Expressivity of Planning with Horn Description Logic Ontologies
(Technical Report)

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Abstract

State constraints in AI Planning globally restrict the legal environment states. Standard planning languages make closed-domain and closed-world assumptions. Here we address open-world state constraints formalized by planning over a description logic (DL) ontology. Previously, this combination of DL and planning has been investigated for the light-weight DL DL-Lite. Here we propose a novel compilation scheme into standard PDDL with derived predicates, which applies to more expressive DLs and is based on the rewritability of DL queries into Datalog with stratified negation. We also provide a new rewritability result for the DL Horn-ACCHOIQ, which allows us to apply our compilation scheme to quite expressive ontologies. In contrast, we show that in the slight extension Horn-SROIQ no such compilation is possible unless the weak exponential hierarchy collapses. Finally, we show that our approach can outperform previous work on existing benchmarks for planning with DL ontologies, and is feasible on new benchmarks taking advantage of more expressive ontologies.

1 Introduction

AI planning is concerned with sequential decision making problems where an agent needs to choose actions to achieve a goal, or to maximize reward (Ghallab, Nau, and Traverso 2004). Such problems are compactly described in a declarative language. Specifically, in the most basic (“classical”) version of planning, a planning task describes an initial state of the agent’s environment, a set of actions that can affect that environment, and a goal formula that is to be satisfied. In order to reach the goal, actions can be applied whenever their preconditions are satisfied in the current state. Here we are interested in state constraints, constraints that should hold globally, i.e. at every state, in difference to preconditions which merely need to hold locally. Moreover, standard planning formalisms (based on variants of the PDDL language (McDermott et al. 1998; Haslum et al. 2019)) follow closed-domain and closed-world assumptions, in which absent facts are assumed to be false and no new objects can be created. In particular, these assumptions underly state constraints as can be specified in PDDL3 (Gerevini et al. 2009). Here we instead target open-domain, open-world reasoning.

One way to do this is via explicit-input Knowledge and Action Bases (eKABs) (Calvanese et al. 2016), where states (sets of ground atoms) are interpreted using open-world semantics. All states are subject to a background ontology, which describes high-level concepts and global state constraints. Together, a state and an ontology describe a multitude of possible worlds, which leaves room for unknown information about existing and unknown objects. For example, an ontology could express that “everyone operating a machine works for an engineering department” and “everyone who works for a department is an employee” without explicitly identifying the department of each person or even stating that they are employees. Action preconditions contain queries that are evaluated under open-world semantics, e.g. the query for all “employees” would return all machine operators among other people. Finally, action effects add or remove atoms in the state, e.g. reassign machines or departments. This allows for a clean separation of what is directly observed (i.e. the state, which contains, e.g. operational data and sensor data) from what is indirectly inferred (using the ontology).

Calvanese et al. (2016) investigated eKABs with ontologies and queries formulated in the description logic DL-Lite, which is a popular formalism for conceptual modeling (Calvanese et al. 2007b). Queries in this logic enjoy first-order rewritability, which means that the queries and the ontology can be compiled into first-order (FO) formulas that are then evaluated under closed-world semantics. Based on this property, the authors described a compilation of DL-Lite eKABs into classical PDDL planning tasks. Later, this compilation was further optimized to enable practical planning with DL-Lite background ontologies (Borgwardt et al. 2021).

The goal of this paper is to extend the expressivity of state constraints in eKABs from the light-weight DL-Lite to more powerful description logics (DLs) (Baader et al. 2017). We mainly consider Horn DLs, which are fragments of Horn-FOL (Krötzsch, Rudolph, and Hitzler 2013; Jung et al. 2019). We investigate for which Horn DLs compilations into PDDL exist. For this purpose, we adapt the notion of compilation schemes (Nebel 2000; Thiébaux, Hoffmann, and Nebel 2005), which relate the expressivity of two formalisms. On the one hand, polynomial compilation schemes show that the expressivity of DL eKABs is not higher than that of PDDL. On the other hand, although such eKABs could be considered syntactic sugar, they represent powerful tools that allow domain
We first introduce description logics, Datalog-rewritability, which essentially allows us to compile them into a set of PDDL derived predicates. Using this, we can immediately employ many existing rewriting results from the DL literature for AI planning (Ortiz, Eiter et al. 2012; Bienvenu and Ortiz 2015). We continue by describing a novel polynomial Datalog-rewriting for queries in the very expressive DL Horn-SHIQ (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2011), which allows us to extend the previous compilability result even further. In contrast to this, we then show that such a compilation cannot exist (under a reasonable complexity-theoretic assumption) for the slightly more expressive DL Horn-SROIQ (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2011). For this, we follow the idea of a previous non-compilability result for PDDL with derived predicates into PDDL without derived predicates (Thiébaut, Hoffmann, and Nebel 2005). This more or less draws a line between the standardized ontology languages OWL 1, which results in planning tasks of equal expressivity as PDDL, and OWL 2, where queries are strictly more expressive than PDDL.

While polynomial rewritings are nice in theory, they are often not practical due to a polynomial increase in the arity of predicates. We therefore conclude the paper with an experimental evaluation that combines an existing practical implementation of an (exponential) Datalog-rewriting for Horn-SHITQ (Eiter et al. 2012) with our generic compilation scheme, compares this against previous approaches for DL-Lite eKABs on existing benchmarks (Calvanese et al. 2016; Borgwardt et al. 2021), and also introduces new benchmarks exploiting the newly increased expressivity.

2 Preliminaries

We first introduce description logics, Datalog-rewritability, planning with derived predicates and ontologies, and compilations between these formalisms. As usual, we use the symbol $\models$ with two different meanings: open-world entailment of formulas from sets of formulas, where all possible interpretations of arbitrary (even infinite) size are considered, and closed-world satisfaction of a formula in a fixed, finite interpretation. It should always be clear from the context which one is used.

**Description Logics.** Description logics are a family of KR formalisms (Baader et al. 2017) that describe open-world knowledge using axioms in restricted first-order logic over unary and binary predicates. Members of this family differ in their expressivity and complexity. A TBox (ontology) is a finite set of DL axioms, which can be seen as first-order sentences. The precise syntax of these axioms depends on the specific DL that is used, but this is not important for most of the paper. A state (ABox) is a finite set of ground atoms $p(c)$, where $p$ is a predicate and $c$ is a sequence of objects (constants). Since we use standard planning formalisms, we also allow predicates of arity higher than 2 in states, but those cannot occur in TBoxes, so essentially have a closed-world semantics. For a state $s$, $O(s)$ is the set of all objects occurring in $s$. Two special unary predicates are $\top$ and $\bot$, which always evaluate to true and false, respectively.

**Queries.** A conjunctive query (CQ) is a formula of the form $q(\vec{x}) = \exists \vec{y}. \phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$, where $\phi$ is a conjunction of unary and binary atoms. A union of CQs (UCQ) is a disjunction of CQs. An instance query (IQ) is a CQ of the form $p(x)$, where $p$ is unary. The central reasoning problem is to decide whether $s, \theta \models q$, where $s$ is a state, $\theta$ a TBox, and $q$ an assignment of objects from $O(s)$ to the free variables in the (U)CQ $q$. In an abuse of notation, we may denote with $\top$ the CQ $\exists x. \bot(x)$. ECQs were introduced to combine open-world and closed-world reasoning (Calvanese et al. 2007a). We further extend ECQs by “closed-world atoms” that can also be of higher arity. ECQs are defined by the grammar $Q ::= p(\vec{x}) | [q] | \neg Q | Q \land Q | \exists y. Q$, where $p$ is a predicate, $\vec{x}$ are terms, $q$ is a UCQ, and $y$ is a variable. The semantics of ECQs is defined as follows:

- $s, \theta \models p(\vec{x})$ iff $s \models p(\theta(\vec{x}))$
- $s, \theta \models [q]$ iff $s, \theta \models q$
- $s, \theta \models \neg Q_1$ iff $s, \theta \not\models Q_1$
- $s, \theta \models Q_1 \land Q_2$ iff $s, \theta \models Q_1$ and $s, \theta \models Q_2$
- $s, \theta \models \exists y. Q_1$ iff $\exists o \in O(s) : s, \theta[y \mapsto o] \models Q_1$

There is a difference between the ECQs $B(x)$, which is answered directly in the (closed-world) model described by $s$, and $B(x)$, which is evaluated w.r.t. the TBox as well. For example, if $s = \{C(a)\}$ and $T = \{C \subseteq B\}$, then $B(x)$ is not satisfied by any instantiations, but $B(x)$ is.

