

Article

An Ontology-Based Holistic and Probabilistic Framework for Seismic Risk Assessment of Buildings

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Abstract: To avoid over-reliance on the identification of building damage states post-earthquake in the seismic risk assessment process, an ontology-based holistic and probabilistic framework is proposed here for seismic risk prediction of buildings with various purposes and different damage states. Based on vulnerability analysis, the seismic risk probabilities of buildings are first obtained by considering the on-site seismic hazard. Taking economic losses and casualties as assessment indicators, a system for seismic risk assessment of buildings, OntoBSRA (Ontology for Building Seismic Risk Assessment), is then developed by combining ontology and semantic web rule language. A case study is carried out to demonstrate the application of the proposed framework and further validate the semantic web rules. The results show that the proposed framework can provide a holistic knowledge base that allows risk assessors or asset managers to predict the consequences of earthquakes effectively, thereby improving efficiency in decision-making.

Keywords: seismic vulnerability; seismic hazard; seismic risk probability; ontology; semantic web rule



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1. Introduction

Earthquake, as one of the most destructive natural disasters, causes huge economic losses and casualties annually. Taking the USA as an example, the annual economic loss caused by earthquakes is estimated to be USD 4.5 billion, and this estimate does not include casualties [1,2]. Therefore, to analyze the seismic performance of structures for decision-making for more effective disaster prevention and mitigation measures, researchers have carried out extensive research using shaking table tests and time-history analyses on the deformation mechanism, weak links, and characteristics of mechanical responses of structures subjected to earthquakes [3–5].

It should be noted that the shaking table tests and the time-history analysis method can only obtain the mechanical performance of a structure under specific ground motions; they have limitations in analyzing the randomness of the seismic response caused by the uncertainty in both the ground motion and the structure (e.g., design, construction, size and material strength, etc.) [6]. Therefore, in order to fully consider the uncertainties in multiple factors, performance-based earthquake engineering (PBEE) research has been conducted based on probability theory, in which probability is used as the basic measure to estimate the seismic performance of a structure [7–10]. Koutsourelakis [11] used fragility curves to evaluate the seismic performance of a structure constructed on a saturated sand deposit and provided confidence intervals of the vulnerability by combining Bayesian theory with the Markov Chain Monte Carlo technique. Cimellaro and Reinhorn [12] used the combination of acceleration and inter-story drift as a response variable and defined a generalized multidimensional limit state function. Then, multidimensional fragility curves were established for a California hospital considering the correlations among the thresholds. Michel et al. [13] obtained fragility curves for a reinforced concrete (RC) structure based on two complete methodologies. One is to use a multiple degrees of freedom system

considering higher modes, while the other is to use a single degree of freedom model considering the fundamental mode. Furthermore, Ruggieri and Gentile et al. [14–16] discussed the trade-off between complexity (modelling effort and computational time) and accuracy in seismic fragility analysis of RC structures so as to provide proper methods of seismic fragility for practical PBEE assessment. Bakhshi and Asadi [17] quantified the impact of overall structural ductility on failure probability using vulnerability curves. Karapetrou et al. [18] studied the influence of corrosion on the seismic performance of RC structures using time-dependent fragility curves based on the incremental dynamic analysis (IDA) method. Based on vulnerability analysis, Yu et al. [19] took four groups of buildings with low-to-medium heights corresponding to 3, 5, 8, and 10 stories as examples in order to investigate the influence of seismic design levels on the seismic performance of RC moment-resisting frame buildings designed according to the provisions of the current Chinese code for seismic design of buildings. Generally speaking, according to Dowrick [20], seismic risks can be divided into three parts: seismic vulnerability, seismic hazard, and seismic loss. Therefore, assuming that the seismic hazard function can be approximated by the extreme value type II distribution, Cornell et al. [21] conducted vulnerability analysis and derived an analytical solution to the seismic risk probability for structures with different damage states using convolving seismic vulnerability function and seismic hazard function based on the full probability theory. Along with later collaborators, they further established the second-generation PBEE theory to establish a probabilistic framework for seismic performance evaluation of structures [22–24]. Furthermore, Lu et al. [25] clarified the distinctions and connections of five seismic fragility models in the second-generation PBEE theory, namely, the seismic demand fragility model, the seismic capacity fragility model, the seismic damage fragility model, the seismic loss fragility model, and the seismic decision fragility model, and put forward the concepts of forward and backward PBEE theory to integrate the traditional seismic risk theory and the second-generation PBEE theory into a unified framework.

According to ISO 31000-2018 [26], risk is defined as the effect of uncertainty on the objectives. However, the previous theoretical studies on seismic risk theory for structures only predict the probability of a structure with different damage states subjected to random seismic loads. They cannot quantitatively evaluate the consequences caused by earthquakes from a macroscopic point of view, such as economic losses and casualties, while traditional seismic risk assessment heavily relies on the investigation of actual earthquake damage. Wang et al. [27] conducted statistical analysis of the measured damage loss from the Tianjin and Lancang–Gengma earthquakes, determining the ratio of the indirect losses to the initial construction cost of buildings with different damage states. Spence et al. [28] proposed a global earthquake vulnerability estimation system to determine the mean damage ratio for buildings with different purposes under earthquake loads. Sahar et al. [29] developed an algorithm for automatic extraction and identification of two-dimensional building shape information using aerial images and geographic information systems, and further evaluated the seismic risks of cities. Lu et al. [30] proposed a near real-time method for estimation of building seismic losses based on combined satellite or aerial images and dynamic nonlinear time history analysis. Xiong et al. [31] put forward a seismic damage evaluation method for regional buildings on the basis of drones and a convolutional neural network, which was capable of accurately evaluating the seismic damage in regional buildings through collected detailed damage information on buildings. Using photographs of buildings, Ruggieri et al. [32] proposed a VULMA (vulnerability analysis using machine-learning) framework based on machine learning to evaluate seismic vulnerability of existing buildings. More accurate seismic risk assessment results can be obtained by applying the methods mentioned above. However, these methods are heavily dependent on the identification of structural damage states after a specific earthquake, and the statistical process is tedious and complicated. In addition, these methods cannot take into account earthquake uncertainty, and there is a lack of a unified seismic risk assessment framework.

to predict earthquake losses for existing buildings with various purposes and different damage states.

Ontology, as a new semantic technology, can be used for knowledge sharing in different areas. Its semantic structures and ability for logical inference provide an effective method for integrated decision-making based on multi-objective knowledge. Ever since its emergence, ontology technology has been widely applied in many aspects, such as agriculture, biology, economy, medicine, construction, etc. [33]. Tseng et al. [34] proposed an ontology-based risk management method for managing the risks in construction stages. Taking into account the relationship between risk sources and cost overruns, Fidan et al. [35] proposed an ontology-based model to predict cost overruns. Scheuer et al. [36] established an ontology-based knowledge base for flood risk management using the accessibility and repeatability of multi-criteria risk assessment of floods. Du et al. [37] combined the hierarchical clustering method with ontology and developed an integrated system for risk information of surface subsidence of underground tunnels. Ding et al. [38] proposed an information management framework for construction risks in the Building Information Modeling (BIM) environment by making full use of the advantages of the BIM, ontology, and semantic web technologies. Meng et al. [39] developed an ontology of a pile integrity evaluation system for quantitative identification and qualitative evaluation of piles with defects combined with an analytical methodology for pile vibrations. Ontology is capable of integrating multi-objective knowledge into a unified system. However, no studies have been conducted to apply ontology in order to develop a knowledge base for seismic risk assessment of buildings.

Based on an extensive literature review, it is paramount to develop an efficient building seismic risk prediction framework based on probability and ontology to predict economic losses and casualties for better disaster prevention and mitigation. This paper aims to develop an ontology-based probabilistic framework for seismic risk assessment of buildings. In the developed framework, seismic risk probabilities of buildings with different damage states are first derived based on seismic vulnerability analysis and seismic hazard analysis. On this basis, an Ontology for Building Seismic Risk Assessment (OntoBSRA) system is developed to integrate knowledge on seismic risk assessments of buildings into a unified knowledge base by combining ontology and semantic web rule language (SWRL). Thus, automated seismic risk prediction including direct losses, indirect losses, and casualties related to buildings with various purposes and different damage states can be realized. The flow chart of the seismic risk prediction framework is shown in Figure 1. In addition, a case study is conducted in order to illustrate the application of the framework for seismic risk prediction.

