Knowledge Representation for the Semantic Web

Winter Quarter 2010

Slides 1 – 01/05/2010

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Today's Session

1. About me and my expectations for this course
2. About you and your expectations for this course
3. What is *Semantic Web*?
   Why does it need *Knowledge Representation*?
4. Course Project
5. Course contents overview
6. Organizational matters

About me

- 1998 Diplom (Master) in Mathematics, Tübingen, Germany
- 2001 PhD in Mathematics, Cork, Ireland
- 2001-2004 Postdoc in Artificial Intelligence, Dresden, Germany
- 10-12.2003 Research Associate CWRU Cleveland OH
- 2004-2009 Assistant Prof. in Appl. Comp. Sci., Karlsruhe, Germany
- since September 2009: Assistant Prof., Kno.e.sis Center at WSU

- Active Semantic Web researcher – this course is a basic introduction to my current core research area.

- I've done lots of teaching, but never in the US
  I'm happy about all feedback (even anonymous, if you prefer)

My expectations

- **PhD students beyond the Master do not require teaching through courses: If you're pursuing a PhD you should be able to learn all by yourself those things which you need to learn.**

- **Still, learning through courses can be helpful, and can in particular provide shortcuts to things you need.**

- **And it's rarely wrong to acquire broad knowledge.**

- **I expect:**
  That you take responsibility yourself, and decide for yourself how much work you want to put into this course.
  Regretfully, however, I will have to give grades at the end ...

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Who are you?

- **Which year?**
- **Master or PhD?**
- **Which specialization area?**
- **Why are you here?**
  - **topic relates to my specialization area;**
  - **topic sounds interesting;**
  - **need another course and it doesn't matter which;**
  - **not sure if I'll stay;**
  - **supervisor told me to come;**
  - **a friend dragged me along;**
  - **isn't this the Algebraic Topology class?**
  - **...**

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The WWW is penetrating our society

- Social contacts (social networking platforms, blogging, ...)
- Economics (buying, selling, advertising, ...)
- Administration (eGovernment)
- Education (eLearning, Web as information system, ...)
- Work life (information gathering and sharing)
- Recreation (games, role play, creativity, ...)

The current Web

- **Immensely successful.**
- **Huge amounts of data.**
- **Syntax standards for transfer of structured data.**
- **Machine-processable, human-readable documents.**

BUT:

- **Content/knowledge cannot be accessed by machines.**
  Meaning (semantics) of transferred data is not accessible.

Limitations of the current Web

- Too much information with too little structure
  and made for human consumption
  - Content search is very simplistic
  - future requires better methods
- Web content is heterogeneous
  in terms of content
  in terms of structure
  in terms of character encoding
  - future requires intelligent information integration
- Humans can derive new (implicit) information from given pieces of information
  but on the current Web we can only deal with syntax
  - requires automated reasoning techniques

Examples

- **Find that landmark article on data integration written by an Indian researcher in the 1990s.**
  [If you manage this without knowing the answer, let me know how you did it.]

- **Are lobsters spiders?**
  [This is getting easier these days, but was impossible a few years ago. It still needs finding and integrating over different websites, as well as some background knowledge.]

- **Which car is called a “duck” in German?**
  [This needs some intelligent integration of content from different websites plus background knowledge.]

Another example

“Identify congress members, who have voted “No” on pro environmental legislation in the past four years, with high-pollution industry in their congressional districts.”

In principle, all the required knowledge is on the Web – most of it even in machine-readable form.

