



# Developing semantic interoperability in ecology and ecosystem studies : semantic modeling and annotation for FAIR data production

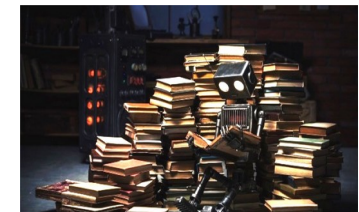
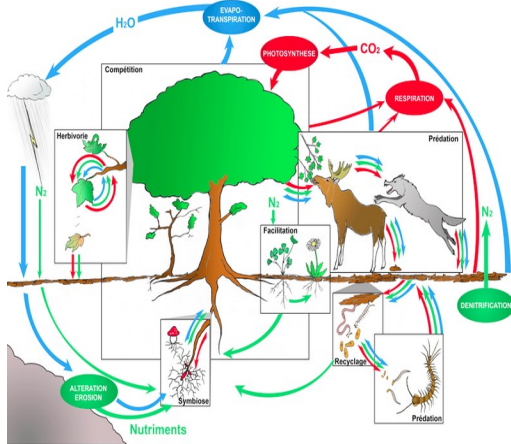
*Christian PICHOT,  
Philippe CLASTRE, Benjamin JAILLET,  
Damien MAURICE, Ghislaine MONET, Rachid YAHIAOUI.*

*Callou C., Chanzy A., Clavreul A., El-Hamadry M., Evtimova M., Lafolie F., Le Gaillard J.-F.,  
Martin C., Massol F., Moitrier N., Raynal H., Schellenberger A., Aïvayan E., Beudez N., Léturgie A.*

Séminaire INRAE Semantic Linked Data  
11 au 14 octobre 2021 - Domaine du Lazaret - Sète



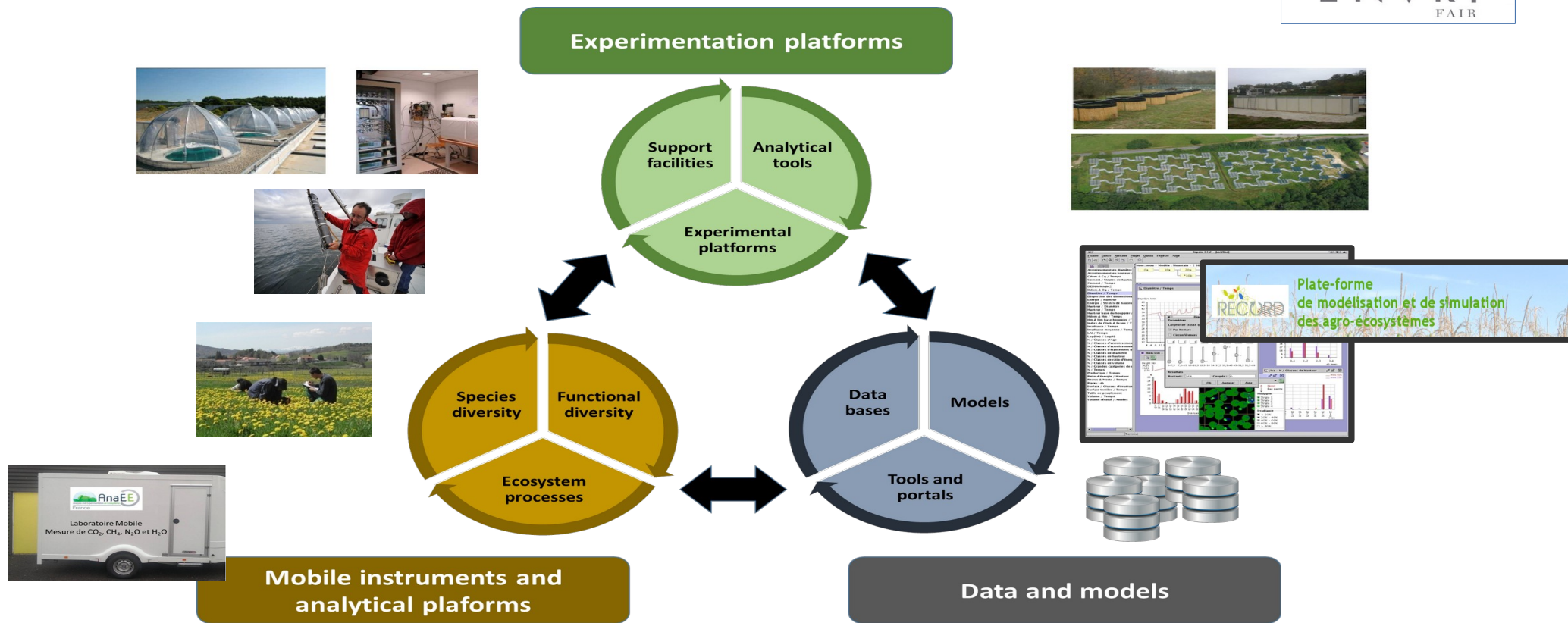
## Rationale



Ecosystem study requires complex research and deals with heterogeneous, varied and widespread data.

The proper understanding and interoperability of the information sources remains one of the greatest challenges

# A Research Infrastructure for experimentation on ecosystems





Managing data for:

- discovery
- access to resources

*...distributed and heterogeneous*

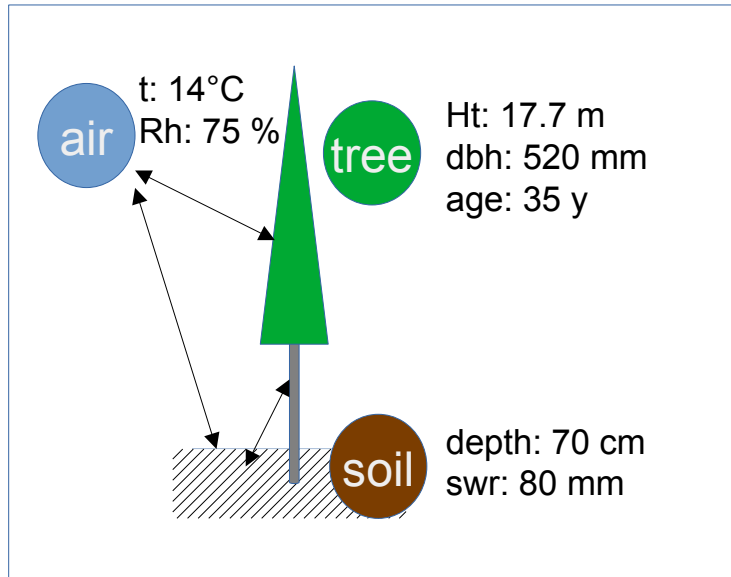




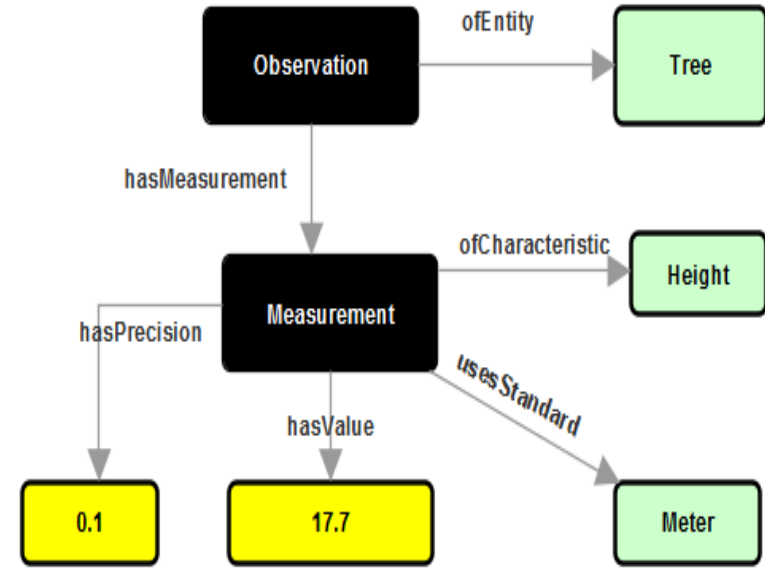
## Method

### 1) Identify

- the components of the system
- and their relationships



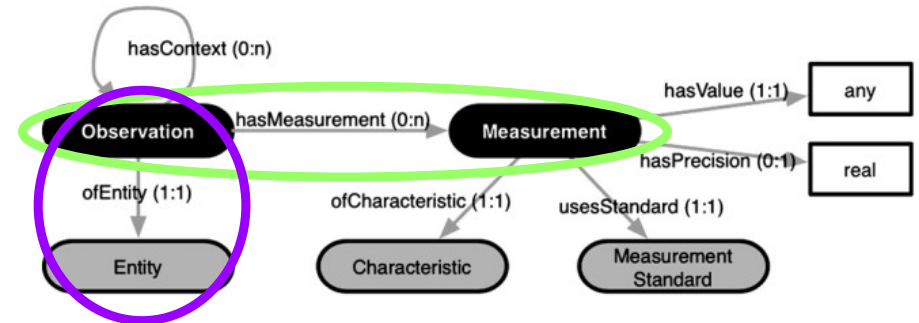
### 2) Model the system using semantic vocabularies



## Implementation

AnaEE\* RI as scientific context:  
The Research Infrastructure offers services for experimentation on continental ecosystems

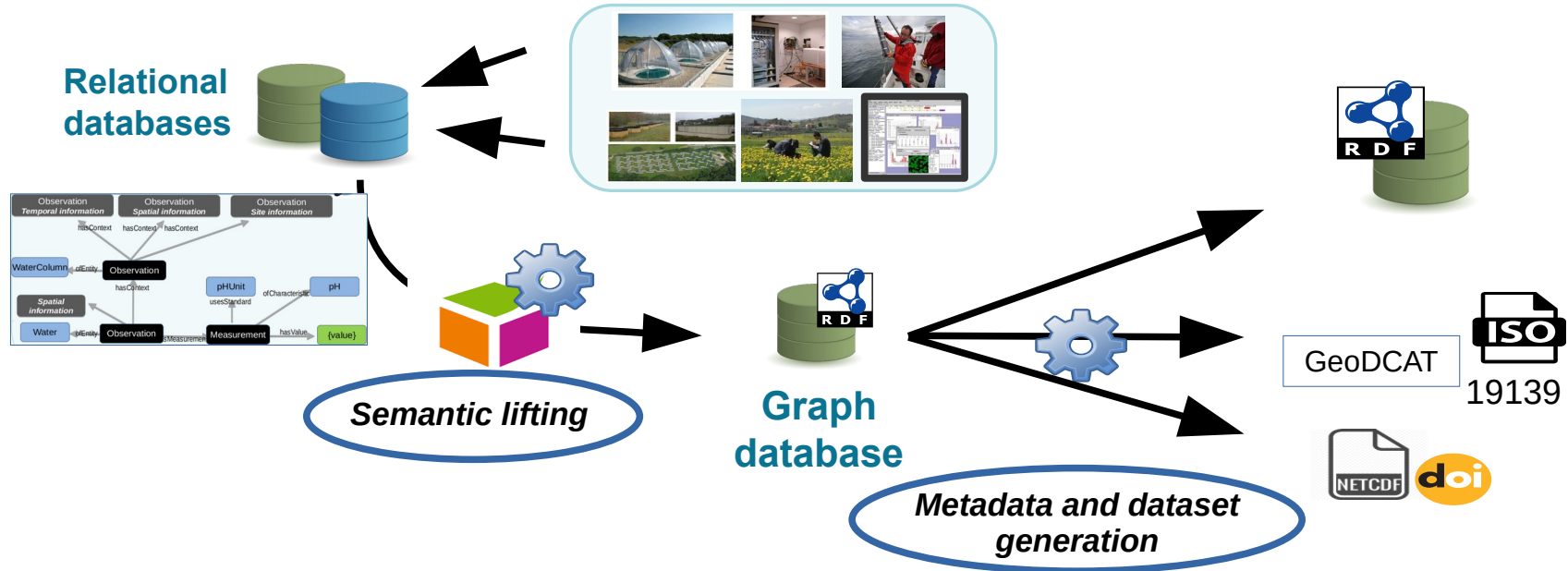
OBOE\* as ontological framework:  
The ontology provides the atomic elements for modeling observations



\*Mark Schildhauer, Matthew B. Jones, Shawn Bowers, Joshua Madin, Serguei Krivov, Deana Pennington, Ferdinando Villa, Benjamin Leinfelder, Christopher Jones, and Margaret O'Brien. 2016. OBOE: the Extensible Observation Ontology, version 1.2. KNB Data Repository. doi:10.5063/F1125R0F

