



# OWL 2 Web Ontology Language: Profiles

W3C Working Draft 02 December 2008

**This version:**

<http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-profiles-20081202/>

**Latest version:**

<http://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-profiles/>

**Previous version:**

<http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-profiles-20081008/>

**Editors:**

[Boris Motik](#), Oxford University  
[Bernardo Cuenca Grau](#), Oxford University  
[Ian Horrocks](#), Oxford University  
[Zhe Wu](#), Oracle  
[Achille Fokoue](#), IBM  
[Carsten Lutz](#), University of Bremen

**Contributors:**

[Diego Calvanese](#), Free University of Bozen-Bolzano  
[Jeremy Carroll](#), TopQuadrant  
[Giuseppe De Giacomo](#), Sapienza Università di Roma  
[Ivan Herman](#), W3C/ERCIM  
[Bijan Parsia](#), University of Manchester  
[Peter F Patel-Schneider](#), Bell Labs Research, Alcatel-Lucent  
[Alan Ruttenberg](#), Science Commons (Creative Commons)

This document is also available in these non-normative formats: [PDF version](#).

---

Copyright © 2008 W3C® ([MIT](#), [ERCIM](#), [Keio](#)), All Rights Reserved. W3C [liability](#), [trademark](#) and [document use](#) rules apply.

---

## Abstract

OWL 2 extends the W3C OWL Web Ontology Language with a small but useful set of features that have been requested by users, for which effective reasoning algorithms are now available, and that OWL tool developers are willing to support. The new features include extra syntactic sugar, additional property and qualified cardinality constructors, extended datatype support, simple metamodeling, and

extended annotations.

This document provides a specification of several profiles of OWL 2 which can be more simply and/or efficiently implemented. In logic, profiles are often called fragments. Most profiles are defined by placing restrictions on the structure of OWL 2 ontologies. These restrictions have been specified by modifying the productions of the functional-style syntax.

## 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### May Be Superseded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](http://www.w3.org/TR/) at <http://www.w3.org/TR/>.*

### Set of Documents

This document is being published as one of a set of 11 documents:

1. [Structural Specification and Functional-Style Syntax](#)
2. [Direct Semantics](#)
3. [RDF-Based Semantics](#)
4. [Conformance and Test Cases](#)
5. [Mapping to RDF Graphs](#)
6. [XML Serialization](#)
7. [Profiles](#) (this document)
8. [Quick Reference Guide](#)
9. [New Features and Rationale](#)
10. [Manchester Syntax](#)
11. [rdf:text: A Datatype for Internationalized Text](#)

### Last Call

The Working Group believes it has completed its design work for the technologies specified this document, so this is a "Last Call" draft. The design is not expected to change significantly, going forward, and now is the key time for external review, before the implementation phase.

### Summary of Changes

This document has been updated to keep in sync with the Syntax document. Apart from that, certain errors in the OWL 2 RL/RDF rule set were corrected.

**Please Comment By 23 January 2009**

The [OWL Working Group](#) seeks public feedback on these Working Drafts. Please send your comments to [public-owl-comments@w3.org](mailto:public-owl-comments@w3.org) ([public archive](#)). If possible, please offer specific changes to the text that would address your concern. You may also wish to check the [Wiki Version](#) of this document for internal-review comments and changes being drafted which may address your concerns.

**No Endorsement**

*Publication as a Working Draft 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](#).*

---

## Contents

- [1 Introduction](#)
- [2 OWL 2 EL](#)
  - [2.1 Feature Overview](#)
  - [2.2 Profile Specification](#)
    - [2.2.1 Entities](#)
    - [2.2.2 Property Expressions](#)
    - [2.2.3 Class Expressions](#)
    - [2.2.4 Data Ranges](#)
    - [2.2.5 Axioms](#)
    - [2.2.6 Global Restrictions](#)
- [3 OWL 2 QL](#)
  - [3.1 Feature Overview](#)
  - [3.2 Profile Specification](#)
    - [3.2.1 Entities](#)
    - [3.2.2 Property Expressions](#)
    - [3.2.3 Class Expressions](#)
    - [3.2.4 Data Ranges](#)
    - [3.2.5 Axioms](#)
- [4 OWL 2 RL](#)

- [4.1 Feature Overview](#)
- [4.2 Profile Specification](#)
  - [4.2.1 Entities](#)
  - [4.2.2 Property Expressions](#)
  - [4.2.3 Class Expressions](#)
  - [4.2.4 Data Ranges](#)
  - [4.2.5 Axioms](#)
- [4.3 Reasoning in OWL 2 RL and RDF Graphs using Rules](#)
- [5 Computational Properties](#)
- [6 Appendix: Complete Grammars for Profiles](#)
  - [6.1 OWL 2 EL](#)
  - [6.2 OWL 2 QL](#)
  - [6.3 OWL 2 RL](#)
- [7 Acknowledgments](#)
- [8 References](#)

## 1 Introduction

An OWL 2 *profile* (commonly called a *fragment* or a *sublanguage* in computational logic) is a trimmed down version of OWL 2 that trades some expressive power for the efficiency of reasoning. This document describes three profiles of OWL 2, each of which achieves efficiency in a different way and is useful in different application scenarios. The choice of which profile to use in practice will depend on the structure of the ontologies and the reasoning tasks at hand.

- **OWL 2 EL** is particularly useful in applications employing ontologies that contain very large numbers of properties and/or classes. This profile captures the expressive power used by many such ontologies and is a subset of OWL 2 for which the basic reasoning problems can be performed in time that is polynomial with respect to the size of the ontology [[EL++](#)]. Dedicated reasoning algorithms for this profile are available and have been demonstrated to be implementable in a highly scalable way.
- **OWL 2 QL** is aimed at applications that use very large volumes of instance data, and where query answering is the most important reasoning task. In OWL 2 QL, conjunctive query answering can be implemented using conventional relational database systems. Using a suitable reasoning technique, sound and complete conjunctive query answering can be performed in LOGSPACE with respect to the size of the data (assertions). As in OWL 2 EL, polynomial time algorithms can be used to implement the ontology consistency and class expression subsumption reasoning problems. The expressive power of the profile is necessarily quite limited, although it does include most of the main features of conceptual models such as UML class diagrams and ER diagrams.
- **OWL 2 RL** is aimed at applications that require scalable reasoning without sacrificing too much expressive power. It is designed to accommodate

OWL 2 applications that can trade the full expressivity of the language for efficiency, as well as RDF(S) applications that need some added expressivity. OWL 2 RL reasoning systems can be implemented using rule-based reasoning engines. The ontology consistency, class expression satisfiability, class expression subsumption, instance checking, and conjunctive query answering problems can be solved in time that is polynomial with respect to the size of the ontology.

OWL 2 profiles are defined by placing restrictions on the structure of OWL 2 ontologies. Syntactic restrictions can be specified by modifying the grammar of the functional-style syntax [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] and possibly giving additional global restrictions. In this document, the modified grammars are specified in two ways. In each profile definition, only the difference with respect to the full grammar is given; that is, only the productions that differ from the functional-style syntax are presented, while the productions that are the same as in the functional-style syntax are not repeated. Furthermore, the full grammar for each of the profiles is given in the [Appendix](#).

An ontology in any profile can be written into an ontology document by using any of the syntaxes of OWL 2.

Apart from the ones specified here, there are many other possible profiles of OWL 2 — there are, for example, a whole family of profiles that extend OWL 2 QL. This document does not list OWL Lite [[OWL 1 Reference](#)]; however, all OWL Lite ontologies are OWL 2 ontologies, so OWL Lite can be viewed as a profile of OWL 2. Similarly, OWL 1 DL can also be viewed as a profile of OWL 2.

The italicized keywords *must*, *must not*, *should*, *should not*, and *may* specify certain aspects of the normative behavior of OWL 2 tools, and are interpreted as specified in RFC 2119 [[RFC 2119](#)].

#### **Feature At Risk #1: OWL 2 Specification dependency**

This document depends on the four features identified in the OWL 2 Specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] as being at risk. Depending on the resolution of these features, this document will be updated in accordance with the OWL 2 Specification.

Please send feedback to [public-owl-comments@w3.org](mailto:public-owl-comments@w3.org).

## 2 OWL 2 EL

The OWL 2 EL profile [[EL++](#), [EL++ Update](#)] is designed as a subset of OWL 2 that

- captures the expressive power used by many large-scale ontologies and
- for which ontology satisfiability, class expression subsumption, and instance checking can be decided in polynomial time.

OWL 2 EL provides class constructors that are sufficient to express many complex ontologies, such as the biomedical ontology SNOMED CT [[SNOMED CT](#)].

