

# Reasoning with Fuzzy Ontologies

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**Abstract.** By the development of Semantic Web, increasing demands for vague information representation have triggered a mass of theoretical and applied researches of fuzzy ontologies, whose main logical infrastructures are fuzzy description logics. However, current tableau algorithms can not supply complete reasoning support within fuzzy ontology: reasoning with general TBox is still a difficult problem in fuzzy description logics. The main trouble is that fuzzy description logics adopt fuzzy models with continuous but not discrete membership degrees. In this paper, we propose a novel semantical discretization to discretize membership degrees in fuzzy description logic  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$ . Based on this discretization, we design discrete tableau algorithms to achieve reasoning with general TBox.

## 1 Introduction

The Semantic Web stands for the idea of a future Web, in which information is given well-defined meaning, better enabling intelligent Web information processing [1]. In the Semantic Web, ontology is a crucial knowledge representation model to express a shared understanding of information between users and machines. Along with the evolvement from current Web to the Semantic Web, the management of ill-structured, ill-defined or imprecise information plays a more and more important role in applications of the Semantic Web [13]. This trend calls for ontologies with capability to deal with uncertainty. However, classical DLs, as the logical foundation of ontologies, are two-value-based languages. The need for expressing uncertainty in the Semantic Web has triggered extending classical DLs with fuzzy capabilities, yielding Fuzzy DLs (FDLs for short). Straccia proposed a representative fuzzy extension  $\mathcal{FALC}$  of DL  $\mathcal{ALC}$ , in which fuzzy semantics is introduced to interpret concepts and roles as fuzzy sets [11]. Following researchers extended  $\mathcal{FALC}$  with more complex constructions:  $\mathcal{FALCQ}$  [6] with qualified number restriction,  $\mathcal{FSI}$  [7] with transitive and inverse role, and  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  [8], an extension of  $\mathcal{FSI}$  with role hierarchy and unqualified number restriction. Stoilos et al introduced Straccia's fuzzy framework into OWL, hence getting a fuzzy ontology language  $\mathcal{FSHOIN}$ , by which fuzzy ontologies are coded as FDL knowledge bases [9].

Though the fuzzy DLs have done a lot, to our best knowledge, reasoning with general TBox in FDLs is still a difficult problem [8]. Current tableau algorithms in FDLs are applied to achieve reasoning without TBox or with acyclic TBox [7, 8, 11], that limits reasoning support within fuzzy ontologies. The main trouble in reasoning with general TBox is that fuzzy interpretations  $\mathcal{I}$  map concepts  $C$  into membership degree functions  $C^{\mathcal{I}}(\cdot)$  w.r.t domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}: \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ , where the value domain  $[0,1]$  is continuous. In [4], we represented

a novel semantical discretization technique to enable translation of membership degree values from *continuous* ones into *discrete* ones. In this paper, we will extend this discretization technique into  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$ ; and based on it, we will design a discrete tableau algorithm for reasoning with general TBox in  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$ . Since nominals should not be fuzzyfied, our discrete tableau algorithms for  $\mathcal{SHLN}$ , together with reasoning technique to deal with nominals in crisp DLs [3], can be extended to provide a tableau algorithm for general TBox in  $\mathcal{FSHOIN}$ , that will achieve complete reasoning within fuzzy ontologies.

## 2 Logical Infrastructure of Fuzzy Ontologies

Let  $N_C$  be a set of concept names ( $A$ ),  $N_R$  a set of role names ( $R$ ) with a subset  $N_R^+$  of transitive role names and  $N_I$  a set of individual names ( $a$ ).  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  roles are either role names  $R \in N_R$  or their inverse roles  $R^-$ . To avoid  $R^{--}$ , we use  $\text{Inv}(R)$  to denote the inverse role of  $R$ .  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  concepts  $C, D$  are inductively defined with the application of  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  concept constructors in the following syntax rules:

$$C, D ::= \top | \perp | A | \neg C | C \sqcap D | C \sqcup D | \exists R.C | \forall R.C | \geq pR | \leq pR$$

