

# Ontology-based Queries over Cancer Data

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Semantic Web Applications and Tools for Life Sciences  
(SWAT4LS)  
Berlin, Germany  
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# Overview

- Motivation: queries over cancer data
- Background: caGrid infrastructure
  - caGrid query language (CQL)
- Objective: ontology-based queries over the caGrid infrastructure
- Approach:
  - Ontology-based query rewriting
  - Semantic query processing
- Implementation & performance evaluation
- Conclusions

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*find single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)  
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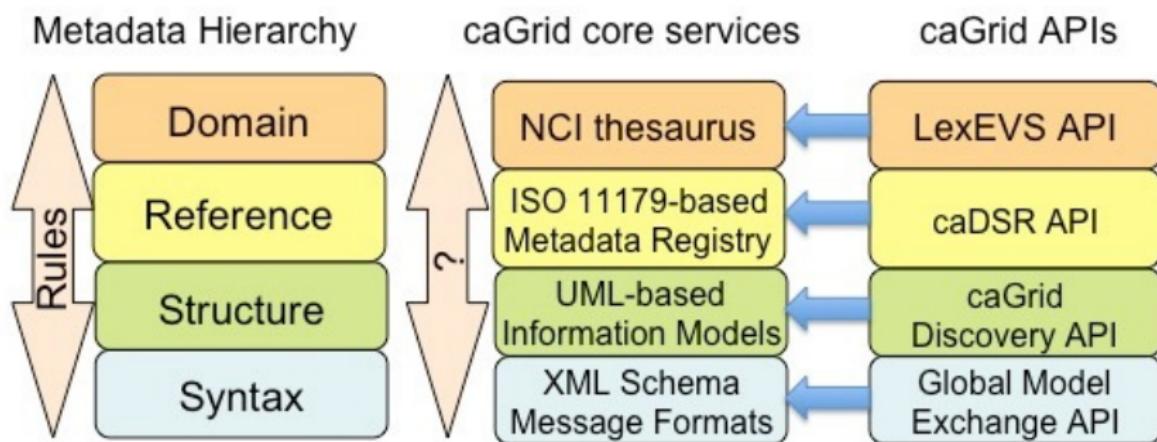
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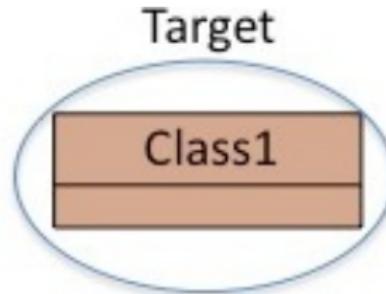
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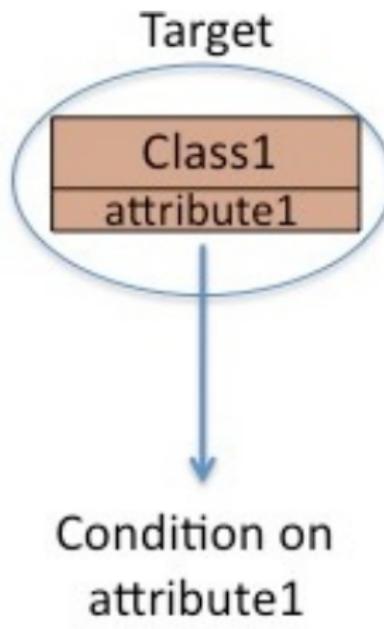
Software infrastructures to manage and analyse cancer data from heterogeneous data sources

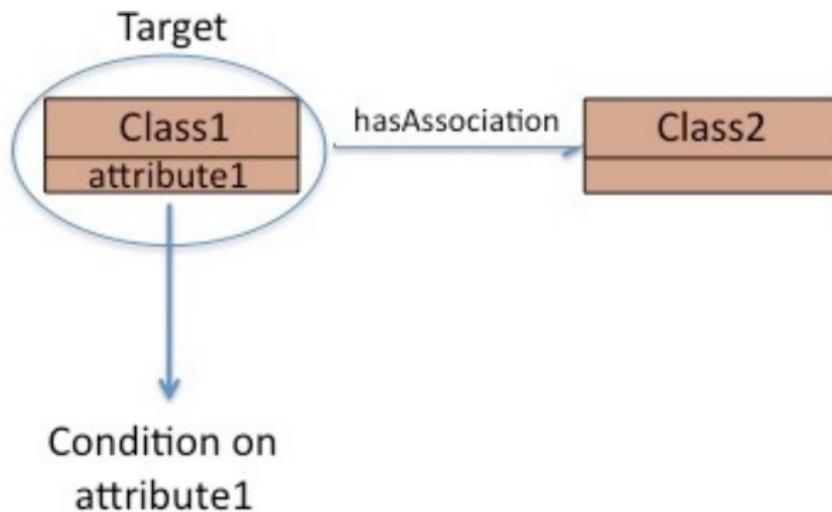
- UK National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Informatics Initiative: ONcology Information eXchange (ONIX)
- US National Cancer Institute (NCI) caBIG® programme: caGrid infrastructure

