

Community Development of the SWEET semantic system for Earth and Environmental Data – A Call for Interest

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<https://purl.org/space-ontology>

Brandon Whitehead

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A session presentation for January 2022 ESIP Winter meeting



Introduction

Organizer: Robert Rovetto

- Member ESIP clusters & partner orgs.
 - Semantic Tech Committee, Etc.
- Conceptual modeling, Formal ontology, Terminology. Ethics, methodology.
- Focus on space ontology...
<https://purl.org/space-ontology>
- Cert. commercial mariner.
Water rescue training & focus.
- Aspiring PhD student, actively applying
rrovetto@terpalum.umd.edu
Meetings: <https://tinyurl.com/y6anucqp>
Services: <https://tinyurl.com/yas7trzy>

Co-organizer: Brandon Whitehead

- Member ESIP clusters & partner orgs.
 - Semantic Tech Committee Chair
- Environmental Data Scientist, Manaaki Whenua -- Landcare Research

Agenda GoogleDoc: <https://tinyurl.com/4wfhcadz>

Questions for attendees: <https://tinyurl.com/SWEET-Questions>

Acknowledgement of indigenous history & cultures.

Acknowledgements

- o Input by B.Whitehead.
- o Input by L.McGibbney (former SemTech chair)
- o Made by R.Rovetto. Min. person hours: 70 hours work. No funding to declare.

Images with shadows, beginning slide 8, from PPTs (see references)

Session Roadmap

Session Roadmap

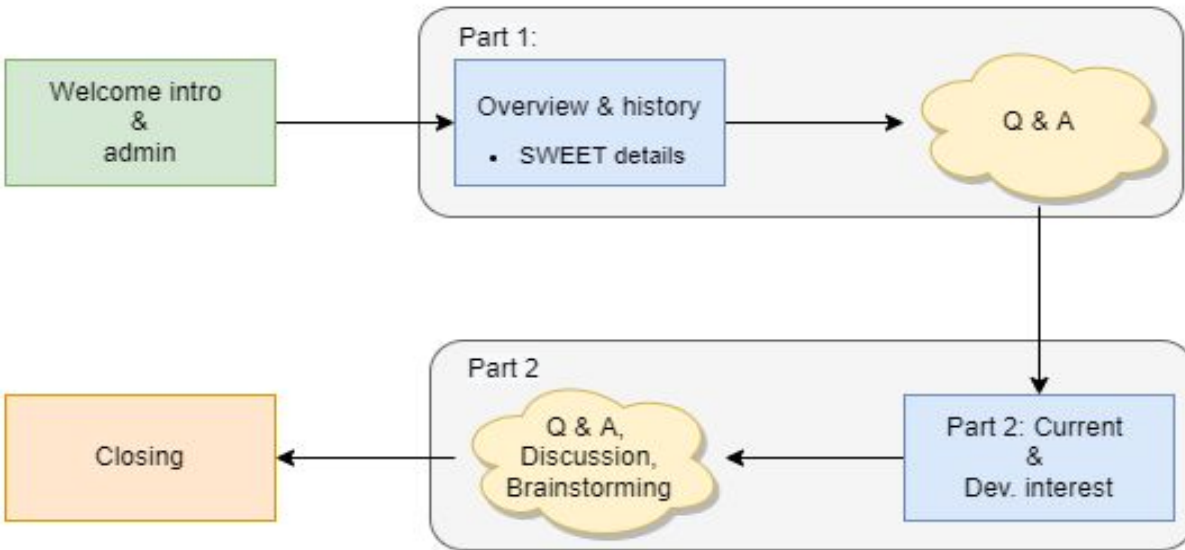


Diagram by Robert Rovetto. Contact: rovetto@terpalum.umd.edu
Hire for diagraming & conceptual modeling: <https://tinyurl.com/4bu74bmc>



Questions for participants

- What are your research topics/expertise?
- What types of data do you work with?
- Do you have modeling challenges (and what are they)?
- What would you like to do with your data that you presently cannot?
 - How might SWEET help with that?

Can answer at:

<https://tinyurl.com/SWEET-Questions> or
agenda page

In a nutshell

What is SWEET

□ a semantic technology. a knowledge organization system

Why should I care?

□ potential to help with your data needs, r&d, innovation,...

What problems is it solving? □ content search, retrieval; syn, homyn support, ...innovate

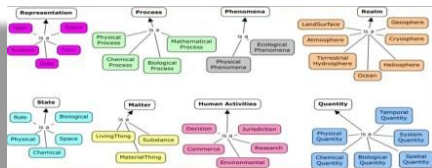
(Why important to develop) □ for the same, for Earth sci, for innovation exploration

Computational Ontology(s)

- Various definitions. sometimes called semantic model, conceptual model, knowledge graph, ...
 - Living catalog <https://tinyurl.com/yrm78zpn>
- Various dev. methodologies → automated, manual, ...
- Can be developed to various degrees of complexity, size, and abstraction
 - sometimes used *as* other KOSs: as a taxonomy, a controlled vocab, as a database, ...
- Pros & Cons as compared with other KOS
- one of many KOS composed of categories (metadata), capable of being formally defined (for computation & semantics) & structured (e.g., like a taxonomy)
 - A vocabulary + computable rules that constrain the meaning and use of the vocabulary → for formation of expressions that can be computed in machine inference, data queries, ...
- Act as a semantic layer, providing an *interpretation of the meaning* of data elements
- As a terminological system, its terms can be mapped to others
- Can be *linked* to other ontologies

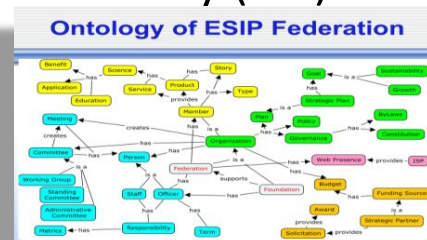
Ontology Consulting: <https://tinyurl.com/34u9w6wx>

Caution: Should ask... does a given ontology provide the desired/right meaning (or semantics) for your data? Owners & users should examine the (in)formal meaning expressed in any ontology (and what it assumes, imports) to determine suitability



SWEET Basics

- Semantic Web for Earth and Environmental Terminology (SWEET)
 - a suite of modular ontologies implemented in OWL
 - originally in the DARPA Markup Language (DAML) [7]
 - thousands of terms across relevant topics
- Developed at NASA JPL by Dr. Rob Raskin
 - used GCMD keywords. Decomposed into facets
- ESIP is current the steward of SWEET
 - approx. Mar 2017 SWEET files migrated to ESIP, by L. McGibbney (JPL)
 - <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet>
 - https://wiki.esipfed.org/Semantic_Technologies
 - living work. versions 3.x



NASA Support for SWEET

- AIST (2002-05)
 - ♦ SWEET development
- AIST/ACCESS (2006-09)
 - ♦ SESDI (Semantically-Enabled Science Data Integration) (Peter Fox, PI)

