

Knowledge Representation for the Semantic Web

Lecture 5: Description Logics IV

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slides based on Reasoning Web 2011 tutorial "*Foundations of Description Logics and OWL*" by S. Rudolph



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Unit Outline

Satisfaction and Entailment

Other Reasoning Problems

Algorithmic Approaches to DL Reasoning

Satisfaction and Satisfiability



Satisfaction and Satisfiability of Knowledge Bases

Satisfaction of a KB by an interpretation

An interpretation \mathcal{I} **satisfies** (or is a **model** of) a knowledge base $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, if \mathcal{I} satisfies every axiom of \mathcal{K} , i.e., $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$ for $\alpha \in \mathcal{K}$.

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KB (un)satisfiability / (in)consistency

A KB \mathcal{K} is **satisfiable** (also: **consistent**), if it has some model; otherwise it is **unsatisfiable** (also: **inconsistent** or **contradictory**).

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- **unsatisfiability** of a KB hints at a design bug
- unsatisfiable axioms carry no information:

α is **unsatisfiable** $\iff \neg\alpha$ is **tautologic** (if negation is applicable),
i.e., $\mathcal{I} \models \neg\alpha$ for every interpretation \mathcal{I}

Example: KB Satisfiability

RBox \mathcal{R}

owns \sqsubseteq *caresFor*

"If somebody owns something, s/he cares for it."

TBox \mathcal{T}

Healthy \sqsubseteq \neg *Dead*

"Healthy beings are not dead."

Cat \sqsubseteq *Dead* \sqcup *Alive*

"Every cat is dead or alive."

HappyCatOwner \sqsubseteq \exists *owns.Cat* \sqcap \forall *caresFor.Healthy*

"A happy cat owner owns a cat and all beings he cares for are healthy."

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HappyCatOwner(*schroedinger*)

"Schrödinger is a happy cat owner."



Is $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ satisfiable?

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Is $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ satisfiable? **Yes!**

Example: KB Satisfiability

TBox \mathcal{T}

Deer \sqsubseteq *Mammal*

"Deers are mammals."

Mammal \sqcap *Flies* \sqsubseteq *Bat*

"Mammals, who fly are bats."

Bat \sqsubseteq $\forall worksFor. \{batman\}$

"Bats work only for Batman"

ABox \mathcal{A}

Deer $\sqcap \exists hasNose.Red(rudolph)$

"Rudolph is a deer with a red nose."

$\forall worksFor^-. (\neg Deer \sqcup Flies)(santa)$

"Only non-deers or fliers work for Santa."

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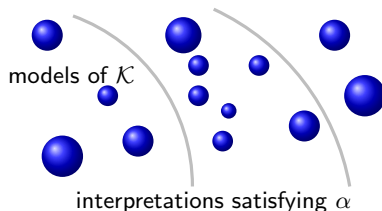


Is \mathcal{K} satisfiable? **No!**

Entailment of Axioms

Entailment checking

A knowledge base \mathcal{K} entails an axiom α (in symbols, $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$), if every model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{K} satisfies α .



- Informally, $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$ elicits implicit knowledge
- If α occurs in \mathcal{K} , then trivially $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$
- If \mathcal{K} is unsatisfiable, then $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$ for every axiom α

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- $\mathcal{K} \models \forall$ *owns*. \neg *Cat* \sqsubseteq \neg *HappyCatOwner*
- $\mathcal{K} \not\models$ *Cat* \sqsubseteq *Healthy*

Decidability of DLs

DLs are **decidable**, i.e., there exists an algorithm that

Given: a KB and an axiom α ,

Output: “yes” iff $KB \models \alpha$ and no otherwise.



- Likewise, there is a similar algorithm that decides whether an input KB is satisfiable
- Just ask $KB \models \top \sqsubseteq \perp$: if the answer is “yes”, then KB is unsatisfiable, otherwise it is satisfiable.

