

# Automated knowledge base construction

## 1. Introduction

Simon Razniewski  
Summer term 2022

# Outline

- 1. Introducing each other**
2. Course organization
3. What, Why, How
4. Lab 1

# Simon Razniewski


- Senior Researcher at MPII, Department 5
  - Heading “[Knowledge Base Construction and Quality](#)” area
- Background
  - Assistant professor [FU Bozen-Bolzano](#), Italy, 2014-2017
  - PhD [FU Bozen-Bolzano](#), 2014
  - Diplom at [TU Dresden](#), 2010
- Research areas:
  - [Logics, databases, Semantic Web](#)
  - [More recently IR, \(applied\) NLP, ML, ...](#)
- Research focus: [Knowledge base construction and quality](#)
  - Analyzing what knowledge bases know, and what they don't
  - Commonsense knowledge base construction

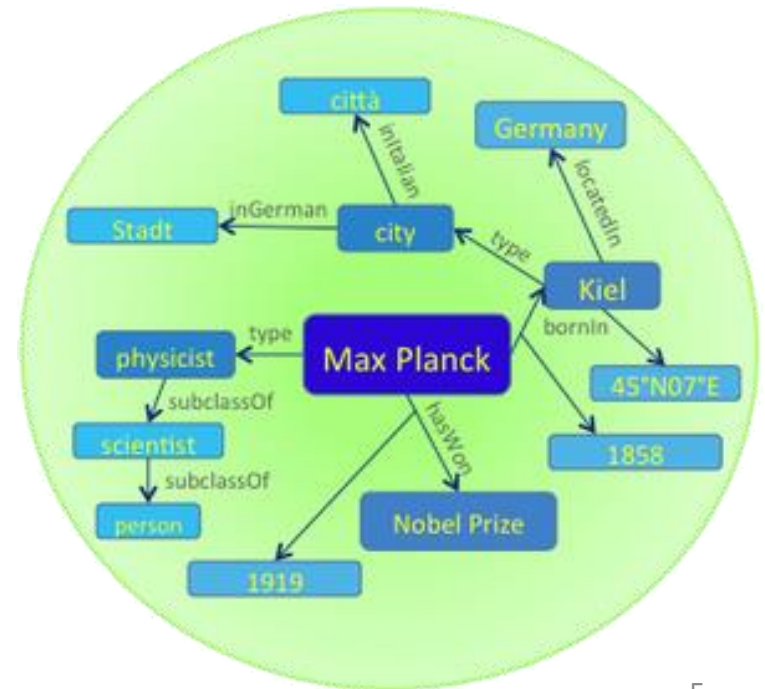
# Tutorial teachers

- Hiba Arnaout
  - Shrestha Ghosh
  - Sneha Singhanian
  - Tuan-Phong Nguyen
- 
- Doctoral researchers at D5, MPII
  - Knowledge base construction, question answering, knowledge coverage, commonsense knowledge, ...

# Department 5

- Department 5: Database and information systems
- Knowledge discovery: extracting, organizing, searching, exploring and ranking facts from structured, semi-structured, textual and multimodal information sources

-  **YAGO Knowledge Base**
  - Earliest prominent machine-generated knowledge base (2007)
  - Contains more than 10 million entities and more than 120 million facts
- Gerhard Weikum 259th most cited computer scientist worldwide



# And you?

- Course of study
- Preknowledge
- ...
- Comments?
  
- <https://tinyurl.com/4xpk8enh>

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# Learning outcomes

- Knowledge

- What AKBC is about (“What”)
- What AKBC is good for (“Why”)
- What main tasks and challenges in AKBC are
- What common approaches to problems in AKBC are (“How”)

- Skills

- Analyze potentials and limitations of AKBC approaches
- Learn to choose right source and method for right task
- Implement simple solutions for main problems in AKBC
  - Scraping, typing, linking, ...

- Abilities

- Build your own AKBC pipeline for a problem

→ Very practical focus!



# Prerequisites

- Basic concepts of ML
  - We won't go deep
- Python programming
  - Essential
  - Still time to learn
- Helpful but not required
  - Basic notions of information retrieval (IRDM?)
  - Computational linguistics (SNLP?)

# Formal organization

- Credit points: 6, hours: 180 (!)
- Registration
  - Subscribe to the mailing list <https://groups.google.com/g/akbc2022/>
  - Register in HISPOS until 4.7. for the exam
- When?
  - Lecture: Wednesday 12:15-13:45
  - Lab: Wednesday 16:15-17:45
- How to pass this course?
  - 8 small practical assignments
    - Pass/fail
    - To be admitted to exam, pass at least 6
  - Oral exam

# Assignments

- Published on lecture day (Wednesday)
- Due Monday 23:59 the week after
- Labs are there to start solving the assignments
- Discussing assignments together is allowed, but **each student must write their own solution**
  - No sharing of code!
  - Plagiarism = course failed for both
  - Avoid **triangular plagiarism** = cite sources
    - *“Approach for NER adapted from stackoverflow.com/how-to-...”*
- **Libraries** that solve core tasks not allowed
  - In doubt ask..
- Weekly assignments are evil!?
  - Established psychological “trick” to help you learn and pass!

