

OntoClean and Ontology-driven conceptual modelling

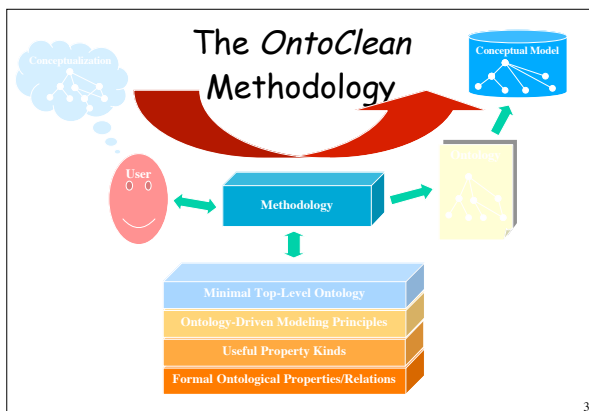
A new, simplified view

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Summary

- Ontological analysis of particulars
 - Parthood (mereology)
 - Unity (topology)
 - Dependence
- Ontological analysis of universals
 - Essence and identity
 - Different kinds of properties
 - Is-a overloading and the OntoClean methodology
- A practical example

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Formal Ontology

- Theory of **formal distinctions and connections** within:
 - entities of the world, as we perceive it (**particulars**)
 - categories we use to talk about such entities (**universals**)
- Why **formal**?
 - Two meanings: **rigorous** and **general**
 - Formal logic: connections between truths - neutral wrt **truth**
 - Formal ontology: connections between things - neutral wrt **reality**
- **Goal**: *characterizing* particulars and universals by means of formal properties and relations.

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Essential properties

- Certain entities **must** have some properties in order to keep their **identity**:
 - John must have a brain (otherwise, he wouldn't be himself anymore)
 - John must be a person.
- A class **carries** an essential property if, for all its instances, such property is essential:
 - Every person must have a brain.

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Mereological essential properties

- Extensionality: whenever the parts exist, x exists (*the whole is always the sum of its parts*)
- Mereological invariance: x *always keeps its parts*
- Examples of extensional entities:
 - Amounts of matter
 - Regions
 - Pluralities (pseudo-extensionality)
- Mereologically invariant (but non-extensional) entities:
 - A physical body (a lump of matter)

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Unity

- A tentative formulation: x **is a whole** under ω iff there is an **equivalence relation** ω that binds together all the parts of x , such that, **necessarily**,

$$P(y,x) \rightarrow (P(z,x) \leftrightarrow \omega(y,z))$$

but not

$$\omega(y,z) \leftrightarrow \exists x(P(y,x) \wedge P(z,x))$$

- P is the **part-of** relation
- ω can be seen as a **generalized indirect connection**

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Unity Refined

$$\delta_R(x) =_{df} R(x, x)$$

$$\nu_R(x) =_{df} \Sigma_{\delta_R(x)} \wedge \forall y,z ((\delta_R(y) \wedge \delta_R(z) \wedge P(y, x) \wedge P(z, x)) \rightarrow R(y, z))$$

(x is unified by R)

$$\omega_R(x) =_{df} Max_{\nu_R}(x) \quad (x \text{ is a whole under } R)$$

$$\Sigma_{\phi}(x) =_{df} \forall y(P(y, x) \rightarrow \exists z(\phi(z) \wedge P(z, x) \wedge O(z, y)))$$

(sum of ϕ s)

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Kinds of Whole

- Depending on the **nature of ω** , we can distinguish:
 - **Topological wholes** (a piece of coal, a lump of coal)
 - **Morphological wholes** (a constellation)
 - **Functional wholes** (a hammer, a bikini)
 - **Social wholes** (a population)
- * a whole can have **parts that are themselves wholes** (with a different ω)
- * Being a whole of a certain kind is an **essential property**: things cannot change their own unity conditions

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Unity Disjointness Constraint

Classes with incompatible UCs are **disjoint**

Example: Object and Matter

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Essence and Rigidity

- Certain properties are essential to **all** their instances (compare *being a person* with *having a brain*).
- These properties are **rigid** - if an entity is ever an instance of a rigid property, it must always be such.

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Formal Rigidity

- ϕ is rigid (+R): $\forall x (\text{pos } \phi(x) \rightarrow \text{nec } \phi(x))$
- e.g. Person, Apple
- ϕ is non-rigid (-R): $\exists x (\text{pos } \phi(x) \wedge \neg \text{nec } \phi(x))$
- e.g. Red, Male
- ϕ is anti-rigid (\sim R): $\forall x (\text{pos } \phi(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{nec } \phi(x))$ e.g.
Student, Agent

Meta-properties

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The necessity of modality

- Consider the property *being a caterpillar*
 - Just not rigid if modality is substituted with temporal quantification
 - Anti-rigid if modality is introduced.