## 2.1 Feature Overview

OWL 2 EL places restrictions on the type of class restrictions that can be used in axioms. In particular, the following types of class restrictions are supported:

- existential quantification to a class expression (**ObjectSomeValuesFrom**) or a data range (**DataSomeValuesFrom**)
- existential quantification to an individual (**ObjectHasValue**) or a literal (**DataHasValue**)
- self-restriction (**ObjectHasSelf**)
- enumerations involving a *single* individual (**ObjectOneOf**) or a *single* literal (**DataOneOf**)
- intersection of classes (**ObjectIntersectionOf**) and data ranges (**DataIntersectionOf**)

OWL 2 EL supports the following axioms, all of which are restricted to the allowed set of class expressions:

- class inclusion (**SubClassOf**)
- class equivalence (**EquivalentClasses**)
- class disjointness (**DisjointClasses**)
- object property inclusion (**SubObjectPropertyOf**) with or without property chains, and data property inclusion (**SubDataPropertyOf**)
- property equivalence (**EquivalentObjectProperties** and **EquivalentDataProperties**),
- transitive object properties (**TransitiveObjectProperty**)
- reflexive object properties (**ReflexiveObjectProperty**)
- domain restrictions (**ObjectPropertyDomain** and **DataPropertyDomain**)
- range restrictions (**ObjectPropertyRange** and **DataPropertyRange**)
- assertions (**SameIndividual**, **DifferentIndividuals**, **ClassAssertion**, **ObjectPropertyAssertion**, **DataPropertyAssertion**, **NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion**, and **NegativeDataPropertyAssertion**)
- functional data properties (**FunctionalDataProperty**)
- keys (**HasKey**)

The following constructs are not supported in OWL 2 EL:

- universal quantification to a class expression (**ObjectAllValuesFrom**) or a data range (**DataAllValuesFrom**)
- cardinality restrictions (**ObjectMaxCardinality**, **ObjectMinCardinality**, **ObjectExactCardinality**, **DataMaxCardinality**, **DataMinCardinality**, and **DataExactCardinality**)
- disjunction (**ObjectUnionOf**, **DisjointUnion**, and **DataUnionOf**)
- class negation (**ObjectComplementOf**)
- enumerations involving more than one individual (**ObjectOneOf** and **DataOneOf**)

- disjoint properties (**DisjointObjectProperties** and **DisjointDataProperties**)
- irreflexive object properties (**IrreflexiveObjectProperty**)
- inverse object properties (**InverseObjectProperties**)
- functional and inverse-functional object properties (**FunctionalObjectProperty** and **InverseFunctionalObjectProperty**)
- symmetric object properties (**SymmetricObjectProperty**)
- asymmetric object properties (**AsymmetricObjectProperty**)

## 2.2 Profile Specification

The following sections specify the structure of OWL 2 EL ontologies.

### 2.2.1 Entities

Entities are defined in OWL 2 EL in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], and OWL 2 EL supports all predefined classes and properties. Furthermore, OWL 2 EL supports the following datatypes:

- *rdf:text*
- *rdf:XMLLiteral*
- *rdfs:Literal*
- *owl:real*
- *owl:rational*
- *xsd:decimal*
- *xsd:integer*
- *xsd:nonNegativeInteger*
- *xsd:string*
- *xsd:normalizedString*
- *xsd:token*
- *xsd:Name*
- *xsd:NCName*
- *xsd:NMTOKEN*
- *xsd:hexBinary*
- *xsd:base64Binary*
- *xsd:anyURI*
- *owl:dateTime*

The set of supported datatypes has been designed such that the intersection of the value spaces of any set of these datatypes is either empty or infinite, which is necessary to obtain the desired computational properties [[EL++](#)]. Consequently, the following datatypes *must not* be used in OWL 2 EL: *owl:realPlus*, *xsd:double*, *xsd:float*, *xsd:nonPositiveInteger*, *xsd:positiveInteger*, *xsd:negativeInteger*, *xsd:long*, *xsd:int*, *xsd:short*, *xsd:byte*, *xsd:unsignedLong*, *xsd:unsignedInt*, *xsd:unsignedShort*, *xsd:unsignedByte*, *xsd:language*, and *xsd:boolean*.

Finally, OWL 2 EL does not support anonymous individuals.

**Individual** := **NamedIndividual**

### 2.2.2 Property Expressions

Inverse properties are not supported in OWL 2 EL, so object property expressions are restricted to named properties. Data property expressions are defined in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

**ObjectPropertyExpression** := **ObjectProperty**

### 2.2.3 Class Expressions

In order to allow for efficient reasoning, OWL 2 EL restricts the set of supported class expressions to **ObjectIntersectionOf**, **ObjectSomeValuesFrom**, **ObjectHasSelf**, **ObjectHasValue**, **DataSomeValuesFrom**, **DataHasValue**, and **ObjectOneOf** containing a single individual.

**ClassExpression** :=  
**Class** | **ObjectIntersectionOf** | **ObjectOneOf** |  
**ObjectSomeValuesFrom** | **ObjectHasValue** | **ObjectHasSelf** |  
**DataSomeValuesFrom** | **DataHasValue**  
**ObjectOneOf** := 'OneOf' '(' **Individual** ')'

### 2.2.4 Data Ranges

A data range expression is restricted in OWL 2 EL to the predefined datatypes admitted in OWL 2 EL, intersections of data ranges, and to enumerations of literals consisting of a single literal.

**DataRange** := **Datatype** | **DataIntersectionOf** | **DataOneOf**  
**DataOneOf** := 'OneOf' '(' **Literal** ')'



### 2.2.5 Axioms

The class axioms of OWL 2 EL are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the exception that **DisjointUnion** is disallowed. Different class axioms are defined in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the difference that they use the new definition of **ClassExpression**.

**ClassAxiom** := **SubClassOf** | **EquivalentClasses** | **DisjointClasses**

OWL 2 EL supports the following object property axioms, which are defined in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the difference that they use the new definition of **ObjectPropertyExpression**.

**ObjectPropertyAxiom** :=  
**EquivalentObjectProperties** | **SubObjectPropertyOf** |  
**ObjectPropertyDomain** | **ObjectPropertyRange** |  
**ReflexiveObjectProperty** | **TransitiveObjectProperty**

OWL 2 EL provides the same axioms about data properties as the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] apart from **DisjointDataProperties**.

**DataPropertyAxiom** :=  
**SubDataPropertyOf** | **EquivalentDataProperties** |  
**DataPropertyDomain** | **DataPropertyRange** | **FunctionalDataProperty**

The assertions in OWL 2 EL, as well as all other axioms, are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the difference that class object property expressions are restricted as defined in the previous sections.

### 2.2.6 Global Restrictions

OWL 2 EL extends the global restrictions on axioms from Section 11 of the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] with an additional condition [[EL++ Update](#)]. In order to define this condition, the following notion is used.

The set of axioms  $A_X$  *imposes a range restriction to a class expression*  $CE$  *on an object property*  $OP_1$  if  $A_X$  contains the following axioms, where  $k \geq 1$  is an integer and  $OP_i$  are object properties:

```

SubPropertyOf( OP1 OP2)
...
SubPropertyOf( OPk-1 OPk )
PropertyRange( OPk CE )

```

The axiom closure  $A_x$  of an OWL 2 EL ontology *must* obey the restrictions described in Section 11 of the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] and, in addition, if

- $A_x$  contains `SubPropertyOf( PropertyChain( OP1 ... OPn ) OP )` and
- $A_x$  imposes a range restriction to some class expression `CE` on `OP`

then  $A_x$  *must* impose a range restriction to `CE` on `OPn`.

This additional restriction is vacuously true for each **SubObjectPropertyOf** axiom in which in the first item of the previous definition does not contain a property chain. There are no additional restrictions for range restrictions on reflexive and transitive roles — that is, a range restriction can be placed on a reflexive and/or transitive role provided that it satisfies the previously mentioned restriction.

### 3 OWL 2 QL

The OWL 2 QL profile admits sound and complete reasoning in LOGSPACE with respect to the size of the data (assertions), while providing many of the main features necessary to express conceptual models such as UML class diagrams and ER diagrams. In particular, this profile contains the intersection of RDFS and OWL 2. It is based on the DL-Lite family of description logics. Several variants of DL-Lite have been described in the literature [[DL-Lite](#)], and DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> provides the logical underpinning for OWL 2 QL. DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> does not require the unique name assumption (UNA), since making this assumption would have no impact on the semantic consequences of a DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> ontology. More expressive variants of DL-Lite, such as DL-Lite<sub>A</sub>, extend DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> with functional properties, and these can also be extended with keys; however, for query answering to remain in LOGSPACE, these extensions require UNA and need to impose certain global restrictions on the interaction between properties used in different types of axiom. Basing OWL 2 QL on DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> avoids practical problems involved in the explicit axiomatization of UNA. Other variants of DL-Lite can also be supported on top of OWL 2 QL, but may require additional restrictions on the structure of ontologies [[DL-Lite](#)].

