

# Context-adaptation based on Ontologies and Spreading Activation



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# Context Adaptation in Spreadr

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Spreadr application at <http://spreadr.interactivesystems.info/spreadr/list.html?id=Shop>. The page is titled "SPREADR SPREADING ACTIVATION DRIVEN REASONING".

**Left Sidebar (LOGIN):**

- Welcome, Tim Hussein
- Logout
- Current Session: 033FA24EBB6FF9A99017722

**NAVIGATION:**

- Home
- Artists
- Persons
- DVDs
- CDs
- Singles
- Books
- Games
- Bars
- Shops
- Venues
- Concerts

**NEWSFEEDS:**

- Heise News
- Spiegel Online

**Shop Recommendations:**

Based on the current context and your previous behavior SPREADR thinks that these items from the category Shop could be interesting for you:

- Mueller**  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut ...
- Yeah Records**  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut ...
- Amazon**  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut ...

**Overview:**

Of course you can choose a different item from the category Shop:

- Amazon
- EMP Merchandising
- InsideOut Shop
- Chart Beat Music
- Garageland
- Hole Records
- Humpty Records Recordstore
- Mueller

**Right Sidebar (EMPFEHLUNGEN):**

- Pub: Cafe Novi
- Retail Shop: Mueller
- Retail Shop: Yeah Records
- Venue: Turock
- Venue: Philipshalle
- Venue: Pulp
- Venue: Columbiahalle
- Venue: LTU-Arena
- Concert: Pearl Jam - ISS Dome, Düsseldorf
- Concert: Genesis - Arena, Düsseldorf

**Annotations:**

- A green callout points to the "Shop Recommendations" section with the text: "Most relevant items inside this category".
- A green callout points to the "Overview" section with the text: "Adaptive integration of newsfeeds (planned)".
- A green callout points to the "EMPFEHLUNGEN" sidebar with the text: "Pubs near my location".
- A green callout points to the "EMPFEHLUNGEN" sidebar with the text: "Concerts related to my interests near my location".