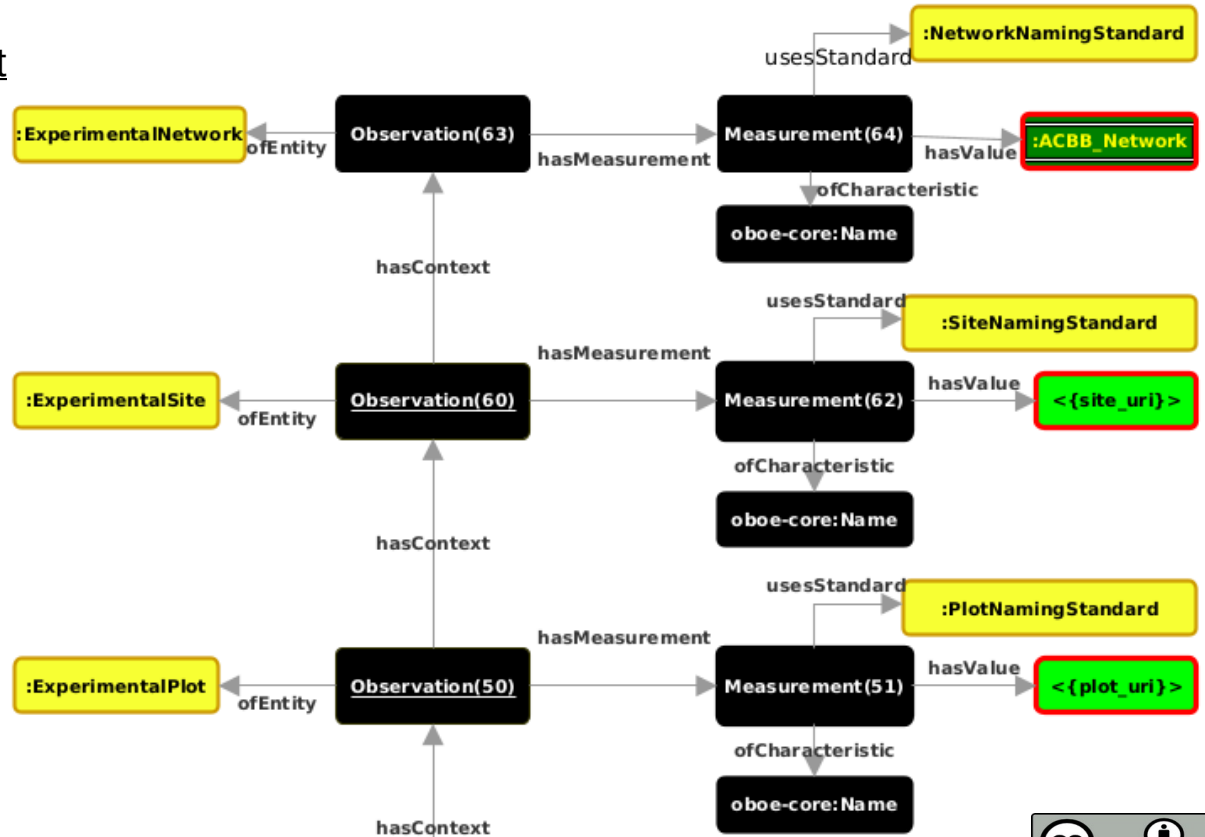
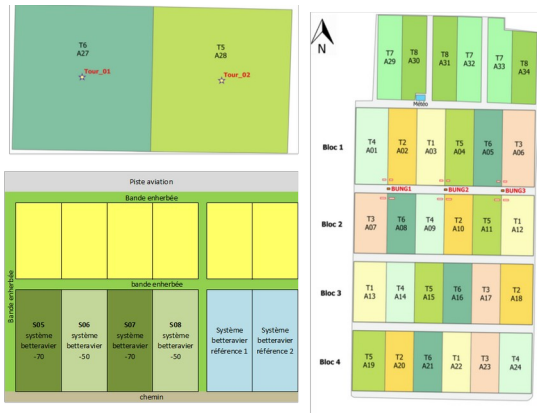
## Semantic lifting and data exploitation

Graph patterns and variable semantic descriptions are processed by a pipeline for semantic lifting of the data before their exploitation



