

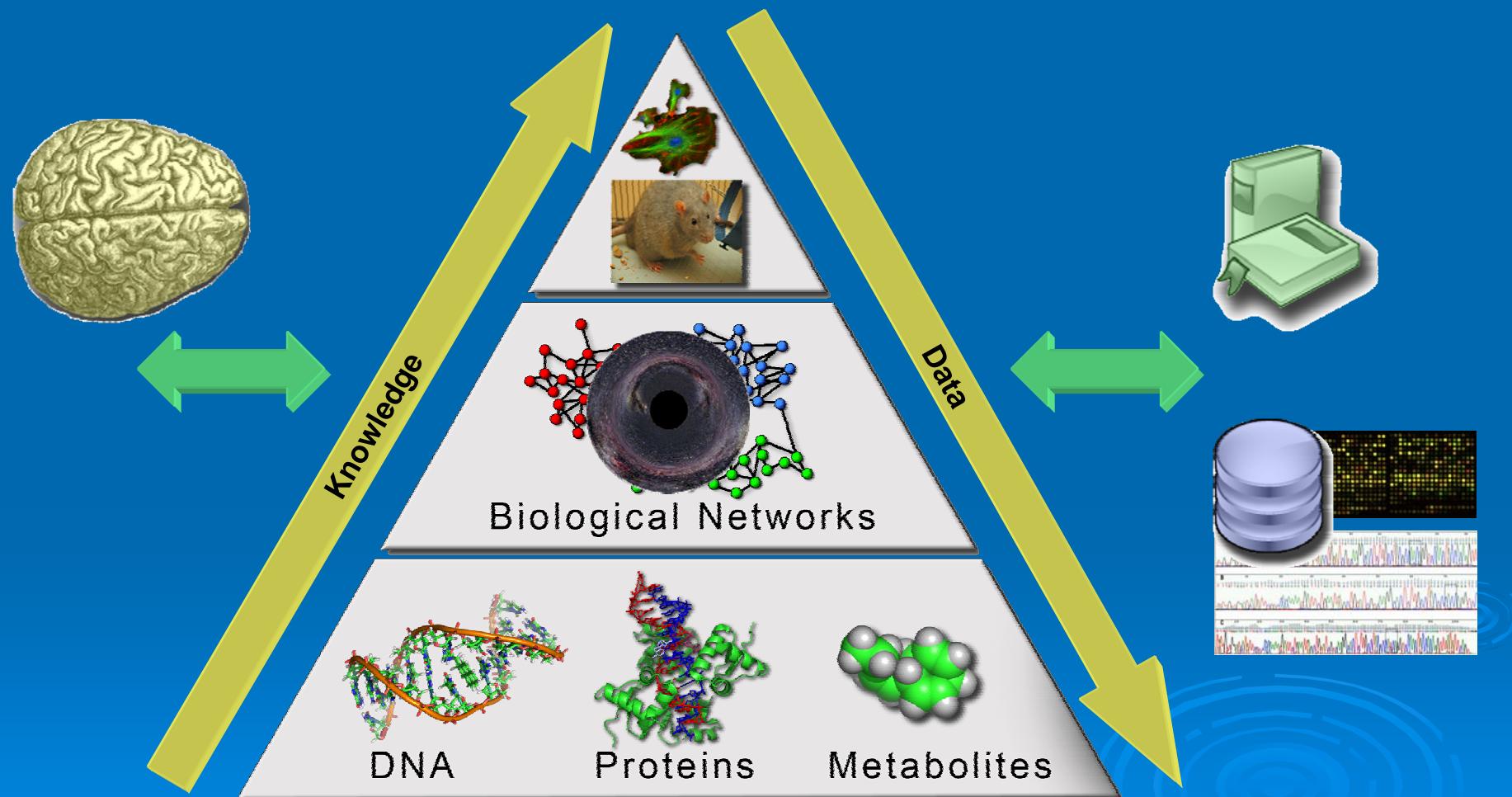
# Large Scale Knowledge Representation of Distributed Biomedical Information

Volker Stümpflen

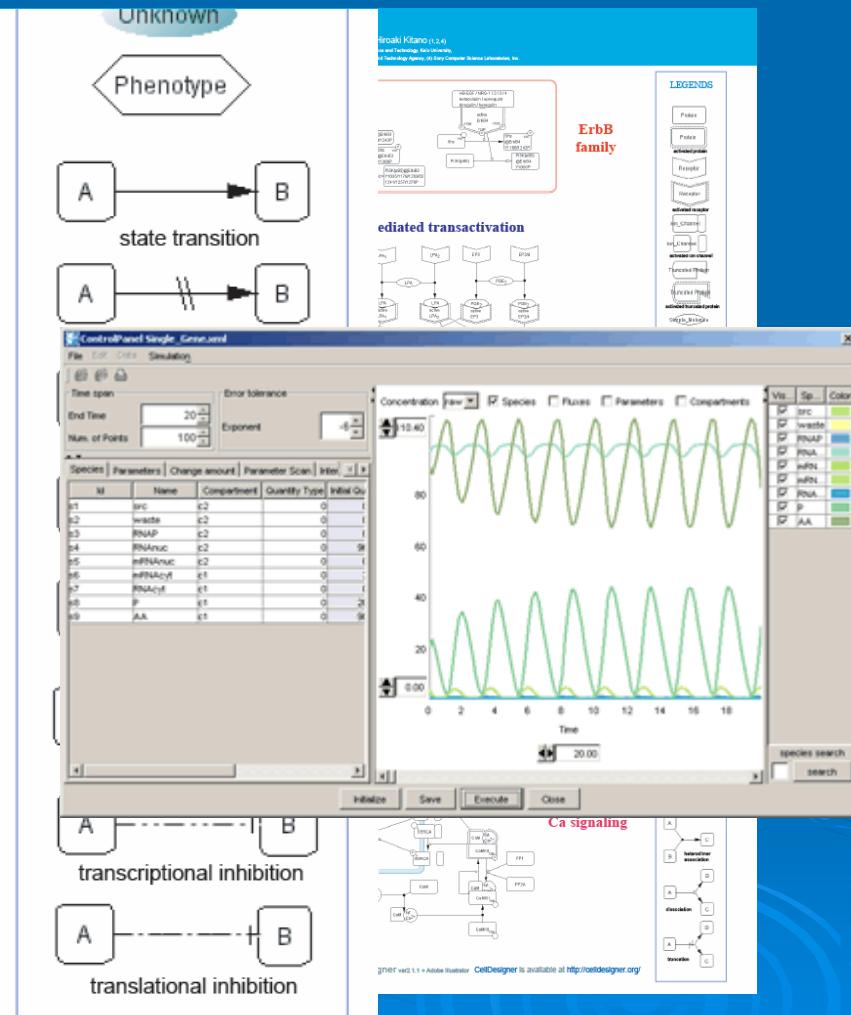
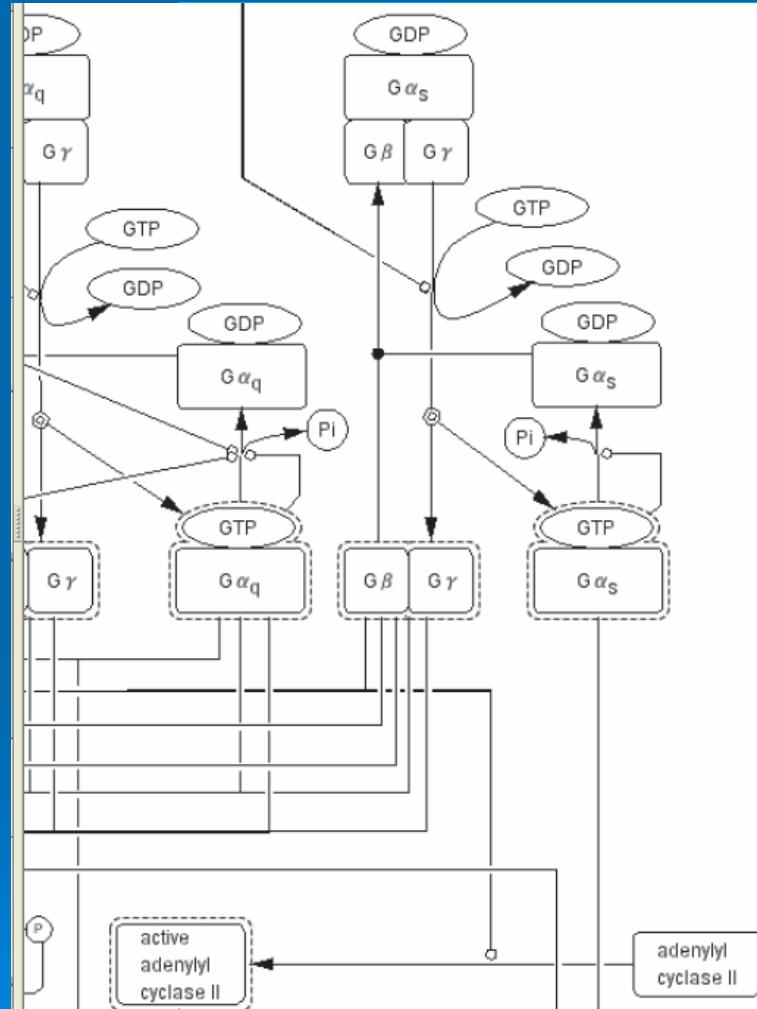
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MIPS / Institute for Bioinformatics  
GSF – National Research Center for Environment and Health