**Datalog.** A Datalog rule is a formula $p(\vec{x}) \leftarrow \Phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$ whose body $\Phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$ is a conjunction of literals and whose head $p(\vec{x})$ is an atom. A set of Datalog rules $R$ is stratified if the set of its predicates can be partitioned into $P_1, \ldots, P_n$ such that, for all $p_i \in P_j$ and $p_i(\vec{x}) \leftarrow \Phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \in R$,

- if $p_j \in P_i$ occurs in $\Phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$, then $j \leq i$, and
- if $p_i \in P_j$ occurs negated in $\Phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$, then $j < i$.

In the following, all sets of Datalog rules are stratified. Datalog is the restriction of Datalog-rewritability to positive rule bodies.

All variables in Datalog rules are implicitly universally quantified. Given a state $s$ and a set of Datalog rules $R$, we denote by $R(s)$ the minimal Herbrand model of $s \cup R$.

**Definition 1.** A TBox $T$ and a UCQ $q(\vec{x})$ are Datalog-rewritably if there is a set of Datalog rules $\rho(\theta)$ with a predicate $P_\theta$ such that, for all states $s$ and substitutions $\theta$ of $\vec{x}$ in $O(s)$, we have $s, T, \theta \models q(\vec{x})$ iff $R(\theta(s)) \models P_\theta(\theta(\vec{x}))$.

A Datalog-rewriting may use additional predicates and constants, but only needs to be correct for the original symbols. We talk about Datalog-rewritability if the set $R(\theta)$ does not contain negation. A variety of such rewritability results for DLs exist, for example a very complex (but polynomial-size) Datalog-rewriting for IQs over Horn-SHITQ (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010), a polynomial-size Datalog-rewriting for IQs in $\mathcal{EL}^{++}$ (Krötzsch 2011), or an exponential-size Datalog-rewriting for UCQs over Horn-SHITQ TBoxes implemented in the Clipper system (Eiter et al. 2021).
et al. 2012), which is polynomial for the sublogic $\mathcal{ELH}_\bot$ (Bienvenu and Ortiz 2015).

Datalog rewritability naturally extends to ECQs $Q$: take the disjoint union $R_{\tau,Q}$ of all $R_{\tau,p}$ for UCQs $q$ occurring in $Q$ and construct an FO formula $Q_q$ by replacing each UCQ atom $q(\vec{x})$ in $Q$ with $P_q(\vec{x})$. Then, $s, T, \theta \models Q(\vec{x})$ is equivalent to $R_{\tau,Q}(s) \models Q_q(\vec{\theta}(\vec{x}))$ (Calvanese et al. 2007a).

**PDDL with Derived Predicates.** We recall PDDL 2.1 extended with derived predicates (Fox and Long 2003; Hoffmann and Edelkamp 2005). In this context, states are viewed under the closed-world assumption and all sets are finite.

**Definition 2.** A PDDL domain description is a tuple $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{R})$, where $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$ are disjoint sets of predicates; $\mathcal{A}$ is a set of actions; and $\mathcal{R}$ is a set of rules. An action is of the form $(\vec{x}, \pre, \eff)$, with parameters $\vec{x}$, precondition $\pre$, and a finite set $\eff$ of effects. The precondition is an FO formula over $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$ with free variables from $\vec{x}$, and an effect is of the form $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del)$, where $\vec{y}$ are variables, cond is an FO formula over $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$ with free variables from $\vec{x} \cup \vec{y}$, add is a finite set of atoms over $\mathcal{P}$ (without $\mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$) with free variables from $\vec{x} \cup \vec{y}$, and del is a finite set of such negated atoms. Rules are of the form $\phi(\vec{x}) \leftarrow P(\vec{x})$ in $\mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$ and a first-order formula $\phi$ over $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$. The set $\mathcal{R}$ must be stratified, i.e. fulfill the same condition as sets of Datalog rules when considering the rule bodies $\phi(\vec{x})$ in NNF.

A PDDL task is a tuple $(\Delta, \mathcal{O}, I, G)$, where $\Delta$ is a PDDL domain description; $\mathcal{O}$ is a finite set of objects including the ones in $\Delta$: $I$ is the initial state; and $G$ is the goal, a closed FO formula over $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$ and constants from $\mathcal{O}$.

Derived predicates are not allowed to be modified by actions; i.e. they are only determined by the current state and the rules. The semantics of rules is defined similarly to Datalog, i.e. for a state $s$, $\mathcal{R}(s)$ is the minimal Herbrand model obtained by exhaustively applying the rules in $\mathcal{R}$, stratum by stratum, to the facts in $s$ in order to populate the derived predicates $\mathcal{P}_{\text{der}}$. In fact, all such rule sets $\mathcal{R}$ can be reformulated into Datalog rule sets (Abiteboul, Hull, and Vianu 1995; Thiébautx, Hoffmann, and Nebel 2005). Although the definition of derived predicates requires the head and body to have the same free variables, this is compatible with the semantics of Datalog since additional body variables can be viewed as implicitly existentially quantified.

For an action $a = (\vec{x}, \pre, \eff)$ and $\theta: \vec{x} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$, the ground action $\theta(a)$ has no parameters. A ground action $a = (\pre, \eff)$ is applicable in a state $s$ if $\mathcal{R}(s) \models \pre$ and its application yields a new state $s[\theta] = s$ that contains a ground atom $\alpha$ iff (1) there are $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del) \in \eff$ and $\theta$ such that $\mathcal{R}(s) \models \theta(\cond)$ and $\alpha \in \theta(\add)$; or (2) $\alpha \in s$ and for all $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del) \in \eff$ and $\theta$ it holds that $\mathcal{R}(s) \not\models \theta(\cond)$ or $\neg \alpha \not\models \theta(\del)$. A plan $\pi$ is a sequence of ground actions such that $\pi$ is applicable in $I$ and $\mathcal{R}(\vec{\theta}(\pi)) \models G$.

**eKABs.** We recall explicit-input action and knowledge bases (Calvanese et al. 2016), but slightly adapt the notation to be consistent with PDDL notation.

**Definition 3.** An eKAB domain description is a tuple $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, T)$, where $\mathcal{P}$ is a finite set of predicates; $\mathcal{A}$ is a finite set of DL actions; and $T$ is a TBox over the unary and binary predicates in $\mathcal{P}$. A DL action is of the form $(\vec{x}, \pre, \eff)$, where $\pre$ is an ECQ over $\mathcal{P}$ with free variables from $\vec{x}$, and $\eff$ consists of DL effect of the form $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del)$, where $\cond$ is an ECQ over $\mathcal{P}$ with free variables from $\vec{x} \cup \vec{y}$, and $\add$ and $\del$ are as in PDDL.

An eKAB task is a tuple $(\Delta, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}_0, I, G)$, where $\Delta$ is an eKAB domain description; $\mathcal{O}$ is a possibly infinite set of objects; $\mathcal{O}_0$ is a finite subset of $\mathcal{O}$ including the objects from $\Delta$; $I$ is the initial state (over $\mathcal{O}_0$), which is consistent with $\mathcal{T}$; and $G$ is the goal, a closed ECQ over $\mathcal{P}$ and constants from $\mathcal{O}_0$.

A ground action $a$ is applicable in $s$ if $s \models \pre$ and $s[\theta] \cup T$ is consistent. The application $s[\theta] \models a$ contains a fact $\alpha$ iff (1) there are $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del) \in \eff$ and $\theta: \vec{y} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(s) \cup \mathcal{O}_0$ such that $s, T, \theta \models \cond$ and $\alpha \in \theta(\add)$; or (2) $\alpha \in s$ and for all $(\vec{y}, \cond, \add, \del) \in \eff$ and $\theta$ as above it holds that $s, T, \theta \not\models \cond$ or $\neg \alpha \not\models \theta(\del)$. A plan $\pi$ must be applicable in $I$ and satisfy $\vec{I}[\pi], G \models I[\pi], T$. Substitutions for effects range over $\mathcal{O}(s) \cup \mathcal{O}_0$ since the TBox may contain objects from $\mathcal{O}_0$.

In the following, we assume w.l.o.g. that $\mathcal{O}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{O}(s)$.

