



The Ontological Nanny Fully Automated, High Accuracy Data Extraction In Vertical Search

Tim Furche

September 6th, 2011 @ Department of Computer Science, Oxford University

joint work with Georg Gottlob, Giovanni Grasso, Omer Gunes, Xiaonan Guo, Andrey Kravchenko, Thomas Lukasiewicz, Andrea Pieris, Christian Schallhart, Andrew Sellers, Gerardo Simaris, Cheng Wang











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 2011
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 2013
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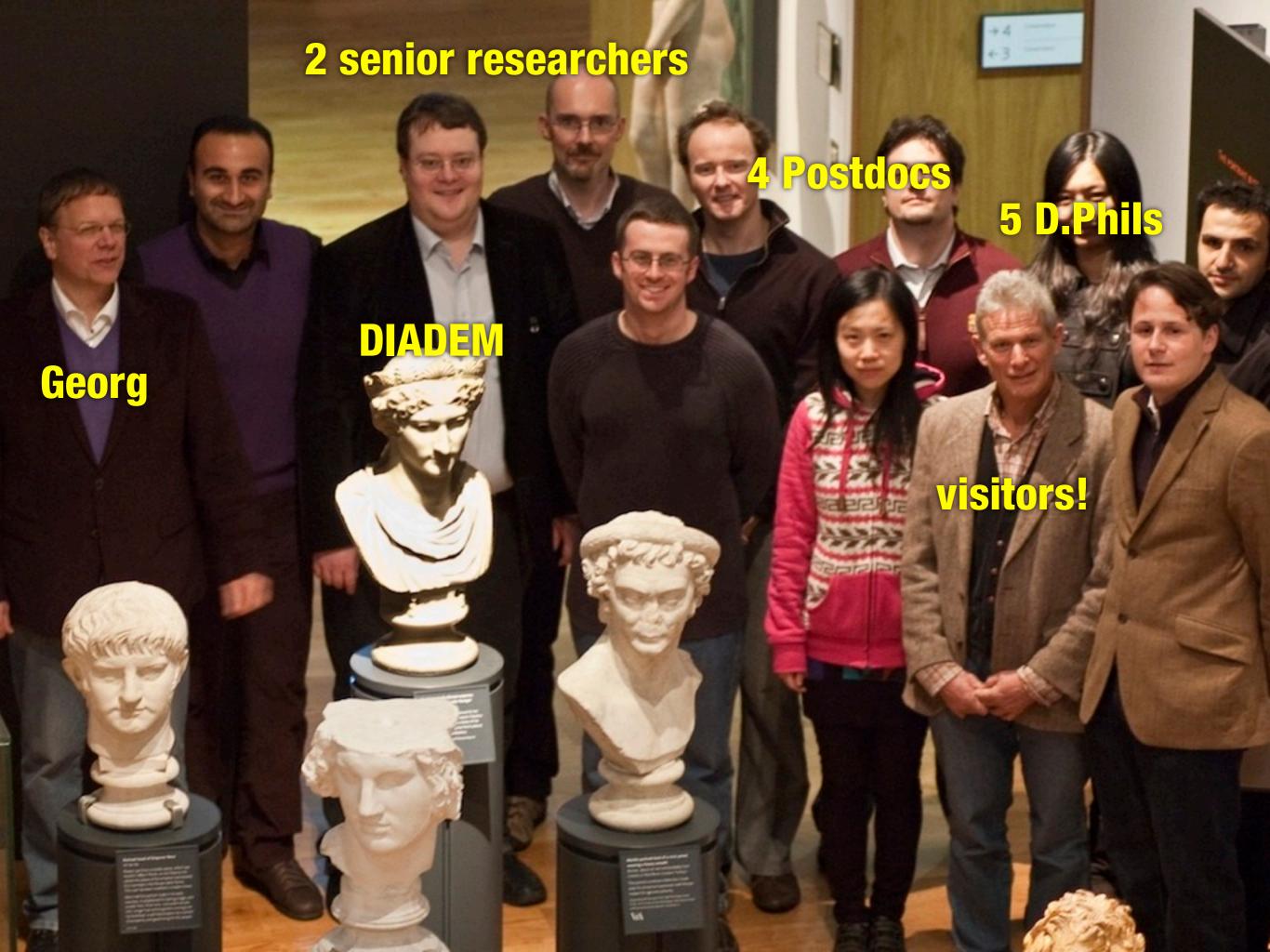










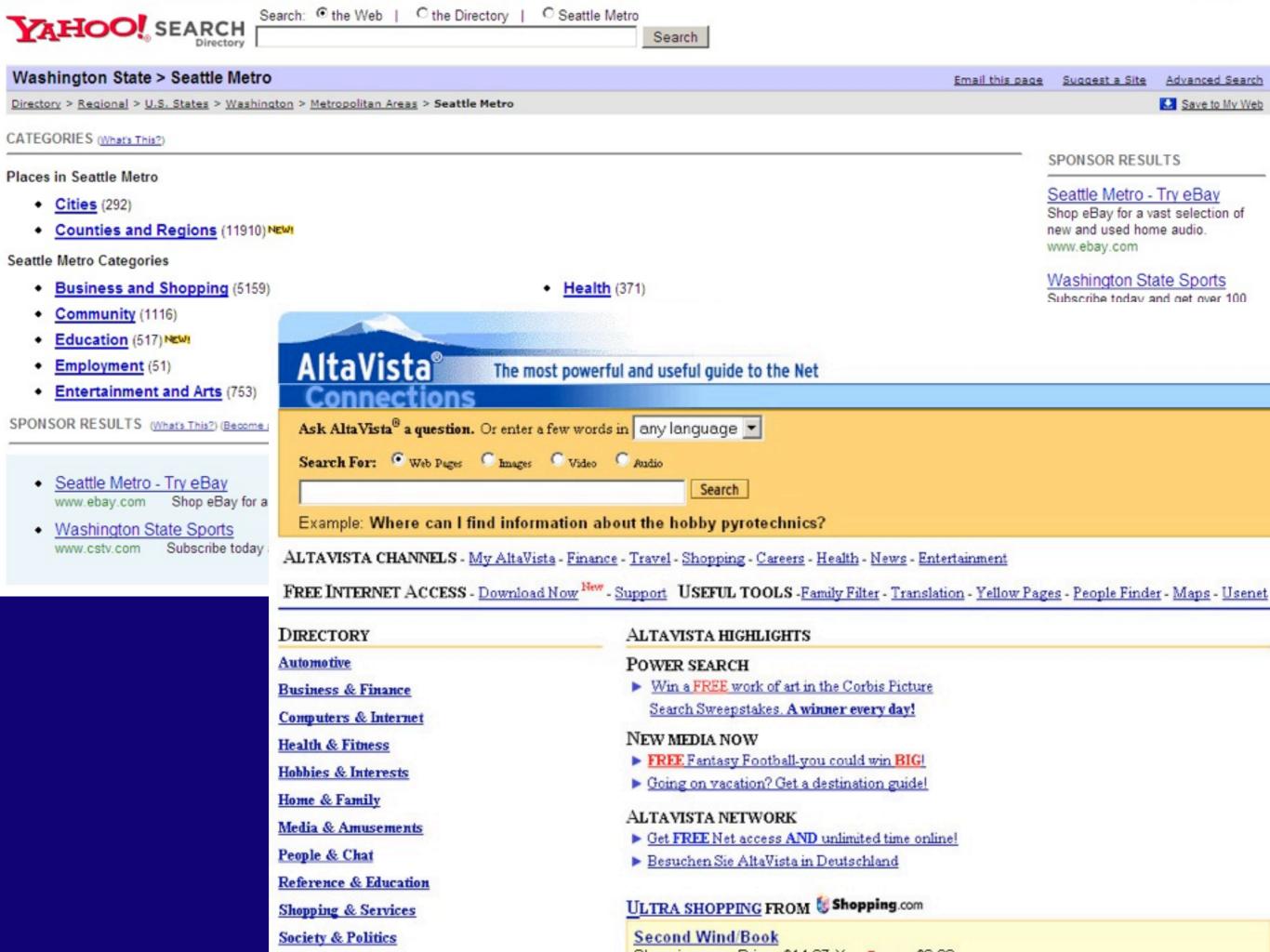




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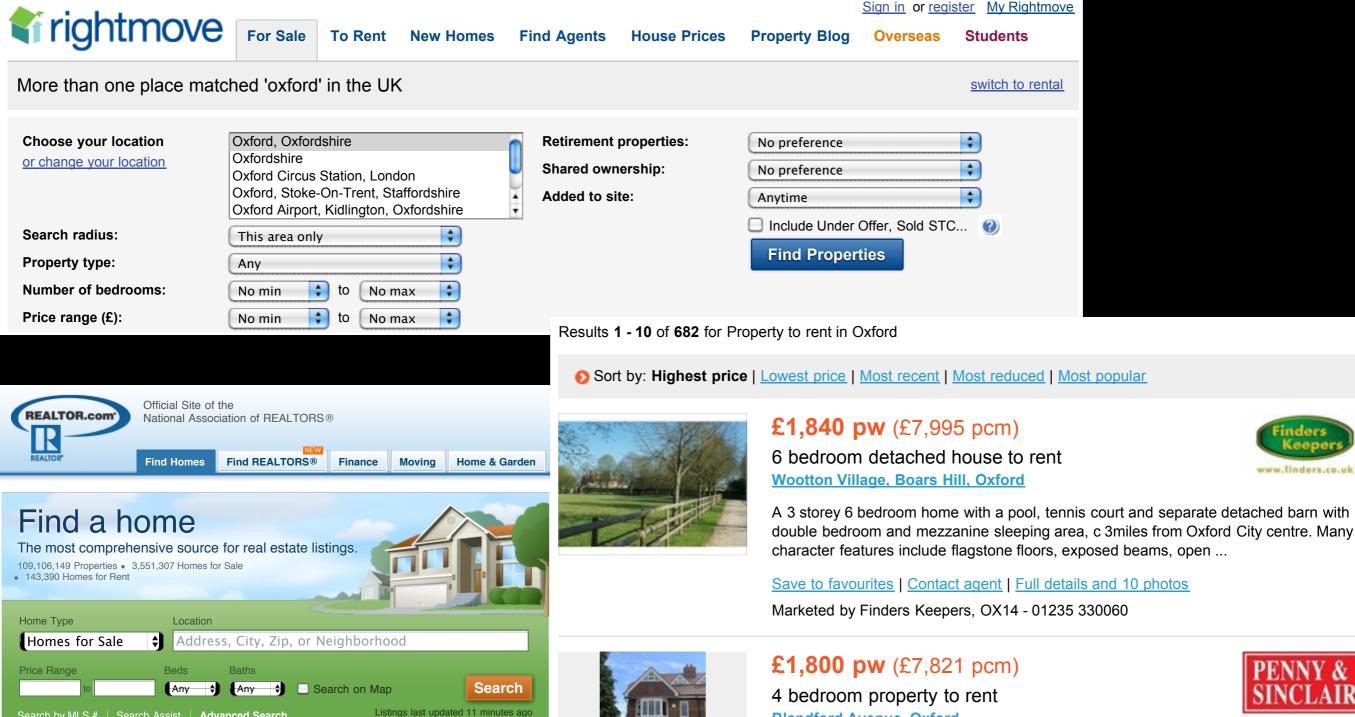
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Home Values

Blandford Avenue, Oxford

Short Let Accommodationa fabulous and contemporary new house that is furnished to a very high standard. Located in North Oxford it has excellent transport links in and out of the city centre. Entrance hall, living room with bay window, ...

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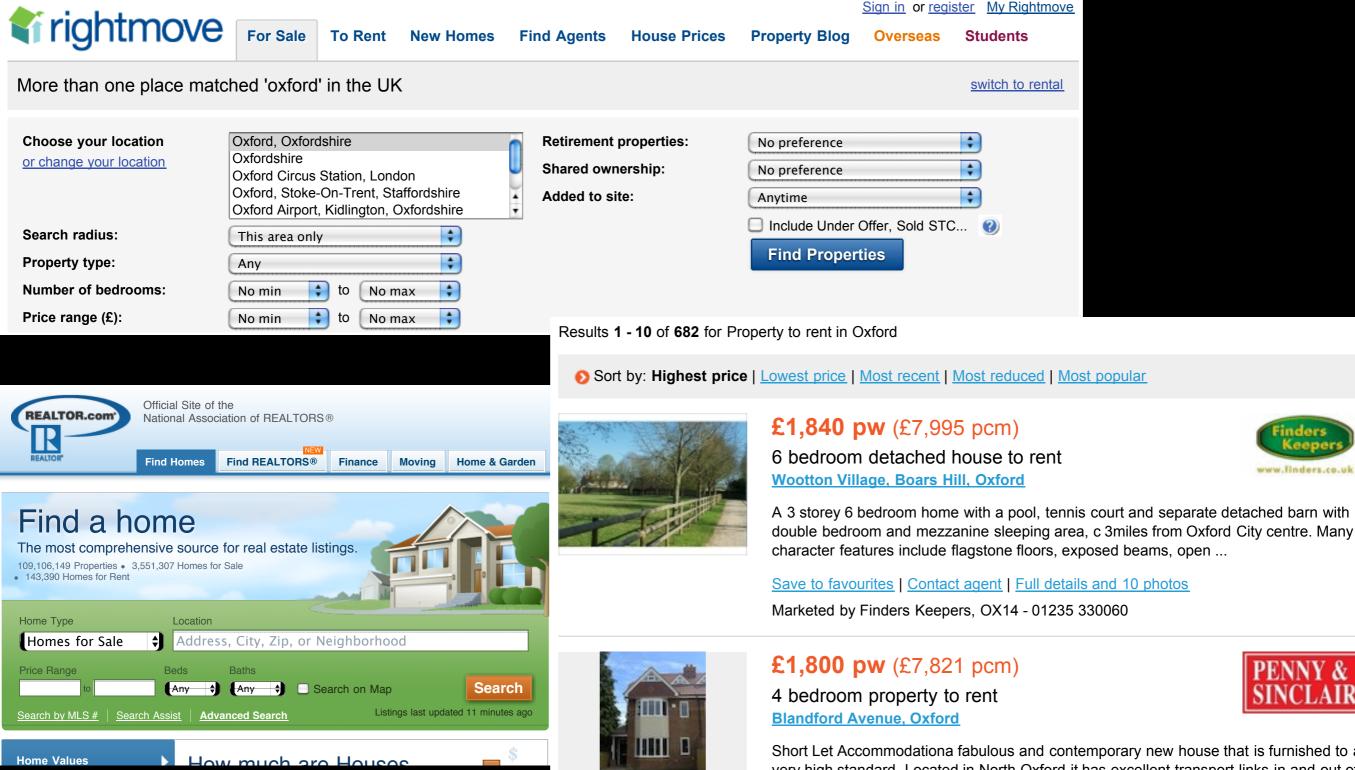
6 bedroom semi detached house to rent Norham Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire

savills

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Impressive, well presented Victorian semi detached house in sought after location

Save to favouritee I Contact agent I Full details and E photos



Short Let Accommodationa fabulous and contemporary new house that is furnished to a very high standard. Located in North Oxford it has excellent transport links in and out of the city centre. Entrance hall, living room with bay window, ...

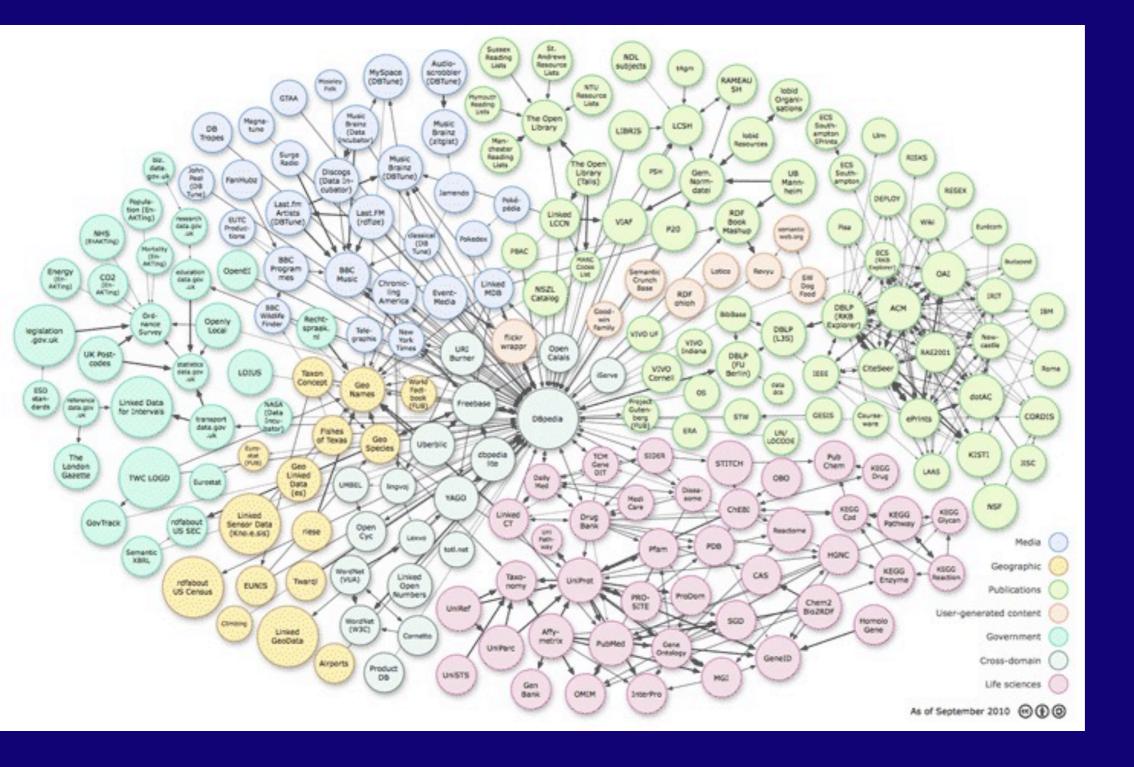
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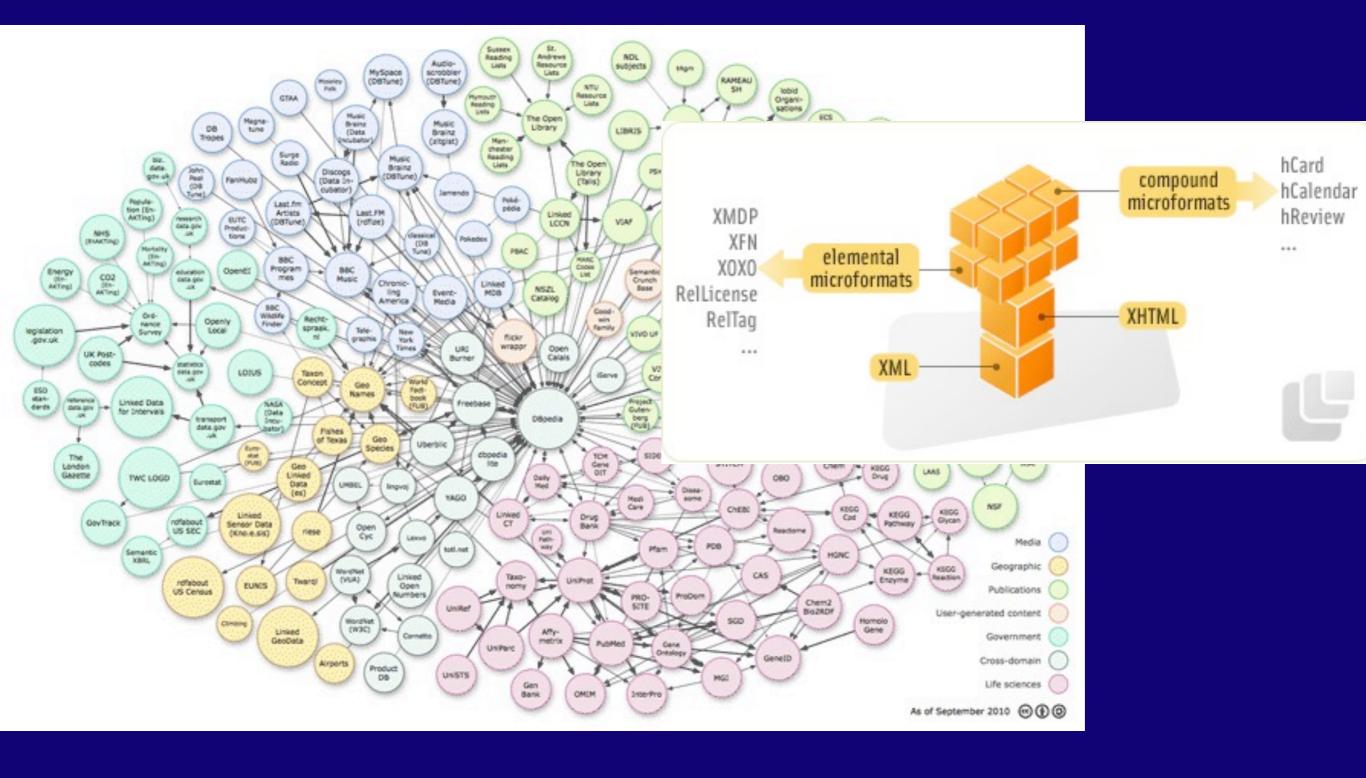
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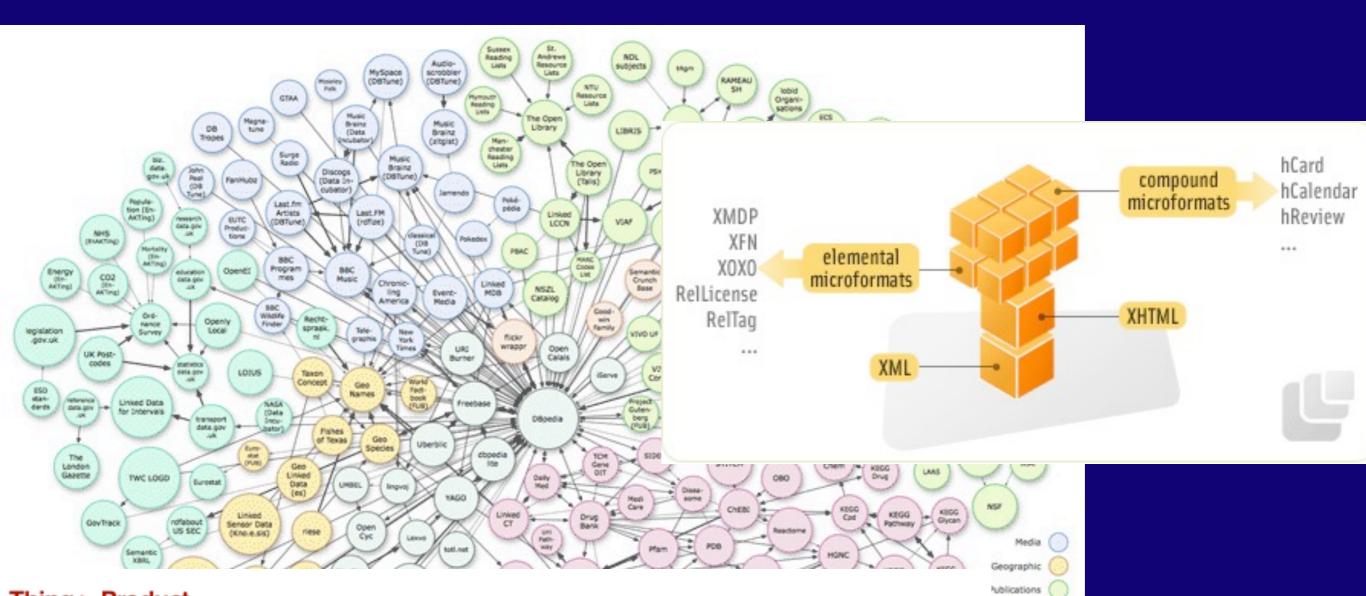




impressive, well presented Victorian semi detached house in sought after location