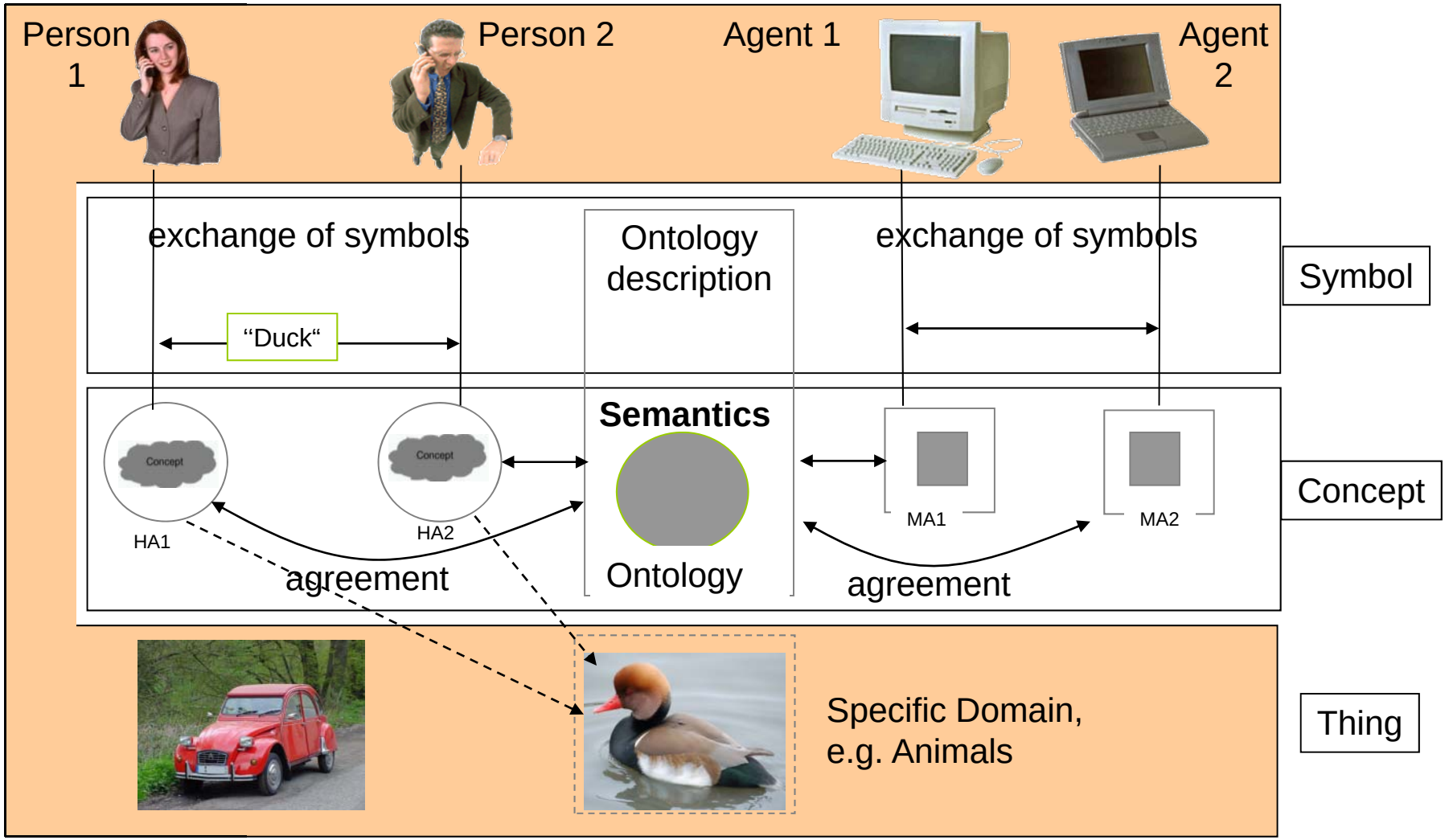
However, without automated processing and reasoning we cannot obtain a useful answer.