Since concepts and roles in  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  are considered as fuzzy sets, the semantics of concepts and roles are defined in terms of fuzzy interpretations  $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$ , where  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$  is a nonempty domain, and  $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  is an interpretation function mapping individuals  $a$  into  $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ ; concept (role) names  $A$  ( $R$ ) into membership functions  $A^{\mathcal{I}}(R^{\mathcal{I}}) : \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} (\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . And for any transitive role name  $R \in N_R^+$ ,  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies  $\forall d, d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d') \geq \sup_{x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \{\min(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, x), R^{\mathcal{I}}(x, d'))\}$ . Furthermore,  $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$  satisfies the following conditions for complex concepts and roles built by concept and role constructors: for any  $d, d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \top^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= 1 \\ \perp^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= 0 \\ (\neg C)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= 1 - C^{\mathcal{I}}(d) \\ (C \sqcap D)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \min\{C^{\mathcal{I}}(d), D^{\mathcal{I}}(d)\} \\ (C \sqcup D)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \max\{C^{\mathcal{I}}(d), D^{\mathcal{I}}(d)\} \\ (\exists R.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \sup_{d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \{\min(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d'), C^{\mathcal{I}}(d'))\} \\ (\forall R.C)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \inf_{d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \{\max(1 - R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d'), C^{\mathcal{I}}(d'))\} \\ (\geq pR)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \sup_{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \{\min_1^p(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d_i))\} \\ (\leq pR)^{\mathcal{I}}(d) &= \inf_{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{p+1} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}} \{\max_1^{p+1}(1 - R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d_i))\} \\ (R^-)^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d') &= R^{\mathcal{I}}(d', d) \end{aligned}$$

A  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  knowledge base (KB)  $\mathcal{K}$  is a triple  $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  are  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  TBox, RBox and ABox. The syntax and semantics of axioms in them are given in table 1. An interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies an axiom if it satisfies corresponding semantics restriction given in table 1.  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies (is a fuzzy model of) a KB  $\mathcal{K}$ , iff  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfies any axiom in  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ .  $\mathcal{K}$  is satisfiable iff it has a

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fuzzy model. In this paper, we will propose a discrete tableau algorithm to decide satisfiability of  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  KBs, which is based on the "semantical discretization" discussed in the following section.

**Table 1.** Syntax and semantics of  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  axioms

	Syntax	Semantics
TBox $\mathcal{T}$	$C \sqsubseteq D$	$\forall d \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, C^{\mathcal{I}}(d) \leq D^{\mathcal{I}}(d)$
RBox $\mathcal{R}$	$R \sqsubseteq P$	$\forall d, d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d') \leq P^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d')$
ABox $\mathcal{A}$	$a : C \bowtie n$	$C^{\mathcal{I}}(a^{\mathcal{I}}) \bowtie n$
	$(a, b) : R \bowtie$	$R^{\mathcal{I}}(a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}}) \bowtie n$
	$a \neq b$	$a^{\mathcal{I}} \neq b^{\mathcal{I}}$

$C$  and  $D$  ( $R$  and  $P$ ) are concepts (roles);  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_I$ ;  $\bowtie \in \{\geq, >, \leq, <\}$ ;  $n \in [0, 1]$ .

### 3 Semantical Discretization in $\mathcal{FSHLN}$

For any fuzzy model of  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  KBs, we discretize it into a special model, in which any value of membership degree functions belongs to a given discrete degree set  $S$ . And we call it a discrete model within  $S$ . Let us now proceed formally in the creation of  $S$ . Let  $N_d$  be the set of degrees appearing in ABox  $N_d = \{n | \alpha \bowtie n \in \mathcal{A}\}$ . From  $N_d$ , we define the degree closure  $N_d^* = \{0, 0.5, 1\} \cup N_d \cup \{n | 1 - n \in N_d\}$  and order degrees in ascending order:  $N_d^* = \{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_s\}$ , where for any  $0 \leq i \leq s$ ,  $n_i < n_{i+1}$ . For any two back-to-back elements  $n_i, n_{i+1} \in N_d^*$ , we insert their median  $m_{i+1} = (n_i + n_{i+1})/2$  to get  $S = \{n_0, m_1, n_1, \dots, n_{s-1}, m_s, n_s\}$ . We call  $S$  a discrete degree set w.r.t  $\mathcal{K}$ . Obviously for any  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ,  $m_i + m_{s+1-i} = 1$  and  $n_{i-1} < m_i < n_i$ .

