

Patrick Koopmann

# Using Abduction to Explain Missing Entailments in OWL Ontologies

ESAO 2023, 14 February, 2023

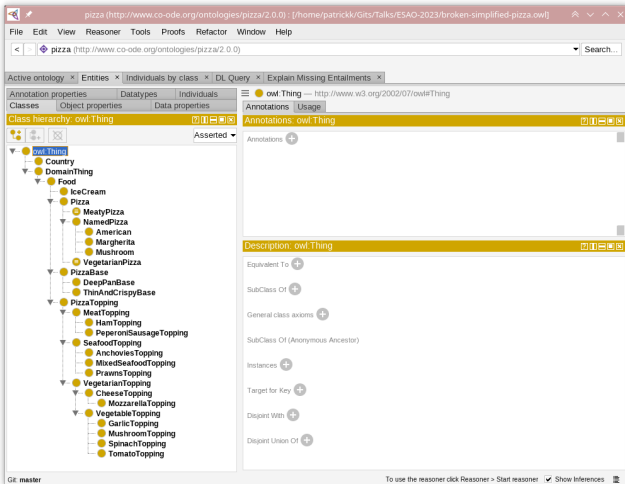
# Motivation

- We consider **OWL** ontologies based on **Description Logics** (DLs)
- Developing, maintaining and understanding ontologies can be challenging
  - large number of classes and axioms
  - complex interactions between axioms
- Reasoning with DLs is explainable "*by design*"
  - inferences through symbolic reasoning

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- Reasoning with DLs is explainable "*by design*"
  - inferences through symbolic reasoning
- **Vision:** Ontology tools support users like a tutor would:
  - **explain** inferences performed by the reasoner
  - offer **different types** of explanations
  - **guide** them to a **solution** to their problems
  - help them **understand** the reasoning

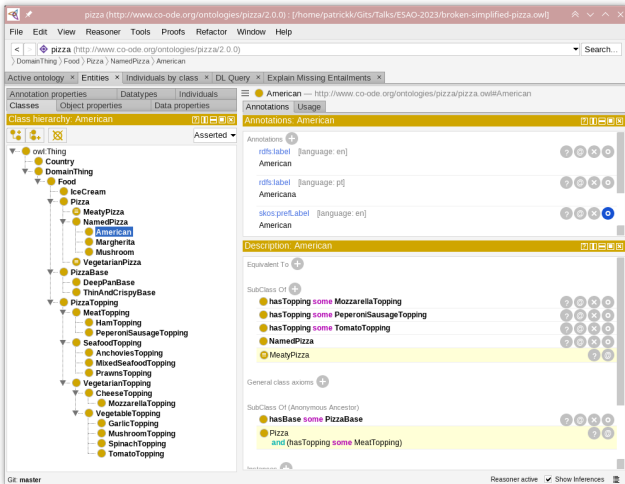
# Working with OWL Ontologies



Protégé is a popular tool for developing OWL ontologies

- Example shows a simplified version of the [Pizza ontology](#)

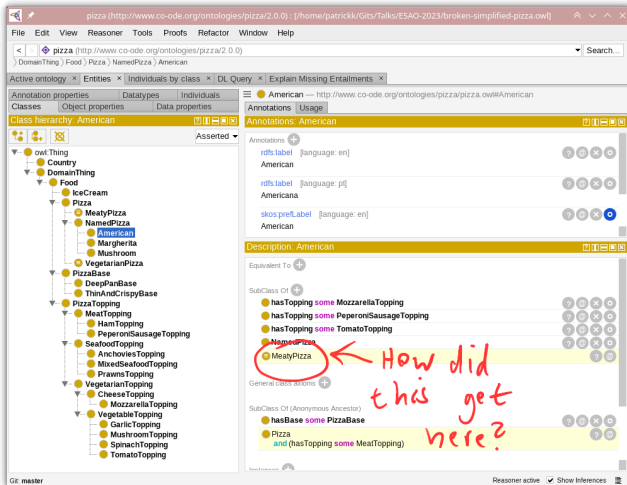
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- Clicking on a class shows **stated** and **inferred** information

