Abstract

The OWL 2 Web Ontology Language, informally OWL 2, is an ontology language for the Semantic Web with formally defined meaning. OWL 2 ontologies provide classes, properties, individuals, and data values and are stored as Semantic Web documents. OWL 2 ontologies can be used along with information written in RDF, and OWL 2 ontologies themselves are primarily exchanged as RDF documents. The OWL 2 Document Overview describes the overall state of OWL 2, and should be read before other OWL 2 documents.

This document provides the direct model-theoretic semantics for OWL 2, which is compatible with the description logic SROIQ. Furthermore, this document defines the most common inference problems for OWL 2.
Status of this Document

May Be Superseded

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. A list of current W3C publications and the latest revision of this technical report can be found in the W3C technical reports index at http://www.w3.org/TR/.

Summary of Changes

There have been no substantive changes since the previous version. For details on the minor changes see the change log and color-coded diff.

W3C Members Please Review By 15 November 2012

The W3C Director seeks review and feedback from W3C Advisory Committee representatives, via their review form by 15 November 2012. This will allow the Director to assess consensus and determine whether to issue this document as a W3C Edited Recommendation.

Others are encouraged by the OWL Working Group to continue to send reports of implementation experience, and other feedback, to public-owl-comments@w3.org (public archive). Reports of any success or difficulty with the test cases are encouraged. Open discussion among developers is welcome at public-owl-dev@w3.org (public archive).

No Endorsement

Publication as a Proposed Edited Recommendation does not imply endorsement by the W3C Membership. This is a draft document and may be updated, replaced or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to cite this document as other than work in progress.

Patents

This document was produced by a group operating under the 5 February 2004 W3C Patent Policy. W3C maintains a public list of any patent disclosures made in connection with the deliverables of the group; that page also includes instructions for disclosing a patent. An individual who has actual knowledge of a patent which the individual believes contains Essential Claim(s) must disclose the information in accordance with section 6 of the W3C Patent Policy.

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1 Introduction

This document defines the direct model-theoretic semantics of OWL 2. The semantics given here is strongly related to the semantics of description logics [Description Logics] and it extends the semantics of the description logic SROIQ [SROIQ]. As the definition of SROIQ does not provide for datatypes and punning, the semantics of OWL 2 is defined directly on the constructs of the structural specification of OWL 2 [OWL 2 Specification] instead of by reference to SROIQ. For the constructs available in SROIQ, the semantics of SROIQ trivially corresponds to the one defined in this document.

Since each OWL 1 DL ontology is an OWL 2 ontology, this document also provides a direct semantics for OWL 1 Lite and OWL 1 DL ontologies; this semantics is equivalent to the direct model-theoretic semantics of OWL 1 Lite and OWL 1 DL [OWL 1 Semantics and Abstract Syntax]. Furthermore, this document also provides the direct model-theoretic semantics for the OWL 2 profiles [OWL 2 Profiles].

The semantics is defined for OWL 2 axioms and ontologies, which should be understood as instances of the structural specification [OWL 2 Specification]. Parts of the structural specification are written in this document using the functional-style syntax.

OWL 2 allows ontologies, anonymous individuals, and axioms to be annotated; furthermore, annotations themselves can contain additional annotations. All these types of annotations, however, have no semantic meaning in OWL 2 and are ignored in this document. OWL 2 declarations are used only to disambiguate class expressions from data ranges and object property from data property expressions in the functional-style syntax; therefore, they are not mentioned explicitly in this document.
2 Direct Model-Theoretic Semantics for OWL 2

This section specifies the direct model-theoretic semantics of OWL 2 ontologies.

