

Incomplete Information in RDF using Constraints

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Outline

Motivation

Previous work

The RDFⁱ framework

SPARQL query evaluation over RDFⁱ databases

Representation systems for RDFⁱ and SPARQL

An algorithm for certain answer computation

Preliminary complexity results

Applications

Conclusions and future work



Motivation



Motivation

- ▶ Incomplete information is an important issue in many research areas: relational databases, knowledge representation and the semantic web.
- ▶ Incomplete information arises in many practical settings (e.g., sensor data). RDF is often used to represent such data.
- ▶ Even if initial information is complete, incomplete information arises later on (e.g., relational view updates, data integration, data exchange).
- ▶ Although there is much work recently on incomplete information in XML, not much has been done for incomplete information in RDF.



Previous work



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Relational

- ▶ Relations extended to tables with various models of incompleteness [Imielinski/Lipski '84]
- ▶ Complexity results for the associated decision problems [Abiteboul/Kanellakis/Grahne '91]
- ▶ Dependencies and updates [Grahne '91]



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XML

- ▶ Dynamic enrichment of incomplete information [Abiteboul/Segoufin/Vianu '01,'06]
- ▶ General models of incompleteness, query answering, and computational complexity [Barceló/Libkin/Poggi/Cirangelo '09,'10]



Previous work (cont'd)

RDF

- ▶ Blank nodes as existential variables in the RDF standard
- ▶ SPARQL query evaluation under certain answer semantics (Open World Assumption) [Arenas/Pérez '11]
- ▶ Anonymous timestamps in general temporal RDF graphs [Gutierrez/Hurtado/Vaisman '05]
- ▶ General temporal RDF graphs with temporal constraints [Hurtado/Vaisman '06]



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RDFⁱ: It captures incomplete information for property values using constraints. It is for RDF what the c-tables model is for the relational model.



The RDFⁱ framework



RDFⁱ by example

Example

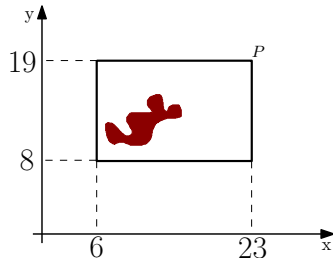
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RDFⁱ by example

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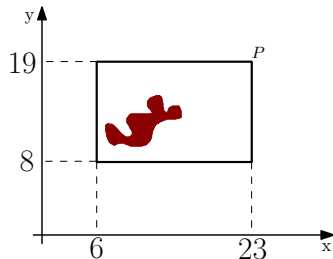


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R1 NTPP " $x \geq 6 \wedge x \leq 23 \wedge y \geq 8 \wedge y \leq 19$ "



RDFⁱ in a nutshell

- ▶ Extension of RDF for capturing **incomplete information** for property values that **exist** but are **unknown** or **partially known**
- ▶ Partial knowledge captured by **constraints** using an appropriate constraint language \mathcal{L}

Syntax

RDF graphs extended to RDFⁱ databases: pair (G, ϕ)

- ▶ G : RDF graph with a new kind of literals, called **e-literals**
- ▶ ϕ : quantifier-free formula of \mathcal{L}

Semantics

- ▶ Possible world semantics as in [Imielinski/Lipski '84] and [Grahne '91]



Constraint languages \mathcal{L}

Properties of \mathcal{L}

- ▶ Many-sorted first-order language
- ▶ Interpreted over a fixed (intended) structure $\mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}}$
- ▶ EQ: distinguished equality predicate
- ▶ \mathcal{L} -constraints: quantifier-free formulae of \mathcal{L}
- ▶ Weakly closed under negation: the negation of every atomic \mathcal{L} -constraint is equivalent to a disjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints



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Constraint languages \mathcal{L} (cont'd)

Examples

ECL

- ▶ **Equality constraints**
interpreted over an infinite domain: $x \text{ EQ } y, x \text{ EQ } c$
- ▶ Blank nodes as existential variables



