Managing diversity in Knowledge

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Outline

- The problem: the complexity of knowledge
- The solution: managing diversity
- Some early work
- Three core issues





Managing knowledge (and data)

The "standard" Approach:

- Take into account, at design time, the future dynamics.
- Design a "general enough" representation model, able to incorporate the future knowledge variations.
- Most commonly: design a global representation schema and codify into it the diverse knowledge components.

Examples: Relational and distributed databases, federated databases, ontologies, knowledge bases, data bases in the Web (information integration), ...



Why the current approach?

- It is conceptually "simple"
- It has been successfully and extensively used in the past
- There is a lot of know-how
- It works well also in "controlled" (not too) open applications
- It satisfies the companies' desire to be in control of their data
- It is reassuring: it is "easy" to establish right ... and wrong
- It is deeply rooted in our logical and philosophical tradition

... it should be used as much as possible!





However...

Ex. 1: business catalogs (~ 10⁴ nodes)

UNSPSC

Top

- Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories
 - Lapidary machinery and equipment
 - Leatherworking repairing machinery and equipment
 - Industrial process machinery and equipment and supplies
 - Separation machinery and equipment
 - Cutting tools
 - Drills
 - Reamer cutting tool
 - Form tools or toolbits
 - Taps or dies
 - **Broach cutting tool**
 - Gear cutting tools
 - **Rotary burrs**
 - Regrind or reclaim or coating services for cutting tools
 - Countesink tool or counterbore tool
 - Machinery cutting knives or knife assemblies
 - Assembly machines
 - Foundry machines and equipment and supplies
 - Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies

eCl@ss

- Top
 - Machine, apparatus
 - Heat exchanger
 - Boiler, furnace

 - Cleaning installation
 - Sound damper, pulsation damper
 - Cutting machine
 - Plasma cutting machine
 - Cutting machine (other)
 - shears (manufacturing of glass)
 - melt machine (manufacturing of glass)
 - Cutting machine (parts)
 - Cutting mach. (maint., serv.)
 - Cutting mach. (repair)





The problem: the complexity of knowledge

- Size: the sheer numbers a huge increase in the number of knowledge producers and users, and in their production/use capabilities
- Pervasiveness: knowledge, producers, users pervasive in space and time
- Time unboundedness two aspects:
 - o knowledge continuously produced, with no foreseeable upper bound.
 - o *Eternal Knowledge*: produced to be used indefinitely in time (e.g. my own family records, cultural heritage)
- Distribution: knowledge, producers and users very sparse in distribution, with a spatial and a temporal distribution





The core issue: knowledge diversity

- Diversity: unavoidable ... in knowledge, producers and users
- Dynamics (of diversity): new and old knowledge, often referenced by other knowledge, will (dis)appear virtually at any moment in time and location in space.
- Unpredictability (of the dynamics of diversity): the future dynamics of knowledge unknown at design and run time.





Semantic heterogeneity

- Two (data, content or knowledge) items are semantically heterogeneous when they are diverse, still being a representation of the same phenomenon (example: 1Euro, 1.25\$)
- The semantic heterogeneity problem is an instance of the problem of diversity





Semantic heterogeneity and diversity: business catalogs

UNSPSC

Тор

- Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories
 - Lapidary machinery and equipment
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 - Cutting mach. (repair)

 - Pressure machine





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A paradigm shift: Managing diversity in knowledge

Consider diversity as a feature which must be maintained and exploited (at run-time) and not as a defect that must be absorbed (at design time).

A paradigm shift

- FROM: knowledge assembled by the design-time combination of basic building blocks. Knowledge produced ab initio
- **TO:** knowledge obtained by the *design* and *run-time adaptation* of existing building blocks. Knowledge no longer produced *ab initio*

New methodologies for knowledge representation and management

- o design of (self-) adaptive knowledge systems
- o develop methods and tools for the management, control and use of emergent knowledge properties





Handling diversity Step 1: design knowledge to be "local"

- FACT 1: Acknowledge that complexity and unpredictable dynamics are such that we can only build local knowledge, satisfying some set of local goals (though as broad as possible). This knowledge defines a viewpoint, a partial theory of the world
- GOAL: Design local knowledge which is optimal for the goals it is meant to achieve [[Diversity is a feature! ... the WWW is not an "implementational mistake"]]
- ACTION: Implement local knowledge as a suitable local theory.





