

Analyzing inheritance hierarchies through Formal Concept Analysis

A 22-years walk in a landscape of conceptual structures

Marianne Huchard

LIRMM, CNRS and Univ. Montpellier, France
MASPEGHI@ECOOP2015

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Motivation

Class models, inheritance hierarchies

- ▶ Capture domain knowledge
- ▶ Focus on classification and reuse

Normal form

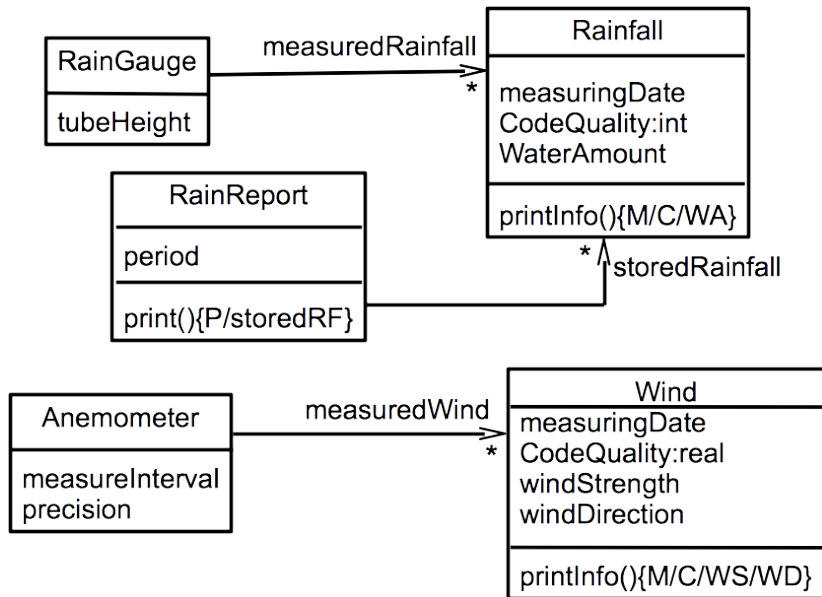
- ▶ No redundancy
 - ▶ All abstractions are created
 - ▶ All specialization links are present
 - ▶ Most compact structure with these properties
- To restructure the current model or just to analyze it

Show historical steps in normalization

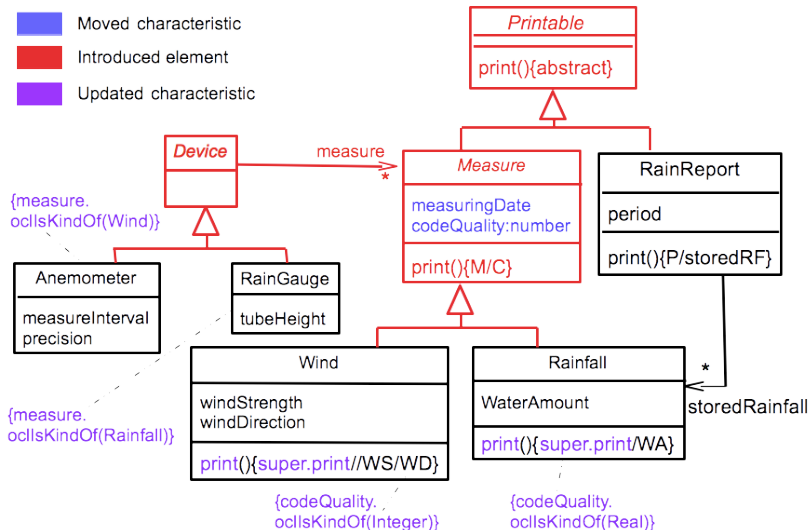
Outline

- ▶ Normalization illustration
- ▶ Formal Concept Analysis (*Ganter and Wille 1999*)
 - Galois lattices (*Barbut and Monjardet 1970*)
 - ▶ Flat characteristics (*Godin et al., 1993*)
 - ▶ Hierarchical characteristics (*Godin et al., 1993*)
- ▶ Relational Concept Analysis (*Huchard et al. 2007*)
 - ▶ Reified characteristics (*Roume et al. 2004*)
 - ▶ Clustered reified characteristics (*unpublished*)
- ▶ Ongoing work (terms, exploration)

