PSOA RuleML: 
Linked Objects and Linked Rules Unified on the Social Semantic Web

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Motivation: Linked Object-and-Rule Interchange

- Linking is characteristic for modern object and rule languages on the (Social Semantic) Web
- Employ IRIs – Internationalized Resource Identifiers – as OID – Object IDentifiers – (which can also occur as slot fillers), slot keys, type identifiers, and document identifiers for object & rule bases (modules)
- Linked objects and rules can thus be regarded as generalized linked data
- Therefore, object & rule language such as RuleML usable for exchange of information ranging from linked data sets to linked Horn/F-logic knowledge bases to linked first-order and higher-order logic documents
Knowledge representation & problem solving in

- AI
- the (Semantic) Web
- IT at large

can be

1. Logic-based: FOL, Horn, LP

2. Object-oriented (and frame-based): CLOS, RDF, N3
Combined approaches:

- Description Logics (DLs)

- Object-Oriented Databases (OODBs) / Deductive Object-Oriented Databases (DOODs)

- Object-oriented logic languages: LIFE and Frame logic (F-logic)

- W3C Rule Interchange Format (RIF):
  - Semantics based on F-logic
  - Serialization syntax based on RuleML
F-logic and RIF extend first-order model-theoretic semantics for objects (frames)

Added separately from function and predicate applications to arguments

Resulting complexity of object-extended semantics can be reduced by integrating objects with applications
Integration based on **positional-slotted, object-applicative** rules of POSL and RuleML

F-logic’s model-theoretic semantics in the style of RIF is also the **starting point** of our **integrated semantics**

Permits **applications with optional object identifiers** and, orthogonally, **arguments** that are positional or slotted

Structured by these **independent dimensions** of defining features, language constructs can be **freely combined**
Integration based on positional-slotted, object-applicative (psoa) terms and rules

Psoa term applies function or predicate symbol, possibly instantiated by object, to zero or more positional or slotted (named) arguments

For a psoa term as atomic formula, predicate symbol is class (type) of object as well as relation between arguments, which describe object

Each argument of a psoa term can be psoa term applying function symbol
Psoa terms that apply a predicate symbol (as a relation) to *positional arguments* can be employed to make factual assertions.

An example, in simplified RIF (presentation) syntax, is term `married(Joe Sue)` for binary predicate `married` applied to `Joe` and `Sue`, where positional (left-to-right) order can be used to identify husband, as 1<sup>st</sup> argument, and wife, as 2<sup>nd</sup> argument.
Psoa terms that apply a predicate symbol (as a class) to *slotted arguments* correspond to typed attribute-value descriptions.

An example is psoa term:

```
family(husb->Joe wife->Sue) or
family(wife->Sue husb->Joe) for
family-typed attribute-value pairs (slots)
{<husb,Joe>, <wife,Sue>}  
```

- Easily extended with further slots, e.g. by adding children, as in `family(husb->Joe wife->Sue child->Pete)`
Usually, slotted terms describe an object symbol, i.e. an object identifier (OID), maintaining object identity even when slots of their descriptions are added or deleted.

This leads to (typed) frames in the sense of F-logic.

E.g., using RIF’s membership syntax #, OID inst1 in class family is describable by

\[ \text{inst1#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue)}, \]
\[ \text{inst1#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue child->Pete)}, \]

etc. Psoa terms can also specialize to class membership terms, e.g. \( \text{inst1#family()} \), abridged \( \text{inst1#family, represents} \)

\( \text{inst1 ∈ family} \)
Like OID-describing slotted terms constitute a (multi-slot) ‘frame’, positional terms that describe an object constitute a (single-tuple) ‘shelf’, similar to a (one-dimensional) array describing its name.

Thus, family’s husb and wife slots can be positionalized as in earlier married example: inst1#family(Joe Sue) describes inst1 with tuple [Joe Sue]
Combined positional-slotted psoa terms are allowed, similarly as in XML elements (tuple ⇔ subelements, slots ⇔ attributes), e.g. describing an object, as in RDF descriptions (object ⇔ subject, slots ⇔ properties).

