



RDF(S) needs annotations

RDF Next Steps W3C Workshop

Nuno Lopes Antoine Zimmermann Aidan Hogan Gergely
Lukácsy **Axel Polleres** Umberto Straccia
Stefan Decker

June 26, 2010



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



science foundation ireland
fondúireacht eolaíochta éireann

RDF is good...



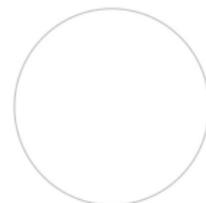
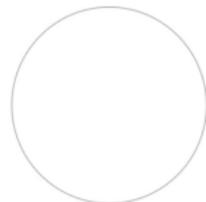
... but triples alone are often not enough:
RDF statements **s p o** are true with respect to a certain **context**:



... but triples alone are often not enough:
RDF statements `s p o` are true with respect to a certain **context**:

- Time

`:axel :worksfor :DERI true 'since 2007'`



... but triples alone are often not enough:

RDF statements `s p o` are true with respect to a certain **context**:

- Time

```
:axel :worksfor :DERI true "since 2007"
```

- Provenance

```
:axel f:knows :ivanherman true "in http://polleres.net/foaf.rdf"
```

```
f:knows rdfs:domain f:Person true "in http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1"
```

... but triples alone are often not enough:

RDF statements `s p o` are true with respect to a certain **context**:

- Time

```
:axel :worksfor :DERI true "since 2007"
```

- Provenance

```
:axel f:knows :ivanherman true "in http://polleres.net/foaf.rdf"
```

```
f:knows rdfs:domain f:Person true "in http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1"
```

- Trust/Certainty (fuzzy values):

```
:audiTT rdf:type :SportsCar true "to some extent, e.g. 0.8"
```

- etc.

This need comes from several sides:

- **Time**

... seems to be a practical need... Data is NOT static! some suggestions in academia [Gutierrez+ 2005] [Tappolet&Bernstein, 2009]

- **Provenance**

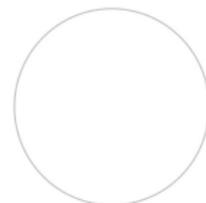
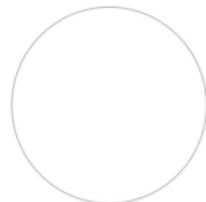
... seems to be a practical need... (Linked) Data is NOT universal! Named Graphs [Carroll+ 2005], Quads (Authoritative reasoning) [Hogan+ 2009]

- **Trust/Certainty (fuzzy values):**

... NOT all data is certain/trusted explored in the W3C Uncertainty Reasoning for the Web XG

- not so new. . . e.g. modules in TRIPLE

- **Issues:**
 - Representation of annotations
 - Semantics of annotations



- **Issues:**

- Representation of annotations
- Semantics of annotations

- **Our Claim:**

- RDF needs **agreement** on representation and semantics for the most important annotation domains.

- **Issues:**

- Representation of annotations
- Semantics of annotations

- **Our Claim:**

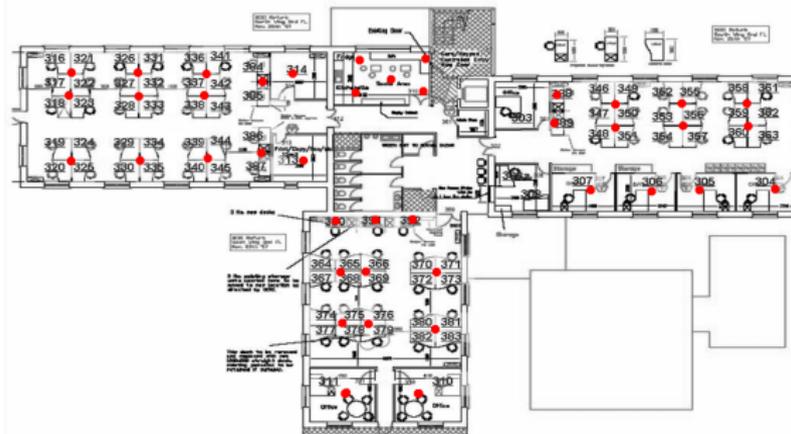
- RDF needs **agreement** on representation and semantics for the most important annotation domains.