Basic ingredients for the Semantic Web

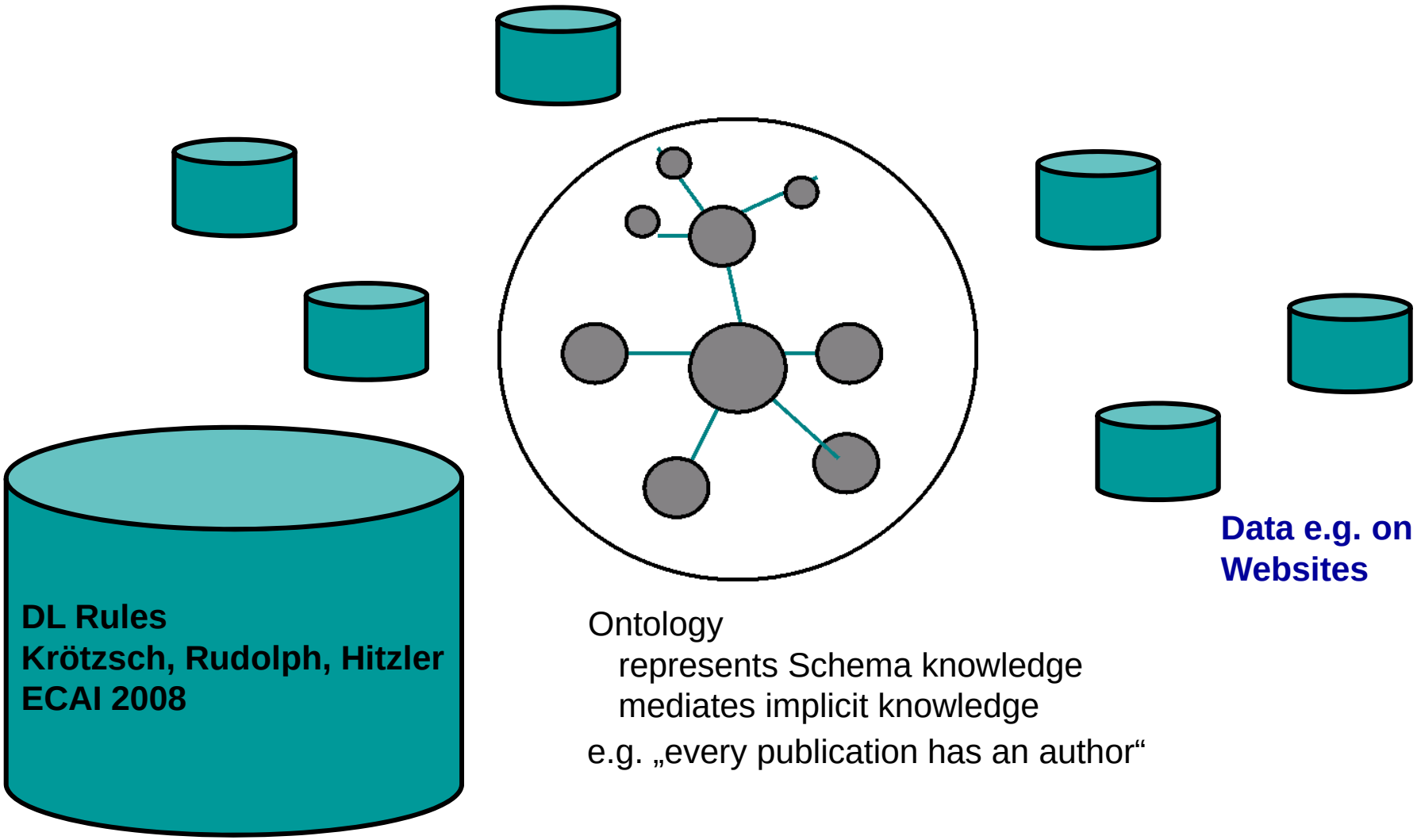
- **Open Standards for describing information on the Web**
- **Methods for obtaining further information from such descriptions**

We'll talk about these matters in this course.

