

# ExeKG: Executable Knowledge Graph System for User-friendly Data Analytics

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## ABSTRACT

Data analytics including machine learning (ML) is essential to extract insights from production data in modern industries. However, industrial ML is affected by: the low transparency of ML towards non-ML experts; poor and non-unified descriptions of ML practices for reviewing or comprehension; ad-hoc fashion of ML solutions tailored to specific applications, which affects their re-usability. To address these challenges, we propose the concept and a system of executable knowledge graph (KG), which represent KGs that rely on semantic technologies to formally encode ML knowledge and solutions. These KGs can be translated to executable scripts in a reusable and modularised fashion.

## CCS CONCEPTS

• Information systems → Information systems applications.

## KEYWORDS

Knowledge Graph, Artificial Intelligence, Data Analysis

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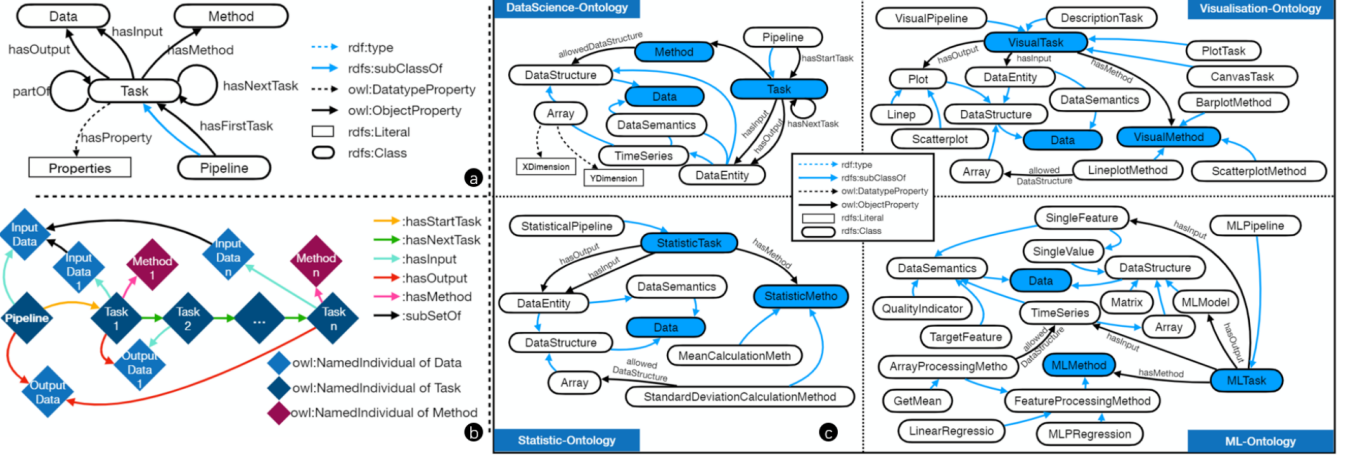
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Data analysis technologies play an important role in a wide range of modern industries and applications, such as recommendation system in internet, production monitoring in automatic manufacturing, pose estimation in robotics etc [2, 8, 22]. Among the technologies, machine learning (ML) attracts substantial yet increasing attention, for its strong modelling capability without the need of explicit programming [7] and the voluminous data that become available due to the introduction of internet of things into manufacturing [6, 24].

Take the quality monitoring of *automated welding* at Bosch as an example, which is an impactful automatic manufacturing process accounting for the production over 50 million cars globally in a year [20]. During the welding process, a high current flows through the car body work pieces to melt the metal materials, which then congeal after cooling down, to form connecting spots to connect the work pieces. Traditional monitoring approaches require to destroy the welded cars to measure the diameters of the connecting spots as prescribed in international and German standards [3, 5], which is extremely costly and produces much waste. In contrast, data-driven methods will reduce the need of destroying welded cars, thus reducing the waste and contributing to more economical and sustainable manufacturing industry [19]. The data analytics projects here involve experts from various domains with asymmetric knowledge background: welding experts, data scientists, measurement experts, managers, etc. They need to discuss extensively, formulate and prioritise the questions according to technical feasibility, company strategies, and invest-return ratio. After that, they design data analytics pipelines to process massive data from many sources like different customers, factories, to solve various questions.

