

Stefan Borgwardt  
Technische Universität Dresden

# Explaining Description Logic Reasoning

RuleML+RR'24, Bucureşti, România, 18th September, 2024

# Team

Logical Reasoning

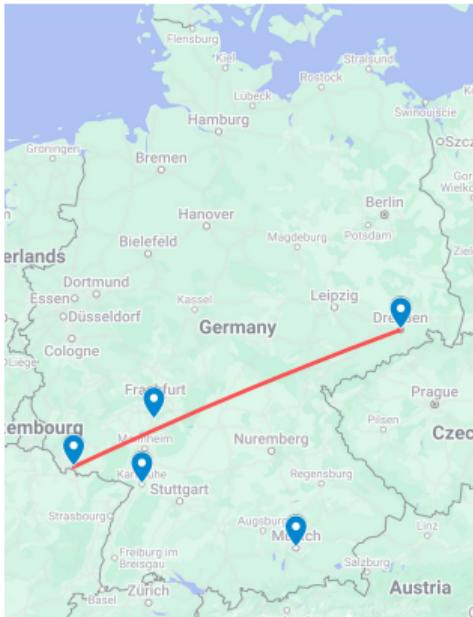
Human-Computer Interaction

Natural Language Generation



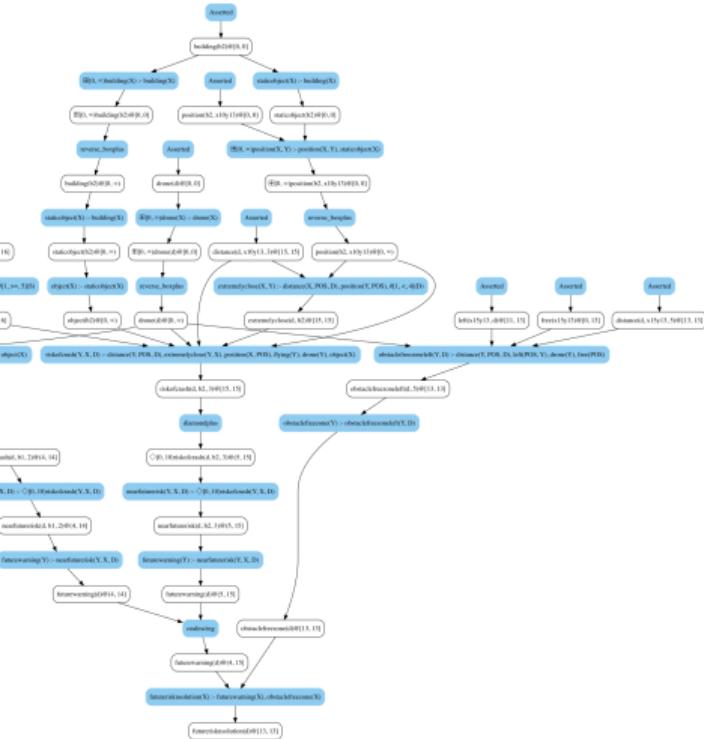
Undergraduate students:

Tom Friese, Mikhail Kotlov, Alexej Popović, Steffen Breuer, Anna Milena Rothermel, Duy Nhu, Kathryn Chapman, Hui-Syuan Yeh, Lukas Schmitz



Map data ©2024 GeoBasis-DE/BKG (©2009), Google, Inst. Geogr. Nacional

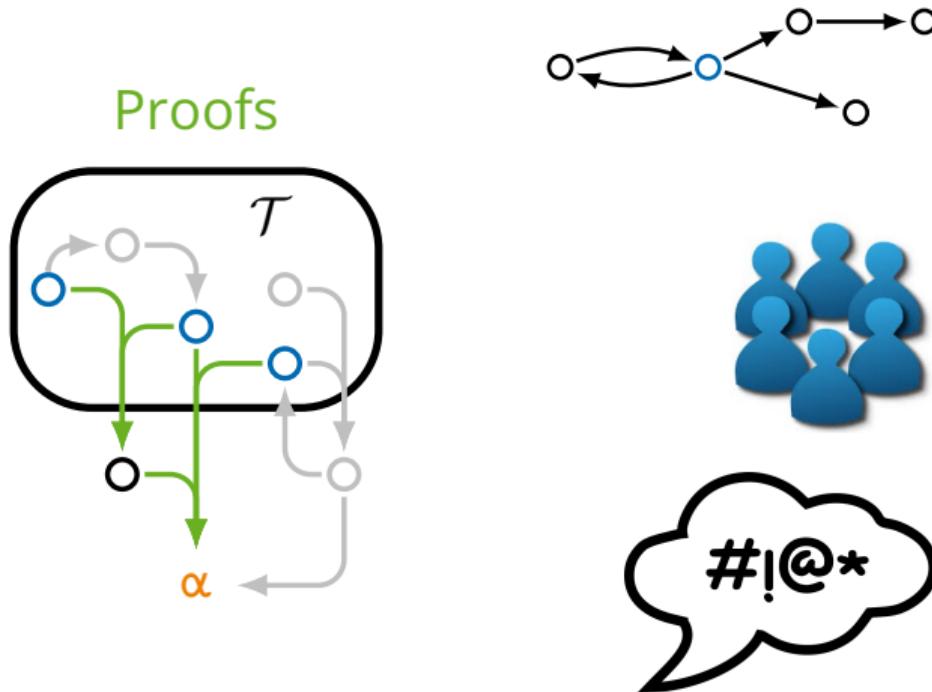
## Explanations



## runtime



# Outline

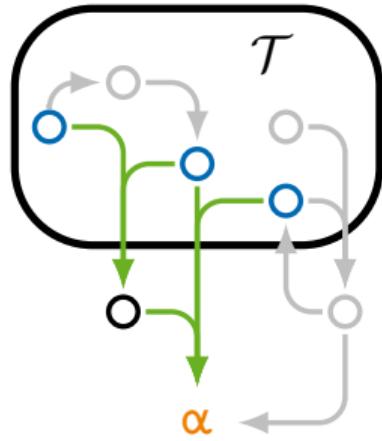


Missing entailments

User studies

Verbalization

# Justifications



TBox (ontology, knowledge base, logical theory)  $\mathcal{T}$ :

Collection of axioms (formulae, rules, facts)

Entailment (consequence, query)  $\mathcal{T} \models \alpha$ :

Axiom (formula, rule, fact) that follows logically from the TBox

Justification (MUS, minimal conflict set, why-provenance):

Minimal subset of  $\mathcal{T}$  from which  $\alpha$  follows

(Horridge, Parsia, and Sattler 2010; Horridge, Bail, Parsia, and Sattler 2013)

# Justifications are sometimes not enough for ...

complex reasoning

novice users

LLM-generated explanations

Explanation 135  Display laconic explanation

Explanation for: 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process by positive biosynthetic process by regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter'

1) 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process by regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' In 27 other justifications ?

2) 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process by regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf regulates **some** 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process by transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' In 9 other justifications ?

3) 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process by transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process' In 10 other justifications ?

4) 'regulation of fatty acid biosynthetic process' SubClassOf regulates **some** 'fatty acid biosynthetic process' In 16 other justifications ?

5) 'fatty acid biosynthetic process' SubClassOf 'fatty acid metabolic process' In 65 other justifications ?

6) **Transitive:** regulates In 18 other justifications ?

7) 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf biological\_process\_and ('positively regulates' **some** 'transcription by RNA polymerase II') In NO other justifications ?

8) 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process' SubClassOf regulates **some** 'cellular ketone metabolic process' In 67 other justifications ?

9) 'regulation of fatty acid metabolic process' SubClassOf 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process' In 135 other justifications ?

10) biological\_process\_and (regulates **some** 'fatty acid metabolic process') SubClassOf 'regulation of fatty acid metabolic process' In NO other justifications ?

11) biological\_process\_and (regulates **some** 'cellular ketone metabolic process') and ('positively regulates' **some** 'transcription by RNA polymerase II') SubClassOf 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' In NO other justifications ?

Justification in the ontology editor PROTÉGÉ

# Justifications are sometimes not enough for ...

complex reasoning

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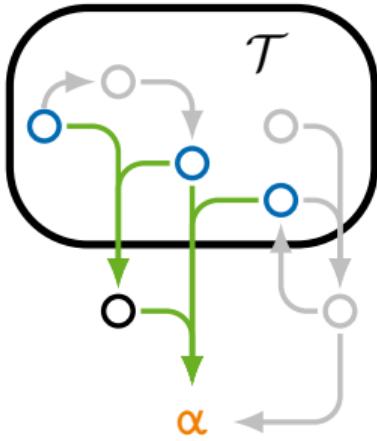
LLM-generated explanations

Proof tree for entailment

- positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter'
  - 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf biological\_process and (regulates some 'cellular ketone metabolic process') and ('positively regulates' some 'transcription by RNA polymerase II')
    - 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf biological\_process
    - 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf regulates some 'cellular ketone metabolic process'
    - 'positive regulation of unsaturated fatty acid biosynthetic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter' SubClassOf 'positively regulates' some 'transcription by RNA polymerase II'
  - biological\_process and (regulates some 'cellular ketone metabolic process') and ('positively regulates' some 'transcription by RNA polymerase II') SubClassOf 'regulation of cellular ketone metabolic process by positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter'

Proof in the ontology editor PROTÉGÉ

# Proofs are hypergraphs



Inference step (hyperedge): List of premises + conclusion

Proof: Acyclic, non-redundant hypergraph with sink  $\alpha$

Hypergraph  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}, \alpha)$  of all admissible inference steps for  $\mathcal{T} \models \alpha$

Goal: Find optimal proofs in  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}, \alpha)$

Measures: Size (5), tree size (6), depth (2), ...