Standard Reasoning Problems



Standard DL Reasoning Problems

- **KB Satisfiability:** verify whether the KB is satisfiable
- **Entailment:** verify whether the KB entails a certain axiom
e.g., $\mathcal{K} \models \text{CatOwner}(\text{Schroedinger})$
- **Concept Satisfiability:** verify whether a given concept is (un)satisfiable, e.g., $\mathcal{K} \models \text{Dead} \sqcap \text{Alive} \sqsubseteq \perp$
- **Coherence:** verify whether none of the concepts in the KB is unsatisfiable
- **Classification:** compute the subsumption hierarchy of all atomic concepts, e.g. $\mathcal{K} \models \text{Healthy} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Dead}$, etc.
- **Instance Retrieval:** retrieve all the individuals known to be instances of a certain concept, e.g., find all a , s.t. $\exists \text{caresFor}(a)$

Deciding KB Satisfiability

- deciding **KB satisfiability** is a basic inference task (the “mother” of all standard reasoning tasks)
- directly needed in the process of KB engineering
 - detect severe modeling errors
- other reasoning tasks can be reduced to checking KB (un)satisfiability (and vice versa)



Theorem 1: Reducing reasoning problems to KB satisfiability

Let \mathcal{K} be a KB and a an individual name not in \mathcal{K} . Then

2. C is **satisfiable** w.r.t. \mathcal{K} iff $\mathcal{K} \cup C(a)$ is satisfiable;
3. \mathcal{K} is **coherent** iff, for each concept name C , $\mathcal{K} \cup C(a)$ is satisfiable;
4. $\mathcal{K} \models A \sqsubseteq B$ iff $\mathcal{K} \cup (A \sqcap \neg B)(a)$ is unsatisfiable;
5. $\mathcal{K} \models B(b)$ iff $\mathcal{K} \cup \neg B(b)$ is unsatisfiable.

Entailment Checking

- used in the KB modeling process to check, whether the specified knowledge has the intended consequences
- used for querying the KB if certain propositions are necessarily true

Reduction of entailment problem $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$ to checking KB inconsistency (see Th.1) follows the idea of proof by contradiction:

- negate the axiom α
- add the negated axiom $\neg\alpha$ to \mathcal{K}
- check for inconsistency of the resulting KB $\mathcal{K} \cup \{\neg\alpha\}$

If an axiom cannot be negated directly, its negation can be emulated ($\{\neg\alpha\} \rightsquigarrow A_\alpha$).

Entailment Checking, cont'd

Axiom sets \mathcal{A}_α such that $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$ exactly if $\mathcal{K} \cup \mathcal{A}_\alpha$ is unsatisfiable:

α	\mathcal{A}_α
$r_1 \circ \dots \circ r_n \sqsubseteq r$	$\{\neg r(c_0, c_n), r_1(c_0, c_1), \dots, r_n(c_{n-1}, c_n)\}$
$\text{Dis}(r, r')$	$\{r(c_1, c_2), r'(c_1, c_2)\}$
$C \sqsubseteq D$	$\{(C \sqcap \neg D)(c)\} \text{ or } \{\top \sqsubseteq \exists u(C \sqcap \neg D)\}$
$C(a)$	$\{\neg C(a)\}$
$\neg C(a)$	$\{C(a)\}$
$r(a, b)$	$\{\neg r(a, b)\}$
$\neg r(a, b)$	$\{r(a, b)\}$
$a \approx b$	$\{a \not\approx b\}$
$a \not\approx b$	$\{a \approx b\}$

- Individual names c with possible subscripts are supposed to be fresh¹.
- For GCI's (third line), the first variant is normally employed; the second is logical equivalent instead of just emulating.

¹Fresh individuals are those not appearing in the given KB \mathcal{K} .

Concept Satisfiability

Concept Satisfiability

A concept expression C is called **satisfiable** with respect to a knowledge base \mathcal{K} , if there exists a model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{K} such that $C^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$.

