Smart Lifts: An Ontological Perspective

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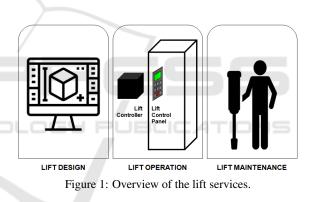*School of Computing and Engineering, University of the West of Scotland, U.K.*

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Abstract: Nowadays, there is a growth of smart factories and Industry 4.0 technologies, involving Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems. These ones require interoperable solutions. In particular, ontologies have been widely used for capturing, sharing, and representing knowledge in an interoperable way, that both humans and machines can understand. Indeed, ontologies allow humans to communicate with machines in a semantic way, while machines are able to make automated reasoning about the concepts and relationships which are encoded in the ontology. For this purpose, this paper proposes the first-ever domain ontology for smart lifts. Its domain covers smart lift design, operation, and maintenance, while its scope is to aid in automating such lift services. This smart lift ontology (SLO), which contains 144 classes and 749 axioms, has been successfully developed in collaboration with the elevator industry.

1 INTRODUCTION

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our Society (Cockburn et al., 2018) is currently increasing in applications, ranging from human-centered systems (Wilding et al., 2020) to intelligent manufacturing (Lewandowski and Olszewska, 2020), expanding from Smart Cities (Costanzo et al., 2016) to Smart Factories (Xu and Hua, 2017), and contributing to the current fourth industrial revolution, or 'Industry 4.0' (I4.0) (Marr, B., 2018). This trend leads to advances in digitalization and communication as well as new manufacturing processes and innovative products (Koh et al., 2019).

AI-driven technologies used throughout I4.0 include cyber-physical systems (CPS) (Derler et al., 2011), internet of things (IoT) (Feki et al., 2013), intelligent agents (IA) (Kannengiesser and Muller, 2013), human-machine interactions (HMI) and augmented reality (AR) (Gorecky et al., 2014), autonomous robotics (Bonci et al., 2017), 3D printing, simulation and digital twin modeling (Zhong et al., 2017), cloud computing, cybersecurity, machine learning and big data (Alcacer and Cruz-Machado, 2019).

That results in *smart products*, *smart machines*, and/or *augmented operators*, but also in challenges such as interoperability, virtualization, decentralization, real-time capability, service-orientation, and modularity (Koh et al., 2019). Besides, I4.0 promotes features such as interoperability, agility, flex-

Figure 1: Overview of the lift services.

ibility, decision-making, connectivity, quality, safety, efficiency and cost reductions (Dopico et al., 2016). In particular, interoperability refers to the ability of two systems to communicate with and understand each other (Koh et al., 2019). Moreover, there are four levels of interoperability in I4.0, namely, operational, systematic, technical and semantic interoperability (Ide and Pustejovsky, 2010). Within smart manufacturing, semantic interoperability of heterogeneous machines and/or agents, in order to be able to communicate with one another in or across smart factories, is one of the major features of I4.0 (Nilsson and Sandin, 2018). Indeed, interoperability constructs a trusted environment in a manufacturing system, in which information is accurately and swiftly shared among machines and humans, resulting in a cost-saving operation with higher productivity (Koh et al., 2019).

In the case of the elevator industry, on one hand, lift manufacturing starts to embrace I4.0 technologies (Nott, 2018) and challenges (Berger, 2020) and, on the other hand, lift services enter in the age of smart buildings (Onag, G., 2019) and smart cities (Hoyes and Mair, 2020), all requiring interoperable solutions.

Hence, Knowledge Engineering (KE) techniques such as ontologies (Lee, 2019) are useful for Industry 4.0. (Sampath Kumar et al., 2019). Indeed, an ontology is a concept, which was defined by (Gruber, 1995) as an explicit specification of a conceptualization, which allows semantic interoperability (Kalyazina and Kashevnik, 2018), leading to information being easily read and interpreted by both machines and humans alike.

Therefore, ontologies have been used in Industry 4.0 for intelligent manufacturing (Xu and Hua, 2017), agent-based manufacturing (Tang et al., 2018), or cognitive manufacturing (Ferrer et al., 2019). More specific ontologies have been applied to production line (Cheng et al., 2016), micro-device assembly (Cecil et al., 2018), sensor data analysis (Gyrard et al., 2016), radio-frequency identification (RFID) system configuration (Tsalapati et al., 2021), or AI-system testing (Olszewska, 2020).

Some ontologies have been designed for cyber-physical systems (CPS) (Engel et al., 2018; Al Sunny et al., 2017; Wan et al., 2018; Brings et al., 2018; Torsleff et al., 2018; Hildebrandt et al., 2020; Voinov and Senokosov, 2021), Internet of Things (IoT) (Ma et al., 2014), Digital Twin modeling (Steinmetz et al., 2018), system of systems (SoS) modeling (Zhu et al., 2017), Web of Things (WoT) (Sujith et al., 2011), robotics (Fiorini et al., 2017), cloud robotic systems (CRS) (Pignaton de Freitas et al., 2020), human-machine interactions (HMI) (Jost et al., 2017), and Human-Robot Interactions (HRI) (Smirnov et al., 2016).

On the other hand, ontologies have been developed for critical infrastructures (Canito et al., 2020), Smart Buildings (Kunold et al., 2019), and Smart Cities (Burns et al., 2018). However, there is no existing ontology for the smart lift domain at the moment.

Thus, in this work, we endeavoured to develop such smart lift domain ontology (SLO).

The core knowledge of our smart lift ontology includes elevator manufacturing as well as lift services, as depicted in Fig. 1.

This domain ontology for smart lifts has been developed using Enterprise Ontology (EO) methodology (Dietz and Mulder, 2020), since EO is a mature ontology development methodology for industry-based domain ontologies (Fox and Gruninger, 1998; Albani and Dietz, 2007; Syamili and Rekha, 2017).

SLO ontology has been coded in Web Ontology Language Descriptive Logic (OWL DL) (Olszewska, 2021), which is considered as the international standard for expressing ontologies and data on the Semantic Web (Guo et al., 2007), and using Protege tool (Rubin et al., 2007) in conjunction with the HermiT reasoner (Glimm et al., 2014).

Thence, the resulting SLO-based intelligent system provides an interoperable solution for lift design, operation, and maintenance.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents the purpose and the building of our ontology for smart lift services (SLO), while its evaluation and documentation are described in Section 3. Conclusions are drawn up in Section 4.

2 DEVELOPED SLO ONTOLOGY

To develop the SLO ontology, we followed an ontological development life cycle (Fernandez et al., 1997; Jones et al., 1998; Bertolazzi et al., 2001; Fernandez-Lopez and Gomez-Perez, 2002; Gomez-Perez et al., 2004) based on the Enterprise Ontology (EO) Methodology (Dietz and Mulder, 2020).

The adopted ontological development methodology consists of four main phases (Olszewska and Allison, 2018), which cover the whole development cycle, as follows:

1. identifications of the purpose of the ontology (Section 2.1);

2. ontology building which consists of three parts: the capture to identify the domain concepts and their relations; the coding to represent the ontology in a formal language; and the integration to share ontology knowledge (Section 2.2);

3. evaluation of the ontology to check that the developed ontology meets the scope of the project (Section 3.1);

4. documentation of the ontology (Section 3.2).

2.1 Ontology Purpose

The scope of this smart lift domain ontology is (i) to provide the elevator industry with a new technological solution that copes with smart manufacturing challenges such as interoperability and (ii) to assist the relevant stakeholders with smart lift services in context of smart cities and smart buildings.

A way to refine the scope of the ontology is to sketch a list of questions called *competency questions*,

that an intelligent agent based on the proposed ontology should be able to answer (Gruninger and Fox, 1995).

In the smart lift domain, the list of competency questions includes but is not limited to:

- What are the modules of the lift controller?
- Where is the electrical compartment located?
- What does the door node handle?
- What is the lift display used for?
- How the call button is connected to the key switch?
- Is the fingerprint reader optional?
- What is the TagReader RFID's part number?
- Who is the supplier of the CiVoice part?
- How to lock the lift?
- What is the rated load of the platform lift Cibes model A4000 type A5?
- How to adjust the overload switch?
- Where is the emergency stop located?
- How to emergency lower a lift?
- Which maintenance actions need to be performed in the machine area?
- How often the brakes need to be tested?

Therefore, the SLO ontology aims to contribute to the elicitation of the elevator industry knowledge and the formalization of concepts for lift services which comprise lift design, operation, and maintenance. Furthermore, the smart lift domain encompasses different types of lifts such as platform lifts, goods lifts, and passenger lifts.

2.2 Ontology Building

The ontology building consists of three parts: capture to identify the domain concepts and their relations (Section 2.2.1); coding to represent the ontology in a formal language (Section 2.2.2); and integration to share ontology knowledge (Section 2.2.3).

2.2.1 Concept Capture

The knowledge capture consists in the identification of concepts and their relations within the elevator industry and smart lift service domains.

Hence, the SLO domain contains technical data about elevators' components and parameters that are used for manufacturing and configuration and that can be extracted, e.g., from lift documentation such
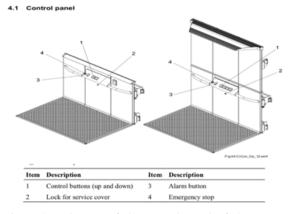
4.1 Control panel

Figure 2: Diagram of the control panel of the system (A5000 OM Manual).

Figure 3: Parts list for the CiCon controller system (A5-1X230 Part List).
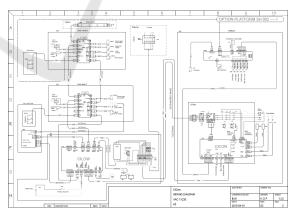

Figure 4: Parts list connection diagram (A5-1X230 Part List).

as product documents, assembly instruction manuals, and installation guides (Siikonen, 1997; Hoon, 2006; Thyssen Krupp, 2014) as well as information on lift services, which consist of lift design, lift operation, and lift maintenance, from user guides, operation manuals, and maintenance instructions (Cibes Lift,

2017; Sheridan Lifts, 2018; Kone, 2020).

Lift documents cover design and function instructions; operating instructions, including normal and emergency situations; maintenance instructions as well as safety instructions; standards and directives; parts' lists and descriptions, and a number of diagrams.

As an example of a platform-lift operating instruction, Fig. 2 is a diagram of the control panel within a lift car as well as a description table taken from the documentation (Cibes Lift, 2017). Concepts for the domain can be acquired from this diagram, since the control panel itself would become the class Control_Panel of the SLO ontology.

This type of diagrams is helpful to map out concepts of the domain, but within these documents, these diagrams are only presented for larger parts of the system and are not available for the smaller components. So, other information are required for a deeper capture of concepts. Thus, along with diagrams such as shown in Fig. 2, these documents also include lists of parts, as displayed in Fig. 3. An example of this could be that contents of the 'Description' column of the table shown in Fig. 3 can be mapped into SLO classes, while the contents of 'Manufacturer/Supplier' and 'Part no' columns can be used when gauging individuals for the SLO concepts.

While Fig. 2 and 3 are useful for laying the foundations of the SLO ontology domain and can help in capturing initial main concepts, diagrams such as Fig. 4 help to establish relationships between these concepts.

Other examples of how concepts can be extracted from documents are provided in Figs. 5-6.

Figure 5 is a diagram of the machine area behind the lift car's service cover from the Cibes A5000 operation manual (OM) (Cibes Lift, 2017). This diagram allowed to set concepts for the machine area of the platform-lift system.

Figure 6 is a diagram showcasing the components behind the service cover of the platform-lift system (Cibes Lift, 2017). This diagram helped in capturing some concepts of the lift maintenance service, which are of great importance due to the safety consequences if any classes or relationships are missed out or mapped out incorrectly.

Hence, SLO domain has been built following a middle-out approach. Indeed, documents, such as the ones illustrated in Figs. 2-6, have been an aid in apprehending the SLO ontology domain. Once a set of concepts and relationships has been extracted from these documents, it opened the way for capturing further the domain by adding data and object properties as well as establishing relationships with every con-
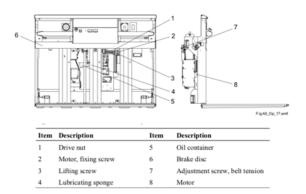

Item	Description	Item	Description
1	Drive nut	5	Oil container
2	Motor, fixing screw	6	Brake disc
3	Lifting screw	7	Adjustment screw, belt tension
4	Lubricating sponge	8	Motor

Figure 5: Diagram of the machine area of the platform-lift system (A5000 OM Manual).
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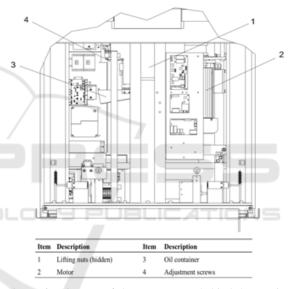| Item	Description	Item	Description
1	Lifting nuts (hidden)	3	Oil container
2	Motor	4	Adjustment screws

Figure 6: Diagram of the components behind the service cover of the platform-lift system (A5000 OM Manual).

cept within the domain. After the initial ontology domain was established, it was about repeatedly going through the process again and discussing with the stakeholders such as domain experts, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, product designers, computer scientists, ontologists, industrial partners, manufacturers, vendors, service providers, users, etc. to gather any additional concepts that should be added or removed, whether that be through discussions or further documents.

2.2.2 Concept Coding

The knowledge coding has been done in Descriptive Logic (DL) (Black et al., 2021) and uses temporal-interval logic relations as introduced in (Olszewska, 2016).

As an example of concept formalization for the platform-lift design of the lift car's control panel concept, which has been described in Section 2.1, the class of `Control_Panel` is defined in DL, as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
Control\_Panel &\sqsubseteq Lift\_Car \\
&\sqcap \exists hasPart_{=Alarm\_Button} \\
&\sqcap \exists hasPart_{=Control\_Button} \qquad (1) \\
&\sqcap \exists hasPart_{=Emergency\_Stop} \\
&\sqcap \exists hasPart_{=Service\_Cover\_Lock}.
\end{aligned}
$$

As another example of concept formalization, the platform-lift service consisting in the machine area's maintenance, which has been mentioned in Section 2.1, can be formulated in temporal DL, as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
Machine\_Area\_Maintenance &\sqsubseteq Lift\_Maintenance \\
&\sqcap (\diamond t_1)(\diamond t_2) \\
&(MA_1 < MA_2) \\
&\cdot (MA_1 @ t_1 \sqcap MA_2 @ t_2), \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad (2)
\end{aligned}
$$

with MA_1, the maintenance activity defined as 'Oil Container Refill', MA_2, the maintenance activity consisting in 'Lifting Nut Visual Check', and *before*, the temporal-interval relations as defined respectively in temporal DL:

$$
\begin{aligned}
P_i < P_j \equiv before(P_i @ t_i, P_j @ t_j) &\sqsubseteq Temporal\_Relation \\
&\sqcap (\diamond t_i)(\diamond t_j) \\
&(t_{i+} < t_{j-}) \\
&\cdot (P_i @ t_i \sqcap P_j @ t_j), \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad (3)
\end{aligned}
$$

where the temporal DL symbol $\diamond$ represents the temporal existential qualifier, and where a time interval is an ordered set of points $T = \{t\}$ defined by end-points t^- and t^+, such as $(t^-, t^+) : (\forall t \in T)(t > t^-) \land (t < t^+)$.

2.2.3 Concept Integration

The integration of the SLO ontology was done using the Web Ontology Language (OWL) and carried out within the Protege software environment v.5.5.0 running HermiT v1.4.3.456 reasoner (Glimm et al., 2014), in order to share the SLO ontology knowledge among stakeholders as well as intelligent agents. Indeed, Protege is a widely-used, open-source ontological environment which has a vast and operating community, exceeding 70,000 users (Rubin et al., 2007), and which is adopted for most of the recent engineering-based ontologies for I4.0 (Sampath Kumar et al., 2019; Tsalapati et al., 2021).

Figure 7: Excerpt of the 'Control_Panel' concept integration within the SLO ontology.

Figure 7 shows a view of Protege integration of some of the smart lift ontology main classes, along with a related OWL/XML code excerpt. Indeed, Protege can generate OWL files that can be accessed from different programming language platforms such as XML. Producing these OWL files that are readable with XML are the final part of the integration process. Transferring the OWL files to XML format allows for a broad range of systems the do;qin ontology could then fully operate on.

It is worth noting that SLO version v2.0.0 contains 749 axioms and 144 classes. Moreover, SLO v2.0.0 includes 16 object properties and 21 data properties. As an example, the SLO ontology defines the class `Control_Panel`, its relationships such as `hasPart` and individuals (e.g., `CibesA5ControlPanel`). In particular, `hasPart` is an object property which domain is 'System' concept and the range is 'Component' concept. The object property `hasPart` is transitive and has an inverse property called `isPartOf`. On the other hand, properties involving lift's key parameters, such as rated speed and rated load, or numeral properties such as the part number have been set as data properties. Further evaluation of these classes, object properties, and data properties is provided in Section 3.1.

3 VALIDATION AND DISCUSSION

The developed SLO ontology has been evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively in a series of experiments as described in Sections 3.1, while its documentation is mentioned in 3.2.

3.1 Ontology Evaluation

Ontology evaluation is concerned mostly with two chief factors, namely, quality and correctness (Hlomani and Stacey, 2014).

SLO quality evaluation used metrics such as presented in (Tartir et al., 2018). The computed values by Protege are presented in Fig. 8.

Figure 8: Main metric values of the SLO ontology.

Figure 9: Result of the OntoDebugger when run on SLO ontology.

It is worth noting that, in practice, a trade-off should be achieved between computational efficiency and completeness. Actually, SLO contains so far 749 axioms and 144 classes, while it is processed by Her-miT in 2766ms and then performs DL queries in real time.

Moreover, SLO cohesion could be assessed using the number of root classes which is equal to 1, the number of leaf classes which is equal to 112, and the average depth which is equal to 3. All these metrics indicate SLO shows promising performance for real-world deployment.

Besides, the Protege OntoDebugger v0.2.2 allows to automatically check the ontology consistency and coherence. The result of this check for our SLO ontology is successful, as illustrated in Fig. 9.

On the other hand, in Protege, DL Query v4.0.1 allows for an evaluation to be carried out where the two factors of quality and correctness are closely evaluated and achieved. In particular, the ontology correctness could be assessed through experiments running DL queries based on competency questions (Gruninger, 1995).

A first test scenario addresses the competency questions of the type: 'What components are part of the platform-lift control panel?'. For this purpose, we test the object property `hasPart` called on the class `Control_Button` through the DL query: `hasPart some Control_Button`, as in Eq. (1), and the correct answer is provided by our SLO system in Fig. 10(a).

A second test scenario tries to answer the competency question: 'What are the components of the platform-lift Cibes A5 control system?'. A query involving the object property `isPartOf` can be called an instance of the class `Control_System`. The related instances of the 5 modules of the control system are correct, as illustrated in Fig. 10(b).

A third test scenario covers competency questions such as 'Who is the supplier of the Voice System

Figure 10: Some samples of query results in relation to the competency questions.

part?'. Hence, the object property `isSupplierOf` is used in the DL Query, as follows: `isSupplierOf some Voice_System`. The corresponding supplier is successfully found in Fig. 10(c).

On the other hand, few experiments have tested data properties such as `hasPartNo` to respond to the competency question: 'What component corresponds to the part number 3291?'. So, we run the DL query: `hasPartNo value ''3291''`, and the component name is correctly displayed on Fig. 10(d).

A further experiment focused on competency questions such as 'Is the fingerprint reader optional?',

and thus involved the data property `isOptional`. An example of DL query is: `Smart_Component and (isOptional value true)`, and the results successfully provided by SLO are shown in Fig. 10(e).

In all these experiments targeting classes, individuals, object properties, and data properties, SLO ontology provided 100% correct answers, and no inconsistency has been observed.

3.2 Ontology Documentation

The SLO ontology has been documented and evaluated, as reported in Section 2 and 3.1, respectively. To recap, SLO is a middle-out, domain ontology which has been collaboratively built using Enterprise Ontology methodology. Hence, SLO domain knowledge is based on non-ontological resources such as primary sources, e.g. lift documentation, operational manuals, safety standards, etc., and has been elicited through collaboration with lift domain experts, including lift designers, mechanical and electrical engineers, as well as elevator industry partners. Moreover, SLO ontology has been iteratively developed, with its first version defining 476 axioms and its current, second version containing 749 axioms.

The SLO ontology has not reused any existing ontology, since it is the first ontology in its kind for the smart lift domain. Indeed, some attempts have been made in the past to develop expert systems (Marcus et al., 1987) and knowledge-based systems (Corsar and Sleeman, 2007) for rudimentary elevators, but, on one hand, these works had a limited scope, being focused on the sole design aspect and not embracing all the lift's modern services and, on the other hand, they contained only very few components and parameters, not representing the current, complex smart lift domain.

It is worth noting that SLO domain ontology covers all the smart lift services, addresses the cutting-edge, smart lift domain, and also lays down the foundation for smart lift's digital-twin modeling. Moreover, SLO domain ontology could be used in conjunction with other I4.0 ontologies such as ontologies for IoT (Ma et al., 2014) or other robotics and automation ontologies (Fiorini et al., 2017) for further integration in smart environments.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Since I4.0 has the ability to create new business capabilities and service opportunities, while requiring interoperable technologies, this work is focused on the development of an ontology for the smart lift application, in collaboration with the elevator industry. Our ontology aims to formalize smart lift services, such as smart lift design, operation, and maintenance, e.g., leading to lift automated design for mass customization as well as multimodal operation and AI-enhanced maintenance. Hence, the proposed smart lift ontology (SLO) has the potential to provide the elevator industry with I4.0 benefits, contributing toward innovative smart products, smart machines, and augmented operators, suitable for real-world deployment in context of smart cities and smart factories.

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