

## Issues for Graph Pattern Queries using Views

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### Abstract:

Graph queries using views has proven effective for querying relational and semi structured data. This paper investigates this issue for graph pattern queries based on graph simulation. We propose a notion of pattern containment to characterize graph pattern matching using graph pattern views. We show that a pattern query can be answered using a set of views if and only if it is contained in the views. Based on this characterization, we develop efficient algorithms to answer graph pattern queries. We also study problems for determining (minimal, maximum) containment of pattern queries. We establish their complexity (from cubic-time to NP complete) and provide efficient checking algorithms (approximation when the problem is intractable). In addition, when a pattern query is not contained in the views, we study maximally contained rewriting to find approximate answers; we show that it is in cubic-time to compute such rewriting, and present a rewriting algorithm. We experimentally verify that these methods are able to efficiently answer pattern queries on large real-world graphs.

*Keywords: Graph pattern queries, pattern containment, views.*

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### 1. Introduction

Graph queries using views has been extensively studied for relational data and semi-structured data. Given a query  $Q$  and a set  $V = \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$  of views, the idea is to find another query  $A$  such that  $A$  is equivalent to  $Q$ , and  $A$  only refers to views in  $V$ . If such a query  $A$  exists, then given a database  $D$ , one can compute the answer  $Q$  to  $Q$  in  $D$  by using  $A$ , which uses only the data in the materialized views, without accessing  $D$ . This is particularly effective when  $D$  is “big” and/or distributed. Indeed, views have been advocated for scale independence, to query big data “independent of” the size of the underlying data. They are also useful in data integration, data warehousing, semantic caching, and access control. The need for studying this problem is even more evident for graph pattern queries (a.k.a. graph pattern matching). Graph pattern queries have been increasingly used in social network analysis, among other things. Real-life social graphs are typically large, and are often distributed. For example, Facebook has more than 1.26 billion users with 140 billion links, and the

data is geo-distributed to various data centres.

One of the major challenges for social network analysis is how to cope with the sheer size of real life social graphs when evaluating graph pattern queries. Graph pattern matching using views provides an effective method to query such big data. For example, a fraction of a recommendation network is depicted as a graph  $G$ , where each node denotes a person with name and job title (e.g., project manager (PM), database administrator (DBA), programmer (PRG), business analyst (BA) and software tester (ST)); and each edge indicates collaboration/recommendation relation, e.g., (Bob, Dan) indicates that Dan worked well with Bob, on a project led by Bob.

To build a team, one issues a pattern query  $Q_s$  depicted, to find a group of PM, DBA and PRG. It requires that DBA1 and PRG2 worked well under the project manager PM; and each PRG (resp. DBA) had been supervised by a DBA (resp. PRG), represented as a collaboration cycle in  $Q_s$ . For pattern matching based on graph simulation, the answer to  $Q_s$  in  $G$  can be denoted as a set of pairs, such that for each pattern edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$ ,  $S_e$  is a set of edges (a match set) for  $e$  in  $G$ . For example, pattern edge  $e_1$  has a match set  $S_{e_1} = \{(DBA1, PRG2)\}$ , in which each edge satisfies the node labels and connectivity constraint of the pattern edge. It is known that it takes  $O(|G|^{Q_s})$  time to compute it, where  $|G|$  is the size of  $G$  (resp.  $Q_s$ ). For example, to identify the match set of each pattern edge (for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ ), each pair of (DBA, PRG) in  $G$  has to be checked, and moreover, a number of join operations have to be performed to eliminate invalid matches.

