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► **To cite this version:**

Christian Pichot, Cécile Callou, Andre Chanzy, Philippe Clastre, Chloé Martin, et al.. Developing semantic interoperability in ecology and ecosystem studies. RDA 17th Plenary Meeting, Apr 2021, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. . hal-03234155

HAL Id: hal-03234155

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-03234155v1>

Submitted on 25 May 2021

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Developing semantic interoperability in ecology and ecosystem studies

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1. INRAE URM 228 route de l'Aérodrome 84914 Avignon

2. CNRS UMS BBES 55 rue Buffon 75005 Paris

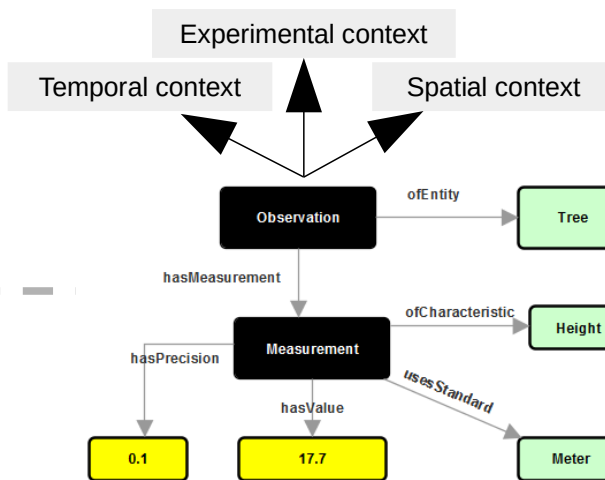
3. INRA UMR EMMAH 228 route de l'Aérodrome 84914 Avignon

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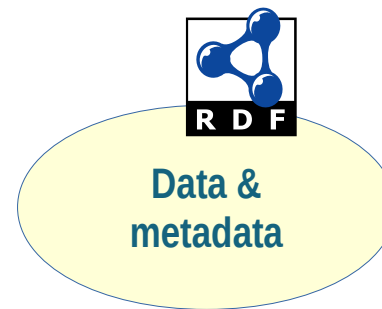
5. INRA UMR CARRTEL 75 avenue de Corzent 74200 Thonon-les-bains



Obs. & exp. on ecosystems

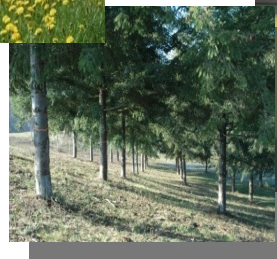
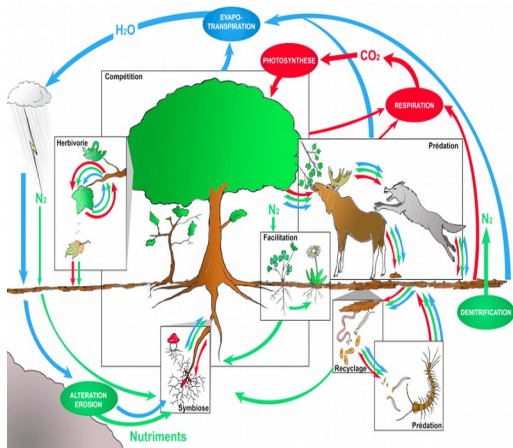


Graph data modeling



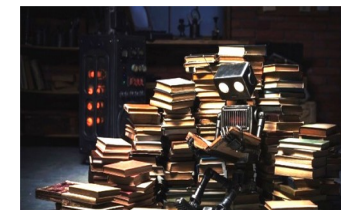
Semantic interoperability

Rationale



Ecosystem study requires complex research and deals with heterogeneous, varied and widespread data.

