Chapter 4

OWL

Based on slides from Grigoris Antoniou and Frank van Harmelen
TL;DR: What is OWL

OWL uses the syntax of RDF but defines new classes and properties, making it more expressive as a knowledge representation language.
1. A bit of history
2. Basic Ideas of OWL
3. The OWL Language
4. Examples
5. The OWL Namespace
6. OWL 2
A Brief History of OWL

- Builds on RDF to “represent rich and complex knowledge about things, groups of things, and relations between things”
- Draws on decades of experience with systems for representing and reasoning with knowledge
- Based on a 2001 DAML+OIL specification
- OWL became a W3C recommendation in 2004, extended as OWL2 in 2009
- Well defined RDF/XML serializations
- Formal semantics based on first order logic
- Good tools, both opensource and commercial
The OWL Family Tree

Logic Programming
1970s

SHOE
1996

RDF/RDF(S)
1974

Frames
1980

Klone
1980s

Description Logic

DAML-ONT
~2000

DAML
~2000

Joint EU/US Committee

DAML+OIL
~2002

OntoKnowledge+Others

OIL

OWL
2004

W3C
Outline

1. A bit of history
2. **Basic Ideas of OWL**
3. The OWL Language
4. Examples
5. The OWL Namespace
6. OWL 2
Ontology and Data

● Philosophy: **Ontologies** are models of what exists in the world (kinds of things, relations, events, properties, etc.)
  – Information systems: a schema for info. or data
  – KR languages: model of classes & relations/properties & associated axioms, e.g., subPropertyOf is transitive

● Data is information about individual instances expressed with terms in the ontology
  – Some instances might be considered part of the ontology (e.g., God, George Washington, Baltimore)
Ontology languages let users write explicit, formal conceptualizations of domain models.

Requirements:
- well-defined syntax
- efficient reasoning support
- formal semantics
- sufficient expressive power
- convenience of expression
Expressive Power vs. Efficient Reasoning

- Always a tradeoff between expressive power and efficient reasoning support
- The richer the language, the more inefficient the reasoning support becomes (in general)
- Reasoning can be undecidable or semi-decidable and even if decidable can be exponentially hard
- We need a compromise between:
  - Language supported by reasonably efficient reasoners
  - Language that can express large classes of ontologies and knowledge
Kinds of Reasoning about Knowledge

- **Class membership**
  
  If $x$ is an instance of a class $C$, and $C$ is a subclass of $D$, then we can infer that $x$ is an instance of $D$

- **Equivalence of classes**
  
  If class $A$ is equivalent to class $B$, and class $B$ is equivalent to class $C$, then $A$ is equivalent to $C$, too

- **Consistency**
  
  - $X$ is an instance of classes $A$ and $B$, but $A$ and $B$ are disjoint
  - This is an indication of an error in the ontology or data

- **Classification**
  
  Certain property-value pairs are a sufficient condition for membership in a class $A$; if an individual $x$ satisfies such conditions, we conclude that $x$ must be an instance of $A$
Uses for Reasoning

- Reasoning support is important for
  - Deriving new relations and properties
  - Automatically classifying instances in classes
  - Checking consistency of ontology and knowledge
  - checking for unintended relationships between classes

- Checks like these are valuable for
  - designing large ontologies, where multiple authors are involved
  - integrating and sharing ontologies from various sources
Reasoning Support for OWL

- Semantics is a prerequisite for reasoning support
- Formal semantics and reasoning support usually provided by
  - mapping an ontology language to known logical formalism
  - using automated reasoners that already exist for those formalisms
- OWL is (partially) mapped to a description logic
  DLs are a subset of logic for which efficient reasoning support is possible
RDFS’s Expressive Power Limitations

- **Local scope of properties**
  - `rdfs:range` defines range of a property (e.g., `eats`) for *all* instances of a class
  - In RDF Schema we can’t declare range restrictions that apply to only some
  - E.g., animals eat `living_things` but cows only eat plants
    - `:eat rdfs:domain :animal; range :living_thing`
    - `:eat rdfs:domain :cow; range :plant`
RDFS’s Expressive Power Limitations