# Working with OWL Ontologies



Protégé is a popular tool for developing OWL ontologies

- Example shows a simplified version of the [Pizza ontology](#)
- Clicking on a class shows **stated** and **inferred information**

A user might want the inferred information [explained](#):

- to [understand](#) the mechanism of the ontology
- in case the inferred information looks [incorrect](#)

# Justifications

The screenshot shows the Protégé application window with the 'pizza' ontology loaded. A dialog box titled 'Explanation for American SubClassOf MeatyPizza' is open, displaying two explanations. The 'Justification Based Explanation' tab is selected, showing a list of justifications for the entailment. The justifications are as follows:

Justification	Other Justifications
1) American SubClassOf NamedPizza	In NO other justifications
2) NamedPizza SubClassOf Pizza	In NO other justifications
3) American SubClassOf hasTopping some PepperoniSausageTopping	In ALL other justifications
4) PepperoniSausageTopping SubClassOf MeatTopping	In ALL other justifications
5) MeatyPizza EquivalentTo Pizza and (hasTopping some MeatTopping)	In ALL other justifications

Explanation 2 is also shown, with the following justifications:

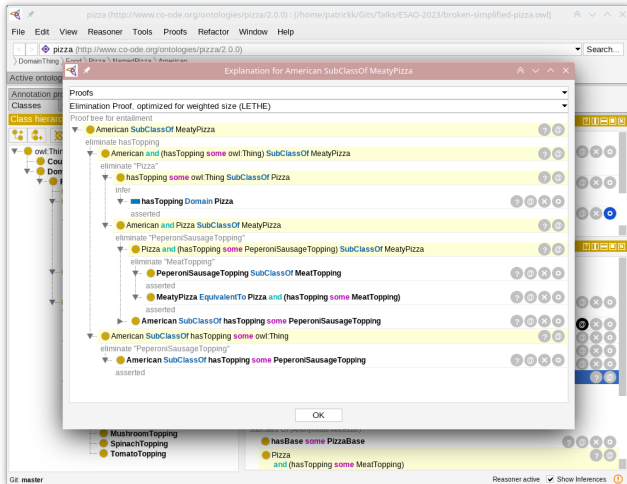
Justification	Other Justifications
1) American SubClassOf hasTopping some PepperoniSausageTopping	In ALL other justifications
2) hasTopping Domain Pizza	In NO other justifications
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4) MeatyPizza EquivalentTo Pizza and (hasTopping some MeatTopping)	In ALL other justifications

The 'OK' button is visible at the bottom of the dialog. The background shows the Protégé interface with the 'pizza' ontology loaded and the 'Reasoner active' checkbox checked.

## Justifications:

- minimal set of axioms sufficient for entailment
- standard functionality of Protégé

# Proofs with evee-protege



## Proofs:

- Explain entailment in detail
- Plugin supports  $\mathcal{EL}$ ,  $\mathcal{ALCH}$ ,  $\mathcal{ALCOI}$

[Alrabaa, Borgwardt, Fries, Koopmann, Mendez, Popovic; DL 2022]

<https://github.com/de-tu-dresden-inf-lat/evee>



# Missing Entailments

The screenshot shows the Protege OWL editor interface. The main window displays the class hierarchy for 'pizza', with 'Margherita' selected. The 'Explain Missing Entailments' window is open, showing the following information:

- Annotations:**
  - `rdfls:label` (language: en) Margherita
  - `rdfls:label` (language: pt) Margherita
  - `skos:prefLabel` (language: en) Margherita
- Description:** Margherita
  - Equivalent To: (empty)
  - SubClass Of:
    - `hasTopping some MozzarellaTopping`
    - `hasTopping some TomatoTopping`
    - `NamedPizza`
  - General class axioms: (empty)
  - SubClass Of (Anonymous Ancestor):
    - `hasBase some PizzaBase`
  - Instances: (empty)
  - Target for Key: (empty)

The bottom status bar indicates 'Reasoner active' and 'Show Inferences' is checked.