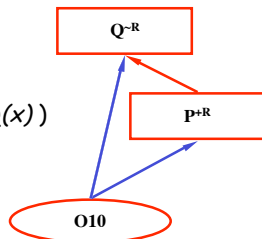
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Rigidity Constraint

$$+R \not\subset \sim R$$

- Why?

$$\text{nec } (\forall x P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$



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Contingency and anti-rigidity

- ϕ is anti-rigid ($\sim R$): $\forall x (\text{pos } \phi(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{nec } \phi(x))$
- ψ is contingent for ϕ : $\forall x (\phi(x) \rightarrow (\text{pos } \psi(x) \wedge \neg \text{nec } \psi(x)))$
- (Being a) Student is anti-rigid.
- (Being a) Student is contingent for Person
 - Student: $\sim R$
 - Person: $\sim \text{Student}$
- Being self-connected is contingent for amounts of matter
- Being self-connected is essential for physical **objects**
- Being self-connected is neither contingent nor essential for physical **entities**

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Dependence

- Between particulars
 - **Existential dependence** (specific/generic)
 - Hole/host, person/brain, person/heart
 - Historical dependence
 - Person/parent
 - Causal dependence
 - Heat/fire
- Between universals
 - **Definitional dependence**
 - x depends upon an P iff P will be **necessarily** involved in any **definition** of x .
 - P depends on Q iff all its instances depend on Q

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Dependence meta-properties

- +D: all instances are definitionally dependent on a common property
- -D: no common dependence
- ~D: no dependence at all

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Essential properties are (very weak)
Identity Conditions
(IC)

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Sortals and other properties

- **Sortals** (*horse, triangle, amount of matter, person, student...*)
 - Carry (non-trivial) identity conditions
 - Usually correspond to **nouns**
 - High organizational utility
 - Main subclasses: **types** and **roles**
- **Non-sortals** (*red, big, decomposable, eatable, dependent, singular...*)
 - No identity
 - Usually correspond to **adjectives**
 - Span across different sortals
 - Limited organizational utility (but high semantic value)
- **Categories** (*universal, particular, event, substance...*)
 - No identity
 - Useful generalizations for sortals
 - Characterized by a set of (only necessary) formal properties
 - Good organizational utility

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Carrying vs. Supplying Identity

- **Supplying** (global) identity (+O)
 - Having an IC (or essential property) that doesn't hold for *all* directly subsuming properties
- **Carrying** identity (+I)
 - Not supplying identity, while being subsumed by a property that does.
- **Common sortal principle**: $x=y \rightarrow$ there is a common sortal supplying their identity
- Theorem: only rigid properties supply global identity

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Sortal specialization

- **Type** specialization (e.g. Living being \rightarrow Person)
 - New features (especially essential properties) **affect identity**
 - Both necessary and sufficient ICs can be added while specializing types
 - Polygon: same edges, same angles
 - Triangle: two edges, one angle
 - Living being: same DNA, etc...?
 - Zebra: same stripes?
- **Role** specialization (e.g. Person \rightarrow Student)
 - New features **don't affect identity**

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Identity Disjointness Constraint

ICs impose *constraints* on sortals, making their ontological nature explicit:

Properties with incompatible ICs are *disjoint*

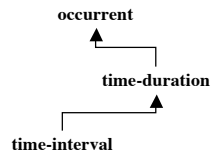
Examples:

- sets vs. ordered sets
- persons and passengers
- amounts of matter vs. assemblies

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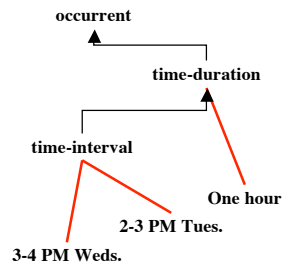
Example - Identity

- Is *time-interval* a subclass of *time-duration*?
 - Initial answer: yes
- IC for *time-duration*
 - Same-length
- IC for *time-interval*
 - Same start & end



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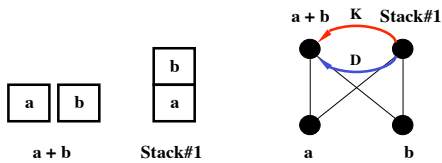
Example - Identity



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Part, Constitution, and Identity

- **Structure** may change identity
- **Mereological extensionality** is lost
- **Constitution** links the two entities
- Constitution is asymmetric (implies **dependence**)



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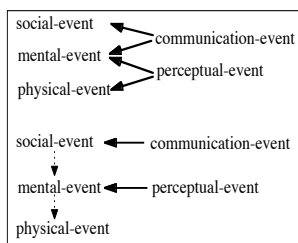
Ontological Levels and IC/UC Kinds

- Physical
 - Mereological (an amount of matter, a collection)
 - Topological (a piece of matter)
 - Morphological (a cubic block, a constellation)
- Functional (a tool, a biological organ)
- Biological (a human body)
- Cognitive/Intentional (a person, a robot)
- Social (a company)

- ✓ Correspond to different kinds of IC/UC
- ✓ All levels except the mereological one have non-extensional IC
- ✓ A generic dependence relation links higher levels to their immediate inferior.

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How ontological levels simplify taxonomies



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Why bother with this?