- **One Proposal:**

- Annotated RDFS

Example: Sensor data

Even combinations of several domains may be necessary:



Example: Sensor data

Even combinations of several domains may be necessary:



sensors readings output:

2010-06-26	14:57:51	10.254.2.15	4302	83
2010-06-26	14:57:51	10.254.3.1	4302	83
2010-06-26	14:57:51	10.254.2.6	4302	83

Convert to



Example: Sensor data

Even combinations of several domains may be necessary:



```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01] [0.8]
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . [15:02, 16:10] [0.7]
```

Example: Sensor data

Even combinations of several domains may be necessary:



```

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01] [0.8]
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . [15:02, 16:10] [0.7]
    
```

This is not RDF

How to represent annotations?

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01]
```

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01]
```

Reification?

```
:record1 rdf:type rdf:Statement  
rdf:subject :tag4302;  
rdf:predicate :locatedIn ;  
rdf:object :room311 ;  
time:start "2010-06-26 14:57"^^xs:timeStamp;  
time:end "2010-06-26 15:01"^^xs:timeStamp .
```

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01]
```

Reification?

```
:record1 rdf:type rdf:Statement  
         rdf:subject :tag4302;  
         rdf:predicate :locatedIn ;  
         rdf:object :room311 ;  
         time:start "2010-06-26 14:57"^^xs:timeStamp;  
         time:end "2010-06-26 15:01"^^xs:timeStamp .
```

- no semantics

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01]
```

Reification?

```
:record1 rdf:type rdf:Statement  
         rdf:subject :tag4302;  
         rdf:predicate :locatedIn ;  
         rdf:object :room311 ;  
         time:start "2010-06-26 14:57"^^xs:timeStamp;  
         time:end "2010-06-26 15:01"^^xs:timeStamp .
```

- no semantics
- not really “popular” some people prior to this WS even claimed to drop reification altogether

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:57, 15:01]
```

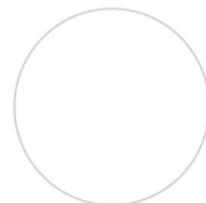
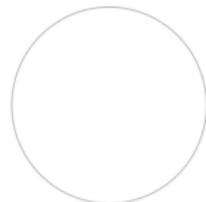
Other formats?

- N-Quads

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 _:c.  
_:c time:start "2010-06-26 14:57"^^xs:timeStamp ;  
    time:end "2010-06-26 15:01"^^xs:timeStamp .
```

- alternatively TriG, TriX
- non-standard (yet)
- semantics of annotations still not clear

- What do annotations mean for RDF(S) semantics?
- How to combine non-annotated and annotated RDF semantically?



- What do annotations mean for RDF(S) semantics?
- How to combine non-annotated and annotated RDF semantically?

```
:axel f:knows :ivanherman .      [http://polleres.net/foaf.rdf]  
f:knows rdfs:domain f:Person .  [http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1]
```

- What do annotations mean for RDF(S) semantics?
- How to combine non-annotated and annotated RDF semantically?

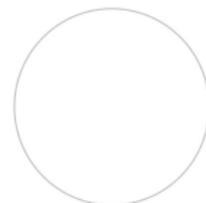
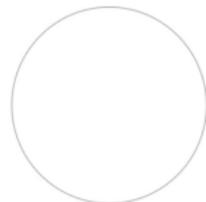
```
:axel f:knows :ivanherman .           [http://polleres.net/foaf.rdf]  
f:knows rdfs:domain f:Person .       [http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1]  
-----  
:axel rdf:type f:Person .             [???
```

- What do annotations mean for RDF(S) semantics?
- How to combine non-annotated and annotated RDF semantically?

```
:axel :worksfor :DERI . [2007,2010]  
:worksfor rdfs:domain :Employee .  
-----  
:axel rdf:domain :Employee [???
```

[Straccia+, AAAI2010] Generic Framework to

- 1 describe annotation domains
- 2 give them a semantics
- 3 live side-by-side with non-annotated RDF



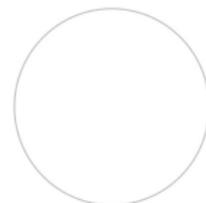
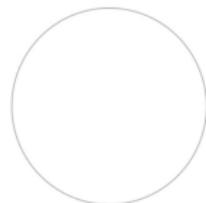
Temporal domain example:

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]
```

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]
```

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations



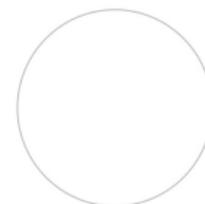
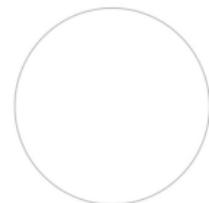
Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]