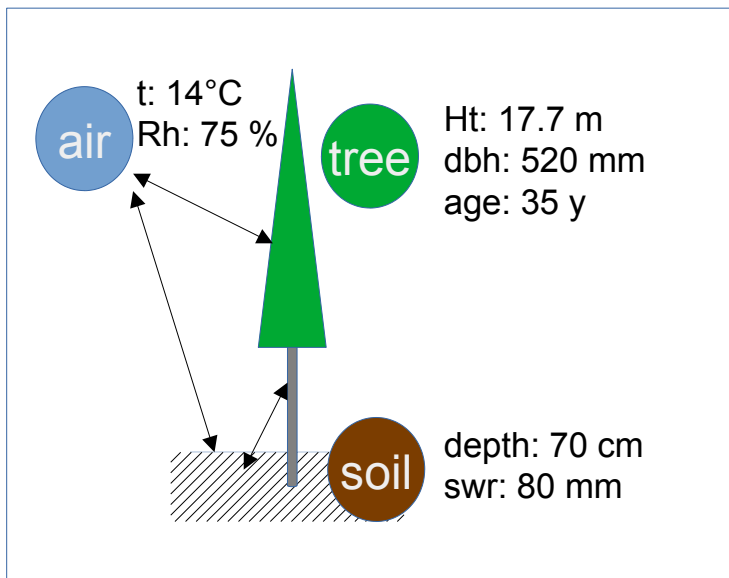
The proper understanding and interoperability of the information sources remains one of the greatest challenges



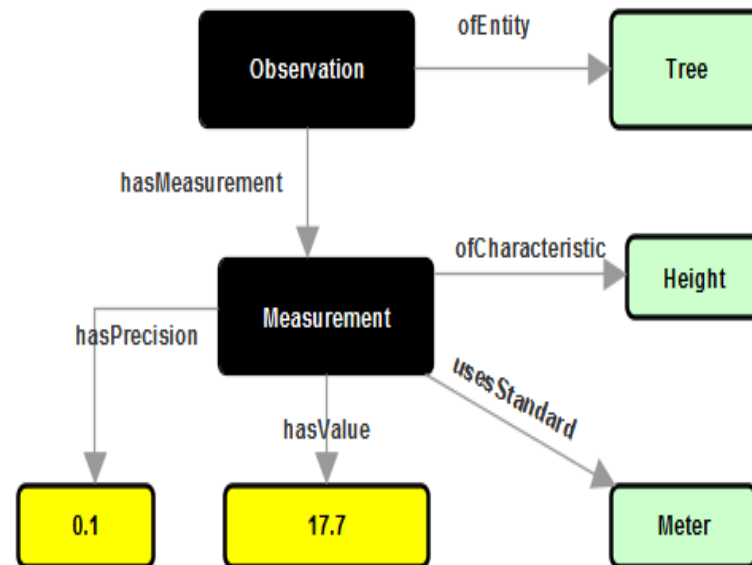
Method

1) Identify

- the components of the system
- and their relationships



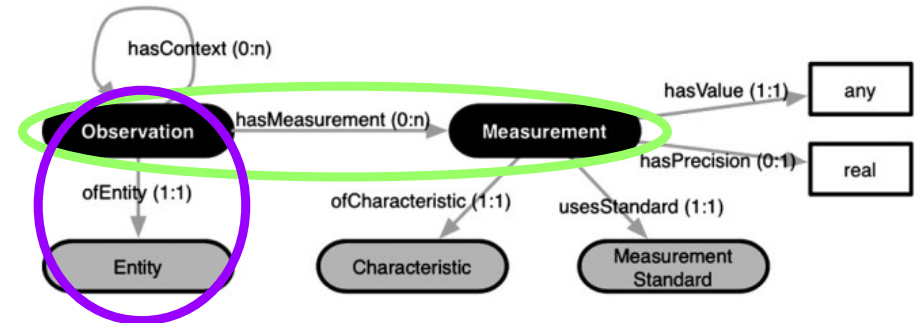
2) Model the system using semantic vocabularies



Implementation

AnaEE* RI as scientific context:
The Research Infrastructure offers services for experimentation on continental ecosystems

