

# Applied **Ontology** & Conceptual **Modeling**

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Educational Series on  
Applied Ontology (ESAO)  
Launch Event, September, 2021

Giancarlo Guizzardi



Freie Universität Bozen  
Libera Università di Bolzano  
Università Lìedia de Bulsan

**UNIVERSITEIT  
TWENTE.**

# Acknowledgements

- Nicola Guarino
- João Paulo Almeida
- Ricardo Falbo (in memoriam)
- Tiago Sales
- Claudenir Fonseca
- John Mylopoulos
- Daniele Porello
- Alessander Botti
- Mattia Fumagalli

“Conceptual Modeling is the activity of **representing the** physical or social **world for** the purposes of communication, problem-solving and meaning negotiation among **humans**”

**(Guarino, Mylopoulos & Guizzardi, 2020)**

**Philosophical Foundations for Conceptual Modeling**

# Conceptual Model



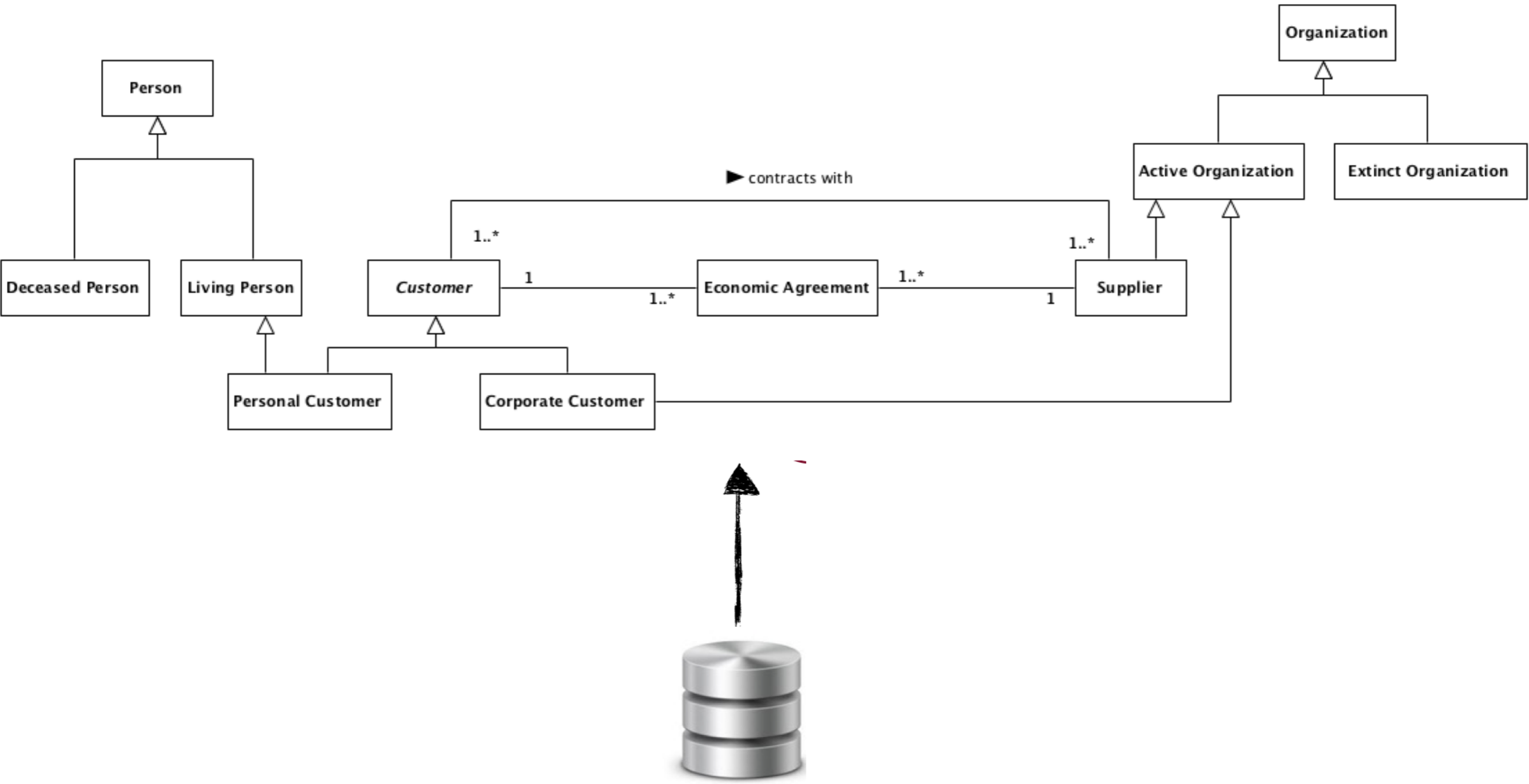
Interface between Reality  
and Cognition



# Conceptual Modeling

≠

Commitment to **Conceptualism**  
or Representation of **Epistemic**  
Issues



# Another look at data

by GEORGE H. MEALY  
*Computer Consultant*  
Scituate, Massachusetts

## INTRODUCTION

particular ontology, we can avoid a quarrel by adopt-

*“data are fragments of a **theory of the real world**,  
and data processing juggles **representations of**  
these fragments of theory...”*

them in a somewhat new form may prove to be at least suggestive.

To begin on a philosophical plane, let us note that we usually behave as if there were three realms of interest in data processing: the real world itself, ideas about it existing in the minds of men, and symbols on paper or some other storage medium. The lat-

*Toward a theory of data*

### **Relations**

To fix our ideas, consider the following example of genealogical data, taken from Reference 2:

# Another look at data

by GEORGE H. MEALY  
*Computer Consultant*  
Scituate, Massachusetts

## INTRODUCTION

particular ontology, we can avoid a quarrel by adopt-

*“data are fragments of a theory of the real world, and data processing juggles representations of these fragments of theory... **The issue is ontology, or the question of what exists.**”*

them in a somewhat new form may prove to be at least suggestive.

To begin on a philosophical plane, let us note that we usually behave as if there were three realms of interest in data processing: the real world itself, ideas about it existing in the minds of men, and symbols on paper or some other storage medium. The lat-

*Toward a theory of data*

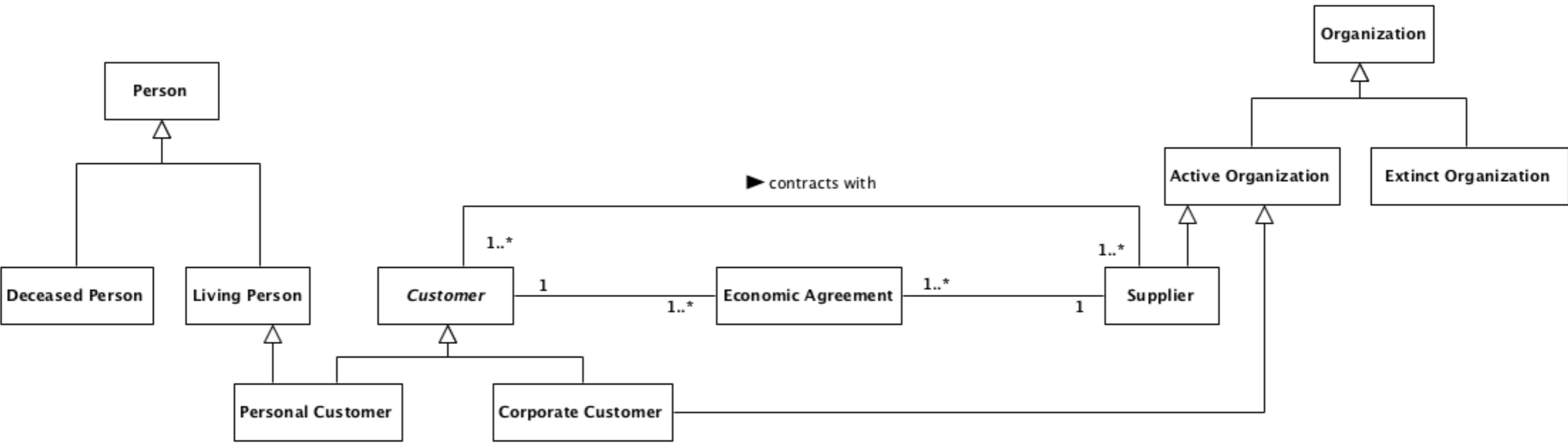
### **Relations**

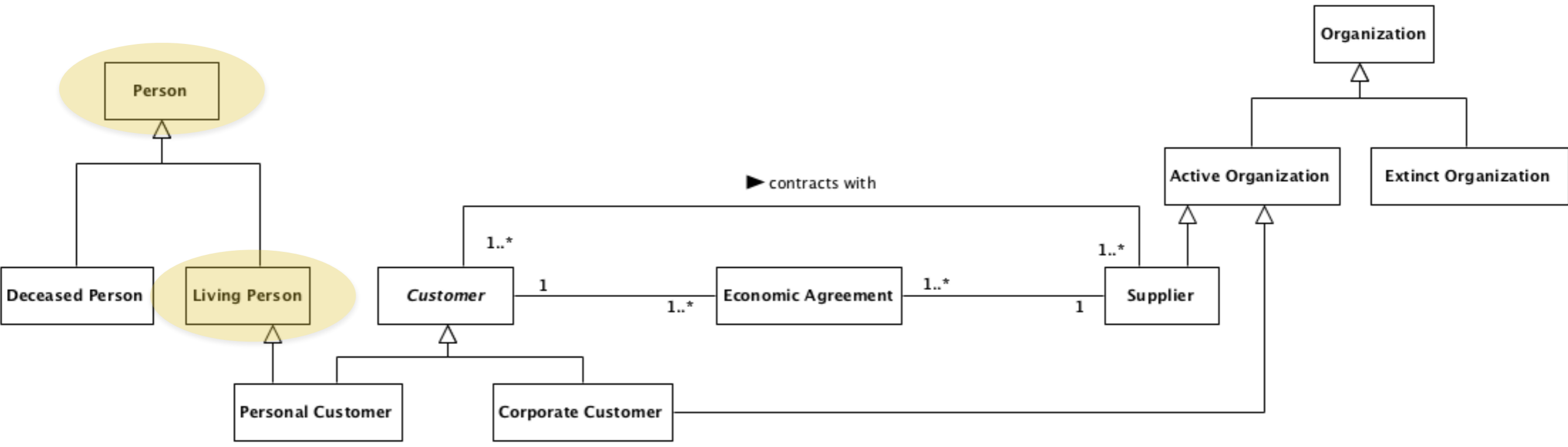
To fix our ideas, consider the following example of genealogical data, taken from Reference 2:

The opposite of Ontology  
is not Non-Ontology is  
Bad Ontology!

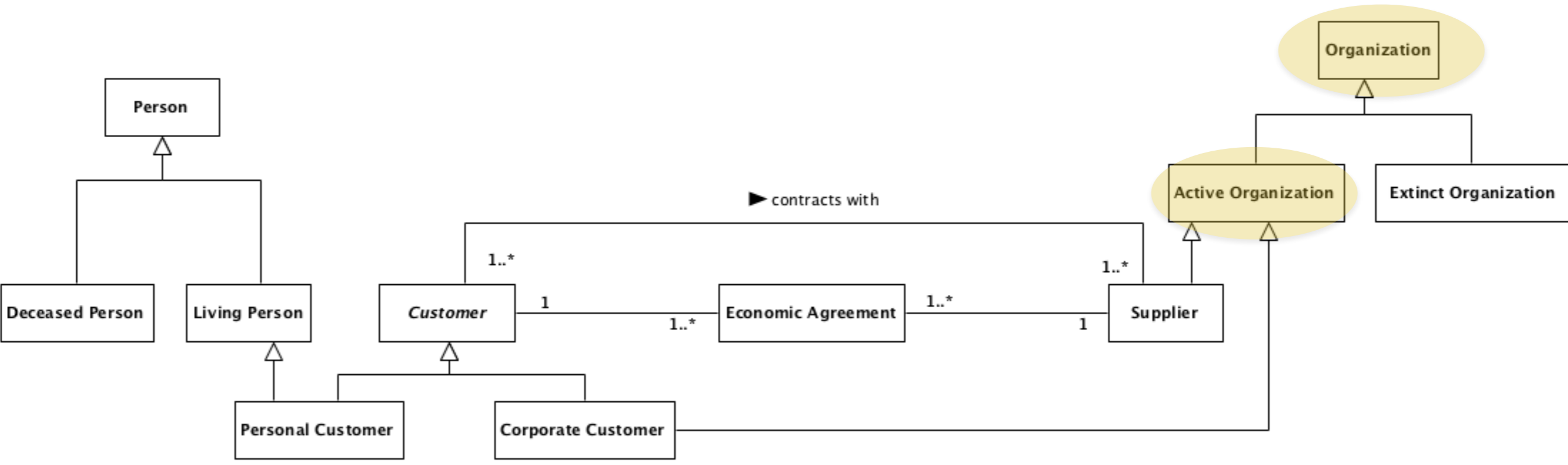
# ontology $\approx$

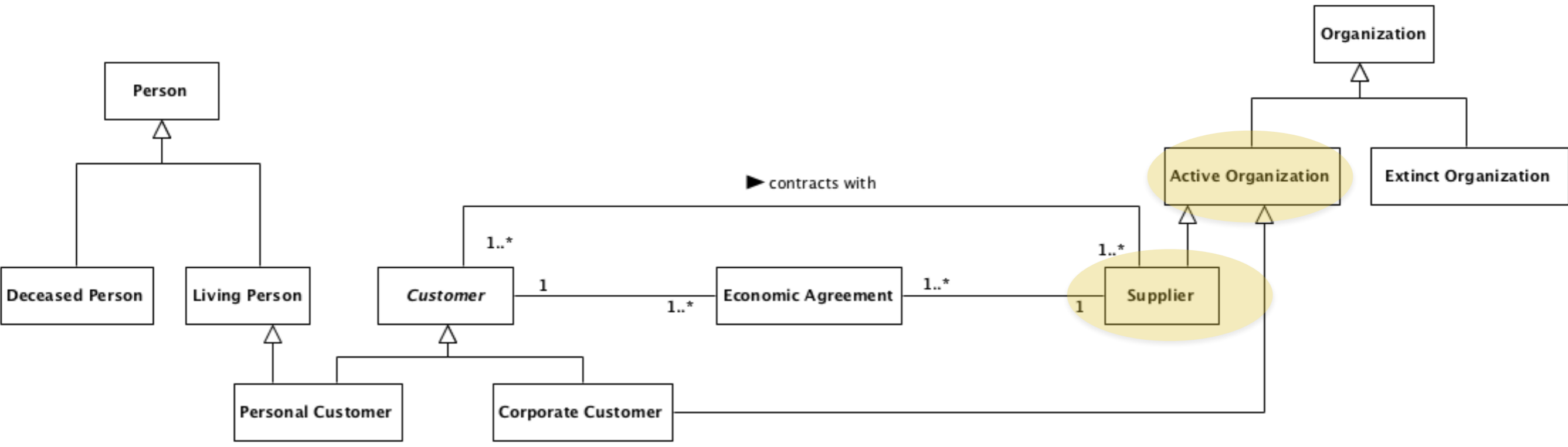
A theory about the kinds of entities and their ties that are assumed to exist by an given description of reality

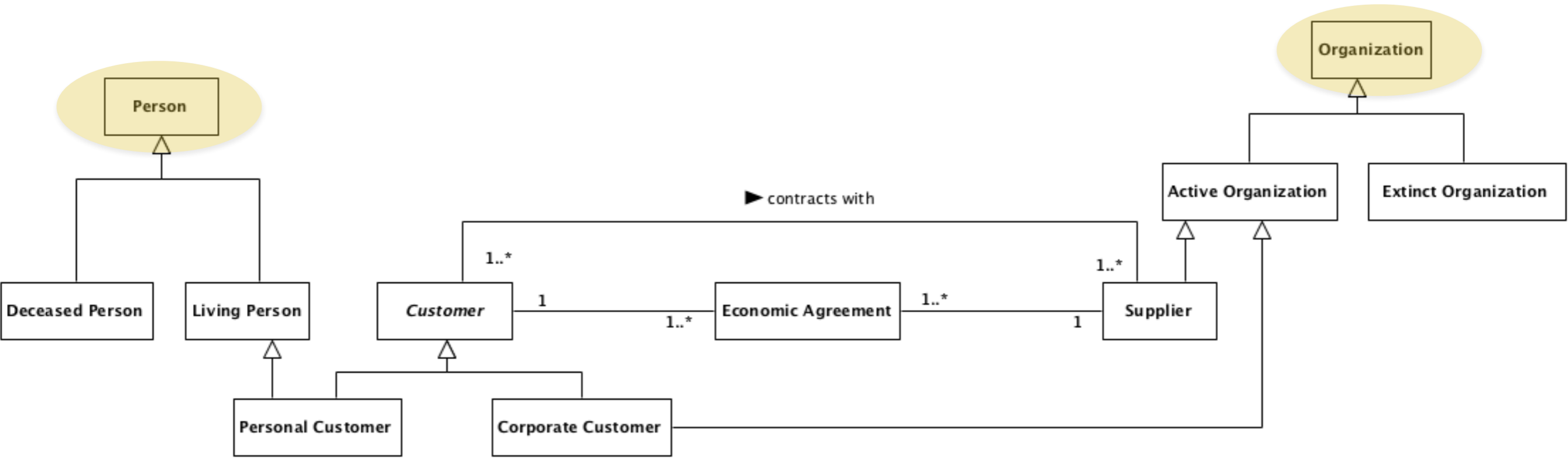


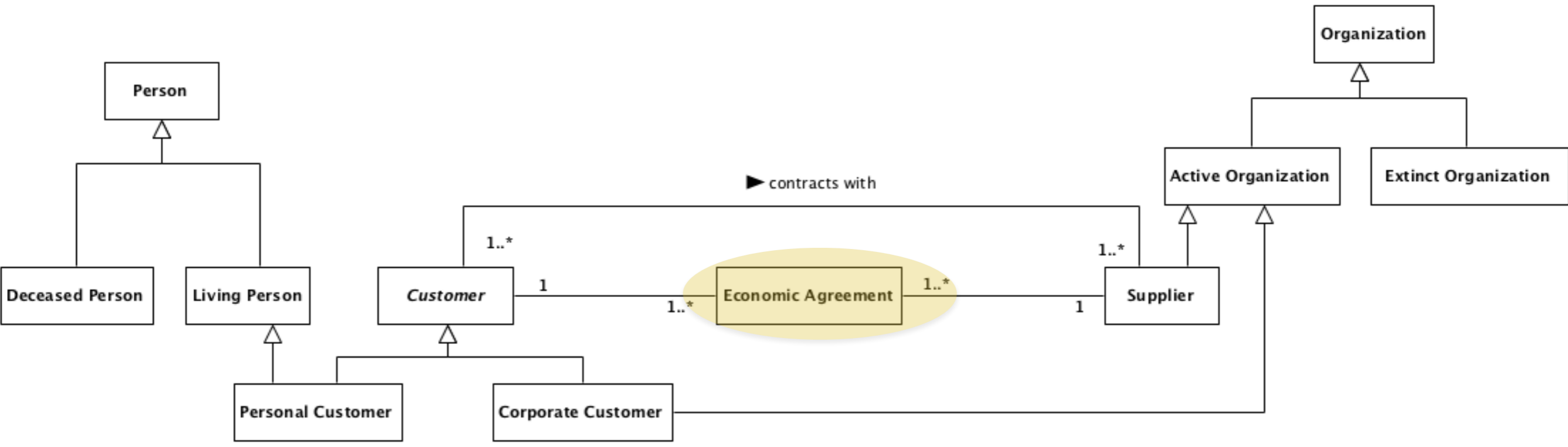


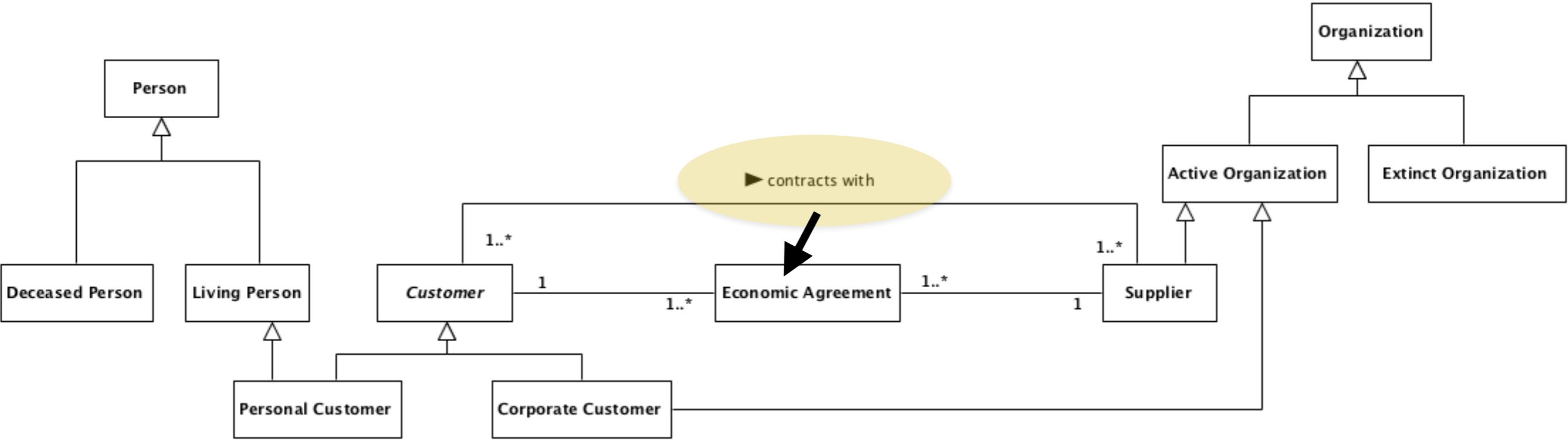












Why is this **important**?

# Conceptual Model



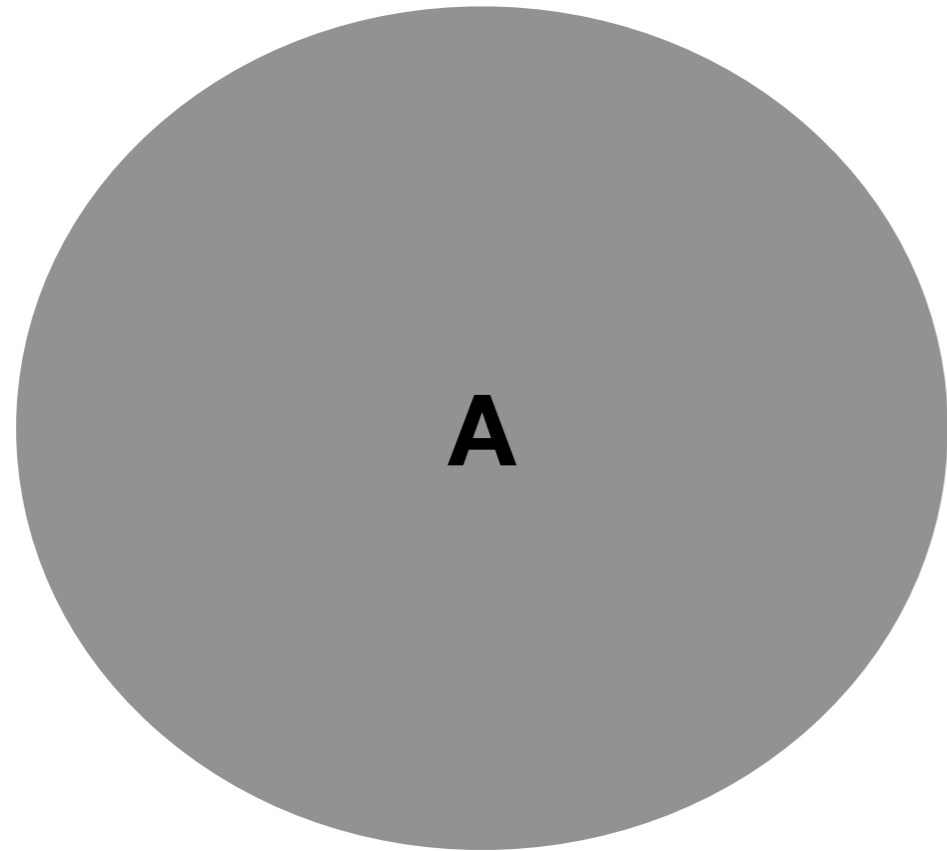
**Meaning Contract**  
representing a worldview

**Verification = “Did we  
build the model right?”**

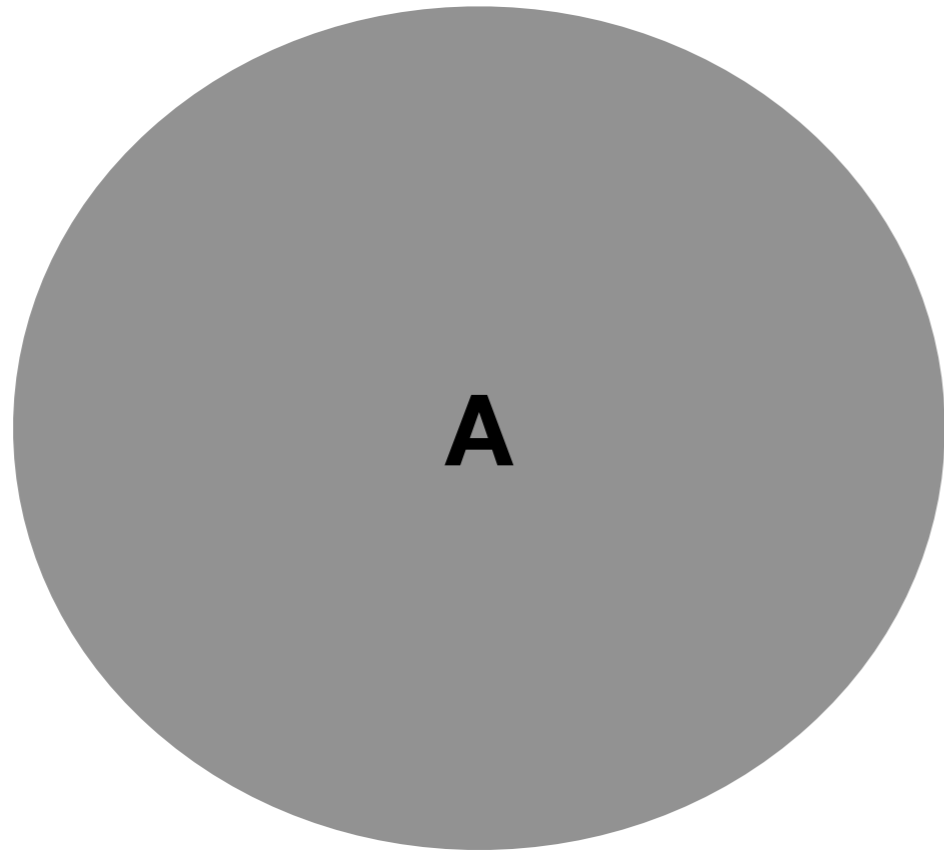
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**Validation = “Did we build  
the right model?”**

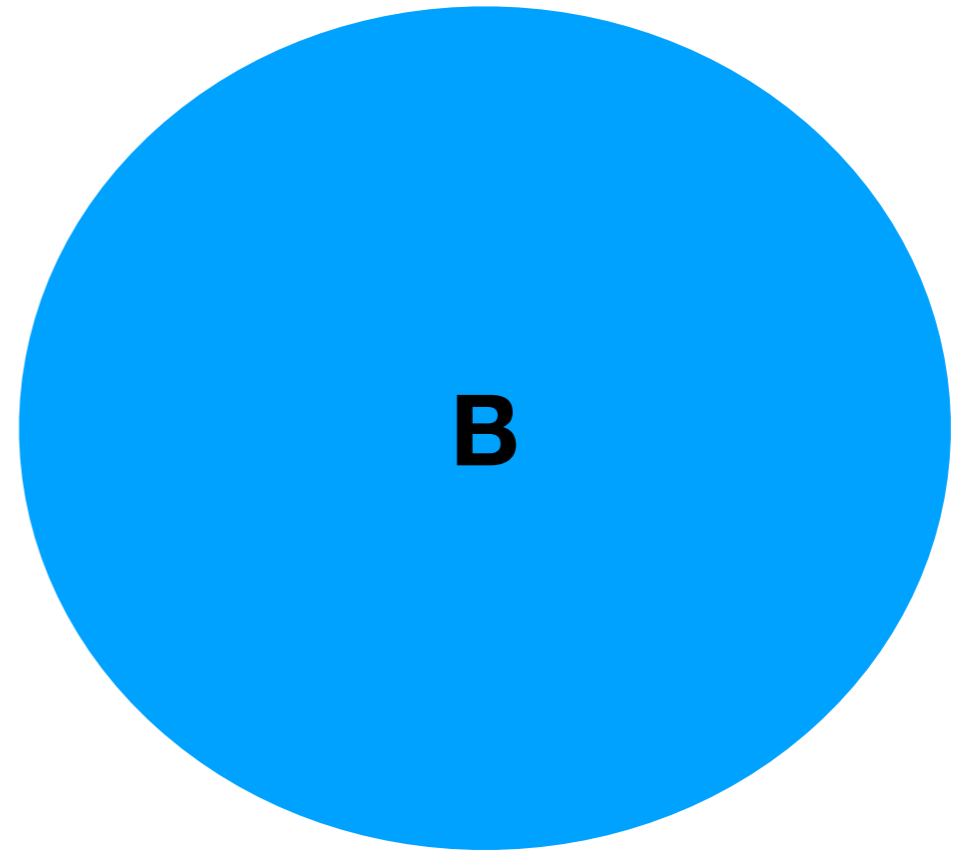




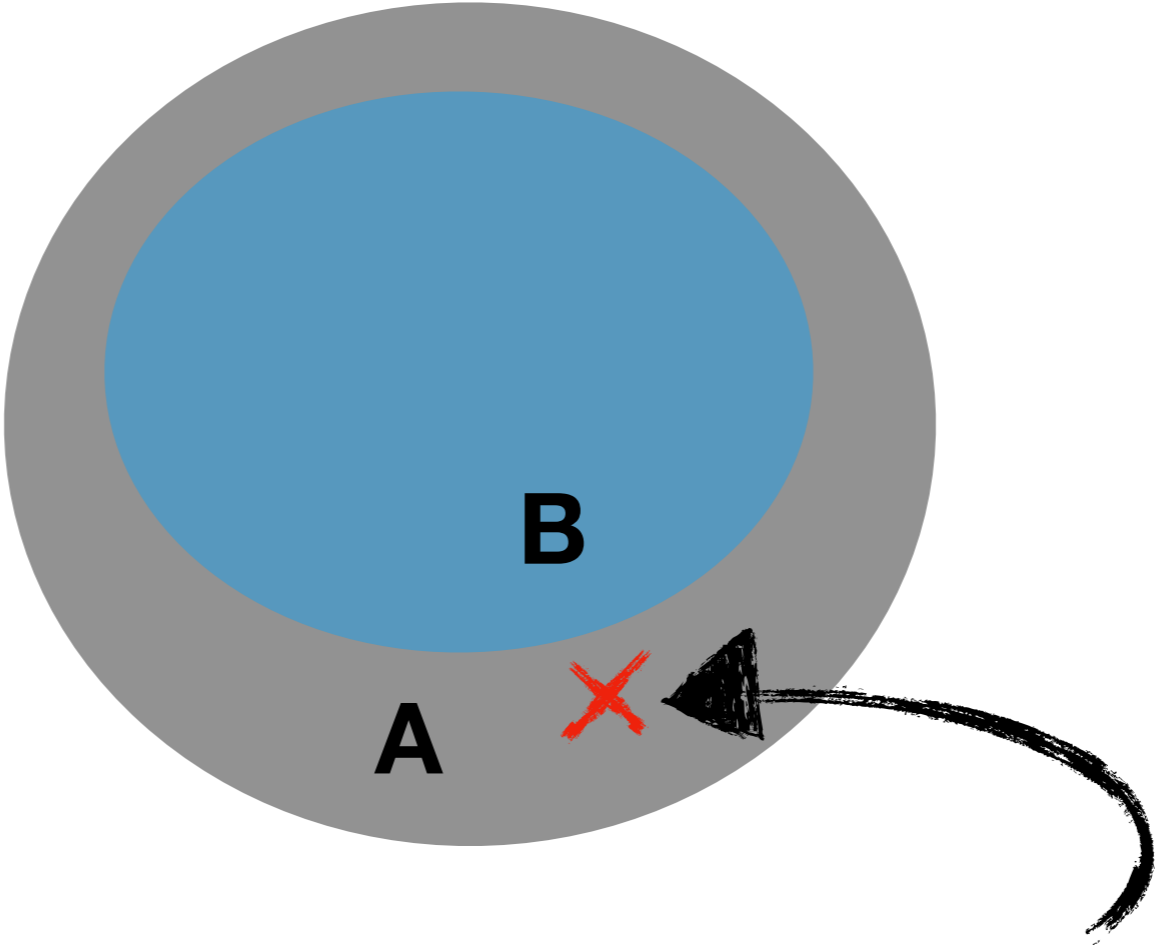
**Possible  
Interpretations  
of a  
Model**



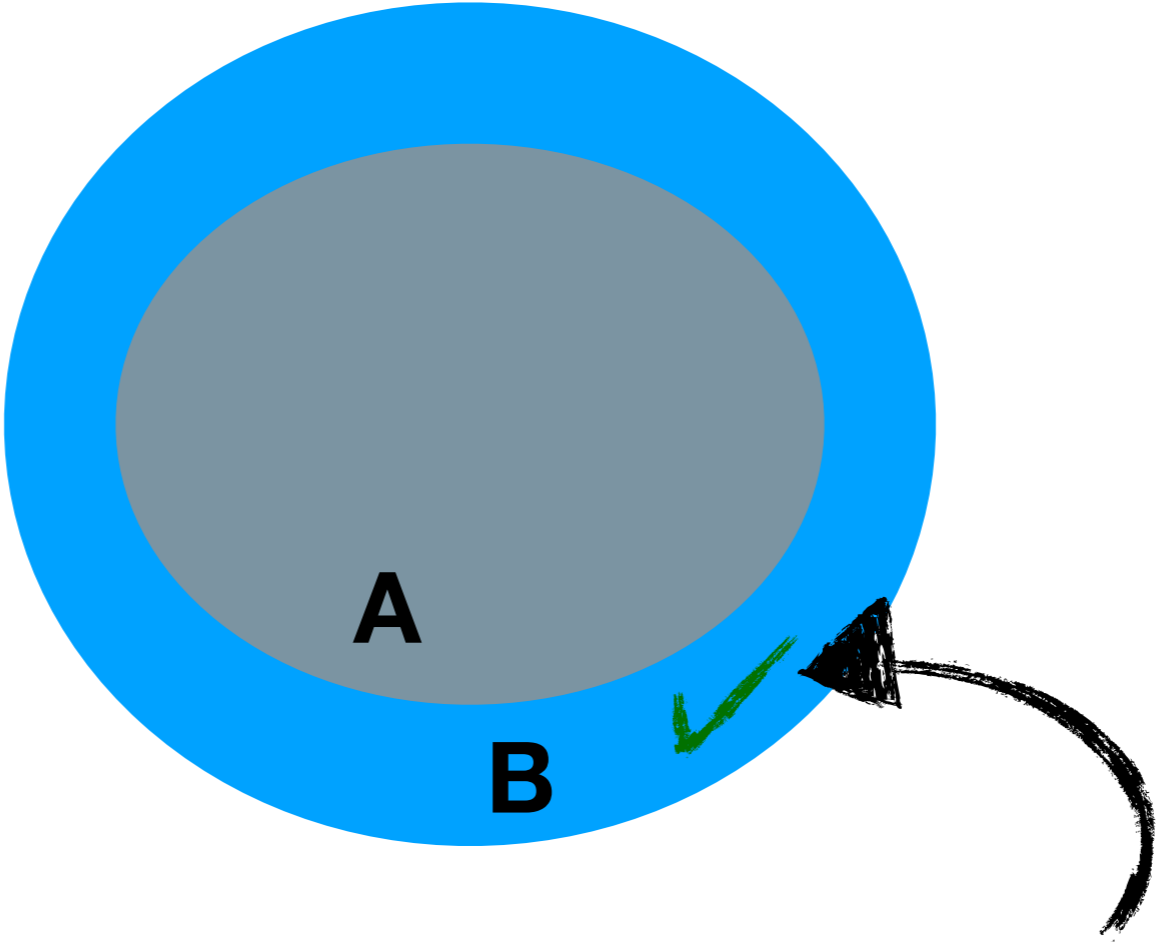
**Possible  
Interpretations  
of a  
Model**



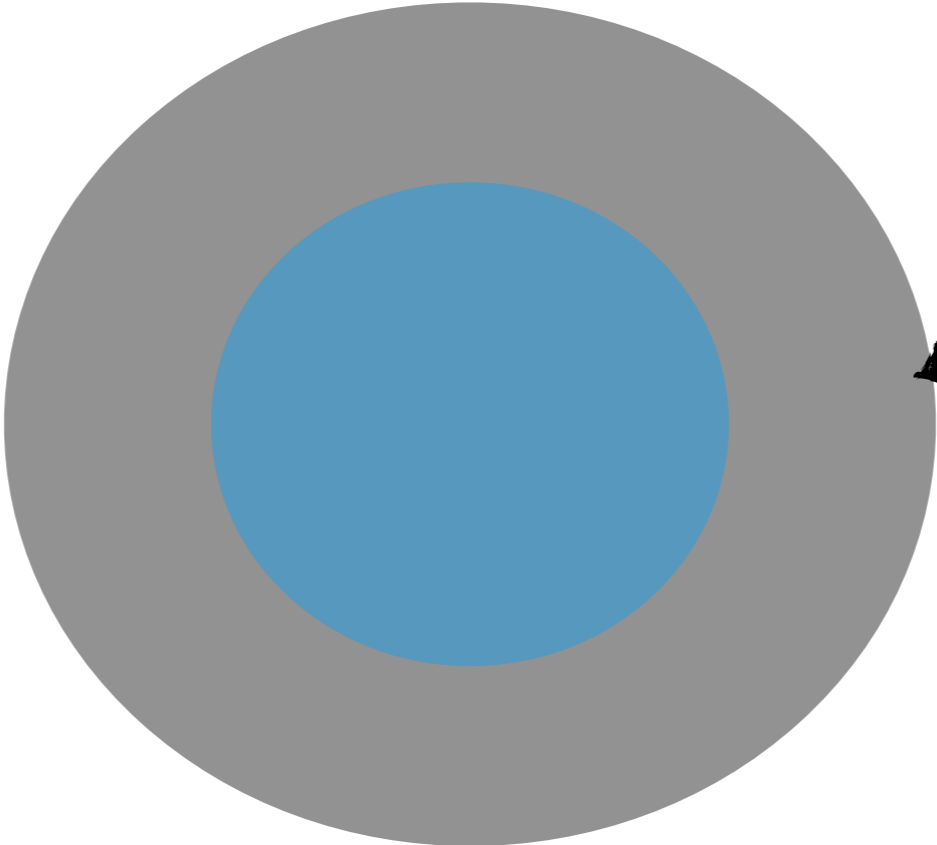
**Intended  
Interpretations  
of that  
Model**



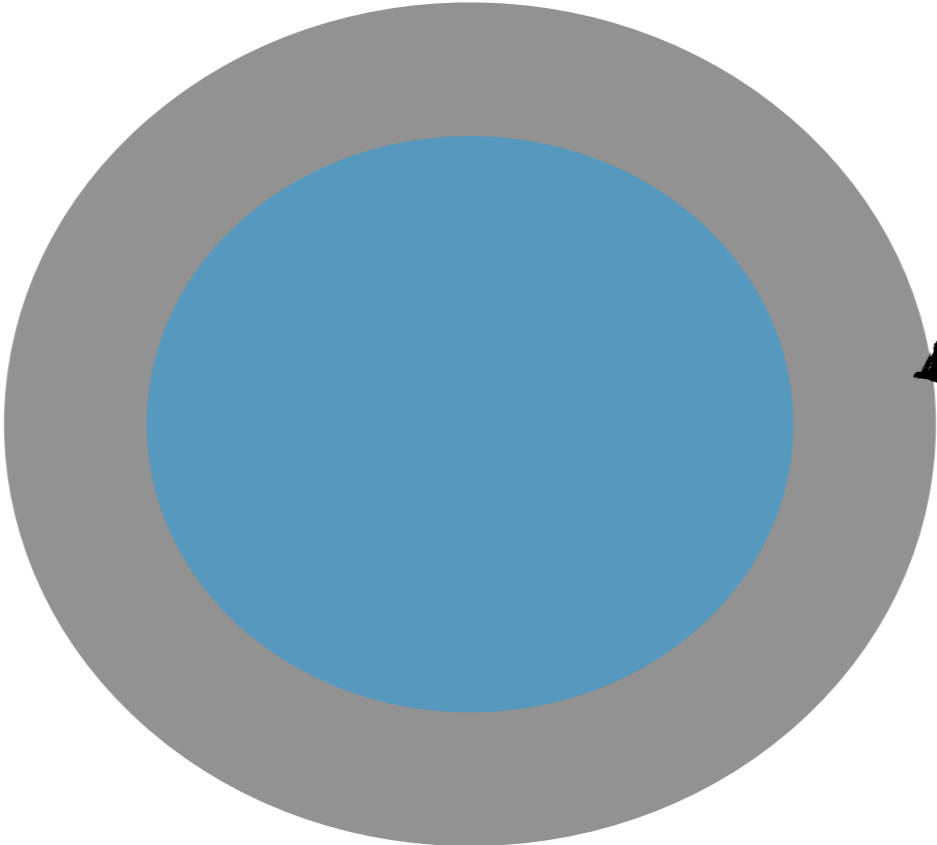
**Under-constrained  
Model**



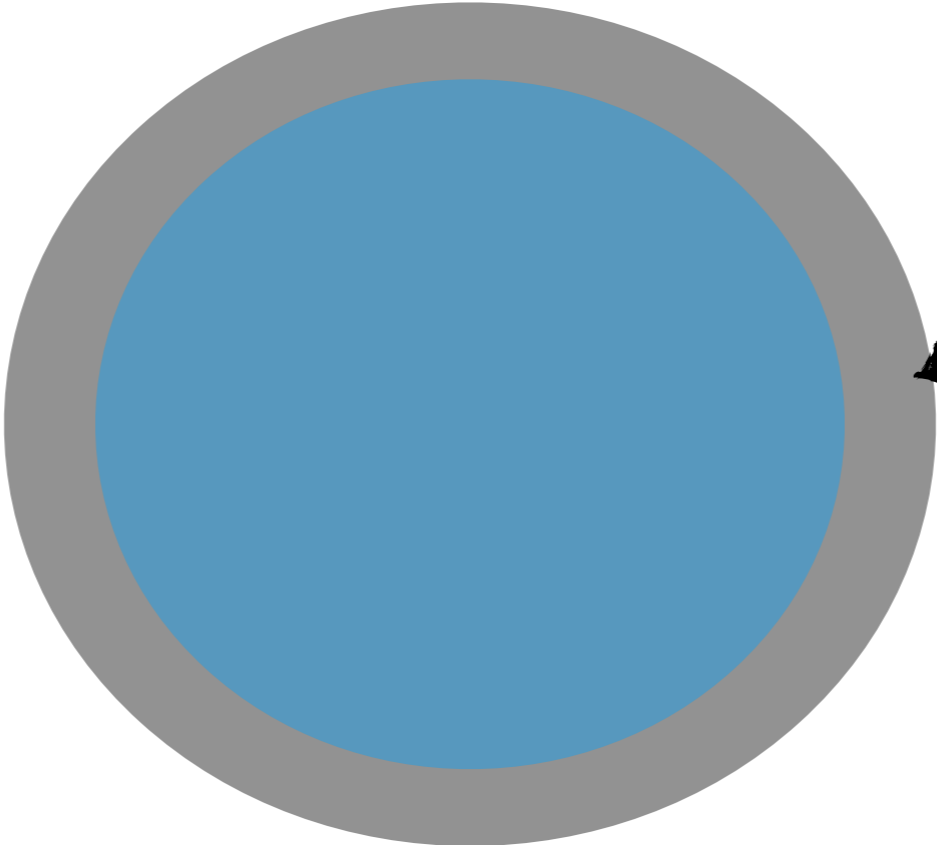
**Over-constrained  
Model**



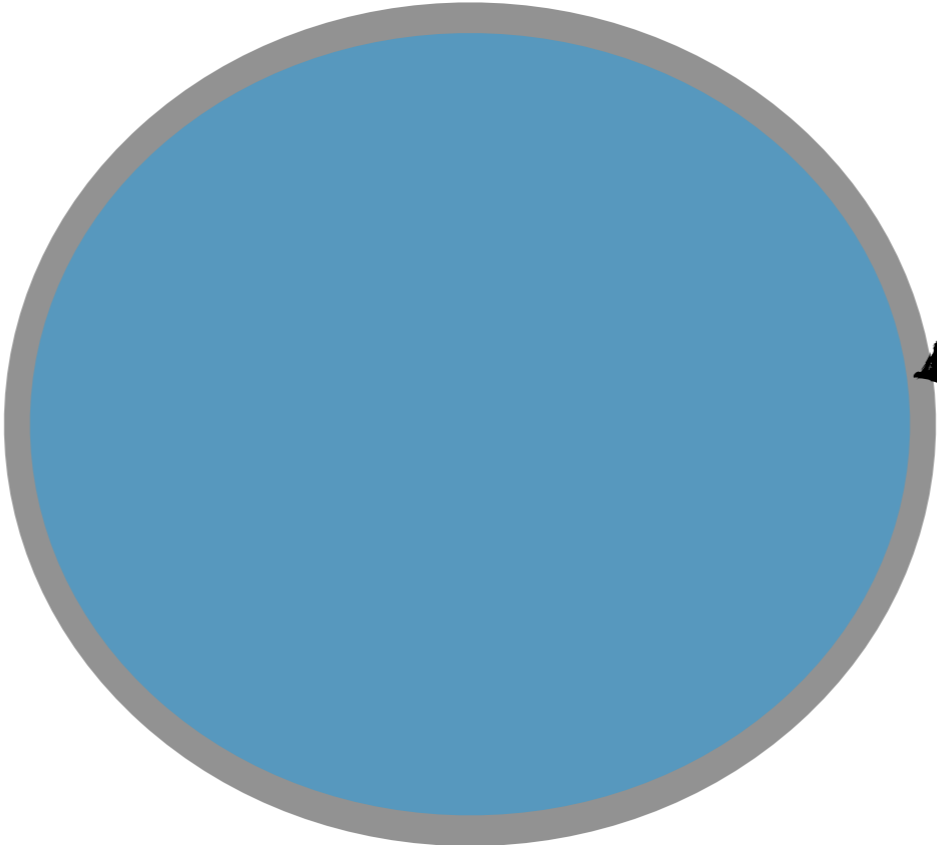
**Constraints**



**Constraints**

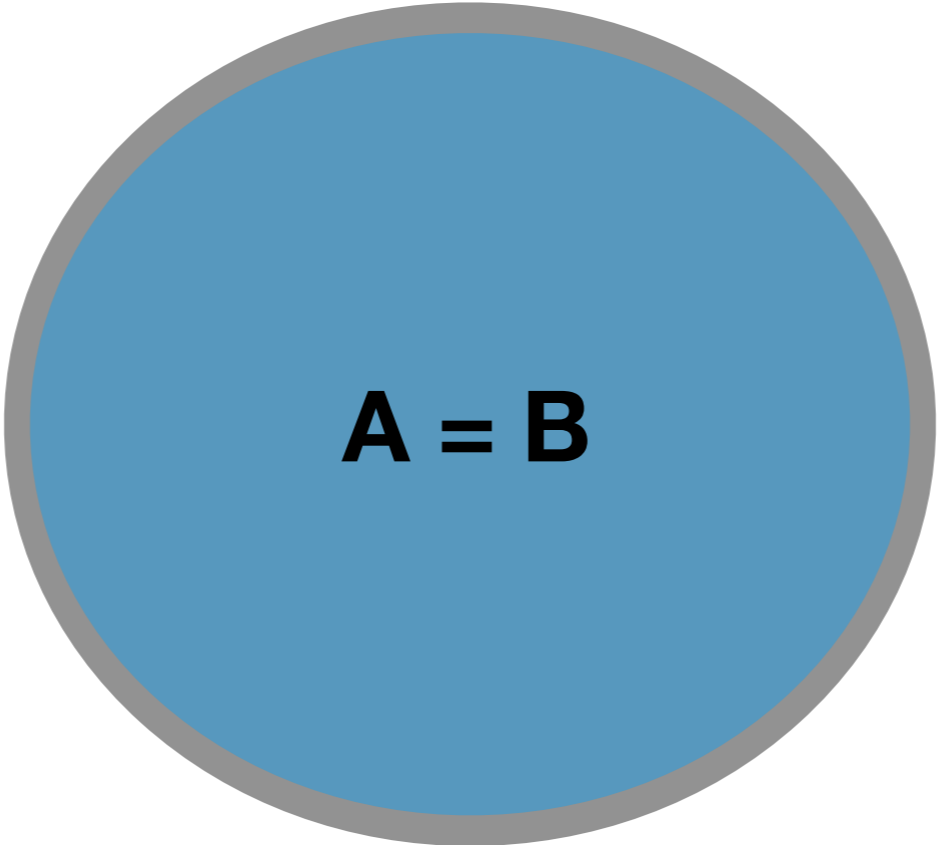


**Constraints**

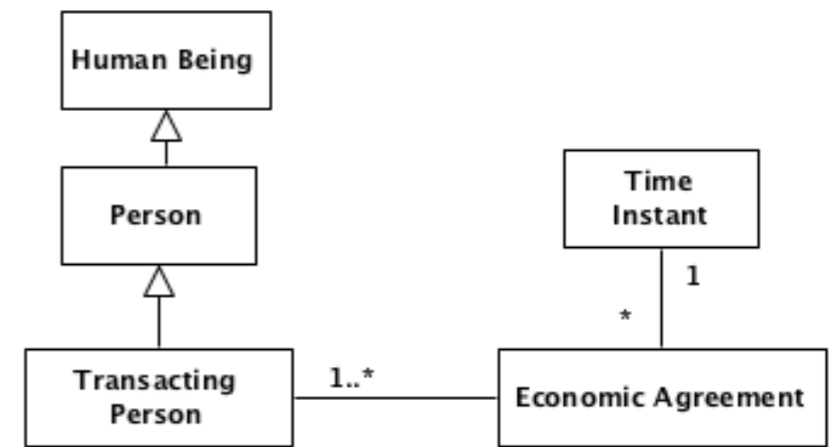
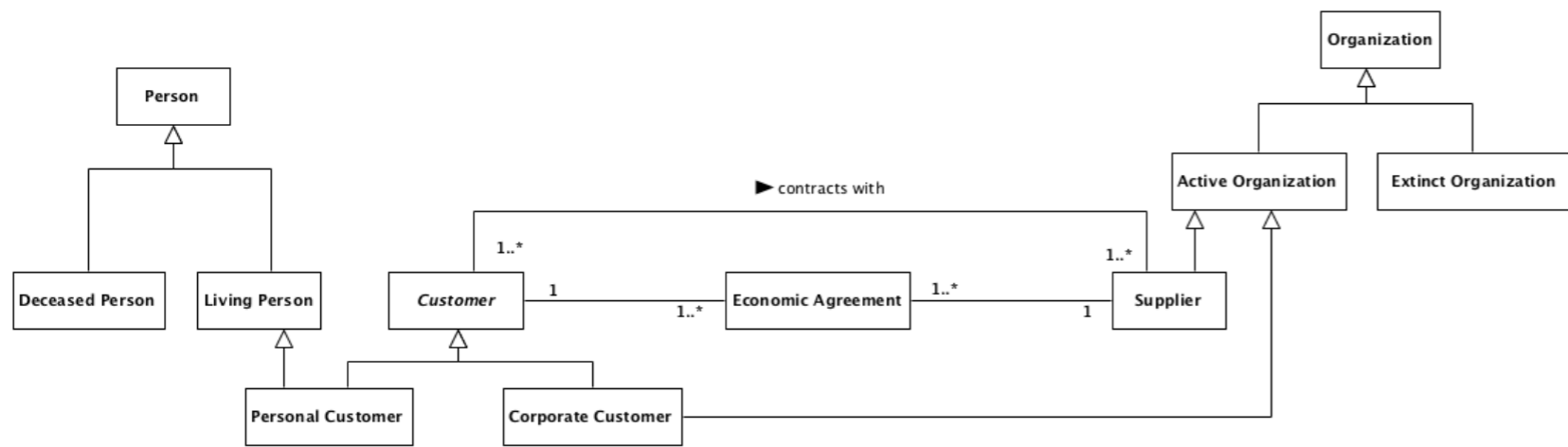


**Constraints**

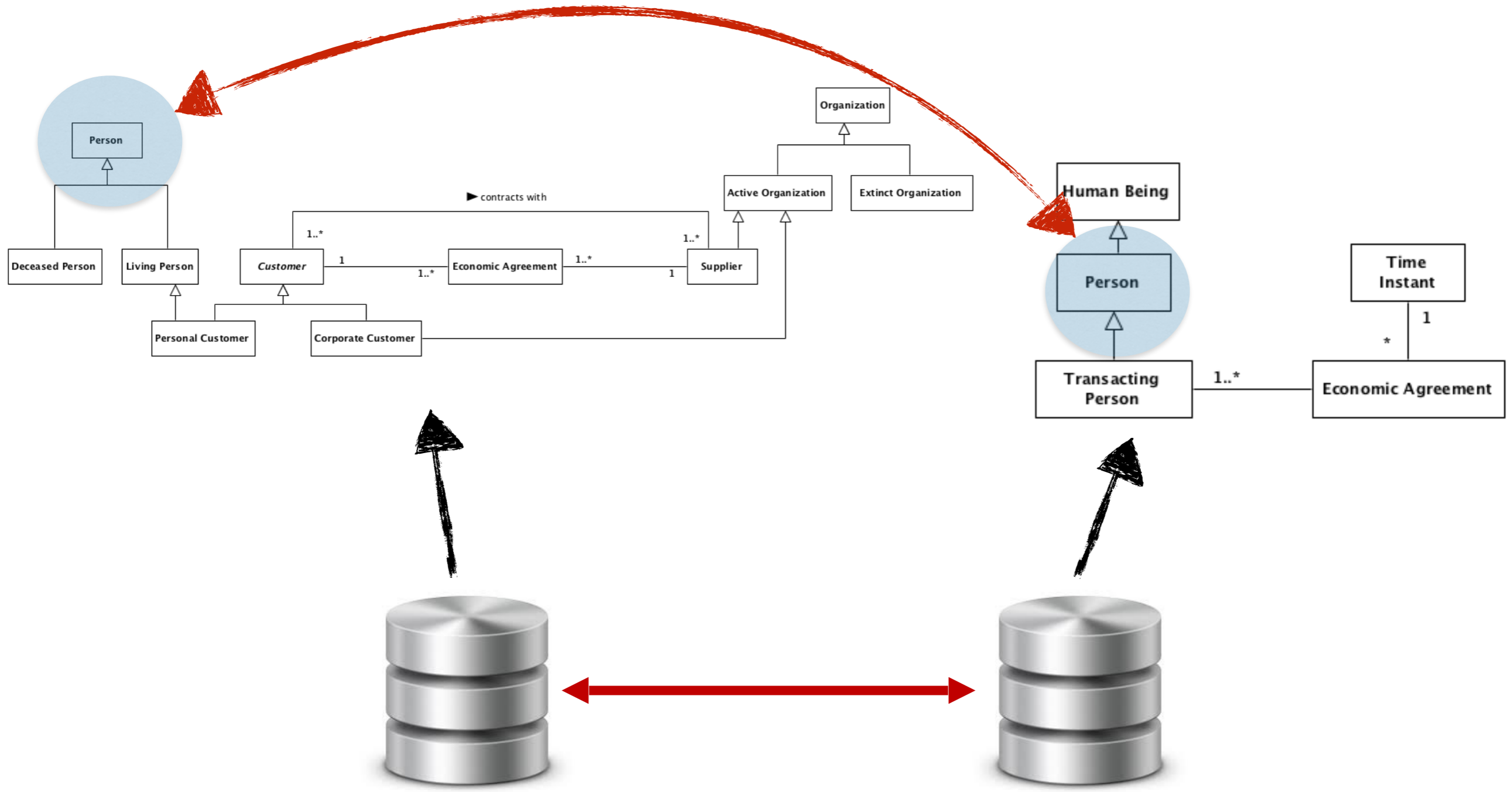


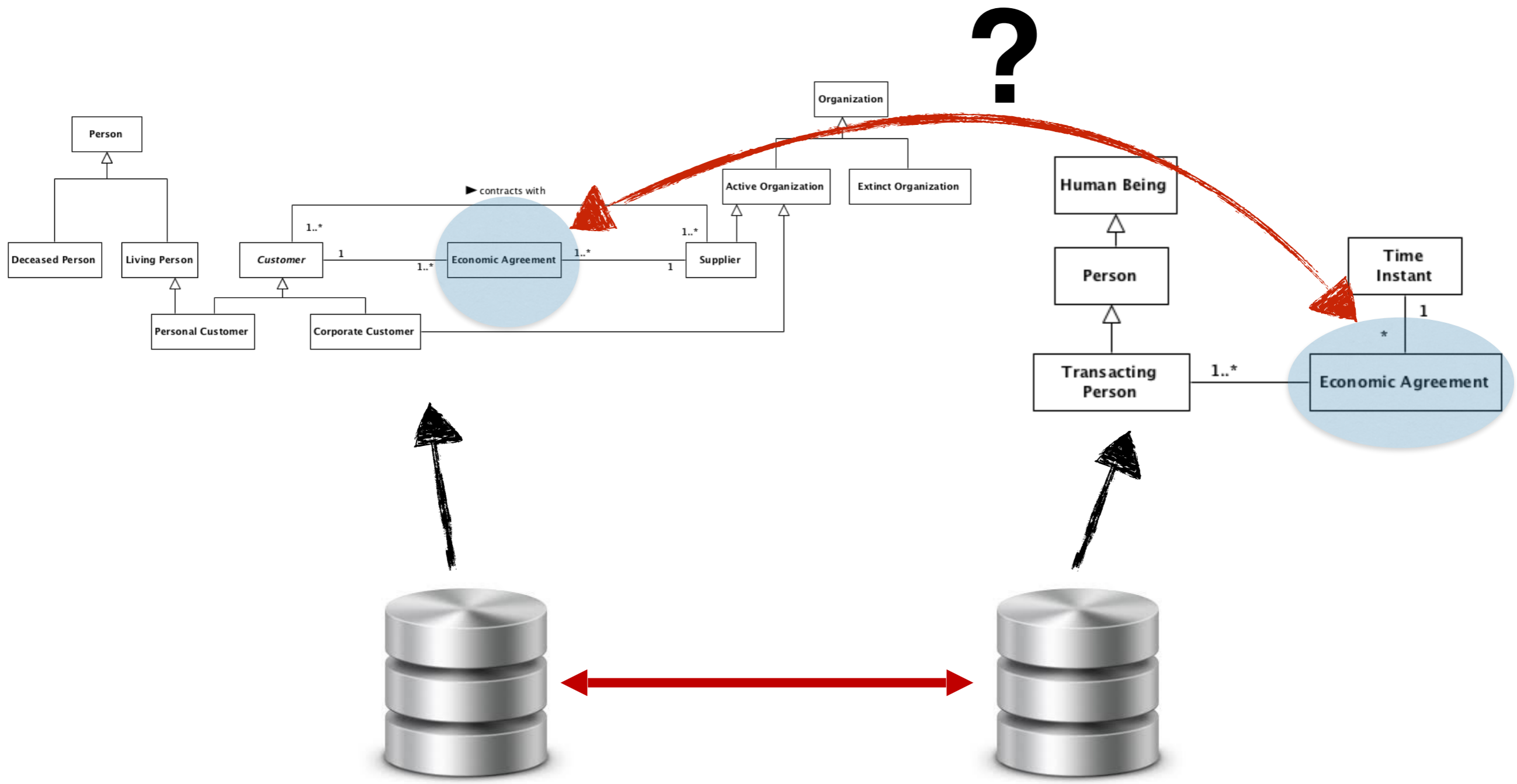






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# Ontology $\approx$

An area devoted to developing these domain-independent “toolboxes” with “tools” for supporting ontological analysis

# Ontology-Driven Conceptual Model



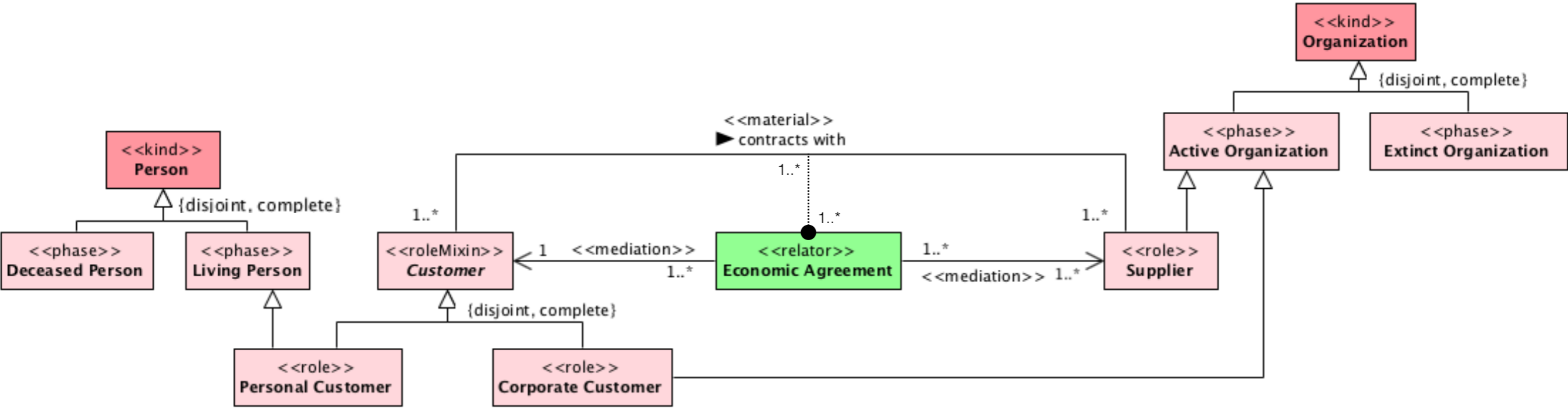
A model representing the result  
of an ontological analysis over a  
given domain

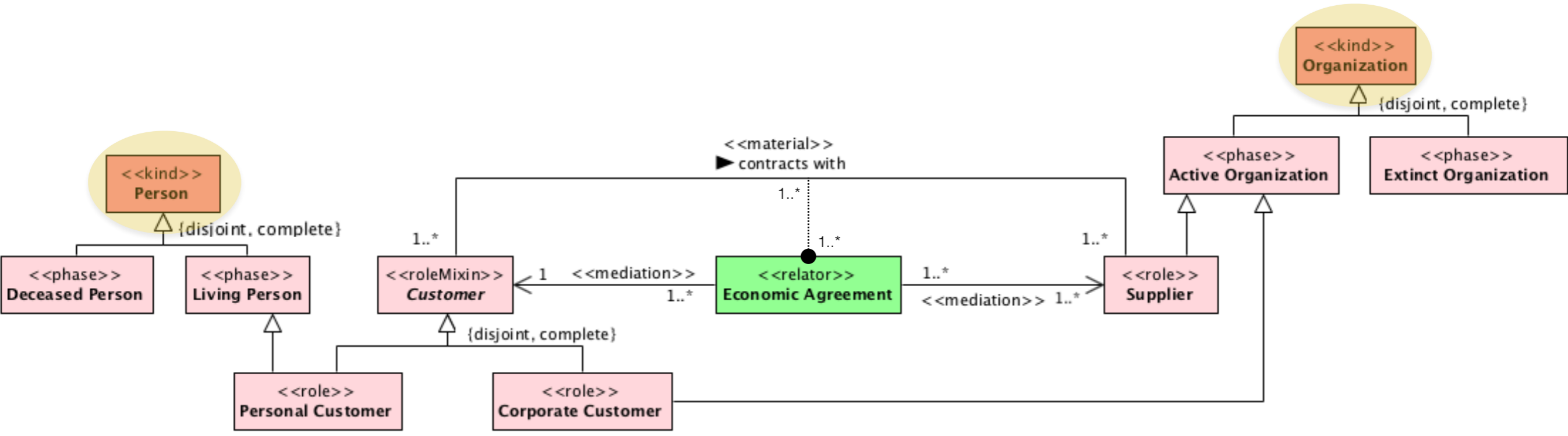


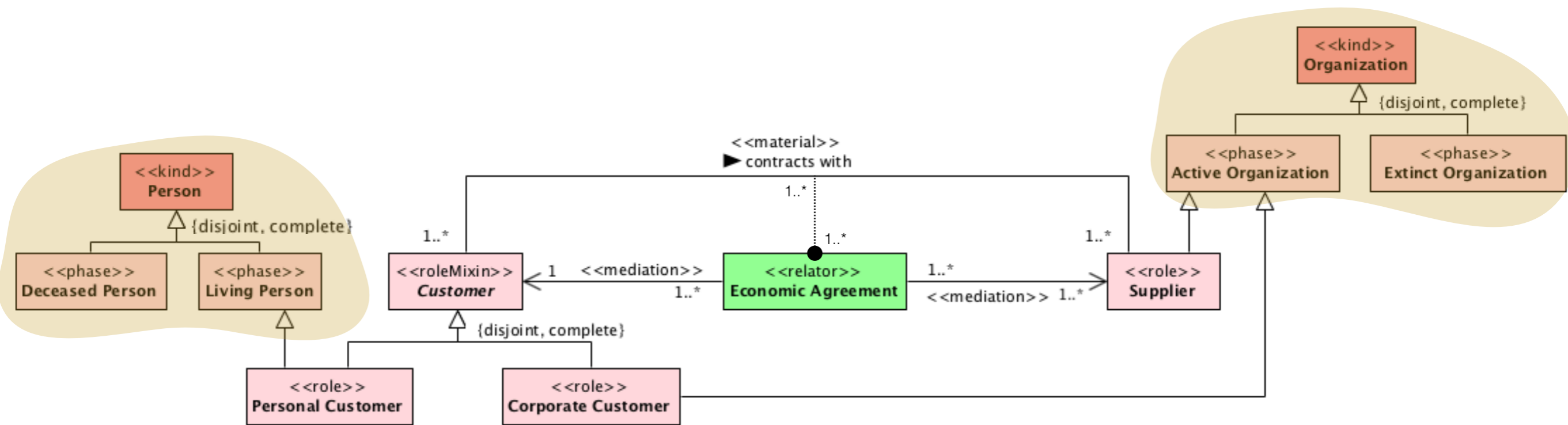
**Unified Foundational  
Ontology**

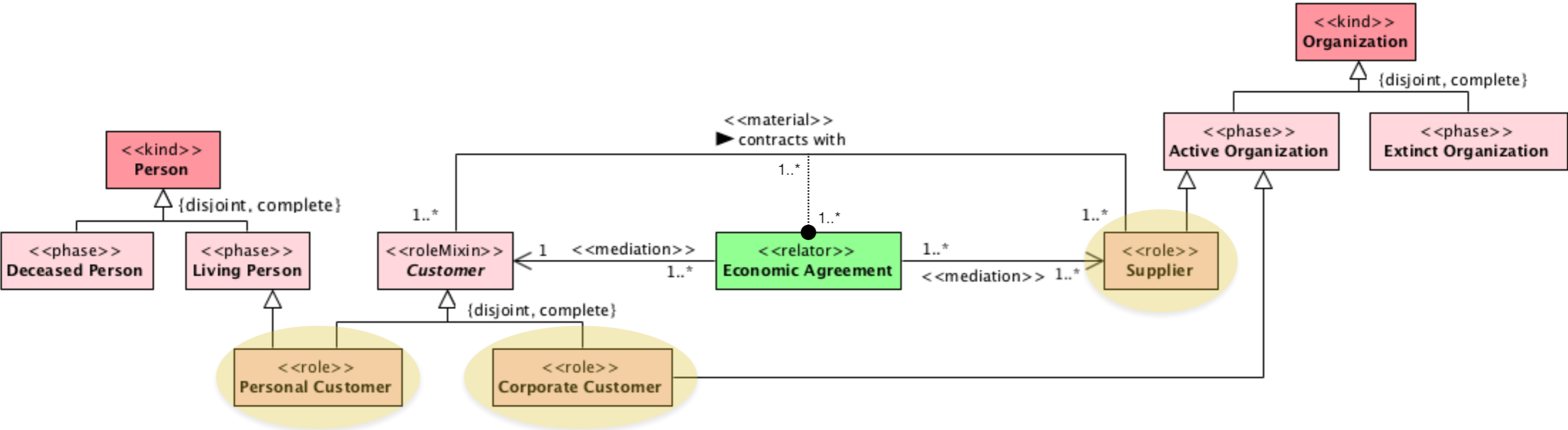
Object Types, Identity and Taxonomic Structures, Part-Whole Relations, Intrinsic and Relational Properties, Weak Entities, Attributes and Datatypes, Events, Multi-Level Modeling,...

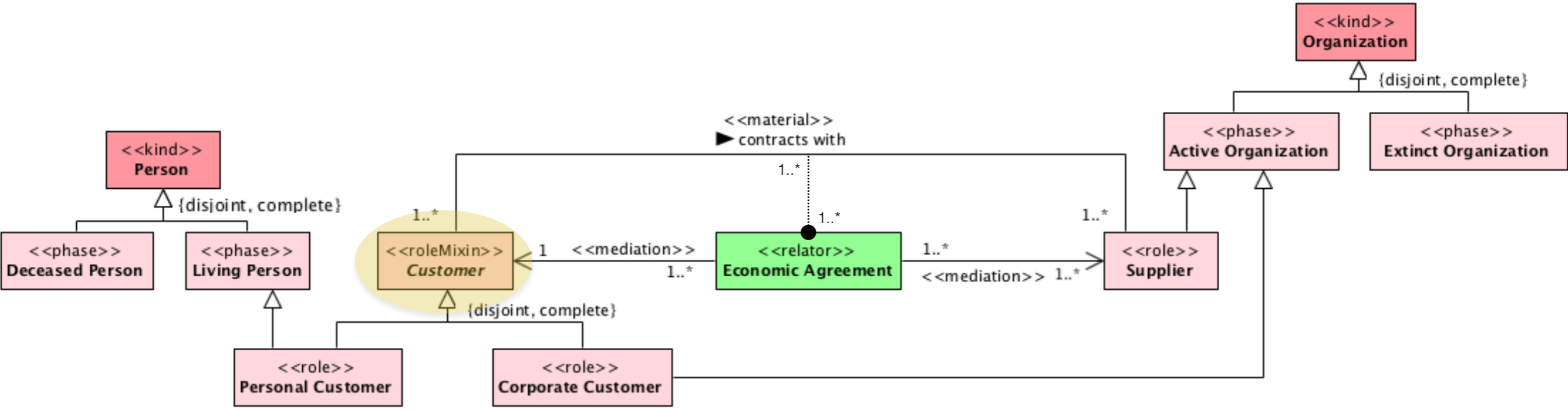




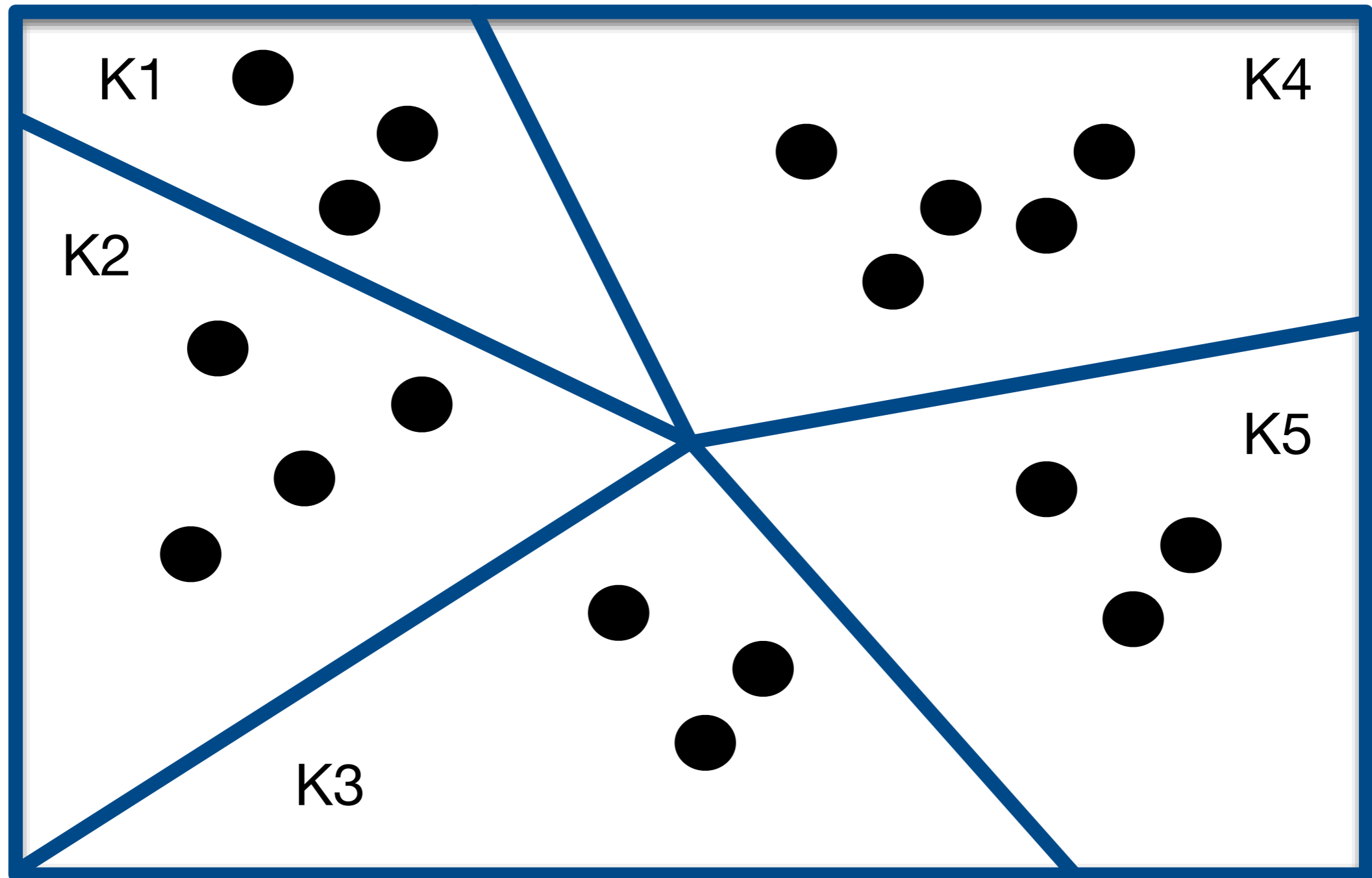




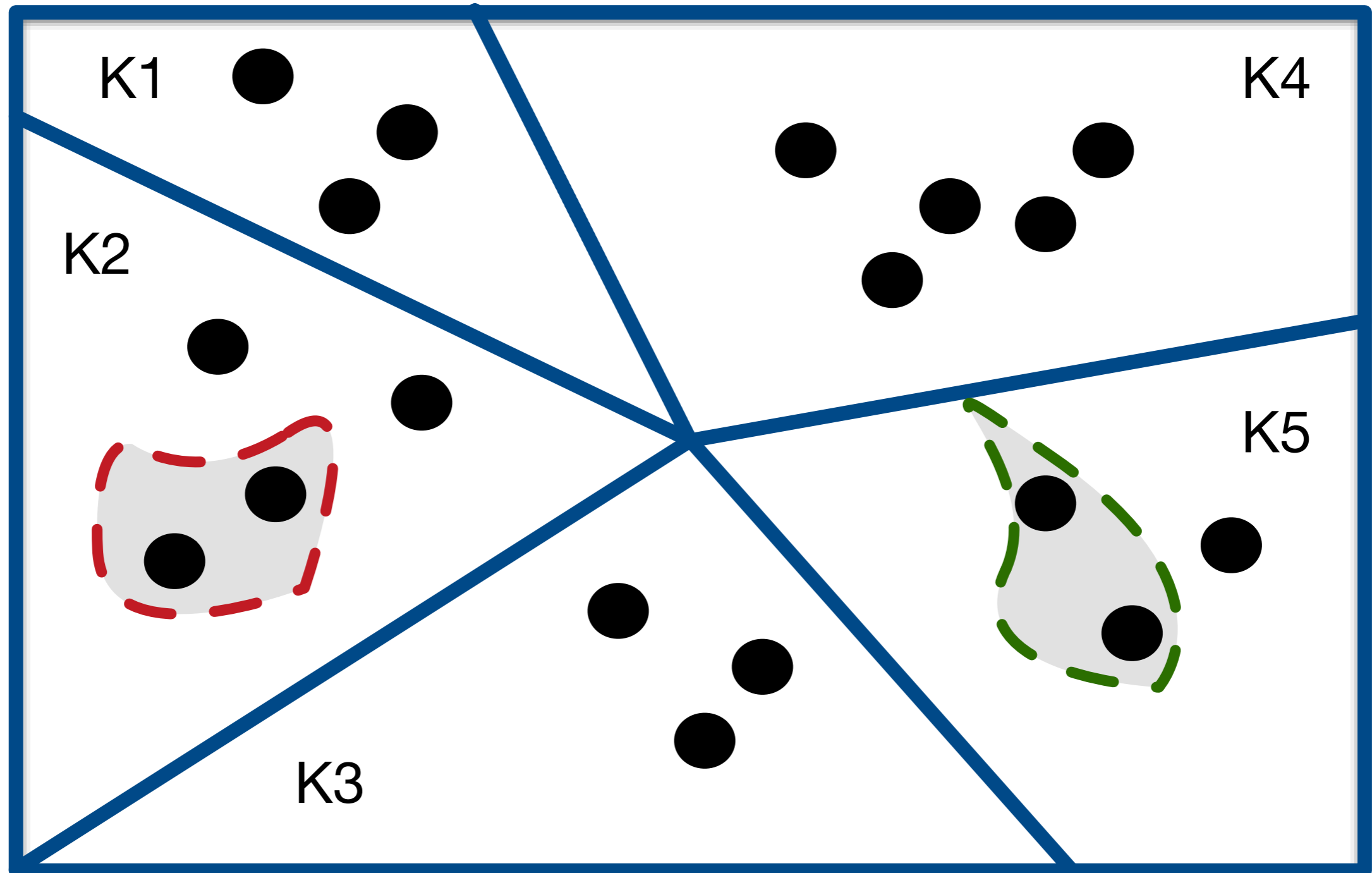




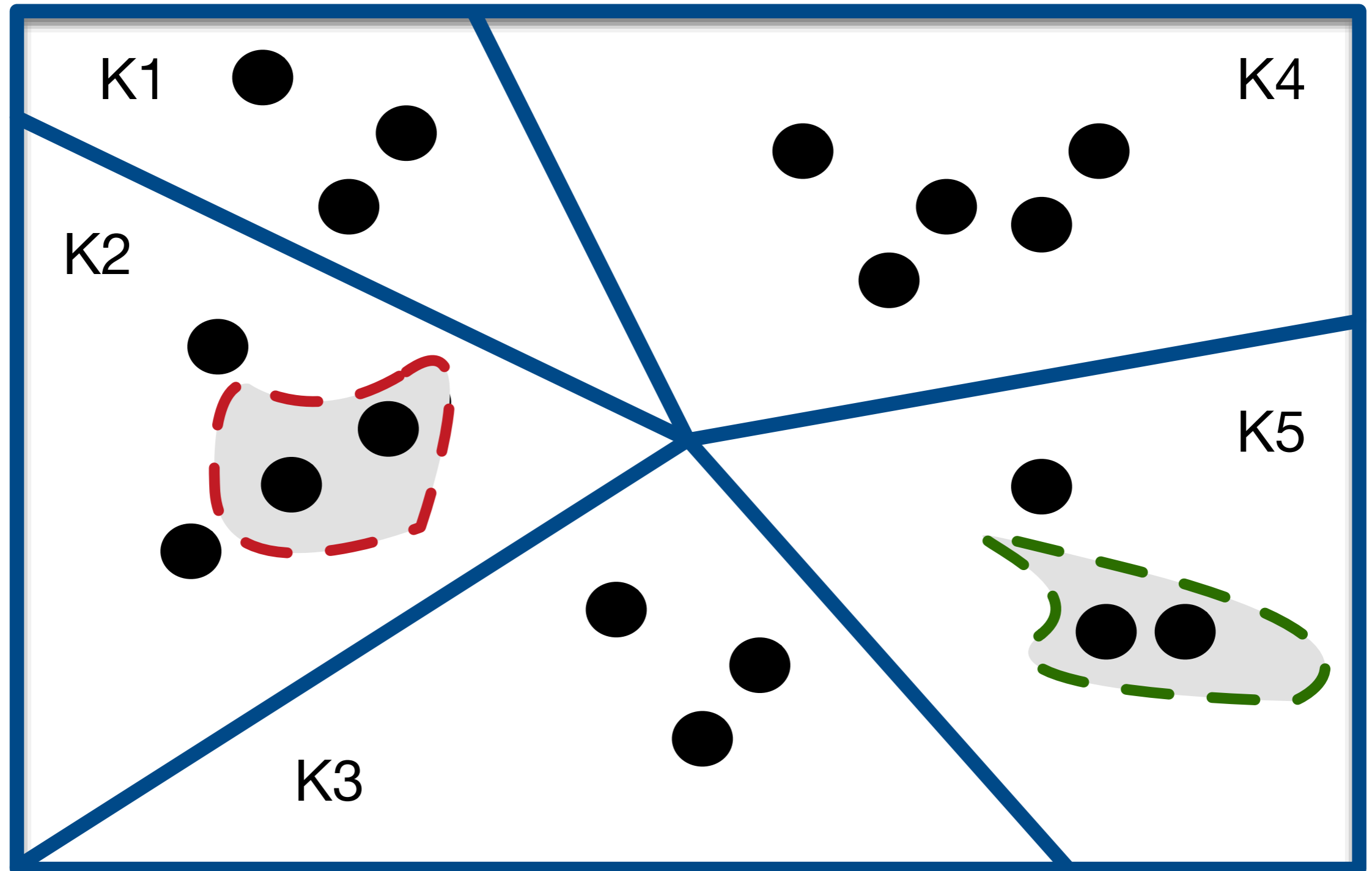
# Kinds



# Roles and Phases

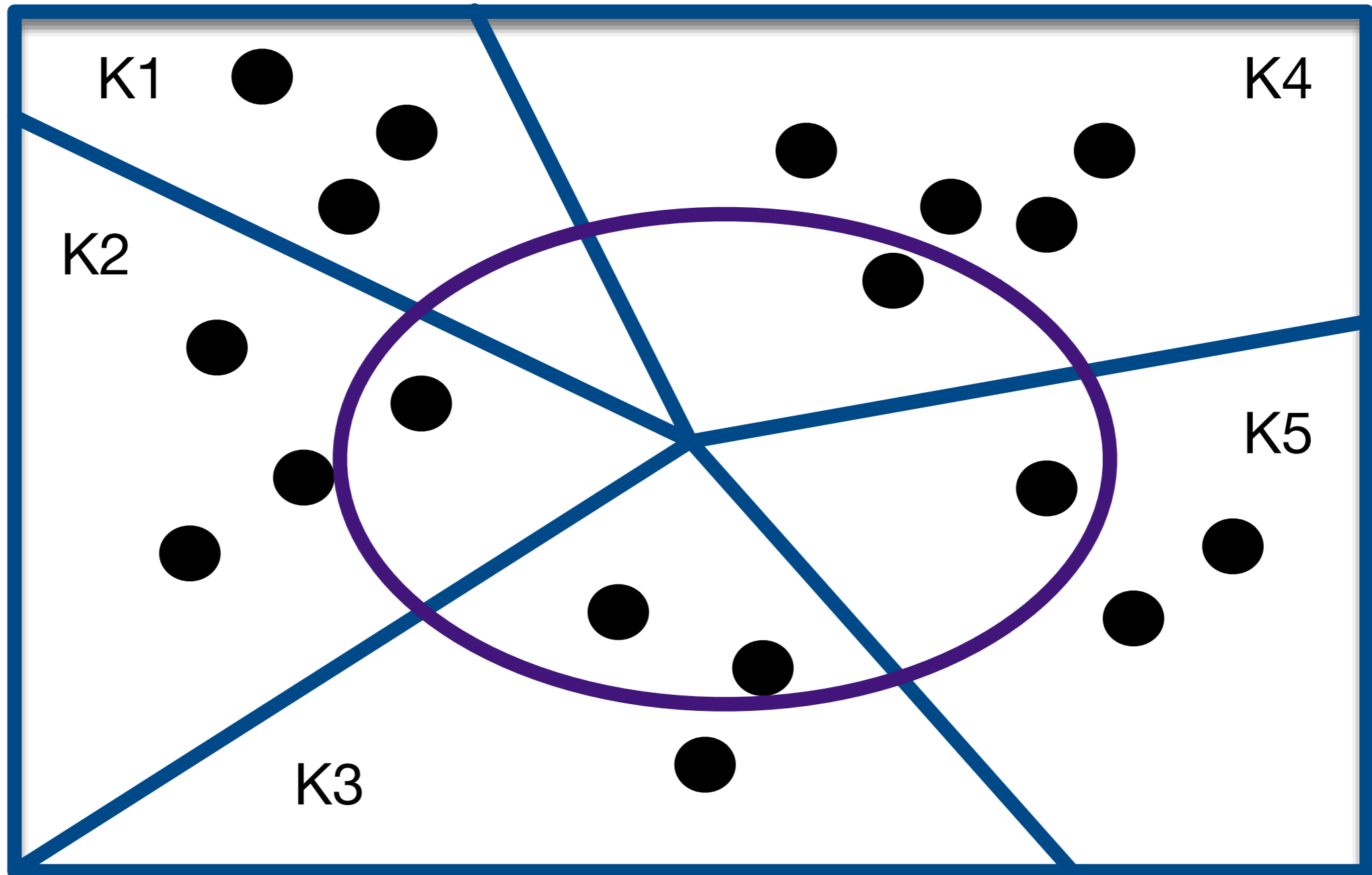


# Roles and Phases

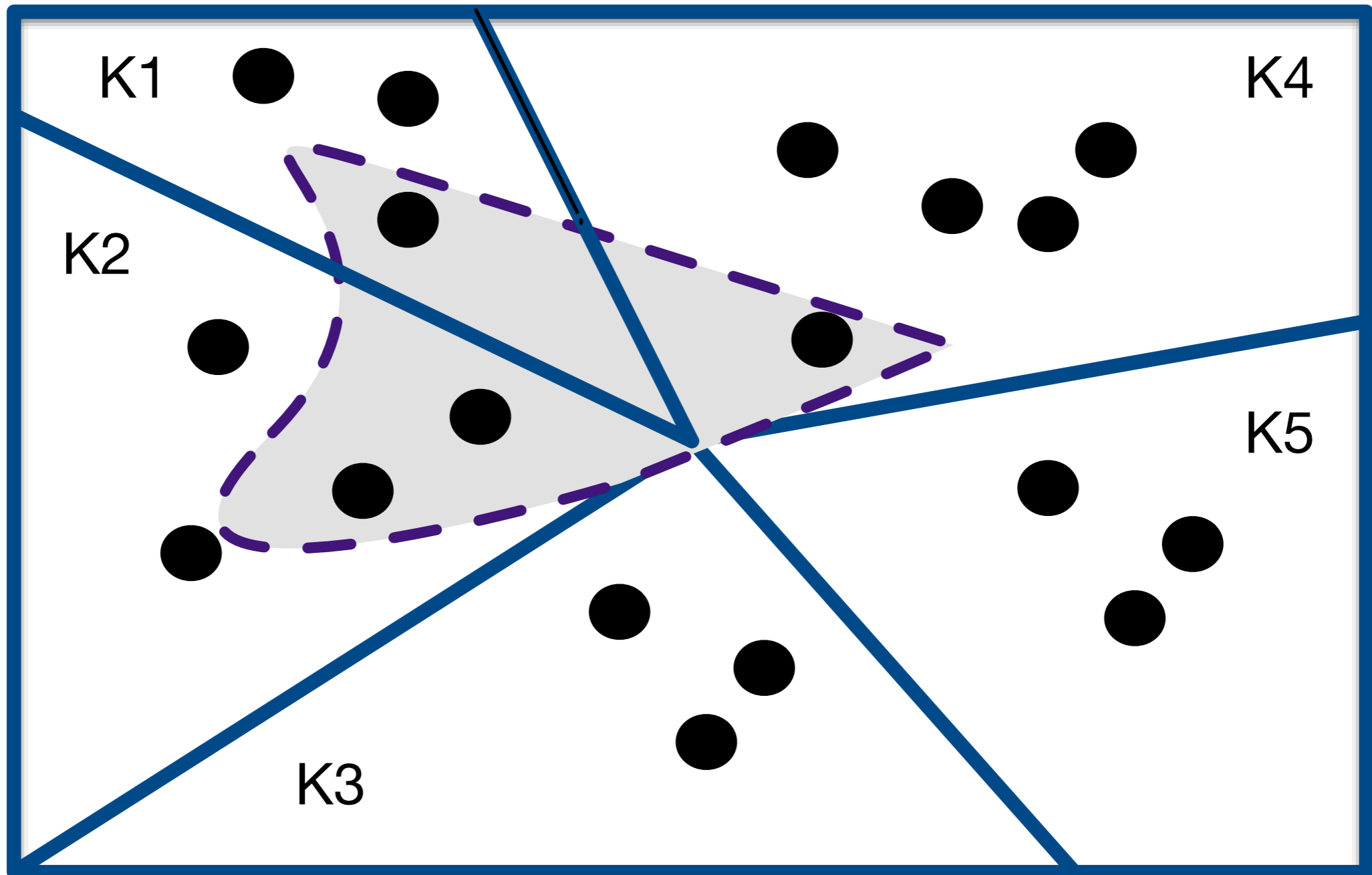




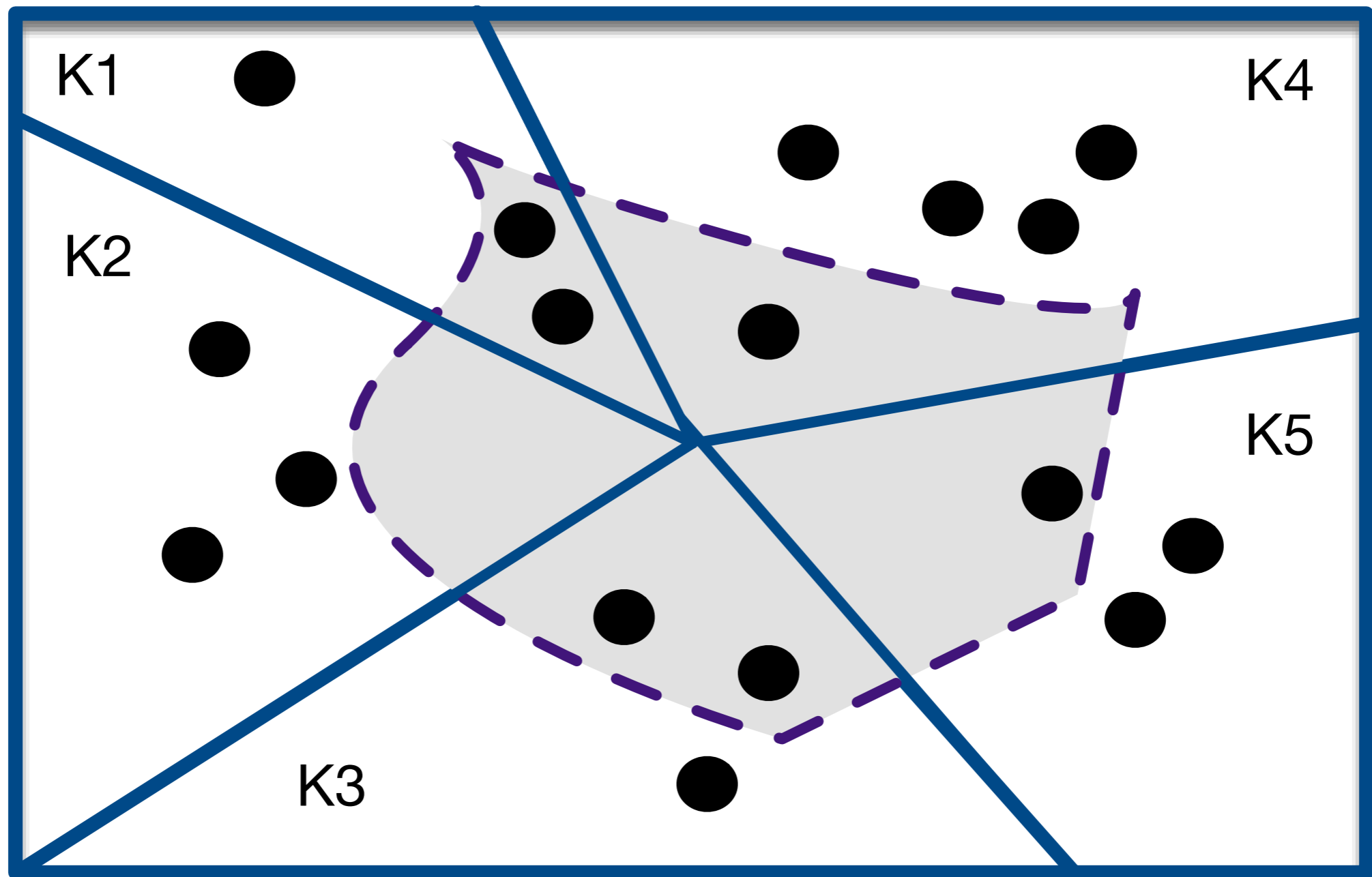
# Rigid MIXINS

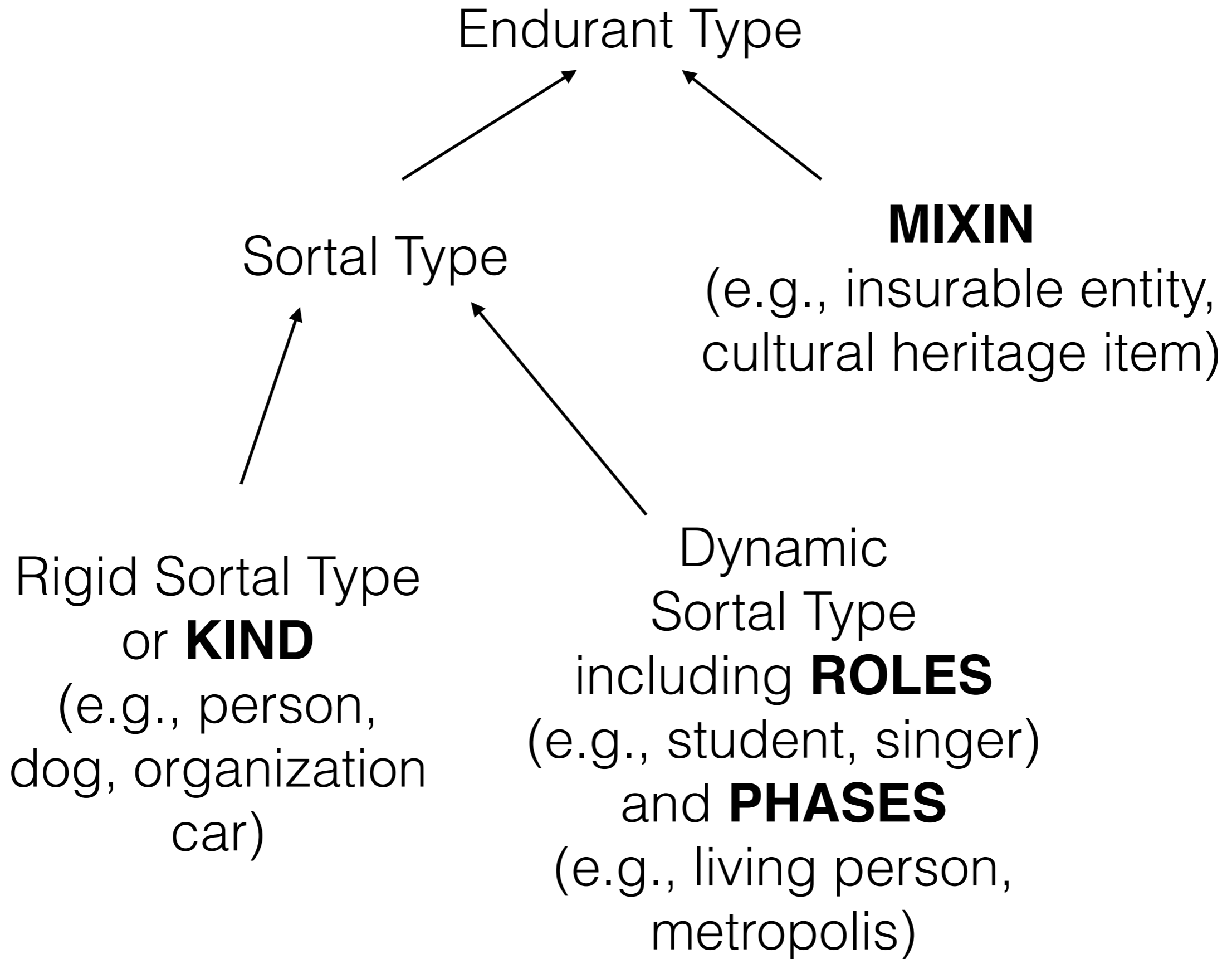


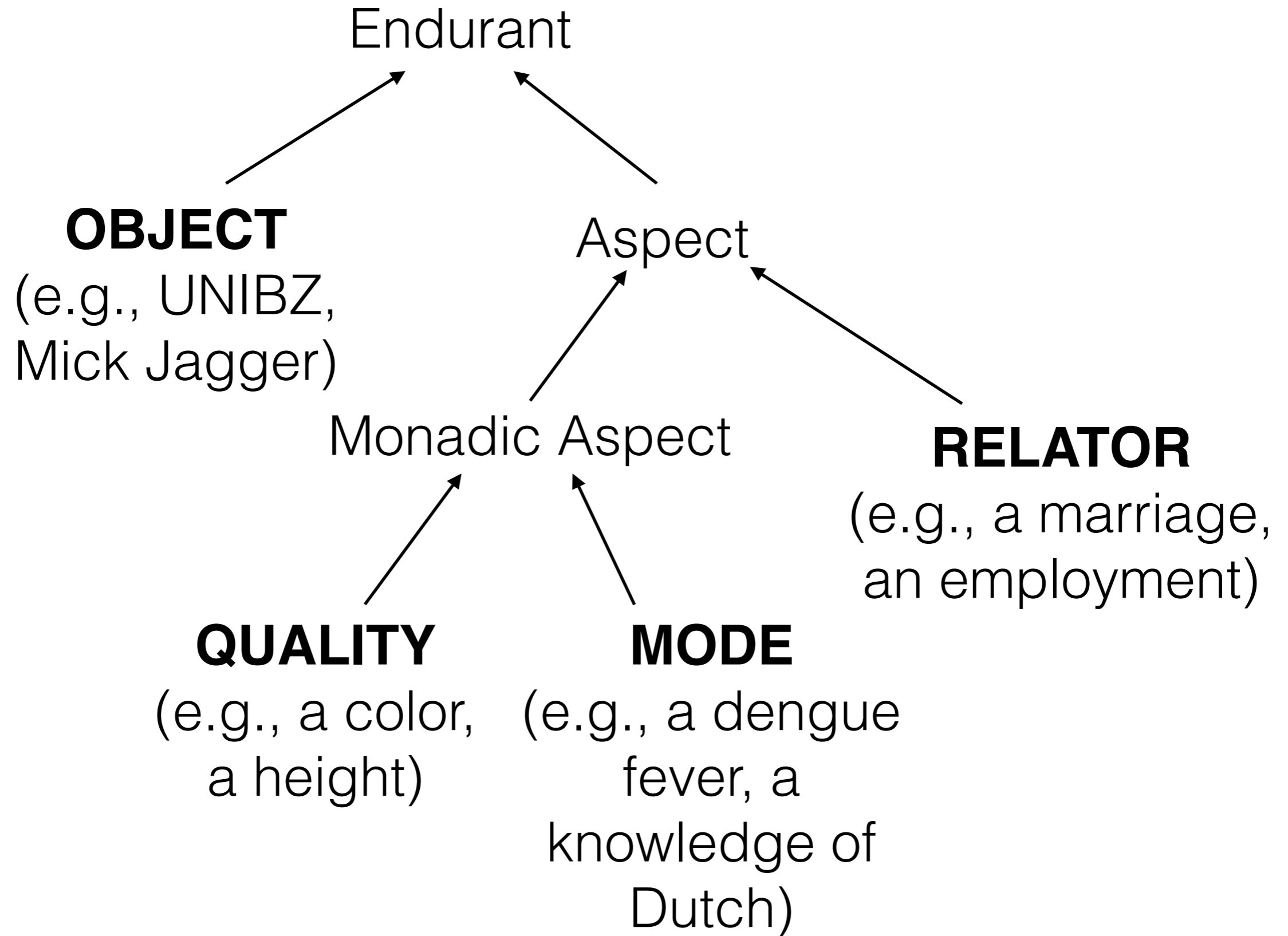
# Dynamic MIXINS

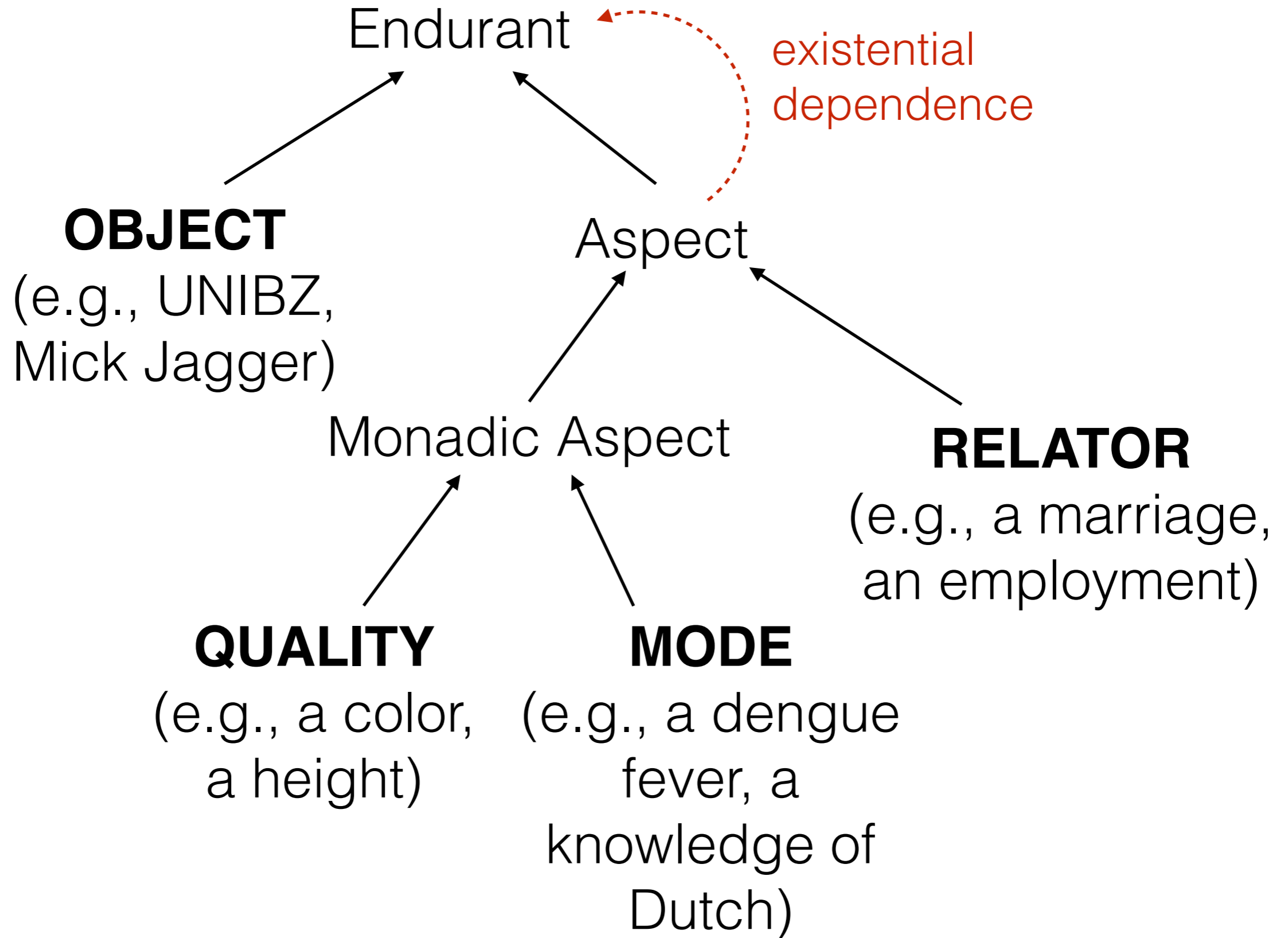


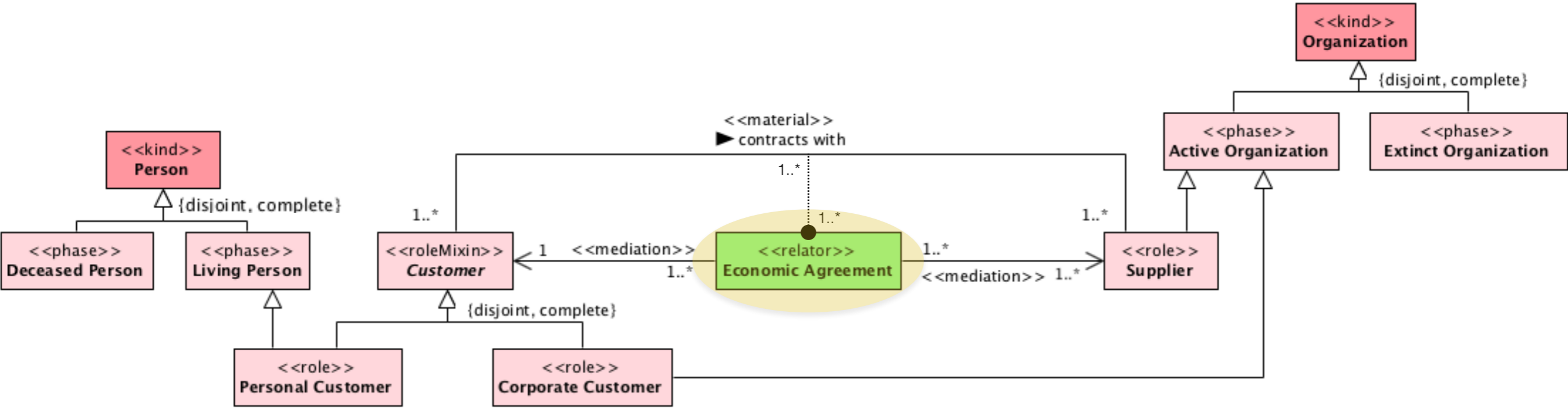
# Dynamic MIXINS

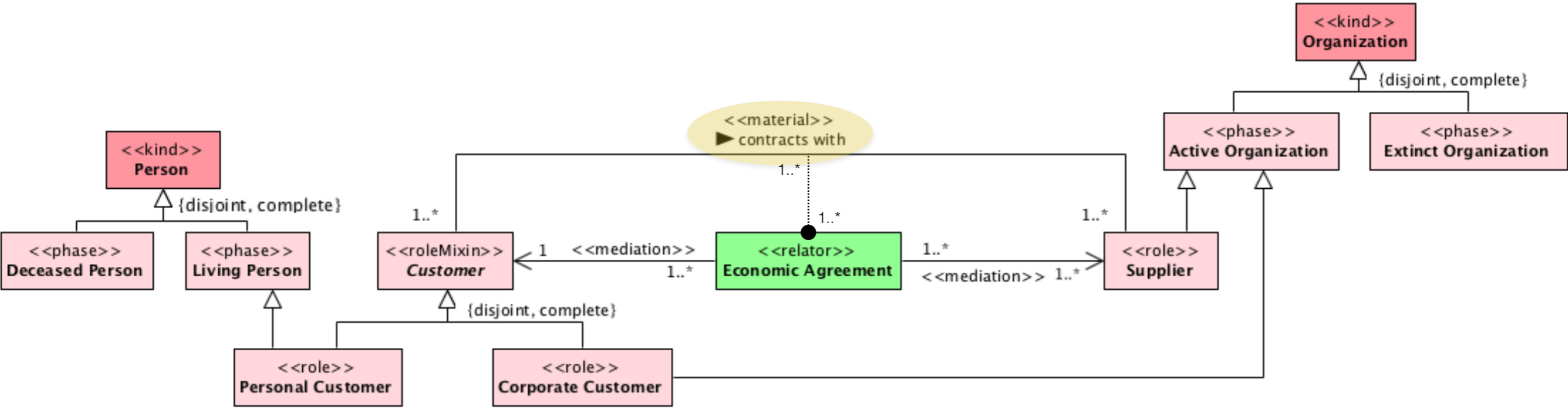




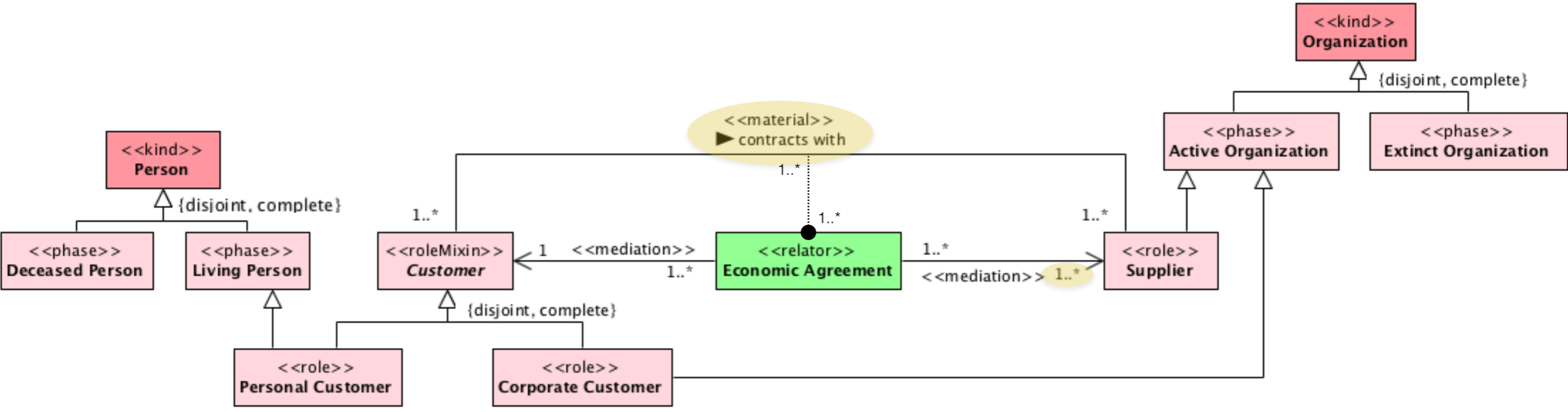


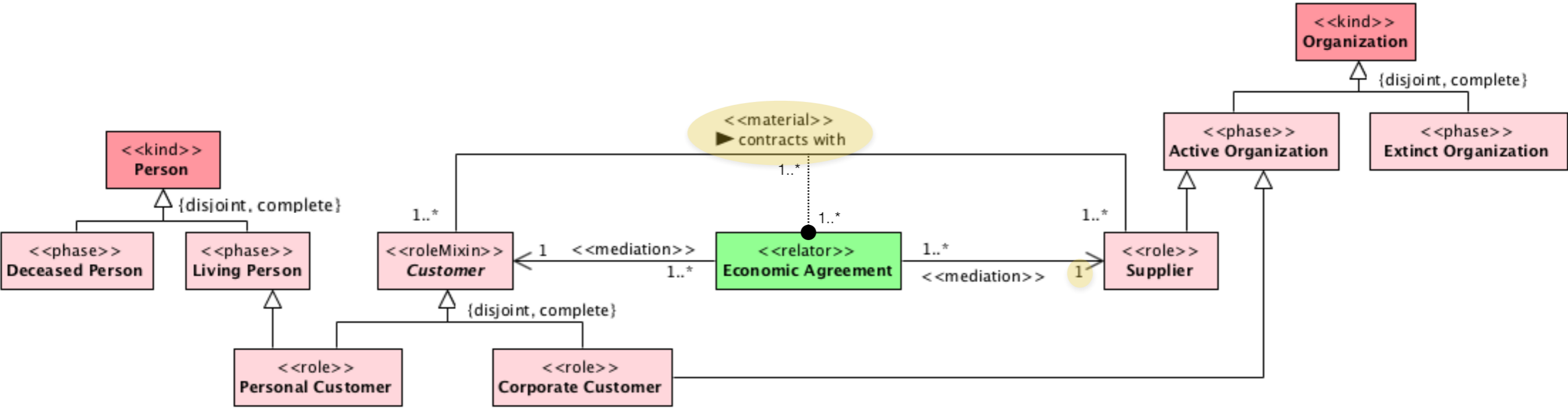


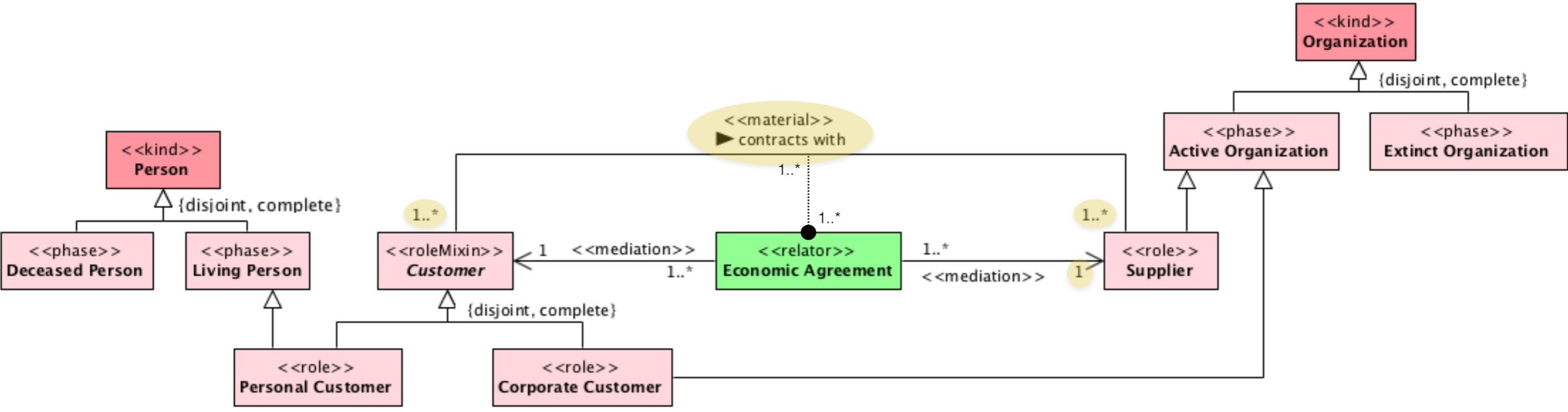


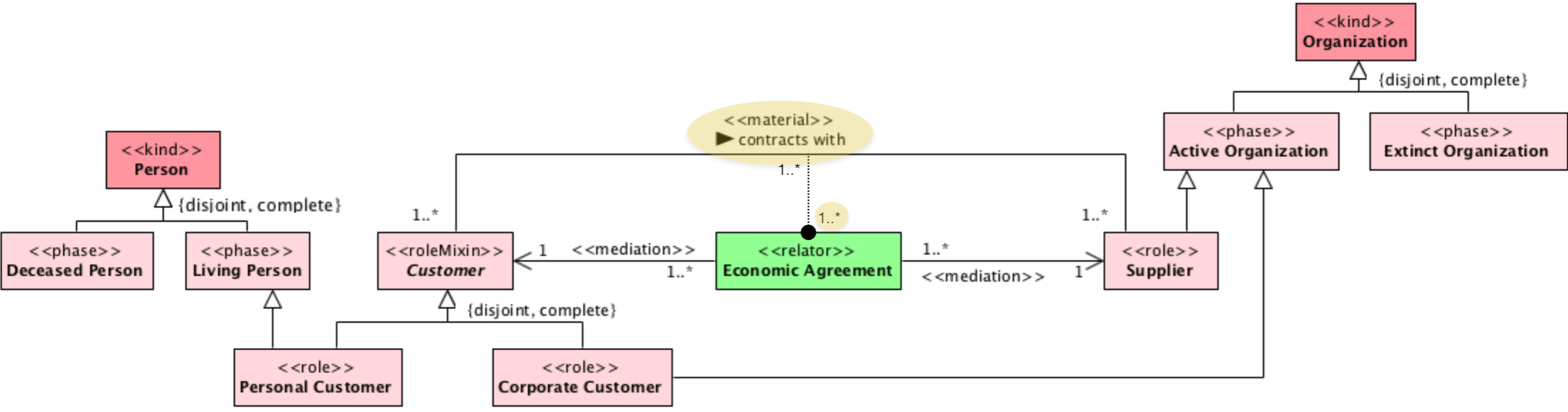












What does  
that buy us?

# ODCM Engineering

- Language which primitives reflect a rich system of **ontological distinctions** and grammar reflects ontological **rules**
- methodology reflecting ontological **meta-properties**



**Brazilian**

**Person**

**Adult**

**Man**

**Minister of sports**

**Father**

**Actor**

**Football player**

**Husband**

**Philanthropist**





In 1950

✓ Brazilian

Person ✓

~~Adult~~

Man ✓

~~Minister of sports~~

~~Father~~

~~Actor~~

~~Football player~~

~~Husband~~

~~Philanthropist~~



In 1970

✓ Brazilian

✓ Adult

~~✗ Minister of sports~~

~~✗ Actor~~

~~✗ Husband~~



Person ✓

Man ✓

~~✗ Father~~

Football player ✓

~~✗ Philanthropist~~

# In 1994

✓ Brazilian

✓ Adult

✓ Minister of sports

✓ Actor

✓ Husband



Person ✓

Man ✓

Father ✓

Football player ✗

Philanthropist ✗

# In 2020

✓ Brazilian

✓ Adult

~~Minister of sports~~

~~Actor~~

✓ Husband



Person ✓

Man ✓

Father ✓

Football player ~~X~~

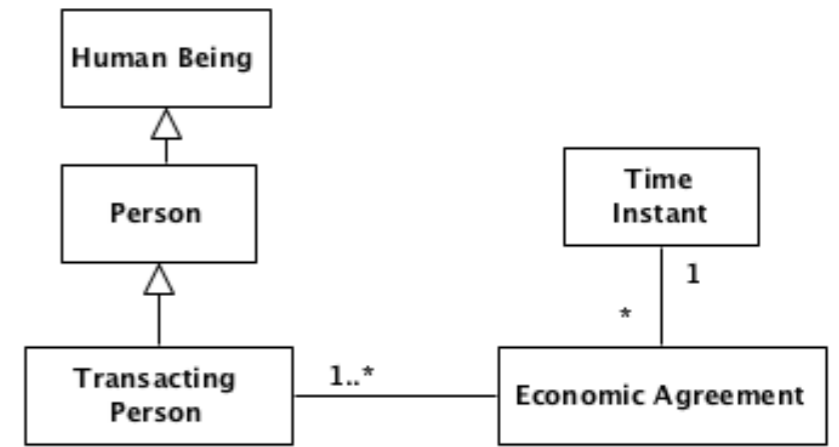
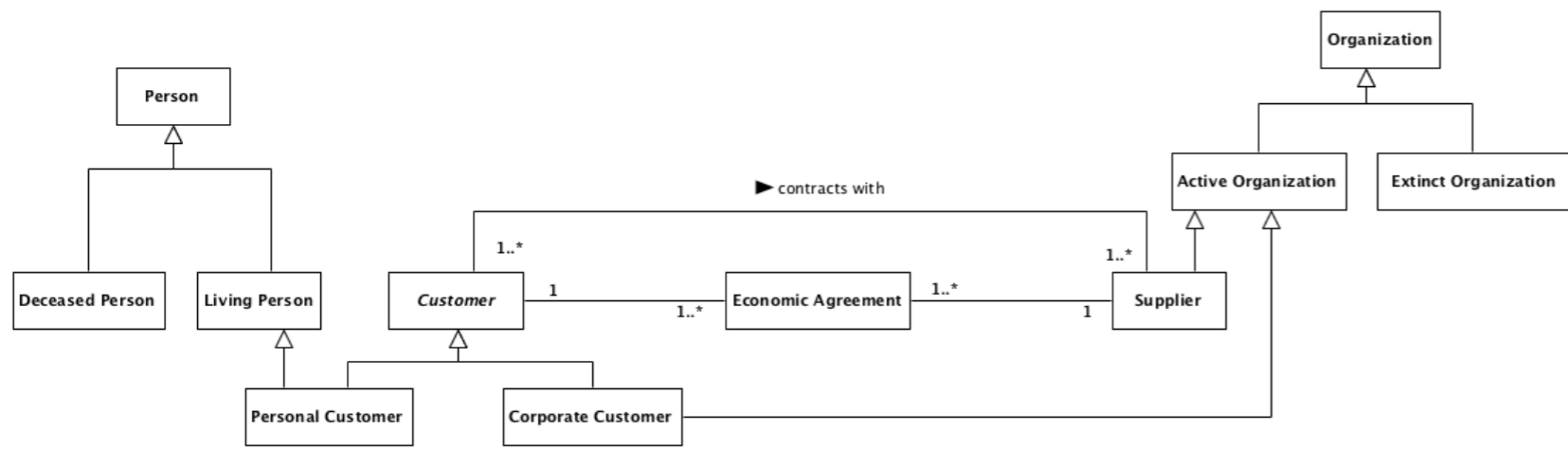
Philanthropist ✓

# Solution

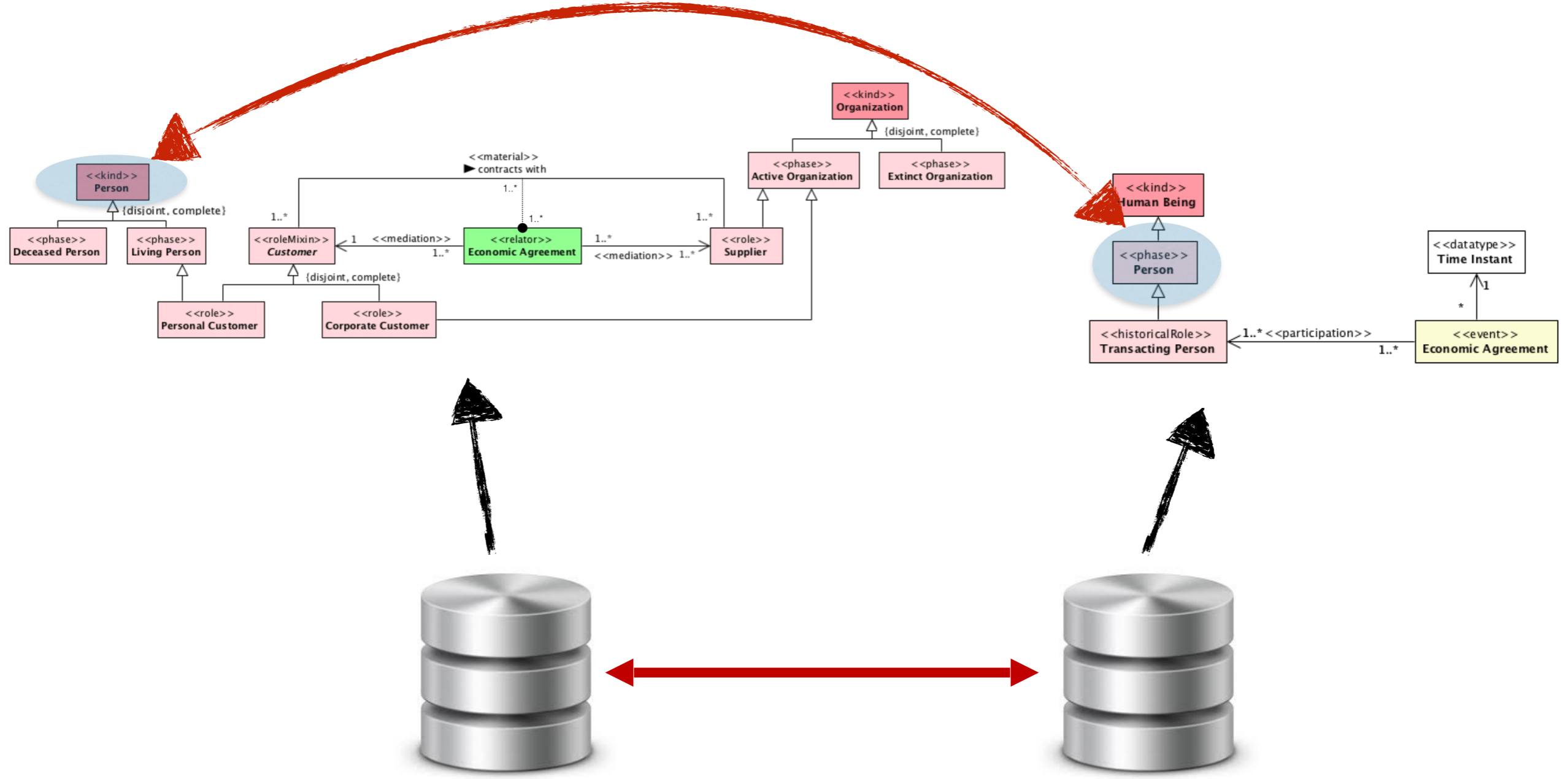
1. Characterizing the difference between:

- NATURAL TYPE/KIND (e.g., **PERSON**) = **RIGID SORTAL**
- ROLE (e.g., **MINISTER OF SPORTS, FOOTBALL PLAYER, ACTOR, HUSBAND**) = **DYNAMIC + RELATIONALLY DEPENDENT SORTAL**
- PHASE (e.g., **LIVING PERSON, ADULT MAN**) = **DYNAMIC + RELATIONALLY INDEPENDENT SORTAL**
- MIXIN (e.g., **CULTURAL HERITAGE ENTITY, PHYSICAL ENTITY, INSURABLE ITEM**)? = **MIXIN**



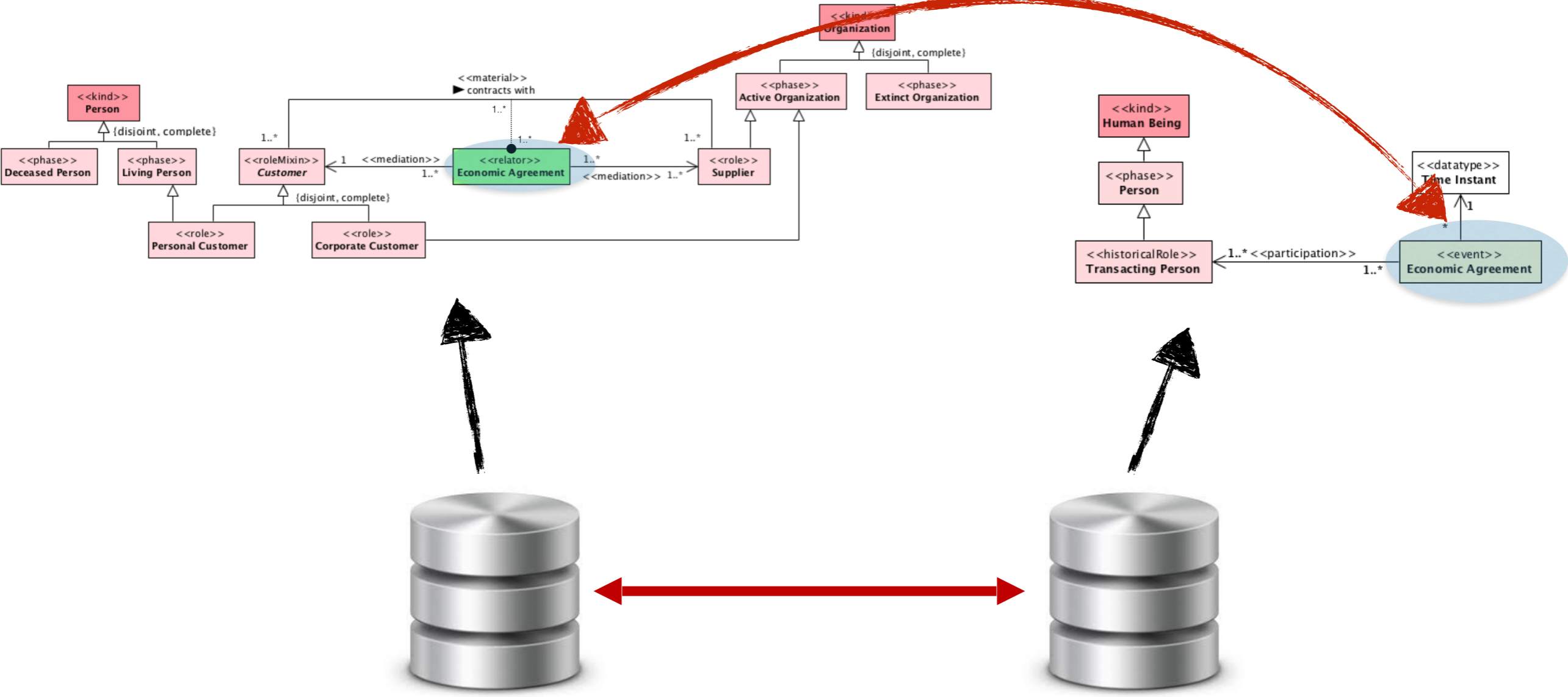


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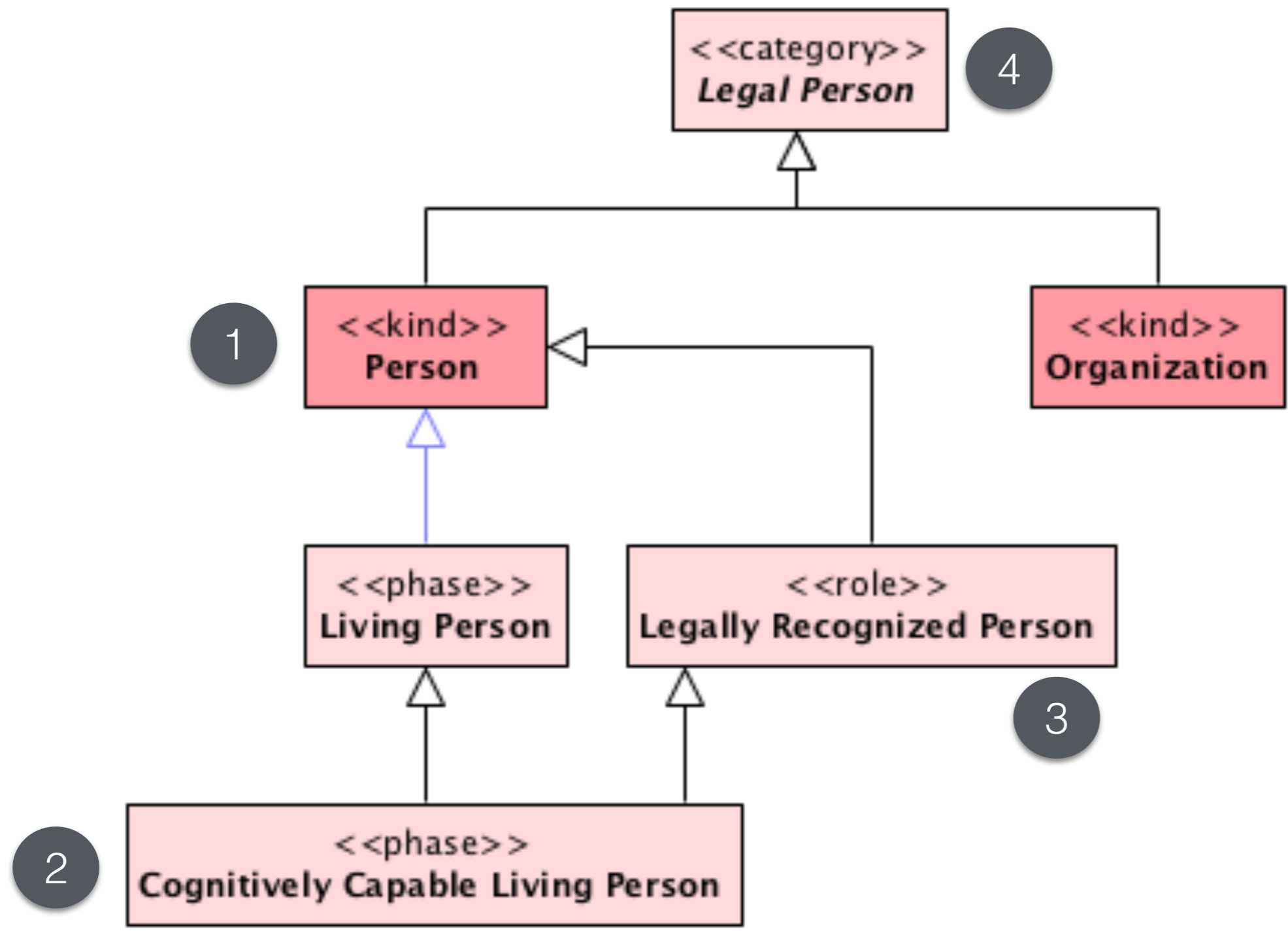
**Person?**

# Person?

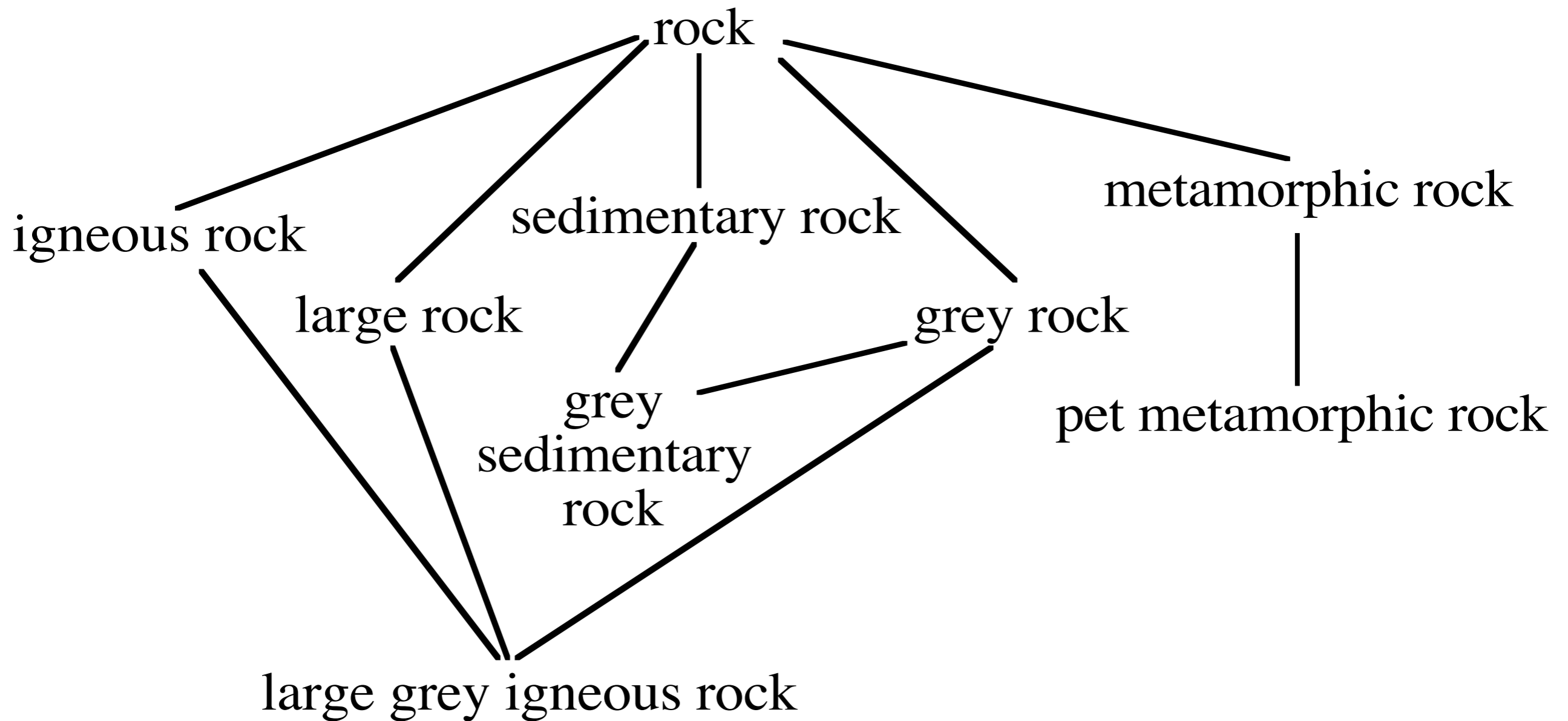
1. Human Being?
2. Legally Recognized Human Being?
3. Cognitively Capable Human Being?
4. Legal Person?

# Person?

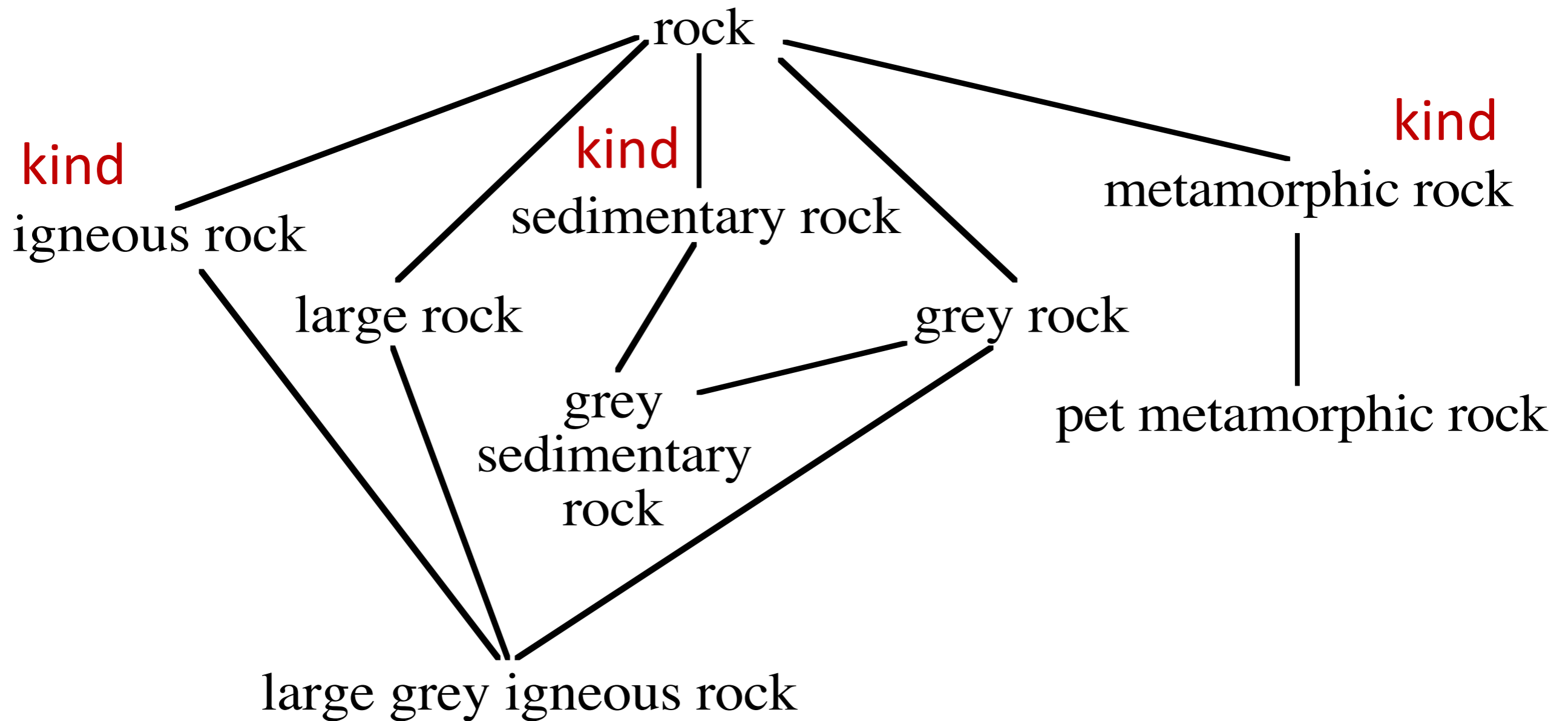
1. Human Being? **KIND**
2. Legally Recognized Human Being? **ROLE**
3. Cognitively Capable Human Being? **PHASE**
4. Legal Person? **MIXIN**



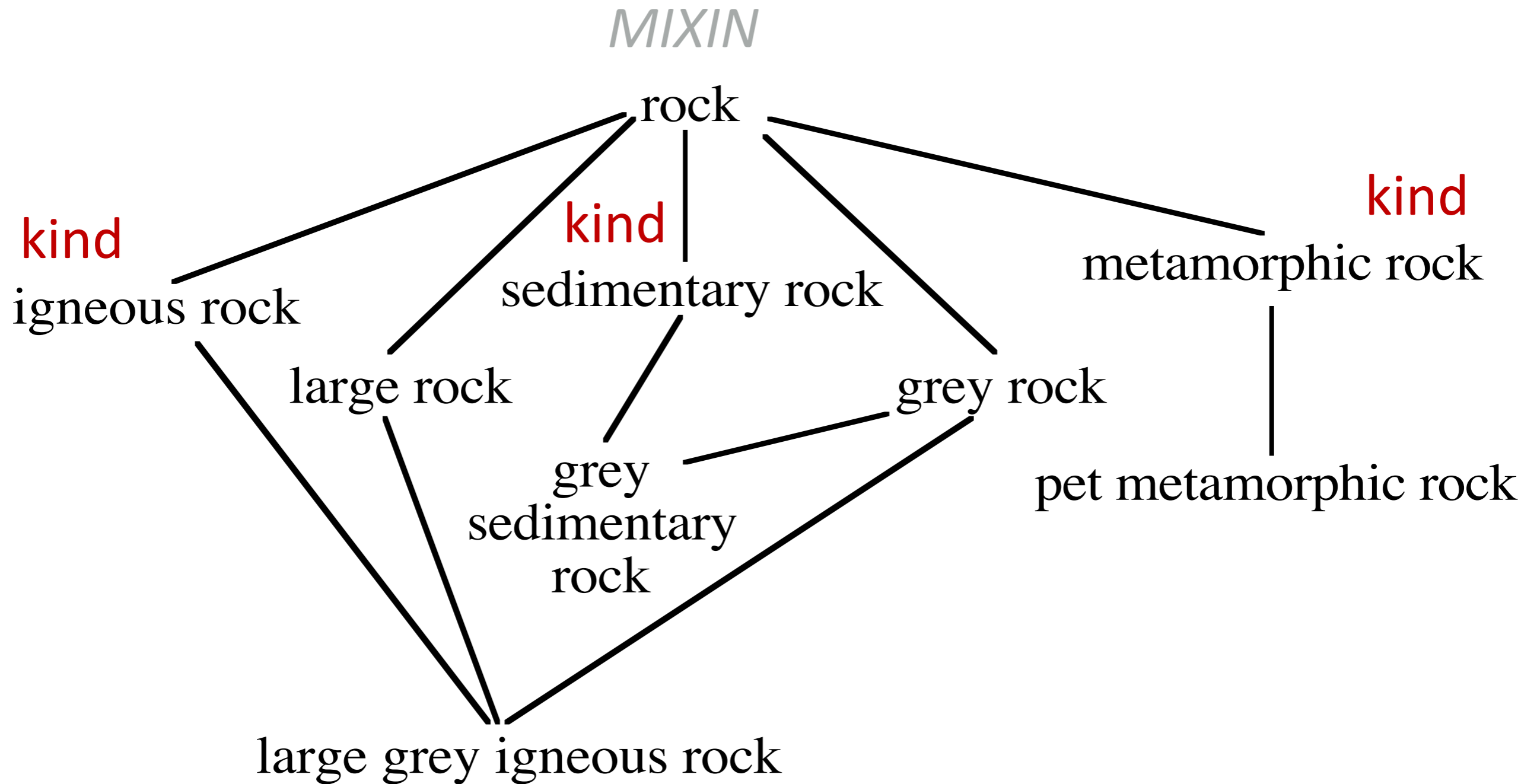
# How many kinds of rock?



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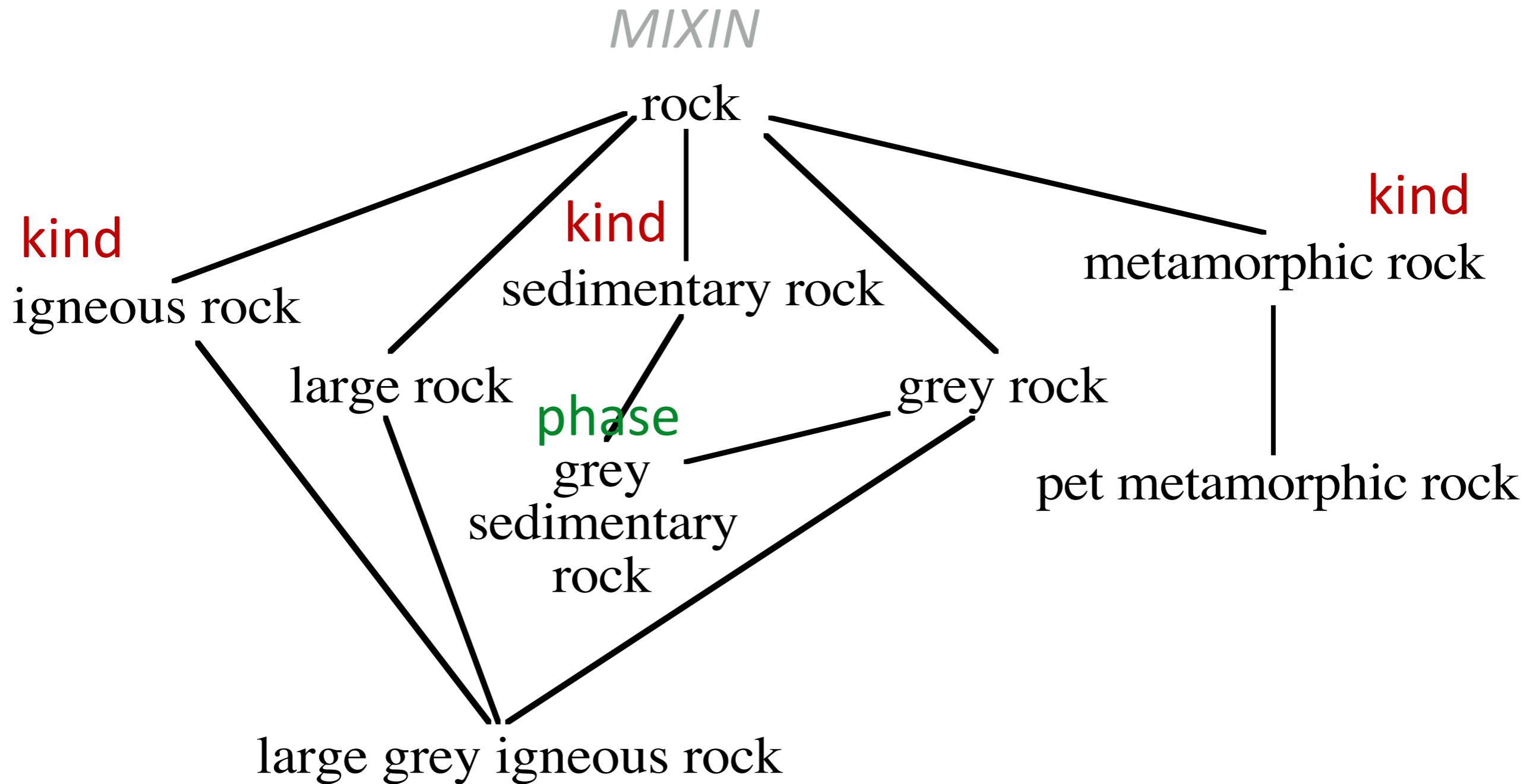


# How many kinds of rock?

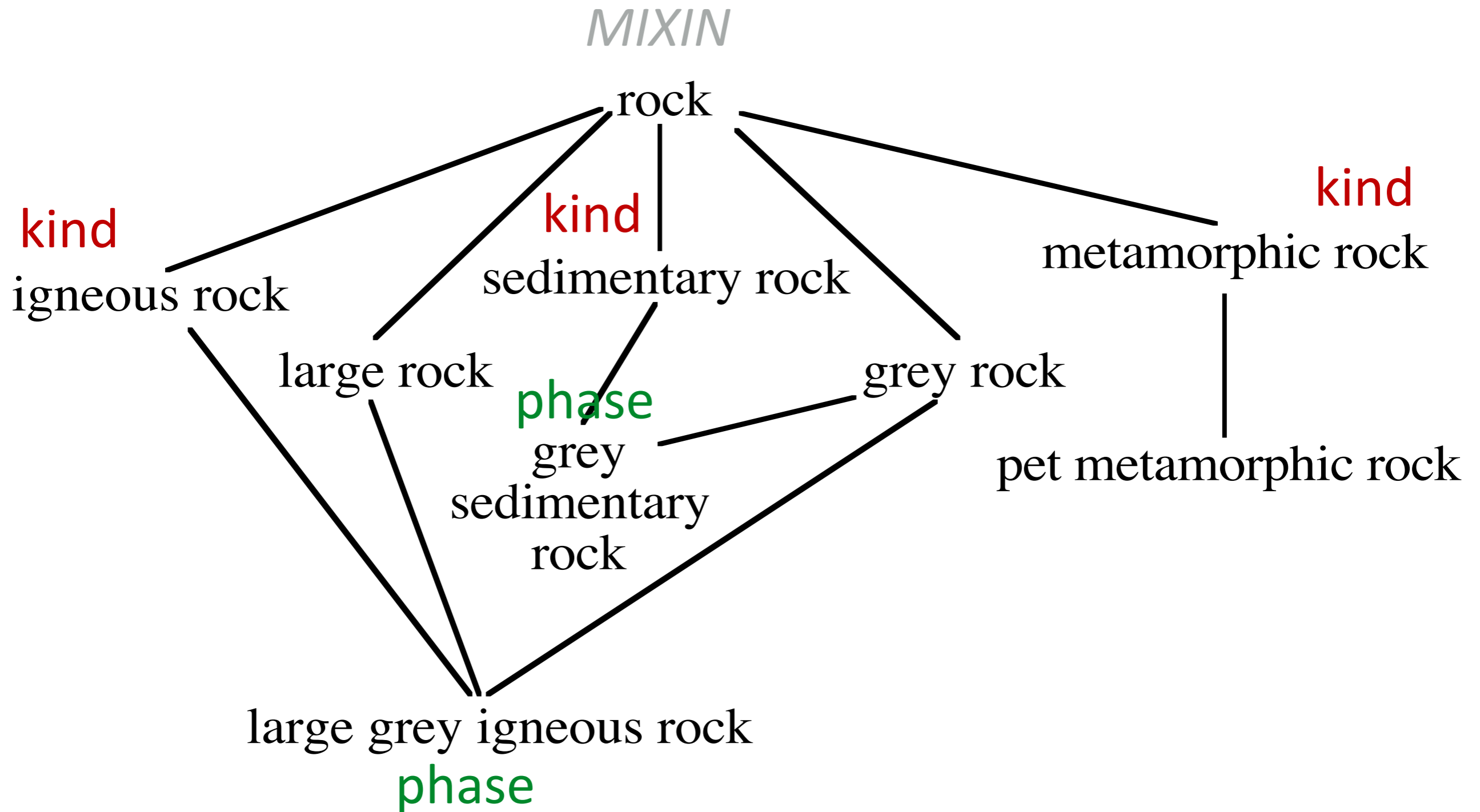




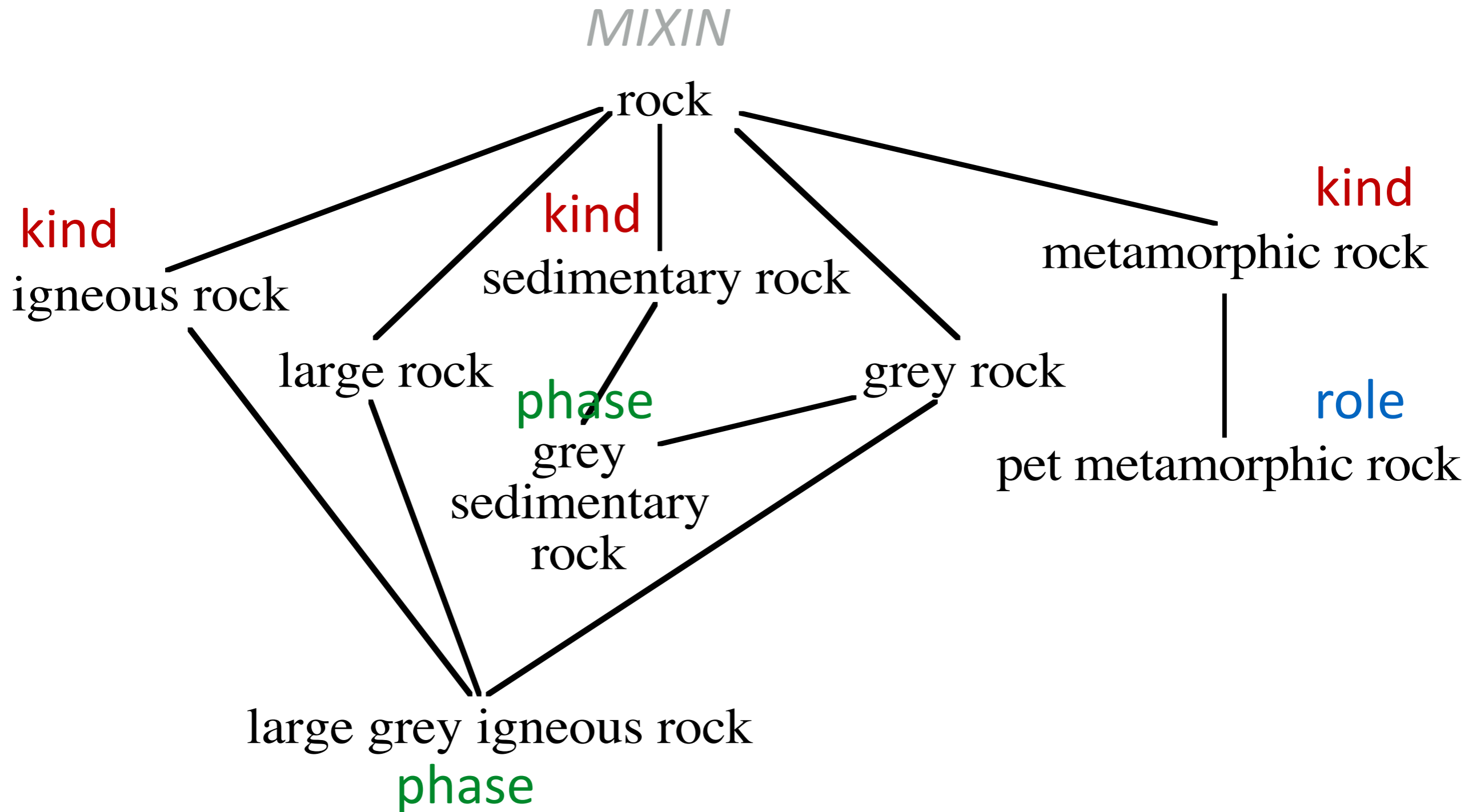
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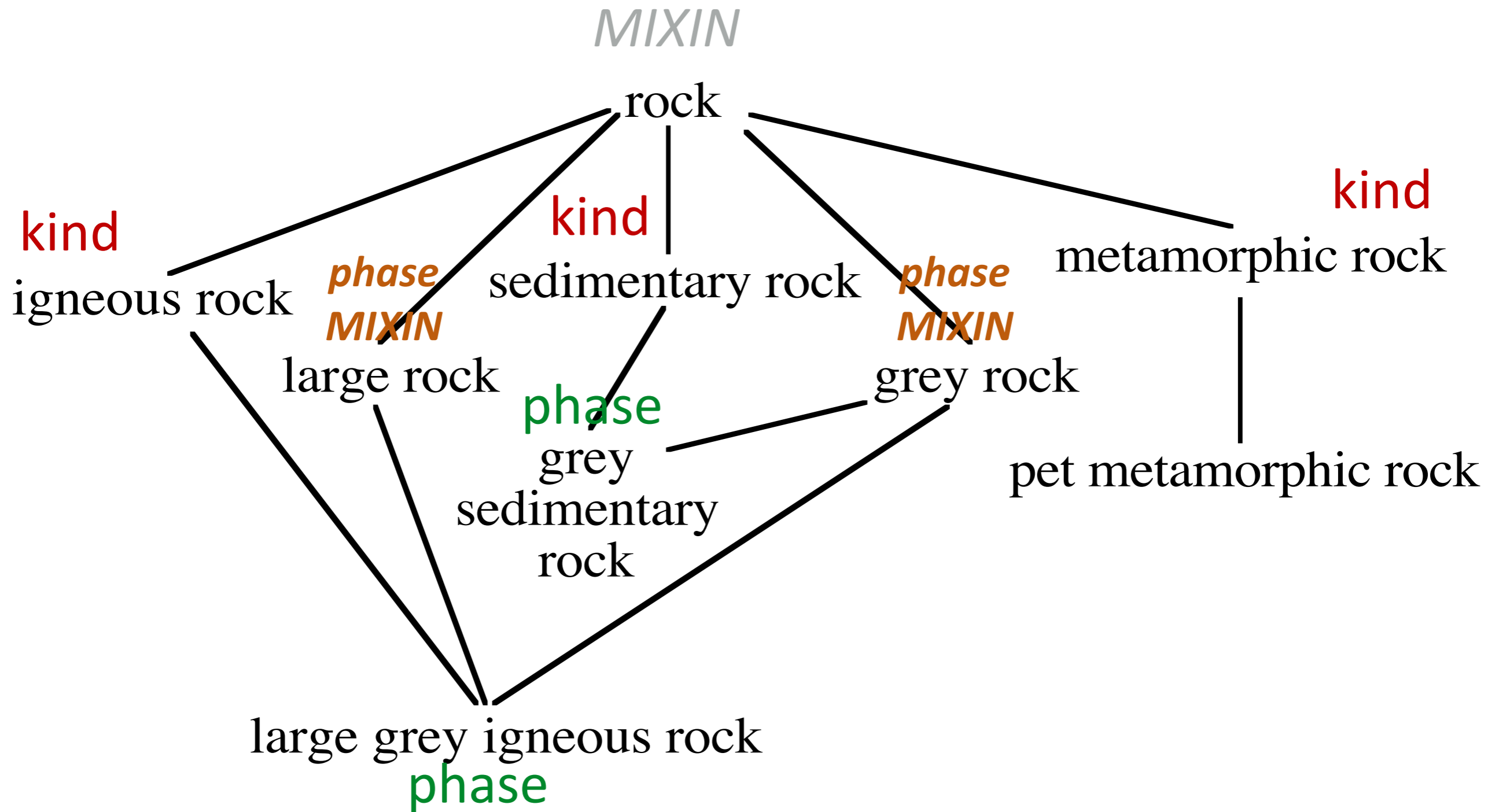
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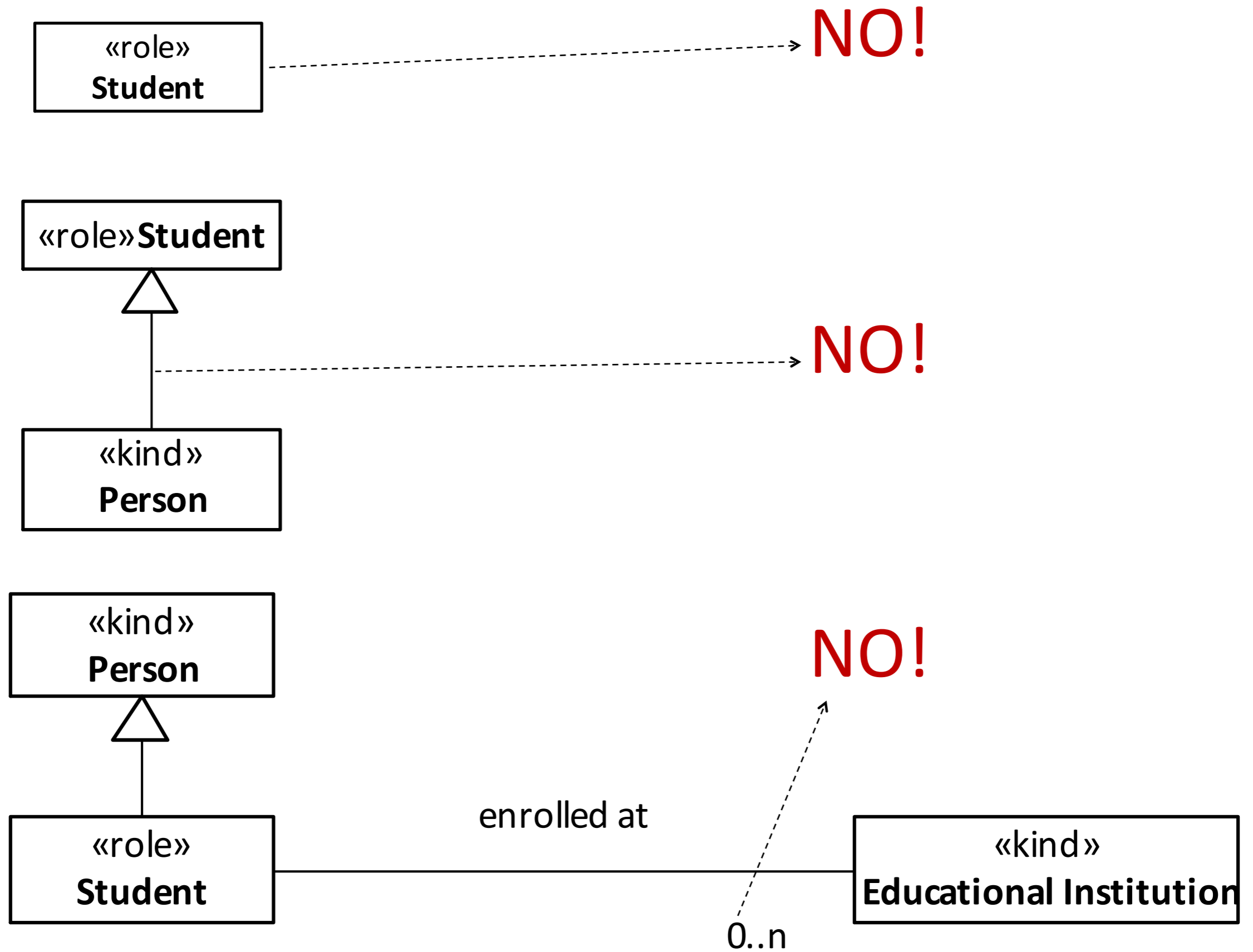
# How many kinds of rock?





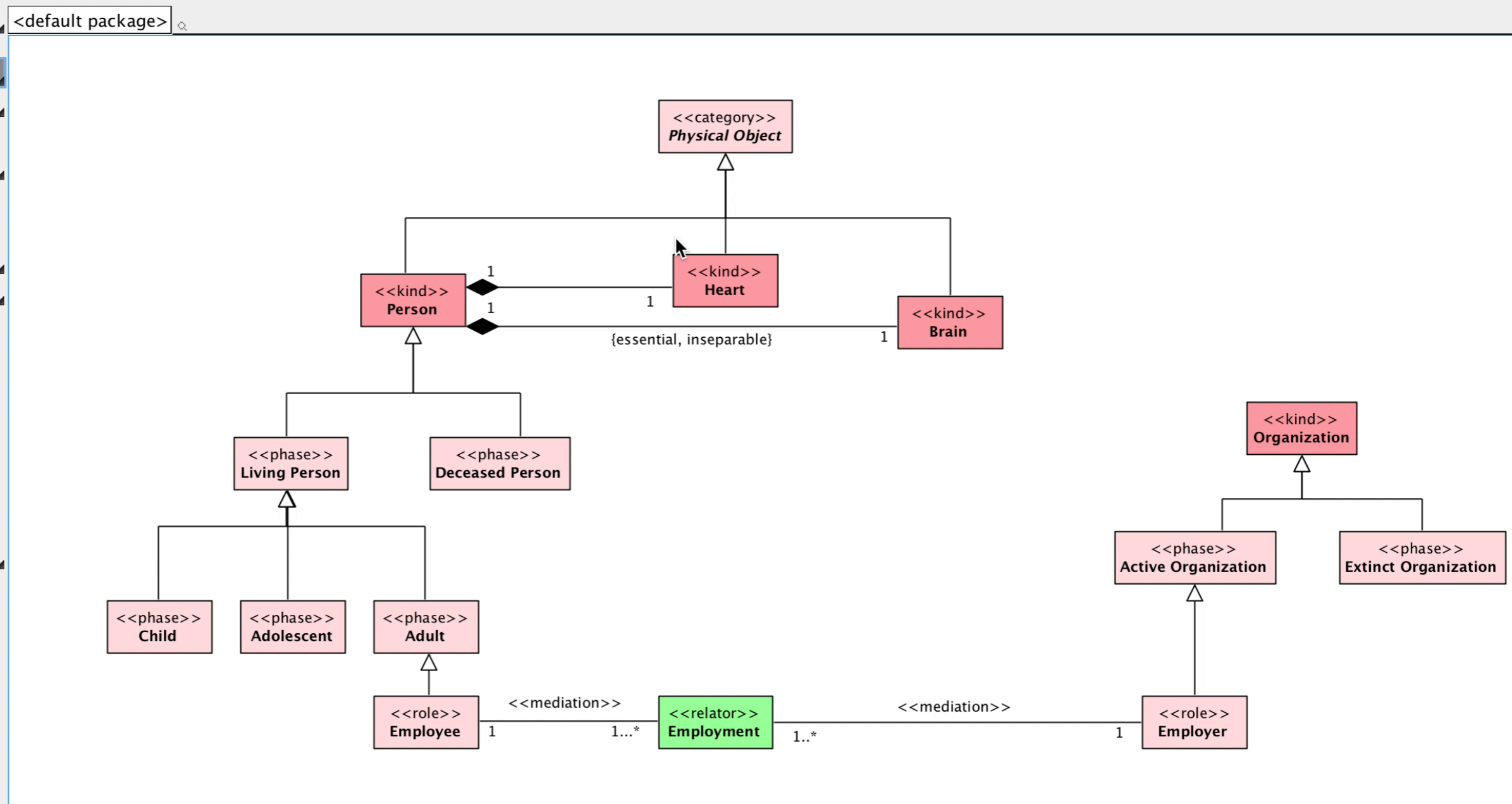
# Role

- All instances of a given ROLE are of the same KIND (e.g., all Students are Person)
- All instances of a ROLE instantiate that type only contingently (e.g., no Student is necessarily a Student)
- Instances of a KIND instantiate that ROLE when participating in a certain RELATIONAL CONTEXT (e.g., instances of Person instantiate the Role Student when enrolled in an Educational Institution)
- A ROLE cannot be a supertype of a Rigid Type



Check Model Check Diagram Export to JSON Settings Export to gUFO Report Error Update Plugin

- Cursor
- Class
- Generalization
- Usage
- Association
- N-ary Association
- Association Class
- Dependency
- Abstraction
- Collaboration
- Model
- REST Service
- Note
- Anchor
- Constraint
- Containment
- Package
- Diagram Overview
- Generic Connector
- User Story
- Image
- Screen Capture
- Callout
- Rectangle





OntoUML introduction

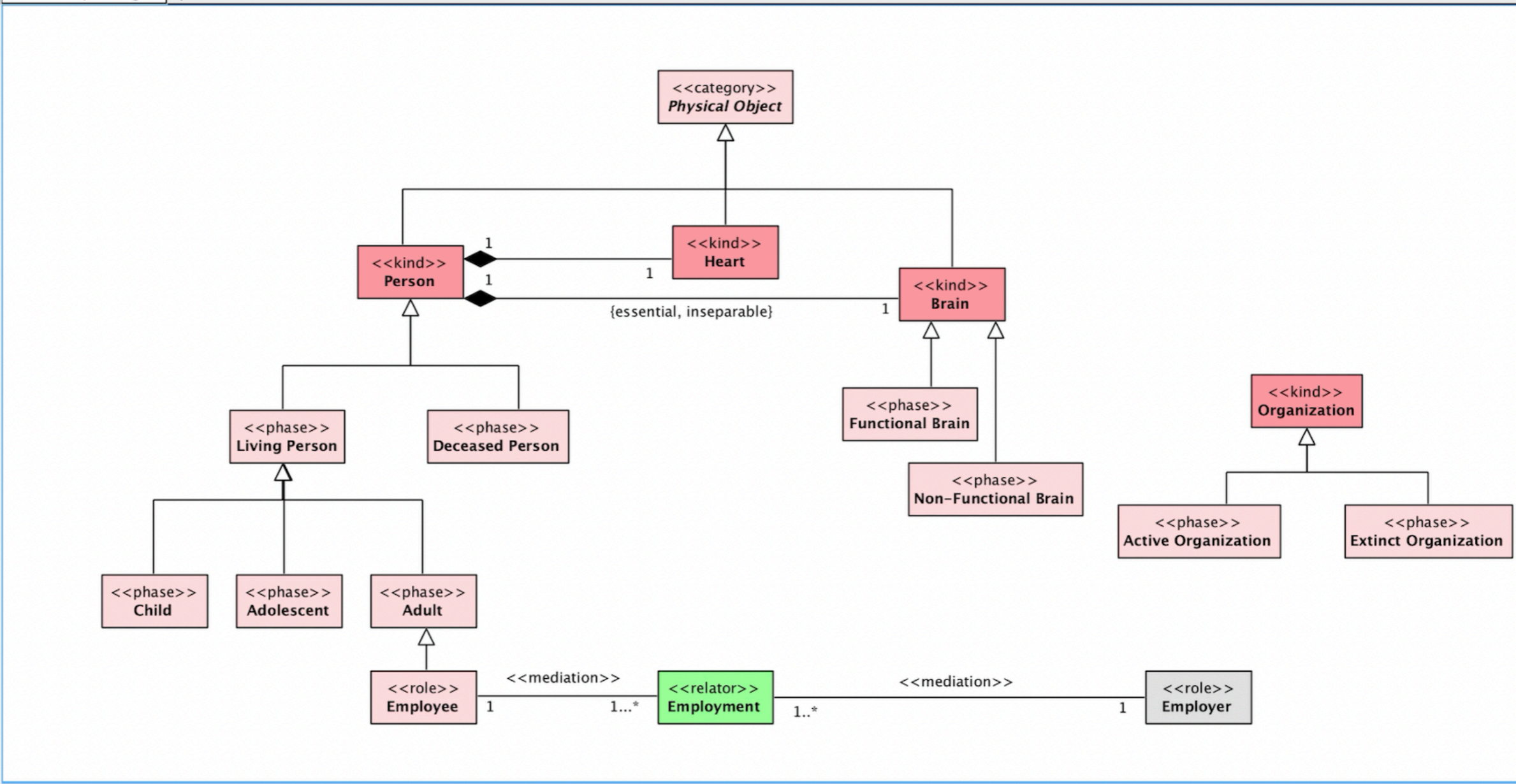
Cursor <default package>

Diagram Navigator

- Class
- Generalization
- Usage
- Association
- N-ary Association
- Association Class
- Dependency
- Abstraction
- Collaboration
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- REST Service
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Diagram Backlog

- Package
- Diagram Overview
- Generic Connector
- User Story
- Image
- Screen Capture
- Callout
- Rectangle



[2020-12-16 22:13:13.445] ERROR: Every sortal class must specialize a unique ultimate sortal. The class Employer must specialize (directly or indirectly) a unique class decorated as one of the following: «kind», «collective»

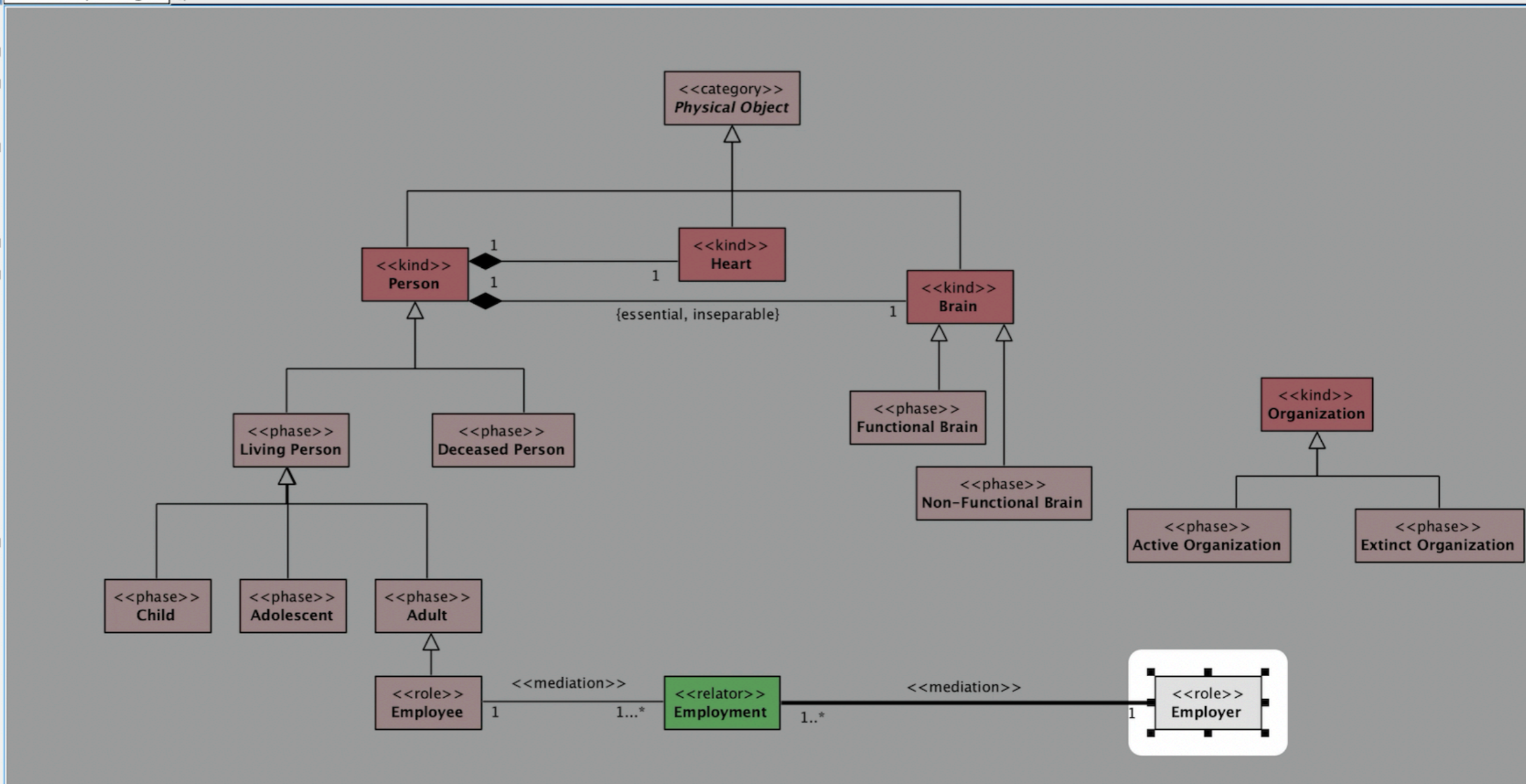
[2020-12-16 22:13:13.445] ERROR: Missing 'allowed' natures meta-property. The class Employer is missing the 'allowed' natures meta-property.

Take me there!

Open Specification



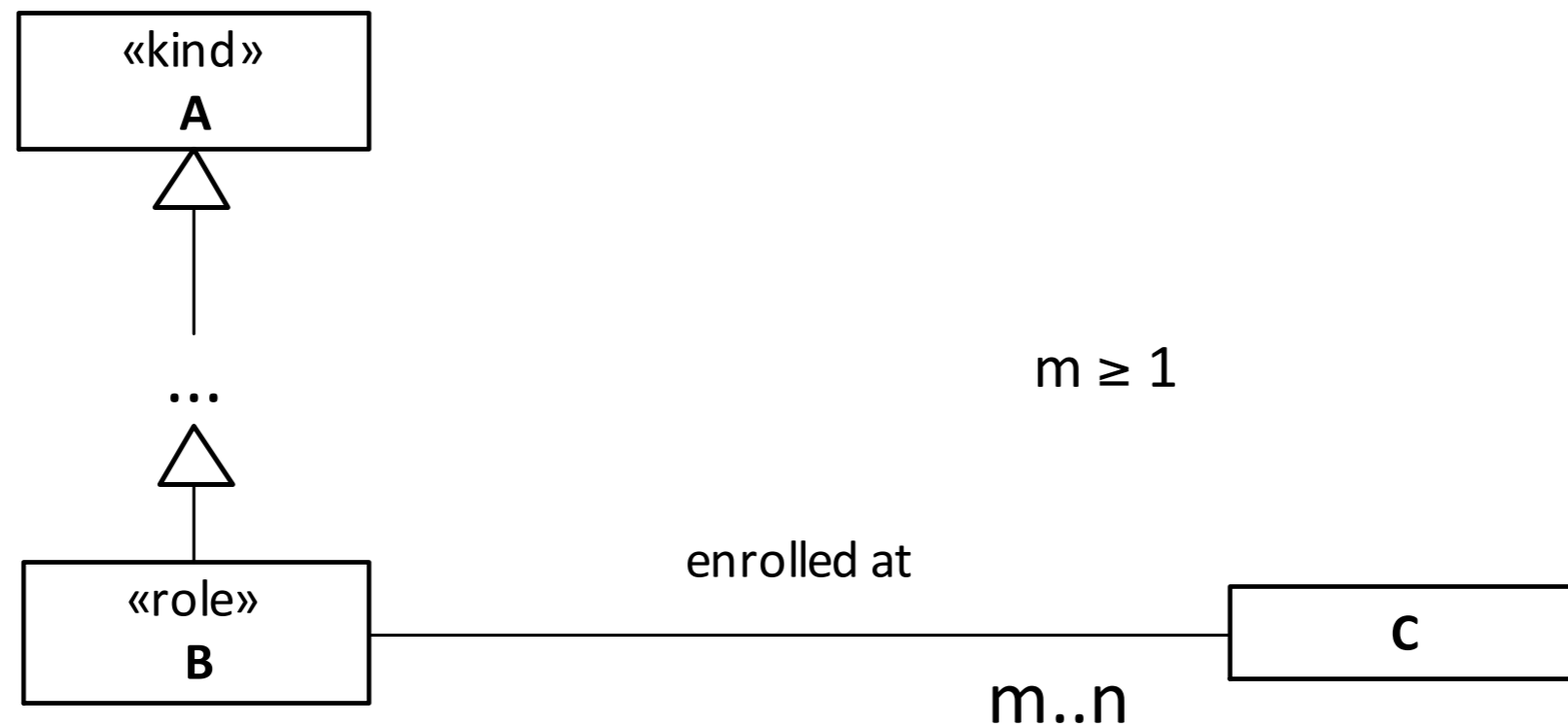
- OntoUML introduction
- Cursor <default package>
- Class
  - Generalization
  - Usage
  - Association
  - N-ary Association
  - Association Class
  - Dependency
  - Abstraction
  - Collaboration
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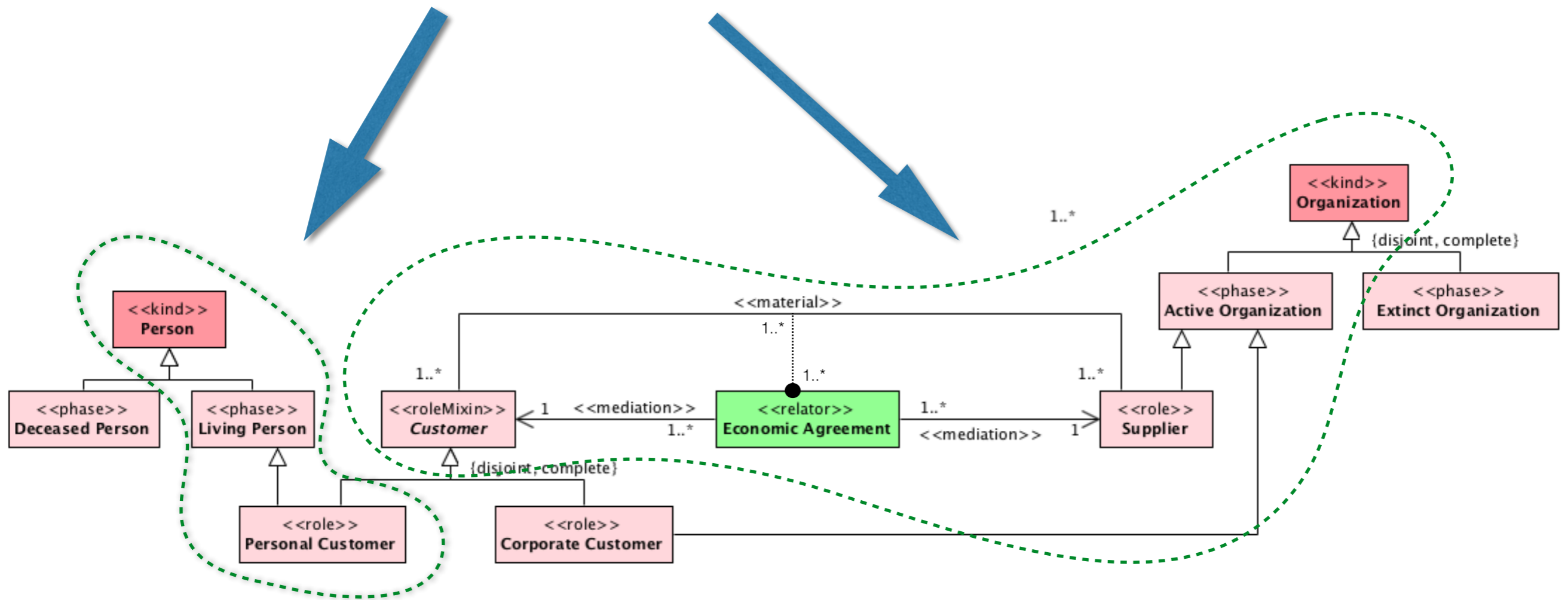


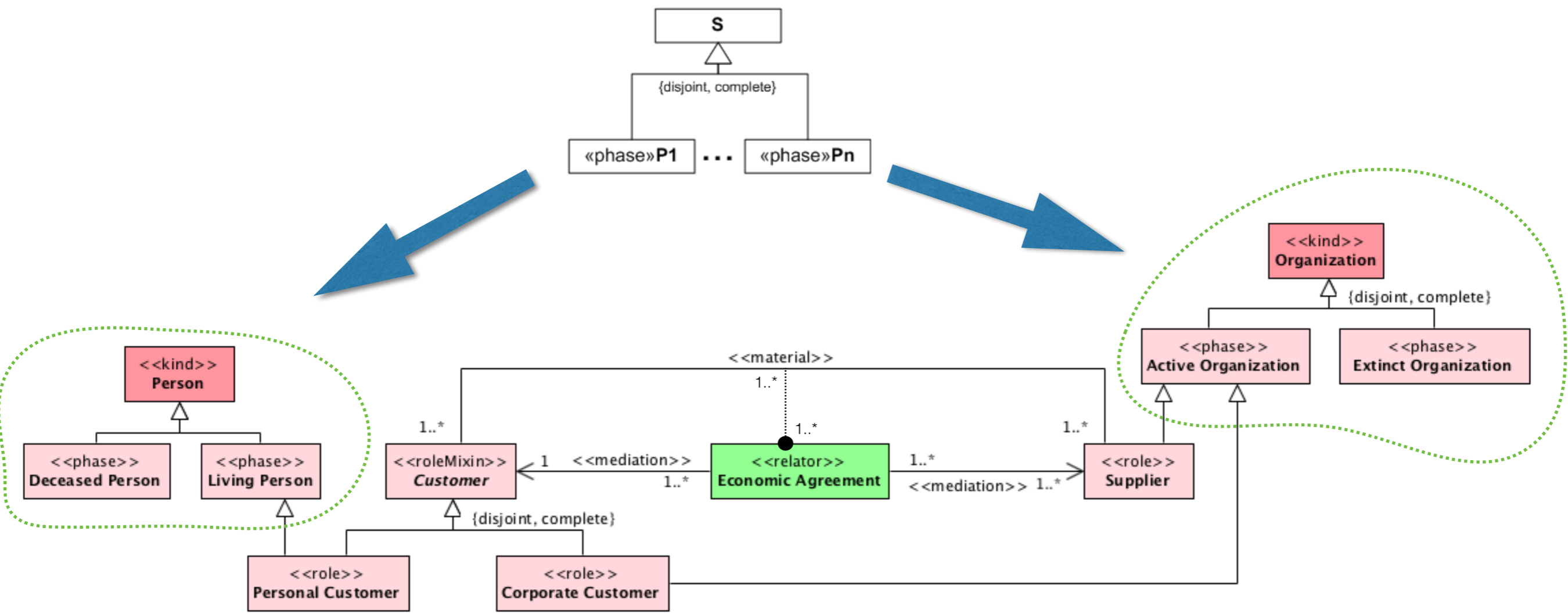
[2020-12-16 22:13:13.445] ERROR: Every sortal class must specialize a unique ultimate sortal. The class Employee must specialize (directly or indirectly) a unique class decorated as one of the following: «kind», «collective»

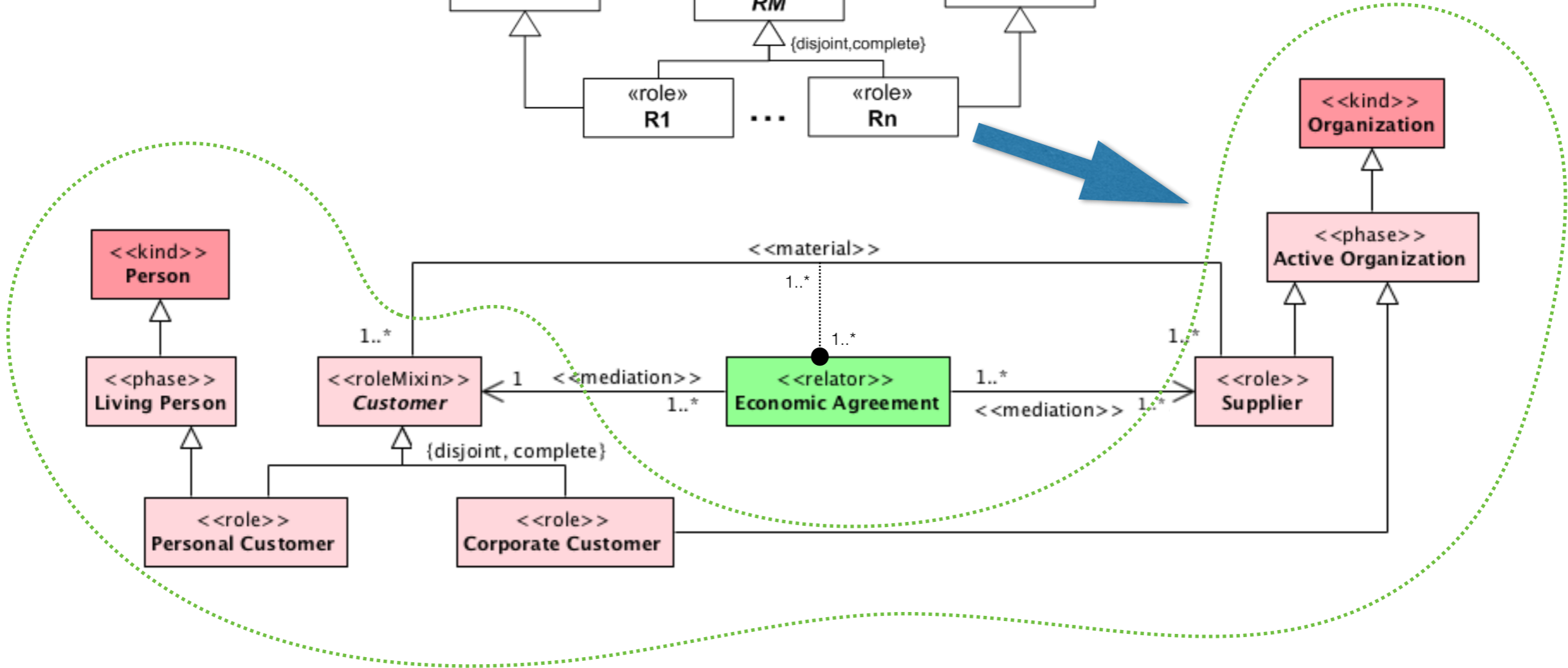
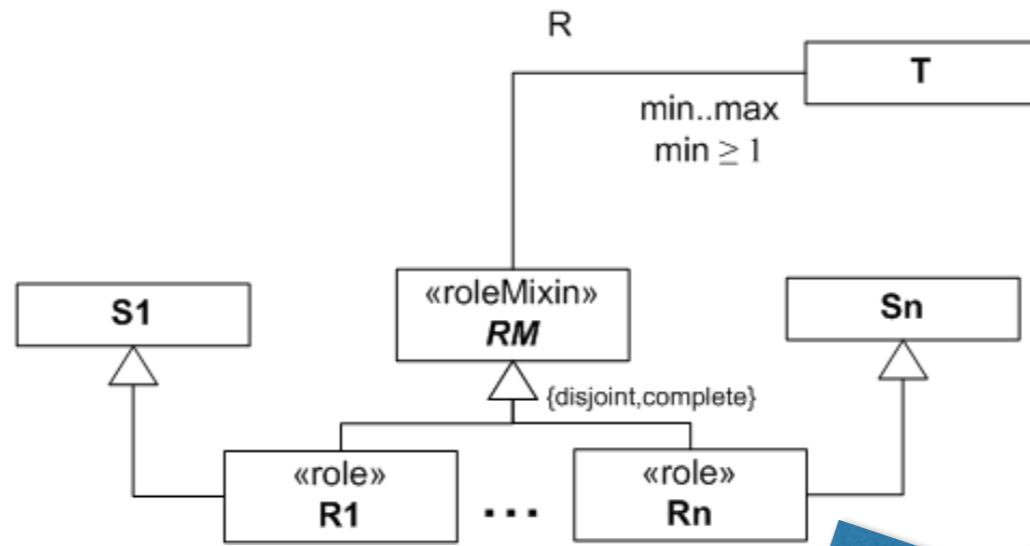
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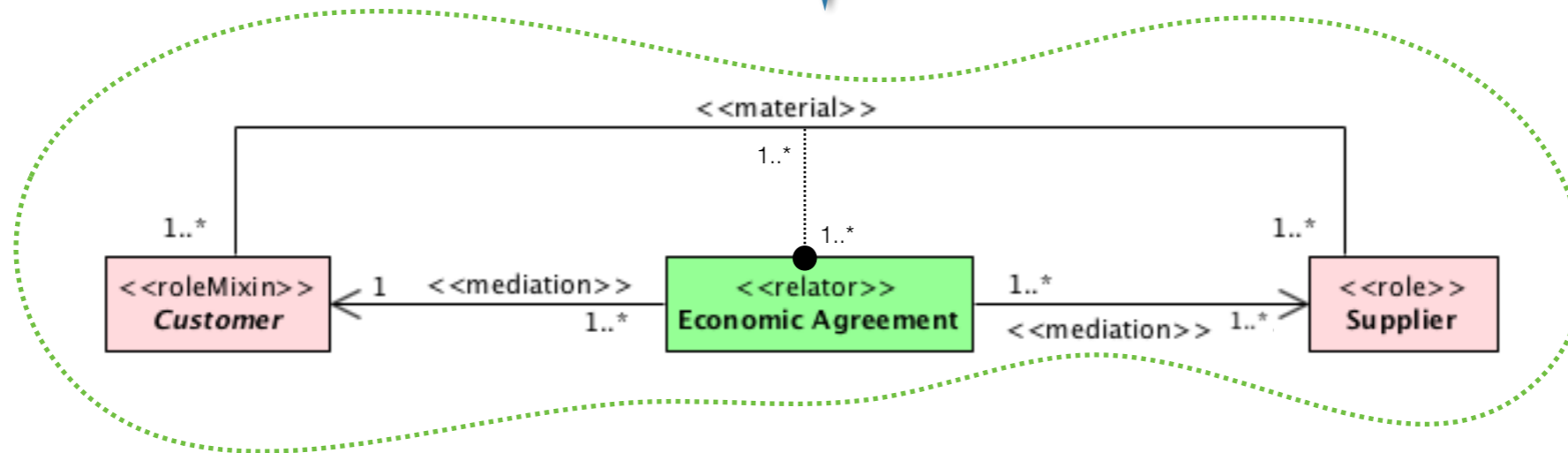
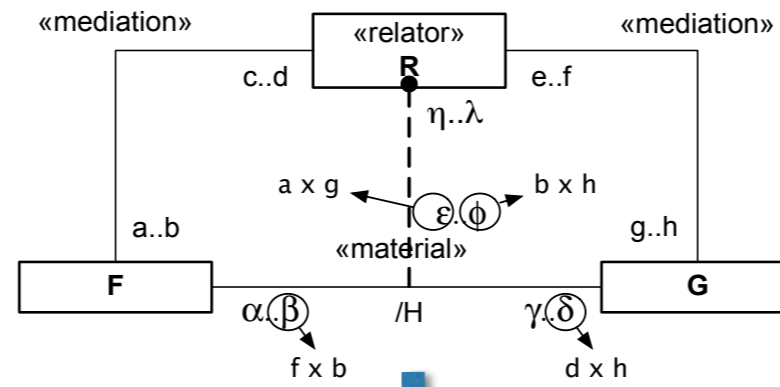
# The Emerging **Role** Pattern





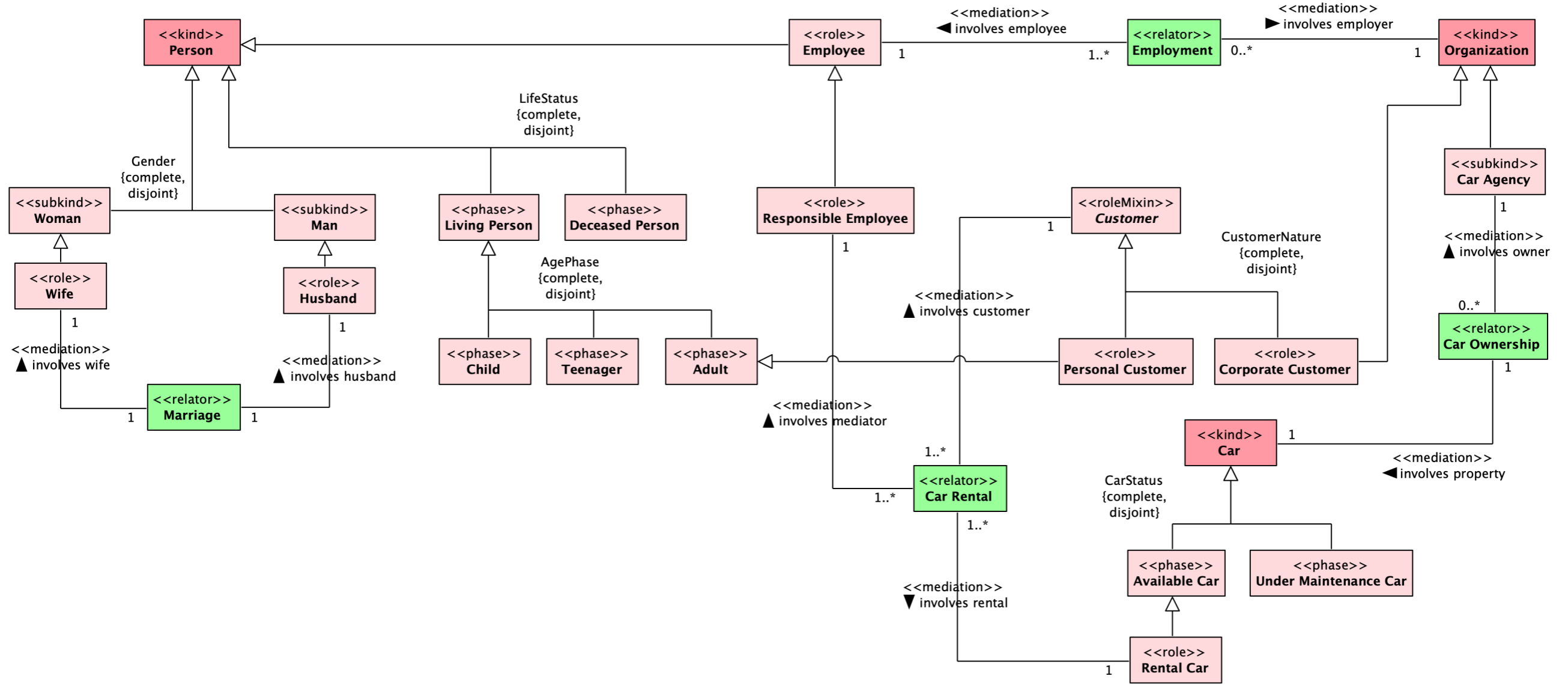


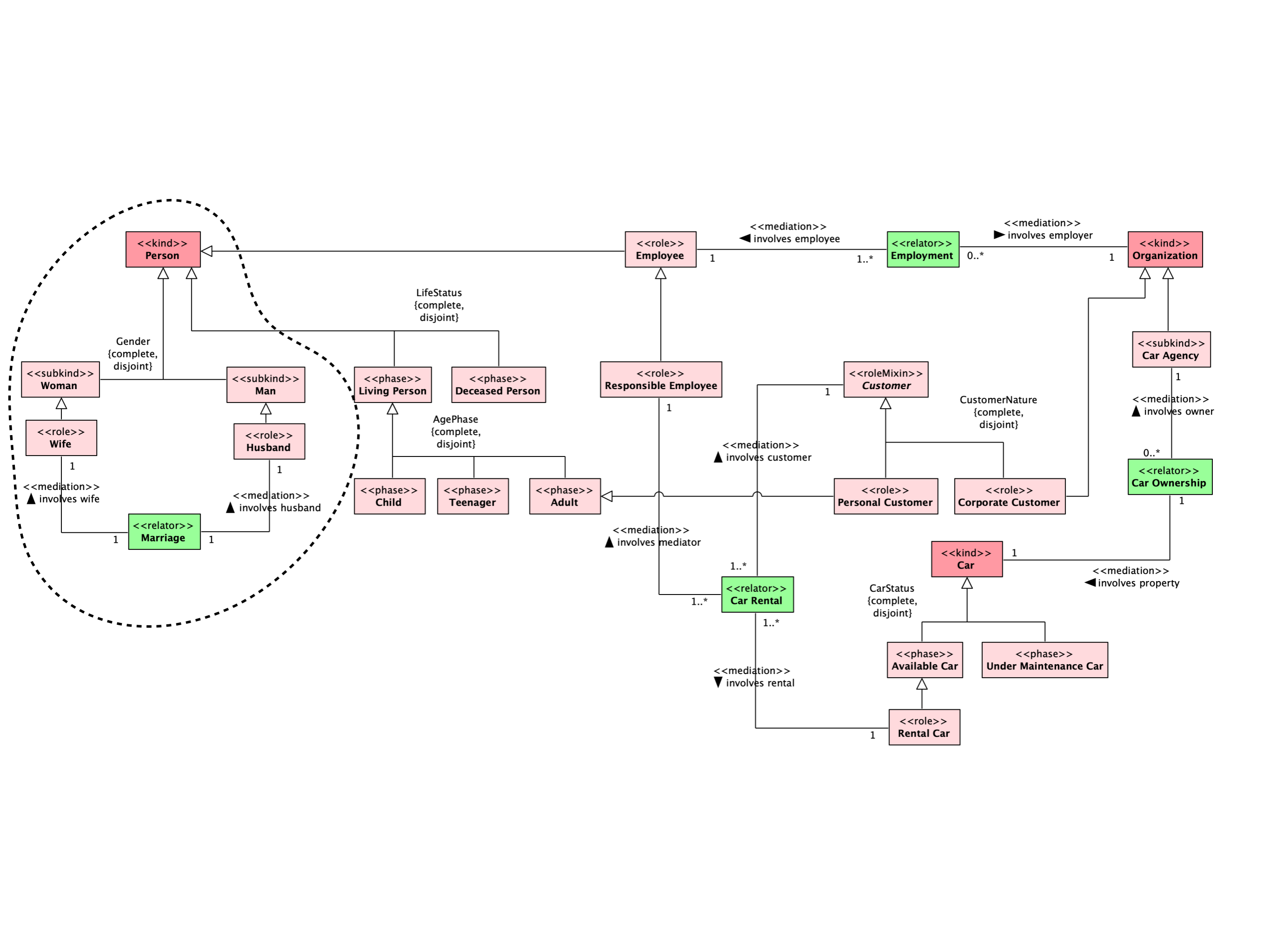


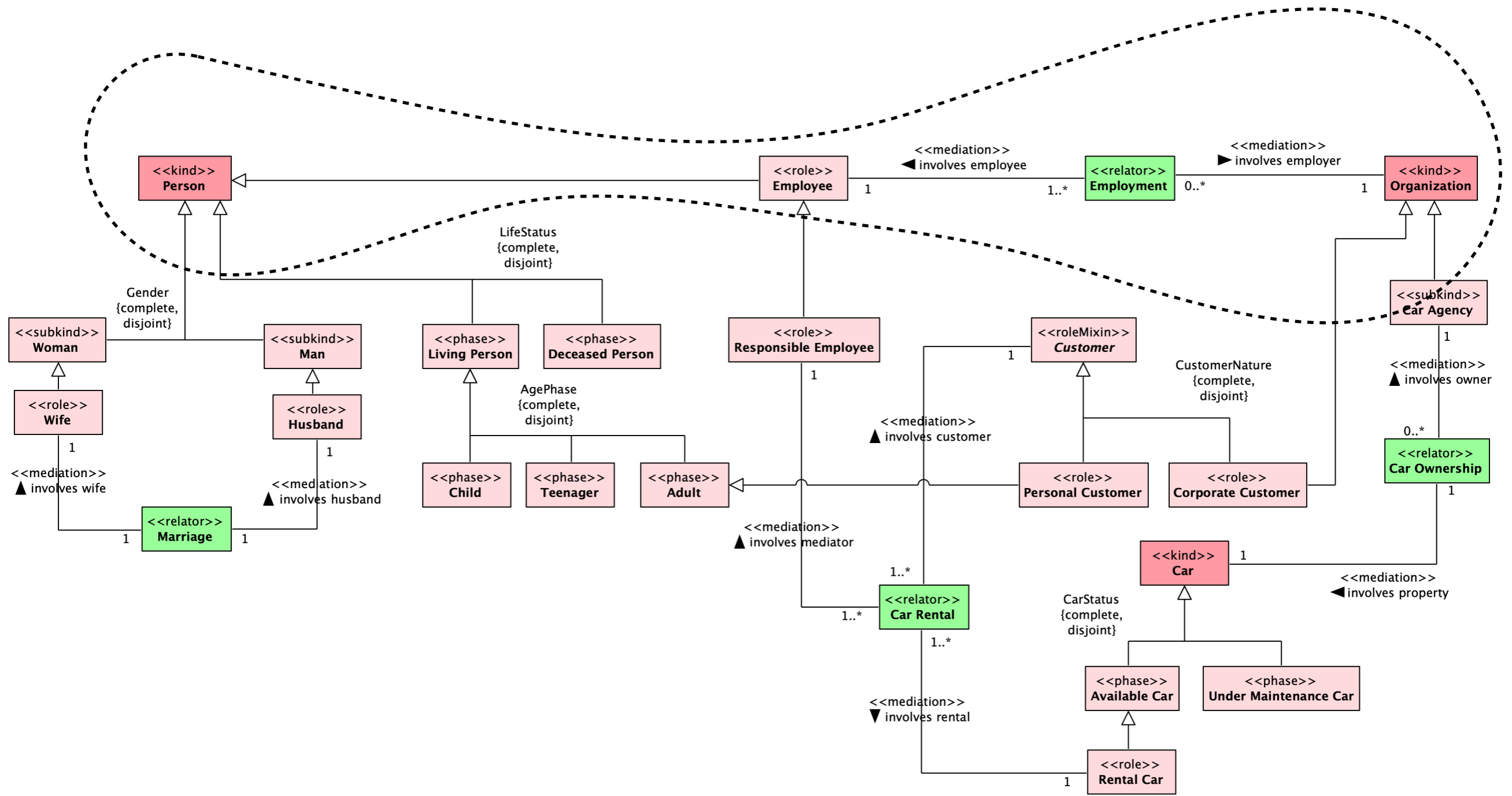




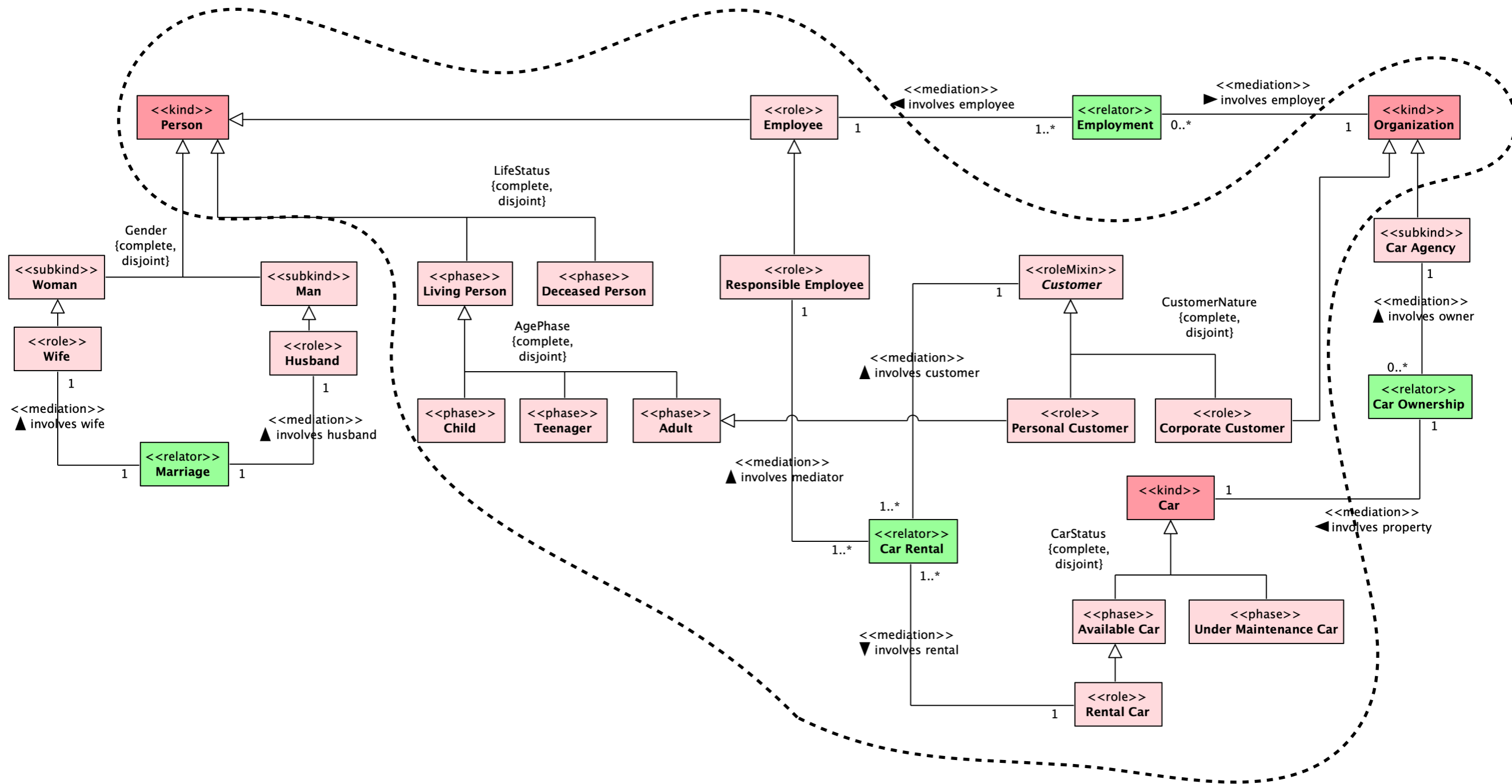


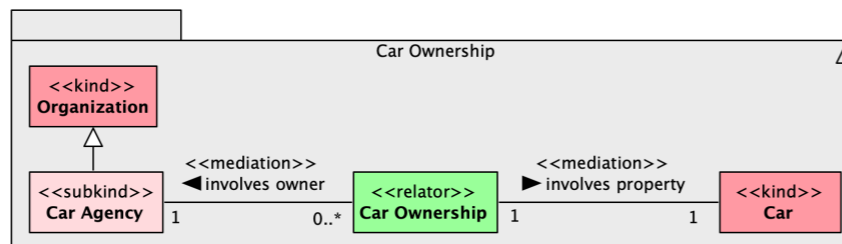
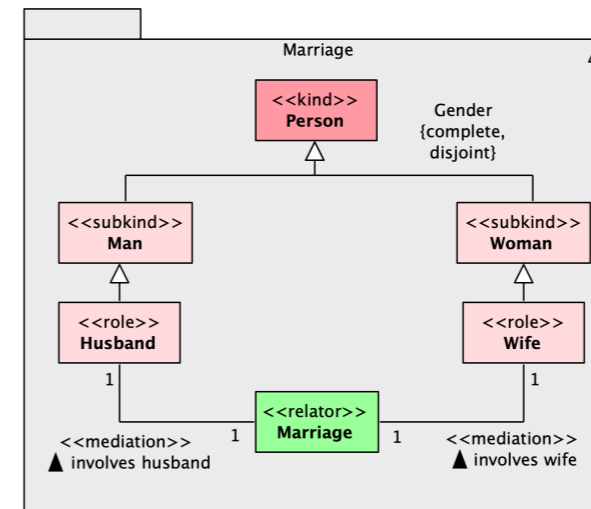
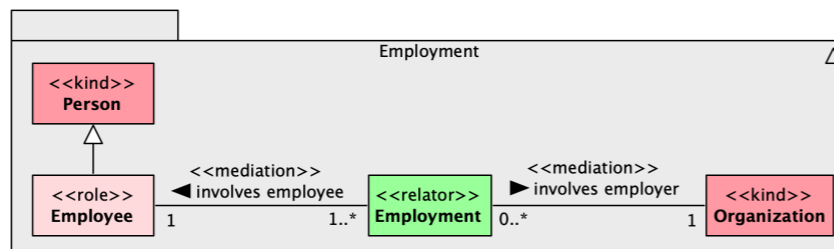
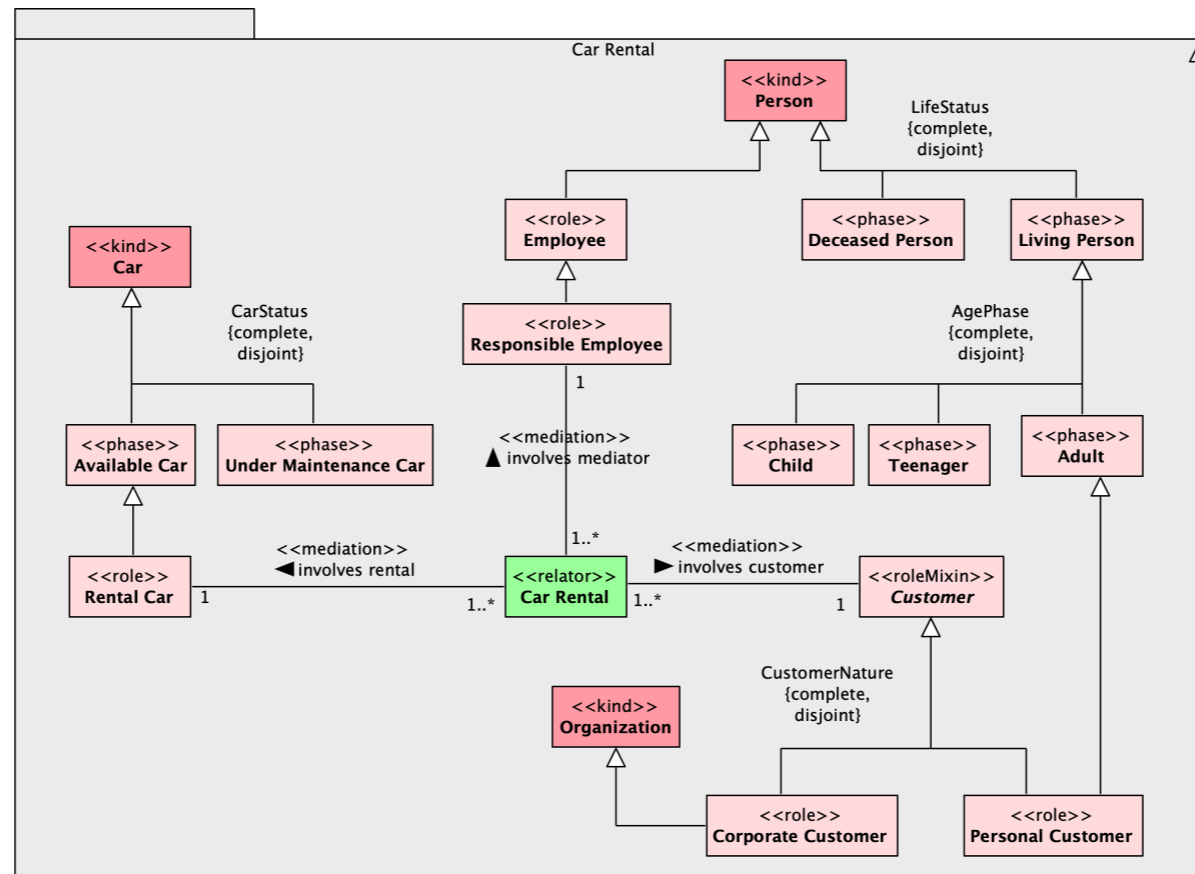


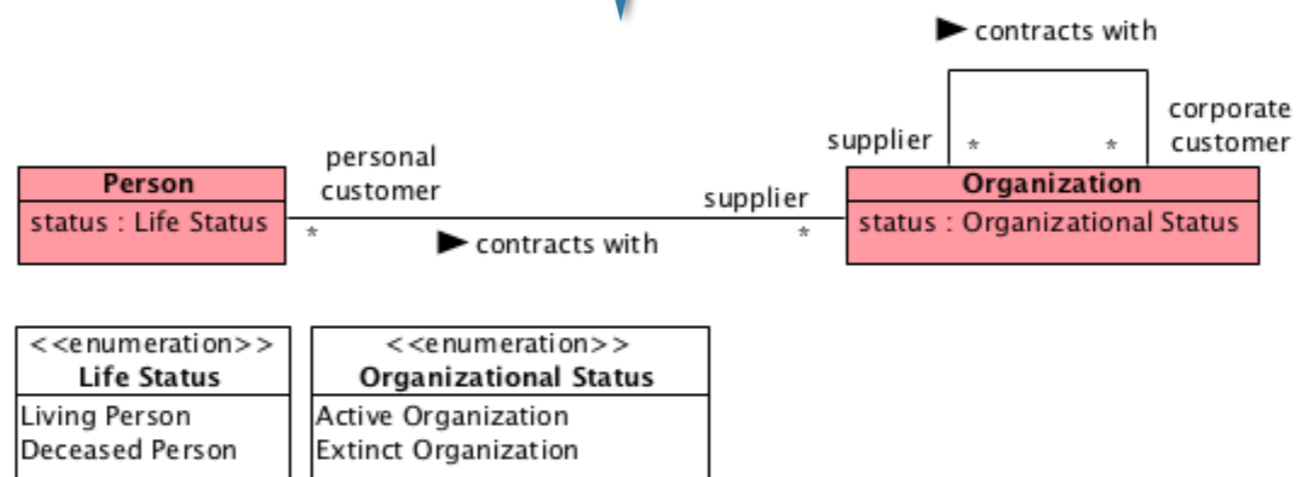
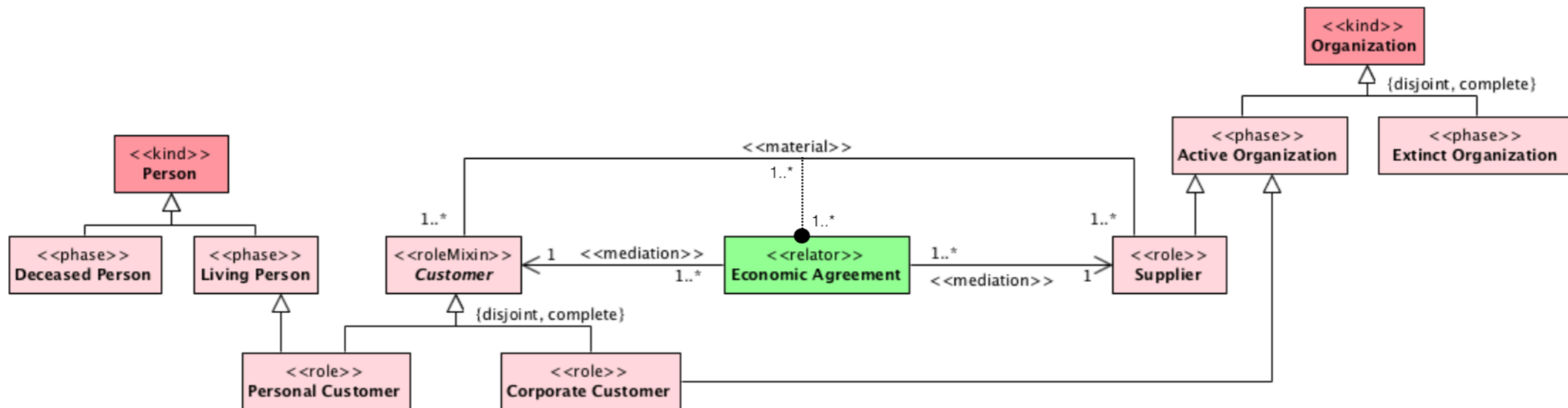






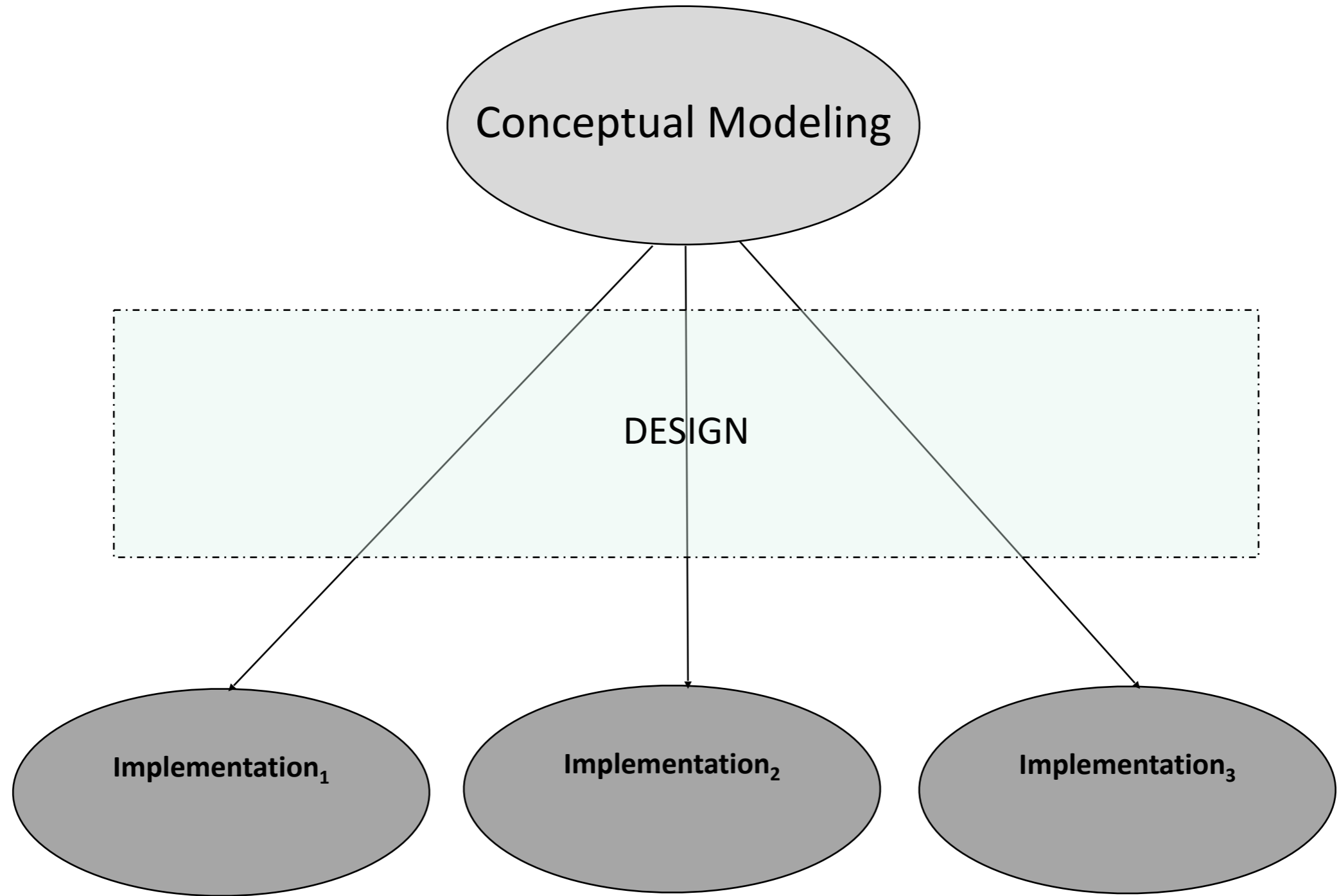








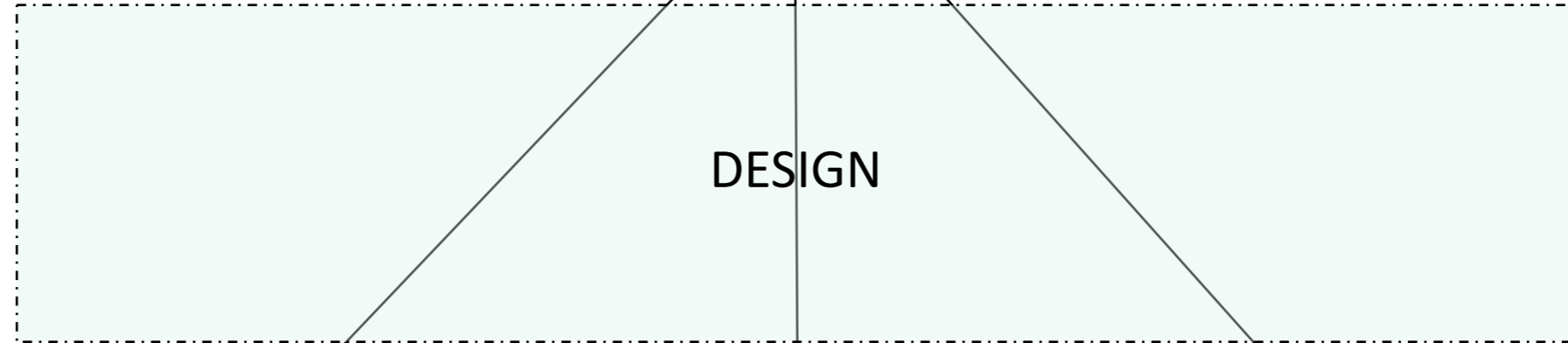




# Conceptual Modeling



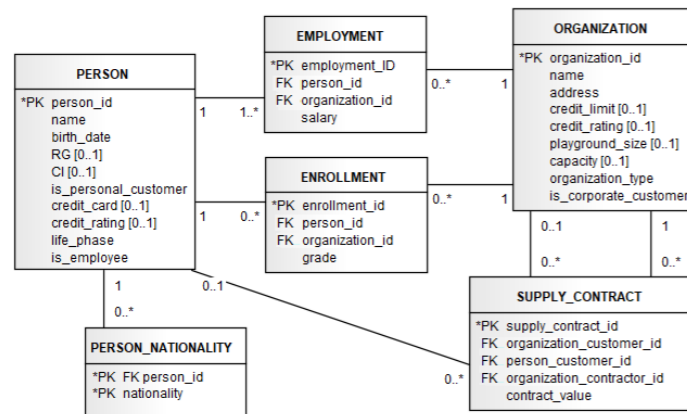
DESIGN



Implementation<sub>1</sub>

Implementation<sub>2</sub>

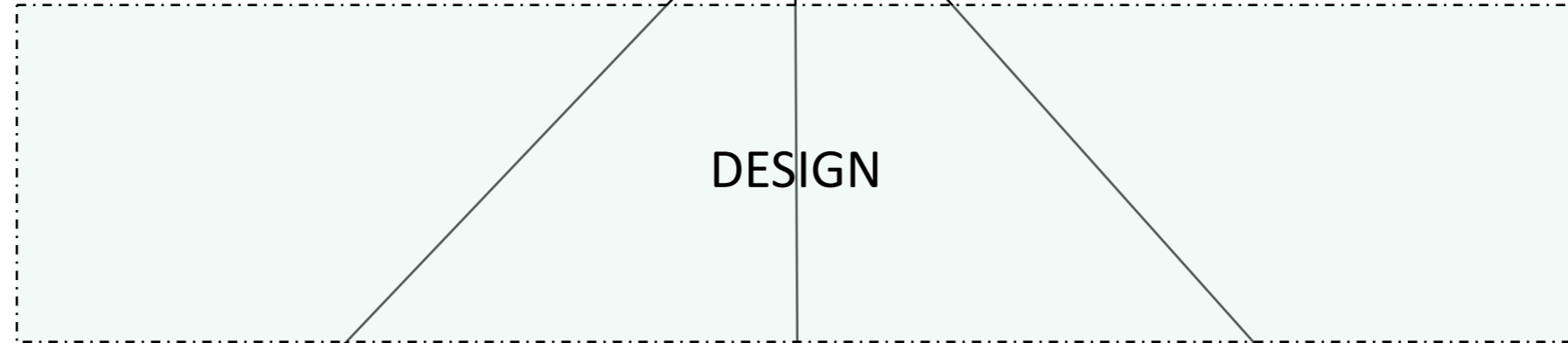
Implementation<sub>3</sub>



Conceptual Modeling



DESIGN

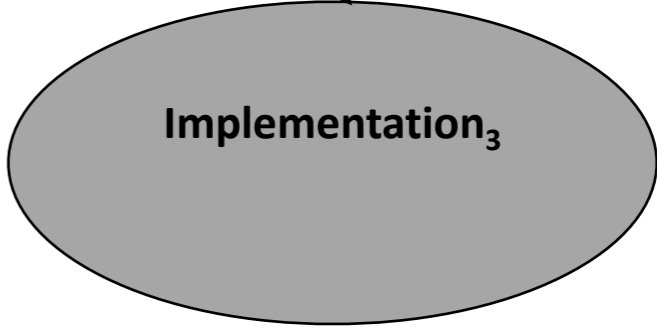
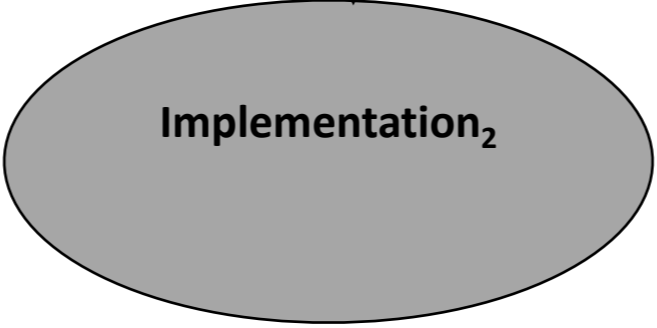
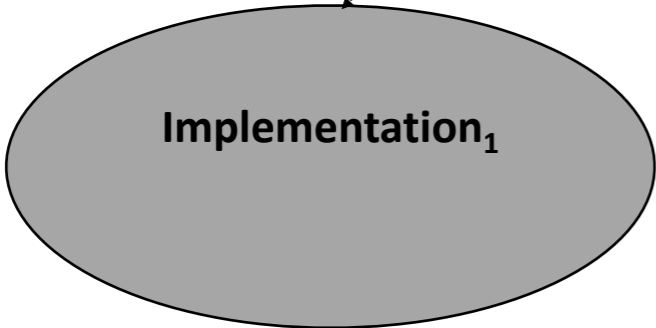
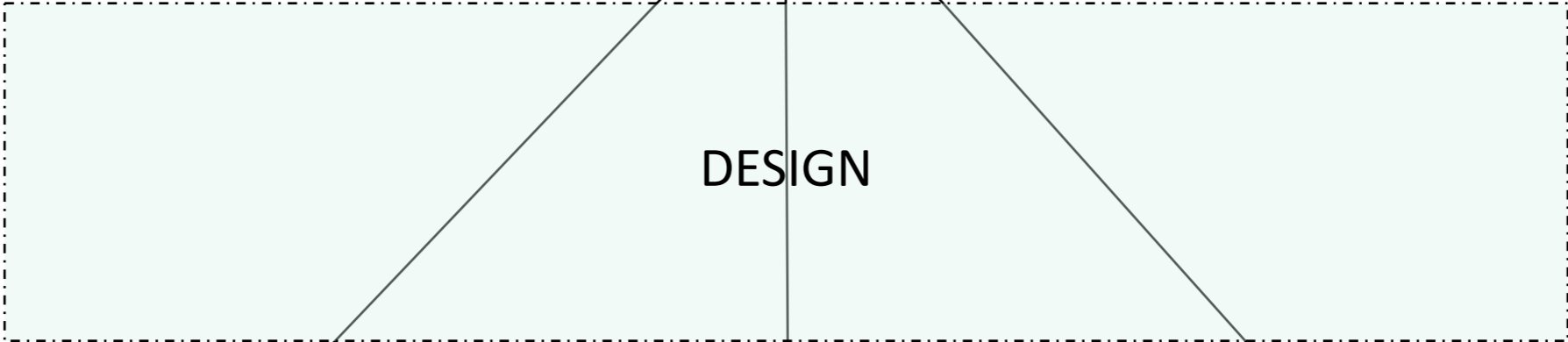
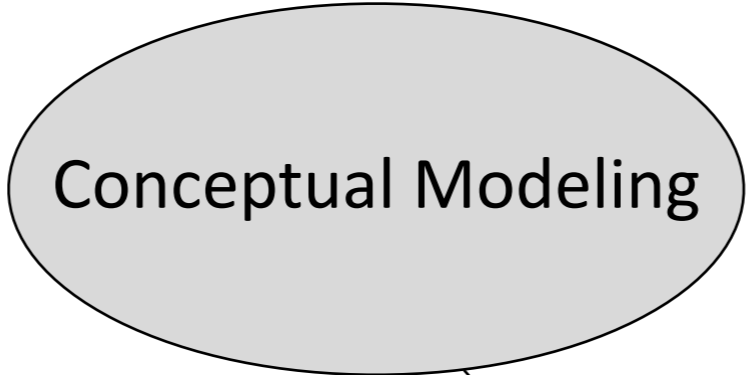


Implementation<sub>1</sub>

Implementation<sub>2</sub>

Implementation<sub>3</sub>

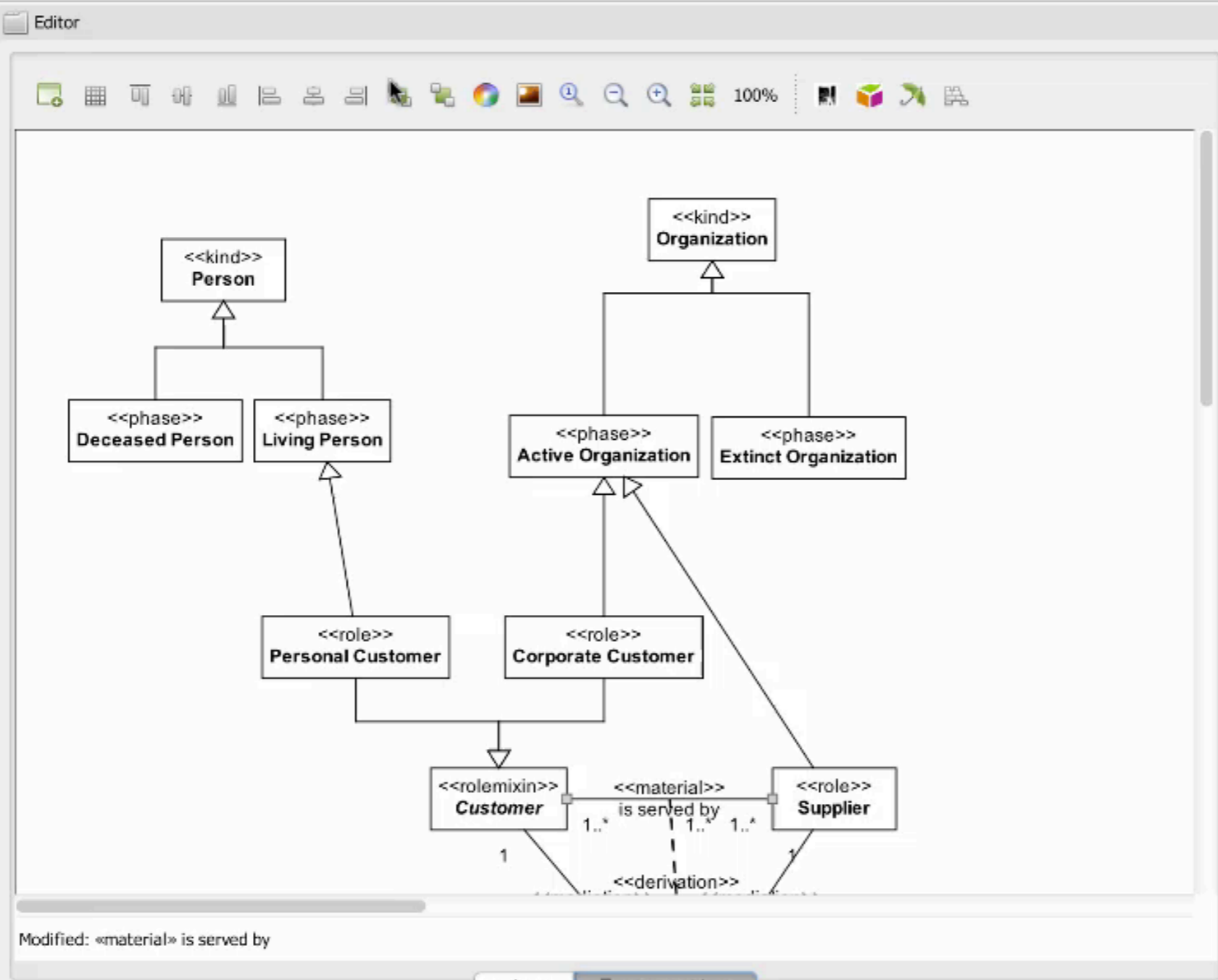
```
1 sig Person_Set in Concept { Person: some World }
2 {
3   Person in existsIn
4   all w1: World | w1 in Person => (all w2:
5     w1.access | (w2 in existsIn) => (w2 in
6     Person)) -- Rigidity
7   some w: World | w in this.Child -- Phase
8   some w: World | w in this.Teenager -- Phase
9   some w: World | w in this.Adult -- Phase
10  :
11 }
```





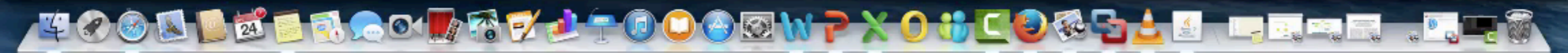
**Toolbox**

- Elements
- Patterns
  - Pointer
  - Principle of Identity
  - Relator
  - RoleMixin
- Derived Patterns

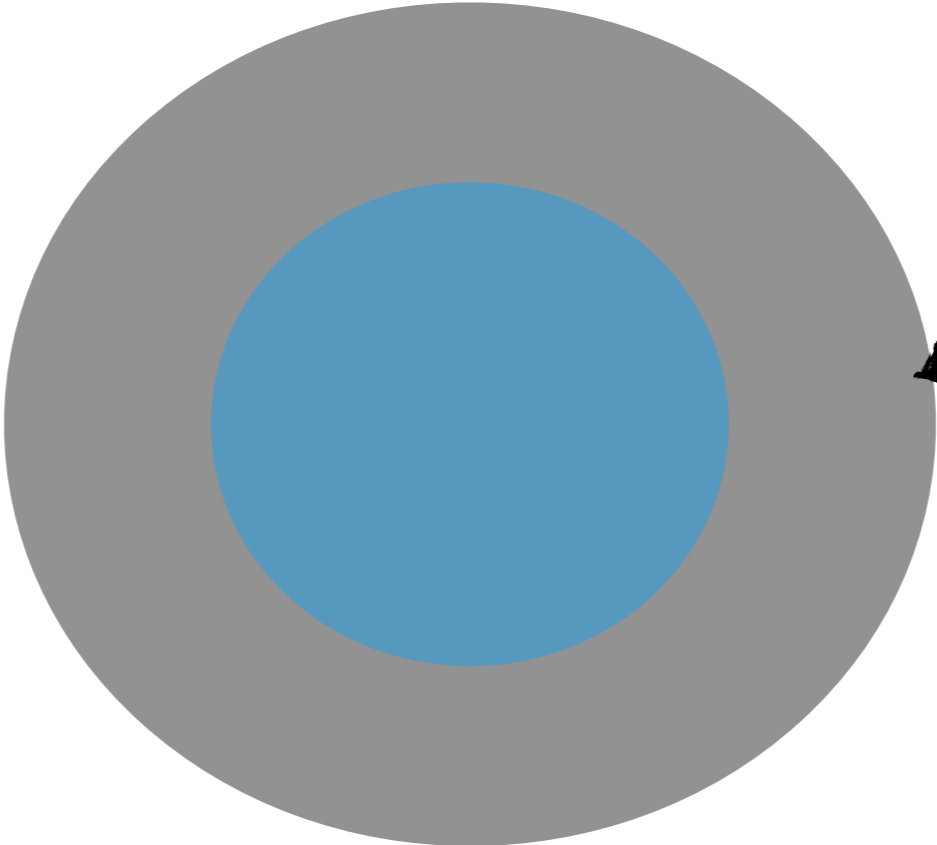


**Project Browser**

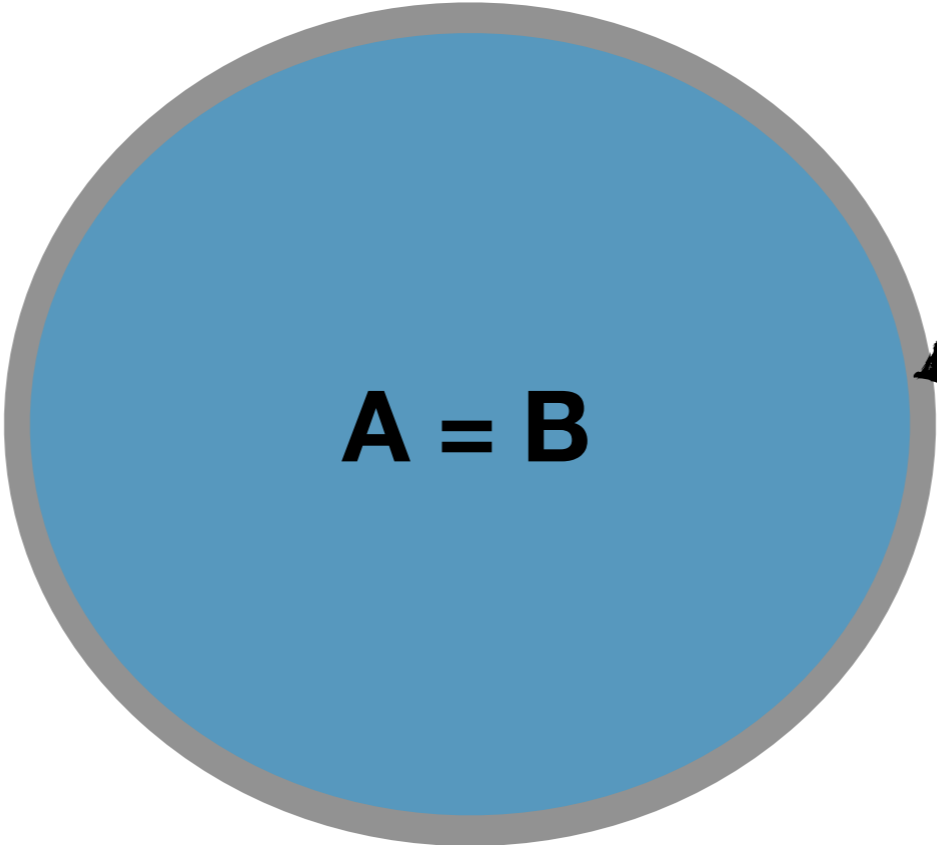
- OLED Project
  - Diagrams
  - Constraints
  - Model
    - «Phase» Living Person
    - Generalization Person
    - «Phase» Deceased Person
    - Generalization Person
    - «Kind» Person
    - GeneralizationSet partition1 { Dece
    - «Phase» Extinct Organization
    - Generalization Organization
    - «Phase» Active Organization
    - Generalization Organization
    - «Kind» Organization
    - GeneralizationSet partition2 { Activ
    - «RoleMixin» Customer
    - «Relator» Service Contract
    - «Role» Supplier
    - Generalization Active Organizat
    - «Role» Corporate Customer
    - Generalization Active Organizat
    - Generalization Customer
    - «Role» Personal Customer
    - Generalization Living Person
    - Generalization Customer
    - «Material» is served by
    - «Mediation»
    - «Mediation»
    - «Derivation»
    - GeneralizationSet roleMixinGS3 { Pe





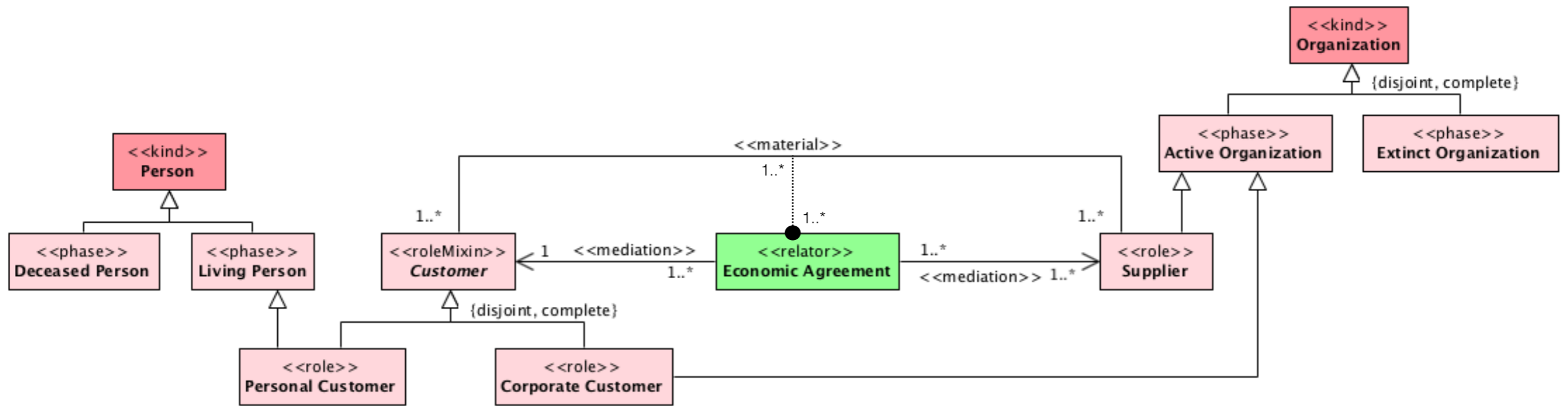


**Constraints**



**Constraints**

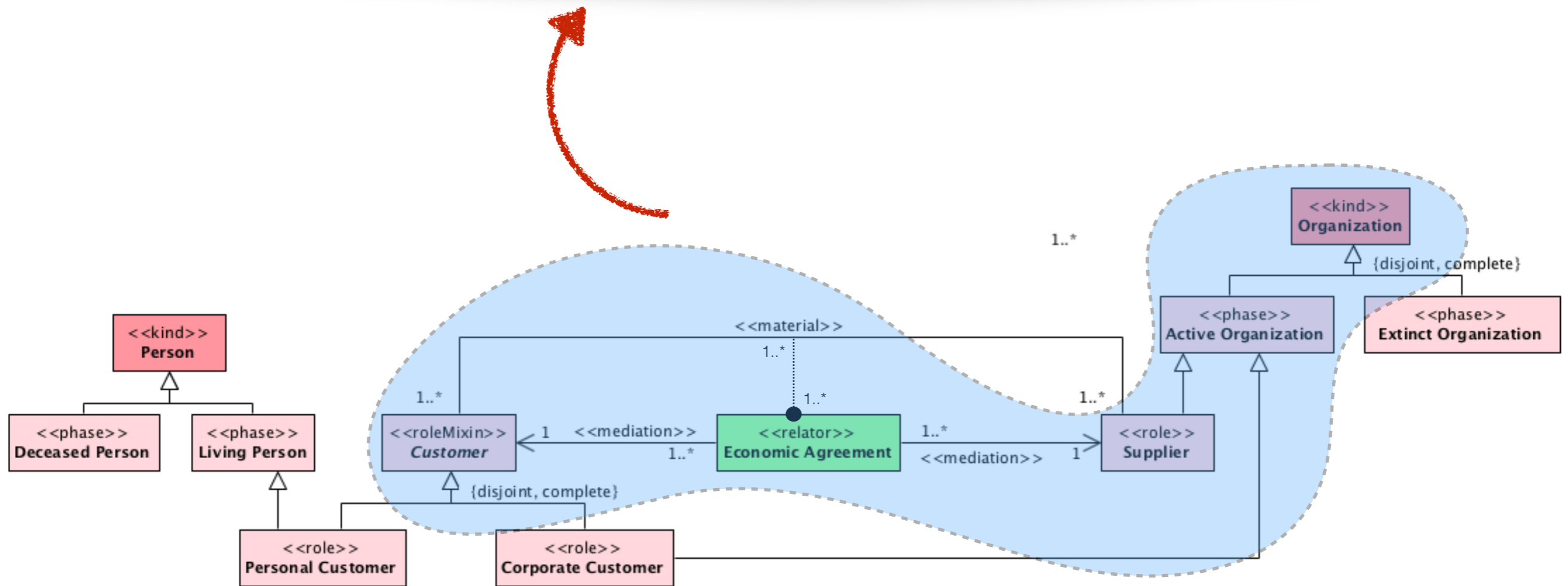


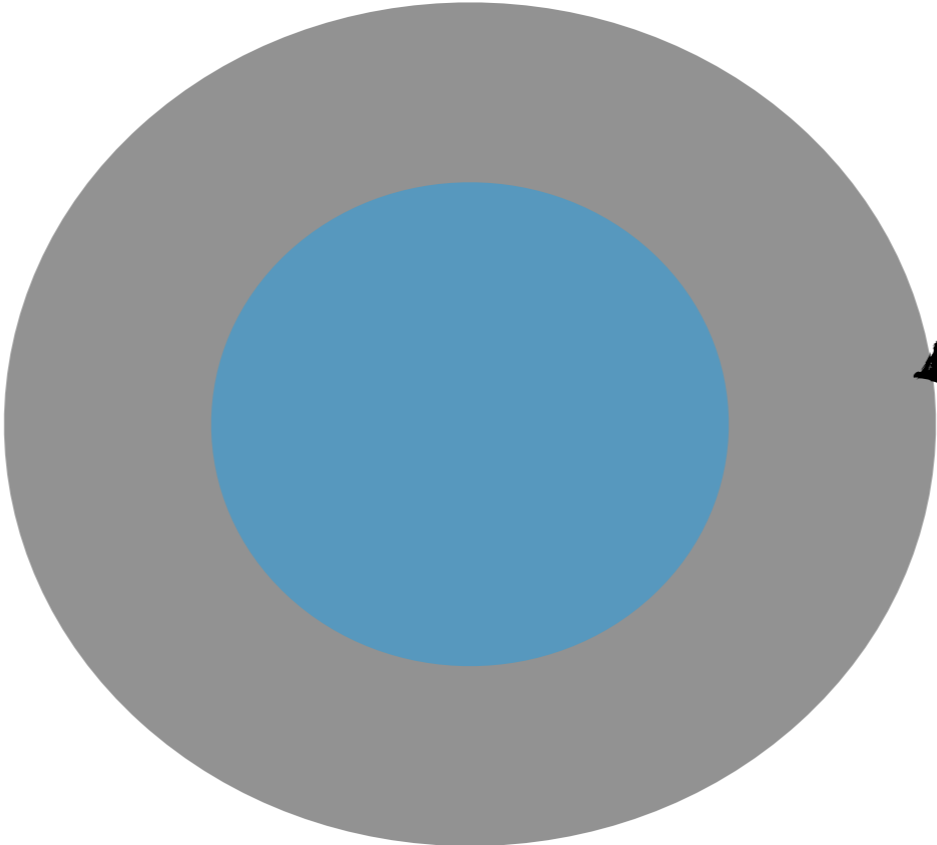


$\forall x \text{Supplier}(x) \rightarrow \text{ActiveOrganization}(x)$

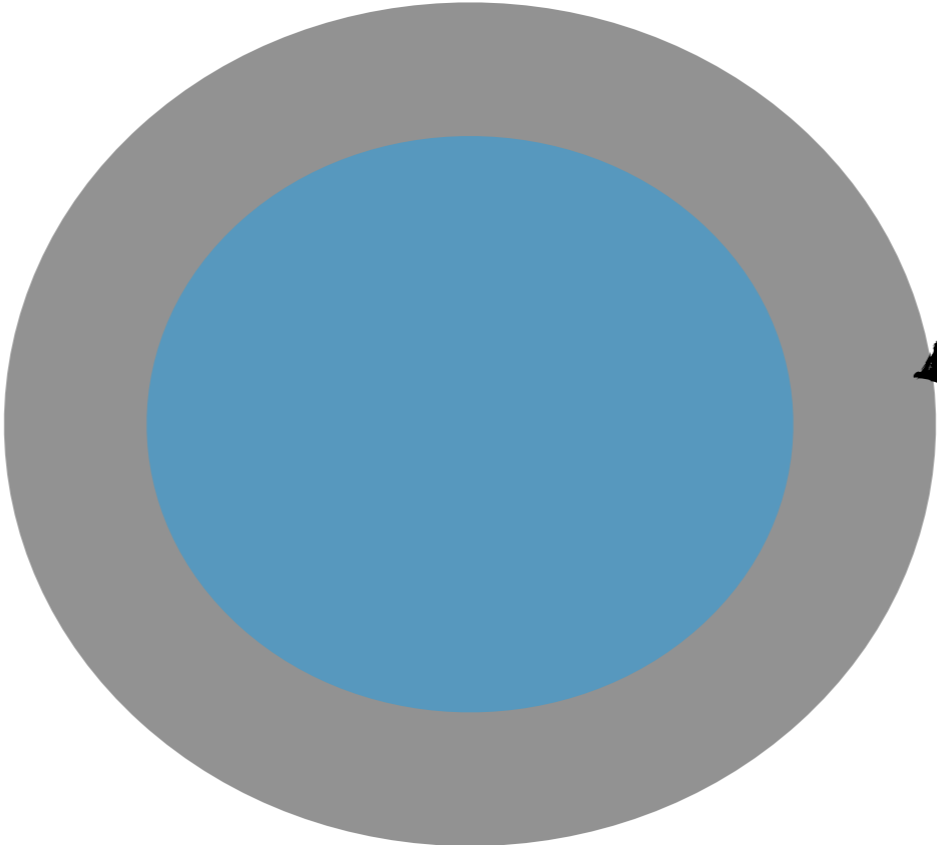
$\forall x \text{Supplier}(x) \rightarrow \diamond \neg \text{Supplier}(x)$

$\square (\forall x \text{Supplier}(x) \rightarrow \exists y \text{Customer}(y) \wedge \text{contractsWith}(y, x))$

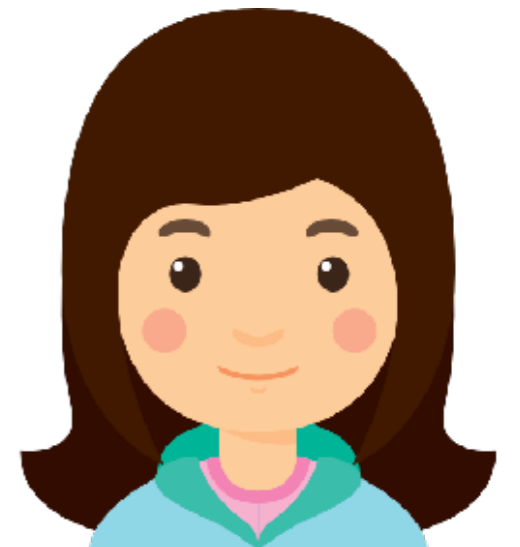
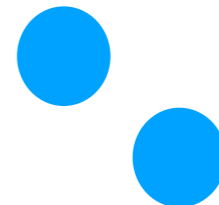
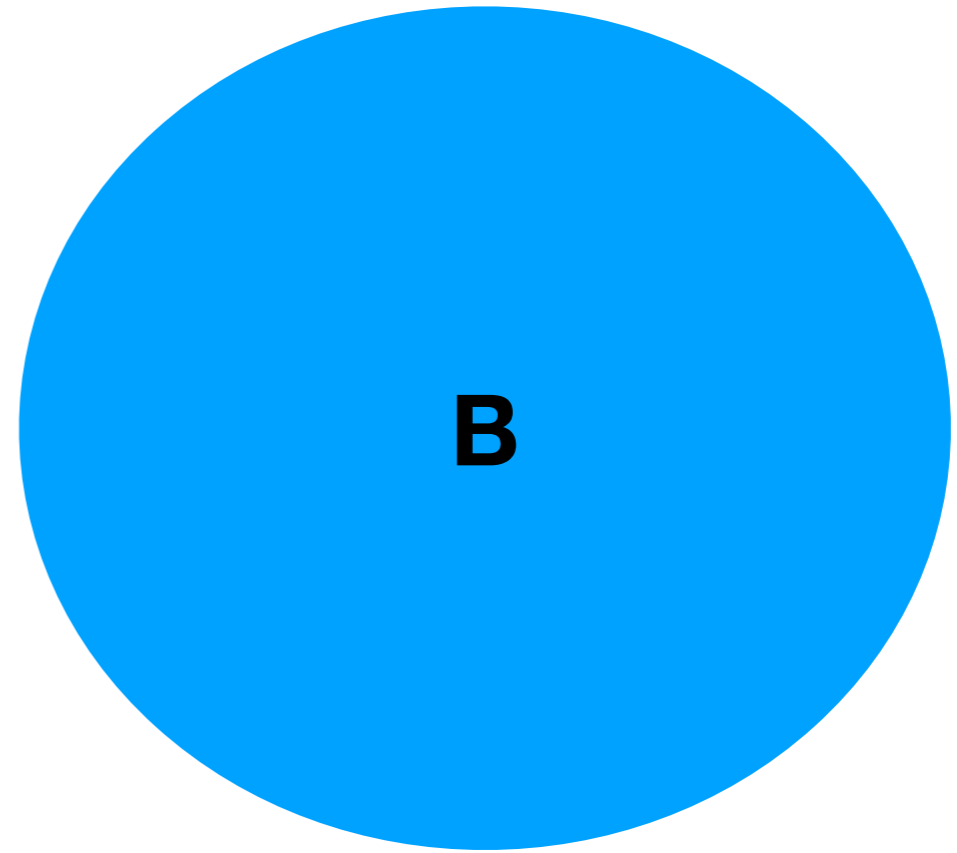
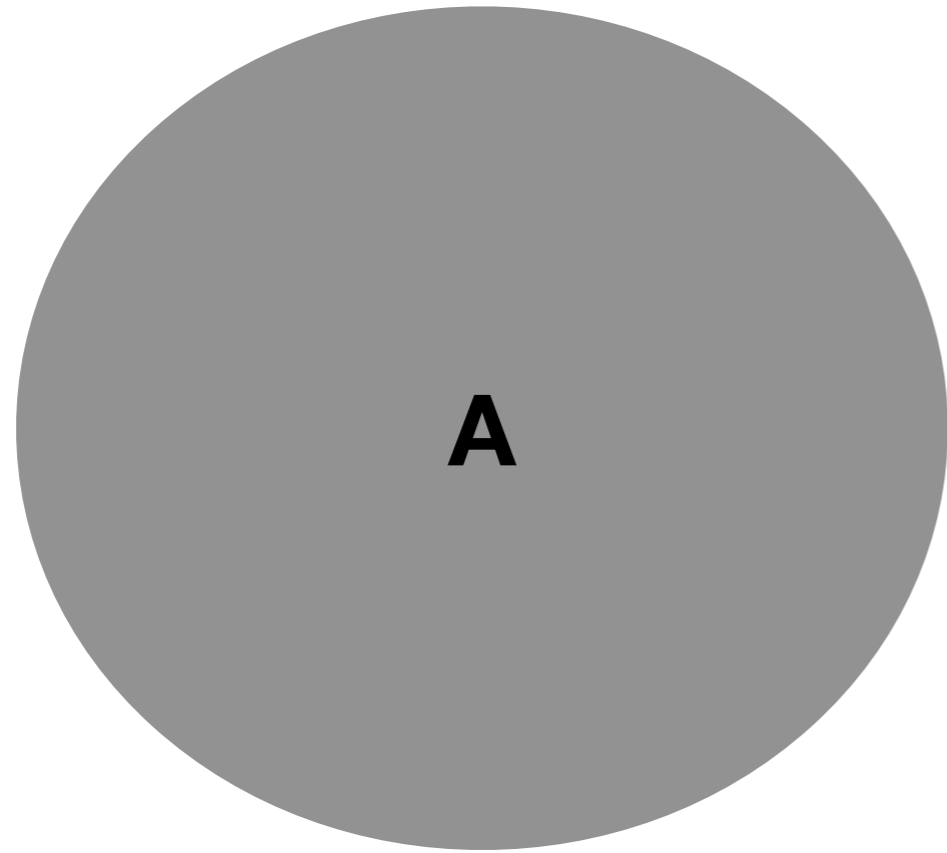


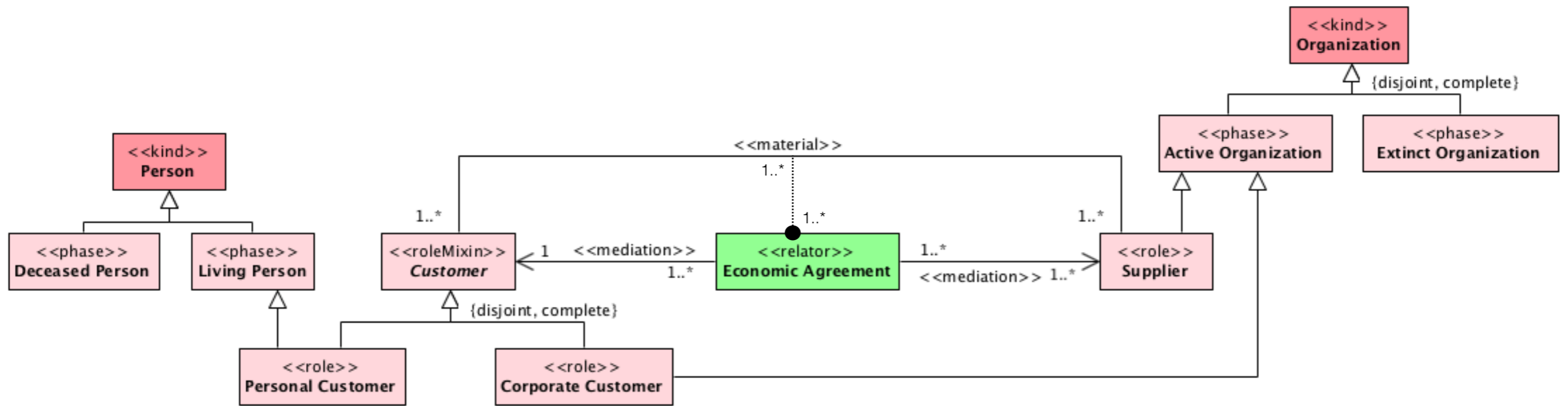


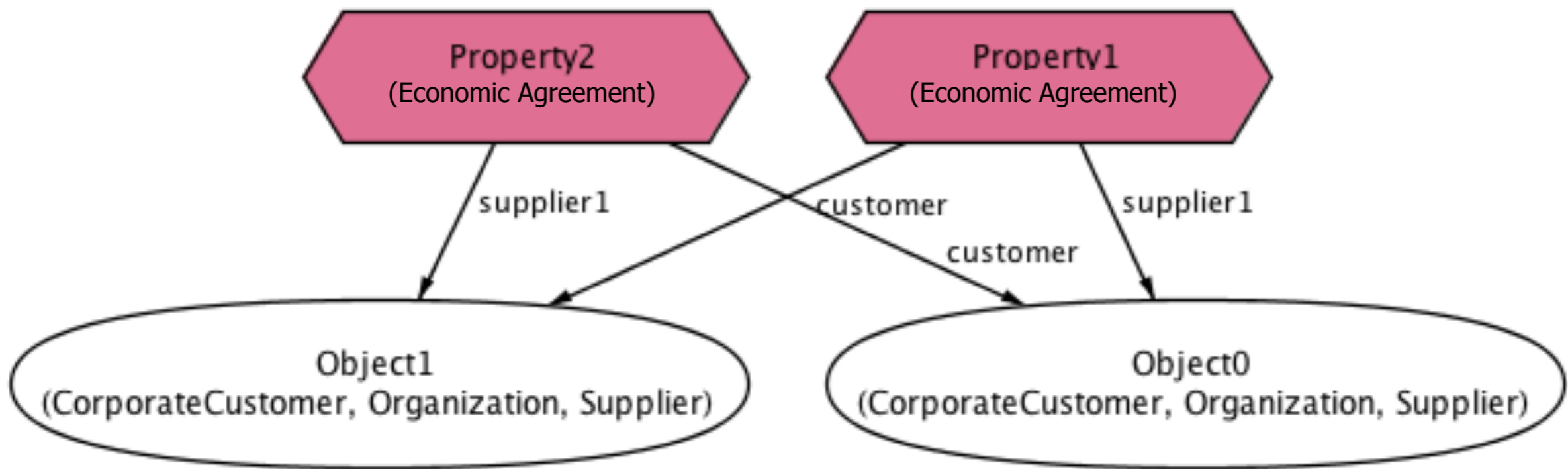
**Constraints**

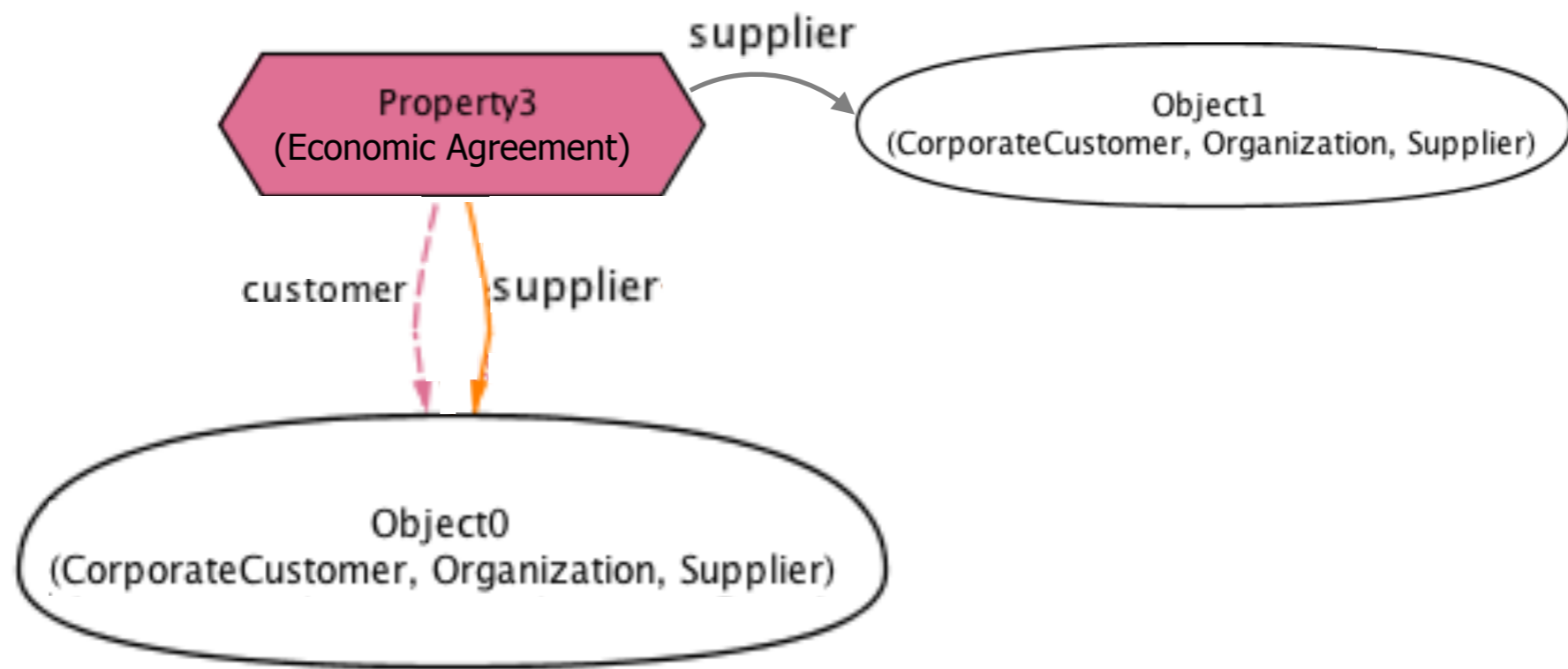


**Constraints**

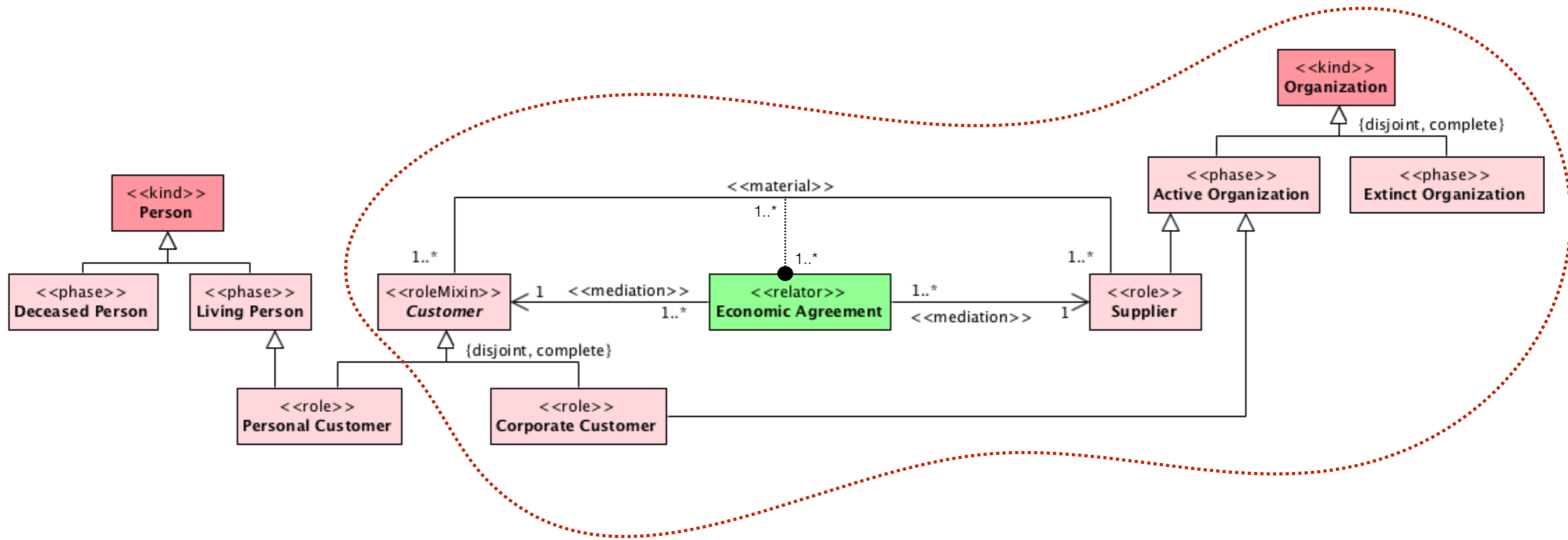




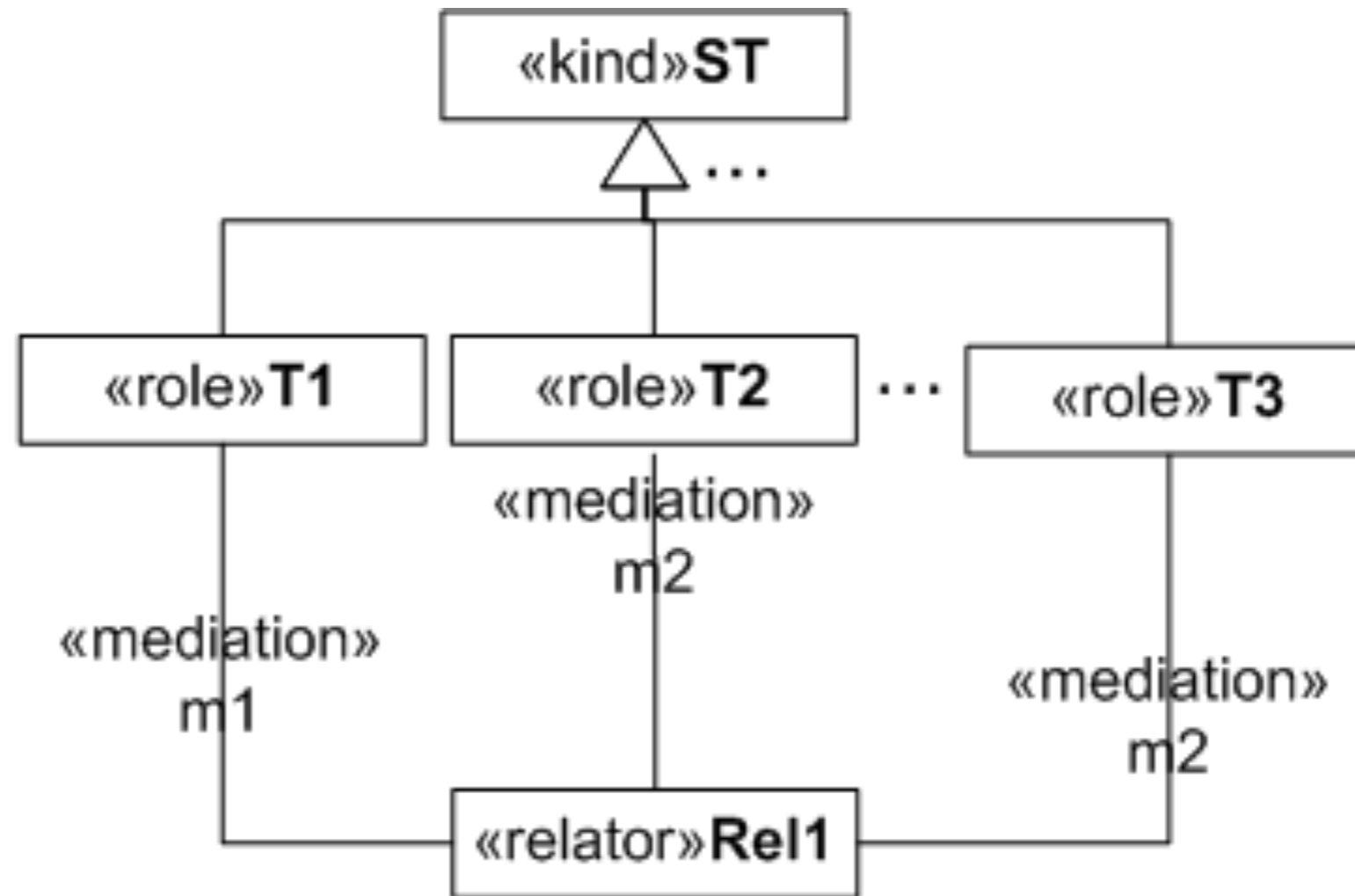




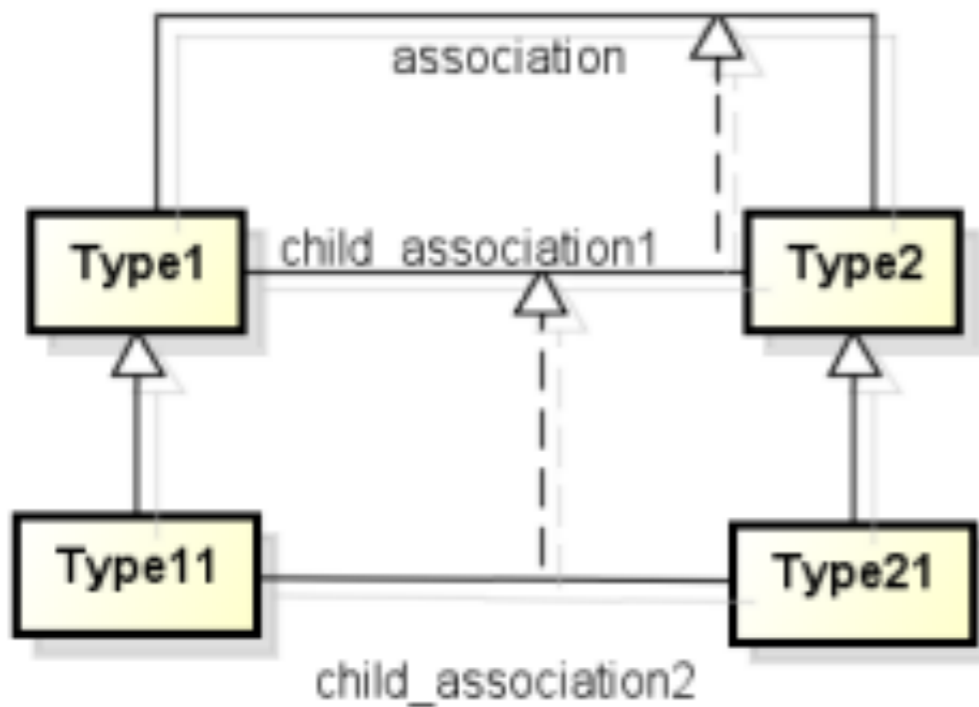




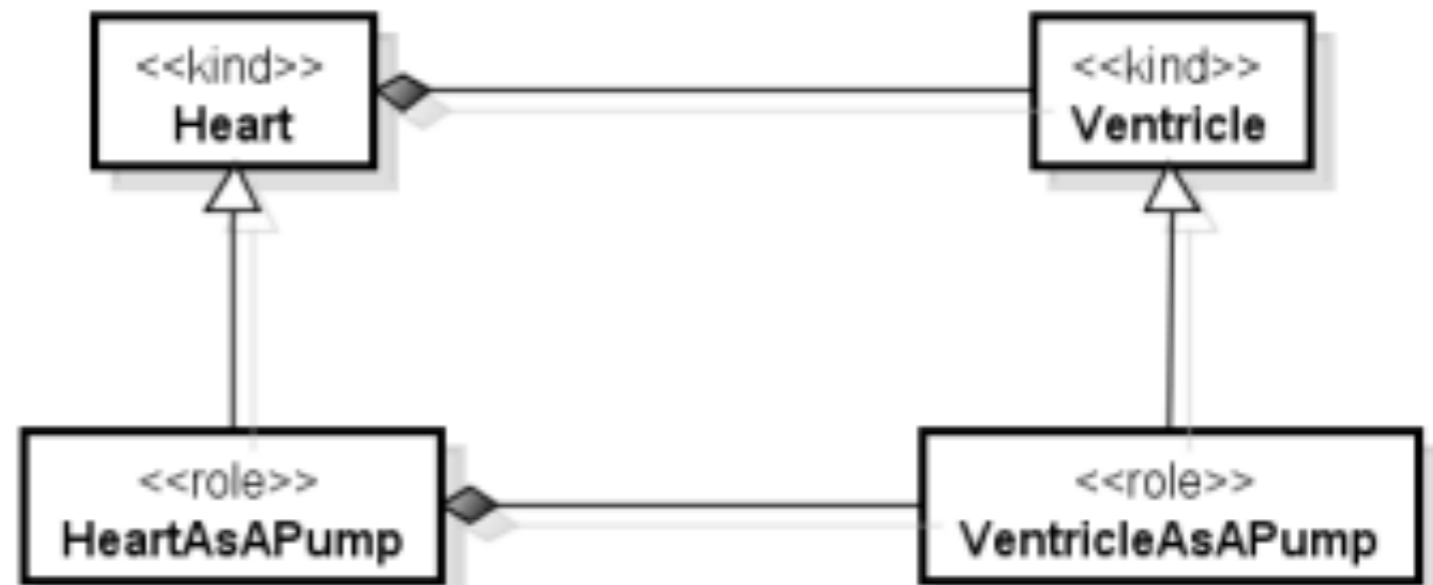
# The Emerging Anti-Pattern: Relation Between Overlapping Types (**RelOver**)



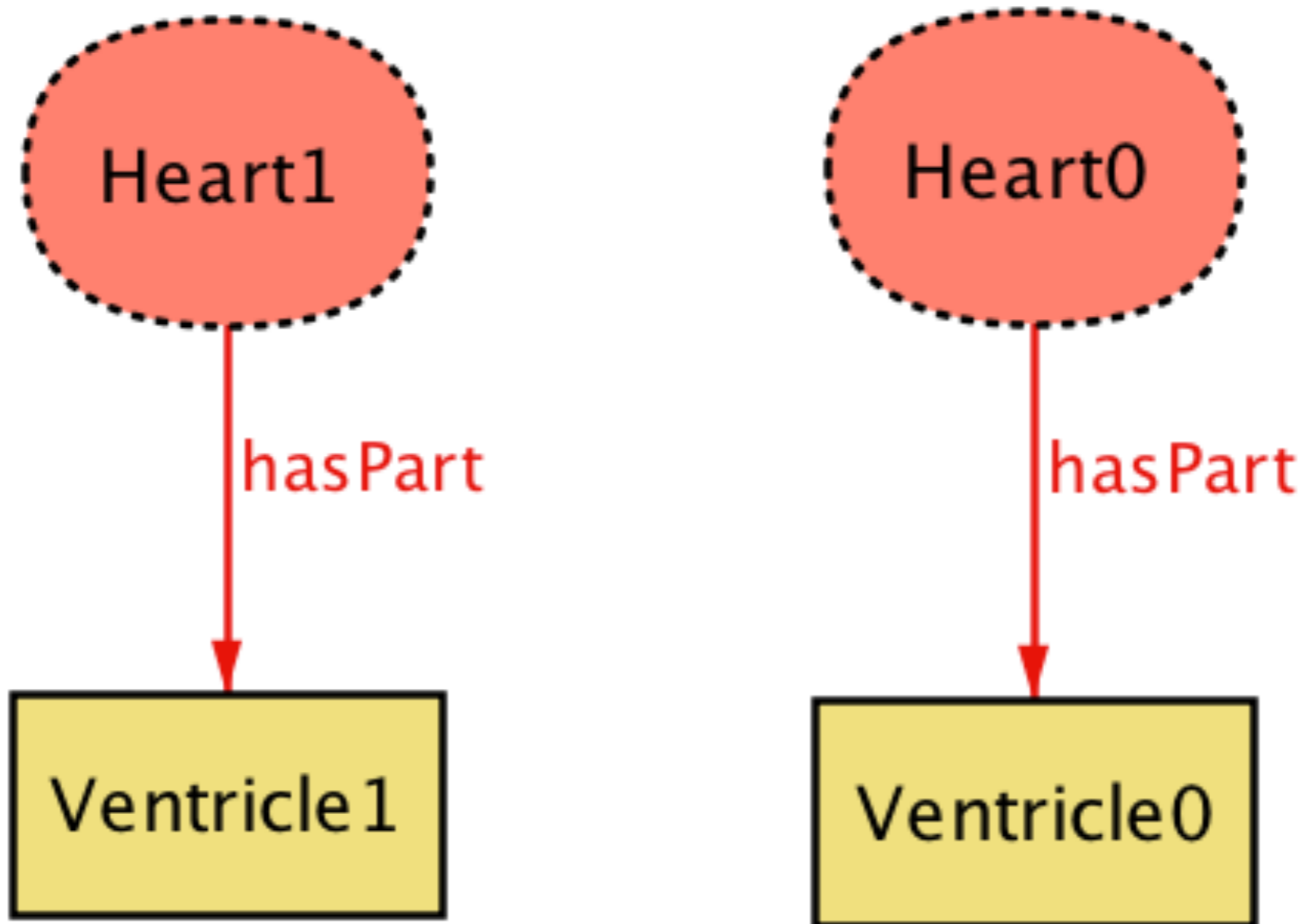
# Relation Specialization (RS)

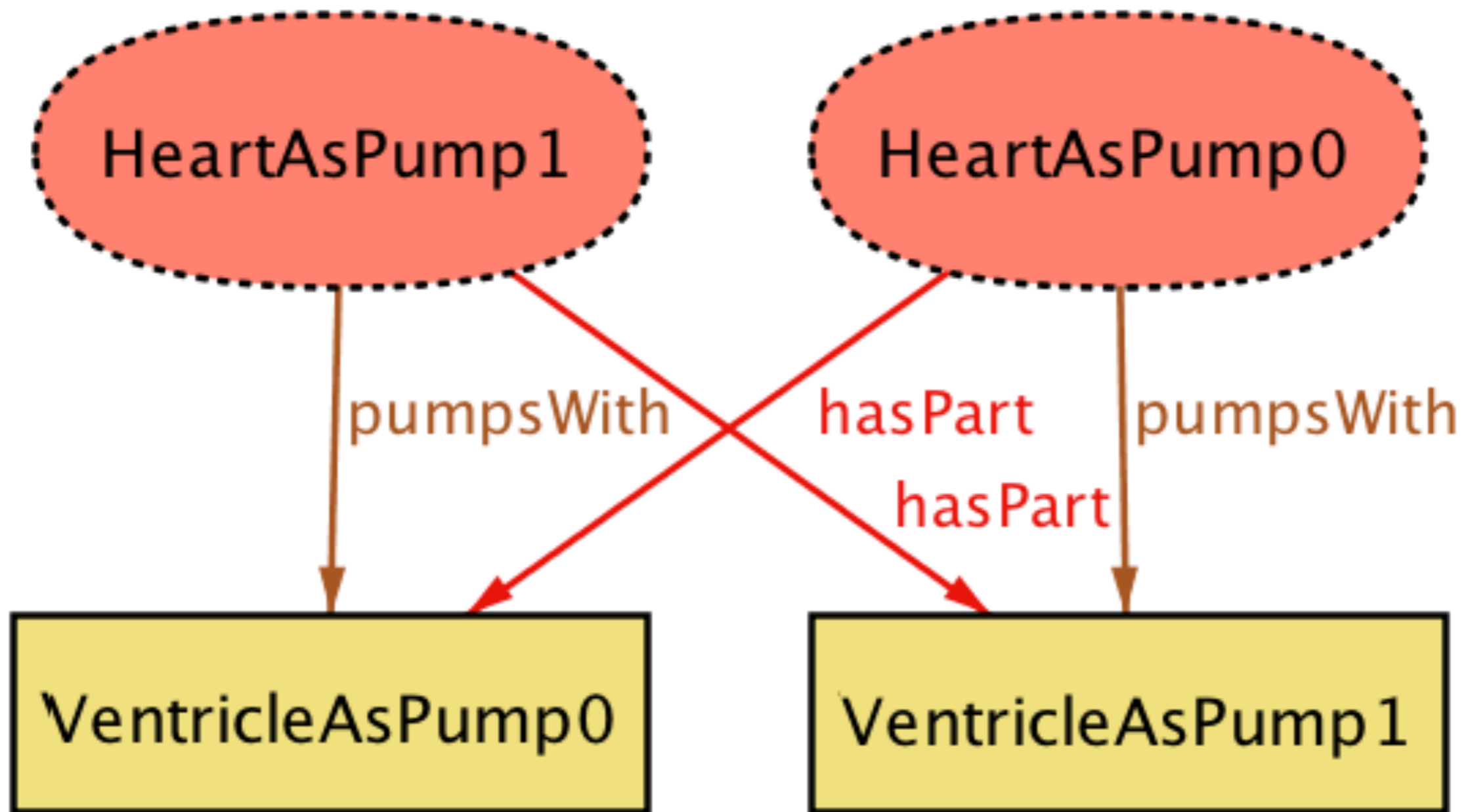


(a)



(b)

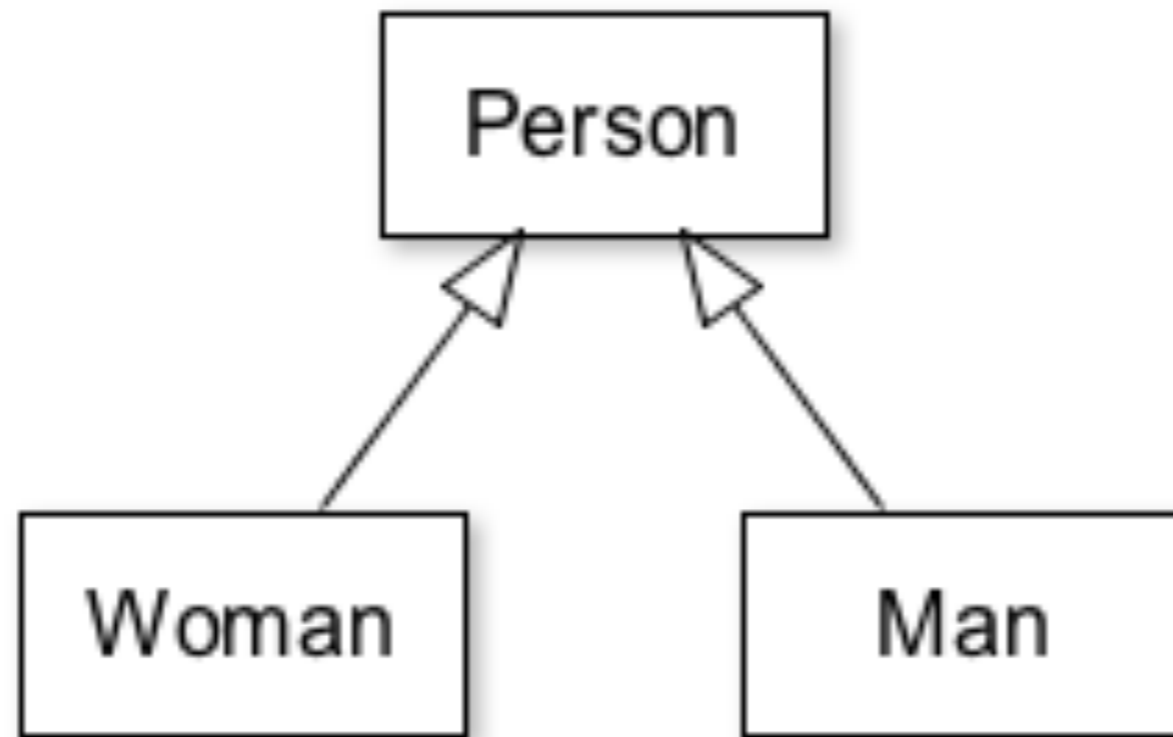




# Anti-Pattern Catalogue

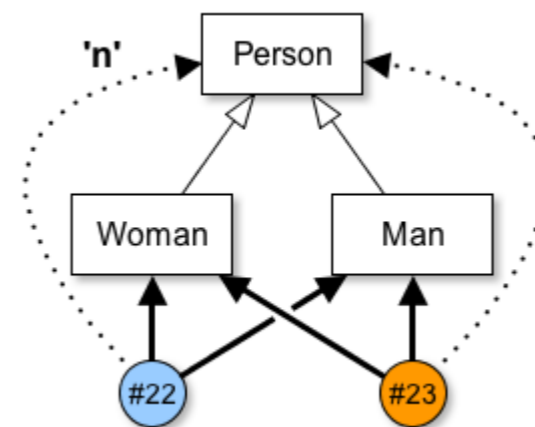
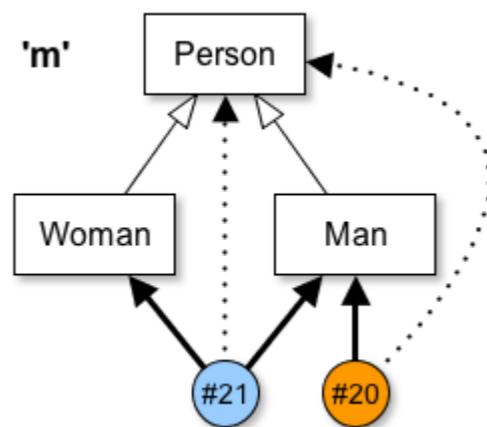
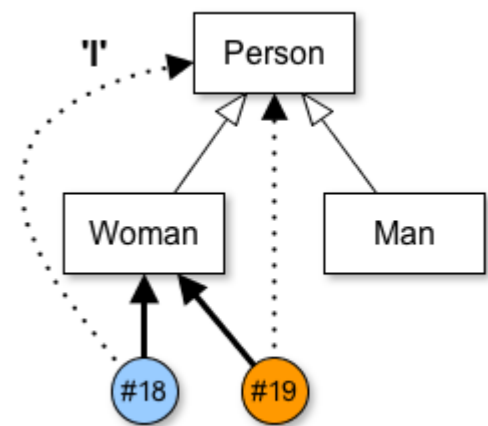
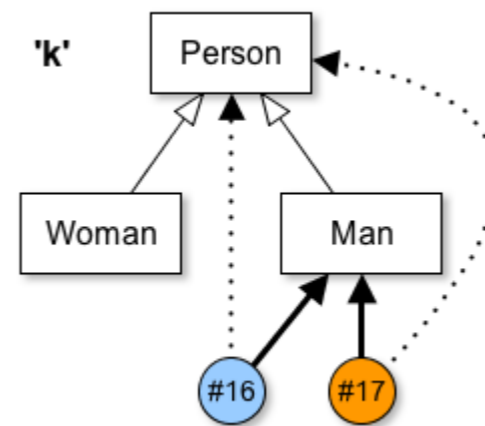
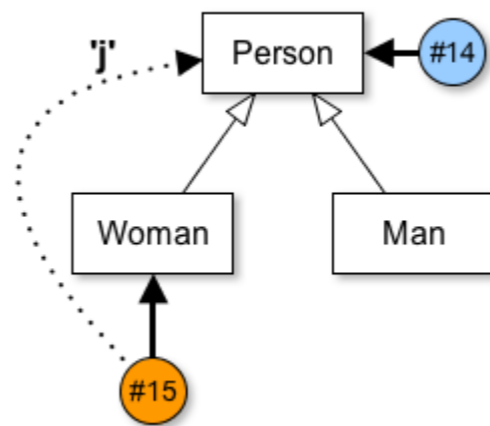
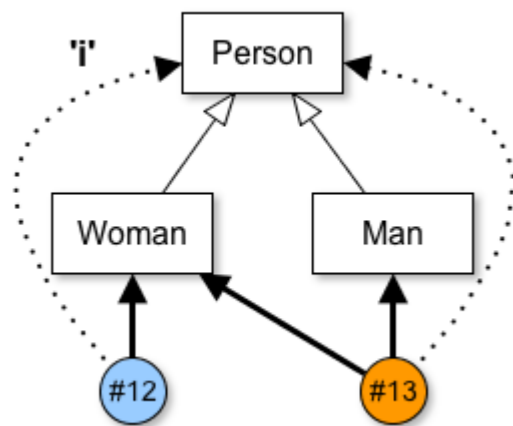
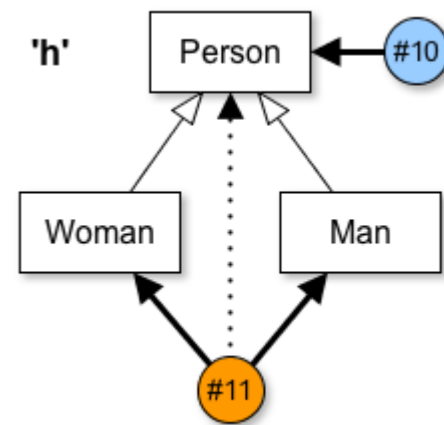
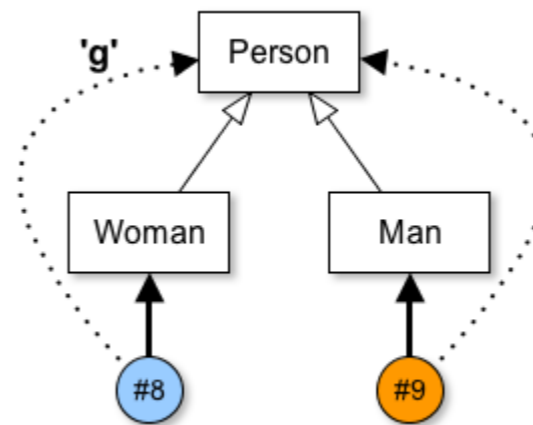
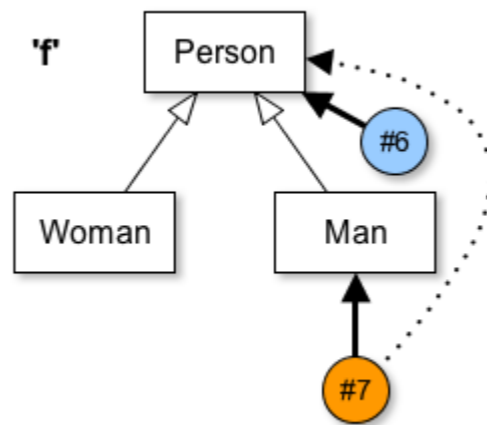
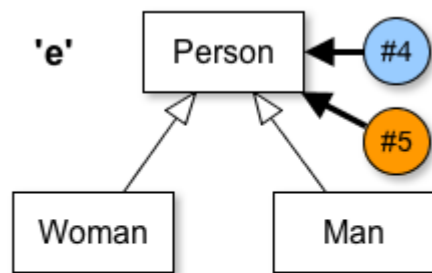
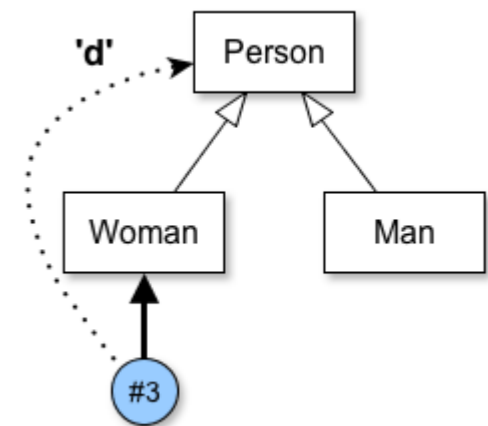
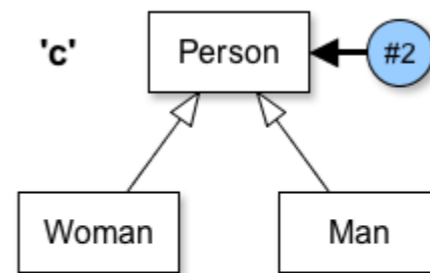
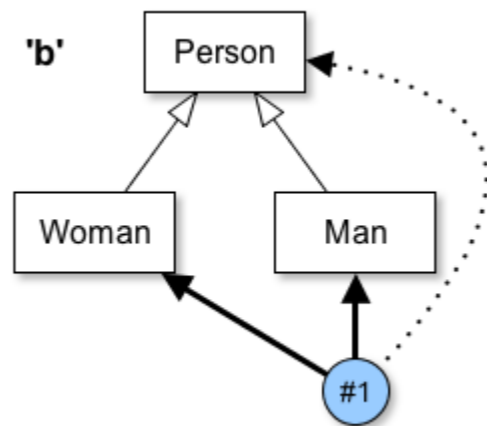
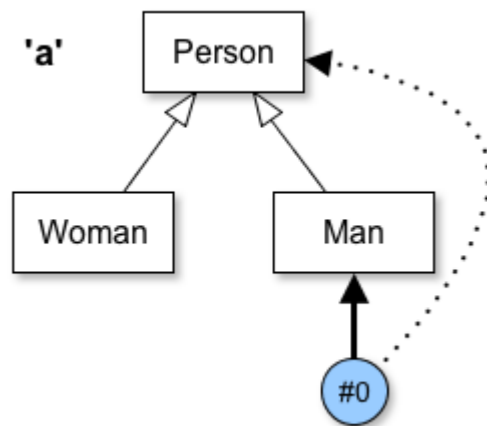
- Association Cycle
- Binary Relation Between Over. Types
- Deceiving Intersection
- Free Role Specialization
- Imprecise Abstraction
- Multiple Relational Dependency
- Part Composing Over. Roles
- Whole Composed by Over. Parts
- Relator Mediating Over. Types
- Relation Composition
- Relator Mediating Rigid Types
- Relation Specialization
- Repeatable Relator Instances
- Relationally Dependent Phase
- Generalization Set With Mixed Rigidity
- Heterogeneous Collective
- Homogeneous Functional Complex
- Mixin With Same Identity
- Mixin With Same Rigidity
- Undefined Formal Association
- Undefined Phase Partition

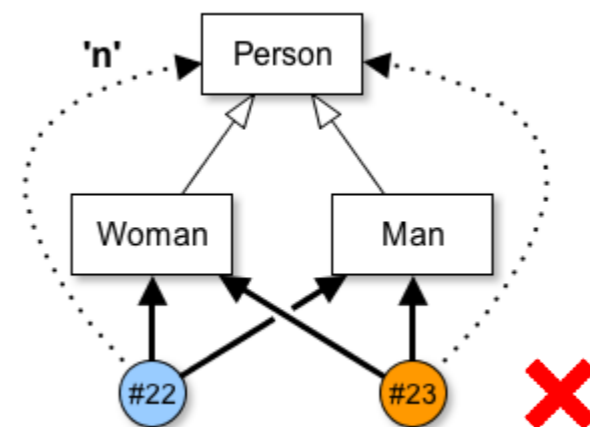
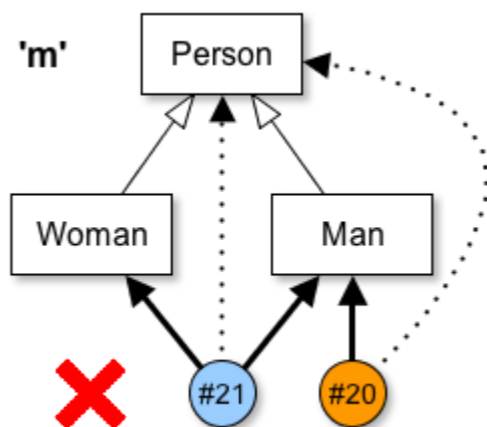
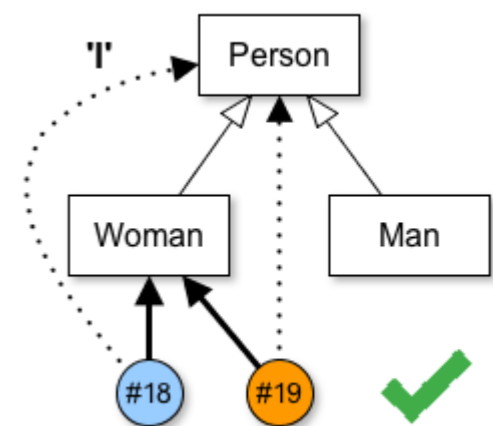
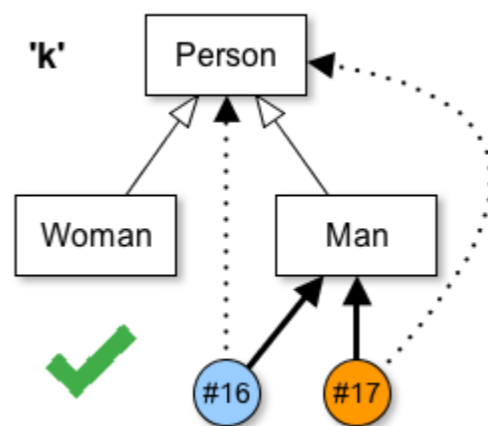
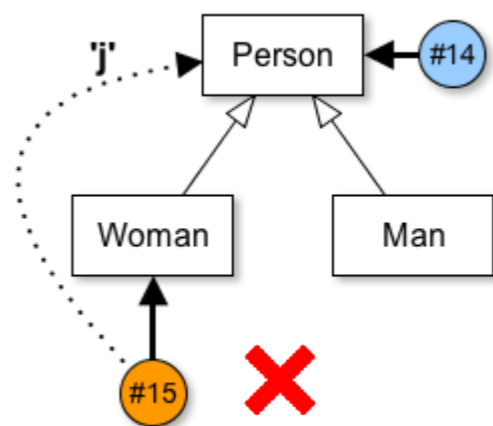
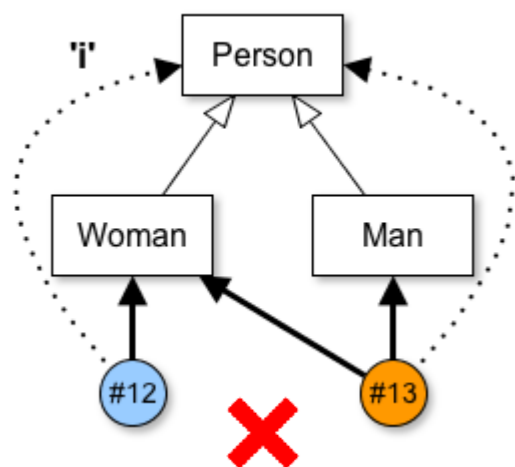
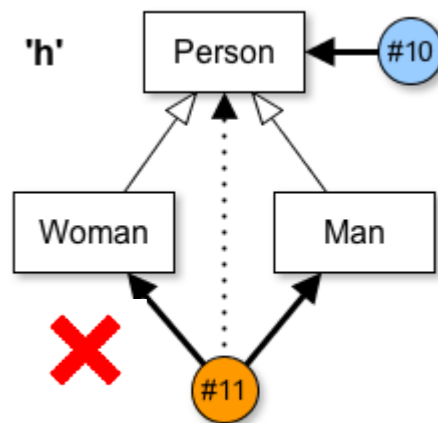
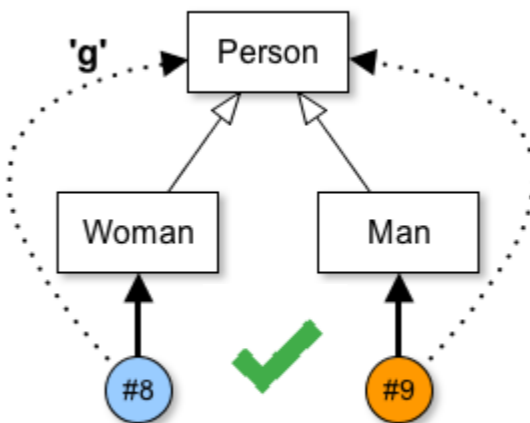
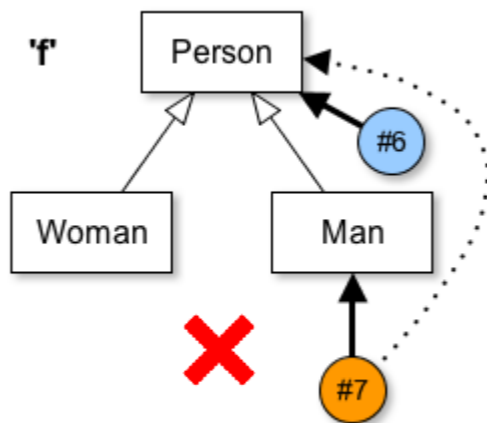
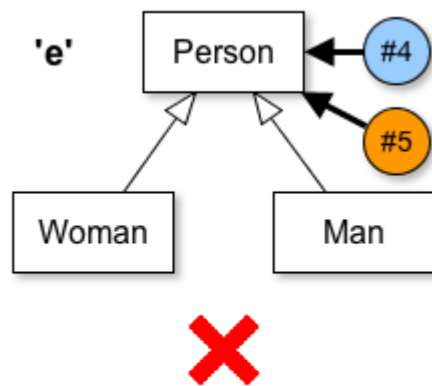
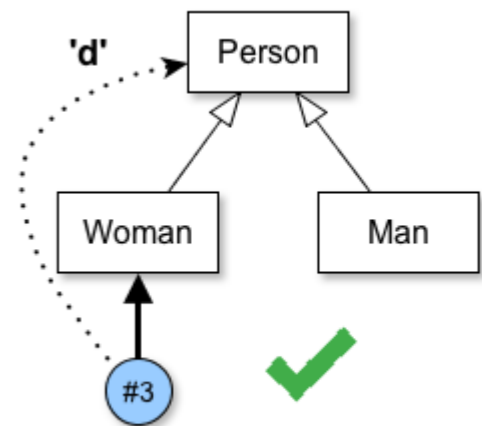
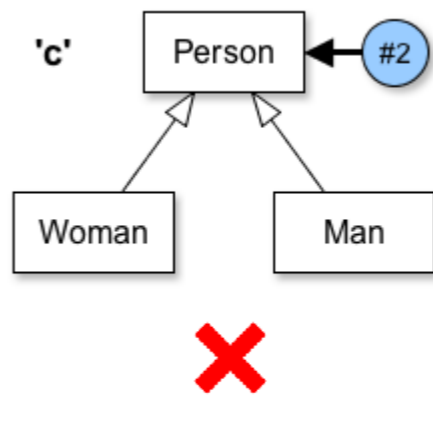
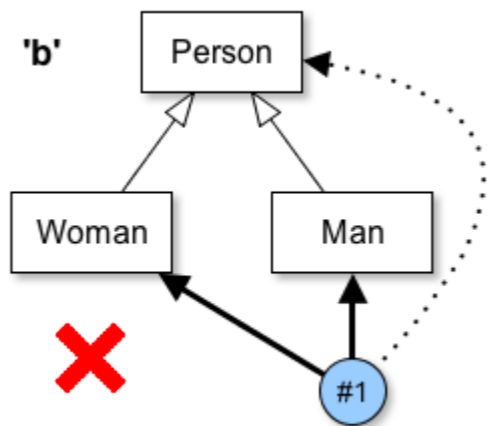
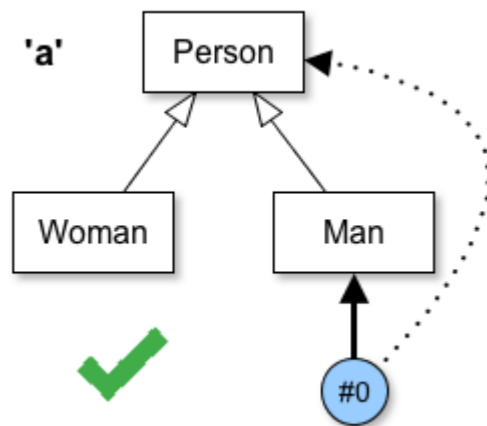


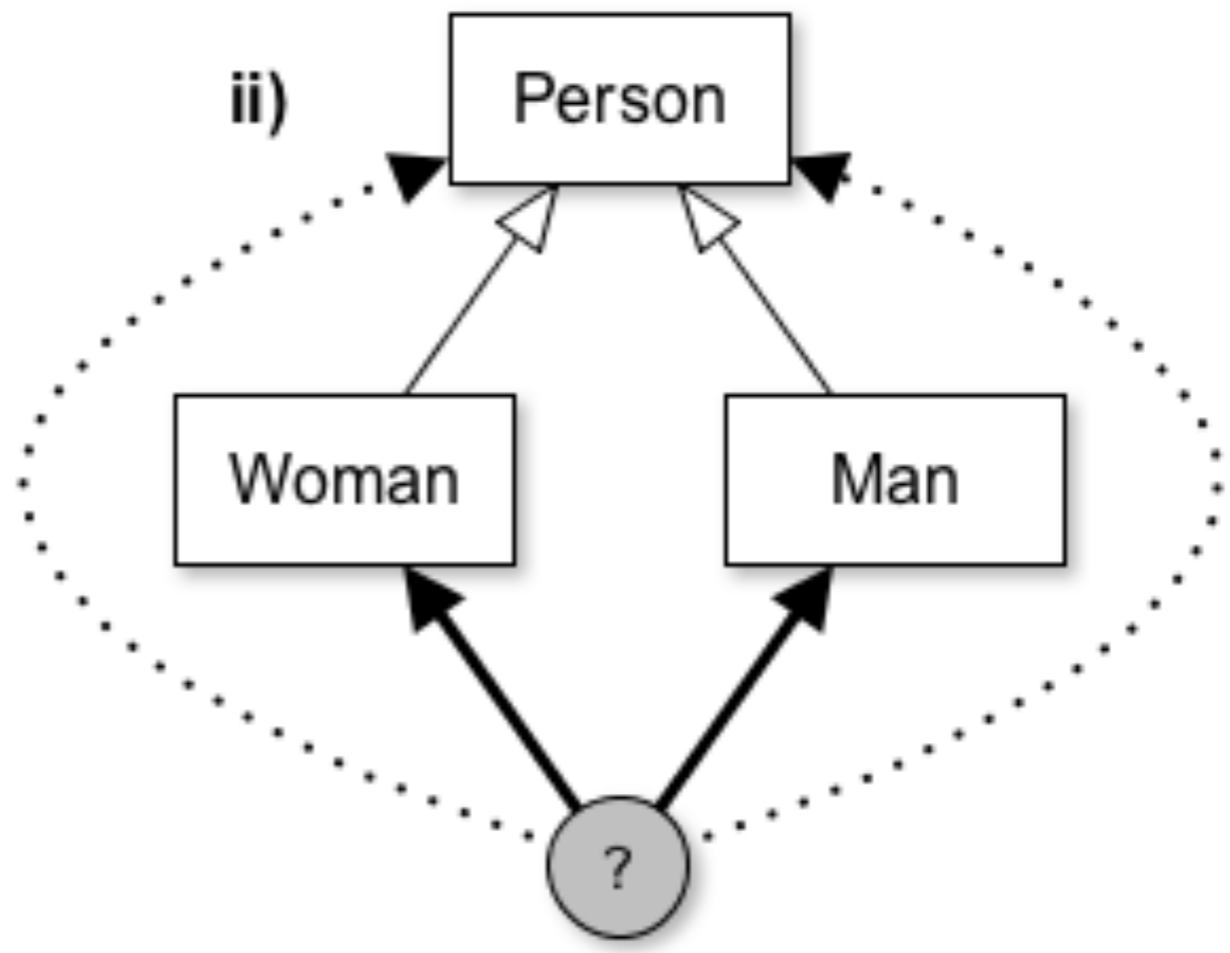
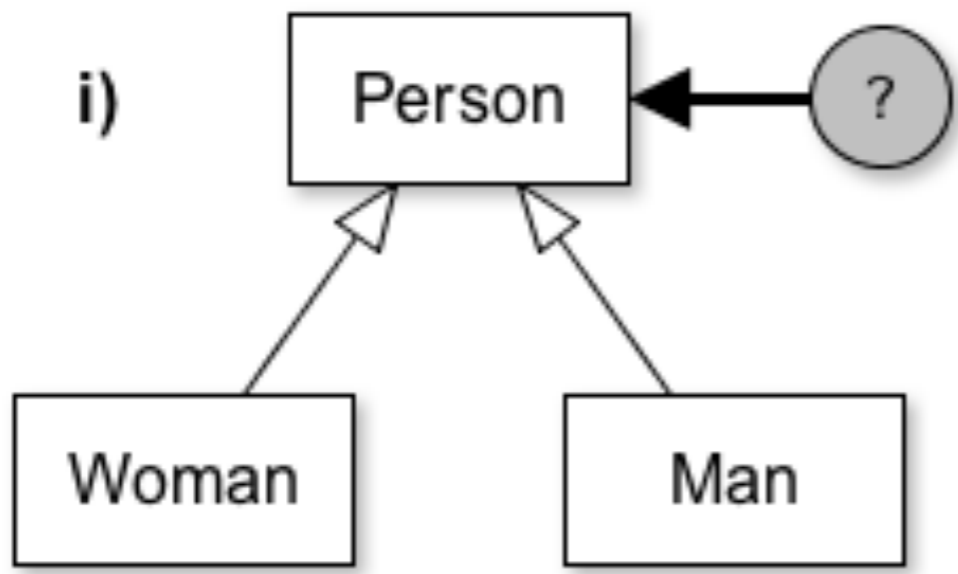


$$M = \{\forall x \textit{Woman}(x) \rightarrow \textit{Person}(x), \forall x \textit{Man}(x) \rightarrow \textit{Person}(x)\}$$









$$M = \{\forall x \textit{Woman}(x) \rightarrow \textit{Person}(x), \forall x \textit{Man}(x) \rightarrow \textit{Person}(x)\}$$

$$M^R = \{M, \forall x \textit{Person}(x) \rightarrow (\textit{Woman}(x) \vee \textit{Man}(x)), \forall x \textit{Man}(x) \rightarrow \neg \textit{Woman}(x)\}$$

# Take Away Messages

- conceptual modeling is **about** defining the **ontology of the domain**
- conceptual modeling (domain ontology engineering) is about representing the **result of ontological analysis** over that domain
- All conceptual modeling (domain ontology engineering) **should be Ontology-driven**

**No  
ontology  
without  
Ontology!**

**By Achille Varzi**

# References

- All papers can be downloaded from:
  - [tinyurl.com/3a8s4f7z](https://tinyurl.com/3a8s4f7z)
- Tools:
  - <https://github.com/OntoUML/ontouml-vp-plugin>
  - <https://nemo-ufes.github.io/gufo/>
- Some starting points are:
  - Guizzardi, G., Bernasconi, A., Pastor, O., Storey, V., Ontological Unpacking as Explanation: The Case of the Viral Conceptual Model, 40th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2021), St. John's, Canada, 2021.
  - GUARINO, N., GUIZZARDI, G., MYLOPOULOS, J., On the Philosophical Foundations of Conceptual Models, Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications, Information Modelling and Knowledge Base, Vol. 31, Selected Revised Papers of the 29th International Conference on Information Modeling and Knowledge Bases (EJC'19), Lappeenranta, Finland, 2020.
  - GUIZZARDI, G., WAGNER, G., ALMEIDA, J.P.A., GUIZZARDI, R.S.S., Towards Ontological Foundation for Conceptual Modeling: The Unified Foundational Ontology (UFO) Story, Applied Ontology, IOS Press, 2015.
  - GUIZZARDI, G., Ontological Patterns, Anti-Patterns and Pattern Languages for Next-Generation Conceptual Modeling, invited companion paper to the Keynote Speech delivered at the 33rd International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2014), Atlanta, USA.
  - Guizzardi, G. Ontological Foundations for Structural Conceptual Models, Telematica Instituut Fundamental Research Series, Vol. 15, 2005.

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Università Lìedia de Bulsan

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