- **Disjointness of classes**
  - Sometimes we wish to say that classes are disjoint (e.g. *male* and *female*)

- **Boolean combinations of classes**
  - We may want to define new classes by combining other classes using union, intersection, and complement
    - E.g., *person* equals union of *male* and *female* classes
    - E.g., weekdays equals set {,:Monday, ..., :Sunday}
RDFS’s Expressive Power Limitations

- **Cardinality restrictions**
  - E.g., a person has exactly two parents, a course is taught by at least one lecturer

- **Special characteristics of properties**
  - Transitive property (like hasAncestor)
  - Unique property (like hasMother)
  - A property is the inverse of another property (like eats and eatenBy)
Combining OWL with RDF Schema

- Ideally, OWL would extend RDF Schema
  Consistent with the layered architecture of the Semantic Web
- **But** simply extending RDF Schema works against obtaining expressive power and efficient reasoning
  Combining RDF Schema with logic leads to uncontrollable computational properties
- OWL uses RDF and most of RDFS
Three Species of OWL 1

- W3C’s Web Ontology Working Group defined OWL as three different sublanguages:
  - OWL Full
  - OWL DL (DL for Description Logic)
  - OWL Lite
- Each sublanguage geared toward fulfilling different aspects of requirements
OWL Full

- It uses all the OWL languages primitives
- It allows the combination of these primitives in arbitrary ways with RDF and RDF Schema
- OWL Full is fully upward-compatible with RDF, both syntactically and semantically
- OWL Full is so powerful that its reasoning is undecidable
Soundness and completeness

- A **sound** reasoner only makes conclusions that logically follow from the input, i.e., all of its conclusions are correct
  - We typically require our reasoners to be sound
- A **complete** reasoner can make all conclusions that logically follow from the input
  - We cannot guarantee complete reasoners for full FOL and many subsets
  - So, we can’t do it for OWL Full
OWL DL

- OWL DL (Description Logic) is a sublanguage of OWL Full that restricts application of the constructors from OWL and RDF
  - Application of OWL’s constructors to each other is disallowed
  - It corresponds to a well studied description logic
- OWL DL permits efficient reasoning support
- **But** we lose full compatibility with RDF
  - Not every RDF document is a legal OWL DL document
  - Every legal OWL DL document is a legal RDF document
OWL Lite

- An even further restriction limits OWL DL to a subset of the language constructors
  - E.g., OWL Lite excludes enumerated classes, disjointness statements, and arbitrary cardinality
- The advantage of this is a language that is easier to
  - grasp, for users
  - implement, for tool builders
- The disadvantage is restricted expressivity
- All varieties of OWL use RDF for their syntax
- Instances are declared as in RDF, using RDF descriptions
- OWL constructors are specializations of their RDF counterparts
- OWL classes and properties have additional constraints
1. A bit of history
2. Basic Ideas of OWL
3. The OWL Language
4. Examples
5. The OWL Namespace
6. Future Extensions
OWL builds on RDF and uses RDF’s serializations

Other syntactic forms for OWL have also been defined:
- Alternative, more readable serializations
- These are often used in ontology editing tools, like Protege
OWL XML/RDF Syntax: Header in Turtle

```
@prefix owl: <http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#> .
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .
```

- OWL documents are RDF documents
- and start with a typical declaration of namespaces
- W3C owl recommendation has the namespace http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#"
owl:Ontology

<> a owl:Ontology ;
  rdfs:comment "Example OWL ontology" ;
  owl:priorVersion <http://example.org/uni-ns-old> ;
  owl:imports <http://example.org/persons> ;
  rdfs:label "University Ontology" .

- **owl:imports**, a transitive property, indicates that the document commits to all of the terms as defined in its target
- **owl:priorVersion** points to an earlier version of this document
**OWL Classes**

:AssociateProfessor a owl:Class ;
   owl:disjointWith (:Professor :AssistantProfessor) .

- Classes are defined using **owl:Class**
  - **owl:Class** is a subclass of **rdfs:Class**
- Owl:Class is disjoint with datatypes (aka literals)
- Disjointness is defined using **owl:disjointWith**
  - Two disjoint classes are can share no instances
Another Example

:Man rdfs:subClassOf foaf:Person .
:Woman rdfs:subClassOf foaf:Person .
:Man owl:disjointWith :Woman .

