



Foundations of Knowledge Representation

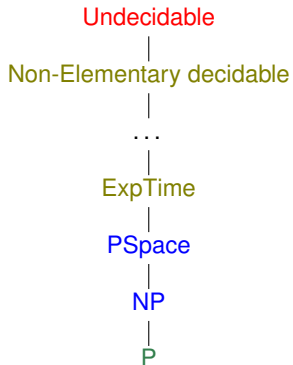
Lecture 4: Description Logics – Syntax and Semantics I

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based on slides of
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Motivation



Motivation

Many KR applications **do not require full power of FOL**

What can we leave out?

- Key reasoning problems should become **decidable**
- Sufficient expressive power to model application domain

Description Logics are a family of FOL fragments that meet these requirements for many applications:

- Underlying formalisms of modern **ontology languages**
- Widely-used in bio-medical information systems
- Core component of the **Semantic Web**

Motivation

Recall our arthritis example:

- A juvenile disease affects only children or teenagers
- Children and teenagers are not adults
- A person is either a child, a teenager, or an adult.
- Juvenile arthritis is a kind of arthritis and a juvenile disease
- Every kind of arthritis damages some joint

The important types of objects given by unary FOL predicates:
juvenile disease, child, teenager, adult, ...

The types of relationships given by n-ary FOL predicates:
affects, damages (binary predicate), ...

Motivation

The **vocabulary of a Description Logic** is composed of

- Unary FOL predicates

Arthritis, Child, ...

- Binary FOL predicates

Affects, Damages, ...

- FOL constants

JohnSmith, MaryJones, JRA, ...

We are already **restricting the expressive power of FOL**

- No function symbols
- No predicates of arity greater than 2

Motivation

Now, let's take a closer look at the FOL formulas for our example:

$$\forall x.(\text{JuvDis}(x) \rightarrow \forall y.(\text{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Child}(y) \vee \text{Teen}(y)))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Child}(x) \vee \text{Teen}(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{Adult}(x))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Child}(x) \vee \text{Teen}(x) \vee \text{Adult}(x))$$

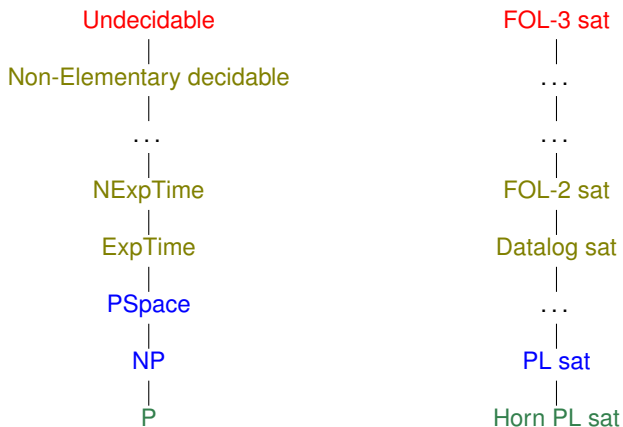
$$\forall x.(\text{JuvArthritis}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arthritis}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Arthritis}(x) \rightarrow \exists y.(\text{Damages}(x, y) \wedge \text{Joint}(y)))$$

We can find several **regularities** in these formulas:

- There is an outermost universal quantifier on a single variable x
- They can be split into two parts by the implication symbol
 - Each part is a formula with one free variable
- Atomic formulas involving a binary predicate occur only quantified in a syntactically restricted way.

Complexity



Motivation

Consider as an example one of our formulas:

$$\forall x. (\textit{Child}(x) \vee \textit{Teen}(x) \rightarrow \neg \textit{Adult}(x))$$

Let's look at all its sub-formulas at each side of the implication

$\textit{Child}(x)$	Set of all children
$\textit{Teen}(x)$	Set of all teenagers
$\textit{Child}(x) \vee \textit{Teen}(x)$	Set of all objects that are children or teenagers
$\textit{Adult}(x)$	Set of all adults
$\neg \textit{Adult}(x)$	Set of all objects that are not adults

Important observations concerning **formulas with one free variable**:

- Some are **atomic** (e.g., $\textit{Child}(x)$)
do not contain other formulas as subformulas
- Others are **complex** (e.g., $\textit{Child}(x) \vee \textit{Teen}(x)$)