For example, \texttt{inst1#family(Joe Sue child->Pete)} describes \texttt{inst1} with two positional and one slotted argument.
On the other hand, positional married example could be made slotted, leading to married(husb->Joe wife->Sue), and even be used to describe a (marriage) object: positionally, as in inst2#married(Joe Sue), or slotted, as in inst2#married(husb->Joe wife->Sue)
A frame without explicit class is semantically treated as typing its object with root class $\top$ (syntactically, $\text{Top}$)

For example, (untyped) frame

$$\text{inst3[color}\rightarrow\text{red }\text{shape}\rightarrow\text{diamond]}$$

in square-bracketed F-logic/RIF syntax is equivalent to our parenthesizedized

$$\text{inst3\#Top(color}\rightarrow\text{red }\text{shape}\rightarrow\text{diamond]}$$
An **atomic formula without OID** is treated as having implicit OID

An OID-less application is **objectified** by syntactic transformation: *The OID of a ground fact is new constant generated by ‘new local constant’ (stand-alone _); the OID of non-ground fact or atomic formula in rule conclusion, \( f(...) \), is new, existentially scoped variable \(?i\), leading to \( \text{Exists } ?i \ (\text{ ?i#} f(...)) \); the OID of other atomic formulas is new variable generated by ‘anonymous variable’ (stand-alone ?)*

**Objectification** allows compatible semantics for an atom constructed as RIF-like slotted (named-argument) term and corresponding frame, solving issue with named-argument terms:

http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/public-rif-wg/2008Jul/0000.html
For example, slotted-fact assertion
family(husb->Joe wife->Sue) is
syntactically objectified to assertion
_#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue), and
— if _1 is first new constant from _1, _2, ... — to
_1#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue)

This typed frame, then, is semantically
*slotributed* to _1#family(husb->Joe) and
_1#family(wife->Sue)
Query `family(husb->Joe)` is syntactically objectified to query `?#family(husb->Joe)`, i.e.
— if `?1` is first new variable in `?1, ?2, ...` — to `?1#family(husb->Joe)`

Posed against fact, it succeeds with first slot, unifying `?1` with `_1`

Slotribution (‘slot distribution’) avoids POSL’s ‘rest-slot’ variables: frame’s OID ‘distributes’ over slots of a description
Rules can be defined on top of psoa terms in a natural manner.

A rule derives (a conjunction of possibly existentially scoped) conclusion psoa atoms from (a formula of) premise psoa atoms.

Consider example with rule deriving \textit{family} frames.
Example (Rule-defined anonymous family frame)

Group is used to collect a rule and two facts. Forall quantifier declares orginal universal argument variables and generated universal OID variables $?2, $?3, $?4. Infix :- separates conclusion from premises of rule, which derives anonymous/existential family frame from married relation And from kid relation of husb Or wife (the left-hand side is objectified on the right).

```
made(Joe Sue) kid(Sue Pete)
)
```

```

_1#married(Joe Sue)
_2#kid(Sue Pete)
)
```

Semantically, example is modeled by predicate extensions corresponding to following set of ground facts (the subdomain of individuals $D_{ind}$ is to be defined):

$$\{ o#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue child->Pete) \} \cup \{ _1#married(Joe Sue), _2#kid(Sue Pete) \}, \quad \text{where } o \in D_{ind}. $$
The **alphabet** of the presentation language of PSOA RuleML consists of the following disjoint sets:

- A countably infinite set of **constant symbols** $\text{Const}$ (including the root class $\text{Top} \in \text{Const}$ and the positive-integer-enumerated local constants $\_1, \_2, \ldots \in \text{Const}$ as well as individual, function, and predicate symbols)

- A countably infinite set of **variable symbols** $\text{Var}$ (including the positive-integer-enumerated variables $?1, $?2, \ldots \in \text{Var}$)

- The connective symbols $\text{And}, \text{Or}, \text{and} ; :-$

- The quantifiers $\text{Exists and Forall}$

- The symbols $=, \#, \##, \rightarrow, \text{External, Import, Prefix, and Base}$

- The symbols $\text{Group and Document}$
Definition (Alphabet, Cont’d)

Constants have form "literal"^symspace, where literal is a sequence of Unicode characters and symspace is an identifier for a symbol space. E.g., "_123"^rif:local. Constants use shortcuts defined in RIF-DTB, including underscored _literal (e.g., _123) for above form with symspace specialized to rif:local. Top is a new shortcut for root class constant "Top"^psoa:global in PSOA RuleML’s global symbol space.

Anonymous variables are written as a stand-alone question mark symbol (?); named variables, as Unicode strings preceded with question mark symbol.