Questions:

● Is :Man an rdfs:Class or a owl:Class?
● Why don’t we need to assert that :Man is some kind of class?
● Do we need to assert the disjointness both ways?
● What happens of we assert :pat a :Man; a :Woman?
Protégé
attack-pattern--Microphone_or_Camera_Recordings

**created**
2017-10-25T14:48:12.913Z

**description**
An adversary could use a malicious or exploited application to surreptitiously record activities using the device microphone and/or camera through use of standard operating system APIs. Detection: On both Android (6.0 and up) and iOS, the user can view which applications have permission to use the microphone or the camera through the device settings screen, and the user can choose to revoke the permissions. Platforms: Android, iOS

**killChainPhase**
kill_chain_phase--collection.mitre-mobile-attack

**modified**
2018-04-13T17:05:30.756Z
2018-01-17T12:56:55.080Z

**objectMarking**
marking-definition--fa42a846-8d90-4e51-bc29-71d5b4802168

**createdBy**
identity--The_MITRE_Corporation
identity--c78cb6e5-0c4b-4611-8297-d1b8b55e40b5

**externalReference**
APP-19
MOB-T1032

**mitigatedBy**
course-of-action--Application_Vetting

**name**
Microphone or Camera Recordings

**platform**
Android
iOS

**tacticType**
Post-Adversary Device Access

**usedBy**
malware--AndroRAT
malware--Pegasus
malware--Dendroid
malware--Pegasus_for_Android
OWL Classes

:Faculty a owl:Class;
    owl:equivuclentClass :AcademicStaffMember .

- **owl:equivalentClass** asserts two classes are equivalent
  - Each must have the same members

- **owl:Thing** is the most general class, which contains everything
  - i.e., every owl class is rdfs:subClassOf owl:Thing

- **owl:Nothing** is the empty class
  - i.e., owl:NoThing is rdfs:subClassOf every owl class
OWL Properties

- OWL has **two kinds** of properties
- **Object properties** relate objects to other objects
  - owl:ObjectProperty, e.g. isTaughtBy, supervises
- **Data type properties** relate objects to datatype values
  - owl:DatatypeProperty, e.g. phone, title, age, ...
- These were made separate to make it easier to implement sound and complete reasoners
OWL uses XML Schema data types, exploiting the layered architecture of the Semantic Web.

:age a owl:DatatypeProperty;
  rdfs:domain foaf:Person;
  rdfs:range xsd:nonNegativeInteger .
Typically user-defined data types

:isTaughtBy a owl:ObjectProperty;
  rdfs:domain :Course;
  rdfs:range :AcademicStaffMember;
  rdfs:subPropertyOf :involves .
Inverse Properties

:teaches a owl:ObjectProperty;
   rdfs:range :Course;
   rdfs:domain :AcademicStaffMember;
   owl:inverseOf :isTaughtBy.

Or just

:teaches owl:inverseOf :isTaughtBy.

A partial list of axioms:

owl:inverseOf rdfs:domain owl:ObjectProperty;
   rdfs:range owl:ObjectProperty;
   a owl:SymmetricProperty.


Equivalent Properties

\[ \text{lecturesIn} \text{ owl:equivalentProperty } \text{teaches} . \]

- Two properties have the same *extension*
  - **Intention vs. extension**
  - Extension of a property is all of the subject-object pairs it holds between

- Axioms

\[
\{ \text{?A rdfs:subPropertyOf } \text{?B.} \\
\text{?B rdfs:subPropertyOf } \text{?A.} \}
\]

\[ \leftrightarrow \{ \text{?A owl:equivalentProperty } \text{?B.} \}. \]
Property Restrictions

- Declare that class C satisfies certain conditions
  - All instances of C satisfy the conditions
- Equivalent to: C is subclass of a class C', where C' collects all objects that satisfy the conditions (C' can remain anonymous)
- Example:
  - People whose sex is male and have at least one child whose sex is female and whose age is six
  - Things with exactly two arms and two legs
Property Restrictions

