

The RacerPro Environment for Lisp-based Semantic Web Applications

Michael Wessel

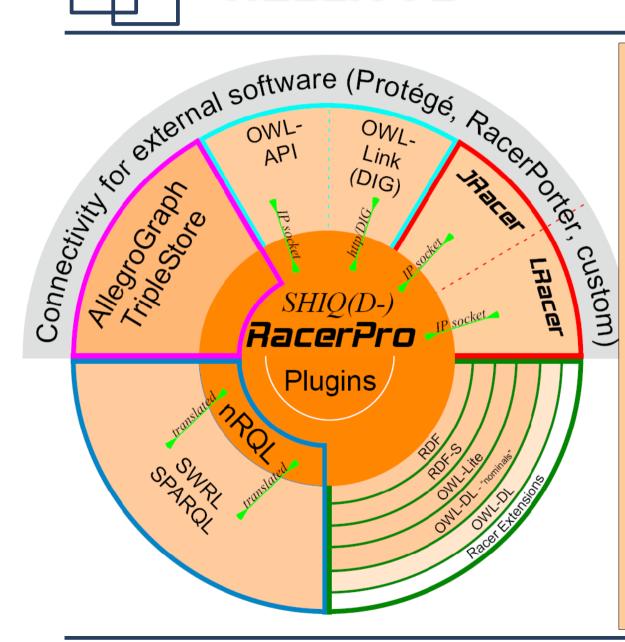
Racer Systems

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- History
 - Racer, Racer Systems, RacerPro
- Background
 - idea of the Semantic Web & logic-based Knowledge Representation
- Reasoning with formal ontologies
 - RacerPro & RacerPorter reasoning demo
 - W3C SemWeb "languages" (OWL, RDFS, SPARQL, SWRL, …)
- Semantic Web programming in the "RacerPro environment"
 - JRacer, LRacer, MiniLisp, extensibility, OWLAPI, OWLlink, ...
- The role of Lisp

RacerPro - Architecture & History



- Started as Racer at the University of Hamburg in 1998, project of Volker Haarslev & Ralf Möller
 First description lease (DL)
- First description logic (DL) reasoner "of the new generation" of highly optimized DL systems with ABox (individuals, relations)
- One of the first OWL DL (-) systems (2002), DL SHIQ(D)
- Commercial offspring RacerPro by Racer Systems (2004 - today)
- Expressive query language nRQL
- First DL system that could give complete answers to the LUBM Benchmark queries (2004)
- First DL system with inferenceaware SWRL & SPARQL
- Main memory-based
- Recently: Integrated AllegroGraph
- Some special-purpose representations and reasoning
- Free for education & research



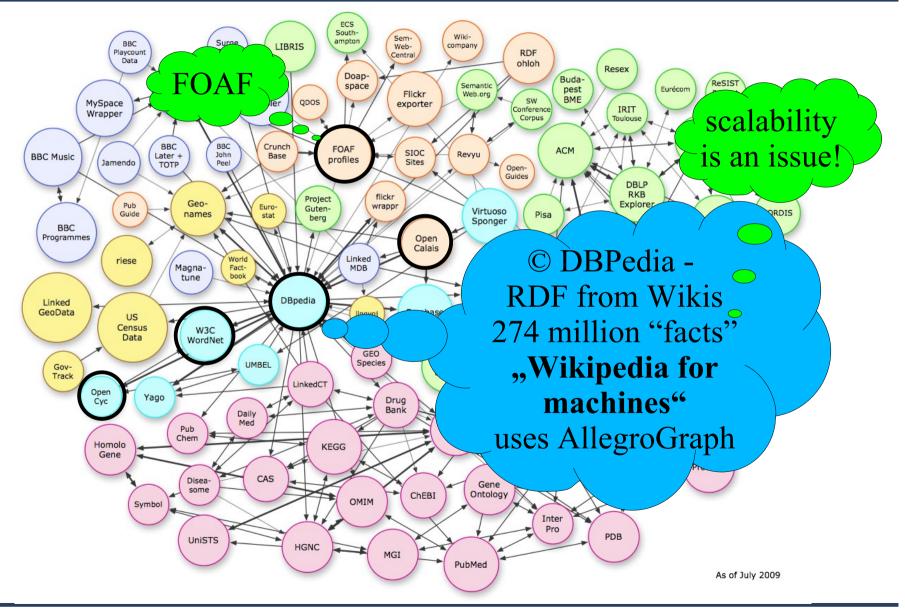




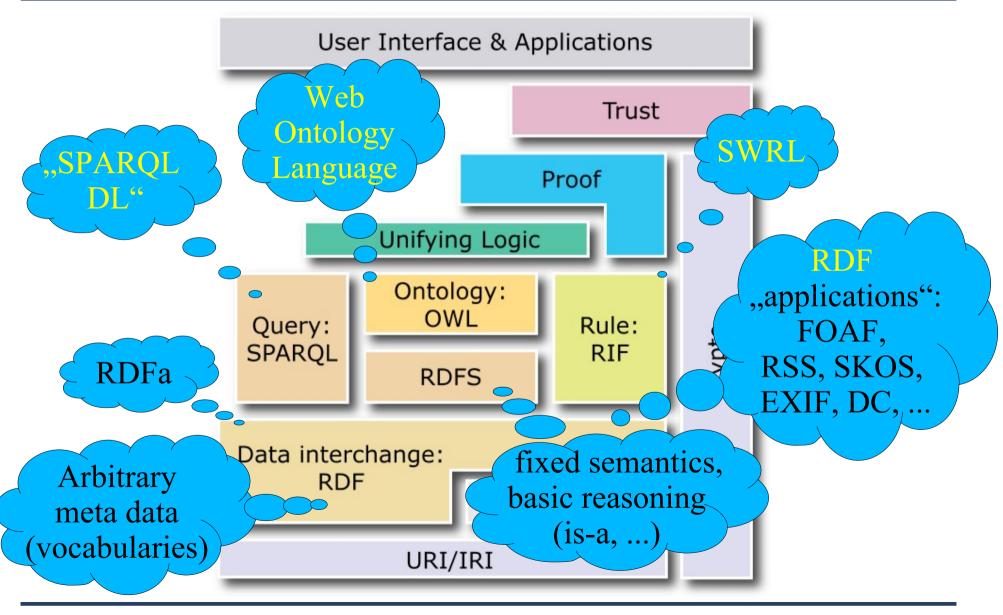
- "The big database in the sky"
 - Web 1.0 syntactic web, technical basis (HTTP, HTML, ...)
 - Web 2.0 social / community web for people (Wikis, Blogs, Boards, Flicker, Blogger, Twitter, ...)
 - folksonomies (,,(geo) tagging")
 - Web 3.0 Web 2.0 plus meta data for machines
 - meta data = page annotations, service descriptions, ... provided in terms of ontologies (provide explicit formal semantics for terms → reasoning)
 - annotations = logical propositions about resources identified by URIs
 - SPARQL endpoints & RDFa (RDF in HTML)
- Technically, the SemWeb is not really a ,,database" (see below)



RDF Mashups / Linked Open Data (© LOD Cloud)