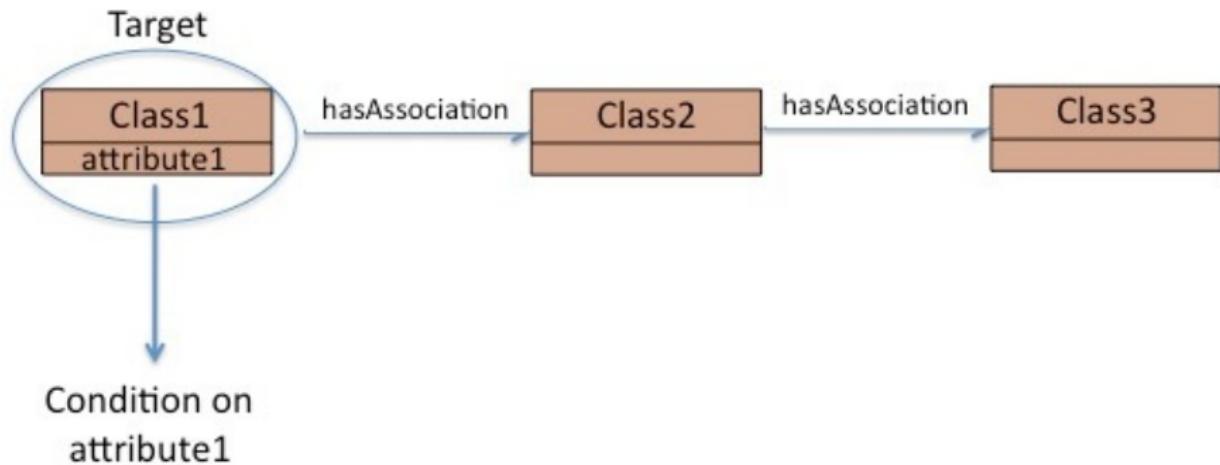
Service-oriented, model-driven infrastructure.

