

# FOUNDATIONS OF SEMANTIC WEB TECHNOLOGIES

**OWL - Syntax & Intuition** 

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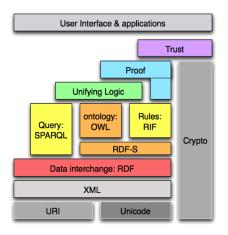
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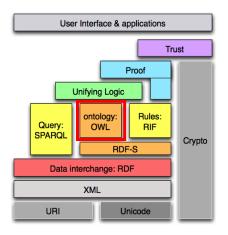


## **OWL**





### **OWL**





# Agenda

- Motivation
- OWL General Remarks
- Classes, Roles and Individuals
- Class Relationships
- Complex Classes
- **Role Characteristics**
- OWI Variants
- OWL Ontologies: Reasoning Tasks



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# Ontology in Philosophy

- notion exists only in sigular (no "ontologies")
- denotes the "study of being"
- can be found in philosophical writings of Aristotle (Socrates), Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Quine, ...
- term first mentioned in 17th century



# Ontology in Computer Science

#### Gruber (1993):

"An Ontology is a

formal specification  $\Rightarrow$  interpretable by machines

of a shared  $\Rightarrow$  based on consensus

conceptualization  $\Rightarrow$  describes relevant notions

of a domain of interest"  $\Rightarrow$  referring to a "topic"

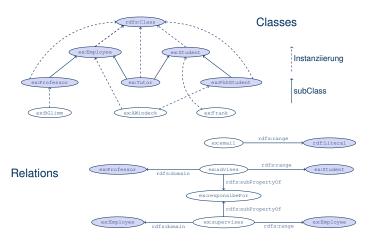


# Ontologies in Practice Some Requirements

- instantiation of classes by individuals
- conceptual hierarchies (taxonomies, "inheritance"): classes, concepts
- binary relations between individuals: properties, roles
- characteristics of relations (z.B. range, transitive)
- datatypes (e.g. numbers): concrete domains
- logical operators
- clear semantics



# RDFS – Simple Ontologies





# RDF Schema as Ontology Language?

- appropriate for simple ontologies
- advantage: automated inferencing relatively efficient
- but: not appropriate for more complex modeling
- resort to more expressive languages, like
  - OWI
  - RIF ...



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#### OWL – General Remarks

- W3C Recommendation since 2004
- semantic fragment of FOL
- three variants:
  - OWL Lite
  - OWL DL
  - OWI Full
- no reification in OWL DL
- → RDFS is fragment of OWL Full
- OWL DL is decidable. corresponds to description logic SHOIN(D)
- W3C documents contain details that cannot all be covered here



## **OWL 1 Variants**

- OWI Full
  - contains OWL DL and OWL Lite
  - contains all of RDFS (as the only OWL variant)
  - semantics contains some aspects that are problematic from a logical perspective
  - undecidable
  - limited support by tools



### OWL 1 Variants

- OWI Full
  - contains OWL DL and OWL Lite
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  - semantics contains some aspects that are problematic from a logical perspective
  - undecidable
  - limited support by tools
- OWI DI
  - contains OWL Lite and is sublanguage of OWL Full
  - widely supported by tools
  - complexity NExpTime (worst-case)



### OWL 1 Variants

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  - limited support by tools
- OWI DI
  - contains OWL Lite and is sublanguage of OWL Full
  - widely supported by tools
  - complexity NExpTime (worst-case)
- OWL Lite
  - sublanguage of OWL DL and OWL Full
  - low expressivity
  - complexity ExpTime (worst-case)



### **OWL** Documents

- are RDF documents (at least in the standard syntax; there are others)
- consist of
  - head with general information
  - rest with actual ontology



### Head of an OWL Document

#### definition of name spaces in the root

```
<rdf:RDF
  xmlns="http://example.org/exampleontology#"
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#"
  xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
  xmlns:owl="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#">
    ...
</rdf:RDF>
```



#### Head of an OWL Document

#### general information

```
<owl:Ontology rdf:about="">
  <rdfs:comment
    rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string">
    SWRC ontology, version of June 2007
  </rdfs:comment>
  <owl:versionInfo>v0.7.1</owl:versionInfo>
  <owl:imports rdf:resource="http://www.example.org/foo" />
  <owl:priorVersion
    rdf:resource="http://ontoware.org/projects/swrc" />
  </owl:Ontology>
```



