Expressive Languages for Querying the Semantic Web

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Resource Description Framework (RDF)

- Data model for representing information about web resources
- Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) http://dbpedia.org/resource/Jeffrey_Ullman
- URIs are organized as RDF graphs (*subject*, *predicate*, *object*)

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(dbpedia:Ullman, is_author_of, "Database Systems: The Complete Book")
(dbpedia:Ullman, name, "Jeffrey Ullman")
(dbpedia:Aho, is_coauthor_of, dbpedia:Ullman)
(dbpedia:Aho, name, "Alfred Aho")

dbpedia: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>

- Graph-matching query language
- First public working draft in 2004 by W3C
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SELECT ?X

(?Y, is_author_of, ?Z) AND (?Y, name, ?X)

algebraic syntax introduced in [Pérez, A. & Gutierrez, TODS 2009]

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Answer: "Jeffrey Ullman"

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(r₁, rdf:type, owl:Restriction)
(r₁, owl:onProperty, is_coauthor_of)
(r₁, owl:someValuesFrom, owl:Thing)

(r₂, rdf:type, owl:Restriction)

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(r₁, rdfs:subClassOf, r₂)

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(r₁, rdfs:subClassOf, r₂)

r₁ = {a | there exists a URI b such that
 (a, is_coauthor_of, b)}

r₂ = {a | there exists a URI b such that
 (a, is_author_of, b)}

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(r₂, owl:onProperty, is_author_of)
(r₂, owl:someValuesFrom, owl:Thing)
(r₁, rdfs:subClassOf, r₂)

each co-author is an author

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> Jeffrey Ullman Alfred Aho

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Need for Decoupling

SELECT ?X

(?Y, is_author_of, ?Z) AND (?Y, name, ?X)

VS

SELECT ?X

(?Y, rdf:type, ?Z) AND

(?Z, rdf:type, owl:Restriction) AND

(?Z, owl:onProperty, is_author_of) AND

(?Z, owl:someValuesFrom, owl:Thing)

AND (?Y, name, ?X))

Our Objectives

• Decouple the reasoning part and the actual query - simpler queries



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• Navigational capabilities - exploit the graph structure of RDF data

• General form of recursion - central feature for graph query languages

The rest of the Talk

- The modular query language TriQ
- From SPARQL over OWL 2 QL to **TriQ**
- **TriQ-Lite** a tractable language
- Concluding remarks

 $M = [Q_{\text{RDFS/OWL}}, Q_{\text{SPARQL}}]$

 $ans(M,G) = ans(Q_{\text{SPARQL}}, ans(Q_{\text{RDFS/OWL}}, G))$

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What is the right syntax for $Q_{RDFS/OWL}$ and Q_{SPARQL} ? - Datalog[¬s] represents every SPARQL query Datalog[∃, ¬s, ⊥]

- Datalog[\exists , \bot] is appropriate for ontological reasoning

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weakly-guarded Datalog[$\exists, \neg s, \bot$]



 $P(?X, ?Y), S(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow \exists ?W \ T(?Y, ?X, ?W)$ $T(?X, ?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow \exists ?W \ P(?W, ?Y)$ $P(?X, ?Y), \neg R(?X) \rightarrow \exists ?Z \ Q(?X, ?Z)$

Affected positions = ?



Affected positions = {T[3], P[1], Q[2]



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 $P(?X, ?Y), S(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow \exists ?W \ T(?Y, ?X, ?W)$ $T(?X(?Y),?Z) \rightarrow \exists ?W \ P(?W,?Y)$ $P(?X, ?Y), \neg R(?X) \rightarrow \exists ?Z \ Q(?X, ?Z)$

Affected positions = {*T*[3], *P*[1], Q[2], *T*[2], *P*[2]



Affected positions = {*T*[3], *P*[1], Q[2], *T*[2], *P*[2], Q[1],



Affected positions = {*T*[3], *P*[1], *Q*[2], *T*[2], *P*[2], *Q*[1],



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Weakly-Guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot]



weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s] + $\Phi(x_1, ..., x_k) \rightarrow \bot$

=

weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , ¬s, \bot]



weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot] queries



weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot] queries

Weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot] query: (Π , Λ)

- Π is a weakly-guarded Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot] program
- A is a set of answer rules: $\Phi(x_1, ..., x_k) \rightarrow answer(x_1, ..., x_k)$

