



FOORC: A FUZZY ONTOLOGY-BASED REPRESENTATION FOR OBESITY RELATED CANCER KNOWLEDGE

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Abstract- Obesity has a tight relationship with increased risks of different cancer types, such as Colorectal, Ovarian, Female Breast, Gallbladder, Adenocarcinoma, Kidney (Renal-Cell), Liver, and Pancreatic. It can also lead to some other diseases like diabetes and heart diseases. This paper proposes a fuzzy ontology that is based on OWL 2 to represent the Obesity Related Cancer (ORC) domain knowledge. The diseases taxonomy is constructed using the standard Disease Ontology. The presented Fuzzy Ontology includes more concepts than in crisp one and copes with the domain linguistic variables. It allows the users to query the Fuzzy DL reasoner for element and get them back the fuzzy ontology for that element. It is expected to be good practice for ontologists and knowledge engineers in medical field aiding them to solve the overlapping concepts, linguistic variables, and reasoning problems by building their fuzzy ontologies. Building FOORC as an open ontology is a first attempt to organize information related to the obesity and cancer diseases in a formalized, structured manner that both physicians and intelligent systems can exploit it in knowledge sharing, reusability, and reasoning.

Keywords: Fuzzy Ontology, Obesity Related Cancer, OWL 2, Knowledge Representation, Disease Ontology.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, we are facing endless needs for the human's expertise in all specialized fields, such as medical/healthcare, education, finance, fault diagnosis, industrial applications, and business. In addition to the need to take the actual decision at the appropriate time based on well formalized and specialized knowledge. Therefore, it is critical to represent the knowledge efficiently using Ontologies via integrating the scattered informational resources. Practically, there are problems while building ontologies like the linguistic variables, overlapping concepts, and the state of uncertainty that exist in the domain. From a medical view, the domain of ORC is a critical topic for research. There is a strong relationship between obesity as an overnutrition disease and different types of cancers. There are plenty of death cases because of cancers and the bad body reaction to cure resulted from the morbid obesity. The developed Ontology will allow the users to query it for element and get him back the fuzzy ontology for that element by using the Fuzzy DL reasoner¹. The developed Ontology was encoded using Protégé 4.3² in OWL 2-DL format and then was integrated with a pre-developed fuzzification plug-in³.

¹<http://nemis.isti.cnr.it/~straccia/software/fuzzyDL/fuzzyDL.html>

² <http://protege.stanford.edu/>

The diseases hierarchy was built upon Disease Ontology (DO). We preferred using DO hierarchy [2] as it is a human disease standard Ontology that semantically incorporates ailments and therapeutic vocabularies by broad cross mapping of its terms according to ICD, OMIM, MeSH, NCI's thesaurus, and SNOMED.

In this paper, our ontology is called "FOORC" (fuzzy ontology for obesity-related cancer). It is defined as the representation of knowledge and data relating to obesity and cancer diseases, risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment while taking into account the fuzzy aspects (linguistic variables and uncertainties) that may be present in this medical domain.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 1 introduces the preliminaries about Ontologies and the standard web ontology language. Section 2 presents basic information to understand the medical domain, Section 3 shows some of researchers' work in medical ontologies and fuzzy, while the proposed work to construct FOORC within 3 phases is introduced in Section 4. Section 5 discusses the results. Finally, in Section 6, we end with a conclusion and future prospects.

1.1. Basic Definitions

The Semantic Web is a Web extension to enable individuals to share contents beyond the limits of the Websites and applications [3]. It means to transform the present Web (with unstructured and semi-structured documents) into a "Web of data", and its stack expands on the Resource Description Framework (RDF) [4].

Ontology is the main method to represent, share, and reuse of knowledge on the Semantic Web. It can be described as a domain conceptualization into a human intelligible, machine-clear form involving axioms, attributes, relationships, and entities [5]. W3C defined Ontologies as formalized vocabularies of terms that cover a particular domain and are shared by a users' community. In the ontology, the definition terms are specified by its associations with the other terms [7]. The domain ontology is a format of an acceptable computer representation of knowledge about a part of an abstract or a real world [8].

The Fuzzy Ontology can be described as an extended domain Ontology to overcome the uncertainty, reasoning, and retrieval problems. The Fuzzy Ontologies are qualified to deal with fuzzy knowledge [4], [9].

1.2. Medical Ontologies

Instead of reinventing the wheel and start from scratch, there are different free and open Ontologies and medical projects that can be effectively reused, such as GALEN⁴, MeSH⁵, SNOM⁶, Gene Ontology⁷, Bio-Ontology⁸, OBO Foundry⁹, and DOID [2].

1.3. OWL: The Web Ontology Language

The OWL is used to describe ontologies. It is based on XML, and can be divided into three language levels (OWL DL, OWL Lite, and OWL Full) [5].

³<http://nemis.isti.cnr.it/~straccia/software/FuzzyOWL>

⁴<http://www.opengalen.org>

⁵<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>

⁶<http://www.snomed.org>

⁷<http://www.geneontology.org>

⁸<http://www.bioontology.org>

⁹<http://www.obofoundry.org>

The built ontologies by OWL 2 are stored as Semantic Web documents and support adding properties, classes, individuals, and data values. They are mainly exchanged as RDF documents and can be utilized alongside written information in RDF [7].

Figure 1 shows an overview of the OWL 2 language and the relationships among its main building blocks. The centered ellipse can be considered as an RDF graph or an abstract structure. Different particular syntaxes can be used for Ontologies exchange, at the top part. Two semantic specifications define the OWL 2 Ontologies meanings, at the bottom part. In their work with OWL 2, the majority of the users need only one syntax and one semantics [7].

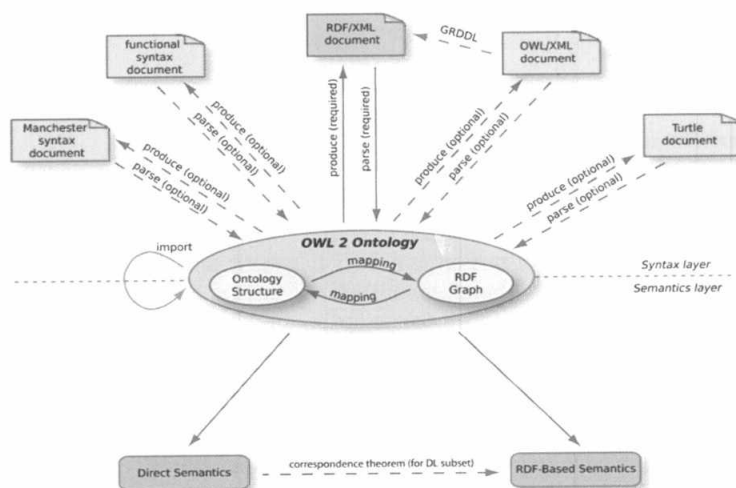


Fig.1: The structure of the OWL 2 [7].

