



Machine Reasoning

Knowledge Engineering SS25

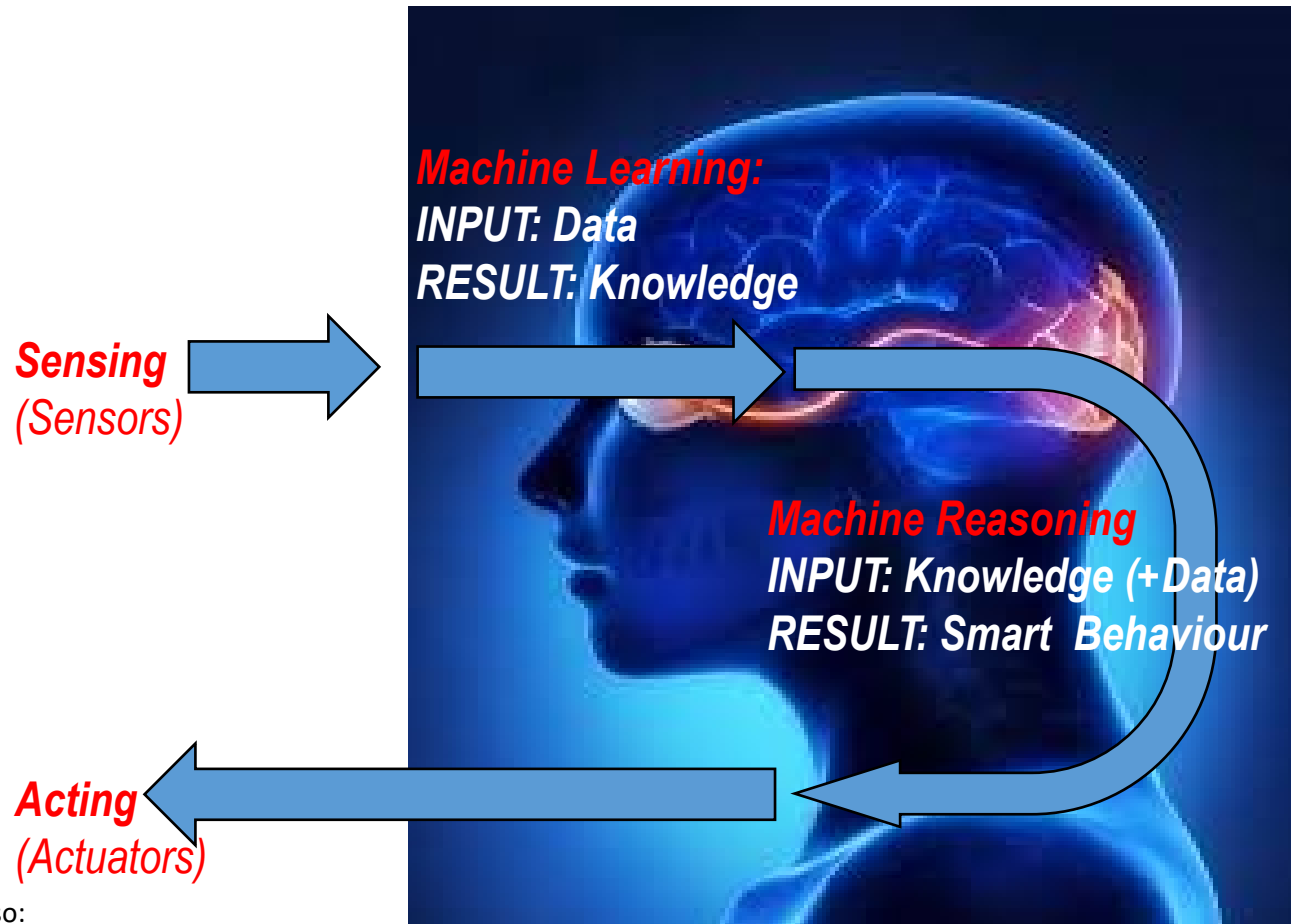
MSc Computer Science

Camerino, 19/05/2025

Prof. Emanuele Laurenzi

The two sides of A.I.:

Machine Learning and Machine Reasoning



Two Sides of A. I.

*Machine Learning =
Non-symbolic AI
(Neural Networks,
Deep Learning,
Knowledge Discovery)*

+

*Machine Reasoning =
Symbolic AI
(Semantic Technology,
Knowledge Representation,
Knowledge Engineering)*

See also:

<https://www.ipsoft.com/2018/06/22/dws-2018-inside-amelia-brain/>

Languages for Machine Reasoning

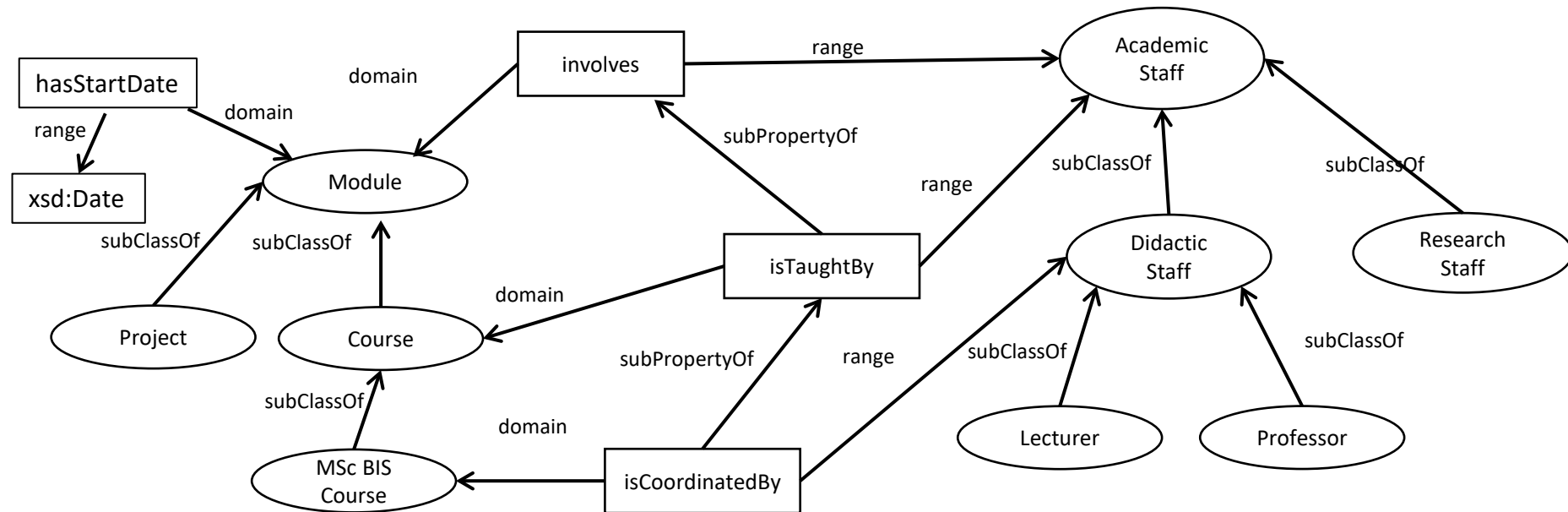
- There exist languages maintained by the W3C that allow machine reasoning.
- Machine reasoning means applying reasoning services on knowledge graphs or ontologies that are expressed in some ontology language.
- The focus in this lecture is on the following languages:
 - SPARQL CONSTRUCT/INSERT
 - SWRL
 - SHACL

SPARQL for Machine Reasoning

SPARQL for Machine Reasoning

- CONSTRUCT vs. INSERT
 - "Reasoning on the fly" vs. "Reasoning with writing"
- **CONSTRUCT** delivers the transformed/extracted subgraph to the client, without storing it (the client app can later choose to save it or just display it);
- **INSERT** stores the generated graph, without returning it (the client app must perform a SELECT to retrieve what was generated).

Solution for the Ontology Development 101 exercise



A possible rule

–The following rule derive the inverse property **is_taught_by**

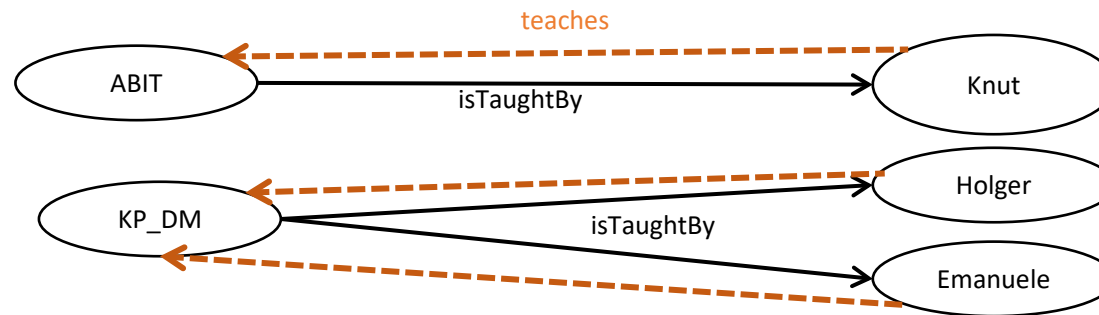
CONSTRUCT {**?y** :**teaches** **?x**}

WHERE {

?x :isTaughtBy **?y** .

}

If a course ?x is taught by teacher ?y, then teacher ?y teaches course ?x.

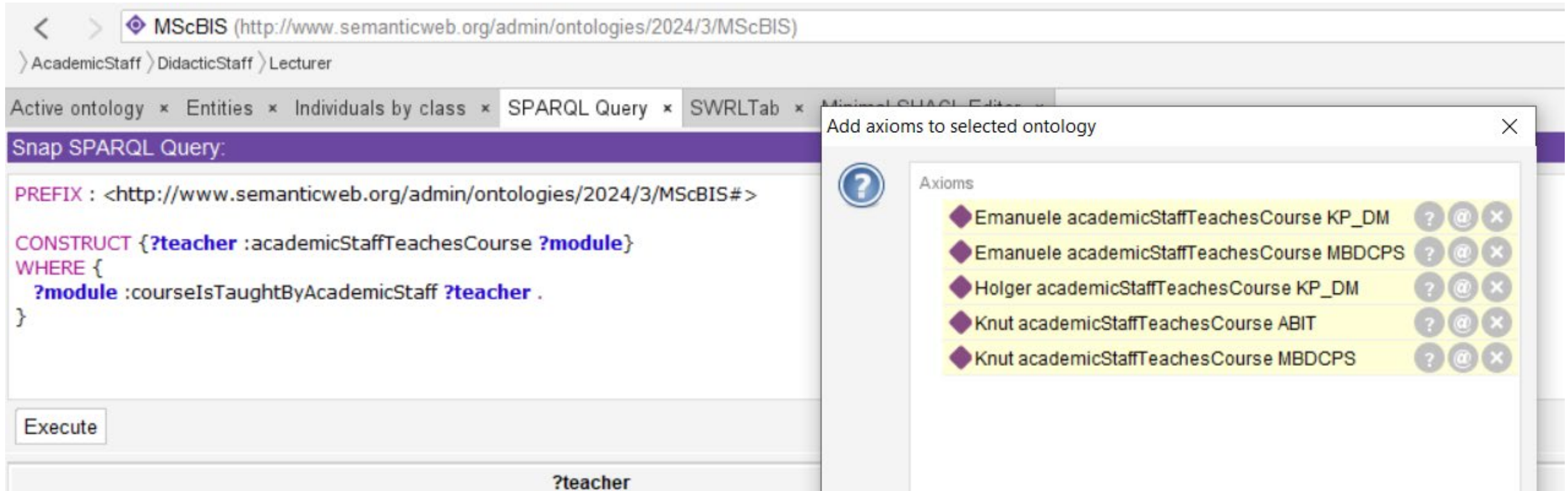


----->
Properties
derived by the
rule.

Query Editor	Query Library	[Subject]	Predicate	Object
CONSTRUCT { ?teacher <u>teaching:teaches</u> ?module }		◆ teaching:Emanuele123	teaching:teaches	◆ teaching:KP_DM
WHERE {		◆ teaching:Holger123	teaching:teaches	◆ teaching:KP_DM
?module teaching:isTaughtBy ?teacher .		◆ teaching:Knut123	teaching:teaches	◆ teaching:ABIT
}				

Test in Protégé

- The reasoner should be started before executing the CONSTRUCT.
- The new property should be entered in the knowledge base upfront.