- **Formal ontological analysis** requires analyzing all properties according to their meta-properties - This is a *lot* of work!
- Why perform this analysis?
 - Makes **modeling assumptions** clear, which:
 - Helps resolving known conflicts
 - Helps recognizing unknown conflicts
 - Imposes **constraints** on standard modeling primitives (*generalization, aggregation, association*)
 - Elicits **natural distinctions**
 - ...results in more **reusable ontologies**

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Resolving Ontological Conflicts

- Two well-known ontologies define:
 - **Physical Object is-a Amount of Matter** (WordNet)
 - **Amount of Matter is-a Physical Object** (Pangloss)
 - **Amount of Matter**
 - unstructured /scattered "stuff"
 - Identity: mereologically extensional
 - Unity: intrinsically none (anti-unity)
 - **Physical Object**
 - Isolated material body
 - Identity - three options:
 - None
 - Non-extensional
 - Extensional
- Conclusion:** the two concepts are **disjoint**. **Physical Objects** are **constituted** by amounts of matter

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Taxonomic Constraints

- +R $\not\subset$ ~R
- -I $\not\subset$ +I
- -U $\not\subset$ +U
- +U $\not\subset$ ~U
- -D $\not\subset$ +D
- Incompatible IC's are disjoint
- Incompatible UC's are disjoint
- Categories subsume everything
- Roles can't subsume types

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IS-A overloading

- **Reduction of sense:**

1. A *physical object* is an *amount of matter* (Pangloss)
2. An *association* is a *group* (WordNet)

- **Overgeneralization:**

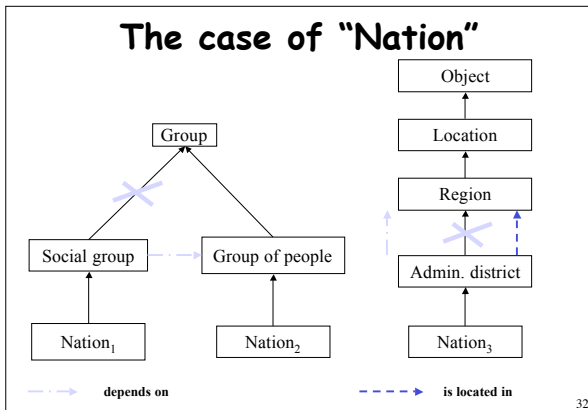
3. An *amount of matter* is a *physical object* (WordNet)
4. A *place* is a *physical object* (μ Kosmos, WordNet)

- **Clash of senses:**

5. A *window* is both an *artifact* and a *place* (μ Kosmos)
6. A *person* is both a *physical object* and a *living thing* (Pangloss)
7. A *communicative event* is a *physical*, a *mental*, and a *social event* (μ Kosmos, Pangloss)

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The case of "Nation"



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Property Dependence

- Does a property holding for x depend on something else besides x ?

- $P(x) \rightarrow \exists y Q(y)$
- y should not be a part of x

- Example: Student/Teacher, customer/vendor

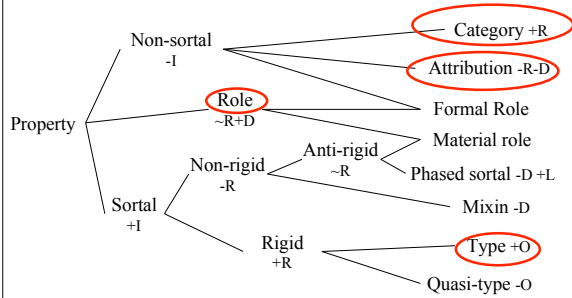
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Basic Property Kinds Table

O	I	R	D	
+	+	+	*	Type
-	+	+	*	Quasi-type
-	+	-	-	Mixin
-	+	~	+	Mat. role
-	+	~	-	Phased sortal
-	-	+	*	Category
-	-	~	+	Formal role
-	-	-	-	Attribution

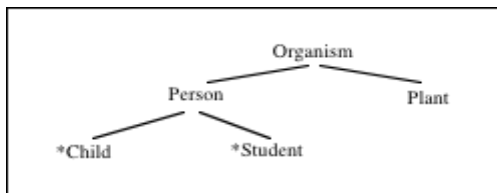
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A formal ontology of properties



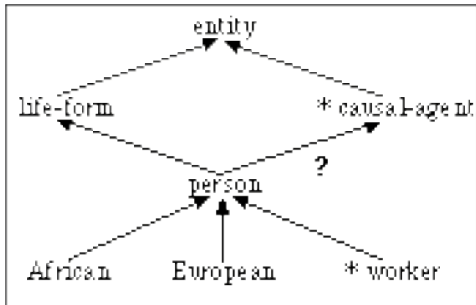
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Types, Roles, and disjointness



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Types and Roles



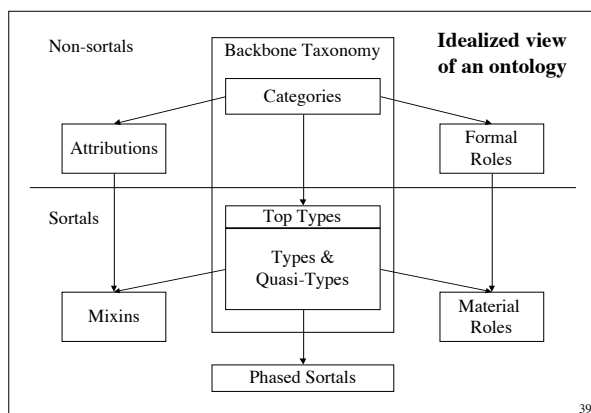
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The Backbone Taxonomy

