# DeLorean: A Reasoner for Fuzzy OWL 1.1

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**Abstract.** Classical ontologies are not suitable to represent imprecise or vague pieces of information, which has led to fuzzy extensions of Description Logics. In order to support an early acceptance of the OWL 1.1 ontology language, we present DeLorean, the first reasoner that supports a fuzzy extension of the Description Logic $\mathcal{SROIQ}$, closely equivalent to it. It implements some interesting optimization techniques, whose usefulness is shown in a preliminary empirical evaluation.

## 1 Introduction

Ontologies are a core element in the layered architecture of the Semantic Web. The current standard language for ontology representation is the Web Ontology Language (OWL). However, since its first development, several limitations on the expressiveness of OWL have been identified, and consequently several extensions to the language have been proposed. Among them, the most significant is OWL 1.1 [1] which is its most likely immediate successor. Description Logics (DLs for short) [2] are a family of logics for representing structured knowledge. They have proved to be very useful as ontology languages, and the DL $\mathcal{SROIQ}(\mathbf{D})$ is actually closely equivalent to OWL 1.1.

It has been widely pointed out that classical ontologies are not appropriate to deal with imprecise and vague knowledge, which is inherent to several real-world domains. Since fuzzy logic is a suitable formalism to handle these types of knowledge, several fuzzy extensions of DLs have been proposed [3].

The broad acceptance of the forthcoming OWL 1.1 ontology language will largely depend on the availability of editors, reasoners, and other numerous tools that support the use of OWL 1.1 from a high-level/application perspective [4]. With this idea in mind, this work reports the implementation of DeLorean, the first reasoner that supports the fuzzy DL $\mathcal{SROIQ}$. We also present a new optimization (handling superfluous elements before applying crisp reasoning) and a preliminary evaluation of the optimizations in the reduction.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the fuzzy DL $\mathcal{SROIQ}$, which is equivalent to the fuzzy language supported by DeLorean. Then, Section 3 describes the reasoning algorithm, based on a reduction into crisp $\mathcal{SROIQ}$. Section 4 presents our implementation, some of the implemented optimizations (including handling of superfluous elements), and a preliminary evaluation. Finally, Section 6 sets out some conclusions and ideas for future work.

## 2 A Quick View to Fuzzy $\mathcal{SROIQ}$

In this section we recall the definition of fuzzy $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ [6], which extends $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ to the fuzzy case by letting concepts denote fuzzy sets of individuals and roles denote fuzzy binary relations. Axioms are also extended to the fuzzy case and some of them hold to a degree. We will assume a set of degrees of truth which are rational numbers of the form $\alpha \in (0, 1]$, $\beta \in [0, 1)$ and $\gamma \in [0, 1]$. Moreover, we will assume a set of inequalities $\bowtie \in \{\geq, <, \leq, >\}$, $\triangleright \in \{\geq, <\}$, $\triangleleft \in \{\leq, >\}$. For every operator $\bowtie$, we define: *(i)* its symmetric operator $\bowtie^-$, defined as $\geq^- = \leq, >^- = <, \leq^- = \geq, <^- = >$; *(ii)* its negation operator $\neg \bowtie$, defined as $\neg \geq = <, \neg > = \leq, \neg \leq = >, \neg < = \geq$.

**Syntax.** In fuzzy $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ we have three alphabets of symbols, for concepts (**C**), roles (**R**), and individuals (**I**). The set of roles is defined by $R_A \cup U \cup \{R^- | R \in R_A\}$, where $R_A \in \mathbf{R}$, $U$ is the universal role and $R^-$ is the inverse of $R$. Assume $A \in \mathbf{C}$, $R, S \in \mathbf{R}$ (where $S$ is a simple role [7]), $o_i \in \mathbf{I}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, $m \geq 1$, $n \geq 0$. Fuzzy concepts are defined inductively as follows: $C, D \to \top \mid \bot \mid A \mid C \sqcap D \mid C \sqcup D \mid \neg C \mid \forall R.C \mid \exists R.C \mid \{\alpha_1/o_1, \ldots, \alpha_m/o_m\} \mid (\geq m\ S.C) \mid (\leq n\ S.C) \mid \exists S.Self$. Let $a, b \in \mathbf{I}$. The axioms in a fuzzy Knowledge Base $\mathcal{K}$ are grouped in a fuzzy ABox $\mathcal{A}$, a fuzzy TBox $\mathcal{T}$, and a fuzzy RBox $\mathcal{R}$[1] as follows:

| ABox | |
|---|---|
| *Concept assertion* | $\langle a{:}C \geq \alpha \rangle, \langle a{:}C > \beta \rangle, \langle a{:}C \leq \beta \rangle, \langle a{:}C < \alpha \rangle$ |
| *Role assertion* | $\langle (a,b){:}R \geq \alpha \rangle, \langle (a,b){:}R > \beta \rangle, \langle (a,b){:}R \leq \beta \rangle, \langle (a,b){:}R < \alpha \rangle$ |
| *Inequality assertion* | $\langle a \neq b \rangle$ |
| *Equality assertion* | $\langle a = b \rangle$ |
| TBox | |
| *Fuzzy GCI* | $\langle C \sqsubseteq D \geq \alpha \rangle, \langle C \sqsubseteq D > \beta \rangle$ |
| *Concept equivalence* | $C \equiv D$, equivalent to $\{\langle C \sqsubseteq D \geq 1 \rangle, \langle D \sqsubseteq C \geq 1 \rangle\}$ |
| RBox | |
| *Fuzzy RIA* | $\langle R_1 R_2 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq R \geq \alpha \rangle, \langle R_1 R_2 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq R > \beta \rangle$ |
| *Transitive role axiom* | $trans(R)$ |
| *Disjoint role axiom* | $dis(S_1, S_2)$ |
| *Reflexive role axiom* | $ref(R)$ |
| *Irreflexive role axiom* | $irr(S)$ |
| *Symmetric role axiom* | $sym(R)$ |
| *Asymmetric role axiom* | $asy(S)$ |

**Semantics.** A fuzzy interpretation $\mathcal{I}$ is a pair $(\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$, where $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ is a non empty set (the interpretation domain) and $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$ a fuzzy interpretation function mapping: *(i)* every individual $a$ onto an element $a^{\mathcal{I}}$ of $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$; *(ii)* every concept $C$ onto a function $C^{\mathcal{I}} : \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \to [0, 1]$; *(iii)* every role $R$ onto a function $R^{\mathcal{I}} : \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \to [0, 1]$. $C^{\mathcal{I}}$ (resp. $R^{\mathcal{I}}$) denotes the membership function of the fuzzy concept $C$

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[1] The syntax of role axioms is restricted to guarantee the decidability of the logic [6].

(resp. fuzzy role $R$) w.r.t. $\mathcal{I}$. $C^{\mathcal{I}}(x)$ (resp. $R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y)$) gives us the degree of being the individual $x$ an element of the fuzzy concept $C$ (resp. the degree of being $(x,y)$ an element of the fuzzy role $R$) under the fuzzy interpretation $\mathcal{I}$. Given a t-norm $\otimes$, a t-conorm $\oplus$, a negation function $\ominus$ and an implication function $\Rightarrow$ [8], the interpretation is extended to complex concepts and roles as:

$$\top^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = 1$$
$$\bot^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = 0$$
$$(C \sqcap D)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = C^{\mathcal{I}}(x) \otimes D^{\mathcal{I}}(x)$$
$$(C \sqcup D)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = C^{\mathcal{I}}(x) \oplus D^{\mathcal{I}}(x)$$
$$(\neg C)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \ominus C^{\mathcal{I}}(x)$$
$$(\forall R.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \inf_{y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}}\{R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) \Rightarrow C^{\mathcal{I}}(y)\}$$
$$(\exists R.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \sup_{y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}}\{R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) \otimes C^{\mathcal{I}}(y)\}$$
$$\{\alpha_1/o_1, \ldots, \alpha_m/o_m\}^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \sup_{i \mid x = o_i^{\mathcal{I}}} \alpha_i$$
$$(\geq m\ S.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \sup_{y_1, \ldots, y_m \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}}[(\otimes_{i=1}^{n}\{S^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y_i) \otimes C^{\mathcal{I}}(y_i)\}) \bigotimes (\otimes_{j<k}\{y_j \neq y_k\})]$$
$$(\leq n\ S.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = \inf_{y_1, \ldots, y_{n+1} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}}[(\otimes_{i=1}^{n+1}\{S^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y_i) \otimes C^{\mathcal{I}}(y_i)\}) \Rightarrow (\oplus_{j<k}\{y_j = y_k\})]$$
$$(\exists S.Self)^{\mathcal{I}}(x) = S^{\mathcal{I}}(x,x)$$
$$(R^-)^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) = R^{\mathcal{I}}(y,x)$$
$$U^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) = 1$$

For example, $Z$ $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ uses Zadeh logic: minimum t-norm ($\alpha \otimes \beta = \min\{\alpha, \beta\}$), maximum t-conorm ($\alpha \oplus \beta = \max\{\alpha, \beta\}$), Łukasiewicz negation ($\ominus \alpha = 1 - \alpha$), and Kleene-Dienes implication ($\alpha \Rightarrow \beta = \max\{1 - \alpha, \beta\}$). $G$ $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ uses Gödel logic: minimum t-norm ($\alpha \otimes \beta = \min\{\alpha, \beta\}$), maximum t-conorm ($\alpha \oplus \beta = \max\{\alpha, \beta\}$), Gödel negation ($\ominus \alpha = 1$ if $\alpha = 0$, or $0$ otherwise) and Gödel implication ($\alpha \Rightarrow \beta = 1$ if $\alpha \leq \beta$, or $\beta$ otherwise) [8].

A fuzzy interpretation $\mathcal{I}$ satisfies (is a model of):

- $\langle a{:}C \bowtie \gamma \rangle$ iff $C^{\mathcal{I}}(a^{\mathcal{I}}) \bowtie \gamma$,
- $\langle (a,b){:}R \bowtie \gamma \rangle$ iff $R^{\mathcal{I}}(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \bowtie \gamma$,
- $\langle a \neq b \rangle$ iff $a^{\mathcal{I}} \neq b^{\mathcal{I}}$,
- $\langle a = b \rangle$ iff $a^{\mathcal{I}} = b^{\mathcal{I}}$,
- $\langle C \sqsubseteq D \rhd \gamma \rangle$ iff $\inf_{x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}}\{C^{\mathcal{I}}(x) \Rightarrow D^{\mathcal{I}}(x)\} \rhd \gamma$,
- $\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq R \rhd \gamma \rangle$ iff $\sup_{x_1 \ldots x_{n+1} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \bigotimes[R_1^{\mathcal{I}}(x_1, x_2), \ldots, R_n^{\mathcal{I}}(x_n, x_{n+1})] \Rightarrow R^{\mathcal{I}}(x_1, x_{n+1}) \rhd \gamma$,
- $trans(R)$ iff $\forall x, y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) \geq \sup_{z \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,z) \otimes R^{\mathcal{I}}(z,y)$,
- $dis(S_1, S_2)$ iff $\forall x, y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, S_1^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) = 0$ or $S_2^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) = 0$,
- $ref(R)$ iff $\forall x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,x) = 1$,
- $irr(S)$ iff $\forall x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, S^{\mathcal{I}}(x,x) = 0$,
- $sym(R)$ iff $\forall x, y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, R^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) = R^{\mathcal{I}}(y,x)$,
- $asy(S)$ iff $\forall x, y \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$, if $S^{\mathcal{I}}(x,y) > 0$ then $S^{\mathcal{I}}(y,x) = 0$,
- a fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R} \rangle$ iff it satisfies each element in $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{R}$.

Irreflexive, transitive and symmetric role axioms are syntactic sugar for every R-implication (and consequently it can be assumed that they do not appear in fuzzy KBs) due to the following equivalences: $irr(S) \equiv \langle \top \sqsubseteq \neg \exists S.Self \geq 1 \rangle$, $trans(R) \equiv \langle RR \sqsubseteq R \geq 1 \rangle$ and $sym(R) \equiv \langle R \sqsubseteq R^- \geq 1 \rangle$.

In the rest of the paper we will only consider fuzzy KB satisfiability, since (as in the crisp case) most inference problems can be reduced to it [9].

## 3 A Crisp Representation for Fuzzy $\mathcal{SROIQ}$

In this section we show how to reduce a fuzzy $Z$ $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ fuzzy KB into a crisp KB (see [5,6] for details). The procedure preserves reasoning, in such a way that existing $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ reasoners could be applied to the resulting KB. The basic idea is to create some new crisp concepts and roles, representing the $\alpha$-cuts of the fuzzy concepts and roles, and to rely on them. Next, some new axioms are added to preserve their semantics, and finally every axiom in the ABox, the TBox and the RBox is represented using these new crisp elements.

**Adding new elements.** Let $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{K}}$ and $\mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{K}}$ be the set of atomic concepts and roles occurring in a fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R} \rangle$. The set of the degrees which must be considered for any reasoning task is defined as $N^{\mathcal{K}} = \gamma, 1 - \gamma \mid \langle \tau \bowtie \gamma \rangle \in \mathcal{K}$.

Now, for each $\alpha, \beta \in N^{\mathcal{K}}$ with $\alpha \in (0,1]$ and $\beta \in [0,1)$, for each $A \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{K}}$ and for each $R_A \in \mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{K}}$, two new atomic concepts $A_{\geq \alpha}, A_{> \beta}$ and two new atomic roles $R_{\geq \alpha}, R_{> \beta}$ are introduced. $A_{\geq \alpha}$ represents the crisp set of individuals which are instance of $A$ with degree higher or equal than $\alpha$ i.e the $\alpha$-cut of $A$.

The semantics of these newly introduced atomic concepts and roles is preserved by some terminological and role axioms. For each $1 \leq i \leq |N^{\mathcal{K}}| - 1, 2 \leq j \leq |N^{\mathcal{K}}| - 1$ and for each $A \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{K}}$, $T(N^{\mathcal{K}})$ is the smallest terminology containing these two axioms: $A_{\geq \gamma_{i+1}} \sqsubseteq A_{> \gamma_i}, A_{> \gamma_j} \sqsubseteq A_{\geq \gamma_j}$. Similarly, for each $R_A \in \mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{K}}$, $R(N^{\mathcal{K}})$ contains these axioms: $R_{\geq \gamma_{i+1}} \sqsubseteq R_{> \gamma_i}, R_{> \gamma_i} \sqsubseteq R_{\geq \gamma_i}$.

*Example 1.* Consider the fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K} = \{\tau\}$, where $\tau = \langle \mathsf{StGenevieveTexasWhite} : \mathsf{WhiteWine} \geq 0.75 \rangle\}$. We have that $N^{\mathcal{K}} = \{0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1\}$ and $T(N^{\mathcal{K}}) = \{\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.25} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.25} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.25}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.25}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.25}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.75} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.5}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.75} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.75}, \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 1} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.75}\}$. $\square$

**Mapping fuzzy concepts, roles and axioms.** Concept and role expressions are reduced using mapping $\rho$, as shown in the first part of Table 1. Given a fuzzy concept $C$, $\rho(C, \geq \alpha)$ is a crisp set containing all the elements which belong to $C$ with a degree greater or equal than $\alpha$ (the other cases are similar). For instance, the 1-cut of the fuzzy concept $\forall \mathsf{madeFromFruit}.(\mathsf{NonSweetFruit} \sqcup \mathsf{SweetFruit})$ is $\rho(\forall \mathsf{madeFromFruit}.(\mathsf{NonSweetFruit} \sqcup \mathsf{SweetFruit}), \geq 1) = \forall \mathsf{madeFromFruit}_{>0}.\mathsf{NonSweetFruit}_{\geq 1} \sqcup \mathsf{SweetFruit}_{\geq 1}$.

Finally, we map the axioms in the ABox, TBox and RBox. Axioms are reduced as shown in the second part of Table 1, where $\sigma$ maps fuzzy axioms into crisp assertions, and $\kappa$ maps fuzzy TBox (resp. RBox) axioms into crisp TBox (resp. RBox) axioms. Recall that we are assuming that irreflexive, transitive and symmetric role axioms do not appear in the RBox. For example, assuming $N^{\mathcal{K}} = \{0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1\}$, the reduction of the fuzzy GCI $\langle \mathsf{Port} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine} \geq 1 \rangle$ is $\kappa(\langle \mathsf{Port} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine} \geq 1 \rangle) = \{\mathsf{Port}_{>0} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{>0}, \mathsf{Port}_{\geq 0.25} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{\geq 0.25}, \mathsf{Port}_{>0.25} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{>0.25}, \mathsf{Port}_{\geq 0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{\geq 0.5}, \mathsf{Port}_{>0.5} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{>0.5}, \mathsf{Port}_{\geq 0.75} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{\geq 0.75}, \mathsf{Port}_{>0.75} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{>0.75}, \mathsf{Port}_{\geq 1} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{RedWine}_{\geq 1}\}$.

**Table 1.** Mapping of concept and role expressions, and reduction of the axioms. The semantics of $\sqsubseteq_G$ uses Gödel implication, that of $\sqsubseteq_{KD}$ uses Kleene-Dienes implication.

| **Fuzzy concepts** | |
|---|---|
| $\rho(\top, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\top$ |
| $\rho(\top, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\bot$ |
| $\rho(\bot, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\bot$ |
| $\rho(\bot, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\top$ |
| $\rho(A, \rhd\gamma)$ | $A_{\rhd\gamma}$ |
| $\rho(A, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\neg A_{\neg\lhd\gamma}$ |
| $\rho(\neg C, \bowtie\gamma)$ | $\rho(C, \bowtie^{-} 1-\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(C \sqcap D, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\rho(C, \rhd\gamma) \sqcap \rho(D, \rhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(C \sqcap D, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\rho(C, \lhd\gamma) \sqcup \rho(D, \lhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(C \sqcup D, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\rho(C, \rhd\gamma) \sqcup \rho(D, \rhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(C \sqcup D, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\rho(C, \lhd\gamma) \sqcap \rho(D, \lhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\exists R.C, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\exists\rho(R, \rhd\gamma).\rho(C, \rhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\exists R.C, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\forall\rho(R, \neg\lhd\gamma).\rho(C, \lhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\forall R.C, \{\geq,>\}\gamma)$ | $\forall\rho(R, \{>,\geq\}1-\gamma).\rho(C, \{\geq,>\}\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\forall R.C, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\exists\rho(R, \lhd^{-} 1-\gamma).\rho(C, \lhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\{\alpha_1/o_1, \ldots, \alpha_m/o_m\}, \bowtie\gamma)$ | $\{o_i \mid \alpha_i \bowtie \gamma, 1 \leq i \leq m\}$ |
| $\rho(\geq m\ S.C, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\geq m\ \rho(S, \rhd\gamma).\rho(C, \rhd\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\geq m\ S.C, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\leq m-1\ \rho(S, \neg\lhd\ \gamma).\rho(C, \neg\lhd\ \gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\leq n\ S.C, \{\geq,>\}\gamma)$ | $\leq n\ \rho(S, \{>,\geq\}\ 1-\gamma).\rho(C, \{>,\geq\}\ 1-\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\leq n\ S.C, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\geq n+1\ \rho(S, \lhd^{-}\ 1-\gamma).\rho(C, \lhd^{-}\ 1-\gamma)$ |
| $\rho(\exists S.Self, \rhd\gamma)$ | $\exists\rho(S, \rhd\gamma).Self$ |
| $\rho(\exists S.Self, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\neg\exists\rho(S, \neg\lhd\gamma).Self$ |
| **Fuzzy roles** | |
| $\rho(R_A, \rhd\gamma)$ | $R_{A\rhd\gamma}$ |
| $\rho(R_A, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\neg R_{A\neg\lhd\gamma}$ |
| $\rho(R^{-}, \bowtie\gamma)$ | $\rho(R, \bowtie\gamma)^{-}$ |
| $\rho(U, \rhd\gamma)$ | $U$ |
| $\rho(U, \lhd\gamma)$ | $\neg U$ |
| **Axioms** | |
| $\sigma(\langle a{:}C \bowtie \gamma\rangle)$ | $\{a{:}\rho(C, \bowtie\gamma)\}$ |
| $\sigma(\langle(a,b){:}R \bowtie \gamma\rangle)$ | $\{(a,b){:}\rho(R, \bowtie\gamma)\}$ |
| $\sigma(\langle a \neq b\rangle)$ | $\{a \neq b\}$ |
| $\sigma(\langle a = b\rangle)$ | $\{a = b\}$ |
| $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq_G D \geq \alpha)$ | $\bigcup_{\gamma\in N^{fK}\setminus\{0\} \mid \gamma\leq\alpha}\{\rho(C, \geq\gamma) \sqsubseteq \rho(D, \geq\gamma)\}$ $\bigcup_{\gamma\in N^{fK} \mid \gamma<\alpha}\{\rho(C, >\gamma) \sqsubseteq \rho(D, >\gamma)\}$ |
| $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq_G D > \beta)$ | $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq D \geq \beta) \cup \{\rho(C, >\beta) \sqsubseteq \rho(D, >\beta)\}$ |
| $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq_{KD} D \geq \alpha)$ | $\{\rho(C, >1-\alpha) \sqsubseteq \rho(D, \geq\alpha)\ \}$ |
| $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq_{KD} D > \beta)$ | $\{\rho(C, \geq 1-\beta) \sqsubseteq \rho(D, >\beta)\ \}$ |
| $\kappa(\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq_G R \geq \alpha\rangle)$ | $\bigcup_{\gamma\in N^{fK}\setminus\{0\} \mid \gamma\leq\alpha}\{\rho(R_1, \geq\gamma)\ldots\rho(R_n, \geq\gamma) \sqsubseteq \rho(R, \geq\gamma)\}$ $\bigcup_{\gamma\in N^{fK} \mid \gamma<\alpha}\{\rho(R_1, >\gamma)\ldots\rho(R_n, >\gamma) \sqsubseteq \rho(R, >\gamma)\}$ |
| $\kappa(\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq_G R > \beta\rangle)$ | $\kappa(\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq R \geq \beta\rangle) \cup$ $\{\rho(R_1, >\beta)\ldots\rho(R_n, >\beta) \sqsubseteq \rho(R, >\beta)\}$ |
| $\kappa(\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq_{KD} R \geq \alpha\rangle)$ | $\{\rho(R_1, >1-\alpha)\ldots\rho(R_n, >1-\alpha) \sqsubseteq \rho(R, \geq\alpha)\}$ |
| $\kappa(\langle R_1 \ldots R_n \sqsubseteq_{KD} R > \beta\rangle)$ | $\{\rho(R_1, \geq 1-\beta)\ldots\rho(R_n, \geq 1-\beta) \sqsubseteq \rho(R, >\beta)\}$ |
| $\kappa(dis(S_1, S_2))$ | $\{dis(\rho(S_1, >0), \rho(S_2, >0))\}$ |
| $\kappa(ref(R))$ | $\{ref(\rho(R, \geq 1))\}$ |
| $\kappa(asy(S))$ | $\{asy(\rho(S, >0)\}$ |

**Properties.** Summing up, a fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R} \rangle$ is reduced into a KB $\mathtt{crisp}(\mathcal{K}) = \langle \sigma(\mathcal{A}), T(N^{\mathcal{K}}) \cup \kappa(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{T}), R(N^{\mathcal{K}}) \cup \kappa(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{R}) \rangle$. The following theorem shows that the reduction preserves reasoning:

**Theorem 1.** *A Z $\mathcal{SROIQ}$ fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K}$ is satisfiable iff* $\mathtt{crisp}(\mathcal{K})$*) is [6].*

The resulting KB is quadratic because it depends on the number of relevant degrees $|N^{\mathcal{K}}|$, or linear if we assume a fixed set. An interesting property is that the reduction of an ontology can be reused when adding a new axiom. If the new axioms does not introduce new atomic concepts, atomic roles nor a new degree of truth, we just need to add the reduction of the axiom.

## 4  DeLorean Reasoner

This section describes the prototype implementation of our reasoner, which is called DeLorean (DEscription LOgic REasoner with vAgueNess).

Initially, we developed a first version based on Jena API[2] [6]. This version was developed in Java, using the parser generator JavaCC[3], and DIG 1.1 interface [10] to communicate with crisp DL reasoners. An interesting property is the possibility of using any crisp reasoner thanks to the DIG interface. However, DIG interface does not yet support full $\mathcal{SROIQ}$, so the logic supported by DeLorean was restricted to Z $\mathcal{SHOIN}$ (OWL DL). From a historical point of view, this version was the first reasoner that supported a fuzzy extension of the OWL DL language. It implemented the reduction described in [11], and applied the optimization in the number of new elements and axioms described below.

With the aim of augmenting the expressivity of the logic, in the current version we have changed the subjacent API to OWL API for OWL 2[4] [4]. Now, DeLorean supports both Z $\mathcal{SROIQ}(\mathbf{D})$ and G $\mathcal{SROIQ}(\mathbf{D})$, which correspond to fuzzy versions of OWL 1.1 under Zadeh and Gödel semantics, respectively.

Since DIG interface does not currently allow the full expressivity of OWL 1.1, our solution was to integrate directly DeLorean with a concrete crisp ontology reasoner: Pellet [12], which can be directly used from the current version of the OWL API. This way, the user is free to choose to use either a generic crisp reasoner (restricting the expressivity to $\mathcal{SHOIQ}$) or Pellet with no expressivity limitations. DeLorean is the first reasoner that supports a fuzzy extension of OWL 1.1.

Figure 1 illustrates the architecture of the system:

– The *Parser* reads an input file with a fuzzy ontology and translates it into an internal representation. The point here is that we can use any language to encode the fuzzy ontology, as long as the *Parser* can understand the representation and the reduction is properly implemented. Consequently we will not get into details of our particular choice.

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[2] http://jena.sourceforge.net/

[3] https://javacc.dev.java.net
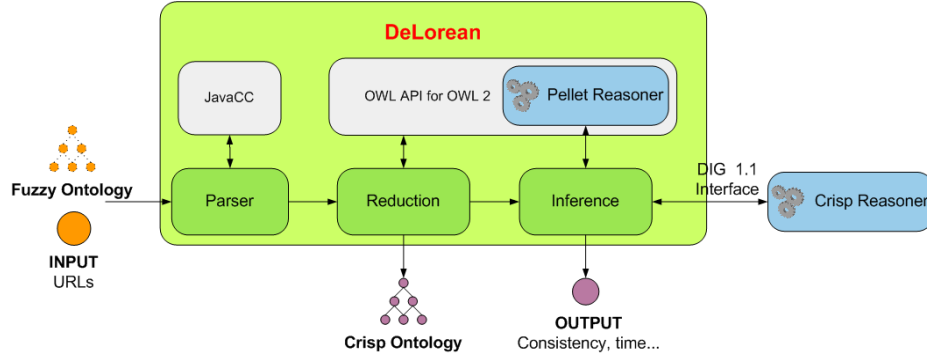
[4] http://owlapi.sourceforge.net

**Fig. 1.** Architecture of DeLorean reasoner.

In order to make the representation of fuzzy KBs easier, DeLorean also allows the possibility of importing OWL 1.1 ontologies. These (crisp) ontologies are saved into a text file which the user can edit and extend, for example adding membership degrees to the fuzzy axioms or specifying a particular fuzzy operator (Zadeh or Gödel family) for some complex concept.

- The *Reduction* module implements the reduction procedures described in the previous section, building an OWL API model with an equivalent crisp ontology which can be exported to an OWL file. The implementation also takes into account all the optimizations already discussed along this document.
- The *Inference* module tests this ontology for consistency, using either PELLET or any crisp reasoner through the DIG interface. Crisp reasoning does not take into account superfluous elements as we explain below.
- Inputs (the path of the fuzzy ontology) and outputs (the result of the reasoning and the elapsed time) are managed by an *User interface*.

The reasoner implements the following optimizations:

**Optimizing the number of new elements and axioms.** Previous works use two more atomic concepts $A_{\leq\beta}, A_{<\alpha}$ and some additional axioms $A_{<\gamma_k} \sqsubseteq A_{\leq\gamma_k}, A_{\leq\gamma_i} \sqsubseteq A_{<\gamma_{i+1}}, A_{\geq\gamma_k} \sqcap A_{<\gamma_k} \sqsubseteq \bot, A_{>\gamma_i} \sqcap A_{\leq\gamma_i} \sqsubseteq \bot, \top \sqsubseteq A_{\geq\gamma_k} \sqcup A_{<\gamma_k}, \top \sqsubseteq A_{>\gamma_i} \sqcup A_{\leq\gamma_i}, 2 \leq k \leq |N^{\mathcal{K}}|$. In [6] it is shown that they are unnecessary.

**Optimizing GCI reductions.** In some particular cases, the reduction of fuzzy GCIs can be optimized [6]. For example, in *range* role axioms of the form $\langle \top \sqsubseteq \forall R.C \geq 1 \rangle$, *domain* role axioms of the form $\langle \top \sqsubseteq \forall R^-.C \geq 1 \rangle$ and *functional* role axioms of the form $\langle \top \sqsubseteq \leq 1\ R.\top \geq 1 \rangle$ we can use that $\kappa(\langle \top \sqsubseteq D \bowtie \gamma \rangle) = \top \sqsubseteq \rho(D, \bowtie \gamma)$. Also, in disjoint concept axioms of the form $\langle C \sqcap D \sqsubseteq \bot \geq 1 \rangle$, we can use that $\kappa(C \sqsubseteq \bot \bowtie \gamma) = \rho(C, > 0) \sqsubseteq \bot$. Furthermore, if the resulting TBox contains $A \sqsubseteq B$, $A \sqsubseteq C$ and $B \sqsubseteq C$, then $A \sqsubseteq C$ is unnecessary since it can be deduced from the other two axioms.

**Allowing crisp concepts and roles.** Suppose that $A$ is a fuzzy concept. Then, we need $N^{\mathcal{K}} - 1$ concepts of the form $A_{\geq \alpha}$ and another $N^{\mathcal{K}} - 1$ concepts of the form $A_{> \beta}$ to represent it, as well as $2 \cdot (|N^{\mathcal{K}}| - 1) - 1$ axioms to preserve their semantics. Fortunately, in real applications not all concepts and roles will be fuzzy. If $A$ is declared to be crisp, we just need one concept to represent it and no new axioms. The case for fuzzy roles is exactly the same. Of course, this optimization requires some manual intervention.

**Reasoning ignoring superfluous elements.** Our reduction is designed to promote reusing. For instance, consider the fuzzy KB $\mathcal{K}$ in Example 1. The reduction of $\mathcal{K}$ contains $\sigma(\tau) = \mathsf{StGenevieveTexasWhite} : \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.75}$, but also the axioms in $T(N^{\mathcal{K}})$. It can be seen that the concepts $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.25}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.25}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.5}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{>0.75}$, $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 1}$ are *superfluous* in the sense that cannot cause a contradiction. Hence, for a satisfiability test of $\mathtt{crisp}(\mathcal{K})$, we can avoid the axioms in $T(N^{\mathcal{K}})$ where they appear.

But please note that if additional axioms are added to $\mathcal{K}$, $\mathtt{crisp}(\mathcal{K})$ will be different and previous superfluous concept and roles may not be superfluous any more. For example, if we want to check if $\mathcal{K} \cup \langle \mathsf{StGenevieveTexasWhite} : \mathsf{WhiteWine} \geq 0.5 \rangle$ is satisfiable, then the concept $\mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5}$ is no longer superfluous. In this case, it is enough to consider $T'(N^{\mathcal{K}}) = \{\widetilde{\mathsf{WhiteWine}}_{\geq 0.75} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{WhiteWine}_{\geq 0.5}\}$. The case of atomic roles is similar to that of atomic concepts.

## 5    Use Case: A Fuzzy Wine Ontology

This section considers a concrete use case, a fuzzy extension of the well-known Wine ontology[5], a highly expressive ontology (in $\mathcal{SHOIN}(\mathbf{D})$). Some metrics of the ontology are shown in the first column of Table 2. In an empirical evaluation of the reductions of fuzzy DLs to crisp DLs, P. Cimiano et al. wrote that "the Wine ontology showed to be completely intractable both with the optimized and unoptimized reduction even using only 3 degrees" [13]. They only considered there what we have called here "optimization of the number of new elements and axioms". We will show that the rest of the optimizations, specially the (natural) assumption that there are some crisp elements, reduce significantly the number of axioms, even if tractability of the reasoning is to be verified.

**A fuzzy extension of the ontology.** We have defined a fuzzy version of the Wine ontology by adding a degree to the axioms. Given a variable set of degrees $N^{\mathcal{K}}$, the degrees of the truth for fuzzy assertions is randomly chosen in $N^{\mathcal{K}}$. In the case of fuzzy GCIs and RIAs, the degree is always 1 in special GCIs (namely concept equivalences and disjointness, domain, range and functional role axioms) or if there is a crisp element in the left side; otherwise, the degree is 0.5.

In most of the times fuzzy assertions are of the form $\langle \tau \rhd \beta \rangle$ with $\beta \neq 1$. Clearly, this favors the use of elements of the forms $C_{\rhd \beta}$ and $R_{\rhd \beta}$, reducing the number of superfluous concepts. Once again, we are in the worst case from the

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[5] `http://www.w3.org/TR/2003/CR-owl-guide-20030818/wine.rdf`

point of view of the size of the resulting crisp ontology. Nonetheless, in practice we will be often able to say that an individual fully belongs to a fuzzy concept, or that two individuals are fully related by means of a fuzzy role.

**Crisp concepts and roles.** A careful analysis of the fuzzy KB brings about that most of the concepts and the roles should indeed be interpreted as crisp. For example, most of the subclasses of the class Wine refer to a well-defined geographical origin of the wines. For instance, Alsatian wine is a wine which has been produced in the French region of Alsace: AlsatianWine ≡ Wine ⊓ ∃locatedAt.{alsaceRegion}. In other applications there could exist examples of fuzzy regions, but this is not our case. Another important number of subclasses of Wine refer to the type of grape used, which is also a crisp concept. For instance, Riesling is a wine which has been produced from Riesling grapes: Riesling ≡ Wine ⊓ ∃madeFromGrape.{RieslingGrape}⊓ ≥ 1 madeFromGrape.⊤.

Clearly, there are other concepts with no sharp boundaries (for instance, those derived from the vague terms "dry", "sweet", "white" or"heavy"). The result of our study has identified 50 fuzzy concepts in the Wine ontology, namely: WineColor, RedWine, RoseWine, WhiteWine, RedBordeaux, RedBurgundy, RedTableWine, WhiteBordeaux, WhiteBurgundy, WhiteLoire, WhiteTableWine, WineSugar, SweetWine, SweetRiesling, WhiteNonSweetWine, DryWine, DryRedWine, DryRiesling, DryWhiteWine, WineBody, FullBodiedWine, WineFlavor, WineTaste, LateHarvest, EarlyHarvest, NonSpicyRedMeat, NonSpicyRedMeatCourse, SpicyRedMeat, PastaWithSpicyRedSauce, PastaWithSpicyRedSauceCourse, PastaWithNonSpicyRedSauce, PastaWithNonSpicyRedSauceCourse, SpicyRedMeatCourse, SweetFruit, SweetFruitCourse, SweetDessert, SweetDessertCourse, NonSweetFruit, NonSweetFruitCourse, RedMeat, NonRedMeat, RedMeatCourse, NonRedMeatCourse, PastaWithHeavyCreamSauce, PastaWithLightCreamSauce, Dessert, CheeseNutsDessert, DessertCourse, CheeseNutsDessertCourse, DessertWine.

Furthermore, we identified 5 fuzzy roles: hasColor, hasSugar, hasBody, hasFlavor, and hasWineDescriptor (which is a super-role of the other four).

**Measuring the importance of the optimizations.** The reduction under Gödel semantics is still to be published [14], so we focus our experimentation in $Z \, \mathcal{SROIQ}$ (omitting the concrete role yearValue), but allowing the use of both Kleene-Dienes and Gödel implications in the semantics of fuzzy GCIs and RIAs.

Table 2 shows some metrics of the crisp ontologies obtained in the reduction of the fuzzy ontology after applying different optimizations.

1. Column "Original" shows some metrics of the original ontology.
2. "None" considers the reduction obtained after applying no optimizations.
3. "(NEW)" considers the reduction obtained after optimizing the number of new elements and axioms.
4. "(GCI)" considers the reduction obtained after optimizing GCI reductions.
5. "(C/S)" considers the reduction obtained after allowing crisp concepts and roles and ignoring superfluous elements.
6. Finally, "All" applies all the previous optimizations.

**Table 2.** Metrics of the Wine ontology and its fuzzy versions using 5 degrees

|                        | Original | None | (NEW) | (GCI) | (C/S) | All |
|------------------------|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Individuals            | 206      | 206  | 206   | 206   | 206   | 206 |
| Named concepts         | 136      | 2176 | 486   | 2176  | 800   | 191 |
| Abstract roles         | 16       | 128  | 128   | 128   | 51    | 20  |
| Concept assertions     | 194      | 194  | 194   | 194   | 194   | 194 |
| Role assertions        | 246      | 246  | 246   | 246   | 246   | 246 |
| Inequality assertions  | 3        | 3    | 3     | 3     | 3     | 3   |
| Equality assertions    | 0        | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| New GCIs               | 0        | 4352 | 952   | 4352  | 1686  | 324 |
| Subclass axioms        | 275      | 1288 | 1288  | 931   | 390   | 390 |
| Concept equivalences   | 87       | 696  | 696   | 696   | 318   | 318 |
| Disjoint concepts      | 19       | 152  | 152   | 19    | 152   | 19  |
| Domain role axioms     | 13       | 104  | 104   | 97    | 104   | 97  |
| Range role axioms      | 10       | 80   | 80    | 10    | 80    | 10  |
| Functional role axioms | 6        | 48   | 48    | 6     | 48    | 6   |
| New RIAs               | 0        | 136  | 119   | 136   | 34    | 34  |
| Sub-role axioms        | 5        | 40   | 40    | 40    | 33    | 33  |
| Role equivalences      | 0        | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| Inverse role axioms    | 2        | 16   | 16    | 16    | 2     | 2   |
| Transitive role axioms | 1        | 8    | 8     | 8     | 1     | 1   |

We have put together the optimizations of crisp and superfluous elements because in this ontology handling superfluous concepts is not always useful, due to the existence of a lot of concept definitions, as we will see in the next example.

*Example 2.* Consider the fuzzy concept $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}$. Firstly, this concept appears as part of a fuzzy assertion stating that pork is a non read meat: $\sigma(\langle \mathsf{Pork} : \mathsf{NonRedMeat} \rhd \alpha_1 \rangle) = \mathsf{Pork} : \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{\rhd \alpha_1}$. Secondly, non read meat is declared to be disjoint from read meat: $\kappa(\langle \mathsf{RedMeat} \sqcap \mathsf{NonRedMeat} \sqsubseteq \bot \geq 1 \rangle) = \mathsf{RedMeat}_{>0} \sqcap \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>0} \sqsubseteq \bot$. Thirdly, non read meat is a kind of meat: $\kappa(\langle \mathsf{NonRedMeat} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{Meat} \geq \alpha_2 \rangle) = \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>0} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{Meat}$. If these were the only occurrences of $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}$, then the reduction would create only two non-superfluous crisp concepts, namely $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>0}$ and $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{\rhd \alpha_1}$, and in order to preserve the semantics of them we would need to add just one axiom during the reduction: $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{\rhd \alpha_1} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>0}$.

However, this is not true because $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}$ appears in the definition of the fuzzy concept $\mathsf{NonRedMeatCourse}$. In fact, $\kappa(\mathsf{NonRedMeatCourse} \equiv \mathsf{MealCourse} \sqcap \forall \mathsf{hasFood}.\mathsf{NonRedMeat})$ introduces non-superfluous crisp concepts for the rest of the degrees in $N^{\mathcal{K}}$. Consequently, for each $1 \leq i \leq |N^{\mathcal{K}}| - 1, 2 \leq j \leq |N^{\mathcal{K}}| - 1$, the reduction adds to $T(N^{\mathcal{K}})$ the following axioms: $\mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{\geq \gamma_{i+1}} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>\gamma_i}; \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{>\gamma_j} \sqsubseteq \mathsf{NonRedMeat}_{\geq \gamma_j}$. □

Note that the size of the ABox is always the same, because every axiom in the fuzzy ABox generates exactly one axiom in the reduced ontology.

The number of new GCIs and RIAs added to preserve the semantics of the new elements is much smaller in the optimized versions. In particular, we reduce from 4352 to 324 GCIs (7.44%) and from 136 to 34 RIAs (25%). This shows the importance of reducing the number of new crisp elements and their corresponding axioms, as well as of defining crisp concepts and roles and (to a lesser extent) handling superfluous concepts.

Optimizing GCI reductions turns out to be very useful in reducing the number of disjoint concepts, domain, range and functional role axioms: 152 to 19 (12.5 %), 104 to 97 (93.27 %), 80 to 10 (12.5 %), and 48 to 6 (12.5 %), respectively. In the case of domain role axioms the reduction is not very high because we need an inverse role to be defined in order to apply the reduction, and this happens only in one of the axioms.

Every fuzzy GCI or RIA generates several axioms in the reduced ontology. Combining the optimization of GCI reductions with the definition of crisp concepts and roles reduces the number of new axioms, from 1288 to 390 subclass axioms (30.28 %), from 696 to 318 concept equivalences (45.69 %) and from 40 to 33 sub-role axioms (82.5 %).

Finally, the number of inverse and transitive role axioms is reduced in the optimized version because fuzzy roles interpreted as crisp introduce one inverse or transitive axiom instead of several ones. This allows a reduction from 16 to 2 axioms, and from 8 to 1, respectively, which corresponds to the 12.5 %.

Table 3 shows the influence of the number of degrees on the size of the resulting crisp ontology, as well as on the reduction time (which is shown in seconds), when all the described optimizations are used. The reduction time is small enough to allow to recompute the reduction of an ontology when necessary, thus allowing superfluous concepts and roles in the reduction to be avoided.

**Table 3.** Influence of the number of degrees in the reduction.

|                    | Crisp | 3     | 5     | 7    | 9     | 11    | 21   |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Number of axioms   | 811   | 1166  | 1674  | 2182 | 2690  | 3198  | 5738 |
| Reduction time     | -     | 0.343 | 0.453 | 0.64 | 0.782 | 0.859 | 1.75 |

## 6 Conclusions and Future Work

This paper has presented DeLorean, the more expressive fuzzy DL reasoner that we are aware of (it supports fuzzy OWL 1.1), and the optimizations that it implements. Among them, the current version enables the definition of crisp concepts and roles, as well as handling superfluous concepts and roles before applying crisp reasoning. A preliminary evaluation shows that these optimizations help to reduce significantly the size of the resulting ontology. In future work we plan to develop a more detailed benchmark by relying on the hyper-tableau reasoner HermiT, which seems to outperform other DL reasoners [15], and, eventually, to compare it against other fuzzy DL reasoners.

## Acknowledgements

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