

# User-oriented exploration of semi-structured datasets

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Supervised by Ioana Manolescu and Karen Bastien

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# Outline

- 1 Motivation: exploring semi-structured data
- 2 Overview of our approach
- 3 Abstra: first-sight overview of a dataset
- 4 Pathways: efficiently finding interesting paths
- 5 Systems developed
- 6 Conclusion

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# Data exploration by non-technical users (NTUs)



Conflicts of Interest  
in the biomedical domain  
[ABB<sup>+</sup>21] w/ S. Horel

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    <JournalTitle>Gut and liver</JournalTitle>
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    <Year>2020</Year>
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      <Author>
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        <Affiliation>Department of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, Tokyo Women's Medical University Yachiyo Medical Center, Chiba, Japan.</Affiliation>
      </Author>
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        <Name>Etsuko Hashimoto</Name>
        <Affiliation>Department of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, Tokyo Women's Medical University, Tokyo, Japan.</Affiliation>
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Is this dataset useful for the investigations?

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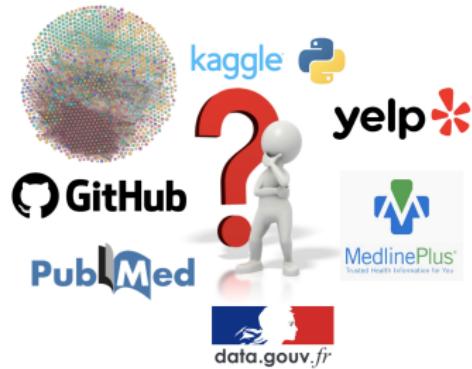
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How are authors connected to biomedical companies?

# Semi-structured data exploration

**Several** semi-structured data models:

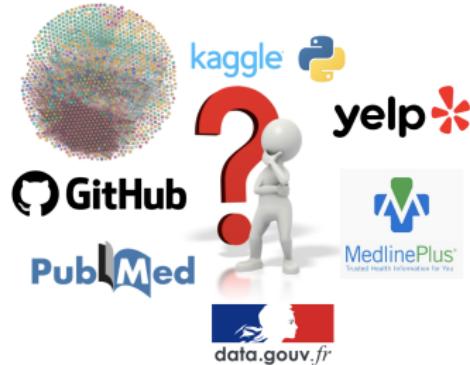
- **XML** documents
- **JSON** documents
- **RDF** graphs
- **Property** graphs



# Semi-structured data exploration

**Several** semi-structured data models:

- **XML** documents
- **JSON** documents
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Semi-structured dataset exploration is hard: complex, irregular structure

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# Thesis approach

## The problem

How to help users **explore unknown heterogeneous semi-structured datasets?**

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# Thesis approach

## The problem

How to help users **explore unknown heterogeneous semi-structured datasets?**

## Our approach

Automatically and efficiently compute from semi-structured datasets

- ① A global, **easy-to-grasp overview** of the data
- ② The **interesting connections between Named Entities**

# Research contributions

**Abstra: data overviews** [BMU22, BMU24]

- **Lightweight Entity-Relationship diagrams**

- Compact yet meaningful data overviews
- Ideal for first-sight dataset discovery

# Research contributions

## Abstra: data overviews [BMU22, BMU24]

- **Lightweight Entity-Relationship diagrams**
  - Compact yet meaningful data overviews
  - Ideal for first-sight dataset discovery

## PathWays: interesting Named Entity connections [BGLM23b, BGLM23a, BGLM24]

- **Interesting entity paths** in and across datasets
  - Complete set of NE-to-NE interesting connections
  - Ideal for exploring connections within and across datasets

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- Entity-Relationship models [RG03]

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- Entity-Relationship models [RG03]
- Need to compute them from the dataset!

# What does the dataset describe?



```
<person id="person1">
  <name>Alice</name>
  <address>
    <street>2, Second Street</street>
    <province>Georgia</province>
    <country>USA</country>
  </address>
  <mailbox>
    <mail from="person1@test.fr" to="person2@test.fr">
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            <listitem><text>Sub task 3</text></listitem>
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        </listitem>
      </parlist>
    </mail>
  </mailbox>
</person>
```

- Real-world objects and relationships between them
- Entity-Relationship models [RG03]
- Need to compute them from the dataset!
- What about semi-structured data models (nesting)?

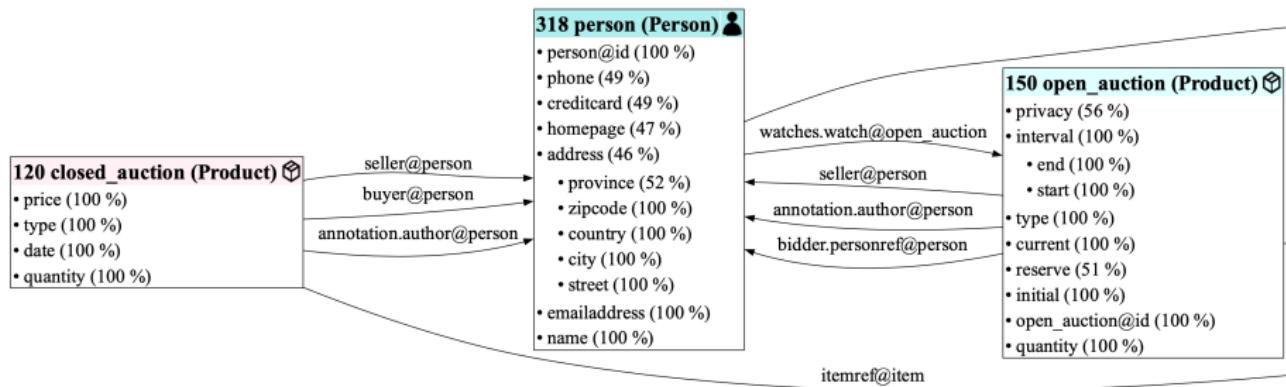
# What does the dataset describe?



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<person id="person1">
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  <address>
    <street>2, Second Street</street>
    <province>Georgia</province>
    <country>USA</country>
  </address>
  <mailbox>
    <mail from="person1@test.fr" to="person2@test.fr">
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          </parlist>
        </listitem>
      </parlist>
    </mail>
  </mailbox>
</person>
```

- Real-world objects and relationships between them
- Entity-Relationship models [RG03]
- Need to compute them from the dataset!
- What about semi-structured data models (nesting)?
- Keep it simple and of controllable size

# What does the dataset describe?



# The Abstra approach

- ① Integrate all data sources in a graph (ConnectionLens) [ABC<sup>+</sup>22]
- ② Summarize the graph
- ③ Among summary nodes, identify entities and their attributes
- ④ In the summary, identify relationships between the entities
- ⑤ Propose a simple category to each entity (best-effort)

# Background: from heterogeneous data to data graphs

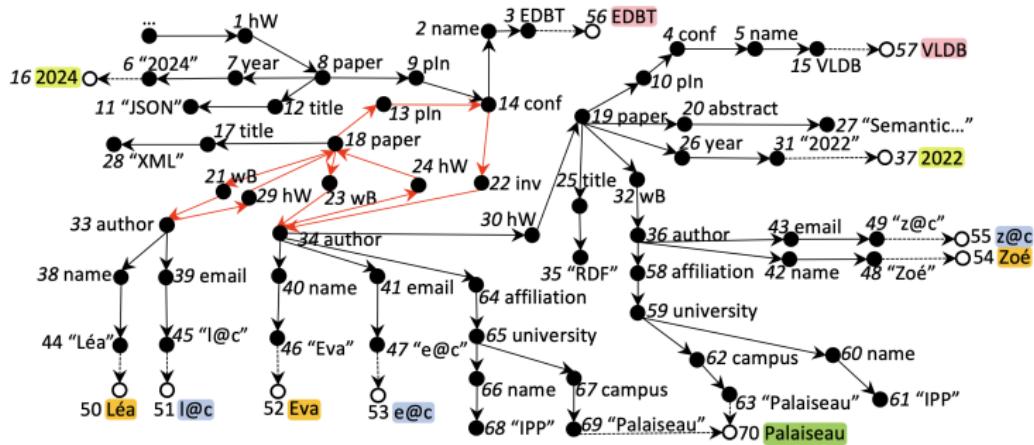
ConnectionLens [ABC<sup>+</sup>22]:

- ① Ingests any dataset into a **directed graph**
  - Generic, flexible, fine granularity

# Background: from heterogeneous data to data graphs

ConnectionLens [ABC<sup>+</sup>22]:

- ① Ingests any dataset into a **directed graph**
  - Generic, flexible, fine granularity
- ② Extracts **Named Entities** (NEs) from all text nodes
  - date , email address , People , Place , Organization , ...



# Data graph summarization

We need a **compact representation of large data graphs**

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## Challenges:

- Heterogeneous graphs originating from different data models
- Node and/or edge labels may be empty

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We aim for a **quotient graph summary**:

- Based on **equivalence** between nodes of the original graph
- We prefer **small summaries** (number of nodes)

# Quotient summarization across data models

Each data model has its own syntax:

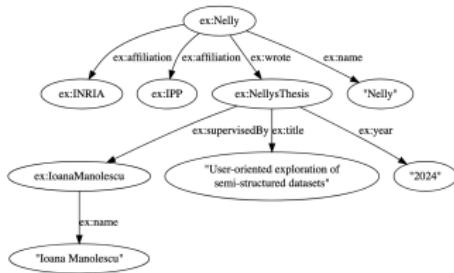
XML