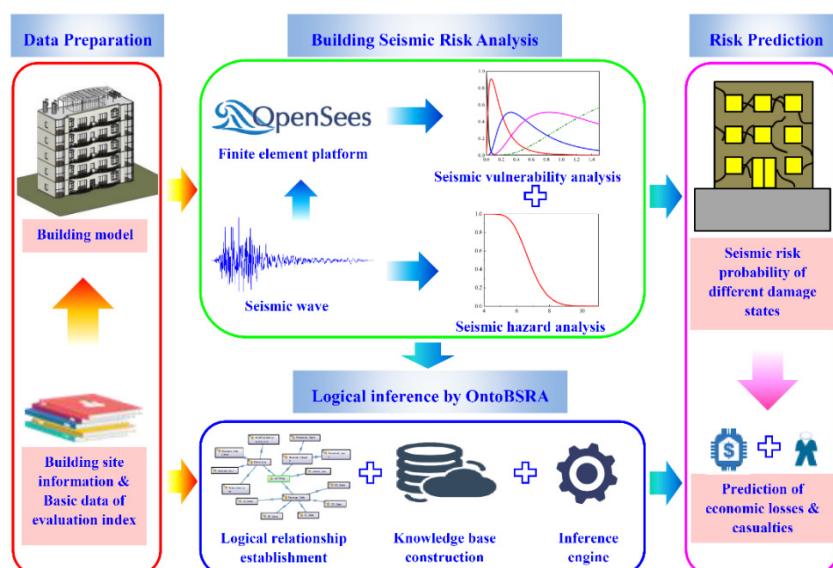


Figure 1. Seismic risk prediction framework flow chart.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the method for seismic risk probability analysis; Section 3 discusses the details of the OntoBSRA; a case study is conducted to illustrate the details of the application of the proposed framework in Section 4; finally, in Section 5 the major findings and limitations of this study are summarized in the course of concluding this paper.

2. Method for Seismic Risk Probability Analysis

Because of the need to take into account the uncertainty in both the earthquake and the structure while meeting the explicit requirements of various stakeholders in terms of performance targets seismic risk-oriented performance-based earthquake engineering has attracted the attention of many researchers, and full-probability seismic performance assessment methods have been proposed for engineering structures. Seismic risk probability analysis mainly includes seismic vulnerability analysis and seismic hazard analysis.

2.1. Seismic Vulnerability Analysis

In vulnerability analysis, the first step is to conduct a probabilistic seismic demand analysis. Considering the randomness of earthquake loads, a large number of selected seismic waves are input into the structural model for nonlinear dynamic time-history analysis in order to obtain the engineering demand parameter (*EDP*). Then, the relationship between the *EDP* and the ground motion intensity measure (*IM*) is obtained through data fitting. In this paper, the maximum inter-story drift of a structure is selected as the *EDP* and the peak ground acceleration (*PGA*) is used as the *IM*. According to Cornell and Krawinkler [19], the relationship between the *EDP* and *IM* is as follows:

$$EDP = a(IM)^b \quad \text{or} \quad \ln(EDP) = \ln a + b \ln IM \quad (1)$$

where *a* and *b* are the fitting parameters.

Seismic fragility quantitatively describes the ability of a structure to resist a certain level of seismic damage based on probability theory, and is defined as the conditional probability of the *EDP* of the structure subjected to an earthquake exceeding a certain limit state. It is generally assumed that seismic fragility follows a lognormal distribution, which can be expressed as follows [25]:

$$P_f = P(EDP \geq DI | IM) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\ln(DI) - \ln(a(IM)^b)}{\sqrt{\beta_d^2 + \beta_c^2}}\right) \quad (2)$$

where P_f is the probability of the limit being exceeded, DI is the damage state thresholds, and β_d and β_c are the logarithmic standard deviations of the engineering demand parameter and the seismic capacity, respectively. According to literature [40], when the ground peak acceleration *PGA* is selected as the *IM*, $\sqrt{\beta_d^2 + \beta_c^2}$ is equal to 0.5.

According to GB50011-2010 [41] and Mwafy and Almorad [42], the structural performance level in this paper is categorized into five groups, namely, Normal Occupancy (OP), Immediate Occupancy (IO), Life Safety (LS), Collapse Prevention (CP), and Destruction (DS). The corresponding damage states are termed as no damage, slight damage, moderate damage, extensive damage, and complete collapse. The thresholds of these damage states are shown in Table 1 [41,43].

Table 1. The thresholds of the different damage states.

No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse
$EDP \leq 1/550$	$1/550 < EDP \leq 1\%$	$1\% < EDP \leq 2\%$	$2\% < EDP \leq 4\%$	$EDP > 4\%$

Based on the above analysis, the occurrence probability curves for various damage states of a structure can be obtained by Equation (3):

$$F_{ds,j} = P(EDP = ds_j | IM) = \begin{cases} 1 - P_{f,j} & j = 1 \\ P_{f,j-1} - P_{f,j} & j = 2, 3, 4 \\ P_{f,j-1} & j = 5 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where ds denotes the damage state and $j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ represent no damage, slight damage, moderate damage, extensive damage, and complete collapse, respectively.

Moreover, seismic intensity can intuitively reflect the severity of the seismic damage and accelerate the process of assessing seismic risks. To this end, in this paper the occurrence probability curves are converted into probability matrixes related to the seismic intensity according to the relationship between the seismic intensity and the PGA , as shown in Equation (4) [44]:

$$I = 3.70 \log(PGA) - 1.60 \quad (4)$$

where I is the seismic intensity level.

2.2. Seismic Hazard Analysis

Seismic hazard refers to the probability distribution of the ground motion in the studied area within a certain period, among which the exceeding or occurrence probability of the seismic intensity is an important index. It is assumed that the seismic intensity follows a Weibull distribution [45]. Hence, the exceeding probability of the seismic intensity within 50 years is expressed as follows:

$$P(I \geq i) = 1 - F_{III}(i) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{\omega - i}{\omega - I_0}\right)^k / 10^{0.9773}\right) \quad (5)$$

where ω is the upper limit value of the seismic intensity (generally, $\omega = 12$), I_0 is the basic intensity, i is the specific value of seismic intensity, and k is the shape parameter, which can be determined by the least-square method. For regions with a seismic precautionary intensity of grades VI, VII, VIII, and IX, the values of k are 9.7932, 8.3339, 6.8713, and 5.4028, respectively.

2.3. Seismic Risk Probability Analysis

Seismic risk probability refers to the probability of certain disaster consequences in the area of interest caused by earthquakes. In this paper, it is defined as the occurrence probability of a structure in different damage states, which is based on the seismic vulnerability analysis and the seismic hazard analysis. The seismic risk probability can be expressed as follows:

$$P_{ds,j} = \sum_i F(ds_j | I_i) P(I_i) \quad (6)$$

where $P_{ds,j}$ is the seismic risk probability of a structure in the j th damage state, $F(ds_j | I_i)$ is the conditional probability of the j th damage state when the seismic intensity is equal to I_i (which is determined by Equations (3) and (4)), and $P(I_i)$ is the occurrence probability of the seismic intensity I_i , also termed the seismic hazard.

3. Design and Development of the OntoBSRA

3.1. Framework of the OntoBSRA

The developed OntoBSRA includes a knowledge base, ontology management system, rule editor, and query function. The ontology knowledge base stores all seismic risk-related knowledge in the form of an Ontology Web Language (OWL) file, which plays an important role in the OntoBSRA. The ontology management system provides the rule-editing function, which can achieve the deductive reasoning ability of the developed ontology, and has the function of creating as well as updating the ontology. Moreover, users can obtain the

final reasoning results by editing the query language rules, (such as the simple protocol and RDF query language (SPAQRL) and the semantic query-enhanced web rule language (SQWRL), using the query function according to their demands [46]. In addition, as Protégé software [36] can realize the establishment of classes, logical relationships, attributes, and instances as well as provide the SWRLTab and SQWRLQueryTab interfaces for SWRL and SQWRL editing, respectively, the OntoBSRA proposed in this paper was developed based on Protégé. The schematic diagram of the OntoBSRA system is shown in Figure 2.