Normalization objective: initial class model



Normalization objective: normal form



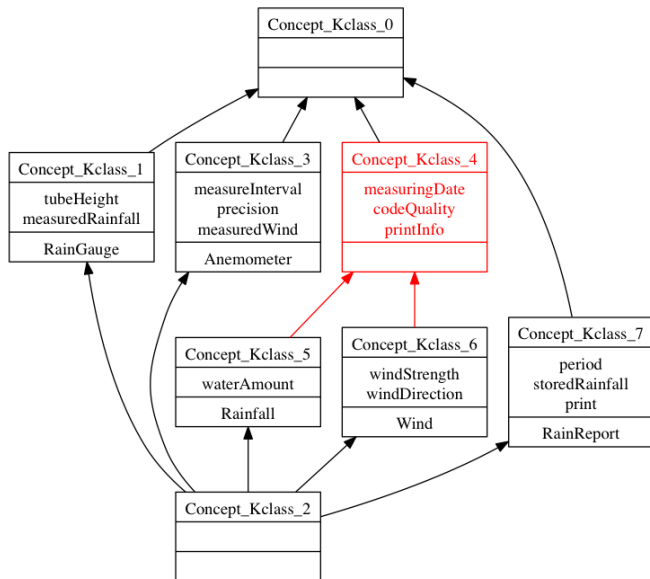
Flat characteristics: Formal context (Godin and Mili, 1993)

Kclass	tubeHeight	measureInterval	precision	measuringDate	codeQuality	waterAmount	windStrength	windDirection	period	measuredRainfall	measuredWind	storedRainfall	print	printInfo
RainG.	×									×				
Anem.		×	×								×			
Rainf.				×	×	×								×
Wind				×	×		×	×						×
RainR.									×			×	×	

Flat characteristics: Concept

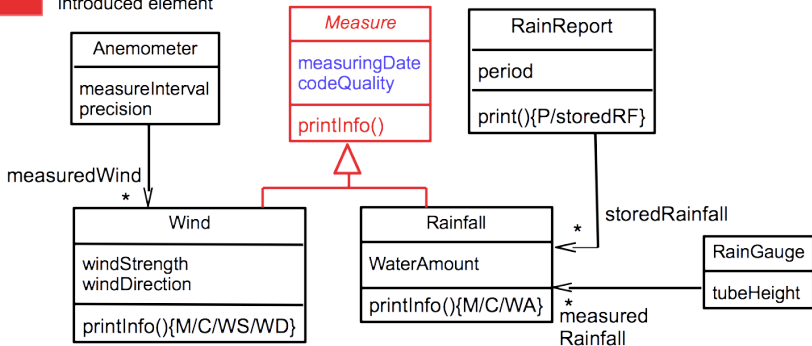
Kclass	tubeHeight	measureInterval	precision	measuringDate	codeQuality	waterAmount	windStrength	windDirection	period	measuredRainfall	measuredWind	storedRainfall	print	printInfo
RainG.	×									×				
Anem.		×	×								×			
Rainf.				×	×	×								×
Wind				×	×		×	×						×
RainR.									×			×	×	