This is a daunting cost when  $G$  is big. One can do better by leveraging a set of views. Suppose that a set of views  $V = \{V_1, V_2\}$  is defined, materialized and cached ( $V_1 = \{(DBA1, PRG2)\}$ ,  $V_2 = \{(DBA1, PRG2)\}$ ) and it will be shown later to compute it, we only need to visit views in  $V$  without accessing the original big graph  $G$ ; and it can be efficiently computed by “merging” views in  $V$ . Indeed, the views already contains partial answers to  $Q_s$  in  $G$ : for each pattern edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$ , the matches of  $e$  (e.g.,  $\{(DBA1, PRG2)\}$ ) are contained either in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$  (e.g., the matches of  $e_1$  in  $V_1$ ). These partial answers can be used to construct the complete match. Hence, the cost of computing and is in quadratic time in it and it is where it is much smaller than  $|G|$ .

This example suggests that we conduct graph pattern matching by capitalizing on available views. To do this, several questions have to be settled. How to decide whether a pattern query  $Q_s$  can be answered by a set  $V$  of views? If so, how to efficiently compute it from there. If not, how to find approximate answers to  $Q_s$  by using  $V$ . In both cases, which views in  $V$  should we choose to answer  $Q_s$ ? Contributions. This paper investigates these questions for graph pattern queries using graph pattern views. We focus on graph pattern matching defined in terms of graph simulation, since it is commonly used in social community detection, biological analysis [20], and mobile network analyses. While conventional sub graph isomorphism often fails to capture meaningful matches, graph simulation fits into emerging applications with its “many-to-many” matching semantics. Moreover, it is more challenging since graph simulation is “recursively defined” and has poor data locality.

- 1) Relational data. Query processing using views has been extensively studied for relational data. It is known that for SPC (conjunctive) queries, query graph and rewriting using views are intractable. For the containment problem, the well-known homomorphism theorem shows that an SPC query is contained in

another if and only if there exists a homomorphism between the tableaux representing the queries, and it is NP-complete to determine the existence of such a homomorphism. Moreover, the containment problem is un-decidable for relational algebra.

- 2) XML. There has also been a host of work on processing XML queries using views. In, the containment of simple X-Path queries is shown co NP-complete. When disjunction, DTDs and variables are taken into account, the problem ranges from co NP-complete to EXPTIME-complete to un-decidable for various X Path classes. In containment and query rewriting of XML queries are studied under constraints expressed as a structural summary. For tree pattern queries (a fragment of X-Path), they have studied maximally contained rewriting.
- 3) Semi-structure data. Views defined in Lorel are studied in, which are quite different from graph patterns considered here. View-based query rewriting for regular path queries (RPQs) is shown PSPACE complete and an EXPTIME rewriting algorithm. The containment problem is shown un-decidable for RPQs under constraints and for extended conjunctive RPQs.
- 4) RDF. An EXPTIME query rewriting algorithm is given for SPARQL. It is shown that query containment is in EXPTIME for PSPARQL, which supports regular expressions. There has also been work on evaluating SPARQL queries on RDF based on cached query results. Our work differs from the prior work in the following, we study query graph using views for graph pattern queries via graph simulation, which are quite different from previous settings, from complexity bounds to processing techniques. We show that the containment problem for the pattern queries is in PTIME, in contrast to its intractable counterparts for e.g., SPC, XPath, RPQs and SPARQL. We study a more general form of query containment between a query  $Q_s$  and a set of queries, to identify an equivalent query for  $Q_s$  that is not necessarily a pattern query. The high complexity of previous methods for query graph using views hinders their applications in the real world. In contrast, our algorithms have performance guarantees and yield a practical method for querying real-life social networks.

Our work differs from the prior work in the following,

- (1) We study query graph using views for graph pattern queries via graph simulation, which are quite different from previous settings, from complexity bounds to processing techniques.
- (2) We show that the containment problem for the pattern queries is in PTIME, in contrast to its intractable counterparts for e.g., SPC, XPath, RPQs and SPARQL.
- (3) We study a more general form of query containment between a query  $Q_s$  and a set of queries, to identify an equivalent query for  $Q_s$  that is not necessarily a pattern query.

## 2. Existing System

### 2.1 Graphs, Patterns, and Views

We first review pattern queries and graph simulation. We then state the problem of pattern matching using views.

