



# Materials data documentation: how to improve interoperability in a complex field of many perspectives

*FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR MATERIALS R&D DATA,  
Nano Korea 2022*

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*Emanuele Ghedini, University of Bologna (Italy)*

# Projects and Initiatives involved



The European  
Materials Modelling Council



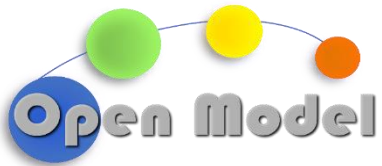
*Ontology Ecosystem*



*Open Translation Environment*



*Harmonisation of characterization protocols*



*Material Modelling  
Innovation Platform*



*Open Simulation  
Platform*



*Materials Modelling Marketplaces*



*Industrial Data Marketplace*

# Challenges and industrial requirements



# Requirement for materials, process and product

Industry requires

“unique way of representing materials, processing and the according devices”

- Deeper understanding
- Precise manipulation of respective influences



Faster Development and Innovation Cycles



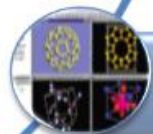
Underpinning Digitalisation



Enhanced Collaboration



Insights, improved decisions, reduced risk of failure

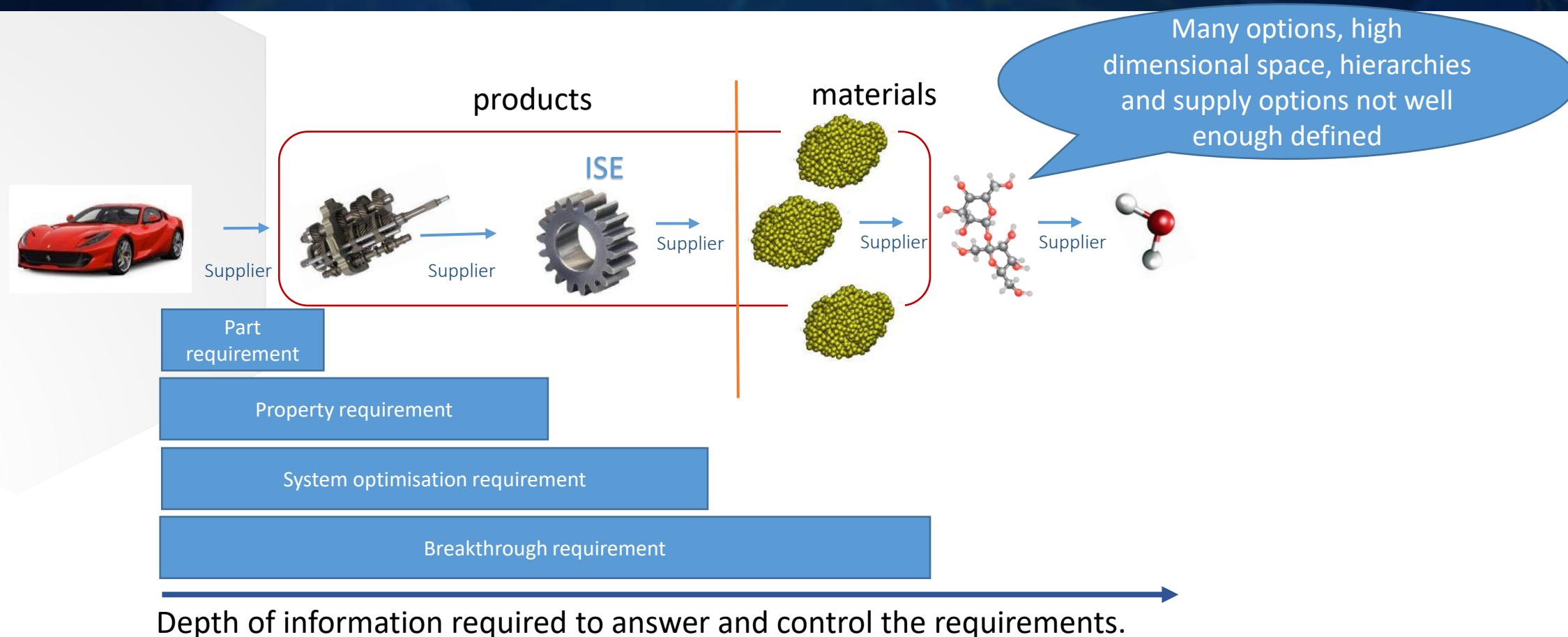


Predictive Science: data, smarter experimentation

**Requires rich materials knowledge capture as well as data interoperability**



# Knowledge based materials integrate depth of design, sustainability and support breakthroughs

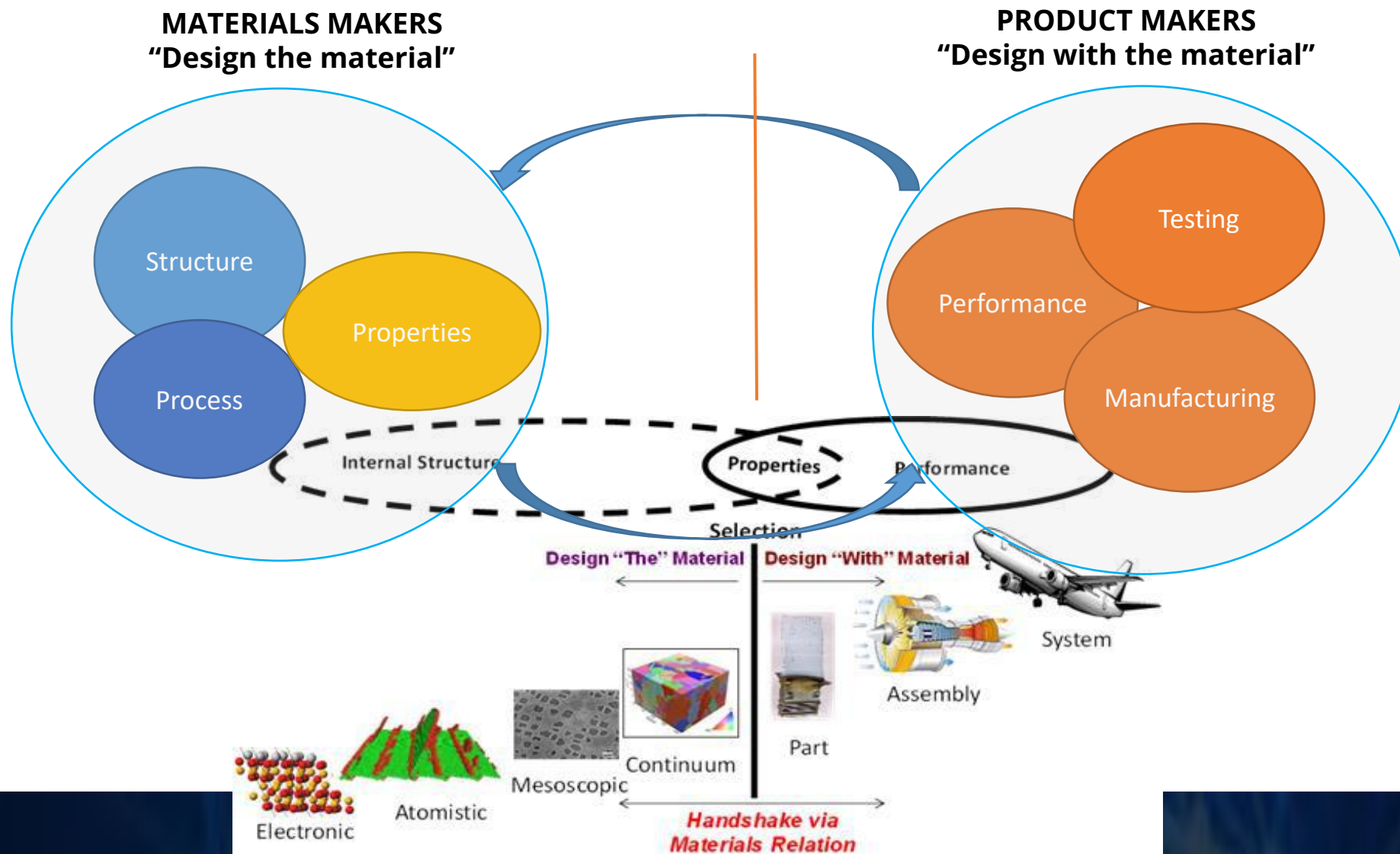


**Move to more complex requirements (and controlling the related risks!) requires deeper, shared data model**



# Materials vs Products development

## *Pluralism challenge: coexistence of different views*





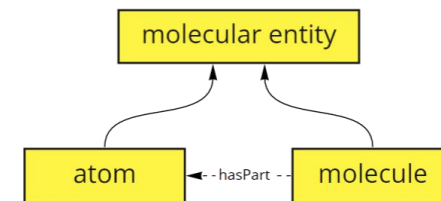
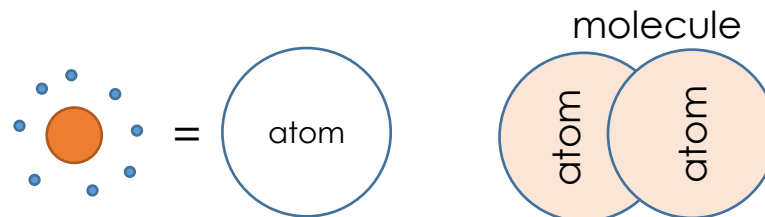


# Plurasim challenges, e.g. Chemistry vs Physics

## IUPAC Definitions (Chemistry)

An Atom is a nucleus of Z positive charge and Z electrons

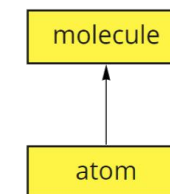
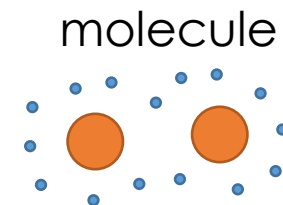
**A Molecule is an electrically neutral entity consisting of more than one atom**



## Chemical-Physics Definitions

**A Molecule is an electrically neutral entity consisting of nuclei and electrons**

***NB: no atom involved here: atom is a singular type of molecule***



Chemistry and Chemical-Physics are two different approaches that lead to a **different definitions of atoms and molecules** and hence different parthood relations between their concepts.