# Understanding Complex Biological Systems



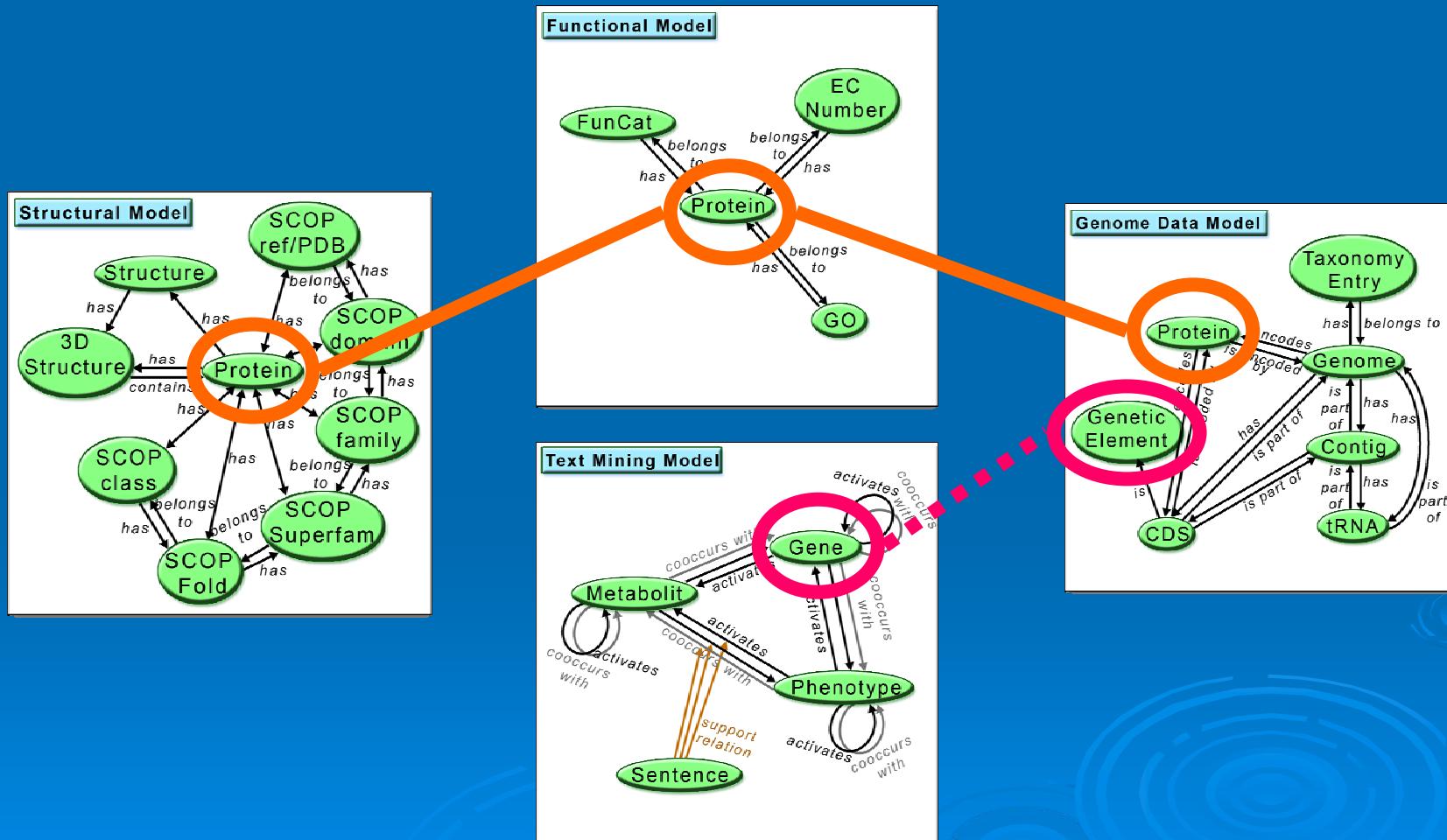
# Systems Biology



# Questions

- Different knowledge domains ?
- Ontologies for semantic structuring ?
- Semantic structures from free text ?
- Knowledge representation from distributed resources ?