**Challenges.** Development of such ML analytics solutions exist still many challenges of ML practice in the industry. In ML projects where interdisciplinary teams of experts with distinct background are involved (which is often), the transparency of ML (C1) to non-ML experts (e.g., domain experts, managers) is usually challenging [21], since the latter often specialise in their domain knowledge and did not receive excessive training of ML that is often required to understand the sophisticated ML methods and interpret the ML results. The non-ML experts need to understand ML and trust that ML applied in manufacturing robots operating with high electricity



**Figure 1:** (a) Executable KG framework in the schema level, and (b) in the individual level, (c) KG schemata (ontologies) for the executable KG

can ensure product quality and personnel safety. In addition, in traditional ML projects, the ML procedures, methods, scripts, and decisions are described in the technical language of ML, which is highly dependent on the person who writes the document. ML knowledge and solutions are hardly described or documented in a standardised way (C2), causing difficulties for later review and retrospective comprehension of the projects in big companies like Bosch, which have strict regulations in reporting the details for later audit and analysis. Moreover, ML solutions are often developed in an ad-hoc fashion and tailored to specific applications, which complicates its reusability (C3) for new data or questions [13, 23].

**ExeKG System.** To address C1-C3 challenges, we present a novel system that allows to combine semantic technologies and ML and enables users with minimal training of data analytics to do data analytics through GUI-based KG construction, without coding. ExeKG system enables this by encoding ML solutions in knowledge graphs (KG), which helps in describing ML knowledge and solutions in a standardised way that follows our KG framework and pre-defined schemata, which contains data science knowledge in formal language. Our system offers KG construction that represent executable data pipelines via GUI-based system for creation, modification, integration and visualisation of KGs. We name our system executable KGs (ExeKG), because our KGs can be translated to modularised and executable ML scripts that can be modified and reused for new data and new questions, besides, these KGs can also be used in other industrial applications such as pipeline verification and selection based query answering [17]. In particular, we focus on three important activities of data analytics practice: (1) visual analytics using various plotting methods to visualise data for intuitive data understanding; (2) statistical analytics with statistical methods to extract insights from data; (3) ML analytics relying on classic ML methods as well as neural networks for classification or regression. The former two are often known as exploratory data analysis and seen as important preceding steps for ML analytics [9].

**Demo Overview.** The attendees will experience how easy one can analyse data for welding quality monitoring on anonymised industrial data provided by Bosch. With zero knowledge in semantic technologies and a minimal common knowledge of data analytics,

the users can use our GUI tools in three scenarios for three analytical tasks: to visualise, modify, and create executable KGs for visual analytics, statistic analytics and ML analytics, and see the execution results of the data pipelines translated from these KGs.

## 2 EXEKG SYSTEM

### 2.1 Executable Knowledge Graph Framework

We define data, methods and tasks as follows: *Data*  $\mathcal{D}$  is a set of facts, statistics, or items of information in forms such as numerals, diagrams or strings organised in different structures such as tables, etc. A *Method*  $\mathcal{F}$  is a function in the form of language-dependent script (such as in C++ or Python). A method can take some data which fulfils certain constraints  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}}$  as input and can output specific data. Formally,  $\mathcal{D}^{out} = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{D}^{in})$ , if  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{D}^{in}) = True$ . A *Task*  $\mathcal{T}$  is the process of invoking a method by feeding it with some data that meets certain constraints, and by doing so to obtain some other data. Formally,  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{D}^{in}, \mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{D}^{in}) = \mathcal{D}^{out}$ , if  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{D}^{in}) = True$ .

