Answering Aggregate Queries in Data Exchange

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Data Exchange

Transform data structured under a schema (source schema) into data structured under another schema (target schema) Two of the main issues:

- Algorithms for materializing a "good" target instance.
- Semantics and algorithms for answering target queries:

Query Answering

- Earlier work has focused on the certain answers of target FO queries, with emphasis on conjunctive queries.
- In this work we consider aggregate queries over the target:
 - We give semantics for aggregate query answering.
 - We give PTIME algorithms for aggregate query answering (data complexity).

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Data exchange setting considered:

- source schema;
- target schema;
- source-to-target constraints specified by s-t tgds.

Aggregate queries considered

Scalar aggregation queries

```
SELECT f FROM R,
```

where

- f is one of the aggregate operators min(A), max(A), count(A), sum(A), avg(A), and count(*), and
- A is an attribute of a target relation R.

Basic Notions (FKMP 2003)

- $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \Sigma)$ is a schema mapping, where Σ is a set of s-t tgds.
- A source-to-target tuple-generating dependency (or an s-t tgd) is a FO-formula ∀x(φ(x) → ∃yψ(x, y)), where φ(x) is a conjunction of atoms over S, ψ(x, y) is a conjunction of atoms over T, and every variable in x occurs in an atom in φ(x).
- Each s-t tgd is a global-and-local-as-view (GLAV) constraint.
- If *I* a is source instance, then a solution for *I* under *M* is a target instance *J* such that (*I*, *J*) ⊨ Σ.

Example

Let ${\mathcal M}$ be specified by the s-t tgd

$$\forall x \forall y (E(x,y) \rightarrow \exists z (F(x,z) \land F(z,y)).$$

If $I = \{E(1,2)\}$, then the following target instances are solutions for I:

- $J_1 = \{E(1,1), E(1,2)\}.$
- $J_2 = \{E(1,2), E(2,2)\}.$
- $J_3 = \{E(1, w), E(w, 2)\}$, where w is a labeled null.
- $J_4 = \{E(1, w_1), E(w_1, 2), E(1, w_2), E(w_2, 2)\}$, where w_1 , w_2 are labeled nulls.

There are infinitely many solutions for *I*.

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Definition (FKMP 2003)

A universal solution for I under \mathcal{M} : is a solution J for I under \mathcal{M} such that for every solution J' for I under \mathcal{M} , there is a homomorphism $h: J \to J'$.

Note:

- Intuitively, universal solutions are the the most general solutions in data exchange; they carry no more and no less information than what is specified by the constraints of the schema mapping.
- Universal solutions are reminiscent of the most general unifiers in logic programming.
- Every two universal solutions are homomorphically equivalent.

Universal Solutions

Example

Let ${\mathcal M}$ be specified by the s-t tgd

$$\forall x \forall y (E(x,y) \rightarrow \exists z (F(x,z) \land F(z,y)).$$

If $I = \{E(1,2)\}$, then:

- $J_1 = \{E(1,1), E(1,2)\}$ is not a universal solution for I.
- $J_2 = \{E(1,2), E(2,2)\}$ is not a universal solution for *I*.
- $J_3 = \{E(1, w), E(w, 2)\}$ is a universal solution for I (labeled nulls can be mapped to constants)
- J₄ = {E(1, w₁), E(w₁, 2), E(1, w₂), E(w₂, 2)} is a universal solution for I (labelled nulls can be mapped to constants or to labelled nulls).
- $J_5 = \{E(1, w), E(w, 2), E(w, w)\}$ is not a universal solution for *I*, even though it contains one.

There are infinitely many universal solutions for *I*.

Theorem [FKMP 2003]

A canonical universal solution CanSol(I) for I under \mathcal{M} can be obtained in time polynomial in the size of I using the naive chase procedure.

Naive chase

for every s-t tgd $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) \to \exists \mathbf{y} \psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ in Σ and for every tuple **a** from *I* such that $I \models \varphi(\mathbf{a})$, we introduce a fresh tuple of distinct nulls **u** and create new facts in the canonical universal solution so that $\psi(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{u})$ holds.

Canonical Universal Solutions and the Chase Procedure

Example

Let ${\mathcal M}$ be specified by the s-t tgd

$$\forall x \forall y (E(x,y) \rightarrow \exists z (F(x,z) \land F(z,y)).$$

If $I = \{E(1,2)\}$, then the canonical universal solution produced by the naive chase procedure is $J_3 = \{E(1,w), E(w,2)\}$.

Example

Let \mathcal{M}' be specified by the s-t tgd

 $\forall x \forall y (E(x, y) \rightarrow \exists z_1 \exists z_2 (F(x, z_1) \land F(z_1, y) \land P(z_2)).$

If $I = \{E(1,2), E(1,3)\}$, then the canonical universal solution is

 $J = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), P(w_2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3), P(w_4)\}.$

Definition

A database instance J' is a core of a database instance J if

- $J' \subseteq J$.
- There is a homomorphism $h: J \rightarrow J'$.
- There is no $J^* \subset J'$ such that there is a homomorphism $h^*: J \to J^*$.

Example

- If a graph G is 3-colorable and contains a triangle K₃, then K₃ is a core of G.
- K_n is a core of K_n , where K_n is the *n*-clique, $n \ge 2$.
- if $J = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), P(w_2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3), P(w_4)\}$, then J_1 and J_2 are cores of J, where
 - $J_1 = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), P(w_2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3)\}.$
 - $J_2 = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3), P(w_4)\}.$

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Facts

- Every (finite) instance has a core.
- All cores of an instance are unique up to isomorphism, hence we can talk about the core of an instance.
- If J and J' are homomorphically equivalent, then their cores are isomorphic.
- Computing the core of an instance is an NP-hard problem.
- (FKP 2003) The following problem is DP-complete: Given two undirected graphs G and H, is H the core of G?
 Note: NP ∪ coNP ⊆ DP.

Fact:

- Since all universal solutions for an instance *I* are homomorphically equivalent, they have isomorphic cores.
- Hence, we refer to the core of the universal solutions for *I*.
- The core of the universal solution for *I* is the *smallest* universal solution for *I*.

Theorem [FKP 2003]

If \mathcal{M} is a schema mapping specified by s-t tgds, then there is a polynomial-time algorithm such that, given a source instance *I*, it computes the core of the universal solution for *I*.

Possible Worlds and Certain Answers

Definition

For every instance I over some schema \mathbf{R} , let $\mathcal{W}(I)$ be a set of instances over some (possibly different) schema \mathbf{R}^* (set of possible worlds). Let Q be a query over \mathbf{R}^* .

• A k-tuple t is a certain answer of Q w.r.t. I and $\mathcal{W}(I)$ if for every $J \in \mathcal{W}(I)$, we have that $\mathbf{t} \in Q(J)$.

• certain
$$(Q, I, W(I)) = \bigcap_{J \in W(I)} Q(J).$$

Note:

- The certain answer semantics is the standard semantics of query answering in the context of incomplete information.
- On the face of the definition, computing the certain answers entails taking an intersection over a potentially infinite set. In general, this is highly non-constructive.

Question:

Fix a schema mapping $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \Sigma)$ and a FO-query Q over the target T. Given a source instance I, compute the certain answers of Q w.r.t. I. What should the set $\mathcal{W}(I)$ of the set of possible worlds for I be?

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Three different approaches

- 1. The set Sol(I) of all solutions for I. [FKMP 2003]
- 2. The set USol(I) of all universal solutions for I. [FKP 2003]
- The set Rep(CanSol(1)) derived from the collection of CWA-solutions for 1. [Libkin 2006]

Theorem

Fix a schema mapping $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \Sigma)$ specified by s-t tgds.

If Q is a union of conjunctive queries over T and I is an S-instance, then
 certain(Q, I, Sol(I)) = certain(Q, I, USol(I)) =

 $\operatorname{certain}(Q, I, \operatorname{Rep}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))).$

 If Q is a union of conjunctive queries over T, then certain(Q, I, Sol(I)) = Q(CanSol(I)) ↓. Hence, certain(Q, I, Sol(I)) is computable in polynomial time. [FKMP 2003]

If Q is a union of conjunctive queries with inequalities ≠ over T, then certain(Q, I, USol(I)) = Q(core(CanSol(I))) ↓. Hence, certain(Q, I, USol(I)) is computable in polynomial time. [FKP 2003]

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Certain Answers of Aggregate Queries

M. Arenas, L. E. Bertossi, J. Chomicki, X. He, V. Raghavan, and J. Spinrad: Scalar aggregation in inconsistent databases - 2003.

Definition (Q a FO-query, f an aggregate operator)

- A value r is a possible answer of Q with respect to I and W(I) if there is an instance J in W(I) such that f(Q)(J) = r.
- poss(f(Q), I, W(I)) denotes the set of all possible answers of the aggregate query f(Q).
- The aggregate certain answers of the aggregate query f(Q) with respect to I and $\mathcal{W}(I)$ is the interval

 $[\mathrm{glb}(\mathrm{poss}(f(Q),I,\mathcal{W}(I))),\mathrm{lub}(\mathrm{poss}(f(Q),I,\mathcal{W}(I)))].$

They are denoted by $\operatorname{agg-certain}(f(Q), I, \mathcal{W}(I))$,

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Definition (informal)

- An inconsistent database is an instance that violates one or more integrity constraints in a given set of constraints.
- A repair of an inconsistent database *I* is an instance *I'* that satisfies the given constraints and differs from *I* in a minimal way.
- $\mathcal{R}(I)$ is the set of all repairs of I.

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- $\mathcal{R}(I)$ is the set of all repairs of I.

Theorem [Arenas et al. - 2003]

Computing agg-certain($avg(R.A), I, \mathcal{R}(I)$) can be coNP-hard even if the set of integrity constraints consists of just two functional dependencies.

Semantics of Aggregate Queries in Data Exchange

Approach:

We will adopt the aggregate certain answers as the semantics of aggregate target queries in data exchange.

Question:

What is the *right* choice of possible worlds in this case?

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Sets of possible worlds for FO-queries in data exchange:

- The set Sol(*I*) of all solutions (FKMP03).
- The set USol(*I*) of all universal solutions (FKP03).
- The set $\operatorname{Rep}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))$ obtained from CWA solutions (Libkin 2006).

Fact:

Each of these sets of possible worlds gives rise to rather trivial aggregate certain answers.

Bolzano, October 17, 2008 ()

Fact (Using Sol(I) as W(I))

If *I* is a source instance and *f* is one of min, max, sum, avg, then $\operatorname{agg-certain}(f(R), I, \operatorname{Sol}(I)) = (-\infty, \infty)$.

Fact (Using USol(I) as W(I))

Let $a = \min(R.A)(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))$ and $b = \max(R.A)(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))$

- agg-certain(min(R.A), I, USol(I)) = a.
- 2 $\operatorname{agg-certain}(\max(R.A), I, \operatorname{USol}(I)) = b.$
- If a = b, then agg-certain(avg(R.A), I, USol(I)) = a.
- If a < b, then agg-certain(avg(R.A), I, USol(I)) = (a, b).

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Definition

Let $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{ST}, \Sigma)$ be a schema mapping specified by s-t tgds. Libkin (2006) defined the concept of a CWA-solution for a source instance I by giving a set of "axioms" that such a solution should satisfy.

Theorem [Libkin06]

The following two statements are equivalent.

- J is a CWA-solution for I.
- J is a homomorphic image of CanSol(I); moreover, there is a homomorphism from J to CanSol(I).

$\operatorname{Rep}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))$ as Sets of Possible Worlds

Definition

- $\operatorname{Rep}(J)$ coincides with the set of null-free homomorphic images of J.
- Libkin took the set ⋃_{J∈CWA(I)} Rep(J) as the set of possible worlds for the semantics of FO-queries in data exchange.

Proposition

 $\bigcup_{J \in \text{CWA}(I)} \text{Rep}(J) = \text{Rep}(\text{CanSol}(I)).$ In words, the set of possible worlds $\mathcal{W}(I)$ considered by Libkin is simply the set of all null-free homomorphic images of CanSol(I).

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Fact (Using $\operatorname{Rep}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))$ as $\mathcal{W}(I)$)

If $\operatorname{CanSol}(I)$ contains at least one fact $R(\mathbf{t})$ in which $\mathbf{t}[A]$ is a null, then agg-certain $(f(R), I, \operatorname{Rep}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I)) = (-\infty, \infty)$.

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Notation

If *I* is a source instance, then Endom(I) stands for the set of all endomorphic images of CanSol(I).

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Example

Let \mathcal{M}' be specified by the s-t tgd

$$\forall x \forall y (E(x,y) \rightarrow \exists z_1 \exists z_2 (F(x,z_1) \land F(z_1,y) \land P(z_2)).$$

If $I = \{E(1,2), E(1,3)\}$, then Endom(I) consists of

$$J = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), P(w_2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3), P(w_4)\}$$

$$J_1 = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), P(w_2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3)\}$$

$$J_2 = \{F(1, w_1), F(w_1, 2), F(1, w_3), F(w_3, 3), P(w_4)\}.$$

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Proposal

Use $\operatorname{Endom}(I)$ as sets of possible worlds $\mathcal{W}(I)$ for the semantics of aggregate queries in data exchange.

Properties

- Endom(I) contains both CanSol(I) and core(CanSol(I)) as members. Moreover, Endom(I) ⊆ USol(I).
- Every member of Endom(*I*) is a sub-instance of CanSol(*I*); the converse, however, need not hold.
- Every member of Endom(*I*) is a CWA-solution for *I*; the converse, however, need not hold.

Some reasons for this choice:

- The members of Endom(*I*) adhere to a strict closed world assumption.
- If Endom(1) are used as sets of possible worlds for the semantics of conjunctive queries Q, then

 $\operatorname{certain}(Q, I, \operatorname{Endom}(I)) = \operatorname{certain}(Q, I, \operatorname{Sol}(I)).$

agg-certain(f(Q), I, Endom(I)) is non-trivial semantics for aggregate queries f(Q).

PTIME Algorithms for max, min, count

Proposition

CanSol(I) and core(CanSol(I)) suffice for max, min, count, and a special case of sum.

- For every instance T ∈ Endom(I), we have that max(R.A)(T) = max(R.A)(CanSol(I)) = a. Similarly for min.
- $\operatorname{agg-certain}(\operatorname{count}(R.A), I, \operatorname{Endom}(I)) =$ [$\operatorname{count}(R.A)(\operatorname{core}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))), \operatorname{count}(R.A)(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))].$

If all numeric constants in *I* are non-negative integers, then agg-certain(sum(*R*.*A*), *I*, Endom(*I*)) = .
 [sum(*R*.*A*)(core(CanSol(*I*))), sum(*Q*)(CanSol(*I*))].

Note

For sum in the general case, we use a simpler version of the technique that we will use for the average.

Exponentially Many Endomorphic Images

Example

 $\bullet\,$ Schema mapping ${\cal M}$ consisting of

$$\forall x, y(P(x, y) \rightarrow T(x, y))$$

 $\forall x, y(Q(x, y) \rightarrow \exists z T(x, z)).$

- Source instance $I_n = \{P(a_1, b_1), \dots, P(a_n, b_n), Q(a_1, c_1), \dots, Q(a_n, c_n)\}.$
- $\operatorname{CanSol}(I_n)$ is

$$J_n = \{ T(a_1, b_1), \dots, T(a_n, b_n), T(a_1, u_1), \dots, T(a_n, u_n) \}.$$

- Every subset K of $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ determines an endomorphism h_K of J_n , and vice versa.
- Thus, Endom(*I*) consists of exponentially many endomorphic images, one for each subset of $\{1, ..., n\}$.

Bolzano, October 17, 2008 ()

Example (Continued)

- $K \subseteq \{1,\ldots,n\}.$
- count $((T.A)^{J_K}) = n + |K|$ and sum $((T.A)^{J_K} = (\sum_{i=1}^n a_i) + (\sum_{i \in K} a_i).$
- Consequently,

 $\operatorname{agg-certain}(\operatorname{count}(T.A), I_n, \operatorname{Endom}(I_n)) = [n, 2n]$

and

agg-certain(sum(T.A), I_n , Endom(I_n)) = [$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i, 2 \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$].

Moreover, the endpoints of these intervals are obtained by evaluating count(*T.A*) and sum(*T.A*) on core(CanSol(*I_n*)) and on CanSol(*I_n*).

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Example (Continued)

Answering queries with the average, however, is more complicated. Take the source instance

$$I = \{(1, b_1), (2, b_2), (3, b_3)\}.$$

Then

• agg-certain(avg(T.A), I, Endom(I)) = [7/4, 9/4].

• $\operatorname{avg}(T.A)(\operatorname{core}(\operatorname{CanSol}(I))) = 2 = \operatorname{avg}(T.A)(\operatorname{CanSol}(I)).$

Theorem

Let $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \Sigma)$ be a schema mapping in which Σ is a set of s-t tgds, let R be a target relation, and let A an attribute of R. Then there is a PTIME algorithm for the following problem: given a source instance I, compute agg-certain(avg(R.A), I, Endom(I)).

Proof Hint:

Will only describe some of the concepts and the ingredients for the algorithm.

Definition (FKP 2003)

Let K be a target instance.

- The Gaifman graph of the nulls of K has the nulls of K as nodes; two nulls are connected via an edge if they occur in some fact of K.
- A block of K is a a connected component of the Gaifman graph of K.
- A block homomorphism of B is a homomorphism from B to K.

Fact

- There is a polynomial p(n) such that, for every source instance I, the number of blocks of CanSol(I) is bounded by p(|I|).
- Let c be the maximum number of existential quantifiers ∃y appearing in a s-t tgd ∀x(φ(x) → ∃yφ(x, y)) in Σ. If I is a source instance, then every block B of CanSol(I) has size at most constant c.

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PTIME Algorithm for avg

Basic Ingredients

- We design a PTIME algorithm for avg that, given *I*, finds endomorphic images *J* and *J'* of CanSol(*I*) that realize the optimum (minimum and maximum) values for avg.
- We can partition the set of integers in polynomially many critical intervals determined by the blocks.
- For each critical interval, we can decide which block homomorphism is optimum, supposing that the value of the optimum avg is in this interval.
- We can find the optimum endomorphic image by assembling the optimum block homomorphisms.
- Assembling block homomorphisms requires care.

$\ensuremath{\mathsf{PTIME}}$ Algorithm for $\ensuremath{\mathrm{avg}}$

Example

 $\bullet~\mbox{Revisit}~\ensuremath{\mathcal{M}}$ consisting of

$$\forall x, y(P(x, y) \rightarrow T(x, y))$$

 $\forall x, y(Q(x, y) \rightarrow \exists z T(x, z)).$

- For every source instance *I*, each block of CanSol(*I*) is of size one.
- Critical intervals are determined by the values of the attribute A.
- The problem of finding an endomorphic image with the minimum average is literally equivalent to the following combinatorial problem: Given a bag S of positive integers, find a sub-bag S' of S such that:
 (a) S and S' have the same set of distinct numbers; and
 (b) the average of the members of S' is minimized.
- Thus, computing agg-certain(avg(*T*.*A*), *I*, Endom(*I*)) is an algorithmically interesting problem, even for seemingly very simple schema mappings *M*.

In contrast to the aggregate certain answers, computing the possible answers of scalar aggregation queries with the average operator turns out to be an NP-complete problem.

Theorem

There is a schema mapping $\mathcal{M} = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \Sigma)$ in which Σ is a finite set of s-t tgds and such that the following problem is NP-complete: given a source instance I and a number r, is there a target instance $J \in \text{Endom}(I)$ such that $\operatorname{avg}(R.A)(J) = r$?

Hint of Proof:

Reduction from the PARTITION PROBLEM.

Summary of Contributions

- We have given semantics for aggregate queries in data exchange.
- We have given polynomial algorithms to compute the aggregate certain answers under these semantics and for schema mappings specified by s-t tgds.
- More recently, we have shown that computing the aggregate certain answers for schema mappings specified by SO tgds is NP-hard.

Next Steps

- Study aggregate queries for schema mappings specified by s-t tgds and target tgds.
- Semantics and the complexity of richer aggregate queries with GROUP BY constructs.

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