Basic Definitions

Idea: Define **operators** for constructing complex formulas with one free variable out of simple **building blocks**

Atomic Concept: Represents an atomic formula with one free variable

$$Child \rightsquigarrow Child(x)$$

Complex concepts (part 1):

- Concept Union (\sqcup): applies to two concepts

$$Child \sqcup Teen \rightsquigarrow Child(x) \vee Teen(x)$$

- Concept Intersection (\sqcap): applies to two concepts

$$Arthritis \sqcap JuvDis \rightsquigarrow Arthritis(x) \wedge JuvDis(x)$$

- Concept Negation (\neg): applies to one concept

$$\neg Adult \rightsquigarrow \neg Adult(x)$$

Motivation

Consider examples with binary predicates:

$$\forall x.(\textit{Arthritis}(x) \rightarrow \exists y.(\textit{Damages}(x, y) \wedge \textit{Joint}(y)))$$

$$\forall x.(\textit{JuvDis}(x) \rightarrow \forall y.(\textit{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \textit{Child}(y) \vee \textit{Teen}(y)))$$

- We have a **concept** and a binary predicate (called a **role**) mentioning the concept's free variable
- The role and the concept are connected via conjunction (existential quantification) or implication (universal quantification)
- Nested sub-concepts use a fresh (existentially/universally quantified) variable, and are connected to surrounding concept by exactly one role atom (often called a **guard**)

Basic Definitions

Atomic Role: Represents an atom with two free variables

$$\textit{Affects} \rightsquigarrow \textit{Affects}(x, y)$$

Complex concepts (part 2): apply to an **atomic role** and a **concept**

- Existential Restriction:

$$\exists \textit{Damages}.\textit{Joint} \rightsquigarrow \exists y.(\textit{Damages}(x, y) \wedge \textit{Joint}(y))$$

- Universal Restriction:

$$\forall \textit{Affects}.\textit{(Child} \sqcup \textit{Teen)} \rightsquigarrow \forall y.(\textit{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \textit{Child}(y) \vee \textit{Teen}(y))$$

ALC Concepts

ALC is the basic description logic

ALC concepts inductively defined from atomic concepts and roles:

- Every atomic concept is a concept
- \top and \perp are concepts
- If C is a concept, then $\neg C$ is a concept
- If C and D are concepts, then so are $C \sqcap D$ and $C \sqcup D$
- If C a concept and R a role, $\forall R.C$ and $\exists R.C$ are concepts.

Concepts describe sets of objects with certain common features:

$Woman \sqcap \exists hasChild.(\exists hasChild.Person)$

Women with a grandchild

$Disease \sqcap \forall Affects.Child$

Diseases affecting only children

$Person \sqcap \neg \exists owns.DetHouse$

People not owning a detached house

$Man \sqcap \exists hasChild.\top \sqcap \forall hasChild.Man$

Fathers having only sons

Very useful idea for Knowledge Representation !!

General Concept Inclusion Axioms

Recall our example formulas:

$$\forall x.(\text{JuvDis}(x) \rightarrow \forall y.(\text{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Child}(y) \vee \text{Teen}(y)))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Child}(x) \vee \text{Teen}(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{Adult}(x))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Child}(x) \vee \text{Teen}(x) \vee \text{Adult}(x))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{JuvArthritis}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arthritis}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x))$$

$$\forall x.(\text{Arthritis}(x) \rightarrow \exists y.(\text{Damages}(x, y) \wedge \text{Joint}(y)))$$

They are of the following form, with $\alpha_C(x)$ and $\alpha_D(x)$ corresponding to \mathcal{ALC} concepts C and D

$$\forall x.(\alpha_C(x) \rightarrow \alpha_D(x))$$

Such sentences are \mathcal{ALC} **General Concept Inclusion Axioms (GCIs)**

$$C \sqsubseteq D$$

Where C and D are \mathcal{ALC} -concepts

General Concept Inclusion Axioms

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x.(\text{JuvDis}(x) \rightarrow \forall y.(\text{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \\ \text{Child}(y) \vee \text{Teen}(y))) \quad \rightsquigarrow \\ \forall x.(\text{Child}(x) \vee \text{Teen}(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{Adult}(x)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \\ \forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Child}(x) \vee \\ \text{Teen}(x) \vee \text{Adult}(x)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \\ \forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \\ \forall x.(\text{Arth}(x) \rightarrow \exists y.(\text{Damages}(x, y) \wedge \\ \text{Joint}(y))) \quad \rightsquigarrow \end{aligned}$$

