Using Model-Theoretic Invariants for Semantic Integration

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Interoperability



Semantic Translation

Translation definitions specify the mappings between PSL and application ontologies.

Example: The *AtomicProcess* in OWL-S maps to the *activity* concept in PSL only if the activity is atomic and its preconditions and effects depend only on the state prior to the occurrences of the activity.

(forall (?a) (iff (AtomicProcess ?a) (and (atomic ?a) (markov_precond ?a) (markov_effects ?a))))

Semantic Interchange Protocols



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 What are sufficient conditions for an ontology to support this approach to semantic integration?



Verified Ontologies



- The meaning of terms in the ontology is characterized by models for first-order logic.
- The ontology provides a first-order axiomatization of the class of models

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Definitional Extensions

- Preserving semantics is equivalent to preserving models of the axioms.
 - preserving models = isomorphism
- We classify models by using *invariants* (properties of models that are preserved by isomorphism).
 - automorphism groups, endomorphism semigroups
- Classes of activities and objects are specified using these invariants.

Models in PSL



- Occurrence trees
- Fluents (state)
- Activity trees



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Twenty Questions

How can we generate translation definitions?

- Each invariant from the classification of models corresponds to a different question.
- Any particular activity or object will have a unique value for the invariant.
- Each possible answer to a question corresponds to a different value for the invariant.

Limitations

- Not all theories have complete sets of invariants
- Invariants may not be first-order definable
- How do we determine the correctness of the translation definitions?

Interoperability Hypothesis

 We are considering interoperability among complete first-order inference engines that exchange first-order sentences.

- Why first-order logic?
 - Soundness and completeness guarantees that a sentence is provable from a theory if and only if it is satisfied in all models of the theory.

Ontological Stance



Summary

- The meaning of terms in the ontology is characterized by models for first-order logic.
- The PSL Ontology has a first-order axiomatization of the class of models.
- Identify invariants of the models
- By axiomatizing these invariants, translation definitions can be shown to preserve semantics between software applications.

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Further Questions?

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