

5. Reasoning in Description Logics

Exercise 5.1 Let \mathcal{T} be a TBox consisting of concept inclusions of the form $A_1 \sqsubseteq A_2$ and concept disjointness assertion of the form $A_1 \sqsubseteq \neg A_2$, for atomic concepts A_1 and A_2 .

Describe an algorithm for checking concept satisfiability with respect to \mathcal{T} , i.e., whether for some concept A it holds that A is satisfiable with respect to \mathcal{T} .

Exercise 5.2 Consider TBoxes \mathcal{T} consisting of axioms of the form $B_1 \sqsubseteq B_2$, where

$$B_1, B_2 ::= A \mid \exists R \mid \exists R^-,$$

A denotes an atomic concept, and R an atomic role.

1. Describe an algorithm for checking subsumption with respect to a given \mathcal{T} , i.e., whether for two concepts B_1 and B_2 it holds that $\mathcal{T} \models B_1 \sqsubseteq B_2$.
2. Let $\mathcal{A} = \{A_0(a)\}$ and \mathcal{T} a(n arbitrary) TBox of the above form. Can we determine whether $\langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ is satisfiable?

Exercise 5.3 Show that concept satisfiability in \mathcal{ALC} is NP-hard.

Hint: show the claim by reduction from SAT.

Exercise 5.4 Let q_n , for $n \geq 2$, be a Boolean conjunctive query with n existential variables of the form $\exists x_1, \dots, x_n. P(x_1, x_2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(x_{n-1}, x_n)$. Given $n \geq 2$:

1. construct an \mathcal{ALC} KB \mathcal{K}_n such that $\mathcal{K}_n \models q_n$.
2. construct an \mathcal{ALC} KB \mathcal{K}'_{2^n} of size polynomial in n such that $\mathcal{K}'_{2^n} \models q_{2^n}$ and $\mathcal{K}'_{2^n} \not\models q_{2^n+1}$.

Hint: \mathcal{K}'_{2^n} “implements” a binary counter by means of n atomic concepts representing the bits of the counter, and such that the models of \mathcal{K}'_{2^n} contain a P -chain of objects of length 2^n .