#### Head of an OWL Document

#### taken from RDFS

rdfs:label rdfs:seeAlso rdfs:isDefinedBy

#### in addition

owl:imports

#### for versioning

owl:versionInfo
owl:priorVersion
owl:backwardCompatibleWith
owl:incompatibleWith
owl:DeprecatedClass
owl:DeprecatedProperty



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## Classes, Roles and Individuals

three building blocks of ontology axioms

- classes
  - comparable with classes in RDFS
- individuals
  - comparable with "proper" instances in RDFS
- roles
  - comparable with properties in RDFS



### classes

#### definition

- <nwl:Class rdf:about ="Professor"/>
- equivalent to

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="#Professor">
  <rdf:type
    rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#Class"/>
</rdf:Description>
```

#### pre-defined

- owl:Thing
- owl:Nothing



### Individuals

#### definition via class membership

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="rudiStuder">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="#Professor"/>
</rdf:Description>
```

#### equivalent:

```
<Professor rdf:about="rudiStuder"/>
```



### Abstrakte Rollen

abstract roles are defined in a way similar to classes

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasAffiliation" />
```

domain and range of abstract roles

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasAffiliation">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="Person" />
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="Organization" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
```



### Concrete Roles

```
concrete roles have datatypes as range
```

```
<owl:DatatypeProperty rdf:about="firstName" />
```

#### domain and range of concrete roles

```
<owl:DatatypeProperty rdf:about="firstName">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="Person" />
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="&xsd;string" />
</owl:DatatypeProperty>
```

#### many XML datatypes can be used



### Individuals and Roles

```
<Person rdf:about="rudiStuder">
  <hasAffiliation rdf:resource="aifb" />
   <hasAffiliation rdf:resource="fzi" />
   <firstName rdf:datatype="&xsd;string">
    Rudi
  </firstName>
</Person>
```

in general roles are not functional



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# Simple Class Relationships

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Professor">
 <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="FacultyMember" />
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:about="FacultyMember">
 <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="Person" />
</owl:Class>
```

it follows by inference that Professor is a subclass of Person



# Simple Class Relationships

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Professor">
    <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="FacultyMember" />
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:about="Book">
    <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="Publication" />
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:about="FacultyMember">
    <owl:Class rdf:about="FacultyMember">
    <owl:Class></owl:Class></owl:Class></owl:Class></owl:Class>
```

it follows by inference that Professor and Buch are also disjoint classes



# Simple Class Relationships

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Man">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="Person" />
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:about="Person">
  <owl:equivalentClass rdf:resource="Human" />
</owl:Class>
```

it follows by inference that Man is a subclass of Human



# Individuals and Class Relationships

```
<Book rdf:about="http://semantic-web-book.org/uri">
<author rdf:resource="pascalHitzler" />
<author rdf:resource="markusKroetzsch" />
<author rdf:resource="sebastianRudolph" />
</Book>
<owl:Class rdf:about="Book">
<rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="Publication" />
</owl:Class>
it follows by inference that Foundations of Semantic Web
Technologies is a Publication.
```



# Relationships between Individuals

```
<Professor rdf:about="rudiStuder" />
    <rdf:Description rdf:about="rudiStuder">
    <owl:sameAs rdf:resource="professorStuder" />
</rdf:Description>
```

it follows by inference that rudiStuder is a Professor distinctness of individuals expressed via owl:differentFrom.



# Relationships between Individuals

```
<owl:AllDifferent>
<owl:distinctMembers rdf:parseType="Collection">
<Person rdf:about="rudiStuder" />
<Person rdf:about="dennyVrandecic" />
<Person rdf:about="peterHaase" />
</owl:distinctMembers>
</owl:AllDifferent>
```

abbreviated notation instead of using several owl:differentFrom

usage of owl:AllDifferent and owl:distinctMembers exclusively for this purpose



### Closed Classes

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="SecretariesOfStuder">
 <owl:oneOf rdf:parseType="Collection">
    <Person rdf:about="giselaSchillinger" />
    <Person rdf:about="anneEberhardt" />
 </owl:oneOf>
</owl:Class>
```

tells that there are only exactly these two SecretariesOfStuder



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### Logical Class Constructors

- logical and (conjunction): owl:intersectionOf
- logical or (disjunction): owl:unionOf
- logical not (negation): owl:complementOf
- used to construct complex classes from simple classes