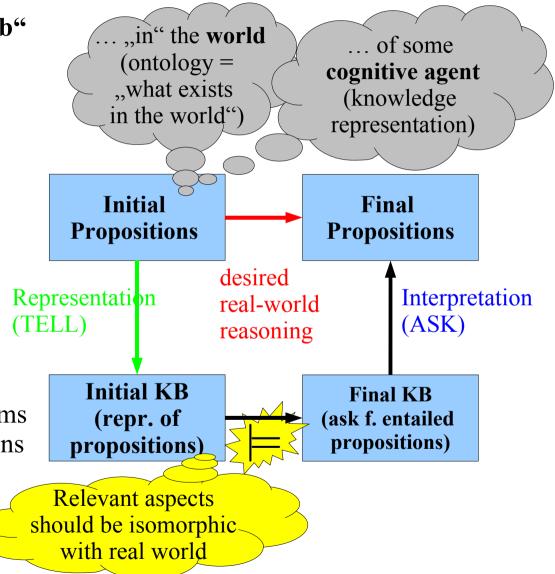
Semantic Web Stack (Layer Cake) © W3C





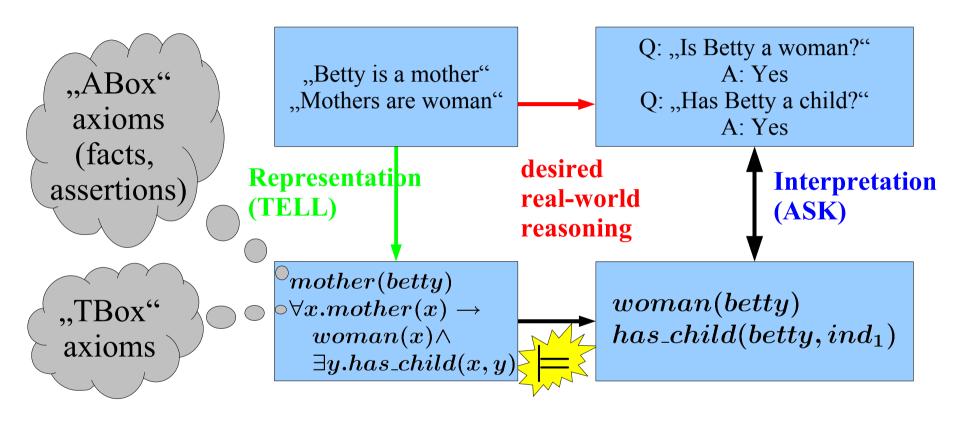
Logic-Based Knowledge Representation & Reasoning

- SemWeb = ,,KR&R on the Web"
- Replace real-world reasoning with computational operations performed in a model (=)
- Model ~ representation ~ KB
- Ontology: explicit specification of a conceptualization
 - "formal account of what exists in the world"
 - logic-based definitions of concepts & relations in terms of other concepts & relations
 - automated reasoning
 - inference makes implicit knowledge explicit





Logic-Based KR&R (2)



- First-Order Predicate Logic: = undeceidable
- Description Logics (OWL DL): deceidable, but NEXPTIME complete



- **Demo** of some standard inferences using RacerPro & RacerPorter
 - Basis: "People & Pets" ontology
 - by Sean Bechhofer (Univ. of Manchester)
 - but will use KRSS / Racer Lisp syntax in this demo
 - show some OWL syntaxes later



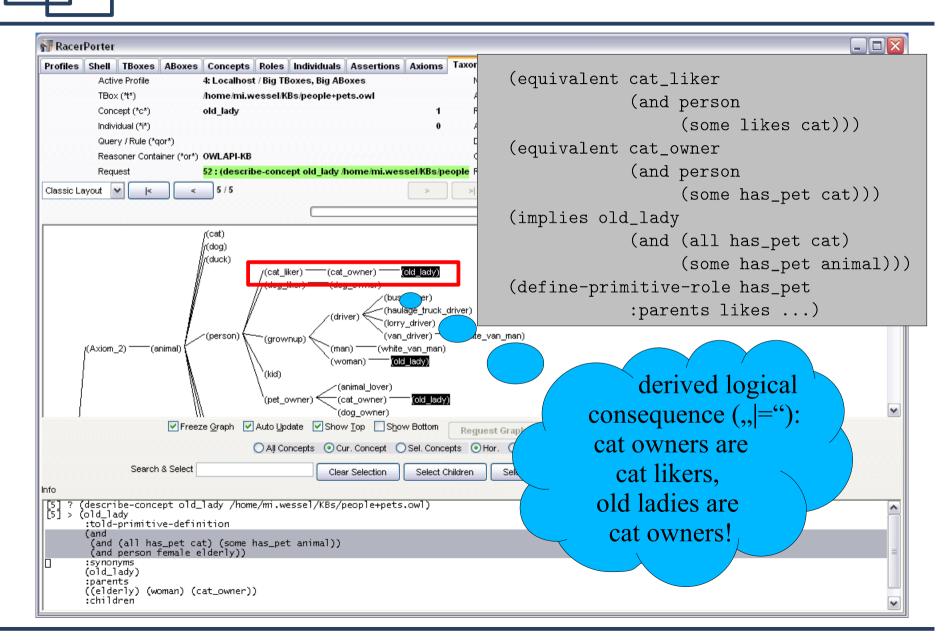
RacerPorter – The Listener ("Racer Shell")

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	Concept (*c*)						0	Role (*r	")				0	
	Individual (*i*)						0	Axiom (*ax*)				0	
	Query / Rule (*	qor*)						Definitio	n (*def* = Name)				
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The Racer Editor with Some Example Queries

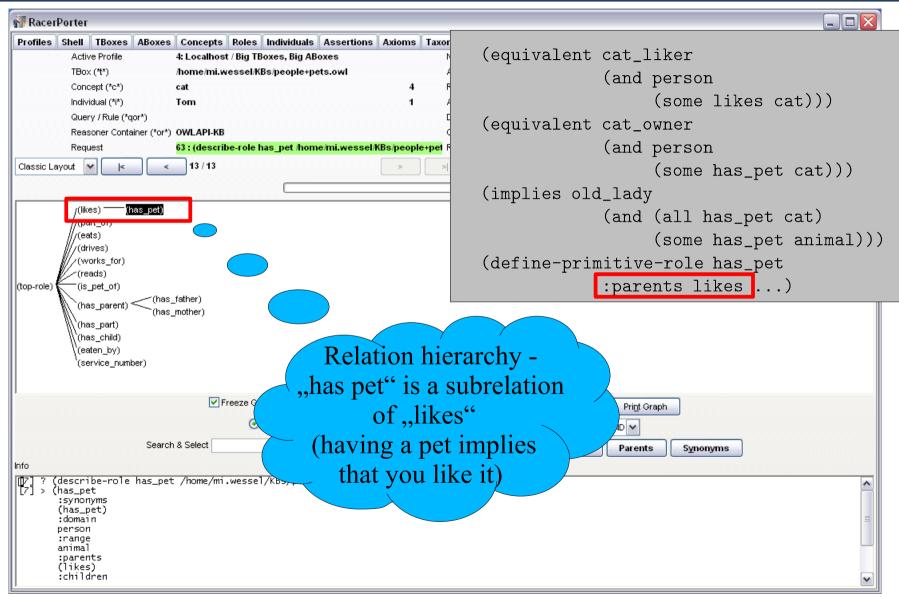
	RacerEditor
Protege	File Edit Buffer
	;;; Old_lady not explicit RacerEditor for
RACER APP	;;; ABox Graph : Minnie has_pet Tor ;;; Select Tom -> Describe -> Cat ;;; Assertions Tab: nothing was
RacerPorter	
Profiles Shell TBoxes ABoxes Concepts Roles Individuals Assertions	expression evaluation,
Active Profile 4: Localhost / Big TBoxes, Big ABoxes	::: The classes an individual is
TBox (*t*) /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pets.owl	;;; is computed from the definit Supports OWL RDF,
Concept (*c*) Individual (*j*)	
Query / Rule (*gor*)	KRSS, SPARQL
Reasoner Container (*or*) OWLAPI-KB	
Request 47 : (get-namespace-prefixes)	;;; ABox Queries ;;; (Go to ABox Graph!)
Classic Layout 🗸 🛛 🚽 🗸 🗸 🖌	;;;;
	(concept-instances cat_owner)
<pre>[*] ? Cannot start RacerPro @ localhost:8088, server is already r [*] > :ERROR</pre>	(retrieve (?x)
[*] ? Automatically connected to RacerPro 2.0 running on localhos	
<pre>[*] > (:OKAY "RacerPro 2.0 running on localhost:8088 (case: prese</pre>	
[1] ? (get-racer-version) [1] > "2.0"	(and (?x cat_owner) (?x ?y has_pet)))
[2] ? (full-reset)	(retrieve (?x ?y)
[2] > :okay-full-reset	(and (?x cat_owner)
[3] ? (racer-read-file "z:/temp/people+pets.racer") (in-tbox /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pets.owl size 124 role-size 2	(?x ?y has_pet) (?y cat))
Duplicate definition (or animal (some part_of animal)) for Axiom_ 1/KBs/people+pets.owl)> /home/mi.wesse1/KBs/people+pets.owl	(retrieve (?x ?y (direct-types ?y))
[3] > :0KAY	(and (?x pet_owner) (?x ?y has pet))
[4] ? (retrieve (?x ?y) (and (?x cat_owner) (?x ?y has_pet) (?y c	tdopt-chow-lambdac-p.t)
Concept (animal) causes a cycle in TBox /home/mi.wessel/KBs/peopl Concept (plant) causes a cycle in TBox /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people	
Concept (Axiom_2) causes a cycle in TBox /home/mi.wessel/KBs/peop Classifying TBox.	. Finished evaluating
Concept (mad_cow) is incoherent in TBox /home/mi.wessel/KBs/peopl [4] > ((2x Minnie) (2x Tom)) (2x Fred) (2x Tibbs))	RacerPro 2.0 running on localhost:8088 (case: preserve) querie
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Clear Selection	Clear Selection Clear Selection
Show Manual Save Shell Clear Shell Full Reset	New Editor Open in Editor Load Quit Shutdown RacerPro & Quit

