

Completeness, Recall, and Negation in Open-World Knowledge Bases



Simon Razniewski, Hiba Arnaout, Shrestha Ghosh, Fabian Suchanek

On the Limits of Machine Knowledge: Completeness, Recall and Negation in Web-scale Knowledge Bases

Simon Razniewski, Hiba Arnaout, Shrestha Ghosh, Fabian Suchanek

1. Introduction & Foundations (Simon) – 9:00-9:30 CEST
2. Predictive recall assessment (Fabian) – 9:30-10:10
3. Counts from text and KB (Shrestha) – 10:10-10:45
4. Negation (Hiba) – 10:45-11:25
5. Relative completeness & Wrap-up (Simon) – 11:25-12:00

Machine knowledge in action



physics nobel prize winners

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates_in_Physics

List of Nobel laureates in Physics - Wikipedia

John Bardeen is the only **laureate** to win the prize twice—in 1956 and 1972. Marie Skłodowska-Curie also won two **Nobel Prizes**, for **physics** in 1903 and ...
[Andrea M. Ghez](#) · [Donna Strickland](#) · [Jim Peebles](#) · [Shuji Nakamura](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Physics

Nobel Prize in Physics - Wikipedia

Three **Nobel Laureates in Physics**. Front row L-R: Albert A. Michelson (1907 **laureate**), Albert Einstein (1921 **laureate**) and Robert A. Millikan (1923 **laureate**).

First awarded: 1901

Most awards: [John Bardeen](#) (2)

Most recently awarded to: [Roger Penrose](#), ...

Awarded for: Outstanding contributions for...

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-relations>

Winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics | Britannica

year	name	country*
1901	Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen	Germany
1902	Hendrik Antoon Lorentz	Netherlands
1902	Pieter Zeeman	Netherlands

[View 213 more rows](#)

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/nobel-laureates>

German Nobel laureates - Research in Germany

J. Georg Bednorz: 1987 - Physics ... An unusual approach made Georg Bednorz a pioneer in the field of superconductivity – and **Physics Nobel Prize laureate** in ...

Machine knowledge in action



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Nobel Prize in Physics / Winners



Andrea M. Ghez
2020



Michel Mayor
2019



Roger Penrose
2020



Didier Queloz
2019



Reinhard Genzel
2020



Gérard Mourou
2018



Jim Peebles
2019



Arthur Ashkin
2018

Knowledge-
powered

Machine knowledge in action



marie curie prizes



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Awards / Marie Curie



Davy Medal



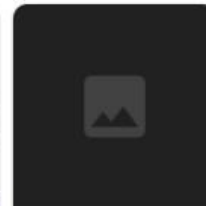
Matteucci Medal



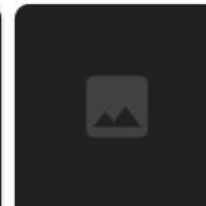
Elliott Cresson Medal



Albert Medal



Actonian Prize



Willard Gibbs Award

Machine knowledge is awesome

- Reusable, scrutable asset for knowledge-centric tasks
 - Semantic search & QA
 - Entity-centric text analytics
 - Distant supervision for ML
 - Data cleaning
- Impactful projects at major public and commercial players
 - Wikidata, Google KG, Microsoft Satori, ...
- Strongly rooted in semantic web community
 - Linked data, vocabularies, ontologies, indexing and querying, ...

But: Machine Knowledge is incomplete



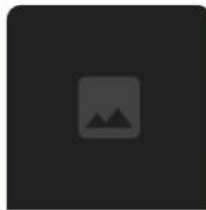
marie curie prizes

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Awards / Marie Curie



Davy Medal



Matteucci Medal



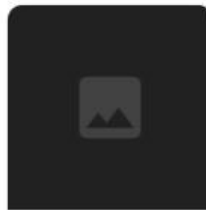
Elliott Cresson Medal



Albert Medal



Actonian Prize



Willard Gibbs Award

Nobel Prize (2x)

Machine knowledge is incomplete (2)



Wikidata KB:

Semantic Web Journal has only published 84 articles
ever

- <https://scholia.toolforge.org/venue/Q15817015>

Most cited papers on data integration have <38
citations

- <https://scholia.toolforge.org/topic/Q386824>

But: Machine knowledge is one-sided



- In KB:
 - *Nicola Tesla received title of IEEE fellow*
 - *Vietnam is a member of ASEAN*
 - *iPhone has 12MP camera*
- Not in KB:
 - *Nicola Tesla did not receive the Nobel Prize*
 - *Switzerland is not a member of the EU*
 - *iPhone 12 has no headphone jack*

Why is this problematic? (1)

Querying

- Decision making more and more data-driven
- Analytical queries paint wrong picture of reality
 - *E.g., SW journal deemed too small*
- Instance queries return wrong results
 - *E.g., wrongly assuming certain authors never published in SW Journal*

Why is this problematic? (2)

Data curation

- Effort prioritization fundamental challenge in human-in-the-loop curation
 - *Should we spend effort on obtaining data for SWJ or TKDE?*
- Risk of effort duplication if not keeping track of completed areas
 - *Spending effort on collecting data ... already present*

Why is this problematic? (3)