Some tasks have a single method, while other more complex tasks can not solved by invoking a single method but can be unfolded into a sequence of tasks where each task is a part of the complex one. We refer the complex tasks as pipelines  $\mathcal{T}_p$ . Formally, a pipeline  $\mathcal{T}_p$  with input data  $\mathcal{D}^{in}$  to get  $\mathcal{D}^{out}$ , expressed as  $\mathcal{T}_p(\mathcal{D}^{in}, \mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{D}^{out}$  can be unfolded in the sequence  $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_n\}$ , where:

$$\mathcal{T}_1(\mathcal{D}_1^{in}, \mathcal{F}_1) = \mathcal{D}_1^{out}, \mathcal{D}_1^{in} \subseteq \mathcal{D}^{in}, \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_1}(\mathcal{D}_1^{in}) = True; \dots \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_n(\mathcal{D}_n^{in}, \mathcal{F}_n) &= \mathcal{D}_n^{out}, \mathcal{D}_n^{in} \subseteq \bigcup_{i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}} \mathcal{D}_i^{out} \cup \mathcal{D}^{in}, \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_n}(\mathcal{D}_n^{in}) = True \\ &\rightarrow \mathcal{D}^{out} \subseteq \bigcup_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \mathcal{D}_i^{out}, \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}} = \bigcap_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_i}(\mathcal{D}_i^{in}). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Based on the above definitions, we determine the framework for the executable KGs as Fig. 1 a, such executable KG should take the form as Fig. 1 b. Here we split the properties from the data  $\mathcal{D}$ , which strictly speaking also belong to  $\mathcal{D}$ , but correspond to the properties rather than objects of a *Task*. Except those *Tasks* with their *Methods* already been integrated in script, all other *Tasks* can be modularised in a *Pipeline* and be unfolded into a sequence of *Tasks*. The objectProperty *:hasFirstTask* connects the *Pipeline* with the first task in its unfolded sequence, while *:hasNextTask* connects the task in the sequence with its following task. In this

framework, as long as the *Data* and *Properties* of every *Task* fulfil the constraints of the *Method* in the *Task*, the *Task* is executable. If every *Task* in a *Pipeline* is executable, the *Pipeline* is executable. In addition, as a *Task*, the *Pipeline* can also be a part of another *Task*, which represents the modularity of the executable KG.

## 2.2 Architectural Overview

We now give an architectural overview of our system, which consists of five layers (Fig. 2 a), namely: (non-KG) data layer, application layer, KG database layer, semantic modules layer, and semantic artefacts layer. From the bottom left, we start with the welding raw data collected from production lines. These data are transformed by the Data Integration module (with the help of domain ontologies) to Domain-ML KG, it is a type of welding data KG with its datatype properties are annotated by some classes in data science ontology and thus carries ML annotation. These KGs are used by four types of analytics applications in the application layer.

The domain ontologies include various domain specific knowledge models, e.g., resistance spot welding ontology [12], hot-staking ontology. These ontologies are created based on the upper domain ontology [11], the manufacturing ontology. We briefly introduce ontology here and refer the readers to [1, 4]. In essence an ontology is a formal specification of a domain of interest written in a set of first-order logic formulae of a special form over atomic classes and properties, where each formula essentially says that one atomic class (resp. property) is a subclass (resp. subproperty) of another, and complex classes (resp. properties) are composed from the atomic classes and properties (resp. properties) using logical *and*, *or*, *not* as well as universal and existential quantifiers. Reasoning over ontologies allows to compute logical entailments. The manufacturing ontology is semantically connected with an upper task ontology, the data science ontology ( $O^{ds}$ ), in a way that the datatype properties in the former one are annotated by some classes in the latter one. A series of task ontologies, including the visualisation ontology ( $O^{visu}$ ), the statistical ontology ( $O^{stats}$ ), and ML ontology ( $O^{ml}$ ), are created based on the  $O^{ds}$ . These task ontologies serve as the schemata for the Executable KG Construction module, which encodes the executable data pipelines in the executable KGs, including the visualisation KG, statistical KG, and ML pipeline KG. These executable KGs then can be translated by the Executable KG Translator module to executable scripts for three analytics applications: Visual Analytics, Statistic Analytics, and ML Analytics, which generate the analytics results.

## 2.3 Semantic Artefacts

*Manufacture Ontology and Domain Ontologies* are OWL 2 ontologies and can be expressed in the Description Logics  $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{D})$ . With its 1170 axioms, which define 95 classes, 70 object properties and 122 datatype properties, the manufacture ontology as the upper domain ontology models the general knowledge of discrete manufacturing process, which refers to a broad range of manufacturing processes. The domain ontologies describe several manufacturing domains at Bosch. These ontologies are created by domain experts in such a way that all classes/properties in the domain ontologies are sub-classes/sub-properties of that in upper domain ontology.

*Data Science and Visual/Statistic/ML Ontologies* are also OWL 2 ontologies and are created by Bosch data scientists. This ontologies (Fig. 1 c) are expressed using  $\mathcal{ALH}(\mathcal{D})$  Description Logic. The data

science ontology ( $O^{ds}$ ) as the upper task ontology formalises the general knowledge of data science activities. It contains three most important classes (Fig 1 b): *Data* that is the class of all data concepts (the existential being in data science), *Method* is the class of all algorithms and functions (the way that data move), whose allowed input, output and parameters are defined, and *Task* is the class of the scripts that invoke the functions, which has an important sub-class, *Pipeline* that consists of a series of ordered tasks (the way that the data movement is organised). Based on  $O^{ds}$ , the  $O^{visu}$ ,  $O^{stats}$ , and  $O^{ml}$  are created in such a way that all classes/properties in the task ontologies are sub-classes/sub-properties of that in  $O^{ds}$ .

Besides, these ontologies also explicitly identify the rules that constrain the input data for these methods. For example, the rule  $stats:Concatnate(v1, v2) \wedge ds:TimeSeries(v1) \wedge ds:hasDimension(v1, x) \wedge ds:TimeSeries(v2) \wedge ds:hasDimension(v2, y) \Rightarrow ds:equal(x, y)$  indicates the input  $ds:TimeSeries$  of the statistical task  $stats:Concatnate$  should have the same dimension in the concatenation dimension.

## 2.4 Executable Knowledge Graph Construction

The executable KGs construction follows the task ontologies  $O^{visu}$ ,  $O^{stats}$ , and  $O^{ml}$  as schemata [15, 16, 18], and rely on KG templates [27, 28], which are parameterised ontologies with pre-defined structures and a set of variables of entities and properties. We adopt a solution similar to Reasonable Ontology Templates framework [10]. By providing values (arguments) for each parameter, users create an instance of a template, which is then serialised as OWL axioms. When the KG templates are designed legal and consistent, they possibly ensure legality and consistency of the generated knowledge graphs as well as the relative simplicity of the KG construction process [25]. In our system, we created a template library that relies on the classes, properties and constraints defined within  $O^{visu}$ ,  $O^{stats}$ , and  $O^{ml}$ .

Based on the GUI, users are able to construct executable KGs in three ways [14]: *creation*, *modification* and *integration*. *Creation* refers to represent specific data analytics pipelines by instantiating templates from the scratch, choosing the appropriate template which determines the domain and structure of the KG, and filling variables of entities and properties guided by the GUI step by step (Fig. 2 b). *Modification* refers to changing variables of entities or properties of an existing KG to represent a different but similar data pipeline, e.g., modifying the input data node of the visual pipeline KG (Fig. 2 b) makes the visual pipeline applicable for other input datasets. *Integration* refers to merging existing executable KGs to form bigger KGs. This is possible because each executable KG represents a data *pipeline*, which is a *task* according to Section 2.1, and thus an existing executable KG can be treated as a single *task* for forming bigger KGs that represent integrated pipelines.

## 2.5 Executable Knowledge Graph Execution

The KG execution includes three steps: *verification*, *translation*, and *execution*. In *verification*, all constraints in a constructed KG are verified against the properties of the data entities, methods, and tasks that comprise the KG. *KG translation* refers to the process of translating KG into executable scripts, which is language-dependent [26]. In our system we use Python as the language for discussion. Each executable KG representing a data *pipeline*, which consists of a series of *Tasks* of sequential or parallel structures connected with



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