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- ▶ **Equality constraints** interpreted over an infinite domain: $x \text{ EQ } y, x \text{ EQ } c$
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diPCL/dePCL

- ▶ **Difference constraints** of the form $x - y \leq c$ interpreted over the integers or rationals
- ▶ Incomplete temporal information [Koubarakis '94]



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Examples

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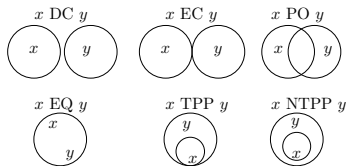
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TCL

- ▶ **Topological constraints** of non-empty, regular closed subsets of topological space
- ▶ Six binary predicates: DC, EC, PO, EQ, TPP, NTPP



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PCL

- ▶ **TCL plus constant symbols** representing polygons in \mathbb{Q}^2
- ▶ e.g.,
 $r \text{ NTPP } "x - y \geq 0 \wedge x \leq 1 \wedge y \geq 0"$



RDFⁱ: Vocabulary

RDF

I (IRIs)

B (blank nodes)

L (literals)

M (datatype map)



RDFⁱ: Vocabulary

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<i>I</i> (IRIs)	<i>I</i>
<i>B</i> (blank nodes)	<i>B</i>
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<i>B</i> (blank nodes)	<i>B</i>
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<i>M</i> (datatype map)	<i>M</i> <i>A</i> (datatypes)



RDFⁱ: Vocabulary

RDF	RDF ⁱ	\mathcal{L}
I (IRIs)	I	
B (blank nodes)	B	
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	C (literals)	constants
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M (datatype map)	M	
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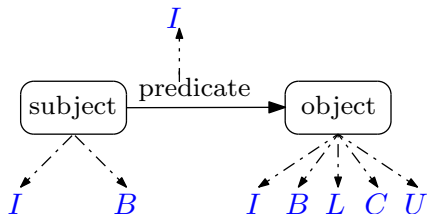
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$\mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}}$ interprets the constants of \mathcal{L} **in agreement with** function $L2V$ of M



RDFⁱ: Syntax



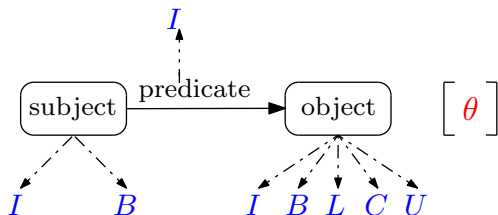
- I : IRIs
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- L : literals
- C : constants of \mathcal{L}
- U : e-literals

Definition

- ▶ $(s, p, o) \in (I \cup B) \cup I \cup (I \cup B \cup L \cup C \cup U)$ is called an **e-triple**



RDFⁱ: Syntax



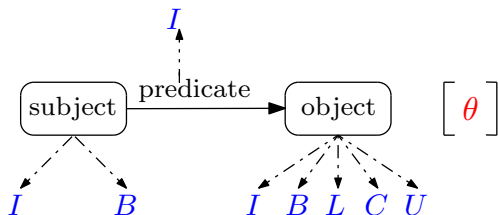
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- ▶ $(s, p, o) \in (I \cup B) \cup I \cup (I \cup B \cup L \cup C \cup U)$ is called an **e-triple**
- ▶ If t is an e-triple and θ a conjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints, then the pair (t, θ) is called a **conditional triple**



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- ▶ If t is an e-triple and θ a conjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints, then the pair (t, θ) is called a **conditional triple**
- ▶ A set of conditional triples is called a **conditional graph**



RDFⁱ: Syntax (cont'd)

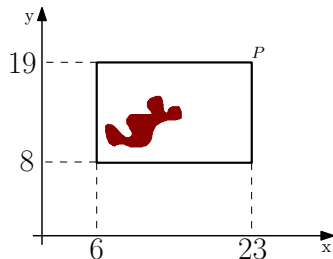
Definition

An RDFⁱ database D is a pair $D = (G, \phi)$ where G is a **conditional graph** and ϕ a Boolean combination of \mathcal{L} -constraints (**global constraint**)