#### 3.1 Feature Overview

OWL 2 QL is defined not only in terms of the set of supported constructs, but it also restricts the places in which these constructs are allowed to occur. The allowed usage of constructs in class expressions is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Syntactic Restrictions on Class Expressions in OWL 2 QL

Subclass Expressions	Superclass Expressions
a class existential quantification ( <b>ObjectSomeValuesFrom</b> ) where the class is limited to <i>owl:Thing</i> existential quantification to a data range ( <b>DataSomeValuesFrom</b> )	a class existential quantification to a class ( <b>ObjectSomeValuesFrom</b> ) existential quantification to a data range ( <b>DataSomeValuesFrom</b> ) negation ( <b>ObjectComplementOf</b> ) intersection ( <b>ObjectIntersectionOf</b> )

OWL 2 QL supports the following axioms, constrained so as to be compliant with the mentioned restrictions on class expressions:

- subclass axioms (**SubClassOf**)
- class expression equivalence (**EquivalentClasses**)
- class expression disjointness (**DisjointClasses**)
- inverse object properties (**InverseObjectProperties**)
- property inclusion (**SubObjectPropertyOf** not involving property chains and **SubDataPropertyOf**)
- property equivalence (**EquivalentObjectProperties** and **EquivalentDataProperties**)
- property domain (**ObjectPropertyDomain** and **DataPropertyDomain**)
- property range (**ObjectPropertyRange** and **DataPropertyRange**)
- disjoint properties (**DisjointObjectProperties** and **DisjointDataProperties**)
- symmetric properties (**SymmetricObjectProperty**)
- assertions other than the equality assertions (**DifferentIndividuals**, **ClassAssertion**, **ObjectPropertyAssertion**, and **DataPropertyAssertion**)

The following constructs are not supported in OWL 2 QL:

- existential quantification to a class expression or a data range (**ObjectSomeValuesFrom** in the subclass position)
- self-restriction (**ObjectHasSelf**)
- existential quantification to an individual or a literal (**ObjectHasValue**, **DataHasValue**)
- enumeration of individuals and literals (**ObjectOneOf**, **DataOneOf**)
- universal quantification to a class expression or a data range (**ObjectAllValuesFrom**, **DataAllValuesFrom**)
- cardinality restrictions (**ObjectMaxCardinality**, **ObjectMinCardinality**, **ObjectExactCardinality**, **DataMaxCardinality**, **DataMinCardinality**, **DataExactCardinality**)
- disjunction (**ObjectUnionOf**, **DisjointUnion**, and **DataUnionOf**)
- property inclusions (**SubObjectPropertyOf** involving property chains)
- functional and inverse-functional properties (**FunctionalObjectProperty**, **InverseFunctionalObjectProperty**, and **FunctionalDataProperty**)
- transitive properties (**TransitiveObjectProperty**)
- reflexive properties (**ReflexiveObjectProperty**)
- irreflexive properties (**IrreflexiveObjectProperty**)

- asymmetric properties (**AsymmetricObjectProperty**)
- keys (**HasKey**)

### 3.2 Profile Specification

The productions for OWL 2 QL are defined in the following sections. Note that each OWL 2 QL ontology must satisfy the global restrictions on axioms defined in Section 11 of the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

#### 3.2.1 Entities

Entities are defined in OWL 2 QL in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], and OWL 2 QL supports all predefined classes and properties. Furthermore, OWL 2 QL supports the following datatypes:

- *rdf:text*
- *rdf:XMLLiteral*
- *rdfs:Literal*
- *owl:real*
- *owl:rational*
- *xsd:decimal*
- *xsd:integer*
- *xsd:nonNegativeInteger*
- *xsd:string*
- *xsd:normalizedString*
- *xsd:token*
- *xsd:Name*
- *xsd:NCName*
- *xsd:NMTOKEN*
- *xsd:hexBinary*
- *xsd:base64Binary*
- *xsd:anyURI*
- *owl:dateTime*

The set of supported datatypes has been designed such that the intersection of the value spaces of any set of these datatypes is either empty or infinite, which is necessary to obtain the desired computational properties. Consequently, the following datatypes *must not* be used in OWL 2 QL: *owl:realPlus*, *xsd:double*, *xsd:float*, *xsd:nonPositiveInteger*, *xsd:positiveInteger*, *xsd:negativeInteger*, *xsd:long*, *xsd:int*, *xsd:short*, *xsd:byte*, *xsd:unsignedLong*, *xsd:unsignedInt*, *xsd:unsignedShort*, *xsd:unsignedByte*, *xsd:language*, and *xsd:boolean*.

Finally, OWL 2 QL does not support anonymous individuals.

**Individual := NamedIndividual**

### 3.2.2 Property Expressions

OWL 2 QL object and data property expressions are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

### 3.2.3 Class Expressions

In OWL 2 QL, there are two types of class expressions. The **subClassExpression** production defines the class expressions that can occur as subclass expressions in **SubClassOf** axioms, and the **superClassExpression** production defines the classes that can occur as superclass expressions in **SubClassOf** axioms.

```

subClassExpression :=
  Class |
  subObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom
subObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
  ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'
superClassExpression :=
  Class |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superObjectComplementOf |
  superObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom
superObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
  superClassExpression superClassExpression { superClassExpression }
  ')'
superObjectComplementOf := 'ComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression
  ')'
superObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
  ObjectPropertyExpression Class ')'

```

### 3.2.4 Data Ranges

A data range expression is restricted in OWL 2 QL to the predefined datatypes and the intersection of data ranges.

```

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf

```

### 3.2.5 Axioms

The class axioms of OWL 2 QL are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the exception that **DisjointUnion** is disallowed; however, all axioms that refer to the **ClassExpression** production are redefined so as to use **subClassExpression** and/or **superClassExpression** as appropriate.

```

SubClassOf := 'SubClassOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression superClassExpression ')'
EquivalentClasses := 'EquivalentClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'
DisjointClasses := 'DisjointClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'
ClassAxiom := SubClassOf | EquivalentClasses | DisjointClasses

```

OWL 2 QL disallows the use of property chains in property inclusion axioms; however, simple property inclusions are supported. Furthermore, OWL 2 QL disallows the use of functional, transitive, asymmetric, reflexive and irreflexive object properties, and it restricts the class expressions in object property domain and range axioms to **superClassExpression**.

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
SubObjectPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  SymmetricObjectProperty

```

OWL 2 QL disallows functional data property axioms, and it restricts the class expressions in data property domain axioms to **superClassExpression**.

```

DataPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
DataPropertyAxiom :=
  SubDataPropertyOf | EquivalentDataProperties |

```

**DisjointDataProperties** |  
**DataPropertyDomain** | **DataPropertyRange**

OWL 2 QL disallows negative object property assertions and equality axioms. Furthermore, class assertions in OWL 2 QL can involve only atomic classes. Inequality axioms and property assertions are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

**ClassAssertion** := 'ClassAssertion' '(' **axiomAnnotations** **Class**  
**Individual** ') '  
**Assertion** := **DifferentIndividuals** | **ClassAssertion** |  
**ObjectPropertyAssertion** | **DataPropertyAssertion**

Finally, the axioms in OWL 2 QL are the same as those in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], with the exception that **HasKey** axioms are not allowed.

**Axiom** := **Declaration** | **ClassAxiom** | **ObjectPropertyAxiom** |  
**DataPropertyAxiom** | **Assertion** | **AnnotationAxiom**

## 4 OWL 2 RL

The OWL 2 RL profile is aimed at applications that require scalable reasoning without sacrificing too much expressive power. It is designed to accommodate both OWL 2 applications that can trade the full expressivity of the language for efficiency, and RDF(S) applications that need some added expressivity from OWL 2. This is achieved by defining a syntactic subset of OWL 2 which is amenable to implementation using rule-based technologies (see [Section 4.2](#)), and presenting a partial axiomatization of the OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics in the form of first-order implications that can be used as the basis for such an implementation (see [Section 4.3](#)). The design of OWL 2 RL has been inspired by Description Logic Programs [[DLP](#)] and pD\* [[pD\\*](#)].

For ontologies satisfying the syntactic constraints described in [Section 4.2](#), a suitable rule-based implementation will have desirable computational properties; for example, it can return *all* and *only* the correct answers to certain kinds of query (see [Section 4.3](#) and [[Conformance](#)]). Such an implementation can also be used with arbitrary RDF graphs. In this case, however, these properties no longer hold — in particular, it is no longer possible to guarantee that *all* correct answers can be returned.

## 4.1 Feature Overview

Restricting the way in which constructs are used makes it possible to implement reasoning systems using rule-based reasoning engines, while still providing desirable computational guarantees. These restrictions are designed so as to avoid the need to infer the existence of individuals not explicitly present in the knowledge base, and to avoid the need for nondeterministic reasoning. This is achieved by restricting the use of constructs to certain syntactic positions. For example in `SubClassOf` axioms, the constructs in the subclass and superclass expressions must follow the usage patterns shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Syntactic Restrictions on Class Expressions in OWL 2 RL

Subclass Expressions	Superclass Expressions
a class an enumeration of individuals <b>(ObjectOneOf)</b> intersection of class expressions <b>(ObjectIntersectionOf)</b> union of class expressions <b>(ObjectUnionOf)</b> existential quantification to a class expressions <b>(ObjectSomeValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to an individual <b>(ObjectHasValue)</b>	a class intersection of classes <b>(ObjectIntersectionOf)</b> universal quantification to a class expressions <b>(ObjectAllValuesFrom)</b> at-most 1 cardinality restrictions <b>(ObjectMaxCardinality 1)</b> existential quantification to an individual <b>(ObjectHasValue)</b>

All axioms in OWL 2 RL are constrained in a way that is compliant with these restrictions. Thus, OWL 2 RL supports all axioms of OWL 2 apart from disjoint unions of classes (**DisjointUnion**), reflexive object property axioms (**ReflexiveObjectProperty**), and negative object and data property assertions (**NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion** and **NegativeDataPropertyAssertion**).

Implementations based on the partial axiomatization (presented in [Section 4.3](#)) can also be used with arbitrary RDF graphs, but in this case it is no longer possible to provide the above mentioned computational guarantees. Such implementations will, however, still produce only correct entailments (see [[Conformance](#)]).

## 4.2 Profile Specification

The productions for OWL 2 RL are defined in the following sections. OWL 2 RL is defined not only in terms of the set of supported constructs, but it also restricts the places in which these constructs can be used. Note that each OWL 2 RL ontology must satisfy the global restrictions on axioms defined in Section 11 of the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].



#### 4.2.1 Entities

Entities are defined in OWL 2 RL in the same way as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)]. OWL 2 RL supports the the predefined classes *owl:Nothing* and *owl:Thing*, but the usage of the latter class is restricted by the grammar of OWL 2 RL. Furthermore, OWL 2 RL does not support the predefined object and data properties *owl:topObjectProperty*, *owl:bottomObjectProperty*, *owl:topDataProperty*, and *owl:bottomDataProperty*. Finally, OWL 2 RL supports the following datatypes:

- *rdf:text*
- *rdf:XMLLiteral*
- *rdfs:Literal*
- *owl:real*
- *owl:rational*
- *xsd:decimal*
- *xsd:integer*
- *xsd:nonNegativeInteger*
- *xsd:string*
- *xsd:normalizedString*
- *xsd:token*
- *xsd:Name*
- *xsd:NCName*
- *xsd:NMTOKEN*
- *xsd:hexBinary*
- *xsd:base64Binary*
- *xsd:anyURI*
- *owl:dateTime*

The set of supported datatypes has been designed such that the intersection of the value spaces of any set of these datatypes is either empty or infinite, which is necessary to obtain the desired computational properties. Consequently, the following datatypes *must not* be used in OWL 2 RL: *owl:realPlus*, *xsd:double*, *xsd:float*, *xsd:nonPositiveInteger*, *xsd:positiveInteger*, *xsd:negativeInteger*, *xsd:long*, *xsd:int*, *xsd:short*, *xsd:byte*, *xsd:unsignedLong*, *xsd:unsignedInt*, *xsd:unsignedShort*, *xsd:unsignedByte*, *xsd:language*, and *xsd:boolean*.

#### Feature At Risk #2: OWL 2 RL Datatypes

The list of normative datatypes in OWL 2 RL may be reduced based on feedback.

Please send feedback to [public-owl-comments@w3.org](mailto:public-owl-comments@w3.org).

#### 4.2.2 Property Expressions

Property expressions in OWL 2 RL are identical to the property expressions in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

#### 4.2.3 Class Expressions

There are three types of class expressions in OWL 2 RL. The **subClassExpression** production defines the class expressions that can occur as subclass expressions in **SubClassOf** axioms; the **superClassExpression** production defines the classes that can occur as superclass expressions in **SubClassOf** axioms; and the **equivClassExpressions** production defines the classes that can occur in **EquivalentClasses** axioms.

