

Transformation of OWL Ontology Sources into Data Warehouse

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Abstract - The Semantic Web, as the extension of the traditional Web, provides the semantic annotations of the information generated by different organizations. Semantic annotations are stored within ontologies. Ontologies are expressed using ontology language. Web Ontology Language (OWL) is one of the most popular ontology languages. As a result of the increasing use of ontologies, large quantity of complex, heterogeneous and semi-structured semantic data sources exists. There is plenty of useful information in these data sources that can be analyzed and used in the decision making process of an organization. In order to facilitate the analysis of semantic data, new data warehouse tools that support semantic data analysis must be made. Data warehouse is used in traditional business analysis and decision making processes. A star schema is the most common design of data warehouse. In this paper a method that transforms OWL structure into the star schema of data warehouse is proposed. After the designer chooses the fact in the ontology, a method transforms OWL into the star schema. At the end, the designer selects which elements in the schema remain while creating physical data warehouse.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Semantic Web provides a common framework that allows data to be shared and reused across application, enterprise, and community boundaries [1]. Therefore, the goal of Semantic Web is the creation of standards and technologies that help machines to understand more about the Web data. These standards and technologies will improve user search results, data integration, navigation etc. Semantic annotations for Web data are stored within ontologies.

Ontology is a shared understanding of some domain of interest [2]. Ontology defines a set of entities and relations between them in a way that both humans and machines understand it. There are various data and conceptual models that can be thought of as ontologies (e.g. folksonomies, UML models, XML schemes, formal ontologies, etc.). Ontologies are expressed in an ontology language. OWL [3] is one of the most popular languages that is recommended by W3C organization.

As the Semantic Web is rapidly increasing, a large quantity of heterogeneous, composite and semi-structured semantic data sources exists. In these data, there is a lot of useful information that can be used in the decision making process of some company. For example, the data of the sales that were completed through the Web using a common ontology between two organizations can be used

in decision making process. Data warehouse has proved as a good solution in decision making process. According to [4], a data warehouse is a subject-oriented, integrated, time-variant and non-volatile collection of data in support of management's decision making process. The process of creating the data warehouse includes business demands, data design, architecture design, implementation, and deployment [4]. A data modelling is included in the data design. A dimensional fact model is one of the most popular models. The dimensional fact model consists of a fact table and its associated dimension tables [5]. These dimension tables consist of descriptive attributes that define some fact. Fact table also has attributes which are numeric and additive. If the presentation area is based on a relational database, then this dimensional fact model is implemented with a star schema [5]. The star schema is different from typical relational databases that are in the third normal form.

In order to facilitate the analysis of semantic data sources in the data warehouse, new warehouse tools need to be made. The tools [7, 8, 9 and 10] transform OWL ontology into a relational database, but do not deal with the star schema. Therefore, the additional transformation from relational database to the star schema is necessary. Furthermore, there is a risk of losing relevant information during multi-step transformation. Some relations (hierarchy between classes, symmetric relations etc.) within the OWL ontology could be lost after transformation of ontology into a relational database. Therefore it is better to implement a method that transforms OWL ontology into the star schema directly.

Furthermore, these solutions (except the [7]) deal with all subclasses of certain class in a way that the particular table is created for every subclass. This solution is not good for transforming relational database into the star schema because every subclass is managed like specific entity which is not the true. However, we take advantage of their transformation and improve several procedures to transform ontology into the star schema. Only the authors in [11] propose the direct transformation from the OWL ontology to the star schema, but with several drawbacks. The main drawback of their work is that data warehouse does not include the data of instances of certain class and its subclasses that does not have the values for certain attributes in the ontology that are specific for several subclasses.

In this paper a method that transforms OWL Lite ontology into the star schema directly is proposed. The

limitations described in the previous paragraph are also resolved. Our method deals with a class and its subclasses in a way that these classes represent one entity. Therefore the certain class and its subclasses become one dimension in the data warehouse. Our method also stores the data of all individuals of parent class and all its subclasses despite some individuals do not have values for several attributes that are specific only for certain subclasses. In this way, the data warehouse contains total data from the ontology, which is essential if the analyst wants to get the accurate results.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section II the terminology of OWL Lite ontology and star schema is introduced. In Section III related work is discussed. In Section IV the method for transforming OWL structure into the star schema is presented. Finally, the conclusion is given in section V.

