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# Streaming saturation for large RDF graphs with dynamic schema information

Mohammad Amin Farvardin<sup>1</sup>, Dario Colazzo<sup>1</sup>, Khalid Belhajjame<sup>1</sup> and Carlo Sartiani<sup>2</sup>

Université Paris-Dauphine, Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, 75016 Paris,  
[mohammad-amin.farvardin, dario.colazzo, khalid.belhajjame]  
@lamsade.dauphine.fr  
Università della Basilicata, Via dell'Ateneo Lucano, Potenza, Italy,  
carlo.sartiani@unibas.it

**Abstract.** In the Big Data era, RDF data are produced in high volumes. While there exist proposals for reasoning over large RDF graphs using big data platforms, there is a dearth of solutions that do so in environments where RDF data are dynamic, and where new instance and schema triples can arrive at any time. In this work, we present the first solution for reasoning over large streams of RDF data using big data platforms. In doing so, we focus on the saturation operation, which seek to infer implicit RDF triples given RDF schema constraints. Indeed, unlike existing solutions which saturate RDF data in bulk, our solution carefully identifies the fragment of the existing (and already saturated) RDF dataset that needs to be considered given the fresh RDF statements delivered by the stream. Thereby, it performs the saturation in an incremental manner. An experimental analysis shows that our solution outperforms existing bulk-based saturation solutions.

**Keywords:** RDF saturation, RDF streams, Big Data, Spark

## 1 Introduction

To take full advantage of semantic data and turn them into actionable knowledge, the semantic web community has devised techniques for processing and reasoning over RDF data (e.g. [4, 18, 22]). However, in the Big Data era, RDF data, just like many other kinds of data, are produced in high volumes. This is partly due to sensor data produced in the context of health monitoring and financial market applications, feeds of user-content provided by social network platforms, as well as long-running scientific experiments that adopt a stream-flow programming model [11]. This trend generated the need for new solutions for processing and reasoning over RDF datasets since existing state of the art techniques cannot cope with large volumes of RDF data.

A typical and fundamental operation for reasoning about RDF data is *data saturation*. This operation involves a set  $D$  of RDF data triples and a set  $S$  of

semantics properties, expressed in terms of either RDF Schema and/or OWL, and aims at inferring the implicit triples that can be derived from  $D$  by using properties in  $S$ . Data saturation is crucial in order to ensure that RDF processing and querying actually work on the *complete* informative content of an RDF database, without ignoring implicit information. To deal with the problem of saturating massive RDF datasets, a few approaches exploiting big data paradigms (namely Map-Reduce [10]) and platforms, notably Hadoop and Spark (see e.g., [19, 7]), have already been proposed. In [19] Urbani *et al.* described the WebPIE system and showed how massive RDF data can be saturated by leveraging on the Map-Reduce paradigm over Hadoop. In [7] Gu *et al.* presented the Cichlid system and showed how to speed up saturation by using Spark and its underlying Resilient Distributed Datasets (RDDs) abstraction. In [14, 15] authors proposed a parallel reasoning method based on P2P self-organizing networks, while in [23] authors propose a parallel approach for RDF reasoning based on MPI. These approaches, however, assume that RDF datasets are fully available prior to the saturation, and as such, are not instrumented to saturate RDF data produced continuously in streams. Indeed, when RDF data are produced in streams, such systems must re-process the whole data collection in order to obtain triples entailed by the newly received ones. This is due to the fact that both initial and already obtained triples (by means of past saturation) can entail new triples under the presence of newly received instance/schema triples. A number of works have addressed the problem of incremental saturation [3, 21, 13, 24], but these approaches, being mostly centralised, do not ensure scalable, distributed, and robust RDF streaming saturation.

To overcome these limitations, in this work we present the first distributed technique for saturating *streams* of large RDF data, by relying on a Spark cluster, hence ensuring scalability and robustness. We rely on RDF Schema as a language to define property triples, since, despite its simplicity, RDF Schema is rich enough to make the efficient saturation of streaming large RDF data far from being trivial. The main challenge is to quickly process fresh data, that must be joined with past met data, whose volume can soon become particularly high in the presence of massive streams. To this end, unlike existing solutions [19, 7] for large-scale RDF saturation, upon the arrival of new RDF statements (both schema and instance triples) our solution *finely* identifies the subset of the existing (and already saturated) RDF dataset that needs to be considered. This is obtained by relying on an indexing technique we devise for our approach.

The rest of this work is organized as follows. Section 2 presents preliminaries about RDF saturation and Spark streaming, while Section 3 describes the state-of-the-art concerning large-scale RDF saturation using Spark. Section 4 presents an overview of our technique by means of examples, while Section 5 describes the algorithms. Section 6 is dedicated to performance evaluation of our approach. Sections 7 and 8, respectively, discuss related works and future perspectives.