```
<root>
  <student id="s1" thesisref="t1">
    <name>Nelly</name>
    <affiliation>Inria</affiliation>
    <affiliation>IPP</affiliation>
  </student>
  <researcher id="r1">
    <name>Ioana Manolescu</name>
  </researcher>
  <thesis id="t1" year="2024">
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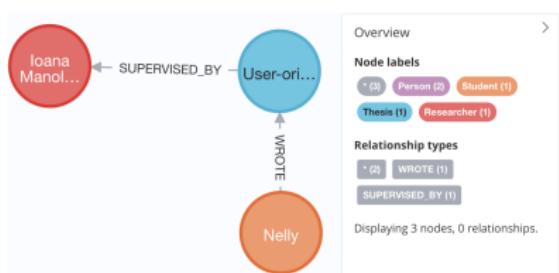
JSON

```
{
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    "thesis": {
      "year": "2024",
      "title": "User-oriented exploration of
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      "supervisor": {
        "name": "Ioana Manolescu"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

RDF



PG



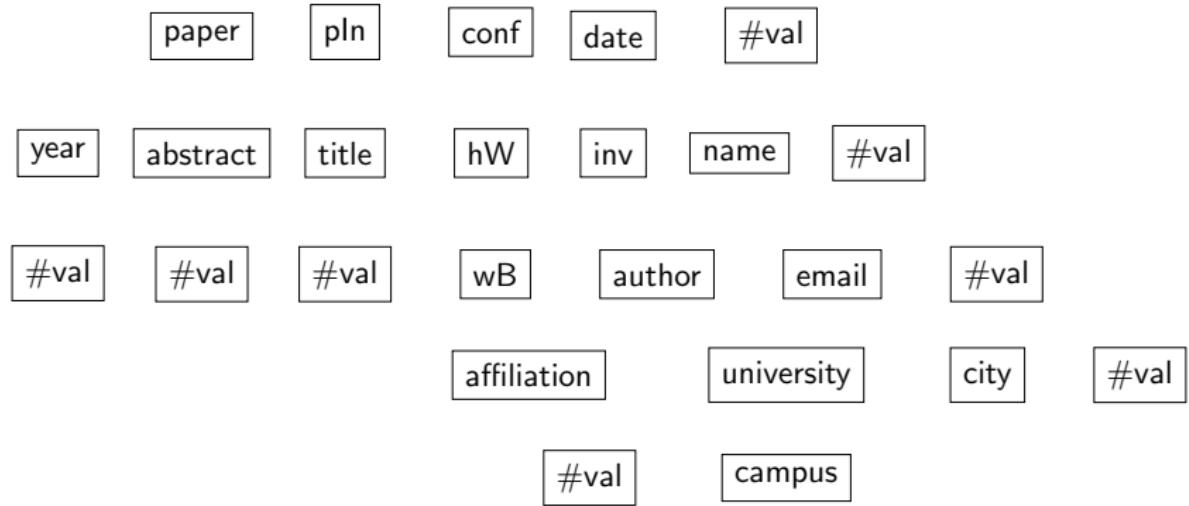
# Summarization based on same-kind nodes

We identify **node kinds** in each model based on the respective best practices for data design:

- XML: elements with the same **label** (or type)
- JSON: nodes on the same **path from the root**
- RDF [GGM20]: depending on **node type(s)** or, if absent, **incoming and outgoing properties**
- PG: adaptation of the above [GGM20]

# The summary (collection graph) $\mathcal{G}$

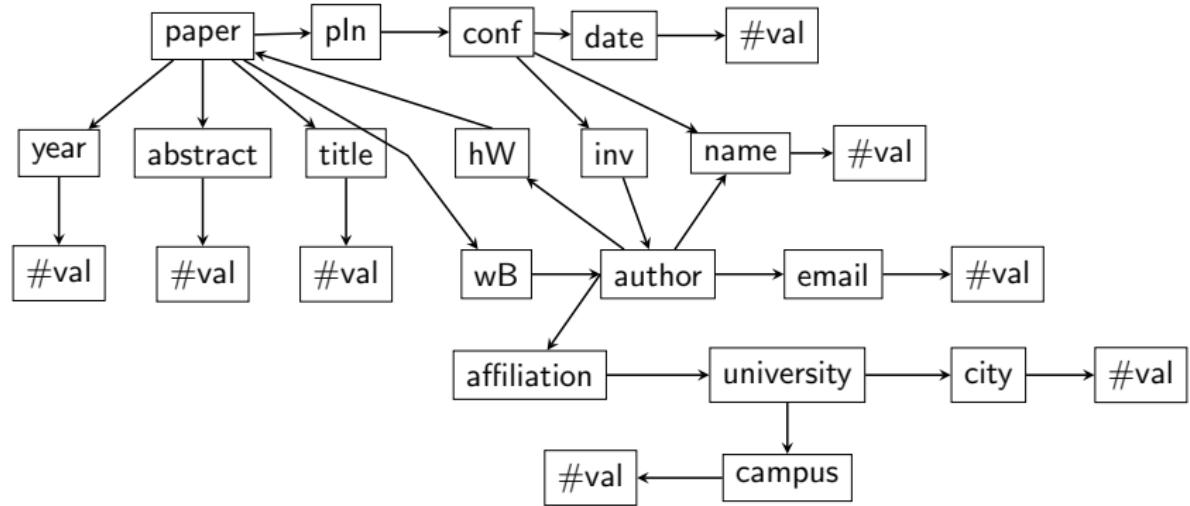
**Collection node** for each equivalence class



# The summary (collection graph) $\mathcal{G}$

Collection node for each equivalence class

Collection edge  $C_s \rightarrow C_t$  if a data edge exists

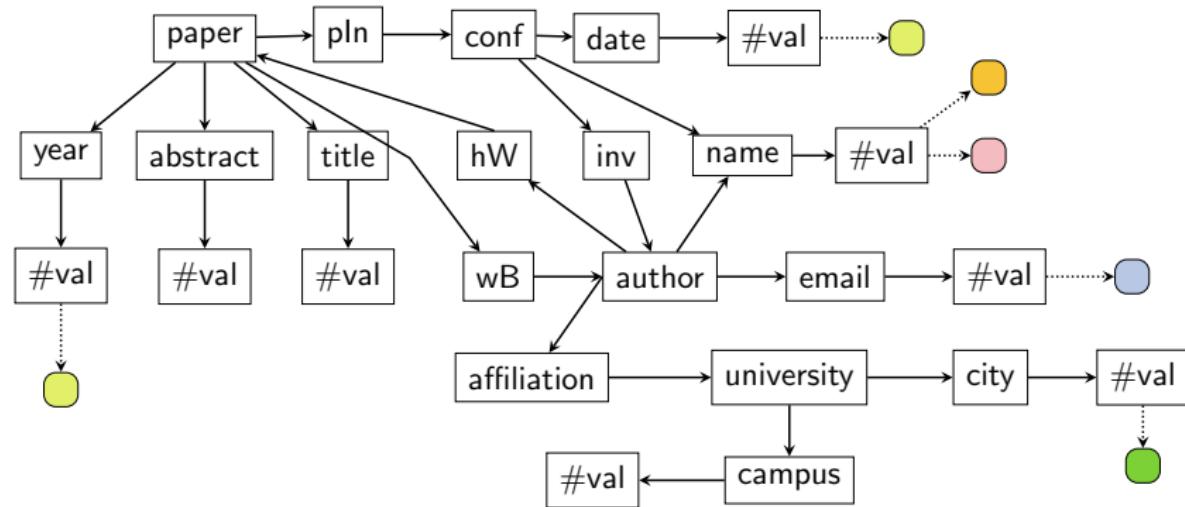


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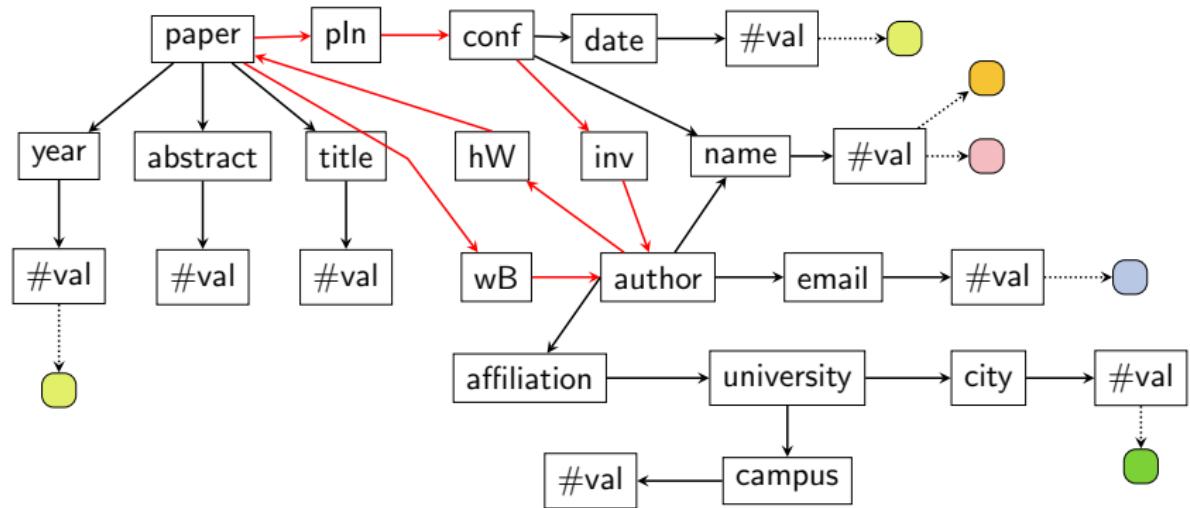
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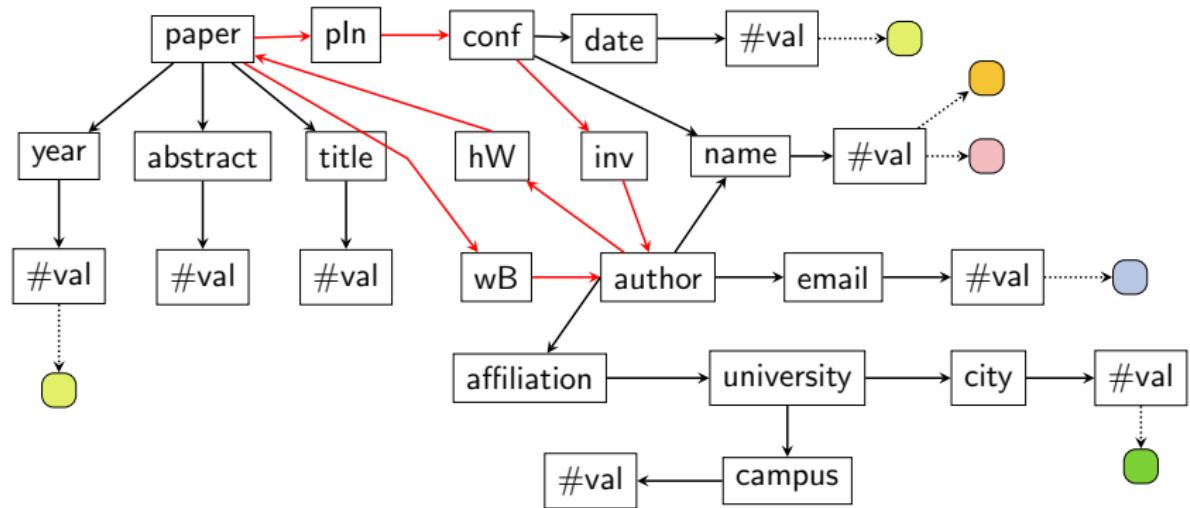
**Entity profile** for each **leaf collection node**: reflects NEs in the leaves



# Identifying entities in the collection graph $\mathcal{G}$

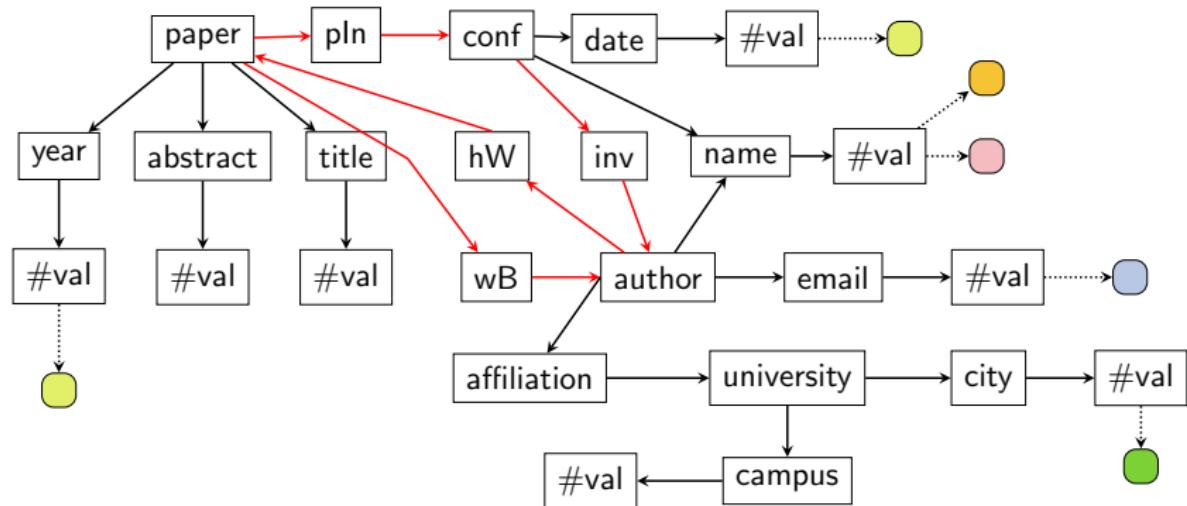


# Identifying entities in the collection graph $\mathcal{G}$



Which collections represent **entities** in the E-R diagram?

# Identifying entities in the collection graph $\mathcal{G}$



Which collections represent **entities** in the E-R diagram?

Which collections represent **entity attributes**?

# Requirements and algorithm

- We need an algorithm to identify entity roots and attributes for the E-R diagram
  - For complex, potentially cyclic, collection graphs

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- We need an algorithm to identify entity roots and attributes for the E-R diagram
  - For complex, potentially cyclic, collection graphs

## Greedy selection of few entities in $\mathcal{G}$

- ① Assign a **score** to each collection node
- ② While less than  $E_{max}$  entity roots, or data coverage  $< cov_{min}$ 
  - ① Elect the next highest-scored eligible collection node as an entity root
  - ② Compute its **boundary**, i.e., attribute set
  - ③ **Update** the collection graph to reflect the selection of an entity
  - ④ Recompute the scores

# How to score a collection node?

Reflect the **weight** of this node and its structure in the dataset

- ①  $w_{desc_k}, w_{leaf_k}$ : # descendants, leaf descendants, at depth  $k$

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Reflect the **weight** of this node and its structure in the dataset