Summarization and decision making



- Bathroom**
 - ✓ Toilet paper
 - ✓ Towels
 - ✓ Private bathroom
 - ✓ Toilet
 - ✓ Free toiletries
 - ✓ Hairdryer
 - ✓ Shower
- Bedroom**
 - ✓ Linen
 - ✓ Wardrobe or closet
 - ✓ Alarm clock
- Room Amenities**
 - ✓ Socks
 - ✓ Cleaning products
 - ✓ Pets allowed
 - ✓ Pets and applicable fees
 - ✓ Air conditioning
 - ✓ Free room
- Meals**
 - ✓ Flat-screen TV
 - ✓ Satellite channels
 - ✓ Radio
 - ✓ Telephone
 - ✓ TV
 - ✓ Pay-per-view channels
- Food & Drink**
 - ✓ On-site coffee house
 - ✓ Chocolate or cookies
 - ✓ Fruits
- Safety & security**
 - ✓ Fire extinguishers
 - ✓ CCTV outside property
 - ✓ CCTV in common areas
 - ✓ Smoke alarms
 - ✓ 24-hour security
 - ✓ Safety deposit box
- General**
 - ✓ Paid WiFi
 - ✓ Mini-market on site
 - ✓ Vending machine (drinks)
 - ✓ Designated smoking area
 - ✓ Air conditioning
 - ✓ Free room
- Wellness**
 - ✓ Fitness
 - ✓ Full body massage
 - ✓ Hand massage
 - ✓ Head massage
 - ✓ Couples massage
 - ✓ Foot massage
 - ✓ Neck massage
 - ✓ Back massage
 - ✓ Spa/wellness packages
 - ✓ Steam room
 - ✓ Spa Facilities
 - ✓ Light therapy
 - ✓ Facial treatments
 - ✓ Beauty Services
 - ✓ Sun loungers or beach chairs
 - ✓ Pool/beach towels
 - ✓ Hot tub/jacuzzi
 - ✓ Massage
 - ✓ Spa and wellness centre
 - ✓ Fitness centre
 - ✓ Sauna
- Accessibility**
 - ✓ Visual aids: Tactile signs
 - ✓ Visual aids: Braille
 - ✓ Lower bathroom sink
 - ✓ Higher level toilet
 - ✓ Toilet with grab rails
 - ✓ Wheelchair accessible
- Languages spoken**
 - ✓ English

No free WiFi!

- Camera**
 - Pro 12MP camera system: Ultra Wide, Wide, and Telephoto cameras
 - Ultra Wide: $f/2.4$ aperture and 120° field of view
 - Wide: $f/1.6$ aperture
 - Telephoto: $f/2.2$ aperture
 - 2.5x optical zoom in, 2x optical zoom out; 5x optical zoom range
 - Digital zoom up to 12x
 - Night mode portraits enabled by LiDAR Scanner
 - Portrait mode with advanced bokeh and Depth Control
 - Portrait Lighting with six effects (Natural, Studio, Contour, Stage, Stage Mono, High-Key Mono)
 - Dual optical image stabilization (Wide and Telephoto)
 - Sensor-shift optical image stabilization
 - Five-element lens (Ultra Wide); six-element lens (Telephoto); seven-element lens (Wide)
 - Brighter True Tone flash with Slow Sync
 - Panorama (up to 63MP)
 - Sapphire crystal lens cover
 - 100% Focus Pixels (Wide)
 - Night mode (Ultra Wide)
 - Deep Fusion (Ultra Wide)
- Video**
 - 4K video recording at 30 fps
 - Sensor-shift optical image stabilization for video (Wide)
 - Optical image stabilization for video (Wide)
 - 2.5x optical zoom in, 2x optical zoom out; 5x optical zoom range
 - Digital zoom up to 7x
 - Audio zoom
 - Brighter True Tone flash
 - QuickTake video
 - Slo-mo video support for 1080p at 120 fps or 240 fps
 - Time-lapse video with stabilization
 - Night mode Time-lapse
 - Extended dynamic range for video up to 60 fps
 - Cinematic video stabilization (4K, 1080p, and 720p)
 - Continuous autofocus video

No headphone jack

Topic of this tutorial

How to know how much a KB knows?

How to = techniques

How much knows = completeness/recall/coverage bookkeeping/estimation

KB = General world knowledge repository

What this tutorial offers

- **Logical foundations**
 - Setting and formalisms for describing KB completeness (part 1)
- **Predictive assessment**
 - How (in-)completeness can be statistically predicted (Part 2)
- **Count information**
 - How count information enables (in-)completeness assessment (Part 3)
- **Negation**
 - How salient negations can be derived from incomplete KBs (Part 4)
- **Relative recall**
 - How to define and measure recall in without gold standard (Part 5)

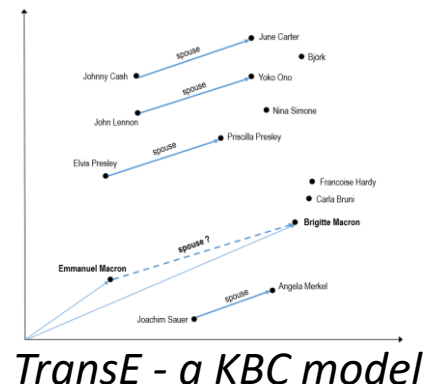
Goals:

1. Systematize the topic and its facets
2. Lay out assumptions, strengths and limitations of approaches
3. Provide a practical toolsuite

