

Teasing journalistic findings out of heterogeneous sources: a data/AI journey

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▶ To cite this version:

Ioana Manolescu. Teasing journalistic findings out of heterogeneous sources: a data/AI journey. DEBS 2022: The 16th ACM International Conference on Distributed and Event-based Systems, Jun 2022, Copenhagen, Denmark. pp.1-1, 10.1145/3524860.3544406. hal-03945733

HAL Id: hal-03945733 https://inria.hal.science/hal-03945733v1

Submitted on 18 Jan 2023

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Ínría-



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Outline

- 1. Motivation: why journalism?
- 2. Data integration problems raised by data journalism
- 3. Graph-based data integration in ConnectionLens
- 4. Related work and perspectives



Motivation: Why journalism?













Ceauşescu re-elected at the 14th congress!

He had held power since 1965.







1990: things got better





... kind of





Democratic societies crucially need the press

☐ To debate and express dissent



Socialist Romania, 1984

☐ To analyze, confim or refute public statements

Fact-checking

(Data) journalism

To expose and explain society functioning





www.factcheck.org/2017/04/democrats-support-border-wall

Fact-checking

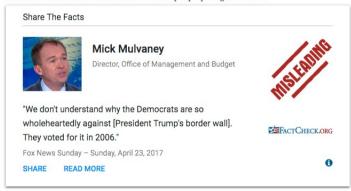


Not everyone agrees, however, that Democrats are not flip-flopping on the issue.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that advocates for lower immigration, said that because the public doesn't know exactly what border barriers the Trump administration wants to build, Mulvaney's statement is not an "exact" comparison. But, he said, to dismiss it simply on that basis would be "tendentiously literal."

"The fact is that, other than the 'Mexico will pay for it' stuff, Trump is simply channeling the 2006 Secure Fence Act, and Schumer et al. who voted for it out of political calculation are indeed hypocrites for opposing the attempt to finally bring that law to fruition," Krikorian

At the surface level, it is true in a broad sense that Democrats including Schumer, Obama and Clinton have in the past supported border fencing. All three voted for the Secure Fence Act of 2006, and all three supported the 2013 Senate immigration overhaul that passed the Senate. and which called for tougher border security including some additional fencing. But to claim that those measures are the same as what Trump is proposing is a stretch.





FALSE

POLITIFACT

TRUTH-O-METER"

MOSTLY FALSE

PLITIFACT TRUTH-O-METER*

DEBS Keynote, June 2022

C Q Search

PANTS ON FIRE

POLITIFACT

Data journalism

Panama Papers (International Consortium of Investigative Journalism, ICIJ)





Projects and collaborations

Google Award (2015) with U. Paris Sud

ANR ContentCheck (2016-2020) with Les Décodeurs (Le Monde) https://contentcheck.inria.fr

Inria Associated Team WebClaimExplain (2017-2019), with AIST Japan

Collaboration with H. Galhardas (University of Lisbon), A. Anadiotis, O. Balalau, E. Pietriga (Inria, Polytechnique)

ANR SourcesSay AI Chair (2020-2023), with Le Monde and WeDoData https://sourcessay.inria.fr

Fact-checking for RadioFrance (2022-2023)















Project discussed with Les Décodeurs: fake new detection and propagation on Twitter

Online fact-checks: (semi)structured data sources (JSON, XML) listing

- Link to claim (media, social network etc.), claim author
- Fact-check, containing: analysis (details), final assessment, fc author, date, institution













Among the first published: https://www.lemonde.fr/webservice/decodex/updates

Years later: ClaimReview by Google and others (https://www.claimreviewproject.com/)



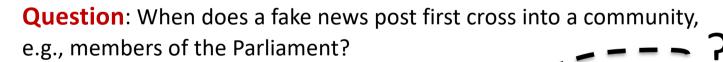
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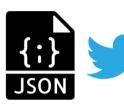
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Décodeurs' database of French public figures (Excel)

First name, last name, Twitter ID, position, political party when known



• Looking for tweets connected to a fake news author, and to a community member; arbitrary paths (chains of author/likes/retweets/inParty/...)







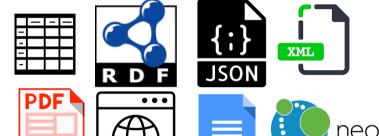
Integrating heterogeneous journalistic datasets with ConnectionLens

https://team.inria.fr/cedar/connectionlens/



Graph-based integration of heterogeneous data sources

- ☐ The sources are not RDF. They can be (semi)structured, or unstructured (text).
- ☐ The sources may be very dynamic (projects started and abandoned as per news cycle and data availability).