**Theorem 1** For any  $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$  and any discrete degree set  $S$  w.r.t  $\mathcal{K}$ , iff  $\mathcal{K}$  has a fuzzy model, it has a discrete model within  $S$ .

Proof. Let  $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$  be a fuzzy model of  $\mathcal{K}$  and the degree set  $S = \{n_0, m_1, n_1, \dots, n_{s-1}, m_s, n_s\}$ . Consider a translation function  $\varphi() : [0, 1] \rightarrow S$ :

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} n_i & \text{if } x = n_i \\ m_i & \text{if } n_{i-1} < x < n_i \end{cases}$$

Based on  $\varphi()$ , we will construct a discrete model  $\mathcal{I}_c = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}_c} \rangle$  within  $S$  from  $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$ :

- The interpretation domain  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}$  is defined as:  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c} = \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$ ;
- The interpretation function  $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}_c}$  is defined as: for any individual name  $a$ ,  $a^{\mathcal{I}_c} = a^{\mathcal{I}}$ ; for any concept name  $A$  and any role name  $R$ :  $A^{\mathcal{I}_c}() = \varphi(A^{\mathcal{I}}())$  and  $R^{\mathcal{I}_c}() = \varphi(R^{\mathcal{I}}())$ .

1. For any concept  $C$  and role  $R$  and any  $d, d' \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}$ , we show, on induction on the structure of  $C$  and  $R$ , that  $C^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d) = \varphi(C^{\mathcal{I}}(d))$  and  $R^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d, d') = \varphi(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d'))$ :

- $\geq pR$ :  $(\geq pR)^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d) = \sup_{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}} \{\min_1^p(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d_i))\}$ .  
Let  $f(d') = R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d')$ , and  $f^*(d') = \varphi(f(d))$ . Assume there are  $p$  elements  $d_1^*, d_2^*, \dots, d_p^*$  with the maximum value of  $f()$ : for any other  $d'$  in  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}$ ,  $f(d_i^*) \geq f(d')$ . Obviously from the property of  $\varphi()$ , for any other  $d'$  in  $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}$ ,  $f^*(d_i^*) = \varphi(f(d_i^*)) \geq \varphi(f(d)) = f^*(d')$ . Then we get  
 $(\geq pR)^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d) = \sup_{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}} \{\min_1^p(f^*(d_i^*))\}$   
 $= \min_1^p(f^*(d_i^*)) = \varphi(\min_1^p(f(d_i^*)))$   
 $= \varphi(\sup_{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}} \{\min_1^p(R^{\mathcal{I}}(d, d_i))\})$   
 $= \varphi((\geq pR)^{\mathcal{I}}(d))$

2. We show  $\mathcal{I}_c$  is a fuzzy model of  $\mathcal{K}$ .

- $C \sqsubseteq D \in \mathcal{T}$ : Obviously,  $\forall d \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} = \Delta^{\mathcal{I}_c}$ ,  $C^{\mathcal{I}}(d) \leq D^{\mathcal{I}}(d)$ . And from 1, for any concept  $C$ ,  $C^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d) = \varphi(C^{\mathcal{I}}(d))$ . Therefore,  $C^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d) = \varphi(C^{\mathcal{I}}(d)) \leq \varphi(D^{\mathcal{I}}(d)) = D^{\mathcal{I}_c}(d)$ ;

