TeX-OWL: A LaTeX-Style Syntax for Authoring OWL 2 Ontologies

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TeX-OWL’s key points

• Is a new OWL 2 syntax that was designed in response to a demand from users for a more concise syntax that can be easily used to quickly write small-size ontologies by hand

• Is inspired by the LaTeX format and uses the same format for parameters and keywords

• Is suited for use in plain text editors. Users can advantageously use TeX/LaTeX syntax highlighting capabilities of editors. Additionally, one can advantageously reuse finding/checking matching braces functionality of editors; this functionality is especially useful when long nested formulas are written

• A reference implementation of a Java based parser and writer has been produced, which may be integrated into any tool, using the OWL API. The implementation also includes converters, which can transform TeX-OWL to other OWL 2 syntaxes and vice versa

• Preliminary evaluation results have shown that it is indeed the most concise syntax, is intuitive as the Manchester Syntax, is easy to use for authoring ontology and that, in general, this syntax is better to use for writing ontologies by hands than other OWL 2 syntaxes