

INFO-H-509 XML TECHNOLOGIES


Lecture 8 OWL: Web Ontology Language

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LECTURE OUTLINE

1. Our story so far
2. Web Ontology Language—OWL
3. Reasoning with OWL

A dark blue chalkboard with a gold frame, containing the text "Part I: Our story so far". The chalkboard has a slightly textured appearance with some faint, light-colored smudges and scratches. The gold frame is thick and has a metallic sheen.

Part I: Our story so far

Genome

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For a non-technical introduction to the topic, see [Introduction to genetics](#).

For other uses, see [Genome \(disambiguation\)](#).

In modern [molecular biology](#), the **genome** is the entirety of an organism's [hereditary](#) information. It is encoded either in [DNA](#) or, for [many types of virus](#), in [RNA](#).

The genome includes both the [genes](#) and the [non-coding sequences](#) of the DNA.^[1] The term was adapted in 1920 by [Hans Winkler](#), Professor of [Botany](#) at the [University of Hamburg, Germany](#). The Oxford English Dictionary suggests the name to be a [portmanteau](#) of the words ***gene*** and ***chromosome***. A few related *-ome* words already existed, such as *[biome](#)* and *[rhizome](#)*, forming a vocabulary into which *genome* fits systematically.^[2]

- Natural language
- No structure
- **Difficult to process automatically**

Recent past – no structure

In modern [molecular biology](#), the **genome** is the entirety of an organism's [hereditary](#) information. It is encoded either in [DNA](#) or, for [many types of virus](#), in [RNA](#).

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Current/Future structured by RDF ([subject](#), [predicate](#), [object](#))

b:genome	b:field	b:molecular-bio .
b:DNA	b:encode	b:genes .
b:DNA	b:encode	b:non-coding-seq .
b:genome	b:include	b:non-coding-seq .
b:genome	b:include	b:gene .
b:genome	b:related-to	b:rhizome .

- RDF asserts knowledge ([statements](#)) about [entities](#) ([resources](#))
- By convention is clear what the [subject](#), [predicate](#), and [object](#) are
- Easier to process automatically, but a computer still does not know their meaning ...
- How do we add some [semantics](#) to the statements?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN: SEMANTICS?

Input

```
@prefix prod: <http://www.example.org/products/> .
@prefix terms: <http://www.example.org/terms/> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
prod:cam1    rdf:type      terms:digital-camera .
prod:cam1    terms:price   150 .
prod:nb1     rdf:type      terms:netbook .
prod:nb1     terms:price   300 .
prod:book1   rdf:type      terms:book .
prod:book1   terms:price   2.50 .
```

How do we find all products that are digital devices?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN: SEMANTICS?

Input

```
@prefix prod: <http://www.example.org/products/> .  
@prefix terms: <http://www.example.org/terms/> .  
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prod:cam1    terms:price   150 .  
prod:nb1     rdf:type      terms:netbook .  
prod:nb1     terms:price   300 .  
prod:book1   rdf:type      terms:book .  
prod:book1   terms:price   2.50 .
```

How do we find all products that are digital devices?

Hmm, digital cameras are digital devices



```
select all x such that  
x, rdf:type, terms:digital-camera .
```

WHAT DO YOU MEAN: SEMANTICS?

Input

```
@prefix prod: <http://www.example.org/products/> .
@prefix terms: <http://www.example.org/terms/> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
prod:cam1    rdf:type      terms:digital-camera .
prod:cam1    terms:price   150 .
prod:nb1     rdf:type      terms:netbook .
prod:nb1     terms:price   300 .
prod:book1   rdf:type      terms:book .
prod:book1   terms:price   2.50 .
```

How do we find all products that are digital devices?



Hmm, digital cameras are digital devices
... so are netbooks

```
select all x such that
  x, rdf:type, terms:digital-camera .
OR
  x, rdf:type, terms:netbook .
```


WHAT DO YOU MEAN: SEMANTICS?

Input

```
@prefix prod: <http://www.example.org/products/> .
@prefix terms: <http://www.example.org/terms/> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
prod:cam1    rdf:type      terms:digital-camera .
prod:cam1    terms:price   150 .
prod:nb1     rdf:type      terms:netbook .
prod:nb1     terms:price   300 .
prod:book1   rdf:type      terms:book .
prod:book1   terms:price   2.50 .
```

- The computer has no “knowledge of the world” stating that cameras and netbooks are digital devices
- So we have to manually encode this “knowledge of the world” in the query
- This solution is inadequate: error-prone and difficult to maintain
- **It would be better if we could tell the computer our “knowledge of the world” and let him do the reasoning!**

Explicitly Asserted Knowledge

I am a man
John is a man
Jane is a woman

REASONING BY MEANS OF INFERENCE: THE GENERAL IDEA

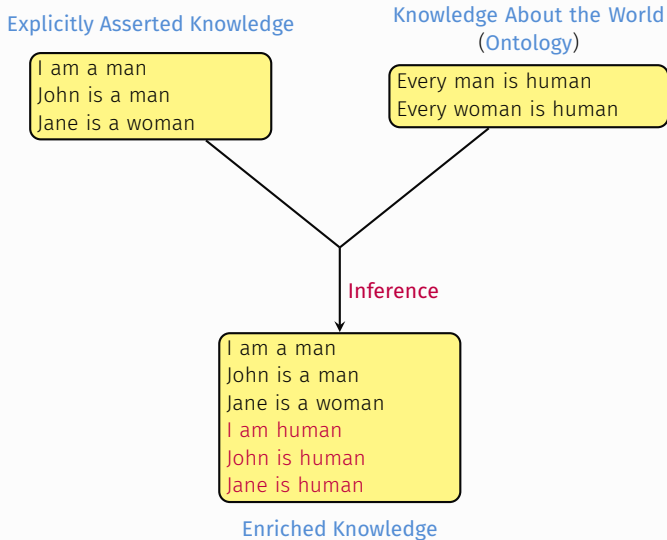
Explicitly Asserted Knowledge

I am a man
John is a man
Jane is a woman

Knowledge About the World (Ontology)

Every man is human
Every woman is human

REASONING BY MEANS OF INFERENCE: THE GENERAL IDEA



“Knowledge about the world” for our example:

- Every camera is a digital device
- Every netbook is a digital device
- Every computer is a digital device
- Every book is human-readable