Relevant research domains

- Semantic Web
- Logics
- Statistics
- Machine Learning
- Natural language processing

What this tutorial is NOT about



- Knowledge base completion (KBC)
 - “How to make KBs more complete”
- **Related:** Understanding of completeness is needed to know when/when not to employ KBC
 - KBC naively is open-ended
 - Understanding of completeness needed to “stop”
- But:
 - Heuristic, error-prone KBC not always desired
 - Completeness awareness != actionable completion
- Literature on knowledge graph completion, link prediction, missing value imputation, etc.
 - E.g., Rossi, Andrea, et al.
[Knowledge graph embedding for link prediction: A comparative analysis](#)
TKDD 2021

Beatles members:

John Lennon	36%
Paul McCartney	23%
George Harrison	18%
Bob Dylan	5%
Ringo Starr	3%
Elvis Presley	2%
Yoko Ono	2%

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Knowledge base - definition

Given set **E** (entities), **L** (literals), **P** (predicates)

- Predicates are positive or negated properties
 - *bornIn, notWonAward, ...*
- An **assertion** is a triple $(s, p, o) \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{P} \times (\mathbf{EUL})$
- A practically **available KB** \mathbf{K}^a is a set of assertions
- The “ideal” (complete) KB is called \mathbf{K}^i
- Available KBs are incomplete: $\mathbf{K}^a \subseteq \mathbf{K}^i$

Knowledge bases (KBs aka. KGs)

subject-predicate-object triples about entities,
attributes of and relations between entities

+ composite
objects

predicate (subject, object)

type (Marie Curie, physicist)

subtypeOf (physicist, scientist)

taxonomic knowledge

placeOfBirth (Marie Curie, Warsaw)

residence (Marie Curie, Paris)

¬placeOfBirth (Marie Curie, France)

factual knowledge

discovery (Polonium, 12345)

discoveryDate (12345, 1898)

discoveryPlace (12345, Paris)

discoveryPerson (12345, Marie Curie)

spatio-temporal
& contextual
knowledge

atomicNumber (Polonium, 84)

halfLife (Polonium, 2.9 y)

expert knowledge

History of knowledge bases



Cyc

WordNet

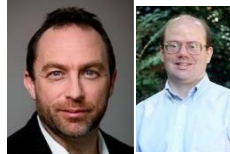


Manual compilation

Automation and human-in-the-loop

guitarist
 \subset {player, musician}
 \subset artist
 {player, footballer}
 \subset athlete

Wikipedia



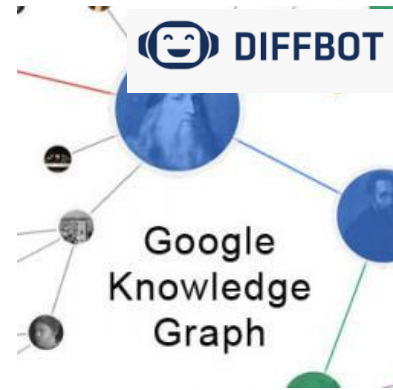
6 Mio. English articles
 40 Mio. contributors



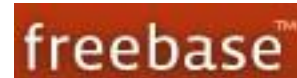
WIKIDATA



DIFFBOT



Google Knowledge Graph



1985

1990

2000

2005

2010

2020

KB scale and use cases

Wikidata (open)

- 95 M items
- 1.1 B statements



Google KG

- 5 B items
- 500 B statements



Major use cases:

- semantic search & QA
- language understanding
- distant supervision for ML
- data cleaning

KB incompleteness is inherent

Why?



Reality

Einstein received the Nobel Prize in 1921, the Copley medal, the Prix Jules Jansen, the Medal named after Max Planck, and several others



Doc

1. Sources incomplete

Knowledge base construction



4. Extraction resource-bounded

Award(Einstein, NobelPrize)
~~Award(Einstein, Copley medal)~~
Award(Einstein, Prix Jules Jansen)
Friend(Einstein, Max Planck)

3. Extractors imperfect

2. Negations quasi-infinite

- Honorary doctorate, UMadrid
- Gold medal, Royal Astronomic Society
- Benjamin Franklin Medal,
- ...
- NobelPrizeFor(Einstein, RelativityTheory)
- NobelPrizeFor(Einstein, ElectricToaster)
- ...

Resulting challenges

1. Available KBs are incomplete

$$K^a \ll K^i$$

2. Available KBs hardly store negatives

$$K^{a^-} \approx \emptyset$$

Formal semantics for incomplete KBs: Closed vs. open-world assumption

won	
name	award
Brad Pitt	Oscar
Marie Curie	Nobel Prize
Berners-Lee	Turing Award

**Closed-world
assumption**

**Open-world
assumption**

won(BradPitt, Oscar)? → *Yes*

→ *Yes*

won(Pitt, Nobel Prize)? → *No*

→ ***Maybe***

- Databases traditionally employ **closed-world assumption**
- KBs (**semantic web**) necessarily operate under **open-world assumption**

Open-world assumption

Game of Thrones directed by Shakespeare?

