

ASP-Based System to Collective Entity Resolution

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Entity Resolution (ER)

Entity resolution (*ironically goes with different names: deduplication, record linkage, entity matching...*)

- to identify **different constants** representing **the same entity**
- usually in structured/semi-structured data sources, e.g. **database**, knowledge graph

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Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
p1	J.Smith	32	123456	brufen
p2	John Smith	32	12345-6	aspirin

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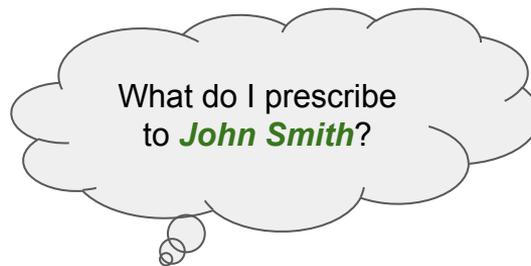
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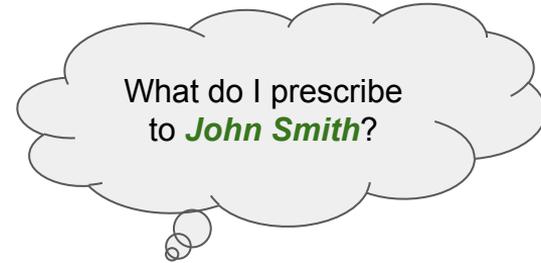


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Critical to **data quality** and **decision making**!

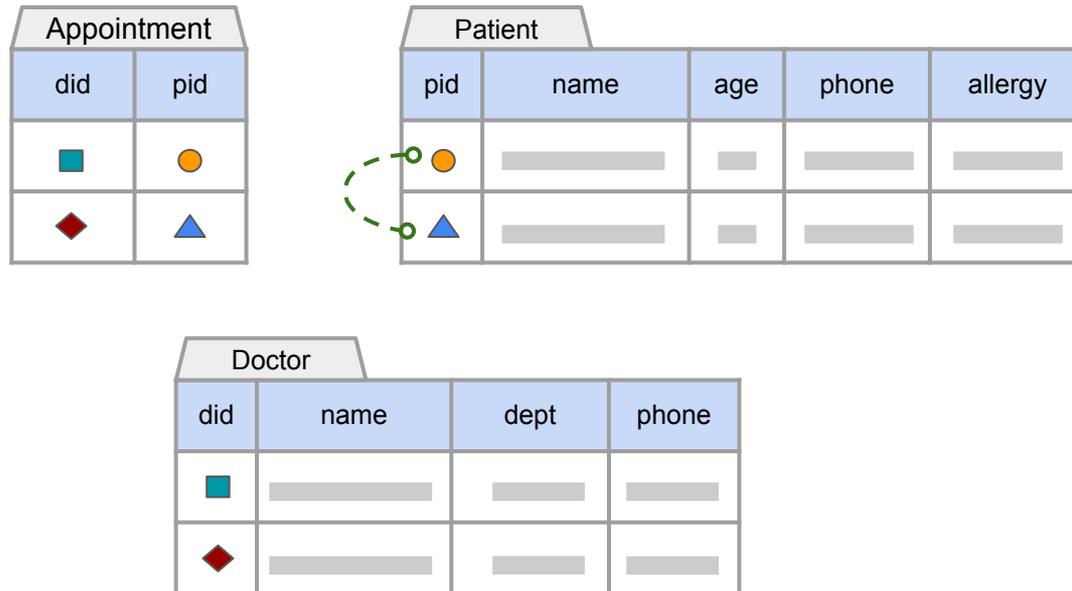
Entity Resolution (ER)

Traditional: within **single-table** or **table pair** (same entity type)

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
	_____	__	_____	_____
	_____	__	_____	_____

Entity Resolution (ER)

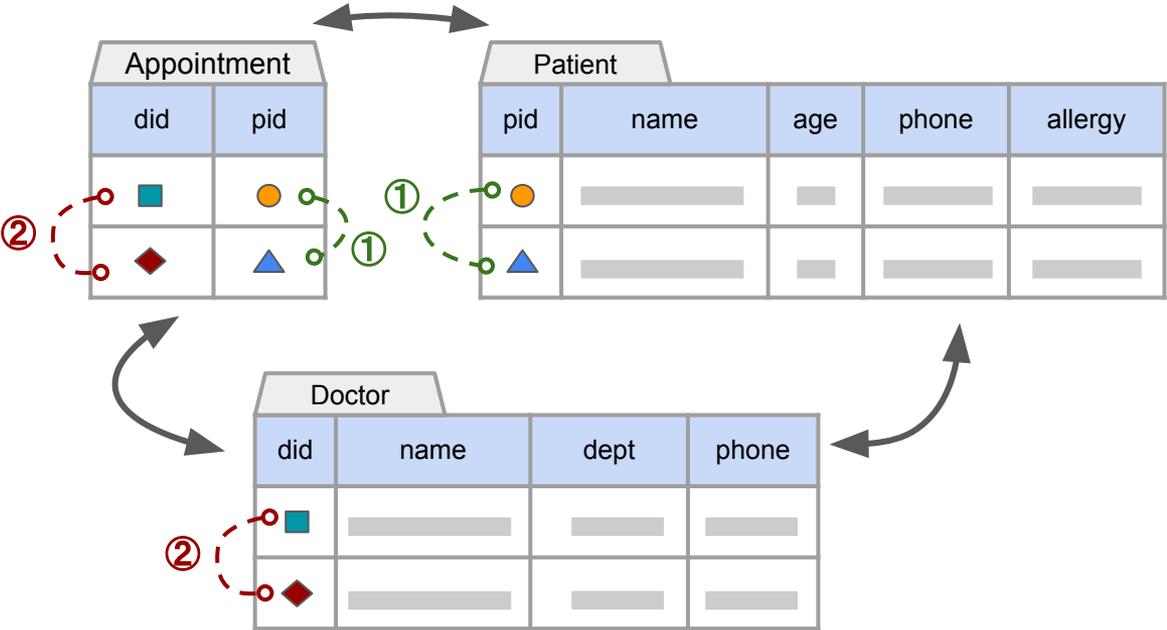
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Entity Resolution (ER)

