

DataFinder: Semantically Informed Search in Metadata Repositories

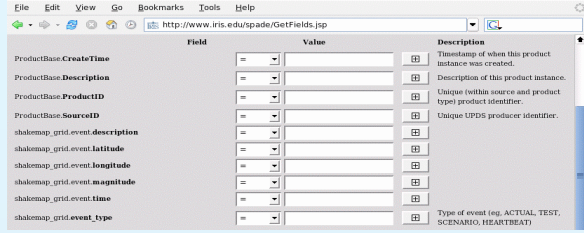
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The Data Finding Problem

- Pathway computations generate large number of data products (stored in digital libraries)
- If there is metadata, it is complex, low-level, non-uniform, and constantly evolving
- Finding results or reusing previously computed products is hard
 - Very large space of potentially relevant files
 - Which metadata attributes describe what I want?
 - Complex search interfaces
- Example query
 - Find PGA hazard maps within rectangular region bounded by 34°N, 122°W and 37°N, 118°W
 - Looks simple
 - Go to MySRB or other metadata search interface
 - Specify metadata attribute constraints
 - Get results
 - But how do you know which attributes to use?
 - How do you phrase the query?
 - Attributes are different for pathway 1 and 2
 - Type information is implicit
 - Some joins are complex

```
SELECT ?mapfile WHERE ...
AND file_logical_type = "JPEGFile"
AND IMR_LMT_Type = "PGA"
AND EqkRupForecast.url = ?url
AND THERE EXISTS ?forecast_file
WHERE file_logical_name = ?url
AND EqkRupForecast.NumRuptures > 1
```

Standard Attribute-based Search



But Which Attributes are Relevant?

One Part (relevant attributes)

The Rest (irrelevant attributes)

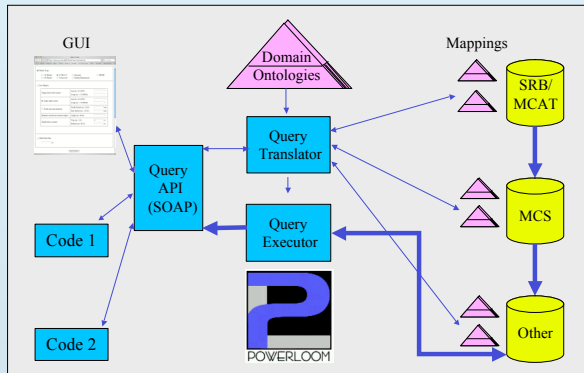
Irrelevant (attributes not used in the query)

And how does one know which ones they are?

The DataFinder Solution

- Semantically informed search tool
 - Semantic search based on semantic description of data products
 - Ontologies & rules define meaning of relevant terms in a domain
 - e.g., PGA map, Hazard map, multi-event rupture, etc.
 - Mappings define meaning of metadata attributes in domain terms
 - Query translator rewrites domain queries into metadata attribute queries
 - Query executor runs translated queries against repositories and combines results
- Query translation
 - Semantic query cannot be run directly on repositories
 - MCS, SRB, etc. only understand attribute/value queries
 - Must translate semantic language to low-level attribute language
 - using ontologies, mappings and logical inference
 - potentially creating multiple queries
 - well-researched problem in data integration
- New query translation algorithm
 - allows **very expressive domain language** and rules
 - results in very **compact conjunctive queries**
 - offloads "heavy lifting" to external repository
 - "patent almost pending"

DataFinder Architecture



Translation of a domain query into an attribute-value query (MCS)

FIND ?file
WHERE ?file is PGA-Hazard-Map
AND ?file describes ?region
AND ?region is enclosed by bounding box 34, -122, 37, -118

SELECT DISTINCT ?T4_Object_id ...

DataFinder Features

- Semantic querying
 - Find data & products based on their meaning, not low-level features
 - Containment reasoning (subsumption) for types and regions
- Aggregation of metadata distributed over multiple files
 - combine metadata from multiple objects
 - "pathway-1-style" vs. "pathway-2-style"
- Transparent support of different metadata schema
 - different metadata used by different researchers/codes
 - different metadata standards (SCEC vs. FGDC)
- Scalability
 - use query rewriting to translate domain level queries
 - push conjunctive queries and constraints to MCS, SRB backend
- Extensibility without recoding
 - add new abstractions to the ontology
 - add new attributes and mappings without affecting existing ones
- Integrated with MCS and SRB
 - provides **semantic layer on top of Metadata Catalog**
 - leverages PowerLoom™ inference & RDBMS interface
 - query multiple repositories simultaneously
- Generic technology—widely applicable
 - Example: Velocity meshes, and **Pathway-1 products**
 - Other domains

Velocity Mesh and Product Finder Interfaces

Query by model type (1-D Mesh, 3-D Mesh)

Query by specific model (CV3M3-D, Hazard, PREN, etc.)

Alternate region representations (Upper right corner, North and east distances)

Geographic volume specification (Origin, Lat, Long, North Extent, East Extent, Depth below surface)

Mesh size

The velocity mesh product finder allows queries using domain-level terms and automatically translates them into the needed metadata attributes