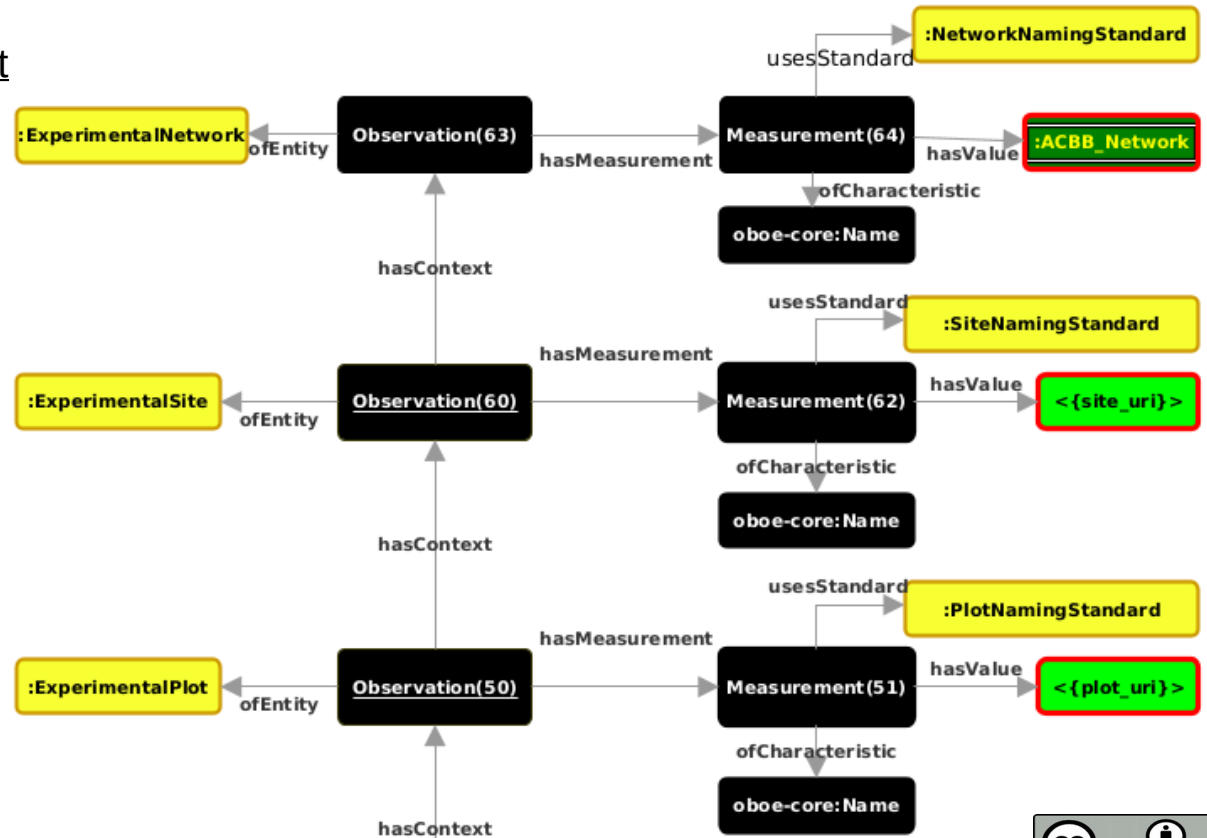
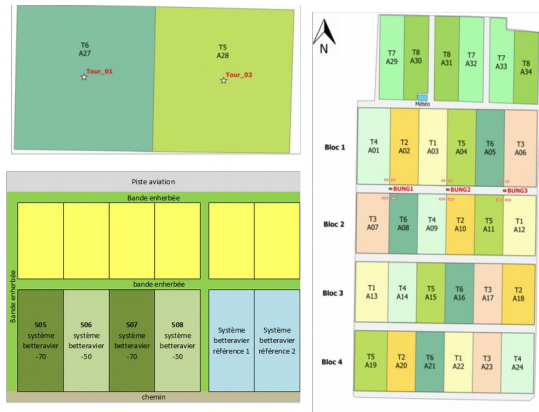
OBOE* as ontological framework:
The ontology provides the atomic elements for modeling observations