# Complexity of finding proofs

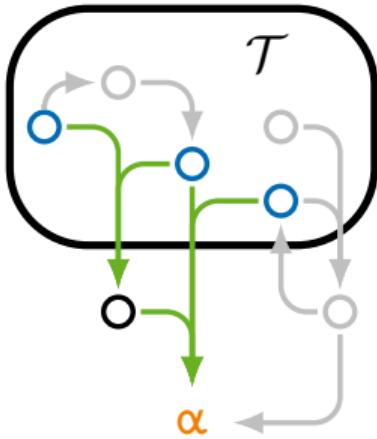
"Is there a proof in  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}, \alpha)$  with measure  $\leq p$ ?"

(Alrabbaa, Baader, B, Koopmann, and Kovtunova 2020, 2021)

	polynomial unary	polynomial binary	exponential unary	exponential binary
Size	NP	NP	NP	NExpTime
Monotone recursive $\Phi$ -measures	$\leq P$	$\leq P$	$\leq \text{ExpTime}$	$\leq \text{ExpTime}$
Tree size	P	P	NP	PSpace
Depth	P	P	PSpace	ExpTime
Logarithmic depth	P	P	ExpTime	ExpTime

guess proof in  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}, \alpha)$   
polynomial Dijkstra-like  
algorithm for directed  
hypergraphs

# Computing proofs



Consequence-based reasoners (ELK, CLIPPER, SEQUOIA)

(Kazakov, Krötzsch, and Simancik 2014; Eiter, Ortiz, Simkus, Tran, and Xiao 2012; Tena Cucala, Cuenca Grau, and Horrocks 2021)

Justification-oriented proofs

(Horridge, Parsia, and Sattler 2010)

Concept interpolation:  $A \sqsubseteq ? \sqsubseteq B$

(Schlobach 2004; Peuter 2024)

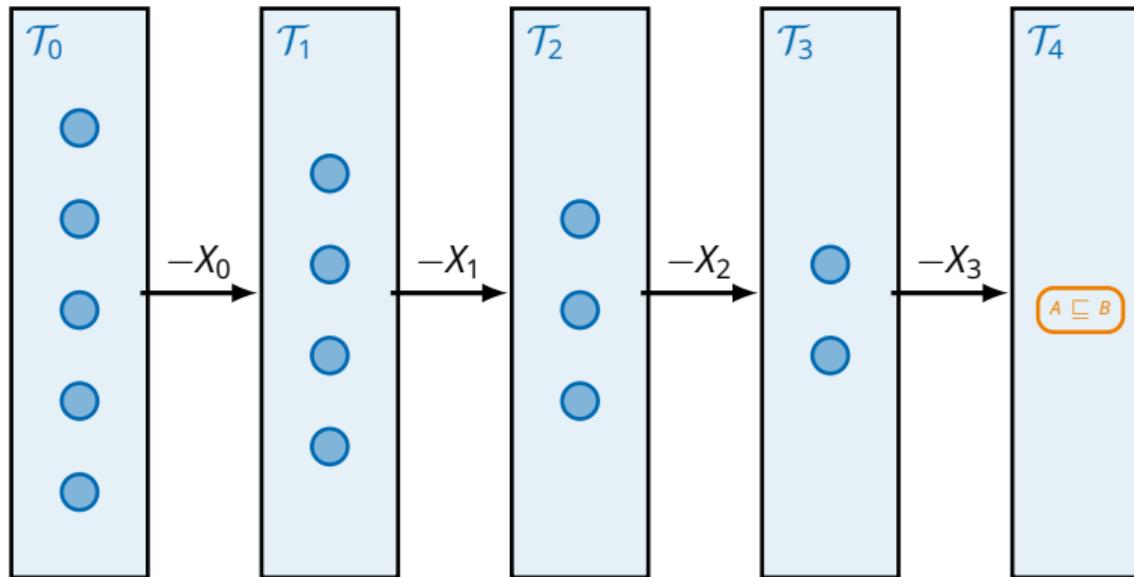
Elimination proofs based on forgetting (LETHE, FAME)

(Alrabbaa, Baader, B, Koopmann, and Kovtunova 2020)

# Computing proofs

Elimination proofs based on forgetting (LETHE, FAME)

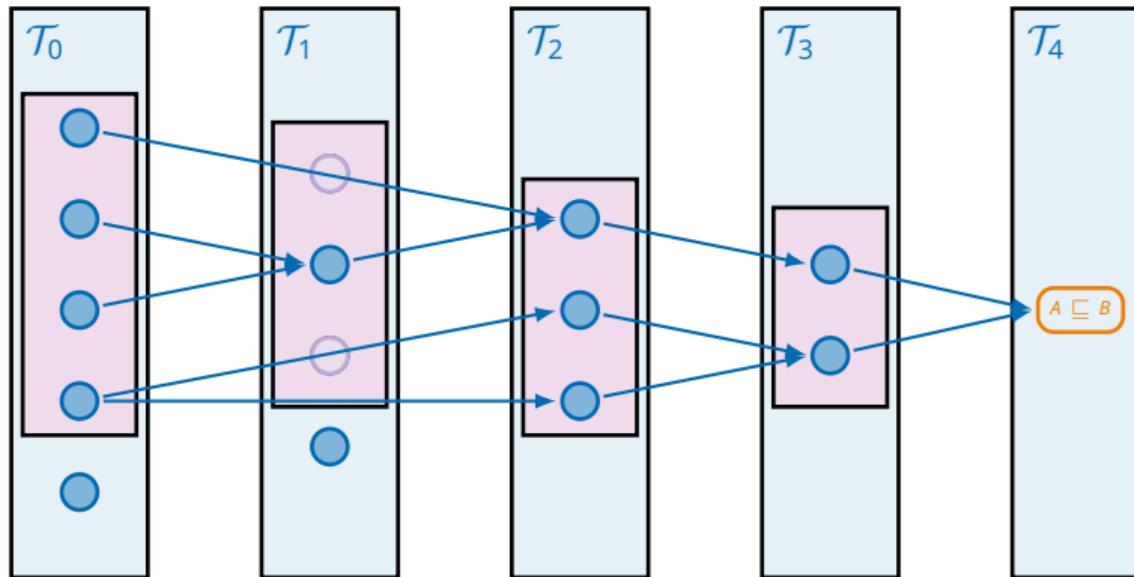
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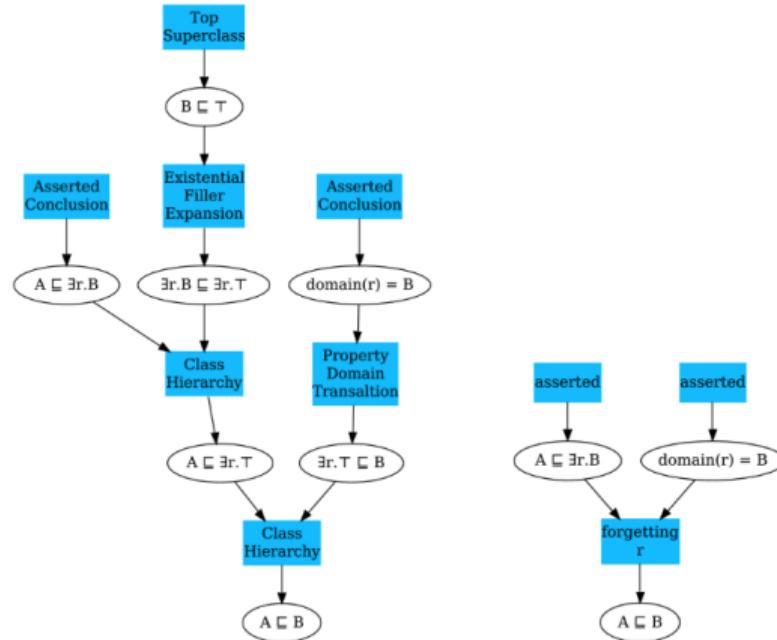
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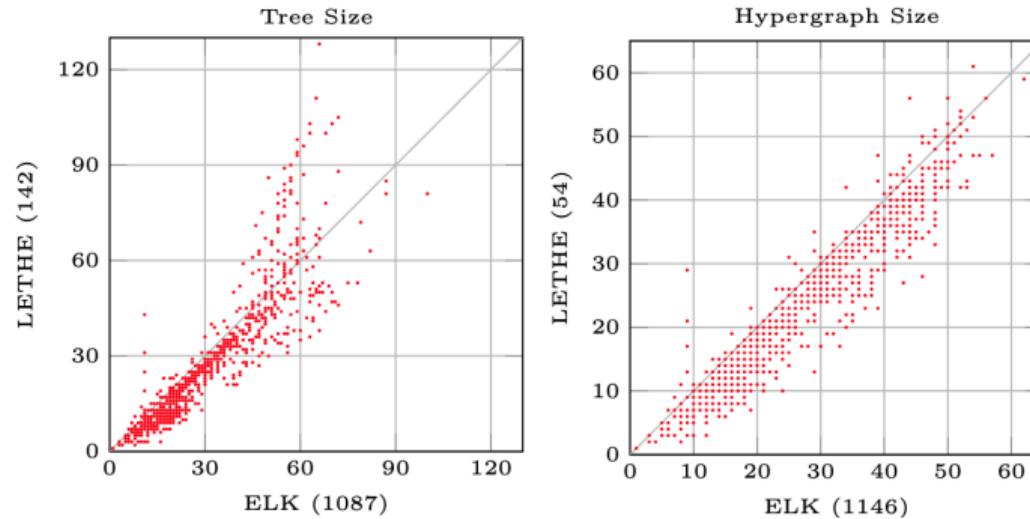
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# Size of proofs