Traditional: within **single-table** or **table pair** (same entity type)

Collective: across **multiple tables**, exploit **inter-dependencies** between tables



Existing work

Deep learning methods excel in **pairwise** setting,

Output:

yes or no

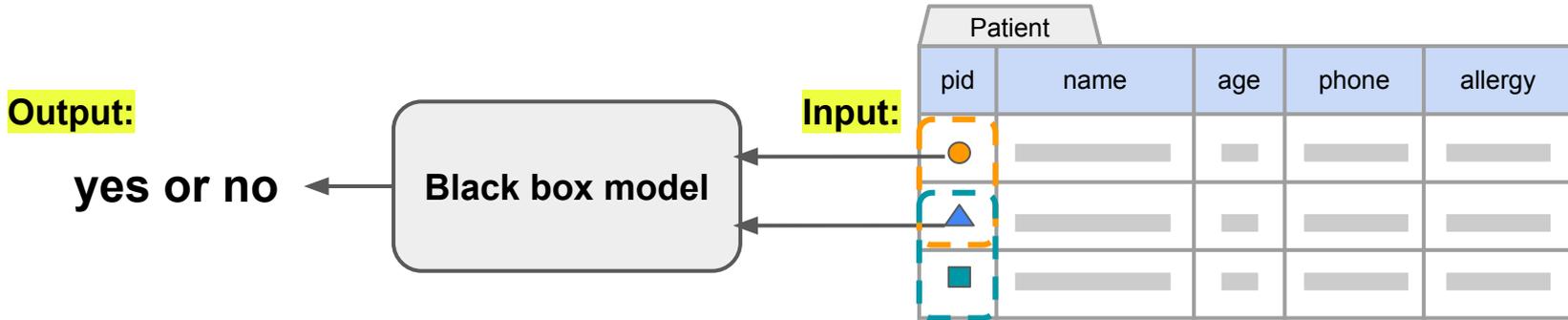


Input:

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
○	_____	—	_____	_____
▲	_____	—	_____	_____
■	_____	—	_____	_____

Existing work

Deep learning methods excel in **pairwise** setting,



but ...

- Predictions may be **inconsistent**, e.g. ○ = ▲ & ▲ = ■ but ■ ≠ ○
- Not clear how to support **collective ER**
- **Explanation** matters

Existing work

Novel rule-based framework:

A Logical Approach to Collective Entity Resolution (LACE) [Bienvenu et al. [PODS 2022](#), [KR 2023](#)]

- **declarative**: based on logic
- **collective**: capture complex **interdependencies** between tables
- **explainable**: “**why** are *J. Smith* and *John Smith* deemed to be the **same** patient?”

Motivation

- A real-life implementation of LACE is **absent**
- No existing system supports both **global** & **contextual** resolutions
- **No or only one optimality** for ER solution, alternatives?

Motivation

- A real-life implementation of LACE is **absent**

Critical to **feasibility** and **usefulness** of the formalism!

- No existing system supports both **global** & **contextual** resolutions

Very important to **correctness** and **completeness**!

- **No or only one optimality** for ER solution, alternatives?

Offering **flexibility** to tailor **preferred** ER solutions!

Motivation

Goal: To develop **ASP-based** implementation of LACE

Why ASP?

- Proven correspondence
- Many functionalities available for use, e.g. preference, explanation
- “*ASP = DB+LP+KR+SAT*”, testing on DB reasoning problems in the wild

Formalism

ER rule

Database D

Appointment	
did	pid
d1	p1
d2	p2
d3	p3
d3	p4

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen
p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin
p3	Jerry Smith	32	1234-5	ibuprofen
p4	J.Smith	32	6789	ibuprofen

Doctor			
did	name	dept	phone
d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
d2	Black jack	surgeon	66677
d3	Tezuka	skin	77333

$$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$$

ER rule

Database D

Appointment	
did	pid
d1	p1
d2	p2
d3	p3
d3	p4

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
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d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
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d3	Tezuka	skin	77333

$$\text{Patient}(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge \text{Patient}(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow \text{EqO}(x, y)$$

ER rule

Database D

Appointment	
did	pid
d1	p1
d2	p2
d3	p3
d3	p4

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen
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Doctor			
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d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
d2	Black jack	surgeon	66677
d3	Tezuka	skin	77333

$$Patient(i, x, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, n', a, t, l') \wedge n \approx n' \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$$



pid of two patients are the same if they have **similar name**, and **same age and phone number**

LACE Specification

Database D

Appointment		Patient				Doctor				
did	pid	pid	name	age	phone	allergy	did	name	dept	phone
d1	p1	p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen	d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
d2	p2	p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin	d2	Black jack	surgeon	66677
d3	p3	p3	Jerry Smith	32	1234-5	ibuprofen	d3	Tezuka	skin	77333
d3	p4	p4	J.Smith	32	6789	ibuprofen				

Specification L

Hard rule: $Patient(i, x, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, n', a, t, l') \wedge n \approx n' \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$

Soft rule: $Doctor(i, x, n, d, t) \wedge Doctor(i', y, n', d, t) \wedge App(i'', x, p) \wedge App(i''', y, p) \sim > EqO(x, y)$

Denial constraint: $Patient(p, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(p, n', a', t', l') \wedge n \neq n' \Rightarrow \perp$

