Uncertainty Issues in Automating Process Connecting Web and User

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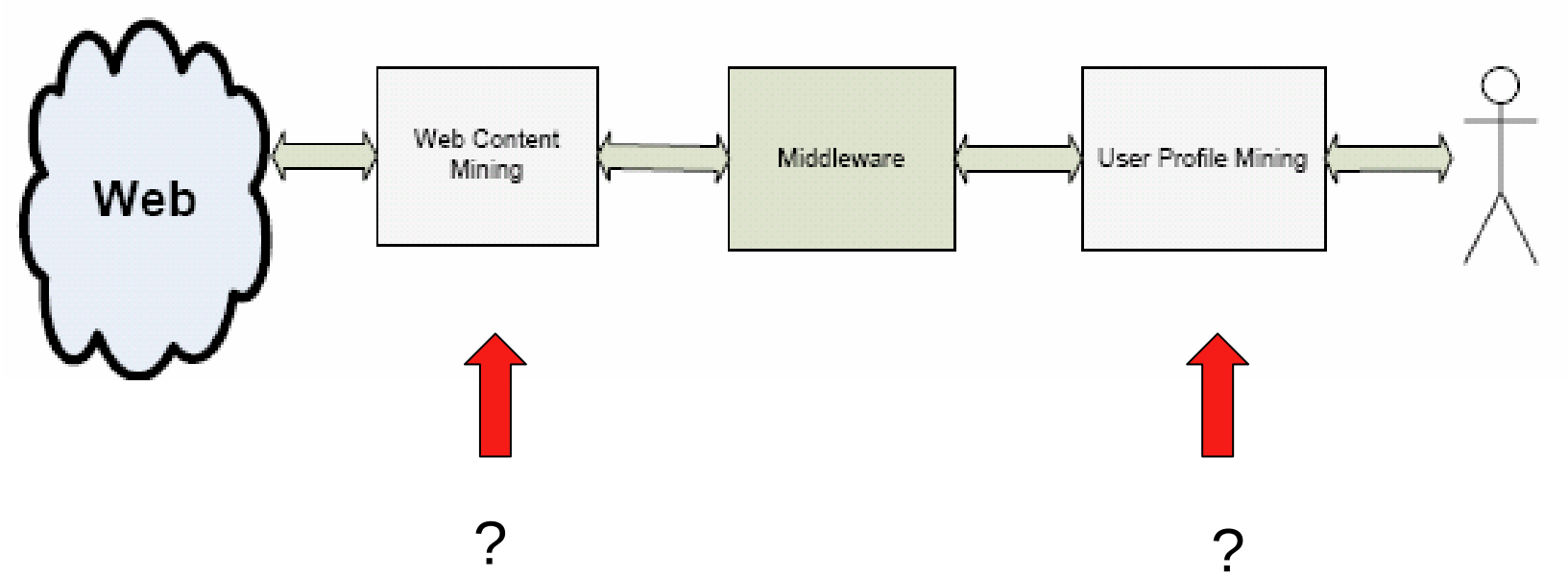
Motivation



Users looking for a hotel, notebook, car,… on the web without semantic labels

Automating the process brings uncertainty

Motivation

Human understandable not machine readable

only conjunctive user queries – no individual user preferences –
- boring click through

Outline

- Motivation
- Uncertainty in web content mining
  - discovering data regions, data records
  - attribute values extraction
- Middleware
- Uncertainty in user preference mining
  - learning attribute preference
  - learning combination function
- Experiments – uncertainty issues detected
- Conclusions

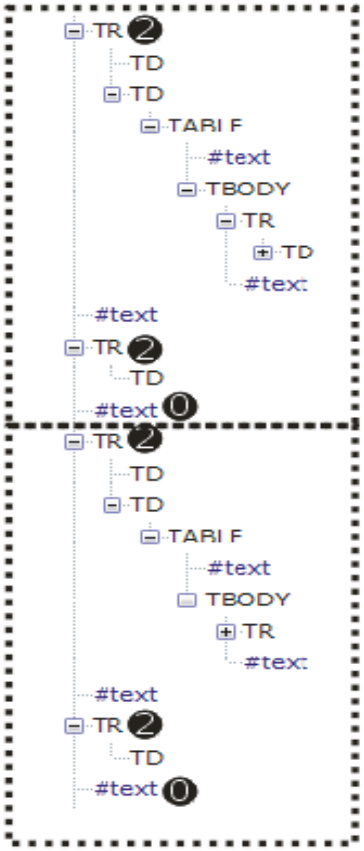
Uncertainty in web content mining

- Crawling web (not here)
- Discovering relevant pages (not here)
- Discovering data regions
- Discovering data records

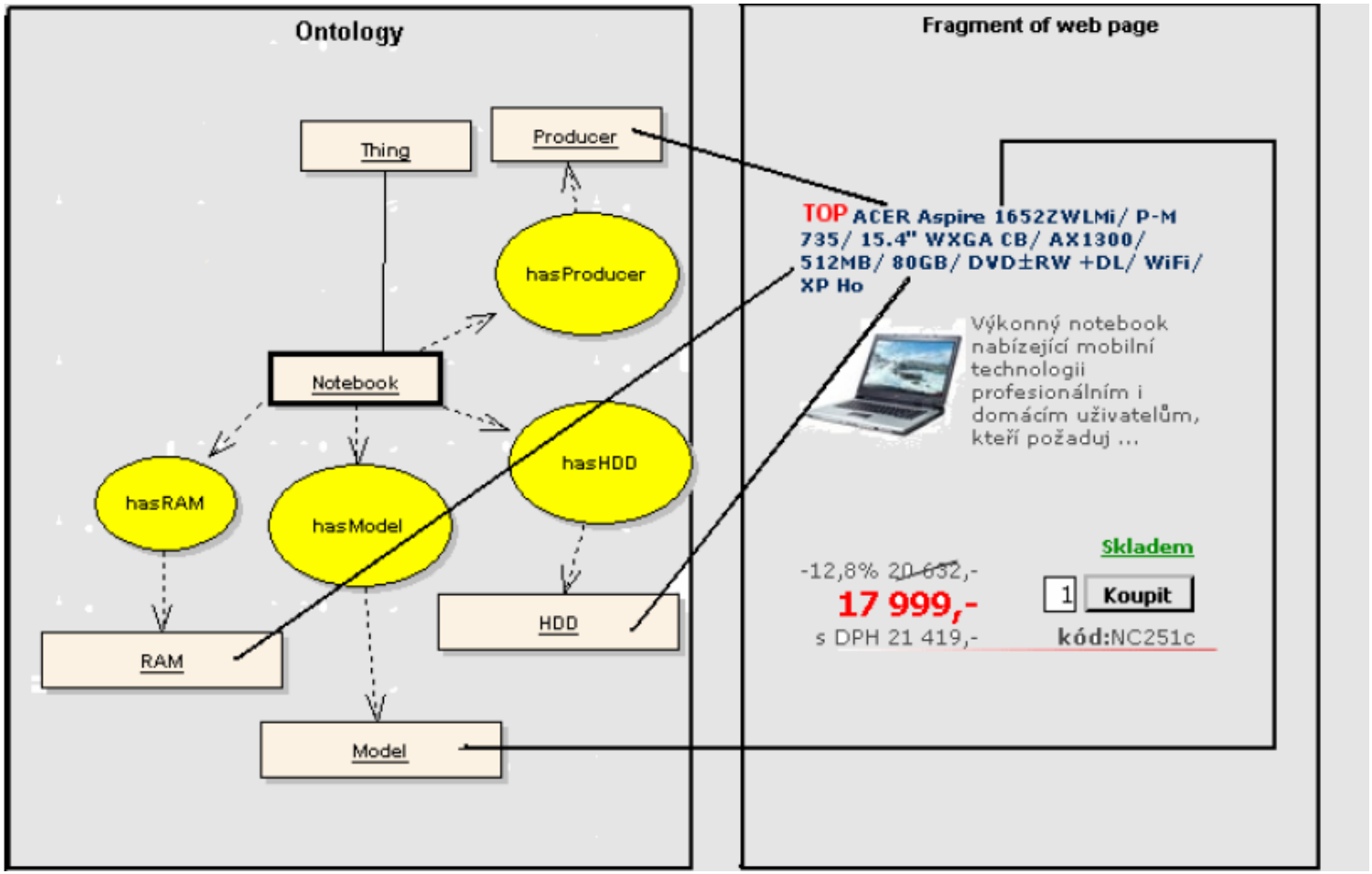
Uncertainty in web content mining

Search over DOM form of page

Non-contiguous records



Ontology based attribute value extraction

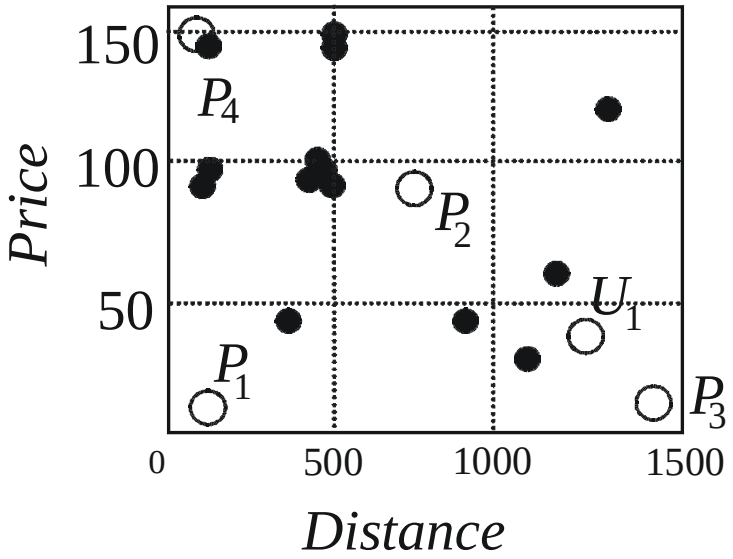


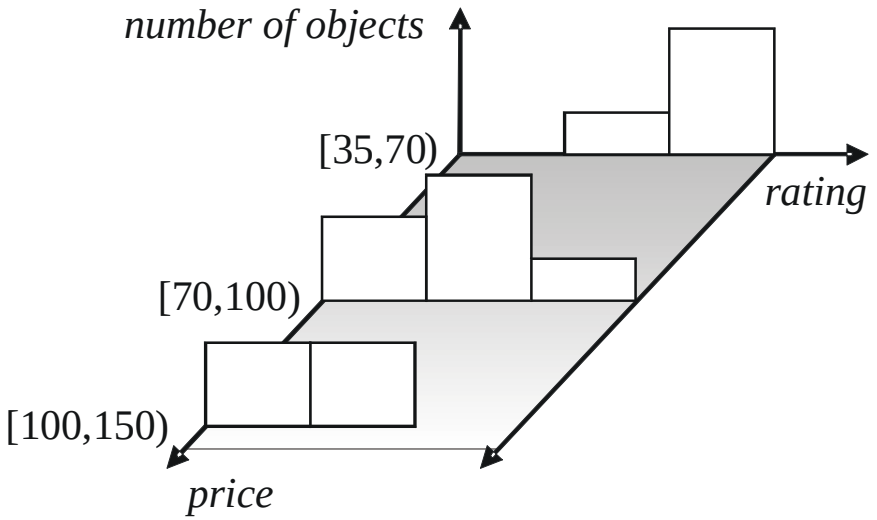
Additional low level extraction ontology

```
<owl:DatatypeProperty rdf:ID="hasPrice">
 <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Hotel"/>
 <p1:maxLength
     rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
     10
 </p1:maxLength>
<p1:pattern
     rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
   (\$)? ?[\d]{1,10} ?(.){1,3}
 </p1:pattern>
  <rdfs:label
     rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    PRICE
  </rdfs:label>
</owl:DatatypeProperty>
```

Middleware, top-k, user model

- Storing data extracted from web pages
- Supporting top-k queries based on user's combination of user's attribute preferences





Uncertainty in user preference mining

- Detecting attribute preferences – cheap or expensive, close or far…domain dependent
- Combination of attribute preferences helps order incomparable objects – IGAP method

User1_hotel(H) good in degree at least @($f_1(x)$, $f_2(y)$, …)

IF User1_hotel_price(x) good in degree at least $f_1(x)$ **AND**

User1_hotel_distance(y) good in degree at least $f_2(y)$

Implementation, experiments

- Modular implementation which allows additional modules to be incorporated (e. g. querying with preference-based querying)
- Communication between modules is based on the traditional Observer/Listener design pattern
- Middleware system for performing top-k queries over RDF data
- As a Java library, our system can be used either on the server side, for example in a Web service, or on the client side
- General method using B+ trees to simulate arbitrary fuzzy ordering of a domain

Identified uncertainty issues

- identifying HTML nodes with relevant information in the sub-tree,
- tuning similarity measures for discovery of similar tag subtrees,
- identifying single data records in non-contiguous html source,
- extracting attribute values
- learning user’s preferences of particular attributes
- learn the user preference combination function.

Conclusions

- Automating the process of user dependent web search – causes uncertainty
- Identified uncertainty issues in our approach (other approaches may have other uncertainty challenges)
- Whole process, querying, results are uncertain – creating a web service we need UIF – Uncertainty Interchange Format

Conclusions

- Implementation and experiments in different domains

  some domains are “easier” to mine – e.g. notebooks – results are more certain

  some domains are “more difficult” – e.g. hotels – results are more uncertain
- Human training time, learning ontology,…
- Low level extraction ontology
- Future work

Thank you

Questions?