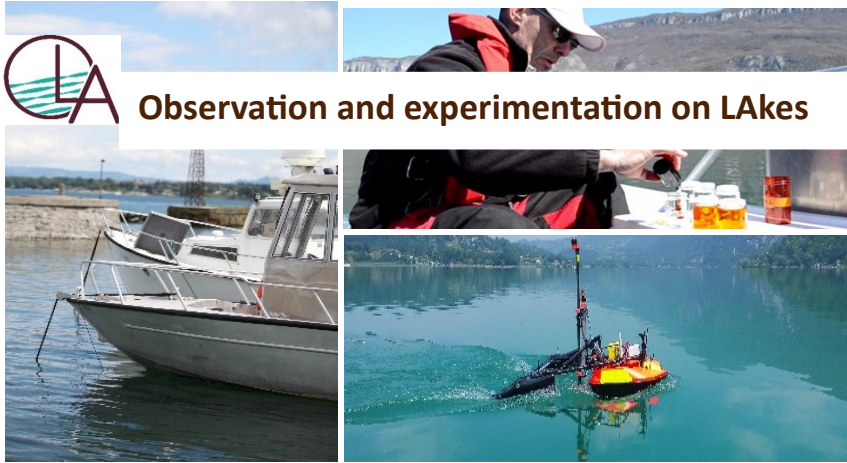
## Implementation

### Modeling the experimental context

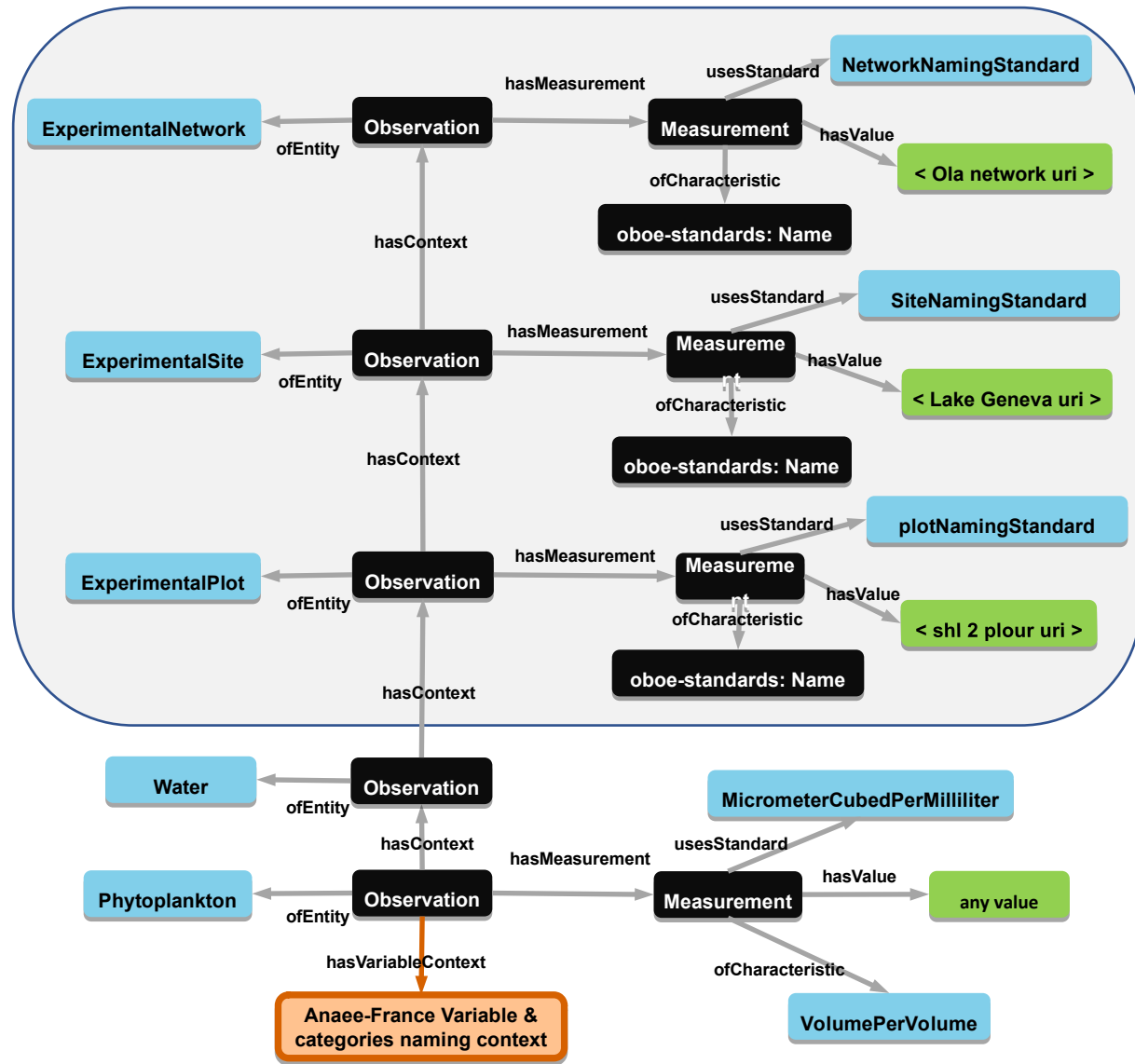
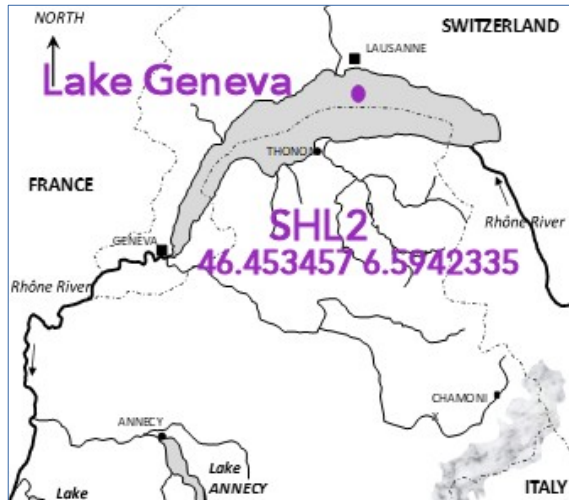




# Modelling the experimental context



Observation and experimentation on LAkes

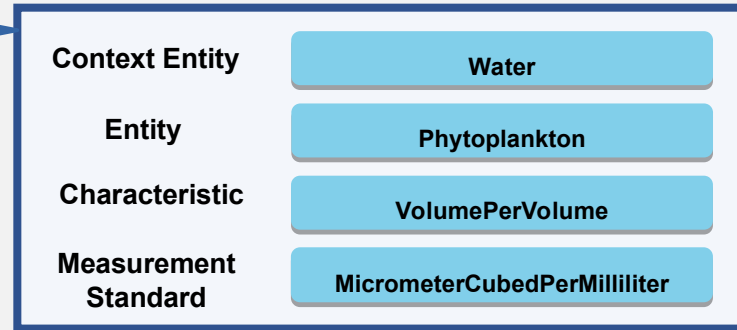


# Modelling the measured variable

## 1. data from flat files or database with ambiguities

site	plot	date	species	vol.	prof min	prof max
Lake geneva	shl2	11/01/2012	Nitzschia sp.	321.6213	0	18
Lake geneva	shl2	11/01/2012	Ankyra judayi	429.5577	0	18
Lake geneva	shl2	11/01/2012	Cyclotella costei	1519.8612	0	18
Lake geneva	shl2	11/01/2012	Bicoeca ovata	12641.2	0	18
...	...	...	...	...	...	...

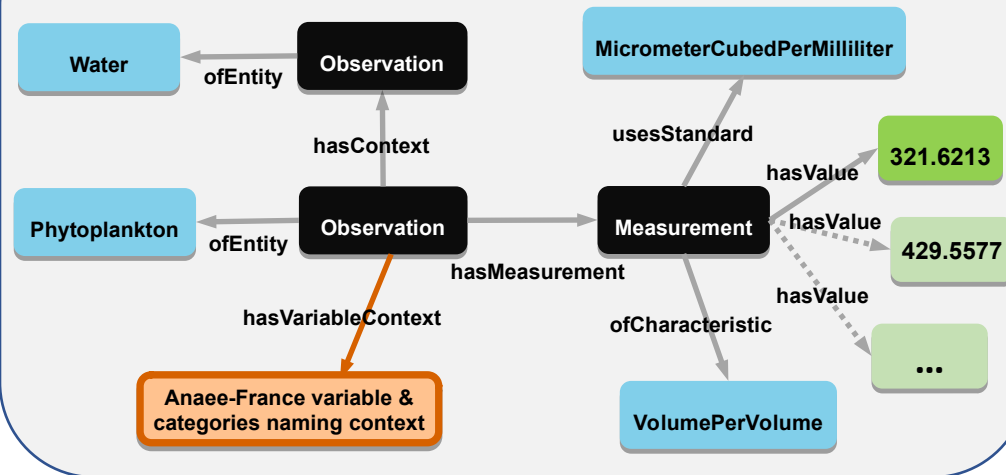
## 2. variable semantic description driven by OBOE ontology