2. ORC Domain

2.1. Obesity and Cancer Risk

Recently, the percentage of the overweighted and obese adults and children has significantly increased. Obesity is a condition in which a human has an abnormally high and unhealthy proportion of body fat. Obese people are more exposed to cancers as well as coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, and some other chronic diseases. The rate of cases ascribed to obesity varied for different types of cancers but recorded 40% of some cancers, specifically Endometrial and Esophageal cancers [12].

For obesity measurement, scientists use the Body Mass Index that is computed by dividing a man's weight by his squared height, using kilograms and meters to measure weight and height. The guidelines of NIH¹⁰ considered the 20 years old adults and older with their BMI values into the defined categories, as shown in Table 1.

Calle and Kaaks [13] stated that in the US, about two-thirds of adults were obese or overweight by the year 2000, and 300 million adults had obesity around the world.

¹⁰ <http://www.nih.gov/>- The National Institutes of Health

Less attention was given to the strong association between the cancertypes and the causing obesity than its cardiovascular effects. In the US, it was assessed that nearly 20% of all cancer deaths can be credited to overweight and corpulence. There is a defined relation between the obesity and the high levels of Insulin. Table 2 shows the relative risk of different BMI ranges with different cancer types throughout a statistical study made for EU and US populations.

Table 1: The Guidelines of BMI [12].

| BMI Categories | BMI |
|----------------|----------------|
| Obese | 30.0 and above |
| Overweight | 25.0 to 29.9 |
| Normal | 18.5 to 24.9 |
| Underweight | Below 18.5 |

2.2. Tumor Markers and Reference Ranges

Tumor markers are produced by cancers, different cells of the body because of malignant tumors, or certain benign (noncancerous) conditions. They can be detected in blood, urine, stool, tumor tissue, other tissues, or bodily fluids. They are utilized to help distinguish, analyze, and deal with a few types of cancer. The raised level of a tumor marker may be a diagnostic factor of cancer existence, but alone it is not sufficient to diagnose cancer. Therefore, other tests, such as biopsies, are usually combined with measurements of tumor markers to diagnose cancer [14].

According to National Cancer Institute (NCI) [14], Table 3 summarizes the required tumor markers tests for each cancer type. We focused on the most common cancer types in Mansoura University Hospitals, Mansoura, Egypt.

We asked our experts from Mansoura University Hospitals to determine which required properties and tests for each patient to diagnose if he is cancerous or not, especially in association with being obese. They specified (Age, Gender, BMI, Glucose tests [2hPG, FPG, HbA1C], Lipid profile [Total Cholesterol, TG (triglyceride)]) in addition to other diagnostics that will be mentioned later. Table 4 indicates the reference ranges of tumor markers that physicians use to determine the possibility of cancer.

Tables 5 and 6 list the reference ranges for glucose and cholesterol levels, which are used by the Egyptian experts to judge the patient condition, respectively. The standard reference values for these glucose and cholesterol levels can be found in^{11,12}. For cholesterol, we found that the US and some other countries use the same ranges while Canada and most of the Europe use different ranges. Our Egyptian ranges are closer to US ranges. The required tests are as follows: **FPG** (Fasting Plasma Glucose), **2hPG** (2-hour Plasma Glucose), **HbA1C** (Glycated hemoglobin), **AFP** (Alpha-fetoprotein), **CEA** (Carcinoembryonic antigen), **Kras** (KRAS mutation analysis), **ER** (Estrogen receptor), **PR** (Progesterone Receptor), **T**: (Triglyceride), and **T.Chol** (Total Cholesterol).

3. Related Work

In ORC domain, there are some issues with the overlapping concepts/terms, linguistic variables, and the uncertainty circumstances that exist and need to be addressed and accommodated while representing its knowledge. Our work focuses on integrating the Fuzzy logic while building the ORC Ontology using

¹¹<http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/glucose/tab/test/>

¹²<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/high-blood-cholesterol/in-depth/cholesterol-levels/art-20048245>

OWL 2 and Protégé to formalize the ORC domain. It introduces more efficient knowledge semantically representation of the ORC domain and provides reasoning capabilities. It is useful to physicians, experts or medical researchers, and computer scientists who are interested in this domain of knowledge.

Table 2: The Obesity-related cancer [13].

| Type of cancer | Relative risk* with BMI of ≥ 30 kg/m ² | Relative risk* with BMI of 25-30 kg/m ² | PAF (%) for US population | PAF (%) for EU population |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Colorectal (men) | 2.0 | 1.5 | 35.4 | 27.5 |
| Colorectal (women) | 1.5 | 1.2 | 20.8 | 14.2 |
| Female breast (postmenopausal) | 1.5 | 1.3 | 22.6 | 16.7 |
| Endometrial | 3.5 | 2.0 | 56.8 | 45.2 |
| Kidney (renal-cell) | 2.5 | 1.5 | 24.5 | 31.1 |
| Oesophageal (adenocarcinoma) | 3.0 | 2.0 | 52.4 | 24.7 |
| Pancreatic | 1.7 | 1.3 | 26.9 | 19.3 |
| Liver | 1.5-4.0 | ND | ND | ND |
| Gallbladder | 2.0 | 1.5 | 35.5 | 27.1 |
| Gastric cardia (adenocarcinoma) | 2.0 | 1.5 | 35.5 | 27.1 |

* Relative risk estimates are summarized from the literature cited in the main text.

¹³ The two sets of PAFs (population attributable fractions) have been computed using these relative risks.

Parry [6] presented a Fuzzy Ontology technique for medical document retrieval. To enhance any ontology searching tool, he made a mapping between query terms and individuals of an Ontology. In any case, the relative significance of a specific mapping to an overloaded term might be diverse for various users, and this information is essential for the reasonable fulfillment of inquiry. For every user or a users' group, the Fuzzy Ontology was used by adding a degree membership value to every "overloaded" term. Then, from Ontology mediated search, the retrieved documents can give the probable information request. Parry's approach addressed the "overloaded" terms (the same terms occur more than once) not the "overlapping" terms (the similar concepts in meaning that have different degrees of usage), but it was a starting point to ensure the concept of fuzzy use of medical ontologies.

Chen et al. [5] introduced Fuzzy rules based anti-diabetic drugs recommendation system, Fuzzy reasoning techniques, and the Ontology of anti-diabetic drugs for medicine recommendation. Their experimental results showed that the drugs selection achieved a good performance. They used the clinical practice data of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Medical Guidelines for 20 patients, and according to six attributes/tests. They used tools like Protégé, OWL DL, Joseki server software, and SPARQL as a query language. They used the old version of OWL, and they integrated the fuzzy logic into the reasoning system not in building the ontology itself.

