

# Knowledge Representation

## Lecture 6: The Tableau Method and More Expressive DLs

**Patrick Koopmann**

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# The Story so Far

- ▶ Reasoning is what makes DLs “intelligent”
- ▶ Semantics defines what is entailed from an ontology
- ▶ To compute entailments in practice, we need a reasoning algorithm
- ▶  $\mathcal{EL}$  is a DL that allows for very efficient reasoning
  - ▶ completion method
  - ▶ special model that captures all entailments (*canonical model*)
- ▶ What about  $\mathcal{ALC}$  and more expressive DLs?

# Flashback: What is Knowledge Representation?

- ▶ KR as **surrogate**
- ▶ KR as expression of **ontological commitment**
- ▶ KR as theory of **intelligent reasoning**
- ▶ **KR as medium for efficient computation**
  - ▶ automated deduction is useless if it is not practical
  - ▶ trade-off between expressivity and reasoning performance
- ▶ KR as medium of **human expression**

# Overview of the Tableaux Method for $\mathcal{ALC}$

This time, it is easier to focus on **concept satisfiability**

Given an ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  and a concept  $C$ ,  $C$  is **satisfiable w.r.t.  $\mathcal{O}$**  iff  $\mathcal{O}$  has a model  $\mathcal{I}$  in which  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$  (a **model of  $C$  and  $\mathcal{O}$** ).

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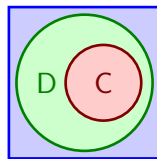
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- ▶ For  $\mathcal{EL}$ , this wouldn't have made sense, since every concept is satisfiable
- ▶ In  $\mathcal{ALC}$ , we can reduce many problems to it:
  - ▶ To decide  $\mathcal{O} \models C \sqsubseteq D$ , we check whether  $C \sqcap \neg D$  is **unsatisfiable**
  - ▶ To decide **consistency** of  $\mathcal{O}$ , we check whether  $\top$  is **satisfiable**



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- ▶ If all branches clash, the concept is unsatisfiable

# Normalization

- ▶ A concept  $C$  is in negation normal form (NNF) iff the negation symbol  $\neg$  only occurs in front of concept names.
- ▶ A TBox is in NNF if every axiom is of the form  $T \sqsubseteq C$ , where  $C$  is in NNF
- ▶ An ABox is in NNF if every concept in it is in NNF
- ▶ An ontology is in NNF if TBox and ABox are in NNF

# The Tableaux procedure

- ▶ We assume everything is normalized.
- ▶ Branches are represented as *ABoxes*.
- ▶ We start with the assertion  $a : C$ .
- ▶ We then step-wise apply a set of *ALC expansion rules* to construct different ABoxes on different branches.

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The  $\sqcup$ -rule introduces a new branch.

► One branch for every possibility

► We first continue on the branch for  $C$ . If it fails, we continue on the branch for  $D$ .

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- ▶  $\forall$ -rule:  $a : \forall r.C, \langle a, b \rangle : r$   
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- ▶  $\mathcal{T}$ -rule:  $\top \sqsubseteq C \in \mathcal{T}$   
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## 2. No special treatment of **initial concepts**

- ▶ In the  $\mathcal{EL}$  method, we would reuse individuals based on their initial concepts
- ▶ We already saw that this does not work together with the  $\forall$ -rule
- ▶ We will need another mechanism to deal with **cyclic TBoxes** such as  $\{A \sqsubseteq \exists r.A\}$

## Termination Criterion

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A branch is **complete** if it has no clash and no more rule can be applied.

- ▶ Once we have a complete branch, we know that our concept is satisfiable.

## Example

$$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{T} = \{ \quad A \sqsubseteq B \sqcup C, \quad C \sqsubseteq D \sqcap \exists r.F, \quad A \sqcap \exists r.T \sqsubseteq \neg D \quad \}$$

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3. We are now ready to apply the Tableaux procedure.

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CLASH!