# Missing Entailments

The screenshot shows the Protege OWL editor interface. The left pane displays the class hierarchy for the 'pizza' ontology. The 'Margherita' class is highlighted in blue. The right pane shows the details for the 'Margherita' class, including its annotations and description. The annotations section shows three annotations: 'rdfs:label' with value 'Margherita' (language: en), 'rdfs:label' with value 'Margherita' (language: pt), and 'skos:prefLabel' with value 'Margherita' (language: en). The description section shows the equivalent to 'Margherita' and its sub-classes. The sub-classes section shows 'hasTopping some MozzarellaTopping', 'hasTopping some TomatoTopping', and 'NamedPizza'. The general class axioms section shows 'hasBase some PizzaBase'. Handwritten red text asks 'Why not Vegetarian Pizza?'.

- Why is **Margherita** not classified as **VegetarianPizza**?

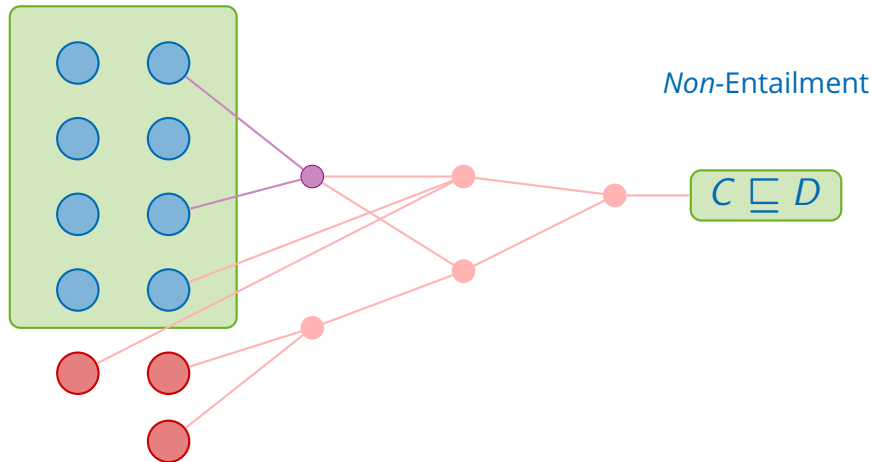
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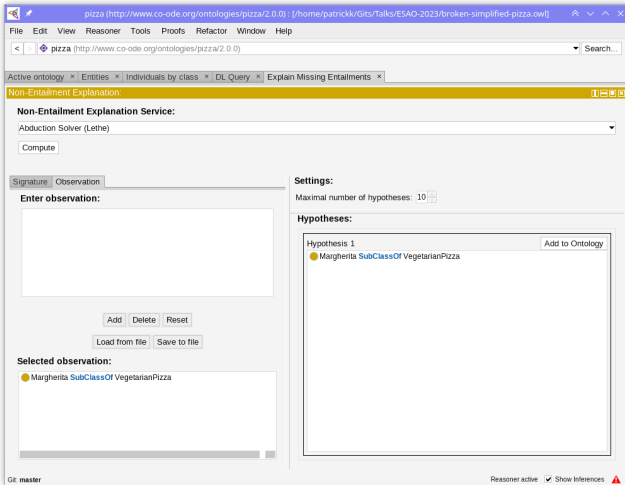
- Why is **Margherita** not classified as **VegetarianPizza**?
- How can I ensure it gets classified as **VegetarianPizza**?