- ➊  $w_{desc_k}, w_{leaf_k}$ : # descendants, leaf descendants, at depth  $k$
- ✖ Not clear how to pick  $k$

# How to score a collection node?

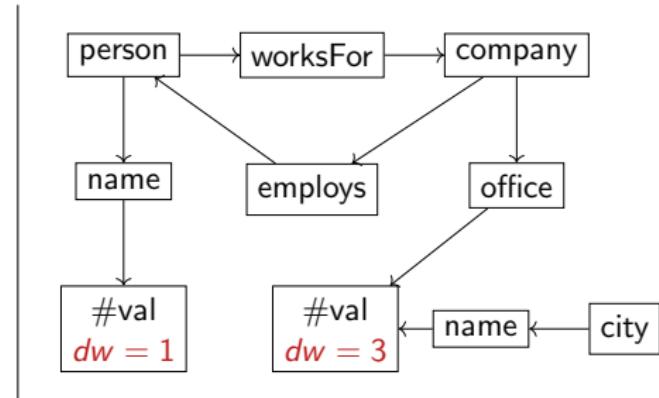
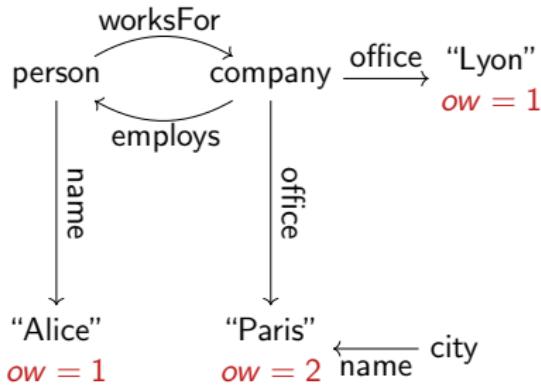
Reflect the **weight** of this node and its structure in the dataset

- ①  $w_{desc_k}$ ,  $w_{leaf_k}$ : # descendants, leaf descendants, at depth  $k$
- ② Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) rooted in each node:  $w_{DAG}$

# Data weight

**Own weight**  $ow$  of a leaf node: its in-degree

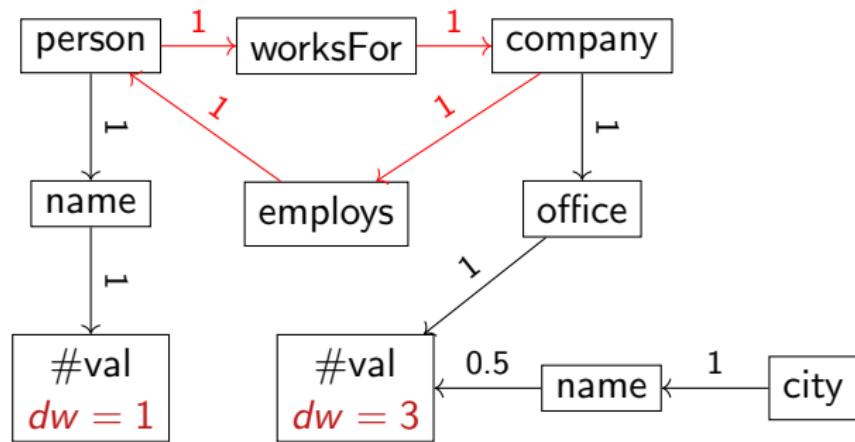
**Data weight**  $dw$  of a leaf collection node: the sum of its nodes'  $ow$



# Data weight DAG propagation

Leaf collection  $dw$  is propagated back to all ancestors which are not in a cycle

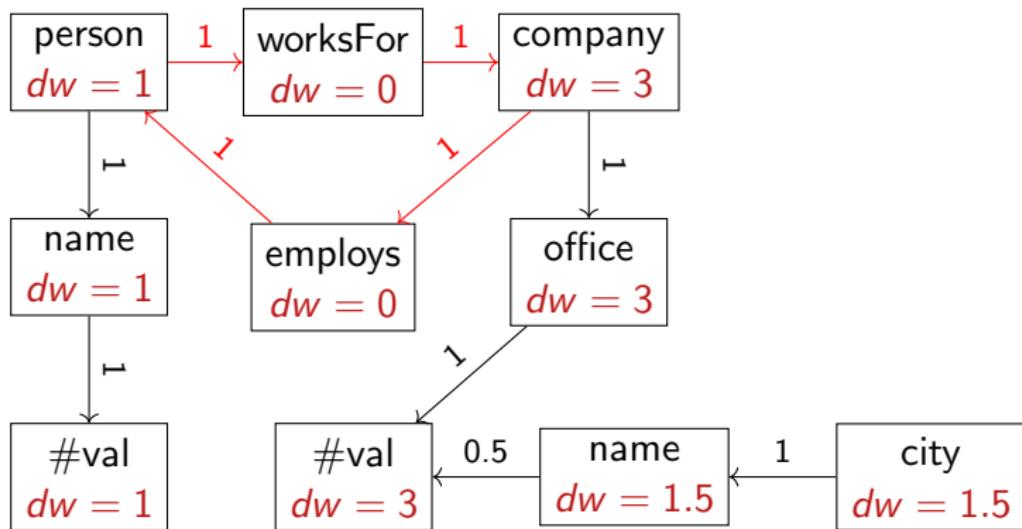
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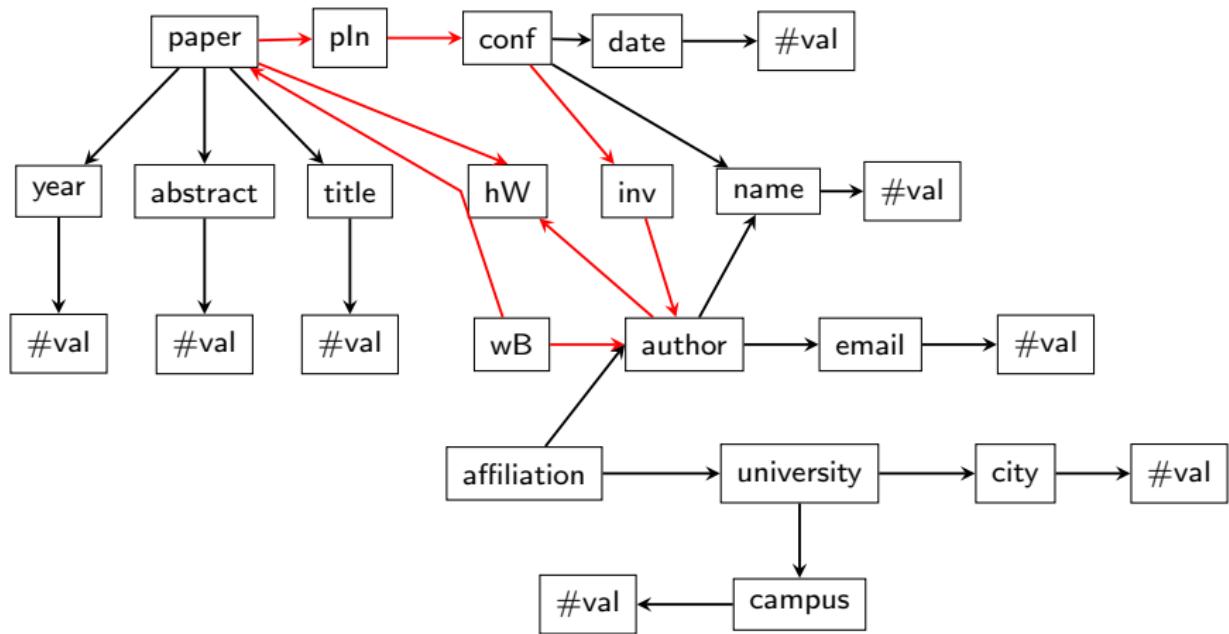
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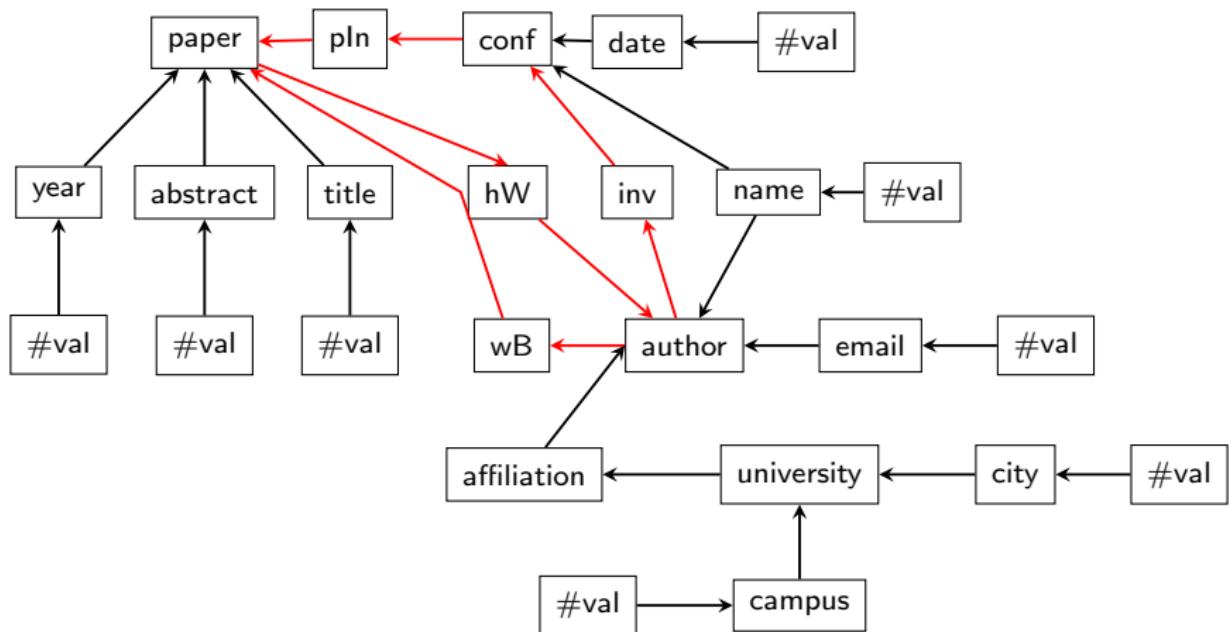
- ①  $w_{desc_k}, w_{leaf_k}$ : # descendants, leaf descendants, at depth  $k$
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- ③  $w_{PageRank}$ : PageRank algorithm on  $\mathcal{G}$

# PageRank score of a collection graph node



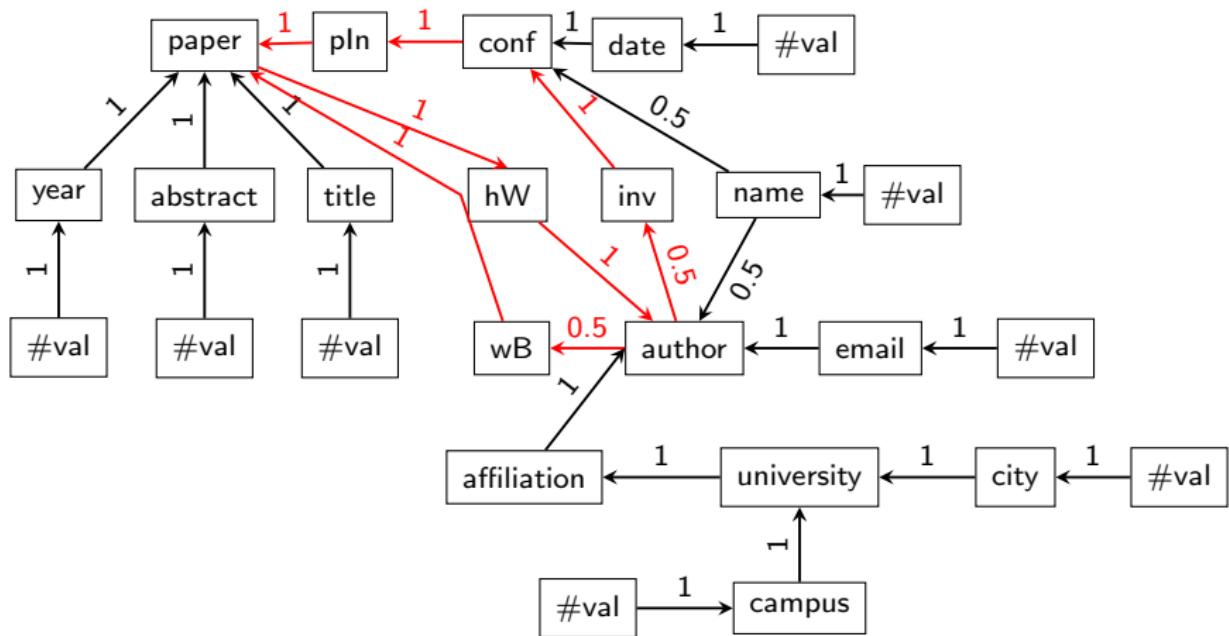
The collection graph  $\mathcal{G}$

# PageRank score of a collection graph node



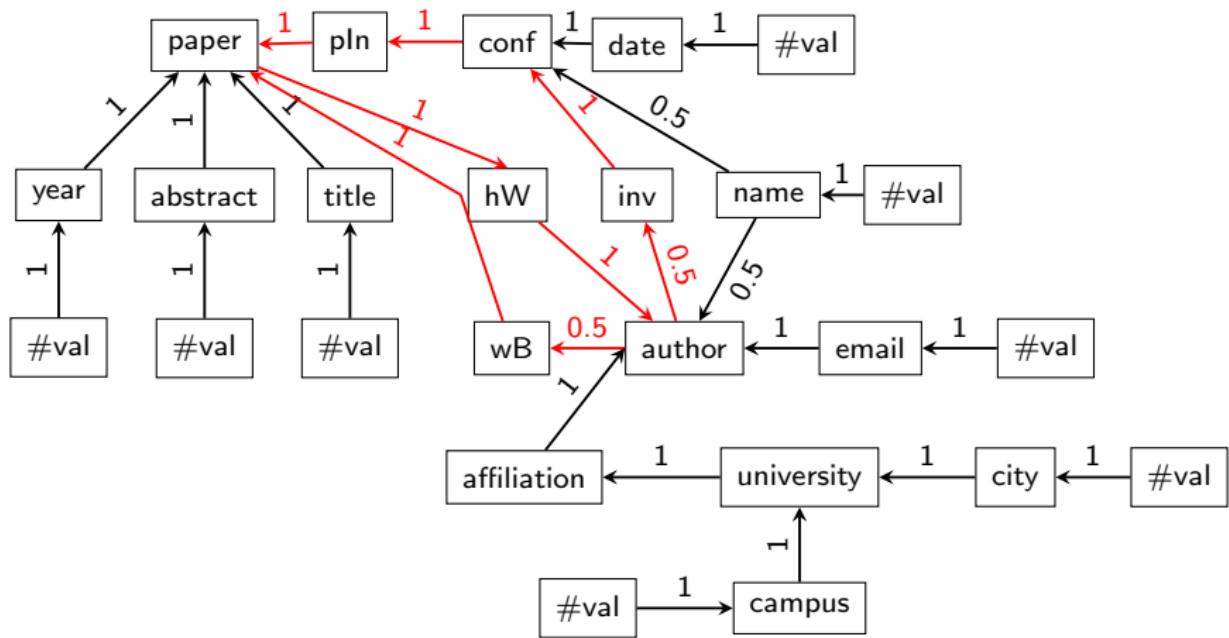
The reverse collection graph  $\mathcal{G}_R$

# PageRank score of a collection graph node



The reverse collection graph  $\mathcal{G}_R$  with PR edge weights

# PageRank score of a collection graph node



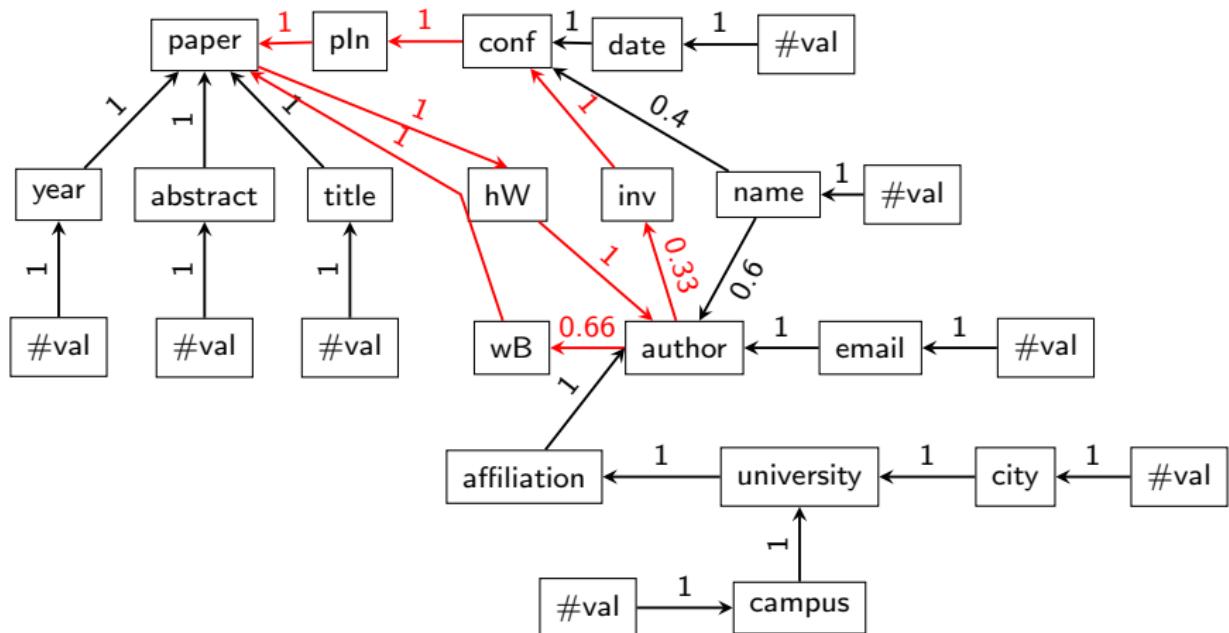
The reverse collection graph  $\mathcal{G}_R$  with PR edge weights

Collections distribute their score based solely on their connectivity

# How to score a collection node?

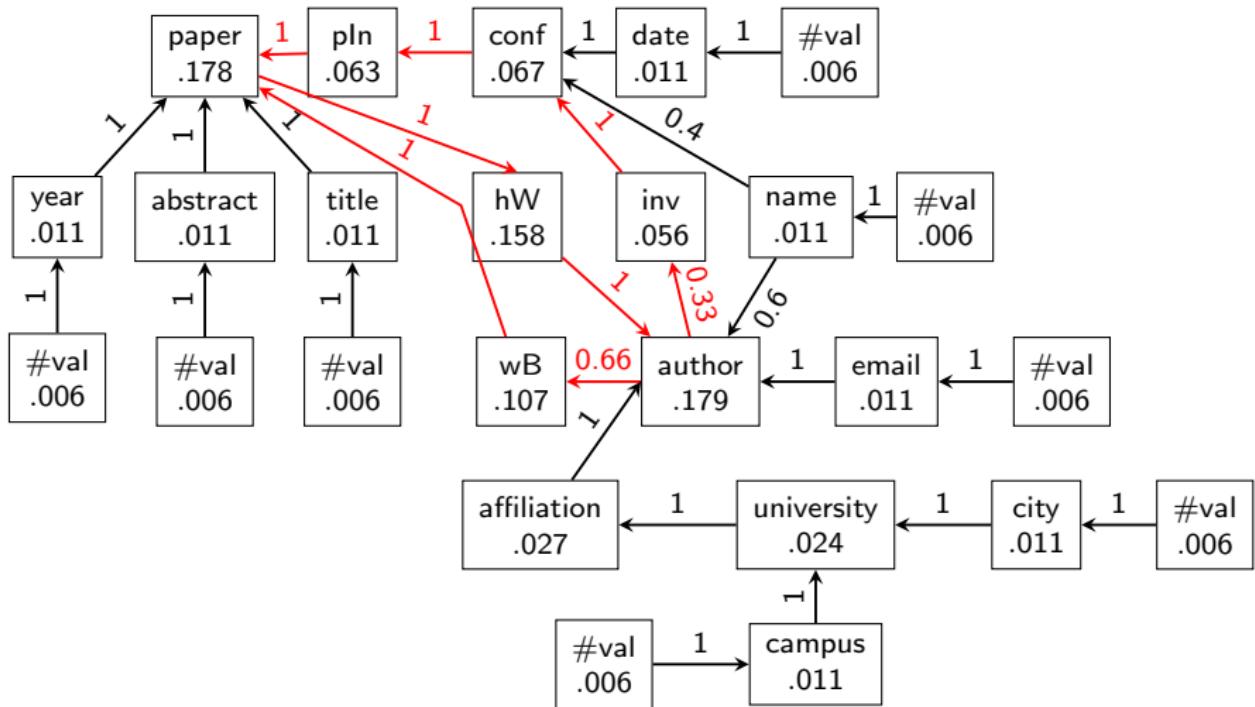
- ➊  $w_{desc_k}, w_{leaf_k}$ : # descendants, leaf descendants, at depth  $k$
  - ➋  $w_{DAG}$ :  $dw$  bottom-up propagation on  $\mathcal{G}$  (outside cycles)
  - ➌  $w_{PageRank}$ : PageRank algorithm on  $\mathcal{G}$
  - ➍  $w_{dwPageRank}$ : PageRank algorithm on  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $dw$ -tuned PR edge weights
-  Reflects both the topology and where actual data is

# The data-weighted PageRank score

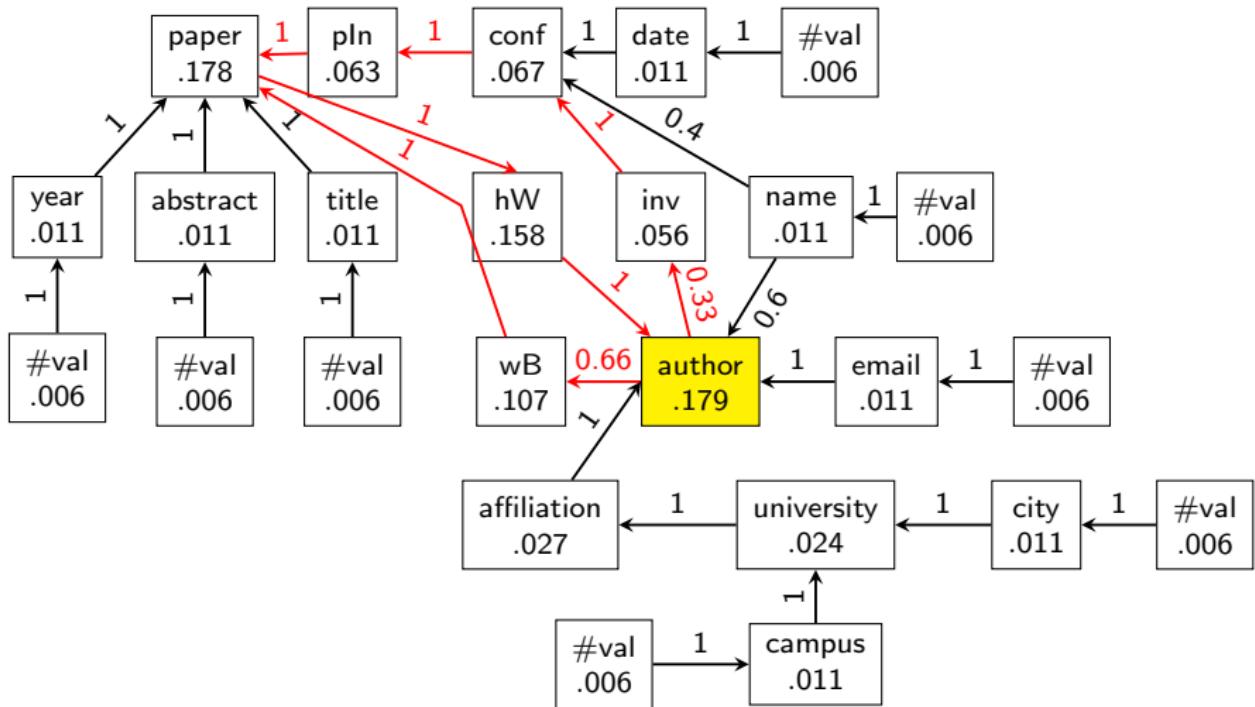


The reverse collection graph  $\mathcal{G}_R$  with dw-tuned PR edge weights

# The data-weighted PageRank score

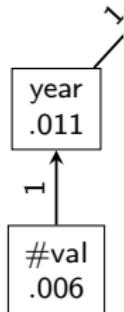


# The data-weighted PageRank score



# The data-weighted PageRank score

[ paper | 1 | pln | 1 | conf | 1 | date | 1 | #val ]

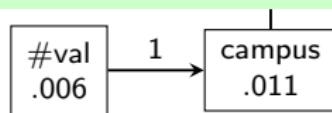


Propagates scores across the collection graph

Works on cyclic collection graphs

The score reflects the topology and where the data is

A collection node distributes its weight



eval  
006

# How to compute an entity boundary?

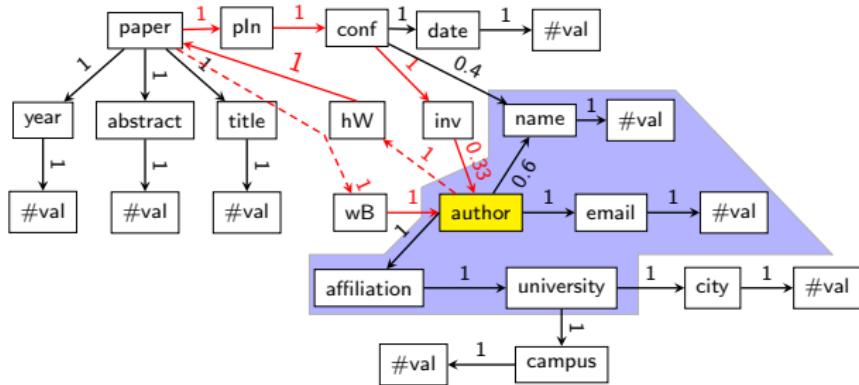
Collections in  $\mathcal{G}$  representing attributes of this entity