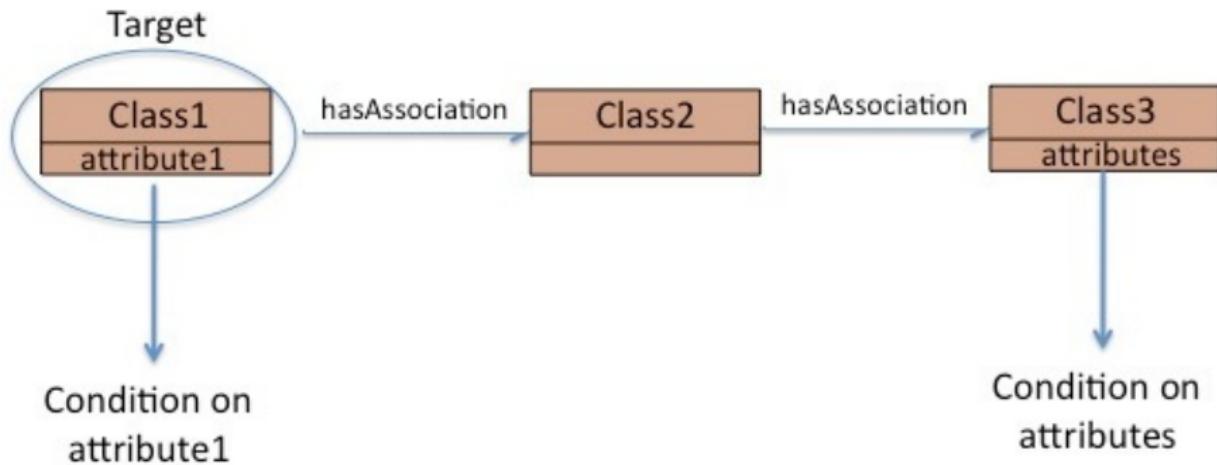


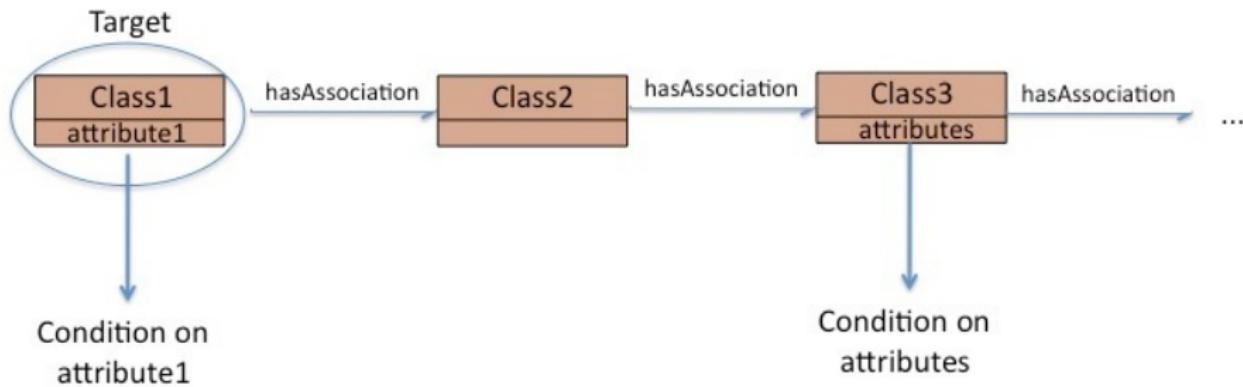


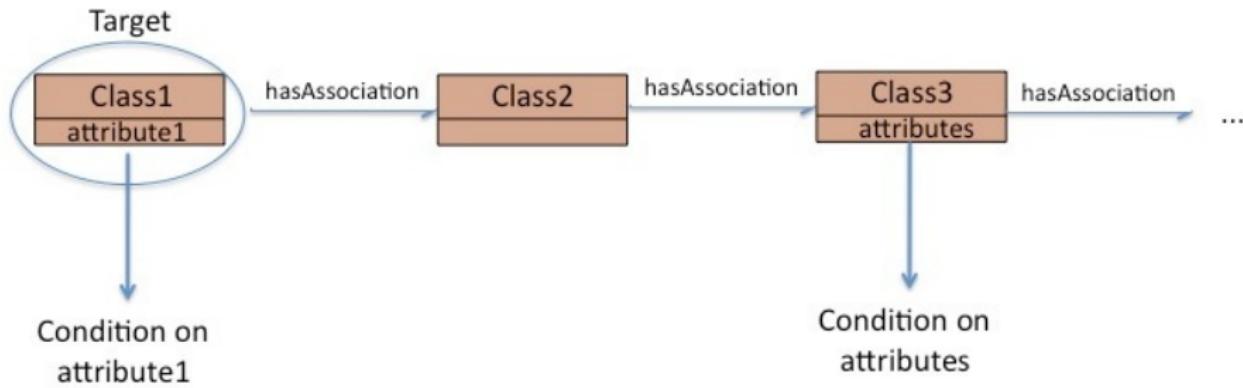








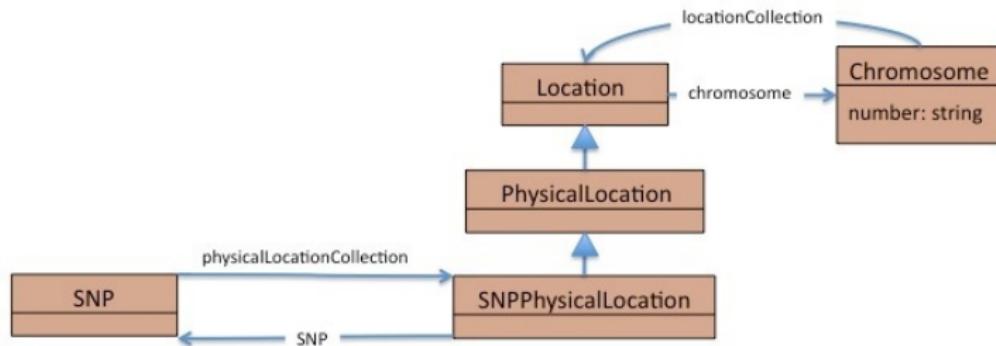




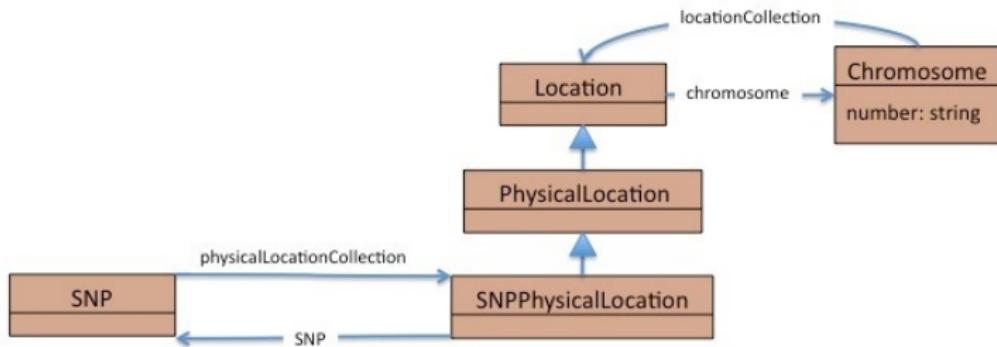
Navigational (path-finding) query language over the structure of caGrid data resources

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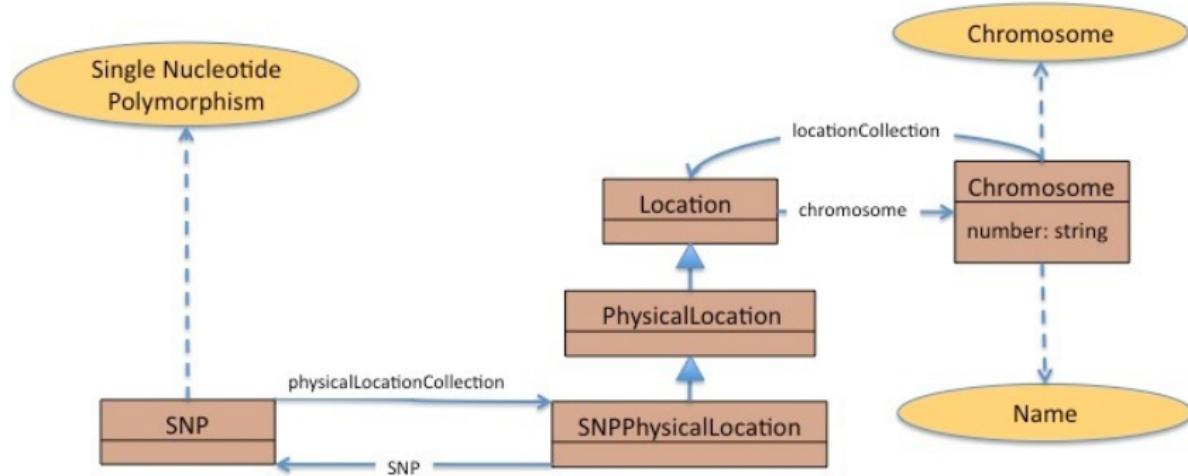


