# Tractable Query Answering Under Probabilistic Constraints 

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September 4th, 2014


## Tractable Query Evaluation On Probabilistic Instances

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## Instances and queries

- Given a relational instance (= set of facts, hypergraph) $I=\{R(a, b), R(b, c), S(c)\}$
- Given a conjunctive query (CQ) (existentially quantified) $q: \exists x y R(x, y) \wedge S(y)$


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$\rightarrow$ Data complexity: $q$ is fixed


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$\rightarrow$ Semantics: a probability distribution on instances.
$\rightarrow$ Query evaluation: determine the probability of $q$ on $\widehat{l}$.


## Hardness and tractability

- With arbitrary annotations
$\rightarrow$ Query evaluation is \#P-hard even with a single fact (Immediate reduction from \#SAT)
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- Existing work:
$\rightarrow$ Fix a simple annotation scheme
$\rightarrow$ Show dichotomy between \#P-hard and PTIME queries
- Our approach:
$\rightarrow$ Find a restriction on the instance and annotations
$\rightarrow$ Show that many queries are tractable in this case


## Bounded treewidth

An idea from instances without probabilities...

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$\exists x y R(x, y) \wedge S(y)$
query $q$


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$\rightarrow$ Linear time data complexity


## Tractable inference

An idea from probabilities without instances...

- Represent a propositional formula $F$ as a Boolean circuit
- Assume the circuit has constant treewidth
$\rightarrow$ Probability of $F$ can be computed in linear time (using junction tree algorithm for Bayesian networks) (assuming constant-time arithmetic operations)


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$\mathrm{O}(1)$ data complexity

probabilistic inference $\mathrm{O}(|C|)$ for fixed width $\downarrow$
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$\mathrm{O}(1)$ data complexity
$\exists x y R(x, y) \wedge S(y)$ query $q$
 deterministic 0.42 tree automaton $A_{q}$
probabilistic inference $\mathrm{O}(|C|)$ for fixed width $\downarrow$
bounded treewidth circuit $C$

probability $p$

## Consequences

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- ... assuming bounded treewidth (for reasonable definitions) ...
$\rightarrow \ldots$ probability of fixed $q$ can be computed in $\mathrm{O}(\mid \widehat{\|})$ !


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- Computing tree decompositions
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Thanks for your attention!


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