II. TERMINOLOGY

A. OWL Lite ontology

OWL language (figure 1) is used when the information in a document need to be processed by a machine. OWL represents the meaning of terms and the relationships between them. OWL has three sublanguages: OWL Lite, OWL DL, and OWL Full. In this paper, the OWL Lite ontology is used. According to [12] the definitions of the OWL Lite elements that are essential for transformation are given below:

An *owl:Class* defines a group of individuals that belong together because they share some properties. For example, *HP1005* and *Canon505* are both members of the class *Printer* (figure 1). A *rdfs:subClassOf* establishes a hierarchy between one or more class. For example, the

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Product">
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Invoice">
</owl:Class>
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Printer">
  <rdfs:subClassOf
    <owl:Class rdf:about="#Product"/>
  </rdfs:subClassOf>
</owl:Class>
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="hasProduct">
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#Product"/>
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Invoice"/>
</owl:ObjectProperty>
<owl:DatatypeProperty rdf:ID="hasPrice">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Product" />
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="xsd:float"/>
</owl:DatatypeProperty>
<Invoice rdf:ID="Invoice145">
  <hasProduct rdf:resource="#HP1005"/>
  <hasProduct rdf:resource="#Canon505"/>
</Invoice>
<Printer rdf:ID="HP1005">
  <hasPrice>95</hasPrice>
</Printer>
<Printer rdf:ID="Canon505">
  <hasPrice>90</hasPrice>
</Printer>
```

Figure 1 A part of OWL ontology

class *Printer* could be stated to be a subclass of the class *Product* (figure 1). An *Individual* is instance of the certain class, and properties can relate one individual to another. Individuals carry data that can be used for analysis.

A *rdfs:Property* is used to define relationships between individuals (*owl:ObjectProperty*) or between individuals and data values (*owl:DatatypeProperty*). Example of properties can be named as *hasProduct*, *hasPrice* etc. A *rdfs:domain* of a property defines the individuals to which the property can be applied. For example, the property *hasProduct* can have the domain of *Invoice* (figure 1). A *rdfs:range* of a property defines the individuals that the property may have as its value. For example, the property *hasProduct* can have the range of *Product* (figure 1). An *inverseOf* element defines a property that can be the inverse of another property. If the property *P1* is the inverse of the property *P2*, and *X* is related to *Y* by the *P2*, then *Y* is related to *X* by the *P1*. Properties may be stated to be *SymmetricProperty*. If a property is symmetric, and the pair (x,y) is an instance of the symmetric property P, then the pair (y,x) is also an instance of P. If a property is *FunctionalProperty*, than a unique value is added to each individual that has this property. *Transitive* and *InverseFunctionalProperty* also exist in the OWL Lite ontology, but this type of property does not affect the transformation of OWL ontology into a star schema.

OWL Lite restrictions define the rules for using properties by particular instance. There are 5 restrictions: *allValuesFrom*, *someValuesFrom*, *minCardinality*, *maxCardinality* and *cardinality*. *AllValuesFrom* defines a local range restriction of some range class. *SomeValuesFrom* defines that at least one value of restricted property related to some instance is of the certain type. *MinCardinality* defines the minimal number of values of certain property that the individual must have. *MaxCardinality* defines the maximal number of values of certain property that the individual must have. *Cardinality* defines the exact number of values of certain property that the individual must have.