# How to compute an entity boundary?

Collections in  $\mathcal{G}$  representing attributes of this entity

“Those that contribute to the entity’s weight”

- The boundary may go far (for deep-structure entities)
- Easy to define for  $w_{desc_k}$ ,  $w_{leaf_k}$ ,  $w_{DAG}$ . Example for  $w_{desc_2}$

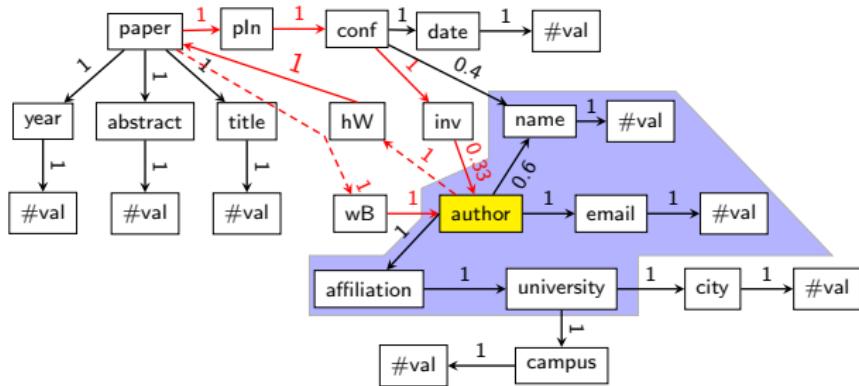


# How to compute an entity boundary?

Collections in  $\mathcal{G}$  representing attributes of this entity

“Those that contribute to the entity’s weight”

- The boundary may go far (for deep-structure entities)
- Easy to define for  $w_{desc_k}$ ,  $w_{leaf_k}$ ,  $w_{DAG}$ . Example for  $w_{desc_2}$



Does not apply for PageRank-based scores

# Data-acyclic flooding boundary $bound_{dfI-ac}$

Idea: the collection nodes

- **Reachable** from the entity root
- **Mainly** part of **this entity**
- The path between the entity root and this collection's nodes is **not data cyclic**

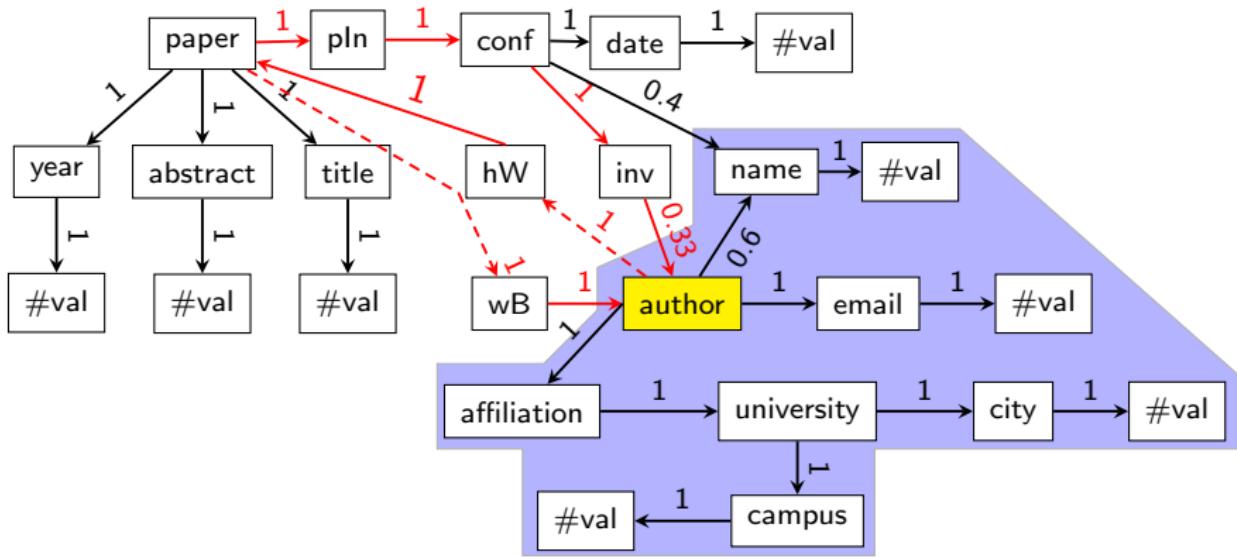
# Data-acyclic flooding boundary $bound_{dfI-ac}$

Idea: the collection nodes

- **Reachable** from the entity root
- **Mainly** part of **this entity**
  - Edge transfer factor  $\geq f_{min}$
  - At-most-one: each  $C_s$  node has at most one child in  $C_t$
- The path between the entity root and this collection's nodes is **not data cyclic**
  - If the path in the collection graph has no in-cycle edges
  - Or, the collection graph path has in-cycle edges, but they are not in the data

# Data-acyclic flooding boundary $bound_{dfI-ac}$

- **Reachable** from the entity root
- **Mainly** part of **this entity**
- The path is **not data cyclic**



# How to update the collection graph after selecting an entity?

Reflect the allocation of data nodes and edges to one entity

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## ① $update_{boolean}$

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  - Very efficient
  - Sufficient for  $w_{desc_k}$ ,  $w_{leaf_k}$ ,  $WDAG$

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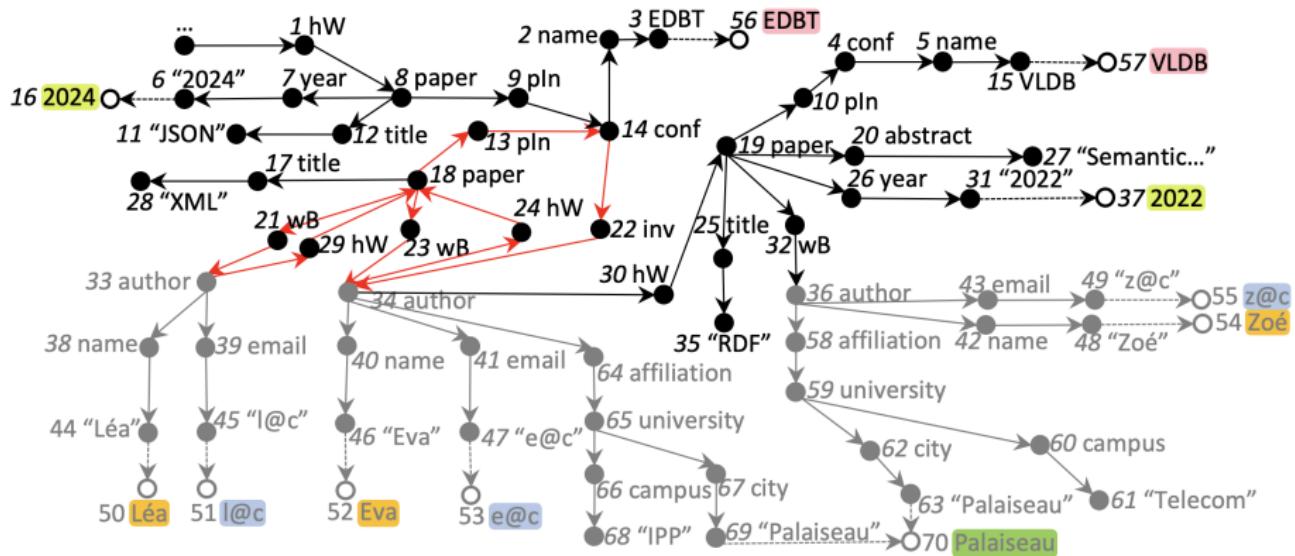
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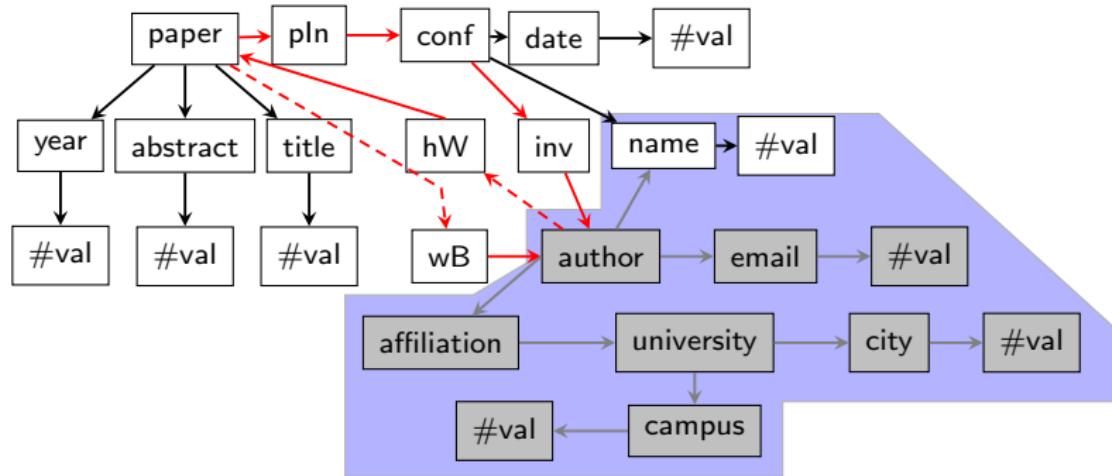
## ② $update_{exact}$

- Graph nodes and edges
  - Much more costly
  - Required for  $W_{PageRank}$ ,  $W_{dwPageRank}$

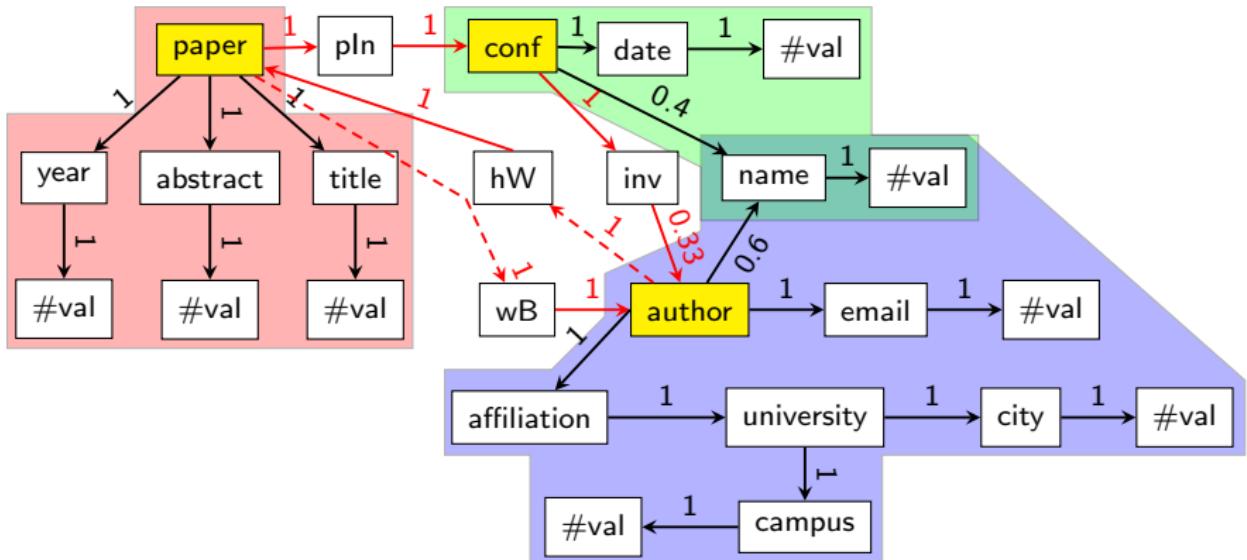
# Exact graph update



# Exact graph update

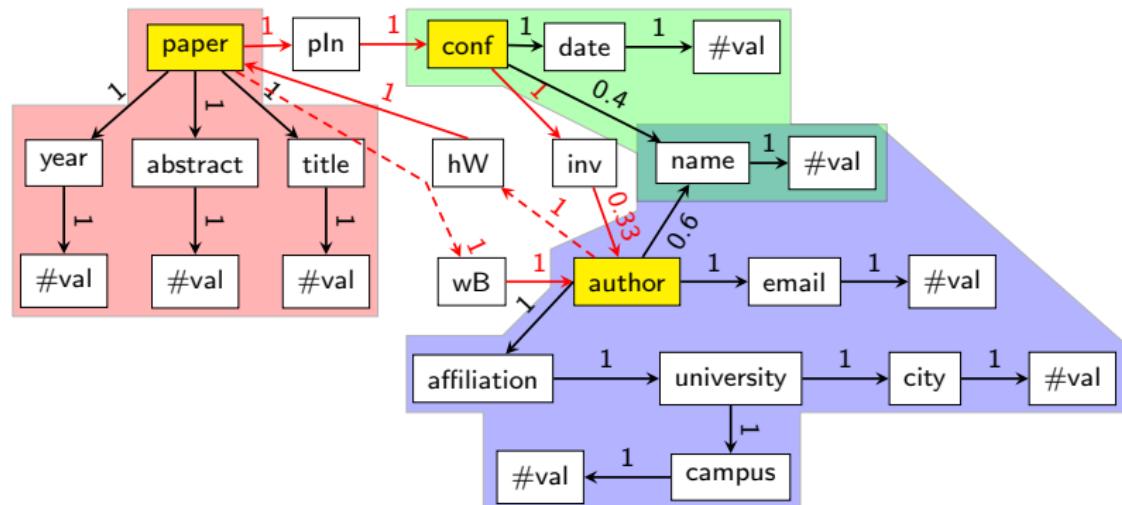


# Selected entities and their boundaries



# Finding relationships between entities

**Relationship:** a path from an entity to another



- paper → wB → author
- paper → pln → conf
- author → hW → paper
- conf → inv → author

# Entity classification

**Assign a semantic category to each entity**

**Input:** an entity  $E$ , categories  $\mathcal{K}$ , semantic properties  $\mathcal{P}$

- $\mathcal{K}$ : Person, ScientificPaper, Event, Website, Mountain, ...
- $\mathcal{P}$ : {label:"address", domain:[Pers., Org.], range:[Place]}, ...

**Output:** a category for  $E$

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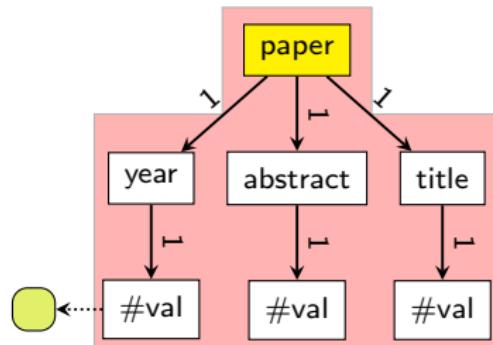
**Output:** a category for  $E$

**Algorithm:**

- Compare:
  - The common name of all nodes in the entity root (if it exists) with  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  (*conf, paper, author*)
  - Its attribute names with  $p \in \mathcal{P}$  (*affiliation, email, ...*)
  - Its entity profiles with  $p.\text{range} \in \mathcal{P}$  (, , , ...)
- Each good match votes for one or few categories

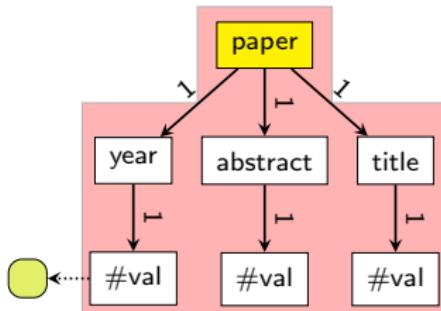
# Entity classification

Name	Similar to	Votes for
paper	ResearchPublication (0.85) News (0.63)	ResearchPublication News



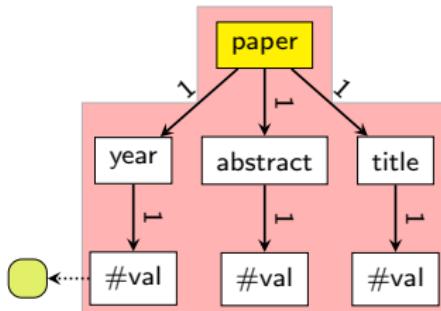
# Entity classification

Attribute	Similar to	Votes for
abstract	abstract (1.0) summary (0.92) preface (0.47)	ResearchPublication Book
title	title (1.0) honorific title (0.87)	ResearchPublication Movie Person
year	year publication (0.85 + █)	Event Book ResearchPublication, ...



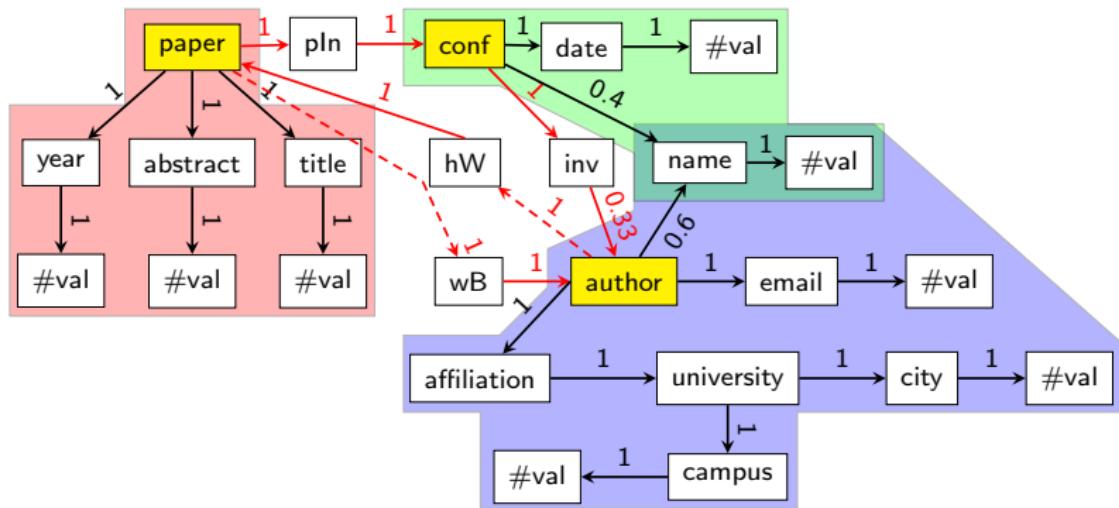
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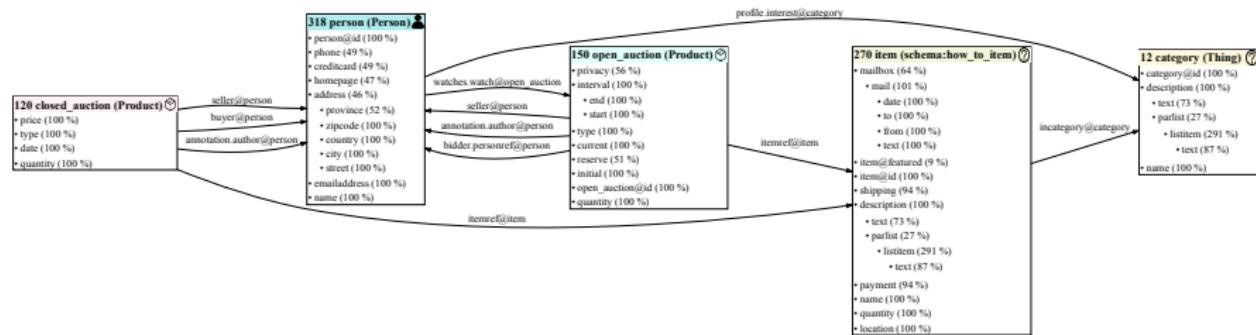


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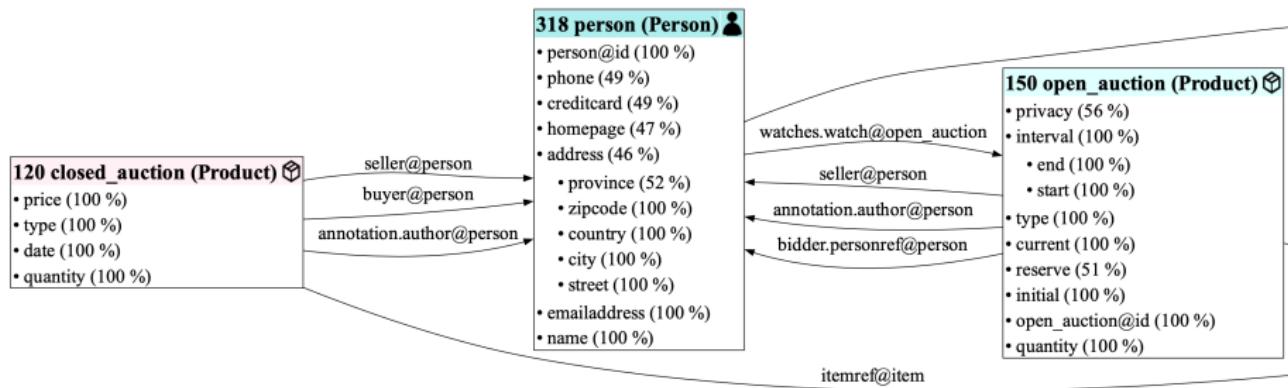
- paper nodes classified as **ResearchPublication**
- author nodes classified as **Researcher**
- conference nodes classified as **Event**



# Abstra output: a lightweight Entity-Relationship diagram



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# Experimental evaluation

On main **semi-structured** data models: 8 JSON, 7 RDF, 5 XML, 3 PG

- 10 synthetic, 13 real-world
- 5M to 14M nodes
- Collection graphs:
  - 26 to 4.8K collections
  - 14/23 have cycles

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Graphs stored in PostgreSQL, algorithms in SQL and Java

We evaluate:

- ① Entity selection quality
- ② Scalability

# Entity selection quality with ( $w_{dwPageRank}$ , $bound_{fl-ac}$ )

Dataset name	$ C $	$ \mathcal{ME} $	$ \mathcal{MR} $	$cov$	$\mathcal{ME}$	$d_{max}$	$ \mathcal{ME}_i $
Mondial 	168	5	8	0.85	City	3	3,152
					Province	3	1,455
					Country	4	231
					Organization	4	168
					River	4	135
PubMed	26	1	0	1.0	PubMedArticle	5	957
XMark1 	136	5	10	0.91	Person	4	25,500
					Item	7	21,750
					Open_Auction	8	12,000
					Closed_Auction	8	9,750
					Category	2	1,000
XMark4 	136	5	10	0.90	Person	4	102,000
					Item	7	87,000
					Open_Auction	8	48,000
					Closed_Auction	8	39,000
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Wikimedia	59	2	0	1.0	Page	4	54,750
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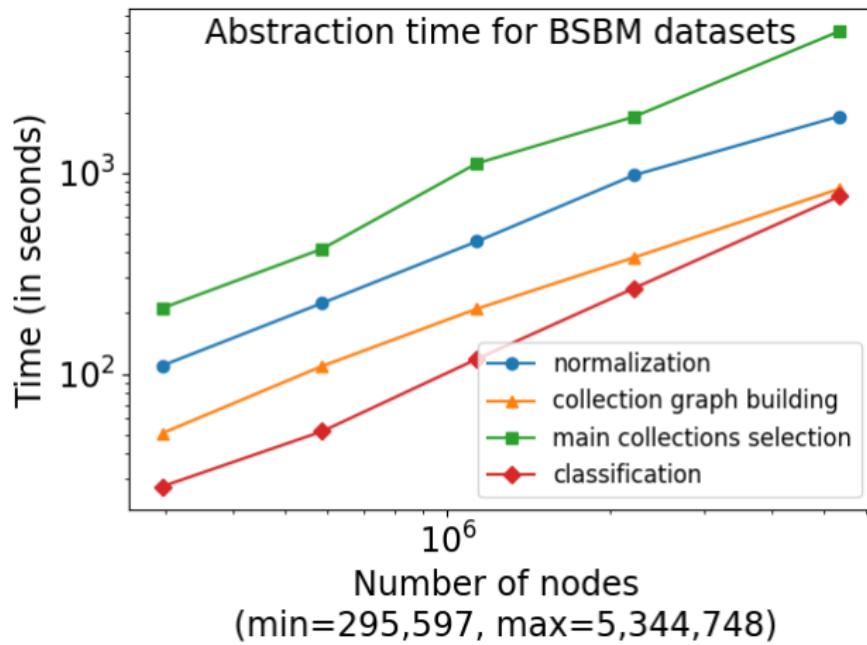
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Abstra selects frequent, coherent and semantically central entities

# Experimental evaluation: scalability



Our abstraction method scales up linearly in the data size

# Related work

## Data summarization

- Structural
  - Quotient [GGM20, KC10, MS99]  
(the one we adopt to build  $\mathcal{G}$ )
  - Non-quotient [GW97]
- Pattern mining [ZLVK16]
- Statistical [HS12]
- Hybrid [RGSB17]

## Schema inference

- XML [CGS11]
- JSON [BCGS19]
- RDF [GLSW22]
- PG [LBH21]

- Data summarization and schema inference are tied to one data model
- Schemas are often not suited to NTUs

# A JSON schema from social network data using [BCGS19]

