

# Context-Free Path Querying: Obstacles on the Way to Adoption

Semyon Grigorev

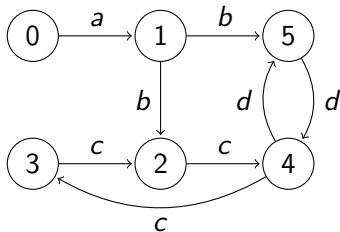
JetBrains Research, Programming Languages and Tools Lab  
St. Petersburg State University

[https://research.jetbrains.org/groups/plt\\_lab/](https://research.jetbrains.org/groups/plt_lab/)

16.07.2021

# Formal language constrained path querying

Navigational queries in edge-labelled graph

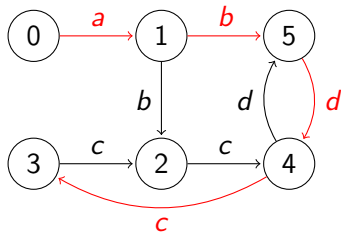


- Path to find:

$$0 \xrightarrow{a} v_0 \xrightarrow{b} v_1 \underbrace{\xrightarrow{d} v_2 \xrightarrow{c} v_3 \dots v_k}_{c \text{ or } d \text{ in arbitrary order}} \xrightarrow{c} v$$

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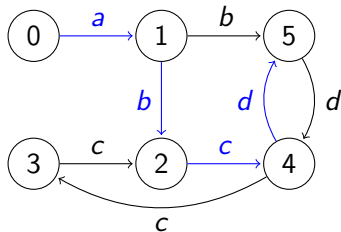


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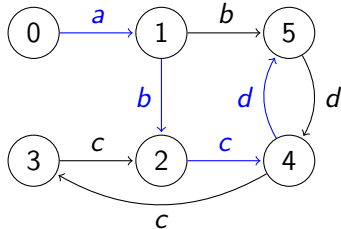


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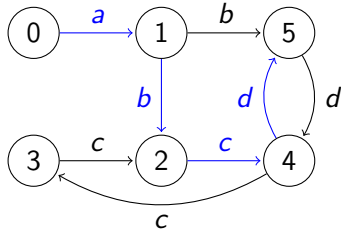
- $w(v_0 \xrightarrow{l_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{l_1} \dots \xrightarrow{l_{k-1}} v_k) = l_0 l_1 \dots l_{k-1}$
- $Q = \{(v_i, v_j) \mid \exists \pi = v_i \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_j; w(\pi) \in \mathcal{L}\}$ ,  
where  $\mathcal{L}$  — formal language
  - ✓ Regular, RPQ  $(ab(c \mid d)^*)$
  - ⚙ **Context-Free**, CFPQ  $(a^n b^n)$
  - ⌚ Multiple Context-Free  $(a^n c^m b^n d^m)$

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Variations:

- All-pairs
- Multiple source
- Reachability
- All paths
- ...

# Applications of Context-Free Path Querying

Hierarchy analysis: variations of the *same-generation queries* is essence of CFPQ

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## Graph databases

- Introduced by M. Yannakakis in 1990<sup>1</sup>
- Biological data analysis
- Data provenance analysis
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# Problems

- There is no unified infrastructure for solutions comparison
  - ▶ Data is spread over articles in different communities
  - ▶ There is a huge number of different subclasses of the problem
    - ★ all-pairs, single source, multiple source, ...
    - ★ reachability, single path, all path, ...
  - ▶ The first and only attempt to compare different algorithms: “An Experimental Study of Context-Free Path Query Evaluation Methods”<sup>3</sup>

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  - ▶ Conclusion: “We conclude that state of the art solutions are not able to cope with large graphs as found in practice.”
- There is no support in real-world graph database
  - ▶ H. Miao and A. Deshpande: “Though the problem has been first studied in our community [40], there is little follow up and support in the context of modern graph databases ...”<sup>4</sup>

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# Our Results

- ✓ Collection of linear algebra based algorithms for CFPQ
  - ▶ SuiteSparse is utilized for sparse linear algebra subroutines
  - ▶ Published: [https://github.com/JetBrains-Research/CFPQ\\_PyAlgo](https://github.com/JetBrains-Research/CFPQ_PyAlgo)

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- ✓ Full-stack support of CFPQ<sup>5</sup>
  - ▶ On the top of RedisGraph
  - ▶ openCypher extended to support CFPQ

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  - ▶ On the top of RedisGraph
  - ▶ openCypher extended to support CFPQ
- ⚙ Collecting of the dataset for CFPQ benchmarking is started
  - ▶ Synthetic graphs
  - ▶ Real-world graphs
    - ★ Static code analysis
    - ★ Biological data analysis
  - ▶ Published: [https://github.com/JetBrains-Research/CFPQ\\_Data](https://github.com/JetBrains-Research/CFPQ_Data)

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# Our Results Evaluation

- All-pairs reachability queries
  - *geospecies*, *taxonomy* — biological data
  - *crypto*, *drivers*, *fs* — points-to analysis
  - Time in seconds
- GPU: Geforce GTX 1070, 1.5GHz, 8Gb RAM, 1920 CUDA cores
  - CPU: Intel core i7-6700 CPU, 3.4GHz, DDR4 64Gb RAM

Graph	#V	#E	Neo4j <sup>6</sup>	RedisGraph <sup>7</sup>	Lin.al. CPU <sup>8</sup>	Lin.al. GPU <sup>9</sup>
geospecies	450 609	2 311 461	6 953.9	80.1	7.1	0.8
taxonomy	5 728 398	14 922 125	n.a.	⚙️	1.1	0.7
crypto	3 464 970	5 976 774	n.a.	⚙️	84.8	28.1
drivers	4 273 803	7 415 538	n.a.	⚙️	269.9	62.5
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- ⚙️ Benchmarking of linear algebra based algorithms
  - ▶ Comparison of different algorithms for different query semantics
  - ▶ Investigation of scalability on multicore machines
  - ▶ Estimation of performance on GPGPU
- ⚙️ Developing and evaluating GLL-based CFPQ algorithm for Neo4j
  - ▶ Multiple-source
  - ▶ All paths and reachability-only

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## Describing semantics of (subset of) openCypher in terms of linear algebra (in Coq)

## Utilizing multiple context-free languages as path constraints

# Topics for discussion and way to go

- Unified benchmarks for formal language constrained path querying algorithms
  - ▶ Graphs: synthetic and real-world
  - ▶ Queries: templates and real-world queries
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  - ▶ Involve static analysis community
- Graph database support
  - ▶ Different algorithms for different systems
  - ▶ Syntax and semantics of query languages