



# OWL 2 Web Ontology Language Profiles (Second Edition)

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## 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 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.

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## 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 profiles are independent of each other, so (prospective) users can skip over the descriptions of profiles that are not of interest to them. The choice of which profile to use in practice will depend on the structure of

the ontologies and the reasoning tasks at hand (see [Section 10](#) of the OWL 2 Primer [[OWL 2 Primer](#)] for more help in understanding and selecting profiles).

- **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++](#)] (see [Section 5](#) for more information on computational complexity). Dedicated reasoning algorithms for this profile are available and have been demonstrated to be implementable in a highly scalable way. The EL acronym reflects the profile's basis in the EL family of description logics [[EL++](#)], logics that provide only Existential quantification.
- **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. The QL acronym reflects the fact that query answering in this profile can be implemented by rewriting queries into a standard relational Query Language.
- **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. The RL acronym reflects the fact that reasoning in this profile can be implemented using a standard Rule Language.

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](#). Note that none of the profiles is a subset of another.

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* are used to specify normative features of OWL 2 documents and tools, and are interpreted as specified in RFC 2119 [[RFC 2119](#)].

## 2 OWL 2 EL

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

- is particularly suitable for applications employing ontologies that define very large numbers of classes and/or properties,
- captures the expressive power used by many such ontologies, and
- for which ontology consistency, class expression subsumption, and instance checking can be decided in polynomial time.

For example, OWL 2 EL provides class constructors that are sufficient to express the very large 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:PlainLiteral*
- *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*
- *xsd:dateTime*
- *xsd:dateTimeStamp*

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: *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 := 'ObjectOneOf' '(' 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 := 'DataOneOf' '(' 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  $Ax$  imposes a range restriction to a class expression  $CE$  on an object property  $OP_1$  if  $Ax$  contains the following axioms, where  $k \geq 1$  is an integer and  $OP_i$  are object properties:

```

SubObjectPropertyOf(  $OP_1$   $OP_2$  )
...
SubObjectPropertyOf(  $OP_{k-1}$   $OP_k$  )
ObjectPropertyRange(  $OP_k$   $CE$  )

```

The axiom closure  $Ax$  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

- $Ax$  contains  $\text{SubObjectPropertyOf}( \text{ObjectPropertyChain}( OP_1 \dots OP_n ) OP )$  and
- $Ax$  imposes a range restriction to some class expression  $CE$  on  $OP$

then  $Ax$  *must* impose a range restriction to  $CE$  on  $OP_n$ .

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 is designed so that sound and complete query answering is in LOGSPACE (more precisely, in  $AC^0$ ) 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 DL. It is designed so that data (assertions) that is stored in a standard relational database system can be queried through an ontology via a simple rewriting mechanism, i.e., by rewriting the query into an SQL query that is then answered by the RDBMS system, without any changes to the data.

OWL 2 QL is based on the DL-Lite family of description logics [*DL-Lite*]. Several variants of DL-Lite have been described in the literature, 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.

### 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 intersection ( <b>ObjectIntersectionOf</b> ) negation ( <b>ObjectComplementOf</b> ) existential quantification to a class <b>(ObjectSomeValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to a data range <b>(DataSomeValuesFrom)</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**)
- reflexive properties (**ReflexiveObjectProperty**)
- irreflexive properties (**IrreflexiveObjectProperty**)
- asymmetric properties (**AsymmetricObjectProperty**)
- assertions other than individual equality assertions and negative property 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** and **DataSomeValuesFrom**) 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**)
- keys (**HasKey**)
- individual equality assertions and negative property assertions

OWL 2 QL does not support individual equality assertions (**SameIndividual**): adding such axioms to OWL 2 QL would increase the data complexity of query answering, so that it is no longer first order rewritable, which means that query answering could not be implemented directly using relational database technologies. However, an ontology  $O$  that includes individual equality assertions, but is otherwise OWL 2 QL, could be handled by computing the reflexive-symmetric-transitive closure of the equality (**SameIndividual**) relation in  $O$  (this requires answering recursive queries and can be implemented in LOGSPACE w.r.t. the size of data) [[DL-Lite-bool](#)], and then using this relation in query answering procedures to simulate individual equality reasoning [[Automated Reasoning](#)].

