Parsing techniques for graph analysis

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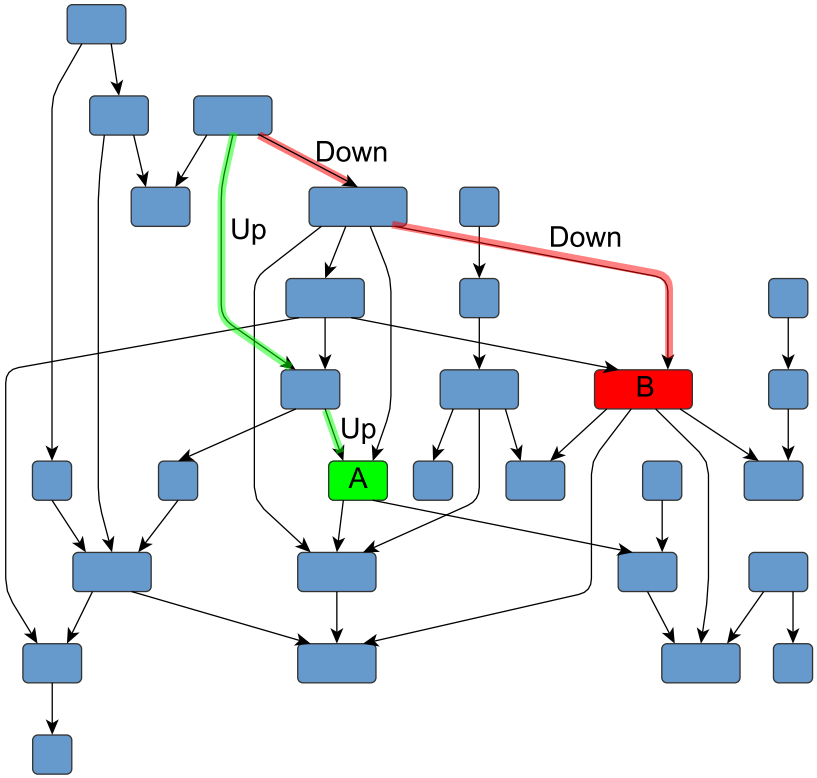
Language-constrained paths filtering



Navigation through a graph

- Are nodes A and B on the same level of hierarchy?
- Is there a path of form $\mathbf{Up}^n\,\mathbf{Down}^n$?
- Find all paths of form $\mathbf{Up}^n\,\mathbf{Down}^n$ which start from the node A

- (How) Can an automaton generate phrases in some specific (context-free) language?
- (How) Can a program produce some specific chain of the subprogram calls?

Language-constrained paths filtering: more formal

- $\mathbb{G} = (\Sigma, N, P)$ — context-free grammar
- $G = (V, E, L)$ — directed graph
  - $v \xrightarrow{l} u \in E$
  - $L \subseteq \Sigma$
- $\omega(p) = \omega(v_0 \xrightarrow{l_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{l_1} \cdots \xrightarrow{l_{n-2}} v_{n-1} \xrightarrow{l_{n-1}} v_n) = l_0 l_1 \cdots l_{n-1}$
- $R = \{p \mid \text{exists } N_i \in N \text{ such that } \omega(p) \in L(\mathbb{G}, N_i)\}$

Applications

- Graph database querying (Yannakakis. 1990; Hellings. 2014; Zhang. 2016)
- Code analysis
  - Static analysis via context-free and linear conjunctive language reachability
    - ★ alias analysis (Zhang, Su. 2017)
    - ★ points-to analysis (Xu, Rountev, Sridharan. 2009)
  - Dynamically generated strings analysis (Verbitskaia, Grigorev, Avdyukhin. 2015)
  - Multiple input parsing (Scott, Johnstone. 2016)
- ...