Table 3: The cancer types and their related tumor markers.

¹³http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/487381_4

| Cancer Type | Required tumor markers tests |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ovarian | CA-125, * HE4, * 5-Protein signature (Oval) |
| Colorectal | * BRAF mutation V600E, Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), KRAS mutation analysis |
| Pancreatic | CA19-9 |
| Liver | AFP |
| Breast | CA15-3/CA27.29, Estrogen receptor (ER)/progesterone receptor (PR),Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), HER2/neu, * Plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI-1) and Urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA), * 21-Gene signature (Oncotype DX), * 70-Gene signature (Mammaprint) |

* This tumor marker test is not applied in Egypt.

Table 4: Tumor Markers Reference Ranges [15].

| CA-125 | AFP | CEA | Kras | CA19-9 | CA15-3 | ER | PR | HER2/neu |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 0-35 U/ml | Low levels present in both men & non-pregnant women (0-15 IU/ml); generally results >400 are caused by cancer (Half-life 4-6 days) | <2.5 ng/ml in non-smokers <5 ng/ml in smokers Generally, > 100 signifies metastatic cancer | 1 % is the cut-off level between nonmutant and mutant Kras | ≠ >U/ml is normal > 120 U/ml is generally caused by tumor | <31 U/ml (30% of patients have an elevated CA 15-3 for 30-90 days after treatment, so hold up 2-3 months after beginning new treatment to check) | 1 % staining is the cut-off point Above this, it is positive | | 10 % staining is the cut-off point |

Table 5: The Diabetes reference ranges.

| | Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (mg/dL) | FPG (mg/dL) | HbA1C |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Diabetic | 200 or above | 126 or above | 6.5 or above |
| Prediabetic | 144- 199 | 100 - 125 | 5.7-6.4 |
| Normal | 139 or below | 99 or below | About 5.0 |

Table 6: The Lipid Profile reference ranges.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Triglycerides (mg/dL) | 60 - 160 |
| Total cholesterol (mg/dL) | 0 - 200 |

Alfonse et al. [16] introduced a developing method to build anOntology for liver cancer using Protégé and OWL-DL format to encode their Ontology. Their Ontology was expected to benefit experts or medical researchers who need such knowledge be semantically represented. The data was acquired from cancer.gov, medicinenet.com, and cancer.net. They did not make integrate of Fuzzy logic in their Ontology, and they used the older version of OWL (OWL 1).

Moawad et al. [17] presented building a Viral Hepatitis Ontology based on OBR framework. A three stages methodology; Acquisition, Validation, and OWL Representation was used. In designing the ontology, the bottom-up approach was used and in implementation, they had used Protégé.

Abdel-Badeeh and Hisham [18] introduced a five steps approach for developing a Web-based Ontology of Knowledge Engineering. We favored to apply this methodology rather than in [17] and coming [19] as it was found simple, clear, logical and more proper for developing the ORC Ontology.

To develop an Ontology for breast cancer domain, Fatimatufaridah et al. [19] used a hybrid approach. They followed a three phases methodology that included three stages: 1- preparation, 2- hybrid Ontology process (a- build global Ontology, b- build local Ontology, c- mapping between global and local Ontologies, d- mapping between data sources and local Ontology), and 3- development of Ontology. Their knowledge resources are involved a medical officer as a domain expert, and documentation was taken from journals, articles, and Websites. They did not use Fuzzy logic in their work.

Torshizi et al. [8] presented a savvy hybrid system based on Fuzzy-ontology that determines the severity level and recommends the treatment for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). They used Ontologies for expert's knowledge representation. They used brainstorming procedure among experts. They used Fuzzy logic to make inference on rule bases using Fuzzy variables that are in the form of if-then rules. They did not work directly on the Ontology itself; they needed to transform it into if-then rules to be used within a Fuzzy system.

Elhefny et al. [20] introduced building a crisp Ontology for representing the Obesity-Related Cancer domain that included Diseases, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Symptoms Classes. They had constructed their Ontology using a simple methodology within Protégé building environment; it was formatted in OWL 2-DL syntax. It was helpful to reuse their ontology as the core of the first phase of developing FOORC. We extended their Ontology by adding more concepts and terms, instances, and properties. Then, we integrated Fuzzy logic to handle the overlapped concepts, linguistic variables, and uncertainty circumstances to get a more efficient representation of the domain knowledge.

4. The Proposed Obesity Related Cancer (ORC) Fuzzy Ontology

It is important to represent linguistic variables and overlapped concepts of Semantic Web Languages in a standard way. It can be performed by either developing the current Semantic Web Languages or by a procedure representing such information within current standard languages and tools. In our suggested framework, we utilized the last approach within OWL 2 to represent the ORC Ontology to meet the mentioned needs. Figure 2 shows the block diagram of the proposed framework to build the FOORC.

We constructed our work in three main phases. First, we built the typical Ontology by using Protégé 4.3 to allow reasoning using standard Ontology reasoners, validation, and evaluation. The output of this phase is a validated Ontology for obesity-related cancer with no fuzzy. Second, we represented the Fuzzy data types and overlapping concepts by using OWL 2 and Fuzzy annotation properties through FuzzyOWL 2 plug-in [1]. Finally, we reasoned with/ queried the constructed Fuzzy Ontology using fuzzyDL.

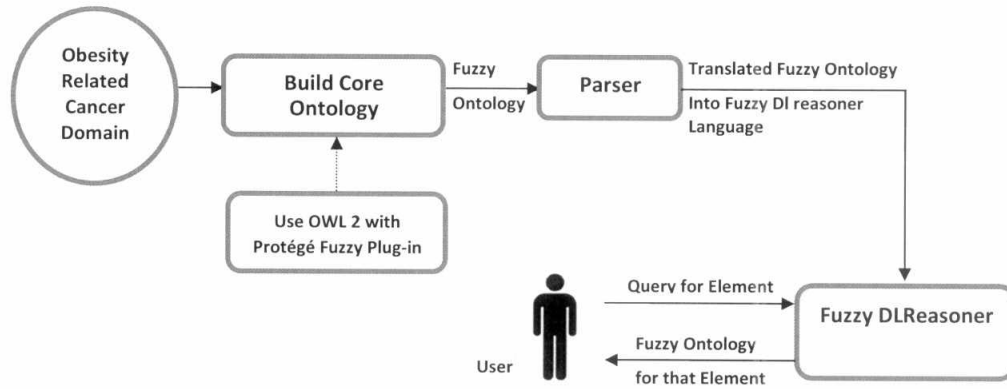


Figure 2: The proposed framework for building the FOORC.