## 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:PlainLiteral*
- *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*
- *xsd:dateTime*
- *xsd:dateTimeStamp*

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: *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 := 'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
  owl:Thing ')'
superClassExpression :=
  Class |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superObjectComplementOf |
  superObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom
superObjectIntersectionOf := 'ObjectIntersectionOf' '(' superClassExpression
superClassExpression { superClassExpression } ')'
superObjectComplementOf := 'ObjectComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression ')'
superObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '('
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 and transitive object properties, and it restricts the class expressions in object property domain and range axioms to **superClassExpression**.

```
ObjectPropertyDomain := 'ObjectPropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyRange := 'ObjectPropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
SubObjectPropertyOf := 'SubObjectPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  ReflexiveObjectProperty |
  SymmetricObjectProperty | AsymmetricObjectProperty
```

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

```
DataPropertyDomain := 'DataPropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
DataPropertyAxiom :=
  SubDataPropertyOf | EquivalentDataProperties | DisjointDataProperties |
  DataPropertyDomain | DataPropertyRange
```

OWL 2 QL disallows negative object property assertions and individual 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 key axioms are not allowed.

```
Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom | DataPropertyAxiom |
```

```
DatatypeDefinition | 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 [[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 was 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 (e.g., one based on the partial axiomatization presented in [Section 4.3](#)) will have desirable computational properties; for example, it can return *all* and *only* the correct answers to certain kinds of query (see [Theorem PR1](#) and OWL 2 Conformance [[OWL 2 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, for example if the RDF graph uses the built-in vocabulary in unusual ways. Such an implementation will, however, still produce only correct entailments (see OWL 2 Conformance [[OWL 2 Conformance](#)]).

### 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 other than <i>owl:Thing</i> 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 expression <b>(ObjectSomeValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to a data range <b>(DataSomeValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to an individual <b>(ObjectHasValue)</b> existential quantification to a literal <b>(DataHasValue)</b>	a class other than <i>owl:Thing</i> intersection of classes <b>(ObjectIntersectionOf)</b> negation <b>(ObjectComplementOf)</b> universal quantification to a class expression <b>(ObjectAllValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to an individual <b>(ObjectHasValue)</b> at-most 0/1 cardinality restriction to a class expression <b>(ObjectMaxCardinality 0/1)</b> universal quantification to a data range <b>(DataAllValuesFrom)</b> existential quantification to a literal <b>(DataHasValue)</b> at-most 0/1 cardinality restriction to a data range <b>(DataMaxCardinality 0/1)</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**) and reflexive object property axioms (**ReflexiveObjectProperty**).

## 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 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:PlainLiteral*
- *rdf:XMLLiteral*
- *rdfs:Literal*
- *xsd:decimal*
- *xsd:integer*
- *xsd:nonNegativeInteger*
- *xsd:nonPositiveInteger*
- *xsd:positiveInteger*
- *xsd:negativeInteger*
- *xsd:long*
- *xsd:int*
- *xsd:short*
- *xsd:byte*
- *xsd:unsignedLong*
- *xsd:unsignedInt*
- *xsd:unsignedShort*
- *xsd:unsignedByte*
- *xsd:float*
- *xsd:double*

- *xsd:string*
- *xsd:normalizedString*
- *xsd:token*
- *xsd:language*
- *xsd:Name*
- *xsd:NCName*
- *xsd:NMTOKEN*
- *xsd:boolean*
- *xsd:hexBinary*
- *xsd:base64Binary*
- *xsd:anyURI*
- *xsd:dateTime*
- *xsd:dateTimeStamp*

The set of supported datatypes has been designed to allow for an implementation in rule systems. The *owl:real* and *owl:rational* datatypes *must not* be used in OWL 2 RL.

#### 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 class expressions 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 := 'ObjectIntersectionOf' '(' subClassExpression
subClassExpression { subClassExpression } ')'
subObjectUnionOf := 'ObjectUnionOf' '(' subClassExpression subClassExpression {
subClassExpression } ')'
subObjectSomeValuesFrom :=
  'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression subClassExpression ')' |
  'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'

superClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superObjectComplementOf |
  superObjectAllValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue | superObjectMaxCardinality |
  DataAllValuesFrom | DataHasValue | superDataMaxCardinality
superObjectIntersectionOf := 'ObjectIntersectionOf' '(' superClassExpression
superClassExpression { superClassExpression } ')'
superObjectComplementOf := 'ObjectComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression ')'