A toy example – 2

Two local theories ...

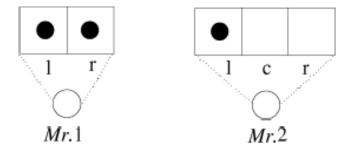


Figure 2: Mr.1 and Mr.2's contexts.

... and the world

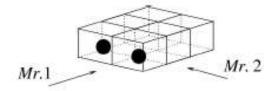


Figure 1: The magic box





A real world example: Business catalogs (contexts)

UNSPSC

eCl@ss

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 - Assembly machines
 - Paint systems
 - Foundry machines and equipment and supplies
 - Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies

- Top
 - Machine, apparatus
 - Heat exchanger
 - Boiler, furnace
 - Sterilizer
 - Cleaning installation
 - Sound damper, pulsation damper
 - Cutting machine
 - Plasma cutting machine
 - Cutting machine (other)
 - shears (manufacturing of glass)
 - melt machine (manufacturing of glass)
 - Cutting machine (parts)
 - Cutting mach. (maint., serv.)
 - Cutting mach. (repair)
 - **⊞** Textile machine
 - Pressure machine



Which world? How much of it?



Handling diversity – Step 2: knowledge sharing via interoperabilty

- FACT: Acknowledge that we are bound to have multiple diverse theories of the world (and also of the same world phenomena)
- GOAL: Make the local theories semantically interoperable and exploit them to build solutions to "global" problems (e.g. eBusiness, knowledge sharing)
- ACTION: Implement semantic interoperability via semantic mappings (context mappings) between local theories.





Foundry machines and equipment and supplies Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies

A real world example - more: Partial agreement between catalogs

- Top Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories Machine, apparatus Heat exchanger Lapidary machinery and equipment Boiler, furnace Leatherworking repairing machinery and equipment Industrial process machinery and equipment and supplies Sterilizer Separation machinery and equipment Cleaning installation Cutting tools Sound damper, pulsation damper Drills **Cutting machine** Reamer cutting tool Plasma cutting machine Form tools or toolbits Cutting machine (other) Taps or dies shears (manufacturing of glass) **Broach cutting tool** melt machine (manufacturing of glass) Gear cutting tools Cutting machine (parts) Rotary burrs Cutting mach. (maint., serv.) Regrind or reclaim or coating services for cutting tools Cutting mach. (repair) Countesink tool or counterbore tool Textile machine Machinery cutting knives or knife assemblies Pressure machine Assembly machines Paint systems
 - Ex.: <Id, Drills, Cutting machine (other), subsumes>



Handling diversity – Step 3: knowledge sharing via adaptivity

- FACT: Acknowledge that in most cases straight interoperability will not work due the different goals and requirements
- GOAL: Make the local theories and context mappings adaptive and adapt them as needed at any new use
- ACTION: Implement (partial) adaptivity as a set of (meta)data: implicit assumptions





A real world example - more: The two catalogs' implicit assumptions

- **∃** Top Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories Lapidary machinery and equipment Leatherworking repairing machinery and equipment Industrial process machinery and equipment and supplies Separation machinery and equipment Cutting tools Drills Reamer cutting tool Form tools or toolbits Taps or dies Broach cutting tool Gear cutting tools Rotary burrs Regrind or reclaim or coating services for cutting tools Countesink tool or counterbore tool Machinery cutting knives or knife assemblies Assembly machines Paint systems Foundry machines and equipment and supplies Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies
- **∃** Top
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 - Cutting mach. (repair)
 - **⊞** Textile machine
 - Pressure machine

Implicit assumptions:

<Focus = Tools and process>

Area = Mechanical Eng.> ...

<Focus= tools>
<Area= Engineering> ...



