

Automatic Algorithm for Extracting an Ontology for a Specific Domain Name

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Abstract: Scientists use knowledge representation techniques to transfer knowledge from humans to machines. Ontology is the well-known representation technique of transferring knowledge to machines. Creating a new knowledge ontology is a complex task, and most proposed algorithms for creating an ontology from documents have problems in detecting complex concepts and their non-taxonomic relationships. Moreover, previous algorithms are not able to analyze multidimensional context, where each concept might have different meanings. This study proposes a framework that separates the process of finding important concepts from linguistic analysis to extract more taxonomic and non-taxonomic relationships. In this framework, we use a modified version of Term Frequency – Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) weight to extract important concepts from an online encyclopedia. Data mining algorithms like labeling semantic classes are used to connect concepts, categorize attributes, and label them and an online encyclopedia is used to create a structure for the knowledge of the given domain. Part Of Speech tagging (POS) and dependency tree of sentences are used to extract concepts and their relationships (i.e. taxonomic and non-taxonomic). We then evaluate this framework by comparing the results of our framework with an existing ontology in the area of “biochemistry”. The results show that the proposed method can detect more detailed information and has better performance.

1 INTRODUCTION

Knowledge-based systems use representation techniques to process and analyze new knowledge or update an existing ontology. Ontology is the well-known knowledge representation technique used to maintain, manage, and infer knowledge. Various domain knowledge is being updated at a faster rate than ever before and as a result, the current ontology maintenance process and even the creation of new emerging ontologies is being done automatically rather than manually.

For this reason, techniques such as Text-To-Onto (Maedche and Volz, 2001), PARNT (Serra et al., 2013), and LASER (Li et al., 2012) have been developed to create ontologies. Text-To-Onto (Maedche and Volz, 2001) is a semi-automatic algorithm that uses hierarchy clustering to extract concepts and their taxonomic relationships from plain text. Some scholars (Li et al., 2012; Fader et al., 2011) use machine learning algorithms to extract an ontology from plain texts. In the proposed algorithms,

frequent item sets and term frequency are used to extract concepts and taxonomic relationships. These studies use a technique known as supervised algorithm which requires an ontology expert to label a part of the data as a training dataset. Meanwhile, the term frequency technique returns single word nouns as concepts.

Zavitsanos et al., (2010) and Villaverde et al., (2009) use regular expression to extract ontology elements (i.e. concept and taxonomy). In these algorithms, a list of predefined patterns is used to identify nouns as well as relationships between concepts in sentences and label nouns as concepts. These pattern-based algorithms neglect relationships between words in terms of semantics because they focus on the noun phrases of sentences only.

To overcome these problems of current approaches, this study proposes a new framework that considers a separate procedures for extracting important concepts and identifying relationships between concepts. This study uses a modified version of the term frequency technique to extract complex concepts from an online encyclopedia. Next, the POS

tagging technique and dependency tree of sentences are used to analyze the dependency relationships between sentence components to identify the taxonomic and non-taxonomic relationships between concepts. Finally, the measured TF-IDF weight of concepts and status of concept in dependency tree are then used to create the ontology structure.

This paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we conduct a literature review of previous studies and assess the gaps in research. In Section 3, we illustrate our framework and explain the algorithms in detail. We describe our experiment and implementations and evaluate our method in Section 4 and present the results of the experiment in Section 5 to compare it with previous research. Finally, in Section 6, we conclude by revisiting our research goals and discuss the results of the experiment.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies have looked at extracting ontology from plain texts. SnowBall (Agichtein and Gravano, 2000), Texrunner (Aroyo et al., 2002), OntoGen (Fortuna et al., 2006), OntoLearn (Navigli and Velardi, 2004), OntoLT (Buitelaar et al., 2004), and Mo'k (Bisson et al., 2000), for example, all attempted to generate domain ontology from plain texts, with some using machine learning to identify concepts (i.e. OntoGen, SnowBall, and OntoLearn). However, none of these studies have focused on extracting the non-taxonomic relationships of concepts.