Note that we often use $C \equiv D$ as an abbreviation for a symmetrical pair of GCIs $C \sqsubseteq D$ and $D \sqsubseteq C$, e.g.:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Arth} \sqcap \text{JuvDis} \sqsubseteq \text{JuvArth} \\ \text{JuvArth} \sqsubseteq \text{Arth} \sqcap \text{JuvDis} \end{array} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \text{JuvArth} \equiv \text{Arth} \sqcap \text{JuvDis}$$

General Concept Inclusion Axioms

$$\begin{aligned}
 \forall x.(\text{JuvDis}(x) \rightarrow \forall y.(\text{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow & \\
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 \forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Child}(x) \vee & \\
 \quad \text{Teen}(x) \vee \text{Adult}(x)) & \rightsquigarrow \\
 \forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x)) & \rightsquigarrow \\
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 \forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Child}(x) \vee \\
 \quad \text{Teen}(x) \vee \text{Adult}(x)) & \rightsquigarrow \text{Person} \sqsubseteq \text{Child} \sqcup \text{Teen} \sqcup \text{Adult} \\
 \forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x)) & \rightsquigarrow \\
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 \forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x)) & \rightsquigarrow \text{JuvArth} \sqsubseteq \text{Arth} \sqcap \text{JuvDis} \\
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Terminological Statements

GCI's allow us to represent a **surprising variety of terminological statements**

- Sub-type statements

$$\forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x)) \rightsquigarrow \text{JuvArth} \sqsubseteq \text{Arth}$$

- Full definitions:

$$\forall x.(\text{JuvArth}(x) \leftrightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{JuvDis}(x)) \rightsquigarrow \text{JuvArth} \equiv \text{Arth} \sqcap \text{JuvDis}$$

- Disjointness statements:

$$\forall x.(\text{Child}(x) \rightarrow \neg \text{Adult}(x)) \rightsquigarrow \text{Child} \sqsubseteq \neg \text{Adult}$$

- Covering statements:

$$\forall x.(\text{Person}(x) \rightarrow \text{Adult}(x) \vee \text{Child}(x)) \rightsquigarrow \text{Person} \sqsubseteq \text{Adult} \sqcup \text{Child}$$

- Type (domain and range) restrictions:

$$\forall x.(\forall y.(\text{Affects}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Arth}(x) \wedge \text{Person}(y))) \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{l} \exists \text{Affects}. \top \sqsubseteq \text{Arth} \\ \top \sqsubseteq \forall \text{Affects}. \text{Person} \end{array}$$

Concept Inclusion Axioms & Definitions

Why call $C \sqsubseteq D$ a concept inclusion axiom?

- Intuitively, every object belonging to C should belong also to D
- States that C is **more specific** than D

Why call it a **general** concept inclusion axiom?

- It may be interesting to consider restricted forms of inclusion
- E.g., axioms where l.h.s. is atomic are sometimes called **definitions**
 - A **concept definition** specifies necessary and sufficient conditions for instances, e.g.:

$$JuvArth \equiv Arth \sqcap JuvDis$$

- A **primitive concept definition** specifies only necessary conditions for instances, e.g.:

$$Arth \sqsubseteq \exists Damages.Joint$$

Data Assertions

In description logics, we can also represent data:

$Child(JohnSmith)$ John Smith is a child
 $JuvenileArthritis(JRA)$ JRA is a juvenile arthritis
 $Affects(JRA, MaryJones)$ Mary Jones is affected by JRA

Usually **data assertions** correspond to FOL ground atoms.

