

Actions representation and reasoning in ontology languages

Integrating Description Logics and Action Formalities: First Results.

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Overview of the problem

- Descriptive action formalism based on Situation Calculus (SitCalc) to support reasoning.
- Motive of this action formalism is to analysis that how the choice of DL influence the reasoning task.
 - **Executability problem:** determine whether a given sequence of ground actions is possible to be executed starting from the initial situation.
 - **Projection problem:** determine whether a given goal G is satisfiable after executing a sequence of ground actions starting from the initial situation.

Situation Calculus (SitCalc) [1]

- Situation calculus is designed for representing and reasoning about dynamic domains.
- **Basic elements:**
 - Action** that can be perform in the world
 - Move(x,y)** : robot is moving from position x to y
 - Fluents** that describe the world
 - is_carrying(ball,S0)=false**
 - is_carrying(ball, do(pick_up(ball, S0))) = true**
 - Situation** represent history of action occurrences
 - do(move(2,3), S0)** : denotes a new situation after performing action move(2,3) in initial situation S0

[1] Reiter, R., "Knowledge in Action", MIT Press, 2001.

Insufficiency in SitCalc

Reasoning for action in general is undecidable under “*Open world assumption (OWA)*”

Frame problem: How it can be decidable that after picking up an object, the robot stays in the same location?

It requires frame axioms like this,

**Poss(pickup(o), s) \cup location(s) = (x, y) \rightarrow
location(do(pickup(o), s)) = (x, y)**

problem: too many of such axioms, difficult to specify all

Well established solution: frame problem[2]

- Successor state axioms: Specify all the ways the value of a particular fluent can be changed

$$Poss(a, s) \vee \gamma_{+F}(x, a, s) \rightarrow F(x, do(a, s))$$

$$Poss(a, s) \vee \gamma_{-F}(x, a, s) \rightarrow \neg F(x, do(a, s))$$

γ_{+F} describes the conditions under which action **a** in situation **s** makes the fluent **F** become true in the successor situation **do(a,s)**.

γ_{-F} describes the conditions under which action **a** in situation **s** makes the fluent **F** become false in the successor situation.

- For each action **A**, a single action precondition axioms of the form: $\prod_{A(s)} \supset Poss(A, s)$
- Unique names axioms for the actions and for states

Proposed work

Design an initial framework for integrating DLs and action formalisms into a decidable hybrid based on *DL ALCQIO* [3] and a number of its sub languages.

Modeling framework

i. Acyclic Tbox

A **terminology** (or **TBox**) is a set of **definitions** and **specializations**.

$Woman \equiv Person \sqcap Female$

A terminology T is Acyclic if it does not contain a concept which uses itself.

$Father \equiv Male \sqcap hasChild$
 $hasChild \equiv Father \sqcup Mother$

Not an Acyclic TBox

Modeling framework (Continued)

ii. ABox assertions

In an ABox one introduces individuals, by giving them names, and one *asserts* properties about them

Assertion with concept **C** in the form: $C(a)$, $C(b)$...

example: $Woman(Shelly)$, $Male(John)$, ... Assertion with role name **s** in the form: $s(a,b)$, $s(b,c)$, or $\neg s(a,b)$ example: $Father(John, haschild)$

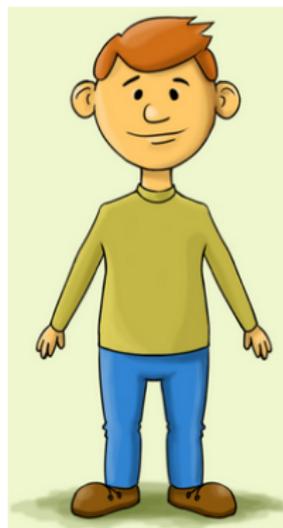
Modeling framework (Definition 1)

Let $\mathbf{T} = \text{Acyclic Tbox}$

Atomic action $\alpha = (pre, occ, post)$

- a finite set pre of ABox assertions, the *pre-conditions*;
- a finite set occ of occlusions of the form $A(a)$ or $s(a, b)$
- a finite set $post$ of conditional post-conditions of the form ϑ/ψ , where ϑ is an ABox assertion and ψ is a primitive literal for \mathbf{T}

Example of action definition

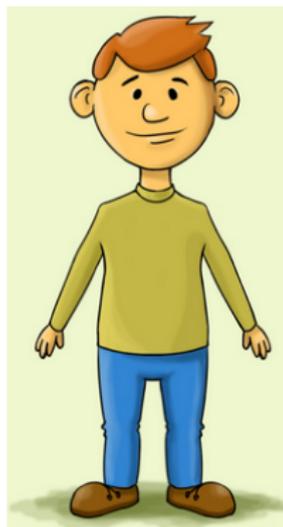


α_1 Opening a bank account in Italy
Ok, can you deposit 1000 euro? Do
you have proof of address



pre_1
{ $Eligible_bank(a)$, $\exists holds.Proof_address(a)$ }
 $post_1$
{ $T(a) / holds(a, b)$,
 $\exists holds.letter(a) / B_acc_credit(b)$,
 $\neg \exists holds.letter(a) / B_acc_no_credit(b)$ }

Apply for child benefit in Italy



Ok, do you have child? Do you have a bank account?



pre₂

$\{parents_of(a, c), \exists hold.B_{acc}(a)\}$

post₂

$\{T(a)/receives_c_benefit_for(a, c)\}$

TBox

Eligible_bank $\equiv \exists can_deposit.1000,$

Proof_address \equiv

Passport \cup *Carta_identita*,

B_acc \equiv

B_acc_credit \cup *B_acc_no_credit*



Semantics of actions

Where each primitive concept name: A , role name $s(a,b)$,
Interpretation : I

$$A^+ : = \{b^I \mid \varphi/A(b) \in \text{post and } I \models \varphi\}$$

$$A^- : = \{b^I \mid \varphi/\neg A(b) \in \text{post and } I \models \varphi\}$$

$$I_A : = (\Delta^I \setminus \{b^I \mid A(b) \in \text{occ}\}) \cup (A^+ \cup A^-)$$

$$s^+ : = \{(a^I, b^I) \mid \varphi/s(a, b) \in \text{post and } I \models \varphi\}$$

$$s^- : = \{(a^I, b^I) \mid \varphi/\neg s(a, b) \in \text{post and } I \models \varphi\}$$

$$I_s : = ((\Delta^I \times \Delta^I) \setminus \{(a^I, b^I) \mid s(a, b) \in \text{occ}\}) \cup (s^+ \cup s^-)$$

Modeling framework (Definition 2)

Action α may transform \mathbf{I} to \mathbf{I}' iff, for each primitive concept A and role name s ,

$$A^+ \cap A^- = s^+ \cap s^- = \emptyset, \quad A^{I'} \cap I_A = ((A^I \cup A^+) \setminus A^-) \cap I_A$$
$$s^{I'} \cap I_s = ((s^I \cup s^+) \setminus s^-) \cap I_s$$

The composite action $\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_k$ may transform \mathbf{I} to \mathbf{I}' iff there exist models

$$I_0, \dots, I_k \text{ of } I \text{ with } T = I_0, \quad I' = I_k \text{ and } I_{i-1} \xRightarrow{T_{\alpha_i}} I_i$$

Note for definition 1 and 2

Due to the acyclic TBox, action with empty occlusions there can not exist more than one \mathbf{I}' such that

$$I \Longrightarrow T_{\alpha} I'$$

Thus, actions are deterministic.

if ϑ_1/ψ , $\vartheta_2/\neg\psi \in \text{post}$

such that both ϑ_1 and ϑ_2 are satisfied in \mathbf{I} , then there is no successor model \mathbf{I}' . So action is inconsistent with \mathbf{I} .

Describe two main reasoning problems for actions.

Given an acyclic TBox \mathcal{T} , a composite action $\alpha = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ and an ABox \mathcal{A} we want to know

- Executability: are all the preconditions of α satisfied in worlds considered possible?
- Projection: does a given assertion hold after applying α ?

Recall:

An ABox \mathcal{A} is *consistent* with respect to a TBox \mathcal{T} if there exists an interpretation \mathcal{I} that is a model of both \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T} .

Definition (Executability)

Given an acyclic TBox \mathcal{T} , a composite action $\alpha = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ where $\alpha_i = (pre_i, occ_i, post_i)$ and an ABox \mathcal{A} we say that α is *executable* in \mathcal{A} with respect to \mathcal{T} if for any model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T} :

- $\mathcal{I} \models pre_1$

Definition (Executability)

Given an acyclic TBox \mathcal{T} , a composite action $\alpha = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ where $\alpha_i = (pre_i, occ_i, post_i)$ and an ABox \mathcal{A} we say that α is *executable* in \mathcal{A} with respect to \mathcal{T} if for any model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T} :

- $\mathcal{I} \models pre_1$
- For all i in $1 \leq i < k$, and all interpretations such that $\mathcal{I} \Rightarrow_{\alpha}^T \mathcal{I}'$ we have $\mathcal{I}' \models pre_{i+1}$. (Recall that because we are dealing with acyclic ABoxes there is only one such interpretation \mathcal{I}' .)

Definition (Projection)

Given an acyclic TBox \mathcal{T} , a composite action $\alpha = \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ where $\alpha_i = (pre_i, occ_i, post_i)$, an ABox \mathcal{A} , we say that ϕ is a *consequence of applying α in \mathcal{A} with respect to \mathcal{T}* if for any model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T} and any \mathcal{I}' such that $\mathcal{I} \Rightarrow_{\alpha}^{\mathcal{T}} \mathcal{I}'$ it is the case that $\mathcal{I}' \models \phi$.

Consistency of Actions with TBoxes

- Executability is not sufficient to ensure that a composite action does not get stuck, i.e., that all the composite actions of an executable action will be carried out.
- It might be the case that we have a ϕ_1/ψ and $\phi_2/\neg\psi$ where ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are both satisfied in the model \mathcal{I} . In this case the action is said to be *inconsistent* with respect to \mathcal{I} .
- Therefore to guarantee that an executable action is carried out without getting stuck we stipulate that each of the basic actions are consistent with any model \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T} .

Complexity for Execution and Projection

- Our aim is to find out complexity results for various (interesting) sublanguages of *ALCQIO*.
- Executability and Projection are mutually reducible in polynomial time. So we are free to focus on projection.
- First we will look at some upper bound results.

Complexity for Execution and Projection

Strategy of proof: show upper complexity bounds by reducing projection to a standard reasoning problem in DL.

Preliminary: Given a DL \mathcal{L} we will denote by \mathcal{LO} the extension of \mathcal{L} with nominals.

Theorem

$\mathcal{L} \in \{ALC, ALCT, ALCO, ALCTO, ALCQ, ALCQO, ALCQT\}$

Then the projection of composite actions in \mathcal{L} can be reduced in polynomial time to the problem of non-consistency in \mathcal{LO} of an ABox relative to an acyclic TBox.

Complexity for Execution and Projection

- We define the complement of the projection problem wrt to an assertion ϕ , an action α an ABox \mathcal{A} , a TBox \mathcal{T} but this time we want to know whether there exist possible worlds \mathcal{I} , \mathcal{J} such that \mathcal{J} follows from \mathcal{I} after applying the action α and $\neg\phi$ holds at \mathcal{J} .
- It turns out that we can reduce the complement of projection problem in \mathcal{L} to the consistency problem for Aboxes in \mathcal{LO} .
- Therefore solving the complement of the projection problem for \mathcal{L} cannot be more difficult than the consistency problem (since we can use an efficient algorithm for consistency to derive an efficient algorithm for the complement of projection).

Complexity Results

- This gives us an upper bound result. But for logics such as $ALCCO$, $ALCIO$, $ALCQO$ where the complexity of ABox consistency for \mathcal{L} is the same as in \mathcal{LO} we also get matching lower bounds since it is very easy to reduce ABox non consistency to projection in \mathcal{L} .
- (Since $\neg\top(a)$ is a consequence of applying the empty action $(\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)$ iff there exists no model of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{T}).
- So
 - ALC , $ALCO$, $ALCIO$, $ALCQO$ are PSPACE-complete.
 - $ALCIO$ is EXPTIME-complete.
 - $ALCQIO$ is co-NEXPTIME-complete.

- For the logics $ALCI$ and $ALCQI$ where adding nominals gives a corresponding increase in the complexity of the ABox consistency problem we can still get lower bound results by reducing the satisfiability problem for $ALCIO(ALCQIO)$ with a single nominal and an empty TBox to the projection problem This gives us that
 - $ALCI$ is EXPTIME-complete.
 - $ALCQI$ is co-NEXPTIME-complete.

Semantics of services

Service

Let \mathcal{T} acyclic TBox, atomic service $\mathcal{S} = (pre, occ, post)$ for \mathcal{T}

pre ABox assertions, all must be true in order to execute service,

occ assertions that should not change by \mathcal{S} , only allow primitive concepts,

post finite set of *conditional post-conditions* φ/ψ , only allow primitive concepts

How the application of an atomic service changes the world?

Assumption - interpretation domain is never changed by the application of a service

Idea

Interpretation of atomic concepts and roles should change as little as possible while still making *post-condition* **true**

Possible Models Approach

Precedence relation $\preceq_{\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}}$ on interpretations, characterizes their *proximity* to a given \mathcal{I} .

We use $M_1 \nabla M_2$ to denote symmetric difference between sets M_1 and M_2 .

Preferred interpretations

$\mathcal{I}' \preceq_{\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}} \mathcal{I}''$ **iff**

$$A^{\mathcal{I}} \nabla A^{\mathcal{I}'} \setminus \{a^{\mathcal{I}} \mid A(a) \in \text{occ}\} \subseteq A^{\mathcal{I}} \nabla A^{\mathcal{I}''}$$
$$s^{\mathcal{I}} \nabla s^{\mathcal{I}'} \setminus \{(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \mid s(a, b) \in \text{occ}\} \subseteq s^{\mathcal{I}} \nabla s^{\mathcal{I}''}$$

Service application

Satisfaction of post-conditions

Pair $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}'$ satisfies set of post-conditions $post(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}' \models post)$ **iff**

$$\forall (\varphi/\psi) \in post, \mathcal{I}' \models \psi, \text{ whenever } \mathcal{I} \models \varphi$$

We say that \mathcal{S} may transform \mathcal{I} to \mathcal{I}' ($\mathcal{I} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^T \mathcal{I}'$) **iff**

1. $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}' \models post$, and
2. $\nexists \mathcal{J}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J} \models post, \mathcal{J} \neq \mathcal{I}', \text{ and } \mathcal{J} \preceq_{\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}} \mathcal{I}'$.

Since TBoxes are acyclic and *post-conditions* allow primitive concepts only, **services without occlusions are deterministic**, i.e.

$$\forall \mathcal{I} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{T}), \exists_{\leq 1} \mathcal{I}', \mathcal{I} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^T \mathcal{I}'$$

Application of services without occlusions

Let \mathcal{T} - acyclic TBox, $S = (pre, \emptyset, post)$ a service for \mathcal{T} , and for $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}' \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{T}), I \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{T}} I'$. A - primitive concept, s - role name, then

$$A^{\mathcal{I}'} := (A^{\mathcal{I}} \cup \{b^{\mathcal{I}} \mid \varphi / A(b) \in post \text{ and } \mathcal{I} \models \varphi\}) \setminus \\ \{b^{\mathcal{I}} \mid \varphi / \neg A(b) \in post \text{ and } \mathcal{I} \models \varphi\},$$

$$s^{\mathcal{I}'} := (s^{\mathcal{I}} \cup \{(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \mid \varphi / s(a, b) \in post \text{ and } \mathcal{I} \models \varphi\}) \setminus \\ \{(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \mid \varphi / \neg s(a, b) \in post \text{ and } \mathcal{I} \models \varphi\},$$

Problematic Extensions

Syntactic restrictions adopted in this approach:

1. Transitive roles are disallowed (although available in OWL-DL)
2. Only acyclic TBoxes are allowed
3. No complex concepts in post-conditions, (i.e $\varphi/C(a)$ or $\varphi/\neg C(a)$ only)

Relaxing first restriction leads to *semantic* problems, removing second and third leads to *semantic* and *computational* problems.

Transitive roles

interpretation of transitive roles in *ALCQIO*

transitive role $r \in \mathcal{N}_{tR} \subset \mathcal{N}_R$ is interpreted as transitive relation $r^{\mathcal{I}}$ in all models \mathcal{I}

Addition of *transitive roles* \mathcal{N}_{tR} no longer guarantees *determinism* for services without occlusions, i.e.

$I \Rightarrow_S^{\mathcal{T}} I'$ and $I \Rightarrow_S^{\mathcal{T}} I''$ may not necessarily imply $I' = I''$

Due to the fact that $\Rightarrow_S^{\mathcal{T}}$ **does not take into account** $r \in \mathcal{N}_{tR}$

Transitive roles (contd.)

Consider $S = (\emptyset, \emptyset, \{has_part(car, engine)\})$, $has_part \in \mathcal{N}_{tR}$, and a model \mathcal{I}

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} &:= \{car, engine, valve\} \\ has_part^{\mathcal{I}} &:= \{(engine, valve)\} \\ z^{\mathcal{I}} &:= z \text{ for } z \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}.\end{aligned}$$

We may have $I \Rightarrow_S^{\mathcal{I}} I'$, $I \Rightarrow_S^{\mathcal{I}} I''$ and $I' \neq I''$, where

$$has_part^{I'} := \{(car, engine), (engine, valve), (car, valve)\},$$

and

$$has_part^{I''} := \{(car, engine)\},$$

applying S in $\{has_part(engine, valve)\} \not\models has_part(car, engine)$
(counterintuitive)

Cyclic TBoxes and GCIs (general concept inclusion)

Problems

1. For *acyclic* TBoxes, the interpretation of primitive concepts **uniquely** determines the extension of defined ones, which is **not** the case for cyclic ones.
2. $\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{T}}$ only takes into account primitive concepts

Consider the following example:

$$\mathcal{A} := \{Dog(a)\}$$

$$\mathcal{T} := \{Dog \equiv \exists parent.Dog\}$$

$$post := \{Cat(b)\}$$

(application of $S = (\emptyset, \emptyset, post)$ in \mathcal{A} w.r.t. \mathcal{T}) $\not\models Dog(a)$ (as one would intuitively expect)

Counter model construction

Define interpretation \mathcal{I} as follows:

$$\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} := \{b\} \cup \{d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots\}$$

$$Dog^{\mathcal{I}} := \{d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots\}$$

$$Cat^{\mathcal{I}} := \emptyset$$

$$parent^{\mathcal{I}} := \{(d_i, d_{i+1}) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

$$a^{\mathcal{I}} := d_0$$

$$b^{\mathcal{I}} := b$$

Define \mathcal{I}' as \mathcal{I} except for $Cat^{\mathcal{I}'} := \{b\}$ and $Dog^{\mathcal{I}'} := \emptyset$.

Semantic issue

Dog - defined concept, not considered in \Rightarrow_S^T , hence

$$\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{I} \Rightarrow_S^T \mathcal{I}', \text{ and } \mathcal{I}' \not\models Dog(a)$$

Possible solutions

- ▶ Include defined concepts in the minimization of changes, i.e. treat them in $\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{T}}$
 - ▶ infeasible, even minimization of Boolean concepts induces technical problems
- ▶ Use semantics that regains the “definitorial power” of acyclic TBoxes (Fixpoint semantics)
 - ▶ in the case of least or greatest fixpoint semantics proposed by Nebels, indeed primitive concepts uniquely determine defined ones

Complex Concepts in Post-Conditions

Post conditions are of the form φ/ψ , if we allow *arbitrary* (complex) assertions φ and ψ we run into *Semantic problems*.

Example

Let $a : \exists r.A$ be a post-condition, not satisfied before the execution of the service, then *any* $x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ may be chosen to satisfy $(a^{\mathcal{I}}, x) \in r^{\mathcal{I}}$ and $x \in A^{\mathcal{I}}$ after execution.

e.g.

$$\mathcal{S} := (\emptyset, \emptyset, \{\text{mary} : \exists \text{has_child} . \neg \text{Female}\})$$

$$\mathcal{A} := \{\text{Female}(\text{mary})\}$$

(applying \mathcal{S} in \mathcal{A}) $\not\models \text{Female}(\text{mary})$

Computational problems with GCIs

GCI is an expression $C \sqsubseteq D$, with C and D (possibly complex) concepts. It generalizes cyclic TBoxes, i.e. $A \equiv C$ may be rewritten as two GCIs $A \sqsubseteq C$ and $C \sqsubseteq A$

Minimization of all concepts

- ▶ GCIs do not allow obvious partitioning of complex concepts into primitive and defined.
- ▶ Thus \Rightarrow_S^T has to minimize *all* concepts (infeasible as mentioned before)

Executability and projection for generalized services become undecidable

Proven by reduction of the *domino* problem to non-consequence and non-executability

Conclusion and Future work

Main technical results

- ▶ Standard problems in reasoning about actions (projection, execution) become decidable
- ▶ Complexity of inferences is determined by the complexity of standard DL reasoning in \mathcal{L} extended by nominals

Possible extensions of formalism

- ▶ Consider cyclic TBoxes and *fixpoint* semantics
- ▶ Decide *projection* problem through *progression* instead of *regression*
- ▶ Check for which of the extensions of Reiter's action formalism these results still hold
- ▶ Allow for more complex composition of actions
- ▶ Support automatic composition of services, how *planning* fits in this formalism

Polynomial reduction from *executability* to *projection* and vice versa

Lemma. Executability and projection can be reduced to each other in polynomial time

Proof

S_1, \dots, S_k with $S_i = (pre_i, occ_i, post_i)$ composite service for \mathcal{T} . S is executable in \mathcal{A} **iff**

(i) $\forall M \in \mathcal{M}(A, T)$, pre_1 satisfied in M

(ii) $\forall i \in [1, k)$, (application of S_1, \dots, S_i in \mathcal{A}) $\models pre_{i+1}$

Condition (ii) is a *projection* problem, (i) is a *projection* problem for $S = (\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)$

Polynomial reduction from *executability* to *projection* and vice versa (contd)

Proof (contd)

Conversely, assume we want to know whether
(application of S_1, \dots, S_k in \mathcal{A}) $\models \varphi$?

Consider, S'_1, \dots, S'_k, S' , where $S'_i = (\emptyset, occ_i, post_i), \forall i \in [1, k]$,
and $S' = (\{\varphi, \emptyset, \emptyset\})$. Then

application S_1, \dots, S_k in $\mathcal{A} \models \varphi$ **iff** S'_1, \dots, S'_k, S' is executable

Relationship to SitCalc

Services without occlusions - instance of SitCalc

- ▶ Expand \mathcal{T} and replace in \mathcal{A} and in S_1, \dots, S_k
- ▶ Translate $\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{T}}$ into first-order logic (*action pre-conditions* and *successor state axioms*)
- ▶ Primitive concepts and roles regarded as *fluents*
- ▶ ABox first-order translation is the initial state
- ▶ *projection* and *executability* are instances of Reiter's definitions

However this translation leads to a standard first-order theory, which is not in the scope of what GOLOG can handle

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