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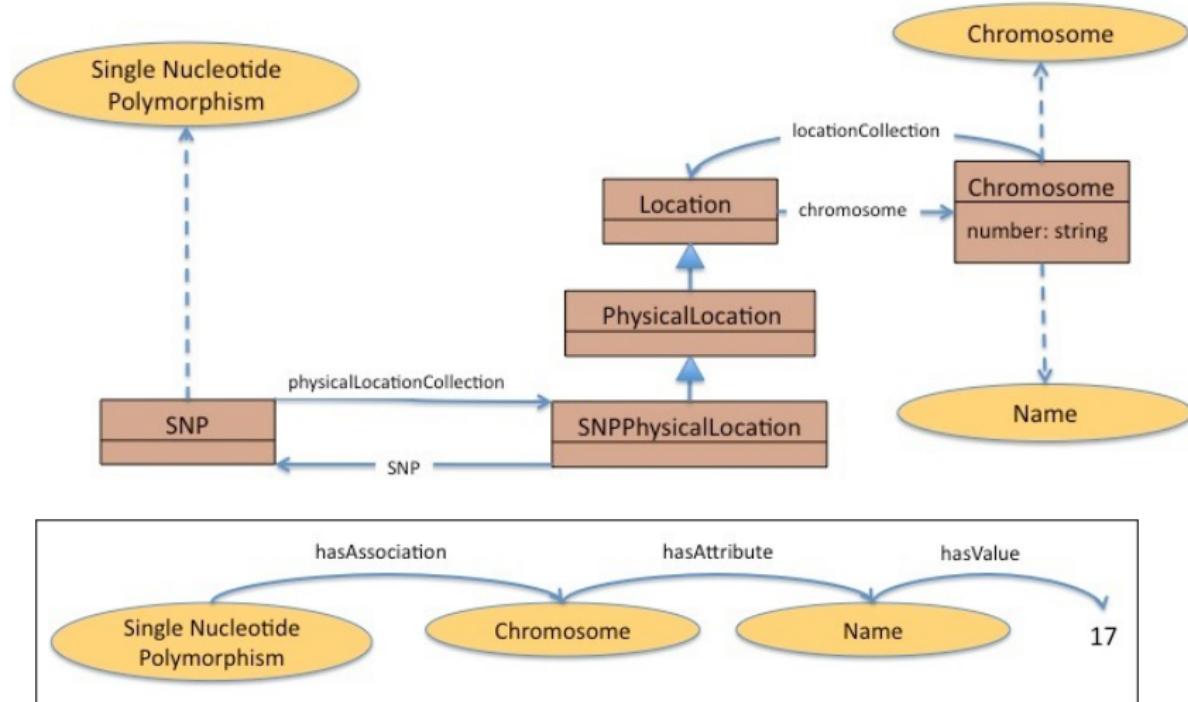


```
<ns1:CQLQuery xmlns:ns1="http://CQL.caBIG/1/gov.nih.nci.cagrid.CQLQuery">
  <ns1:Target name="gov.nih.nci.cabio.domain.SNP">
    <ns1:Association name="gov.nih.nci.cabio.domain.SNPPPhysicalLocation"
      roleName="physicalLocationCollection">
      <ns1:Association name="gov.nih.nci.cabio.domain.Chromosome" roleName="chromosome">
        <ns1:Attribute name="number" predicate="EQUAL_TO" value="17"/>
      </ns1:Association>
    </ns1:Association>
  </ns1:Target>
</ns1:CQLQuery>
```

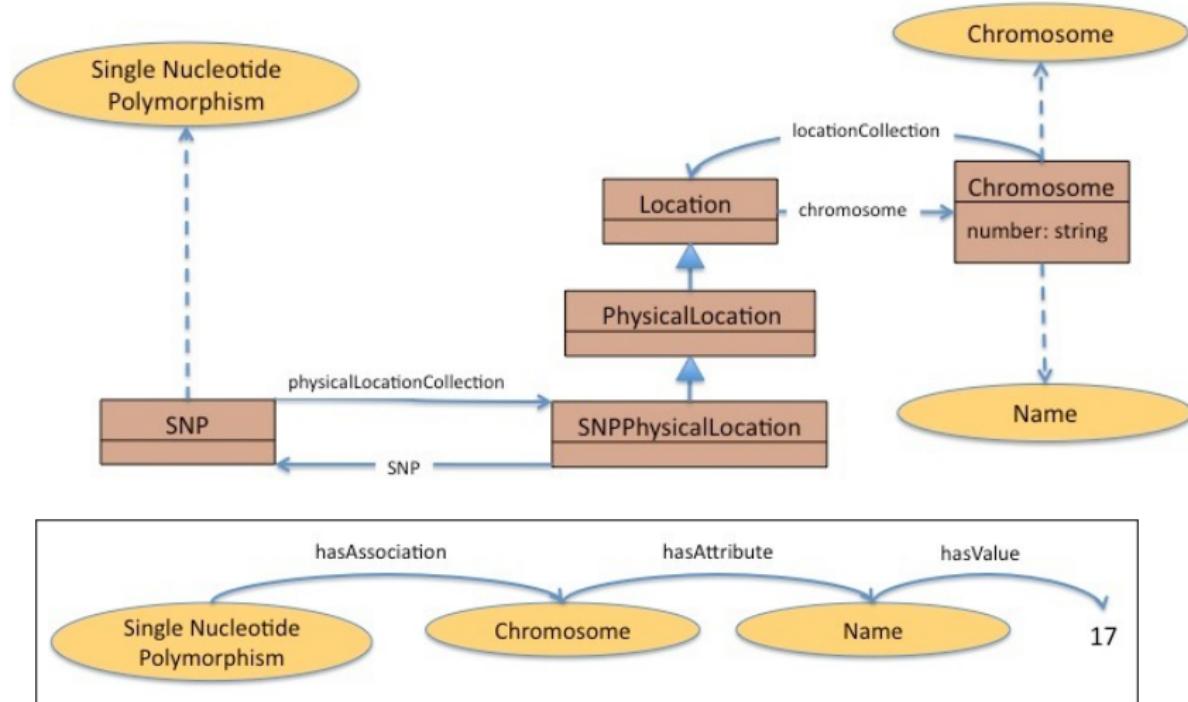
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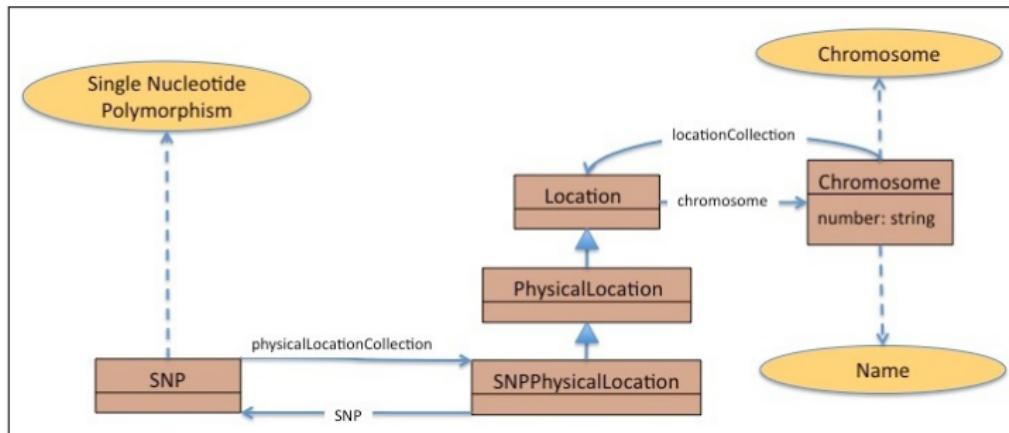


