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Don't shoehorn, but Link Compliance Checking Data



Overview

- Problem space: Automated Compliance Checking (ACC)
 - Subproblem: parsing regulatory texts
 - Subproblem: representing building information
 - Subproblem: formulating rules for ACC
- Solutions in the ACC space benefit from using Linked Data
 - Practical support for current Compliance Checking (CC) process
 - Strategy that relies heavily on Linked Data

Motivations for ACC



- Less human errors, as non-compliance has been linked to (fatal) incidents
 e.g., Grenfell, and many more
- Additionally, compliance checking is time consuming, complexity, cost, modularity, ...

Automated Compliance Checking (ACC)



Regulations

- Texts
 - References to tables, figures, sections, documents
- Tables
- Figures
- Formulas

• ...



Building (product) information

- IFC, BOT, etc.
- Uniclass, Omniclass, etc
- Classes of:
 - Parts
 - Materials

0 ...

- Measurements
- Logistics
- Budgets
- ...

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Automated Compliance Checking (ACC)









Regulations

 Semantic parsing, e.g., automatically *derive rules from regulatory texts*



$\leftarrow \text{existing approaches} \rightarrow$

Building (product) information

 Automated validation, e.g., compare BIM against manually crafted rules









1. Semantic parsing of building regulations



Semantic parsing is the automated conversion of language to rules.



The test report shall state both the mean and characteristic values (6.2.3) of the shear modulus in megapascals

3 internal corner flashing 4 screws or pop rivets every 400 mm

ecrewe non rivele or fixing plate

1. Semantic parsing of building regulations

Semantic parsing in ACC is actually quite complicated

- Hundreds of documents, different formatting and naming conventions etc.
- Regulations include **references** to figures, tables, other sections and entire other documents.
 - Hence, ACC requires defeasible logic and the rules become immensely complex
- Entails various additional NLP tasks, e.g., identifying which words belong together (multi-word expressions)

4.3.2 Unprotected members BS 5950-8 1990

A hot finished rolled or hollow section member which has a load ratio $R \leq 0.6$ (see 4.4.2.2 and 4.4.2.3) may be assumed to have an inherent fire resistance of 30 minutes without any fire protection, provided that it has a section factor H_p/A not exceeding the appropriate maximum value given in Table 4.

4.3.3 Protected members

-1 ·····

4.3.3.1 *Required thickness.* The required thickness of fire protection materials for the required period of fire resistance should be determined from fire tests in accordance with BS 476-20 and BS 476-21.

NOTE Further information on the appraisal of fire test data may be obtained from [2] and [3].

("Hot finished rolled section member" OR "hot finished hollow section member")

 IF: has ("load ratio" R) is_equal_or_smaller_than (0.6) has ("fire protection") has_value (none) has ("section factor" Hp/A) is_equal_or_smaller_than (see Table 4...)
 THEN: has ("inherent fire resistance") has_value (30 minutes)



have

exceeding

section

not

may be <u>assumed</u> to have

an inherent fire resistance of 30 minutes without any fire protection, provided that it has a section factor Hp/A not exceeding the appropriate maximum value given in Table 4.

Existing work towards automated parsing of regulations:

an

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Often rule-based approaches (e.g. over a dependency parse tree) that focus on

resistance

- a small subset of the regulations, e.g., 1 document on energy regulations
- a small subset of the types of relations, e.g., only quantitative relations
- **Require further manual parsing**: system only identifies *Named Entities* or only performs *Relation Classification*
- Orthogonally work focuses on identifying simple coherent clauses from complex sentences

BAUDER



BauderROCK is a non-combustible mineral fibre insulation that achieves Euroclass A1. The flatboards are utilised within warm roofs with exceptional acoustic and fire resistance properties. BauderROCK NC Upstand Insulation is used with inverted roofs alongside the specified Bauder inverted insulation.

Building (product) information comes in various formats.

Often unstructured data, require some form of parsing.



Building Information Models (BIM)

Structured data \rightarrow what classes exist?



A **mapping** is needed between:

- 1. objects in the BIM model
- 2. the concepts found in ACC rules (let's assume these can be mapped 1-to-1 with regulatory texts).

example ontology class

example occurrences in text

lfcMember.Member

- \rightarrow "hot finished hollow section member"
- \rightarrow "cold-formed member"
- → "solid timber member"
- \rightarrow etc..

We need more detail, can we extend the existing ontologies where necessary?

"a formal and explicit specification of a shared conceptualisation"

- ≈ formal language used to capture classification and reasoning logic in machine readable form (often set theory)
- ≈ explicit is about coverage, which concepts and relations, etc., have been defined
- ≈ shared means that all stakeholders agree on the terminology and definitions
- ≈ conceptualization, here, refers to the set of expressions that we'd need to formulate rules
- \rightarrow interoperability & reasoning

example ontology class

example occurrences in text

- IfcMember.Member
- \rightarrow "hot finished hollow section member"
- \rightarrow "cold-formed member"
- → "solid timber member"
- \rightarrow etc..



Let's start with "hot finished hollow section member"

• Any **IfcMember.Member** with **IfcMaterial** "steel", **IfcMaterialProperties** "hot finished", and property **IfcRectangleHollowProfileDef**, more?

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But not all necessary classes are easily defined....

• "In areas where the average daily temperature in January is 25F or less or where there is a possibility of ice forming along the eaves causing a backup of water, an ice barrier that consists of at least two layers of underlayment cemented together or of a self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen sheet shall extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point at least 24 inches inside the exterior wall line of the building."

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It will be VERY complicated (impossible?) to formally and comprehensively define all classes required for ACC (products, properties, interactions, ...) – compounded by the constant change of regulations;

- VERY large amount of classes and properties
- numerous interactions that affect classification
- many diverse stakeholders. leading to a geometrical increase in complexity w.r.t. resolving inevitable terminological and conceptual incompatibilities

Mapping from (1) the text found in regulations to (2) the classes used in rules, and mapping those to (3) BIM... often involves some serious shoe-horning.

Result:

- no consensus on which labels/classes may occur in ACC rules
- no standard approach / guidelines to formulating and formatting ACC rules

So how can we expect to achieve something that can interoperate with BIM?



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So how can we expect to achieve something that can interoperate with BIM?



my weak analogy: no recipe, no ingredient list, what are the chances that we make the same dish?

	informal				formal	
minimum requirement for mapping from text to labels	- Expressivity				+ Image:	
	controlled Vocabulary	Thesauri f	formal IS-A	Frames	general logical Constraints	Linked Data Engineering 2016, MOOC OpenHPI
	_00	O	- <u>o</u> o	-00-	O	
	Glossaries	informal IS-A	formal Instance	Value Restriction	Disjunctiveness, Inversiveness, Part-of	
	Controlled vocabulary	A finite list of terms, without specification				
	Glossary	A finite list of terms that includes informal definitions in natural language				
	Thesauri	Controlled vocabulary where the concepts are connected via relations (e.g. synonymy, hyponymy, troponymy, antonymy, homonymy, associations)				
Ontologies	Taxonomies (Classifi-	Informal IS-A Hierarchy : explicit hierarchy of classes, subclass relations are not strict (e.g. index of a library)				
	cation schemes)	Formal IS-A hierarchy: Explicit hierarchy of classes, subclass relations strict				
		Formal instance: explicit class hierarchy, besides strict subclass relations also instance-of relations are allowed.				
	Object oriented	Frames				
		Add Value restrictions				
		Add general logic constraints				
		Add disjunction, inverse-ness, partOf relations, Cardinality constraints etc.				

A very reasonable suggestion for a controlled vocabulary for ACC is **Uniclass**

- relatively comprehensive \bullet
- easier to extend in comparison to more expressive classification systems
- aligned with ISO 12006:2-2015 (in case anyone actually cares)

Still, a decision has to be made w.r.t. mapping between regulation terms and Uniclass.

"hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (Pr_20_76_52_16) Carbon steel hot-finished hollow sections

"hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (Pr_20_76_51) Metal sections "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (TE_10_10_50) Structural members "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (Zz_70_80) Sections

- "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (*Pr*_20_76_51_23) Copper Alloy sections
- "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (*Pr_20_76_51_90*) Universal beam sections
- "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (*Pr_20_76_51_92*) Universal column sections
- "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (*Pr_20_76_51_98*) Wrought iron sections
- "hot finished hollow section member" \rightarrow (*Pr_20_76_52*) *Metal tubes and hollow sections*

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"party wall" \rightarrow (Ro_30_30_60) Party wall surveyor "party wall" \rightarrow (Ac_05_30_60) Party wall notices agreeing "party wall" \rightarrow (PM_30_10_60) Party wall survey information "party wall" \rightarrow (PM_70_15_60) Party wall certificate

Uniclass would still require extension to avoid shoe-horning.

Recap on problem space: Automated Compliance Checking

ACC solution may not exist









Regulations

- Parsing is very complicated
- Not clear which classes exist



Building (product) information

- In cases where semantic enrichment is provided, it usually is not at the right level of granularity for ACC
- \leftarrow Missing strategy, guidance, framework, ... \rightarrow



Incrementally achieve ACC, focus on parts of the puzzle?



If focus is on a subproblem, **we still need a general strategy to integrate solutions** inventory of terms, mapping between terms, guidance and standards for formulating and integrating ACC rules,

...



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Hmmm... maybe Linked Data should be at the core of such a strategy?

Our position: Linked Data for Compliance Checking

Our position

ACC should focus on solving feasible and practical problems. Improve usability of regulations for the built environment

Effective, efficient and easy use of the regulations to achieve some goal (see ISO)

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Effective, efficient and easy use of the regulations to achieve some goal (see ISO)

Example applications (before solving ACC) could be:

- Improve search
- Identify conflicting criteria
- Determine which regulations apply in a geographical area
- Keep track of an audit trail
- etc.

1. Compliance Checking support



2. Identify classes to be defined for validation \rightarrow generate?

• In areas where the average daily temperature in January is 25F or less or where there is a possibility of ice forming along the eaves causing a backup of water, an ice barrier that consists of at least two layers of underlayment cemented together or of a self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen sheet shall extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point at least 24 inches inside the exterior wall line of the building.

```
# IF the BIM subject is the lowest roof surface edge
:LowestRoofSurfaceEdge @ :RoofEdge AND
       NOT { ( example:locatedIn example:LowMonthlyTemperatureArea
                                                                            # And the building is located in a LowMonthlyAvgTemp area
               example:unknown xsd:string "there is a possibility of ice forming along the eaves causing a backup of water")
      } OR {
              example:equippedWith [a @:iceBarrier];
                                                                                          # Then it must have an ice barrier
               example:distanceIntoExteriorWallInches
                                                       xsd:float {MinInclusive 24}
                                                                                          # and the 'distance' should be at least ...
                                                       xsd:float {MinInclusive 609.6})
               example:distanceIntoExteriorWall
:LowMonthlyTemperatureArea {
                                                                                          # Rough idea of a ShEx class
                                                       gndo:geographicAreaCode ;
       а
       example:averageMonthlyTemperature
                                                       xsd:float {MaxInclusive -3.89}.
}
:averageMonthlyTemperature {
       intervals:Month
                                   [xsd:gMonth];
       (:averageTemperatureF
                                  xsd:float
       :averageTemperatureC
                                   % js:{ o = (averageTemperatureF - 32) * 5/9 %})
                                                                                          # convert between F and C
:iceBarrier {
       example:equippedWith
                                         example:LayerOfUnderlayment {2,}
```

example:SelfAdheringPolymerModifiedBitumenSheet)

```
1
```

example:equippedWith

3. Integrate and relate terminology



anonymous \forall If cMember. Member \land [If cMaterial steel etc.

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anonymous[\forall *IfcMember.Member* \land *[IfcMaterial steel etc.*

Example use cases:

suggest relevant class labels during design

owl:type

- depending on information captured; suggest appropriate property value ranges
- suggest relevant regulations based on label assignment



IRReC demonstrator

hot finished hollow section member Q

2020-10-20--12-42-46 PM1.pdf 8 Hits

1. p 105 (3) These application rules are valid both for hot finished hollow sections to EN 10210 and for cold formed hollow sections to EN 10219, if the dimensions of the structural hollow sections fulfil the requirements of this section. (4) For hot finished hollow sections and cold formed hollow sections the nominal yield strength of the end product should not exceed 460 N/mm2. For end products with a nominal yield strength higher than 355 N/mm2 , the static design resistances given in this section should be reduced by a factor 0,9.

2. p18 (2) The following standard abbreviations for hollow sections are used in section 7: CHS for "rcircular hollow section"; RHS for "rectangular hollow section", which in this context includes square hollow sections, gap g overlap ratio Oov = (g/p) x 100 % g g q (a) Definition of gap p (b) Definition of overlap Figure 1.3: Gap and overlap joints (3) The following symbols are used in section 7: Ai is the cross-sectional area of member i (i = 0, 1, 2 or 3); Av is the shear area of the chord; Av, eff is the effective shear area of the chord;



Clicking the highlight function will show the area of the model the standard relates to

Working on ACC? Use Linked Data, thank you!