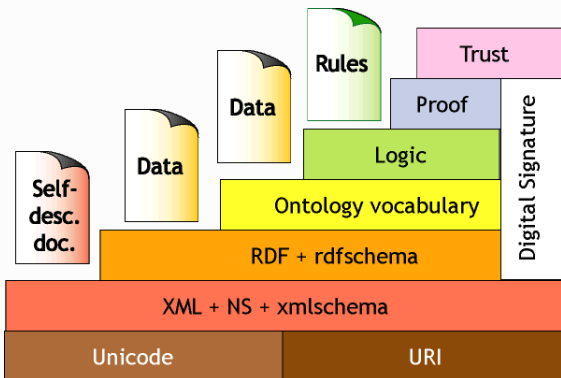
Such knowledge is **set-based** (also called **class-based**)

- The set of cameras is a subset of the set of digital devices
- The set of netbooks is a subset of the set of digital devices
- The set of books is a subset of the set of human-readable objects

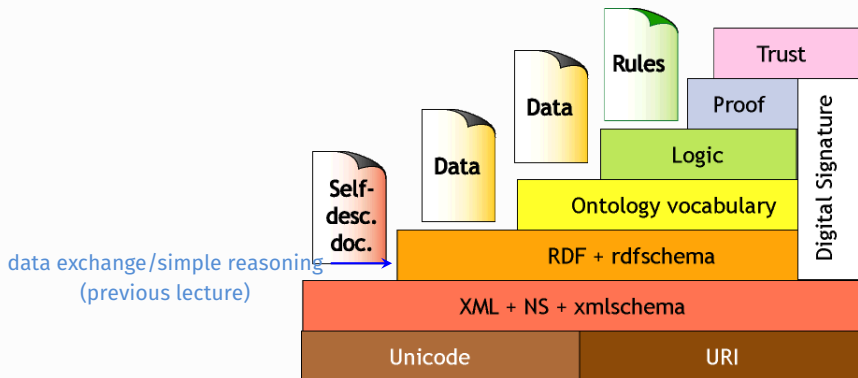
Ontologies

Ontologies provide formal specifications of the **classes of objects** that inhabit “the world”, the relationships between individual and classes, and their properties.

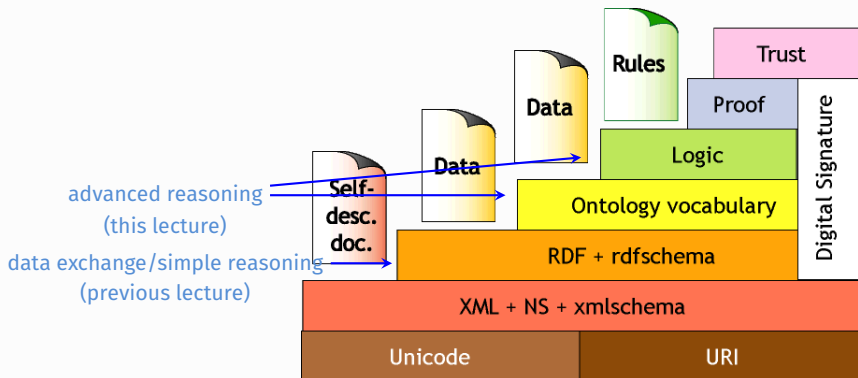
KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION ON THE SEMANTIC WEB (2005 VISION)



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KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION ON THE SEMANTIC WEB (2005 VISION)



RECALL FROM LAST LECTURE

- **RDF = data model:** make assertions about resources using **triples**
- **RDF Schema is a standard vocabulary** for expressing simple ontologies
 1. Classes, Properties
 2. type, subclassOf, subPropertyOf
 3. range, domain
 4. a number of axiomatic triples describing meta-information about RDFS.

Example

ex:vegetableThaiCurry	ex:thaiDishBasedOn	ex:coconutMilk	.
ex:sebastian	rdf:type	ex:AllergicToNuts	.
ex:sebastian	ex:eats	ex:vegetableThaiCurry	.
ex:AllergicToNuts	rdfs:subClassOf	ex:Pitiable	.
ex:thaiDishBasedOn	rdfs:domain	ex:Thai	.
ex:thaiDishBasedOn	rdfs:range	ex:Nutty	.
ex:thaiDishBasedOn	rdfs:subPropertyOf	ex:hasIngredient	.
ex:hasIngredient	rdf:type	rdfs:containerMembershipProperty	.

SOME STRANGE THINGS IN RDF SCHEMA

The RDFS meta model has some strange axioms.

- `rdfs:Resource` is the superclass of everything. But, it is itself an instance of its subclass `rdfs:Class`.
- `rdfs:Class` is an instance of itself

SOME STRANGE THINGS IN RDF SCHEMA

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- `rdfs:Class` is an instance of itself

It is known from logic research that allowing classes to be themselves classes (known as [non-wellfoundedness](#)) causes problems when you add more expressive features.

LIMITATIONS OF RDF SCHEMA

RDF Schema allows us to represent **some** ontological knowledge:

- Typed hierarchies using classes and subclasses, properties and subproperties
- Domain and range restrictions
- Describing instances of classes (through subclasses and `rdf:type`)

Sometimes we want more:

- **Local scope of properties** Using `rdfs:range` and `rdfs:domain` we can't state that cows only eat plants while other animals may eat meat too.
- **Disjointness of classes**. We can't state, for example, that `terms:male` and `terms:female` do not have any members in common.
- **Special characteristics of properties**. Sometimes it is convenient to be able to say that a property is **transitive** (like "greater than"), **unique** (like "father of"), or the **inverse** of another property (like "father of" and "child of").
- **Cardinality restrictions** like "a person has exactly 2 parents"

OWL: ONTOLOGY WEB LANGUAGE

The **Ontology Web Language (OWL)** allows us to talk about such things (among others)

The **Ontology Web Language (OWL)** allows us to talk about such things (among others)



There is always a trade-off between expressiveness and efficient reasoning support:

- The more expressive a language ...
- The more inefficient the inferencing becomes ...
- ...it may even become **undecidable!**



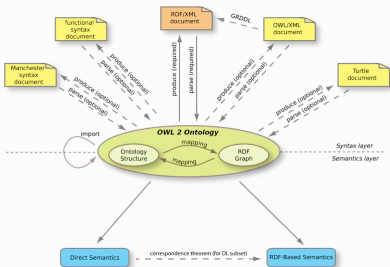
Part II: Web Ontology Language—OWL

OWL = a Vocabulary like RDF Schema.