```



```

superObjectAllValuesFrom := 'ObjectAllValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
superClassExpression ')'
superObjectMaxCardinality :=
  'ObjectMaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression [
subClassExpression ] ')' |
  'ObjectMaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne ObjectPropertyExpression owl:Thing ')'
superDataMaxCardinality := 'DataMaxCardinality' '(' zeroOrOne
DataPropertyExpression [ DataRange ] ')'

equivClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
equivObjectIntersectionOf |
ObjectHasValue |
DataHasValue
equivObjectIntersectionOf := 'ObjectIntersectionOf' '(' 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 differences being that class expressions in property domain and range axioms are restricted to **superClassExpression**, and that the use of reflexive properties is disallowed.

```

ObjectPropertyDomain := 'ObjectPropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyRange := 'ObjectPropertyRange' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
DataPropertyDomain := 'DataPropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression superClassExpression ')'
ObjectPropertyAxiom :=
  SubObjectPropertyOf | EquivalentObjectProperties |
  DisjointObjectProperties | InverseObjectProperties |
  ObjectPropertyDomain | ObjectPropertyRange |
  FunctionalObjectProperty | InverseFunctionalObjectProperty |
  IrreflexiveObjectProperty |
  SymmetricObjectProperty | AsymmetricObjectProperty
  TransitiveObjectProperty

```

OWL 2 RL restricts class expressions in positive assertions to **superClassExpression**. All other assertions are the same as in the structural specification [[OWL 2 Specification](#)].

```

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

```

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