The screenshot shows the Protégé interface with the MScBIS ontology selected. The SPARQL Query tab is active, displaying a query that constructs instances of the `academicStaffTeachesCourse` property. The query is as follows:

```
PREFIX : <http://www.semanticweb.org/admin/ontologies/2024/3/MScBIS#>

CONSTRUCT {?teacher :academicStaffTeachesCourse ?module}
WHERE {
  ?module :courseIsTaughtByAcademicStaff ?teacher .
}
```

An "Add axioms to selected ontology" dialog is open, showing a list of axioms to be added. The axioms are:

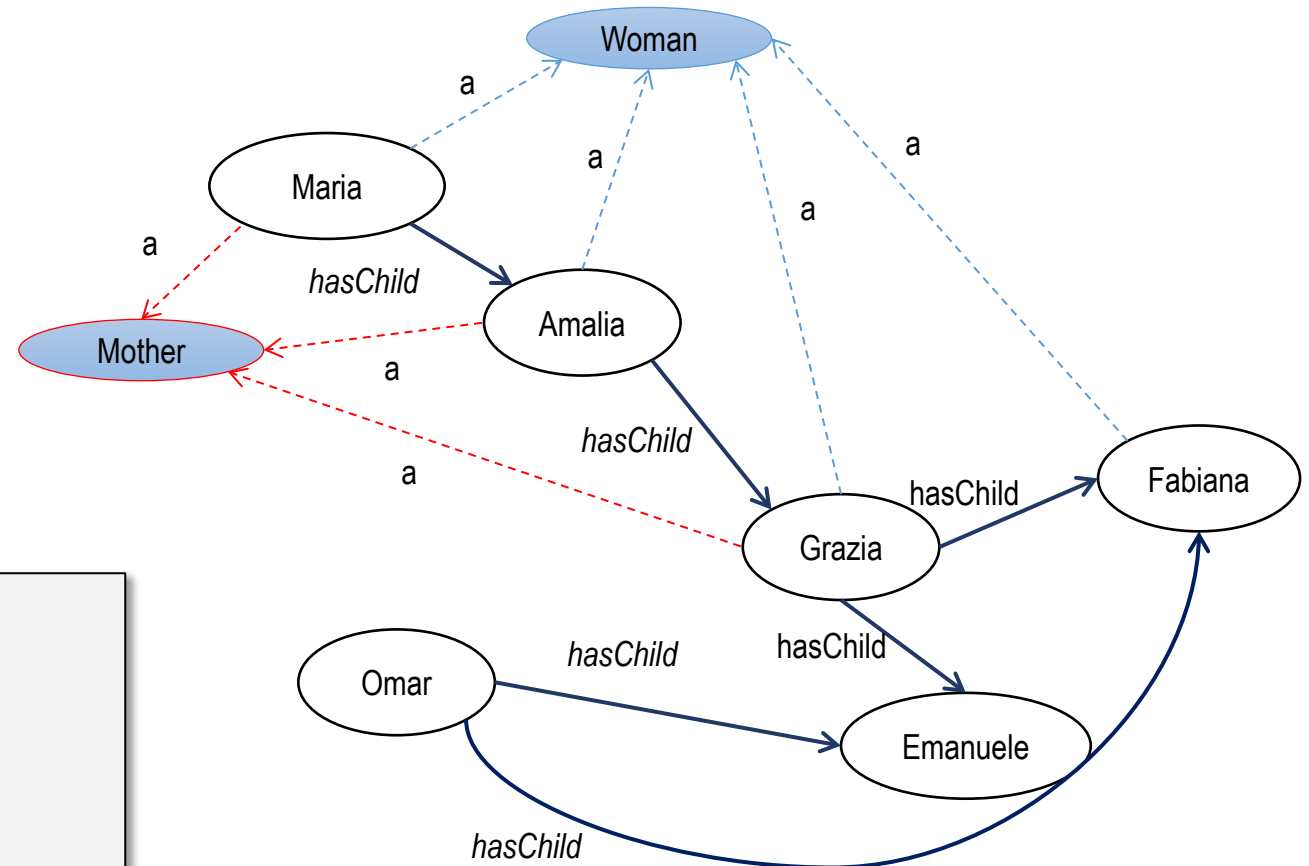
- Emanuele academicStaffTeachesCourse KP_DM
- Emanuele academicStaffTeachesCourse MBDCPS
- Holger academicStaffTeachesCourse KP_DM
- Knut academicStaffTeachesCourse ABIT
- Knut academicStaffTeachesCourse MBDCPS

Each axiom is preceded by a diamond icon and followed by a question mark, an at-sign, and a close button. The dialog also includes a question mark icon and the title "Add axioms to selected ontology".

Use of some operators of SPARQL for machine reasoning

Conjunction (AND)

- Use SPARQL for
 - Adding those Women to Mother which have a child.

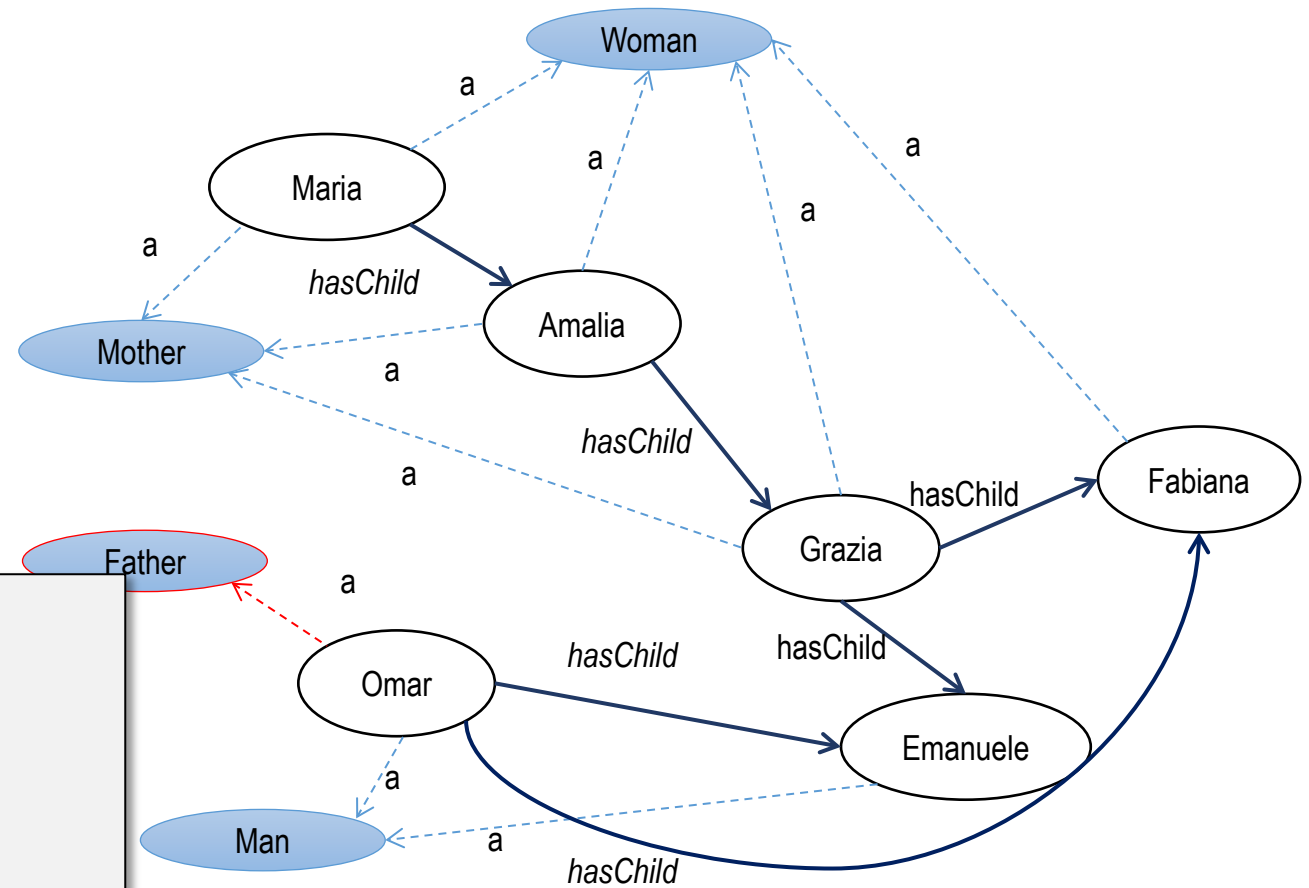


```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?s a :Mother }
WHERE {
    ?s :hasChild ?o .
    ?s a :Woman
}
```

Conjunction (AND)

- Use SPARQL for
 - Adding those Men to Father which have a child.

```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?s a :Father }
WHERE {
    ?s :hasChild ?o .
    ?s a :Man
}
```

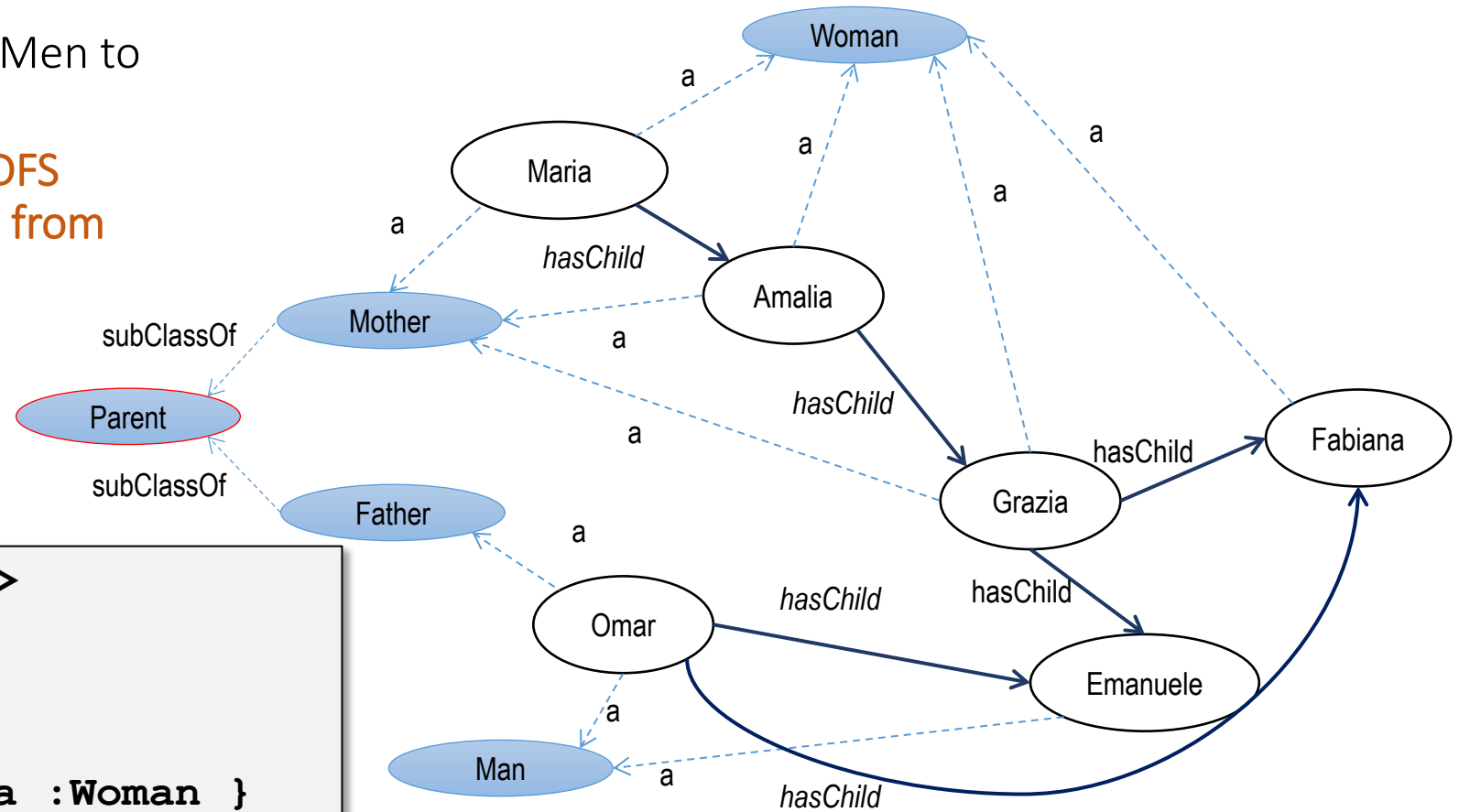


Disjunction (OR)