Implicit assumptions

- Data and knowledge depend on many, unstated, implicit
 assumptions (goals, local state of affairs, time, location, ...)
- Implicit assumptions are indefinitely many, but finite in any moment in time
- Only some implicit assumptions can be memorized and/ or reconstructed
- Adaptivity is (partially) obtained by providing the means to represent implicit assumptions, to reason about them (add, modify, learn, ...), and to use them to adapt local knowledge





A knowledge system

A knowledge system (component) is a 4- tuple:

< id, Th, M, IA >

Where:

- Id: unique identifier
- Th: Theory it codifies, in a proper *local* representation formalism, the *local* knowledge of the world
- M: a set of mappings they codify the semantic relation existing between (elements of) local theories.
- IA: a finite but unbound set of assertions, written in some local metalanguage – they allow for the representation of implicit assumptions





Outline

The problem: the complexity of knowledge

- The solution: managing diversity
- Some early work: reusing, sharing, adapting language (ontologies) in the Web
 - C-OWL: Representing semantic mappings [Bouquet, Giunchiglia et al., ISWC'03, book in Spring 2007]
 - Semantic Matching: Discovering semantic mappings
 - Open Knowledge: Exploiting local theories and semantic mappings
- Three core issues





C-OWL: Contextual Ontologies

Contextual ontology = Ontology + Context mappings

Key idea:

- Share as much as possible (extended OWL import construct)
- Keep it local whenever sharing does not work (C-OWL context mappings)

Note: Using context allows for incremental, piece-wise construction of the Semantic Web (bottom up vs. top down approach).





C-OWL (1): multiple indexed ontologies

(Indexed Ontologies): Each ontology O_i and its language are associated a unique identifier i (e.g., i:C, j:E, $i:\exists r.C$)

(OWL space): A OWL space is a family of ontologies $\{\langle i, O_i \rangle\}$

(Local language): A local concept (role, individual), C_i (R_i , O_i) which appears in O_i with index i.





C-OWL (2): local Interpretations and domains

Consider the OWL space $\{\langle i, O_i \rangle\}$. Associate to each ontology O_i a OWL interpretation I_i

(Local Interpretations): A C-OWL interpretation I is a family $I = \{I_i\}$, of interpretations I_i called the *local interpretations* of O_i .

Note: each ontology is associated with a local Interpretation

(Local domains): each local interpretation is associated with a *local domain* and a local interpretation function, namely

$$I_i = \langle \Delta^{Ii}, (.)^{Ii} \rangle$$

Note: Local domains may overlap (two ontologies may refer to the same object)





C-OWL (3): context mappings

(Context mappings): A context mapping from ontology O_i to ontology O_j has one of the four following forms,

$$i\!:\!x \xrightarrow{\sqsubseteq} j\!:\!y, \quad i\!:\!x \xrightarrow{\sqsupset} j\!:\!y, \quad i\!:\!x \xrightarrow{\equiv} j\!:\!y, \quad i\!:\!x \xrightarrow{\bot} j\!:\!y, \quad i\!:\!x \xrightarrow{*} j\!:\!y,$$

with x_i , y concepts (individuals, roles) of the languages L_i and L_j

(Domain relations): Given a set of local interpretations

$$I_i = \langle \Delta^{Ii}, (.)^{Ii} \rangle$$

with local domains Δ^{Ii} , a domain relation r_{ij} is a subset of Δ^{Ii} \mathbf{x} Δ^{Ii} (a mapping between Δ^{Ii} and Δ^{Ii})





C-OWL: two examples

Example 1: Sale:Car and FIAT:car describe the same set of cars from two different viewpoints (sales and maintenance), and therefore with different attributes. We cannot have equivalence, however we have the following contextual mappings:

Domain relation satisfies:

Example 2: Ferrari sells two cars which use petrol. Mappings:

Domain relation satisfies:

$$r_{WCM, Ferrari}(Petrol)^{IWCM} \supseteq \{F23^{IFerrari}, F34i^{IFerrari}\}$$