# Merging Knowledge from Different Domains



# Semantic Structuring Demands for Ontologies

- Life sciences have a long tradition in classification ...
- ... various ontologies are available and in use
- Ontologies (in the broadest sense):
  - Controlled vocabularies
  - Taxonomies
  - Frames
  - ...
- Examples for Ontologies:
  - MeSH terms, Gene Ontology (GO), FunCat, ...
  - Many more from e.g. Open Biomedical Ontologies (<http://obofoundry.org/>)

# Example: Extending the Functional Context of Proteins

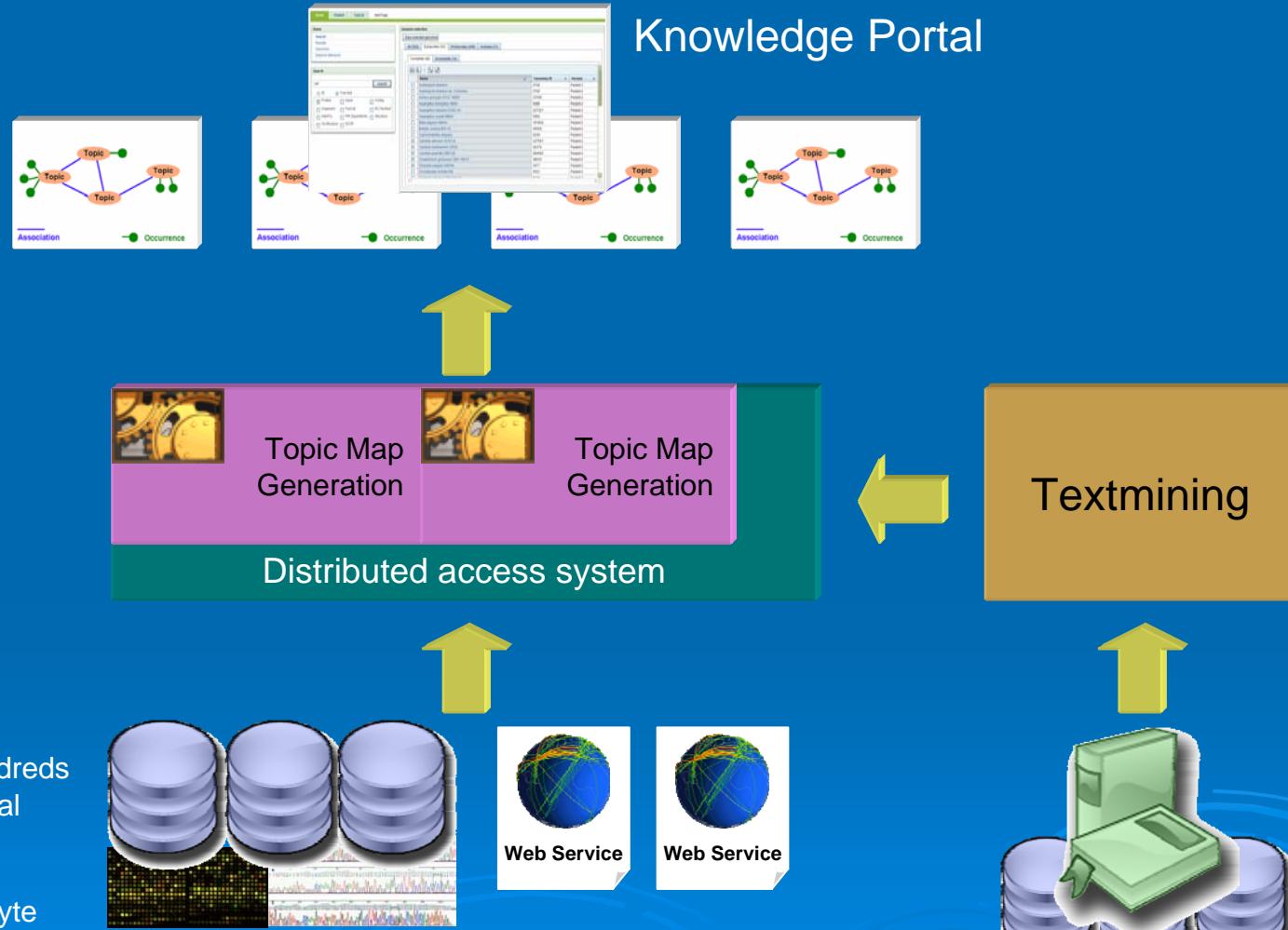
The screenshot shows the mips Geknow web interface. At the top, there are logos for gsf and mips, followed by a banner with four small images of biological samples. The main navigation bar includes links for 'Geknow', 'Search', 'Results', 'Genomes', 'FunCat', and 'External Reference'. On the left, there is an 'Ontology viewer' sidebar with a tree structure of biological pathways. The '02 ENERGY' branch is expanded, showing '02.04 glyoxylate cycle' which is highlighted with a green background. The main content area displays 'Protein ao090009000219' with its characteristics:

Characteristics: ao090009000219	
Description	isocitrate lyase
Molecular Weight	60026.2650200003
Sequence	MGFLEDEDKKYLDDQAVKAWWTDSRWRHTEYPSNVQSKKLWKILESNFENKVASFTY
Length	538
Organism	Aspergillus oryzae

Below this, another panel for 'Protein ao090009000219' lists its functions and associated organisms:

has function	01.05.01.01	
has function	01.01.06.04.02	
has function	01.05.01	
has function	01	
has function	01.05	
is encoded within genome	Aspergillus oryzae	
is encoded by CDS	ao090009000219	Aspergillus oryzae