- Use SPARQL for
 - Adding those Women and Men to Parent who have a child.
 - **Warning: You don't have RDFS entailments nor the results from former queries.**

```

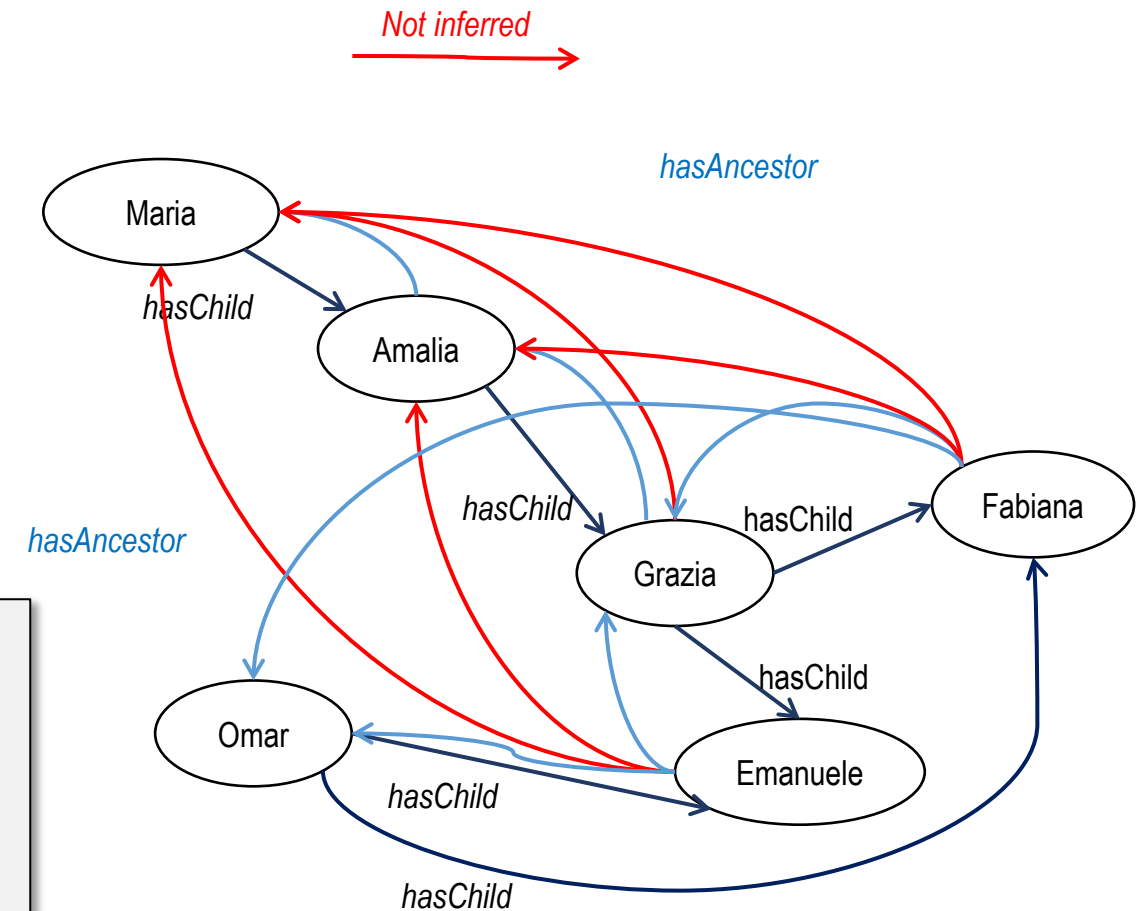
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?s a :Parent }
WHERE {
    ?s :hasChild ?o .
    { ?s a :Man } UNION { ?s a :Woman }
}
    
```



Recursion (limited)

- Use SPARQL for
 - Adding the relationships `hasAncestor` which is either someone who has a child or someone who has a child whose is already an ancestor.

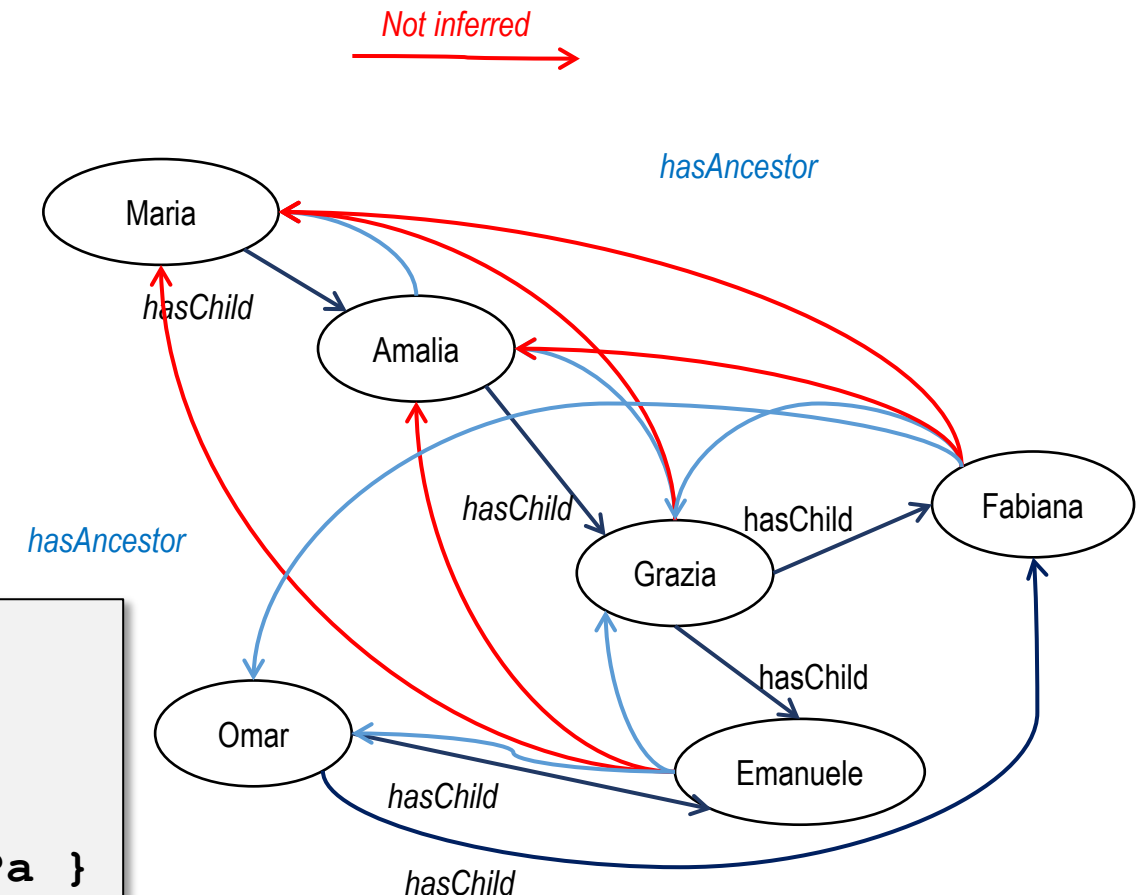
```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?d :hasAncestor ?a }
WHERE {
    { ?a :hasChild ?d } UNION
    { ?a :hasChild ?x . ?d :hasAncestor ?x }
}
```



Recursion (Another Solution)

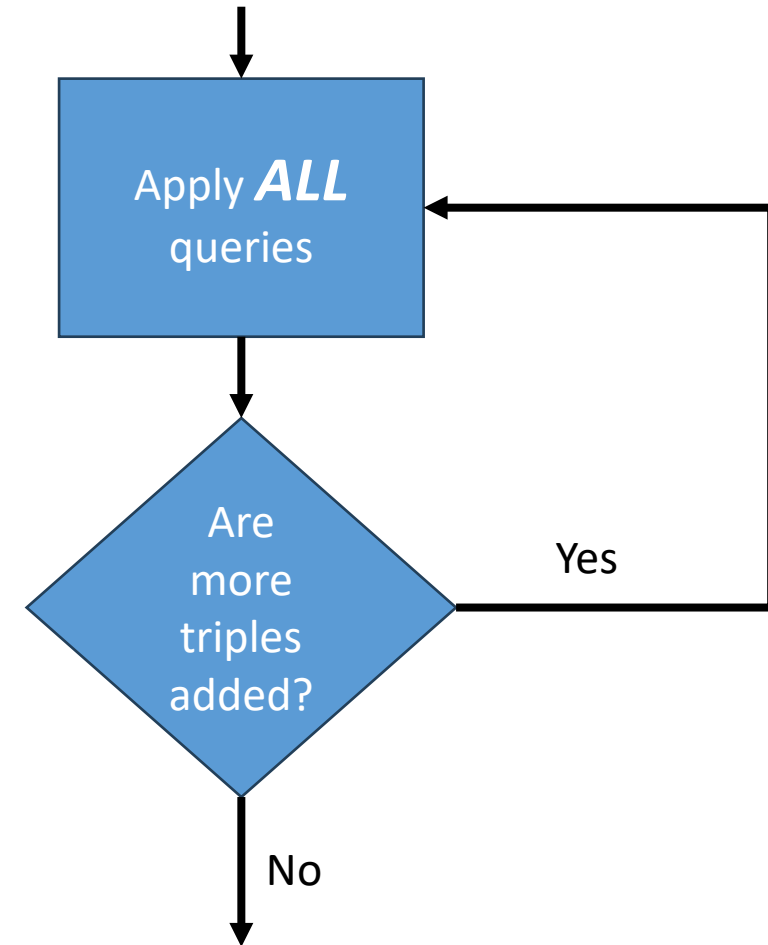
- Use SPARQL for
 - Adding the relationships `hasAncestor` which is either someone who has a child or someone who has a child that is already an ancestor.

```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?d :hasAncestor ?a }
WHERE {
    { ?a :hasChild ?d } UNION
    { ?d :hasAncestor ?x . ?x :hasAncestor ?a }
}
```



Learning from the Recursion

- Queries are NOT applied until no further triples are added.
- In order to ensure the deduction of ALL results one needs to implement the loop
 - In a step ALL queries needs to be applied...
 - ... until no further triples are added



Repetition: Inference Procedure for Logic Programming

Rule Engines
already include
the loop

Let *resolvent* be the query $?- Q_1, \dots, Q_m$

While *resolvent* is not empty do

1. Choose a query literal Q_i from *resolvent*.
 2. Choose a renamed¹ clause $H :- B_1, \dots, B_n$ from P such that Q_i and H unify with an most general **unifier** σ , i.e. $Q_i\sigma = H\sigma$
 3. If no such Q_i and clause exist, then **backtrack**
 4. Remove Q_i from the *resolvent*
 5. Add B_1, \dots, B_n to the *resolvent*
 6. Add σ to σ_{all}
 7. Apply substitution σ to the *resolvent* and go to 1.
- If *resolvent* is empty, **return** σ_{all} , else **return failure**.

Negation in SPARQL: FILTER NOT EXISTS

- Negation as NOT EXISTS
 - True if a specific graph does not exist
 - The Select will return bob!
- Opposite of Negation: EXISTS 😊

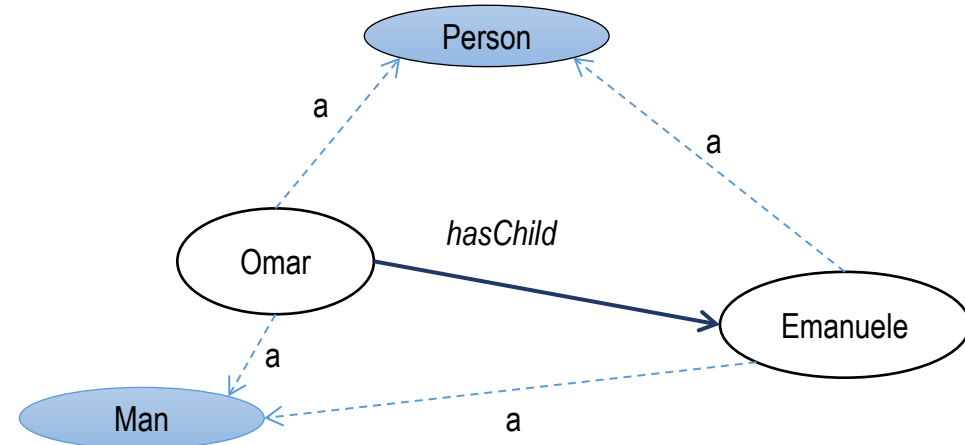
```
@prefix : <http://example/> .  
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .  
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .  
  
:alice rdf:type foaf:Person .  
:alice foaf:name "Alice" .  
:bob rdf:type foaf:Person .
```

```
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>  
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>  
  
SELECT ?person  
WHERE {  
    ?person rdf:type foaf:Person .  
    FILTER NOT EXISTS { ?person foaf:name ?name }  
}
```

Negation

- Use SPARQL for
 - Finding out who is an unhappy man. An unhappy man is a man who is NOT a father
- Is Omar a Father?
- Is Omar an UnhappyMan?
- Is Emanuele a Father?
- Is Emanuele an UnhappyMan?