# Assignment content

- Coding
- 4 assignments are in **competition format**
  - **Crisp input/output problem specification**
    - “From the first sentence of Wikipedia, extract the type of an entity”
  - Labelled training/test data set
  - **Unseen (hidden) evaluation dataset**
    - To avoid overfitting
- Ranked list by a standard metric, e.g., precision or F1-score
  - But pass/fail does not depend on rank

# Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Tutorial (tutor)</b>
27.4.	1. Introduction (pdf)	Data familiarization (Sneha)
4.5.	2. Crawling and Scraping (pdf)	Scraping (Phong)
11.5.	3. Entity typing (pdf)	Typing from first WP sentence (Hiba)
18.5.	4. Taxonomy induction, coreference and disambiguation (pdf)	Taxonomy induction (Hiba)
25.5.	5. Relation extraction	Relation extraction (Shrestha)
1.6.	6. Relation extraction II	Open information extraction (Shrestha)
8.6.	7. Commonsense knowledge	Commonsense (Phong)
15.6.	8. Language models and knowledge bases	KBC from LMs (Sneha)
22.6.	9. Applications	Exam preparation (Simon)
29.6.	10. TBD / Backup slot	TBD / Backup slot
11.7.+12.7.	Oral exam (register till 4.7. in LSF)	-
12.9.	Re-exam	-

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## 3. Introduction to AKBC

### **I. Motivation**

II. Terminology

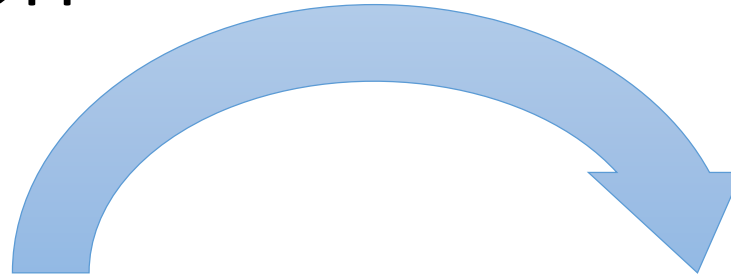
III. Topics

IV. Construction techniques

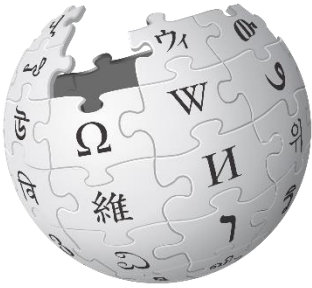
V. Applications

VI. Past, present and future

# I. Motivation







- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max\\_Planck\\_Institute\\_for\\_Informatics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Planck_Institute_for_Informatics)



- <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q565400>

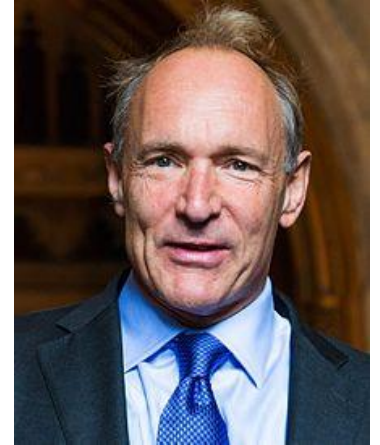
# What for?

- One central hub for **interlanguage interlinking** of 100+ Wikipedia editions
- Your AI chatbot wants to know **where** MPII, MIT and KAIST are **located**? → structured query
- A library wants to **distinguish** which of the 100+ literary John Smiths **wrote** “*A description of New England*”? → Wikidata ID

# Samples of advanced queries

- Who discovered the most planets:  
<http://tinyurl.com/y7rldyqc>
- Distribution of places ending with “-weiler” in Germany:  
<https://w.wiki/67o>
- Living relatives of Louis XIV of France:  
<https://w.wiki/549E>

# The Semantic Web



- Term coined by Tim Berners-Lee for a machine-readable Web
- Web content originally from humans for humans
- Make machines read human language, or make humans write machine-readable structured data?

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# Facts (triples) and their constituents

- **Entities:** Objects about which statements can be made  
*Paris; Trump; Irony*
- **Property/predicate/relation/attribute:** What can be said  
*locatedIn(entity, location), worksAt(person, organization),  
antonymOf(term, term)*
- **Fact/statement/claim/triple:** Core building block of KBs  
*<Paris, locatedIn, France>*

→ General form:

<subject, predicate, object>

<s, p, o>

# Subjects and objects

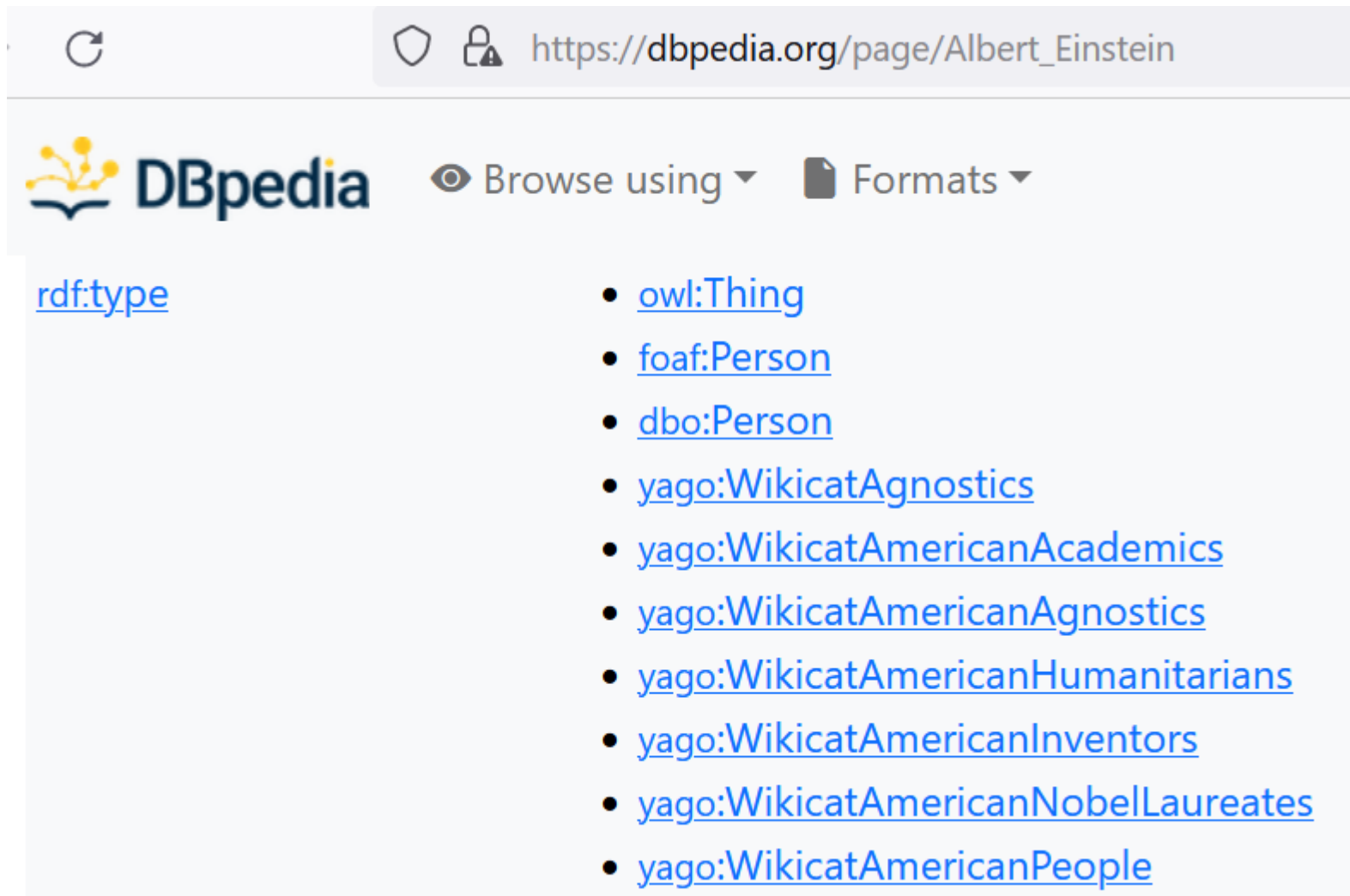
- Machine-generated identifiers
  - Wikidata: [Q4262](#), [Q67245](#)
- Canonical name strings
  - DBpedia, YAGO: *“John\_Smith\_(politician)”*
- Internationalized resource identifier (IRI)
  - Semantic web: [http://dbpedia.org/resource/Max\\_Planck](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Max_Planck)
- General phrases
  - TupleKB: *<industry, grow over, past few decade>*
- Literals: Attribute values that are no entities
  - [www.mpi-inf.mpg.de](http://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de)
  - Often with units: *1.63m; 54.85° N*
- Same for predicates, sometimes canonicalized, sometimes just text

