Ontology Implementation with gUFO: A Hands-on Tutorial

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Team & Acknowledgements

- Giancarlo Guizzardi
- Ricardo de Almeida Falbo
- Claudenir M. Fonseca
- and all the contributors to UFO over the years



Building Better Ontology Implementations

We need all the help we can get!

- Reuse of definitions and rules in foundational layer
 - "a little semantics goes a long way", "some more semantics goes further"
- Conceptual patterns
 - cope with recurrent implementation challenges
 - improve implementation stability
- Automatic error detection
 - beyond what can be achieve in the ontologically-neutral OWL

Background

- "Foundational ontology"
- Captures our understanding of general (ubiquitous!) notions
- Objects, their aspects, their types, their parts, ... events, situations, ...





Approach

- Reference ontology x ontology implementation
 - Reference ontology is built as a conceptual model giving precedence to realworld adequacy
 - Ontology implementation (also called computational or lightweight ontology)
 sacrifices real-world adequacy to obtain computational properties

UFO as a reference ontology

- gUFO as an ontology implementation of UFO in OWL
 - 'g' for gentle

Approach

gUFO

domain-independent

more specific

gUFO-based (domain) ontology



gUFO overview

- gUFO reflects UFO taxonomies of individuals and types (universals)
- Minor terminological differences to avoid philosophical jargon

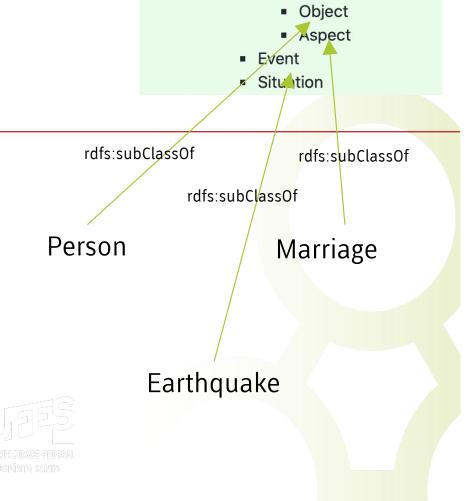


- Individual
 - AbstractIndividual
 - ConcreteIndividual
 - Endurant
 - Object
 - Aspect
 - Event
 - Situation
- Type
 - AbstractIndividualType
 - ConcreteIndividualType
 - EndurantType
 - Sortal
 - Kind
 - Phase
 - Role
 - SubKind
 - NonSortal
 - Category
 - PhaseMixin
 - RoleMixin
 - Mixin
 - EventType
 - SituationType
 - RelationshipType

gUFO taxonomy of individuals

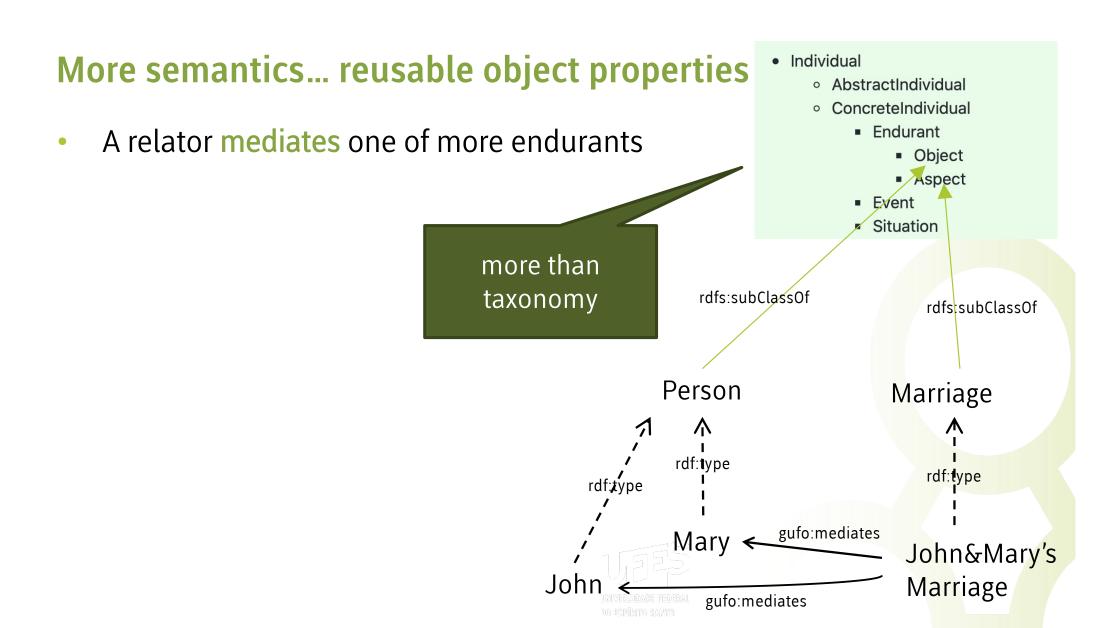
gUFO

gUFO-based (domain) ontology



Individual

 AbstractIndividual ConcreteIndividual Endurant



Agenda

Part 0: Baseline – Constructs employed from RDFS/OWL

Classes, sub-classes, object properties, data properties, sub-properties...

Part 1: Reuse of foundational layer – The basics

- Reusing the gUFO taxonomy of individuals and object properties
 - Endurants, events, objects, aspects, relators, ...

Part 2: Patterns and advanced features

- 2.1 Representing qualities
- 2.2 Representing situations
- 2.3 Reusing the gUFO taxonomy of types
 - Kinds, subkinds, categories, phases, roles, ...

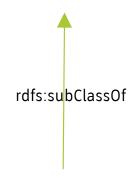
0. Baseline

"A little semantics goes a long way" – Jim Hendler

• owl:Class

rdfs:subclassOf

Organization

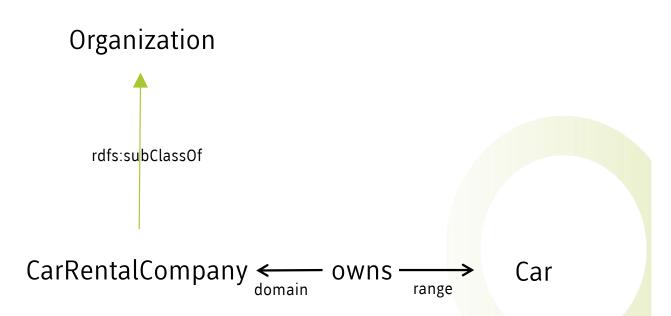


CarRentalCompany



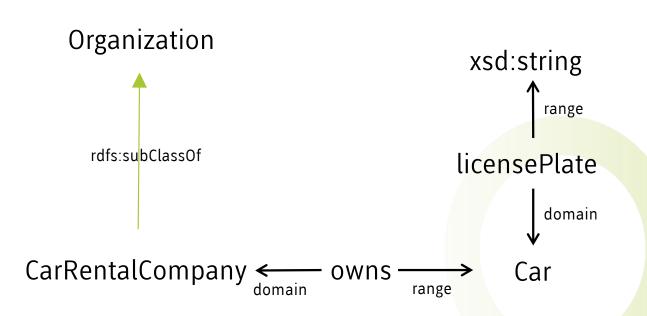


- owl:Class
- rdfs:subclassOf
- owl:ObjectProperty
- rdfs:domain
- rdfs:range



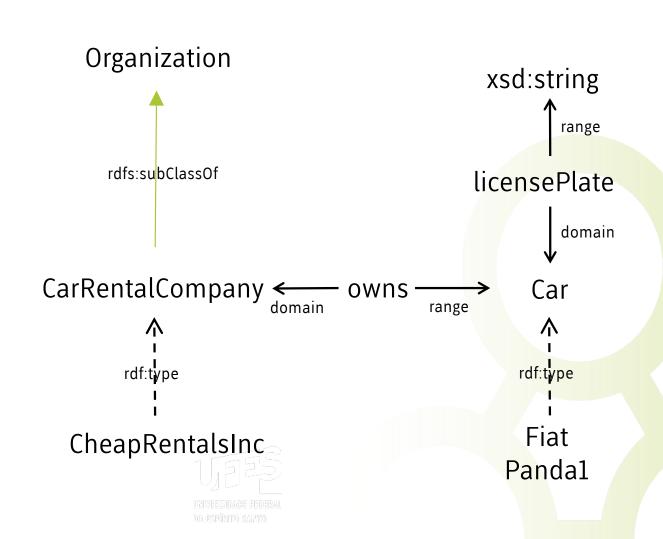


- owl:Class
- rdfs:subclassOf
- owl:ObjectProperty
- rdfs:domain
- rdfs:range
- owl:DatatypeProperty

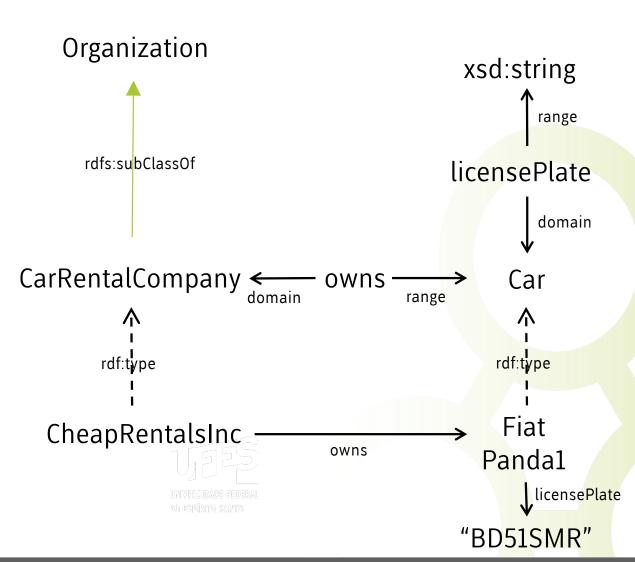




- owl:Class
- rdfs:subclassOf
- owl:ObjectProperty
- rdfs:domain
- rdfs:range
- owl:DatatypeProperty
- (rdfs:subPropertyOf)
- owl:NamedIndividual
- rdf:type



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- rdfs:subclassOf
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- owl:DatatypeProperty
- (rdfs:subPropertyOf)
- owl:NamedIndividual
- rdf:type



- Disjointess axioms
- (Disjoint) unions
- Cardinalities
- Property characteristics: functional, inverse functional, transitive...



1. Reuse of foundational layer

"A little semantics goes a long way" – Jim Hendler

"Some more semantics goes further..."

gUFO: A Lightweight Implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO)

N gUFO: A Lightweight Implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO)

IRI

http://purl.org/nemo/gufo#

Creator(s)

Almeida, João Paulo A. Falbo, Ricardo A. Guizzardi, Giancarlo Sales, Tiago P.

Version Information

1.0.0

License

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode

Ontology Source

RDF (Turtle)

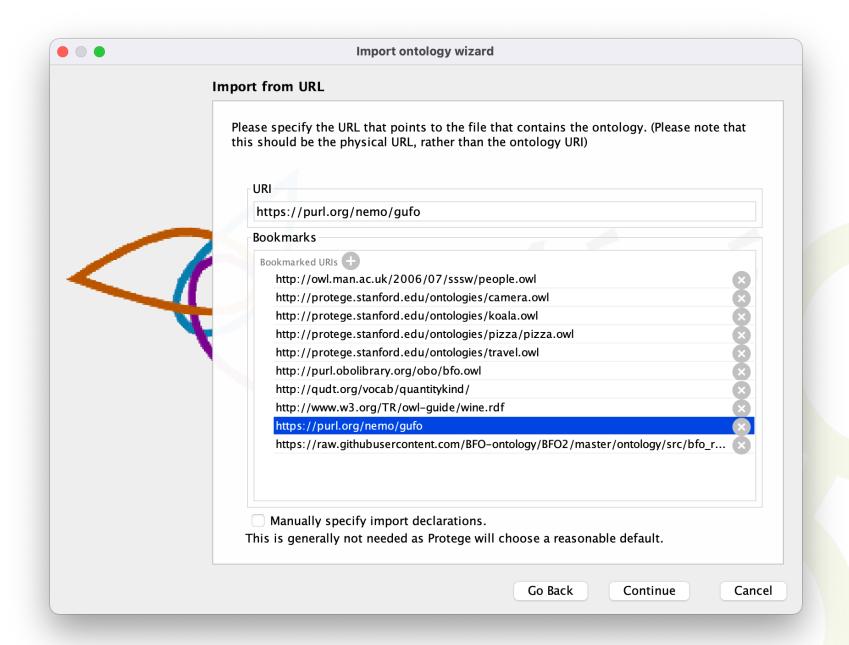
Description

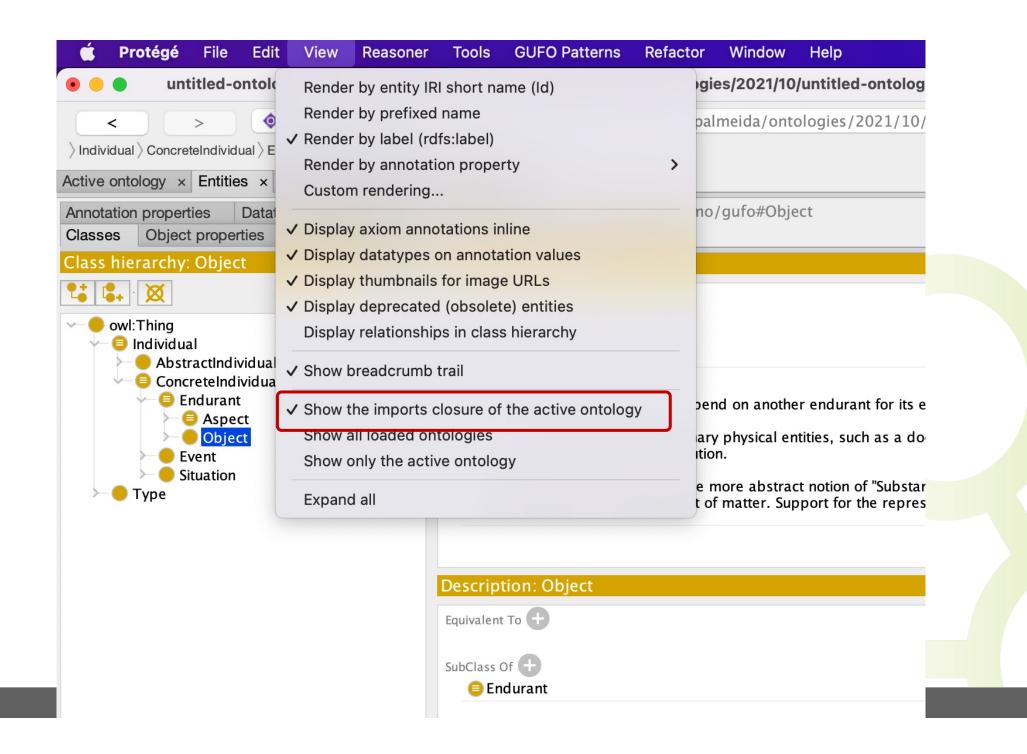
The objective of gUFO is to provide a lightweight implementation of the Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO) [1-5] suitable for Semantic Web OWL 2 DL applications.