Often written like this:

$JohnSmith : Child$ $(JRA, MaryJones) : Affects$

In \mathcal{ALC} , we have two types of data assertions, for **a,b** individuals:

$C(a) \rightsquigarrow C$ is an \mathcal{ALC} concept
 $R(a, b) \rightsquigarrow R$ is an atomic role

Examples of acceptable data assertions in \mathcal{ALC} :

$\exists hasChild. Teacher(John) \rightsquigarrow \exists y. (hasChild(John, y) \wedge Teacher(y))$
 $HistorySt \sqcup ClassicsSt(John) \rightsquigarrow HistorySt(John) \vee ClassicsSt(John)$

DL Knowledge Base: TBox + ABox

An *ALC* knowledge base $\mathcal{K} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{A})$ is composed of:

- A **TBox** \mathcal{T} (Terminological Component)
Finite set of GCIs
- An **ABox** \mathcal{A} (Assertional Component):
Finite set of assertions

TBox:

$JuvArthritis \sqsubseteq Arthritis \sqcap JuvDisease$
 $Arthritis \sqcap JuvDisease \sqsubseteq JuvArthritis$
 $Arthritis \sqsubseteq \exists Damages.Joint$
 $JuvDisease \sqsubseteq \forall Affects.(Child \sqcup Teen)$
 $Child \sqcup Teen \sqsubseteq \neg Adult$

ABox:

$Child(JohnSmith)$
 $JuvArthritis(JRA)$
 $Affects(JRA, MaryJones)$
 $Child \sqcup Teen(MaryJones)$

Semantics via FOL Translation

\mathcal{ALC} semantics can be defined **via translation into FOL**:

- Concepts translated as formulas with one free variable

$$\pi_x(A) = A(x)$$

$$\pi_y(A) = A(y)$$

$$\pi_x(\neg C) = \neg \pi_x(C)$$

$$\pi_y(\neg C) = \neg \pi_y(C)$$

$$\pi_x(C \sqcap D) = \pi_x(C) \wedge \pi_x(D)$$

$$\pi_y(C \sqcap D) = \pi_y(C) \wedge \pi_y(D)$$

$$\pi_x(C \sqcup D) = \pi_x(C) \vee \pi_x(D)$$

$$\pi_y(C \sqcup D) = \pi_y(C) \vee \pi_y(D)$$

$$\pi_x(\exists R.C) = \exists y.(R(x, y) \wedge \pi_y(C))$$

$$\pi_y(\exists R.C) = \exists x.(R(y, x) \wedge \pi_x(C))$$

$$\pi_x(\forall R.C) = \forall y.(R(x, y) \rightarrow \pi_y(C))$$

$$\pi_y(\forall R.C) = \forall x.(R(y, x) \rightarrow \pi_x(C))$$

- GCIs and assertions translated as sentences

$$\pi(C \sqsubseteq D) = \forall x.(\pi_x(C) \rightarrow \pi_x(D))$$

$$\pi(R(a, b)) = R(a, b)$$

$$\pi(C(a)) = \pi_{x/a}(C)$$

- TBoxes, ABoxes and KBs are translated in the obvious way.

Semantics via FOL Translation

Note **redundancy** in concept-forming operators:

$$\begin{aligned}\perp &\rightsquigarrow \neg\top \\ C \sqcup D &\rightsquigarrow \neg(\neg C \sqcap \neg D) \\ \forall R.C &\rightsquigarrow \neg(\exists R.\neg C)\end{aligned}$$

These equivalences can be proved using FOL semantics:

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_x(\neg\exists R.\neg C) &= \neg\exists y.(R(x, y) \wedge \neg\pi_y(C)) \\ &\equiv \forall y.(\neg(R(x, y) \wedge \neg\pi_y(C))) \\ &\equiv \forall y.(\neg R(x, y) \vee \pi_y(C)) \\ &\equiv \forall y.(R(x, y) \rightarrow \pi_y(C)) \\ &= \pi_x(\forall R.C)\end{aligned}$$

We can define syntax of \mathcal{ALC} using **only conjunction and negation operators and the existential role operator**.

Direct (Model-Theoretic) Semantics

Direct semantics: An alternative (and convenient) way of specifying semantics

DL interpretation $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$ is a FOL interpretation over the DL vocabulary:

- Each individual a interpreted as an object $a^{\mathcal{I}} \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$.
- Each atomic concept A interpreted as a set $A^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$.
- Each atomic role R interpreted as a binary relation $R^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \times \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$.