- There is no schema. Data producers often uncollaborative.
- ☐ For most journalists, databases do not come naturally, and IT support is limited. They know keyword-based search...



Integrate heterogeneous sources within a graph, query w/ keywords



ConnectionLens: graph-based integration of heterogeneous data sources

https://team.inria.fr/cedar/connectionlens/

Joint work with: J. Leblay (AIST Japan),

H. Galhardas and C. Conceiçao (U. Portugal),

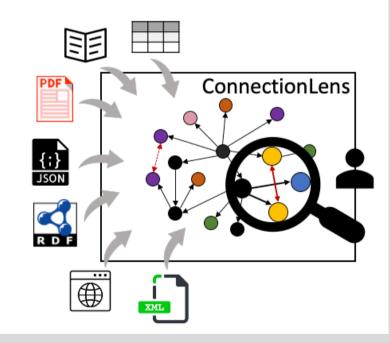
A. Anadiotis, O. Balalau, N. Barret, T. Bouganim,

F. Chimienti, M.-Y. Haddad, T. Merabti,

P. Upadhyay (CEDAR) + interns

S.Horel (Le Monde, European Press Prize "Investigative Reporting Award 2018")

Ongoing work in ANR/DGA AI Chair SourcesSay (https://sourcessay.inria.fr), DIM RFSI





ConnectionLens principles [VLDBdemo2018]

Integrate any kind of data into a graph

Extract entities from any text node (regardless of the model of the data source where the text comes from)

☐ Same entity in two different text nodes = link among the text nodes (densification of the graph)

The graph is **heterogeneous** and **irregular** \rightarrow

Query it through keywords: find trees that connect 1 node matching each kwd

☐ Closely related to the Group Steiner Tree Problem (GSTP)



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Rest of the talk based on current state of the project: [CIKMdemo2021, Elsevier InfSys 2022, IEEE DataEngBull 2021, ongoing works]



ConnectionLens graph construction



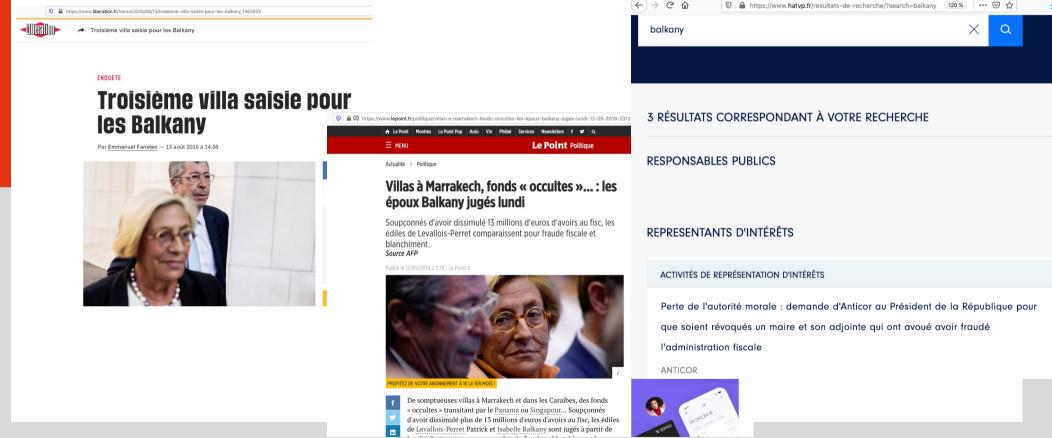
The Balkany and their African connections





Sample integration scenario

The Balkany and their African connections





Sample integration scenario

The Balkanys and their African connections

Public officials transparency high authority (CSV)

Name	Owner	Location	Туре
Dar Gyucy	P. Balkany	Marrakech	Real Estate
Moulin Cossy	I. Balkany	Giverny	Real Estate



Sample integration scenario

The Balkanys and their African connections

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National Directory of Elected Officials (JSON)



The Balkanys and their African connections

Public officials transparency high authority (CSV)