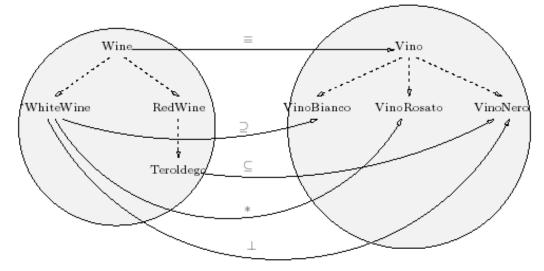
C-OWL: the vision

A contextual ontology is a pair:

- OWL ontology
- o a set of context mappings

A context mapping is a 4-tuple:

- A mapping identifier
- A source context
- A target context
- A domain relation



NOTES:

- a C-OWL space is a set of contextual ontologies
- mappings are objects (!!)





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 - Semantic Matching: Discovering semantic mappings [Giunchiglia et al, ISWC**, ESWC**, ECAl'06]
 - Open Knowledge: Exploiting local theories and semantic mappings
- Three core issues





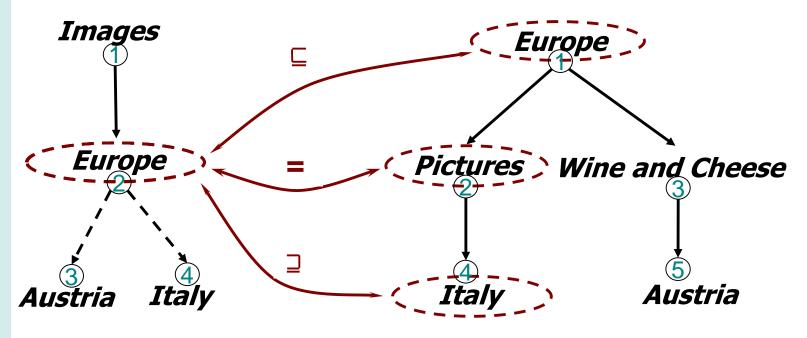
An example: Matching catalogs for eBusiness

- Top Top Machine, apparatus Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Machinery and Accessories Heat exchanger Lapidary machinery and equipment Boiler, furnace Leatherworking repairing machinery and equipment Industrial process machinery and equipment and supplies Sterilizer Separation machinery and equipment Cleaning installation Cutting tools Sound damper, pulsation damper Drills **Cutting machine** Reamer cutting tool Plasma cutting machine Form tools or toolbits Cutting machine (other) Taps or dies shears (manufacturing of glass) **Broach cutting tool** melt machine (manufacturing of glass) Gear cutting tools Cutting machine (parts) Rotary burrs Cutting mach. (maint., serv.) Regrind or reclaim or coating services for cutting tools Cutting mach. (repair) Countesink tool or counterbore tool Textile machine Machinery cutting knives or knife assemblies Pressure machine Assembly machines Paint systems
 - Ex.: <Id, Drills, Cutting machine (other), subsumes>

Foundry machines and equipment and supplies Workshop machinery and equipment and supplies



Toy example: a small Web directory



$$< ID_{22}, 2, 2, = >$$



Algo Step 4





The two key problems

- 1. Ontologies (Web directories? Classifications?) Vast majority (including catalogs) are ambiguously and partially defined:
 - 1. Meaning of labels is ambiguous (labels are in Natural Language)
 - 2. Labels are (somewhat) complex sentences
 - 3. Meaning of links is ambiguous (no labels or ambiguous labels)
 - 4. A lot of background knowledge is left implicit
- 2. Matching The notion of matching is not well defined: many, somewhat similar, notions and corresponding implementations can be found in the literature...