```

zeroOrOne := '0' | '1'

subClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  subObjectIntersectionOf | subObjectUnionOf | ObjectOneOf |
  subObjectSomeValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue |
  DataSomeValuesFrom | DataHasValue
subObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' subClassExpression
subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'
subObjectUnionOf := 'UnionOf' '(' subClassExpression
subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'
subObjectSomeValuesFrom :=
  'SomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
subClassExpression ')' |
  'SomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'

superClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  superObjectIntersectionOf |
  superObjectAllValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue |
  superObjectMaxCardinality |
  DataAllValuesFrom | DataHasValue | superDataMaxCardinality
superObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
superClassExpression superClassExpression { superClassExpression }
')'
superObjectAllValuesFrom := 'AllValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
superObjectMaxCardinality :=
  'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression [
subClassExpression ] ')' |

```

```

    'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression
    owl:Thing ')'
superDataMaxCardinality := 'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne
DataPropertyExpression [ DataRange ] ')' |

equivClassExpression :=
    Class other than owl:Thing |
    equivObjectIntersectionOf |
    ObjectHasValue |
    DataHasValue
equivObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
equivClassExpression equivClassExpression { equivClassExpression }
    ')'

```

#### 4.2.4 Data Ranges

A data range expression is restricted in OWL 2 RL to the predefined datatypes admitted in OWL 2 RL and the intersection of data ranges.

```

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf

```

#### 4.2.5 Axioms

OWL 2 RL redefines all axioms of the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)] that refer to class expressions. In particular, it restricts various class axioms to use the appropriate form of class expressions (i.e., one of **subClassExpression**, **superClassExpression**, or **equivClassExpression**), and it disallows the **DisjointUnion** axiom.

```

ClassAxiom := SubClassOf | EquivalentClasses | DisjointClasses
SubClassOf := 'SubClassOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression superClassExpression ')'
EquivalentClasses := 'EquivalentClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
equivClassExpression equivClassExpression { equivClassExpression }
    ')'
DisjointClasses := 'DisjointClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

```

OWL 2 RL axioms about property expressions are as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], the only difference being that class expressions in property domain and range axioms are restricted to **superClassExpression**.

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
DataPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

```

OWL 2 RL restricts class expressions in positive assertions to **superClassExpression**, and it disallows negative property assertions. Equality and inequality between individuals and positive assertions are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

```

ClassAssertion := 'ClassAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations Individual
superClassExpression ')'
Assertion := SameIndividual | DifferentIndividuals | ClassAssertion |
ObjectPropertyAssertion | DataPropertyAssertion

```

OWL 2 RL restricts class expressions in keys to **subClassExpression**.

```

HasKey := 'HasKey' '(' axiomAnnotations subClassExpression
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression } ')'

```

Axioms about properties are redefined in OWL 2 RL to disallow the reflexive properties.

```

ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  FunctionalObjectProperty | InverseFunctionalObjectProperty |
  IrreflexiveObjectProperty |
  SymmetricObjectProperty | AsymmetricObjectProperty
  TransitiveObjectProperty

```

All other axioms in OWL 2 RL are defined as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

### 4.3 Reasoning in OWL 2 RL and RDF Graphs using Rules

This section presents a partial axiomatization of the OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics in the form of first-order (material) implications; this axiomatization is called the OWL 2 RL/RDF rules. These rules provide a useful starting point for practical implementation using rule-based technologies.

The rules are given as universally quantified first-order implications over a ternary predicate  $T$ . This predicate represents a generalization of RDF triples in which bnodes and literals are allowed in all positions (similar to the partial generalization in  $pD^*$  [[pD\\*](#)] and to generalized RDF triples in RIF [[RIF](#)]); thus,  $T(s, p, o)$  represents a generalized RDF triple with the subject  $s$ , predicate  $p$ , and the object  $o$ . Variables in the implications are preceded with a question mark. The propositional symbol `false` is a special symbol denoting contradiction: if it is derived, then the initial RDF graph was inconsistent.

Many conditions contain atoms that match to the list construct of RDF. In order to simplify the presentation of the rules, `LIST[h, e1, ..., en]` is used as an abbreviation for the conjunction of triples shown in Table 3, where  $z_2, \dots, z_n$  are fresh variables that do not occur anywhere where the abbreviation is used.

**Table 3.** Expansion of `LIST[h, e1, ..., en]`

<code>T(h, rdf:first, e<sub>1</sub>)</code>	<code>T(h, rdf:rest, z<sub>2</sub>)</code>
<code>T(z<sub>2</sub>, rdf:first, e<sub>2</sub>)</code>	<code>T(z<sub>2</sub>, rdf:rest, z<sub>3</sub>)</code>
<code>...</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>T(z<sub>n</sub>, rdf:first, e<sub>n</sub>)</code>	<code>T(z<sub>n</sub>, rdf:rest, rdf:nil)</code>

The axiomatization is split into several tables for easier navigation. Each rule is given a short unique name.

Table 4 axiomatizes the semantics of equality. In particular, it defines the equality relation on resources `owl:sameAs` as being reflexive, symmetric, and transitive, and it axiomatizes the standard replacement properties of equality for it.

**Table 4.** The Semantics of Equality

	<b>If</b>	<b>then</b>
<code>eq-ref</code>	<code>T(?s, ?p, ?o)</code>	<code>T(?s, owl:sameAs, ?s)</code> <code>T(?p,</code>

		owl:sameAs, ?p) T(?o, owl:sameAs, ?o)	
eq-sym	T(?x, owl:sameAs, ?y)	T(?y, owl:sameAs, ?x)	
eq-trans	T(?x, owl:sameAs, ?y) T(?y, owl:sameAs, ?z)	T(?x, owl:sameAs, ?z)	
eq-rep-s	T(?s, owl:sameAs, ?s') T(?s, ?p, ?o)	T(?s', ?p, ?o)	
eq-rep-p	T(?p, owl:sameAs, ?p') T(?s, ?p, ?o)	T(?s, ?p', ?o)	
eq-rep-o	T(?o, owl:sameAs, ?o') T(?s, ?p, ?o)	T(?s, ?p, ?o')	
eq-diff1	T(?x, owl:sameAs, ?y) T(?x, owl:differentFrom, ?y)	false	
eq-diff2	T(?y <sub>i</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?y <sub>j</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, owl:AllDifferent) LIST[?x, ?y <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?y <sub>n</sub> ]	false	for each 1 ≤ i < j ≤ n

Table 5 specifies the semantic conditions on axioms about properties.