**Additional Assumptions.** Actions can refer to new objects (parameters $\vec{x}$ that are not in the precondition), and thereby increase the number of objects in a state. To obtain manageable state transition systems, in the literature the assumption of state-boundedness is often considered for eKAB-like formalisms; it requires that there exists a bound $b$ such that any state reachable from $I$ contains at most $b$ objects (Calvanese et al. 2013; De Giacomo et al. 2014). For a fixed $b$, $b$-boundedness of an eKAB is decidable (De Giacomo et al. 2014). Even if a given eKAB is not state-bounded, one could instead ask for the existence of a $b$-bounded plan (Ahmetaj et al. 2017). An abstraction result implies that any $b$-bounded eKAB can be reformulated into one where $|\mathcal{O}| = |\mathcal{O}_0| + n + b$, where $n$ is the maximum number of parameters of any action (Calvanese et al. 2013, 2016). Any plan of the original eKAB can still be encoded using this finite set of objects. Conversely, any abstract plan can be reformulated into a plan of the original eKAB by replacing the $n + b$ abstract objects by fresh objects from the original set $\mathcal{O}$ where necessary (i.e. if those objects did not occur in the previous state). We will also make this assumption here and assume for simplicity that $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_0$ is finite and denote both sets by $\mathcal{O}$.

Even for a $b$-bounded eKAB, the TBox $T$ can entail the existence of objects that are not mentioned in a state $s$. These objects are not affected by the bound $b$, because they are never explicitly materialized in $s$. Hence, the reasoning problems still employ standard DL semantics rather than fixed-domain reasoning (Gaggl, Rudolph, and Schweizer 2016).

We also assume that goals of eKAB and PDDL tasks consist of a single (closed-world) atom $g(\vec{c})$. If that is not the case, we can introduce a new action with the goal formula $G(\vec{x})$ as precondition that adds $g(\vec{x})$ to the state. The parameters $\vec{x}$ correspond to the constants $\vec{c}$ in the original goal formula $G(\vec{c})$. This assumption simplifies some of the formal definitions, but does not affect our main insights. Without this assumption, for example, the following definition of domain compilation $f_{DH}$ would also need to depend on the goal formula since we later need to compile all UCQs (also those...
We start by describing a generic compilation that exploits
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ECQs into closed-world formulas using derived predicates.

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Def. 5 is a compilation scheme from Datalog
rewritable eKABs to PDDL that preserves plan size exactly.

The goal does not need to be rewritten w.r.t. T since we
assumed that it is a single (closed-world) atom.

Theorem 1. Def. 5 is a compilation scheme from Datalog
rewritable eKABs to PDDL that preserves plan size exactly.

Proof. The new goal G’ can be computed in polynomial
time since we only add S ∧ ¬P⊥. Moreover, aS,N and the
set of rules R′ depend only on the objects and conditions
occurring in the original eKAB domain description. We show
that all plans of either planning task are also plans for the
other (modulo the initializing action aS,N).

Consistency of s ∪ T is equivalent to R↓⊥(s’) ̸|= P⊥
where s’ is obtained from s by replacing each P with P’. Hence,
the rules P’(x) ← P(x) and the conjuncts ¬P⊥
in all conditions ensure that all states reached while executing a
plan for the PDDL task are consistent with T. This includes
the initial state since I is consistent with T by assumption.

Similarly, for any ECQ Q, we have R′(s) |= Q′(θ(x))
iff s’,T’,θ |= Q(x), which is equivalent to s,T,θ |= Q(x).
Due to aS,N, the substitutions for instantiating action and
effect conditions range over the same objects in both tasks.
Hence, both formalisms allow equivalent action applications
in each state and can reach a goal state by the same plans.

For example, this immediately implies that eKABs with
Horn-SHIQ TBoxes have exponential compilations into
PDDL with derived predicates (without negation) and for
ECHL⊥ and DL-Lite we even obtain polynomial compilations
(Eiter et al. 2012; Bienvenu and Ortiz 2015). The latter also
holds for Horn-SHOTIQ if all conditions are restricted to
EIQs (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010). In general, our
construction applies to any ontology language where UCQs
(or IQs) are Datalog−-rewritable, and to any specific TBoxes
and queries that happen to be Datalog−-rewritable.

4 A Polynomial Rewriting for
Horn-ALCHOIQ

To extend the compilability results, we develop a polynomial-
size rewriting for UCQs over Horn-ALCHOIQ into Datalog−. It is based on a query answering approach developed by Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018) and encodes the relevant definitions from their paper into Datalog−-rules, which extend Datalog− by set terms that denote sets of objects. We then adapt a known polynomial translation to obtain
a set of Datalog− rules (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010).
The full details can be found in the appendix, but we describe the main ideas here. The rewriting starts by translating the Horn-\textit{ALCHOIQ} axioms of the given TBox \( T \) into Datalog rules (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018). However, since the resulting rule set is exponential, we here reformulate it into polynomially many Datalog\(^{S,R} \)-rules, loosely following ideas from Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus (2010). The original approach uses exponentially many constants \( t_X \), where \( X \) is a set of unary predicates, to describe anonymous objects that satisfy \( X \). In Datalog\(^{S,R} \), these individuals can directly be described by sets \( \{X\} \) that can be used as arguments to predicates. For example, our rewriting introduces a new predicate \( \text{role}(r, X, Y) \) to express that the objects represented by \( X \) and \( Y \) are connected by the binary predicate \( r \), which is now viewed as an additional element of \( O \). Using such additional predicates, the translation of the original Datalog rules by Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018) is straightforward.

The remainder of the rewriting encodes the filtration phase from that paper into several strata of Datalog\(^{S,R} \)-rules. We use bespoke predicates to encode the constructions of expanded states and graphs in Definitions 7 and 8 in (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018), e.g. to compute a partial expansion of the input state to obtain more query matches and an acyclicity check over a dependency graph between query variables to filter out spurious matches. After a translation from Datalog\(^{S,R} \) into Datalog\(^{-} \) (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010), correctness of the rewriting follows mostly from Theorem 3 in the paper by Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018).

**Theorem 2.** \textit{UCQs over Horn-\textit{ALCHOIQ} TBoxes are Datalog\(^{-} \)-rewritable with rewritings of polynomial size.}

By Theorem 1, we thus obtain a polynomial compilation scheme for Horn-\textit{ALCHOIQ} eKABs into PDDL that preserves plan size exactly. Admittedly, this construction is rather complex, but theoretically very interesting, in particular in light of the next section.

## 5 Non-Compilability for Expressive eKABs

As a counterpoint to the previous section, we now prove that polynomial compilations cannot exist for Horn-\textit{SROIQ}, not even if we allow the plan size to increase polynomially. Horn-\textit{SROIQ} differs from Horn-\textit{ALCHOIQ} only in allowing one additional type of axiom, called complex role inclusions. The following result is inspired by a similar non-compilability result for PDDL with derived predicates (Thiébaut, Hoffmann, and Nebel 2005). We start with some observations about the complexity of the involved problems. The polynomial-step planning problem is to decide whether a given planning task has a plan of length polynomial (for some given polynomial), and the 1-step planning problem is the special case where the polynomial is 1.

**Theorem 3.** The polynomial-step planning problem for PDDL is \textit{ExpTime}-complete.

**Proof.** Hardness follows from the complexity of the 1-step planning problem for PDDL with derived predicates (Thiébaut, Hoffmann, and Nebel 2005, Theorem 1). Membership can be seen as follows. In exponential time, we can enumerate all plans of polynomial length (for a fixed polynomial). For each such plan, we can check whether each ground action was applicable, which facts were generated or deleted, and whether the goal is satisfied in the end. The most complex part of this check is the evaluation of the derived predicates after each action, which can be done in exponential time (Dantsin et al. 2001). □

**Theorem 4.** The 1-step planning problem for Horn-\textit{SROIQ} eKABs is \textit{2ExpTime}-complete.

**Proof.** Hardness follows from the complexity of reasoning in Horn-\textit{SROIQ} (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010). Membership holds since we can enumerate all candidate 1-step plans in \( \text{PSPACE} \), the CQs in preconditions and the goal can be evaluated in \( \text{2ExpTime} \) (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2011) and the remaining parts of the ECQs can be evaluated in \( \text{PSPACE} \) (Abiteboul, Hull, and Vianu 1995). □

While these complexity results already indicate that reasoning in Horn-\textit{SROIQ} is more powerful than (polynomial) planning in PDDL with derived predicates, they tell us nothing about the relative expressivity of these two formalisms. There could still exist a polynomial-size compilation scheme from the former to the latter that preserves plan size polynomially, because the compilation can use arbitrary computational resources as long as the result is of polynomial size.

To prove that such a compilation indeed cannot exist, we follow Thiébaut, Hoffmann, and Nebel (2005) by using the notion of advice-taking Turing machines (Karp and Lipton 1982). Such machines are equipped with an advice oracle \( a \), which is a function from positive integers to bit strings. On input \( w \), the machine receives the advice \( a(\|w\|) \) and then starts its computation as usual. The advice depends only on the length of the input, but not on its contents. An advice oracle is polynomial if the length of \( a(\|w\|) \) is bounded polynomially in \( \|w\| \). \textit{ExpTime/poly} (non-uniform \textit{ExpTime}) is the class of problems that can be decided by Turing machines with polynomial advice and exponential time bound.