Problem 1: ontologies Dealing with ambiguity and partiality

Translate classifications into (lightweight) ontologies according to the following (not necessarily sequential) phases

- Compute the background knowledge: extract it from existing resources (e.g., Wordnet, other ontologies, other peers, the Web, ...)
- For any label compute the concept of the label: translate the natural language label into a description logic formula (using NLP)
- 3. For all nodes compute the concepts at nodes: compose concepts of labels into a complex formula which captures the classification strategy





Problem 2 Formalize Semantic Matching

Mapping element is a 4-tuple $\langle ID_{ij}, n1_i, n2_i, R \rangle$, where

- o *ID_{ii}* is a unique identifier of the given mapping element;
- o n₁ is the *i-th* node of the first graph;
- o n2; is the j-th node of the second graph;
- o R specifies a semantic relation between the concepts at the given nodes

Computed R's, listed in the decreasing binding strength order:

```
equivalence { = };
more general/specific { □ , □ };
mismatch { ⊥ };
overlapping { □ }
... I_dont_know.
```

Semantic Matching: Given two graphs G1 and G2, given a node $n1_i \in G1$, find the mapping with the strongest semantic relation R' holding with node $n2_i \in G2$



Problem 2 Implement semantic matching

The idea: reduce the matching problem to a validity problem

Let

Wffrel (C1, C2)

be the relation to be proved between the two concepts *C1* and *C2*, where:

C1 equiv C2 is translated into C1 \leftrightarrow C2

C1 subsumes C2 is translated into C1 \rightarrow C2

C1 \perp C2 is translated into \neg (C1 \wedge C2)

Then prove

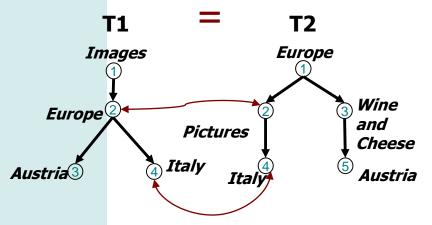
"Background knowledge" → Wffrel (C1_i, C2_i)

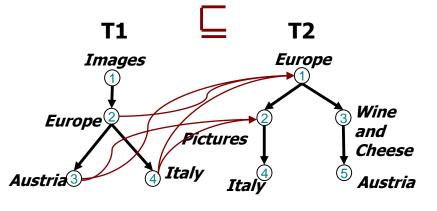
... using SAT

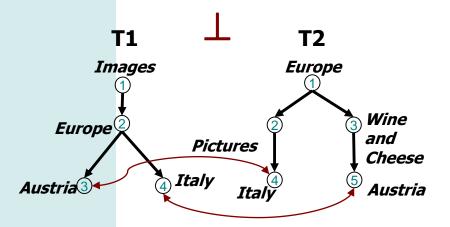


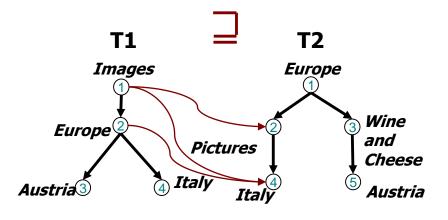


Step 4: cont'd (2)













Does this really work? Recall (incompleteness)!

NLP techniques evaluation [Magnini et al. 2004]

- Google vs. Yahoo: Architecture (Arc.) and Medicine (Med.) parts
- Precision (Pr.), Recall (Re.), F-measure (F)
- CtxMatch (baseline)

		Pr.	Re.	F
	equiv.	.33 (.25)	.04 (.04)	.07 (.07)
Arc.	more g.	.92 (.93)	.42 (.44)	.58 (.60)
	less g.	.88 (.90)	.62 (.41)	.73 (.56)
	equiv.	.27 (.25)	.07 (.05)	.11 (.08)
Med.	more g.	.91 (.95)	.48 (.45)	.63 (.61)
	less g.	.83 (.86)	.61 (.54)	.70 (.66)

The background knowledge problem!



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 - Open Knowledge: Exploiting semantic mappings and local theories [FP6 EC project. Partners: Edinburgh, Trento, Amsterdam, Barcellona, Open University, Southampton]
- Three core issues





Open Knowledge: Semantic Webs through P2P interaction

Abstract: We present a manifesto of kowledge sharing that is based not on direct sharing of "true" statements about the world but, instead, is based on sharing descriptions of interactions ...

- ... [This] narrower notion of semantic committment ... Requires peers only to commit to meanings of terms for the purposes and duration of the interactions in which they appear.
- ... This lightweight semantics allows networks of interaction to be formed between peers using comparatively simple means of tackling the perennial issues of query routing, service composition and ontology matching.