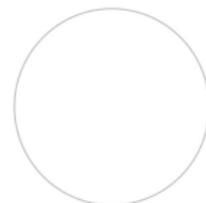
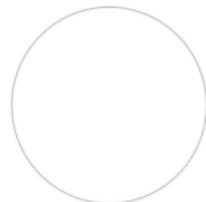
Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements



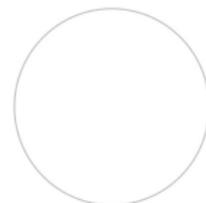
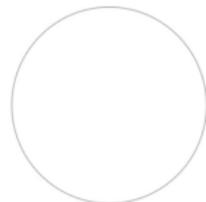
Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq



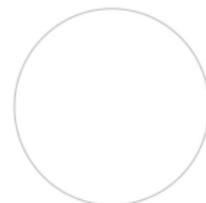
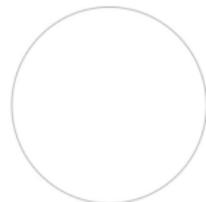
Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq
universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations



Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
 operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap



$$[09:25, 11:49] \otimes [10:35, 12:57] = [10:35, 11:49]$$

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap
operator (\vee) for *combining* annotations

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap
operator (\vee) for *combining* annotations: \cup

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$

operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap

operator (\vee) for **combining** annotations: \cup



$$[09:25, 11:49] \vee [10:35, 12:57] = [09:25, 12:57]$$

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [09:25, 11:49]

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [10:35, 12:57]

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: [14:35, 14:57]
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$ $\perp = []$
operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap
operator (\vee) for *combining* annotations: \cup



$$[09:25, 11:49] \vee [14:35, 15:57] = [09:25, 11:49], [14:35, 15:57]$$

Temporal domain example:

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . {[09:25, 11:49]}

:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . {[10:35, 12:57]}

Any **annotation domain** consists of a lattice:

- the *representation* of the annotations: {[14:35, 14:57]}
- an *order* between the elements: \subseteq

universal (\top) and *empty* (\perp) annotations: $\top = \{[-\infty, +\infty]\}$ $\perp = \{\emptyset\}$
 operator (\otimes) is a so-called t-norm : \cap
 operator (\vee) for *combining* annotations: \cup



$$[09:25, 11:49] \vee [14:35, 15:57] = \{[09:25, 11:49], [14:35, 15:57]\}$$

Trust/Fuzzy

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . 0.9  
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . 0.2
```

annotations: [0,1]

order: \leq

\otimes : *min* \vee : *max*

$\top = 1, \quad \perp = 0$

Other domains: Examples

Trust/Fuzzy

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . 0.9
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . 0.2
```

annotations: [0,1]

order: \leq

\otimes : *min* \vee : *max*

$\top = 1, \quad \perp = 0$

Provenance

```
:axel rdf:type Person .
[xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/  $\wedge$  polleres.net/foaf.rdf]
```

annotations: *prop.*

formulae in DNF over URIs

order: \models

\otimes : \wedge \vee : \vee

$\top = \text{disj. of all URIs,}$

$\perp = \text{conj. of all URIs}$

Other domains: Examples

Trust/Fuzzy

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . 0.9
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . 0.2
```

annotations: [0,1]

order: \leq

\otimes : *min* \vee : *max*

$\top = 1, \quad \perp = 0$

Provenance

```
:axel rdf:type Person .
[xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/  $\wedge$  polleres.net/foaf.rdf]
```

annotations: *prop.*

formulae in DNF over URIs

order: \models

\otimes : \wedge \vee : \vee

$\top = \text{disj. of all URIs,}$

$\perp = \text{conj. of all URIs}$

Other domains: Examples

Trust/Fuzzy

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . 0.9
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room310 . 0.2
```

annotations: [0,1]

order: \leq

\otimes : *min* \vee : *max*

$\top = 1, \quad \perp = 0$

Provenance

```
:axel rdf:type Person .
[xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/ ^ polleres.net/foaf.rdf]
```

annotations: *prop.*

formulae in DNF over URIs

order: \models

\otimes : \wedge \vee : \vee

$\top = \text{disj. of all URIs,}$

$\perp = \text{conj. of all URIs}$

Our generic semantics allows to combine domains:

```
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . ([14:25, 14:57], 0.8)
```