### 4 Discrete Tableau Algorithms for $\mathcal{FSHLN}$

For a KB  $\mathcal{K}$ , let  $R_{\mathcal{K}}$  and  $O_{\mathcal{K}}$  be the sets of roles and individuals appearing in  $\mathcal{K}$ , and  $\text{sub}(\mathcal{K})$  the set of sub-concepts of all concepts in  $\mathcal{K}$ . We also introduce  $\text{Trans}(R)$  as a boolean value to tell whether  $R$  is transitive,  $\triangleright$  and  $\triangleleft$  as two placeholders for the inequalities  $\geq, >$  and  $\leq, <$ , and the symbols  $\bowtie^-, \triangleright^-$  and  $\triangleleft^-$  to denote their reflections. A discrete tableau  $T$  for  $\mathcal{K}$  within a degree set  $S$  is a quadruple:  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{V} \rangle$ , where

- $\mathcal{O}$ : a nonempty set of nodes;
- $\mathcal{L}: \mathcal{O} \rightarrow 2^M$ ,  $M = \text{sub}(\mathcal{K}) \times \{\geq, >, \leq, <\} \times S$ ;
- $\mathcal{E}: R_{\mathcal{K}} \rightarrow 2^Q$ ,  $Q = \{\mathcal{O} \times \mathcal{O}\} \times \{\geq, >, \leq, <\} \times S$ ;
- $\mathcal{V}: O_{\mathcal{K}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$ , maps any individual into a corresponding node in  $\mathcal{O}$ .

From the definition of  $T$ , each node  $d$  is labelled with a set  $\mathcal{L}(d)$  of degree triples:  $\langle C, \bowtie, n \rangle$ , which denotes the membership degree of  $d$  being an instance of  $C \bowtie n$ . In a discrete tableau  $T$ , for any  $d, d' \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $a, b \in O_{\mathcal{K}}$ ,  $C, D \in \text{sub}(\mathcal{K})$  and  $R \in R_{\mathcal{K}}$ , the following conditions, a extension of tableau conditions in dealing without TBox [8] by adding KB conditions and NNF conditions, must hold:

**KB condition:** If  $C \sqsubseteq D \in \mathcal{T}$ , then there must be some  $n \in S$  with  $\langle C, \leq, n \rangle$  and  $\langle D, \geq, n \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{L}(d)$ .

**NNF condition:** If  $\langle C, \bowtie, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(d)$ , then  $\langle \text{nnf}(-C), \bowtie^-, 1 - n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(d)$ . Here we use  $\text{nnf}(-C)$  to denote the equivalent form of  $-C$  in Negation Normal Form (NNF).

**Theorem 2** For any  $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$  and any discrete degree set  $S$  w.r.t  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}$  has a discrete model within  $S$  iff it has a discrete tableau  $T$  within  $S$ .

From theorem 1 and 2, an algorithm that constructs a discrete tableau of  $\mathcal{K}$  within  $S$  can be considered as a decision procedure for the satisfiability of  $\mathcal{K}$ . The discrete tableau algorithm works on a completion forest  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  with a set  $S^{\neq}$  to denote " $\neq$ " relation between nodes. The algorithm expands the forest  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  either by extending  $\mathcal{L}(x)$  for the current node  $x$  or by adding new leaf node  $y$  with expansion rules in table 2. A node  $y$  is called an  $R$ -successor of another node  $x$  and  $x$  is called a  $R$ -predecessor of  $y$ , if  $\langle R, \bowtie, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, y \rangle)$ . Ancestor is the transitive closure of predecessor. And for any two connected nodes  $x$  and  $y$ , we define  $D_R(x, y) = \{\langle \bowtie, n \rangle | P \sqsubseteq^* R, \langle P, \bowtie, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, y \rangle) \text{ or } \langle \text{Inv}(P), \bowtie, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle y, x \rangle)\}$ . If  $D_R(x, y) \neq \emptyset$ ,  $y$  is called a  $R$ -neighbor of  $x$ .

The tableau algorithm initializes  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  to contain a root node  $x_a$  for each individual  $a \in O_{\mathcal{K}}$  and labels  $x_a$  with  $\mathcal{L}(x_a) = \{\langle C, \bowtie, n \rangle | a : C \bowtie n \in \mathcal{A}\}$ ; for any pair  $\langle x_a, x_b \rangle$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\langle x_a, x_b \rangle) = \{\langle R, \bowtie, n \rangle | \langle a, b \rangle : R \bowtie n \in \mathcal{A}\}$ ; and for any  $a \neq b \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\langle x_a, x_b \rangle \in S^{\neq}$ . As inverse role and number restriction are allowed in  $\mathcal{SHLN}$ , we make use of pairwise blocking technique [2] to ensure the termination and correctness of our tableau algorithm: a node  $x$  is directly blocked by its ancestor  $y$  iff (1)  $x$  is not a root node; (2)  $x$  and  $y$  have predecessors  $x'$  and  $y'$ , such that  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \mathcal{L}(y)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(x') = \mathcal{L}(y')$  and  $\mathcal{L}(\langle y', y \rangle) = \mathcal{L}(\langle x', x \rangle)$ . A node  $x$  is indirectly blocked if its predecessor is blocked. A node  $x$  is blocked iff it is either directly or indirectly blocked. A completion forest  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  is said to contain a clash, if for a node  $x$  in  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$ , (1)  $\mathcal{L}(x)$  contains two conjugated triples, or a mistake triple [4]; or (2)  $\langle \geq pR, \triangleleft, n \rangle$  or  $\langle \leq (p-1)R, \triangleleft^-, 1 - n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , and there are  $p$  nodes  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_p$  in  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  with  $\langle R, \triangleright_i, m_i \rangle$ ,  $\langle \triangleright_i, m_i \rangle$  is conjugated with  $\langle \triangleleft, n \rangle$  and for any two nodes  $y_i$  and  $y_j$ ,  $\langle y_i, y_j \rangle \in S^{\neq}$ . A completion forest  $F_{\mathcal{K}}$  is clash-free if it does not contain a clash, and it is complete if none of the expansion rules are applicable.

