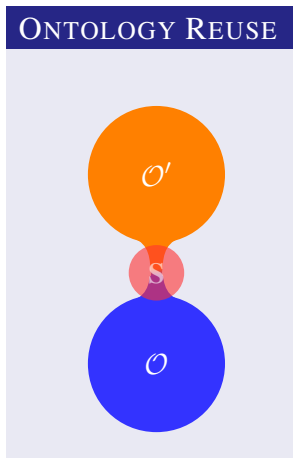
- Ontologies evolve over time
- If  $\mathcal{O}$  safely for  $\mathcal{O}'$  then it is expected to **remain** safe for new versions of  $\mathcal{O}'$ .





# SAFETY FOR EVOLVING ONTOLOGIES

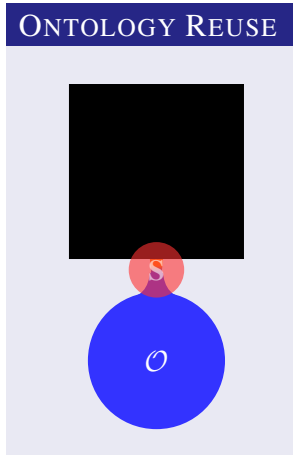
- Ontologies evolve over time
- If  $\mathcal{O}$  safely for  $\mathcal{O}'$  then it is expected to remain safe for new versions of  $\mathcal{O}'$ .
- The notion of safety can be formulated for the **interface signature** instead





# SAFETY FOR EVOLVING ONTOLOGIES

- Ontologies evolve over time
- If  $\mathcal{O}$  safely for  $\mathcal{O}'$  then it is expected to remain safe for new versions of  $\mathcal{O}'$ .
- The notion of safety can be formulated for the **interface signature** instead
- Thus treating  $\mathcal{O}'$  as a **black box**



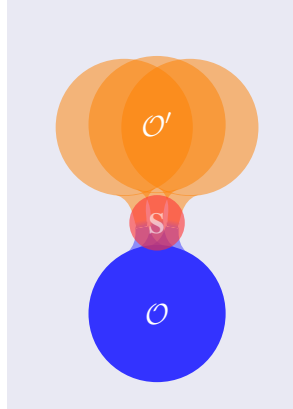


# SAFETY FOR A SIGNATURE

## DEFINITION (SAFETY FOR A SIGNATURE)

$\mathcal{O}$  is **safe for a signature  $S$**  w.r.t. an ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every  $\mathcal{O}'$  formulated over  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $\text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}') \cap \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}) \subseteq S$ , we have that  $\mathcal{O} \cup \mathcal{O}'$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE





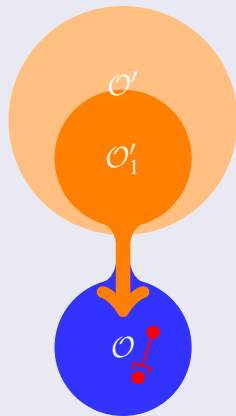
## MODULE FOR AN ONTOLOGY



## INFORMALLY

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a **module** in ontology  $\mathcal{O}'$  for the importing ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ , if importing  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  into  $\mathcal{O}$  instead of  $\mathcal{O}'$  does not change the “meaning” of the symbols in  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



# MODULE FOR AN ONTOLOGY

## DEFINITION (MODULE FOR ONTOLOGY)

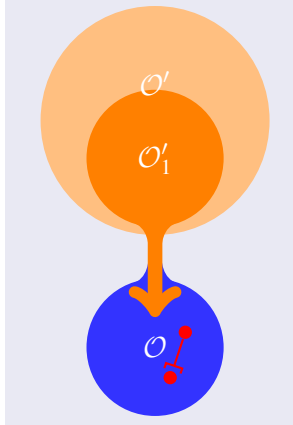
$\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a **module** in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$  and ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every axiom  $\alpha$  over  $\mathcal{O}$  expressed in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{O}'_1 \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O} \models \alpha$$

### INFORMALLY

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a **module** in ontology  $\mathcal{O}'$  for the importing ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ , if importing  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  into  $\mathcal{O}$  instead of  $\mathcal{O}'$  does not change the “meaning” of the symbols in  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



