Ontologies for biology

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Programming for Biology
CSHL 2017

What we will cover

- Introduction to ontologies
- Gene Ontology case study
 - Structure
 - Annotation
 - Usage
- Other biological ontology applications
- Upper ontologies and management issues

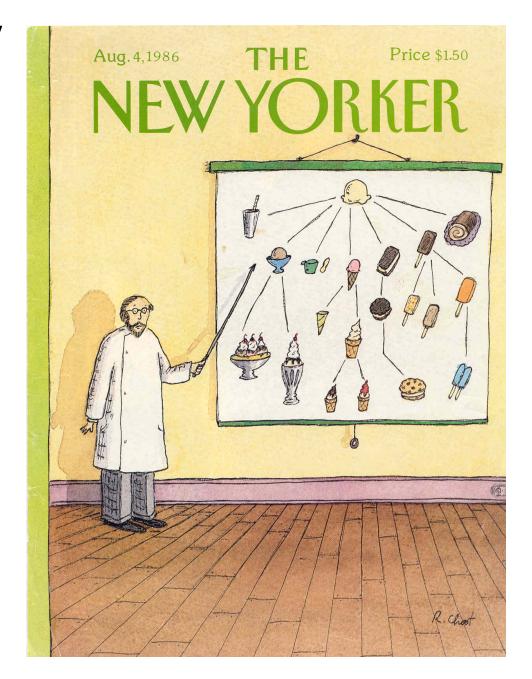
Building ontologies for the genomics *big* data challenge

- We have more data than we can handle by eye
- Data needs to be described in a rigorous fashion to render it computable
- Functional annotation using the Gene Ontology (GO)
- Structural annotation using the Sequence Ontology (SO)
- Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO)



■Nature: 4th September 2008

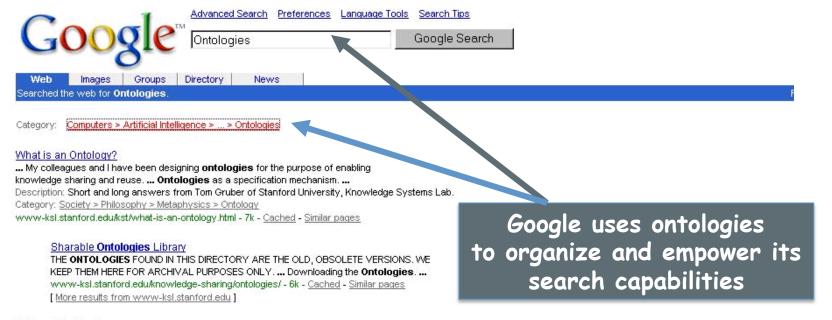
Ice Cream Ontology



Ontologies are:

- Semantic models for domains of reality
 - Tool for communication
 - Explain observations
 - Predict new relations
 - Provide framework for data integration

Ontologies in everyday life



XML and Ontologies

Markup Languages and **Ontologies**. XML and Semantics. **... Ontologies**. What is an ontology? An ontology is a specification of a conceptualization. **...** www.semanticweb.org/knowmarkup.html - 12k - Cached - Similar pages

Sites Relevant to **Ontologies** and Knowledge Sharing

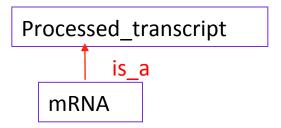
Sites Relevant to **Ontologies** and Knowledge Sharing. The information on this page is far from complete. ... Sources for Implemented **Ontologies**. ... ksl-web.stanford.edu/kst/ontology-sources.html - 13k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>

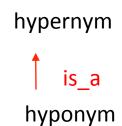
https://www.quora.com/Does-Google-use-ontologies-and-for-which-purposes

DAML Ontology Library

... Submit additions here. This catalog of DAML **ontologies** can also be viewed in XML and DAML formats. Thu Oct 31 00:07:36 EST 2002. www.daml.org/ontologies/ - 2k - Cached - Sinilar pages

