# Probabilistic Databases: Models and Applications to Web Data

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## Part I: Uncertainty in the Real World

Numerous sources of uncertain data:

- Measurement errors
- Data integration from contradicting sources
- Imprecise mappings between heterogeneous schemata
- Imprecise automatic process (information extraction, natural language processing, etc.)
- Imperfect human judgment
- Lies, opinions, rumors

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- Imprecise automatic process (information extraction, natural language processing, etc.)
- Imperfect human judgment
- Lies, opinions, rumors

## Use case: Web information extraction

instance	iteration	date learned	confidence
arabic, egypt	406	08-sep-2011	(Seed) 100.0
chinese, republic of china	439	24-oct-2011	100.0
chinese, singapore	421	21-sep-2011	(Seed) 100.0
english, britain	439	24-oct-2011	100.0
english, canada	439	24-oct-2011	(Seed) 100.0
english, england001	439	24-oct-2011	100.0
arabic, morocco	422	23-sep-2011	100.0
cantonese, hong kong	406	08-sep-2011	100.0
english, uk	436	19-oct-2011	100.0
english, south vietnam	427	27-sep-2011	99.9
french, morocco	422	23-sep-2011	99.9
greek, turkey	430	07-oct-2011	99.9

Never-ending Language Learning (NELL, CMU), http://rtw.ml.cmu.edu/rtw/kbbrowser/

## Use case: Web information extraction

G	oog	e squared	comedy movies Square				
com	comedy movies						
	Item Nar	ne 🔻	Language	<b>V</b> X	Director 🔍 🗙	Release Date	
X	The Mas	k	English		Chuck Russell	29 July 1994	
×	Scary M	English     Ianguage for th     www.infibeam.c	e mask om - all 9 source	<u>s »</u>	Chuck Russell directed by for The www.infibeam.com	• Mask - all 9 sources »	
		Other possible values			Other possible values		
×	Superba	English Langu language for Ma www.freebase.com	guage Low confidence     Joh       Mask     dire       b.com     www		<ul> <li>John R. Dilworth director for The Ma www.freebase.com</li> </ul>	Low confidence ask	
×	Music	english, french Low confidence languages for the mask www.dvdreview.com		-	Fiorella Infascelli directed by for The www.freebase.com	Low confidence Mask - all 2 sources »	
X	Knocked	Italian Langua language for Th www.freebase.com	<b>ge Low</b> confidence ne Mask om	-	Charles Russell directed by for The www.freebase.com	Low confidence Mask - all 2 sources »	
		Search for more va	ues »		Search for more values	<u>; »</u>	

Google Squared (terminated), screenshot from [Fink et al., 2011]

Subject	Predicate	Object	Confidence
Elvis Presley	diedOnDate	1977-08-16	97.91%
Elvis Presley	isMarriedTo	Priscilla Presley	97.29%
Elvis Presley	influences	Carlo Wolff	96.25%

YAGO, http://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de/yago-naga/yago

# Uncertainty in Web information extraction

- The information extraction system is imprecise
- The system has some confidence in the information extracted, which can be:
  - a probability of the information being true (e.g., conditional random fields)
  - an ad-hoc numeric confidence score
  - a discrete level of confidence (low, medium, high)
- What if this uncertain information is not seen as something final, but is used as a source of, e.g., a query answering system?

Two dimensions:

- Different types:
  - Unknown value: NULL in an RDBMS
  - Alternative between several possibilities: either A or B or C
  - Imprecision on a numeric value: a sensor gives a value that is an approximation of the actual value
  - Confidence in a fact as a whole: cf. information extraction
  - Structural uncertainty: the schema of the data itself is uncertain
- Qualitative (NULL) or Quantitative (95%, low-confidence, etc.) uncertainty

#### Objective

Not to pretend this imprecision does not exist, and manage it as rigorously as possible throughout a long, automatic and human, potentially complex, process.

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Not to pretend this imprecision does not exist, and manage it as rigorously as possible throughout a long, automatic and human, potentially complex, process.