Example

```
hotspot1    type      Hotspot .
  fire1     type      Fire   .
hotspot1 correspondsTo fire1 .
  fire1     occuredIn _R1   .

_R1 NTPP "x ≥ 6 ∧ x ≤ 23 ∧ y ≥ 8 ∧ y ≤ 19"
```



RDFⁱ: Semantics

RDFⁱ database

D

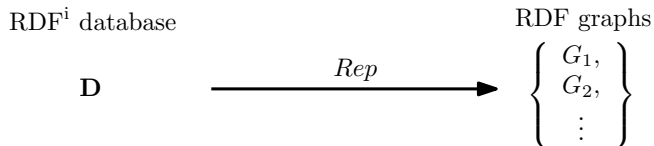
Rep

RDF graphs

$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} G_1, \\ G_2, \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\}$



RDFⁱ: Semantics



Definition

A **valuation** v is a function from U to C assigning to each e-literal from U a constant from C

Definition

Let G be a conditional graph and v a valuation. Then $v(G)$ denotes the RDF graph

$$\{v(t) \mid (t, \theta) \in G \text{ and } \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}} \models v(\theta)\}$$



RDFⁱ: Semantics (cont'd)

From RDFⁱ databases to sets of RDF graphs

An RDFⁱ database $D = (G, \phi)$ corresponds to the following set of RDF graphs:

$$\text{Rep}(D) = \left\{ H \mid \text{there exists valuation } v \text{ and RDF graph } H \right. \\ \left. \text{such that } \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{L}} \models v(\phi) \text{ and } H \supseteq v(G) \right\}$$

- ▶ Relation \supseteq captures the OWA semantics
- ▶ An RDFⁱ database corresponds to an **infinite** number of RDF graphs



Question

- How can we evaluate a query q over an RDFⁱ database D (compute $\llbracket q \rrbracket_D$)?



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$$\llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)} = \{ \llbracket q \rrbracket_G \mid G \in Rep(D) \}$$



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In practice?



SPARQL query evaluation over RDFⁱ databases



Query evaluation highlights

- ▶ Start with SPARQL algebra of [Pérez/Arenas/Gutierrez '06] with set semantics
- ▶ Define SPARQL query evaluation for RDFⁱ databases



From mappings to e-mappings...

$\{?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2"\}$



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$\{?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2"\}$

$\{?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow \underline{R1}\}$



... to conditional mappings

$\{?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2" \}$



... to conditional mappings

$\left(\{ ?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2" \}, \text{true} \right)$



... to conditional mappings

$\left(\{ ?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?S \rightarrow \text{R1} \}, \text{R1 EQ "x} \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2" \right)$



From compatible mappings to possibly compatible mappings

Join of conditional mappings

$(\{?F \rightarrow fire1, ?S \rightarrow _R1\}, _R1 \text{ EQ } "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2")$

$(\{ \quad \quad \quad ?S \rightarrow _R2\}, true)$



From compatible mappings to possibly compatible mappings

Join of conditional mappings

$$\left(\{ ?F \rightarrow fire1, ?S \rightarrow _R1 \}, _R1 \text{ EQ } "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2" \right)$$

⊗

$$\left(\{ ?S \rightarrow _R2 \}, true \right)$$

=

$$\left(\{ ?F \rightarrow fire1, ?S \rightarrow _R1 \}, true \wedge _R1 \text{ EQ } _R2 \wedge _R1 \text{ EQ } "x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2" \right)$$



Operations on conditional mappings

Let Ω_1 and Ω_2 be sets of **conditional mappings**. We can define the operation of:

- ▶ Join ($\Omega_1 \bowtie \Omega_2$)
- ▶ Union ($\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2$)
- ▶ Difference ($\Omega_1 \setminus \Omega_2$)
- ▶ Left-outer join ($\Omega_1 \Join \Omega_2$)



