

ExtruOnt: An ontology for describing a type of manufacturing machine for Industry 4.0 systems

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Abstract. Semantically rich descriptions of manufacturing machines, offered in a machine-interpretable code, can provide interesting benefits in Industry 4.0 scenarios. However, the lack of that type of descriptions is evident. In this paper we present the development effort made to build an ontology, called *ExtruOnt*, for describing a type of manufacturing machine, more precisely, a type that performs an extrusion process (extruder). Although the scope of the ontology is restricted to a concrete domain, it could be used as a model for the development of other ontologies for describing manufacturing machines in Industry 4.0 scenarios.

The terms of the *ExtruOnt* ontology provide different types of information related with an extruder, which are reflected in distinct modules that constitute the ontology. Thus, it contains classes and properties for expressing descriptions about components of an extruder, spatial connections, features, and 3D representations of those components, and finally the sensors used to capture indicators about the performance of this type of machine. The ontology development process has been carried out in close collaboration with domain experts.

Keywords: Ontology, Extruder, Industry 4.0, Smart Manufacturing

1. Introduction

Different initiatives and strategies are emerging in the 4th Industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) that is currently being experienced in the manufacturing sector. Mainly they address, on the one hand, the compilation of manufacturing records of products, with data about their history, state, quality and characteristics, and on the other hand, the application of manufacturing intelligence to those records, so that the exploitation of those data allows manufacturers to predict, plan

and manage specific circumstances in order to optimize their production. Those initiatives enable important business opportunities for the manufacturers.

Moreover, the appropriate design and implementation of such initiatives requires an innovation effort by deploying, among others, mechatronics for advanced manufacturing systems, manufacturing strategies, knowledge-workers and modelling, simulation and forecasting methods and tools [8]. Concerning modeling, a lack of sound descriptions of manufacturing machines that happen to be accessible, interoperable, and reusable can be identified nowadays. Thus, in order to alleviate that existing shortage we have de-

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1 developed an ontology for providing detailed descrip- 1
2 tions of a real manufacturing machine type (called ex- 2
3 truder) that performs an extrusion process¹. We have 3
4 not found any other ontology concerning extruders, 4
5 however, we believe that the ontology-based descrip- 5
6 tion of different manufacturing machine types can con- 6
7 tribute significantly to the development of the Industry 7
8 4.0. 8

9 The purpose of this paper is to present the *ExtruOnt* 9
10 ontology. It includes terms to describe 1) the *main* 10
11 *components* of an extruder (e.g. the drive system), 2) 11
12 the *spatial connections* between the extruder compo- 12
13 nents (e.g. the filter is externally connected to the bar- 13
14 rel), 3) the *different features* of the components (e.g. 14
15 the power consumption of the motor is 40.5 kWh), 4) 15
16 the *3D description* of the position of the compo- 16
17 nents (e.g. the feed hopper is located at point $q(0,0,-$ 17
18 $l)$ in a 3D canvas), and, 5) the *sensors* that need to 18
19 be used to capture indicators about the performance of 19
20 that extruder (e.g. the temperature sensor that captures 20
21 the melting temperature of the polymer). 21

22 The *ExtruOnt* ontology has been implemented us- 22
23 ing OWL 2² and the Protégé³ [23] development en- 23
24 vironment. *ExtruOnt* is in line with concepts included 24
25 in an ontology-based context model for industry pre- 25
26 sented in [13] and is aligned with several ontologies: 26
27 the DUL ontology⁴, which models physical contexts; 27
28 the MASON ontology, an upper ontology for repre- 28
29 senting the core concepts of the manufacturing domain 29
30 [20]; SAREF4INMA [6], a SAREF [9] extension for 30
31 semantic interoperability in the industry and manufac- 31
32 turing domain; the GeoSPARQL ontology, which in- 32
33 corporates descriptions about Region Connection Cal- 33
34 culus (RCC) [24]; the OM⁵ ontology, the largest unit 34
35 ontology [27]; the 3D Modeling Ontology (3DMO), 35
36 which maps the entire XSD-based vocabulary of the 36
37 industry standard X3D⁶ (ISO/IEC 19775-19777) to 37
38 OWL 2 [30] and with the SOSA/SSN, which defines 38
39 general concepts about sensors [15]. 39

40 Apart from the interest that the *ExtruOnt* ontol- 40
41 ogy has in itself, the main contributions of the *Ex-* 41
42 *truOnt* ontology are the following: 1) Reusability. Its 42
43 43

44 ¹In which some material is forced through a series of dies in order 44
45 to create a desired shape. 45

46 ²<https://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-overview/> 46

47 ³<https://protege.stanford.edu/> 47

48 ⁴[http://ontologydesignpatterns.org/wiki/Ontology:DOLCE+](http://ontologydesignpatterns.org/wiki/Ontology:DOLCE+DnS_Ultralite) 48
49 *DnS_Ultralite* 49

50 ⁵[https://enterpriseintegrationlab.github.io/icity/OM/doc/index-](https://enterpriseintegrationlab.github.io/icity/OM/doc/index-en.html) 50
51 *en.html* 51

52 ⁶<http://www.web3d.org/what-x3d-graphics> 52

1 modular design facilitates the task of developing other 1
2 ontologies for different types of manufacturing ma- 2
3 chines. The module that describes the components of 3
4 an extruder could be replaced by another module that 4
5 would describe another type of manufacturing ma- 5
6 chine, while alignments with other modules should 6
7 be adapted to meet the requirements of the new type 7
8 of machine. Moreover, the defined alignments of *Ex-* 8
9 *truOnt* ontology with upper ontologies such as DUL 9
10 and MASON facilitate the task of modeling differ- 10
11 ent manufacturing operations (e.g. customer orders, 11
12 production plans); 2) Expressiveness of Spatial Con- 12
13 nections. It incorporates a hierarchical description of 13
14 possible relations in Region Connection Calculus and 14
15 some custom-defined ones. Dealing with all those de- 15
16 scriptions, more specific spatial relations can be de- 16
17 fined and thus fine-grained results for questions can be 17
18 provided. 18

19 Finally, the use of the *ExtruOnt* ontology as the 19
20 core element of ontology-based systems, developed for 20
21 Smart Manufacturing scenarios, can bring several ben- 21
22 efits. For example, the development of an ontology- 22
23 based Visual Query System will bring the following 23
24 benefits to the different types of workers of a manufac- 24
25 turing plant: 25

- 26 – *Novice workers*. The 3D rendering of an extruder 26
27 machine obtained from descriptions in the ontol- 27
28 ogy will allow novice workers to familiarize 28
29 themselves with the extrusion process due to its 29
30 similarity to reality. 30
- 31 – *Product Designers*. The descriptions referring to 31
32 the components of the extruder as well as the con- 32
33 straints regarding their spatial connections, po- 33
34 sitioning and features contained in the ontology 34
35 will facilitate product designers the task of creat- 35
36 ing customized 3D images of extruder machines. 36
- 37 – *Domain experts*. Ontology-based annotation of 37
38 data captured by sensors will allow domain ex- 38
39 perts to perform an assisted exploration of data. 39
40 40

41 In the rest of this paper, we present first, distinct ap- 41
42 proaches that have been defined in the literature, re- 42
43 lated to two aspects considered during the develop- 43
44 ment process of *ExtruOnt*: existing ontologies and on- 44
45 tology evaluation techniques. Then, we show some 45
46 methodologies that have been proposed to adequately 46
47 develop ontologies. Next, we illustrate the steps that 47
48 we followed to develop the *ExtruOnt* ontology using 48
49 the NeOn methodology [31] and the modules that con- 49
50 stitute *ExtruOnt*. Later, we show the results of the eval- 50
51 uation process carried out considering two goals: do- 51

1 main coverage and quality of modeling. We finish with
2 some conclusions and future work.

3 4 5 **2. Related work** 6

7 In the specialized literature several ontologies related to the Smart Manufacturing area can be found.
8 Those ontologies were defined with distinct purposes and, therefore, describe different types of information related to that area. For example, the PSL (Process Specification Language) ontology [14] includes
9 fundamental concepts for representing manufacturing processes. The foundational elements of the core of the PSL ontology are four primitive classes (*activity*,
10 *activity-occurrence*, *timepoint*, *object*), three primitive relations (*participates-in*, *before*, *occurrence-of*) and
11 two primitive functions (*beginof*, *endof*). The MASON (Manufacturing's Semantics Ontology) ontology [20]
12 is an upper ontology for representing what authors consider the core concepts of the manufacturing domain: products, processes and resources. As a result,
13 the main classes of MASON are *Entity* (for specifying the product), *Operation* (for describing all processes linked to manufacturing) and *Resource* (for representing
14 concepts regarding machine-tools, tools, human resources and geographic resources). The SIMPM (Semantically Integrated Manufacturing Planning Model)
15 ontology [36] is an upper ontology that models the fundamental constraints of manufacturing process planning: manufacturing activities and resources, time and
16 aggregation. MaRCO (Manufacturing Resource Capability Ontology) [18] defines capabilities of manufacturing resources. Its main class is *Capability*, which is
17 specialized to cover both, simple capabilities (e.g. *Fixturing*, *SpinningTool*) and combined capabilities (those that require a combination of two or more simple
18 capabilities, e.g. *PickAndPlace*, which requires *FingerGrasping* or *Vacuum Grasping*, *Moving* and *Releasing*). The MSDL (Manufacturing Service Description
19 Language) ontology [1] allows to describe manufacturing services. More precisely, a *Manufacturing Service* is seen as a *Service* that is provided by a *Supplier*
20 and that has some *Manufacturing Capability*, which is enabled by some *Manufacturing Resource* and delivered by some *Manufacturing Process*. The P-PSO
21 (Politecnico di Milano Production Systems) ontology [11] considers three aspects in the manufacturing domain: the physical aspect (the material definition of
22 the system), the technological aspect (the operational view of the system) and the control aspect (the man-

1 agement activities), for information exchange, design, control, simulation and other applications. Thus, its
2 main classes are *component*, *operation* and *controller*, which model the aforementioned three aspects, as well
3 as *part*, *operator* and *subsystem*. OntoSTEP (Ontology of Standard for the Exchange of Product model
4 data) [2] allows the description of product information mainly related to geometry. MCCO (Manufacturing
5 Core Concepts Ontology) [33] focuses on interoperability across the production and design domains of
6 product lifecycle. It provides some core classes in categories such as *ManufacturingProcess*, *ManufacturingFacility*, *ManufacturingResource* and *Feature*. Finally,
7 SAREF4INMA [9] pursues favouring interoperability with industry standards. Some of its main classes are
8 *ProductionEquipment*, *Factory*, *Item* and *MaterialCategory*.
9