Some studies have used the frequent-based technique to extract concepts from plain texts. Maedche et al., (2001) introduced a new framework – “Text-To-Onto” – a semi-automatic algorithm, to extract ontology from plain texts. In Text-To-Onto, concepts are extracted using the term frequency algorithm. In this framework, hierarchy clustering is used to link related concepts and a modified version of association rules algorithm is used to extract the non-taxonomic relationships between concepts. In their study, the TF-IDF algorithm was used to identify concepts, but TF-IDF detects a single noun as concept only. In a similar work, Anantharangachar et al., (2013) proposed a new approach for extracting an ontology from unstructured texts. In their study, Anantharangachar et al., (2013) use a Natural Language Processing (NLP) technique to extract concepts, the taxonomic, and non-taxonomic relationships from documents. In NLP, the document theme is extracted applying the equation below:

$$Theme_Doc = Concept \cap subjectList \\ \cap MaxOccurConcepts$$

This algorithm is not able to detect the correct theme for descriptive documents because most writers explain the main topics in the first paragraph and describe sub-topics in other paragraphs. Moreover, in their study, Anantharangachar et al., (2013) also consider the noun as concept, which decreases algorithm performance. Some nouns phrases do address a concept but the proposed algorithm extracts various concepts from all noun phrases.

Zavitsanos et al., (2010) introduced a new framework for extracting an ontology from plain text. In this framework, stopwords are removed from documents and feature vectors are created for the remaining words. Afterwards, the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) algorithm is applied to extract latent topics from documents, and mutual information rate is used to create a hierarchy structure in iterative processing. This framework is not properly efficient since in this case, document and paragraph length is shorts.

Drymonas et al., (2010) proposed a new multi-layer framework to extract an ontology from unstructured text. In this framework, noun phrases are extracted in the first layer. Then, association rule and probabilistic techniques are applied to extract the taxonomic and non-taxonomic relationships. The technique proposed in this study has an ability to extract more complex phrases.

Serra et al., (2013) developed an algorithm to extract non-taxonomic relationships. They categorize information into three different groups: the sentence rule (SR), the sentence rule with verb phrase (SR), and the apostrophe rule (AR). An intelligent algorithm is used to detect noun or verb phrases around concepts and refine extracted phrases and the algorithm is used to specify the regular expression in each step in order to extract non-taxonomic relationships between concepts. An ontology specialist has to evaluate the non-taxonomic relationships, but it should be noted that this algorithm cannot be used to create an ontology based on the huge amount of documents and relationships within the document. However, here, the non-taxonomic relationship is extracted independent from the verb, illustrating the type of relationship. As Villaverde et al., (2009) have illustrated, two phrases which do not have any similar words might be related by one verb. Thus, the verb is an important factor in identifying a non-taxonomic relationship when creating an ontology that uses as an inferring algorithm.

Villaverde et al., (2009) proposed a solution to this problem. They extracted concepts from plain

texts using the NLP algorithm. They assign a triple vector $\langle C_1, V, C_2 \rangle$ for each two consecutive concepts using a regular expression method, where V is a verb between two concepts $\langle C_1, C_2 \rangle$ in the same sentence. Villaverde et al., (2009) extract the most powerful non-taxonomic relationships by measuring the co-occurrence of these triples in whole documents.

Meanwhile, Sanchez and Moreno (2008) use a similar algorithm, creating triple vectors for noun phrases and verb phrases. A statistic technique is used for refining the vectors based on degree of relatedness. Fader et al., (2011) also created similar triple vectors for concepts of each phrase, but they use a logistic regression classifier to select the most important vectors. This approach has limitations in that a specific number of co-occurrence has to be detected in order to identify words as concepts. Therefore, this algorithm depends on the quality of contextual information in the documents. Moreover, removing stopwords may influence the main semantic of documents.

Li et al., (2012) proposed a new method for extracting an ontology from domain specific websites or texts. A text classifier method is used to extract important words and cluster words in different groups based on predefined patterns. To detect more instances based on core seed patterns, they developed an iterative pattern-based algorithm called LASER to generalize patterns. LASER can detect more complex noun phrases than previous algorithms since it extracts noun phrases from text segments that either surround the connectors, the modifiers, or so on. LASER retrieves the relationships based on noun syntax, but nouns can also have a semantic relationships; however, non-taxonomic relationships are also an important factor in building an ontology.

Generally, algorithms which use term frequency methods (e.g. frequent item set) and that remove stopwords to extract concepts from texts suffer from neglecting relationships between words. For example, take extracting an ontology of “car” from texts related to cars. One document describes engine characteristics, which consists of physical and functional attribute definitions but another document explains the car’s electric system. Here, we can see how term frequency is not able to retrieve the deep relationship between the car’s engine and electric system.