The following result shows that a polynomial compilation scheme from Horn-\textit{SROIQ} eKABs to PDDL would imply that the weak exponential hierarchy collapses completely. The latter is considered to be unlikely; in particular, it would mean that one can eliminate any bounded quantifier prefix in second-order logic and Presburger arithmetic (Gottlob, Leone, and Veith 1995; Haase 2014).

**Theorem 5.** Unless \( \text{ExpTime}^{\text{NP}} = \text{ExpTime} \), there is no polynomial compilation scheme from Horn-\textit{SROIQ} eKABs to PDDL preserving plan size polynomially.

**Proof sketch.** Let \( M \) be a universal Turing machine with double-exponential time bound that can simulate all other such TMs. In the appendix, we show how to construct a family of Horn-\textit{SROIQ} eKAB domain descriptions \( \Delta_{n} \) such that \( M \) accepts a word \( w \) of length \( n \) iff \( (\Delta_{n}, O, I_{w}, g) \) has a plan of length 1. Here, \( O \) contains only the two objects \( o \) and \( e \), \( I_{w} \) is a state that can be computed from \( w \) in polynomial time, and \( g \) is a nullary predicate. This construction is based on the \( 2\text{ExpTime} \)-hardness proof for Horn-\textit{SROIQ} (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010).
Assume now that there is a compilation scheme $f = (f_o, f_v, f_i, f_g)$ from Horn-SROIQ eKABs to PDDL preserving plan size polynomially. This scheme could be used as an advice oracle as follows. Let $M'$ be a TM with double-exponential time bound. Then $M'$ accepts $w'$ iff $M$ accepts $w = M' \# w'$ (in some fixed encoding). Let $n$ be the size of $w$. The compilation of $\Delta_n$ to a PDDL domain description $\Delta'_n = f_j(\Delta_n)$ as well as $f_o(\Delta_n)$ can be used as polynomial advice for a Turing machine that, on input $w$, computes $\mathcal{O} = \{o, e\}, I_w$, and $(\Delta'_n, \mathcal{O} \cup f_o(\Delta_n), f_i(\mathcal{O}, I_w), f_g(\mathcal{O}, g))$, which can be done in polynomial time. It then decides polynomial-step plan existence for this PDDL task, which can be done in EXPTIME by Theorem 3 and is equivalent to deciding whether $M'$ accepts $w'$ by Definition 5. Overall, this implies that EXPTIME$^\mathbb{NP} \subseteq$ 2EXPTIME is included in EXPTIME/poly, and therefore EXPTIME$^\mathbb{NP} =$ EXPTIME (Buirman and Homer 1992), which contradicts the assumption of the theorem.

Corollary 1. Unless EXPTIME$^\mathbb{NP} =$ EXPTIME, in general there can be no polynomial Datalog rewritings for IQs over Horn-SROIQ TBoxes.

Proof. By Theorem 1, such a rewriting would yield a polynomial compilation from Horn-SROIQ eKABs to PDDL preserving plan size exactly, which contradicts the assumption by Theorem 5.

We obtain a similar result also for the non-Horn DLs $\mathcal{SH}$ and ALCI, because for them similar 2EXPTIME-hardness proofs can be adapted (Lutz 2008; Eiter et al. 2009a).

Theorem 6. Unless EXPTIME$^\mathbb{NP} =$ EXPTIME, there is no polynomial compilation scheme from $\mathcal{SH}$ or ALCI eKABs to PDDL preserving plan size polynomially.

6 Experiments

While polynomial compilations are nice in theory, they have one major drawback: the size of the rules and in particular the arity of the new predicates grows polynomially with the input (Carral and Krötzsch 2020). In contrast, the exponential computational cost of Horn-SHIQ to Datalog uses rules of constant size and in many cases does not exhibit an exponential blowup (Eiter et al. 2012). Moreover, from a pragmatic perspective, it is the only Datalog rewriting for CQs over Horn-DLs that has been implemented so far, in the CLIPPER system. We thus implemented our compilation from Section 3 using CLIPPER to answer the following questions: 1) Is the compilation feasible, i.e. can the generated classical planning tasks be handled by state-of-the-art planners? 2) How does our compilation perform against existing eKAB compilations?

For the experiments, we use the Fast Downward (FD) planning system (Helmert 2006) version 20.06 (the newest version as of August 2021), the main implementation platform for classical planning today. We ran FD with a dual-queue greedy best-first search using the $h^{\text{FF}}$ heuristic, a commonly used baseline in the planning literature. All experiments were run on a computer with an Intel Core i5-4590 CPU@3.30GHz, and run time and memory cutoffs of 600s and 8GBs, respectively. The benchmarks and the compiler are available online.\(^4\)

Implementation. We encode Horn-SHIQ eKAB tasks as ontology files accompanied by PDDL files whose syntax has been extended to allow conjunctive queries. The ontology file uses Turtle syntax, which can be processed by any off-the-shelf ontology tool. Our compiler reads the CQ-PDDL and ontology files, and generates a classical planning task in standard PDDL format. The Datalog rewriting is generated with CLIPPER (Eiter et al. 2012). The compilation additionally normalizes complex conditions via a Tseitin-like transformation (Tseitin 1983), which has been shown to be effective before (Borgwardt et al. 2021).

Benchmarks. Our benchmark collection consists of 125 instances adapted from existing DL-Lite eKAB benchmarks (Calvanese et al. 2016; Borgwardt et al. 2021), and 110 newly created instances. A detailed description can be found in the appendix. We manually translated the existing eKAB domains (Cats, Elevator, Robot, TaskAssign, TPSA, VTA, and VTA-Roles) into the format described above. Modifications almost exclusively pertain to extracting the ontology from the eKAB description into a separate Turtle file and moving so-called condition-action rules (Calvanese et al. 2016) into action preconditions. The translated instances are equivalent to the originals.

Since Horn-SHIQ is more expressive than DL-Lite, we also created 3 new domains (Drones, Queens, and RobotConj) in which we make use of conjunctions, qualified existential restrictions occurring with negative polarity, and symmetric and transitive relations, all of which are not supported by DL-Lite (Baader et al. 2017). Drones describes a complex 2D drone navigation problem, in which drones need to be moved to avoid critical situations; the latter are described in the ontology using axioms with qualified existential restrictions.

\(^4\)https://gitlab.perspicuous-computing.science/a.kovtunova/pddl-horndl.git
### Table 1: Per-domain aggregated statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th># solved</th>
<th># compiled</th>
<th>planning time</th>
<th>compilation time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cal16</td>
<td>Bor21</td>
<td>Cal16 Horn</td>
<td>Cal16 Bor21 Horn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14 20 20</td>
<td>20 20 20</td>
<td>63.46 0.13 0.03 0.16 0.22 0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevator</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20 20 20</td>
<td>20 20 20</td>
<td>0.36 0.30 0.03 0.60 0.73 0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robot</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4 12 20</td>
<td>12 12 20</td>
<td>15.05 10.10 0.11 138.52 138.55 0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TaskAssign</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3 20 20</td>
<td>20 20 20</td>
<td>0.81 0.12 0.06 2.87 39.21 0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPSA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14 5 15</td>
<td>15 5 15</td>
<td>2.01 2.42 0.30 0.84 25.37 0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15 13 15</td>
<td>15 15 15</td>
<td>23.06 37.15 6.91 0.33 1.21 0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTA-Roles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15 5 15</td>
<td>15 5 15</td>
<td>2.25 11.61 1.36 0.59 95.53 0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∑</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>85 95 125</td>
<td>117 97 125</td>
<td>19.99 77.33 3.59 18.01 31.84 0.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Drones       | 24       | 20         | 24            | 101.42 6.9 |
| Queens       | 30       | 15 30      | 21.66 6.9 |
| RobotConj    | 56       | 56         | 8.14 2.77 |
| ∑            | 110      | 91         | 30.87 1.75 |

and symmetric relations. Queens generalizes the eight queens puzzle to board sizes \( n \in \{5, \ldots, 10\} \) and numbers of queens \( m \in \{n-4, \ldots, n\} \). Queens are initially placed randomly on the board and need to be moved to a configuration where no queen threatens another. The ontology contains a symmetric, transitive relation to describe legal moves. RobotConj is a redesign of Robot that moves some of the complexity from actions into the ontology. The original Robot benchmark encodes static knowledge about 2D grid cell adjacency in the action descriptions, which can be encoded much more naturally in the ontology using conjunctions. Note that the original Robot benchmark consists of 20 instances (grid sizes \( 3 \times 3 \) up to \( 22 \times 22 \)), whereas for the new RobotConj we included 56 instances (up to \( 200 \times 200 \)) since they could be easily handled by our compiler.