```

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

```

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 [[OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics](#)] in the form of first-order 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 such as logic programming [[Logic Programming](#), [Lloyd](#)].

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 RDF & OWL](#)]); 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 rules that have empty "if" parts should be understood as being always applicable. The propositional symbol `false` is a special symbol denoting contradiction: if it is derived, then the initial RDF graph was inconsistent. The set of rules listed in this section is not minimal, as certain rules are implied by other ones; this was done to make the definition of the semantic consequences of each piece of OWL 2 vocabulary self-contained.

Many conditions contain atoms that match to the list construct of RDF. In order to simplify the presentation of the rules,  $LIST[h, e_1, \dots, e_n]$  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, e<sub>1</sub>, ..., e<sub>n</sub>]

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

The axiomatization is split into several tables for easier navigation. Each rule is given a short unique name. The rows of several tables specify rules that need to be instantiated for each combination of indices given in the right-most column.

Table 4 axiomatizes the semantics of equality. In particular, it defines the equality relation 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>	
eq-ref	T(?s, ?p, ?o)	T(?s, owl:sameAs, ?s) T(?p, 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(?x, rdf:type, owl:AllDifferent) T(?x, owl:members, ?y) LIST[?y, ?z <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?z <sub>n</sub> ] T(?z <sub>i</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?z <sub>j</sub> )	false	for each $1 \leq i < j \leq n$
eq-diff3	T(?x, rdf:type, owl:AllDifferent)	false	for each $1 \leq i < j \leq n$

	T(?x, owl:distinctMembers, ?y) LIST[?y, ?z <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?z <sub>n</sub> ] T(?z <sub>i</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?z <sub>j</sub> )		
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

Table 5 specifies the semantic conditions on axioms about properties.

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

	<b>If</b>	<b>then</b>	
prp-ap		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(?x, ?p, ?y <sub>1</sub> ) T(?x, ?p, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	T(?y <sub>1</sub> , owl:sameAs, ?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(?p, owl:propertyChainAxiom, ?x) LIST[?x, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?p <sub>n</sub> ] T(?u <sub>1</sub> , ?p <sub>1</sub> , ?u <sub>2</sub> )	T(?u <sub>1</sub> , ?p, ?u <sub>n+1</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> )		
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(?x, rdf:type, owl:AllDisjointProperties) T(?x, owl:members, ?y) LIST[?y, ?p <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?p <sub>n</sub> ] T(?u, ?p <sub>i</sub> , ?v) T(?u, ?p <sub>j</sub> , ?v)	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)	
prp-npa1	T(?x, owl:sourceIndividual, ?i <sub>1</sub> ) T(?x, owl:assertionProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:targetIndividual, ?i <sub>2</sub> ) T(?i <sub>1</sub> , ?p, ?i <sub>2</sub> )	false	
prp-npa2	T(?x, owl:sourceIndividual, ?i) T(?x, owl:assertionProperty, ?p) T(?x, owl:targetValue, ?lt) T(?i, ?p, ?lt)	false	

Table 6 specifies the semantic conditions on classes.

**Table 6.** The Semantics of Classes

	<b>If</b>	<b>then</b>	
cls-thing		T(owl:Thing, rdf:type, owl:Class)	
cls-nothing1		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-com	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:complementOf, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>1</sub> ) T(?x, rdf:type, ?c <sub>2</sub> )	false	
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, ?y1) T(?u, ?p, ?y2)	T(?y1, owl:sameAs, ?y2)
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(?y1, rdf:type, ?c) ... T(?yn, rdf:type, ?c)

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(?x, rdf:type, owl:AllDisjointClasses) T(?x, owl:members, ?y) LIST[?y, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ] T(?z, rdf:type, ?c <sub>i</sub> ) T(?z, 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		T(dt, rdf:type, rdfs:Datatype)	for each datatype dt supported in OWL 2 RL
dt-type2		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		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		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 lt is not contained in the value space of dt

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

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

	<b>if</b>	<b>then</b>
scm-cls	T(?c, rdf:type, owl:Class)	T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c) T(?c, owl:equivalentClass, ?c) T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, owl:Thing)

		T(owl:Nothing, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c)
scm-sco	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2) T(?c2, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c3)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c3)
scm- eqc1	T(?c1, owl:equivalentClass, ?c2)	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2) T(?c2, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c1)
scm- eqc2	T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2) T(?c2, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c1)	T(?c1, owl:equivalentClass, ?c2)
scm-op	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:ObjectProperty)	T(?p, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p) T(?p, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p)
scm-dp	T(?p, rdf:type, owl:DatatypeProperty)	T(?p, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p) T(?p, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p)
scm-spo	T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2) T(?p2, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p3)	T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p3)
scm- eqp1	T(?p1, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p2)	T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2) T(?p2, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p1)
scm- eqp2	T(?p1, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p2) T(?p2, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p1)	T(?p1, owl:equivalentProperty, ?p2)
scm- dom1	T(?p, rdfs:domain, ?c1) T(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)	T(?p, rdfs:domain, ?c2)