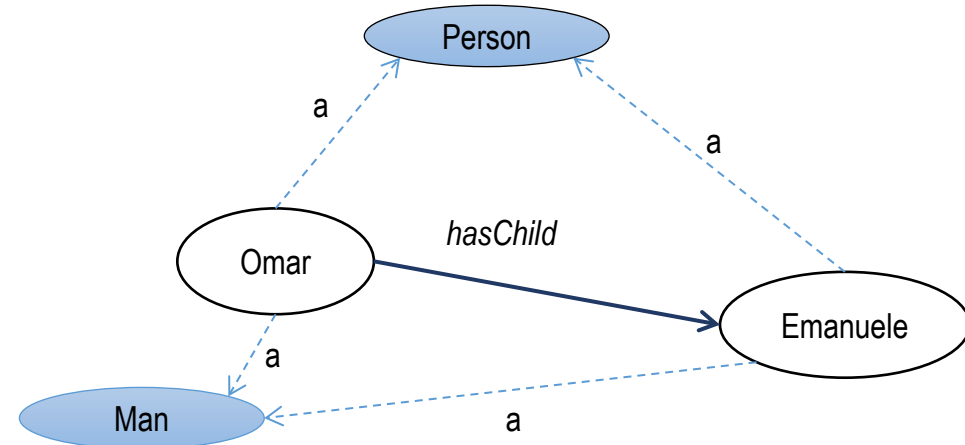
```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?s a :UnhappyMan }
WHERE {
    ?s a :Man .
    FILTER NOT EXISTS { ?s a :Father }
}
```



Negation

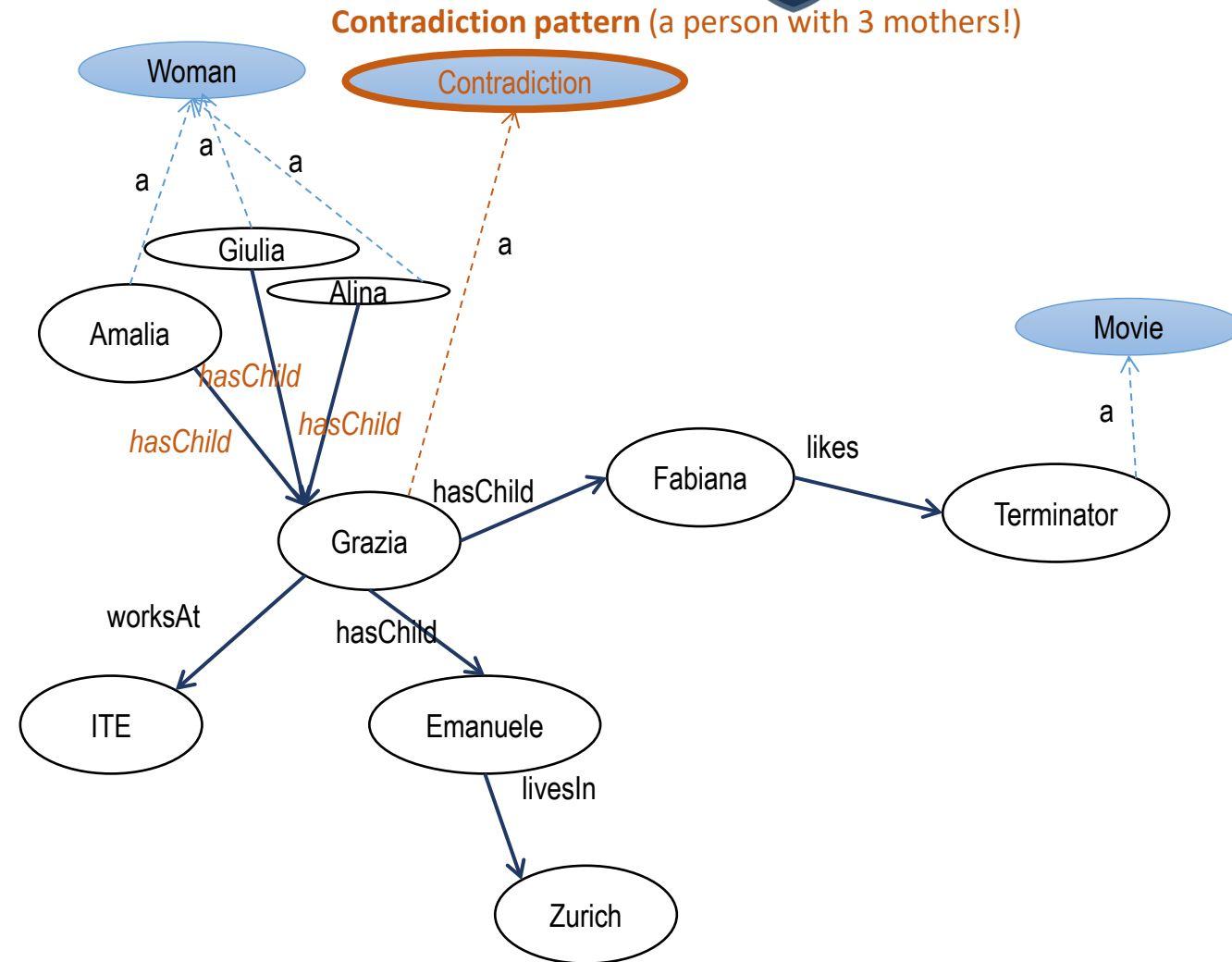
- Use SPARQL for
 - Finding out who is an unhappy man. An unhappy man is a man who is NOT a father
- Is Omar a Father?
- Is Omar an UnhappyMan?
- Is Emanuele a Father?
- Is Emanuele an UnhappyMan?

```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT { ?s a :UnhappyMan }
WHERE {
  ?s a :Man .
  FILTER NOT EXISTS { ?s :hasChild ?c }
}
```



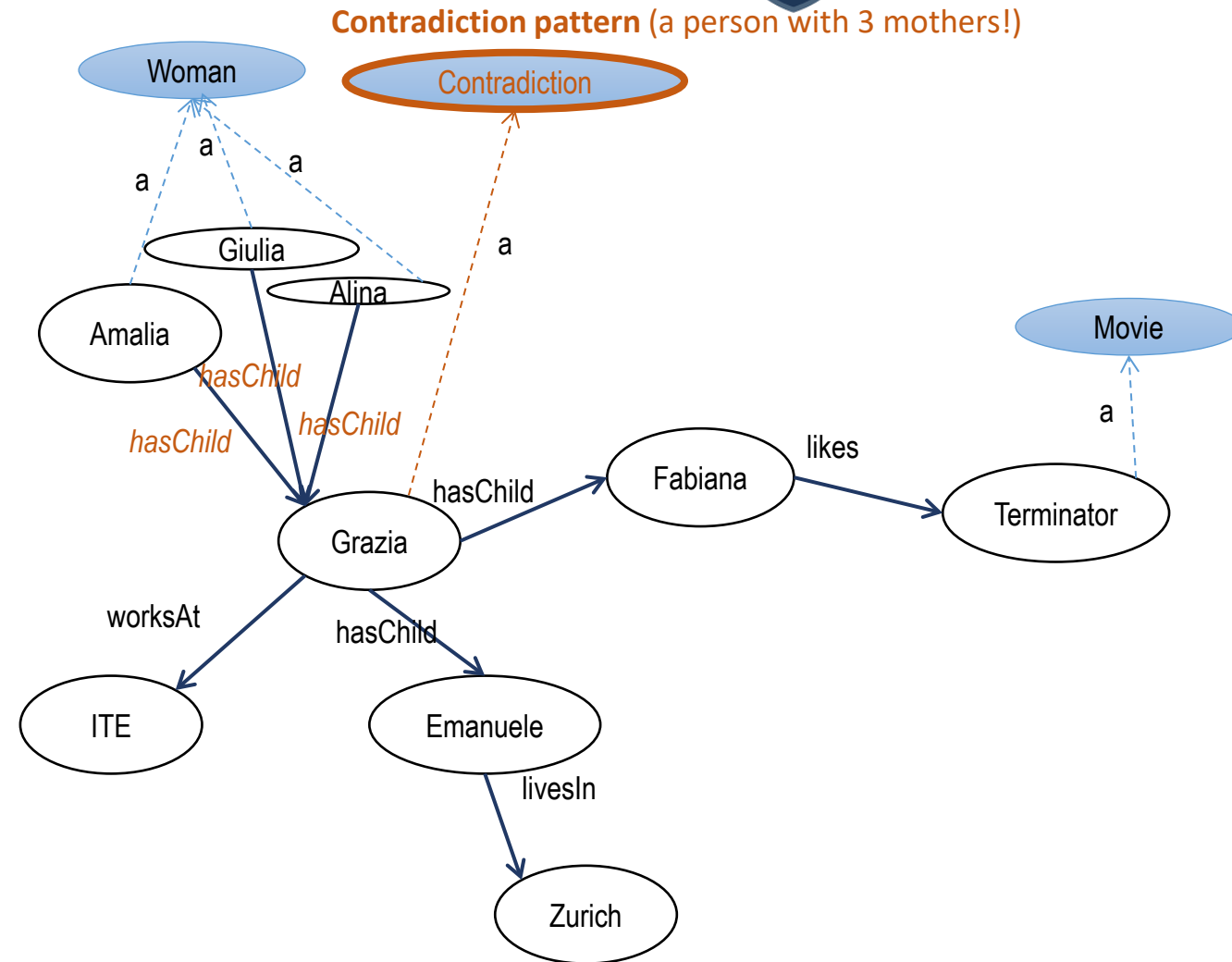
Integrity Constraint

- Use SPARQL for
 - Detecting **contradictions**



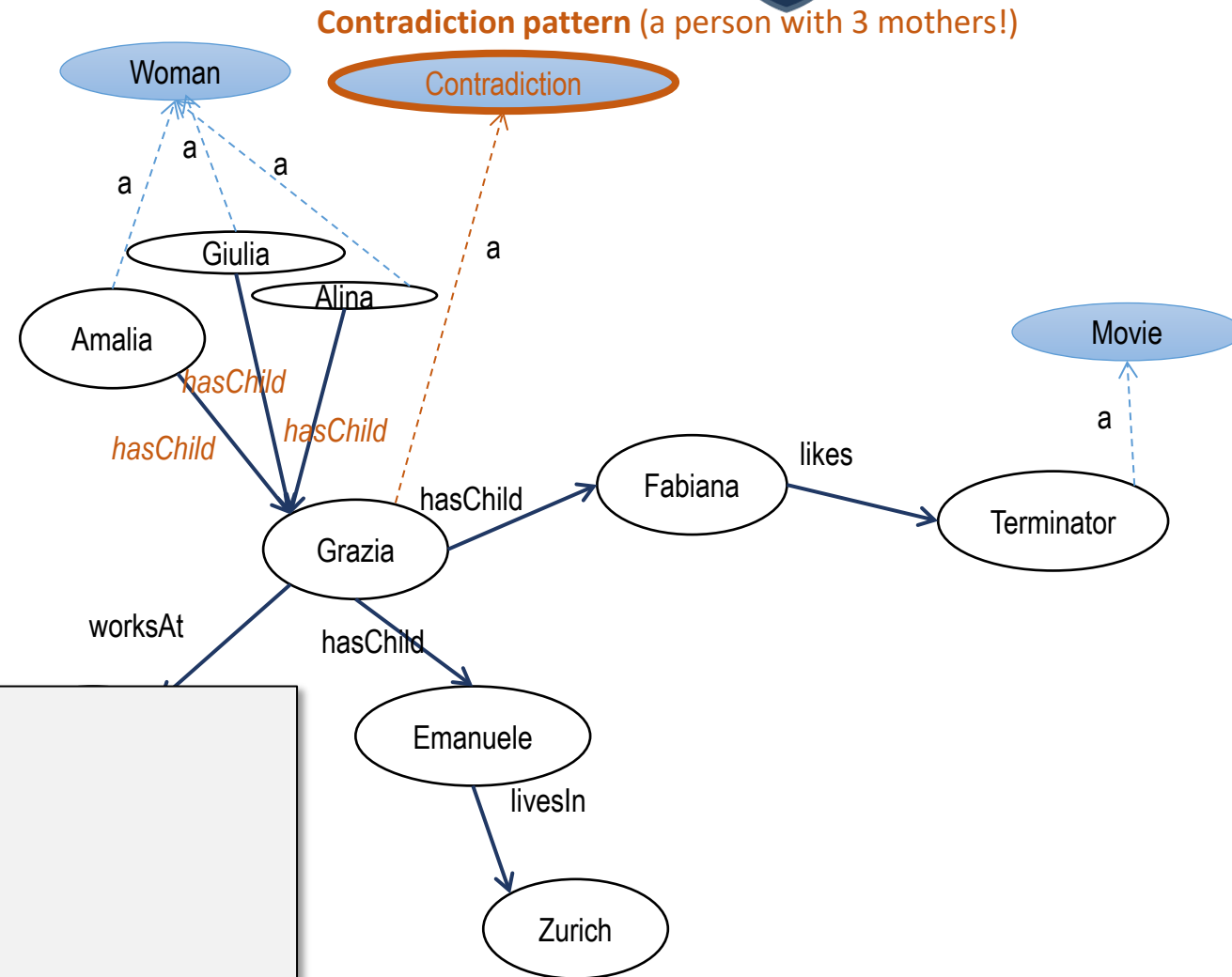
Class exercise

- Use SPARQL for
 - Detecting **contradictions**
- Find the Turtle file with contradictions on Wiki.
- Create and test the rule with Protégé or GraphBD
- Be ready to present.