- **`owl:Restriction`** element describes such a class
- Element has an **`owl:onProperty`** element and one or more restriction declarations
- One type defines **cardinality restrictions**

A Parent must have at least one child

```
:Parent rdfs:subClassOf
  [a owl:Restriction;
   owl:onProperty :hasChild;
   owl:minCardinalityQ "1"] .
```
This statement **defines** Parent as any Person who has at least one child:

```turtle
:Parent owl:equivalentClass
  owl:intersectionOf (:Person
    [a owl:Restriction;
      owl:onProperty :hasChild;
      owl:minCardinalityQ "1"])
```

- Note the Turtle syntax:
  ```turtle
  :C1 owl:intersectionOf (:C2 :C3 :C4) .
  ```
Other restriction types define constraints on the kinds of values the property may take:

- `owl:allValuesFrom` specifies universal quantification
- `owl:hasValue` specifies a specific value
- `owl:someValuesFrom` specifies existential quantification
owl:allValuesFrom

- Describe a class where all of the values of a property match some requirement.
- E.g., Math courses taught by professors:

  [a :mathCourse,
   [a owl:Restriction;
    owl:onProperty :isTaughtBy;
    owl:allValuesFrom :Professor] ].
Offspring of people are people

:Person a owl:Class,

rdfs:subClassOf

[ a owl:Restriction;
  owl:onProperty bio:offspring;
  owl:allValuesFrom :Person] .
Offspring of people are people

:Person a owl:Class,
rdfs:subClassOf

[ a owl:Restriction;
  owl:onProperty bio:offspring;
  owl:allValuesFrom :Person ] .

“The class of things, all of whose offspring are people”
Offspring of people are people

:Person a owl:Class;
  rdfs:subClassOf
    [ a owl:Restriction;
      owl:allValuesFrom :Person;
      owl:onProperty bio:offspring ] .

:john a :Person; bio:offspring :mary
What follows?

:Person rdfs:subClassOf
    [owl:allValuesFrom :Person;
     owl:onProperty bio:offspring] .

???

:bio:offspring rdfs:domain :animal;
    rdfs:range :animal.

???

:alice a foaf:Person;
    bio:offspring :bob.

???

:carol a foaf:Person.
:don bio:offspring :carol.

???
What follows?

:Person rdfs:subClassOf
   [owl:allValuesFrom :Person;
    owl:onProperty bio:sprungFrom] .

bio:sprungFrom rdfs:domain :animal;
   rdfs:range :animal;
   owl:inverse bio:offspring.

:carol a foaf:Person.
:don bio:offspring :carol.

“people are born of people”
owl:hasValue

- Describe a class with a particular value for a property
- E.g., Math courses taught by Professor Longhair

# Math courses taught by :longhair
[ rdfs:subclassOf :mathCourse;
    [ a owl:restriction;
        owl:onProperty :isTaughtBy;
        owl:hasValue :longhair] .

Questions:
- Does this say all math courses are taught by :longhair?
- Does it say that there are some courses taught by :longhair?
- Can all classes, however defined, be paraphrased by a noun phrase in English?
A typical example

:Male owl:equivalentClass
  owl:intersectionOf
  (:Person,
   [a owl:Restriction;
    owl:onProperty :sex;
    owl:hasValue "male"] ).
A typical example

:Man owl:equivalentClass owl:intersectionOf (:Person, [a owl:Restriction; owl:onProperty :sex; owl:hasValue "male"] ).

Classes are sets in OWL
What follows?

:ed a :Man .

:frank a foaf:Person; :sex "male".

:pat a foaf:Person; :sex "male"; :sex "female" .
owl:someValuesFrom

- Describe class requiring it to have *at least one value* for a property matching a description
- E.g., Academic staff members who teach an undergraduate course

```
[ a :academicStaffMember;
  a [owl:onProperty :teaches;
    owl:someValuesFrom :undergraduateCourse] ]
```
Cardinality Restrictions

- We can specify minimum and maximum number using `owl:minCardinality` & `owl:maxCardinality`
  - Courses with fewer than 10 students
  - Courses with between 10 and 100 students
  - Courses with more than 100 students
- Can specify a precise number by using the same minimum and maximum number
  - Courses with exactly seven students
- For convenience, OWL offers also `owl:cardinality`
  - E.g., exactly N
Cardinality Restrictions

E.g. courses taught be at least two people

[a owl:Restriction;
  owl:onProperty :isTaughtBy;
  owl:minCardinality
  “2”^^xsd;nonNegativeInteger] .
What does this say?

