

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Preliminary notions . . . . .	2
1.2	Problems, hypothesis and goals . . . . .	5
1.3	Summary of contributions of this thesis . . . . .	5
1.4	Structure of this thesis. . . . .	8
<b>I</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>RDF and SPARQL</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1	The RDF data model . . . . .	11
2.2	The SPARQL query language . . . . .	14
<b>II</b>	<b>Incomplete data in SPARQL</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Blank nodes as unknown values</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1	Naive semantics of RDF . . . . .	24
3.2	RDF graphs as $V$ -tables . . . . .	25
3.2.1	The $V$ -tables relational algebra . . . . .	29
3.2.2	The relational algebra of SPARQL . . . . .	30
3.3	Approximating certain answers in SPARQL . . . . .	34
3.3.1	Certain answers with null values . . . . .	34
3.3.2	Under- and over-approximations . . . . .	35
3.3.3	Approximating relational algebra queries . . . . .	41
3.3.4	SPARQL rewriting strategies . . . . .	48
3.4	Evaluation . . . . .	51
3.4.1	Evaluation Setting . . . . .	52
3.4.2	TPC-H experiments . . . . .	52
3.4.3	Wikidata survey . . . . .	56
3.5	Conclusions . . . . .	57
<b>4</b>	<b>Unbound values as incomplete data</b>	<b>59</b>
4.1	A brief review of the landscape of null values . . . . .	60
4.2	Where do unbound values came from? . . . . .	61
4.3	Null values in SQL and SPARQL . . . . .	64
4.3.1	The generalized algebra . . . . .	64
4.3.2	Mapping SQL and SPARQL operators to the generalized algebra . . . . .	67

4.4	Conclusions . . . . .	72
<b>III</b>	<b>On the semantics of EXISTS</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>The notion of substitution under incomplete data</b>	<b>75</b>
5.1	The problem of substitution in SPARQL . . . . .	76
5.1.1	An overview of the problems of substitution in SPARQL . . . . .	77
5.1.2	Existing proposals for the semantics of EXISTS . . . . .	83
5.1.3	How the existing proposals solve the substitution issues . . . . .	85
5.2	Environment-binding as a substitution proposal . . . . .	88
5.3	Free, bound, and range restricted variables . . . . .	91
5.3.1	Substitution in relational calculus . . . . .	91
5.3.2	Substitution in SQL . . . . .	91
5.3.3	Substitution in SPARQL . . . . .	94
5.4	Conclusions . . . . .	96
<b>6</b>	<b>Expressing SPARQL in Datalog</b>	<b>97</b>
6.1	An overview of nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	98
6.2	Translation of the safe SPARQL-0 fragment . . . . .	100
6.3	Fixing the translation of equality atoms in filter-conditions . . . . .	104
6.4	Fixing the translation of negation in filter-conditions . . . . .	106
6.5	Translation of the SPARQL-1 fragment . . . . .	111
6.5.1	SELECTION queries in nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	111
6.5.2	MINUS queries in nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	111
6.5.3	VALUES queries to nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	112
6.5.4	BIND queries in nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	113
6.5.5	The translation of SPARQL-1 fragment to nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	113
6.6	Conclusion . . . . .	114
<b>7</b>	<b>Nested Datalog</b>	<b>117</b>
7.1	Syntax and Semantics of Nested Datalog . . . . .	118
7.2	Query atoms and external atoms . . . . .	123
7.3	The expressive power of Nested nr-Datalog <sup>⊥</sup> . . . . .	123
7.4	Conclusion . . . . .	127
<b>8</b>	<b>On the Nested Datalog semantics of the EXISTS clause</b>	<b>129</b>
8.1	Two forms of substitution of SPARQL variables . . . . .	129
8.1.1	Substitution of parameters . . . . .	130
8.1.2	Substitution of goal variables . . . . .	133
8.2	Nested Datalog with nulls . . . . .	139
8.3	Conclusions . . . . .	141
<b>IV</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Conclusions and future work</b>	<b>145</b>

<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Appendix A The information lattice of mappings with marked nulls</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Appendix B SQL and relational algebra</b>	<b>161</b>
B.1 SQL and the generalized PRU algebra . . . . .	162
B.2 SQL and the generalized selection . . . . .	163
B.3 SQL and the generalized join . . . . .	163
B.4 SQL and the generalized difference . . . . .	164