(Alrabbaa, Baader, B, Koopmann, and Kovtunova 2020)

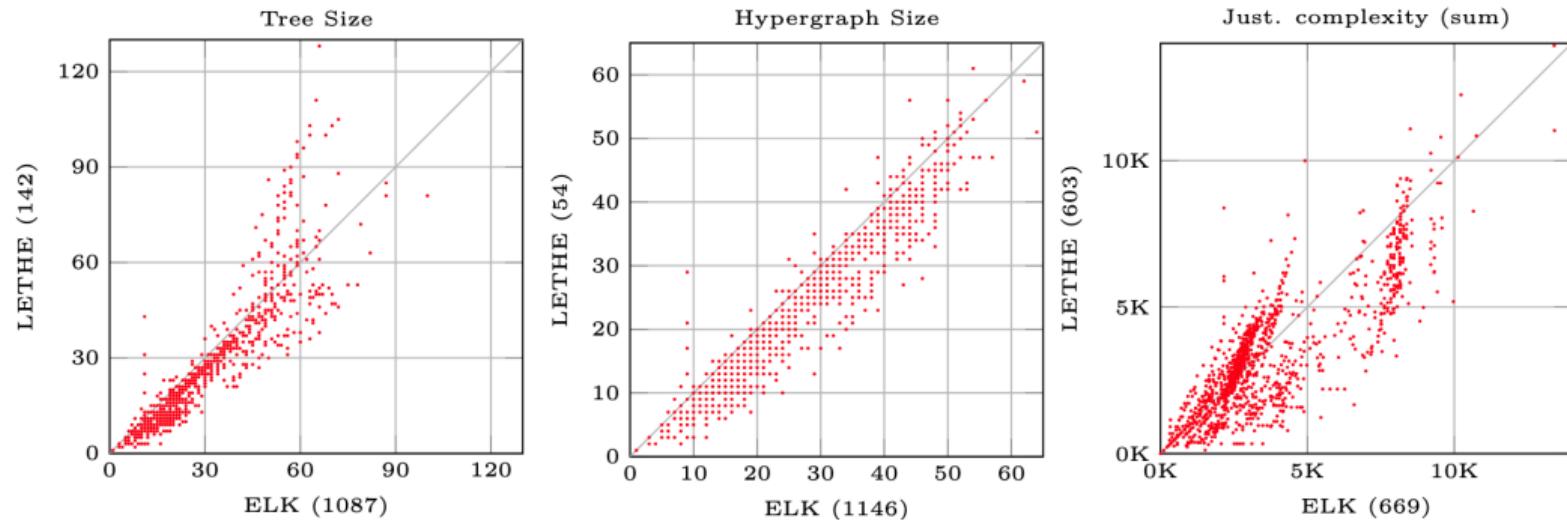
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- Proof of minimal size = proof of minimal tree size



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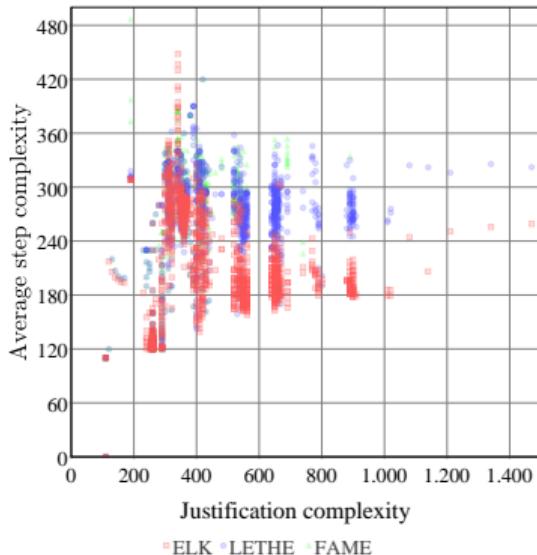
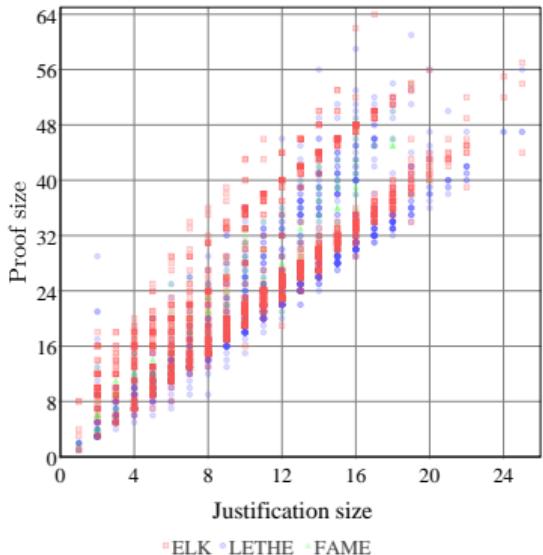
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(Horridge, Bail, Parsia, and Sattler 2013)

# Proofs vs. justifications

(B 2021)



# Proofs for ontology-mediated queries

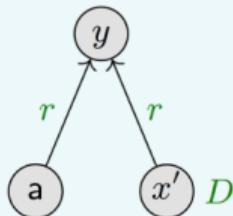
(Borgida, Calvanese, and Rodriguez-Muro 2008; Alrabbaa, B, Koopmann, and Kovtunova 2022)

ABox: A(a)

TBox: A ⊑ ∃r.B, B ⊑ ∃s.A, ∃s ⊓ ∃r⁻ ⊑ E, ∃r.E ⊑ D

Query:

$$\exists x', y. r(x, y) \wedge r(x', y) \wedge D(x')$$



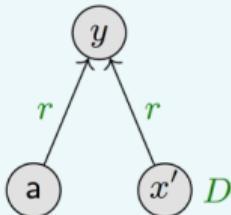
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ABox:  $A(a)$

TBox:  $A \sqsubseteq \exists r.B, B \sqsubseteq \exists s.A, \exists s \sqcap \exists r^{-} \sqsubseteq E, \exists r.E \sqsubseteq D$

Query:

$$\exists x', y. r(x, y) \wedge r(x', y) \wedge D(x')$$


$g(f(a))$

$s$

$E \quad f(a) = y \quad B$

$r$

$D \quad a = x' \quad A$

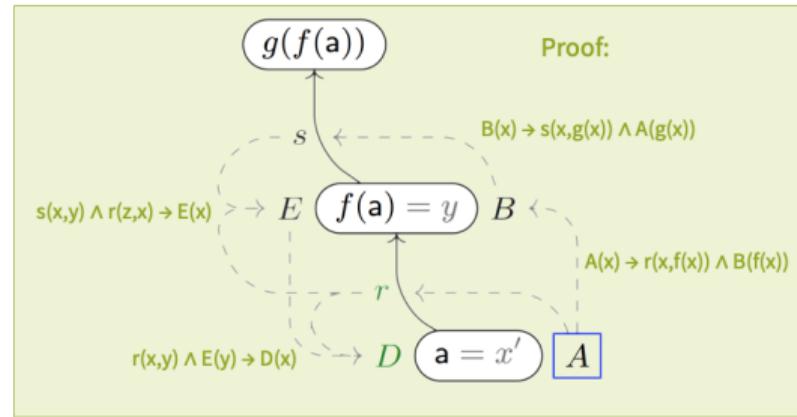
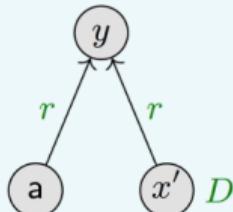
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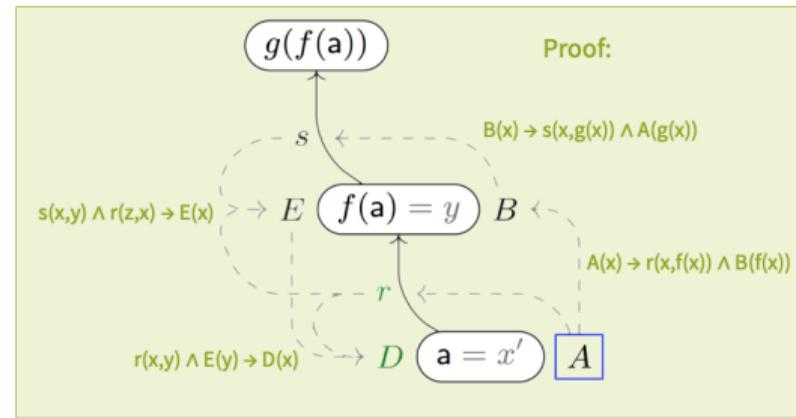
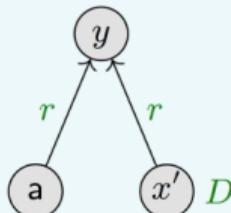
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Query:

$$\exists x', y. r(x, y) \wedge r(x', y) \wedge D(x')$$



	DL-Lite		$\mathcal{EL}$		Horn- $\mathcal{ALCHOI}$
	ELQ	CQ	IQ	CQ	CQ
Domain size	NP-c		in ExpTime		in NExpTime
Tree size	in P	NP-c	P-c	NP-c	in PSpace
Proof size	NP-c				in ExpTime
Proof size bound	polynomial		exponential		double exponential