2.1 Vocabulary

A datatype map, formalizing datatype maps from the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification], is a 6-tuple $D = (N_{DT}, N_{LS}, N_{FS}, \cdot_{DT}, \cdot_{LS}, \cdot_{FS})$ with the following components:

- $N_{DT}$ is a set of datatypes (more precisely, names of datatypes) that does not contain the datatype rdfs:Literal.
- $N_{LS}$ is a function that assigns to each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$ a set $N_{LS}(DT)$ of strings called lexical forms. The set $N_{LS}(DT)$ is called the lexical space of $DT$.
- $N_{FS}$ is a function that assigns to each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$ a set $N_{FS}(DT)$ of pairs $(F, v)$, where $F$ is a constraining facet and $v$ is an arbitrary data value called the constraining value. The set $N_{FS}(DT)$ is called the facet space of $DT$.
- For each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$, the interpretation function $\cdot_{DT}$ assigns to $DT$ a set $(DT)^{DT}$ called the value space of $DT$.
- For each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$ and each lexical form $LV \in N_{LS}(DT)$, the interpretation function $\cdot_{LS}$ assigns to the pair $(LV, DT)$ a data value $(LV, DT)^{LS} \in (DT)^{DT}$.
- For each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$ and each pair $(F, v) \in N_{FS}(DT)$, the interpretation function $\cdot_{FS}$ assigns to $(F, v)$ the set $(F, v)^{FS} \subseteq (DT)^{DT}$.

The set of datatypes $N_{DT}$ of a datatype map $D$ is not required to contain all datatypes from the OWL 2 datatype map; this allows one to talk about subsets of the OWL 2 datatype map, which may be necessary for the various profiles of OWL 2. If, however, $D$ contains a datatype $DT$ from the OWL 2 datatype map, then $N_{LS}(DT), N_{FS}(DT), (DT)^{DT}, (LV, DT)^{LS}$ for each $LV \in N_{LS}(DT)$, and $(F, v)^{FS}$ for each $(F, v) \in N_{FS}(DT)$ are required to coincide with the definitions for $DT$ in the OWL 2 datatype map.

A vocabulary $V = (V_{C}, V_{OP}, V_{DP}, V_{I}, V_{DT}, V_{LT}, V_{FA})$ over a datatype map $D$ is a 7-tuple consisting of the following elements:

- $V_{C}$ is a set of classes as defined in the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification], containing at least the classes owl:Thing and owl:Nothing.
- $V_{OP}$ is a set of object properties as defined in the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification], containing at least the object properties owl:topObjectProperty and owl:bottomObjectProperty.
- $V_{DP}$ is a set of data properties as defined in the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification], containing at least the data properties owl:topDataProperty and owl:bottomDataProperty.
- $V_{I}$ is a set of individuals (named and anonymous) as defined in the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification].
- $V_{DT}$ is a set containing all datatypes of $D$, the datatype rdfs:Literal, and possibly other datatypes; that is, $N_{DT} \cap \{rdfs:Literal\} \subseteq V_{DT}$.
- $V_{LT}$ is a set of literals $LV^{\land DT}$ for each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$ and each lexical form $LV \in N_{LS}(DT)$. 

• $V_{FA}$ is the set of pairs $(F, lt)$ for each constraining facet $F$, datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$, and literal $lt \in V_{LT}$ such that $(F, (LV, DT_1)_{LS}) \in N_{FS}(DT)$, where $LV$ is the lexical form of $lt$ and $DT_1$ is the datatype of $lt$.

Given a vocabulary $V$, the following conventions are used in this document to denote different syntactic parts of OWL 2 ontologies:

• OP denotes an object property;
• OPE denotes an object property expression;
• DP denotes a data property;
• DPE denotes a data property expression;
• C denotes a class;
• CE denotes a class expression;
• DT denotes a datatype;
• DR denotes a data range;
• a denotes an individual (named or anonymous);
• lt denotes a literal; and
• F denotes a constraining facet.