# Conjunktion

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="SecretariesOfStuder">
  <owl:intersectionOf rdf:parseType="Collection">
    <owl:Class rdf:about="Secretaries" />
    <owl:Class rdf:about="MembersOfStudersGroup" />
  </owl:intersectionOf>
</owl:Class>
```

it follows by inference that all SecretariesOfStuder are also Secretaries



### Disjunction

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Professor">
 <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Class>
      <owl:unionOf rdf:parseType="Collection">
        <owl:Class rdf:about="ActivelyTeaching" />
        <owl:Class rdf:about="Retired" />
      </owl:unionOf>
    </owl:Class>
 </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
```



### Negation

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="FacultyMember">
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Class>
      <owl:complementOf rdf:resource="Publication" />
    </owl:Class>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
semantically equivalent:
<owl:Class rdf:about="FacultyMember">
  <owl:disjointWith rdf:resource="Publication" />
</owl:Class>
```

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### Role Restrictions (all Values From)

used to define complex classes via roles

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Exam">
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="hasExaminer" />
      <owl:allValuesFrom rdf:resource="Professor" />
    </owl:Restriction>
 </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
```

i.e., all examiners of an exam have to be professors



### Role Restrictions (someValuesFrom)

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Exam">
 <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="hasExaminer" />
      <owl:someValuesFrom rdf:resource="Person" />
    </owl:Restriction>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
```

i.e., every exam must have at least one examiner



### Role Restrictions (Cardinalities)

an exam may have at most two examiners



### Role Restrictions (Cardinalities)

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Exam">
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="hasTopic"/>
      <owl:minCardinality</pre>
        rdf:datatype="&xsd;nonNegativeInteger">3
      </owl:minCardinality>
    </owl:Restriction>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
```

an exam must cover at least three topics



### Role Restrictions (Cardinalities)

an exam must cover exactly three topics



### Role Restrictions (has Value)

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="ExamStuder">
  <owl:equivalentClass>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="hasExaminer" />
      <owl:hasValue rdf:resource="rudiStuder" />
    </owl:Restriction>
  </owl:equivalentClass>
</owl:Class>
```

owl:hasValue always refers to one singular individual the above is equivalent to the example on the next slide



### Role Restrictions (has Value)

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="ExamStuder">
  <owl:equivalentClass>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="hasExaminer" />
      <owl:someValuesFrom>
        <owl:oneOf rdf:parseType="Collection">
          <owl:Thing rdf:about="rudiStuder" />
        </owl:oneOf>
      </owl:someValuesFrom>
    </owl:Restriction>
  </owl:equivalentClass>
</owl:Class>
```



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## Role Relationships

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasExaminer">
    <rdfs:subPropertyOf rdf:resource="hasParticipant" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>

likewise: owl:equivalentProperty
roles can be inverses of each other:

<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasExaminer">
    <owl:ObjectProperty rdf:resource="examinerOf"/>
    </owl:ObjectProperty>
```

### **Role Characteristics**

- domain
- range
- transitivity, i.e. r(a, b) and r(b, c) imply r(a, c)
- symmetry, i.e. r(a, b) implies r(b, a)
- functionality r(a, b) and r(a, c) imply b = c
- inverse functionality r(a, b) and r(c, b) imply a = c



### Domain and Range

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="isMemberOf">
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="Organization" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
equivalent to:
<owl:Class rdf:about="&owl;Thing">
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="isMemberOf" />
      <owl:allValuesFrom rdf:resource="Organization" />
    </owl:Restriction>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
```

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### Domain and Range: Caution!