# Proofs with concrete domains

(Alrabbaa, Baader, B, Koopmann, and Kovtunova 2023)

[fuel\_level = 0.1 · fuel\_capacity]  $\sqsubseteq$  LowFuel

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$$\frac{C \sqsubseteq A_\alpha \quad C \sqsubseteq A_\beta}{\begin{array}{c} C \sqsubseteq A_\alpha \sqcap A_\beta \quad A_\alpha \sqcap A_\beta \sqsubseteq A_\gamma \\ \hline C \sqsubseteq A_\gamma \end{array}}$$

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$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} 4y = 3 \\ 2x + 3y = 5 \end{array} \quad -12y = -9 \quad [-3]}{4x - 6y = 1} \quad [2, 1]$$

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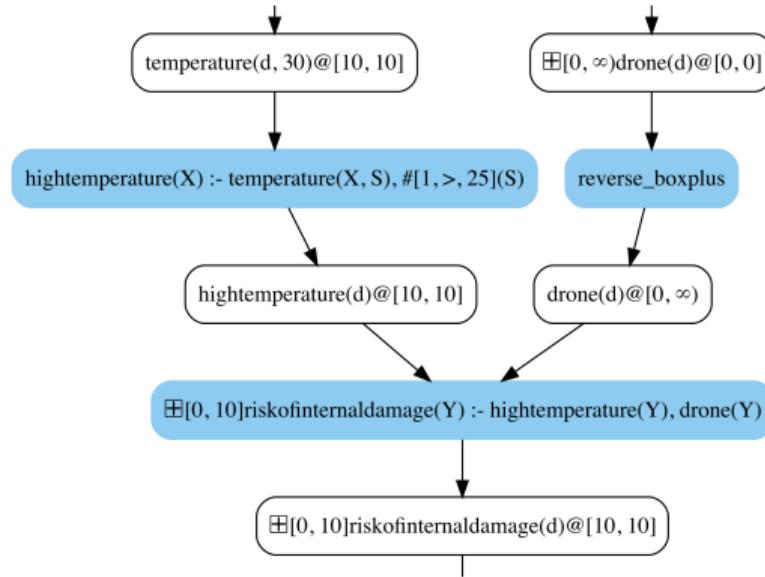
$\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} C \sqsubseteq [4y = 3] \\ C \sqsubseteq [2x + 3y = 5] \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} C \sqsubseteq [-12y = -9] \\ C \sqsubseteq [4x - 6y = 1] \end{array}} \quad \frac{[-3]}{[2, 1]}$$

# Outlook: Proofs for rules

## Proofs for DatalogMTL in METEOR

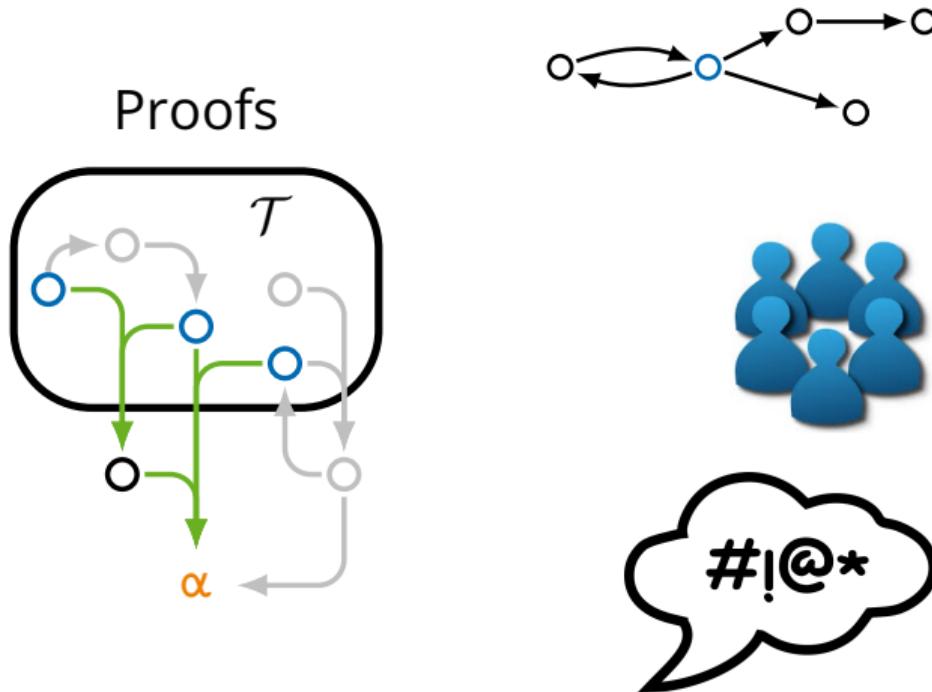
(B, Demberg, Jobanputra, Kovtunova, and Nhu 2024)



## Proofs for Datalog and existential rules in NEMO

(Ivliev, Ellmauthaler, Gerlach, Marx, Meißner, Meusel, and Krötzsch 2023)

# Outline



Missing entailments



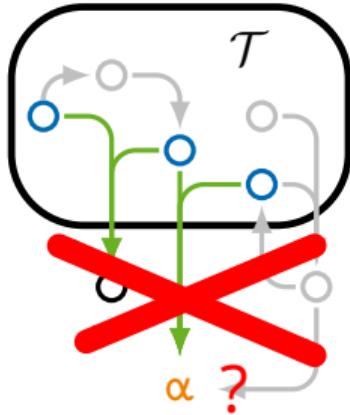
User studies



Verbalization

# Explaining missing entailments

Missing entailment:  $\mathcal{T} \not\models \alpha$



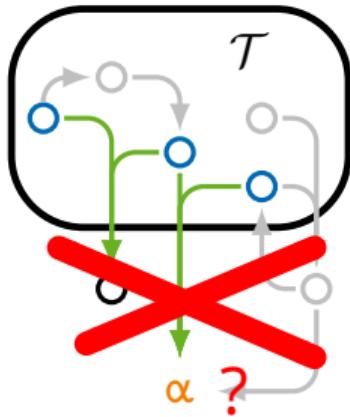
Counterexample:

Model of  $\mathcal{T}$  that does not satisfy  $\alpha$

(Bauer, Sattler, and Parsia 2009; Alrabbaa and Hieke 2022; Alrabbaa, B, Friese, Koopmann, and Kotlov 2023)

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Abductive hypothesis:

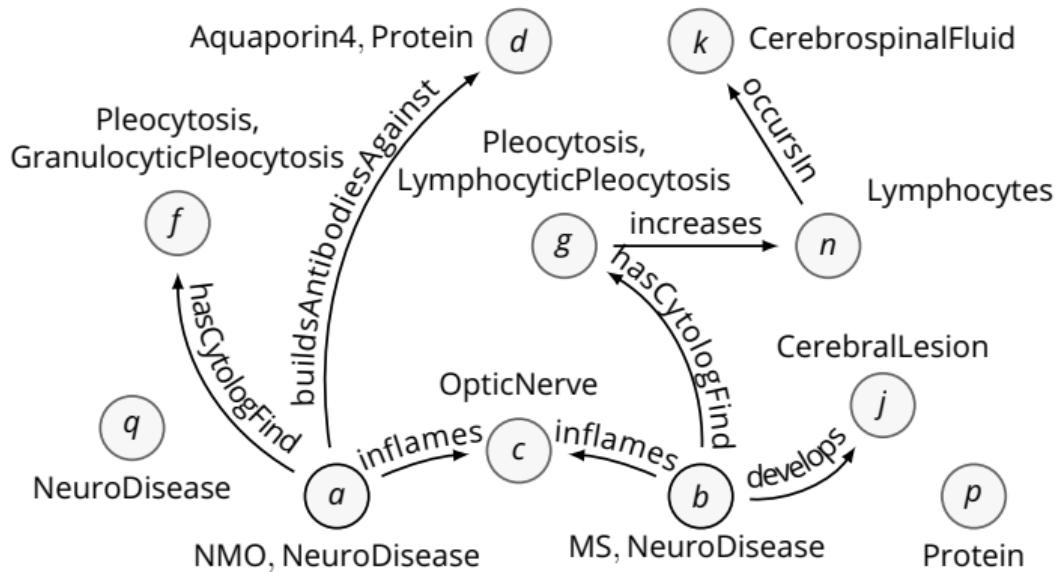
$\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \models \alpha$  ( $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \not\models \perp$  and  $\mathcal{H} \not\equiv \{\alpha\}$ )

(Calvanese, Ortiz, Simkus, and Stefanoni 2013; Wei-Kleiner, Dragisic, and Lambrix 2014; Koopmann, Del-Pinto, Tourret, and Schmidt 2020; Haifani, Koopmann, Tourret, and Weidenbach 2022)

# Relevant counterexamples

Model of  $\mathcal{T}$  that does not satisfy NeuromyelitisOptica  $\sqsubseteq$  MultipleSclerosis