**Scalability Study.** We use Robot and RobotConj to analyze how our compilation performs as a function of domain description size (including the ontology). Figure 1 depicts the results for 56 instances of each domain, obtained by scaling the grid from \( 3 \times 3 \) to \( 200 \times 200 \). In both domains, the file size is directly proportional to size of the grid. Even the largest tested instance could be compiled and solved in less than 90 seconds, attesting the feasibility of our approach. The increased complexity of RobotConj’s ontology does not affect the performance. On the contrary, both compilation and planning for RobotConj are actually consistently faster than for Robot, in line with our simplifications.

**Comparison to DL-Lite Compilations.** We compare to Cal16, the original DL-Lite eKAB compiler (Calvanese et al. 2016), and to Bor21, its recently introduced optimization using derived predicates to compile away complex formulas (Borgwardt et al. 2021). We refer to our compilation by Horn. Table 1 gives a summary of the results. Cal16 and Bor21 were only run on the original DL-Lite eKAB benchmarks.

Considering the DL-Lite benchmark part, Horn has similar or better performance than Cal16 and Bor21. In Robot, the Cal16 compilation (and hence also Bor21) could only process the 12 smallest instances (up to grid size \( 14 \times 14 \)), exceeding the 600 seconds time limit thereafter. While Cal16 and Bor21 both show a blow-up in compilation time in some domains, our new Horn compiler could process all instances in less than 1 second on average. The compilation time of Horn is almost consistently larger than 0.6 seconds, which can be attributed to the fixed overhead of calling CLIPPER. While the compilation time of Horn is very competitive with the previous DL-Lite compilers, the planner’s performance statistics really substantiate this advantage. Regarding planning time and the number of solved instances, Horn significantly outperforms both alternatives on the DL-Lite benchmarks.

The more complex ontologies in the Horn-\( SHIQ \) benchmark part did not pose a challenge to Horn. All instances could still be translated within 3 seconds on average. The constructed instances of Drones and Queens are however much more challenging from a planning perspective. Contrary to the DL-Lite benchmarks before, average planning runtime is higher, and some instances could not be solved in time. The difficulty of the instances was chosen intentionally, with the purpose of creating challenging problems for future work.

### 7 Conclusion

We have shown that adding Horn-DL background ontologies often does not increase the expressivity of PDDL planning tasks. This is due to Datalog \(^{-}\)-rewritability, which allows us to reduce open-world to closed-world reasoning. However, adding more axiom types (Horn-\( SROIQ \)) or using non-Horn DLs (\( SH \) or \( ALCI \)) increases the expressivity beyond PDDL, unless the weak exponential hierarchy collapses. An evaluation of our generic compilation approach using the CLIPPER system demonstrates the feasibility of using Datalog \(^{-}\)-rewritings, even compared to more specialized compilation schemes for the smaller logic DL-Lite. Moreover, we have contributed additional benchmarks to showcase the increased expressivity of our proposed approach.

In future work, we will investigate the existence of a polynomial compilation scheme for Horn-\( SHOIQ \), whose expressivity lies between that of Horn-\( ALCI \) and Horn-S\( RTOIQ \). We also want to investigate planning formalisms with different effect semantics, e.g. the one described by
De Giacomo et al. (2021).

Acknowledgements

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A Proof of Theorem 2

We first describe the logic Horn-ALCHOIQ in more detail. We use classical DL terms here, i.e. unary predicates are called concept names, binary predicates are role names, objects/constants are individual names and states are ABoxes. We assume that all axioms in Horn-ALCHOIQ TBoxes are in normal form (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018), i.e. they have one of the following shapes, where \( C, C_1, \ldots, C_n, D \) are concept names, \( r, s \) are role names, and \( a \) is an individual name:

(i) \( C_1 \cap \ldots \cap C_n \sqsubseteq D \)
(ii) \( C \sqsubseteq \exists r.D \)
(iii) \( \exists r.C \sqsubseteq D \)
(iv) \( C \sqsubseteq \leq 1r.D \)
(v) \( C \sqsubseteq \{a\} \)
(vi) \( r \sqsubseteq s \)
(vii) \( \{a\} \sqsubseteq C \)

We added the last axiom type here since our goal is a TBox rewriting that is independent of the ABox, i.e. we need to distinguish the TBox axiom \( \{a\} \sqsubseteq C \) from the (equivalent) ABox fact \( C(a) \). A first-order interpretation \( I \) satisfies these axioms if it satisfies the sentences

(i) \( \forall x. C_1(x) \land \cdots \land C_n(x) \rightarrow D(x) \),
(ii) \( \forall x. C(x) \rightarrow \exists y. r(x, y) \land D(y) \),
(iii) \( \forall x, y. r(x, y) \land C(y) \rightarrow D(x) \),
(iv) \( \forall x, y, z. C(x) \land r(x, y) \land D(y) \land r(x, z) \land D(z) \rightarrow y = z \),
(v) \( \forall x. C(x) \rightarrow x = a \),
(vi) \( \forall x, y. r(x, y) \rightarrow s(x, y) \), or
(vii) \( C(a) \),

respectively. Additionally, there is a bijective and irreflexive function \( \neg \) on the set of role names such that \( r^{-} = r \) and \( \forall x, y. r(x, y) \leftrightarrow (r^{-})(y, x) \) is required to hold in all models of a TBox, for all role names \( r \) (\( r^{-} \) is called the inverse of \( r \)).

Following Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus (2010), we will use Datalog\(^{S,\neg}\) rules to encode reasoning in Horn-ALCHOIQ. Datalog\(^{S,\neg}\) extends Datalog\(^{\neg}\) rules by introducing fixed set sorts \( 2^C \), where \( C \) is a set of constants. Set terms of sort \( 2^C \) are built inductively from the constructors \( \{c_1, \ldots, c_n\} \) and \( t_1 \cup t_2 \), where \( c_1, \ldots, c_n \in C \) and \( t_1, t_2 \) are set terms of this sort. Every predicate has an associated sort function that assigns to each position a unique sort, i.e. either the (normal) element sort, or one of the fixed set sorts. This means that the positions of this predicates always accept only terms of the associated sort. The semantics of the resulting (stratified) Datalog\(^{S,\neg}\) rules is intuitive (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010).

To make it easier to compare with the existing constructions (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010; Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018), in the following we write Datalog\(^{S,\neg}\) rules with \( \rightarrow \) instead of \( \iff \). We also use rules with conjunctions of atoms in the head (instead of only one atom).

Encoding Instance Queries

In the following, let \( T \) be a Horn-ALCHOIQ TBox in normal form, and \( C/R/I \) denote the sets of concept names/role names/individual names in \( T \). In addition to the individuals in \( I \), the construction by Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018) uses artificial individuals of the form \( t_X \), where \( X \) is a set of concept names, and new predicates \( R \) that represent a set of role names that have to be satisfied at the same time. We represent such \( R \) and \( X \) using sets of the sorts \( 2^R \) and \( 2^C \), respectively. The latter includes named individuals since we want to treat named and anonymous individuals using the same predicates. However, named individuals \( a \) will only appear as singleton sets \( \{a\} \). Formally, we are not allowed to treat individuals from the ABox in this way, because then the set sorts (which need to be fixed) would depend on the ABox. We nevertheless do this in the following and at the end of this section describe how to translate these Datalog\(^{S,\neg}\) rules into Datalog\(^{\neg}\) rules that are ABox-independent.

Instead of an atom \( C(x) \) (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018), we now use atoms of the form concept(\( C, X \)), where \( C \in C \) is treated as a new constant and \( X \) is a set as described above (i.e. either a set of concept names or a singleton set containing an individual name). Likewise, role atoms \( r(x, y) \) and \( R(x, y) \) are transformed into role(\( r, X, Y \)) and roles(\( R, X, Y \)), respectively. Additionally, we distinguish sets \( X \subseteq C \) from sets \( \{a\} \) with \( a \in I \) by the predicate anon, which is populated by the following rules, for all \( C \in C \):

\[
\text{anon}(\{C\}) \quad (1)
\]
\[
\text{anon}(X) \rightarrow \text{anon}(X \cup \{C\}) \quad (2)
\]

We also compute the set of inverse roles of a set \( R \), for all \( r \in R \) (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010):

\[
\text{inv}(\{r\}, \{r^{-}\}) \quad (3)
\]
\[
\text{inv}(R, R^{-}) \rightarrow \text{inv}(R \cup \{r\}, R^{-} \cup \{r^{-}\}) \quad (4)
\]
Additionally, the original rewriting uses atoms of the form \( n(x) \) and \( x \approx y \), which we simply adapt to \( n(X) \) and \( X \approx Y \), where \( X, Y \) are as described above. We also add a predicate \( \text{ind} \), which identifies all individual names from the ABox in order to identify query answers in the end. This predicate represents a subset of the predicate \( n \), which will also contain anonymous individuals \( X \) that are inferred to represent a unique element in every interpretation.