Integrity Constraint

- Use SPARQL for
 - Detecting **contradictions**



```
PREFIX : <http://laurenzi.ch#>
CONSTRUCT {?a a :Contradiction }
WHERE {
    ?b :hasChild ?a .
    ?c :hasChild ?a .
    ?d :hasChild ?a .
    FILTER (?b != ?c && ?c != ?d && ?b != ?d)
}
```

SWRL

A semantic rule language for rule-based reasoning

SWRL

- SWRL = "Semantic Web Rule Language"
- Example

`hasParent(?C, ?P) ^ hasBrother(?P, ?U) -> hasUncle(?C, ?U)`

- SWRL-Rule are similar to PROLOG rules:
 - Several conditions (in predicate notation), separated by “^” (AND)
 - A consequence (also in predicate notation)
 - Variables starts with “?” (like in SPARQL)
- Conditions and consequence are divided by “->” (minus and greater sign)

Examples for Rules

– Classification

`Man (?m) -> Person (?m)`

– Inverse relationships

`hasChild (?p, ?c) -> hasParent (?c, ?p)`

Examples for Rules

- Assigning values to properties

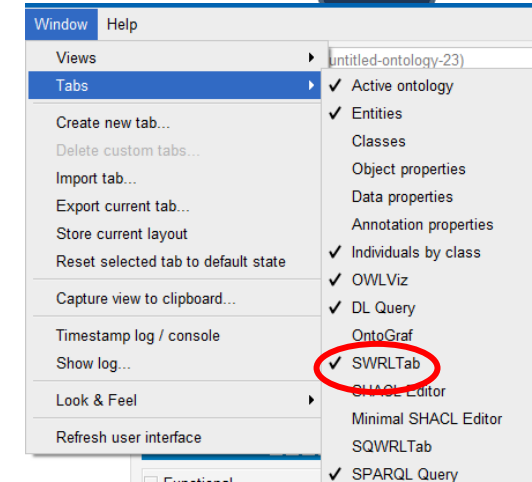
```
hasParent(?C, ?P) ∧ hasBrother(?P, ?U) -> hasUncle(?C, ?U)  
hasParent(?C, ?P) ∧ hasSister(?P, ?A) -> hasAunt(?C, ?A)
```

- Rules with Literals and operators

```
Person(?p) ^ hasAge(?p, ?age) ^ swrlb:greaterThan(?age, 17) ->  
  Adult(?p)  
Person(?p) ^ hasNumber(?p, ?n) ^ swrlb:startsWith(?n, "+") ->  
  hasInternationalNumber(?p, true)
```

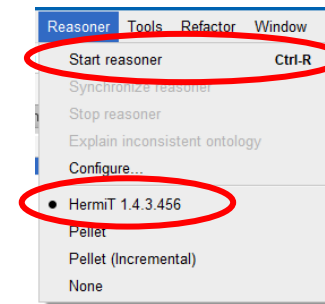
Rules in Protege

- In Protege there is the SWRLTab
- In this tab one can write rules



	Name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ParentRule	mft:hasChild(?p, ?c) -> mft:hasParent(?c, ?p)

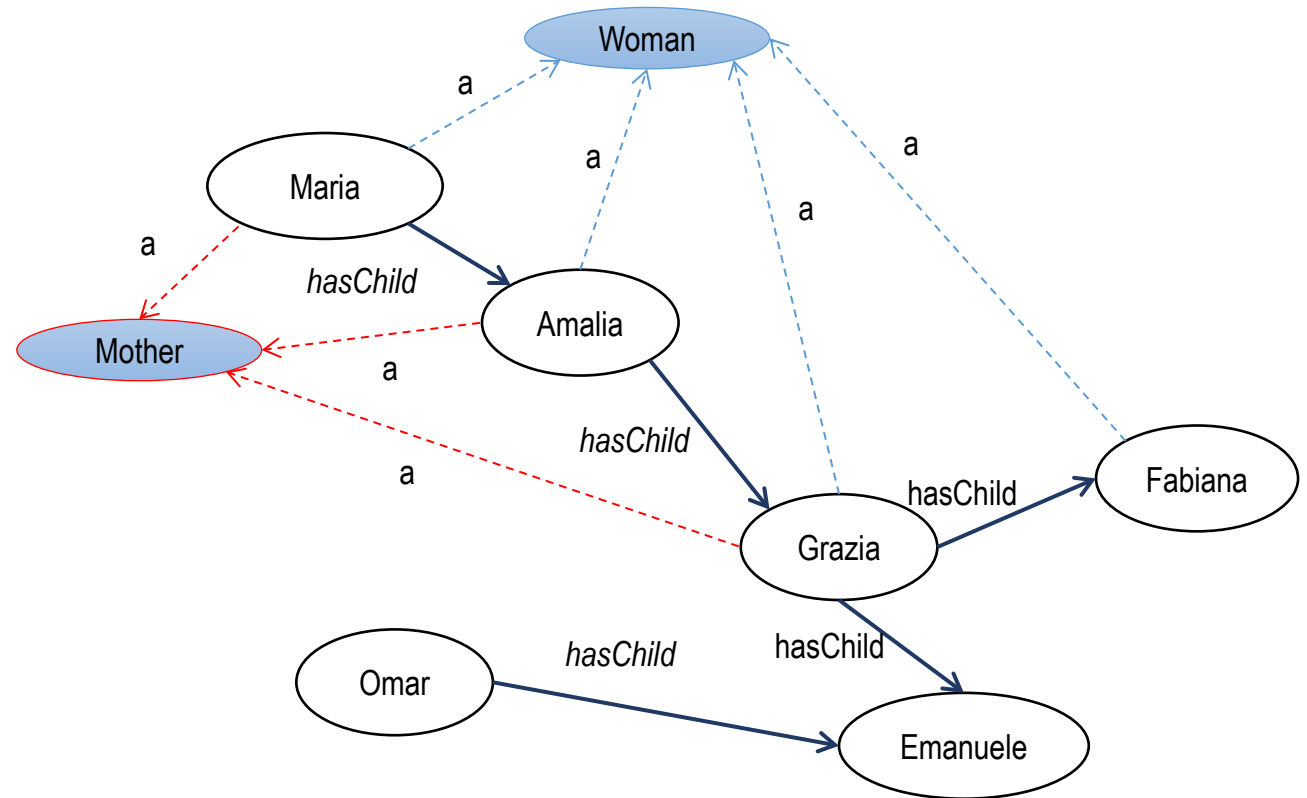
- to execute rules, one has to start a reasoner
 - select the reasoner (e.g. HermiT or Pellet) and
 - click on "Start reasoner"



Use of some operators of SWRL for machine reasoning

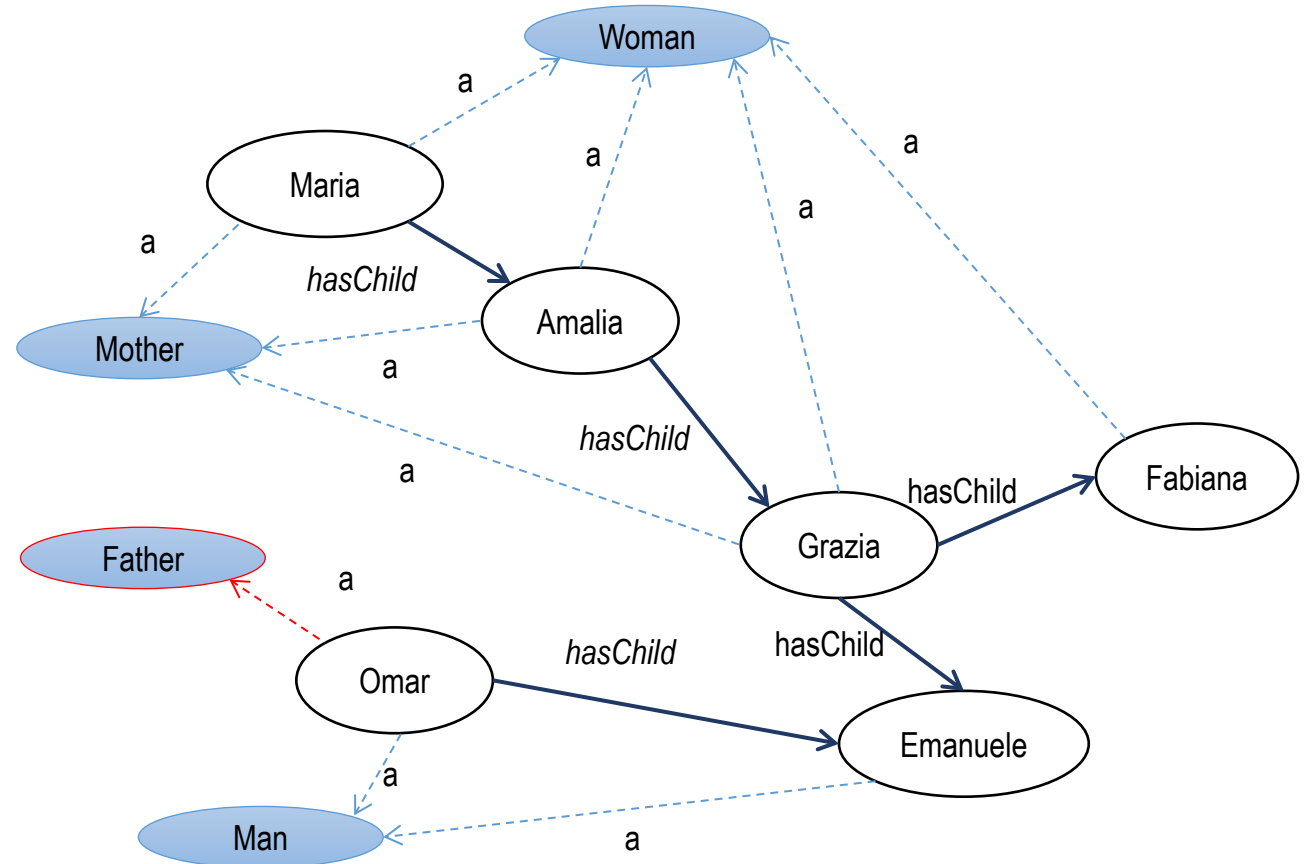
Conjunction (AND)

- Use SWRL for
 - Adding those Women to Mother which have a child



Conjunction (AND)

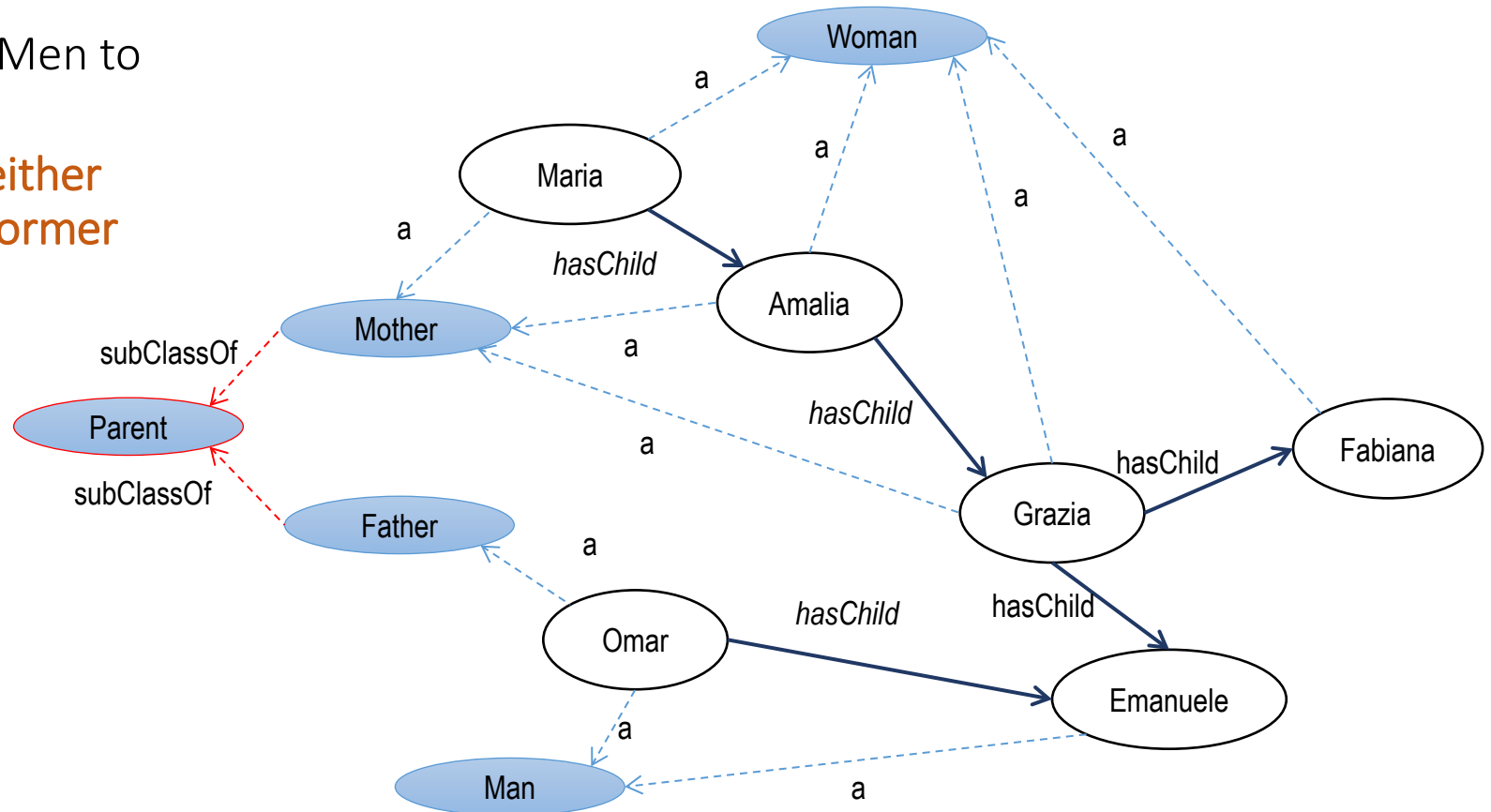
- Use SWRL for
 - Adding those Men to Father which have a child