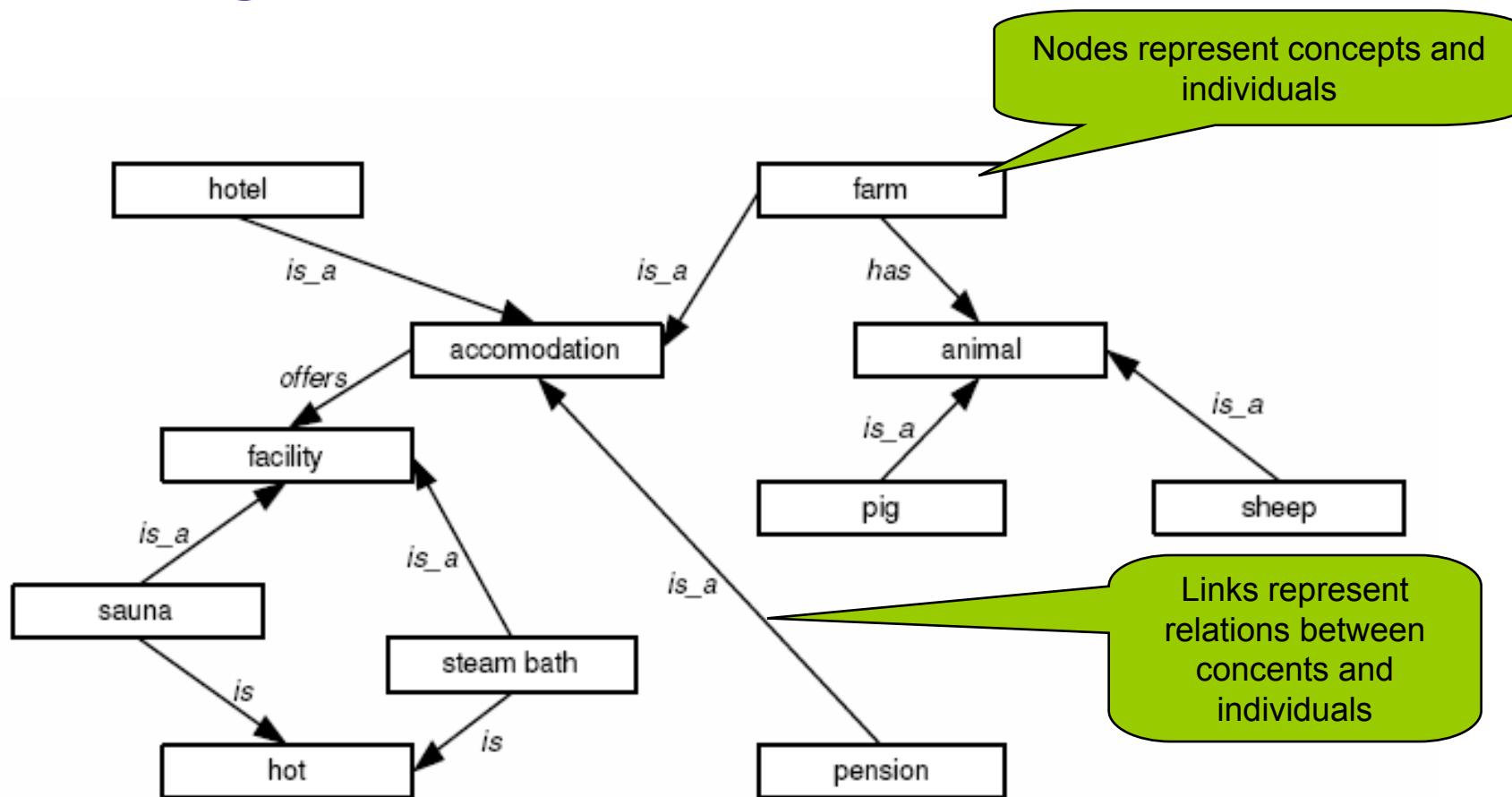
# Idea behind Spreadr

- **Model based approach:**
  - A domain ontology is used to store structural information about the domain items
  - Items semantically linked to each other
- Each item has a certain **activation value** from [0...1]
- Categories and items with higher activation values are **more important**
- **Spreading Activation** is used to modify the activation values

# Technical Background

- **Spring Framework**
  - Flexible Java-Framework for (Web-)Applicationen
- **JSP and Struts Tiles** for the view-components
- **OWL** (Web Ontology Language) for the specific models  
(domain.owl, time.owl,...)
- **JENA**
  - Java framework for building Semantic Web applications based on RDF, OWL,...

# Ontologies



**Basic idea behind Spreading Activation:** If one node is being selected, activate it and spread the activation within the network so that semantically related nodes are also activated.

# Model aggregation

Models are created  
independently from each other  
(for purposes of clarity)

