

Towards Typed Higher-Order Description Logics

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Abstract. We introduce a typed higher-order description logic specifically intended for reasoning about ontological coherence of domain models, motivated by a practical use case from linked data vocabularies.

Keywords: Description logic, higher-order logic, theory of types, meta modelling.

1 Introduction

The advent of the Semantic Web (SW) and especially the Linked Open Data initiative brought an unprecedented amount of new ontology vocabularies that are created, published, and daily instantiated in a number of data sets. At such large quantities, many of the vocabularies were created by developers not trained in ontology design, and were often influenced by the expressive and computational limitations of the SW languages, particularly OWL. Deeper ontological nature of the entities in the modelled domain may not have been considered or is not explicitly captured by these models. This often involves cases when classes are modelled as individuals, or some of the OWL classes in fact ontologically correspond to classes of a higher order.

Consider an example taken from the Music Ontology (MO) [11]: Say we want to model information about a particular LP record in our collection – an exemplar of the famous CBS release of YoYo Ma’s 1983 performance of Bach’s Six Cello Suites. The modelling is depicted in Fig. 1. Our exemplar is represented by the individual `ex:my_LP_0047` (of the type `mo:MusicItem`). The record is connected to its release `ex:CBS_37867`, i.e., the collection of all exemplars with the same recording, cover, bar code, etc., as our record. The type of this release is `mo:album`, which is an individual of the class `mo:ReleaseType`. The other data is for illustration only. From a strict ontological point of view we may realize that the release `ex:CBS_37867` is, in fact, not a singular object per se, but rather it is a class – an entity having a set of instances (i.e., all its exemplars). Similarly, `mo:album` is a class of releases, but since the releases are themselves classes, `mo:album` is a 2nd-order class. Finally, the class `mo:ReleaseType` is of the 3rd order, as it contains 2nd-order classes such as `mo:album`, `mo:single`, etc.

So far, our example shows that some relevant *ontological background* is hidden from the MO vocabulary user, but everything is still coherent. However, one may, for

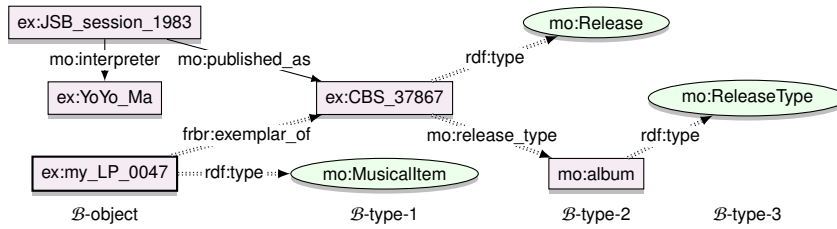


Fig. 1. Music Ontology data about my_LP_0047

instance, create a new class `ex:Wish_List` and put into it some releases available from a regular reseller, alongside some particular second-hand exemplars of LPs and CDs from an auction web site. The class `ex:Wish_List` thus becomes incoherent, as it contains entities of different ontological nature. Even further, MO provides the `mo:primary_instrument` property to indicate the instrument of choice of an artist. It is intended to connect, e.g., `ex:YoYo_Ma` with `mo-mit:Cello`, where the latter is one of the predefined individuals corresponding to instrument types (i.e., in reality classes). Some user may however assign `ex:Petunia` (a particular cello) as Ma’s primary instrument, having this information in her data set. Especially if the data set is later integrated with some other we may get an ontologically incoherent result. However, the resulting OWL ontology would still be logically consistent, and a reasoner would not detect the incoherence.

Recently, we have noted that making the ontological background explicit may help to address problems such as those described above [13,12]. We have proposed so called PURO models [13] which allow to mark background ontological distinctions (called the *background model*) in a given OWL vocabulary (called the *foreground model*) via annotations. The background nature of classes, property domains and ranges is indicated by labeling them with background model notions such as *B-type-1*, *B-type-2*, etc. In addition, instance–type properties such as `mo:release_type`, are labeled as *B-instantiations*. The aim is to keep classes, property domains and ranges homogeneous (containing instances of the same ontological nature), and thus the ontology coherent. Such an approach is useful to both vocabulary designers, in order to keep track of the ontological background, as well as vocabulary users, in order to grasp the background and consistently use the vocabulary. We have also used the model to explain various possible ontological intentions leading to the use of several ontology design patterns [12]. What still lacks here is the option to automatically verify the ontological coherence of the background model represented via the annotation labels.

In this paper, we investigate the extension of description logics (DLs) up to *SROIQ* with typed higher-order concepts and roles, having in mind the particular application to ontological background coherence checking of OWL vocabularies. We aim to define a DL allowing to directly formalize a background model in the PURO language, and to explore the possibilities for the semantics of this DL. Since PURO models feature higher-order *B*-types, and relationships between *B*-types of different order, these models can most directly be formalized in a *higher-order* logic. Moreover, since homogeneity of *B*-types is a requirement in PURO models, the proposed DL features *typing*.

Our contribution is as follows: After brief preliminaries (Sect. 2), we introduce the syntax of typed higher-order DLs, and look for a suitable semantics, considering Henkin and HiLog-style semantics, and discussing their properties (Sect. 3). We then show decidability for a limited case of the proposed logic (Sect. 4). Finally, we discuss relevant related work and conclude (Sects. 5 and 6).