Thing > Product

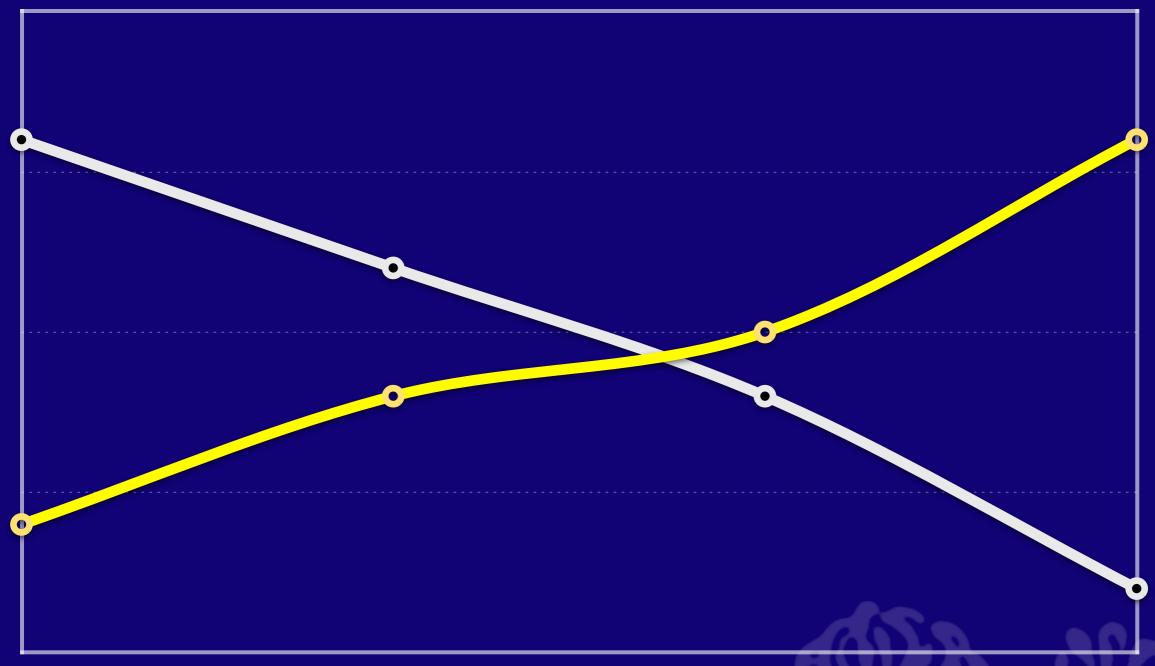
A product is anything that is made available for sale—for example, a pair of shoes, a concert ticket, or a car.

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Property	Expected Type	Description	
Properties from 1	Thing		ge loi
description	Text	A short description of the item.	8.0
image	URL	URL of an image of the item.	cohomo ova
name	Text	The name of the item.	schema.org
url	Text	URL of the item.	1
Properties from P	Product		YAHOO!
aggregateRating	AggregateRating	The overall rating, based on a collection of reviews or ratings, of the item.	000
brand	Organization	The brand of the product.	
manufacturer	Organization	The manufacturer of the product.	
model	Text	The model of the product.	
offers	Offer	An offer to sell this item—for example, an offer to sell a product, the DVD of a movie, or tickets to an event.	
productID	Text	The product identifier, such as ISBN. For example: <meta content="isbn:123-456-789" itemprop="productID"/> .	
reviews	Review	Review of the item.	

10

What one could do

How many can do it



Yahoo (90s)

Google (00s)

Aggregators (05s)

Semantic W. (10s)



When we talk of "Semantic Web"



or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...

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- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people **hear** is ...

DOMI MINA TIO AND THE CONTROL OF THE

- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- ... there is this (almost) mythical beast

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- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- … there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us **years of prosperity**

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- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- ... there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us **years of prosperity**
 - it requires all kinds of **sacrifice**

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- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is
- … there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us years of prosperity
 - it requires all kinds of **sacrifice**
 - schemata, annotations, RDF, microdata, ...

- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- … there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us **years of prosperity**
 - it requires all kinds of sacrifice
 - schemata, annotations, RDF, microdata, ...
 - and it's own high priests

- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- … there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us **years of prosperity**
 - it requires all kinds of **sacrifice**
 - schemata, annotations, RDF, microdata, ...
 - and it's own high priests
 - schooled in the mysteries of the beast

NINE P

- or "Ontologies" or "LOD" or microdata or ...
- ... what people hear is ...
- … there is this (almost) mythical beast
 - it will bring us **years of prosperity**
 - it requires all kinds of **sacrifice**
 - schemata, annotations, RDF, microdata, ...
 - and it's own high priests
 - schooled in the mysteries of the beast
 - also demand to be **fed** a portion of the sacrifice

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Link4

What browsers see.



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Publication Date

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What humans see.



Web Data Extraction

Surface vs. Deep Web

- estimated 500 × surface web
- estimated 500 000 deep web "databases"
- What?
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 - Directories (yellow pages)
 - Catalogs (libraries)
 - Public DBs (publications, census, data.gov,...)
 - Public services (weather, location, ...)



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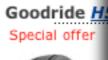
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cprofile>HS-3 <price>39.40</price>

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</results>

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Web Data Extraction: Scenarios

DIADEM > Web Data Extraction

Scenario 1: Electronics retailer

- electronics retailer: online market intelligence
 - comprehensive overview of the market
 - daily information on price, shipping costs, trends, product mix
 - by product, geographical region, or competitor
 - thousands of products
 - hundreds of competitors

- nowadays: specialized companies
 - mostly manual, interpolation
 - large cost

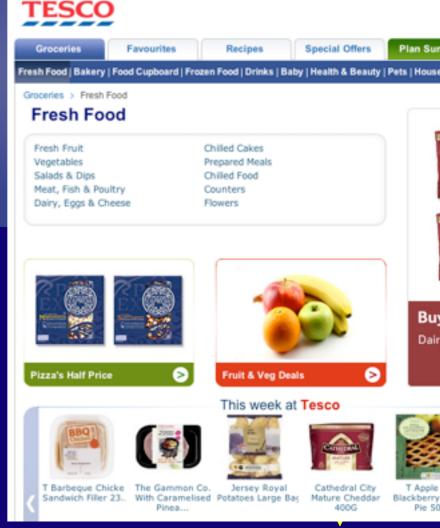




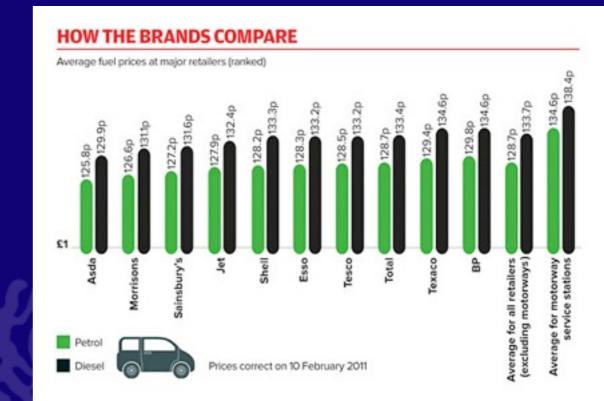
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Scenario 2: Supermarket chain

- supermarket chain
 - competitors' product prices
 - special offer or promotion (time sensitive)
 - new products, product formats & packaging





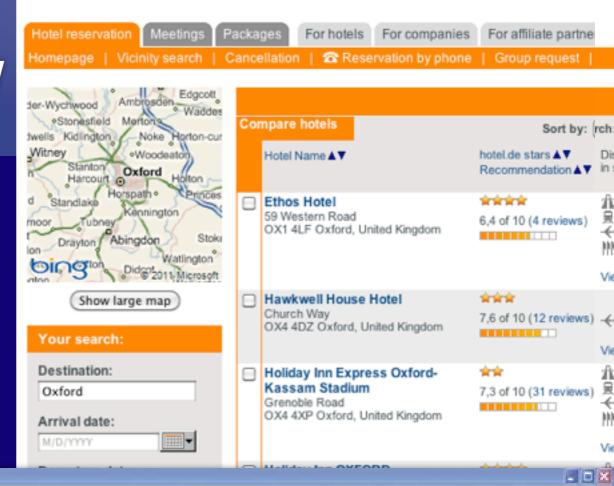


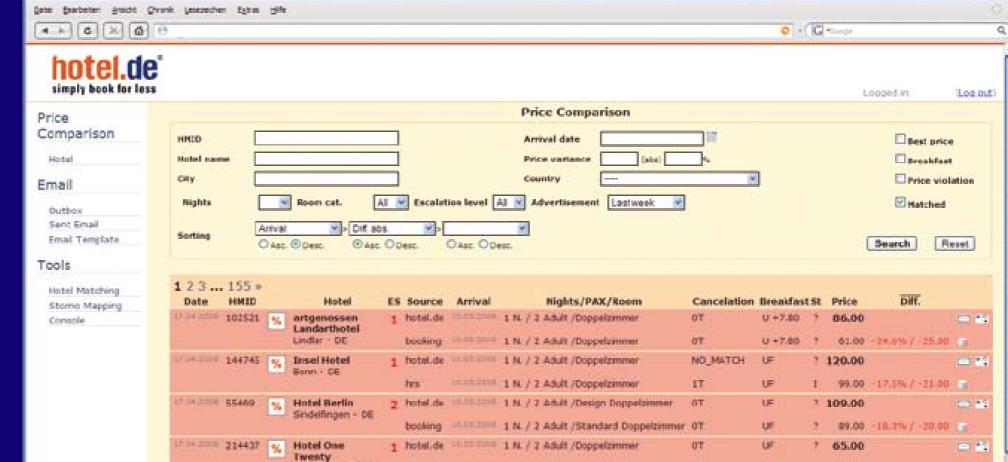
Scenario 3: Hotel Agency

- online travel agency
 - best price guarantee
 - prices of competing agencies

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average market price



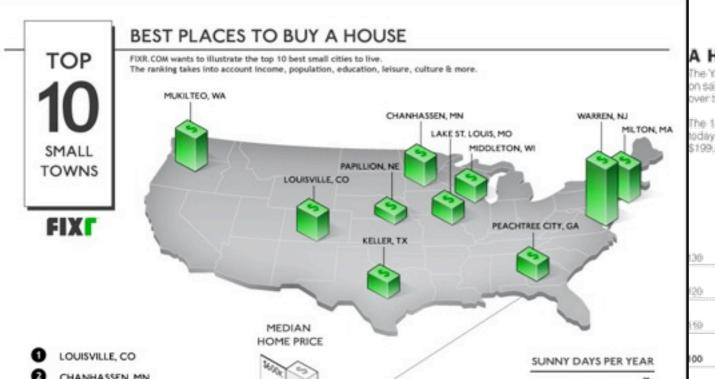


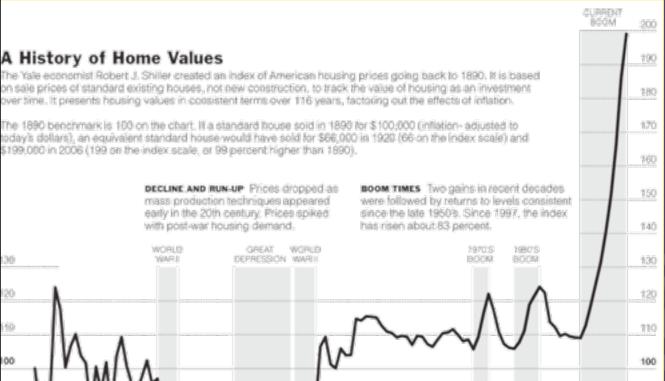


Scenario 4: Hedge Fund

Hedge Fund Solutions Blackstone Alternative Asset Manageme

- house price index
 - published in regular intervals by national statistics agency
 - affects share values of various industries
- **hedge** fund:
 - online market intelligence to predict the house price index

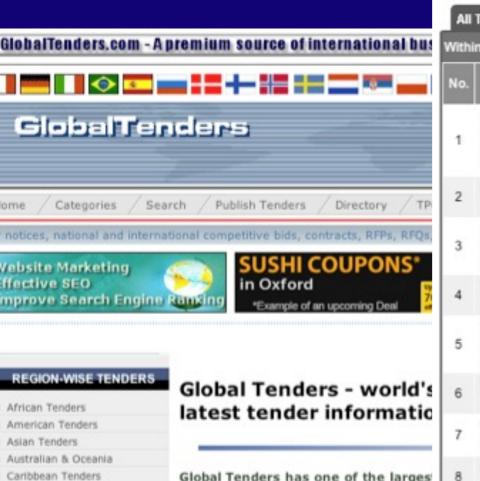


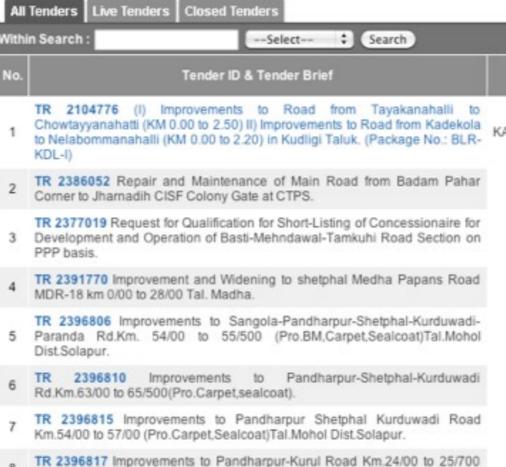


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Scenario 5: Construction

- tenders from all over the world
 - existing aggregators
 - expensive, often incomplete
 - yet need to be published (online) by law in most countries







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Date







Actionable data with semantics ready for high-level analysis



What data extraction is not ...



- domains with a large number of entities of similar type
 - e.g., products, tenders, advertisements, ...
 - typically with authoritative sources
 - less: integration of facts about same entity from different sites
- not: domains with distributed, few entities
 - where knowledge about that entity is spread over many pages
 - though in this cases data extraction can be a building block
 - other techniques, e.g., from data integration needed

Why Automating Data Extraction?

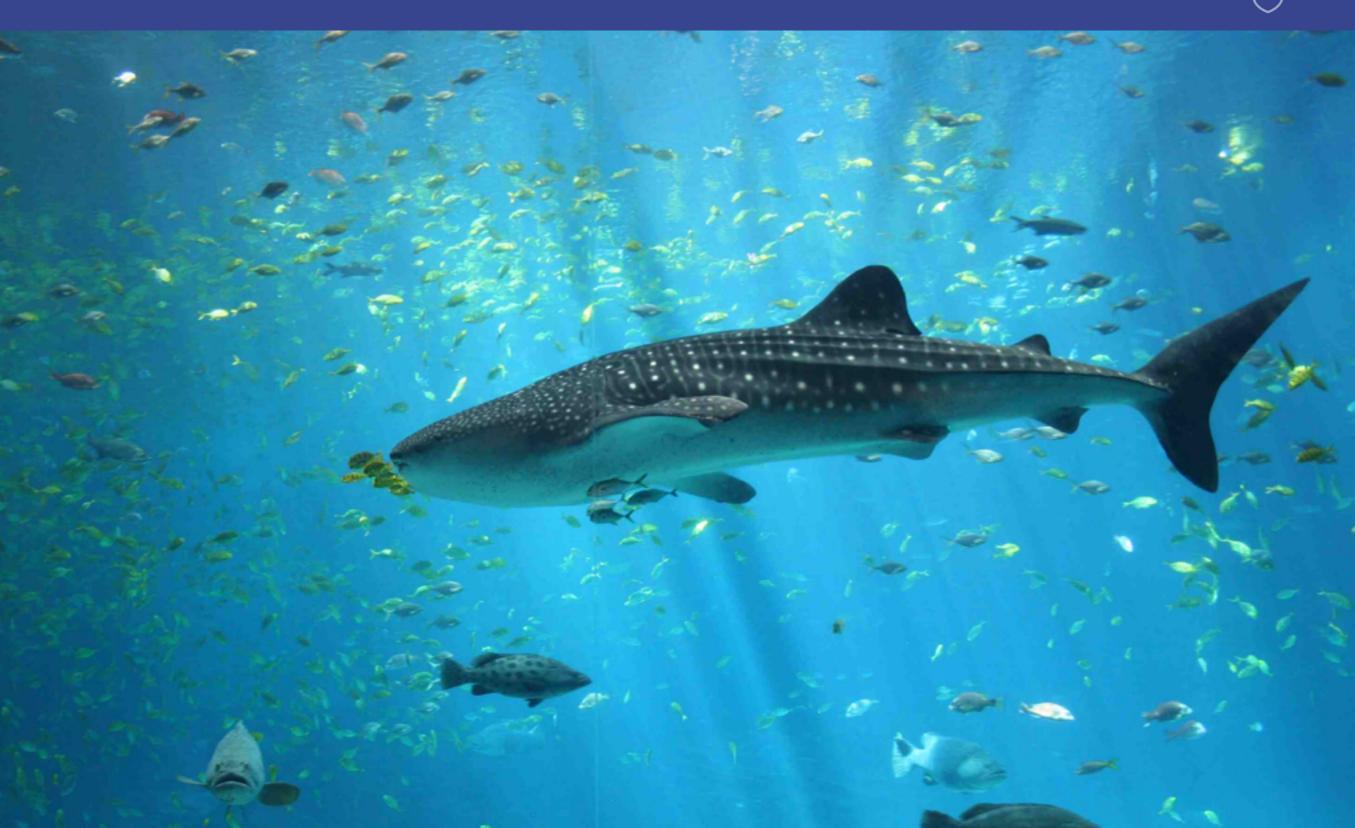




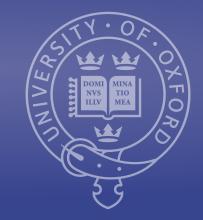
- Too many fish in the pond
 - > 17 000 real estate UK sites
 - similar for restaurants, travel, car dealers, airlines, pharmacies, retail shops, ...
 - aggregators cover only a fraction
 - updated slowly
- ⇒ per site manual work infeasible
 - wrapper construction too expensive
 - tracking changes
 - excludes manual & (semi-) supervised

Why Automating Data Extraction?





Why Automating Data Extraction?