The is_a relationship

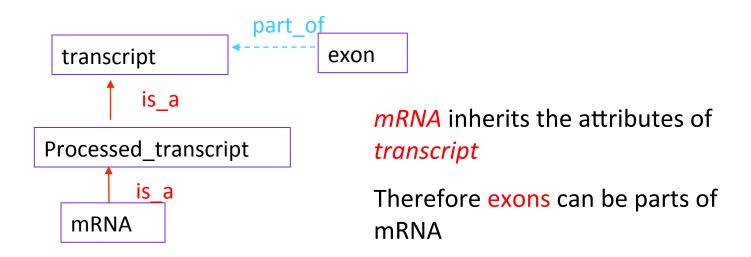




- Subsumption hierarchy
- •General to specific categorization
- •Define terms with regard to is_a (An A is a B that C's.)

The is_a relationship

- The is_a relation is like inheritance.
- Children terms inherit the properties and relationships of the parent term.



The part_of relationship

mRNA holonym

part_of part_of

UTR CDS meronym

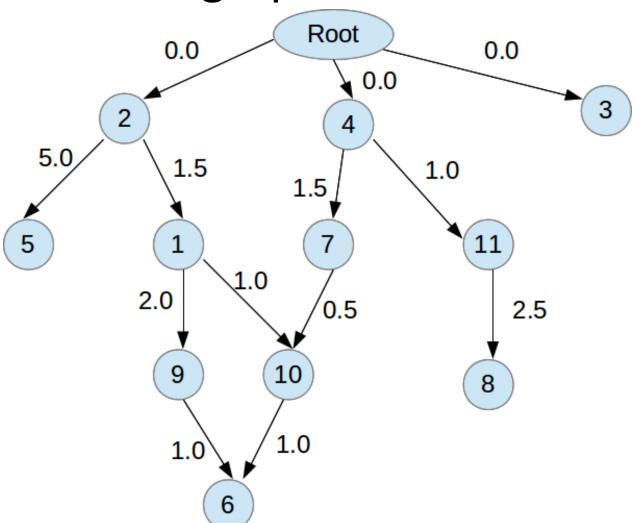
Meronomy

A dissection of a whole into constituent parts

The part_of relationship

- The rules of being a part:
 - Nothing is a part of itself
 - If A is a part of B then the B is not a part of A
 - If A is a part of B and B is a part of C then A is a part of C
 - The relationship is asymmetrical and transitive
- Parts do not inherit properties from the whole

Ontologies are often directed acyclic graphs DAG



Bio-ontologies

- Annotation of databases
- Semantically aware searching
- Inference and reasoning
 - Find inconsistencies in data
- Understanding high-throughput data
 - Over representation analysis
- Semantic similarity analysis

A biomedical ontology organizes data

- Classify the kinds of things we are interested in (domain).
 - Taxonomy
- Categorize the interactions between the things define other relations.
- Ontologies are applied to the raw data via curation process.
- The data can then be traversed and manipulated computationally using the relationships.
- We have conquered the big data.

How do we keep on top of all the data?

- Biology papers are indexed by medline and live in a db called pubmed.
- http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/
- You can search pubmed by names and terms.
- Behind pubmed is a terminology called MeSH for medical sub headings.
- It organizes synonyms, etc. to make the searches more efficient.
- This is still not enough, but it is a start.

Millions of abstracts are indexed.

Imagine if someone read the papers for you

- Gene Ontology functional annotation
- http://www.geneontology.org
- A massive multinational project, including many model organism database groups.
- An ontology of 30 000+ terms, organized into a hierarchy of specificity.
- Skilled curators who are paid to read articles and annotate the genes with the function, process and location.

Gene Ontology

- 1998
- The problem: a lot of sequence databases. No common vocabulary to talk about genes. No way to search sequences databases other than by similarity.
- The solution: describe function, process and location, directed acyclic graph, unify vocabulary, provide structure to aid annotation and querying





- Describes the location, function and process of a gene product (protein or functional RNA).
- MODs employ curators to transfer knowledge from the literature and bioinformatics experiments to the genome.
- 28,000 terms, 44,545,253 annotations
 386,268 genes (52 databases)

How does GO help manage big data?