# Explaining Missing Entailments

Ontology



# Abduction with evee-protege

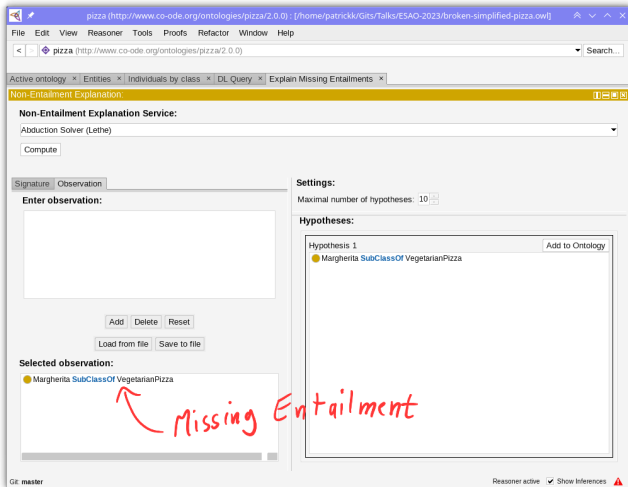


Coming version of evee-protege

How to make **Margherita** become  
classified as **VegetarianPizza**?

*Special thanks to Tom Friesel*

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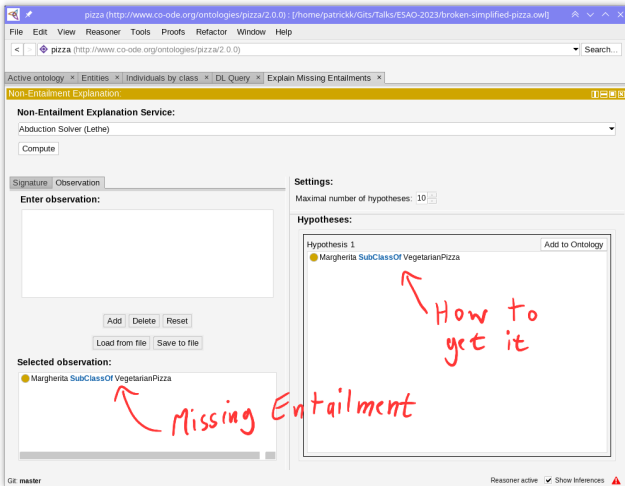


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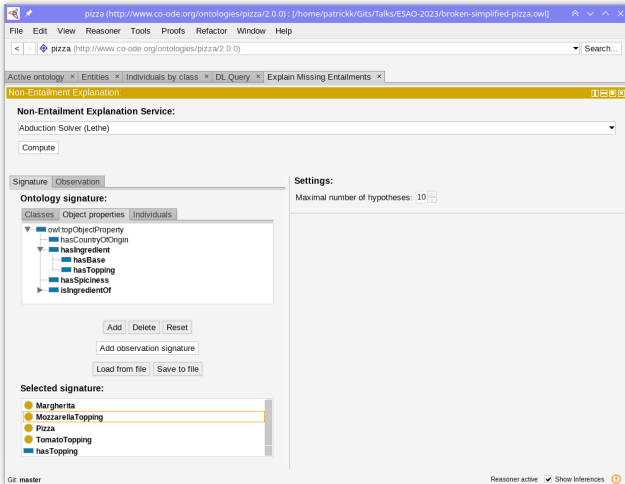


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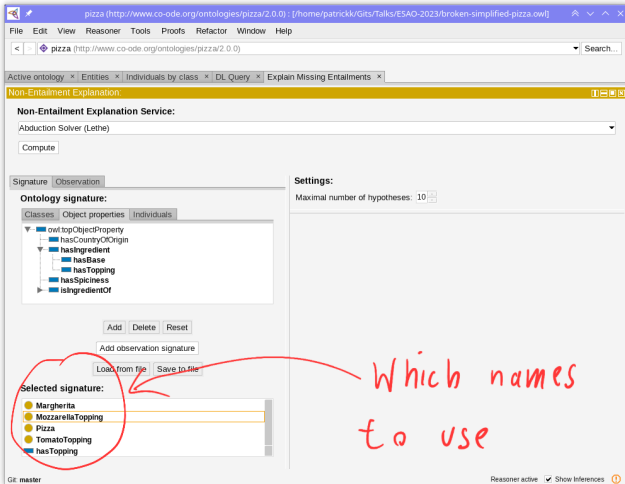
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- using only relevant vocabulary