The Class (Concept) Hierarchy (,,Taxonomy")

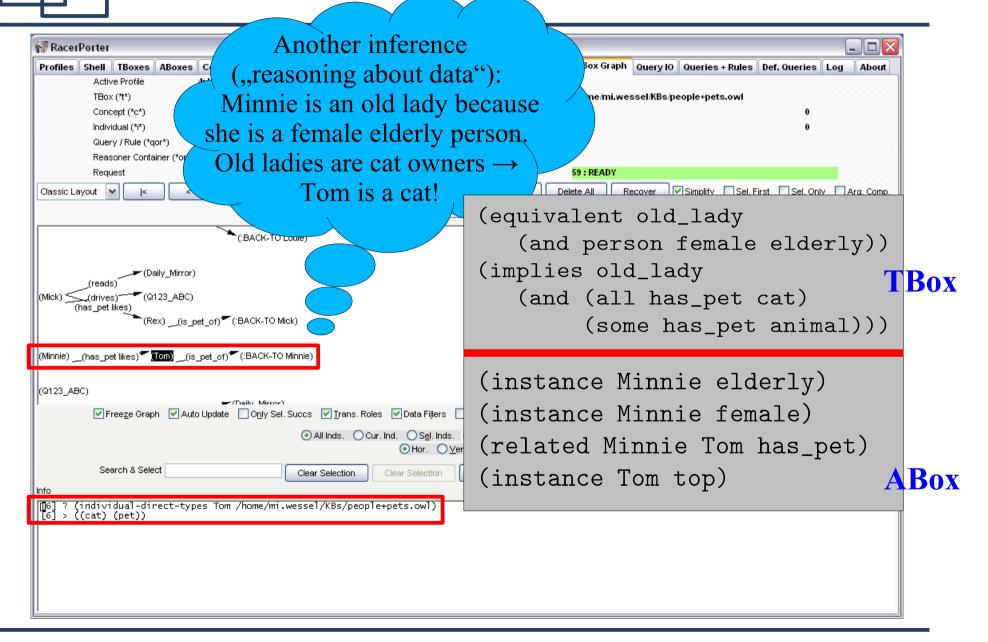




The Relation (Role / Property) Hierarchy



Individuals & Relationships – ABox Graph





Inspecting Class Assertions for Tom

M RacerPorter	
Profiles Shell TBoxes ABoxes Concepts Roles Individuals Assertions Axioms Taxonomy Role Hierarchy ABox Graph Query 10 Queries + Rules Def. Queries	
Active Profile 4: Localhost / Big TBoxes, Big ABoxes Namespace (#:, *n*)	
TBox (*t*) /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pets.owl ABox (*a*) /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pets.owl	
Concept (*c*) cat 4 Role (*r*) has_pet 1	
Individual (*i*) Tom 1 Axiom (*ax*) 0	
Query / Rule (*qor*) Definition (*def* = Name)	
Reasoner Container (*or*) OWLAPI-KB Ontology Container (*oo*)	_
Request 68 : (all-concept-assertions //home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pe Response 68 : CACHE-HIT	_
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(Tom top)	
It is	
not asserted explicitly	
that Tom is a cat!	
(,,Class Assertion")	
(top = thing concept)	
(top timig concept)	
 O All Concepts Cur. Concept Cel. Concepts All Inds. Cur. Ind. Cel. Inds. All Roles Cur. Role Cel. Roles Concept A Role A Cel. Concepts All Concept A Cel. Concepts All Concept A Cel. Cel. Cel. Cel. Cel. Cel. Cel. Cel.	
Info IMT7] ? (describe-role has_pet /home/mi.wessel/KBs/people+pets.owl)	
[[7] > (has_pet	Â
:synonyms (has_pet)	
domain person	
:range animal	
:parents	
(likes) :children	~



Relation ("Role") Assertions for Tom

🚮 Racerl	Porter														
Profiles		es ABoxes	Concepts	Roles	Individuals	Assertions	Axioms	Taxonomv	Role Hierar	chv ABox G		v 10 Queries	s + Rules [Def. Queries	
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	Concept (*c	*)	cat				4	Role (*	r*)	has_pet				1	
	Individual (*	*)	Tom				1	Axiom	(*ax*)					0	
	Query / Rul	e (*qor*)						Definiti	ion (*def* = Nan	ne)					
	Reasoner (ontainer (*or*)) OWLAPI-KB					Ontolo	gy Container (*	00*)					
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	synonyms (has_pet)														
	domain														≡
	person														
	range animal														
	parents (likes)														
	children														~
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- Old lady concept in...
 - KRSS / Racer native:

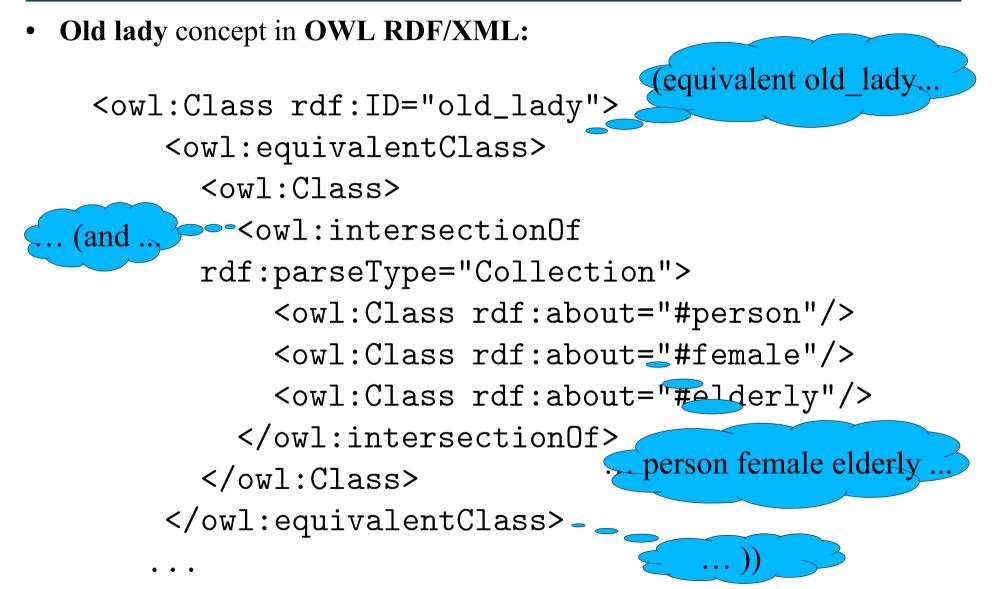
Racer can be used as a syntax converter

Syntaxes

- New: OWL 2 Functional Syntax (almost S-Expressions...)

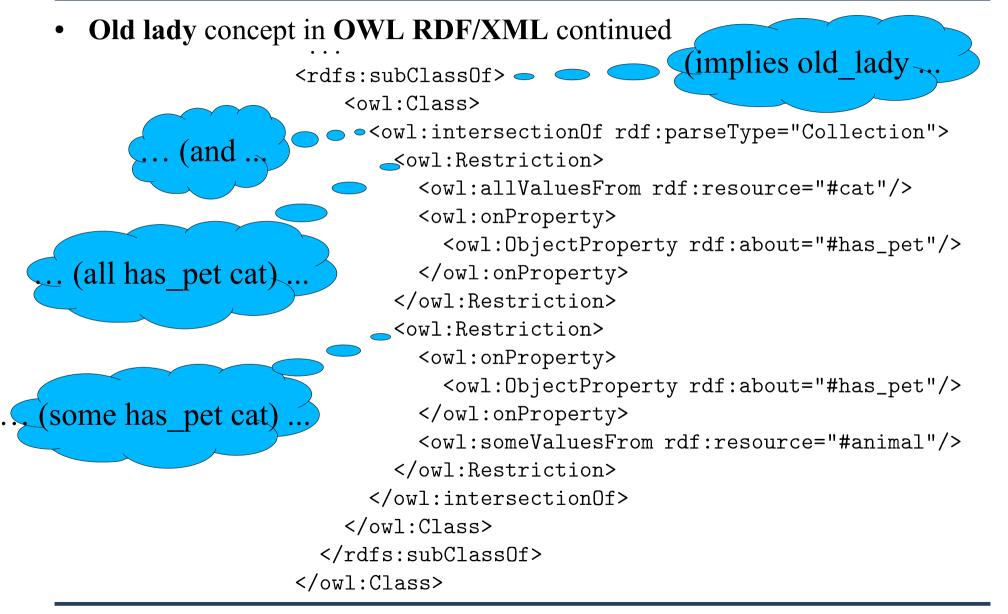
```
EquivalentClasses(
    old+lady
    ObjectIntersectionOf(female person elderly))
SubClassOf(old+lady
    ObjectIntersectionOf(
        ObjectAllValuesFrom(has_pet cat)
        ObjectSomeValuesFrom(has_pet animal)))
```



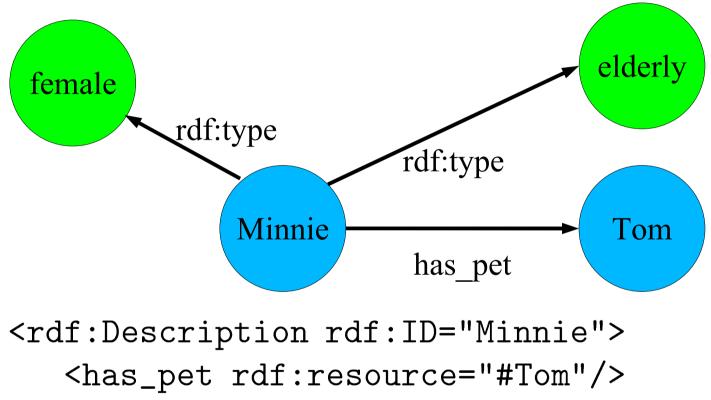




Syntaxes (3)





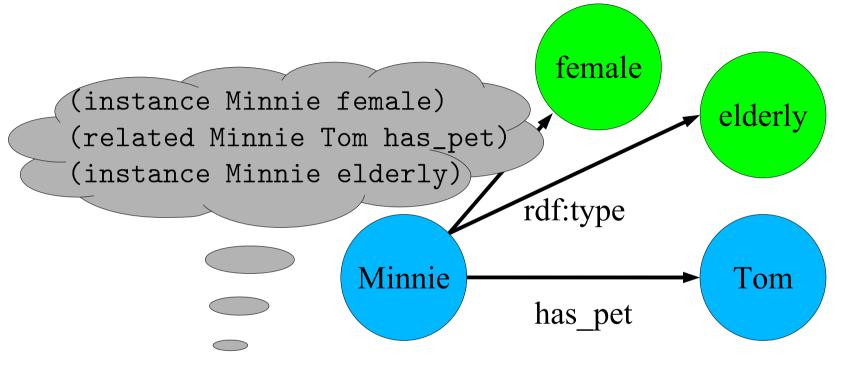


<rdf:type rdf:resource="#elderly"/>

<rdf:type rdf:resource="#female"/>

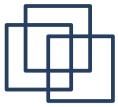
</rdf:Description>

ABox Part of an OWL Ontology - RDF Graph





```
(define-prefix "pets"
    "http://cohse.semanticweb.org/ontologies/people#")
(retrieve (?x ?y)
    (and (?x #!pets;old_lady)
        (?x ?y #!pets:has_pet)
        (?y #!pets:cat)))
```



SPARQL with RacerPro Demo

🙀 RacerPorter	
Profiles Shell TBoxes ABoxes Concepts Roles Individuals A	ssertions 🛛 Axioms 🗍 Taxonomy Role Hierarchy 🖉 ABox Graph 🔍 Queries + Rules Def. Quer < 🗲
Active Profile 4: Localhost / Big TBoxes, Big ABoxes TBox (***) z:/temp/people+pets.owl Concept (*c*) Individual (**) Query / Rule (*qor*) Reasoner Container (*or*) z:/temp/people+pets.owl Request 69: (get-namespace-prefixes) Classic Layout < 2 / 2 Concept ([http://cohse.semanticweb.org/ontologies/people Classifying TBox.	<pre>RacerEditor File Edit Buffer ntologies/people#> select ?x where { ?x rdf:type pets:cat }") (sparql-answer-query "prefix pets: <http: cohse.semanticweb.org="" ntologies="" o?="" people#=""> select ?x ?y where { ?x rdf:type pets:old_lady ? ; pets:has_pet ?y . ?y rdf:type pets:cat . }") prefix pets: <http: cohse.semanticweb.org="" ontologies="" people#=""> sel? ect ?x ?y where { ?x rdf:type pets:old_lady ; pets:has_pet ?y . ?y? rdf:type pets:cat . } </http:></http:></pre>
<pre>[5] ? (sparql-answer-query "prefix pets: <http: .="" ;="" ?y="" [5]="" cohse.s="" pets:cat="" pets:has_pet="" rdf:type="" }")=""> (((?x #!:Minnie) (?y #!:Tom))) [6] ? prefix pets: <http: .="" [6]="" cohse.semanticweb.org="" ontolog="" pets:cat="" rdf:type="" y="" }=""> (((?x #!:Minnie) (?y #!:Tom))) [7] ? [] Search & Select Sel. Individuals := Last Result</http:></http:></pre>	RacerPro 2.0 running on localhost:8088 (case: press
Sel. Concepts := Last Result Clear Selecti	
No. Variable Binding 1 ?× #!:Minni, 1 ?y #!:Tom	e
<	



