# Structurally Tractable Uncertain Data 

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$\rightarrow$ Unsupervised information extraction
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- Outdated or stale data
$\rightarrow$ We need uncertain data management


## Example model: TID

- Consider a relational instance

| Date | Animal |
| :--- | :--- |
| Wed 3rd | Kangaroo |
| Wed 3rd | Tasmanian devil |
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- Add probabilities to facts


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- Assume independence between facts
$\rightarrow$ Semantics: a probability distribution on regular instances
- What about queries? (Boolean CQs)
$\rightarrow$ Semantics: compute the probability that the query holds


## Big problem: Tractability

- Evaluate the fixed Boolean CQ: $\exists x y R(x) S(x, y) T(y)$
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Existing approaches:

- Avoid hard queries [Dalvi and Suciu, 2012]
- Use sampling to get approximate answers


## The general idea

Input instances are not arbitrary!
$\rightarrow$ Impose structural restrictions on instances
$\rightarrow$ Prove fixed-parameter tractability results

## This talk

- Parameter: instance treewidth
- Bound it by a constant
$\rightarrow$ MSO queries have linear data complexity [Courcelle, 1990]


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- Parameter: instance treewidth
- Bound it by a constant
$\rightarrow$ MSO queries have linear data complexity [Courcelle, 1990]
$\rightarrow$ Also holds on TID instances (with unit cost arithmetics) (joint work with Pierre Bourhis and Pierre Senellart)


## Table of contents

## (1) Introduction

(2) Trees
(3) Treelike instances
4. Future work

## Uncertain tree example

- A possible PrXML tree, from Wikidata facts:

$\rightarrow$ Probabilities reflect contributor trustworthiness


## Formalizing uncertain trees



A valuation of a tree decides whether to keep or discard node labels.

Example query:
"Is there both a red and green node?"
Valuation: $\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7\}$
The query is true

## Formalizing uncertain trees



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Provenance formulae and circuits


- Which valuations satisfy the query?


## Provenance formulae and circuits



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$\rightarrow$ Provenance formula of a query $q$ on an uncertain tree $T$ :
- Boolean formula $\phi$
- on variables $x_{1} \ldots x_{7}$
$\rightarrow \nu(T)$ satisfies $q$ iff $\nu(\phi)$ is true


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- on variables $x_{1} \ldots x_{7}$
$\rightarrow \nu(T)$ satisfies $q$ iff $\nu(\phi)$ is true
- Provenance circuit of $q$ on $T$
[Deutch et al., 2014]
- Boolean circuit $C$
- with input gates $g_{1} \ldots g_{7}$
$\rightarrow \nu(T)$ satisfies $q$ iff $\nu(C)$ is true

Example


Is there both a red and a green node?

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## Our main result on trees

## Theorem

For any fixed MSO query q (first order + quantify on sets) we can compute a provenance circuit $C$ for any input tree $T$ in linear time in the input $T$.

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$\rightarrow$ Key ideas:

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- Write the possible transitions of the automaton on $T$ in $C$


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If tree nodes have a probability of being independently kept, we can compute the query probability in linear time.

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## Corollary

If tree nodes have a probability of being independently kept, we can compute the query probability in linear time.
$\rightarrow$ Relates to message passing [Lauritzen and Spiegelhalter, 1988]
$\rightarrow$ Already known [Cohen et al., 2009]

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Generalize from trees to treelike instances:

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- Treewidth: measure on instances
- Trees have treewidth 1
- Cycles have treewidth 2
- $k$-cliques and $k$-grids have treewidth $k-1$
- Treelike: the treewidth is bounded by a constant


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- Trees have treewidth 1
- Cycles have treewidth 2
- $k$-cliques and $k$-grids have treewidth $k-1$
- Treelike: the treewidth is bounded by a constant
$\rightarrow$ Treelike instances can be encoded to trees


## Treewidth formal definition

Instance:

| $\mathbf{N}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $a$ | $b$ |
| $b$ | $c$ |
| $c$ | $d$ |
| $d$ | $e$ |
| $e$ | $f$ |
|  |  |
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Gaifman graph: Tree decomp.:


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Tree encoding:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\begin{array}{c}
N\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \vdots \\
1 \\
N\left(a_{2}, a_{3}\right) \\
1 \\
S\left(a_{1}, a_{3}\right) \\
1 \\
S\left(a_{2}, a_{4}\right) \\
7 \\
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$\rightarrow$ Treelike: constant bound on the maximal bag size

## Our main result on treelike instances


#### Abstract

Theorem For any fixed MSO query $q$ and bound $k \in \mathbb{N}$, for any input instance I of treewidth $\leq k$, we can compute in linear time a provenance circuit of $q$ on $I$.