OWL uses the *XML Schema dataTypes* for defining the range of *owl:DatatypeProperties*.

B. Dimensional fact model

In this paper we adopt the dimensional fact model as a conceptual model that presents a data warehouse by a set of fact schemes with facts, measures, dimensions and hierarchies [16]. A fact is the center of interest in the decision making process.

A fact represents an event that occurs dynamically in the business process (e.g. invoice). A fact consists of measures. Measures are attributes that specify a fact. The most useful measures are additive and numeric. For example, every invoice has the total price, total tax etc.

Dimensions consist of discrete attributes that describe the fact event. Dimensions define the grain of the fact. For example, dimensions for every invoice are product, date, time, store etc. In this example, an analyst may request to see the money amount by product, by week, every evening from 7pm to 9pm. An analyst usually uses the OLAP (On-

Line Analytical Processing) tools for analyzing data warehouse. These tools are based on a multidimensional conceptual view of data. In this paper, a transformation from OWL ontology to ROLAP (Relational On-Line Analytical Processing) system is proposed. The ROLAP uses the relational model for representing dimensional fact model. The implementation of dimensional fact model in the relational database is called star schema (figure 2). The star schema consists of a set of dimension tables and the fact table. Each dimension has a set of attributes that describe the dimension. The fact table has a primary key that is a set of foreign keys of dimension tables. As it was stated before, the fact table also has the numeric and additive attributes that are measures of the fact.

III. RELATED WORK

As it was stated before, new data warehouse tools need to be made for more accurate analysis of semantic data sources. The focus of this paper is on the direct transformation of OWL ontology into the star schema because when a multi-step transformation is performed, some relations defined in the OWL ontology could be lost. The authors, who explore the transformation of OWL ontology into the relational database [7, 8, 9 and 10] deal with the transformation in the third normal form, not with the star schema. There are many solutions that transform the relational database in third normal form into the star schema. However, the main problem here is that the OWL ontology has a hierarchy of entities that appear in the ontology. The authors in [8, 9 and 10] propose the transformations that create an extra table in the relational database for every class in class hierarchy. For example, the class *Product* has subclass *Food* that has the additional attribute named *lifetime*. Transformations in [8, 9 and 10] create two tables, one for *Product* and one for *Food*. These two tables have all common attributes except for the attribute *lifetime*. The relation *rdfs:subClassOf* defined in OWL ontology (*Food* is a *subClassOf Product*), between *Product* and *Food* is lost after the transformation in the third normal form hence *Product* and *Food* will represent two different entities in the third normal form. When the transformation from third normal form into the star schema is made, the star schema has two dimensions for *Food* and *Product* instead of one dimension because these two classes represent the same entity, except that the *Food* class has the additional attribute. Hence, the wrong transformation could happen after losing a class hierarchy in the third normal form. However, some solutions of transformation proposed in [7, 8, 9 and 10] are used and integrated in the method proposed in this paper. A table for the parent class is

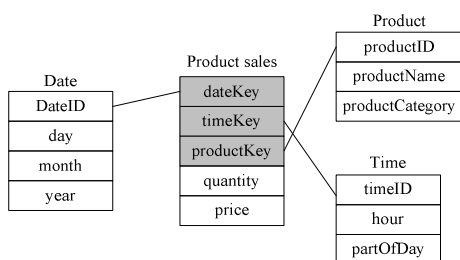


Figure 2 An example of the star schema