# Semantic Structuring and Knowledge Representation

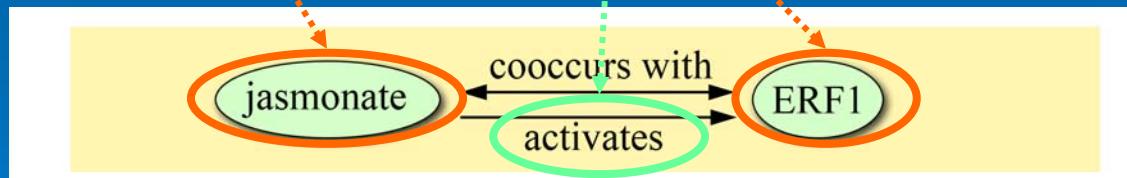


# Knowledge in Free Text

Free text

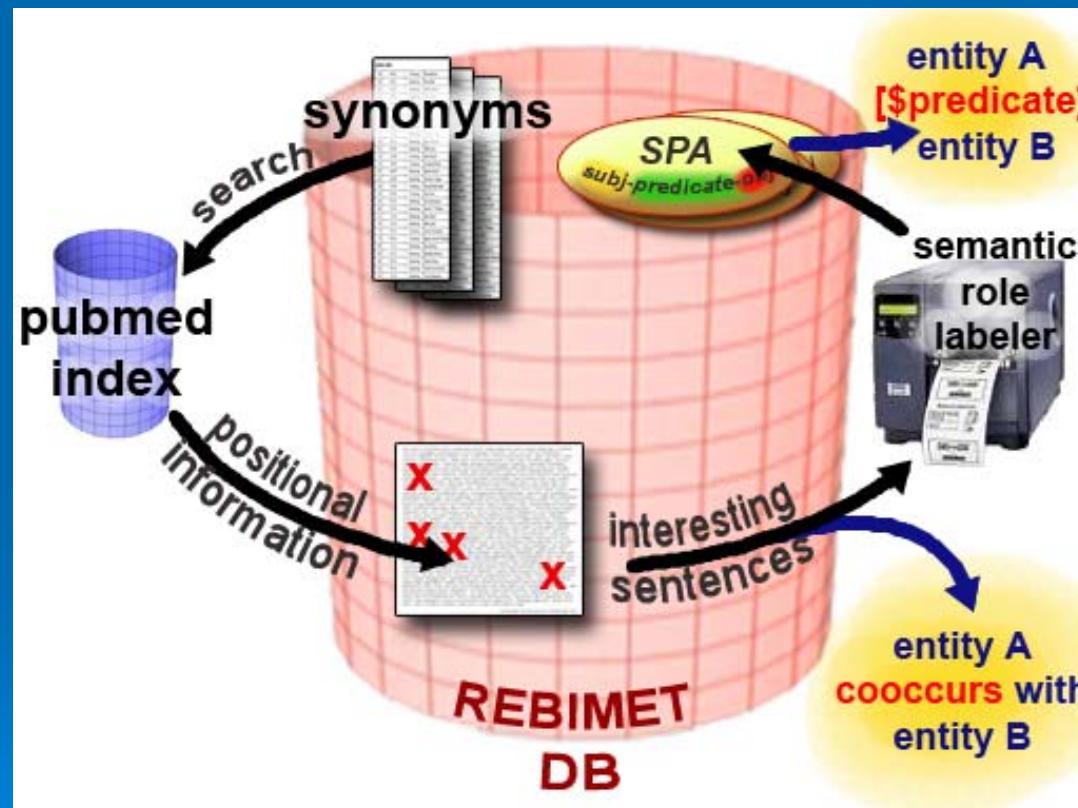
... of pathogen response genes that prevent disease progression.  
The expression of ERF1 can be activated rapidly by ethylene  
or jasmonate and can be activated synergistically by both hormones.  
In addition, both signalling ...

Topic Map

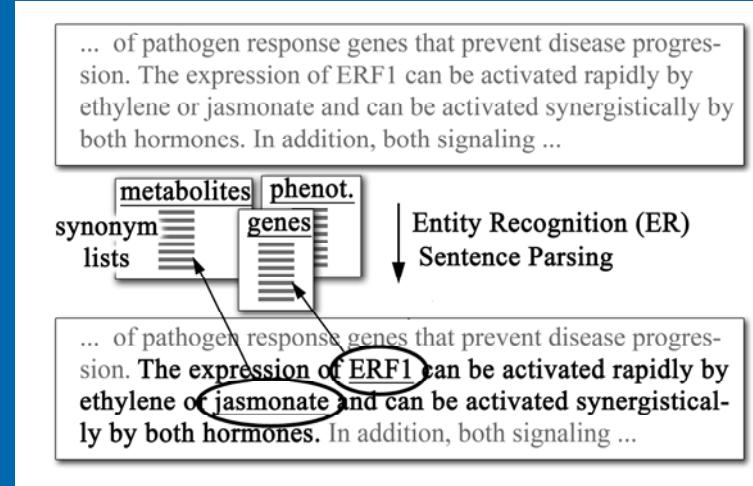


# REBIMET

## ➤ Relation Extraction from Biomedical Texts



# Entity Recognition



- Identification of relevant biological entities:
  - Based on synonym lists created from terms in taxonomies, gene names, ....
- Realized with Apaches Lucene

# Information Extraction with Semantic Role Labeling and Cooccurrence

The expression of ERF1 can be activated rapidly by ethylene and jasmonate and can be activated synergistically by both hormones.

## 1. Semantic Role Labeling:



ASSERT tool  
(Pradhan S. et al., 2005)

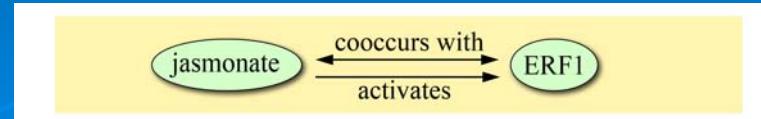
1.1 SPA structure for  
verb a)

1.2 SPA structure for  
verb b)

[<sub>arg1</sub> *The expression of ERF1*] [<sub>argm-mod</sub> *can*] be [<sub>target</sub> *activated*] [<sub>argm-mnr</sub> *rapidly*] [<sub>arg0</sub> *by ethylene and jasmonate*] and can be activated synergistically by both hormones

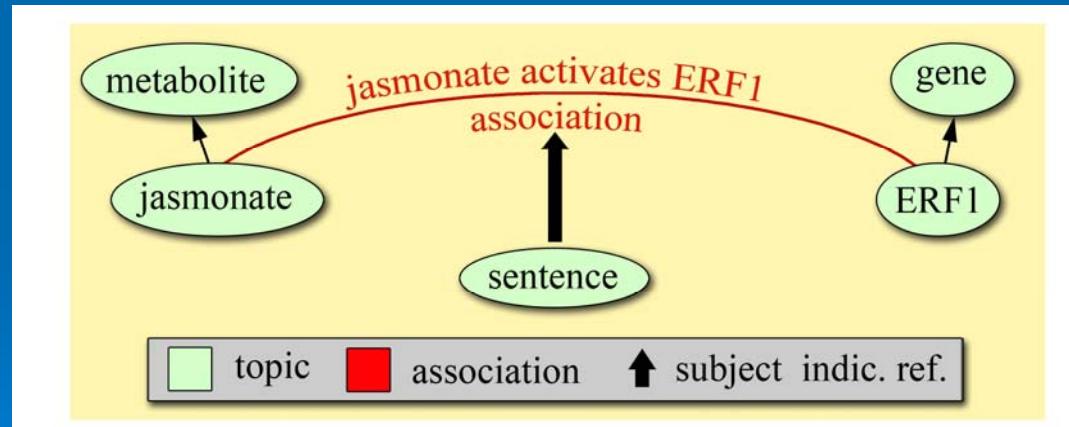
[<sub>arg1</sub> *The expression of ERF1*] can be activated rapidly by ethylene and jasmonate and [<sub>argm-mod</sub> *can*] be [<sub>target</sub> *activated*] [<sub>argm-tmp</sub> *synergistically*] [<sub>arg0</sub> *by both hormones*]

## 2. Information Extraction:



# Simplified TM Representation

- Generation of Topic Map fragments
- Connection to evidence in text by reification