Triple Query Language (TriQ): Complexity

• **Theorem:** Query evaluation for TriQ is in **EXPTIME**
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 Theorem [Gottlob, Rudolph & Šimkus, PODS 2014]: Every query that can be evaluated in EXPTIME can be expressed in weakly-guarded Datalog[∃,¬s] (no order)

Triple Query Language (TriQ): Complexity

• **Theorem:** Query evaluation for TriQ is in **EXPTIME**

- Theorem [Gottlob, Rudolph & Šimkus, PODS 2014]: Every query that can be evaluated in EXPTIME can be expressed in weakly-guarded Datalog[∃,¬s] (no order)
- **Corollary:** TriQ and weakly-guarded Datalog[∃,¬s] capture EXPTIME (no order)



for every object *a*, we ask for the name and the phone of *a*, if the phone number of *a* is available; otherwise, we only ask for the name of *a*



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The program $\tau_{bgp}(Q)$:

triple(?X, name, ?Y) \rightarrow *query*_A(?X, ?Y)

triple(?X, phone, ?Y) \rightarrow *query*_B(?X, ?Y)



The program $T_{opr}(Q)$:

 $query_A(?X, ?Y), query_B(?X, ?Z) \rightarrow query_Q(?X, ?Y, ?Z)$

list of individuals with phone number

 $query_A(?X, ?Y), query_B(?X, ?Z) \rightarrow compatible_Q(?X)$



The program $T_{opr}(Q)$:

 $query_A(?X, ?Y), query_B(?X, ?Z) \rightarrow query_Q(?X, ?Y, ?Z)$

list of individuals with phone number

 $query_A(?X, ?Y), query_B(?X, ?Z) \rightarrow compatible_Q(?X)$

the third argument (phone number) is missing

 $query_A(?X, ?Y), \neg compatible_Q(?X) \rightarrow query_{Q,\{3\}}(?X, ?Y)$



The program $\tau_{out}(Q)$:

 $query_Q(?X, ?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow answer_Q(?X, ?Y, ?Z)$

 $query_{Q,\{3\}}(?X, ?Y) \rightarrow answer_{Q,\{3\}}(?X, ?Y)$



The program $\tau_{out}(Q)$:

 $query_{Q,\emptyset}(?X, ?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow answer_{Q,\emptyset}(?X, ?Y, ?Z)$

 $query_{Q,\{3\}}(?X, ?Y) \rightarrow answer_{Q,\{3\}}(?X, ?Y)$



 $M_Q = [(\emptyset, \mathsf{T}_{bgp}(Q)), (\mathsf{T}_{opr}(Q), \mathsf{T}_{out}(Q))]$

Given an RDF graph G:

evaluation of Q over $G = ans(M_Q, DB(G))$



 $M_Q = [(\emptyset, \mathsf{T}_{bgp}(Q)), (\mathsf{T}_{opr}(Q), \mathsf{T}_{out}(Q))]$

Given an RDF graph G:

evaluation of Q over
$$G = ans(M_Q, DB(G))$$

 $\begin{cases} triple(a, b, c) \mid (a, b, c) belongs to G \end{cases}$

G = {(dog, rdf:type, animal), (animal, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃eats)}

- Elements of *G* that eat something: SELECT ?X (?X, eats, ?Y)
- However, the answer is empty due to the active domain semantics

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- We need the query (?X, rdf:type, ∃eats):

```
G \models_{OWL2} (dog, rdf:type, \exists eats)
```

 This is what is called "the evaluation of Q over G under the OWL 2 direct semantics entailment regime"

G = {(dog, rdf:type, animal), (animal, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃eats)}

Q = (?X, rdf:type, ∃eats)



Theorem: Given a SPARQL query Q and an RDF graph G:

The evaluation of Q over G under the OWL 2 direct semantics entailment regime = $ans(M_Q, DB(G))$

- $M_Q = [(T_{OWL2QL}, T_{bgp}(Q)), (T_{opr}(Q), T_{out}(Q))]$ is a TriQ query
- T_{OWL2QL} is fixed, it does not depend on Q

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 $Q = (?X, rdf:type, \exists eats)$



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Q = SELECT ?X (?X, eats, ?Y)

$$M_{Q} = [(T_{OWL2QL}, T_{bgp}(Q)), (\emptyset, T_{out}(Q))]$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$triple_{1}(?X, eats, ?Y), dom(?X) \rightarrow query_{P}(?X)$$

G = {(dog, rdf:type, animal), (animal, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃eats)}

Q = SELECT ?X (?X, eats, ?Y) Q = (?X, eats, _:b)

$$M_{Q} = [(T_{OWL2QL}, T_{bgp}(Q)), (\emptyset, T_{out}(Q))]$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$triple_{1}(?X, eats, ?Y), dom(?X) \rightarrow query_{P}(?X)$$



join variables occur only at non-affected positions

Theorem: Every SPARQL query under the entailment regime for OWL 2 QL can be expressed as a TriQ-Lite query (with or without the active domain restriction).