### 2.1.1 Data Graphs and Graph Pattern Queries

**Data graphs.** A data graph is a directed graph  $G = (V; E; L)$ , where  $V$  is a finite set of nodes;  $E \subseteq V \times V$ , in which  $(v, v_0) \in E$  denotes an edge from node  $v$  to  $v_0$ ; and  $L$  is a function such that for each node  $v \in V$ ,  $L(v)$  is a set of labels from an alphabet  $S$ . Intuitively,  $L$  specifies the attributes of a node, e.g., name, keywords, blogs and social roles.

**Pattern queries:** A graph pattern query, denoted as  $Q_s$ , is a directed graph  $Q_s = (V_p; E_p; f_v)$ , where  $V_p$  and  $E_p$  are the set of pattern nodes and the set of pattern edges, respectively; and  $f_v$  is a function defined on  $V_p$  such that for each node  $u \in V_p$ ,  $f_v(u)$  is a label in  $S$ . We remark that  $f_v$  can be readily extended to specify search conditions in terms of Boolean predicates. **Graph pattern matching.** We say that a data graph  $G = (V; E; L)$  matches a graph pattern query  $Q_s = (V_p; E_p; f_v)$  via simulation, denoted by  $Q_s \subseteq G$ , if there exists a binary relation  $S \subseteq V_p \times V$ , referred to as a match in  $G$  for  $Q_s$ , such that\_ for each pattern node  $u \in V_p$ , there exists a node  $v \in V$  such that  $(u, v) \in S$ , referred to as a match of  $u$ ; and\_ for each pair  $(u, v) \in S$ ,  $L(v) \supseteq f_v(u)$ ; and moreover, for each pattern edge  $e = (u, u_0) \in E_p$ , there exists an edge  $(v, v_0) \in E$ , referred to as a match of  $e$  in  $S$ , such that  $(u, v) \in S$  and  $(u_0, v_0) \in S$ , i.e.,  $v_0$  is a match of  $u_0$ . When  $Q_s \subseteq G$ , there exists a unique maximum match  $S_0$  in  $G$  for  $Q_s$ .

We derive  $f_e; S_e \subseteq V \times V$  from  $S_0$ , where  $S_e$  is the set of all matches of  $e$  in  $S_0$ , referred to as the match set of  $e$ . Here  $S_e \neq \emptyset$  for all  $e \in E_p$ . We define the result of  $Q_s$  in  $G$ , denoted as  $Q_s \subseteq G$ , to be the unique maximum set  $f_e; S_e \subseteq V \times V$  if  $Q_s \subseteq G$ , and let  $|Q_s \subseteq G|$  denote the size of  $Q_s \subseteq G$ ; otherwise, we define the size of query  $Q_s$ , denoted by  $|Q_s|$ , to be the total number of nodes and edges in  $Q_s$ ; we define the size of  $Q_s \subseteq G$  to be the total edge number of sets  $S_e$  for all edges  $e \in E_p$ .

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### 2.1.2 Graph Pattern Matching Using Views

We next formulate the problem of graph pattern matching using views. We study views  $V$  defined as a graph pattern query, and refer to the query result  $V \subseteq G$  in a data graph  $G$  as the view extension for  $V$  in  $G$  or simply as a view.

Given a pattern query  $Q_s$  and a set  $V = \{V_1; \dots; V_n\}$  of view definitions, graph pattern matching using views is to find another query  $A$  such that for all data graphs  $G$ ,  $A$  only refers to views  $V_i \in V$  and their extensions  $V_i \subseteq G = \{V_1 \subseteq G; \dots; V_n \subseteq G\}$  in  $G$ , and  $A$  is equivalent to  $Q_s$ . If such a query  $A$  exists, we say that  $Q_s$  can be answered using views  $V$ .