Name	Owner	Location	Туре
Dar Gyucy	P. Balkany	Marrakech	Real Estate
Moulin Cossy	I. Balkany	Giverny	Real Estate

```
dbpedia.org (RDF)
dbr:Marrakech
  dbr:name
                "Marrakech"
  rdf:type
                dbo:City;
  dbo:country
                dbr:Morrocco .
dbr:Morocco
  dbr:name
                "Morocco"
  rdf:type
                dbo:Country
  dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .
dbr:CentralAfricanRepublic
                "Central African Republic"
  dbr:name
  dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .
```

```
National Directory of Elected Officials (JSON)
[{
   name: "Levallois-Perret",
```



The Balkanys and their African connections

Public officials transparency high authority (CSV)

Name	Owner	Location	Туре
Dar Gyucy	P. Balkany	Marrakech	Real Estate
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```
dbpedia.org (RDF)
dbr:Marrakech
                "Marrakech"
  dbr:name
                dbo:City;
  rdf:type
  dbo:country
                dbr:Morrocco .
dbr:Morocco
  dbr:name
                "Morocco"
                dbo:Country
  rdf:tvpe
  dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .
dbr:CentralAfricanRepublic
                "Central African Republic"
  dbr:name
  dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .
```

```
National Directory of Elected Officials (JSON)
```

```
[{
    name: "Levallois-Perret",
    mayor: "P. Balkany",
    city-council: [
        {name: "I. Balkany"},
        ...
]
}, ...]
```

Libération – Nov. 13, 2014 (Text)

Balkany mineur de fonds

L'élu de Levallois-Perret est soupçonné d'avoir touché 5 millions de dollars de commission en 2009 grâce à son rôle d'intermédiaire entre Areva et la Centrafrique dans le dossier Uramin. [...]



How is Levallois-Perret connected to Africa and "real estate"?

Public officials transparency high authority (CSV)

Name	Owner	Location	Туре
Dar Gyucy	P. Balkany	Marrakech	Real Estate
Moulin Cossy	I. Balkany	Giverny	Real Estate

```
dbpedia.org (RDF)
{
  dbr:Marrakech
   dbr:name     "Marrakech"
  rdf:type      dbo:City;
  dbo:country      dbr:Morrocco .
  dbr:Morocco
   dbr:name      "Morocco"
  rdf:type      dbo:Country
  dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .
dbr:CentralAfricanRepublic
```

dbo:locatedIn dbr:Africa .