Web Site: www.openk.org





Open Knowledge: Key ingredients

- 1. Peer-to-peer (P2P) organization at the network and knowledge level (e.g. autonomy of the peers, no central ontology, diversity in the data, metadata and ontologies, ...)
- 2. Interactions specified using interaction models
- 3. P2P peer search mechanism
- 4. Semantic agreement via semantic mappings built dynamically as part of the interaction
- Good enough answers: answers which serve the purpose given the amount of resources (no requirement of correctness or completeness)
- 6. Knowledge adaptation via approximation in order to get answers which are good enough





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The need for common (shared) knowledge

- FACT: Common (shared) knowledge (e.g. shared ontologies) is easier to use
- ISSUE: How can we construct common knowledge components (e.g., from context mappings to OWL import), possibly mutually inconsistent, also understanding their applicability boundaries
- SUGGESTED APPROACH: Common knowledge should not be built a priori (in the general case). It should "emerge" as a result of a incremental process of convergence among views, goals, ... of peers.





The lack of background knowledge

FACT1: There is evidence that a major bottleneck in the use of knowledge based systems is the lack of the background knowledge (Giunchiglia et al, ECAI 2006; Frank Van Harmelen et al, ECAI 2006 C&O wshop invited talk)

FACT 2: In certain high value areas large domain specific knowledge bases have been built in a systematic way (e.g., the medical domain). However this approach will not scale to commonsense knowledge

FACT 3: The commonsense knowledge of the world is essentially unbound. No knowledge base will ever be "complete"

ISSUE: What is the "right" background knowledge? How do we construct it?



The knowledge grounding problem

- FACT 1: Two main approaches to data and knowledge management:
 - o the *top down deductive* approach, e.g., the use of ontologies, classifications, knowledge bases, ...
 - o the bottom up inductive approach, e.g., data or text mining, information retrieval, ...
- FACT 2: Both approaches have their weakenesses:
 - The top down approach will always miss some of the necessary background knowledge
 - The bottom up approach uses oversimplified models of the world
- ISSUE: We need to fill the gap ... composing strengths and minimizing weakenesses





Conclusion

- Handling the upcoming complexity of knowledge requires the development of new paradigms.
- Our proposed solution: managing diversity
- Three steps: local theories + mappings + adaptation
- Still at the beginning with many unsolved core issues, most noticeably: how to build common knowledge, how to build background knowledge and how to ground knowledge into "objects"





Acknowledgements

C-OWL: Paolo Bouquet, Frank Van Harmelen, Heiner Stuckenschmidt, Luciano Serafini

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Open Knowledge: Dave Robertson, Frank Van Harmelen, Carles Sierra, Alan Bundy, Fiona, McNeill, Marco Schorlemmer, Nigel Shadbolt, Enrico Motta, ...

... and many others





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Managing knowledge ... in the Web

The novelty: Lots of *pre-existing* knowledge systems, developed independently, most of the time fully autonomous

The predominant approach (so far):

- Reduce to the "standard" approach,
- Integrate the pre-existing knowledge systems by building, at design time, a "general enough" representation model,
- Most commonly: design a global representation schema

Issues: knowledge merging, consistency, how to deal with granularity of representation, ...

Example: Information integration (databases and ontologies).
Integration via a design time defined global schema / ontology (a single virtual database/ ontology).



However...

Ex.2: web classifications (~ 10³ nodes)

Looksmart Google □ (II) TOP TOP 🗊 🗉 Arts Entertainment Music Music 🗐 Movies Celebrities Games Movies Board_Games Television Roleplaying Games ■ Video_Games Hobbies AND Interests 🗏 🖨 Home Food AND Wine Cooking Fashion Beverages Books Gardening Gardening 🗐





However...

Ex.3: Intranet applications

Difficulties (failures) in knowledge integration attempts

- Multinational CV management and sharing
- Collaborative design
- Mailbox heterogeneity (... and attachments)

•





Why it will get worse

Over time, the complexity of knowledge and its interconnections will grow to the point where we can no longer fully and effectively understand its global behaviour and evolution:

- We will build and interconnect systems on top of a landscape of existing highly interconnected systems
- Each system and its interconnections has/had its own producers and users but the whole will not
- Some existing systems and their interconnections will not be accessible or will not be changeable; they will be given to us as a an asset/ sunk cost
- Systems will increasingly need to be adapted at run-time;





A toy example: Mr.1 and Mr.2 viewpoints

The two local theories ...