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# Abduction with evee-protege

Non-Entailment Explanation Service:  
Abduction Solver (Lethe)  
Compute

Signature Observation

Ontology signature:

Classes Object properties Individuals

Country  
DomainThing  
Food  
IceCream  
Pizza  
PizzaBase  
PizzaTopping  
MeatTopping

Add Delete Reset

Add observation signature

Load from file Save to file

Selected signature:

Margherita  
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Settings:

Maximal number of hypotheses: 10

Hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1  
Margherita SubClassOf Pizza and (hasTopping only (MozzarellaTopping or TomatoTopping))

Add to Ontology

That's what was missing!

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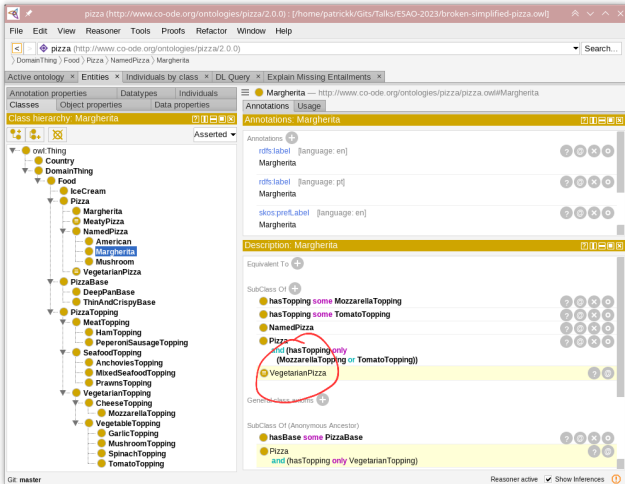
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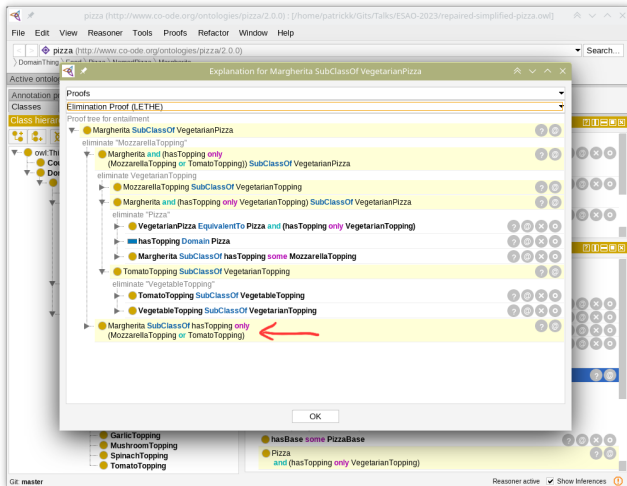
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# Abduction

## Abduction after Charles Sanders Peirce

Given knowledge  $\mathcal{K}$  observation  $\Phi$

Generate a "good" hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{K} \wedge \mathcal{H} \models \Phi$

Original idea:

- Generate a rational ("best") explanation for an observed phenomenon  $\Phi$
- Example:  $\Phi = \text{"The street is wet."}$ ,  $\mathcal{H} = \text{"It was raining."}$

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- **Deduction:** Given  $K$ , generate  $F$  s.t.  $K \models F$       **Induction:** Generalize many observations



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Considered for many logical formalisms in computer science:

- propositional logic, first-order logic, logic programming, description logics, ...