:Parent owl:equivalentClass
  [a owl:Restriction;
   owl:onProperty :hasChild;
   owl:minCardinality “1”^^xsd:integer] .

Questions:
- Must parents be humans?
- Must their children be humans?
Definition of a parent

The parent class is equivalent to the class of things that have at least one child

\[ \forall x : \text{Parent}(x) \iff \exists y \text{ hasChild}(x, y) \]

If hasChild is defined as having Person as it’s domain, then Parents are also people.
Special Properties

- **owl:TransitiveProperty** (transitive property)
  - E.g. “has better grade than”, “is ancestor of”

- **owl:SymmetricProperty** (symmetry)
  - E.g. “has same grade as”, “is sibling of”

- **owl:FunctionalProperty** defines a property that has at most one value for each object
  - E.g. “age”, “height”, “directSupervisor”

- **owl:InverseFunctionalProperty** defines a property for which two different subjects cannot have the same value
  - E.g., “ssn”, “mobile phone number”
We can combine classes using Boolean operations (union, intersection, complement).

Negation is introduced by the complementOf, e.g., courses not taught be staffMembers.

```xml
[ a :course,
  owl:Restriction;
  owl:onProperty :taughtBy;
  owl:allValuesFrom [a owl:Class;
    owl:complementOf :staffMember]
].
```
The new class is not a subclass of the union, but rather equal to the union

- We have stated an equivalence of classes

E.g., *university people is the union of staffMembers and Students*

:peopleAtUni

owl:equivalentClass

owl:unionOf (:staffMember :student) .
E.g., CS faculty is the intersection of faculty and things that belongTo the CS Department.

:facultyInCS owl:equivalentClass
owl:intersectionOf
(:faculty
 [ a owl:Restriction;
   owl:onProperty :belongsTo;
   owl:hasValue :CSDepartment ]
)

Nesting of Boolean Operators

E.g., administrative staff are staff members who are not faculty or technical staff members

:adminStaff owl:equivalentClass
owl:intersectionOf
(:staffMember
[a owl:Class;
owl:complementOf [a owl:Class;
owl:equivalentClass
owl:unionOf (:faculty :techSupportStaff)]])

Diagram:
- SM (staff member)
- F (faculty)
- TS (technical support staff)

Venn diagram showing the intersection of staff members excluding faculty and technical staff.
Enumerations with owl:oneOf

E.g., a thing that is either Monday, Tuesday, ...

[a owl:Class;
owl:oneOf (:Monday
  :Tuesday
  :Wednesday
  :Thursday
  :Friday
  :Saturday
  :Sunday) ]
Declaring Instances

Instances of OWL classes are declared as in RDF:

:john
  a :academicStaffMember;
  uni:age 39^^xsd:integer .
No Unique-Names Assumption

• OWL does not adopt the unique-names assumption of database systems
  – That two instances have a different name or ID does not imply that they are different individuals

• Suppose we state that each course is taught by at most one staff member, and that a given course is taught by #949318 and is taught by #949352
  – An OWL reasoner does not flag an error
  – Instead it infers that the two resources are equal
Distinct Objects

To ensure that different individuals are recognized as such, we must explicitly assert their inequality:

:john owl:differentFrom :mary .
Distinct Objects

OWL provides a shorthand notation to assert the pairwise inequality of all individuals in a given list

\[\text{a owl:allDifferent;}
\text{owl:distinctMembers (:alice :bob :carol :don) .}\]
Data Types in OWL

- XML Schema provides a mechanism to construct user-defined data types
  - E.g., the data type of `adultAge` includes all integers greater than 18
- Such derived data types can’t be used in OWL
  - The OWL reference document lists all the XML Schema data types that can be used
  - These include the most frequently used types such as `string`, `integer`, `Boolean`, `time`, and `date`. 
Inferring Distinctness

An ontology may provide many ways to infer that individuals as distinct from what’s known about them, e.g. they

- Belong to sets known to be disjoint (e.g., :Man, :Woman)
  

- Have inverse functional properties with different values
  
  :ssn a owl:InverseFunctionalProperty .