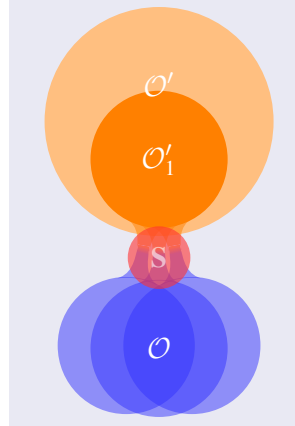


# MODULE FOR A SIGNATURE

## DEFINITION (MODULE FOR SIGNATURE)

$\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a **module** in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S}$  and ontology language  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  formulated over  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $\text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}) \cap \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}') \subseteq \mathbf{S}$ , we have that  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a **module** in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## ONTOLOGY REUSE



## REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	

## REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	

## REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules



# REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules

## THEOREM

Checking if  $\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L}$  is

- *undecidable* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALCQIO}$  [2].
- *2-ExpTime-complete* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$  [1] and  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALCQI}$  [2]
- *ExpTime-complete* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{EL}$  [3]

[1] Ghilardi, Lutz & Wolter, KR'06

[2] Lutz, Walther & Wolter, IJCAI'07

[3] Lutz & Wolter, CADE'07



# REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules

## THEOREM

Checking if  $\mathcal{O}' \cup \mathcal{O}$  is a conservative extension of  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L}$  is

- *undecidable* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALCQIO}$  [2].
- *2-ExpTime-complete* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALC}$  [1] and  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{ALCQI}$  [2]
- *ExpTime-complete* for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{EL}$  [3]

Corollary: Then so are the tasks T1 and T3

[1] Ghilardi, Lutz & Wolter, KR'06

[2] Lutz, Walther & Wolter, IJCAI'07 [3] Lutz & Wolter, CADE'07





# REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules

## THEOREM ([3])

Given an *ALC*-axiom  $\alpha$ , and a signature  $\mathbf{S}$ , it is *undecidable* whether  $\mathcal{O} = \{\alpha\}$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S}$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{ALCO}$ .

[3] Cuenca-Grau, Horrocks, Kazakov & Sattler, WWW-2007



# REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules

## THEOREM ([3])

Given an *ALC*-axiom  $\alpha$ , and a signature  $\mathbf{S}$ , it is *undecidable* whether  $\mathcal{O} = \{\alpha\}$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S}$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{ALCO}$ .

Corollary: Then so are the tasks T2 and T4

[3] Cuenca-Grau, Horrocks, Kazakov & Sattler, WWW-2007



# REASONING PROBLEMS

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s)* in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹

\*variants=[all / some / union of] minimal modules

## OPEN PROBLEMS

Is safety for a signature decidable for  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{ALLC}$ ?  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{EL}$ ?

If yes, what is the complexity?



# OUTLINE

1 BACKGROUND

2 MOTIVATION

3 THEORY

4 PRACTICE



# REASONING PROBLEMS: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

Not	Input	Task	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is safe for $\mathbf{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹



# REASONING PROBLEMS: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

Not	Input	Task	<i>"sufficiently"</i>	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is $\checkmark$ safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$		☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is $\checkmark$ safe for $\mathcal{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$		☹
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$		☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Extract minimal module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$		☹

- Develop practical **sufficient conditions** for safety



# REASONING PROBLEMS: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

Not	Input	Task	
		<i>"sufficiently"</i>	
T1	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is <del>Y</del> safe for $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T2	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{L}$	Check whether $\mathcal{O}$ is <del>Y</del> safe for $\mathcal{S}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T3	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}', \mathcal{L}$	<del>Extract minimal</del> module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{O}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹
T4	$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{L}$	<del>Extract minimal</del> module(s) in $\mathcal{O}'$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{S}$ and $\mathcal{L}$	☹

*small*

- Develop practical **sufficient conditions** for safety
- Develop algorithms for extracting **reasonably small** but not necessarily minimal modules

# A SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR SAFETY

## THEOREM (SUFFICIENT CONDITION)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for a signature  $\mathbf{S}$  if for every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  there exists a model  $\mathcal{J}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$  that coincides with  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $\mathbf{S}$ :

$$\forall \mathcal{I} \exists \mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O} : \mathcal{I}|_{\mathbf{S}} = \mathcal{J}|_{\mathbf{S}}$$

The main idea:

- To prove that  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S}$  it is sufficient to extend any interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  of symbols from  $\mathbf{S}$  to a model of  $\mathcal{O}$



# A SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR SAFETY

## THEOREM (SUFFICIENT CONDITION)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for a signature  $\mathbf{S}$  if for every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  there exists a model  $\mathcal{J}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$  that coincides with  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $\mathbf{S}$ :

$$\forall \mathcal{I} \exists \mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O} : \mathcal{I}|_{\mathbf{S}} = \mathcal{J}|_{\mathbf{S}}$$