- Unsatisfiable atomic concepts normally indicate KB modeling errors.
- Concept satisfiability can be reduced to KB consistency (Th. 1) and non-entailment resp.:
 - C is **satisfiable** wrt. $\mathcal{K} \iff \mathcal{K} \cup \{C(a)\}$ is **consistent**, where a is a fresh individual name
 - C is **satisfiable** wrt. $\mathcal{K} \iff \mathcal{K} \not\models C \sqsubseteq \perp$

Concept Satisfiability, cont'd

Entailment of general concept inclusions $C \sqsubseteq D$ and equivalences $C \equiv D$ can be reduced to both concept (un)satisfiability and KB (un)satisfiability.

- $C \sqsubseteq D \iff C \sqcap \neg D$ is unsatisfiable
 \iff KB $\{C(a), \neg D(a)\}$ is unsatisfiable
- $C \equiv D \iff (C \sqcap \neg D) \sqcup (D \sqcap \neg C)$ is unsatisfiable
 \iff both $C \sqcap \neg D$ and $D \sqcap \neg C$ are unsatisfiable
 \iff both KBs $\{C(a), \neg D(a)\}$ and $\{D(a), \neg C(a)\}$ are unsatisfiable

Classification

KB Classification

Classification of a knowledge base \mathcal{K} is to determine for any two concept names A, B , whether $\mathcal{K} \models A \sqsubseteq B$ holds.

- This is useful at KB design time for checking the inferred concept hierarchy. Also, computing this hierarchy once and storing it can speed up further queries.
- Classification can be reduced to checking entailment of GCI's.
- While this requires quadratically many checks, one can often do much better in practice by applying optimizations and exploiting that subsumption is a preorder.

Instance Retrieval

Instance Retrieval

Instance retrieval task is to find all named individuals that are known to be in a certain concept (role).

- $\text{retrieve}(C, \mathcal{K}) = \{a \in N_I \mid a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}} \text{ for every model } \mathcal{I} \text{ of } \mathcal{K} \}$
- $\text{retrieve}(r, \mathcal{K}) = \{(a, b) \in N_I^2 \mid (a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \text{ for every model } \mathcal{I} \text{ of } \mathcal{K} \}$

- It can be reduced to checking entailment of as many individual assertions as there are named individuals in \mathcal{K} i.e., test $\mathcal{K} \models C(a)$ for each a occurring in \mathcal{K} (excluding pathologic cases).
- Depending on the system used and the inference algorithm, this can be done in a much more efficient way (e.g. by a transformation into a database query, in SQL or Datalog).

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- **Entailment Explanation**

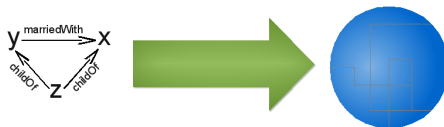
identify axioms in the knowledge base that support a conclusion
 $\mathcal{K} \models \alpha$, typically a smallest $\mathcal{K}' \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ such that $\mathcal{K}' \models \alpha$
(*'axiom pinpointing'*)

Conjunctive Query Answering

Generalize Instance Retrieval by allowing joins and projections:

$$q(Z) = \exists Y \exists X. \text{childOf}(Z, Y) \wedge \text{childOf}(Z, X) \wedge \text{marriedWith}(Y, X)$$

- In databases:
 - just one model (the DB itself) by *Closed World Assumption* (R. Reiter, 1978: if atom A is not provable from DB, $\neg A$ is true).



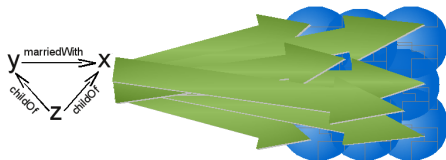
- this is rather easy

Conjunctive Query Answering, cont'd

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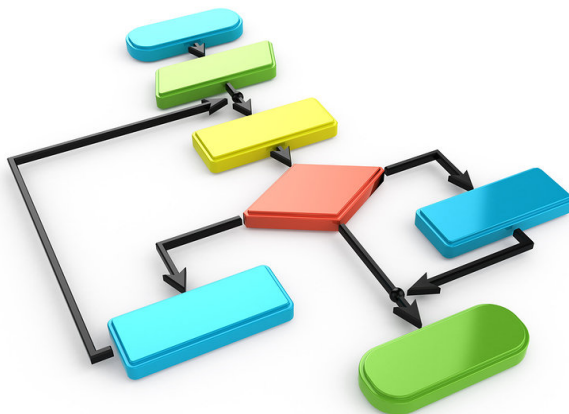
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- In Description Logics:
 - one knowledge base, many models (*Open World Assumption*)