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$$\mathcal{T}' = \{ \top \sqsubseteq \neg A \sqcup (B \sqcup C), \top \sqsubseteq \neg C \sqcup (D \sqcap \exists r.F), \top \sqsubseteq (\neg A \sqcup \forall r.\perp) \sqcup \neg D \}$$

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CLASH!

**Clash:** For some  $a$ ,  $A$ , either  $a : \perp$  or both  $a : A$  and  $a : \neg A$ .

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$$a : D$$

$$a : \exists r.F$$

$$\sqcap\text{-rule: } a : C \sqcap D \implies a : C, a : D$$



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$a : \exists r.F$

$\langle a, b \rangle : r$

$b : F$

**$\exists$ -rule:**  $a : \exists r.C$ , no  $\langle a, b \rangle : r$  s.t.  $b : C \implies \langle a, b \rangle : r, b : C$  for new  $b$

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CLASH!

► All branches clashed  $\implies A \sqcap \neg B$  is unsatisfiable!  
 $\implies \mathcal{O} \models A \sqsubseteq B$

# Termination

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\top \sqsubseteq \exists r.B\}$$

$a : A$

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$\langle c, d \rangle : r$

$d : B$

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$b : \exists r.B$

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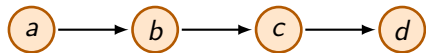
$c : \exists r.B$

$\langle c, d \rangle : r$

$d : B$

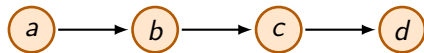
$\vdots$

## Ensuring Termination



- ▶ Every individual  $d$  has a path from the individual  $a$  from which we started
- ▶ The other individuals on this path (including the  $a$ ) are called **ancestors of  $d$**

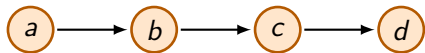
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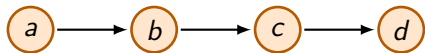


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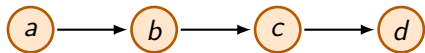


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- ▶ Note: only ancestors can block

## Example: Blocking

$$\mathcal{T} = \{ \top \sqsubseteq \neg A \sqcup \forall r.B, \quad \top \sqsubseteq \neg B \sqcup \exists r.A \}$$

Task: check satisfiability of  $A \sqcap \exists r.A$  wrt.  $\mathcal{T}$

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CLASH!

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$\Rightarrow A \sqcap \exists r.A$  is satisfiable!

# Decision Procedure

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- ▶ In fact, the algorithm is also **complete**
  - ▶ For every satisfiable concept, it returns “satisfiable”
  - ▶ Idea: If  $C$  is satisfiable, then there is a model  $\mathcal{I}$  for it
  - ▶ We can use this model to “guide” the tableaux procedure → determine which rules to apply how

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- ▶ In fact, reasoning with  $\mathcal{ALC}$  is **provably harder** than for  $\mathcal{EL}$ 
  - ▶ **Exponential time** instead of **polynomial time** complexity
- ▶ Modern DL reasoners try to exploit the “ $\mathcal{EL}$ -like” parts of the ontology as much as possible.

# More Expressive DLs

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- ▶ Consider the following axioms:
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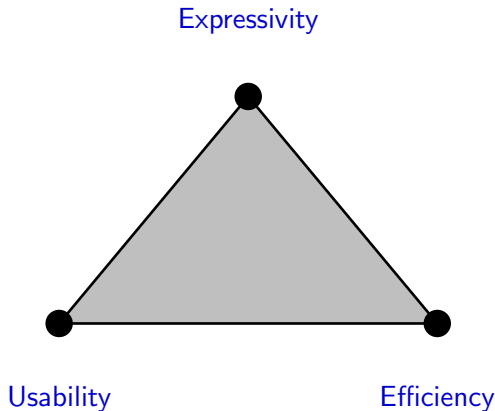
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- ▶ Modelling these with  $\mathcal{ALC}$  would be awkward to impossible.

