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Cyberscience: Computational Science and the Rise of the Fourth Paradigm

Honors 352, Class #0.5

August E. (Gus) Evrard, PhD



today

- * reading quiz
- * lecture infrastructure and cyberinfrastructure
- * first blog posts reactions
- * group projects timeline, aims, google site as collaboration space
- * v0.2 syllabus next Monday

infrastructure



Please see original image and quote from New York Times article at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/07/us/politics/07obama.html? r=1&ref=infrastructure public works.

infrastructure characteristics and lifecycle

Infrastructure thus exhibits the following features, neatly summarized by Susan Leigh Star and Karen Ruhleder:

- · Embeddedness. Infrastructure is sunk into, inside of, other structures, social arrangements, and technologies.
- Transparency. Infrastructure does not have to be reinvented each time or assembled for each task, but invisibly supports those tasks.
- Reach or scope beyond a single event or a local practice.
- · Learned as part of membership. The taken-for-grantedness of artifacts and organizational arrangements is a sine qua non of membership in a community of practice. Strangers and outsiders encounter infrastructure as a target object to be learned about. New participants acquire a naturalized familiarity with its objects as they become members.
- Links with conventions of practice. Infrastructure both shapes and is shaped by the conventions of a community of practice.
- · Embodiment of standards. Infrastructure takes on transparency by plugging into other infrastructures and tools in a standardized fashion.
- · Built on an installed base. Infrastructure wrestles with the inertia of the installed base and inherits strengths and limitations from that base.
- · Becomes visible upon breakdown. The normally invisible quality of working infrastructure becomes visible when it breaks: the server is down, the bridge washes out, there is a power blackout.
- · Is fixed in modular increments, not all at once or globally. Because infrastructure is big, layered, and complex, and because it means different things locally, it is never changed from above. Changes require time, negotiation, and adjustment with other aspects of the systems involved.10

<u>lifecycle</u>:

- invention
- development and innovation
- technology transfer, growth and competition
- consilidation
- splintering or fragmentation
- decline

Edwards on scientific knowledge

found and what you think it means. Thus, if you want to create and maintain scientific knowledge, you are also going to need at least the following:

- enduring communities with shared standards, norms, and values
- enduring organizations and institutions, such as libraries, academic departments, national science foundations, and publishers
- mathematics
- specialized vocabularies
- conventions and laws regarding intellectual property
- theories, frameworks, and models
- physical facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, and offices
- "support" staff: computer operators, technicians, secretaries

cyberinfrastructure vocabulary

- * ontology
- * taxonomy
- * workflow
- * scientific application
- * virtual organization

• • •

ontology def'n: Tom Gruber (Stanford)

Ontologies as a specification mechanism

A body of formally represented knowledge is based on a conceptualization: the objects, concepts, and other entities that are assumed to exist in some area of interest and the relationships that hold among them (Genesereth & Nilsson, 1987). A conceptualization is an abstract, simplified view of the world that we wish to represent for some purpose. Every knowledge base, knowledge-based system, or knowledge-level agent is committed to some conceptualization, explicitly or implicitly.

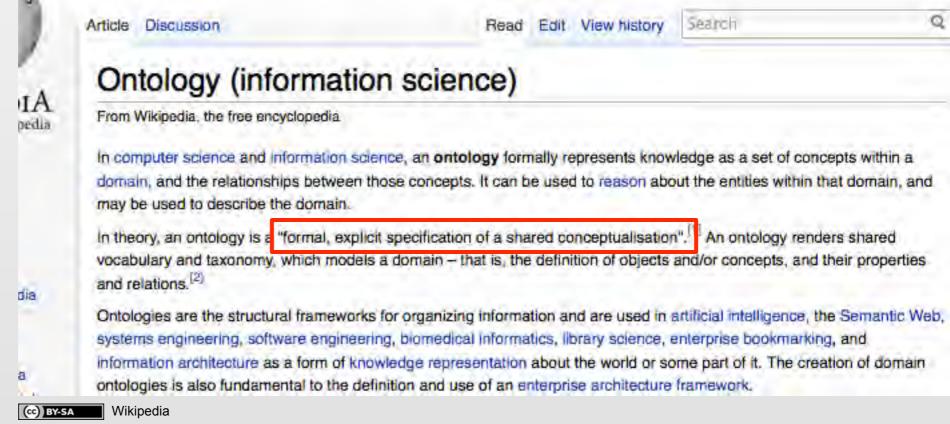
An ontology is an explicit specification of a conceptualization.

© FAIR USE Tom Gruber, http://www-ksl.stanford.edu/kst/what-is-an-ontology.html.



http://www-ksl.stanford.edu/kst/what-is-an-ontology.html.

From Wikipedia article on Ontology



ontology components: wikipedia

Ontology components

[edit]

Main article: Ontology components

Contemporary ontologies share many structural similarities, regardless of the language in which they are expressed. As mentioned above, most ontologies describe individuals (instances), classes (concepts), attributes, and relations. In this section each of these components is discussed in turn.

Common components of ontologies include:

- Individuals: instances or objects (the basic or "ground level" objects)
- Classes: sets, collections, concepts, classes in programming, types of objects, or kinds of things.
- Attributes: aspects, properties, features, characteristics, or parameters that objects (and classes) can have
- Relations: ways in which classes and individuals can be related to one another
- Function terms: complex structures formed from certain relations that can be used in place of an individual term in a statement
- Restrictions: formally stated descriptions of what must be true in order for some assertion to be accepted as input
- Rules: statements in the form of an if-then (antecedent-consequent) sentence that describe the logical inferences that can be drawn from an assertion in a particular form
- Axioms: assertions (including rules) in a logical form that together comprise the overall theory that the ontology describes in its domain of application. This definition differs from that of "axioms" in generative grammar and formal logic. In those disciplines, axioms include only statements asserted as a priori knowledge. As used here, "axioms" also include the theory derived from axiomatic statements.
- Events: the changing of attributes or relations

Ontologies are commonly encoded using ontology languages.

example: geopolitical ontology in OWL

The FAO geopolitical ontology is implemented in OWL. It consists of classes, properties, individuals and restrictions. Table 1 shows all classes, gives a brief description and lists some individuals that belong to each class. Note that the current version of the geopolitical ontology does not provide individuals of the class "disputed" territories. Table 2 and Table 3 illustrate datatype properties and object properties.

Class		ass	Description	Individual
area	territory	Self-governing	Politically Independent territories	Ethiopia and 208 other countries
		Non-self-governing	Territories dependent to self- governing	American Samoa and 22 non-self-governings
		Disputed	Territories subject to disagreement and debate	West Sahara
		Others	Territories not belonging to self-governing, non-self- governing, and disputed	Antarctica
	Group	Geographical region	Region divided by a demarcated area of the Earth	Middle Africa and other 27 regions
		Economic region	Region divided by economic factors	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and other 21 regions
		Organization	International organizations	FAO
		Special group	Group created for special needs	Least developed countries and other 4 groups

Table 1. Classes and instances in the geopolitical ontology.

example: geopolitical ontology in OWL

Datatype property	Sub datatype properties	Subject classes to be applied (domain	
Has official name	Official English name and other 4 language names	Area and following sub classes	
Has list name	List and table English name and other 4 language names	Area and following sub classes	
Has short name	Short English name and other4 language names	Area and following sub classes	
Has code	UNDP code	Area and following sub classes	
	UN code	Area and following sub classes	
	ISO 3166-2 code	Area and following sub classes	
	ISO 3166-3 code	Area and following sub classes	
	AGROVOC code	Area and following sub classes	
	FAOSTAT code	Area and following sub classes	
	GAULcode	Area and following sub classes	
	FAOTERM code	Area and following sub classes	
Has coordinate	minimum latitude	Territory and following sub classes	
	Minimum longitude	Territory and following sub classes	
	Maximum latitude	Territory and following sub classes	
	Maximum longitude	Territory and following sub classes	
Valid since		Area and following sub classes	
Valid Until		Area and following sub classes	

Table 2. Datatype properties in the geopolitical ontology.

taxonomy def'n: from Drupal.org

About taxonomy

Last modified: September 15, 2010 - 10:00

Taxonomy is the practice and science of classification according to natural relationships. In Drupal, this is one method administrators use to organize content in a web site. Taxonomy is created from 'Vocabularies' that contain related 'Terms'.

A "Taxonomy Vocabulary" classifying music by genre with terms and sub-terms.

```
Vocabulary = Music
term = classical
     sub-term = concertos
     sub-term = sonatas
     sub-term = symphonies
term = jazz
     sub-term = swing
     sub-term = fusion
term = rock
     sub-term = soft rock
     sub-term = hard rock
```

The Taxonomy module helps classify content on Drupal websites.

cyberinfrastructure elements

- * hardware
- processors/cores
- memory/storage
- ports/routers
- power sources
- * software
- operating systems (OS)
- languages: compiled, scripted, commercial, open source graphical history – http://www.levenez.com/lang/redirect_lang_pdf.html
- database
- * network
- transfer protocols (http, ftp, tcp/ip, ...)
- authentication/authorization
- quality of service: bandwidth, error control, ...

goal: realize this graphic

- Devices
- Fact Discovery
- Search
- Social Networks
- Etc...

- Amazon Cloud
- · Google Cloud
- Microsoft Cloud
- Etc...

Desktop/Cloud

- Applications
- Services
- Tools

Knowledge-Driven Research Infrastructure

- Cross-domain fact correlation
- Inferencing
- Reasoning
- Etc...

Knowledge representation

Knowledge bases

- Astronomy
- Bioinformatics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Environmental Science
- Etc...

Descriptions of Algorithms and Computations

- Bio
- Graphs
- Mathematics
- Etc...

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- Slide 6: P. N. Edwards, Vast Machine, Ch. 1
- Slide 7: P. N. Edwards, Vast Machine, Ch. 1
- Slide 9 Quote (top): Tom Gruber, "What is an Ontology?" http://www-ksl.stanford.edu/kst/what-is-an-ontology.html.
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