- not so easy
- the \exists -variables must be suitably mapped in every model

Algorithmic Approaches to DL Reasoning



Types of Reasoning Procedures

- Roughly, DL inference algorithms can be separated into two groups:

model-based algorithms: show satisfiability by constructing a model (or a representation of it).

Examples: tableau, automata, type elimination algorithms

proof-based algorithms: apply deduction rules to the KB to infer new axioms.

Examples: resolution, consequence-based algorithms

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Tableau Algorithm for DLs

Tableau-based techniques

They try to decide the satisfiability of a formula (or theory) by using **rules** to construct (a representation of) a model.

- Tableau-based techniques have been used in FOL and modal logics for many years.
- For DLs, they have been extensively explored since the late 1990s [Smolka, 1990], [Baader and Sattler, 2001].
- They are considered well-suited for implementation.
- In fact, many of the most successful DL reasoners implement tableau techniques or variations of them, e.g.: RACER, FaCT++, Pellet, Hermit, etc.

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 - If we arrive at an interpretation satisfying all axioms, satisfiability has been shown.
 - If every repairing attempt eventually results in an overt inconsistency, unsatisfiability has been shown.

Note: as the finite model property does not hold in general, not a full model is constructed but a *finite* representation of it (cf. "blocking").

Tableau Overview Example: Happy Cat Owner

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$s \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(s) = \{HappyCatOwner\}$

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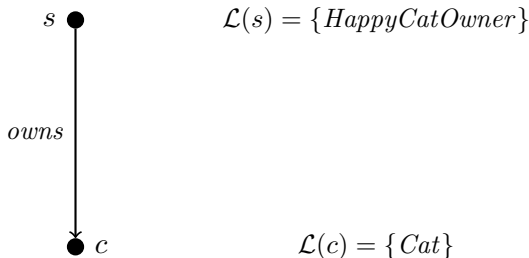


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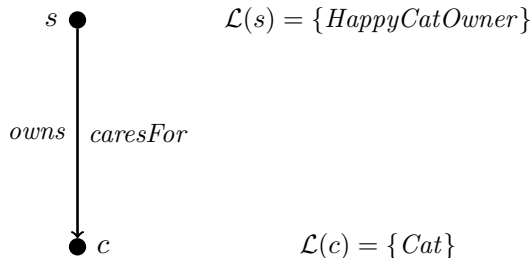


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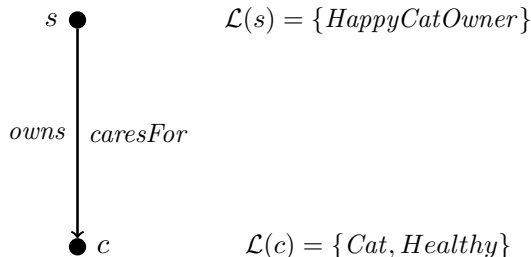


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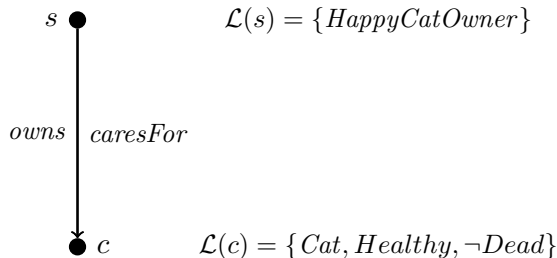


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Cat \sqsubseteq *Dead* \sqcup *Alive*

HappyCatOwner \sqsubseteq \exists *owns.Cat* \sqcap \forall *caresFor.Healthy*

ABox \mathcal{A}

HappyCatOwner(*s*)

Is \mathcal{K} satisfiable?