4.1. Phase 1: Building Obesity Related Cancer Ontology

4.1.1. Building Methodology

We began building our Ontology by analyzing the vocabularies of Obesity-related cancer domain. Then, we identified the most commonly used terminologies by physicians from Mansoura University Hospitals. Several official sources were used like [12], [13], [14], [15], and [21]. In “disease” superclass, we made our class based on “DO” [2] hierarchy and terms. We followed a methodology with five processes used in [20], as shown in Figure 3, and pre-built ORC Ontology as the core to start adding the new items to it. We consulted the domain experts to validate the classification trees, edit terminologies, add other classes, and determine concepts synonyms. Our first layout of building Ontology is shown in Figure 4 with classes, properties, and relationship.

4.1.2. Ontology Structure

Figure 5 displays the “DO/DOID” visualized hierarchy for the Obesity disease class (as an example). After applied the “DO” terms and hierarchy to Obesity and Cancer disease classes, we represented them using protégé.

“DO” stated that the Ovarian Cancer has synonyms such as Malignant Ovarian tumor, neoplasm of ovary (disorder), ovarian neoplasm, ovary cancer, atumor of the ovary, ... etc. To reduce the time and effort, we considered the term “Ovarian Cancer” (that is a subclass of Female_reproductive_organ_cancer) as a member (individual) of its superclass Cancer, without taking into account the very detailed synonyms and sub-items, as the experts recommended, so we also did for some other diseases.

ORC Ontology consists of **five superclasses**: Disease, Medical Intervention, References, Patient, and Country [20]. **Medical Intervention class** includes both Diagnosis that in turn involves Cancer Diagnosis and Obesity Diagnosis subclasses. Treatmentclass includes Cancer Treatment and Obesity Treatment subclasses. **References class** includes Risk Factors subclass that in turn involves Cancer Risk Factors and Obesity Risk Factors subclasses and Symptoms subclass that in turn involves Cancer Symptoms and Obesity Symptoms subclasses. **Patient class** involves Male Patient and Female Patient subclasses. **Country class** involves Egypt. **Our used relationships are** $_a$, has_Disease, IsLocatedIn, ResultsIn, hasCauses, hasSymptoms, diagnosedBy, treatedBy, see Table 7. Table 8 displays the classes'

individuals. The hierarchy of the full ORC Ontology classes is shown in Figure 6 throughout protégé environment. Figure 8 shows an excerpt of classes, data and object properties in the ontology (partial).

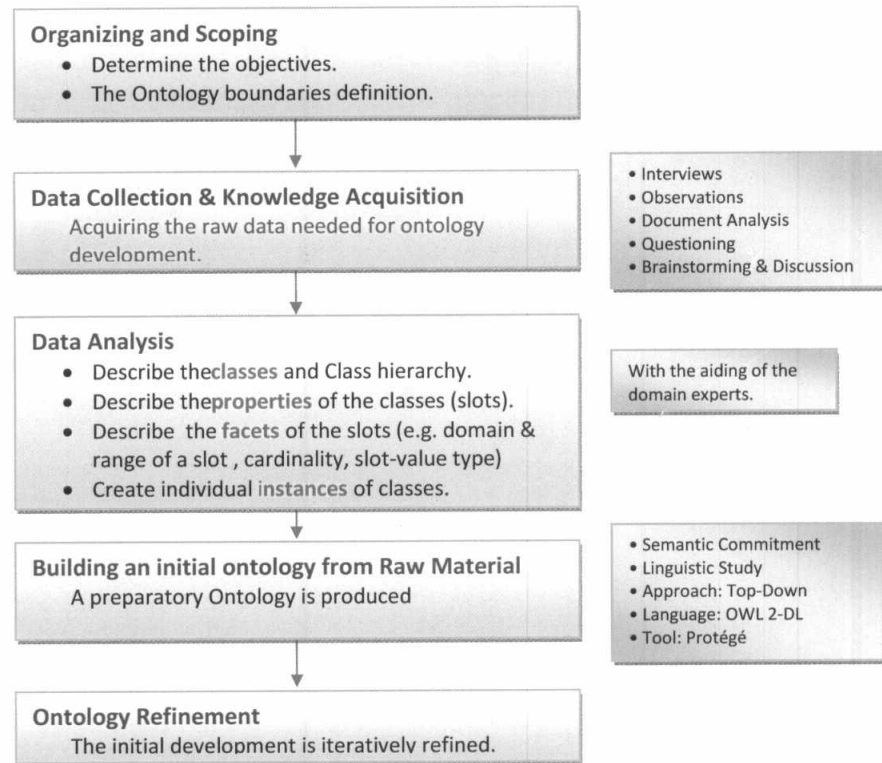


Fig.3: ORC Ontology building methodology [20].

4.1.3. Some Domain Considerations

Initially, we thought to add cancer "Staging" Class, and then we found that most of the staging¹⁶ tests were involved in the "Diagnosis" Class, as shown in Figure 7. In Tumor_markers_tests class, we considered the Tumor markers for our concerned cancer types (Pancreatic, Colorectal, Ovarian, Liver, and Breast cancers) according to NCI [14]. Then, we refined them to fix what are done in Egypt as in Table 3. We considered adding Diabetes as a strong relationship between Obesity and Diabetes Mellitus exists. It is observed the higher BMI (Morbid Obesity) leads to higher blood glucose levels (Type 2 Diabetes). For cancer, we selected the most common cancers that exist in Mansoura University Hospitals as mentioned in [13]. The Mansoura University Hospitals serve patients from all the Egyptian cities. We found some terms were so close to each other, such as (Colon Cancer, **Colorectal**, Colon and rectum, Colon Adenocarcinoma), (**Liver**, Hepatocellular), and (**Tumor**, Neoplasm) that might be treated as overlapping concepts. Our information resources included other Websites like^{14,15,16} for Obesity, Cancer, and Cancer Staging, respectively.

¹⁴<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/obe/causes.html>

¹⁵<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerandresearch/all-about-cancer/what-is-cancer/what-causes-cancer>

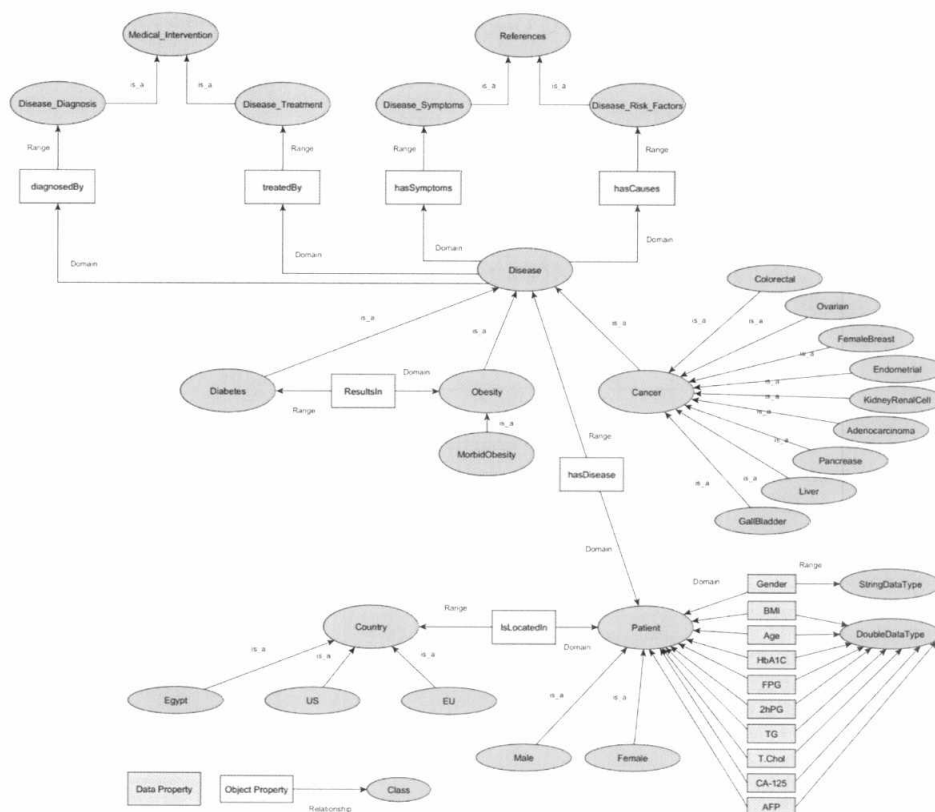


Figure 4: The Ontology building initial layout.

4.1.4. Ontology Validation and Metrics:

We tested the Ontology consistency by using Protégé built-in reasoner(s), and its validation by the experts' review. Statistics and format validation were made using the online tool provided by Manchester University, "Ontology Metrics"^{17, 18} for statistics and¹⁹ for format validation. Figure 9 indicates the general metrics of core (crisp) Ontology using the online tool. The metrics for both the typical (core) Ontology [20] and our modified one are displayed in Figure 10 using the built-in metrics tool in Protégé. The syntax validation of our Ontology to OWL 2-DL is reported in Figure 11 using Manchester University Validation Tool.

4.2. Phase 2: ORC Ontology Extension - Adding the Fuzzy Part Using Annotation Properties

We fuzzified our ORC Ontology to accommodate the linguistic variables (e.g. BMI data types; Underweight, Normal, Overweight, and Obese) and overlapping concepts (e.g. Colorectal Cancer,

¹⁶<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/staging>

¹⁷<http://mowl-power.cs.man.ac.uk:8080/metrics>

¹⁸http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/Ontology_Metrics

¹⁹<http://mowl-power.cs.man.ac.uk:8080/validator/>

Colon Cancer, and Colon Adenocarcinoma). In our regular Ontology, we could not do that, as there are no sharpening edges among concepts. In addition, linguistic variables have different ranges of values.

Our fuzzification process was based on OWL 2 and Fuzzy annotation properties that could be done within the **Protégé 4.3. The FuzzyOWL2 plug-in**, made by Bobillo and Straccia [1] is publicly available on the Web. It enables defining Fuzzy elements to the typical Ontology (including Fuzzy datatypes, weighted sum concepts, weighted concepts, Fuzzy nominals, and others), specifying the Fuzzy Logic wanted to be used (either Zadeh²⁰ or Lukasiewicz²¹ logics). We used Zadeh Fuzzy logic. The process output is a Fuzzy Ontology.

Eventually, the constructed Fuzzy Ontology uses **fuzzyDL** to reason with/query the processed Ontology. The plug-in is integrated with **fuzzyDL** reasoner [2], translates the annotated OWL 2 Ontology into fuzzyDL syntax, calls fuzzyDL, and makes it possible to submit queries. For the moment, such queries must be expressed using the particular syntax supported by fuzzyDL.

The Fuzzy Ontology can be printed on the screen or saved to a text file. The FuzzyOWL2 plugin installation included gurobi optimization tool²² installation to use the query panel of the plug-in. All installation instructions were included in their plug-in documentation.

Table 7: The Object Properties of the Obesity-related Cancers Ontology.

| Domain ^a | Range ^b | Property |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Patient | Disease | hasDisease |
| Patient | Country | IsLocatedIn |
| Obesity | Obesity_Risk_Factors | hasCauses |
| Obesity | Obesity_Symptoms | hasSymptoms |
| Obesity | Obesity_Diagnosis | diagnosedBy |
| Obesity | Obesity_Treatment | treatedBy |
| Obesity | Diabetes | ResultsIn |
| Obesity | Diabetes | ResultsIn |
| Cancer | Cancer_Risk_Factors | hasCauses |
| Cancer | Cancer_Symptoms | hasSymptoms |
| Cancer | Cancer_Diagnosis | diagnosedBy |
| Cancer | Cancer_Treatment | treatedBy |

^a Domain is a built-in property that links a property to a class description.

^b The range is a built-in property that links a property to either a class description or a data range.

²⁰http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuzzy_logic

²¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%81ukasiewicz_logic

²²<http://www.gurobi.com>



Figure 5: The Obesity Class Visualization in DO [2].

Table 8: The Instances (Individuals) of ORC Ontology classes.

| Class | Instances |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Obesity_Risk_Factors | Gender, Age, Lipids, Genes_and_family_history, Diabetes, Lifestyle, Hormone_problems, Certain_medicines, Lack_of_sleep, Emotional_factors, Smoking_stopping, Pregnancy, Lack_of_energy_balance_over_time |
| Obesity_Symptoms | Clothes_feeling_tight, Having_extra_fat_around_the_waist, Greater_scale_measure, A_Higher_than_normal_BMI, Having_higher_waist_circumference |
| Obesity_Diagnosis | Gender, BMI, Blood_glucose_level_tests (Fasting_plasma_glucose, HbA1c, Oral_gulcose_tolerance), Lipid_profile_tests (Triglyceride, Total_cholesterol), Genetic_factors, Waist_measurement, Retrospective_studies_in_community |
| Obesity_Treatment | Weight_loss, Lifestyle_change (Cutting_back_on_calories, Healthy_eating_plan, Physical_Activity), Medicines, Surgery |
| Cancer_Risk_Factors | Age, Gender, Morbid_obesity, Inherited_gene_faults, Lifestyle, Smoking, DNA_damage, Viruses, Problems_with_the_immune_system |
| Cancer_Symptoms | Feeling_ill_without_obvious_cause, Pernicious Anemia Tumour_mutations |
| Cancer_Diagnosis | Imaging (X-ray, CT_scan, MRI_scan, PET_scan, Ultrasound), Tumor_markers_tests (CA-125, AFP,...), Biopsy, Endoscopy, Physical_examination |
| Cancer_Treatment | Radiotherapy, Surgery, Chemotherapy, Hormone_therapy, Immunotherapy, Gene_therapy |



Figure 7: Diagnosis Class and its members represented in ORC Ontology.

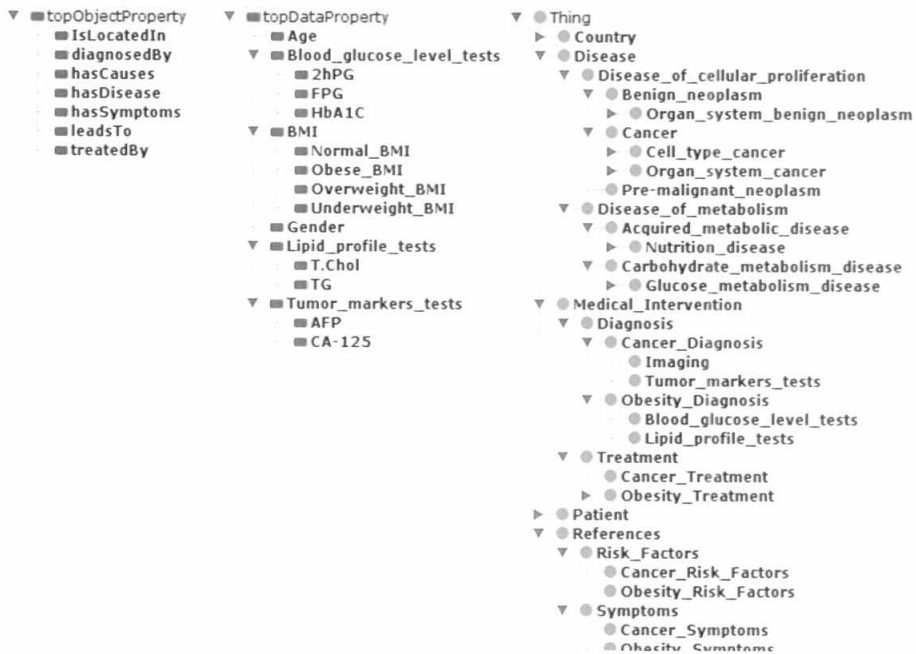


Figure 8: Selection of classes, data and object properties in the ontology (partial).

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The University of Manchester |  MANCHESTER <small>1824</small> |
| Ontology Metrics | |
| http://www.semanticweb.org/mohhed/ontologies/2014/6/1/obesity-related-cancer | |
| Ontology | |
| DL expressivity | ALC(D) |
| Class count | 61 |
| Object property count | 4 |
| Data property count | 3 |
| Individual count | 62 |
| Logical axiom count | 199 |
| Ontology annotation axioms count | 0 |
| Entity annotation axioms count | 128 |
| Class axioms | |
| Logical axiom count | 199 |
| SubClass axioms count | 57 |
| Equivalent classes axioms count | 0 |
| Disjoint classes axioms count | 3 |
| Disjoint union axioms count | 0 |
| Object property axioms | |
| Sub object property axioms count | 0 |
| Equivalent object properties axioms count | 0 |
| Disjoint object properties axioms count | 0 |
| Inverse object properties axioms count | 4 |
| Object property domain axioms count | 4 |
| Object property range axioms count | 0 |
| Functional object property axioms count | 0 |
| Inverse functional object property axioms count | 0 |
| Symmetric object property axioms count | 0 |
| Anti-symmetric object property axioms count | 0 |
| Reflexive object property axioms count | 0 |
| Irreflexive object property axioms count | 0 |
| Transitive object property axioms count | 0 |
| Data property axioms | |
| Sub data property axioms count | 0 |
| Equivalent data properties axioms count | 0 |
| Disjoint data properties axioms count | 0 |
| Object property domain axioms count | 4 |
| Object property range axioms count | 4 |
| Functional data property axioms count | 0 |
| Individual axioms | |
| Class assertion axioms count | 125 |

Figure 9: The typical ORC OntologyMetrics using Manchester University Validation Tool [20].

4.2.1. Definition of Fuzzy Sets:

As we showed in Table 1, BMI had four linguistic variables; they are Underweight, Normal Weight, Overweight, and Obese that can be fuzzified denoting the degree of a patient being underweight, normal, overweight or obese and then represented by the fuzzy plug-in using protégé.

We can define the four fuzzy sets of BMI linguistic variables like:

1. Underweight := FUZZY SET (18.5,1), (19.5,0);
2. Normal := FUZZY SET (18.5,0), (19.5,1), (24,1), (25,0);
3. Overweight := FUZZY SET (24,0), (25,1), (29,1), (30,0);
4. Obese := FUZZY SET (29,0), (30,1);

The first three fuzzy sets were defined by Fehre et al. [23] and upon them, we described the fourth one, see Figure 12.

| Ontology metrics | | Ontology metrics | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Metrics | | Metrics | |
| Axiom | 393 | Axiom | 603 |
| Logical axiom count | 137 | Logical axiom count | 124 |
| Class count | 60 | Class count | 75 |
| Object property count | 4 | Object property count | 6 |
| Data property count | 3 | Data property count | 17 |
| Individual count | 62 | Individual count | 87 |
| DL expressivity | ALC(D) | DL expressivity | ALC(D) |
| Class axioms | | Class axioms | |
| SubClassOf axioms count | 57 | SubClassOf axioms count | 70 |
| EquivalentClasses axioms count | 0 | EquivalentClasses axioms count | 0 |
| DisjointClasses axioms count | 3 | DisjointClasses axioms count | 4 |
| GCI count | 0 | GCI count | 0 |
| Hidden GCI Count | 0 | Hidden GCI Count | 0 |
| Object property axioms | | Object property axioms | |
| SubObjectPropertyOf axioms count | 0 | SubObjectPropertyOf axioms count | 0 |
| EquivalentObjectProperties axioms count | 0 | EquivalentObjectProperties axioms count | 0 |
| InverseObjectProperties axioms count | 0 | InverseObjectProperties axioms count | 0 |
| DisjointObjectProperties axioms count | 0 | DisjointObjectProperties axioms count | 0 |
| FunctionalObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | FunctionalObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| InverseFunctionalObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | InverseFunctionalObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| TransitiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | TransitiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| SymmetricObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | SymmetricObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| AsymmetricObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | AsymmetricObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| ReflexiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | ReflexiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| IreflexiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 | IreflexiveObjectProperty axioms count | 0 |
| ObjectPropertyDomain axioms count | 4 | ObjectPropertyDomain axioms count | 6 |
| ObjectPropertyRange axioms count | 4 | ObjectPropertyRange axioms count | 6 |
| SubPropertyChainOf axioms count | 0 | SubPropertyChainOf axioms count | 0 |
| Data property axioms | | Data property axioms | |
| SubDataPropertyOf axioms count | 0 | SubDataPropertyOf axioms count | 11 |
| EquivalentDataProperties axioms count | 0 | EquivalentDataProperties axioms count | 0 |
| DisjointDataProperties axioms count | 0 | DisjointDataProperties axioms count | 0 |
| FunctionalDataProperty axioms count | 0 | FunctionalDataProperty axioms count | 0 |
| DataPropertyDomain axioms count | 3 | DataPropertyDomain axioms count | 10 |
| DataPropertyRange axioms count | 3 | DataPropertyRange axioms count | 13 |
| Individual axioms | | Individual axioms | |
| ClassAssertion axioms count | 63 | ClassAssertion axioms count | 92 |
| ObjectPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 | ObjectPropertyAssertion axioms count | 3 |
| DataPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 | DataPropertyAssertion axioms count | 15 |
| NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 | NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 |
| NegativeDataPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 | NegativeDataPropertyAssertion axioms count | 0 |
| SameIndividual axioms count | 0 | SameIndividual axioms count | 0 |
| DifferentIndividuals axioms count | 0 | DifferentIndividuals axioms count | 0 |
| Annotation axioms | | Annotation axioms | |
| AnnotationAssertion axioms count | 128 | AnnotationAssertion axioms count | 180 |
| AnnotationPropertyDomain axioms count | 0 | AnnotationPropertyDomain axioms count | 0 |
| AnnotationPropertyRangeOf axioms count | 0 | AnnotationPropertyRangeOf axioms count | 0 |

Figure 10: The typical Ontology metrics [20] vs. our modified ORC Ontology metrics in Protégé.

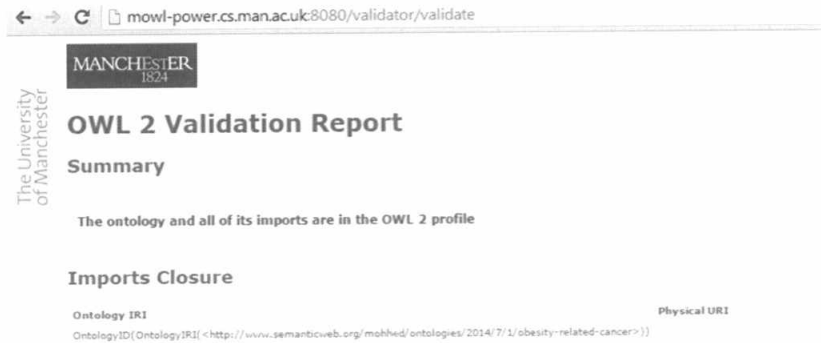


Figure 11: The validation report for our ORC Ontology format.

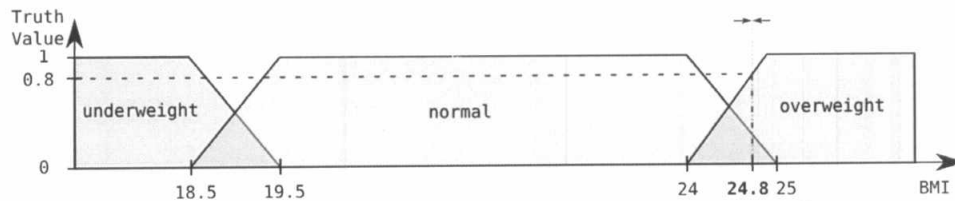


Figure 12: The fuzzy sets for underweight, normal, and overweight BMI [23].

4.2.2. Fuzzy Data Types Representation:

To represent the Fuzzy atomic data types, we need to specify the parameters k_1 , k_2 , a , b , c , d . The first four parameters are common to all of them, c and d appear in the trapezoidal function. The parameters k_1 and k_2 are the minimum and maximum inclusive values, respectively. These parameters are optional and, if omitted, then the minimum and maximum of the attributes (a , b , c , d) are assumed, respectively. We specified k_1 , k_2 with 0, 300 as the heaviest human till now recorded more than 204 BMI (Kg/m^2)²³. We represented our fuzzy datatypes using values of (k_1 , k_2 , a , b , c , d) as the following using two left and right triangle functions, and two trapezoidal functions. Figure 13 shows the underweight Fuzzy data type representation in the building environment as an example:

- Underweight_datatype = Left(0, 300, 18.5, 19.5)
- Normalweight_datatype = Trapezoidal(0, 300, 18.5, 19.5, 24, 25)
- Overweight_datatype = Trapezoidal (0, 300, 24, 25, 29, 30)
- Obese_datatype = Right(0, 300, 29, 30)

The medical experts told that overlapped concepts of Colorectal Cancer were used approximately as 60% for Colorectal Cancer, 30% for Colon Cancer, and 10% for Colon Adenocarcinoma. Figure 14 shows a Sample of the used Fuzzy label annotation properties for representing both fuzzy data types and Overlapped Concepts of Colorectal Cancer with different degrees of usage (0.6, 0.3, and 0.1).

²³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_heaviest_people

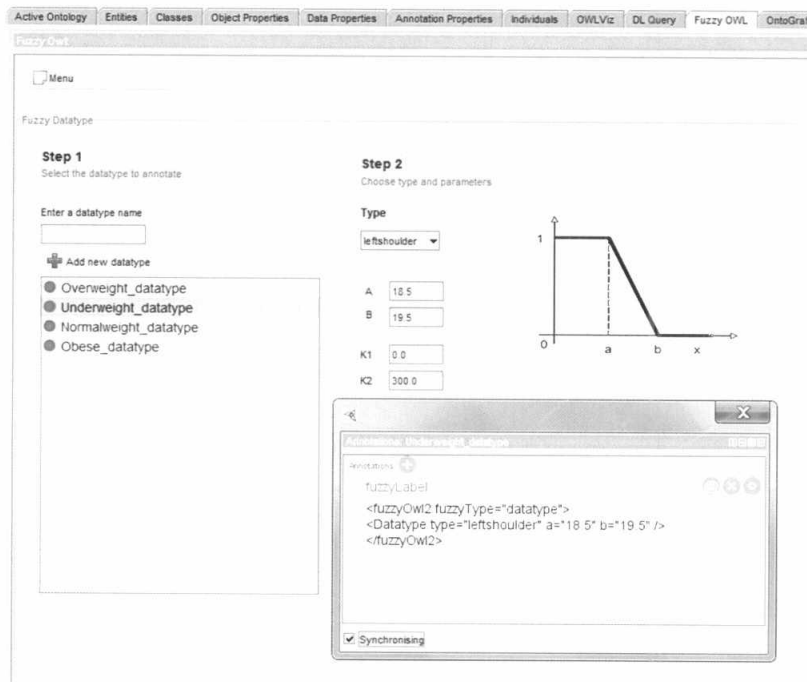


Figure 13: The underweight Fuzzy Data Type Representation (as an example).