Especially:

- Represent all different forms of uncertainty
- Use probabilities to represent quantitative information on the confidence in the data
- Query data and retrieve uncertain results
- Allow adding, deleting, modifying data in an uncertain way
- Bonus (if possible): Keep as well lineage/provenance information, so as to ensure traceability

- Not the only option: fuzzy set theory [Galindo et al., 2005], Dempster-Shafer theory [Zadeh, 1986]
- Mathematically rich theory, nice semantics with respect to traditional database operations (e.g., joins)
- Some applications already generate probabilities (e.g., statistical information extraction or natural language probabilities)
- In other cases, we "cheat" and pretend that (normalized) confidence scores are probabilities: see this as a first-order approximation

- Present data models for uncertain data management in general, and probabilistic data management in particular:
  - relational
  - XML
- Briefly discuss querying of probabilistic data

## Part II: Probabilistic Models of Uncertainty

### Probabilistic Relational Models

Probabilistic XML

Possible world: A regular (deterministic) relational or XML database Incomplete database: (Compact) representation of a set of possible worlds

Probabilistic database: (Compact) representation of a probability distribution over possible worlds, either:

finite: a set of possible worlds, each with their probability continuous: more complicated, requires defining a  $\sigma$ -algebra, and a measure for the sets of this  $\sigma$ -algebra

## Part II: Probabilistic Models of Uncertainty

- Probabilistic Relational Models
- Probabilistic XML

- Data stored into tables
- Every table has a precise schema (type of columns)
- Adapted when the information is very structured

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis
А	23	12	$\alpha$
В	10	23	eta
С	2	4	$\gamma$
D	15	15	lpha
Е	15	17	eta

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis
А	23	12	$\alpha$
В	10	23	$\perp_1$
С	2	4	$\gamma$
D	15	15	$\perp_2$
Е	$\perp_3$	17	eta

- Most simple form of incomplete database
- Widely used in practice, in DBMS since the mid-1970s!
- All NULLs  $(\perp)$  are considered distinct
- Possible world semantics: all (infinitely many under the open world assumption) possible completions of the table
- In SQL, three-valued logic, weird semantics: SELECT \* FROM Tel WHERE tel\_nr = '333' OR tel\_nr <> '333'

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis	Condition
Α	23	12	$\alpha$	
В	10	23	$\perp_1$	
С	2	4	$\gamma$	
D	$\perp_2$	15	$\perp_1$	
Е	$\perp_3$	17	eta	$18 < \bot_3 < \bot_2$

- NULLs are labeled, and can be reused inside and across tuples
- Arbitrary correlations across tuples
- Closed under the relational algebra (Codd tables only closed under projection and union)
- Every set of possible worlds can be represented as a database with c-tables

# Tuple-independent databases (TIDs)

[Lakshmanan et al., 1997, Dalvi and Suciu, 2007]

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis	Probability
Α	23	12	$\alpha$	0.9
В	10	23	eta	0.8
С	2	4	$\gamma$	0.2
С	2	14	$\gamma$	0.4
D	15	15	$\alpha$	0.6
D	15	15	$\beta$	0.4
Е	15	17	$\beta$	0.7
Е	15	17	$\alpha$	0.3

- Allow representation of the confidence in each row of the table
- Impossible to express dependencies across rows
- Very simple model, well understood

# Block-independent databases (BIDs)

[Barbará et al., 1992, Ré and Suciu, 2007]

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis	Probability
A	23	12	α	0.9
В	10	23	$\beta$	0.8
С	2	4	$\gamma$	0.2
С	2	14	$\gamma$	0.4∫ <sup>⊕</sup>
D	15	15	$\beta$	0.6 Ĵ
D	15	15	$\alpha$	0.4∫ <sup>⊕</sup>
Е	15	17	$\beta$	0.7 Ĵ
Е	15	17	$\alpha$	0.3∫⊕