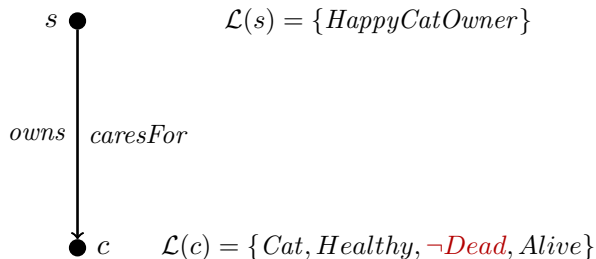


Tableau Overview Example: Happy Cat Owner

RBox \mathcal{R}

owns \sqsubseteq *caresFor*

TBox \mathcal{T}

Healthy \sqsubseteq \neg *Dead*

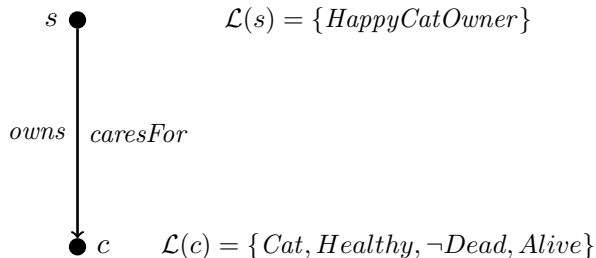
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HappyCatOwner(*s*)

Is \mathcal{K} satisfiable? **Yes!**



Naive Tableau Algorithm for \mathcal{ALC}

Given a KB in NNF we construct a tableau, which for \mathcal{ALC} KBs consists of

- a set of nodes, labeled with individual names or variable names
- directed edges between some pairs of nodes
- for each node labeled x , a set $\mathcal{L}(x)$ of class expressions and
- for each pair of nodes x and y , a set $\mathcal{L}(x, y)$ of role names.

Provisos:

- omit edges which are labeled with the empty set
- assume \top is contained in $\mathcal{L}(x)$ for any x .
- concept expressions should be in **negation normal form**

Recall \mathcal{ALC} Syntax

Construct	Syntax	Example	Semantics
atomic concept	A	<i>Doctor</i>	$A^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$
atomic role	r	<i>hasChild</i>	$r^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$
conjunction	$C \sqcap D$	<i>Human</i> \sqcap <i>Male</i>	$C^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}}$
unqual. exist. res. ²	$\exists r$	$\exists hasChild$	$\{o \mid \exists o'. (o, o') \in r^{\mathcal{I}}\}$
value res.	$\forall r.C$	$\forall hasChild.Male$	$\{o \mid \forall o'. (o, o') \in r^{\mathcal{I}} \rightarrow o' \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}$
full negation	$\neg C$	$\neg \forall hasChild.Male$	$\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus C^{\mathcal{I}}$

²Unqualified existential restriction

Negation Normal Form

Negation normal form (NNF)

A concept expression C is in **negation normal form**, if negation occurs in C only in front of atomic concepts, nominal concepts and self-restrictions.

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Given a KB \mathcal{K} to construct $nnf(\mathcal{K})$ we need to

- replace every $C \equiv D$ by $C \sqsubseteq D$ and $D \sqsubseteq C$;
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- recursively translate every C into $nnf(C)$:

$nnf(C) \rightsquigarrow C$ if $C \in \{A, \neg A, \{a_1 \dots a_n\}, \neg\{a_1 \dots a_n\}, \exists r.\text{Self}, \neg\exists r.\text{Self}, \top, \perp\}$

