Standardization of Anatomy Parts and Wholes – From Function to Location

#### Stefan Schulz

Department of Medical Informatics University Hospital Freiburg (Germany) Standardization of Biological Structure (Anatomy/Anatomies): Creating consensus about...

- Top-level Properties dimensionality, solid / hollow, boundary, count, mass, collection
- Foundational Relations is-a, instance-of, part-of, has-location, has-branch, has-developmental-form, descends-from, connects, bounds
- Theories

species, development, granularity, canonicity

cf. Schulz & Hahn, KR-MED 2004

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Part-Of in Anatomies: Consensus required about

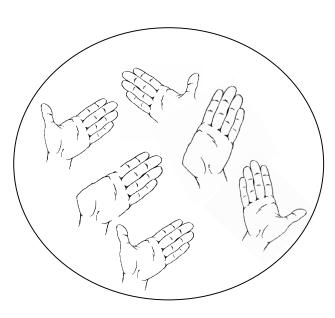
- Domain and range of part-of relations
- Algebraic properties of part-of relations
- Intended meaning of part-of relations in the domain of biology and medicine

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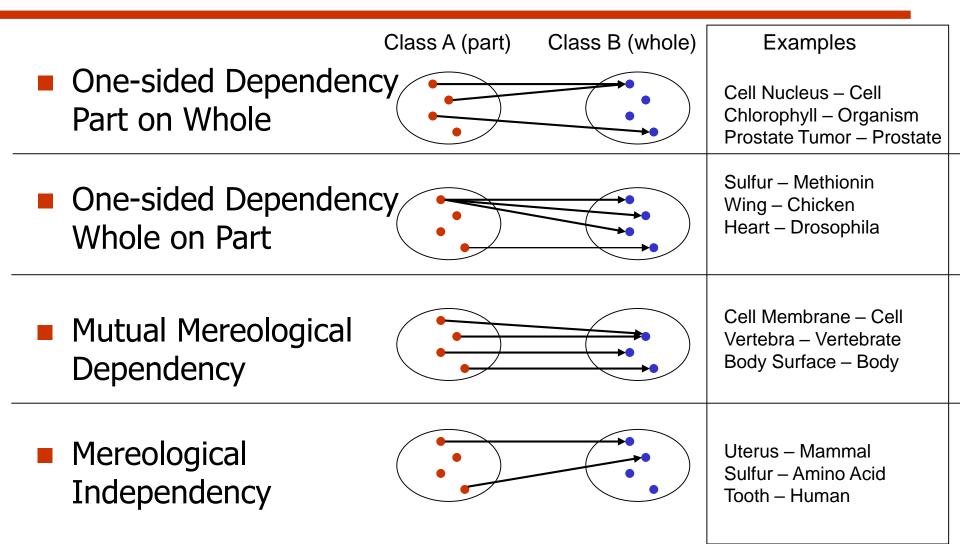
# Part-of between individuals and universals