created in all transformation. If a class has the *ObjectProperty* and the *maxCardinality* is 1, a column is created and it is a foreign key for the range class of the *ObjectProperty*. If a class has the *DataProperty* and the *maxCardinality* is 1, a column is created and the type of the column is the most similar type in the relational database comparing XML data types added as a range of the *DataProperty*. The authors in [10] propose the rules for transforming every XML data type into the certain data type in the relational database. If the *ObjectProperty* is *Functional*, the cardinality of the property is 1 and the column in the table is created. If the cardinality of any property is greater than 1, a new table will be created that has the primary key which is a combination of two foreign keys. The first key references to the domain class and the second references to the range class.

Although the authors in [7] present the transformation from OWL ontology in third normal form, they propose an interesting solution. The subclasses of parent class are recognized as the same entity but the ontology is transformed into the object relational database. For example, the class *Food* inherits all attributes of class *Product* and has the additional attribute *lifetime*. This solution of recognizing hierarchical classes as the same entity is used in this paper.

The authors in [11] provide the transformation from OWL ontology to the star schema but with notable limitations. For example, the analyst wants to analyse certain class according to the first attribute which is common for certain class and its subclasses in the ontology, and to the second attribute which is common only for several subclasses. Only the individuals of these several subclasses that have both attributes will be stored in the data warehouse. Therefore, when the analyst wants to see analysis just according to this first common attribute of a class and all of its subclasses, she will get only the individuals of these several subclasses that have the first and the second attribute in the OWL ontology.

IV. THE METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFORMING OWL STRUCTURE INTO THE STAR SCHEMA

Transformation of OWL ontology into the star schema cannot be fully automated. The designer always has to choose which data she wants to analyze. Hence, the most important topic is that the designer selects what entity will represent the fact. As it was already mentioned, the direct transformation of OWL ontology into the star schema is proposed. The *Invoice* ontology (figure 4) will be taken as example for transformation of OWL Lite ontology into the star schema. In figure 4, The *Invoice* ontology is displayed as a directed graph to facilitate the steps of the transformation. That ontology is a combination of two real ontologies. First ontology [13] describes the main parts of the e-invoice while the second ontology [14] is the professional web vocabulary for e-commerce that describes a large number of products and services. These two ontologies are merged to show the real situation that can happen in a company while analyzing sales. For example, an analyst of the company

wants to analyze sale by certain month, year, product etc. Invoice ontology that is used for example has only the specific parts of the ontologies [13] and [14] through which it can be shown all capabilities of transforming OWL Lite ontologies into the star schema. The names of ontology classes in the example are shorter than real names in the ontologies [13] and [14] to facilitate the transformation steps. When the designer selects the fact, the transformation starts. First, the dependency graph will be created from the OWL ontology. The dependency graph is an intermediate structure used to provide a multidimensional representation of the XML data describing the fact [15, 16]. Here, the graph is used to provide a multidimensional representation of the OWL data. Therefore, in this case, the dependency graph is a directed rooted graph whose vertices are classes or their data attributes in the OWL ontology. Pseudo code of

