

## Chapter 1.5

# Exceptions in Ontologies: A Theoretical Model for Deducing Properties from Topological Axioms

**Christophe Jouis**

*Université Paris III, France*

**Julien Bourdaillet**

*Université de Montréal, Canada*

**Bassel Habib**

*LIP6, France*

**Jean-Gabriel Ganascia**

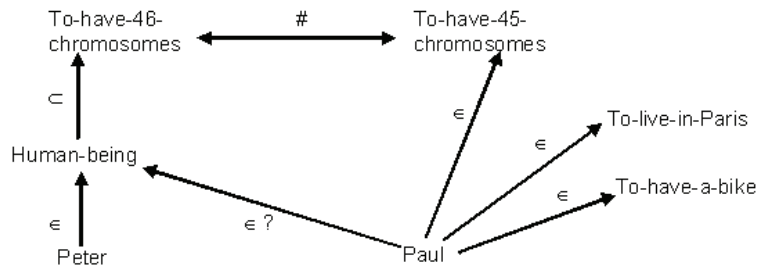
*LIP6, France*

### **ABSTRACT**

*This chapter is a contribution to the study of formal ontologies. It addresses the problem of atypical entities in ontologies. The authors propose a new model of knowledge representation by combining ontologies and topology. In order to represent atypical entities in ontologies, the four topological operators of interior, exterior, border and closure are introduced. These operators allow to specify whether an entity, belonging to a class, is typical or not. The authors define a system of topological inclusion and membership relations into the ontology formalism, by adapting the four topological operators with the help of their mathematical properties. These properties are used as a set of axioms which allows to define the topological inclusion and membership relations. Further, the authors define combinations of the operators of interior, exterior, border and closure that allow the construction of an algebra. They model is implemented in AnsProlog, a recent logic programming language that allows negative predicates in inference rules.*

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-61350-456-7.ch1.5

Figure 1. The element [paul] does not satisfy all the properties of the class [human-being]



## INTRODUCTION

Some entities belong more or less to a class. In particular, some individual entities are attached to classes whereas they do not check all the properties of the class. To illustrate this phenomenon, let us consider the ontological network below (see Figure 1). This network corresponds to the seven following declarative statements:

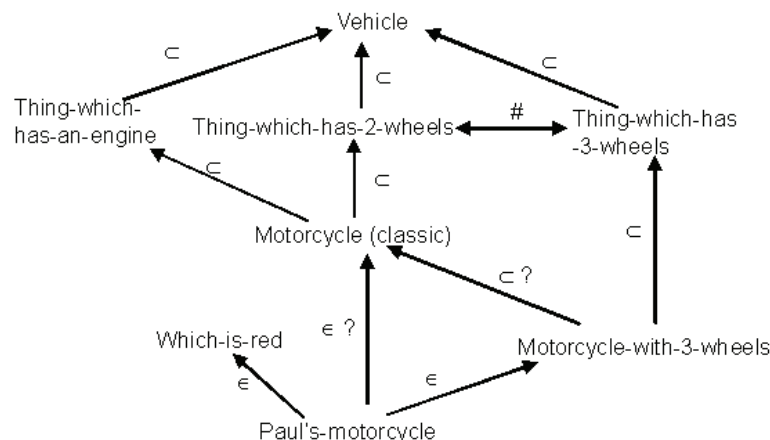
1. A human being has 46 chromosomes
2. Peter is a human being
3. Paul is a human being
4. Paul has 45 chromosomes
5. Paul lives in Paris
6. Paul has a bike

7. One thing can not have at the same time 46 chromosomes and 45 chromosomes

Because [Paul] is a [Human-being], he inherits all the typical properties of [Human-being], in particular [To-have-46-chromosomes]. A paradox is introduced by the statement (7) because “A human-being has 46 chromosomes” is a general fact but not a universal fact. The statement (1) means “In general, human beings have 46 chromosomes but there are some exceptions to this rule”.

A similar phenomenon can be observed with distributive classes. Some subclasses are attached more or less to a general class because some of their elements may not check all the properties of this general class. To illustrate this phenomenon,

Figure 2. The individual entity [paul's motorcycle] does not satisfy all the properties of the class [motorcycle]. The subclass [motorcycle-with-3-wheels] does not satisfy all the properties of the class [motorcycle]



19 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

[www.igi-global.com/chapter/exceptions-ontologies-theoretical-model-deducing/62435](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/exceptions-ontologies-theoretical-model-deducing/62435)

## Related Content

---

### Cloud Storage Privacy and Security User Awareness: A Comparative Analysis Between Dutch and Macedonian Users

Adriana Mijuskovicand Mexhid Ferati (2018). *Cyber Security and Threats: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 1362-1383).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/cloud-storage-privacy-and-security-user-awareness/203566](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/cloud-storage-privacy-and-security-user-awareness/203566)

### Visualization: Future Technology and Practices for Computational Science and Engineering

Joanna Leng, Theresa-Marie Rhyneand Wes Sharrock (2012). *Handbook of Research on Computational Science and Engineering: Theory and Practice* (pp. 381-413).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/visualization-future-technology-practices-computational/60368](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/visualization-future-technology-practices-computational/60368)

### Insight Into Big Data Analytics: Challenges, Recent Trends, and Future Prospects

Mohd Vasim Ahamad, Misbahul Haqueand Mohd Imran (2018). *Handbook of Research on Pattern Engineering System Development for Big Data Analytics* (pp. 67-79).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/insight-into-big-data-analytics/202833](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/insight-into-big-data-analytics/202833)

### Agile, Lean, and Service-Oriented Development, Continuum, or Chasm

Juha Rikkilä (2013). *Agile and Lean Service-Oriented Development: Foundations, Theory, and Practice* (pp. 1-32).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/agile-lean-service-oriented-development/70727](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/agile-lean-service-oriented-development/70727)

### Automatic Static Software Testing Technology for Railway Signaling System

Jong-Gyu Hwangand Hyun-Jeong Jo (2021). *Research Anthology on Recent Trends, Tools, and Implications of Computer Programming* (pp. 612-630).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/automatic-static-software-testing-technology-for-railway-signaling-system/261046](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/automatic-static-software-testing-technology-for-railway-signaling-system/261046)