# Pluralism: Product definition in ISO standards

## ISO 9000

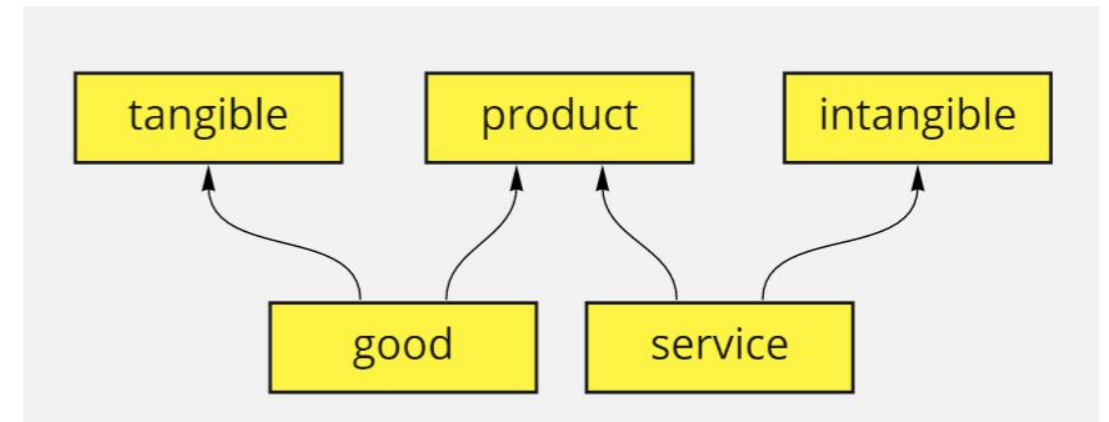
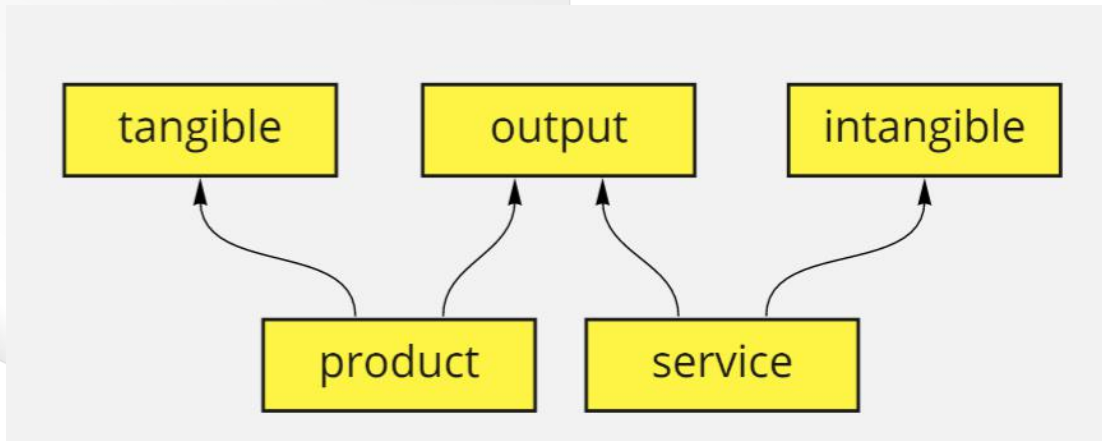
Quality management systems

*Process perspective*

*Role perspective*

## ISO 14040

Environmental management — Life cycle assessment

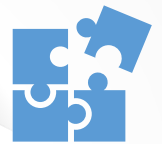


The definitions of **product** in ISO 9000 and ISO 14040 **are somewhat incompatible**, and for an ontology embracing one ISO means that the other ISO will be no more representable.

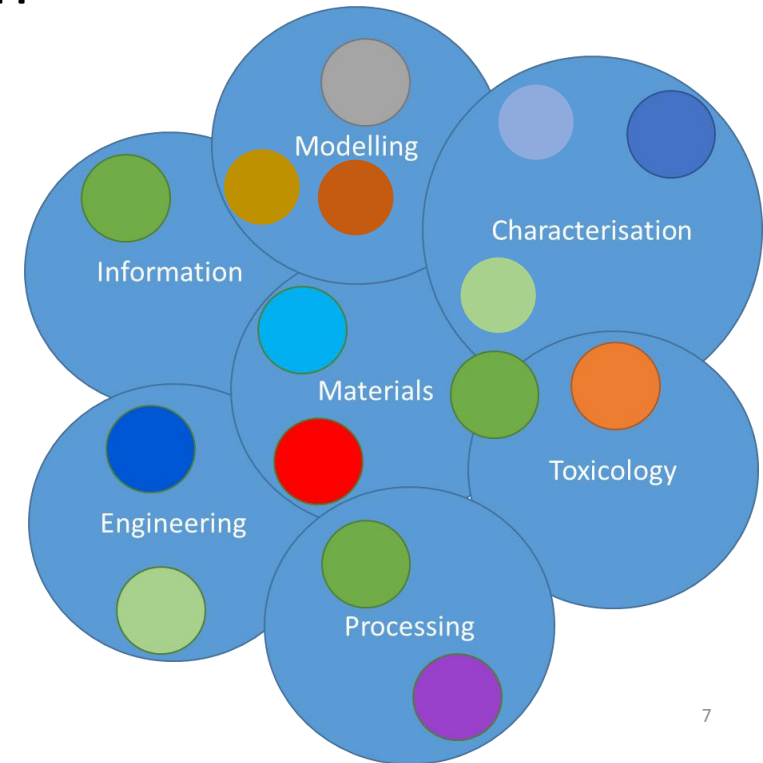




# Challenge and Status Quo



- Materials and product development draws on
  - Multiple expertise in multiple (sub-) domains
  - Multiple information and data resources
- Each domain has its own language and ways of handling data
- Lack of a common representation system

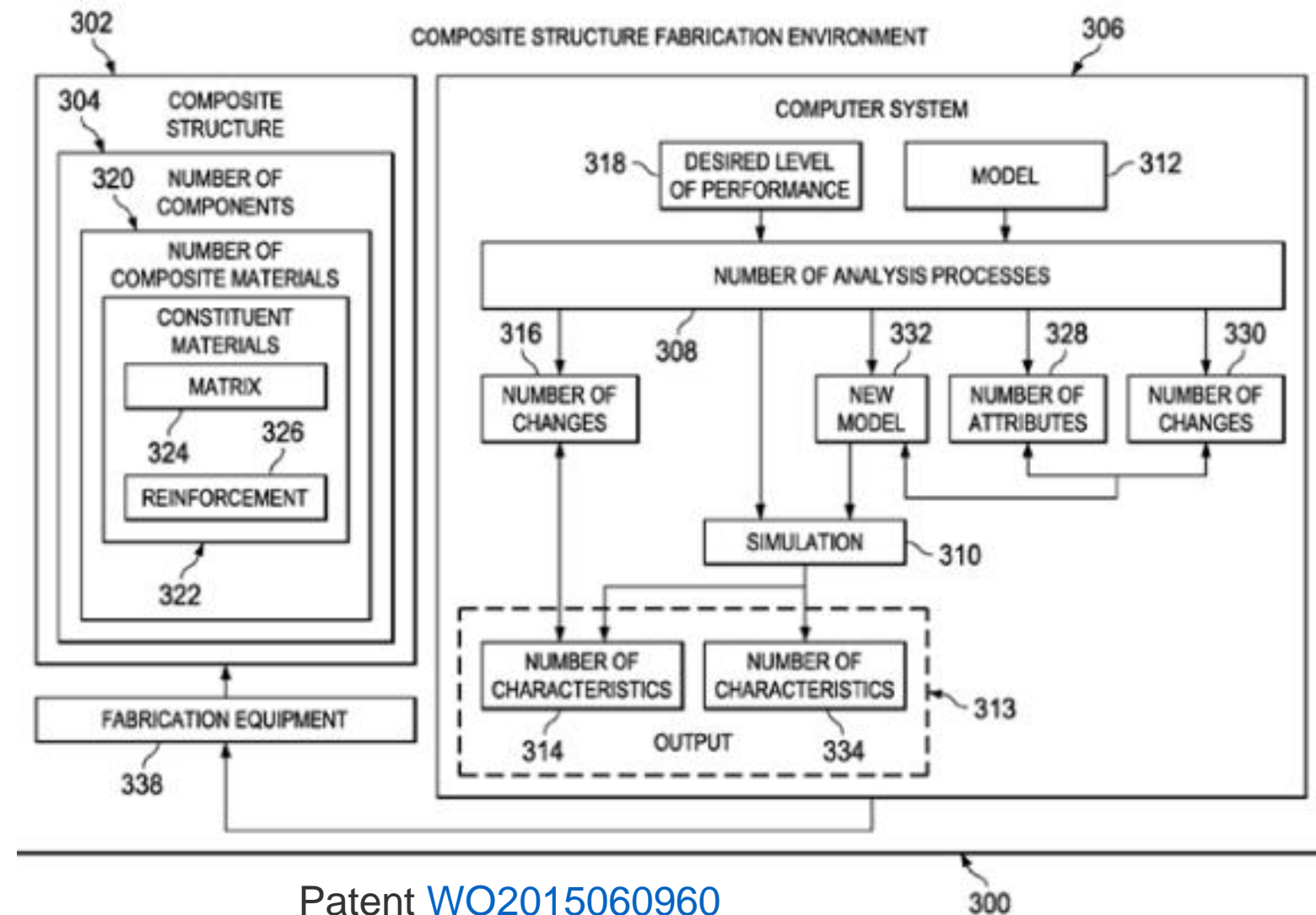


**Need to organise data by materials science foundational principles!**  
**Need to recognise the plurality of perspectives!**

# Overcoming the challenges

# Boeing patent: Product Chemical Profile System (2014)

- A system that is able to pull together and **query all levels of information about a product down to the chemistry level**
- “A **product-to-chemical continuum** is generated .... to traverse the product-to-chemical continuum through the callout-context pathway segments that **span the plurality of levels.**”



<https://materialsmodelling.com/boeing-is-moving-ahead-with-integrating-chemistry-and-materials-modelling-into-the-product-life-cycle/>

Patent [WO2015060960](https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2015060960)