domain.owl

time.owl

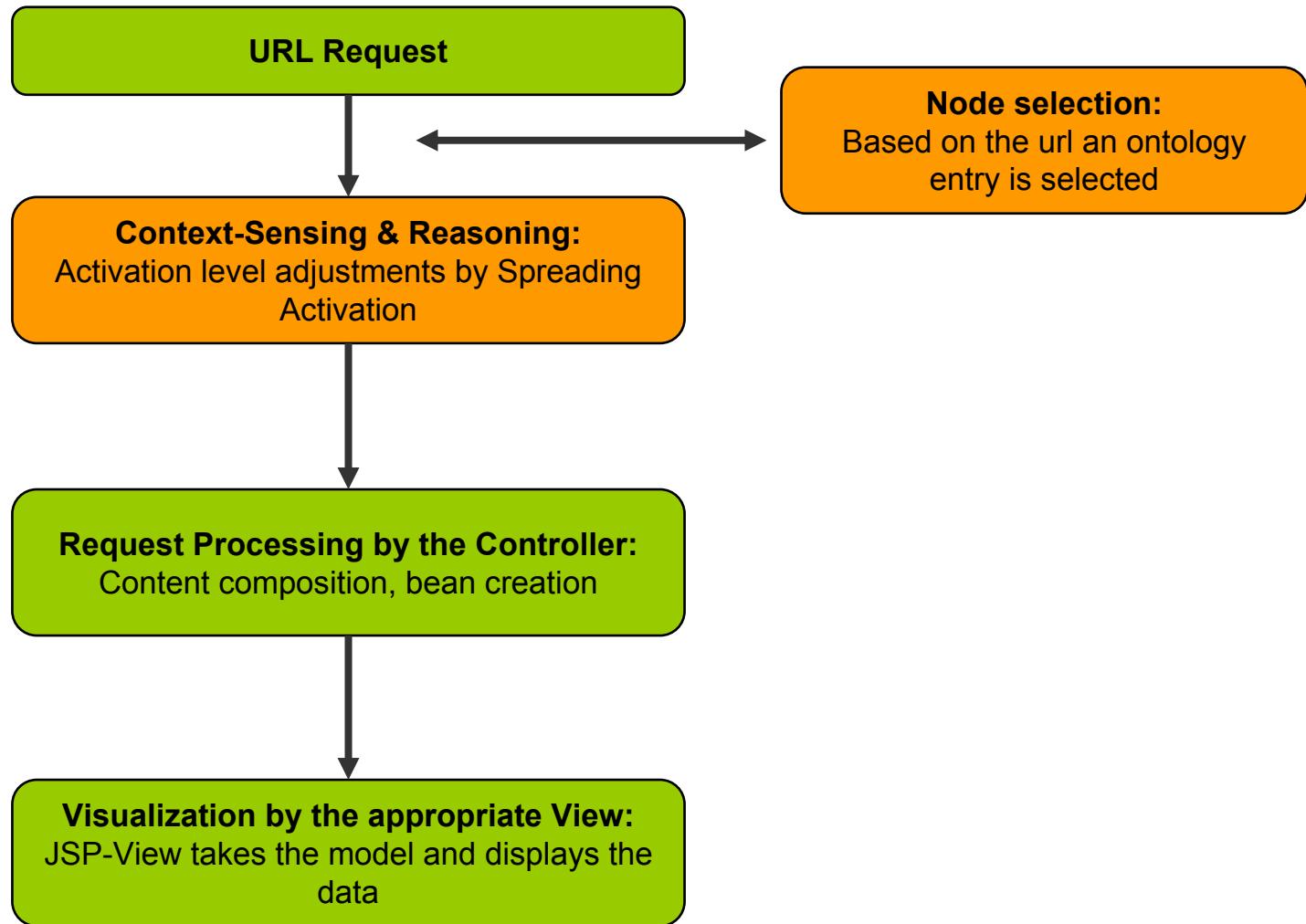
Spreading Activation Network

location.owl

contextrelations.owl

It is possible to integrate other  
models (device.owl, user.owl,...)

# Response generation in SPREADR

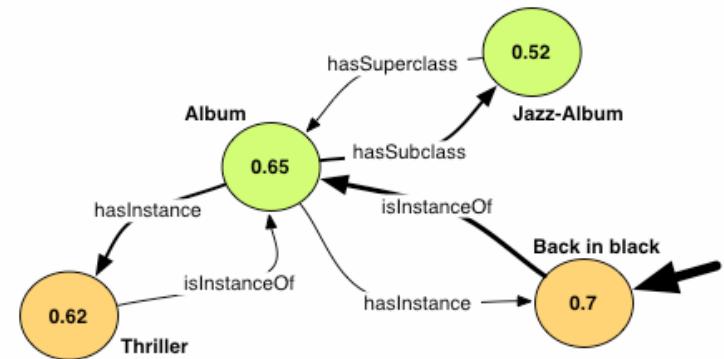
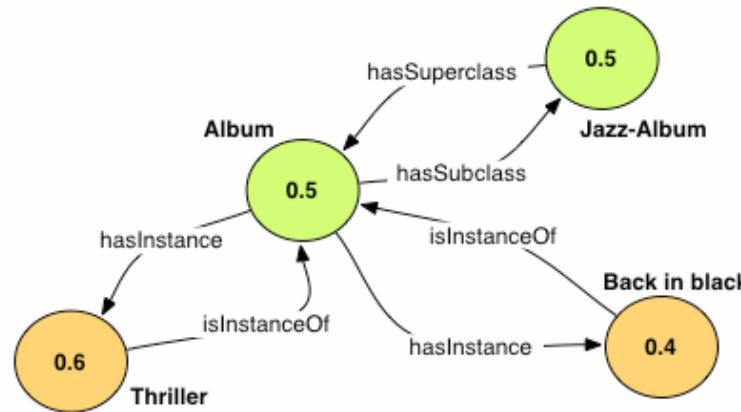


# Context sensing

- **Context factors** are being recognized, e.g.:
  - The current **location** (location context)
  - The current **time** (time context)
  - The current **item** that has been selected (domain context)
- The appropriate **nodes are activated** in the Spreading Activation Network.
- These nodes are now activated with a certain value and spread their activation to semantically related nodes.

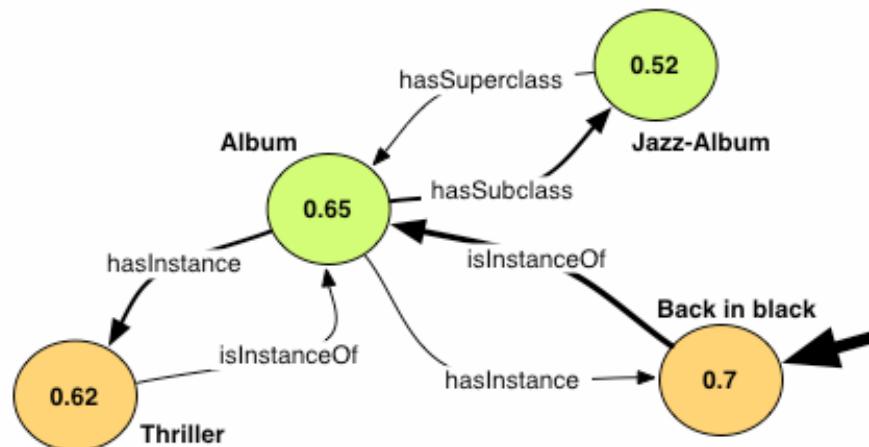
# Spread of activation (1)

- After activating initial nodes their activation is being spread within the network



# Spread of activation (2)

1. Put the initial nodes into a processing queue
  - i. Take the node with the highest activation gain
  - ii. Spread the activation (attenuated) to all neighbors
  - iii. Mark the node as „processed“
  - iv. Put new activated nodes into the queue (if not already „processed“)
  - v. Check terminating condition
  - vi. Go to i.



# Constraints and Termination Conditions

- The **Spreading Activation** can be **constrained** by:
  - **Distance:** Don't activate nodes that are too far away from the initial nodes.
  - **Fan-Out:** Don't process nodes with more than k relations (too less specific nodes).
  - **Type:** Only spread through certain types of nodes and relations.
  - **Activation:** Only spread activation when it is above a certain threshold.
- The **Spreading Activation** will be **terminated** when:
  - The processing queue is empty
  - A predefined time limit has exceeded
  - A predefined number of processed nodes has exceeded

# Spreading Activation in SPREADR

- Creation and manipulation of individualized user profiles as a foundation for he adaptation effects
- When a fresh session starts a SpreadAc network is being created from the ontologies
  - All SpreadAc networks are **identical in structure**
  - **Activation levels** (of the nodes) and **weights** (of the edges) individualize the SpreadAc networks
- Ranking and selection of concepts and individuals is based on activation level.

# Learning in SPREADR

- Each relation has a certain **weight**.
- A high weight means that a relation is very **important**.
- The **higher** the relation weight, the **more activation** is transferred via that relation.
- If a recommendation is **accepted** by the user (by clicking on that item) **the paths that transported activation** to that node in the recent time are **amplified**.
- If a recommendation is ignored the paths are slightly **attenuated**.

# Thank you for your attention

<http://spreadr.interactivesystems.info/spreadr/list.html?id=Shop>

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**Center Content:**

### Shop Recommendations

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