```

{
Create dependency graph starGraph

Select a class or an ObjectProperty (with cardinality
greater than 1) in the OWL ontology that will represent
the fact;

Create the lists factDataTypeProperty and
factObjectProperty;

IF fact is ObjectProperty THEN
  Get all objectProperties and dataTypeProperties of
  the domain class and range class of the fact and put
  them in the lists factObjectProperty and
  factDataTypeProperty;
ELSE
  Get all objectProperties and dataTypeProperties of
  the of the fact class and put them in the lists
  factObjectProperty and factDataTypeProperty;
END IF

ProcessDataTypeProperties(factDataTypeProperty, true);
ProcessObjectProperties(factObjectProperty, true);

ProcessDataTypeProperties(dataTypeProperties, all){
  FOR every dataTypeProperty in
dataTypeProperties
    ProcessDataTypeProperty(dataTypeProperty, all);
  END FOR
}

ProcessObjectProperties(objectProperties, all){
  FOR every objectProperty in objectProperties
    ProcessObjectProperty(objectProperty, all);
  END FOR
}

ProcessDataTypeProperty(dataTypeProperty, all){
  Cardinality(dataTypeProperty, all);
}

Cardinality(property, all){
  IF property cardinality > 1 AND the property
  represents a many-to-many relationship THEN
    Create node (with name of the property
    range Class) with cardinality > 1
    (sign -> double line) and insert into
    starGraph; (sign # if all is false)
  ELSE
    Create node (with name of the property
    range Class) with cardinality = 1 and
    insert into starGraph; (sign # if all
    is false)
  END IF
}
}

```

Figure 3 Pseudo code for transforming OWL into the dependency graph

transforming OWL ontology into the dependency graph is shown in the figure 3.

For example, an analyst wants to examine the product sale. The designer selects the *object* property *hasInvoiceLine* in the figure 4 to be a fact. The *object* property *hasInvoiceLine* becomes the first node (the designer renamed it as *Product sales*) in the dependency graph. Then, the algorithm gets all *dataType* and *object* properties of the *domain* (*Invoice* class) and *range* (*InvoiceLine* class) classes of the object property *hasInvoiceLine* and puts them into a list of properties. The *Invoice* class has one *dataType* property (*hasInvoiceID*) and four *object* properties (*hasDelivery*, *hasTime*, *hasDate*, *hasInvoicePrice*). All properties have the cardinality equal to 1 and therefore the *range* classes (*Date*, *Time*, *Delivery*, *InvoicePrice*) or *dataTypes* (xsd:string named *InvoiceID*) of these five properties are added to the dependency graph (figure 5 a)). The

```

ProcessObjectProperty(objectProperty, all){
  IF objectProperty is Functional THEN
    Create node (with name of the property
    range Class) with cardinality = 1 and
    insert into starGraph; (sign # if all
    is false)
  ELSE IF objectProperty is Symmetric THEN
    IF starGraph does not contain range
    Class of this objectProperty THEN
      Cardinality
      (objectProperty, all);
      SubClasses(range Class);
    ELSE
      IF objectProperty is inverseOf THEN
        IF starGraph does not contain
        range Class of this
        objectProperty THEN
          Cardinality
          (objectProperty, all);
          SubClasses(range Class);
        END IF
      ELSE
        Cardinality
        (objectProperty, all);
        SubClasses(range Class);
      END IF
    END IF
  }

  SubClasses(class){
    IF class has subclasses THEN
      Create node with name SubClassName
      with cardinality = 1 and insert it
      into starGraph; (quadratic node in the
      dependency graph)
    END IF
  }

  Get all common dataType and object properties of parent
  class and all subclasses of certain class and put them
  in the lists classObjectProperty and classDataProperty;

  ProcessDataTypeProperties(classDataProperty, true);
  ProcessObjectProperties(classObjectProperty, true);

  Get all dataType and object properties of subclasses of
  certain class that are not common for every subclass
  and parent class and put them in the lists
  classObjectPropertyNotAll and classDataPropertyNotAll;

  ProcessDataTypeProperties(classDataPropertyNotAll,
  false);
  ProcessObjectProperties(classObjectPropertyNotAll,
  false);
}