The mapping $\cdot^{\mathcal{I}}$ is extended to \top , \perp and compound concepts as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\top^{\mathcal{I}} &= \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \\ \perp^{\mathcal{I}} &= \emptyset \\ (\neg C)^{\mathcal{I}} &= \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \setminus C^{\mathcal{I}} \\ (C \sqcap D)^{\mathcal{I}} &= C^{\mathcal{I}} \cap D^{\mathcal{I}} \\ (C \sqcup D)^{\mathcal{I}} &= C^{\mathcal{I}} \cup D^{\mathcal{I}} \\ (\exists R.C)^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \mid \exists w \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \text{ s.t. } \langle u, w \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}} \text{ and } w \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\} \\ (\forall R.C)^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}} \mid \forall w \in \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \langle u, w \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}} \text{ implies } w \in C^{\mathcal{I}}\}\end{aligned}$$

Direct (Model-Theoretic) Semantics

Consider the interpretation $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u, v, w\} \\ \text{JuvDis}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u\} \\ \text{Child}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{w\} \\ \text{Teen}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \emptyset \\ \text{Affects}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{\langle u, w \rangle\}\end{aligned}$$

We can then interpret any concept as a subset of $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$:

$$\begin{aligned}(\text{JuvDis} \sqcap \text{Child})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\text{Child} \sqcup \text{Teen})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\exists \text{Affects} . (\text{Child} \sqcup \text{Teen}))^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\neg \text{Child})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\forall \text{Affects} . \text{Teen})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}(\text{JuvDis} \sqcap \text{Child})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \emptyset \\ (\text{Child} \sqcup \text{Teen})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{w\} \\ (\exists \text{Affects} . (\text{Child} \sqcup \text{Teen}))^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\neg \text{Child})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \\ (\forall \text{Affects} . \text{Teen})^{\mathcal{I}} &= \end{aligned}$$

Direct (Model-Theoretic) Semantics

Consider the interpretation $\mathcal{I} = \langle \Delta^{\mathcal{I}}, \cdot^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u, v, w\} \\ \text{JuvDis}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{u\} \\ \text{Child}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{w\} \\ \text{Teen}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \emptyset \\ \text{Affects}^{\mathcal{I}} &= \{\langle u, w \rangle\}\end{aligned}$$

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Direct (Model-Theoretic) Semantics

We can now determine whether \mathcal{I} is a **model of** ...

- A General Concept Inclusion Axiom $C \sqsubseteq D$:

$$\mathcal{I} \models (C \sqsubseteq D) \quad \text{if} \quad C^{\mathcal{I}} \subseteq D^{\mathcal{I}}$$

- An assertion $C(a)$:

$$\mathcal{I} \models C(a) \quad \text{if} \quad a^{\mathcal{I}} \in C^{\mathcal{I}}$$

- An assertion $R(a, b)$:

$$\mathcal{I} \models R(a, b) \quad \text{if} \quad \langle a^{\mathcal{I}}, b^{\mathcal{I}} \rangle \in R^{\mathcal{I}}$$

- A TBox \mathcal{T} , ABox \mathcal{A} , and knowledge base:

$$\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \quad \text{if} \quad \mathcal{I} \models \alpha \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in \mathcal{T}$$

$$\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A} \quad \text{if} \quad \mathcal{I} \models \alpha \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$$

$$\mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{K} \quad \text{if} \quad \mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{T} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{I} \models \mathcal{A}$$

Direct (Model-Theoretic) Semantics

Consider our previous example interpretation:

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\mathcal{I} is a model of the following axioms:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{JuvDis} &\sqsubseteq \exists \text{Affects}. \text{Child} && \rightsquigarrow \\ \text{Child} &\sqsubseteq \neg \text{Teen} && \rightsquigarrow \\ \text{JuvDis} &\sqsubseteq \forall \text{Affects}. \text{Child} && \rightsquigarrow\end{aligned}$$

However \mathcal{I} is not a model of the following axioms:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{JuvDis} &\sqsubseteq \exists \text{Affects}. (\text{Child} \sqcap \text{Teen}) && \rightsquigarrow \\ &\neg \text{Teen} \sqsubseteq \text{Child} && \rightsquigarrow \\ \exists \text{Affects}. \top &\sqsubseteq \text{Teen} && \rightsquigarrow\end{aligned}$$

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