Rules, RIF and RuleML
Rule Knowledge

- Rules generalize facts, making them conditional on other facts (often via chaining through further rules)
- Rules generalize taxonomies via multiple premises, n-ary predicates, structured arguments, etc.
- Two uses of rules: top-down (backward-chaining) and bottom-up (forward-chaining) – represented only once
The interchange approach

- W3C’s RDF stack is an integrated solution for encoding & interchanging knowledge
  - Supporting OWL (DL) constrains it quite a bit
  - E.g., preventing adoption of an OWL rule standard
- There are other approaches to standardizing rule languages for knowledge exchange
  - RuleML: Rule Markup Language, an XML approach for representing rules
  - RIF: Rule Interchange Format, a W3C standard for exchanging rules
- Neither tries to be compatible with OWL
Many different rule languages

- There are rule languages families: logic, logic programming, production, procedural, etc.
  - Instances in a family may differ in their syntax, semantics or other aspects

- **Jess** production rule language
  
  ```
  (deffrule r42 (parent ?a ?b) (male ?a) => (assert (father ?a ?b)))
  ```

- **Prolog** logic programming language

  ```
  father(A,B) :- parent(A,B), Male (A).
  ```

- **Common Logic** logic format

  ```
  (=> (and (parent ?a ?b) (male ?a)) (father ?a ?b))
  ```
Rather than have $N^2$ translators for $N$ languages, we could
- Develop a common rule interchange format
- Let each language do import/export mappings for it

Two modern interchange formats for rules
- RuleML: Rule Markup Language, an XML approach for representing rules
- RIF: Rule Interchange Format, a W3C standard for exchanging rules
RuleML's goal: express both forward (bottom-up) and backward (top-down) rules in XML

See [http://ruleml.org/](http://ruleml.org/)

Effort began in 2001 and has informed and been informed by W3C efforts

An “open network of individuals and groups from both industry and academia”
RIF

- W3C Rule Interchange Format
- Three dialects: Core, BLD, and PRD
  - Core: common subset of most rule engines, a "safe" positive datalog with builtins
  - BLD (Basic Logic Dialect): adds logic functions, equality and named arguments, positive horn logic
  - PRD (Production Rules Dialect): adds action with side effects in rule conclusion
- Has a mapping to RDF
An example of a RIF rule

From http://w3.org/2005/rules/wiki/Primer

Document(
  Prefix(rdfs <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> )
  Prefix(imdbrel <http://example.com/imdbrelations#> )
  Prefix(dbpedia <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/> )

Group(
  Forall ?Actor ?Film ?Role ( 
    If And(imdbrel:playsRole(?Actor ?Role) 
      imdbrel:roleInFilm(?Role ?Film)) 
    Then dbpedia:starring(?Film ?Actor) ) ) )

Another RIF example, with guards

From http://w3.org/2005/rules/wiki/Primer

Document(
    Prefix(rdf <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>)
    Prefix(rdfs <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>)
    Prefix(imdbrel <http://example.com/imdbrelations#>)
    Prefix(dbpedia http://dbpedia.org/ontology/)
    Group(
        Forall ?Actor ?Film ?Role ( 
            If And(?Actor # imdbrel:Actor
                ?Film # imdbrel:Film
                ?Role # imdbrel:Character
                imdbrel:playsRole(?Actor ?Role)
                imdbrel:roleInFilm(?Role ?Film))
            Then dbpedia:starring(?Film ?Actor))))
Rif document can contain facts

The following will conclude bio:mortal(phil:Socrates)

Document(
  Prefix(bio <http://example.com/biology#>)
  Prefix(phil <http://example.com/philosophers#>)
  Group(
    If bio:human(?x)
    Then bio:mortal(?x) )
  Group(
    bio:human(phil:Socrates) ))
Another RIF example (PRD)

Document:

```
Prefix(rdfs <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>)
Prefix(imdbrelf <http://example.com/fauximdbrelations#>)
Prefix(dbpediraf <http://example.com/fauxibdbrelations>)
Prefix(ibdbrelf <http://example.com/fauxibdbrelations#>)
Group(
    Forall ?Actor (  
        If Or(Exists ?Film (imdbrelf:winAward(?Actor ?Film))  
            Exists ?Play (ibdbrelf:winAward(?Actor ?Play)) )  
        Then assert(dbpediraf:awardWinner(?Actor)) )  
    imdbrelf:winAward(RobertoBenigni LifeIsBeautiful) ))
```
Why do we need YAKL

- YAKL: Yet another knowledge language
- Rules are good for representing knowledge
- Rule idioms have powerful features that are not and can not be supported by OWL
  - Non-monotonic rules
  - Default reasoning
  - Arbitrary functions, including some with side effects
  - etc.
Non-monotonic rules

- Non-monotonic rules use an “unprovable” operator
- This can be used to implement default reasoning, e.g.,
  - assume $P(X)$ is true for some $X$ unless you can prove that it is not
  - Assume that a bird can fly unless you know it can not
canFly(X) :- bird(X)
bird(X) :- eagle(X)
bird(X) :- penguin(X)
eagle(sam)
penguin(tux)
canFly(X) :- bird (X), \+ not(canFly(X))
bird(X) :- eagle(X)
bird(X) :- penguin(X)
not(canFly(X)) :- penguin(X)
not(canFly(X)) :- dead(X)
eagle(sam)
penguin(tux)
In prolog it’s easy to have

Expand to
  - ?head :- ?body, +\ not(?head) .

So
  - default(canFly(X) :- bird(X))

Expands to
  - canFly(X) :- bird(X), \+(not(canFly(X)))).
Rule priorities

- This approach can be extended to implement systems where rules have priorities
- This seems to be intuitive to people – used in many human systems
  - E.g., University policy overrules Department policy
  - The “Ten Commandments” can not be contravened
Two Semantic Webs?
Limitations

- The rule inference support not integrated with OWL classifier
  - New assertions by rules may violate existing restrictions in ontology
  - New inferred knowledge from classification may produce knowledge useful for rules
Limitations

- Existing solution: solve possible conflicts manually
- Ideal solution: a single module for both ontology classification and rule inference
- What if we want to combine non-monotonic features with classical logic?
- Partial Solutions:
  - Answer set programming
  - Externally via appropriate rule engines
Horn logic is a subset of predicate logic that allows efficient reasoning, orthogonal to description logics.

Horn logic is the basis of monotonic rules.

DLP and SWRL are two important ways of combining OWL with Horn rules.

- DLP is essentially the intersection of OWL and Horn logic.
- SWRL is a much richer language.
Nonmonotonic rules are useful in situations where available information is incomplete.
They are rules that may be overridden by contrary evidence.
Priorities are sometimes used to resolve some conflicts between rules.
Representation XML-like languages is straightforward.