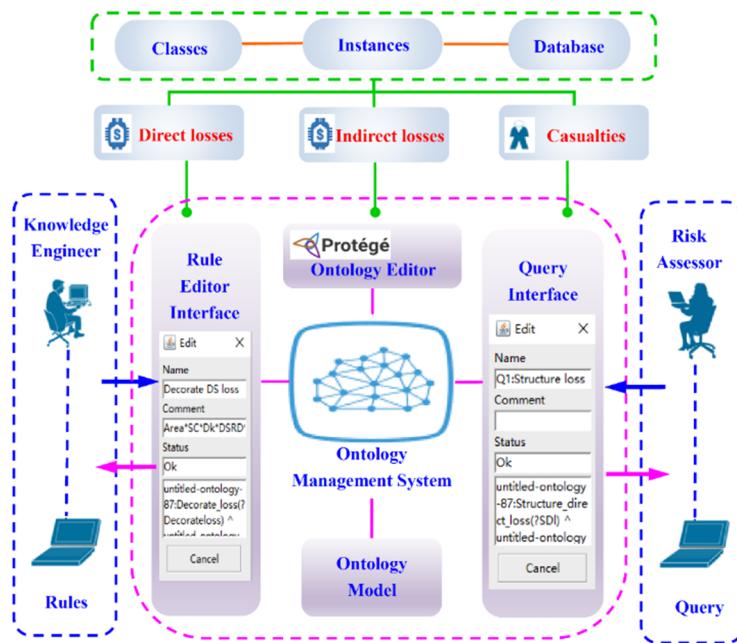


Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the OntoBSRA system.

3.2. Determination of Primary Indicators for the OntoBSRA

Seismic risk prediction of a building mainly includes direct losses, indirect losses, and casualties, among which direct losses include structural losses, indoor and outdoor property losses, and decoration property losses.

3.2.1. Direct Losses

(1) Structural losses

Structural losses can be obtained using the following equation:

$$SL_{ds,j} = SC \times A \times P_{ds,j} \times RB_{ds,j} \quad (7)$$

$$SL = \sum_{j=1}^5 SL_{ds,j} \quad (8)$$

where SL denotes the total structural damage losses, $SL_{ds,j}$ indicates the loss of the total value of a structure ($SC \times A$) in the j th damage state, SC and A represent the unit construction cost and total area of the RC structure, respectively, $P_{ds,j}$ is the seismic risk probability, and $RB_{ds,j}$ is the direct loss ratio of the structure in the j th damage state.

(2) Indoor and outdoor property losses

Indoor and outdoor property losses caused by an earthquake can be determined using the following equation:

$$CL_{ds,j} = SC \times A \times Ck \times P_{ds,j} \times RC_{ds,j} \quad (9)$$

$$CL = \sum_{j=1}^5 CL_{ds,j} \quad (10)$$

where CL denotes the total indoor and outdoor property losses, $CL_{ds,j}$ represents the losses of total indoor and outdoor property ($SC \times A \times Ck$) in the j th damage state, Ck is the ratio of the indoor and outdoor property replacement cost to the construction cost of the RC structure, and $RC_{ds,j}$ is the direct loss ratio of the indoor and outdoor property in the j th damage state.

(3) Decoration property losses

Decoration property losses can be obtained using the following equation:

$$DL_{ds,j} = SC \times A \times Dk \times P_{ds,j} \times RD_{ds,j} \quad (11)$$

$$DL = \sum_{j=1}^5 DL_{ds,j} \quad (12)$$

where DL denotes the total decoration property losses, $DL_{ds,j}$ represents the total losses of decoration property ($SC \times A \times Dk$) in the j th damage state, Dk is the ratio of the decoration property replacement cost to the construction cost of the RC structure, and $RD_{ds,j}$ is the direct loss ratio of the decoration property in the j th damage state.

(4) Total direct losses

Total direct losses can be calculated using the following equation:

$$DirL_{ds,j} = SL_{ds,j} + CL_{ds,j} + DL_{ds,j} \quad (13)$$

$$DirL = \sum_{j=1}^5 DirL_{ds,j} \quad (14)$$

where $DirL$ denotes the total direct losses and $DirL_{ds,j}$ represents the direct losses in the j th damage state.

The direct loss ratio and the ratio of the indoor and outdoor property and decoration property replacement cost to the construction cost of the RC structure according to the relevant literature [43,47] are shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

Table 2. Direct loss ratio.

Damage States	No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse
Structural losses	0	0.02	0.10	0.50	1.00
Indoor and Outdoor property losses	0	0.01	0.05	0.20	0.60
Decoration property losses	0.1	0.25	0.6	0.85	1

Table 3. Ratio of the replacement cost to the construction cost.

Building Types	Residential Building	Commercial Building	Medical Building	Office Building	Educational Building
Indoor and Outdoor property	0.2	0.1	1.5	1.0	1.0
Decoration property	0.3	0.43	0.25	0.35	0.25

3.2.2. Indirect Losses

Indirect losses can be calculated using the following equation:

$$IndL_{ds,j} = DirL_{ds,j} \times R_{ds,j} \quad (15)$$

$$IndL = \sum_{j=1}^5 IndL_{ds,j} \quad (16)$$

where $IndL$ denotes the total indirect losses, while $IndL_{ds,j}$ and $R_{ds,j}$ are the indirect losses and the ratio of the indirect losses to the direct losses in the j th damage state, respectively. The values of $R_{ds,j}$ are shown in Table 4 [27].

Table 4. Ratio of indirect losses to direct losses.

Damage States	No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse
Ratio	0	0	0.50–1.00	3.00–6.00	8.00–20.00

3.2.3. Casualties

(1) Number of Deaths

The number of deaths in a building as a result of an earthquake can be obtained using the following equation:

$$DN_{ds,j} = PD \times A \times DR_{ds,j} \times P_{ds,j} \quad (17)$$

$$DN = \sum_{j=1}^5 DN_{ds,j} \quad (18)$$

where DN denotes the total number of deaths, $DN_{ds,j}$ represents the number of deaths in the j th damage state, PD is the personnel density, and $DR_{ds,j}$ is the death rate in the j th damage state.

(2) Number of injuries

The number of injuries in a building as a result of an earthquake can be determined using the following equation:

$$IN_{ds,j} = PD \times A \times IR_{ds,j} \times P_{ds,j} \quad (19)$$

$$IN = \sum_{j=1}^5 IN_{ds,j} \quad (20)$$

where IN denotes the total number of injuries, $IN_{ds,j}$ is the number of injuries in the j th damage state, and $IR_{ds,j}$ is the injury rate in the j th damage state.

The death rate and injury rate in different damage states of buildings and the personnel density of buildings with various purposes according to Comerio [48] and Wang [49] are shown in Tables 5 and 6, respectively.

Table 5. Deaths and injury rates.

Damage States	No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse
Death rate	0	0	0–0.001	0.001–0.01	0.02–0.3
Injury rate	0	0–0.0005	0.0002–0.03	0.001–0.05	0.05–0.7

Table 6. Personnel density.

Building Types	Residential Building	Commercial Building	Medical Building	Office Building	Educational Building
Personnel density (person/m ²)	0.33	0.72	0.91	0.4	1.12

3.3. Development of the OntoBSRA

The methods used for developing the ontology include the Uschold and King method, the Gruninger and Fox method, the Methontology method, the KACTUS method, and the Ontology Development 101 method [50]. In this paper, the Ontology Development 101 method is employed, as shown in Figure 3. According to this method, new ontologies can be developed using the Protégé software by following specified steps or reusing the existing semantic resources and ontologies. The steps for developing the OntoBSRA are explained in details below.

