Weighted Conditional $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{L}^\perp$ Knowledge Bases with Integer Weights: an ASP Approach

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Weighted knowledge bases for description logics with typicality have been recently considered under a “concept-wise” multipreference semantics (in both the two-valued and fuzzy case), as the basis of a logical semantics of Multilayer Perceptrons. In this paper we consider weighted conditional $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{L}^\perp$ knowledge bases in the two-valued case, and exploit ASP and asprin for encoding concept-wise multipreference entailment for weighted KBs with integer weights.

1 Introduction

Preferential approaches to common sense reasoning [26, 30, 28, 3, 23], have been extended to description logics (DLs), to deal with inheritance with exceptions in ontologies, by allowing for non-strict forms of inclusions, called typicality or defeasible inclusions, with different preferential semantics [18, 7] and closure constructions [10, 9, 19, 31, 11].

In recent work, a concept-wise multipreference semantics [16] has been proposed as a semantics of ranked $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{L}^\perp$ knowledge bases, i.e. knowledge bases in which defeasible or typicality inclusions of the form $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ (meaning “the typical C’s are D’s” or “normally C’s are D’s”) are given a rank, a natural number, representing their strength, where $T$ is a typicality operator [18] that singles out the typical instances of concept $C$. The concept-wise multipreference semantics takes into account preferences with respect to different concepts, and integrates them into a single global preference relation, which is needed for the evaluation of general defeasible inclusions. Answer Set Programming (ASP) and, in particular, asprin [6], has been exploited to achieve defeasible reasoning under the multipreference approach for the lightweight description logic $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{L}^\perp$ (a logic of the $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{L}$ family [2]).

In [17], the concept-wise multipreference semantics has been adapted to deal with weighted knowledge bases, in which each typicality inclusion is associated to a weight, a real (positive or negative) number, representing its plausibility or implausibility. The multipreference semantics has been exploited to provide a preferential interpretation of Multilayer Perceptrons (MLPs), by representing the input-output behavior of the network. It has been further extended to the fuzzy case, and the fuzzy multipreference interpretation built from the network, for a given set of input stimuli, have been proven to be a model of the neural network, in the logical sense. To this purpose, the deep network has been interpreted as a weighted conditional knowledge base, i.e., a set of weighted defeasible inclusions, by regarding synaptic connections as weighted defeasible inclusions.

While decidability of the fuzzy multipreference entailment is an open problem, in this paper we consider the two-valued case and extend the ASP approach considered for ranked KBs [16] to deal with weighted conditional KBs, for integer weights. Differently from [16], the semantic closure construction used for weighted knowledge bases does not exploit a lexicographic order, as in Lehmann lexicographic closure [28] and in Brewka’s framework of basic preference descriptions [5], but a construction more related to Kern-Isberner’s c-representations [23, 24]. We develop an ASP encoding of the concept-wise
multipreference semantics for weighted $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ knowledge bases, and exploit asprin to achieve defeasible reasoning for weighted $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ knowledge bases with integer weights. This is a first step towards the definition of multi-valued approximations of the fuzzy multipreference semantics for weighted knowledge bases, which may be of interest from the standpoint of explainable AI [1][22].

2 The description logic $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$

We consider the description logic $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ of the $\mathcal{EL}$ family [2]. 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 $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ concepts can be defined as follows:

$$C := A | T | \bot | C \sqcap C | \exists r.C | \{a\} \text{ where } a \in N_I, A \in N_C \text{ and } r \in N_R. \{a\} \text{ is a nominal, a concept containing a single element.}$$

Observe that union, complement and universal restriction are not 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. 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 $a, b \in N_I$.

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 $I = \langle \Delta, I \rangle$ of $K$, $I$ satisfies $F$.

3 Weighted knowledge bases and the multipreference semantics

Let $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, \ldots, C_k\}$ be a set of distinguished $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ concepts, the concepts for which defeasible inclusions are defined. A weighted TBox $\mathcal{T}_C$ is defined for each distinguished concept $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$ as a set of defeasible inclusions of the form $T(C_i) \sqsubseteq D$ with a weight. A weighted $\mathcal{EL}^\bot$ knowledge base $K$ over $\mathcal{C}$ is a tuple $(\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_C, \mathcal{A})$, where $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$ is a set of strict concept inclusions, $\mathcal{A}$ is an ABox and, for each $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$, $\mathcal{T}_C$ is a set of weighted defeasible inclusions, $\{(d_i^h, w_i^h)\}$, where each $d_i^h$ is a typicality inclusion of the form $T(C_i) \sqsubseteq D_{i,h}$, having weight $w_i^h$, a real number.

Consider, for instance, the weighted knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_{\text{Emp}}, \mathcal{T}_{\text{Student}}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, over the set of distinguished concepts $\mathcal{C} = \{\text{Emp}, \text{Student}\}$, with empty ABox, and with $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$ containing the set of strict inclusions:

$$\text{Emp} \sqsubseteq \text{Adult} \quad \text{Adult} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{has.SSN}.T \quad \text{PhdStudent} \sqsubseteq \text{Student}$$

$\mathcal{T}_{\text{Emp}}$ contains the following weighted defeasible inclusions:

$$T_{\text{Emp}}(\text{Emp}) \sqsubseteq \text{Young}, \ -50 \quad T_{\text{Emp}}(\text{Emp}) \sqsubseteq \exists \text{has.boss}.\text{Emp}, \ 100$$

$\mathcal{T}_{\text{Student}}$ contains the defeasible inclusions:
We say that $x \in W$ weight $\leq$ where $<$ is a preference relation $\leq$ well-founded strict partial order. More precisely, $x < y$ if, for all $S \subseteq \Delta$, if $S \neq \emptyset$, then $\min_{<_{C_i}}(S) \neq \emptyset$: $<_{C_i}$ is modular if, for all $x, y, z \in \Delta$, $x <_{C_i} y$ implies ($x <_{C_i} z$ or $z <_{C_i} y$).

To define a concept-wise semantics for weighted $\mathcal{EL}^-$ KBs, let us recall the notion of multipreference interpretation $\langle \Delta, {<}_{C_i} \rangle$; an $\mathcal{EL}^-$ interpretation is extended with a collection of preferences.

**Definition 2 (Multipreference interpretation)** A multipreference $\mathcal{EL}^-$ interpretation is a tuple $\mathcal{M} = \langle \Delta, {<}_{C_i} \rangle$, where:

(a) $\Delta$ is a domain, and $\mathcal{I}$ an interpretation function, as in $\mathcal{EL}^-$ interpretations;

(b) for each $C_i \in \mathcal{C}$, $<_{C_i}$ is an irreflexive, transitive, well-founded and modular relation over $\Delta$.

A preference relation $<_{C_i}$ determines the relative typicality of domain individuals with respect to concept $C_i$. For instance, Tom may be more typical than Bob as a student ($\text{tom} <_{\text{Student}} \text{bob}$), but more exceptional than Tom as an employee ($\text{bob} <_{\text{Emp} \text{tom}}$). The minimal $C_i$-elements with respect to $<_{C_i}$ are taken as the most typical $C_i$-elements.

For a multipreference interpretation $\mathcal{M}$ to satisfy a weighted knowledge base $K = \langle \mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \ldots, \mathcal{T}_{C_n}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$, we require $\langle \Delta, \mathcal{I} \rangle$ to satisfy the axioms in $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$ and $\mathcal{A}$, as usual in $\mathcal{EL}^-$, and each preference relation $<_{C_i}$ to be constructed from $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$, through a semantic closure construction, similar in spirit to the lexicographic closure [29], but more similar to c-representation [23][24]. The sum of the weights of the defeasible inclusions for $C_i$ satisfied by each domain element $x \in \Delta$ is considered; higher preference wrt $<_{C_i}$ is given to the domain elements whose associated sum (wrt $C_i$) is higher [17].

As $\mathcal{EL}^-$ has the finite model property [2], we can restrict to interpretations with a finite domain $\Delta$. We say that $x \in \Delta$ satisfies $\mathcal{T}(C_i) \subseteq D$ in $I$, if $x \notin C_i$ or $x \in D^i$ (otherwise $x$ violates $\mathcal{T}(C_i) \subseteq D$ in $I$). Given an $\mathcal{EL}^-$ interpretation $I = \langle \Delta, \mathcal{I} \rangle$ and a domain element $x \in \Delta$, the weight $W_i(x)$ of $x$ wrt $C_i$ in $I$ is defined considering the inclusions ($\mathcal{T}(C_i) \subseteq D_{i,h}, w_h^i \in \mathcal{T}_{C_i}$, as follows:

$$W_i(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{h \in D_{i,h}} w_h^i & \text{if } x \in C_i \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $-\infty$ is added at the bottom of all real values. Informally, given an interpretation $I$, for $x \in C_i$, the weight $W_i(x)$ of $x$ wrt $C_i$ is the sum of the weights of all defeasible inclusions for $C_i$ satisfied by $x$ in $I$. The more plausible are the satisfied inclusions, the higher is the weight of $x$. The lowest weight, $-\infty$, is given to all domain elements which are not instances of $C_i$.

Based on this notion of weight of a domain element wrt a concept, one can construct a preference relation $<_{C_i}$ from a given $\mathcal{EL}^-$ interpretation $I$. A domain element $x$ is preferred to element $y$ wrt $C_i$ if the sum of the weights of the defaults in $\mathcal{T}_{C_i}$ satisfied by $x$ is higher than the sum of the weights of
defaults in $\mathcal{R}_C$, satisfied by $y$: for $x,y \in \Delta$,

$$x <_C y \iff W_i(x) > W_i(y)$$

(2)

Note that $<_{C_i}$ a strict modular partial order, and all $C_i$-elements are preferred wrt $<_{C_i}$ to the domain elements which are not instances of $C_i$. The higher is the weight of an element wrt $C_i$ the more preferred is the element. In the example, $W_i(bob) = 30 > W_i(tom) = -70$ (for $C_i = Emp$) and, hence, $bob <_{Emp} tom$, i.e., Bob is more typical than Tom as an employee.

Given the preferences $<_{C_i}$ for the distinguished concepts, we can interpret $T(C_i)$ as the set of minimal $C_i$-elements with respect to $<_{C_i}$. To provide an interpretation of the typicality concept $T(C)$ for an arbitrary $C$ (such as, for instance, $T(Employee \cap Student)$), following [16], a notion of global preference $<$ is introduced by exploiting a modified Pareto combination of the preference relations $<_{C_1}, \ldots, _{C_k}$, which takes into account the specificity relation $\succ$ among concepts, e.g., that concept PhDStudent is more specific than concept Student (PhDStudent $\succ$ Student), and its properties override the properties of Student, when conflicting). The global preference relation $<$ is defined from $<_{C_1}, \ldots, _{C_k}$ as follows:

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

We interpret $T(C)$, for an arbitrary concept $C$, as the set of minimal $C$-elements with respect to $<$ (i.e., $(T(C))^I = \min_<(C^I)$). This leads to the definition of a concept-wise multipreference model (cw$^m$-model) of a weighted knowledge base $K = (\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}, \mathcal{T}_{C_1}, \ldots, \mathcal{T}_{C_k}, \mathcal{A})$ over $\mathcal{C}$, as a a tuple $\mathcal{M} = (\Delta, <_{C_1}, \ldots, <_{C_k}, \succ, <, ^{-1})$, where $(\Delta, <)$ satisfies $\mathcal{T}_{\text{strict}}$ and $\mathcal{A}$ in $\mathcal{EL}^+$; $<_C$ is defined from $\mathcal{T}_C$, and $I$, according to condition [2], for all $j = 1, \ldots, k$; and $<$ is the global preference relation.

Based on the notion of cw$^m$-model of a KB, a notion of concept-wise entailment (or cw$^m$-entailment) can be defined in a natural way for weighed KBs. Let us restrict consideration to (finite) canonical models, i.e., models which are large enough to contain all the relevant domain elements (see [16]).

**Definition 3 (cw$^m$-entailment [17])** An inclusion $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ is cw$^m$-entailed from a weighted knowledge base $K$ if it is satisfied in all canonical cw$^m$-models $\mathcal{M}$ of $K$.

As for ranked $\mathcal{EL}^+$ knowledge bases [16], it can be proven that this notion of cw$^m$-entailment for weighed $\mathcal{EL}^+$ KBs satisfies the KLM postulates of a preferential consequence relation, as the global preference relation $<$ is a strict partial order.

4 Encoding cw$^m$-entailment in ASP and asprin for integer weights

From the computational point of view, in the case of knowledge bases integer weights, the notion of cw$^m$-entailment can be reformulated as a problem of computing preferred answer sets, as done for ranked knowledge bases [16]. It is possible to adapt the ASP encoding for ranked knowledge bases to deal with the extension of $\mathcal{EL}^+$ with typicality inclusions with integer weights. The encoding has been developed by exploiting a fragment of Krötzsch’s Datalog materialization calculus [27] to generate the answer sets (representing canonical cw$^m$-models), and asprin [6] to select preferred answer sets: asprin allows to do this according to preferences defined from a library, or with a preference program, as in this case.

In principle, verifying cw$^m$-entailment of a typicality subsumption $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ from $K$, would require considering all typical $C$-elements in all possible canonical cw$^m$-models of $K$, and checking whether they are all instances of $D$. However, it is sufficient to consider, among all the (finite) cw$^m$-models of $K$, the polynomial $\mathcal{EL}^+$ models that we can construct using the $\mathcal{EL}^+$ fragment of the materialization calculus by Krötzsch [27], and a distinguished domain element $aux_C$ to represent a prototypical $C$-element. The
preferred answer sets are those maximizing the weight of typicality inclusions satisfied by $aux_C$. As in the materialization calculus auxiliary constants are used to deal with existential rules. Differently from \[16\], we do not need other auxiliary predicates for the distinguished concepts $C_i$.

Following \[27\], we assume that the knowledge base $K$ is in normal form \[2\], where a typicality inclusion $T(B) \sqsubseteq C$ is in normal form when $B, C \in NC$. Extending the results by Krötzsch \[27\], it can be proven that, given a KB, a semantically equivalent KB in normal form (over an extended signature) can be computed in linear time \[20\].

The base program $\Pi(K,C,D)$ for the (normalized) knowledge base $K$ and a typicality subsumption $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ is composed of three parts, $\Pi(K,C,D) = \Pi_K \cup \Pi_{IR} \cup \Pi_{C,D}$. $\Pi_K$ is the representation of $K$ in Datalog based on the materialization calculus \[27\], where $\text{nom}(a)$, $\text{cls}(A)$, $\text{rol}(R)$ are used for $a \in N_I$, $A \in N_C$, $R \in N_R$, and, for example, $\text{subclass}(a,C)$ and $\text{subclass}(A,C)$ are used, respectively, for $C(a)$ and $A \sqsubseteq C$. Additionally, $\text{subTyp}(C,D,W)$ is introduced to describe the typical properties $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ of concept $C$ with their weight $W$, and is used for specifying preferences in asprin.

$\Pi_{IR}$ contains the subset of the inference rules for instance checking from the materialization calculus \[27\], those relevant for $\mathcal{EL}$, for example, $\text{inst}(x,z) \leftarrow \text{subclass}(y,z), \text{inst}(x,y)$. For $\bot$, we use an additional rule: $\leftarrow \text{bot}(z), \text{inst}(x,z)$. Additionally, $\Pi_{IR}$ contains the version of the same rules for subclass checking (where $\text{inst}_{sc}(A,B,A)$ represents $A \sqsubseteq B$ \[27\]), and a rule to define predicate $\text{moreSpec}(Ch,Cj)$ describing the specificity relation among concepts (meaning that concept $C_h$ is more specific than concept $C_j$). $\Pi_{IR}$ also contains the rule: $\{\text{inst}(auxC,D)\} \leftarrow \text{cls}(D)$, which generates alternative answer sets, corresponding to different interpretations of $auxC$, which may be an instance or not of any concept $D$.

Let us notice that the rules enforcing $T$-compliance in \[16\] are omitted. In fact, in a $T$-compliant interpretation all typical $C_i$ elements are assumed to satisfy all typicality inclusions for $C_i$ in $\mathcal{F}_{C_i}$, an assumption which cannot be taken in the presence of defeasible inclusions with negative weights.

$\Pi_{C,D}$ contains (when needed) normalized axioms defining $C,D$ in $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ in terms of other concepts (e.g., replacing $T(Emp \sqcap \text{Student}) \sqsubseteq \text{Young}$ with $T(A) \sqsubseteq \text{Emp}$, $A \sqsubseteq \text{Student}$ and $Emp \sqcap \text{Student} \sqsubseteq A$) plus the facts $auxC(auxC,C)$, $\text{nom}(auxC)$, $\text{inst}(auxC,C)$.

Differently from the ASP encoding in \[16\], where the lexicographic strategy $\# \[5\]$ for ranked knowledge bases is used, the preference among individuals is now expressed as: $x <_C y$ iff $W_i(x) > W_i(y)$, where $W_i(x)$ and $W_i(y)$ are integer values. Given a query $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$, we have to verify that, in all canonical $cw^m$-models of the KB, all the typical $C_i$-elements are $D$-elements. This verification is accomplished, by generating answer sets, corresponding to the $cw^m$-models of the KB, and by selecting the preferred ones, in which the distinguished element $auxC$ represents a typical $C$-element.

An answer set $S$ is preferred to answer set $S'$ if, considering the typicality inclusions satisfied by $auxC$ in $S$ and in $S'$ (and the relative weights $W_i(auxC_S)$ and $W_i(auxC_{S'})$ for each concept $C_i$), in the global preference relation, $auxC_S < auxC_{S'}$. The preference relations $<_C$ can be suitably encoded in the asprin specification (based on the definition above), verifying which atoms $\text{inst}(auxC,B)$ are in $S$ (resp., in $S'$) to determine the typicality inclusions satisfied by $auxC_S$ and $auxC_{S'}$, to establish whether $auxC_S < auxC_{S'}$. The (global) preference relation between answer sets can be defined by combining the preferences $<_C$. A query $T(C) \sqsubseteq D$ is entailed by the knowledge base if, in all the preferred answer sets, $auxC$ is an instance of concept $D$. It can be proven that this corresponds to verifying that $D$ is satisfied in all minimal $C$-elements in all canonical $cw^m$-models of the knowledge base.

Based on the reformulation of $cw^m$-entailment as a problem of computing preferred answer sets, deciding $cw^m$-entailment can be proven to be in $\mathcal{P}^\#$ for weighted knowledge bases with integer weights, as for ranked KBs. The proof of the result is similar to the proof of Proposition 7 in the online Appendix of \[16\], although here we use a different notion of preference $<_C$, a different encoding, and do not consider $T$-compliant interpretations. This result also extends to weighted knowledge bases with real
valued weights, although our implementation in asprin does not deal with real valued weights.

5 Conclusions

In this paper we have described an ASP approach for reasoning in a defeasible extension of the description logic $\mathcal{E}L^+$ with weighted typicality inclusions. We have considered the case with integer weights, for which an encoding of the concept-wise multipreference entailment can be defined using ASP and asprin [6]. We have further considered a concept-wise semantics with multiple preferences, in which any distinguished concept $C_i$ has its own set $\mathcal{R}_{C_i}$ of (weighted) typicality inclusions, and preference $\prec_{C_i}$.

Related semantics with multiple preferences have been proposed, starting from Brewka’s framework of basic preference descriptions [5], in system ARS, as a refinement of System Z by Kern-Isberner and Ritterskamp [25]; in an extension of $\mathcal{ALC} + T$ by Gil [14]; in a refinement of rational closure by Gliozzi [21]; by associating multiple preferences to roles by Britz and Varzinczak [8]; in ranked $\mathcal{EL}$ knowledge bases in [16]; and in the first-order logic setting by Delgrande and Rantsoudis [13].

The development of proof methods for multipreference entailment is motivated by the relationship between weighted conditionals under the (fuzzy) concept-wise multipreference semantics and multilayer perceptrons. Undecidability results for fuzzy description logics with general inclusion axioms [12, 4] motivate the investigation of multi-valued approximations of fuzzy multipreference entailment. This is a first step towards the definition of proof methods for multi-valued extensions of our concept-wise preferential semantics based on a notion of faithful interpretations [15]. Other possible extensions concern the definition of multiple typicality operators, based on the combination of selected concepts, and a temporal extension to capture the transient behavior of Multilayer Perceptrons.

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