Hungary part-of Europe myThumb part-of myHand

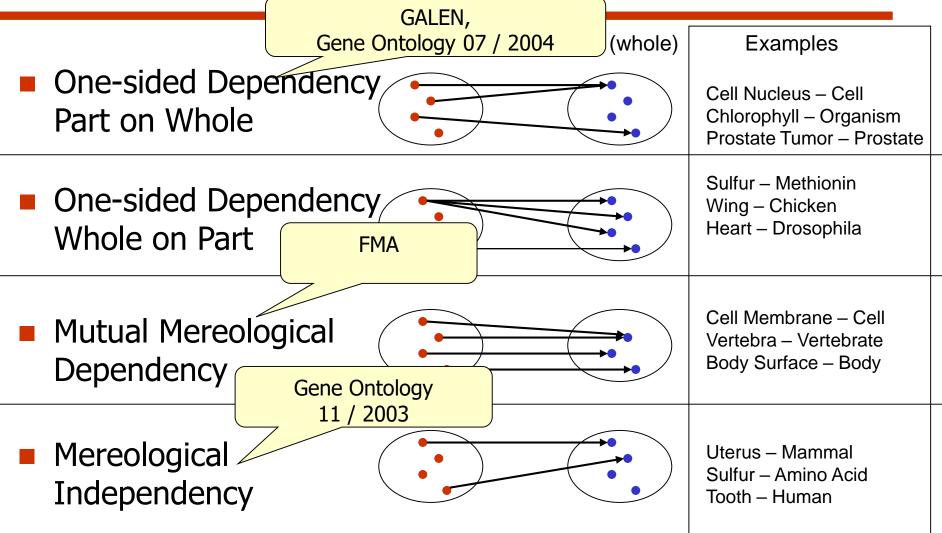


Thumb part-of Hand

# Class-level Part-Of : Different Interpretations



# Class-level Part-Of : Different Interpretations



# Class-level Part-Of : Different Interpretations, Different Names

■ Part-For (A, B) =  $_{def^*}$  $\forall x: inst-of(x, A) \rightarrow \exists y: inst-of(y, B) \land part-of(x, y)$ 

■ Has-Part (B, A) = 
$$_{def^*}$$
  
  $\forall y: inst-of(y, B) \rightarrow \exists x: inst-of(x, A) \land part-of(x, y)$ 

■  $Part-Of(A, B) = _{def^*} Part-For(A, B) \land Has-Part(B, A)$ 

■ Possible-Part (A, B) = def ∃x,y: inst-of (x, A) ∧ inst-of (y, B) ∧ part-of (x, y) \*cf. Smith & Rosse, MEDINFO 2004 Part-Of in Anatomies: Consensus required about

- Domain and range of part-of relations
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# Algebraic Properties: *Part-Of | Has-Part vs. part-of | has-part*

#### Instance level :

part-of (a, b), part-of (b, c)  $\rightarrow$  part-of (a, c)Transitivity ?part-of (a, b)  $\rightarrow \neg$  part-of (b, a)Asymmetrypart-of (a, b)  $\rightarrow a \neq b$ Irreflexivity ?part-of (a, b)  $\rightarrow$  has-part (b, a)Inverse Relation

#### Class level\*:

Part-For (A, B), Part-For (B, C)  $\rightarrow$  Part-For (A, C) Part-For (A, B)  $\rightarrow \neg$  Part-For (B, A) Part-For (A, B)  $\rightarrow \neg$  Is-A (A, B) ? Part-For (B, A) does not necessarily imply Has-Part (A, B) Possible-Part (B, A) implies Has-Possible-Part (A, B) (...) Part-Of in Anatomies: Consensus required about

- Domain and range of part-of relations
- Algebraic properties of part-of relations
- Intended meaning of part-of relations in the domain of biology and medicine

instance level

# Different notions of part-of

- Time-independent:
  - Compositional
  - Functional
  - Topological
- Time-dependent:
  - a part-of b at any point of time → a part-of b at every point of time
  - *a part-of b* at one point of time, *a NOT part-of b* at another point of time

instance level

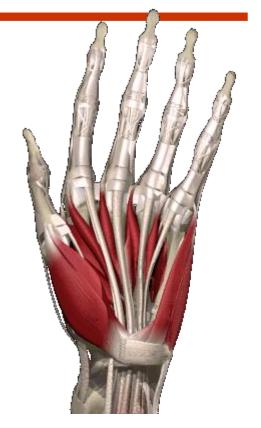
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# Parts as Components

Parts "build" the whole

part-of (Finger, Hand) part-of (Bone Marrow, Bone) part-of (Sodium Ion, Cytoplasm) ? part-of (Sarcomer, Muscle) part-of (Heart, Human Body)



"Intuitive" notion of part. Controversial

instance level

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# Parts as Functional Components

# Part contributes to the function of the whole

part-of (Finger, Hand) part-of (Lymph Node, Lymphatic System) part-of (Cell Nucleus, Cell) part-of (Tendon, Muscle ) part-of (Tooth, Jaw)



