

# **Building a taxonomy of biochemical events**

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Building a taxonomy of concepts is an important step within ontology design. Formally, a taxonomy can be seen as a partial order between the concepts of an ontology.

When trying to build such a taxonomy of biochemical events it is important to formally define what events are as well as to discover the principles which allow to identify one event as more special than another one and thus build a partial order.

We will show that by specifying the pre- and postconditions of events we can define such a partial order between them. The taxonomy yielded in this way has direct applications in information extraction. In fact, it has been used within the ontology-driven discourse analysis component of the GenIE system. Furthermore, such a taxonomy has important applications in querying and updating a database.