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(?c1, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c2)

	T(?c <sub>2</sub> , owl:onProperty, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?p <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p <sub>2</sub> )	
scm-avf1	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:allValuesFrom, ?y <sub>1</sub> ) T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?c <sub>2</sub> , owl:allValuesFrom, ?y <sub>2</sub> ) T(?c <sub>2</sub> , owl:onProperty, ?p) T(?y <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?y <sub>2</sub> )	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>2</sub> )
scm-avf2	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:allValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c <sub>1</sub> , owl:onProperty, ?p <sub>1</sub> ) T(?c <sub>2</sub> , owl:allValuesFrom, ?y) T(?c <sub>2</sub> , owl:onProperty, ?p <sub>2</sub> ) T(?p <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?p <sub>2</sub> )	T(?c <sub>2</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>1</sub> )
scm-int	T(?c, owl:intersectionOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ]	T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>1</sub> ) T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>2</sub> ) ... T(?c, rdfs:subClassOf, ?c <sub>n</sub> )
scm-uni	T(?c, owl:unionOf, ?x) LIST[?x, ?c <sub>1</sub> , ..., ?c <sub>n</sub> ]	T(?c <sub>1</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c) T(?c <sub>2</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c) ... T(?c <sub>n</sub> , rdfs:subClassOf, ?c)

In order to avoid potential performance problems in practice, OWL 2 RL/RDF rules do not include the axiomatic triples of RDF and RDFS (i.e., those triples that must be satisfied by, respectively, every RDF and RDFS interpretation) [[RDF Semantics](#)] and the relevant OWL vocabulary [[OWL 2 RDF-Based Semantics](#)]; moreover, OWL 2 RL/RDF rules include most, but not all of the entailment rules of RDFS [[RDF Semantics](#)]. An OWL 2 RL/RDF implementation *may* include these triples and entailment rules as necessary without invalidating the conformance requirements for OWL 2 RL [[OWL 2 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
- each axiom in  $O_2$  is an assertion of the form as specified below, for  $a, a_1, \dots, a_n$  named individuals:
  - ClassAssertion(  $C a$  ) where  $C$  is a class,
  - ObjectPropertyAssertion(  $OP a_1 a_2$  ) where  $OP$  is an object property,
  - DataPropertyAssertion(  $DP a v$  ) where  $DP$  is a data property, or
  - SameIndividual(  $a_1 \dots a_n$  ).

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 Direct Semantics [[OWL 2 Direct 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  $FO(RDF(A))$  from  $FO(RDF(O_1)) \cup R$ . 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  $FO(RDF(B))$  and by replacing each rule from  $DLP(O_1)$  with a corresponding rule from Tables 3–8. Consequently,  $FO(RDF(O_1)) \cup R$  entails  $FO(RDF(A))$ .

Since no IRI in  $O_1$  is used as both an individual and a class or a property,  $FO(RDF(O_1)) \cup R$  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  $FO(RDF(A))$  from  $FO(RDF(O_1)) \cup R$  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 complexity measures are 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 (without assertions) in the ontology
- **Query Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to the total size of the conjunctive query (defined only for conjunctive query answering)
- **Combined Complexity:** the complexity measured with respect to the total size of the axioms and the assertions in the ontology, the conjunctive query (in the case of conjunctive query answering), and the expression(s) being checked (in the case of class expression satisfiability, class expression subsumption, or instance checking)

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.

- **N2EXPTIME** 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 deterministic 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). NLOGSPACE is the nondeterministic version of this class.
- **AC<sup>0</sup>** is a proper subclass of LOGSPACE and defined not via Turing Machines, but via circuits: AC<sup>0</sup> is the class of problems definable using a family of circuits of constant depth and polynomial size, which can be generated by a deterministic Turing machine in logarithmic time (in the size of the input). Intuitively, AC<sup>0</sup> allows us to use polynomially many processors but the run-time must be constant. A typical example of an AC<sup>0</sup> problem is the evaluation of first-order queries over databases (or model checking of first-order sentences over finite models), where only the database (first-order model) is regarded as the input and the query (first-order sentence) is assumed to be fixed. The undirected graph reachability problem is known to be in LogSpace, but not in AC<sup>0</sup>.

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 Checking, Conjunctive Query Answering	Undecidable	Undecidable	Undecidable	Undecidable

OWL 2 Direct Semantics	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	N2EXPTIME-complete (NEXPTIME-complete if the property hierarchy can be translated into a polynomially-sized nondeterministic finite automaton)	Decidable, but complexity open (NP-Hard)	Not Applicable	N2EXPTIME-complete (NEXPTIME-complete if the property hierarchy can be translated into a polynomially-sized nondeterministic finite automaton)
	Conjunctive Query Answering	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open	Decidability open
OWL 2 EL	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	Not Applicable	PTIME-complete
	Conjunctive Query Answering	in EXPTIME (PTIME-complete if the property hierarchy can be translated into a polynomially-sized nondeterministic finite automaton)	PTIME-complete	NP-complete	in EXPTIME (PSPACE-complete if the property hierarchy can be translated into a polynomially-sized nondeterministic finite automaton)
OWL 2 QL	Ontology Consistency, Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	NLogSpace-complete	In $AC^0$	Not Applicable	NLogSpace-complete
	Conjunctive Query Answering	NLogSpace-complete	In $AC^0$	NP-complete	NP-complete
OWL 2 RL	Ontology Consistency	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	Not Applicable	PTIME-complete

	Class Expression Satisfiability, Class Expression Subsumption, Instance Checking	PTIME-complete	PTIME-complete	Not Applicable	co-NP-complete (PTIME-complete for atomic class expressions)
	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 general definitions from [Section 13.1](#) of 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 | stringLiteralNoLanguage | stringLiteralWithLanguage