LACE Specification

Database D

Appointment		Patient				Doctor				
did	pid	pid	name	age	phone	allergy	did	name	dept	phone
d1	p1	p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen	d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
d2	p2	p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin	d2	Black jack	surgeon	66677
d3	p3	p3	Jerry Smith	32	1234-5	ibuprofen	d3	Tezuka	skin	77333
d3	p4	p4	J.Smith	32	6789	ibuprofen				

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LACE Specification

Database D

Appointment		Patient				Doctor				
did	pid	pid	name	age	phone	allergy	did	name	dept	phone
d1	p1	p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen	d1	ブラックジャック	surgeon	66677
d2	p2	p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin	d2	Black jack	surgeon	66677
d3	p3	p3	Jerry Smith	32	1234-5	ibuprofen	d3	Tezuka	skin	77333
d3	p4	p4	J.Smith	32	6789	ibuprofen				

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Object and Value

Database D

Patient				
pid	name	age	phone	allergy
p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen
p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin
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Specification L

$$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$$

$$Doctor(i, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge Doctor(i', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge App(i'', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \wedge App(i''', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p}) \sim \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$$

$$Patient(p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \neq \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow \perp$$

Object and Value

Database D

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
t1	p1	J.Smith	32	12345	brupen
t2	p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin
t3	p3	Jerry Smith	32	1234-5	ibuprofen
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Specification L

$Patient(i, x, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, n', a', t', l') \wedge n \approx n' \Rightarrow EqO(x, y)$ object rule

$Doctor(i, x, n, d, t) \wedge Doctor(i', y, n', d', t') \wedge App(i'', x, p) \wedge App(i''', y, p) \sim \> EqO(x, y)$

$Patient(p, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(p, n', a', t', l') \wedge n \neq n' \Rightarrow \perp$

$Patient(i, p, n, a, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, n', a', t', l') \Rightarrow EqV(\langle i, 2 \rangle, \langle i', 2 \rangle)$ value rule

$EqO/2$ stores pairs of constants

$EqV/2$ stores pairs of "locations"

Object and Value

Database D

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
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t2	p2	John Smith	32	12345	aspirin
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Specification L

$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ object rule

$Doctor(i, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge Doctor(i', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge App(i'', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \wedge App(i''', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p}) \sim \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$

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$Patient(i, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \Rightarrow EqV(\langle i, 2 \rangle, \langle i', 2 \rangle)$ value rule

EqRels E, V

$E = \{(p_1, p_2), (p_3, p_4), (d_1, d_2)\}$

$V = \{(\langle t_1, 2 \rangle, \langle t_2, 2 \rangle), (\langle t_3, 2 \rangle, \langle t_4, 2 \rangle)\}$

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$V = \{(\langle t_1, 2 \rangle, \langle t_2, 2 \rangle), (\langle t_3, 2 \rangle, \langle t_4, 2 \rangle)\}$

Induced database

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
{t1}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{brupen}
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
{t3}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	{ibuprofen}
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

Induced database $D_{E,V}$

Specification L

$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ object rule

$Doctor(i, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge Doctor(i', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge App(i'', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \wedge App(i''', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p}) \sim \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$

$Patient(i, p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \neq \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow \perp$

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EqRels E, V $E = \{(p_1, p_2), (p_3, p_4), (d_1, d_2)\}$ $V = \{(\langle t_1, 2 \rangle, \langle t_2, 2 \rangle), (\langle t_3, 2 \rangle, \langle t_4, 2 \rangle)\}$

replace each **object** constant \mathbf{c} with the set $\{\mathbf{c}' \mid (\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}') \in E\}$,

replace each **value** constant at the location $\langle t, i \rangle$ with the set $\{t'[j] \mid (\langle t, i \rangle, \langle t', j \rangle) \in V\}$

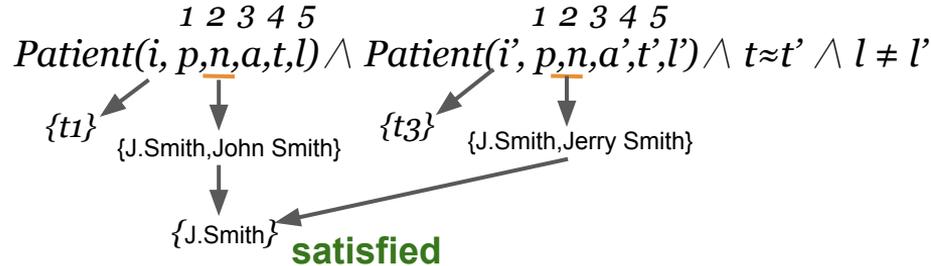
Rule evaluation: equality

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
<u>{t1}</u>	{p1,p2}	{ <u>J.Smith</u> ,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{brupen}
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
<u>{t3}</u>	{p3,p4}	{ <u>J.Smith</u> ,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	{ibuprofen}
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

Induced database $D_{E,V}$

- Same variable mapped to different sets depending on the context (tuple) it occurs
- Final assignment is the intersection of such sets

Query evaluation on $D_{E,V}$



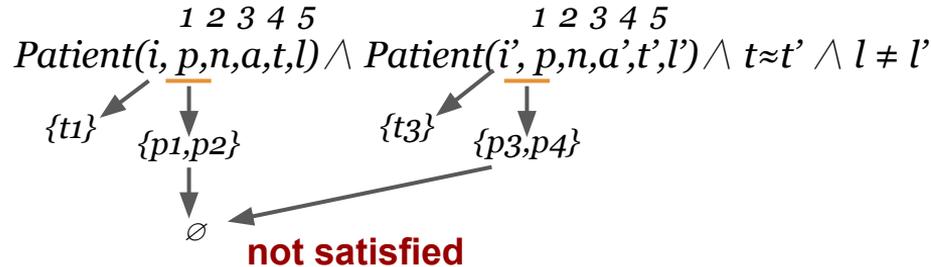
Rule evaluation: equality

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
<u>{t1}</u>	<u>{p1,p2}</u>	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{brupen}
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
<u>{t3}</u>	<u>{p3,p4}</u>	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	{ibuprofen}
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