In contrast to query rewriting using views, here  $A$  is not required to be a pattern query, depicts a set  $V = \{V_1; \dots; V_n\}$  of view definitions and their extensions  $V \subseteq G = \{V_1 \subseteq G; \dots; V_n \subseteq G\}$ . To answer the query  $Q_s$ , we want to find a query  $A$  that computes  $Q_s \subseteq G$  by using only  $V$  and  $V \subseteq G$ , where  $A$  is not necessarily a graph pattern.

## 2.2 Characterization

A characterization of graph pattern matching using views, i.e., a sufficient and necessary condition for deciding whether a pattern query can be answered by using a set of views. We also provide a quadratic-time algorithm for graph pattern queries using views.

### 2.2.1 Pattern containment

We first introduce a notion of pattern containment, by extending the traditional notion of query containment to a set of views. Consider a pattern query  $Q_s = (V_p; E_p; f_v)$  and a set  $V = \{V_1; \dots; V_n\}$  of view

definitions, where  $V_i \subseteq \delta V_i$ ;  $E_i$ ;  $f_i \in \mathcal{P}$ . We say that  $Q_s$  is contained in  $V$ , denoted by  $Q_s \subseteq V$ , if there exists a mapping  $\_$  from  $E_p$  to power set  $\mathcal{P}(\cup_{i=1}^n E_i)$ , such that for all data graphs  $G$ , the match set  $S_e \subseteq S_{e_0}$  for all edges  $e \in E_p$ . The analysis involves query  $Q_s$  and view definitions  $V$ , independent of data graphs  $G$  and view extensions  $V \subseteq G$ .

This suggests an approach to graph pattern queries, as follows. Given a pattern  $Q_s$  and a set  $V$  of views, we first efficiently determine whether  $Q_s \subseteq V$  (by using the algorithm); if so, for all (possibly big) graphs  $G$ , we compute  $Q_s \subseteq G$  by using  $V \subseteq G$  instead of  $G$ , in quadratic-time in size of  $V \subseteq G$ , which is much smaller than  $G$ . Here we prove Theorem 2,

I) we first prove the Only If condition, i.e., if  $Q_s$  can be answered using  $V$ , then  $Q_s \subseteq V$ . We show this by contradiction. Assume that  $Q_s$  can be answered using  $V$ , while  $Q_s \not\subseteq V$ . By the definition of containment, there must exist some data graph  $G_0$  such that for all the possible mappings  $\_$ , there always exists at least one edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$  such that  $S_e \not\subseteq S_{e_0}$ . Consider the following two cases.

(1) When  $Q_s \subseteq G_0$ ;

By Lemma 1, for all  $e$  in  $Q_s$ ,  $S_e \subseteq S_{e_0}$  in  $G_0$  and hence it contradicts to the assumption that  $S_e \not\subseteq S_{e_0}$ .

(2) When  $Q_s \not\subseteq G_0$ ;

If so, there must exist at least one edge  $e_0$  in  $G_0$  such that  $e_0$  is in  $S_e$  for some edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$ , but it is not in  $S_{e_0}$  for any  $e_0 \in \_$ . That is,  $e_0$  cannot be included in  $S_{e_0}$  for any  $e_0 \in \_$ , for all possible  $\_$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $Q_s$  can be answered using only  $V$  and  $V \subseteq G_0$ , since at least the edge  $e_0$  is missing from  $V \subseteq G_0$  for some graph  $G_0$ , no matter how  $\_$  is defined. Therefore,  $Q_s$  can be answered using  $V$  only if  $Q_s \subseteq V$ .

II) We next show the If condition of Theorem 2(1) with a constructive proof: we give an algorithm to evaluate  $Q_s$  using  $V \subseteq G$ , if  $Q_s \subseteq V$ . We verify theorem 2 by showing that the algorithm is in  $O(\sum_{j=1}^n |V_j| + |V \subseteq G|)$  time.