## 4. OBOE extension for variable usual names and categories

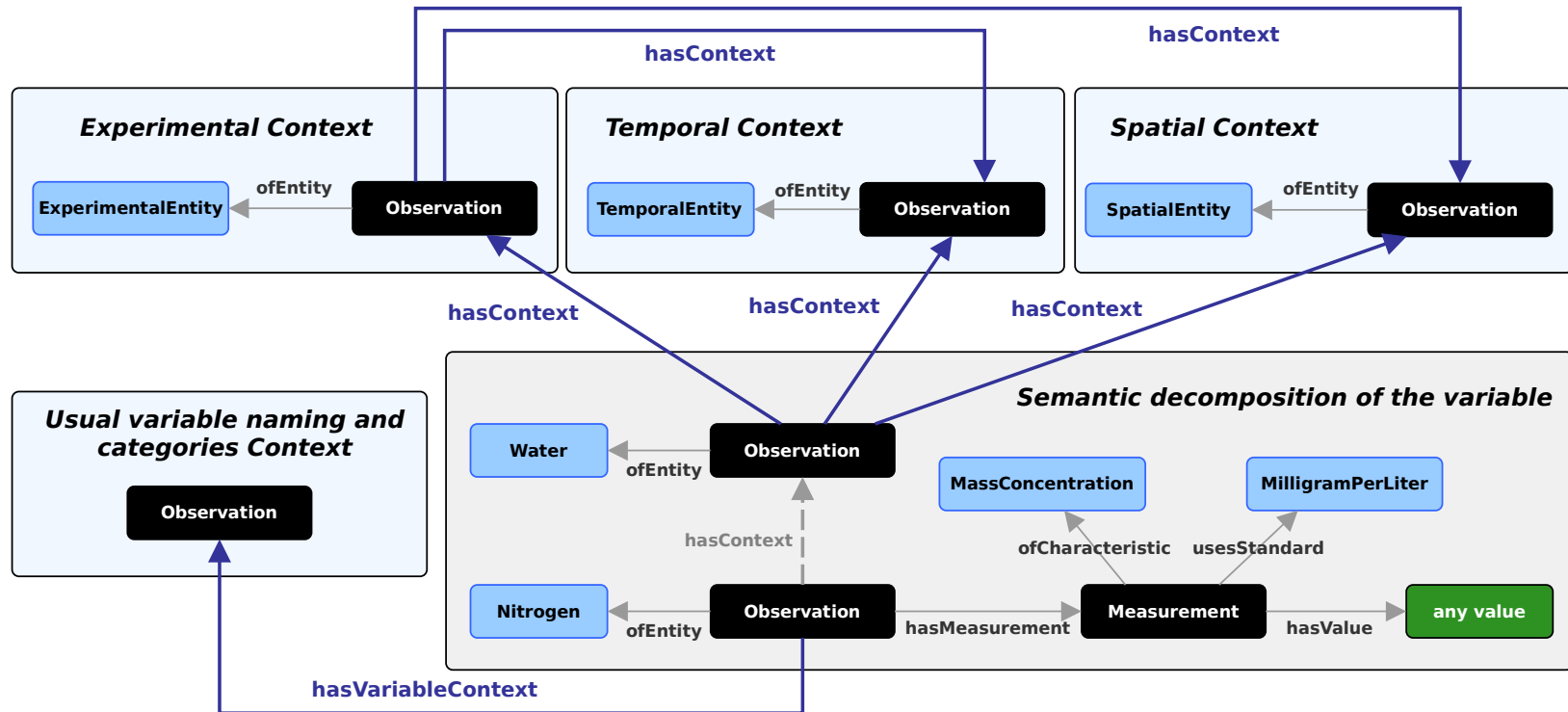
The screenshot shows the OBOE interface with two windows. The left window displays a class hierarchy under 'Classes', with 'Anaae-France variable category naming standard' and 'Anaae-France variable naming standard' highlighted in orange. The right window shows 'Individuals for Anaae-France variable category naming standard' and 'Individuals for Anaae-France variable naming standard'. In the first list, 'aquifer', 'atmospheric convection', 'biodiversity', and 'population dynamics' are highlighted in orange. In the second list, 'concentration', 'phosphorus content in fertiliser', 'phytoplankton biovolume', and 'plant height' are visible, with 'phytoplankton biovolume' highlighted in orange.

## 3. variable semantic graph driven by OBOE model



## Generic graph models

complete graph overview for **ONE** variable : phytoplankton biovolume



how not to duplicate this work for each variables?

# Generic graph models for several variables

→ dynamically instantiated annotation patterns on several variables

→ depends on the relational database model : data from several variables must be managed in a similar way

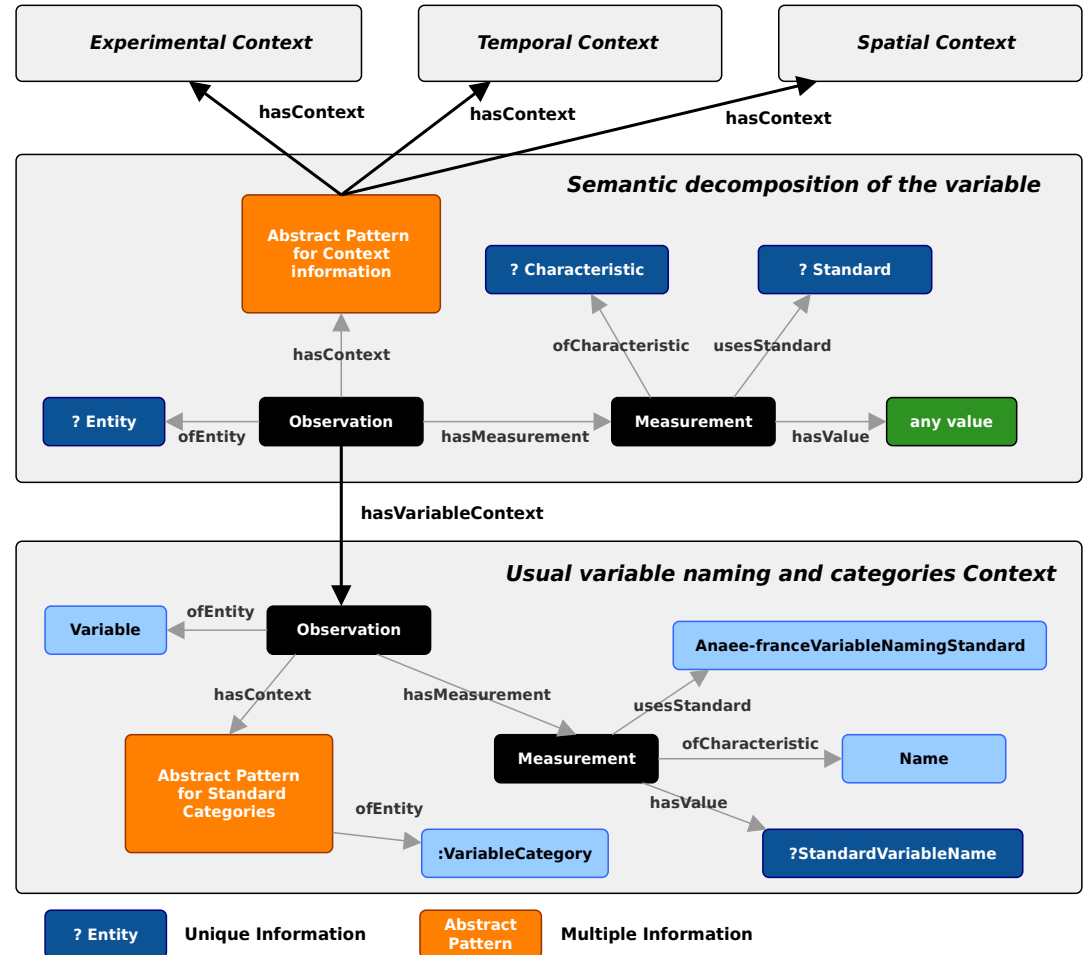
## Identification of the common structure of graphs for several variables, composed of:

- single-value nodes dynamically instantiated per variable

(blue)

- optional nodes, single or multiple according to the variable and whose values are dynamic, forming portions of the final graph

(orange)



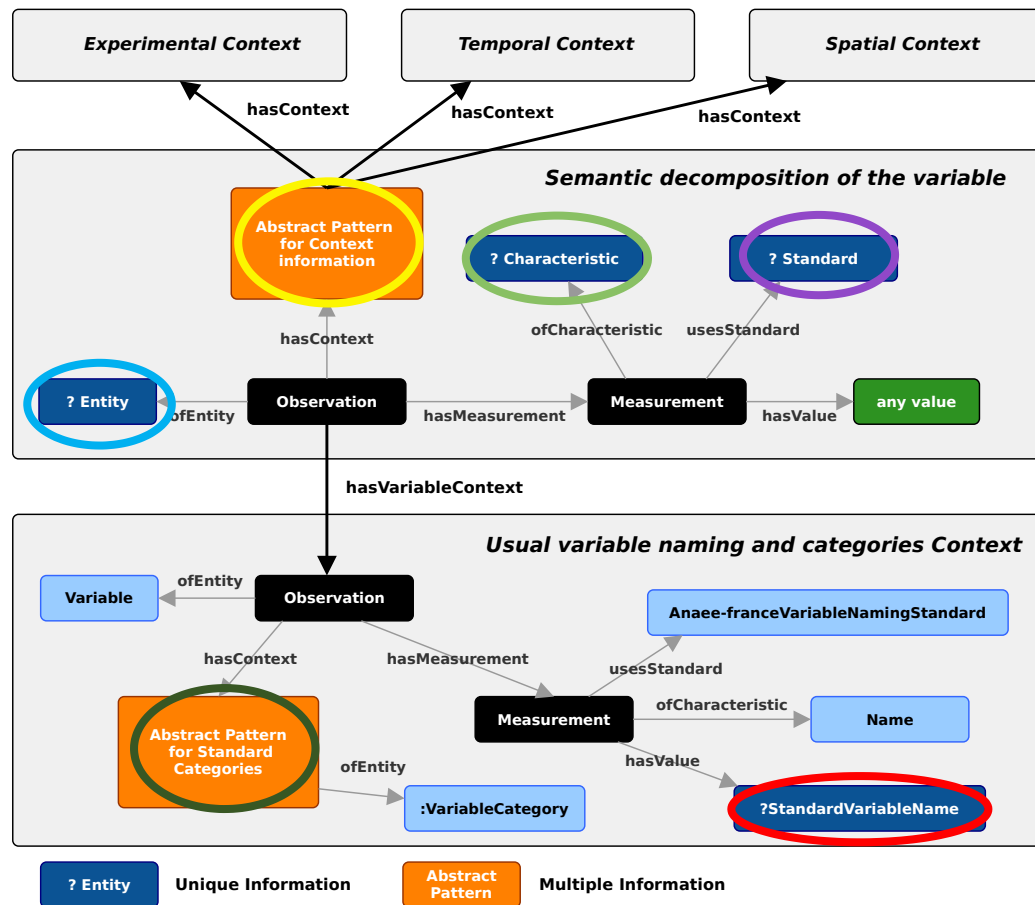
# Generic graph models

Semantic description and standard naming of variables, (1 line per variable)

Standard Variable Name	Category(ies)	Context(s)	Entity	Characteristic	Standard Measurement
Dissolved Ammonium Nitrogen Mass Concentration	Physical Chemistry	Water, Solutes, Ammonium	Nitrogen	Mass Concentration	Milligram Per Liter
Phytoplankton biovolume	Biodiversity, Population dynamics	Water	Phytoplankton	Volume Per Volume	Micrometer Cubed PerMilliliter
Zooplankton biovolume	Biodiversity, Population dynamics	Water	Zooplankton	Volume Per Surface	Milliliter Per Meter Squared
WaterPH	Physical Chemistry		Water	pH	pHUnit
...	...	...	...	...	...

+

Semantic annotation model





# Application for planktonic biodiversity data from lakes

- in **dark blue** id or **orange** dynamic elements from the semantic description of the variables