Example project

SWEET Users

- ESML- Earth Science Markup Language
- ESIP - Earth Science Information Partner Federation
- GEON- Geosciences Network
- GENESIS- Global Environmental & Earth Science Information System
- IRI- International Research Institute (Columbia)
- LEAD- Linked Environments for Atmospheric Discovery
- MMI- Marine Metadata Initiative
- NOESIS
- PEaCE- Pacific Ecoinformatics and Computational Ecology
- SESDI- Semantically Enabled Science Data Integration
- VSTO- Virtual Solar-Terrestrial Observatory

The screenshot shows the EarthData website with a blue header containing the NASA logo and 'EARTHDATA OPEN ACCESS FOR OPEN SCIENCE'. Navigation links include ABOUT, DATA, COLLABORATE, and LEARN. A search bar is present. The main content area features a banner for the Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) Program, with sub-sections for Competitive Programs and ACCESS 2005 Projects. The Competitive Programs section lists ACCESS Program, CSESP (Citizen Science), and MEaSUREs Program. The ACCESS 2005 Projects section lists A-Train Data Depot and AMAPS: An Aerosol Measurement and Processing. The SESDI: Semantically-Enabled Scientific Data Integration project is highlighted, listing Peter Fox as the Principal Investigator (PI) and Krishna Sinha, Robert Raskin, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as Co-Investigators (Co-PI). A paragraph describes the collaboration between the GEOSciences Network, Semantic Web for Earth Environment Technologies (SWEET 2), and Virtual Solar Terrestrial Observatory, and another paragraph mentions the value-added access to data integration capabilities.

Some SWEET Benefits & Applications (1)

“Special emphasis on improving search for NASA Earth science data resources

- Atmospheric science, oceanography, geology, etc.

Provide a common semantic framework for describing Earth science information and knowledge

SWEET provides semantics tags to interpret data

SWEET supports model interoperability

- Earth Science terms
- Compatibility of model parameterizations, modules

SWEET supports grid interoperability

- Earth Science terms
- Grid concepts

Contributions of sweet - Improved data discovery without exact keyword matches” [1]


Some SWEET Benefits & Applications (2)

Circa 2011 and later

Used in NextGen Network Enabled Weather (NNEW) Ontology, within the US NextGen Air Transportation System project


2012

“we plan to replace part of the data-attributes ontology by importing the relevant Semantic Web for Earth and Environmental Terminology (SWEET) ontologies (Raskin and Pan 2005). SWEET provides **support for scientific and numerical concepts**, such as scientific units, scientific relations, provenance, and data representation. We believe that ontologies should carry as few ontological commitments as possible” [2, emph added]



Side note to be aware of: Relates to both technical & ethical aspects of ontology/semantics.
Contact: rrovetto@terpalum.umd.edu to discuss.

Some SWEET Benefits & Applications (3)



Application:
Intelligent Search for Data

- Consults knowledge base to find alternative meanings
 - Clustered by: synonyms, parent, children
- Enables discovery of resources without exact keyword match [9]

2014:

“This investigation suggested that the SWEET ontologies **do sufficiently represent the EES domain, and are broad in their topic coverage.**” [5, emph added]

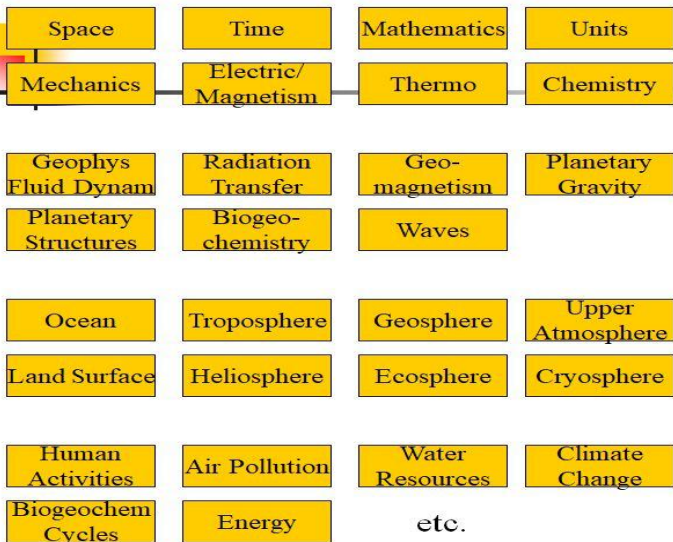
2021:

- “We **retrieve** phenomena and domain information using SWEET” [3, an ESIP presentation]
- “To create knowledge representations of science carried out in these publications, we use existing ontologies such as GCMD and SWEET.” [4, an ESIP presentation]

SWEET Versions

v. 1 to 3.5 (as of 2021)