$nnf(\neg\neg C) \rightsquigarrow nnf(C)$	$nnf(\neg\forall r.C) \rightsquigarrow \exists r.nnf(\neg C)$
$nnf(C \sqcap D) \rightsquigarrow nnf(C) \sqcap nnf(D)$	$nnf(\neg\exists r.C) \rightsquigarrow \forall r.nnf(\neg C)$
$nnf(C \sqcup D) \rightsquigarrow nnf(C) \sqcup nnf(D)$	$nnf(\leq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \leq k r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\neg(C \sqcup D)) \rightsquigarrow nnf(\neg C \sqcap \neg D)$	$nnf(\geq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \geq k r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\neg(C \sqcap D)) \rightsquigarrow nnf(\neg C \sqcup \neg D)$	$nnf(\neg \leq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \geq (k+1) r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\forall r.C) \rightsquigarrow \forall r.nnf(C)$	$nnf(\neg \geq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \leq (k-1) r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\exists r.C) \rightsquigarrow \exists r.nnf(C)$	$nnf(\neg\top) \rightsquigarrow \perp$

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$nnf(\neg(C \sqcup D)) \rightsquigarrow nnf(\neg C \sqcap \neg D)$	$nnf(\geq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \geq k r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\neg(C \sqcap D)) \rightsquigarrow nnf(\neg C \sqcup \neg D)$	$nnf(\neg \leq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \geq (k+1) r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\forall r.C) \rightsquigarrow \forall r.nnf(C)$	$nnf(\neg \geq k r.C) \rightsquigarrow \leq (k-1) r.nnf(C)$
$nnf(\exists r.C) \rightsquigarrow \exists r.nnf(C)$	$nnf(\neg\top) \rightsquigarrow \perp$

C and $nnf(C)$ are logically equivalent, i.e., $C^{\mathcal{I}} = nnf(C)^{\mathcal{I}}$, for every interpretation \mathcal{I} , and the translation process terminates in linear time.

Example: Negation Normal Form

Negation Normal Form

$FilmActor \sqsubseteq (\exists actedIn \sqcap Artist) \sqcup \neg(\neg \exists actedIn \sqcup \exists playsIn.Theater)$

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2. $\neg FilmActor \sqcup (\exists actedIn \sqcap Artist) \sqcup (\exists actedIn \sqcap \neg \exists playsIn.Theater)$
3. $\neg FilmActor \sqcup (\exists actedIn \sqcap Artist) \sqcup (\exists actedIn \sqcap \forall playsIn. \neg Theater)$

Initial Tableau

For an \mathcal{ALC} knowledge base \mathcal{K} in **negation normal form**, the **initial tableau** is defined as follows:

1. For each individual a occurring in \mathcal{K} , create a node labeled a and set $\mathcal{L}(a) = \emptyset$.
2. For all pairs a, b of individuals, set $\mathcal{L}(a, b) = \emptyset$.
3. For each ABox statement $C(a)$ in \mathcal{K} , set $\mathcal{L}(a) \leftarrow C$.
4. For each ABox statement $r(a, b)$ in \mathcal{K} set $\mathcal{L}(a, b) \leftarrow r$.

Note: “ \leftarrow ” means “update with”, “add to”

Example: Initial Tableau

$$\mathcal{K} = \{A(a), \quad (\exists r.B)(a), \quad r(a,b), \quad r(a,c), \quad s(b,b), \quad (A \sqcup B)(c), \\ \neg A \sqcup (\forall s.B)\}$$

b ●

a ●

c ●

Example: Initial Tableau

$$\mathcal{K} = \{A(a), (\exists r.B)(a), r(a,b), r(a,c), s(b,b), (A \sqcup B)(c), \neg A \sqcup (\forall s.B)\}$$