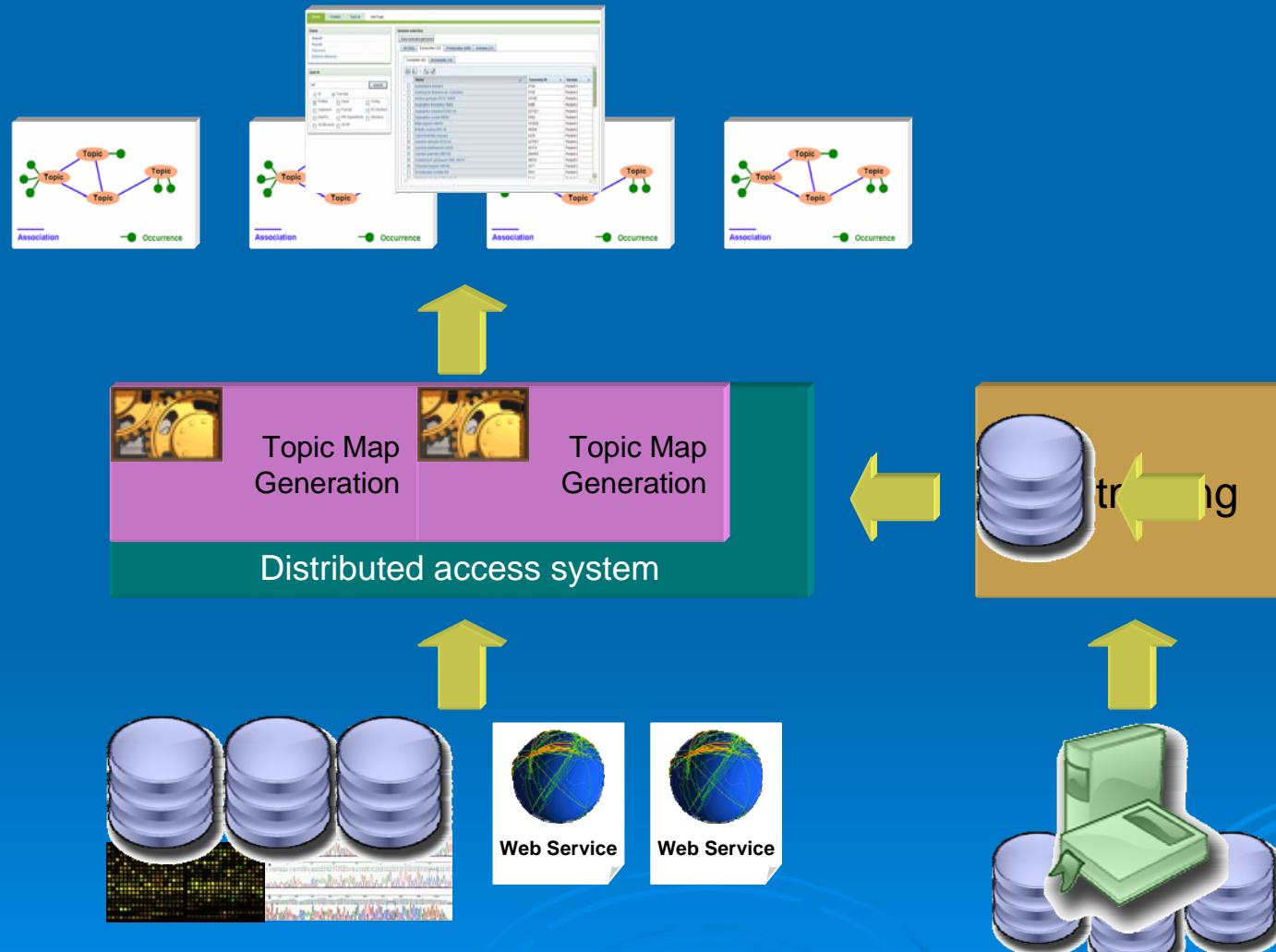
# Screenshot Portal

- PSI based merging of textmining model with genome model

The screenshot displays a web interface for a 'Coding Sequence gi\_19115202' from a 'Characteristics' database. The main panel shows a table with columns for Name, Type, Description, and Organism. One row is highlighted for PID: 15508018, Type 2005, with the description: 'Mutation in the 5' alternatively spliced region of the XNP/ATR-X gene causes Chudley-Lowry syndrome.' Below this, there are three separate panels: 1) A 'GeKnow' sidebar with links to Search, Results, Genomes, FunCat, and External Reference. 2) A 'PubMed' search results page for the same PID, showing one result from 'Eur J Hum Genet.' 3) A 'mips' database search results page for the same PID, showing a table with rows for 'is part of contig' (NC\_003424) and 'is part of genome' (Schizosaccharomyces pombe 972h-). The bottom right corner of the main panel shows a 'Related Links' section with several external links.

is part of contig	NC_003424	Schizosaccharomyces pombe 972h-
is part of genome	Schizosaccharomyces pombe 972h-	

# Large Scale Integration and Knowledge Representation



# GeKnow: Integration of PEDANT, SIMAP, NCBI data, NCBI PubMed

- PEDANT 3 ~ 600 GB
  - contains 450 genomes each stored in a single MySQL database
  - no possibilities for simultaneous cross genome comparison
- SIMAP ~ 540 GB compressed
  - contains over 7 Mio. unique protein sequences
- NCBI
  - Taxonomy information (some thousands)
- Textmining from PubMed
  - 16 Mio. abstracts, 65 Mio Hits, 15 Mio. Sentences, 13 Mio. SPA structures
- Integration of these data on the fly
- Semantic linking of PEDANT databases with SIMAP and NCBI Taxonomy
- No redundant data

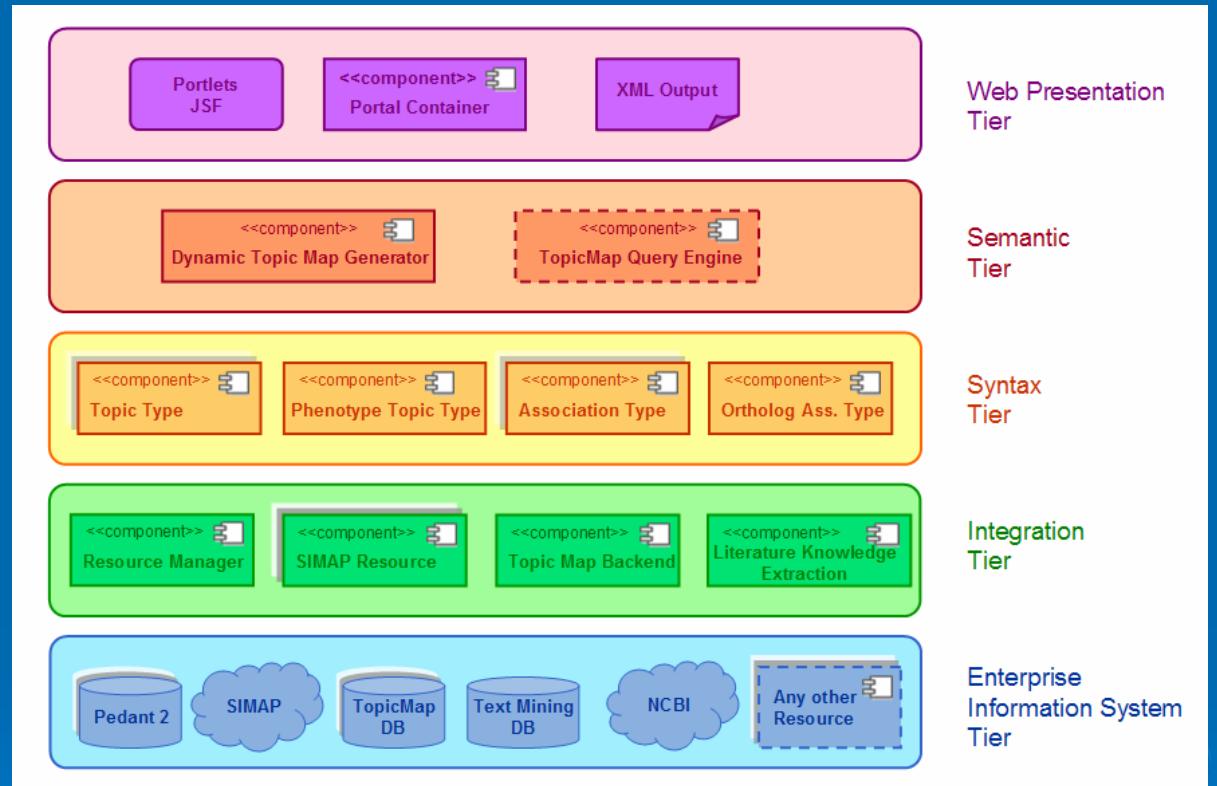
# How To Generate the Topic Maps ?