10 Although some of the mentioned ontologies contain some general terms for representing the concept of industrial machine (e.g. *Machine-tool* in MASON,
11 *Device* in MarCO, *ProductionEquipment* in SAREF4INMA), further specialization and characterization are needed for fitting our goal, that is, for describing
12 specific industrial machine types with a fine-grained detail, and more particularly, extruder machines. The search on different ontology repositories
13 (e.g. LOV [34], Swoogle [7], ODP [10]) for an ontology that covered this domain yielded unsuccessful, and for that reason we built the *ExtruOnt* ontology following
14 a well-established methodology.
15

16 Furthermore, considering the relevance of evaluating the quality and correctness of an ontology once it has been built, several evaluation approaches have
17 been proposed in the specialized literature depending on the evaluation goal. The NeOn guidelines for carrying out the ontology evaluation activity [28] identify
18 the following goals of evaluation: *domain coverage*, *quality of modeling*, *suitability for an application/task* and *adoption and use*. Then, specific evaluation
19 approaches need to be chosen depending on the selected goals. These approaches include, among others, comparing to a gold standard ontology [22],
20 comparing to unstructured or informal data [3], using human assessments [21], and using reasoners to assess the logical correctness of the ontology [17].
21 Another relevant work in the area of ontology evaluation is the one in [35], where a common framework that considers quality criteria for aspects of ontology
22 evaluation is presented. More precisely, it identifies the following criteria: *accuracy*, *adaptability*, *clarity*, *completeness*, *computational efficiency*, *conciseness*, *con-*
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1 *sistency* and *organizational fitness*. In the case of the
2 proposed *ExtruOnt* ontology, some aspects considered
3 in those works were taken into account during the eval-
4 uation process (see section 6).

7 **3. Design Methodologies**

8
9 Different methodologies such as On-To-Knowledge
10 [32], Diligent [25] and NeOn [31] can be found in the
11 literature to adequately develop well-founded ontolo-
12 gies. On-To-Knowledge proposes a knowledge meta
13 process consisting of five steps: *feasibility study* to de-
14 termine whether to begin the actual development of the
15 ontology; *kickoff*, where the requirements are specified
16 and a semi-formal ontology description is developed;
17 *refinement*, where the target ontology is obtained by
18 refining and formalizing the semi-formal one; *evalu-*
19 *ation*, where the evaluation of the ontology is done;
20 and *application and evolution*, where the ontology is
21 applied in the target system and maintained. On-To-
22 Knowledge suggests reusing ontologies in the kickoff
23 step if available, but does not provide any guidelines
24 for it. Moreover, it does not deal with non-ontological
25 resources nor other ontological resources such as on-
26 tology design patterns. Diligent proposes a process for
27 a distributed development of ontologies that comprises
28 five main steps: *build*, where an initial version of the
29 ontology is built by different stakeholders such as do-
30 main experts, users, and knowledge and ontology en-
31 gineers; *local adaptation*, where users adapt the on-
32 tology for their own purposes; *analysis*, where a con-
33 trol board analyses the local versions to detect similar-
34 ities and decide which changes and requests are added
35 to the next shared version of the ontology; *revision*,
36 where the board revises the new version of the shared
37 ontology; and *local update*, where users can update
38 their local ontologies with information from the new
39 version. This methodology does not detail the series of
40 activities that should be followed during the *build* step,
41 and moreover, it does not include guidelines for us-
42 ing neither ontological nor non-ontological resources
43 in the development process. The NeOn methodology
44 describes a set of nine scenarios that may occur when
45 building an ontology, along with a list of activities that
46 should be carried out in each scenario. Tightly related
47 to those scenarios, it presents two ontology network
48 life cycle models (waterfall and iterative-incremental)
49 with several versions. The basic version is the Four-
50 phase model, which includes the following phases: *ini-*
51 *tiation*, where the requirements are specified; *design*,

1 where both an informal and a formal model of the
2 ontology are created; *implementation*, where the for-
3 mal model is implemented in an ontology language;
4 and *maintenance*, where the ontology is used until er-
5 rors or missing knowledge are detected. The NeOn
6 methodology places special emphasis on reusing and
7 re-engineering both ontological and non-ontological
8 knowledge resources. Thus, more detailed versions of
9 the basic model (e.g Five-phase model, Six-phase +
10 Merging model) include as well one or more of the
11 following phases, resulting in a variety of paths to de-
12 velop an ontology: *reuse*, where existing ontological
13 or non-ontological resources are added to the model;
14 *re-engineering*, where those resources are modified to
15 serve to the intended purpose; and *merging*, where
16 ontologies are merged or alignments are established
17 among ontological resources. The methodology in-
18 cludes thorough guidelines on how to perform all the
19 mentioned activities.

22 **4. Development of the *ExtruOnt* ontology**

23
24 In order to develop the *ExtruOnt* ontology we se-
25 lected the NeOn methodology. In our opinion, NeOn
26 beats the other methodologies in these two aspects: on
27 the one hand, the variety of scenarios that it takes into
28 account, which results in a more flexible methodol-
29 ogy, and on the other hand, the great detail in the de-
30 scription of the activities that need to be carried out
31 when building the ontology. Furthermore, due to the
32 requirements of *ExtruOnt*, which include reuse of on-
33 tological and no-ontological resources, re-engineering,
34 merging, aligning with domain ontologies, implemen-
35 tation and evaluation among others, its development
36 process fits with the Six-Phase + Merging Phase Wa-
37 terfall Ontology Network Life Cycle Model. In figure
38 1 the phases of the aforementioned life cycle model
39 along with scenarios, activities and modules of the *Ex-*
40 *truOnt* ontology involved in each scenario are indi-
41 cated. These modules and their purpose are explained
42 in section 5. The different phases of the life cycle
43 model are explained below.

44 **4.1. Initiation**

45
46 In collaboration with the R&D director of a com-
47 pany that manufactures extruder machines, we created
48 the Ontology Requirements Specification Document
49 (ORSO) that contains among others, the purpose of
50 the *ExtruOnt* ontology, its scope and the Competency
51

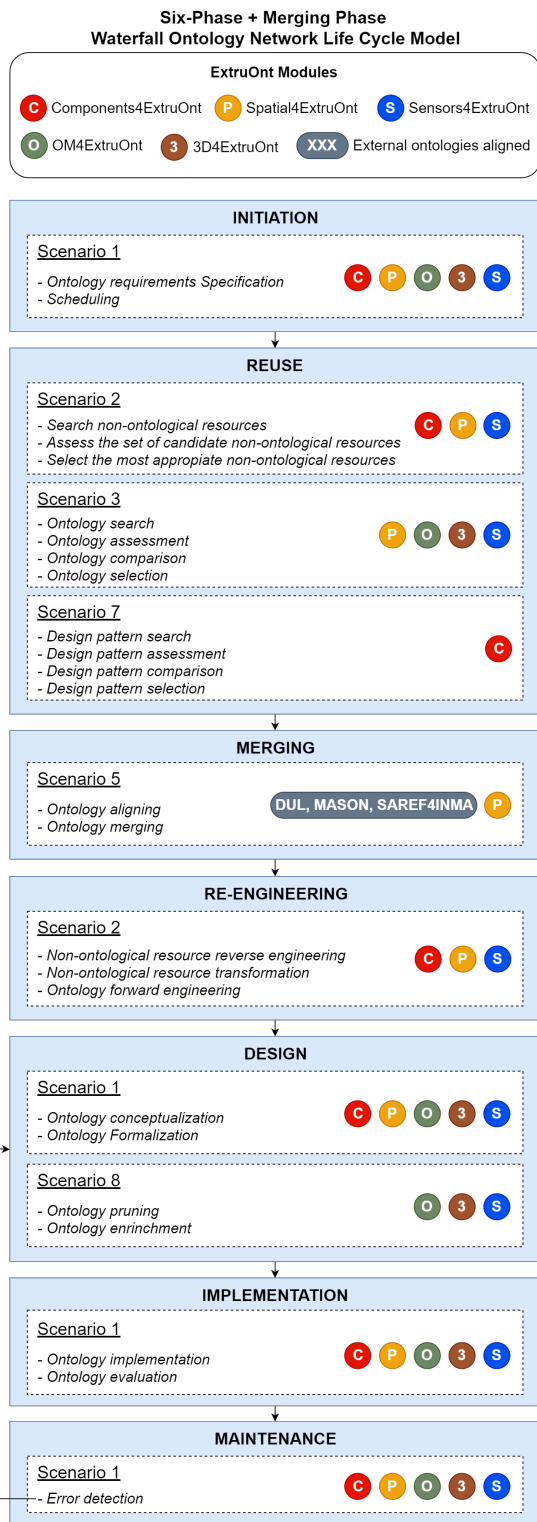


Fig. 1. The Six-Phase + Merging Phase Waterfall Ontology Network Life Cycle Model along with scenarios, activities and *ExtruOnt* modules.

Questions (CQs), see Table 1. After a detailed analysis of those questions, it was noticed that they referred to five different dimensions regarding information related to extruders. Thus, the questions were classified in the following five groups, one for each dimension: the components of an extruder, the spatial connections between those components, their features, their 3D description and the sensors that capture information about several indicators (Scenario 1).

4.2. Reuse

Due to the fact that the search for an ontology that covered all these dimensions was unsuccessful, we focused on searching both ontological and non-ontological resources for each dimension.

In this subsection, we present the non-ontological and ontological resources used to describe the aforementioned dimensions.