### 2.2 Interpretations

Given a datatype map $D$ and a vocabulary $V$ over $D$, an interpretation $I = (\Delta_I, \Delta_D, \cdot^C, \cdot^{OP}, \cdot^{DP}, \cdot^I, \cdot^{DT}, \cdot^{LT}, \cdot^{FA}, \text{NAMED})$ for $D$ and $V$ is a 10-tuple with the following structure:

• $\Delta_I$ is a nonempty set called the object domain.
• $\Delta_D$ is a nonempty set disjoint with $\Delta_I$ called the data domain such that $(DT)^{DT} \subseteq \Delta_D$ for each datatype $DT \in V_D$.
• $\cdot^C$ is the class interpretation function that assigns to each class $C \in V_C$ a subset $(C)^C \subseteq \Delta_I$ such that
  - $(\text{owl:Thing})^C = \Delta_I$ and
  - $(\text{owl:Nothing})^C = \emptyset$.
• $\cdot^{OP}$ is the object property interpretation function that assigns to each object property $OP \in V_{OP}$ a subset $(OP)^{OP} \subseteq \Delta_I \times \Delta_I$ such that
  - $(\text{owl:topObjectProperty})^{OP} = \Delta_I \times \Delta_I$ and
  - $(\text{owl:bottomObjectProperty})^{OP} = \emptyset$.
• $\cdot^{DP}$ is the data property interpretation function that assigns to each data property $DP \in V_{DP}$ a subset $(DP)^{DP} \subseteq \Delta_I \times \Delta_D$ such that
  - $(\text{owl:topDataProperty})^{DP} = \Delta_I \times \Delta_D$ and
  - $(\text{owl:bottomDataProperty})^{DP} = \emptyset$.
• $\cdot^I$ is the individual interpretation function that assigns to each individual $a \in V_I$ an element $(a)^I \in \Delta_I$.
• $\cdot^{DT}$ is the datatype interpretation function that assigns to each datatype $DT \in V_{DT}$ a subset $(DT)^{DT} \subseteq \Delta_D$ such that
  - $\cdot^{DT}$ is the same as in $D$ for each datatype $DT \in N_{DT}$, and
  - $(\text{rdfs:Literal})^{DT} = \Delta_D$.
• $\cdot^{LT}$ is the literal interpretation function that is defined as $(lt)^{LT} = (LV, DT)^{LS}$ for each $lt \in V_{LT}$, where $LV$ is the lexical form of $lt$ and $DT$ is the datatype of $lt$. 
• \( FA \) is the \textit{facet interpretation function} that is defined as \((F, lt)^{FA} = (F, (lt)^{LT})^{FS}\) for each \((F, lt) \in V_{FA}\).

• NAMED is a subset of \( \Delta_{I} \) such that \((a)^{I} \in \text{NAMED}\) for each named individual \(a \in V_{I}\).

The following sections define the extensions of \( \cdot^{OP} \), \( \cdot^{DT} \), and \( \cdot^{C} \) to object property expressions, data ranges, and class expressions.

2.2.1 Object Property Expressions

The object property interpretation function \( \cdot^{OP} \) is extended to object property expressions as shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object Property Expression</th>
<th>Interpretation ( \cdot^{OP} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ObjectInverseOf( OP )</td>
<td>( {(x,y)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.2 Data Ranges

The datatype interpretation function \( \cdot^{DT} \) is extended to data ranges as shown in Table 3. All datatypes in OWL 2 are unary, so each datatype \( DT \) is interpreted as a unary relation over \( \Delta_{D} \) — that is, as a set \( (DT)^{DT} \subseteq \Delta_{D} \). OWL 2 currently does not define data ranges of arity more than one; however, by allowing for \( n \)-ary data ranges, the syntax of OWL 2 provides a “hook” allowing implementations to introduce extensions such as comparisons and arithmetic. An \( n \)-ary data range \( DR \) is interpreted as an \( n \)-ary relation \( (DR)^{DT} \) over \( \Delta_{D} \) — that is, as a set \( (DT)^{DT} \subseteq (\Delta_{D})^{n} \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Range</th>
<th>Interpretation ( \cdot^{DT} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DataIntersectionOf( DR_{1} ... DR_{n} )</td>
<td>((DR_{1})^{DT} \cap ... \cap (DR_{n})^{DT})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataUnionOf( DR_{1} ... DR_{n} )</td>
<td>((DR_{1})^{DT} \cup ... \cup (DR_{n})^{DT})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataComplementOf( DR )</td>
<td>((\Delta_{D})^{n} \setminus (DR)^{DT}) where ( n ) is the arity of ( DR )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataOneOf( lt_{1} ... lt_{n} )</td>
<td>( {(lt_{1})^{LT}, ..., (lt_{n})^{LT}} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DatatypeRestriction( DT F_{1} lt_{1} ... F_{n} lt_{n} )</td>
<td>((DT)^{DT} \cap (F_{1}, (lt_{1})^{FA})^{FS} ... \cap (F_{n}, (lt_{n})^{FA})^{FS})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.2.3 Class Expressions