- OWL extends the RDFS vocabulary, and adds axioms to express more complex relations between classes (like disjointness, cardinality restrictions, ...) and properties (datatype ranges, functional properties, etc).
- It uses the same data model as RDF schema (namely: RDF)

OWL versions

- OWL version 1.0 was standardized as a recommendation in 2004.
- OWL version 2.0 (second edition) proposes a backwards-compatible update to OWL 1.0. It features several extensions to OWL version 1.0
- We will focus mostly on the OWL 1.0 features in this lecture.



OWL has a **number of syntaxes**.

- Every OWL-compliant tool **must** support the RDF/XML based syntax; others are optional (but sometimes more readable).
- As such, OWL ontologies are usually written in RDF/XML.
- Therefore, the book/handouts also use RDF/XML.
- RDF/XML is very verbose, however, and we will therefore use a Turtle syntax in these slides. (This is of course equivalent.)

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT TURTLE

Turtle has some convenient abbreviations:

- Blank nodes can be described by nesting Turtle statements in []
- Collections can be described by resources between parenthesis (...)

Example:

```
@prefix staff: <http://www.example.org/staff id/> .
@prefix : <http://www.example.org/terms/> .

staff:85740      :address      _:addr
_:addr           :city         "Bedford"^^xsd:string ;
                 :street      "1501 Grant Avenue" ;
                 :state       "Massachusetts" ;
                 :postalcode  "0713" .
staff:85740     a              :employee .
```

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Example:

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@prefix staff: <http://www.example.org/staff id/> .
```

```
@prefix : <http://www.example.org/terms/> .
```

```
staff:85740    :address    [ :city          "Bedford"^^xsd:string ;  
                           :street        "1501 Grant Avenue" ;  
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Example:

```
@prefix courses: <http://ulb.be/courses/> .
```

```
@prefix terms: <http://ulb.be/terms/> .
```

```
@prefix : <http://ulb.be/students/> .
```

```
courses:509    terms:students    _:a                .  
_:a            rdf:first      :amy               .  
_:a            rdf:rest     _:b                .  
_:b            rdf:first      :mohamed           .  
_:b            rdf:rest     _:c                .  
_:b            rdf:first      :john               .  
_:b            rdf:rest     rdf:nil              .
```

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Example:

```
@prefix courses: <http://ulb.be/courses/> .
```

```
@prefix terms: <http://ulb.be/terms/> .
```

```
@prefix : <http://ulb.be/students/> .
```

```
courses:509    terms:students    ( :amy :mohamed :john ) .
```

OWL SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE

- An OWL document (in Turtle, or in RDF/XML) typically starts with declaring namespaces for the `rdf`, `rdfs`, and `owl` prefixes.
- The default namespace is often re-defined to hold the terms of the vocabulary that is being described by the OWL document.

OWL document header:

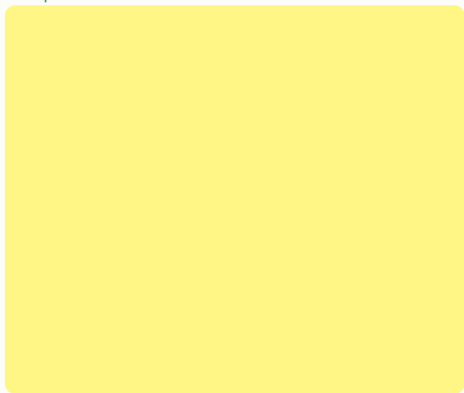
```
@prefix :      <http://www.example.org>
@prefix rdf:   <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
@prefix rdfs:  <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
@prefix owl: <http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#>
```

OWL declarations

CLASSES, ROLES, AND INDIVIDUALS

- As in RDF and RDF Schema, the basic building blocks of OWL are **classes**, **properties**, and **individuals**.
- In OWL, properties are also called **roles** or **slots**.

Example



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- OWL has its own term to declare classes: `owl:Class` (which is distinct from `rdfs:Class`)

Example

```
:Professor    rdf:type owl:Class .  
:Person      rdf:type owl:Class .  
:Organization rdf:type owl:Class .
```


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- Individuals are declared with **rdf:type**, as in RDF.

Example

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:Person       rdf:type owl:Class .  
:Organization rdf:type owl:Class .  
  
:John         rdf:type owl:Professor .
```

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- OWL has its own term to declare classes: **owl:Class** (which is distinct from **rdfs:Class**)
- Individuals are declared with **rdf:type**, as in RDF.
- OWL supports distinct kinds of properties.
- **owl:ObjectProperty** defines **abstract properties** (abstract roles), that connect individuals with individuals.
- **owl:DatatypeProperty** defines **concrete properties** (concrete roles), that connect individuals with data values (i.e., with elements of datatypes).

Example

```
:Professor    rdf:type owl:Class .
:Person       rdf:type owl:Class .
:Organization rdf:type owl:Class .

:John         rdf:type owl:Professor .

:affiliation  rdf:type owl:ObjectProperty ;

:firstName    rdf:type owl:DatatypeProperty ;
```

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- **rdf:type**, **rdfs:domain**, **rdfs:range**, **rdfs:subClassOf**, **rdfs:subPropertyOf** are used as before

Example

```
:Professor    rdf:type owl:Class .
:Person       rdf:type owl:Class .
:Organization rdf:type owl:Class .

:John         rdf:type owl:Professor .

:affiliation  rdf:type owl:ObjectProperty ;
              rdfs:domain :Person ;
              rdfs:range  :Organization .

:firstName    rdf:type owl:DatatypeProperty ;
              rdfs:domain :Person ;
              rdfs:range  xsd:string .

