

# Constructing a Knowledge Graph of Historical Mining Data

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*USC Information Sciences Institute*

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# Agenda

- Intro ←
- Problem
- Approach
- Evaluation & Discussion
- Spatio-Temporal Analysis via GeoSPARQL
- Related Work
- Future Directions
- Conclusions

# Historical & Geo Data

- Rich sources of information
  - understanding human & environmental systems
  - describing human & natural activities
- Labor-intensive to analyze across time & space
  - e.g., economic viability, physical change, geo-related characteristics
- Often require grounding & additional contextual information
  - e.g., demographics, geology, stratigraphy, etc...



Appendix 3. Reported Nickel Deposits and Projects 2018									
Commodity	Country	Project	Status	Location	Mine Type	Company	Economic Mineralogy	Principal Process	827 96
NiL	Alberta	Kakwa-Sorrel Lake	Exploration		Deposit	unknown	unknown	HIPAL	0
NiL	Alberta	Liberation-Poplar	Exploration		Deposit	unknown	unknown	HIPAL	0
		Dewitt Group	Exploration		Deposit	unknown	unknown	HIPAL	0
NiL	Argentina	Lee Agua	Exploration		Deposit	Northern Cobalt	F	HIPAL	0
NiS	Australia	Starion	Exploration		Deposit	U3	Undeveloped	HIPAL	3.8
CuCoNi	Australia	Aurora	Exploration		Deposit	OC	unknown	HIPAL	0
NiS	Australia	Mount Finch (Ni-Cu-Co)	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Subre Resources, Metax Australia	F	12.5 0.11
NiS	Australia	Bamboo Creek	Exploration		Deposit	US	ter Mining90%, Destra20%, Homa Mining20%	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	Mari Murru	Operating		OC	Gencore	HIPAL	HIPAL	136.4
NiL	Australia	KNP East-Tarutau	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Artes Resources	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	KNP East-Bulung Sulow East	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Artes Resources	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	Lake Yindergeeda	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Firent Resources	HIPAL?	0
NiL	Australia	Desert	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	1.6
NiL	Australia	NWWest Mount Kilyana	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	8.8
NiL	Australia	NWWest Eucalyptus	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	NWWest Waranba	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	NWWest Maringa North	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	3.4
NiL	Australia	NWWest Maringa South	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	1.5
NiL	Australia	NWWest Merimbula	Exploration		Deposit	OC	QURE Resources	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	Coronation Dam-Duck Hill	Exploration		Deposit	OC	White Cliff Minerals	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	NWWest Mooy Hill	Exploration		Deposit	OC	unpublished	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	Shire	Exploration		Deposit	OC	White Cliff Minerals	HIPAL?	0
NiL	Australia	Pyle Hill	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Copper Metals Atherton Resources	HIPAL	4.2
NiL	Australia	Pelican	Exploration		Deposit	OC	GSM Mining Company	HIPAL	0
NiL	Australia	Larkins Find	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Golden Life Nature Products (WA)	HIPAL?	0
NiL	Australia	Mount Clifford-Marlboro	Exploration		Deposit	OC	Norwest Minerals	HIPAL?	0

Tables with geo-data

View  
Show in a web browser window:  
[deposit.kml](#) (uncompressed 2.5M bytes)  
[deposit.kmz](#) (compressed 690k bytes)

View  
Show in a web browser window:  
[deposit.kml](#) (uncompressed 2.5M bytes)  
[deposit.kmz](#) (compressed 690k bytes)

Geospatial databases (e.g., mining sites)

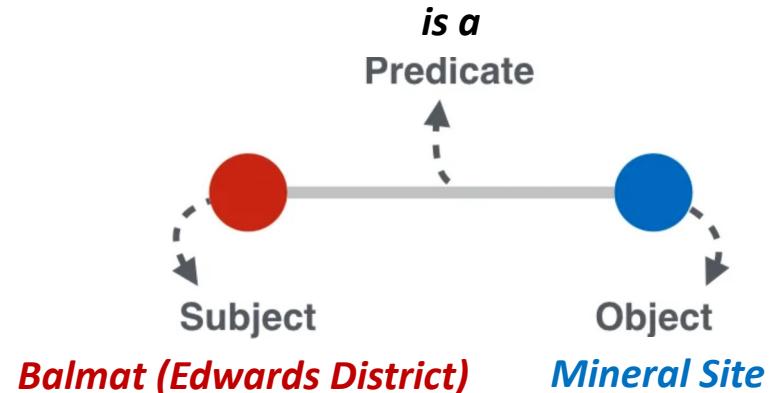
NI 43-101 Technical Report  
Resource Estimate  
of the  
Fox Property, Ridley Creek

NI 43-101 Resource Update for the  
BN Zones and Maiden Resource E  
in the BK Zone of the Fox Tungsten  
Project

Mining reports

# KGs

- Knowledge Graph (KG)?
  - **Graphs** are natural way to **encode** data
  - Using **semantic concepts** & **relationships**
    - Semantic Network = **Knowledge Graph**
- Why use KG?
  - Combine **expressivity**, **interoperability**, & **standardization** in the **Semantic Web** stack
- Semantic Web?
  - Extension of WWW, enabling the Web of Data (aka “Linked Data”)
  - Encoding of **semantics** with the data
  - Linked Open Data **principles** // FAIR



# Geo & Spatio-Temporal KGs

- Spatio-Temporal KGs
  - Contextual (**what**)
  - **Spatial** (**where**)
  - **Temporal** (**when**)
- **Geo-semantics**
  - Representation, annotation, & reasoning
  - Modeling & ontology development
  - Integration & interoperability

The collage consists of four panels:

- Panel 1 (Top Left):** A screenshot of a map application showing the University of Southern California (USC) campus. The location is labeled "University of Southern California 56 m". Below it are details: "S SCH school", "United States US » California CA » Los Angeles 037", "34.0218, -118.28664", and coordinates "N 34°01'18" W 118°17'12". To the right are download options: ".kml", ".rdf", and a location pin icon.
- Panel 2 (Top Right):** A screenshot of DBpedia data for the University of Southern California. It shows triples like `dbo:foundingDate` (1880-10-06), `dbo:mascot` (Tommy Trojan, Traveler), and `dbo:motto` (Palmam qui meruit ferat, "Let whoever earns the palm bear it").
- Panel 3 (Bottom Left):** A screenshot of Wikidata showing the entity for the University of Southern California (Q4614). It includes the name, a barcode logo, and a brief description: "private university in Los Angeles, California, United States USC | University of Southern CA".
- Panel 4 (Bottom Right):** A screenshot of a map application showing the University of Southern California campus boundary. The area is highlighted with a red outline. The map also shows surrounding streets like 35th Street, 30th Street, and Jefferson/USC.

# Intro: Spatio-Temporal KGs

- So, what's so **special** about them?
  - Spatial analysis
  - Temporal analysis
  - Spatio-temporal aggregations
  - Geographic QA
  - Environmental & social science
  - Urban planning
  - Transportation
  - etc...

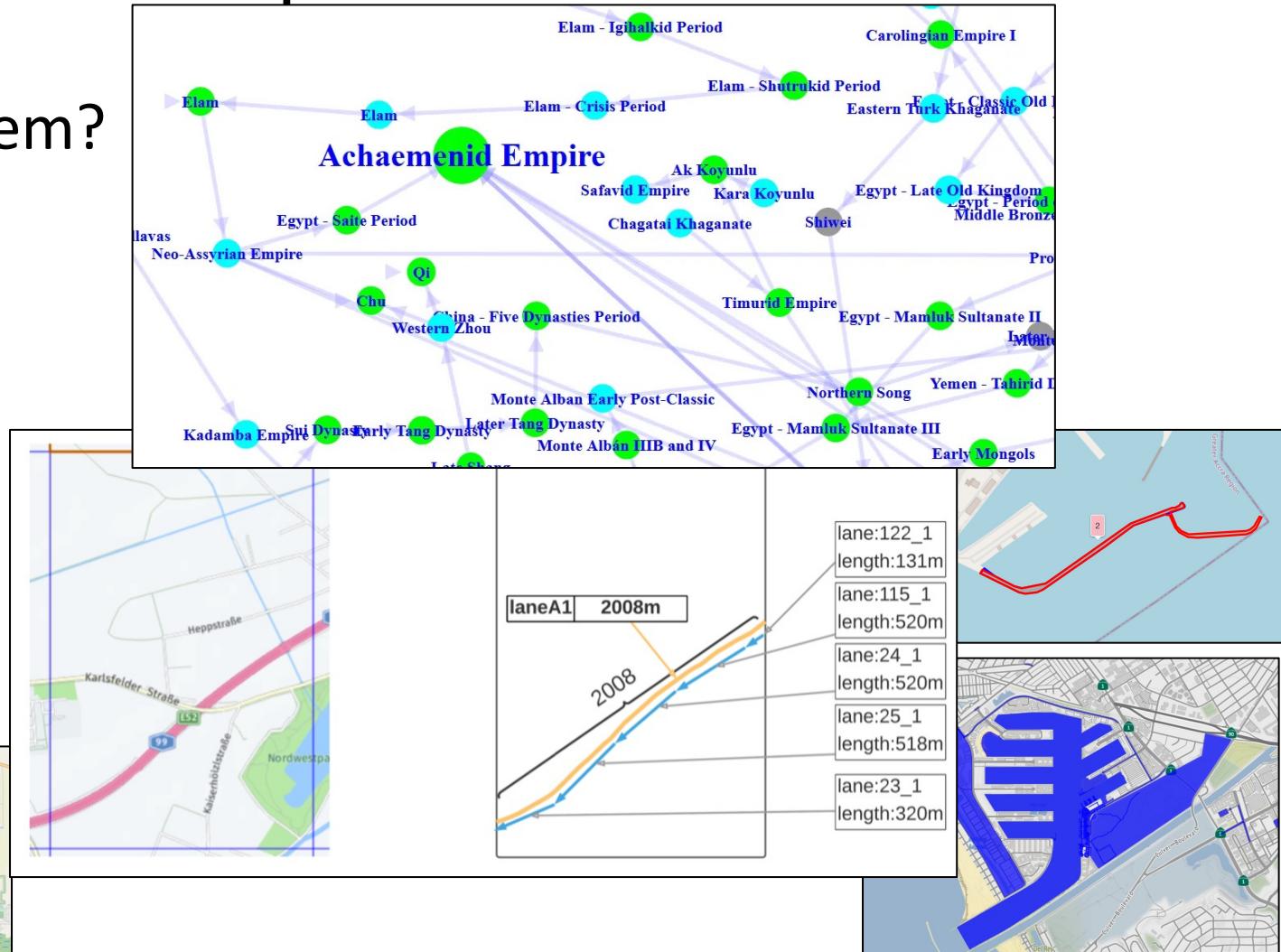
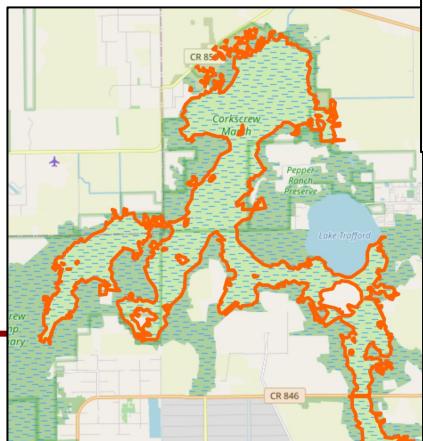


figure from Szwoch, G. (2019). Combining road network data from openstreetmap with an authoritative database. *Journal of Transportation Engineering, Part A: Systems*, 145(2), 04018085.

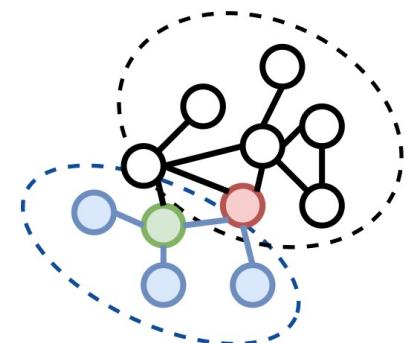
figure from <https://terminusdb.com/blog/human-history-knowledge-graph/>

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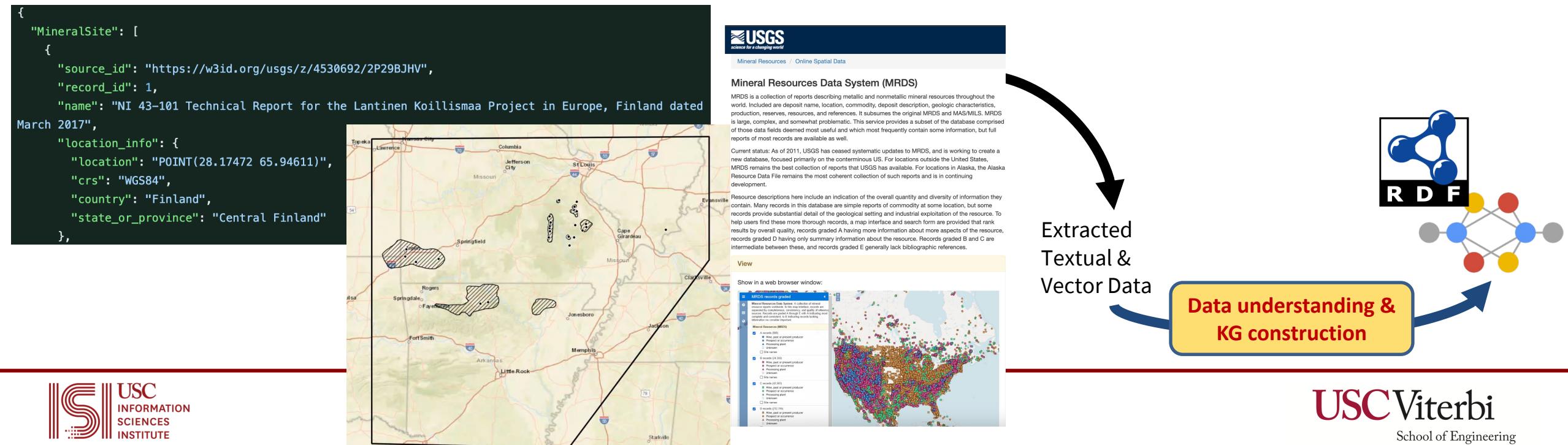
# Research Problem

- How can we transform & link unstructured digitized & historical geo-data into structured, semantic, & queryable spatio-temporal KGs?
- Objectives:
  - Auto KG construction & entity resolution (ER) from various historical geo-data sources
  - Semantic enrichment by linking (EL) to additional sources on the web
  - Adherence to Semantic Web principles
    - shared, accessible, visualized, standardized across-domains, & scalable for easy use by downstream tasks for easy analysis & expressive integration

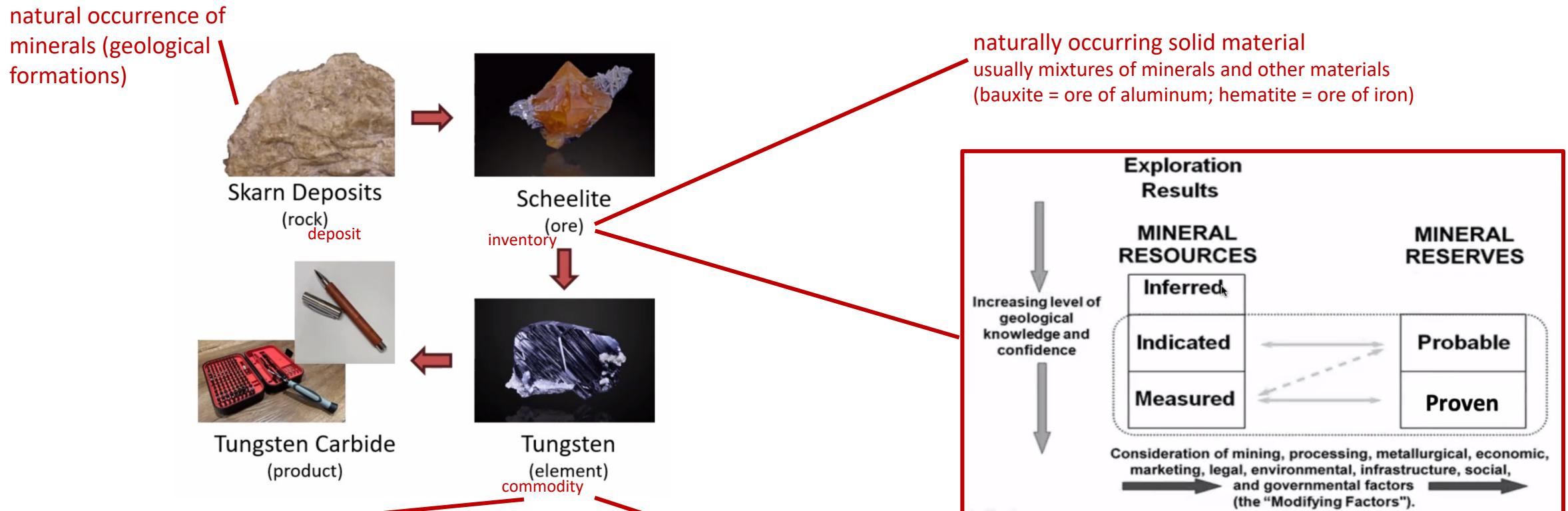


# Goals

- Integrating geo-referenced textual & historical data with quantitative information into a comprehensive, dynamic, & spatio-temporal KG
  - capture data & entity semantics, entity resolution, & accurate data modeling
- Demonstrate via a KG of historical mining data
  - Historically takes months of work; geologists describe it as a “soul crushing exercise”



# Transformation & Aggregation

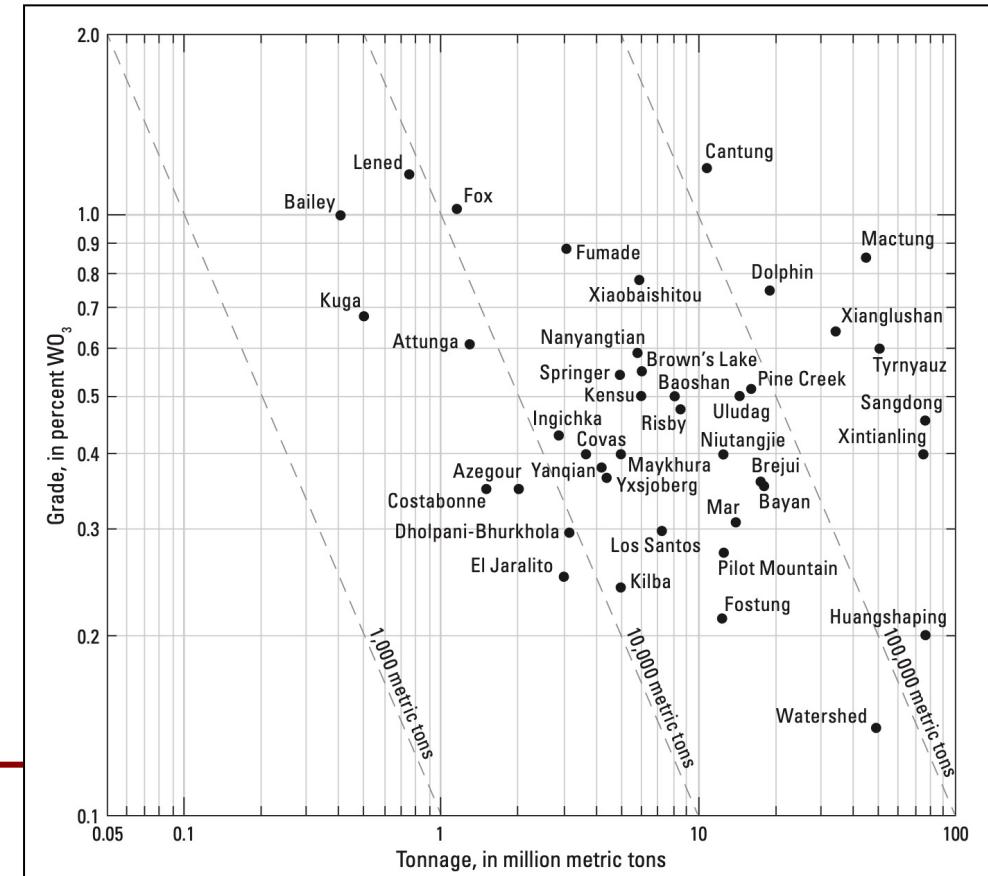
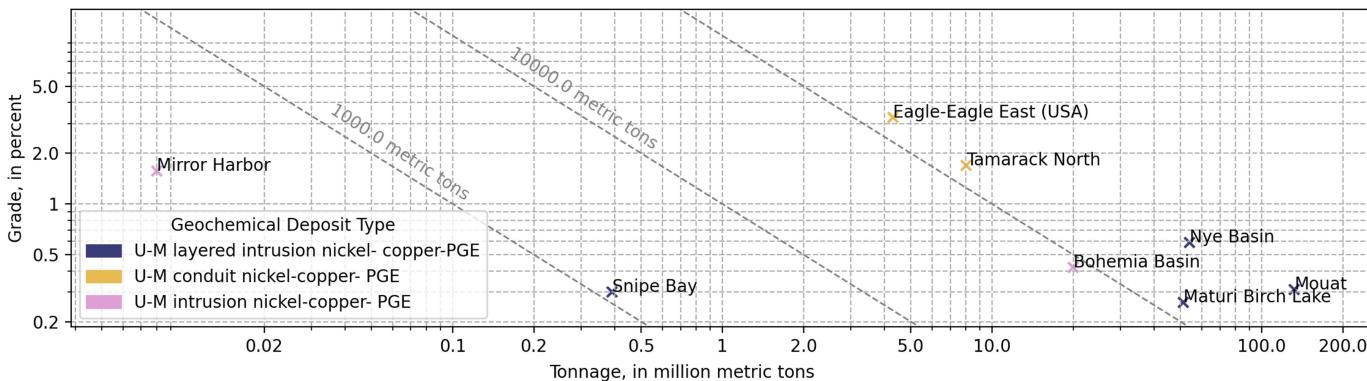


COMMODITY	AS-REPORTED FC	AS-REPORTED AI	CONVERSION FA	CONVERTED FORM
Aluminum	Al		1.8895	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Antimony	Sb		1.1971	Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Barium	Ba		1.6995	BaSO <sub>4</sub>
Borates	B	Boron	3.2198	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Borates	H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	Boric Acid	0.5629	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Cesium	Cs <sub>2</sub> O	Cesium Oxide, C	0.9432	Cs
Chromium	Cr		1.4615	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Cobalt	CoOH	Cobalt Hydroxide	0.776	Co
Iron Ore	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hematite, Haem	0.6994	Fe

material or primary agricultural product

# One desired output: Grade-Tonnage model

- For a given commodity/deposit type/location/time-range:
  - Construct grade and tonnage models from the data on existing mines
  - Compile rich mineral site data

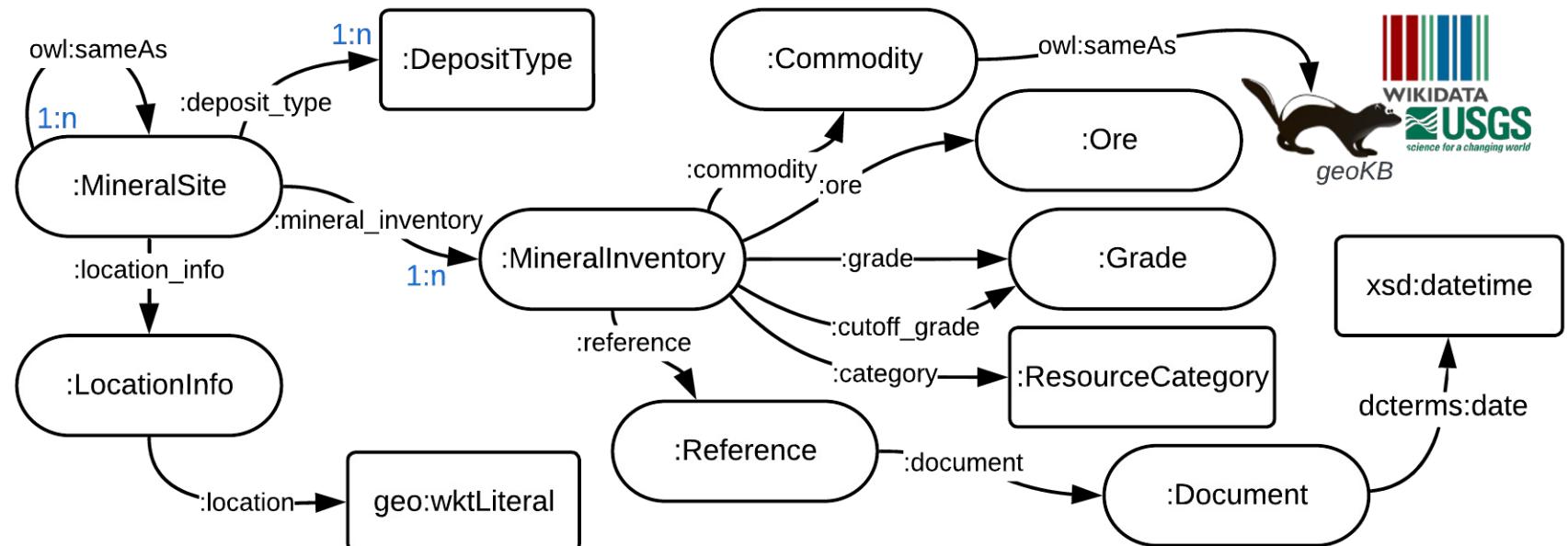


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# Approach

- Step 1. Semantic Modeling & URI assignment (Data Representation)
  - Transform & materialize the data (construct KG)
    - Generate entities (URIs) based on unique identifiers
    - Provide a useful semantic representation supporting downstream tasks
  - Construct a meaningful semantic model
    - Follows W3C & OGC standards (GeoSPARQL)



# GeoKB as a Target KB for EL

GEOKB

## Nickel (Q162561)



mineral species in the Iron Group sourced from Mindat and the Geoscience Ontology

Niccolum | nikle | Nikel | نیکل | Nikelo | ニッケル | Nikal | Nichel | Nikiel | Nikl | IMA1966-039 | 니켈 | Nikelis | Nikkeli | Նիկել | Níquel | Nikelj | nikel | ნიკელი | ニッケル | Никел | Nikèl | Никель | Nikél | Iztāctepoztli | nikel | نیکل | Niquèl | Никл | ניקל | Nickyl | නිකකල් | Никель | Nikeli | Nikil | Nikelis | نیکل | Níkélio | Neckel | Никель | Konukōreko | Niken | Nichele | 自然镍 | Nikkel

### Statements

subclass of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>01-AA.05 - Copper-cupalite family<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 references</li></ul></li><li>mineral material<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 reference</li></ul></li></ul>	has chemical element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>nickel<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 reference</li></ul></li></ul>
same as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="http://www.mindat.org/min-2895.html">http://www.mindat.org/min-2895.html</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>0 references</li></ul></li><li><a href="https://w3id.org/gso/mineral/nickel">https://w3id.org/gso/mineral/nickel</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>0 references</li></ul></li></ul>	member of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Iron Group<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 reference</li></ul></li></ul>

# Approach – cont'd

- Step 2. Entity Linking
  - Link the generated entities to a domain data-rich vocab (i.e., GeoKB)
  - Determine similarity by textual similarity (i.e., Jaccard)
  - Directly within SPARQL

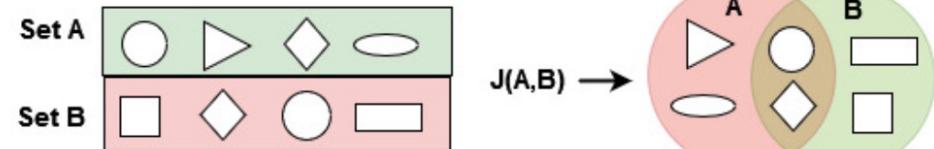
"Clay, Fire (Refractory)"

```
entity.value \
0    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q413
1    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q424
2    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q423
3    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q421
4    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q162319
5    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q425
6    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q426
7    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q428
8    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q427
9    uri    https://geokb.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q429
```

	entityLabel.xml:lang	entityLabel.type	entityLabel.value
0	en	literal	high alumina clay aluminum
1	en	literal	bloating material clay
2	en	literal	brick clay
3	en	literal	clay
4	en	literal	Clay
5	en	literal	bentonite clay
6	en	literal	chlorite clay
7	en	literal	fire (refractory) clay
8	en	literal	fullers earth clay
9	en	literal	glaucophane clay

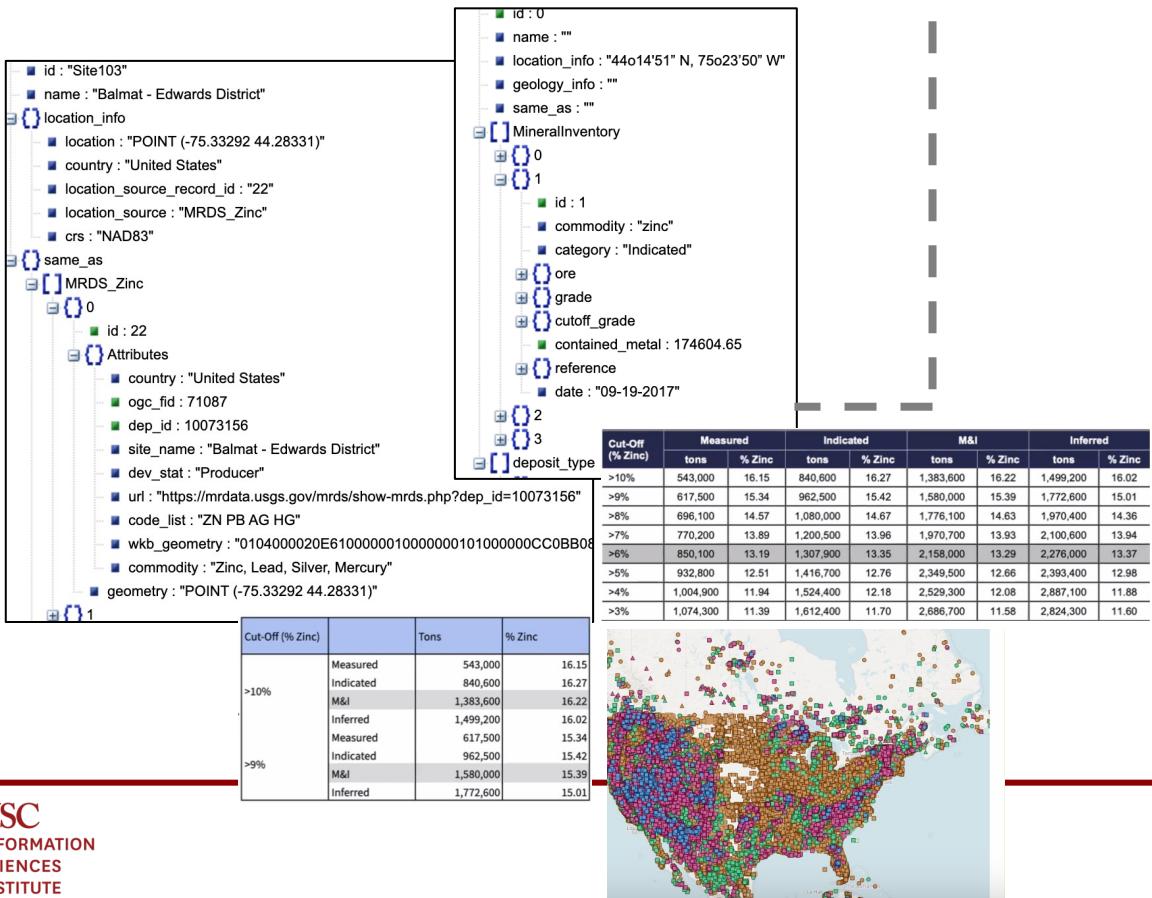
```
1 SELECT ?entity ?entityLabel WHERE {
2   ?entity rdfs:label ?entityLabel.
3   ?entity gkbt:P1 gkbi:Q406. # instance of mineral commodity
4   FILTER(CONTAINS(LCASE(?entityLabel), "nickel")) }
```

Jaccard



# Approach - cont'd

- Step 3. Triplify!



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# Evaluation & Discussion

- Data completeness (SHACL)
- Entity linking
- Query performance

Data: 2.4m triples // 135 commodities // focus on 2 critical mineral: nickel, zinc

Characteristic	Count
Total Triples	2,397,708
Distinct Classes	16
Instances (Non-literals)	226,267
Geospatial Instances	2,884
Blank Nodes	1,518,981

Method	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@5
String search, then Jaro	0.557	0.459	0.659	0.659
String search, then Jaccard	0.648	0.637	0.659	0.659
Instance search, then Jaro	0.801	0.689	0.926	0.956
<b>Instance search, then Jaccard (proposed)</b>	<b>0.940</b>	<b>0.904</b>	<b>0.978</b>	<b>0.978</b>

```
1 ?ms :location_info/:location ?loc_wkt .  
2 FILTER(geof:distance(?loc_wkt, "POINT(-118.57 47.56)"^^geo:wktLiteral, unit:mile) < 500)
```

Query Constraint Type	Avg	Min	Max
Textual	450	369	649
Temporal/Numeric	438	388	607
Spatial	708	501	811

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# Spatio-Temporal Analysis via GeoSPARQL

Grade	Assays					
	Cu (%)	Ni (%)	S (%)	Au (g/t)	Pt (g/t)	Pd (g/t)
Concentrate	7.16-10.1	1.66-2.20	18.4-21.5	0.65-1.28	1.17-1.59	5.76-6.71

2<sup>nd</sup> aggregation:  
total grade & tonnage  
computation

```

1  SELECT
2    ?ms ?ms_name ?deposit_name ?loc_wkt ?total_tonnage_measured ?total_tonnage_indicated ?total_tonnage_inferred ?total_contained_measured
3      ?total_contained_indicated ?total_contained_inferred
4      (?total_tonnage_measured + ?total_tonnage_indicated + ?total_tonnage_inferred AS ?total_tonnage)
5      (?total_contained_measured + ?total_contained_indicated + ?total_contained_inferred AS ?total_contained_metal)
6      (IF(?total_tonnage > 0, ?total_contained_metal / ?total_tonnage, 0) AS ?total_grade)
7 WHERE {
8   {
9     SELECT ?ms ?ms_name ?deposit_name ?country ?loc_wkt
10       (SUM(?tonnage_measured) AS ?total_tonnage_measured)
11       (SUM(?tonnage_indicated) AS ?total_tonnage_indicated)
12       (SUM(?tonnage_inferred) AS ?total_tonnage_inferred)
13       (SUM(?contained_measured) AS ?total_contained_measured)
14       (SUM(?contained_indicated) AS ?total_contained_indicated)
15       (SUM(?contained_inferred) AS ?total_contained_inferred)
16     WHERE {
17       ?ms :deposit_type [ rdfs:label ?deposit_name ] .
18       ?ms :mineral_inventory ?mi .
19       OPTIONAL { ?ms rdfs:label:name ?ms_name . }
20       ?ms :location_info/:location ?loc_wkt .
21       ?mi :category ?mi_cat
22
23       FILTER(geof:sfWithin(?loc_wkt, "POLYGON(...)" ))
24       FILTER(?date >= "2000"^^xsd:gYear & ?date <= "2010"^^xsd:gYear) .
25       FILTER(geof:distance(?loc_wkt, POINT(-118.57 47.56)"^^geo:wktLiteral, unit:mile) < 500)
26       ?mi :ore [ :ore_value ?ore_val_raw; :ore_unit ?ore_unit ] .
27       ?mi :grade [ :grade_value ?grade_val; :grade_unit ?grade_unit ] .
28       BIND(IF(bound(?ore_val_raw), ?ore_val_raw, 0) AS ?ore_val_pre)
29       BIND(IF(?ore_unit = <http://data.nasa.gov/qudt/owl/unit#MetricTon>, ?ore_val_pre / 1e6, ?ore_val_pre)) AS ?ore_val)
30       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "measured"), ?ore_val, 0) AS ?tonnage_measured)
31       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "indicated"), ?ore_val, 0) AS ?tonnage_indicated)
32       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "inferred"), ?ore_val, 0) AS ?tonnage_inferred)
33       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "measured") && ?grade_val > 0, ?ore_val * ?grade_val, 0) AS ?contained_measured)
34       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "indicated") && ?grade_val > 0, ?ore_val * ?grade_val, 0) AS ?contained_indicated)
35       BIND(IF(CONTAINS(LCASE(STR(?mi_cat)), "inferred") && ?grade_val > 0, ?ore_val * ?grade_val, 0) AS ?contained_inferred)
36     } GROUP BY ?ms ?ms_name ?deposit_name ?loc_wkt }

```

1<sup>st</sup> aggregation:  
tonnage computation

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# Related Work

- General geo KBs (Zhu 2017, Brodaric 2020)
  - Mostly encompasses conceptual knowledge & data
  - Does not address: quantitative data integration
- GeoKGs related to mineral data (Qun 2023)
  - Tailored for geochemical data
  - Does not address: quantitative data integration
- Information extraction for geo KGs (Wang 2018)
  - Focus is on the data extraction
  - Does not address: data integration & entity linking

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# Future Directions

- Advanced **data modeling**
  - More modalities (remote sensing)
  - More data (e.g., rapidly changing geographies)
  - Uncertainty & probabilistic modeling
- Enhanced **embedding** techniques for **ER & EL**
  - Expand integration of textual data
  - Utilize subword information & deep learning attention mechanisms
- **KG expansion**
  - Extend KG linkage to additional KBs & LOD
  - Apply & integrate with additional domains like archaeology & environmental sciences
- Dynamic **semantic modeling**
  - Create more sophisticated & evolving semantic models for accurate representation across multiple domains

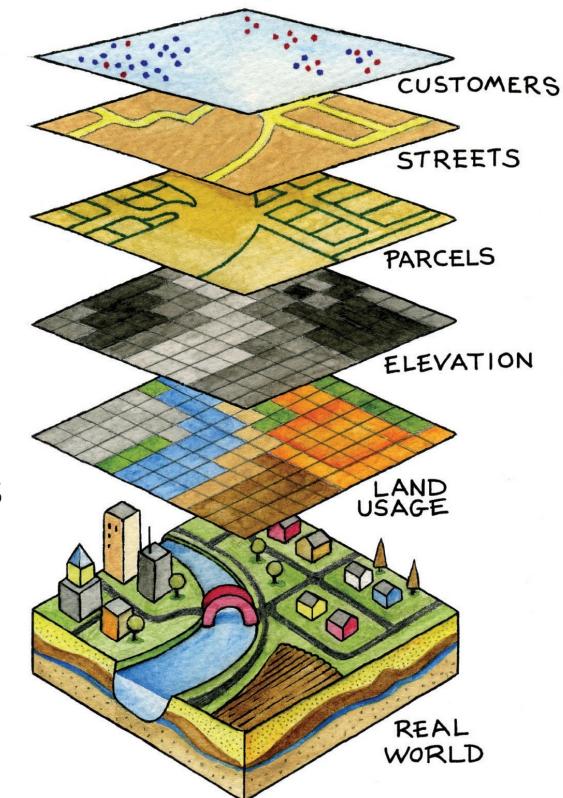


figure from *Essentials of Geographic Information Systems, Ch 7, Saylor Academy, 2012*

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# Conclusions

- Presented a method for the construction of a **spatio-temporal KG** from geo-referenced **spatial entities in archive report**
- Contributions
  - **pipeline** for building a KG from extracted **quantitative, spatial & semantic information** from historical mining data archives
    - automatically, incrementally, follows LD & SW principles, linked to web
  - **method to identify & retrieve instances of a given type** from a **publicly available KG**
    - specifically, entity matching commodities with GeoKB
  - **spatio-temporal queries** to automatically **generate grade-tonnage models**
  - **publicly available resulting KG** in the form of linked data covering two critical minerals:  
Zinc & Nickel
    - queryable RDF via a **(Geo)SPARQL endpoint**

<https://minmod.isi.edu/>

<https://github.com/DARPA-CRITICALMAAS/ta2-minmod-data/>