# Abduction for Rational Explanations in DLs

## Observation

`street` : **Unstable**

## Background Knowledge

`street` : **Street**     `canal` : **Waterway**

**EvaporiteFormation**  $\sqcap \exists \text{borders.}(\text{WaterWay} \sqcap \neg \exists \text{lining.WaterProof})$

$\sqsubseteq \exists \text{affectedBy.Dissolution}$

**EvaporiteFormation**  $\sqcap \exists \text{affectedBy.Dissolution} \sqsubseteq \forall \text{above.Unstable}$

$(\text{WaterWay} \sqcup \text{Street}) \sqcap \text{EvaporiteFormation} \sqsubseteq \perp$

## Hypothesis:

`e` : **EvaporiteFormation**    $(\text{e}, \text{canal})$  : **borders**    $(\text{e}, \text{street})$  : **above**   `canal` :  $(\forall \text{lining.} \perp)$

# Abduction in Description Logics

Different types of abduction based on shape of observation and hypothesis

- **Concept Abduction**
  - Given  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$ , find  $\mathcal{D}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{O} \models \mathcal{D} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{C}$
  - Generate **subsumees**
- **TBox / ABox / Knowledge Base Abduction**
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How to select good hypotheses?

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[Elsenbroich, Kutz, Sattler; OWLED 2006]

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# Selecting Good Hypotheses

p1 : CoronaPatient

CoronaPatient  $\equiv$   
Patient  $\sqcap \exists \text{infectedWith}.\text{Corona}$   
⋮

p1 : Patient  
p1 :  $\exists \text{infectedWith}.\text{Corona}$

# Selecting Good Hypotheses

$p1 : \text{CoronaPatient}$

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 $\vdots$

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 $p1 : \exists \text{infectedWith}.\text{Corona}$

$c1 : \text{InfectedComputer}$

$\text{InfectedComputer} \equiv$   
 $\text{Vulnerable} \sqcap \exists \text{inContactWith}.\text{Worm}$   
 $\vdots$

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*Logics alone is not sufficient to determine good hypotheses!*

*We need further knowledge from the user.*

# How to Select Good Hypotheses?

Different ways to restrict solution space:

- Specify set of **abducible axioms** / **concepts**
  - Example:  $\{ \text{c1} : \text{Vulnerable}, \text{c1} : \exists \text{inContactWith.Worm}, \dots \}$
  - Requirement: every hypothesis is a subset of this set

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- Specify an **signature** for the hypothesis
  - Example:  $\{ \text{Vulnerable}, \text{inContactWith}, \text{Worm}, \dots \}$
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    - disallow complex concepts, specify syntactic *patterns*
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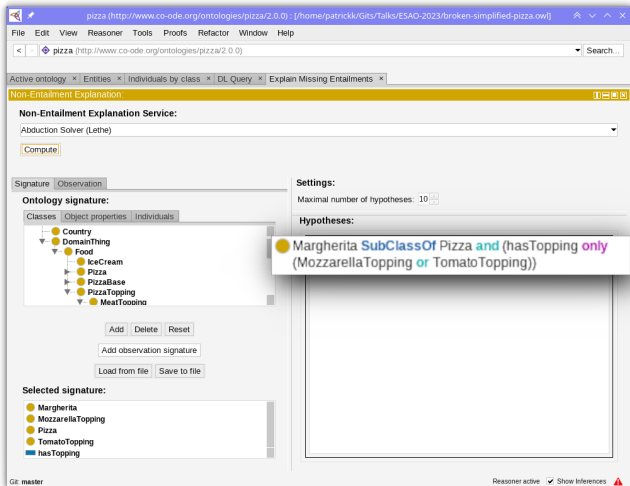


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    - disallow complex concepts, specify syntactic *patterns*
    - ...but then we may miss the right hypothesis
  - ...or we allow **arbitrary concepts** within signature
    - more flexibility
    - *solution space becomes unbounded!*

# Signature-Based Abduction with evee-protege



- We believe that in many application scenarios, the signature will be quite natural.
- In any case, our plugin will support the user in finding the appropriate signature.