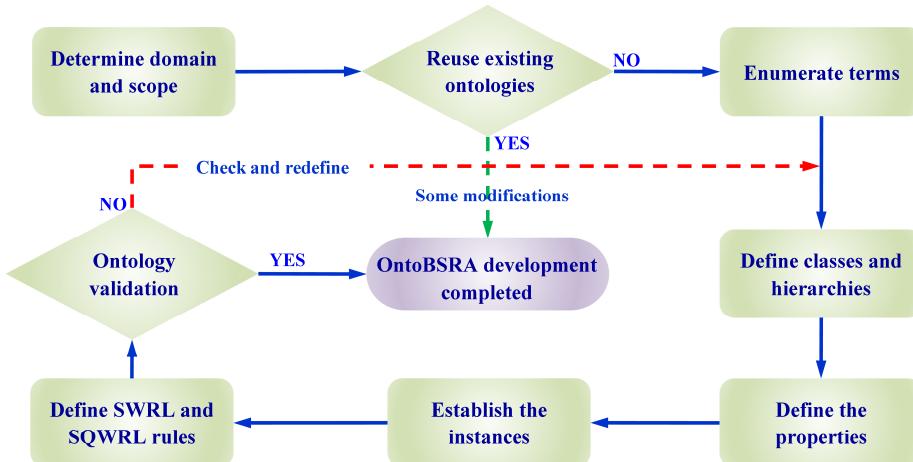


Figure 3. Procedure of the OntoBSRA development.

Step 1. Determine the domain and scope of the OntoBSRA.

In the early design stage of the ontology, the following questions in Table 7 are raised to check whether the ontology involves enough information to correct any missing and wrong information.

Step 2. Consider reusing the existing ontologies.

Table 7. Question table for determining the domain and scope of the OntoBSRA.

Questions	Answers
What is the purpose of developing this ontology?	To establish a unified knowledge base to enable rapid seismic risk assessments of buildings.
Who are the users of the developed ontology?	The engineers with responsibility for seismic risk evaluation.
What is the premise behind OntoBSRA?	Nonlinear time-domain analysis using finite element software, seismic vulnerability analysis, and seismic hazard analysis.
What types of structures is OntoBSRA developed for?	Reinforced concrete structures.
How is seismic risk quantified by OntoBSRA?	By economic losses (direct losses and indirect losses) and casualties.

Newly developed ontologies can share knowledge information with existing ontology models owing to the interactivity of the OWL language. Therefore, ontologies can be extended across multiple disciplines for wider applications. In this study, the content structure of the OntoBSRA is designed based on the common characteristics of existing ontology frameworks and the semantic rule language [33–35,39,50] in order to avoid unnecessary mistakes in developing a new ontology. The content structure of the OntoBSRA is shown in Figure 4.

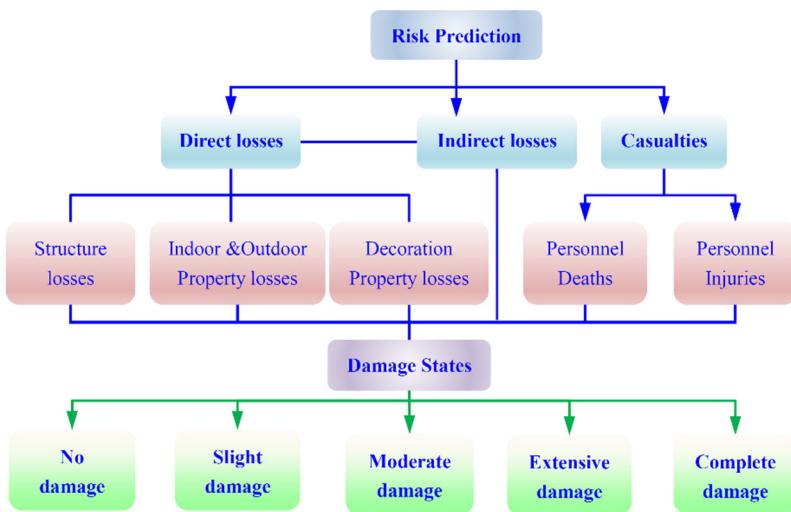


Figure 4. Content structure of OntoBSRA.

Step 3. Enumerate important terms for the OntoBSRA.

In this step, a glossary of knowledge fields such as seismic risk probabilities, economic losses, and casualties is obtained by review and analysis of the basic terms in the relevant literature. Moreover, through extensive research, basic data in the relevant knowledge field, such as loss ratios, ratios of indirect losses to direct losses, casualty rates, personnel densities, etc., are summarized in this paper in tables, as shown in Section 3.2.

Step 4. Define classes and class hierarchies.

Defining the classes and class hierarchies is the primary stage in the process of developing an ontology. In this paper, a top-down method is adopted to define the classes. The superclasses for seismic intensities, damage states, direct losses, indirect losses, casualties, etc., are first created. Each superclass is then refined to establish subclasses. The specific details are shown in Figure 5a.

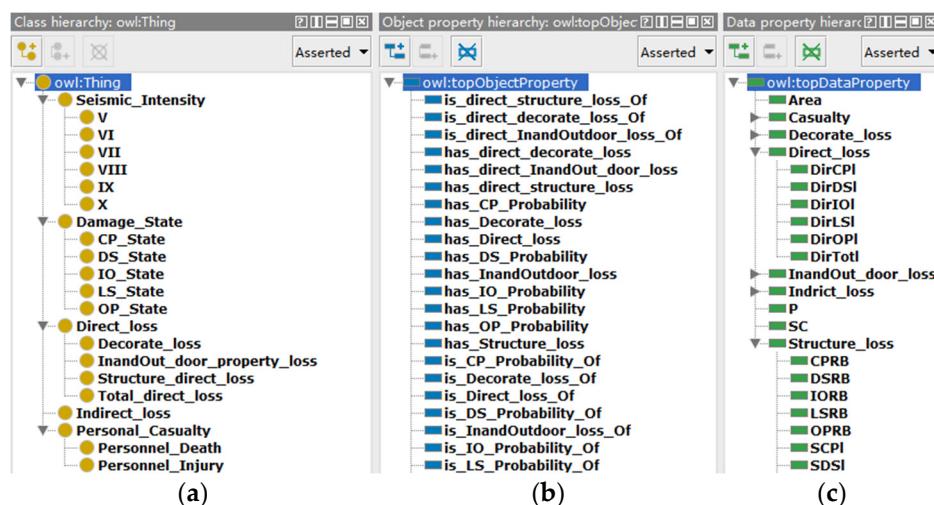


Figure 5. Development of OntoBSRA in Protégé-OWL 5.2. (a) Classes; (b) Object properties; (c) Data properties.

Step 5. Define the properties of classes.

The OntoBSRA includes two types of properties, namely, the object property and the data property. The object property represents the relationship among different classes, such as ‘has OP Probability’ and ‘is OP Probability Of’. The data property represents the characteristics of instances quantitatively and qualitatively; its data type includes Number,

String, Boolean and Enumerated. In the OntoBSRA, the data property is adopted to describe the created instances quantitatively, and the data format adopts the “float” type, e.g., the risk probability of the LS performance level is 0.260f. Figure 5b,c shows the detailed object and data properties.

Step 6. Establish instances.

The instances in the classes have their own locations and hierarchies, and the object property and data property of instances must be defined in OntoBSRA. In OntoBSRA, different building types such as residential buildings, medical buildings, commercial buildings, office buildings, and educational buildings are established as instances in the classes. The basic data, such as loss ratios and casualty rates, are manually input in the established instances, while the evaluation indices, such as direct losses and casualties, need to be inferred by the inference machine using the SWRL rules. Figure 6 shows the instances in the class of the structural losses.