```
National Directory of Elected Officials (JSON)
```

```
[{
    name: "Levallois-Perret",
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]
}, ...]
```

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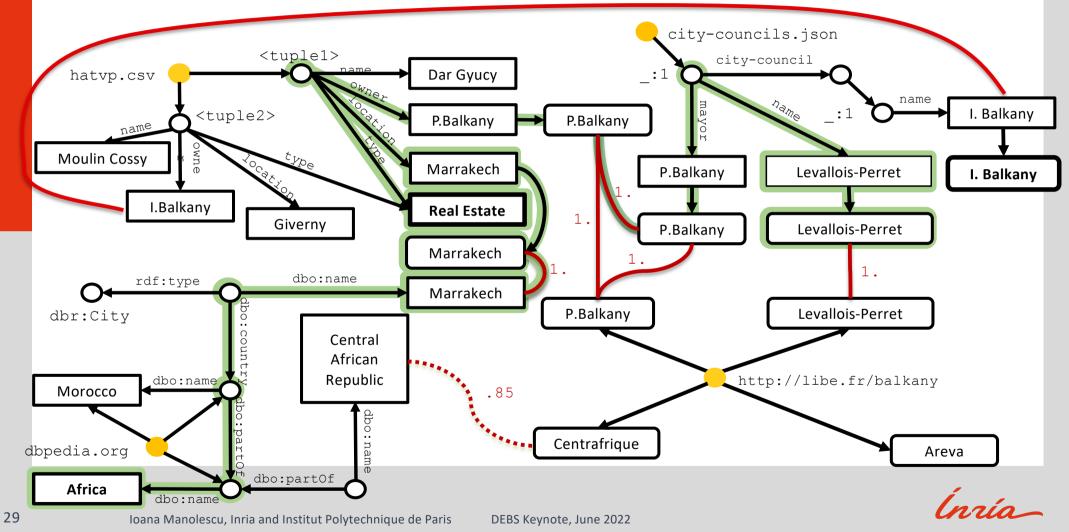
L'élu de Levallois-Perret est soupçonné d'avoir touché 5 millions de dollars de commission en 2009 grâce à son rôle d'intermédiaire entre Areva et la Centrafrique dans le dossier Uramin. [...]



dbr:name

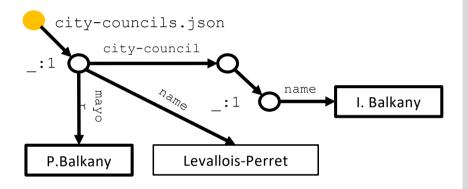
"Central African Republic"

Idea: integrate all data sources into a heterogeneous graph



1. Primary node and edge construction

- Direct for XML, JSON, RDF, HTML
- 1 relational tuple=1 node; primary keys-foreign keys as links
- Convert information from PDF into:
 - JSON for text content
 - RDF describing tables



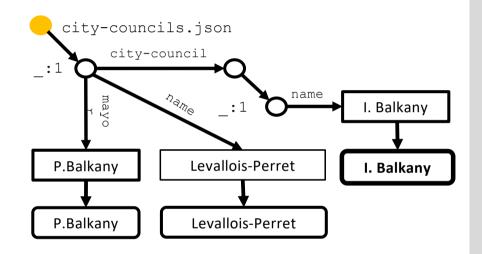


1. Primary node and edge construction

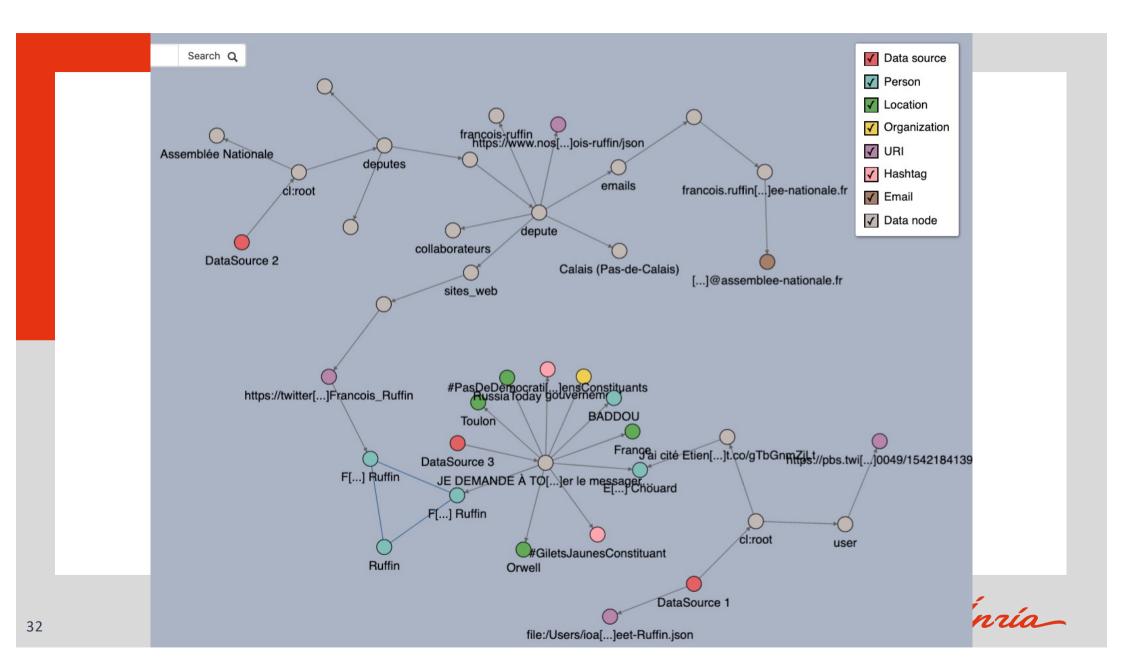
- Direct for XML, JSON, RDF, HTML
- ☐ 1 relational tuple=1 node; PK-FKs as links
- [Optional] segment text documents
- Extract information from PDF into: (a) JSON, and(b) RDF describing tables

2. Entity extraction

- From all text nodes of all the sources:entity node child of text node
- [VLDB2018]: based on Stanford NER
- ☐ [InfSys2021] Developed and trained new entity extractor FR/EN, based on Flair framework
- Date extraction based on HeidelTime

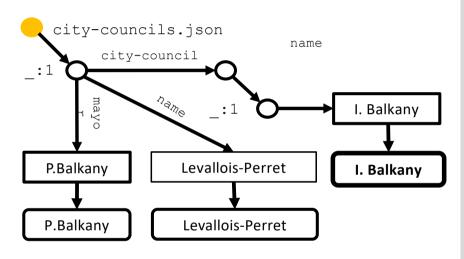






2. Entity extraction

- From all text nodes of all the sources:entity node child of text node
- ☐ [VLDB2018]: based on Stanford NER
- [BDA2020] Developed and trained new entity extractor from French, based on Flair framework



3. Entity disambiguation

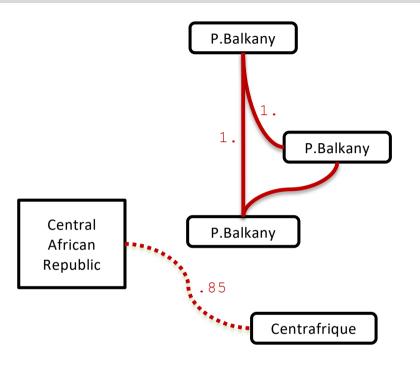
- ☐ For each recognized entity, e.g., "Hollande" the place or the person?
- Built novel disambiguation pipeline for French, based on Ambiverse framework
 - Based on knowledge bases (WikiData, YAGO) and Wikipedia
 - ☐ Helpful on well-known entities



4. Node matching

- To create sameAs edges:
 - Strong sameAs edges: equivalent nodes 1.
 - ☐ Weak sameAs edges: similar nodes .85
- ☐ Label normalization, distance functions
- Remains quadratic at the core 🖾 , so...