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## Theorem

For any fixed MSO query $q$ and bound $k \in \mathbb{N}$, for any input instance I of treewidth $\leq k$, we can compute in linear time a provenance circuit of $q$ on $l$.
$\rightarrow$ Key ideas:

- Compute tree decomposition and tree encoding in linear time
- Compile $q$ to an automaton on encodings [Flum et al., 2002]
- Use the previous construction
$\rightarrow$ Possible subinstances are possible valuations of the encoding


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## Corollary

MSO queries have linear data complexity on treelike TID instances.

## Further results

- Support other models with dependencies between facts:
- Block-independent disjoint (BID): mutually exclusive facts
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- Support other models with dependencies between facts:
- Block-independent disjoint (BID): mutually exclusive facts
- pc-tables: events and Boolean annotations
- Support other tasks:
- Counting query results encodes to probabilistic evaluation
- General connection to semiring provenance [Green et al., 2007]


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- ... but only for UCQs, not arbitrary MSO
- Missing: notion of multiplicity for MSO (multisets?)
- Structural restrictions:
- Are real-world instances tree-like?
- Are there other possible restrictions?
- Experiments?


## Connect to other frameworks

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- What about incorporating new evidence?
$\rightarrow$ Connect to work on conditioning [Tang et al., 2012]


## Other projects and directions

- Open-world query answering (with Michael Benedikt)
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Thanks for your attention!

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## Semiring provenance [Green et al., 2007]

- Semiring $(K, \oplus, \otimes, 0,1)$
- $(K, \oplus)$ commutative monoid with identity 0
- $(K, \otimes)$ commutative monoid with identity 1
- $\otimes$ distributes over $\oplus$
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- Idea: Maintain annotations on tuples while evaluating:
- Union: annotation is the sum of union tuples
- Select: select as usual
- Project: annotation is the sum of projected tuples
- Product: annotation is the product


## Tree automata

Tree alphabet:


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## Constructing the provenance circuit

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## Example: block-independent disjoint (BID) instances

| name | city | iso | $p$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| pods | melbourne | au | 0.8 |
| pods | sydney | au | 0.2 |
| icalp | tokyo | jp | 0.1 |
| icalp | kyoto | jp | 0.9 |

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- Evaluating a fixed CQ is \#P-hard in general
$\rightarrow$ For a treelike instance, linear time!


## Supporting coefficients

- In the world of trees
- The same valuation can be accepted multiple times
$\rightarrow$ Number of accepting runs of the bNTA
- In the world of treelike instances
- The same match can be the image of multiple homomorphisms


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- The same valuation can be accepted multiple times
$\rightarrow$ Number of accepting runs of the bNTA
- In the world of treelike instances
- The same match can be the image of multiple homomorphisms
$\rightarrow$ Add assignment facts to represent possible assignments
$\rightarrow$ Encode to a bNTA that guesses them


## Supporting exponents

- In the world of trees
- The same fact can be used multiple times
- Annotate nodes with a multiplicity
- The bNTA is monotone for that multiplicity
- Use each input gate as many times as we read its fact
- In the world of treelike instances
- The same fact can be the image of multiple atoms
- Maximal multiplicity is query-dependent but instance-independent


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- The same fact can be the image of multiple atoms
- Maximal multiplicity is query-dependent but instance-independent
$\rightarrow$ Encodes CQs to bNTAs that read multiplicities
- Consider all possible CQ self-homomorphisms
- Count the multiplicities of identical atoms
- Rewrite relations to add multiplicities
- Usual compilation on the modified signature