Assumption: *no entity without identity*

- Since identity is supplied by types, every entity must instantiate a type
- The taxonomy of types spans the whole domain
- Together with categories, types form the *backbone taxonomy*, which represents the *invariant structure* of a domain (rigid properties spanning the whole domain)

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Well-founded ontology design

An ontology-cleaning example

Dealing with *Ontological Relativism*

- Deciding about the meta-properties carried by a given property...

Is up to **YOU!**

- But a **common agreement** must be achieved about the formal meaning (and practical utility) of meta-properties

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Property Analysis

Entity, Location

- Entity
 - Everything is an entity
 - -I-U-D+R
 - Category
- Location
 - A generalized region of space.
 - +O: by its parts (mereologically extensional).
 - ~U: no way to isolate a location
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Amount of Matter, Red

- Amount of Matter
 - unstructured /scattered "stuff" as lumps of clay or some bricks
 - +O: mereologically extensional
 - ~U: intrinsically no unity
 - -D+R
 - Type
- Red
 - Really Red-thing, the set of all red-colored entities
 - -I-U-D-R
 - Formal Attribution

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Property Analysis

Agent, Group

- Agent
 - An entity playing a part in some event
 - -I-U: no *universal* IC/UC
 - +D: on the event/action participating in
 - ~R: no instance is necessarily an agent
 - Formal role
- Group
 - An *unstructured* collection of wholes
 - +O: same-members
 - ~U: unstructured, no unity.
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Physical Object, Living Being

- Physical Object
 - Isolated material objects.
 - +O: same spatial location (only synchronic, no common diachronic IC).
 - +U: Topological
 - -D+R
 - Type
- Living Being
 - +O: same-DNA (only nec.)
 - +U: biological unity
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Food, Animal

- Food
 - +I-O~U: amt. of matter
 - +D: something that eats it.
 - ~R: being food is not necessary...
 - Material Role
- Animal
 - +O: same-brain
 - +U: biological unity
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Legal Agent, Group of People

- Legal Agent
 - A legally recognized entity
 - +L: All legal systems have a defined IC, has-same-legal-ID
 - -U: no universal unity
 - +D: on the legal body that recognizes it
 - ~R: not necessary
 - Material Role
- Group of People
 - See Group
 - +I-O~U-D+R
 - Quasi-type

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Property Analysis

Social Entity, Organization

- Social Entity
 - A group of people together for social reasons
 - -I: no universal IC
 - +U: social-connection
 - -D+R
 - category
- Organization
 - A group of people together, with roles that define some structure
 - +O: same-mission and way of operating
 - +U: functional
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Fruit

- Fruit
 - An individual fruit, such as an orange or banana
 - +O: same-plant, same-shape, etc. (only nec.)
 - +U: topological
 - -D+R
 - Type

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Property Analysis

Apple, Red Apple

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - +O: shape, color, skin pattern (only nec) - +U: topological - -D+R - Type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-Apple <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - +I-O: from Apple - +U: from Apple - -D - ~R: no red apple is necessarily red - type-attribution mixin |
|---|--|

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Property Analysis

Vertebrate, Person

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertebrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Really vertebrate-<i>animal</i> - A biological classification that adds new <i>membership</i> criteria (has-backbone) - +I-O: from animal - +U: from animal - -D+R - quasi-type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - +O: same-fingerprint - +U: from animal - -D+R - Type |
|--|---|

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Property Analysis Butterfly, Caterpillar

- Butterfly
 - +L: same-wing-pattern
 - +U: biological
 - -D
 - ~R: the *same entity* can be something else (a caterpillar)
 - Phased sortal
- Caterpillar
 - +L: spots, legs, color
 - +U: biological
 - -D
 - ~R: caterpillars become butterflies and change their IC
 - Phased sortal

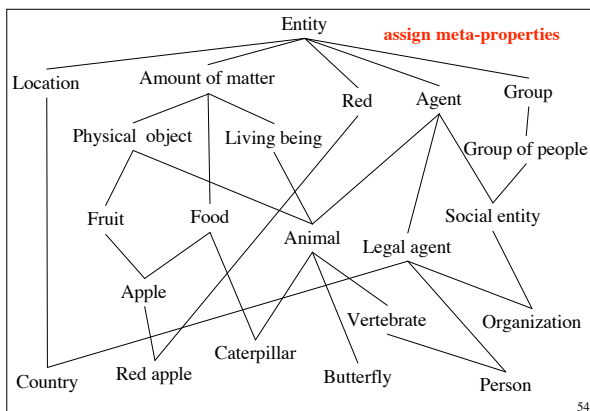
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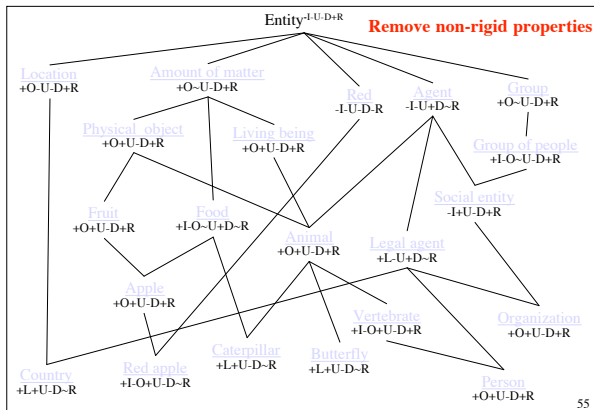
Property Analysis Country

