



## **Adjacency and Maps**

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## The OBO Relation Ontology

We now propose the first version of the OBO Relation Ontology:

Foundational relations: is a part of Spatial relations (connecting one entity to another in terms of relations between the spatial regions they occupy): located in contained in adjacent to Temporal relations (connecting entities existing at different times): transformation of derives from preceded by Participation relations (connecting processes to their bearers): has participant has agent

Barry Smith et al.: Relations in Biomedical Ontologies, forthcoming in Genome Biology



FIGURE 13-6. The dose volume histogram shows what volume (in cc or in percent to tal volume) receives a given dose of radiation. Three treatment delivery scenari os are considered for the patient shown in Figure 13-4: a collimated stereotacti c delivery method,61 conventional intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) a t 1.0 cm resolution, and high-resolution IMRT at 0.5 cm resolution. As was visua Ily apparent in Figures 13-4 and 13-5, IMRT can significantly reduce the dose to a critical structure, such as the brainstem adjacent to the target volume in th

A potentially aggressive variant of mesoblastic nephroma is identified by foci o f hemorrhage and necrosis, involvement of adjacent structures, and high cellular ity and mitotic index. It is associated with invasion of adjacent structures or organs, multiple recurrences, and metastases.152 This lesion probably represents an intermediate form between congenital mesoblastic nephroma and clear cell sar coma of the kidney in the spectrum of infantile renal mesenchymal tumors original ting from the premetanephric stromagenic stage of renal blastema.153 Transfer of prodrug-metabolizing genes may not require all the tumor cells to be transduced for benefit to be seen. One of the most puzzling features of the ori ginal thymidine kinase-retrovirus system was that it worked so well in many prec linical tumor models. Even when fewer than 10% of tumor cells were transduced, a anciclovir destroyed nearly 100% of the tumor cell population 61.63 This advanta ge over the tumor correction protocols described earlier appears due to a bysta

Language

### Adjacency

- Geography
  - Buffalo is adjacent to lake Erie



- Anatomy
  - My elbow is adjacent to my forearm



Alexandra Peak
is adjacent
to Margherita
Peak



Holborn station
is adjacent to
Covent Garden
station



 A (retrocecal) appendix can be adjacent to an ureter



 The tumor infiltrates adjacent lymph nodes



## "adjacent" (WordNet)

 adjacent, next, side by side (predicate) – nearest in space or position; immediately adjoining without intervening space;

"had adjacent rooms"; "in the next room"; "the person sitting next to me"; "our rooms were side by side"

2. abutting, adjacent, adjoining, conterminous, contiguous, neighboring (prenominal) – having a common boundary or edge; touching; "abutting lots"; "adjoining rooms"; "Rhode Island has two bordering states; Massachusetts and Conncecticut"; "the side of Germany conterminous with France"; "Utah and the contiguous state of Idaho"; "neighboring cities"

#### 3. adjacent

near or close to but not necessarily touching; "lands adjacent to the mountains"; "New York and adjacent cities"

# Adjacency in (Mereo)Topology

- External Connection, Touching, Abutting
- Dependent on notions of *space* and *boundary*
- sharing of boundaries with no sharing of common (nonboundary) parts (Smith)
- Connected without overlap (RCC):  $\forall x \forall y: (EC(x,y) \leftrightarrow (C(x,y) \land \neg O(x,y)))$   $\forall x \forall y: (O(x,y) \leftrightarrow (\exists z (P(z,x) \land P(z,y))))$  $\forall x \forall y: (P(x,y) \leftrightarrow (\forall z (C(z,x) \rightarrow C(z,y))))$

Connection relation (*C*) as topological primitive

- (applied to the structure of space, rather than to objects located in space)
- Inclusion of boundaries requires distinction between variants of C to maintain consistency (Cohn, Varzi)

#### Adjacency in Medicine : Case Study

#### Case study: Medical Textbooks (Books@Ovid collection) 107 M tokens, 8000 matches of adjacen\*



#### Domains:

#### Gross Anatomy:

*"middle cerebellar peduncle adjacent to the fourth ventricle"* 

#### Pathologic Anatomy:

"Osteosarcoma characteristically involves the long tubular bones, especially adjacent to the knee joint"



#### Molecular biology:

Methylation of cytosine residues in genomic DNA is quite common and usually occurs at cytosine residues adjacent to guanosine (CpG sites).

#### Medical Imaging:

"A lateral chest radiograph demonstrating an approximately 2-cm rounded opacity adjacent to the right hemidiaphragm"

#### Surgical Technique:

*"The edges of the flap are usually irregular and fit together with adjacent wound edges, like a jigsaw puzzle"* 







## *"middle cerebellar peduncle adjacent to the fourth ventricle"*



"...spread of paresthesias to the opposite side of adjacent body regions"



"...specific receptors for GABA in the postsynaptic membranes adjacent to presynaptic terminals"



"Retrocaecal appendicitis often causes microscopic haematuria from inflammation of the adjacent ureter"





"Esophageal carcinoma is notorious for its aggressive biologic behavior. It tends to infiltrate locally, involving adjacent lymph nodes."





"The alveolar walls contain thin collagen strands that interconnect adjacent alveoli by weaving between capillary segments."



Sharing a boundary between a solid and a cavity	Not sharing a physical boundary, but possibly touching	
Sharing a boundary or a gradual transition	Not touching but functionally connected	
Close, but not touching	Sharing physical parts	

#### **Problem Statement**

Is Adjacency a foundational relation (inferable from reality, without commitment to a mental abstraction) ?



### Maps

- A spatial entity *a* representing another spatial entity *b* (*Dim*(*a*) ≤ *Dim*(*b*)) (Casati, Varzi)
- Maps are projections from reality to a granular partition (Bittner, Smith)
- (Formal) Maps consist of regions and predications on regions (using colors, labels, conventional signs), e.g.



## Types of Maps

- Image (by photography, radiography etc.):
  - Format: raster
  - Granularity: depends on imaging technique
  - Scale: defined

#### Image Map



## Types of Maps

- Image (by photography, radiography etc.):
  - Format: raster
  - Granularity: depends on imaging technique
  - Scale: defined
- Scaled map (manual, digital):
  - Format: raster or vector
  - Granularity : variable, depends on purpose
  - Scale: defined

#### **Scaled Maps**





## **Types of Maps**

- Image (by photography, radiography etc.):
  - Format: raster
  - Granularity: depends on imaging technique
  - Scale: defined
- Scaled map (manual, digital):
  - Format: raster or vector
  - Granularity : variable, depends on purpose
  - Scale: defined
- Schematic map:
  - Format: vector, graph-like
  - Granularity : selective
  - Scale: highly distorted

#### **Schematic Maps**



## Types of Maps

- Image (by photography, radiography etc.):
  - Format: raster
  - Granularity: depends on imaging technique
  - Scale: defined
- Scaled map (manual, digital):
  - Format: raster or vector
  - Granularity : variable, depends on purpose
  - Scale: defined
- Schematic map:
  - Format: vector, graph-like
  - Granularity : selective
  - Scale: highly distorted
- Mental map:
  - Format: memory / cogniton
  - Granularity : selective, foussed
  - Scale: implicit

#### "Mental" Maps



#### **Formal Semantics for Maps**

Region R, Interpretation function f

Formal map *m* has model  $M = \langle R, f \rangle$ 

For each map region  $m_i$ ,  $f(m_i)$  is a world / body region in R.

For any pair  $m_i$ ,  $m_j$ :

- (i)  $P(m_i, m_j)$  iff  $P(f(m_i), f(m_j))$
- (*ii*)  $C(m_i, m_j)$  iff  $C(f(m_i), f(m_j))$

Varzi & Casati: Parts and Places

Extending to RCC relations:

(*iii*)  $O(m_i, m_j)$  iff  $O(f(m_i), f(m_j))$ (*iv*)  $EC(m_i, m_j)$  iff  $EC(f(m_i), f(m_j))$ 

#### Formal Semantic for Maps

- Conclusion (interpreting adjacency as external connection):
  - Entities which are adjacent in reality are also adjacent on maps (and vice versa)
  - Entities which overlap in reality also overlap on maps (and vice versa)

#### Does this always hold true ?

#### Adjacency in Geo Map

- Is St. Pancras Station adjacent to British Library?
- Is St. Pancras Station adjacent to Euston Station?





#### Adjacency in Body Map

Is the kidney adjacent to the liver?

map1 (high resolution)



**Right** lobe Inferior Right of liver kidney vena cava

map2 (image, low resolution)

### Adjacency in Body Map

Is the kidney adjacent to the liver?

map1 (high resolution)

map2 (image, low resolution)



#### Overlap in Reality, Adjacency in Map

map1 (high resolution)

map2 (schematic)



Adjacency and Maps: Main Argument

Two spatially relevant objects are adjacent, when their representations on a map are externally connected (on raster or vector maps) or are neighboring nodes (on graph-like schematic maps)

Reality	Мар	Мар	Reality
		Not sharing a physical boundary, but possibly touching	
	Sharing a boundary or a gradual transition	Not touching but functionally connected	
	Close, but not touching	Sharing physical parts	







#### Conclusion

- The notion of adjacency in geo an biosciences goes beyond the topological external connection
- It includes external connection and neighborhood on maps which have no exact correlate in reality
- Maps are artifacts or concepts produced and used by cognition
- Hence, adjacency cannot be ascribed the status of a foundational relation in most cases