Flat characteristics: concept lattice



Flat characteristics: revisited model

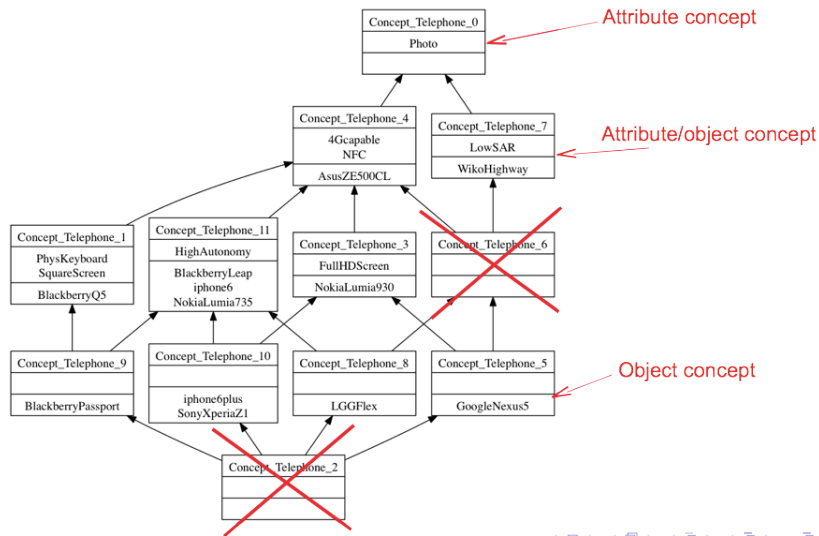
- Moved characteristic
- Introduced element



Parenthesis: AOC-poset (Telephone classification)

With O the described entities, A the characteristics

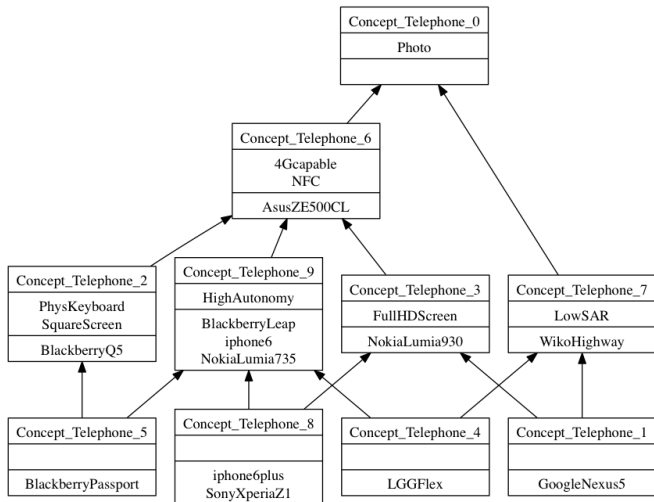
$\#$ concepts in lattice $\leq 2^{\min(|O|, |A|)}$, $\#$ concepts in AOC-posets $\leq |O| + |A|$



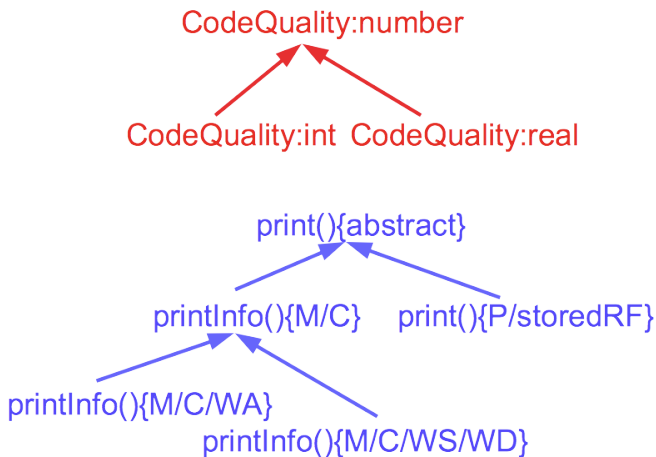
Parenthesis: AOC-poset (Telephone classification)

With O the described entities, A the characteristics

$\#$ concepts in lattice $\leq 2^{\min(|O|, |A|)}$, $\#$ concepts in AOC-posets $\leq |O| + |A|$



Hierarchical characteristics (Godin and Mili, 1993)