Symbols = and ## are used in formulas that define equality and subclass relationships. The symbols # and =>$ are used in positional-slotted, object-applicative formulas for class memberships and slots, respectively. Symbol External indicates that an atomic formula or a function term is defined externally (e.g., a built-in) and symbols Prefix and Base enable abridged representations of IRIs (Internationalized Resource Identifiers).
In this definition, *base term* means a simple term, an anonymous psoa term (i.e., an anonymous frame term, single-tuple psoa term, or multi-tuple psoa term), or a term of the form $\text{External}(t)$, where $t$ is an anonymous psoa term. Anonymous term can be *deobjectified* (by omitting main ?#) if its re-objectification results in old term (i.e., re-introduces ?#).

**Definition (Term)**

1. **Constants and variables.** If $t \in \text{Const}$ or $t \in \text{Var}$ then $t$ is a *simple term*
2. **Equality terms.** $t = s$ is an *equality term* if $t, s$ are base terms
3. **Subclass terms.** $t##s$ is a *subclass term* if $t, s$ are base terms
4. **Positional-slotted, object-applicative terms.**
   $$o\#f( [t_1,1...t_1,n_1] \ldots [t_m,1...t_m,n_m] \ p_1->v_1 \ldots p_k->v_k )$$
   is a *positional-slotted, object-applicative (psoa) term* if $f \in \text{Const}$ and $o, t_1, \ldots, t_1,n_1, \ldots, t_m,1, \ldots, t_m,n_m, p_1, \ldots, p_k, v_1, \ldots, v_k, m \geq 0, k \geq 0$, are base terms
Psoa terms can be specialized in the following way:

- For $m = 0$ they become *(typed or untyped) frame terms* $\circ \# f(p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$. We consider two overlapping subcases:
  - For $k = 0$ they become *class membership terms* $\circ \# f()$, abridged to $\circ \# f$, corresponding to those in F-logic and RIF.
  - For $k \geq 0$, they can be further specialized in two ways, which can be orthogonally combined:
    - For $\circ$ being the anonymous variable $\,?$, they become *anonymous frame terms (slotted terms)* $\,? \# f(p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$, deobjectified $f(p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$, corresponding to *terms with named arguments* in RIF.
    - For $f$ being the root class $\text{Top}$, they become *untyped frame terms* $\circ \# \text{Top}(p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$ corresponding to *frames* in abridged form $\circ [p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k]$ of F-logic and RIF, where square brackets are used instead of round parentheses.
For $m = 1$ they become **single-tuple psoa terms**

$o \# f([t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1}] \ p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$, abridged to

$o \# f(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1} \ p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$

These can be further specialized in two ways, which can be orthogonally combined:

- For $o$ being the anonymous variable $\mathbf{?}$, they become **anonymous single-tuple psoa terms** $\mathbf{?} \# f(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1} \ p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$, deobjectified $f(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1} \ p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$. These can be further specialized:
  - For $k = 0$, they become **positional terms** $\mathbf{?} \# f(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1})$, deobjectified $f(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1})$, corresponding to the usual terms and atomic formulas of classical first-order logic
  - For $f$ being the root class $\mathbf{Top}$, they become **untyped single-tuple psoa terms** $o \# \mathbf{Top}(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1} \ p_1 -> v_1 \ldots p_k -> v_k)$. These can be further specialized:
    - For $k = 0$, they become **untyped single-tuple shelf terms** $o \# \mathbf{Top}(t_{1,1} \ldots t_{1,n_1})$ describing object $o$ with positional arguments $t_{1,1}, \ldots, t_{1,n_1}$
Example (PSOA RuleML conditions)

This example shows conditions that are composed of psoa terms ('"Opticks" is shortcut for '"Opticks"ˆˆxs:string').

Prefix(bks <http://eg.com/books#>)
Prefix(auth <http://eg.com/authors#>)
Prefix(cts <http://eg.com/cities#>)
Prefix(cpt <http://eg.com/concepts#>)

Formula that uses an anonymous psoa (positional term):
  ?#cpt:book(auth:Newton "Opticks")
Deobjectified version:
  cpt:book(auth:Newton "Opticks")

Formula that uses an anonymous psoa (slotted term):
Deobjectified version:

Formula that uses a named psoa (typed frame):

Formula that uses a named psoa (untyped frame):
  bks:opt1#Top(cpt:author->auth:Newton cpt:title->"Opticks")

Deobjectified version of a formula that uses an anonymous psoa (multi-tuple term):