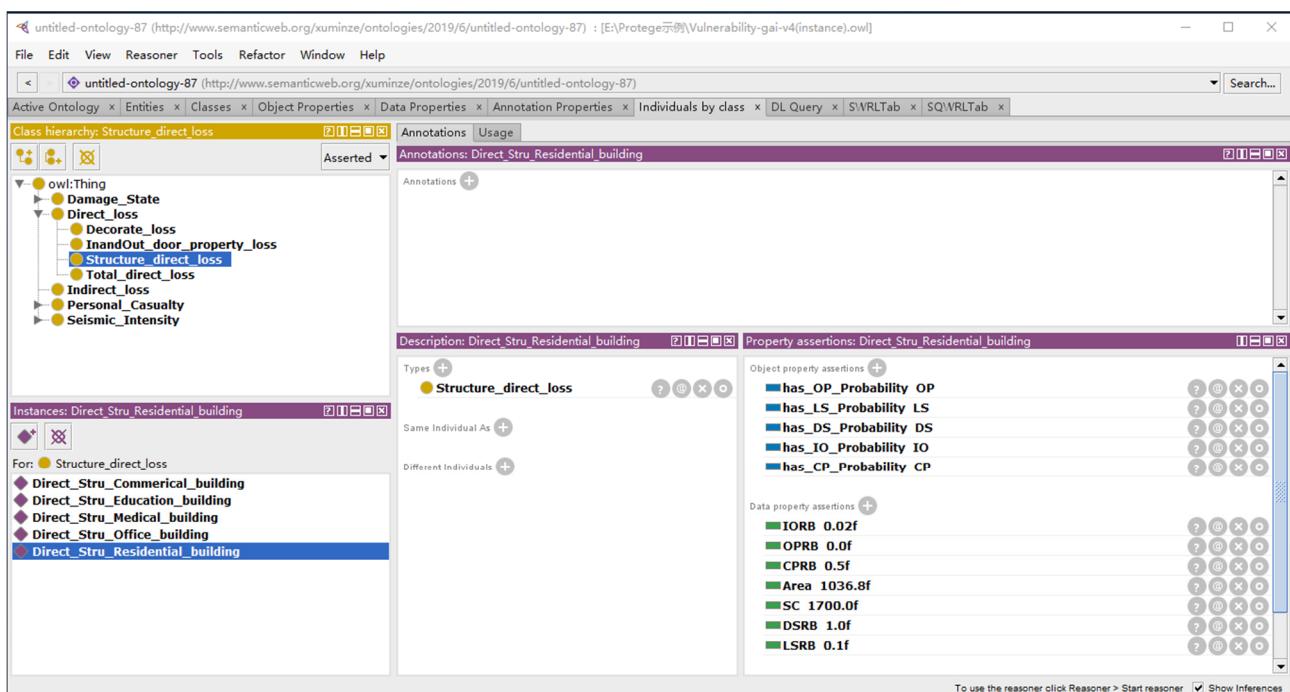


Figure 6. Create instances.

Step 7. Define SWRL rules.

SWRL rules can represent the relationship among the classes and meet the reasoning requirements of the ontology. There are Class atoms, Individual Property atoms, Data Valued Property atoms, and Built-in atoms in the OntoBSRA, all of which are connected by the symbol “~”. The symbol “?” represents variables, and the antecedent and the consequence are connected by the symbol “→”. Furthermore, computing ability can be realized through the SWRL rules in SWRLTab interface of the Protégé software. For example, the SWRL rule of the structural losses in the OP performance level is shown below.

Equation	SWRL
$SL_{ds,1} = A \times SC \times P_{ds,1} \times RB_{ds,1}$	$\text{Structure_direct_loss}(\text{?SDI}) \wedge \text{SC}(\text{?SDI}, \text{?sc}) \wedge \text{Area}(\text{?SDI}, \text{?A}) \wedge \text{OPRB}(\text{?SDI}, \text{?S_OPRB}) \wedge \text{has_OP_Probability}(\text{?SDI}, \text{?OPstate}) \wedge \text{OP_State}(\text{?OPstate}) \wedge \text{P}(\text{?OPstate}, \text{?OP_Probability}) \wedge \text{swrlb: multiply}(\text{?S_OPI}, \text{?sc}, \text{?A}, \text{?S_OPRB}, \text{?OP_Probability}) \rightarrow \text{SOPI}(\text{?SDI}, \text{?S_OPI})$

Step 8. Define SQWRL rules

The query function is implemented by the SQWRL rules. In the Protégé software, the SQWRLTab interface is adopted to compile the SQWRL rules, compare the results of the ontology inference, and query and filter out the information of interest. For example, the SQWRL rule of the structural losses in different damage states is shown below.

```

SQWRL      Structure_direct_loss(?SDI) ^ SOPI (?SDI, ?S_OPI) ^ SIOI (?SDI, ?S_IOL) ^ SLSI
           (?SDI, ?S_LSI) ^ SCPI (?SDI, ?SCPI) ^ SDSI (?SDI, ?S_DSI) ^ STotl (?SDI, ?S_Totl)
-> sqwrl: select(?SDI, ?S_OPI, ?S_IOL, ?S_LSI, ?S_CPI, ?S_DSI, ?S_Totl)

```

Step 9. Ontology validation.

Syntactical validation.

Syntactical validation is conducted to ensure a correct hierarchical structure and logical relationship which can infer and calculate the explicit and implicit relationships and data accurately in the developed ontology [51]. In this study, the pellet reasoner in the Protégé software is used to complete the syntactical validation. The schematic diagram of successful syntactical validation is shown in Figure 7.

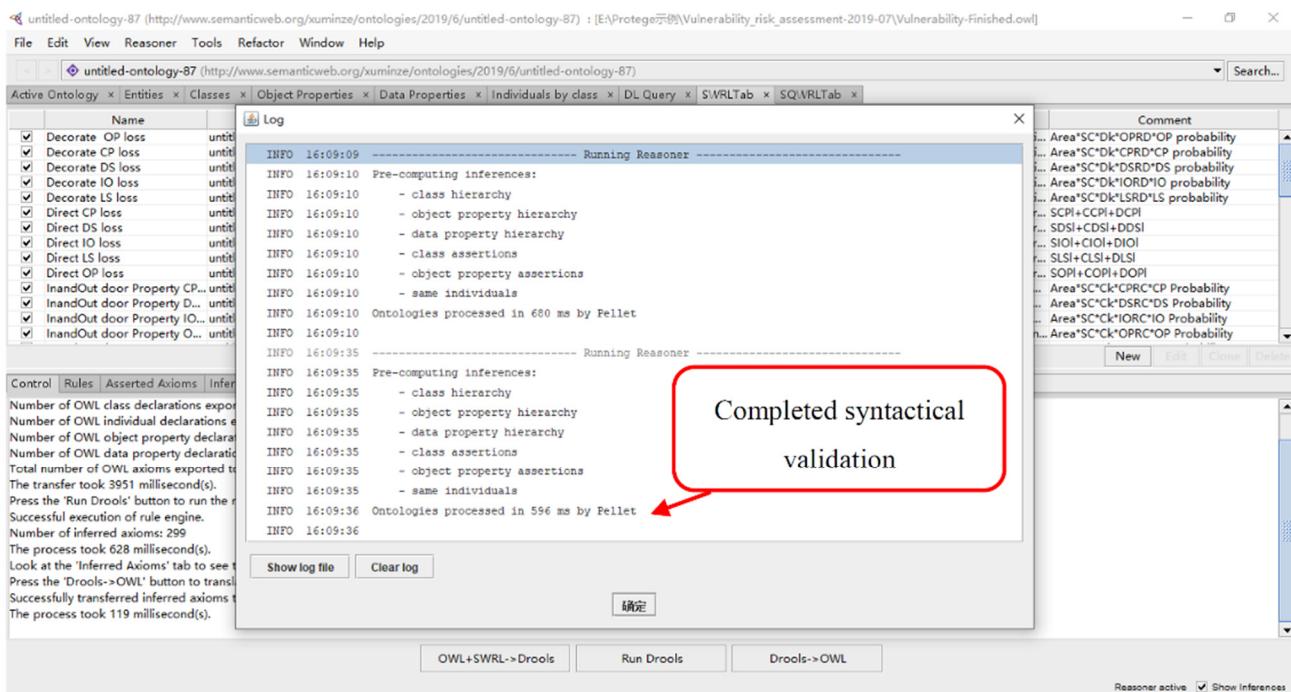


Figure 7. Syntactical validation of the OntoBSRA.

Rule validation.

Rule validation is conducted to make sure that the developed rules are compatible with the OntoBSRA and can carry out logical inference and data calculation correctly. In this study, the SWRLTab plug-in in the Protégé software is adopted for the rule-checking. The schematic diagram of successful rule validation is shown in Figure 8.

The screenshot shows the Protege interface with the 'untitled-ontology-87' tab selected. The main window displays a table of rules with columns for Name, Rule, and Comment. Below the table, a status bar provides execution details: 'The process took 536 millisecond(s).', 'Number of inferred axioms: 299.', and 'The process took 122 millisecond(s.)'. At the bottom, three buttons are visible: 'OWL+SWRL->Drools', 'Run Drools', and 'Drools->OWL'. A red callout box with the text 'Completed rule-checking' points to the status bar area.