SWEET 2.0 Ontologies: Modular Design



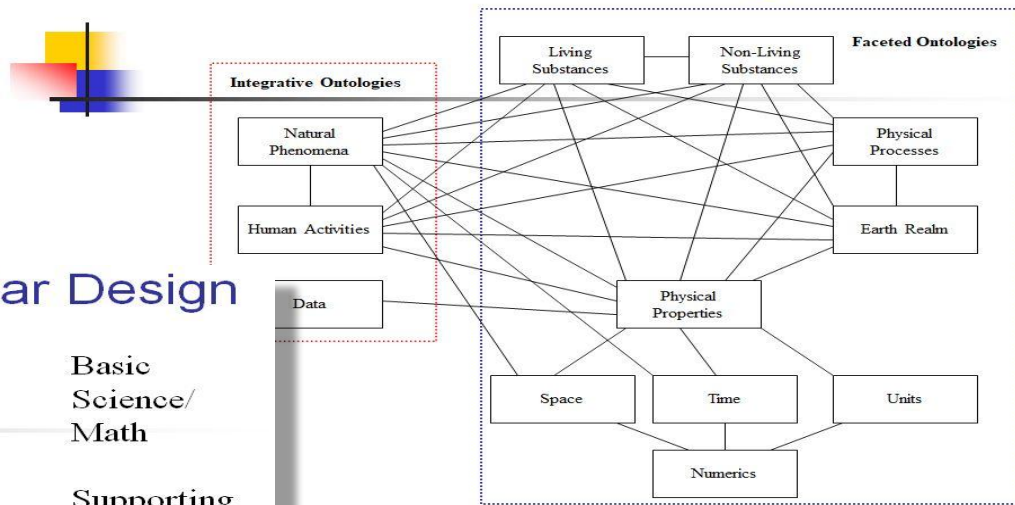
Basic
Science/
Math

Supporting
Geophysical
Phenomena

Planetary
Realms

Applications

SWEET 1.0 Ontologies

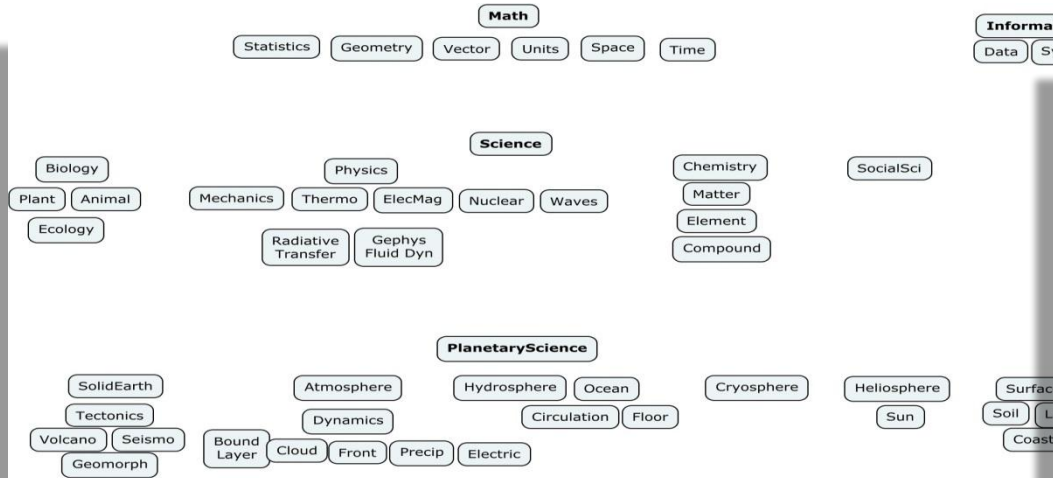


11

Potential for SME to contribute to specific topics

12

SWEET 2.0 ontologies



SWEET 2.0 New Features

- Organized by subject
 - ♦ Makes it easy for domain specialists to add new modules
- Smaller, modular ontologies
- 23 ontologies -> 80 ontologies

SWEET 2.0 Modular Design

- Supports easy extension by domain specialists
- Organized by subject (theoretical to applied)
- Reorganization of classes, but no significant changes to content
- Importation is unidirectional