:rudi         :affiliation :aifb, :ontoprise ;
              :firstName  "Rudi"^^xsd:string .
```

CLASSES, ROLES, AND INDIVIDUALS

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Example

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:Person       rdf:type owl:Class .
:Organization rdf:type owl:Class .

:John         rdf:type owl:Professor .

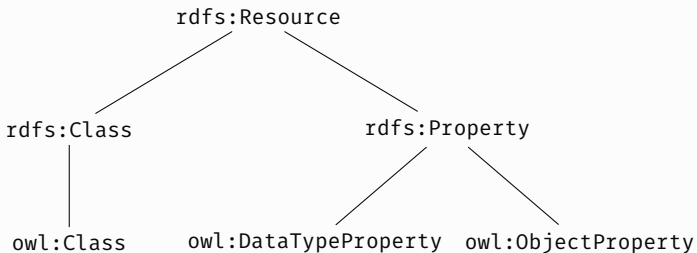
:affiliation  rdf:type owl:ObjectProperty ;
              rdfs:domain :Person ;
              rdfs:range  :Organization .

:firstName    rdf:type owl:DatatypeProperty ;
              rdfs:domain :Person ;
              rdfs:range  xsd:string .

:rudi         :affiliation :aifb, :ontoprise ;
              :firstName  "Rudi"^^xsd:string .
```

Valid deductions:

```
:rudi         rdf:type :Person
:aifb         rdf:type :Organization
:ontoprise    rdf:type :Organization
```



CONCRETE PROPERTIES: SUPPORTED DATATYPES

- The range of `owl:DataTypeProperty` can in principle refer to any of the XML Schema built-in simple types.
- Tools are not required to support all of these datatypes, however (and typically support only a few).

Type	sample values
<code>xsd:string</code>	any Unicode string
<code>xsd:boolean</code>	true, false, 1, 0
<code>xsd:decimal</code>	3.1415
<code>xsd:float</code>	6.02214199E23
<code>xsd:double</code>	42E970
<code>xsd:dateTime</code>	2004-09-26T16:29:00-05:00
<code>xsd:time</code>	16:29:00-05:00
<code>xsd:date</code>	2004-09-26
<code>xsd:hexBinary</code>	48656c6c6f0a
<code>xsd:base64Binary</code>	SGVsbG8K
<code>xsd:anyURI</code>	http://www.brics.dk/ixwt/
<code>xsd:QName</code>	rcp:recipe, recipe
...	

NOTATION

In what follows:

- We range over arbitrary URIs by P , R and S (i.e., anything admissible for the predicate position of a triple)
- u , v , w , C , D , and E refer to arbitrary URIs or blank node IDs (i.e., anything admissible for the subject position of a triple)
- x and y can be used for arbitrary URIs, blank node IDs or literals

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: INVERSES

- `P owl:inverseOf R` is used to specify that property P is the inverse of property R (and vice versa)

Deduction Rule

If `P owl:inverseOf R` .
And $u P v$.
Then add $v R u$.

If `P owl:inverseOf R` .
And $u R v$.
Then add $v P u$.

Example

```
:fatherOf owl:inverseOf :childOf .  
:jake :fatherOf :john .
```


PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: INVERSES

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Deduction Rule

If `P owl:inverseOf R` .
And $u P v$.
Then add $v R u$.

If `P owl:inverseOf R` .
And $u R v$.
Then add $v P u$.

Example

<code>:fatherOf</code>	<code>owl:inverseOf</code>	<code>:childOf</code>	.
<code>:Jake</code>	<code>:fatherOf</code>	<code>:John</code>	.
<code>:John</code>	<code>:childOf</code>	<code>:Jake</code>	.

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: SYMMETRY

- `P rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty` is used to specify that property *P* is a symmetric property

Deduction Rule

```
If      P rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .  
And     u P v .  
Then add v P u .
```

Example

```
:marriedTo  rdf:type    owl:SymmetricProperty .  
:Jake       :marriedTo :Eve
```

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: SYMMETRY

- `P rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty` is used to specify that property P is a symmetric property

Deduction Rule

```
If      P rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .  
And     u P v .  
Then add v P u .
```

Example

```
:marriedTo  rdf:type      owl:SymmetricProperty .  
:Jake       :marriedTo   :Eve          .  
:Eve        :marriedTo   :Jake          .
```

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: TRANSITIVITY

- `P rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty` is used to specify that property `P` is a Transitive property

Deduction Rule

```
If      P rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty .  
And    u P v .  
And    v P w .  
Then add u P w .
```

Example

```
:ancestor  rdf:type  owl:TransitiveProperty .  
:jake      :ancestor :John .  
:jill      :ancestor :jake .
```

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: TRANSITIVITY

- `P rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty` is used to specify that property *P* is a Transitive property

Deduction Rule

```
If      P rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty .  
And     u P v .  
And     v P w .  
Then add u P w .
```

Example

```
:ancestor  rdf:type  owl:TransitiveProperty .  
:jake      :ancestor :John .  
:jill      :ancestor :Jake .  
:jill      :ancestor :John .
```

ASSERTING EQUIVALENCE OF CLASSES

- It is always possible that we have used a specific URI to identify a particular concept while someone else has used a different URI for the same concept
- `v owl:equivalentClass w` is used to specify that every member of class `v` is a member of class `w`, and vice versa

Semantics is given by

```
owl:equivalentClass rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .  
owl:equivalentClass rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty .  
owl:equivalentClass rdfs:subPropertyOf rdfs:subClassOf .
```

Example

```
:Man    owl:equivalentClass    :Homme .  
:Jake   rdf:type                  :Man    .
```

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```

Example

```
:Man      owl:equivalentClass  :Homme .  
:Jake     rdf:type                :Man .  
:Homme     owl:equivalentclass  :Man .  
:Man      rdfs:subClassOf        :Homme .  
:Homme     rdfs:subClassOf        :Man .  
:Jake     rdf:type                :Homme .
```

ASSERTING EQUIVALENCE OF PROPERTIES

- It is always possible that we have used a specific URI to identify a particular concept while someone else has used a different URI for the same concept
- P `owl:equivalentProperty` R is used to specify that properties P and R are equivalent

Semantics is given by

```
owl:equivalentProperty rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .  
owl:equivalentProperty rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty .  
owl:equivalentProperty rdfs:subPropertyOf rdfs:subPropertyOf .
```

```
:fatherOf    owl:equivalentProperty    :père .  
:jake        :père                        :john .
```


ASSERTING EQUIVALENCE OF PROPERTIES

- It is always possible that we have used a specific URI to identify a particular concept while someone else has used a different URI for the same concept
- P `owl:equivalentProperty` R is used to specify that properties P and R are equivalent