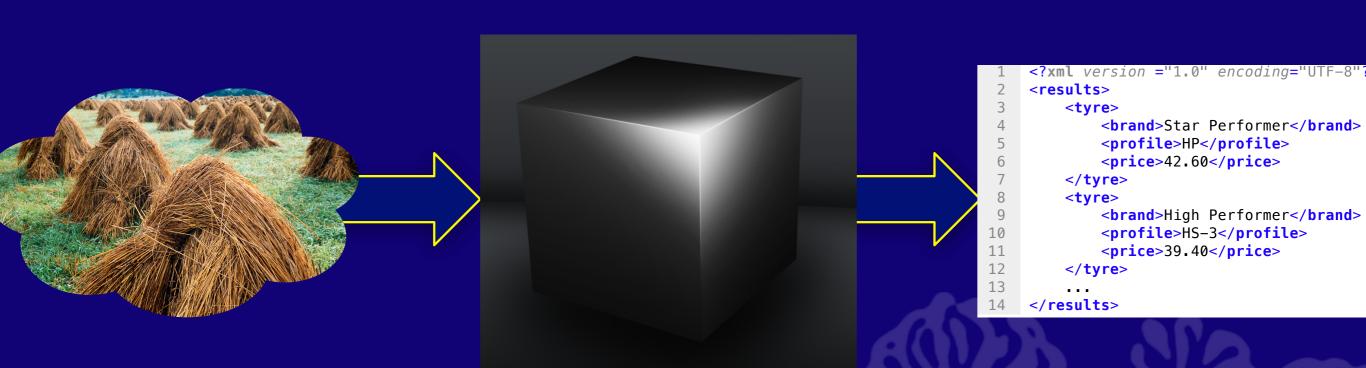
- All the fish are different
 - large, modern aggregators (>100000)
 - nation-wide agencies (>10000)
 - agencies for single quarter (< 15)

- ⇒ no single unsupervised wrapper
 - can do this today

Domain-Centric Data Extraction

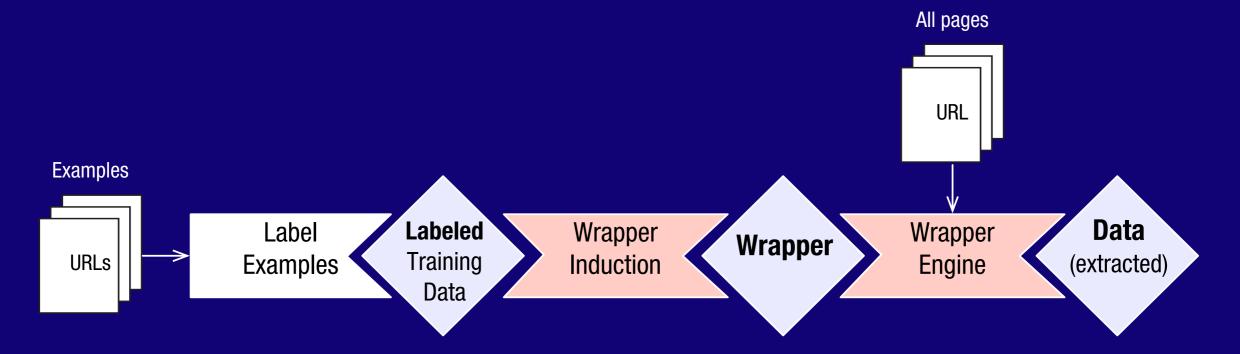


- "Magic" Blackbox that
 - turns any of the thousands of websites of a domain
 - into structured, semantic data





From Data to Knowledge



- manual: (e.g., Web Harvest)
 - user writes the wrapper, sometimes using wrapping libraries
- supervised: (e.g., Lixto)
 - user provides examples and refines the wrapper
- semi-supervised:
 - user provides examples (per site), wrapper is automatically learned
- unsupervised: entirely automated (e.g., DIADEM)
 - some systems automatically guess examples

Domain-centric, Web-scale Extraction



- Key insight 1: Domain independent data extraction
 - doesn't work at web scale with high precision & recall
- Key insight 2: Combination of knowledge and learning
 - phenomenology of the web (the language of the web)
 - requires also domain knowledge
- Key insight 3: Understanding web pages more than NLP
 - visual & structural signals and patterns
 - typical interaction scripts

"no one really has done this successfully at scale yet"

Raghu Ramakrishnan, Yahoo!, March 2009

"Current technologies are not good enough yet to provide what search engines really need. [...] Any successful approach would probably need a combination of knowledge and learning."

> Alon Halevy, Google, Feb. 2009

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Ontologies Play a Dual Role

- Ontologies for annotation: guess noisy examples
 - finding instances of attribute values
 - using those instances to align, segment, etc.
 - bottom-up analysis
- Ontologies as schemata: understand & repair
 - what should be there, what can't be there
 - top-down analysis/refinement
- Combined with template discovery etc.



Tim Gardam was appointed to the Ofcom Board on 1 January 2008 for a three year term.

Tim Gardam has been the Principal of St Anne's College,

Oxford since 2004. Tim had a 25 year career in broadcasting

starting at the BBC where he was editor of Panorama and Newsnight

before becoming Head of Current Affairs and Weekly News. He was

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Director of Programmes at Channel Four. He was the author of

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person: Tim Gardam and a Director of

position: Director of Programmes at Channel Four

the Ofcom Non company: BBC

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a member of **Lord Burns' Advisory Panel** on the

and a Director of SMG plc from 2005-7. Tim is a me

the Ofcom Nominations Committee.

Organization: St Anne's College

Generic Relations

verb: be

relationsubject: Tim Gardam

relationobject: the Principal of St Anne's College

Person Professional

person: Tim Gardam position: Principal

organization: St Anne's College

Showing results 1 through 25 (of 94 total) for all:xml

1. cs.LO/0601085 [abs. ps. pdf. other]:

Title: A Formal Foundation for ODRL

Authors: Riccardo Pucella, Vicky Weissman

Comments: 30 pgs, preliminary version presented at WITS-04 (Workshop on Issues in the Theory of Security), 2004

Subj-class: Logic in Computer Science; Cryptography and Security

ACM-class: H.2.7; K.4.4

2. astro-ph/0512493 [abs, pdf]:

Title: VOFilter, Bridging Virtual Observatory and Industrial Office Applications

Authors: Chen-zhou Cui (1), Markus Dolensky (2), Peter Quinn (2), Yong-heng Zhao (1), Françoise Genova (3) ((1)NAO China, (2) ESO, (3) CDS)

Comments: Accepted for publication in ChJAA (9 pages, 2 figures, 185KB)

3. cs.DS/0512061 [abs, ps, pdf, other]:

Title: Matching Subsequences in Trees Authors: Philip Bille, Inge Li Goertz Subj-class: Data Structures and Algorithms

4. cs.IR/0510025 [abs, ps, pdf, other]:

Title: Practical Semantic Analysis of Web Sites and Documents

Authors: Thierry Despeyroux (INRIA Rocquencourt / INRIA Sophia Antipo

Subj-class: Information Retrieval

5. cs.CR/0510013 [abs, pdf]:

Title: Safe Data Sharing and Data Dissemination on Smart Devices

Authors: Luc Bouganim (INRIA Rocquencourt), Cosmin Cremarenco (INRIA Rocquencourt), François Dang Ngoc (INRIA Rocquencourt, PRISM - UVSQ), Nicolas Dieu (INRIA Rocquencourt), Philippe Pucheral (INRIA Rocquencourt, PRISM - UVSQ)

Subj-class: Cryptography and Security; Databases

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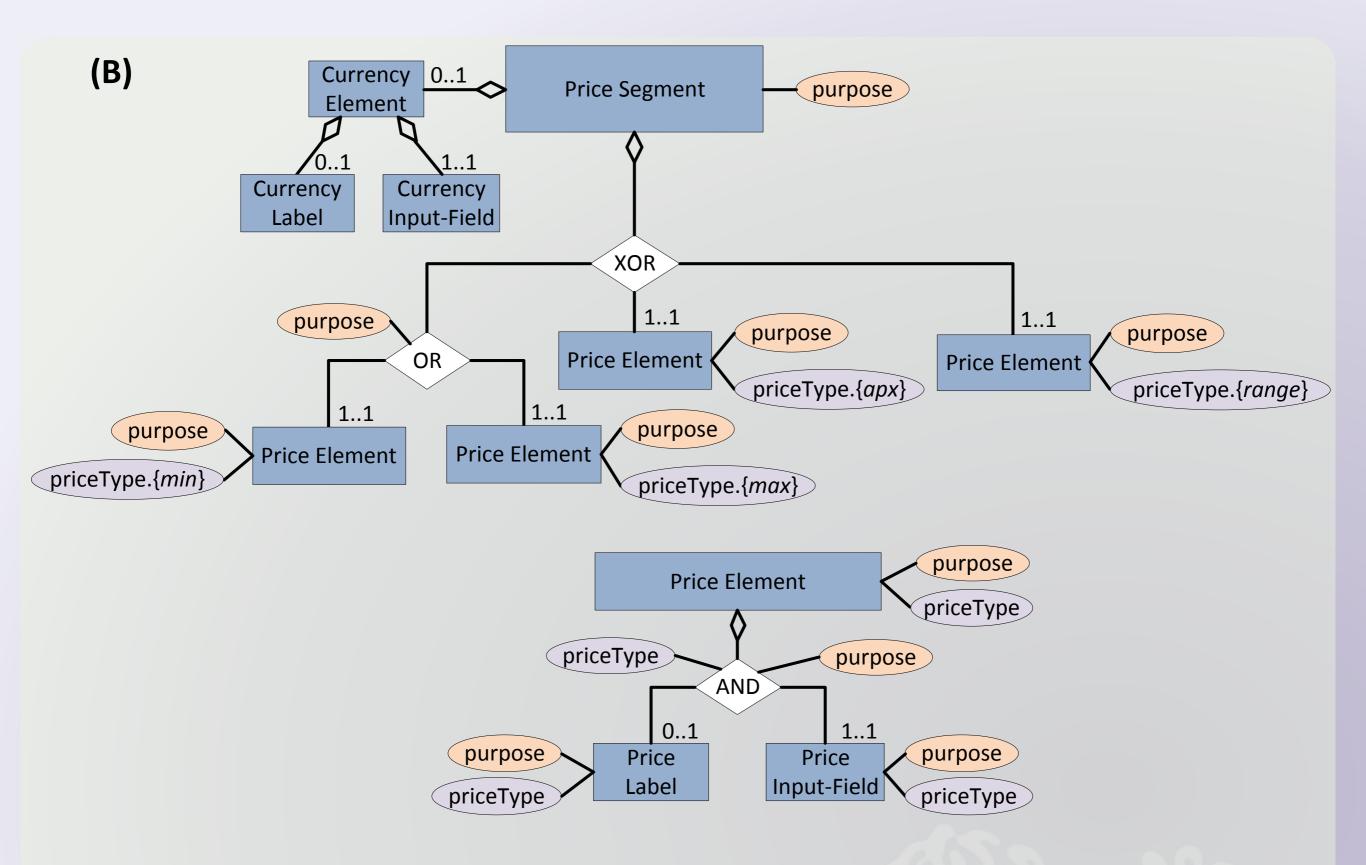
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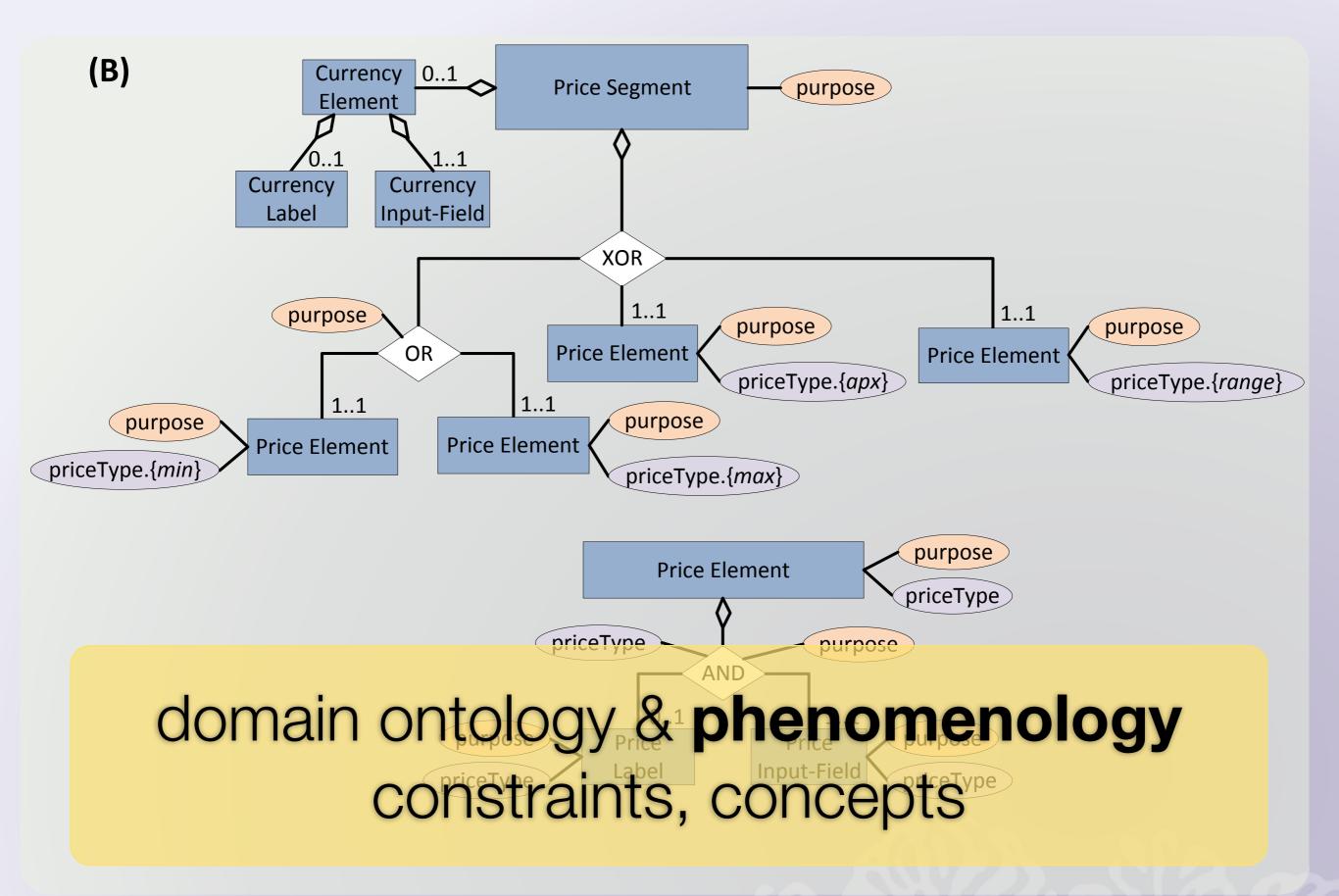
3. CJ.DS/0512061 [abs, fs. pdf other]:

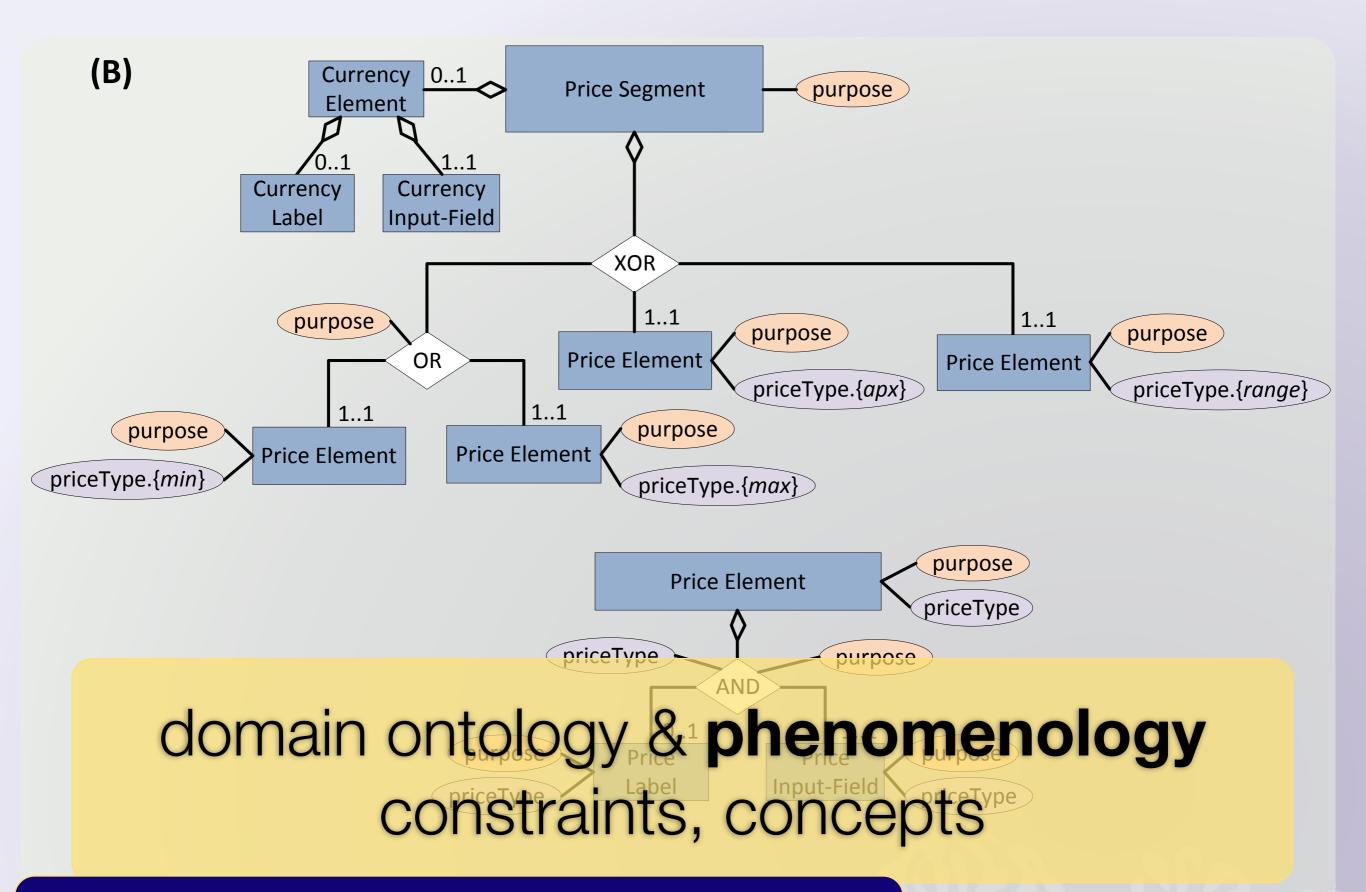
Constitution of the common specific annotators

Practice Very large instance database

Weifeng Su, Jiying Wang, and Frederick H. Lochovsky. 2009. ODE: Ontology-assisted data extraction. TODS.





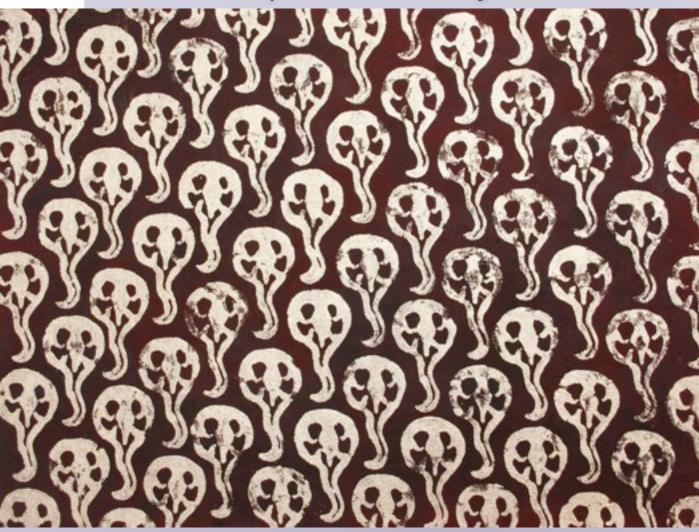


Bettina Fazzinga, Sergio Flesca, and Andrea Tagarelli. 2011. **Schema-based Web Wrapping**. Knowl. Inf. Syst. 26, 1



machine learning for classification

template discovery





machine learning for classification

template discovery



+ everything the others are doing





DIADEN



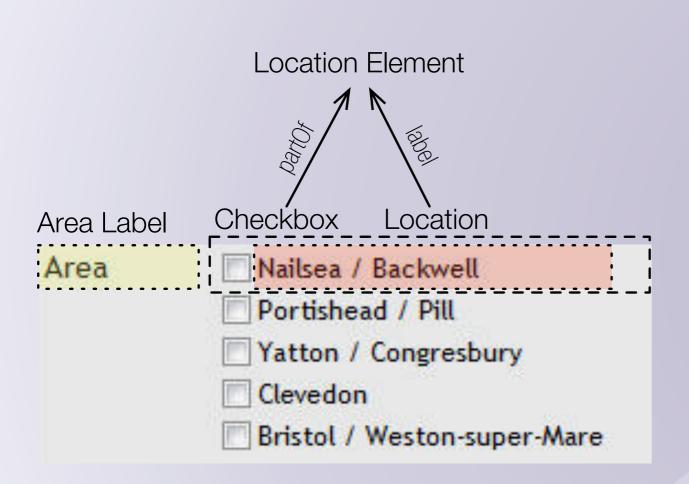
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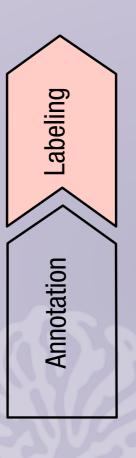
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Portishead / Pill
Yatton / Congresbury
Clevedon
Bristol / Weston-super-Mare

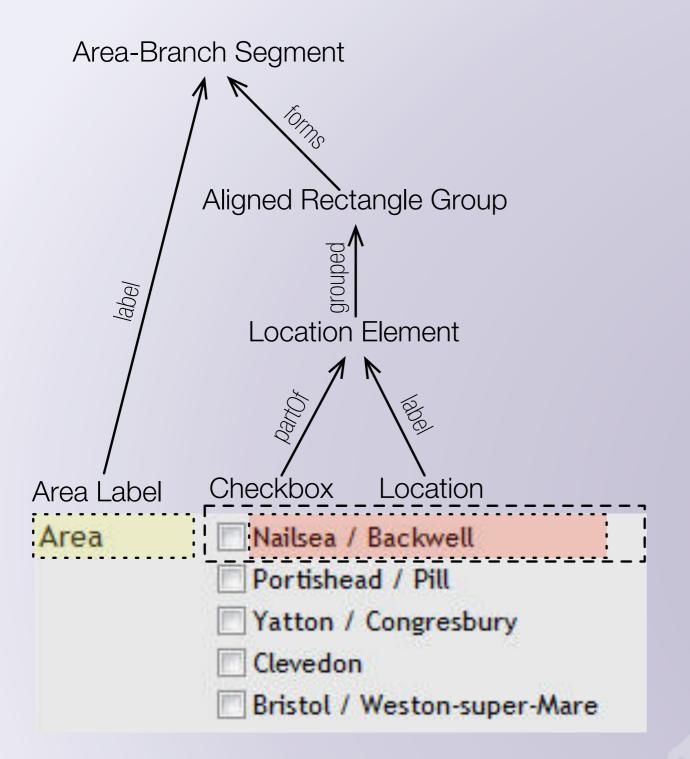
Area Label Checkbox Location

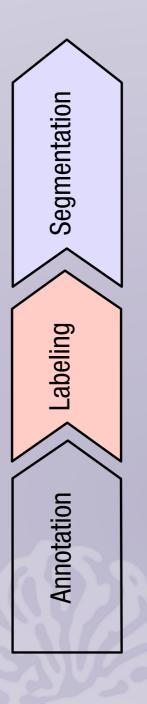
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| Portishead / Pill |
| Yatton / Congresbury |
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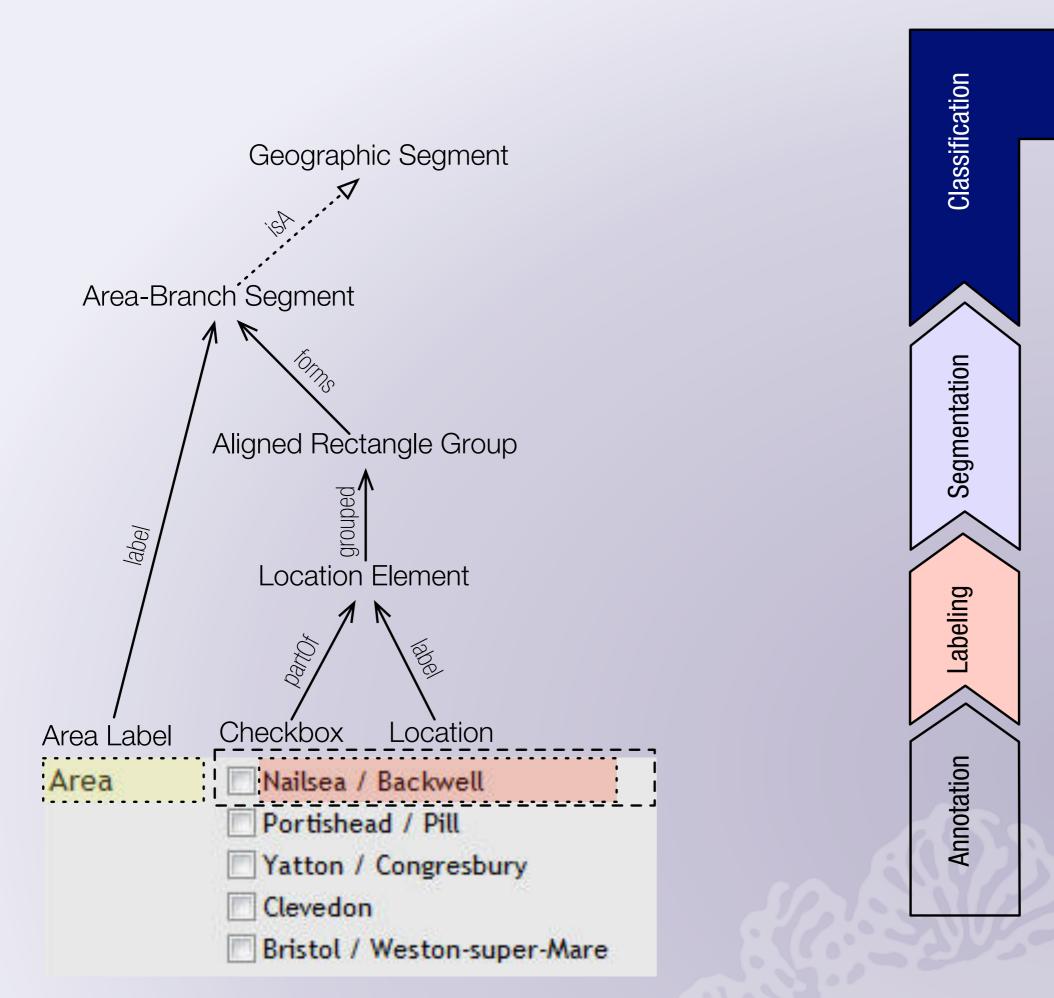


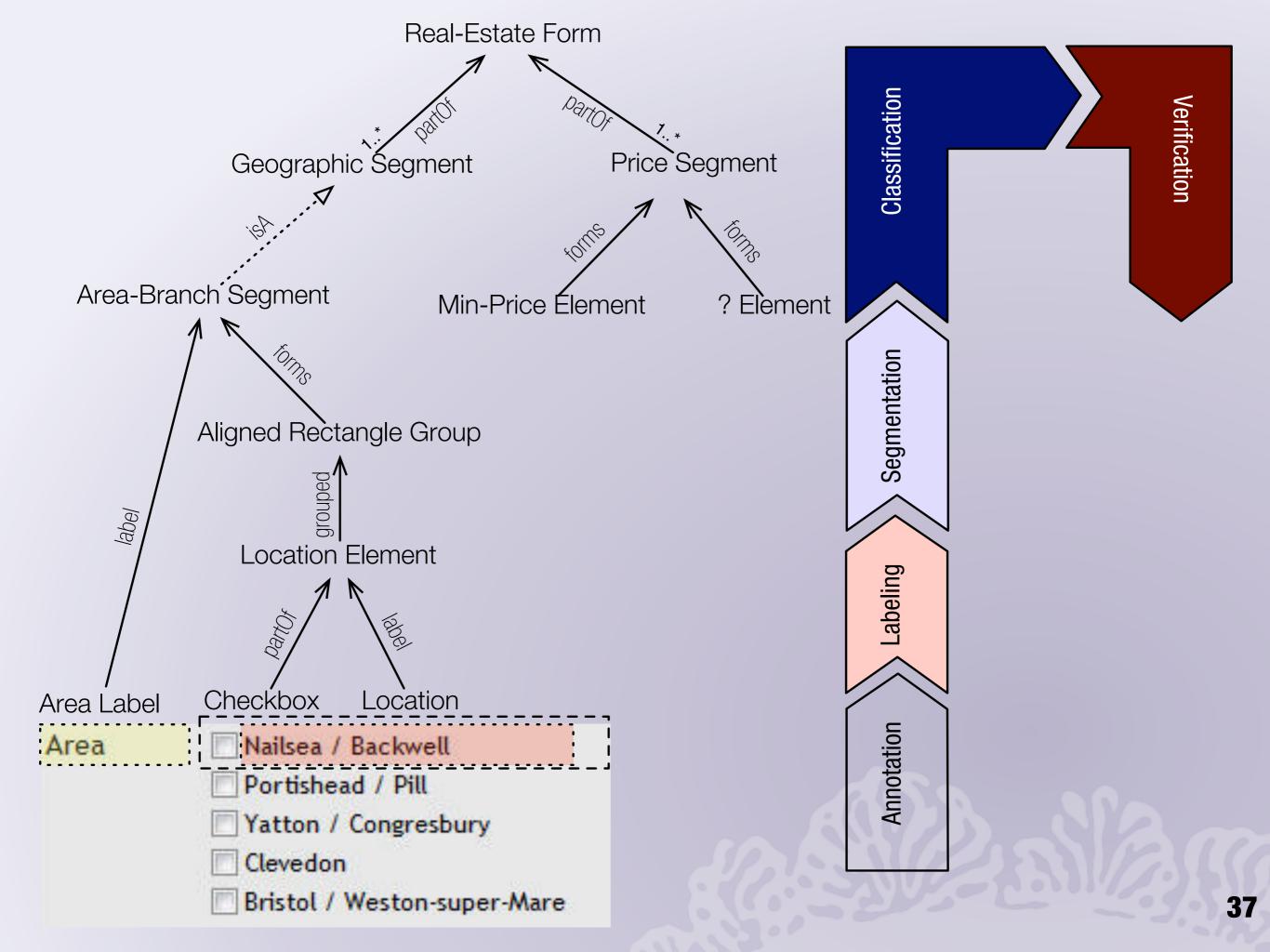


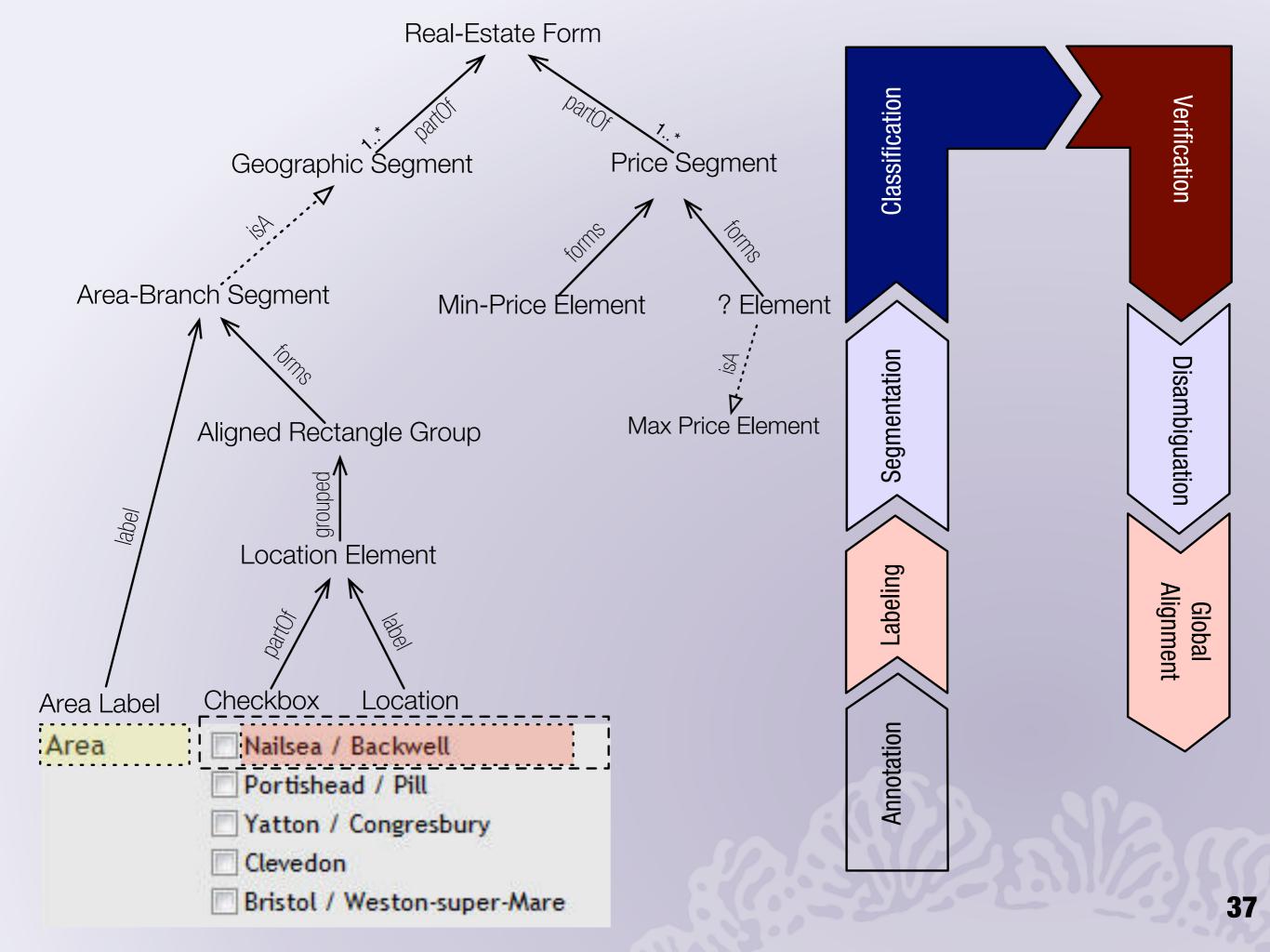












Knowledge Base

Schema Data

concepts, phenomena, constraints

Instance Data

- -labels and values
- —textual, visual, structural signals
- —known examples (site & domain)

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- -identify instances, clues, signals on a web site
- -replaces **human** annotator in wrapper induction



Alignment: Complex Values

- segments page into records, separators, ...
- group attribute
 instances into complex
 - records
 - aligns attributes between records

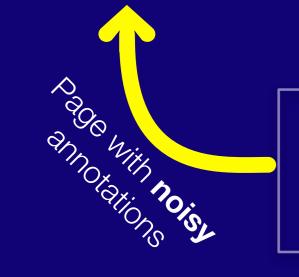
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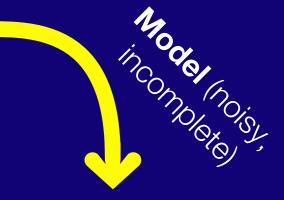
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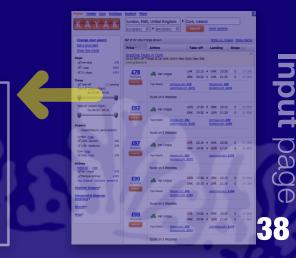
Repair: Complete Model

- enforce constraints
- disambiguate
- semantic groups:prune & invent
- —analogy reasoning

based on page evidence



- -identify instances, clues, signals on a web site
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From Pages to Sites



Site scope:

- Exploration: find relevant data on a site
 - web applications make crawler-style random exploration infeasible
 - exploration patterns: script knowledge for web site interaction
 - which actions (click, enter, ...)? in which order? exploration constraints?
- Site alignment: align data between pages

Domain scope:

- align data with what we learned from other sites
- recognize and merge duplicate entities

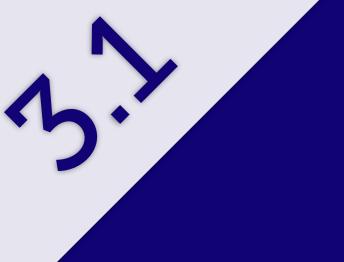
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Schema Data

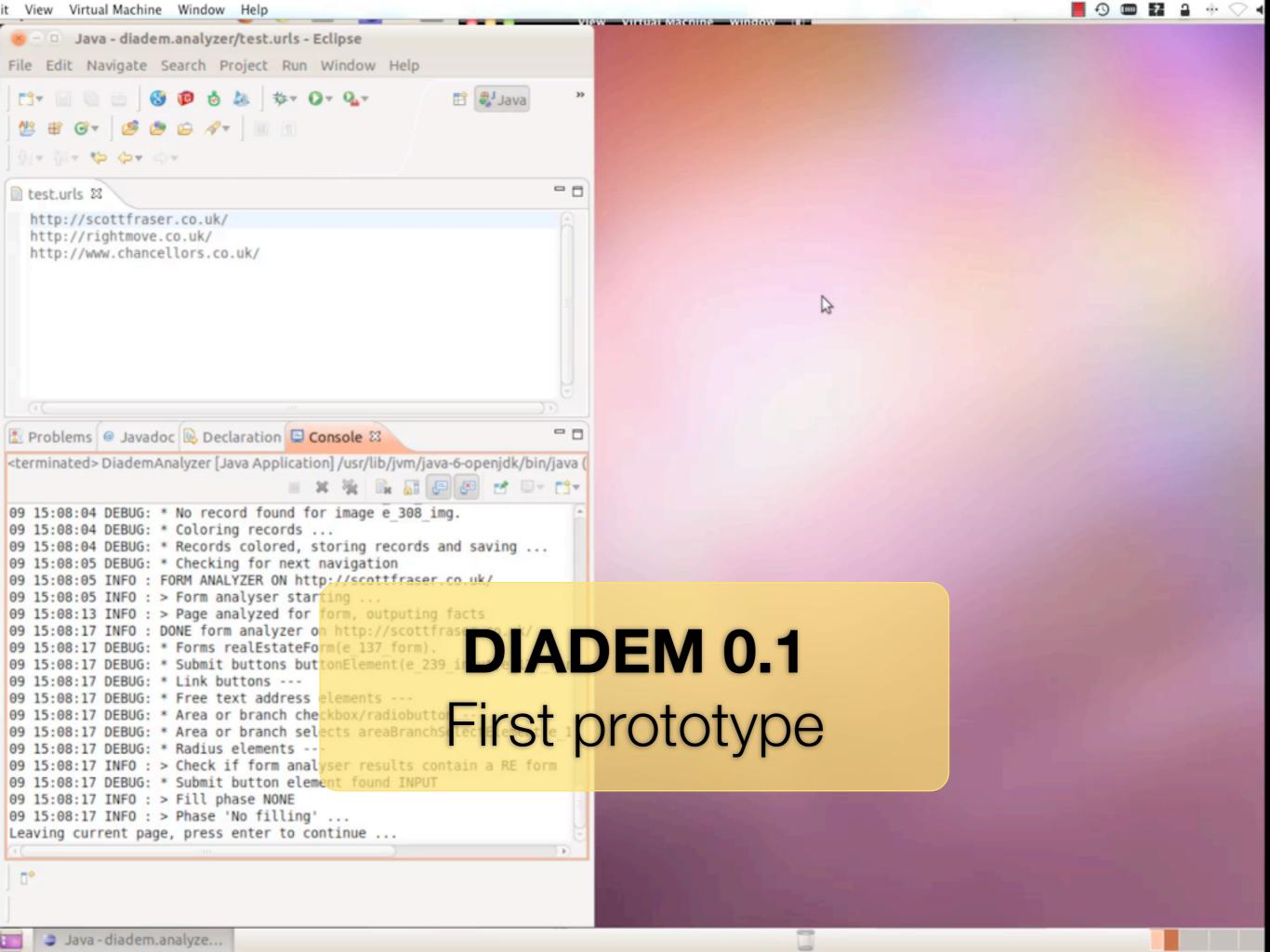
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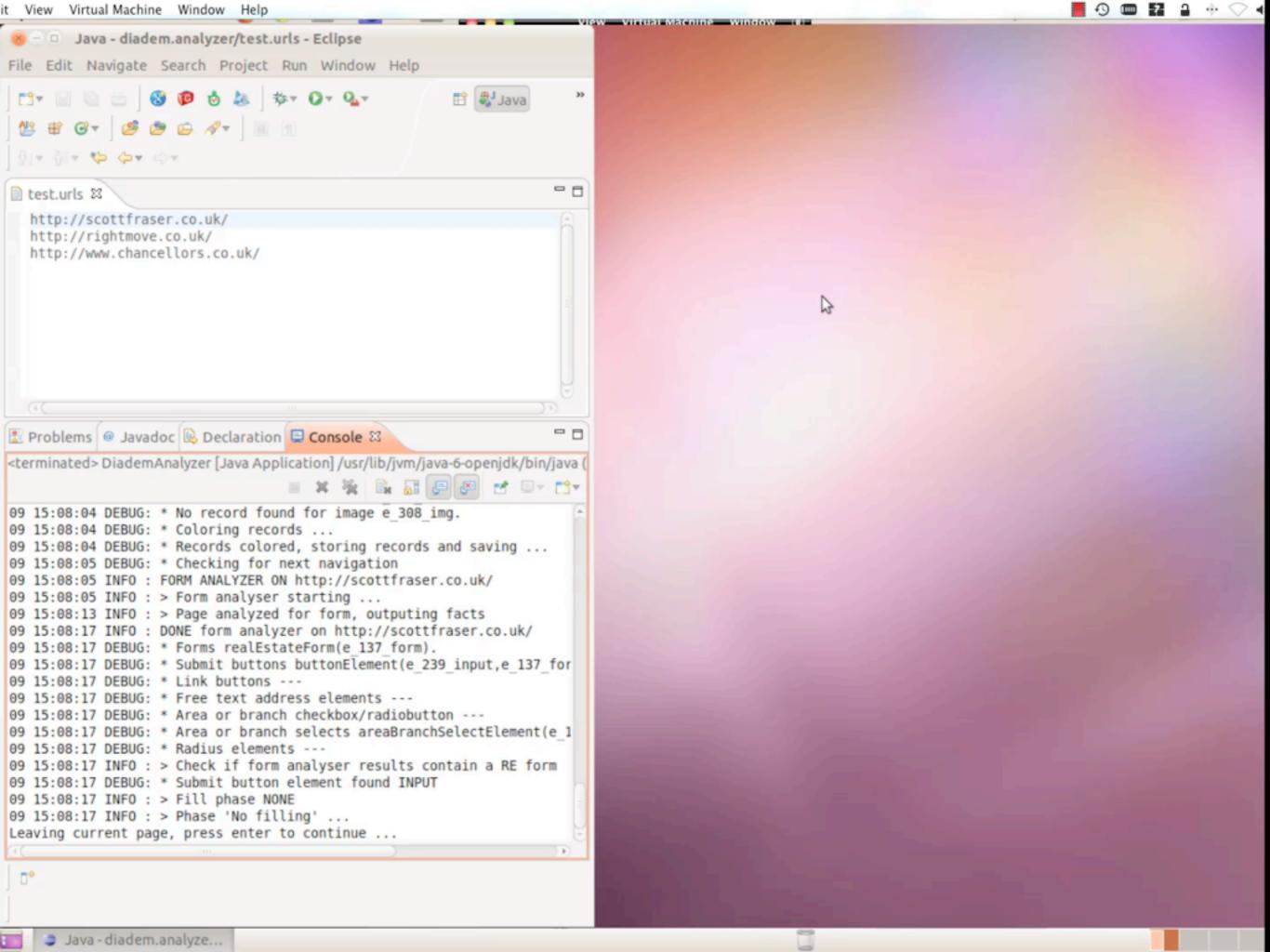
Instance Data

- -form & UI labels and values
- textual, visual, structural sign
- -known **examples** (site & don













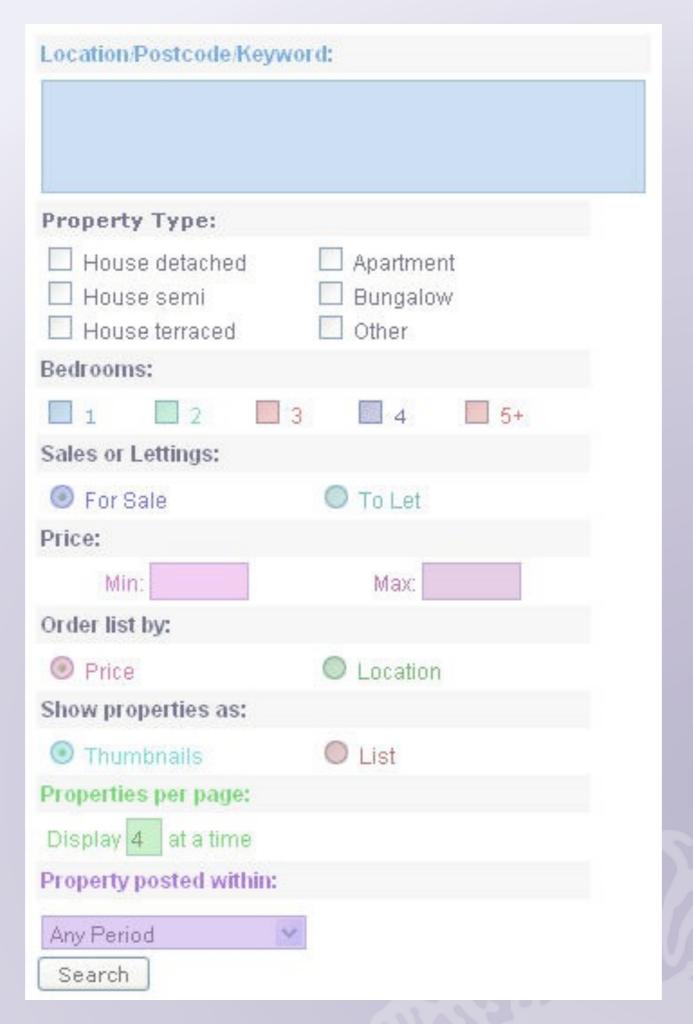
Eirst

Results

44

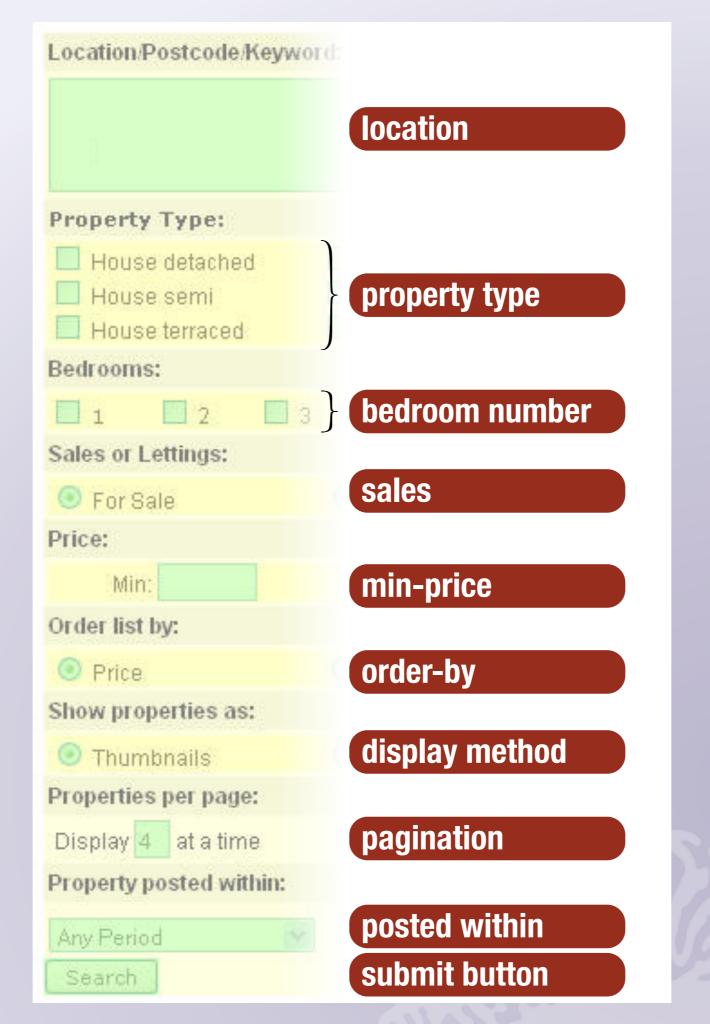
Output

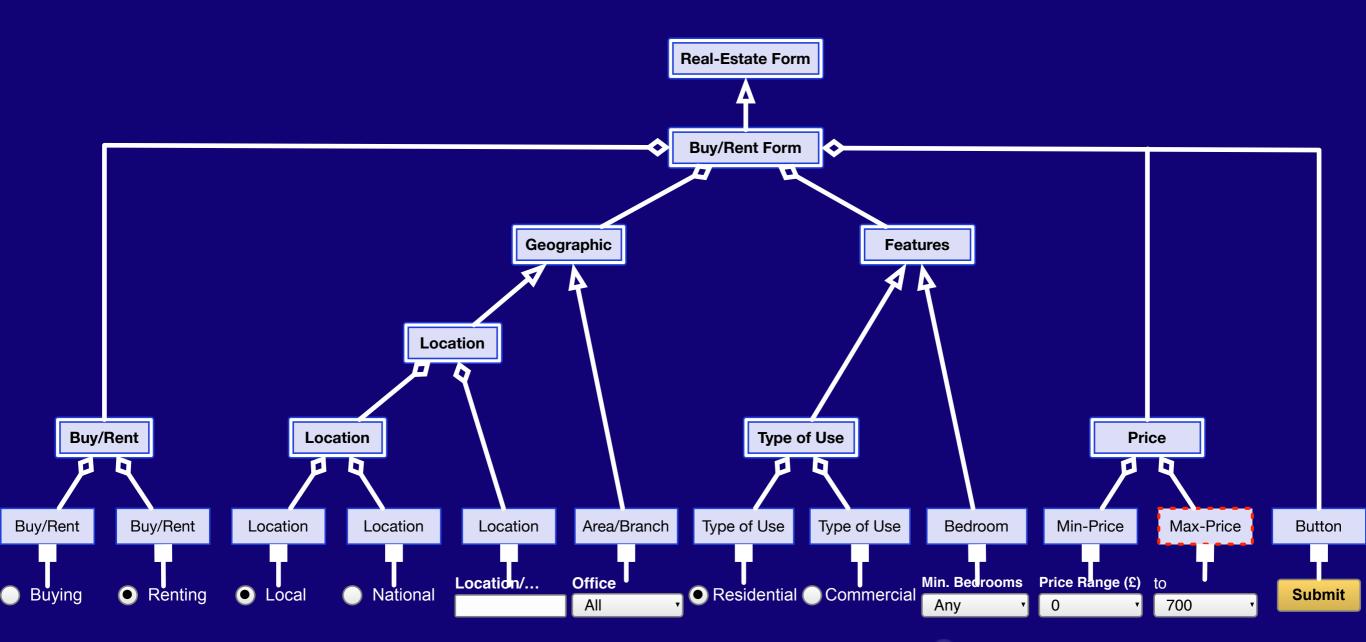
Location/Postcode/Key	word:	
Property Type:		
☐ House detached☐ House semi☐ House terraced	ApartmentBungalowOther	
Bedrooms:		
□ 1 □ 2 □	3 🔲 4 🔲 5+	
Sales or Lettings:		
For Sale	O To Let	
Price:		
Min:	Max:	
Order list by:		
Price	O Location	
Show properties as:		
Thumbnails	O List	
Properties per page:		
Display 4 at a time		
Property posted within:		
Any Period Search	~	

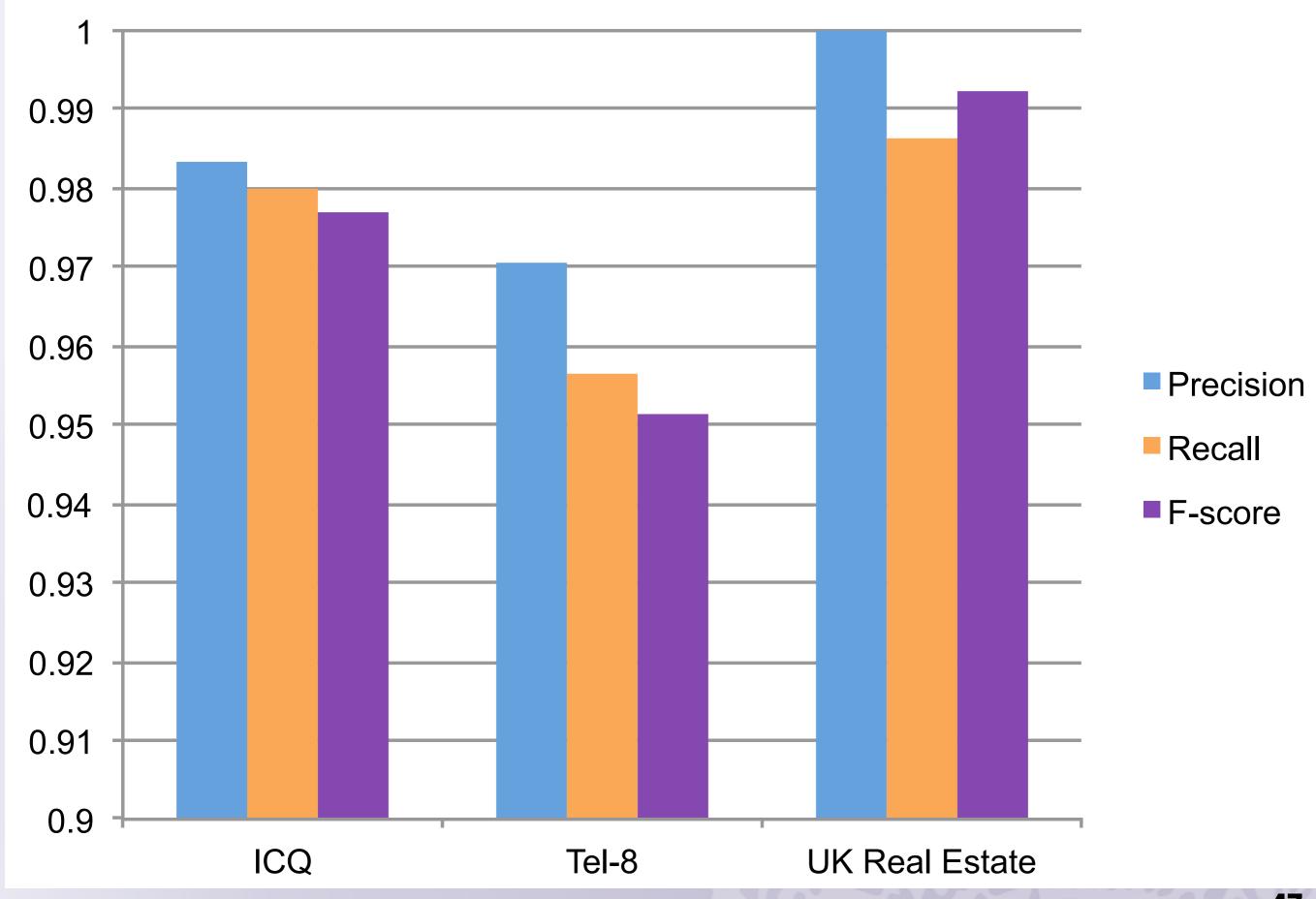


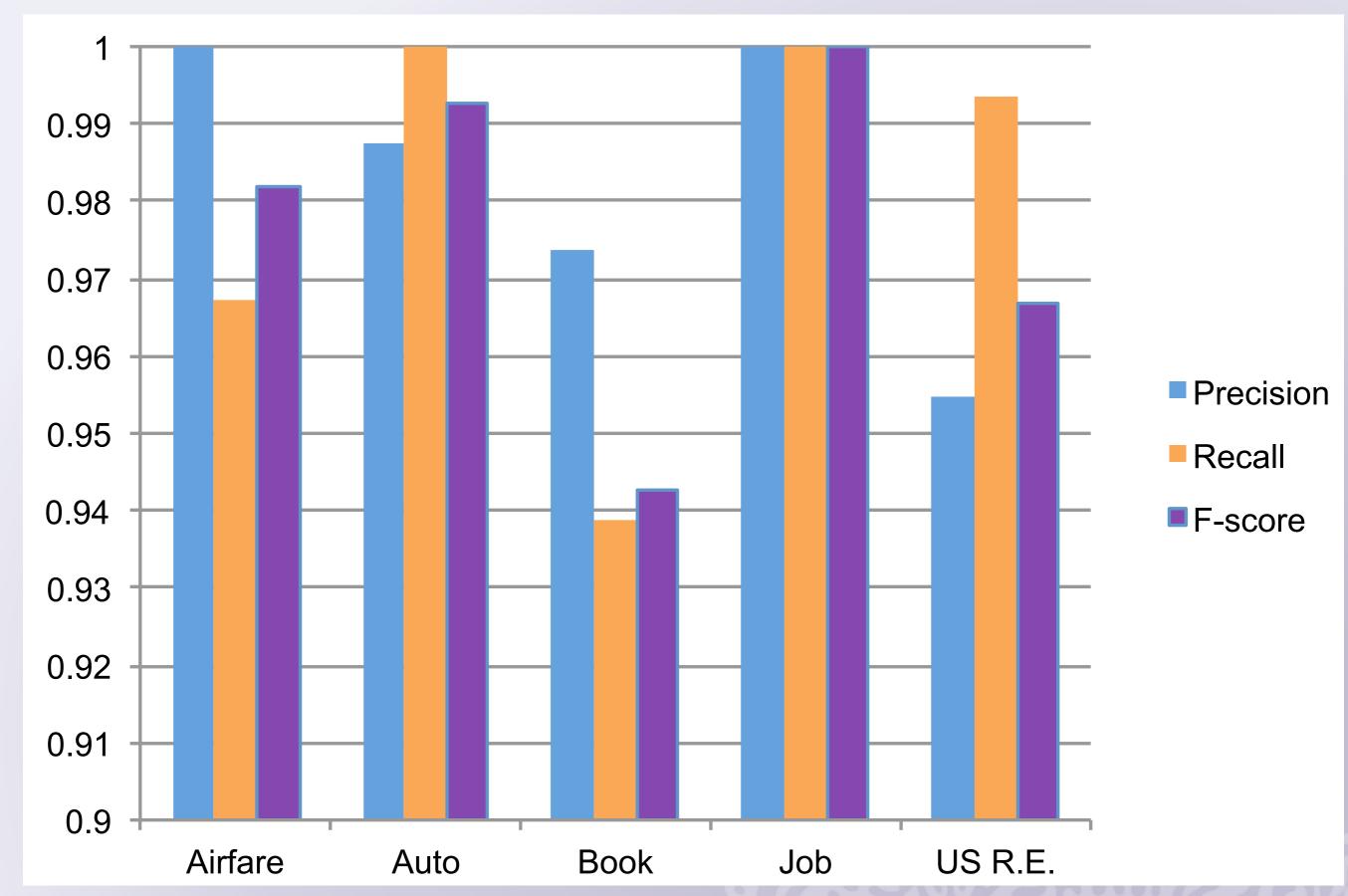
Location/Postcode/Keywo	ord:
Property Type:	
House detached	Apartment
House semi	Bungalow
☐ House terraced	Other :
Bedrooms:	
□ 1 □ 2 □ 3	3 4 5+
Sales or Lettings:	
C For Sale	☑ To Let
Price:	
Min:	Max
Order list by:	No.
O Price	O Location
Show properties as:	
Thumbnails	O List
Properties per page:	
Display 4 at a time	
Property posted within:	
Any Period 💌	
Search	

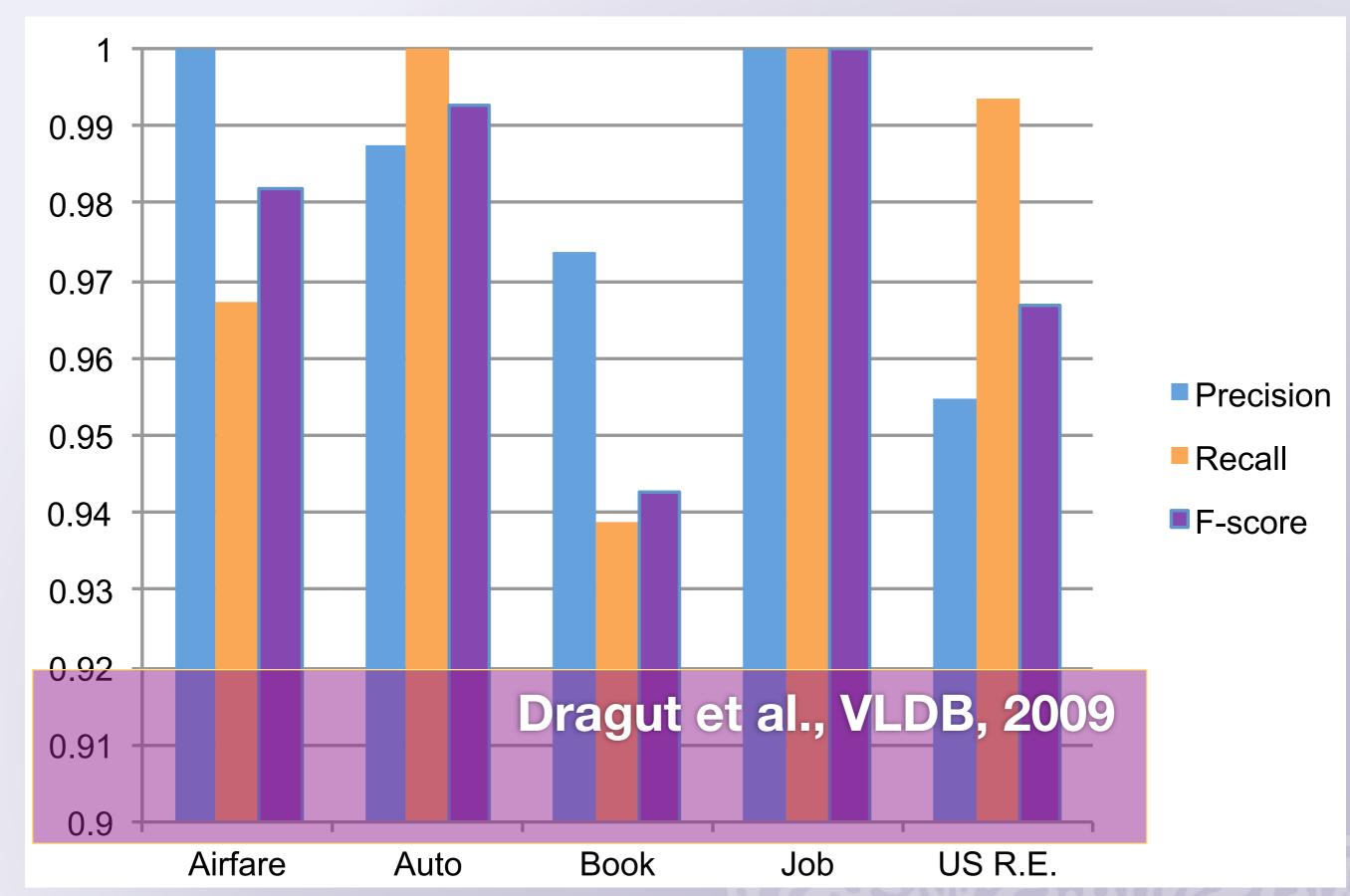
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Property Type:	
House detached House semi House terraced	Apartment Bungalow Other
Bedrooms:	
□ 1 □ 2 □	3
Sales or Lettings:	
For Sale	O To Let
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Order list by:	
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Properties per page:	
Display 4 at a time	
Property posted within:	
Any Period	
Search	

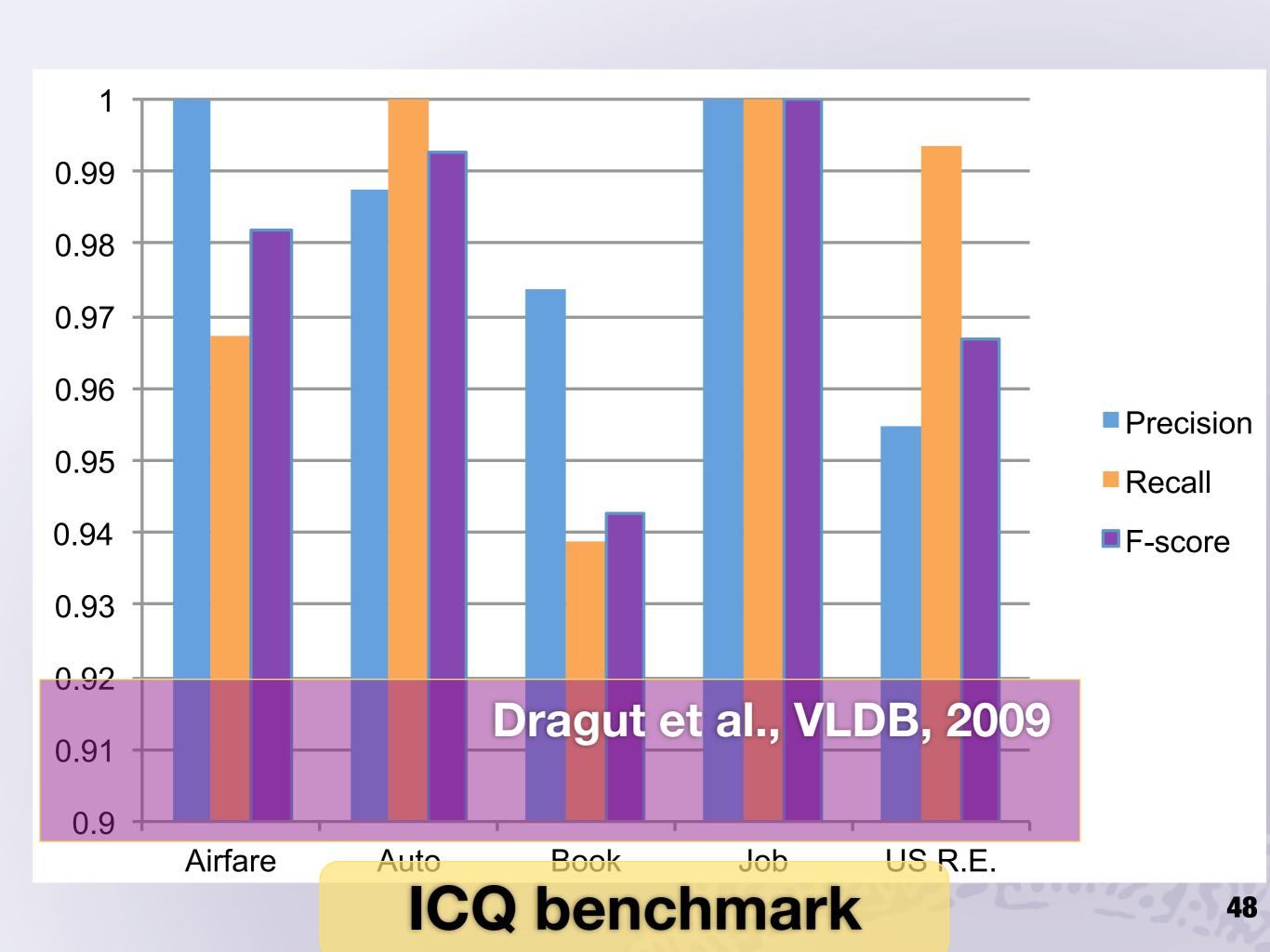












Site	Areas	Records	Attributes	s Price	Location	Site	Areas	Records	Attributes	Price	Location
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2	100	100	99.0	100	100	27	100	100	94.9	100	73.3
3	100	100	100	100	100	28	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	97.1	100	100	29	100	100	99.3	100	96.7
5	100	100	100	100	100	30	100	100	99.7	100	100
6	100	100	90.9	100	92.9	31	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	97.0	100	100	32	100	100	99.3	100	96.7
8	100	90.9	94.7	90.9	90.9	33	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	98.5	100	100	34	100	100	98.7	100	93.3
10	100	100	100	100	100	35	100	100	100	100	100
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16	100	100	99.2	100	98.0	41	100	100	99.2	100	96.5
17	100	100	99.2	100	100	42	100	96.3	93.9	96.3	80.0
18	100	100	98.8	100	100	43	100	100	100	100	100
19	100	100	98.2	100	100	44	100	100	100	100	100
20	100	100	98.1	100	100	45	100	100	99.6	100	98.3
21	100	100	100	100	100	46	100	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	100	100	100	47	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	100	100	100	48	100	100	96.6	100	76.0
24	100	100	100	100	100	49	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	100	100	100	50	100	100	99.8	100	100
						Avg.	100	99.7	99.0	99.7	97.6

Site	Areas	s Records	Attribute	es Price	Location	Site	Areas	Records	Attributes	s Price	Location
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2	100	100	99.0	100	100	27	100	100	94.9	100	73.3
3	100	100	100	100	100	28	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	97.1	100	100	29	100	100	99.3	100	96.7
5	100	100	100	100	100	30	100	100	99.7	100	100
6	100	100	90.9	100	92.9	31	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	97.0	100	100	32	100	100	99.3	100	96.7
8	100	$\boldsymbol{90.9}$	94.7	90.9	90.9	33	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	98.5	100	100	34	100	100	98.7	100	93.3
10	100	100	100	100	100	35	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100	36	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100	37	100	100	100	100	100
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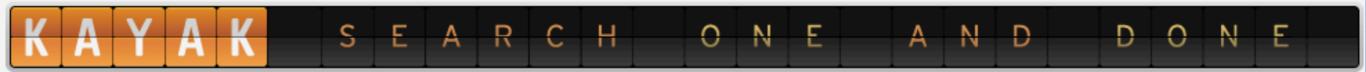
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18	100	100	98.8	100	100	43	100	100	100	100	100	
19	100	100	98.2	100	100	44	100	100	100	100	100	
20	100	100	98.1	100	100	45	100	100	99.6	100	98.3	
21	100	100	100	100	100	46	100	100	100	100	100	
22	100	100	100	100	100	47	100	100	100	100	100	
23	100	100	100	100	100	48	100	100	96.6	100	76.0	
24	100	100	100	100	100	49	100	100	100	100	100	
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						Avg.	100	99.7	99.0	99.7	97.6	

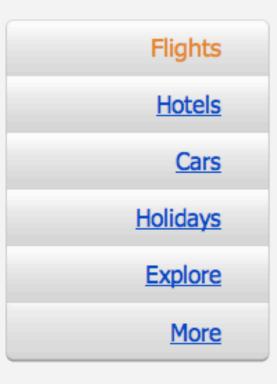


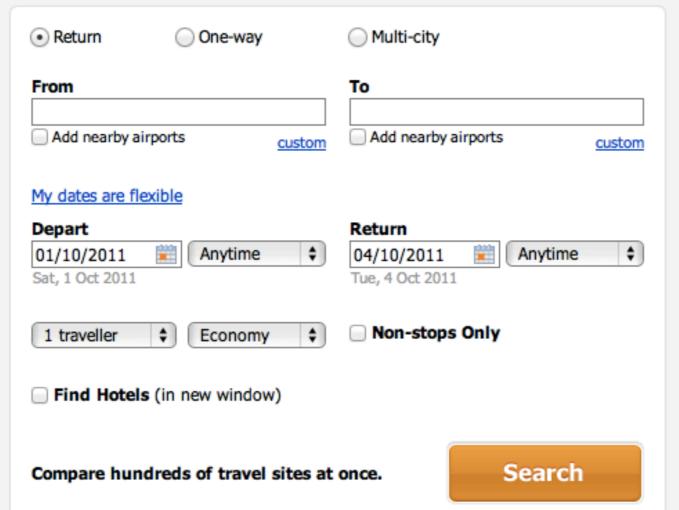


OXPath:

Scalable, Memory-Efficient Web Extraction







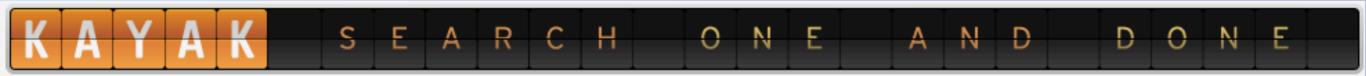
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About these prices												
Your Search History												

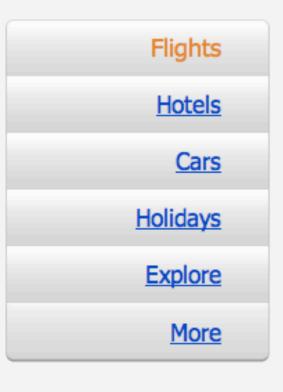
1 Oct - 4 Oct

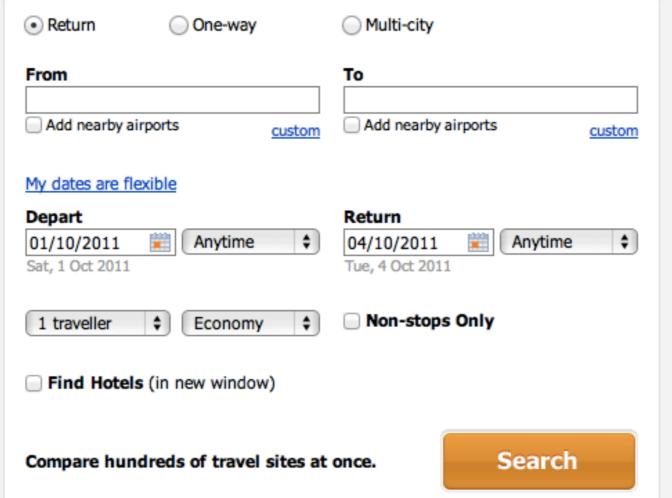
LON to SEA

modify

Start at kayak.co.uk: doc("rightmove.co.uk")









1 Oct - 4 Oct

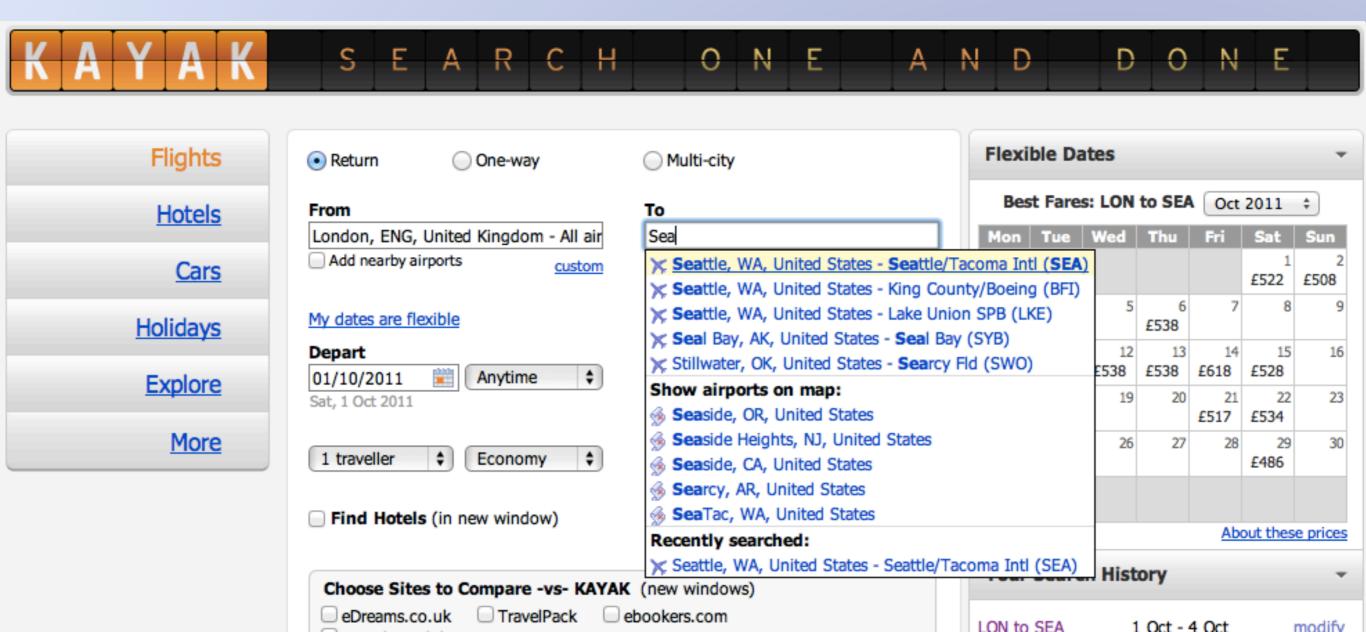
LON to SEA

modify

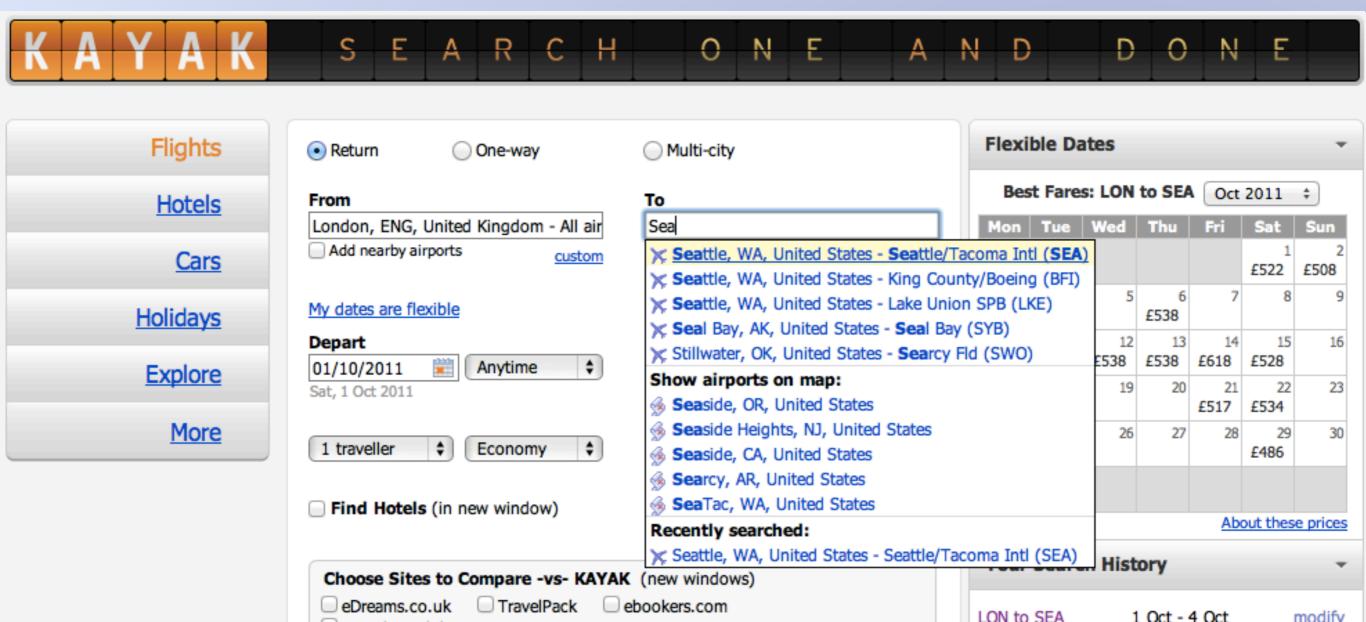
Start at kayak.co.uk:

doc("rightmove.co.uk")

To select an airport, type a few letters and select from completion list //field().destination/{"Sea" /} //div#smartbox//li[1]/{click /}



- Start at kayak.co.uk:
 - doc("rightmove.co.uk")
- To select an airport, type a few letters and select from completion list
 - //field().destination/{"Sea" /}
 //div#smartbox//li[1]/{click /}
- Submit the form







Change your search

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Stops

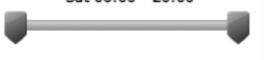
✓ non-stop £547

✓ 1 stop £503

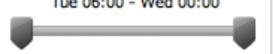
✓ 2+ stops £558

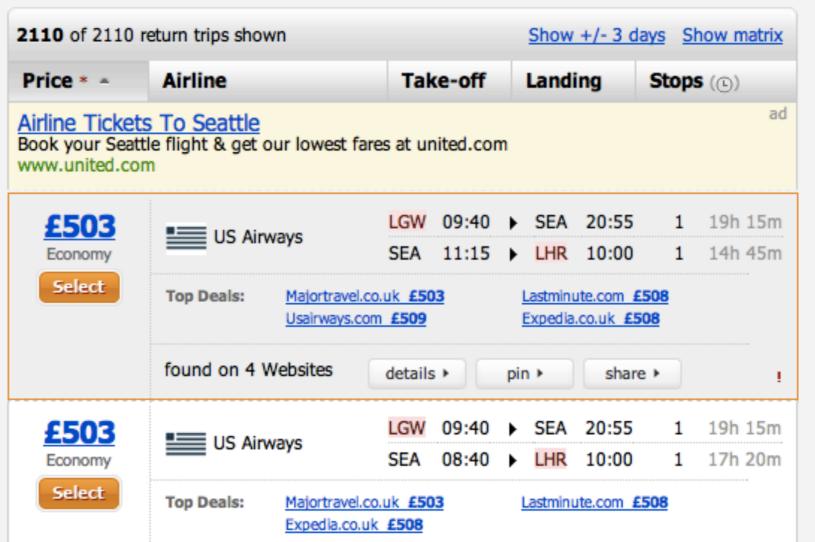
Times

✓ Show Red Eye/Overnight



Take-off (Return Flight) Tue 06:00 - Wed 00:00

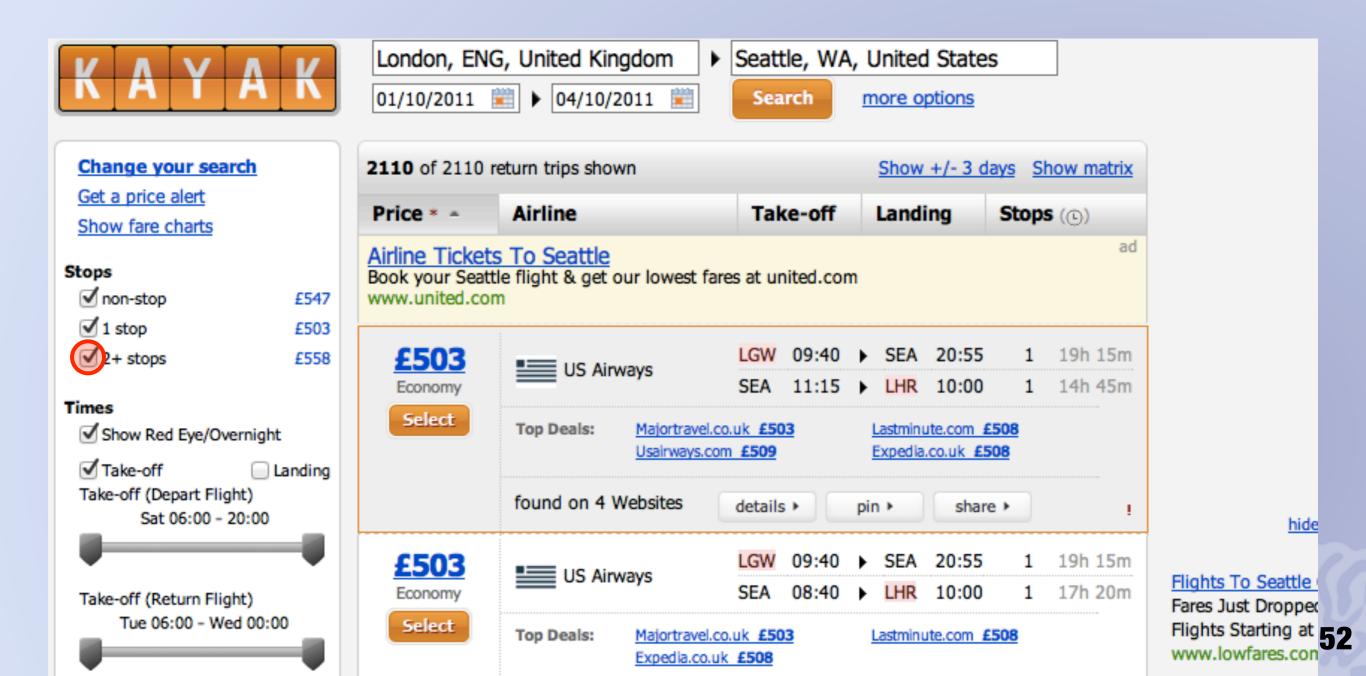




hide

Flights To Seattle
Fares Just Dropped
Flights Starting at www.lowfares.con

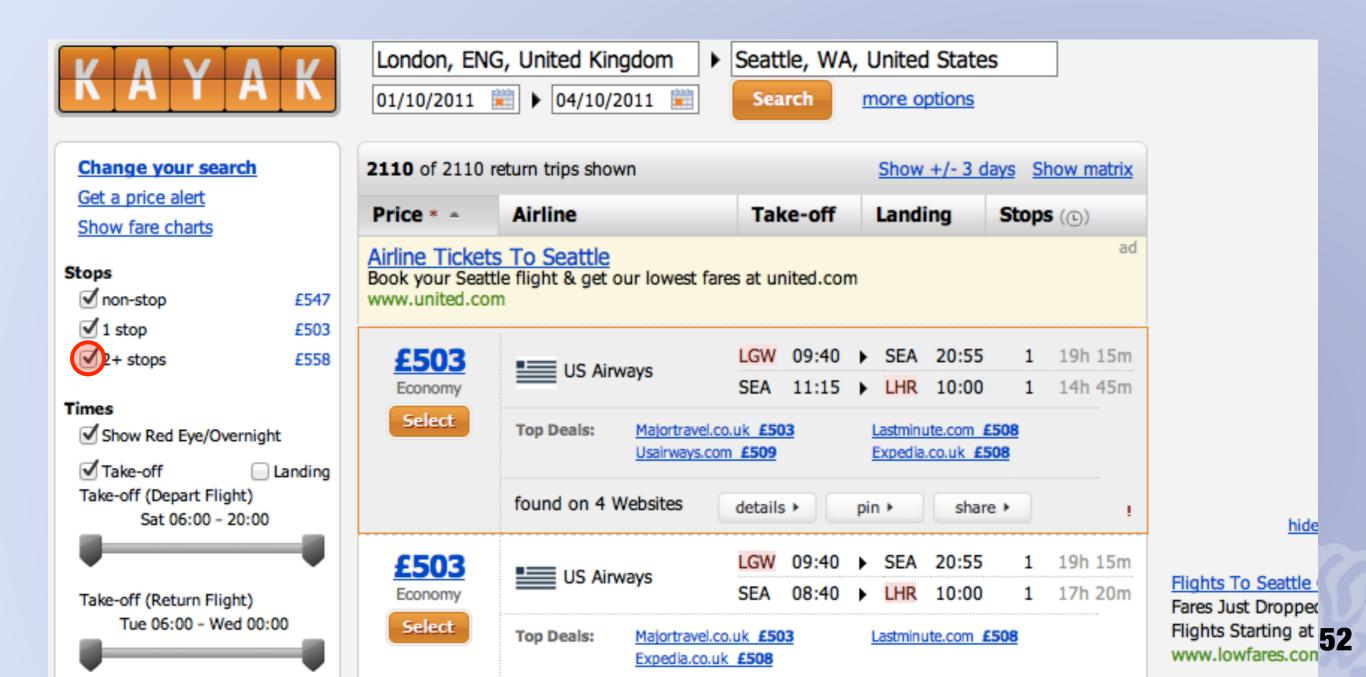
Refine the results by unchecking the "2+ stops": //*#stops2/{uncheck}



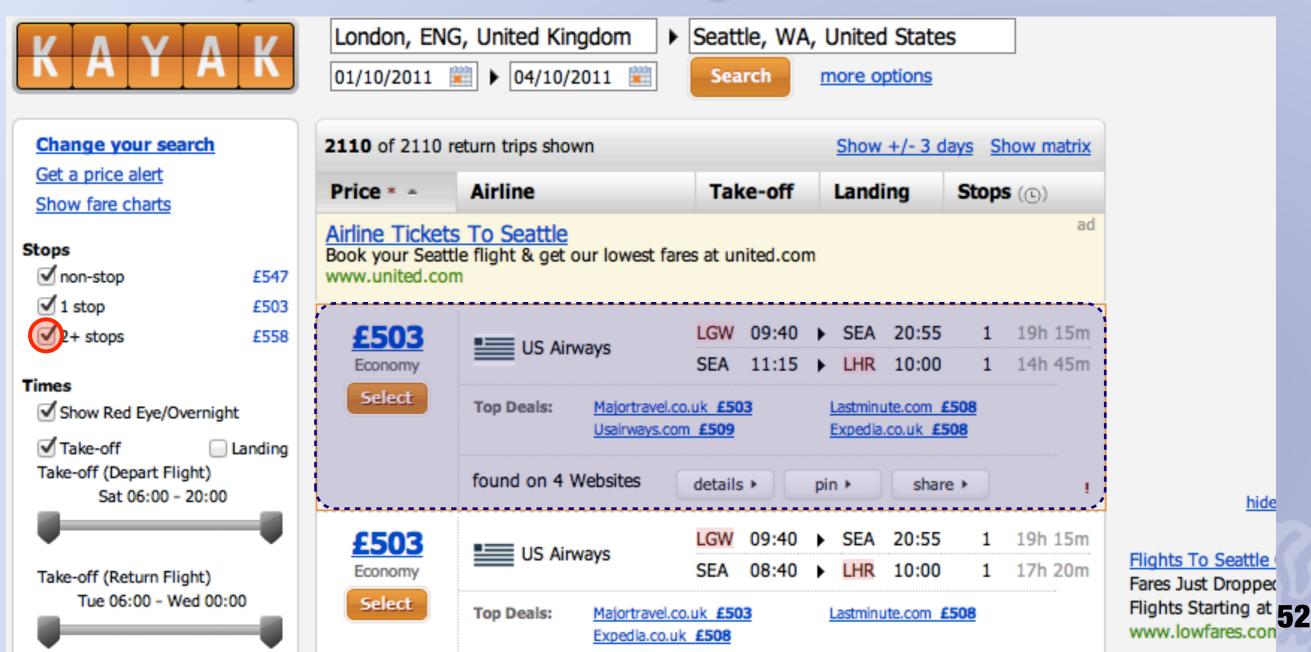
Refine the results by unchecking the "2+ stops":

//*#stops2/{uncheck }

On all result pages

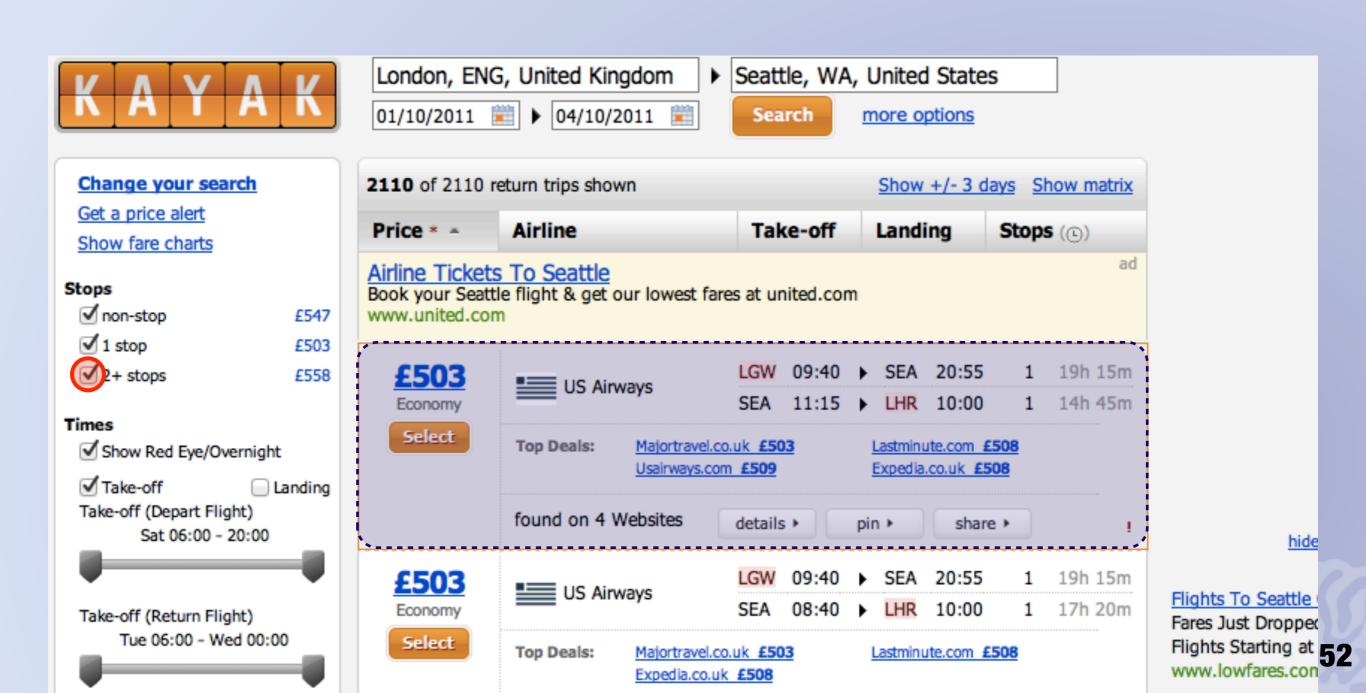


- Refine the results by unchecking the "2+ stops":
 - //*#stops2/{uncheck }
- On all result pages
 - /(//a[.='Next']/{click /})*
 - and for each flight
 - //body.resultrow:<flight>

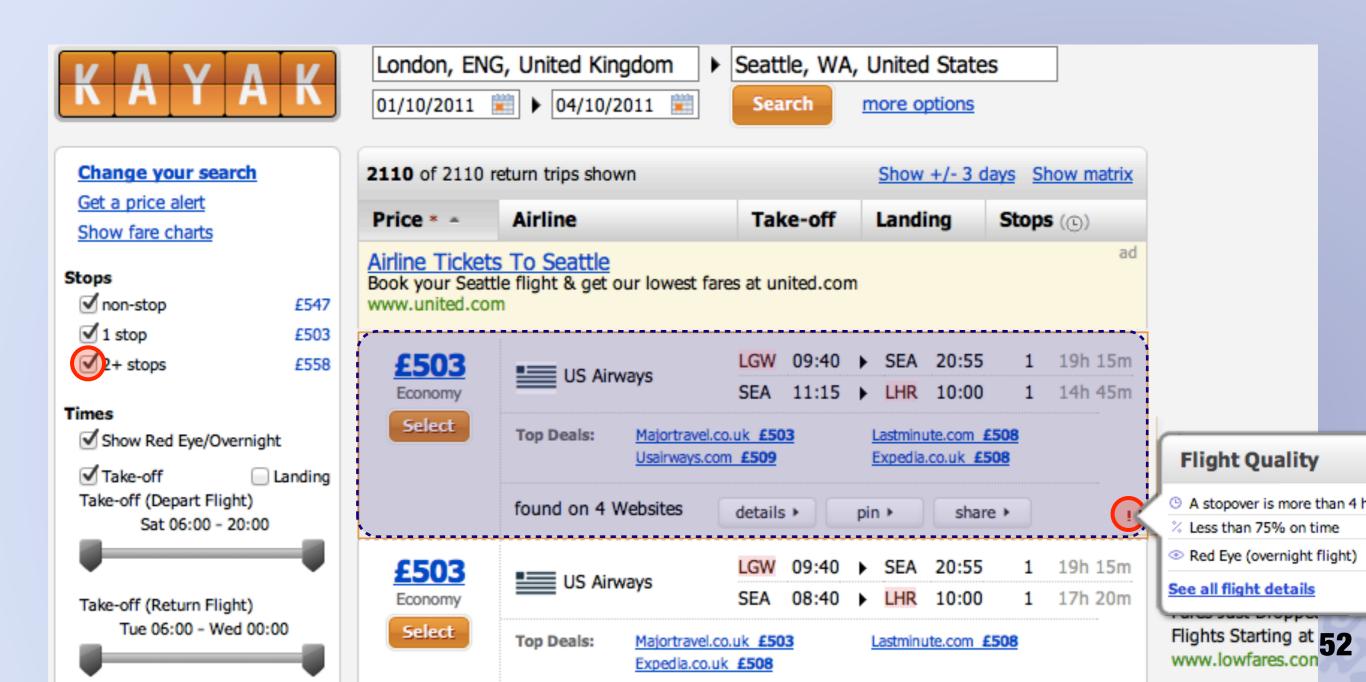


hide

Extract the attributes



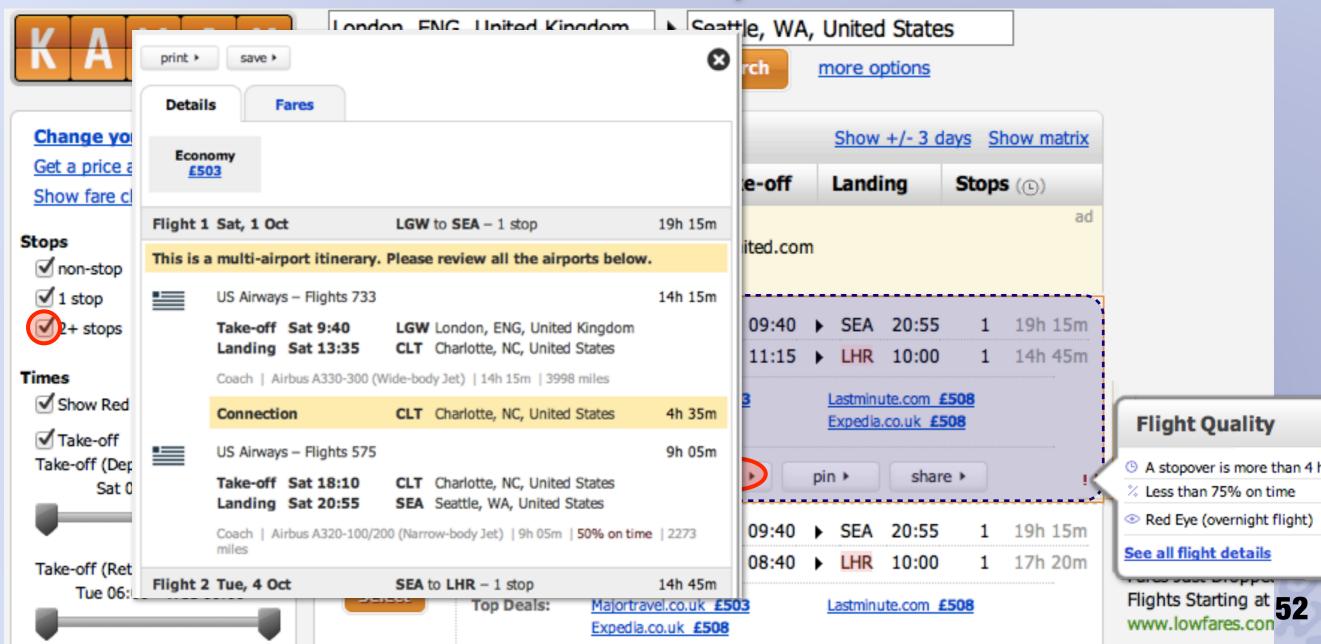
- Extract the attributes
- Mouseover the! to extract flight quality warnings //span.qualityWarningIcon/{mouseover /}



- Extract the attributes
- Mouseover the! to extract flight quality warnings

//span.qualityWarningIcon/{mouseover /}

Click on the details to extract layovers





Combined: PTIME-hard

Data: NLOGSPACE





Combined: PTIME-hard PTIME-hard

Data: NLogSpace LogSpace





Combined: PTIME-hard PTIME-hard

Data: NLogSpace LogSpace

	Time	Space
OXPath w/o Actions & Kleene	$O(n^6 \cdot q^2)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q^2)$
OXPath w/o Kleene	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q^3)$
OXPath w/o unbounded Kleene	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q_{\Sigma}^3)$
OXPath (full)	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot (q+d)^3)$