Math, Time, Space

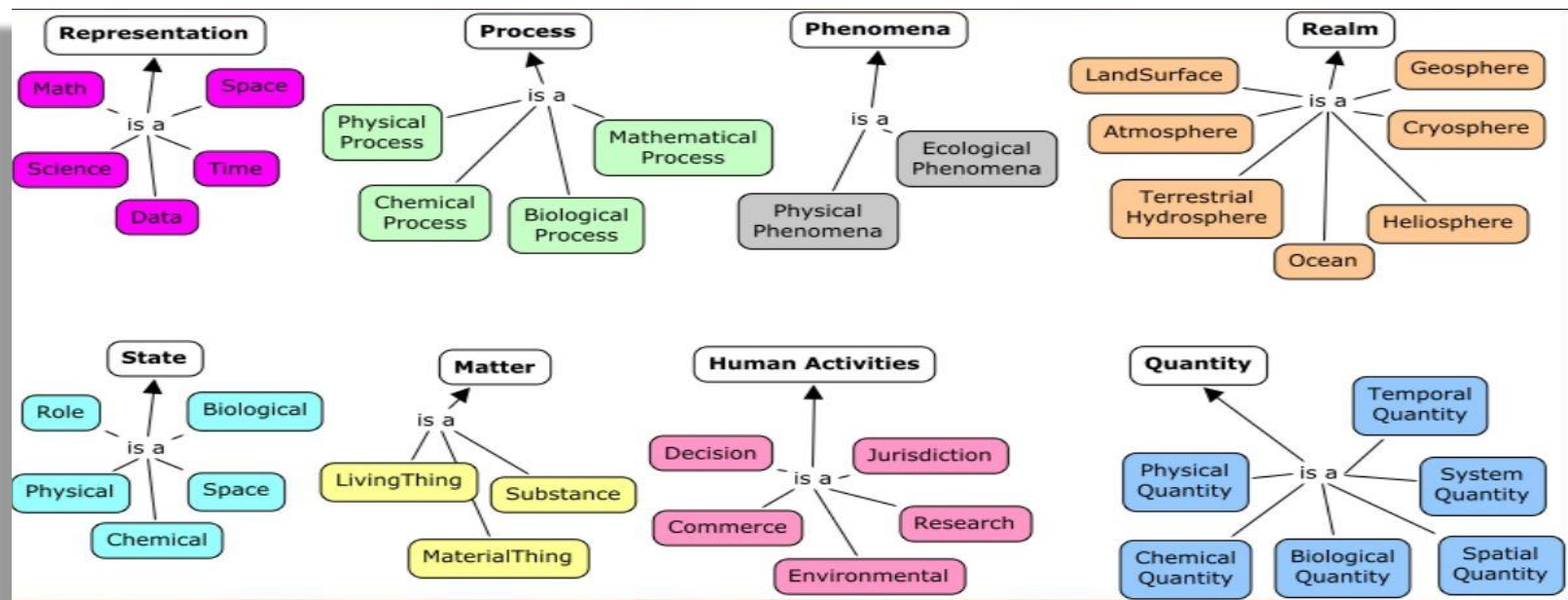
Basic Science

Geoscience Processes

Geophysical Phenomena

Applications

importation

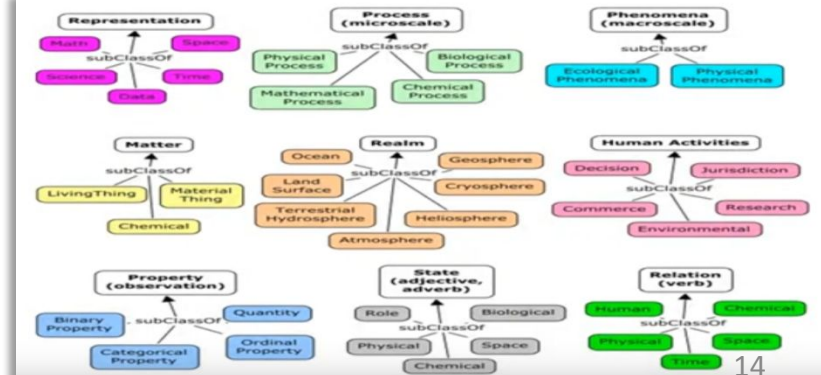


SWEET 2.0 Ontologies

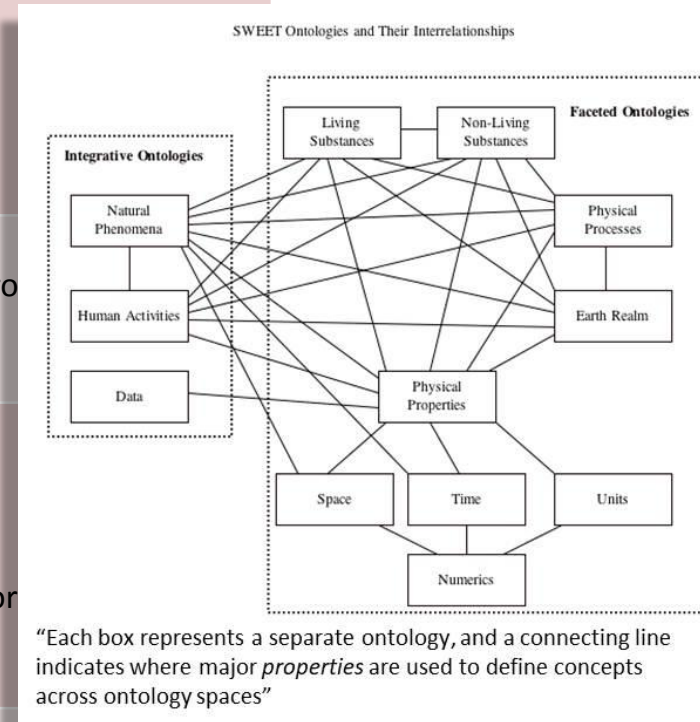
Abstract to Applied



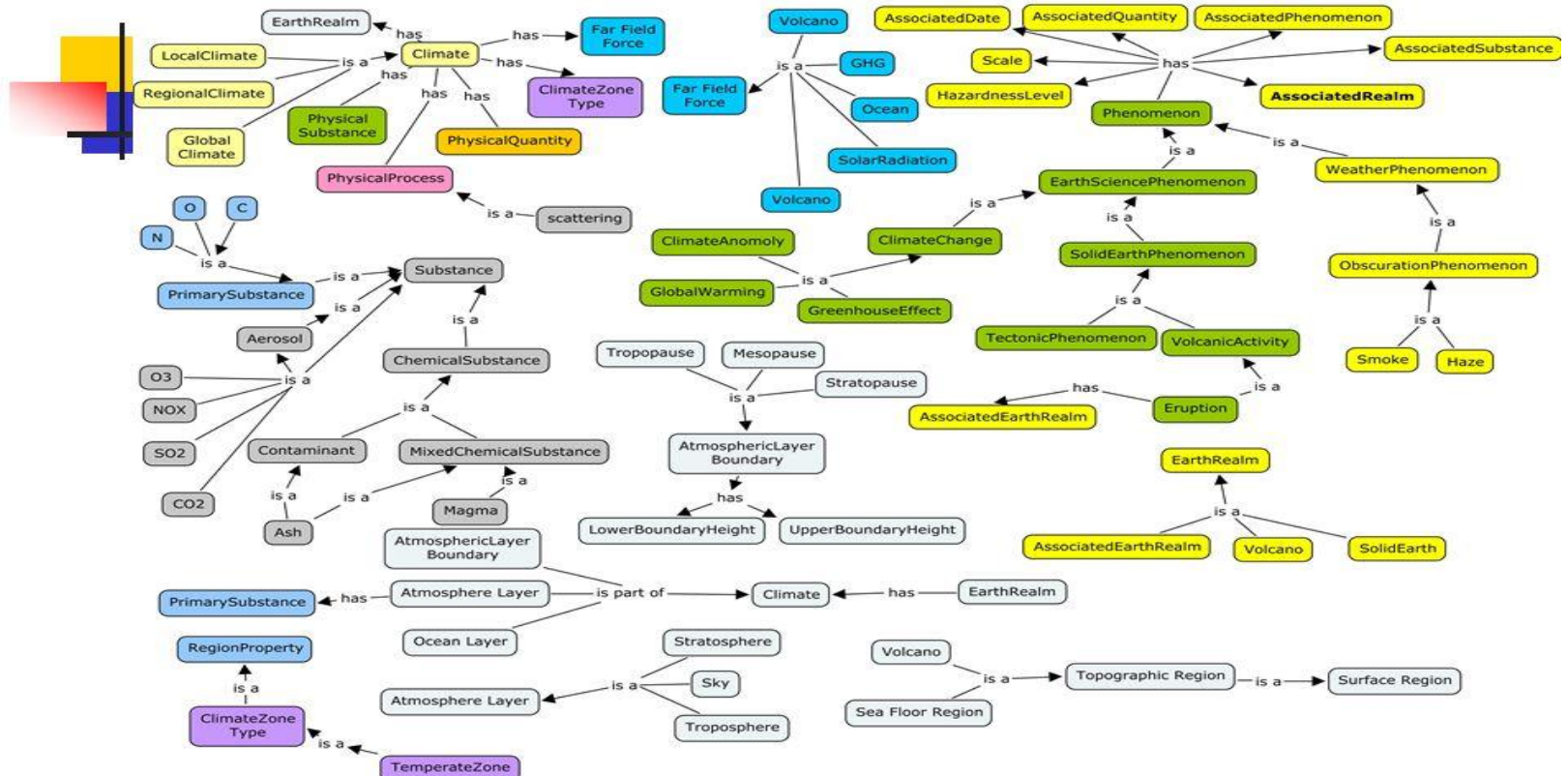
Broad categories



Selected Broad category/facet	Selected Category terms
Faceted Science Ontology Earth realms: Physical properties: Substances: Living substances Processes	atmosphere, Ocean LandSurface temperature, composition, area, ... CO2, water, lava, hydrogen, ... Humans, fish, ... Diffusion, absorption, ...
Integrative Science Ontologies Phenomena Human Activities	Thunderstorm, Deforestation, Physical pro magnetism, convection, ...) Fisheries, IndustrialProcessing
Numerical Ontologies Intervals, numeric relations Functions Statistical concepts Spatial concepts/entities: Temporal concepts/entities: Spectral band	Relations (<i>above</i> , etc.); 0-, 1-, 2-, 3-D; coor Instants, durations; Relations (<i>after</i> , etc.) UV, ...
Data Ontology Dataset characteristics: Provenance: Parameters:	Format, data model, ... Source, ... Scale factors, offset, ...



Atmosphere Ontology



Some SWEET concepts

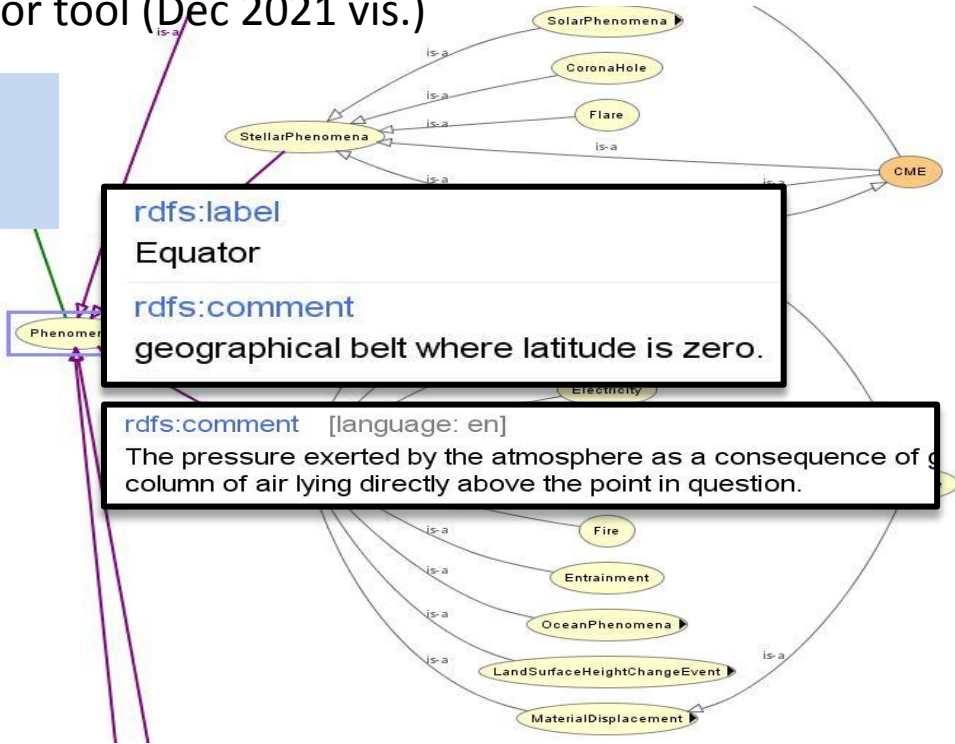
- v.2.0 visualized using an ontology editor tool (Dec 2021 vis.)