The main idea:

- To prove that  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S}$  it is sufficient to extend any interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  of symbols from  $\mathbf{S}$  to a model of  $\mathcal{O}$
- We try to interpret every new symbol as **the empty set**

# A SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR SAFETY

## THEOREM (SUFFICIENT CONDITION)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for a signature  $\mathbf{S}$  if for every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  there exists a model  $\mathcal{J}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$  that coincides with  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $\mathbf{S}$ :

$$\forall \mathcal{I} \exists \mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O} : \mathcal{I}|_{\mathbf{S}} = \mathcal{J}|_{\mathbf{S}}$$

The main idea:

- To prove that  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S}$  it is sufficient to extend any interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  of symbols from  $\mathbf{S}$  to a model of  $\mathcal{O}$
- We try to interpret every new symbol as **the empty set**

## EXAMPLE

$$\mathcal{O} = \begin{cases} A \equiv B \sqcap \exists r.C \\ A \sqcap B \sqsubseteq \perp \\ \exists r.T \sqsubseteq C \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{c} r \leftarrow \emptyset \\ \longrightarrow \\ A \leftarrow \emptyset \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \perp \equiv B \sqcap \perp \quad \checkmark \\ \perp \sqcap B \sqsubseteq \perp \quad \checkmark \\ \perp \sqsubseteq C \quad \checkmark \end{array}$$



# LOCALITY

## DEFINITION (LOCALITY FOR ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is **local w.r.t.  $S$**  if  $\mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O}$  for every  $\mathcal{J}$  which interprets all concept and role names **not in  $S$**  as the **empty set**.



# LOCALITY

## DEFINITION (LOCALITY FOR ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is **local w.r.t.  $S$**  if  $\mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O}$  for every  $\mathcal{J}$  which interprets all concept and role names **not in  $S$**  as the **empty set**.

✓ If  $\mathcal{O}$  is local w.r.t.  $S$  then  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for  $S$ :



# LOCALITY

## DEFINITION (LOCALITY FOR ONTOLOGY LANGUAGES)

An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is **local w.r.t.  $S$**  if  $\mathcal{J} \models \mathcal{O}$  for every  $\mathcal{J}$  which interprets all concept and role names **not in  $S$**  as the **empty set**.

- ✓ If  $\mathcal{O}$  is local w.r.t.  $S$  then  $\mathcal{O}$  is safe for  $S$ :
- ✓ Can be verified using any DL-reasoner.

## EXTRACTING LOCALITY-BASED MODULES

## PROPOSITION (MODULES AND SAFETY)

If  $\mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$   
then  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a module in  $\mathcal{O}'$  for  $\mathbf{S}$ .

# EXTRACTING LOCALITY-BASED MODULES

## PROPOSITION (MODULES AND SAFETY)

If  $\mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$   
 then  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a module in  $\mathcal{O}'$  for  $\mathbf{S}$ .

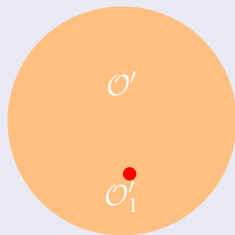
## EXTRACTING MODULES

Given:  $\mathcal{O}'$  and  $\mathbf{S}$

Compute: a module  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S}$

- 1 Initialize  $\mathcal{O}'_1 := \emptyset$
- 2 Find  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  such that  $\alpha$  is not local w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$
- 3 Move  $\alpha$  into  $\mathcal{O}'_1$
- 4 Repeat until fixpoint

## MODULE FOR $\mathbf{S}$



# EXTRACTING LOCALITY-BASED MODULES

## PROPOSITION (MODULES AND SAFETY)

If  $\mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$   
 then  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a module in  $\mathcal{O}'$  for  $\mathbf{S}$ .

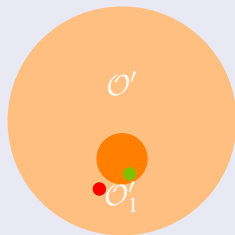
## EXTRACTING MODULES

Given:  $\mathcal{O}'$  and  $\mathbf{S}$

Compute: a module  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S}$

- 1 Initialize  $\mathcal{O}'_1 := \emptyset$
- 2 Find  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  such that  $\alpha$  is not local w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$
- 3 Move  $\alpha$  into  $\mathcal{O}'_1$
- 4 Repeat until fixpoint

## MODULE FOR $\mathbf{S}$





# EXTRACTING LOCALITY-BASED MODULES

## PROPOSITION (MODULES AND SAFETY)

If  $\mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$   
 then  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a module in  $\mathcal{O}'$  for  $\mathbf{S}$ .

