

# Learning the Semantics of Structured Data Sources

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**Dissertation Committee**

Craig Knoblock (PhD Advisor)  
Cyrus Shahabi  
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Viktor Prasanna (EE Department)

# Motivation

Explicit semantics is missing in many of the structured sources

Employee? CEO?

	name	date	city	state	workplace
1	Fred Collins	Oct 1959	Seattle	WA	Microsoft
2	Tina Peterson	May 1980	New York	NY	Google

Person?  
Organization?

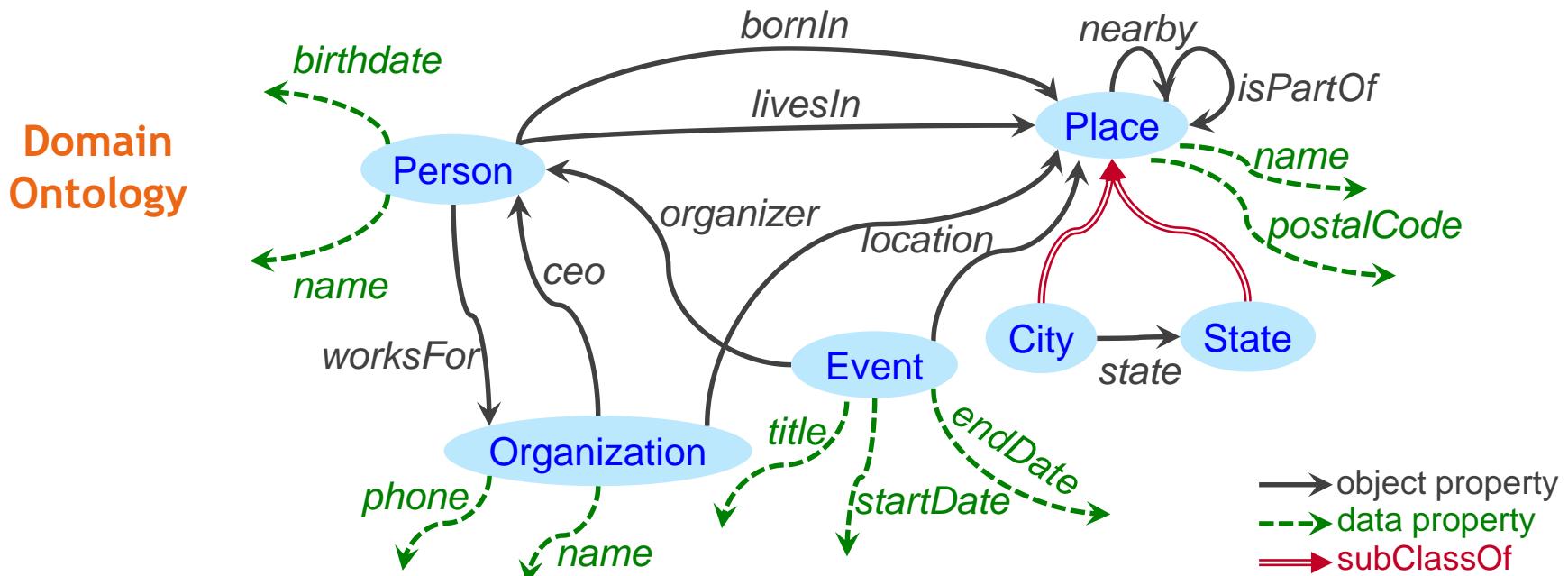
Birth date?  
Death date?  
Employment date?

Birth city?  
Work city?

How to express the intended meaning of data?

# Map the Source to the Domain Ontology

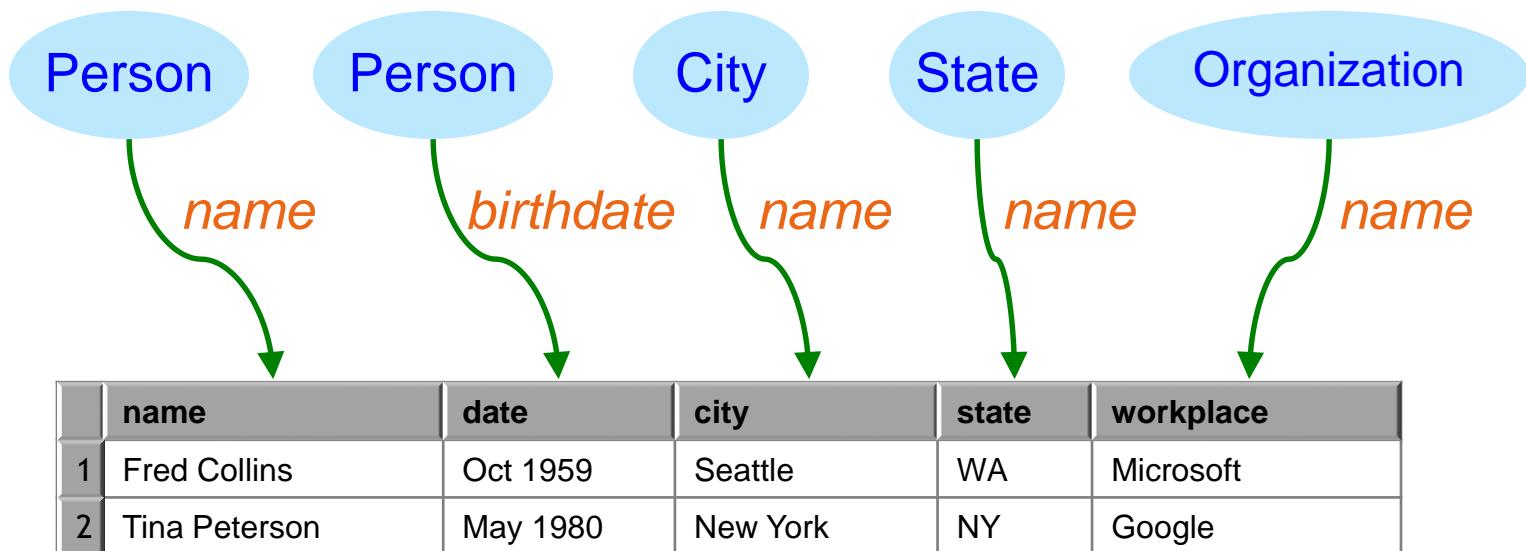
Describe sources using classes & relationships in an ontology



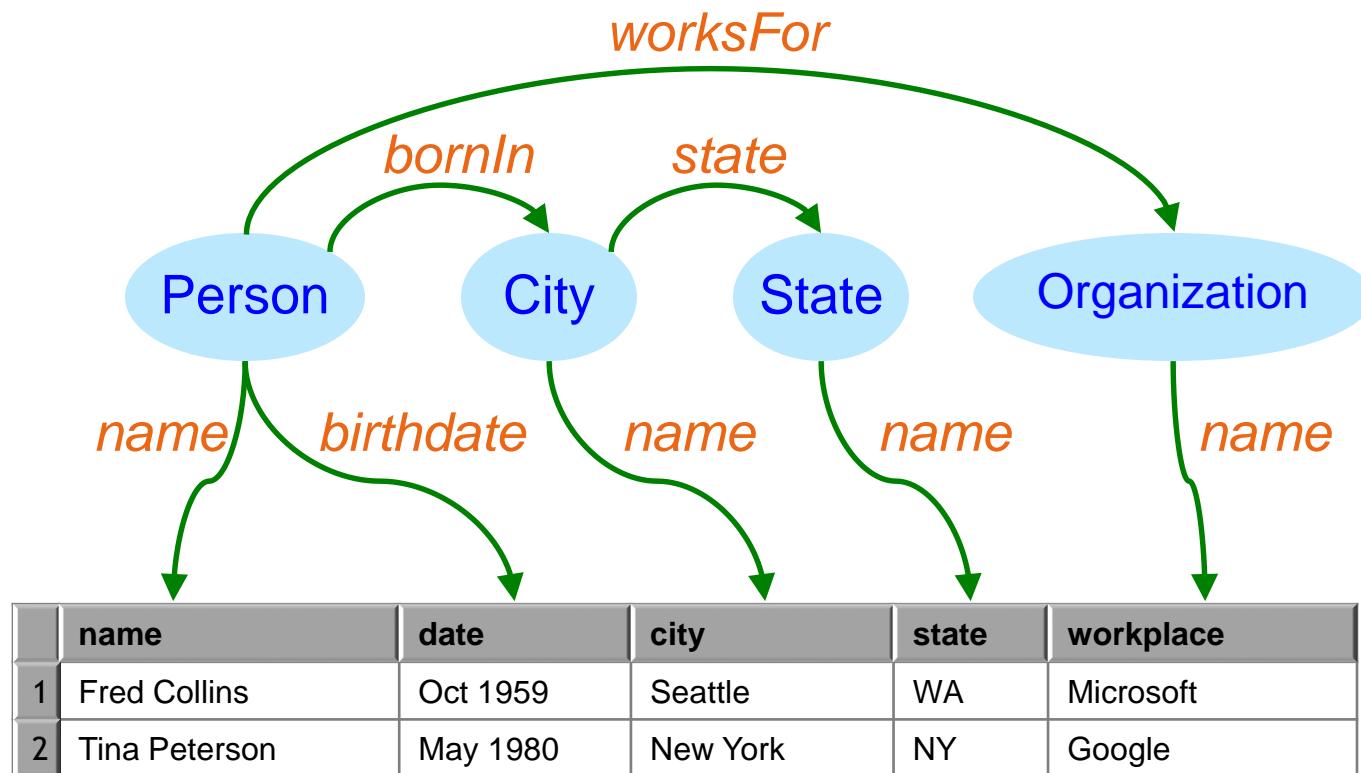
## Source

	name	date	city	state	workplace
1	Fred Collins	Oct 1959	Seattle	WA	Microsoft
2	Tina Peterson	May 1980	New York	NY	Google

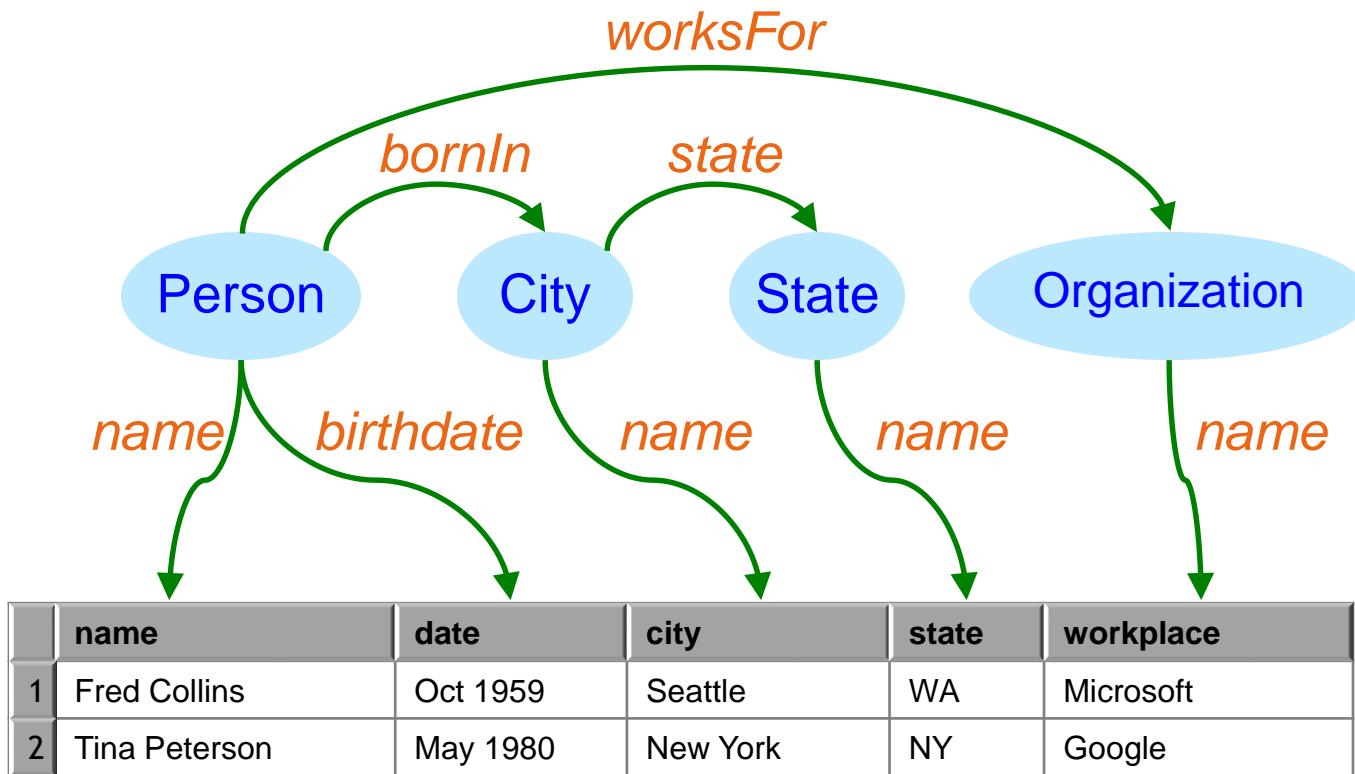
# Semantic Types



# Relationships



# Semantic Model



Key ingredient to automate

- Source discovery
- Data integration
- Publish knowledge graphs

**Problem:**  
How to automate building semantic  
models for structured sources?

# Thesis Statement

*The knowledge of previously modeled sources as well as the semantic data available in the Linked Open Data (LOD) cloud can be leveraged to learn accurate semantic models of structured data sources, enabling automated source discovery and data integration.*

# Outline

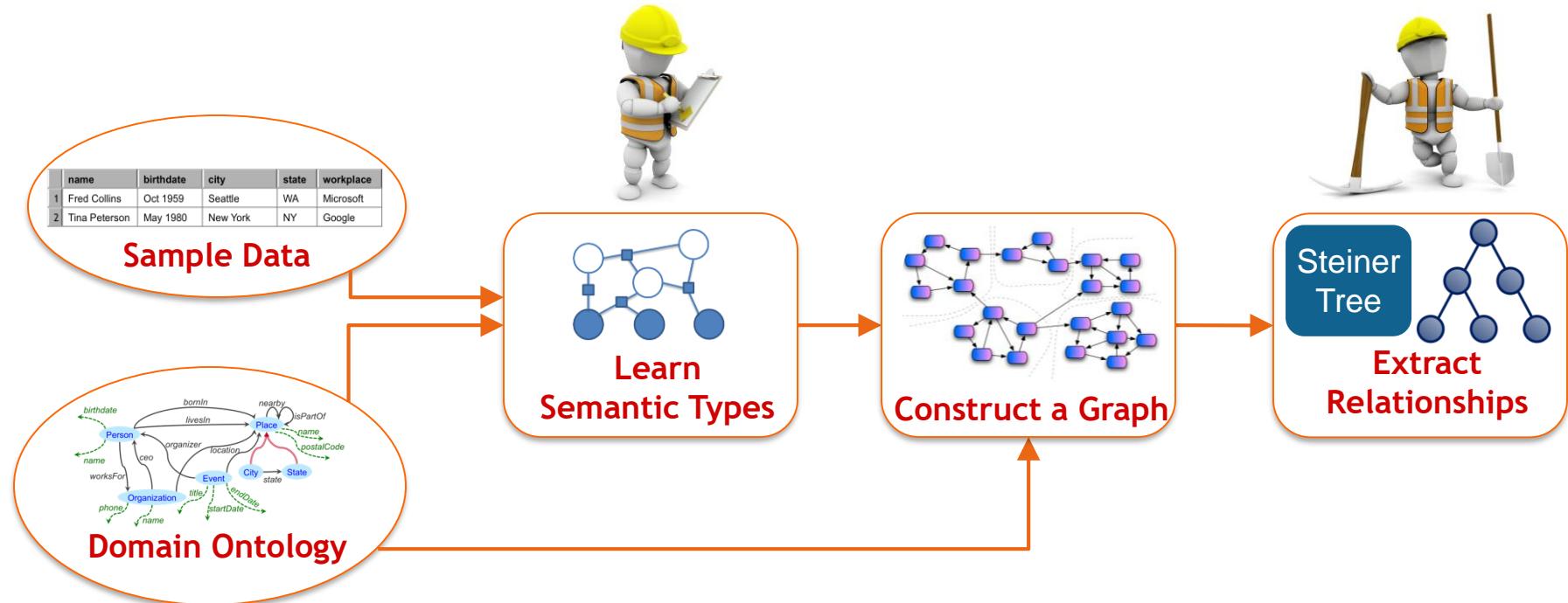
- Semi-automatically building semantic models
- Learning semantics models from known models
- Inferring semantic relations from LOD
- Related Work
- Discussion & Future Work

# Semi-automatically Building Semantic Models

**Contribution:** a graph-based approach to  
extract implicit relationships

# Approach

[Knoblock et al, ESWC 2012]