# Classes and class hierarchies




- **Classes/types:** Allow to group similar entities  
*Presidents, nouns, Greek gods*
- **Type/property hierarchy:** Tree-like hierarchy among types/properties (cf. inheritance in object-oriented programming)  
*<Town, subclassOf, Administrative\_unit>*



# Classes



https://dbpedia.org/page/Albert\_Einstein

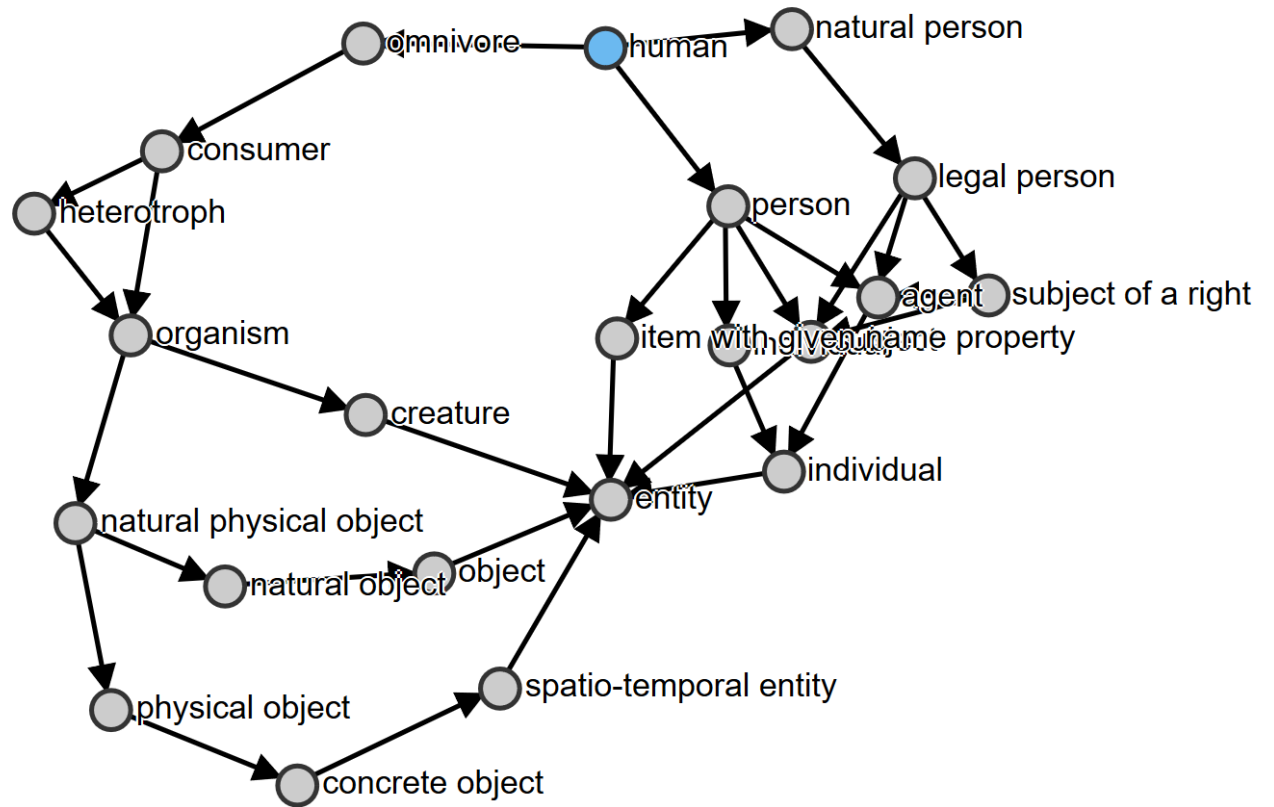
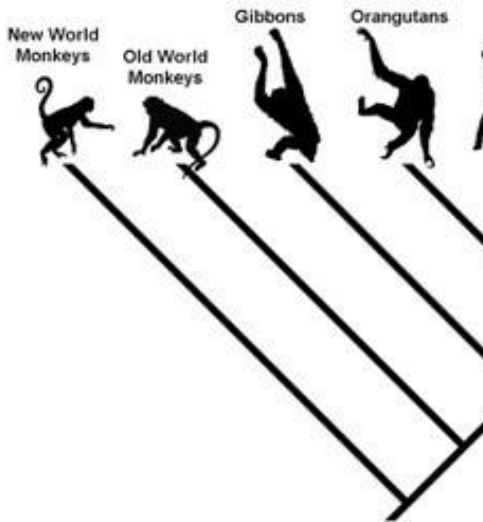
 **DBpedia**  Browse using  Formats