The class interpretation function $\cdot^C$ is extended to class expressions as shown in Table 4. For $S$ a set, $\#S$ denotes the number of elements in $S$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Expression</th>
<th>Interpretation $\cdot^C$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ObjectIntersectionOf( CE$_1$ ... CE$_n$ )</td>
<td>$(CE_1)^C \cap ... \cap (CE_n)^C$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectUnionOf( CE$_1$ ... CE$_n$ )</td>
<td>$(CE_1)^C \cup ... \cup (CE_n)^C$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectComplementOf( CE )</td>
<td>$\Delta_i \setminus (CE)^C$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectOneOf( a$_1$ ... a$_n$ )</td>
<td>${ (a_1)^I, ... , (a_n)^I }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectSomeValuesFrom( OPE CE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid \exists y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } y \in (CE)^C }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectAllValuesFrom( OPE CE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid \forall y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \implies y \in (CE)^C }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectHasValue( OPE a )</td>
<td>${ x \mid (x, (a)^I) \in (OPE)^{OP} }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectHasSelf( OPE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid (x, x) \in (OPE)^{OP} }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectMinCardinality( n OPE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} } \geq n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectMaxCardinality( n OPE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} } \leq n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectExactCardinality( n OPE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} } = n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectMinCardinality( n OPE CE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } y \in (CE)^C } \geq n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectMaxCardinality( n OPE CE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } y \in (CE)^C } \leq n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectExactCardinality( n OPE CE )</td>
<td>${ x \mid #{ y \mid (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } y \in (CE)^C } = n }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataSomeValuesFrom( DPE$_1$ ... DPE$_n$ DR )</td>
<td>${ x \mid \exists y_1, ... , y_n : (x, y_k) \in (DPE_k)^{DP} \text{ for each } 1 \leq k \leq n \text{ and } (y_1, ... , y_n) \in (DR)^{DT} }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataAllValuesFrom( DPE$_1$ ... DPE$_n$ DR )</td>
<td>${ x \mid \forall y_1, ... , y_n : (x, y_k) \in (DPE_k)^{DP} \text{ for each } 1 \leq k \leq n \text{ imply } (y_1, ... , y_n) \in (DR)^{DT} }$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Satisfaction in an Interpretation

An axiom or an ontology is satisfied in an interpretation $I = (\Delta_I, \Delta_D, .^C, .^OP, .^DP, .^I, .^DT, .^LT, .^FA, NAMED)$ if the appropriate condition from the following sections holds.

2.3.1 Class Expression Axioms

Satisfaction of OWL 2 class expression axioms in $I$ is defined as shown in Table 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SubClassOf( CE1 CE2 )</td>
<td>$(CE_1)^C \subseteq (CE_2)^C$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EquivalentClasses( CE1 ... CE_n )</td>
<td>$(CE_j)^C = (CE_k)^C$ for each $1 \leq j \leq n$ and each $1 \leq k \leq n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DisjointClasses( CE1 ... CE_n )</td>
<td>$(CE_j)^C \cap (CE_k)^C = \emptyset$ for each $1 \leq j \leq n$ and each $1 \leq k \leq n$ such that $j \neq k$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DisjointUnion( C CE1 ... CE_n )</td>
<td>$(C)^C = (CE_1)^C \cup ... \cup (CE_n)^C$ and $(CE_j)^C \cap (CE_k)^C = \emptyset$ for each $1 \leq j \leq n$ and each $1 \leq k \leq n$ such that $j \neq k$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.2 Object Property Expression Axioms