Deobjectified version of a formula that uses an anonymous psoa (positional-slotted term):
  cpt:book(auth:Newton "Opticks"
cpt:place->cts:London
cpt:year->"1704"ˆˆxs:integer)
Adapts business rule from POSL logistics use case. Ternary `reciship` conclusion represents reciprocal shippings, at total cost (as single positional argument), between source and destination (as two slotted arguments). First two premises apply 4-ary `shipment` relation that uses anonymous cargo and named cost variables as two positional arguments, as well as `reciship`'s slotted arguments (in both ‘directions’). Third premise is External-wrapped numeric-add RIF-DTB built-in applied on right-hand side of equality to sum up shipment costs for total. With the two facts, \( \text{?cost} = 57.0 \).

```rdf
Prefix(cpt <http://eg.com/concepts#>)
Prefix(mus <http://eg.com/museums#>)
Prefix(func <http://www.w3.org/2007/rif-builtin-function#>)
Prefix(xs <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>)
Group {
          ?cost = External(func:numeric-add(?cost1 ?cost2)) )  
  )
  shipment("PC"^^xs:string "47.5"^^xs:float  
  shipment("PDA"^^xs:string "9.5"^^xs:float  
}
```
Example (PSOA RuleML business rule, Cont’d)

The rule can be objectified as follows (Externals are not being transformed):

```
            ?cost = External(func:numeric-add(?cost1 ?cost2)) )
)
```

Further, it can be tupributed and slotributed (actually done by the semantics):

```
    Exists ?1 (And(?1#cpt:reciship(?cost)  
        ?1#cpt:reciship(cpt:source->?A)  
        ?1#cpt:reciship(cpt:dest->?B))) :-  
        And(?2#cpt:shipment(? ?cost1)  
            ?2#cpt:shipment(cpt:source->?A)  
            ?2#cpt:shipment(cpt:dest->?B)  
            ?3#cpt:shipment(? ?cost2)  
            ?3#cpt:shipment(cpt:source->?B)  
            ?3#cpt:shipment(cpt:dest->?A)  
            ?cost = External(func:numeric-add(?cost1 ?cost2)) )
)
```
W3C’s RIF-BLD has provided a **reference semantics** for extensions, and for continued efforts, as described here.

Implementations of **RIF-BLD engines** are planned or developed, including extensions to F-logic engine **Flora 2** and POSL and RuleML engine **OO jDREW**.

Flora 2, OO jDREW, and other engines could be adapted for our PSOA RuleML semantics.

A subset of PSOA RuleML with single-tuple psoa terms has already been prototyped in OO jDREW.
Future work on psoa terms includes encoding (multi-)slots and slottribution as (multi-)tuples and tupribution.

Conversely, tuples could be encoded as multi-list values of a tuple slot.

Web ontologies, especially taxonomies, in OWL 2, RDF Schema, etc. could be reused for PSOA RuleML’s OID type systems by alignments rooted in their classes `owl:Thing`, `rdfs:Resource`, etc. and in Top.
Further efforts concern Horn rules

Notice introductory example is not Horn in that there is a head existential after objectification

To address this issue, it can be modified as follows
Conclusion: Psoa Rules Made Horn

Example (Rule-extended named family frame)

Horn version of introductory example retrieves family frame with named OID variable in premise and uses its binding to extend that frame in conclusion (left: given; right: objectified).

\[ \text{Group (}
\text{Forall } ?Hu \ ?Wi \ ?Ch \ ?o (}
\text{?o#family(husb->?Hu wife->?Wi child->?Ch) :-}
\text{And(?o#family(husb->?Hu wife->?Wi)}
\text{Or(kid(?Hu ?Ch) kid(?Wi ?Ch)))}
\text{inst4#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue)}
\text{kid(Sue Pete) }) \]

\[ \text{Group (}
\text{Forall } ?Hu \ ?Wi \ ?Ch \ ?o ?1 ?2 (}
\text{?o#family(husb->?Hu wife->?Wi child->?Ch) :-}
\text{And(?o#family(husb->?Hu wife->?Wi)}
\text{Or(?1#kid(?Hu ?Ch) ?2#kid(?Wi ?Ch)))}
\text{inst4#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue)}
\text{_1#kid(Sue Pete) }) \]

\[ \Rightarrow \text{Simpler semantics corresponding to this set of ground facts:}
\{ \text{inst4#family(husb->Joe wife->Sue child->Pete), } _1\text{#kid(Sue Pete)} \} \]