[rdf:type](#)

- [owl:Thing](#)
- [foaf:Person](#)
- [dbo:Person](#)
- [yago:WikicatAgnostics](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanAcademics](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanAgnostics](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanHumanitarians](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanInventors](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanNobelLaureates](#)
- [yago:WikicatAmericanPeople](#)

# Taxonomies

“Monkeys” and “a



<https://angryloki.github.io/wikidata-graph-builder/?property=P279&item=Q5>

# Knowledge base: Definition

A **knowledge base** (KB) is a collection of structured data about entities and relations with the following characteristics:

- **Content:** The KB contains entities and their semantic types for a given domain of interest. Additionally, attributes of entities (including numeric and string literals) and relationships between entities are captured.
- **Schema and Scale:** Unlike a conventional database, there is often no pre-determined relational schema where all knowledge has to fit into a static set of relations. If fixed, longitudinal evolution must allow ad-hoc additions where the set of types and relations may grow to ten or hundred thousands.
- **Open Coverage:** New entities and facts emerge and get covered in new web sources at high rate. Therefore, we have to view KB construction and maintenance as a “never-ending” task, following an open world assumption and acknowledging the high pace of real-world changes.

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# Common topics of knowledge bases

- Lexical knowledge
  - *<shout, isA, verb>*
  - *<shout, subformOf, communicate>*
- Instance knowledge (“Encyclopedic KBs”):
  - *<Paris, capitalOf, France>*
  - *<MPII, foundedIn, 1988>*
  - *<Angela Merkel, major, Physics>*
- Class knowledge (“Commonsense”):
  - *<Pizza, is, tasty>*
  - *<Elephant, color, grey>*
  - *<turnOnPC, requires, power>*

# Lexical KBs

- WordNet (1995)
- FrameNet (1998)
- (Wiktionary (2002))
- SenticNet (2010)
- ...

# WordNet Search - 3.1

- [WordNet home page](#) - [Glossary](#) - [Help](#)

Word to search for:

Display Options:

Key: "S:" = Show Synset (semantic) relations, "W:" = Show Word (lexical) relations

Display options for sense: (gloss) "an example sentence"

## Noun

- **S: (n)** [cry](#), [outcry](#), [call](#), [yell](#), **shout**, [vociferation](#) (a loud utterance; often in protest or opposition) *"the speaker was interrupted by loud cries from the rear of the audience"*

## Verb

- **S: (v)** **shout** (utter in a loud voice; talk in a loud voice (usually denoting characteristic manner of speaking)) *"My grandmother is hard of hearing--you'll have to shout"*
- **S: (v)** **shout**, [shout out](#), [cry](#), [call](#), [yell](#), [scream](#), [holler](#), [hollo](#), [squal](#) (utter a sudden loud cry) *"she cried with pain when the doctor inserted the needle"; "I yelled to her from the window but she couldn't hear me"*
  - [direct troponym](#) / [full troponym](#)
  - [verb group](#)
  - [direct hypernym](#) / [inherited hypernym](#) / [sister term](#)
  - [derivationally related form](#)
  - [phrasal verb](#)
  - [sentence frame](#)
- **S: (v)** [exclaim](#), [cry](#), [cry out](#), [outcry](#), [call out](#), **shout** (utter aloud; often with surprise, horror, or joy) *"I won!" he exclaimed"; "Help!" she cried"; "I'm here,' the mother shouted when she saw her child looking lost"*
- **S: (v)** [abuse](#), [clapperclaw](#), [blackguard](#), **shout** (use foul or abusive language towards) *"The actress abused the policeman who gave her a parking ticket"; "The angry mother shouted at the teacher"*