### 2.3 Algorithm

We next present the algorithm that evaluates  $Q_s$  using  $V$ . The algorithm, denoted as MatchJoin, it takes as input (1) a pattern query  $Q_s$  and a set of view definitions  $V = \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ , (2) a mapping  $\_$  for  $Q_s \subseteq V$  view extensions  $V \subseteq G = \{V_1 \subseteq G, \dots, V_n \subseteq G\}$ . The merge process iteratively identifies and removes those edges that are not matches of  $Q_s$ , until a fixpoint is reached and  $Q_s \subseteq G$  is correctly computed. More specifically, MatchJoin works as follows. It starts with empty match sets  $S_e$  for each pattern edge  $e$ . MatchJoin sets  $S_e$  as  $S_{e_0}$ , where  $S_{e_0}$  is extracted from  $V \subseteq G$ , following the definition of  $\_$ . It then performs a fix point computation to remove all invalid matches from  $S_e$ . For each pattern edge  $e_p = \{u, u_0\}$  with its match set  $S_{e_p}$  changed, it checks whether the change propagates to the “parents” (i.e.,  $u_0$  with edge  $\{u_0, u_p\}$ ) of  $u$ .

### 2.4 Determining Pattern Containment

We prove Theorems 4, 6 and 7 by providing effective (approximation) algorithms for checking pattern containment, minimal containment and minimum containment.

#### 2.4.1 Pattern Containment

With a proof of Theorem 4, i.e., whether  $Q_s \subseteq V$  can be decided in time. To do this, we first propose a sufficient and necessary condition to characterize pattern containment. We then develop a cubic time algorithm based on the characterization. Sufficient and necessary condition. To characterize pattern containment, we introduce a notion of view matches. Consider a pattern query  $Q_s$  and a set  $V$  of view definitions. For each  $V \in V$ , let  $V \subseteq Q_s \iff \exists e \in V; S_e \subseteq V_j \in V$ , by treating  $Q_s$  as a data graph. Obviously, if  $V \in Q_s$ , then  $S_e \subseteq V$  is the nonempty match set of  $e \in V$  for each edge  $e \in V$ . We define the view match from  $V$  to  $Q_s$ , denoted by  $M_{Q_s} V$ , to be the union of  $S_e$  for all  $e \in V$ . The result below shows that view matches yield a characterization of pattern containment.

#### 2.4.2 Minimal Containment Problem

We now prove Theorem 6 by presenting an algorithm that, given  $Q_s$  and  $V$ , finds a minimal subset  $V_0$  of  $V$  containing  $Q_s$  in  $O(|V|^3)$  time if  $Q_s \subseteq V$ .

#### 2.4.3 Algorithm

The algorithm, denoted as `minimal`. Given a pattern query  $Q_s$  and a set  $V$  of view definitions, it returns either a nonempty subset  $V_0$  of  $V$  that minimally contains  $Q_s$ , or  $\perp$  to indicate that  $Q_s \not\subseteq V$ .

Algorithm `minimal` initializes (1) an empty set  $V_0$  for selected views, (2) an empty set  $S$  for view matches of  $V_0$ , and (3) an empty set  $E$  for edges in view matches. It also maintains an index  $M$  that maps each edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$  to a set of views (line 1). Similar to algorithm `contains`, `minimal` first computes  $M_{Q_s} V_i$  for all  $V_i \in V$  (lines 2-7).

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In contrast to `contains` that simply merges the view matches, it extends  $S$  with a new view match  $M_{Q_s} V_i$  only if  $M_{Q_s} V_i$  contains a new edge not in  $E$ , and updates  $M$  accordingly (lines 4-7). The for loop stops as soon as  $E \subseteq E_p$  (line 7), as  $Q_s$  is already contained in  $V_0$ . If  $E \not\subseteq E_p$  after the loop, it returns  $\perp$  (line 8), since  $Q_s$  is not contained in  $V$  (Proposition 8). The algorithm then eliminates redundant views, by checking whether the removal of  $V_j$  causes  $M \not\subseteq E_p$ ; for some  $e \in M_{Q_s} V_j$  (line 10). If no such  $e$  exists, it removes  $V_j$  from  $V_0$ . After all view matches are checked, `minimal` returns  $V_0$ .

- 1) Algorithm `minimal` repeats the for loop at most  $\text{card } V$  times, and in each iteration it computes view matches and adds a view definition  $V_i$  to a result set  $V_0$ . It then performs the redundant checking (lines 9-11) to remove all redundant view definitions, if there exists any. As  $V_0$  is a finite set, and its size is monotonically decreasing, the algorithm always terminates.
- 2) We show that `minimal` only removes “redundant” view definitions. (a) Each time it computes the view match for a view definition  $V_i$ , and it adds  $V_i$  to  $V_0$  only if the corresponding match set of  $V_i$  can cover edges in  $Q_s$  that have not been covered yet (line 4). Hence when the for loop terminates, one can verify that either the union of the view matches from  $V_0$  covers  $E_p$ , which indicates that  $V_0$  contains  $Q_s$ , or  $Q_s \not\subseteq V$ , following Proposition 8. (b) A view definition  $V_j$  is removed from  $V_0$  only when there already exist other view definitions in  $V_0$  “covering” every pattern edge  $e \in M_{Q_s} V_j$ . Thus, `minimal` only removes redundant view definitions.

3) When algorithm minimal terminates with  $Q_s \vee V$ , for any view definition  $V$  in  $V_0$ , there exists at least an edge  $e$  that can only be introduced by  $V$  to cover  $E_p$ . By Proposition 8, this indicates that  $Q_s \not\subseteq V \cap V_g$  for any  $V \in V_0$ . Thus minimal returns a minimal set that contains  $Q_s$ .

#### 2.4.4 Maximally Contained Rewriting

When a pattern query  $Q_s$  is not contained in a set  $V$  of views, we want to identify a maximal part  $Q_{s0}$  of  $Q_s$  that can be answered by using  $V$ , referred to as a maximally contained rewriting of  $Q_s$  using  $V$ . As will be seen shortly, given a graph  $G$ ,  $Q_{s0}$  helps us approximately answer  $Q_s$  in  $G$ , or compute exact answers  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  by additionally accessing a small fraction of the data in  $G$ .

A pattern query  $Q_{s0}$  is a sub query of  $Q_s$ , denoted as  $Q_{s0} \subseteq Q_s$ , if it is an edge induced sub-graph of  $Q_s$ , i.e.,  $Q_{s0}$  is a sub graph of  $Q_s$  consisting of a subset of edges of  $Q_s$ , together with their endpoints as the set of nodes. Query  $Q_{s0}$  is called a contained rewriting of  $Q_s$  using a set  $V$  of view definitions if,

- $Q_{s0} \subseteq Q_s$ , i.e.,  $Q_{s0}$  is a sub query of  $Q_s$ , and
- $Q_{s0} \vee V$ , i.e.,  $Q_{s0}$  can be answered using  $V$ .

$Acc = \frac{2 \cdot \text{recall} \cdot \text{precision}}{\text{recall} + \text{precision}}$  where  $\text{recall} = \frac{\text{\#true matches found}}{\text{\#true matches}}$ , and  $\text{precision} = \frac{\text{\#true matches found}}{\text{\#matches}}$ .

Here  $\text{\#matches}$  is the number of all (edge) matches found by  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  using views,  $\text{\#true matches}$  is the number of all matches in  $Q_s \delta G_P$ ; and  $\text{\#true matches found}$  is the number of all the true matches in both  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  and  $Q_s \delta G_P$ .