**Table 5.** The Semantics of Axioms about Properties

	if	then	
prp-ap	true	T(ap, rdf:type, owl:AnnotationProperty)	for each built-in annotation property of OWL 2 RL
prp-dom	T(?p, rdfs:domain, ?c) T(?x, ?p, ?y)	T(?x, rdf:type, ?c)	
prp-rng	T(?p, rdfs:range, ?c) T(?x, ?p, ?y)	T(?y, rdf:type, ?c)	
prp-fp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:FunctionalProperty)	T(?y <sub>1</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	

	T(?x, ?p, ?y <sub>1</sub> ) T(?x, ?p, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	
prp-ifp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:InverseFunctionalProperty) T(?x <sub>1</sub> , ?p, ?y) T(?x <sub>2</sub> , ?p, ?y)	T(?x <sub>1</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?x <sub>2</sub> )
prp-irp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:IrreflexiveProperty) T(?x, ?p, ?x)	false
prp-symp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:SymmetricProperty) T(?x, ?p, ?y)	T(?y, ?p, ?x)
prp-asymp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:AsymmetricProperty) T(?x, ?p, ?y) T(?y, ?p, ?x)	false
prp-trp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:TransitiveProperty) T(?x, ?p, ?y) T(?y, ?p, ?z)	T(?x, ?p, ?z)
prp-spo1	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?y)	T(?x, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?y)
prp-spo2	T(?sc, owl:propertyChain, ?x) LIST[?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?p <sub>n</sub> ] T(?sc, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p) T(?u <sub>1</sub> , ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?u <sub>2</sub> ) T(?u <sub>2</sub> , ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?u <sub>3</sub> ) ... T(?u <sub>n</sub> , ?p <sub>n</sub> , ?u <sub>n+1</sub> )	T(?u <sub>1</sub> , ?p, ?u <sub>n+1</sub> )
prp-eqp1	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , owl:equivalentProperty, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?y)	T(?x, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?y)
prp-eqp2	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , owl:equivalentProperty, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?y)	T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?y)
prp-pdw	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , owl:propertyDisjointWith, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?y) T(?x, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?y)	false

prp-adp	T(?z, rdf:type, owl:AllDisjointProperties) LIST[?z, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?p <sub>n</sub> ] T(?x, ?p <sub>i</sub> , ?y) T(?x, ?p <sub>j</sub> , ?y)	false	for each 1 ≤ i < j ≤ n
prp-inv1	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , owl:inverseOf, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?y)	T(?y, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?x)	
prp-inv2	T(?p <sub>1</sub> , owl:inverseOf, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, ?p <sub>2</sub> , ?y)	T(?y, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?x)	
prp-key	T(?c, owl:hasKey, ?u) LIST[?u, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?p <sub>n</sub> ] T(?x, rdf:type, ?c) T(?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?z <sub>1</sub> ) ... T(?x, ?p <sub>n</sub> , ?z <sub>n</sub> ) T(?y, rdf:type, ?c) T(?y, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?z <sub>1</sub> ) ... T(?y, ?p <sub>n</sub> , ?z <sub>n</sub> )	T(?x, owl:sameAs, ?y)	

Table 6 specifies the semantic conditions on classes.

**Table 6.** The Semantics of Classes

	<b>if</b>	<b>then</b>
cls-thing	true	T(owl:Thing, rdf:type, owl:Class)
cls-nothing1	true	T(owl:Nothing, rdf:type, owl:Class)
cls-nothing2	T(?x, rdf:type, owl:Nothing)	false
cls-int1	T(?c, owl:intersectionOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ] T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> ) T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) ... T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>n</sub> )	T(?y, rdf:type, ?c)



cls-int2	T(?c, owl:intersectionOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ] T(?y, rdf:type, ?c)	T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> ) T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) ... T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>n</sub> )	
cls-uni	T(?c, owl:unionOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ] T(?y, rdf:type, ?c <sub>i</sub> )	T(?y, rdf:type, ?c)	for each 1 ≤ i ≤ n
cls-svf1	T(?x, owl:someValuesFrom, ?y) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, ?p, ?v) T(?v, rdf:type, ?y)	T(?u, rdf:type, ?x)	
cls-svf2	T(?x, owl:someValuesFrom, owl:Thing) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, ?p, ?v)	T(?u, rdf:type, ?x)	
cls-avf	T(?x, owl:allValuesFrom, ?y) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?v)	T(?v, rdf:type, ?y)	
cls-hv1	T(?x, owl:hasValue, ?y) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x)	T(?u, ?p, ?y)	
cls-hv2	T(?x, owl:hasValue, ?y) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, ?p, ?y)	T(?u, rdf:type, ?x)	
cls-maxc1	T(?x, owl:maxCardinality, "0"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y)	false	
cls-maxc2	T(?x, owl:maxCardinality, "1"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y <sub>1</sub> ) T(?u, ?p, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	T(?y <sub>1</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	

cls-maxqc1	T(?x, owl:maxQualifiedCardinality, "0"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:onClass, ?c) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y) T(?y, rdf:type, ?c)	false	
cls-maxqc2	T(?x, owl:maxQualifiedCardinality, "0"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:onClass, owl:Thing) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y)	false	
cls-maxqc3	T(?x, owl:maxQualifiedCardinality, "1"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:onClass, ?c) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y1) T(?y1, rdf:type, ?c) T(?u, ?p, ?y2) T(?y2, rdf:type, ?c)	T(?y1, owl:sameAs, ?y2)	
cls-maxqc4	T(?x, owl:maxQualifiedCardinality, "1"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger) T(?x, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:onClass, owl:Thing) T(?u, rdf:type, ?x) T(?u, ?p, ?y1) T(?u, ?p, ?y2)	T(?y1, owl:sameAs, ?y2)	
cls-oo	T(?c, owl:oneOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?y1, ..., ?yn]	T(?yi, rdf:type, ?c)	for each $1 \leq i \leq n$

Table 7 specifies the semantic conditions on class axioms.

**Table 7. The Semantics of Class Axioms**

	<b>if</b>	<b>then</b>	
--	-----------	-------------	--

cax-sco	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> )	T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> )	
cax- eqc1	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:equivalentClass, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> )	T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> )	
cax- eqc2	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:equivalentClass, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> )	T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> )	
cax- dw	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:disjointWith, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> )	false	
cax- adc	T(?y, rdf:type, owl:AllDisjointClasses) LIST[?y, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ] T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>i</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>j</sub> )	false	for each 1 ≤ i < j ≤ n

Table 8 specifies the semantics of datatypes.

**Table 8. The Semantics of Datatypes**

	<b>if</b>	<b>then</b>	
dt- type1	true	T(dt, rdf:type, rdfs:Datatype)	for each datatype dt supported in OWL 2 RL
dt- type2	true	T(lt, rdf:type, dt)	for each literal lt and each datatype dt supported in OWL 2 RL such that the data value of lt is contained in the value space of dt
dt-eq	true	T(lt <sub>1</sub> , owl:sameAs, lt <sub>2</sub> )	for all literals lt <sub>1</sub> and lt <sub>2</sub> with the same data value
dt- diff	true	T(lt <sub>1</sub> , owl:differentFrom, lt <sub>2</sub> )	for all literals lt <sub>1</sub> and lt <sub>2</sub> with different data values
dt- not- type	T(lt, rdf:type, dt)	false	for each literal lt and each datatype dt supported in OWL 2 RL

			such that the data value of <code>lt</code> is not contained in the value space of <code>dt</code>
--	--	--	--

Table 9 specifies the semantic restrictions on the vocabulary used to define the schema.

**Table 9.** The Semantics of Schema Vocabulary

	if	then
scm-cls	<code>T(?c, rdf:type, owl:Class)</code>	<code>T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c)</code> <code>T(?c, owl:equivalentClass, ?c)</code> <code>T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, owl:Thing)</code> <code>T(owl:Nothing, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c)</code>
scm-sco	<code>T(?c<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>2</sub>)</code> <code>T(?c<sub>2</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>3</sub>)</code>	<code>T(?c<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>3</sub>)</code>
scm-eqc	<code>T(?c<sub>1</sub>, owl:equivalentClass, ?c<sub>2</sub>)</code>	<code>T(?c<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>2</sub>)</code> <code>T(?c<sub>2</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>1</sub>)</code>
scm-op	<code>T(?p, rdf:type, owl:ObjectProperty)</code>	<code>T(?p, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p)</code> <code>T(?p, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p)</code>
scm-dp	<code>T(?p, rdf:type, owl:DatatypeProperty)</code>	<code>T(?p, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p)</code> <code>T(?p, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p)</code>
scm-spo	<code>T(?p<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p<sub>2</sub>)</code> <code>T(?p<sub>2</sub>, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p<sub>3</sub>)</code>	<code>T(?p<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p<sub>3</sub>)</code>
scm-eqp	<code>T(?p<sub>1</sub>, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p<sub>2</sub>)</code>	<code>T(?p<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p<sub>2</sub>)</code> <code>T(?p<sub>2</sub>, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p<sub>1</sub>)</code>
scm-dom1	<code>T(?p, rdfs:domain, ?c<sub>1</sub>)</code> <code>T(?c<sub>1</sub>, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c<sub>2</sub>)</code>	<code>T(?p, rdfs:domain, ?c<sub>2</sub>)</code>

scm-dom2	T(?p2, rdfs:domain, ?c) T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2)	T(?p1, rdfs:domain, ?c)
scm-rng1	T(?p, rdfs:range, ?c1) T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)	T(?p, rdfs:range, ?c2)
scm-rng2	T(?p2, rdfs:range, ?c) T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2)	T(?p1, rdfs:range, ?c)
scm-hv	T(?c1, owl:hasValue, ?i) T(?c1, owl:onProperty, ?p1) T(?c2, owl:hasValue, ?i) T(?c2, owl:onProperty, ?p2) T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)
scm-svf1	T(?c1, owl:someValuesFrom, ?y1) T(?c1, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?c2, owl:someValuesFrom, ?y2) T(?c2, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?y1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?y2)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)
scm-svf2	T(?c1, owl:someValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c1, owl:onProperty, ?p1) T(?c2, owl:someValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c2, owl:onProperty, ?p2) T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)
scm-avf1	T(?c1, owl:allValuesFrom, ?y1) T(?c1, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?c2, owl:allValuesFrom, ?y2) T(?c2, owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?y1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?y2)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)
scm-avf2	T(?c1, owl:allValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c1, owl:onProperty, ?p1) T(?c2, owl:allValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c2, owl:onProperty, ?p2)	T(?c2, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c1)