- *Components of an extruder*: In order to describe the components, we relied on the one hand, on non-ontological resources existing in the specialized literature and mainly in a full chapter dedicated to the extruder and its equipment that appears in [12]. Moreover, due to the complexity of the extrusion head, another non-ontological resource was used as a reference to represent the features of this component. In [29], a thorough explanation of the extrusion head design and applications is presented, categorizing the extrusion head depending on the position and the type of extrudate obtained (Scenario 2). On the other hand, the PartOf⁷ ontology design pattern was selected in order to specify parthood between the extruder and its components, as well as between different parts that constitute each component (Scenario 7).
- *Spatial connections between components*: In the specialized literature can be found the Region Connection Calculus (RCC) [5, 26], which is intended to represent the spatial relations between objects and facilitate reasoning over those relations. There are multiple representations of the RCC. The main one is RCC8, which consists of 8 basic relations that are possible between two regions. Different ontologies have tried to represent the RCC descriptions (GeoSPARQL[24], Spatial Relations Ontology⁸, NeoGeo Spatial Ontology

⁷<http://ontologydesignpatterns.org>

⁸<http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/ontology/spatialrelations/>

Table 1
Summary of the Ontology Requirements Specification Document for *ExtruOnt*

1		1
2		2
3	1. Purpose	3
4	The purpose of the <i>ExtruOnt</i> ontology is to provide a reference model for the physical representation of extruder machines and the time series data gathered from their sensors, allowing to describe the extruder components, their position with respect to other components and the data obtained from sensing devices.	4
5		5
6		6
7	2. Scope	7
8	The ontology will focus on general purpose extruder machines.	8
9		9
10	3. Implementation language	10
11	The ontology has to be implemented in a formalism that allows classification of classes and realization between instances and classes.	11
12		12
13	4. Intended users	13
14	– <i>User 1</i> : Novice workers.	14
15	– <i>User 2</i> : Product designers.	15
16	– <i>User 3</i> : Domain Experts.	16
17		17
18	5. Intended uses	18
19	– <i>Use 1</i> : To describe different models of extruders.	19
20	– <i>Use 2</i> : To help the process of identifying the extruder components and their location.	20
21	– <i>Use 3</i> : To help to select the optimal extruder for a specific product.	21
22	– <i>Use 4</i> : To recognize differences between extruder models.	22
23	– <i>Use 5</i> : To improve user interaction with the different sensing devices in the extruder and the gathered data.	23
24		24
25	6. Ontology requirements	25
26	(6.a) Non-functional requirements (not applicable)	26
27	(6.b) Functional requirements: Groups of competency questions	27
28	– <i>CQG1</i> : Extruder components-related competency questions:	28
29	* CQ1.1: How many heater bands does the extruder E01 have?	29
30	* CQ1.2: What kind of extrusion head does the extruder E02 have?	30
31	* CQ1.3: Is the machine E03 a single or double screw extruder?	31
32	* CQ1.4: Is the extruder E04 powered by an AC motor?	32
33	* CQ1.5: Is this extruder E05 suitable to process plastic pellets?	33
34	* CQ1.6: Can the extruder E06 process multiple polymers?	34
35	* ...	35
36	– <i>CQG2</i> : Spatial connections-related competency questions:	36
37	* CQ2.1: With which components are the filters FIL01 connected?	37
38	* CQ2.2: Which components overlap the barrel BAR01?	38
39	* CQ2.3: Which components are disconnected from the motor M01?	39
40	* CQ2.4: Which components are monitored in the drive system DS01?	40
41	* CQ2.5: How many sensors does the barrel BAR02 have?	41
42	* ...	42
43	– <i>CQG3</i> : Features-related competency questions:	43
44	* CQ3.1: What is the diameter of the barrel BAR03?	44
45	* CQ3.2: What are the optimal operating conditions of the screw SCR01?	45
46	* CQ3.3: What is the maximum torque produced by the motor M02?	46
47	* CQ3.4: Does the extruder E07 fit in a space 3 meters wide by 5 meters long?	47
48	* CQ3.5: What is the bottles-per-hour production rate of the extruder E08?	48
49	* ...	49
50	– <i>CQG4</i> : 3D positioning-related competency questions:	50
51	* CQ4.1: Which components of extruder E11 can not be located in a 3D canvas?	51
	* CQ4.2: What are the modeling and position of the feed hopper FH01?	
	* ...	

Table 1
Continued

– CQG5: Sensors and observations-related competency questions:

- * CQ5.1: What properties are observed by the sensors located in the extrusion head EH01?
- * CQ5.2: What is the unit of measurement used by the motor consumption sensor MCS01?
- * CQ5.3: Where is the melting temperature sensor located in extruder E08?
- * CQ5.4: What is the identifier of the temperature sensor in extrusion head EH02?
- * CQ5.5: When was the first and last observation made by sensor SN01?
- * CQ5.6: What was the average, maximum and minimum value of the observations in a day for the sensor SN02?
- * CQ5.7: How many observations from torque sensor SN03 are outside the optimal values?
- * CQ5.8: how long was the maximum period of extruder E09 inactivity during the last week?
- * CQ5.9: At what times during August 21st, 2018 and August 22nd, 2018 did the melting temperature exceed the maximum optimal operational value in extruder E10?
- * ...

7. Pre-glossary of terms

Extruder, feed system, observation, sensor, tangential proper part, measure, 3D canvas ...

⁹). We selected the GeoSPARQL ontology, which models the RCC8 relations, because it is the base for the other spatial ontologies (Scenario 3).

- *Features of the components*: Based on a work that evaluates ontologies of measurements [19], two ontologies were considered: QUDT¹⁰ [16] and OM¹¹ [27]. QUDT is the result of a NASA-sponsored initiative to formalize Quantities, Units of Measure, Dimensions and Types, and it is categorized as a medium sized ontology. OM is an ontology that allows to model concepts and relations in the context of food research and it was the largest unit ontology compared. In the aforementioned evaluation, multiple issues were found in QUDT ontology like reasoning impossibility, duplicated units, wrong specifications, typing errors, etc. Moreover, only English labels were added and, according to the article, the reported issues remain unsolved. On the other hand, OM shared some issues with QUDT like reasoning impossibility, wrong dimension values, typing errors, but the reported issues have been corrected and labelling can be found in Dutch and Chinese for a subset of individuals. Equally important, more concepts can be found in OM, so this was the selected ontology (Scenario 3).
- *3D representation of components*: We selected the 3D Modeling Ontology (3DMO) [30] because this ontology maps the entire XSD-based vocab-

ulary of the industry standard X3D¹² (ISO/IEC 19775-19777) to OWL 2. Therefore, it can be used for the representation, annotation, and efficient indexing of 3D models (Scenario 3).

- *Sensors for capturing information about indicators*: We did not find any ontological resource that defines the specific types of sensors that are used to monitor extruders. However, the well known SOSA/SSN[15] ontology defines general concepts about sensors, which can be specialized with information obtained from non-ontological resources about extruders [12] to reflect the specificities of the extrusion domain (scenario 3).

4.3. Merging

To guarantee semantic interoperability, the *ExtruOnt* ontology is aligned with other domain ontologies such as: 1) DUL, an upper ontology created to provide a set of concepts to facilitate interoperability among ontologies; 2) MASON, an upper ontology for representing the core concepts of the manufacturing domain and 3) SAREF4INMA, a SAREF extension for industry and manufacturing (scenario 5). The selection of these ontologies was carried out taking into account different key factors such as domain, use, maintenance, acceptance, popularity and coverage. For example, in the selection of MASON, other different ontologies were considered: MaRCO, whose approach is oriented to machine capabilities and, thus, out of our scope; MSDL, with a large amount of concepts focused on processes and resources but leaving products

⁹<http://geovocab.org/doc/neogeo/>

¹⁰<http://www.linkedmodel.org/catalog/qudt/1.1/index.html>

¹¹<https://enterpriseintegrationlab.github.io/icity/OM/doc/index-en.html>

¹²<http://www.web3d.org/what-x3d-graphics>

1 aside; SIMPM, with few concepts and focused only
2 on the processes; and finally, PSL, P-PSO, MCCO
3 and OntoSTEP whose OWL definitions could not be
4 found. On the contrary, MASON defines a meaningful
5 categorization of products, processes and resources, it
6 has been widely reviewed [4] and it is currently avail-
7 able. The terms used in the ontology alignment are
8 presented in section 5.1.

9 Concerning to the spatial connection between com-
10 ponents, we realized that using only the GeoSPARQL
11 ontology was not sufficient for answering competency
12 question CQ2.2. Thus, a twofold approach was used:
13 in addition to the GeoSPARQL ontology, information
14 about other RCC spatial relations obtained from the
15 aforementioned non-ontological RCC resources was
16 incorporated (scenario 5).

17 4.4. Re-engineering

18 A re-engineering process was carried out to trans-
19 form the non-ontological resources mentioned previ-
20 ously into conceptual models, analyzing the structure
21 of the resource (chapters, subsections, connections, or-
22 der, etc.). Once the conceptual model for each resource
23 had been created, they were used as input of the design
24 phase. (Scenario 2).

25 4.5. Design

26 The modularization of ontologies facilitates the de-
27 velopment, reuse and maintenance of an ontology.
28 In addition, it conforms to the dimensionality ap-
29 proach obtained from the ORSD analysis. There-
30 fore, each of the five dimensions was represented
31 through a module: the components of an extruder
32 (*components4ExtruOnt*), the spatial connections be-
33 tween those components (*spatial4ExtruOnt*), their fea-
34 tures (*OM4ExtruOnt*), their 3D description (*3D4Extru-
35 Ont*) and the sensors that capture information about
36 several indicators (*sensors4ExtruOnt*), which alto-
37 gether form the *ExtruOnt*¹³ ontology (Scenario 1). The
38 key features of each module are presented in depth in
39 section 5.

40 OM, SOSA/SSN and 3DMO ontologies contain a
41 wide range of concepts that belong to the domains
42 they represent, however, due to the specific domain we
43 wanted to model, a pruning process was carried out for
44 these ontologies keeping only those concepts and de-
45 scriptions that are relevant, favoring lightness, clean-

46 ¹³<http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/ExtruOnt.owl>

47 liness and maintenance of the ontology (Scenario 8).
48 Additionally, the pruned SOSA/SSN ontology was en-
49 riched with specialized concepts drawn from the con-
50 ceptual model (see section 5.5).

51 4.6. Implementation

52 A formal model expressed in a Description Logic
53 was generated and implemented in OWL 2 DL Web
54 Ontology Language using Protégé [23] (Scenario 1).
55 Later, a wide evaluation of the ontology was done
56 which is presented in section 6, describing the different
57 considered approaches.

58 4.7. Maintenance

59 The maintenance phase is currently undergoing.
60 Once an error is detected, the ontology will be taken
61 to the design phase to be corrected, as stipulated in the
62 Waterfall ontology network life cycle model.

63 5. Ontology modules

64 As said before, *ExtruOnt* is divided in five mod-
65 ules aiming to describe several characteristics of an ex-
66 truder machine (see Fig. 2).

67 In the following, the key features of each module are
68 presented.

69 5.1. *components4ExtruOnt*

70 The *components4ExtruOnt*¹⁴ module is the main
71 module of the *ExtruOnt* ontology and is intended to
72 describe the components of an extruder. According to
73 [12], five major systems can be distinguished in an ex-
74 truder:

- 75 – Drive system.
- 76 – Feed system.
- 77 – Screw, barrel and heating system.
- 78 – Head and die assembly.
- 79 – Control system.