The designer manually selects the measures, dimensions
and useful attributes in the starGraph
}

```

InvoiceLine class has two *dataType* properties (*hasInvoiceLineID*, *hasQuantity*) and two *object* properties (*hasProduct*, *hasInvoiceLinePrice*). All properties have the cardinality equal to 1 therefore the *range* classes (*Product*, *InvoiceLinePrice*) or *dataTypes* (*xsd:string* named *InvoiceLineID* and *xsd:string* named *Quantity*) of these four properties are added to the dependency graph (figure 5 a)). Thereafter, for every *range* class inserted into the dependency graph, the algorithm obtains all *object* and *dataType* properties.

The properties of the *Delivery* are *hasDate*, *isDeliveryFor*, *hasInvoiceID* and *hasTime*. These properties are inserted into the list of properties. An interesting *object* property is *isDeliveryFor* because it is an *inverseOf* property of the *hasDelivery* property in the *Invoice* class. The range class (*Delivery*) of the *hasDelivery* property is already inserted in the dependency graph through the *Invoice* node. Hence, the node for the range class (*Invoice*) of the *object* property *isDeliveryFor* will not be created because it is already created. If the algorithm creates the *Invoice* node again, an infinite recursion will occur. Other properties have the cardinality equal to 1 therefore the range classes (*Date*, *Time*) or *dataTypes* (*xsd:string* named *DeliveryID*) of these three properties are added to the dependency graph (figure 5 b)). Classes *Date* and *Time* (added through *Delivery* node) have one *dataType* property (*hasDateValue* and *hasTimeValue*) therefore one node is added in the *Date* (*DateValue*) and *Time* (*TimeValue*) node (figure 5 b)). It can be seen that the dependency graph stops expanding in some direction when the remaining properties are only *dataType* properties. Hence, the classes *Date* and *Time* stop expanding when the *DateValue* and *TimeValue* are added into dependency graph.

The properties of the *Date* and *Time* in the *Invoice* node are the same as the properties *Date* and *Time* in the

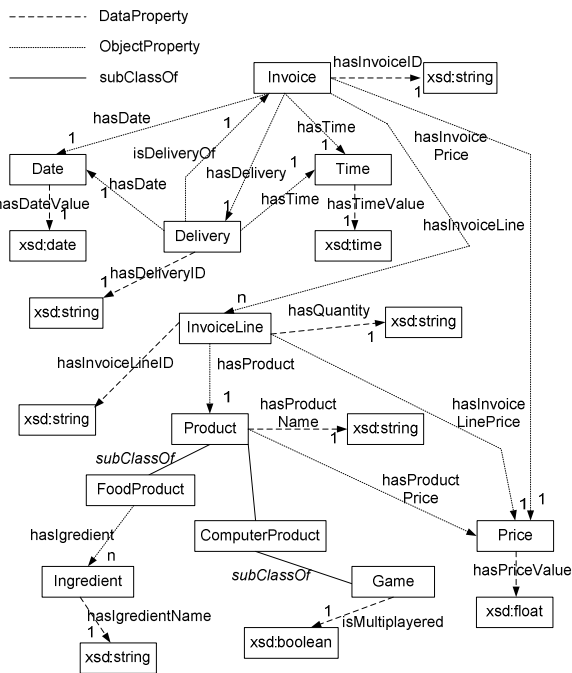


Figure 4 An example of the *Invoice* OWL ontology displayed as directed graph

Delivery node. Hence, the same nodes are created as earlier (figure 5 b)). At the end of the algorithm, the designer will merge this *Date* and *Time* nodes in the star schema because they represent the same dimensions. The *dataType* property *hasPriceValue* is the only property of the class *InvoicePrice* therefore the node *PriceValue* is created (figure 5 b)). The same procedure is made for the *hasPriceValue* property in the *InvoiceLinePrice* class (figure 5 b)).

Furthermore, the *Product* class needs to be expanded in the dependency graph. The *Product* class has two subclasses, *FoodProduct* and *ComputerProduct*. The *ComputerProduct* class has one subclass, the *Game* class. When the class has subclasses, the first step is to create the *subClassName* node that has a quadratic shape (figure 5 b)). This shape defines that each value of the *subClassName* attribute in the dimension table that corresponds with the *subClassName* node will be one of the names of subclasses (*FoodProduct*, *ComputerProduct* and *Game* in the example) or the root class (*Product*). The designer can rename the name of the *subClassName* node after creating the column in the relational database. In this example the column will be named *categoryName* (figure 6). After creating a node for all subclasses names and their root class, the algorithm gets all common *dataType* and *object* properties of the root class (*Product*) and all child classes (*FoodProduct*, *ComputerProduct*, *Game*). These properties are *hasProductPrice* and *hasProductName*. These properties have the cardinality 1 therefore two nodes (*ProductName*, and *ProductPrice*) are created in the dependency graph. The node *Product* is the parent node of these nodes. After creating nodes for properties of the *Product* class that are common to all subclasses of *Product* class, the properties that are special just for a subset of all subclasses need to be processed. These properties are *isMultiplayed* and *hasIngredient*. The

