

# Information Extraction

session in the course “Web Search” at the  
École nationale supérieure des télécommunications  
in Paris/France in spring 2011

by [Fabian M. Suchanek](#)

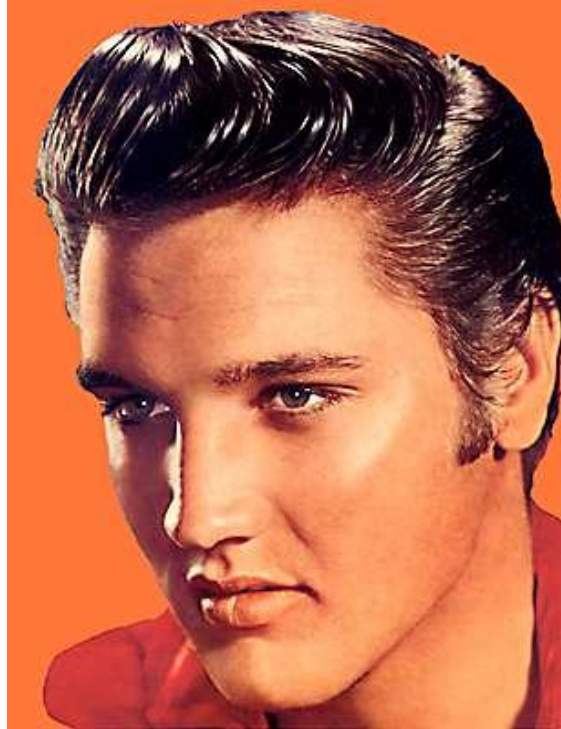


This document is available under a  
[Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License](#)

# Organisation

- 3h class on Information extraction
- 3h lab session
- Web-sites:
  - <http://suchanek.name/> → Teaching
  - <http://pierre.senellart.com/enseignement/2010-2011/inf396/>

# Motivation



*Elvis, when I  
need you, I  
can hear you!*

Elvis Presley  
1935 - 1977

Will there ever be someone like him again?

# Motivation



Another Elvis

Elvis Presley: The Early Years

**Elvis** spent more weeks at the top of the charts than any **other** artist.

[www.fiftiesweb.com/elvis.htm](http://www.fiftiesweb.com/elvis.htm)

# Motivation



Another singer called Elvis, young

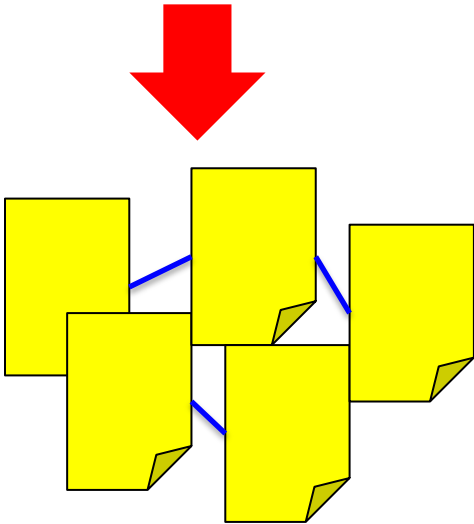
[Personal relationships of Elvis Presley – Wikipedia](#)

...when Elvis was a **young** teen.... **another** girl whom the **singer's** mother hoped Presley would .... The writer **called Elvis** "a hillbilly cat"  
[en.wikipedia.org/.../Personal\\_relationships\\_of\\_Elvis\\_Presley](https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Personal_relationships_of_Elvis_Presley)

# Motivation



Another Elvis

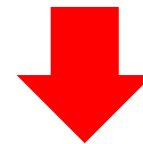


X

```
SELECT * FROM person  
WHERE gName='Elvis'  
AND occupation='singer'
```



GName	FName	Occupation
Elvis	Presley	singer
Elvis	Hunter	painter
...	...	



1: Elvis Presley  
2: Elvis ...  
3: Elvis ...

# Motivation: Definition

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

Elvis Presley was a famous rock singer.  
...  
Mary once remarked that the only attractive thing about the painter Elvis Hunter was his first name.

**Information  
Extraction**



GName	FName	Occupation
Elvis	Presley	singer
Elvis	Hunter	painter
...	...	

# Motivation: Examples

## 579 Jobs in Northern California

Refine your Search

Keyword(s)

You save

(Pipeline) Business

QA Engineer - Reliability

### Search Results

Page 1 of 52 | [Next Page](#)

Job Title / Description ( <a href="#">show titles only</a> )	Company	Location (Distance)	Posted
<b>RN-Registered Nurse/LVN-Licensed Vocational Nurse - <a href="#">View similar jobs</a></b> Job type: Full-Time/Part-Time Maxim's office in Sherman Oaks is seeking compassionate Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed ... Maxim's office in Sherman Oaks is seeking... <a href="#">View full job description</a> <a href="#">Save to MyCareerBuilder</a> <a href="#">Email to a friend</a>	Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc	CA - San Fernando (17 miles)	2 Weeks Ago
<b>Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care Nurse Practitioner - <a href="#">View similar jobs</a></b> Job type: Full-Time Vanderbilt University Medical Center is currently hiring Nurse Practitioners to join our team ... Vanderbilt University Medical Center is... <a href="#">View full job description</a> <a href="#">Save to MyCareerBuilder</a> <a href="#">Email to a friend</a>	Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC)	CA - Los Angeles (1 miles)	2 Weeks Ago

Senior Flash Memory Technologist - Storage Architect - SSD

Sr. Unix Administrator

Project Manager - Network Connectivity Integration (Job DA0922)

QA Software Tester (Job YS0920)

Senior Systems Engineer

Lustre Filesystem Engineer

\$160k - \$200k

\$100k - \$121k

Salary not disclosed

Salary not disclosed

\$75k to \$85k

Salary not disclosed

Title	Type	Location
Business strategy Associate	Part time	Palo Alto, CA
Registered Nurse	Full time	Los Angeles
...	...	8



# Motivation: Examples

Biography for  
**Elvis Presley** [More at IMDbPro »](#)

**Date of Birth**  
[8 January 1935](#), [Tupelo, Mississippi, USA](#)

**Date of Death**  
[16 August 1977](#), [Memphis, Tennessee, USA](#) (cardiac arrhythmia)

**Birth Name**  
Elvis Aron Presley

**Nickname**  
The Pelvis  
The King  
The King Of Rock 'n'

**Height**  
6' (1.83 m)

**Mini Biography**  
Elvis Aaron Presley

Name	Birthplace	Birthdate
Elvis Presley	Tupelo, MI	1935-01-08
...	...	



DISCOVER ELVIS  
**DISCOVER ELVIS**

### Biography

[Overview](#) / [1935-1957](#) / [1958-1965](#) / [1966-1969](#) / [1970-1977](#)

### Overview

**Elvis Aaron Presley**, in the humblest of circumstances, was born to Vernon and Gladys Presley in a [two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi](#) on January 8, 1935. His twin brother, Jessie Garon, was stillborn, leaving Elvis to grow up as an only child. He and his parents moved to [Memphis, Tennessee](#) in 1948, and Elvis graduated from Humes High School there in 1953.

# Motivation: Examples

## Information Extraction: Techniques and Challenges

Ralph Grishman

### Information Integration Papers

Ne [Answering Queries Using Templates With Binding Patterns](#). In PODS 1995, specify binding patterns.

[The TSIMMIS Approach to Mediation: Data Models and Languages](#). A survey appears in *J. Intelligent Information Systems* 8:2, pp. 117-132, March, 1997.


[Querying Semistructured, Heterogeneous Information](#) (with Dallan Quass, A semantics. Also, a [A shorter Version](#) that appeared in DOOD '95.

### 1 Introduction

This volume takes a broad  
filtering information from la

Author	Publication	Year
Grishman	Information Extraction...	2006
...	...	...

# Motivation: Examples



Ballroom Dance Shoe

1 new from **\$49.95**

★★★★☆ (5)

> Show only So Danca items

X-Strap Ballroom Dance Shoe

1 new from **\$49.95**

★★★★★ (5)

> Show only So Danca items



**Dynex™ - 32" Class / 720p / 60Hz / LCD HDTV**  
 Model: DX-32L150A11 | SKU: 9558089  
 ★★★★★ 3.8 of 5 (180 reviews)  
[Check Shipping & Availability >](#)

☐ Compare

---



**Dynex™ - 24" Class / 1080p / 60Hz / LCD HDTV**  
 Model: DX-24L150A11 | SKU: 9848048  
 ★★★★★ 4.3 of 5 (54 reviews)  
[Check Shipping & Availability >](#)

☐ Compare

Product	Type	Price
Dynex 32"	LCD TV	\$1000
...	...	

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

Ontological  
Information  
Extraction

Fact  
Extraction



citizenOf



Instance  
Extraction

Person	Nationality
Angela Merkel	German

Named Entity  
Recognition

Elvis Presley	singer
Angela Merkel	politician

...married Elvis  
on 1967-05-01

# Named Entity Recognition

**Named Entity Recognition** (NER) is the process of finding entities (people, cities, organizations, ...) in a text.

Elvis Presley was born in 1935 in East Tupelo, Mississippi.



We can extract different types of entities:

- Entities for which we have an exhaustive dictionary (**closed set extraction**)

... in Tupelo, Mississippi, but ...

States of the USA

... while Germany and France were opposed to a 3<sup>rd</sup> World War, ...

Countries of the World (?)

May not always be trivial...

... was a great fan of France Gall, whose songs...

# Named Entity Recognition

**Named Entity Recognition** (NER) is the process of finding entities (people, cities, organizations, ...) in a text.

Elvis Presley was born in 1935 in East Tupelo, Mississippi.



We can extract different types of entities:

- Entities for which we have an exhaustive dictionary (**closed set extraction**)
- Proper names (**open set extraction**)

... together with the software engineer Bob “the coder” Miller...

People

... The region of Northern Urzykistan has been at war with Southern Urzykistan ever since 1208, when...

Locations

... BrightFridge Inc. presented their new product, the self-reloading fridge, at this year's exposition in Paris...

Organizations

# Named Entity Recognition

**Named Entity Recognition** (NER) is the process of finding entities (people, cities, organizations, ...) in a text.

Elvis Presley was born in 1935 in East Tupelo, Mississippi.



We can extract different types of entities:

- Entities for which we have an exhaustive dictionary (**closed set extraction**)
- Proper names (**open set extraction**)
- Entities that follow a certain pattern

... was born in 1935. His mother...  
... started playing guitar in 1937, when...  
... had his first concert in 1939, although...

Years  
(4 digit numbers)

Office: 01 23 45 67 89  
Mobile: 06 19 35 01 08  
Home: 09 77 12 94 65

Phone numbers  
(groups of digits)

# NER: Regular Expressions

A **regular expression** (regex) over a set of symbols  $\Sigma$  is:

1. the empty string
2. or the string consisting of an element of  $\Sigma$  (a single character)
3. or the string  $AB$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are regular expressions (**concatenation**)
4. or a string of the form  $(A \mid B)$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are regular expressions (**alternation**)
5. or a string of the form  $(A)^*$ , where  $A$  is a regular expression (**Kleene star**)

For example, with  $\Sigma=\{a,b\}$ , the following strings are regular expressions:

a

b

ab

aba

(a | b)



# NER: Regular Expressions

## Matching

- a string **matches** a regex of a single character if the string consists of just that character

a

b

← regular expression

a

b

← matching string

- a string matches a regular expression of the form  $(A)^*$  if it consists of zero or more parts that match A

(a)\*

← regular expression

aa a aaaaaa

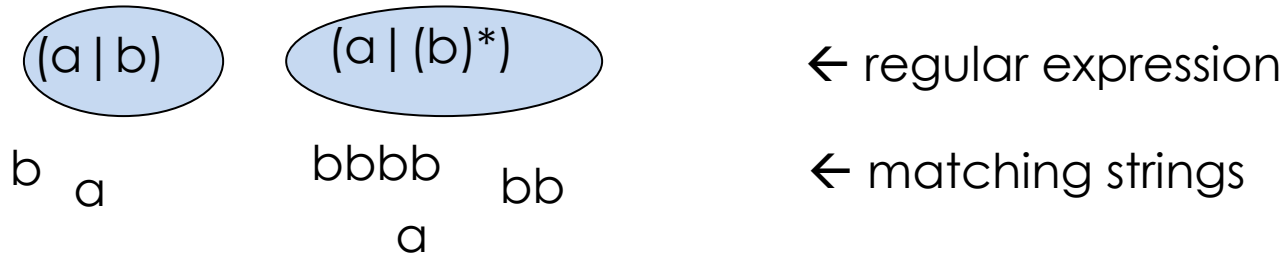
← matching strings

aaaaaa

# NER: Regular Expressions

## Matching

- a string matches a regex of the form  $(A | B)$  if it matches either A or B



- a string matches a regular expression of the form  $AB$  if it consists of two parts, where the first part matches A and the second part matches B



# NER: Regular Expressions

Given an ordered set of symbols  $\Sigma$ , we define

- $[x-y]$  for two symbols  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $x < y$ , to be the alternation  
 $x \mid \dots \mid y$  (meaning: any of the symbols in the range)

$[0-9] = 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid 3 \mid 4 \mid 5 \mid 6 \mid 7 \mid 8 \mid 9$

- $A^+$  for a regex  $A$  to be  
 $A(A)^*$  (meaning: one or more  $A$ 's)

$[0-9]^+ = [0-9][0-9]^*$

- $A\{x,y\}$  for a regex  $A$  and integers  $x < y$  to be  
 $A \dots A \mid A \dots A \mid A \dots A \mid \dots \mid A \dots A$  (meaning:  $x$  to  $y$   $A$ 's)

$f\{4,6\} = ffff \mid fffff \mid fffffff$

- $A?$  for a regex  $A$  to be  
 $( \mid A )$  (meaning: an optional  $A$ )

$ab? = a( \mid b )$

- $.$  to be an arbitrary symbol from  $\Sigma$

# NER: Regular Expressions

A   B	Either A or B
A*	Zero or more occurrences of A
A+	One or more occurrences of A
A{x,y}	x to y occurrences of A
A?	an optional A
[a-z]	One of the characters in the range
.	An arbitrary symbol

[Example](#)

A digit

Numbers in scientific format

A digit or a letter

HTML attributes

A sequence of 8 digits

Dates

5 pairs of digits, separated by space

5 pairs of digits, separated by a space or a hyphen

# NER: Regular Expressions

When using regular expressions in a program, it is common to **name** them:

```
String digits="[0-9]+";  
String separator="[ -]";  
String pattern=digits+separator+digits;
```

Parts of a regular expression can be singled out by bracketed **groups**:

```
String input="The cat caught the mouse."
```

```
String pattern="The ([a-z]+) caught the ([a-z]+)\\."
```



first group: "cat"  
second group: "mouse"

[Try this](#)

# NER: Regular Expressions

A   B	Either A or B
A*	Zero or more occurrences of A
A+	One or more occurrences of A
A{x,y}	x to y occurrences of A
A?	an optional A
[a-z]	One of the characters in the range
.	An arbitrary symbol

## Regular expressions

- can express a wide range of patterns
- can be matched efficiently
- are employed in a wide variety of applications  
(e.g., in text editors, NER systems, normalization, UNIX grep tool etc.)

### Input:

- Manual design of the regex

### Condition:

- Entities follow a syntactic pattern

# NER: Normalization

Problem: We might extract strings that differ only slightly and mean the same thing.

Elvis Presley	singer
ELVIS PRESLEY	singer

Solution: **Normalize** strings, i.e., convert strings that mean the same to one common form

- **Lowercasing**, i.e., converting all characters to lower case  
May be too strong: “President Bush” == “president bush”
- **Removing accents** and **umlauts**  
résumé → resume, Universität → Universitaet
- **Normalizing abbreviations**  
U.S.A. → USA, US → USA



# NER: Normalization

Problem: We might extract different **literals** (numbers, dates, etc.) that mean the same.

Elvis Presley	1935-01-08
Elvis Presley	08/01/35

Solution: **Normalize** the literals

08/01/35  
01/08/35  
8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1935  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1935  
...



1935-01-08

1.67m  
1.67 meters  
167 cm  
6 feet 5 inches  
3 feet 2 toenails



1.67m



# Named Entity Recognition

**Named Entity Recognition** (NER) is the process of finding entities (people, cities, organizations, ...) in a text.

We have seen different techniques

- Closed-set extraction (if the set of entities is known)
- Extraction with Regular Expressions (if the entities follow a pattern)

We often need normalization in addition.

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

Ontological  
Information  
Extraction

Fact  
Extraction



citizenOf



Instance  
Extraction

Person	Nationality
Angela Merkel	German

✓  
Named Entity  
Recognition

Elvis Presley	singer
Angela Merkel	politician

...married Elvis  
on 1967-05-01

# Instance Extraction

**Instance Extraction** is the process of extracting entities with their **class** (i.e., concept, set of similar entities)

Elvis was a great artist, but while all of Elvis' colleagues loved the song "Oh yeah, honey", Elvis did not perform that song at his concert in Hintertuepflingen.

Entity	Class
Elvis	artist
Oh yeah, honey	song
Hintertuepflingen	location

...some of the class assignment might already be done by the Named Entity Recognition.

# Instance Extraction: Hearst Patterns

**Instance Extraction** is the process of extracting entities with their **class** (i.e., concept, set of similar entities)

Elvis was a great artist, but while all of Elvis' colleagues loved the song "Oh yeah, honey", Elvis did not perform that song at his concert in Hintertuepflingen.

## Idea (by Hearst):

Sentences express class membership in very predictable patterns. Use these patterns for instance extraction.

## Hearst patterns:

- X was a great Y

Entity	Class
Elvis	artist

# Instance Extraction: Hearst Patterns

Elvis was a great artist

Many scientists, including Einstein, started to believe that matter and energy could be equated.

He adored Madonna, Celine Dion and other singers, but never got an autograph from any of them.

Many US citizens have never heard of countries such as Guinea, Belize or Germany.

## Idea (by Hearst):

Sentences express class membership in very predictable patterns. Use these patterns for instance extraction.

## Hearst patterns:

- X was a Y
- Ys, such as X1, X2, ...
- X1, X2, ... and other Y
- many Ys, including X,

[Try this](#)

# Instance Extraction: Hearst Patterns

## Hearst Patterns on Google

"cities such as"

About 5,300,000 results (0.43 seconds)

► [News for "cities such as"](#)

[Unknown Cities Are Getting Richer](#) ☆ - 23 hours ago  
Cities such as Aurangabad, Curitiba in Brazil, Xiaochang in China, and lumped together, BCG found, with the mostly poor, ...  
[BusinessWeek](#) - 3 related articles

[Cities That Could Steal Your Job: New Outsourcing Hot Spots](#)  
From overlooked American cities such as Boise, Idaho and Winnipeg to cities like Cluj-Napoca, Romania, or the Philippines' Iloilo City, ...  
[images.businessweek.com/ss/09/05/0504\\_outsourcing.../1.htm](#) - [Cache](#)

## Idea (by Hearst):

Sentences express class membership in very predictable patterns. Use these patterns for instance extraction.

## Wildcards on Google

"many \*, including \*\*"

About 1,670,000,000 results (0.19 seconds)

► [Putco 401127 Chrome Trim Mirror Covers. Fits many Fords including ...](#) |  
Fits many Fords including the F-150, F-250 Super Duty, and many more from 1999 to 2000  
Brand: Putco, Mfr Part#: 401127. Lowest Price \$72.89 ...  
[www.streetperformance.com/part/.../869788-401127.html](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Skyfire Mobile Browser closed down in many countries including ...](#) ☆  
1 Jul 2010 ... Skyfire Mobile Browser closed down in many countries including Pakistan. .  
3rd. Share/Bookmark. No comments. Skyfire, the web browser with ...  
[pakistannewsblog.com/skyfire-mobile-browser-closed-down-in-many-countries-including-pakistan/](#) - [Pakistan](#) - [Cached](#)

## Hearst patterns:

- X was a Y
- Ys, such as X1, X2, ...
- X1, X2, ... and other Y
- many Ys, including X,

# Instance Extraction: Hearst Patterns

Hearst Patterns can extract instances from natural language documents

Input:

- Hearst patterns for the language (easily available for English)

Condition:

- Text documents contain class + entity explicitly in defining phrases

**Idea (by Hearst):**

Sentences express class membership in very predictable patterns. Use these patterns for instance extraction.

**Hearst patterns:**

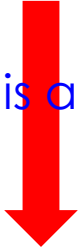
- X was a Y
- Ys, such as X1, X2, ...
- X1, X2, ... and other Y
- many Ys, including X,

# Instance Extraction: POS

noun

Elvis is a great rock star who is adored by everybody.

X is a Y



Elvis is a great

Elvis is a great rock

→ Elvis is a great rock star

Elvis is a great rock star who





# Instance Extraction: POS

Elvis is a great <sup>noun</sup> rock star who is adored by everybody.

The **Part-of-Speech** (POS) of a word in a sentence is the grammatical role that this word takes.

Open Part-of-Speech classes:

- Proper nouns: Alice, Fabian, Elvis, ...
- Nouns: computer, weekend, ...
- Adjectives: self-reloading fridge, ...
- Verbs: download, ...

Closes Part-of-Speech classes:

- Pronouns: he, she, it, this, ... (≈ what can replace a noun)
- Determiners: the, a, these, your, my, ... (≈ what goes before a noun)
- Prepositions: in, with, on, ... (≈ what goes before determiner + noun)
- Subordinators: who, whose, that, which, because, ...  
(≈ what introduces a sub-ordinate sentence)

# Instance Extraction: POS

noun  
Elvis is a great rock star who is adored by everybody.



Elvis/ProperNoun is/Verb a/Det great/Adj rock/Noun  
star/noun who/Sub is/verb adored/Verb ...

**POS tagging** is the process of, given a sentence, determining the part of speech of each word.

# Instance Extraction: POS

**POS tagging** is the process of, given a sentence, determining the part of speech of each word.

POS tagging is not trivial, because the same word can appear with different POS:

- Some words belong to two word classes (“run” as a verb or noun)
- Some word forms may be ambiguous:

Sound sounds sound sound.

Common techniques:

- rule-based
- statistical
- using dynamic programming

# Instance Extraction: Set Expansion

Seed set: {Russia, USA, Australia}



► **LARGEST COUNTRIES** (by land mass)  
[locator map here](#)  
**Russia** 17,075,400 sq km, (6,592,846 sq miles)  
**Canada** 9,330,970 sq km, (3,602,707 sq miles)  
**China** 9,326,410 sq km, (3,600,947 sq miles)  
**USA** 9,166,600 sq km, (3,539,242 sq miles)  
**Brazil** 8,456,510 sq km, (3,265,075 sq miles)  
**Australia** 7,617,930 sq km, (2,941,283 sq miles)  
**India** 2,973,190 sq km, (1,147,949 sq miles)  
**Argentina** 2,736,690 sq km, (1,056,636 sq miles)  
**Kazakhstan** 2,717,300 sq km, (1,049,150 sq miles)  
**Sudan** 2,376,000 sq km, (917,374 sq miles)



Result set: {Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Sudan}

# Instance Extraction: Set Expansion

Most corrupt countries

174	 Uzbekistan	1.7	1.8	1.7
175	 Chad	1.6	1.6	1.8
176	 Iraq	1.5	1.3	1.5
176	 Sudan	1.5	1.6	1.8
178	 Myanmar	1.4	1.3	1.4
179	 Afghanistan	1.3	1.5	1.8
180	 Somalia	1.1	1.0	1.4

Result set: {Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Sudan}

# Instance Extraction: Set Expansion

Seed set: {Russia, Canada, China, USA, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Sudan}



Most corrupt countries

174	 Uzbekistan	1.7	1.8	1.7
175	 Chad	1.6	1.6	1.8
176	 Iraq	1.5	1.3	1.5
176	 Sudan	1.5	1.6	1.8
178	 Myanmar	1.4	1.3	1.4
179	 Afghanistan	1.3	1.5	1.8
180	 Somalia	1.1	1.0	1.4



Result set: {Uzbekistan, Chad, Iraq,...}

Try, e.g., Google sets:

<http://labs.google.com/sets>

- Uzbekistan
- Chad
- Iraq
- Sudan
- Myanmar

## Predicted Items

[chad](#)

[sudan](#)

[uzbekistan](#)

[myanmar](#)

[iraq](#)

[afghanistan](#)

# Instance Extraction: Set Expansion

Set Expansion can extract instances from tables or lists.

174	 Uzbekistan	1.7	1.8	1.7
175	 Chad	1.6	1.6	1.8
176	 Iraq	1.5	1.3	1.5
176	 Sudan	1.5	1.6	1.8
178	 Myanmar	1.4	1.3	1.4
179	 Afghanistan	1.3	1.5	1.8
180	 Somalia	1.1	1.0	1.4

Input:

- seed pairs

Condition:

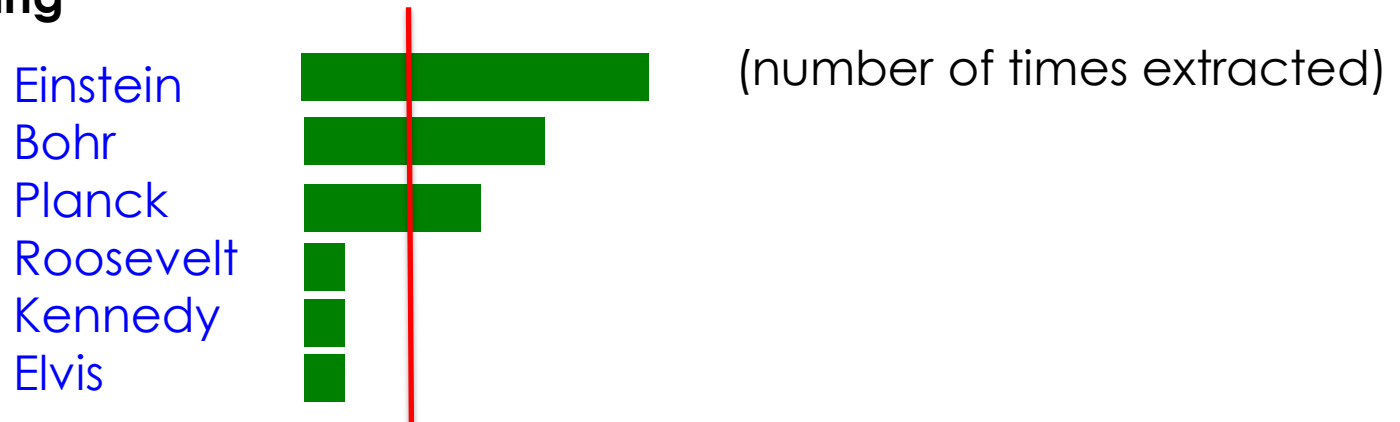
- a corpus full of tables

# Instance Extraction: Cleaning

Information Extraction nearly always produces **noise** (minor false outputs)

Approaches:

- **Thresholding**



- **Heuristics** (rules without scientific foundations that work well)

Accept an output only if it appears on different pages,  
merge entities that look similar (Einstein, EINSTEIN), ...



# Instance Extraction: Evaluation

In science, every system, algorithm or theory should be **evaluated**,  
i.e. its output should be compared to the **gold standard** (i.e. the ideal output)

Algorithm output:

$O = \{\text{Einstein, Bohr, Planck, Clinton, Obama}\}$

✓      ✓      ✓      ✗      ✗

Gold standard:

$G = \{\text{Einstein, Bohr, Planck, Heisenberg}\}$

✓      ✓      ✓      ✗

Precision:

What proportion of the  
output is correct?

$$\frac{|O \cap G|}{|O|}$$

Recall:

What proportion of the  
gold standard did we get?

$$\frac{|O \cap G|}{|G|}$$

# Instance Extraction: Evaluation

**Explorative** algorithms extract everything they find.

(very low threshold)

Algorithm output:

$O = \{\text{Einstein, Bohr, Planck, Clinton, Obama, Elvis, Heisenberg, ...}\}$

Gold standard:

$G = \{\text{Einstein, Bohr, Planck, Heisenberg}\}$

Precision:

What proportion of the output is correct?

BAD

Recall:

What proportion of the gold standard did we get?

GREAT

# Instance Extraction: Evaluation

**Conservative** algorithms extract only things about which they are very certain  
(very high threshold)

Algorithm output:

$O = \{\text{Einstein}\}$

Gold standard:

$G = \{\text{Einstein, Bohr, Planck, Heisenberg}\}$

Precision:

What proportion of the output is correct?

GREAT

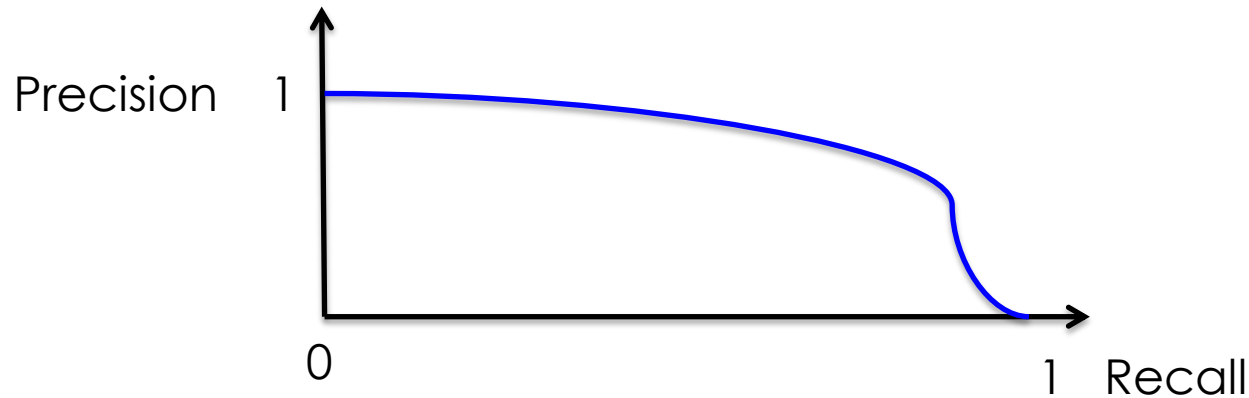
Recall:

What proportion of the gold standard did we get?

BAD

# Instance Extraction: Evaluation

You can't get it all...



The F1-measure combines precision and recall as the harmonic mean:

$$F1 = 2 * \text{precision} * \text{recall} / (\text{precision} + \text{recall})$$

# Instance Extraction

**Instance Extraction** is the process of extracting entities with their **class** (i.e., concept, set of similar entities)

Approaches:

- Hearst Patterns (work on natural language corpora)
- Set Expansion (for tables and lists)
- ...many others...

On top of that:

- Iteration
- Cleaning
- POS-tagging

And finally:

- Evaluation

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

Ontological  
Information  
Extraction



citizenOf



Fact  
Extraction

Person	Nationality
Angela Merkel	German

Instance  
Extraction

Elvis Presley	singer
Angela Merkel	politician

Named Entity  
Recognition

...married Elvis  
on 1967-05-01

# Fact Extraction

**Fact Extraction** is the process of extracting pairs (triples,...) of entities together with the relationship of the entities.



## Costello Sings Lowe/Nick Sings Elvis (late show)

THE BAND: Paul Revelli, Ruth Davies, Bill Kirchen, Bob Andrews, Derek Huston, Austin ...

10/1/2010 Friday 11:00p

Great American Music Hall, San Francisco  
CA

Featuring: Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe



BUY



Event	Time	Location
Costello sings...	2010-10-01, 23:00	Great American...

# Fact Extraction: Wrapper Induction

Observation: On Web pages of a certain domain, the information is often in the same spot.

IMDb The Internet Movie Database

On est là pour vous aider

Search All Go

Movies TV News Videos Community

IMDb20 Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary with a New Star Every Day!

**Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii** (TV 1973) [More at IMDbPro](#)

87 min - [Music](#)

★★★★★ 8.2/10  
Users: (569 votes) 27 reviews | Critics: 2 reviews

A 1973 concert by Elvis Presley taped at the Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. This was the first program to ever be beamed around the world by satellite.

Directors: [Marty Pasetta](#), [Gary Hovey](#), and 1 more credit

Release Date: 14 January 1973 (USA)

[Full cast and crew](#) | [14 photos](#)

IMDb The Internet Movie Database

Search All Go

Movies TV News Videos Community

IMDb20 Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary with a New Star Every Day!

**The Life of Brian** (2002) [More at IMDbPro](#)

Brian De Palma, l'Incorruptible (original title)

52 min -

★★★★★ 4.9/10  
Users: (45 votes) [write review](#)

Directors: [Henri Behar](#), [Karim Akadiri Soumaïla](#)

[Own the rights? Add a poster](#)

[Full cast and crew](#)

IMDb The Internet Movie Database

Search All Go

Movies TV News Videos Community

IMDb20 Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary with a New Star Every Day!

**Titanic** (1997) [More at IMDbPro](#)

PG-13 194 min - [Drama](#) | [History](#) | [Romance](#)

[Watch Trailer](#)

★★★★★ 7.4/10  
Users: (241,409 votes) 2,261 reviews | Critics: 195 reviews

Fictional romantic tale of a rich girl and poor boy who meet on the ill-fated voyage of the 'unsinkable' ship.

Director: [James Cameron](#)

Writer: [James Cameron](#)

Release Date: 7 January 1998 (France)

[Full cast and crew](#) | [148 photos](#) | [6 videos](#)



# Fact Extraction: Wrapper Induction

Observation: On Web pages of a certain domain, the information is often in the same spot.

Idea: Describe this spot in a general manner.

A description of one spot or multiple spots on a page is called a **wrapper**.



```
<html>
<body>
<div>
...
<div>
...
<div>
...
<b>Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii</b> (TV...
```

A wrapper can be similar to an XPath expression:

`html → div[1] → div[2] → b[1]`

It can also be a search text/regex

`>.*</b>(TV`

# Fact Extraction: Wrapper Induction

We manually label the fields to be extracted, and produce the corresponding wrappers (usually with a GUI tool).

title



A screenshot of an IMDb movie entry. The title "Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii" is highlighted with a red box. To its right is the text "(TV 1973)". Below the title, it says "87 min - Music". On the right side of the entry, there is a link that says "More at IMDbPro »".

[Try it out](#)

```
<html>
<body>
<div>
  ...
  <div>
    ...
    <div>
      ...
      <b>Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii</b> (TV...
```

Title:

div[1] → div[2]

Rating:

div[7] → span[2] → b[1]

ReleaseDate:

div[10] → i[1]



# Fact Extraction: Wrapper Induction

We manually label the fields to be extracted, and produce the corresponding wrappers.

Then we **apply** the wrappers to all pages in the domain (i.e., we determine the spots of the pages that the wrappers point to).

The screenshot shows the IMDb page for the movie **Titanic (1997)**. The title is highlighted with a red box. Below the title, there are links for [PG-13](#), [194 min](#), [Drama](#), [History](#), and [Romance](#). A red box highlights the rating **7.4** out of 10. Below the rating, there are links for [Users: \(241,409 votes\)](#), [2,261 reviews](#), and [Critics: 195 reviews](#). A red box highlights the release date **7 January 1998** (France). The page also includes a description: "Fictional romantic tale of a rich girl and poor boy who meet on the ill-fated voyage of the 'unsinkable' ship." and credits for **Director: James Cameron** and **Writer: James Cameron**.

Title:  
div[1] → div[2]

Rating:  
div[7] → span[2] → b[1]

ReleaseDate:  
div[10] → i[1]

Title	Rating	ReleaseDate
Titanic	7.4	1998-01-07

# Fact Extraction: Wrapper Induction

Wrapper induction can extract entities and relations from a set of similarly structured pages.

Input:

- Choice of the domain
- (Human) labeling of some pages
- Wrapper design choices

Condition:

- All pages are of the same structure

Can the wrapper say things like

“The last child element of this element”

“The second element, if the first element contains XYZ”

?

If so, how do we generalize the wrapper?

# Fact Extraction: Pattern Matching

Einstein ha scoperto il K68,  
quando aveva 4 anni.



X ha scoperto il Y



Bohr ha scoperto il K69 nel  
anno 1960.



Person	Discovery
Bohr	K69

Known facts (**seed pairs**)

Person	Discovery
Einstein	K68



The patterns can either

- be specified by hand
- or come from annotated text
- or come from seed pairs + text

# Fact Extraction: Pattern Matching

Einstein ha scoperto il K68,  
quando aveva 4 anni.

Person	Discovery
Einstein	K68

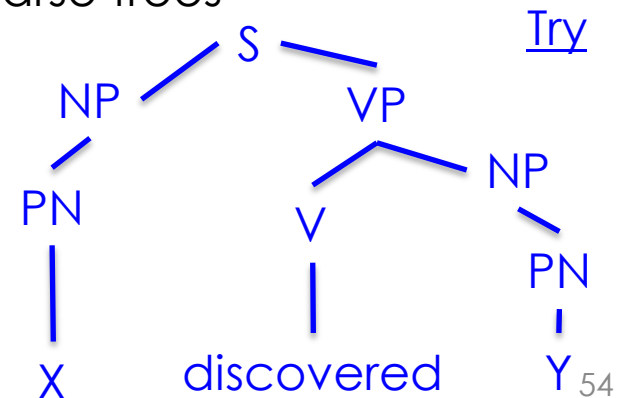
X ha scoperto il Y

Bohr ha scoperto il K69 nel  
anno 1960.

Person	Discovery
Bohr	K69

The patterns can be more complex, e.g.

- regular expressions  
X discovered the .{0,20} Y
- POS patterns  
X discovered the ADJ? Y
- Parse trees



# Fact Extraction: Pattern Matching

Einstein ha scoperto il K68,  
quando aveva 4 anni.



X ha scoperto il Y



Bohr ha scoperto il K69 nel  
anno 1960.



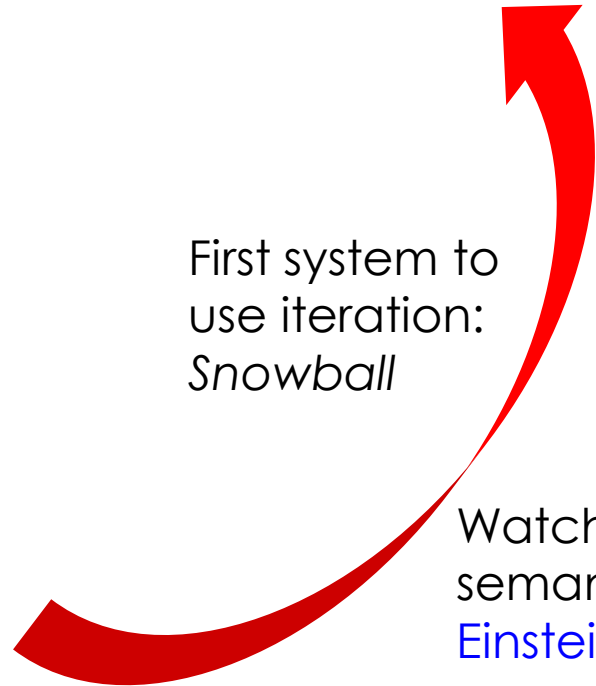
Person	Discovery
Bohr	K69

Person	Discovery
Einstein	K68



First system to  
use iteration:  
*Snowball*

Watch out for  
semantic drift:  
Einstein liked the K68



# Fact Extraction: Pattern Matching

Einstein ha scoperto il K68,  
quando aveva 4 anni.

Pattern matching can extract facts from natural language text corpora.

Input:

- a known relation
- seed pairs or labeled documents or patterns

Condition:

- The texts are homogenous  
(express facts in a similar way)
- Entities that stand in the relation  
do not stand in another relation  
as well



# Fact Extraction: Pattern Matching

## presidential race (Political Event)

Relevance: 42%

Count: 1

politicaleventtype: Voting

location: Brazil

With 97% of the votes counted, it is now certain that Brazil's presidential race will go to a second round. **D**  
**ent**, made an unexpectedly poor showing, at just over 46% of all votes counted so far. That will rise a smidgen

a is revered. But her expected gains there will not be enough to secure an absolute m

**Entities:**

- ☒ Country
  - ☒ Brazil
- ☒ Person
  - ☒ Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
- ☒ Political Event
  - ☒ presidential race
- ☒ Position
  - ☒ popular president
  - ☒ president

**Events & Facts:**

- ☒ Person Career
  - ☒ Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, popular president, political,

Try this out:

<http://viewer.opencalais.com/>

# Fact Extraction: Cleaning

Fact Extraction commonly produces huge amounts of garbage.

Web page contains bogus information

Deviation in iteration

Formatting problems  
(bad HTML, character  
encoding mess)

Different thematic domains  
or Internet domains behave  
in a completely different way

Web page contains  
misleading items  
(advertisements,  
error messages)

Regularity in the training set that  
does not appear in the real world

Something has changed over time  
(facts or page formatting)

⇒ Cleaning is usually necessary,  
e.g., through thresholding or heuristics

# Fact Extraction: Summary

**Fact Extraction** is the process of extracting pairs (triples,...) of entities together with the relationship of the entities.

Approaches:

- Wrapper induction (for extraction from one Internet domain)
- Pattern matching (for extraction from natural language documents)
- ... and many others...

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

Ontological  
Information  
Extraction

✓  
Fact  
Extraction



citizenOf →



✓  
Instance  
Extraction

Person	Nationality
Angela Merkel	German

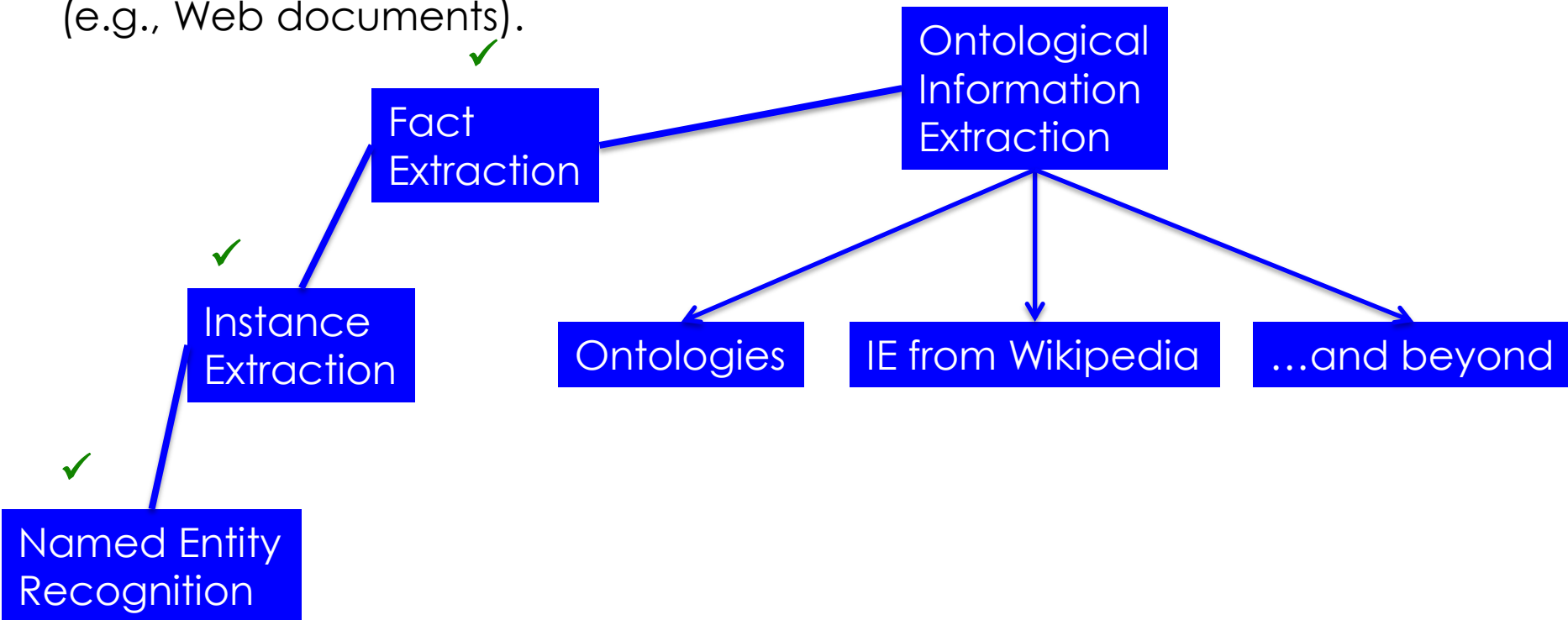
✓  
Named Entity  
Recognition

Elvis Presley	singer
Angela Merkel	politician

...married Elvis  
on 1967-05-01

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).



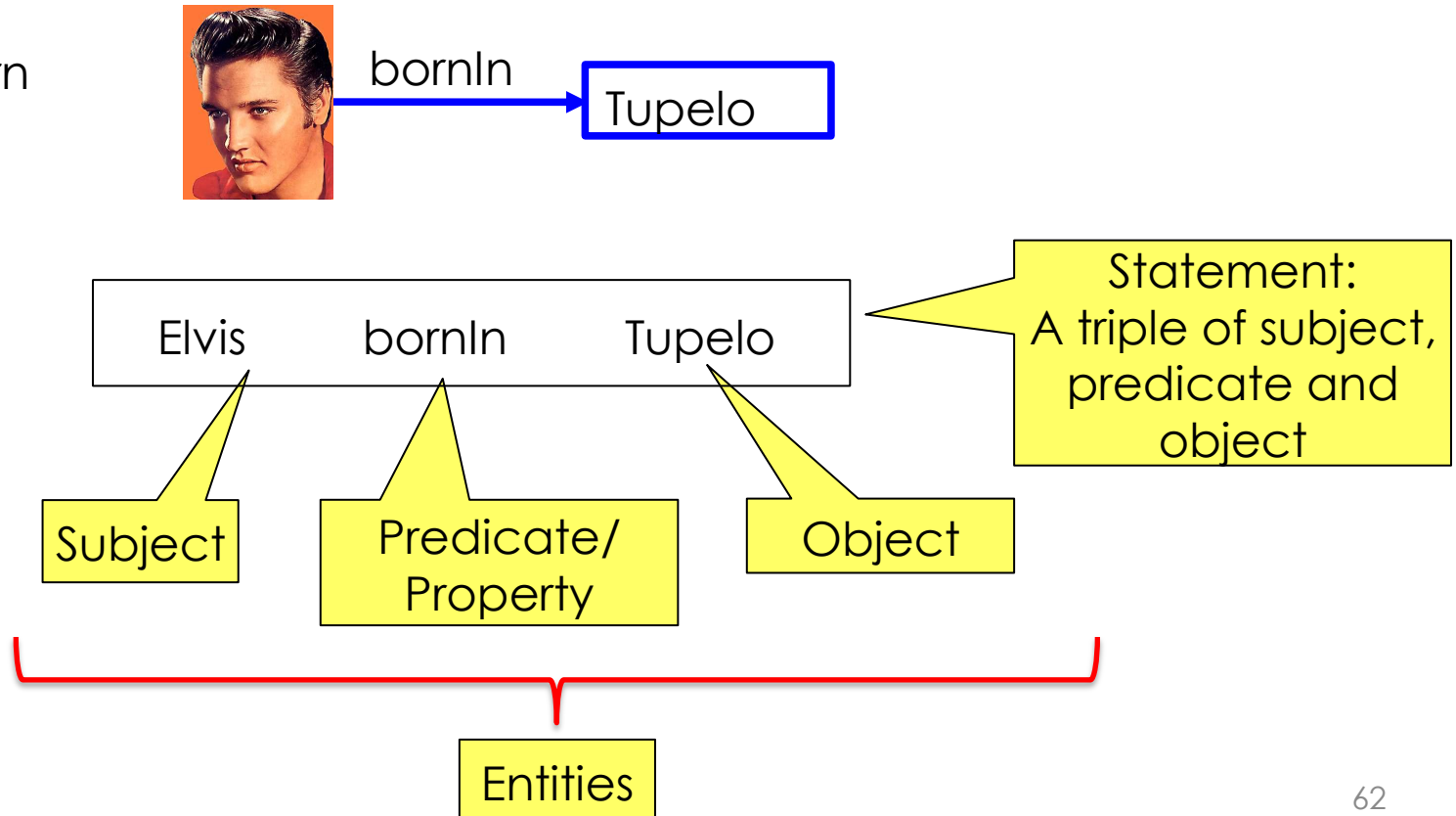
# Ontologies: RDF

An **ontology** is a structured collection of world knowledge.

(Here, we are concerned mainly with RDF ontologies. [RDF](#) is a W3C endorsed standard)

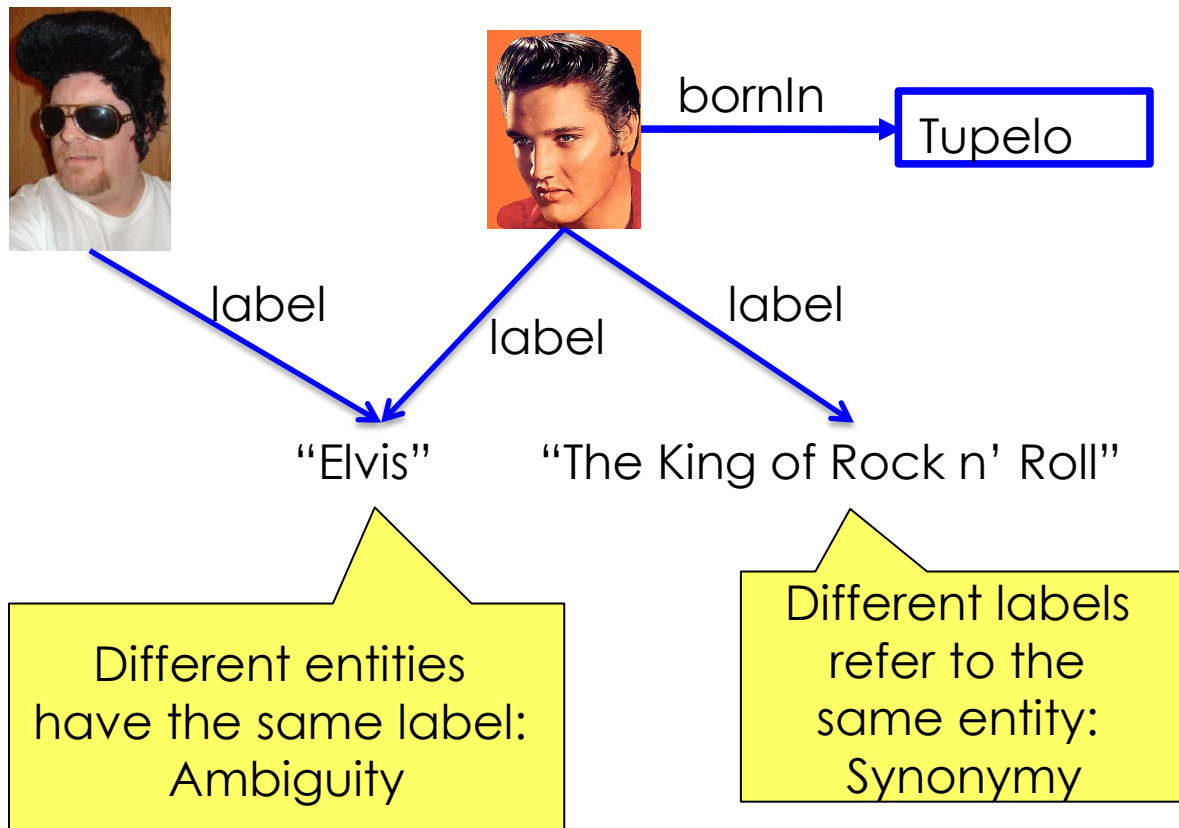
**RDF**(the Resource Description format) is a format of knowledge representation that is similar to the Entity-Relationship-Model.

“Elvis was born  
in Tupelo”



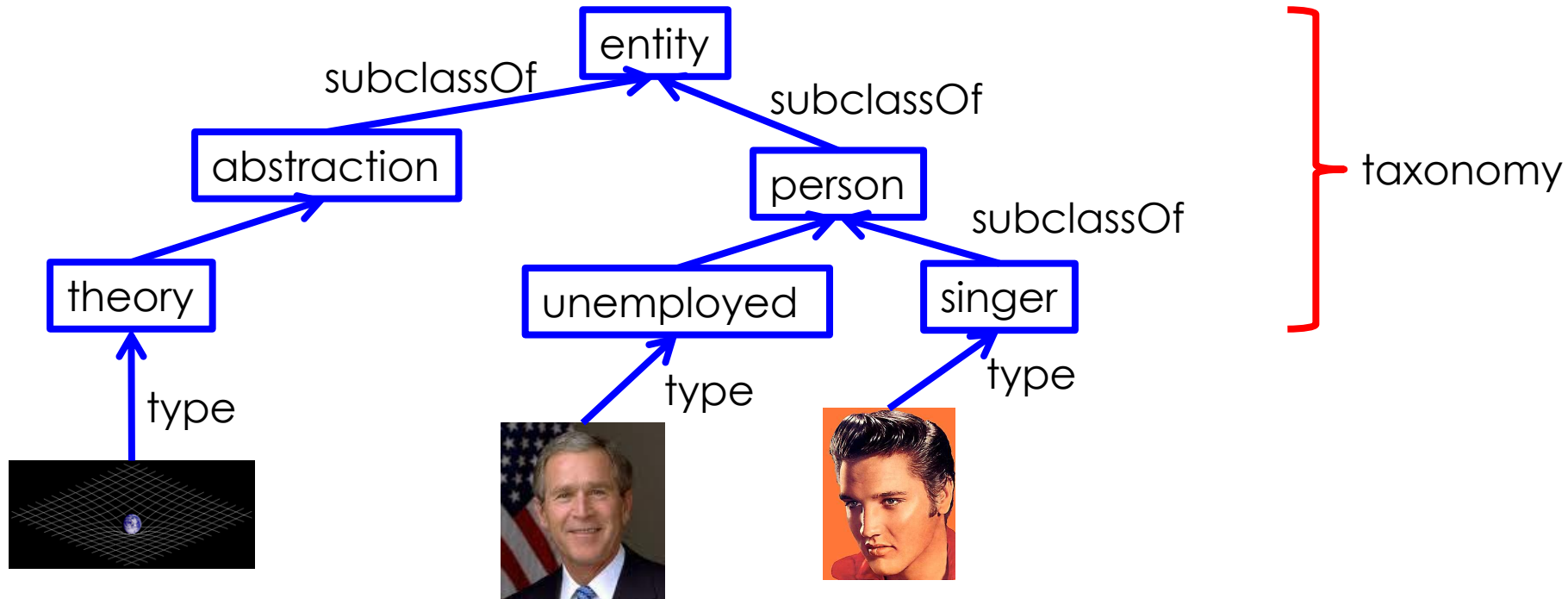
# Ontologies: Labels

An ontology distinguishes between the **entity** and its **label**.

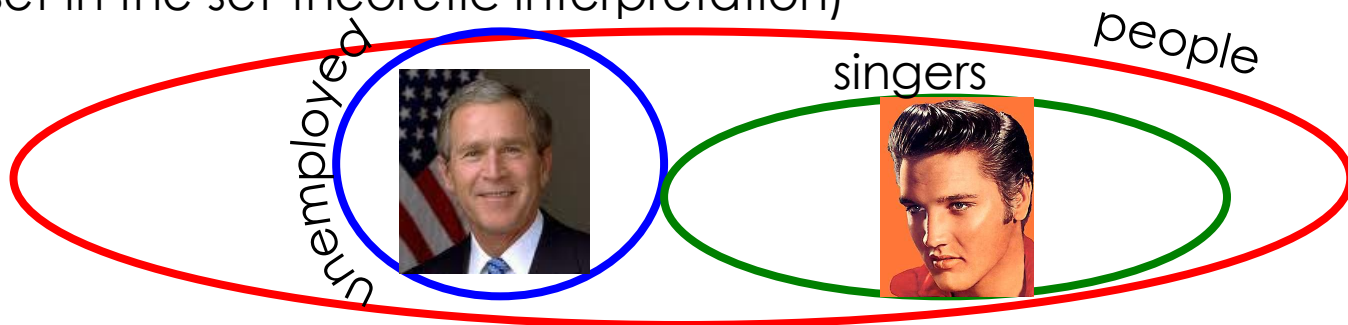


# Ontologies: Classes

A **class** (also called concept) can be understood as a set of similar entities.



A **super-class** of a class is a class that is more general than the first class (a super-set in the set-theoretic interpretation)





# Ontologies: IE

**Ontological Information Extraction (IE)** tries to create or extend an ontology through information extraction.



Angela Merkel is the German chancellor....  
...Merkel was born in Germany...  
  
...A. Merkel has French nationality...

Person	Nationality
Angela Merkel	German
Merkel	Germany
A. Merkel	French

The table is crossed out with a large red 'X'.

# Ontologies: IE

**Ontological Information Extraction (IE)** tries to create or extend an ontology through information extraction.



Challenges:

1. Map entity names to ontological entities
2. Disambiguate entity names
3. Use the relationships from the ontology
4. Make the ontology consistent

# Ontologies

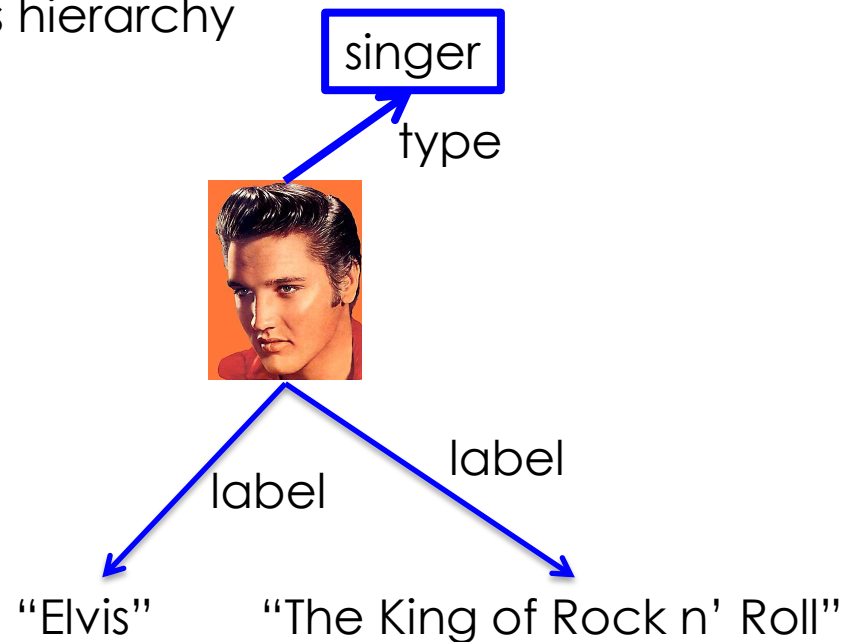
An **ontology** is a structured collection of world knowledge.

In an RDF ontology

- entities are unique
- entities can have different labels
- facts are represented as triples
- entities are arranged in a class hierarchy

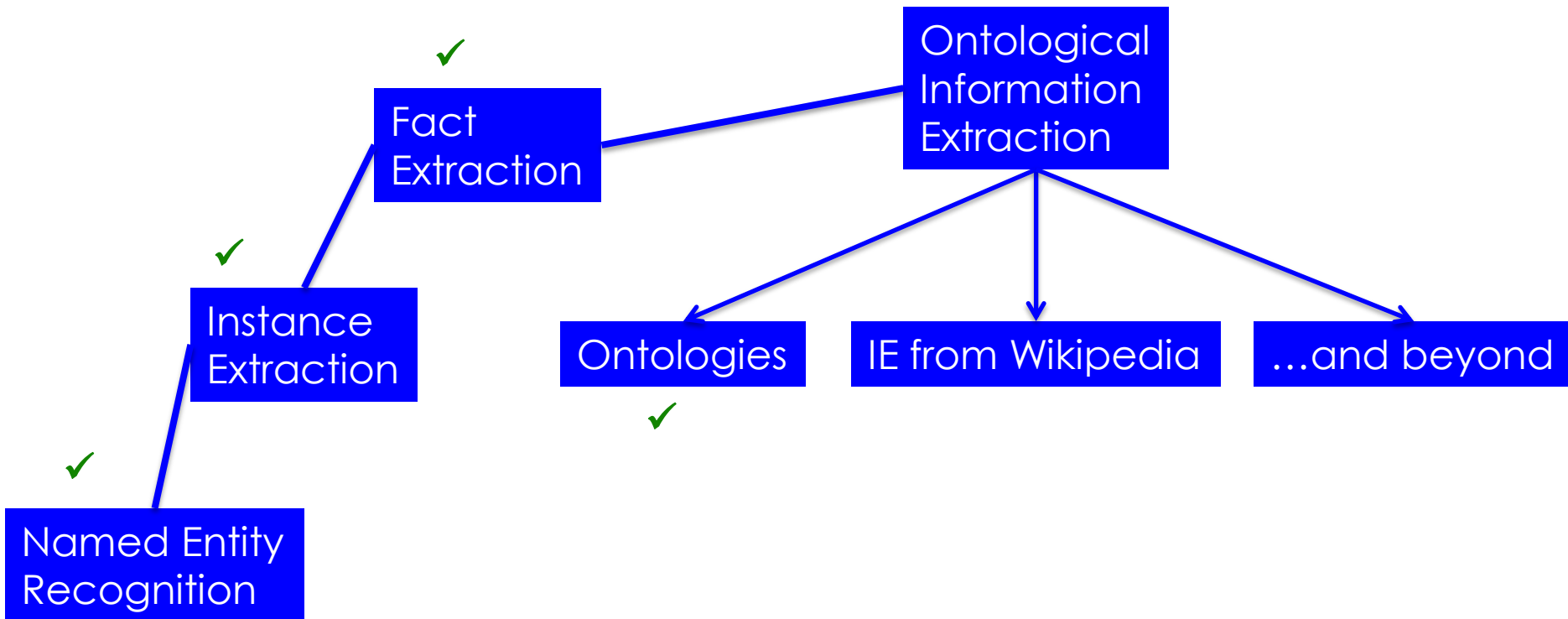
...hence:

IE for ontologies is difficult.



# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).



# IE from Wikipedia



Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia

- 3.4 million articles in English
- 16 million articles in dozens of languages

Why is Wikipedia good for information extraction?

- It is a huge, but homogenous resource (more homogenous than the Web)
- It is considered authoritative and covers many different aspects (more authoritative than a random Web page)
- It is well-structured with infoboxes and categories
- It provides a wealth of meta information (inter article links, inter language links, user discussion,...)

# IE from Wikipedia



Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia

- 3.4 million articles in English
- 16 million articles in dozens of languages

Every article is (should be) unique

=> We get a set of unique entities that cover numerous areas of interest



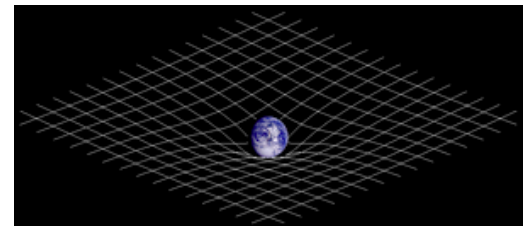
Angela\_Merkel



Una\_Merkel



Germany



Theory\_of\_Relativity

# IE from Wikipedia: Markup



Wikipedia uses the Wiki markup language

[Try this](#)

A screenshot of the Wikipedia article for Elvis Presley. The 'View source' link in the top navigation bar is circled in red. The article text includes a redirect from 'Elvis' and a disambiguation note. The main text describes Elvis Aaron Presley as a popular American singer and cultural icon, known as the 'King of Rock and Roll'. It mentions his birth in Tupelo, Mississippi, and his move to Memphis, Tennessee, where he began his career in 1954. It also lists his collaborators, Sam Phillips, Scotty Moore, and Bill Black, and describes his music as a fusion of rockabilly, country, and rhythm and blues. To the right of the text is a black and white photograph of Elvis Presley in a classic pose, wearing a dark jacket and light-colored shirt, standing in front of a window with vertical bars. The photo has a yellow caption 'Elvis Presley' above it.

Article Discussion **View source** View history Search

## Elvis Presley

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
(Redirected from [Elvis](#))

*For other uses, see [Elvis \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Elvis Presley \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**Elvis Aaron Presley**<sup>a</sup> (January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977) was one of the most popular American singers of the 20th century. A cultural icon, he is widely known by the single name **Elvis**. He is often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll" or simply "the King".

Born in [Tupelo, Mississippi](#), Presley moved to [Memphis, Tennessee](#), with his family at the age of 13. He began his career there in 1954 when [Sun Records](#) owner [Sam Phillips](#), eager to bring the sound of [African American music](#) to a wider audience, saw in Presley the means to realize his ambition. Accompanied by guitarist [Scotty Moore](#) and bassist [Bill Black](#), Presley was one of the originators of [rockabilly](#), an uptempo, [backbeat](#)-driven fusion of [country](#) and [rhythm and blues](#).

**Elvis Presley**

# IE from Wikipedia: Markup

Special  
formatting

Hyperlinks to  
other pages

Hyperlinks with  
alternative text

`'''Elvis Aaron Presley''' ([[January 8]], [[1935]] --  
[[August 16]], [[1977]]), middle name sometimes written  
'''Aron''', was an [[United States|American]] [[singer]],  
[[musician]] and [[actor]]. ...`

Infoboxes with type

```
{{Infobox musical artist
|Name           = Elvis Presley
|Img            = Elvis Presley 1970.jpg
|Born           = {{birth date|1935|1|8|}}
|Occupation     = [[singer]], [[actor]]
...
}}
```

Micro  
formats

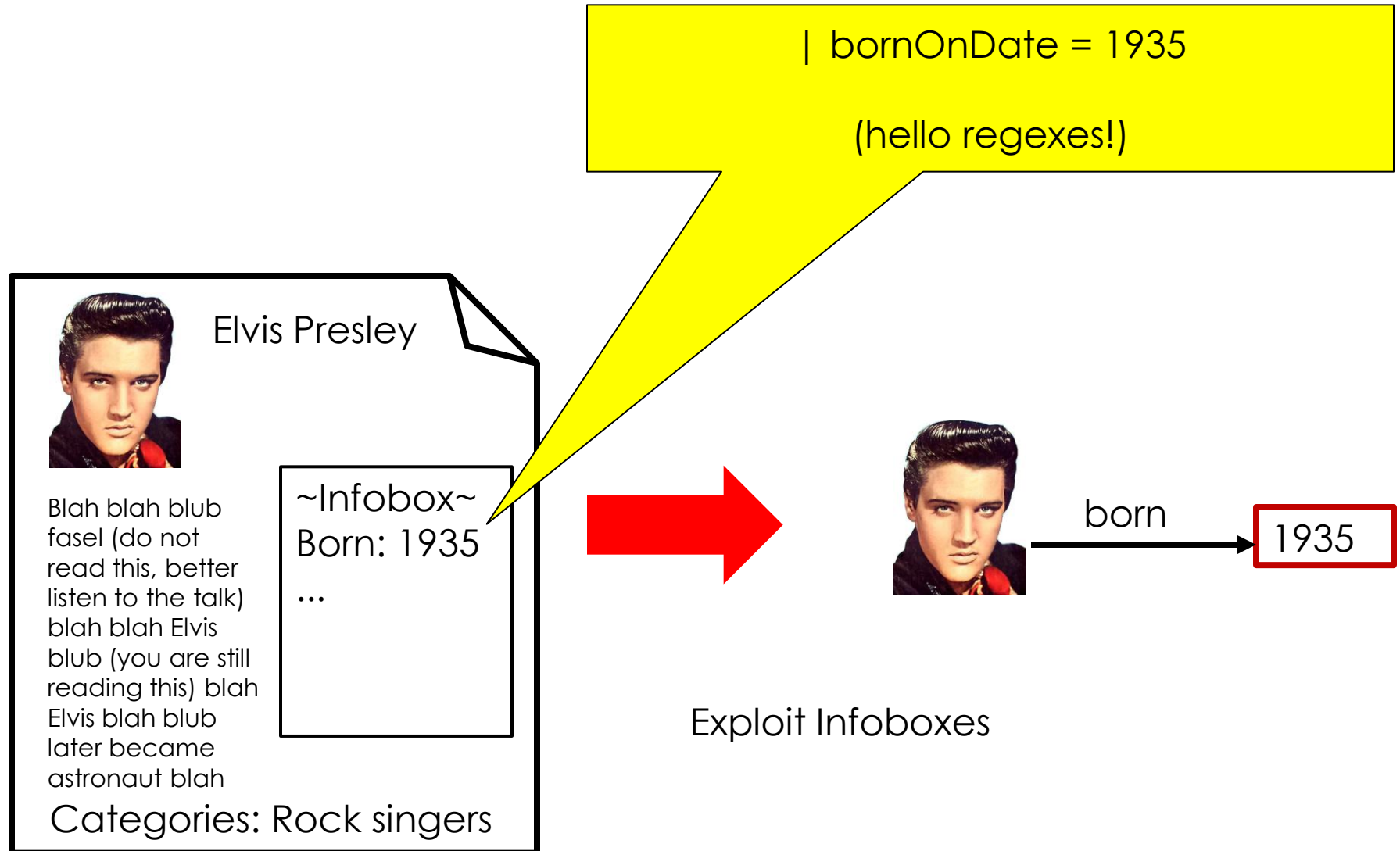
Categories

Attribute value pairs

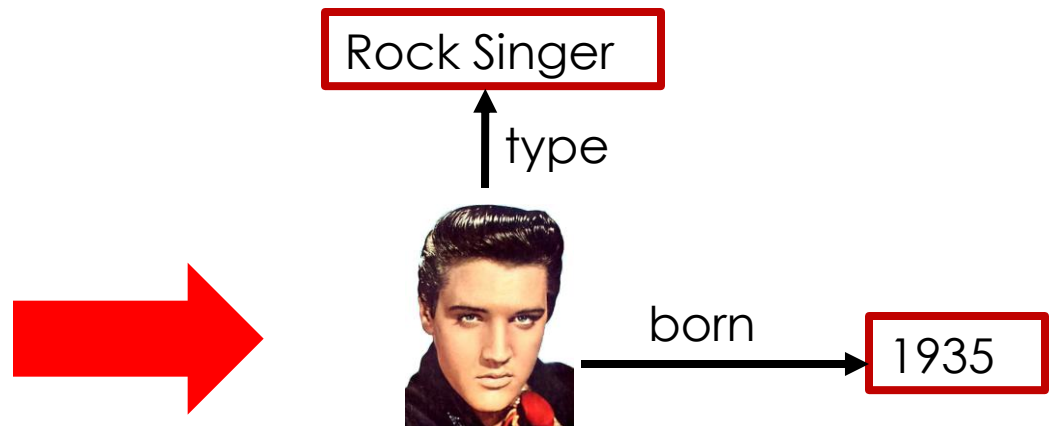
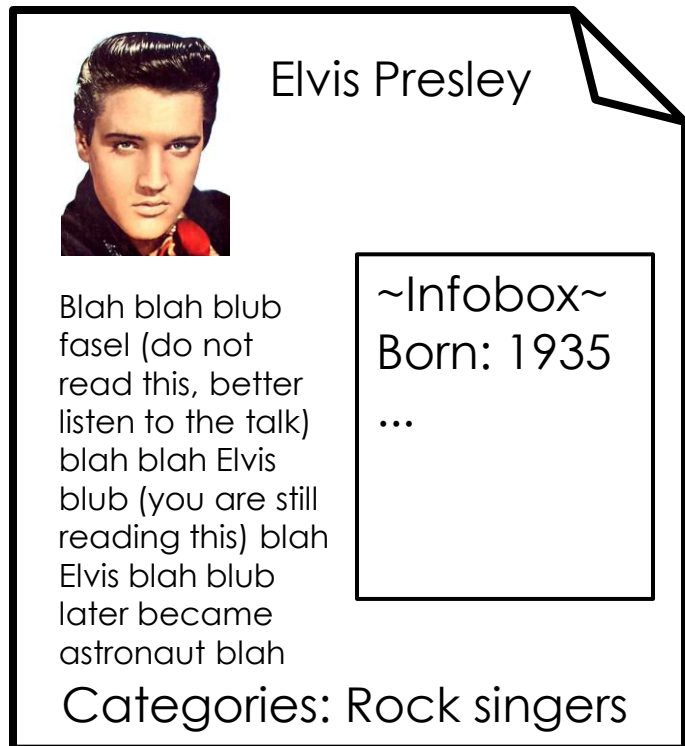
`[[Category:1935 births]] [[Category:1977 deaths]]...`