Implemented in Karma



<http://www.isi.edu/integration/karma>



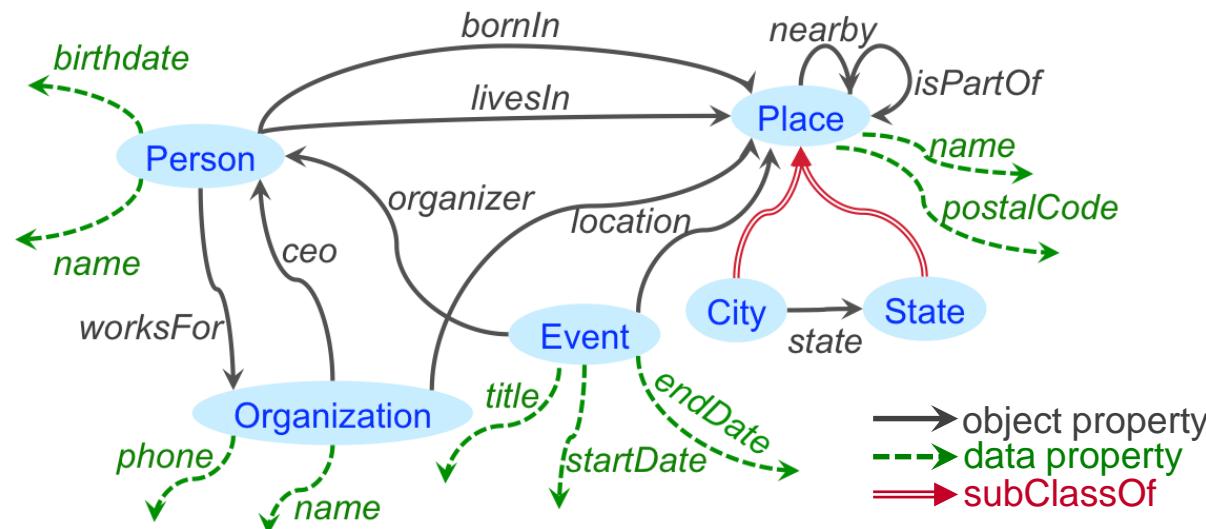
@KarmaSemWe  
b

# Example

## Source

	name	date	city	state	workplace
1	Fred Collins	Oct 1959	Seattle	WA	Microsoft
2	Tina Peterson	May 1980	New York	NY	Google

## Domain Ontology



**Goal:** Find a semantic model for the source  
(map the source to the ontology)

# Learning Semantic Types

[Krishnamurthy et al., ESWC 2015]

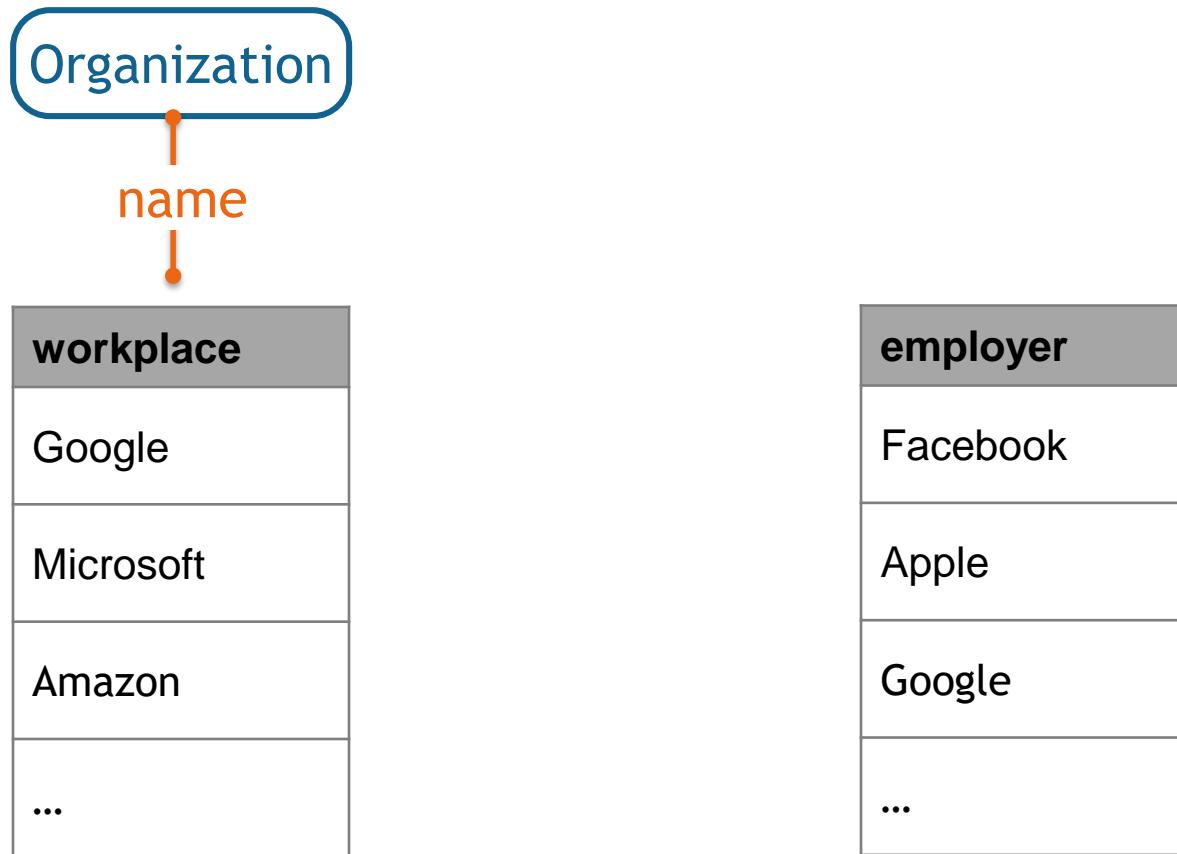


# Learning Semantic Types



1. User Specifies
2. Systems learns

# Learning Semantic Types



# Learning Semantic Types

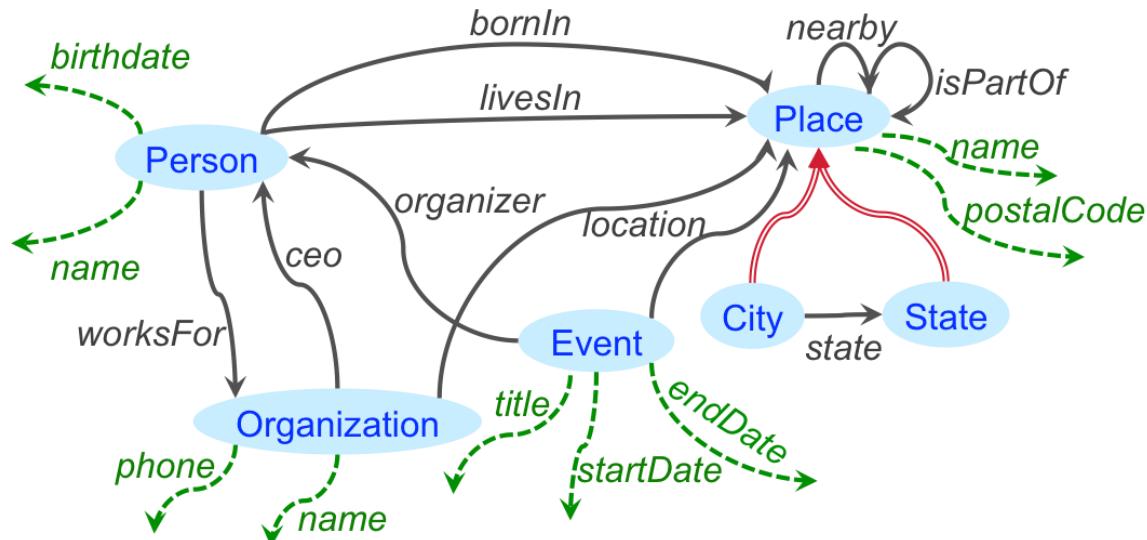
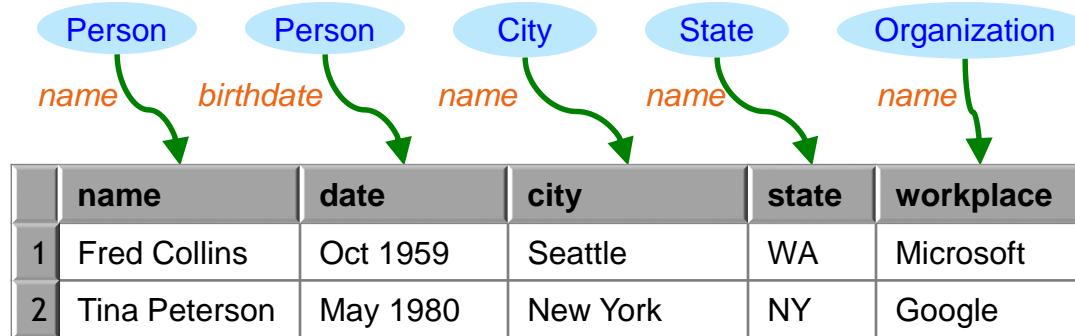


# Semantic Labeling Approach

- Each semantic type: **label**
- Each data column: **document**
- Textual Data
  - Compute **TF/IDF vectors** for documents
  - Compare documents using **Cosine Similarity** between TF/IDF vectors
- Numeric Data
  - Use **Statistical Hypothesis Testing**
  - Intuition: **distribution** of values in different semantic types is different, e.g., temperature vs. population
- Return Top-k suggestions based on the confidence scores

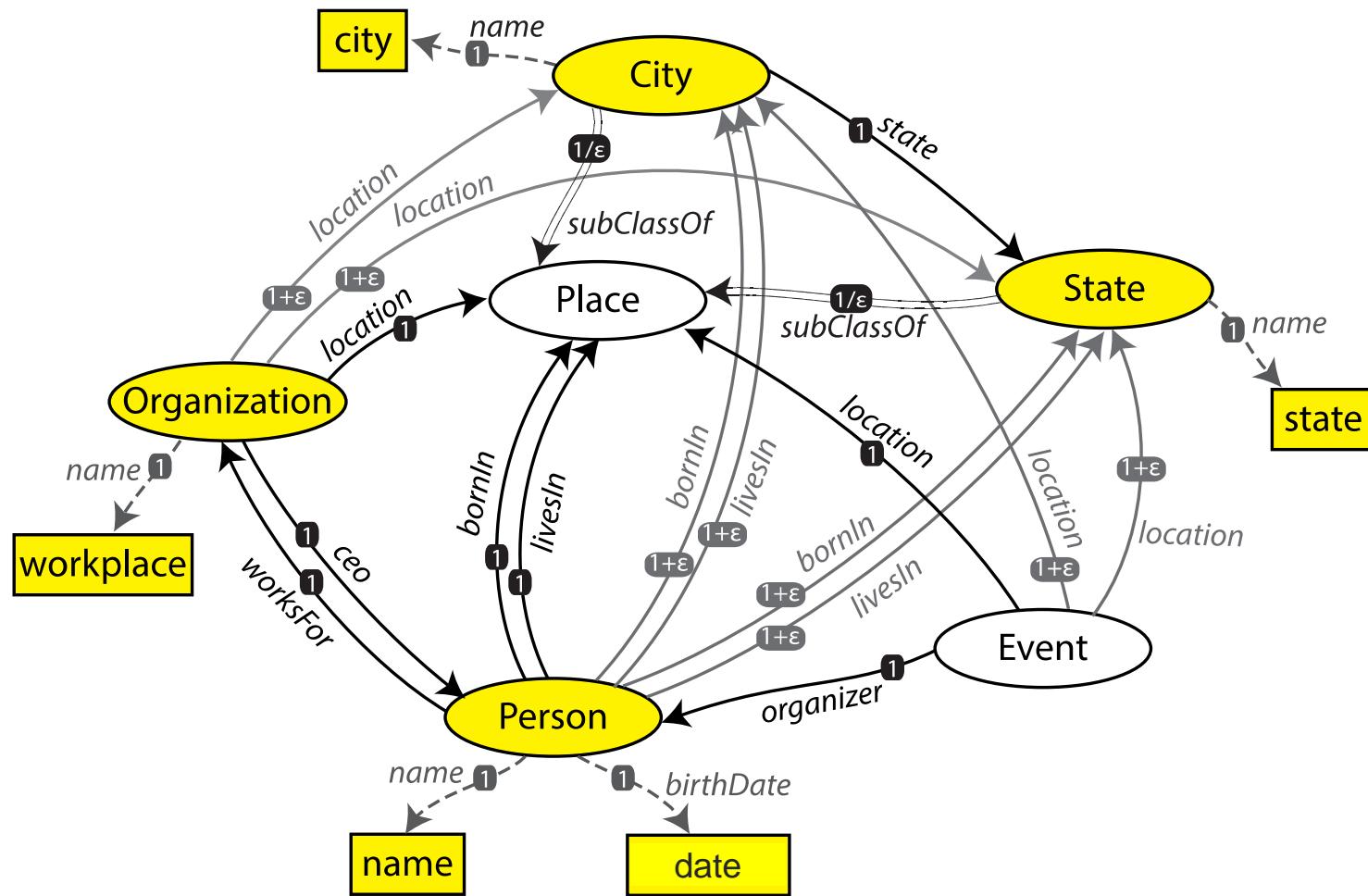
# Construct a Graph

Construct a graph from semantic types and ontology



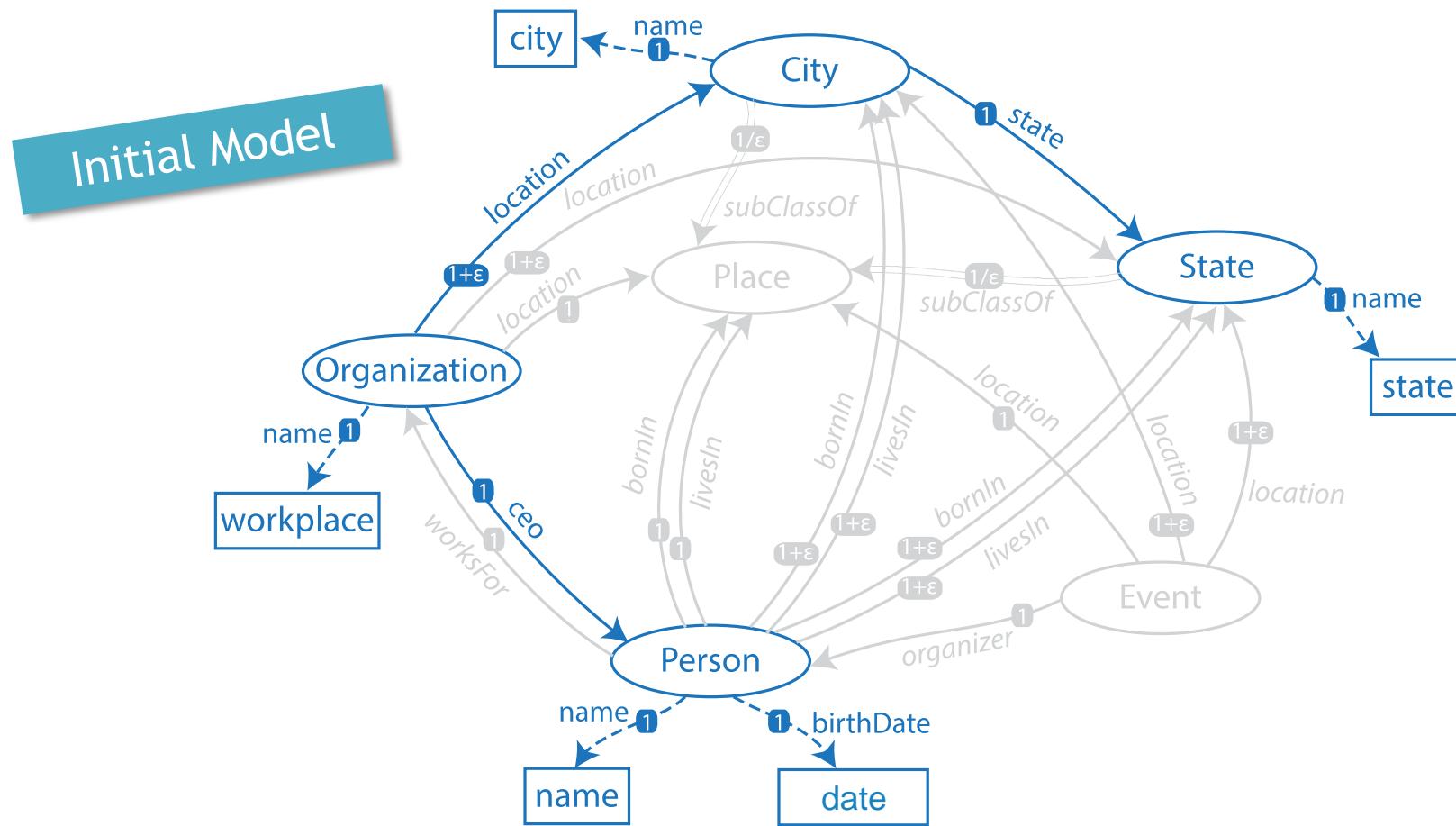
# Construct a Graph

Construct a graph from semantic types and ontology

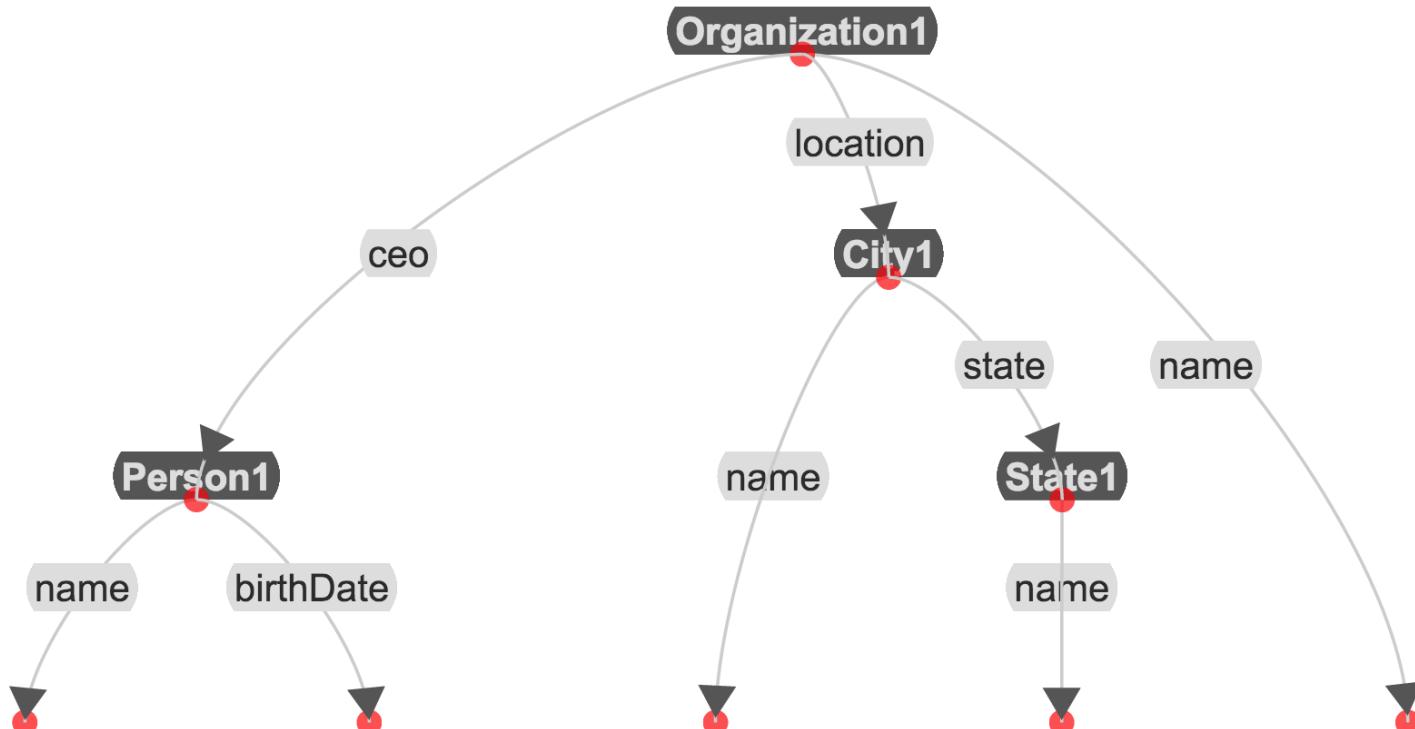


# Inferring the Relationships

Select minimal tree that connects all semantic types  
– A customized Steiner tree algorithm