4.2.3. Phase 3: Query the FOORC Ontology

Using the installed plugin and Gurobi software, we can send queries in specified syntax and predefined tags to our constructed FOORC and get Fuzzy answers. To check our Ontology response and consistency, we made some queries like:

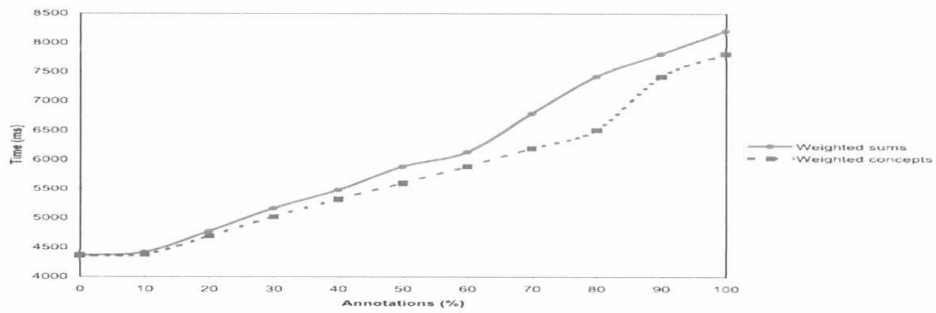
(max-subst? Colorectal_cancerLarge_intestine_cancer), (min-subst?Colorectal_cancerLarge_intestine_cancer) to get the maximum and minimum values of concept implication Colorectal_cancer ->Large_intestine_cancer, as shown in Figure 15.FOORC responded with the expected answers for the given queries.

5. Results

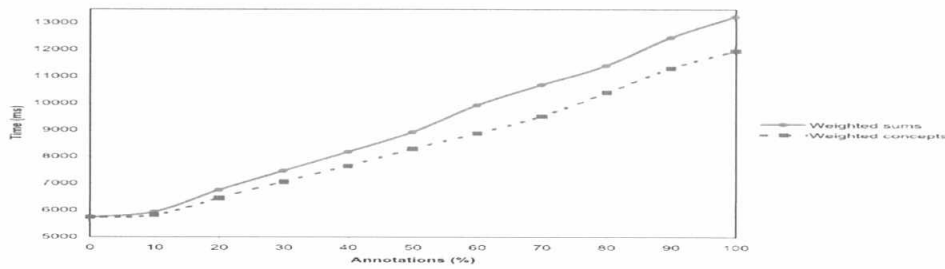
The FOORC validation was made in two stages. First, validating the phase 1 of the regular Ontology using the regular validation tools as shown in Section 4.1.4. Then, validating the second and third phases of getting answers from the Fuzzy DL reasoner that reflect user's queriesusing the fuzzy annotations approach.

(%) in both PT (the parsing time) and TT (the translation time) into fuzzyDL syntax. The parsing time and the translation time are shown for both WSs (Weighted Sums) and WCs (Weighted Concepts).

The numbers of annotated elements influence in the PT is shown in Figure 16a. It is noticeable there is a semi-linear growing of the PT concerning the number of annotated elements. A Fuzzy Ontology with a forty percent of annotated elements would take one more second to be parsed than the original Galen Ontology. In addition, it is obvious that there are no considerable differences between WCs and WSs, in general, which means the types of the Fuzzy concepts are not significative. The numbers of annotated elements influence in the TT is shown in Figure 16b. Again, there is a semi-linear growing of the running time concerning the number of annotated elements, and there are no significant differences because of the type of the fuzzy concepts [1].



(a) The impact of the percentage of annotations in the parsing time.



(b) The impact of the percentage of annotations in the translation time.

(c) Influence of the percentage of annotations in the parsing time & the translation time into FuzzyDL syntax.

| % | Concepts | GCI | RIAs | PT WCs | PT WSs | TT WCs | TT WSs |
|-----|----------|-------|------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4364.1 | 4363.9 | 5731.7 | 5726.1 |
| 10 | 2385 | 2604 | 88 | 4420.3 | 4382.5 | 5932.8 | 5812.6 |
| 20 | 4590 | 5151 | 177 | 4773.6 | 4692 | 6746.8 | 6443.9 |
| 30 | 6990 | 7675 | 276 | 5166.8 | 5025.2 | 7465.5 | 7059.4 |
| 40 | 9312 | 10152 | 383 | 5481.4 | 5320.3 | 8173.5 | 7648.1 |
| 50 | 11588 | 12760 | 462 | 5884.5 | 5603.4 | 8925.2 | 8295.4 |
| 60 | 13888 | 15260 | 569 | 6131.6 | 5889 | 9928.1 | 8875 |
| 70 | 16216 | 17764 | 672 | 6785.7 | 6193.9 | 10690.5 | 9521.6 |
| 80 | 18475 | 20363 | 785 | 7418.6 | 6509.4 | 11403.1 | 10402.8 |
| 90 | 20805 | 22906 | 875 | 7809.2 | 7418.8 | 12451.7 | 11303.3 |
| 100 | 23141 | 25563 | 958 | 8201.6 | 7813.8 | 13228.3 | 11962.6 |

Figure 16: The results of the experimental evaluation [1].

6. Conclusion

The Obesity Related Cancer(s) is a rich and significant medical domain. From our experiment, the proposed FOORC was better to represent this domain than the typical one for several reasons. One of them was the ability to represent overlapping concepts and linguistic variables that had not sharp edges to be represented in regular Ontologies, and this was done via the Fuzzy annotation properties (like fuzzy datatypes, weighted sum concepts, ...etc.). It led us to accommodate more concepts and make a wider range of vocabularies. Second, enabling the user(s) to send queries to the fuzzyDLreasoner that in turn replies with Fuzzy Ontologies. Third, it best fits for rich domains having Fuzzy knowledge that need to be represented within Ontologies. Finally, it leads to good performance, in general. We introduced a simple three phases methodology to build the FOORC that is expected to be good practice for ontologists and knowledge engineers in medical field aiding them to solve the overlapping concepts, linguistic variables, and reasoning problems. Both physicians and intelligent systems can exploit obesity-related cancer Fuzzy Ontology in knowledge sharing, reusability, and reasoning. In future, we may extend this work to include all the cancer types with their elements in the fuzzification process or may work on a particular cancer type with the study of patients group's real data. The fuzzy plug-in may need more development to facilitate the users to submit more queries than the predefined ones.

7. Acknowledgment

The authors want to express gratitude toward Dr. Ashraf Khater, Prof. of Surgical Oncology for his efforts, Dr. Moahamed Awad Ibrahim, Assoc. Prof. of Medical Oncology (Mansoura University Oncology Center), Dr. Nouredin Sadawi (Dept. of Computer Science, Brunel University, London, United Kingdom), and Mr. Wolfram Bartussek (Lecturer in University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt, Germany) for their support during this work.

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