In this study, we separate the process of extracting complex concepts and identifying direct and indirect relationships between concepts to increase algorithm performance. In the following sections, our proposed framework for analyzing plain text in order to create

an ontology is described.

3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Thus study proposes a new framework for extracting an ontology from plain text or even a specific domain name by combining text mining and web mining techniques to generate a more comprehensive ontology. This algorithm is unsupervised and has the ability to analyze multidisciplinary text.

3.1 Solution Overview

As described earlier, ontology is a technique to represent and transfer knowledge from humans to machines. To date, various algorithms have been developed to create an ontology from plain texts or even domain specific texts. As mentioned in Section 2, most developed algorithms need expert human interactions for evaluation. Also, they usually extract a single word as concept and use a fixed number of patterns to extract non-taxonomic relationships between concepts.

We use an advanced machine learning algorithm to detect concepts (complex concepts) and to link concepts based on their status in sentences and documents in this framework. A big picture of our framework is shown in Figure 1.

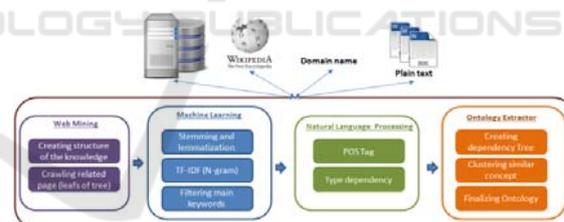


Figure 1: Framework structure.

This framework has four components. In the web mining component, the main webpage related to a domain name is retrieved from Wikipedia and all pages which connect to the main page are extracted. In the machine learning component, all important words or phrases are extracted using a modified version of the TF-IDF algorithm. We then combine the N-gram and TF-IDF algorithms to extract and rank noun phrases and phrases from contexts. In the next step, we analyze sentence structure and relationships between words in the NLP component. In this component, the dependency tree of each sentence is created. In this tree, words connect to each other based on their relationship (i.e. taxonomic or

non-taxonomic). Finally, these small dependency trees are then connected to each other based on their TF-IDF weights to create a comprehensive tree for specific domains in the ontology extractor component. Each component is described in following sections.

3.2 Algorithm Description

In this framework, we use Wikipedia to create the structure of knowledge in the given domain. Afterwards, nouns phrases, taxonomic, and non-taxonomic relationships are extracted by applying a modified version of TF-IDF and POS tagging analysis. Finally, TF-IDF weight is used to connect concepts to create a knowledge schema.

3.2.1 Web Mining Algorithm

A general knowledge schema is created from an online encyclopedia – Wikipedia. Wikipedia is a well-known encyclopedia which has received more than 22.2 million requests on 28th September, 2014¹ alone, and as of August 2015² contained more than 35.9 million articles. Wikipedia is a reliable source for finding whole structures of concepts in specific determined domains. In the proposed model, Wikipedia pages categorized in a given domain name are extracted. A graph $G = (V, E)$ is then created based on the Wikipedia pages' link structure, where V represents a set of nodes representing the web pages and E is a set of edges which connect the two nodes if one web page contains a hyperlink to another page. In addition, the degree of distance DD_j for each page is measured. As shown in formula below, i is the main page of the given domain in Wikipedia and j is a Wikipedia page which has a direct or indirect connection to the main page

$$DD_j = \min \sum_{j \in A} f(e_{ij}), F(e_{ij}) = \sum_{j \in A} e_{ij} - \sum_{j \in A} e_{ji}$$

$$e_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } j = \text{the main page} \\ -1, & \text{if } j = \text{target page} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Degree of distance (DD_j) is used to give priorities to concepts more related to domain topic. Therefore, concepts inside documents that have small DD_{ij} are categorized as the main subtopics in the knowledge schema.

In the next step, we crawl and grab content of all webpages retrieved from Wikipedia.