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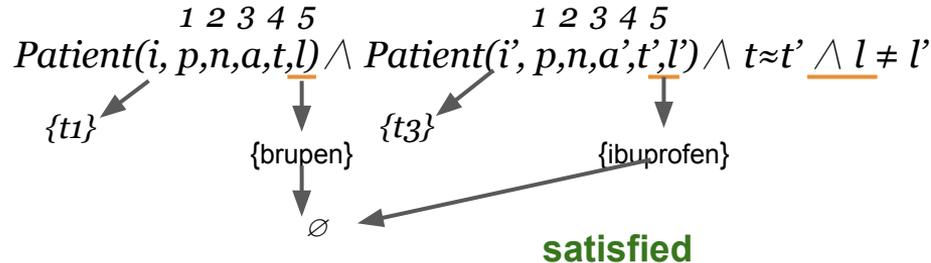
Rule evaluation: inequality

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
<u>{t1}</u>	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	<u>{brupen}</u>
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
<u>{t3}</u>	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	<u>{ibuprofen}</u>
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

Induced database $D_{E,V}$

- Same variable mapped to different sets depending on the context (tuple) it occurs
- Final assignment is the intersection of such sets
- For $l \neq l'$, satisfied if intersection mapped sets of l and l' is empty
- For $t \approx t'$, satisfied if \approx holds for two constants from the mapped sets of t and t' , resp

Query evaluation on $D_{E,V}$



Solution

Induced database $D_{E,V}$

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
{t1}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{brupen}
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
{t3}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	{ibuprofen}
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

Specification L

$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ object merge

$Doctor(i, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge Doctor(i', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge App(i'', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \wedge App(i''', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p}) \sim \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$

$Patient(i, p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \neq \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow \perp$

$Patient(i, p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \Rightarrow EqV(\langle i, 2 \rangle, \langle i', 2 \rangle)$ location merge

EqRels \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{V}

$\mathbf{E} = \{(p_1, p_2), (p_3, p_4), (d_1, d_2)\}$

$\mathbf{V} = \{(\langle t_1, 2 \rangle, \langle t_2, 2 \rangle), (\langle t_3, 2 \rangle, \langle t_4, 2 \rangle)\}$



A **solution** is an $\langle \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{V} \rangle$ s.t. $D_{E,V}$ satisfies **H** and **C**

Solution

Induced database $D_{E,V}$

Patient					
tid	1:pid	2:name	3:age	4:phone	5:allergy
{t1}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{brupen}
{t2}	{p1,p2}	{J.Smith,John Smith}	{32}	{12345}	{aspirin}
{t3}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{1234-5}	{ibuprofen}
{t4}	{p3,p4}	{J.Smith,Jerry Smith}	{32}	{6789}	{ibuprofen}

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$Patient(i, x, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', y, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}, t, l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \approx \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ object merge

$Doctor(i, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge Doctor(i', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{d}, t) \wedge App(i'', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) \wedge App(i''', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{p}) \sim \Rightarrow EqO(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$

$Patient(i, p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \wedge \mathbf{n} \neq \mathbf{n}' \Rightarrow \perp$

$Patient(i, p, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a}, t, l) \wedge Patient(i', p, \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{a}', t', l') \sim \Rightarrow EqV(\langle i, 2 \rangle, \langle i', 2 \rangle)$ location merge

EqRels E, V

$E = \{(p1,p2), (p3,p4), (d1,d2)\}$

$V = \{(\langle t1, 2 \rangle, \langle t2, 2 \rangle), (\langle t3, 2 \rangle, \langle t4, 2 \rangle)\}$



A **solution** is an $\langle E, V \rangle$ s.t. $D_{E,V}$ satisfies **H** and **C**

Space of solutions \longrightarrow **Set inclusion optimal solutions**

System

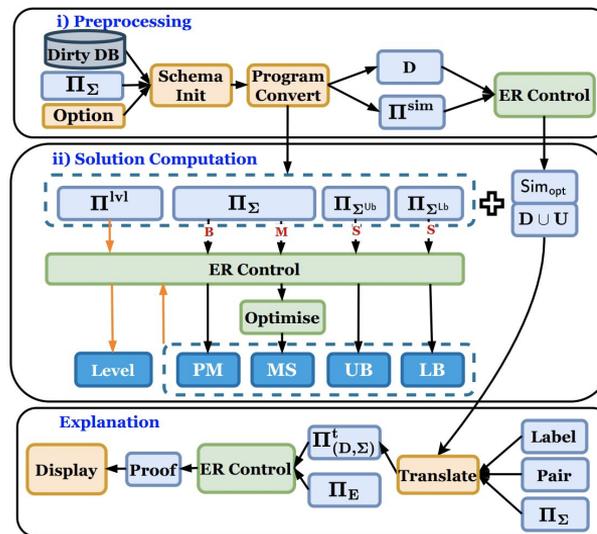
The ASPEn system [Xiang et al. [KR 2024](#), [KR 2025](#)]

Input:

- Database, **ASP Encoding**
- **Options** specify desired output

Output:

- Merge **lower/upper bound (LB/UB)**
- Exact set of **brave consequence** (set optim)
- **Fixed # of optimal solutions**
- **Graphical explanation** of a possible merge (s)



```

facts {
    eqo(p3,p3) .
    eqv(t1,2,t1,2) . sim(JohnSmith,JSmith,90) .
    ...
    loc(t1,2,JohnSmith) . patient(t1,p1,JohnSmith,25,12345,brupen) .
}

rules {
    eqo(X,Y) :- patient(I1,X,A1,T1,_),patient(I2,Y,A2,T2,_),val(I1,2,N),val(I2,2,N) .
    activeo(X,Y) :- doctor(I1,X,_D,T),doctor(I2,Y,_D,T),
                    app(I3,X1,P1),app(I4,Y1,P2),eqo(X1,X),eqo(Y1,Y),eqo(P1,P2) .
    eqv(I1,2,I2,2):- patient(I',P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),patient(I,P1,_,_,_),
                    val(I1,2,T1),val(I2,2,T2),sim(T1,T2,S),S>90 .
}

axioms {
    val(I1,2,N2):- eqv(I1,2,I2,2),loc(I2,2,N2) .
    i(I1,2,I2,2):- val(I1,2,V),val(I2,2,V),not empty(V) .
    eqo(X,Y):- eqo(Y,X) . eqo(X,Y):- eqo(X,Z),eqo(Z,Y) .
    {eqo(X,Y)}:- activeo(X,Y) .
}

cons {
    :- patient(I1,P1,_,_,_),patient(I2,P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),not i(I1,2,I2,2) .
}

```

```

facts {
    eqo(p3,p3) .
    eqv(t1,2,t1,2) . sim(JohnSmith,JSmith,90) .
    ...
    loc(t1,2,JohnSmith) . patient(t1,p1,JohnSmith,25,12345,brupen) .
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    eqo(X,Y) :- patient(I1,X,A1,T1,_),patient(I2,Y,A2,T2,_),val(I1,2,N),val(I2,2,N) .
    activeo(X,Y) :- doctor(I1,X,_D,T),doctor(I2,Y,_D,T),
                    app(I3,X1,P1),app(I4,Y1,P2), eqo(X1,X),eqo(Y1,Y), eqo(P1,P2) .
    eqv(I1,2,I2,2):- patient(I',P2,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),patient(I,P1,_,_),
                    val(I1,2,T1),val(I2,2,T2),sim(T1,T2,S),S>90 .
}

axioms {
    val(I1,2,N2):- eqv(I1,2,I2,2),loc(I2,2,N2) .
    i(I1,2,I2,2):- val(I1,2,V),val(I2,2,V), not empty(V) .
    eqo(X,Y):- eqo(Y,X) . eqo(X,Y):- eqo(X,Z),eqo(Z,Y) .
    {eqo(X,Y)}:- activeo(X,Y) .
}

cons {
    :- patient(I1,P1,_,_),patient(I2,P2,_,_),eqo(P1,P2), not i(I1,2,I2,2) .
}

```

```

facts {
    eqo(p3,p3) .
    eqv(t1,2,t1,2) . sim(JohnSmith,JSmith,90) .
    ...
    loc(t1,2,JohnSmith) . patient(t1,p1,JohnSmith,25,12345,brupen) .
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rules {
    eqo(X,Y) :- patient(I1,X,A1,T1,_),patient(I2,Y,A2,T2,_),val(I1,2,N),val(I2,2,N) .
    activeo(X,Y) :- doctor(I1,X,_,D,T),doctor(I2,Y,_,D,T),
                    app(I3,X1,P1),app(I4,Y1,P2),eqo(X1,X),eqo(Y1,Y),eqo(P1,P2) .
    eqv(I1,2,I2,2):- patient(I',P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),patient(I,P1,_,_,_),
                    val(I1,2,T1),val(I2,2,T2),sim(T1,T2,S),S>90 .
}

axioms {
    val(I1,2,N2):- eqv(I1,2,I2,2),loc(I2,2,N2) .
    i(I1,2,I2,2):- val(I1,2,V),val(I2,2,V),not empty(V) .
    eqo(X,Y):- eqo(Y,X) . eqo(X,Y):- eqo(X,Z),eqo(Z,Y) .
    {eqo(X,Y)}:- activeo(X,Y) .
}

cons {
    :- patient(I1,P1,_,_,_),patient(I2,P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),not i(I1,2,I2,2) .
}

```

```

facts {
    eqo(p3,p3) .
    eqv(t1,2,t1,2) . sim(JohnSmith,JSmith,90) .
    ...
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    eqo(X,Y) :- patient(I1,X,A1,T1,_),patient(I2,Y,A2,T2,_),val(I1,2,N),val(I2,2,N) .
    activeo(X,Y) :- doctor(I1,X,_D,T),doctor(I2,Y,_D,T),
                    app(I3,X1,P1),app(I4,Y1,P2),eqo(X1,X),eqo(Y1,Y),eqo(P1,P2) .
    eqv(I1,2,I2,2):- patient(I',P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),patient(I,P1,_,_,_),
                    val(I1,2,T1),val(I2,2,T2),sim(T1,T2,S),S>90 .
}

axioms {
    val(I1,2,N2):- eqv(I1,2,I2,2),loc(I2,2,N2) .
    i(I1,2,I2,2):- val(I1,2,V),val(I2,2,V),not empty(V) .
    eqo(X,Y):- eqo(Y,X) . eqo(X,Y):- eqo(X,Z),eqo(Z,Y) .
    {eqo(X,Y)}:- activeo(X,Y) .
}

cons {
    :- patient(I1,P1,_,_,_),patient(I2,P2,_,_,_),eqo(P1,P2),not i(I1,2,I2,2) .
}

```

Optimality criteria

In a solution, wrt **set** or **cardinality**:

- The **more Eq** the **better**
- The **more rule applications (support)** the **better**

E.g. $\{(a,b)\}$ could be derived from $hr1, hr2$. A sol have both $hr1, hr2$ applied is better

- The **less absent active pairs** (in active-facts but not in eq-facts) the **better**
- The **less soft rule violations** the **better**

*E.g. $active(a,b), active(a,c)$ are derived from $\{sr1\}, \{sr1,sr2\}$, a sol chooses (a,b) to be **false** is better*

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- The **less absent active pairs** (in active-facts but not in eq-facts) the **better**
- The **less soft rule violations** the **better**

*E.g. $active(a,b), active(a,c)$ are derived from $\{sr1\}, \{sr1, sr2\}$, a sol chooses (a,b) to be **false** is better*

First two are **the same under set optim**, so 7 different criteria overall

Computing optimal solutions

Formulation: **set (S)**, **cardinality/weight (C)** optimisation

- **Set:**
 - Set-inclusion preference (asprin)
 - Domain heuristic (heur)
- **Cardinality/weight :**
 - weight preference
 - weighted constraint (wc)
 - wc + heur
 - weighted constraint with 36 threads (wc-36)

Encoding example

The **more Eq** the **better**:

- **Set**: `#heuristic eq(X,Y) . [1,true]` or asprin **superset** preference
- **Cardinality**: *weighted constraint* `#maximize{1@1,X,Y:eq(X,Y)}` .

The **more rule applications (support)** the **better**

- For each hard/soft rule assign a unique constant from $\{1,\dots,n\}$ to the third argument e.g.
`eqo(X,Y,1):- body(X,Y) . activeo(X,Y,2):- body(X,Y) .`
- Each eq-atom on axiom head is replaced by `eq(X,Y,0)`
- `#maximize{1@1,X,Y,I:eqo(X,Y,I),I!=0}` .

Experimental setup

Datasets:

- 6 **multi-table datasets** IMDB (movie), (**synthetic duplicates**) MUSIC, Pokemon
- Baselines ASPEn, 2 rule-based ER systems Magellan, JedAI

Name	#Rec	#Rel	#At	#Ref	#Dup	#Const
<i>Imdb</i>	30k	5	22	4	6k	64k
<i>ImdbC</i>	30k	5	22	4	6k	66k
<i>Mu</i>	41k	11	72	12	15k	156k
<i>MuC</i>	41k	11	72	12	15k	160k
<i>MuCC</i>	41k	11	72	12	15k	166k
<i>Poke</i>	240k	20	104	20	4k	349k

Table 4: Dataset Statistics. #-columns represent the number of records, relations, attributes, referential constraints and duplicates, respectively.

Performance

- Compared set inclusion (default) **MS-1** with **3 rule-based baselines**

Method	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC		
Magellan	<i>Imdb</i>	88.09	99.80	78.83	3.89	N/A	N/A	0/5	<i>ImdbC</i>	83.05	99.77	71.12	3.11	N/A	N/A	0/5
JedAI		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.78	N/A	N/A	0/5		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.67	N/A	N/A	0/5
ASPEN		99.27	99.39	99.14	610.49	11.51	0.082	1/5		96.99	99.36	94.73	757.17	11.75	0.088	1/5
ASPEN ⁺		99.27	99.39	99.14	86.24	13.02	0.096	3/5		99.13	99.39	98.87	94.85	18.71	0.69	3/5
Magellan	<i>Mu</i>	89.78	98.63	82.38	64.83	N/A	N/A	0/23	<i>MuC</i>	55.54	97.51	38.83	66.87	N/A	N/A	0/23
JedAI		70.67	87.46	59.30	105.06	N/A	N/A	0/23		32.75	73.95	21.02	101.02	N/A	N/A	0/23
ASPEN		97.64	99.45	95.89	666.01	1.78	0.20	21/23		90.31	91.86	88.81	695.76	20.15	3.57	17/23
ASPEN ⁺		97.64	99.45	95.89	665.65	1.82	0.21	23/23		90.46	92.17	88.81	770.44	72.81	12.16	23/23
Magellan	<i>MuCC</i>	55.48	97.62	38.75	64.81	N/A	N/A	0/23	<i>Poke</i>	7.01	3.97	29.74	260.96	N/A	N/A	0/10
JedAI		31.04	72.47	19.75	101.47	N/A	N/A	0/23		2.1	1.08	46.56	23.46	N/A	N/A	0/10
ASPEN		71.18	77.83	65.58	718.38	21.01	10.47	16/23		81.78	99.71	69.31	4,454	311.37	0.91	10/10
ASPEN ⁺		88.85	89.5	88.21	993.31	97.51	23.02	23/23		84.98	99.73	74.03	11,880	496.14	48.52	10/10

Performance

- Compared set inclusion (default) **MS-1** with **3 rule-based baselines**
- Consistently better quality**

Method	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC
Magellan	Imdb	88.09	99.80 78.83	3.89	N/A	N/A	0/5	ImdbC	83.05	99.77 71.12	3.11	N/A	N/A	0/5
JedAI		97.49	99.40 95.67	18.78	N/A	N/A	0/5		97.49	99.40 95.67	18.67	N/A	N/A	0/5
ASPEN		99.27	99.39 99.14	610.49	11.51	0.082	1/5		96.99	99.36 94.73	757.17	11.75	0.088	1/5
ASPEN ⁺		99.27	99.39 99.14	86.24	13.02	0.096	3/5		99.13	99.39 98.87	94.85	18.71	0.69	3/5
Magellan	Mu	89.78	98.63 82.38	64.83	N/A	N/A	0/23	MuC	55.54	97.51 38.83	66.87	N/A	N/A	0/23
JedAI		70.67	87.46 59.30	<u>105.06</u>	N/A	N/A	0/23		32.75	33.95 21.02	<u>101.02</u>	N/A	N/A	0/23
ASPEN		97.64	99.45 95.89	666.01	1.78	0.20	21/23		90.31	91.86 88.81	695.76	20.15	3.57	17/23
ASPEN ⁺		97.64	99.45 95.89	665.65	1.82	0.21	23/23		90.46	92.17 88.81	770.44	72.81	12.16	23/23
Magellan	MuCC	55.48	97.62 38.75	64.81	N/A	N/A	0/23	Poke	7.01	8.97 29.74	<u>260.96</u>	N/A	N/A	0/10
JedAI		31.04	72.47 19.75	<u>101.47</u>	N/A	N/A	0/23		2.1	1.08 46.56	23.46	N/A	N/A	0/10
ASPEN		71.18	77.83 65.58	718.38	21.01	10.47	16/23		81.78	99.71 69.31	4,454	311.37	0.91	10/10
ASPEN ⁺		88.85	89.5 88.21	993.31	97.51	23.02	23/23		84.98	99.73 74.03	11,880	496.14	48.52	10/10