Node factorization (heuristic): create only one node per label per document (or per graph)



More complex entity matching/cleaning pipelines for: Person, Organization, Location



ConnectionLens graph querying



Querying problem statement

- ☐ Given the graph G = (N, E) built out of the datasets D and a query Q= {w1, ...,wm}, return the k highest-score minimal answer trees.
- An answer tree is a set of edges which (i) form a tree (ii) contain at least one node whose label matches each keyword wi.
- We are interested in minimal answer trees, that is:
 - □ Removing an edge from the tree should make it lack some keyword(s).
 - ☐ If a keyword matches more than one nodes in the answer tree, then all these matching nodes must be equivalent.

Search space and complexity

Problem related to the (Group) Steiner Tree Problem					
\square Given graph G, and nodes n1, , nm, the Steiner Tree Problem (STP) requires the					
smallest tree in G that connects all the nodes. Known NP-hard problem in $ G $					
☐ Group STP: start with m groups of nodes					
Differences with our problem:					
☐ Each edge can be taken in both directions: exponential increase in search space size					
We need the k smallest-cost trees, not just one.					
Support arbitrary score functions					
Large literature (30+) on kwd search in data graphs.					
☐ Differ in search space and/or make limitative assumptions on score					
Our approach: enumerate solutions until time-out or max number of solutions reached.					
☐ Return best k solutions found, for given score function					



GAM (Grow and Aggressive Merge) Algorithm

- Builds trees exploring around the keyword matches
- Grow adds an edge to the root of a tree, MERGE merges trees with the same root Sample search (tree roots underlined):





GAM (Grow and Aggressive Merge) Algorithm

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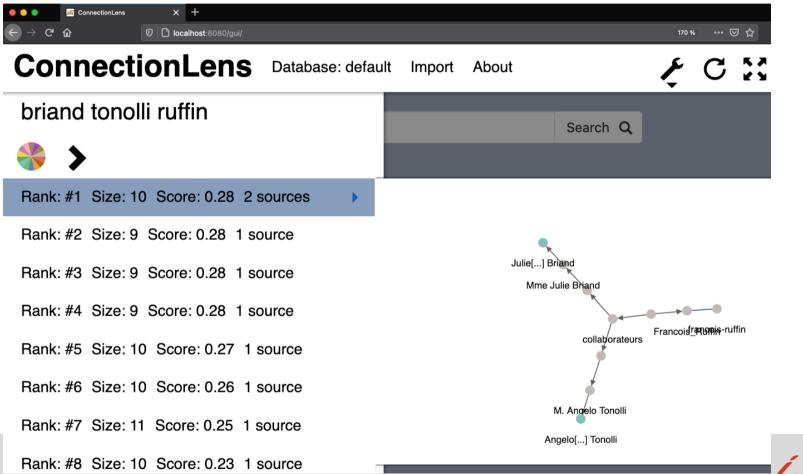
Every solution is a **conection (edge set):** the root is not meaningful to users Ideally, we should develop each edge set only once... But:

- \Box Grow and Merge depend on the tree root \rightarrow Many edge sets with the same root
- ☐ Also, there are many Grow-Merge combinations that produce the same rooted tree!

Optimizations and careful pruning to keep exploration highly efficient (ongoing)



Sample query answers



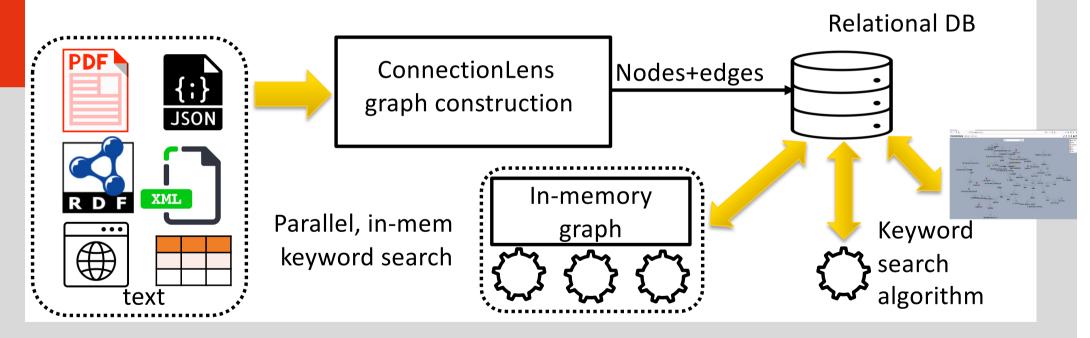


ConnectionLens architecture and performance



Implementation

- ☐ Java (230 classes/46K LOC), Python (24 classes/2800 LOC), JS + CSS
- Available online: https://gitlab.inria.fr/cedar/connectionlens





Implementation [InfSys2022]

- ☐ Graph creation time mostly linear in the size of the data
- ☐ Costliest operations involve ML (disambiguation, extraction)
 - ☐ Batch extraction: 20x speed-up on GPU, 2x speed-up on regular server
 - Extraction policies replace or avoid extraction in some parts of the data



Graph creation performance: storage, extraction, disambiguation [InfSys2022]

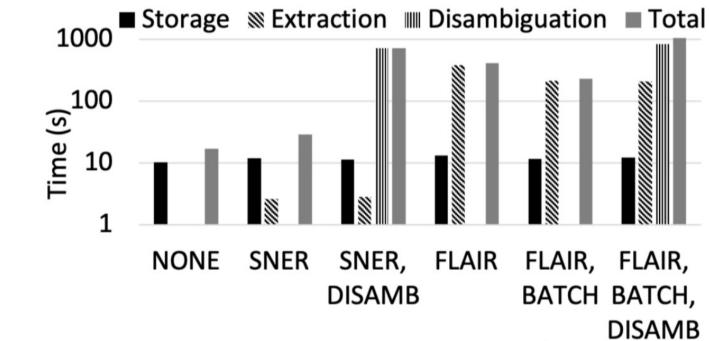


Figure 6: Graph construction time (seconds).



Graph creation performance: batch extraction [InfSys2022]

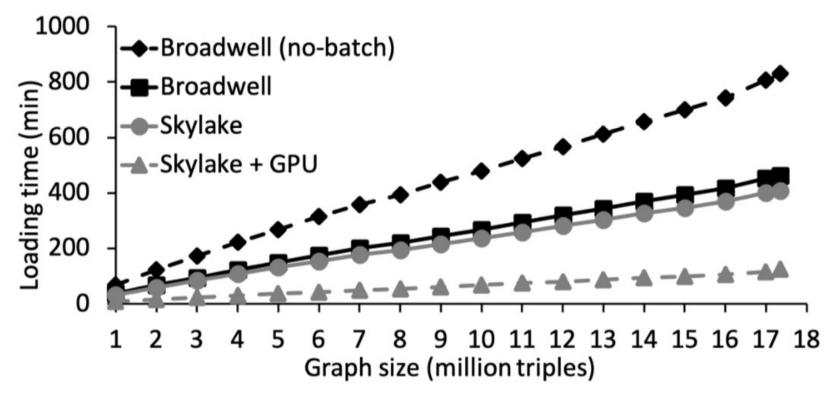


Figure 7: YAGO loading time (minutes) using Flair.

Application: conflicts of interest in the biomedical domain [IEEE DataEngBull 2021, CIKM2021]

Collaboration with Stéphane Horel (Le Monde)

Data: XML, PDF→JSON, HTML

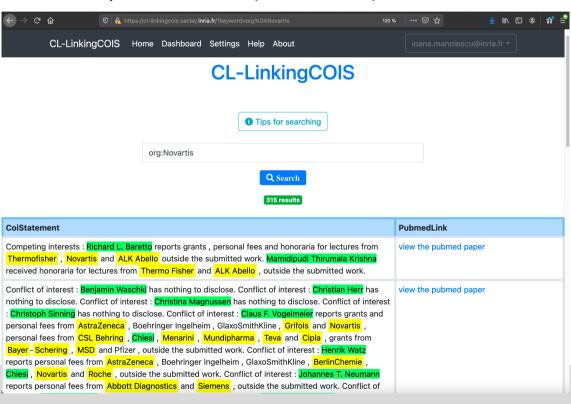
N	E	N	$ N_P $	$ N_O $	$ N_L $
XML	32,028,429	19,851,904	1,483,631	584,734	126,629
JSON	1,025,307	432,303	75,297	7,320	4,139
HTML	246,636	185,479	3,726	7,227	320
Total	33,300,372	20,469,686	1,562,654	665,167	131,088

Table 3: Statistics on Conflict of Interest application graph.



Application: conflicts of interest in the biomedical domain [IEEE DataEngBull 2021, CIKM2021]

Collaboration with Stéphane Horel (Le Monde)





Graph quality experiments [InfSys2022]

- ☐ PDF extraction accuracy: 63%
- ☐ F1 score for entity extraction from French:
 - ☐ Flair stacked forward and backward embeddings with French fastText embeddings: 73%
 - ☐ Spacy: 63%
 - ☐ StanfordNER: 45%
- ☐ F1 score of disambiguation: 86%



ConnectionLens in the scientific landscape



ConnectionLens in the scientific landscape (1)

Data integration for structured, semistructured and unstructured data
 "Ad-hoc" (combinations of sources to be unioned, joined, or chained)
 No schema, ontologies, queries known in advance
 Reachability queries instead of join: price to pay for powerful integration