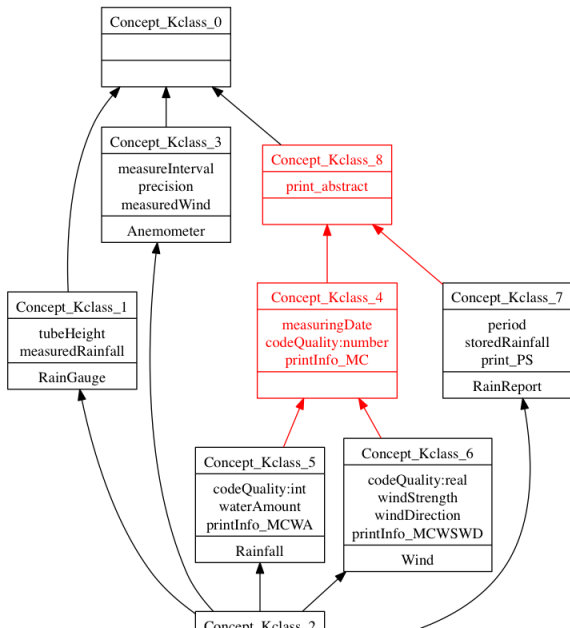
Hierarchical characteristics: Formal context (part 1)

Kclass	tubeHeight	measureInterval	precision	measuringDate	codeQuality:number	codeQuality:int	codeQuality:real	waterAmount	windStrength	windDirection	period	measuredRainfall	measuredWind
RainGauge	×											×	
Anemometer		×	×										×
Rainfall				×	×	×		×					
Wind				×	×		×		×	×			
RainReport											×		

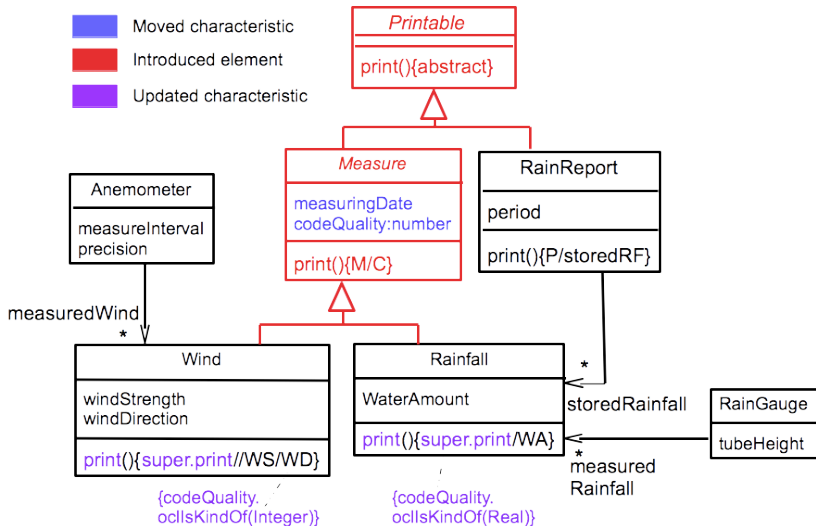
Hierarchical characteristics: Formal context (part 2)

Kclass	measuredWind	storedRainfall	print_abstract	printInfo_MC	printInfo_MCWA	printInfo_MCWSWD	print_PS
RainGauge							
Anemometer	×						
Rainfall			×	×	×		
Wind			×	×		×	
RainReport		×	×				×

Hierarchical characteristics: Concept Lattice



Hierarchical characteristics: revisited model



Relational Concept Analysis - going further with reification

Dataset

- ▶ Several entity categories (OA-contexts): classes, attributes, operations, roles
- ▶ Relations between entities (OO-contexts): hasAttribute, hasRole, hasOperation, hasTypeEnd

Principle

- ▶ Builds one concept lattice for each entity category
- ▶ Iterate on lattice construction and integration of relational attributes (encoding OO-contexts) in OA-contexts
- ▶ Until a fix-point

Reified characteristics: Object-Attribute contexts

Kclass
RainGauge
Anemometer
Rainfall
Wind
RainReport

Krole		measuredRainfall		measuredWind		storedRainfall
RG::measuredRainfall		×				
RR::storedRainfall						×
A::measuredWind				×		

Koperation		print		MC		MCWA		MCWSWD		PstoredRF
RR::print		×								×
R::printinfo		×		×		×				
W::printinfo		×		×				×		