Father (?F) -> Parent (?F)
Mother (?M) -> Parent (?M)

Disjunction (OR)

- Use SWRL for
 - Adding those Women and Men to Parent which have a child
 - **Warning: You don't have neither RDFS nor the results from former queries**

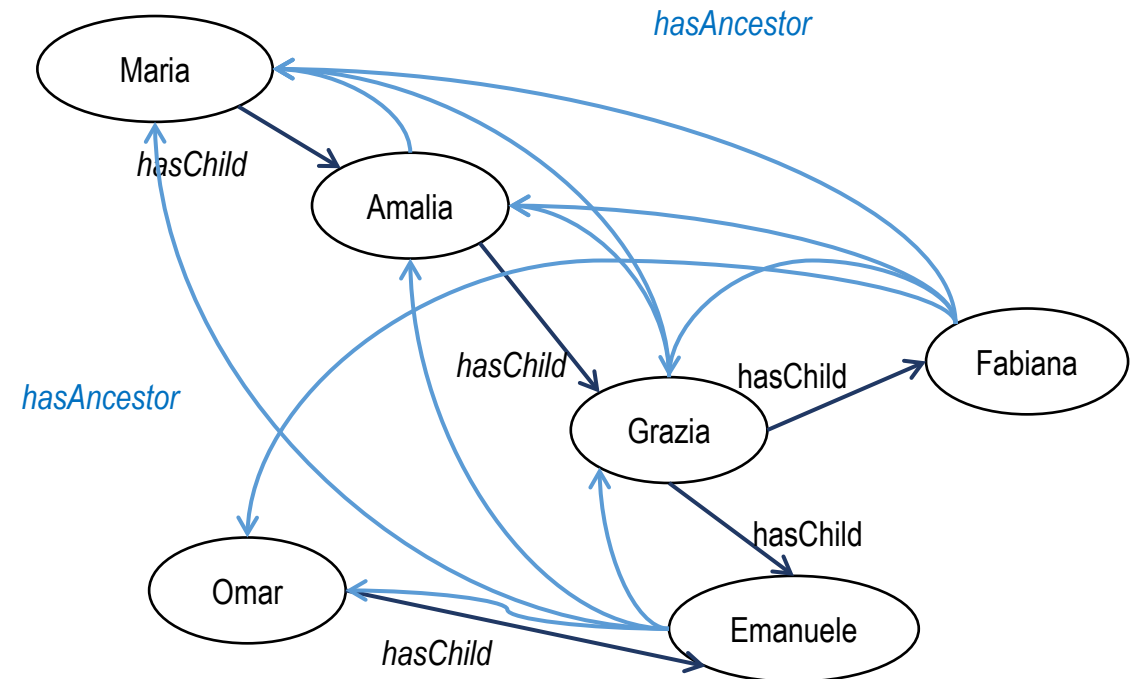


`hasChild(?P, ?C) -> hasAncestor(?C, ?P)`

`hasChild(?A, ?X) ^ hasAncestor(?D, ?X) -> hasAncestor(?D, ?A)`

Recursion

- Use SWRL for
 - Adding the relationships
`hasAncestor` which is either
someone which has a child or
someone which has a child whose
is already an ancestor



Negation in SWRL = Negation in OWL (extended Version of RDFS)

- SWRL does NOT support negation ...
- ... but OWL (underlying language under SWRL)
 - OWL is an extension of RDFS
 - OWL allows negation
- Two examples for OWL axioms

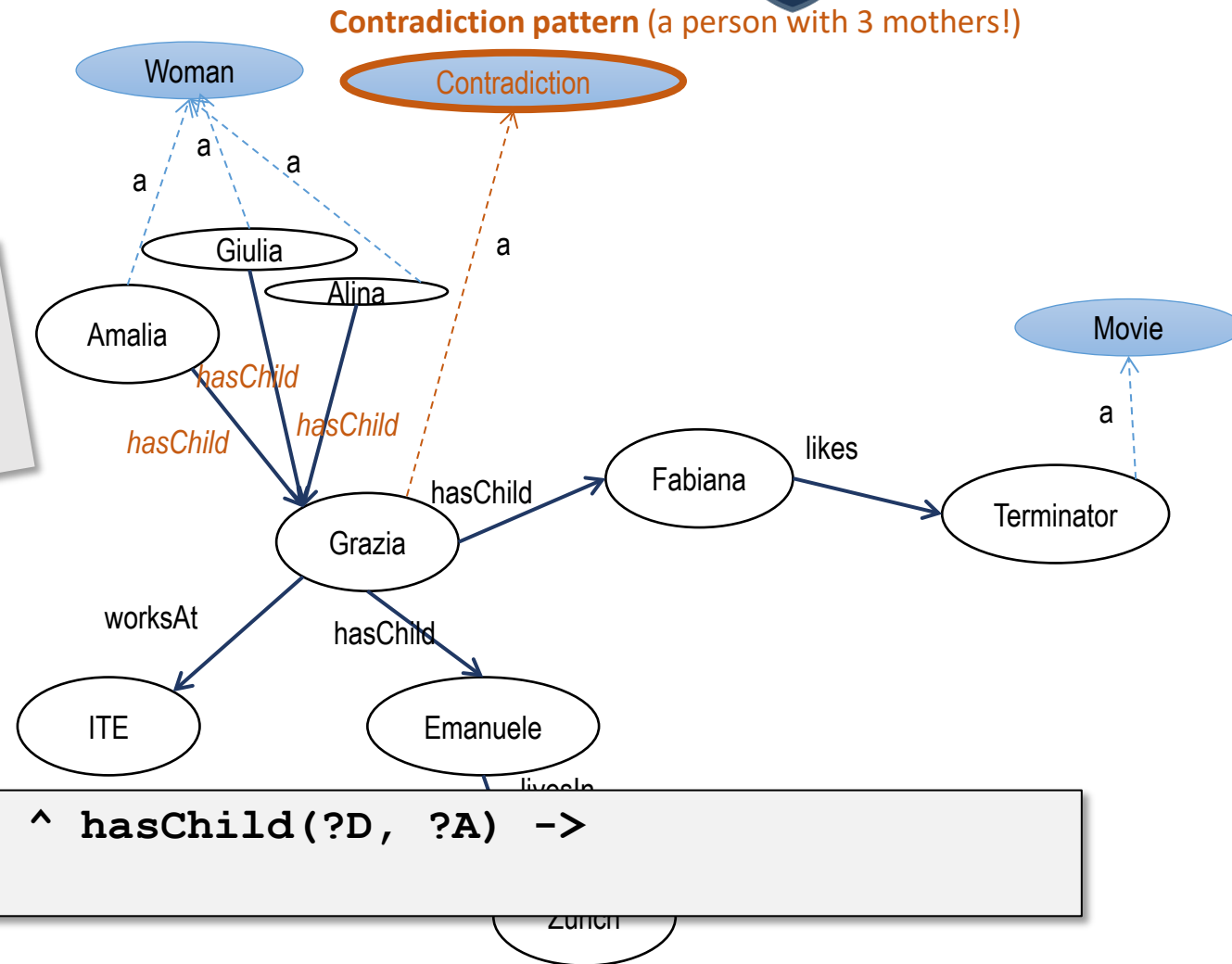
Father \equiv Man **and** (hasChild **some** Person)

UnhappyMan \equiv Man **and** (**not** Father)

Integrity Constraint

- Use SWRL for
 - Detecting **contradictions**

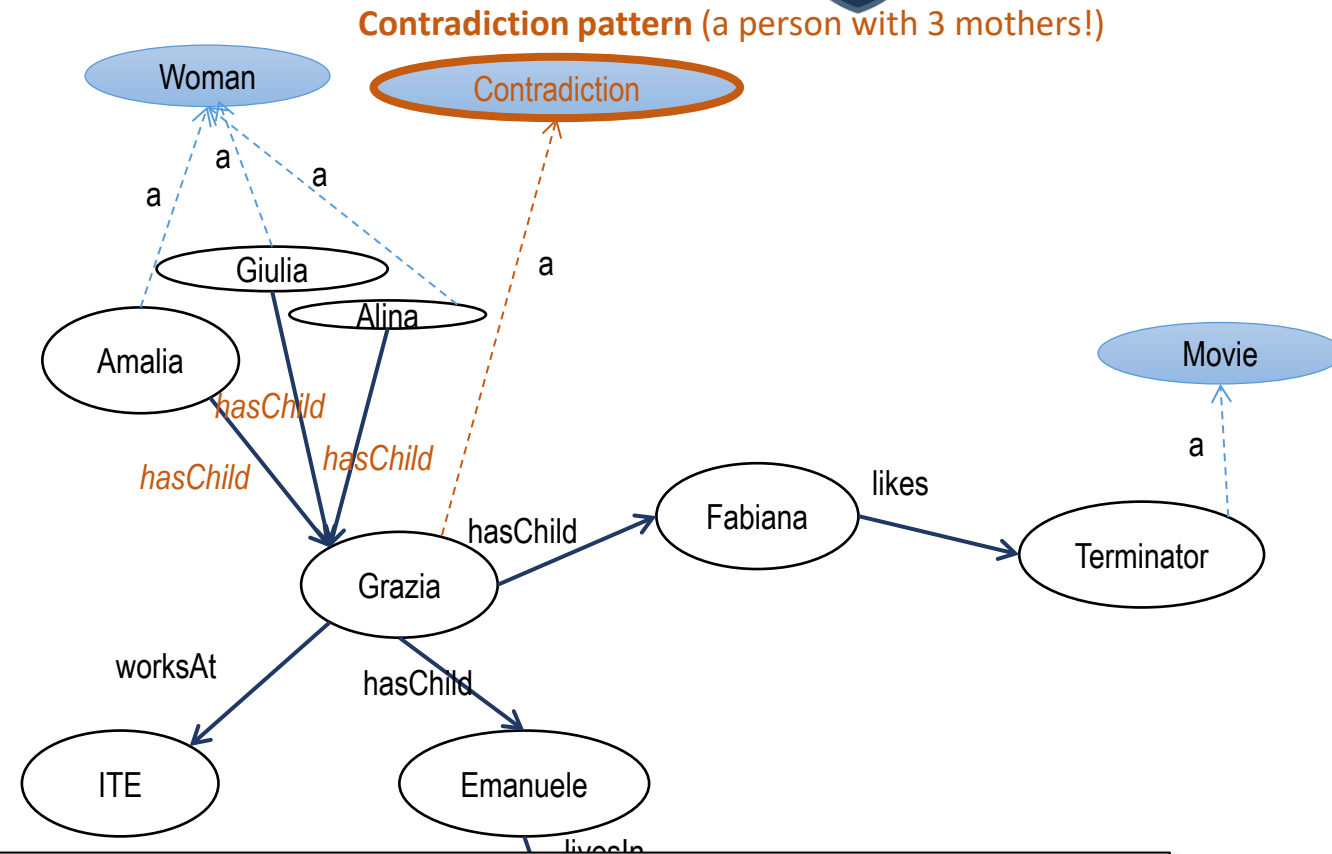
**However, is Amalia different from Giulia?
And Giulia different from Alina?
Amalia different from Alina?
Do you have the PROOF?**



**hasChild(?B, ?A) ^ hasChild(?C, ?A) ^ hasChild(?D, ?A) ->
Contradiction(?A)**

No Unique Name Assumption

- Usually a Open World Assumption excludes also a Unique Name Assumption
- Amalia and Alina might be the same "individual" represented by two different names
- You need to specify explicitly that they are different!



```
hasChild(?B, ?A) ^ hasChild(?C, ?A) ^ hasChild(?D, ?A) ^
differentFrom(?B, ?C) ^ differentFrom(?B, ?D) ^ differentFrom(?C, ?D) ->
Contradiction(?A)
```

DifferentIndividuals: Amalia, Giulia, Alina

SHACL

A W3C standard to validate RDF graphs

Shape Constraint Language - SHACL

- W3C recommendation since 20 July 2017 -
<https://www.w3.org/TR/shacl/>
- RDF language
- Created to allow validation of RDF
- A “schema” language for RDF
- SHACL defines a “Shapes Graph” that is used to validate the “Data Graph”.