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 RDF and Semantic Data Reasoning

An RDF dataset is a set of triples of the form  $s p o$ .  $s$  is an IRI<sup>1</sup> or a blank node that represents the subject. IRI stands for Internationalized Resource Identifier, and is used in the semantic web to identify resources.  $p$  is an IRI that represents the predicate, and  $o$  is an IRI, blank node or a literal, and it stands for the object. Blank nodes, denoted as  $_:b_i$ , are used to represent unknown resources (IRIs or literals). RDF Schema (or RDFS for short) provides the vocabulary for specifying the following relationships between classes and properties, relying on a simplified notation borrowed from [6]: *subclass relationship*  $\prec_{sc}$ : the triple  $c_1 \prec_{sc} c_2$  specifies that  $c_1$  is a subclass of  $c_2$ ; *subproperty relationship*  $\prec_{sp}$ : the triple  $p_1 \prec_{sp} p_2$  specifies that  $p_1$  is a sub-property of  $p_2$ ; *property domain*  $\leftrightarrow_d$ : the triple  $p \leftrightarrow_d x$  specifies that the property  $p$  has as a domain  $x$ ; and *property range*  $\leftrightarrow_r$ : the triple  $p \leftrightarrow_r z$  specifies that the property  $p$  has as a range  $z$ . For the sake of readability, in what follows we use simple strings instead of IRIs to denote predicates, subjects and objects in triples. Also, we abbreviate the `rdf:type` predicate with the  $\tau$  symbol.

*Example 1.* Figure 2 illustrates a set of RDF instance triples that we use as a running example, together with the equivalent graph representation. The graph describes the resource `doi1` that belongs to an unknown class, whose title is “Complexity of Answering Queries Using Materialized Views”, whose author is “Serge Abiteboul” and having an unknown contact author. This paper is in the proceedings of an unknown resource whose name is “PODS’98”. Lastly, the IRI `edbt2013` is a conference and `hasName`, the property associating names to resources, is created by “John Doe”.

Figure 1 lists schema triples. For example, it specifies that the class `posterCP` is a subclass of `ConfP`, that the property `hasContactA` is a sub-property of `hasAuthor`. It also specifies that the property `hasAuthor` has as domain `paper` and as range a literal.

$$\begin{aligned} S = \{ & \text{posterCP} \prec_{sc} \text{confP}, \quad \_ :b_0 \prec_{sc} \text{confP}, \\ & \text{confP} \prec_{sc} \text{paper}, \quad \text{hasTitle} \leftrightarrow_d \text{confP}, \\ & \text{hasTitle} \leftrightarrow_r \text{rdfs:Literal}, \quad \text{hasAuthor} \leftrightarrow_d \text{paper}, \\ & \text{hasAuthor} \leftrightarrow_r \text{rdfs:Literal}, \quad \text{hasContractA} \prec_{sp} \text{hasAuthor}, \\ & \text{inProceesingOf} \leftrightarrow_d \text{confP}, \quad \text{inProceesingOf} \leftrightarrow_r \text{conference}, \\ & \text{hasName} \leftrightarrow_d \text{conference}, \quad \text{hasName} \leftrightarrow_r \text{rdfs:Literal}, \\ & \text{createdBy} \leftrightarrow_r \text{rdfs:Literal} \} \end{aligned}$$

Fig. 1: Instance and schema RDF triples.

---

<sup>1</sup> An IRI (*Internationalized Resource Identifier*) is just a URI exploiting Unicode in place of US Ascii as the character set.

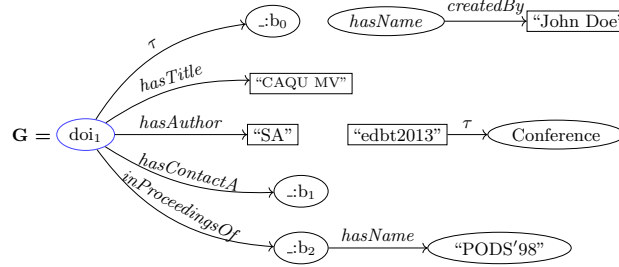
$$\mathbf{G} = \{ \text{doi}_1 \tau \text{ :b}_0, \text{doi}_1 \text{ hasTitle "CAQU MV"}, \\ \text{doi}_1 \text{ hasAuthor "SA"}, \text{doi}_1 \text{ hasContactA :b}_1, \\ \text{doi}_1 \text{ inProceedingsOf :b}_2, \text{:b}_2 \text{ hasName "PODS'98"}, \\ \text{hasName createdBy "John Doe"}, \text{"edbt2013"} \tau \text{ Conference} \}$$


Fig. 2: RDF graph representation of a conference paper.

As in other works (e.g., [6, 7, 19]) we focus on the core rules of RDFS, the extension to other rules being trivial. In particular, we consider here rules 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 among the 13 RDFS rules illustrated in Table 1.

The realm of the semantic web embraces the Open World Assumption: facts (triples) that are not *explicitly* stated may hold given a set of RDFS triples expressing constraints. These are usually called *implicit* triples, and, in our work, we consider the problem of RDF saturation, i.e., given a set of RDFS rules, inferring all possible implicit triples by means of these rules applied on explicit triples, or, recursively, on implicit triples. For example, rule *rdfs2* in Table 1 states that, if a property  $p$  has a domain  $x$ , given a triple  $s p o$ , we can infer that  $s$  is of type  $x$ . Since *rdfs9* specifies that, if  $s$  is of type  $x$  and  $x$  is a subclass of  $y$ , then we can infer that  $s$  is of type  $y$ .