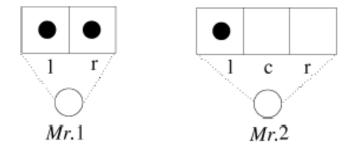


Figure 2: Mr.1 and Mr.2's contexts.

Which world? How much of it?





A toy example – more: Partial agreement between Mr.1 and Mr.2

The two local theories agree to some extent ...

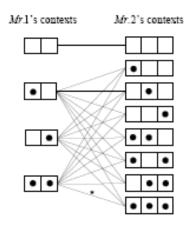


Figure 3: Compatible contexts of Mr.1 and Mr.2.

Example: if Mr.1 sees one ball then Mr.2 sees at least one ball (one, two, or three)





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The application area

Application area: reusing, sharing, adapting language in the Web

Local theories (languages): ontologies, taxonomies, classifications, ...

Some early work:

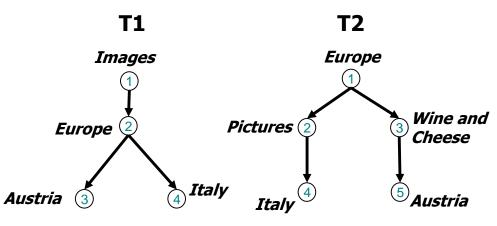
- C-OWL: Representing semantic mappings
- Semantic Matching: Discovering semantic mappings
- Open Knowledge: Adapting and exploiting local theories and semantic mappings





Problem 1: ontologies Phase 1: compute the background knowledge

The idea: Exploit pre-existing knowledge, (e.g., Wordnet, element level syntactic matchers, other ontologies, other peers, the Web ...)



Results of step 3:

T1 T2	C_{Europe}	C _{Pictures}	C_{Wi}	C_{Chee}	C_{Italy}	$C_{Austria}$
C _{Images}		=	n	se		
C_{Europe}	=		e		П	
$C_{Austria}$					Ţ	=
C _{Italy}					=	





Problem 1: ontologies Phase 2: compute concepts of labels

The idea: Use Natural language technology to translate natural language expressions into internal formal language expressions (concepts of labels)

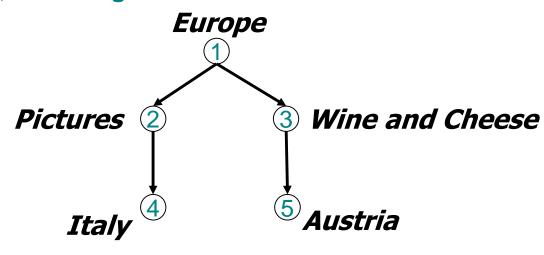
Preprocessing:

- Tokenization. Labels (according to punctuation, spaces, etc.) are parsed into tokens. E.g., Wine and Cheese → <Wine, and, Cheese>;
- Lemmatization. Tokens are morphologically analyzed in order to find all their possible basic forms. E.g., Images → Image;
- Building atomic concepts. An oracle (WordNet) is used to extract senses of lemmatized tokens. E.g., Image has 8 senses, 7 as a noun and 1 as a verb;
- Building complex concepts. Prepositions, conjunctions, etc. are translated into logical connectives and used to build complex concepts out of the atomic concepts



Problem 1: ontologies Phase 3: compute concepts at nodes

- The idea: extend concepts at labels by capturing the knowledge residing in a structure of a graph in order to define a context in which the given concept at a label occurs
- Computation (basic case): Concept at a node for some node n is computed as an intersection of concepts at labels located above the given node, including the node itself





$$C_4 = C_{Europe} \sqcap C_{Pictures} \sqcap C_{Italy}$$



Does this really work? Efficiency?

Cornell-Washington with atomic concepts at