3.2.2 Machine Learning Algorithm

Wikipedia API, which was developed in Python, is used to gain the main information related to the webpages. After downloading Wikipedia's webpages, important concepts are extracted from the downloaded documents. Scholars have proposed various statistical methods for extracting main keywords from documents. TF-IDF is a well-known algorithm in this area. TF-IDF reflects how important a word is to a document in a collection of documents. Thus, a high TF-IDF weight means the word has high term frequency in a document since it has a low document frequency in a collection of documents. TF-IDF has two main problems. First, TF-IDF weight is measured by a specific word in a specific document. This means that if a word occurs in two different documents, two different TF-IDF weights will be calculated for the same word. TF-IDF was developed to measure the weight of a single word; however, in our case, we need to extract key phrases, which can consist of a simple word or be multi-word. To overcome this problem, we use a modified version of the TF-IDF algorithm. In this technique, a modified R-precision algorithm is used to evaluate key phrases and TF-IDF is applied on all extracted phrases. We also calculate the average of all calculated TF-IDF for each word (as shown in following equation) and assign it as TF-IDF weight of word.

$$TFIDF_w = \frac{\sum_{d \in D} TFIDF_{w,d}}{\text{Total number of documents } (d) \text{ which contains word } (w)}$$

We apply the mentioned technique to extract a list of concepts and measure their TF-IDF weights. This step requires that main concepts be filtered from others from which we can then compute a TF-IDF weight threshold. All phrases that have a higher TF-IDF weight in comparison with the threshold are the main phrases of this domain. For this purpose, we defined a new measurement – ω_w – to evaluate the position of a word in a document. This measure has two parameters – i, j – where i shows the position of the sentence that contains the word (w) and the j shows the position of the word in the sentence. For calculating i , the total number of sentences before w is calculated from the first line of the document and j is calculated by counting speech element parts until w , except for prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. For instance, the $\omega_w = \text{"Hotel"} = (6,5)$ means the word “hotel” appears in the 6th sentence as the 5th word in that sentence.

To compute the threshold of the TF-IDF weight, we use K-means clustering. All extracted phrases are clustered based on TF-IDF weight, degree of distance

¹<http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/TablesPageViewsMonthlyCombined.htm>

²<http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/TablesArticlesTotal.htm>

(DD_j) of document (j) that contain the word (w) , and the position of the words (ω_w) in the document (j) . We assume K as the maximum distance between extracted document and the main page of online encyclopedia as shown below:

$$K = \max(DD_j), j \in \text{extracted Wikipedia web pages}$$

After clustering the words based on the mentioned features, the TF-IDF threshold is calculated through $TF - IDF_{Threshold}$ function as described in the following equation:

$$TF - IDF_{Threshold} = \text{Min} (TFIDF_{w_{c_i}}),$$

c_i is a $K - \text{means}$'s cluster, has a Maximume $(\frac{1}{c_i}D)$,
and has a Maximume $(AVG_{TF-IDF_{c_i}})$

$$AVG_{TF-IDF_{c_i}} = \frac{\sum_{j \in c_i} TF - IDF_j}{|c_i|}$$

Where as c_i is the cluster i and j is member of cluster c_i .

$$\frac{1}{c_i}D = e^{-\sum_{j=1}^R p_i \ln(p_i)}$$

Whereas R is the total number of levels of documents in terms of distance weight.

Cluster (c_i) , one of the K -means clusters which has the highest rate of diversity in terms of document level $(\frac{1}{c_i}D)$ and the highest average of TF-IDF weights $(AVG_{TF-IDF_{c_i}})$ in comparison with the other clusters, is considered the threshold.

Finally, the $TFIDF_w$ is measured for each word. Important concepts are extracted based on the $TF - IDF_{Threshold}$. In the next step, we find the taxonomic and non-taxonomic relationships between concepts.

3.2.3 Natural Language Processing Algorithm

We use the NLP algorithm to detect concepts and relationships from contexts. In this algorithm, nouns are extracted as concepts. Therefore, all types of nouns are extracted from sentences. We use the NLP to assign a POS tag to each word and filter it based on below list:

- [NN]: Noun, singular or mass
- [NNS]: Noun, plural
- [NNP]: Proper noun, singular
- [NNPS]: Proper noun, plural

Only the main noun is captured as concept. For example, “nanoprobe sequencing” is a combination of two nouns. “nanoprobe” is tagged as [JJ] which means adjective. In this study, a new structure has been proposed for each concept as shown in Figur.

Each concept has two parts: attribute and feature, as shown in the Figure 2.