Satisfaction of OWL 2 object property expression axioms in $I$ is defined as shown in Table 6.
Table 6. Satisfaction of Object Property Expression Axioms in an Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SubObjectPropertyOf( OPE₁ OPE₂ )</td>
<td>((OPE₁)^{OP} \subseteq (OPE₂)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SubObjectPropertyOf( ObjectPropertyChain( OPE₁ ... OPEₙ ) OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall y₀, ..., yₙ : (y₀, y₁) \in (OPE₁)^{OP} \text{ and } ... \text{ and } (yₙ₋₁, yₙ) \in (OPEₙ)^{OP} \text{ imply } (y₀, yₙ) \in (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EquivalentObjectProperties( OPE₁ ... OPEₙ )</td>
<td>((OPE_j)^{OP} = (OPE_k)^{OP}) for each 1 ≤ j ≤ n and each 1 ≤ k ≤ n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DisjointObjectProperties( OPE₁ ... OPEₙ )</td>
<td>((OPE_j)^{OP} \cap (OPE_k)^{OP} = \emptyset) for each 1 ≤ j ≤ n and each 1 ≤ k ≤ n such that j ≠ k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectPropertyDomain( OPE CE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ implies } x \in (CE)^C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectPropertyRange( OPE CE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ implies } y \in (CE)^C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InverseObjectProperties( OPE₁ OPE₂ )</td>
<td>((OPE₁)^{OP} = {(x, y) \mid (y, x) \in (OPE₂)^{OP}})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FunctionalObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y₁, y₂ : (x, y₁) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } (x, y₂) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ imply } y₁ = y₂)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InverseFunctionalObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x₁, x₂, y : (x₁, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } (x₂, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ imply } x₁ = x₂)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReflexiveObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x : x \in Δ_i \text{ implies } (x, x) \in (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IrreflexiveObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x : x \in Δ_i \text{ implies } (x, x) \notin (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SymmetricObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ implies } (y, x) \in (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AsymmetricObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ implies } (y, x) \notin (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TransitiveObjectProperty( OPE )</td>
<td>(\forall x, y, z : (x, y) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ and } (y, z) \in (OPE)^{OP} \text{ imply } (x, z) \in (OPE)^{OP})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.3 Data Property Expression Axioms

Satisfaction of OWL 2 data property expression axioms in \(I\) is defined as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Satisfaction of Data Property Expression Axioms in an Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3.4 Datatype Definitions

Satisfaction of datatype definitions in $I$ is defined as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8.** Satisfaction of Datatype Definitions in an Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DatatypeDefinition( DT DR )</td>
<td>$(DT)^{DT} = (DR)^{DT}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.5 Keys

Satisfaction of keys in $I$ is defined as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9.** Satisfaction of Keys in an Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|HasKey( CE ( OPE₁ ... OPEₘ ) ( DPE₁ ... DPEₙ ) ) | $\forall x, y, z₁, ..., zₘ, w₁, ..., wₙ:  
if $x \in (CE)^C$ and $x \in NAMED$ and  
y $\in (CE)^C$ and $y \in NAMED$ and  
$(x, zᵢ) \in (OPEᵢ)^{DP}$ and $(y, zᵢ) \in (OPEᵢ)^{OP}$ and  
zᵢ $\in NAMED$ for each $1 \leq i \leq m$ and  
$(x, wⱼ) \in (DPEⱼ)^{DP}$ and $(y, wⱼ) \in (DPEⱼ)^{DP}$ for  
each $1 \leq j \leq n$ then $x = y$ |