$b \bullet$

$a \bullet$

$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{A,$$

$c \bullet$

Example: Initial Tableau

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$b \bullet$

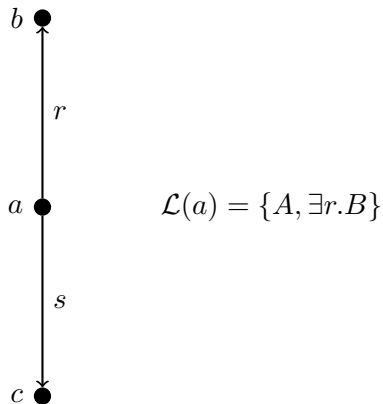
$a \bullet$

$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{A, \exists r.B\}$$

$c \bullet$

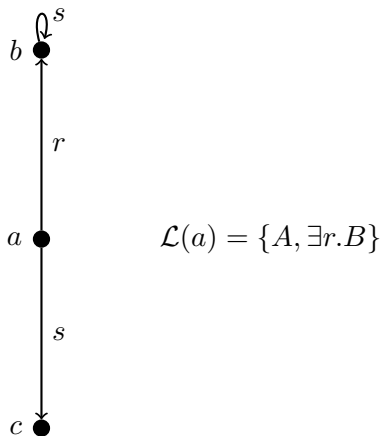
Example: Initial Tableau

$$\mathcal{K} = \{A(a), \quad (\exists r.B)(a), \quad \textcolor{red}{r(a,b)}, \quad \textcolor{red}{r(a,c)}, \quad s(b,b), \quad (A \sqcup B)(c), \\ \neg A \sqcup (\forall s.B)\}$$



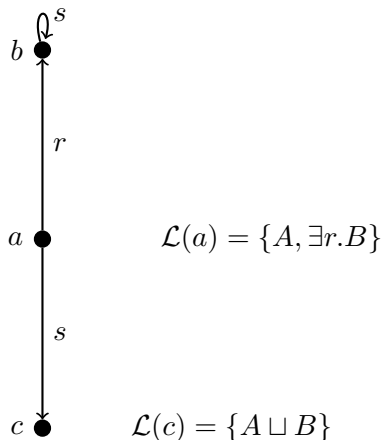
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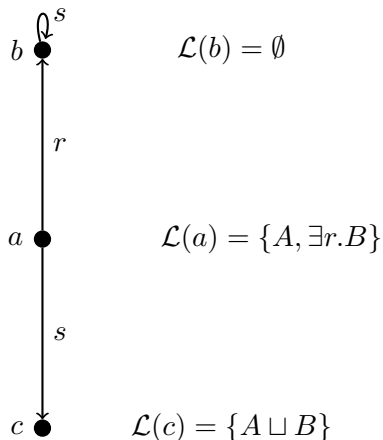
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Expansion Rules for the Naive Tableau

- **\sqcap -rule:** If $C \sqcap D \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ and $\{C, D\} \not\subseteq \mathcal{L}(x)$, then set $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow \{C, D\}$.

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 1. add a new node with label y (where y is a new node label),
 2. set $\mathcal{L}(x, y) = \{r\}$, and
 3. set $\mathcal{L}(y) = \{C\}$.

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- **TBox-rule:** If C is a (rewritten and normalized) TBox statement and $C \notin \mathcal{L}(x)$, then set $\mathcal{L}(x) \leftarrow C$.

Naive Tableau Algorithm

Input: \mathcal{ALC} knowledge base \mathcal{K} in negation normal form

Output: “yes” if \mathcal{K} is satisfiable

1. Initialize the tableau;
2. While some expansion rule is applicable:
 - 2.1. nondeterministically apply an applicable rule;
 - 2.2. if for some node x , there exists some $C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ such that $\neg C \in \mathcal{L}(x)$, output “no” and terminate;
3. Output “yes”.

A nondeterministic run of the algorithm terminates, if either

- for some node x , $\mathcal{L}(x)$ contains a contradiction (“no”; attempt to find a model for \mathcal{K} was unsuccessful), or
- no expansion rule is applicable (“yes”; attempt was successful)
- \mathcal{K} is satisfiable if some run outputs “yes”, and unsatisfiable if every run outputs “no”
- only the \sqcup -rule creates true branching regarding yes/no output

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

a ●

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

$$a \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

$$a \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

$$a \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D,$$

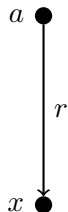
Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

$$a \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(a) = \{\textcolor{red}{C}, \forall r.\neg E, \neg\textcolor{red}{C} \sqcup \exists r.D,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

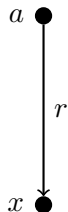


$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

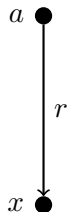


$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

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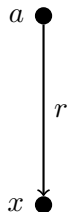