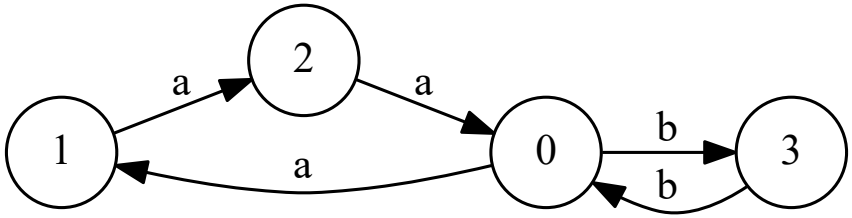
Existing approaches

- Do not use the power of advanced parsing techniques
  - Are mostly based on CYK
    (Zhang, et al. “Context-free path queries on RDF graphs.”;
    Hellings. “Conjunctive context-free path queries.”)
  - Do not provide useful structural representation of result
- Impose restrictions on input
  - Do not process input graphs with cycles
    (Sevon, Eronen. “Subgraph queries by context-free grammars.”)
  - Are restricted to certain grammar classes

Open problems

- Development of efficient algorithms
- Result representation for query debugging and further processing
- Processing of various types of grammars (ECFG, conjunctive, etc)

Example

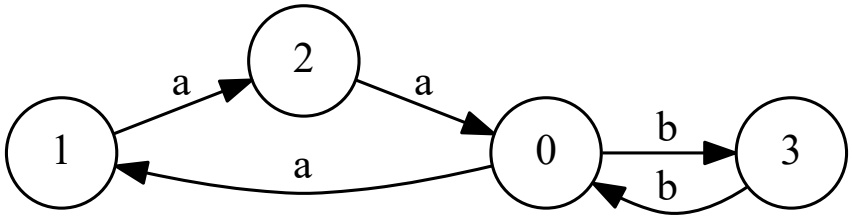


Input graph

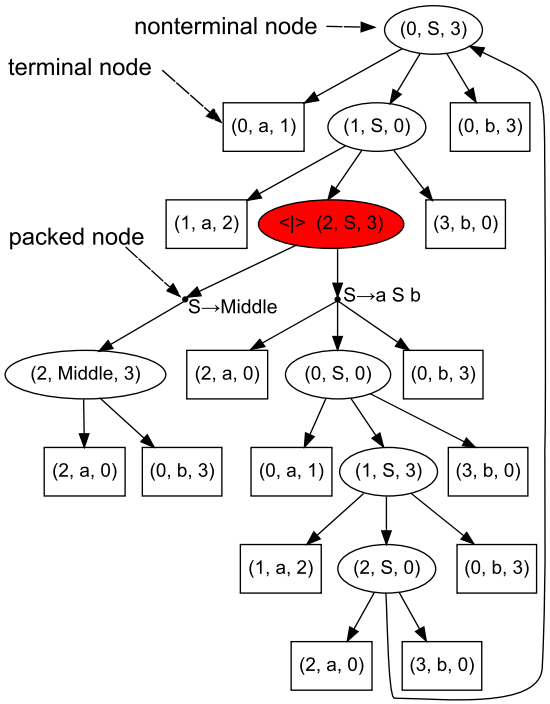
$$
\begin{aligned}
S &\rightarrow a\ S\ b \\
S &\rightarrow \mathit{Middle} \\
\mathit{Middle} &\rightarrow a\ b
\end{aligned}
$$

Query: a grammar for the language $L = \{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 1\}$ with an additional marker for the middle of the path