Semantics is given by

```
owl:equivalentProperty rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .  
owl:equivalentProperty rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty .  
owl:equivalentProperty rdfs:subPropertyOf rdfs:subPropertyOf .
```

```
:fatherOf owl:equivalentProperty :père .  
:Jake :père :John .  
:père owl:equivalentProperty :fatherOf .  
:père rdfs:subPropertyOf :fatherOf .  
:fatherOf rdfs:subPropertyOf :père .  
:Jake :fatherOf :John .
```

ASSERTING EQUIVALENCE OF INDIVIDUALS

- It is always possible that we have used a specific URI to identify a particular concept while someone else has used a different URI for the same concept
- `v owl:sameAs w` is used to specify that `v` and `w` are the same individuals

Semantics is given by

```
owl:sameAs rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If      u owl:sameAs v .
```

```
And     u P x .
```

```
Then add v P x .
```

```
If      u owl:sameAs v .
```

```
And     w P u .
```

```
Then add w P v .
```

MORE PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: FUNCTIONALITY

- `P rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty` is used to specify that `P` can only take one object for a particular subject

Inference Rule:

```
If      P rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty .  
And     u P v .  
And     u P w .  
Then add v owl:sameAs w .
```

Example

```
:hasFather    rdf:type    owl:FunctionalProperty .  
:John         :hasFather  :Jake                .  
:John         :hasFather  ex:Jake-J                .
```

MORE PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: FUNCTIONALITY

- P `rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty` is used to specify that P can only take one object for a particular subject

Inference Rule:

```
If       $P$  rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty .  
And     $u$   $P$   $v$  .  
And     $u$   $P$   $w$  .  
Then add  $v$  owl:sameAs  $w$  .
```

Example

```
:hasFather rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty .  
:John :hasFather :Jake .  
:John :hasFather ex:Jake-J .  
:Jake owl:sameAs ex:Jake-J .
```

MORE PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS: INVERSE FUNCTIONALITY

- `P rdf:type owl:InverseFunctionalProperty` is used to specify that *P* can only take one subject for a particular object

Inference Rule:

```
If      P rdf:type owl:InverseFunctionalProperty .  
And     v P u .  
And     w P u .  
Then add v owl:sameAs w .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: INTERSECTION (1/2)

- `C owl:intersectionOf (D1...Dk)` is used to indicate that u is an instance of class C if, and only if, it is simultaneously an instance of all classes D_1, \dots, D_k

Inference Rule:

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And    u rdf:type C .  
Then add u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )
```

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And    u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )  
Then add u rdf:type C .
```

Example

```
:MaleProfessor    rdf:type          owl:Class          ;  
                  owl:intersectionOf  (:Professor :Male) .  
:John              rdf:type          :MaleProfessor .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: INTERSECTION (1/2)

- `C owl:intersectionOf (D1...Dk)` is used to indicate that u is an instance of class C if, and only if, it is simultaneously an instance of all classes D_1, \dots, D_k

Inference Rule:

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And    u rdf:type C .  
Then add u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )
```

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And    u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )  
Then add u rdf:type C .
```

Example

```
:MaleProfessor    rdf:type          owl:Class          ;  
                  owl:intersectionOf  (:Professor :Male) .  
:John              rdf:type          :MaleProfessor .  
:John              rdf:type          :Professor           ;  
                  rdf:type          :Male                .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: INTERSECTION (1/2)

- `C owl:intersectionOf (D1...Dk)` is used to indicate that u is an instance of class C if, and only if, it is simultaneously an instance of all classes D_1, \dots, D_k

Inference Rule:

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And     u rdf:type C .  
Then add u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )
```

```
If      C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk) .  
And     u rdf:type Di .    (for every  $1 \leq i \leq k$ )  
Then add u rdf:type C .
```

Another Example

```
:MaleProfessor    rdf:type          owl:Class          ;  
                  owl:intersectionOf  (:Professor :Male)    .  
:John             rdf:type          :Male                ;  
                  rdf:type          :Professor             .
```


BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: INTERSECTION (1/2)

- `C owl:intersectionOf (D1...Dk)` is used to indicate that u is an instance of class C if, and only if, it is simultaneously an instance of all classes D_1, \dots, D_k

Inference Rule:

If `C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk)` .
And `u rdf:type C` .
Then add `u rdf:type Di` . (for every $1 \leq i \leq k$)

If `C owl:intersectionOf (D1 ...Dk)` .
And `u rdf:type Di` . (for every $1 \leq i \leq k$)
Then add `u rdf:type C` .

Another Example

```
:MaleProfessor    rdf:type          owl:Class          ;  
                  owl:intersectionOf  (:Professor :Male)  .  
:John             rdf:type          :Male                ;  
                  rdf:type          :Professor              .  
:John             rdf:type          :MaleProfessor          .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: INTERSECTION (2/2)

- `C owl:intersectionOf (D1...Dk)` is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is simultaneously an instance of all classes D_1, \dots, D_k
- `owl:intersectionOf` is often used together with blank nodes and `rdfs:subClassOf` to make this an “if” instead of an “if and only if”

Example

```
:MaleProfessor    rdf:type          owl:Class          ;  
                  rdfs:subClassOf  
                  [ owl:intersectionOf  (:Person :Male) ] .  
  
:John             rdf:type          :Person              ;  
                  rdf:type          :Male                    .
```

All `:MaleProfessor` are `:Male` and `:Person`. Not all `:Male :Persons` are `::MaleProfessor`, however. Hence, we cannot infer `:John rdf:type :MaleProfessor`

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENTOF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

```
owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If                C owl:complementOf D .  
And                u rdf:type C .  
Then it cannot hold that u rdf:type D .
```

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male   owl:complementOf :Female .  
:tweety rdf:type           :Penguin .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENT OF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

```
owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If                C owl:complementOf D .  
And                u rdf:type C .  
Then it cannot hold that u rdf:type D .
```

Here, we cannot conclude that `:tweety` is Male, nor that it is Female

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male    owl:complementOf :Female .  
:tweety  rdf:type            :Penguin .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENTOF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

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owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If                C owl:complementOf D .  
And                u rdf:type C .  
Then it cannot hold that u rdf:type D .
```

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male   owl:complementOf :Female .  
:tweety rdf:type           :Penguin .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENT OF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

```
owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If                C owl:complementOf D .  
And                u rdf:type C .  
Then it cannot hold that u rdf:type D .
```

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male    owl:complementOf :Female .  
:tweety  rdf:type            :Penguin .  
:Furniture rdfs:subClassOf [ owl:complementOf :Female ] .  
:desk    rdf:type            :Furniture .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENTOF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

```
owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .
```

```
If                C owl:complementOf D .  
And                u rdf:type C .  
Then it cannot hold that u rdf:type D .
```

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male    owl:complementOf :Female .  
:tweety  rdf:type           :Penguin .  
:Furniture rdfs:subClassOf [ owl:complementOf :Female ] .  
:desk    rdf:type           :Furniture .  
:desk    rdf:type           [ owl:complementOf :Female ] .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: COMPLEMENT OF

- $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is not an instance of D .

