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# Automated Reasoning Support for First-Order Ontologies

presented at the  
4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Principles and Practice  
of Semantic Web Reasoning (PPSWR 2006)

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# Automated Reasoning Support for FOLs



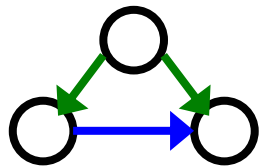
MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

- ♪ Motivation
- ♪ Our Transformation from FOL to DLPs
  - ♪ Existentially Quantified Formulae
  - ♪ Equality
- ♪ Conclusion

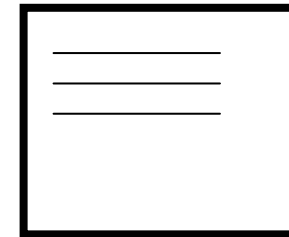
# Model Computation



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Ontology  
(set of FOL formulae)



Model  
(set of derivable facts)

$\forall x \text{ singer}(x) \Rightarrow \text{sings}(x)$

$\text{singer}(\text{elvis})$

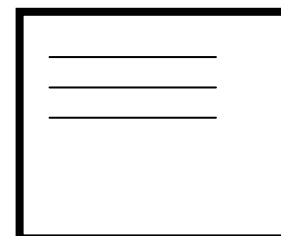
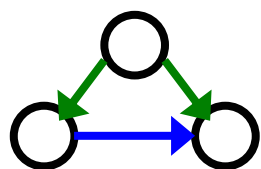
$\text{sings}(\text{elvis})$ .

$\text{singer}(\text{elvis})$ .

# Use of Model Computation



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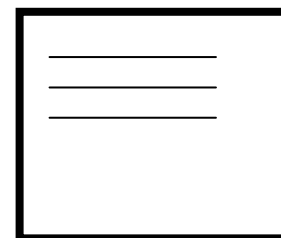
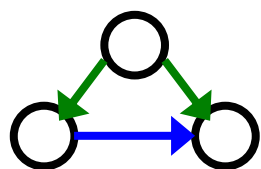
Model computation can be used for:

- ♪ Finding contradictions in the ontology  
(there is a model only iff the ontology is consistent)
- ♪ Debugging the ontology
- ♪ Proving/disproving conjectures

# Undecidability of Model Computation



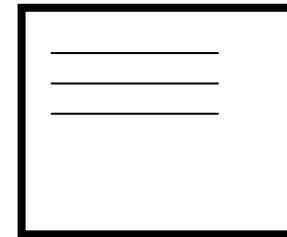
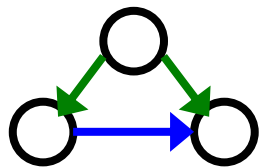
MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft



Model Computation is only semi-decidable for FOL:

- ⌋ we can (in principle) always detect unsatisfiability
- ⌋ we cannot always detect satisfiability (for principal reasons)

# Existing Approaches



There exist model generation systems (e.g. MACE4 and Paradox).

Problems:

- ⌋ They try to map all constants to the same domain element
- ⌋ They have difficulties if there are many distinct constants

$$p(c_1, \dots, c_n).$$

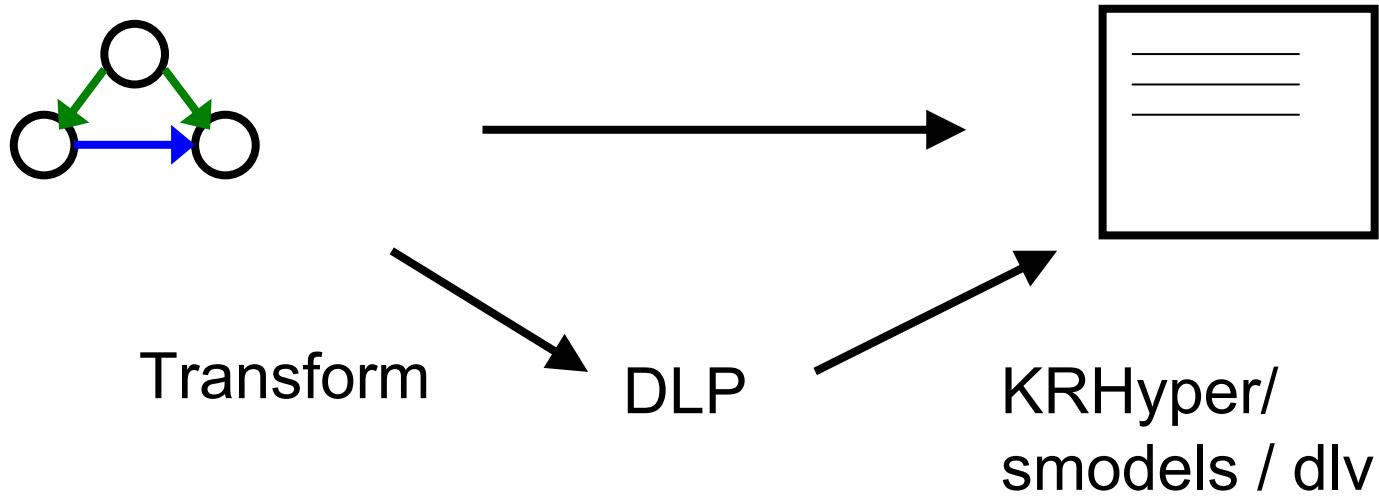
$$\neg p(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, \mathbf{x}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{j-1}, \mathbf{x}, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_n). \quad \text{for all } 1 < i < j < n$$