# FrameNet

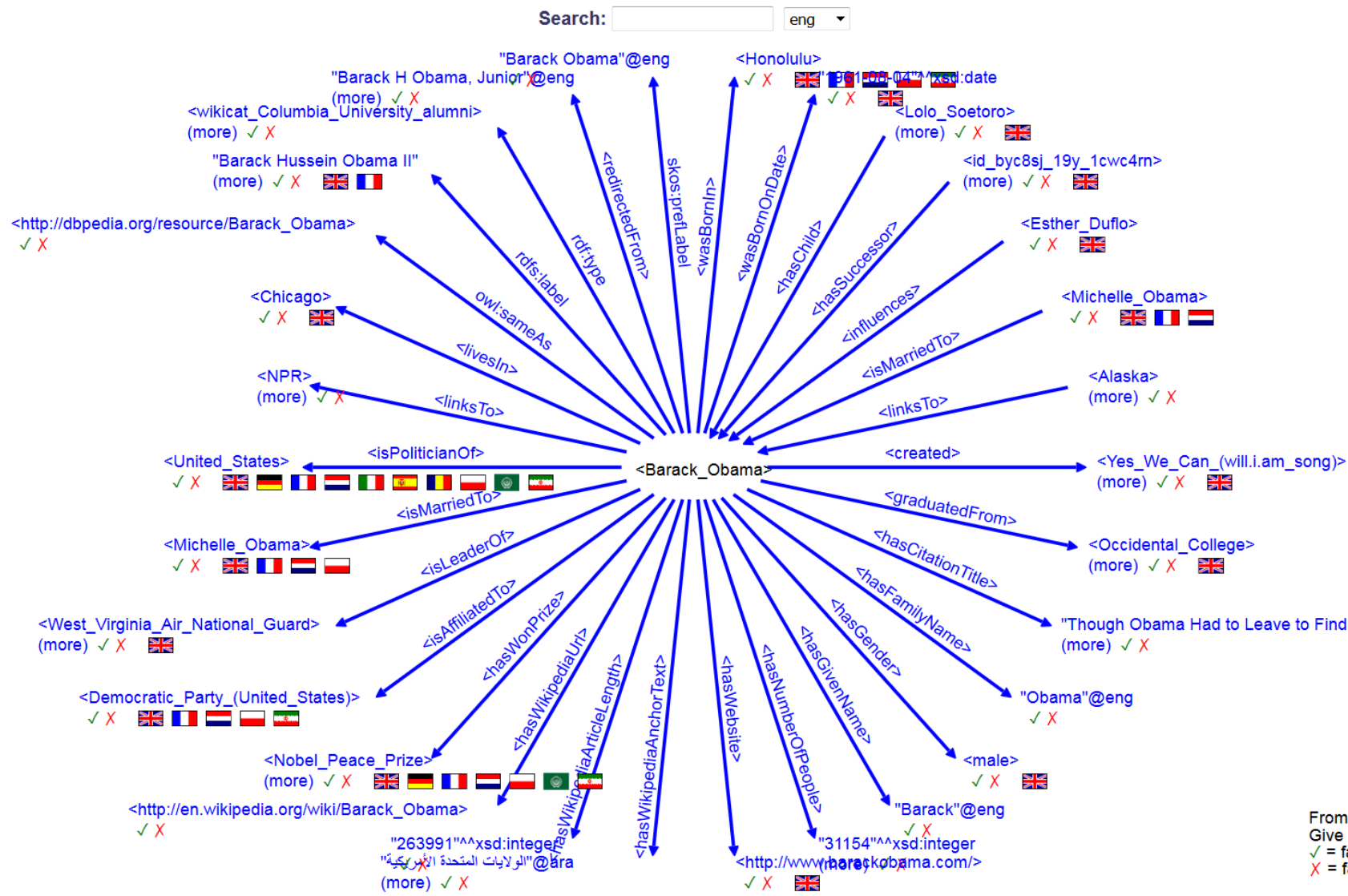
- **Example Frame – “Revenge”**: Because of some **injury** to something-or-someone important to an **avenger** (maybe himself), the **avenger** inflicts a **punishment** on the **offender**. The **offender** is the person responsible for the **injury**.
- **Frame elements**:
  - **avenger, offender, injury, injured\_party, punishment.**
- **Invoking terms**:
  - Nouns: *revenge, vengeance, reprisal, retaliation*
  - Verbs: *avenge, revenge, retaliate (against), get back (at), get even (with), pay back*
  - Adjectives: *vengeful, vindictive*



# Encyclopedic KBs (“Instance-oriented KBs”)

- Cyc (1984)
- YAGO (2007)\*
- DBpedia (2007)
- Wikidata (2012)




*\* developed at MPII*



From I  
 Give u  
 ✓ = fa  
 X = fa

D About: Barack Obama

dbpedia.org/page/Barack\_Obama

 Browse using  Formats 

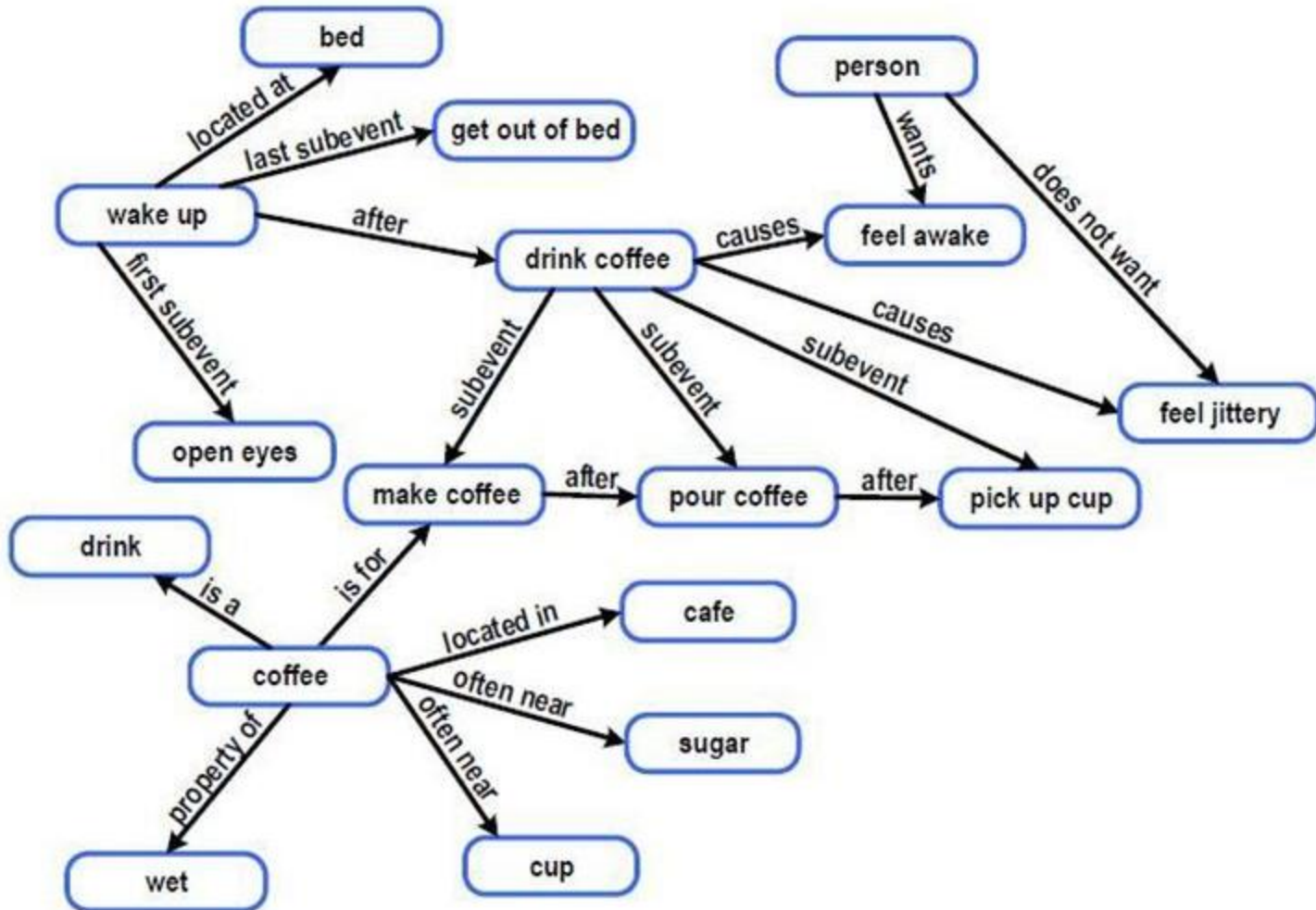
dbo:activeYearsEndDate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2004-11-04 (xsd:date)</li><li>2008-11-16 (xsd:date)</li></ul>
dbo:activeYearsStartDate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1997-01-08 (xsd:date)</li><li>2005-01-03 (xsd:date)</li><li>2009-01-20 (xsd:date)</li></ul>
dbo:almaMater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>dbr:Occidental_College</li><li>dbr:Columbia_College,_Columbia_University</li><li>dbr:Harvard_Law_School</li></ul>
dbo:award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>dbr:Nobel_Peace_Prize</li></ul>
dbo:birthDate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1961-08-04 (xsd:date)</li><li>1961-8-4</li></ul>
dbo:birthPlace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>dbr:Hawaii</li><li>dbr:Honolulu</li><li>dbr:Kapiolani_Medical_Center_for_Women_and_Children</li></ul>
dbo:orderInOffice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>44th President of the United States</li></ul>
dbo:party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>dbr:Democratic_Party_(United_States)</li></ul>
dbo:region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>dbr:Illinois</li></ul>