# Example Knowledge Graphs – Siemens Technology drives innovation from world-class research to company-wide adoption



## Milestones



Google Knowledge Graph announced



Breakthrough: ML on graphs



Startups & big players entering KG market



Gartner add KGs to hype cycle



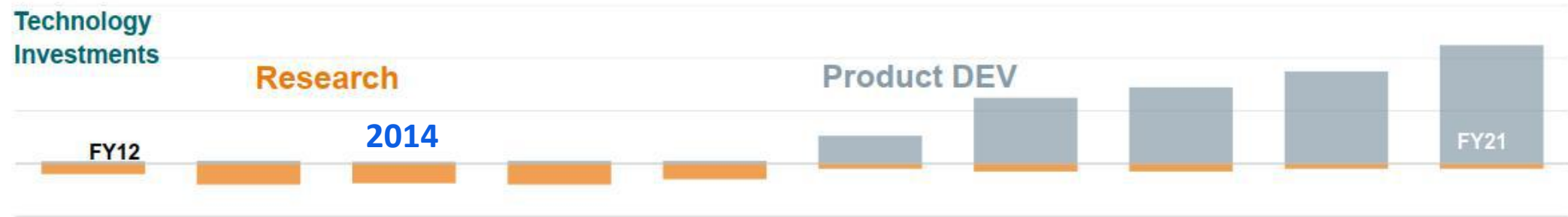
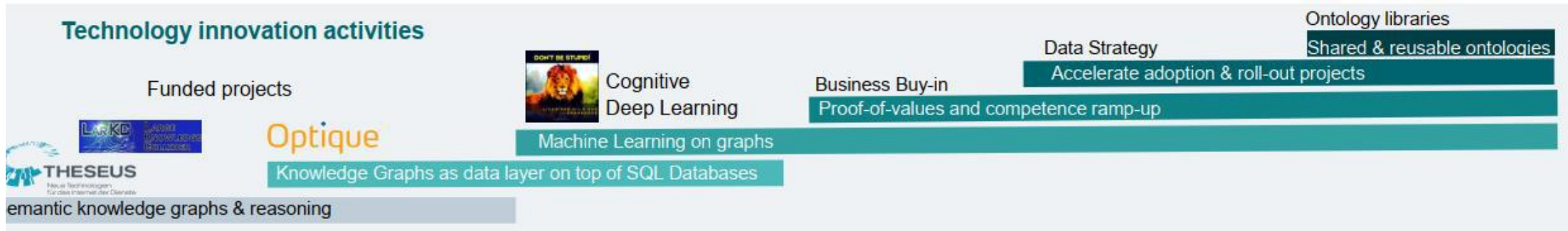
Mindsphere SDI adding graph support



> 30 KG projects,  
> 10 productive use  
> 6 CCTs



Shared ontologies

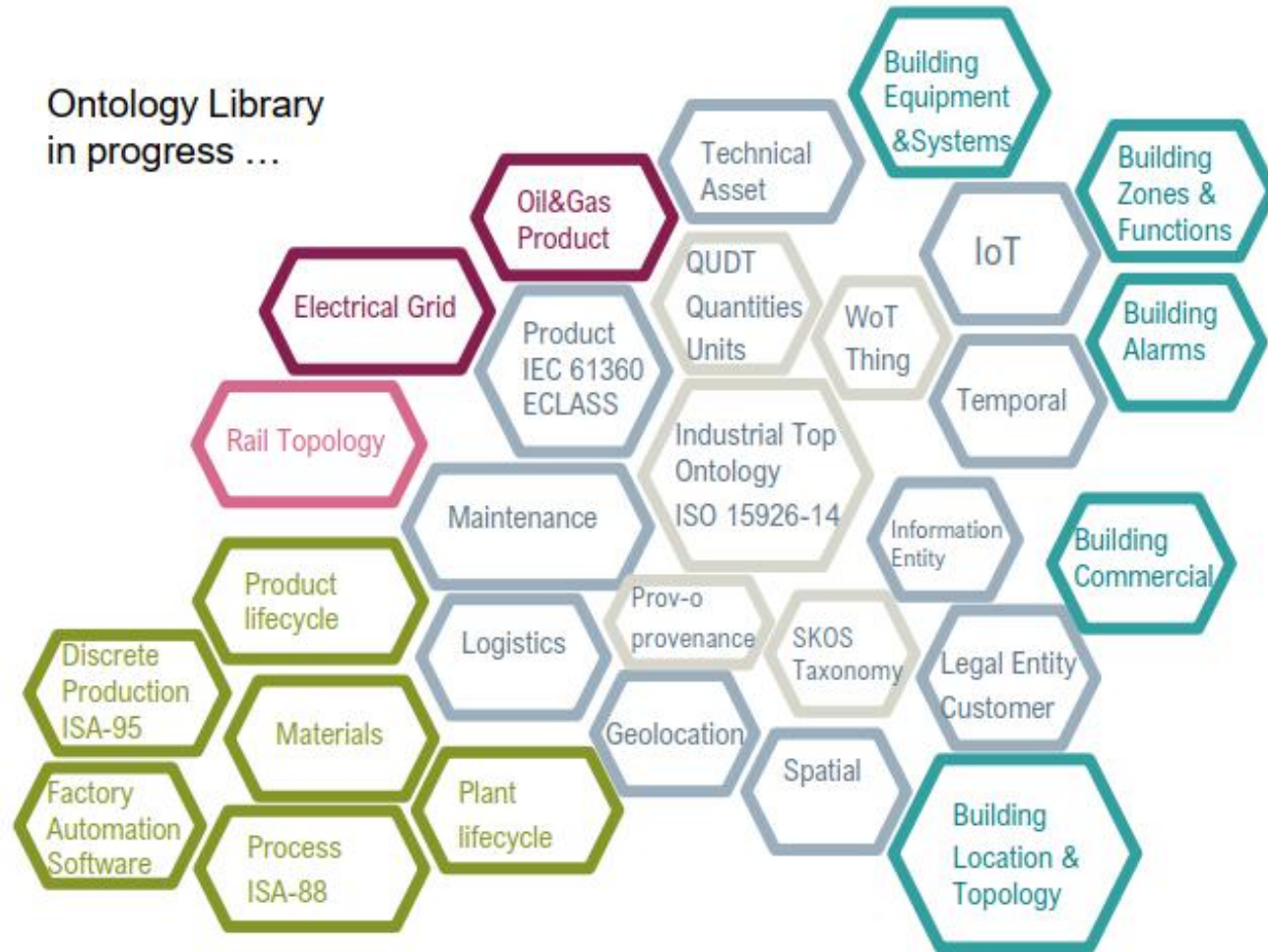








Unrestricted © Siemens 2021



# Ongoing Initiative: Shared Ontology Guidelines, Upper-Ontology and Siemens-wide Ontology Publication Platform

Ontology Library  
in progress ...



	Industry Standard	A growing core ensures model quality and interoperability!!!
	Siemens Core	
	Building	
	Energy	
	Rail	
	Production	

# Harmonised data documentation through ontologies

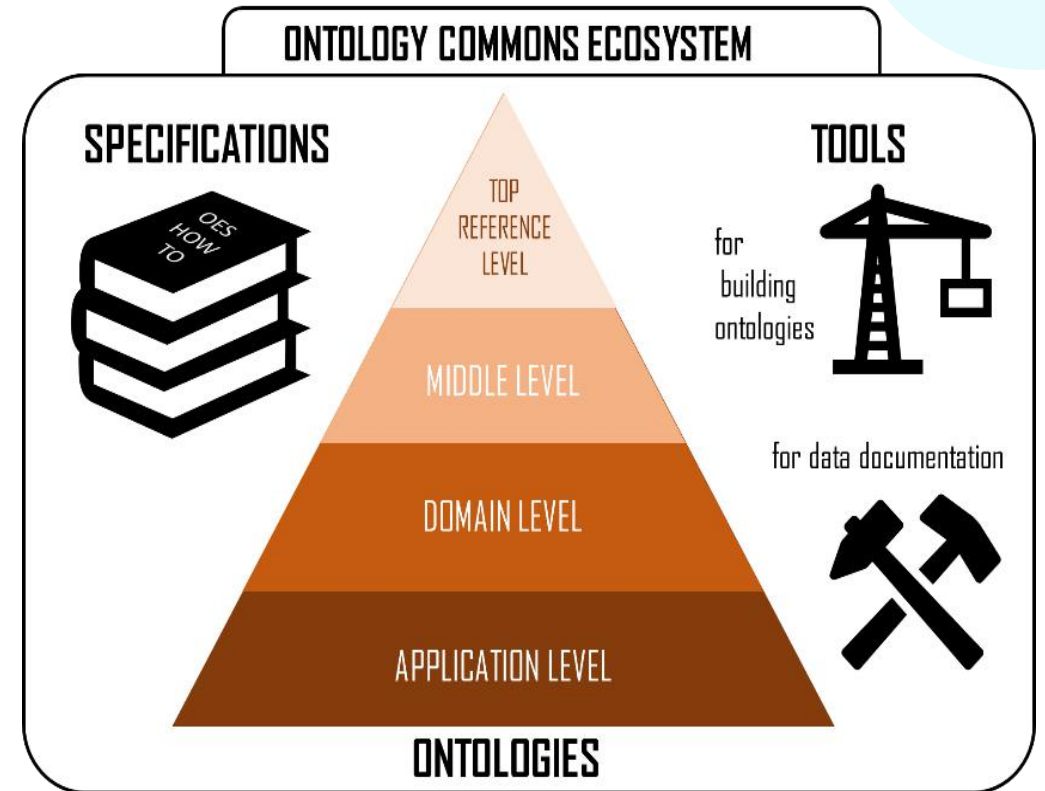
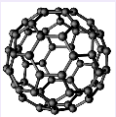
## Cooperation with existing initiatives

## Ontology Commons EcoSystem

- Foundation for data documentation
- Requirements and specifications
- Set of ontologies as a part of the EcoSystem
- EcoSystem tools