Performance

- Compared set inclusion (default) **MS-1** with **3 rule-based baselines**
- Consistently better quality**
- Disadvantageous runtime** (*expensive preprocessing*)

Method	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC		
Magellan	Imdb	88.09	99.80	78.83	3.89	N/A	N/A	0/5	ImdbC	83.05	99.77	71.12	3.11	N/A	N/A	0/5
JedAI		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.78	N/A	N/A	0/5		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.67	N/A	N/A	0/5
ASPEN		99.27	99.39	99.14	610.49	11.51	0.082	1/5		96.99	99.36	94.73	757.17	11.75	0.088	1/5
ASPEN ⁺		99.27	99.39	99.14	86.24	13.02	0.096	3/5		99.13	99.39	98.87	94.85	18.71	0.69	3/5
Magellan	Mu	89.78	98.63	82.38	64.83	N/A	N/A	0/23	MuC	55.54	97.51	38.83	66.87	N/A	N/A	0/23
JedAI		70.67	87.46	59.30	105.06	N/A	N/A	0/23		32.75	73.95	21.02	101.02	N/A	N/A	0/23
ASPEN		97.64	99.45	95.89	666.01	1.78	0.20	21/23		90.31	91.86	88.81	695.76	20.15	3.57	17/23
ASPEN ⁺		97.64	99.45	95.89	665.65	1.82	0.21	23/23		90.46	92.17	88.81	770.44	72.81	12.16	23/23
Magellan	MuCC	55.48	97.62	38.75	64.81	N/A	N/A	0/23	Poke	7.01	3.97	29.74	260.96	N/A	N/A	0/10
JedAI		31.04	72.47	19.75	101.47	N/A	N/A	0/23		2.1	1.08	46.56	23.46	N/A	N/A	0/10
ASPEN		71.18	77.83	65.58	718.38	21.01	10.47	16/23		81.78	99.71	69.31	4.454	311.37	0.91	10/10
ASPEN ⁺		88.85	89.5	88.21	993.31	97.51	23.02	23/23		84.98	99.73	74.03	11,880	496.14	48.52	10/10

Performance

Method	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC	Data	F ₁	(P / R)	t _o	t _g	t _s	#DC		
Magellan	<i>Imdb</i>	88.09	99.80	78.83	3.89	N/A	N/A	0/5	<i>ImdbC</i>	83.05	99.77	71.12	3.11	N/A	N/A	0/5
JedAI		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.78	N/A	N/A	0/5		97.49	99.40	95.67	18.67	N/A	N/A	0/5
ASPEN		99.27	99.39	99.14	610.49	11.51	0.082	1/5		96.99	99.36	94.73	757.17	11.75	0.088	1/5
ASPEN ⁺		99.27	99.39	99.14	86.24	13.02	0.096	3/5		99.13	99.39	98.87	94.85	18.71	0.69	3/5
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ASPEN		97.64	99.45	95.89	666.01	1.78	0.20	21/23		90.31	91.86	88.81	695.76	20.15	3.57	17/23
ASPEN ⁺		97.64	99.45	95.89	665.65	1.82	0.21	23/23		90.46	92.17	88.81	770.44	72.81	12.16	23/23
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ASPEN		71.18	77.83	65.58	718.38	21.01	10.47	16/23		81.78	99.71	69.31	4,454	311.37	0.91	10/10
ASPEN ⁺		88.85	89.5	88.21	993.31	97.51	23.02	23/23		84.98	99.73	74.03	11,880	496.14	48.52	10/10

Comparing optimality criteria

Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxES/SS	90.50	92.20	88.86	12.16	50 1.86
	minAS	91.88	95.11	88.86	12.8	50 1.7
	minVS	91.7	94.73	88.85	12.44	50 1.78
<i>MuCC</i>	maxES/SS	88.85	89.5	88.21	23.02	50 1.67
	minAS	89.62	91.11	88.18	23.01	50 1.54
	minVS	90.13	92.2	88.15	21.61	50 2.48
<i>Poke</i>	maxES/SS	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	minAS	83.83	99.73	72.3	51.58	50 <u>0.06</u>
	minVS	84.62	99.73	73.48	56.87	50 0.01

set-optimisation

Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxEC	90.51	92.20	88.9	35.09	50 2.53
	maxSC	90.52	92.21	88.9	30.1	16 12.09
	minAC	91.4	94.05	88.9	84.69	50 2.61
	minVC	92.01	95.35	88.89	48.97	50 5.66
<i>MuCC</i>	maxEC	88.83	89.45	88.21	56.71	1 N/A
	maxSC	88.85	89.50	88.21	52.8	2 629.56
	minAC	89.51	90.93	88.14	92.97	50 2.12
	minVC	89.74	91.36	88.18	67.82	50 8.42
<i>Poke</i>	maxEC	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	maxSC	84.98	99.73	74.03	49.1	1 N/A
	minAC	84.80	99.73	73.75	49.23	50 0.037
	minVC	84.91	99.73	73.91	49.11	2 1.15