Initially, a high precision means that many matches in  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  are true matches, and a high recall means  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  contains most of the true matches in  $Q_s \delta G_P$ . The larger  $Acc$  that can be induced by  $Q_{s0}$ , the better. If  $Q_{s0}$  is equivalent to  $Q_s$ , i.e.,  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P = Q_s \delta G_P$  for all  $G$ ,  $Acc$  takes the maximum value 1:0. Observe that for any edge  $e$  in  $Q_s$ , if  $e$  is covered by  $Q_{s0}$ , then for any  $G$ , the match set  $S_e$  of  $e$  in  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  is a subset of the match set  $S_{0e}$  of  $e$  in  $Q_s \delta G_P$ ; that is,  $Q_{s0} \delta G_P$  finds all candidate matches of  $e$  in  $G$ .

Computing maximally contained rewriting. It is known that finding maximally contained rewriting is intractable for SPC queries. In contrast, maximally contained rewriting can be efficiently found for graph pattern queries.

### 3. Experimental Evaluation

Using real-life data, we conducted four sets of experiments to evaluate the efficiency and scalability of algorithm Match Join for graph pattern matching using views; the effectiveness of optimization techniques for MatchJoin; the efficiency and effectiveness of (minimal, minimum)containment checking; and the efficiency, accuracy and scalability of our query-driven approximation scheme, using maximally contained rewriting.

#### 3.1 Experimental setting

We used four real-life graphs: (a) Amazon, a product co-purchasing network with 548 K nodes and 1.78 M edges. Each node has attributes such as title, group and sales-rank, and an edge from product  $x$  to  $y$  indicates that people who buy  $x$  also buy  $y$ . (b) Citation [49], a DAG (directed acyclic graph) with 1.4 M nodes and 3 M edges, in which nodes represent papers with attributes such as title, authors, year and venue, and edges denote

citations. YouTube [50], a recommendation network with 1:6 M nodes and 4:5 M edges. Each node is a video with attributes such as category, age and rate, and each edge from  $x$  to  $y$  indicates that  $y$  is in the related list of  $x$ . (d) Web Graph, a web graph including 118:1M nodes and 1:02 B edges, where each node represents a web page with id and domain. Pattern and view generator. We implemented a generator for graph pattern queries, controlled by three parameters: the number  $jVpj$  of pattern nodes, the number  $jEpj$  of pattern edges, and label  $fv$  from an alphabet  $S$  of labels taken from corresponding real-life graphs. We use  $\delta jVpj; jEpjP$  to denote the size of a pattern query. We generated a set of 12 view definitions for each real-life dataset. For Amazon, we generated 12 frequent patterns following, where each view extension contains on average

5 K nodes and edges. The views take 14:4 percent of the space of the Amazon dataset. For Citation, we designed 12 views to search for papers and authors in computer science. The view extensions account for 12 percent of the Citation graph. We generated 12 views, to find videos on Youtube, where each node is associated with a Boolean condition, specified by e.g., age (A), length (L), category (C), rate (R) and visits (V). Each view extension has about 700 nodes and edges, accounting for 4 percent of Youtube. On Web Graph, we designed 12 views to search Web pages, where the view extensions account for 11 percent of Web Graph.

#### 4. Implementation

We implemented the following algorithms, all in Java: contain, minimum and minimal for checking pattern containment; maxma for finding the maximal contained rewriting, Match, MatchJoinmin and MatchJoinmnl for computing matches of patterns in a graph, where Match is the matching algorithm without using views and MatchJoinmin

(resp. MatchJoinmnl) revises MatchJoin by using a minimum (resp. minimal) set of views; an algorithm MatchJoinmax for approximately graph pattern queries, which invokes MatchJoin to evaluate maximally contained rewriting using views and a version of MatchJoinmin without using the ranking optimization, denoted by MatchJoinnopt.

##### 4.1 Scalability

Using Web Graph, we evaluated the scalability of MatchJoinmin, MatchJoinmnl and Match. Fixing  $jQsj \frac{1}{4} \delta 4; 6P$ , we varied  $jGj$  by using scale factors from 0:1(0:1 times of original graph size) to 1:0. The results are reported, from which we can see the following MatchJoinmin scales best with  $jGj$ , and is 1.73 times faster than MatchJoinmnl. This verifies that evaluating pattern queries by using less view significantly reduces computation time. The results are consistent.