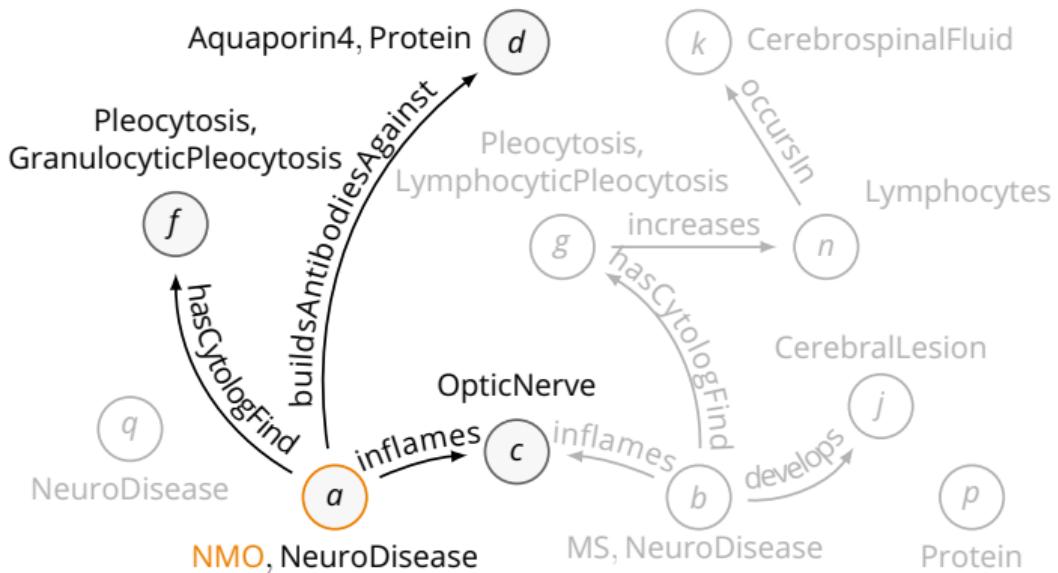
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# Relevant counterexamples

Part of a model of  $\mathcal{T}$  that does not satisfy NeuromyelitisOptica  $\sqsubseteq$  MultipleSclerosis

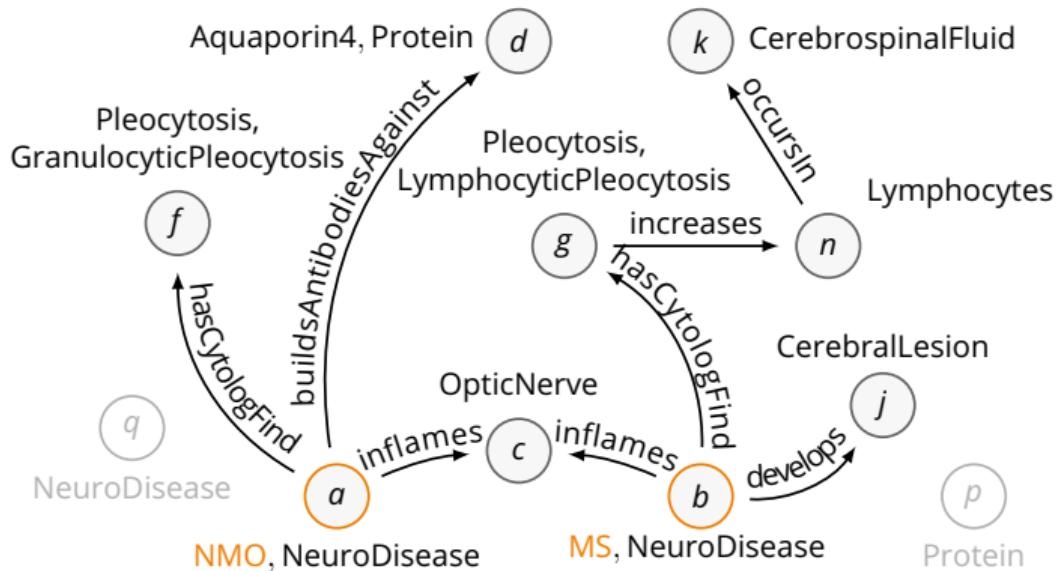
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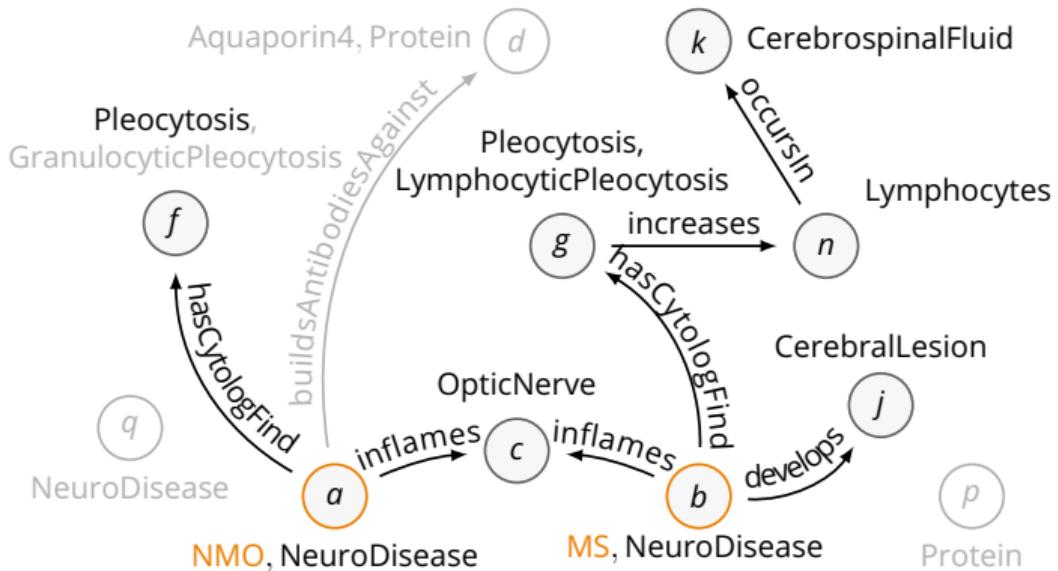
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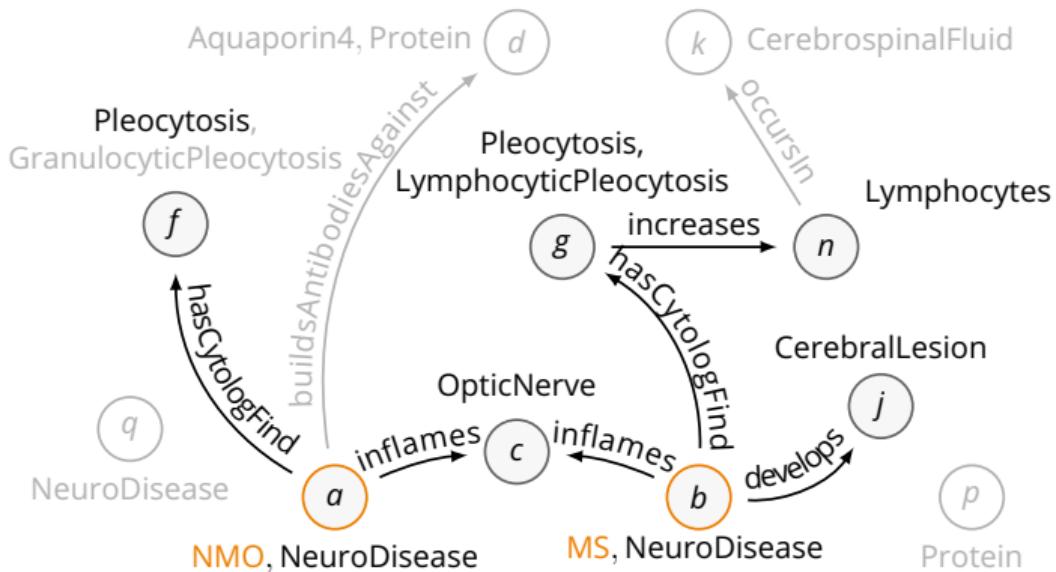
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# Abduction

$\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \models \alpha \quad (\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \not\models \perp \text{ and } \mathcal{H} \not\equiv \{\alpha\})$

## Complete signature-based abduction

(Koopmann, Del-Pinto, Tourret, and Schmidt 2020)

- Restrict  $\mathcal{H}$  to a signature  $\Sigma$
- High expressivity:  $\mathcal{T}$  in  $\mathcal{ALC}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$  with disjunction of axioms, inverse roles, nominals, fixpoint concepts
- Implementation based on LETHE

# Abduction

$\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \models \alpha$     ( $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{H} \not\models \perp$  and  $\mathcal{H} \not\equiv \{\alpha\}$ )

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## Connection-minimal abduction

(Haifani, Koopmann, Tourret, and Weidenbach 2022)

- $\mathcal{H}$  is “connected” to  $\alpha$
- Low expressivity:  $\mathcal{T}$  in  $\mathcal{EL}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$  only conjunctions of concept names
- Implementation (CAPI) based on SPASS

# (Non)commercial break

# EVEE - a collection of PROTÉGÉ plugins



[github.com/  
de-tu-dresden-inf-lat/evee](https://github.com/de-tu-dresden-inf-lat/evee)

Explanation for IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing

Proofs  
ELK Proof, optimized for weighted size  
Proof tree for entailment

- IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing
- IceCream SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- IceCream SubClassOf IceCream and Pizza
- IceCream SubClassOf Pizza
- IceCream SubClassOf hasTopping some owl:Thing
- IceCream SubClassOf hasTopping some FruitTopping
- hasTopping some FruitTopping SubClassOf hasTopping some owl:Thing
- FruitTopping SubClassOf owl:Thing
- hasTopping some owl:Thing SubClassOf Pizza
- hasTopping Domain Pizza
- IceCream SubClassOf IceCream
- IceCream and Pizza SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- DisjointClasses: IceCream, Pizza, PizzaBase, PizzaTopping
- owl:Nothing SubClassOf IceCream