## Generation of TM fragments

- Problems with generation of one large TM
  - Very large data collections (storage problems)
  - Distributed
  - Update problems

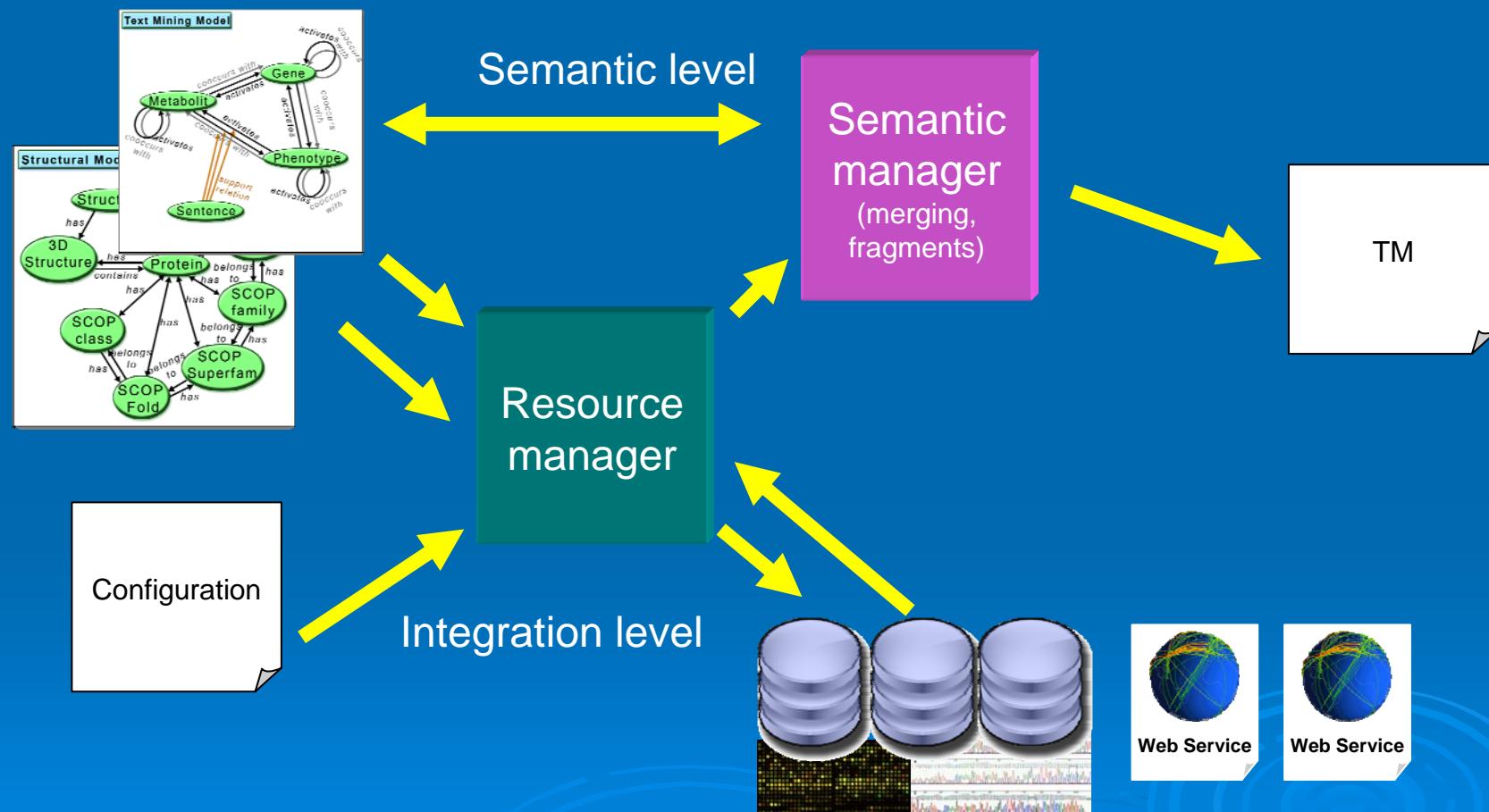
# System Architecture (GeKnow)

- Extension of our n-Tier J2EE based component and service oriented architecture (EJBs and Web Services)
- Simply by adding some semantic components ..
- .. and one semantic Tier



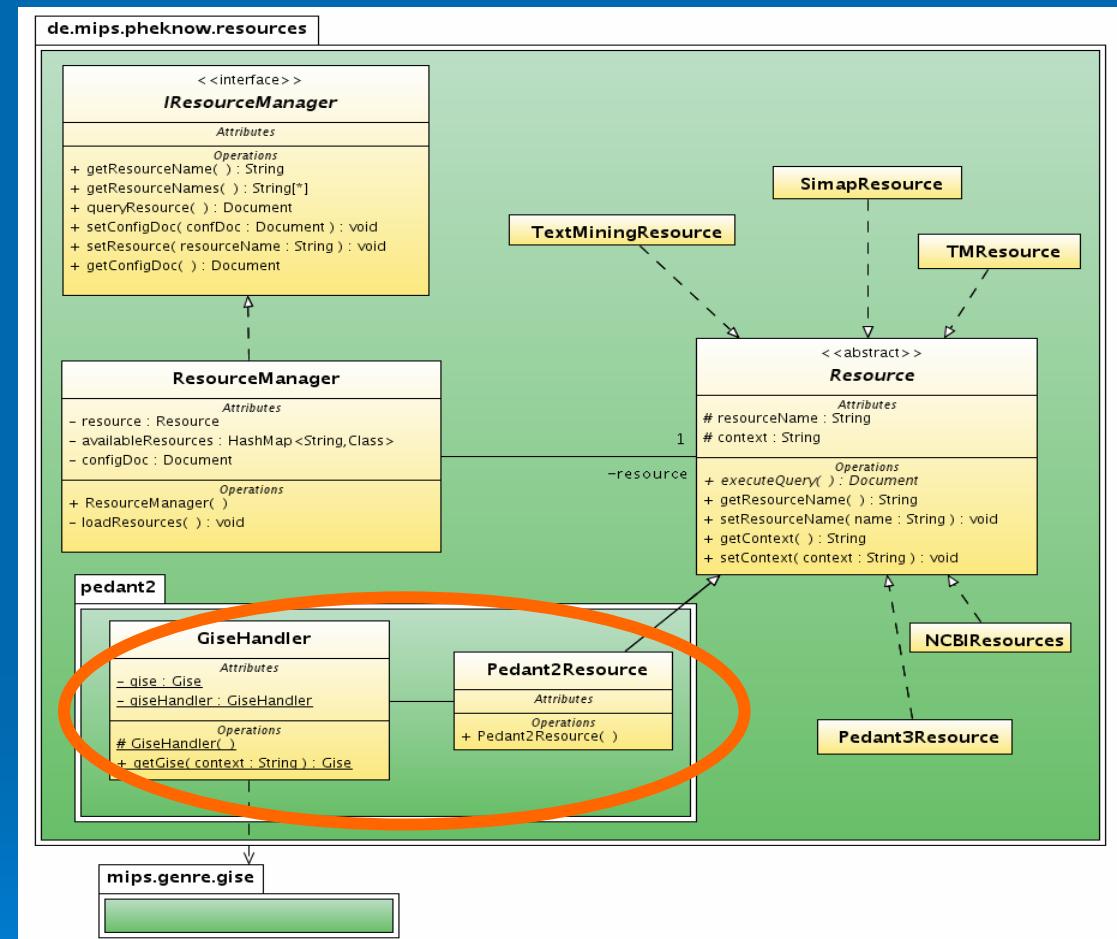
# Concept:

- Independent semantic layer on top of arbitrary data sources



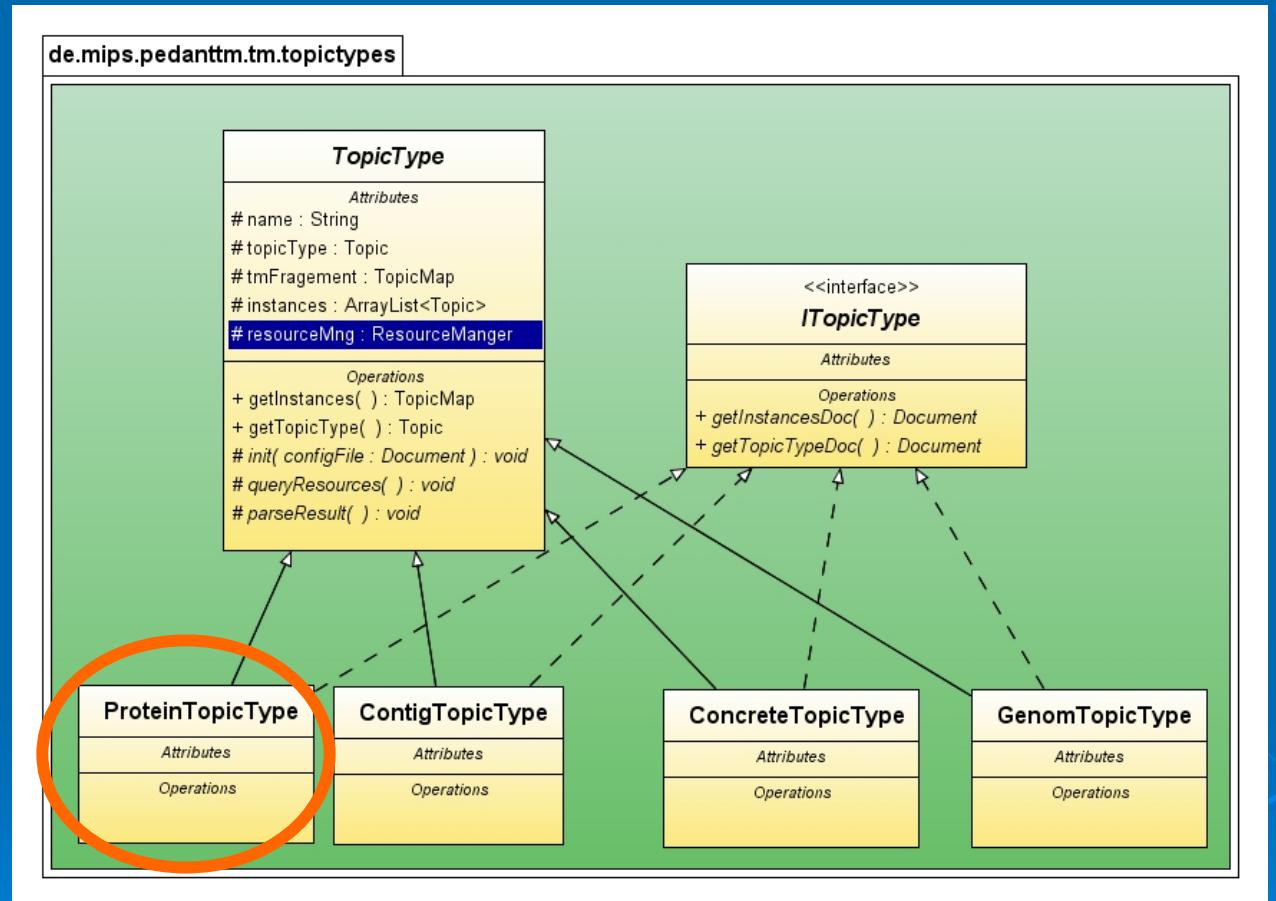
# Integration Tier

- Resource:
  - Aware of mapping between topic / association types and methods from data source
  