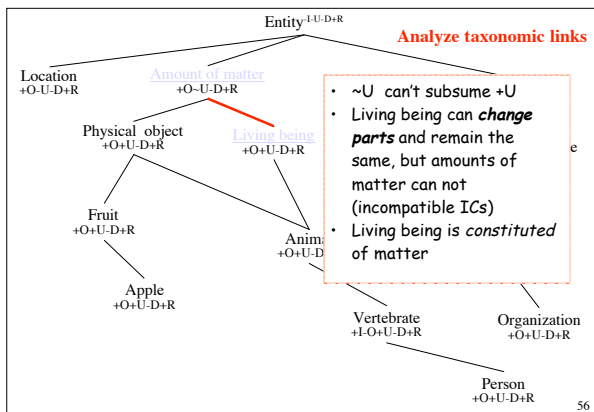
- Country
 - A place recognized by convention as autonomous
 - +L: government, sub-regions
 - +U: countries are countable (heuristic)
 - -D
 - ~R: some countries do not exist as countries any more (e.g. Prussia) but are still places
 - Phased sortal

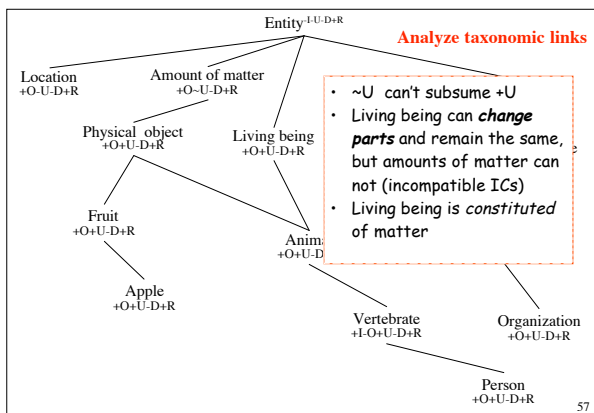
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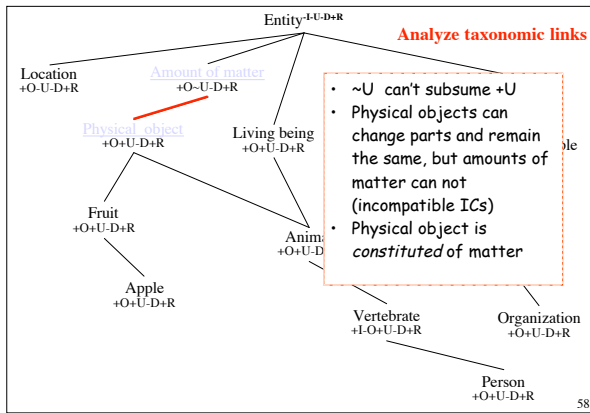


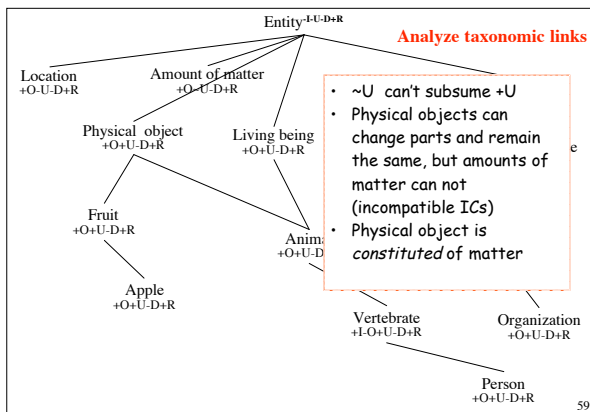
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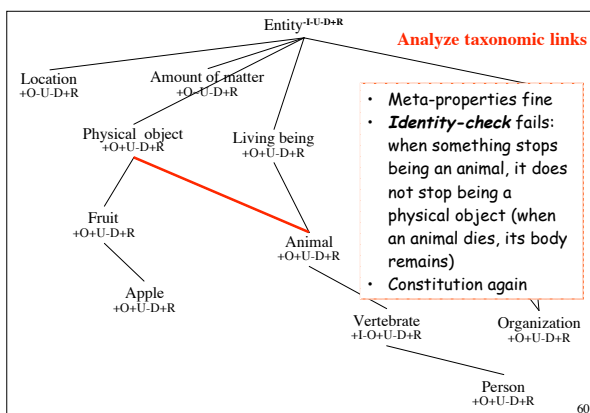


