# **The Combined Approach to Query Answering in Horn-***ALCHOIQ*

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#### Abstract

Combined approaches have become a successful technique for solving conjunctive query (CQ) answering over description logics (DL) ontologies. Nevertheless, existing approaches are restricted to tractable DL languages. In this work, we extend the combined method to the more expressive DL Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ —a language for which CQ answering is EXPTIME-complete—in order to develop an efficient and scalable CQ answering procedure which is worst-case optimal for Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  and  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  ontologies. We implement and study the feasibility of our algorithm, and compare its performance to the DL reasoner Konclude.

# Introduction

Answering conjunctive queries (CQs) over Description Logics (DL) ontologies is an important reasoning task with many applications in knowledge representation and data management. Intensive research efforts in recent years have significantly improved our understanding of this problem, and led to efficient algorithms and implementations for many DL languages (Calvanese et al. 2007; Bienvenu et al. 2016). *Query rewriting* was an important step towards widespread practical implementation in legacy databases, but it is limited to DLs of sub-polynomial data complexity. This limitation was overcome by the so-called *combined approach*, which answers CQs in two steps:

- 1. *Materialisation*: data is augmented to build a queryindependent interpretation, which may not be a model but is complete for CQ answering.
- 2. *Filtration*: queries are evaluated over this interpretation and unsound answers are discarded in a filtration step.

This approach has made CQ answering feasible for many further DLs (Kontchakov et al. 2010; 2011; Lutz et al. 2013; Stefanoni, Motik, and Horrocks 2013; Feier et al. 2015).

However, for many expressive DL languages, the problem remains challenging in theory and in practice. All previously cited works on query rewriting and combined approaches for DL are restricted to tractable languages. For SROIQ—the DL underpinning the OWL Web Ontology Language—, it is unknown if the problem is decidable at all (Rudolph

and Glimm 2010). Concrete complexity bounds are known for fragments of this logic, e.g., for Horn-SROIQ (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Simkus 2010), but these results did not give rise to practical implementations yet. Indeed, common methods for showing decidability often lead to algorithms that always run in worst-case complexity.

We address this limitation by proposing a new combined approach to CQ answering over ontologies of the DL Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  (Krötzsch, Rudolph, and Hitzler 2013), for which CQ answering is EXPTIME-complete (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Simkus 2011). Our procedure generalises previous works on lightweight, tractable DLs (Kontchakov et al. 2010; 2011; Lutz et al. 2013; Stefanoni, Motik, and Horrocks 2013; Feier et al. 2015) to this expressive language, but at the same time exhibits worst-case optimal, pay-as-you-go behaviour. In particular, our algorithm runs in exponential time for Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  and in non-deterministic polynomial time for  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  (Baader, Brandt, and Lutz 2005).

The pay-as-you-go behaviour is embodied in our materialisation step, which extends ideas on consequence-based reasoning (Kazakov 2009; Simančík, Kazakov, and Horrocks 2011; Bate et al. 2016) to a DL that combines nominals, at-most quantifiers, and inverse roles. The filtration step then adapts a technique of Feier et al. (2015), which is comparatively lightweight.

To show practical feasibility, we have implemented the materialisation step of our approach using a Datalog reasoner as a blackbox system. Even without filtration, this suffices to solve standard DL reasoning tasks such as satisfiability and assertion retrieval, and we evaluate performance on expressive real-world ontologies. For these ontologies, our implementation requires only moderately sized Datalog programs, and can often outperform *Konclude* (Steigmiller, Liebig, and Glimm 2014)—considered the leading DL reasoner (Parsia et al. 2017). We interpret this as an indication that pay-as-you-go behaviour does indeed occur in practice. A complete CQ answering implementation based on our approach therefore seems feasible.

In summary, our main contributions are:

• We present the first combined approach applicable to a non-tractable DL fragment, generalising combined approaches by Kontchakov et al. (2010; 2011), Lutz et al. (2013), Stefanoni et al. (2013), and Feier et al. (2015) to significantly more expressive logics.

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- $\bigcap_{i=1}^n C_i^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$ (1)  $\prod_{i=1}^{n} C_i \sqsubseteq D$  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \{ \delta \mid \exists \gamma \in D^{\mathcal{I}}. \langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}} \}$  $C \sqsubseteq \exists R.D$ (2) $\{\delta \mid \exists \gamma \in C^{\mathcal{I}}. \langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}\} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$  $\exists R.C \sqsubseteq D$ (3)  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \{ \epsilon \mid \forall \delta, \gamma \in D^{\mathcal{I}}. (\langle \epsilon, \delta \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}$ (4)  $C \sqsubset \leq 1 R.D$  $\land \langle \epsilon, \gamma \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}) \to \delta = \gamma \}$  $C \sqsubseteq \{a\}$  $C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \{a^{\mathcal{I}}\}$ (5)  $R^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq S^{\mathcal{I}}$  $R \sqsubseteq S$ (6)
- (7)  $C(a) \quad a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$
- (8)  $R(a,b) \quad \langle a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}$

Figure 1: Syntax (left) and semantics (right) of Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  axioms in normal form, where  $C_{(i)}, D \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $R, S \in \mathbf{R}$ , and  $a, b \in \mathbf{I}$ 

- We show that our approach is worst-case optimal for standard reasoning and CQ answering for the DLs Horn-*ALCHOIQ* and *ELHO*, in terms of both data and combined complexity.
- We develop an efficient implementation to solve standard reasoning tasks over Horn-*ALCHOIQ* ontologies.
- We conduct an empirical evaluation with four data intensive ontologies (two real-world and two benchmarks) that shows performance gains over the DL reasoner Konclude.

We explain our key results and include proof sketches. A report with an additional appendix with complete proofs is available online (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018).

## **Preliminaries**

We consider logical theories based on *finite* signatures consisting of mutually disjoint sets C of *concepts* (unary predicates), R of *roles* (binary predicates), and I of *individuals* (constants). We require  $\bot, \top \in C$ .

**Description Logics** Additionally, a Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  signature has inverse roles: there is a bijective and irreflexive function  $\cdot^- : \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$  with  $R^{--} = R$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{R}$ . Without loss of generality (Krötzsch, Rudolph, and Hitzler 2013; Konev et al. 2016), we define Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  using a restricted set of normalised axioms over some signature, which we introduce on the left hand side of Figure 1. Axioms of the form (7) or (8) are also referred to as *class* and *role assertions*, respectively, or simply *assertions*.

A (Horn-ALCHOIQ) ontology is a finite set of axioms. For an ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ , let  $\sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}}^*$  be the minimal transitive, reflexive relation defined over roles such that  $R \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}}^* S$  and  $R^- \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}}^* S^-$  for all  $R \sqsubseteq S \in \mathcal{O}$ .

We define the semantics of ontologies using *interpreta*tions. An *interpretation*  $\mathcal{I}$  is a pair  $\langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$  with  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  a set of *domain elements*, and  $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  a function mapping individuals to domain elements, concepts to subsets of  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ , and roles to binary relations over  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ , such that  $\top^{\mathcal{I}} = \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \perp^{\mathcal{I}} = \emptyset$ , and  $(R^-)^{\mathcal{I}} = (R^{\mathcal{I}})^-$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{R}$ . An interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies (entails) an axiom  $\alpha$ , written  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$ , if the corresponding condition in Figure 1 holds. Interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies (is a model of) an ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ , written  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$ , if it satisfies all axioms in  $\mathcal{O}$ . If there is such an interpretation, we say that  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable. The ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  entails an axiom  $\alpha$ , written  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$ , if  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  for all  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$ .

**Datalog** Consider a countably infinite set V of variables disjoint from C, R, and I. The set of *terms* is  $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{V} \cup \mathbf{I}$ . Lists of terms  $t_1, \ldots, t_n$  are abbreviated as  $\vec{t}$ . An *atom* is a formula of the form C(t) or R(t, u) with  $C \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $R \in \mathbf{R}$ , and  $t, u \in \mathbf{T}$ . A (*Datalog*) *rule* is a formula of the form

$$B_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge B_n \to H_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge H_m,$$

with  $n \ge 0$  body atoms  $B_i$  and  $m \ge 1$  head atoms  $H_j$ , and where each variable in the head must also occur in the body. A fact is a variable-free atom, i.e., a ground rule with n = 0and m = 1. A substitution is a partial function  $\sigma : \mathbf{V} \to \mathbf{I}$ . For a formula  $\varphi, \varphi \sigma$  is obtained from  $\varphi$  by replacing all free variables x in the domain of  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(x)$ .

We define the semantics of rules via the *chase* procedure.

**Definition 1.** A chase sequence of a rule set  $\mathcal{R}$  is a maximal sequence  $\mathcal{F}^0, \ldots, \mathcal{F}^n$  of sets of facts, such that  $\mathcal{F}^0 = \emptyset$ , and for all  $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$  there is a rule  $\rho = \beta \rightarrow \eta \in \mathcal{R}$  and a substitution  $\sigma$  with (1)  $\beta \sigma \subseteq \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$ , (2)  $\eta \sigma \not\subseteq \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$ , and (3)  $\mathcal{F}^i = \mathcal{F}^{i-1} \cup \eta \sigma$ . The chase of  $\mathcal{R}$ , denoted with  $\mathcal{R}^\infty$ , is the final element of any (arbitrarily chosen) chase sequence.

The set  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}$  is unique for a rule set  $\mathcal{R}$  irrespectively of the chosen chase sequence, and coincides with the least Herbrand model of  $\mathcal{R}$ . A set of facts  $\mathcal{F}$  *entails* an assertion  $\alpha$ , written  $\mathcal{F} \models \alpha$ , if  $\alpha \in \mathcal{F}$ . The set  $\mathcal{R}$  *entails* an assertion  $\alpha$ , written  $\mathcal{R} \models \alpha$ , if  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty} \models \alpha$ .

**Conjunctive Queries** A conjunctive query (CQ) is a formula of the form  $\exists \vec{x}.\beta$  where  $\beta$  (the body) is a conjunction of atoms. A *Boolean CQ* (BCQ) is a CQ where all the variables are existentially quantified. Without loss of generality, we restrict ourselves to the task of solving BCQ entailment and consider only queries that do not contain individuals.

A (variable) assignment Z for an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  is a function  $Z : \mathbf{V} \to \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ . An interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  entails a BCQ  $q = \exists \vec{x}.\beta$ , written  $\mathcal{I} \models q$ , if there is an assignment Z for  $\mathcal{I}$  with  $\langle Z(\vec{y}) \rangle \in P^{\mathcal{I}}$  for all  $P(\vec{y}) \in \beta$ . An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  entails a BCQ q, written  $\mathcal{O} \models q$ , if  $\mathcal{I} \models q$  for all  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$ . Similarly, a set of facts  $\mathcal{F}$  entails q, written  $\mathcal{F} \models q$ , if there is a substitution  $\sigma$  with  $\beta \sigma \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ . A rule set  $\mathcal{R}$  entails q, written  $\mathcal{R} \models q$ , if the chase of  $\mathcal{R}$  entails q. Note that, in all of the above cases, our definition of entailment coincides with that of first-order logic.

#### **Materialisation Phase**

We now present the materialisation step of our combined approach, which leads to a query-independent set of facts that can be exploited to solve BCQ entailment. Moreover, we show that this set of facts can be directly used to decide satisfiability and assertion entailment.

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Top}} &= \{ C(x) \to \top(x) \mid C \in \mathbf{C} \} \cup \\ \{ \mathbb{R}(x, y) \to \top(x) \land \top(y) \mid \mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} \} \\ \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Role}} &= \{ \mathbb{R}(x, y) \land \mathsf{N}(y) \to \mathbb{R}^{-}(y, x) \mid \mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} \} \cup \\ \{ \mathbb{R}(x, y) \to R(x, y) \mid \mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}, R \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Nm}} &= \{ \mathsf{N}(a), \top(a) \mid a \in \mathbf{I} \} \\ \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Eq}} &= \{ x \approx y \to y \approx x, x \approx y \land y \approx z \to x \approx z \} \cup \\ \{ C(x) \land x \approx y \to C(y) \mid C \in \mathbf{C}^{+} \} \cup \\ \{ \mathbb{R}(x, y) \land x \approx z \to \mathbb{R}(z, y) \mid \mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} \} \cup \\ \{ \mathbb{R}(x, y) \land y \approx z \to \mathbb{R}(x, z) \mid \mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} \} \end{split}$$

Figure 2: Auxiliary rule sets  $\mathcal{R}_{Top}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{Eq}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{Role}$ , and  $\mathcal{R}_{Nm}$ 

We obtain this set of facts as the chase of a rule set  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , which is defined over an extended signature (for the remainder of the paper, let  $\mathcal{O}$  be a fixed ontology defined over some signature  $\langle \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{I} \rangle$ ). We let  $\mathbf{C}^{\sqcap} = \{ \sqcap_{i=1}^{n} C_i \mid C_1, \ldots, C_n \in \mathbf{C}, n \geq 1 \}$ . In the following,  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{D}$  are always used to denote elements of  $\mathbf{C}^{\sqcap}$ . Likewise, we consider role conjunctions  $\mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} = \{ \sqcap_{i=1}^{n} R_i \mid R_1, \ldots, R_n \in \mathbf{R}, n \geq 1 \}$ , denoted by  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{S}$ . We extend the mapping defined by an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  to concept/role conjunctions, and nomin the pretation  $\mathcal{I}$  to conceptible conjunctions, and non-inals in the standard way. That is,  $(\prod_{i=1}^{n} C_{i})^{\mathcal{I}} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{n} C_{i}^{\mathcal{I}}$ ,  $(\prod_{i=1}^{n} R_{i})^{\mathcal{I}} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{n} R_{i}^{\mathcal{I}}$ , and  $\{a\}^{\mathcal{I}} = \{a^{\mathcal{I}}\}$  with  $C_{i} \in \mathbf{C}$ and  $R_{i} \in \mathbf{R}$  for all  $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ , and  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ . Note that,  $\mathbf{C} \subseteq \mathbf{C}^{\sqcap}$  and  $\mathbf{R} \subseteq \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}$  by definition. We tacitly identify an element of  $\mathbf{C}^{\square}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{\square}$  with the corresponding set, and use expressions such as  $R \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C} \subseteq \mathbb{D}$  with this intention. For roles, we further define  $\mathbb{R}^- = \bigcap_{R \in \mathbb{R}} R^-$ .

The signature of the rule set  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is  $\langle \mathbf{C}^+, \mathbf{R}^+, \mathbf{I}^+ \rangle$ , where  $\mathbf{C}^+ = \mathbf{C} \uplus \{ \mathsf{N} \}$  with  $\mathsf{N}$  a unary predicate,  $\mathbf{R}^+ = \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap} \uplus \{ \approx \}$ with  $\approx$  a binary predicate, and  $\mathbf{I}^+ = \mathbf{I} \uplus \{ t_{\mathbb{C}} \mid \mathbb{C} \in \mathbf{C}^{\sqcap} \}$ with new constants of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$ . We assume  $t_{\mathbb{C}} = t_{\mathbb{D}}$  if  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{D}$  when these are considered as sets.

We use the (finite) chase  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  to represent (potentially infinite) models  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ , where constants  $a \in \mathbf{I}$  represent the named elements of the domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  and the constants  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  represent (possibly many) anonymous domain elements in  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{I}}$ . The special predicate N classifies representatives that behave like named individuals, i.e., the derivation of  $N(t_{\mathbb{C}})$  during the computation of the chase implies that  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  represents the unique element in  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{I}}$  for any model  $\mathcal{I}$ . Note that this may be the case if, e.g.,  $C \sqsubseteq \{a\} \in \mathcal{O}$  for some  $C \in \mathbb{C}$ .

The occurrence of fact C(a) during the computation of the chase indicates that all elements represented by a are in  $C^{\mathcal{I}}$  for all  $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{O}$ . The occurrence of a fact  $\mathbb{R}(a, b)$  indicates that all elements represented by a are connected to some element represented by the second constant by all of the roles  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ . It is important to distinguish such joint connections that exist in the model from incidental co-occurrences that are an artifact of the re-use of representatives  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$ . The special predicate  $\approx$  represents equality, which we model explicitly only between constants in N. A fact of the form  $a \approx b$  indicates that the classes of elements represented by the constants a and b are indeed the same in all models. The in-

(1) 
$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} C_{i}(x) \to D(x)$$
(2) 
$$C(x) \to R(x, t_{D}) \land D(t_{D})$$

(

(3) For all 
$$\mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}$$
 with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ , and all  $\mathbb{C} \in \mathbf{C}^{\sqcap}$ :  
(3.1)  $R(x, y) \land C(y) \to D(x)$   
(3.2)  $C(x) \land \mathbb{R}^{-}(x, t_{\mathbb{C}}) \to \mathbb{R}^{-}(x, t_{\mathbb{C}\sqcap D}) \land \land \land X_{E\mathbb{C}\sqcap D} X(t_{\mathbb{C}\sqcap D})$   
(5)  $C(x) \to a \approx x$   
(6) For  $\mathbb{S} = \{T \mid R \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}}^{*} T\}$ :  
(6.1)  $R(x, y) \to \mathbb{S}(x, y)$   
(6.2)  $R^{-}(x, y) \to \mathbb{S}^{-}(x, y)$   
(7)  $C(a)$ 

(8)R(a,b)

Figure 3: Rule sets for axiom types (1)–(3) and (5)–(8) of Figure 1 (see Figure 4 for type (4))

tuitions discussed in the previous paragraphs are formally introduced by the claims in the proof of Lemma 1.

The set of rules  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is defined as a combination of the auxiliary rules in Figure 2, and the axiom-specific rules in Figures 3 and 4, both of which we explain below.

**Definition 2.** For each axiom  $\alpha$  of one of the types introduced in Figure 1, let  $\mathcal{R}_{\alpha}$  denote the corresponding rule set defined in Figures 3 and 4. For an ontology O, the rule set  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is defined as:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} = igcup_{lpha \in \mathcal{O}} \mathcal{R}_{lpha} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\mathit{Top}} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\mathit{Role}} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\mathit{Nm}} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\mathit{Eq}}$$

Since we consider a finite signature,  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is finite, but exponential (due to the exponentially many roles  $\mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}$  and constants  $t_{\mathbb{C}} \in \mathbf{I}^+$ ). The rules of Figure 2 axiomatise the intended semantics of  $\top$ , role conjunction, N, and  $\approx$ . The first part of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Role}}$  expresses the semantics of inverse roles, which are part of the signature, but do not have a built-in semantics in Datalog. We only invert roles that connect to constants in N. The second part of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Role}}$  recovers individual roles from role conjunctions.  $\mathcal{R}_{Nm}$  comprises basic facts for the named individuals. Finally,  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Eq}}$  are a standard equality theory, which could be omitted if  $\approx$  is defined with a special semantics, as in some Datalog engines.

In Figures 3 and 4, rules (1), (2), (3.1), (5), (7), and (8) are basically direct translations of the corresponding DL axioms into first-order implications. In (6.1) and (6.2), we use a role conjunction  $\mathbb{S}$  that represents the upward closure of R in the role hierarchy. The necessary reflexive transitive closure can be computed in polynomial time. Note that rules (3.2), (4.2), and (4.3) are instantiated for any  $\mathbb{R}$  (and  $\mathbb{S}$ ) that contain R.

Rule (3.2) applies domain axioms along inverse relations that lead to representative  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  by initialising a new individual  $t_{\mathbb{C}\sqcap D}$  to which any other features (roles in  $\mathbb{R}^-$  and arbitrary concepts X) are copied. This inverse case is not needed for individuals in  $\mathbf{I}$ , since they can be treated with (3.1) after

(4) For all 
$$\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{S} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}$$
 with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $R \in \mathbb{S}$ , and all  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{D} \in \mathbf{C}^{\sqcap}$ :

(4.1) 
$$D(y) \wedge R^{-}(y, x) \wedge C(x) \wedge R(x, z) \wedge D(z) \wedge \mathsf{N}(z) \to y \approx z$$

$$(4.2) \qquad C(x) \land \mathbb{R}(x, t_{\mathbb{C}}) \land D(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \land \mathbb{S}(x, t_{\mathbb{D}}) \land D(t_{\mathbb{D}}) \to (\mathbb{R} \sqcap \mathbb{S})(x, t_{\mathbb{C} \sqcap \mathbb{D}}) \land \bigwedge_{X \in \mathbb{C} \sqcap \mathbb{D}} X(t_{\mathbb{C} \sqcap \mathbb{D}})$$

$$(4.3) D(y) \land \mathbb{R}^{-}(y,x) \land C(x) \land \mathbb{S}(x,t_{\mathbb{C}}) \land D(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \to \bigwedge_{X \in \mathbb{C}} X(y) \land (\mathbb{R}^{-} \sqcap \mathbb{S}^{-})(y,x)$$

(4.4) 
$$D(y) \wedge R^{-}(y, x) \wedge C(x) \wedge \mathsf{N}(x) \to \mathsf{N}(y)$$

Figure 4: Rule sets for axiom type (4) of Figure 1

flipping the direction of the inverse predicate using  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{Role}}$ . Rules (4) handle functional roles R as follows: (4.1) is similar to the usual first-order translation of functionality, written using one inverted occurrence of R and restricted to cases where the target individual of R is in class N; (4.2) adds a new anonymous individual that combines the features of two existing anonymous individuals; (4.3) folds the features of an anonymous individual back into its grandparent; and (4.4) propagates the property of being named along roles that are inverse functional between concepts C and D.

## **Example 1.** Consider the following ontology:

$$A \sqsubseteq \exists R.B \qquad (9) \qquad B \sqsubseteq \exists S.C \qquad (13) \\ B \sqsubset \exists VD \qquad (10) \qquad C \sqsubset \{c\} \qquad (14)$$

$$T \sqsubseteq \leq 1 S \top$$
(10) 
$$C \sqsubseteq \{C\}$$
(14)  
$$A(a)$$
(15)

$$V \sqsubseteq S \qquad (12) \qquad V(b,c) \qquad (16)$$

Among other things, these axioms entail D(c). Indeed, we can derive this fact with the following chase sequence. For each inference, we give the applied rule before the colon, with subscripts indicating the ontology axiom it originated from, and the facts that it was applied to after the colon.

$$D(c) \qquad \mathcal{R}_{Eq}:(23) \qquad (24)$$
$$D(c) \qquad \mathcal{R}_{Eq}:(21),(24) \qquad (25)$$

$$D(c) R_{Eq}: (21), (24) (25)$$

Additional inferences are possible, but one cannot obtain all inferences that one might expect in DL. For example,  $R^-(t_B, a)$  is not entailed, since we do not have  $N(t_B)$ . However, if we add to the ontology an additional axiom

$$\top \sqsubseteq \leqslant 1 V^{-}.\top \tag{26}$$

then we can further compute B(b) as follows:

$$V^{-}(c,b) \qquad \qquad \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Role}}:(16), \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Nm}} \qquad (27)$$

$$V^{-}(t_{C\sqcap D}, b)$$
  $\mathcal{R}_{Eq}: (27), (23)$  (28)

$$t_B \approx b$$
 (4.1)<sub>(26)</sub> : (22), (28),  $\mathcal{R}_{Nm}$  (29)

$$B(b)$$
  $\mathcal{R}_{Eq}:(17),(29)$  (30)

In this case, all expected conclusions can be obtained since all auxiliary individuals can be inferred to be in N.

The rules of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  entail enough relevant inferences to be used to decide standard reasoning tasks over Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  ontologies.

**Theorem 1.**  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable iff  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \exists x. \bot(x)$ . If  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable, then it entails an assertion  $\alpha$  iff  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \models \alpha$ .

Theorem 1 follows from Lemmas 1, 3, and 4, shown in the next section. Before this, we first discuss the complexity of our approach. The rule set  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is exponential in the size of  $\mathcal{O}$ , due to the exponential number of roles  $\mathbb{R} \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and of individuals of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  in  $\mathbb{I}^+$ . However, the Datalog rules in  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  contain at most three variables, making their propositional logic grounding polynomial in the size of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Since propositional Horn logic entailment can be decided in polynomial time, this already yields a worst-case optimal EXPTIME algorithm for Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ .

We can also achieve worst-case optimal reasoning for simpler DL fragments. A practically relevant case is  $\mathcal{ELHO}$ , the fragment Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  that does not contain "at most" quantifiers or inverse roles:

**Definition 3.** An ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  is  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  if (i)  $\mathcal{O}$  does not contain axioms of the form (4) and, (ii) for every role  $R \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}$  contains only one of R and  $R^-$ , but not both.

Without "at most" restrictions, we can omit all rules of type (4). Without inverses, we can further discard rules (3.2) and (6.2). The remaining rules of Figure 3 only introduce facts about constants of the form  $t_C$  with C a single concept, and about roles  $\mathbb{R}$  where  $\mathbb{R}$  is either a single role or the  $\sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{O}}^*$  closure of such a role as in (6). Therefore, only polynomially many signature symbols are required, and we can restrict the rules in Figure 2 to these symbols as well. The resulting polynomial set of Datalog rules with at most three variables can be evaluated in polynomial time.

We can sum up our results as follows. Recall that *data complexity* is measured with respect to the number of (normalised) assertions in an ontology, while *combined complexity* refers to the ontology (and its signature) as a whole.

**Theorem 2.** The approach of Theorem 1 decides consistency and assertion entailment for Horn-ALCHOIQ in polynomial time for data complexity, and in exponential time for combined complexity. When restricting to rules in the relevant signature for ELHO, the algorithm runs in polynomial time for combined and data complexity.

In practice, the better algorithm for  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  can be used as a basis for a pay-as-you-go algorithm for Horn-

ALCHOIQ, which adds rules on demand during materialisation. In this optimised procedure, we start with only those rules whose premises use only the signature of the given ontology (but whose conclusions may use further symbols). Whenever a newly derived fact uses additional signature symbols, rules with premises that also use this symbol are added. Adding rules during materialisation is not difficult, and is supported by existing engines (Motik et al. 2015).

#### **Correctness of the Materialisation**

We now establish the correctness of our approach, where we give proof sketches that show some of the most important cases. The full case analysis is found in the appendix.

The next lemma establishes soundness. This is not an obvious property, since our approach represents potentially infinite models with a finite materialisation that re-uses the same constant symbols as representatives for many domain elements. This could result in unsound inferences, as indeed it happens for BCQ entailment, where an additional filtration step is thus needed. For computing assertions, however, the method is sound:

**Lemma 1.** If  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  entails an assertion  $\alpha$ , then  $\mathcal{O} \models \alpha$ .

*Proof sketch.* For all  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$ , let  $\mathsf{Ex}(a) = \{a\}$  if  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ , and  $\mathsf{Ex}(a) = \mathbb{C}$  if a is of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{F}^0, \ldots, \mathcal{F}^n$  be some fixed chase sequence of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Then, we show via induction on  $i \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$  that the following claims hold for any model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ :

- (a) If  $C(a) \in \mathcal{F}^i$  with  $C \in \mathbf{C}$ , then  $\mathsf{Ex}(a)^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq C^{\mathcal{I}}$ .
- (b) If  $\mathbb{R}(a, b) \in \mathcal{F}^i$ , then for all  $\delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(a)^{\mathcal{I}}$  there is some  $\gamma \in \mathsf{Ex}(b)^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{I}}$ .
- (c) If  $a \approx b \in \mathcal{F}^i$ , then  $\mathsf{Ex}(a)^{\mathcal{I}} = \mathsf{Ex}(b)^{\mathcal{I}}$ .
- (d) If  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$  occurs in  $\mathcal{F}^i$ , then  $\mathsf{Ex}(a)^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$ .
- (e) If  $N(a) \in \mathcal{F}^i$ , then  $|\mathsf{Ex}(a)^{\mathcal{I}}| = 1$ .

The lemma follows from (a) and (b); the rest of the claims are included to structure our induction argument.

For the base case i = 0, all the claims trivially hold, since  $\mathcal{F}^0 = \emptyset$ . For the induction step, consider  $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ , and assume that all the claims hold for i - 1 (IH). We show that the claims remain true by distinguishing the following cases based on the type of the rule  $\rho = \beta \rightarrow \eta \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and the substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $\beta \sigma \subseteq \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$  and  $\mathcal{F}^i = \mathcal{F}^{i-1} \cup \eta \sigma$ . Note that each type of rule needs to establish only the claims whose premise might be affected by its application. In this proof sketch, we only consider five cases.

Let  $\rho$  be of the form (1). Then,  $\{C_j(\sigma(x)) \mid 1 \leq j \leq m\} \subseteq \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$  and hence,  $\mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \bigcap_{j=1}^m C_j^{\mathcal{I}}$  by (IH.a). Since  $\bigcap_{j=1}^m C_j \sqsubseteq D \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$  and (a) holds. Let  $\rho$  be of the form (3.2). Then,  $C(\sigma(x)), \mathbb{R}^-(\sigma(x), t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$  with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ . By definition,  $\mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}\cap D})^{\mathcal{I}} = \mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}})^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}}$ . Hence,  $\mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}\cap D})^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \bigcap_{X \in \mathbb{C}} X^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}}$  and (a) holds. By (IH.a) and (IH.b), for all  $\delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq C^{\mathcal{I}}$  there is some  $\gamma \in \mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}})^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in (\mathbb{R}^-)^{\mathcal{I}}$ . Since  $\exists R.C \sqsubseteq D \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $\gamma \in D^{\mathcal{I}}$  and (b) holds. By (IH.d),  $\mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$  and hence,  $\mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}\cap D})^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$  and (d) holds. Let  $\rho$  be of the form (4.3). Then,  $D(\sigma(y))$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^{-}(\sigma(y), \sigma(x)), C(\sigma(x)), \mathbb{S}(\sigma(x), t_{\mathbb{C}}), D(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$ with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $R \in \mathbb{S}$ . By (IH.a) and (IH.b), for all  $\delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(y))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$ , (1) there is some  $\epsilon \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq C^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\langle \delta, \epsilon \rangle \in (\mathbb{R}^{-})^{\mathcal{I}}$ , and (2) there is some  $\gamma \in \mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}})^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\langle \epsilon, \gamma \rangle \in \mathbb{S}^{\mathcal{I}}$ . Since  $C \subseteq \leq 1 R.D \in \mathcal{O}, \ \delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(t_{\mathbb{C}})^{\mathcal{I}} = \mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{I}}$  and (a) holds. Moreover,  $\langle \delta, \epsilon \rangle \in (\mathbb{R}^{-} \sqcap \mathbb{S}^{-})^{\mathcal{I}}$  and (b) holds.

Let  $\rho$  be of the form (4.4). Then,  $D(\sigma(y))$ ,  $R^{-}(\sigma(y), \sigma(x)), C(\sigma(x)), \mathsf{N}(\sigma(x)) \in \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$ . By (IH.a), (IH.b), (IH.d), and (IH.e), (1) there is a single element  $\epsilon \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq C^{\mathcal{I}}$ , (2)  $\langle \epsilon, \delta \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}$  for all  $\delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(y))^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$ , and (3)  $\mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(y))^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $C \sqsubseteq \leqslant 1 R.D \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $|\mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(y))^{\mathcal{I}}| = 1$  and (e) holds.

Let  $\rho$  be of the form  $\mathbb{R}(x,y) \wedge y \approx z \to \mathbb{R}(x,z)$ . Then,  $\mathbb{R}(\sigma(x), \sigma(y)), \sigma(y) \approx \sigma(z) \in \mathcal{F}^{i-1}$ . By (IH.b) and (IH.c), for all  $\delta \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(x))^{\mathcal{I}}$  there is some  $\gamma \in \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(y))^{\mathcal{I}} = \mathsf{Ex}(\sigma(z))^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{I}}$ . Hence, (b) holds.  $\Box$ 

To show completeness, we use the chase of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  to define a structure  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , which is a universal model of  $\mathcal{O}$ —i.e., a model that can be homomorphically embedded into any other model of  $\mathcal{O}$ . We then show that, for any assertion  $\alpha$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \alpha$  implies  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \alpha$ . In turn, this implies  $\mathcal{O} \not\models \alpha$  and our approach is indeed complete for assertion retrieval. We first define the domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  by "unravelling"  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ .

**Definition 4.** The set  $\Delta$  and the function  $i : \Delta \rightarrow I^+$  are defined recursively:

- (i) For all  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$ , we have  $[a] \in \Delta$  for the equivalence class  $[a] = \{b \mid a \approx b \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}\} \cup \{a\}$ . Let i([a]) be an arbitrary but fixed element in [a].
- (ii) For all  $\delta \in \Delta$ ,  $\mathbb{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{\sqcap}$ , and  $\mathbb{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{\sqcap}$ , we have  $\delta.d_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}} \in \Delta$ . Let  $i(\delta.d_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}) = t_{\mathbb{C}}$ .

Note that, for an individual  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ , possibly  $i([a]) \neq a$ .

**Definition 5.** We recursively define the domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}} \subseteq \Delta$ :

- 1. For all  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$  with  $\mathsf{N}(a) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , we have  $[a] \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$ .
- 2. For all  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$ , we have  $\delta.d_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  if
  - 2.a  $\mathbb{R}(i(\delta), t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , and
  - 2.b for all  $\mathbb{S}(i(\delta), t_{\mathbb{D}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}, \mathbb{R} \cup \mathbb{C} \not\subset \mathbb{S} \cup \mathbb{D}$ , and
  - 2.c for all  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$  with  $\mathsf{N}(a) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , there is some  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ with  $R(\mathsf{i}(\delta), a) \notin \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , or some  $C \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $C(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $C(a) \notin \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , and
  - 2.d  $\delta$  is of the form  $\gamma.d_{\mathbb{S},\mathbb{D}}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^- \not\subset \mathbb{S}$ , or there is some  $C \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $C(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$  and  $C(\mathfrak{i}(\gamma)) \notin \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ .

Conditions (2b-2d) ensure that, in some cases, an element is not introduced in  $\Delta^{U_{\mathcal{O}}}$  if the corresponding existential restriction is already satisfied by another element. These restrictions become relevant when showing that axioms of the form (4) are satisfied by  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

**Definition 6.** Let  $\Delta^{U_{\mathcal{O}}}$  be as in Definition 5. The interpretation function  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is defined by setting:

- 1. For all  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ , we have  $a^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}} = [a]$ .
- 2. For all  $C \in \mathbf{C}$  and  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$ , we have  $\delta \in C^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  if  $C(\mathbf{i}(\delta)) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ .
- 3. For all  $R \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $\delta, \gamma \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$ , we have  $\langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  if

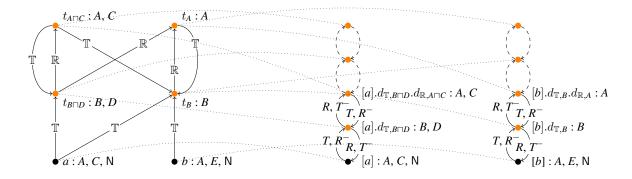


Figure 5: Representation of  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  (left, inferences of rules  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Top}}$  and  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Roles}}$  not shown) and  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  (right), where  $\mathbb{T} = T \sqcap R^-$  and  $\mathbb{R} = R \sqcap T^-$ ; dotted lines indicate how individuals in  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  are represented in  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ 

3.a  $R(i(\delta), i(\gamma)), N(i(\gamma)) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}, or$ 3.b  $R^{-}(i(\gamma), i(\delta)), N(i(\delta)) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}, or$ 3.c  $\gamma$  is of the form  $\delta.d_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$  with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ , or 3.d  $\delta$  is of the form  $\gamma.d_{\mathbb{R}^{-},\mathbb{C}}$  with  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The relation between the chase of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and the universal model  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is illustrated by the following example.

**Example 2.** Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be the ontology containing the axioms:

$$A \sqsubseteq \exists T.B \qquad B \sqsubseteq \exists R.A$$
  
$$\exists T^{-}.C \sqsubseteq D \qquad \exists R^{-}.D \sqsubseteq C$$
  
$$T^{-} \sqsubseteq R \qquad R^{-} \sqsubseteq T$$
  
$$A(a) \quad C(a) \qquad A(b) \quad E(b)$$

Figure 5 illustrates the structure of  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  (left) and  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  (right). In the chase of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , only four constants of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}} \in \mathbf{I}^+$  are reused to "satisfy" all existential restrictions.

As previously discussed, a constant  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  intuitively represents all domain elements in the domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  of some model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$  which belong to the interpretation of the intersection of all concepts in  $\mathbb{C}$ , i.e., all  $\delta \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $\delta \in \bigcap_{C \in \mathbb{C}} C^{\mathcal{I}}$ . Its properties are those shared by all individuals that are members of such concept interpretations in  $\mathcal{I}$ . The dotted arrows in Figure 5 link each element  $\gamma \in \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  to its corresponding representative  $i(\gamma)$  in the chase of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Note that,  $\langle \gamma, \delta \rangle \in (\mathbb{R}^{-})^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  for every  $\langle \delta, \gamma \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$ . This is not the case in  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ , where the directionality of a binary fact carries meaning (cf. Definitions 5 and 6).

**Lemma 2.** If  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \exists x. \bot(x)$ , then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is an interpretation.

*Proof.* The necessary conditions follow from Definition 6. We have  $\perp^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}} = \emptyset$  due to (2) and the precondition of the lemma;  $\top^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}} = \Delta^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}}$  due to  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Top}} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Nm}} \subseteq \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and (2); and  $(R^{-})^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}} = (R^{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}})^{-}$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{R}$  due to (3).

We strengthen the previous result and show that, if  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable, then  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is a model of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

**Lemma 3.** The following are equivalent: (1)  $\mathcal{O}$  is satisfiable, (2)  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \exists x. \bot(x)$ , and (3)  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}} \models \mathcal{O}$ .

*Proof sketch.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): If  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \models \exists x. \bot(x)$ , then  $\mathcal{O}$  does not admit any model by (a) and (d) from Lemma 1.

 $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$ : By (2) and Lemma 2,  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is an interpretation. It remains to show that  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  satisfies every axiom  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}$ , which is done by a lengthy analysis of cases included in the appendix.

 $(3) \Rightarrow (1)$ : By the definition of satisfiability.

**Lemma 4.** Consider an assertion  $\alpha$ . If  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \exists x. \bot(x)$  and  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \alpha$ , then  $\mathcal{O} \not\models \alpha$ .

*Proof.*  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is a model of  $\mathcal{O}$  by Lemma 3. By Definition 6,  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \alpha$  implies  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models \alpha$  and hence,  $\mathcal{O} \not\models \alpha$ .

## **Filtration Phase**

The Datalog model  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  cannot be used directly for solving BCQ entailment over  $\mathcal{O}$  as this set of facts entails BCQs which are not entailed by  $\mathcal{O}$ . As observed in other combined-approaches (Kontchakov et al. 2010), there are two types of spurious matches, forks and cycles, exemplified below.

**Example 3.** Consider the ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  from Example 2, and the 'forked-shaped'  $BCQ \ q = \exists x, y, z.E(x) \land T(x, y) \land$  $B(y) \land T(z, y) \land C(z)$ . Although  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}} \models q$  holds,  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}} \not\models q$ and therefore  $\mathcal{O} \not\models q$ .

**Example 4.** For the ontology  $\mathcal{O}' = \{A(a), A \sqsubseteq \exists R.A\}$ and the 'cyclic'  $BCQ q' = \exists x.R(x,x)$ , we find  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}'} \models q'$ whereas  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}'} \not\models q'$ .

To avoid unsound answers, we adapt a technique by Feier et al. (2015): first we expand  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  into the set of facts  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  on which we compute query matches; then we employ a filtration method to determine which of these matches correspond to a match in all models. We specify  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  as a set of facts over the signature of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , where we create several copies of the form  $t^{i}_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$  with  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $\mathbb{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{\Box}$  for each "anonymous" individual  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$  with  $N(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \notin \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Moreover, for every role  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ , we introduce an auxiliary role  $R_{\triangleright}$  to record the original order of elements in  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

**Definition 7.** Let  $\mathbf{I}^{\times}$  be the set of all individuals of the form  $t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$ , such that  $\mathbb{R} \in \mathbf{R}^{\sqcap}$ ,  $\mathbb{C} \in \mathbf{C}^{\sqcap}$ , and  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . Let  $\preceq$  be some reflexive total order on the set of all pairs  $(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C})$ .

$$\begin{array}{c} t_{F,C}^{1}:C \\ & \swarrow \\ F_{\rhd} \\ & F_{\rhd} \\ & \downarrow \\ t_{F,C}^{2}:C \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} F_{\rhd} \\ & \swarrow \\ & T_{\rhd} \\ & & T_{\rhd} \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ &$$

Figure 6: Representation of  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$ 

Then, we define  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$  as the minimal set of facts over individuals from  $\mathbf{I}^+ \cup \mathbf{I}^{\times}$  such that:

- If  $N(a), R(a, b), N(b) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $R_{\triangleright}(a, b), R^{-}_{\triangleright}(b, a) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbf{I}^+$  (can also be of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$ ).
- If  $\mathsf{N}(a), \mathbb{R}(a, t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $\mathsf{N}(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \notin \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $\{R_{\triangleright}(a, t^{0}_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}) \mid R \in \mathbb{R}\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .
- If  $t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$  is in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ ,  $\mathbb{S}(t_{\mathbb{C}}, t_{\mathbb{D}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $\mathbb{N}(t_{\mathbb{D}}) \notin \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $\{S_{\triangleright}(t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}, t^j_{\mathbb{S},\mathbb{D}}) \mid S \in \mathbb{S}\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  where  $-j = (i+1) \mod 3$  if  $\langle \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} \rangle \preceq \langle \mathbb{S}, \mathbb{D} \rangle$ , and -j = i otherwise.
- If  $t^i_{\mathbb{S},\mathbb{C}}$  occurs in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $R(t_{\mathbb{C}}, a), \mathsf{N}(a) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $R_{\triangleright}(t^i_{\mathbb{S},\mathbb{C}}, a), R^{-}_{\triangleright}(a, t^i_{\mathbb{S},\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .
- If  $a \in \mathbf{I}^+$  is in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $C(a) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ , then  $C(a) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .
- If  $t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$  is in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $C(t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $C(t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .
- If  $R_{\triangleright}(a,b) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $R(a,b), R^{-}(b,a) \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

**Example 5.** Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be the following ontology:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \sqsubseteq \exists T.B & B \sqsubseteq \exists R.A & C \sqsubseteq \exists F.C \\ A(a) & C(a) & A(c) & D(c) & T(a,c) \end{array}$$

Assuming  $\langle T, B \rangle \preceq \langle R, A \rangle$ , the set of facts  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$  is as represented in Figure 6.

As with  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , we cannot directly use the set  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  to solve BCQ entailment over  $\mathcal{O}$ .

**Example 6.** Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be the ontology from Example 5. There are BCQs, such as  $q = \exists x, y, z.F(x, y) \land F(y, z) \land F(z, x)$ , with  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}} \models q$  and  $\mathcal{O} \not\models q$ . Note how q matches a cycle in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  that may not occur in models of  $\mathcal{O}$ , such as  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Also, there are BCQs containing forks such as  $\exists x, y, z.C(x) \land T(x, y) \land T(z, y) \land D(z)$ , entailed by  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  but not by  $\mathcal{O}$ .

Alas, not all cyclic matches entailed by  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$  are spurious! This is easy to see if we consider cycles consisting only of named individuals: the ontology  $\{R(a, b), S(b, c), V(c, a)\}$ , e.g., entails the BCQ  $\exists x, y, z.R(x, y) \land S(y, z) \land V(z, w)$ . Interestingly, cyclic BCQs might also have correct matches that involve anonymous individuals.

**Example 7.** Consider the following ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ :

$$A \sqsubseteq \exists R.B \quad B \sqsubseteq \exists S.C \quad C \sqsubseteq \{c\} \quad V(c,a) \quad A(a)$$

The cyclic BCQ  $q = \exists x, y, z.R(x, y) \land S(y, z) \land V(z, x)$  has a match in  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$  where y maps to an anonymous individual. This match is correct and  $\mathcal{O} \models q$ .

To filter unsound BCQ answers we introduce the notion of a valid match.

**Definition 8.** Consider an ontology  $\mathcal{O}$ , a BCQ  $q = \exists \vec{x}.\beta$ , and a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $\beta \sigma \subseteq C_{\mathcal{O}}$ . Then,  $G_{q,\sigma}$  is the minimal directed graph (DG) such that,

- 1. for each  $x \in \vec{x}$ , there is a vertex v(x) in  $G_{q,\sigma}$ ; and
- 2. for all  $x, y \in \vec{x}$ ,  $v(x) \to v(y) \in G_{q,\sigma}$  if there is some  $R \in \mathbf{R}$  such that (i)  $R(x, y) \in \beta$  or  $R^-(y, x) \in \beta$ , (ii)  $R_{\triangleright}(x, y)\sigma \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , and (iii)  $R_{\triangleright}^-(y, x)\sigma \notin \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ .

Moreover,  $F_{q,\sigma}$  is the graph that results from exhaustively applying the following rule to  $G_{q,\sigma}$ : if there are some  $x, y, z, w \in \vec{x}$  with  $\sigma(x) = \sigma(y)$ , v(z) = v(w), and  $\{v(x) \to v(z), v(y) \to v(w)\} \subseteq G_{q,\sigma}$ ; then v(x) = v(y).

The substitution  $\sigma$  is a valid match for  $\mathcal{O}$  and q if  $F_{q,\sigma}$  is a rooted directed forest.

If  $F_{q,\sigma}$  is a forest, then no node v(x) mapped to an anonymous individual can be reached from two different nodes in  $F_{q,\sigma}$ , thus preventing spurious answers due to forks in the query. By requiring  $F_{q,\sigma}$  to be acyclic, we also prevent unsound answers that may be due to cycles in the query being mapped to cycles of anonymous individuals in  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$  that are not instances of the special predicate N. Cyclic structures over such anonymous individuals may never occur in the universal model  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  of an Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  and hence, such queries may not be entailed.

**Example 8.** Consider the ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  and the query q in Example 7, and the substitution  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto t_{R,B}^0, z \mapsto t_C\}$ . We find  $F_{q,\sigma} = G_{q,\sigma} = \{v(x) \to v(y), v(z)\}$ , and therefore  $\sigma$  is a valid match for  $\mathcal{O}$ .

Now consider the ontology and queries of Example 6. For the first query  $q'_1$  and substitution  $\sigma'_1 = \{x \mapsto t^0_{F,C}, y \mapsto t^1_{F,C}, z \mapsto t^2_{F,C}\}$ , we get  $F_{q'_1,\sigma'_1} = \{v(x) \to v(y), v(y) \to v(z), v(z) \to v(x)\}$ . Therefore,  $\sigma'_1$  is a spurious cyclic match, and so are all its permutations. For the second query  $q'_2$  and  $\sigma'_2 = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto t^0_{T,B}, z \mapsto c\}$ , we obtain  $F_{q'_2,\sigma'_2} = \{v(x) \to v(y), v(z) \to v(y)\}$ , which is not a rooted tree. Hence, the spurious fork  $\sigma'_2$  is filtered out.

**Theorem 3.** A consistent ontology  $\mathcal{O}$  entails a BCQ q iff there is some valid match  $\sigma$  for  $\mathcal{O}$  and q.

Note that we can check for inconsistency using Theorem 1, in which case all BCQs are entailed.

Our proof of Theorem 3 in the appendix proceeds in several steps. For soundness, we first show that we can correctly read off certain entailments from  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$ . As in the proof of Lemma 1, we define a characteristic class expression  $\mathsf{Ex}(a)$ for each a of  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$ : if  $a \in \mathbf{I}$ , then  $\mathsf{Ex}(a) = \{a\}$ ; else if  $a = t_{\mathbb{C}}$ or  $a = t_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}^i$ , then  $\mathsf{Ex}(a) = \mathbb{C}$ . One can then show similar semantic correspondences as for Lemma 1. Soundness is then established by considering a valid match  $\sigma$  on  $C_{\mathcal{O}}$ , and by constructing, for an arbitrary model  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ , a corresponding match of the BCQ. Completeness is established by an inverse construction, turning a BCQ match on  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}$  into a valid match on  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . In both cases, we proceed inductively by defining matches for an increasing sequence of queries  $q_1, \ldots, q_n$  where  $q_n = q$  is the BCQ under consideration.

For assertion entailment, our approach yields a worst-case optimal algorithm for both Horn-ALCHOIQ and ELHO:

**Theorem 4.** The approach of Theorem 3 decides BCQ entailment for Horn-ALCHOIQ in exponential time for combined complexity, and in polynomial time for data complexity. When restricting to the relevant signature of ELHO for materialisation as in Theorem 2, the algorithm runs in nondeterministic polynomial time for combined complexity.

*Proof.* We first consider the case of Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ . The argument for proving Theorem 2—grounding an exponential rule set  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , and computing its propositional entailments in linear time—shows that the chase  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$  is of exponential size (and of polynomial size w.r.t. the number of assertions). The extension of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$  to  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is possible in polynomial time in the size of  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{O}}^{\infty}$ . The number of possible matches  $\sigma$  of a BCQ q on  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is exponential in the size of q and polynomial in the size of  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . For each  $\sigma$ , we can check in polynomial time in  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  whether it is a valid match. The overall procedure therefore runs in exponential time in the size of  $\mathcal{O}$  and q, and in polynomial time in the number of assertions in  $\mathcal{O}$ .

In the case of  $\mathcal{ELHO}$ , as argued for Theorem 2,  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is of polynomial size and can be computed in polynomial time by restricting to the signature relevant for  $\mathcal{ELHO}$ .  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$  contains only individuals  $t^i_{\mathbb{R},\mathbb{C}}$  for cases where  $\mathbb{R}(c,t_{\mathbb{C}}) \in \mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ , so that their overall number is polynomial in the size of  $\mathcal{R}^{\infty}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . The same therefore holds for the size of  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ . A query match  $\sigma$  can be guessed non-deterministically in polynomial time, and it is again polynomial to verify that it is valid.

The previous results are worst-case optimal: BCQ entailment over Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  ontologies is EXPTIME-hard (and P-hard for data complexity) since this is true even for standard reasoning in this DL (Krötzsch, Rudolph, and Hitzler 2013); NP-hardness of BCQ entailment for  $\mathcal{EL}$  ontologies follows from the fact that BCQ entailment over a set of assertions is already NP-hard.

## **Proof of Concept**

We evaluate a prototype implementation of the materialisation phase, which we consider the performance-critical part of our algorithm. In contrast, our filtration phase uses a polynomial algorithm, which is computationally similar to the filtration in other combined approaches that have already been shown to be efficient in practical cases (Feier et al. 2015). Since materialisation decides fact entailment for Horn-ALCHOIQ (Theorem 1), we can meaningfully compare performance against standard DL reasoners.

Our prototype implementation uses the RDFox Datalog engine (SVN version 2776) for computing the chase (Motik et al. 2014), and implements the optimised materialisation where we add new rules on demand during the computation of the chase, as discussed after Theorem 2. We further

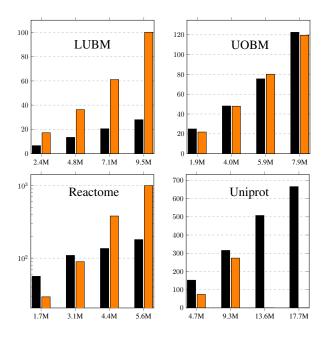


Figure 7: Times for ABox materialisation in seconds for our implementation (dark) and Konclude (bright), each over four ABoxes with increasing numbers of assertions

modify the process by adding facts  $\top(c)$  and (if applicable) N(c) directly when loading or creating new individuals, thus omitting rules  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Top}}$  and facts  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Nom}}$ . We also omit  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathsf{Eq}}$ , since we rely on the built-in equality reasoning support of RDFox instead (Motik et al. 2015). Some of the considered ontologies contain (in)equality assertions of the form  $a \not\approx b$  and  $a \approx b$ . To deal with these, we simply rely on the built-in equality reasoning of RDFox and include an extra rule  $x \not\approx x \to \bot(x)$  to detect inconsistencies entailed by inequality assertions.

We use our implementation to solve assertion retrieval, i.e., the reasoning task that consists in computing all class and role assertions that are entailed by a given ontology. We compared performance with that of Konclude (v0.6.2), a leading DL reasoner (Steigmiller, Liebig, and Glimm 2014), which we used as a command-line client on local input files.

Since query answering is most relevant in data-intensive applications, we use ontologies with large sets of assertions (ABoxes). We considered two standard benchmarks, LUBM (Guo et al. 2007) and UOBM (Ma et al. 2006); and two real-world ontologies from the bio-domain, Reactome and Uniprot, which were used in the evaluation of PAGOdA (Zhou et al. 2015). We have normalised these ontologies and removed axioms not expressible in Horn-ALCHOIQ, such as role chains or disjunctions. The resulting ontologies contained 108 (LUBM), 254 (UOBM), 481 (Reactome), and 317 (Uniprot) terminological axioms, respectively. None of these ontologies belonged to a known tractable fragment of Horn-ALCHOIQ. For each ontology, we consider ABoxes of various sizes, generated by using the size parameter for the benchmarks (LUBM, UOBM), and by sampling the realworld ABoxes (Reactome, Uniprot) using the method by Zhou et al. (2015). All ontology files and own software used in the evaluation can be found from an online repository.<sup>1</sup>

Our test system is a commodity laptop (16GB RAM, 500GB SSD, CPU i7-8550U/4 cores/1.8GHz, Windows 10). We configured the operating system to allow up to 28GB of virtual memory. We have measured wall-clock times spent during reasoning, ignoring the time required for parsing and loading. Konclude reports detailed times, while for RDFox we have measured the time from within our prototype.

Figure 7 shows the results. Note the logarithmic scale in the case of Reactome. Konclude ran out of memory for the two largest of the Uniprot samples, hence no times are reported there. Detailed measurement results can also be found in our evaluation repository. For LUBM, we started materialisation with 215 rules and computed the chase. Based on the results, another six rules were added and the chase was started again, without any further rules needed this time. Likewise, UOBM and Reactome required the chase to run four times, and Uniprot five times. The total number of rules added for each ontology was 6 (LUBM), 19 (UOBM), 14 (Reactome), and 59 (Uniprot). Considering the exponential number of rules that might be required in the worst case, these figures are quite moderate.

The performance results show that our prototype can already achieve competitive performance. It is about three times faster than Konclude on LUBM, and about the same on UOBM. For Reactome, Konclude has an initial performance advantage but slows down exponentially as ABoxes increase. We see a similar picture for Uniprot, with Konclude running out of memory for the larger datasets, while our prototype continues to scale approximately linearly.

The scalability advantage of RDFox is not unexpected, since DL reasoners are not optimised for ontologies with a large number of assertions. Konclude supports DL ontologies beyond Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ , hence may not take full advantage of optimisations possible for our case. On the other hand, Konclude supports only class assertion retrieval, whereas our implementation also computes the entailed role assertions. Nevertheless, the tasks solved by the two systems are similar enough to use Konclude as a meaningful baseline in a feasibility study. Moreover, there are no dedicated Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  reasoners, so Konclude still is indicative of the best possible performance available to practitioners today.

# **Related Work**

Combined approaches have been developed for  $\mathcal{ELHO}_{\perp}^{r}$  (Stefanoni, Motik, and Horrocks 2013)—a DL that extends  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  with role ranges—, DL-Lite (Kontchakov et al. 2010), DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> (Lutz et al. 2013)—DL-Lite with role hierarchies—, and RSA ontologies (Feier et al. 2015)— a tractable class of Horn ontologies that extends  $\mathcal{ELHO}$  and DL-Lite<sub>R</sub> (Carral et al. 2014). Our approach solves BCQ entailment over the more expressive class of Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$  ontologies, though it does not always achieve the same worst-case complexity on specific fragments. E.g., our approach may not run in polynomial time over RSA.

The translation of DL reasoning problems to Datalog has also been explored previously, for logics from  $\mathcal{EL}$ (Krötzsch 2011) to Horn- $\mathcal{SROIQ}$  (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Simkus 2010). Interestingly, the latter approach by Ortiz et al. has also been used to establish upper bounds for deciding BCQ entailment in such expressive DLs (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Simkus 2011), which indirectly also yields a Datalogbased procedure for Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ . However, Ortiz et al. use polynomial Datalog programs with predicates of polynomial arity, while we obtain exponential Datalog programs with predicates of fixed arity. This allows us to use subsets of rules to obtain lower complexities for tractable fragments, and to use existing Datalog engines (which are not prepared to handle predicates with arities > 100).

Eiter et al. gave a method for rewriting Horn-SHIQ ontologies and CQs to Datalog with fixed predicate arities (2012). A crucial difference to many other works in DL query answering is that the unique name assumption is made. The approach also differs from ours in that it supports transitive roles but no nominals.

Our materialisation phase shares some similarities with consequence-based reasoning procedures (Kazakov 2009; Simančík, Kazakov, and Horrocks 2011; Simančík, Motik, and Horrocks 2014; Bate et al. 2016). Such approaches make use of "types"—akin to our individuals of the form  $t_{\mathbb{C}}$ —, which represent certain combinations of features in arbitrary models. To the best of our knowledge, no such procedure supports DLs with nominals, "at most" quantifiers, and inverse roles—a combination of constructors that is known to be difficult to deal with (Rudolph and Glimm 2010). Moreover, consequence-based reasoning remains a method for standard reasoning, which does not address CQ answering.

## Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, we present the first combined approach for CQ answering over Horn-ALCHOIQ. We combine two powerful methods-consequence-based reasoning and filtration-both of which were shown to enable practically feasible implementations on their own. Indeed, consequence-based reasoning features provable pay-as-yougo behaviour that leads to faster runtimes on simpler ontologies (see Theorem 2), while filtration can take advantage of delegating most work to the query engines of highly optimised databases, which makes this part rather scalable in practice (Feier et al. 2015). We have provided empirical evidence for the practical applicability of our method, even on a prototypical implementation that uses a Datalog engine without tight integration. A fully integrated system for DL reasoning and query answering therefore seems to be feasible, and indeed would be a promising direction for further research. In particular, we would like to explore the use of our rule engine VLog (Urbani, Jacobs, and Krötzsch 2016), which promises advantages in terms of memory usage.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://github.com/knowsys/eval-combined-approach-hornalchoiq

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