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Inference in Description Logics

Petr Křemen
petr.kremen@fel.cvut.cz

FEL ČVUT

Inference Problems

Inference Algorithms

Tableau Algorithm for \mathcal{ALC}

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Inference Problems in TBOX

We have introduced syntax and semantics of the language \mathcal{ALC} . Now, let's look on automated reasoning. Having a \mathcal{ALC} theory $\mathcal{K} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$. For TBOX \mathcal{T} and concepts C, D , we want to decide whether

(unsatisfiability) concept C is *unsatisfiable*, i.e. $\mathcal{T} \models C \sqsubseteq \perp$?

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(equivalence) two concepts C and D are *equivalent*, i.e.
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Reduction to Concept Unsatisfiability – Example

Example

These reductions are straightforward – let's show, how to reduce subsumption checking to unsatisfiability checking. Reduction of other inference problems to unsatisfiability is analogous.

$$\begin{array}{ll} (\mathcal{T} \models C \sqsubseteq D) & \text{iff} \\ (\forall I)(\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \text{ implies } \mathcal{I} \models C \sqsubseteq D) & \text{iff} \\ (\forall I)(\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \text{ implies } C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}) & \text{iff} \\ (\forall I)(\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \text{ implies } C^{\mathcal{I}} \cap (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus D^{\mathcal{I}}) \subseteq \emptyset) & \text{iff} \\ (\forall I)(\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \text{ implies } \mathcal{I} \models C \sqcap \neg D \sqsubseteq \perp) & \text{iff} \\ (\mathcal{T} \models C \sqcap \neg D \sqsubseteq \perp) & \end{array}$$

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... for ABOX \mathcal{A} , axiom α , concept C , role R and individuals a, a_0 we want to decide whether

(consistency checking) ABOX \mathcal{A} is consistent w.r.t. \mathcal{T} (in short if \mathcal{K} is consistent).

(instance checking) $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{A} \models C(a)$?

(role checking) $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{A} \models R(a, a_0)$?

(instance retrieval) find all individuals a_1 , for which
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Structural Comparison is polynomial, but complete just for some simple DLs *without full negation*, e.g. \mathcal{ALN} , see [BCM⁺03].

Tableaux Algorithms represent the State of Art for complex DLs – sound, complete, finite, see [HS03], [HS01], [BCM⁺03].

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- Tableaux Algorithms (TAs) serve for checking ABOX_u consistency checking w.r.t. an TBOX_u. TAs are not new in DL – they were known for FOL as well.
- Main idea is simple: “Consistency of the given ABOX \mathcal{A} w.r.t. TBOX \mathcal{T} is proven if we succeed in constructing a model of $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{A}$.”
- Each TA can be seen as a *production system* :

– a set of *Tableaux* (a *Tableau* is a set of *conjunctions*)
– a set of *Tableau* *Expansion Rules* (a *Tableau* Expansion Rule is a *production rule*)

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Completion Graphs

completion graph is a labeled oriented graph $G = (V_G, E_G, L_G)$, where each node $x \in V_G$ is labeled with a set $L_G(x)$ of concepts and each edge $\langle x, y \rangle \in E_G$ is labeled with a set of edges $L_G(\langle x, y \rangle)$ ⁵

direct clash occurs in a completion graph $G = (V_G, E_G, L_G)$, if $\{A, \neg A\} \subseteq L_G(x)$, or $\perp \in L_G(x)$, for some atomic concept A and a node $x \in V_G$

complete completion graph is a completion graph $G = (V_G, E_G, L_G)$, to which no completion rule from the set of TA completion rules can be applied.

Do not mix with notion of complete graphs known from graph theory.

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Completion Graphs (2)

We define also $\mathcal{I} \models G$ iff $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}_G$, where \mathcal{A}_G is an ABOX constructed from G , as follows

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Tableau Algorithm for \mathcal{ALC} with empty TBOX

let's have $\mathcal{K} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$. For a moment, consider for simplicity that $\mathcal{T} = \emptyset$.

- 0 (Preprocessing) Transform all concepts appearing in \mathcal{K} to the “negational normal form” (NNF) by equivalent operations known from propositional and predicate logics. As a result, all concepts contain negation \neg at most just before atomic concepts, e.g. $\neg(A \sqcap B)$ is equivalent (de Morgan rules) as $\neg A \sqcup \neg B$.
- 1 (Initialization) Initial state of the algorithm is $S_0 = \{G_0\}$, where $G_0 = (V_{G_0}, E_{G_0}, L_{G_0})$ is made up from \mathcal{A} as follows:

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Tableau algorithm for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX (2)

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- 2 (Consistency Check) Current algorithm state is S . If each $G \in S$ contains a direct clash, terminate with result "INCONSISTENT"
- 3 (Model Check) Let's choose one $G \in S$ that doesn't contain a direct clash. If G is complete w.r.t. rules shown next, the algorithm terminates with result "CONSISTENT"
- 4 (Rule Application) Find a rule that is applicable to G and apply it. As a result, we obtain from the state S a new state S' . Jump to step 2.

Tableau algorithm for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX (2)

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- 2 (Consistency Check) Current algorithm state is S . If each $G \in S$ contains a direct clash, terminate with result "INCONSISTENT"
- 3 (Model Check) Let's choose one $G \in S$ that doesn't contain a direct clash. If G is complete w.r.t. rules shown next, the algorithm terminates with result "CONSISTENT"
- 4 (Rule Application) Find a rule that is applicable to G and apply it. As a result, we obtain from the state S a new state S' . Jump to step 2.

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TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\cap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\sqcup} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcup C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \cap L_G(a) = \emptyset$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$ and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

if $(\exists R.C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists no $b \in V_G$ such that $(a, b) \in R$ and
at the same time $C \in L_G(b)$.
 $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G \cup \{b\}, E_G \cup \{(a, b)\}, L_{G'})$
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a)$, $L_{G'}(b) = \{C\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

if $(\forall R.C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists $b \in V_G$ such that $(a, b) \in R$ and
the proposition C is not in $L_G(b)$.

then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$ and

$L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\sqcap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
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 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

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if $(C_1 \sqcup C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$ and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \setminus \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

if $(\exists C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists an element b such that $b \in V_G$ and
at the same time $C \in L_G(b)$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G \cup \{b\}, E_G \cup \{(a, b)\}, L_{G'})$ and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \setminus \{(\exists C)\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

if $(\forall C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists an element b such that $b \in V_G$ and
 $C \notin L_G(b)$.

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\sqcap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\sqcup} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcup C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \cap L_G(a) = \emptyset$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G', G''\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$ and
 $G'' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G''})$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

if $\exists C \in L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$ and $C \in \mathcal{ALC}$ is not a concept name.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G \cup \{a'\}, E_G \cup \{(a, a')\}, L_{G'})$ and
otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

if $\forall C \in L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$ and $C \in \mathcal{ALC}$ is not a concept name.

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\sqcap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\sqcup} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcup C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \cap L_G(a) = \emptyset$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G_1, G_2\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G_{(1|2)} = (V_G, E_G, L_{G_{(1|2)}})$, and
 $L_{G_{(1|2)}}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_{(1|2)}\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

if $(\exists C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists no $b \in V_G$ such that aRb and $C \in L_G(b)$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G = (V_G \cup \{b\}, E_G \cup \{(a, b)\}, L_G \cup \{(a, C), (b, C)\})$, and
 $L_G(b) = L_G(a) \cup \{C\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

if $(\forall C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists $b \in V_G$ such that aRb and $C \notin L_G(b)$.

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\sqcap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, and
 $L_{G'}(a) = L_G(a) \cup \{C_1, C_2\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\sqcup} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcup C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \cap L_G(a) = \emptyset$ for some $a \in V_G$.
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\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

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\rightarrow_{\exists} rule

if $(\exists R \cdot C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists no $b \in V_G$ such that $R \in L_G(a, b)$ and
at the same time $C \in L_G(b)$.

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

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 $L_{G'}(b) = \{C\}$, $L_{G'}(a, b) = \{R\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

\rightarrow_{\forall} rule

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

\rightarrow_{\sqcap} rule

if $(C_1 \sqcap C_2) \in L_G(a)$ and $\{C_1, C_2\} \not\subseteq L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.
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TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

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if $(\forall R \cdot C) \in L_G(a)$ and there exists $b \in V_G$ such that $R \in L_G(a, b)$ and at
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then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, and
 $L_{G'}(b) = L_G(b) \cup \{D\}$ and otherwise is the same as L_G .

TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

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TA for \mathcal{ALC} without TBOX – Inference Rules

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Finiteness of the TA is an easy consequence of the following:

- \mathcal{K} is finite
- in each step, TA state can be enriched at most by one completion graph (only by application of \rightarrow_{\sqcup} rule). Number of disjunctions (\sqcup) in \mathcal{K} is finite, i.e. the \sqcup can be applied just finite number of times.
- for each completion graph $G = (V_G, E_G, L_G)$ it holds that number of nodes in V_G is less or equal to the number of individuals in \mathcal{A} plus number of existential quantifiers in \mathcal{A} .
- after application of any of the following rules $\rightarrow_{\sqcap}, \rightarrow_{\exists}, \rightarrow_{\forall}$ graph G is either enriched with a new node, new edge, or labeling of an existing node/edge is enriched. All these operations are finite.

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- Soundness of the TA can be verified as follows. For any $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}_{G_i}$, it must hold that $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}_{G_{i+1}}$. We have to show that application of each rule preserves consistency. As an example, let's take the \rightarrow_{\exists} rule:
 - Before application of \rightarrow_{\exists} rule, $(\exists R \cdot C) \in L_{G_i}(a)$ held for $a \in V_{G_i}$.
 - As a result $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in (\exists R \cdot C)^{\mathcal{I}}$.
 - Next, $i \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ must exist such that $\langle a^{\mathcal{I}}, i \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}$ and at the same time $i \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$.
 - By application of \rightarrow_{\exists} a new node b was created in G_{i+1} and the label of edge $\langle a, b \rangle$ and node b has been adjusted.
 - It is enough to place $i = b^{\mathcal{I}}$ to see that after rule application the domain element (necessary present in any interpretation because of \exists construct semantics) has been "materialized". As a result, the rule is correct.
- For other rules, the soundness is shown in a similar way.

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- To prove completeness of the TA, it is necessary to construct a model for each complete completion graph G that doesn't contain a direct clash. Canonical model \mathcal{I} can be constructed as follows:
 - the domain $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ will consist of all nodes of G .
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- Why we need completion graphs ? Aren't ABOXes enough to maintain the state for TA ?
 - indeed, for \mathcal{ALC} they would be enough. However, for complex DLs a TA state cannot be stored in an ABOX.
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 - without proof, let's state that the algorithm is in $PSPACE$ (Lassen, 1994 and EXP-TIME).

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Example

Let's check consistency of the ontology $\mathcal{K}_2 = (\emptyset, \mathcal{A}_2)$, where $\mathcal{A}_2 = \{(\exists maDite \cdot Muz \sqcap \exists maDite \cdot Prarodic \sqcap \neg \exists maDite \cdot (Muz \sqcap Prarodic))(JAN)\}$.

- Let's transform the concept into NNF: $\exists maDite \cdot Muz \sqcap \exists maDite \cdot Prarodic \sqcap \forall maDite \cdot (\neg Muz \sqcup \neg Prarodic)$
- Initial state G_0 of the TA is

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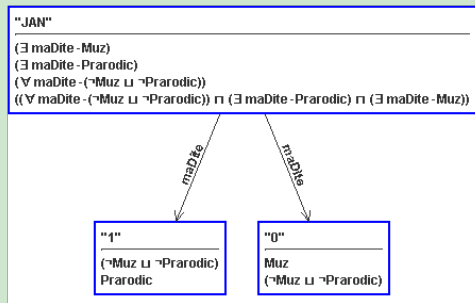
TA Run Example (2)

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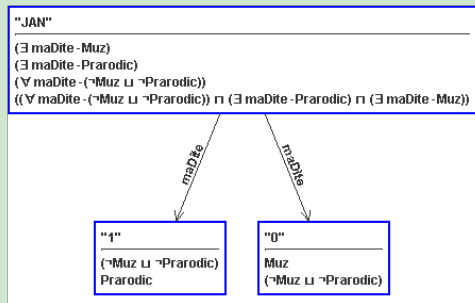


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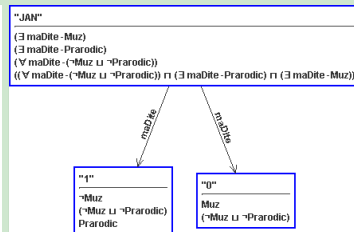
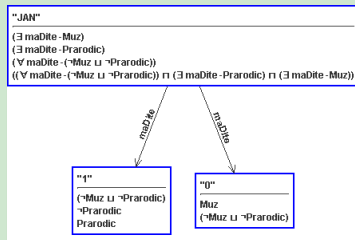


TA Run Example (3)

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- By now, we applied just deterministic rules (we still have just a single completion graph). At this point no other deterministic rule is applicable.
- Now, we have to apply the \sqcup -rule to the concept $\neg Muz \sqcup \neg Prarodic$ either in the label of node "0", or in the label of node "1". Its application e.g. to node "1" we obtain the state $\{G_5, G_6\}$ (G_5 left, G_6 right)

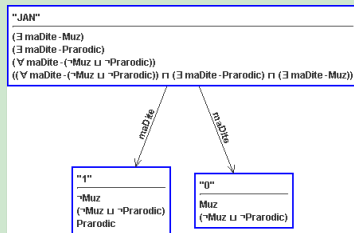
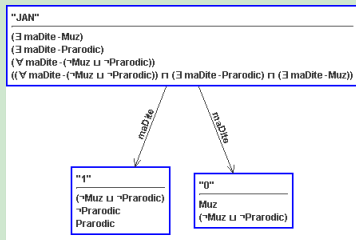


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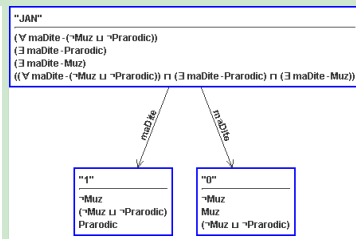
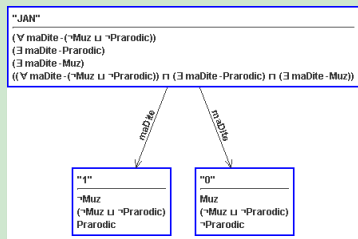
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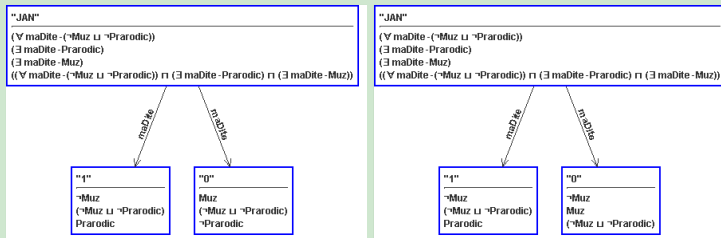
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... A canonical model \mathcal{I}_2 can be created from G_7 . Is it the only model of \mathcal{K}_2 ?

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General Inclusions (2)

What about this ?

$\rightarrow_{\sqsubseteq}$ rule

if $\top_C \notin L_G(a)$ for some $a \in V_G$.

then $S' = S \cup \{G'\} \setminus \{G\}$, where $G' = (V_G, E_G, L_{G'})$, a

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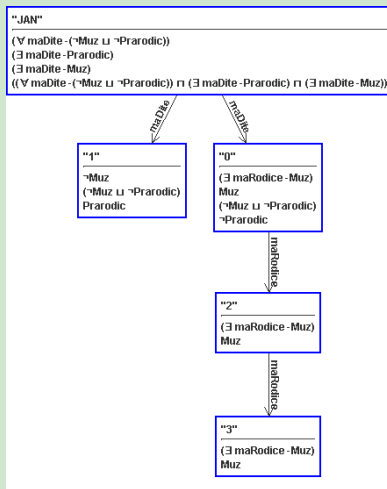
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- TA tries to find an infinite model. It is necessary to force it representing an infinite model by a finite completion graph.
- The mechanism that enforces finite representation is called *blocking*.
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- For \mathcal{ALC} it can be shown that so called *subset blocking* is enough:
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Let's play . . .

- <http://krizik.felk.cvut.cz/km/dl/index.html>



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