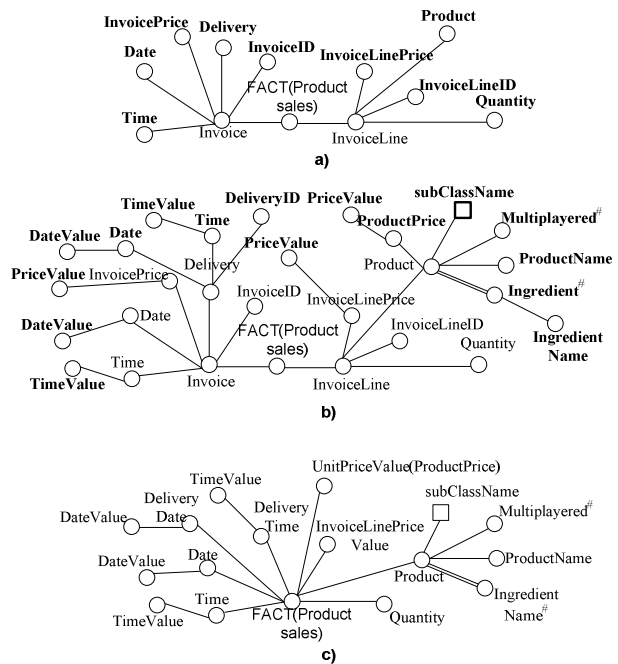


Figure 5 Dependency graph for the transformation of the *Invoice* OWL ontology

isMultiplayed property has cardinality equal to 1 and the node for the range of the property is created in the dependency graph but with the sign # to mark that this attribute will have null values in the data warehouse for some products. The *hasIngredient* property has cardinality greater than 1. When a property has cardinality greater than 1, the designer determines if this property represents a many-to-many relationship. If it is a many-to-many, then the designer decides whether to include it into the star schema or not. The star schema will have a snowflake structure because a many-to-many relationship exists in the hierarchy. In this example, the *hasIngredient* property represents a many-to-many relationship that the designer decides to include, hence the node for the *range* class of the *hasIngredient* property is created and marked with the signs # and double line that indicates a many-to-many relationship (figure 5 b)).

The designer selects measures, dimensions and useful attributes in the final step before implementing the star schema. Let us assume that the designer wants the *quantity*, *invoiceLinePrice* and *productPrice* to be measures and the nodes *Date*, *Time*, *DeliveryDate*, *DeliveryTime* and *Product* to be dimensions. Only the nodes that represent the range of *dataType* property in the dependency graph are actually in the dimension tables because every *object* property consists of several *dataType* properties that carry the data of ontology. The designer deleted *dataType* nodes that the analyst will not need (in our example *InvoiceID*, *DeliveryID* and *InvoiceLineID*). The star schema of the *Invoice* example can be seen in figure 6. Every column has its own data type in the relational database that is the most similar to the *XML* data type defined in the ontology. The method that maps similar data types from *XML* to *SQL* is described in [10]. The star schema has one snowflake structure for the ingredients that the product could have because it represents the many-to-many relationship between the product and the ingredients. Furthermore, the designer would probably enrich the date dimension. For example she would like to have information if the certain date is a weekend (figure 6), workday, etc. In a similar way the designer will enrich the time dimension.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper a method that transforms OWL ontology into the star schema is proposed. The method semi automatically transforms all elements of the ontology after the designer selects which class in the ontology will be the fact. Before implementing the star schema, the designer selects which data will be included in the data warehouse in order to drop unnecessary data from the data

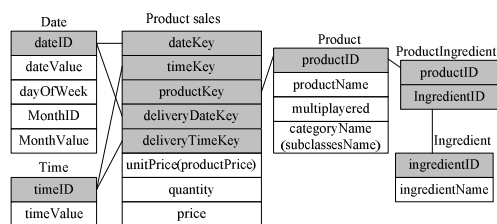


Figure 6 The star schema for the Invoice ontology example

warehouse.

Our method identifies all subclasses of the certain parent class as the same entity like parent class and thus it differs from other methods that transform OWL ontology into the normalized relational database or star schema. It is important because the certain class and its subclasses could become one dimension in the star schema. In this way, all individuals of parent class and all of its subclasses will be stored together although they have some different attributes that are defined only for some subclasses.

In the future work the attention will be paid on the ranges of the property that are composed of more classes. The solution for the symmetric property should also be improved. Symmetric property is like a recursive structure and it is difficult to define when the algorithm stops while obtaining the data from that property. Also, the implementation of the tool that uses the method described in this paper will be made.

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