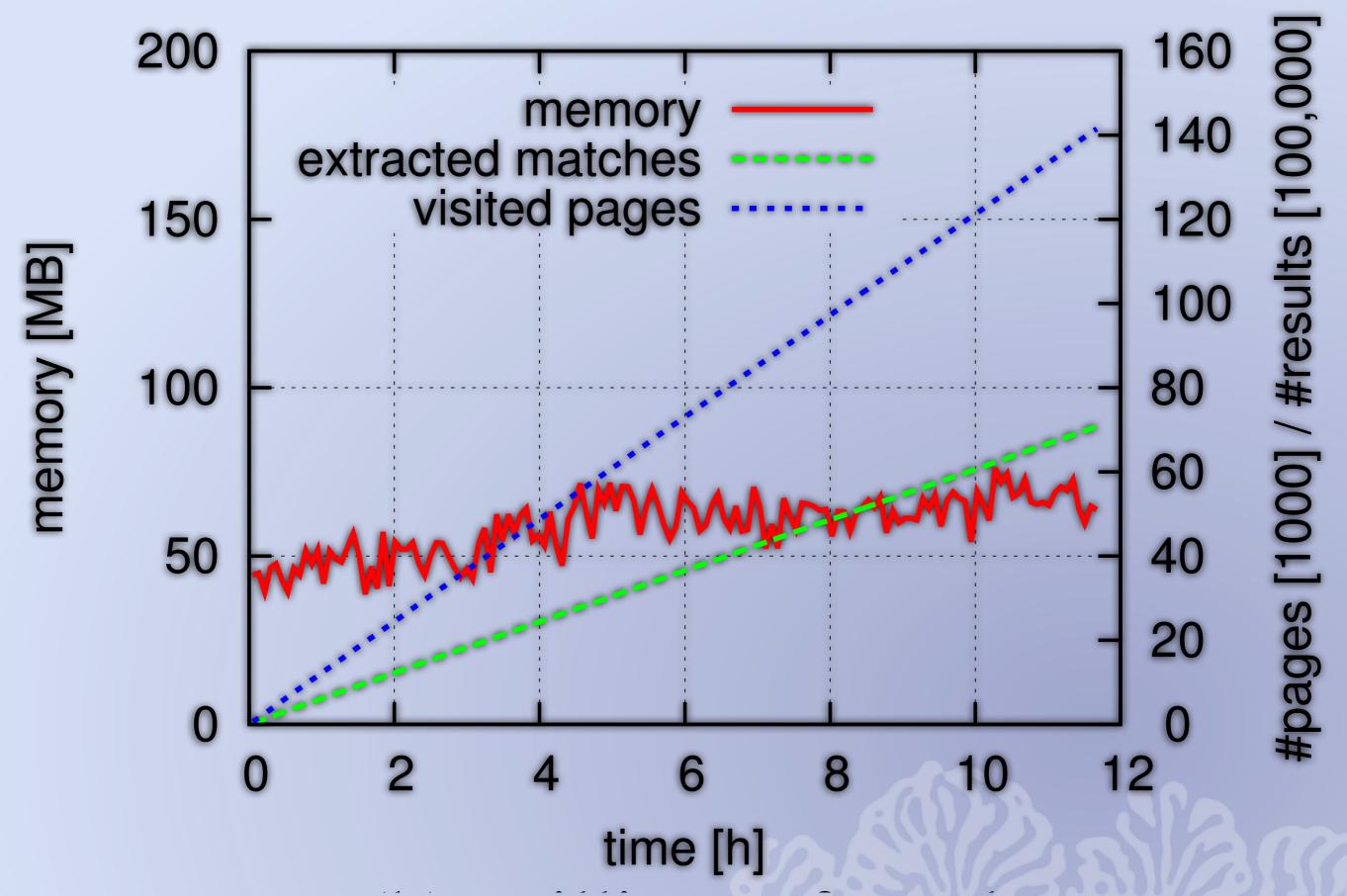


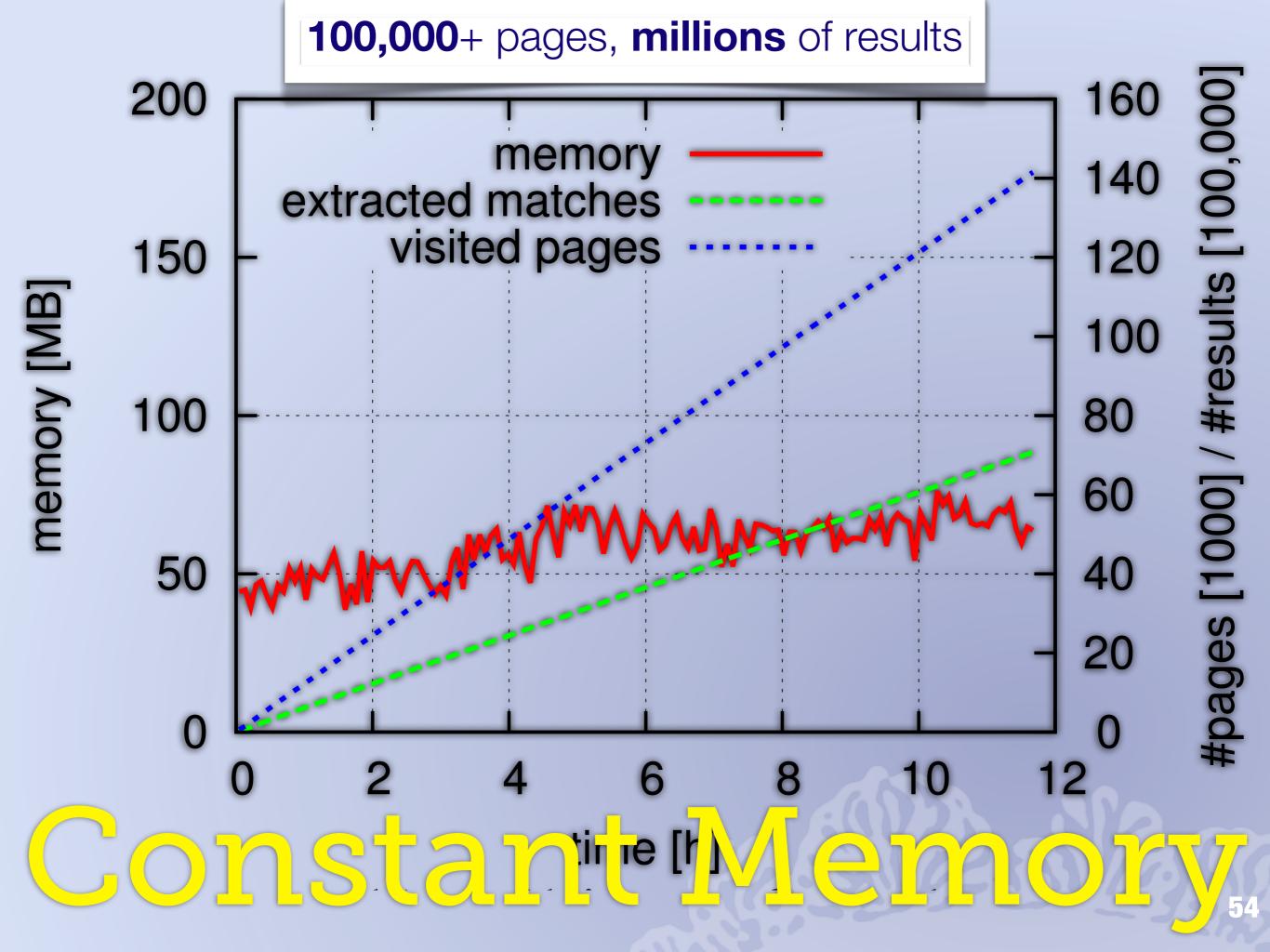


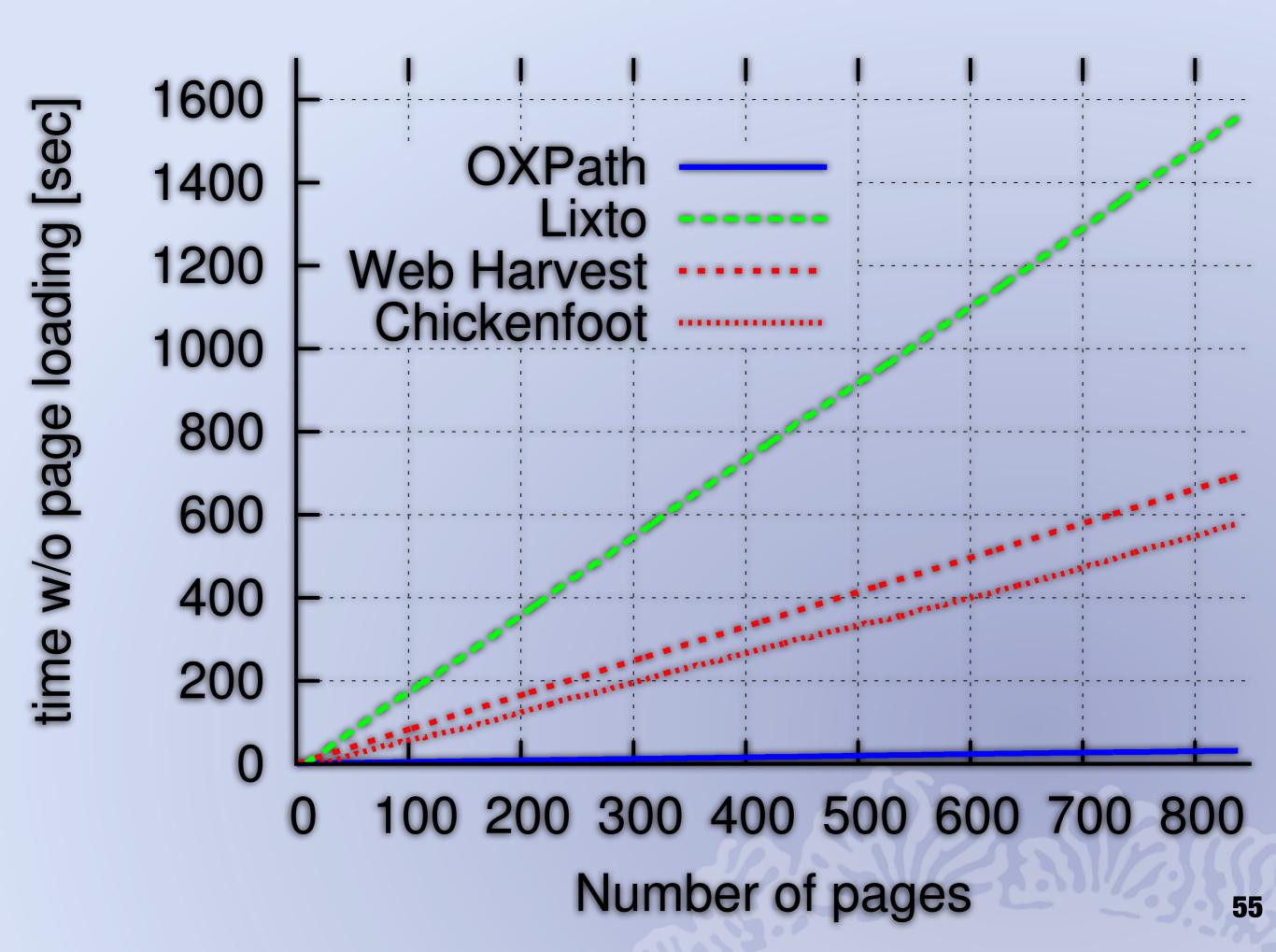
Combined: PTIME-hard PTIME-hard

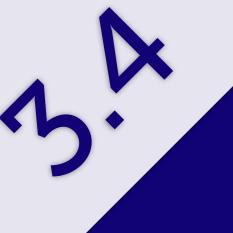
Data: NLogSpace LogSpace

	Time	Space
OXPath w/o Actions & Kleene	$O(n^6 \cdot q^2) O(n^4 \cdot q^2)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q^2) O(n^3 \cdot q^2)$
OXPath w/o Kleene	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q^3)$
OXPath w/o unbounded Kleene	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot q_{\Sigma}^3)$
OXPath (full)	$O((p \cdot n)^6 \cdot q^3)$	$O(n^5 \cdot (q+d)^3)$





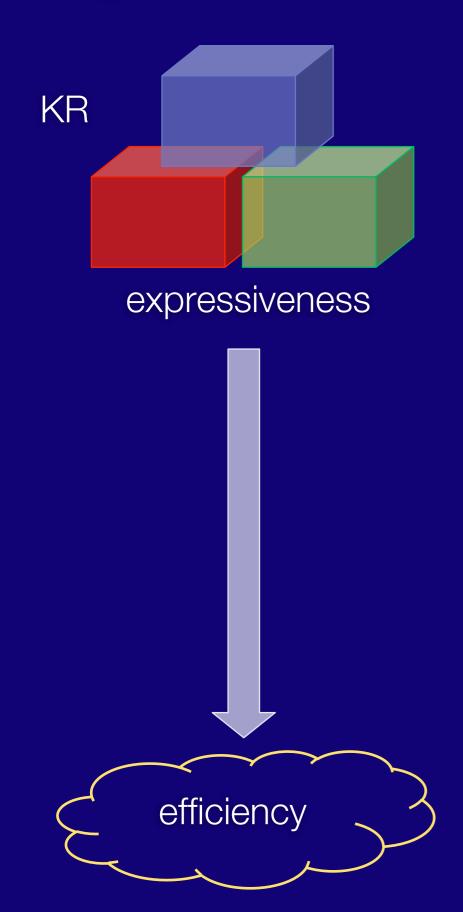


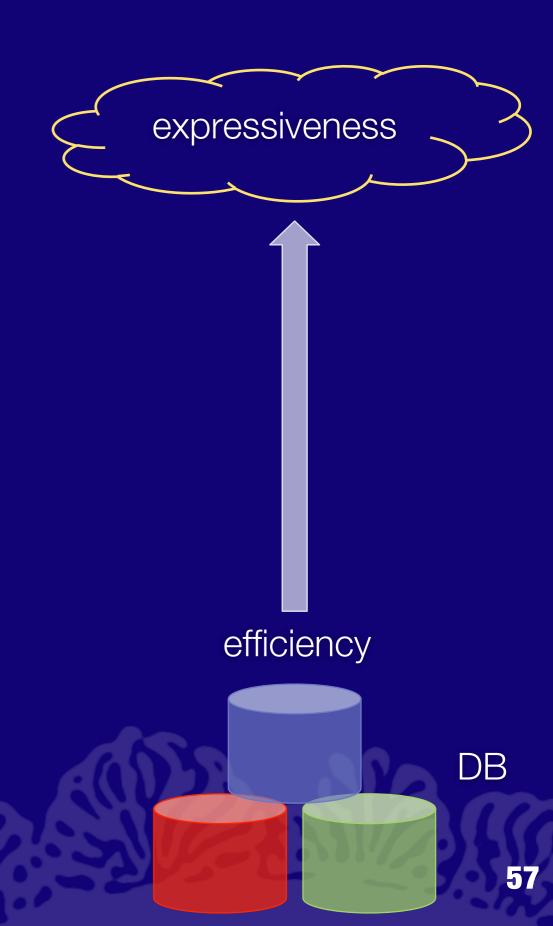




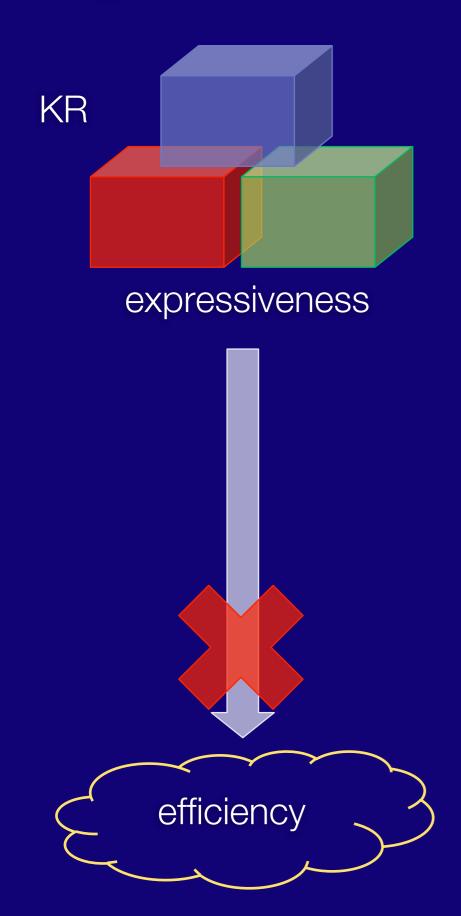
Datalog[±]: Ontological Reasoning at Web Scale

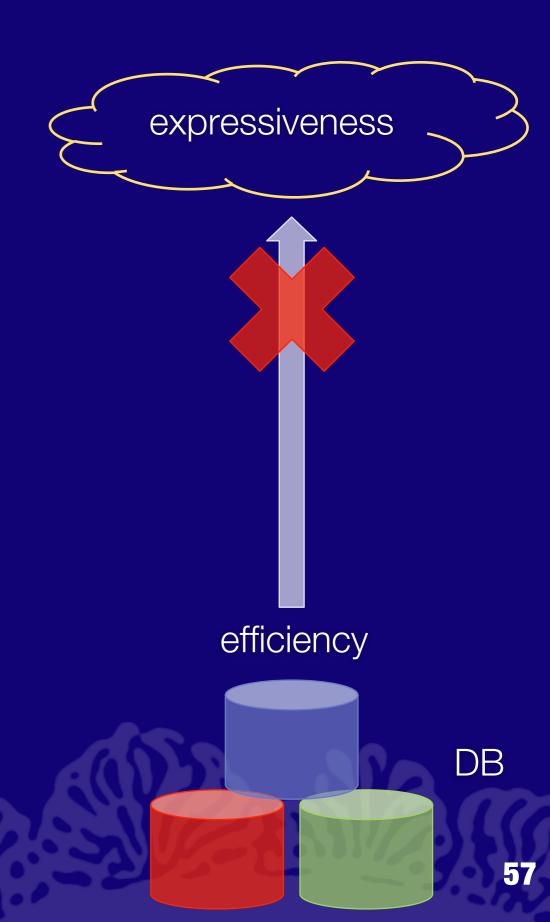
Big Picture



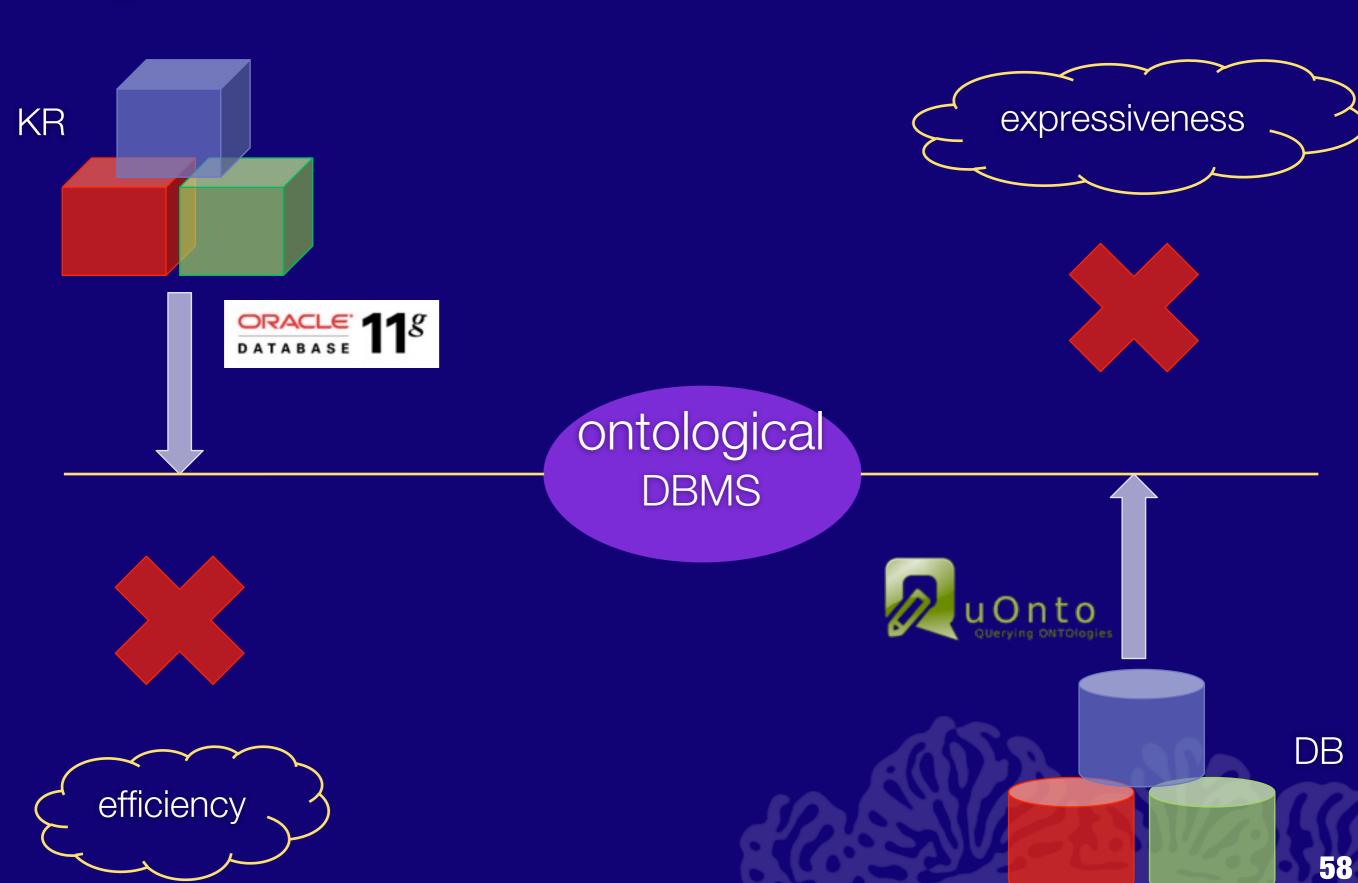


Big Picture





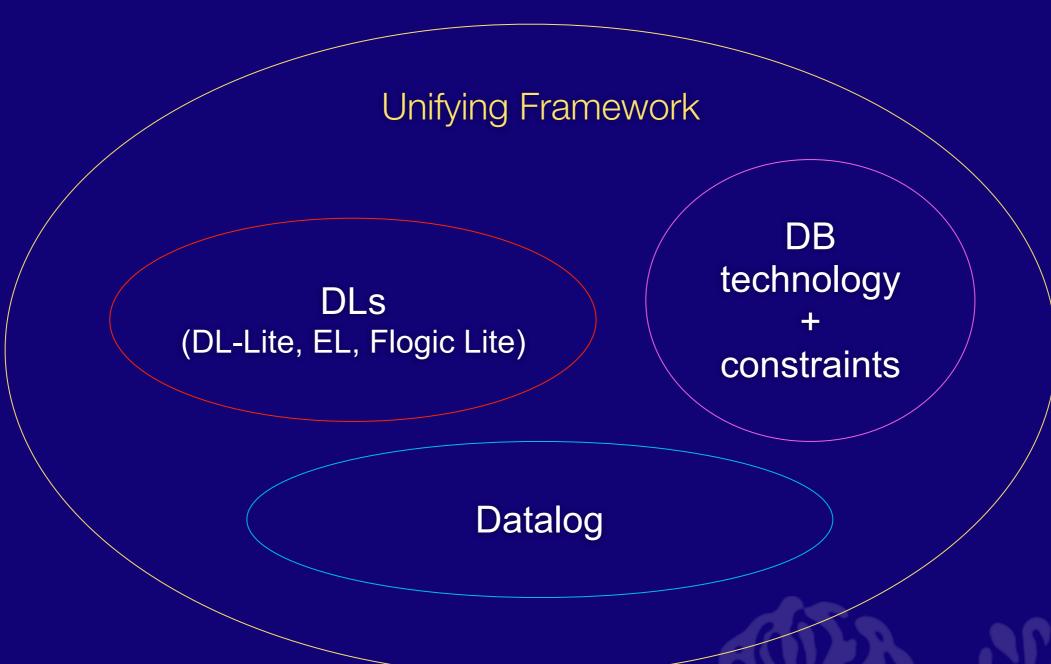
Big Picture





Our goal ...

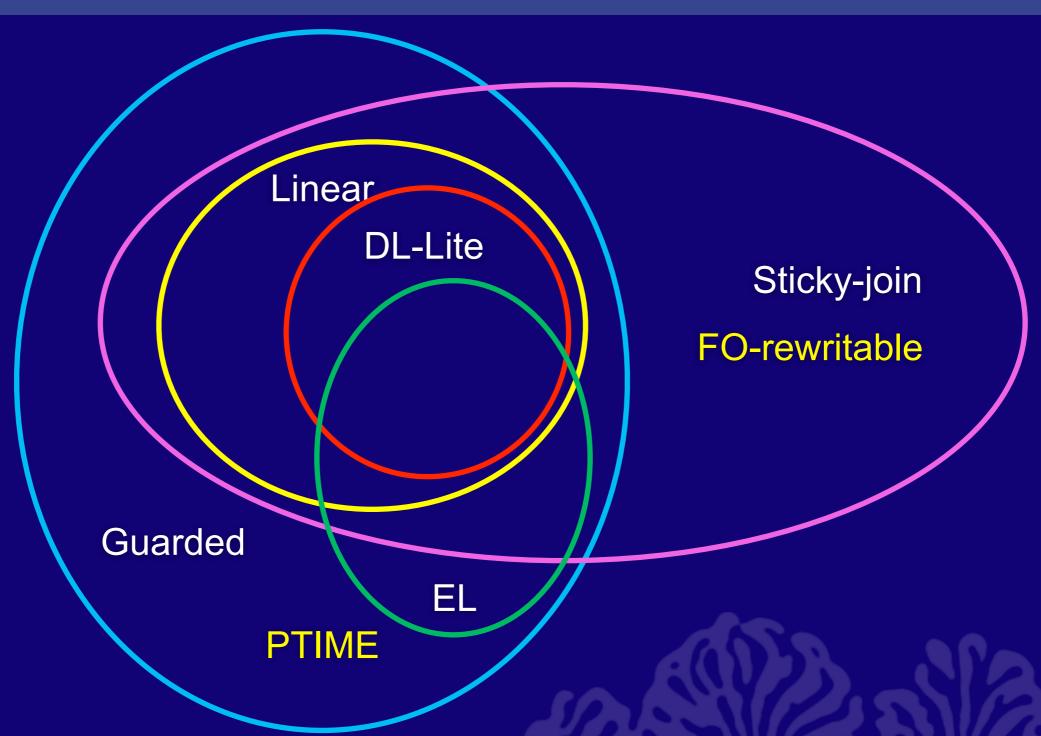




while maintaining query answering tractable in data complexity!

Datalog±: Overview







Turn Data into Knowledge

High accuracy, knowledge driven data extraction

Ontology-Driven Web Extraction & DIADEM

- everything is driven by a domain-centric ontology
 - shallow annotations for bottom-up analysis
 - deep conceptual model for top-down refinement
- except for a shallow browser layer all logical rules
 - currently crisp datalog rules (+ controlled externals)
 - integrate navigation/action planning & execution
 - move to separate, probabilistic quality assessment
- easily outperforms existing data extraction approaches
 - already around 98-99% accuracy for a UK real-estate sites
 - tested on a random sample of 200+ sites



What we are aiming for ...

- High accuracy data extraction producing semantic data
 - allows high-level inferences & analysis and automation
 - requires itself significant knowledge about domain, web patterns
 - surfaces vast parts of the web
- businesses can focus on **human information presentation**
 - by reducing SEO and annotation burden
 - levels the playing field for small companies/startups:
 - allows profiting from semantic technologies without expensive expertise
 - reduces data gathering cost of market analysis, again leveling the playing field



What we are aiming for ...



- DIADEM combines manual & machine learning
 - to derive the needed knowledge base
 - both domain-independent and domain-specific web patterns
- Less about NLP, more about stylized, formulaic patterns
 - visual & structural signals more formulaic than NL
 - additional signals: visual, structure, site context, ...
- Visual, textual, structural patterns of information presentation
 - pagination, product patterns, form patterns, ...
 - taxonomy of such patterns: domain-independent and -dependent

X

What we are aiming for ...



- Very large scale data extraction over full domain
 - >10,000 sites, millions of pages, billions of attributes
 - enabled by separation of analysis and execution
 - full analysis only required if page changed significantly
 - execution significantly less expensive and more focused
- Efficient, parallel analysis with
 - polynomial data complexity, FO-rewritable Datalog±
- Highly efficient, highly parallel extraction execution with
 - polynomial combined complexity, constant memory OXPath
 - nearly no overhead over OXPath



Major challenges



- Better understanding of web language
 - learning and flexible descriptions for visual patterns
 - learning interaction scripts (how to find relevant data)
 - "web science" needs to focus on representational issues:
 - how objects of a given type are represented on the web
- Bootstrap learning in analysis
 - "unreasonable effectiveness of data"
 - use analogy from already known examples
 - alignment of records on pages & among pages provides easy candidates







European Research Council



