

# APL on the Side

### Justin Dowdy @ Semantic Arts

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[pres] 0:vim\* 1:bash-

"parens" 09:23 29-Oct-22

# APL on the Side

### Justin Dowdy @ Semantic Arts

Dyalog APL users are fortunate to be able to use APL for an entire project when it is a good fit.

Traditional software engineers that are interested in APL often have to find ways to use APL on the side or use APL thinking in their professional work.

April and May are two projects that allow APL to be evaluated from Common Lisp and Clojure, respectively. These projects allow APL to be incrementally employed in projects that don't currently use APL. I'll describe these projects and the ways that I use them.

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**## Interest in APL Outside the APL Community**

APL: the execution

APL: the thinking

## ## Interest in APL Outside the APL Community

### ### APL: the execution

Side/hobby projects, code golfing, teaching, snippet usage, etc.

[April](https://github.com/phantomics/april)

The APL programming language (a subset thereof) compiling to Common Lisp.

An alloy of Common Lisp and APL.

[May](https://github.com/justin2004/may)

Clojure -> Dyalog APL

## Interest in APL Outside the APL Community

### APL: the thinking

Language (discreteness + composition => generativity), information theory, semantic web, etc.

I'm focusing on this aspect.

## ## Semantic Web

Knowledge Graphs and Linked (Open) Data

[article](media/2001article.png)



# The Semantic Web

A new form of Web content that is meaningful to computers will unleash a revolution of new possibilities

by [TIM BERNERS-LEE](#), [JAMES HENDLER](#) and [ORA LASSILA](#)

## SUBTOPICS:

[Expressing Meaning](#)

[Knowledge  
Representation](#)

[Ontologies](#)

[Agents](#)

[Evolution of  
Knowledge](#)

## SIDEBARS:

[Overview / Semantic  
Web](#)

The entertainment system was belting out the Beatles' "We Can Work It Out" when the phone rang. When Pete answered, his phone turned the sound down by sending a message to all the other *local* devices that had a *volume control*. His sister, Lucy, was on the line from the doctor's office: "Mom needs to see a specialist and then has to have a series of physical therapy sessions. Biweekly or something. I'm going to have my agent set up the appointments." Pete immediately agreed to share the chauffeuring. At the



doctor's office, Lucy instructed her Semantic Web agent through her handheld Web browser. The agent promptly retrieved information about Mom's *prescribed treatment* from the doctor's agent, looked up several lists of *providers*, and checked for the ones *in-plan* for Mom's insurance within a *20-mile radius* of her *home* and with a *rating* of *excellent* or *very good* on trusted rating services. It then began trying to find a match between available *appointment times* (supplied by the agents of individual providers through their Web sites) and Pete's and Lucy's busy schedules. (The emphasized keywords indicate terms whose semantics, or meaning, were defined for the agent through the Semantic Web.)

In a few minutes the agent presented them with a plan. Pete didn't like it—University Hospital was all the way across town from Mom's place, and he'd be driving back in the middle of rush hour. He set his own agent to redo the search with stricter preferences about *location* and *time*. Lucy's agent, having *complete trust* in Pete's agent in the context of the present task,



## Semantic Web

### RDF

RDF is a metamodel for expressing directed graphs.

a triple:

- subject
- predicate
- object

The database is a triplestore.

## Semantic Web

### RDF

```
```turtle
```

```
@prefix ex:    <http://www.example.com/kg/> .
```

```
@prefix gist:  <https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/gist/> .
```

```
ex:FredPenner a gist:Person .
```

```
ex:FredPenner gist:name "Fred Penner" .
```

```
ex:FredPenner gist:hasBiologicalParent ex:LydiaPenner .
```

```
ex:LydiaPenner gist:name "Lydia Penner" .
```

```
```
```

## Semantic Web

### RDF

Where do the primitives come from?

# ## Semantic Web

## ### Ontologies

"In the context of computer and information services, an ontology defines a set of representational primitives with which to model a domain of knowledge or discourse."  
[Gruber](https://tomgruber.org/writing/ontology-in-encyclopedia-of-dbs.pdf)

"a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization" [Studer](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169023X97000566)

## Semantic Web

### gist

gist ~~ APL

[gist](https://www.semanticarts.com/gist/) is a minimalist upper ontology.  
It is designed to have the maximum coverage of typical business ontology concepts with  
the fewest number of primitives and the least amount of ambiguity.

```
gist:Agreement
  a owl:Class ;
  owl:equivalentClass [
    a owl:Class ;
    owl:intersectionOf (
      gist:Commitment
      [
        a owl:Restriction ;
        owl:onProperty gist:hasParty ;
        owl:someValuesFrom [
          a owl:Class ;
          owl:unionOf (
            gist:Organization
            gist:Person
          ) ;
        ] ;
      ]
    ) ;
  ] ;
  [
    a owl:Restriction ;
    owl:onProperty gist:hasDirectPart ;
    owl:onClass gist:Obligation ;
    owl:minQualifiedCardinality "2"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger ;
```

gistCore.ttl [turtle] 1% 49 1

:noh

[pres] 0:vim 1:vim\* 2:gnome-screenshot-

"parens" 09:30 29-Oct-22



&lt; &gt; gistCoreX.x.x (https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/o/gistCoreX.x.x)

Search...