- SPARQL was not meant as an OWL query language
 - does it consider inferred triples (rdf:type? inferred properties?)
 - can't retrieve old ladies
 - no negation as failure, no universal quantification, no aggregation
 - most of our example queries cannot be formulated
 - as a rule language: has construct, but cannot create new URIs
- SPARQL in Racer, **2 modi**:
 - 1: use AllegroGraph SPARQL processor (filled by Racer with triples)
 - scalable, secondary memory, ..., but only shallow inference
 - 2: translated into nRQL query (uses AllegroGraph SPARQL parser)
 - full OWL reasoning, but not so scalable, SPARQL subset only

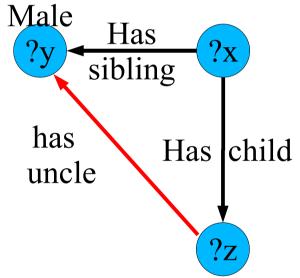
compromiss: let RacerPro **materialize** the inferred triples in AllegroGraph, then use mode 1 for SPARQL query answering



 Motiviation: enhanced relational expressivity (certain relational structures can't be encoded with concepts)

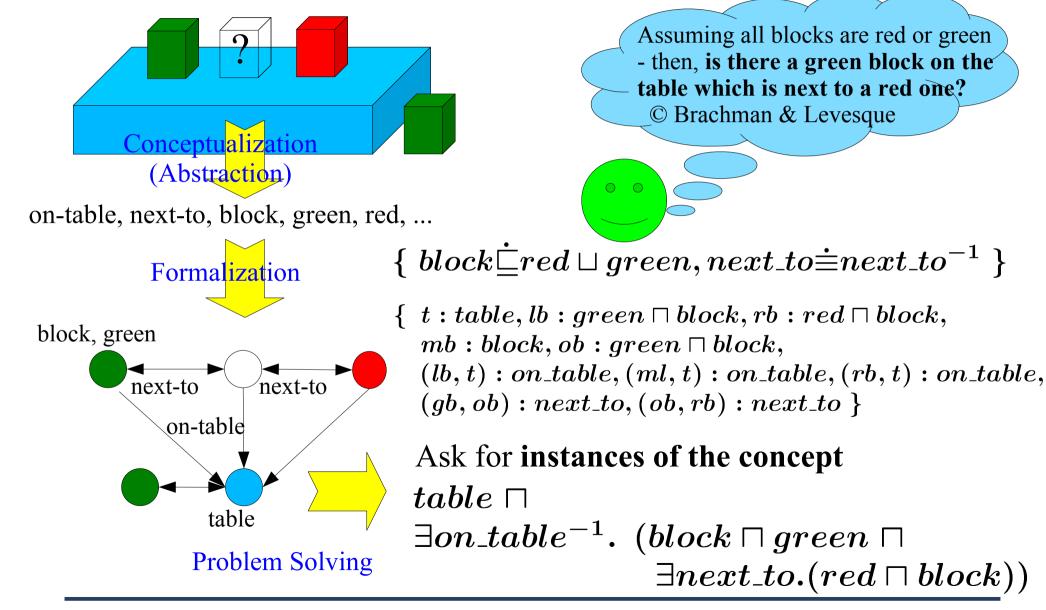
 $has_sibling(?x,?y) \land male(?y) \land has_child(?x,?z) \Rightarrow \\ has_uncle(?z,?y)$

- Horn rules in RDF/XML syntax
 - Jess-based implementations
- undeceidable, but deceidable fragments
- Racer supports restricted subset of SWRL
 - translated into nRQL rules
 - nRQL rules need not be horn
 - and can construct new individuals
 - but have a non-logical semantics (similar to Jess)



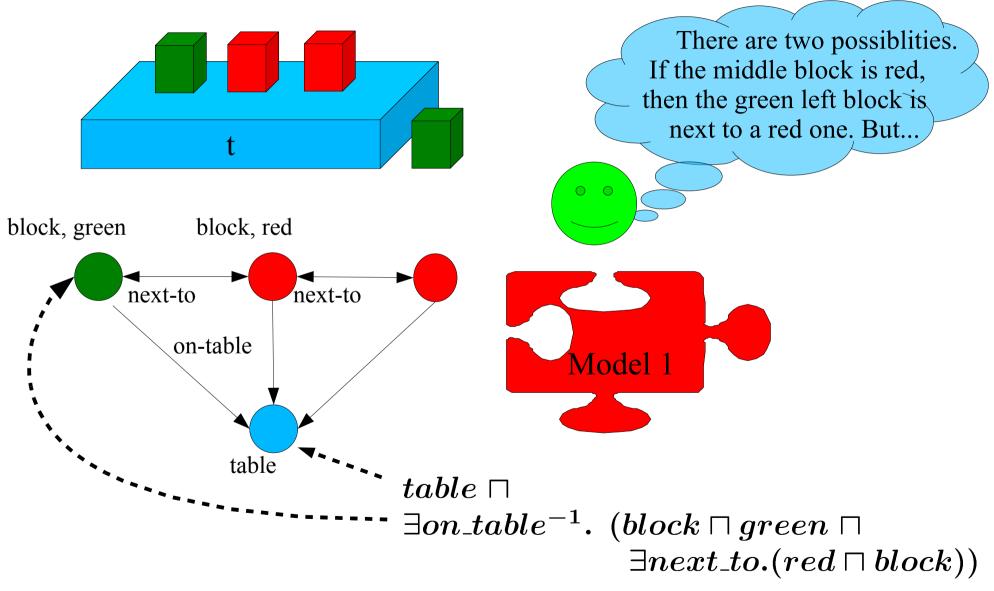


ABox Queries & Indefinite Information



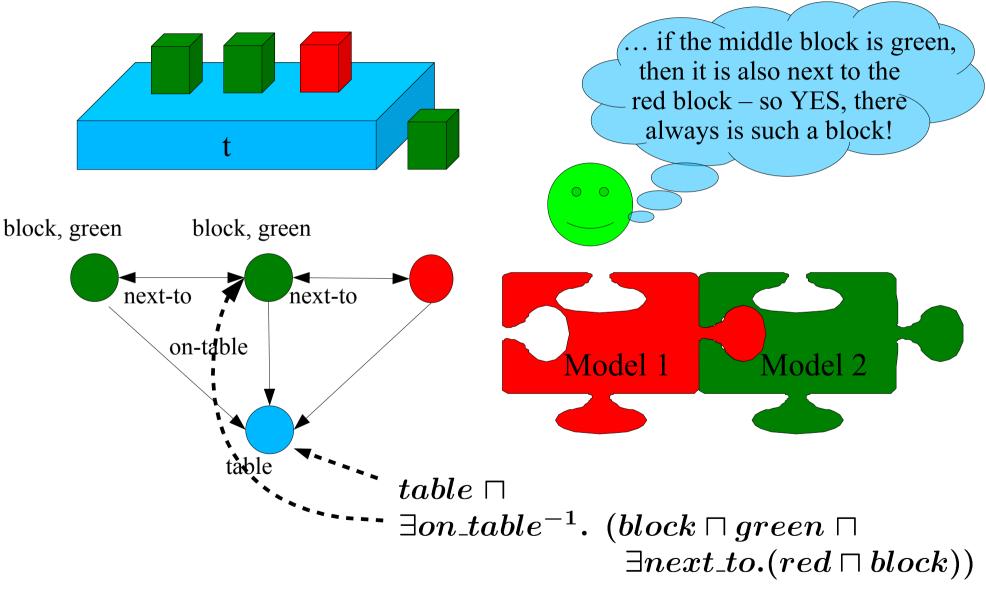


ABox Queries & Indefinite Information (2)