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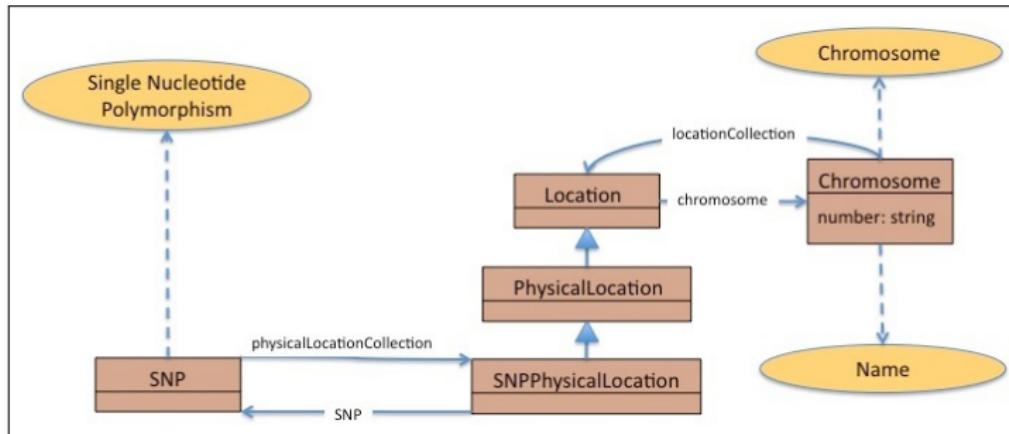
Semantic layer on top of caGrid structural layer

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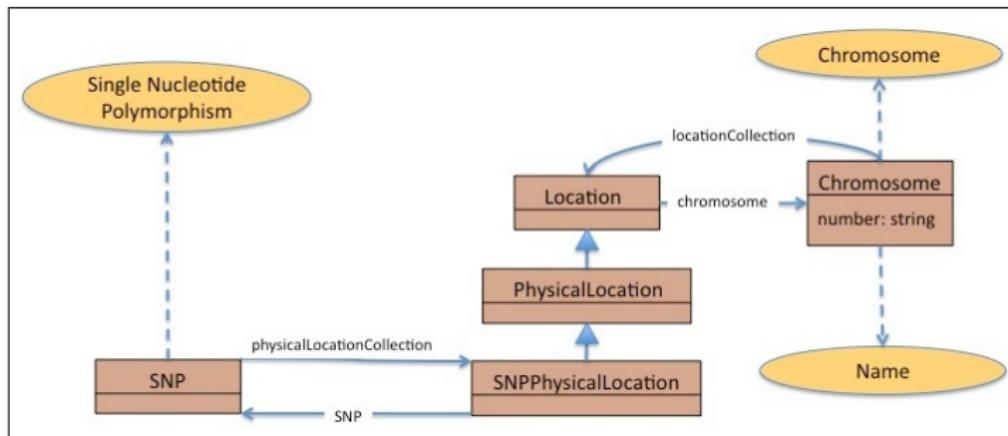
## UML class diagrams

c:Chromosome	$\sqsubseteq$	u:UMLClass
c:number	$\sqsubseteq$	u:UMLAttribute
c:number	$\sqsubseteq$	$\exists$ u:hasValue.xsd:string
c:locationCollection	$\sqsubseteq$	u:hasAssociation



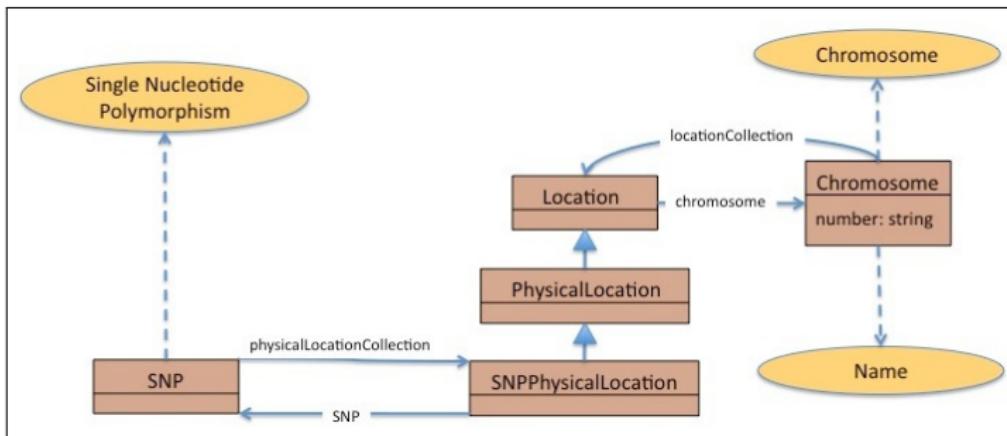
## UML class diagrams

- $c:\text{PhysicalLocation} \sqsubseteq c:\text{Location}$
- $c:\text{Chromosome} \sqsubseteq \exists c:\text{locationCollection}.c:\text{Location}$
- $c:\text{Chromosome} \sqsubseteq \exists u:\text{hasAttribute}.c:\text{number}$
- $c:\text{PhysicalLocation} \sqsubseteq \exists c:\text{chromosome}.c:\text{Chromosome}$



## Semantic annotations

- c:SNP    ≡    n:Single\_Nucleotide\_Polymorphism
- c:Chromosome    ≡    n:Chromosome
- c:number    ≡    n:Name



## Module extraction from NCIt

- Each caGrid information model refers to a subset  $\Sigma$  of the NCIt vocabulary — *relevant* terms and relationships
- NCIt *module* for each data model: Logic-based *module* extraction

ontology-based query →CQL

## Parsing

*n:Single\_Nucleotide\_Polymorphism and hasAssociation some  
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## Semantic Validation

Query satisfiable in the ontology?