Figure 8. Rule-checking.

4. Case Study

In this section, an example using a single residential building is provided to illustrate the application of the presented framework for predicting the seismic risk of a building and to demonstrate the validity of the semantic web rules. The residential building is a five-story RC frame structure with an area of 1036.8 m² and a unit cost of 1700 USD/m². The seismic precautionary intensity of the region is grade VIII. The building model is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 9. Model of the residential building.

4.1. Seismic Risk Probability of the Building

Current methods used for probabilistic seismic demand analysis include the cloud method, strip method, IDA method, etc. Of those methods, the IDA method can simulate the whole collapse process of a structure subjected to seismic action [52], and is consequently adopted here for seismic demand analysis.

On the basis of the IDA of the structure determined by the OpenSees finite element platform, the exceeding probability and occurrence probability curves in various damage

states were obtained using Equations (1)–(3) and the thresholds of the damage states specified in Table 1, as shown in Figures 10 and 11, respectively.

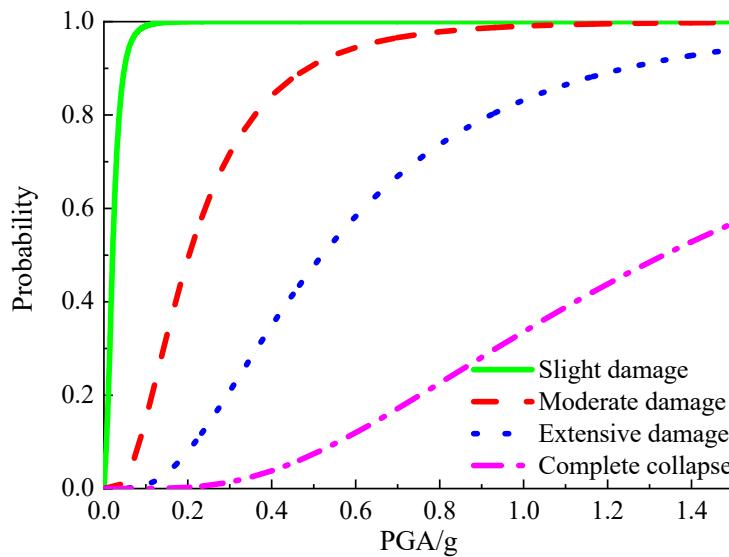


Figure 10. Exceeding probability curves.

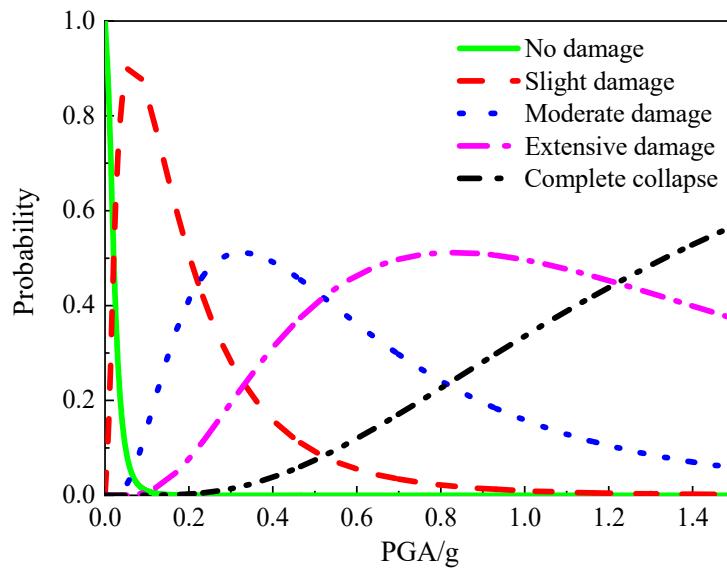


Figure 11. Occurrence probability curves.

According to Equation (4), the occurrence curves were converted into a probability matrix related to the seismic intensity, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Vulnerability matrix.

Intensity	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
None	0.0482	0.0049	0.0002	0	0	0
Slight	0.9115	0.7903	0.4661	0.1580	0.0274	0.0023
Moderate	0.0395	0.1913	0.4372	0.4914	0.2691	0.0712
Extensive	0.0008	0.0134	0.0929	0.3122	0.5063	0.4010
Complete	0	0.0001	0.0036	0.0384	0.1972	0.5255

Furthermore, through seismic hazard analysis using Equation (5), the occurrence probabilities of the seismic intensity over 50 years were determined as summarized in Table 9.

Table 9. Occurrence probability of the seismic intensity.

Intensity	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Probability	0.1738	0.4327	0.2863	0.0855	0.0136	0.0009

Considering the vulnerability and the seismic hazard, the seismic risk probabilities of the building in different damage states were obtained according to Equation (6) as shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Seismic risk probability.

Damage States	No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse
Risk probability	0.0106	0.6477	0.2605	0.0665	0.0075

4.2. Application of the OntoBSRA

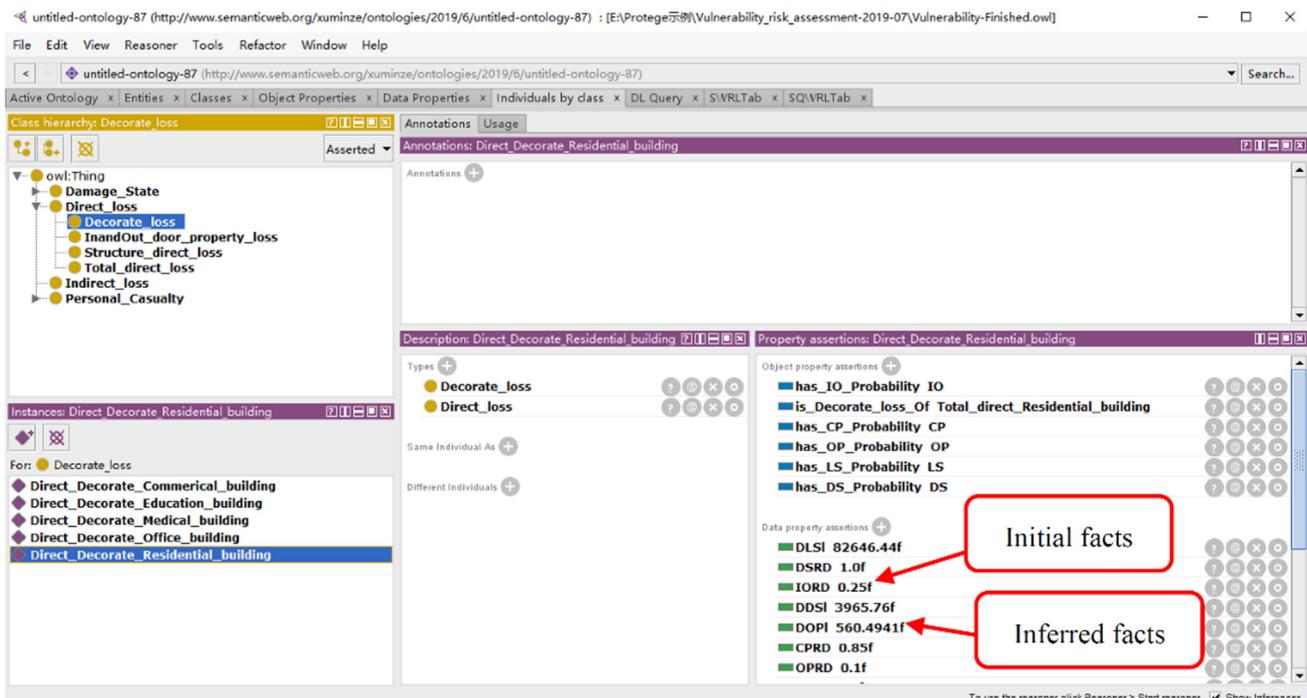
The seismic risk probabilities obtained from the analysis in Section 4.1 were manually input into the OntoBSRA, and new facts were generated by running the pre-set SWRL rules. The main SWRL rules based on the evaluation index equation in Section 3.2 are shown in Table 11. Taking the decoration property losses as an example, the new facts shown in Figure 12 were deduced by running the pre-set SWRL rules, thus validating the correction of syntax and SWRL rules for decoration property losses.

Table 11. Main SWRL rules for the seismic risk assessment.