Example

Shapes Graph

```
1 @prefix sh: <http://www.w3.org/ns/shacl#> .
2 @prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
3 @prefix schema: <http://schema.org/> .
4
5 schema:Person
6   a rdfs:Class, sh:NodeShape ;
7   sh:property
8     [
9       sh:path schema:name ;
10      sh:minCount 1 ;
11      sh:maxCount 1 ;
12    ],
13    [
14      sh:path schema:age ;
15      sh:minCount 1 ;
16      sh:minInclusive 18 ;
17    ] ;
18 .
19
```

Data Graph

```
1 {
2   "@context": {
3     "@base": "https://example.com/",
4     "@vocab": "http://schema.org/"
5   },
6   "@id": "John-Doe",
7   "@type": "Person",
8   "name": [
9     "John",
10    "Johnny"
11  ],
12   "age": 18
13 }
14
```

Validation Report

Success

No

Errors found

- https://example.com/John-Doe:
 - schema:name:
 - More than 1 values

<https://shacl-playground.zazuko.com/>

Example

Shapes Graph

```
1 @prefix sh: <http://www.w3.org/ns/shacl#> .
2 @prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
3 @prefix schema: <http://schema.org/> .
4
5 schema:Person
6   a rdfs:Class, sh:NodeShape ;
7   sh:property
8     [
9       sh:path schema:name ;
10      sh:minCount 1 ;
11      sh:maxCount 1 ;
12    ],
13    [
14      sh:path schema:age ;
15      sh:minCount 1 ;
16      sh:minInclusive 18 ;
17    ] ;
18 .
19
```

Data Graph

```
1 {
2   "@context": {
3     "@base": "https://example.com/",
4     "@vocab": "http://schema.org/"
5   },
6   "@id": "John-Doe",
7   "@type": "Person",
8   "name": [
9     "John",
10    "Johnny"
11  ],
12   "age": 18
13 }
14
```

Validation Report

Success

No

Errors found

- https://example.com/John-Doe:
 - schema:name:
 - More than 1 values

<https://shacl-playground.zazuko.com/>

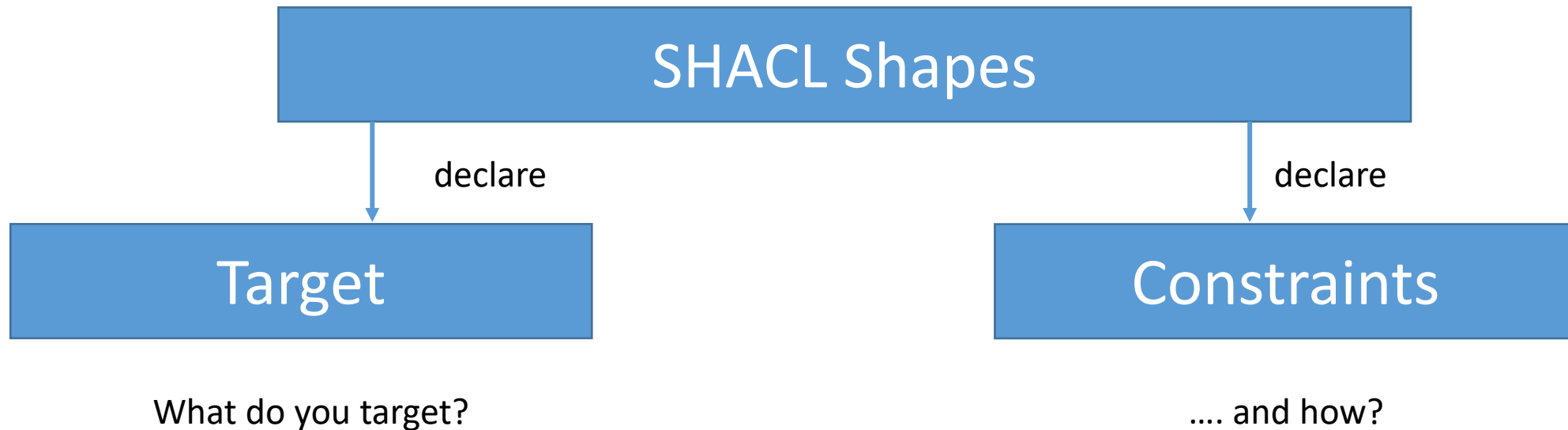
SHACL Processor

- SHACL processor is the engine that is responsible for **validating RDF data against a set of constraints defined in SHACL (Shapes Constraint Language) shapes.**
- Two inputs:
 - a **data graph** (validation target),
 - a **shapes graph** (how to validate);
- SHACL processors must not change the graphs, i.e., both data and shapes graphs at the end of the validation must be identical to the graph at the beginning of validation
- Generates a results graph
- We distinguish between SHACL **Core** processor and SHACL **SPARQL** processor.
 - SHACL Core processors support validation with the SHACL Core Language
 - SHACL-SPARQL processors support validation with the SHACL-SPARQL Language

Our focus

<https://www.w3.org/TR/shacl/>

SHACL Core Language – A Simplified View

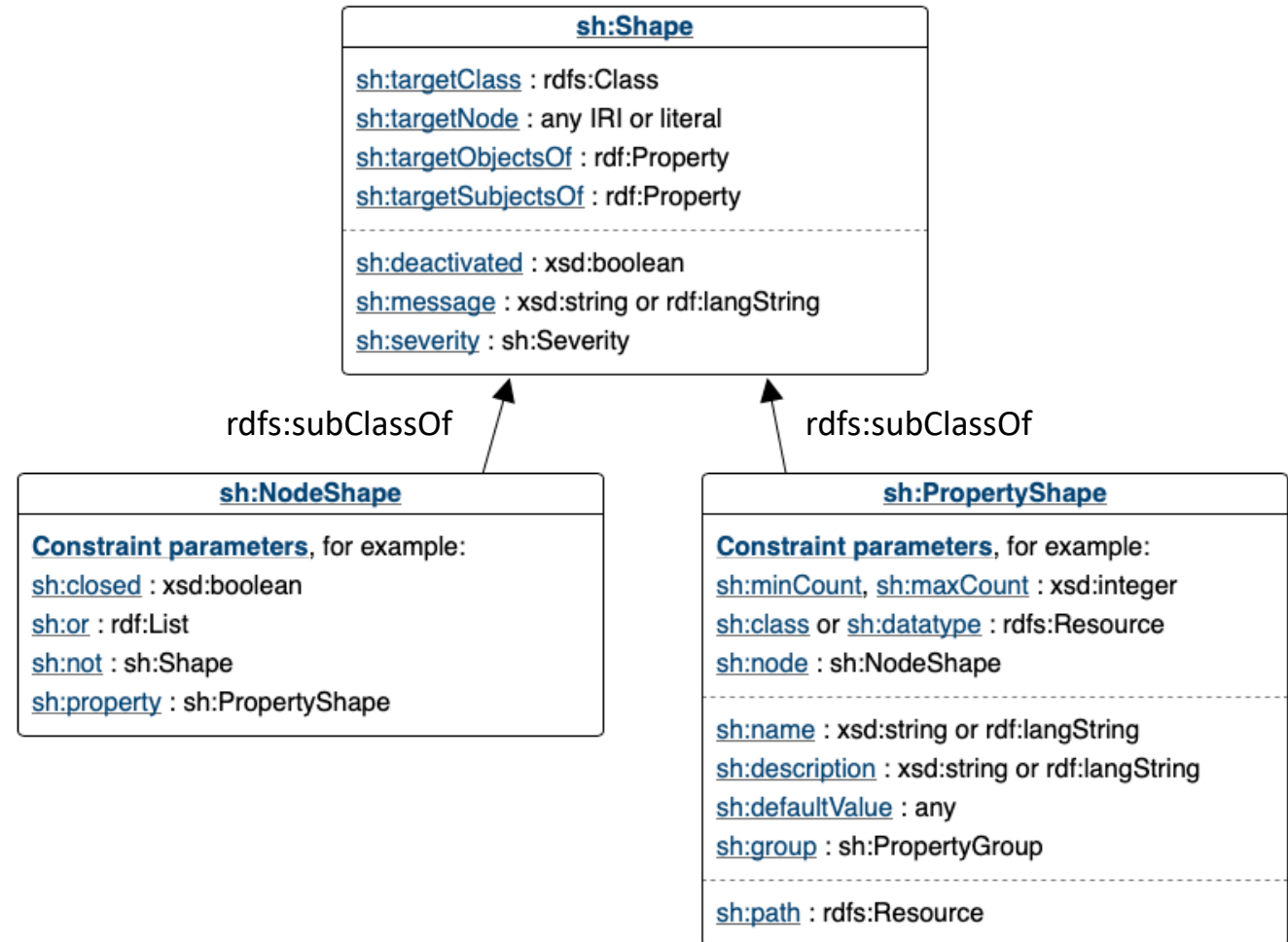


<https://www.w3.org/TR/shacl/>

An informal diagram

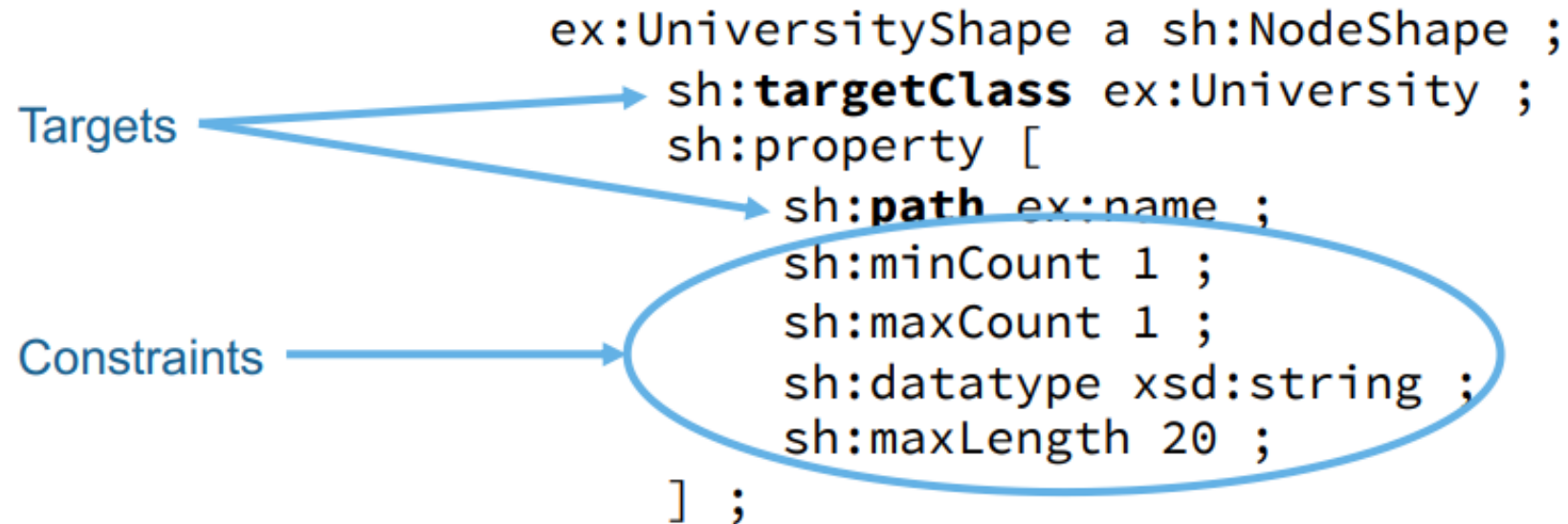
SHAPE

- A shape is a collection of target and constraints
 - **Targets:** define which nodes in the data graph must conform to the shape.
 - **Constraint:** define how to validate a node.
- Sh:Shape
 - Sh:NodeShape
 - Specify constraints on the target nodes (**classes**)
 - Sh:PropertyShape
 - Specify constraints on target **properties** and **their values**