# The Limits of Expressivity

- ▶ A central feature of DLs is not only the syntax, but also *decidability*.
- ▶ A challenge is to stay *decidable*, while offering sufficient expressivity.



# Very Expressive Description Logics

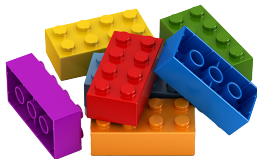
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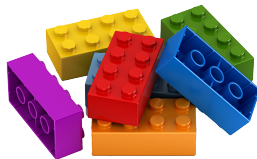
# Very Expressive Description Logics

- ▶  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(\mathcal{D})$  is one of the most expressive logics of the description logic family that is still decidable. *The DL underlying OWL!*
- ▶ The name describes its main additional features to  $\mathcal{ALC}$ :
  - ▶ transitive roles ( $\mathcal{S}$ ),
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  - ▶ role **H**ierarchies ( $\mathcal{H}$ , contained in  $\mathcal{R}$ )
  - ▶ n**O**minals ( $\mathcal{O}$ ),
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  - ▶ Concrete **D**omains ( $\mathcal{D}$ ).
- ▶ DLs between  $\mathcal{EL}$  and  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$  follow the same naming scheme:  $\mathcal{ELHO}$ ,  $\mathcal{ALCI}$ ,  $\mathcal{SOQ}$ , etc.



# Number Restrictions

(Qualified) **number restrictions** restrict the number of outgoing role connections.

For all role names  $r$ , concepts  $C$ , and  $n \geq 0$ , the following are concepts:

Name      **at-least restriction**

Syntax     $\geq nr.C$

Semantics  $\{d \mid \#\{e \in C^{\mathcal{I}} \mid (d, e) \in r^{\mathcal{I}}\} \geq n\}$

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► We can also write  $=nr.C := (\geq nr.C) \sqcap (\leq nr.C)$

$Cow \sqsubseteq =4 hasBodyPart.Leg$

$Hand \sqsubseteq =5 hasBodyPart.Finger$

## Choosing the Right Construct

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{O} = \{ & \textit{Margherita} \sqsubseteq \textit{Pizza} \\ & \quad \sqcap \exists \textit{hasTopping}.\textit{TomatoSauce} \\ & \quad \sqcap \exists \textit{hasTopping}.\textit{Mozarella} \\ & \quad \sqcap \exists \textit{hasTopping}.\textit{Basil} \\ & \textit{VegetarianPizza} \equiv \textit{Pizza} \sqcap \forall \textit{hasTopping}.\textit{Vegetarian} \\ & \textit{TomatoSauce} \sqcup \textit{Mozarella} \sqcup \textit{Basil} \sqsubseteq \textit{Vegetarian} \\ & \textit{TomatoSauce} \sqsubseteq \neg \textit{Mozarella} \sqcap \neg \textit{Basil} \\ & \textit{Mozarella} \sqsubseteq \neg \textit{Basil} \quad \quad \quad \} \end{aligned}$$

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2. or  $\textit{Margherita} \sqsubseteq \leq 3 \textit{hasTopping} . \top$  ?

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For all role names  $r$ , the following is also a **role**, and can be used in all places where a **role name** can be used:

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$belongsTo^{-} \quad \top \sqsubseteq \forall hasChild^{-}.Parent$

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For all individual names  $a$  and role names  $r$ , the following are **concepts**:

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$\exists \text{employedBy}.\{VU\text{Amsterdam}\}$        $\exists \text{loves}.\text{Self}$

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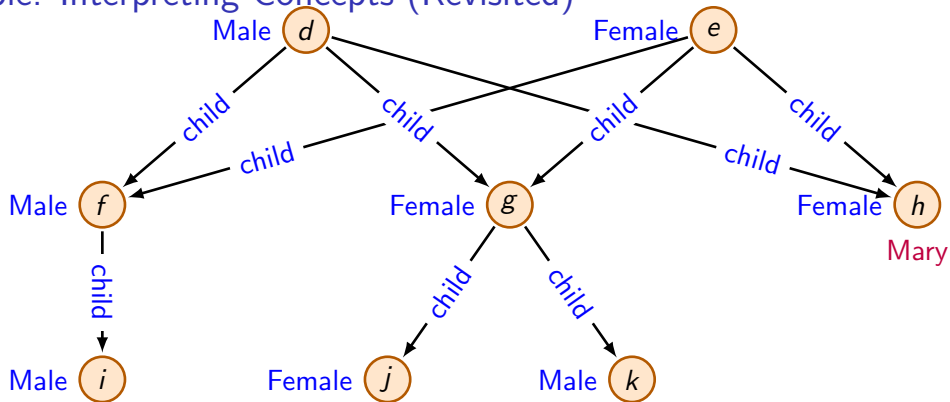
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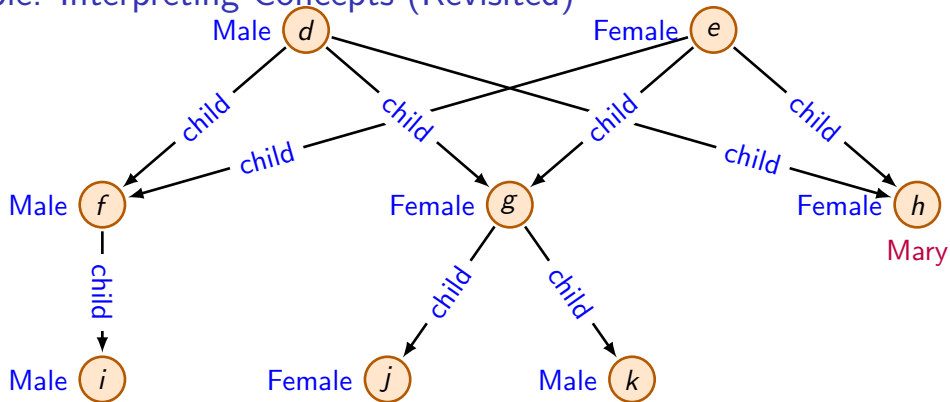
**Extensional definitions** instead list the elements of the class.

$EUMember \equiv \{France\} \sqcup \{Germany\} \sqcup \{Italy\} \sqcup \dots$

## Example: Interpreting Concepts (Revisited)



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$$(\geq 2 \text{child}.\text{Female})^{\mathcal{I}} =$$

$$(\exists \text{child}.\text{Self})^{\mathcal{I}} =$$

$$(\text{Male} \sqcap \exists \text{child}^-. \exists \text{child}.\text{Female})^{\mathcal{I}} =$$

$$(\neg \exists \text{child}^-. \top)^{\mathcal{I}} =$$

$$(\exists \text{child}.\{\text{Mary}\})^{\mathcal{I}} =$$

## Additional Assertions

For all individual names  $a, b$  and role names  $r$ , the following are assertions:

Name	equality	inequality	negated role assertion
Syntax	$a \approx b$	$a \not\approx b$	$(a, b) : \neg r$
Semantics	$a^I = b^I$	$a^I \neq b^I$	$(a^I, b^I) \notin r^I$

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In fact, all assertions are now syntactic sugar:

$a : C$	$\iff$	$\{a\} \sqsubseteq C$	$(a, b) : r$	$\iff$	$\{a\} \sqsubseteq \exists r. \{b\}$
$a \approx b$	$\iff$	$\{a\} \sqsubseteq \{b\}$	$(a, b) : \neg r$	$\iff$	$\{a\} \sqsubseteq \forall r. \neg \{b\}$
$a \not\approx b$	$\iff$	$\{a\} \sqsubseteq \neg \{b\}$			

# Role Axioms

With the concept constructors so far, a range of **role axioms** can be expressed:

Name	Syntax	Meaning
Domain	$\text{dom}(r) \sqsubseteq C$	$\exists r.T \sqsubseteq C$
Range	$\text{ran}(r) \sqsubseteq C$	$\exists r^{-}.T \sqsubseteq C, \quad T \sqsubseteq \forall r.C$
Functionality	$\text{fun}(r)$	$T \sqsubseteq \leq 1r.T$
Reflexivity	$\text{Ref}(r)$	$T \sqsubseteq \exists r.\text{Self}$

## Role Axioms

In  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$ , an ontology consists of three parts  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{R}$ , where  $\mathcal{R}$  is an **RBox**, i.e. a finite set of **role axioms**.

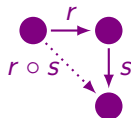
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If  $r, s, s_1, \dots, s_n$  are roles, then the following are role axioms:

Name:	role inclusion	complex role inclusion	role disjointness
Syntax:	$r \sqsubseteq s$	$s_1 \circ \dots \circ s_n \sqsubseteq r$	$\text{dis}(r, s)$
Semantics:	$r^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq s^{\mathcal{I}}$	$s_1^{\mathcal{I}} \circ \dots \circ s_n^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq r^{\mathcal{I}}$	$r^{\mathcal{I}} \cap s^{\mathcal{I}} = \emptyset$

$r \circ s$  represents the **concatenation** of  $r$  and  $s$ :



# Role Axioms

Things we can express in an RBox:

- ▶ sub-roles and chains:

$$hasMother \sqsubseteq hasParent \quad hasParent \circ hasMother \sqsubseteq hasGrandMother$$

- ▶ “Inverse of”:

$$hasParent \sqsubseteq hasChild^{-} \quad hasChild^{-} \sqsubseteq hasParent$$

- ▶ Transitivity:

$$partOf \circ partOf \sqsubseteq partOf$$

- ▶ Other features:

$$\text{dis}(hasDaughter, hasSon) \quad \text{Ref}(hasRelative)$$

## Additional Axioms: Syntactic Sugar

Name	Syntax	Defined as
disjointness	$\text{dis}(C, D)$	$C \sqsubseteq \neg D$ or $D \sqsubseteq \neg C$ or $C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$
role equivalence	$r \equiv s$	$r \sqsubseteq s, s \sqsubseteq r$
domain restriction	$\text{dom}(r) \sqsubseteq C$	$\top \sqsubseteq \forall r^-.C$ or $\exists r.\top \sqsubseteq C$
range restriction	$\text{ran}(r) \sqsubseteq C$	$\top \sqsubseteq \forall r.C$ or $\exists r^-. \top \sqsubseteq C$
role irreflexivity	$\text{irr}(r)$	$\exists r.\text{Self} \sqsubseteq \perp$
role functionality	$\text{fun}(r)$	$\top \sqsubseteq \leq 1r.\top$
role symmetry	$\text{sym}(r)$	$r \sqsubseteq r^-$
role asymmetry	$\text{asy}(r)$	$\text{dis}(r, r^-)$
role transitivity	$\text{tra}(r)$	$r \circ r \sqsubseteq r$

## Note: Domain and Range Restrictions

Be careful of declared domains and ranges. They affect all class expressions using the property:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ran}(\textit{eats}) &\sqsubseteq \textit{Organism} && (\text{equivalent to } \top \sqsubseteq \forall \textit{eats}.\textit{Organism}) \\ \textit{Bird} &\sqsubseteq \exists \textit{eats}.\textit{Stone} \end{aligned}$$

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entails *Tornado*  $\sqsubseteq$  *Organism*.

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# Concrete Domains

Examples of **concrete domains** are **strings**, **numbers**, **dates**.

In DLs with concrete domains (including  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$ ), there are special role names (**attributes**, or **data properties** in OWL terminology) that refer to elements in the concrete domain.

In addition, we have special **predicates**, that can be used to refer to sets in the concrete domain.

- For example: numbers larger than 10, strings starting with “Mrs. ”, etc.