- ► The table has a primary key: tuples sharing a primary key are mutually exclusive (probabilities must sum up to ≤ 1)
- Simple dependencies (exclusion) can be expressed, but not more complex ones

Patient	Examin. I	Examin. 2	Diagnosis	Condition
А	23	12	$\alpha$	$w_1$
В	10	23	eta	$W_2$
С	2	4	$\gamma$	W <sub>3</sub>
С	2	14	$\gamma$	$ eg w_3 \wedge w_4$
D	15	15	eta	$W_5$
D	15	15	$\alpha$	$ eg w_5 \wedge w_6$
Е	15	17	eta	<b>W</b> 7
Е	15	17	$\alpha$	$\neg w_7$

- The w<sub>i</sub>'s are Boolean random variables
- Each  $w_i$  has a probability of being true (e.g.,  $Pr(w_1) = 0.9$ )
- The w<sub>i</sub>'s are independent
- Any finite probability distribution of tables can be represented using probabilistic c-tables

## Two actual PRDBMS: Trio and MayBMS

Two main probabilistic relational DBMS:

- Trio [Widom, 2005] Various uncertainty operators: unknown value, uncertain tuple, choice between different possible values, with probabilistic annotations. See example later on.
- MayBMS [Koch, 2009] Implementation of the probabilistic c-tables model. In addition, uncertain tables can be constucted using a REPAIR-KEY operator, similar to BIDs.

## Two actual PRDBMS: Trio and MayBMS

```
test=# select * from R;
Two m dummy | weather | ground | p
       dummy |
               rain
                                  0.35
                        wet
                                                               own
       dummy | rain | dry
                                  0.05
                                                               ible
       dummy | no rain | wet
                                   0.1
       dummy | no rain | dry
                                   0.5
                                                               ter on.
       (4 rows)
    Ma
                                                               bles
       test=# create table S as
                                                               d using
       repair key Dummy in R weight by P:
      SELECT
       test=# select Ground, conf() from S group by Ground;
       around | conf
       drv
               0.55
                0.45
       wet
       (2 rows)
```

## Part II: Probabilistic Models of Uncertainty

### Probabilistic Relational Models

Probabilistic XML

## The semistructured model and XML



- Tree-like structuring of data
- No (or less) schema constraints
- Allow mixing tags (structured data) and text (unstructured content)
- Particularly adapted to tagged or heterogeneous content

- Extensive literature about probabilistic relational databases [Dalvi et al., 2009, Widom, 2005, Koch, 2009]
- Different typical querying languages: conjunctive queries vs XPath and tree-pattern queries (possibly with joins)
- Cases where a tree-like model might be appropriate:
  - No schema or few constraints on the schema
  - Independent modules annotating freely a content warehouse
  - Inherently tree-like data (e.g., mailing lists, parse trees) with naturally occurring queries involving the descendant axis

#### Remark

Some results can be transferred from one model to the other. In other cases, connection much trickier! [Amarilli and Senellart, 2013]

## Web information extraction [Senellart et al., 2008]





- Annotate HTML Web pages with possible labels
- Labels can be learned from a corpus of annotated documents
- Conditional random fields for XML: estimate probabilities of annotations given annotations of neighboring nodes
- Provides probabilistic labeling of Web pages

### Uncertain version control [Abdessalem et al., 2011, Ba et al., 2013]



Use trees with probabilistic annotations to represent the uncertainty in the correctness of a document under open version control (e.g., Wikipedia articles)

### Probabilistic summaries of XML corpora [Abiteboul et al., 2012a,b]



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- Transform an XML schema (deterministic top-down tree automaton) into a probabilistic generator (probabilistic tree automaton) of XML documents
- Probability distribution optimal with respect to a given corpus
- Application: Optimal auto-completions in an XML editor

### Incomplete XML [Barceló et al., 2009]



- Models all XML documents where these patterns exist (i.e., this subtree can be matched)
- Can be used for query answering, etc.

## Simple probabilistic annotations



- Probabilities associated to tree nodes
- Express parent/child dependencies
- Impossible to express more complex dependencies
- Some sets of possible worlds are not expressible this way!

### Annotations with event variables



### Annotations with event variables



- Expresses arbitrarily complex dependencies
- Obviously, analogous to probabilistic c-tables

# A general probabilistic XML model

#### [Abiteboul et al., 2009]



- e: event "it did not rain" at time I
- mux: mutually exclusive options
- N(70,4): normal distribution

- Compact representation of a set of possible worlds
- Two kinds of dependencies: global (e) and local (mux)
- Generalizes all previously proposed models of the literature

### Recursive Markov chains [Benedikt et al., 2010]

<!ELEMENT directory (person\*)> <!ELEMENT person (name,phone\*)>



- Probabilistic model that extends PXML with local dependencies
- Allows generating documents of unbounded width or depth
#### Part III: Querying Probabilistic Databases

- Semantics
- Lineage computation and #P-Hardness
- Special tractable case within Probabilistic XML

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#### Semantics

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# Semantics Of Query Answering: Example

#### Person

name	city	probability
lvan	Moscow	0.3
Jean	Paris	0.8
Pedro	Madrid	0.4

Query: SELECT name FROM Person

# Semantics Of Query Answering: Example

#### Person

name	city	probability
Ivan	Moscow	0.3
Jean	Paris	0.8
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Pr = 0.3\*0.8\*0.4

nar

0.3~0.8	3*0.4	
ne	ci	ty

lvan	Moscow
Jean	Paris
Pedro	Madrid

Query: SELECT name FROM Person

$$Pr = 0.3*0.2*0.4$$

name	city
Ivan	Moscow
Pedro	Madrid

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ 

# Semantics Of Query Answering: Example



Possible answers: ({Ivan, Juan, Pedro}, 0.3\*0.8\*0.4), ({Ivan, Pedro}, 0.3\*0.2\*0.4), ...

Possible tuples:

(Ivan, 0.3), (Jean, 0.8), (Pedro, 0.4)

### **Possible Answers Semantics**

Probabilistic DB:



#### **Possible Tuples Semantics**



### **Possible Answers Semantics**

Probabilistic DB:



#### **Possible Tuples Semantics**



# Probabilistic DB: Ć P = 0.2 P = 0.5 P = 0.3Q {a} {a,b}

**Possible Answers Semantics** 

Answer:  $({a}, 0.3); ({a,b}, 0.5)$ 

**Possible Tuples Semantics** 



### Possible Answers Semantics

### Probabilistic DB:



Possible Tuples Semantics

Probabilistic DB:



Answer:  $({a}, 0.3); ({a,b}, 0.5)$ 

# Probability distribution on sets of tuples



Answer:  $({a}, 0.3); ({a,b}, 0.5)$ 

# Probability distribution on sets of tuples





### Possible Answer vs Possible Tuple Semantics

[Dalvi,Suciu'09]

- Possible answers semantics:
  - Precise
  - Can be used to compose queries
  - Difficult user interface
- Possible tuples semantics:
  - Less precise, but simple; sufficient for most apps
  - Cannot be used to compose queries
  - Simple user interface





Answer: (a, 0.8), (b, 0.5)

- There may be EXP many worlds → naive evaluation is exponential
- Can we do better?



- There may be EXP many worlds  $\rightarrow$  naive evaluation is exponential
- Can we do better?



- There may be EXP many worlds -> naive evaluation is exponential
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- There may be EXP many worlds -> naive evaluation is exponential
- Can we do better?
- Goal: to find out how to query representation system directly

#### Part III: Querying Probabilistic Databases

#### Semantics

- Lineage computation and #P-Hardness
- Special tractable case within Probabilistic XML

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (1)

#### Drivers

ID	person	car	Lineage
31	Jimmy	Toyota	$\mathbf{x} \wedge \mathbf{y}$
32	Jimmy	Honda	у
33	Hank	Honda	$x \lor z$

#### Saw

ID	witness	car	Lineage
21	Cathy	Honda	w

$$Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$$
$$Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$$

Project = 
$$\pi_{person}$$
 (Drives)

### Project

person	Lineage	
Jimmy	$(x \land y) \lor y$	
Hank	$x \lor z$	

Select = 
$$\sigma_{car="honda"}$$
 (Drives)

### Select

person	car	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	У
Hank	Honda	$x \lor z$

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (1)

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Jimmy	$(x \land y) \lor y$	
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Select = 
$$\sigma_{car="honda"}$$
 (Drives)

### Select

person	car	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	У
Hank	Honda	$x \lor z$

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (2)

#### Drivers

ID	person	car	Lineage
31	Jimmy	Toyota	x $\wedge$ y
32	Jimmy	Honda	у
33	Hank	Honda	$x \lor z$

#### Saw

ID	witness	car	Lineage
21	Cathy	Honda	W

$$Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$$
$$Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$$

Join = Saw 
$$\bowtie_{car}$$
 Drives

Several = 
$$\pi_{person}(\sigma_{person="Hank"}(Saw \bowtie_{car} Drives))$$

### Join

person	car	witness	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	Cathy	y∧w
Hank	Honda	Cathy	$(x \lor z) \land w$

#### Several

person	Lineage
Hank	$(x \lor z) \land w$

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (2)

#### Drivers

ID	person	car	Lineage
31	Jimmy	Toyota	x $\wedge$ y
32	Jimmy	Honda	у
33	Hank	Honda	$x \lor z$

#### Saw

ID	witness	car	Lineage
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Jimmy	Honda	Cathy	y∧w
Hank	Honda	Cathy	$(x \lor z) \land w$

#### Several

person	Lineage
Hank	$(x \lor z) \land w$

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (3)

Saw-day

ID	witness	car	Lineage
31	Cathy	Honda	Z
32	Bob	BMW	$\mathbf{y} \wedge \mathbf{w}$

#### Saw-night

ID	witness	car	Lineage
21	Cathy	Honda	w

$$Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$$
$$Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$$

### Union

witness	car	Lineage
Cathy	Honda	z V w
Bob	BMW	$\mathbf{y} \wedge \mathbf{w}$

### Difference

witness	car	Lineage
Cathy	Honda	z ∧ (¬w)
Bob	BMW	$\mathbf{y} \wedge \mathbf{w}$

# General Lineage: Examples of Operators (3)

Saw-day

ID	witness	car	Lineage
31	Cathy	Honda	Z
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### Difference

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Cathy	Honda	z ∧ (¬w)
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Join = Saw 
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 $Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$  $Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$ 

#### Join

person	car	witness	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	Cathy	y∧w
Hank	Honda	Cathy	$(x \lor z) \land w$

#### Theorem:

Join = Saw 
$$\bowtie_{car}$$
 Drives

 $Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$  $Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$ 

person	car	witness	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	Cathy	y∧w
Hank	Honda	Cathy	$(x \lor z) \land w$

• Pr(Jimmy  $\in$  (Saw  $\bowtie_{car}$  Drives)) = Pr(y \land w) = Pr(y) \times Pr(w) = 0.4 \times 0.5 = 0.2

Join



Join = Saw 
$$\bowtie_{car}$$
 Drives

 $Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$  $Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$ 

person	car	witness	Lineage
Jimmy	Honda	Cathy	y∧w
Hank	Honda	Cathy	$(x \lor z) \land w$

•  $Pr(Jimmy \in (Saw \bowtie_{car} Drives)) = Pr(y \land w) = Pr(y) \times Pr(w) = 0.4 \times 0.5 = 0.2$ 

Join

•  $Pr(Hank \in (Saw \bowtie_{car} Drives)) = Pr((x \lor z) \land w))$ 

= 
$$Pr(x \lor z) \times Pr(w)$$
  
=  $[Pr(x) + Pr(z) - Pr(x \land z)] \times 0.5$   
=  $[Pr(x) + Pr(z) - Pr(x) \times Pr(z)] \times 0.5$   
=  $[0.2 + 0.8 - 0.2 \times 0.8] \times 0.5 = 0.42$ 