Semantics given by:

`owl:complementOf rdf:type owl:SymmetricProperty .`

If $C \text{ owl:complementOf } D .$
And $u \text{ rdf:type } C .$
Then it **cannot hold that** $u \text{ rdf:type } D .$

Be careful with complementOf! Example.

```
:Male owl:complementOf :Female .
:tweet rdf:type :Penguin .
:Furniture rdfs:subClassOf [ owl:complementOf :Female ] .
:desk rdf:type :Furniture .
:desk rdf:type [ owl:complementOf :Female ] .
:desk rdf:type :Male .
```


CLASS DISJOINTNESS

- `C owl:disjointWith D` is used to indicate that no instance of `C` is an instance of `D`, and vice versa.

It is an abbreviation of:

```
C rdfs:subClassOf [ owl:complementOf D ]  
D rdfs:subClassOf [ owl:complementOf C ]
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: UNIONOF

- $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is an instance of at least one the classes D_1, \dots, D_k .

Semantics given by:

If $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$.
And $u \text{ rdf:type } D_i$. (for some $1 \leq i \leq k$)
Then add $u \text{ rdf:type } C$.

If $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$.
And $u \text{ rdf:type } [\text{owl:complementOf } D_j]$. for every $j \neq i$
Then add $u \text{ rdf:type } D_i$.

Example

```
:Person owl:unionOf (:Male :Female) .  
:john rdf:type :Person .  
:john rdf:type [owl:complementOf :Female] .
```

BOOLEAN CLASS CONSTRUCTORS: UNIONOF

- $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$ is used to indicate that u is an instance of C if, and only if, it is an instance of at least one the classes D_1, \dots, D_k .

Semantics given by:

If $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$.
And $u \text{ rdf:type } D_i$. (for some $1 \leq i \leq k$)
Then add $u \text{ rdf:type } C$.

If $C \text{ owl:unionOf } (D_1 \dots D_k)$.
And $u \text{ rdf:type } [\text{owl:complementOf } D_j]$. for every $j \neq i$
Then add $u \text{ rdf:type } D_i$.

Example

```
:Person owl:unionOf (:Male :Female) .  
:john rdf:type :Person .  
:john rdf:type [owl:complementOf :Female] .  
:john rdf:type :Male .
```

CLOSED CLASSES: ONE OF

- `C owl:oneOf (v1 ... vk)` is used to indicate that the only individuals of class *C* are v_1, \dots, v_k .

OWL BUILTIN CLASSES

- There are two predefined classes in OWL: **owl:Thing** and **owl:Nothing**
- **owl:Thing** is the most general class, it has every individual as an instance
- **owl:Nothing** is the empty class, it does not have any instances

ASSERTING CLASSES DISJOINT AND INDIVIDUALS DISTINCT

- Unlike most other knowledge representation languages, OWL does not assume the Unique Name Assumption (UNA): distinct resources need not represent distinct things.
- As already seen, equivalence between classes can be specified by `owl:equivalentClass`; equivalence between properties by `owl:equivalentProperty`; and between individuals by `owl:sameAs`.
- Individuals can be declared **distinct** by means of `owl:differentFrom`
- Classes can be declared **disjoint** by means of `owl:disjointWith`.

PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: INTRODUCTION

- By means of `rdfs:domain` and `rdfs:range` we can only specify that the domain and range should hold **globally** for a property
- OWL allows us to make local restriction on properties (e.g. cows eat plants while other animals may also eat meat) by means of so-called **property restrictions**
- OWL distinguishes between the following two:
 - Value constraints (`owl:someValuesFrom`, `owl:allValuesFrom`, `owl:hasValue`)
 - Cardinality constraints (`owl:minCardinality`, `owl:maxCardinality`)

Property restrictions define (anonymous) classes and have the general syntax:

```
_:1 rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
    owl:onProperty P;  
    value constr D .
```

```
_:1 rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
    owl:onProperty P;  
    cardinal constr "i"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger .
```


PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: ALLVALUESFROM

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:allValuesFrom D]` denotes the class consisting of all individuals u for which the range of property P is class D .

Inference Rule:

If u `rdf:type` `[rdf:type owl:Restriction;`
`owl:onProperty P;`
`owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

And u `P` v .

Then add v `rdf:type` D

If for all v s.t. u `P` v .

it holds that v `rdf:type` D .

Then add u `rdf:type` `[rdf:type owl:Restriction;`
`owl:onProperty P;`
`owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

Example: `owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

```
:OnlyDaughters rdf:type owl:Class ;
rdfs:subclassOf [rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                 owl:onProperty :hasChild;
                 owl:allValuesFrom :Female] .

:john          rdf:type :OnlyDaughters ;
                :hasChild :mary .
:jane          rdf:type :OnlyDaughters ;
                :hasChild :john .
```

PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: ALLVALUESFROM

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:allValuesFrom D]` denotes the class consisting of all individuals u for which the range of property P is class D .

Inference Rule:

If u `rdf:type` `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

And $u P v$.

Then add v `rdf:type` `D`

If for all v s.t. $u P v$.

it holds that v `rdf:type` `D` .

Then add u `rdf:type` `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

Example: `owl:allValuesFrom D]` .

```
:OnlyDaughters rdf:type owl:Class ;
rdfs:subclassOf [rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                 owl:onProperty :hasChild;
                 owl:allValuesFrom :Female] .