Transparent integration of annotated and classical RDF

```
:stefan foaf:name "Stefan Decker" .  
:tag4302 :assignedTo :stefan .  
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 .      [14:25, 14:57]
```

Transparent integration of annotated and classical RDF

```
:stefan foaf:name "Stefan Decker" . [-∞, +∞]  
:tag4302 :assignedTo :stefan . [-∞, +∞]  
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:25, 14:57]
```

Possible approaches:

- use \top as annotation

Transparent integration of annotated and classical RDF

```
:stefan foaf:name "Stefan Decker" . [_:a, _:b]  
:tag4302 :assignedTo :stefan . [_:a, _:b]  
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:25, 14:57]
```

Possible approaches:

- use \top as annotation
- triple is valid at a time interval common throughout the graph
requires **blank nodes** in annotations

Transparent integration of annotated and classical RDF

```
:stefan foaf:name "Stefan Decker" . [-∞, now]
:tag4302 :assignedTo :stefan . [-∞, now]
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:25, 14:57]
```

Possible approaches:

- use \top as annotation
- triple is valid at a time interval common throughout the graph
requires blank nodes in annotations
- triple is valid until “now” ([Temporal RDF, Gutierrez et al, 2005])
represents **current time**

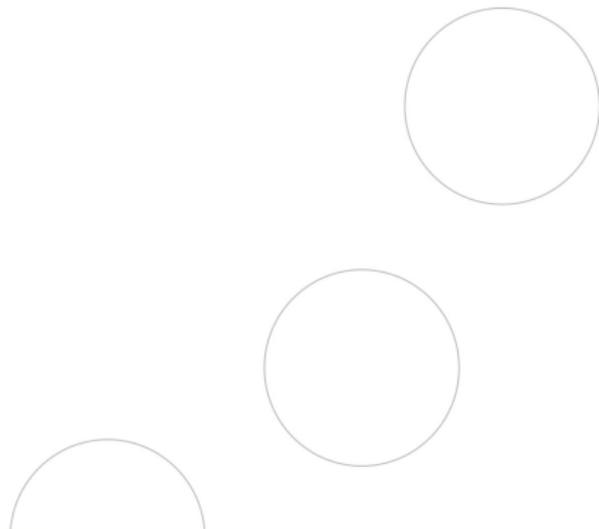
Transparent integration of annotated and classical RDF

```
:stefan foaf:name "Stefan Decker" . [-∞, +∞]  
:tag4302 :assignedTo :stefan . [-∞, +∞]  
:tag4302 :locatedIn :room311 . [14:25, 14:57]
```

Possible approaches:

- use \top as annotation “upwards compatible”
- triple is valid at a time interval common throughout the graph
requires blank nodes in annotations
- triple is valid until “now” ([Temporal RDF, Gutierrez et al, 2005])
represents current time

Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain



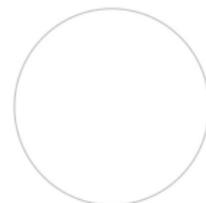
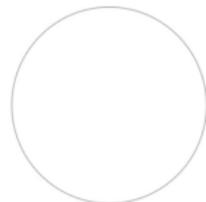
Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

?p rdfs:domain ?c

?s ?p ?o

⇒ ?s rdf:type ?c



Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

```
?p rdfs:domain ?c  
?s ?p ?o  
⇒ ?s rdf:type ?c
```

Example:

```
:worksFor rdfs:domain :Employee  
:nuno :worksFor :DERI  
⇒ :nuno rdf:type :Employee
```

Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- **Annotated** RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

```
?p rdfs:domain ?c    ?v1
?s ?p ?o             ?v2
⇒ ?s rdf:type ?c    ?v1 ⊗ ?v2
```

Example:

```
:worksFor rdfs:domain :Employee
:nuno :worksFor :DERI
⇒ :nuno rdf:type :Employee
```

Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- Annotated RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

```
?p rdfs:domain ?c    ?v1
?s ?p ?o             ?v2
⇒ ?s rdf:type ?c    ?v1 ⊗ ?v2
```

Example:

```
:worksFor rdfs:domain :Employee    [-∞, +∞]
:nuno :worksFor :DERI              ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"]
⇒ :nuno rdf:type :Employee          ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"]
```

Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- Annotated RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

$$\begin{array}{ll} ?p \text{ rdfs:domain } ?c & ?v1 \\ ?s \text{ ?p } ?o & ?v2 \\ \Rightarrow ?s \text{ rdf:type } ?c & ?v1 \otimes ?v2 \end{array}$$

Example:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{:worksFor rdfs:domain :Employee} & [-\infty, +\infty] \\ \text{:nuno :worksFor :DERI} & ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"] \\ \Rightarrow \text{:nuno rdf:type :Employee} & ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"] \end{array}$$

- Extra rule to group annotations triples (\vee):

$$\begin{array}{ll} ?s \text{ ?p } ?o & \lambda_1 \\ ?s \text{ ?p } ?o & \lambda_2 \\ \Rightarrow ?s \text{ ?p } ?o & \lambda_1 \vee \lambda_2 \end{array}$$

Inference rules are **independent** of the annotation domain

- Annotated RDFS “rdfs:domain” rule:

```
?p rdfs:domain ?c    ?v1
?s ?p ?o             ?v2
⇒ ?s rdf:type ?c     ?v1 ⊗ ?v2
```

Example:

```
:worksFor rdfs:domain :Employee    [−∞, +∞]
:nuno :worksFor :DERI              ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"]
⇒ :nuno rdf:type :Employee         ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"]
```

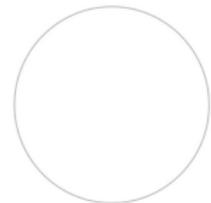
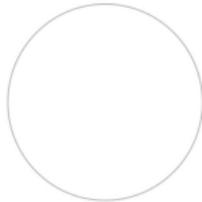
- Extra rule to group annotations triples (∨):

```
:nuno :worksFor :DERI    ["2008-05-01", "2010-01-01"]
:nuno :worksFor :DERI    ["2009-01-01", "2010-06-26"]
⇒ :nuno :worksFor :DERI  ["2008-05-01", "2010-06-26"]
```

- **Our Claim:**
 - RDF needs **agreement** on representation and semantics for important annotation domains e.g. time, provenance, trust
- **Representational Issues:**
 - several options (reification, N-quads, TriG/X)
 - reification the only standards compliant thus far, sub-optimal
- **Semantics of annotations:**
 - Our proposal: Annotated RDFS
 - allows arbitrary ordered annotation domains
 - give them a semantics on top of RDFS
 - live side-by-side with non-annotated RDF
 - SPARQL(1.1) compatibe...
- **TODO for us here?**
 - At the least: Representation to add context to triples
 - Needs to be “upwards-compatible”
 - wish-list: tackle semantic vacuum on context for important domains (e.g., time, provenance, trust/fuzzy)

Extend SPARQL to allow querying annotated RDF

- “Annotation aware” SPARQL



Extend SPARQL to allow querying annotated RDF

- “Annotation aware” SPARQL

“Where was Stefan between 14:30 and 15:00?”

```
SELECT ?Room WHERE {  
  ?Tag      :assignedTo  :stefan ;  
            :locatedIn   ?Room . ["14:30", "15:00"]  
}
```

Extend SPARQL to allow querying annotated RDF

- “Annotation aware” SPARQL

“Where was Stefan between 14:30 and 15:00?”

```
SELECT ?Room WHERE {  
    ?Tag      :assignedTo  :stefan ;  
              :locatedIn  ?Room . ["14:30", "15:00"]  
}
```

- Evaluation based on an extension of the SPARQL relational algebra to support annotations

“When were Stefan and Axel in the same room?”

```
SELECT ?Room ?TimeInterval WHERE {  
  ?Tag1      :assignedTo  :stefan ;  
             :locatedIn   ?Room . ?TimeInterval  
  ?Tag2      :assignedTo  :axel ;  
             :locatedIn   ?Room . ?TimeInterval  
}
```

“When were Stefan and Axel in the same room?”

```
SELECT ?Room ?TimeInterval WHERE {  
  ?Tag1      :assignedTo  :stefan ;  
             :locatedIn   ?Room . ?TimeInterval  
  ?Tag2      :assignedTo  :axel ;  
             :locatedIn   ?Room . ?TimeInterval  
}
```

Answers:

```
(?Room, ?TimeInterval) = (:room311, {["09:13", "10:35"],  
                                       ["11:23", "12:47"]})  
  
(?Room, ?TimeInterval) = (:conferenceRoom, {["14:25", "14:57"]})
```