Bottom Subclass

OK

Explanation for IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing

Proofs  
Elimination Proof (LETHE)  
Proof tree for entailment

- IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing
- direct
- IceCream SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- eliminate "FruitTopping", hasTopping
- IceCream and (hasTopping some owl:Thing) SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- eliminate "Pizza"
- DisjointClasses: IceCream, Pizza, PizzaBase, PizzaTopping asserted
- hasTopping Domain Pizza asserted
- IceCream SubClassOf hasTopping some FruitTopping asserted

OK

Explanation for IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing

Proofs  
Detailed Proof (LETHE)  
Proof tree for entailment

- IceCream EquivalentTo owl:Nothing
- definition of equivalence
- IceCream SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- "some" elimination
- IceCream and (hasTopping only owl:Nothing)
- class resolution
- owl:Thing SubClassOf Pizza or (hasTopping only owl:Nothing)
- normalize
- hasTopping Domain Pizza asserted
- IceCream and Pizza SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- normalize
- DisjointClasses: IceCream, Pizza, PizzaBase, PizzaTopping asserted
- IceCream SubClassOf hasTopping some FruitTopping asserted
- FruitTopping and owl:Nothing SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- subsumption weakening
- owl:Nothing SubClassOf owl:Nothing
- tautology
- owl:Nothing SubClassOf IceCream
- tautology

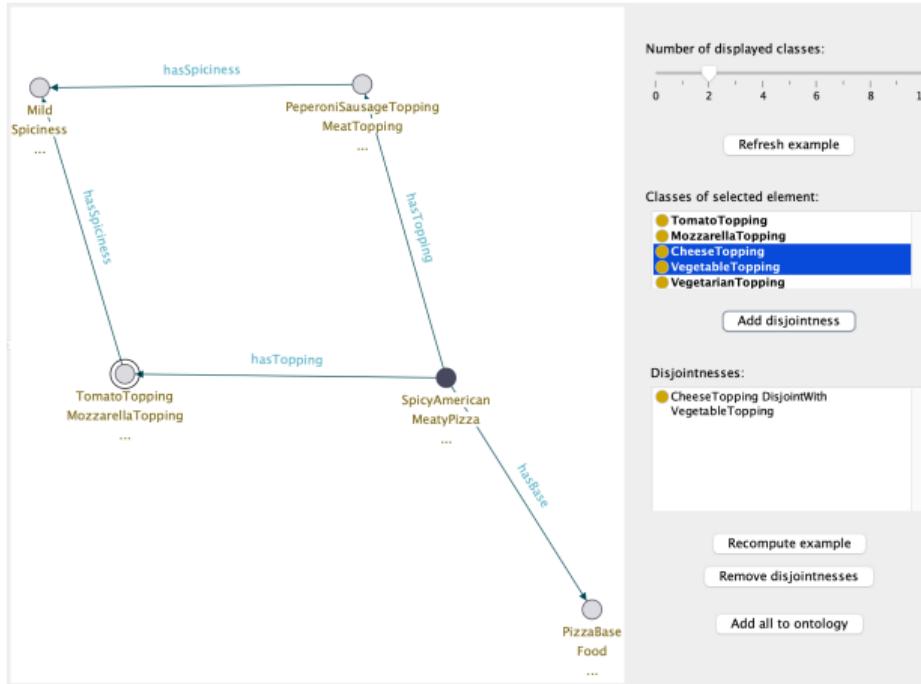
OK

(Alrabbaa, B, Friese, Hirsch, Knieriemen, Koopmann, Kovtunova, Krüger, Popović, and Siahaan 2024)

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[github.com/  
de-tu-dresden-inf-lat/evee](https://github.com/de-tu-dresden-inf-lat/evee)

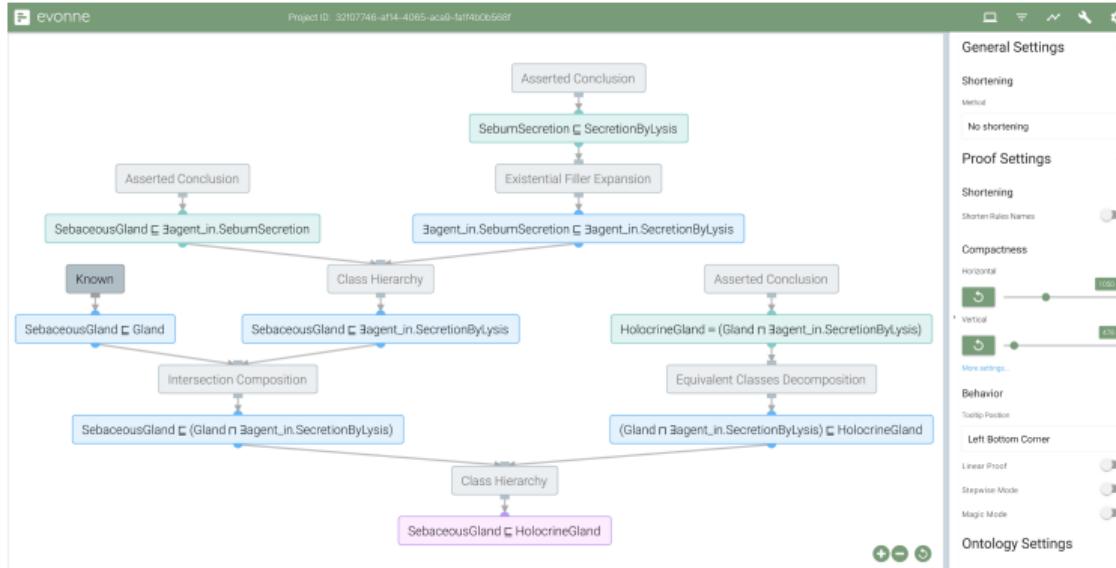
The screenshot shows the EVEE interface for a PROTEGÉ plugin. On the left, there are two panels: 'Permitted vocabulary' and 'Forbidden vocabulary'. The 'Permitted vocabulary' panel lists classes like American, CheeseTopping, ChilliTopping, Country, DeepPanBase, DomainThing, Food, and HamTopping. The 'Forbidden vocabulary' panel lists SpicyPizza. On the right, there are two sections for 'Hypotheses': 'Hypothesis 1' contains the statement Mild SubClassOf Hot; 'Hypothesis 2' contains the statement SpicyAmerican SubClassOf (hasTopping some ChilliTopping) or (hasTopping some SpicySalamiTopping). Each hypothesis section has buttons for Explain, Forbid vocabulary, and Add to ontology.

(Alrabbaa, B, Friese, Hirsch, Knieriemen, Koopmann, Kovtunova, Krüger, Popović, and Siahaan 2024)

# EVONNE - EVEE's bigger sister



imld.de/evonne

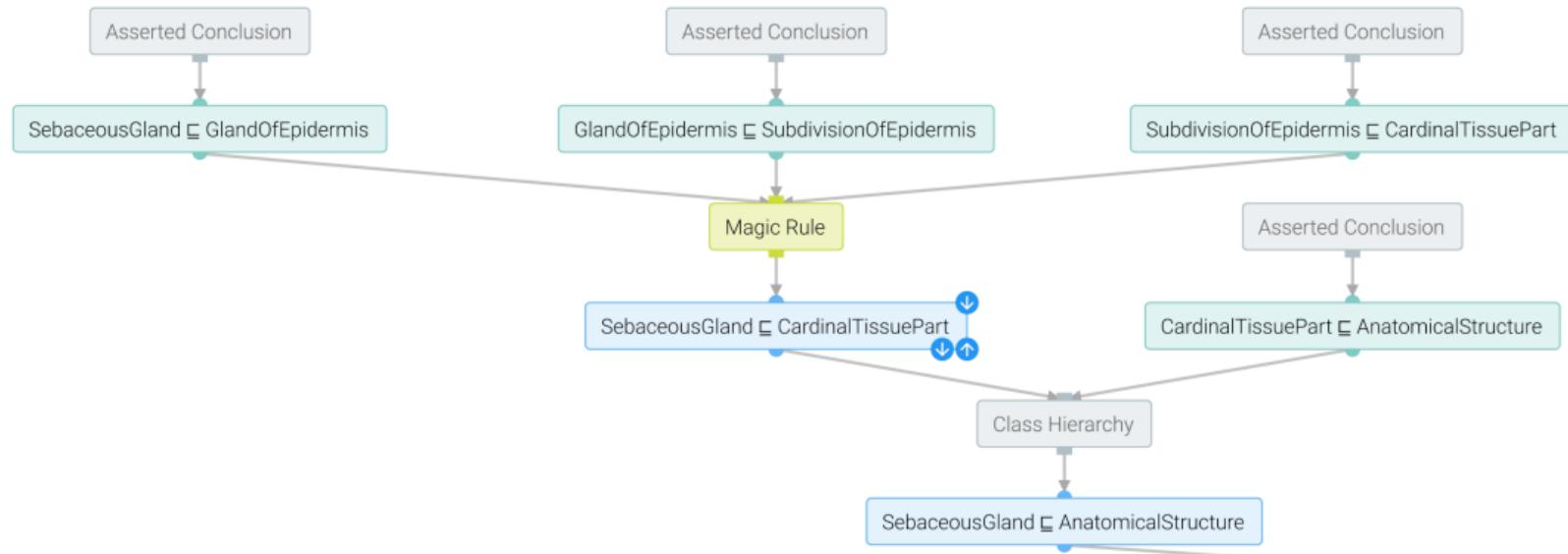


(Méndez, Alrabbaa, Koopmann, Langner, Baader, and Dachselt 2023)