Theorem:

Join = Saw 
$$\bowtie_{car}$$
 Drives

 $Pr(x \text{ is true}) = 0.2 \quad Pr(z \text{ is true}) = 0.8$  $Pr(y \text{ is true}) = 0.4 \quad Pr(w \text{ is true}) = 0.5$ 

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•  $Pr(Jimmy \in (Saw \bowtie_{car} Drives)) = Pr(y \land w) = Pr(y) \times Pr(w) = 0.4 \times 0.5 = 0.2$ 

oin

•  $Pr(Hank \in (Saw \bowtie_{car} Drives)) = Pr((x \lor z) \land w))$ 

In general:  $Pr(lineage) = Pr(\phi)$ where  $\phi$  is a prop. formula =  $Pr(x \lor z) \times Pr(w)$ =  $[Pr(x) + Pr(z) - Pr(x \land z)] \times 0.5$ =  $[Pr(x) + Pr(z) - Pr(x) \times Pr(z)] \times 0.5$ =  $[0.2 + 0.8 - 0.2 \times 0.8] \times 0.5 = 0.42$ 

#### Theorem:

### **#P Functions**

- Probability computation is a function and not a decision problem
- Usually complexity is studied for decision problems: P(x) = yes/no
- Complexity classes for probability computation are for classes of functions
- #P functions: f(x) = n
  - there is a PTIME non-deterministic Turing machine  $M_f$
  - $n = the number of accepting runs of M_f on x, i.e., of M_f(x)$
- #P functions are counting counterparts of NP decision problems
- Example of #P-complete function: #2DNF: count number of evaluations for 2DNF propositional formulas
- #P-comp. functions are counter counterparts of NP-comp. problems

#### Part III: Querying Probabilistic Databases

- Semantics
- Lineage computation and #P-Hardness
- Special tractable case within Probabilistic XML

Bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm. Query: /A//B



	$A_1$	$D_2$	$mux_3$	$B_4$	$C_5$	$B_6$
/B				Ι	0	Ι
//B				T	0	I
/A//B				0	0	0
	mux co	nvex su	ım			

ordinary inclusion-exclusion

Bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm. Query: /A//B



	$A_1$	$D_2$	mux <sub>3</sub>	$B_4$	$C_5$	$B_6$
/B			0.3	I	0	Ι
//B			0.3	I	0	I
/A//B			0	0	0	0

mux convex sum

ordinary inclusion-exclusion

Bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm. Query: /A//B



 $\Pr(D_2 \models //B) = 1 - (1 - 0.8 \times \Pr(\mathsf{mux}_3 \models /B)) \times (1 - 0.6 \times \Pr(B_6 \models /B))$  $= 1 - (1 - 0.8 \times 0.3) \times (1 - 0.6) = 0.696$ 

Bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm. Query: /A//B



	$A_1$	$D_2$	mux <sub>3</sub>	$B_4$	$C_5$	$B_6$
/B	0	0	0.3	I	0	Ι
//B	0.696	0.696	0.3	I	0	I
/A//B	0.696	0	0	0	0	0

mux convex sum

ordinary inclusion-exclusion
Trio http://infolab.stanford.edu/trio/, useful to see lineage computation

MayBMS http://maybms.sourceforge.net/, full-fledged probabilistic relational DBMS, on top of PostgreSQL, usable for actual applications.

ProApproX http://www.infres.enst.fr/~souihli/
Publications.html to play with various
approximation and exact query evaluation methods for
probabilistic XML.

- An influential paper on incomplete databases [Imielinski and Lipski, 1984]
- A book on probabilistic relational databases, focused around TIDs/BIDs and MayBMS [Suciu et al., 2011]
- An in-depth presentation of MayBMS [Koch, 2009]
- A gentle presentation of relational and XML probabilistic models [Kharlamov and Senellart, 2011]
- A survey of probabilistic XML [Kimelfeld and Senellart, 2013]

## Merci.



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