2 Preliminaries

The *SROIQ* DL [6] forms the semantic basis of OWL 2 [8] and its sublanguages cover many popular DLs. A DL vocabulary $\Sigma = N_C \uplus N_R \uplus N_I$ is a set of symbols composed of three mutually disjoint countably infinite sets of *atomic concepts* (N_C), *atomic roles* (N_R), and *individuals* (N_I). *Complex concepts* (*complex roles*) are defined as the smallest sets containing all concepts and roles that can be inductively constructed using the concept (role) constructors³ in Table 1, where A is any atomic concept, C and D are any concepts, P and R are any atomic roles, S and Q are any (possibly complex) roles, a and b are any individuals, and n stands for any positive integer. A *SROIQ knowledge base* (KB) is a finite set \mathcal{K} of *axioms* of multiple types as given at the bottom of Table 1.

A DL *interpretation* is a pair $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$ where $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$ is the *interpretation domain* and $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$ is an *interpretation function* such that $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ for all $a \in N_I$, $A^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ for all $A \in N_C$, and $R^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ for all $R \in N_R$. Interpretation of complex concepts and roles is inductively defined as given in Table 1. An axiom ϕ is *satisfied* by \mathcal{I} (denoted $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$) if \mathcal{I} satisfies the respective semantic constraint listed in Table 1, and \mathcal{I} is a *model* of \mathcal{K} (denoted $\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{K}$) if it satisfies all axioms of \mathcal{K} .

A concept C is *satisfiable w.r.t.* \mathcal{K} if there is a model of \mathcal{K} such that $C^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$. A formula ϕ is *entailed* by \mathcal{K} (denoted $\mathcal{K} \models \phi$) if $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$ for all models \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{K} . The two reasoning tasks of *concept satisfiability* and *concept subsumption* entailment are inter-reducible and decidable for *SROIQ* [6]. However, further syntactic restrictions are required: the universal role cannot occur on the left-hand side of RIA axioms and in role assertions, only so called *simple* roles may appear in cardinality restrictions, and the role hierarchy needs to be *regular*. For the lack of space, we are not able to fully cover these restrictions here. The reader is kindly referred to the work of Horrocks et al. [6].

3 Typed Higher-Order DL

3.1 Syntax

Starting from a DL \mathcal{L} up to *SROIQ* we build a typed higher order variant $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$. The language is constructed over a typed vocabulary which explicitly distinguishes between entities of different types.

³ There are additional *SROIQ* constructors and axioms all of which (including equality) can be reduced to the core constructs listed in Table 1: \top reduces to $A \sqcup \neg A$; \perp reduces to $A \sqcap \neg A$; $C \sqcup D$ reduces to $\neg(\neg C \sqcap \neg D)$; $\forall R.C$ reduces to $\neg \exists R. \neg C$; $\leq n R.C$ reduces to $\neg \geq n+1 R.C$; $= n R.C$ reduces to $\geq n R.C \sqcap \neg \geq n+1 R.C$; $C \equiv D$ reduces to $C \sqsubseteq D$ and $D \sqsubseteq C$, $a = b$ reduces to $\{a\} \equiv \{b\}$, $\text{Sym}(R)$ reduces to $R^- \sqsubseteq R$; $\text{Tra}(R)$ reduces to $R \circ R \sqsubseteq R$; $\text{Irr}(R)$ reduces to $\exists R. \text{Self} \sqsubseteq \perp$.

Table 1. Syntax and Semantics of *SROIQ*

Concept constructors	Syntax	Semantics
atomic concept	A	A^I
complement	$\neg C$	$\mathcal{A}^I \setminus C^I$
intersection	$C \sqcap D$	$C^I \cap D^I$
existential restriction	$\exists R.C$	$\{x \mid \exists y \langle x, y \rangle \in R^I \wedge y \in C^I\}$
min. card. restriction	$\geq nR.C$	$\{x \mid \#\{y \mid \langle x, y \rangle \in R^I \wedge y \in C^I\} \geq n\}$
self restriction	$\exists R.\text{Self}$	$\{x \mid \langle x, x \rangle \in R^I\}$
nominal	$\{a\}$	$\{a^I\}$
Role constructors	Syntax	Semantics
atomic role	R	R^I
inverse role	R^-	$\{\langle y, x \rangle \mid \langle x, y \rangle \in R^I\}$
universal role	U	$\mathcal{A}^I \times \mathcal{A}^I$
role chain	$S \cdot Q$	$S^I \circ Q^I$
Axioms	Syntax	Semantics
concept inclusion (GCI)	$C \sqsubseteq D$	$C^I \subseteq D^I$
role inclusion (RIA)	$S \sqsubseteq R$	$S^I \subseteq R^I$
reflexivity assertion	$\text{Ref}(R)$	R^I is reflexive
role disjointness	$\text{Dis}(P, R)$	$P^I \cap R^I = \emptyset$
concept assertion	$a: C$	$a^I \in C^I$
role assertion	$a, b: R$	$\langle a^I, b^I \rangle \in R^I$
negated role assertion	$a, b: \neg R$	$\langle a^I, b^I \rangle \notin R^I$

Definition 1 (Typed DL Vocabulary). A typed DL vocabulary is a disjoint union of a countable number of countable sets of the form

$$\bigsqcup_{t \geq 0} N_C^t \uplus \bigsqcup_{t > 0, u > 0} N_R^{tu}$$

where for each $t \geq 0$, N_C^t is the set of concept names of type t , and for each $t, u > 0$, N_R^{tu} is the set of role names between types t and u . In addition, the set of individual names $N_I = N_C^0$ is equal to the set of concept names of type 0.

For clarity of presentation, we introduce the following notation: symbols of the form A^t, B^t, \dots belong to N_C^t , and specifically, symbols of the form $A^0, B^0, \dots, a, b, \dots$ belong to N_I . Symbols of the form R^{st}, S^{st}, \dots belong to N_R^{st} . Similarly for longer symbols, for example, $\text{InstrumentType}^2 \in N_C^2$ and $\text{primaryInstrument}^{12} \in N_R^{12}$.

Complex concepts and roles are also respective to a particular type and may not be arbitrarily combined.

Definition 2 (tu-role expression). Given a DL \mathcal{L} with role constructors C_R the set of tu -role expressions of $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{L})$ is recursively defined as the smallest set containing:

1. R^{tu}
2. R^{tu-} if $- \in C_R$
3. U^{tu} if \mathcal{L} allows the universal super-role U

4. $S_1^{t_1 u_1} \cdot S_2^{t_2 u_2} \cdot \dots \cdot S_n^{t_n u_n}$, if $\cdot \in C_R$, where $t_1 = t$, $u_n = u$, $u_i = t_{i+1}$ for $1 \leq i < n$, and $n > 1$ is an integer

where R^{tu} is an atomic role in N_R^{tu} , and S^{tu} , $S_i^{t_i u_i}$ are tu - or $t_i u_i$ -role expressions respectively, for $t, u, t_i, u_i \geq 0$ and $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Definition 3 (t-description). Given a DL \mathcal{L} with concept constructors C_C the set of t -descriptions of $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ is recursively defined as the smallest set containing:

1. A^t
2. $\neg C^t$ if $\neg \in C_C$
3. $C^t \diamond D^t$ if $\diamond \in C_C \cap \{\sqcap, \sqcup\}$
4. $\diamond R^{tu} \cdot C^u$ if $\diamond \in C_C \cap \{\exists, \forall\}$
5. $\diamond n R^{tu} \cdot C^u$ if $\diamond \in C_C \cap \{\leq, \geq\}$
6. $\exists R^{tt} \cdot \text{Self}$ if $\text{Self} \in C_C$
7. $\{A^{t-1}\}$ if $\{\cdot\} \in C_C$

where A^t and A^{t-1} are atomic concepts in N_C^t and N_C^{t-1} respectively, C^t , D^t are t -descriptions, C^u is an u -description, R^{tu} is a tu -role expression, R^{tt} is a tt -role expression, for $t, u > 0$. We further assume that $\top^t = A^t \sqcup \neg A^t$ for $t > 0$ and some $A^t \in N_C^t$.

Finally, $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ KBs are defined as follows.

Definition 4. Given a DL \mathcal{L} , a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ knowledge base \mathcal{K} is a finite set of axioms of the following forms:

1. $C^t \sqsubseteq D^t$ if \mathcal{L} allows concept inclusions,
2. $R^{tu} \sqsubseteq S^{tu}$ if \mathcal{L} allows role inclusions,
3. $\text{Tra}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Ref}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Irr}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Sym}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Dis}(R^{tu}, S^{tu})$, if \mathcal{L} allows role transitivity, reflexivity, irreflexivity, symmetry, and disjointness, respectively,
4. $A^{t-1} : C^t$ if \mathcal{L} allows concept assertions,
5. $A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : R^{tu}$ if \mathcal{L} allows role assertions,
6. $A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : \neg R^{tu}$ if \mathcal{L} allows negative role assertions,

where A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} are atomic concepts of N_C^{t-1} and N_C^{u-1} , respectively, C^t, D^t are t -descriptions, R^{tu}, S^{tu} are tu -role expressions, and $t, u > 0$.

3.2 Semantics

We will now present two of the possible approaches to the semantics of $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$. The most direct way of interpreting a typed higher-order logic is perhaps to adapt Henkin's general models [5] of Church's simple theory of types. Henkin's semantics deals directly with higher-order structures via a hierarchy of power sets. Let $P(S) = 2^S$ denote the power set of a set S , let $P^0(S) = S$, and let $P^{n+1}(S) = P(P^n(S))$.

Definition 5 (Henkin Interpretation). Given a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ KB \mathcal{K} , a Henkin interpretation is a pair $\mathcal{I} = (\{\Delta_s^{\mathcal{I}}\}_s, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ where

1. $\Delta_0^{\mathcal{I}} \neq \emptyset$, $\Delta_{t+1}^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq P(\Delta_t^{\mathcal{I}})$, and $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$ is an interpretation function that interprets the elements of $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ as follows:

- (a) $A^{tI} \in \Delta_t^I$ for each $A^t \in N_C^t$, $t \geq 0$,
 - (b) $R^{tuI} \subseteq \Delta_{t-1}^I \times \Delta_{u-1}^I$ for each $R^{tu} \in N_R^{tu}$, $t, u > 0$.
2. The domains Δ_s^I are closed under the interpretation of complex descriptions and role expressions in $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$, which is inductively defined in the usual way (as in Table 1) with two exceptions for all $t, u > 0$:
- (a) $(\neg C^t)^I = \Delta_{t-1}^I \setminus (C^t)^I$,
 - (b) $(U^{tu})^I = \Delta_{t-1}^I \times \Delta_{u-1}^I$.

The advantage of Henkin interpretations is that the semantics of complex concepts is naturally defined as in any classical DL. For instance $(\exists R^{23}.C^3)^I = \{x \mid \exists y. \langle x, y \rangle \in R^{23I} \wedge y \in C^{3I}\}$; this works in the usual way even if $(\exists R^{23}.C^3)^I \in P^2(\Delta^I)$, i.e., it is a set of sets of elements of Δ^I . Similarly the notions of satisfaction, and model are analogous.