**World-aware AI?
Practically useful paradigm?**

- Q: *Trump brot*

KB: *Maybe*

The logicians way out – completeness metadata

- Need power to express both **maybe** and **no**

(Some paradigm which allows both open- and closed-world interpretation of data to co-exist)

- Approach: **Completeness assertions** [Motro 1989]

won	
name	award
Brad Pitt	Oscar
Marie Curie	Nobel Prize
Berners-Lee	Turing Award

Completeness assertion:

`wonAward is
complete for
Nobel Prizes`

`won(Pitt, Oscar)?` → Yes

`won(Pitt, Nobel)?` → No (CWA)

`won(Pitt, Turing)?` → Maybe (OWA)

The power of completeness metadata

Know what the KB knows:

→ Locally, $K^a = K^i$

Absent assertions are really false:

→ Locally, $s \notin K^a$ implies $s \notin K^i$

Completeness metadata: Formal view

Complete (won(name, award); award = 'Nobel')

Implies constraint on possible state of K^a and K^i

$won^i(name, 'Nobel') \rightarrow won^a(name, 'Nobel')$

(tuple-generating dependency)

Cardinality assertions: Formal view

- *“Nobel prize was awarded 603 times”*
 - $|\text{won}^i(\text{name}, \text{'Nobel'})| = 603$
- Allows counting objects in \mathbf{K}^a
 - Equivalent count → Completeness assertion
 - Otherwise, fractional coverage/recall information
 - *“93% of awards covered”*
- Grounded in number restrictions/role restrictions in Description Logics

B. Hollunder and F. Baader

[Qualifying Number Restrictions in Concept Languages](#)

KR 1991

Formal reasoning with completeness metadata

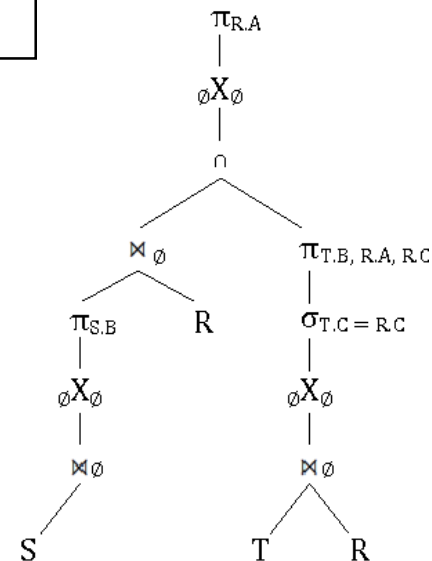
Problem: Query completeness reasoning

Input:

- Set of completeness assertions for base relations
- Query Q

Task:

- Compute completeness assertions that hold for result of Q



Formal reasoning with completeness metadata

Work	Description Language	Results
Motro, TODS 1989	Views	Algorithm
Fan & Geerts, PODS 2009	Various query languages (CQ-Datalog)	Decidability/Complexity
Razniewski & Nutt 2011	Join queries	Complexity
Lang et al., SIGMOD 2014	Selections	Algorithm
Razniewski et al., SIGMOD 2016	Selections	Algorithm, computational completeness

Where can completeness metadata come from?

- Data creators should pass them along as metadata
- Or editors should add them in curation steps

Abingdon	4. Residential triangle, Longmead etc.		Pub is only restaurant? Footways that link stuff, stubbed in places.
Shippon	5. Whole village, minus the barracks		Mostly done here.

This is a complete list of compositions by **Maurice Ravel**,

28	<i>Tout est lumière</i>	soprano, mixed choir, and orchestra	1901	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prix de Rome competition
29	<i>Myrrha</i> , cantata	soprano, tenor, baritone, and orchestra	1901	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text: Fernand Beissier; • Prix de Rome competition
31	<i>Semiramis</i>	cantata	1902	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student competition; • partially lost

- E.g., COOL-WD tool



Analytics

Query

Search entity



residence (P551)	White House	?
country of citizenship (P27)	United States of America	?
child (P40)	Ivanka Trump	✓
	Donald Trump Jr.	
	Eric Trump	
	Tiffany Trump	
	Barron Trump	
field of work (P101)	politics	?
	government	

But...

- Requires human effort
 - Soliciting metadata more demanding than data
 - Automatically created KBs do not even have editors

Remainder of this tutorial:

How to **automatically acquire** information about what a KB knows

Takeaway Part 1: Foundations

- KBs are pragmatic collections of knowledge
 - Issue 1: **Inherently incomplete**
 - Issue 2: **Hardly store negative knowledge**
- **Open-world assumption (OWA)** as formal interpretation leads to **counterintuitive results**
- **Metadata** about completeness or counts **as way out**

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Relative completeness

- So far: “Gold” yardstick reality
 - *Do we have all the Turing award winners?*
 - *How many of the 923 Nobel prize winners do we have?*
- Now: Pragmatic “silver” yardsticks
 1. How much textual information does the KB cover?
 2. How well are entities covered relative to others?
 3. How well does the KB support queries?

How much textual information does the KB cover?

- Yardstick: Descriptive text

→ How much of **text is covered in KB?**

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace
(née **Byron**; 10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852) was a [British](#) mathematician, known for her work on [Charles Babbage](#)'s proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the [Analytical Engine](#).