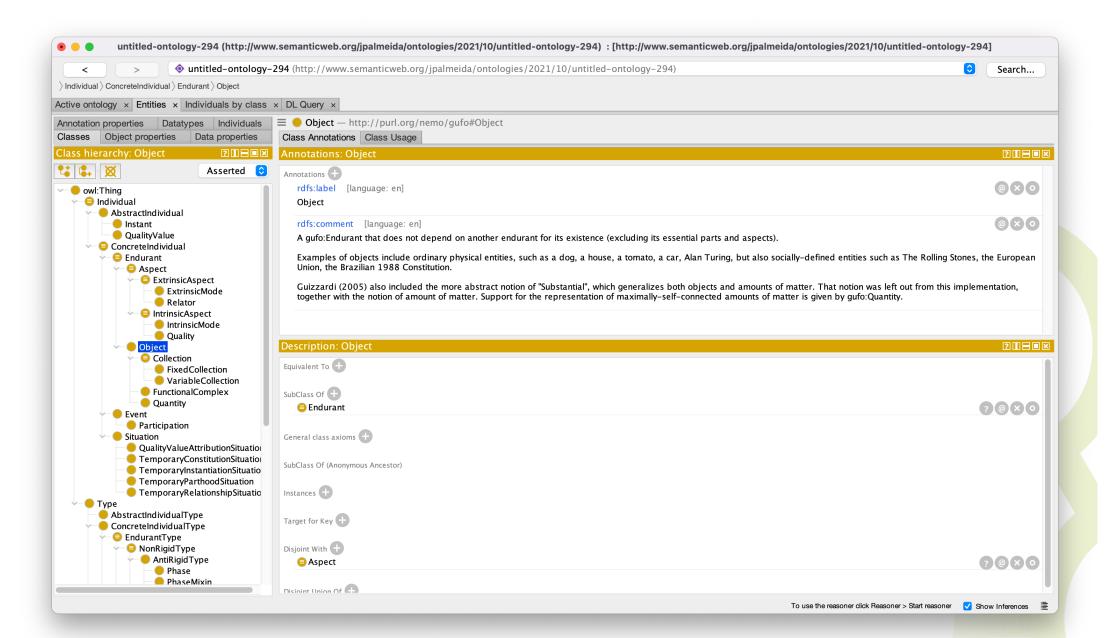
Intended users are those implementing UFO-based lightweight ontologies that reuse gUFO by specializing and instantiating its elements.

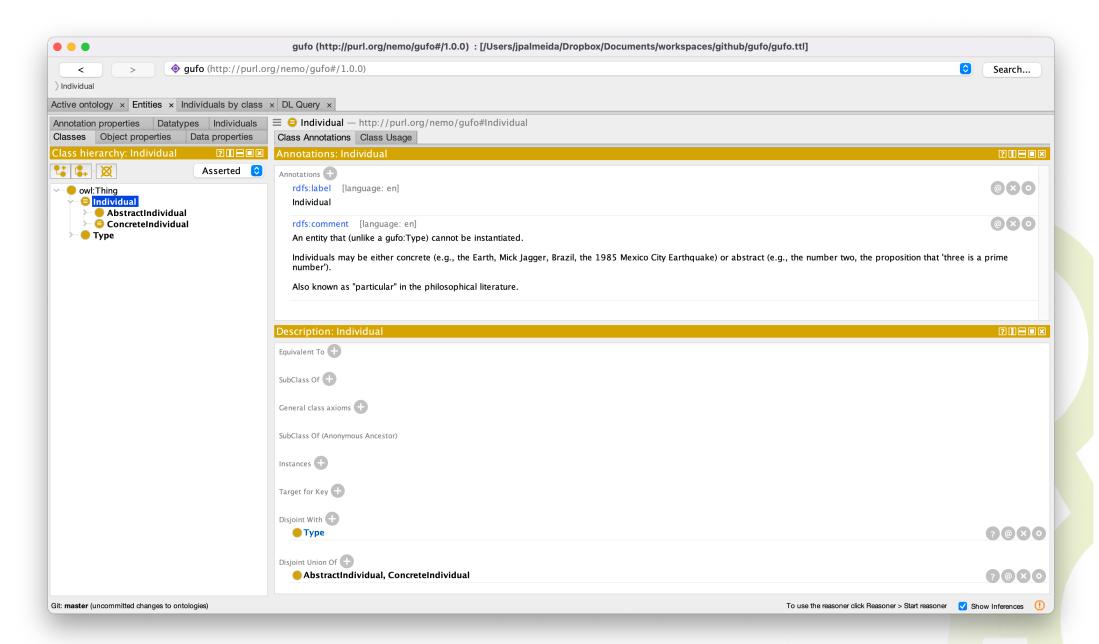
http://purl.org/nemo/doc/gufo

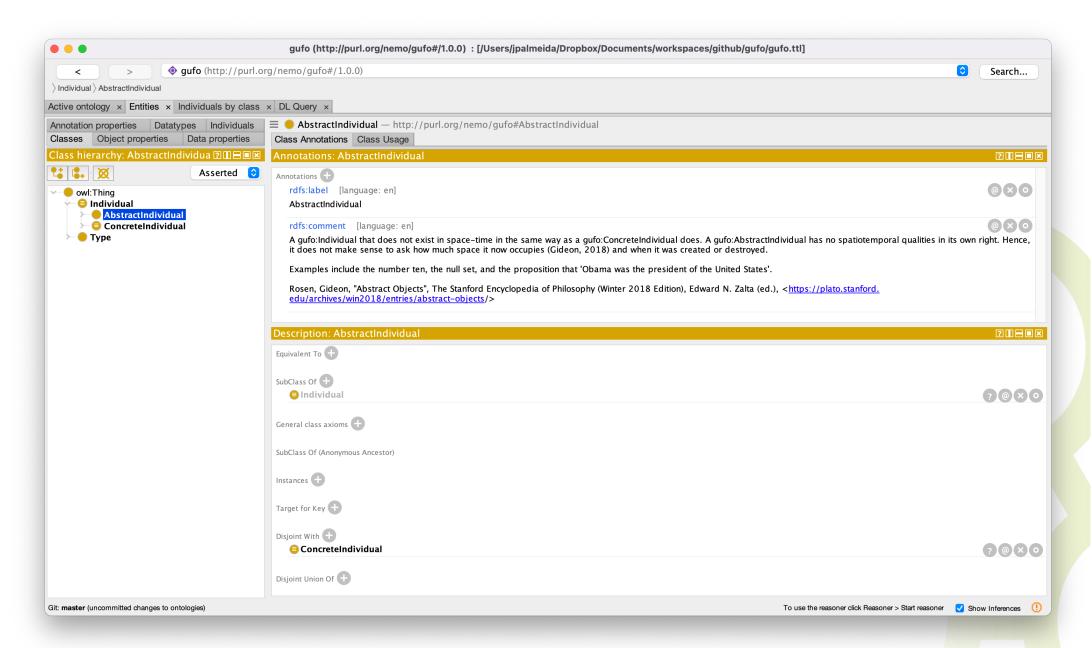
There are three implications of the use of the term lightweight. First of all, we have employed little expressive means in an effort to retain computational properties for the resulting OWL ontology. Second, we have selected a subset of UFO-A [1, 2] and UFO-B [3] to include here. In particular, there is minimalistic support for UFO-B (only that which is necessary to establish the participation of objects in events and to capture historical dependence between events). Third, a lightweight ontology, differently from a reference