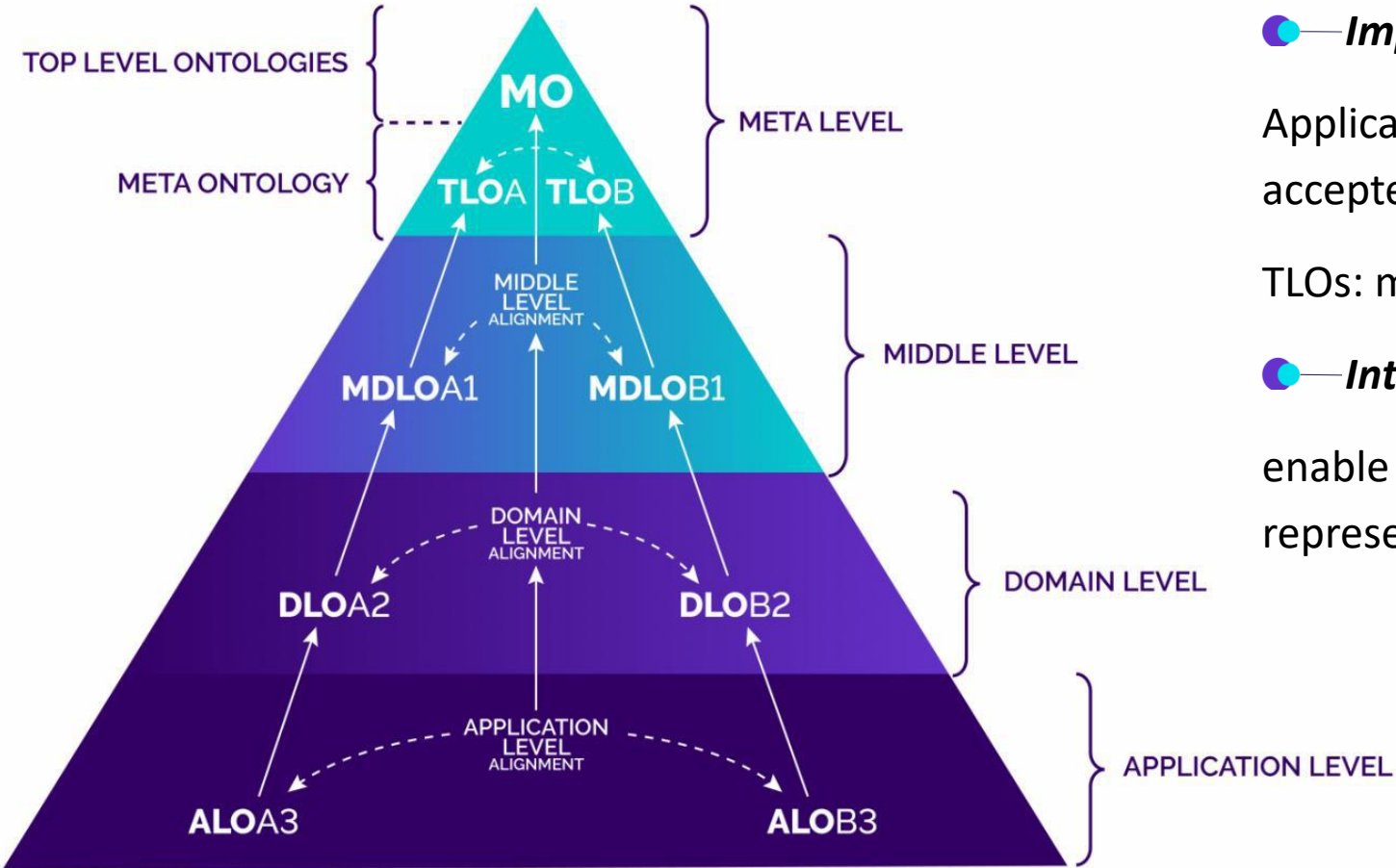
## Demonstrators

- Materials and Manufacturing applications





# Interoperability in OntoCommons



**Improve vertical alignment:**

Application and Domain ontologies based on widely accepted TLO/MLOs

TLOs: mainly *BFO, DOLCE, EMMO*

**Inter-ontology interoperability:**

enable data sharing between different semantic representations of data from different TLOs

# OntoCommons Stakeholders

Manufacturing



Aerospace  
 Automotive  
 Electronics  
 Energy  
 Personal Goods  
 Parts manufacturing and supply

**DOMAIN EXPERT**  
 THEORETICAL SCIENTIST  
 DOMAIN SUBJECT EXPERT

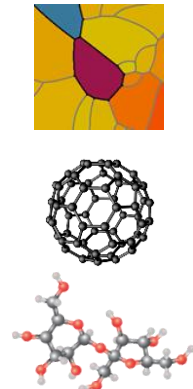
**ONTOLOGIST**  
 PHILOSOPHER  
 LOGICIAN  
 SEMANTIC WEB EXPERT

**IMPLEMENTER**  
 ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT  
 EXPERT  
 REASONING EXPERT  
 GRAPH DATABASE PROVIDER  
 INTEROPERABILITY SPECIALIST

**INDUSTRIAL  
 STAKEHOLDER**  
 MANUFACTURER  
 DATA PROVIDER  
 INDUSTRIAL RESEARCHER  
 BUSINESS DEVELOPER

**BUSINESS ECOSYSTEMS  
 STAKEHOLDER**  
 CROSS-DOMAIN DEVELOPER  
 CROSS-DOMAIN ENTREPRENEUR  
 CROSS-DOMAIN INVESTOR

Materials



Materials suppliers  
 Chemicals

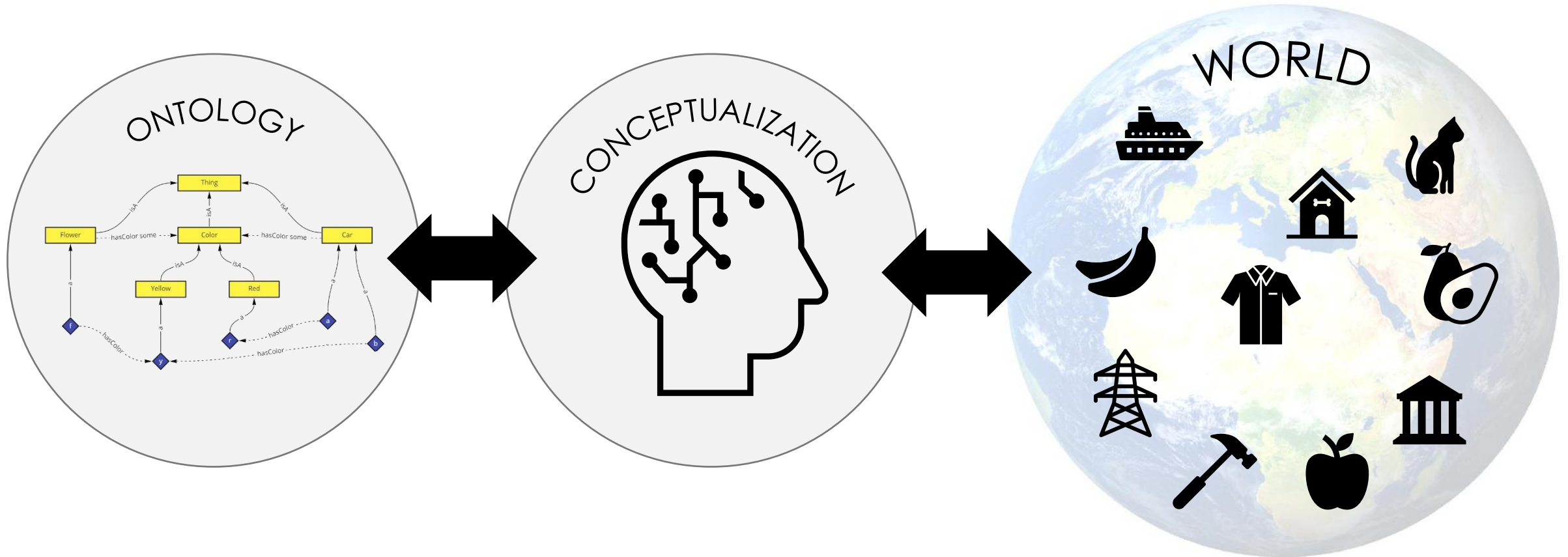


Standardisation

<https://ontocommons.eu/ontocommons-demonstrators>



# A NEW LANGUAGE TO TALK TO MACHINES

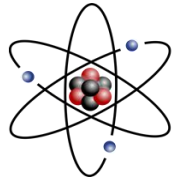


**Physics** uses **Quantities** (numbers) to model the world

**Ontologies** use **Concepts** to build a **(onto)-logical representation** of the world



# Universal language



PHYSICS

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\Psi(t)\rangle$$

MATH

**Math** has been the key for the highest achievements in **Physics**

(e.g. Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, Schrodinger, Standard Model)

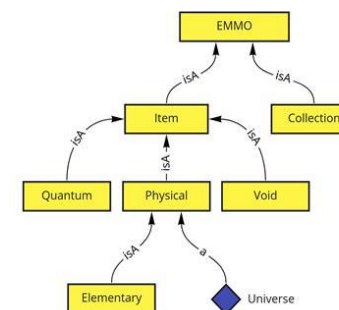
**Ontologies** can be the key for a quantum leap in **Industry**

(e.g. pervasive digitalization, knowledge sharing, Industry 4.0 to 5.0)

- **document data**
- **infer new knowledge** (e.g. resoners)
- **support AI** (e.g. ontology assisted AI)



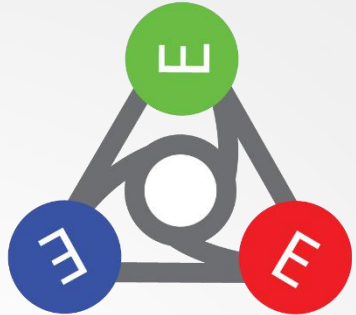
INDUSTRY



ONTOLOGY



# EMMO ontology



## Elementary Multiperspective Material Ontology

A knowledge management framework for applied sciences and engineering

<https://github.com/emmo-repo/>

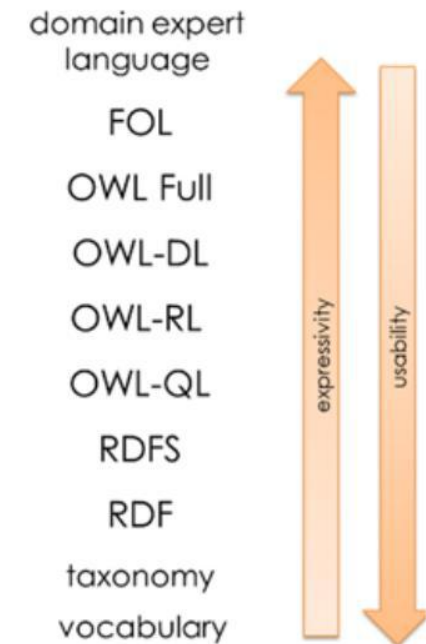
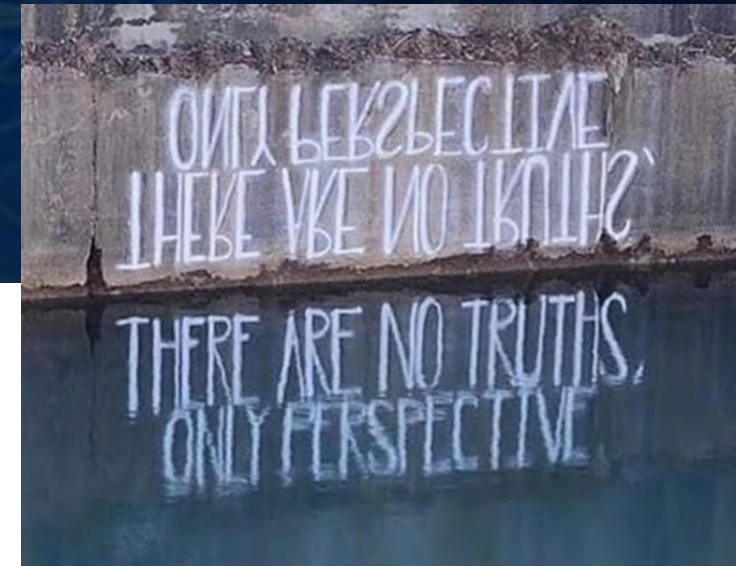
- Based on fundamental science principles well known and agreed by applied science community
- Integrates data science (W3C) and pure logics/philosophy
- Pluralism: embrace a diversity of views in a single framework
- Materialist: no abstract concepts: everything we know is based on some observation
- Mereocausality: well defined relations between entities
- Semiosis: 'signs' communicate meaning (e.g. model stands for real object)
- Able to represent quantum to engineering systems





# EMMO Approach

- **Project** existing and new knowledge onto data
  - Facilitates capturing expert **knowledge, not just data**
- No absolute definitions of the ontological nature of objects excepts for the Universe and the single indivisible quantum elements
- Scalable approach to knowledge representation



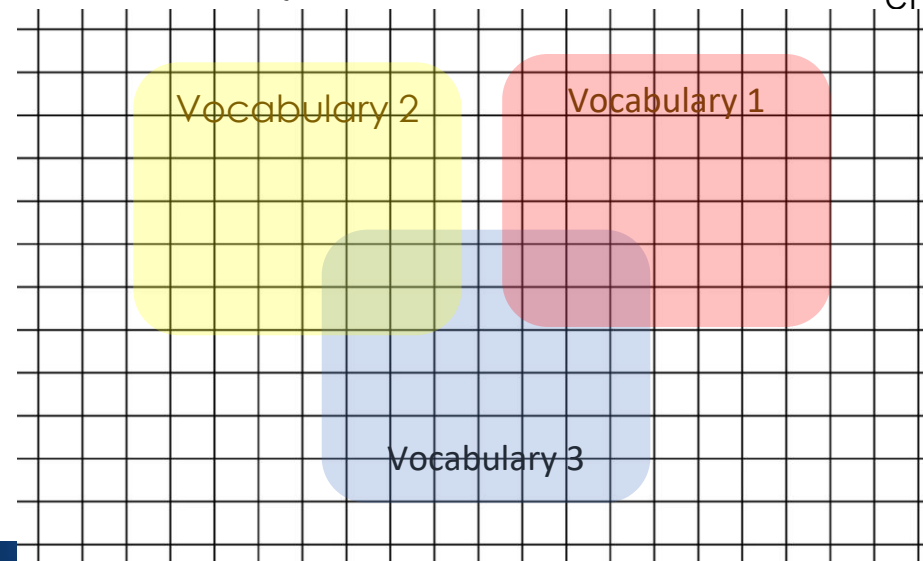
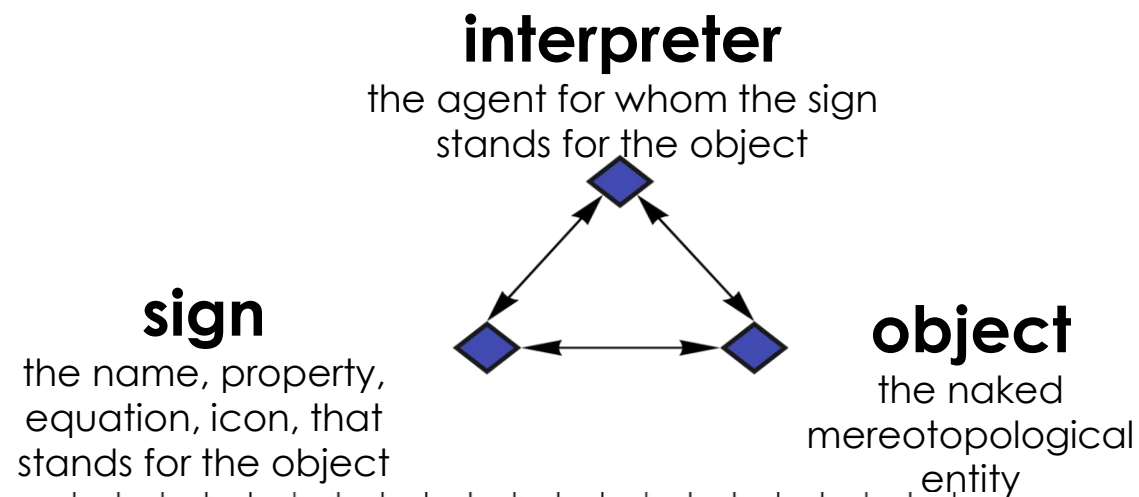


# EMMO PLURALISM

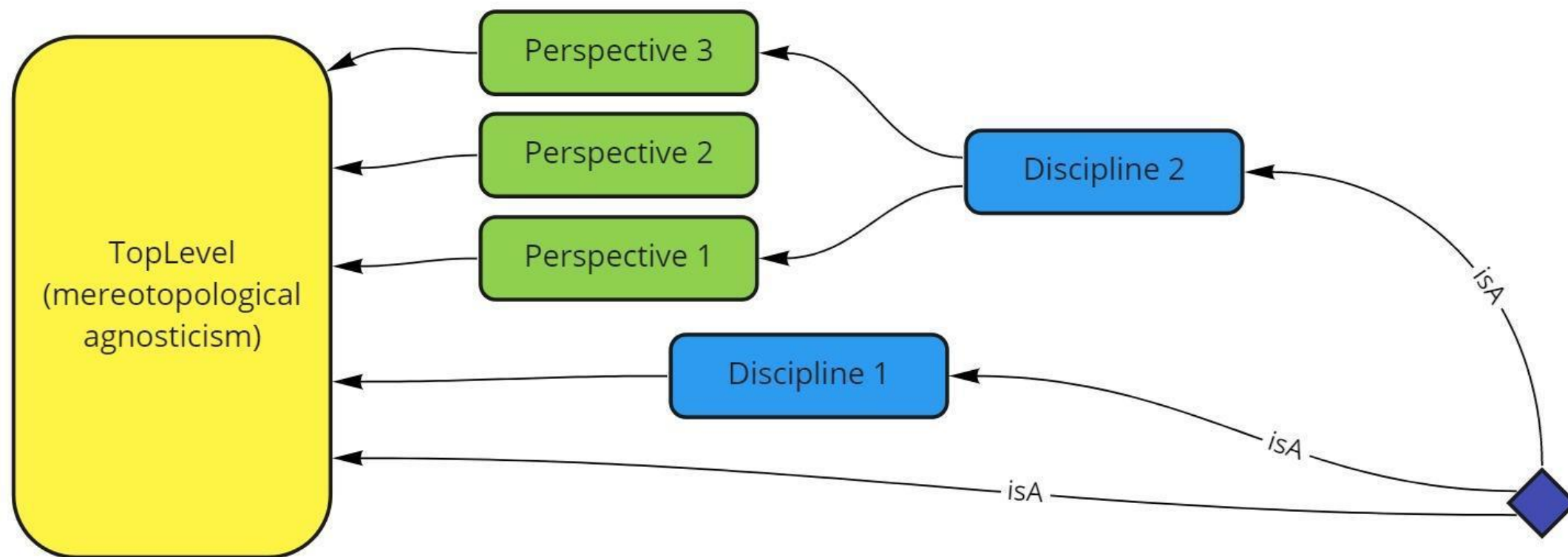


**Semiotic** approach to knowledge representation  
**(in-ontology pluralism)**

**Perspectives in EMMO**  
**(outside ontology pluralism)**



General Perspective Concepts  
(ontological pluralism -> MLO, covering axioms)



Mereotopology  
(parthood, causality)

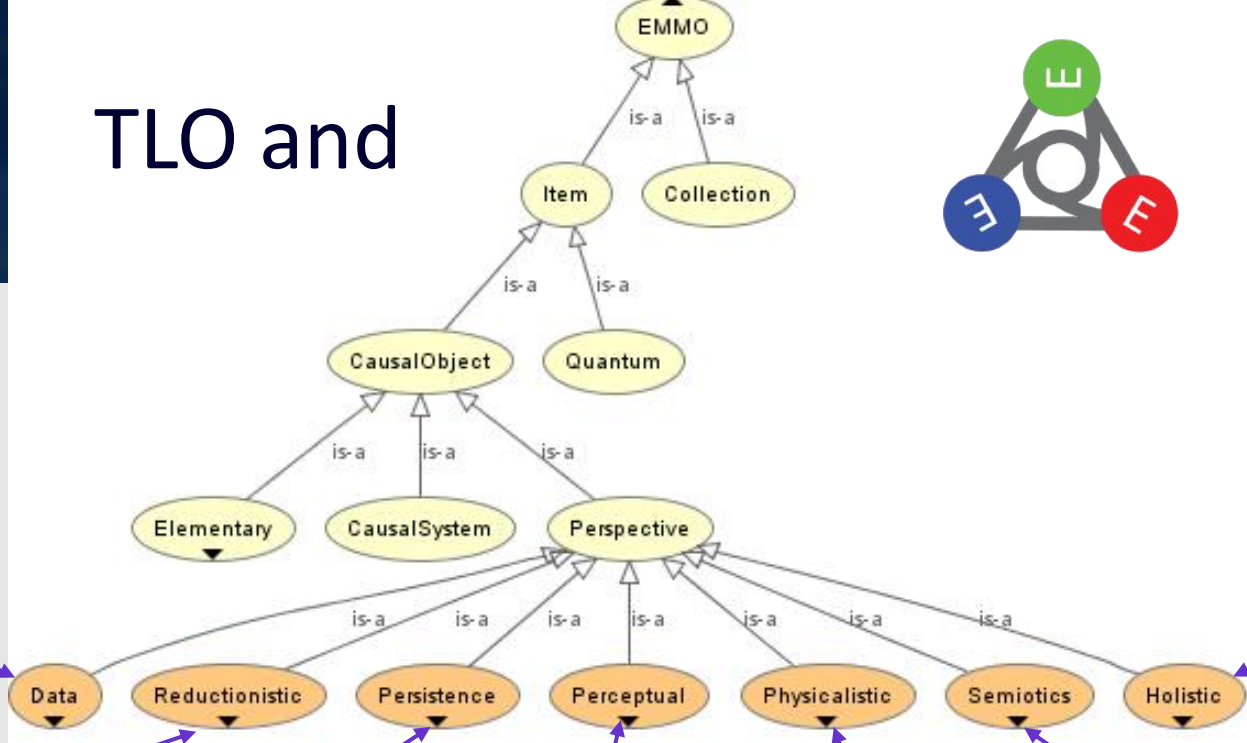
Practical Disciplines  
(domain and application pluralism -> DLO, no covering axioms)



# EMMO

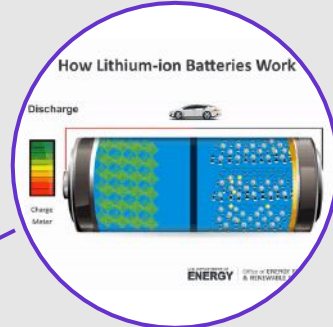
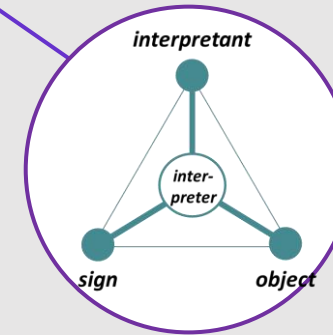
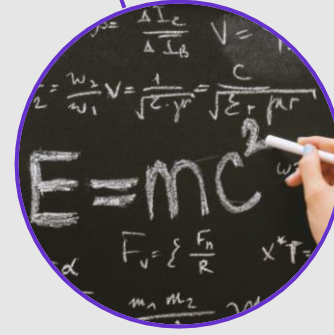
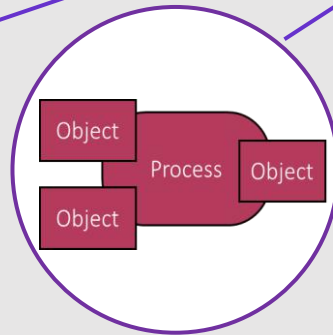
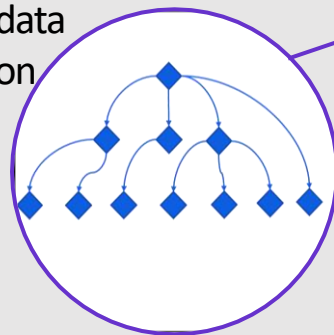
# TLO and

# Perspectives



## Data

- Contrasts
- Encoded data
- Information



## Holistic

- Whole
- Parts (roles)

## Reductionistic

- Direct parthood
- Countability
- Ordering

## Persistence

- Process
- Objects

## Perceptual

- Audio
- Visual
- Olfactory etc

## Physicalistic

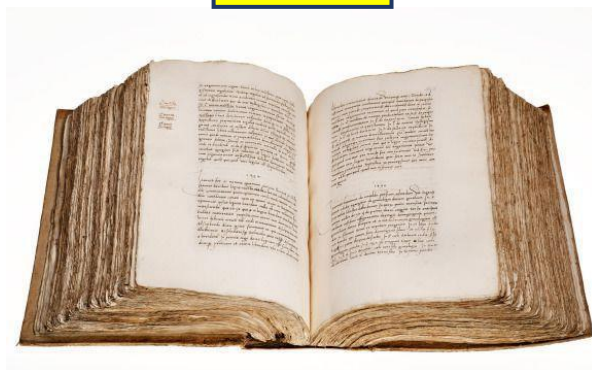
- Matter
- Field
- Material

## Semiotics

- Signs
- Models
- Properties



## Book



### Physicalistic

A solid which is an aggregate of organic and inorganic molecules

### Holistic

### Persistence

A whole and an object

### Physicalistic

### Reductionistic

A hierarchy of physical entities  
book -> pages -> paper -> fiber -> ...

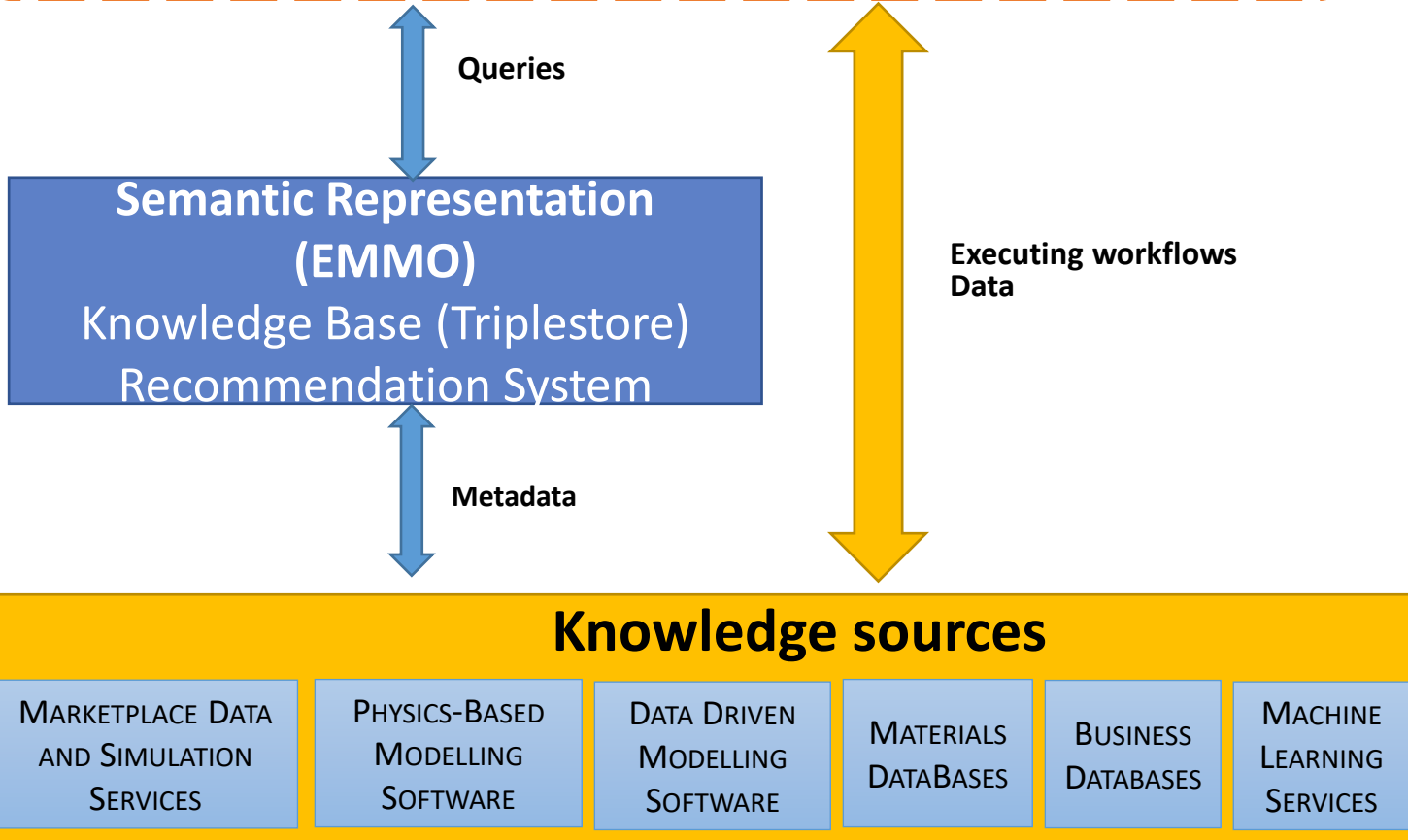
### Semiotics

A sign that stands e.g. for the life of a person

### Symbolic

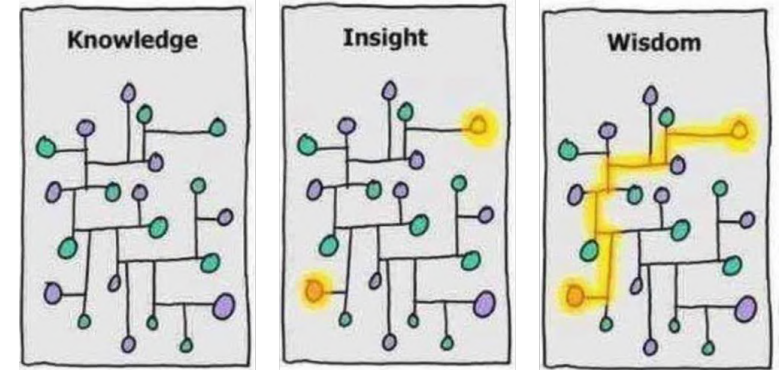
### Reductionistic

A hierarchy of book -> chapters -> paragraphs -> words -> symbols



**Connecting innovation case KPIs to relevant knowledge sources via:**

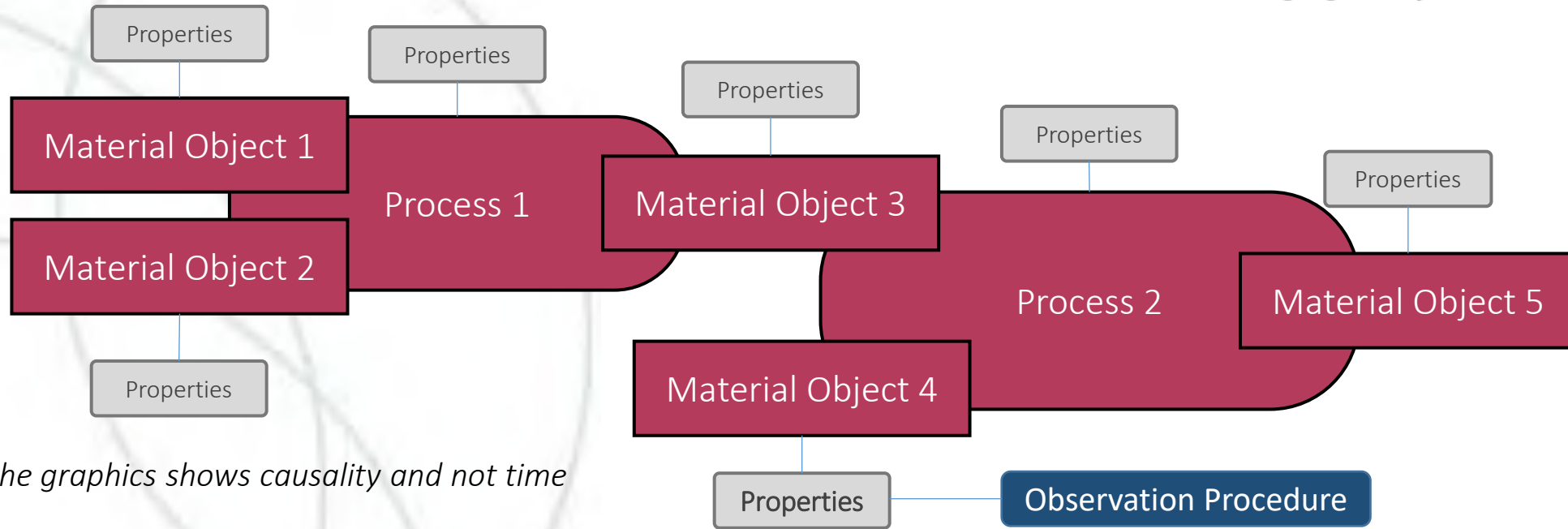
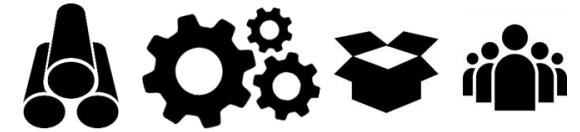
- Formalising innovation case
- Representing in ontology
- Connections made by reasoning and knowledge graph exploration



- Providing End User Apps and Tools



# Innovation Case: Causality



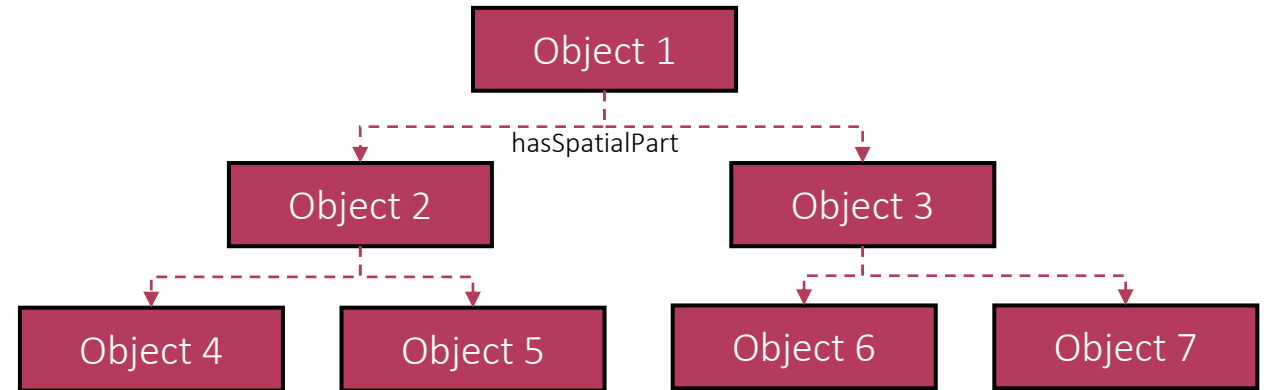
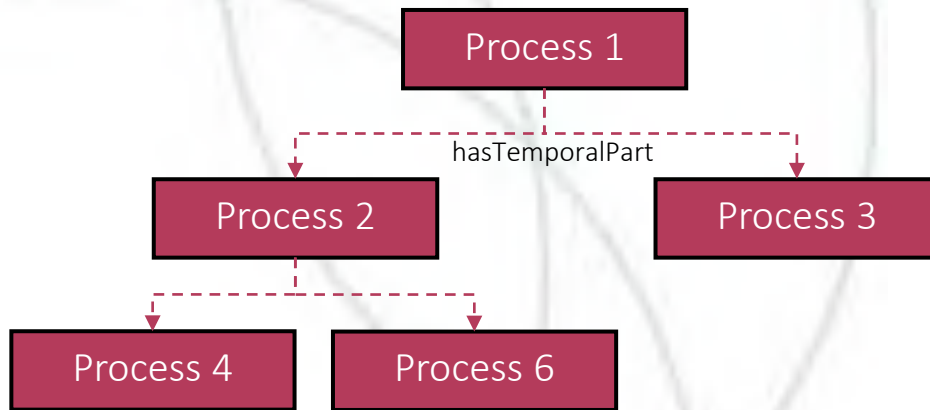
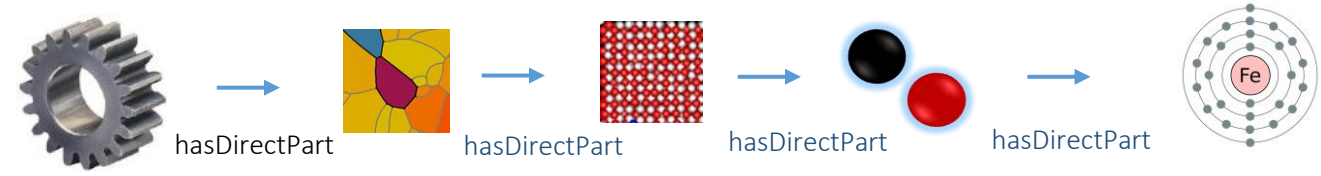
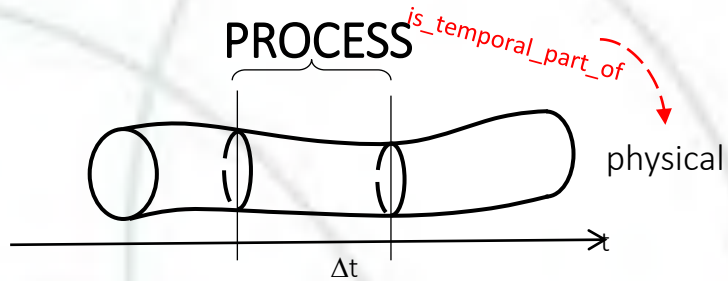
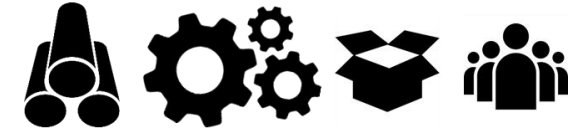
*Note that the graphics shows causality and not time*

The innovation case identifying all the **entities** that play a **role**, meaning:

- There is some causality / interaction
- their properties/behaviour are of importance
- there are knowledge sources (data, measurement, model) for them

**Materials and Process Entities are represented as EMMO classes**

# Innovation Case: Parthoods



The Innovation Case may have different levels of detail, both in space and time.

Can be expressed by means of Parthoods

OntoTrans ArcelorMittal Application Case





# Characterisation Domain Ontology

- Objectives:

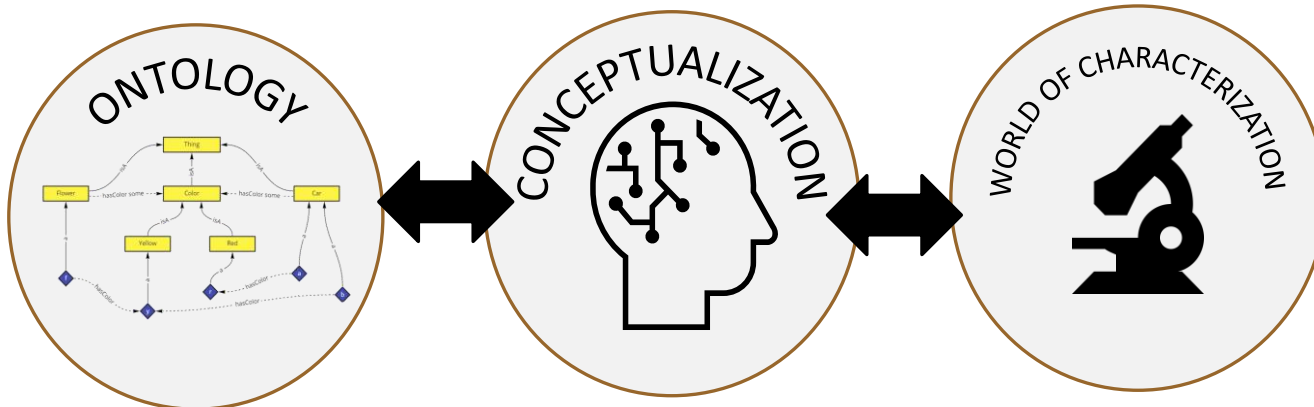
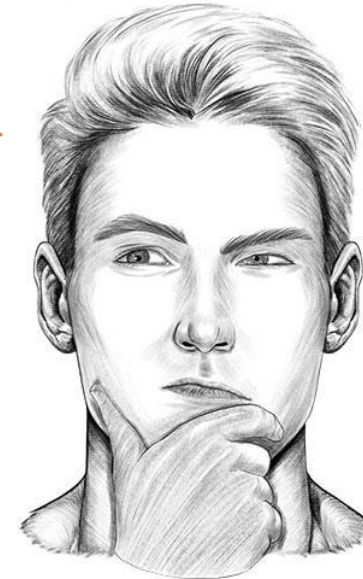
- 1) Machine readable
- 2) Interoperable
- 3) Enable users to query characterisation knowledge

What sample preparation was applied?

Which method has been used for data analysis?

Which kind of materials have been tested?

Which reference sample has been used?



# Mapping to EMMO Perspectives

Characterisation entities are either about

- Objects (e.g. instrument) and Processes (e.g. measurement)
- Materials (e.g. Sample)
- Roles (e.g. Sample holder)
- Properties (e.g. Environment: T,p etc)

PERSISTENCE  
 PHYSICALISTIC  
 HOLISTIC  
 SEMIOTIC

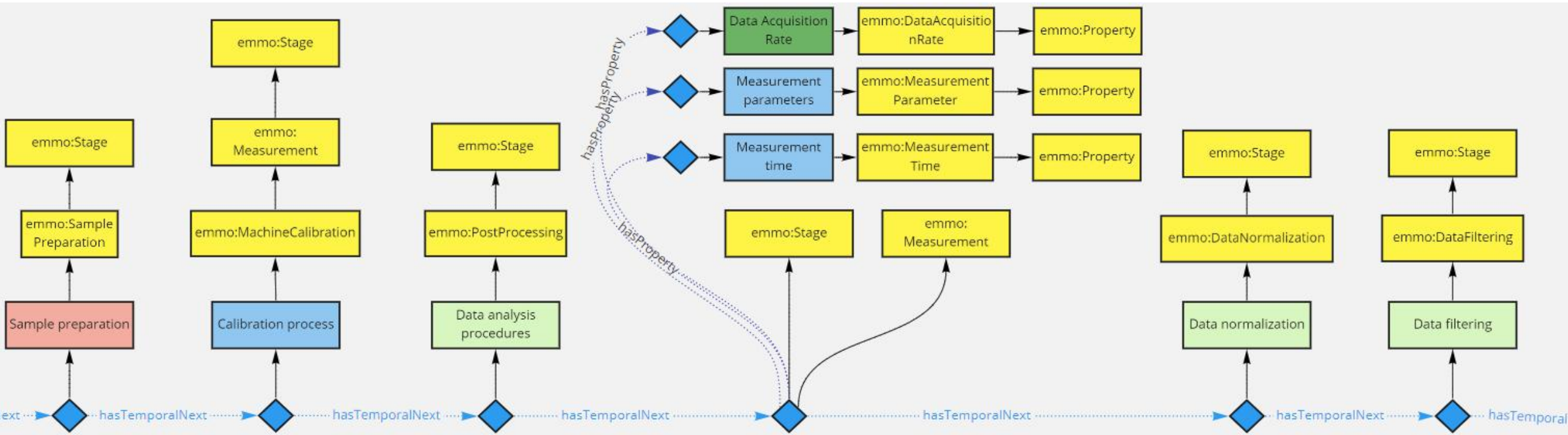
Typically **multi-perspective**

- Sample is Object and Material
- Sample holder is an Object and has a Role
- etc



# CHAMEO ontology

(Some) stages of the characterisation



<https://github.com/emmo-repo/domain-characterisation-methodology>







# Conclusions



EMMO is about **Pluralistic Parallelism** (represent things in many different and coexisting ways) instead of **Serial Stratification** (things are represented in a one and one only way).

The focus for EMMO development is on **capturing the multiple ways in which a real world object is expressed by communities.**



# Conclusion: Embrace complexity



The **importance of a semantic approach to knowledge** is that it provides a **new language, digitally and machine friendly**, that can **push for the transition towards Industry 5.0**.

- **Bottleneck: compartmentalized human approach to knowledge.**
- **Need to embrace and manage complexity, and not to fight it**
- **Ontologies** are a field in which **multidisciplinary is acting at its best**: can be **catalyst toward multidisciplinary**.



# Towards accelerated materials design and development

- **Data/knowledge generators**

- Materials models (physics and data-based)
- Characterisation, sensing

- **Data management and Knowledge capture**

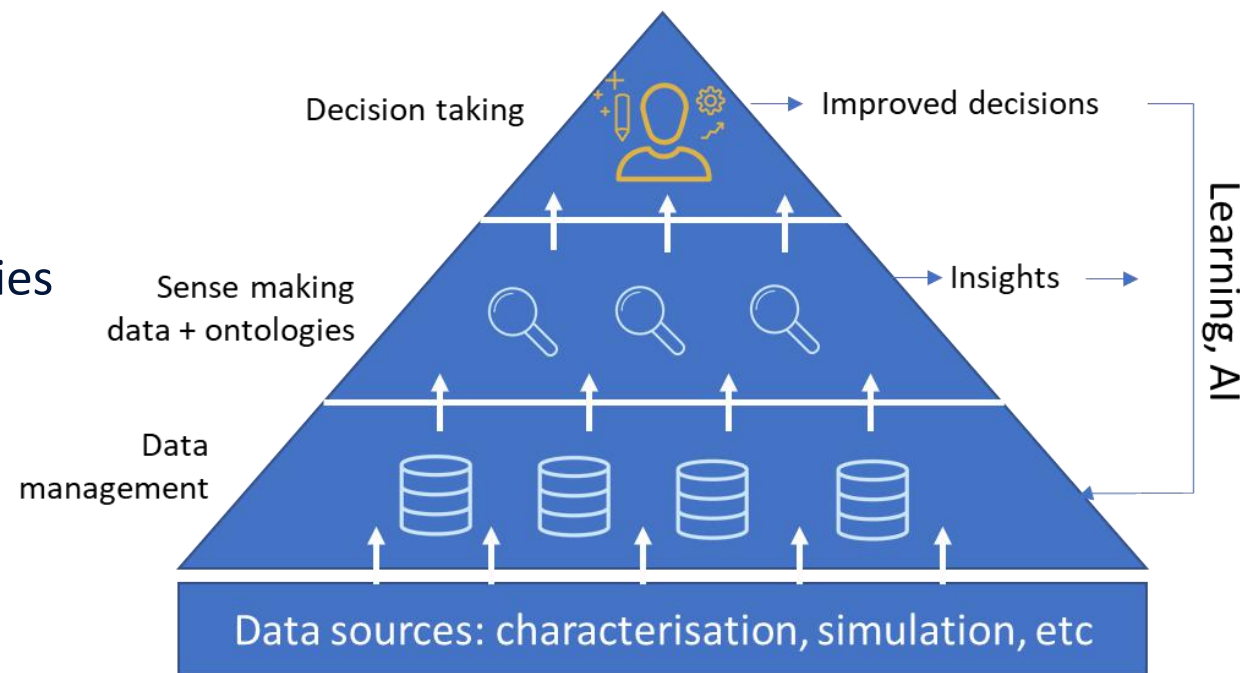
- Eco-system of interconnected, managed ontologies
- FAIR data supported by ontologies

- **Multiply knowledge generation**

- AI boosted by ontologies  
*(AI with a 'helping hand' is much more powerful)*

- **Knowledge interrogators**

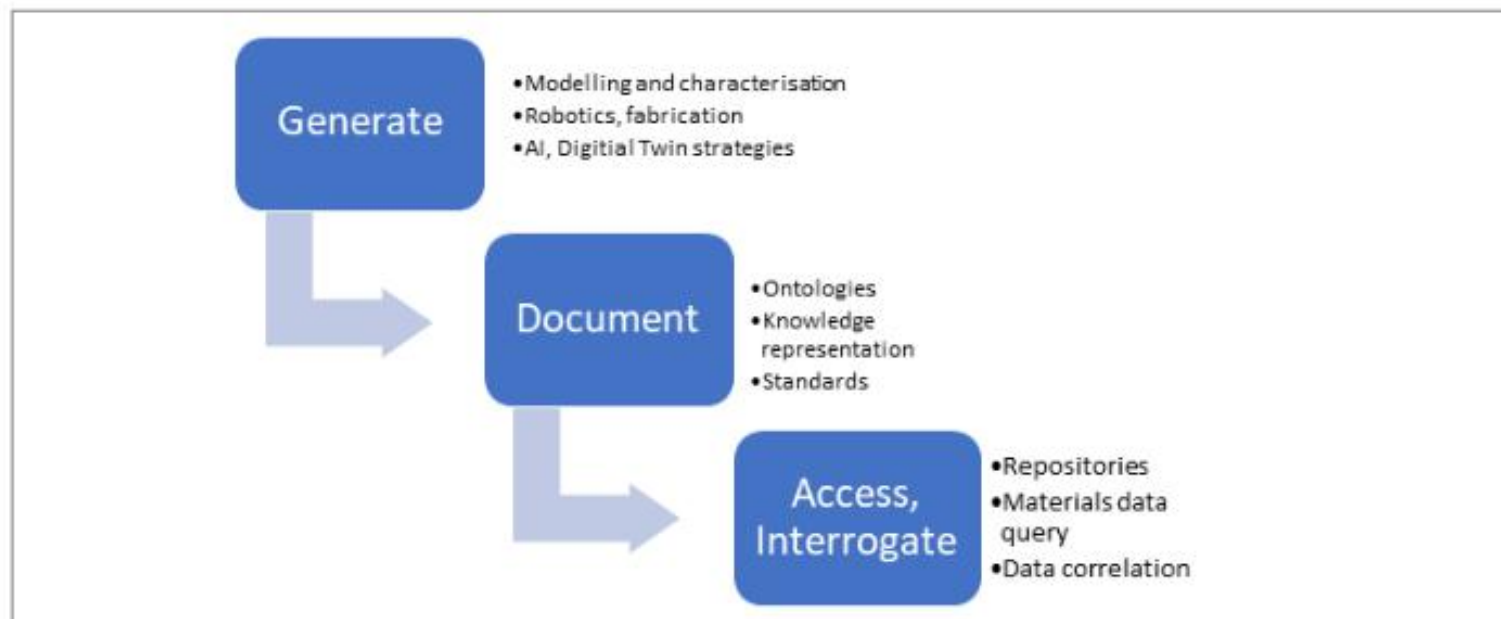
- Multi-perspective, multi-role views on complex information:
- Support complex assessment of materials options regarding the ever increasing range of criteria





# Materials 2030 Roadmap Draft

<https://materialsmodelling.com/materials-2030-roadmap-draft-published/>



**Figure 3:** Three priorities to achieve the data-driven development of advanced materials

**Generating new data and knowledge to process and scale up materials solutions**



# Join OntoCommons

Cooperation



Top Reference  
Ontology



Industrial Domain  
Ontologies



Ontology Commons  
Ecosystem Toolkit



Demonstration



Standardisation

Infrastructures

Please register and fill in the expert survey on  
[ontocommons.eu](https://ontocommons.eu)



@ontocommons



[linkedin.com/company/ontocommons](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ontocommons)



[info@ontocommons.eu](mailto:info@ontocommons.eu)



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- OntoTrans (Grant Agreement n. 952869)
- NanoMECommons (Grant Agreement n. 862136)

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- OpenModel (Grant agreement n. 953167)
- SimDome (Grant Agreement n. 814492)

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- NanoMECommons co-workers: Pierluigi Del Nostro, Daniele Toti (GCL)
- European Materials Modelling Council EMMC ASBL



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