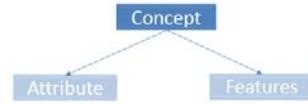


Figure 2: The structure of concept.

Attribute contains all the words which have a direct impact on the concept such as adjectives and complementary nouns. Accordingly, each attribute explains a specific characteristic of a concept. For instance, “red flower” has two parts “red [JJ]” and “flower [NN]”. In this case, “flower” is labeled as a concept that has a specific attribute, which is “red”. This structure helps detect all the characteristics of a concept. Feature are words that have non-taxonomic relationships with the concept such as the object of the sentence, nouns, adverbs, or even numbers.

In the next step, a concept is analyzed if it has a higher $TFIDF_w$ than the threshold. In the case that it does not, despite it not having the proper $TFIDF_w$, it will be processed if it has a non-taxonomic relationships with another concept that has a higher TF-IDF.

3.2.4 Ontology Extractor Algorithm

A tree for each sentence is created based on concept dependencies subtrees. Afterwards, subtrees are joined to each other in terms of taxonomic and non-taxonomic relationships in each document (as shown on Figure 3).

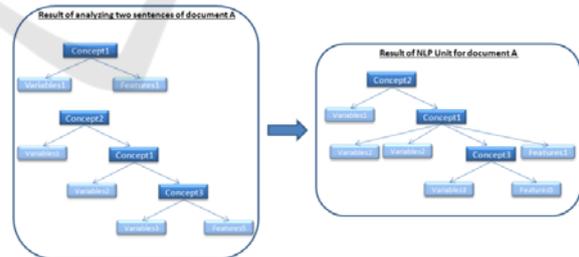


Figure 3: Building ontology structure.

In the next step, all document trees are combined based on their distance and weight. Documents with a low weight are processed earlier than others.

We use a labeling semantic class algorithm to retrieve the name for every subclass of attributes. In this algorithm, attributes are separated based on their type and content (text, number, date and etc.). Regular expression is used to analyze number, date, and predefined texts. In addition, to find the name of

sub-classes, words are analyzed based on information from WordNet. A WordNet graph structure is used to measure the distance between each word.

4 EXPERIMENT DESIGN

The algorithm was evaluated by comparing the output with an existing ontology. An ontology for “biochemistry” was extracted and the results compared with the provided ontology by Dumontier Lab (Stanford University). As Figure 1 shows, all the webpages which are related to biochemistry were extracted using a web mining component. All keywords were extracted from the downloaded documents using a modified version of the TF-IDF technique in the machine learning component. Dependency subtrees were created for sentences, and by joining subtrees, an ontology structure for pharmacogenomics was created for evaluation by the provided ontology by Dumontier Lab.

In first step, all pages related to “biochemistry” were downloaded from Wikipedia. A crawler was used to retrieve the hyperlink structure of this Wikipedia page – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biochemistry>. Graph $G = (V, E)$ was created where each node in the graph represents the name of a category and each edge illustrates that there is a hyperlink between these two nodes in Wikipedia. We crawled Wikipedia webpages until the shortest path between the biochemistry webpage and other retrieved web pages was less than four.

The number of pages which were retrieved in this step is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: extracted dataset.

Number of pages:	9662
Level of tree:	3
Domain:	Biochemistry
Source:	www.wikipedia.org

In the machine learning component, stopwords were removed while others were stemmed and lemmatized. We measured the TF-IDF word weight and used the K-means clustering method to determine the threshold to filter the main keywords and then others. The TF-IDF word weights for documents with a distance weight of one were shown in Figure 4.

As shown in Figure 4, the minimum TF-IDF weight value was for the word “protein” at 0.02165, and the maximum value was for “pharmacogenom”

at 0.2032. In total, we extracted 550000 words from 9662 documents.

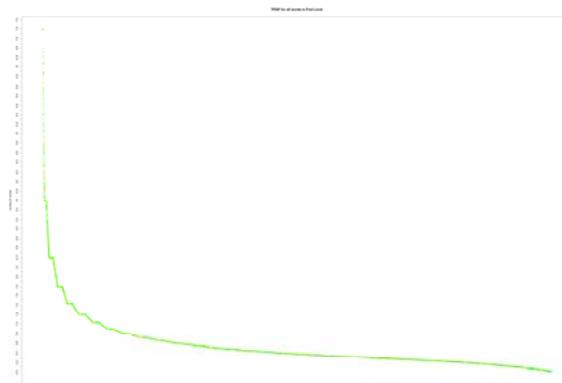


Figure 4: TF-IDF weight of words of documents with distance weight of one.