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="isMemberOf">
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="Organization" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<number rdf:about="five">
  <isMemberOf rdf:resource="PrimeNumbers" />
</number>
```

it follows that PrimeNumbers are an Organization!



### Role Characteristics

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasColleague">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="&owl;TransitiveProperty" />
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="&owl;SymmetricProperty" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="hasProjectLeader">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="&owl;FunctionalProperty" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="isProjectLeaderFor">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="&owl;InverseFunctionalProperty" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<Person rdf:about="peterHaase">
  <hasColleague rdf:resource="philippCimiano" />
  <hasColleague rdf:resource="steffenLamparter" />
  <isProjectLeaderFor rdf:resource="neOn" />
</Person>
<Project rdf:about="x-Media">
  <hasProjectLeader rdf:resource="philippCimiano" />
  <hasProjectLeader rdf:resource="cimianoPhilipp" />
</Project>
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```



# Consequences from the Example

- steffenLamparter hasColleague peterHaase
- steffenLamparter hasColleague philippCimiano
- philippCimiano owl:sameAs cimianoPhilipp



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### **OWL 1 Variants**

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- OWL Lite
  - sublanguage of OWL DL and OWL Full
  - low expressivity
  - complexity ExpTime (worst-case)



#### OWL Full

- unrestricted use of all OWL and RDFS language elements (has to be valid RDFS)
- difficult e.g.: non-existent type separation (classes, roles, individuals), thus:
  - owl:Thing becomes the same as rdfs:resource
  - owl:Class becomes the same as rdfs:Class
  - owl:DatatypeProperty becomes a subclass of owl:ObjectProperty
  - owl:ObjectProperty becomes the same as rdf:Property



# Example for Confusion of Types in OWL Full

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Book">
   <germanName rdf:datatype="&xsd;string">Buch</germanName>
   <frenchName rdf:datatype="&xsd;string">livre</frenchName>
</owl:Class>
```

inferences about such constructs are rarely needed in practice



#### OWL DL

- only usage of RDFS language elements that are explicitly allowed (like those in our examples) not allowed: rdfs:Class, rdfs:Property
- type separation: classes and roles have to be explicitly declared
- concrete roles must not be specified as transitive, symmetric, inverse or inverse functional
- number restrictions must not be used with transitive roles, their subroles, or inverses thereof



### **OWL Lite**

- all restrictions of OWL DI
- moreover:
  - not allowed: oneOf, unionOf, complementOf, hasValue, disjointWith
  - number restrictions only allowed with 0 and 1
  - some constraints referring to anonymous (complex) classes, e.g., only in the subject of rdfs:subClassOf



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# Terminological Queries to OWL Ontologies

- class equivalence
- subclass relationships
- disjointness of classes
- global consistency (aka satisfiability)
- class consistency: a class is inconsistent if it is equivalent to owl:Nothing - this hints to a modeling error:

```
<owl:Class rdf:about="Book">
  <owl:subClassOf rdf:resource="Publication"/>
  <owl:disjointWith rdf:resource="Publication"/>
</owl:Class>
```



### Assertionale Queries to OWL Ontologies

- instance checking: does a given individual belong to a given class?
- search for all individuals that are members of a given class
- are two given individuals linked by a role?
- search for all individual pairs that are linked by a certain role
- ... caution: only "provable" answers will be given!



### **OWL 1 Language Elements**

#### head

- rdfs:comment
- rdfs:label
- rdfs:seeAlso
- rdfs:isDefinedBy
- owl:versionInfo
- owl:priorVersion
- owl:backwardCompatibleWith
- owl:incompatibleWith
- owl:DeprecatedClass
- owl:DeprecatedProperty
- owl:imports

#### relationships between individuals

- owl:sameAs
- owl:differentFrom
- owl:AllDifferent
- owl:distinctMembers

#### pre-defined datatypes (OWL 1)

- xsd:strong
- xsd:integer

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### **OWL Language Elements**

#### class constructors and -relationships

- owl:Class
- owl:Thing
- owl:Nothing
- rdfs:subClassOf
- owl:disjointWith
- owl:equivalentClass
- owl:intersectionOf
- owl:unionOf
- owl:complementOf

#### role restrictions

- owl:allValuesFrom
- owl:someValuesFrom
- owl:hasValue
- owl:cardinality
- owl:minCardinality
- owl:maxCardinality
- owl:oneOf



### **OWL Language Elements**

#### role constructors, relationships and characteristics

- owl:ObjectProperty
- owl:DatatypeProperty
- rdfs:subPropertyOf
- owl:equivalentProperty
- owl:inverseOf
- rdfs:domain
- rdfs:range
- owl:TransitiveProperty
- owl:SymmetricProperty
- owl:FunctionalProperty
- owl:InverseFunctionalProperty



#### Further Literature

- http://www.w3.org/2004/OWL/ central W3C web page for OWL
- http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-features/ overview over OWL
- http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-ref/ comprehensive description of the OWL language components
- http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-guide/ introduction into OWL knowledge modeling
- http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-semantics/ describes the semantics of OWL and the abstract syntax for OWL DL (~ later lecture)