- Have different values for a functional property
  
  :ssn a owl:FunctionalProperty .

- Are connected with an irreflexive relation
  
  :pat1 :hasChild :pat2. :hasChild a owl:IrreflexiveProperty .
Combination of Features in OWL Profiles

- Different OWL profiles have different sets of restrictions regarding the application of features.
- In **OWL Full**, all the language constructors may be used in any combination as long as the result is legal RDF.
- **OWL DL** removes or restricts some features to ensure that complete reasoning is *tractable* or to make reasoning implementations easier.
Restriction of Features in OWL DL

- **Vocabulary partitioning**
  Any resource is allowed to be only a class, a data type, a data type property, an object property, an individual, a data value, or part of the built-in vocabulary, and not more than one of these.

- **Explicit typing**
  The partitioning of all resources must be stated explicitly (e.g., a class must be declared if used in conjunction with `rdfs:subClassOf`).
Property Separation

- The set of object properties and data type properties are disjoint
- Therefore the following can never be specified for data type properties:
  - `owl:inverseOf`
  - `owl:FunctionalProperty`
  - `owl:InverseFunctionalProperty`
  - `owl:SymmetricProperty`
Restriction of Features in OWL DL

- **No transitive cardinality restrictions**
  - No cardinality restrictions may be placed on transitive properties
  - e.g., people with more than 5 descendants

- **Restricted anonymous classes**
  Anonymous classes are only allowed to occur as:
  - the domain and range of either `owl:equivalentClass` or `owl:disjointWith`
  - the range (but not the domain) of `rdfs:subClassOf`
Restriction of Features in OWL Lite

- Restrictions of OWL DL and more
- `owl:oneOf`, `owl:disjointWith`, `owl:unionOf`, `owl:complementOf`, `owl:hasValue` not allowed
- Cardinality statements (minimal, maximal, exact cardinality) can only be made on values 0 or 1
- `owl:equivalentClass` statements can no longer be made between anonymous classes but only between class identifiers
African Wildlife Ontology

- An small example using OWL for an ontology of African animals and plants
- Used in 2nd edition of the Semantic Web Primer
- Used by Maria Keet for her course and book [An Introduction to Ontology Engineering](https://www.an-introduction-to-ontology-engineering.com)
- See her recent article, [The African Wildlife Ontology tutorial ontologies: requirements, design, and content](https://www.an-introduction-to-ontology-engineering.com/articles/)
- See
Figure 1  The African Wildlife Ontology at a glance. The main classes and relations of the African Wildlife ontology (v1) and an illustrative selection of its subclasses.
African Wildlife Ontology: Classes

See awo1.ttl
African Wildlife Ontology: Classes


:herbivore rds:subClassOf :animal;
  owl:disjointWith :carnivore .

:giraffe rdfs:subClassOf :herbivore .

:carnivore rdfs:subClassOf :animal .

:lion rdfs:subClassOf :carnivore .
Branches are parts of trees
# e.g, hand part of arm, arm part of body
:isPartOf a owl:TransitiveProperty.

# only animals eat things
:eats :domain :animal.

# the inverse of :eats in :eatenBy
:eats owl:inverseOf :eatenBy.
# plants and animals are disjoint
:plant owl:disjointWith :animal

# trees are plants
:tree rdfs:subClassOf :plant

# branches are only parts of trees
:branch rdfs:subClassOf
  [a owl:Restriction;
   owl:allValuesFrom :tree
   owl:onProperty :isPartOf]
# leaves are only parts of branches
:leaf rdfs:subClassOf
   [a owl:Restriction;
    owl:allValuesFrom :branch
    owl:onProperty :isPartOf]
# carnivores are exactly those animals
# that eat animals


Can carnivores eat plants?
How can we define Herbivores?
African Wildlife: Herbivores