We clustered words based on their TF-IDF weight, distance of the weight of document, and the location of words in the document (nth word in mth sentence). In this case, the cluster considered best is the one which has the highest $TFIDF_w$ average and contains words from most of the documents in all levels (level is distance of document from main webpage in Wikipedia). The threshold 0.016 is based on the output of K-means, as shown in Figure 5.

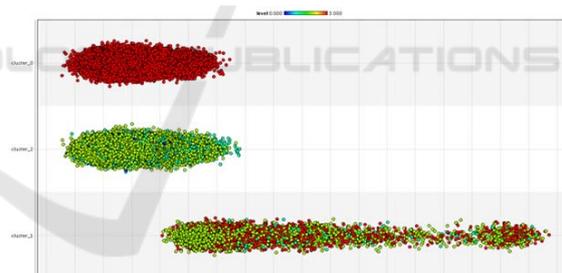


Figure 5: K-means clustering.

We used the Stanford NLP engine to identify the words’ POS tags in order to create the dependency trees of sentences. We extracted 249 concepts from the documents and created a dependency tree for each concept and linked the concepts’ tree based on their non-taxonomic relationships and TF-IDF weight. For instance, concept “approach” has a dependency tree as seen below.

We compared our framework output with the ontology provided by the Dumontier Lab (Stanford University) for the domain “pharmacogenomics”. Pharmacogenomics is categorized as subclass of biochemistry. The proposed ontology by Dumontier Lab consists of 20 concepts. The ontology also

describes 37 taxonomy relationships between concepts. However, the ontology created by our framework illustrates nearly 242 concepts with 470 non-taxonomic and 240 taxonomic relationships as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Ontologies' structure.

Ontology	#Taxonomy	#Non-taxonomy	# Concepts
Dumontier Lab	37	0	20
Our algorithm	470	240	242

The proposed ontology by Dumontier Lab is more focused on technical and professional keywords and relationships. For instance, their ontology does not include “approach” as a concept. Our ontology includes “approach” as a concept and clarifies which type of “approach” is used in this field by adding various attributes to the concept such as “proteomics“, “desorption/ ionization”, and “leaching”, as shown in Figure 6.

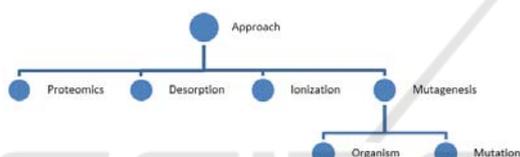


Figure 6: Concept structure of "Approach".

5 CONCLUSIONS

As discussed in above sections, various methods have been developed to extract a specific domain knowledge structure from unstructured text. However, most of these use techniques that extract single words as concept and moreover, extract only the taxonomic relationships between concepts. In addition, the knowledge structure of multidimensional knowledge such as nanotechnology is more complex because each concept might be defined differently in various fields. Given these, we developed a framework to create an ontology from plain text documents that could include complex concepts and non-taxonomic relationships. To develop the framework, we used the online encyclopedia Wikipedia and a lexical database. The knowledge structure was built based on the the information mentioned on Wikipedia webpages related to the domain. We used a modified version of the TF-IDF technique to extract complex concepts from these documents. Meanwhile, an NLP technique was used to extract POS noun tags and dependency tree of sentences. In this study, we proposed a

structure for each concept. Each concept is explained by two elements: feature and attribute. Concept subtrees are connected to each other in terms of $TFIDF_w$ and non-taxonomic relationships.

For validation purposes, we built an ontology for the “pharmacogenomics” domain and compared it with the proposed ontology by Stanford University Dumontier Lab. The results show that our ontology contains more detailed information such as higher number of concepts, non-taxonomic relationships, and taxonomic relationships. More detailed information increases an ontology’s ability to represents a multidiscipline domain more precisely.

Future studies should improve the proposed framework to generate an ontology from a created knowledge schema. In this study, the proposed framework creates a knowledge schema for a given domain in an online encyclopedia. To generate an ontology, extracted concepts should be analyzed to classify synonyms and taxonomic relationships between words from WorldNet.

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