$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{\textcolor{red}{D}, \neg \textcolor{red}{D} \sqcup E,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

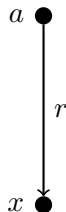


$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg D \sqcup \textcolor{red}{E}, E,$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$

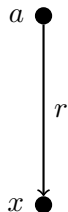


$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg D \sqcup E, E, \neg E\}$$

Example: Expansion Rules

$$\mathcal{K} = \{C(a), \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \neg D \sqcup E, \forall r.\neg E(a)\}$$



$$\mathcal{L}(a) = \{C, \forall r.\neg E, \neg C \sqcup \exists r.D, \exists r.D\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \{D, \neg D \sqcup E, \textcolor{red}{E}, \neg \textcolor{red}{E}\}$$

Clash is obtained, KB is unsatisfiable!

Tableau Algorithm with Blocking for \mathcal{ALC}

- Naive tableau algorithm does not always terminate

Example: $\mathcal{K} = \{\neg Person \sqcup \exists hasParent, Person(a_1)\}$.

- Modify the naive tableau algorithm to ensure termination
- Use **blocking**
- A node with label x is **directly blocked** by a node with label y if
 - x is a variable (i.e., not an individual),
 - y is an ancestor of x , and
 - $\mathcal{L}(x) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(y)$
- A node with label x is **blocked**, if it is directly blocked or one of its ancestors is blocked
- Expansion rules may only be applied if x is not blocked

Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{K} = \{B(t), \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, H(t)\}$$

t ●

Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{K} = \{\textcolor{red}{B}(t), \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, \textcolor{red}{H}(t)\}$$

$$t \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(t) = \{B, H,$$

Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{K} = \{B(t), \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, H(t)\}$$

$$t \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(t) = \{B, H, \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H,$$

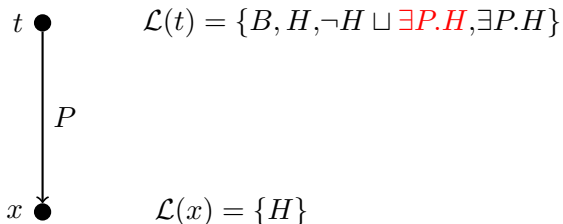
Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{K} = \{B(t), \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, H(t)\}$$

$$t \bullet \quad \mathcal{L}(t) = \{B, \textcolor{red}{H}, \neg \textcolor{red}{H} \sqcup \exists P.H,$$

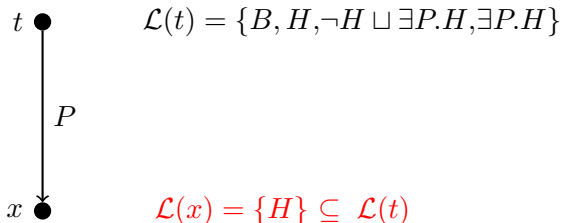
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Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{K} = \{B(t), \neg H \sqcup \exists P.H, H(t)\}$$



Computational Properties

- The simple tableau algorithm is expensive in general (worst case):
 - the worst case complexity is double exponential
 - testing KB consistency in \mathcal{ALC} is EXPTIME-complete
 - testing concept satisfiability in \mathcal{ALC} is PSPACE-complete
- Still in practice, (optimized) tableaux algorithms work well
 - other notions of blocking might be used, e.g. “cross-path blocking” (blocking node need not be an ancestor)
 - single exponential time tableaux algorithms are available
- For many other description logics, also tableaux algorithms exist (e.g. \mathcal{SHIQ} , \mathcal{SHOIQ} , ...)
Some algorithms are quite involved!

Summary

1. Satisfaction and Entailment

- Notions
- Decidability

2. Reasoning Problems

- Knowledge base consistency
- Entailment checking
- Concept satisfiability
- Classification
- Instance retrieval

3. Algorithmic Approaches to DL Reasoning

- Types of reasoning procedures
- Tableaux

4. Novel reasoning problems

- Conjunctive query answering

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