 Comparable work by R. S. Roy, G. Weikum: GST querying of RDF graph enriched onthe-fly with content extracted from Web sources
 Web info may be missing or not trusted
 Data cleaning: Similarity links require value or entity matching
 Use reference data sources, heuristics, interactive cleaning (under integrated)



ConnectionLens in the scientific landscape (2)

Graph construction

☐ Users of **entity extraction** modules, trained a model for French

Keyword search on structured data

- ☐ Intensely studied for relational, graph, or XML databases: DISCOVER, Banks & Banks2, DPBF, ObjectRank, BLINKS, Spark, ... QGPT (WWW 2021)
- Some assume regularity in the graph and translate to SQL or SPARQL
- Consider more limited search spaces (edge direction; one tree per root; ...)
- Exploit favorable properties of fixed score function; establish approximations...
- ☐ We focus on efficient keyword search for arbitrary graphs (up to time-out) w/o assumptions on score, w/o sub-optimal structure prop., w/ bidirectional search
- ☐ In-memory graph store and parallel query processor (200x speed-up)



Ongoing work

- Learning to predict extraction success ~ detecting disguised nulls (BDA 2021, invited TLDKS 2022)
- ☐ Integrating keyword search into structured graph querying (with A. Anadiotis, M. Mohanty)
- Relationship extraction based on OpenIE (with O. Balalau, P. Upadhyay)
- Natural language graph querying (with O. Balalau, K. Zhang)
- ☐ Improving the quality of graph linking (with T. Bouganim, H. Galhardas)
- □ Abstracting CL graphs (with N. Barret, P. Upadhyay) https://team.inria.fr/cedar/projects/abstra/
- Applications:
 - ☐ Conflicts of Interests in the biomedical domain (w/ S. Horel and G. Fooks, Aston U., UK)
 - ☐ France's business x political sphere (w/ Radio France Investigation)



Why data journalism?

Because I grew up in a dictatorship, and I value free press

Because journalists are threatened and killed still today in Europe



Daphne Galizia, 1964-2017



Jan Kuciak, 1990-2018

Because the press' economic model is threatened by IT giants

Because this industry is currently underserved by IT – and we could really make an impact!



Thank you

Questions?

ConnectionLens: https://team.inria.fr/cedar/connectionlens/

