

# Knowledge Engineering with Semantic Web Technologies

## Lecture 3: Ontologies and Logic 3.9 DLs and the Open World Assumption



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# No Unique Name Assumption (UNA)

- In **Databases**, each individual has a single, unique name
- In **DLs**, individuals may have more than one name
  - Thus, in DLs it is not necessarily true that **two individuals with different names** are really two different individuals
  - Example:

`Wizard(HarryPotter)`

`Wizard(RonWeasley)`

`Wizard(HermioneGranger)`

`hasFriend(HarryPotter, RonWeasley)`

`hasFriend(HarryPotter, HermioneGranger)`

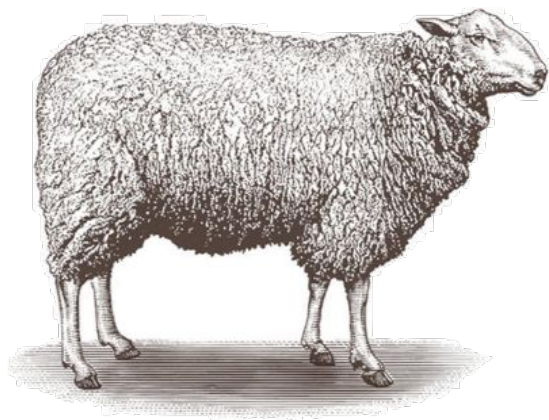
How many friends does Harry Potter have?

- DBs, with UNA: 2
- DLs, no UNA: at least 1

(since we did not explicitly say that RonWeasley and HermioneGranger are different individuals)

# The Open World Assumption - OWA

- If we have an **empty** DL ontology, **everything is possible**
- We then **constrain an ontology iteratively**, making it more restrictive as we go
- We state what is **not possible**, what is **forbidden** or **excluded**



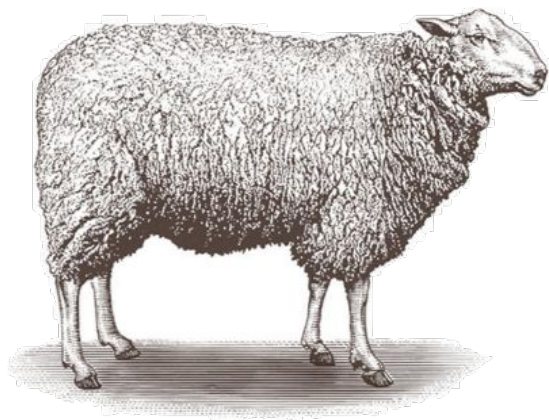
Sheep  $\sqsubseteq$  Animal  $\sqcap$   $\nabla$ hasLimbs.Leg

# The Open World Assumption - OWA

- Question: Can Sheep fly?
- Answer under OWA assumption:

Sheep  $\sqsubseteq$  Animal  $\sqcap$   $\forall$ hasLimbs.Leg

No idea, but probably yes  
(according to our ontology/knowledge base)



- In the OWA, unless we have a statement (or we can infer) “*sheep can/cannot fly*” we return “***don’t know***”
- In the real world, we are used to deal with incomplete information

# The Open World Assumption - OWA

- In the Semantic Web we expect people to extend our own models  
*(but we don't worry in advance how)*
- The OWA assumes incomplete information by default
- Therefore, we can intentionally underspecify our models and allow others to reuse and extend

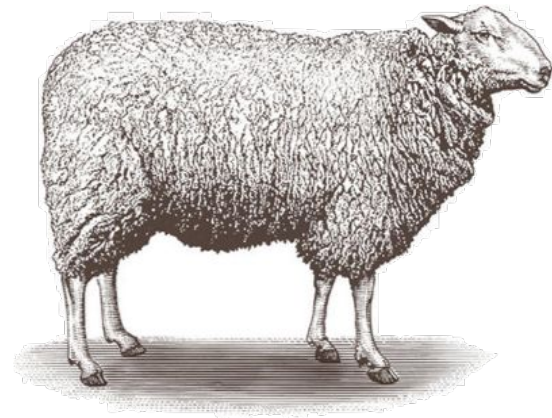
Sheep  $\sqsubseteq$  Animal  $\sqcap$   $\nabla$  hasLimbs.Leg  $\sqcap$  canFly





# The Closed World Assumption - CWA

- Closed World Systems require a place to put everything
- You can't say anything until there's somewhere to say it, as e.g. a slot on a frame, field on an OO class, column in a DB
- In Close World Systems, we state **what is possible** and **have to specify all knowledge**
- the CWA holds that **anything that cannot be shown to be true is false**; no explicit declaration of falsehood is needed.



Sheep  $\sqsubseteq$  Animal  $\sqcap$   $\nabla$ hasLimbs.Leg

Sheep can't fly!

# Open World vs. Closed World Assumption

- **OWA: Open World Assumption**

The existence of further individuals is possible, if they are not explicitly excluded.

- **CWA: Closed World Assumption**

It is assumed that the knowledge base contains all individuals.

*are all pets of  
HarryPotter owls?*

*no idea since we do  
not know all pets of  
HarryPotter*

*if we assume that  
we know everything  
about HarryPotter  
then all of his pets  
are owls*

*hasPet(HarryPotter, Hedwig)  
Owl(Hedwig)*

*? $\models$   $\forall$  hasPet.Owl(HarryPotter)*

***DL** answers  
don't know*

**PROLOG**  
*answers yes*

*$\leq 1$  hasPet. $\top$ (HarryPotter)*

*? $\models$   $\forall$  hasPet.Owl(HarryPotter)*

**yes**

*Now we know  
everything about  
HarryPotter's pets*



### 10: Tableaux for ALC

OpenHPI - Course Knowledge Engineering with Semantic Web Technologies

Lecture 3: Ontologies and Logic