Definition 6 (Henkin Satisfaction). Given a formula (axiom) ϕ in $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$, a Henkin interpretation $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ satisfies ϕ (denoted $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$) as follows:

1. $\mathcal{I} \models C^t \sqsubseteq D^t$ if $C^{tI} \subseteq D^{tI}$,
2. $\mathcal{I} \models R^{tu} \sqsubseteq S^{tu}$ if $R^{tuI} \subseteq S^{tuI}$,
3. $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Tra}(R^{tu})$ ($\text{Ref}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Irr}(R^{tu})$, $\text{Sym}(R^{tu})$) if R^{tuI} is a transitive (resp. reflexive, irreflexive, symmetric) relation,
4. $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Dis}(R^{tu}, S^{tu})$ if R^{tuI} and S^{tuI} are disjoint,
5. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1} : C^t$ if $A^{t-1I} \in C^{tI}$,
6. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : R^{tu}$, if $\langle A^{t-1I}, B^{u-1I} \rangle \in R^{tuI}$,
7. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : \neg R^{tu}$ if $\langle A^{t-1I}, B^{u-1I} \rangle \notin R^{tuI}$.

Definition 7 (Henkin Model). A Henkin interpretation $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}})$ is a model of a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ KB \mathcal{K} if $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$ for all $\phi \in \mathcal{K}$.

The straightforward interpretation of higher-order classes as sets of sets in Henkin semantics leads to properties that are not intuitive in knowledge representation, as discussed below in Sect. 3.3. We therefore consider also HiLog-style semantics which was successfully applied in higher-order logic programming [1] and DL as well [7,2] (note that in [2], this semantics is, quite confusingly, introduced as ‘‘a Henkin semantics’’). HiLog-style interpretations first assign each name an element of a single domain, thus effectively assigning it an *intension* (for which we will use the function $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$). The intension is then assigned both a *class extension* (subset of the domain Δ^I) and a *role extension* (subset of $\Delta^I \times \Delta^I$). In order to obtain a typed version of this semantics, we partition the domain into disjoint slices, each dedicated to intensions of members of one type (either a class type t , or a role type tu). An extension is then possibly assigned to the intensions (using the function $\cdot^{\mathcal{E}}$) as appropriate, e.g., an intension cannot be assigned a class extension and a role extension simultaneously.

In HiLog [1] and some of its DL applications (e.g., the higher-order DL of De Giacomo et al. [2]), also complex expressions (roles, concepts) are required to have intensions. However, in our application (ontological coherence checking of OWL vocabularies), we do not expect the need to express higher-order assertions over complex concepts and roles. Therefore, we directly derive extensions of such complex entities without requiring them to have any intension. In this sense, our approach is similar to the one of Motik [7] which will allow us, at least in a limited case, to show decidability of the HiLog-style semantics by reduction to Motik’s one in Sect. 4.

Table 2. HiLog-style interpretation constraints

X	$X^{\mathcal{E}}$	X	$X^{\mathcal{E}}$
$\neg C^t$	$\Delta_{t-1}^I \setminus C^{t\mathcal{E}}$	$\exists S^{tt}.\text{Self}$	$\{x \mid \langle x, x \rangle \in S^{tt\mathcal{E}}\}$
$C^t \sqcap D^t$	$C^{t\mathcal{E}} \cap D^{t\mathcal{E}}$	$\{C^{t-1}\}$	$\{C^{t-1\mathcal{E}}\}$
$\exists R^{tu}.C^u$	$\{x \mid \exists y. \langle x, y \rangle \in R^{tu\mathcal{E}} \wedge y \in C^{u\mathcal{E}}\}$	R^{tu-}	$\{\langle y, x \rangle \mid \langle x, y \rangle \in R^{st\mathcal{E}}\}$
$\geq n S^{tu}.C^u$	$\{x \mid \#\{y \mid \langle x, y \rangle \in S^{tu\mathcal{E}}, y \in C^{u\mathcal{E}}\} \geq n\}$	$R_1^{t_1 u_1} \dots R_n^{t_n u_n}$	$R_1^{t_1 u_1 \mathcal{E}} \circ \dots \circ R_n^{t_n u_n \mathcal{E}}$

Definition 8 (HiLog-Style Interpretation). Given a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{K})$ KB \mathcal{K} , a HiLog-style interpretation is a triple $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{E}})$ such that

1. $\Delta^I = \bigsqcup_{t \geq 0} \Delta_t^I \sqcup \bigsqcup_{t, u > 0} \Delta_{tu}^I$ is a disjoint union of countably many sets s.t. $\Delta_0^I \neq \emptyset$,
2. $A^{tI} \in \Delta_t^I$ for each $A^t \in N_{\mathbb{C}}^t$ and $t \geq 0$,
3. $R^{tuI} \in \Delta_{tu}^I$ for each $R^{tu} \in N_{\mathbb{R}}^{tu}$ and $t, u > 0$,
4. $c^{\mathcal{E}} \subseteq \Delta_{t-1}^I$ for each $c \in \Delta_t^I$ and $t > 0$,
5. $r^{\mathcal{E}} \subseteq \Delta_{t-1}^I \times \Delta_{u-1}^I$ for each $r \in \Delta_{tu}^I$ and $t, u > 0$,

and the interpretation of complex descriptions and role expressions is inductively defined according to Table 2, where, by abuse of notation, we redefine $X^{\mathcal{E}} := (X^I)^{\mathcal{E}}$ for atomic concepts and roles and $X^{\mathcal{E}} := X^{\mathcal{E}}$ for non-atomic ones.

As remarked by Chen et al. [1], this way we obtain an essentially first-order semantics (free of higher-order power sets) for a higher-order language. On the other hand, we have to be careful to properly use the two interpretation in the definition of satisfaction.

Definition 9 (HiLog-Style Satisfaction). Given a formula (axiom) ϕ in $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$, a HiLog-style interpretation $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{E}})$ satisfies ϕ (denoted $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$) as follows:

1. $\mathcal{I} \models C^t \sqsubseteq D^t$ if $C^{t\mathcal{E}} \subseteq D^{t\mathcal{E}}$,
2. $\mathcal{I} \models R^{tu} \sqsubseteq S^{tu}$ if $R^{tu\mathcal{E}} \subseteq S^{tu\mathcal{E}}$,
3. $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Ref}(R^{tu})$ if $R^{tu\mathcal{E}}$ is a reflexive relation,
4. $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Dis}(R^{tu}, S^{tu})$ if $R^{tu\mathcal{E}}$ and $S^{tu\mathcal{E}}$ are disjoint,
5. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1} : C^t$ if $A^{t-1I} \in C^{t\mathcal{E}}$,
6. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : R^{tu}$ if $\langle A^{t-1I}, B^{u-1I} \rangle \in R^{tu\mathcal{E}}$,
7. $\mathcal{I} \models A^{t-1}, B^{u-1} : \neg R^{tu}$ if $\langle A^{t-1I}, B^{u-1I} \rangle \notin R^{tu\mathcal{E}}$.

Definition 10 (HiLog-Style Model). A HiLog-style interpretation $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{E}})$ is a model of a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ KB \mathcal{K} if $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$ for all $\phi \in \mathcal{K}$.

3.3 Properties

We will now compare the HiLog-style semantics and Henkin semantics, in order to see in which respects they differ, and how suitable each of them is for our use case.

Obviously, Henkin semantics assigns each concept a single semantic object, while the HiLog-style semantics assigns a concept (in our case, only atomic concepts) two separate semantic objects: the concept's intension and extension. We may then ask the following question: If the intensions of a concept are equal, are the extensions equal

as well, and vice versa? This question is formalized as the properties of *intensional regularity* (1) and *extensionality* (2):

$$\mathcal{K} \models A^t = B^t \implies \mathcal{K} \models A^t \equiv B^t, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{K} \models A^t \equiv B^t \implies \mathcal{K} \models A^t = B^t. \quad (2)$$

Intensional regularity is typically a desired property. It also fits our use case, as illustrated in the following example originally studied by Motik [7]:

Example 1. Consider the knowledge base $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{Aquila}^1 = \text{Eagle}^1, \text{Harry}^0 : \text{Eagle}^1, \text{Harry}^0 : \neg\text{Aquila}^1\}$. Given that Aquila^1 and Eagle^1 are just two different names for the same class, which are made equal on the intensional level (i.e., they are the names of the same concept in different languages), it is natural to expect that if we put same object into Eagle^1 and $\neg\text{Aquila}^1$, the KB becomes inconsistent.

Both Henkin and the HiLog-style semantics are intensionally regular, and so \mathcal{K} is inconsistent in both of them. In the case of Henkin semantics, we ought to realize that the axioms $\text{Aquila}^1 = \text{Eagle}^1$ and $\text{Aquila}^1 \equiv \text{Eagle}^1$ have exactly the same meaning, as there is just one denotation \cdot^I for each entity which serves both as its intension and extension at the same time. In the case of the HiLog-style semantics, intensions $(\text{Aquila}^1)^I$ and $(\text{Eagle}^1)^I$ are both equal to the same element d of Δ^I , and hence $(\text{Aquila}^1)^{\mathcal{E}} = d^{\mathcal{E}} = (\text{Eagle}^1)^{\mathcal{E}}$.

When it comes to extensionality, in most use cases it is undesired. For instance, in meta modelling we want to express versioning meta information within logic, as illustrated in the following example. In OWL, such information can only be expressed using annotation properties.

Example 2. Consider a KB $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{Aquila}^1 \equiv \text{Eagle}^1, \text{Eagle}^1 : \text{Deprecated}^2\}$ in which we have two extensionally equivalent classes Aquila^1 and Eagle^1 and the latter is marked as deprecated. Now deriving $\mathcal{K} \models \text{Aquila}^1 : \text{Deprecated}^2$ which is a direct consequence of extensionality is apparently undesired.

While Henkin semantics is inherently extensional for the same reason which makes it intensionally regular (i.e., a single denotation), HiLog-style semantics is not extensional. Indeed, it is possible in a HiLog-style model of \mathcal{K} that $\text{Aquila}^1{}^I = a$ and $\text{Eagle}^1{}^I = e$, $a \neq e$, but $a^{\mathcal{E}} = e^{\mathcal{E}}$, together with $e \in (\text{Deprecated}^2)^{\mathcal{E}}$ and $a \notin (\text{Deprecated}^2)^{\mathcal{E}}$.

Interestingly enough, extensionality can be regained by a minor modification to the HiLog-style semantics, as shown in the following proposition proved in Appendix A.

Proposition 1. *A modified HiLog-style semantics which requires $\cdot^{\mathcal{E}}$ to be injective has the extensionality property.*

Extensionality may be seen as desired in some use cases, e.g., in tight vocabulary integration scenarios we might want to unify classes completely by asserting their equivalence. This is however outside of the scope of our use case.

Finally, we would like to remark that by choosing not to include intensions for complex entities, we made the HiLog-style semantics weaker compared to Henkin semantics. Consider the following example:

Example 3. Let us have $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{Eagle}^1 \equiv \{\text{Harry}^0\}, \text{Aquila}^1 \equiv \{\text{Mary}^0\}, \text{Harry}^0 \neq \text{Marry}^0, \top^2 \sqsubseteq \{\text{Eagle}^1, \text{Aquila}^1\}\}$ in which for whatever reason we decided to limit the number of type-1 classes to two.

While this KB has a HiLog-style model, it has no Henkin model. Henkin semantics requires that each, even non-atomic, description has an interpretation present in the domain. Note that there are only two objects of type 2 available in \mathcal{K} , since we have $\Delta_1^I = (\top^{2I}) = \{E, A\}$, $E = \text{Eagle}^{1I} = \{\text{Harry}^{0I}\} = \{h\}$ and $A = \text{Aquila}^{1I} = \{\text{Marry}^{0I}\} = \{m\}$, $E \neq A$, $h \neq m$. The Henkin interpretation $(\text{Eagle}^1 \sqcup \text{Aquila}^1)^I$ is equal to a $\{h, m\}$, which is different from both E and A , and so it does not fit in Δ_1^I .

This may at first sound as a drawback of the HiLog-style semantics, but in our use case it is not. Since we do not really want to assert higher-order statements over complex concepts or roles, we do not want to care about their intensions. Note that since there is a countable infinite number of complex concept expressions, there can also be an infinite number of intensions. This further adds to the complexity of the semantics, which is not necessary. In the version of HiLog-style semantics used in this paper, we may understand nominals as operating on entities which have explicit identity (intension). If we wish to create an intension for a complex concept, we can always do it by introducing a new atomic name for it, and an equivalence axiom.

4 Decidability

We will now demonstrate decidability of decision problems in $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{ALCHOIQ})$ by reduction to the untyped $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ with meta modelling under the HiLog semantics (also called ν -semantics) as defined and proved decidable by Motik [7].

Definition 11 ($\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ with Meta Modelling [7]). For a set N_a of atomic names, define the set of names as $N = N_a \cup \{n^- \mid n \in N_a\}$. For each $n \in N_a$, let $\text{Inv}(n) = n^-$, and $\text{Inv}(n^-) = n$. The set of $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ concepts is the smallest set containing each $A \in N$, and for each $R, i \in N$, non-negative integer n , and $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ concepts C and D , also the concepts $\{i\}$, $\neg C$, $C \sqcap D$, $\exists R.C$, and $\geq nR.C$. An $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ knowledge base with meta modelling is a finite set consisting of role inclusion axioms $R \sqsubseteq_R S$ for any $R, S \in N$, concept inclusion axioms $C \sqsubseteq_R D$ for any concepts C and D , and assertions of the forms $a : C$ and $a, b : R$ where C is a concept and $a, b, R \in N$.

Definition 12 (ν -Semantics [7]). Let \mathcal{K} be a $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ KB with meta modelling. A ν -interpretation of \mathcal{K} is a quadruple $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^I, C^I, R^I)$ where Δ^I is a non-empty domain, $\cdot^I : N \rightarrow \Delta^I$ is a name interpretation function, $C^I : \Delta^I \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\Delta^I)$ is an atomic concept extension function, and $R^I : \Delta^I \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\Delta^I \times \Delta^I)$ is a role extension function satisfying $R^I(S^I) = R^I((\text{Inv}(S))^I)$. The atomic concept extension function is extended to $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ concepts as shown in Table 3 left. Table 3 right defines the ν -satisfaction relation. The notions of ν -satisfiability and ν -model of \mathcal{K} are defined as usual.

Theorem 1 ([7]). ν -satisfiability of a KB \mathcal{K} in the DL $\mathcal{ALCHOIQ}$ with meta modelling is decidable in non-deterministic exponential time.

The following reduction allows application of Motik's results to $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{ALCHOIQ})$.

Table 3. The ν -semantics [7]

X	$C^I(X)$	ϕ	$I \models_\nu \phi$
A	$C^I(A^I)$	$S \sqsubseteq_R T$	$R^I(S^I) \subseteq R^I(T^I)$
$\{i\}$	$\{i^I\}$	$D_1 \sqsubseteq D_2$	$C^I(D_1) \subseteq C^I(D_2)$
$\neg D$	$\Delta^I \setminus C^I(D)$	$a: D$	$a^I \in C^I(D)$
$D_1 \sqcap D_2$	$C^I(D_1) \cap C^I(D_2)$	$a, b: S$	$\langle a^I, b^I \rangle \in R^I(S^I)$
$\exists S.D$	$\{x \mid \exists y. \langle x, y \rangle \in R^I(S) \wedge y \in C^I(D)\}$		
$\geq nS.D$	$\{x \mid \#\{y \mid \langle x, y \rangle \in R^I(S) \wedge y \in C^I(D)\} \geq n\}$		

Definition 13 (Untyped Reduction). Let \mathcal{K} be a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ knowledge base in a vocabulary $\Sigma = \bigsqcup_{t \geq 0} N_C^t \sqcup \bigsqcup_{t, u > 0} N_R^{tu}$. Let $N_a = \Sigma \sqcup \{\top^t \mid t > 0\} \sqcup \{\top^{tu} \mid t, u > 0\}$, where \top^t and \top^{tu} for each $t, u > 0$ are mutually distinct fresh names.

The untyped reduction $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K})$ of \mathcal{K} is a KB in the DL \mathcal{L} with meta modelling over the set of atomic names N_a defined as $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K}) = \text{TB}(\mathcal{K}) \cup \text{TC}(\mathcal{K})$, where the type-bound version $\text{TB}(\mathcal{K})$ of \mathcal{K} is obtained by replacing each occurrence of a t -description of the form $\neg C^t$ in \mathcal{K} by $\top^t \sqcap \neg C^t$, and the set of typing constraints $\text{TC}(\mathcal{K})$ consist of the following axioms (m is the maximum type number occurring in \mathcal{K}):

1. for each t, u, v, w , such that $0 < t, u, v, w \leq m+1$,
 $\top^t \sqsubseteq \neg \top^u$ if $t \neq u$, $\top^{tu} \sqsubseteq \neg \top^{vw}$ if $(t, u) \neq (v, w)$, and $\top^{tu} \sqsubseteq \neg \top^v$;
2. $A^{t-1} : \top^t$ for each A^{t-1} occurring in \mathcal{K} , $0 < t \leq m+1$;
3. $R^{tu} : \top^{tu}$ for each R^{tu} occurring in \mathcal{K} , $0 < t, u \leq m$;
4. $A^t \sqsubseteq \top^t$ for each A^t occurring in \mathcal{K} , $0 < t \leq m$;
5. $\exists R^{tu}. \top \sqsubseteq \top^t$ and $\top \sqsubseteq \forall R^{tu}. \top^u$ for each R^{tu} occurring in \mathcal{K} , $0 < t, u \leq m$.

Proposition 2. Let \mathcal{K} be a $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{L})$ KB. Then \mathcal{K} is satisfiable in the HiLog semantics iff $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K})$ is ν -satisfiable.

Proposition 2 is proved in Appendix A. Since $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K})$ can be constructed from \mathcal{K} in polynomial time, Theorem 1 and Proposition 2 imply the following corollary.

Corollary 1. Satisfiability in $\mathcal{TH}(\mathcal{ALCHOIQ})$ in the HiLog semantics is decidable in non-deterministic exponential time.

5 Related Work

Considering typed higher order languages for SW vocabularies, our approach relates to the work of Pan and Horrocks [9] who introduced a typed higher-order variant of RDFS, dubbed RDFS(FA). RDFS itself is a higher-order language, however it lacks distinguished types. While RDFS itself employs a HiLog-style semantics, RDFS(FA) resorts to a variant of standard higher-order semantics, a less-general instance of Henkin semantics (see Henkin [5] for detailed comparison). We argued in Sect. 3, that HiLog-style semantics is more appropriate in our use case.

Both Motik [7] and De Giacomo et al. [2] have investigated higher-order extensions of DL under HiLog-style semantics which are not typed. De Giacomo et al. have studied a stronger variant of the semantics where intensions are assigned also to complex

entities. Example 3 can be used to show that these semantics differ, the latter one being the stronger. Our work can be seen as an extension of these two approaches, introducing the types. In Sect. 4, we were able to show the relation with Motik’s semantics by reduction. As noted above, we have intentionally chosen a weaker semantics, similar to the Motik’s one as it is sufficient for our use case.

In our previous work [13], we sketched how coherence checking w.r.t. the PURO model can be done using a meta modelling approach. The current work is an improvement, as it allows to reason in both the original vocabulary and the (PURO) meta level at the same time. In this light, we would like to point out the work of Glimm et al. [4], where meta level reasoning (with the OntoClean meta model) is integrated with the original vocabulary via a direct translation into OWL. In the future, we would like to investigate a similar direction in order to obtain effective reasoning support also for more expressive fragments of $\mathcal{TH}(SROIQ)$.

Punning is a new feature of OWL 2 [8] allowing the same name to be used in different contexts, e.g., once as a class and then as in individual. As already noted by Motik [7] who investigated a similar approach under the name contextual semantics, it does not satisfy intensional regularity, which we identified as an important property in Sect. 3.3.

Finally, it should also be remarked that scenarios similar to the one outlined in the introduction could also be modelled with more advanced techniques, such as the materialization relationship [10], or in DL extensions such as a theory of collections [3]. However, such approaches rely on notions which are unfamiliar to many linked data (LD) vocabulary developers, while in our proposal we tried to keep a high level of similarity with the LD terminology (e.g., we still deal with objects, types, instantiation, and relationships even if some of them may be of higher orders).

6 Conclusions

The recently introduced PURO model [13] intended for ontological coherence checking of OWL vocabularies requires consideration of higher-order entities in the vocabularies. With the aim to enable automated reasoning support for the coherence checking task, we have investigated a typed higher-order extension of $SROIQ$, dubbed $\mathcal{TH}(SROIQ)$. In search for a suitable semantics, we have considered a Henkin [5] and a HiLog [1] inspired approach. As a conclusion, we find the latter one more favourable as it is simpler but sufficient to support our use case. Compared to the Henkin semantics it is *not* extensional, and, as discussed, extensionality may be undesired in meta modelling scenarios such as ours. Finally, we were able to show that for a limited case of $\mathcal{TH}(ALCHOIQ)$ the HiLog-style semantics is decidable.

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A Proofs

Proof (Proposition 1, sketch). The proposition is proven by an obvious repetition of the reasoning under Example 2, where we realize that the injectivity of $\cdot^{\mathcal{E}}$ assures no two distinct intensions can be assigned the same extension. Hence, if extensions of two classes are equal, the same must hold for their intensions. \square

Proof (Proposition 2). Denote the smallest typed DL vocabulary of \mathcal{K} by $\Sigma = \biguplus_{t \geq 0} N_C^t \uplus \biguplus_{s > 0, t > 0} N_R^{st}$.

(\Leftarrow) Assume $\mathcal{Y}(\mathcal{K})$ is ν -satisfiable and take its ν -model $\mathcal{J} = (\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{J}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{J}}, \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}, \mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{J}})$. We define a HiLog interpretation \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{K} as follows: Let $\mathcal{A}_{t-1}^{\mathcal{I}} := \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\tau^t \mathcal{J})$ for each $t > 0$, and $\mathcal{A}_{tu}^{\mathcal{I}} := \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\tau^{tu} \mathcal{J})$ for each $t, u > 0$. Observe that $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{I}} := \biguplus_{t \geq 0} \mathcal{A}_t^{\mathcal{I}} \uplus \biguplus_{t, u > 0} \mathcal{A}_{tu}^{\mathcal{I}}$ is indeed a disjoint union, which is ensured by the typing constraints 1 of $\text{TC}(\mathcal{K})$. Let $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}} := \cdot^{\mathcal{J}}|_{\Sigma}$ (the restriction of $\cdot^{\mathcal{J}}$ to Σ), and observe that the typing constraints 2 and 3 imply the conditions 2 and 3 of Def. 8. Now let $\mathcal{A}_C^{\mathcal{I}} = \bigcup_{t > 0} \mathcal{A}_t^{\mathcal{I}}$ and $\mathcal{A}_R^{\mathcal{I}} = \bigcup_{t, u > 0} \mathcal{A}_{tu}^{\mathcal{I}}$. Since $\mathcal{A}_C^{\mathcal{I}}$ and $\mathcal{A}_R^{\mathcal{I}}$ are disjoint, the union $\cdot^{\mathcal{E}} := \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}|_{\mathcal{A}_C^{\mathcal{I}}} \cup \mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{J}}|_{\mathcal{A}_R^{\mathcal{I}}}$ is a function from $\mathcal{A}_C^{\mathcal{I}} \uplus \mathcal{A}_R^{\mathcal{I}}$. Typing constraints 4 and 5 ensure that $\cdot^{\mathcal{E}}$ satisfies the conditions 4 and 5 of Def. 8.

Observe that $R^{tu\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{J}}(R^{tu})$ for all tu -role expressions. Now we can easily verify by induction on the construction of t -descriptions, that $C^{t\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\text{TB}(C^t))$. For atomic descriptions, this follows from the typing constrains. For complex descriptions, the only interesting case is the one when C^t is of the form $\neg D^t$, and we have $C^{t\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{A}_{t-1}^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus D^{t\mathcal{E}} =$

$\Delta_{t-1}^I \setminus \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(D^{t\mathcal{J}}) = \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\top^{t\mathcal{J}}) \cap (\Delta^{\mathcal{J}} \setminus \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(D^{t\mathcal{J}})) = \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\top^t \sqcap \neg D^t) = \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\text{TB}(C^t))$, where the second equality holds by the induction hypothesis.

In conclusion, we have $A^{tI} = A^{t\mathcal{J}}$ for all concept names $A^t \in N_{\mathbf{C}}^t$, $t \geq 0$, $R^{tu\mathcal{E}} = R^{\mathcal{J}}(R^{tu})$ for all tu -role expressions R^{tu} over Σ , and $C^{t\mathcal{E}} = \mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\text{TB}(C^t))$ for all t -descriptions C^t over Σ , $t, u > 0$. These properties allow us to straightforwardly verify that for any axiom $\phi \in \mathcal{K}$ we have $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$ iff $\mathcal{J} \models \text{TB}(\phi)$, which implies satisfiability of \mathcal{K} .

(\Rightarrow) Assume \mathcal{K} has a HiLog model $\mathcal{I} = (\Delta^I, \cdot^I, \cdot^{\mathcal{E}})$. We construct a ν -model \mathcal{J} of $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K})$ as follows: Let $\Delta_{\top} = \{\delta_t \mid t > 0\} \uplus \{\delta_{tu} \mid t, u > 0\}$, where δ_t and δ_{tu} are any mutually distinct objects not occurring in Δ^I . We define the domain of \mathcal{J} as $\Delta^{\mathcal{J}} := \Delta^I \uplus \Delta_{\top}$, and its name interpretation function as $N^{\mathcal{J}} := N^I$ for each concept or role name $N \in \Sigma$, $\top^{t\mathcal{J}} := \delta_t$ for each $t > 0$, and $\top^{tu\mathcal{J}} := \delta_{tu}$ for each $t, u > 0$. Let $\Delta_{\mathbf{C}}^I = \bigcup_{t>0} \Delta_t^I$ and $\Delta_{\mathbf{R}}^I = \bigcup_{t,u>0} \Delta_{tu}^I$. We define the atomic concept extension function as $\mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(c) := c^{\mathcal{E}}$ for each $c \in \Delta_{\mathbf{C}}^I$, as $\mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\delta_t) := \Delta_{t-1}^I$ for each $t > 0$, as $\mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\delta_{tu}) := \Delta_{tu}^I$ for each $t, u > 0$, and as $\mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(x) = \emptyset$ for each $x \in \Delta^I \setminus (\Delta_{\mathbf{C}}^I \cup \Delta_{\top})$. The role extension function is defined as $\mathbf{R}^{\mathcal{J}}(r) := r^{\mathcal{E}}$ for each $r \in \Delta_{\mathbf{R}}^I$, and as $\mathbf{R}^{\mathcal{J}}(x) = \emptyset$ for each $x \in \Delta^I \setminus \Delta_{\mathbf{R}}^I$.

With the construction of \mathcal{J} completed, we can now show similarly as above that we have $A^{t\mathcal{J}} = A^{tI}$ for all concept names $A^t \in N_{\mathbf{C}}^t$, $t \geq 0$, $\mathbf{R}^{\mathcal{J}}(R^{tu}) = R^{tu\mathcal{E}}$ for all tu -role expressions R^{tu} over Σ , and $\mathbf{C}^{\mathcal{J}}(\text{TB}(C^t)) = C^{t\mathcal{E}}$ for all t -descriptions C^t over Σ , $t, u > 0$. These properties allow us to straightforwardly verify that for any axiom $\phi \in \mathcal{K}$ we have $\mathcal{I} \models \phi$ iff $\mathcal{J} \models \text{TB}(\phi)$, which implies ν -satisfiability of $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K})$. \square