	$T(?p_1, \text{rdfs:subPropertyOf}, ?p_2)$	
scm-int	$T(?c, \text{owl:intersectionOf}, ?x)$ $\text{LIST}[?x, ?c_1, \dots, ?c_n]$	$T(?c, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c_1)$ $T(?c, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c_2)$ $\dots$ $T(?c, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c_n)$
scm-uni	$T(?c, \text{owl:unionOf}, ?x)$ $\text{LIST}[?x, ?c_1, \dots, ?c_n]$	$T(?c_1, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c)$ $T(?c_2, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c)$ $\dots$ $T(?c_n, \text{rdfs:subClassOf}, ?c)$

OWL 2 RL/RDF rules include neither the axiomatic triples and entailment rules of RDF and RDFS [[RDF Semantics](#)] nor the axiomatic triples for the relevant OWL vocabulary [[OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics](#)], as these might cause performance problems in practice. An OWL 2 RL/RDF implementation *may* include these triples and entailment rules as necessary without invalidating the conformance requirements for OWL 2 RL [[Conformance](#)].

**Theorem PR1.** Let  $R$  be the OWL 2 RL/RDF rules as defined above. Furthermore, let  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  be OWL 2 RL ontologies satisfying the following properties:

- neither  $O_1$  nor  $O_2$  contains a IRI that is used for more than one type of entity (i.e., no IRIs is used both as, say, a class and an individual);
- $O_1$  does not contain **SubAnnotationPropertyOf**, **AnnotationPropertyDomain**, and **AnnotationPropertyRange** axioms; and
- all axioms in  $O_2$  are assertions of the following form with  $a, a_1, \dots, a_n$  named individuals:
  - $\text{ClassAssertion}( C a )$  where  $C$  is a class,
  - $\text{PropertyAssertion}( OP a_1 a_2 )$  where  $OP$  is an object property,
  - $\text{PropertyAssertion}( DP a v )$  where  $DP$  is a data property,
  - $\text{SameIndividual}( a_1 \dots a_n )$ , and
  - $\text{DifferentIndividuals}( a_1 \dots a_n )$ .

Furthermore, let  $RDF(O_1)$  and  $RDF(O_2)$  be translations of  $O_1$  and  $O_2$ , respectively, into RDF graphs as specified in the OWL 2 Mapping to RDF Graphs [[OWL 2 RDF Mapping](#)]; and let  $FO(RDF(O_1))$  and  $FO(RDF(O_2))$  be the translation of these graphs into first-order theories in which triples are represented using the  $T$  predicate — that is,  $T(s, p, o)$  represents an RDF triple with the subject  $s$ , predicate  $p$ , and the object  $o$ . Then,  $O_1$  entails  $O_2$  under the OWL 2 RDF-Based semantics [[OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics](#)] if and only if  $FO(RDF(O_1)) \cup R$  entails  $FO(RDF(O_2))$  under the standard first-order semantics.

*Proof Sketch.* Without loss of generality, it can be assumed that all axioms in  $O_1$  are fully normalized — that is, that all class expressions in the axioms are of depth

at most one. Let  $DLP(O_1)$  be the set of rules obtained by translating  $O_1$  into a set of rules as in Description Logic Programs [DLP].

Consider now each assertion  $A \in O_2$  that is entailed by  $DLP(O_1)$  (or, equivalently, by  $O_1$ ). Let  $dt$  be a derivation tree for  $A$  from  $DLP(O_1)$ . By examining the set of OWL 2 RL constructs, it is possible to see that each such tree can be transformed to a derivation tree  $dt'$  for  $RDF(A)$  from  $RDF(O_1)$ . Each assertion  $B$  occurring in  $dt$  is of the form as specified in the theorem. The tree  $dt'$  can, roughly speaking, be obtained from  $dt$  by replacing each assertion  $B$  with  $RDF(B)$  and by replacing each rule from  $DLP(O_1)$  with a corresponding rule from Tables 3–8. Consequently,  $RDF(O_1)$  entails  $RDF(A)$ .

Since no IRI in  $O_1$  is used as both an individual and a class or a property,  $RDF(O_1)$  does not entail a triple of the form  $T(a:i1, owl:sameAs, a:i2)$  where either  $a:i1$  or  $a:i2$  is used in  $O_1$  as a class or a property. This allows one to transform a derivation tree for  $RDF(A)$  from  $RDF(O_1)$  to a derivation tree for  $A$  from  $DLP(O_1)$  in a way that is analogous to the previous case. QED

## 5 Computational Properties

This section describes the computational complexity of the most relevant reasoning problems of the languages defined in this document. For an introduction to computational complexity, please refer to a textbook on complexity such as [Papadimitriou]. The reasoning problems considered here are *ontology consistency*, *class expression satisfiability*, *class expression subsumption*, *instance checking*, and *(Boolean) conjunctive query answering* [OWL 2 Direct Semantics]. When evaluating complexity, the following parameters will be considered:

- **Data Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to the total size of the assertions in the ontology.
- **Taxonomic Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to the total size of the axioms in the ontology.
- **Query Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to the total size of the query.
- **Combined Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to both the size of the axioms, the size of the assertions, and, in the case of conjunctive query answering, the size of the query as well.

Table 10 summarizes the known complexity results for OWL 2 under both RDF and the direct semantics, OWL 2 EL, OWL 2 QL, OWL 2 RL, and OWL 1 DL. The meaning of the entries is as follows:

- **Decidability open** means that it is not known whether this reasoning problem is decidable at all.
- **Decidable, but complexity open** means that decidability of this reasoning problem is known, but not its exact computational complexity. If available, known lower bounds are given in parenthesis; for example, **(NP-Hard)** means that this problem is at least as hard as any other problem in NP.

- **X-complete** for X one of the complexity classes explained below indicates that tight complexity bounds are known — that is, the problem is known to be both *in* the complexity class X (i.e., an algorithm is known that only uses time/space in X) and *hard* for X (i.e., it is at least as hard as any other problem in X). The following is a brief sketch of the classes used in this table, from the most complex one down to the simplest ones.
  - **2NEXPTIME** is the class of problems solvable by a nondeterministic algorithm in *time* that is at most double exponential in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $2^{2^n}$ , for n the size of the input).
  - **NEXPTIME** is the class of problems solvable by a nondeterministic algorithm in *time* that is at most exponential in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $2^n$ , for n the size of the input).
  - **PSPACE** is the class of problems solvable by a nondeterministic algorithm using *space* that is at most polynomial in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $n^c$ , for n the size of the input and c a constant).
  - **NP** is the class of problems solvable by a nondeterministic algorithm using *time* that is at most polynomial in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $n^c$ , for n the size of the input and c a constant).
  - **PTIME** is the class of problems solvable by a deterministic algorithm using *time* that is at most polynomial in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $n^c$ , for n the size of the input and c a constant). PTIME is often referred to as *tractable*, whereas the problems in the classes above are often referred to as *intractable*.
  - **LOGSPACE** is the class of problems solvable by a deterministic algorithm using *space* that is at most logarithmic in the size of the input (i.e., roughly  $\log(n)$ , for n the size of the input and c a constant).

The results below refer to the *worst-case* complexity of these reasoning problems and, as such, do not say that implemented algorithms necessarily run in this class on all input problems, or what space/time they use on some/typical/certain kind of problems. For X-complete problems, these results only say that a reasoning algorithm cannot use less time/space than indicated by this class on *all* input problems.

**Table 10.** Complexity of the Profiles

Language	Reasoning Problems	Taxonomic Complexity	Data Complexity	Query Complexity	Combined Complexity
OWL 2 RDF- Based Semantics	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance	Undecidable	Undecidable	Undecidable	Undecidable



	Checking, Conjunctive Query Answering				
OWL 2 Direct Semantics	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	2NEXPTIME-complete (NEXPTIME if property hierarchies are bounded)	Decidable, but complexity open (NP-Hard)	Not Applicable	2NEXPTIME-complete (NEXPTIME if property hierarchies are bounded)
	Conjunctive Query Answering	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open
<a href="#">OWL 2 EL</a>	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	Not Applicable	PTIME-complete
	Conjunctive Query Answering	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	NP-complete	PSPACE-complete
<a href="#">OWL 2 QL</a>	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking,	In PTIME	In LOGSPACE	Not Applicable	In PTIME
	Conjunctive Query Answering	In PTIME	In LOGSPACE	NP-complete	NP-complete

<a href="#">OWL 2 RL</a>	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	Not Applicable	PTIME-complete
	Conjunctive Query Answering	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	NP-complete	NP-complete
OWL 1 DL	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	NEXPTIME-complete	Decidable, but complexity open (NP-Hard)	Not Applicable	NEXPTIME-complete
	Conjunctive Query Answering	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open

## 6 Appendix: Complete Grammars for Profiles

This appendix contains the grammars for all three profiles of OWL 2.