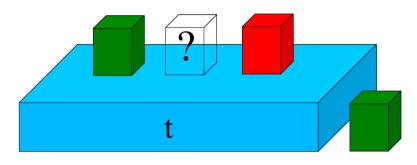


ABox Queries & Indefinite Information (3)





ABox Queries vs. Database Queries



```
concept_instances( table \sqcap
                          \exists on_table^{-1}. (block \sqcap green \sqcap
                                                \exists next_to.(red \sqcap block))) = \{t\}
```

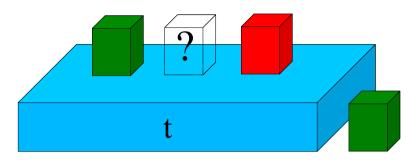
However:

concept_instances($block \sqcap green \sqcap$ $\exists next_to.(red \sqcap block))) = \{\}$

- Unlike DB queries, instance retrieval queries can cope with
 - incomplete information (have to perform **case analysis**)
 - have to **consider ALL models**, not only one (,,model = DB")
 - only the **existence** of such a block is entailed



More Expressive Queries: Conjunctive ABox Queries



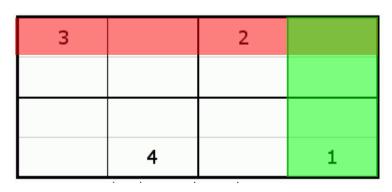
- $\begin{array}{ll} ans(?x) \leftarrow & table(?x), on_table(?y,?x), \\ & & block(?y), green(?y), \\ & & next_to(?y,?z), red(?z), block(?z). \end{array}$
- Answer should be: ?x = t
 - most DL systems nowadays return no answer
 - deceidability open until recently
- You can't retrieve?y because its binding can't be fixed
 - answer (head) variables & other variables



Solving Problems with Reasoning - Sudoku

Create a KB whose logical models represent all possible Sudoku solutions. A good Sudoku has only ONE solution → entailed facts = solution!

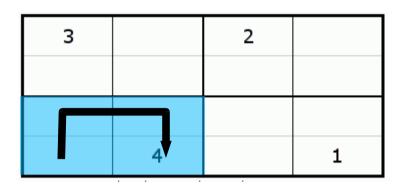
3		2	
	4		1

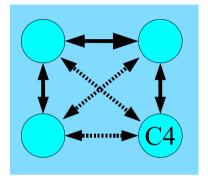


 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{pairwise_disjoint}(C_1,C_2,C_3,C_4) \\ \top \stackrel{.}{\sqsubseteq} (C_1 \sqcup C_2 \sqcup C_3 \sqcup C_4) \sqcap \\ (C_1 \rightarrow \forall R. \neg C_1) \sqcap (C_2 \rightarrow \forall R. \neg C_2) \sqcap \\ (C_3 \rightarrow \forall R. \neg C_3) \sqcap (C_4 \rightarrow \forall R. \neg C_4) \sqcap \end{array}$



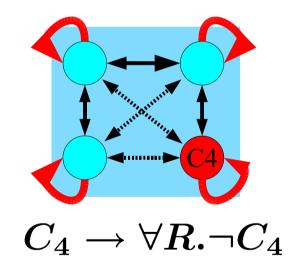
Sudoku – ABox Construction





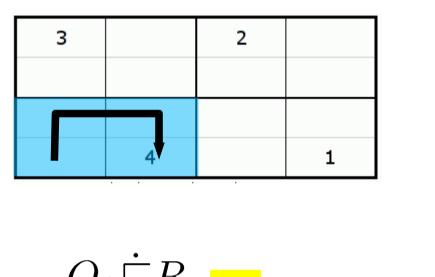
ABox construction

- by hand? OK for 4x4, but for 9x9?
 - → create the structure programmatically (MiniLisp)
- transitive & symmetric property \rightarrow
 - use different backward property instead of a symmetric property
 - quantification over common parent property

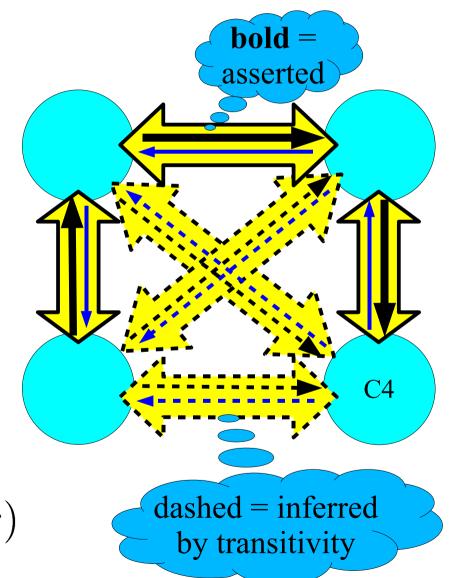




Sudoku – Relational Structure



$$\begin{array}{c} & Q_1 \sqsubseteq R \\ & Q_2 \doteq R \\ & \text{transitive}(Q_1) \\ & \text{transitive}(Q_2) \\ & Q_1(x,y) \leftrightarrow Q_2(y,x) \end{array}$$



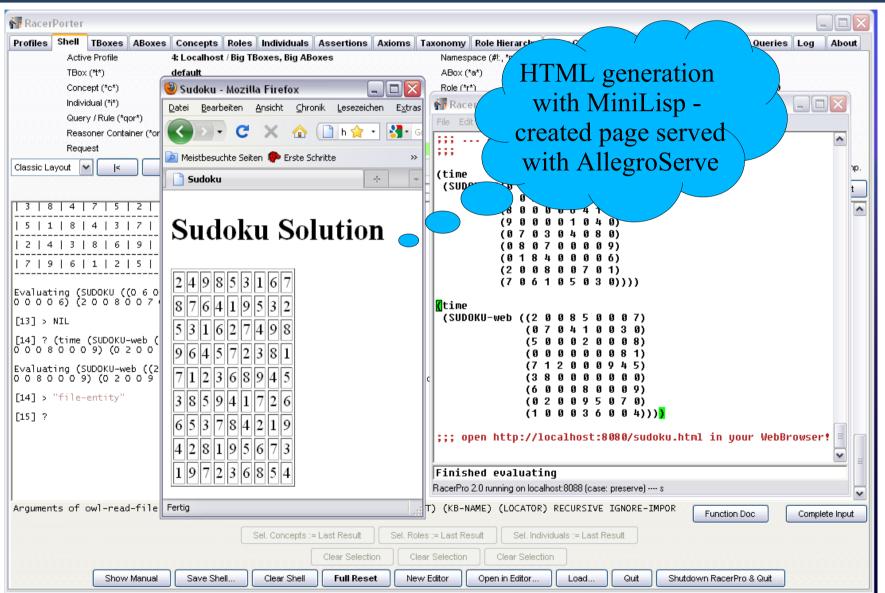


Solving Sudokus with Racer Reasoning!