```
▼ __Content:  
  ▼ _id:  
    ▼ __Content:  
      ▼ $oid:  
        __Kind: "StrType"  
        __Kind: "Record"  
  ▼ code:  
    __Kind: "NumType"  
  ▼ event:  
    ▼ __Content:  
      ▼ @:  
        ▼ __Content:  
          ▼ action:  
            __Kind: "StrType"  
          ▼ attachments:  
            ▼ __Content:  
              ▼ __Content:  
                ▼ @:  
                  ▼ __Content:  
                    ▼ audio:  
                      ▼ __Content:  
                        ▼ @:  
                          ▼ __Content:  
                            ▼ album_id:  
                              __Kind: "NumType"  
                            __Kind: "StrType"  
                            __Kind: "NumType"  
                            __Kind: "NumType"
```

# Outline

- 1 Motivation: exploring semi-structured data
- 2 Overview of our approach
- 3 Abstra: first-sight overview of a dataset
- 4 Pathways: efficiently finding interesting paths
- 5 Systems developed
- 6 Conclusion

# Data is often used to find connections



Columns: #val, FILTERS, DENSITY, EXPORT, ETENDRE LE TEXTE

#val	agency	Spacecraft	description	#val
Algeria	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/2002-054A	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Alesat
Argentina	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1997-002B	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Aerospatiale
Argentina	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1998-069B	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Argentinean National Commission of Space Activities
Australia	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1967-118A	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Sparta
Australia	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1967-118A	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Weapons Research Establishment
Australia	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1985-076B	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Hughes
Australia	http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency	http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacescraft/1987-078A	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description	Aussat

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# How are Named Entities connected?

Enumerate paths between (value) nodes in which NEs have been detected

- On the **data graph** (expensive)
- On the **collection graph** (much faster)
- Regardless of the edge direction

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Each collection graph path, evaluated on the data graph, turns into a relation (set of data paths)

## Challenges:

- Finding only **interesting** paths (to be seen)
- **Efficiently** evaluating the paths over the data graph: multi-query optimization [BGLM24]

# What makes a NE-to-NE path interesting?

Some paths connecting Person NEs (■) to Organization NEs (■)

- ■ ← #val ← Name ← Author → Affiliation → #val → ■

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Which paths are most interesting and deserve to be evaluated?

# What makes a NE-to-NE path interesting?

Some paths are **unreliable**: we face entity extraction errors

- E.g., “John Hopkins University Hospital”  
person
- False positives, or wrong entity type attribution, e.g., “THC”  
org.

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**Path interestingness**: based on **edge reliability** and **edge force**

# What makes a NE-to-NE path interesting?

## ① Reliability $r(C_i \rightarrow \blacksquare)$ of an extraction collection edge

- The ratio of NEs having the type  $\blacksquare$ , and extracted from  $C_i$
- Path reliability: minimum extraction edge reliability

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- ➍ Take a top- $k$  or those having  $r \geq \theta$

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- ```
graph LR; P1[Person] -- "#val 1.0" --> N1[Name]; N1 -- "Author 1.0" --> A1[Affiliation]; A1 -- "#val 0.91" --> O1[Organization]
```