# Result in Karma



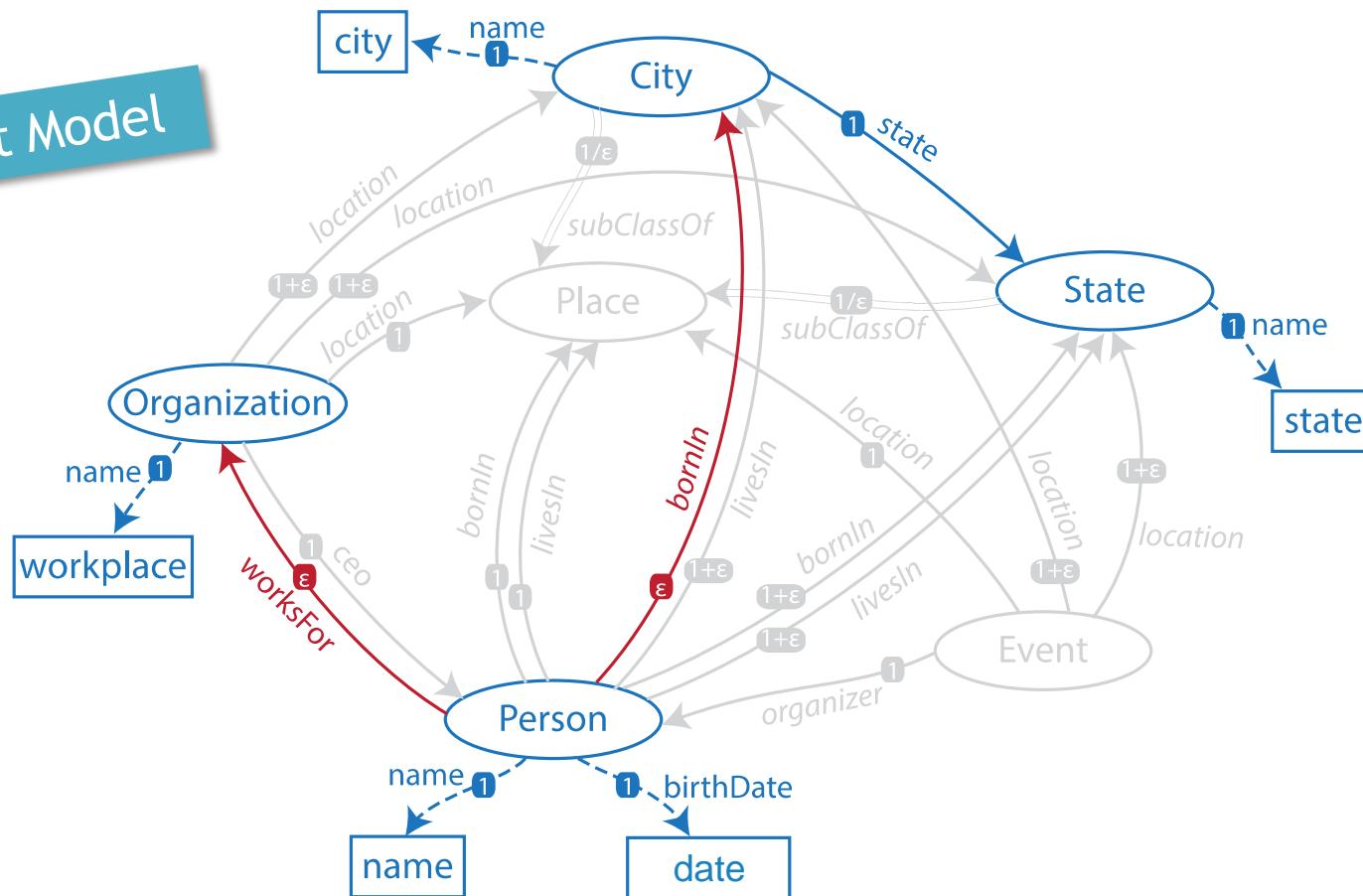
name ▾	date ▾	city ▾	state ▾	workplace ▾
Fred Collins	Oct 1959	Seattle	WA	Microsoft
Tina Peterson	May 1980	New York	NY	Google
Richard Smith	Feb 1975	Los Angeles	CA	Apple

# Refining the Model

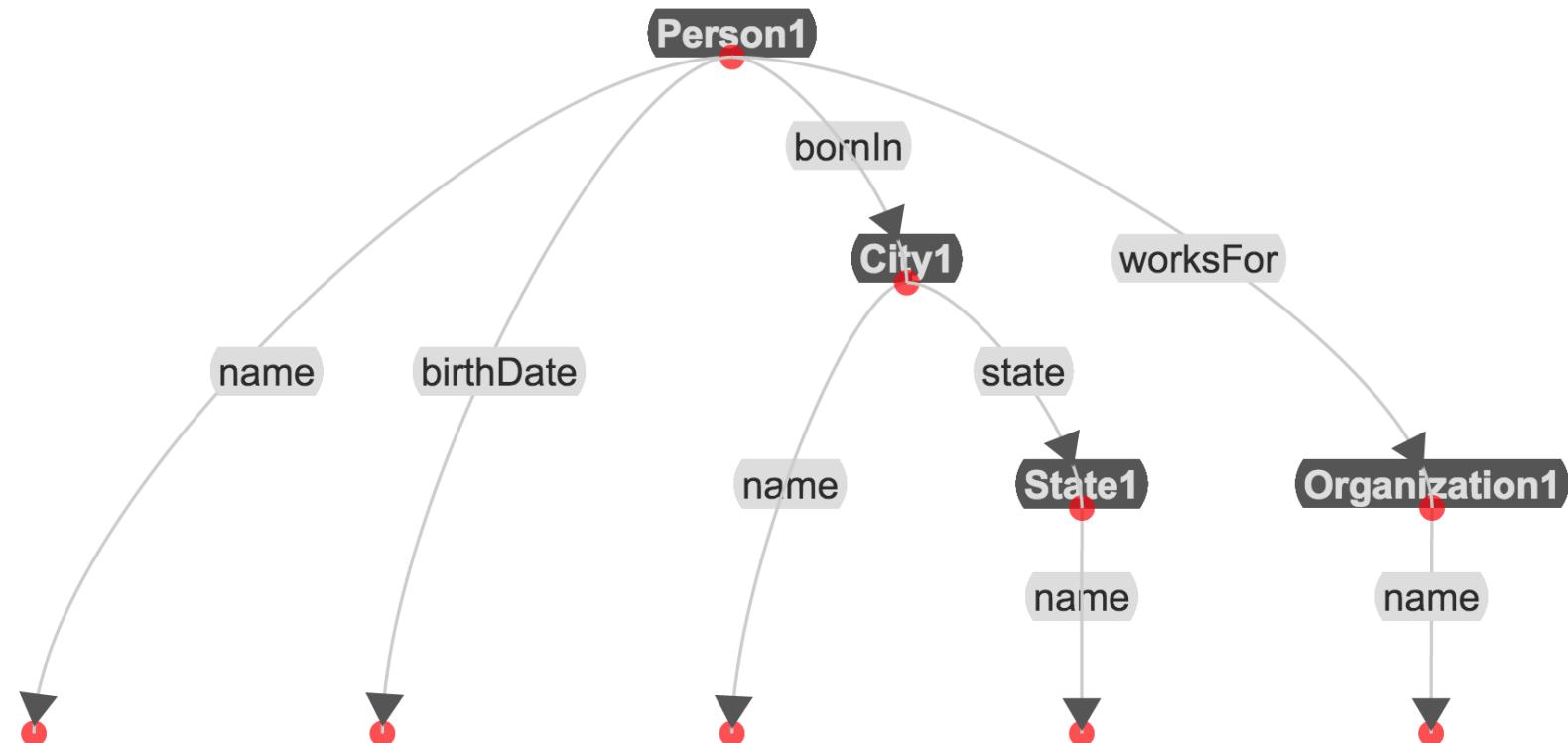
Impose constraints on Steiner Tree Algorithm

- Change weight of selected links to  $\epsilon$
- Add source and target of selected link to Steiner nodes

Correct Model



# Final Semantic Model



name ▾	date ▾	city ▾	state ▾	workplace ▾
Fred Collins	Oct 1959	Seattle	WA	Microsoft
Tina Peterson	May 1980	New York	NY	Google
Richard Smith	Feb 1975	Los Angeles	CA	Apple

# Evaluation

Evaluation Dataset	EDM
# sources	29
# classes in the ontologies	119
# properties in the ontologies	351
# nodes in the gold standard models	473
# links in the gold standard models	444

- Measured the user effort in Karma to model the sources
- Started with no training data
- User actions
  - Assign/Change semantic types
  - Change relationships

# Evaluation

source	columns	Choose Type	Change Link	Time (min)
s1	7	7	1	3
s2	12	5	2	6
s3	4	0	0	2
s4	17	5	6	8
s5	14	4	6	7
s6	18	4	4	7
s7	14	1	4	6
s8	6	0	4	3
...	...	...	...	...
s29	10	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>128</b>

Avg. min per source: 4.4 minutes

Avg. # user actions per column:  $148/331=0.44$

# Limitation

- This approach does not learn the changes done by the user in relationships
- User has to go through the refinement process each time

# Learning Semantic Models

**Contribution:** exploiting known semantic models  
to learn relationships

# Main Idea

Sources in the same domain often have similar data



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[Harvest Home](#)

First Previous [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) .. [715](#) [716](#) Next Last

[view lightbox](#)

Geographic location:

Not on view

COURT OF BENIN, EDO CULTURE  
Nigeria  
*Commemorative Head of a King*  
16th–17th century  
Copper alloy  
11 1/2 x 9 x 9 inches

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Museum purchase with funds provided by the Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund and gift of Oliver E. and Pamela F. Cobb

[Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, & the Americas](#)

[Arts of Africa](#)

**ABOUT**  
The most important Benin artworks were life-size heads of the obas, the spiritual and corporeal kings of Benin. Ordered in pairs by every new king to honor his predecessor, these heads were arranged symmetrically on altars as representations of the institution of divine kinship. This king's head dates

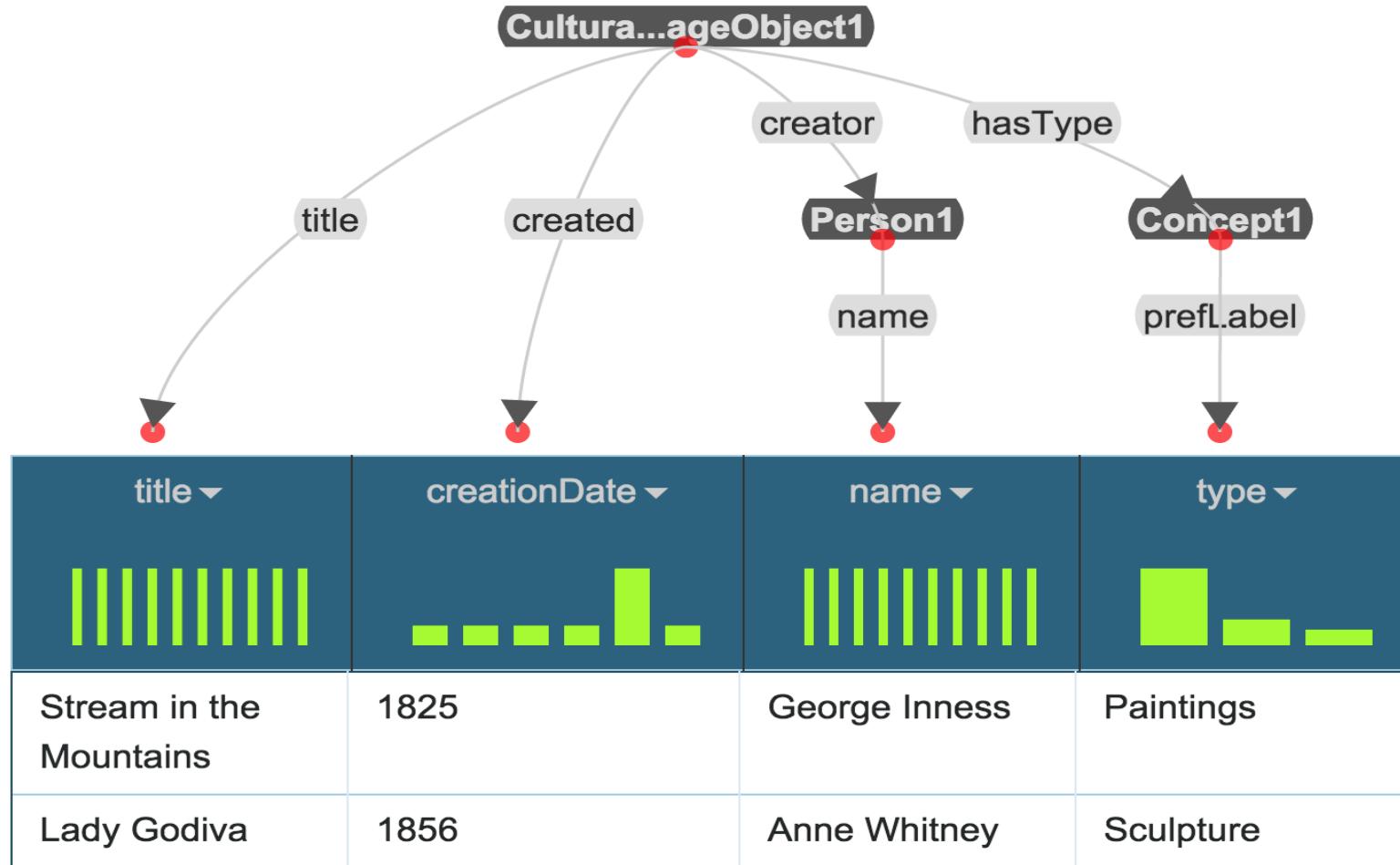
Exploit knowledge of known semantic models to hypothesize a semantic model for a new sources

# Example

Domain: Museum Data

Domain ontologies: [EDM](#) [SKOS](#) [FOAF](#) [AAC](#) [ORE](#) [ElementsGr2](#) [DCTerms](#)

Source: Dallas Museum of Art → dma(title,creationDate,name,type)

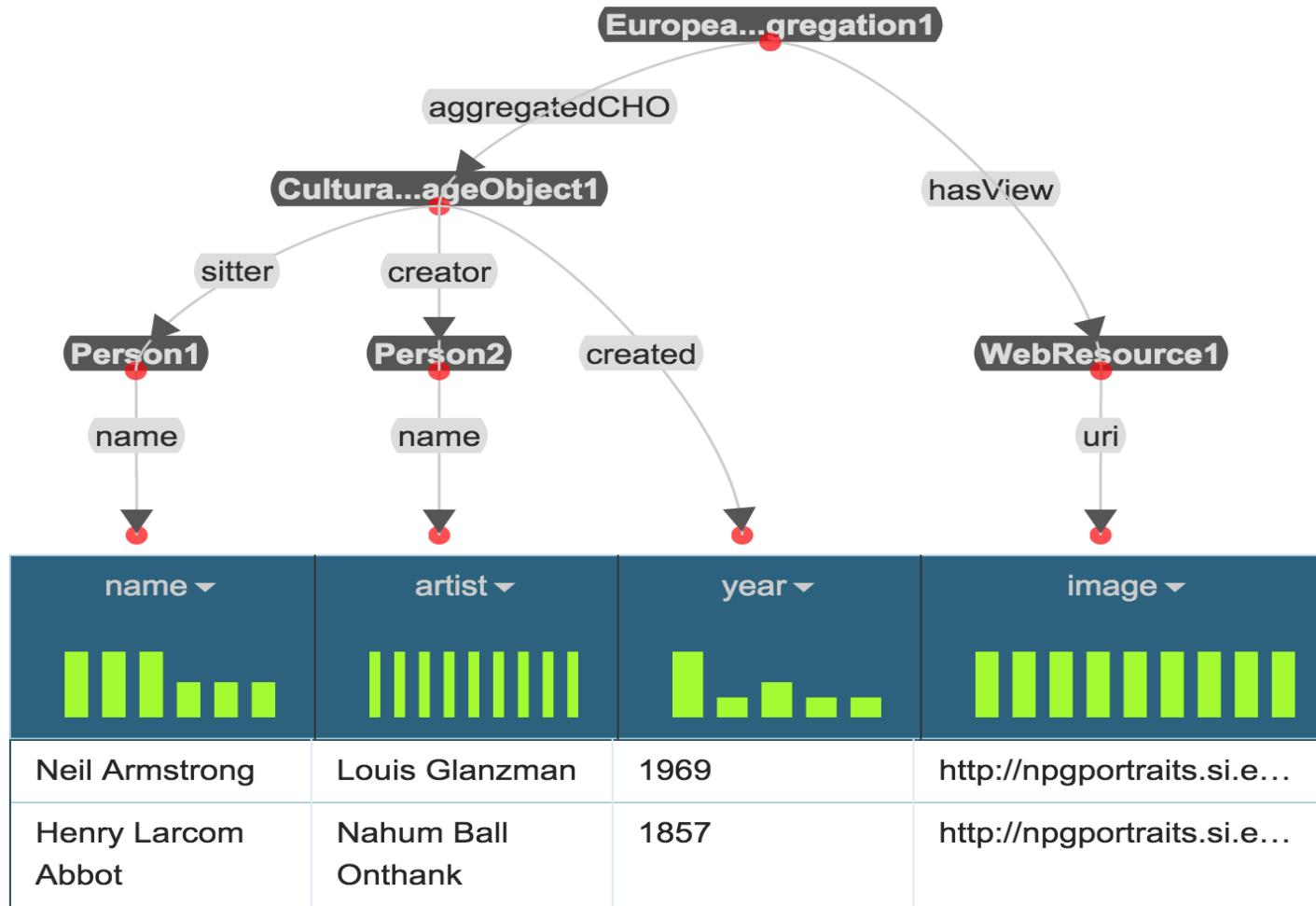


# Example

Domain: Museum Data

Domain ontologies: [EDM](#) [SKOS](#) [FOAF](#) [AAC](#) [ORE](#) [ElementsGr2](#) [DCTerms](#)

Source: National Portrait Gallery → npg(name,artist,year,image)



# Example

Domain: Museum Data

Domain ontologies: [EDM](#) [SKOS](#) [FOAF](#) [AAC](#) [ORE](#) [ElementsGr2](#) [DCTerms](#)

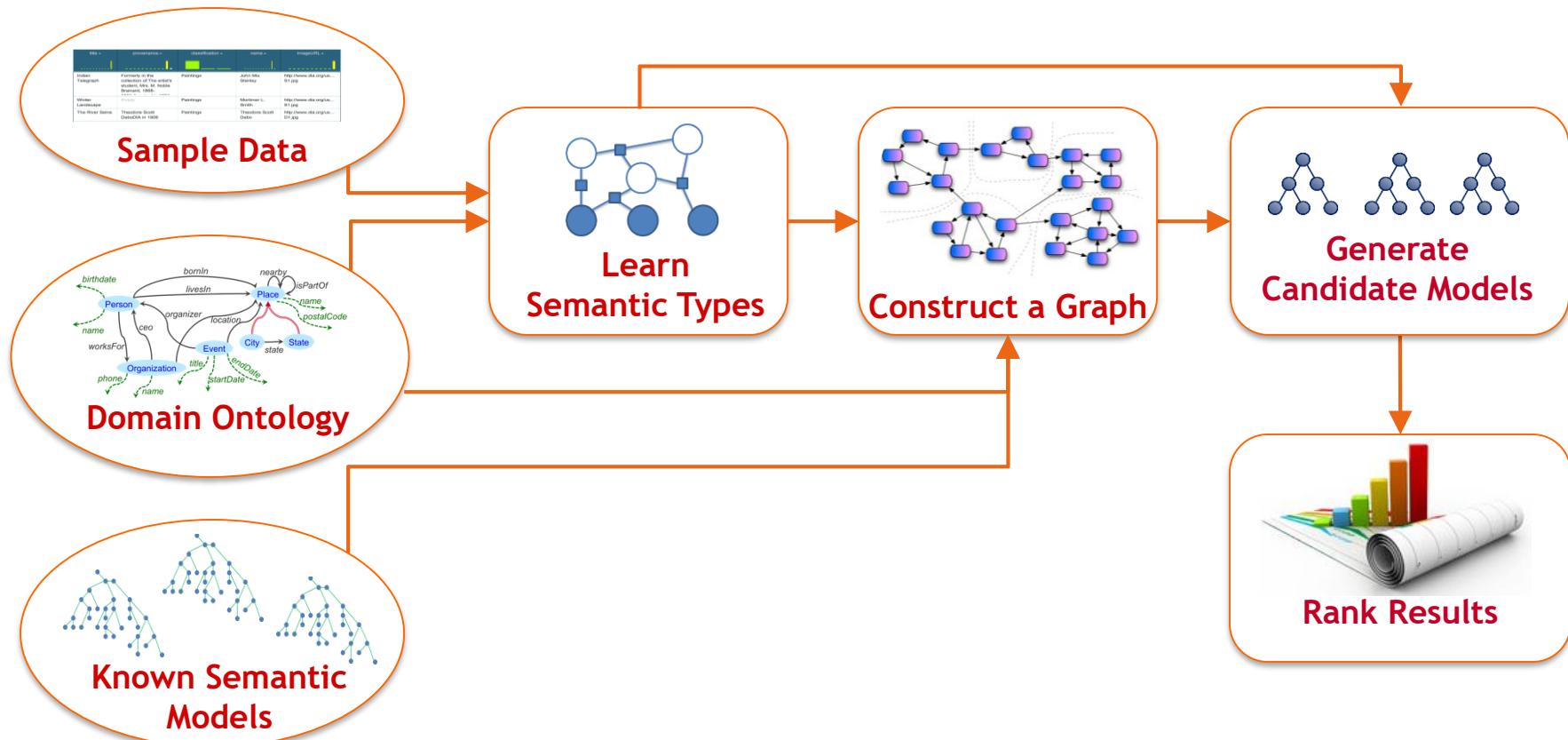
Source: Detroit Institute of Art ➔ dia(title,credit,classification,name,imageURL)

title ▾	credit ▾	classification ▾	name ▾	imageURL ▾
Indian Telegraph	Formerly in the collection of: The artist's student, Mrs. M. Noble Brainard, 1868-	Paintings	John Mix Stanley	<a href="http://www.dia.org/us...">http://www.dia.org/us...</a> S1.jpg
Winter Landscape	<i>Empty</i>	Paintings	Mortimer L. Smith	<a href="http://www.dia.org/us...">http://www.dia.org/us...</a> S1.jpg
The River Seine	Theodore Scott DaboDIA in 1906	Paintings	Theodore Scott Dabo	<a href="http://www.dia.org/us...">http://www.dia.org/us...</a> D1.jpg

Goal: Automatically suggest a semantic model for *dia*

# Approach

[Taheriyani et al, ISWC 2013, ICSC 2014, JWS 2015]



Implemented in Karma

# Approach

## Input

- Sample data from new source ( $S$ )
- Domain Ontologies ( $O$ )
- Known semantic models

① Learn semantic types for attributes( $s$ )

Construct Graph  $G=(V,E)$

Generate mappings between attributes( $S$ ) and  $V$

Generate and rank semantic models

## Output

- A ranked set of semantic models for  $S$

# Learn Semantic Types

- Learn *Semantic Types* for each attribute from its data
- Pick top K semantic types according to their confidence values

dia(title,credit, classification, name,imageURL)		
title	<aac:CulturalHeritageObject, dcterms:title>	0.49
	<aac:CulturalHeritageObject, rdfs:label>	0.28
credit	<aac:CulturalHeritageObject, dcterms:provenance>	0.83
	<aac:Person, ElementsGr2:note>	0.06
classification	<skos:Concept, skos:prefLabel>	0.58
	<skos:Concept, rdfs:label>	0.41
name	<aac:Person, foaf:name>	0.65
	<fofa:Person, fofaf:name>	0.32
imageURL	<foaf:Document, uri>	0.47
	<edm:WebResource, uri>	0.40

# Approach

## Input

- Sample data from new source ( $S$ )
  - Domain Ontologies ( $O$ )
  - Known semantic models
- ✓ Learn semantic types for attributes(s)

### ② Construct Graph $G=(V,E)$

Generate mappings between attributes( $S$ ) and  $V$

Generate and rank semantic models

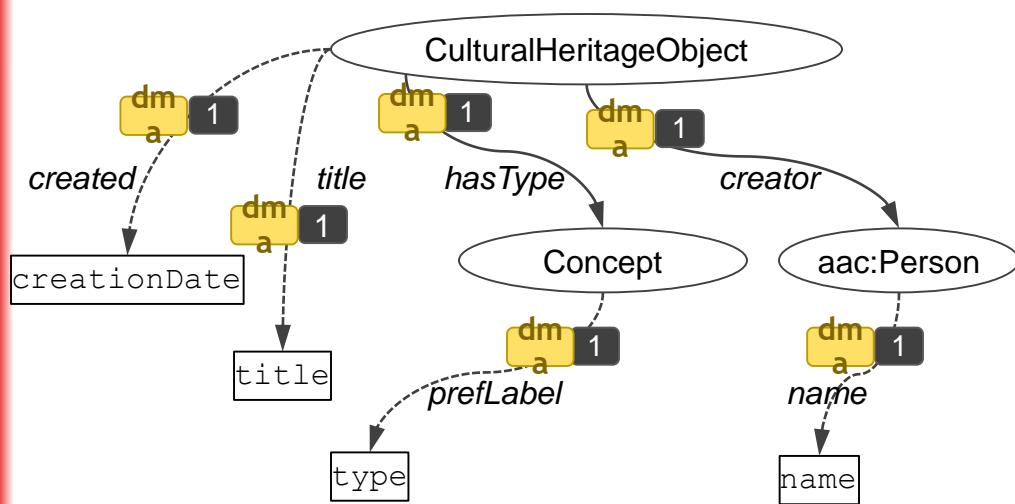
## Output

- A ranked set of semantic models for  $S$

# Build Graph G: Add Known Models

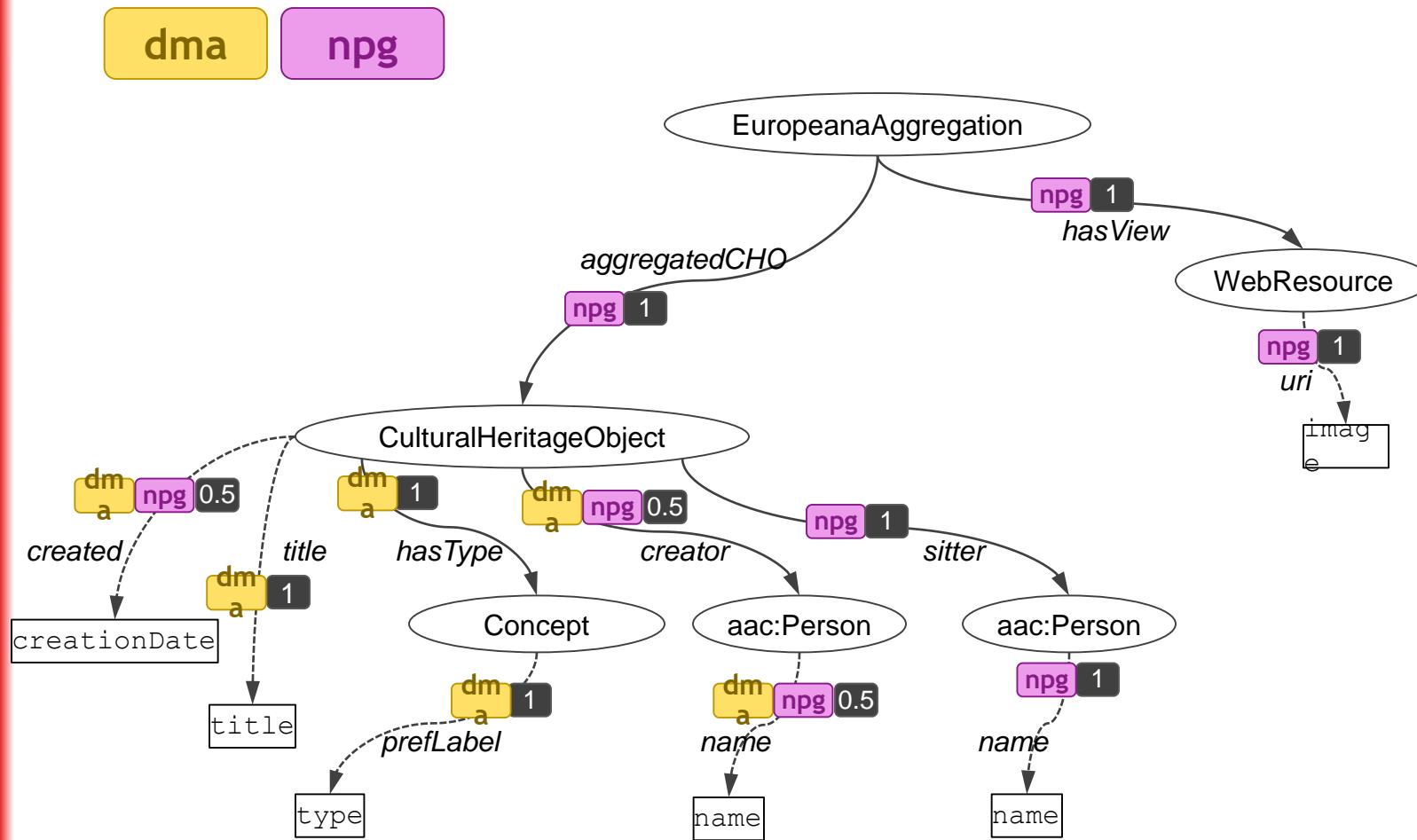
- Annotate (tag) nodes and links with list of supporting models
- Adjust weight based on the number of supporting models

dma



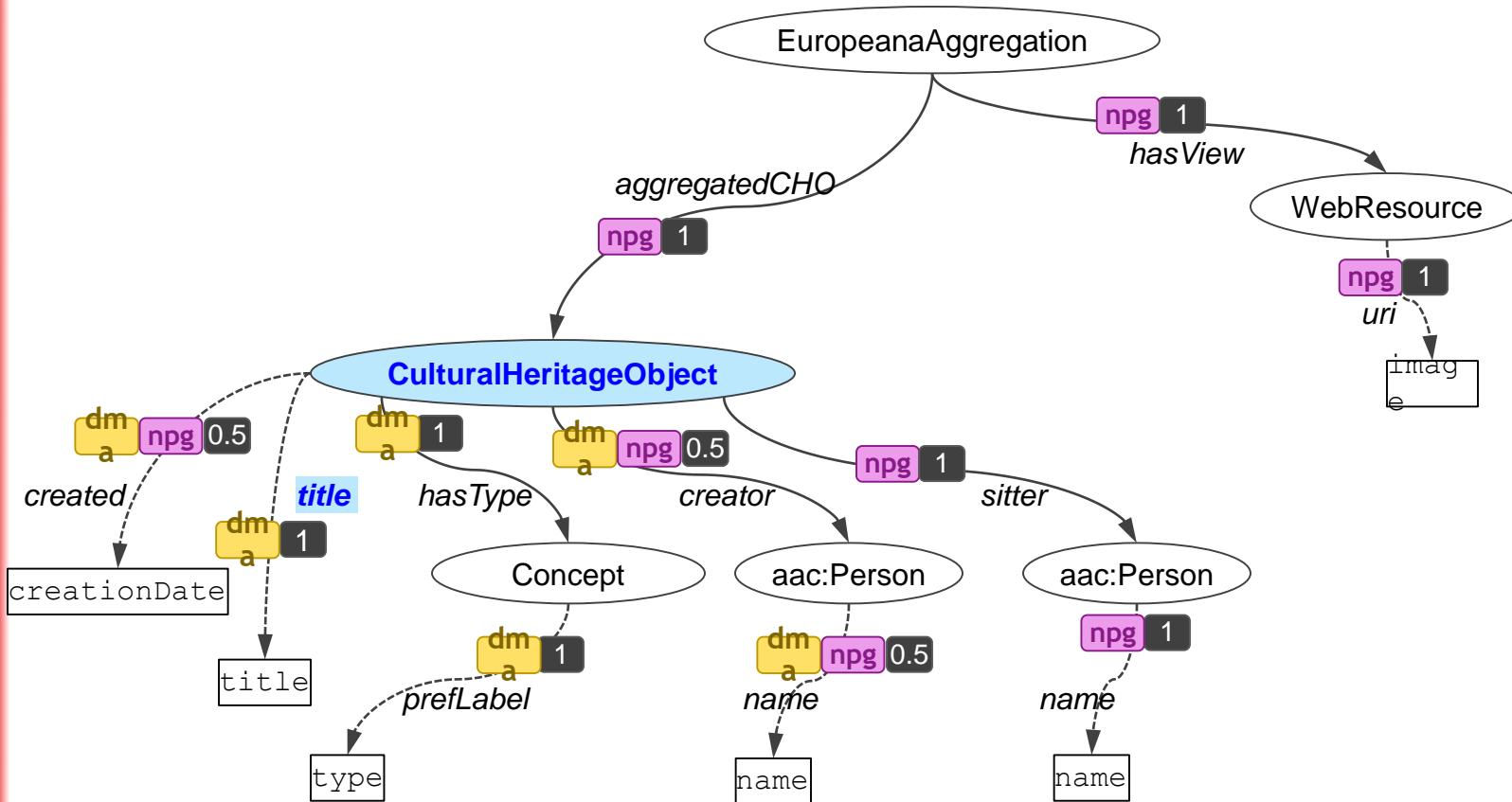
# Build Graph G: Add Known Models

- Annotate (tag) nodes and links with list of supporting models
- Adjust weight based on the number of tags



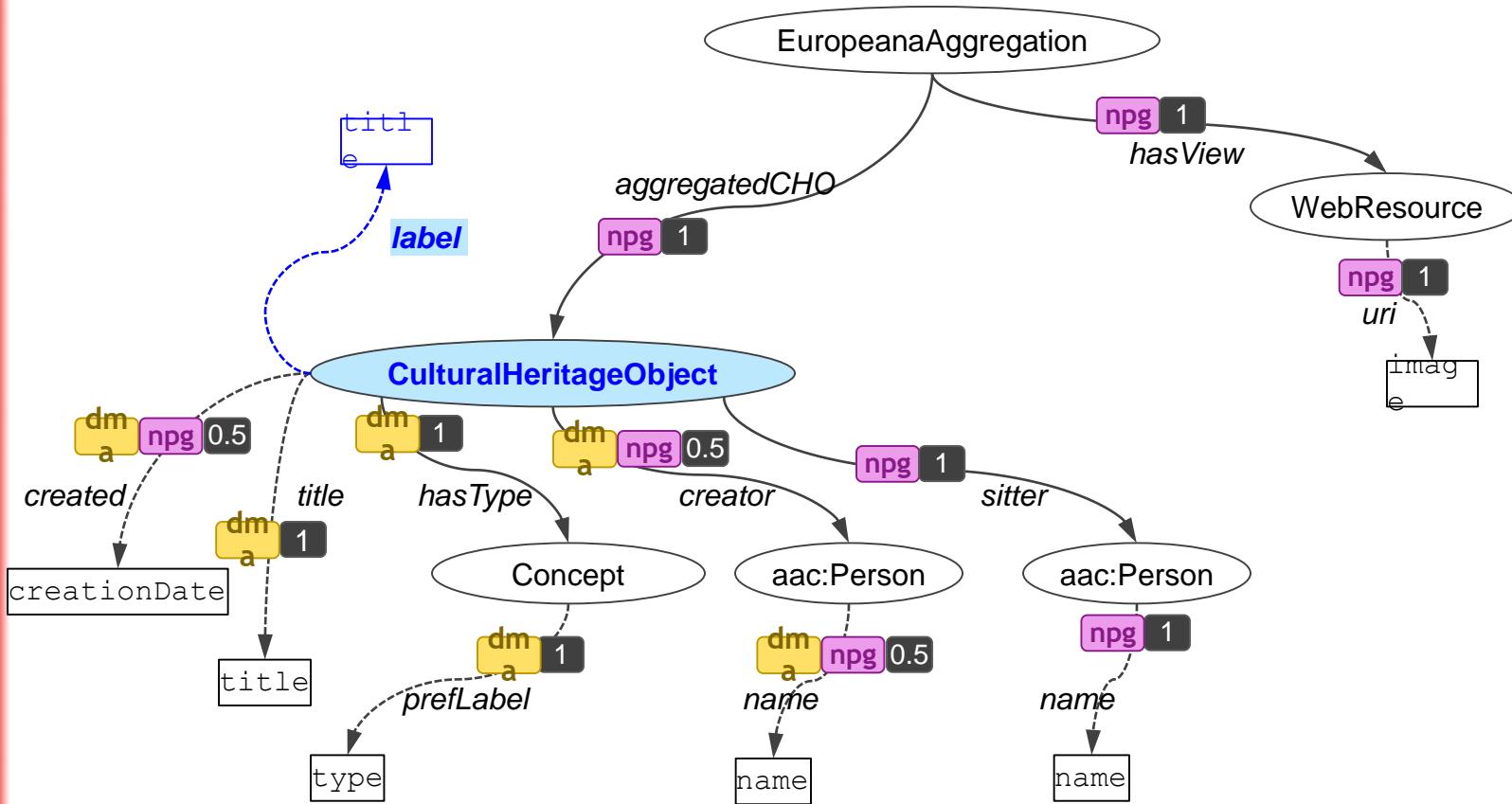
# Build Graph G: Add Semantic Types

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title>	<CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance>	<Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel>	<Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name>	<foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri>	<WebResource,uri>



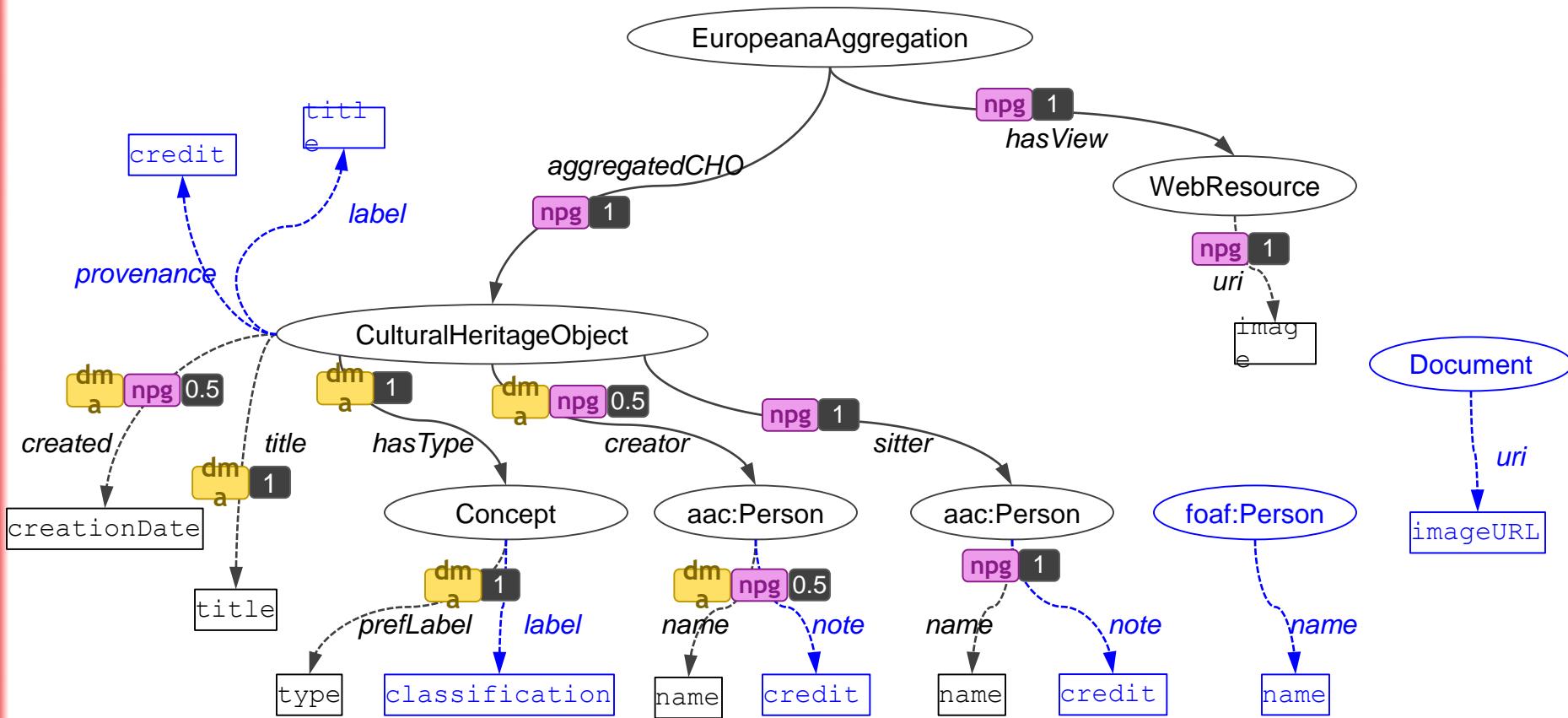
# Build Graph G: Add Semantic Types

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title>	<CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance>	<Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel>	<Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name>	<foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri>	<WebResource,uri>



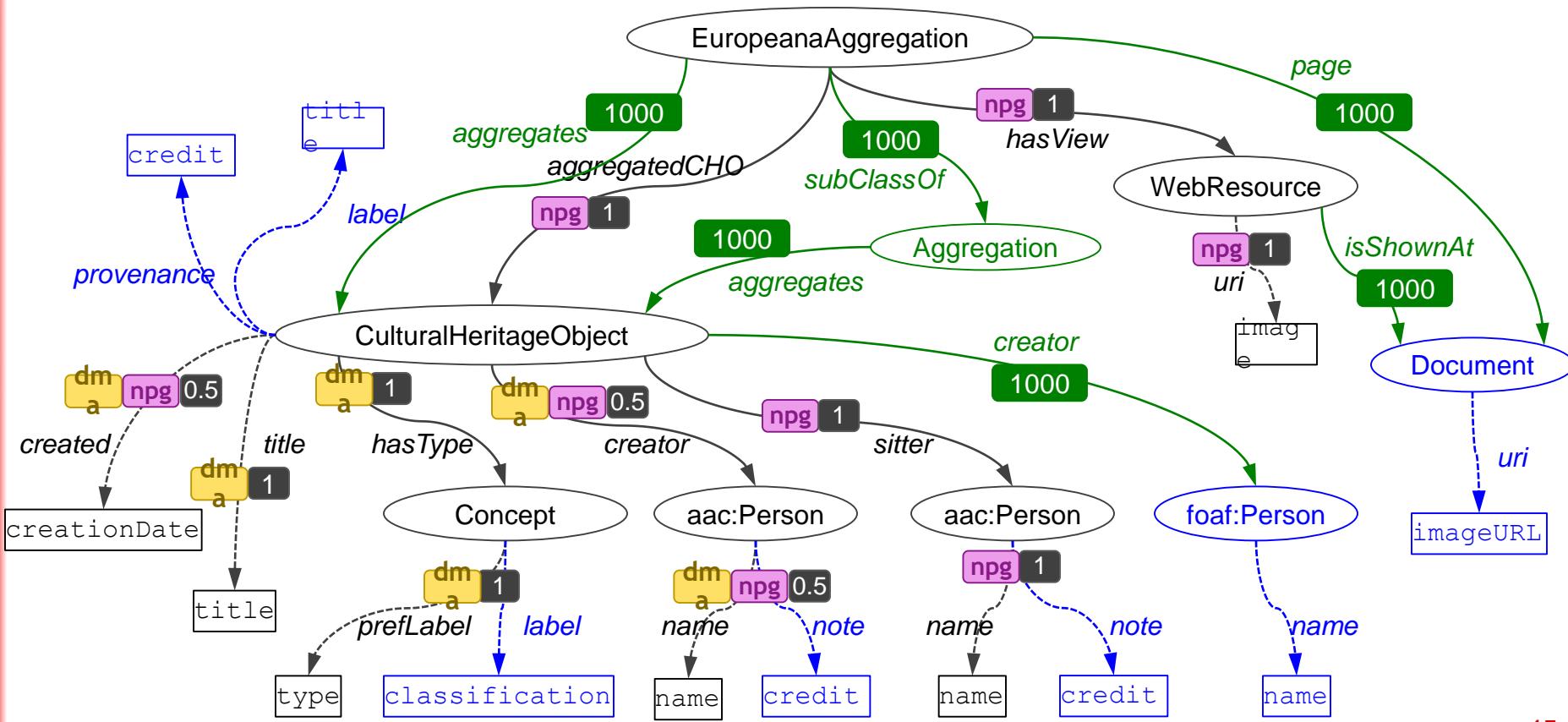
# Build Graph G: Add Semantic Types

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title> <CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance> <Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel> <Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name> <foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri> <WebResource,uri>



# Build Graph G: Expand with Paths from Ontology

- Assign a high weight to the links coming from the ontology



# Approach

## Input

- Sample data from new source ( $S$ )
  - Domain Ontologies ( $O$ )
  - Known semantic models
- ✓ Learn semantic types for attributes( $s$ )
- ✓ Construct Graph  $G=(V,E)$
- 3 Generate mappings between attributes( $S$ ) and  $V$

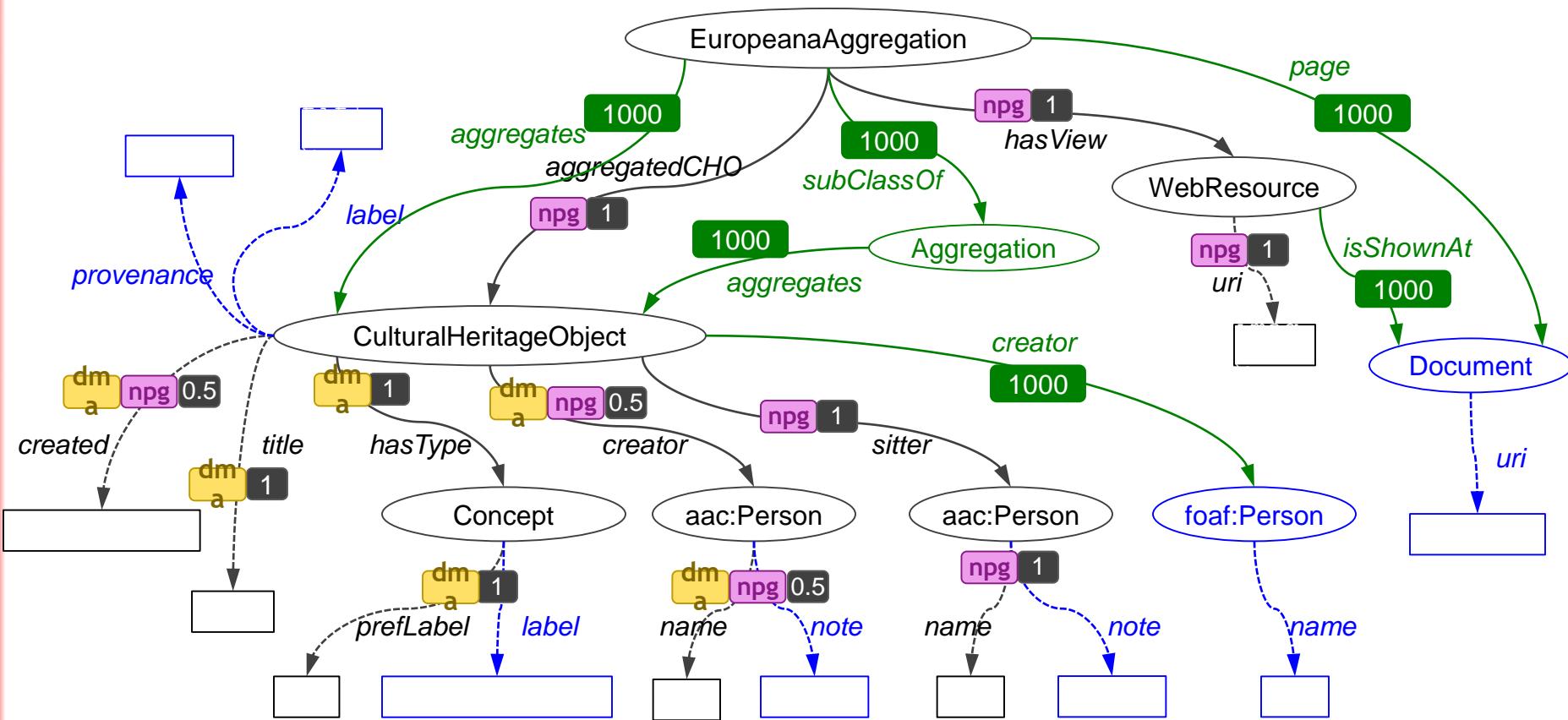
Generate and rank semantic models

## Output

- A ranked set of semantic models for  $S$

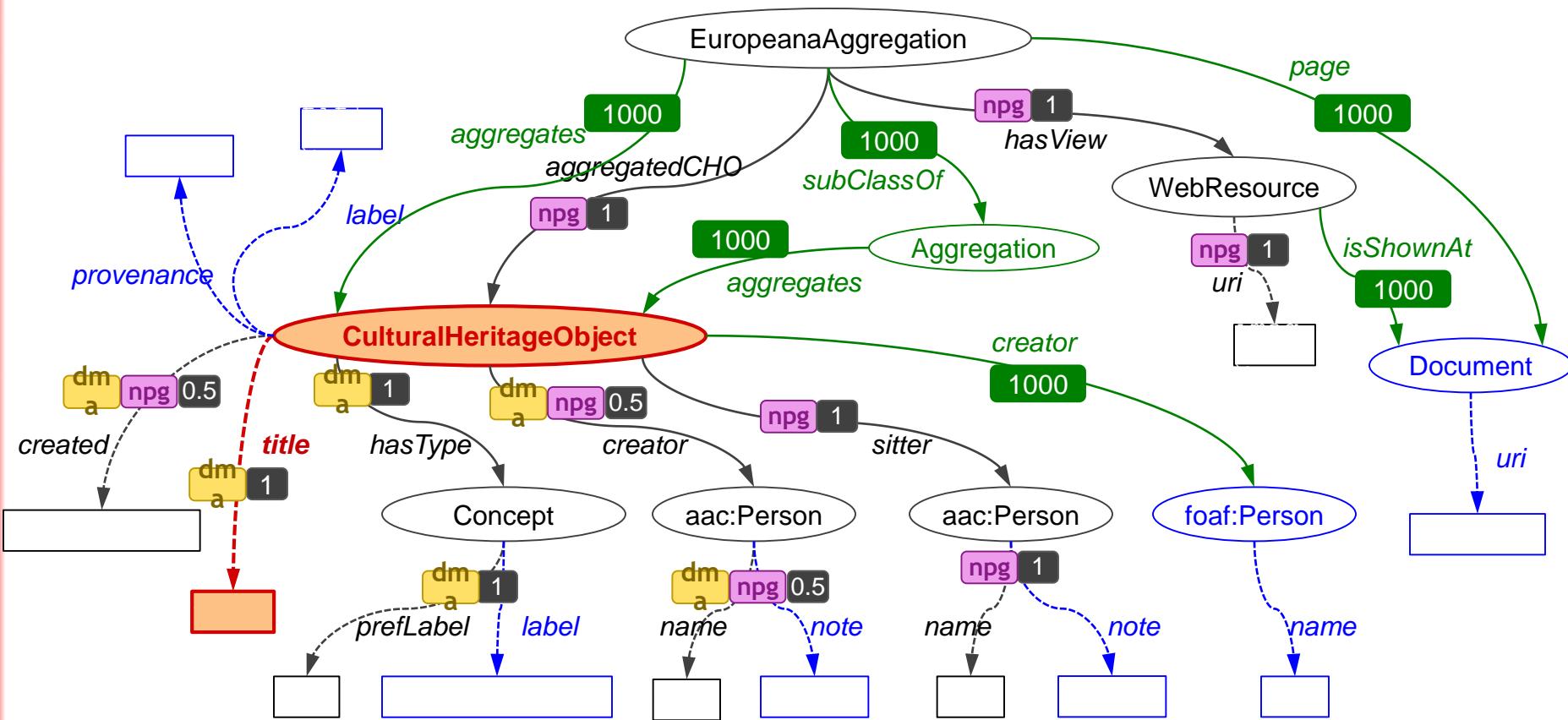
# Map Source Attributes to the Graph

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title>	<CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance>	<Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel>	<Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name>	<foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri>	<WebResource,uri>



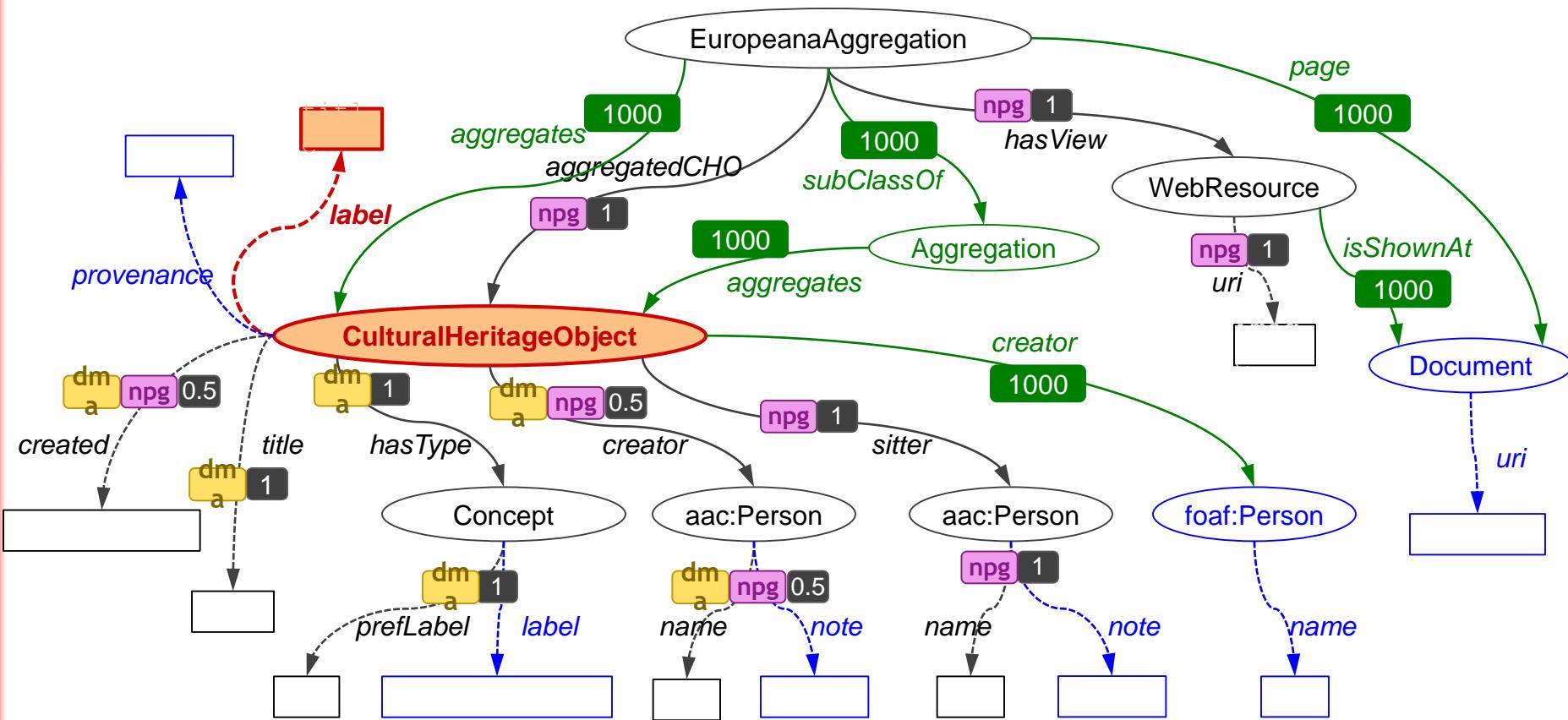
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title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title> <CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance> <Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel> <Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name> <foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri> <WebResource,uri>



# Map Source Attributes to the Graph

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title> <CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance> <Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel> <Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name> <foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri> <WebResource,uri>



# Approach

## Input

- Sample data from new source ( $S$ )
- Domain Ontologies ( $O$ )
- Known semantic models

- ✓ Learn semantic types for attributes( $s$ )
- ✓ Construct Graph  $G=(V,E)$
- ✓ Generate mappings between attributes( $S$ ) and  $V$
- 4 Generate and rank semantic models

## Output

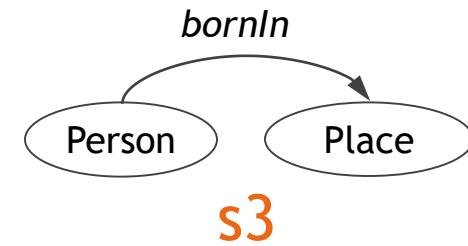
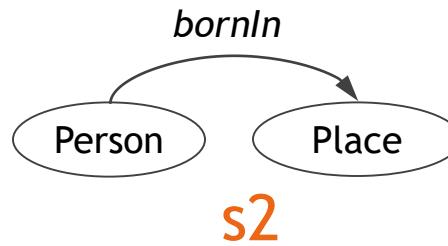
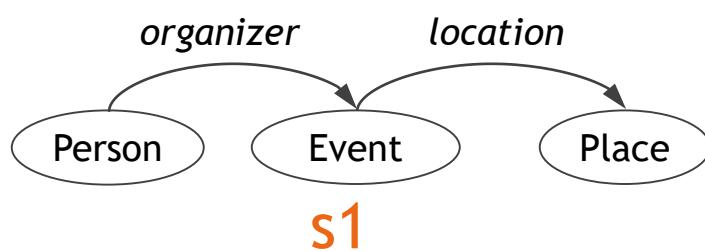
- A ranked set of semantic models for  $S$

# Generate Semantic Models

- Compute Steiner tree for each mapping
  - A minimal tree connecting nodes of mapping
  - A customization of BANKS algorithm [Bhalotia et al., 2002]
- Our algorithm considers both coherence and popularity
- Each tree is a candidate model
- Rank the models based on coherence and cost

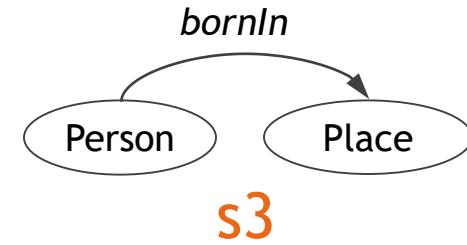
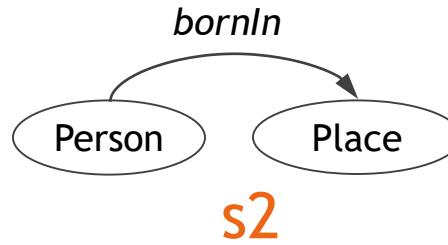
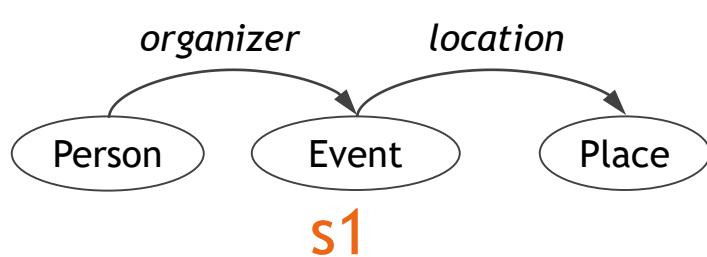
# Why Coherence is Important?

## Known Models

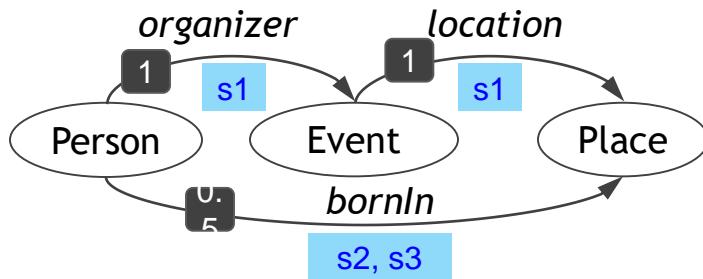


# Why Coherence is Important?

## Known Models

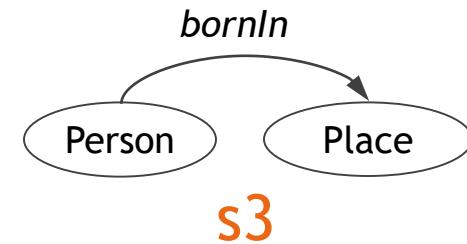
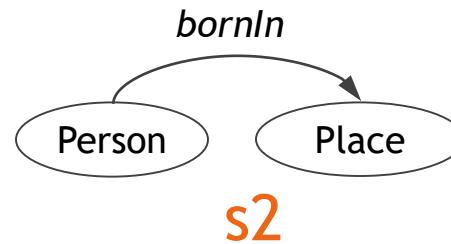
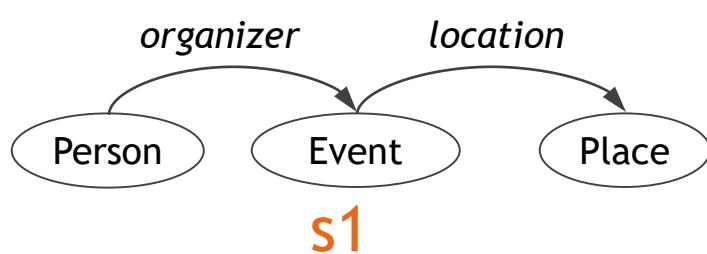


## Graph

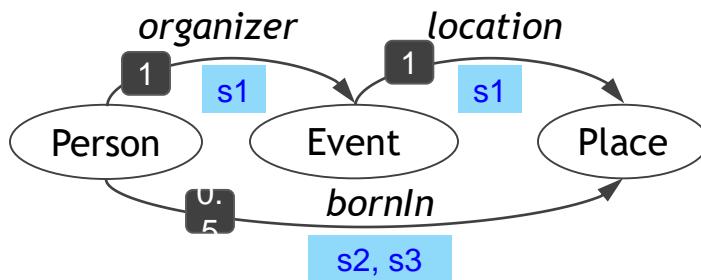


# Why Coherence is Important?

## Known Models



## Graph

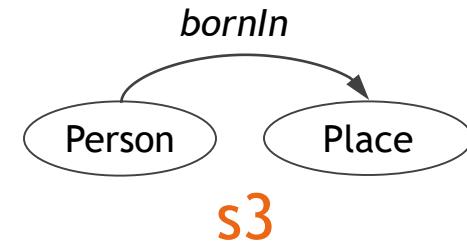
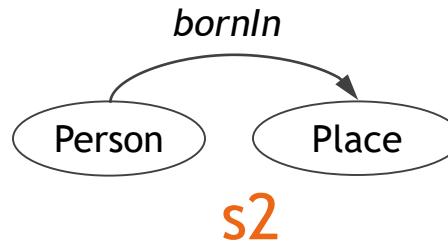
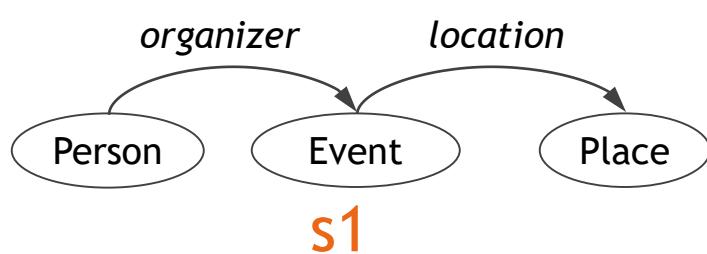


Semantic types  
of a new source

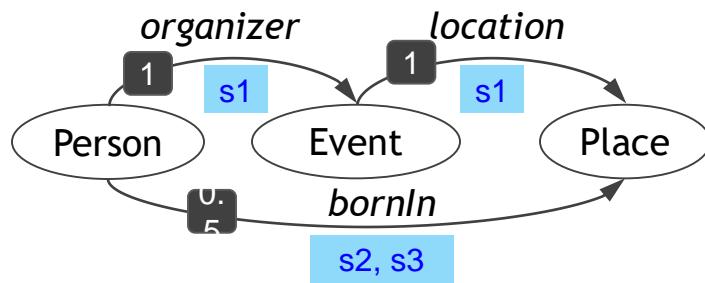
Person  
Event  
Place

# Why Coherence is Important?

## Known Models



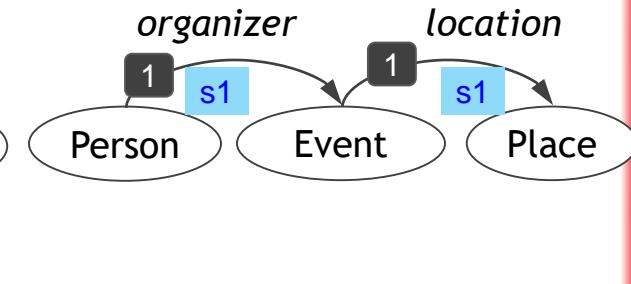
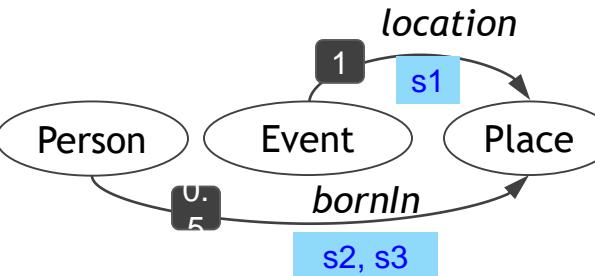
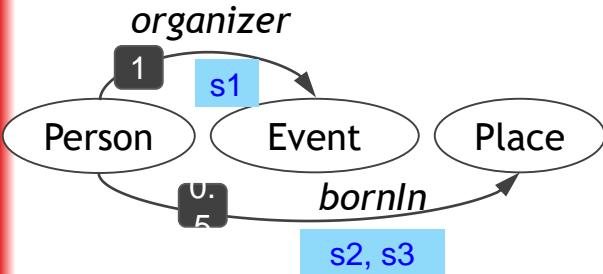
## Graph



Semantic types  
of a new source

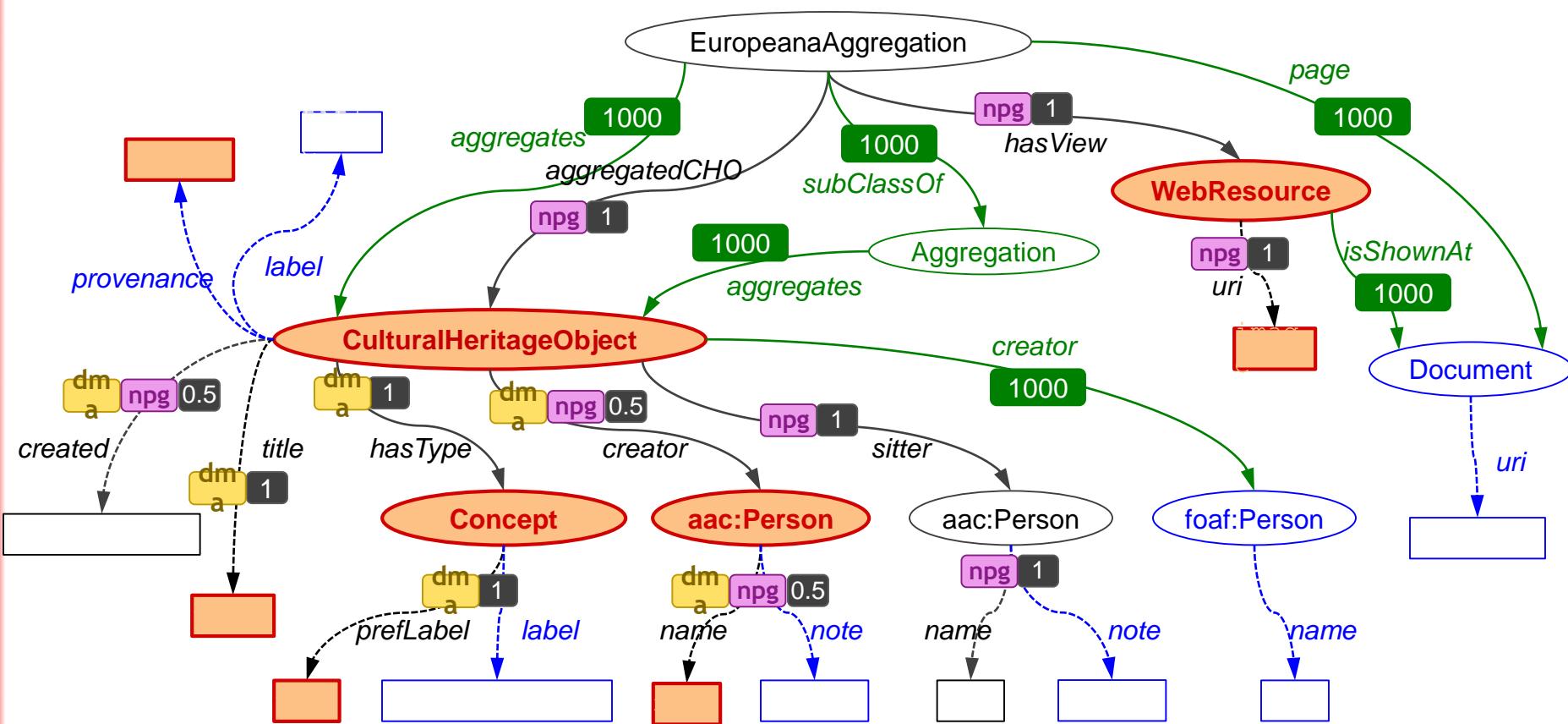
Person  
Event  
Place

## Top 3 Steiner trees



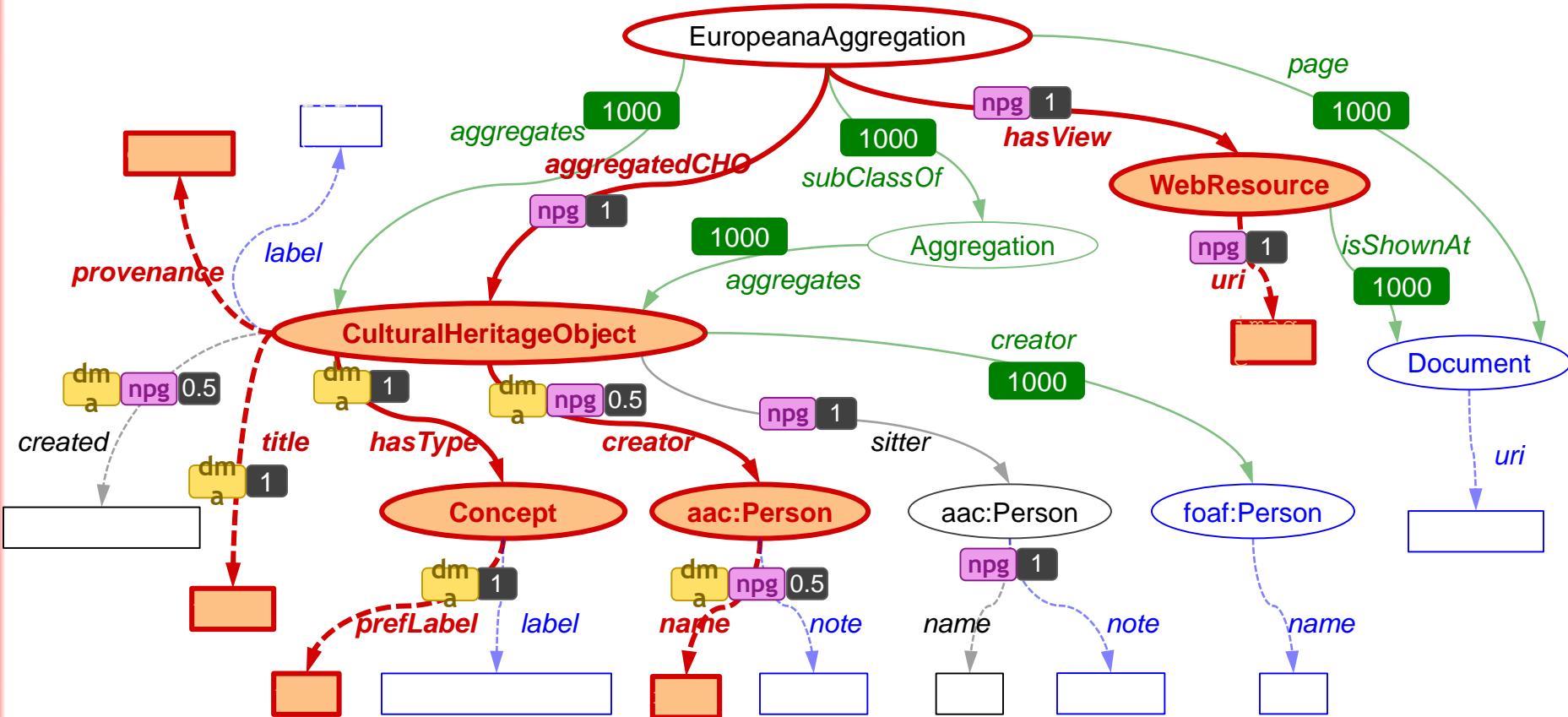
# Example Mapping

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title>	<CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance>	<Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel>	<Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name>	<foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri>	<WebResource,uri>



# Steiner Tree

title	<CulturalHeritageObject,title>	<CulturalHeritageObject,label>
credit	<CulturalHeritageObject,provenance>	<Person,note>
classification	<Concept,prefLabel>	<Concept,label>
name	<aac:Person,name>	<foaf:Person,name>
imageURL	<Document,uri>	<WebResource,uri>

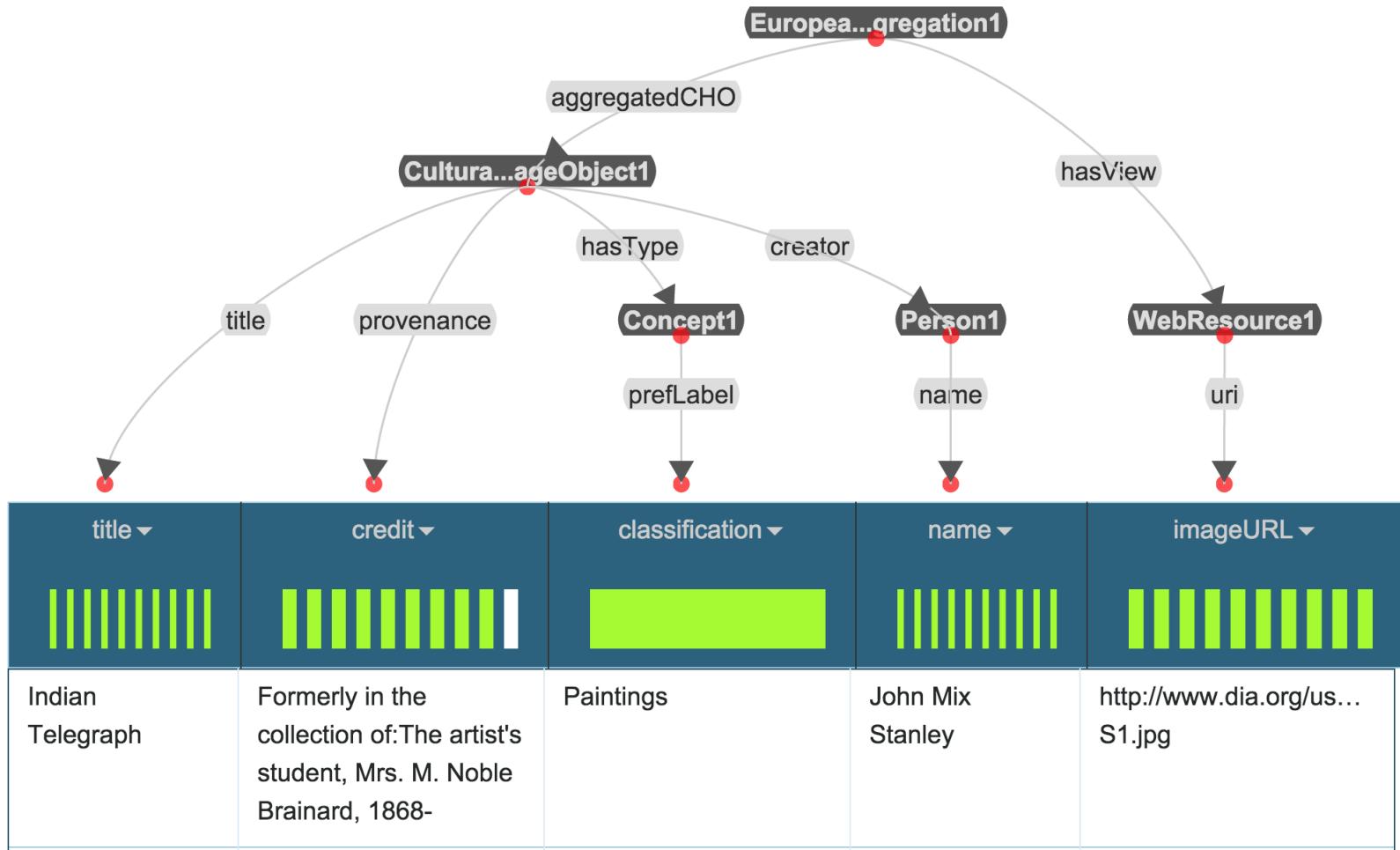


# Final Model in Karma

Domain: Museum Data

Domain ontologies: [EDM](#) [SKOS](#) [FOAF](#) [AAC](#) [ORE](#) [ElementsGr2](#) [DCTerms](#)

Source: Detroit Institute of Art ➔ dia(title,credit,classification,name,imageURL)



# Evaluation

Evaluation Dataset	EDM	CRM
# sources	29	29
# classes in the ontologies	119	147
# properties in the ontologies	351	409
# nodes in the gold standard models	473	812
# links in the gold standard models	444	785

Compute precision and recall between learned models and correct models

$$precision = \frac{rel(sm) \cap rel(sm')}{rel(sm')}$$

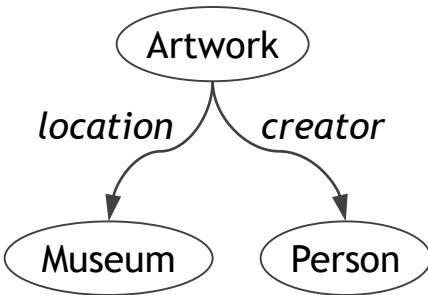
How many of the learned relationships are correct?

$$recall = \frac{rel(sm) \cap rel(sm')}{rel(sm)}$$

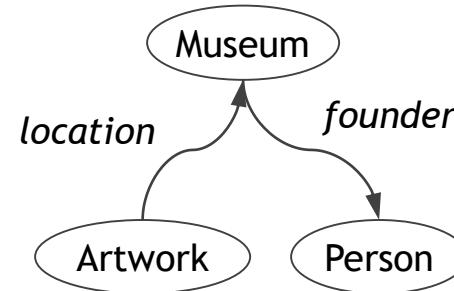
How many of the correct relationships are learned?

$rel(sm)$  is the set of triples <source, link, target> in the semantic model <sup>61</sup>

# Example



correct model



learned model

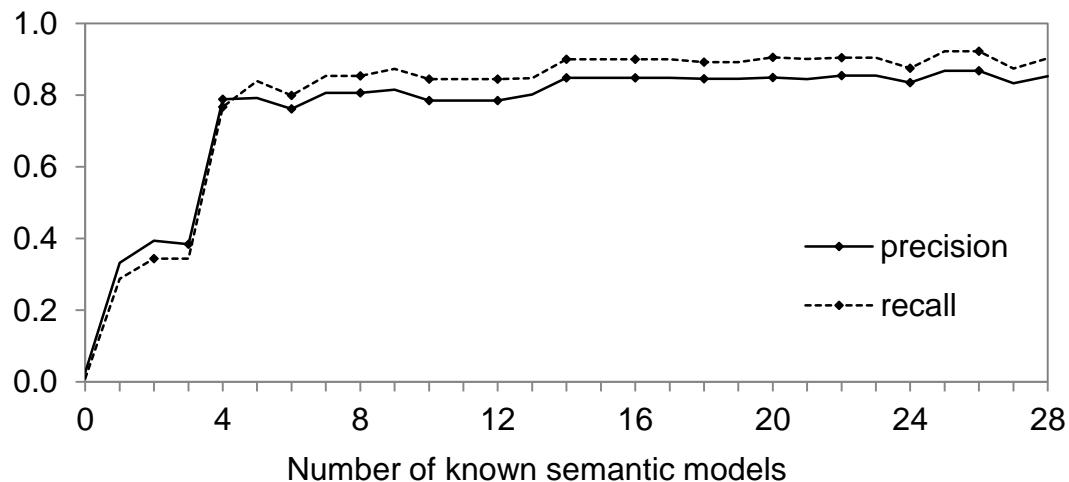
<Artwork,location,Museum>  
<Artwork,creator,Person>

<Museum,founder,Person>  
<Artwork,location,Museum>

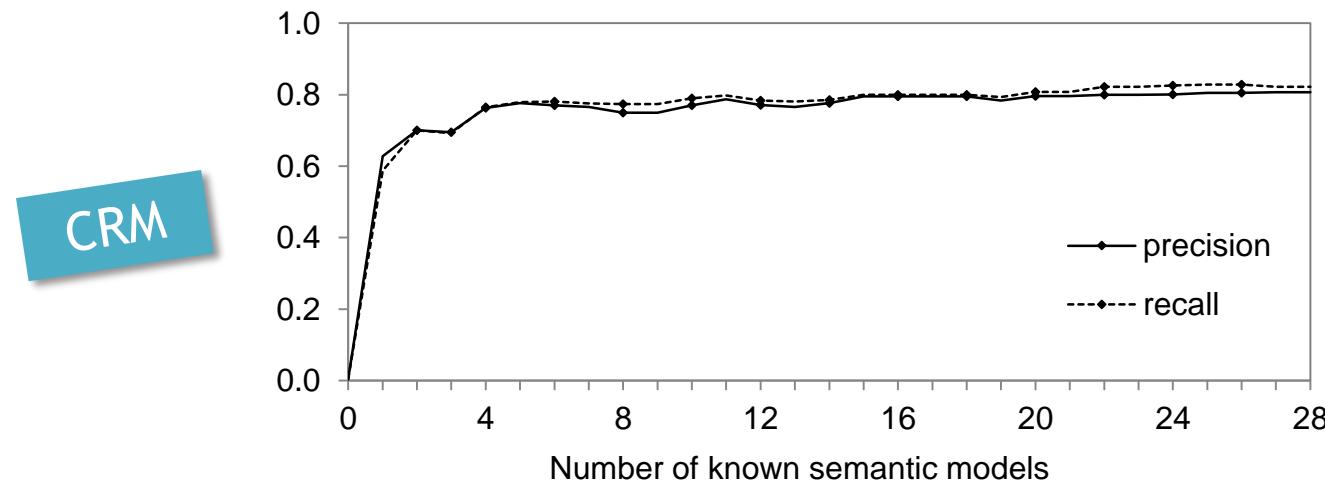
Precision: 0.5  
Recall: 0.5

# Experiment 1

correct semantic types are given



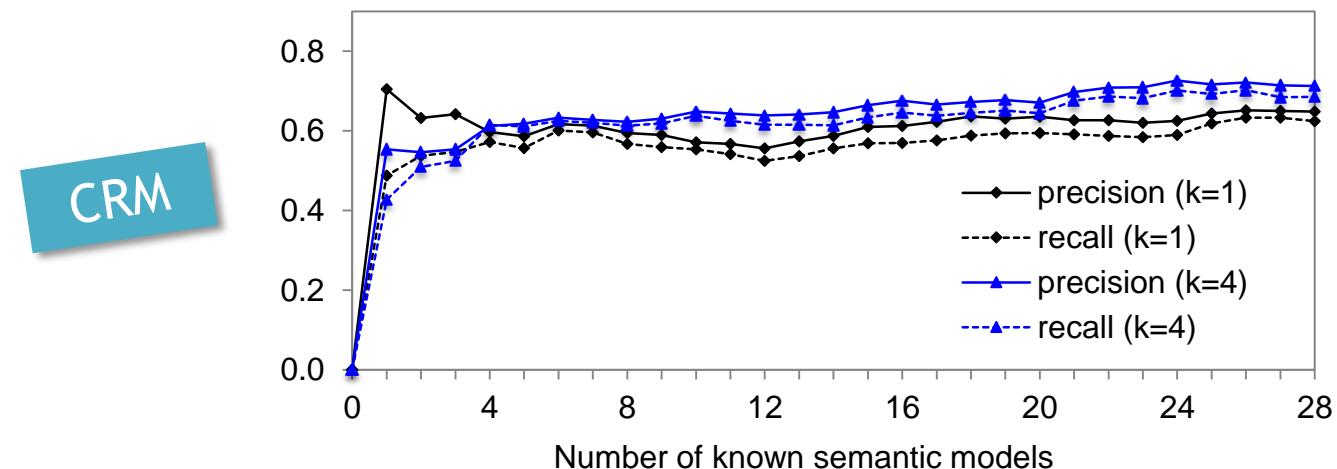
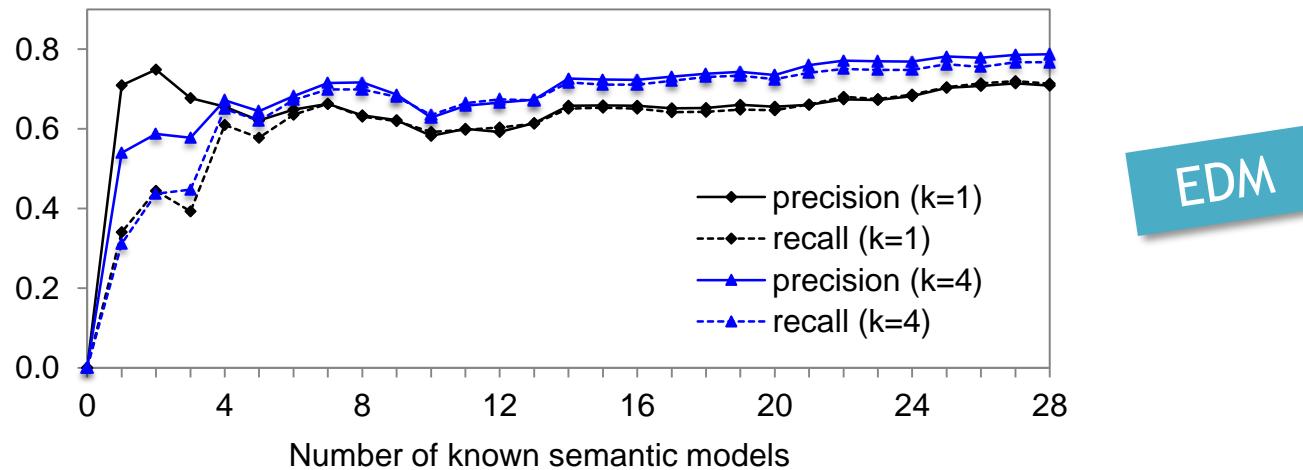
EDM