Kattribute	tubeHeight	measureInterval	precision	measuringDate	codeQuality	waterAmount	windStrength	windDirection	period	number	int	real
RG::tubeHeight	×											
A::measureInterval		×										
A::precision			×									
R::measuringDate				×								
W::measuringDate				×								
R::codeQuality					×					×	×	
W::codeQuality					×					×		×
R::waterAmount						×						
W::windStrength							×					
W::windDirection								×				
RR::period									×			

Reified characteristics: Object-Object contexts

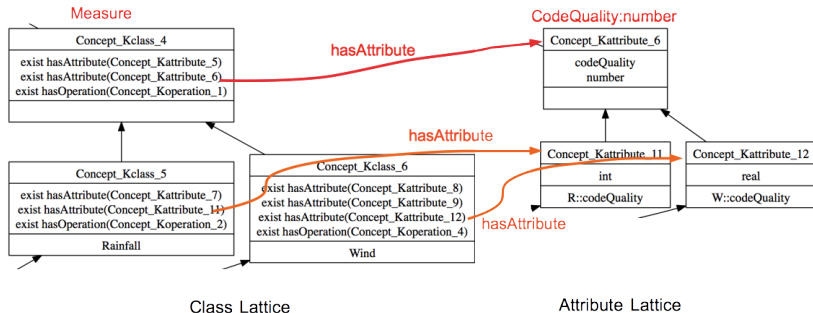
	hasAttribute	RG::tubeHeight	A::measureInterval	A::precision	R::measuringDate	W::measuringDate	R::codeQuality	W::codeQuality	R::waterAmount	W::windStrength	W::windDirection	RR::period
RainGauge	×											
Anemometer			×	×								
Rainfall					×		×		×			
Wind						×		×		×	×	
RainReport												×

	hasRole	RG::measuredRainfall	RR::storedRainfall	A::measuredWind
RainGauge	×			
Anemometer				×
Rainfall				
Wind				
RainReport			×	

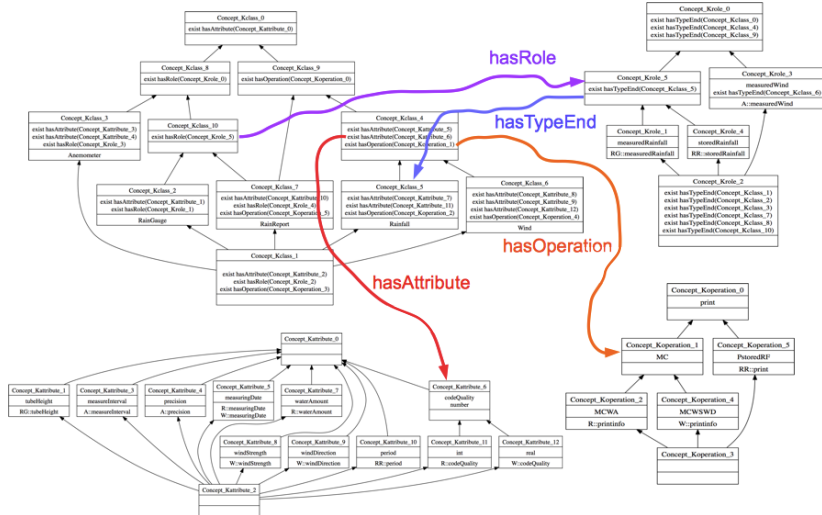
	hasOperation	RR::print	R::printinfo	W::printinfo
RainGauge				
Anemometer				
Rainfall			×	
Wind				×
RainReport	×			

	hasTypeEnd	Rainfall	Wind
RG::measuredRainfall	×		
RR::storedRainfall	×		
A::measuredWind			×