RacerPorter	
Profiles Shell TBoxes	xonomy Role Hierarchy ABox Graph Query 10 Queries + Rules Def. Queries Log About
Active Prof MiniLisp	Namespace (#!;,*n*)
TBox (**/	ABox (*a*) default
Concept for programmatic KB	
(here: ABox) creation, and	File Edit Buffer
output generation.	(terpri))
	(format t "~%Sorry, no solution")))
Classic Layout New "ad hoc" server	(t (format t "~%Bad Sudoku.")))))
functions can be defined in	t
	;;; Register new server functions
[13] ? (time MiniLisp.	
	(server-function sudoku-web)
4 6 7 5 1 3 2 9 8	(server-function sudoku)
	· · ·
8 3 9 2 7 6 4 1 5	;;; ;;; and use them!
9 5 2 6 8 1 3 4 7	
	(time
3 8 4 7 5 2 1 6 9	(SUDOKU ((0 6 0 5 0 3 2 0 8) (1 0 5 0 0 8 0 0 3)
5 1 8 4 3 7 9 2 6	(800006410)
2 4 3 8 6 9 7 5 1	(9 0 0 0 0 1 0 4 0) (0 7 0 3 0 4 0 8 0)
7 9 6 1 2 5 8 3 4	(08070009)
Evaluating (SUDOKU ((0 6 0 5 0 3 2 0 8) (1 0 5 0 0 8 0 0 3) (8 0 0 0 0 6 4 0 0 0 0 6) (2 0 0 8 0 0 7 0 1) (7 0 6 1 0 5 0 3 0))) took 0.2820 seconds.	(7 0 6 1 0 5 0 3 0))))
[13] > NIL	Finished evaluating
	RacerPro 2.0 running on localhost: 8088 (case: preserve) s
Arguments of owl-read-file: FILENAME &KEY (VERBOSE *TBOX-VERBOSE*) (INIT 1	F) (KB-NAME) (LOCATOR) RECURSIVE IGNORE-IMPOR Function Doc Complete Input
Sel, Concepts := Last Result Sel, Roles	:= Last Result Sel. Individuals := Last Result
	Selection Clear Selection
Show Manual Save Shell Clear Shell Full Reset New I	
	Calor Sharan Calor



RacerPorter – MiniLisp HTML Generation





... due to a lack of time I couldn't present the remaining material but I am including the slides here anyway.



Plugins

- RacerPro is a server: 2 sockets / ports
- \$ 0\$8 TCP Lisp syntax (\rightarrow Porter) \$ 0\$80 HTTP XML (DIG) file IO approx 1000 API functions RacerPro remote access libraries (sets of stubs) • RacerPro remote
 - LRacer for Lispers
 - (ACL, Lispworks, SBCL, CLisp
 - **JRacer** for Java
 - unicode (UTF8)
- DIG, OWLlink, OWLAPI



LRacer for Lispers

```
(enable-lracer-read-macros)
(full-reset)
(define-prefix "people"
     "http://cohse.semanticweb.org/o
(owl-read-file "people+pets.owl")
(abox-consistent?)
(taxonomy)
(concept-synonyms #!people:bottom)
(retrieve (?x ?y)
  (and (?x #!people:person)
        (?x ?y #!people:has_pet)))
(instance #!people:betsy #!people:ma
(abox-consistent?)
```

- Size: > 1000 API functions / macros
 - HAS to be generated automatically
- Some roblems with UTF8 socket streams on different Lisps
- ACL "modern Lisp"
 - Racer is case sensitive ,,mlisp"
 - LRacer: maybe "alisp"
 - NIL ↔ nil
 - conversion required! ... but for which symbols? depends on packages!
- with-macros...



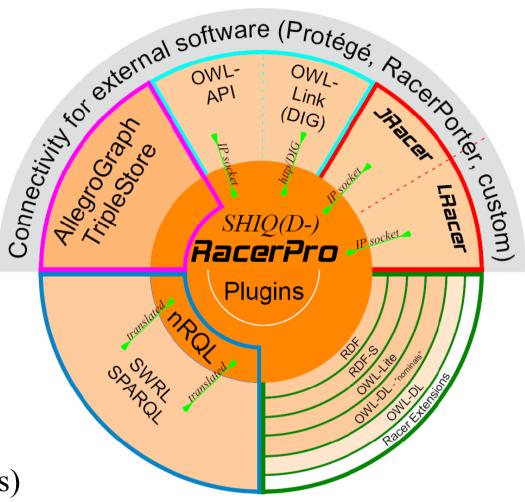
JRacer for Java Developers

```
• Automatically generated
                                                   • Strings or ArrayLists
RacerClient racer = new RacerClient(ip,port);
                                                    for S-Expressions \rightarrow generics,
try {
  racer.openConnection();
                                                    structure iteration
  racer.fullReset$();
                                                   • Typecasts and runtime
  racer.owlReadFile$(peopleAndPets);
                                                    checks not avoidable...
  boolean consistent = racer.aboxConsistentP();
                                                   • UTF8
  RacerResult res2 = (RacerResult)
                                                   • Java ellipsis for
    racer.racerAnswerQuery$("(?x ?y)",
                                                     &rest, &key
      "(and (?x #!:person) (?x ?y #!:has_pet))")
                                                  • overloaded methods for
                                                    & optional a b ...
  if (res2 instanceof RacerSymbol) {
                                                   • with-... macros
    System.out.println("No instances!");
                                                   \bullet > 3000 Java methods
  } else {
    for (RacerList<RacerList<RacerSymbol>> bindings :
            (RacerList<RacerList<RacerSymbol>>>)res2) {
      for (RacerList<RacerSymbol> binding : bindings) {
        for (RacerSymbol varval : binding) {
          System.out.println(varval);
  }}} ...
```



- XML over HTTP-based
 - 8080 port of RacerPro
 - AllegroServe / CL-HTTP
 - DIG used by Protégé 3.x ontology editor
- OWLlink
 - successor of DIG
 - we are developing an
 S-Expression over HTTP

 (instead of XML messages)
 binding for the protocol
 (idea: turn OWL functional synthetics)



(idea: turn OWL functional syntax into S-Expressions)

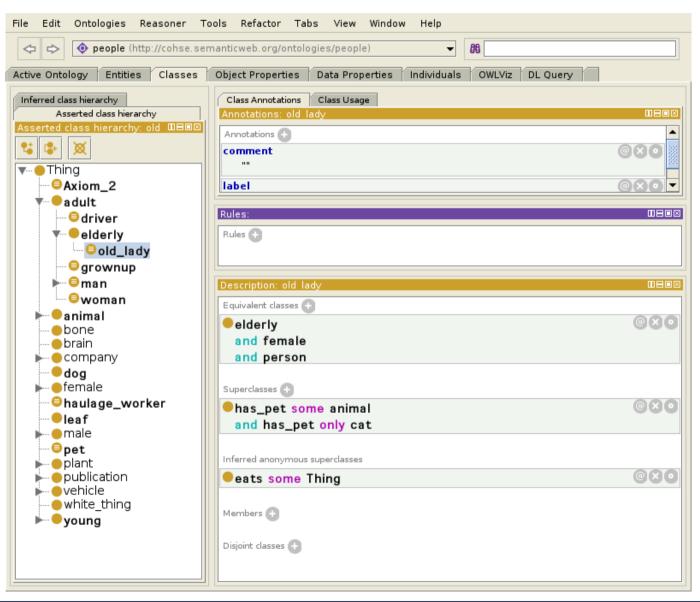


Plugins

- ng hoi external software (Protégé, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Custom) internal software (Protégé, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Racerbourge, Custom) An important Java framework for SemanticWeb programming (similar to Jena for RDF, ...)
- Basis of **Protégé 4.x**
 - handles reasoner access
 - RacerAdapter required
 - RacerReasoner adapter & Protégé plugin developed and provided by Olaf Noppens from Ulm University
 - required an entirely new Racer-API (Racer-OWLAPI) in order to make the adapter work (have to support the core OWLAPI abstractions)