CRM

# Experiment 2

learn semantic types, pick top K candidates



# Limitation

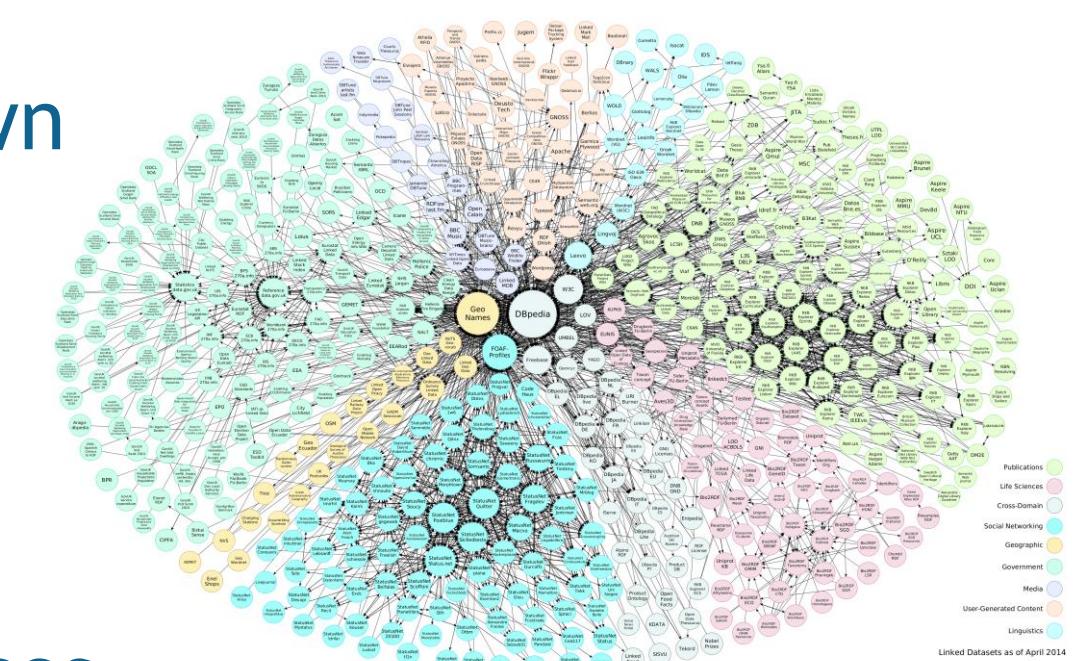
- Lack of sufficient known semantic models  
in some domains

# Inferring Semantic Relations from Linked Open Data

**Contribution:** leveraging graph patterns in LOD  
to infer relationships

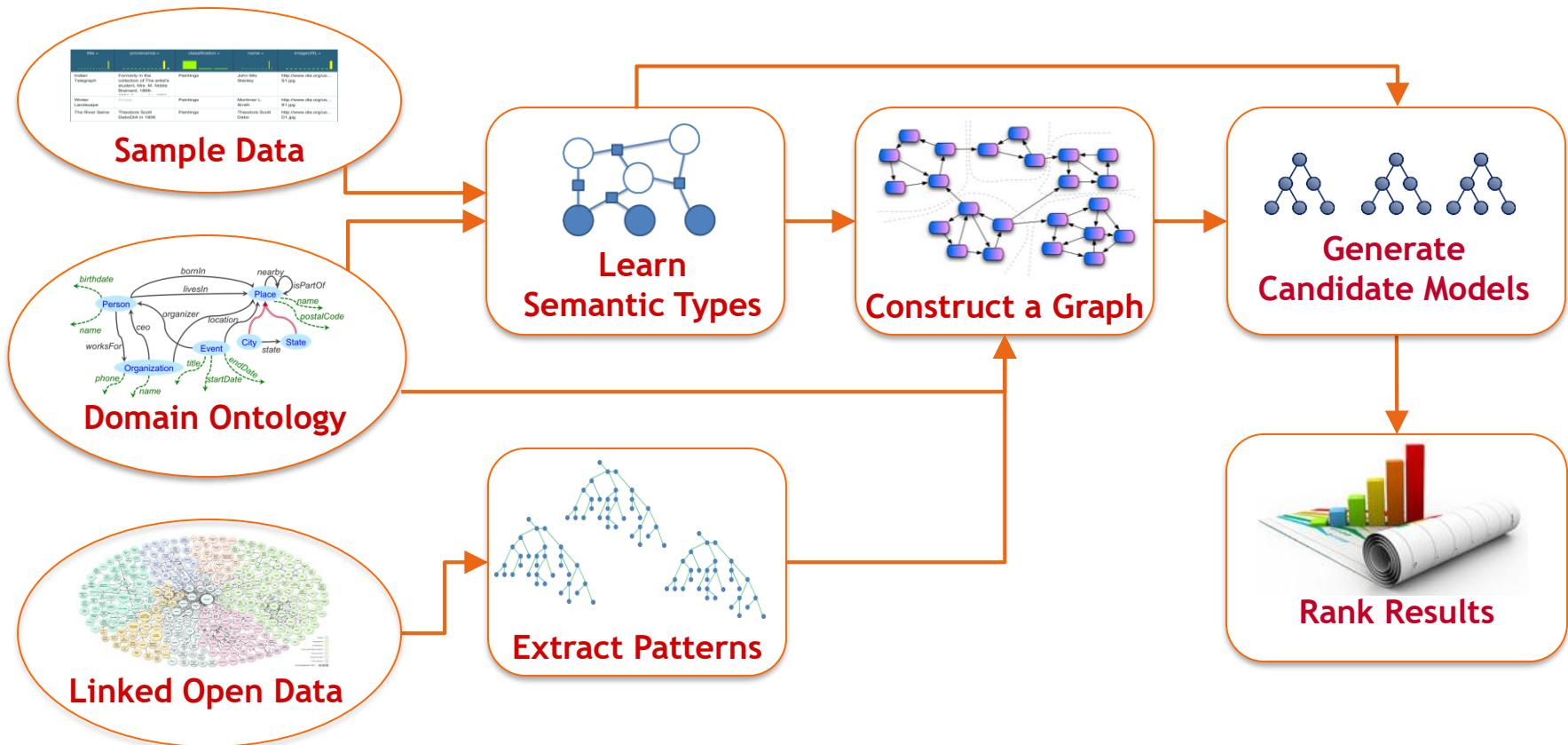
# Idea

- There is a huge amount of linked data available in many domains (RDF format)
- Use LOD when there is no known semantic model
- Exploit the relationships between instances

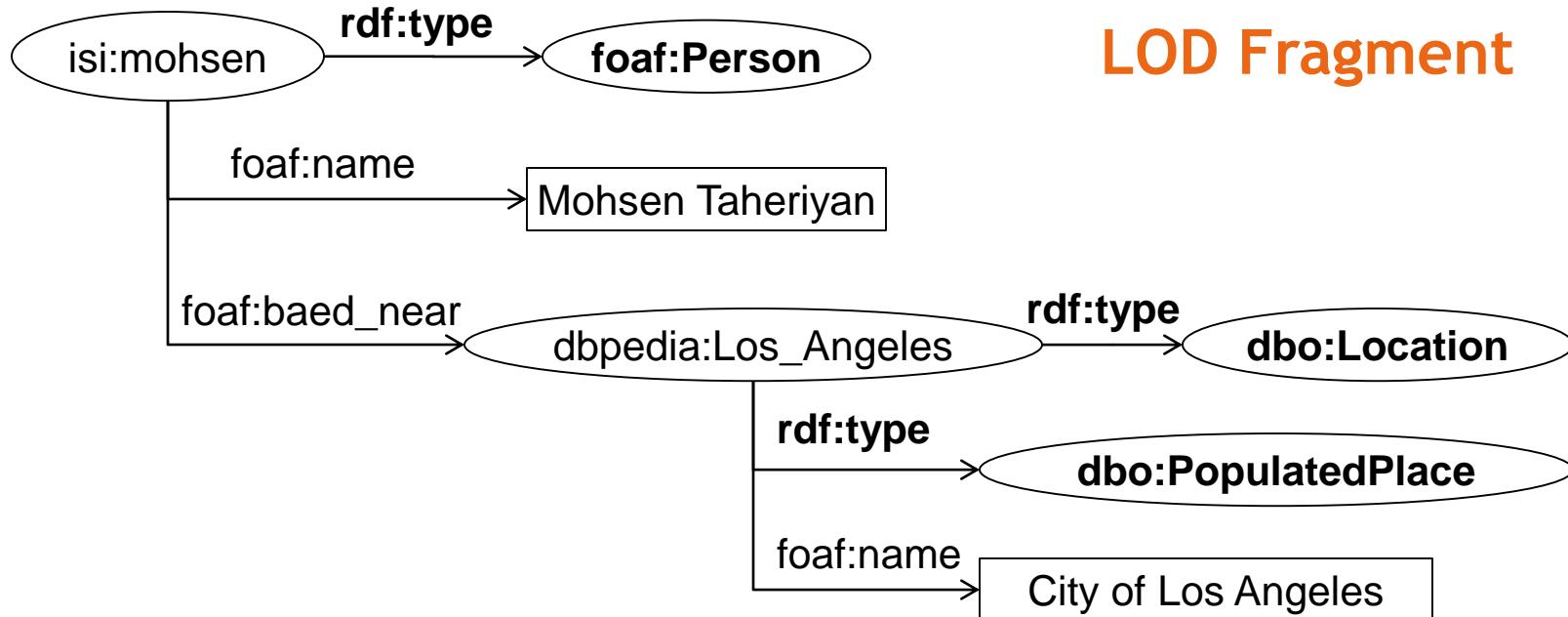


# Approach

[Taheriyani et al, COLD 2015]

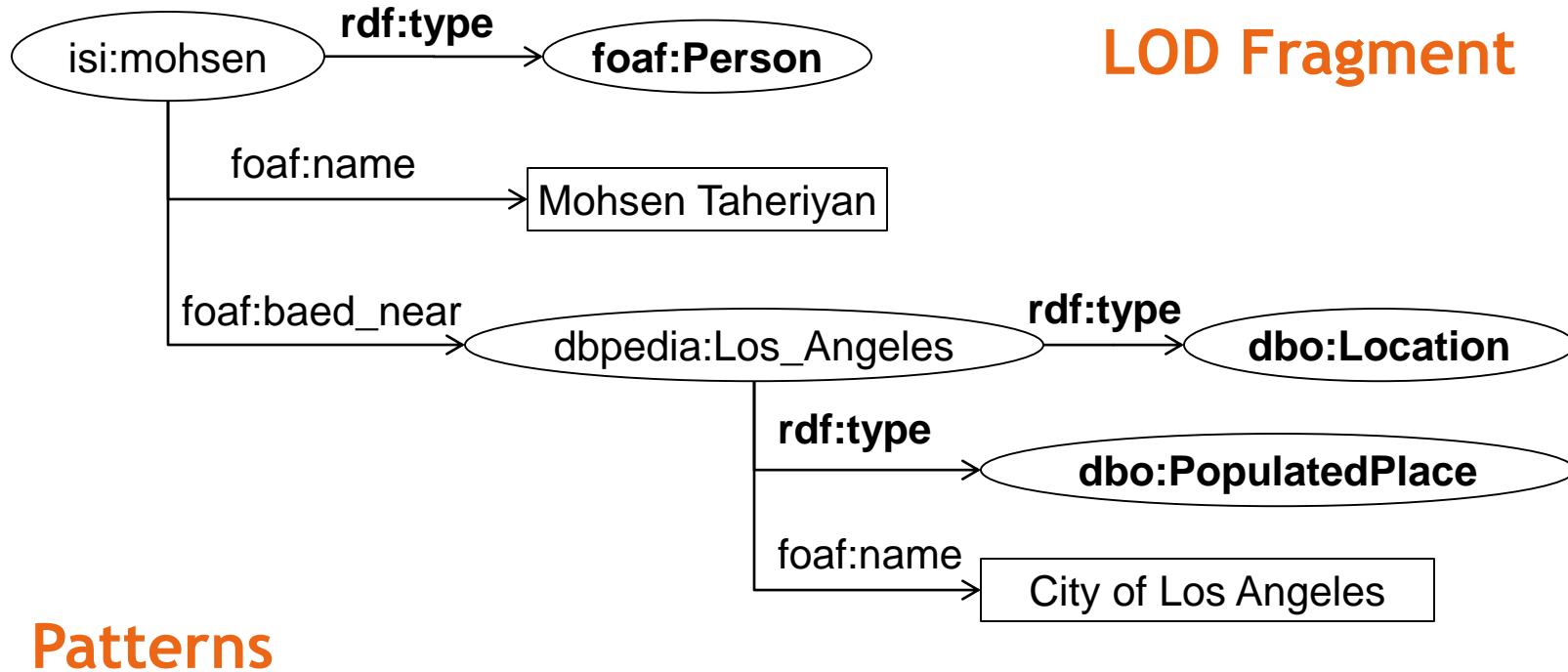


# LOD Patterns



LOD Fragment

# LOD Patterns



# Evaluation

- **Linked data:** 3,398,350 triples published by Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Correct semantic types given
- Extracted patterns of length 1 and 2

Evaluation Dataset		CRM
# sources		29
# classes in the ontologies		147
# properties in the ontologies		409
# nodes in the gold standard models		812
# links in the gold standard models		785

background knowledge	precision	recall	time (s)
domain ontology	0.07	0.05	0.17
domain ontology + patterns of length 1	0.65	0.55	0.75
domain ontology + patterns of length 1 and 2	0.78	0.70	0.46

# Related Work

# Related Work

- Mapping databases and spreadsheets to ontologies
  - Mapping languages: D2R [Bizer, 2003], D2RQ [Bizer and Seaborne, 2004], R2RML [Das et al., 2012]
  - Tools: RDOTE [Vavliakis et al., 2010], RDF123 [Han et al., 2008], XLWrap [Langegger and Woß, 2009]
  - String similarity between column names and ontology terms [Polfliet and Ichise, 2010]
- Understand semantics of Web tables
  - Use column headers and cell values to find the labels and relations from a database of labels and relations populated from the Web [Wang et al., 2012] [Limaye et al., 2010] [Venetis et al., 2011]
- Exploit Linked Open Data (LOD)
  - Link the values to the entities in LOD to find the types of the values and their relationships [Muoz et al., 2013] [Mulwad et al., 2013]
- Semantic annotation of Web services
  - Languages: SAWSDL [Farrell and Lausen, 2007]
  - Tools: SWEET [Maleshkova et al., 2009]
  - Annotate input and output parameters [Heß et al., 2003] [Lerman et al., 2006] [Saquicela e al., 2011]
- Learn Semantic Definitions of Online Information Sources [Carman, Knoblock, 2007]
  - Learns LAV rules from known sources
  - Only learns descriptions that are conjunctive combinations of known descriptions

# Discussion & Future Work

# Discussion

- Contributions
  - Semi-automatically model the relationships
  - Learn semantic models from previous models
  - Infer semantic relationships from LOD
- Provide explicit semantics for large portion of LOD
- Help to publish consistent RDF data
- Applications
  - VIVO
  - Smithsonian American Art Museum
  - DIG for DARPA's Memex project

# Future Work

- Improve the quality of semantic labeling
  - Use LOD to learn semantic types
- Extract longer patterns from LOD
- Publish linked data
  - Transform the data to a common vocabulary
  - Linking entities across different datasets