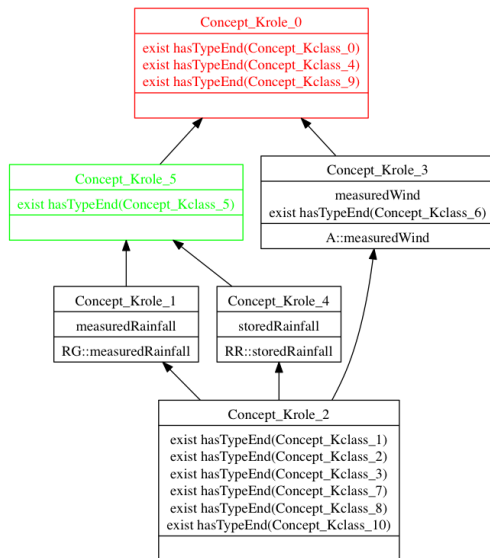
Reified characteristics: detail on class lattice and attribute lattice



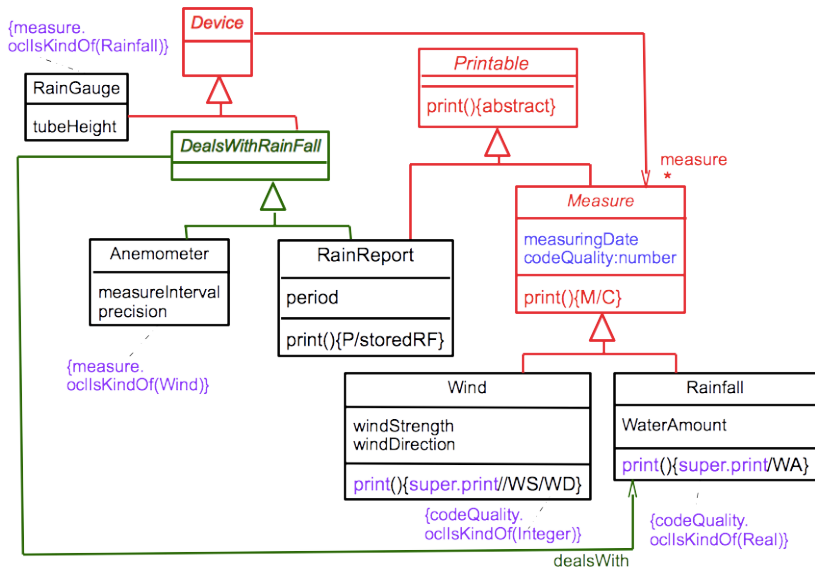
Reified characteristics: all lattices



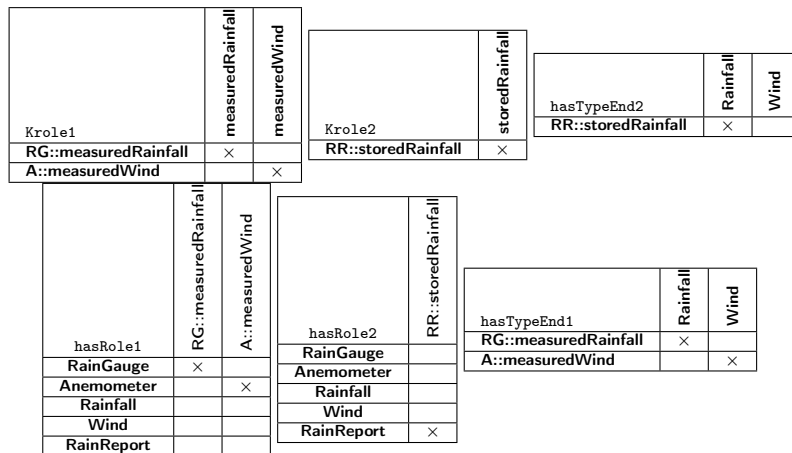
Reified characteristics: Role lattices



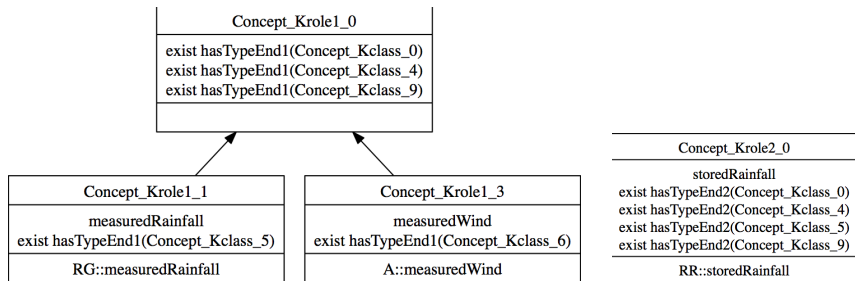
Reified characteristics: revisited model