**Fails for  
n > 8**

# Our Approach



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# Disjunctive Logic Programs (DLPs)



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Rule:

$$r(a) \vee p(x,y) \text{ :- } q(x,y), r(z), \text{ not}(s(a,x)).$$

A Disjunctive Logic Program (DLP) is a set of rules.



# Our Transformation from FOL to DLPs



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

$\forall x \text{ inCharge}(x) \Rightarrow \text{onLeave}(x) \vee \exists y \text{ refersTo}(x,y)$



**Prenex Negation Normal Form**

$\forall x[\dots] \exists y[\dots] [Qz\dots] \neg \text{inCharge}(x) \vee \text{onLeave}(x) \vee \text{refersTo}(x,y)$

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Disjuncts without  
existential or  
following variables

Disjuncts with  
existential or  
following variables

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negative literals

$$\forall x[\dots] \exists y[\dots] [Qz\dots] \neg \text{inCharge}(x) \vee \text{onLeave}(x) \vee \text{refersTo}(x,y)$$

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$\forall x \exists y \neg \text{inCharge}(x) \vee \underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x,y)}$



Option 1: Usual Skolemization

$\underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x, \text{sk}(x))} \text{ :- } \text{inCharge}(x).$

# Our Transformation from FOL to DLPs


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Problem:

$\neg \text{onLeave}(\text{Smith})$

$\text{refersTo}(\text{Smith}, \text{Miller})$

$\rightarrow \text{refersTo}(\text{Smith}, \text{sk}(\text{Smith})).$

# Our Transformation from FOL to DLPs

$$\forall x \exists y \neg \text{inCharge}(x) \vee \underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x,y)}$$


Option 2: Recycling

$$\underline{\text{is\_sat}}_{\exists}(x) \vee \underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x,\text{sk}(x))} \text{ :- inCharge}(x).$$

Problem:

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(simplified. See paper)



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→ refersTo(Smith,sk(Smith)).

refersTo(sk(Smith),sk(sk(Smith))).

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(simplified. See paper)

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$$\forall x \exists y \neg \text{inCharge}(x) \vee \underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x,y)}$$


Option 3: Loop check

$$\underline{\text{prev}_{\exists}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{is\_sat}_{\exists}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{onLeave}(x)} \vee \underline{\text{refersTo}(x,\text{sk}(x))} \text{ :- inCharge}(x).$$

Problem:

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false :- is\_sat<sub>∃</sub>(x),  
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refersTo(x,sk(z)) :-  
prev<sub>∃</sub>(x),  
refersTo(z,sk(z)).