Graph pattern evaluation

If D is an RDFⁱ database and P a graph pattern, the **evaluation** of P over D is defined recursively:



Graph pattern evaluation

If D is an RDFⁱ database and P a graph pattern, the **evaluation** of P over D is defined recursively:

base case:

P is the triple pattern t

recursion:

P is $(P_1 \text{ AND } P_2)$	\rightarrow	$\llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_D \bowtie \llbracket P_2 \rrbracket_D$
P is $(P_1 \text{ UNION } P_2)$	\rightarrow	$\llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_D \cup \llbracket P_2 \rrbracket_D$
P is $(P_1 \text{ OPT } P_2)$	\rightarrow	$\llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_D \bowtie \llbracket P_2 \rrbracket_D$



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P is $(P_1 \text{ FILTER } R)$

where R is a conjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints



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P is $(P_1$ FILTER $R)$

where R is a conjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints



Triple pattern evaluation (case 1)

Example

Database D

fire1 occurredIn _R1 .

_R1 NTPP " $x \geq 6 \wedge x \leq 23 \wedge y \geq 8 \wedge y \leq 19$ "

Query q

?F occurredIn ?R



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Query q

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Answer (set of conditional mappings)

$$\llbracket q \rrbracket_D = \left\{ \left(\{ ?F \rightarrow \text{fire1}, ?R \rightarrow _R1 \}, \text{true} \right) \right\}$$



Triple pattern evaluation (case 2)

Example

Database D

fire1 occurredIn $_R1$.

$_R1$ NTPP " $x \geq 6 \wedge x \leq 23 \wedge y \geq 8 \wedge y \leq 19$ "

Query q

?F occurredIn

" $x \geq 1 \wedge x \leq 2 \wedge y \geq 1 \wedge y \leq 2$ "



Triple pattern evaluation (case 2)

Example

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$_R1$ NTTPP " $x \geq 6 \wedge x \leq 23 \wedge y \geq 8 \wedge y \leq 19$ "

Query q

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Answer (set of conditional mappings)

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Evaluation of FILTER graph patterns

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SELECT queries

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CONSTRUCT queries

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_R1 NTPP "x ≥ 6 ∧ x ≤ 23 ∧ y ≥ 8 ∧ y ≤ 19"
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Query q

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CONSTRUCT { ?F type Fire }  
WHERE {  
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CONSTRUCT queries

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Answer (RDFⁱ database)

$$D' = (G', \phi)$$

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fire1 type Fire .
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Closure property