## Properties Path Finder

*c:SNP and c:physicalLocationCollection some c:SNPPhysicalLocation and  
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## OWL Expression to MCC Translation

$\uplus \{ s \mid s \leftarrow \text{SNP}, r \leftarrow s.\text{physicalLocationCollection}, r \leftarrow$   
 $\text{SNPPhysicalLocation}, c \leftarrow r.\text{chromosome}, c \leftarrow \text{Chromosome},$   
 $c.\text{number}=17 \}$

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## MCC to CQL Translation

CQL Query

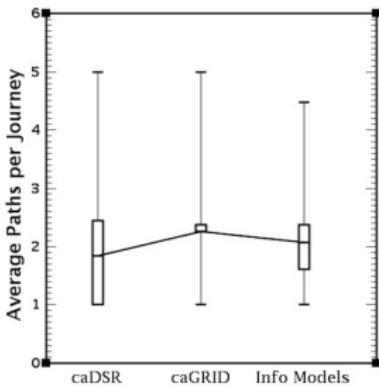
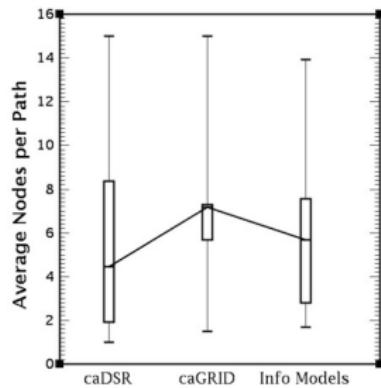
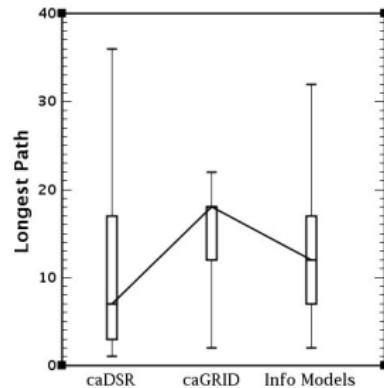


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- Java, caGrid 1.3, OWLAPI 3.1, Pellet 2.2.2, Hermit 1.3.0

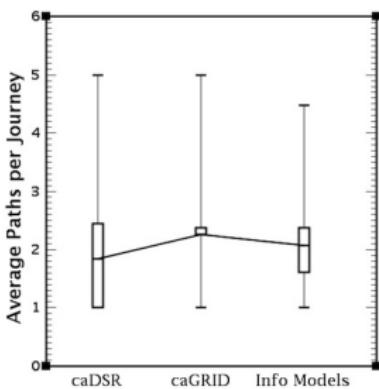
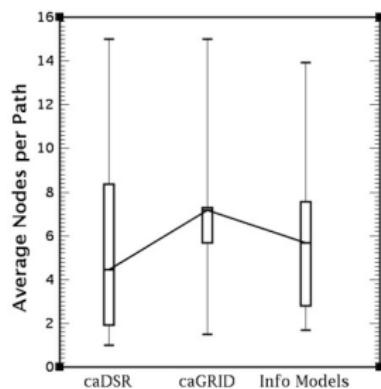
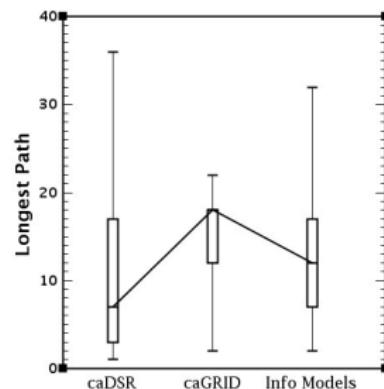
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- Three groups of caGrid models
  - caDSR — registered in caDSR
  - caGrid — registered in caGrid index service
  - InfoModels — models supported by deployed services