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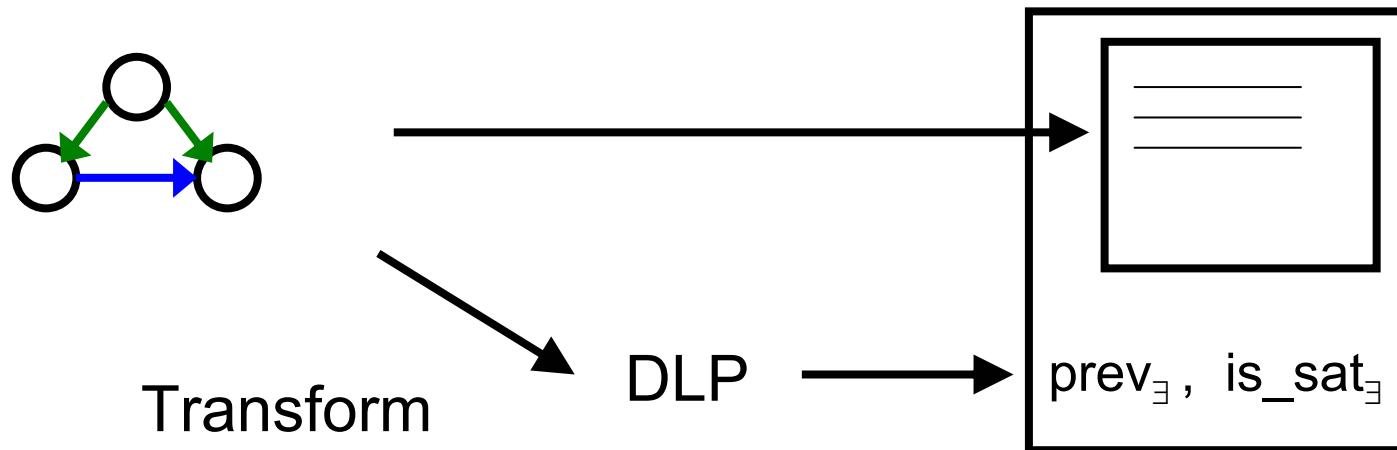
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refersTo(sk(Smith),sk(Smith)).

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# Our Transformation from FOL to DLPs



The model is preserved (modulo the fresh predicate symbols).

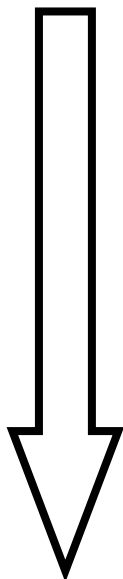
# Treating Equality



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`equal(dog(smith), bonzo).`

`inCharge(dog(smith)).`



`inCharge(bonzo).`

# Treating Equality



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<code>inCharge(Y):-inCharge(X),equal(X,Y).</code>	}	Substitution axioms
<code>equal(dog(X),dog(Y)) :- equal(X,Y).</code>		
<code>equal(X,X).</code>	}	Equivalence axioms
<code>equal(X,Y) :- equal(Y,X).</code>		
<code>equal(X,Z) :- equal(X,Y), equal(Y,Z).</code>		

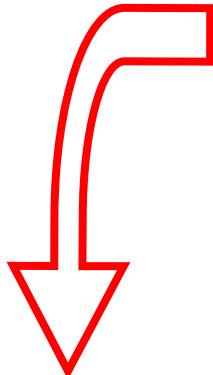
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`inCharge(Y):-inCharge(X),equal(X,Y)` } Substitution  
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`equal(X,X).` }  
`equal(X,Y) :- equal(Y,X).` } Equivalence  
`equal(X,Z) :- equal(X,Y), equal(Y,Z).` } axioms

`equal(dog(dog(smith)),dog(bonzo)).`



# Treating Equality

equal(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(elvi  
 equal(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(dog(smith))))))  
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} Equivalence  
axioms



# Treating Equality



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

equal(dog(smith), bonzo).

inCharge(  $X$  ) :- equal( $X$ , dog(smith)).

Flatten function terms (Brand 1975)

equal( $X$ , $X$ ).

equal( $X$ , $Y$ ) :- equal( $Y$ , $X$ ).

equal( $X$ , $Z$ ) :- equal( $X$ , $Y$ ), equal( $Y$ , $Z$ ).

} Equivalence axioms

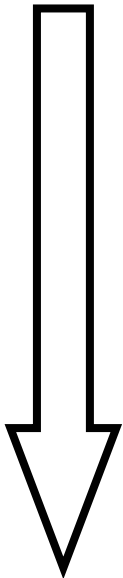
# Treating Equality



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

`equal(dog(smith), bonzo).`

`inCharge( X ) :- equal(X,dog(smith)).`



`equal(X,X).`

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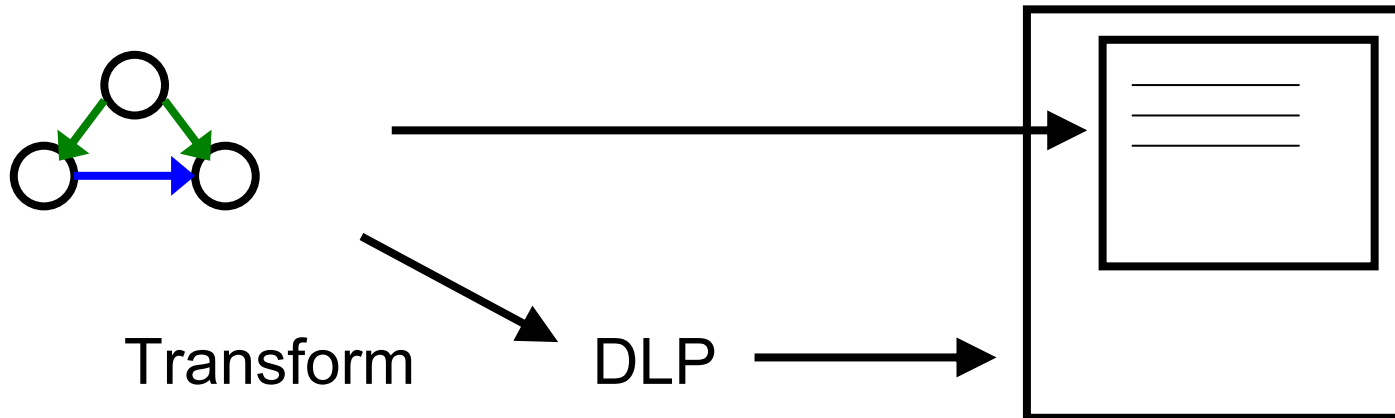
} Equivalence  
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`inCharge(bonzo).`

# Treating Equality



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

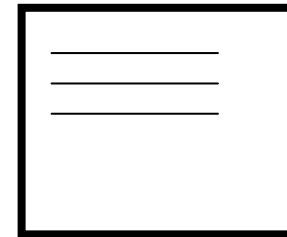
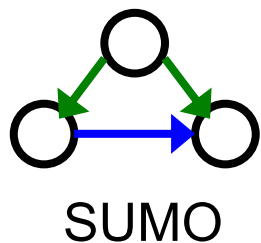


Iff the original DLP has a model that satisfies equality,  
then the transformed DLP has a model (which contains the original one)

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



The Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO):

- ⌋ is the largest public formal ontology available today
- ⌋ uses first order logic with higher order features
- ⌋ contains 1800 facts and rules if higher order features are stripped

$$\forall x \text{ human}(x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ mother}(x,y)$$

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

Applying our approach to SUMO:

- ♪ The transformation to a DLP takes just a few seconds
- ♪ The model computation with KRHyper takes just a few seconds
- ♪ The model computation revealed numerous inconsistencies in SUMO

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Results:

- └ Equality transformation proved scalable and useful

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO

## Results:

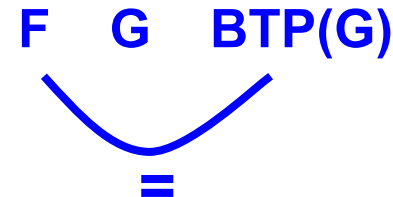
- Equality transformation proved scalable and useful

We added the following conjectures to SUMO:

*orientation(germany,west, biggestTradingPartner(germany)).*

*orientation(france, west, germany).*

*equal(biggestTradingPartner(germany),france).*



# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO

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Equality transformation proved scalable and useful

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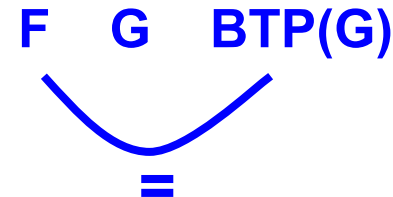
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# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

## Results:

- ⌋ Equality transformation proved scalable and useful
- ⌋ Recycling of terms works as expected

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*instance(p, judicialProcess)*

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

Results:

- ✓ Equality transformation proved scalable and useful
- ✓ Recycling of terms works as expected

We added the following conjecture to SUMO:

*instance(p, judicialProcess)*

SUMO axiom:  $\forall x \text{ instance}(x, \text{judicialProcess}) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ agent}(x, y)$

*agent(p, sk(p)).*

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

Results:

- ⌋ Equality transformation proved scalable and useful
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We added the following conjecture to SUMO:

*instance(p,judicialProcess)*

*agent(p,smith)*

SUMO axiom:  $\forall x \text{instance}(x,\text{judicialProcess}) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{agent}(x,y)$

*agent(p,smith).*

# Preliminary Experiments with SUMO



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

## Results:

- ⌋ Equality transformation proved scalable and useful
- ⌋ Recycling of terms works as expected
- ⌋ Loop check cannot always avoid infinite models

# Conclusion

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MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Our transformation for FOL ontologies

- ↳ allows to compute models for large ontologies
- ↳ supports equality
- ↳ avoids unnecessary skolem terms
- ↳ (often) avoids infinite models