cardinality-optimisation

Comparing optimality criteria

Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxES/SS	90.50	92.20	88.86	12.16	50 1.86
	minAS	91.88	95.11	88.86	12.8	50 1.7
	minVS	91.7	94.73	88.85	12.44	50 1.78
<i>MuCC</i>	maxES/SS	88.85	89.5	88.21	23.02	50 1.67
	minAS	89.62	91.11	88.18	23.01	50 1.54
	minVS	90.13	92.2	88.15	21.61	50 2.48
<i>Poke</i>	maxES/SS	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	minAS	83.83	99.73	72.3	51.58	50 <u>0.06</u>
	minVS	84.62	99.73	73.48	56.87	50 0.01

set-optimisation

Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxEC	90.51	92.20	88.9	<u>35.09</u>	50 2.53
	maxSC	90.52	92.21	88.9	30.1	16 12.09
	minAC	91.4	94.05	88.9	84.69	50 <u>2.61</u>
	minVC	92.01	95.35	88.89	48.97	50 5.66
<i>MuCC</i>	maxEC	88.83	89.45	88.21	66.71	1 N/A
	maxSC	88.85	89.50	88.21	52.8	2 629.56
	minAC	89.5	90.93	88.14	92.97	50 2.12
	minVC	89.74	91.36	88.18	67.82	50 8.42
<i>Poke</i>	maxEC	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	maxSC	84.98	99.73	74.03	<u>49.1</u>	1 N/A
	minAC	84.80	99.73	73.75	49.23	50 0.037
	minVC	84.9	99.73	73.91	49.11	2 1.15

cardinality-optimisation

Comparing optimality criteria

Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxES/SS	90.50	92.20	88.86	12.16	50 1.86
	minAS	91.88	95.11	88.86	12.8	50 1.7
	minVS	<u>91.7</u>	<u>94.73</u>	88.85	<u>12.44</u>	50 <u>1.78</u>
<i>MuCC</i>	maxES/SS	88.85	89.5	88.21	23.02	50 <u>1.67</u>
	minAS	<u>89.62</u>	<u>91.11</u>	88.18	23.01	50 1.54
	minVS	90.13	92.2	88.15	21.61	50 2.48
<i>Poke</i>	maxES/SS	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	minAS	83.83	99.73	72.3	51.58	50 <u>0.06</u>
	minVS	<u>84.62</u>	99.73	<u>73.48</u>	<u>56.87</u>	50 0.01

Solving with **single** threads

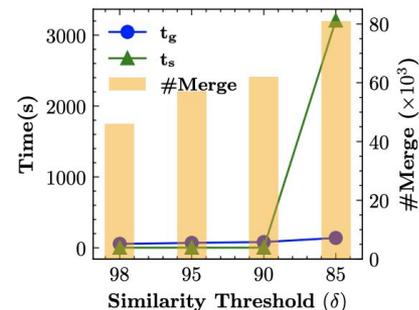
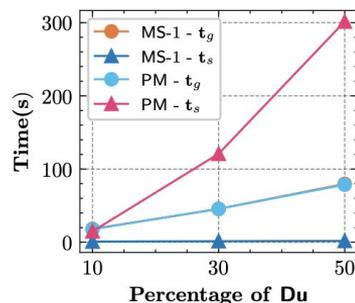
Data	Method	\bar{F}_1	(\bar{P} / \bar{R})	t_s^1	#e	t_s^n
<i>MuC</i>	maxEC	90.51	92.20	88.9	<u>35.09</u>	50 2.53
	maxSC	90.52	92.21	88.9	30.1	16 12.09
	minAC	<u>91.4</u>	<u>94.05</u>	88.9	84.69	50 <u>2.61</u>
	minVC	92.01	95.35	88.89	48.97	50 5.66
<i>MuCC</i>	maxEC	88.83	89.45	88.21	66.71	1 N/A
	maxSC	88.85	89.50	88.21	52.8	2 629.56
	minAC	<u>89.51</u>	<u>90.93</u>	88.14	92.97	50 2.12
	minVC	89.74	91.36	88.18	<u>67.82</u>	50 <u>8.42</u>
<i>Poke</i>	maxEC	84.98	99.73	74.03	48.52	1 N/A
	maxSC	84.98	99.73	74.03	<u>49.1</u>	1 N/A
	minAC	84.80	99.73	73.75	49.23	50 0.037
	minVC	<u>84.91</u>	99.73	<u>73.91</u>	<u>49.11</u>	2 <u>1.15</u>

Solving with **36** threads!

Factors impacting scalability

- While keeping other 2 factors the same, varying:
 - **Datasize $|D|$** -> the **larger** the **slower**
 - **% of duplicates (Du%)** -> the **higher** the **slower**
 - **Similarity thresholds** -> the **lower** the **slower**
- **Grounding time** is more sensitive to **datasize**, **similarity**
- **Solving time** is more sensitive to **% of duplicates** and **similarity**

$ D $	Met.	t_g	t_s	Met.	t_g	t_s
$\times 1$	MS-1	17.82	1.02	PM	17.55	14.87
$\times 2$		92.4	2.21		92.75	84.6
$\times 3$		388.2	3.4		418.17	228.87
$\times 4$		719.2	4.8		763.61	416.48
$\times 5$		1083.6	5.7		1106.7	735.43



Conclusion

- Introduced **ASPE+**, an **ASP-based system for collective ER**, first of its kind that supports both **global** and **local** merges
- Defined **seven optimality criteria** for **preferred** ER solutions, and provided **complexity analyses**.
- Conducted extensive experiments, achieving **superior accuracy** on complex, **real-world** datasets, demonstrating the practical benefits of **local semantics** and **flexible optimisation**

Future work

- Computing **brave/cautious** consequences over space of optimal solutions
 - Meta programming [[Gebser et al. TPLP'2011](#)]
 - WASP [[Alviano et al. AIJ'2023](#)]
- Learning rules (**ILP style**, ASP-based meta program)
 - Learning from Failure (Popper ILP system) [[Cropper et al. MLJ' 2021](#)]