2.3.6 Assertions

Satisfaction of OWL 2 assertions in $I$ is defined as shown in Table 10.
Table 10. Satisfaction of Assertions in an Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axiom</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SameIndividual( a₁ ... aₙ )</td>
<td>(((a_j)ᵢ = (a_k)ᵢ \text{ for each } 1 \leq j \leq n \text{ and each } 1 \leq k \leq n))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DifferentIndividuals( a₁ ... aₙ )</td>
<td>(((a_j)ᵢ \neq (a_k)ᵢ \text{ for each } 1 \leq j \leq n \text{ and each } 1 \leq k \leq n \text{ such that } j \neq k))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ClassAssertion( CE a )</td>
<td>((a)ᵢ \in (CE) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ObjectPropertyAssertion( OPE a₁ a₂ )</td>
<td>(((a₁)ᵢ , (a₂)ᵢ) \in (OPE) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion( OPE a₁ a₂ )</td>
<td>(((a₁)ᵢ , (a₂)ᵢ) \notin (OPE) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DataPropertyAssertion( DPE a lt )</td>
<td>(((a)ᵢ , (lt)ᵀ) \in (DPE) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NegativeDataPropertyAssertion( DPE a lt )</td>
<td>(((a)ᵢ , (lt)ᵀ) \notin (DPE) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.7 Ontologies

An OWL 2 ontology O is satisfied in an interpretation I if all axioms in the axiom closure of O (with anonymous individuals standardized apart as described in Section 5.6.2 of the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification]) are satisfied in I.

2.4 Models

Given a datatype map D, an interpretation I = (ΔI , ΔD , C , OP , DP , I , DT , LT , FA , NAMED) for D is a model of an OWL 2 ontology O w.r.t. D if an interpretation J = (ΔI , ΔD , C , OP , DP , J , DT , LT , FA , NAMED) for D exists such that J coincides with I on all named individuals and J satisfies O.

Thus, an interpretation I satisfying O is also a model of O. In contrast, a model I of O may not satisfy O directly; however, by modifying the interpretation of anonymous individuals, I can always be coerced into an interpretation J that satisfies O.

2.5 Inference Problems

Let D be a datatype map and V a vocabulary over D. Furthermore, let O and O₁ be OWL 2 ontologies, CE, CE₁, and CE₂ class expressions, and a a named individual, such that all of them refer only to the vocabulary elements in V. Furthermore, variables are symbols that are not contained in V. Finally, a Boolean conjunctive query Q is a closed formula of the form

\[ \exists x_1 , \ldots , x_n , y_1 , \ldots , y_m : [ A_1 \land \ldots \land A_k ] \]
where each $A_i$ is an atom of the form $C(s)$, $0P(s,t)$, or $DP(s,u)$ with $C$ a class, $0P$ an object property, $DP$ a data property, $s$ and $t$ individuals or some variable $x_j$, and $u$ a literal or some variable $y_j$.

The following inference problems are often considered in practice.

**Ontology Consistency**: $O$ is consistent (or satisfiable) w.r.t. $D$ if a model of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$ exists.

**Ontology Entailment**: $O$ entails $O_1$ w.r.t. $D$ if every model of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$ is also a model of $O_1$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$.

**Ontology Equivalence**: $O$ and $O_1$ are equivalent w.r.t. $D$ if $O$ entails $O_1$ w.r.t. $D$ and $O_1$ entails $O$ w.r.t. $D$.

**Ontology Equisatisfiability**: $O$ and $O_1$ are equisatisfiable w.r.t. $D$ if $O$ is satisfiable w.r.t. $D$ if and only if $O_1$ is satisfiable w.r.t. $D$.

**Class Expression Satisfiability**: $CE$ is satisfiable w.r.t. $O$ and $D$ if a model $I = (Δ_I, Δ_D, C, OP, DP, I, DT, LT, FA, NAMED)$ of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$ exists such that $(CE)^C \neq ∅$.

**Class Expression Subsumption**: $CE_1$ is subsumed by a class expression $CE_2$ w.r.t. $O$ and $D$ if $(CE_1)^C \subseteq (CE_2)^C$ for each model $I = (Δ_I, Δ_D, C, OP, DP, I, DT, LT, FA, NAMED)$ of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$.

**Instance Checking**: $a$ is an instance of $CE$ w.r.t. $O$ and $D$ if $(a)^I \in (CE)^C$ for each model $I = (Δ_I, Δ_D, C, OP, DP, I, DT, LT, FA, NAMED)$ of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$.