Rule Number	SWRL Rules
Rule 1	Calculation of the total structural damage losses: Structure_direct_loss(?SDI) ^ SOPI(?SDI, ?S_OPI) ^ SIOI(?SDI, ?S_IOI) ^ SLSI(?SDI, ?S_LSI) ^ SCPI(?SDI, ?S_CPI) ^ DSL(?SDI, ?S_DSL) ^ swrlb: add(?S_Totl, ?S_OPI, ?S_IOI, ?S_LSI, ?S_CPI, ?S_DSL) -> STotl(?SDI, ?S_Totl)
Rule 2	Calculation of the total indoor and outdoor property losses: InandOut_door_property_loss(?InOutl) ^ COPI(?InOutl, ?InOut_OPI) ^ CIOI(?InOutl, ?InOut_IOI) ^ CLSI(?InOutl, ?InOut_LSI) ^ CCPI(?InOutl, ?InOut_CPI) ^ CDSI(?InOutl, ?InOut_DSI) ^ swrlb: add(?InOut_Totl, ?InOut_OPI, ?InOut_IOI, ?InOut_LSI, ?InOut_CPI, ?InOut_DSI) -> CTotl(?InOutl, ?InOut_Totl)
Rule 3	Calculation of the total decoration property losses: Decoration_loss(?Decorationloss) ^ DOPI(?Decorationloss, ?D_OPI) ^ DIOI(?Decorationloss, ?D_IOI) ^ DLSI(?Decorationloss, ?D_LSI) ^ DCPI(?Decorationloss, ?D_CPI) ^ DDSI(?Decorationloss, ?D_DSI) ^ swrlb: add(?D_Totl, ?D_OPI, ?D_IOI, ?D_LSI, ?D_CPI, ?D_DSI) -> DTotl(?Decorationloss, ?D_Totl)
Rule 4	Calculation of the total direct losses: Total_direct_loss(?TotalDirectloss) ^ DirOPI(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectOPloss) ^ DirIOI(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectIOloss) ^ DirLSI(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectLSloss) ^ DirCPI(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectCPloss) ^ DirDSI(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectDSloss) ^ swrlb: add(?DirectTotalloss, ?DirectOPloss, ?DirectIOloss, ?DirectLSloss, ?DirectCPloss, ?DirectDSloss) -> DirTotl(?TotalDirectloss, ?DirectTotalloss)
Rule 5	Calculation of the total indirect losses: Indirect_loss(?Indirectloss) ^ IndOPI(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectOPloss) ^ IndIOI(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectIOloss) ^ IndLSI(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectLSloss) ^ IndCPI(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectCPloss) ^ IndDSI(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectDSloss) ^ swrlb: add(?IndirectTotalloss, ?IndirectOPloss, ?IndirectIOloss, ?IndirectLSloss, ?IndirectCPloss, ?IndirectDSloss) -> IndTotl(?Indirectloss, ?IndirectTotalloss)

Table 11. Cont.

Rule Number	SWRL Rules
Rule 6	Calculation of the total number of deaths: Personnel_Death(?PersonnelDeath) ^ OPDN(?PersonnelDeath, ?DeathOPNumber) ^ IODN(?PersonnelDeath, ?DeathIONumber) ^ LSDN(?PersonnelDeath, ?DeathLSNumber) ^ CPDN(?PersonnelDeath, DeathCPNumber) ^ DSDN(?PersonnelDeath, ?DeathDSNumber) ^ swrlb:add(?DeathTotalNumber, ?DeathOPNumber, ?DeathIONumber, ?DeathLSNumber, ?DeathCPNumber, ?DeathDSNumber) -> TotDN(?PersonnelDeath, ?DeathTotalNumber)
Rule 7	Calculation of the total number of injuries: Personnel_Injury(?PersonnelInjury) ^ OPIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryOPNumber) ^ IONIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryIONumber) ^ LSIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryLSNumber) ^ CPIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryCPNumber) ^ DSIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryDSNumber) ^ swrlb:add(?InjuryTotalNumber, ?InjuryOPNumber, ?InjuryIONumber, ?InjuryLSNumber, ?InjuryCPNumber, ?InjuryDSNumber) -> TotIN(?PersonnelInjury, ?InjuryTotalNumber)

**Figure 12.** Inferred facts.

Moreover, the specialized assessment results can be queried using the SQWRL rules according to the user's demand. Table 12 shows the SQWRL querying command for the assessment indicators of the OntoBSRA. In the application of the OntoBSRA, if the users/stakeholders attach importance to the economic losses (such as direct losses), the assessment results can be obtained by running the pre-set SQWRL rule Q4 in Table 12. The querying results are illustrated in Figure 13. Furthermore, if users/stakeholders pay more attention to the casualties, they can run the SQWRL rules Q6 and Q7 to obtain the assessment results. The querying results of the number of injuries is shown in Figure 14. It can be seen from Figures 13 and 14 that the OntoBSRA system can provide the total economic losses or casualties as well as the related assessment indicators of buildings in different damage states. This function can assist engineers, provide guidance on earthquake hazard mitigation, and improve efficiency in decision-making.

Table 12. SQWRL rules.

Rule Number	SQWRL Rules
Q1: Structural losses	Structure_direct_loss(?SDI)^SOPI(?SDI,?S_OPI)^IOI(?SDI,?S_IOI)^SCPI(?SDI,?S_CPI)^SDSI(?SDI,?S_DSI)^STotl(?SDI,?S_Totl)->sqwrl:select(?SDI,?S_OPI,?S_IOI,?S_LSL,?S_CPI,?S_DSI,?S_Totl)
Q2: Indoor and Outdoor property losses	InandOut_door_property_loss(?InOutl)^COPI(?InOutl,?InOut_OPI)^CIOI(?InOutl,?InOut_IOI)^CLSI(?InOutl,?InOut_LSI)^CCPI(?InOutl,?InOut_CPI)^CDSI(?InOutl,?InOut_DSI)^CTotl(?InOutl,?InOut_Totl)->sqwrl:select(?InOutl,?InOut_OPI,?InOut_IOI,?InOut_LSI,?InOut_CPI,?InOut_DSI,?InOut_Totl)
Q3: Decoration property losses	Decoration_loss(?Decorationloss)^DOP1(?Decorationloss,?D_OPI)^DIO1(?Decorationloss,?D_IOI)^DLS1(?Decorationloss,?D_LSI)^DCPI(?Decorationloss,?D_CPI)^DDSI(?Decorationloss,?D_DSI)^DTotl(?Decorationloss,?D_Totl)->sqwrl:select(?Decorationloss,?D_OPI,?D_IOI,?D_LSI,?D_CPI,?D_DSI,?D_Totl)
Q4: Total direct losses	Total_direct_loss(?TotalDirectloss)^DirOPI(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectOPloss)^DirIOl(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectIOloss)^DirLSI(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectLSloss)^DirCPI(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectCPloss)^DirDSI(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectDSloss)^DirTotl(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectTotalloss)->sqwrl:select(?TotalDirectloss,?DirectOPloss,?DirectIOloss,?DirectLSloss,?DirectCPloss,?DirectDSloss,?DirectTotalloss)
Q5: Indirect losses	Indirect_loss(?Indirectloss)^IndOPI(?Indirectloss,?IndirectOPloss)^IndIOl(?Indirectloss,?IndirectIOloss)^IndLSI(?Indirectloss,?IndirectLSloss)^IndCPI(?Indirectloss,?IndirectCPloss)^IndDSI(?Indirectloss,?IndirectDSloss)^IndTotl(?Indirectloss,?IndirectTotalloss)->sqwrl:select(?Indirectloss,?IndirectOPloss,?IndirectIOloss,?IndirectLSloss,?IndirectCPloss,?IndirectDSloss,?IndirectTotalloss)
Q6: Personnel deaths	Personnel_Death(?PersonnelDeath)^OPDN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathOPNumber)^IODN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathIONumber)^LSDN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathLSNumber)^CPDN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathCPNumber)^DSDN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathDSNumber)^TotDN(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathTotalNumber)->sqwrl:select(?PersonnelDeath,?DeathOPNumber,?DeathIONumber,?DeathLSNumber,?DeathCPNumber,?DeathDSNumber,?DeathTotalNumber)
Q7: Personnel injuries	Personnel_Injury(?PersonnelInjury)^OPIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryOPNumber)^IOIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryIONumber)^LSIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryLSNumber)^CPIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryCPNumber)^DSIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryDSNumber)^TotIN(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryTotalNumber)->sqwrl:select(?PersonnelInjury,?InjuryOPNumber,?InjuryIONumber,?InjuryLSNumber,?InjuryCPNumber,?InjuryDSNumber,?InjuryTotalNumber)

Figure 13 shows the inference results of querying according to the SQWRL rule Q4 in Table 12. The screenshot displays a query editor interface with a table of results and a detailed status bar.