Basic Idea of the Semantic Web



Basic Idea of the Semantic Web



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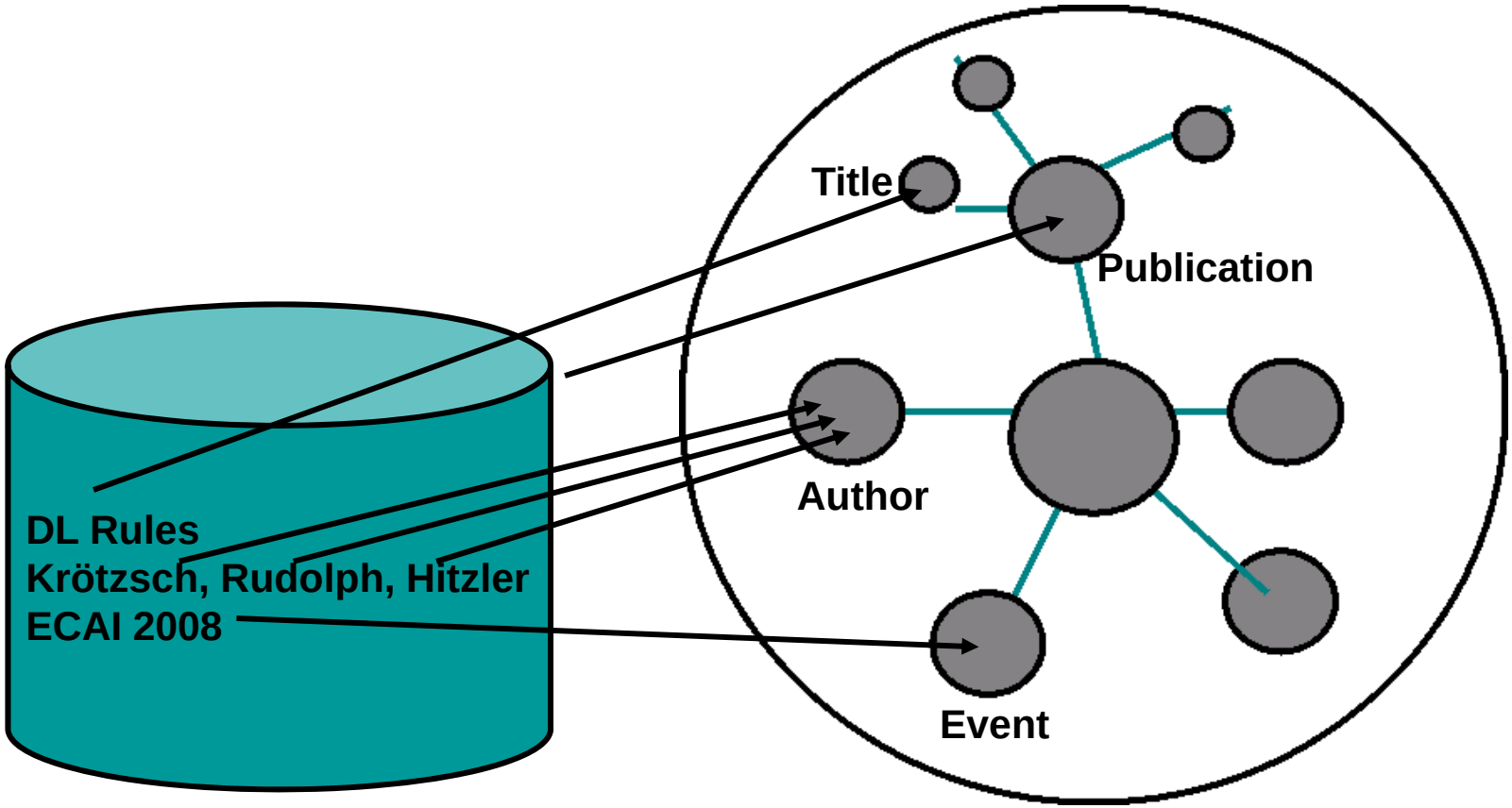

e.g. „every publication has an author“

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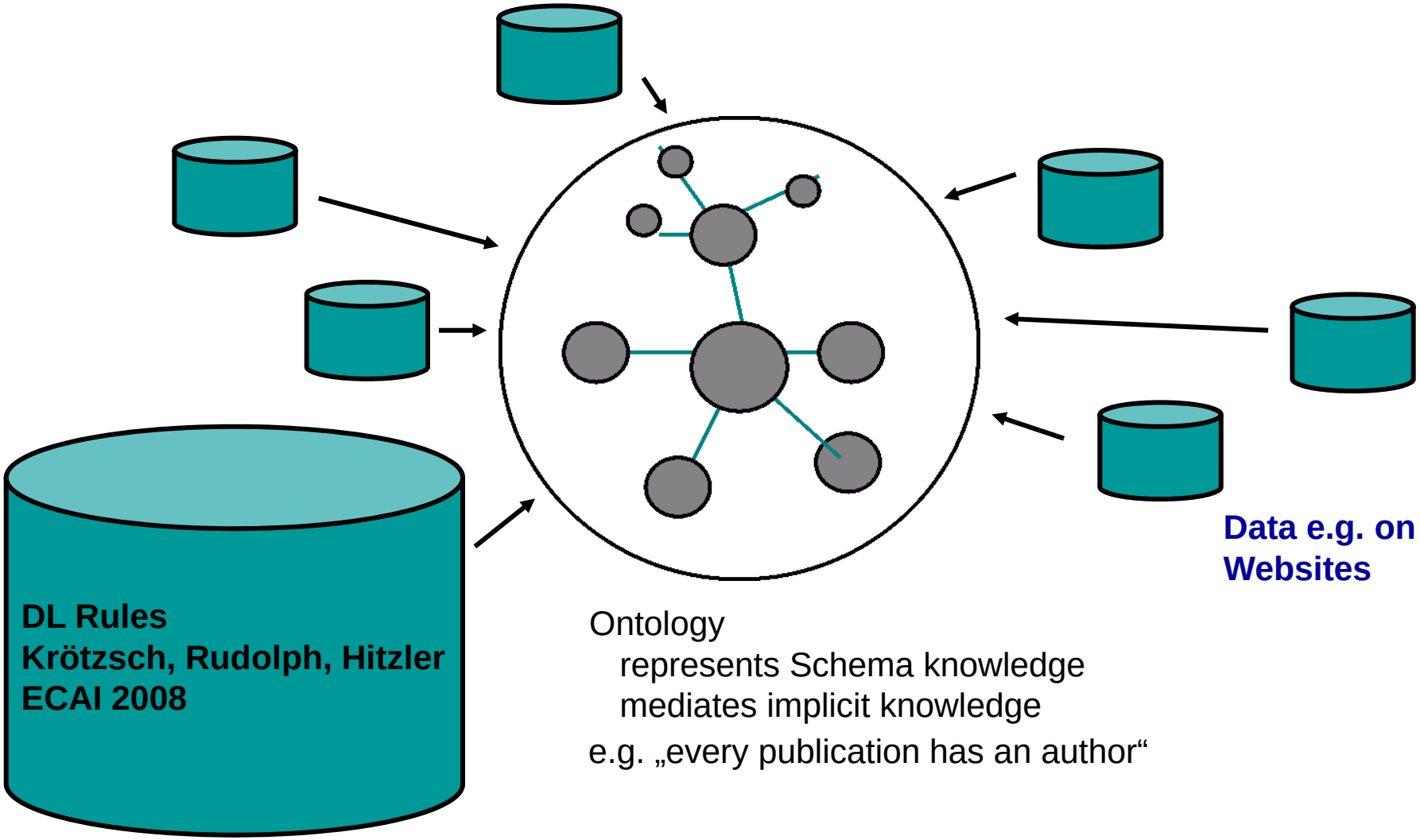


Ontology
- represents Schema knowledge
- mediates implicit knowledge

e.g. „every publication has an author“

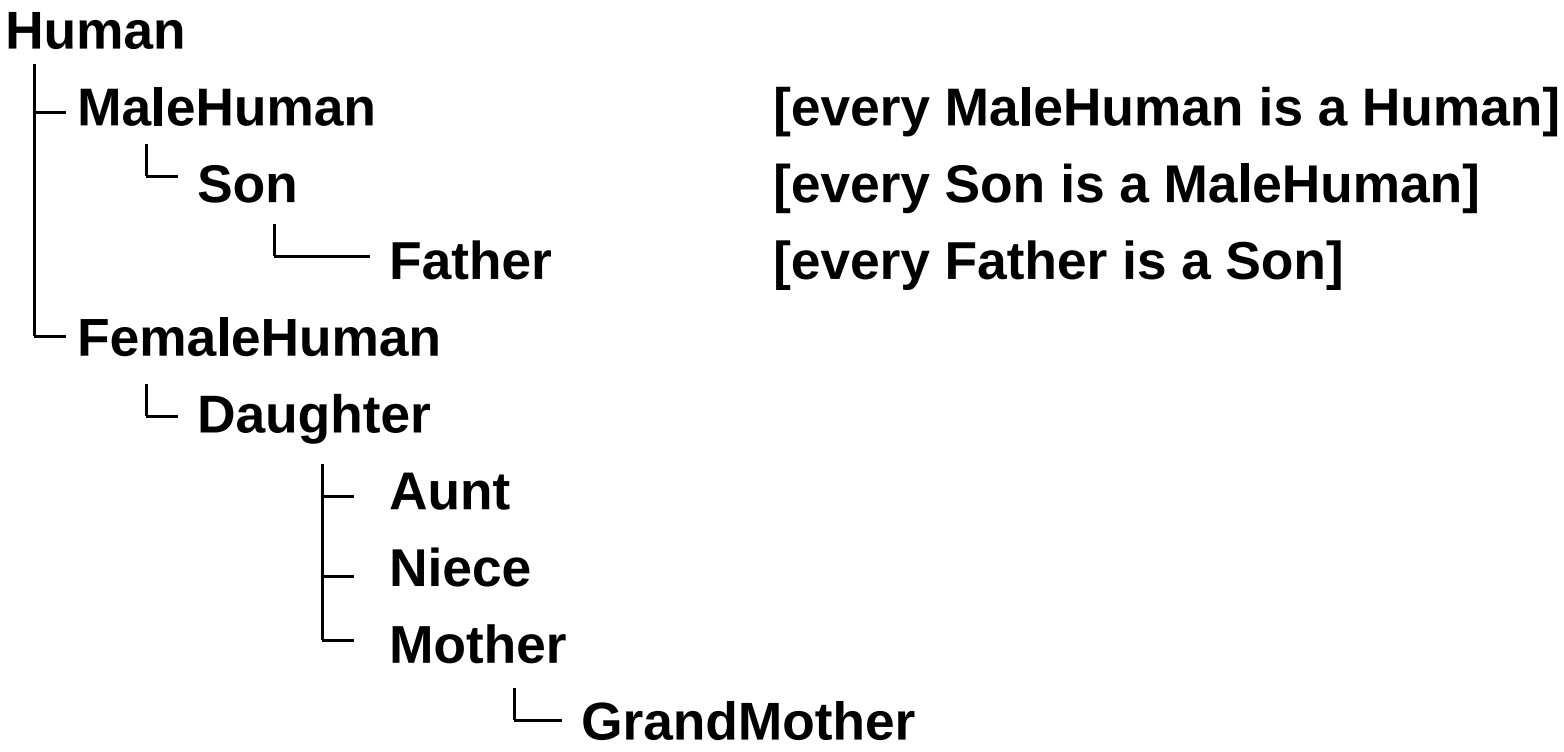
Ontology languages

- **Of central importance for the realisation of Semantic Technologies are suitable representation languages.**
- **Meaning (semantics) provided via logic and deduction algorithms (automated reasoning).**
- **Scalability is a challenge.**

Expressivity Scalability

Ontologies

- **The core of an ontology is usually a *taxonomy*:**
  - **classes of things, arranged in a hierarchy**



Ontologies

- **We will talk more (in fact, a lot) about ontologies**

- **For now, let's focus on taxonomies**

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Course Project

- Throughout the course, each of you will create an ontology
- We'll do this step by step
- There will also be some interactive and group tasks

- The goal of the project is to learn "hands-on" about ontology modeling

- You'll be given incremental assignments to work on your ontology.

First project assignment

- Select a domain which you want to model (e.g., “family”).
  - use a domain you have good knowledge about
  - use a domain which is accessible for others (e.g. do not choose Algebraic Topology)
  - you will be stuck with this domain until the end of the project!
  - send name of the domain to me by 01/06/2010.
- Select approx. 20 class names for an initial taxonomy.
  - Taxonomy must be at least 3 nodes deep.
- Create the taxonomy and write it up.
  - choose your own representation method – but it must be generally understandable (or give an explanation)
  - send taxonomy to me by 01/10/2010
- Write a few sentences why you chose this domain.
  - send this to me by 01/10/2010

Course Project

- **Deadlines are hard.**
- **The more “difficult” domains are the more interesting ones ;)**
- **You will be able to revise your taxonomy later.**
- **Do this first part without discussion with other students.**
- **Expect that, at some stage, other students will have access to your ontology. I may also discuss examples explicitly in class or on slides. So whatever you write up will be “public.”**
- **Don’t worry (yet!) too much about “correctness” of your modeling.**

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Course contents overview

- Resource Description Framework (RDF)
  - Syntax
  - Semantics
  - Automated Reasoning
- Web Ontology Language (OWL)
  - Syntax
  - Semantics
  - Automated Reasoning

The rest is not fixed and will depend also on your interests.

Course contents discussion

- What's your knowledge about XML?
- What's your knowledge about predicate logic?

- Possible further topics – we can decide on these later:
  - SPARQL [RDF query language]
  - Querying OWL
  - W3C Rule Interchange Format
  - Rules and Ontologies
  - Ontology Engineering tools
  - Ontology Engineering methods (research papers)
  - ...

- Let me know if there's anything you're particularly interested in.

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Organizational matters

- **Course Website:**
  http://www.semantic-web-book.org/page/KR4SW-10
  When do you want me to put up the slides?
  What about using WebCT etc?
- **Class meetings:**
  - **Tuesday 2:15pm to 3:55pm in 355 Russ**
  - **Thursday 2:15pm to 3:55pm in 365 Joshi**
  - **Class starts 5th of January 2010 and ends 11th of March 2010**
- **"Office hours:**
  - **Tuesdays 4:15pm to 5:15pm and by appointment.**
    I will also be available after class.
  - **Please use email as main means of communication with me (besides talking with me in or after class).**

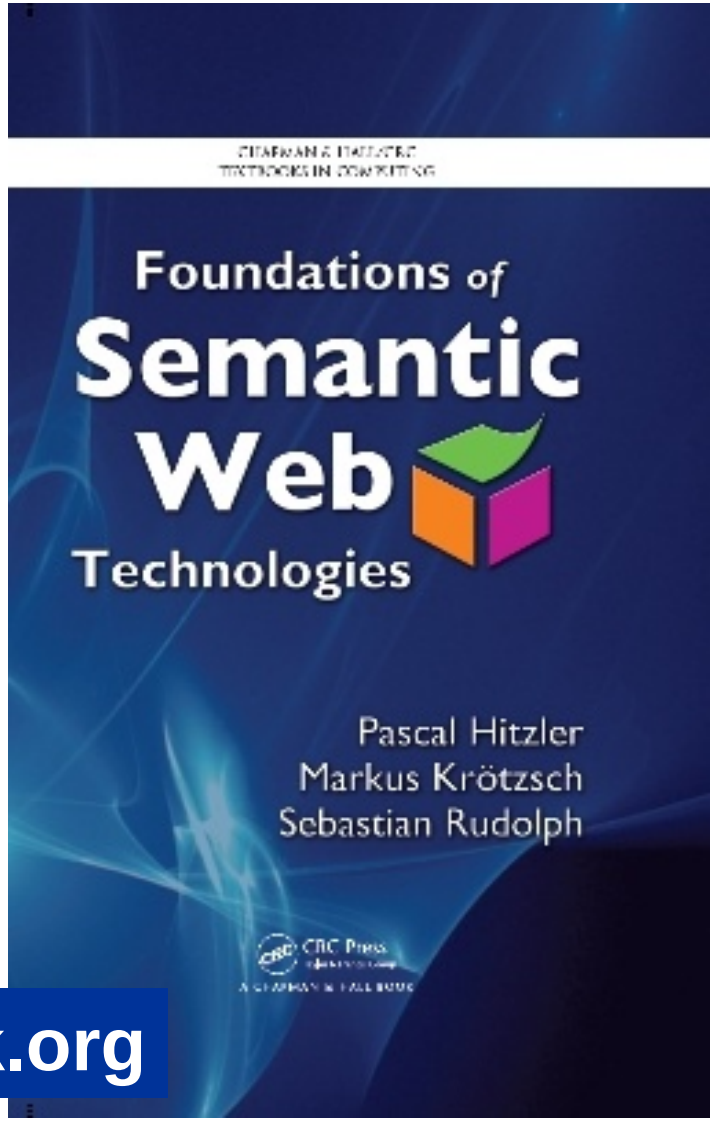
Textbook (required)

Pascal Hitzler, Markus Krötzsch, Sebastian Rudolph

Foundations of Semantic Web Technologies

Chapman & Hall/CRC, 2010

Flyer with special offer is available.



http://www.semantic-web-book.org

Grading

Homework 10%, Project 30%, Class Presentation 30%, Final Exam 30%

- **Homework: Students will take turns in presenting completed homework in class, and grading will be done by evaluating the participation in the tutorial sessions.**
- **Project: The project will be an ontology modeling project which will have several parts and run over the whole quarter. Students are expected to write an experience report on each part.**
- **Class Presentations: The class presentations will be assigned in the first week. Options are presentation of prominent ontology software tools or of original research papers.**
- **Final Exam: The final exam will be oral, i.e. in the form of a short interview (20 minutes), with the examiner asking questions and the student answering.**

Final Exam (oral, 20 minutes)

- **We will probably have to do this in the last week of the lecture period (most likely on 11th + 12th of March).**
- **Are there any conflicts with this?**
- **Any questions about oral exams?**

Class Presentations

- **Options:**
  - **Presentations of Ontology Engineering tools.**
  - **Series of presentations on Ontology Evaluation (Thesis by Denny Vrandecic)**
  - **Presentations of original research papers extending beyond the material covered in this lecture.**

Any volunteers for presenting the Protege ontology modeling system?

Give me feedback on this, and we'll discuss it again next week.

Any further questions or open issues?

Topic next Thursday: TBD :)

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