- Handler:
  - Proxy
  - Manages connections
  - Execute query methods



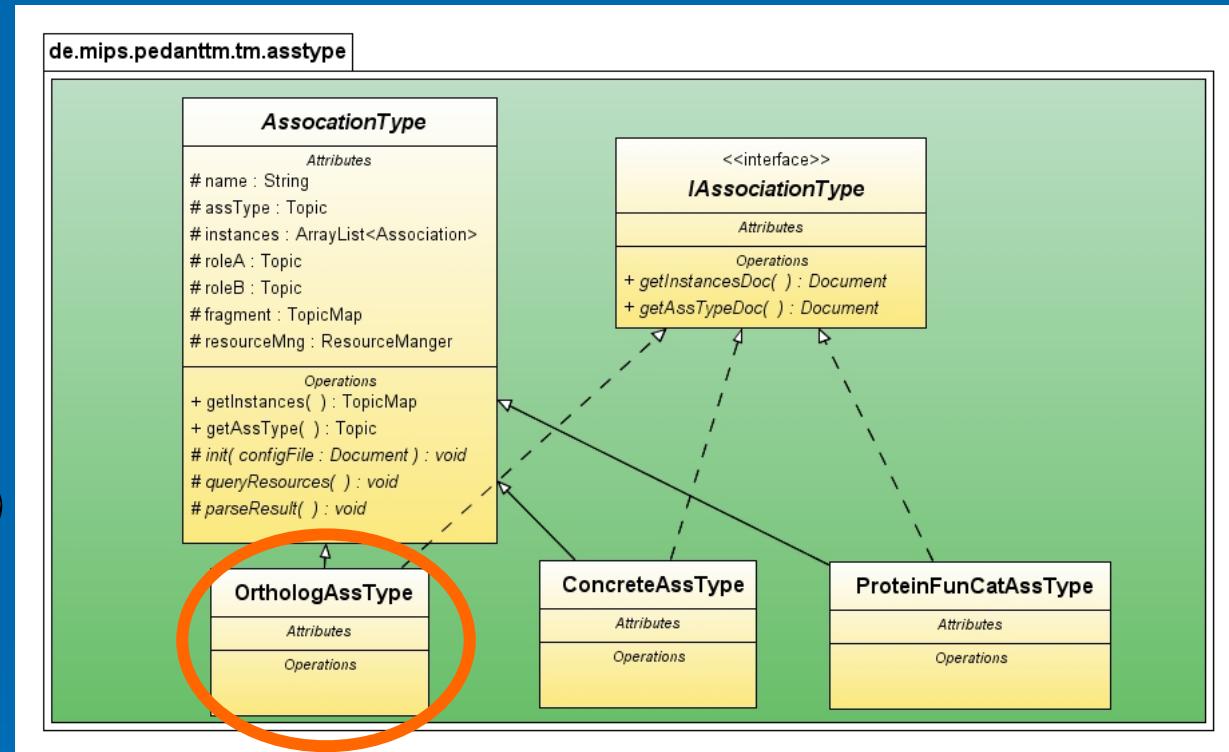
# Syntax Tier – Topic Types

- Converts resource specific format into TM fragments
- May access multiple resources (handled by Resource Manager)



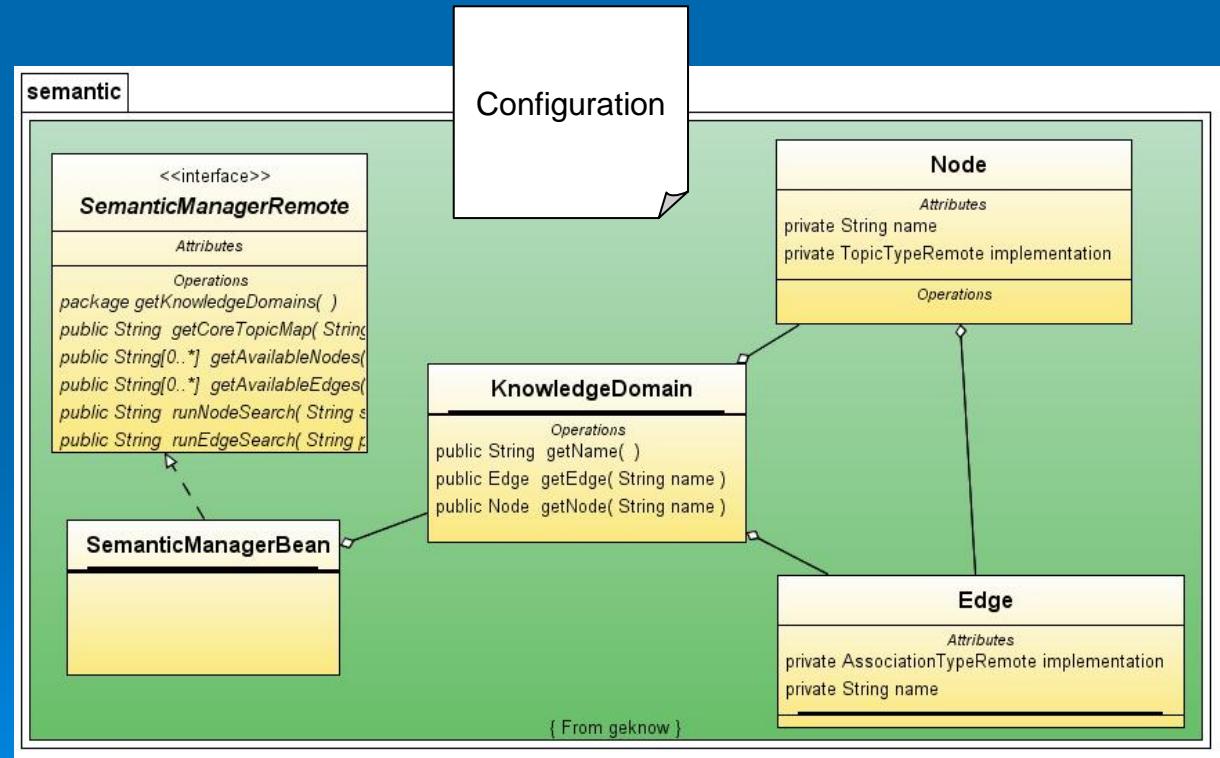
# Syntax Tier – Association Types

- Converts resource specific format into TM fragments
- May access multiple resources (handled by Resource Manager)



# Semantic Tier

- Responsible for
  - fragment generation
  - Merging
- No programming required (only configuration)



# Portal / Portlets (JSR-168)

The screenshot displays the mips (munich information center for protein sequences) portal interface. At the top, there are four small images representing different biological data types: a DNA helix, a cell, a flower, and a protein structure. Below these are the mips logo and the text "munich information center for protein sequences".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Geknow** sidebar: Includes links for Search, Results, Genomes, FunCat, and External Reference.
- Ontology viewer**: A tree view of biological pathways. The "02 ENERGY" category is expanded, showing "02.04 glyoxylate cycle" which is further expanded to show "02.05 Entner-Doudoroff pathway", "02.07 pentose-phosphate pathway", "02.08 pyruvate dehydrogenase complex", "02.09 anaplerotic reactions", "02.10 tricarboxylic-acid pathway (citrate cycle)", "02.11 electron transport and membrane-associated proteins", "02.13 respiration", and "02.16 fermentation".
- Protein ao090009000219** details:
  - Characteristics:** ao090009000219
  - Description: isocitrate lyase
  - Molecular Weight: 60026.2650200003
  - Sequence: MGFLDEDKKYLDDQAVKAWWTDSRWRHTEYPSNVQSKKLWKILESNFENKVASFTY
  - Length: 538
  - Organism: Aspergillus oryzae
- Protein ao090009000219** table:

has function	01.05.01.01
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has function	01
has function	01.05
is encoded within genome	Aspergillus oryzae
is encoded by CDS	ao090009000219
	Aspergillus oryzae

# Portal

- Currently JSF based
  - Caused several problems
- Migration to more generic portlets  
(XSLT based)

# What's Left ?

- GeKnow dedicated to be Open Source
- Visualization ?
- Topic Maps
  - Query language ?
  - Constraint language ?
  - OWL ?
  - XTM fragment exchange ?
- Where are we ?  
Just before the killer application
- Where are Topic Maps in Life Sciences
  - 
  - (German) National level :  
**Helmholtz Society funded Systems Biology Initiative**
    - Technology platform across Helmholtz centers will use Topic Maps

# Conclusion

- Aim: Solving complex biomedical questions
- Semantic knowledge representation
- Textmining
- Integration of heterogenous distributed data on the fly  
(fits well to existing enterprise information systems)
- Representation within JSR-168 portal/portlet solution
- Topic Maps are suited to represent even some 100 millions of topics / associations

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