Ada Lovelace (Q7259)

instance of	human
country of citizenship	United Kingdom
significant person	Charles Babbage

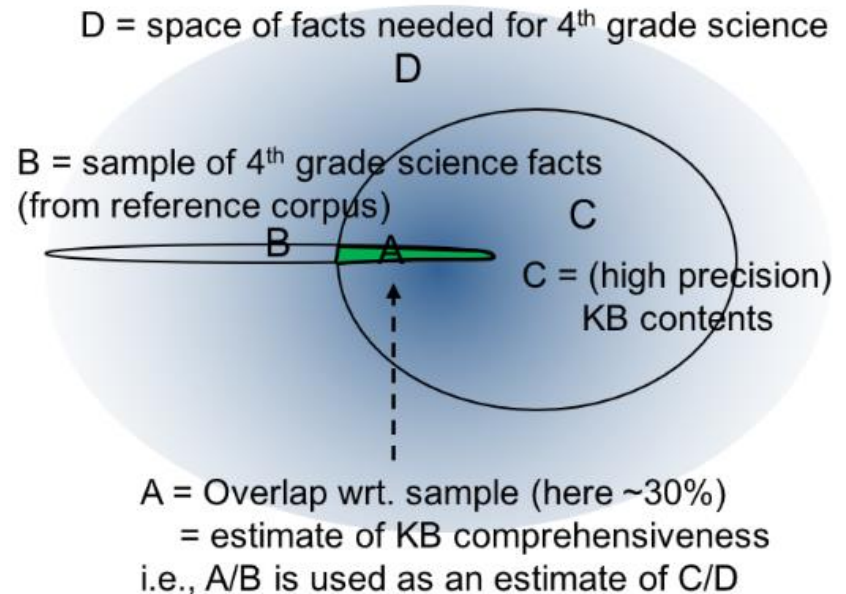
Challenge: How to measure?

Simple science texts

Reference corpus:

~1.2M sentences comprising elementary science textbooks, dictionary definitions of all fourth grade vocabulary words, simple Wikipedia pages for all fourth grade vocabulary words

→ 4000 extracted sample triples (B)



Dalvi, B., Tandon, N., & Clark, P. (2017).
[Domain-Targeted, High Precision Knowledge Extraction](#). TACL.

Simple science texts (2)

KB	Precision	Coverage of Tuple-Expressible Science Knowledge (Recall on science KB)
WebChild	89%	3.4%
NELL	85%	0.1%
ConceptNet	40%	8.4%
ReVerb-15M	55%	11.5%
Our KB	81%	23.2%

Wikipedia pages

Triples from Wikipedia pages (OPIEC corpus)

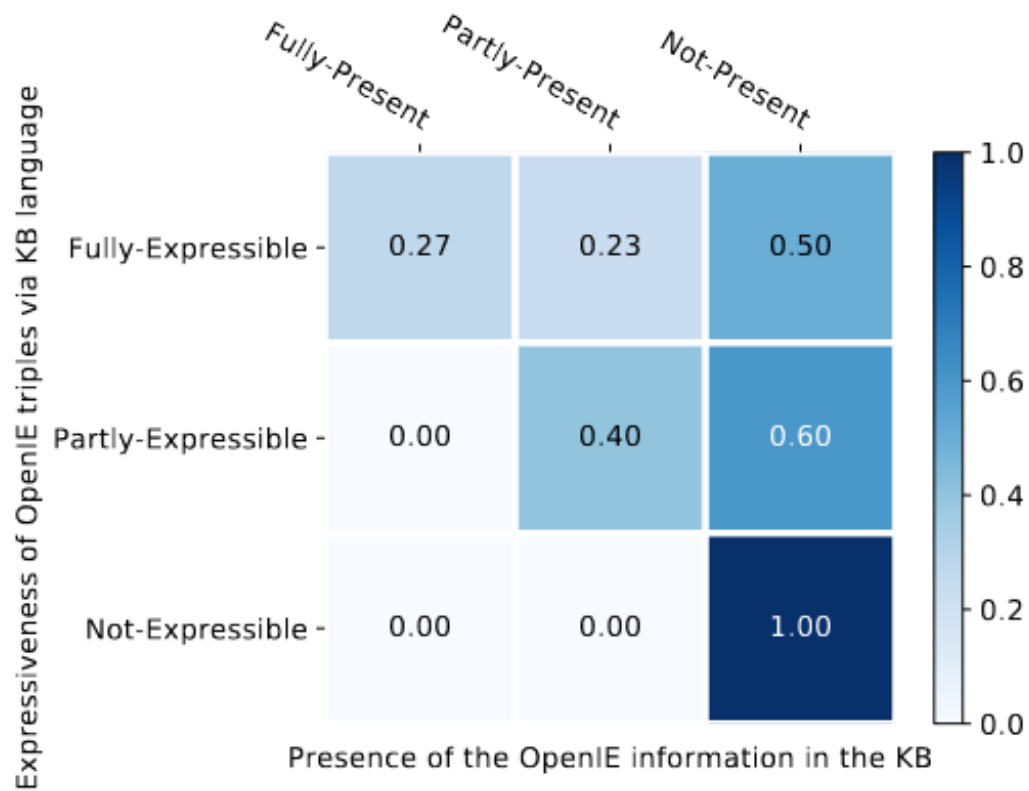
- subcorpus of 5.8M assertions where both arguments are disambiguated

K. Gashteovski et al.

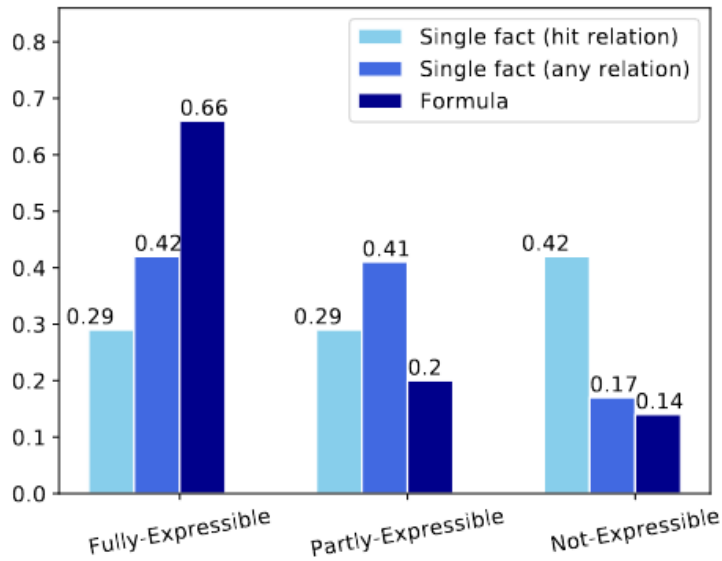
[On Aligning OpenIE Extractions with Knowledge Bases: A Case Study](#)

Eval4NLP 2020

Wikipedia pages (2)



Schema recall



Can an OPIEC triple be expressed in DBpedia?

#	OIE triple	KB formula
t_1	Temporal annotation <i>(Coral Fang; “was released by”; Sire Records)</i> <i>Time: (in, 2003)</i>	$(\text{Coral Fang}; \text{dbo:recordLabel}; \text{Sire Records}) \wedge$ $(\text{Coral Fang}; \text{dbo:releaseDate}; 2003)$
t_2	Complex formula <i>(Garrett Davis; “was Rep. from”; Kentucky)</i>	$(\text{G. D.}; \text{dbo:profession}; \text{State representative}) \wedge$ $[(\text{G. D.}; \text{dbo:region}; \text{K.}) \vee (\text{G. D.}; \text{dbo:state}; \text{K.})]$
t_3	Existential quantification <i>(Franz Liszt; “transcribed piece for”; Piano solo)</i>	$\exists x : (\text{F. L.}; \text{dbo:write}; x) \wedge (x; \text{dbo:genre}; \text{P. solo})$

Temporal development

How does KB coverage change over time?

Criterion:

How many of the hyperlinked entities in a Wikipedia article occur also as objects in the entity's Wikidata article

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace
(née **Byron**; 10 December 1815 – 27
November 1852) was a **British**
mathematician, known for her work on
Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical
general-purpose computer, the **Analytical**
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$\frac{2}{3}$

Ada Lovelace (Q7259)

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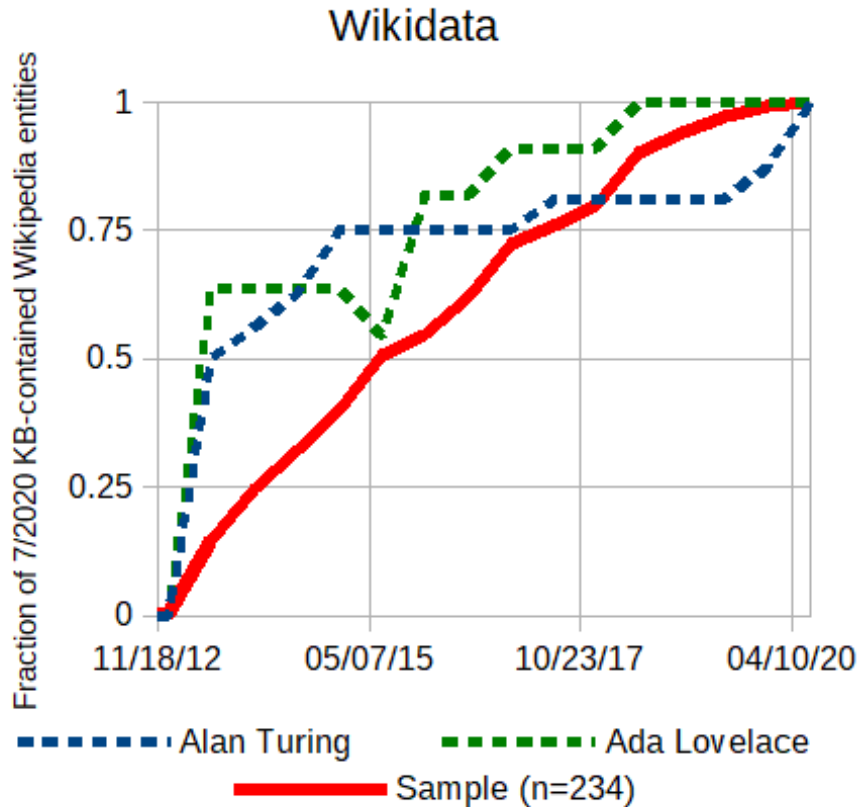
Razniewski and Das

[Structured knowledge: Have we made progress?](#)

[An empirical study of KB coverage over 19 years](#)

CIKM 2020

Temporal development (2)



→ KBs get better

→ Absolute coverage still low (5-10%)

Relative completeness

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Entity comparison - idea



Coverage(Wikidata for Putin)?



There are more than **3000 properties** one can assign to Putin...



How well is data about him compared to others?



Compared to whom?

Entity comparison – idea (2)

Quantify based on comparison with other similar entities

Ingredients:

- Similarity metric
- Data quantification

Who is similar to Trump?

How much data is good/bad?



- Deployed in Wikidata as Relative Completeness (Recoin)



Edsger W. Dijkstra (Q8556)

Dutch computer scientist

sex or gender



male

▶ 5 references

country of citizenship



Kingdom of the Netherlands

▶ 2 references

name in native language



Edsger Wybe Dijkstra (Dutch)

▶ 1 reference

given name



Edsger



Edsger W. Dijkstra (Q8556)

Dutch computer scientist

▼ Recoin: Most relevant properties which are absent

Property ID	Label	Relative	Add Claim
P937	work location	13.4%	+
P1343	described by source	11.6%	+
P512	academic degree	10.04%	+
P39	position held	9.06%	+
P102	member of political party	6.24%	+
P856	official website	5.46%	
P140	religion	4.13%	+
P22	father	3.48%	+
P551	residence	3.25%	+
P40	child	3.22%	+



Advanced property ranking methods

- Razniewski, Simon, et al. "Doctoral advisor or medical condition: Towards entity-specific rankings of knowledge base properties." *ADMA*, 2017.
- Gleim, Lars C., et al. "SchemaTree: Maximum-Likelihood Property Recommendation for Wikidata." *ESWC*, 2020.
- Luggen, Michael, et al. "Wiki2Prop: A Multimodal Approach for Predicting Wikidata Properties from Wikipedia." *The Web Conference*. 2021.

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- So far: Yardstick was reality
 - *Do we have all the Turing award winners?*
 - *How many of the 923 Nobel prize winners do we have?*
- Now: Pragmatic “silver” yardsticks
 1. How much textual information does the KB cover?
 2. How well are entities covered relative to others?
 3. How well does the KB support queries?

How well does the KB support queries?

- Is the KB ~~complete?~~

useful

Usage = querying

Demand-weighted completeness prediction

- Alexa query logs
- Queries: Entity+property → value lookups
- Peering of entities via classes
- Predict property-query frequency of novel entities by interpolating from peers

- **Task:** Given an entity E in a KB, and query usage data of the KB, predict the distribution of relations that E must have in order for 95% of queries about E to be answered successfully

```
barackObama:  
  hasHeight:      0.16  
  hasBirthdate:   0.12  
  hasBirthplace: 0.08  
  hasSpouse:      0.07  
  hasChild:       0.05
```

Demand-weighted completeness prediction (2)

- Neural models can successfully predict query loads
 - Query loads can be used to assess demand-weighted completeness
- Unseen sample:
58% complete w.r.t. 95% query goal

Temporal development

300 random questions filtered from large search query logs

- AOL query log
- Bing query log
- Google query suggestion

Human annotator

- Task: Can a KB answer a query, and if so, since when?

Query	First answerable
<i>how old is dustin pedroia</i>	May 18, 2017
<i>where is italian job filmed</i>	October 15, 2015
<i>what type of government is ontario</i>	April 22, 2020
<i>what time zone is ohio in</i>	August 31, 2013