Here is a start

:herbivore a owl:Class;
  rdfs:comment "Herbivores are exactly those animals that eat only plants or parts of plants" .
African Wildlife: Herbivores

:Herbivore owl:equivalentClass
[a owl:Class;
 owl:intersectionOf
(:Animal
 [a owl:Restriction
 owl:onProperty :eats;
 owl:allValuesFrom
 [a owl:Class;
 owl:equivalentClass
 owl:unionOf
 (:Plant
 [a owl:Restriction;
 owl:onProperty :isPartOf;
 owl:allValuesFrom :Plant]))]]}
# giraffes are herbivores, and eat only leaves

Giraffe rdfs:subClassOf

:Herbivore,

[owl:Restriction

owl:onProperty :eats;

owl:allValues:From :Leaf].
# Lions are animals that eat only herbivores

:lion rdfs:subClassOf
  :Carnivore,
  [a Restriction
    owl:onProperty :eats;
    owl:allValuesFrom :Herbivore] .
African Wildlife: Tasty Plants

#tasty plants are eaten both by herbivores & carnivores

???????????????????
African Wildlife: Tasty Plants

#tasty plants are eaten both by herbivores & carnivores

:Plant,

[a Restriction

owl:onProperty :eatenBy;

owl:someValuesFrom :Herbavore],

[a Restriction

owl:onProperty :eatenBy;

owl:someValuesFrom :Carnivore .]
Outline

1. A bit of history
2. Basic Ideas of OWL
3. The OWL Language
4. Examples
5. The OWL Namespace
6. OWL 2
Extensions of OWL

- Modules and Imports
- Defaults
- Closed World Assumption
- Unique Names Assumption
- Procedural Attachments
- Rules for Property Chaining
The importing facility of OWL is very trivial:
- It only allows importing of an entire ontology, not parts of it

Modules in programming languages based on 
information hiding: state functionality, hide implementation details
- Open question how to define appropriate module mechanism for Web ontology languages
Defaults

- Many practical knowledge representation systems allow inherited values to be overridden by more specific classes in the hierarchy
  - treat inherited values as defaults
- No consensus has been reached on the right formalization for the nonmonotonic behaviour of default values
• OWL currently adopts the **open-world assumption**:  
  - A statement cannot be assumed true on the basis of a failure to prove it  
  - On the huge and only partially knowable WWW, this is a correct assumption

• **Closed-world assumption**: a statement is true when its negation cannot be proved  
  - tied to the notion of defaults, leads to nonmonotonic behaviour
Unique Names Assumption

- Typical database applications assume that individuals with different names are indeed different individuals.
- OWL follows the usual logical paradigm where this is not the case.
  - Plausible on the WWW.
- One may want to indicate portions of the ontology for which the assumption does or does not hold.
A common concept in knowledge representation is to define the meaning of a term by attaching a piece of code to be executed for computing the meaning of the term.
- Not through explicit definitions in the language.

Although widely used, this concept does not lend itself very well to integration in a system with a formal semantics, and it has not been included in OWL.
Rules for Property Chaining

- OWL does not allow the composition of properties for reasons of decidability
- In many applications this is a useful operation
- One may want to define properties as general rules (Horn or otherwise) over other properties
- Integration of rule-based knowledge representation and DL-style knowledge representation is an area of research
OWL 2 adds

- Qualified cardinality
  - A hand has five digits, one of which is a thumb and four of which are fingers

- Stronger datatype/range support

- Additional property characteristics
  - E.g., reflexivity

- Role chains
  - E.g., hasParent.hasSibling.hasChild

- A better defined model for punning within DL
  - Allows a term to name both a concept and an individual

- More powerful annotations
Conclusions

- OWL is the proposed standard for Web ontologies
- OWL builds upon RDF and RDF Schema:
  - (XML-based) RDF syntax is used
  - Instances are defined using RDF descriptions
  - Most RDFS modelling primitives are used
- Formal semantics and reasoning support is provided through the mapping of OWL on logics
  - Predicate logic and description logics have been used for this purpose
- While OWL is sufficiently rich to be used in practice, extensions are in the making
  - They will provide further logical features, including rules