**Boolean Conjunctive Query Answering**: $Q$ is an answer w.r.t. $O$ and $D$ if $Q$ is true in each model of $O$ w.r.t. $D$ and $V$ according to the standard definitions of first-order logic.

In order to ensure that ontology entailment, class expression satisfiability, class expression subsumption, and instance checking are decidable, the following restriction w.r.t. $O$ needs to be satisfied:

Each class expression of type MinObjectCardinality, MaxObjectCardinality, ExactObjectCardinality, and ObjectHasSelf that occurs in $O_1$, $CE$, $CE_1$, and $CE_2$ can contain only object property expressions that are simple in the axiom closure $Ax$ of $O$.

For ontology equivalence to be decidable, $O_1$ needs to satisfy this restriction w.r.t. $O$ and vice versa. These restrictions are analogous to the first condition from Section 11.2 of the OWL 2 Specification [OWL 2 Specification].

### 3 Independence of the Direct Semantics from the Datatype Map in OWL 2 DL (Informative)

OWL 2 DL has been defined so that the consequences of an OWL 2 DL ontology $O$ do not depend on the choice of a datatype map, as long as the datatype map chosen contains all the datatypes occurring in $O$. This statement is made precise by the following theorem, and it has several useful consequences:
• One can apply the direct semantics to an OWL 2 DL ontology \( O \) by considering only the datatypes explicitly occurring in \( O \).
• When referring to various reasoning problems, the datatype map \( D \) need not be given explicitly, as it is sufficient to consider an implicit datatype map containing only the datatypes from the given ontology.
• OWL 2 DL reasoners can provide datatypes not explicitly mentioned in this specification without fear that this will change the meaning of OWL 2 DL ontologies not using these datatypes.

**Theorem DS1.** Let \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) be OWL 2 DL ontologies over a vocabulary \( V \) and \( D = ( N_{DT}, N_{LS}, N_{FS}, \cdot_{DT}, \cdot_{LS}, \cdot_{FS} ) \) a datatype map such that each datatype mentioned in \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) is \( \text{rdfs:Literal} \), a datatype defined in the respective ontology, or it occurs in \( N_{DT} \).

Furthermore, let \( D' = ( N'_{DT}, N'_{LS}, N'_{FS}, \cdot'_{DT}, \cdot'_{LS}, \cdot'_{FS} ) \) be a datatype map such that \( N_{DT} \subseteq N'_{DT}, N_{LS}(DT) = N'_{LS}(DT) \), and \( N_{FS}(DT) = N'_{FS}(DT) \) for each \( DT \in N_{DT} \), and \( \cdot'_{DT}, \cdot'_{LS}, \cdot'_{FS} \) are extensions of \( \cdot_{DT}, \cdot_{LS}, \text{ and } \cdot_{FS} \), respectively. Then, \( O_1 \) entails \( O_2 \) w.r.t. \( D \) if and only if \( O_1 \) entails \( O_2 \) w.r.t. \( D' \).

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, one can assume \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) to be in negation-normal form [Description Logics]. Furthermore, since datatype definitions in \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) are acyclic, one can assume that each defined datatype has been recursively replaced with its definition; thus, all datatypes in \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) are from \( N_{DT} \cup \{ \text{rdfs:Literal} \} \). The claim of the theorem is equivalent to the following statement: an interpretation \( I \) w.r.t. \( D \) and \( V \) exists such that \( O_1 \) is and \( O_2 \) is not satisfied in \( I \) if and only if an interpretation \( I' \) w.r.t. \( D' \) and \( V \) exists such that \( O_1 \) is and \( O_2 \) is not satisfied in \( I' \). The \((\leftarrow\right)\) direction is trivial since each interpretation \( I \) w.r.t. \( D' \) and \( V \) is also an interpretation w.r.t. \( D \) and \( V \). For the \((\Rightarrow)\) direction, assume that an interpretation \( I = ( \Delta_I, \Delta_D, \cdot^C, \cdot^OP, \cdot^DP, \cdot^I, \cdot^LT, \cdot^FA, \cdot^NAMED ) \) w.r.t. \( D \) and \( V \) exists such that \( O_1 \) is and \( O_2 \) is not satisfied in \( I \). Let \( I' = ( \Delta_I, \Delta_D', \cdot'^C, \cdot'^OP, \cdot'^DP, \cdot'^I, \cdot'^LT, \cdot'^FA, \cdot'^NAMED ) \) be an interpretation such that

