



UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO - Italy

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Scienza dell'Informazione



# World models

## Intensional representation

Sept 29, 2023

# Extensional and intensional representation

**Observation 6.1 (World model, extensional representation)** World models, as defined so far are **extensional representations** of the world, namely they are defined as sets of assertions  $a$  and facts  $f$ , plus an interpretation function  $I_A$  which allows to define which assertions denote which facts in one or more reference models.

But what is a *fact*? How do we construct assertions about facts? The answer to this question requires defining an **intensional representation** of world models, namely the **representation mechanisms** which allow to construct assertions and facts starting from a finite set of primitive component elements.

**Notation 6.1 (Extensional and intensional representation of a set)** Let  $S$  be a set. Then by  $S_e$  we mean the **extensional representation** of  $S$ , i.e., as a set of elements (e.g., facts, assertions, but not only); by  $S_i$  we mean the **intensional representation** of  $S$ , where the elements of  $S_e$  are defined intensionally, starting from a set of primitive components. The notation is dropped when no confusion arises.

# Domain – Intensional representation

**Intuition (Domain, intensional representation)** The intensional representation of a domain is composed of three components, as follows

- *entities*, associated with those elements of the representation which can be isolated and distinguished from the rest;
- *classes* (sets) of entities, characterized by the fact they have some common characteristics which is not shared by the entities of the other sets;
- *relations* among entities, which collect multiple entities sharing a common property.

Does it fit your intuition? How you would describe the world?

# Domains and facts, intensional representation

**Definition 6.1 (Domain, intensional representation)** The intensional representation  $D_i$  of a domain  $D$  is defined as

$$D_i = \langle E, \{C\}, \{R\} \rangle$$

with

$$E = \{e\}, \quad C \subseteq E, \quad R \subseteq E \times \cdots \times E$$

where  $E = \{e\}$  is a set of **entities**,  $\{C\}$  is a set of **classes** of entities,  $\{R\}$  is a set of  $n$ -ary **relations**  $R_n$ , for some  $n$ .  $E$  is called the **universe** of  $D_i$  or also the **universe of interpretation**.

**Definition 6.2 (Fact, intensional representation)** The intensional representation  $D_e$  of a fact  $f$  has one of the following four forms

$$e \in C, \quad \langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle \in R, \quad C \subseteq E, \quad R_n \subseteq C_1 \times \cdots \times C_n$$

with  $e, e_i \in E$  and  $C, C_i \subseteq E$ .

# Data and Knowledge domains

**Definition. (Domain, data, knowledge, mixed)** A **data domain** contains only facts of the form

$$e \in C$$
$$\langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle \in R.$$

A **knowledge domain** contains only facts of the form

$$C_1 \subseteq C_2,$$
$$R_n \subseteq C_1 \times \dots \times C_n.$$

A **mixed domain** contains all types of facts.

# Data and Knowledge domains

## *Example 6.2 (Data domain)*

sofia  $\in$  Person,  
sofia  $\in$  Woman,  
<paolo, rocky>  $\in$  HasDog  
<sofia, paolo>  $\in$  Near  
paolo  $\in$  Man  
<paolo, sofia, stefania>  $\in$  Between

<rocky, paolo>  $\in$  DogOf  
paolo  $\in$  Dog  
rocky  $\in$  Dog  
<rocky, sofia>  $\in$  DogOf  
paolo  $\in$  FriendOf

# Data and Knowledge domains

## *Example 6.2 (Knowledge domain)*

Person  $\subseteq$  Entity

Dog  $\subseteq$  Entity

Animal  $\subseteq$  Entity

Near  $\subseteq$  Entity  $\times$  Entity

FatherOf  $\subseteq$  Person  $\times$  Person

HasDog  $\subseteq$  Person  $\times$  Dog

DogOf  $\subseteq$  Dog  $\times$  Person

FriendOf2  $\subseteq$  person  $\times$  person  $\times$  person

FriendOf1  $\subseteq$  Person  $\times$  Person

ChildOf  $\subseteq$  Person  $\times$  Person

where Entity stands for E.

# Assertional Language

**Definition (Assertional language, intensional representation)** The **intensional representation**  $LiA$  of an assertional language  $LA$  is defined as

$$LiA = \langle E, \{C\}, \{P\} \rangle$$

where  $E = \{e\}$  is a set of **(names of) entities**,  $\{C\}$  is a set of **concepts**, where a concept is a **name of a class**,  $\{P\}$  and a set of **properties**, where a property is a **name of a relation**.

**Definition (Assertional language, extensional representation)** The **extensional representation**  $LeA$  of an assertional is  $LeA = \{a\}$  with  $a$  having one of the following four (five) forms

$$C(e),$$

$$Pn(e_1, \dots, e_n),$$

$$C1 \leq C2,$$

$$C1 \equiv C2,$$

$$Pn(C1, \dots, Cn)$$





# Interpretation function

**Definition (Interpretation function, intensional interpretation)** The **Intensional representation**  $IA$  of an interpretation function  $IA : LA \rightarrow D$  of an assertional language is defined as

$$IA = \langle I_e, IC, IP \rangle$$

with:

$$I_e : E \rightarrow E$$

$$IC : \{C\} \rightarrow \{E\}$$

$$IP : \{P_n\} \rightarrow \{E\} \times \dots \times \{E\}$$

and such that:

$$IA(C(e)) = IC(C)(I_e(e)) = e \in C$$

$$IA(P_n(e_1, \dots, e_n)) = IP(P_n)(I_e(e_1), \dots, I_e(e_n)) = \langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle \in R_n$$

$$IA(C) = IC(C) = C \subseteq E$$

$$IA(P_n(C_1, \dots, C_n)) = IP(P_n)(IC(C_1), \dots, IC(C_n)) = R_n \subseteq C_1 \times \dots \times C_n$$