$\exists \textit{hasAge}.\leq_{18}$      $\exists \textit{hasPrice}.\geq_{1,000\text{€}}$      $\exists \textit{hasSize}.\{30\}$

The formal definition is a bit involved, which is why we skip it here.

## $SRQ(D)$ concepts in OWL

DL syntax	Manchester syntax	Remark
$\top$	owl:Thing	(a special named class)
$\perp$	owl:Nothing	(a special named class)
$C \sqcap D$	$C$ and $D$	
$C \sqcup D$	$C$ or $D$	
$\neg C$	not $C$	
$\exists r.C$	$r$ some $C$	(similarly for data properties)
$\forall r.C$	$r$ only $C$	(similarly for data properties)
$\geq nr.C$	$r$ min $n$ $C$	(similarly for data properties)
$\leq nr.C$	$r$ max $n$ $C$	(similarly for data properties)
$r^-$	inverse $r$	
$\{a\}$	$\{a\}$	(similar for data values)
$\exists r.\text{Self}$	$r$ Self	

# Decidability

Apart from adding constructors and axioms to  $\mathcal{ALC}$ ,  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$  imposes several restrictions on the use of roles, to retain **decidability**.

- ▶ The RBox must be **regular**.
- ▶ Number restrictions, self restrictions, and disjoint role axioms can only contain **simple** roles.

## Regular RBoxes

Intuitively, an RBox is **regular** if there are no cyclic dependencies between role names.

The RBox  $\{ \textit{hasFather} \circ \textit{hasBrother} \sqsubseteq \textit{hasUncle},$   
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Certain cycles are however allowed:

- ▶  $r \circ r \sqsubseteq r$  to express **transitivity**
- ▶  $r_1 \circ \dots \circ r_n \circ r \sqsubseteq r$  (role directly at the end of the chain)
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Non-regular RBoxes make reasoning **undecidable** and are therefore **forbidden** in  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$ !

## Simple Roles

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Transitive roles and roles that have transitive subroles are not simple.

## Example: Partonomies

When defining *partOf*-relations, it is more useful to refer to the *direct parts* only, instead of all (indirect) sub-parts.

*Piston*  $\sqsubseteq \exists \text{directPartOf} . \text{Engine}$       *Engine*  $\sqsubseteq \exists \text{directPartOf} . \text{Car}$

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This separation allows us to use *directPartOf* in number restrictions.

$\top \sqsubseteq \leq 1 \text{directPartOf}.\top$        $Car \sqsubseteq \leq 4 \text{hasDirectPart}.Wheel \sqcap \dots$

This is not possible for *partOf*, since non-simple roles are not allowed in number restrictions!

# Caution with Using Too Much Expressivity

- ▶ In practice, decidability is not everything:
  - ▶ Reasoning in  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$  is harder than in  $\mathcal{ALC}$ 
    - ⇒ Reasoners may struggle with too much
- ▶ In general, one should be cautious with over-using constructs
- ▶ If reasoning becomes slow, ask yourself:
  - ▶ Do I really need a nominal, or would a concept name be sufficient?
  - ▶ Can I avoid number restrictions?
  - ▶ Can I avoid disjunction?



# Expressivity in OWL

OWL defines different subsets, called **profiles**, with different use cases:

- ▶ **OWL DL** — based on  $\mathcal{SROIQ}(D)$ , expressive while decidable
- ▶ **OWL EL** — based on  $\mathcal{ELHO}$ , optimized for **classifying large TBoxes**
- ▶ **OWL RL** — optimized for **materializing large ABoxes**
- ▶ **OWL QL** — optimized for **querying large ABoxes**

# End of Part I

DLs are a very important formalism for KR

- ▶ Many use cases of ontologies to work with data and knowledge
- ▶ High expressiveness within the boundaries of decidability
- ▶ Fast reasoning with modern DL reasoners
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Some limitations come through the foundation on [first-order logic](#):

- ▶ do not deal well with [contradictions](#)
- ▶ cannot represent [probabilities](#)