RDF

Steffen Staab

Semantic Web
- Resources (Subject, Object) connected by Predicates (relationships)
Resources
- A resource is a referenced entity (Class, Individual, Relationship, …)
- Resources must have
  - URIs – Uniform Resource Identifiers or
  - IRIs - Internationalized Resource Identifiers
Naming convention

- **URI**
  - http://www.w3.org/Addressing/
  - http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3987.txt

- **IRI (generalization of URI)**
  - Normalized path: http://a.b.c/d/././d = http://a.b.c/d
  - Special characters: http://häuser.und.bäume.de
  - Right-to-left and left-to-right notation
    - Logical representation: http://ab.CDE.FGH/ij/kl/mn/op.html
    - Visual representation: http://ab.HGF.EDC/ij/kl/mn/op.html
URIs: Best Practices

- (re)Use already known URIs
  - Search engines: Swoogle, Okkam

- Have a document that URI points to
  - Good: http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
  - Bad: http://ThisSiteDoesNotExist/#groupISWeb

- Use known standards/conventions for specific types of URIs:
  - Phone number, ISSN, etc.

- Do not use URLs as URIs for people or organizations.
  - http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de is just a website, not the ISWeb group identifier
    - Bad: http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de for ISWeb group
    - Better: http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb

- Derive new URIs from the websites (addresses) you can control:
  - Good: http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#new for me
  - Bad: http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#new for you
**RDF Model**

- **Resource**
  - Resource is a referenced entity (Class, Object, Entity, Relationship, …)
  - Resource must have:
    - URIs – Uniform Resource Identifiers or
    - IRIs - Internationalized Resource Identifiers

- **Property (relationship)**
  - Similar to association in UML or relationship in database
  - Relationships between Resources and other Resources, or Resources to Literals
  - Property is also a Resource (have URI)

- **Literal**
  - Simple (atomic) data type (e.g. String, int …)

- **Statements**
  - “Resource has Property with Value”
  - Format: Subject –[Property]→ Object
  - Resources and/or literals are included in statement
Statement example

- **Statement**
  - “Resource http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb has name AG ISWeb”

- **Structure**
  - Resource (subject) http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
  - Property (predicate) http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#hasName
  - Value (object) “AG ISWeb” here: literal

- **Related Graph**

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#hasName

AG ISWeb
```
**RDF represented as graphs**

- **Nodes:**
  - Resources represented by URIs
  - Unnamed Resources (Blank Nodes)
  - Literals represented by Strings

- **Directed Edges:**
  - Represented by URIs

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee

AG ISWeb
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasName

http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee
```
Example: Turtle notation

Turtle

```turtle
<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb>
<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/hasEmployee>
<http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me>
```

Turtle with Namespaces

```
@prefix s : <http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/>

<s:hasEmployee> <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me>
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
s:hasEmployee
http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
s:hasName
AG ISWeb
```

```
http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me
s:hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
s:hasName
AG ISWeb
```

```
http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me
s:hasEmployee
```

```
http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb
s:hasName
AG ISWeb
```
Example: Turtle notation (cont’d)

@prefix s <http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds/>
@prefix u <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/>

<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb> s:hasEmployee <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~staab/#me>  .
<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb> s:hasEmployee <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~sizov/#me>  .
<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb> s:hasEmployee <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~janik/#me>  .
<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb> s:hasName “AG ISWeb”

Shorter version

@prefix s <http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds>
@prefix u <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/>

<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb> s:hasEmployee u:~staab/#me;
  s:hasEmployee u:~sizov/#me;
  s:hasEmployee u:janik/#me;
  s:hasName “AG ISWeb”.