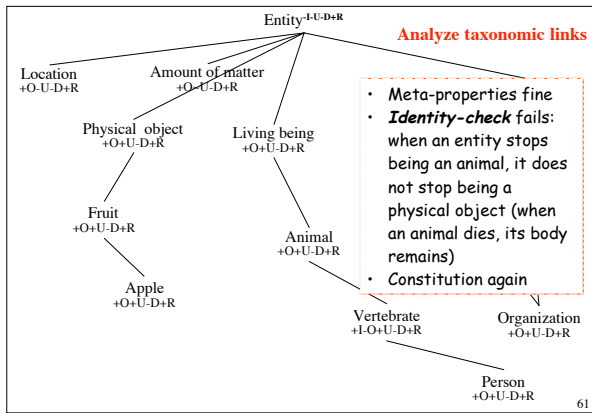


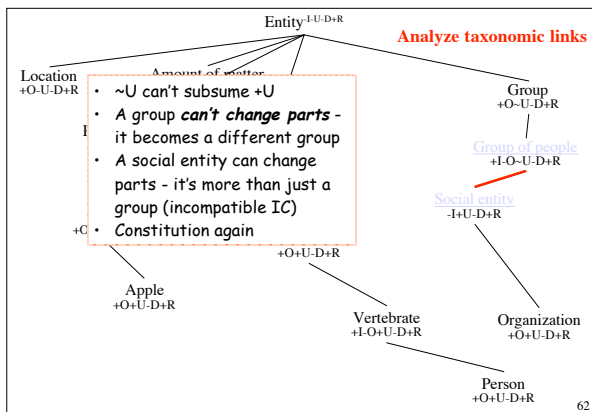


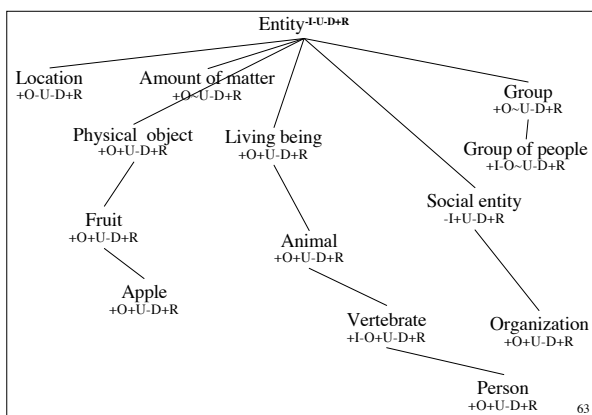


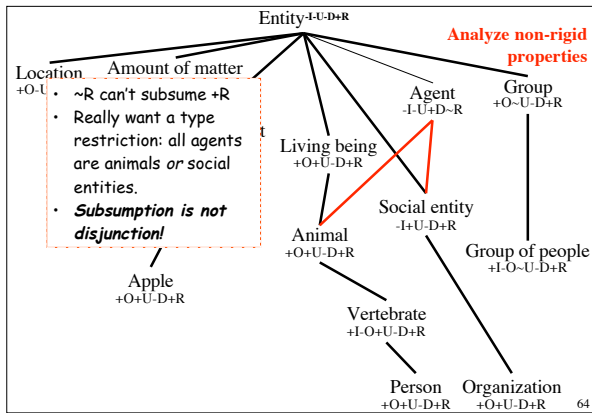


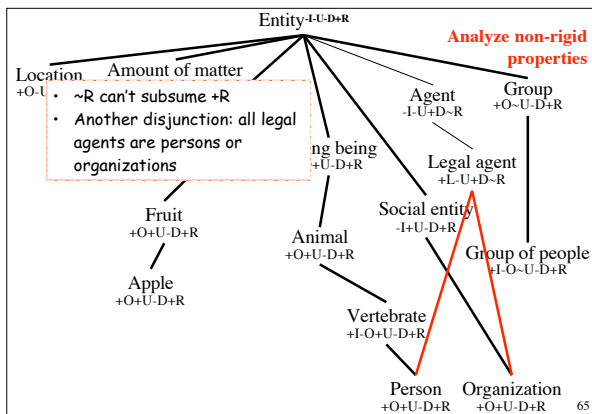


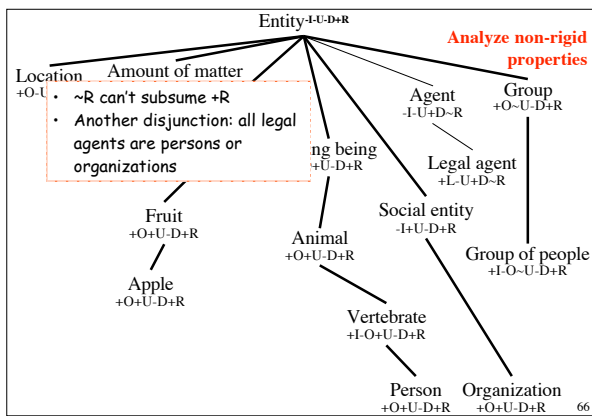


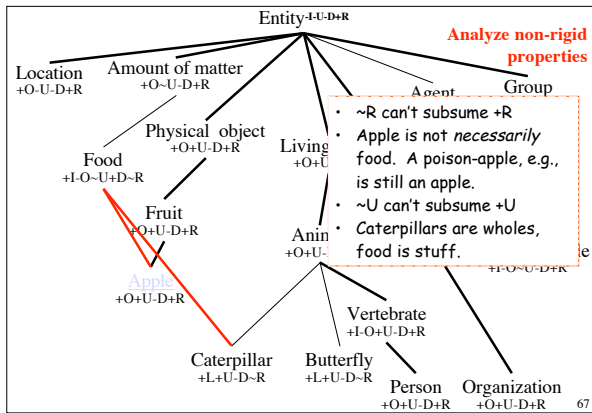