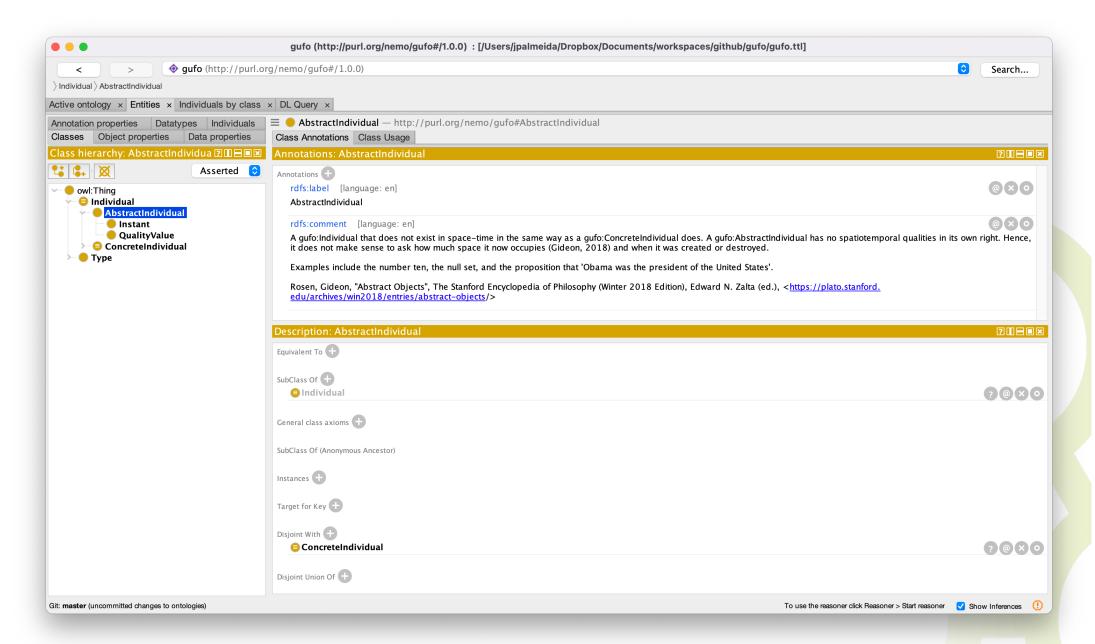


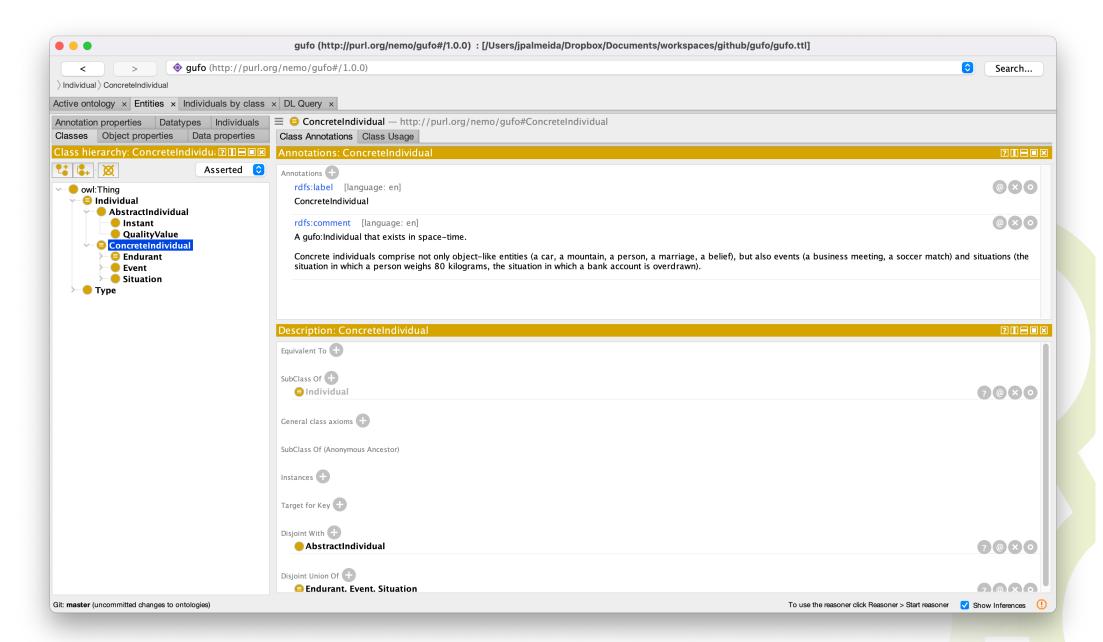


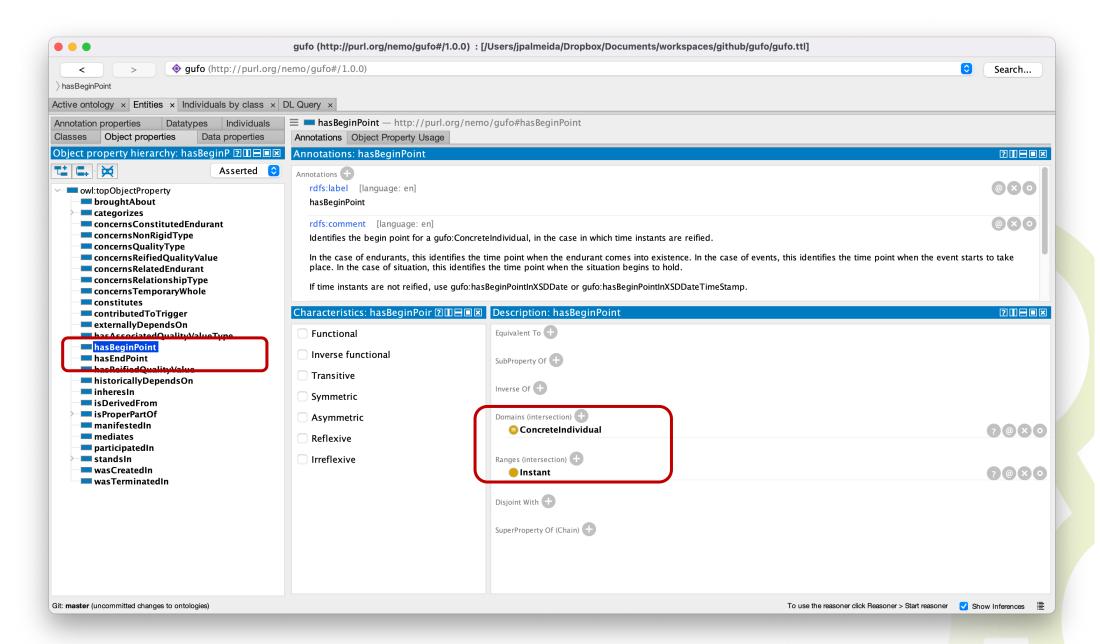


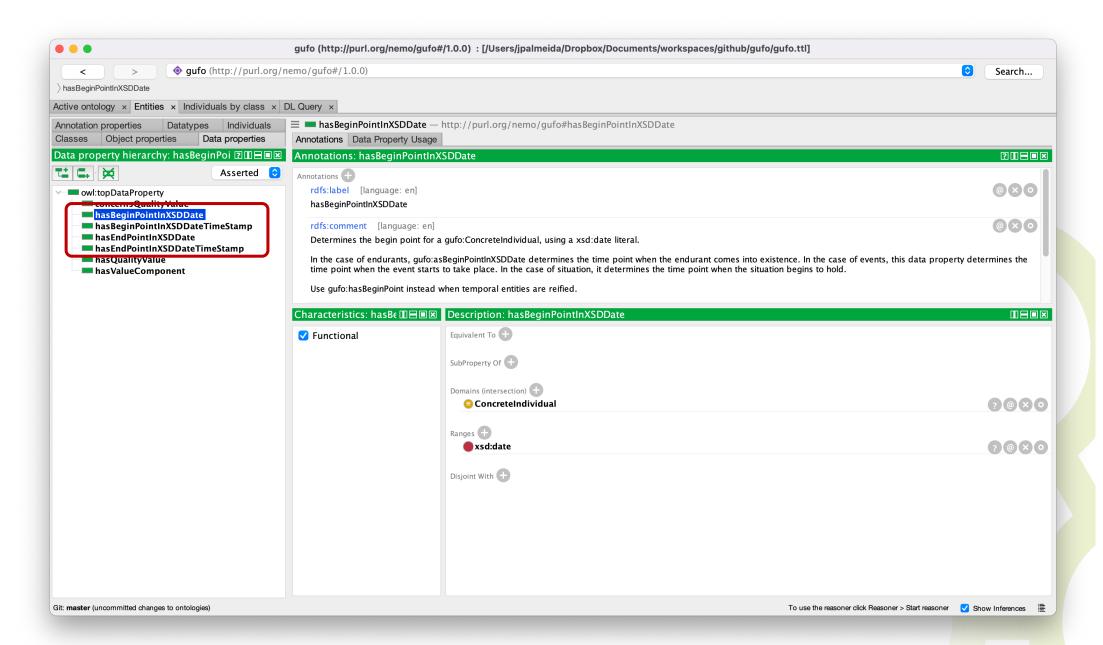


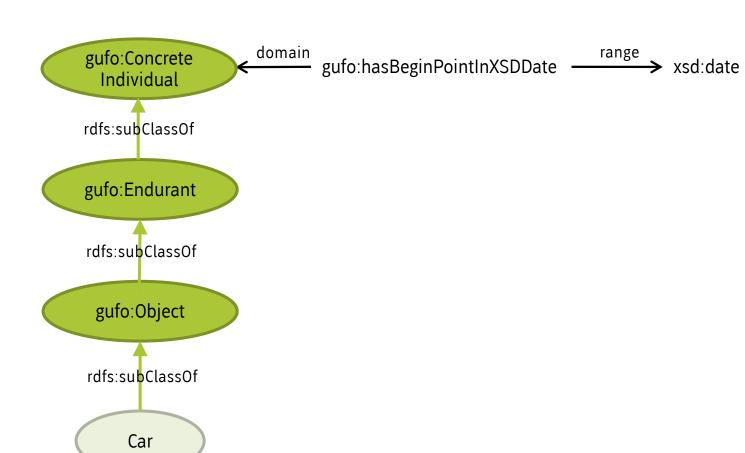




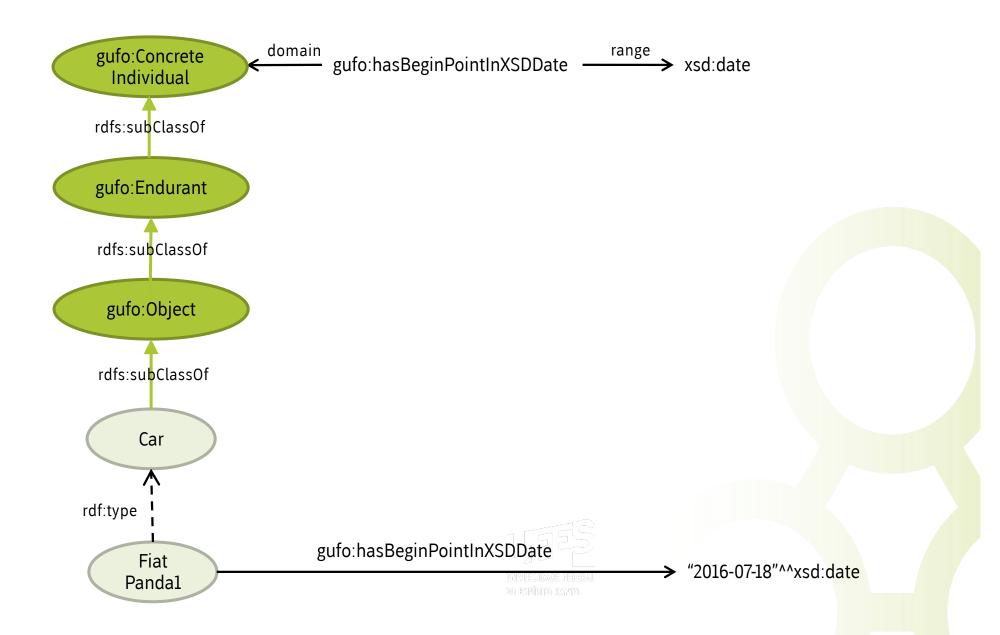


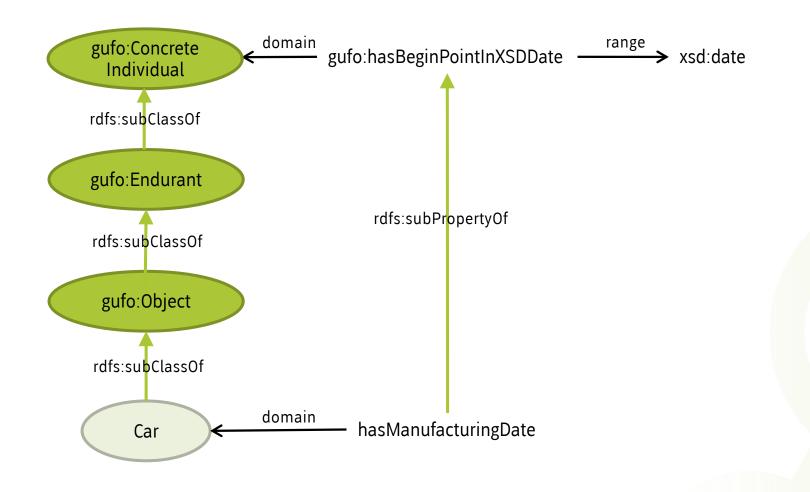




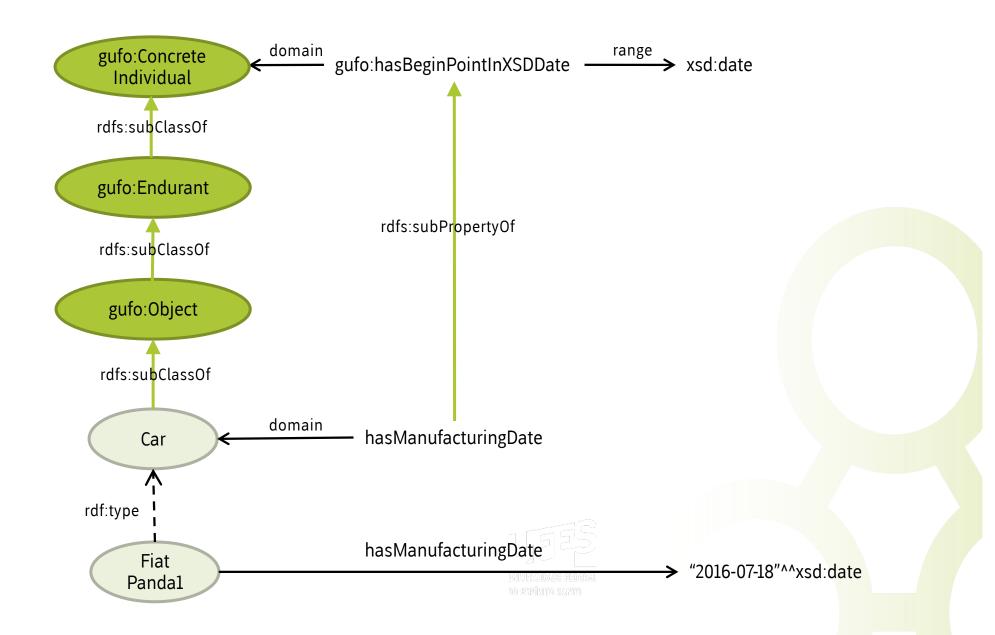


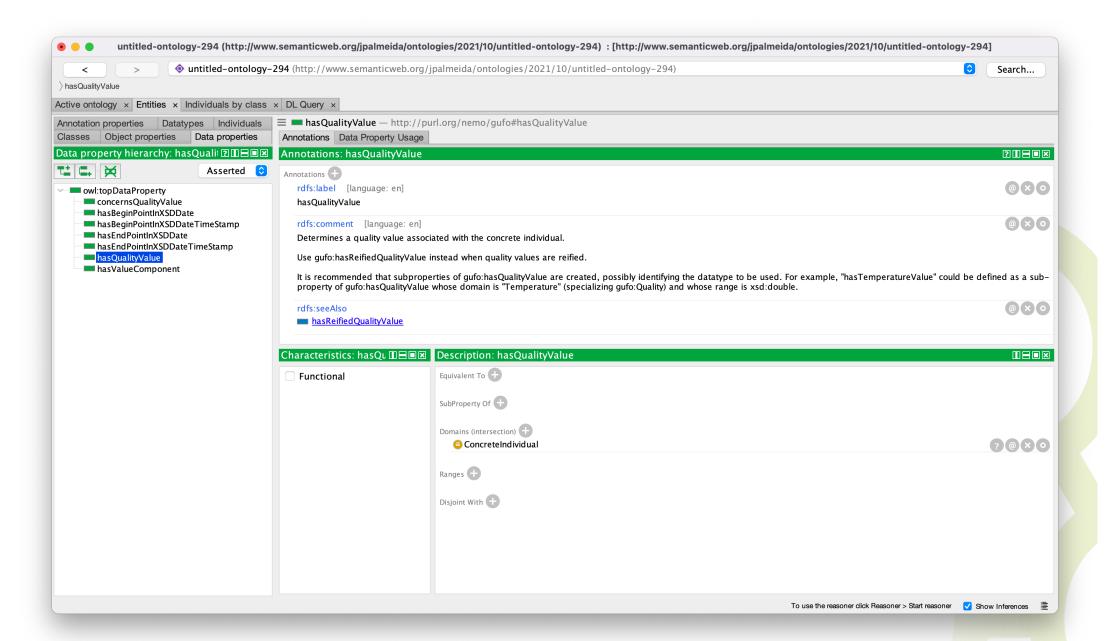


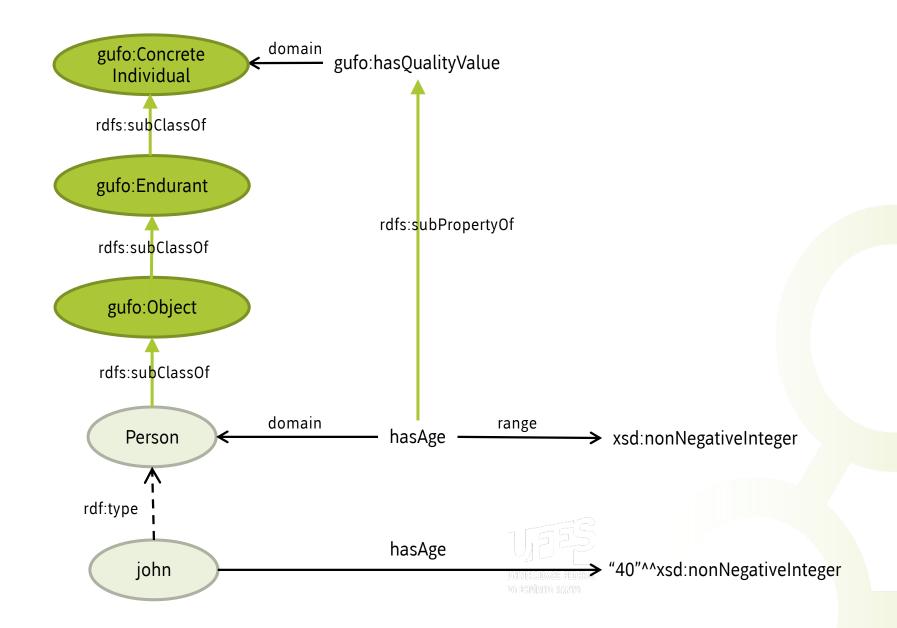


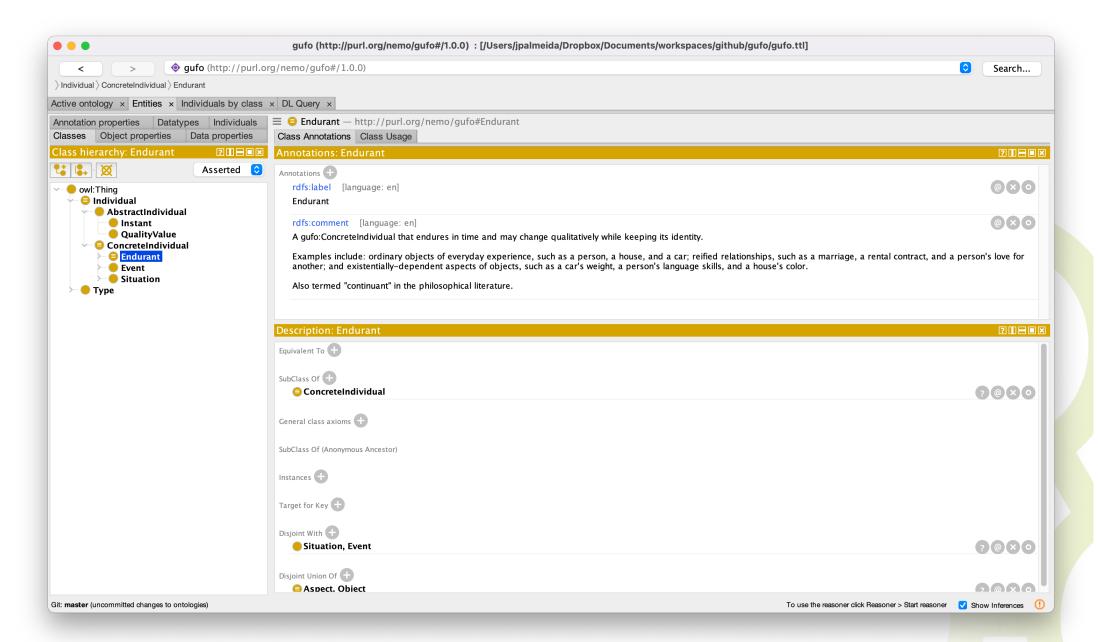


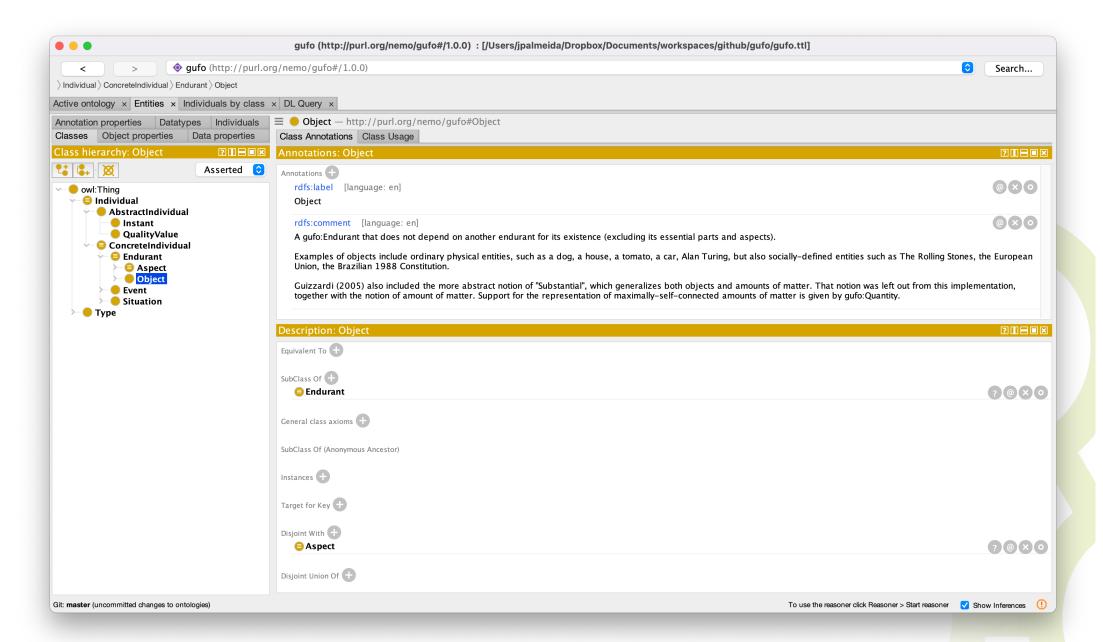


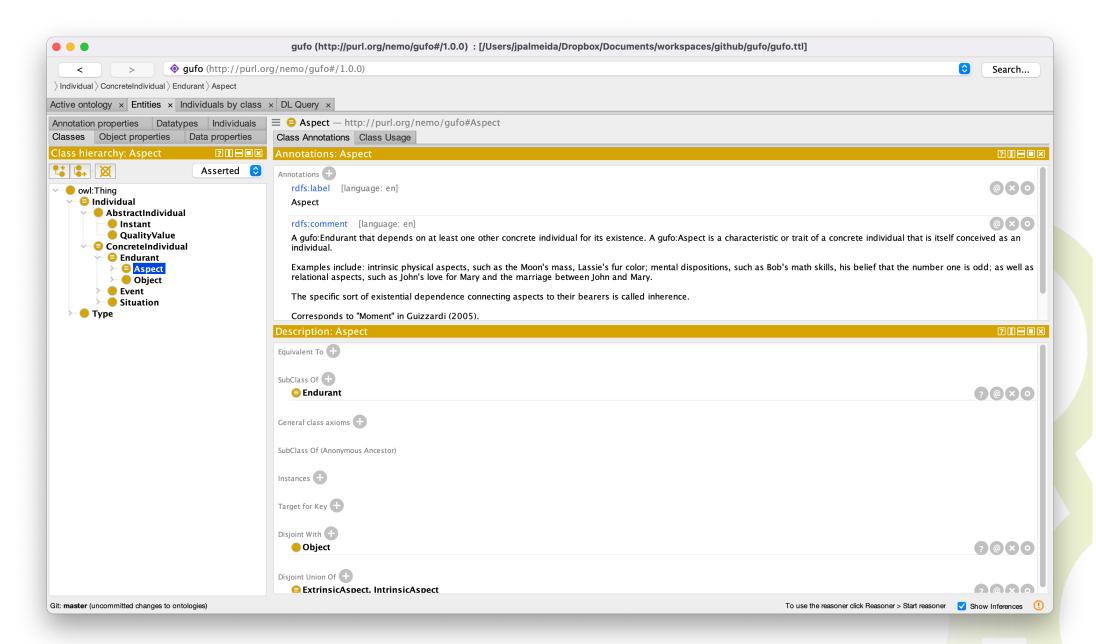


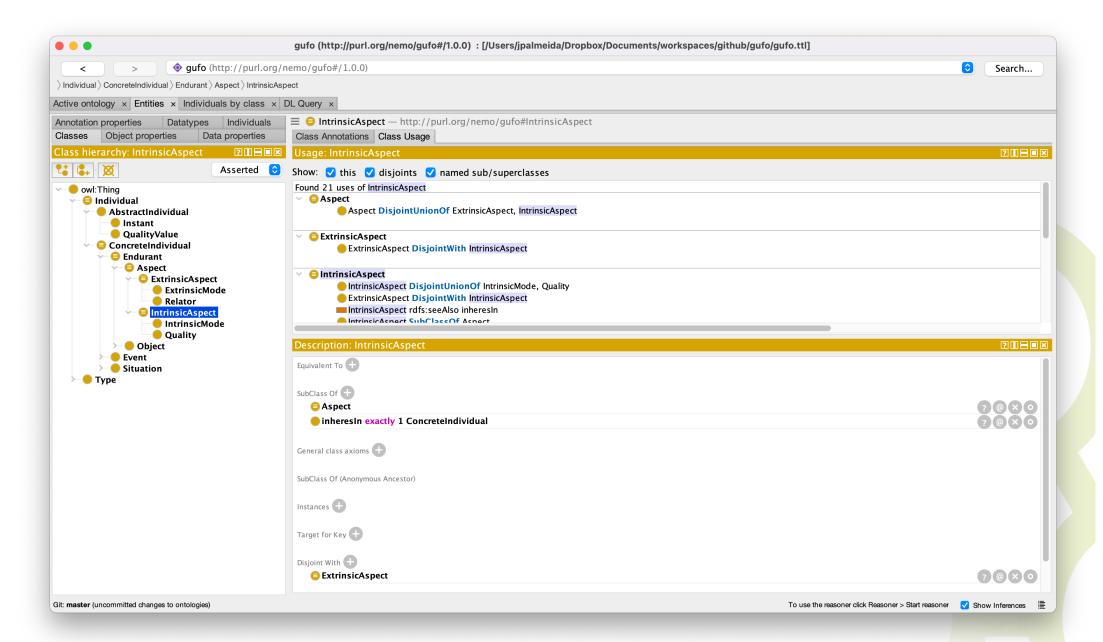


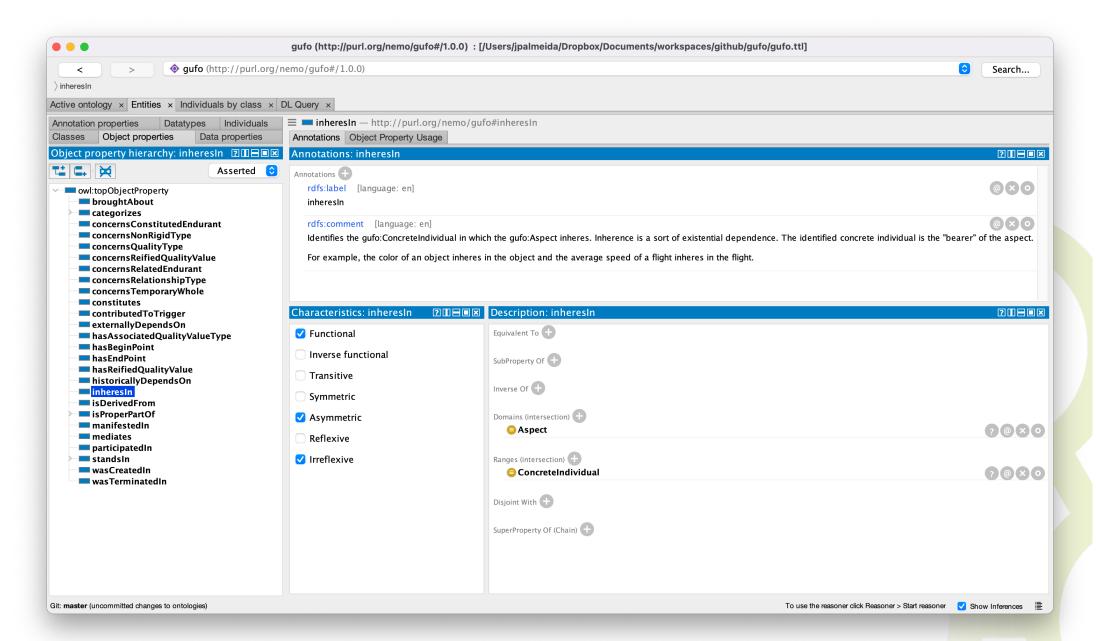


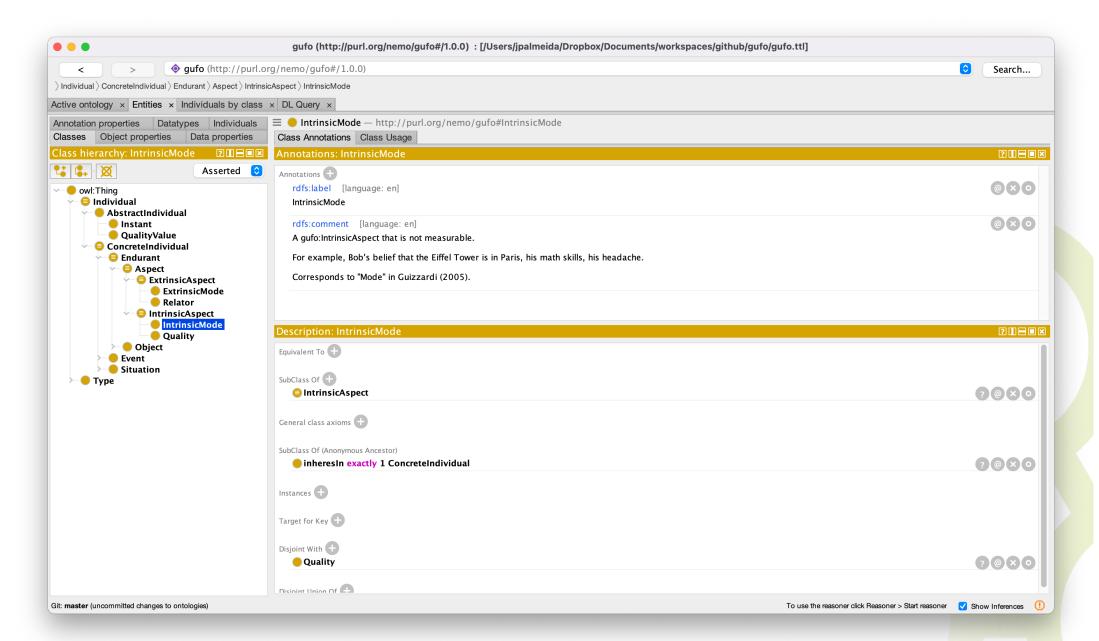


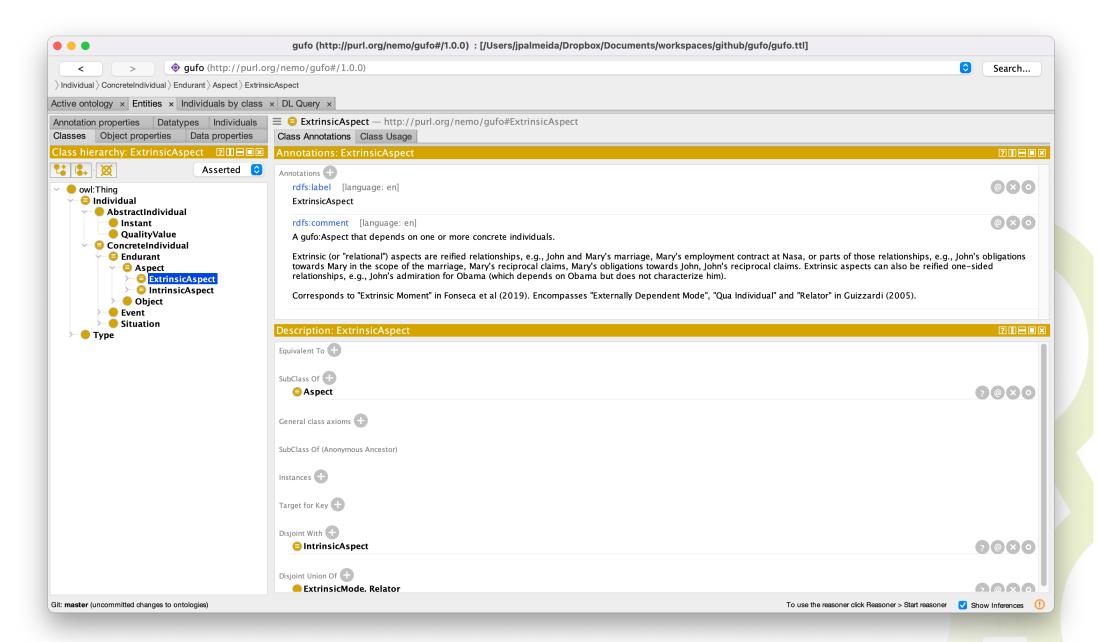


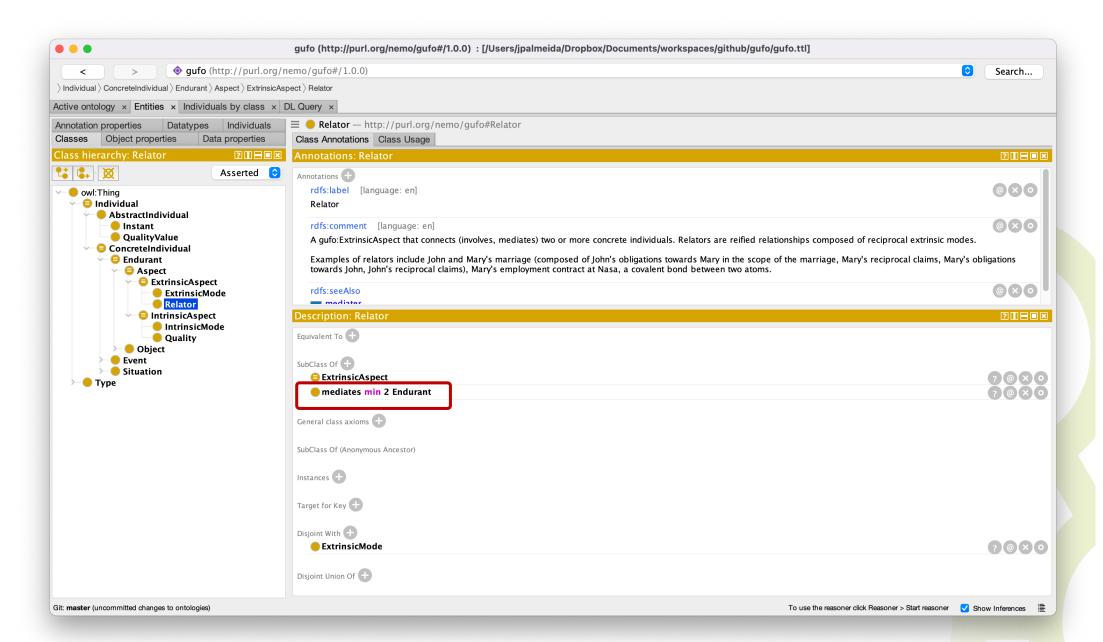


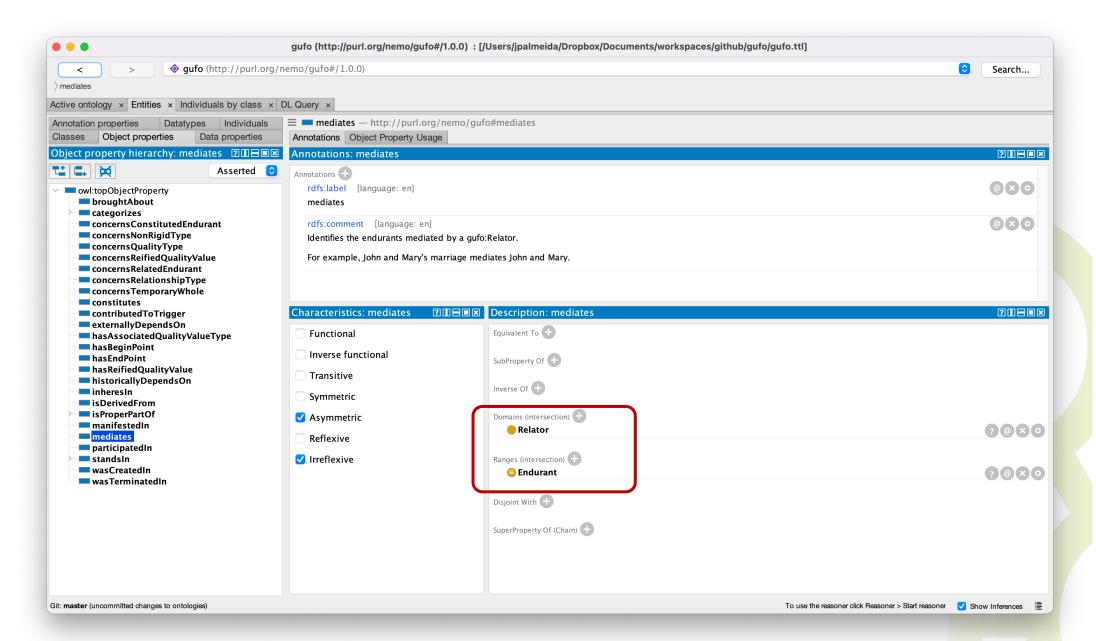




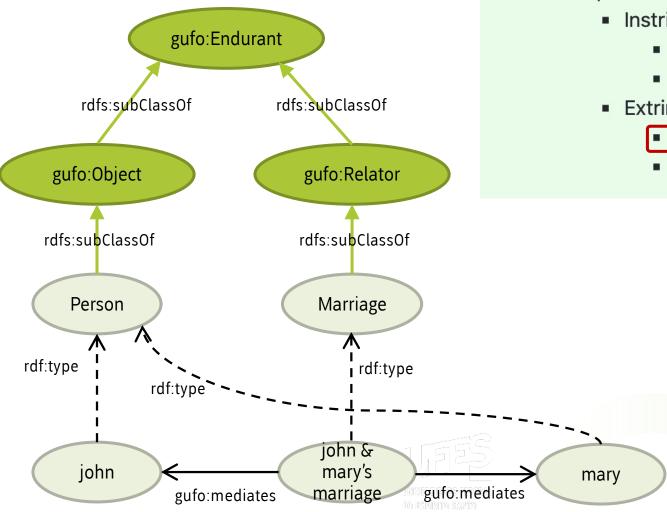




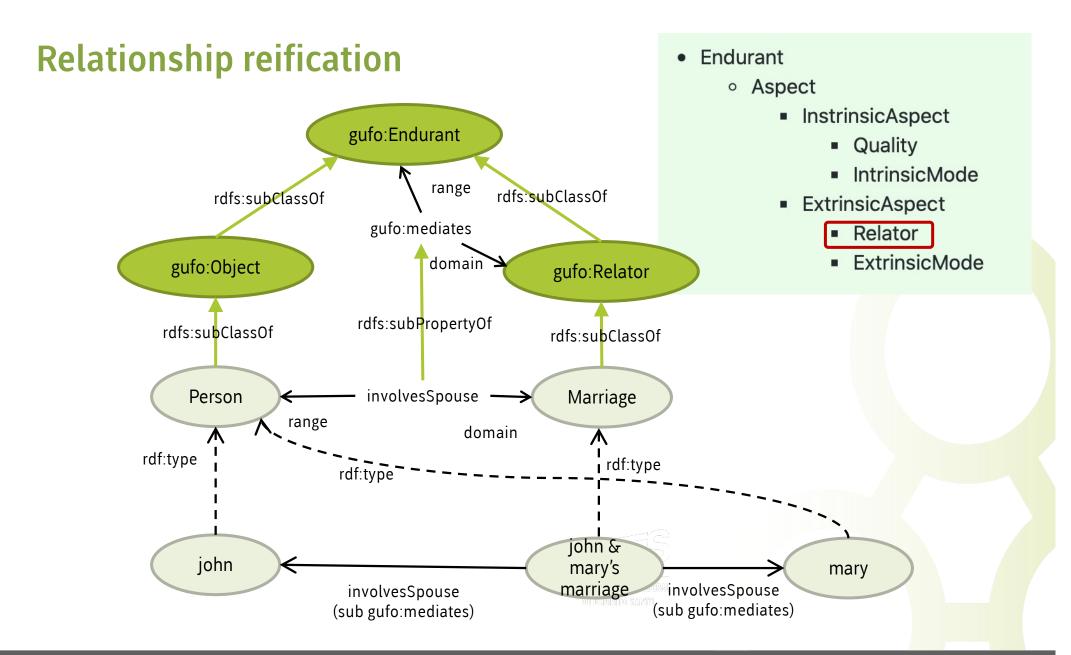


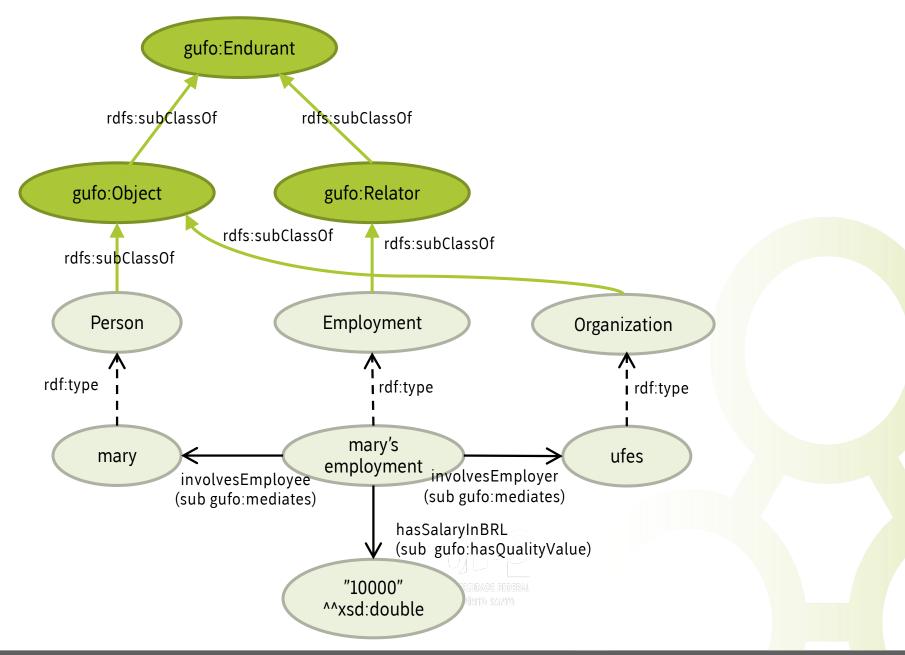


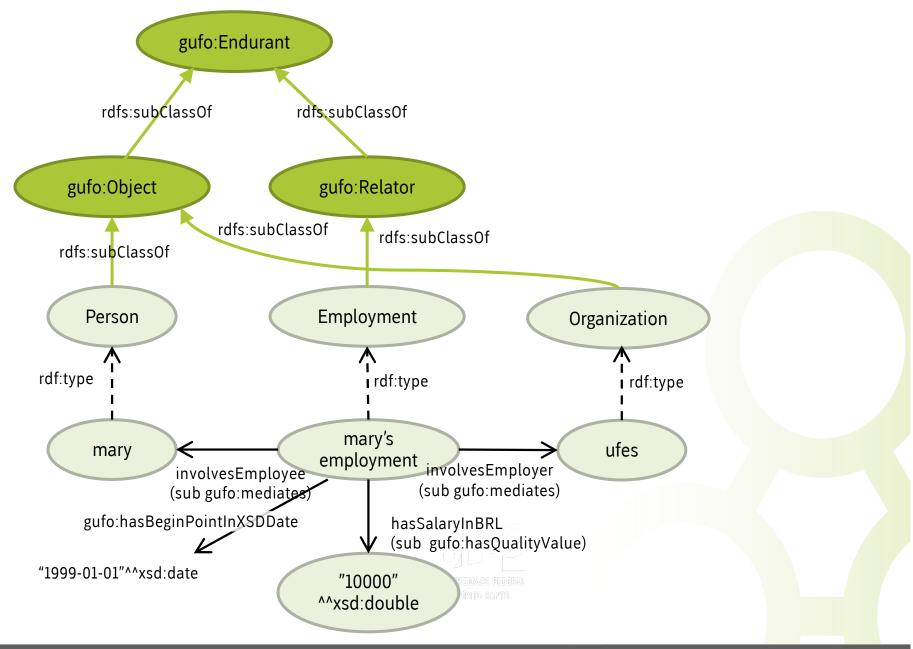
Relationship reification

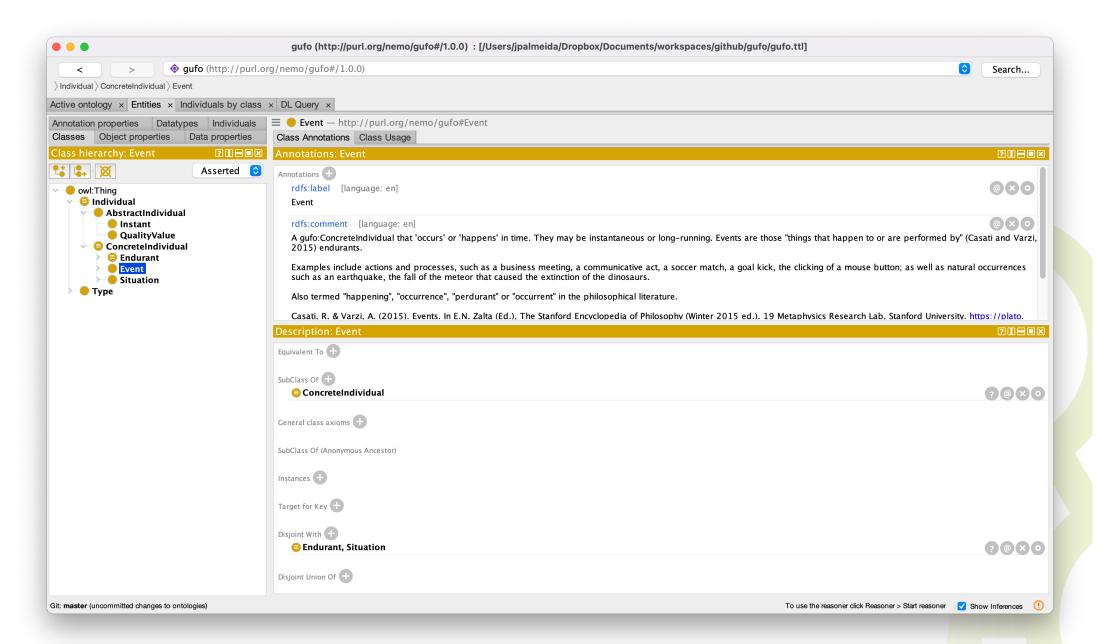


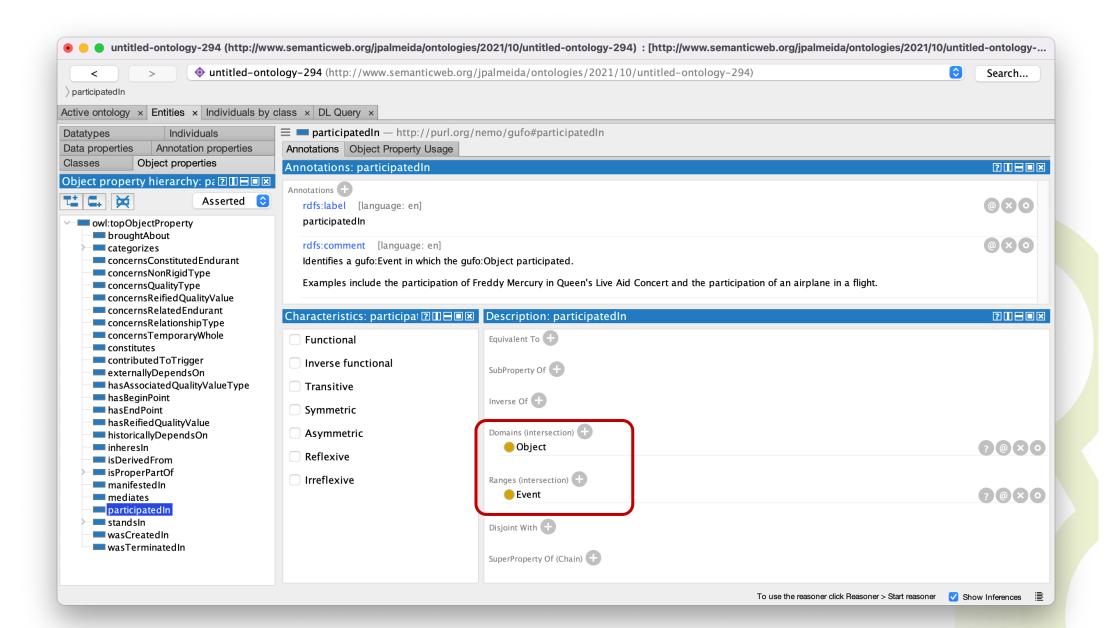
- Endurant
 - Aspect
 - InstrinsicAspect
 - Quality
 - IntrinsicMode
 - ExtrinsicAspect
 - Relator
 - ExtrinsicMode

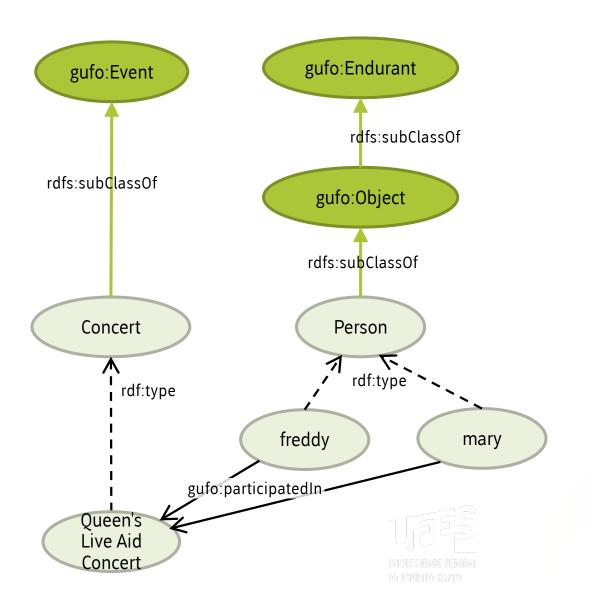


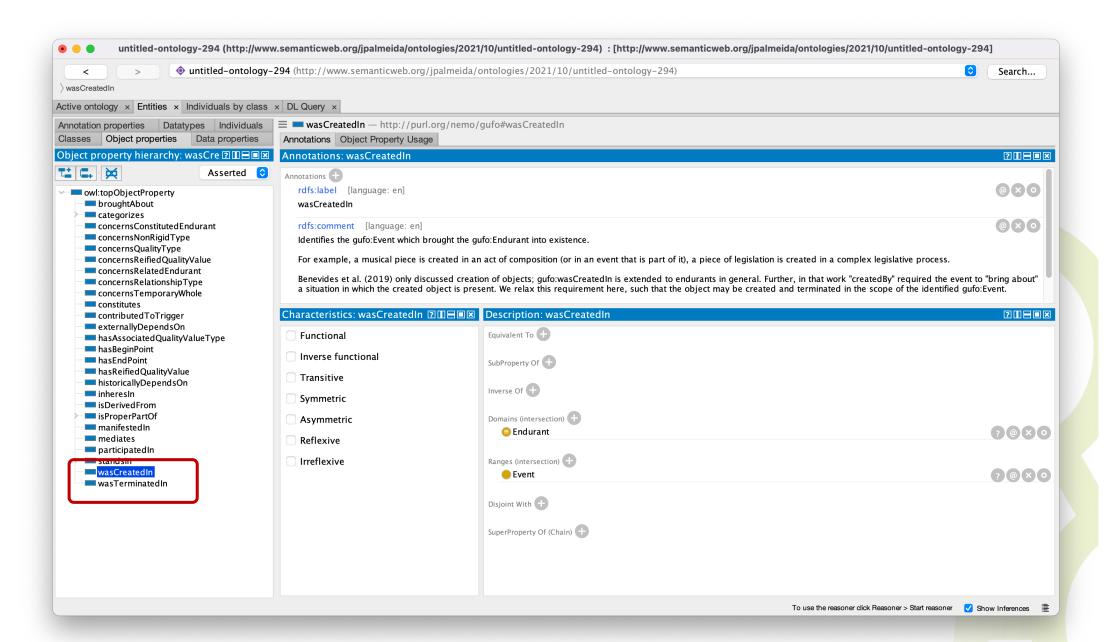


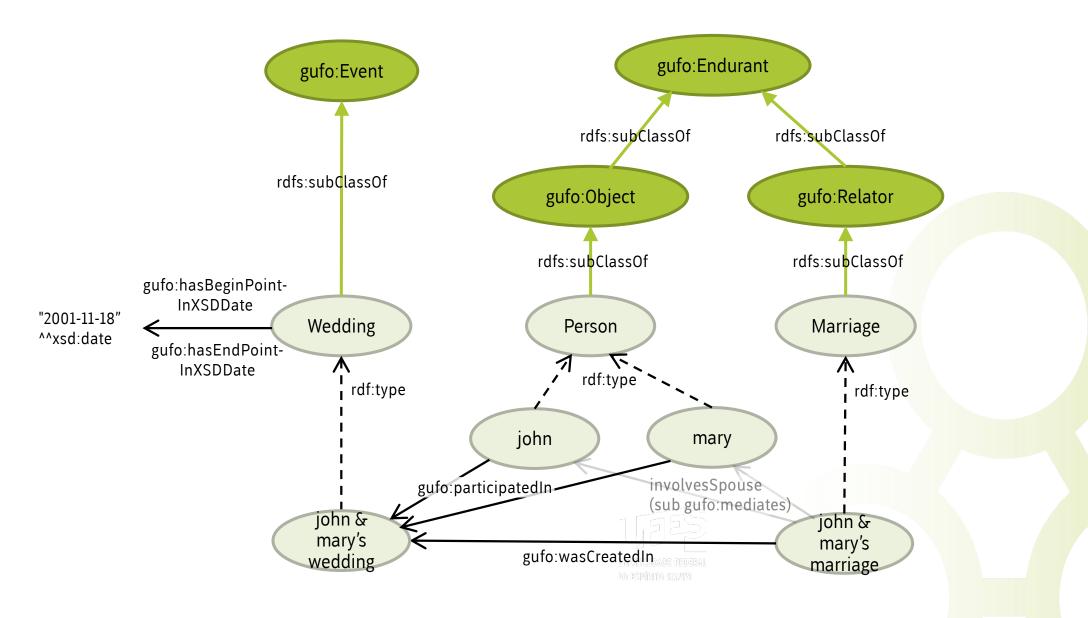


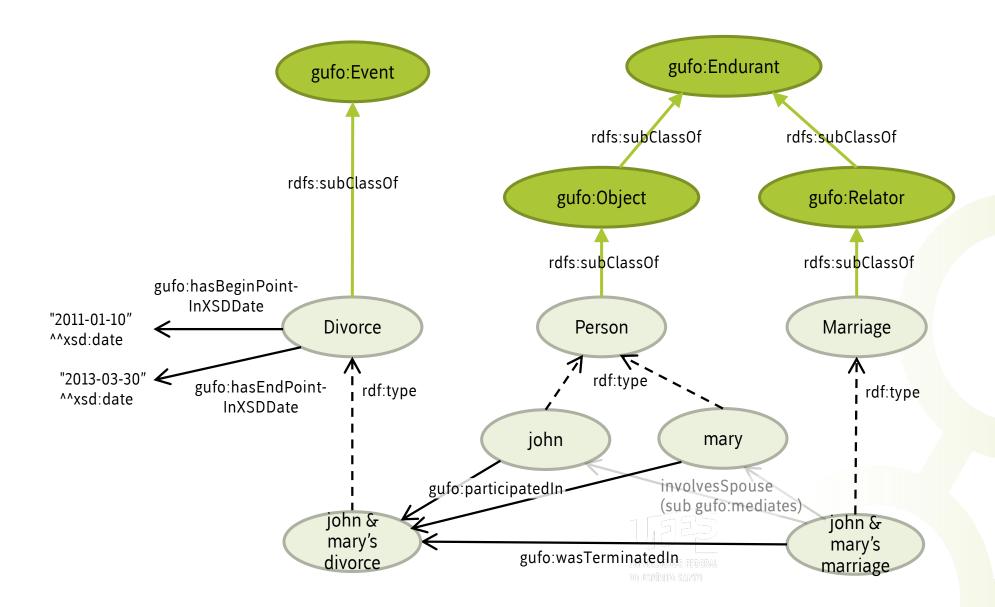


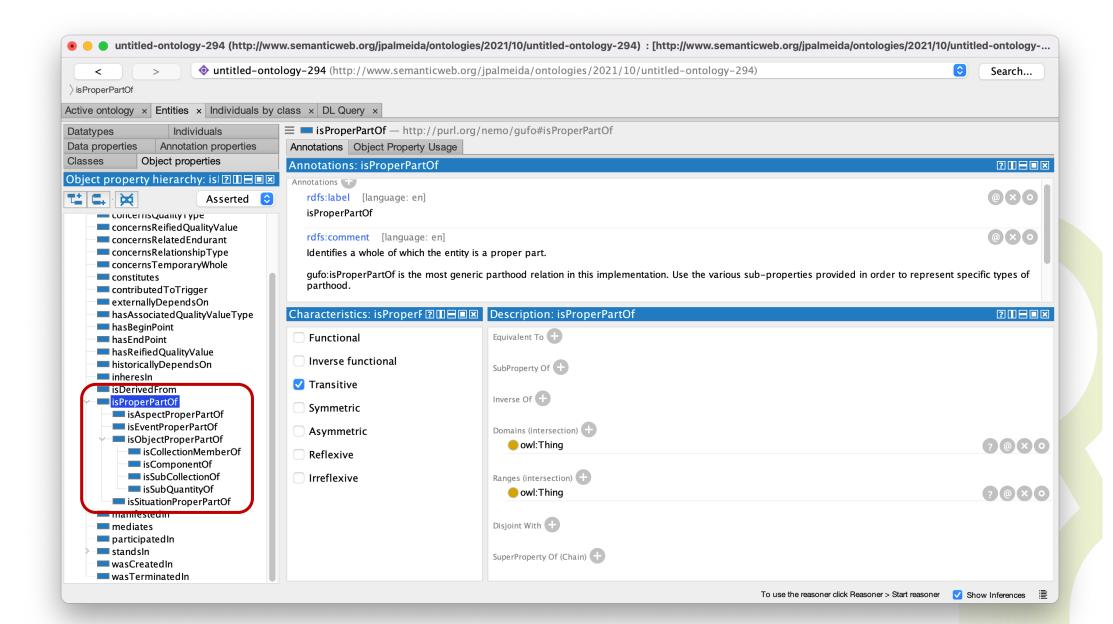


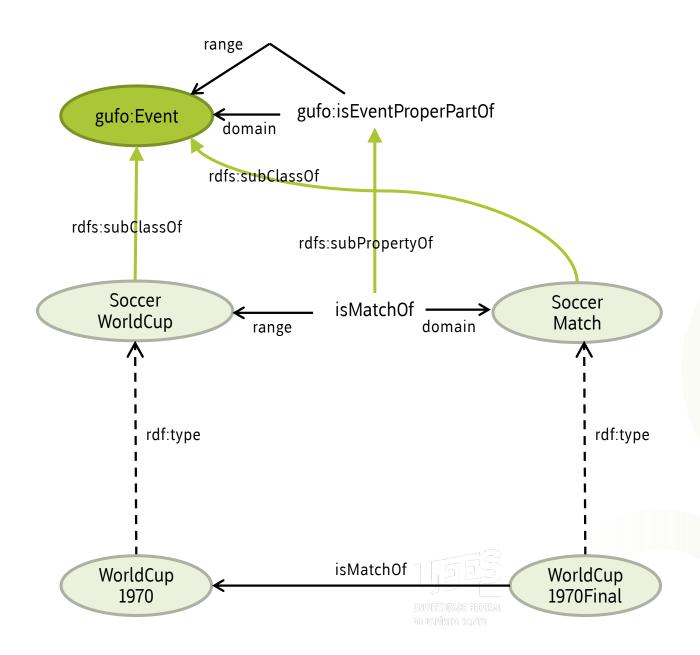












Hands on!





2. Patterns & Advanced Features

"A little semantics goes a long way" – Jim Hendler

"Some more semantics goes further..."

Patterns

- Quality reification
 - Stability in face of change in measurement schemes for qualities
- Situations
 - Handling changes in objects/aspects in time

- Endurant
 - Aspect
 - IntrinsicAspect
 - Quality
 - IntrinsicMode
 - ExtrinsicAspect
 - Relator
 - ExtrinsicMode
- Situation
 - QualityValueAttributionSituation
 - TemporaryInstantiationSituation
 - TemporaryParthoodSituation
 - TemporaryConstitutionSituation
 - TemporaryRelationshipSituation

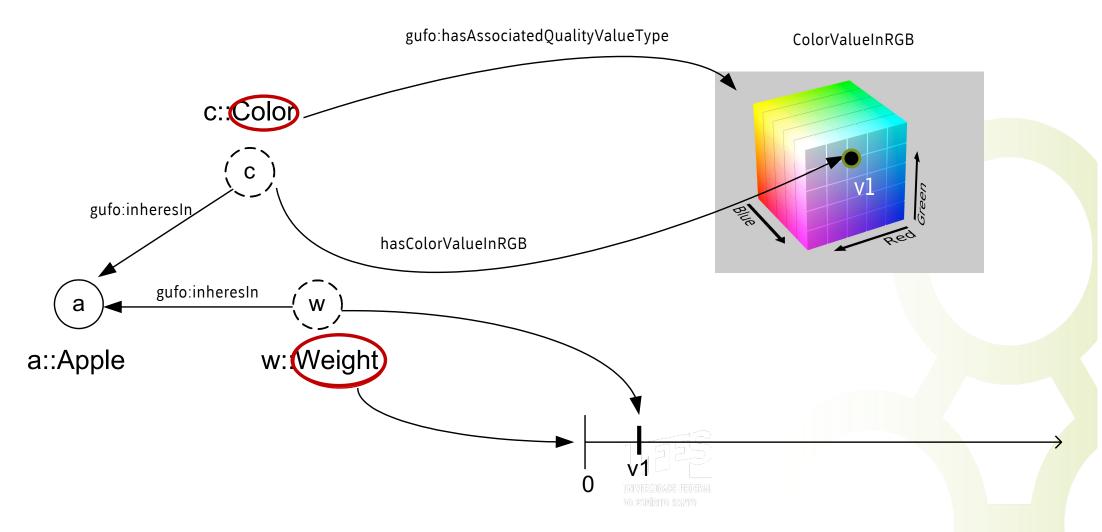


Representing qualities

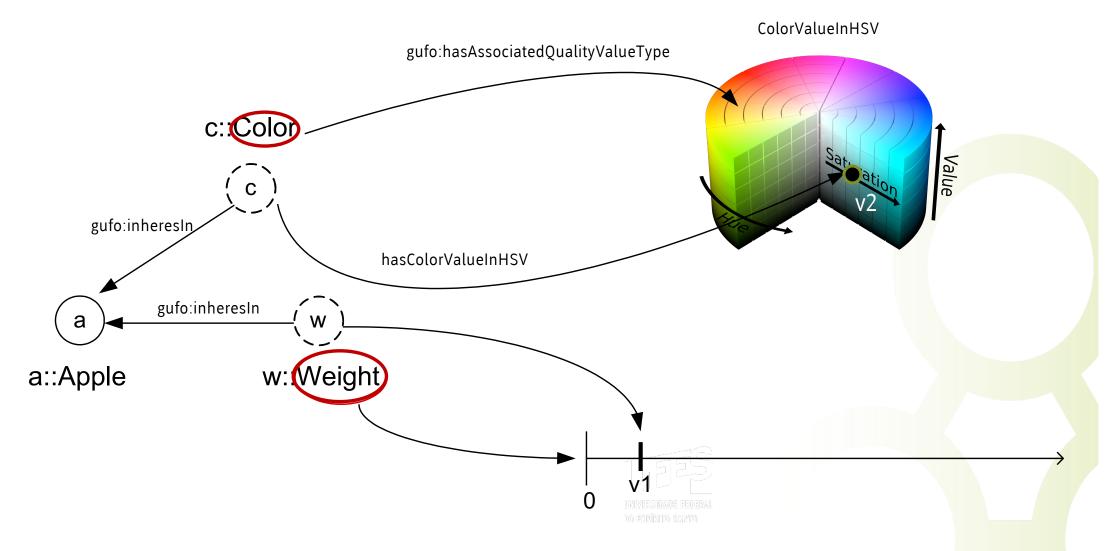
- A range of possibilities depending on scenario:
 - A simple data property (specializing gufo:hasQualityValue)
 - PhysicalObject hasWeight xsd:double
 - hasWeight subPropertyOf gufo:hasQualityValue
 - An object property with a reified quality value
 - In case of enumerations (e.g., ShirtSize subClassOf QualityValue, oneOf S, M, L, XL)
 - or structured values (e.g., hasColorValueInRGB with RGB components)
 - Reified quality and reified quality value
 - The "full" quality pattern



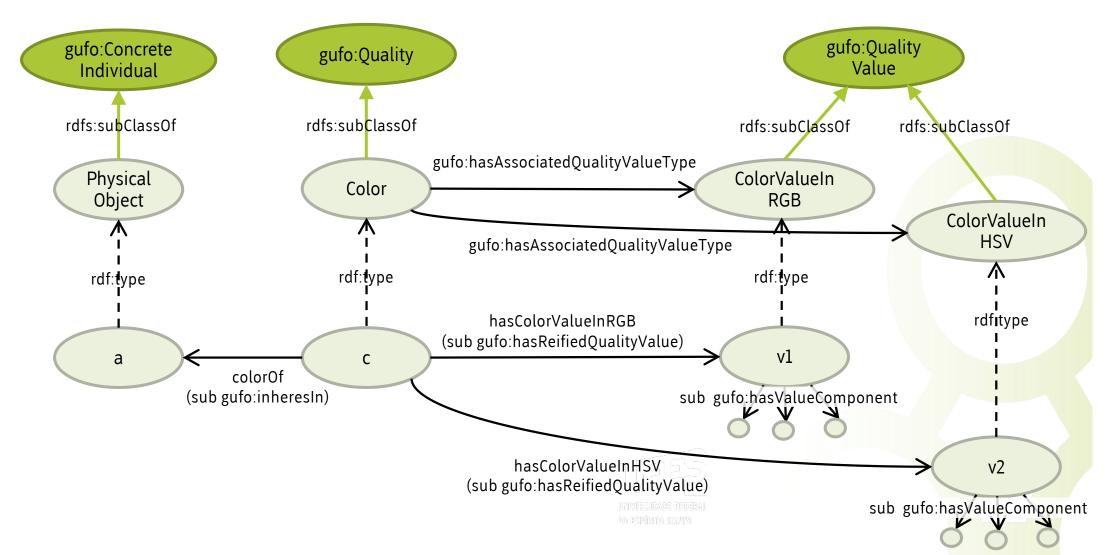
Quality reification



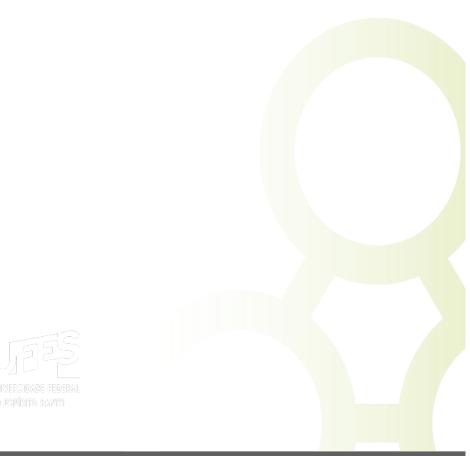
Quality reification



Quality reification in gUFO (full pattern)



Hands on!



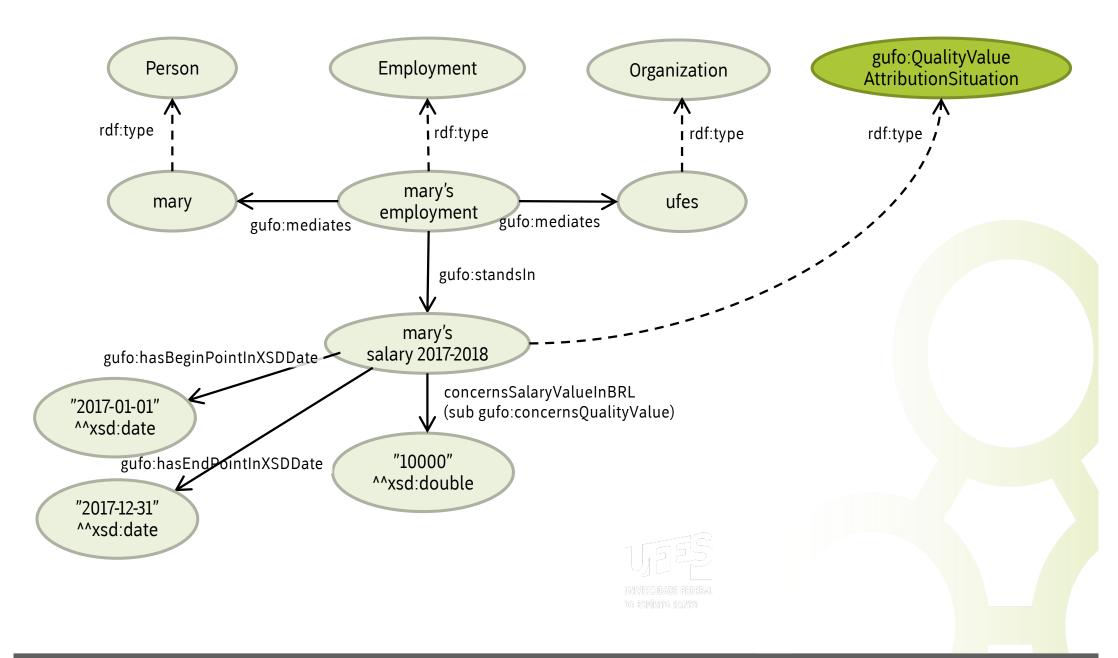


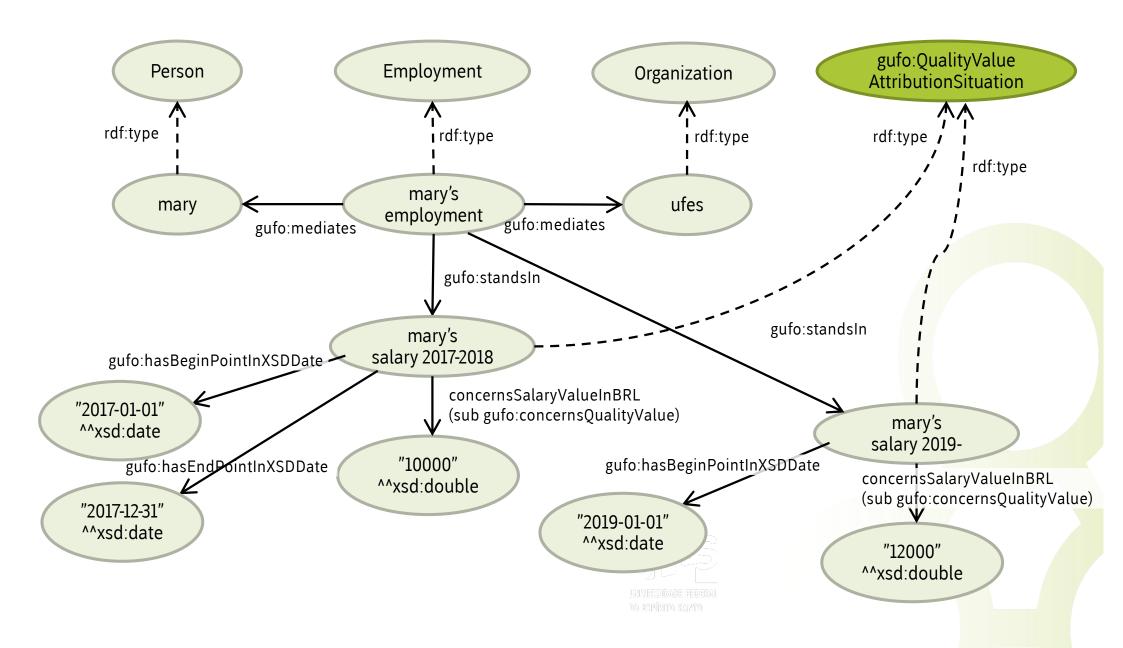
Situations

- No support for change in the Semantic Web
- What about:
 - when a person loses/gains weight?
 - when a rental car is under repair?
 - when a band changes members?
 - when a student graduates?
 - when a president leaves office?

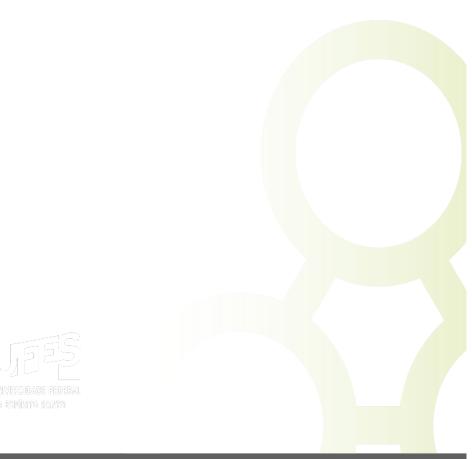
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Hands on!





2.1. Exploring the Taxonomy of Types

"A little semantics goes a long way" – Jim Hendler

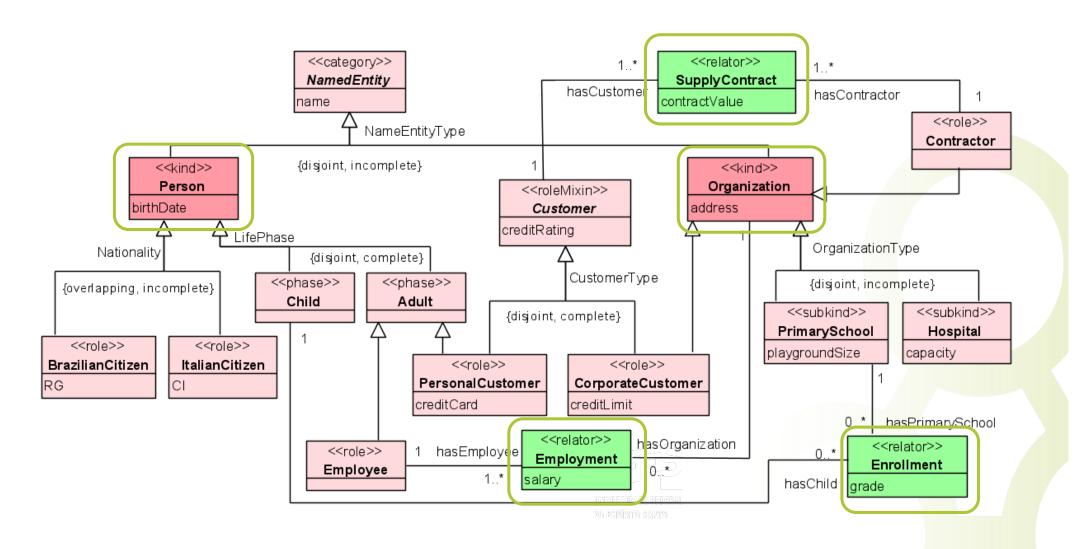
"Some more semantics goes further..."