# Complexity of Signature-Based ABox Abduction

## Hypotheses without complex concepts

Description Logic	$\mathcal{EL}$	$\mathcal{EL}_{\perp}$	$\mathcal{ALCI}$	$\mathcal{ALCF}$
<i>deciding existence</i>	P-c	ExpTime-c	coNExpTime-c	undecidable
<i>worst case size</i>	polynomial	exponential	exponential	not computable

## Hypotheses with complex concepts

Description Logic	$\mathcal{EL}$	$\mathcal{EL}_{\perp}$	$\mathcal{ALC}$
<i>deciding existence</i>	P-c	ExpTime-c	N2ExpTime <sup>NP</sup> -c
<i>worst case size</i>	polynomial	2-exponential	3-exponential
<i>worst case #individuals</i>	polynomial	exponential	2-exponential

[Koopmann; IJCAI 2021]

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## Hypotheses with complex concepts

Description Logic	$\mathcal{EL}$	$\mathcal{EL}_{\perp}$	$\mathcal{ALC}$
<i>deciding existence</i>	P-c	ExpTime-c	N2ExpTime <sup>NP</sup> -c
<i>worst case size</i>	polynomial	2-exponential	3-exponential
<i>worst case #individuals</i>	polynomial	exponential	2-exponential

[Koopmann; IJCAI 2021]

# Complexity of Signature-Based ABox Abduction

## Hypotheses without complex concepts

Description Logic	$\mathcal{EL}$	$\mathcal{EL}_{\perp}$	$\mathcal{ALCI}$	$\mathcal{ALCF}$
<i>deciding existence</i>	P-c	ExpTime-c	coNExpTime-c	undecidable
<i>worst case size</i>	polynomial	exponential	exponential	not computable

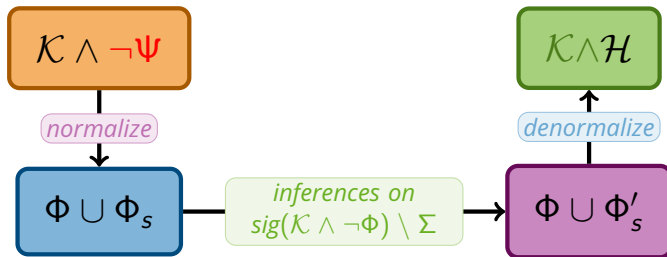
## Hypotheses with complex concepts

Description Logic	$\mathcal{EL}$	$\mathcal{EL}_{\perp}$	$\mathcal{ALC}$
<i>deciding existence</i>	P-c	ExpTime-c	$\text{N2ExpTime}^{\text{NP-c}}$
<i>worst case size</i>	polynomial	2-exponential	3-exponential
<i>worst case #individuals</i>	polynomial	exponential	2-exponential

[Koopmann; IJCAI 2021]

# Signature-Based Abduction in Practice

- We support signature-based **knowledge base** abduction
- We generate **complex concepts**, but not fresh individual names
- Our approach reduces abduction to **deduction**:



- **Normal form** ensures **finitely many inferences**
- Dedicated calculus ensures **all relevant inferences** are performed

[Koopmann, Del-Pinto, Tourret, Schmidt; KR 2020]

# Signature-Based Abduction in Practice

The output is a Boolean  $\mathcal{ALCOI}_\mu$  KB capturing the entire solution space

$pc : \text{InfectedComputer}$

$pc : \mu X. (\exists \text{pluggedTo}.\text{InfectedUSBDrive} \sqcup \exists \text{connectedTo}^-.X)$   
 $\vee \text{infected\_pc} : \mu X. (\exists \text{connectedTo}.\{pc\} \sqcup \exists \text{connectedTo}.X)$

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Hypotheses in  $\mathcal{ALCOI}$  are generated via unravelling:

1.  $pc : \exists \text{pluggedTo}.\text{InfectedUSBDrive}$
2.  $\text{infected\_pc} : \exists \text{connectedTo}.\{pc\}$
3.  $pc : \exists \text{connectedTo}^-. \exists \text{pluggedTo}.\text{InfectedUSBDrive}$
4.  $\text{infected\_pc} : \exists \text{connectedTo}.\exists \text{connectedTo}.\{pc\}$
- $\vdots$