Representation systems for RDFⁱ and SPARQL



Correctness of SPARQL query evaluation for RDFⁱ

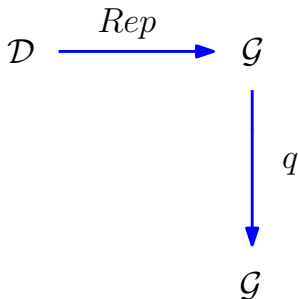
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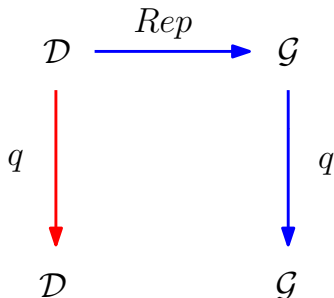
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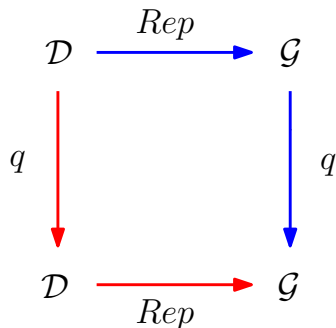
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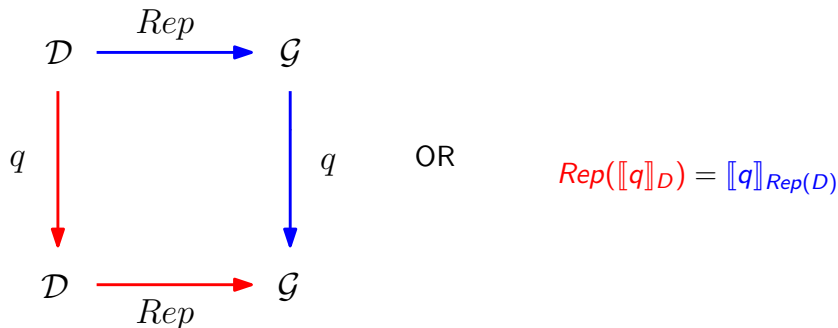
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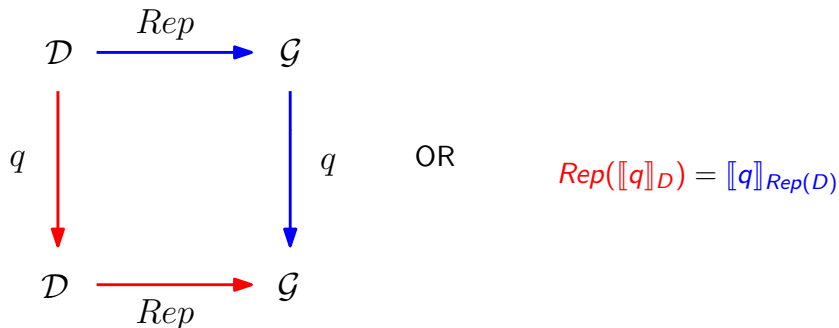
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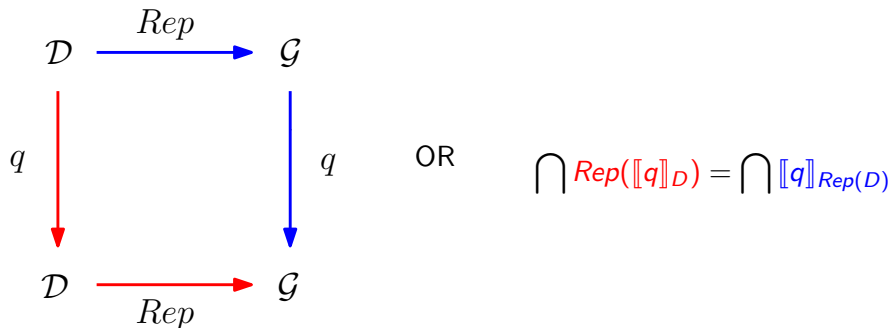
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Correctness of SPARQL query evaluation for RDFⁱ (cont'd)

An easy negative example

Example (classical RDF - OWA)

D

s p o .

q

```
CONSTRUCT { s ?p ?o }  
WHERE { s ?p ?o }
```



Correctness of SPARQL query evaluation for RDFⁱ (cont'd)

An easy negative example

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D

s p o .

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```
CONSTRUCT { s ?p ?o }  
WHERE { s ?p ?o }
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Then,

$$\llbracket q \rrbracket_D = D$$



Correctness of SPARQL query evaluation for RDFⁱ (cont'd)

An easy negative example

Example

Let us compare the the set of graphs represented by $\llbracket q \rrbracket_D$ with $\llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)}$



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$$Rep(\llbracket q \rrbracket_D) = \left\{ \left\{ (s, p, o) \right\}, \left\{ \begin{matrix} (s, p, o) \\ (c, d, e) \end{matrix} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{matrix} (s, p, o) \\ (s, b, c) \end{matrix} \right\}, \dots \right\}$$



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There is no $g \in \llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)}$ containing the triple (c, d, e) !



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There is no $g \in \llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)}$ containing the triple (c, d, e) !

- ▶ This would work if RDF made the CWA
- ▶ We know this already from the relational case [Imielinski/Lipski '84]



Certain answer to the rescue

Definition

The **certain answer** to query q over a set of RDF graphs \mathcal{G} is set

$$\bigcap \{ \llbracket q \rrbracket_G \mid G \in \mathcal{G} \}$$



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Using the notion of certain answer we can **relax the earlier equality requirement** to one that uses **\mathcal{Q} -equivalence**.

Definition

Let \mathcal{Q} be a fragment of SPARQL. Two sets of RDF graphs \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H} will be **\mathcal{Q} -equivalent** (denoted by $\mathcal{G} \equiv_{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{H}$) if they give the same **certain answer** to every query $q \in \mathcal{Q}$

$$\bigcap \{ \llbracket q \rrbracket_G \mid G \in \mathcal{G} \} = \bigcap \{ \llbracket q \rrbracket_H \mid H \in \mathcal{H} \}$$



Representation system

Let

- ▶ \mathcal{D} be the set of all RDFⁱ databases
- ▶ \mathcal{G} be the set of all RDF graphs
- ▶ $Rep : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ be a function determining the set of possible RDF graphs corresponding to an RDFⁱ database, and
- ▶ Q be a fragment of SPARQL

$\langle \mathcal{D}, Rep, Q \rangle$ is a **representation system** if for all $D \in \mathcal{D}$ and all $q \in Q$, there exists an RDFⁱ database $\llbracket q \rrbracket_D$ such that

$$Rep(\llbracket q \rrbracket_D) \equiv_Q \llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)}$$



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Are there interesting fragments \mathcal{Q} of SPARQL that lead to a representation system?



Representation systems for RDFⁱ

Theorem

The following fragments of SPARQL can give us representation systems for RDFⁱ (with D and Rep as defined):

- ▶ Q_{AUF}^C : CONSTRUCT queries using only *AND*, *UNION*, and *FILTER* graph patterns, and *without blank nodes* in their templates



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Well-designed graph patterns [Pérez/Arenas/Gutierrez '06]

- ▶ AND, FILTER, OPT fragment
- ▶ P FILTER R : **safe**
- ▶ P_1 OPT P_2 : variables in P_2 are **properly scoped**



Representation systems for RDFⁱ (cont'd)

Monotonicity

Definition

A fragment Q of SPARQL is **monotone** if for every $q \in Q$ and RDF graphs G and H such that $G \subseteq H$, it is $\llbracket q \rrbracket_G \subseteq \llbracket q \rrbracket_H$.



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Proposition [Arenas/Pérez '11]

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Fragments \mathcal{Q}_{AUF}^C and \mathcal{Q}_{WD}^C are **monotone**.



An algorithm for certain answer computation



Computing certain answers

- ▶ Representation systems guarantee correctness of query evaluation for RDFⁱ and SPARQL



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- ▶ $\text{Rep}(\llbracket q \rrbracket_D)$ is **infinite!**



Computing certain answers (cont'd)

Definition (EQ-completion)

The EQ-completed form of $D = (G, \phi)$, denoted by $D^{EQ} = (G^{EQ}, \phi)$, is taken from D by replacing all e-literals $l \in U$ appearing in G by the constant $c \in C$ such that $\phi \models l \text{ EQ } c$



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Definition (Normalization)

The normalized form of D is the RDFⁱ database $D^* = (G^*, \phi)$ where G^* is the set

$$\{(t, \theta) \mid (t, \theta_i) \in G \text{ for all } i = 1 \dots n, \text{ and } \theta \text{ is } \bigvee_i \theta_i\}$$

$$G = \{(t, \theta_1), (t, \theta_2), (t', \theta')\}$$

$$G^* = \{(t, \theta_1 \vee \theta_2), (t', \theta')\}$$



Computing certain answers (cont'd)

Theorem

For $D = (G, \phi)$ and q from \mathcal{Q}_{AUF}^C or \mathcal{Q}_{WD}^C , the *certain answer* of q over D can be computed as follows:

- i) compute $\llbracket q \rrbracket_D = D_q = (G_q, \phi)$,
- ii) compute the RDFⁱ database $(H_q, \phi) = ((D_q)^{EQ})^*$, and
- iii) return the set of *RDF triples*

$$\{(s, p, o) \mid ((s, p, o), \theta) \in H_q \text{ such that } \phi \models \theta \text{ and } o \notin U\}$$