# Commonsense KBs (class-oriented)

- Cyc (1984)
- ConceptNet (1999)
- TupleKB (2017)
- Quasimodo (2019)\*
- Ascent (2021)\*

*\* Developed at MPII*

# ConceptNet



# Elephant



Elephant

WordNet elephant.n.01

## 59 salient subgroups of Elephant

- asian elephant 825
- african elephant 773
- forest elephant 245
- bush elephant 181
- indian elephant 135
- female elephant 133
- male elephant 128
- baby elephant 110
- war elephant 87
- wild elephant 67
- more...

## 143 salient aspects of Elephant

- trunk 333
- tusk 167
- ear 166
- foot 65
- skin 62
- mouth 62
- teeth 43
- body 43
- size 40
- brain 40
- more...

Elephant is ...

the largest land animals *	44
herbivore *	34
intelligent *	32
endangered *	22
social *	14
more...	

Elephant has ...

26 teeth *	8
tusk *	6
good memories *	6
long trunk	6
teeth *	6
more...	

Elephant is found ...

in forest *	9
in desert	7
in africa *	4
in savanna *	3
in savannah	3
more...	

Elephant eats ...

grass *	19
fruit *	19
plant *	18
root *	16
leaf *	15
more...	

Elephant uses ...

their trunks *	81
their tusks *	26
mud *	6
their ears *	4
their long trunks *	3

Elephant lives ...

in group	8
on land *	5
in the wild *	5
in grassland *	4
up to 70 years *	4

Elephant is used ...

in war *	5
for warfare *	5
as beast of burden *	3
for safari tourism *	2
in ceremony *	2

Elephant is able ...

to find *	2
to track one another	2
to spend substantial time	1
to recognize their friends	1
to eat a wide ...	1

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How to build KBs?



# Possible approaches

A. Humans (CYC, ConceptNet, Wikidata)

B. Structured extraction (YAGO, DBpedia)

C. Text extraction (NELL, Textrunner)

D. Constraints and pattern mining



Our focus

# A. Humans: Experts

- Potentially best quality
- Difficult to scale
  - CYC: “In 1986, [Doug Lenat](#) estimated the effort to complete the KB to be [250,000 rules](#) and [350 man-years](#) of effort.”



# Humans: Crowdsourcing/Gamification

- Make work fun (?)

clues

it is

it is a type of



it has

it looks like

about the same size as

it is related to

→ pass

- 3   [Spinach](#) is [a vegetable](#) by  guru1
- 2   You are likely to find [spinach](#) in [a supermarket](#). by  endolith
- 2   [Spinach](#) is [high in calcium](#) by  conte
- 2   [Spinach](#) is [a food edible by humans](#) by  Rosa
- 1   [spinach](#) is [green](#) by  verbosity
- 1   [spinach](#) is [green food](#) by  verbosity
- 1   [some sandwiches](#) contain [spinach](#) by  gubyte
- 1   [spinach](#) is [edible](#) by  openmind

# Humans: Volunteers



- Wikidata: 18k active users
- Intrinsic motivation achieves great things
- Broad expertise, compared with selected experts or paid crowdsourcing
- [https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Database\\_reports/List\\_of\\_properties/all](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Database_reports/List_of_properties/all)

# Humans: Challenges

- ConceptNet:
  - Common knowledge, normalization
- Crowdsourcing: Quality assurance
- Wikidata: Modelling and agreement
  - E.g., ethnicity, notable\_work, ...
  - Multilingual concept alignment

elephant is capable of...

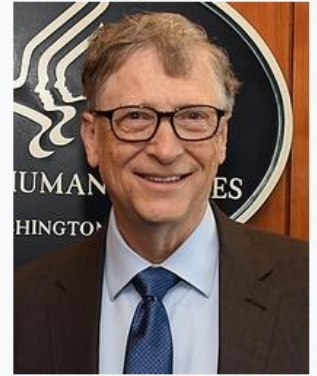
- en carry a trunk →
- en forget to go on the paper →
- en lift logs from the ground →
- en to lift the tree →
- en remember water sources →
- en visit the grocery store →
- en weigh up to 14000 pounds →
- en weight 1000 kilos →

# B. Structured extraction

- Wikipedia already provides structured data
- All we need to do is harvest...



