

# Combining Existential Rules and Description Logics

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# Open-world query answering (QA)

Open-world query answering:

- We are given:

 Relational **instance**  $I$  (ground facts)

 Logical **constraints**  $\Sigma$

 Boolean conjunctive **query**  $q$


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- Consider all possible **completions**  $J \supseteq I$

- Restrict to those that satisfy the **constraints**  $\Sigma$

→ Is  $q$  **certain** among them?

# Open-world query answering (QA)

Open-world query answering: – query entailment or containment

- We are given:



Relational instance  $I$  (ground facts) – A-Box



Logical constraints  $\Sigma$  – T-Box



Boolean conjunctive query  $q$

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**Rich description logics (DLs)    Frontier-guarded existential rules**

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# Decidable constraint languages for QA

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→ QA is **decidable** for **either** language

# Our problem

Can we have the best of both worlds?

- QA is decidable for **rich DLs** (i.e., expressible in  $GC^2$ , guarded two-variable first-order logic with counting)
- QA is decidable for **frontier-guarded existential rules**

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We show:

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We show:

- QA is **undecidable** for **rich DLs** and **frontier-guarded rules**
- QA with rich DLs is **decidable** for some new **rule classes**
- **Functional dependencies** can be added under some **conditions**

# Restricting the language

## Theorem

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→ **Frontier-one** rules:  $\forall \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \rightarrow \exists \mathbf{z} \psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$

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**Problem:** cycles in rules + Funct = grid

→ **Non-looping** rules: prohibit **cycles**

- $R(x, y) S(y, z) T(z, x)$
- $R(x, y, z) S(x, y, z)$

**Non-looping** frontier-one rules: no cycles in body and in head

# QA decidability

**Non-looping** frontier-one rules: no cycles in body and in head

→ We can **shred** them to DL rules

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**Head-non-looping** frontier-one rules: no cycles in head

→ We can **treeify** the rules, soundness by **unravelling** the models

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QA is *decidable* for head-non-looping frontier-one rules + rich DLs



# Adding functional dependencies

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- We want to **add**:
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- FDs plus **single-head frontier-one** rules already **undecidable**  
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## Theorem

*Decidable QA for:*

- *Rich DL constraints*
- *Single-head frontier-one rules*
- *Non-conflicting FDs*

Summary of results

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- Open-world **query answering** (QA) under:
  - Rich **DL** constraints
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- For which rule classes is QA **decidable** with rich DLs?

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Thanks for your attention!  
More details: see poster 76