The original Datalog rewriting starts with several auxiliary rules, which we translate below into their modified Datalog\(^{S,-}\) form, for all \( C \in C \) and \( r \in R \) (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018, Figure 2):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{concept}(C, X) & \rightarrow \text{concept}(\top, X) \\
\text{role}(r, X, Y) & \rightarrow \text{concept}(\top, X) \land \text{concept}(\top, Y) \\
\text{roles}(R, X, Y) \land n(Y) \land \text{inv}(R, R^-) & \rightarrow \text{roles}(R^-, Y, X) \\
\text{roles}(R, X, Y) \land r \in R & \rightarrow \text{role}(r, X, Y) \\
C(x) & \rightarrow \text{concept}(C, \{x\}) \land \text{ind}(\{x\}) \\
\text{role}(r, \{x\}, \{y\}) & \rightarrow \text{role}(r, \{x\}, \{y\}) \land \text{ind}(\{x\}) \land \text{ind}(\{y\}) \\
\text{ind}(X) & \rightarrow n(X) \\
X \approx Y & \rightarrow Y \approx X \\
X \approx Y \land Y \approx Z & \rightarrow X \approx Z \\
\text{concept}(C, X) \land X \approx Y & \rightarrow \text{concept}(C, Y) \\
n(X) \land X \approx Y & \rightarrow n(Y) \\
\text{roles}(R, X, Y) \land X \approx Z & \rightarrow \text{roles}(R, Z, Y) \\
\text{roles}(R, X, Y) \land Y \approx Z & \rightarrow \text{roles}(R, X, Z) \\
\end{align*}
\]

Rules (9) and (10) were further modified from their originals to convert the ABox predicates into our Datalog\(^{S,-}\) syntax in an ABox-independent way. In a slight abuse of notation, on the left-hand side of Rule (9), \( C \) is treated as a concept name, and on the right-hand side \( C \) is treated as a constant (similarly for Rule (10)).

The axioms of the TBox \( T \) are translated into the following Datalog\(^{S,-}\) rules (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018, Figures 3 and 4). For every axiom of the form (i):

\[
\text{concept}(C_1, X) \land \cdots \land \text{concept}(C_n, X) \rightarrow \text{concept}(D, X)
\]

For axioms of the form (ii):

\[
\text{concept}(C, X) \rightarrow \text{role}(r, X, \{D\})
\]

For axiom type (iii):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{role}(r, X, Y) \land \text{concept}(C, Y) & \rightarrow \text{concept}(D, X) \\
\text{concept}(C, X) \land \text{roles}(R^-, X, Y) \land r \in R \land \text{inv}(R, R^-) \land \text{anom}(Y) & \rightarrow \text{roles}(R^-, X, Y \cup \{D\})
\end{align*}
\]

Axiom type (iv) requires more complex rules:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{concept}(D, Y) \land \text{role}(r^-, Y, X) \land \\
\text{concept}(C, X) \land \text{role}(r, X, Z) \land \text{concept}(D, Z) \land n(Z) & \rightarrow Y \approx Z \\
\text{concept}(C, X) \land r \in R \land \text{roles}(R, X, Y) \land \text{concept}(D, Y) \land \\
anom(Y) \land r \in S \land \text{roles}(S, X, Z) \land \text{concept}(D, Z) \land anom(Z) & \rightarrow \text{roles}(R \cup S, X, Y \cup Z) \\
\text{concept}(C, X) \land r \in R \land \text{inv}(R, R^-) \land \text{concept}(D, Y) \land \text{roles}(R^-, Y, X) \land \\
r \in S \land \text{inv}(S, S^-) \land anom(Z) \land E \in Z \land \text{roles}(S, X, Z) \land \text{concept}(D, Z) & \rightarrow \text{concept}(E, Y) \land \\
\text{roles}(R^- \cup S^-, Y, X)
\end{align*}
\]

In addition, we need the following rule that completes the translation of axioms of types (ii)–(iv) by adding the newly created anonymous individuals to the required concepts:

\[
\text{role}(r, X, Y) \land C \in Y \rightarrow \text{concept}(C, Y)
\]

For axiom type (v):

\[
\text{concept}(C, X) \rightarrow \{a\} \approx X \land n(\{a\})
\]
For axiom type (vi), we use the predicate sup that connects each role name to the set of all its super-roles (Rule 29 is instantiated for every \( s \subseteq t \in T \) or \( s^- \subseteq t^- \in T \)):

\[
\to \sup(r, \{ r \}) \tag{28}
\]

\[
\sup(r, S) \land s \in S \to \sup(r, S \cup \{ t \}) \tag{29}
\]

\[
\text{role}(r, X, Y) \land \sup(r, S) \to \text{roles}(S, X, Y) \tag{30}
\]

\[
\text{role}(r^-, X, Y) \land \sup(r, S) \land \text{inv}(S, S^-) \to \text{roles}(S^-, X, Y) \tag{31}
\]

Finally, axiom type (vii) can be handled like a concept assertion:

\[
\to \text{concept}(C, \{ a \}) \land n(\{ a \}) \tag{32}
\]

So far, the rules did not use negation and can be seen as the first stratum of the final rule set. This part is already a rewriting of any instance query over the TBox signature, i.e. \( \text{concept}(C, \{ a \}) \) is contained in the least Herbrand model of these rules and an ABox iff \( C(a) \) is entailed by the original TBox over the ABox (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018, Lemma 4). To be able to answer arbitrary UCQs, we also need to encode the so-called filtration phase (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018).

**Building a Canonical Model**

The next stratum encodes Definition 7 from Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018) by using negated atoms over the predicate \( n \). The goal of this part is to derive a dependency relation \( \text{role}_n(r, X, Y) \) that encodes the order in which individuals are created during the construction of a model of the ontology. Extended individuals of the form \( R \subseteq X \subseteq C \) and \( i \in \{0, 1, 2\} \) (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018). Therefore, the sets \( X, Y \) in \( \text{role}_n(r, X, Y) \) are now considered to be subsets of \( R \cup C \cup I \cup \{0, 1, 2\} \), where again individuals can only occur in singleton sets \( \{ a \} \), and at most one index \( 0, 1, 2 \) can be present in any given set. In addition to \( \text{role}_n \), the following rules also compute extensions \( \text{role}' \) and \( \text{concept}' \) of role and concept, respectively, to the new individuals. Together, these three predicates describe a kind of canonical model (called \( C_O \)) over which UCQs will be answered.

As a prerequisite, we need to introduce an intermediate stratum to define a total order \( \preceq \) on sets of the form \( R \cup X \). For this purpose, we consider an enumeration \( r_1, \ldots, r_n, C_{n+1}, \ldots, C_{n+m} \) of all role and concept names and use the following rules to define the lexicographic order \( \preceq \) based on the auxiliary relations \( \prec_i \) and \( \approx_i \), \( i \in \{1, \ldots, n + m\} \) (all using infix notation):

\[
\emptyset \approx \emptyset \tag{33}
\]

\[
\emptyset \prec_1 \{ r_1 \} \tag{34}
\]

\[
\{ r_1 \} \approx \{ r_1 \} \tag{35}
\]

\[
X \prec_1 Y \Rightarrow X \prec_2 Y \tag{36}
\]

\[
X \approx_1 Y \Rightarrow X \approx_2 Y \tag{37}
\]

\[
X \approx_1 Y \Rightarrow X \approx_2 Y \cup \{ r_2 \} \tag{38}
\]

\[
X \approx_1 Y \Rightarrow X \cup \{ r_2 \} \approx_2 Y \cup \{ r_2 \} \tag{39}
\]

\[
\vdots \tag{40}
\]

\[
X \approx_{n+m} Y \Rightarrow X \preceq Y \tag{41}
\]