**Table 2.** Expansion rules of discrete Tableau

Rule name	Description
KB rule:	if $C \sqsubseteq D \in \mathcal{T}$ and there is no $n$ with $\langle C, \leq, n \rangle$ and $\langle D, \geq, n \rangle$ in $\mathcal{L}(x)$ ; then $\mathcal{L}(x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(x) \cup \{\langle C, \leq, n \rangle, \langle D, \geq, n \rangle\}$ for some $n \in S$ .
The following rules are applied to nodes $x$ which is not indirectly blocked.	
$\neg \boxtimes$ rule:	if $\langle C, \boxtimes, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ and $\langle \text{nnf}(\neg C), \boxtimes^-, n \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(x)$ ; then $\mathcal{L}(x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(x) \cup \{\langle \text{nnf}(\neg C), \boxtimes^-, n \rangle\}$ .
$\sqcap \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle C \sqcap D, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , and $\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle$ or $\langle D, \triangleright, n \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(x)$ ; then $\mathcal{L}(x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(x) \cup \{\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle, \langle D, \triangleright, n \rangle\}$ .
$\sqcup \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle C \sqcup D, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , and $\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle, \langle D, \triangleright, n \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(x)$ then $\mathcal{L}(x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(x) \cup \{T\}$ , for some $T \in \{\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle, \langle D, \triangleright, n \rangle\}$
$\forall \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle \forall R.C, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , there is a $R$ -neighbor $y$ of $x$ with $\langle \triangleright', m \rangle \in D_R(x, y)$ , which is conjugated with $\langle \triangleright^-, 1 - n \rangle$ and $\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(y)$ ; then $\mathcal{L}(y) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(y) \cup \{\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle\}$ .
$\forall^+ \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle \forall P.C, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , there is a $R$ -neighbor $y$ of $x$ with $R \sqsubseteq^* P$ , $\text{Trans}(R)=\text{True}$ and $\langle \triangleright', m \rangle \in D_R(x, y)$ , $\langle \triangleright', m \rangle$ is conjugated with $\langle \triangleright^-, 1 - n \rangle$ and $\langle \forall R.C, \triangleright, n \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(y)$ ; $\mathcal{L}(y) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(y) \cup \{\langle \forall R.C, \triangleright, n \rangle\}$ .
$\leq p \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle \leq pR, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ ; there is $p + 1$ $R$ -successors $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{p+1}$ of $x$ with $\langle R, \triangleright_i, m_i \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, y_i \rangle)$ and $\langle \triangleright_i, m_i \rangle$ is conjugated with $\langle \triangleleft^-, 1 - n \rangle$ for any $1 \leq i \leq p + 1$ ; and $\langle y_i, y_j \rangle \notin S^\neq$ for some $1 \leq i < j \leq p + 1$ then merge two nodes $y_i$ and $y_j$ into one : $\mathcal{L}(y_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(y_i) \cup \mathcal{L}(y_j)$ ; $\forall x, \mathcal{L}(y_i, x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(y_i, x) \cup \mathcal{L}(y_j, x)$ , $\langle y_j, x \rangle \in S^\neq$ , add $\langle y_i, x \rangle$ in $S^\neq$
The following rules are applied to nodes $x$ which is not blocked.	
$\exists \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle \exists R.C, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ ; there is not a $R$ -neighbor $y$ of $x$ with $\langle \triangleright, n \rangle \in D_R(x, y)$ and $\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(y)$ . then add a new node $z$ with $\langle R, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, z \rangle)$ and $\langle C, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(z)$ .
$\geq pR \triangleright$ rule:	if $\langle \geq pR, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(x)$ , there are not $p$ $R$ -neighbors $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_p$ of $x$ with $\langle R, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, y_i \rangle)$ and for any $i \neq j$ , $\langle y_i, y_j \rangle \in S^\neq$ . then add $p$ new nodes $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_p$ with $\langle R, \triangleright, n \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(\langle x, z_i \rangle)$ and for any two node $z_i$ and $z_j$ , add $\langle z_i, z_j \rangle$ in $S^\neq$ .

**Theorem 3** For any  $\mathcal{K} = \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$  and any discrete degree set  $S$  w.r.t  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}$  has a discrete tableau within  $S$  iff the tableau algorithm can construct a complete and clash-free completion forest.

## 5 Related Work

In FDLs area, we have introduced a lot of work in introduction, all that work are based on Straccia' fuzzification framework. Here we get into reasoning issue for fuzzy DLs. The first reasoning algorithm was represented in [10], and the soundness and completeness of it were proved in [11]. This algorithm is designed to reasoning with  $\mathcal{FALC}$  acyclic TBox form. More in detail, it first adopted KB expansion [5] to eliminate acyclic TBox, then achieved reasoning without TBox. However, such expansion technique is not available for general TBox in FDLs. The following extension of  $\mathcal{FALC}$  inherited this idea to design reasoning algorithm, so most of these extension are limited to dealing with empty or acyclic TBox. In general TBox cases, a noteworthy reasoning method is PTIME bounded translations from  $\mathcal{FALCH}$  KBs into  $\mathcal{ALCH}$  ones and reusing existing classical algorithm to achieve reasoning in fuzzy DLs [12]. This PTIME bounded translation can be considered as a result of researches on relationship between DLs and fuzzy DLs. It can not deal with  $\langle a, b \rangle : R \triangleleft n$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , as this assertion will be translated into role negation (that is not allowed in  $\mathcal{ALC}$ ).

## 6 Conclusion

In this paper, we point out a novel semantical discretization to discretize membership degree values in fuzzy models of  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  KBs, hence yielding "discrete models". Based on this discretization technique, we design a discrete tableau algorithm to construct discrete tableaux, which are abstraction of discrete models. From the equivalence of existence between fuzzy models and discrete models, our algorithm is a decision procedure to achieve reasoning with general

TBox in  $\mathcal{FSHLN}$  KBs. Our work can be considered as a logical foundation to support reasoning with fuzzy ontologies.

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