*Mark Schildhauer, Matthew B. Jones, Shawn Bowers, Joshua Madin, Sergeui Krivov, Deana Pennington, Ferdinando Villa, Benjamin Leinfelder, Christopher Jones, and Margaret O'Brien. 2016. OBOE: the Extensible Observation Ontology, version 1.2. KNB Data Repository. doi:10.5063/F1125R0F

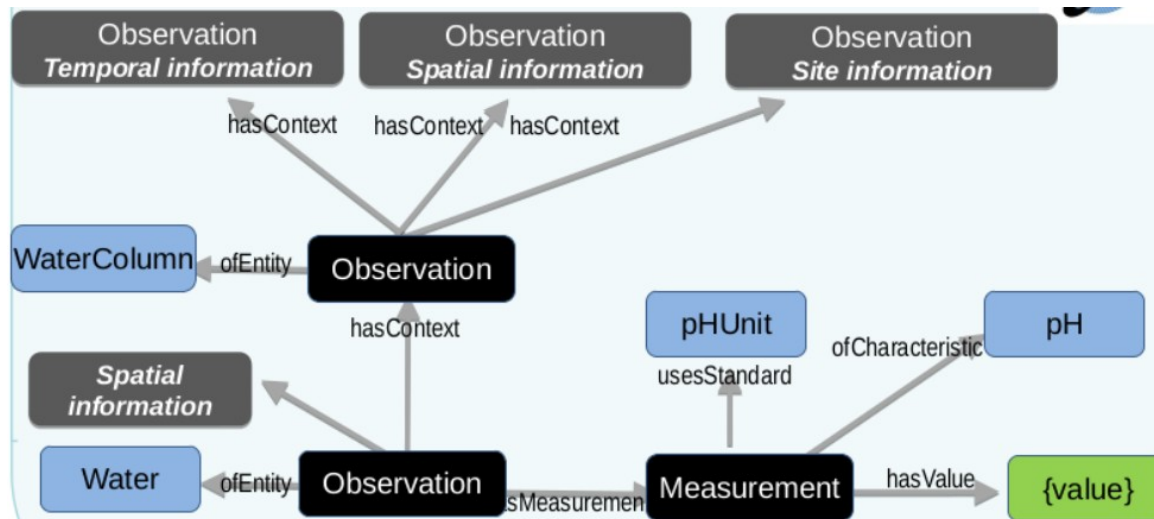
Implementation

Modeling the experimental context



Implementation

Modeling the measured variables




Implementation

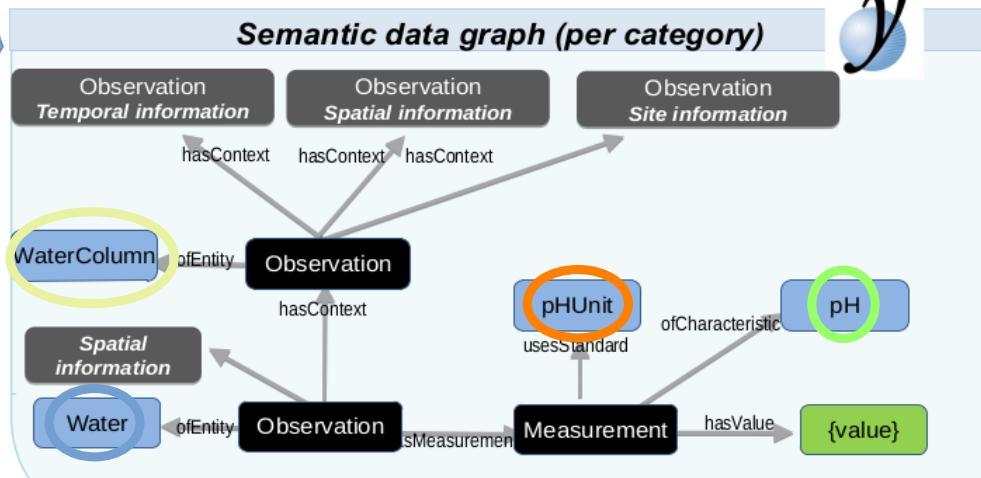
Graph pattern approach:

Design parametric graphs suitable for a set of variables



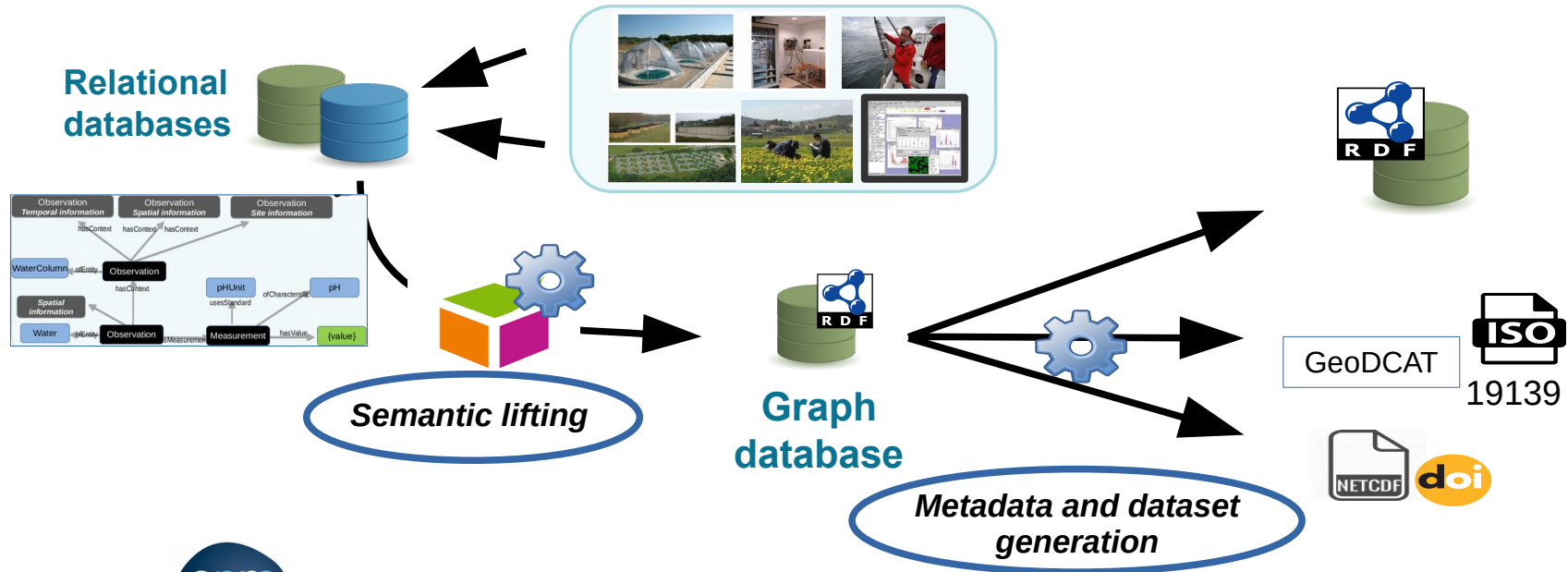
Variable semantic description 

AnaEE standard	Category	Context	Entity	Characteristic	Unit
Phytoplankton	Biodiversity	Water	Phytoplankton	Volume Per Volume	MicroMeterCubed Per Millimeter
WaterPH	Physical Chemistry	Water Column	Water	pH	pHUnit
...



Semantic lifting and data exploitation

Graph patterns and variable semantic descriptions are processed by a pipeline for semantic lifting of the data before their exploitation



Lessons from this work

- The OBOE generic ‘observation model’ allows for efficient atomic modeling of the components of the system and of their nested or crossed relationships.
- In addition to the provided OBOE extensions (characteristics, spatial, temporal, standards), the unique identification of the system components is ensured through new classes and individuals especially for Entity (e.g experimental entities) and Standards (e.g lists of variable names or of experimental facilities).
- A graph pattern approach for the modeling of the variables leads to a more efficient investment at greatly reduced cost
- When data are initially managed in structure databases, the data modeling is directly exploitable by pipelines for mass lifting to rdf graphs
- The whole process produces syntactically and semantically interoperable data, contributing to FAIR sharing and data reuse