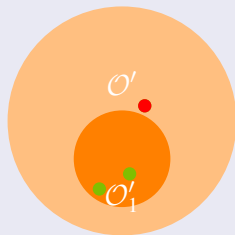
## EXTRACTING MODULES

Given:  $\mathcal{O}'$  and  $\mathbf{S}$

Compute: a module  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S}$

- 1 Initialize  $\mathcal{O}'_1 := \emptyset$
- 2 Find  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  such that  $\alpha$  is not local w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$
- 3 Move  $\alpha$  into  $\mathcal{O}'_1$
- 4 Repeat until fixpoint

## MODULE FOR $\mathbf{S}$



# EXTRACTING LOCALITY-BASED MODULES

## PROPOSITION (MODULES AND SAFETY)

If  $\mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  is safe for  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$   
 then  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  is a module in  $\mathcal{O}'$  for  $\mathbf{S}$ .

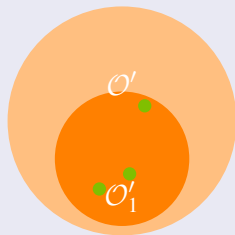
## EXTRACTING MODULES

Given:  $\mathcal{O}'$  and  $\mathbf{S}$

Compute: a module  $\mathcal{O}'_1$  in  $\mathcal{O}'$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S}$

- 1 Initialize  $\mathcal{O}'_1 := \emptyset$
- 2 Find  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}' \setminus \mathcal{O}'_1$  such that  $\alpha$  is not local w.r.t.  $\mathbf{S} \cup \text{Sg}(\mathcal{O}'_1)$
- 3 Move  $\alpha$  into  $\mathcal{O}'_1$
- 4 Repeat until fixpoint

## MODULE FOR $\mathbf{S}$



## EMPIRICAL RESULTS

Ontology	# Atomic Concepts	A1: Prompt-Factor [1]		A2: Mod. in [2]		A3: Loc.-based mod.	
		Max.(%)	Avg.(%)	Max.(%)	Avg.(%)	Max.(%)	Avg.(%)
NCI	27772	87.6	75.84	55	30.8	0.8	0.08
SNOMED	255318	100	100	100	100	0.5	0.05
GO	22357	1	0.1	1	0.1	0.4	0.05
SUMO	869	100	100	100	100	2	0.09
GALEN-Small	2749	100	100	100	100	10	1.7
GALEN-Full	24089	100	100	100	100	29.8	3.5
SWEET	1816	96.4	88.7	83.3	51.5	1.9	0.1
DOLCE-Lite	499	100	100	100	100	37.3	24.6

- [1] H. Stuckenschmidt & M. Klein Structure-based partitioning of large class hierarchies. ISWC 2004
- [2] B. Cuenca Grau, B. Parsia, E. Sirin, & A. Kalyanpur. Modularity and Web Ontologies. KR 2006



## OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Formalization for the notions for **safety** and **modules** using conservative extension
  - Theoretical studies for the relevant tasks (decidability, complexity)
  - Practical algorithms for extracting modules and safety checking with guaranteed correctness of the results
- 1 B. Cuenca Grau, I. Horrocks, Y. Kazakov, and U. Sattler. A logical framework for modularity of ontologies. In Proc. of IJCAI 2007
  - 2 B. Cuenca Grau, I. Horrocks, Y. Kazakov, and U. Sattler. Just the right amount: Extracting modules from ontologies. In Proc. of WWW 2007
  - 3 B. Cuenca Grau, I. Horrocks, Y. Kazakov, and U. Sattler. Modular Reuse of Ontologies: Theory and Practice. JAIR 2008



# OTHER LOCALITY CONDITIONS

Other locality conditions can be defined by choosing different ways to interpret the symbols that are not in **S**:

## EXAMPLES AND COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT LOCALITIES

$r \leftarrow$	$\emptyset$	$\Delta \times \Delta$	$id$	$\emptyset$	$\Delta \times \Delta$	$id$
$A \leftarrow$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\Delta$	$\Delta$	$\Delta$
$A \equiv B \sqcap \exists r.C$	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
$A \sqcap C \sqsubseteq \perp$	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
$\exists r.T \sqsubseteq A$	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
<i>Functional</i> ( $r$ )	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
$a : A$	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
$r(a, b)$	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
$\forall r.C \sqsubseteq \exists r.D$	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