**Bill Gates**



Gates at the [United States Department of Health and Human Services](#) in March 2018

<b>Born</b>	<a href="#">William Henry Gates III</a> October 28, 1955 (age 62) <a href="#">Seattle, Washington, U.S.</a>
<b>Residence</b>	<a href="#">Medina, Washington, U.S.</a>
<b>Years active</b>	1968–present
<b>Net worth</b>	<a href="#">US\$95.4 billion<sup>[1]</sup></a> (August 2018)
<b>Title</b>	Co-Founder and <a href="#">Technology Advisor of Microsoft</a> Co-Chairman of the <a href="#">Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</a> CEO of <a href="#">Cascade Investment</a> Chairman of <a href="#">Branded Entertainment Network</a> Chairman of <a href="#">TerraPower</a>
<b>Board member of</b>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a> <a href="#">Berkshire Hathaway</a>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<a href="#">Melinda French</a> (m. 1994)
<b>Children</b>	3
<b>Parent(s)</b>	<a href="#">William H. Gates Sr.</a> <a href="#">Mary Maxwell Gates</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">www.gatesnotes.com</a>

**Signature**

*William H. Gates III*

```

{{Infobox person
| name           = Bill Gates
| image          = Bill Gates 2018.jpg
| alt            = Head and shoulders photo of Bill Gates
| caption       = Gates at the [[United States Department of Health and Human Services]]
2018
| birth_name     = William Henry Gates III
| birth_date     = {{birth date and age|1955|10|28}}
| birth_place    = [[Seattle, Washington]], U.S.
| residence      = [[Medina, Washington]], U.S.
| occupation     = {{hlist|Technology entrepreneur|investor|philanthropist}}
| net_worth      = [[US$]]97.9 billion<ref name="Forbes profile">{{cite web|title=Bill
Gates|url=https://www.forbes.com/profile/bill-gates/|website=Forbes|accessdate=September 12, 2018}}
</ref> (September 2018)

```

## Work done?

- Noise
- Canonicalization of entities and predicates
- Usage of category system

Examples: YAGO, DBpedia

# C. Text extraction

- In principle **most powerful**
  - No need for humans
  - No restriction to Wikipedia existence

- In practice **big noise challenges**
  - Many pipeline steps
    - Named-entity recognition, named-entity disambiguation, relation extraction, relation canonicalization, extraction consolidation, ..

- Examples: NELL, Textrunner

**William Henry Gates III** (born October 28, 1955),<sup>[2]</sup> commonly known as **Bill Gates**, is an **American businessman**, co-founder and chairman of **Microsoft**. He is the second richest person in the world just behind **Jeff Bezos** as of October 2017.<sup>[3]</sup>



# Text extraction demo (relations part)

- <https://www.rosette.com/capability/relationship-extraction/#try-the-demo>
- *Merkel is of German and Polish descent. Her paternal grandfather, Ludwik Kasner, was a German policeman of Polish ethnicity, who had taken part in Poland's struggle for independence in the early 20th century.[22] He married Merkel's grandmother Margarethe, a German from Berlin, and relocated to her hometown where he worked in the police. In 1930, they Germanized the Polish name Kaźmierczak to Kasner.[23][24][25][26] Merkel's maternal grandparents were the Danzig politician Willi Jentsch, and Gertrud Alma née Drange, a daughter of the city clerk of Elbing (now Elbląg, Poland) Emil Drange. Since the mid 1990s, Merkel has publicly mentioned her Polish heritage on several occasions and described herself as a quarter Polish, but her Polish roots became better known as a result of a 2013 biography.*
- *In 1968, Merkel joined the Free German Youth (FDJ), the official communist youth movement sponsored by the ruling Marxist–Leninist Socialist Unity Party of Germany.[30][31][32] Membership was nominally voluntary, but those who did not join found it difficult to gain admission to higher education.[33] She did not participate in the secular coming of age ceremony Jugendweihe, however, which was common in East Germany. Instead, she was confirmed.[34] During this time, she participated in several compulsory courses on Marxism–Leninism with her grades only being regarded as "sufficient".*

# D. Constraints

## Databases

- Key, foreign key, range, ...

## Knowledge bases:

- *Events start earlier than they end*
  - *Every human must have two parents*
  - *Mayors of cities must be humans*
  - *The parent of a person's sibling is the person's parent*
- 
- Can be used to...
    - ... reject KB modifications
    - ... indicate missing information
    - ... infer new facts
  - But reality is messy..

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# What KBs are good for

- Master data
- Data mining
- Search enhancements
- Question answering
- Language generation
- Entity linking
- Learning more knowledge
- ....

# Master data (1)

<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258248</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258251</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258255</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258259</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258261</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258263</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258265</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258267</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258270</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258271</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258276</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258278</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258281</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258284</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258286</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258288</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258290</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258293</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258294</a>	John Smith
<a href="#">Q wd:Q6258296</a>	John Smith

*(300 more)*

# Master data (2)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q565400>. The page title is "Identifiers". The content is organized into a list of identifier types, each with a label, a value, and a link to references.

Identifier Type	Value	References
Freebase ID	/m/03mb4s	1 reference
GND ID	5066841-9	1 reference
VIAF ID	157458492	1 reference
ISNI	0000 0004 0491 9823	1 reference
GRID ID	grid.419528.3	2 references

## Relevant for:

- Museums
- Libraries
- Scientific publications

....

# Data mining

- Use input facts to extract patterns that allow to predict new facts

$isCitizenOf(x, y) \Rightarrow livesIn(x, y)$ $hasAdvisor(x, y) \wedge graduatedFrom(x, z) \Rightarrow worksAt(y, z)$ $wasBornIn(x, y) \wedge isLocatedIn(y, z) \Rightarrow isCitizenOf(x, z)$ $hasWonPrize(x, G. W. Leibniz) \Rightarrow livesIn(x, Germany)$
---

$isCitizenOf(John, France) \rightarrow livesIn(John, France)$

- Various approaches based on **association rule mining** and **latent models**

# Entity linking

<https://opentapioca.org/>



# Search enhancements

The image shows a Google search interface for the query "max planck". The search bar at the top left contains the text "max planck" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "Images", "News", "Videos", "Maps", and "More", along with "Settings" and "Tools". The search results indicate "About 158.000.000 results (0,65 seconds)".