#### 5. Optimization techniques

Varying the size of DAG (resp. cyclic) patterns, we evaluated the effectiveness of the optimization strategy, by comparing the performance of MatchJoinmin and MatchJoinnopt on Citation (resp. WebGraph). The MatchJoinmin is more efficient than MatchJoinnopt for all the patterns. For example, MatchJoinmin is 1.46 (resp. 1.66) times faster than MatchJoinnopt for DAG (resp. cyclic) patterns on average. The improvement becomes more substantial when  $jQsj$  gets larger. This is because for larger patterns, the bottom-up strategy used

in MatchJoinmin can eliminate redundant matches more quickly. The optimization strategy works even better on denser big graphs, since more invalid matches can be removed by the strategy. This explains why MatchJoinmin works better on Web Graph than on Citation, since Web Graph is denser than Citation.

### 5.1 Query containment

We evaluated the efficiency of pattern containment checking w.r.t. query complexity.

### 5.2 Accuracy

We report the accuracy of MatchJoinmax on Web Graph and Youtube, respectively. We found the following. MatchJoinmax finds approximate answers with high accuracy. The Acc is 0.73 (resp. 0.65) on Web Graph (resp. Youtube) on average. The accuracy of MatchJoinmax is not sensitive to the pattern size; instead, it is determined by how much a maximally contained rewriting “covers” the pattern query. For example, we found that the accuracy of MatchJoinmax is on average 0.63 when the rewriting “missed” two edges in the pattern query, and it increases to 0.82 when only one query edge is missed.

## 6. Proposed System

We have proposed a notion of pattern containment to characterize what pattern queries can be answered using views, and provided such an efficient matching algorithm. We have also identified three fundamental problems for pattern containment, established their complexity, and developed effective (approximation) algorithms. When a pattern query is not contained in available views, we have developed efficient algorithms for computing maximally contained rewriting using views to get approximate answers. Our experimental results have verified the efficiency and effectiveness of our techniques. These results extend the study of query graph using views from relational and XML queries to graph pattern queries.

Techniques such as adaptive and incremental query expansion may apply. Another issue concerns view-based pattern matching via sub graph isomorphism. The third topic is to find a subset  $V_0$  of  $V$  such that  $V_0 \cap G$  is minimum for all graphs  $G$ . Finally, to find a practical method to query “big” social data, one needs to combine techniques such as view-based, distributed, incremental, and compression methods.

## 7. Conclusion

We have studied graph simulation using views, from theory to algorithms. We have proposed a notion of pattern containment to characterize what pattern queries can be answered using views, and provided such an efficient matching algorithm. We have also identified three fundamental problems for pattern containment, established their complexity and developed effective (approximation) algorithms. When a pattern query is not contained in available views, we have developed efficient algorithms for computing maximally contained rewriting using views to get approximate answers. Our experimental results have verified the efficiency and effectiveness of our techniques. These results extend the study of query graph using views from relational and XML queries to graph pattern queries.

Our techniques can be readily extended to variants of graph simulation. Take strong simulation as example, MatchJoin only needs to check, for each pattern edge  $u_0; u_1$  and its match  $v_0; v_1$  in  $S$ , whether for

each pattern edge  $u_0v_0$ , there is a match  $u_0P$ , with time complexity unchanged.

The study of graph pattern matching using views is still in its infancy. One issue is to decide what views to cache such that a set of frequently used pattern queries can be answered by using the views. Techniques such as adaptive and incremental query expansion may apply. Another issue concerns view-based pattern matching via Sub graph isomorphism. The third topic is to find a subset  $V_0$  of  $V$  such that  $V_0 \cap G \cap P$  is minimum for all graphs  $G$ . Finally, to find a practical method to query “big” social data, one needs to combine techniques such as view-based, distributed, incremental, and compression methods.

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