Preliminary complexity results



The certainty problem

$$CERT(q, H, D)$$

Input

An RDF graph H , a CONSTRUCT query q , and an RDFⁱ database D

Question

Does H belong to the certain answer of q over D ?

$$H \subseteq \bigcap \llbracket q \rrbracket_{Rep(D)}?$$



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We study the **data complexity** of $CERT(q, H, D)$

- ▶ H and D are part of the input
- ▶ q is fixed



Deciding the certainty problem

Theorem

$CERT(q, H, D)$ is *equivalent* to deciding whether formula

$$\bigwedge_{t \in H} (\forall \underline{I})(\phi(\underline{I}) \supset \Theta(t, q, D, \underline{I}))$$

is *true*

- ▶ \underline{I} is the vector of all e-literals in D
- ▶ $\Theta(t, q, D, \underline{I})$ is of the form $\theta_1 \vee \dots \vee \theta_k$, where θ_i is a conjunction of \mathcal{L} -constraints



Computational complexity

Problem	\mathcal{L}	data complexity
$CERT(q, H, D)$	ECL/diPCL/dePCL/RCL	coNP-complete
	TCL/PCL (RCC-5)	EXPTIME



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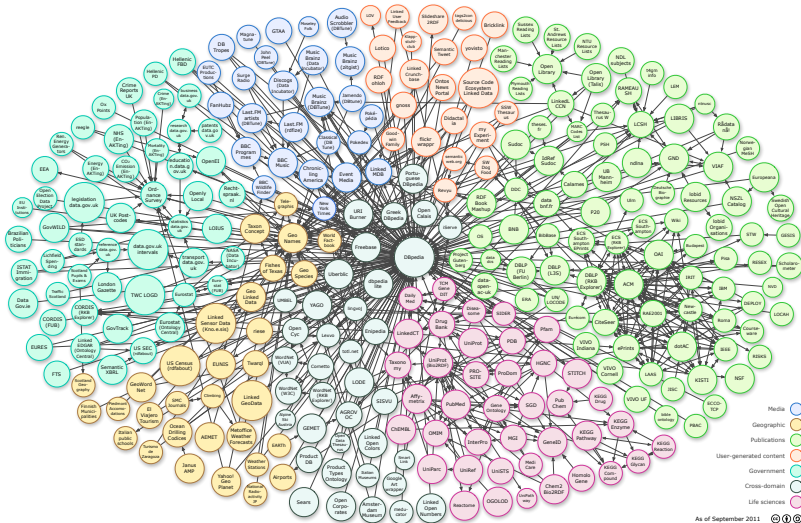
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Applications



Linked geospatial data



Applications of RDFⁱ for TCL

Many linked geospatial datasets are populated with topological information

Examples:

- ▶ Administrative Geography of Great Britain (ADMGB)
- ▶ Greek Administrative Geography (GAG)
- ▶ Global Administrative Areas (GADM)
- ▶ Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS)



Applications of RDFⁱ for TCL (cont'd)

Dataset	triples	regions	RCC-8 relations
ADMGB	149,046	11,762	77,907
GAG	11,780	412	3,023
NUTS	316,246	2,236	3,176
GADM-EUROPE	355,656	23,037	51,309
GADM	9,896,532	27,6728	590,445



Applications of RDFⁱ for TCL (cont'd)

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Can we do efficient reasoning for

$$\phi \models \theta?$$



Reasoning example

Example

RDF graph

ex:a geo:rcc8tppi ex:b .

ex:b geo:rcc8tppi ex:c .



Reasoning example

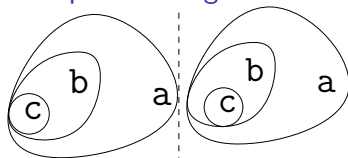
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Spatial configuration



Reasoning example

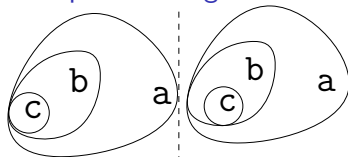
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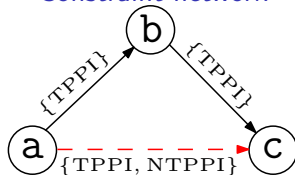
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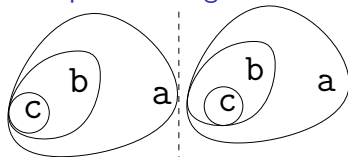
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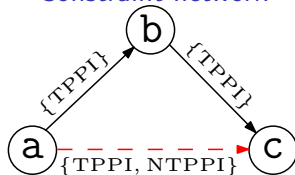
Representation

$TPPI(a, b)$,

$TPPI(b, c)$,

$\{TPPI, NTPPI\}(a, c)$

Constraint network



Reasoning algorithms

In general

- ▶ Backtracking algorithms



Reasoning algorithms

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In particular (tractable cases)

- ▶ path-consistency algorithm



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Iterative execution:

$$\forall i, j, k \ R(i, j) \leftarrow R(i, j) \cap (R(i, k) \circ R(k, j))$$

Symbol \circ is the composition of sets of RCC-8 relations
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Memory requirements: $\Theta(n^2)$

Running time: $O(n^3)$



Implementations of path-consistency

RCC-8 reasoners

- ▶ Renz
- ▶ PyRCC8
- ▶ PPyRCC8

RDF systems

- ▶ PelletSpatial
- ▶ Strabon



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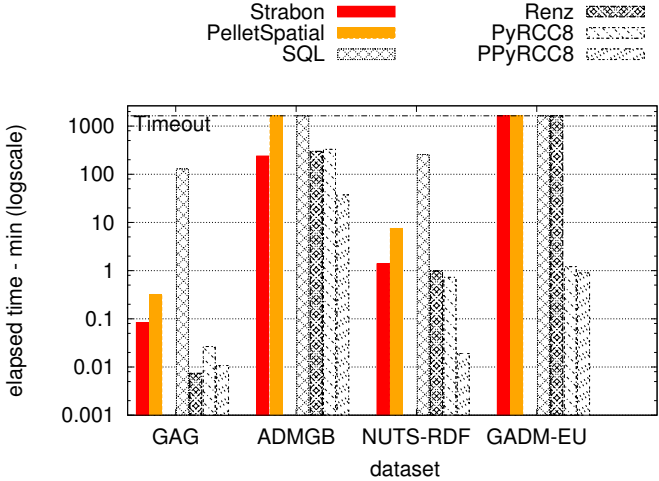
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How do they perform?



Experimental performance



Conclusions and future work



Conclusions

RDFⁱ framework

- ▶ Modeling of incomplete information for **property values**
- ▶ Formal semantics through **possible worlds** semantics
- ▶ SPARQL query evaluation and **certain answer** semantics
- ▶ Two **representation** systems for RDFⁱ and SPARQL
- ▶ **Algorithm** for certain answer computation
- ▶ Preliminary **complexity analysis**



Future work

- ▶ Interesting representation systems



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- ▶ Connection with query processing for the topology vocabulary extension of GeoSPARQL



Related papers

-  Charalampos Nikolaou and Manolis Koubarakis.
Querying linked geospatial data with incomplete information.
In 5th International Terra Cognita Workshop, 2012.
-  Charalampos Nikolaou and Manolis Koubarakis.
Incomplete information in RDF.
In Web Reasoning and Rule Systems (RR'13), pages 138–152, 2013.
-  Charalampos Nikolaou and Manolis Koubarakis.
Incomplete information in RDF.
CoRR, abs/1209.3756, 2012.
-  Charalampos Nikolaou and Manolis Koubarakis.
Querying incomplete geospatial information in RDF.
In 13th International Symposium on Spatial and Temporal Databases (SSTD'13), pages 447–450, 2013.



Thank you