```



```

typedLiteral := lexicalForm '^' Datatype
lexicalForm := quotedString
stringLiteralNoLanguage := quotedString
stringLiteralWithLanguage := quotedString languageTag

ObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectProperty

DataPropertyExpression := DataProperty

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf | DataOneOf

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom | DataPropertyAxiom |
DatatypeDefinition | 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 := 'SubObjectPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subObjectPropertyExpression superObjectPropertyExpression ')'
subObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression |
propertyExpressionChain
propertyExpressionChain := 'ObjectPropertyChain' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
ObjectPropertyExpression { ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'
superObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

```

```

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

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

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

DatatypeDefinition := 'DatatypeDefinition' '(' axiomAnnotations Datatype
DataRange ')'

HasKey := 'HasKey' '(' axiomAnnotations ClassExpression '(' {
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 := 'ObjectPropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetIndividual ')'

NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion := 'NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetIndividual ')'

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

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

```

## 6.2 OWL 2 QL

The grammar of OWL 2 QL consists of the general definitions from [Section 13.1](#) of 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 | stringLiteralNoLanguage | stringLiteralWithLanguage
typedLiteral := lexicalForm '^' Datatype
lexicalForm := quotedString
stringLiteralNoLanguage := quotedString
stringLiteralWithLanguage := quotedString languageTag

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

DataRange := Datatype | DataIntersectionOf

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

subClassExpression :=
  Class |
  subObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom

subObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
owl:Thing ')'

superClassExpression :=
  Class |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superObjectComplementOf |
  superObjectSomeValuesFrom | DataSomeValuesFrom

```

```
superObjectIntersectionOf := 'ObjectIntersectionOf' '(' superClassExpression
superClassExpression { superClassExpression } ')'
```

```
superObjectComplementOf := 'ObjectComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression ')'
```

```
superObjectSomeValuesFrom := 'ObjectSomeValuesFrom' '('
ObjectPropertyExpression Class ')'
```

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

```
Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom | DataPropertyAxiom |
DatatypeDefinition | 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 |
  ReflexiveObjectProperty |
  SymmetricObjectProperty | AsymmetricObjectProperty
```

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

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

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

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

```
ObjectPropertyDomain := 'ObjectPropertyDomain' '(' axiomAnnotations
```

```

ObjectPropertyExpression superClassExpression ' )'

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

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

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

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

  

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

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

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

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

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

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

  

DatatypeDefinition := 'DatatypeDefinition' '(' axiomAnnotations Datatype
DataRange ' )'

  

Assertion := DifferentIndividuals | ClassAssertion | ObjectPropertyAssertion |
DataPropertyAssertion