The following rules, which use the negations of \( \preceq \) and \( n \) from the previous strata, correspond to Definition 7 from Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018), where \( j = (i + 1) \mod 3 \):

\[
n(X) \land \text{role}(r, X, Y) \land n(Y) \to \text{role}_n(r, X, Y) \land \text{role}_n(r^-, Y, X) \tag{42}
\]

\[
n(X) \land \text{role}(r, X, Y) \land \text{role}(r, X, Y) \land n(Y) \land r^0 \in R \to \text{role}_n(r, X, R \cup Y \cup \{ 0 \}) \tag{43}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(r, X, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \land \text{role}(r, S, Y, Z) \land \text{role}(r, S, Y, Z) \land n(Z) \land
\]

\[
s \in S \land R \cup Y \subseteq S \cup Z \to \text{role}_n(s, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}, S \cup Z \cup \{ j \}) \tag{44}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(r, X, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \land \text{role}(r, S, Y, Z) \land \text{role}(r, S, Y, Z) \land n(Z) \land
\]

\[
s \in S \land R \cup Y \subseteq S \cup Z \to \text{role}_n(s, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}, S \cup Z \cup \{ j \}) \tag{45}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(s, X, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \land \text{role}(r, Y, Z) \land n(Z) \to \text{role}_n(s, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}, Z) \land
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(r^-, Z, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \tag{46}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(s, X, Y) \land \text{concept}(C, Y) \to \text{concept}'(C, Y) \tag{47}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(s, X, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \land \text{concept}(C, Y) \to \text{concept}'(C, R \cup Y \cup \{ i \}) \tag{48}
\]

\[
\text{role}_n(r, X, Y) \to \text{role}'(r, X, Y) \land \text{role}'(r^-, Y, X) \tag{49}
\]
The least Herbrand model of these rules (restricted to role′, concept′, and role) corresponds to the set $C_0$ (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018). Conditions of the type “$E_{i,Y}$ is in $C_0$” are translated into body atoms like $\text{role}_{i}(r, X, R \cup Y \cup \{i\})$ since these new individuals are only introduced into $C_0$ inside of role′-facts.

**Encoding the Filtration**

Finally, we encode Definition 8 from Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018), which constructs a family of graphs that use the variables of a given CQ as vertices, and their edges encode possible matches of the CQ into $C_0$. Some of these matches have to be filtered out since they lead to spurious answers. We assume that the input CQ $q$ is of the form $\exists \mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k \phi(\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k)$, i.e. $v_{t+1}, \ldots, v_k$ are the free variables (UCQs can be treated by encoding each component CQ individually and then merging the results in a single predicate). By $\phi(\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k)$ we denote the result of replacing each concept atom $C(v_i)$ in $\phi$ by concept′$C(v_i)$ and similarly $r(v_i, v_j)$ by role′$(r, v_i, v_j)$, where each $V_i$ is viewed as a set variable over $R \cup C \cup \{i\}$ and denotes a possible mapping of $v_i$ into $C_0$. We use the indices $1, \ldots, k$ to refer to the vertices in the graphs that are constructed, and atoms of the form $\text{edge}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k)$ to denote an edge from $i$ to $j$ (which depends on a specific instantiation of all variables by individuals in $C_0$).

The following are the rules corresponding to the first part of Definition 8 from Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018), for all role atoms $r(v_i, v_j)$ in $\phi$:

\[ \phi(\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k) \land \text{role}_{i}(r, V_i, V_j) \land \neg\text{role}_{i}(r^-, V_j, V_i) \rightarrow \text{edge}(i, j, \mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k) \] (51)

\[ \phi(\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k) \land \text{role}_{i}(r^-, V_i, V_j) \land \neg\text{role}_{i}(r, V_i, V_j) \rightarrow \text{edge}(j, i, \mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k) \] (52)

Now, for all $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$, we apply the following rules to collapse this graph according to Definition 8 from Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch (2018):

\[ \text{edge}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{edge}(m, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{equal}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (53)

\[ \text{edge}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{edge}(m, n, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{equal}(j, n, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{equal}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (54)

We now need to check whether the resulting graph is a rooted directed forest, i.e. contains no cycles and no “diamonds” that reconnect different branches:

\[ \text{edge}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{reach}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (55)

\[ \text{reach}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{equal}(j, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{reach}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (56)

\[ \text{reach}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{equal}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{reach}(j, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (57)

\[ \text{reach}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{edge}(j, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{reach}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (58)

\[ \text{reach}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{bad}(V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (59)

\[ \text{edge}(i, j, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{edge}(i, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \neg\text{equal}(j, m, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{reach}(j, n, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{reach}(m, n, V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow \text{bad}(V_1, \ldots, V_k) \] (60)

Finally, we can use the predicate $\text{bad}$ to filter out spurious matches and return the actual answers to $q$ in the predicate $P_q$:

\[ \phi(\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k) \land \neg\text{bad}(V_1, \ldots, V_k) \rightarrow P_q(V_{t+1}, \ldots, V_k) \] (61)

\[ P_q'(V_{t+1}, \ldots, V_k) \land \text{ind}(V_{t+1}) \land \cdots \land \text{ind}(V_k) \land a_{t+1} \in V_{t+1} \land \cdots \land a_k \in V_k \rightarrow P_q(a_{t+1}, \ldots, a_k) \] (62)

**From Datalog$^S$, to Datalog$^*$**

To simulate set terms in plain Datalog$^*$, we adapt an existing construction, which did not deal with negation or ABox-independent rule sets (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010). First, each set union $t_1 \cup t_2$ over the domain $S$ is replaced with a fresh variable $X$ and the ternary atom $\lnot_S(t_1, t_2, X)$ is added to the body of the rule in which this term occurs. New rules are added to simulate the set union with this predicate (see below). Then, sets $X \subseteq S$ are represented as bit vectors of length $|S|$ and set variables as vectors of variables, and all atoms are replaced accordingly. This gets rid of all set expressions while increasing the arity of the predicates polynomially.

The main problem we face here is that we used singleton sets $\{a\}$ to refer to individual names $a$ from the ABox, which means that the set sort $\mathbb{2}^{\mathbb{S}^{\mathbb{J}}}$ was treated as if it contained all these individual names, although our translation cannot depend on the ABox (see Definition 1). To avoid this issue, we modify the bit vector encoding above to directly represent constants by themselves. For this, recall that individual names $a$ can only occur in singleton sets $\{a\}$, because sets $X$ are only extended if they belong to anon (see, e.g. Rules (21), (23), or (43)). Thus, we can represent each instantiated set $X$, which is either of the form $\{a\}$ or a subset of $C$, as a vector $(a, 0, \ldots, 0) \lor (0, b_1, \ldots, b_m)$, respectively, where $m = |C|$ and $b_i = 1$ iff the $i$-th concept name of $C$ is in $X$ (according to some fixed enumeration of $C$). The new constants 0 and 1 are used to represent bit values. Correspondingly, set variables $X$ are split into vectors $(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_m)$, where $x_0$ holds the individual name (if any) and
We show how to construct the eKAB task. The construction is based on the 2E description is

\[ \Delta_j \] at cell \( j \) identifies the first blank symbol in the tape, and the unary predicates \( H, T \) indicate the presence and absence of the head, respectively. Finally, all cells to the right of the input word are labeled with a blank symbol \( \Box \) by using the auxiliary predicate \( I_n \). We leave the axioms (72)–(74) in the TBox, but replace (70)–(71) by the following axioms (75)–(76) and assertions for \( I_w \) (77)–(78):

\[
\begin{align*}
S_{j,a} & \sqsubseteq \forall h. I_j \cap A_a \quad (0 \leq j < n, \ a \in \Sigma) \\
I_{n-1} & \sqsubseteq \forall h, I_{n} \\
H_{q_0}(a) & \\
S_{j,a} & \sqsubseteq (0 \leq j < n)
\end{align*}
\]

This finishes the presentation of the Datalog* rewriting for any UCQ over a Horn-SROIQ TBox. Its correctness follows mainly from an existing result (Carral, Dragoste, and Krötzsch 2018, Theorem 3) since we only translated the relevant definitions into Datalog* rules. It can also be verified that the resulting set of Datalog* rules is of polynomial size.

### B Proof of Theorem 5

We show how to construct the eKAB task \((\Delta_n, O, I_w, g)\) such that \( M \) accepts a word \( w \) of length \( n \) iff there is a plan of length 1. The construction is based on the 2ExpTime-hardness proof for Horn-SROIQ (Ortiz, Rudolph, and Šimkus 2010) and uses only a single action with precondition \( \exists x. B(x) \) and unconditional effect \( g \). We do not repeat all details of the original construction here, but only adapt the relevant parts. The proof encodes the Turing machine \( M \) and an input word \( w \) into a TBox \( T \) using the two objects \( o \) and \( e \) such that \( M \) accepts \( w \) iff at least one unary predicate \( H_{q_f} \) (representing a final state of the TM) is empty in every model of \( T \). The original proof then goes on to add axioms \( H_{q_f} \sqsubseteq \bot \) to force \( T \) to become unsatisfiable in such a case. Since we require the initial state to be consistent with the TBox, we instead use the axioms \( H_{q_f} \sqsubseteq B \), which allows us to query for \( \exists x. B(x) \) instead of checking unsatisfiability.