- in **green** values stored in the relational database

+

## rules for uri

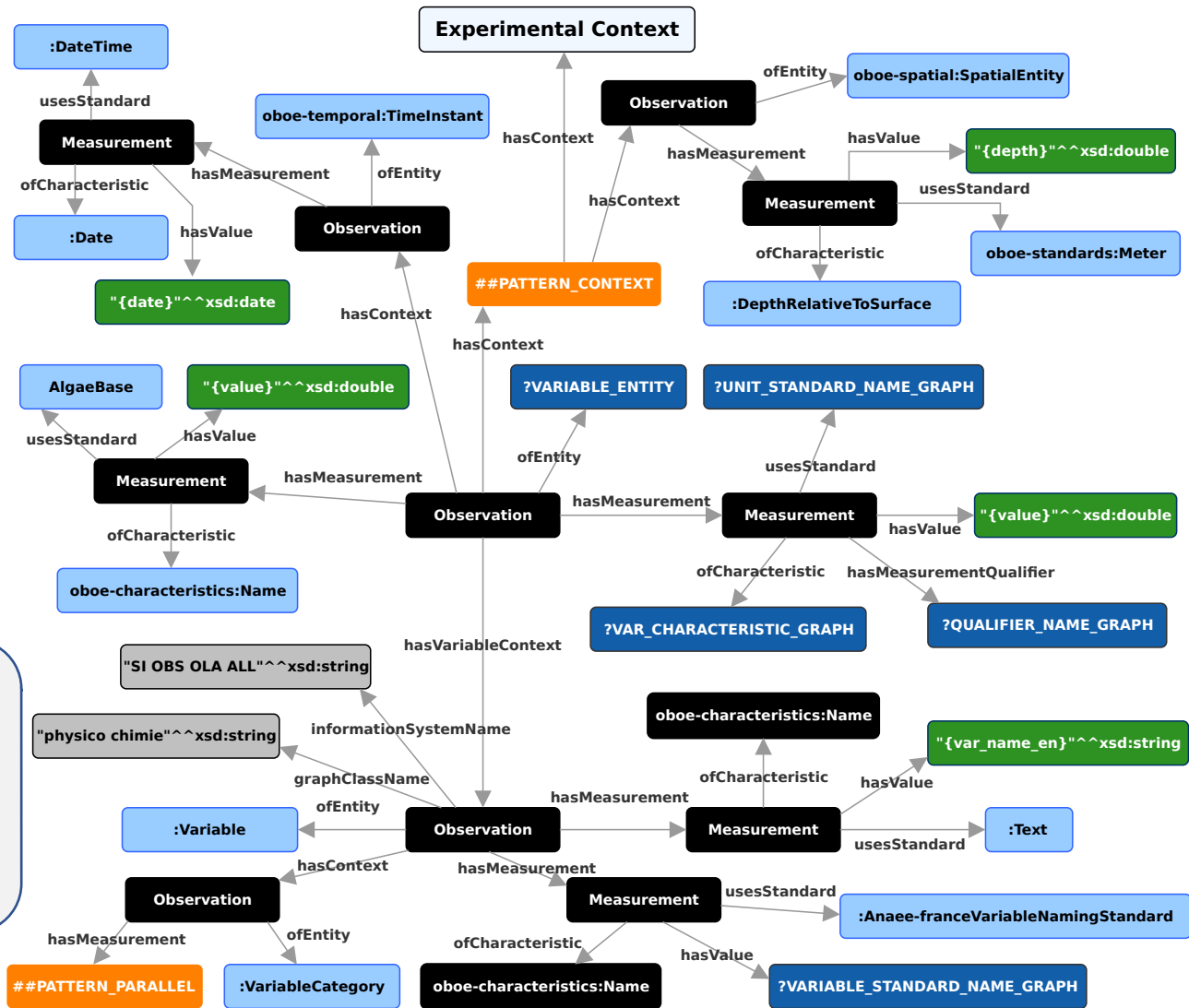
- naming pattern for dynamic uri (non-terminal nodes)

ex: `http://anaee/ola/observation/water{measure_id}`

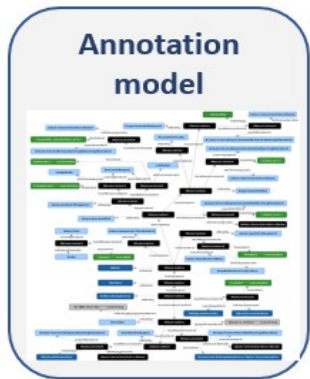
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- corresponding SQL queries

ex: `SELECT measure_id, value FROM measure`

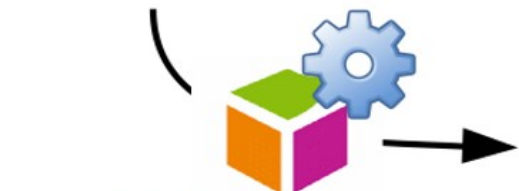


# Application for planktonic biodiversity data from lakes



OBOE based ontology

variable semantic description

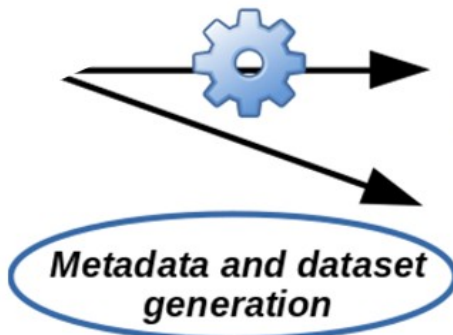


Semantic modeling and annotation

COBY pipeline



Graph database



SemData pipeline

<https://doi.org/10.15454/XZWVM8>

Data INRAE

AnaEE-France Dataverse (www.inra.fr)

Portal Data INRAE > Experimental - Observation - Simulation Dataverse > AnaEE-France Dataverse >

## Plankton, water temperature and orthophosphorus concentration from Lake Geneva (1974-2004)

Version 7.0

Frédéric Rimet, Viet Tran-Khak; Leslie Lainé, 2021. "Plankton, water temperature and orthophosphorus concentration from Lake Geneva (1974-2004)", <https://doi.org/10.15454/XZWVM8>, Portal Data INRAE, V7

Citer le dataset - Pour en apprendre davantage sur le sujet, consulter le document Data Citation Standards [en].

Modalités d'accès au dataset - Contact Partager

Statistiques d'utilisation sur les datasets 16 téléchargements

Description - The data set was produced from observations from the infrastructure OLA (Observation and experimentation on LAkes) on the site Lake Geneva in the ecosystem lake. Measurements are about the following variables: dissolved orthophosphorus mass concentration, water temperature, zooplankton

Subject - Earth and Environmental Sciences

Mot-clé - Water temperature, Orthophosphorus, Zooplankton, Lake Geneva

Related Publication - Rimet F., O. Anneville , D. Barbet, C. Chardon, L. Crépin, I. Domaizon, J.-M. Dorioz, L. Espinat, V. Frossard, J. Guillard, C. Goulon, V. Hamelet, J.-C. Hustache, S. Jacquet, L. Lainé, B. Montuelle, P. Perney, P. Quetin, A. Schellenberger, V. Tran-Khak, G. Monet (2020). The Observatory on alpine Lakes (OLA) database - Sixty years of environmental data accessible to the public. Journal of Limnology 79 (2): 164-178. doi: doi: 10.4081/jlimnol.2020.1944 <https://doi.org/10.4081/jlimnol.2020.1944> Monet, Ghislaine; Barbet, Denis, 2020. "Metadata of OLA-IS : information system of the lakes observatory.", <https://doi.org/10.15454/5QERF6>, Portal Data INRAE, V1 doi: [doi:10.15454/5QERF6](https://doi.org/10.15454/5QERF6) Monet, Ghislaine; Barbet, Denis, 2020. "Terms of Use of OLA-IS (Observatory of LAkes - Information System)", <https://doi.org/10.15454/HHN2GA>, Portal Data INRAE, V2

Link to data - <https://isi-ola.inrae.fr>

Fichiers Métaonnées Conditions Versions

Chercher dans ce dataset



# Metadata and dataset generation



Administrateur Admin

Last query : http://147.100.20.45:8888/blazegraph/data - 6 oct. 2021 16:58:03



Select a scope

APguyaflux2004

Select scope

Create a new selection

Variable: AbsorbedPhotosyntheticallyActiveRadiationByVegetationFluxDensity, AirCarbonDioxideMolarFraction, AirMomentumFluxDensity, AirPressure