Graphical OWL2 Modeling with Protégé 4





Graphical OWL2 Modeling with RacerPorter

🙀 RacerPorter				
Active Profile 4: Localh TBox (*t*) z:/KBs/pe Concept (*c*) Individual (*i*) Query / Rule (*qor*) Reasoner Container (*or*) z:/KBs/pe	ost / Big TBoxes, Big ABoxes ople+pets.owl 0 0	Taxonomy Namespace ABox (*a*) Role (*r*) Axiom (*ax* Definition (* Ontology C Response Delete	Role Hierarchy ABox Graph Query IO Queries + Rules Def. Q (#:, *n*) http://cohse.semanticweb.org/ontologies/peo	
Display (& Create <u>N</u> ew) Axioms of Type Axiom (Abstract)	ID Axiom Type & Attribute	Туре		
Loaded Axiom (Abstract) Unloaded Axiom (Abstract) ImportsbeclarationAxiom PrefixDeclarationAxiom OntologyversionDeclarationAxiom LogicalAxiom (Abstract) HaskeyAxiom ClassAxiom (Abstract) SubclassAxiom DisjointClassesAxiom DisjointClassesAxiom ClassAstom (Abstract) ClassAxiom (Abstract) ClassAxiom DisjointClassesAxiom SameIndividualAxiom (Abstract) ClassAstion (Abstract) ClassAxiom (Abstract)	veb.org/ontologies/p 💌 Dispose On	sesAxiom	Concept Description for Attribute SUPER-CLASS of Axiom 197 (and (all #I:has_pet #I:cat) (some #I:has_pet #I:animal))	
Reasoner Container z:/KBs/people+pets.owl Dispose Rea			Concept Name	
<pre>[1] ? (owl-read-file "z:/KBs/people+pets.owl" :maintain-owlapi-axioms t) Reading ontology z:/KBs/people+pets.owl Duplicate definition (not (or [http://cohse.semanticweb.org/ontologies/peop ple#part_of [http://cohse.semanticweb.org/ontologies/people#plant]))) for [ht ormed into two GCIs. Reading ontology z:/KBs/people+pets.owl done. [1] > z:/KBs/people+pets.owl</pre>			Roje #!:drives	es/peo!



- MiniLisp
 - ad-hoc server extensions (API function missing?)
 - executed on the server (no communication latency \rightarrow fast)
 - user-defined query predicates
 - report generation, programmatic knowledge base creation ("Sudoku Grid"), "Racer scripting"
- Plugin mechanism
 - create a FASL file with AllegroExpress, convert it into a plugin
 - server extensions possible (hook mechanism)
 - ,,at our own risk", full access to Racer internals,
 - faster & more general than MiniLisp, but not ,,ad hoc"



- A simple "Lisp 1 Lisp in Lisp" (own evaluator)
- Motivation: termination safe & simple (important if used in queries!)
 - total recursive functions
- Basic datatypes and operations (both borrowed from CL) for
 - lists, numbers, symbols, characters, booleans, basic IO streams
 - no cyclic lists
- Control structures (mostly borrowed from CL)
 - **bounded loops**, structure mapping (no cyclic lists) dotimes, dolist, maplist, maptree, ...
 - if, when, unless, cond, ...
- defun and defpar, defcon
 - recursion always aborted at runtime (stack inspection)



MiniLisp in a Nutshell (2)

- No macros
- All RacerPro API functions / macros callable (macros treated as functions)
- setq (incf, decf), but no generalized variables (prevent cyclic lists)
- No closures
 - impossible

((lambda (x x) (x x)) (lambda (x x) (x x)))

- (built-in) higher order functions have to be special forms
 (maplist (lambda (x) (1+ x)) '(1 2 3))
- evaluate
 - but no (evaluate ... (evaluate ...) ...)
- Quote, backquote, ...
- Claim: covers 99,99% of the typical "Racer programming" cases!



- Racer could have been implemented in another language...
 - ... but some Lisp-features are especially valuable here
 - ,standard arguments" (GC, closures, ...) apply to may languages nowadays (Haskell, Phython, Ruby, JavaScript, F#, ...)
- Merits of functional programming
 - Racer tableaux prover (= system core / kernel) was implemented in a functional style (seems natural)
 - good for debugging
 - but problems with stack size someday
 - switched to closures for representation of backtracking context (,,continuation-passing style")
 - implementation didn't break although this was a drastic change in the system architecture → flexibility of Lisp



- Ability to concisely represent and conveniently manipulate complex expression
 - structured literals
 - you don't want
 expr.add(new this("a").add(new that("b")));
 - ArrayLists:["a", "b"]
 - S-Expressions were invented for symbolic computation
 → perfect
 - S-Expressions for the front-end syntax (things get encoded later)

... LOTS of operations deal with front-end syntax only



- Abstraction
 - W3C standards such as OWL2 are still a moving target
 - a very flexible basis is needed / prototyping
 - decouple implementation from standardization ;-)
 - transform OWL (SPARQL, SWRL, ...) into that representation (but keep the original representation)
 - Lisp allows you to **defer decisions**
 - no static typing (no extensive ,,type" or class hierarchy refactorings)
 - no tight data structure (class hierarchy) / operations coupling
 → operations can be combined in a more flexible way
 - macros can save you a LOT of refactoring time (change the macro, keep the code!)
 - "open" method / function signatures / delegation chains:
 (defun f1 (... &rest args &allow-other-keys)

... (apply **#'**f2 args))))



- **Reflexive / introspective qualities** of Lisp
 - meta-information is always there

within the SAME environment (\rightarrow synergy effect), e.g.

- racer-defun does many things in one place:
 - registers the function for the server listener
 - creates LRacer & JRacer stubs based on lambda list
 - creates code for RacerPorter to support completion, ...
- defowlaxiomclass
 - creates the axiom editor CAPI dialogs for Porter by "inspecting" its slots, conjoining appropriate CAPI code for the different attributes
- "data driven" meta programming

→ Lisp allows a very small company (us!) to survive W3C Semantic Web standards ;-)



- Lack of ,,(quasi) standardized" frameworks / solutions
 - and quality of the existing frameworks probably not as good as in the Java world (MUCH less developers are using them on a daily basis)
 - Java \leftrightarrow Lisp ,,in memory" integration still very hard
 - e.g., very nice graph layouters in Java
 - Java developers get much more for free
 - \rightarrow Lispers have to work harder: more hand-crafted solutions
- Language too old (?)
 - unicode sockets, custom streams (e.g., gzipped streams), ...
- GC is a big plus, but very hard to control sometimes (for large KBs)



- CL-HTTP (John Mallery) / AllegroServe
 - owl-read-document (HTTP client)
 - owl:Import (downloads an ontology from the web)
 - DIG / OWLlink server
- Wilbur (Ora Lassila)
 - basic RDF processing
- AllegroGraph
 - SPARQL parser & triple store for RacerPro
- Lispworks CAPI and Lispworks editor
 - for RacerPorter / RacerEditor
 - thanks to Martin Simmons for great CAPI support



How do I get RacerPro?

• www.racer-systems.com

there is the 2.0 preview version

- no license required
- to be finalized soon
- A recent research project which uses RacerPro: www.boemie.org

Thanks!