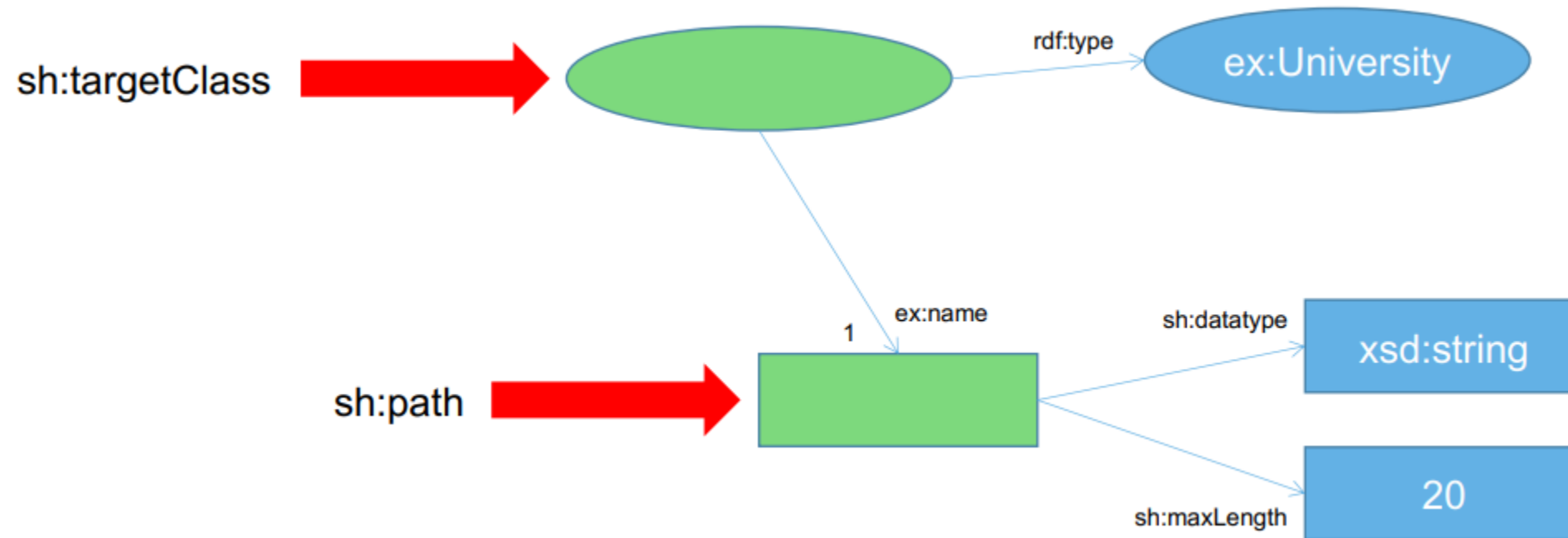


<https://www.w3.org/TR/shacl/>

Example



Example



Targets

– Target declarations:

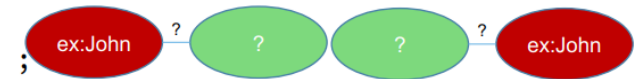
- sh:targetClass: targets all resources that are instances of a given class

```
:MyClassShape  a sh:NodeShape ;  
               sh:targetClass schema:Person;
```



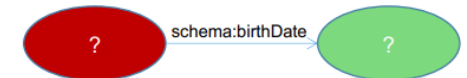
- sh:targetNode: targets a specific resource, e.g., a given instance

```
:MyNodeShape  a sh:NodeShape ;  
               sh:targetNode ex:John;
```



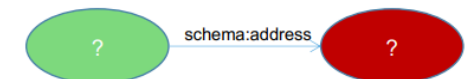
- sh:targetSubjectOf: targets all the subjects of a given predicate

```
:MySubjShape  a sh:NodeShape ;  
               sh:targetSubjectOf schema:birthDate;
```



- sh:targetObjectOf: targets all the objects of a given predicate

```
:MyObjShape  a sh:NodeShape ;  
              sh:targetObjectOf schema:address;
```



Core Constraints Components

Type	Constraints
Cardinality	minCount, maxCount
Types of values	class, datatype, nodeKind
Values	node, in, hasValue
Range of values	minInclusive, maxInclusive minExclusive, maxExclusive
String based	minLength, maxLength, pattern, languageIn, uniqueLang
Logical constraints	not, and, or, xone
Closed shapes	closed, ignoredProperties
Property pair constraints	equals, disjoint, lessThan, lessThanOrEquals
Non-validating constraints	name, description, group, order, defaultValue
Qualified shapes	qualifiedValueShape, qualifiedMinCount, qualifiedMaxCount

Cardinality Constraints

Constraint	Description
minCount	Restricts the minimum amount of occurrences of a given property. Default value: 0
maxCount	Restricts the maximum amount of occurrences of a given property. Default value: 0

```
:Person a sh:NodeShape, rdfs:Class ;  
  sh:property [  
    sh:path schema:knows ;  
    sh:minCount 1;  
    sh:maxCount 2;  
  ] .
```

```
:john a schema:Person ;  
      schema:knows :mary .  
  
:mary a schema:Person ;  
      schema:knows :peter ,  
                   :anna ,  
                   :fred .  
  
:peter a schema:Person ;  
       schema:givenName "Peter" .
```



Datatype of Values Constraints

Constraint	Description
datatype	Restricts the datatype of all value nodes to a given value

```
:Person a sh:NodeShape, rdfs:Class ;  
  sh:property [  
    sh:path schema:birthDate ;  
    sh:datatype xsd:date;  
  ] .
```

```
:john a schema:Person ;  
      schema:birthDate "1990-05-01"^^xsd:date .  
  
:mary a schema:Person ;  
      schema:birthDate "Unknown"^^xsd:date .  
  
:peter a schema:Person ;  
       schema:birthDate 1995 .
```



Other Applications for SHACL

- Interface building,
 - e.g., using with DASH, a [Python framework for interactive web applications](#);
- Data structure and semantics declaration (semantic data model specification)
- Code generation
- Data integration
- Rule-based inferencing

Useful resources for SHACL

– Online SHACL Validators

- <https://shacl.org/playground/>
- <https://www.ida.liu.se/~robke04/SHACLTutorial/>
- <https://archive.topquadrant.com/technology/shacl/>

SHACL Playground A constraint validator for the [Shapes Constraint Language](#), written in JavaScript. See also [Zazuko SHACL Playground](#) for a newer implementation

Shapes Graph

```
@prefix dash: <http://datashapes.org/dash#> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix schema: <http://schema.org/> .
@prefix sh: <http://www.w3.org/ns/shacl#> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .

schema:PersonShape
  a sh:NodeShape ;
  sh:targetClass schema:Person ;
  sh:property [
    sh:path schema:givenName ;
    sh:datatype xsd:string ;
    sh:name "given name" ;
  ] ;
  sh:property [
    sh:path schema:birthDate ;
    sh:lessThan schema:deathDate ;
    sh:maxCount 1 ;
  ] ;
  sh:property [
    sh:path schema:gender ;
    sh:in ( "female" "male" ) ;
  ] ;
  sh:property [
```

Data Graph

Example Data in Turtle Format

```
@prefix ex: <http://example.org/ns#> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix schema: <http://schema.org/> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .

ex:Bob
  a schema:Person ;
  schema:givenName "Robert" ;
  schema:familyName "Junior" ;
  schema:birthDate "1971-07-07"^^xsd:date ;
  schema:deathDate "1968-09-10"^^xsd:date ;
  schema:address ex:BobsAddress .

ex:BobsAddress
  schema:streetAddress "1600 Amphitheatre Pkway" ;
  schema:postalCode 9404 .
```

Update Format: Turtle Always included: shacl.ttl dash.ttl

Update Format: Turtle

Parsing took 0 ms. Validating the data took 2 ms.

Exercise

- Given the below shape, find a solution for the below Turtle file.
- Test it at <https://www.ida.liu.se/~robke04/SHACLTutorial/>

Data Graph Data 1 ▾

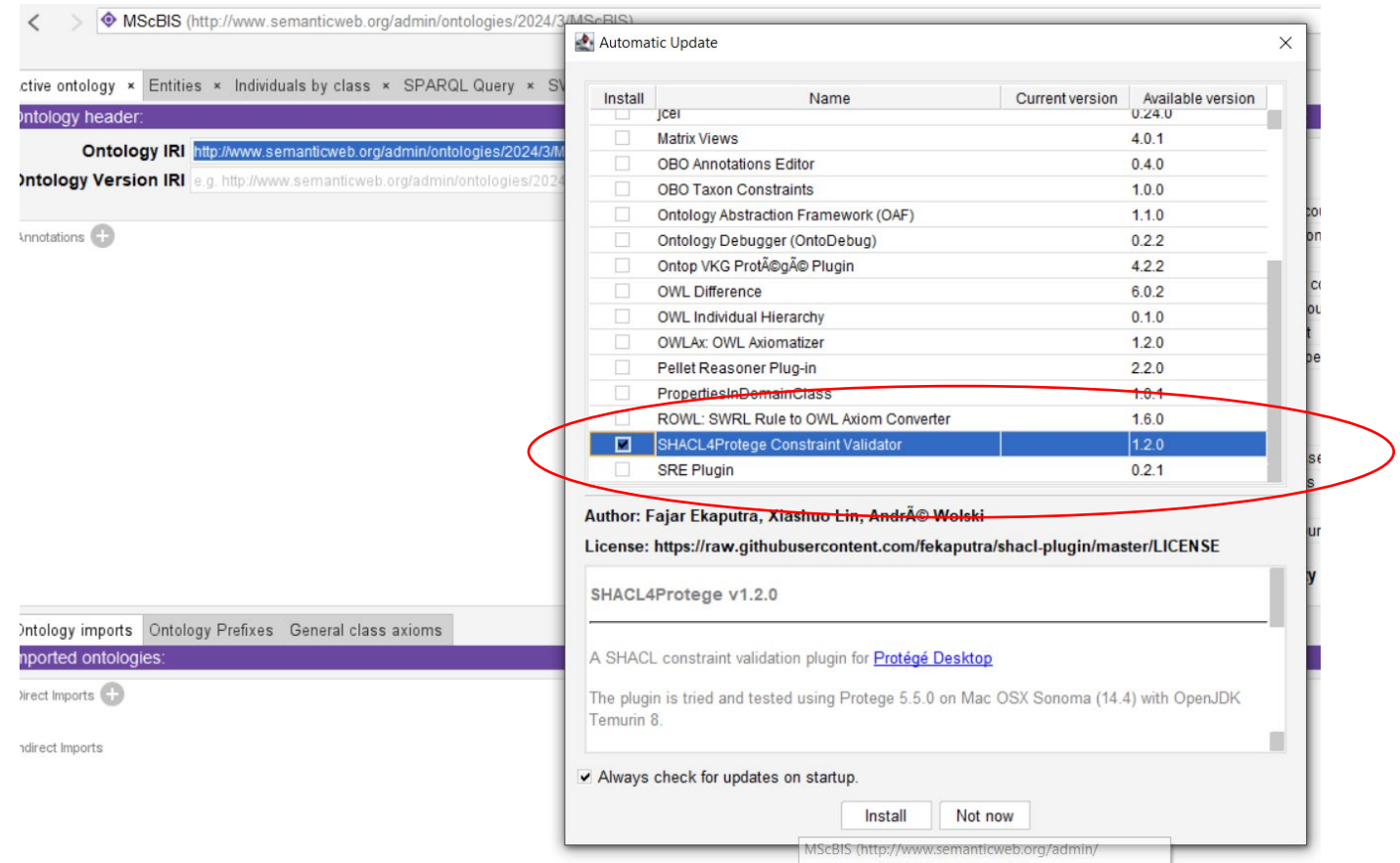
```
1 @prefix laureate: <http://data.nobelprize.org/resource/laureate/> .
2 @prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .
3 @prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
4
5 laureate:935
6     a                foaf:Person ;
7     foaf:birthday    "1948-10-09"^^xsd:date ;
8     foaf:familyName  "Hart" ;
9     foaf:givenName   "Oliver" ;
10    foaf:name         "Oliver Hart" ;
11    foaf:gender       "male" .
12
```

Shape Graph Shapes 1 ▾

```
1 @prefix ex: <http://example.org#> .
2 @prefix dash: <http://datashapes.org/dash#> .
3 @prefix sh: <http://www.w3.org/ns/shacl#> .
4 @prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .
5 @prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
6
7 ex:PersonShape a sh:NodeShape ;
8     sh:targetClass foaf:Person ;
9     sh:property [
10         sh:path foaf:birthday ;
11         sh:datatype xsd:string ;
12     ] .
```

SHACL in Protégé

- File>Check for plugins...
- Select and install SHACL4Protege Constraint Validator
- Window>Tabs>Minimal SHACL editor
- Now the new tab “Minimal SHACL editor” is visualized in Protégé



Homework

– Create a SHACL shape for your ontology and test it over Protégé.

Takeaways

- There exist languages maintained by the W3C that allow machine reasoning.
- Machine reasoning means applying reasoning services on knowledge graphs/ontologies that are expressed in some ontology language.
- The focus of this lecture:
 - SPARQL CONSTRUCT/INSERT
 - It enables deductive reasoning but does not allow for recursion. For this, an algorithm for the loop shall be implemented. Limitations with respect to a declarative rule-based approach.
 - SWRL
 - It enables deductive reasoning as a declarative knowledge base (rule-based system). Infinite loops are possible. Negation is not supported. Properties must be declared in advance for the respective values to be inferred, which is a behavior implemented in ontology editors like Protégé.
 - SHACL
 - It enables the validation of RDF graphs. It is coupled with RDF/RDF(S) and adds expressivity to lightweight ontology languages like RDF and RDF(S).