Examples Google Suggest/Wikidata

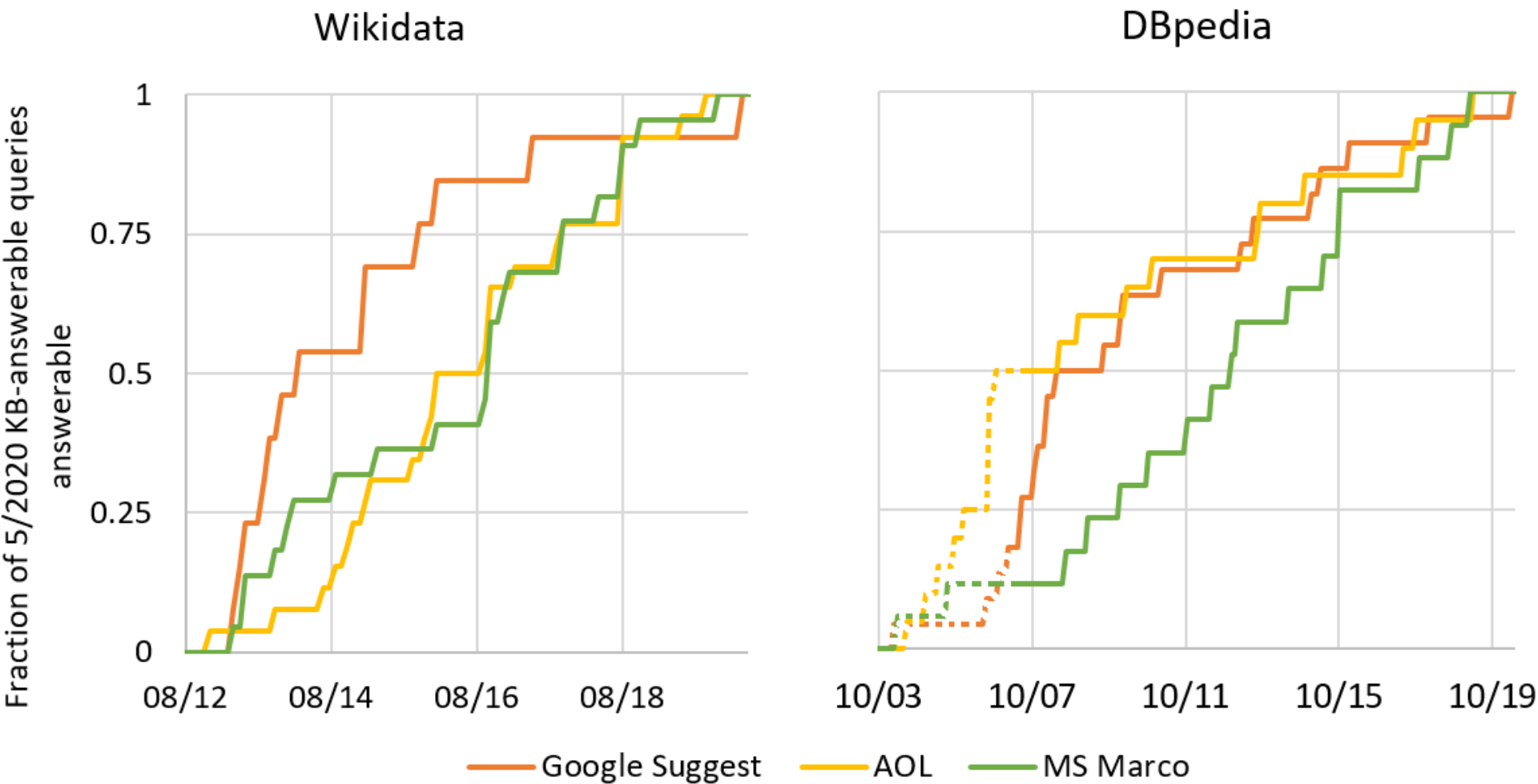
Razniewski and Das

[Structured knowledge: Have we made progress?](#)

[An empirical study of KB coverage over 19 years](#) 57

CIKM 2020

Temporal development (2)



Takeaway Part 5: Relative recall

- **Real-world recall** not always measurable and/or relevant
- **Alternative** yardsticks:
 - Text
 - Related entities
 - Usage data (query logs)
- Logical next step: **Cost/benefit prioritization**

On the Limits of Machine Knowledge: Completeness, Recall and Negation in Web-scale Knowledge Bases

Simon Razniewski, Hiba Arnaout, Shrestha Ghosh, Fabian Suchanek

1. Introduction & Foundations (Simon) – 9:00-9:30 CEST
2. Predictive recall assessment (Fabian) – 9:30-10:10
3. Counts from text and KB (Shrestha) – 10:10-10:45
4. Negation (Hiba) – 10:45-11:25
5. Relative completeness & **Wrap-up** (Simon) – 11:25-12:00

Wrap-up: Take-aways



1. KBs are **incomplete** and **limited** on the **negative** side
2. **Predictive techniques** work from a surprising set of **paradigms**
3. **Count information** a prime way to gain insights into completeness/coverage
4. **Salient negations** can be heuristically **materialized**

Wrap-up: Recipes

- **Ab-initio KB construction**

1. Intertwine data and metadata collection
2. Human insertion: Provide tools
3. Automated extraction: Learn from extraction context

- **KB curation**

1. Exploit KB-internal or textual cardinality assertions
2. Inspect statistical properties on density or distribution
3. Compute overlaps on pseudo-random samples

Open research questions

1. How are **entity, property and fact completeness** related?
2. How to distinguish **salient negations** from data **modelling issues**?
3. How to estimate **coverage** of knowledge in **pre-trained language models**?
4. How to identify **most valuable** areas for recall **improvement**?

Wrap-up: Wrap-up

- KBs major drivers of **knowledge-intensive applications**
- Severe **limitations** concerning **completeness** and **coverage-awareness**
- This tutorial: Overview of **problem, techniques** and **tools** to obtain awareness of completeness

Takeaway Part 1: Foundations

- KBs are pragmatic collections of knowledge
 - Issue 1: **Inherently incomplete**
 - Issue 2: **Hardly store negative knowledge**
- **Open-world assumption (OWA)** as formal interpretation leads to **counterintuitive results**
- **Metadata** about completeness or counts **as way out**

Takeaway: Predictive recall assessment

Using statistical techniques, we can predict more or less

- the recall of facts
 - are we missing objects for a subject?
 - do all subjects have an attribute in the real world?
 - does a text enumerate all objects for a subject?
- the recall of entities
 - is the distribution of entities representative?
 - how many entities are in the real world?

Takeaway: Counts from text and KB

1. Count information comes in two variants
 - Counting predicates - store integer counts
 - Enumerating predicates - store entities
2. Count information in text
 - occurs as cardinals, ordinals, non-numeric noun phrases
 - occurs with compositional cues
3. Count information in KBs
 - is expressed in two variants
 - occurs semantically related count predicates
4. Count information
 - can enrich KB
 - highlight inconsistencies

Takeaway: negation

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- **Current KBs lack negative knowledge**
- **Rising interest in the explicit addition of negation to OW KB.**
- **Negations highly relevant in many applications including:**
 - **Commercial decision making (e.g., hotel booking)**
 - **General-domain question answering systems (e.g., is Switzerland a member of the EU?)**
- **Methodologies include:**
 - **Statistical inference**
 - **Text extraction**
 - **Pretrained LMs.**