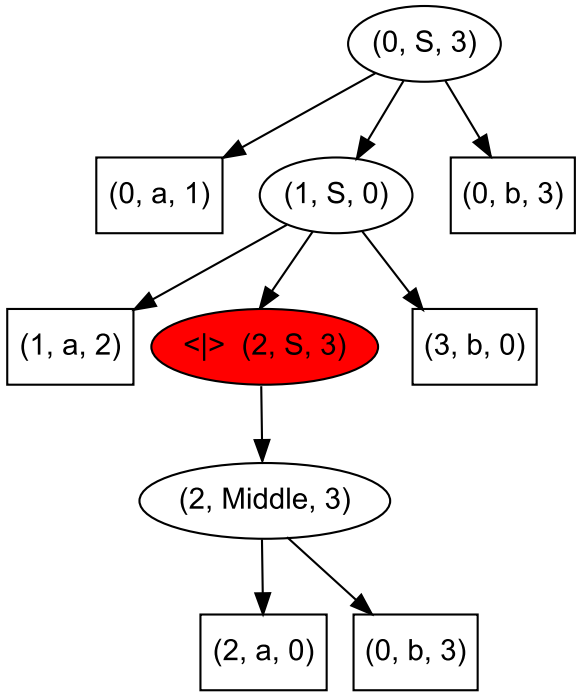
Example



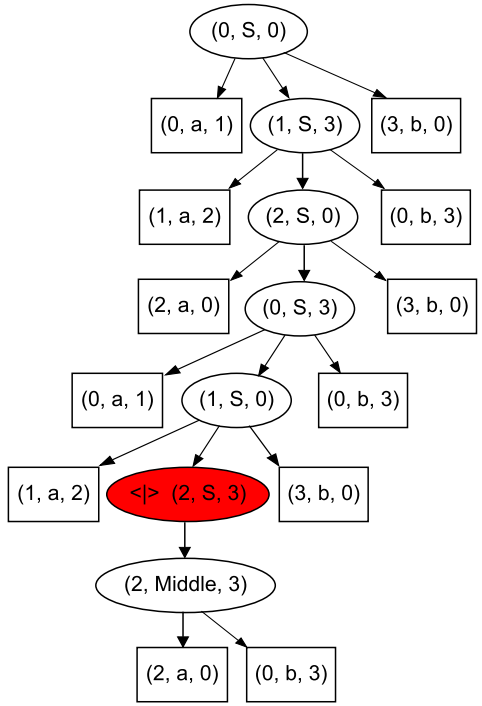
Input graph



Query result: SPPF

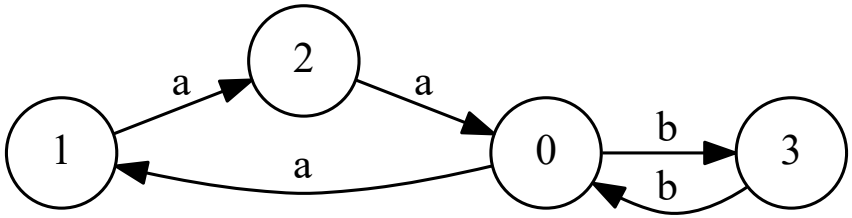


Tree for the path $0 \rightsquigarrow 3$

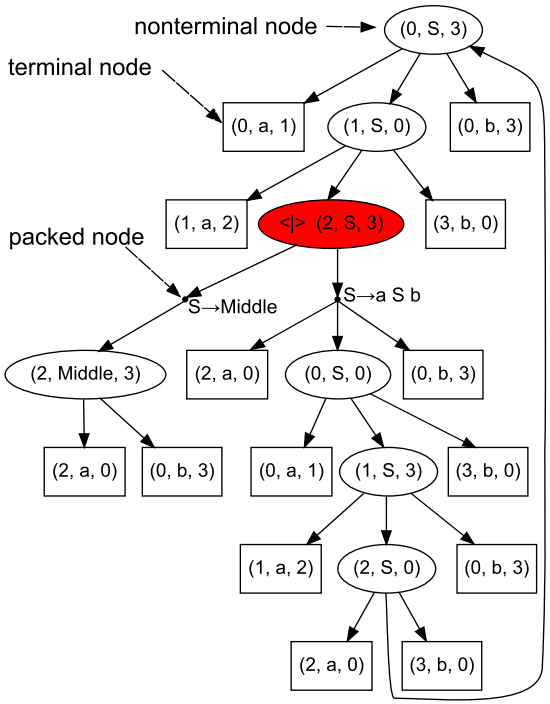


Tree for the path $0 \rightsquigarrow 0$

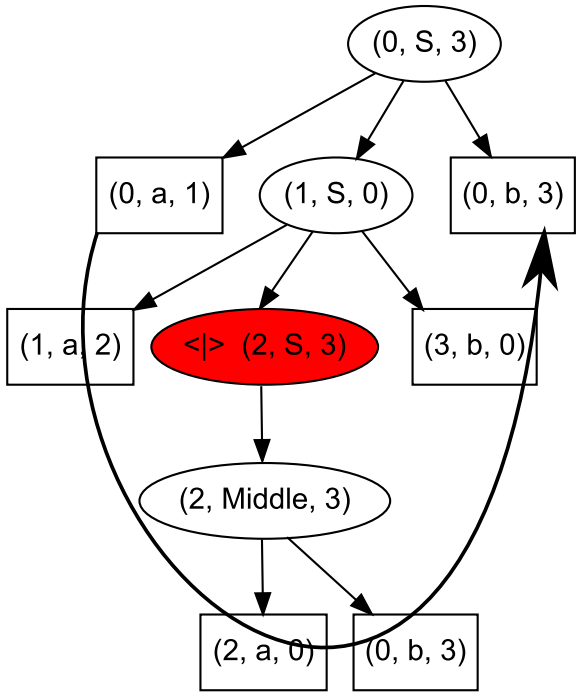
Example



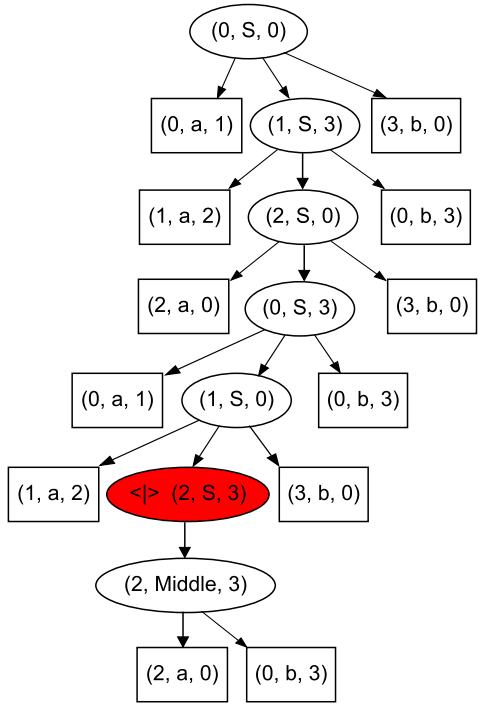
Input graph



Query result: SPPF



Tree for the path $0 \rightsquigarrow 3$



Tree for the path $0 \rightsquigarrow 0$

Our approaches

- Relaxed parsing of dynamically generated SQL-queries (Verbitskaia, Grigorev, Avdyukhin. 2015)
  - Based on RNGLR parsing algorithm (Scott, Johnstone)
- Context-free path querying with structural representation of result (Grigorev, Ragozina. 2016)
  - Based on GLL parsing algorithm (Scott, Johnstone)
- Parser combinators for context-free path querying (Smolina, Verbitskaia. 2017)
  - Based on the Meerkat: a general parser combinator library for Scala (Afroozeh, Izmaylova)
- Context-free path querying by matrix multiplication (Azimov, Grigorev. 2017)
  - Inspired by works of Valiant and Okhotin

Future work

- Other grammars and language classes intersection
  - Context-free grammars intersection: Nederhof, "The language intersection problem for non-recursive context-free grammars"
  - Approximated intersection of regular and conjunctive/boolean languages
  - ...
- Mechanization in Coq
  - Bar-Hillel theorem
  - GLL-based algorithms
  - ...
- New areas for application

Contact information

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