# Analysis of OWL representation

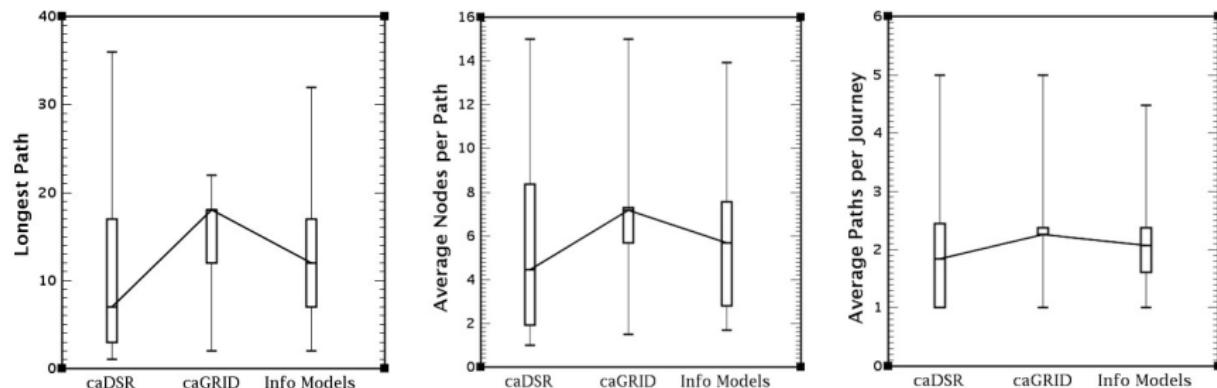


Path Metrics



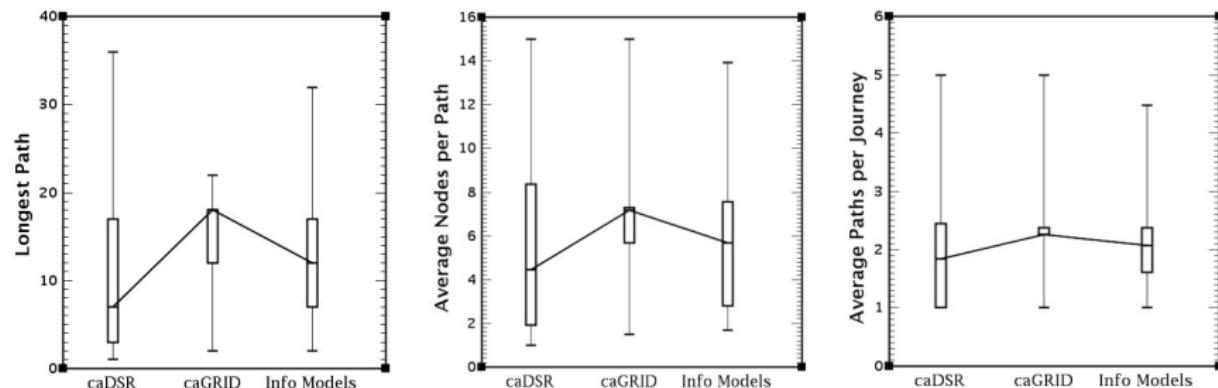
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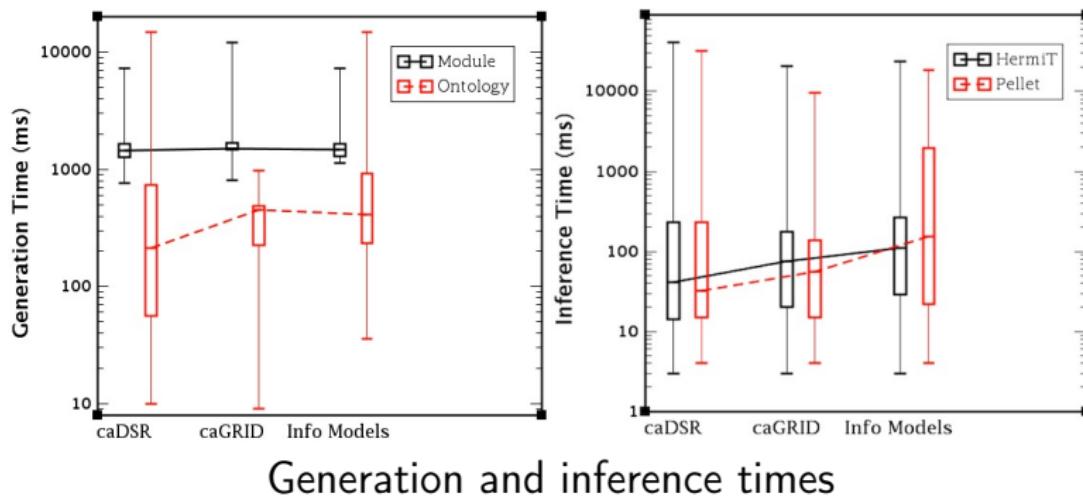
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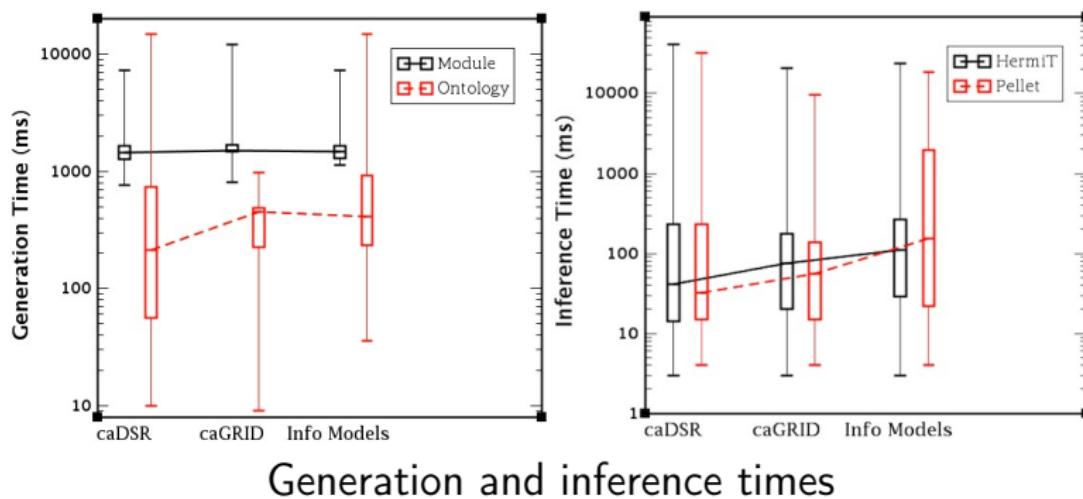


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- Average paths per journey: median ~ 2 paths per journey; for 75 % of the projects (3 categories), less than 2.5