- \( \Delta_D' \) is obtained by extending \( \Delta_D \) with the value space of all datatypes in \( N_{DT}' \setminus N_{DT} \),
- \( \cdot'^C \) coincides with \( \cdot^C \) on all classes, and
- \( \cdot'^DP \) coincides with \( \cdot^DP \) on all data properties apart from \text{owl:topDataProperty}.

Clearly, \( \text{DataComplementOf}( DR )_{DT} \subseteq \text{DataComplementOf}( DR )_{DT}' \) for each data range \( DR \) that is either a datatype, a datatype restriction, or an enumerated data range. The \text{owl:topDataProperty} property can occur in \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \) only in tautologies. The interpretation of all other data properties is the same in \( I \) and \( I' \), so \( \text{(CE)}_C = \text{(CE)}'_C \) for each class expression \( CE \) occurring in \( O_1 \) and \( O_2 \). Therefore, \( O_1 \) is and \( O_2 \) is not satisfied in \( I' \). QED

4 Appendix: Change Log (Informative)

4.1 Changes Since Recommendation

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the [Recommendation of 27 October, 2009](http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/PER-owl2-direct-semantics-20121018/).

- With the publication of the XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2: Datatypes [Recommendation of 5 April 2012](http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/REC-xsd11-20120405/), the elements of OWL 2 which are based on XSD 1.1 are now considered required, and the note detailing the optional
dependency on the XSD 1.1 Candidate Recommendation of 30 April, 2009 has been removed from the "Status of this Document" section.

- A bug in the specification of the semantics of keys in Section 2.3.5 was fixed by replacing the ISNAMED function defined in Section 2.3 with an extension of interpretations as defined in Section 2.2 to include a set NAMED that contains all those elements interpreting named individuals.
- Minor typographical errors were corrected as detailed on the OWL 2 Errata page.

4.2 Changes Since Proposed Recommendation

No changes have been made to this document since the Proposed Recommendation of 22 September, 2009.

4.3 Changes Since Candidate Recommendation

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the Candidate Recommendation of 11 June, 2009.

- An editorial comment was added to clarify the role played by the OWL 2 datatype map.

4.4 Changes Since Last Call

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the Last Call Working Draft of 21 April, 2009.

- Some minor editorial changes were made.

5 Acknowledgments

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The regular attendees at meetings of the OWL Working Group at the time of publication of this document were: Jie Bao (RPI), Diego Calvanese (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), Bernardo Cuenca Grau (Oxford University Computing Laboratory), Martin Dzbor (Open University), Achille Fokoue (IBM Corporation), Christine Golbreich (Université de Versailles St-Quentin and LIRMM), Sandro Hawke (W3C/MIT), Ivan Herman (W3C/ERCIM), Rinke Hoekstra (University of Amsterdam), Ian Horrocks (Oxford University Computing Laboratory), Elisa Kendall (Sandpiper Software), Markus Krötzsch (FZI), Carsten Lutz (Universität Bremen), Deborah L. McGuinness (RPI), Boris Motik (Oxford University Computing Laboratory), Jeff Pan (University of Aberdeen), Bijan Parsia (University of Manchester), Peter F. Patel-Schneider (Bell Labs Research, Alcatel-Lucent), Sebastian Rudolph (FZI), Alan Ruttenberg (Science Commons), Uli Sattler (University of Manchester), Michael Schneider (FZI), Mike Smith (Clark & Parsia), Evan Wallace (NIST), Zhe Wu (Oracle
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6 References

6.1 Normative References

[OWL 2 Specification]
OWL 2 Web Ontology Language: Structural Specification and Functional-Style Syntax

6.2 Nonnormative References

[Description Logics]

[OWL 1 Semantics and Abstract Syntax]

[OWL 2 Profiles]

[SROIQ]