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# The Body Region Connection Calculus <br> Analyzing anatomical ontologies with the RCC-8 model 

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## Outline

- Objectives
- RCC8
- Anatomical relations in the FMA
- Mapping anatomical relations to FMA
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions


## Objectives

- To investigate consistency in the FMA
- Complementary to ontological analyses such as:
- Zhang S, Bodenreider O.

Law and order: Assessing and enforcing compliance with ontological modeling principles.
Computers in Biology and Medicine 2005:(in press).

- Focus on anatomical relations
- Assigned manually
- Little enforcement possible in Protégé


## General idea Overview



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4

## General idea Details



## Foundational Model of Anatomy

- Dec. 2, 2004
- 71,202 classes
- 220 slots
- 7 part_of slots
- 81 slots for associative relations (branch of, contains)
- 101,200 partitive relations
- 33,685 associative relations


## Region Connection Calculus (RCC)

- Axiomatic theory of spatial relations
- Spatial reasoning
- 8 topological relations (JEPD)
- DC Disconnection
- EC External Connection
- PO Partial Overlap
- TPP Tangential Proper Part (+ inverse)
- NTPP Non-Tangential Proper Part (+ inverse)
- EQ Equality


## RCC 8 topological relations



Disconnection


Tangential Proper Part


Tangential
Proper Part (inv)


Partial
Overlap


Equality


Non-Tangential
Proper Part


Non-Tangential Proper Part (inv)

## Composition table for the 8 RCC relations

| $\underset{R 1(a, b)}{R 2(b, c)}$ | DC | EC | PO | TPP | NTPP | TPPi | NTPPi | EQ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DC | T | DR,PO,PP | DR,PO,PP | DR,PO,PP | DR,PO,PP | DC | DC | DC |
| EC | DR,PO,PPi | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { DR,PO } \\ \text { TPP,TPi } \end{array}$ | DR,PO,PP | EC,PO,PP | PO,PP | DR | DC | EC |
| PO | DR,PO,PPi | DR,PO, PPi | T | PO,PP | PO,PP | DR,PO,PPi | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathrm{DR}, \mathrm{PO} \\ & \mathrm{PPi} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | PO |
| TPP | DC | DR | DR,PO,PP | PP | NTPP | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { DR,PO } \\ & \text { TPP,TPi } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \mathrm{DR}, \mathrm{PO} \\ \mathrm{PPi} \end{array}$ | TPP |
| NTPP | DC | DC | DR,PO,PP | NTPP | NTPP | DR,PO,PP | T | NTPP |
| TPPi | DR,PO,PPi | EC, PO, PPi | PO, PPi | PO,TPP, TPi | PO,PP | PPi | NTPPi | TPPi |
| NTPPi | DR,PO,PPi | PO,PPi | PO,PPi | PO,PPi | 0 | NTPPi | NTPPi | NTPPi |
| EQ | DC | EC | PO | TPP | NTPP | TPPi | NTPPi | EQ |

[Bennett, 1997]

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## Mapping FMA relations to RCC (1)



## Mapping FMA relations to RCC (2)



## Mapping FMA relations to RCC (3)

$\left.\begin{array}{l}\begin{array}{l}\text { drains } \\
\text { drains to } \\
\text { venous drainage of } \\
\text { venous drainage } \\
\text { lymphatic drainage of } \\
\text { lymphatic drainage }\end{array} \\
\hline\end{array}\right]$ DC $\vee \mathrm{EC}$

| EC Lung \| venous drainage | Bronchial vein |
| :--- |
| bounded by |
| bounds |


| DC Right paratracheal lymph node \| drains to | |
| :--- |
| Right bronchomediastinal lymphatic trunk |

\(\left.\begin{array}{l}surrounded by <br>

surrounds\end{array}\right] \mathrm{EC} \vee \mathrm{EQ} \quad\)| EQ Surface of thorax \| bounds | Thorax |
| :--- |
| EC Wall of right side of heart \| surrounds | |
| Cavity of right atrium |

## Mapping FMA relations to RCC (4)



TPP Right coronary artery | arterial supply of | Heart
DC Gastric branch of right vagus nerve | nerve supply of | Stomach
DC Spinal cord | arterial supply | Vertebral artery
contains $\mathrm{PO} \vee \mathrm{TPPi} \vee$ NTPPi $\vee \mathrm{EQ}$ contained in $\mathrm{PO} \vee \mathrm{TPP} \vee \mathrm{NTPP} \vee \mathrm{EQ}$
TPP Posterior compartment of arm|contains|Triceps brachii
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { location+adjacent(false) } \\ \text { attributed continuous with+adjacent(false) }\end{array}\right]$ DC

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## Example (direct)



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## Example (indirect)

| $R R 2(b, c)$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $R 1(a, b)$ | DC | EC |
| DC | $T$ | $\mathrm{DR}, \mathrm{PO}, \mathrm{PP}$ |
| EC | $\mathrm{DR}, \mathrm{PO}, \mathrm{PPi}$ | $\mathrm{DR}, \mathrm{PO}$ <br> $\mathrm{TPP}, \mathrm{TPi}$ |



## Quantitative results

- Conversion
- 84,284 pairs with RCC relations
- 18,112 with only one relation
- 66,172 with multiple relations
- 64,354 consistent
- 1,818 inconsistent
- Composition
- 707,284 pairs


698,588


## Quantitative results

- Composition
- 698,588 pairs specific to composition
- 28,042 with only one relation
- 670,546 with multiple relations
- 669,026 consistent
- 1,520 inconsistent
- Inconsistent
- Conflicting relations
- Inaccurate conversion rules

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## Example of inconsistency

| Surface of brain \| bounds | Brain |
| :--- |
| Surface of brain \| bounds | Forebrain |

Forebrain | regional part of $\mid$ Brain
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { bounded by } \\ \text { bounds }\end{array}\right]$ EQ?

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## Advantages

- Supports consistency analysis of spatial relations
- Almost fully automatic
- Except for establishing the mapping between FMA and RCC relations
- Analysis requires domain knowledge


## Limitations

- Loss in expressiveness
- Different FMA relations are converted into the same RCC relation
(e.g., continuous with and adjacent to into EC)
- Interpretation
- Inconsistent is not necessarily wrong
- Consistent is not necessarily valid
- Granularity issues
- Issue with shared parts


## Shared part issue

| Esophagogastric junction $\mid$ regional part of $\mid$ Abdominal part of esophagus | TPP $\vee$ NTPP |
| :--- | :--- |
| Abdominal part of esophagus $\mid$ regional part of $\mid$ Esophagus | TPP $\vee$ NTPP |
| Esophagogastric junction $\mid$ part of $\mid$ Stomach |  |
| Stomach $\mid$ continuous with $\mid$ Esophagus | TPP NTPP |



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## Conclusions

- RCC relations
- Less expressive than FMA relations
- Enable reasoning
- Useful for detecting inconsistency
- Disjunctions can be reduced by comparing direct relations to composed relations
- Usage in FMA
- Detect potentially inconsistent representation
- Focus the effort of experts
- Refine conversion rules

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## Medical Ontology Research

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