Clustered reified characteristics

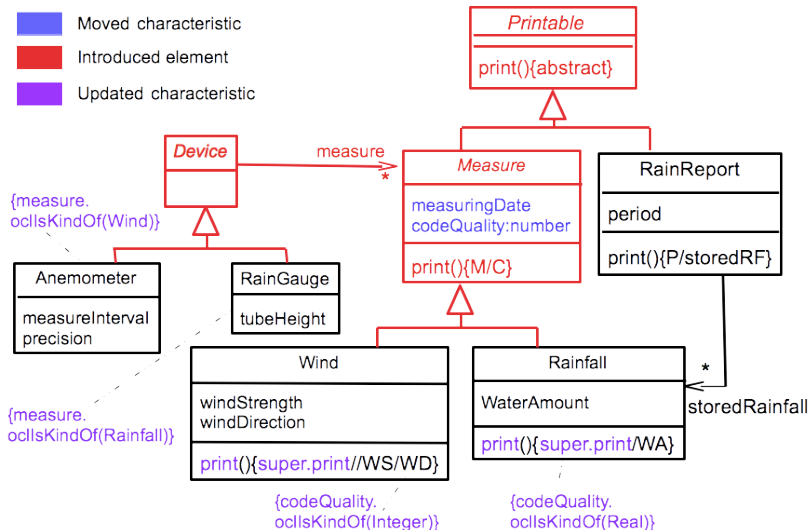


Clustered characteristics: Separated role lattices

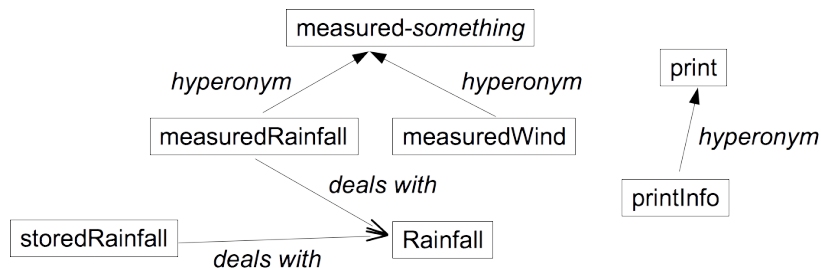


The same clustering has to be applied to attributes and operations to avoid "over-generalization"

Clustered characteristics: Normal form

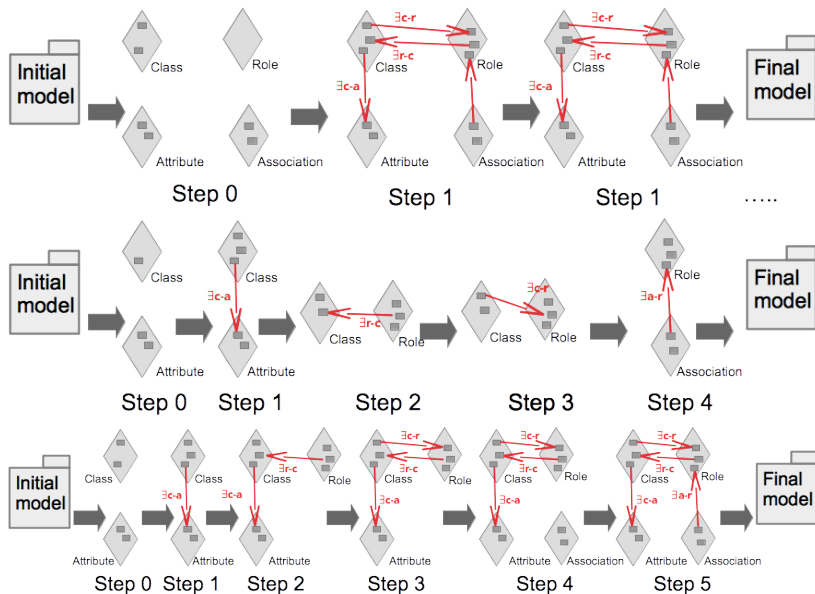


Ongoing work: Lexical resources (Falleri et al. 2010)