&gt; Commitment &gt; Agreement

Active ontology x Entities x Individuals by class x DL Query x

Annotation properties Datatypes Individuals

Classes Object properties Data properties

Class hierarchy: Agreement



Asserted

- owl:Thing
  - Artifact
  - Category
  - Coherent Unit
  - Collection
  - Commitment
    - Agreement**
    - Contingent Obligation
    - Obligation
  - Event
  - Intention
  - Language
  - Magnitude
  - Network Link
  - Network Node
  - Ordered Member
  - Organization
  - Physical Identifiable Item
  - Physical Substance
  - Place
  - Schema Meta Data
  - Template
  - Temporal Relation
  - Unit of Measure

Agreement — https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/gist/Agreement

Annotations Usage

Annotations: Agreement



Annotations +

skos:prefLabel [type: xsd:string]

Agreement



skos:definition [type: xsd:string]

Something which two or more People or Organizations mutually commit to do.



Description: Agreement



Equivalent To +

- Commitment
  - and ('has party' some (Organization or Person))
  - and ('has direct part' min 2 Obligation)



SubClass Of +

General class axioms +

SubClass Of (Anonymous Ancestor)



&lt; &gt; gistCoreX.x.x (https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/o/gistCoreX.x.x)

Search...

&gt; governs

Active ontology x Entities x Individuals by class x DL Query x

Annotation properties Datatypes Individuals

Classes Object properties Data properties

Object property hierarchy: governs

?



Asserted

owl:topObjectProperty

accepts

affects

allows

comes from place

conforms to

contains geographically

contributes to

directs

follows directly

goes to place

governs

has address

has altitude

has biological parent

has denominator

has goal

has incumbent

has magnitude

has member

has multiplicand

has multiplier

has navigational child

has navigational parent

has numerator

governs — https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/gist/governs

Annotations Usage

Annotations: governs

?

Annotations +

skos:prefLabel [type: xsd:string]

governs



skos:definition [type: xsd:string]

The subject controls or inhibits the object in some way



Characterist?

Description: governs

?

☐ Functional☐ Inverse functional☐ Transitive☐ Symmetric☐ Asymmetric☐ Reflexive☐ Irreflexive

Inverse Of +

'is governed by'



Domains (intersection) +

Intention or Organization or Person or Template



Ranges (intersection) +

Category or Content or 'Geo Region' or 'Intellectual Property' or  
Intention or Organization or Person or 'Physical Identifiable Item' or  
'Physical Substance'

&lt; &gt; gistCoreX.x.x (https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/o/gistCoreX.x.x)

Search...

&gt; name

Active ontology x Entities x Individuals by class x DL Query x

Annotation properties Datatypes Individuals

Classes Object properties Data properties

Data property hierarchy: name



Asserted

- owl:topDataProperty
  - at date time
  - contained text
  - conversion factor
  - conversion offset
  - description
  - latitude
  - longitude
  - name
  - numeric value
  - sequence
  - tag text
  - unique text
  - unit symbol
  - unit symbol HTML
  - unit symbol Unicode

name — https://ontologies.semanticarts.com/gist/name

Annotations Usage

Annotations: name



Annotations +

skos:prefLabel [type: xsd:string]

name



skos:definition [type: xsd:string]

Relates an individual to (one of) its name(s).



Characteristic:

☐ Functional

Description: name



Equivalent To +

SubProperty Of +

Domains (intersection) +

Ranges +

xsd:string



## Comparision  
### Ontologies & Notation

Let's compare ontologies and notations.

## Comparision

### Ontologies & Notation

Ontologies and notations are languages.

Both have a tendency to nudge thinking.