# More restricted, may conflict with notions of connection

instance level

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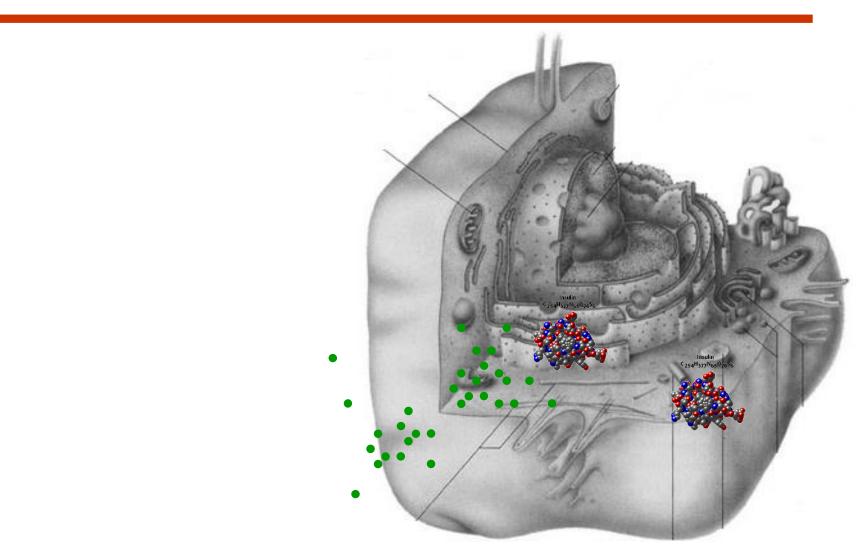
no clear distinction !

instance level

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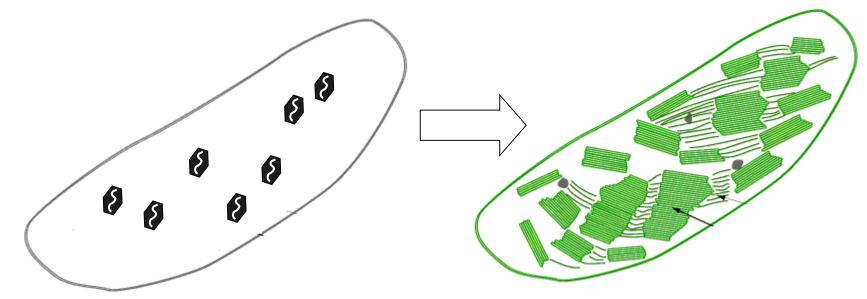
#### Continuous exchange of matter



### **Endosymbiont Hypothesis**

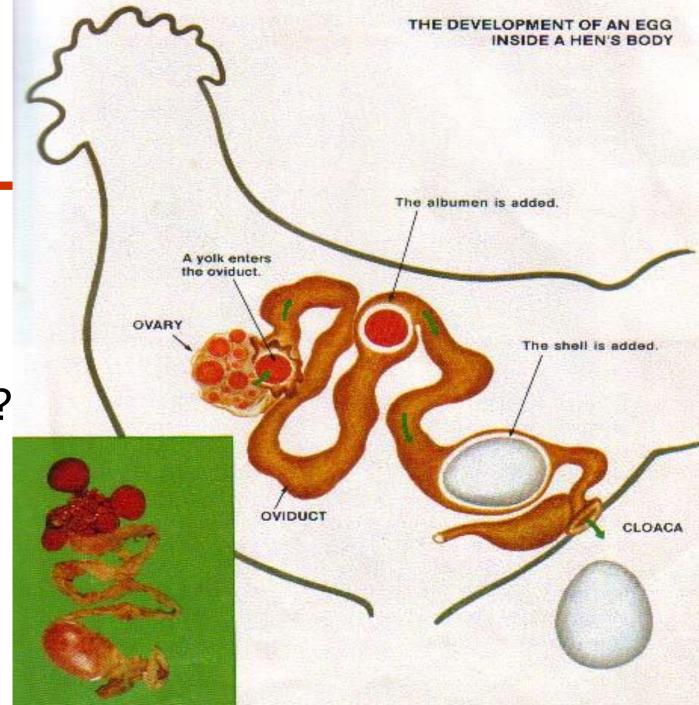
2.5 billion years ago:Primitive cell withbacterium-like symbionts

Today: Chloroplasts (Plants) Mitochondria



Are the organells part of the cell

Which eggs are part of the body ?



# **Topological parts**

# Located within the boundaries of an object

part-of (Mitochondrium, Cell) part-of (Brain, Head) part-of (Brain, Cranial Cavity) ? part-of (Ovum, Oviduct) ? part-of (Finger, Hand) part-of (Amount of Blood, Right Ventricle) ?

has-location instead of part-of?

# **Topological parts**

# Located within the boundaries of an object

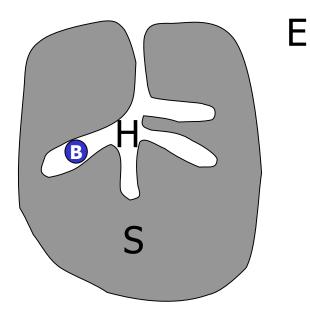
has-location (Mitochondrium, Cell)
has-location (Brain, Head)
has-location (Brain, Cranial Cavity)
has-location (Ovum, Oviduct)
has-location (Finger, Hand)

has-location (amount of Blood, Right Ventricle)

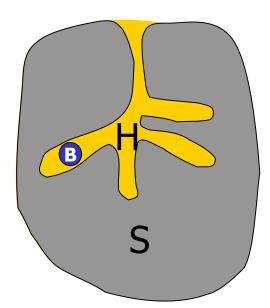
has-location as a mereotopological primitive ?

# **Topological parts**

#### How to deal with hollow spaces ?

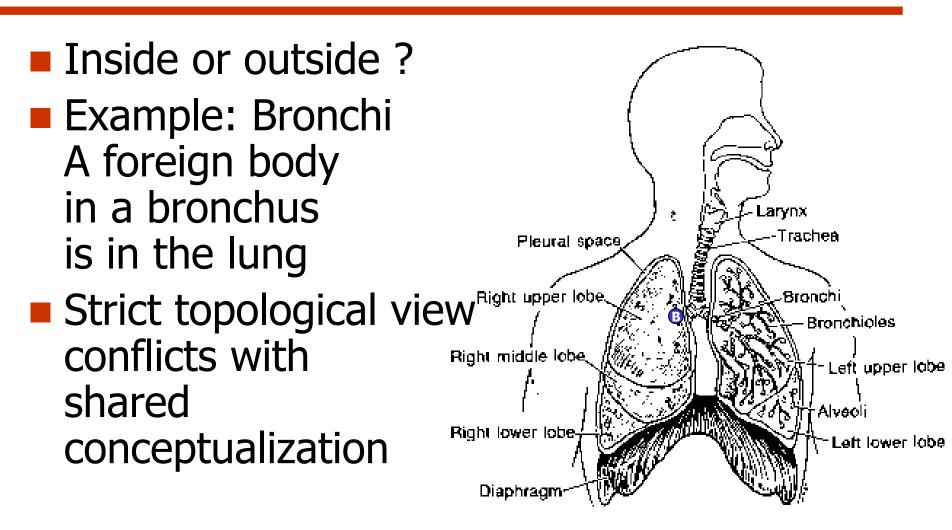


H is part of E, hence B is located outside of S



H is part of S, hence B is located inside of S

### Example

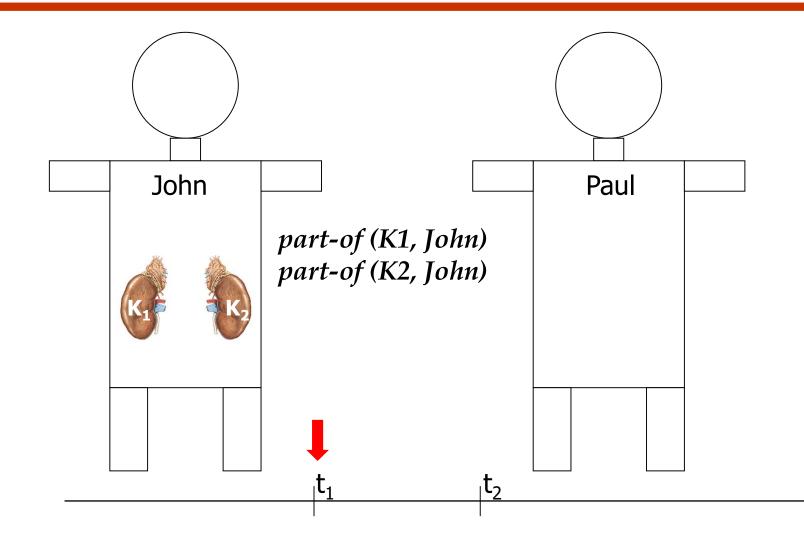


instance level

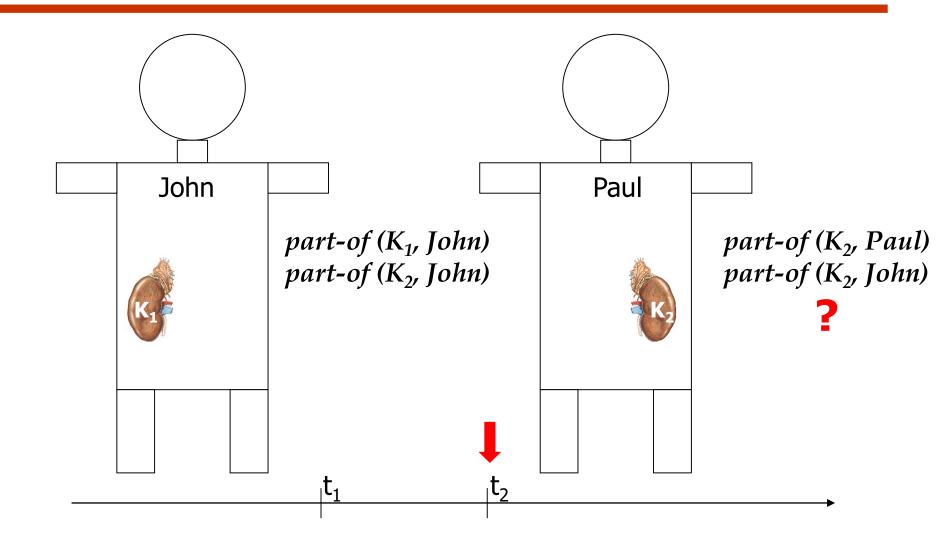
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#### **Example: Transplantation**

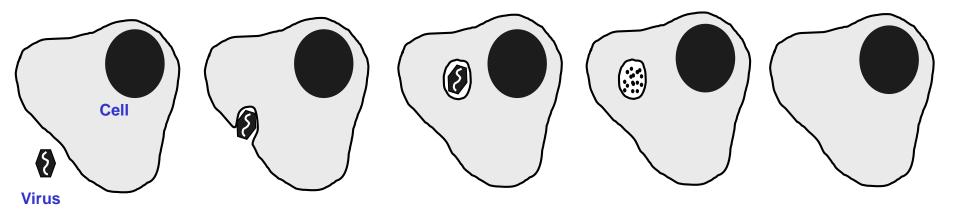


#### **Example: Transplantation**



### Phagocytosis / Digestion

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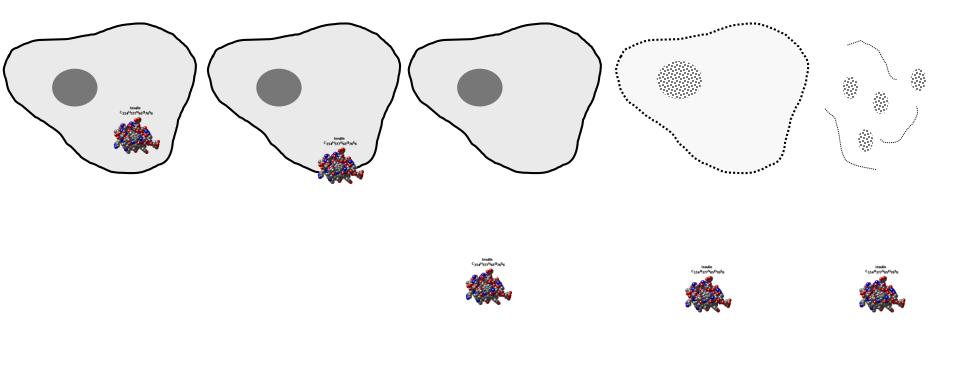


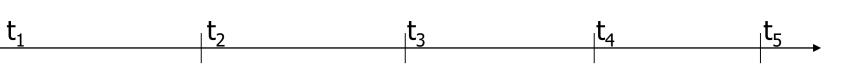
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#### Secretion





# Conclusion

- Part-of: example, how many different interpretations co-exist
- Standardization: need to eliminate ambiguity by precise characterization of foundational primitives (properties, relations)
- Solid theoretical basis is needed, e.g. mereotopology: Simons, Casati, Smith, Varzi,...