

Oberseminar Theoretische Informatik

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Modularity of Ontologies

Montag, 30.11.2009 14:00 (c.t.) Seminarraum 3319 (Ernst-Abbe-Platz 2, 3. Stock).

As more and more large, complex OWL ontologies become available on the Web, the need for mechanisms and methodologies for managing them becomes more urgent. Description logics, such as those underlying the W3C-recommended Web Ontology Language OWL, traditionally have not had many features for „development in the large“, much less for topic analysis and extraction services so valuable for large scale development or for cross-organisational, uncoordinated reuse. Fortunately, there have been a number of impressive advances in our understanding of how to analyse the modular structure of ontologies. This talk will provide an introduction to module-oriented development of OWL ontologies. We will give three distinct scenarios where modules are useful, namely reuse, collaborative development, and understanding of ontologies. Focussing on the first scenario, we will describe the logical background, compare different module extraction approaches, and outline the current tool support. Finally we will show how modules can contribute to understanding ontologies—a research area in progress.

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