80 Moreover, the components of each one of these sys-
81 tems are explained. For instance, the drive system is
82 composed of motor, gear box, bull gear, and thrust
83 bearing; and the head and die assembly contains the
84 head, die/nozzle, breaker plate and filters/screens. This

85 ¹⁴[http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/
86 components4ExtruOnt.owl](http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/components4ExtruOnt.owl)

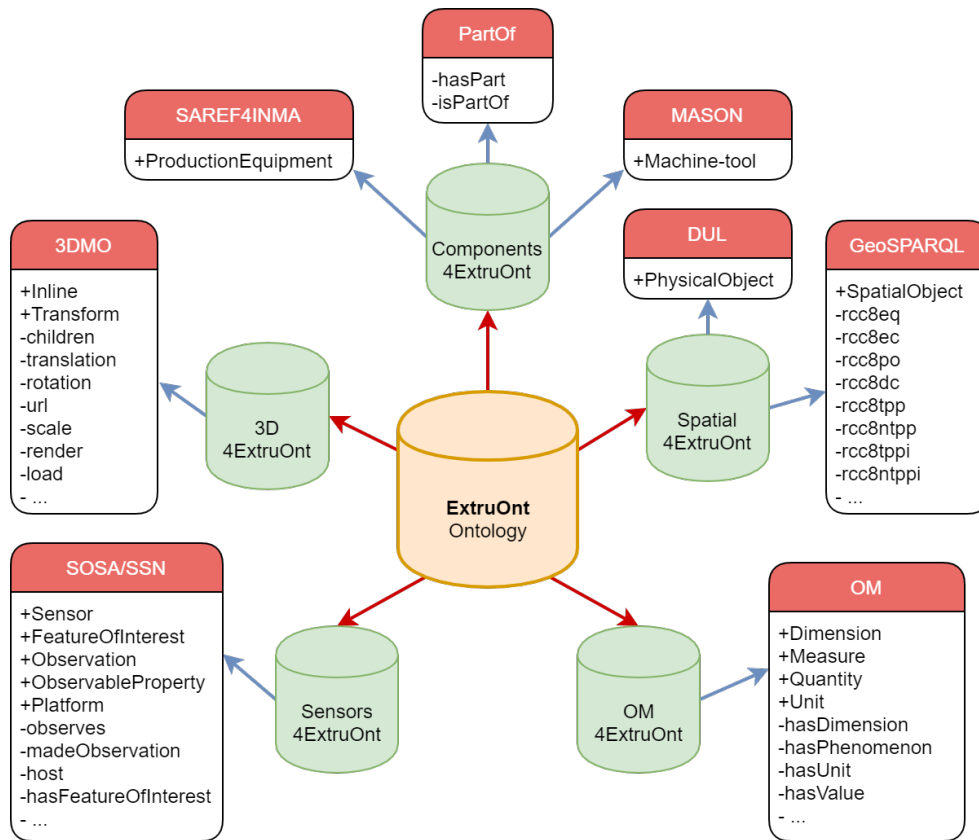


Fig. 2. *ExtruOnt* ontology diagram showing the reuse of terms from other domain ontologies.

analysis of the components of the extruder was used as base to create the *components4ExtruOnt* module.

A new main class called *Extruder* was created for representing the extrusion machine, while the connections between the extruder and its systems and components were made using the *hasPart* object property of the *PartOf*¹⁵ ontology design pattern. Moreover, custom-made specializations of *hasPart* were created to relate specific components, e.g., *hasBarrel*, *hasScrew* and *hasHeaterBand*. The parthood relations of the extruder and its components are shown in Fig. 3. To facilitate integration with other domain ontologies, the terms *saref4inma:ProductEquipment*¹⁶ and *MASON:Machine-tool*¹⁷ were included as superclasses of *Extruder*.

Moreover, the specialization of each component was represented using *rdfs:subClassOf* relations. An example is illustrated in Fig. 4.

With respect to the extrusion head, the classification that can be found in [29] was used to provide a detailed representation of this component. Figs. 5 and 6 exemplify this representation.

Among others, the following competency questions are resolved with the *components4ExtruOnt* module:

- CQ1.1: How many heater bands does the extruder E01 have?
- CQ1.2: What kind of extrusion head does the extruder E02 have?
- CQ1.3: Is the machine E03 a single or double screw extruder?
- CQ1.4: Is the extruder E04 powered by an AC motor?
- CQ1.5: Is this extruder E05 suitable to process plastic pellets?
- CQ1.6: Can the extruder E06 process multiple polymers?

¹⁵<http://www.ontologydesignpatterns.org/cp/owl/partof.owl>

¹⁶<https://w3id.org/def/saref4inma>

¹⁷<https://sourceforge.net/projects/mason-onto/>

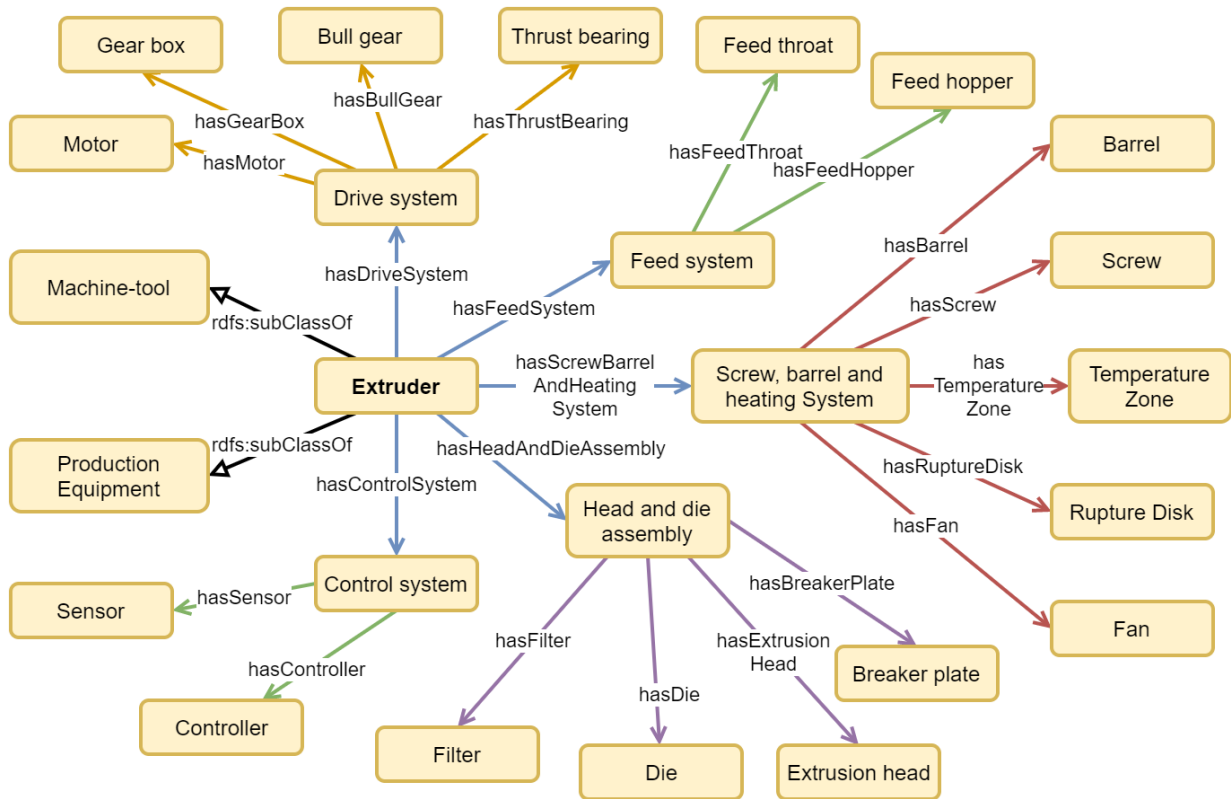


Fig. 3. Some components of an extruder.

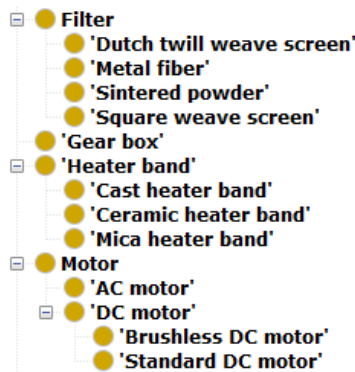


Fig. 4. Excerpt of the class hierarchy of the components.

A SPARQL query to answer the competency question CQ1.4 is as follows¹⁸:

```
PREFIX : <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
  ExtruOnt/Extruder01#>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/
  22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
```

¹⁸We assume that the query is executed after inferences are provided by a reasoner (This applies for all the examples in this paper.)

```
PREFIX c4e: <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
  ExtruOnt/components4ExtruOnt#>
PREFIX p: <http://www.ontologydesignpatterns.org/
  cp/owl/partof.owl#>
ASK { :E04 p:hasPart ?motor01.
  ?motor01 a c4e:AC_motor
}
```

As a result, the description of the extruder in the *components4ExtruOnt* module will help novice workers to recognize its different sections and components. Moreover, it will help domain experts to formulate queries, according to their needs, related to the amount of components and their types.

5.2. *spatial4ExtruOnt*

The main representation of RCC is RCC8, which consists of 8 basic relations that are possible between two regions: Equal (EQ), Disconnected (DC), Externally Connected (EC), Partially Overlapping (PO), Tangential Proper Part (TPP), Non-Tangential Proper Part (NTPP), Tangential Proper Part inverse (TPPi) and Non-Tangential Proper Part inverse (NTPPi). A stripped down version of RCC8 is RCC5, which consists of 5 relations: Equal (EQ), Discrete (DR), Par-

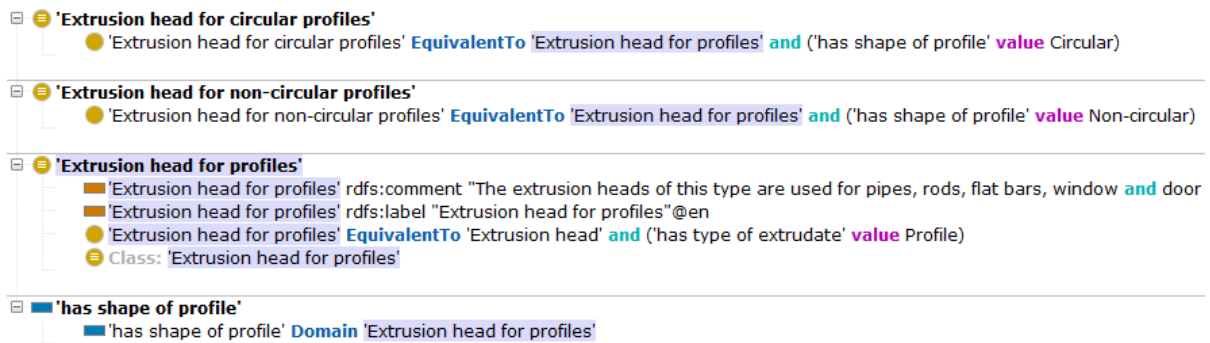


Fig. 5. Definition of the Extrusion head for profiles.