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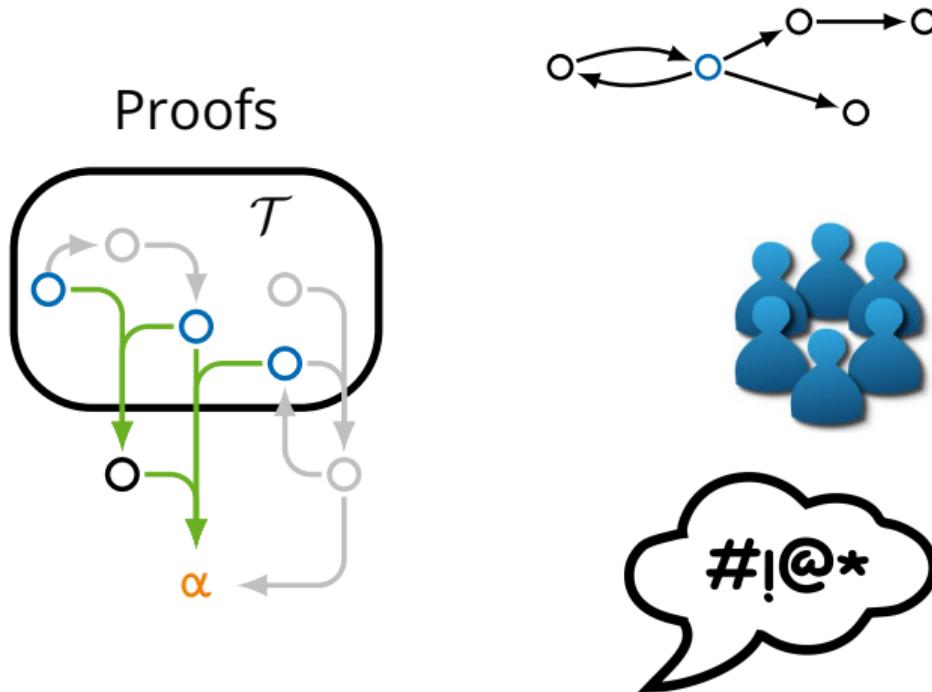


imld.de/evonne



(Méndez, Alrabbaa, Koopmann, Langner, Baader, and Dachselt 2023)

# Outline



Missing entailments

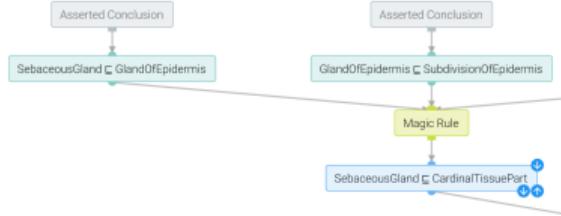


User studies



Verbalization

# User studies

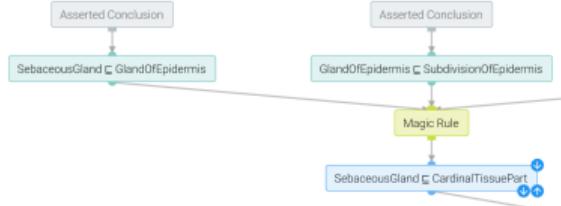


## Proof format

(Alrabbaa, B, Hirsch, Knieriemen, Kovtunova, Rothermel, and Wiehr 2022)

- Many prefer **shorter, tree-shaped, interactive** proofs
- Preferences are **subjective**
- IQ test (ICAR16) predicts performance on proofs

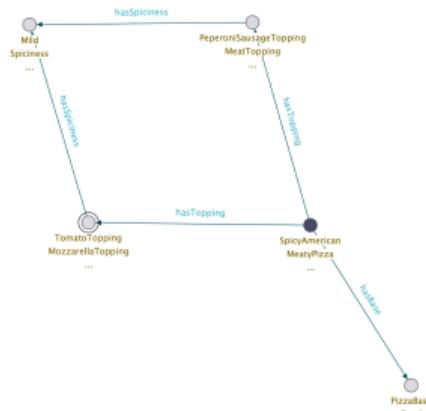
# User studies



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## Usability of EVEE

(Alrabbaa, B, Friese, Hirsch, Knieriemen, Koopmann, Kovtunova, Krüger, Popović, and Siahaan 2024)

- Preferred explanation methods depend on **users and use cases**

# Designing user studies

domain-specific / abstract    performance / preferences    experts / students / laypeople

---

Since every cell culture is a material object and every material object contains an atom, every cell culture contains an atom. From the facts that every cell culture contains an atom and that every cell culture contains a cell and contains only cells, it follows that every cell culture contains something which is both an atom and a cell.

Every cell is a compound. Thus, any object which is an atom and a cell at the same time is also an atom and a compound. There is no object which is an atom and a compound at the same time. Therefore, there is no object which is both an atom and a cell.

Furthermore, since every cell culture contains something which is both an atom and a cell and there is no object which is both an atom and a cell, there is no cell culture.

---

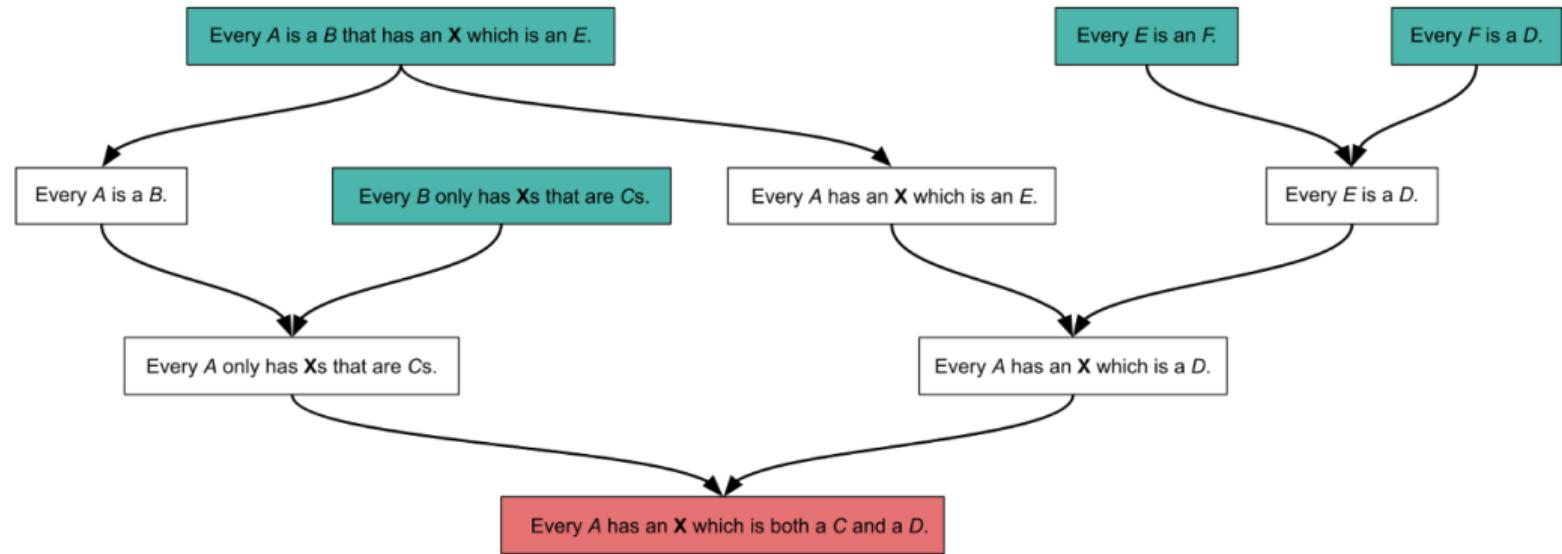
# Designing user studies

domain-specific / abstract    performance / preferences    experts / students / laypeople

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{ct.C} \sqcap \forall \text{ct.C} \\ \hline \text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{ct.}(\text{At} \sqcap \text{C}) \end{array}}{\text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \bot}$$
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \text{MaObj} \quad \text{MaObj} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{ct.At} \\ \hline \text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \exists \text{ct.At} \end{array}}{\text{CCIt} \sqsubseteq \bot}$$
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \sqsubseteq \text{Cmp} \\ \hline \text{At} \sqcap \text{C} \sqsubseteq \text{At} \sqcap \text{Cmp} \quad \text{At} \sqcap \text{Cmp} \sqsubseteq \perp \end{array}}{\text{At} \sqcap \text{C} \sqsubseteq \perp}$$

# Designing user studies

domain-specific / abstract    performance / preferences    experts / students / laypeople



# Designing user studies

domain-specific / abstract    performance / preferences    experts / students / laypeople

Since every woal is a luxi that is munted with a xylo,  
every woal is a luxi.

Since every luxi is a kake,  
every woal is a kake.

Moreover, every kake is only munted with kakes,  
and thus every woal is only munted with kakes.

Every xylo is a pire  
and every pire is an atis,  
which means that every xylo is an atis.

Since every woal is a luxi that is munted with a xylo,  
every woal is munted with a xylo.

