This thesis aims to improve the ontology engineering process, by providing better semi-automatic support for constructing ontologies and introducing knowledge reuse through ontology patterns. The thesis introduces a typology of ontology patterns, a general framework of pattern-based semi-automatic ontology construction called OntoCase, and provides a set of methods to solve some specific tasks within this framework. Experimental results indicate some benefits and drawbacks of both ontology patterns, in general, and semi-automatic ontology engineering using patterns, the OntoCase framework, in particular.
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