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

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

```

```

ClassAssertion := 'ClassAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations Class Individual ')'
ObjectPropertyAssertion := 'ObjectPropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetIndividual ')'
DataPropertyAssertion := 'DataPropertyAssertion' '(' axiomAnnotations
DataPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetValue ')'

```

### 6.3 OWL 2 RL

The grammar of OWL 2 RL consists of the general definitions from [Section 13.1](#) of 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 | stringLiteralNoLanguage | stringLiteralWithLanguage
typedLiteral := lexicalForm '^' Datatype
lexicalForm := quotedString
stringLiteralNoLanguage := quotedString
stringLiteralWithLanguage := quotedString languageTag

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

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

```



```

zeroOrOne := '0' | '1'

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

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

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

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

superClassExpression :=
  Class other than owl:Thing |
  superObjectIntersectionOf | superComplementOf |
  superObjectAllValuesFrom | ObjectHasValue | superObjectMaxCardinality |
  DataAllValuesFrom | DataHasValue | superDataMaxCardinality

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

superObjectComplementOf := 'ObjectComplementOf' '(' subClassExpression ')'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

```

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

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

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

```
Axiom := Declaration | ClassAxiom | ObjectPropertyAxiom | DataPropertyAxiom |
DatatypeDefinition | 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 := 'SubObjectPropertyOf' '(' axiomAnnotations
subObjectPropertyExpression superObjectPropertyExpression ')'
```

```
subObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression |
propertyExpressionChain
```

```
propertyExpressionChain := 'ObjectPropertyChain' '(' ObjectPropertyExpression
ObjectPropertyExpression { ObjectPropertyExpression } ')'
```

```
superObjectPropertyExpression := ObjectPropertyExpression
```

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

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

```
InverseObjectProperties := 'InverseObjectProperties' '(' axiomAnnotations
```

```

ObjectPropertyExpression ObjectPropertyExpression ' )'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

  

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

```

```

DatatypeDefinition := 'DatatypeDefinition' '(' axiomAnnotations Datatype
DataRange ')'

HasKey := 'HasKey' '(' axiomAnnotations subClassExpression '(' {
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 superClassExpression
Individual ')'

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

NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion := 'NegativeObjectPropertyAssertion' '('
axiomAnnotations ObjectPropertyExpression sourceIndividual targetIndividual ')'

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

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

```

## 7 Appendix: Change Log (Informative)

### 7.1 Changes Since Recommendation

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the [Recommendation of 27 October, 2009](#).

- With the publication of the XML Schema Definition Language (XSD) 1.1 Part 2: Datatypes [Recommendation of 5 April 2012](#), 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.

- The description of the computational properties of the various profiles in [Section 5](#) has been edited to improve clarity and precision.
- A redundant grammar production for **ReflexiveObjectProperty** was removed from [Section 6.3](#).
- Minor typographical errors were corrected as detailed on the [OWL 2 Errata](#) page.

## 7.2 Changes Since Proposed Recommendation

No changes have been made to this document since the [Proposed Recommendation of 22 September, 2009](#).

## 7.3 Changes Since Candidate Recommendation

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the [Candidate Recommendation of 11 June, 2009](#).

- The "Features At Risk" warning w.r.t. the owl:rational and rdf:XMLLiteral datatypes was removed: implementation support has been adequately demonstrated, and the features are no longer considered at risk (see [Resolution 5](#) and [Resolution 6](#), 05 August 2009).
- A note on the origin of the profile names was added, and it was pointed out that none of the profiles is a subset of another.
- A citation of Lloyd's *Foundations of Logic Programming* was added.
- Some minor editorial changes were made.

## 7.4 Changes Since Last Call

This section summarizes the changes to this document since the [Last Call Working Draft of 21 April, 2009](#).

- One grammar production was fixed in order to align it with the grammar in Structural Specification and Functional-Style Syntax
- The name of rdf:text was changed to rdf:PlainLiteral.
- A reference to logic programming was added.
- Some minor editorial changes were made.

## 8 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 has been produced by the OWL Working Group (see below), and its contents reflect extensive discussions within the Working Group as a whole. The editors extend special thanks to Jie Bao (RPI), 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 Computing Laboratory), Martin Džbor (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

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## 9 References

### 9.1 Normative References

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#### [DL-Lite]

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**[OWL 2 Primer]**

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