:john           rdf:type :OnlyDaughters ;
                 :hasChild :mary .
:jane           rdf:type :OnlyDaughters ;
                 :hasChild :john .
:mary           rdf:type :Female .
```

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:someValuesFrom D]` denotes the class consisting of all individuals u that have at least one occurrence of property P whose range is class D .

Inference Rule:

```
If           $u P v .$ 
And          $v \text{rdf:type } D .$ 
Then add    $u \text{rdf:type}[\text{rdf:type owl:Restriction};$ 
            $\text{owl:onProperty } P;$ 
            $\text{owl:someValuesFrom } D] .$ 

If           $u \text{rdf:type}[\text{rdf:type owl:Restriction};$ 
            $\text{owl:onProperty } P;$ 
            $\text{owl:someValuesFrom } D] .$ 
There has to exist some  $u P v .$ 
with        $v \text{rdf:type } D$ 
```

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:someValuesFrom D]` denotes the class consisting of all individuals u that have at least one occurrence of property P whose range is class D .

Example: a class for all Mothers

```
:Mother      rdf:type      owl:Class ;
              owl:intersectionOf ( :Person :Female
                                      [rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                                       owl:onProperty :hasChild;
                                       owl:someValuesFrom :Person]
                                      ) .

:jane        rdf:type      :Female, :Person ;
              :hasChild    :john .

:john        rdf:type      :Person .
```

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:someValuesFrom D]` denotes the class consisting of all individuals u that have at least one occurrence of property P whose range is class D .

Example: a class for all Mothers

```
:Mother      rdf:type      owl:Class ;
              owl:intersectionOf ( :Person :Female
                                      [rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                                       owl:onProperty :hasChild;
                                       owl:someValuesFrom :Person]
                                      ) .

:jane        rdf:type      :Female, :Person ;
              :hasChild    :john .

:john        rdf:type      :Person .

:jane        rdf:type      :Mother .
```

PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: HASVALUE

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:hasValue v]` is a particular form of `owl:someValuesFrom`. It denotes the class consisting of all individuals *u* for which *u P v* holds.

Inference Rule:

```
If          u P v .
Then add    u rdf:type[rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                    owl:onProperty P;
                    owl:hasValue v] .

If          u rdf:type[rdf:type owl:Restriction;
                    owl:onProperty P;
                    owl:hasValue D] .
Then add    u P v .
```

PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: HASVALUE

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:hasValue v]` is a particular form of `owl:someValuesFrom`. It denotes the class consisting of all individuals *u* for which *u P v* holds.

Example: a class for all of Mary's children

```
:MarysChildren rdf:type      owl:Class ;  
                owl:intersectionOf ( :Person  
                                        [rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
                                        owl:onProperty :hasParent;  
                                        owl:hasValue :mary]  
                                        ) .  
:john           rdf:type      :Person .  
:john           :hasParent    :mary .
```

PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: HASVALUE

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:hasValue v]` is a particular form of `owl:someValuesFrom`. It denotes the class consisting of all individuals *u* for which *u P v* holds.

Example: a class for all of Mary's children

```
:MarysChildren rdf:type      owl:Class ;  
                owl:intersectionOf ( :Person  
                                        [rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
                                        owl:onProperty :hasParent;  
                                        owl:hasValue :mary]  
                                        ) .  
:john           rdf:type      :Person .  
:john           :hasParent    :mary .  
:john           rdf:type      :MarysChildren .
```


CARDINALITY RESTRICTIONS: MINCARDINALITY

- [rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P ; owl:minCardinality " i "^{~xsd:nonNegativeInteger}] is used to denote the class consisting of all individuals u for which there are **at least** i distinct individuals v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i such that $u P v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$.

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:minCardinality "i"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger]` is used to denote the class consisting of all individuals *u* for which there are **at least** *i* distinct individuals v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i such that $u P v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$.

Example: every person has at least two parents

```
:Person rdf:type      owl:Class ;  
        owl:subClassOf [rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
                          owl:onProperty :hasParent;  
                          owl:minCardinality "2"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger].
```

CARDINALITY RESTRICTIONS: MAXCARDINALITY

- [rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P ; owl:maxCardinality " i "^{~xsd:nonNegativeInteger}] is used to denote the class consisting of all individuals u for which there are **at most** i distinct individuals v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i such that $u P v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$.

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:maxCardinality "i"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger]` is used to denote the class consisting of all individuals u for which there are **at most** i distinct individuals v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i such that $u P v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$.

Example: every person has at most two parents

```
:Person rdf:type          owl:Class ;  
        owl:subClassOf [rdf:type owl:Restriction;  
                          owl:onProperty :hasParent;  
                          owl:maxCardinality "2"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger].
```

- `[rdf:type owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty P; owl:cardinality "i"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger]` is used to denote the class consisting of all individuals u for which there are at **exactly** i distinct individuals v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i such that $u P v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$.

CONSISTENCY OF AN OWL DOCUMENT/GRAPH WITH OWL

- An OWL document is **consistent** (also called satisfiable) if it does not contain any contradictions
- An OWL document is **class consistent** if none of its classes is equivalent to `owl:Nothing`

Example of an inconsistent document:


```
:Male      rdf:type      owl:Class .  
:Female    rdf:type      owl:Class .  
:Male      owl:disjointWith  :Female .  
:john      rdf:type      :Male .  
:john      rdf:type      :Female .
```

CONSISTENCY OF AN OWL DOCUMENT/GRAPH WITH OWL

- An OWL document is **consistent** (also called satisfiable) if it does not contain any contradictions
- An OWL document is **class consistent** if none of its classes is equivalent to `owl:Nothing`

Example of a consistent but class inconsistent document:

```
:Book      rdf:type      owl:Class .  
:Publication rdf:type      owl:Class .  
:Book      rdfs:subClassOf  :Publication ;  
           owl:disjointWith :Publication .
```



Part III: Reasoning with OWL

TYPICAL REASONING TASKS

- Checking consistency (also called satisfiability).
- Checking class consistency
- Computing all relationships between classes in documents.
- Computing all instances of a given class.

TYPICAL REASONING TASKS

- Checking consistency (also called satisfiability).
 - Checking class consistency
 - Computing all relationships between classes in documents.
 - Computing all instances of a given class.
- If the OWL vocabulary is carelessly mingled with the RDF Schema vocabulary, then all of these task are **undecidable**: no algorithm exists that does these tasks and is guaranteed to terminate.
 - As such, the OWL 1.0 standard defines several **OWL dialects**, including dialects for which these tasks are decidable:
 - **OWL Full**
 - **OWL DL**
 - **OWL Lite**

OWL version 1 Full

- Allows all of the OWL vocabulary
- Allows the combination of these vocabulary terms in arbitrary ways with RDF and RDF schema (including `rdfs:Class`, `rdfs:Resource`, `rdfs:Property`)
- OWL Full is fully upward-compatible with RDF, both syntactically and semantically
- OWL Full is so powerful that it is undecidable
 - Hence, there is no complete or efficient reasoning support
 - Undecidability due, among other reasons, to the fact the we allow classes to be members of themselves.

OWL version 1 DL

- OWL 1 DL = OWL Description Logic
- A sublanguage of OWL Full that restricts how OWL constructors can be used. (See next slide)
- It corresponds to a well-studied **description logic**
- **Description logics** are well-known knowledge representation formalisms. They are fragments of first order logic with decidable and often efficient reasoning support.
- As such, OWL 1 DL permits efficient reasoning support
- But we lose full compatibility with RDF and RDF Schema
 - Every legal OWL DL document is a legal RDF document
 - But not every legal RDF document is a legal OWL DL document.

OWL VERSION 1.0 DL (2/2)

OWL version 1 DL conditions

- The only terms from RDF and RDFS that can be used are `rdf:type`, `rdfs:domain`, `rdfs:range`, `rdfs:subClassOf`, `rdfs:subPropertyOf` (in particular, `rdfs:Class` and `rdfs:Property` cannot be used).

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- Type separation and declaration: an OWL DL document must treat classes, abstract properties, concrete properties, and datatypes as disjoint things. Furthermore, classes and properties must be declared explicitly.

The following is hence not allowed (on classes we should only use `subClassOf` and the like)

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- Restricted use of abstract properties: cardinality restrictions via `owl:cardinality`, `owl:minCardinality`, `owl:maxCardinality` must not be used with transitive properties, inverses of transitive properties, or superproperties of transitive properties. (To obtain decidability.)

OWL version 1 Lite

- Restricts OWL 1 DL further to a subset of the language constructors. (E.g., no disjointness statements, cardinality statements, ...)
- Designed to be easier
 - to understand, for users (ontology builders)
 - implement, for tool builders
- The disadvantage is its restricted expressivity

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 - implement, for tool builders
- The disadvantage is its restricted expressivity
- And actually, it proved as difficult to implement as OWL DL.

OWL VERSION 2.0 DIALECTS

In OWL 2, there are only two dialects

- **OWL Full**: all features, but reasoning is undecidable
- **OWL DL**^a: expressive, but not entirely compatible with RDF Schema; efficient reasoning support

^aDL=Description Logic

- OWL 1 DL is a strict subset of OWL 2 DL
- OWL Lite was dropped as a dialect in OWL 2 because it proved to be as hard to implement as OWL 1 DL (yet it is significantly less expressive).

OWL 2 introduces three new fragments of OWL 2 DL, called **profiles**

- **Full OWL 2 DL** requires exponential time for most reasoning tasks.
- **OWL 2 EL** is designed for applications where very large ontologies are needed, and where expressive power can be traded for performance guarantees.
Reasoning complexity: polynomial time in the size of the OWL ontology.
- **OWL 2 QL** is designed for applications where relatively lightweight ontologies are used to organize large numbers of individuals and where it is useful or necessary to access the data directly via relational queries (e.g., SQL).
Reasoning complexity: polynomial time in the size of the OWL ontology.
- **OWL 2 RL** is designed for applications where relatively lightweight ontologies are used to organize large numbers of individuals and where it is useful or necessary to operate directly on data in the form of RDF triples.
Reasoning complexity: polynomial time in the size of the OWL ontology.

OWL VERSION 2.0 EXTRA FEATURES

- OWL version 1.0 was standardized as a recommendation in 2004.
- OWL version 2.0 (second edition) proposes a backwards-compatible update to OWL 1.0. It features several extensions to OWL version 1.0
 - keys;
 - property chains;
 - richer datatypes, data ranges;
 - qualified cardinality restrictions;
 - asymmetric, reflexive, and disjoint properties; and
 - enhanced annotation capabilities

See book/handouts!

EXAMPLES OF OWL ONTOLOGIES (1/3)

FOAF: Friend of a Friend

- vocabulary to link people and information using the Web

FOAF is a project devoted to linking people and information using the Web. Regardless of whether information is in people's heads, in physical or digital documents, or in the form of factual data, it can be linked. FOAF integrates three kinds of network: social networks of human collaboration, friendship and association; representational networks that describe a simplified view of a cartoon universe in factual terms, and information networks that use Web-based linking to share independently published descriptions of this inter-connected world. FOAF does not compete with socially-oriented Web sites; rather it provides an approach in which different sites can tell different parts of the larger story, and by which users can retain some control over their information in a non-proprietary format.

EXAMPLES OF OWL ONTOLOGIES (2/3)

GoodRelations: a vocabulary for e-commerce

- a lightweight ontology for annotating offerings and other aspects of e-commerce on the Web.
 - GoodRelations is the only OWL DL ontology officially supported by both Google and Yahoo.
-
- It provides a standard vocabulary for expressing things like that a particular Web site describes an offer to sell cellphones of a certain make and model at a certain price, that a pianohouse offers maintenance for pianos that weigh less than 150 kg, or that a car rental company leases out cars of a certain make and model from a particular set of branches across the country.
 - Also, most if not all commercial and functional details of e-commerce scenarios can be expressed, e.g. eligible countries, payment and delivery options, quantity discounts, opening hours, etc.

EXAMPLES OF OWL ONTOLOGIES (3/3)

SNOMED CT

- an ontology of medical terms.
- used in clinical documentation and reporting
- standard ontology for patient records etc. in Belgium

More specifically, the following sample computer applications use SNOMED CT:

- Electronic Health Record Systems
- Computerized Provider Order Entry CPOE such as E-Prescribing or Laboratory Order Entry
- Catalogues of clinical services; e.g., for Diagnostic Imaging procedures
- Knowledge databases used in clinical decision support systems (CDSS)
- Remote Intensive Care Unit Monitoring
- Laboratory Reporting
- Emergency Room Charting
- Cancer Reporting
- Genetic Databases

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- D. Allemang, J. Hendler. *Semantic Web for the Working Ontologist..* Chapter 9-11.