### 6.1 OWL 2 EL

The grammar of OWL 2 EL consists of the productions defining the general concepts of the language from the OWL 2 Specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], as well as the following productions.

**Class** := IRI

**Datatype** := IRI

**ObjectProperty** := IRI

```

DataProperty := IRI

AnnotationProperty := IRI

Individual := NamedIndividual

NamedIndividual := IRI

Literal := typedLiteral | abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral |
abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral
typedLiteral := lexicalValue '^' Datatype
lexicalValue := quotedString
abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral := quotedString
abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral := quotedString '@' languageTag

ObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectProperty

DataPropertyExpression := DataProperty

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf | DataOneOf

DataIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' DataRange DataRange {
DataRange } ')'

DataOneOf := 'OneOf' '(' Literal ')'

ClassExpression :=
  Class | ObjectIntersectionOf | ObjectOneOf |
  ObjectSomeValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue | ObjectHasSelf |
  DataSomeValuesFrom | DataHasValue

ObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' ClassExpression
ClassExpression { ClassExpression } ')'

ObjectOneOf := 'OneOf' '(' Individual ')'

ObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression ClassExpression ')'

```

```

ObjectHasValue := 'HasValue' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression Individual
')'

ObjectHasSelf := 'HasSelf' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

DataSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
DataPropertyExpression { DataPropertyExpression } DataRange ')'

DataHasValue := 'HasValue' '(' DataPropertyExpression Literal ')'

Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom |
DataPropertyAxiom | HasKey | Assertion | AnnotationAxiom

ClassAxiom := SubClassOf | EquivalentClasses | DisjointClasses
SubClassOf := 'SubClassOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression superClassExpression ')'
subClassExpression := ClassExpression
superClassExpression := ClassExpression

EquivalentClasses := 'EquivalentClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
ClassExpression ClassExpression { ClassExpression } ')'

DisjointClasses := 'DisjointClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
ClassExpression ClassExpression { ClassExpression } ')'

ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
    EquivalentObjectProperties | SubObjectPropertyOf |
    ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
    ReflexiveObjectProperty | TransitiveObjectProperty

SubObjectPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subObjectPropertyExpressions superObjectPropertyExpression ')'
subObjectPropertyExpressions := ObjectPropertyExpression |
propertyExpressionChain
propertyExpressionChain := 'PropertyChain' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'
superObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression

EquivalentObjectProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('

```

```

axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ' ) '

```

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression ClassExpression ' ) '

```

```

ObjectPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression ClassExpression ' ) '

```

```

ReflexiveObjectProperty := 'ReflexiveProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ' ) '

```

```

TransitiveObjectProperty := 'TransitiveProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ' ) '

```

```

DataPropertyAxiom :=
SubDataPropertyOf | EquivalentDataProperties |
DataPropertyDomain | DataPropertyRange | FunctionalDataProperty

```

```

SubDataPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subDataPropertyExpression superDataPropertyExpression ' ) '
subDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression
superDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression

```

```

EquivalentDataProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression DataPropertyExpression {
DataPropertyExpression } ' ) '

```

```

DataPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression ClassExpression ' ) '

```

```

DataPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression DataRange ' ) '

```

```

FunctionalDataProperty := 'FunctionalProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression ' ) '

```

```

HasKey := 'HasKey' '(' axiomAnnotations ClassExpression
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression } ' ) '

```

```

Assertion :=
  SameIndividual | DifferentIndividuals | ClassAssertion |
  ObjectPropertyAssertion | NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion |
  DataPropertyAssertion | NegativeDataPropertyAssertion

sourceIndividual := Individual
targetIndividual := Individual
targetValue := Literal

SameIndividual := 'SameIndividual' '(' axiomAnnotations Individual
  Individual { Individual } ')'

DifferentIndividuals := 'DifferentIndividuals' '(' axiomAnnotations
  Individual Individual { Individual } ')'

ClassAssertion := 'ClassAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
  ClassExpression Individual ')'

ObjectPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '('
  axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual
  targetIndividual ')'

NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion := 'NegativePropertyAssertion'
  '(' axiomAnnotations objectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual
  targetIndividual ')'

DataPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
  DataPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetValue ')'

NegativeDataPropertyAssertion := 'NegativePropertyAssertion' '('
  axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetValue
  ')'

```

## 6.2 OWL 2 QL

The grammar of OWL 2 QL consists of the productions defining the general concepts of the language from the OWL 2 Specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], as well as the following productions.

```

Class := IRI

Datatype := IRI

```

```

ObjectProperty := IRI
DataProperty := IRI
AnnotationProperty := IRI
Individual := NamedIndividual
NamedIndividual := IRI

Literal := typedLiteral | abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral |
abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral
typedLiteral := lexicalValue '^' Datatype
lexicalValue := quotedString
abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral := quotedString
abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral := quotedString '@' languageTag

ObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectProperty | InverseObjectProperty
InverseObjectProperty := 'InverseOf' '(' ObjectProperty ')'
DataPropertyExpression := DataProperty

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf
DataIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' DataRange DataRange {
DataRange } ')'

subClassExpression :=
  Class |
  subObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom
subObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'
superClassExpression :=
  Class |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superObjectComplementOf |
  superObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom

```

```

superObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
superClassExpression superClassExpression { superClassExpression }
  ')'

superObjectComplementOf := 'ComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression
  ')'

superObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression Class ')'

DataSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
DataPropertyExpression DataRange ')'

Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom |
DataPropertyAxiom | Assertion | AnnotationAxiom

ClassAxiom := SubClassOf | EquivalentClasses | DisjointClasses

SubClassOf := 'SubClassOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression superClassExpression ')'

EquivalentClasses := 'EquivalentClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

DisjointClasses := 'DisjointClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  SymmetricObjectProperty

SubObjectPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

EquivalentObjectProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'

```



```

DisjointObjectProperties := 'DisjointProperties' '('
  axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
  ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'

```

```

InverseObjectProperties := 'InverseProperties' '('
  axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression
  ')'

```

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
  ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

```

```

ObjectPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
  ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

```

```

SymmetricObjectProperty := 'SymmetricProperty' '('
  axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

```

```

DataPropertyAxiom :=
  SubDataPropertyOf | EquivalentDataProperties |
  DisjointDataProperties |
  DataPropertyDomain | DataPropertyRange

```

```

SubDataPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
  subDataPropertyExpression superDataPropertyExpression ')'
subDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression
superDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression

```

```

EquivalentDataProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('
  axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression DataPropertyExpression {
  DataPropertyExpression } ')'

```

```

DisjointDataProperties := 'DisjointProperties' '('
  axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression DataPropertyExpression {
  DataPropertyExpression } ')'

```

```

DataPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
  DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

```

```

DataPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
  DataPropertyExpression DataRange ')'

```

```

Assertion := DifferentIndividuals | ClassAssertion |
ObjectPropertyAssertion | DataPropertyAssertion

sourceIndividual := Individual
targetIndividual := Individual
targetValue := Literal

DifferentIndividuals := 'DifferentIndividuals' '(' axiomAnnotations
Individual Individual { Individual } ')'

ClassAssertion := 'ClassAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations Class
Individual ')'

ObjectPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual
targetIndividual ')'

DataPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetValue ')'

```

### 6.3 OWL 2 RL

The grammar of OWL 2 RL consists of the productions defining the general concepts of the language from the OWL 2 Specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)], as well as the following productions.

```

Class := IRI

Datatype := IRI

ObjectProperty := IRI

DataProperty := IRI

AnnotationProperty := IRI

Individual := NamedIndividual | AnonymousIndividual

NamedIndividual := IRI

AnonymousIndividual := nodeID

Literal := typedLiteral | abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral |

```

```

abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral
typedLiteral := lexicalValue '^^' Datatype
lexicalValue := quotedString
abbreviatedXSDStringLiteral := quotedString
abbreviatedRDFTextLiteral := quotedString '@' languageTag

ObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectProperty | InverseObjectProperty

InverseObjectProperty := 'InverseOf' '(' ObjectProperty ')'

DataPropertyExpression := DataProperty

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf

DataIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' 
DataRange { DataRange } ')'

zeroOrOne := '0' | '1'

subClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  subObjectIntersectionOf | subObjectUnionOf | ObjectOneOf |
  subObjectSomeValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue |
  DataSomeValuesFrom | DataHasValue

subObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '(' subClassExpression
subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

subObjectUnionOf := 'UnionOf' '(' subClassExpression
subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

subObjectSomeValuesFrom :=
  'SomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
subClassExpression ')' |
  'SomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'

superClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  superObjectIntersectionOf |
  superObjectAllValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue |

```

```

superObjectMaxCardinality |
  DataAllValuesFrom | DataHasValue | superDataMaxCardinality

superObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
superClassExpression superClassExpression { superClassExpression }
  ')'

superObjectAllValuesFrom := 'AllValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

superObjectMaxCardinality :=
  'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression [
subClassExpression ] ')' |
  'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression
  owl:Thing ')'

superDataMaxCardinality := 'MaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne
DataPropertyExpression [ DataRange ] ')' |

equivClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  equivObjectIntersectionOf |
  ObjectHasValue |
  DataHasValue

equivObjectIntersectionOf := 'IntersectionOf' '('
equivClassExpression equivClassExpression { equivClassExpression }
  ')'

ObjectOneOf := 'OneOf' '(' Individual { Individual } ')'

ObjectHasValue := 'HasValue' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression Individual
  ')'

DataSomeValuesFrom := 'SomeValuesFrom' '('
DataPropertyExpression { DataPropertyExpression } DataRange ')'

DataAllValuesFrom := 'AllValuesFrom' '(' DataPropertyExpression {
DataPropertyExpression } DataRange ')'

DataHasValue := 'HasValue' '(' DataPropertyExpression Literal ')'

Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom |
DataPropertyAxiom | HasKey | Assertion | AnnotationAxiom

```

```

ClassAxiom := SubClassOf | EquivalentClasses | DisjointClasses

SubClassOf := 'SubClassOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression superClassExpression ')'

EquivalentClasses := 'EquivalentClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
equivClassExpression equivClassExpression { equivClassExpression
')'

DisjointClasses := 'DisjointClasses' '(' axiomAnnotations
subClassExpression subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'

ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  FunctionalObjectProperty | InverseFunctionalObjectProperty |
  IrreflexiveObjectProperty |
  SymmetricObjectProperty | AsymmetricObjectProperty
  TransitiveObjectProperty

SubObjectPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subObjectPropertyExpressions superObjectPropertyExpression ')'
subObjectPropertyExpressions := ObjectPropertyExpression |
propertyExpressionChain
propertyExpressionChain := 'PropertyChain' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'
superObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression

EquivalentObjectProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'

DisjointObjectProperties := 'DisjointProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'

InverseObjectProperties := 'InverseProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression
')'

```

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

ObjectPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

FunctionalObjectProperty := 'FunctionalProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

InverseFunctionalObjectProperty := 'InverseFunctionalProperty'
 '(' axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

ReflexiveObjectProperty := 'ReflexiveProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

IrreflexiveObjectProperty := 'IrreflexiveProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

SymmetricObjectProperty := 'SymmetricProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

AsymmetricObjectProperty := 'AsymmetricProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

TransitiveObjectProperty := 'TransitiveProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression ')'

DataPropertyAxiom :=
  SubDataPropertyOf | EquivalentDataProperties |
DisjointDataProperties |
  DataPropertyDomain | DataPropertyRange | FunctionalDataProperty

SubDataPropertyOf := 'SubPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subDataPropertyExpression superDataPropertyExpression ')'
subDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression
superDataPropertyExpression := DataPropertyExpression

EquivalentDataProperties := 'EquivalentProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression DataPropertyExpression {
DataPropertyExpression } ')'

DisjointDataProperties := 'DisjointProperties' '('
axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression DataPropertyExpression {

```

```

DataPropertyExpression } ')'

DataPropertyDomain := 'PropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'

DataPropertyRange := 'PropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression DataRange ')'

FunctionalDataProperty := 'FunctionalProperty' '('
axiomAnnotations DataPropertyExpression ')'

HasKey := 'HasKey' '(' axiomAnnotations subClassExpression
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression {
ObjectPropertyExpression | DataPropertyExpression } ')'

Assertion := SameIndividual | DifferentIndividuals | ClassAssertion |
ObjectPropertyAssertion | DataPropertyAssertion

sourceIndividual := Individual
targetIndividual := Individual
targetValue := Literal

SameIndividual := 'SameIndividual' '(' axiomAnnotations Individual
Individual { Individual } ')'

DifferentIndividuals := 'DifferentIndividuals' '(' axiomAnnotations
Individual Individual { Individual } ')'

ClassAssertion := 'ClassAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations Individual
superClassExpression ')'

ObjectPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual
targetIndividual ')'

DataPropertyAssertion := 'PropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetValue ')'

```

## 7 Acknowledgments

The starting point for the development of OWL 2 was the [OWL1.1 member submission](#), itself a result of user and developer feedback, and in particular of information gathered during the [OWL Experiences and Directions \(OWLED\) Workshop series](#). The working group also considered [postponed issues](#) from the [WebOnt Working Group](#).

This document is the product of the OWL Working Group (see below) whose members deserve recognition for their time and commitment. The editors extend special thanks to Jim Hendler (RPI) and Jeff Pan (University of Aberdeen) for their thorough reviews.

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), Martin Dzbor (Open University), Achille Fokoue (IBM Corporation), Christine Golbreich (Université de Versailles St-Quentin), Sandro Hawke (W3C/MIT), Ivan Herman (W3C/ERCIM), Rinke Hoekstra (University of Amsterdam), Ian Horrocks (Oxford University), Elisa Kendall (Sandpiper Software), Markus Krötzsch (FZI), Carsten Lutz (Universität Bremen), Boris Motik (Oxford University), Jeff Pan (University of Aberdeen), Bijan Parsia (University of Manchester), Peter F. Patel-Schneider (Bell Labs Research, Alcatel-Lucent), Alan Ruttenberg (Science Commons), Uli Sattler (University of Manchester), Michael Schneider (FZI), Mike Smith (Clark & Parsia), Evan Wallace (NIST), and Zhe Wu (Oracle Corporation). We would also like to thank past members of the working group: Jeremy Carroll, Jim Hendler and Vipul Kashyap.

## 8 References

### [OWL 2 Specification]

[OWL 2 Web Ontology Language:Structural Specification and Functional-Style Syntax](#) Boris Motik, Peter F. Patel-Schneider, Bijan Parsia, eds. W3C Working Draft, 02 December 2008, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-syntax-20081202/>. Latest version available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-syntax/>.

### [OWL 2 Direct Semantics]

[OWL 2 Web Ontology Language:Direct Semantics](#) Boris Motik, Peter F. Patel-Schneider, Bernardo Cuenca Grau, eds. W3C Working Draft, 02 December 2008, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-semantics-20081202/>. Latest version available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-semantics/>.

### [OWL 2 RDF Mapping]

[OWL 2 Web Ontology Language:Mapping to RDF Graphs](#) Peter F. Patel-Schneider, Boris Motik, eds. W3C Working Draft, 02 December 2008, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-mapping-to-rdf-20081202/>. Latest version available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-mapping-to-rdf/>.



**[OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics]**

[OWL 2 Web Ontology Language:RDF-Based Semantics](#) Michael Schneider, editor. W3C Working Draft, 02 December 2008, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-rdf-based-semantics-20081202/>. Latest version available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-rdf-based-semantics/>.

**[OWL 1 Reference]**

[OWL Web Ontology Language Reference](#). Mike Dean and Guus Scriber, eds., 2004

**[Conformance]**

[Conformance](#). Michael Smith, Ian Horrocks, and Markus Krötzsch, eds., 2008

**[RDF Semantics]**

[RDF Semantics](#). Patrick Hayes, ed., W3C Recommendation 2004

**[DL Handbook]**

[The Description Logic Handbook](#). Franz Baader, Diego Calvanese, Deborah L. McGuinness, Daniele Nardi, Peter F. Patel-Schneider, eds., 2007

**[EL++]**

[Pushing the EL Envelope](#). Franz Baader, Sebastian Brandt, and Carsten Lutz. In Proc. of the 19th Joint Int. Conf. on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2005), 2005

**[EL++ Update]**

[Pushing the EL Envelope Further](#). Franz Baader, Sebastian Brandt, and Carsten Lutz. In Proc. of the Washington DC workshop on OWL: Experiences and Directions (OWLED08DC), 2008

**[DL-Lite]**

[Tractable Reasoning and Efficient Query Answering in Description Logics: The DL-Lite Family](#). Diego Calvanese, Giuseppe de Giacomo, Domenico Lembo, Maurizio Lenzerini, Riccardo Rosati. J. of Automated Reasoning 39(3):385–429, 2007

**[Papadimitriou]**

[Christos H. Papadimitriou](#). Computational Complexity. Addison Wesley Publ. Co., Reading, Massachusetts, 1994.

**[Complexity]**

[Complexity Results and Practical Algorithms for Logics in Knowledge Representation](#). Stephan Tobies. Ph.D Dissertation, 2002

**[DLP]**

[Description Logic Programs: Combining Logic Programs with Description Logic](#). Benjamin N. Grosz, Ian Horrocks, Raphael Volz, and Stefan Decker. in Proc. of the 12th Int. World Wide Web Conference (WWW 2003), Budapest, Hungary, 2003. pp.: 48–57

**[pD\*]**

[Completeness, decidability and complexity of entailment for RDF Schema and a semantic extension involving the OWL vocabulary](#). Herman J. ter Horst. J. of Web Semantics 3(2–3):79–115, 2005

**[RIF]**

[RIF RDF and OWL Compatibility](#). Jos de Bruijn, ed. W3C Working Draft 30 July 2008

**[RFC 2119]**

[RFC 2119: Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels](#). Network Working Group, S. Bradner. Internet Best Current Practice, March 1997

**[SNOMED CT]**

[Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms](#). International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO)