Bio-ontologies

Use of Ontologies

The use of ontologies began in the biological sciences around 1998 with the development of the Gene Ontology (GO) [1].

By 2007, there was sufficient interest and activity in the area to merit national and international coordination efforts such as the Open Biomedical Ontologies (OBO) Foundry [2] or the National Center for Biomedical Ontologies [3].

OBO foundry

- Developers commit to working to ensure that, for each domain, there is community convergence on a single ontology
- and agree in advance to collaborate with developers of ontologies in adjacent domains.

http://obofoundry.org

RELATION TO CONTINUANT					OCCURRENT
GRANULARI	INDEPENDENT		DEPENDENT		
ORGAN AND ORGANISM	Organism (NCBI Taxonomy)	Anatomical Entity (FMA, CARO)	Organ Function (FMP, CPRO)	Phenotypic Quality	Organism-Level Process (GO)
CELL AND CELLULAR COMPONENT	Cell (CL)	Cellular Component (FMA, GO)	Cellular Function (GO)	(Paro)	Cellular Process (GO)
MOLECULE	Molecule (ChEBI, SO, RnaO, PrO)		Molecular Function (GO)		Molecular Process (GO)

OBO Foundry coverage

NCBO - National Center for Biotechnology Information

Part of the National Library of Medicine at NIH

- Establish public databases
- Research in computational biology
- Develop software tools for sequence analysis
- Disseminate biomedical information

Ontology

• First Philosophy (Aristotle Metaphysics Gamma)

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• The first philosophy seeks to provide a definitive and exhaustive classification of entities that exist

• The study of what exists - metaphysics

Ontology

Aims to find out what entities and types of entities exist



shows a version of the Tree of Porphyry drawn by the 13th century logician Peter of Spain.



Oldest known tree diagram was drawn in the 3rd century AD by the Greek philosopher Porphyry in his commentary on Aristotle's categories

Four established meanings of ontology

- Pure philosophical ontology
 - which deals with questions such as what is meant by the concept of being, why does something exist rather than nothing
- Applied scientific ontology:
 - Discipline

a method or activity of enquiry into philosophical problems about the concept or facts of existence

• Domain

the outcome or subject matter of ontology as a discipline.

Applied scientific ontology construed as an existence domain can be further subdivided as:

- the theoretical commitment to a preferred choice of existent entities
 - a description or inventory of the things that are supposed to exist according to a particular theory,
- to the real existent entities themselves, including the actual world considered as a whole, the extant domain
 - the actual world of all real existent entities, whatever these turn out to be, identified by a true complete applied ontological theory.

Ontology definition

Many definitions of 'ontology' have been proposed in the literature [4–10], and classifications of different types of vocabularies, thesauri, ontologies and knowledge bases have been proposed, based on criteria such as:

- their intended use,
- degree of formalization
- or philosophical interpretation [2, 11–15].

Ontology in Philosophy

- As a term is was created independently in 1613 from two philosophers, Rudolf Göckel and Jacob Lorhard
- Ontology as a branch of philosophy is the science of what is, of the kinds and structures of objects, properties, events, processes and relations.
- Ontology is the theory of objects and their ties.
- It provides criteria for distinguishing
 - various types of objects (concrete and abstract, existent and non-existent, real and ideal, independent and dependent) and
 - their ties (relations, dependences and predication).

Ontology in Information Science

Evolved from the interoperability requirement for system integration

- data heterogeneity
- semantic heterogeneity

An ontology is a **data model** that represents a domain and is used to reason about the **objects in that domain** and the relations between them

Ontology in Artificial Intelligence

• "an explicit specification of a shared conceptualization"

Gruber, 1993

• an ontology is the description of the concepts and relationships that can exist within a given domain

The common ground...

Ontology = A specification of entities (or concepts), relations, instances and axioms in an area of study.

Irrespectively of these different but related definitions, ontologies play an important role with pragmatic implications, forming specifications for sharing concepts.

Building principles derived from each domain can prove very helpful in recognizing and avoiding potential logical ambiguities, ensuring that computational ontologies adhere to formalizations that help in better knowledge representation and organization

What do ontologies consist of?

• Classes

• Concepts:

• Processes and Entities

- O Protein, Gene, DNA, glycolysis, neoplasia...
- Terms: Labels for concepts
 - o "Hexokinase", "Shh", "Protein",

0 Identifiers

- Uniquely identify a class / term
- Relationships (axioms) : Semantic links between concepts
 - is-a, part-of, has-quality,...

Hierarchies, graphs and DAGS



Rule e.g. "has part" Directed rule: 1 parent Simple hierarchy

Rule e.g.. "signals to" Directed rule: >1 parent Directed acyclic graph Rule e.g. "is next to" Undirected rule and parents = children Graph

Freddy the canary

- "Can freddy fly?"
- "Does freddy have a spine?"
- "Are there mammals with wings?"
- "Can all mammals walk?"
- "Mammals cannot fly"

























But what about Freddie ?



But what about Freddie ?



Types of Ontologies

- Top (Upper) Level Ontologies
 - Sowa's top-level ontology
 - Cyc's upper ontology
 - 0 etc
- Domain Ontologies (Domain/Application)
 - Biomedical Ontologies
 - Engineering Ontologies
 - Enterprise
 - o Etc.

Tools for Ontology building

- OilEd from University of Manchester
 - <u>http://oiled.man.ac.uk/</u>
- Ontolingua from KSL (Stanford University)
 - <u>http://www-ksl.stanford.edu</u>
- OntoSaurus from ISI (USA)
 - <u>http://www.isi.edu/isd/</u> <u>ontosaurus.html</u>
- OntoEdit from Karlsrhue Univ.
 - <u>http://</u> ontoserver.aifb.unikarlsruhe.de/ ontoedit/
- Protégé from SMI (Stanford University)
 - <u>http://protege.stanford.edu/</u>
- Karlsruhe
 - <u>http://kaon.semanticweb.org/</u>

- WebOnto from KMI (Open University)
 - <u>http://kmi.open.ac.uk/projects/</u> webonto/
- WebODE from UPM
 - <u>http://webode.dia.fi.upm.es/</u> webODE/
- KAON from AIFB and FZI at the University of Karlsruhe
 - http://kaon.semanticweb.org/
- OBO-Edit from OBO foundry
 - http://oboedit.org/

Upper level ontology

- Ontologies from different domains may be integrated by alignment to an upper level ontology.
- An upper-level ontology provides a common foundation for classes and relations [21].
- Typical classes found in upper-level ontologies include Process, Material object, Quality and Function.

Upper level ontology

- Upper-level ontologies further provide relations that can hold between instances of their classes.
- Commonly included relations are has-part, hasparticipant and quality-of.
- Several upper-level ontologies are well established including the Basic Formal Ontology (BFO) [27], the Descriptive Ontology for Cognitive and Linguistic Engineering (DOLCE) [28], the SUMO ontology and the General Formal Ontology (GFO) [24].

Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO)

- 1000 terms, 4000 axioms, 750 rules
- Associated domain ontologies totalling 20,000 terms and 60,000 axioms

http://www.ontologyportal.org
SUMO Taxonomy



DOLCE: Descriptive Ontology for Linguistic and Cognitive Engineering

- Strong cognitive/linguistic bias:
 - O descriptive (as opposite to prescriptive) attitude
 - Categories mirror cognition, common sense, and the lexical structure of natural language.
- Categories as conceptual containers: no "deep" metaphysical implications
- Rich axiomatization
 - 37 basic categories
 - 7 basic relations
 - 80 axioms, 100 definitions, 20 theorems
- Rigorous quality criteria and extensive documentation

DOLCE taxonomy



BFO Taxonomy



Basic Upper Level Ontology

- Consists of only four mutually disjoint classes: Material object, Process, Quality and Function.
- The instances of Material object exist with all their parts at a time point and need no other entity to exist.
- Processes, on the other hand, are temporally extended and cannot exist at a single time point.
- Functions are capabilities or potentials for the occurrence of processes [29] and depend on material objects.
- Qualities as attributes of other entities.





Relations

inheres-in	Quality	Thing	has-quality
derives-from	Material object	Material object	
has-participant	Process	Material object	participates-in
has-input	Process	Material object	input-of
has-output	Process	Material object	output-of
has-central- participant	Process	Material object	central- participant-of
part-of	Thing	Thing	has-part
proper-part-of	Thing	Thing	has-proper-part
realized-by	Function	Process	realizes
results-in	Process	Process	

Gene Ontology

- Built for a very specific purpose:
 - "annotation of genes and proteins in genomic and protein databases"
- Applicable to all species
- Three disjoint axes:
 - molecular function
 - molecular role e.g. catalytic activity, binding
 - biological process
 - broad biological phenomena e.g. mitosis, growth, digestion
 - cellular component
 - sub-cellular location e.g nucleus, ribosome, origin recognition complex

Gene Ontology Project

- Started in 1998
- Primary Goals
 - Structured Vocabulary
 - o Use to annotate genes and gene products
- 3 Model Organisms
 - FlyBase (Drosophila)
 - Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD)
 - Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI) project



GO is wildly successful

- Biologists around the world contribute to GO on a regular basis
- The ontology is updated every 30 minutes!
- GO is now used in a variety of domains and application in computational biology
- The advent of GO gave raise to the generation of various biomedical ontologies that cover a wide range of biomedical domains and are employed in various applications

Anatomy and Development Anatomy Ontologies

• Examples of species specific

- Foundational Model of Anatomy (FMA)
- Mouse Anatomy Ontology
- Plant Anatomy
- Drosophila Gross Anatomy (FBBT)
- Zebrafish anatomy and development (ZFA)
- Human developmental anatomy (EHDAA2)
- Mouse gross anatomy and development (EMAP)
- Species independentUBERON

Foundational Model of Anatomy (FMA)

- A representation of classes or types and relationships necessary for the symbolic representation of the phenotypic structure of the human body in a form that is understandable to humans and is also navigable, parseable and interpretable by machine-based systems.
- Over 75,000 classes and over 120,000 terms; over 2.1 million relationship instances from over 168 relationship types
- One of the largest computer based resources in biomedical sciences

FMA organisation

• organized in a graph-theoretical structure involving two sorts of links or edges:

• is-a (= is a subtype of)

pleural sac is-a serous sac

• part-of

cervical vertebra part-of vertebral column



Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA)

- ZFIN has developed the Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA) [13] and the Zebrafish Stage Ontology (ZFS) to annotate gene expression and phenotypic data related to zebrafish
- ZFA is used in conjunction with the Zebrafish Stage Ontology (ZFS) to describe the gross and cellular anatomy and development of the zebrafish, Danio rerio, from single cell zygote to adult.



ZFA use for phenotype annotation



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UBERON

- Existing anatomical ontologies are incomplete and poorly integrated, leading to Balkanization of data into separate silos.
- Integration of ontologies spanning multiple animal species is particularly important for translating data derived from model organisms.
- UBERON a species-neutral resource for describing body parts.

Unifying Species Centric Anatomies



UBERON species neutral classes





Uberon classes subsume classes in contributing AOs



Logical definitions in GO using UBERON



GO:notochord formation: The formation of the notochord from the chordamesoderm. The notochord is composed of large cells packed within a firm connective tissue sheath and is found in all chordates at the ventral surface of the neural tube. In vertebrates, the notochord contributes to the vertebral column.

Logical definitions in CL using UBERON



Uberon trachea: A trachea held open by up to 20 C-shaped rings of cartilage. The trachea is the portion of the airway that attaches to the bronchi as it branches. [GO:0060438, Wikipedia:Vertebrate_trachea]

Examples of Disease Ontologies

- Disease Ontology (DO)
- Infectious Disease Ontology (IDO)
- Primary immunodeficiency disease Ontology (PIDO)
- Alzheimer Disease Ontology (ADO)

Disease Ontology (DO)

- The DO semantically integrates disease and medical vocabularies through extensive cross mapping and integration of MeSH, ICD, NCI's thesaurus, SNOMED CT and OMIM disease-specific terms and identifiers.
- Over 8000 inherited, developmental and acquired human diseases

DI

medical disorder

Image: Syndrome

DISEASE DNTOLOGY Click on image to zoom Search Ontology... Advanced Search » Go » 🕕 Basidiobolomyco: 🗵 Welcome Navigation Open new metadata panel Visualize Metadata disease disease by infectious agent DOID:0050278 DOID D bacterial infectious disease fungal infectious disease basidiobolomycosis Name Cutaneous mycosis a 🔄 subcutaneous mycosis A subcutaneous mycosis that involves a chronic inflammatory or granulomatous E basidiobolomycosis fungal infection of the subcutaneous tissue of the limbs, chest, back or buttocks chromoblastomycosis caused by Basidiobolus ranarum. Lesions appear as subcutaneous nodules which conidiobolomycosis develop into massive, firm, indurated, painless swellings which are freely movable Definition D superficial mycosis over the underlying muscle, but are attached to the skin which may become Image: Systemic mycosis hyperpigmented but not ulcerated. D parasitic infectious disease http://mycology.adelaide.edu.au/Mycoses/Subcutaneous/Zygomycosis/ viral infectious disease Relationships is_a subcutaneous mycosis disease of anatomical entity Þ disease of cellular proliferation Þ Add an item to the term tracker disease of mental health D disease of metabolism Þ Þ genetic disease

f 🕒 in



Infectious Disease Ontology (IDO)

• Biomedical Research (sequence data, cellular data, ...)

- Pathogens, vectors, patients, model organisms
- Microbiology, immunology, ...
- Vector Ecology Research
- Epidemiological Data for surveillance, prevention
- Clinical Care (case report data)
 - Clinical phenotypes, signs, symptoms
 - Treatments
 - Patient outcomes
- Clinical trial data for drugs, vaccines

Cross-domain Interoperability

- Disease- and organism-specific ontologies
- Built as refinements to a template infectious disease ontology with terms relevant to a large number of infectious diseases



IDO and other ontologies

• Anatomical entities in IDO

- Anatomical location: FMA: e.g. lung, kidney
- Protein: PRO: e.g virulence factors such as Eap
- Cell: CL: e.g. macrophages

Process in IDO

• Imported from GO BP when possible

e.g. GO:0044406 : adhesion to host

• Quality:

PATO: e.g. attenuated, susceptible, co-infected, immunocompromised, drug resistant, zoonotic

Primary Immunodeficiency Disease Ontology

- PIDO characterizes Primary immunodeficiency diseases in terms of the phenotypes commonly observed by clinicians during a diagnosis process
- Phenotype terms in PIDO are formally defined using complex definitions based on qualities, functions, processes, and structures.
- PIDO connects immunological knowledge across resources within a common framework and thereby enables translational research and the development of medical applications for the domain of immunology and primary immunodeficiency diseases.

PIDO organisation



PIDO definitions

• Elevated level of anti-DNA antibodies present in the serum

Phene and phene of some (has part some (Anti-DNA Antibody and (has property some Increased Concentration)))

• Bacterial infection as an infection in which the role of the Infectious agent is played by a Bacterium

Bacterial_Infection EquivalentTo: (Infection and (has_role_some (Infectious_Entity and (played_by some_Bacterium))))

• Disease definition - Omenn Syndrome is commonly associated with primary immunodeficiencies arising due to defects of the RAG1 or RAG2 genes

Having_Omenn_Syndrome SubClassOf: Having_Alopecia and Having_Hepatosplenomegaly and Having_Lymphocytosis and (Having_Small_LymphNode or Having_Large_LymphNode)

PIDFinder


Phenotype Ontologies

• Examples of species specific

- Mammalian Phenotype Ontology (MP)
- Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO)
- Drosophila Phenotype Ontology
- Examples of domain specific
 - Cell Phenotype Ontology
 - Mammalian Pathology Ontology (MPATH)
 - Plant and Trait Phenotype Ontology (PO)
- Species and domain independent
 PATO

Mammalian Phenotype Ontology (MP)

- The Mammalian Phenotype Ontology (MP) is build with the intention of classifying and organizing phenotypic information related to the mouse and other mammalian species.
- MP is used for the annotation of mouse phenotype descriptions in the Mouse Genome Informatics Database (MGI, http://www.informatics.jax.org/), the Rat Genome Database (RGD, http://rgd.mcw.edu), the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (OMIA, http:// omia.angis.org.au/)



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Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO)

- 10,088 classes describing human phenotypic abnormalities
- Used for annotations of 7,278 human hereditary syndromes listed in OMIM, Orphanet and DECIPHER to classes of the HPO.

HPO structure



Mammalian Pathology Ontology (MPATH)

- Covers Pathological Process (General Pathology) and Specific Pathology
- Relatively high granularity but still reasonably shallow
 (9 deep)
- Linked to a database of pathology related images

Pathbase



Building up diagnostic components with anatomy, pathology and qualifiers



INHAND

Mann, P.C. et al (2012). International harmonization of toxicologic pathology nomenclature: an overview and review of basic principles. *Toxicol Pathol*, **40**, 7S-13S.



Phenotype And Trait Ontology (PATO)

The meaningful cross species and across domain translation of phenotype is essential \rightarrow phenotype-driven gene function discovery and comparative pathobiology

Goal - "A platform for facilitating mutual understanding and interoperability of phenotype information *across*

- species,
- domains of knowledge,

and amongst people and machines"

Phenotype Descriptions

- phenotypes may be described in many different dimensions, e.g.
 - the biochemical ('alcohol dehydrogenase null')
 - the cellular ('cell division arrested at metaphase')
 - the anatomical ('eye absent')
 - the behavioral ('hyperactive')
 - etc.
- in whatever dimension and granularity, however, there is a commonality so that phenotypic descriptions can be decomposed into two parts
 - An entity that is affected. This entity may be an enzyme, an anatomical structure or a complex biological process.
 - The qualities of that entity.

EQ descriptors



Mouse Body weight



PATO

- An ontology of phenotypic qualities, which can be shared across different species and domains of knowledge.
- Qualities are the basic entities that we can perceive and/or measure:
 colors, sizes, masses, lengths etc.
- Qualities inhere to entities: every entity comes with certain qualities, which exist as long as the entity exist.
- Qualities belong in a finite set of quality types (i.e. color, size etc) and inhere in specific individuals. No two individuals can have the same quality, and each quality is specifically constantly dependent on the entity it inheres in.





🖃 🖛 👥 abhormaí adipose tissue 🕀 🗲 🕦 abnormal brown adir 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal percent bo 🗄 🕂 🕕 abnormal white adip ← 🕦 decreased adipose t 🗕 🕤 increased adipose ti 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal adipose tissue d 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal brown adipose t 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal fat pad ⊕ ← ① abnormal white adipose tis 🗄 🕂 🕦 abnormal adipose tissue physiol ⊕ ← ① behavior/neurological phenotype ⊕ ← ① cardiovascular system phenotype ⊟←① cellular phenotype 🖃 🕂 🕕 abnormal cell content/ morphol 🗄 🕂 🚯 abnormal cell mass <₽ fig. decreased cell mass ← ← ① increased cell mass 🗄 🗲 🗊 abnormal lysosome morph 🗕 🕦 abnormal mitochondrial m 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal nucleus count 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal nucleus morpho 🗄 🕂 🕦 abnormal plasma membra ← 🕦 abnormal cell migration 🗄 🗲 🗊 abnormal cell number 🗄 🗲 🕦 craniofacial phenotype ⊕ ← ① embryogenesis phenotype ⊟←① growth/size phenotype ⊡ ← ① abnormal postnatal growth/weight 🗄 🕂 🗊 abnormal body size 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal body heig 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal body leng 🗄 🗲 🗊 abnormal body weig 🗄 🕂 🚯 decreased bod 🗄 🗲 🕦 increased body 🕀 🗲 🚯 decreased body size 🗄 🗲 🗊 increased body size 🗄 🗲 🕦 abnormal chest morpholog 🗄 🕂 🕕 abnormal lean body mass 🗄 🕂 🗊 abnormal postnatal growth ← 🗊 distended abdomen 🗕 🕤 heterotaxia 🗄 🗲 🕦 left-sided isomerism ⊕ ← ① right-sided isomerism ← 🕦 situs ambiguus 🗕 🕤 situs inversus 🗄 🕂 🕦 abnormal prenatal growth/weigh ⊕ ← ① hematopoietic system phenotype ⊕ ← ① homeostasis/metabolism phenotype ⊕ ← ① lethality-embryonic/perinatal ⊕ ← ① lethality-postnatal ⊕ ← ① life span-post-weaning/aging 💿 💠 ≑ 💥 🔒 📀 🔞

intersection_of: PATO:0000573 ! increased length
intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0002405 ! adult mouse

[Term]

id: MP:0001258 ! decreased body length intersection_of: PATO:0000574 ! decreased length intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0000004 ! trunk

[Term]

id: MP:0001259 ! abnormal body weight intersection_of: PATO:0000128 ! weight intersection_of: qualifier PATO:0000460 ! abnormal intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0002405 ! adult mouse

[Term]

id: MP:0001260 ! increased body weight intersection_of: PATO:0000582 ! increased weight intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0002405 ! adult mouse

[Term]

id: MP:0001262 ! decreased body weight intersection_of: PATO:0000583 ! decreased weight intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0002405 ! adult mouse

[Term]

id: MP:0001264 ! increased body size intersection_of: PATO:0000586 ! increased size intersection_of: inheres in MA:0000004 ! trunk

[Term]

id: MP:0001267 ! enlarged chest intersection_of: PATO:0000586 ! increased size intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0000031 ! chest

[Term]

id: MP:0001270 ! distended abdomen intersection_of: PATO:0001602 ! distended intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0000029 ! abdomen

[Term]

id: MP:0001274 ! curly vibrissae intersection_of: PATO:0000405 ! curled intersection_of: inheres_in MA:0000163 ! vibrissa

[Term]



MP - PATO based definitions

MP term	MP Definition	Entity	Quality
cataract MP:0001304	complete or partial opacity of the lens	lens MA:0000275 FMA:58241	opaque PATO:0000963
jaundice MP:0000611	clinical manifestation of hyperbilirubinemia, with deposition of bile pigments in the skin, resulting in yellowish staining of the skin and mucous membranes	skin MA:0000151 FMA:7163	yellow PATO:0000324
		skin mucous gland MA:0000148 mucous gland FMA:62888	yellow PATO:0000324
		pigment accumulation in tissues GO:0043480	yellow PATO:0000324
		pigment accumulation in tissues GO:0043480	mislocalized PATO:0000628

HPO-PATO based definitions

• OBO format

[Term] id: HP:0004349 ! Reduced bone mineral density intersection_of: PATO:0001790 ! decreased density intersection of: inheres in FMA:30317 ! bone

OWL format

Class: Hypoglycemia EquivalentTo: 'decreased concentration' and towards some 'glucose' and inheres_in some 'portion of blood' and qualifier some 'abnormal'





Examples of Species Independent Ontologies

- CHeBI
- Cell Ontology
- Protein Ontology (PRO)
- NBO
- Unit Ontology (UO)

ChEBI

- Chemical Entities of Biological Interest
- Focused on 'small' chemical entities (no proteins or nucleic acids)
- Illustrated dictionary of chemical nomenclature
- High quality, manually annotated

ChEBI organisation

Organised into three sub-ontologies, namely

- Molecular structure ontology
- Subatomic particle ontology
- Role ontology



(R)-adrenaline



ChEBI terms

- A unique, unambiguous, recommended ChEBI name and an associated stable unique identifier
- An illustration where appropriate (compounds and groups, but generally not classes)
- A definition where appropriate (mostly classes)
- A collection of synonyms, including the IUPAC recommended name for the entity where appropriate
- A collection of cross-references to other databases

Cell Ontology (CL)

- An ontology of cell types built by biologists for the needs of data annotation and analysis.
- The Cell Ontology covers in vivo cell types from all of biology.
- The CL has over 1500 cell type terms, over 500 of which have logical definitions.

Textual Definitions



• name: CD4-positive, CD25-positive, alpha-beta regulatory T cell

- def: "A CD4-positive, CD25-positive, alpha-beta T cell that regulates overall immune responses as well as the responses of other T cell subsets through direct cell-cell contact and cytokine release."
- name: induced T-regulatory cell
- def: "CD4-positive alpha-beta T cell with the phenotype CD25-positive, CTLA-4positive, and FoxP3-positive with regulatory function."

Logical Definitions



Protein Ontology (PRO)

PRO	Pfam Domain
Root Level	protein domain has_part
 Family-Level Distinction Derivation: common ancestor Source: PIRSF family translation product of an evolutionarily-related gene is_a 	GO Gene Ontology molecular function has_function
Gene-Level Distinction Derivation: specific gene Sources: PIRSF subfamily, Panther subfamily Sequence-Level Distinction Derivation: specific allele or splice variant Source: UniProtKB 	 biological process participates_in cellular component part_of (for complexes) located_in (for compartments)
Modification-Level Distinction Derived from post-translational modification Source: UniProtKB 	OMIM Disease disease agent_in
Modification Level Example: ProForm TGF-beta receptor phosphorylated smad2 isoform1 Sequence Level is a phosphorylated smad2 isoform1 Gene Level is a smad2	 SO Sequence Ontology sequence change has_agent (sequence change) agent_of (effect on function)
ProEvo Family Level is a TGF-β receptor-regulated smad Root Level is a smad is a protein	PSI-MOD Modification protein modification has_modification

NeuroBehavior Ontology (NBO)

- The neurobehavior ontology facilitates the systematic representation of behavior and behavioral phenotypes, thereby improving the unification and integration behavioral data in neuroscience research.
- Behavioral process ontology

NBO's axes of classification



Important NBO relations

Relation	Definition	Example			
In- response- to	The relation in-response-to holds between a process x and a process y if and only if x occurs in response to y .	A perception of visual stimulus process occurs in response to the reception of light in the eye.			
By- means-of	A process <i>x</i> occurs by-means-of a material structure <i>y</i> if and only if <i>x</i> occurs by means of <i>y</i> .	A perception of visual stimulus process occurs by means of the visual system.			
Is-about	A process <i>x</i> is-about some entity <i>y</i> if and only if <i>x</i> is about or directed toward <i>y</i> .	A depth perception of process is about depth.			

Complex phenotypes

• Increased amount of liquid in a single drinking act

'participates in' some ((has-input some ('liquid substance' and (has_quality some 'increased mass'))) and (regulates some 'drinking behavior'))

• Hyperdipsia

'participates in' some ((regulates some 'drinking behavior') and (has_quality some ('increased frequency' and (towards some 'drinking behavior') and (owl:qualifier some 'temporally extended'))))

Dipsosis

'participates in' some ((regulates some 'drinking behavior') and (has_quality some ('increased frequency' and (towards some 'drinking behavior') and (owl:qualifier some 'chronic'))))

UO – an ontology of unit

- UO's top-level division is between primary base units of a particular measure and units that are derived from base units
- mapping between the various scalar qualities (such as weight, height, concentration etc.) and the corresponding units used to measure those qualities

• UO includes 264 terms, all of which are defined

Measurements

• Ontologies provide *qualitative* partitions on the kinds of entities we find in nature

- We may also want to record *quantitative* information
 - Comes from measurements of qualities
 - The measurement is not the phenotype
 - Phenotypes exist independently of our measurements of them

Scalar qualities

The tail of my mouse is 2.1 cm

- A scalar quality can be partitioned on a linear scale
- Scalar qualities can be measured
- Measurements involve units
PATO & scalar qualities



Representation of measurements



Mapping PATO to the UO

