

An ASP approach for reasoning in a concept-aware multipreferential lightweight DL

Laura Giordano, Daniele Theseider Dupré
DISIT, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
(*e-mail: laura.giordano@uniupo.it, dtd@uniupo.it*)

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Abstract

In this paper we develop a concept aware multi-preferential semantics for dealing with typicality in description logics, where preferences are associated with concepts, starting from a collection of ranked TBoxes containing defeasible concept inclusions. Preferences are combined to define a preferential interpretation in which defeasible inclusions can be evaluated. The construction of the concept-aware multipreference semantics is related to Brewka’s framework for qualitative preferences. We exploit Answer Set Programming (in particular, *asprin*) to achieve defeasible reasoning under the multipreference approach for the lightweight description logic \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ .

KEYWORDS: Nonmonotonic Reasoning, Description Logics, Preferences, ASP

1 Introduction

The need to reason about exceptions in ontologies has led to the development of many non-monotonic extensions of Description Logics (DLs), incorporating features from NMR formalisms in the literature (Straccia 1993; Baader and Hollunder 1995; Donini et al. 2002; Giordano et al. 2007; Britz et al. 2008; Bonatti et al. 2009; Casini and Straccia 2010; Motik and Rosati 2010), and notably including extensions of rule-based languages (Eiter et al. 2008; Eiter et al. 2011; Knorr et al. 2012; Gottlob et al. 2014; Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2016; Bozzato et al. 2018), as well as new constructions and semantics (Casini and Straccia 2013; Bonatti et al. 2015; Bonatti 2019). Preferential approaches (Kraus et al. 1990; Lehmann and Magidor 1992) have been extended to description logics, to deal with inheritance with exceptions in ontologies, allowing for non-strict forms of inclusions, called *typicality or defeasible inclusions*, with different preferential semantics (Giordano et al. 2007; Britz et al. 2008) and closure constructions (Casini and Straccia 2010; Casini et al. 2013; Giordano et al. 2013; Pensel and Turhan 2018).

In this paper, we propose a “concept-aware multipreference semantics” for reasoning about exceptions in ontologies taking into account preferences with respect to different concepts and integrating them into a preferential semantics which allows a standard interpretation of defeasible inclusions. The intuitive idea is that the relative typicality of two domain individuals usually depends on the aspects we are considering for comparison: Bob may be a more typical as sport lover than Jim, but Jim may be a more typical swimmer than Bob. This leads to consider a multipreference semantics in which there is

a preference relation \leq_C among individuals for each *aspect* (concept) C . In the previous case, we would have $bob \leq_{SportLover} jim$ and $jim \leq_{Swimmer} bob$. Considering different preference relations associated with concepts, and then combining them into a global preference, provides a simple solution to the blocking inheritance problem, which affects rational closure, while still allowing to deal with specificity and irrelevance.

Our approach is strongly related with Gerard Brewka's proposal of preferred subtheories (Brewka 1989), later generalized within the framework of Basic Preference Descriptions for ranked knowledge bases (Brewka 2004). We extend to DLs the idea of having *ranked* or *stratified* knowledge bases (ranked TBoxes here) and to define preorders (preferences) on worlds (here, preferences among domain elements in a DL interpretation). Furthermore, we associate ranked TBoxes with concepts. The ranked TBox for concept C describes the prototypical properties of C -elements. For instance, the ranked TBox for concept *Horse* describes the typical properties of horses, of running fast, having a long mane, being tall, having a tail and a saddle. These properties are defeasible and horses should not necessarily satisfy all of them.

The ranked TBox for C_h determines a preference relation \leq_{C_h} on the domain, defining the relative typicality of domain elements with respect to aspect C_h . We then combine such preferences into a global preference relation $<$ to define a concept-wise multipreference semantics, in which *all* conditional queries can be evaluated as usual in preferential semantics. For instance, we may want to check whether typical Italian employees have a boss, given the preference relation $\leq_{Employee}$, but no preference relation for concept *Italian*; or to check whether employed students are normally young or have a boss, given the preference relations $\leq_{Employee}$ and $\leq_{Student}$, resp., for employees and for students.

We introduce a notion of multipreference entailment and prove that it satisfies the KLM properties of preferential consequence relations. This notion of entailment deals properly with irrelevance and specificity, is not subject to the "blockage of property inheritance" problem, which affects rational closure (Pearl 1990), i.e., if a subclass is exceptional with respect to a superclass for a given property, it does not inherit from that superclass any other property.

To prove the feasibility of our approach, we develop a proof method for reasoning under the proposed multipreference semantics for the description logic \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ (Kazakov et al. 2014), the fragment of OWL2 EL supported by ELK. We reformulate multipreference entailment as a problem of computing preferred answer sets and, as a natural choice, we develop an encoding of the multipreferential extension of \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ in *asprin* (Brewka et al. 2015), exploiting a fragment of Krötzsch's Datalog materialization calculus (2010).

As a consequence of the soundness and completeness of this reformulation of multipreference entailment, we prove that concept-wise multipreference entailment is Π_2^P -complete for \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ ranked knowledge bases.

2 Preliminaries: The description logics \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+

We consider the description logic \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ (Kazakov et al. 2014) of the \mathcal{EL} family (Baader et al. 2005). Let N_C be a set of concept names, N_R a set of role names and N_I a set of individual names. The set of \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ *concepts* can be defined as follows: $C := A \mid T \mid \perp \mid C \sqcap C \mid \exists r.C$, where $a \in N_I$, $A \in N_C$ and $r \in N_R$. Observe that union, complement and universal restriction are not \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ constructs. A knowledge base (KB) K is a pair $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$,

where \mathcal{T} is a TBox and \mathcal{A} is an ABox. The TBox \mathcal{T} is a set of *concept inclusions* (or subsumptions) of the form $C \sqsubseteq D$, where C, D are concepts, and of *role inclusions* of the form $r_1 \circ \dots \circ r_n \sqsubseteq r$, where $r_1, \dots, r_n, r \in N_R$. The ABox \mathcal{A} is a set of assertions of the form $C(a)$ and $r(a, b)$ where C is a concept, $r \in N_R$, and $a, b \in N_I$.

An *interpretation* for \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ is a pair $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ where: Δ is a non-empty domain—a set whose elements are denoted by x, y, z, \dots —and \cdot^I is an extension function that maps each concept name $C \in N_C$ to a set $C^I \subseteq \Delta$, each role name $r \in N_R$ to a binary relation $r^I \subseteq \Delta \times \Delta$, and each individual name $a \in N_I$ to an element $a^I \in \Delta$. It is extended to complex concepts as follows: $\top^I = \Delta$, $\perp^I = \emptyset$, $(C \sqcap D)^I = C^I \cap D^I$ and $(\exists r.C)^I = \{x \in \Delta \mid \exists y.(x, y) \in r^I \text{ and } y \in C^I\}$. The notions of satisfiability of a KB in an interpretation and of entailment are defined as usual:

Definition 1 (Satisfiability and entailment)

Given an \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$:

- I satisfies an inclusion $C \sqsubseteq D$ if $C^I \subseteq D^I$;
- I satisfies a role inclusions $r_1 \circ \dots \circ r_n \sqsubseteq r$ if $r_1^I \circ \dots \circ r_n^I \subseteq r^I$;
- I satisfies an assertion $C(a)$ if $a^I \in C^I$ and an assertion $r(a, b)$ if $(a^I, b^I) \in r^I$.

Given a KB $K = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$, an interpretation I satisfies \mathcal{T} (resp. \mathcal{A}) if I satisfies all inclusions in \mathcal{T} (resp. all assertions in \mathcal{A}); I is a *model* of K if I satisfies \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{A} .

A subsumption $F = C \sqsubseteq D$ (resp., an assertion $C(a), R(a, b)$), is entailed by K , written $K \models F$, if for all models $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ of K , I satisfies F .

3 Multiple preferences from ranked TBoxes

To define a multipreferential semantics for \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ we extend the language with a typicality operator \mathbf{T} , as done for \mathcal{EL}^\perp (Giordano et al. 2011). In the language extended with the typicality operator, an additional concept $\mathbf{T}(C)$ is allowed (where C is an \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ concept), whose instances are intended to be the *prototypical* instances of concept C . Here, we assume that $\mathbf{T}(C)$ can only occur on the left hand side of concept inclusion, to allow typicality inclusions of the form $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$, meaning that “typical C’s are D’s” or “normally C’s are D’s”. Such inclusions are defeasible, i.e., admit exceptions, while standard inclusions are called *strict*, and must be satisfied by all domain elements.

Let \mathcal{C} be a (finite) set of distinguished concepts $\{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$, where C_1, \dots, C_k are possibly complex \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ concepts. Inspired to Brewka’s framework of basic preference descriptions (Brewka 2004), we introduce a *ranked TBox* \mathcal{T}_{C_i} for each concept $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$, describing the typical properties $\mathbf{T}(C_i) \sqsubseteq D$ of C_i -elements. Ranks (non-negative integers) are assigned to such inclusions; the ones with higher rank are considered more important than the ones with lower rank.

A *ranked \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ knowledge base K over \mathcal{C}* is a tuple $\langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, where \mathcal{T}_{strict} is a set of standard concept and role inclusions, \mathcal{A} is an ABox and, for each $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, \mathcal{T}_{C_j} is a ranked TBox of defeasible inclusions, $\{\{(d_i^j, r_i^j)\}\}$, where each d_i^j is a typicality inclusion of the form $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D_i^j$, having rank r_i^j , a non-negative integer.

Example 1

Consider the ranked KB $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{Horse}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ (with empty \mathcal{A}), where \mathcal{T}_{strict} contains $Horse \sqsubseteq Mammal$, $Mammal \sqsubseteq Animal$, and $\mathcal{T}_{Horse} = \{(d_1, 0), (d_2, 0), (d_3, 1), (d_4, 2)\}$ where the defeasible inclusions d_1, \dots, d_4 are as follows:

- (d₁) $\mathbf{T}(\text{Horse}) \sqsubseteq \exists \text{has_equipment.Saddle}$ (d₂) $\mathbf{T}(\text{Horse}) \sqsubseteq \exists \text{Has_Mane.Long}$
- (d₃) $\mathbf{T}(\text{Horse}) \sqsubseteq \text{RunFast}$ (d₄) $\mathbf{T}(\text{Horse}) \sqsubseteq \exists \text{Has_Tail}.\top$

The ranked Tbox $\mathcal{T}_{\text{Horse}}$ can be used to define an ordering among domain elements comparing their typicality as horses. For instance, given two horses *Spirit* and *Buddy*, if Spirit has long mane, no saddle, has a tail and runs fast, it is intended to be more typical than Buddy, a horse running fast, with saddle and long mane, but without tail, as having a tail (rank 2) is a more important property for horses wrt having a saddle (rank 0).

In order to define an ordering for each $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$, where $x \leq_{C_i} y$ means that x is at least as typical as y wrt C_i (in the example, $\text{Spirit} \leq_{\text{Horse}} \text{Buddy}$ and, actually, $\text{Spirit} <_{\text{Horse}} \text{Buddy}$), among the preference strategies considered by Brewka, we adopt strategy #, which considers the number of formulas satisfied by a domain element for each rank.

Given a ranked knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, where $\mathcal{T}_{C_j} = \{(d_i^j, r_i^j)\}$ for all $j = 1, \dots, k$, let us consider an \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ satisfying all the strict inclusions in $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$ and assertions in \mathcal{A} . For each j , to define a preference ordering \leq_{C_j} on Δ , we first need to determine when a domain element $x \in \Delta$ satisfies/violates a typicality inclusion for C_j . We say that $x \in \Delta$ *satisfies* $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D$ in I , if $x \notin C_j^I$ or $x \in D^I$, while x *violates* $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D$ in I , if $x \in C_j^I$ and $x \notin D^I$. Note that any element which is not an instance of C_j trivially satisfies all conditionals $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D_i^j$. For a domain element $x \in \Delta$, let $\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x)$ be the set of typicality inclusions in \mathcal{T}_{C_j} with rank l which are satisfied by x : $\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x) = \{d \mid (d, l) \in \mathcal{T}_{C_j} \text{ and } x \text{ satisfies } d \text{ in } I\}$.

Definition 2 (\leq_{C_j})

Given a ranked knowledge base K as above and an \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$, the preference relation \leq_{C_j} associated with $\mathcal{T}_{C_j} = \{(D_i^j, r_i^j)\}$ in I is defined as follows:

$$x_1 \leq_{C_j} x_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{either } |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x_1)| = |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x_2)| \text{ for all } l,$$

$$\text{or } \exists l \text{ such that } |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x_1)| > |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^l(x_2)| \text{ and, } \forall h > l, |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^h(x_1)| = |\mathcal{T}_{C_j}^h(x_2)|$$

A strict preference relation $<_{C_j}$ and an equivalence relation \sim_{C_j} can be defined as usual letting: $x_1 <_{C_j} x_2$ iff ($x_1 \leq_{C_j} x_2$ and not $x_2 \leq_{C_j} x_1$), and $x \sim_{C_j} y$ iff ($x \leq_{C_j} y$ and $y \leq_{C_j} x$).

Informally, \leq_{C_j} gives higher preference to domain individuals violating less typicality inclusions with higher rank. Definition 2 exploits Brewka’s # strategy in DL context. In particular, all $x, y \notin C_j^I$, $x \sim_{C_j} y$, i.e., all elements not belonging to C_j^I are assigned the same rank, the least one, as they trivially satisfy all the typical properties of C_j ’s. As, for a ranked knowledge base, the # strategy defines a total preorder (Brewka 2004) and, for each \mathcal{T}_{C_j} , we have applied this strategy to the materializations $C_j \sqsubseteq D$ of the typicality inclusions $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D$ in the ranked TBox \mathcal{T}_{C_j} , the relation \leq_{C_j} is a total preorder on the domain Δ . Then, the strict preference relation $<_{C_j}$ is a strict modular partial order, i.e., an irreflexive, transitive and modular relation (where modularity means that: for all $x, y, z \in \Delta$, if $x <_{C_j} y$ then $x <_{C_j} z$ or $z <_{C_j} y$); \sim_{C_j} is an equivalence relation.

As \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ has the *finite model property* (Baader et al. 2005), we can restrict our consideration to interpretations I with a finite domain. In principle, we would like to consider, for each concept $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, all possible domain elements compatible with the inclusions in $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$, and compare them according to \leq_{C_i} relation. This leads us to restrict the

consideration to models of \mathcal{T}_{strict} that we call *canonical*, in analogy with the canonical models of rational closure (Giordano et al. 2013). For each concept C occurring in K , let us consider a new concept name \bar{C} , (representing the negation of C) such that $C \sqcap \bar{C} \sqsubseteq \perp$. Let \mathcal{S}_K be the set of all such C and \bar{C} , and let \mathcal{T}_{Constr} the set of all subsumptions $C \sqcap \bar{C} \sqsubseteq \perp$. A set $\{D_1, \dots, D_m\}$ of concepts in \mathcal{S}_K is *consistent with K* if $\mathcal{T}_{Strict} \cup \mathcal{T}_{Constr} \not\vdash_{\mathcal{EL}^+} D_1 \sqcap \dots \sqcap D_m \sqsubseteq \perp$.

Definition 3

Given a ranked knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ an \mathcal{EL}^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ is *canonical* for K if I satisfies \mathcal{T}_{strict} and, for any set of concepts $\{D_1, \dots, D_m\} \subseteq \mathcal{S}_K$ consistent with K , there exists a domain element $x \in \Delta$ such that, for all $i = 1, \dots, m$, $x \in C^I$, if $D_i = C$, and $x \notin C^I$, if $D_i = \bar{C}$.

The idea is that, in a canonical model for K , any conjunction of concepts occurring in K , or their complements, when consistent with K , must have an instance in the domain. Existence of canonical interpretations is guaranteed for knowledge bases which are consistent under the preferential (or ranked) semantics for typicality. \mathcal{EL}^+ with typicality is indeed a fragment of the description logic *SHIQ* with typicality, for which existence of canonical models of consistent knowledge bases was proved (Giordano et al. 2018).

In agreement with the preferential interpretations of typicality logics, we further require that, if there is some C_h -element in a model, then there is at least one C_h -element satisfying all typicality inclusions for C_h (i.e., a prototypical C_h -element).

Definition 4

An \mathcal{EL}^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ is **T-compliant** for K if, I satisfies \mathcal{T}_{strict} and, for all $C_h \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $C_h^I \neq \emptyset$, there is some $x \in C_h^I$ such that x satisfies all defeasible inclusions in \mathcal{T}_{C_h} .

In a canonical and **T-compliant** interpretation for K , for each $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, the relation \leq_{C_j} on the domain Δ provides a preferential interpretation for the typicality concept **T**(C_j) as $\min_{<_{C_j}}(C_j^I)$, in which all typical C_j satisfy all typicality inclusions in \mathcal{T}_{C_h} .

Existence of a **T-compliant** canonical interpretation is not guaranteed for an arbitrary knowledge base. For instance, a knowledge base whose typicality inclusions conflict with strict ones (e.g. **T**(C_j) $\sqsubseteq D$ and $C_j \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \perp$) has no **T-compliant** interpretation. However, existence of **T-compliant** interpretations is guaranteed for knowledge bases which are consistent under the preferential (or ranked) semantics for typicality (see Appendix A (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2020), Proposition 5), and consistency can be tested in polynomial time in Datalog (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2018).

For a ranked knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, and a given \mathcal{EL}^+ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$, the strict modular partial order relations $<_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}$ over Δ , defined according to Definition 2 above, determine the relative typicality of domain elements w.r.t. each concept C_j . Clearly, the different preference relations $<_{C_j}$ do not need to agree, as seen in the introduction.

4 Combining multiple preferences into a global preference

We are interested in defining a notion of typical C -element, and defining an interpretation of **T**(C), which works for all concepts C , not only for the distinguished concepts in \mathcal{C} . This

can be used to evaluate subsumptions of the form $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ when C does not belong to \mathcal{C} . We address this problem by introducing a notion of *multipreference concept-wise* interpretation, which generalizes the notion of preferential interpretation (Kraus et al. 1990) by allowing multiple preference relations and, then, combining them in a single (global) preference. Let us consider the following example:

Example 2

Let K be the ranked KB $\langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{Employee}, \mathcal{T}_{Student}, \mathcal{T}_{PhDStudent}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ (with empty $\mathcal{A} = \emptyset$), containing the strict inclusions:

$$Employee \sqsubseteq Adult \qquad Adult \sqsubseteq \exists has_SSN.\top \qquad PhDStudent \sqsubseteq Student$$

$$Young \sqcap NotYoung \sqsubseteq \perp \qquad \exists hasScholarship.\top \sqcap Has_no_Scholarship \sqsubseteq \perp$$

The ranked TBox $\mathcal{T}_{Employee} = \{(d_1, 0), (d_2, 0)\}$ contains the defeasible inclusions:

$$(d_1) \mathbf{T}(Employee) \sqsubseteq NotYoung \qquad (d_2) \mathbf{T}(Employee) \sqsubseteq \exists has_boss.Employee$$

the ranked TBox $\mathcal{T}_{Student} = \{(d_3, 0), (d_4, 1), (d_5, 1)\}$ contains the defeasible inclusions:

$$(d_3) \mathbf{T}(Student) \sqsubseteq \exists has_classes.\top \qquad (d_4) \mathbf{T}(Student) \sqsubseteq Young$$

$$(d_5) \mathbf{T}(Student) \sqsubseteq Has_no_Scholarship$$

and the ranked TBox $\mathcal{T}_{PhDStudent} = \{(d_6, 0), (d_7, 1)\}$ contains the inclusions:

$$(d_6) \mathbf{T}(PhDStudent) \sqsubseteq \exists hasScholarship.Amount \qquad (d_7) \mathbf{T}(PhDStudent) \sqsubseteq Bright$$

We might be interested to check whether typical Italian students are young or whether typical employed students are young. This would require the typicality inclusions $\mathbf{T}(Student \sqcap Italian) \sqsubseteq Young$ and $\mathbf{T}(Employee \sqcap Student) \sqsubseteq Young$ to be evaluated. Nothing should prevent Italian students from being young (irrelevance). Also, we expect not to conclude that typical employed students are young nor that they are not, as typical students and typical employees have conflicting properties concerning age. However, we would like to conclude that typical employed students have a boss, have classes and have no scholarship, as they should inherit the properties of typical students and of typical employees which are not overridden (i.e., there is no blocking of inheritance). As PhD students are students, they should inherit all the typical properties of Students, except having no scholarship, which is overridden by (d_6) .

To evaluate conditionals $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ for any concept C we introduce a concept-wise multipreference interpretation, that combines the preference relations $<_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}$ into a single (*global*) preference relation $<$ and interpreting $\mathbf{T}(C)$ as $(\mathbf{T}(C))^I = \min_{<}(C^I)$. The relation $<$ should be defined starting from the preference relations $<_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}$ also considering specificity.

Let us consider the simplest notion of *specificity* among concepts, based on the subsumption hierarchy (one of the notions considered for \mathcal{DL}^N (Bonatti et al. 2015)).

Definition 5 (Specificity)

Given a ranked \mathcal{EL}^+_1 knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ over the set of concepts \mathcal{C} , and given two concepts $C_h, C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, C_h is *more specific than* C_j (written $C_h \succ C_j$) if $\mathcal{T}_{strict} \models_{\mathcal{EL}^+_1} C_h \sqsubseteq C_j$ and $\mathcal{T}_{strict} \not\models_{\mathcal{EL}^+_1} C_j \sqsubseteq C_h$.

Relation \succ is irreflexive and transitive (Bonatti et al. 2015). Alternative notions of specificity can be used, based, for instance, on the rational closure ranking.

We are ready to define a notion of multipreference interpretation. Let a relation $<_{C_i}$ be *well-founded* when there is no infinitely-descending chain of domain elements $x_1 <_{C_i} x_0, x_2 <_{C_i} x_1, x_3 <_{C_i} x_2, \dots$

Definition 6 (concept-wise multipreference interpretation)

A (finite) concept-wise multipreference interpretation (or cw^m -interpretation) is a tuple $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$ such that: (a) Δ is a non-empty domain;

- (b) for each $i = 1, \dots, k$, $<_{C_i}$ is an irreflexive, transitive, well-founded and modular relation over Δ ;
- (c) the (global) preference relation $<$ is defined from $<_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}$ as follows:

$$x < y \text{ iff } \begin{array}{l} (i) \ x <_{C_i} y, \text{ for some } C_i \in \mathcal{C}, \text{ and} \\ (ii) \ \text{for all } C_j \in \mathcal{C}, \ x \leq_{C_j} y \text{ or } \exists C_h (C_h \succ C_j \text{ and } x <_{C_h} y) \end{array}$$

- (d) \cdot^I is an interpretation function, as defined in \mathcal{EL}_{\perp}^+ interpretations (see Section 2), with the addition that, for typicality concepts, we let: $(\mathbf{T}(C))^I = \text{min}_{<}(C^I)$, where $\text{Min}_{<}(S) = \{u : u \in S \text{ and } \nexists z \in S \text{ s.t. } z < u\}$.

Notice that the relation $<$ is defined from $<_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}$ based on a *modified* Pareto condition: $x < y$ holds if there is at least a $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $x <_{C_i} y$ and, for all $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, either $x \leq_{C_j} y$ holds or, in case it does not, there is some C_h more specific than C_j such that $x <_{C_h} y$ (preference $<_{C_h}$ in this case overrides $<_{C_j}$). For instance, in Example 2, for two domain elements x, y , both instances of *PhDStudent*, *Student*, $\exists \text{has_Classes}$. \top , *Young*, and such that x is instance of *has_no_Scholarship*, while y is not, we have that $x <_{\text{Student}} y$ and $y <_{\text{PhDStudent}} x$. As *PhDStudent* is more specific than *Student*, globally we get $y < x$. We can prove the following result.

Proposition 1

Given a cw^m -interpretation $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$, relation $<$ is an irreflexive, transitive and well-founded relation.

Proof

Well-foundedness of $<$ is immediate from the restriction to finite models.

To prove irreflexivity and transitivity of $<$, we exploit the fact that each $<_{C_i}$ is assumed to be an irreflexive, transitive, well-founded and modular relation on Δ (see Definition 6). Irreflexivity of $<$ follows easily from the irreflexivity of the $<_{C_h}$'s as, for $x < x$ to hold, $x <_{C_h} x$ should hold for some C_h , which is not possible as $<_{C_h}$ is irreflexive.

To prove transitivity of $<$, we prove transitivity of \leq defined as follows:

$$x \leq y \text{ iff for all } C_j \in \mathcal{C} \begin{array}{l} (i) \ x \leq_{C_j} y, \text{ or} \\ (ii) \ \text{exists } C_h \in \mathcal{C}, (C_h \succ C_j \text{ and } x <_{C_h} y) \end{array}$$

It is easy to see that the global preference relation $<$ introduced in point (c) of Definition 6 can be equivalently defined as: $x < y$ iff $(x \leq y \text{ and not } y \leq x)$. Transitivity of $<$ follows from transitivity of \leq .

To prove transitivity of \leq , let us assume that $x \leq y$ and $y \leq z$ hold. We prove that $x \leq z$ holds by proving that: for all $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, $x \leq_{C_j} z$ holds (call this case $(i)_{C_j}^{x,z}$) or there is a C_h such that $C_h \succ C_j$ and $x <_{C_h} z$ (call this case $(ii)_{C_j}^{x,z}$).

As $x \leq y$ holds, for all $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, $x \leq_{C_j} y$ (case $(i)_1$) or there is a C_h such that $C_h \succ C_j$ and $x <_{C_h} y$ (case $(ii)_1$). Similarly, as $y \leq z$ holds, for all $C_j \in \mathcal{C}$, $y \leq_{C_j} z$ (case $(i)_2$) or there is a C_r such that $C_r \succ C_j$ and $y <_{C_r} z$ (case $(ii)_2$). Let us consider the different possible combination of cases in which $x \leq y$ and $y \leq z$ hold, for each C_j :

Case (i)₁-(i)₂: In this case, $x \leq_{C_j} y$ and $y \leq_{C_j} z$ hold. By transitivity of \leq_{C_j} , $x \leq_{C_j} z$ (i.e., condition (i)₁^{x,z} is satisfied).

Case (ii)₁-(i)₂: In this case, $y \leq_{C_j} z$, and there is a C_h such that $C_h \succ C_j$ and $x <_{C_h} y$. Let C_h be maximally specific among all concepts $C \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $C \succ C_j$ and $x <_C y$.

If $y \leq_{C_h} z$ is the case, from $x <_{C_h} y$, we get $x <_{C_h} z$, so that: there is a C_h such that $C_h \succ C_j$ and $x <_{C_h} z$, i.e., condition (ii)₁^{x,z} is satisfied. Otherwise, if $z <_{C_h} y$, as $y \leq z$, there must be a C_r such that $C_r \succ C_h$ and $y <_{C_r} z$. If $x \leq_{C_r} y$, we can conclude that $x <_{C_r} z$. From $C_r \succ C_h \succ C_j$, by transitivity, $C_r \succ C_j$, i.e. condition (ii)₁^{x,z} is satisfied. If $x \leq_{C_r} y$ does not hold, i.e. $y <_{C_r} x$, as $x \leq y$, there must be a $C_w \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $C_w \succ C_r$ and $x <_{C_w} y$. However, this is not possible, as it would be $C_w \succ C_r \succ C_h \succ C_j$ and we have chosen C_h to be maximally specific among the concepts $C \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $C \succ C_j$ and $x <_C y$, a contradiction.

The cases (i)₁-(ii)₂ and (ii)₁-(ii)₂ can be proved in a similar way. □

In a cw^m -interpretation we have assumed each $<_{C_j}$ to be any irreflexive, transitive, modular and well-founded relation. In a cw^m -model of K , the preference relations $<_{C_j}$'s will be defined from the ranked TBoxes \mathcal{T}_{C_j} 's according to Definition 2.

Definition 7 (cw^m-model of K)

Let $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ be a ranked \mathcal{EL}^+_{\perp} knowledge base over \mathcal{C} and $I = \langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ an \mathcal{EL}^+_{\perp} interpretation for K . A *concept-wise multipreference model* (or *cw^m-model*) of K is a cw^m -interpretation $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$ such that: for all $j = 1, \dots, k$, $<_{C_j}$ is defined from \mathcal{T}_{C_j} and \cdot^I , according to Definition 2; \mathcal{M} satisfies all strict inclusions in \mathcal{T}_{strict} and all assertions in \mathcal{A} .

As the preferences $<_{C_j}$'s, defined according to Definition 2, are irreflexive, transitive, well-founded and modular relations over Δ , a cw^m -model \mathcal{M} is indeed a cw^m -interpretation. By definition \mathcal{M} satisfies all strict inclusions and assertions in K , but is not required to satisfy all typicality inclusions $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D$ in K , unlike in preferential typicality logics (Giordano et al. 2007).

Consider, in fact, a situation in which typical birds are fliers and typical fliers are birds ($\mathbf{T}(B) \sqsubseteq F$ and $\mathbf{T}(F) \sqsubseteq B$). In a cw^m -model two domain elements x and y , which are both birds and fliers, might be incomparable wrt $<$, as x is more typical than y as a bird, while y is more typical than x as a flier, even if one of them is minimal wrt $<_{Bird}$ and the other is not. In this case, they will be both minimal wrt $<$. In preferential logics, we would conclude that $\mathbf{T}(B) \equiv \mathbf{T}(F)$, which is not the case under the cw^m -semantics. This implies that the notion of cw^m -entailment (defined below) is not stronger than preferential entailment. It is also not weaker as, for instance, in Example 2, cw^m -entailment allows to conclude that typical employed students have a boss, have classes and no scholarship (although defaults (d_1) and (d_4) are conflicting), while neither preferential entailment nor the rational closure would allow such conclusions; cw^m -entailment does not suffer from inheritance blocking, and is then incomparable with preferential entailment and with entailment under rational closure, being neither weaker nor stronger.

The notion of cw^m -entailment exploits canonical and \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m -models of K . A cw^m -model $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$ is *canonical* (\mathbf{T} -compliant) for K if the \mathcal{EL}^+_{\perp} interpretation $\langle \Delta, \cdot^I \rangle$ is canonical (\mathbf{T} -compliant) for K .

Definition 8 (cw^m-entailment)

An inclusion $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq C_j$ is cw^m-entailed from K (written $K \models_{cw^m} \mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq C_j$) if $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq C_j$ is satisfied in all canonical and \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m-models \mathcal{M} of K .

It can be proved that cw^m-entailment satisfies the KLM postulates of a preferential consequence relation (Proposition 6, Appendix A (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2020)).

5 Reasoning under the cw-multipreference semantics

In this section we consider the problem of checking cw^m-entailment of a typicality subsumption $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ as a problem of determining preferred answer sets. Based on this formulation, that we prove to be sound and complete, we show that the problem is in Π_2^p . We exploit *asprin* (Brewka et al. 2015) to compute preferred answer sets. The proofs for this section can be found in Appendix C (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2020).

In principle, for checking $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ we would need to consider all possible typical C -elements in all possible canonical and \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m-model of K , and verify whether they are all instances of D . However, we will prove that it is sufficient to consider, among all the (finite) cw^m-models of K , the polynomial \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ models that we can construct using the \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ fragment of the materialization calculus for $\mathcal{SROEL}(\sqcap, \times)$ (Krötzsch 2010), by considering all alternative interpretations for a distinguished element aux_C , representing a prototypical C -element. In preferred models, which minimize the violation of typicality inclusions by aux_C , it indeed represents a typical C -element. An interesting result is that neither we need to consider all the possible interpretations for constants in the model nor to minimize violation of typicalities for them. Essentially, when evaluating the properties of typical employed students we are not concerned with the typicality (or atypicality) of other constants in the model (e.g., with typical cars, with typical birds, and with typical named individuals). Unlike a previous semantics by Giordano and Theseider Dupré (2016), which generalizes rational closure by allowing typicality concepts on the rhs of inclusions, we are not required to consider all possible alternative interpretations and ranks of individuals in the model. We will see, however, that we do not lose solutions (models) in this way.

In the following we first describe how answer sets of a base program, corresponding to cw^m-models of K , are generated. Then we describe how preferred models can be selected, where aux_C represent a typical C -element.

We will assume that assertions ($C(a)$ and $r(a, b)$) are represented using nominals as inclusions (resp., $\{a\} \sqsubseteq A$ and $\{a\} \sqsubseteq \exists R.\{b\}$), where a nominal $\{a\}$ is a concept containing a single element and $(\{a\})^I = \{a^I\}$. We also assume that the knowledge base K is in *normal form* (Baader et al. 2005), where a typicality inclusion $\mathbf{T}(B) \sqsubseteq C$ is in normal form when $B, C \in N_C$ (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2016). Extending the results in (Krötzsch 2010), it can be proved that, given a KB, a semantically equivalent KB in normal form (over an extended signature) can be computed in linear time. We refer to a previous paper (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2018) for the details on normalization.

The base program $\Pi(K, C, D)$ for the (normalized) knowledge base K and typicality subsumption $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ is composed of three parts, $\Pi(K, C, D) = \Pi_K \cup \Pi_{IR} \cup \Pi_{C,D}$.

Π_K is the representation of K in Datalog (Krötzsch 2010), where, to keep a DL-like notation, we do not follow the convention where variable names start with uppercase; in

particular, A , C , D and R , are intended as ASP constants corresponding to the same class/role names in K . In this representation, $nom(a)$, $cls(A)$, $rol(R)$ are used for $a \in N_I$, $A \in N_C$, $R \in N_R$, and, for example, $subClass(a, C)$, $subClass(A, C)$ are used for $C(a)$, $A \sqsubseteq C$. Additionally, $subTyp(C, D, N)$ is used for $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ having rank N , and the following definitions for distinguished concepts, typical properties, and valid ranks, will be used in defining preferences:

$$\begin{aligned} dcls(C) &\leftarrow subTyp(C, D, N) \\ tprop(C, D) &\leftarrow subTyp(C, D, N) \\ validrank(C, N) &\leftarrow subTyp(C, D, N) \end{aligned}$$

For each distinguished concept C_i , $auxtc(aux_Ci, Ci)$ is included, where aux_Ci is an auxiliary individual name. Other auxiliary constants (one for each inclusion $A \sqsubseteq \exists R.B$) are needed (Krötzsch 2010) to deal with existential rules.

Π_{IR} contains the subset of the inference rules (1-29) for instance checking (Krötzsch 2010) that is relevant for \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ (reported in Appendix B (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2020)), for example $inst(x, z) \leftarrow subClass(y, z), inst(x, y)$; for \perp , an additional rule is used: $\leftarrow bot(z), inst(x, z)$. Additionally, Π_{IR} contains the version of the same rules for subclass checking (where $inst_sc(A, B, A)$ represents $A \sqsubseteq B$ (Krötzsch 2010)), and then the following rule encodes specificity $C_h \succ C_j$:

$$morespec(Ch, Cj) \leftarrow dcls(Ch), dcls(Cj), inst_sc(Ch, Cj, Ch), not\ inst_sc(Cj, Ch, Cj)$$

Π_{IR} also contains the following rules:

- (a) $\{inst(aux_C, D)\} \leftarrow dcls(Ci), inst(aux_C, Ci), tprop(Ci, D)$
- (b) $inst(Y, Ci) \leftarrow auxtc(Y, Ci), inst(X, Ci)$
- (c) $typ(Y, Ci) \leftarrow auxtc(Y, Ci), inst(Y, Ci)$
- (d) $inst(Y, D) \leftarrow subTyp(Ci, D, N), typ(Y, Ci)$

Rule (a) generates alternative answer sets (corresponding to different interpretations) where aux_C may have the typical properties of the concepts it belongs. The constant aux_Ci , such that $auxtc(aux_Ci, Ci)$ holds, represents a typical C_i (a minimal element wrt. \leq_{C_i}) only in case it is an instance of C_i (i.e., $inst(aux_Ci, Ci)$ holds). Rule (b) establishes that, if there is an instance x of concept C_i in the interpretation, then aux_Ci must be an instance of C_i (it models **T**-compliance) and, by rule (c), aux_Ci is a typical instance of C_i , i.e., it is minimal wrt. \leq_{C_i} among C_i -elements in the interpretation at hand. By rule (d), a typical instance of C_i has all typical properties of C_i . The rules (b)-(d) only allow to derive conclusions involving aux_Ci constants.

$\Pi_{C,D}$ contains (if necessary) normalized axioms defining C, D in $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ in terms of other concepts (e.g., replacing $\mathbf{T}(Employee \sqcap Student) \sqsubseteq Young$ with $\mathbf{T}(A) \sqsubseteq Young$ and $A \sqsubseteq Employee$, $A \sqsubseteq Student$ and $Employee \sqcap Student \sqsubseteq A$) plus the facts $auxtc(aux_C, C)$, $nom(aux_C)$, $inst(aux_C, C)$.

Proposition 2

Given a normalized ranked knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{strict}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ over the set of concepts \mathcal{C} , and a (normalized) subsumption $C \sqsubseteq D$:

- (1) if there is an answer set S of the ASP program $\Pi(K, C, D)$, such that $inst(aux_C, D) \notin S$, then there is a **T**-compliant cw^m -model $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$ for K that falsifies the subsumption $C \sqsubseteq D$.

- (2) if there is a \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m -model $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I \rangle$ of K that falsifies the subsumption $C \sqsubseteq D$, then there is an answer set S of $\Pi(K, C, D)$, such that $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, D) \notin S$.

We exploit the idea of identifying the minimal C -elements in a canonical cw^m -model of K , as the aux_C elements of the preferred answer sets of $\Pi(K, C, D)$.

Definition 9

Let S and S' be answer sets of $\Pi(K, C, D)$. S' is preferred to S if aux_C in S' (denoted as $\text{aux}_C^{S'}$) is globally preferred to aux_C in S (denoted as aux_C^S), that is, $\text{aux}_C^{S'} < \text{aux}_C^S$, defined according to Definition 6, point (c), provided that relations $\text{aux}_C^{S'} \leq_{C_j} \text{aux}_C^S$ are defined according to Definition 2, by letting:

$$\mathcal{T}_{C_i}^l(\text{aux}_C^S) = \{B \mid \text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, C_i) \notin S \text{ or } \text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, B) \in S, \text{ for } \mathbf{T}(C_i) \sqsubseteq B \in K\},$$

i.e., $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}^l(\text{aux}_C^S)$ contains the B 's such that $C_i \sqsubseteq B$ is satisfied in S for some typicality inclusion $\mathbf{T}(C_i) \sqsubseteq B$ in K ; and similarly for S' . The strict relation $\text{aux}_C^{S'} <_{C_j} \text{aux}_C^S$ is defined accordingly.

Essentially, we compare S and S' identifying the concepts of which aux_C is an instance in S and in S' and evaluating which defaults are satisfied for aux_C in S and in S' , using the same criteria used for comparing domain elements in Section 3.

The selection of preferred answer sets, the ones where aux_C is in $\text{min}_{<}(C^I)$, and then in $(\mathbf{T}(C))^I$, can be done in *asprin* with the following preference specification:

```
#preference(p, multipref){dcls(Ci) : dcls(Ci); morespec(Ci, Cj) : dcls(Ci), dcls(Cj);
    inst(auxC, E) : tprop(Ci, E), dcls(Ci); subTyp(Ci, E, R) : subTyp(Ci, E, R);
    validrank(Ci, R) : validrank(Ci, R)}
#optimize(p)
```

requiring optimization wrt p which is a preference of type *multipref*, a preference type defined by the preference program below (exploiting the fact that *asprin*, among other things, generates from the specification a fact *preference(p, multipref)*).

In *asprin* preference programs, defining whether an answer set S is preferred to S' according to a preference P amounts to defining a predicate *better(P)* for the case where P is of the type being defined; the predicates *holds* and *holds'* are used to check whether the atoms in the preference specification hold in S and S' , respectively. In the following, *better(p)*, *bettereqwt(Ci)*, *betterwrt(Ci)*, correspond to $<$, \leq_{C_i} , $<_{C_i}$, respectively, for aux_C^S and $\text{aux}_C^{S'}$, comparing what *holds* for aux_C to what *holds'* for it; *moreprop* and *samenumprop* verify whether more (or the same number of) typicality inclusions of rank R are satisfied by aux_C in S wrt S' :

```
#program preference(multipref)
better(P) ← preference(P, multipref), holds(dcls(Ci)),
    betterwrt(Ci), noattack(Cj) : holds(dcls(Cj))
noattack(Cj) ← holds(dcls(Cj)), bettereqwt(Cj)
noattack(Cj) ← holds(dcls(Cj)), holds(dcls(Ch)), holds(morespec(Ch, Cj)), betterwrt(Ch)
bettereqwt(Ci) ← betterwrt(Ci)
bettereqwt(Ci) ← holds(dcls(Ci)), samenumprop(Ci, R) : holds(validrank(Ci, R))
betterwrt(Ci) ← holds(dcls(Ci)), moreprop(Ci, R),
```

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{samenumprop}(Ci, R1) : \text{holds}(\text{validrank}(Ci, R1)), R1 > R \\
\text{moreprop}(Ci, R) \leftarrow & \text{holds}(\text{validrank}(Ci, R)), \\
& \# \text{sum}\{-1, E : \text{sat}(\text{aux}C, Ci, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)); \\
& \quad 1, E : \text{sat}1(\text{aux}C, Ci, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R))\} - 1 \\
\text{sat}(\text{aux}C, Ci, E) \leftarrow & \text{holds}(X), X = \text{inst}(\text{aux}C, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)) \\
\text{sat}(\text{aux}C, Ci, E) \leftarrow & \text{not holds}(X), X = \text{inst}(\text{aux}C, Ci), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)) \\
\text{sat}1(\text{aux}C, Ci, E) \leftarrow & \text{holds}'(X), X = \text{inst}(\text{aux}C, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)) \\
\text{sat}1(\text{aux}C, Ci, E) \leftarrow & \text{not holds}'(X), X = \text{inst}(\text{aux}C, Ci), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)) \\
\text{samenumprop}(Ci, R) \leftarrow & \text{holds}(\text{validrank}(Ci, R)), \\
& 0 \# \text{sum}\{-1, E : \text{sat}(\text{aux}C, Ci, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R)); \\
& \quad 1, E : \text{sat}1(\text{aux}C, Ci, E), \text{holds}(\text{subTyp}(Ci, E, R))\} 0
\end{aligned}$$

Let us call *Pref* the preference specification and the preference program defined above; checking whether $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$ is cw^m -entailed amounts to checking whether $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, D)$ is in all preferred answer sets of $\Pi(K, C, D)$ according to *Pref*.

Proposition 3

Given a normalized ranked knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ over the set of concepts \mathcal{C} , and a subsumption $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$, we can prove the following:

- (1) if there is a canonical and \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m -model $\mathcal{M} = (\Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I)$ of K that falsifies $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$, then there is a preferred answer set S of $\Pi(K, C, D)$ according to *Pref*, such that $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, D) \notin S$.
- (2) if there is a preferred answer set S of $\Pi(K, C, D)$ according to *Pref*, such that $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, D) \notin S$, then there is a canonical and \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m -model $\mathcal{M} = (\Delta, <_{C_1}, \dots, <_{C_k}, <, \cdot^I)$ of K that falsifies $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$.

Propositions 2 and 3 tell us that, for computing cw^m -entailment, it is sufficient to consider the polynomial \mathbf{T} -compliant cw^m -models of K corresponding to answer sets S of $\Pi(K, C, D)$ ¹. A Π_2^P upper bound on the complexity of cw^m -entailment can be proved based on the the above formulation of cw^m -entailment as a problem of computing preferred answer sets. The Π_2^P -hardness can be proved by providing a reduction of the minimal entailment problem of *positive disjunctive logic programs*, which was proved to be a Π_2^P -hard problem by Eiter and Gottlob (1995).

Proposition 4

Deciding cw^m -entailment is a Π_2^P -complete problem.

5.1 Some experimental results

For Example 2, we actually get that typical employed students have a boss, but not that they are young: there are, in fact, two preferred answer sets, with $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, \text{Young})$ and $\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, \text{NotYoung})$ respectively; they are generated in 0.40 seconds.

A first scalability test is based on a slightly larger version of the same example, with 5 distinguished classes and 50 typicality inclusions. Adding to it more typicality inclusions,

¹ Note that, for verifying cw^m -entailment of $\mathbf{T}(C) \sqsubseteq D$, all answer sets of $\Pi(K, C, D)$ have to be considered and checking whether $\Pi(K, C, D) \cup \{-\text{inst}(\text{aux}_C, D)\}$ has no preferred answer sets would not be correct.

		1x	2x	4x	8x
test 1a		0.35	0.45	0.63	0.99
test 1b		0.35	0.50	0.95	3.93
test 2		1.03	1.15	1.27	1.76

Table 1. *Some scalability results*

up to 8 times (400 inclusions), the runtime grows up to 0.99 s (see Table 1, test 1a, average running times for *asprin 1.1.1* under Linux on an Intel Xeon E5-2640 @ 2.00GHz). Adding up to 8 copies of the KB (i.e., adding $\mathbf{T}(\textit{Employee}') \sqsubseteq \textit{NotYoung}'$ and similar), with up to 40 distinguished classes and 400 typicality inclusions, the runtime grows up to 3.93 (Table 1, test 1b).

In another experiment, we have distinguished classes $C_1 \dots C_5$ with $C_3 \sqsubseteq C_2 \sqsubseteq C_1$, $C_5 \sqsubseteq C_4 \sqsubseteq C_1$. For all i , the C_i 's are typically P_i 's, Q_i 's, R_i 's, where for $i \neq j$, $P_i \sqcap P_j \sqsubseteq \perp$. A typical $C_3 \sqcap C_5$ then inherits all the Q_i 's and R_i 's properties, while it can either be a P_3 or a P_5 . Also in this case adding up to 8 copies of the KB (with then up to 40 distinguished classes and 120 typicality inclusions) leads to a moderate increase of the running time which ranges from 1.03 to 1.76 seconds (Table 1, test 2).

Dealing with longer chains of subclasses seems more challenging. For a modification of the base case of the previous example with 10 distinguished classes $C_{10} \sqsubseteq C_8 \sqsubseteq C_6 \sqsubseteq C_4 \sqsubseteq C_2 \sqsubseteq C_1$, $C_9 \sqsubseteq C_7 \sqsubseteq C_5 \sqsubseteq C_3 \sqsubseteq C_1$, and 50 typicality axioms, checking the properties of typical $C_9 \sqcap C_{10}$ already takes 5.4 seconds.

6 Conclusions and related work

In this paper we have developed an ASP approach for defeasible inference in a concept-wise multipreference extension of \mathcal{EL}^\perp . Our semantics is related to the multipreference semantics for \mathcal{ALC} developed by Gliozzi (2016), which is based on the idea of refining the rational closure construction considering the preference relations $<_{A_i}$ associated with different aspects, but we follow a different route concerning both the definition of the preference relations associated with concepts, and the way of combining them in a single preference relation. In particular, Gliozzi's multipreference semantics aims at defining a refinement of rational closure semantics, which is not our aim here; compared with rational closure, our semantics is neither weaker (as it does not suffer from the "the blocking of property inheritance" problem) nor stronger (see Section 4).

The idea of having different preference relations, associated with different typicality operators, has been studied by Gil (2014) to define a multipreference formulation of the description logic $\mathcal{ALC} + \mathbf{T}_{min}$, a typicality DL with a minimal model preferential semantics. In this proposal we associate preferences with concepts, and we combine such preferences into a single global one. For a preferential extension of \mathcal{EL}^\perp based on the same minimal model semantics as $\mathcal{ALC} + \mathbf{T}_{min}$, it has been proved (Giordano et al.

2011) that minimal entailment is already EXPTIME-hard for \mathcal{EL}^\perp KBs, while a Π_2^P upper bound holds for minimal entailment in the Left Local fragment of $\mathcal{EL}^\perp \mathbf{T}_{min}$, as for circumscriptive KBs (Bonatti et al. 2011). A related problem of commonsense concept combination has been addressed in a probabilistic extension of $\mathcal{ALC} + \mathbf{T}_R$ (Lieto and Pozzato 2018).

Among the formalisms combining DLs with logic programming rules (Eiter et al. 2008; Eiter et al. 2011; Motik and Rosati 2010; Knorr et al. 2012; Gottlob et al. 2014) DL-programs (Eiter et al. 2008; Eiter et al. 2011) support a loose coupling of DL ontologies and rule-based reasoning under the answer set semantics and the well-founded semantics; rules may contain DL-atoms in their bodies, corresponding to queries to a DL ontology, which can be modified according to a list of updates. The non-monotonic description logic \mathcal{DL}^N (Bonatti et al. 2015) supports normality concepts based on a notion of overriding, enjoying good computational properties, and preserves the tractability for low complexity DLs, including $\mathcal{EL}^{\perp++}$ and *DL-lite* (Bonatti et al. 2015). Bozzato et al. (2014; 2018) present extensions of the CKR (Contextualized Knowledge Repositories) framework in which defeasible axioms are allowed in the global context and exceptions can be handled by overriding and have to be justified in terms of semantic consequence. A translation of extended CKRs (with knowledge bases in *SRIOQ-RL*) into Datalog programs under the answer set semantics is developed. Related approaches are also the work by Beierle et al. (2018), characterizing skeptical *c*-inference as a constraint satisfaction problem, and the work by Deane et al. (2015) presenting an inconsistency tolerant semantics for \mathcal{ALC} using preference weights and exploiting ASP optimization for computing preferred interpretations. Reasoning under the rational closure for low complexity DLs has been investigated for *SRCEL*(\sqcap, \times) (Giordano and Theseider Dupré 2018), using a Datalog plus stratified negation polynomial construction and for $\mathcal{EL}\mathcal{O}_\perp$ (Casini et al. 2019), developing a polynomial time subsumption algorithm for the nominal safe fragment (Kazakov et al. 2014). A problem that we have not considered in this paper is the treatment of defeasible information for existential concepts; it has been addressed by Pensel and Turhan (2018), who developed a stronger version of rational and relevant entailment in \mathcal{EL}^\perp , exploiting a materialisation-based algorithm for \mathcal{EL}^\perp and a canonical model construction.

It is known that Brewka's # strategy (2004) exploits the lexicographical order also used by Lehmann to define the models of the lexicographic closure of a conditional knowledge base (Lehmann 1995), starting from the rational closure ranking. This suggests that, while we have used this strategy for ranked TBox \mathcal{T}_{C_j} containing only typicality inclusions of the form $\mathbf{T}(C_j) \sqsubseteq D$, coarsely grained ranked TBoxes could be allowed, in which \mathcal{T}_{C_j} contains all typicality inclusions $\mathbf{T}(E) \sqsubseteq D$ for any subclass E of C_j . We expect that this might improve performances, by reducing the number of \leq_{C_j} relations to be considered. We leave for future work investigating whether our ASP approach with preferences can be used for computing the lexicographic closure for \mathcal{EL}_\perp^+ , and whether alternative notions of specificity can be adopted.

The modular separation of the typicality inclusions in different TBoxes and their separate use for defining preferences \leq_{C_i} suggests that some of the optimizations used by ELK reasoning algorithms (Kazakov et al. 2014) might be extended to our setting.

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