Non-relational Categories (as type of OWL:Class)

- Phenomena
 - BiologicalPhenomena
 - EcologicalPhenomena
 - PhysicalPhenomena
 - PlanetaryPhenomena
 - Climate
 - ClimateChange
 - ClimatePhenomena
 - GeologicalPhenomena
 - GeospherePhenomena
 - HydrospherePhenomena
 - LaNina
 - MeteorologicalPhenomena
 - Weather
 - StellarPhenomena
 - GeometricalObject_0D
 - GeometricalObject_1D
 - GeometricalObject_2D
 - GeometricalObject_3D
 - Hyperplane
 - Ring
 - Separation
 - Interval

Relationships (as type of OWL:ObjectProperty)

- hasQuantity
- hasRadius
- hasRate
- hasReferenceDepth
- hasReferenceHeight
- hasResolution
- hasRock
- hasRole
- hasSecondOperand
- hasSpatialExtent
- hasSpatialProjection
- hasSpatialScale
- hasState
- hasStateOfMatter
- hasStatisticalDistribution



New in SWEET 2.1

- Version 2.1 provides a large module set for STATE
 - Mostly **adjectives** and **adverbs**
 - Examples: Role, color/band, shape, size, equilibrium type, activity level, connectedness, impact, substance form
 - Qualitative analog of “Quantity”
 - Enables greater separation of adjective from object to improve modularity
 - Mostly represented by OWL individuals
 - “types” of categorical, ordinal, and cardinal

SWEET 2.1 Statistics

- Classes: 4400
- Individuals (mostly States): 2200
- Relations: 600

Example Development & Modeling Activity

CF vs SWEET Representation

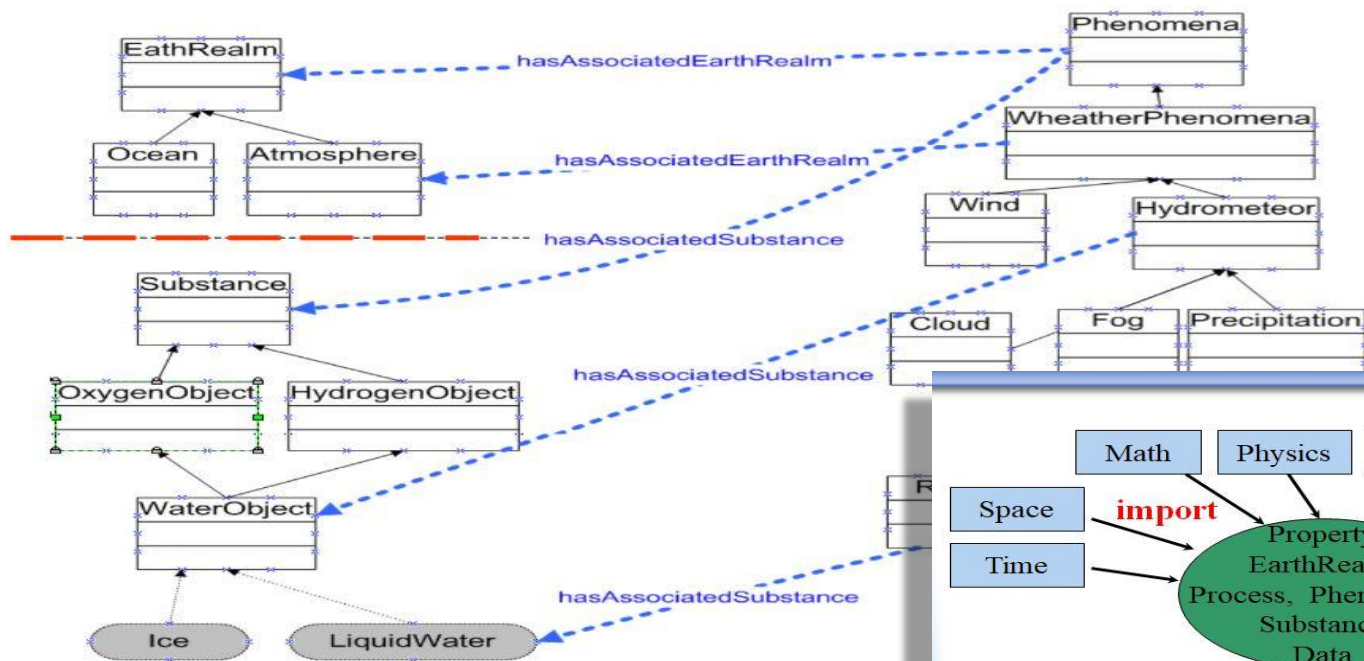
CF (*traditional single-attribute parameter name*):
tendency_of_mole_concentration_of_dissolved_inorganic_phosphorus_in_sea_water_due_to_biological_processes

SWEET (*multi-attribute parameter name*):

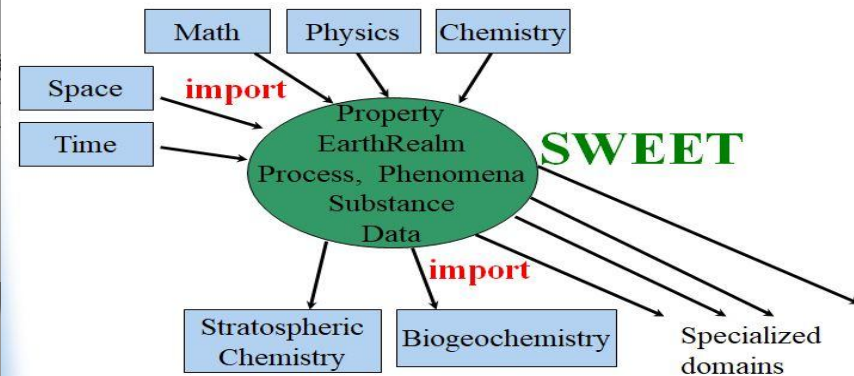
- Quantity= mole_concentration
- Transformation= tendency
- State= dissolved, inorganic
- Substance= phosphorous
- Medium= sea_water
- Process= biological processes

[10]

Ontology Schematic



[10]

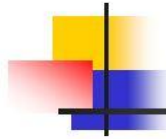


Some SWEET findings

Table 2 - SWEET Usability Measures

Metric	Evaluation output
User types using SWEET	Knowledge Engineer/ Project Manager Application User/ Ontology Developer
For what type of use was it conceived in first place?	Improving search for NASA Earth science data resources
How easy is it to extend SWEET?	Modular Design / Organized by Subject / Simple steps for extension
Cost of using the SWEET ontology	Free/ Open Source
SWEET Popularity	NASA/ The ESIP Federation/Taught Widely in Semantic Web Courses in Universities
Time to open SWEET	Less than a minute on a normal commodity machine