# IE from Wikipedia: YAGO

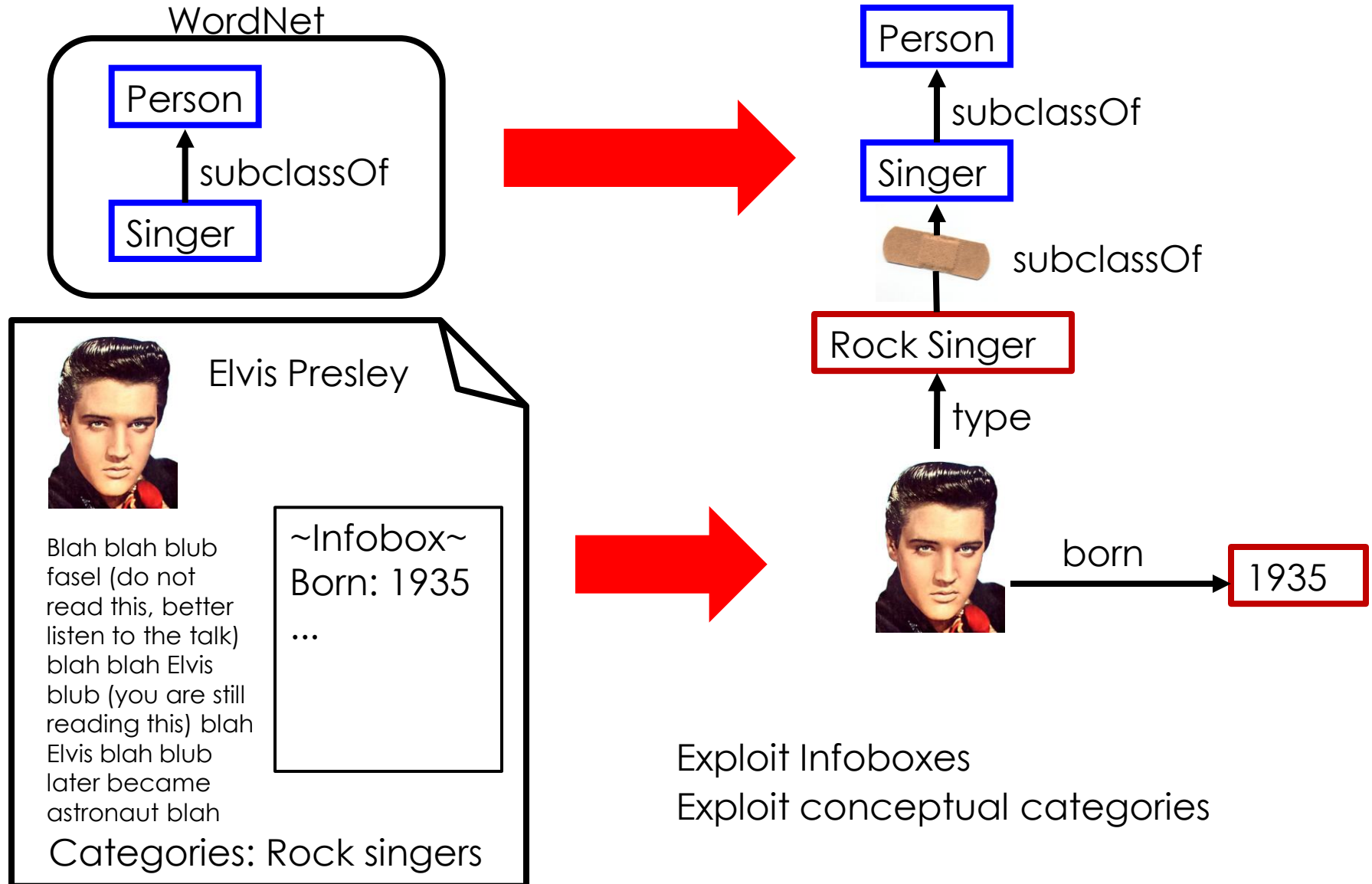


# IE from Wikipedia: YAGO

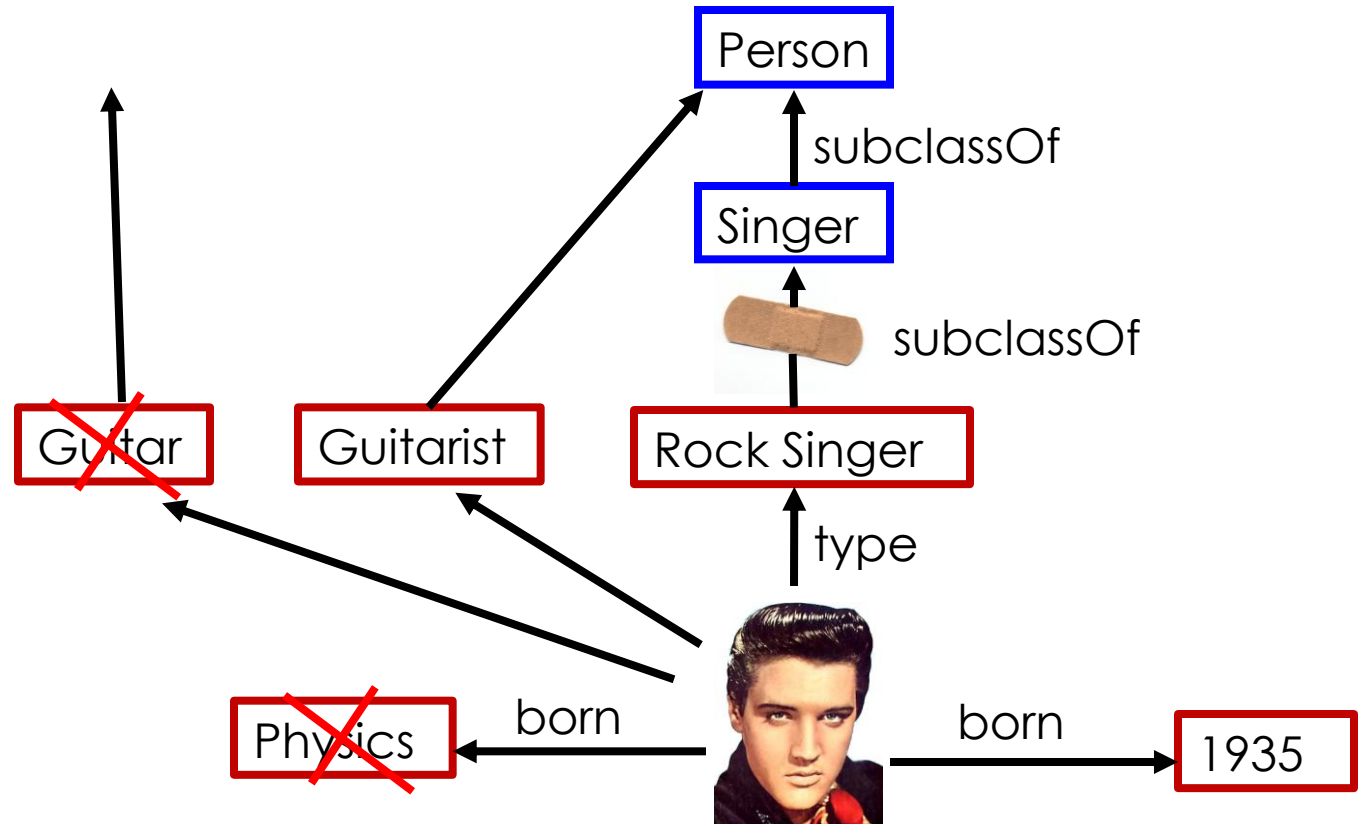


Exploit Infoboxes  
Exploit conceptual categories

# IE from Wikipedia: YAGO



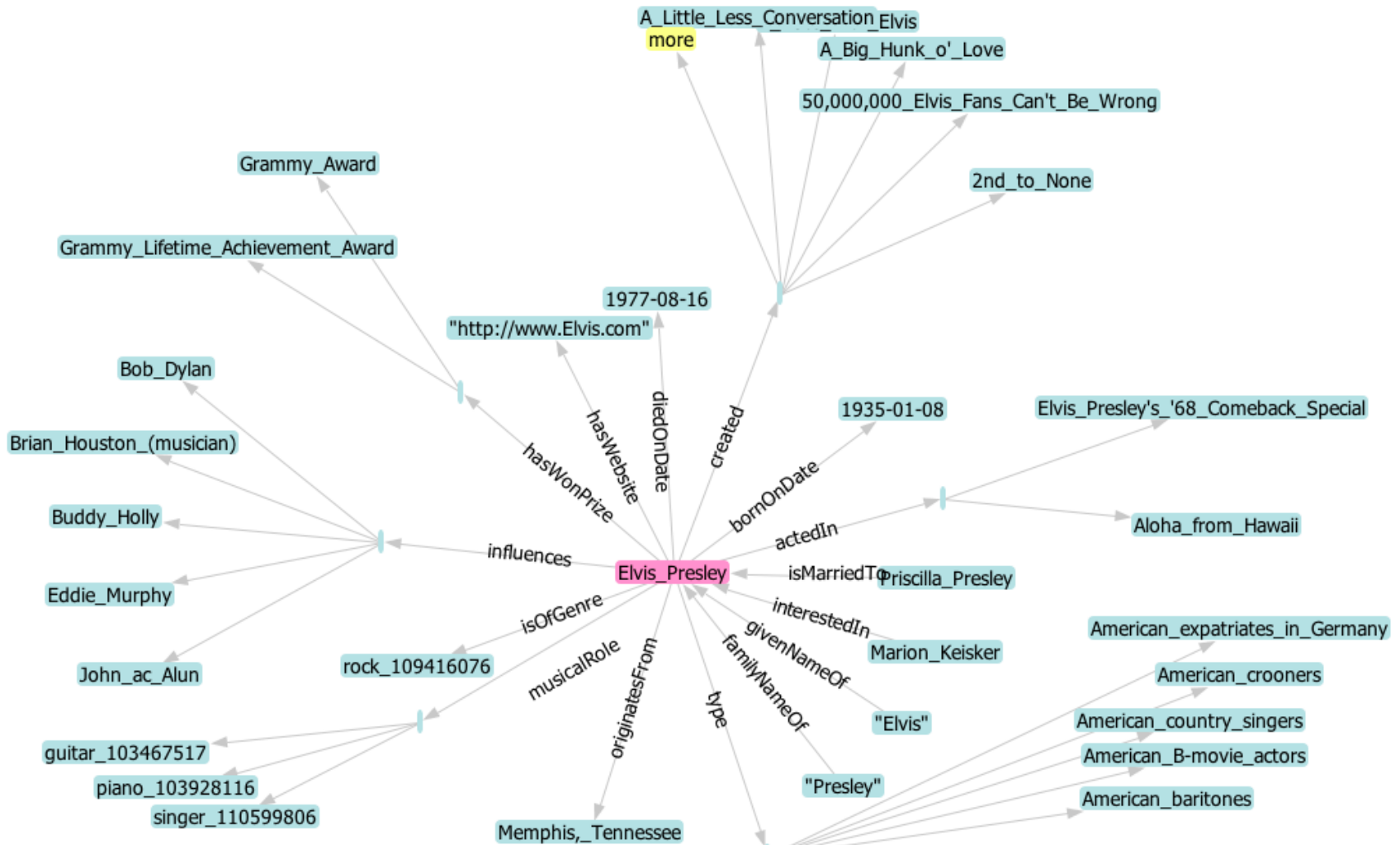
# IE from Wikipedia: YAGO



Check uniqueness of entities and functional arguments  
Check domains and ranges of relations  
Check type coherence

# IE from Wikipedia: YAGO

Example: [Elvis in YAGO](#)



# IE from Wikipedia: Summary



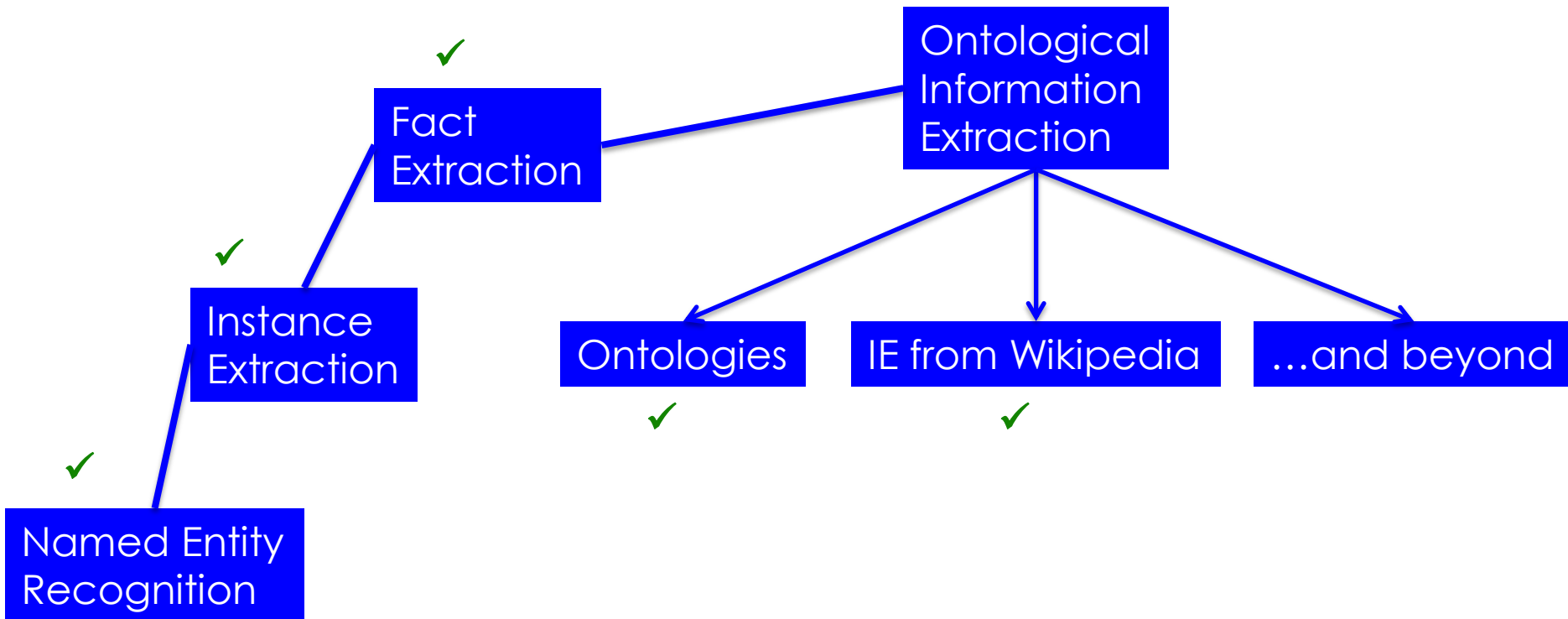
Wikipedia is very well suited for ontological IE

Numerous ontology projects make use of Wikipedia:



# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).



# Ontological IE: Open systems

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

**Open Information Extraction/Machine Reading/Macro Reading** aims at information extraction from the entire Web.

Vision of Open Information Extraction:

- the system runs perpetually, constantly gathering new information
- the system creates meaning on its own from the gathered data
- the system learns and becomes more intelligent, i.e. better at gathering information

Rationale for Open Information Extraction:

- We do not need to care for every single sentence, but just for the ones we understand
- The size of the Web generates redundancy
- The size of the Web can generate synergies



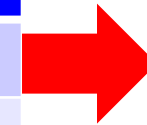
# Ontological IE: KnowItAll & Co

KnowItAll, KnowItNow and TextRunner are projects at the University of Washington (in Seattle, WA).

gyptian  
mplex.  
more than the question of how the  
Egyptians built the pyramids was,  
he says, "how the pyramids built  
ourtesy of Egypt." Construction of the



Subject	Verb	Object	Count
Egyptians	built	pyramids	400
Americans	built	pyramids	20
...	...	...	...



Valuable  
common sense  
knowledge  
(if filtered)

# Ontological IE: KnowItAll & Co

KnowItAll, KnowItNow and TextRunner are projects at the University of Washington (in Seattle, WA).

TextRunner took .80 seconds.

Retrieved **391** results for Predicate containing "**built**" and Argument 2 containing "**pyramids**"

Grouping results by predicate. Group by: [argument 2](#) | [argument 1](#)

**built** - 159 results

Egyptians (297), aliens (71), Pharaohs (40), **85 more...** **built** the pyramids

Egyptians (26), Khufu (18), Maya (9), **30 more...** **built** the Great Pyramid

Imhotep (8), Pharaoh Zoser (4), Egyptians (2), King Djoser (2) **built** the Step Pyramid

two symbols of life (4), 6th dynasty kings (3), King Sneferu (3), Snefru (3) **built** two large Pyramids

Egyptians (8) **built** the Great Pyramids

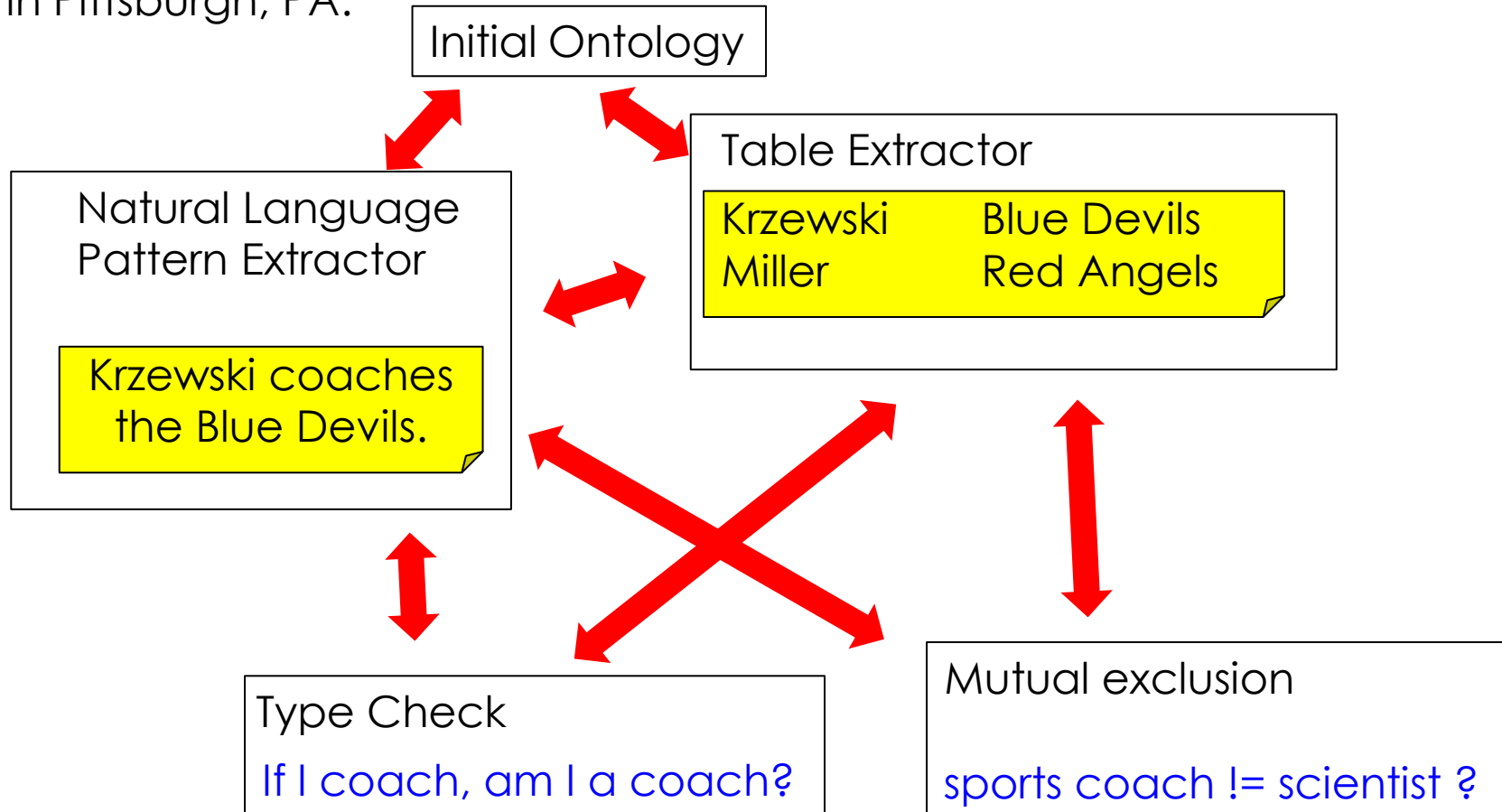
ancient Egyptians (6) **built** more than 90 royal pyramids

colonial silver city of Taxco (3), Explore (2) **built** the gigantic pyramids of the Sun

Central America (2), part of Mexico (2) **built** great cities , temples and pyramids

# Ontological IE: Read the Web

“Read the Web” is a project at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA.