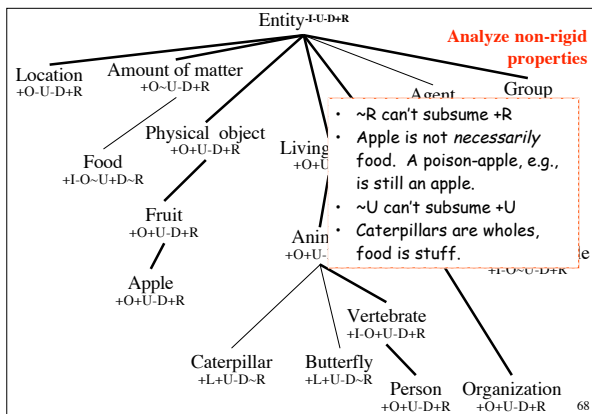


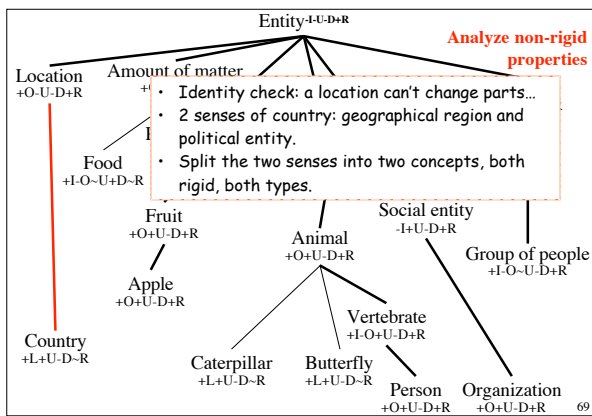


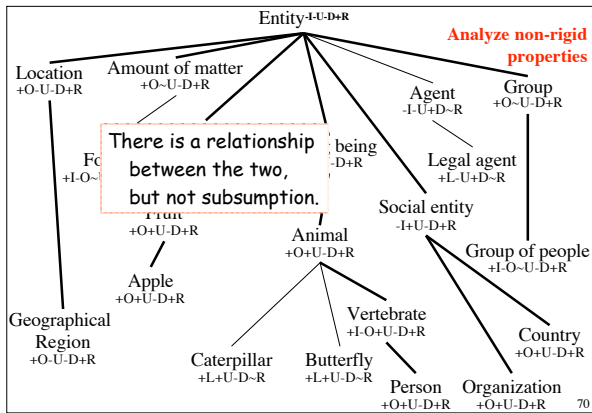


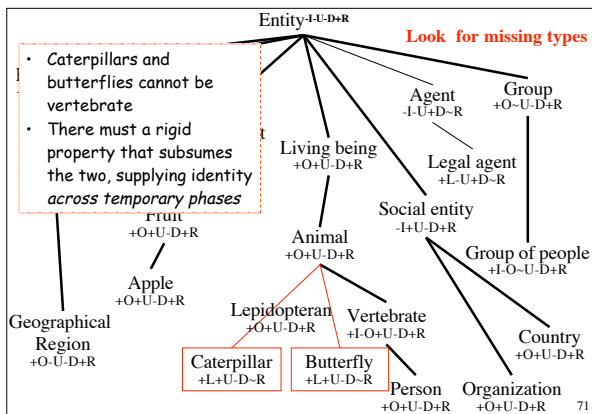


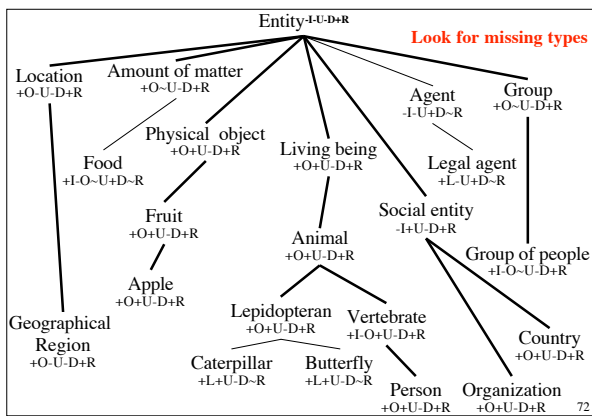


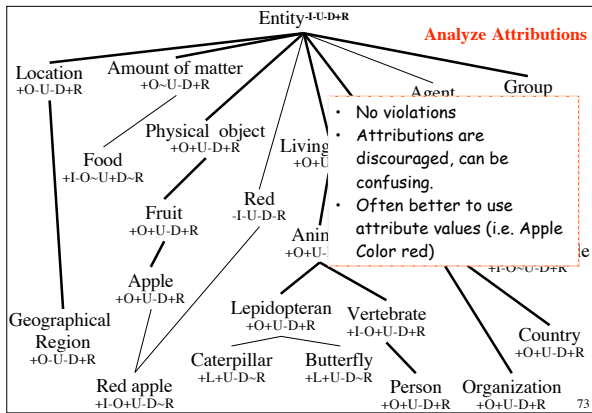


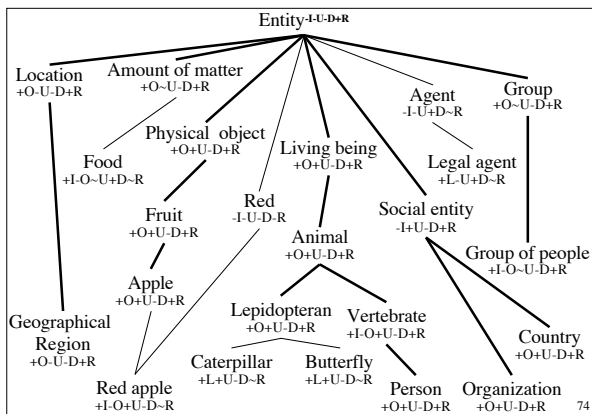