RCA input is tuned depending lexical resource

Ongoing work: Exploratory approaches (Miralles et al. 2015)

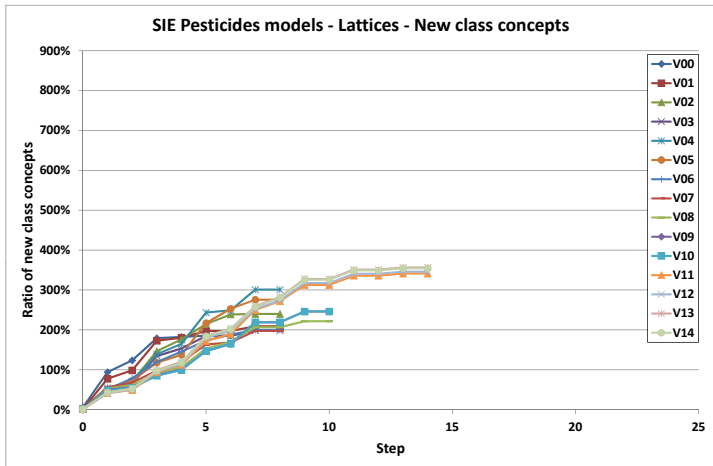


Ongoing experiment on Pesticides model (Miralles et al.)

34 to 170 classes (254 to 552 model elements)

Lattice-based RCA: 165% to 253% of new classes

→ 208 to 345 potential new factorization classes to be analyzed

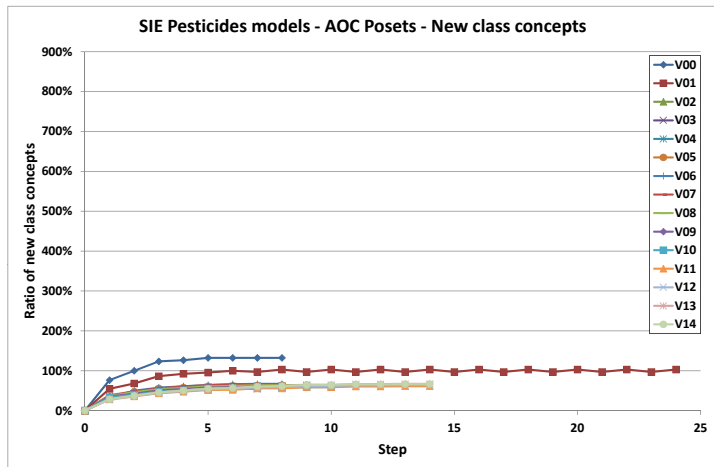


Ongoing experiment on Pesticides model (Miralles et al.)

34 to 170 classes (254 to 552 model elements)

AOC-poset-based RCA: 56% to 132% of new classes

→ 44 to 70 potential new factorization classes to be analyzed



Conclusion/Perspectives

Conclusion

- ▶ A similar approach for restructuring ontologies [Valtchev et al.]
- ▶ RCA is used for other datasets and usages (data in environmental domain, software components/services classification, software analysis for extracting assets and feature models for product lines)

Perspectives

- ▶ Towards a unique, generic tool
- ▶ Improving lexical resource acquisition and analysis
- ▶ Work on methodological aspects (exploration, guiding metrics)

Questions?

Tools: Objectteering modules¹, RCAexplore², Talend workflow³, Java packages

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¹<http://www.objectteering.com/>

²<http://dolques.free.fr/rcaexplore.php>

³<http://www.talend.com/>