# Unravelling in evee-protege

The screenshot shows the Protege GUI with the 'Non-Entailment Explanation Service' active. The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Reasoner, Tools, Proofs, Refactor, Window, Help), a toolbar, and a search bar. The 'Active ontology' tab is selected, showing 'untitled-ontology-213'. The 'Non-Entailment Explanation Service' panel is open, displaying the 'Abduction Solver (Lethe)' and a 'Compute' button. The 'Signature' tab is selected, showing the 'Ontology signature' with a tree view of classes and object properties. The 'Settings' panel shows the 'Maximal number of hypotheses' set to 10. The 'Hypotheses' panel lists four hypotheses, each with an 'Add to Ontology' button. The 'Selected signature' panel shows the selected signature: 'InfectedUSBDrive', 'connectedTo', and 'pluggedTo'. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'GE: master' and 'To use the reasoner click Reasoner > Start reasoner'.

untitled-ontology-213 (<http://www.semanticweb.org/patrickk/ontol...y-213>) : [home/patrickk/Gits/Talks/ESAO-2023/computer-worm.owl]

File Edit View Reasoner Tools Proofs Refactor Window Help

untitled-ontology-213 (<http://www.semanticweb.org/patrickk/ontologies/2023/1/untitled-ontology-213>) Search...

Active ontology x Entities x Individuals by class x DL Query x Explain Missing Entailments x

Non-Entailment Explanation: [Icons]

**Non-Entailment Explanation Service:**

Abduction Solver (Lethe)

Compute

Signature Observation

**Ontology signature:**

Classes Object properties Individuals

- owl:topObjectProperty
  - connectedTo
  - contaminatedWith
  - pluggedTo

Add Delete Reset

Add observation signature

Load from file Save to file

**Selected signature:**

- InfectedUSBDrive
- connectedTo
- pluggedTo

**Settings:**

Maximal number of hypotheses: 10

**Hypotheses:**

Hypothesis 1 Add to Ontology

device2 Type pluggedTo some InfectedUSBDrive

Hypothesis 2 Add to Ontology

infected-device Type connectedTo some ((device2))

Hypothesis 3 Add to Ontology

device2 Type inverse (connectedTo) some (pluggedTo some InfectedUSBDrive)

Hypothesis 4 Add to Ontology

infected-device Type connectedTo some (((device2)) or (connectedTo some ((device2))))

GE: master To use the reasoner click Reasoner > Start reasoner ☒ Show Inferences

# Practicality

Evaluation in [Koopmann, Del-Pinto, Tourret, Schmidt; KR 2020]:

- Real ontologies **up to 50,000 axioms**
- Generated observations and signatures (4 settings)
- Timeout of **5 minutes**

Results:

- **Success rates:** 89.5% – 96.4%
- **Computation time:** 2.5 – 16.9 seconds on average
- **Solution size:** 9.7 – 24.2 axioms on average
- **Alternatives:** 1.8 – 3.7 disjuncts on average
- **Fixpoints operators:** 0.8 – 5.3 % of cases

# Conclusion

Abduction to explain **missing entailments**

- generate **extension** of knowledge to create given entailment
- additional criteria needed to select good hypothesis
  - consistency, minimality, signature restrictions
- full signature-based abduction is **challenging**, but often **possible in practice**
- supported in **coming version of evee-protege**
  - also supports *model generation* and *connection-minimal abduction* to explain missing entailments
  - check also out **Evonne** as a more advanced tool for explaining DL reasoning
    - online demo under <https://imld.de/evonne>

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  - check also out **Evonne** as a more advanced tool for explaining DL reasoning
    - online demo under <https://imld.de/evonne>
- Future directions:
  - User study
  - More refined and interactive criteria to select hypotheses
  - Practical abduction to invent *fresh individuals*

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