A Proposal for Modelling TRIZ System Evolution Concepts

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1 Aim of the work

The aim of this paper is to elaborate a proposal for an ontological modelling of the areas of TRIZ System Evolution Concepts based on the approaches in [4] and [5] and further own investigations. The work fits into the activities of the WUMM Ontology Project [8] to model core TRIZ concepts using modern semantic web means. The work consists of two parts – a turtle file, in which the semantic modelling is performed based on the SKOS framework [7], and this elaboration, in which the backgrounds and motivations of the concrete modelling decisions are detailed.

2 Starting point

The central concern of practical TRIZ applications is the analysis, evaluation and transformation of systems in order to improve their operational behaviour. As in the lecture, the term transformation is understood in a broad sense and also includes the planning and design of new systems as the transformation of a system that is only available as vague conceptual requirements into a system that operates in the real world. TRIZ provides a whole methodological toolbox that can be used together with domain-specific concepts for the systematic planning and implementation of such a transformation task. In the seminar we observed that this TRIZ toolkit is embedded in broader reasoning contexts in which engineering experience and scientific knowledge are systematised and generalised.

One of the aspects examined in this context is the evolution of classes of engineering systems in a historical context in order

- 1. to extract repeating patterns of engineering procedures as «laws» [1], «laws, evolutionary lines and trends» [3] or just «engineering trends» [4] or
- 2. to identify evolutionary connections in the unfolding of the history of technology [5].

Exploring this aspect, the focus on the exact form of the transformation of a single system described above was left and, in the style of *distant reading*, a variety of information about historical transformations in different classes of systems has to be analysed in order to extract transformation patterns from it. If, for example, the «development of display» [4, p. 22], [5, ch. 5] is analysed, this is based on a much stronger abstraction of the system concept compared to the system concept of classical TRIZ modelling, even if this more comprehensive

abstraction is only rarely explicated in the relevant works – for example as a *class of systems* in the narrower sense. In the rest of this paper, the concept of system is used in the same vague generality of an intuitive understanding as an externally given (metaphysical) concept as in the referenced works, without attempting to go into more details.

The central to TRIZ understanding, that engineering achievements can be conceptualised as system transformations, leads in the analysis of historical technology development to the structure of a directed graph with the prototypical link

In the first approach, this graph is considered as a set of such links to be classified. The graph structure plays a subordinate role, because even in the concept of *development line* a rather linear progression is postulated (e.g. [3, Figure 4.104], but see [3, 4.8.4 and Figure 4.72]). In the second approach [5], the graph structure is considered more consistently, but also with the aim to classify the links in more detail.

The aim of these conceptualisations is on the one hand to develop the methodology of evolutionary potential analysis [3, 4.8.7] and on the other hand to consolidate and improve the central TRIZ tools such as the 40 application standards («principles») or the 76 inventive standards.

3 The Conceptualisations

The conceptualisations to be developed follow the basic assumptions and positings that are elaborated in more detail in [2]. In particular, the following namespace prefixes are used:

- ex: the namespace of a special system to be modelled.
- tc: the namespace of the TRIZ concepts (RDF subjects).
- od: the namespace of WUMM's own concepts (RDF predicates, general concepts).

Furthermore the skos ontology is used to model labels and definitions of the object. Our central task is to model the links in concrete evolutionary trees. The full evolution tree as an edge-marked graph then can be conceptualised as a set of such links in the usual way.

A link in such a concrete evolution graph has the typical shape

```
ex:TVWithLargePixels ex:decreasePixelSize ex:TVWithMediumPixels .
```

where the transformation predicate ex:decreasePixelSize is assigned to certain evolution patterns (even several).

```
ex:decreasePixelSize
   a rdf:Property, skos:Concept;
   od:usesPattern tc:SegmentationPattern;
   skos:prefLabel "Decrease pixel size"@en;
   skos:definition """Decrease pixel size by segmentation
   of one big pixel in several smaller ones"""@en .
```

4 Concepts

In this section the concepts developed by Shpakovsky in [5] are introduced and discussed.

4.1 Structured information field

There are three types of problems in modern engineering: the solution of urgent technical problems, the forecast of the evolution of technical system and patent protection or circumvention. While the importance of the first two types are very easy to understand for non-engineers, the third type requires some explanation. If a technical system is patented one must either pay the owner of the patent or develop a competing system which is not covered by the patent, both options are money and labor intensive. If such measures are not taken a company risks to be sued out of contracts. An example for that would be the ongoing case between Heckler & Koch (HK) and C. G. Haenel over the production of the new standard issue weapon of the German army. The case is centered around the over-the-beach capability of the weapon, which means that the weapon can still be fired after being submerged in water for a short time. If the water is not removed the weapon can jam or missfire. HK patented a solution for this problem in EP2018508B1 by adding a fluid passage to the recoil spring mechanism. HK argues that the system used in the Haenel Mk556 is a violation of it's patent, while Haenel says it is distinct from this patent. HK managed to kick Haenel out of the procurement process with this argumentation. Haenel thus lost a big order because of a (perceived) patent violation. This example illustrates very well why patent protection and circumvention is an essential part of modern engineering.

Conventional solution methods such as trial and error and brainstorming are not suited for the requirements of these three problems. A higher level system, the *science of invention*, must be created to adequately tackle these problems. This system must obey the five requirements listed below:

- 1. Objective classification criteria (objectiveness)
- 2. The presence of all significantly different versions (fullness)
- 3. Suitable degree of generalisation and specificity
- 4. Visualization (to find gaps for patent circumvention)
- 5. Sufficient description or prediction of not yet existing versions (informativity)

In the following sections the concept of the evolution pattern and tree are described which will fulfill these requirements.

4.2 Evolution patterns and trees

- 1. Mono-Bi-Poly
- 2. Trimming
- 3. Expanding-trimming

- 4. Segmentation
- 5. Geometrical evolution
- 6. Object structure evolution
- 7. Evolution of surface properties
- 8. Dynamization
- 9. Increasing the controllability
- 10. Increasing the coordination of the elements

From these ten basic evolution patterns, more specific evolution patterns can be created. The evolution patterns from one to four are patterns that provide resources for other evolution patterns. For example, there is no possibility for dynamization on an unsegmented monolith. The structure of the object is given by patterns five to seven. Patterns for dynamization, controllability, and coordination are inserted at points that seem reasonable. This hierarchical structure of transformations is shown in Fig. 1. It is not required to follow an evolution pattern to its end before applying a different one. The direction of evolution is also not strictly given.

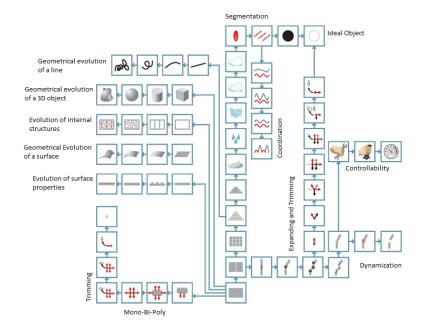


Figure 1: Basic evolution tree [5]

A basic principle in TRIZ is the interaction of a tool and an (work) object:

Analogous to this a transformation is the application of an evolutionary pattern to an object, which subsequently becomes a transformed version of the object. Equivalents of these Patterns can be found in the TRIZ principles e.g. the Segmentation Pattern corresponds to the first TRIZ principle *Principle of decomposition or segmentation*.

An evolution tree is build out of multiple patterns which are combined at certain locations (see Fig. 1). The positions of these locations are specific for each specialized evolution tree and are only shown in approximation here.

The Evolution Tree is a self-similar concept, e.g. an object is approximately similar to itself. An Evolution tree can thus contain another evolution tree, e.g. the evolution tree of the screen contains the evolution tree of a plasma screen, which could be analysed further.

4.3 Not laws but recommendations

Shpakovsky never calls his concepts of the evolution pattern and tree laws but uses the terms requirements, rules and, in context with construction instructions, recommendations. Thereby he himself softens the objectivity of his concepts. A really explicit explanation of this change from law to recommendation does not take place, but the circumstance can be understood on the basis of the created evolution tree of the screen.

The trunk of an evolutionary tree, for example, should consist of only one evolutionary pattern (cf. [5, p. 122f]), but it becomes clear that in the case of the screen two evolutionary patterns serve as the trunk, namely trimming and segmentation. Here it is appropriate, due to the nature of the object, not to follow the recommendation. This would not be possible with a law or it should not occur at all due to the nature of a law.

4.4 Outside influence

The transition between some steps of evolution patterns require outside development, e.g. the transition from a changeable image (flip-book cinema) to the cinematographer was a joint product of many inventors. Outside involvement is so required for adding and evolving objects e.g. in the mono-bi-poly, segmentation and expanding-trimming pattern. In a discussion with Shpakovsky it was clarified that this outside influence can be seen as taking the same and new components from a super system, which is outside the scope of the model. Components are selected on the basis of their benefit in increasing productivity and other quality parameters. Outside influence is not modelled in the RDF part.

4.5 Construction of evolution trees

There are two question to answer before building an evolution tree: Which objects should it include and in which level of detail are they included? Context and a subsequent demarcation between the inside and outside of the system is required. But the determination of the context is implicit or very week by using the elemental function. Objectivity, rules and laws are only applicable where the context can be adequately defined, which is not entirely the case for the concept of evolution trees.

After an email correspondence with Shpakovsky the following conclusion for creating a evolution tree was created:

After defining the elemental function, that should at best be dividable to the *subject-action-object* level, the simplest transformation of the object is used as the starting point. Because the evolution tree is a self similar concept the number of possible transitions and transformation versions gets too big to keep track off. The inevitable limiting of this explosion of versions follows a purely voluntary approach, as such objectivity can't be guaranteed. The evolution tree does not touch either historical or temporal rules. The sequence of options is subject only to technological trends. That is, there is no goal of building a tree as such, or rather, the goal is to get an information field in which the past, present and possible variants of the system under analysis are located.

4.6 Determination of not known versions

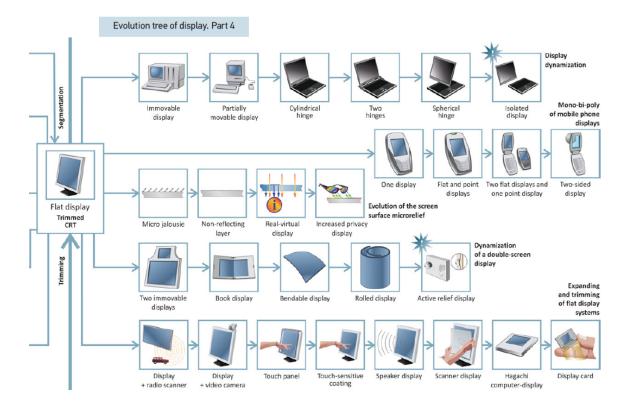


Figure 2: Section of the specific evolution tree of the screen [5], see http://www.target-invention.com/for the complete tree

For the analysis of an object, both the basic (see Fig. 1) and the specific evolution tree (see Fig. 2) must be created. By comparing the two trees, gaps as well as unfinished evolutionary patterns can be discovered. The highest level of the pattern of dynamization consists of a complete decoupling of the individual components. For a laptop, this would mean separating the screen and peripherals. At the time the evolutionary tree of the screen was created around 2002, this version of the object did not yet exist. By recognizing this gap, a useful new version was found. Nowadays, complete dynamization is achieved by integrating the

computing technology into the screen and connecting the peripherals via Bluetooth. Thus it was shown that evolution trees are able to map future developments.

4.7 Patent circumvention

There is often the problem that a patent already exists for a desired product. In this situation it is either possible to pay high license fees to the patent owner or to circumvent the patent. The legal method of patent circumvention, which consists of using loopholes and erroneous patent descriptions to invalidate a patent, is not always applicable. It is alternatively possible to modify the object under investigation to develop a better product. This inventive method has the disadvantage of having large development costs and having to change the basic design. On the other hand, it is not possible to obtain an alternative patent without modification. From this conflict, typical for TRIZ, a synthesis emerges in the form of the legal-inventive method. This new method aims at finding transformation versions not yet covered by patents through evolution trees. The search for existing patents can be additionally facilitated by using the object and transformation names as keywords.

But as seen in the example case between HK and Haenel this is not a hundred percent secure protection. Even not yet clarified legal uncertainties can lead to not getting the desired contract, because the contractor doesn't want to take the risk or is legally not allowed to due to the ongoing case.

5 Modelling

Ontologies are based on the modelling on models. This is done over several levels, where the lower levels are used to model real-world examples and thus have a high level of specificity. Higher levels are used to model concepts and even more general concepts. In this work three levels are used for modelling which results in three RDF namespaces:

```
• ex: – Level 1 (Real world examples and patterns)
```

• tc: - Level 2 (Subjects and concepts)

• od: – Level 3 (Predicates)

5.1 Modelling the evolution tree concepts

File Evolution Tree.ttl contains the description for the concepts for evolution trees presented in [5]. It also contains all modelled basic evolution patterns and thus the basic evolution tree. All RDF subjects or nodes in the corresponding graph are part of the tc: namespace. New predicates in od: didn't need to be modelled because the already existing ones covered every need. Every chapter and subsection in the table of contests is modelled with at least one subject or triple, e.g. the segmentation pattern has it's own RDF subject tc:SegmentationPattern and is described in it.

```
tc:SegmentationPattern
od:subConceptOf tc:BasicEvolutionPattern;
od:hasSubConcept tc:Monolith, tc:TwoParts, tc:ManyParts, tc:Granules,
```

```
tc:Powder, tc:Paste, tc:Liquid, tc:Foam, tc:Fog, tc:Gas, tc:Plasma,
tc:Field, tc:Vacuum, tc:IdealObject;
a skos:Concept, od:AdditionalConcept;
skos:prefLabel "Segmenting objects and substances"@en;
skos:example "Segmentation of an aircraft propulsion unit"@en;
skos:broader tc:Segmentation, tc:TrendofTransitiontoMicrolevel.

tc:Liquid
od:subConceptOf tc:SegmentationPattern;
a skos:Concept, od:AdditionalConcept;
skos:prefLabel "Liquid"@en.
```

Relations or edges between subjects are modelled by the predicates od:subConceptOf and od:hasSubConcept, e.g. as tc:SegmentationPattern is a tc:BasicEvolutionPattern there are linked together. Different transformation versions like tc:Monolith are also referenced that way. Transitions of a generic evolution pattern like tc:FlatSurface to

tc:CylindricalSurface from tc:GeometricalEvolutionPattern are not modelled as the direction could be both ways in an specific example. Some modern monitors use curved displays instead of flat ones. CRT displays have a cylindrical surface due to constrains in manufacturing. By using better glass it is possible to get a CRT display with a flat surface. With that a conflict would arise if the evolution is only possible in one direction. Shpakovsky also introduces the MATChEM-Operator from the wider TRIZ as a not-listed extra pattern.

As TRIZ trends are used as the basic evolution patterns they must be referenced from the modelled patterns, e.g. tc:Segmentation and tc:TrendofTransitiontoMicrolevel are referenced by tc:SegmentationPattern via skos:broader. Evolution pattern are more specific than their corresponding TRIZ principles because they are seen in the context of the evolution tree and thereby skos:broader is used instead of skos:narrower.

```
tc:Segmentation
  od:hasRecommendation tc:Segmentation_1, tc:Segmentation_2, tc:Segmentation_3;
  od:hasAltshuller73Id "01";
  od:hasAltshuller84Id "01";
  a od:Principle;
  rdfs:label "Principle of decomposition or segmentation"@en .
```

Triples usually consist of the RDF subject (TRIZ concept), the referenced subjects via predicates, the a predicate, and further skos labels, examples and definitions. All information about one subject is modelled inside a single triple. The file also contains comments marked with # where the currently modelled part is marked or further described to keep track.

Concepts for the application of the evolution trees are also modelled via subconcepts and the skos ontology:

```
tc:FrontalSearch
  od:subConceptOf tc:InformationFieldSearch ;
  a skos:Concept, od:AdditionalConcept ;
```

```
skos:prefLabel "Frontal search of an Information Field"@en ;
skos:definition """Search starts from random points.
Search of the whole information field for relevant information."""@en .
```

5.2 Modelling the screen evolution tree

Shpakosvky modelled the evolution tree of the screen with To visualize information as the elemental function. We see a display in this context as an artificially created object specially designed for the role of a tool in the realization of the elemental function [5] to differentiate it from a sheet of paper with information written on it. The terms display and screen are used interchangeably in this work. The main axis of development runs along the trimming transition between the cinematographer, trimmed cinematographer, CRT TV set and the flat display. Further transitions are part of the segmentation pattern. The evolution tree trunk is marked by using od:usesPattern tc:EvolutionTreeTrunk in the transitions. ex: is used as the namespace of subjects and predicates for the model because it describes an real world example. As the granularity of this specific evolution tree is very fine some predicates or transitions can be used multiple times for transforming subjects.

First off the screen will be defined as an specific evolution tree:

```
ex:Screen
a tc:SpecificEvolutionTree ;
skos:prefLabel "Specific evolution tree of the screen"@en ;
```

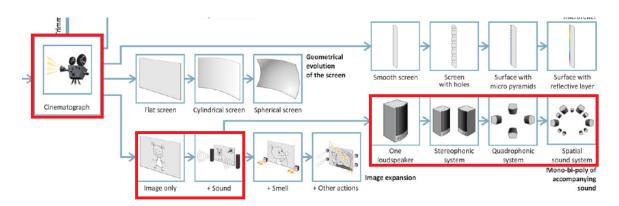


Figure 3: Pattern of adding audio [5]

We will using the marked transformations for adding sound to the screen (see Fig. 3) as an example for the structure of the modelling done in *ScreenExample.ttl*.

```
ex:Cinematograph
a ex:Screen;
ex:transitionsTo ex:ImageOnly, ex:FlatScreen, ex:SmoothScreen, ex:ImmovableScreen;
ex:trimCinemaBuilding ex:MechanicalTVSet;
skos:prefLabel "Cinematograph"@en .
```

We choose the cinematographer from the evolution tree trunk as the starting point of our example. Fig. 3 shows that different objects that are part of the cinematographer can be branched out and be described. No transformation needs to take place because we only look at an already existing object. For this purpose the ex:transitionsTo predicate is used as it describes a transition without changing the object. This leads to ex:ImageOnly to which we add sound via the ex:addSound transition. tc:MonoBiPolyPattern and tc:BiSystem are used as the types of the transitions because components are added to build a higher level system. Where applicable the concrete step of the evolution pattern (e.g. tc:BiSystem) is used, if not only the basis evolution pattern (e.g. tc:MonoBiPolyPattern) is used.

```
# Image expansion
ex:ImageOnly
   a ex:Screen ;
   ex:addSound ex:ImageSound ;
   skos:prefLabel "Image only"@en .
ex:ImageSound
   a ex:Screen ;
   ex:addSmell ex:ImageSoundSmell ;
   ex:transitionsTo ex:OneLoudspeaker ;
   skos:prefLabel "Image and sound"@en .

# ...
ex:addSound
   a rdf:Property, skos:Concept ;
   od:usesPattern tc:MonoBiPolyPattern, tc:BiSystem ;
   skos:prefLabel "Add sound"@en .
```

Now we are in the mono-bi-poly pattern of accompanying sound in which the predicate <code>ex:addLoudspeaker</code> is used to repeatedly add new loudspeakers to the system to evolve it into a poly-system. This new poly-system is of higher complexity due to higher coordination between the loudspeakers by for example the Dolby Surround 7.1 specification. Using the same transition repeatedly is not always possible.

```
# Mono-Bi-Poly of accompanying sound
ex:OneLoudspeaker
  a ex:Screen ;
  ex:addLoudspeaker ex:StereophonicSystem ;
  skos:prefLabel "One loudspeaker"@en .
ex:StereophonicSystem
  a ex:Screen ;
  ex:addLoudspeaker ex:QuadrophonicSystem ;
  skos:prefLabel "Stereophonic system "@en .
ex:QuadrophonicSystem
  a ex:Screen ;
  ex:addLoudspeaker ex:SpatialSoundSystem ;
```

```
skos:prefLabel "Quadrophonic system"@en .
ex:SpatialSoundSystem
   a ex:Screen ;
   skos:prefLabel "Spatial sound system"@en .
ex:addLoudspeaker
   a rdf:Property, skos:Concept ;
   od:usesPattern tc:MonoBiPolyPattern, tc:BiSystem, tc:PolySystem ;
   skos:prefLabel "Add loudspeaker"@en ;
   skos:definition "Add one or more loudspeakers"@en .
```

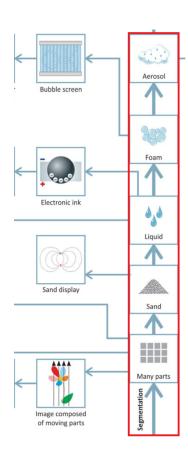


Figure 4: Segmentation of the screen [5]

With that we successfully modelled a branch of the evolution tree of the screen, the same approach to modelling is used to completely model the tree. One particularity must be explained further namely the further segmentation of the screen shown in Fig. 4. Shpakovsky uses the generic evolution transformations here even if it is a specific evolution tree. This was modelled by using extra subjects (ex:ManyParts, ex:Sand etc.) and linking them with the ex:segmentation predicate. Branches are transitioned to with tc:transitionsTo as was explained before.

5.3 Modelling the ship propulsion evolution tree

Souchkov in [3] describes the evolution tree using the example of the boat. The terms boat and ship are used interchangeably here even if a ship is assumed to have some other characteristics as a boat, e.g. being ocean-going and having a higher displacement.

This is done via the standard TRIZ methodology and can be implemented in Shpakovsky's more specific concept of an evolution tree (see BoatExample.ttl). A boat as a technical system has a very wide array of transformations. Thus it is vital to specify the elemental function by looking at the main axis of the evolution, the tree trunk. Souchkov splits the transformations into three categories: New transformations for delivering the main function, existing transforma-

tions that could be developed further and completed or discontinued transformations. We are interested in the new transformations for delivering the main function as this is used as the main axis of development. Developments follows through the transformations tree trunk, rowboat, sailboat, steamboat, diesel-boat, water-jetboat and atom-boat. Hence the corresponding elemental function is *provide the boat with a power source* as they all, with one

exception, describe what the engine or power source is. A tree trunk has no power source, a rowboat uses muscle power, a sailboat the wind, a steamboat a steam machine and so on. As the water-jet is a means of propulsion and does not describe the power source, but how the power is used for propulsion (e.g. propeller, paddle wheel), it is misplaced on the evolution tree trunk. Modelling this discrepancy is done via using a different evolution pattern for the transition between the diesel-boat and water-jet-boat, namely the expanding-trimming pattern. Consequently the transition is not part of the modelled evolution tree, while all other transitions between the main transformations are.

The granularity of this tree is very coarse. The transitions between the main versions e.g. from sailboat to steamboat are very big steps in the overall technical development. First ships with sails were developed in the 2nd millennium BCE in the South China Sea, while the first practical steamers were build in the early 19th century, this massive time frame shows that the tree is very coarsely build. Because of that transitions or predicates are very specific as they must depict large developments. Finer grained evolution trees have the advantage of reusing predicates, this is not applicable here. Again we are running into the self similarity of the evolution tree as one tree node could be easily expanded, e.g. the torpedo boat node could be expanded to include all development on torpedo boats. Furthermore hybrid vessels e.g. boats with stream and sail propulsion are also omitted. The terms boat and ship are used interchangeably in the evolution tree and this approach was further adopted. Predicates can possibly only applied for this example and thus not be easily used for other objects. The branching transformations can also be seen as evolution trees themselves as they describe extended elemental functions like transporting tourists via boat.

There are two possibilities of modelling the evolution tree trunk, on one hand the segmentation pattern can be used on the other the MATChEM operator, both must describe the power source of the ship. If the segmentation pattern is used the manual labour of rowing a boat with one or multiple rowers could be described with the monolithic, two-part and many-part transformations. Because a tree trunk has no on board power source of propulsion it would be omitted from the evolution tree trunk. Sails use wind and thus gas for propulsion, so no problems would arise here. Diesel engines burn a diesel air mix and direct drive the propulsion device via a transmission, it would be thus modelled as a liquid or aerosol. This is not the case for a steam engine or nuclear reactor, they use boilers or reactors to boil water into steam and then drive a stream engine or turbine. This would mean that three types of power sources would be modelled with gas, which is not ideal. If we would model the fuel instead other problems would arise because a boiler can burn coal (e.g. a many-parts transformation), oil (e.g. the liquid transformation) or an coal-oil mixture. Furthermore would a sailboat be on a higher place in the segmentation pattern as the diesel engine. While it could be argued that the ideality of using wind is higher, because no fuel needs to be burned, the cost of executing it's function is still high as a lot of complex rigging, sails and high manpower is required.

```
Bold font: new transformations for delivering the main function
Normal font: transformations that can be developed further
   Italic font: discontinued transformations

ex:Boat
   a tc:SpecificEvolutionTree;
   skos:prefLabel "Boat"@en, "Boot"@de;
   skos:altLabel "Power source of the boat",
```

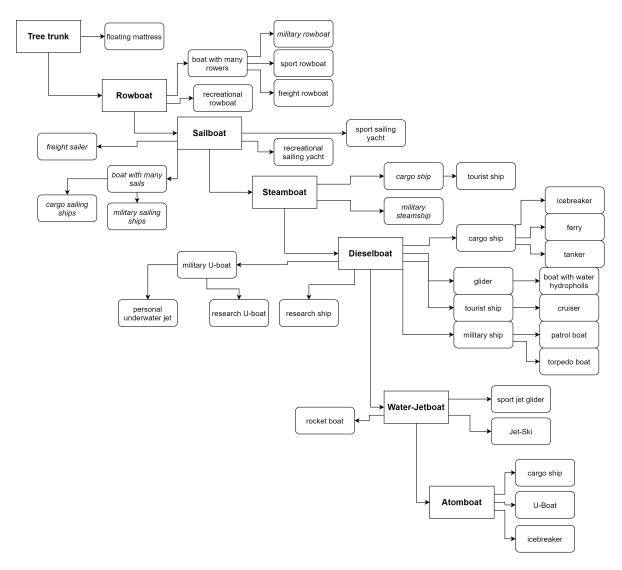


Figure 5: Souchkov's evolution tree of the boat translated from German [3]

```
"Energiequelle bzw. Motor des Boots"; skos:definition "Specific evolution tree of the boat power source"@en .
```

Due to these problems a modified MATChEM operator will be used. This operator is used for remodelling the technical system around different fields so that their working principle is entirely different but their function remains the same. For our fields we are using mechanical, air, thermal, chemical, electrical and atomic fields. These model the evolution steps better and in the right progression. The electric motor is omitted in the model but was used with U-boats together with a diesel engine.

```
ex:BoatMATChEMOperator
  a tc:SpecificEvolutionPattern, tc:MATChEMOperator;
  skos:prefLabel "Use a boat specific MATChEM operator"@en;
```

```
skos:definition """Mechanical - Muscle power
 Air - Wind power via sail
  Thermal - Steam engine
  Chemical - Diesel engine
 Electrical - Electric motor
  Atomic - Nuclear fission reactor"""@en .
ex:Rowboat
  a ex:Boat ;
  ex:addPaddles ex:BoatWithManyRowers ;
  ex:addRecreationalInstallations ex:RecreationalRowboat ;
  ex:replacePaddleWithSail ex:Sailboat ;
  skos:prefLabel "Rowboat"@en ;
  skos:definition "Manual labour as the power source"@en .
ex:replacePaddleWithSail
  a rdf:Property, skos:Concept;
  od:usesPattern tc:SegmentationPattern, tc:Gas ;
  skos:prefLabel "Replace Paddle with sail"@en ;
  skos:definition """Rudder and thus muscle power is replaced by sails
    and thus wind power"""@en .
```

The transformations that can be developed further can be described as incomplete evolution patterns. The expanding-trimming pattern is used to describe these branching transformations because if one for example converts a ship for military usage components (weapons, armour etc.) are added while other components (excess weight, cargo bays etc.) are removed or trimmed.

5.4 Evolution tree of the aircraft propulsion device

As a further example Shpakovsky provides is the evolution of the aircraft propulsion device. Airplanes don't include sailplanes as it is stated that an airplane must use an engine. This engine drives the propulsion device, in its earliest form a propeller, which in turn moves the aircraft forward. The elemental function of the object aircraft propulsion device is defined as A propulsive device is what an aircraft uses to push off the surrounding space while flying. [6]. The starting point of the evolution is the single-bladed propeller, which corresponds to the monolith in the segmentation pattern. Subsequently the two parts transformation would be a double bladed propellers. The Evolution Tree Trunk consists here of the entire tree as the object develops along the segmentation pattern. For granules, liquid and vacuum exists no current transformation. These gaps can be used to theorise about potential inventions, cost and feasibility must also be considered to get a good solution. While for example water can be sprayed into the propeller area to increase the thrust, this can only be done for short periods as water is expensive to carry all the time. Throwing away rocket stages for further acceleration of a space craft are also proposed for the granules transformation, but fuel tanks bear little resemblance to granules. The granules, liquid and gas transformations are thus left empty on the tree and are thus not modelled.

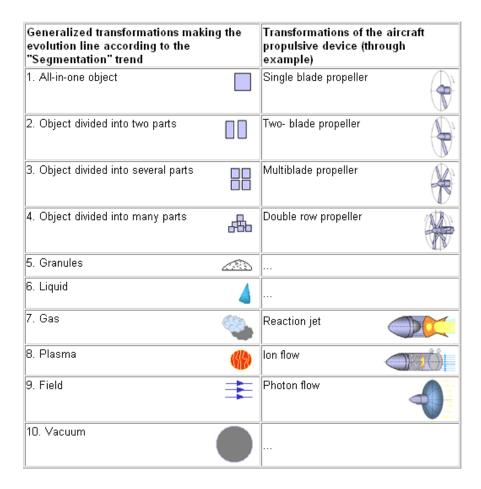


Figure 6: Shpakovsky's evolution tree of the aircraft propulsion device [6]

The same way as described from before is used to model the evolution tree. An example for adding an extra propeller row is provided below, the full version can be seen in *Aircraft-PropulsionDeviceExample.ttl*.

```
ex:AircraftPropulsionDevice
  a tc:SpecificEvolutionTree;
  skos:prefLabel "Propulsion device for aircraft"@en;
  skos:definition "A propulsive device is what an aircraft
    uses to push off the surrounding space while flying"@en .

ex:MultiBladePropeller
  a ex:AircraftPropulsionDevice;
  ex:addPropellerRow ex:DoubleRowPropeller;
  skos:prefLabel "Multiblade propeller"@en .

ex:addPropellerRow
  a rdf:Property, skos:Concept;
  od:usesPattern tc:SegmentationPattern, tc:ManyParts;
  skos:prefLabel "Add propeller row"@en .
```

References

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