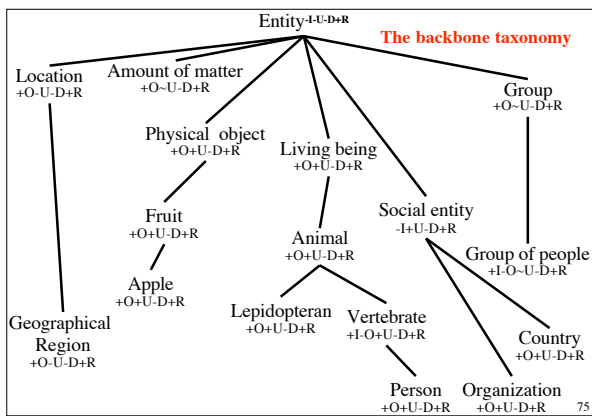


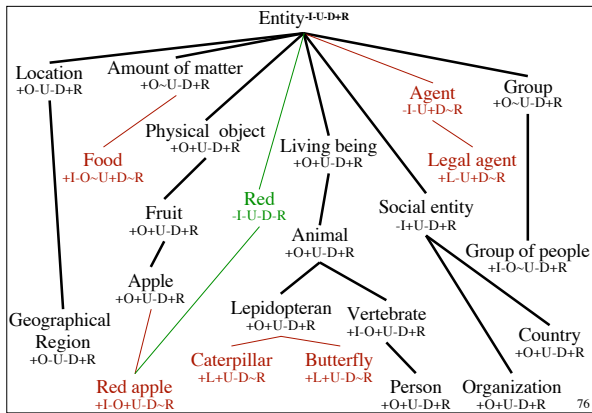


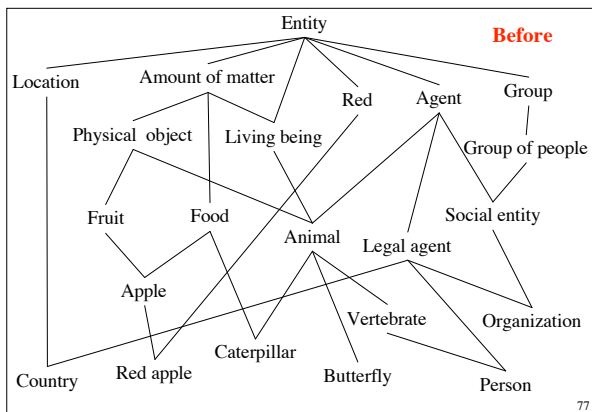


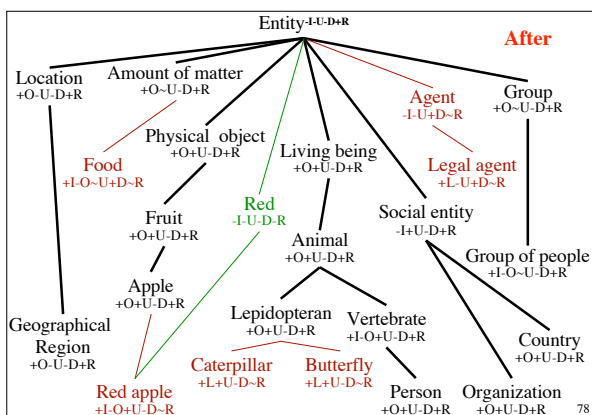












**Use OntoClean for
all your ontology
cleaning needs!**



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