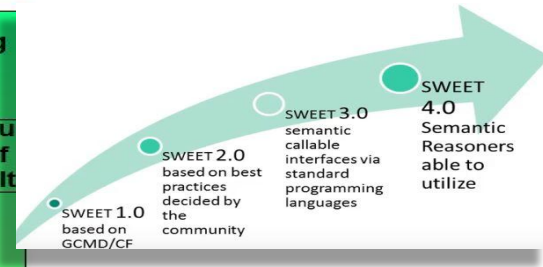
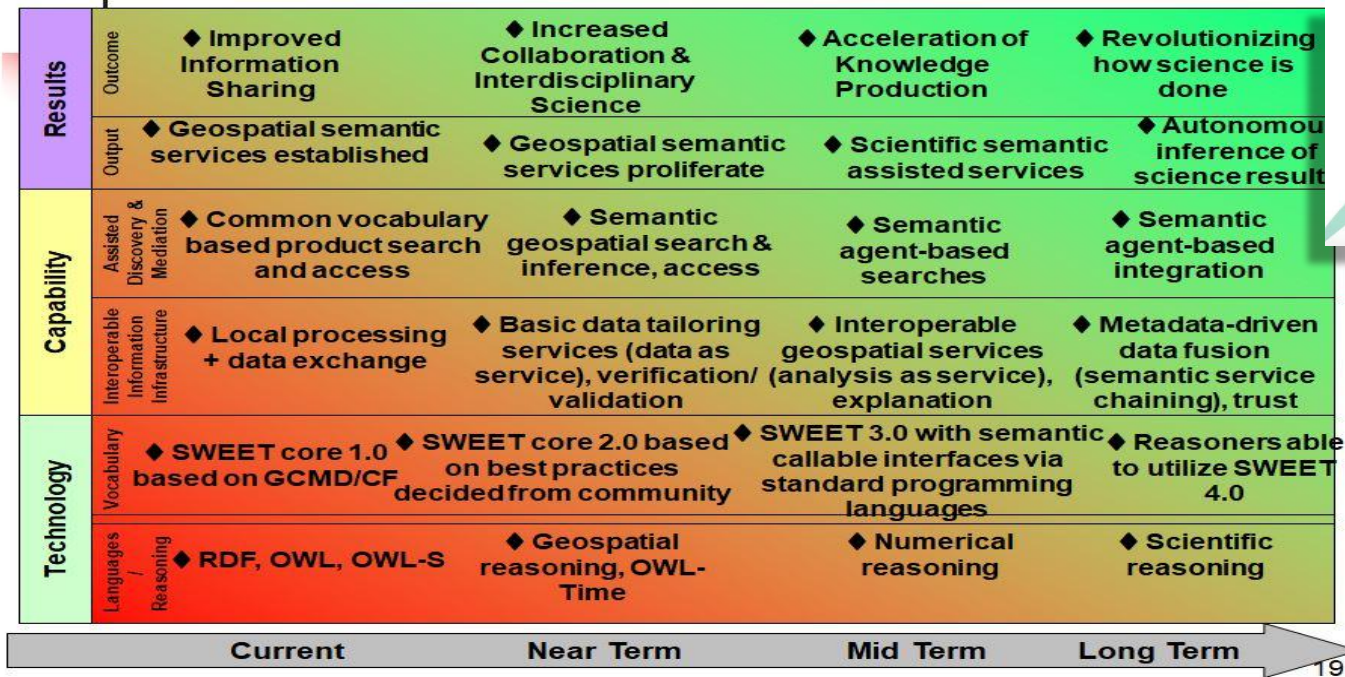
[8]



SWEET Future Community Plans

- Gain further support from Earth system science community
 - Workshop at Summer '08 Meeting of eSIP Federation
- Submit SWEET as community standard to NASA Earth Science Standards and Processes Working Group

Semantic Web Roadmap



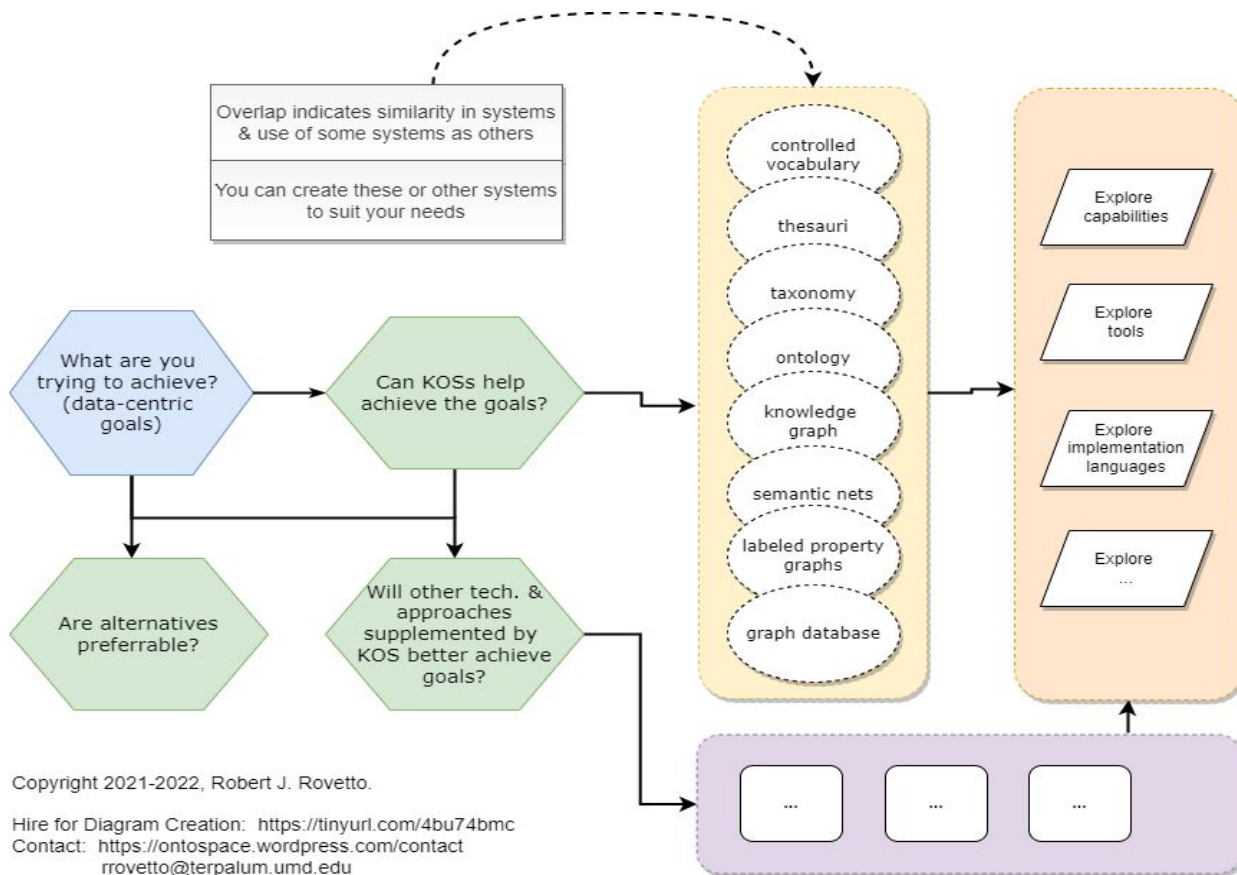
Background considerations: do you need a KOS, semantic system?