# World model, intensional representation

**Definition 6.10 (World Model, intensional representation)** Given a World Model

$$W = \langle LA, D, IA \rangle,$$

its intensional representation  $Wi$  is defined as

$$Wi = \langle LiA, Di, IiA \rangle$$

# World models, models and theories – The practice

1. Select the world model (crucial representation choice)

$$W_i = \langle LiA, Di, liA \rangle$$

2. Agree on  $LiA, liA$  (... and therefore D)

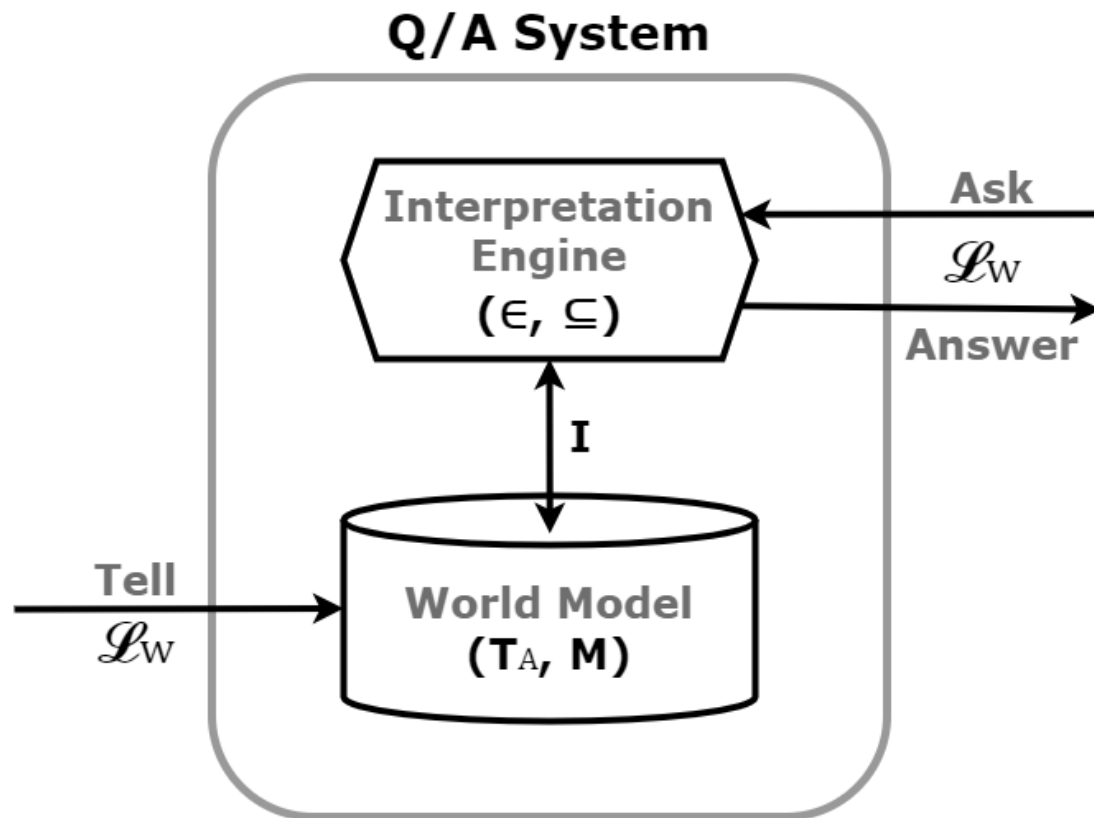
3. Construct  $TA = \{a\} \subseteq LA$

4. The model  $M = \{f\} \subseteq D$  is automatically defined

NOTE: Agreement is only on linguistic representation, based on a shared understanding of what language means

NOTE 2: agreement at different levels of formality depending on application

# Using a world model



*Which  
questions and  
answers?*

*Reasoning  
problems!*

# Entailment

**Definition (Interpretation and entailment)** Let  $W = \langle LA, D, IA \rangle$  be a world model. Let  $T \subseteq LA$  be a theory and  $M \in D$  a model of  $W$ . Let  $a \in T$  be an assertion. Then, we write

$$M \models a \text{ to mean } IA(a) \in M$$
$$M \models T \text{ to mean } IA(a) \in M \text{ for all } a \in T$$

and say that  $M$  **entails**  $T$ , or also that  $M$  **entails**  $a$ .

# Reasoning problems (with respect a world model)

**Reasoning Problem (Model checking)** Given  $T$  and  $M$ , check whether  $M \models T$ .

**Reasoning Problem (Satisfiability)** Given  $T$ , check whether there exists  $M$  such that  $M \models T$ .

**Reasoning Problem (Validity)** Given  $T$ , check whether for all  $M$ ,  $M \models T$ .

**Reasoning Problem 6.4 (Unsatisfiability)** Given  $T$ , check whether there is no  $M$  such that  $M \models T$ .

# Reasoning problems (with respect a world model) (cont)

**Observation (Query answering in DBs)** Query answering in DBs is a sophisticated form of model checking / satisfiability.

The contents of the DB are the reference world model, the query is the theory to be model checked, the answer is the set of instantiations which make the input theory correct.

This can be extended to knowledge graphs (both data and knowledge level, e.g. ER/UML like).



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