  - Reliable; strong
- ```
graph LR; P2[Person] -- "#val 1.0" --> N2[Name]; N2 -- "Author 1.0" --> A2[Authors]; A2 -- "Article 1.0" --> J2[Journal]; J2 -- "#val 1.0" --> O2[Organization]; P2 -- "#val 0.41" --> O2
```

  - Reliable; weak
- ```
graph LR; P3[Person] -- "#val 0.09" --> C1[COI]; C1 -- "Article 1.0" --> J3[Journal]; J3 -- "#val 0.05" --> G1[green square]; G1 -- "#val 0.09" --> G2[green square]; G2 -- "#val 0.04" --> O3[Organization]
```

  - Not reliable; strong

# PathWays output: data paths as tables

Connect  to  Maximum depth of a path

Sort by

 #val agency Spacecraft description  #val (3903 paths)

 #val (175 paths)

 #val agency Spacecraft name  #val (133 paths)

 #val agency Spacecraft missionProfile  #val (71 paths)

# PathWays output: data paths as tables

| COLUMNS   | FILTERS                                  | DENSITY                                                  | EXPORT                                      | ETENDRE LE TEXTE                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| #val      | agency                                   | Spacecraft                                               | description                                 | #val                                                |
| Algeria   | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/2002-054A | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Alsat                                               |
| Argentina | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1997-002B | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Aerospatiale                                        |
| Argentina | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1998-069B | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Argentinean National Commission of Space Activities |
| Australia | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1967-118A | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Sparta                                              |
| Australia | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1967-118A | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Weapons Research Establishment                      |
| Australia | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1985-076B | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Hughes                                              |
| Australia | http://purl.org/net/schemas/space/agency | http://data.kasabi.com/dataset/nasa/spacecraft/1987-078A | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description | Aussat                                              |

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On 3 **semi-structured** datasets: Yelp (JSON), PubMed (XML), Nasa (RDF):

- Real-world datasets
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We **evaluate** path interestingness

# Experimental evaluation: path interestingness

|        | $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$           | $\min p_{\text{rel}}$ | $\max p_{\text{rel}}$ | $p_{\text{rel}}^{20}$ | $ \mathcal{P} $ | $ \mathcal{P}' $ | $R = \frac{ \mathcal{P}' }{ \mathcal{P} }$ |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| PubMed | (Person, Organization)       | 0.0150                | 0.9142                | 0.0409                | 52              | 20               | 38.45%                                     |
|        | (Person, Location)           | 0.0150                | 0.9107                | 0.0150                | 30              | 20               | 66.66%                                     |
|        | (Location, Organization)     | 0.0150                | 0.9107                | 0.0232                | 34              | 20               | 58.82%                                     |
|        | (Person, Person)             | 0.0150                | 0.9774                | 0.0150                | 24              | 20               | 83.33%                                     |
|        | (Organization, Organization) | 0.0150                | 0.4158                | 0.0232                | 31              | 20               | 64.51%                                     |
|        | (Location, Location)         | 0.0150                | 0.0954                | 0.0150                | 20              | 20               | 100.00%                                    |
| Nasa   | (Person, Organization)       | 0.0014                | 0.0645                | 0.0178                | 191             | 20               | 10.47%                                     |
|        | (Person, Location)           | 0.0014                | 0.0645                | 0.0077                | 142             | 20               | 14.08%                                     |
|        | (Location, Organization)     | 0.0014                | 0.1016                | 0.0077                | 115             | 20               | 17.39%                                     |
|        | (Person, Person)             | 0.0014                | 0.0232                | 0.0077                | 110             | 20               | 18.18%                                     |
|        | (Organization, Organization) | 0.0014                | 0.0581                | 0.0077                | 92              | 20               | 21.73%                                     |
|        | (Location, Location)         | 0.0014                | 0.3790                | 0.0077                | 67              | 20               | 29.85%                                     |
| Yelp   | (Location, Organization)     | 0.0002                | 0.9997                | 0.0002                | 8               | 8                | 100.00%                                    |
|        | (Location, Location)         | 0.0002                | 1.0000                | 0.0002                | 11              | 11               | 100.00%                                    |

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Both reliability and force downgrade meaningless paths (NE errors or structurally weak)

# Related work

## Structured querying

- SQL, SPARQL, GQL  
[DFG<sup>+</sup>22]

## Assisted struct. querying

- Interactive queries [DAB16]
- Guided query writing  
[ERAAL18, KKBS10]
- NL2SQL [KSHL20]

## Keyword-based search

- Unidirectional  
[ABC<sup>+</sup>02, LOF<sup>+</sup>08]
- Bi-directional [ABC<sup>+</sup>22]

## Path search in struct. queries

- SPARQL extensions:  
[ASMH18, AMSH18,  
AMM23]
- For PGs: [DFG<sup>+</sup>22]

- Pathways users need no knowledge of the graph structure or values
- Less intimidating for NTUs

# Outline

- 1 Motivation: exploring semi-structured data
- 2 Overview of our approach
- 3 Abstra: first-sight overview of a dataset
- 4 Pathways: efficiently finding interesting paths
- 5 Systems developed
- 6 Conclusion

# Systems developed

## Abstra for data abstraction:

- <https://team.inria.fr/cedar/projects/abstra/>
  - 65 Java core classes and 10K LOC
  - Demonstrated at CIKM 2022 [BMU22] (also BDA 2022)

## PathWays for NE-to-NE paths:

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  - 18 Java core classes and 4K LOC
  - Demonstrated at ESWC 2023 [BGLM23b] (also BDA 2023)

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## ConnectionStudio for NTU data exploration:

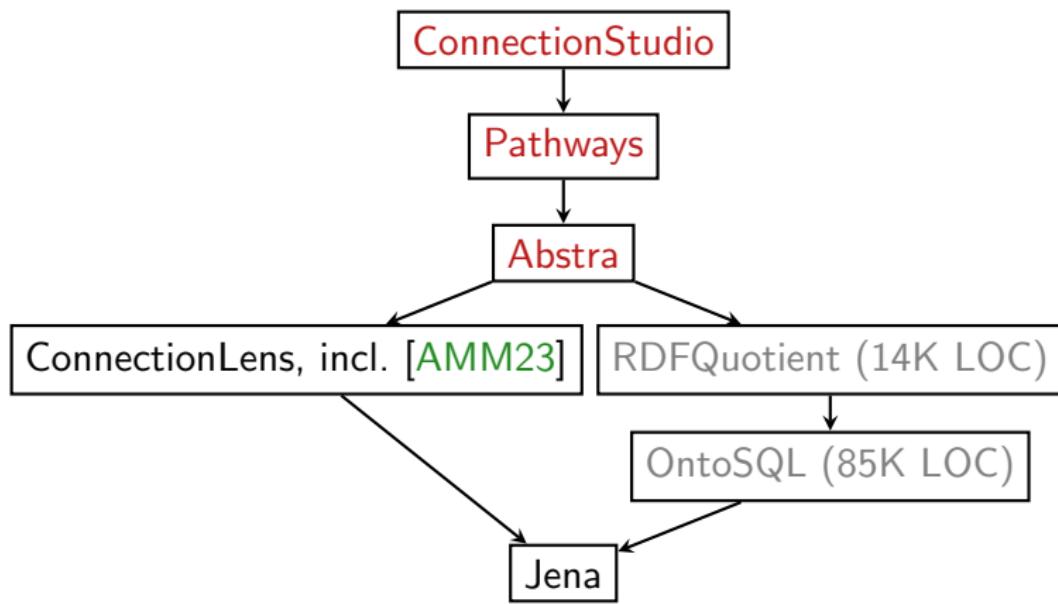
- <https://connectionstudio.inria.fr/>
  - 4K Java LOC and 21K JavaScript LOC (w/ T. Galizzi, S. Ebel, M. Mohanty)
  - Demonstrated at CoopIS 2023 [BEG<sup>+</sup>23] (also BDA 2023)

# ConnectionStudio software pile

All deployed using Maven, hundreds of unit tests, etc.

Help from T. Galizzi, M. Mohanty

Several rounds of re-engineering (ML model memory consumption, etc.)



# A comprehensive data exploration tool for NTUs

ConnectionStudio: a data lake for ingesting, exploring and querying heterogeneous data

- ① Data abstractions as E-R diagrams (Abstra)
- ② NE-to-NE paths as tables (PathWays)
- ③ “Gentle introduction” to the data lake (w/ journalist input)

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Demonstrated to journalists at **DataJournos** (40) and **CFI** (60)

ConnectionStudio interesting for a first look at the data.  
Still maturing...