- Unified the descriptive vocabulary between the model organism communities.
- Structured the semantic nature of what genes do.
- Enables querying: It allows sequence databases to be queried on something other than sequence similarity.
- Downstream analyses use the GO annotations across the board in all aspects of biology.

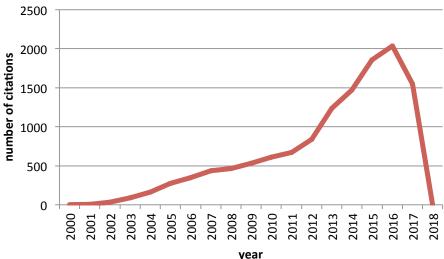
Find transcription factors in multiple databases

- TF have diverse sequence structures. There are many ways to bind DNA. You can't do a similarity search with one kind of TF and find the rest.
- GO allows you to search a sequence database on semantics rather than sequence. So if the TF are annotated with GO, you could find them easily across multiple organism databases.

GO is useful for processing results of experiments.

- What kinds of protein are enriched in my microarray experiment?
- How does my newly sequenced boutique genome compare to a similar established model organism?

Increasingly cited:



Structure

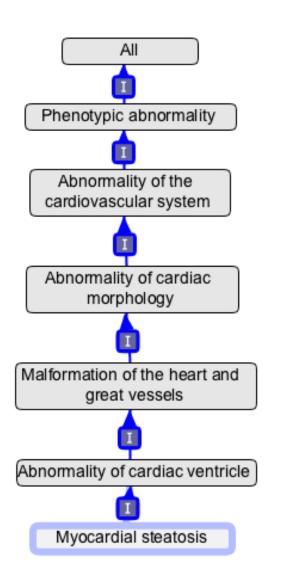
biological_process

cellular_component

molecular function

- ⊟ biological process □ — cellular component II mitochondrion-associated adherent □ nucleoid **⊞** ← **I** growth ← II viral occlusion body

True path rule



Genes annotated to myocardial steatosis is also annotated by transitivity to each parent node in the ontology

Increases flexibility when searching and making inferences about genes

inheritance

Annotation

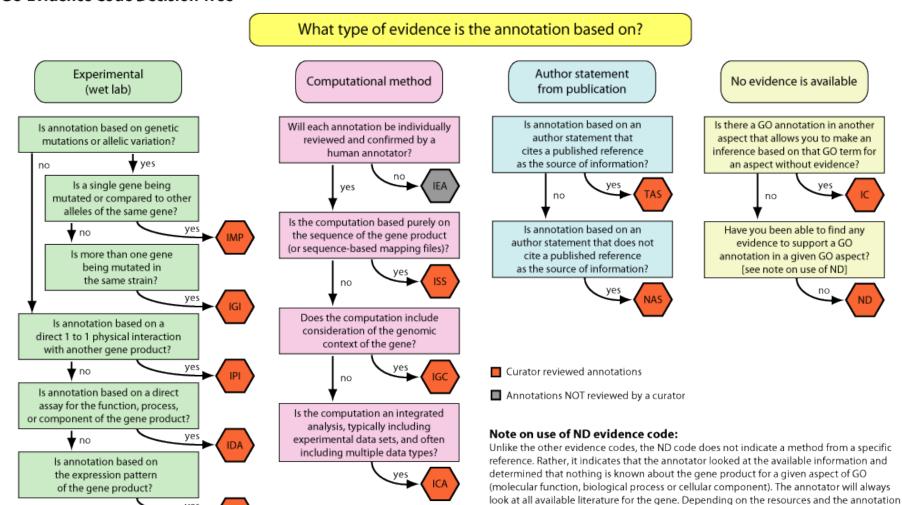
- http://www.geneontology.org/page/ download-annotations The files
- http://www.geneontology.org/page/goannotation-file-formats Understanding the columns
- http://wiki.geneontology.org/index.php/ Introduction_to_the_GO_Consortium_annota_ tion_set_more info

Annotation - simple

- GeneID GO term pubmedID evidence code
- Annotate to the deepest level of knowledge
- Difference between un-annotated and uncharacterized – when you have tried to find function/process/location and the information is not out there, you annotate the gene to the root node.
- Qualifiers contributes-to, co-localized with and NOT. Be careful!

Evidence

GO Evidence Code Decision Tree



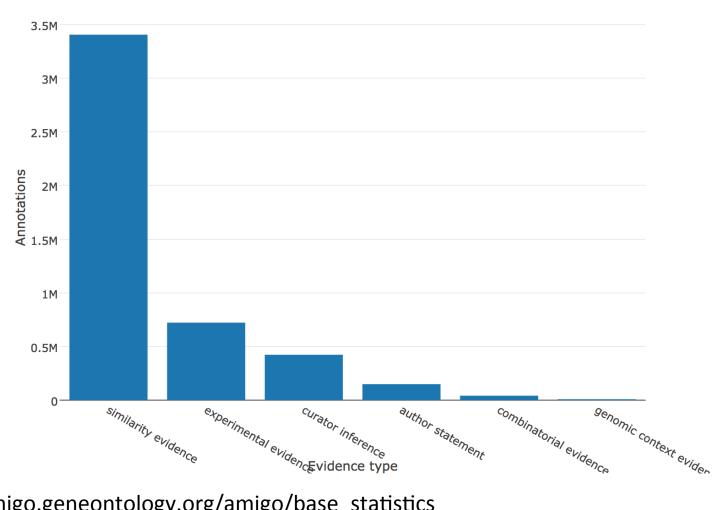
philosophy of the annotating group, the annotator may also look at sequence comparison

data to determine if any predictions may be made based on the sequence.

The kinds of evidence:

- Experimental from literature (direct)
 - Expression pattern
 - Physical interaction
- Computational evidence (inferred)
 - Pairwise alignment
 - Sequence orthology
- Curator/author assertions (indirect)

Annotations by evidence



http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/base_statistics

Usage

- How is this ontology used?
- High through-put studies that produced lists of genes micro-array and RNA-seq
- Functional categorization what does this newly sequenced genme do?

What does the GO give us?

- For every gene in a genome we can get an understanding of what the gene is doing.
- If the gene has not been studied, we can infer from similar genes that have been.
- We can traverse a genome based on an understanding of function. We can use this to understand result of experiments that produce collections of genes under certain circumstances.
 - All of these genes have something to do with cell cycle control etc

Over representation analysis

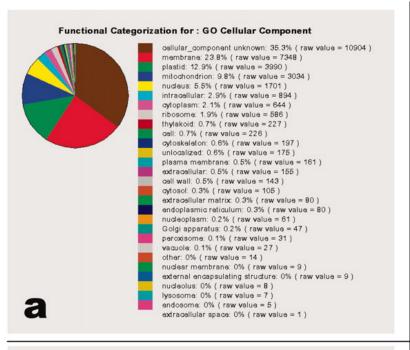
- GO has annotated millions of gene products
- RNA-seq detects expression of these genes and produce lists of differentially expressed genes.
- Does a GO term show up more than you would expect? (Your usual observed/expected kind of analysis)

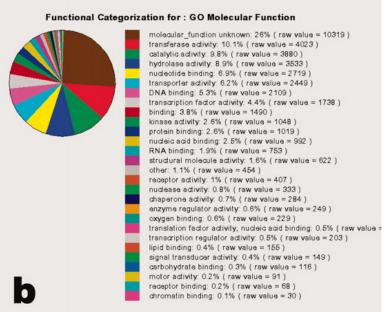
Quick Yeast example

- 221 yeast genes labeled with sporulation (out of 6000)
- In a microarray experiment 100 genes are upregulated compared to control
- You would expect 3-4 to be annotated to sporulation by chance
- If you found 40, that would be over representation

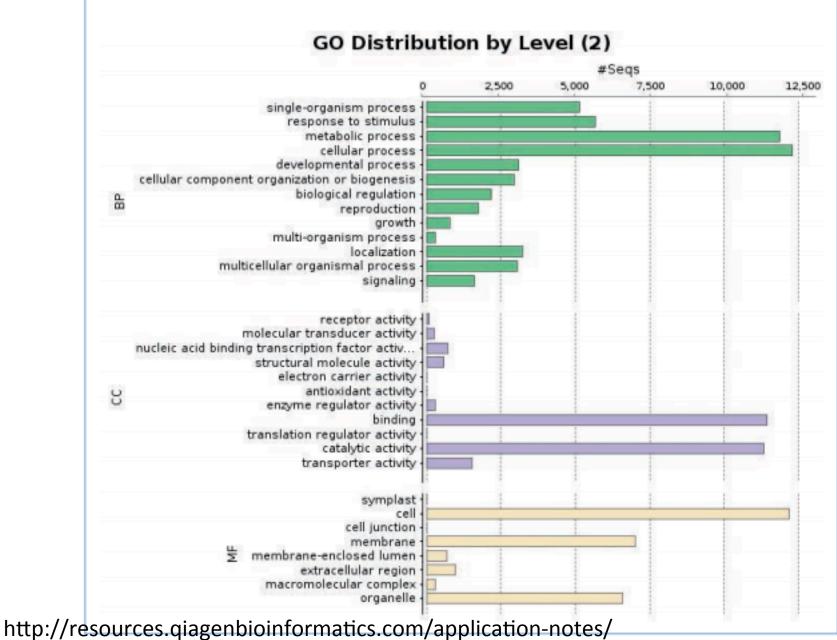
Over representation tools

- http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/ now provides a comprehensive set of functional annotation tools for investigators to understand biological meaning behind large list of genes
- Go term Finder http://go.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/LAGO









Whole_genome_functional_annotation_of_Solanum_lycopersicum.pdf

How do I make high level summaries like that?

- http://www.geneontology.org/page/go-slimand-subset-guide
- Slim ontology hand pruned tope level terms.
- Propagate annotations up the tree to the new leaf node.

Resources

- Use and misuse of the gene ontology annotations S Rhee et al. http://www.nature.com/nrg/journal/v9/n7/full/nrg2363.html
- Ten Quick Tips for Using the Gene Ontology http://www.nature.com/nrg/journal/v9/n7/ full/nrg2363.html Judith Blake

2 other bio ontologies

The Sequence Ontology Project

- The SO describes the parts of a genome and how they relate to each other in topological space and other dimensions such as regulatory space.
- It includes terms and relations to describe not only gene models but other genomic phenomena such as transposons and repeats.
- It also describes variations and the consequences of variation.
- About 2000 terms

SO mission statement

To provide the vocabulary and relations for the annotation, validation and querying of the features and properties of biological sequence.

In other words describe genome assemblies and their annotations

SO is used for

- Genome annotation
 - Typing features in Model Organism databases (Chado)
 - Typing variant data in re-sequencing projects
 - And file formats GFF3, GVF
- Genome browsing Gbrowse
- Protein feature annotation -biosapiens
- Natural Language Processing RSC
- ICCG, ICGC, UCSC browser, EBI, NCBI ClinVar, DBVar

What do the sequence annotators want from SO

- To annotate the sequence of the assembly contigs, scaffolds, gaps, etc.
- To annotate the experimental evidence for gene annotations- blast hits, repeats.
- To annotate known and postulated biological features - exons, transposons.
- Now they also want to annotate variants.

How does SO help manage big data?

- It has standardized the vocabulary used to define the parts of genomes.
- It is used by the MODs to annotate features onto their genomes.
- It is used by EBI, personal genome companies and institutes to manage variant data.
- The contents of a genome are now more easily analyzed by ontology aware software tools.

Organisms with SO based genome annotations:

Anopheles spp., Antonospora locustae, Arabidopsis thaliana, Ascomycota, Avena spp., Basidiomycota, Bos taurus, Brachionus plicatilis, Caenorhabditis spp., Ciano intestinalis, Cryptosporidium sp., Culex quinquefasciatus, Danio rerio, Daphnia pulex, Dictyostelium discoideum, Drosophila spp., Emiliania huxleyi, Franciscella tularensis, Giardia spp., Glycine max, Homo sapiens, Ixodes scapularis, Lotus japonicus, Medicago truncatula, Microsporidia, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Oryza spp., Paramecium tetraurelia, Pediculus humanus, Plasmodium spp., Populus trichocarpa, Pseudomonas spp., Ricinus communis, Rattus norvegicus, Rubiaceae, Saccharomyces spp., Schizosaccharomyces pombe, Schmidtea mediterranea, Solanaceae, Sorghum bicolor, Strongylocentrotus purpuratus, Tetrahymena thermophila, Theileria spp., Toxoplasma spp., Tribolium castaneum, Trichomonas spp., Triticeae, Trypanosoma brucei, Vitis vinifera, Zea mays, Zygomycota, the influenza virus

SO facilitates:

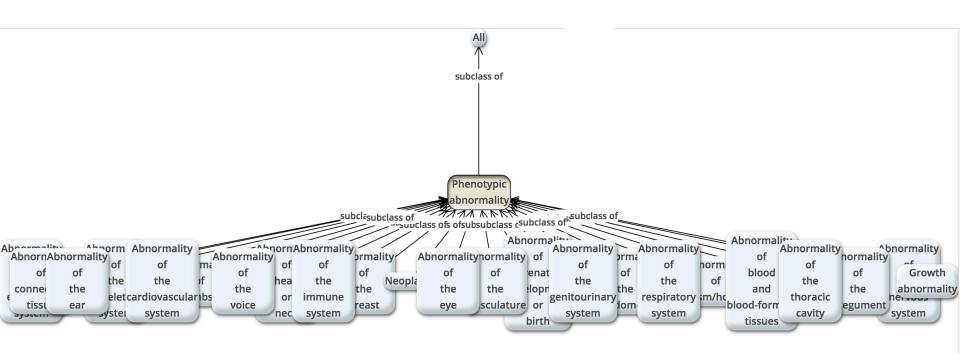
- Data sharing
- Comparative genomics all data uses same language.
- Genomics tool development
- Quality control traversing the relationships implied by SO is used to validate annotation (syntactic, semantic and topological)
- Annotation exploration how are annotations evolving?

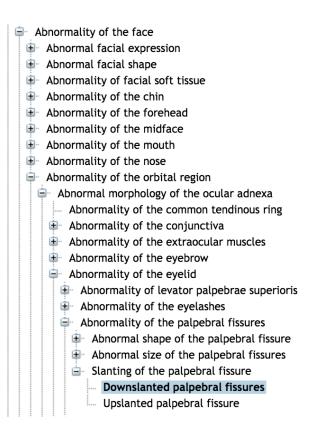
Human Phenotype Ontology

http://www.human-phenotype-ontology.org

- The Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO) aims to provide a standardized vocabulary of phenotypic abnormalities encountered in human disease.
- Browse
 http://compbio.charite.de/phenexplorer/

Organized by body system



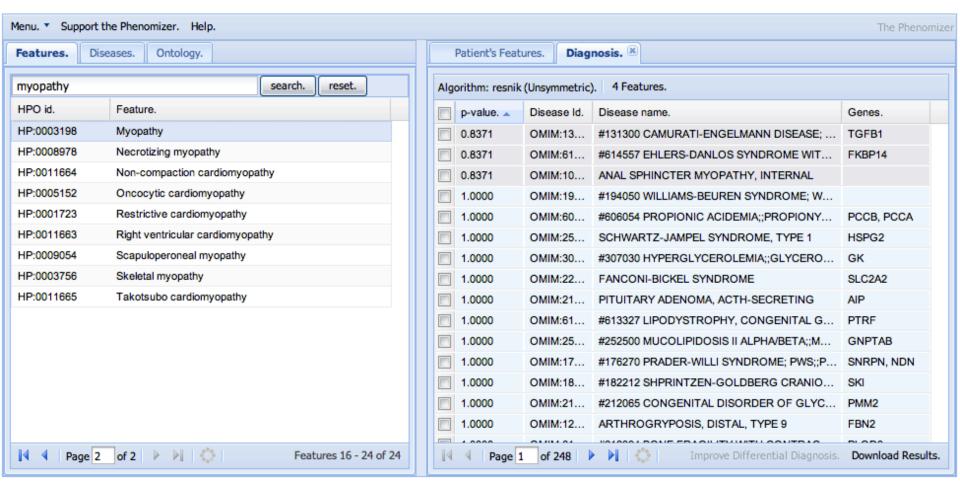


Example of phenotype and annotation

Gene	Associated diseases
TPM2 (<u>7169</u>)	MYOPATHY 4 (OMIM:609285), CONGENITAL FIBER CONGENITAL, WITH FIBER-TYPE DI (OMIM:30058 TYPE 2B (OMIM:601680)
GABRD (2563)	GENERALIZED EPILEPSY WITH FEBRILE SEIZUR (C AWAK (OMIM:607628), EPILEPSY, MYOCLONIC JU FEBRILE SEIZUR (OMIM:604233), EPILEPSY, IDIOP WITH FEBRILE SEIZUR (OMIM:616172), MYOCLON GENERALIZED EPILEPSY WITH FEBRILE SEIZUR (C SUSCEP (OMIM:613060)
MKKS (<u>8195</u>)	BARDET-BIEDL SYNDROME 4 (OMIM:615982), BAR (OMIM:615988), BARDET-BIEDL SYNDROME (ORPESYNDROME 6 (OMIM:605231), BARDET-BIEDL SYN MCKUSICK-KAUFMAN SYNDROME (OMIM:236700), COMIM:615990), BARDET-BIEDL SYNDROME 12 (OMIM:615989), BARDET-BIEDL SY
TSR2 (<u>90121</u>)	BLACKFAN-DIAMOND ANEMIA (ORPHANET:124), D ANEMIA 6 (OMIM:612561), DIAMOND-BLACKFAN A ANEMIA 8 (OMIM:612563), DIAMOND-BLACKFAN A ANEMIA 12 (OMIM:615550), DIAMOND-BLACKFAN DIAMOND-BLACKFAN ANEMIA 13 (OMIM:615909),

Disease id	Disease name	Associated genes
OMIM:602501	MEGALENCEPHALY-CAPILLARY MALFORMATION-POLYMICROGYRIA SYNDROME	PIK3CA (<u>5290</u>)
OMIM:208050	ARTERIAL TORTUOSITY SYNDROME	SLC2A10 (<u>81031</u>)
OMIM:616580	AU-KLINE SYNDROME	
OMIM:149730	LACRIMOAURICULODENTODIGITAL SYNDROME	FGFR3 (<u>2261</u>), FGFR2 (<u>2263</u>), FGF10 (<u>2255</u>)
OMIM:227260	FACIAL ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA	TWIST2 (<u>117581</u>)
OMIM:180870	RUVALCABA SYNDROME	
OMIM:602471	SHORT STATURE, AUDITORY CANAL ATRESIA, MANDIBULAR HYPOPLASIA, ANDSKELETAL ABNORMALITIES	GSC (<u>145258</u>)
OMIM:614230	CHROMOSOME 8Q21.11 DELETION SYNDROME	

Phenomizer



scoliosis, osteopenia, myopathy

Genes to disease annotation

Phenotypes to disease annotation

Upper ontologies and management

Places to find biomedical ontologies

- The OBO foundry <u>www.obofoundry.org</u>
- The NCBO www.bioontology.org

The goal of the National Center for Biomedical Ontology is to support biomedical researchers in their knowledge-intensive work, by providing online tools and a web portal enabling them to access, review, and integrate disparate ontological resources in all aspects of biomedical investigation and clinical practice. A major focus of our work involves the use of biomedical ontologies to aid in the management and analysis of data derived from complex experiments.



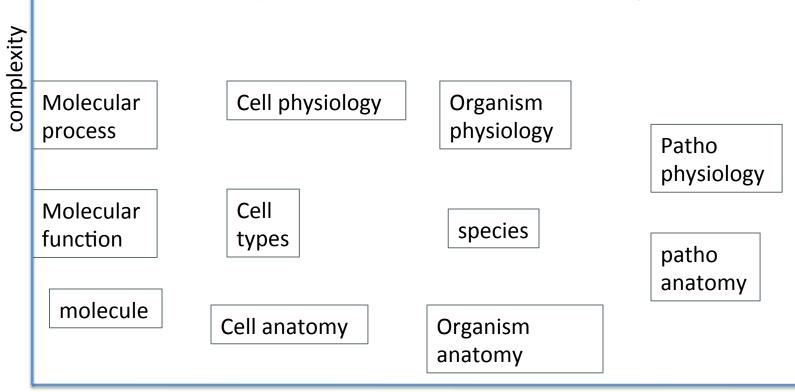
OBO Foundry

- Open
- Common syntax
- Unique identifier space
- Versioning control
- orthogonality

- Definitions
- OBO relations
- Provide documentation
- Plurality of independent users
- Developed collaboratively

Span of biomedical domain

Granularity from molecule to organism



granularity

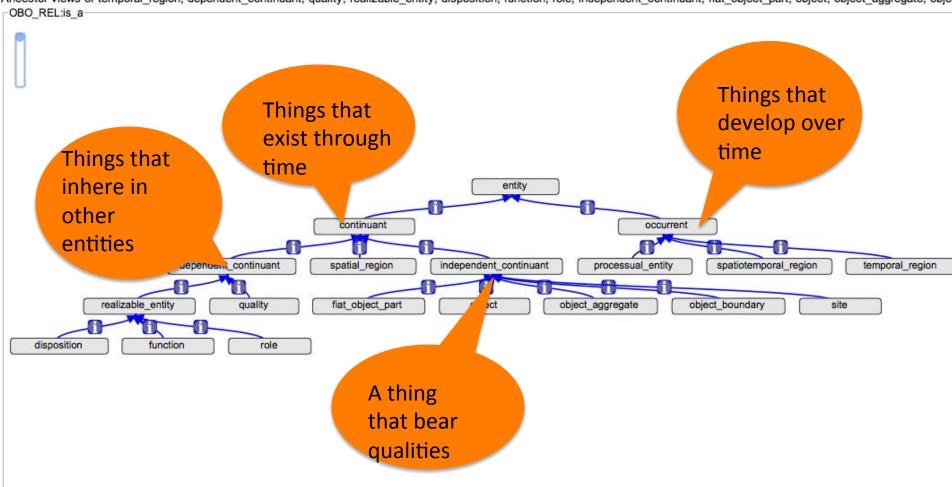


BFO basic formal ontology

 "narrowly focused on the task of providing a genuine upper ontology which can be used in support of domain ontologies developed for scientific research, as for example in biomedicine within the framework of the OBO Foundry."

Top level terms of BFO

Ancestor views of temporal_region, dependent_continuant, quality, realizable_entity, disposition, function, role, independent_continuant, fiat_object_part, object_aggregate, object_aggregate,





relation ontology

- The RO provides class level and instance level relations.
- ALL SOME RULE for class level relations
- Improves reasoning
- All start_codon part_of some CDS

Questions?

Excellent book

- Introduction to bio-ontologies by Robinson and Bauer
- CRC Press