An ontology that is domain-netural-ish is a TL0 (top level ontology or upper ontology).

```
## Comparision  
### Notation as a Tool of Thought
```



## Comparision

### Notation as a Tool of Thought

The quantity of meaning compressed into small space by algebraic signs ... facilitates ... [reasoning]

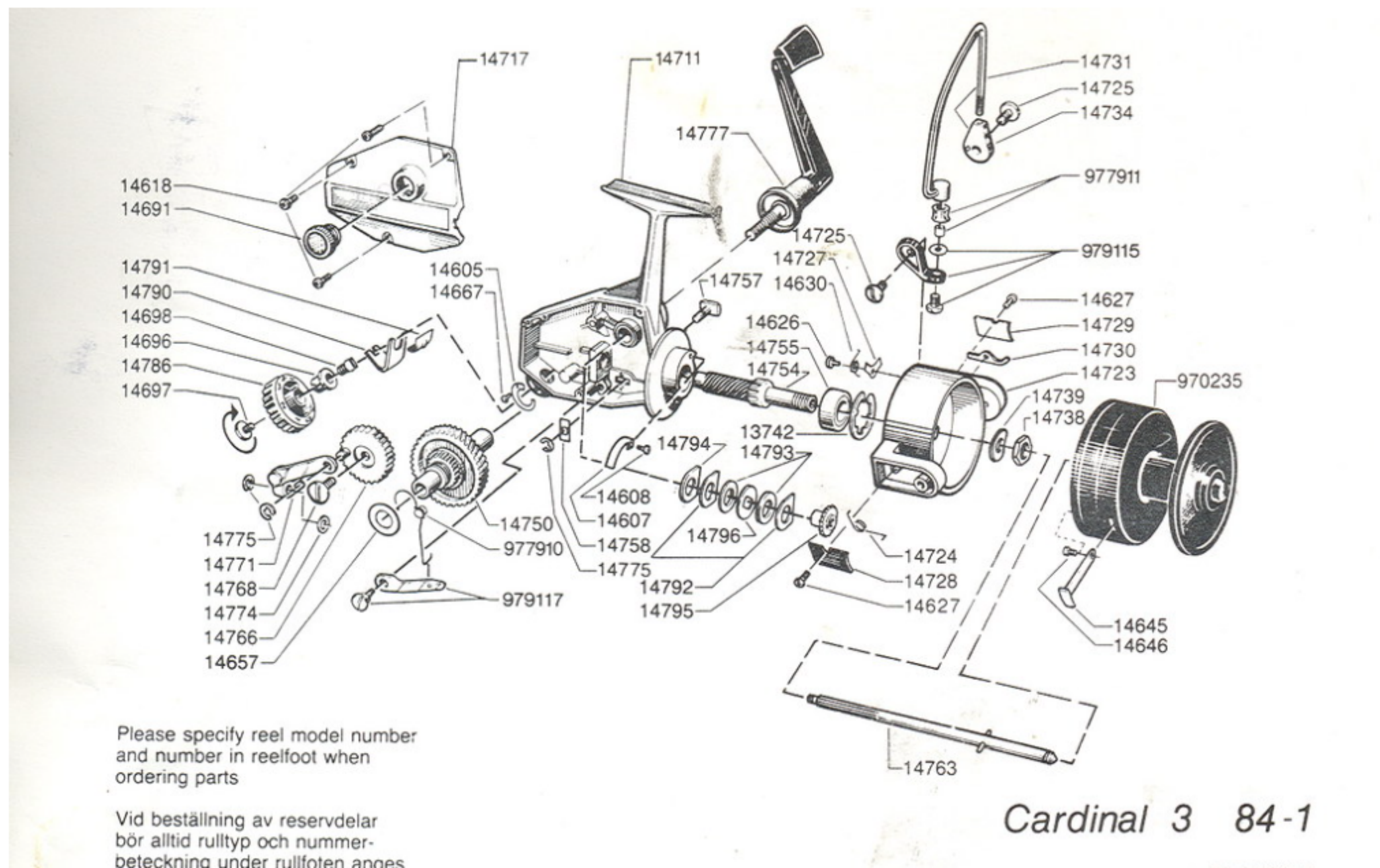
Agreement  $\equiv$  Commitment  $\sqcap$  ( $\exists$  hasParty.(Organization  $\sqcup$  Person))  $\sqcap$  ( $\geq 2$  hasDirectPart.Obligation)

Although typically we think of the use of ontologies as unpacking meaning rather than compressing it.

[exploded]([https://github.com/justin2004/weblog/tree/master/git\\_repo\\_as\\_rdf](https://github.com/justin2004/weblog/tree/master/git_repo_as_rdf))

You are encouraged (if you use a thoughtful upper ontology such as [Gist](#)) to unpack meaning.

I think of the semantic web as something like the exploded part diagram for the web's data.



# ## Comparision

## ### Notation as a Tool of Thought

[mathematical notation] lacks universality, and must be interpreted differently according to the topic, according to the author, and even according to the immediate context.

So does non-RDF data

## Comparision

### Notation as a Tool of Thought

■ [Programming languages] are ... universal ... they are also executable and unambiguous.

Non-RDF data is mostly non-executable and ambiguous UNLESS paired with a specific program.

That is, the pairing of non-RDF data with a specific program is needed to give the data meaning.