Even shorter

@prefix s <http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds>
@prefix u <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/>

<http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/#groupISWeb>
  s:hasEmployee u:~staab/#me, u:~sizov/#me, u:janik/#me;
  s:hasName “ISWeb”.
RDF Vocabulary

- RDF namespace

```xml
xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
```

- `rdf:List`
- `rdf:first`
- `rdf:rest`
- `rdf:nil`

- `rdf:XMLLiteral`
- `rdf:Property`
- `rdf:type`

- `rdf:Bag`
- `rdf:Seq`
- `rdf:Alt`
- `rdf:_1`
- `rdf:_2`
- `...`

- `rdf:List`
- `rdf:Statement`
- `rdf:subject`
- `rdf:predicate`
- `rdf:object`
- `rdf:value`
RDF Data types
Literals

s:thisLecture
  title

„Semantic Web“, untyped
„Semantic Web“@en, untyped, but assigned „english“ (en) language
„Semantic Web“^^xsd:string, explicit type String

These are three different literals in the system.
Assigning type (e.g. String) cannot be combined with language
RDF Data types

- Trend: all simple data types defined in XML

- Example

```xml
<xsd:complexType name="Name">
  <xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:element name="Title" type="xsd:string" minOccurs="0"/>
    <xsd:element name="FirstName" type="xsd:string" minOccurs="1"/>
    <xsd:element name="LastName" minOccurs="1"/>
  </xsd:sequence>
  <xsd:attribute name="Birthday" type="xsd:date"/>
</xsd:complexType>
```
Container

- Typed container
- Standard predicate names
Example: **Sequence**

List

Number in the predicate is meaningful (used for indicating order); the same element can occur multiple times.

A container (here: sequence) is represented with a Blank Node – it may not always be necessary.
Example: Bag

Multi-set

Numbers in predicates do not carry a specific meaning; this is a (multi) set of unordered resources; the same resource can appear more than once.
Example: **Alternative**

Only one resource can be selected

Numbers in predicates have no meaning

```
http://uni-koblenz.de/~mensaFood
```

```
S:Fish
S:Spaghetti Bolognese
S:Pommes
```

Only one resource can be selected

Numbers in predicates have no meaning
Collections

Way to represent multiple objects
Only one `rdf:first` and `rdf:rest` is allowed per node.
Linked list – what is the meaning of this?

```
s:workGroups
  ^
  v
s:groups
  |        rdf:rest           rdf:first
  |          v                 v
  |  s:group1
  |  |  rdf:rest
  |  v
  | s:group2
  |  |  rdf:rest
  |  v
  | s:group3
  |  |  rdf:rest
  |  v
  | rdf:rest
  v
rdf:nil
```

Only one rdf:first and rdf:rest is allowed per node.
Reification
Statements about statements
Reification

How can I express following fact:
„Kant“ examined „Jonas“ in class „Introduction to CS“ and gave him grade „1.0“
⇒ need for multi-relationship

Reification = refers to situation in natural language where statement is transformed so actions and events in it become quantifiable; here „Jonas exam“ becomes a described object

Forms of reification
- Ad hoc Reification
- RDF Reification
- Named Graphs
- Reification using other Design Patterns
"Kant" examined "Jonas" in "Introduction to CS" and gave him grade "1.0"
"Kant" examined "Jonas" in "Introduction to CS" and gave him grade "1.0"
"Kant" examined "Jonas" in "Introduction to CS" and gave him grade "1.0"
"Kant" examined "Jonas" in "Introduction to CS" and gave him grade "1.0"
Named Graphs

s:JonasGraph

s:jonas/#me

s:kant/#me

s:introCS

s:examinedBy

s:examinedIn

s:grade

1.0

s:Stud2Graph
Based on Turtle notation

```trig
@prefix s <http://isweb.uni-koblenz.de/preds> .

s:JonasGraph
{
  s:jonas/#me s:examinedIn s:introCS .
  s:introCS
    s:grade "1.0" ;
    s:examinedBy s:kant/#me .
}
```
RDF - conclusions

- RDF is a standard syntax to represent (edge labeled) directed graphs in XML
- Uses resources with unique IRIs / URIs
- Describes named relationships between resources
- Has a limited vocabulary and semantics
- Supports
  - Collections (bag, alternative, set)
  - Lists
  - Reification (!)

- Good to describe ground facts, but not to describe simple model / schema
  \[ \rightarrow \text{RDFS (RDF Schema)} \]