Knowledge organization systems, semantic resources, ...

Related systems & approaches

- Formal concept analysis
- NLP, Machine learning
- Model-based systems engineering
- ...

Can semantic approaches, in general, help?



Some considerations for your data goals/needs

- Various types of semantic systems, KOS, & tech. for your data
 - KOS: from thesauri to taxonomies to knowledge graphs. Varying functionalities, limitations, ...
 - Some (or none!) may be most efficient for your needs.
 - Ontologies can be made to varying degrees of complexity.
 - Can “**automatically generate** the tags during the indexing process. Automatic tag creation involves **natural language processing** to ascertain the meaning of a term based on its context. In some cases, terms have **multiple meanings**, and tools such as Latent Semantic Analysis” [7, emphasis added]
- Consider also **non-semantic/semantic-web** systems and approaches
- Ability & precedent vision to develop SWEET to higher degrees of complexity
 - a matter of will, resources, etc. to do it

End of Part 1 (overview & history) – Questions - Discussion

- What do you find interesting thus far?
- Consider the original questions
 - What are your research topics/expertise?
 - What types of data do you work with?
 - What would you like to do with your data that you presently cannot?
 - How might SWEET help with that?
 - Are you interested in contributing to SWEET?
(e.g., SME, content, use-case development, applications, misc., etc.)
- Questions, ideas?

<https://tinyurl.com/SWEET-Questions>

Part 2: SWEET Today & SWEET Development

- Updates
- Contributing page on GitHub
- Feedback from 2020 survey by B.Whitehead w/input by R.Rovetto
- Q&A Discussion
 - Neutral SMEs for each topic covered by SWEET
 - Propose, Create, Verify content, e.g. ...
 - Create Local definitions ☐ SME focus on a topic, term or concept
 - Verify definitions ☐ SME quality control (e.g., verify accuracy)

Some SWEET updates at

- ESIP is current steward of SWEET
 - <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet>
 - <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet/releases> v. 2.3 □ 3.4
 - Semantic Technology Committee
 - https://wiki.esipfed.org/Semantic_Technologies
 - <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet/wiki/Publications>
 - Literature: <https://tinyurl.com/Biblio-SWEET>
 - SWEET is a living work

Example updates via SemTech:

- **2018:** “URI transition and governance, transition from OWL to Turtle serialization, linked data dispatch via the ESIP Community Ontology Repository [5], and ongoing alignment activities” [6]
- Can use GitHub for development ideas & suggestions

SWEET online - the ontologies

- Contributing description page:
 - <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet/blob/master/CONTRIBUTING.md>

Development

The development process for SWEET follows the [Review-then-Commit](#) software development process. For more information, see the Subsection below

How to work with us on Github, using git command line:

- Browse on ESIP repository: <http://cor.esipfed.org/>

http://sweetontology.net/phenOceanDynamics	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Ocean Dynamics
http://sweetontology.net/phenReaction	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Reaction
http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolTectonic	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Geologic Tectonic
http://sweetontology.net/phenMixing	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Mixing
http://sweetontology.net/phenOceanCoastal	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Ocean Coastal
http://sweetontology.net/phenOcean	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Ocean
http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolSeismicity	S SWEET Ontology Phenomena Geologic Seismicity

Example files displayed in ESIP COR platform

<http://sweetontology.net/phenEcology>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenElecMag>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenEnergy>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenEnvirImpact>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenFluidDynamics>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenFluidInstability>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenFluidTransport>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeol>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolFault>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolGeomorphology>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolSeismicity>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolTectonic>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenGeolVolcano>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenHelio>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenHydro>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenMixing>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenOcean>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenOceanCoastal>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenOceanDynamics>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenPlanetClimate>
<http://sweetontology.net/phenReaction>

List of SWEET ontology files
(subject-specific)

Some SWEET feedback (2020) (1)

“If I want to make additions or suggestions where do I go to do that [understand SWEET dev.]? Is it possible to merge my domain ontology with SWEET?”

- <https://github.com/ESIPFed/sweet/>
- (Idea) Exploratory dev. track: solicit persons to download versions, merge their domain ontology, in order to create innovating beneficial use-cases for Earth Sci data.
 - Example: 2005 with hydrogeology [11]
- Identify approaches, challenges, desiderata, etc.

Some feedback (2)

“Reach out to a wide swath of earth sciences and run them through an exercise of identifying their terminology and explaining how they relate to other terms in plain language. Getting input needs to be accessible and the approach structured.”

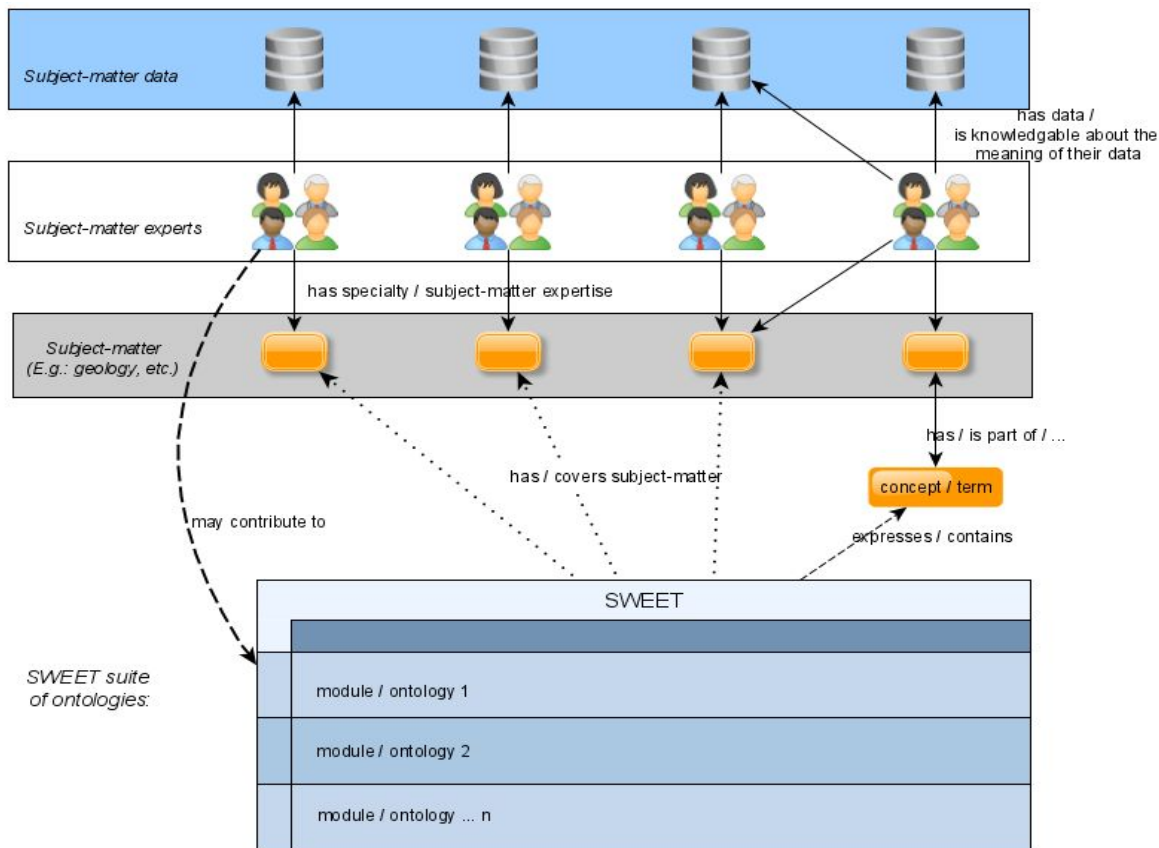
- In organizing this session, perhaps first-steps, brainstorming ideas, ...