# Outline

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# Takeaways and next steps

## We introduced:

- ① A unified view over heterogeneous semi-structured data models
- ② Abstra: a dataset abstraction system for semi-structured data
- ③ PathWays: an entity-focused exploration system
- ④ ConnectionStudio: a comprehensive data lake exploration tool

# Takeaways and next steps

## We introduced:

- ① A unified view over heterogeneous semi-structured data models
- ② Abstra: a dataset abstraction system for semi-structured data
- ③ PathWays: an entity-focused exploration system
- ④ ConnectionStudio: a comprehensive data lake exploration tool

## Next steps:

- Generate PG schemas from abstractions [BEMM24]
- Migrate data graphs into PG graphs
- Enrich extracted NEs with RDF knowledge bases

# Publications (1/2)

**Abstra:** N. Barret, T. Enache, N. Dobričić, S. Ebel, T. Galizzi, I. Manolescu, P. Upadhyay, M. Mohanty

- ① Finding the PG schema of any (semi)structured dataset: a tale of graphs and abstraction, *SEAGraph'24*
- ② Computing generic abstractions from application datasets, *EDBT'24*
- ③ Abstra: toward generic abstractions for data of any model, *CIKM'22*
- ④ Toward Generic Abstractions for Data of Any Model, *BDA'21*
- ⑤ Facilitating Heterogeneous Dataset Understanding, *BDA'21*

## Publications (2/2)

**PathWays:** **N. Barret**, A. Gauquier, J. J. Law, I. Manolescu

- ① Exploring heterogeneous data graphs through their entity paths,  
*INFSYS'24 – submitted*
- ② Exploring heterogeneous data graphs through their entity paths,  
*ADBIS'23*
- ③ PathWays: entity-focused exploration of heterogeneous data graphs,  
*ESWC'23*

**ConnectionStudio:** **N. Barret**, S. Ebel, T. Galizzi, I. Manolescu, M. Mohanty

- ① User-friendly exploration of highly heterogeneous data lakes, *EGC'24*
- ② User-friendly exploration of highly heterogeneous data lakes,  
*CoopIS'23*

# Thanks

- My PhD advisor: Ioana Manolescu
- Interns I co-supervised
- The CEDAR team
- My family



*The CEDAR team at Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse in 2023*

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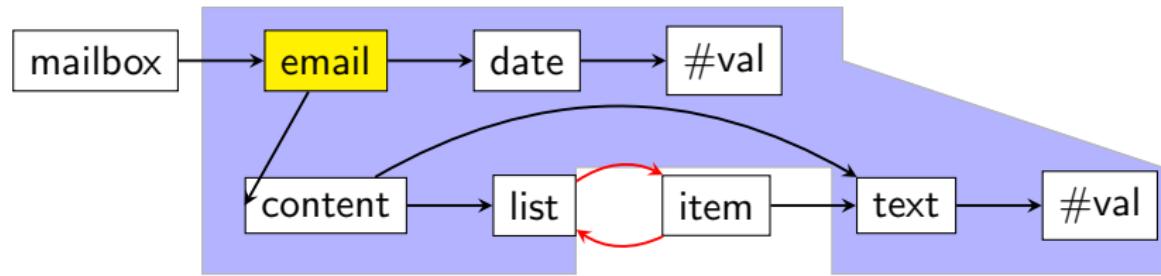
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# Data-acyclic flooding boundary



The boundary is truncated due to cyclic collection edges

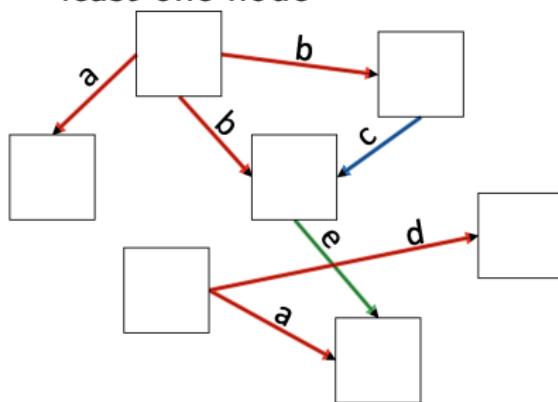
# Entity classification time

The **classification time** is composed of:

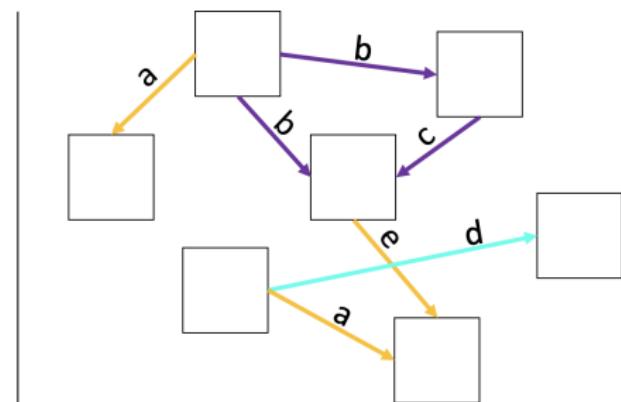
- Loading the Word2Vec semantic model
  - Constant, 4-8 seconds
- Comparing entity attributes with semantic properties
  - Varies with the number of entities and their number of attributes
  - May vary in a generated dataset of different sizes (different entity roots)
- Computing entity profiles
  - Linear in the input size

# RDF quotient graph summarization [GGM20]

- **Source clique**: set of outgoing properties co-occurring together on at least one node
- **Target clique**: set of incoming properties co-occurring together on at least one node



Properties “a”, “b”, “d” are in the same source clique



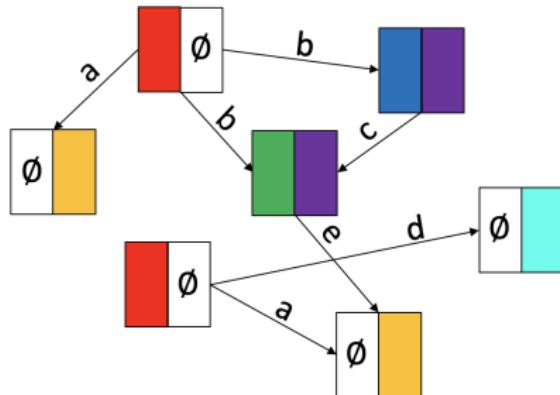
Properties “a” and “e” are in the same target clique

(c) Paweł Guzewic

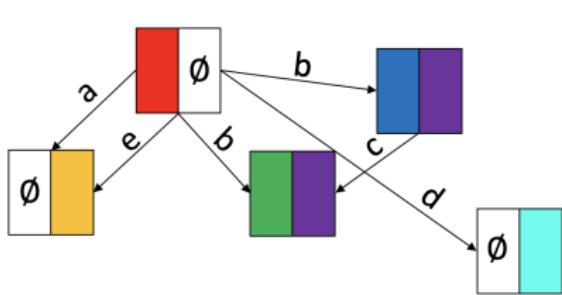
# Strong summary [GGM20]

## Strong S summary:

- Two nodes are **S equivalent** iff they have **both** the same source and target cliques



Source and target cliques for each node



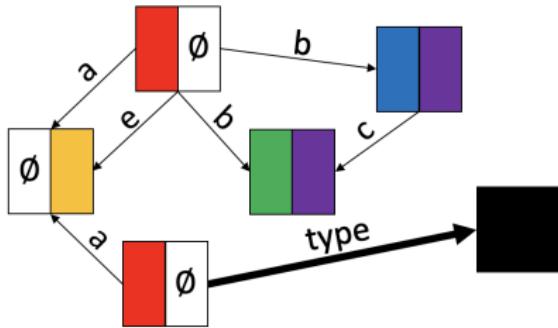
Strong summary

(c) Paweł Guzewic

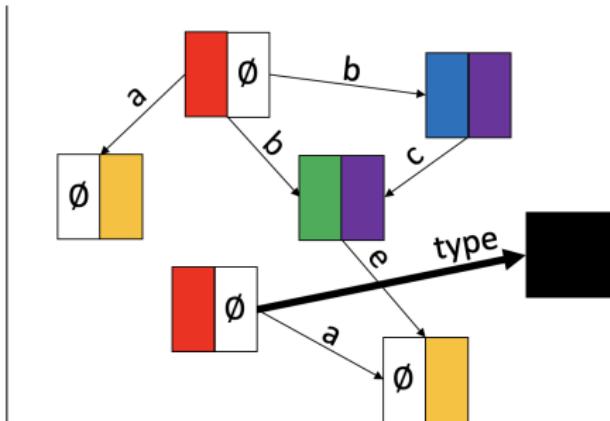
# Typed-strong summary [GGM20]

## Typed-strong TS summary:

- Two **typed** nodes are **TS equivalent** iff they have the same type set
- Two **untyped** nodes are **TS equivalent** iff they have **both** the same source and target cliques



Source and target cliques for each node + an RDF type



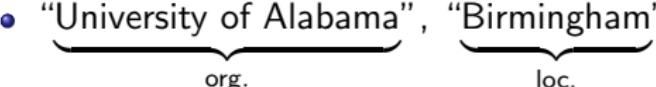
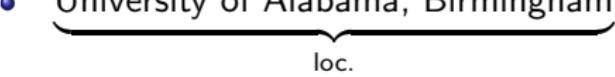
Typed-strong summary

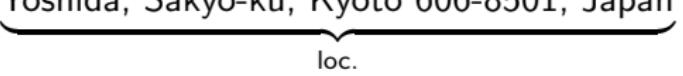
(c) Paweł Guzewic

# Disagreement between Flair and ChatGPT

- False Flair positives:
  - Flair identifies “Av. Peter Henry Rolfs 36570-900 Vicos”  

- Flair mislead by capitalization:
  - Flair identifies “Claudin-7b” (but not ChatGPT)  

- Different token allocation:
  - “University of Alabama”, “Birmingham”  

  - “University of Alabama, Birmingham”  

- Missed non-English spelling/names:
  - ChatGPT finds “Antonio González”  

  - ChatGPT finds “Yoshida, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan”  


# A comprehensive data exploration tool for NTUs

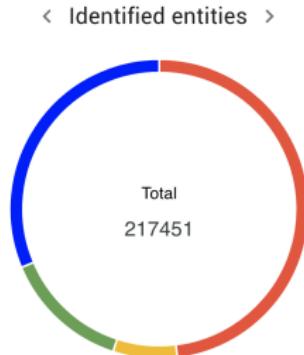
Explore

## Connection Studio Statistics



Project: Hatvp Cac

### Entities distribution by type



- Number of dates
- Number of Persons
- Number of Places
- Number of Organizations
- Number of hashtags

### Entity cloud

[SVG](#)   [PNG](#)

|                            |                          |                         |             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Retraitee                  | Communauté               | Conseil de surveillance |             |
| VICE PRESIDENTE            | Conseil de Surveillance  | 22/06/2022              |             |
| CONSEIL                    | Conseil d'Administration | SEM                     |             |
| SARL                       | Conseil Régional         | 03/20                   | PRESIDENTE  |
| SCEA                       | SDIS                     | 06/07/2020              | 07/20       |
| 11/07/2020                 | 2015                     | 2018                    | Vice GFA    |
| Conseil                    | Conseil départemental    | 05/20                   | 01/07/2021  |
| Conseillère Départementale | 02/20 AG 2022            | 19/06/2022              | Retraité    |
| Membre CA                  | 04/20                    | néant                   | 15/07/2020  |
| Comité                     | 06/20                    | 01/20                   | 12/20       |
| CCAS                       | 1901 2026 10/07/2020     |                         |             |
| Comité syndical            | 09/20                    | CA sci 2014             | PRESIDENT   |
| Régional                   | 08/20 2019               | SCI                     | Département |
| 09/07/2020                 | France                   | 2021                    | Membre      |
| 27/09/2020                 | Mme 11/20                | 2017                    | Député      |
| Education Nationale        | SCI 10/20                | neant                   | Sénateur    |
| 15/03/2020                 | NEANT                    | 03/07/2020              | 30/06/2020  |
| Métropole                  | 28/06/2020               | Conseiller Régional     | Bureau      |
| 2012                       | Education nationale      | 04/07/2020              | 08/07/2020  |
| MEMBRE CA                  | VICE PRESIDENT           |                         |             |
| CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION   | 24/09/2017               |                         |             |
| 07/07/2020                 | 02/07/2021               | Communauté de communes  |             |
| 17/07/2020                 |                          |                         |             |

# A comprehensive data exploration tool for NTUs

Path 1  
declaration.general.declarer.name#val

Path 2  
declaration.financialInterest.items.item

Path 3  
item.company#val.extract:o

Path 4  
item.nbShares#val

Path 5  
row.company\_name.#val.extract:o

Starting variable decla  
Ending variable deputyName

Starting variable decla  
Ending variable item

Starting variable item  
Ending variable companyName

Starting variable item  
Ending variable nbShares

Starting variable csvline  
Ending variable companyName

EVALUATE THE QUERY    SAVE CHANGES

Join  
 Required    Optional   

Join  
 Required    Optional   

Join  
 Required    Optional   

Join  
 Required    Optional   

| COLUMNS | FILTERS                    | DENSITY | EXPORT      |          |         |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|---------|
| decla   | deputyname                 | item    | companyname | nbshares | csvline |
| 2660    | alain pierre marie rousset | 2743    | sanofi      | 1200     | 352     |
| 1470    | edouard courtial           | 1511    | lvmh        | 29013    | 248     |
| 1470    | edouard courtial           | 1543    | michelin    | 162179   | 261     |

# Experimental evaluation: Flair VS ChatGPT NE extractors

|                    | GPT Person  | GPT Location | GPT Organization | GPT no entity |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Flair Person       | <b>5913</b> | 6            | 11               | 98            |
| Flair Location     | 25          | <b>1088</b>  | 507              | 905           |
| Flair Organization | 36          | 141          | <b>2988</b>      | <u>1797</u>   |
| Flair no entity    | 101         | <u>1335</u>  | <u>1233</u>      | —             |

Flair and ChatGPT mostly agree  
ChatGPT extraction has better quality