We further adapt the original reduction by extracting from \( T \) the description of the input word \( w \) into a state \( I_w \). For \( w = w_0 \ldots w_{n-1} \), \( T \) contains the following axioms to encode the input tape (notation is slightly adjusted to avoid clashes):

\[
\begin{align*}
\{ o \} & \sqsubseteq I_1 \cap H_{q_0} \\
I_j & \sqsubseteq A_{w_j} \cap \forall h. I_{j+1} \\
I_1 & \sqsubseteq \overline{H_r} \\
I_n & \sqsubseteq A_{\Box} \\
I_n & \sqsubseteq \forall h. I_n
\end{align*}
\]

The object \( o \) indicates the starting point of the tape, and the unary predicates \( I_j \) identify the first \( n \) cells, which are connected via the binary predicate \( h \). The predicates \( A_{w_j} \) indicate the presence of the input symbols in these cells. The predicates \( H_{q_0} \) and \( \overline{H_r} \) indicate the presence and absence of the head, respectively. Finally, all cells to the right of the input word are labeled with a blank symbol \( \Box \) by using the auxiliary predicate \( I_n \). We leave the axioms (72)–(74) in the TBox, but replace (70)–(71) by the following axioms (75)–(76) and assertions for \( I_w \) (77)–(78):

\[
\begin{align*}
S_{j,a} & \sqsubseteq \forall h. I_j \cap A_a \quad (0 \leq j < n, \ a \in \Sigma) \\
I_{n-1} & \sqsubseteq \forall h, I_{n} \\
H_{q_0}(a) & \\
S_{j,a}(o) & \quad (0 \leq j < n)
\end{align*}
\]

Here, \( \forall h \) stands for \( j \) nested restrictions of the form \( \forall h \), and \( S_{j,a} \) indicates the presence of the symbol \( a \) of the TM alphabet \( \Sigma \) at cell \( j \). In this way, the final TBox \( T_n \) only depends on the length \( n \) of the input word \( w \), but not on \( w \) itself. The final domain description is \( \Delta_n = (P_n, A_n, T_n) \), where \( P_n \) contains all symbols from \( T_n \) as well as \( g \), and \( A_n \) consists of the single action described above.
C Proof of Theorem 6

The proof follows the same arguments as for Theorem 5, the only difference being how the domain description $\Delta_n$ and state $I_w$ are obtained. For CQ entailment in $\mathcal{ALCI}$, we adapt a reduction from a (universal) $\text{AExpSPACE}$ Turing machine (Lutz 2007). The single action we use in the reduction will have a precondition $[q_0]$, where $q_0$ is the CQ from that reduction, which, despite its name, does not depend on the input word $w = w_0 \ldots w_{n-1}$, but only on the length $n$. Again, the only adaption we have to do is to extract the part of the TBox encoding the input word into a state $I_w$. Consider the relevant axioms (again with slightly adapted notation), where $0 \leq j < n$ (Lutz 2007):

$$ (R \cap I)(o) $$

$$ I \sqsubseteq s^{n+2}.((G_h \cap (\text{pos} = j)) \rightarrow w_j) $$

$$ I \sqsubseteq s^{n+2}.((G_h \cap (\text{pos} = 0)) \rightarrow q_0) $$

$$ I \sqsubseteq s^{n+2}.((G_h \cap (\text{pos} \geq n)) \rightarrow b) $$

Here, $R \cap I$ describes the starting point of the initial configuration and its $s^{n+2}$-successors marked with $G_h$ identify the exponentially many tape cells. The counter pos identifies particular cells, $w_j$ describes the tape content, $q_0$ the initial state, and $b$ the blank symbol. We use a similar trick as before to split (80) into ABox facts and TBox axioms that do not depend on the input word $w$, but only on its length (for all $0 \leq j < n$, $a \in \Sigma$):

$$ S_j.a \sqsubseteq s^{n+2}.((G_h \cap (\text{pos} = j)) \rightarrow a) $$

$$ S_j.w_j(o) $$

The state $I_w$ now consists of all facts (84) as well as (79), and all other axioms are part of $T_n$. The remaining arguments are the same as in the proof of Theorem 5.

The reduction for CQ entailment over $\mathcal{SH}$ TBoxes (Eiter et al. 2009b) is very similar to the previous case, except that the predicates $R$ and $G_h$ are not used, $s^{n+2}$ is replaced by $r^{n+1}$, $w_j$ is replaced by $\forall r.(E_h \rightarrow w_j)$, and similarly for $q_0$ and $b$ (many other details not relevant here are different as well). Hence, we can use very similar adaptations.

D Benchmark Description

Our collection of benchmarks consists of a total of 235 instances adapted from the publicly available DL-Lite eKAB benchmark collection (Borgwardt et al. 2021) as well as newly developed high expressivity domains. The benchmarks and the compiler are available in the supplementary material. Each problem instance has two representations: the Horn-$\mathcal{SHIQ}$ eKAB task encoding with an ontology written in Turtle\(^5\) and its compilation into PDDL.

Adapted DL-Lite eKAB benchmarks: We translated the original benchmarks into equivalent representations in our Horn-$\mathcal{SHIQ}$ eKAB task encoding. Detailed descriptions of these domains are available online. In short,

- in Robot (Calvanese et al. 2016), a robot is positioned on a grid without knowing its position and the goal is to reach a target cell. The ontology describes relations between rows and columns.
- The goal of TaskAssign, inspired by (Calvanese et al. 2016), is to hire two electronic engineers for a company, while the ontology describes relations between different job positions.
- The Elevator and Cats benchmarks are inspired by standard planning benchmarks. In the Cats domain, there is a set of packages that contain either cats or bombs and the task is to disarm all bombs. An elevator in the Elevator benchmark can move up and down between floors to serve passengers according to their origins and destinations.
- Both the VTA and TPSA benchmarks are adaptations from older work on semantic web-service composition (Hoffmann et al. 2008). VTA-Roles is a more complex variant of VTA.

High Expressivity Domains:

- Drones models a complex 2D drone navigation problem, in which drones need to be moved while avoiding certain situations; the latter is given by ontology reasoning, involving Horn concept inclusions with qualified existential restrictions occurring negatively and symmetric roles. Grid cells are occupied with different objects like Humans or Trees or weather conditions like LowVisibility or Rain. There is a set of Drones randomly placed on the board. Depending on the distances to other objects, a Drone can enter a critical state (defined by the ontology). The goal is to move the drones such that no two drones in a critical state are next to each other. In the benchmark, instances vary in the board size and the number of drones. We have chosen the instances such that some of them remain hard for the planner to solve. The compilation itself is always very fast.
- Queens generalizes the eight queens puzzle from chess to variable numbers of board sizes, $n \in \{5, \ldots, 10\}$, and queens, $m \in \{n - 4, \ldots, n\}$. In the initial state, queens are placed randomly and the ontology contains a symmetric, transitive role to describe which queen movements are legal. Similarly to Drones, the planner must find a sequence of legal moves such that no two queens threaten each other.

\(^5\)https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/
RobotConj is a redesign of Robot, moving complexity from action descriptions into the ontology. The original Robot benchmark encoded static knowledge about 2D-grid cell adjacency in the action descriptions, which via the use of Horn clauses can be encoded much more naturally directly in the ontology. More precisely, in a slightly simplified notation, the action `MoveDown` contains the two redundant conditional effects

\[
(\text{when } (\text{and } (\text{AboveOf1 } ?x) (\text{BelowOf2 } ?x)) (\text{Row0 } ?x)), \tag{85}
\]

which one can read as “if the robot is above or in row 1 and below row 2, then move the robot to row 0”, and

\[
(\text{when } (\text{Row1 } ?x)) (\text{Row0 } ?x)), \tag{86}
\]

i.e. “if the robot position is in row 1, then move the robot to row 0”. However, encoding the static knowledge that `AboveOf1` and `BelowOf2` imply `Row1` is beyond DL-Lite. Moreover, the actions `MoveUp`, `MoveLeft`, and `MoveRight` have similar redundant effects. For RobotConj we have simplified these descriptions by using axioms like `AboveOf1 ∩ BelowOf2 ⊆ Row1`, which allows us to get rid of (85).