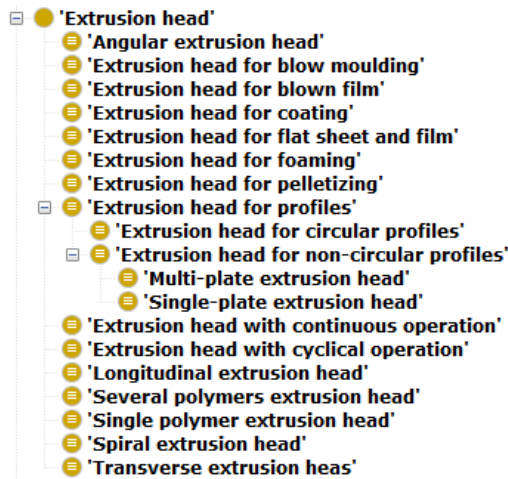


Fig. 6. Subclasses of Extrusion head.

tially Overlapping (PO), Proper Part (PP) and Proper Part inverse (PPI). The graphical representation of RCC5 and RCC8 relations with their mappings are shown in Fig. 7.

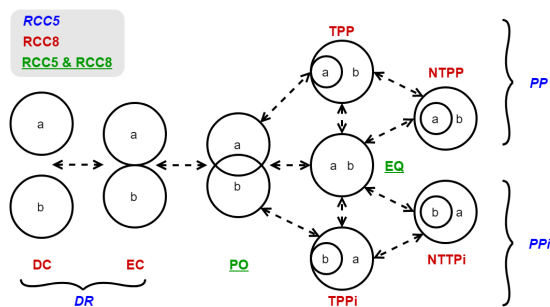


Fig. 7. RCC5 and RCC8 relations.

For the *spatial4ExtruOnt*¹⁹ module, a submodule of the GeosPARQL ontology was used, which contains the *SpatialObject* main class and the object properties referencing to the RCC8 relations. To encourage semantic interoperability, the term *PhysicalObject* from DUL ontology²⁰ was included as a superclass of *SpatialObject*. Moreover, a hierarchical object property representation was made including RCC8 relations connected to RCC5 ones, and some more general custom-defined properties. For example, *rcc8tpp* (tangential proper part) is a subproperty of *rcc5pp* (proper part) and, in the same way, *rcc5pp* is a subproperty of the custom-made *overlapsNotEquals* object property. Another example is the following: when two objects overlap, three possible situations can occur: 1) A is equal to B, 2) A partially overlaps B and 3) A overlaps but is not equal to B. This is represented with the *overlaps* object property and three subproperties: *rcc8eq* (equals), *rcc8po* (partially overlapping) and *overlapsNotEquals* (overlaps but not equal). This hierarchy allows a fine-grained classification of spatial relations and can provide detailed results to general questions, e.g., the answer to the question about the objects that overlaps object X will return those objects that are equals, partially overlapping and proper part of object X. The object property hierarchy is shown in Fig. 8.

RCC8 also defines a composition table where the possible relations between an object A and an object C are indicated based on the relation between object A and B, and the relation between object B and C. However, the OWL 2 DL expressivity level is not sufficient

¹⁹<http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/spatial4ExtruOnt.owl>

²⁰http://ontologydesignpatterns.org/wiki/Ontology:DOLCE+DnS_Ultralite

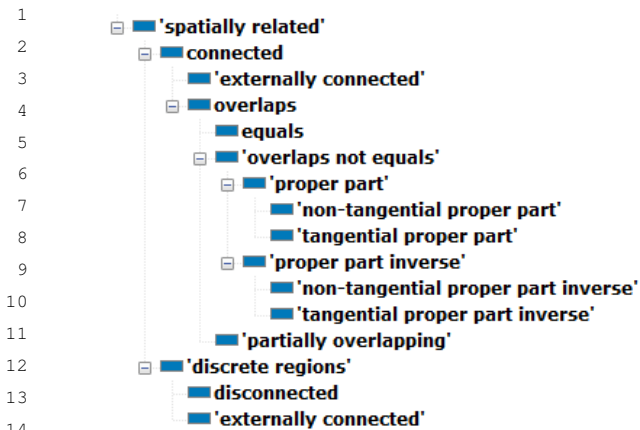


Fig. 8. Object property hierarchy in *spatial4ExtruOnt*.

to represent the full table, and for that reason, in *spatial4ExtruOnt* only compositions that yield a single result for the type of relation between objects A and C have been defined in the ontology, more precisely by means of property chains (see Fig. 9).

Once the *spatial4ExtruOnt* module was added to *ExtruOnt*, it was possible to describe the spatial connections between the components of the extruder. The classes that describe single components were declared as subclasses of the *SpatialObject* class and the relations between components were made. For example: the filter is externally connected to the barrel and the breaker plate, and it is a tangential proper part of the extrusion head (Fig. 10).

With the *spatial4ExtruOnt* module, it is possible to answer several competency questions. These are some of them:

- CQ2.1: With which components are the filters FIL01 connected?
- CQ2.2: Which components overlap the barrel BAR01?
- CQ2.3: Which components are disconnected with the motor M01?
- CQ2.4: Which components are monitored in the drive system DS01?
- CQ2.5: How many sensors does the barrel BAR02 have?

The CQ2.2 competency question is resolved with the following SPARQL query:

```

PREFIX : <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
ExtruOnt/Extruder01#>
PREFIX s4e: <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
ExtruOnt/spatial4ExtruOnt#>

```

```

SELECT DISTINCT ?component
WHERE {
  {?component s4e:overlaps :BAR01}
  UNION
  { :BAR01 s4e:overlaps ?component }
}

```

The *spatial4ExtruOnt* module will allow novice workers to understand the spatial connections between the different components of an extruder. Furthermore, it will help product designers and domain experts to define the distribution of the components, e.g., the position of the sensors in the head and die assembly.

5.3. *OM4ExtruOnt*

The objective of the *OM4ExtruOnt*²¹ module is to provide the terms that are necessary to describe the features of the components. This is an important step in the representation of the extruder, as single components could have different characteristics: a barrel could have different dimensions and manufacturing materials.

A submodule of the OM ontology was used to create *OM4ExtruOnt*, where only the concepts useful for characterizing the components of the extruder and process were taken into account. As stated before, due to the fact that OM is an ontology in the context of food research, it is common to find concepts like *NumberColor1* and *NumberRottenFlowers* to refer to the avocado color and flower status respectively. Consequently, these concepts were removed keeping only concepts like temperature, speed, size, etc.

The elements of the *OM4ExtruOnt* module can be connected to the elements of the *components4ExtruOnt* module by means of the object property *hasPhenomenon*, which links a measure made for a feature with the object to which the measure applies. For example, in Fig. 11 a measure (*ex:VoltageMeasure01*) of the motor voltage (*ex:MotorVoltage01*) of a specific motor (*ex:Motor01*) is represented, which in this case takes the value of 220 volts.

Once the features of the components are defined using the *OM4ExtruOnt* module, it is possible to answer more competency questions, such as:

- CQ3.1: What is the diameter of the barrel BAR03?
- CQ3.2: What are the optimal operating conditions of the screw SCR01?

²¹<http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/OM4ExtruOnt.owl>

- SuperProperty Of (Chain) +
- 'tangential proper part' o 'non-tangential proper part' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part'
 - equals o 'non-tangential proper part' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part'
 - 'non-tangential proper part' o equals SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part'
 - 'non-tangential proper part' o 'tangential proper part' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part'
 - 'tangential proper part' o equals SubPropertyOf: 'tangential proper part'
 - equals o 'tangential proper part' SubPropertyOf: 'tangential proper part'
 - 'non-tangential proper part inverse' o equals SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part inverse'
 - 'tangential proper part inverse' o 'non-tangential proper part inverse' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part inverse'
 - 'non-tangential proper part inverse' o 'tangential proper part inverse' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part inverse'
 - equals o 'non-tangential proper part inverse' SubPropertyOf: 'non-tangential proper part inverse'
 - equals o 'tangential proper part inverse' SubPropertyOf: 'tangential proper part inverse'
 - 'tangential proper part inverse' o equals SubPropertyOf: 'tangential proper part inverse'
 - equals o 'partially overlapping' SubPropertyOf: 'partially overlapping'
 - 'partially overlapping' o equals SubPropertyOf: 'partially overlapping'

Fig. 9. Property chains defined in *spatial4ExtruOnt*

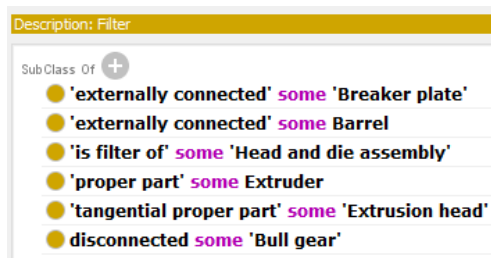


Fig. 10. Excerpt of the Filter class description.

- CQ3.3: What is the maximum torque produced by the motor M02?
- CQ3.4: Does the extruder E07 fit in a space 3 meters wide by 5 meters long?
- CQ3.5: What is the bottles-per-hour production rate of the extruder E08?

To solve the CQ3.3 competency question a SPARQL query was designed:

```

PREFIX : <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/Extruder01#>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX om: <http://www.ontology-of-units-of-measure.org/resource/om-2/>
SELECT ?motorTorque01 ?torqueMeasure ?value ?unit
WHERE {
  ?motorTorque01 a om:Torque.
  ?motorTorque01 om:hasPhenomenon :M02.
  ?motorTorque01 om:hasValue ?torqueMeasure.
  ?torqueMeasure om:hasUnit ?unit;
  om:hasNumericalValue ?value.
}

```

On the one hand, the definition of the features of the components made on the *OM4ExtruOnt* module will contribute to the novice workers' awareness of the

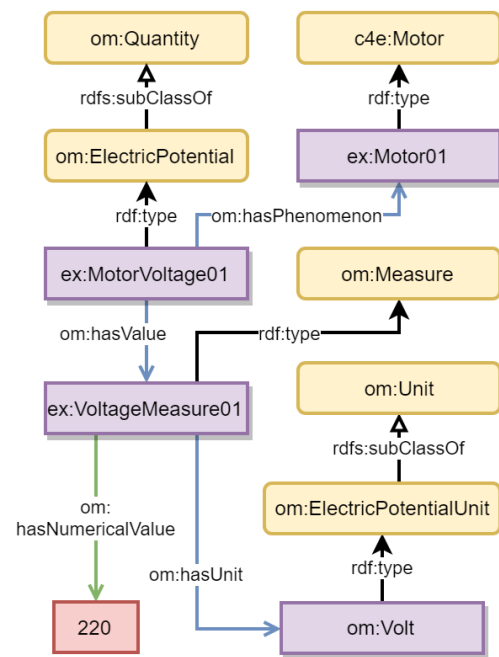


Fig. 11. Example of definition of a measure for the feature Motor voltage.

maximum operating condition of the components. On the other hand, it provides a tool for domain experts to annotate the features of the components, gathered from the design process facilitating the preparation of their specification.