# Ontological IE: Read the Web

NELL Know  
CMU Read the Web

- arthropod (100.0%)

- Seed

- CPL @156 (100.0%) on 30-sep-2010 [ "hind wings of \_ "invertebrates , such as \_ " " \_ swarm from" "other insects , including \_ " " \_ marching home" "honeydew produce like \_ " "other insects , such as \_ " " \_ do not eat wood" "many legs as \_ " " \_ produce s have complete metamorphosis" "I do n't see anymore \_ " "ants , so \_ " "insecticide fo "such insects as \_ " " \_ are the only insects" "red imported \_ " "insects like \_ " "social in , such as \_ " "arthropods include \_ " "insect pests including \_ " "meaty foods like \_ " " \_ pests , such as \_ " "other insects such as \_ " "insects , in particular \_ " " \_ release a ph like \_ " "many insects , including \_ " " \_ are social insects" "insect pests such as \_ " " \_ a pests , including \_ " "arthropods , including \_ " " \_ are beneficial insects" " \_ are comm "arthropods , such as \_ " ]

- SEAL @151 (50.0%) on 26-sep-2010 [ 1 ]

kateretes (Seed)

mosquito (Seed)

peppered moth (Seed)

sap beetle (Seed)

tettigoniidae (Seed)

triatoma protracta (Seed)

honeylocust spider mite

grape flea beetle

blueberry leaf beetle

sugarcane moth borer

psychoda moth flies

bagworm moth

carpenterworm moths

leafcurl plum aphid

merchant grain beetle

- fung
- plan
- arch
- bact
- politica
- color
- language
- programminglanguage
- dateliteral
- gamescore
- nonnegativeinteger
- politicsissue
- llcoordinate
- agent
  - animal
    - invertebrate
      - arthropod
        - arachnid
        - insect
        - crustacean
      - mollusk
    - vertebrate
      - amphibian
      - bird
      - fish

# Ontological IE: Summary

**Ontological Information Extraction** (IE) tries to create or extend an ontology through information extraction.

Main hot projects

- TextRunner
- Read the Web

Input:

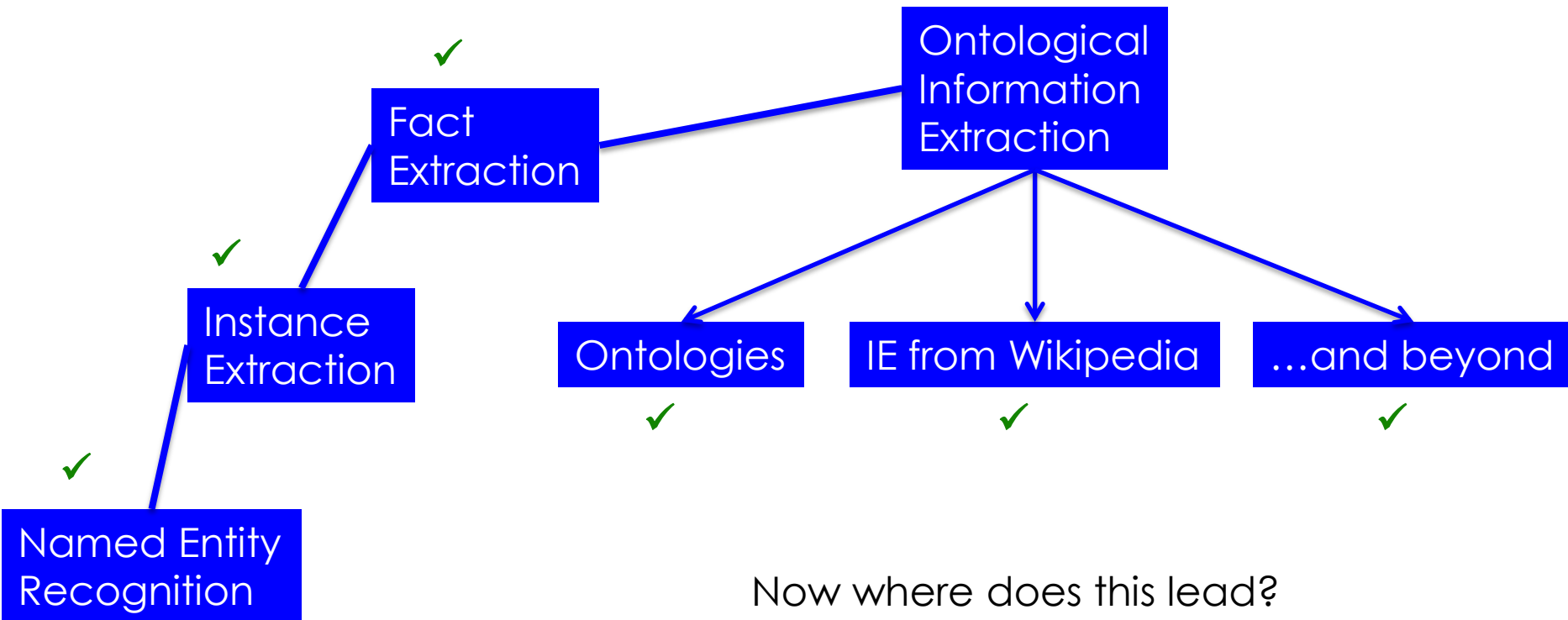
- The Web
- Read the Web: Manual rules
- Read the Web: initial ontology

Conditions

- none

# Information Extraction

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).



# Ontologies

Hundreds of data sets are nowadays available in RDF  
( <http://www4.wiwi.fu-berlin.de/lodcloud/> )

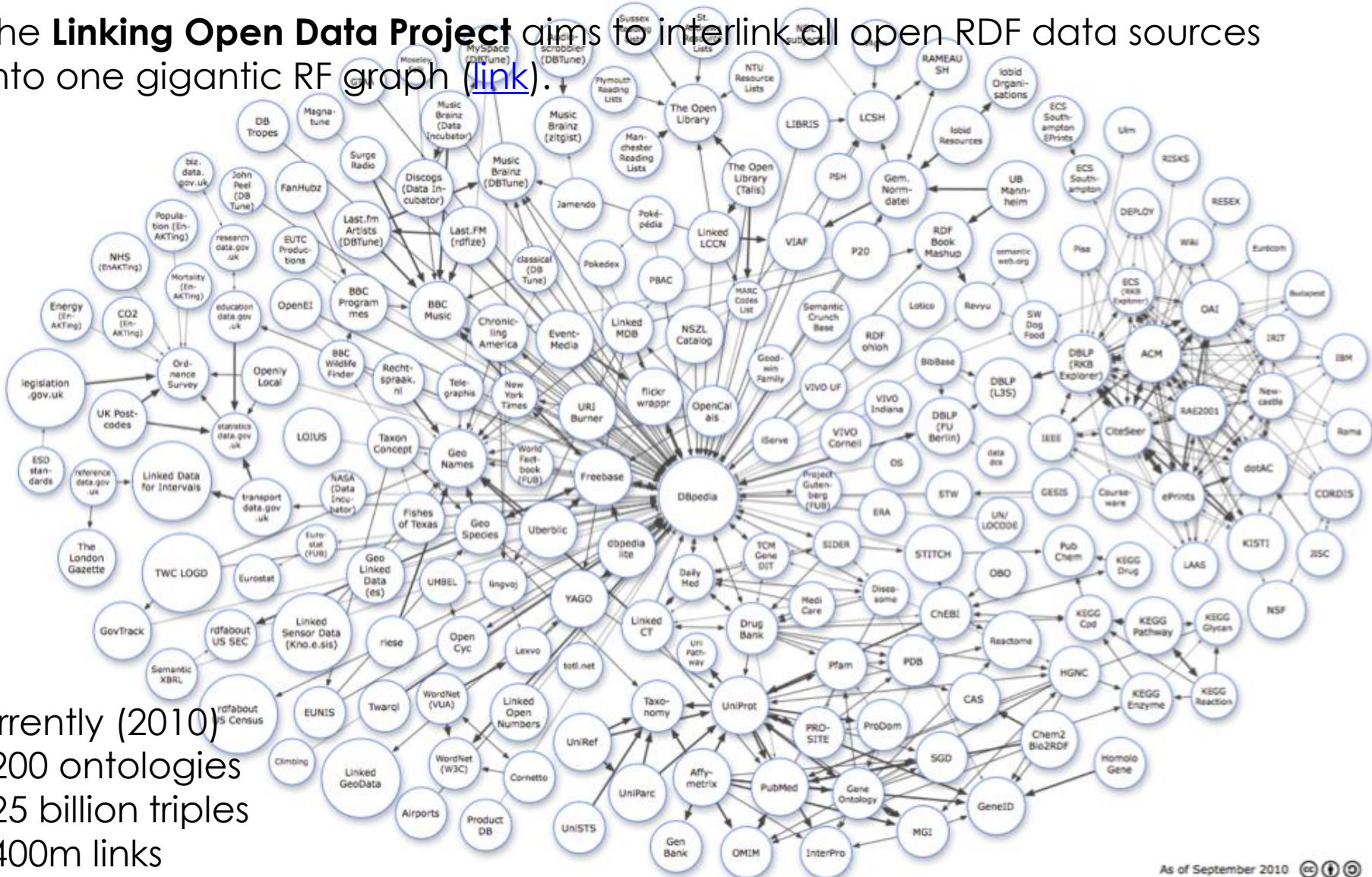
- US census data
- BBC music database
- Gene ontologies
- DBpedia general knowledge (and hub vocabulary), + YAGO, + Cyc etc.
- UK government data
- geographical data in abundance
- national library catalogs (Hungary, USA, Germany etc.)
- publications (DBLP)
- commercial products
- all Pokemons
- ...and many more

(Only some of these ontologies come from IE.  
Many of them are being used for IE)



# The Linked Data Cloud

The **Linking Open Data Project** aims to interlink all open RDF data sources into one gigantic RF graph ([link](#)).



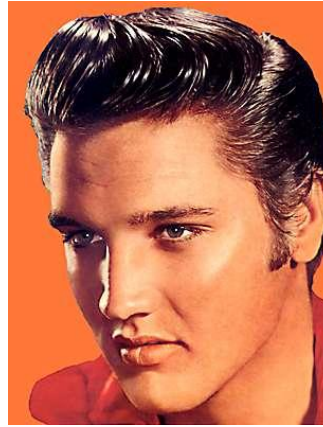
As of September 2010 

88

<http://richard.cyganiak.de/2007/10/lod/imagemap.html>



# But back to the original question...



Will there ever be a famous singer called Elvis again?

=> Let's go query an existing ontology!

# But back to the original question...

<http://mpii.de/yago>

**YAGO: A Core of Semantic Knowledge**

**Research Demo Downloads Publications People Related**

**Query Form**

Id	Subject	Property	Object
?id0:	<input type="text" value="?x"/>	<input type="text" value="hasGivenName"/>	<input type="text" value="Elvis"/>
?id1:	<input type="text" value="?x"/>	<input type="text" value="wasBornOnDate"/>	<input type="text" value="?y"/>
?id2:	<input type="text" value="?x"/>	<input type="text" value="isA"/>	<input type="text" value="singer"/>
?id3:	<input type="text" value="?y"/>	<input type="text" value="isAfter"/>	<input type="text" value="1950-##-##"/>
?id4:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

?x = [Elvis Costello](#)  
?singer = [wordnet singer 110599806](#)  
?d = 1954-08-25



We found him!

Can we find out more about this guy?

# But back to the original question...

<http://mpii.de/yago>

Elvis_Costello	
hasWonPrize	MTV Video Music Awards → Grammy Award →
actedIn	Americathon → I Love Your Work → Concert for Kampuchea → Before the Music Dies →
hasPreferredName	Elvis Costello →
created	Almost Blue → The Sweetest Punch → Terror & Magnificence → ...
hasMusicalRole	guitar → drum → bass → keyboard →

# Summary

**Information Extraction** (IE) is the process of extracting structured information (e.g., database tables) from unstructured machine-readable documents (e.g., Web documents).

We have seen techniques for

- Named entity recognition
- Instance extraction
- Fact extraction

An **ontology** is a structured collection of world knowledge.

We have seen

- basic knowledge representation
- some techniques for ontological IE

And, yes, there is hope for the quality of music:

