

Ontology Matching and Data Linking

An Introduction

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- 1 Ontologies, Instances and the Semantic Web
- 2 Heterogeneities and Alignments
- 3 Techniques
 - Terminological Methods
 - Structural Methods
 - Instance-based Methods
- 4 A Generic Matching and Evaluation Framework
- 5 Data Linking and Instance Marching

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Ontologies and the Semantic Web

The Semantic Web

The web of documents

page A



hyperlink

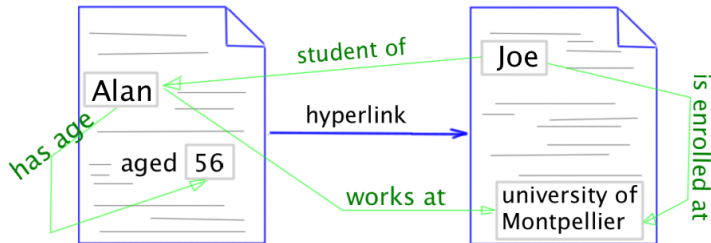
page B



Ontologies and the Semantic Web

The Semantic Web

Linking Data

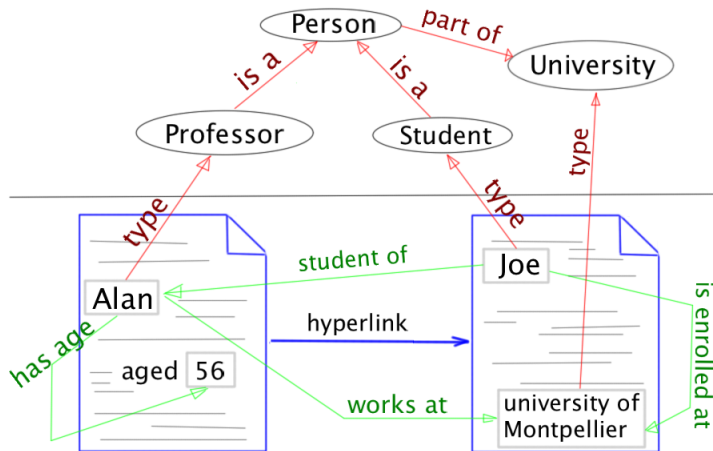


RDF

Ontologies and the Semantic Web

The Semantic Web

More semantics: the ontologies



OWL
RDFS
RDF

Ontologies and the Semantic Web

Vocabularies, ontologies

Use of shared structured vocabularies, ontologies on the semantic web

- Use of terms from widely developed vocabularies
 - A set of vocabularies for describing common things like people, places or projects has emerged on the web of data.
- **Align heterogeneous vocabularies**
 - State that terms in different vocabularies are equivalent, or related: ontology matching
- **Link Data (the 4th principle of the web of data)**
 - State that resources across different datasets are equivalent, or related: data linking

Ontologies and the Semantic Web

Ontology – Gruber's definition

A very common definition [3]:

**"A formal specification of a shared conceptualization
of a domain of interest."**

- Formal specification: given in a formal language, thus executable
- Shared: regards a group of persons who agree on a given representation
- Conceptualization: it is about the concepts and how they relate to each other
- Domain: somewhere on the scale "application-driven – universally true" ("concrete – abstract")

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Ontologies and the Semantic Web

Ontology – an example



- A set of concepts: EMPLOYEE, DIRECTOR, SECRETARY, RESEARCHER
- A set of labels: *"employee"*, *"director"*, *"secretary"*, *"researcher"*
- A subsumption relation (is_a) on the set of concepts

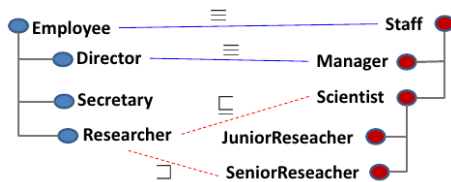
Note: often a set of labels is assigned to a single concept (e.g., a set of synonyms, translations).

Ontologies and the Semantic Web

Ontology Matching

Ontologies are created in a **decentralized**, strongly **human biased** manner.

Many ontologies describing the same domain of interest => **ontology heterogeneity**.



=> **Ontology Matching:** detect the semantic correspondences between the elements of two ontologies.

Ontologies and the Semantic Web

Ontology Matching



"Basically, we're all trying to say the same thing."

Borrowed by a tutorial by S. Staab and A. Hotho.

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- 3 Techniques
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Heterogeneity Types

- Syntactic

about the formal expression of ontologies

example: OWL vs. SKOS

- Terminological

about the choice of labels

example: "director" vs. "manager"

- Structural / Conceptual

about the relations between elements

example: "is_a(director, person)" vs. "is_a(director, employee)"

- granularity
- coverage
- scope

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Ontology Alignment

The **process** of ontology matching results in an alignment.

An alignment:

a set of correspondances between the elements of two heterogeneous ontologies, derived by resolving the different heterogeneities that they manifest.

Similarity measures on element level or global level are applied for every heterogeneity type (e.g., terminological measures, etc.).

A function $\sigma : \mathcal{O} \times \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with some properties:

$$\begin{aligned}\forall x, y \in \mathcal{O}, \quad \sigma(x, y) &\geq 0 \\ \forall x, y, z \in \mathcal{O}, \quad \sigma(x, x) &\geq \sigma(y, z) \\ \forall x, y \in \mathcal{O}, \quad \sigma(x, y) &= \sigma(y, x)\end{aligned}$$

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Ontology Alignment

The similarity measure acts like a **confidence value** for each pair of concepts.

For a pair of concepts, $c \in O$ and $c' \in O'$, a mapping is defined as $(c, c', \sigma(c, c'))$, where σ is the confidence value of the mapping.

Mapping selection:

Many algorithms use that value to **filter out** unlikely mapping candidates \rightarrow thresholding with respect to σ .

For example: Keep only pairs of concepts with a confidence value higher than 0.55, e.g., only matches $(c, c', \sigma(c, c'))$ such that $\sigma(c, c') > 0.55$.

Ontology Alignment

To produce an alignment, several **measures** and **filters** are combined in a common **matching algorithm**.

The performance of the produced algorithm has to be **evaluated**.

Performance with respect to what?

- A standard ground-truth approach (just like in information retrieval).
- Qualitative measures (Precision, Recall, F-Measure)
- Benchmark? The Ontology Alignment Evaluation Initiative OAEI¹.

¹<http://oaei.ontologymatching.org>

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Ontology Matching

Matching and Evaluation Framework

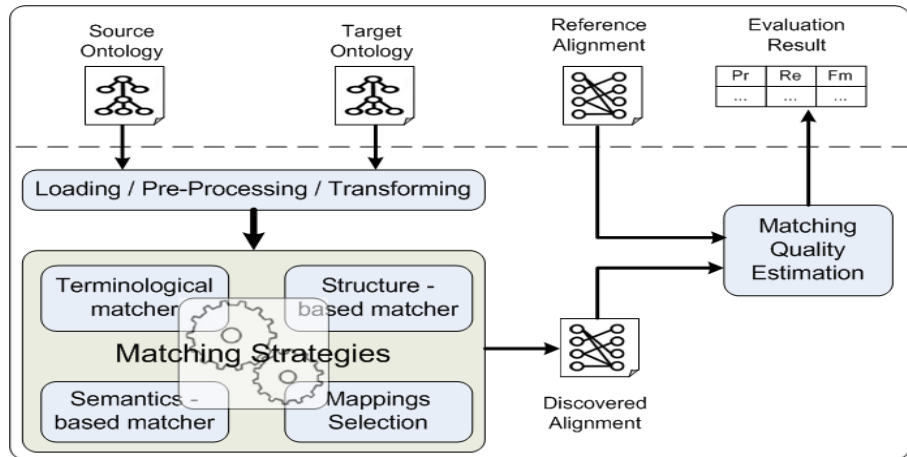


Figure : Ontology Matching: System Architecture and Evaluation Scenario

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Terminological Heterogeneity

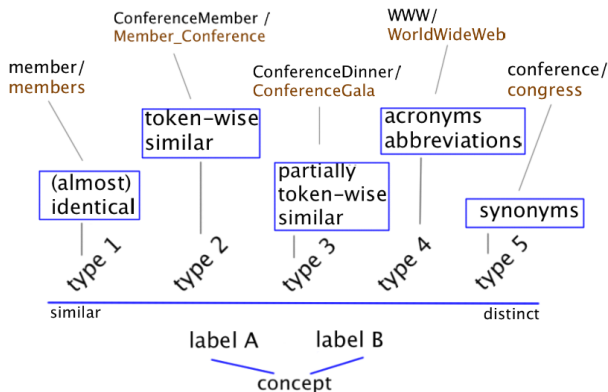
A Typology

Assumption:

A concept is identified by the meaning of its label(s). Therefore ->

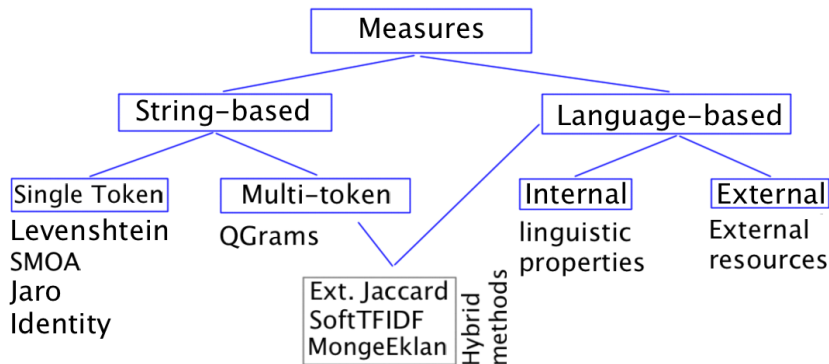
Terminological Heterogeneity:

Any difference in **spelling** between two terms or labels which are assumed to refer to the same concept [4].



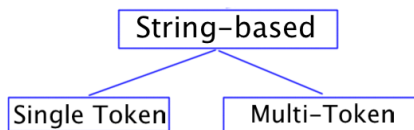
Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures



Terminological Heterogeneity

Discussion I



- Multi-token

- can handle compound labels
- are less sensitive to word-swaps ("ConferenceMember" vs. "MemberConference")
- sometimes need external resources to assign weights to the composing tokens (large corpus)

- Single-token

- can handle one-token labels with tiny variations in spelling
- often used inside of a multi-token measure

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Single-token measures

The simplest similarity measure: the identity.

Definition (Identity Similarity Measure)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two single-token concept labels. We define

$$\sigma_{id}(s_1, s_2) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } s_1 = s_2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In other words, s_1 and s_2 are the same string of characters.

Example: $s_1 = \text{Conference}$, $s_2 = \text{Conference}$, $s_1 \in O$, $s_2 \in O'$

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Single-token measures

Edit-distance: the minimal cost of operations to be applied on an object A in order to transform it into the object B.

Definition (Levenshtein distance.)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two concept labels. The Levenshtein distance, denoted

$$\delta_{Lev}(s_1, s_2),$$

is the minimal number of **insertions**, **deletions** and **substitutions** of characters required to transform s_1 into s_2 . It follows that the cost of each operation is equal to 1.

Example: $\delta_{Lev}(\textit{Conferences}, \textit{Conferenc}) = 2$.
(We apply two times the deletion operation.)

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Definition (Levenshtein Normalized Distance.)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two concept labels. The normalized Levenshtein distance is given by

$$\delta_{LevN} = \frac{\delta_{Lev}(s_1, s_2)}{\max(|s_1|, |s_2|)},$$

where $|s_1|$ denotes the number of characters of the string s_1 .

Example: $\delta_{LevN}(\text{Conferences}, \text{Conferenc}) = 2/11 = 0.1818$

Definition (Levenshtein Normalized Similarity.)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two concept labels. The normalized Levenshtein similarity is given by

$$\sigma_{LevN}(s_1, s_2) = 1 - \delta_{LevN}(s_1, s_2).$$

Example: $\sigma_{LevN}(\text{Conferences}, \text{Conferenc}) = 1 - 0.1818 = 0.8181$

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Jaro Similarity

Definition (Jaro Similarity)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two concept labels. The Jaro similarity is given by

$$\sigma_{Jaro}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{m}{|s_1|} + \frac{m}{|s_2|} + \frac{m-t}{m} \right),$$

where m is the number of common characters of s_1 and s_2 , and t is half the number of transpositions - the common elements that occur in different order.

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Jaro Similarity: an example

	M	A	R	T	H	A
M	1	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	0	0	0
R	0	0	1	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	1	0
T	0	0	0	1	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0	1

$m=6$ (number of 1 in the matrix)

$t = 2/2$ (two elements in common,
but not in the corresponding order)

$|s1| = |s2| = 6$

$$\sigma_{Jaro}(MARTHA, MAHRTA) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{6}{6} + \frac{6}{6} + \frac{5}{6} \right) = 0.944$$

Taken from Wikipedia.

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Simple multi-token measures

Definition (NGrams similarity.)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two concept labels. We define the function $ngram(s, n)$ as the set of substrings of size n of the string s . On this basis, we define the NGram similarity measure as follows:

$$\sigma_{NG}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{|ngram(s_1, n) \cap ngram(s_2, n)|}{\min(|s_1|, |s_2|) - n + 1}$$

Terminological Heterogeneity

Similarity Measures

Example *ngram*:

$$n = 3$$

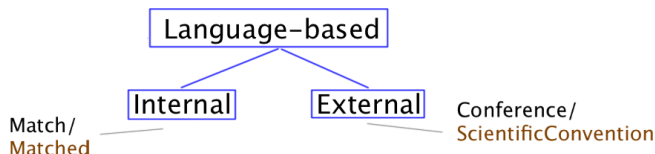
→ set of trigrams for "article": {art, tri, tic, icl, cle}

→ set of tirgrams for "aricle": {ari, ric, icl, cle}.

$$\sigma_{3G}(\text{ARTICLE}, \text{ARICLE}) = \frac{2}{6-3+1} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.5$$

Terminological Heterogeneity

Discussion II



Sources of external information: dictionaries, thesauri, lexical databases (WordNet).

- Two common problems (for both internal and external measures)

- dealing with single words and not compound ones ("PhDThesis" is not found in WN, although "PhD" and "Thesis" are)
- typos or non-conventional abbreviations prevent from finding the words in dictionaries

Terminological Heterogeneity

Internal Language-based Methods

Linguistic normalizations:

- Tokenization: segmenting strings into sequences of tokens (terms)
Example: "ConferenceOrganizer" → {conference, organizer}
- Lemmatization: reduction to basic morphological forms
Example: matched → match
- Stopword pruning: use stop-word lists to eliminate noisy words
Example: "Organizer_of_a_Conference" → "Organizer_Conference"

Terminological Heterogeneity

External Language-based

Use external linguistic sources in order to compute similarity of labels.

What sources?

- Lexicons and dictionaries: contain word definitions
- Thesauri and lexical databases: contain relational information about terms, e.g., synonyms (article = paper), hypernyms ("author" is less specific than "article author")

Example: WordNet is a lexical database where words are grouped in sets of synonyms (synsets) and semantic relations are defined between synsets (hypernymy and hyponymy, meronymy and holonymy).

Terminological Heterogeneity

External Language-based

Similarity measures

Definition (Synonymy similarity)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two terms and Σ be a synonym resource. We define

$$\sigma_{syn}(s_1, s_2) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \Sigma(s_1) \cap \Sigma(s_2) \neq \emptyset \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

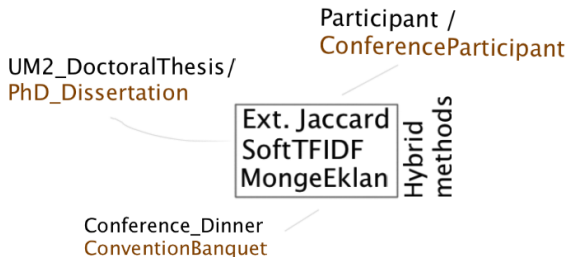
Definition (Co-synonymy similarity)

Let s_1 and s_2 be two terms and Σ be a synonym resource. We define

$$\sigma_{syn}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{|\Sigma(s_1) \cap \Sigma(s_2)|}{|\Sigma(s_1) \cup \Sigma(s_2)|}$$

Terminological Heterogeneity

Hybrid Measures Discussion III

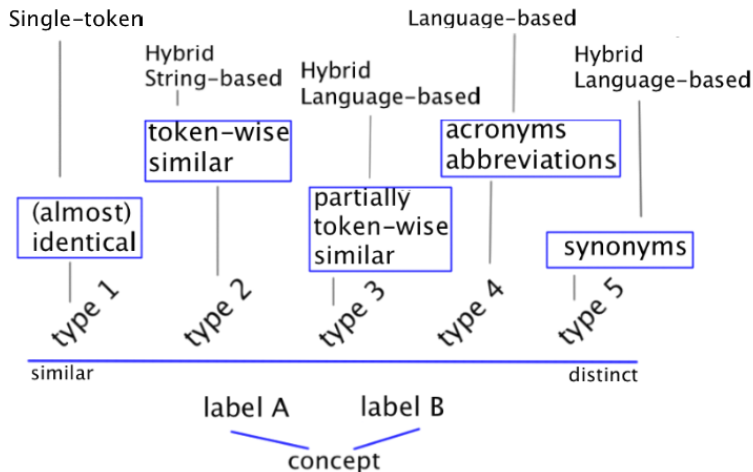


- Limitations

- fail when the number of shared tokens is small
- require large corpus for weight computation
- MongeElkan and softTFIDF are asymmetric

Terminological Heterogeneity

Measures and Heterogeneity Types



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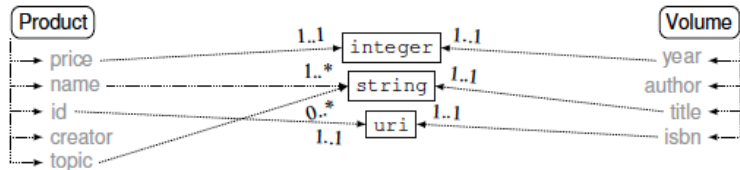
Structural Matchers

Internal methods

Compute similarity based on the internal structure of elements (e.g., classes)

- their properties
- range
- cardinalities, etc

Usually combined with terminological techniques



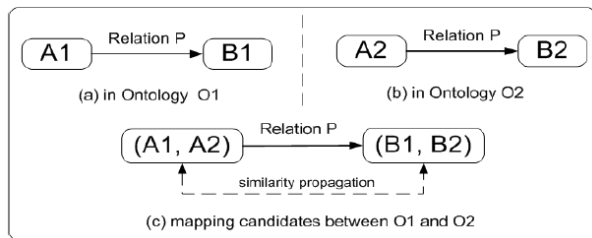
Taken from [1].

Structural Matchers

External (relational) methods

Consider the relations of concepts to other concepts. Rely on already discovered similarities.

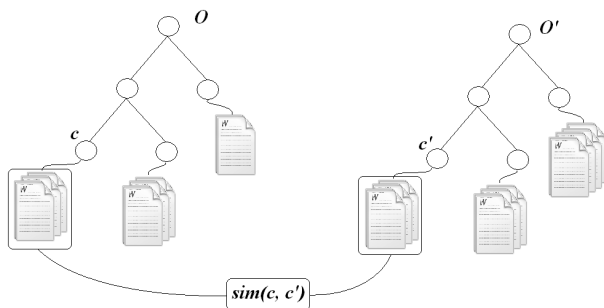
- **Standard methods**
 - exploring standard structural relations between entities within the ontologies:
descendants, ancestors, leaves, adjacent, etc.
- **Similarity Propagation**



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Ontology Matching

Instance-based concept similarity



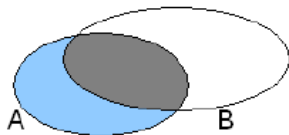
The similarity of two cross-ontology concepts is assessed by the help of the instances of these concepts

-> Many possible measures.

Ontology Matching

Ontology matching and machine learning

Intersection of class instance sets



-> Same instances need to be found in both ontologies.

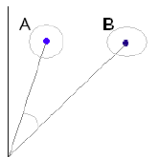
Ontology Matching

Ontology matching and machine learning

The cosine of the prototypes

$$\text{sim}(A, B) = s\left(\frac{1}{|A|} \sum_{j=1}^{|A|} \mathbf{i}_j^A, \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{k=1}^{|B|} \mathbf{i}_k^B\right),$$

with $s(x, y)$ the cosine similarity of x and y .



-> Flattening class structure

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Ontology Matching

Matching and Evaluation Framework

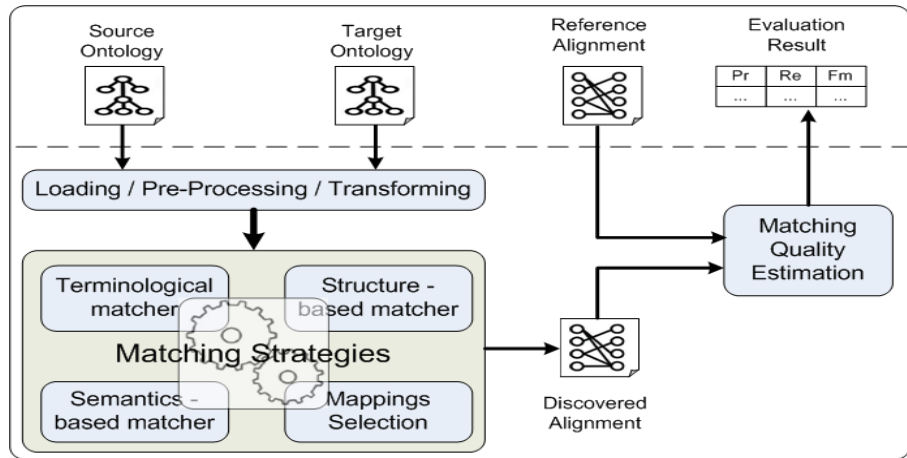


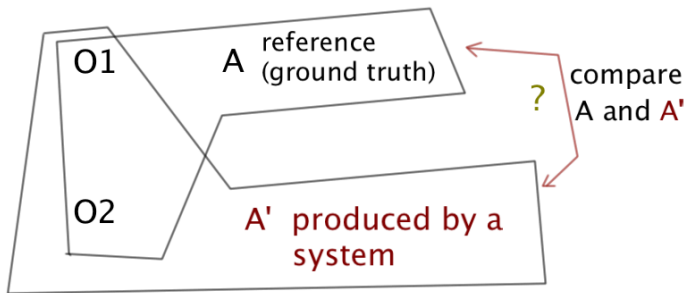
Figure : Ontology Matching: System Architecture and Evaluation Scenario

A Generic Framework for Ontology Matching and Evaluation

Evaluation Measures

A standard benchmark approach, an annual evaluation campaign OAEI²

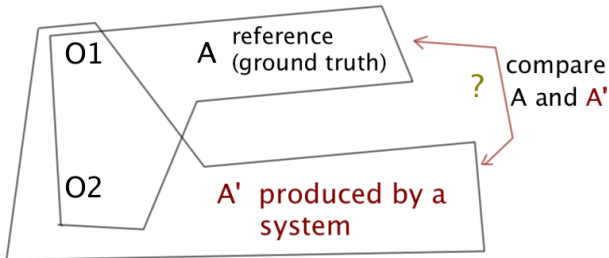
- **Ground truth:** a set of pairs of ontologies with alignments.
- **Test:** align two ontologies from this set and compare the produced alignment with the ground truth.



²<http://oaei.ontologymatching.org>

Evaluation

Precision and Recall: Revision

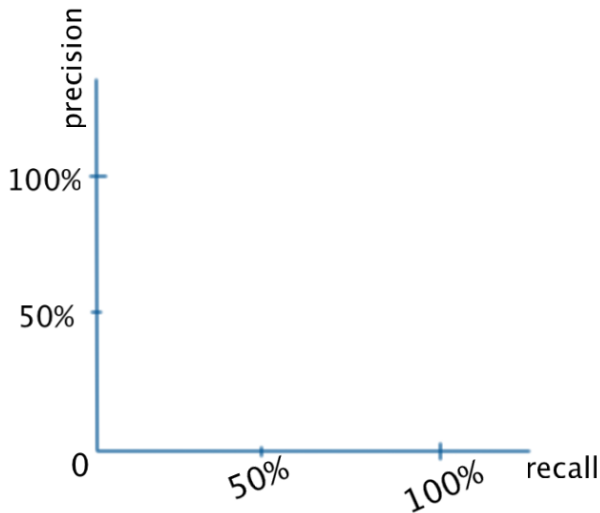


Precision and Recall

$$P = \frac{\text{true_Matches_found}}{\text{all_found}}, \quad R = \frac{\text{true_Matches_found}}{\text{all_true_Matches}}.$$

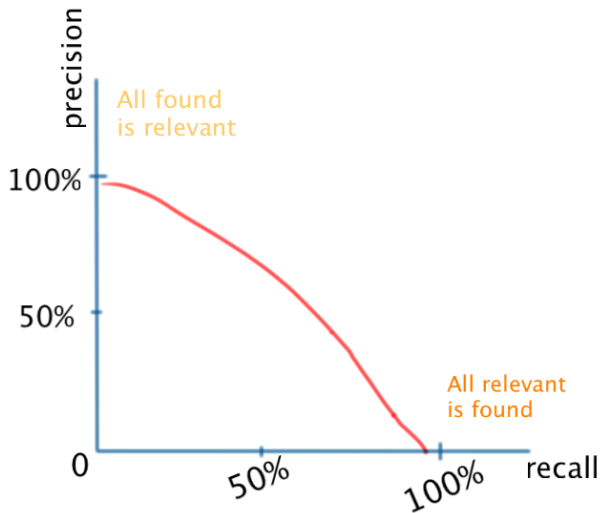
Evaluation

Precision and Recall: RevisionI



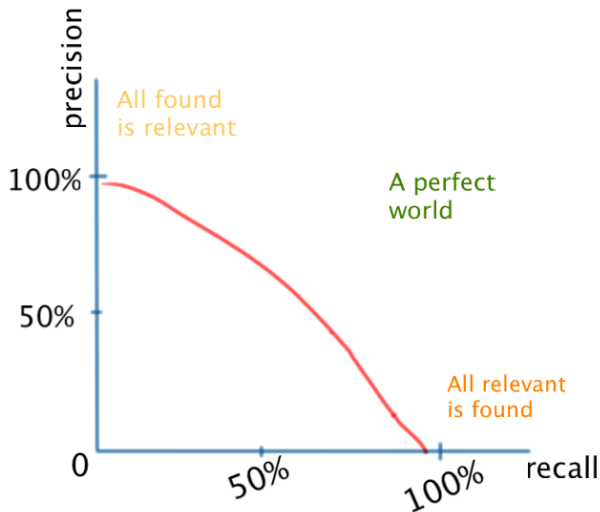
Evaluation

Precision and Recall: Revision



Evaluation

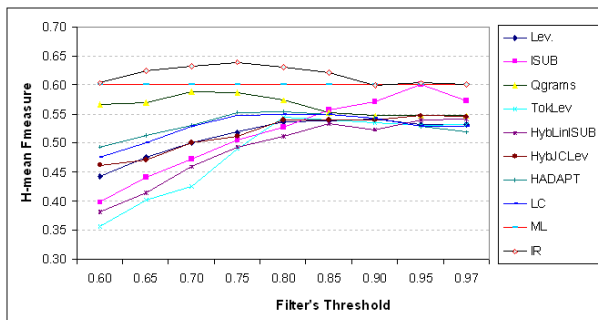
Precision and Recall: Revision



Evaluation

F-measure

Usually, a unique measure is used: the F-measure. The results are presented as the F-measure in a function of the mapping threshold:



The number of correctly aligned concepts changes with respect to the mapping selection threshold (precision and recall change respectively).

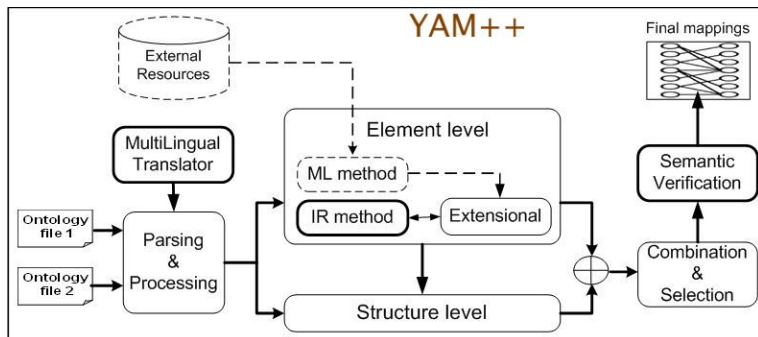
An OM System

YAM++ (not) Yet Another Matcher

Many matching systems are out there. Here are some of the pluses of YAM++:

- Automatic configuration: similarity measures selection, tuning, and combination
- A novel terminological measure based on Tversky's similarity
- Able to deal with large ontologies

Among the best performing systems in the current state-of-the-art (cf. OAEI reports)



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Data Linking

The 4th principle of the web of data:

when publishing data, provide links to other, already published data!



Connect datasets on the web!

Data Linking

The link-statement is a triple, as any other triple,

- linking an instance from one dataset (the subject)
- to an instance of another dataset (the object)
- via a link-predicate given by established vocabularies, for example:
 - `owl:sameAs` (meaning that 2 instances (or resources) are identical),
 - but also `skos:closeMatch`, `rdf:seeAlso`, etc.,

Example:

```
(http://yago-knowledge.org/resource/Ludwig\_van\_Beethoven,  
owl:sameAs,  
http://dbpedia.org/resource/Ludwig\_van\_Beethoven)
```

Data Linking: Instance Matching

Data Linking vs. Instance Matching ? Question of link-predicate...

Definition (Instance Matching)

Let i_1 and i_2 be two instances (or resources) across two sets of instances I_1 and I_2 (respectively). We define the function:

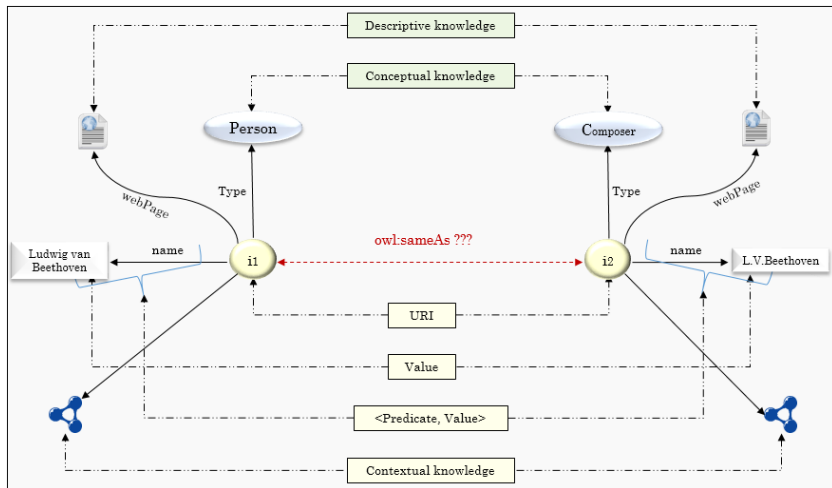
$$\begin{aligned} f: I_1 \times I_2 &\rightarrow [0, 1] \\ (i_1, i_2) &\mapsto s, \end{aligned}$$

where $s \in [0, 1]$ and $s = f(i_1, i_2)$.

The function f produces a similarity value s measuring the proximity between two RDF resources i_1 and i_2 . These resources are linked together (i.e., i_1 and i_2 represent the same real world object) if s is greater than a given threshold $\sigma \in [0, 1]$.

Data Linking: levels of instance comparison

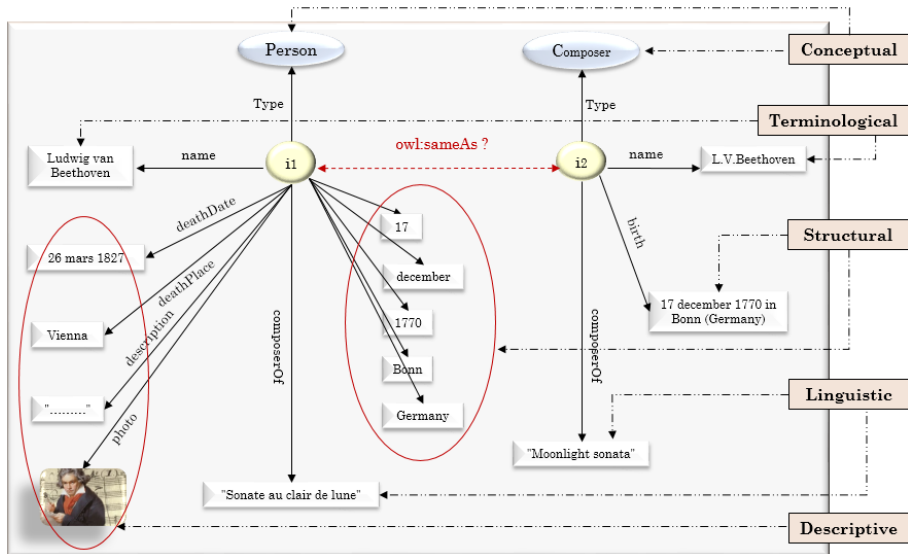
Where to look for information to compare instances? What describes them?



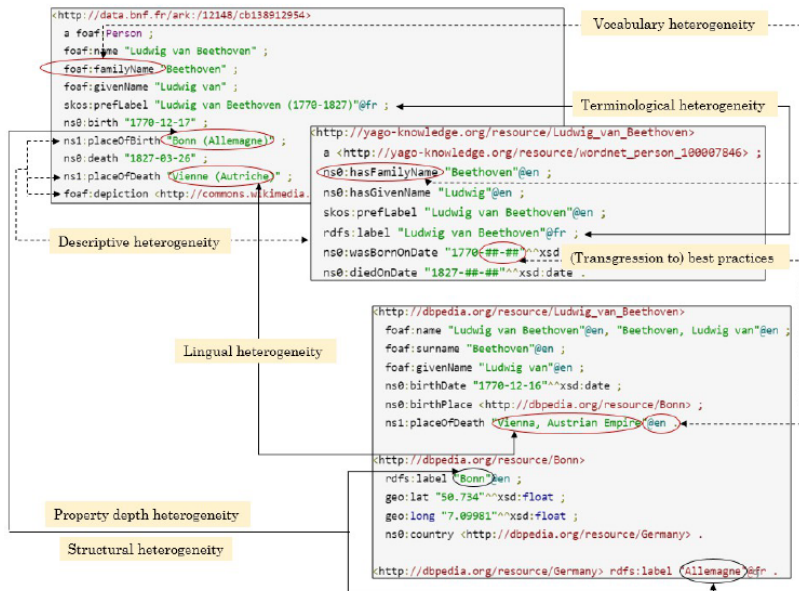
Data Linking: Heterogeneities of instances

- **Ontological**: use of different vocabularies
 - (1) *Concept level*. A given entity can belong to several types (ontological concepts).
 - (2) *Property level*. Properties are often described by different vocabularies depending on the intension.
- **Terminological**: String literals can be given by using different terms (minor differences in spelling, synonyms)
- **Structural**: The description of an entity can be done at different levels of detail.
- **Linguistic**: Information can be expressed in different natural languages.
- **Descriptive**: A resource can be described with more information (a larger set of properties) in one dataset compared to another.

Data Linking: Heterogeneities of instances



Data Linking: Heterogeneities of instances



Data Linking: a complexe process

The data linking processing chain:

(1) preprocessing —> (2) instance matching —> (3) post-processing.

① preprocessing:

- reduce the search-space, identify a set of pairs of linking candidates:
keys-identification
- make instances comparable: models of presentation, handling
multilingualism

② instance matching: define a link between two resources, give its type and confidence value for the match

③ post-processing: filter out erroneous matches, infer new ones

Many ontology matching techniques are used in the data linking process.

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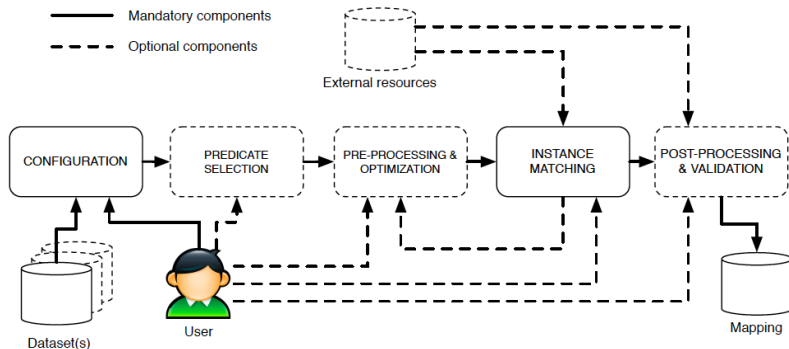
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Data Linking: a complexe process

A generic architecture of a tool

A large choice of tools: LIMES³, SILK⁴, RiMOM, RDF-AI,...

From a user perspective, the tool configuration is 90% of the task.



Taken from [2].

³<http://aksw.org/Projects/LIMES.html>

⁴<http://silkframework.org>

Instance Matching track of the OAEI⁵.

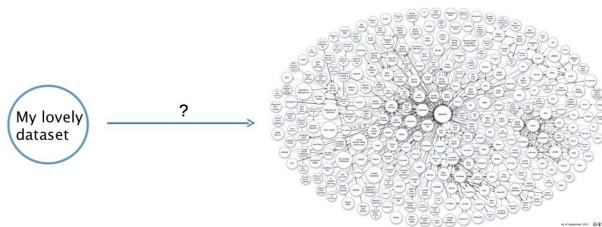
—> The same principle as what we saw in the previous chapter regarding ontology matching:

- reference data in the form of ground truth (e.g., 2 datasets and a link set)
- a tool is evaluated against these reference data by the help of the standard evaluation metrics (Precision, Recall and F-measure)

⁵http://islab.di.unimi.it/im_oaei_2014/index.html

Data Linking: current topics

- Dataset recommendation for linking



- Dataset profiling
- Key discovery
- Linking multilingual data
- Post-processing (errors, missing links)
- Semantics of links: “owl:sameAs” is too restrictive...
- ...

Questions?



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