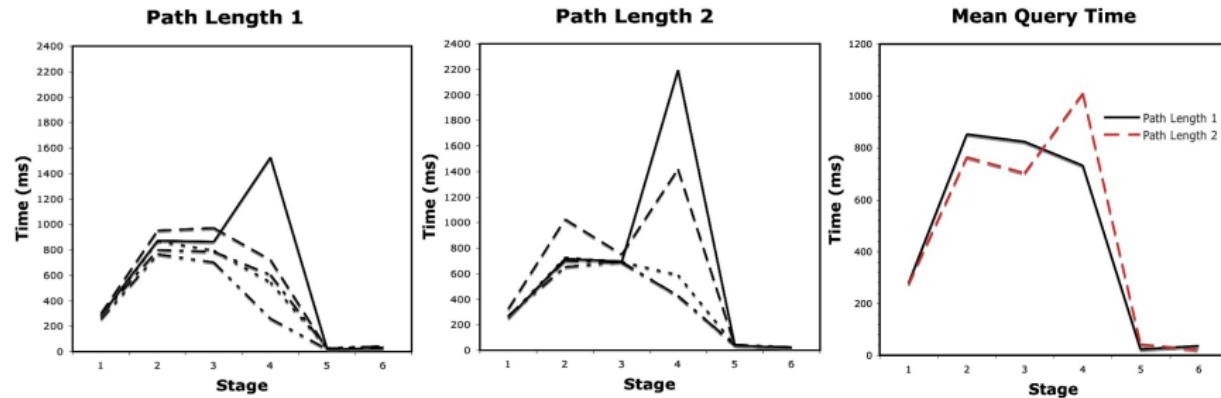
# Ontologies, modules & classification





Generation and inference times

- 75 % of NCIt modules, extraction takes less than 2 seconds & even less time for ontology generation
- median inference time (Pellet & HermiT reasoners): less than 100 ms



Query rewriting — path lengths 1 and 2, and mean values

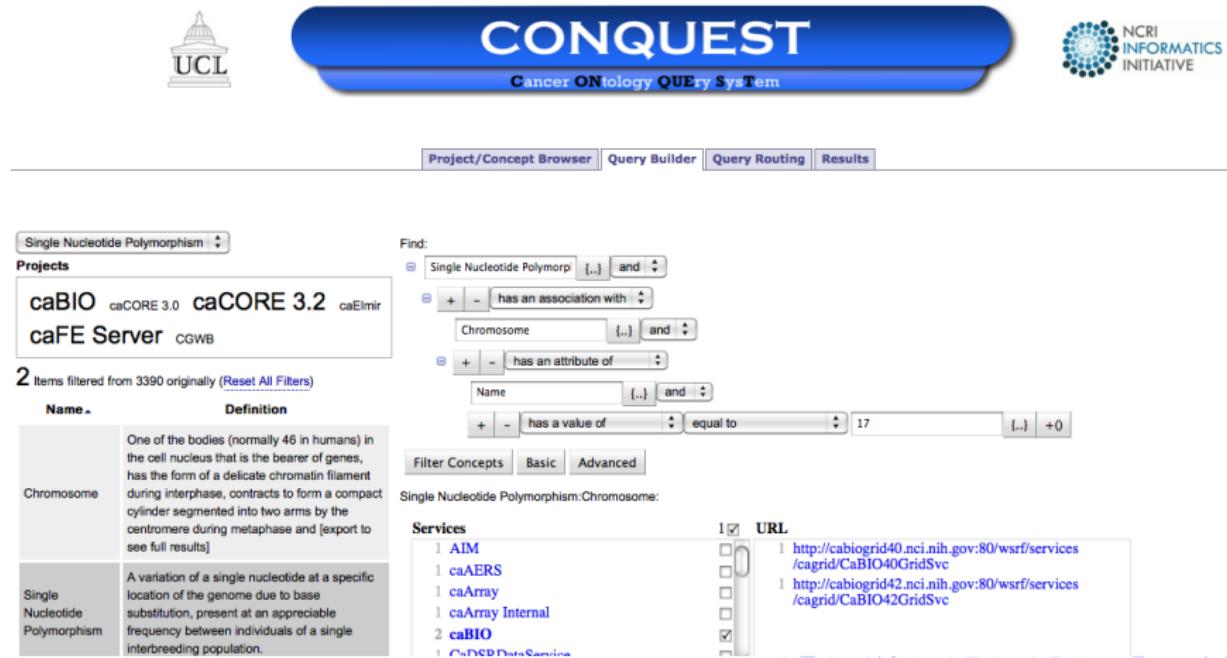
- Stages: (1) parsing, (2) UML extraction, (3) validation, (4) path finding, (5) MCC conversion and (6) CQL conversion
- Path length: affects path-finding stage, rest of stages remain largely unaffected.

# Work in progress...

- Explore OWL2EL reasoners — improve path finding stage
- Building a query suite
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The screenshot shows the CONQUEST interface, which is a web-based system for querying cancer ontologies. The header includes the UCL logo, the CONQUEST logo (Cancer ONtology QUEry System), and the NCRI INFORMATICS INITIATIVE logo.

The main interface has a navigation bar with tabs: Project/Concept Browser, Query Builder, Query Routing, and Results.

The search bar contains the query: "Single Nucleotide Polymorphism".

The results table shows two items filtered from 3390 originally:

Name	Definition
Chromosome	One of the bodies (normally 46 in humans) in the cell nucleus that is the bearer of genes, has the form of a delicate chromatin filament during interphase, contracts to form a compact cylinder segmented into two arms by the centromere during metaphase and [export to see full results]
Single Nucleotide Polymorphism	A variation of a single nucleotide at a specific location of the genome due to base substitution, present at an appreciable frequency between individuals of a single interbreeding population.

The sidebar on the left lists projects: caBIO, caCORE 3.0, caCORE 3.2, caElmIR, caFE Server, and CGWB.

The bottom section shows services and URLs:

Services	URL
1 AIM	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 caERS	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 caArray	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 caArray Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 caBIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 CaTCD Data Services	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 http://cabiogrid40.nci.nih.gov:80/wsrf/services/cagrid/CaBIO40GridSvc  
1 http://cabiogrid42.nci.nih.gov:80/wsrf/services/cagrid/CaBIO42GridSvc

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- Generation of OWL2 ontologies from annotated UML models (ISO11179 standard)
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- Konrad Rokicki, SAIC/NCI CBIIT

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Questions?