Theorem: Query evaluation for TriQ-Lite is **PTIME-complete**

Proof sketch:

PTIME-membership: enough to consider the evaluation problem for weaklyguarded constant-join Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot]

- Let D be an RDF graph and (Π, Λ) be a weakly-guarded constant-join
 Datalog[∃, ¬s, ⊥] query
- First step: Constraints are eliminated from Π to generate $ex(\Pi)$
 - Checking for inconsistencies
- Second step: ground chase is computed
 - Atoms $p(a_1, ..., a_k)$ in chase(D, $ex(\Pi)$) such that $a_1, ..., a_k$ are URIs
 - ALOGSPACE algorithm

Theorem: Query evaluation for TriQ-Lite is **PTIME-complete**

Proof sketch:

- Third step: negation is eliminated from $ex(\Pi)$ to generate D_L and $ex(\Pi)^+$
 - Every atom ¬p(t₁, ..., t_k) in a rule of ex(Π) is replaced by cp(t₁, ..., t_k), where cp stores the complement of p
 - D_L is the extension of D with the atoms $cp(a_1, ..., a_k)$ such that $a_{1, ..., a_k}$ are URIs, which are computed in each strata of $ex(\Pi)$ by using the ground chase
- Last step: transform $ex(\Pi)^+$ into a linear Datalog[\exists] program Π_L
 - Key observation: in every rule of ex(Π)⁺, every variable that can be assigned non-URI values must occur only in the weak-guard.

Theorem: Query evaluation for TriQ-Lite is PTIME-complete

Proof sketch:

- To finish the proof: query evaluation problem for linear Datalog[∃] is in PTIME in program complexity
 - Program complexity: only Λ is fixed, program Π_L and RDF graph D_L depend on Π and D

PTIME-hardness: since **Datalog** is already **PTIME-hard**

Concluding remarks

- 1. We introduce the modular query language TriQ
 - TripQ captures EXPTIME (no order)
- 2. We show that every SPARQL query can be expressed in TriQ
 - Including the OWL 2 direct semantics entailment regime
 - Dropping the active domain restriction
- 3. We identify the tractable fragment TriQ-Lite of TriQ with the same properties as in 2.
- 4. We also prove that the existential quantification in TriQ-Lite is necessary
 - In the paper, we define and study some notions of program expressiveness

Thank you!

Backup slides

RDFS and OWL Vocabularies

Can be even worse...

i

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SELECT ?X

(((?Y, rdf:type, ?Z) AND

(?Z, rdf:type, owl:Restriction) AND

(?Z, owl:onProperty, is_author_of) AND

(?Z, owl:someValuesFrom, owl:Thing)

AND (?Y, name, ?X))

UNION

((?Y, is_author_of, ?Z) AND (?Y, owl:sameAs, ?W) AND (?W, name, ?X)))

The Program TOWL2QL

• Collect the domain elements:

 $triple(?X, ?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow dom(?X), dom(?Y), dom(?Z)$

• Store the elements in the ontology:

triple(?X, rdf:type, ?Y) → type(?X, ?Y) triple(?X, rdfs:subPropertyOf, ?Y) → sp(?X, ?Y) triple(?X, owl:inverseOf, ?Y) → inv(?Y, ?X) triple(?X, owl:Restriction, ?Y) → rest(?X, ?Y) triple(?X, rdfs:subClassOf, ?Y) → sc(?X, ?Y) triple(?X, owl:DisjointWith, ?Y) → disj(?X, ?Y) triple(?X, ?Y, ?Z) → triple_1(?X, ?Y, ?Z)

The Program TOWL2QL

• Reason about properties:

 $sp(?X, ?Y), inv(?Z, ?X), inv(?W, ?Y) \rightarrow sp(?Z, ?W)$ $type(?X, owl:ObjectProperty) \rightarrow sp(?X, ?X)$ $sp(?X, ?Y), sp(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow sp(?X, ?Z)$

• Reason about classes:

 $sp(?X, ?Y), rest(?Z, ?X), rest(?W, ?Y) \rightarrow sc(?Z, ?W)$ $type(?X, owl:Class) \rightarrow sc(?X, ?X)$ $sc(?X, ?Y), sc(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow sc(?X, ?Z)$

Reason about disjointness constraints:

 $disj(?X, ?Y), sc(?Z, ?X), sc(?W, ?Y) \rightarrow disj(?Z, ?W)$

The Program TOWL2QL

Reason about membership assertions:

triple₁(?X, ?U, ?Y), $sp(?U, ?V) \rightarrow triple_1(?X, ?V, ?Y)$ triple₁(?X, ?U, ?Y), $inv(?U, ?V) \rightarrow triple_1(?Y, ?V, ?X)$ type(?X, ?Y), $rest(?Y, ?U) \rightarrow \exists ?Z \ triple_1(?X, ?U, ?Z)$ type(?X, ?Y), $sc(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow type(?X, ?Z)$ type(?X, ?Y) $\rightarrow triple_1(?X, rdf:type, ?Y)$ triple₁(?X, ?U, ?Y), $rest(?Z, ?U) \rightarrow type(?X, ?Z)$ type(?X, ?Y), $type(?X, ?Z), disj(?Y, ?Z) \rightarrow \bot$

G = {(dog, rdf:type, animal), (animal, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃eats)}

Dropping the active domain semantics in SPARQL is non-trivial:

Consider the query (?X, rdfs:subClassOf, ?Y)

Is TriQ-Lite really necessary?

Is existential quantification really necessary?

• TriQ-Lite is Datalog rewritable - it seems that it is not

• But, what about our main objective - need for decoupling?

Is TriQ-Lite really necessary?

 $M_{\rm Q} = [(T_{\rm OWL2QL}, T_{\rm bgp}({\rm Q})), (T_{\rm opr}({\rm Q}), T_{\rm out}({\rm Q}))]$

 $M_{Q,\Pi} = [(\Pi, T_{bgp}(Q)), (T_{opr}(Q), T_{out}(Q))]$

Theorem: There exists an RDF graph *G* and a SPARQL query *Q* such that, for every Datalog[\neg s, \bot] program Π :

 $ans(M_{Q,\Pi}, DB(G)) \neq ans(M_Q, DB(G))$
Proof sketch:

RDF graph G:

(c, rdfs:subClassOf, $\exists p$)

(∃p⁻, rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

Proof sketch:

RDF graph G:

(c, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃p)

(∃p⁻,rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

c(?X) → \exists ?Y p(?X, ?Y) p(?X, ?Y) → c(?Y) c(a)

Proof sketch:

RDF graph G:

(c, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃p)

(∃p⁻,rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

SPARQL query Q:

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(∃p⁻,rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

SPARQL query Q:

Proof sketch:

RDF graph G:

(c, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃p)

Answer: a

(∃p⁻,rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

SPARQL query Q:

Proof sketch:

RDF graph G:

(c, rdfs:subClassOf, ∃p)

(∃p⁻, rdfs:subClassOf, c)

(a, rdf:type, c)

Answer: a

In a Datalog[\neg s, \bot] program: **a** is an answer if and only if there exists a URI **b** such that (**a**,**b**) is an answer

SPARQL query Q:

Program Expressive Power

Pep: captures the expressive power of a program

Program Expressive Power

Pep: captures the expressive power of a program

$$\begin{split} & \operatorname{Pep}_{\Omega}[\Pi] = \{ (D, \Lambda, p(a_1, ..., a_k)) \mid (\Pi, \Lambda) \text{ is a program in } \Omega \text{ and } p(a_1, ..., a_k) \\ & \text{ is in } \operatorname{ans}((\Pi, \Lambda), D) \} \end{split}$$

Pep[Ω] = { Pep_Ω[Π] | Π is a program in Ω }

 Ω_1 is more expressive than Ω_2 if $Pep[\Omega_2]$ is a proper subset of $Pep[\Omega_1]$

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Theorem: weakly-guarded constant-join Datalog[\exists , \neg s, \bot] is more expressive than Datalog[\neg s, \bot]