The first search result is titled "Max Planck Institutes and Experts | Max-Planck-Gesellschaft" with a URL [https://www.mpg.de/11741001/research\\_page](https://www.mpg.de/11741001/research_page). The snippet below the title reads: "There is no such thing as 'the' Max Planck Institute. In fact, the Max Planck Society operates a number of research institutions in Germany as well as abroad."

Below the text is a map showing the location of the University of Saarland (Universität des Saarlandes) in Saarbrücken, Germany. The map includes a street named "Dudweilerstraße" and two red location markers labeled "B" and "C".

At the bottom of the search results, there is a "Your past visits" section and a list of results. The first result is "A Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik" located at "900,0 m · 66123, Campus E1 4, Stuhlsatzenhausweg · 0681 93250". It is marked as "Closed" and "Opens 6AM Tue". There are icons for "WEBSITE" and "DIRECTIONS" next to the address.

On the right side of the search results, there is a knowledge panel for "Max Planck". It features a large portrait of Max Planck and a grid of smaller images. Below the images, the name "Max Planck" is displayed, followed by the text "German physicist". A share icon is visible to the right of the name. The panel also includes a brief biography: "Max Karl Ernst Ludwig Planck, FRS was a German theoretical physicist whose discovery of energy quanta won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1918. [Wikipedia](#)". It lists his birth and death information: "Born: April 23, 1858, Kiel" and "Died: October 4, 1947, Göttingen". Finally, it states he is "Known for: Planck constant, Planck postulate, Planck's law, Third law of thermodynamics, Fokker–Planck".

# Question answering



Search the web using Google!

What is the capital of the Saarland?

10 results

Google Search

I'm feeling lucky

Index contains ~25 million pages (soon to be much bigger)

## Saarland - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saarland>

Saarland. The Saarland (German: das Saarland, pronounced [das ˈzaːrlant]; French: la Sarre [la saʁ]) is one of the sixteen states (or Bundesländer) of the Federal Republic of Germany. With its capital at Saarbrücken, it has an area of 2,570 km<sup>2</sup> and its population (as of 30 April 2012) is approximately 1,012,000.

Capital: Saarbrücken Country: Germany  
NUTS Region: DEC ISO 3166 code: DE-SL

## Saarland - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saarland>

Saarland lies in the south-west of Germany, near the French border near Metz and Saarbrücken.

## Saarbrücken - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saarbrücken>

Saarbrücken is the capital and largest city of the state of Saarland, Germany. Saarland's administrative, commercial and cultural centre. The city ...  
History · Infrastructure · Geography · Sport

## Saarland | state, Germany | Britannica.com

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Saarland>

Saarland: Land (state) in the southwestern portion of Germany. ... The capital is Saarbrücken. Cultural institutions—including the Saarland State Theatre in Saarbrücken, Raarland, and the Saarland Museum—draw support from both ...



What is the capital of the Saarland?

All Maps Images News Shopping More Settings Tools

About 448,000 results (1.19 seconds)

Saarland / Capital

## Saarbrücken

Plan a trip and points of interest

Feedback

People also ask

Where is the Saar?

Where is Saarland located in Germany?

Feedback

French: la Sarre [la saʁ]  
Germany. With its  
April 2012) is

## Try yourself:

- When was Trump born?
- What is the nickname of Ronaldo?
- Who invented the light bulb?

# Question answering (2)

- Knowledge bases **key component in question answering** systems
  - E.g., IBM Watson
- **AllenAI science challenge**: Computers currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Knowledge acquisition still major bottleneck

# Language generation

**Douglas Adams** was a [British playwright](#), [screenwriter](#), [novelist](#), [children's](#)

March

[Adams](#)

[Brentw](#)

marrie

2001 )

[myoca](#)

buried

- Wikipedia in world's most spoken language: **1/10** as many articles as English Wikipedia
- World's fourth most spoken language: **1/100**

→ Wikidata intended to help resource-poor languages

## 3. Introduction to AKBC

I. Motivation

II. Terminology

III. Topics

IV. Construction techniques

V. Applications

**VI. Past, present and future**

# Past



Cyc

```
(#$relationAllExists  
#$biologicalMother  
#$ChordataPhylum  
#$FemaleAnimal)
```

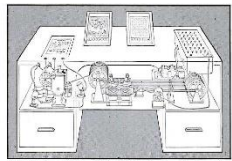
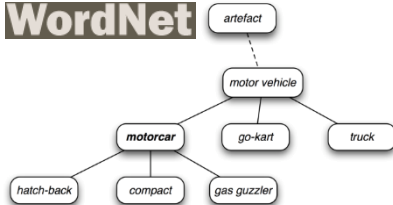


WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

WolframAlpha

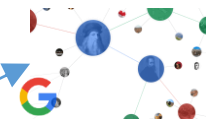


WordNet



Memex  
(1945)

Freebase™  
(collaborative)



Knowledge Graph



WIKIDATA

1984

2001

2007

2012

2018

# Present

- **KBs at most major tech companies** and beyond
  - Google, Microsoft, Alibaba, Bloomberg, ...
- Feb 2018: **\$125 million investment** by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen into non-profit research on common sense knowledge extraction and reasoning
- Research: Major part of NLP conferences taken up by IE/AKBC research

# Future

- ?



# Outline

1. Introducing each other
2. Course organization
3. What, Why, How
4. **Lab 1**

# Lab 1

- Information extraction where from?
  - Actual web crawling nontrivial
  - Wikipedia a popular high-quality resource
- Learn/practice text manipulation, perform some simple analyses, get to know KB querying

# Take home

- Knowledge base construction builds machine-readable structured content from unstructured/semistructured inputs
- Structured data is relevant for a range of knowledge-intensive tasks
- Next week: Crawling and scraping