[manifesto](<http://www.datacentricmanifesto.org/>)



```
## Comparision  
### Characteristics of Notation  
### Ease of expressing constructs arising in problems.
```

Expressing APL solutions is ... easy?

It is so easy to make ad-hoc data models that it causes problems with integration, interpretation, and interrogation.

## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Suggestivity.

... the forms of the expressions arising in one set of problems suggest related expressions which find application in other problems.

e.g.  
semantic widening that moves across domains



## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Suggestivity.

Part of the suggestive power of a language resides in the ability to represent identities in brief, general, and easily remembered forms.

Why are identities important?

They are different ways of looking at the same thing.

Those different ways often have different machinery that can be brought to bear on them.

```
## Comparision  
### Characteristics of Notation  
### Suggestivity.
```

Identities...

Difference between formal definition and an identity?

```
## Comparision
### Characteristics of Notation
### Suggestivity.
```

Definition is an explicit assignment:

Agreement  $\equiv$  Commitment  $\sqcap$  ( $\exists$  hasParty.(Organization  $\sqcup$  Person))  $\sqcap$  ( $\geq 2$  hasDirectPart.Obligation)

Identity is a noteworthy consequence of the whole system (rules + assertions):

Agreement  $\equiv$  Account  $\sqcap$  ( $\exists$  hasParty.(Organization  $\sqcup$  Person))  $\sqcap$  ( $\geq 2$  hasDirectPart.Obligation)  
Agreement  $\equiv$  Contract  $\sqcap$  ( $\exists$  hasParty.(Organization  $\sqcup$  Person))  $\sqcap$  ( $\geq 2$  hasDirectPart.Obligation)  
...

## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Ability to subordinate detail.

- ... brevity facilitates reasoning. Brevity is achieved by subordinating detail

- three important ways of doing this:

- - the use of arrays

Because of scalar/rank extension and "since functions defined on vectors are extended systematically to arrays of higher rank."

Scalar/rank extension is a way to allow underspecification.

Erring on the side of underspecification is desireable (and often more honest) with RDF.

## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Ability to subordinate detail.

■ - the assignment of names to functions and variables

In RDF we mint URIs to stand for things.

Primitives, defined by the ontology, also get URIs.

```
## Comparision  
### Characteristics of Notation  
### Ability to subordinate detail.
```

```
    | - and the use of operators.
```

Maybe OWL?

OWL is an ontology for building ontologies.



# ## Comparision

## ### Characteristics of Notation

### ### Ability to subordinate detail.

- Economy.

- The utility of a language as a tool of thought increases with the range of topics it can treat, but decreases with the amount of vocabulary and the complexity of grammatical rules which the user must keep in mind.

Topics: An ideal TL0 is domain neutral ("covers" any topic).

Vocabulary: The number of primitives in an ideal TL0 is low (dozens of each: classes, object properties, datatype properties, and individuals)

Rules: Building a TL0 and building with/upon a TL0's primitives is done with OWL:

- owl:inverseOf, owl:intersectionOf, owl:unionOf, owl:oneOf, owl:Restriction, owl:(min/max)cardinality, rdfs:subClassOf, owl:equivalentClass, owl:disjointWith, rdfs:subPropertyOf, owl:propertyChainAxiom, owl:FunctionalProperty, etc.

```
## Comparision
### Characteristics of Notation
### Ability to subordinate detail.
```

Economy...

- A significant economy of symbols, as opposed to economy of functions ...

Monadic/dyadic overloading of symbols: is like what in RDF?  
It is similar to object properties that don't specify domain/range.

In APL a symbol can be neutral with respect to arity.  
In RDF object properies can be neutral with respect to subject and object types.

## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Ability to subordinate detail.

e.g. `gist:produces`

"The subject creates the object."

```turtle

:task4 a gist:Task .

:task4 gist:produces :building8 .

:building8 a gist:Building .

```

```turtle

:equipment2 a gist:Equipment .

:equipment2 gist:produces :cuttingEvent9 .

:cuttingEvent9 a gist:Event .

:cuttingEvent9 gist:isCategorizedBy :Cutting .

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[pres] 0:vim\* 2:gnome-screenshot-

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## Comparision

### Characteristics of Notation

### Ability to subordinate detail.

■ - Amenability to formal proofs.

RDFS/OWL Reasoners:

- logical consequences (entailment)
  - explainability
- consistency
- satisfiable

```
## APL: the execution  
### Tools
```

Briefly

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[pres] 0:vim\* 2:gnome-screenshot-

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## APL: the execution

### Tools

### [April](<https://github.com/phantomics/april>)

- What is it
- Why
- How it's implemented
- How to use it
- How I discovered 180 bugs

### [May](<https://github.com/justin2004/may>)

- What is it
- Why
- How to use it