Exploring the taxonomy of types

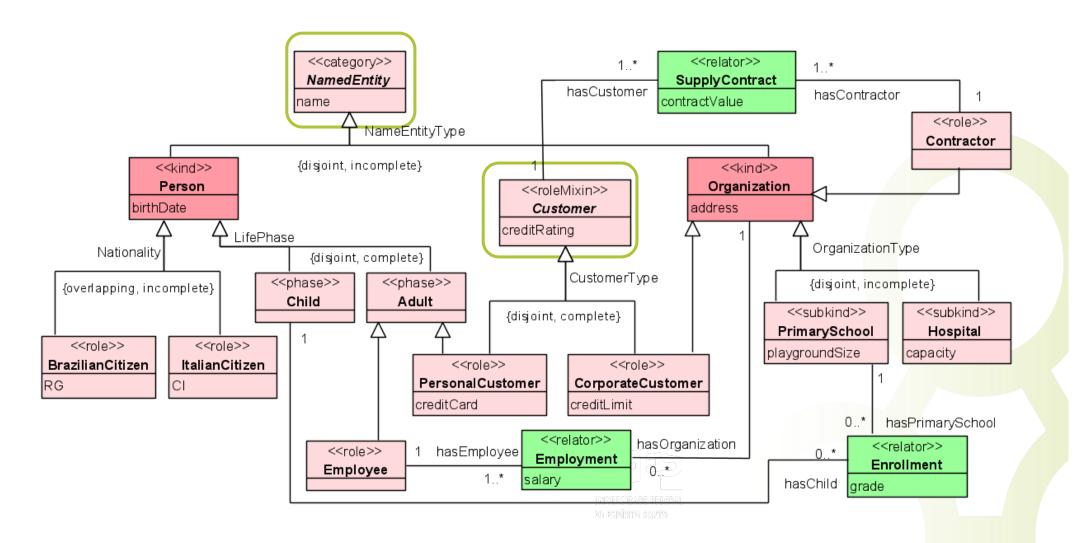
- Leverage opportunities in the different sorts of classes there are
- OWL only sees "classes"
- UFO (and hence gUFO) sees a variety of types



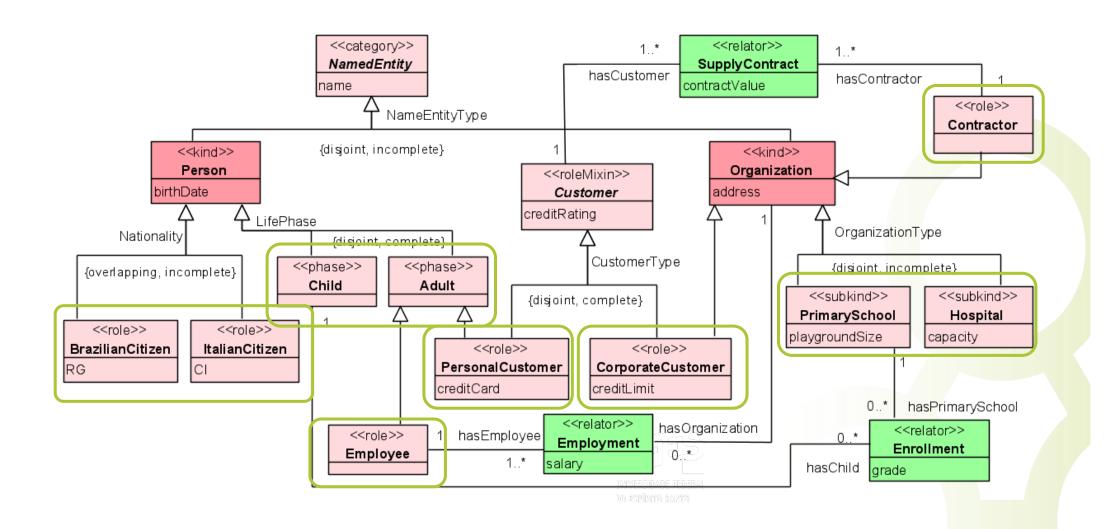
Kinds partition the entities in our domain

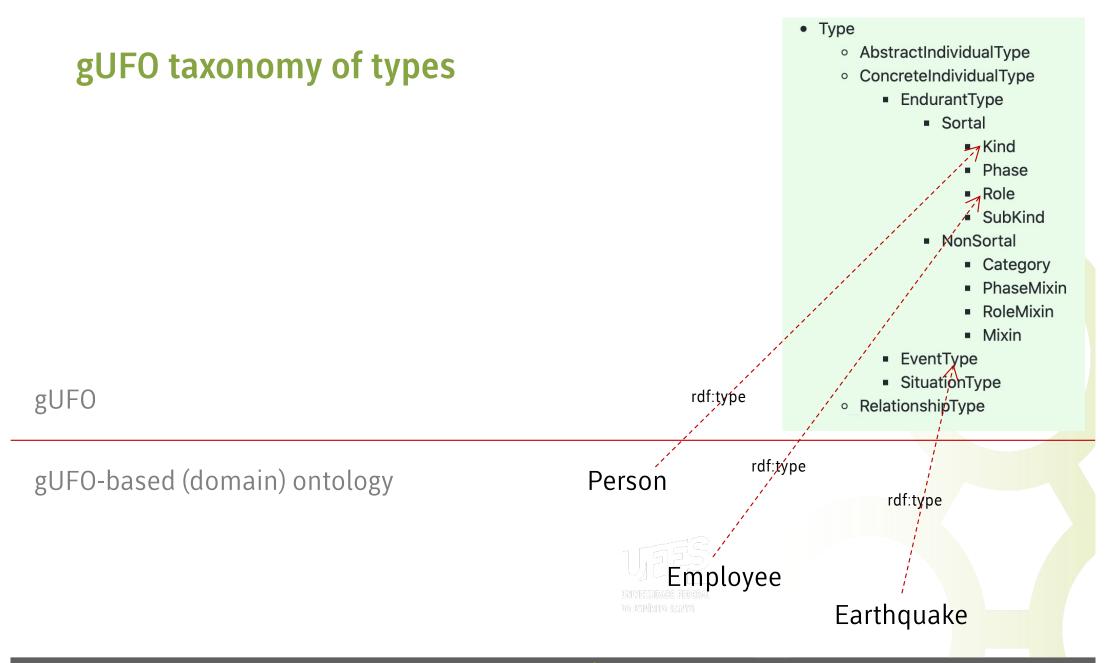


Non-sortals classify entities of different kinds



Sortals specialize a kind in different ways

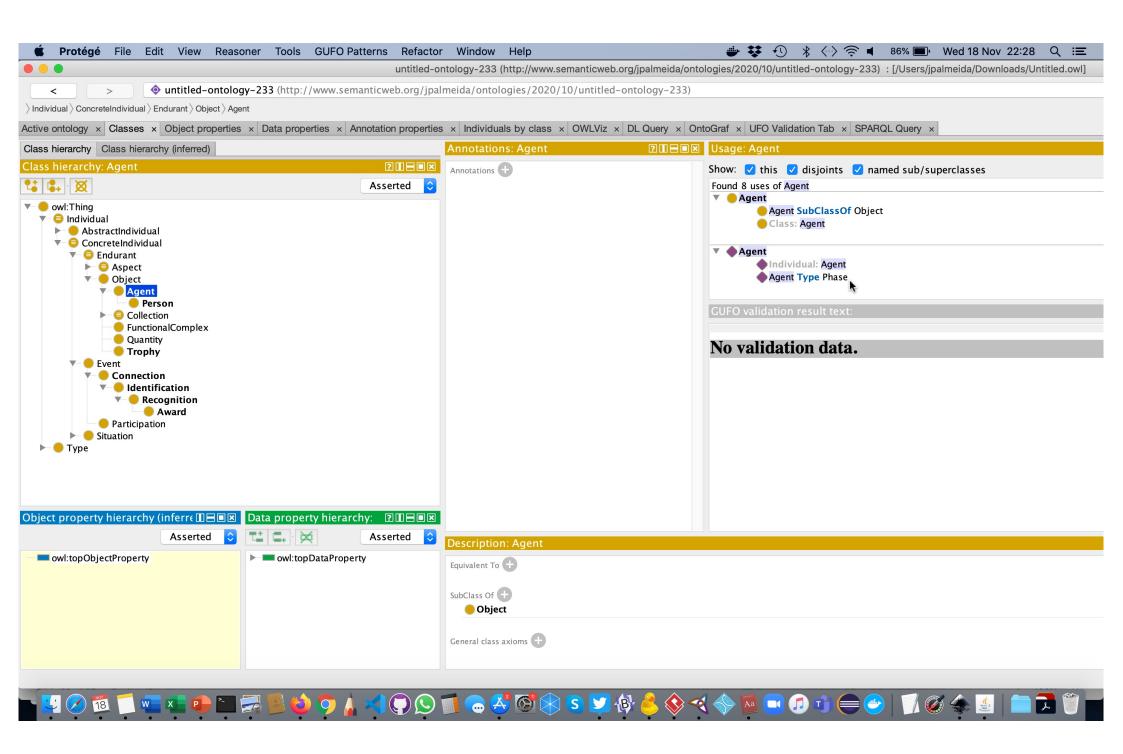


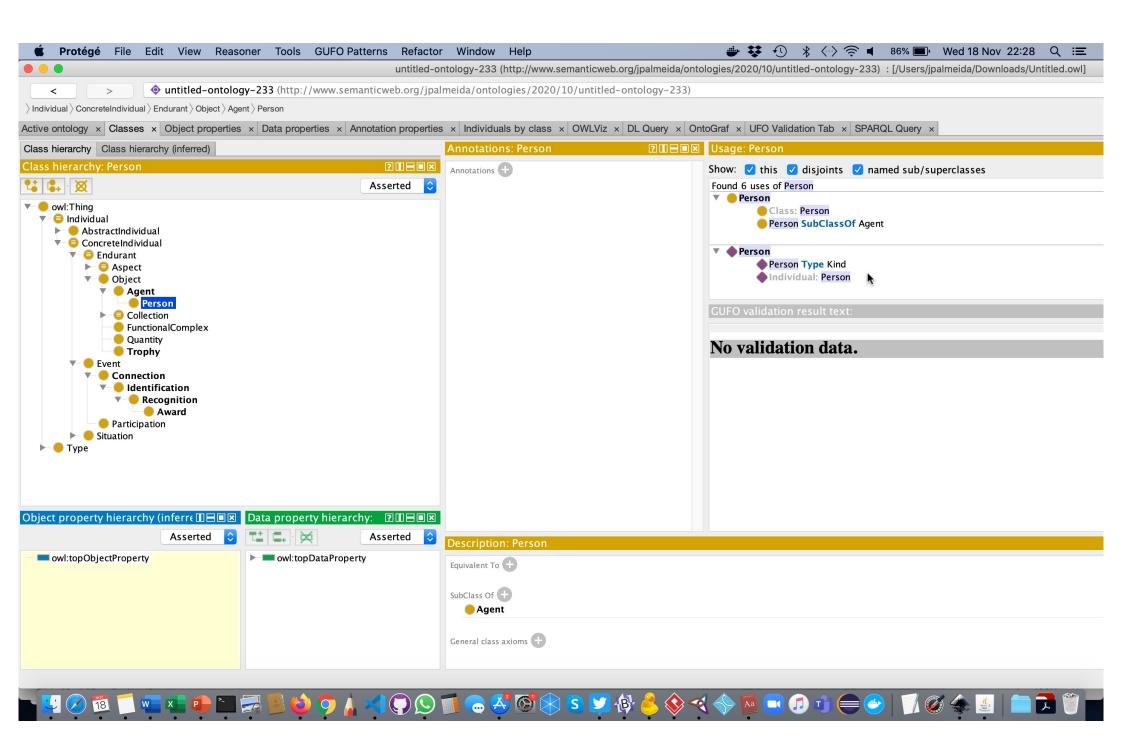


Error detection for endurant types

- Non-sortals cannot subclass sortals
- Sortals cannot specialize more than one kind
- Rigid types cannot subclass anti-rigid types
- etc...

- Reflect UFO theorems (with automated proof see ER 2018 paper)
 - https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-00847-5_12
- Operationalize OntoClean's domain-independent metaproperties in analogy with OntoUML syntactic rules
- Verbalize results





Combining gUFO taxonomies

 Individual Type AbstractIndividual AbstractIndividualType ConcreteIndividualType ConcreteIndividual Endurant EndurantType Object Sortal Aspect Kind Phase Event Situation Role SubKind NonSortal rdfs:subClassOf Category PhaseMixin rdfs:subClassOf RoleMixin Mixin EventType SituationType rdf:type RelationshipType

gUFO

gUFO-based (domain) ontology

OWL2 "punning" employed

rdfs:subClassOf

Student

Combining gUFO taxonomies

Type AbstractIndividualType ConcreteIndividualType EndurantType EventType SituationType RelationshipType

- Individual
 - AbstractIndividual
 - ConcreteIndividual
 - Endurant
 - Object
 - Aspect
 - Event
 - Situation

rdfs:subClassOf

gUFO

gUFO-based (domain) ontology

OWL2 "punning" employed

Sortal

Kind

Role

NonSortal

Phase

SubKind

Category PhaseMixin RoleMixin

rdf:tvpe

Mixin

Natural Disaster

rdfs:subClassOf

Earthquake

gUFO and high-order types

 Individual Type AbstractIndividual AbstractIndividualType ConcreteIndividual ConcreteIndividualType Endurant EndurantType Object Sortal Aspect Kind Phase Event Situation Role SubKind NonSortal rdf:type Category PhaseMixin rdfs:subClassOf RoleMixin Mixin EventType SituationType RelationshipType Person Role gufo:categorizes Person

rdfs:subClassOf

Student

gUFO

gUFO-based (domain) ontology

Person role can have properties, e.g., authorization level

Hands on!





Conclusions

- We need all the help we can get!
 - Rules
 - Reuse
 - Foundational patterns
 - Automation of quality control
- Leverage benefits that were only available to OntoUML users to Semantic Web implementers
- Better integration between the taxonomy of types and taxonomy of individuals than in OntoUML (due to limitations of UML)

How about expressiveness?

- OWL 2 DL fragment employed
- But less expressive fragments possible
 - Application-dependent choices on what restrictions to leave out
 - E.g., punning can be ignored or replaced by annotation properties
- Rules that cannot be expressed in OWL are implemented in the plugin
 - But can be expressed as shape constraints: SHACL



How does it fit in the overall UFO/OntoUML ecosystem?

- OntoUML to gUFO-based OWL transformation
 - incorporated in OntoUML Visual Paradigm plugin
- Using OntoUML as a starting point gives access to simulation, antipattern detection
- gUFO-based Ontology-Based Data Access (OBDA)
 - high-level access to relational data





Unified Foundational Ontology

Ongoing and future work

- gUFO-based publication of water quality data in the Rio Doce (CNPq/CAPES project)
- Pattern-based development in Protégé Plugin
- Reverse engineering OWL ontologies to OntoUML
- gUFO-based implementations of UFO-based reference ontologies:
 - gUFO-C: Intentional and Social Layer (Agent, Goal, Social Relations)
 - gUFO-L: Core Ontology of Legal Aspects (Legal Norm, Legal Relations)
 - gUFO-S: Core Ontology of Services (Service Offering, Agreement, Delivery)
- http://purl.org/nemo/doc/gufo (reference documentation)
- https://github.com/nemo-ufes/gufo (repository and link to videos)
- https://github.com/nemo-ufes/ufo-protege-plugin