5.4. 3D4ExtruOnt

The graphic representation of an extruder permits to visually understand/observe the positioning of each component that is part of it. Many images of extruders can be found in books, articles, brochures and web-sites. However, the limitations of a 2D environment makes it difficult to visualize the exact position of the components. Thus, the understanding of an extruder is limited due to the lack of interaction, and the viewer is restricted to the bi-dimensional expressiveness of the author (Fig. 12). On the contrary, a 3D representation of an extruder allows to improve the viewer's interaction, facilitating to move, rotate, zoom in and zoom out. This advantage provides each user with a personalized experience (Fig. 13).

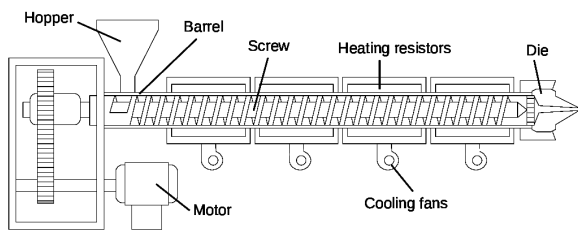


Fig. 12. 2D representation of the components of an extruder.

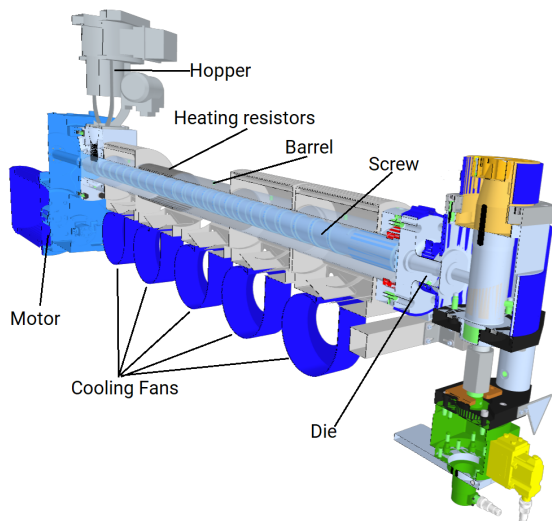


Fig. 13. 3D representation of the components of an extruder.

The purpose of the *3D4ExtruOnt*²² module is to provide terms for describing the position of each single

component in the extruder, in a way that each single component model can be located in a 3D canvas.

X3D is a royalty-free open standards file format and run-time architecture to represent and communicate 3D scenes and objects, which is approved for the International Standards Organization (ISO). With a set of rich features, X3D can be used in scientific visualization, CAD and architecture, training and simulation, etc. and supports:

- 3D graphics and programmable shaders
- 2D graphics
- CAD data
- Animation
- User interaction
- Navigation

The selected 3DMO ontology contains a complete X3D definition. To build the *3D4ExtruOnt* module, only the section referring to the 3D object positioning was selected. To connect the elements of the *3D4ExtruOnt* module with the elements of the *components4ExtruOnt* module, a new *has3DRepresentation* object property was included, whose range is the X3D Transform class and the domain is the *SpatialObject* class, previously mentioned. Transform class provides the *translation* property where the x, y and z coordinates, referring to the position of a 3D model in a canvas, can be specified. The *Inline* class allows to load different external 3D file formats (obj, stl, collada, fbx, etc.) by using the *url* property to specify the path to the resource location. An example of the 3D positioning of the motor is shown in Fig. 14.

Now, it is possible to answer competency questions referring to 3D object positioning, for example:

- CQ4.1: Which components of extruder E11 can not be located in a 3D canvas?
- CQ4.2: What are the modeling and position of the feed hopper FH01?

The following SPARQL query can be used to answer the competency question CQ4.2:

```
PREFIX : <http://bdi.si.edu.es/bdi/ontologies/
ExtruOnt/Extruder01#>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/
22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX e: <http://bdi.si.edu.es/bdi/ontologies/
ExtruOnt/ExtruOnt#>
PREFIX x3d: <http://purl.org/ontology/x3d/>
SELECT ?position ?nameSpace ?id ?url
WHERE {
:FH01 e:has3DRepresentation ?hopper3d.
?hopper3d a x3d:Transform;
x3d:translation ?position;
x3d:children ?model3d.
```

²²<http://bdi.si.edu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/3D4ExtruOnt.owl>

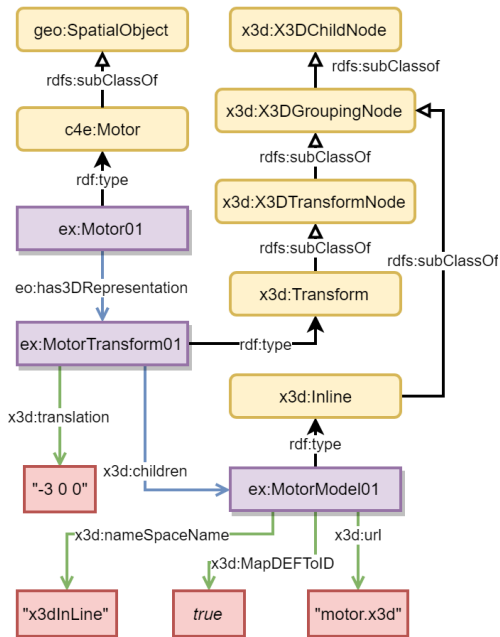


Fig. 14. Definition of motor model location in a 3D canvas.

```

?model3d a x3d:Inline;
  x3d:nameSpaceName ?nameSpace;
  x3d:MapDEFToID ?id;
  x3d:url ?url.
}

```

The *3D4ExtruOnt* module will help domain experts in the design process of components, by providing the required information to position 3D models of components in a scene. Moreover, the detection of faults or collisions will be facilitated. Furthermore, it will help novice workers to understand the physical appearance of single components and recognize them in real-world scenarios.

5.5. *sensors4ExtruOnt*

This module is intended to enable domain experts to gain a greater value and insights out of the captured data from the sensors of the extruders, in order to keep trace of the performance of the extruder and allowing to detect possible future faults.

The *sensors4ExtruOnt*²³ module imports the *SOSA/SSN* [15] and *OM4ExtruOnt* ontologies. The class *Sensor* was created as a specialization of *sosa:Sensor*. Two properties were added to this class:

²³<http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/sensors4ExtruOnt.owl>

indicatorId (the identifier of the sensor) and sensorName (the name of the sensor). Moreover, two main subclasses of *Sensor* were defined: *BooleanSensor* and *DoubleValueSensor* to represent sensors that capture true/false data and numerical data respectively. Finally, these two subclasses were specialized for describing more specific type of sensors, more precisely sensors for observing: whether a resistor is on or off, whether a fan is on or off, the level and composition of the additive, the number of bottles made in a shift, the feed rate of the polymer, the melting temperature of the polymer, the power consumption of the motor, the pressure in the pressurized zones of the extruder, the speed of the rotational components, the temperature, the thickness of the extrudate and the viscosity of the extrudate.

The observable property for each sensor type is indicated by *sosa:observes*. For example, the observable property of a *MotorConsumptionSensor* is *Power* (imported from *OM4ExtruOnt*) and its unit is *Watt*, an individual of *PowerUnit*. Each sensor type is related to the type of observation that it makes through the *sosa:madeObservation* property. For each observation, its value and timestamp are indicated by properties *sosa:hasSimpleResult* and *sosa:ResultTime* respectively. The annotations made in the data and the descriptions in the module can be used to generate a customized and semantically enriched chart to visualize the data. For example, when a sensor is defined as an individual of *MotorConsumptionSensor* class, it can be inferred that it captures values in *Watts*, its symbol is *W* and its optimal operational values are between 15,600 and 20,000 units. This information can be used to select the most convenient visual representation of the data, improving the analysis and user experience. An excerpt of the module can be found in Fig. 15.

In order to indicate the spatial location of a sensor in the extruder the terms described in the module *spatial4ExtruOnt* can be used. In addition, the parts of the extruder (described in the module *components4ExtruOnt*) that host sensors can be seen as *sosa:Platforms*, and linked to them via the object property *sosa:hosts*. Finally, the feature of interest of the observations of each type of sensors has been indicated using the property *sosa:hasFeatureOfInterest*. For example, in the case of a *MotorConsumptionSensor* the motor of the extruder is both its platform and its feature of interest, while in the case of a *MeltingTemperatureSensor* the platform is the barrel of the extruder and its feature of interest

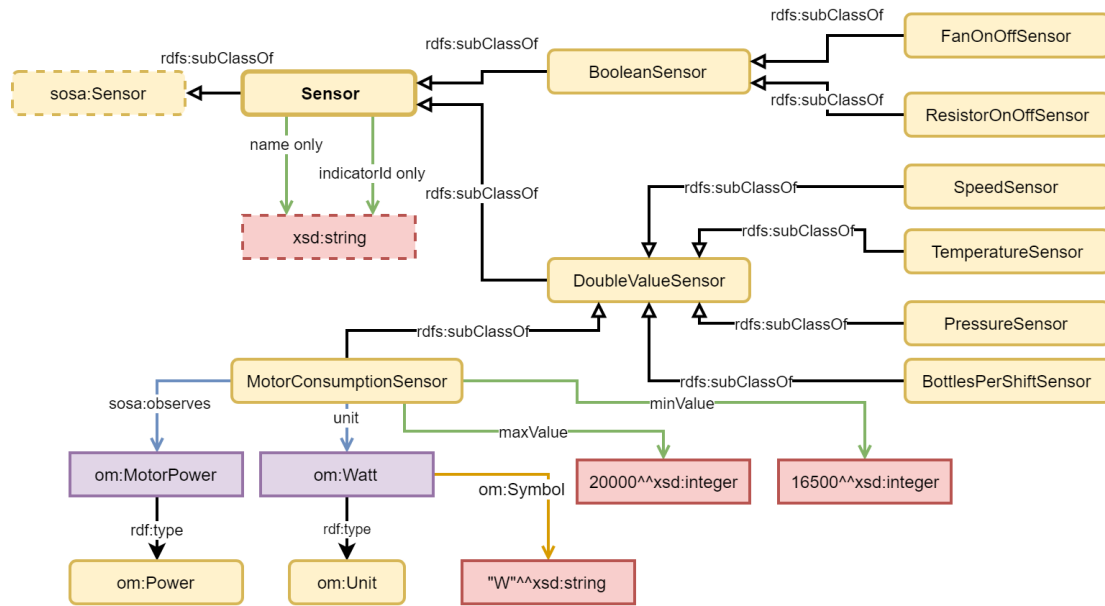


Fig. 15. Excerpt of the *sensors4ExtruOnt* module showing some classes and properties related to sensors.

is the polymer used in that extrusion process (see Fig. 16).

With the addition of this module, a selection of competency questions can be solved, among others:

- CQ5.1: What properties are observed by the sensors located in the extrusion head EH01?
- CQ5.2: What is the unit of measurement used by the motor consumption sensor MCS01?
- CQ5.3: Where is the melting temperature sensor located in extruder E08?
- CQ5.4: What is the identifier of the temperature sensor in extrusion head EH02?
- CQ5.5: When was the first and last observation made by sensor SN01?
- CQ5.6: What was the average, maximum and minimum value of the observations in a day for the sensor SN02?
- CQ5.7: How many observations from torque sensor SN03 are outside the optimal values?
- CQ5.8: How long was the maximum period of extruder E09 inactivity during the last week?
- CQ5.9: At what times during August 21st, 2018 and August 22nd, 2018 did the melting temperature exceed the maximum optimal operational value in extruder E10?

A SPARQL query to answer the CQ5.9 competency question is presented as follows:

```
prefix : <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/Extruder01#>
```

```
prefix sosa: <http://www.w3.org/ns/sosa/>
prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>
prefix sn4e: <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/ExtruOnt/sensors4ExtruOnt#>
PREFIX p: <http://www.ontologydesignpatterns.org/cp/owl/partof.owl#>
select ?resultValue ?resultTime
where {
  :E10 p:hasPart ?barrel01.
  ?barrel a c4e:Barrel .
  ?barrel sosa:hosts ?meltingTempSn01 .
  ?meltingTempSn01 a sn4e:MeltingTemperatureSensor;
  sosa:madeObservation ?obs;
  sn4e:maxValue ?maxValue.
  ?obs sosa:hasSimpleResult ?resultValue ;
  sosa:resultTime ?resultTime .
  filter(?resultValue > ?maxValue) .
  filter((xsd:dateTime(?resultTime) >=
    "2018-08-21T00:00:00.000Z"^^xsd:dateTime) &&
    (xsd:dateTime(?resultTime) <=
    "2018-08-22T23:59:59.999Z"^^xsd:dateTime))
}
order by asc(?resultTime)
```

The *sensors4ExtruOnt* module allows domain experts to analyze and keep trace of sensors data in a structured way, retaining important relations and properties between the data, sensors and components of an extruder, which can be valuable in a future failure prediction process.

6. Evaluation

Once the *ExtruOnt* ontology was developed, in order to check its quality, two evaluation goals were considered: *Domain coverage* to see in which extent it

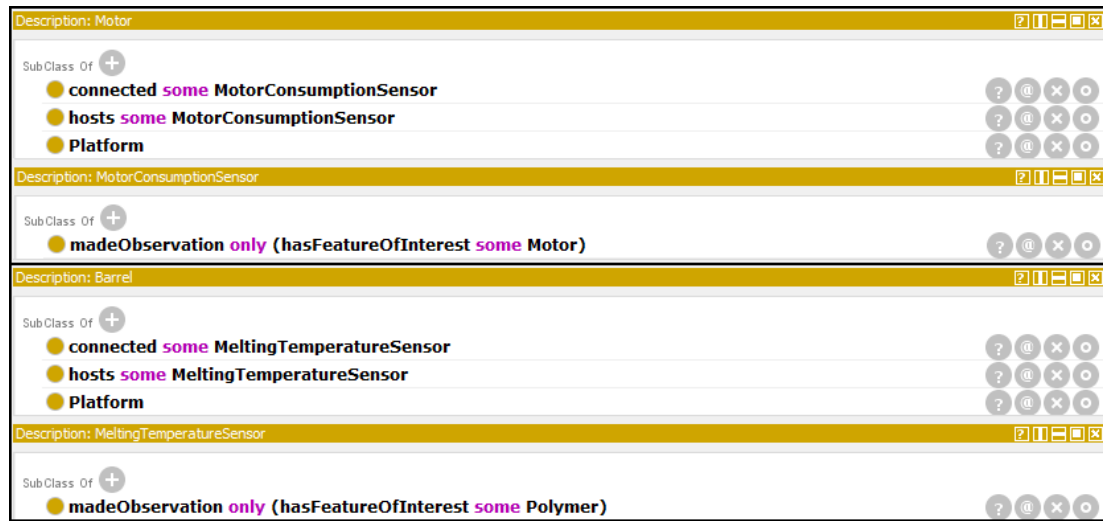


Fig. 16. Excerpt of the descriptions of classes Motor, MotorConsumptionSensor, Barrel and MeltingTemperatureSensor

covered the considered extrusion domain, and *Quality of the modeling* in terms of the design and development process and in terms of the final result. The third goal identified by NeOn (*Suitability for an application/task*) will be considered once software artifacts whose core element is the *ExtruOnt* ontology (see section 7) are built. Moreover, the passing of time will allow to evaluate the ontology regarding the goal of *Adoption and use*. During the evaluation process, the ontology was also assessed by three types of persons: 1) A R&D director of a company that develops machines that produce bottles based on an extrusion process, who we work closely with. This person also provides us real data captured from the machines developed by his company. 2) A director of an IBDS (Industrial Big Data Services) Provider company. IBDS is an ITS (Information Technology Supplier) company that supplies manufacturers with the required technology and services to smartize their manufacturing businesses. Thus, IBDS Providers constitute a fundamental agent in industrial scenarios where there is an interest in adopting Smart Manufacturing approaches. 3) An expert in developing and managing ontologies who works in a technology center specialized in the industrial domain.

6.1. Domain coverage

Using the non-ontological resources and reusing some other existing ontologies related to the dimensions considered in the ontology, a first version of *ExtruOnt* ontology was built. Then, after a rigorous dis-

cussion process with the three experts, who evaluated the correctness and usefulness of the described information in the ontology, it was redefined and some new terms were incorporated and some others were eliminated. Thus, R&D director of the company, based on his knowledge about the extrusion process, evaluated the semantic quality of the ontology. For example, he suggested to eliminate the three types of categories that we defined related to type of heads (that appear in the non-ontological resource regarding extrusion heads) and refer them through the definition of new features in the existing extrusion head term (for example, shape of profile and quantity of plates) in order to avoid some ambiguities in the representation. The director of an IBDS, based on his acquired knowledge by providing smart manufacturing services to different types of manufacturing companies, evaluated to what extent the ontology could be adapted and used in other manufacturing scenarios. Considering his comments we saw interesting to deal with two upper ontologies: DUL and MASON (the last one focused on the manufacturing domain), because they contain terms that could be relevant in other scenarios, for example *process* and *operation* terms to describe the logistics, schedule and maintenance operations in a factory. Finally, the expert on ontologies evaluated the quality of the alignments with existing ontologies. In this sense, he suggested the alignments with SAREF4INMA instead of SAREF, as was our first approach. In the final version of the *ExtruOnt* ontology, regarding the main concepts described in the non-ontological resources, 125 terms were included, and regarding those related to the extru-

1 sion head, 32 were included; covering the 95% of the
2 vocabulary. The remaining 5% corresponds to terms
3 out of the ontology scope or without significant value
4 (e.g., parts of obsolete extruder models). Evaluation
5 against a gold standard was not possible because after
6 performing a thorough search we could not find a gold
7 standard source to compare. Nevertheless, we will con-
8 tinue with the search process and, as soon as we find
9 it, an additional evaluation step will be performed to
10 reinforce the adaptability and reuse tests made to the
11 ontology.

12 6.2. Quality of the modeling

13 This evaluation goal focuses on the quality of the
14 ontology and can be assessed using a wide range of ap-
15 proaches. In this section we focus on ontology metrics,
16 in common pitfalls in the ontology development pro-
17 cess and in the contrast of some defined criteria used
18 for the evaluation of the ontology during the develop-
19 ment process. We selected these approaches because,
20 using all three, a fairly accurate picture of the ontology
21 quality can be obtained.

22 6.2.1. Ontology metrics

23 The basic ontology metrics, including amount of ax-
24 ioms, classes, properties and individuals in the ontol-
25 ogy, were extracted from Protégé. They are listed in
26 Table 2. A schema and graph metrics comparison with
27 other ontologies of the manufacturing domain is listed
28 in Table 3. The data was extracted using OntoMet-
29 rics²⁴. As it can be seen, the metrics for *ExtruOnt* re-
30 main in the range of values of other well-known manu-
31 facturing domain ontologies. Some metrics like *Inher-*
32 *itance Richness* and *Equivalence Ratio* present a mod-
33 erate high value due to the semantic interoperability
34 level achieved, i.e., the amount of reused ontologies.
35 However, comparing specific metrics like *tCardinality*,
36 *Depth* and *xtBreadth* would be unfair since the level of
37 abstraction of the compared ontologies differs.

38 6.2.2. OOPS! evaluation

39 The Ontology Pitfall scanner (OOPS!) evaluates an
40 ontology by searching for design pitfalls considered
41 from a catalogue of 41 common pitfalls in the ontol-
42 ogy development process, classified in a three level
43 scale: critical, important and minor. Most of them (33
44 out of 41 pitfalls) can be identified semi-automatically
45 by OOPS!. The initial evaluation of *ExtruOnt* yielded

46 ²⁴[https://ontometrics.informatik.uni-rostock.de/ontologymetrics/
47 index.jsp](https://ontometrics.informatik.uni-rostock.de/ontologymetrics/index.jsp)

1 some flaws that were corrected, nonetheless, 2 minor
2 pitfalls remain due to external ontology imports. Table
3 4 presents the evaluation summary made by OOPS!.

4 6.2.3. Evaluation criteria during the development 5 process

6 Criteria defined in [35] were used for the evaluation
7 of the ontology during the development process. These
8 criteria are listed below with an explanation of their
9 application in *ExtruOnt*.

- 10 – **Accuracy:** The ontology development process
11 was assisted by three experts. Moreover, the mod-
12 ules of *ExtruOnt* were designed using well sup-
13 ported ontological and non-ontological resources.
14 As evidence, *components4ExtruOnt* was created
15 using two non-ontological resources [12, 29],
16 *spatial4ExtruOnt* is based in the Region Con-
17 nection Calculus relations, *OM4ExtruOnt* uses
18 a submodule of the well known OM ontology,
19 *3D4ExtruOnt* uses concepts from the 3DMO
20 ontology, which follows an ISO open standard
21 (X3D) and finally, *sensors4ExtruOnt* imports def-
22 initions from SOSA/SSN ontology.
- 23 – **Adaptability:** Each module of *ExtruOnt* can
24 be used individually. Thus, it provides reusabil-
25 ity and extensibility, making the ontology eas-
26 ily adaptable to describe other different indus-
27 trial machines. For example, to describe a wire
28 drawing machine²⁵, a new main ontology should
29 be created (e.g. *WidraOnt*), importing on it four
30 modules from *ExtruOnt*, more precisely, the *spa-*
31 *tial4ExtruOnt*, *OM4ExtruOnt*, *sensors4ExtruOnt*
32 and *3D4ExtruOnt* modules, which do not have
33 to be modified since the terms in these mod-
34 ules describe information related to general man-
35 ufacturing machines. Therefore, only the *com-*
36 *ponents4ExtruOnt* module should be redefined
37 (e.g. *components4WidraOnt*), incorporating to it
38 terms referring to the new components (such as
39 puller, coiling roller, capstan, wire, etc.) that be-
40 long to the new machine, importing some terms
41 from *components4ExtruOnt* (such as motor, gear-
42 box, etc.) that are shared between both ma-
43 chines and leaving out some other terms (such
44 as extrusion head, barrel, hopper, etc.) that do
45 not belong to the new machine. The main class
46 *WireDrawingMachine*, which represents the

47 ²⁵A machine that reduce the diameter of a wire by pulling it
48 through a single or a series of drawing dies.

Table 2
Ontology metrics

Metrics	Components	Spatial	OM	Sensors	3D
Axiom	1010	378	3740	775	111
Logical axiom count	506	88	1946	199	36
Declaration axioms count	167	40	477	113	25
Class count	80	1	107	52	8
Object property count	60	15	17	38	1
Data property count	0	0	11	9	13
Individual count	17	0	308	7	0
Annotation Property count	19	28	39	21	8
DL expressivity	SHOIQ	ALRI+	ALCHON(D)	ALCROIN(D)	ALC(D)
Class axioms					
SubClassOf	302	0	148	146	6
EquivalentClasses	25	0	47	0	0
DisjointClasses	11	0	0	3	2
GCI count	0	0	0	0	0
Hidden GCI Count	1	0	47	0	0
Object property axioms					
SubObjectPropertyOf	52	15	1	1	0
EquivalentObjectProperties	0	0	0	0	0
InverseObjectProperties	25	3	0	14	0
DisjointObjectProperties	0	0	0	0	0
FunctionalObjectProperty	0	0	1	2	0
InverseFunctionalObjectProperty	0	0	0	1	0
TransitiveObjectProperty	2	3	0	0	0
SymmetricObjectProperty	0	9	0	0	0
AsymmetricObjectProperty	0	0	0	0	0
ReflexiveObjectProperty	0	1	0	0	0
IrreflexiveObjectProperty	0	0	0	0	0
ObjectPropertyDomain	35	15	15	2	1
ObjectPropertyRange	36	15	16	2	1
SubPropertyChainOf	0	27	0	4	0
Data property axioms					
SubDataPropertyOf	0	0	0	0	0
EquivalentDataProperties	0	0	0	0	0
DisjointDataProperties	0	0	0	0	0
FunctionalDataProperty	0	0	1	0	0
DataPropertyDomain	0	0	11	7	13
DataPropertyRange	0	0	10	8	13
Individual axioms					
ClassAssertion	21	0	407	7	0
ObjectPropertyAssertion	0	0	1007	0	0
DataPropertyAssertion	0	0	282	2	0
NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion	0	0	0	0	0
NegativeDataPropertyAssertion	0	0	0	0	0
SameIndividual	0	0	0	0	0
DifferentIndividuals	1	0	0	0	0
Annotation axioms					
AnnotationAssertion	319	229	1315	410	50
AnnotationPropertyDomain	0	0	0	0	0
AnnotationPropertyRangeOf	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3
Schema and Graph metrics comparison

Schema Metric	ExtruOnt	MaRCO	MASON	MSDL	SAREF4INMA
Attribute richness	0.129921	0.535484	0.073171	0.007418	0.297297
Inheritance richness	2.531496	3.312903	1.199187	1.135015	1.810811
Relationship richness	0.255787	0.529115	0.111446	0.477816	0.309278
Attribute class ratio	0	0	0	0	0
Equivalence ratio	0.291339	0.009677	0	0.010386	0
Axiom/class ratio	24.192913	12.43871	5.926829	30.317507	9.081081
Inverse relations ratio	0.325758	0.011494	0.212766	0.152411	0.178571
Class/relation ratio	0.293981	0.142137	0.740964	0.460068	0.381443
Graph Metric					
Absolute root cardinality	45	8	15	3	7
Absolute leaf cardinality	148	219	166	472	15
Absolute sibling cardinality	186	310	244	666	25
Absolute depth	478	1520	1385	5766	58
Average depth	2.489583	4.367816	5.54	8.479412	2.230769
Maximal depth	6	8	8	15	4
Absolute breadth	192	348	250	680	26
Average breadth	4.682927	3.702128	3.164557	3.4	2.363636
Maximal breadth	45	38	15	36	7
Ratio of leaf fan-outness	0.582677	0.706452	0.674797	0.700297	0.405405
Ratio of sibling fan-outness	0.732283	1	0.99187	0.988131	0.675676
Tangledness	0.153543	0.403226	0.113821	0.106825	0.216216
Total number of paths	192	348	250	680	26
Average number of paths	32.0	43.5	31.25	45.333333	6.5

Table 4
Summary of the OOPS! minor pitfalls for ExtruOnt

Code	P02: Creating synonyms as classes.
Description	Several classes whose identifiers are synonyms are created and defined as equivalent (<code>owl:equivalentClass</code>) in the same namespace.
Appears in	http://www.ontology-of-units-of-measure.org/resource/om-2/CelsiusScale http://www.ontology-of-units-of-measure.org/resource/om-2/FahrenheitScale
Code	P04: Creating unconnected ontology elements.
Description	Ontology elements (classes, object properties and datatype properties) are created isolated, with no relation to the rest of the ontology.
Appears in	https://w3id.org/def/saref4inma#ProductEquipment http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Agent http://www.owl-ontologies.com/mason.owl#Machine-tool http://www.w3.org/2006/time#TemporalEntity http://purl.org/vocommons/voaf#Vocabulary

new machine that we want to describe, should be defined as a subclass of `MASON:Machine-tool` and `SAREF4INMA:ProductEquipment` to favour interoperability. The new components should be incorporated under the `owl:Thing` class in the *components4WidraOnt* module and linked to the *spatial4ExtruOnt* module as sub-

classes of `SpatialObject`. Moreover, the connections between the machine and its components should be made using the `hasPart` object property or new custom-made subproperties of `hasPart`. In this way, it is possible to describe the spatial and parthood relations between components of the new machine, for example:

```

1 prefix C4W: <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
2   ExtruOnt/components4WidraOnt#>
3 prefix C4E: <http://bdi.si.ehu.es/bdi/ontologies/
4   ExtruOnt/components4ExtruOnt#>
5 prefix po: <http://www.ontologydesignpatterns.org/
6   cp/owl/partof.owl#>
7 prefix geo: <http://www.opengis.net/ont/
8   geosparql#>

```

```

9 C4W:WireDrawingMachine po:hasPart C4W:Casptan,
10   C4E:Motor.
11 C4W:Casptan geo:rcc8ec some C4E:Motor.

```

Which means that the wire drawing machine has the capstan and the motor as parts, and the capstan is externally connected to the motor. Finally, some other minor adaptations should be carried out regarding the linking of the new terms to the concepts defined in the other imported modules, as it was explained for *ExtruOnt*.

- **Clarity:** The custom terms defined in all modules of *ExtruOnt* contain non-ambiguous names, labels and comments facilitating the human readability and avoiding confusions and difficulty when the creation of individuals is carried out.
- **Completeness:** The *ExtruOnt* Ontology can answer all the competency questions specified in the ORSD document, representing correctly the domain for which it was created.
- **Efficiency:** Although the submodule extraction process from extensive ontologies such as OM and the utilization of specific terms in the context reduce the size of *ExtruOnt*, the reasoner execution time keeps too long when multiple extruders are described containing several data from sensors. However, the annotation and querying process can be carried out seamless.
- **Conciseness:** The knowledge contained in the modules *components4ExtruOnt* and *spatial4ExtruOnt* was retrieved from sources that are specific to the domains of extrusion and spatial relations respectively, thus avoiding irrelevant information. Moreover, for the remaining modules, submodules from OM, SOSA/SSN and 3DMO were extracted in the *Design* phase so that *ExtruOnt* incorporates only the concepts and descriptions from those ontologies that are relevant for our domain.
- **Consistency:** No inconsistencies were found in *ExtruOnt* when reasoning was performed. The reasoner used was Fact++²⁶.

²⁶<http://owl.man.ac.uk/factplusplus/>

We did not evaluate the criterion of **Organizational fitness** because the ontology has not been deployed yet.

7. Conclusion and future work

The purpose of this paper is to present the *ExtruOnt* ontology, which contains terms to describe a type of manufacturing machine for performing extrusion processes (extruder). It is constituted by five modules: *components4ExtruOnt* for representing the components of an extruder, *spatial4ExtruOnt* for representing spatial relationships among those components, *OM4ExtruOnt* for representing the features of those components, *3D4ExtruOnt* for representing 3D models of the components, and *sensors4ExtruOnt* for representing the data captured by sensors. Although the *ExtruOnt* ontology is focused on extruders, it has been defined in such a way that it can be used as a model for describing other types of manufacturing machines by customizing or replacing some of its modules.

The descriptions contained in the *ExtruOnt* ontology will allow different types of users to familiarize themselves with the extrusion process, to interoperate with other manufacturing companies in an easy way, to create customized 3D images of extruder machines and an assisted exploration of data captured by sensors.

The *ExtruOnt* ontology has been documented and is available online. It has been evaluated according to two evaluation goals: domain coverage and quality of modeling, and has been assessed by humans and software artifacts. The evaluation shows that *ExtruOnt* can provide the answers to the competency questions defined, satisfying the proposed requirements and, therefore, proving that its modules are correctly developed. Furthermore, it is aligned with related ontologies, facilitating interoperability.

Finally, in addition to the necessary task of maintenance, we will mainly focus the future work on the development of two software artifacts whose core element will be the *ExtruOnt* ontology, in order to measure its performance in practical scenarios. The first artifact will be a Visual Query System, that will provide those advantages that we have mentioned through the paper to distinct types of users that work in the considered smart manufacturing scenario. The second artifact will be a recommender system that taking into account, on the one hand, the requirements of clients interested in buying an extruder machine and, on the other hand, the information described in the *ExtruOnt*

1 ontology, will propose the most suitable extruder and
2 the possible customizations that can be incorporated
3 into it.

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