The table has three columns: Name, Query, and Comment. The Name column lists various ontology terms. The Query column contains the SQWRL rule Q4: Direct loss. The Comment column provides detailed annotations for each term in the query, such as probability values and domain/range information.

The status bar at the bottom shows the following information:

- SQWRL Queries: TotalDirectloss
- O/V/L 2 RL: Q4:Direct loss
- TotalDirectloss: *560.491*^xsd:float
- DirectOPloss: *110736.18*^xsd:float
- DirectIOloss: *133152.6*^xsd:float
- DirectLSloss: *93182.14*^xsd:float
- DirectCPloss: *18771.264*^xsd:float
- DirectDSloss: *356402.7*^xsd:float
- DirectTotalloss: *356402.7*^xsd:float

Figure 13. Inference results of querying according to the SQWRL rule Q4 in Table 12.

The screenshot shows a SPARQL query editor interface. At the top, there's a table of triples with columns for Name, Query, and Comment. A specific row for 'Q7:Injury Number' is highlighted. Below this is a detailed view of the query results, showing seven columns: PersonnelInjury, InjuryOPNumber, InjuryINumber, InjuryLSNumber, InjuryCPNumber, InjuryDSNumber, and InjuryTotalNumber. The results are for a 'Personnel Injury Residential building'.

Name	Query	Comment
Injury OP Number	untitled-ontology-87:Personnel_Injury(?PersonnelInjury) ^ untitled-ontology-87:Area(?PersonnelInjury_2A) ^ untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelInjury, ?P_Den... Area*Den*OPR*OP Probability	
Personnel Death CP Number	untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelDeath, ?P_De... Area*Den*CPRD*CP Probability	
Personnel Death DS Number	untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelDeath, ?P_De... Area*Den*DSRD*DS Probability	
Personnel Death IO Number	untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelDeath, ?P_De... Area*Den*IORD*IO Probability	
Personnel Death LS Number	untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelDeath, ?P_De... Area*Den*LSRD*LS Probability	
Personnel Death OP Number	untitled-ontology-87:PD(?PersonnelDeath, ?P_De... Area*Den*OPRD*OP Probability	
Q1:Structure loss	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLoss(?StructureLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q2:InandOut door property...	untitled-ontology-87:InandOutDoorPropertyLoss(?InandOutDoorPropertyLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?InandOutDoorPropertyLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q3:Decorate loss	untitled-ontology-87:DecorateLoss(?DecorateLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?DecorateLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q4:Direct loss	untitled-ontology-87:DirectLoss(?DirectLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?DirectLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q5:Indirect loss	untitled-ontology-87:IndirectLoss(?IndirectLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?IndirectLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q6:Death Number	untitled-ontology-87:DeathNumber(?DeathNumber) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?DeathNumber, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Q7:Injury Number	untitled-ontology-87:InjuryNumber(?InjuryNumber) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?InjuryNumber, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Structure loss for CP State	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLossForCPState(?StructureLossForCPState) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLossForCPState, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Structure loss for DS State	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLossForDSState(?StructureLossForDSState) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLossForDSState, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Structure loss for IO State	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLossForIOSState(?StructureLossForIOSState) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLossForIOSState, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Structure loss for LS State	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLossForLSSState(?StructureLossForLSSState) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLossForLSSState, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Structure loss for OP State	untitled-ontology-87:StructureLossForOPState(?StructureLossForOPState) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?StructureLossForOPState, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Total Death Number	untitled-ontology-87:TotalDeathNumber(?TotalDeathNumber) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?TotalDeathNumber, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Total Decorate loss	untitled-ontology-87:TotalDecorateLoss(?TotalDecorateLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?TotalDecorateLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Total Direct loss	untitled-ontology-87:TotalDirectLoss(?TotalDirectLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?TotalDirectLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	
Total InandOut door Prop...	untitled-ontology-87:TotalInandOutDoorPropertyLoss(?TotalInandOutDoorPropertyLoss) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLoss(?TotalInandOutDoorPropertyLoss, ?OpLossType) ^ untitled-ontology-87:OpLossType(?OpLossType, ?OpLossTypeLabel)	

Below the table are buttons for Cancel and Ok.

SQWRL Queries	O/W 2 RL	Q7:Injury Number				
PersonnelInjury	InjuryOPNumber	InjuryINumber	InjuryLSNumber	InjuryCPNumber	InjuryDSNumber	InjuryTotalNumber
untitled-ontology-87:Personnel_Injury Residential building	"0.0"^^xsd:float	"0.110803336"^^xsd:float	"2.6738553"^^xsd:float	"1.1376288"^^xsd:float	"1.796256"^^xsd:float	"5.7185435"^^xsd:float

Figure 14. Inference results of querying according to the SQWRL rule Q7 in Table 12.

To assess the seismic risk of the building comprehensively, users/stakeholders can query direct losses, indirect losses, and casualties by running all the SQWRL rules in Table 12 according to building type. The querying results for the building in this case study are shown in Table 13.

Table 13. Seismic risk assessment results.

		No Damage	Slight Damage	Moderate Damage	Extensive Damage	Complete Collapse	Total Losses
Direct losses (\$)	Structure losses	0	22,832.2	45,914.6	58,605.1	13,219.2	140,571.1
	Indoor and outdoor property losses	0	2283.2	4591.4	4688.4	1586.3	13,149.3
	Decoration property losses	560.4	85,620.76	82,646.4	29,888.6	3965.7	202,681.86
	Total direct losses	560.4	110,736.1	133,152.6	93,182.1	18,771.2	356,402.4
Casualties	Indirect losses (\$)	0	0	133,152.6	559,092.8	375,425.2	1,067,670.6
	Personnel deaths	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.8	1.1
	Personnel injuries	0	0.1	2.7	1.1	1.8	5.7

In addition, it should be noted that although numerical simulation-based seismic vulnerability analysis can evaluate the seismic performance of buildings, it cannot assess seismic risk from the macro perspective. This has been verified by comparison between numerical and ontology-based results. On the other hand, the developed OntoBSRA system can achieve seismic risk assessment of buildings with various functions in different damage states (such as direct losses, indirect losses and casualties) from the macro perspective, and is thus beneficial in decision-making based on the principle of targeted-risk.

5. Conclusions

This paper has developed an ontology-based probabilistic framework for seismic risk assessment of buildings. In the developed framework, seismic risk probabilities are first obtained based on vulnerability analysis and seismic hazard analysis. Then, the developed OntoBSRA system is used to integrate the knowledge on seismic risk assessments of buildings into a unified knowledge base by combining the ontology with SWRL, which achieved automated seismic risk prediction (such as direct losses, indirect losses, and casualties) of buildings with various purposes in different damage states. In this way, over-reliance on identification of the damage states of buildings after earthquake can be avoided. Based on the developed framework, risk assessors and asset managers can estimate the consequences of earthquakes effectively within a certain period considering the actual

construction cost, thus providing guidance on earthquake prevention and mitigation and improving efficiency in decision-making.

A case study of a residential RC frame structure has been conducted to illustrate the detailed application of the proposed framework to predict seismic risk as quantified by indexes including direct losses, indirect, losses and casualties, demonstrating the validity of the semantic web rules.

It should be noted that the OntoBSRA proposed in this paper was developed based only on the seismic damage information of RC structures. Our future work will focus on the extension of OntoBSRA using knowledge information related to other structures, such as wood structures, brick-concrete structures, etc., and the development of data interfaces between the BIM, Protégé software, and finite element software in order to avoid tedious manual data input in OntoBSRA.

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