Some feedback (3)

“Need to increase visibility across federal agencies and extend the usage. Need specific maintenance team for **different subjects** in SWEET.”

- **(Idea)** Neutral SME potentially help with their subject covered by SWEET
 - Note: *neutral* = focus on their subject/discipline/science. No preference/advocating for particular product, ontology, way of semantically modeling, characterization, etc.

Idea for community participation to develop & utilize beneficial applications of SWEET



Example Tasks:

Task: SME provides a set of subject-matter concepts or vocabulary.

Task: SME proposes definition.

If a computable def. is desired, the proposed def. can be translated into the selected computable formalism

Task: ...

Diagram by Robert J. Rovetto, 2021-2022.

Contact: rrovetto@terpalum.umd.edu | <https://ontospace.wordpress.com/contact>

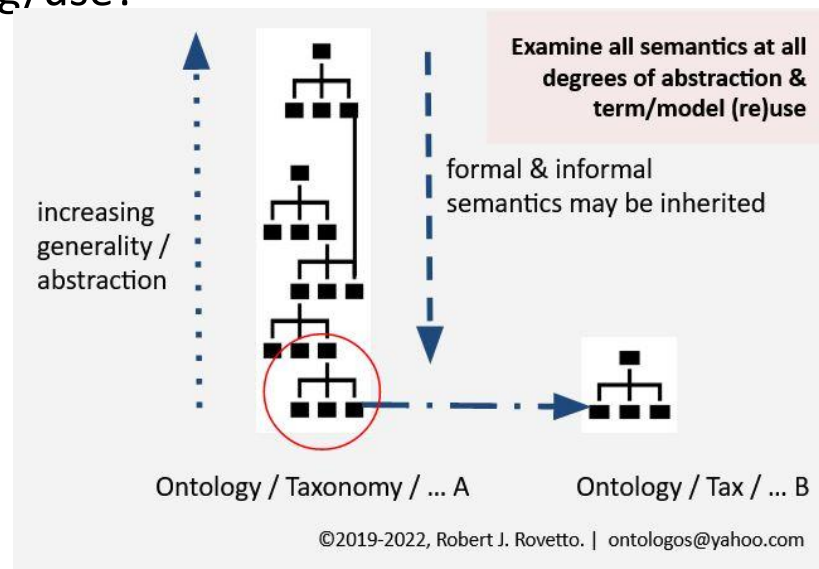
Some feedback (4)

“I'd like to make use of e.g. to align our vocabularies to, and I've always liked the facet based approach to the structure which I recommend to others when asked about constructing a controlled vocabulary.”

- Identify vocabularies
- Re: alignment/harmonization/mappings ...
 - different approaches by distinct activities/groups. automated, manual,...
 - There are *types* & *degrees* of alignment/harmonization/mappings.
 - Not all groups will perform thorough harmonizations of terms or ontologies. So caution is in order (next slide).
- Explore facets...
 - See library science...faceted approaches are also used in other KOSs, e.g., taxonomies

A genre on mappings/harmonization/alignment

- Distinctions among each activity. Here taken as synonymous.
- Care is in order when doing mappings, harmonization, etc. ...
- Same terms, but different intended meaning/use?
- Ambiguous or imprecise descriptions of the harmonized terms or ontologies
- Should explicitly state degree of analysis & mapping/harmonization/...
- Examples
 - ‘related to’ as very generic
 - more specific may be needed
- Examine all degrees of abstraction of the given mapped terms/ontologies



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Ontology Consulting: <https://tinyurl.com/34u9w6wx>

Some feedback (5)

“list datasets that are mapped to SWEET [or use SWEET on specific datasets]”

- (Idea) Create a list or catalog of datasets. identify datasets, apply SWEET, discover desiderata, ...

Candidate Development Tasks & Activities

What are some ways to do a hackathon to dev. SWEET?

Ideas for Candidate Ontology Development Tasks & Activities

General interest

Identify or propose use-cases

Identify or create applications of SWEET → apply SWEET (e.g., some in references, SWEET literature, ESIP presentations)

Explore organizational aspects: e.g., ideas for (sub)scoping of topic areas covered by SWEET, organizing SWEET individual ontologies (modules), ...

Serve as SME

Quality control of descriptions/definitions of terms (e.g., for your subject expertise), both natural language, and computable

Propose additional domain terms/vocabulary/jargon, metadata. Propose additional SWEET ontologies/modules

Develop logical axioms/restrictions/constraints, computable definitions, etc.


Documentation products: SWEET manual, ...

...?...

Questions / Discussion

- Q&A / discussion / breakout rooms
 - What do you find interesting? Areas for innovation? Unexplored applications to other data science techniques?
 - How might SWEET help with your data goals/needs?
 - Are you interested in contributing to SWEET?
(e.g., SME, content, use-case development, applications, misc., etc.)
- Takeaway points
- Time-permitting: Demo:
 - Open SWEET online: Github → Pylode rendering
 - Opening SWEET in...COR? ontology-editor on desktop? online visualization?
 - Audience chose which SWEET module to open
 - ...other ideas...

Thank you

- For you attention
- For your participation
- To ESIP staff, and fellow cluster members
www.esipfed.org 
- Pamela “Charley” Hayley, www.wayforagers.org

A session presentation for January 2022 ESIP Winter meeting

References (1)

Source material: Slides from past presentations by late Dr. Rob Raskin & others are raised images with shadows. Other material is quoted from cited references. Other content is by Rob Rovetto as indicated.



Development of a Community Ontology for Earth System Science

Rob Raskin
NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, CA

March 20, 2008

1

SWEET 2.0 Ontologies

Rob Raskin
JPL

Mapping CF Standard Names to SWEET Ontology

Rob Raskin
NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory

References (2)

Session Agenda Document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vRUIE3QqF68AF9JunAFj-zlY_uXoRrdroxLyZ3w9DAQ/

Session Meeting page:

- <https://sched.co/qkoe>

- <https://2022esipjanuarymeeting.sched.com/event/qkoe/community-development-of-the-sweet-semantic-system-for-earth-and-environment-data-a-call-for-interest>

SWEET Bibliography created by Robert Rovetto: <https://tinyurl.com/Biblio-SWEET>

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- The SWEET 2.0 graph diagram with concentric circles is found in “Evolution in data and product management for serving operational oceanography, a GODAE feedback”, and was cited as being from NASA SWEET (therefore, may be originally be from NASA JPL).
- Green arrow image from Video (see ‘Other SWEET Links’ slide)