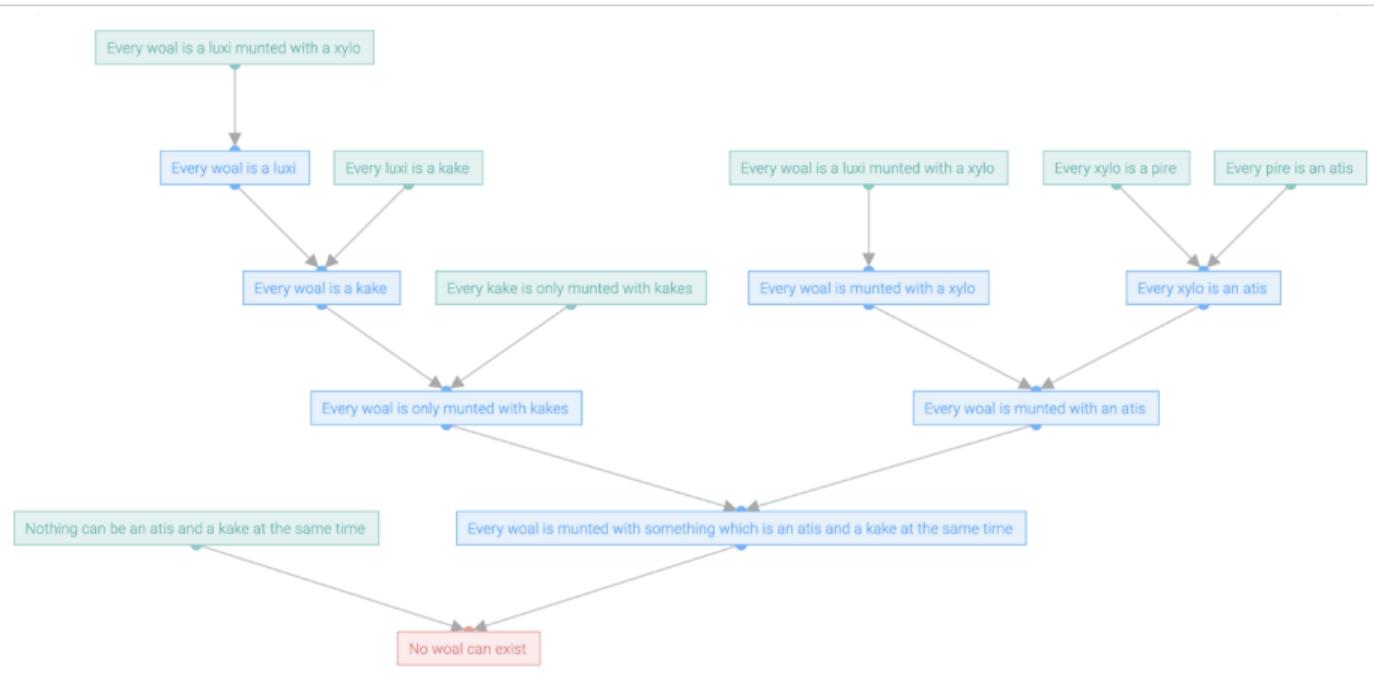
Since every xylo is an atis,  
we know that every woal is munted with an atis.

We have inferred that every woal is only munted with kakes  
and that every woal is munted with an atis.

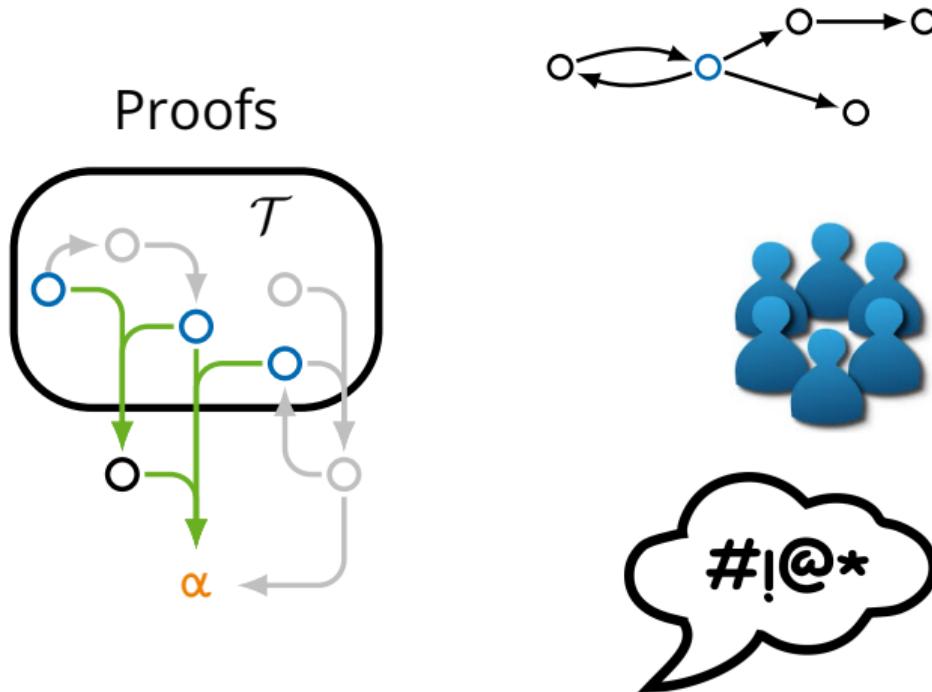
Therefore, every woal is munted with something which is both an atis and a kake.  
However, nothing can be an atis and a kake at the same time  
which lets us conclude that woals cannot exist.

# Designing user studies

domain-specific / abstract    performance / preferences    experts / students / laypeople



# Outline



# Drone handover scenario



Handover from autonomous drone to human operator  
requires **timely, short warning** of a critical situation

(Wiehr, Hirsch, Schmitz, Knieriemen, Krüger, Kovtunova, B, Chang, Demberg, Steinmetz, and Hoffmann 2021)

# Drone handover scenario



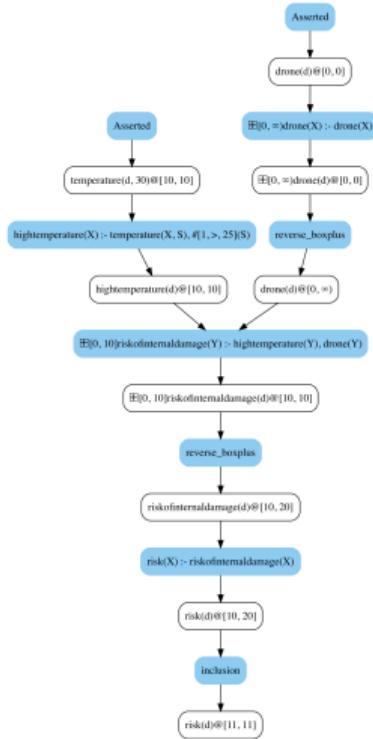
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**Verbalization** of entailments and **explanations**:

- controlled natural language (Power 2012)
- template-based verbalization (Schiller, Schiller, and Glimm 2017)
- transformer models (Chang, Kovtunova, B, Demberg, Chapman, and Yeh 2022)
- large language models (B, Demberg, Jobanputra, Kovtunova, and Nhu 2024)

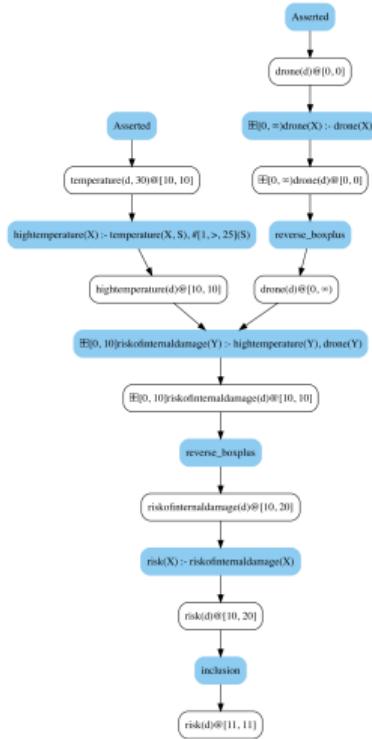
# Proof verbalization with LLMs



(B, Demberg, Jobanputra, Kovtunova, and Nhu 2024)

Proofs provide more information than justifications

# Proof verbalization with LLMs

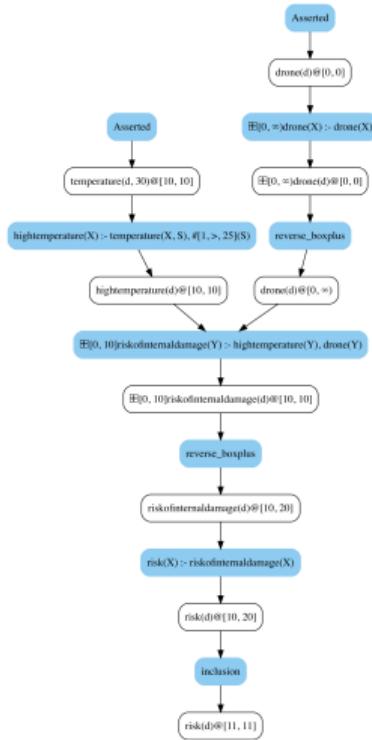


(B, Demberg, Jobanputra, Kovtunova, and Nhu 2024)

Proofs provide more information than justifications

Challenge: Find the important parts of the proof

# Proof verbalization with LLMs



(B, Demberg, Jobanputra, Kovtunova, and Nhu 2024)

Proofs provide more information than justifications

Challenge: Find the important parts of the proof

"At time 10, there is a risk of internal damage to your drone (d) because it has a high temperature of 30 degrees Celsius. This is likely because the drone is flying."

Inconsistent outputs, hallucinations

# Summary

- Justifications are often enough, but sometimes proofs are needed
- Missing entailments also require explanations
- Computing explanations can take a long time
- Formal explanations are mainly useful for experts

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Thank you!

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## References IV

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