Site: AiguebeletteLake, AnnecyLake, AnterneLake, BourgetLake

Project: EarthWorms, unknown

Year:

Variable category: AtmosphericConvection, CarbonCycle, HeatFlow, Meteorology

Network: EcotronMontpellier, SoereAcbb, SoereForet, SoereOla

Ecosystem: AgroEcosystem, FieldCropsAndCropsDedicatedToBiomassProduction, ForestEcosytem, GrasslandCroppingRotation

Apply filters, Reset selection, Validate selection

Validate after applying the filters

Variables	Variable categories	Sites	Projects	Networks	Ecosystems	Year	Values nb
							0

Create a new scope

Name:

Save scope

SemData commit ID : f3ff04a

# NetCDF header: Phytoplankton biovolume

```
dimensions:
  Var0Dim0 = 2 ;      Var0Dim1 = 569 ;      Var0Dim2 = 425 ;
variables:
  string Var0Dim0 (Var0Dim0) ;
  Var0Dim0:characteristic = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#LowerDepthRelativeToSurface" ;
  [...]
  string Var0Dim1 (Var0Dim1) ;
  Var0Dim1:characteristic = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Date" ;
  [...]
  string Var0Dim2 (Var0Dim2) ;
  Var0Dim2:characteristic = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#TaxonName" ;
  Var0Dim2:entity = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Phytoplankton" ;
  Var0Dim2:standard = "https://www.algaebase.org" ;

double Var0 (Var0Dim0, Var0Dim2, Var0Dim1) ;
  Var0:characteristic = "http://ecoinformatics.org/oboe/oboe.1.2/oboe-characteristics.owl#VolumePerVolume" ;
  Var0:entity = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Phytoplankton" ;
  Var0:standard = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#MicrometerCubedPerMilliliter" ;
  Var0:name_of_experimental_network_in_Anaee-France_experimental_network_naming_standard=
http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#OLAInfrastructure
  Var0:name_of_experimental_plot_in_Anaee-France_experimental_plot_naming_standard =
"http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Shl2Platform" ;
  Var0:name_of_experimental_site_in_Anaee-France_experimental_site_naming_standard =
"http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#LakeGeneva" ;
  Var0:name_of_variable_in_Anaee-France_variable_naming_standard=http://opendata.inra.fr/
anaeeOnto#PhytoplanktonBiovolume      Var0:latitude_of_Waypoint_in_decimal_degree = "46.453457" ;
  Var0:longitude_of_Waypoint_in_decimal_degree = "6.5942335" ;

data:
```

No. of identified species

No. of dates

infos about species taxonomy

infos on the variable and linked contexts

Data section

```
Var0Dim0 = "10.0", "18.0" ;
```

```
Var0Dim1 = "1974-01-14", "1974-02-18", "1974-03-18", "1974-04-22", "1974-05-13", "1974-06-17", "1974-07-15", "1974-08-19", "1974-09-16", "1974-10-14" ;
```

# NetCDF header: Phytoplankton biovolume

infos on the variable and linked contexts

```
double Var0(Var0Dim0, Var0Dim2, Var0Dim1) ;
  Var0:characteristic = "http://ecoinformatics.org/oboe/oboe.1.2/oboe-characteristics.owl#VolumePerVolume" ;
  Var0:entity = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Phytoplankton" ;
  Var0:standard = "http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#MicrometerCubedPerMilliliter" ;
  Var0:name_of_experimental_network_in_Anaee-France_experimental_network_naming_standard=
http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#OLAInfrastructure
  Var0:name_of_experimental_plot_in_Anaee-France_experimental_plot_naming_standard =
"http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#Shl2Platform" ;
  Var0:name_of_experimental_site_in_Anaee-France_experimental_site_naming_standard =
"http://opendata.inra.fr/anaeeOnto#LakeGeneva" ;
  Var0:name_of_variable_in_Anaee-France_variable_naming_standard=http://opendata.inra.fr/
anaeeOnto#PhytoplanktonBiovolume          Var0:latitude_of_Waypoint_in_decimal_degree = "46.453457" ;
  Var0:longitude_of_Waypoint_in_decimal_degree = "6.5942335" ;
```

data:

Data section

```
Var0Dim0 = "10.0", "18.0" ;
Var0Dim1 = "1974-01-14", "1974-02-18", "1974-03-18", "1974-04-22", "1974-05-13", "1974-06-17", "1974-07-15", "1974-08-19",
"1974-09-16", "1974-10-14 »,
"1974-11-18", "1974-12-09", "1975-02-17", "1975-03-17",
[...]
Var0Dim2 = "Achnanthes catenata", "Achnanthes conspicua", "Achnanthes exilis", "Achnanthes flexella", "Achnanthes
minutissima", "Achnanthes sp.", "Achroonema articulatum", "Actinastrum hantzschii", "Amphidinium sp.", "Amphiplaura pellucida",
"Amphora ovalis", "Amphora pediculus", "Amphora sp.
[...]
Var0 = NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, NaN, 399969, 222499,
328451, 603926, 111200, 31800, 74200, 0, 0, 10600, 0, NaN, 26500,
[...]
```





# Semantics in ecology and ecosystem studies



## Lessons from this work

- The OBOE generic ‘observation model’ allows for atomic modeling of the components of the system and of their nested or crossed relationships.
- In addition to the provided OBOE extensions (characteristics, spatial, temporal, standards), new classes and individuals are defined for the experimental modeling, especially for Entity (e.g experimental entities) and Standards (e.g lists of variable names or of experimental facilities)
- A graph pattern approach for the modeling of the variables leads to a more efficient investment at greatly reduced cost, allowing massive semantic processing of the data
- The generic pipelines developed can be re-used in other contexts and for other ontologies
- The whole process produces syntactically and semantically interoperable data, contributing to FAIR sharing and data reuse

## and some perspectives...

- In addition to the interoperability of data annotated with the same ontology (e.g OBOE), semantic interoperability between data annotated with different ontologies is needed.
  - => alignment among semantics resources is of main importance
- As (most of) ontologies are domain specifics, the description of a broad perimeter has to rely on several ontologies
  - => future enrichment of the description of experimentation on ecosystems using SSN, FOAF, PROV.. and use of existing controlled vocabularies, e.g for scientific name of taxon.
- The metadata generated by the workflow feeds trans-RI knowledge bases on the datasets and experimental sites
  - => contribution the trans-domain linked data
- The NetCDF format is not well adapted to all types of data set
  - => future generation of other “table type” formats



Thanks to all colleagues who contributed  
or are linked to this work

