Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intelligence
Vol. 5 (2001), Section B: pp. *85-97*
http://www.ep.liu.se/ej/etai/2001/005/

Refereed Article

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Ontologies for Molecular Biology

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Abstract: *Molecular biology has a communication problem. There are many databases using their own labels and categories for storing data objects and some using identical labels and categories but with a different meaning. A prominent example is the concept "gene" which is used with different semantics by major international genomic databases. Ontologies are one means to provide a semantic repository that can be used to systematically order relevant concepts in molecular biology and to bridge the different notions in various databases by explicitly specifying the meaning of and relation between the fundamental concepts in an application domain. Here, the upper level and a database branch of a prospective ontology for molecular biology is presented and compared to other ontologies with respect to suitability for molecular biology (http://igd.rz-berlin.mpg.de/~www/oe/mbo.html).*

Publication and review history

This work was first presented at the Machine Intelligence 18 Workshop, held on September 19-21, 2001 at the University of York, UK. Attendance at this workshop was based on invitations. Speakers at the workshop were invited to submit their articles for consideration in the forthcoming workshop volume. The subsequent publication and review history for the present article was as follows.

1. First versions *published* by Linköping University Electronic Press on in August - October, 2001 and permanently available at
   http://www.ep.liu.se/ea/cis/2001/021/
2. First version *accepted* after due refereeing and according to scientific journal standards by the Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intelligence (ETAI) on 21.9.2001. Authors were invited to revise their articles, if they so desired, based on comments by the reviewers.
3. Revised version *accepted* on 4.12.2001.
4. Revised version *published* by Linköping University Electronic Press on 28.2.2002 and permanently available at the same URL as mentioned above.
5. Revised version appears in Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intellligence, Volume 5 (2001), section B, pages 85–97. The section and the annual volume are made permanently available at
   http://www.ep.liu.se/ej/etai/
6. Paper editions of the ETAI issue and the ETAI volume containing this artice *republished* by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The review policy and the quality requirements for acceptance are documented at http://www.etaij.org/info/

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