Table 1: RDFS rules.

Rule	Condition	Consequence	level
<i>rdfs1</i>	$s p o$	$\text{:}b \tau \text{ rdfs:Literal}$	-
<b><i>rdfs2</i></b>	$p \leftarrow_d x, s p o$	$s \tau x$	instance-level
<b><i>rdfs3</i></b>	$p \hookrightarrow_r x, s p o$	$o \tau x$	instance-level
<i>rdfs4</i>	$s p o$	$s/o \tau \text{ rdfs:Resource}$	-
<b><i>rdfs5</i></b>	$p \prec_{sp} q, q \prec_{sp} r$	$p \prec_{sp} r$	schema-level
<i>rdfs6</i>	$p \tau \text{ rdf:Property}$	$p \prec_{sp} p$	-
<b><i>rdfs7</i></b>	$s p o, p \prec_{sp} q$	$s q o$	instance-level
<i>rdfs8</i>	$s \tau \text{ rdfs:Class}$	$s \prec_{sc} \text{ rdfs:Resource}$	-
<b><i>rdfs9</i></b>	$s \tau x, x \prec_{sc} y$	$s \tau y$	instance-level
<i>rdfs10</i>	$s \tau \text{ rdfs:Class}$	$s \prec_{sc} s$	-
<b><i>rdfs11</i></b>	$x \prec_{sc} y, y \prec_{sc} z$	$x \prec_{sc} z$	schema-level
<i>rdfs12</i>	$p \tau \text{ rdfs:ContainerMembershipProperty}$	$p \prec_{sp} \text{ rdfs:member}$	-
<i>rdfs13</i>	$o \tau \text{ rdfs:Datatype}$	$o \prec_{sc} \text{ rdfs:Literal}$	-

In the remaining part of the paper, we will use the following notation to indicate derivations/inference of triples. A *derivation tree* is defined as follows.

$$T := t \mid \{T \mid T\} - rdfsX \rightarrow t$$

where the rule number  $X$  ranges over  $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11\}$ . A derivation tree can be empty, hence consisting of a given triple  $t$ , or can be of the form  $\{T1 \mid T2\} - rdfsX \rightarrow t$ , meaning that the tree derives  $t$ , by means of rule  $rdfsX$  whose premises are (matched to) the two triples given by  $T1$  and  $T2$ , respectively. So, for instance we can have the following derivation tree  $T1$  for the for  $G$  and  $S$  previously introduced:

$$\{hasTitle \leftrightarrow_a confP \mid doi_1 hasTitle \text{ "CAQU MV"}\} - rdfs2 \rightarrow doi_1 \tau confP$$

Moreover, we can have the following derivation  $T2$  relying on  $T1$ :  $\{T1 \mid confP \prec_{sc} paper\} - rdfs9 \rightarrow doi_1 \tau paper$ .

In the following, given a set of instance RDF triples  $D$  and a set of schema triples  $S$ , we say that  $T$  is over  $D$  and  $S$  if the derivation tree uses triples in  $D$  and  $S$  as leaves. Moreover, we define the saturation of  $D$  over  $S$  as  $D$  extended with all the possible instance triples obtained by means of derivation (below, derivation trees are assumed to be over  $D$  and  $S$ ):

$$D_S^* = D \cup \{t \mid \exists\{T1 \mid T2\} - rdfsX \rightarrow t \text{ with } X \in \{2, 3, 7, 9\}\}$$

Notice above that, say,  $T2$  can be a derivation tree totally over  $S$ , recursively applying rule 5 (or rule 11) thus deriving a triple in  $S^*$ , below defined.

$$S^* = S \cup \{t \mid \exists\{T1 \mid T2\} - rdfsX \rightarrow t \text{ with } X \in \{5, 11\}\}$$

Above, in the  $S^*$  definition, please note that since  $X \in \{5, 11\}$  the whole derivation tree consists of subsequent applications of rule rule 5 (or rule 11).

## 2.2 Spark and Spark Streaming

Spark [25] is a widely used in-memory distributed cluster computing framework. It provides the means for specifying DAG-based data flows using operators like map, reduceByKey, join, filter, etc. over data collections represented by means of Resilient Distributed Datasets (RDDs). For our purposes, we use the streaming capabilities of Spark whereby data comes into micro-batches that needs to be processed within a time-interval (also referred to as a window).

## 3 Saturating Large RDF Graphs Using Spark

We already briefly discussed in the introduction the Cichlid system [7], which represents the state of the art of RDF saturation, and WebPIE [19]. As in our case, these systems focus on rules 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, illustrated in Table 1.

While the outcome of the saturation operation is orthogonal to the order in which the rules are applied, the time and resources consumed by such an operation are not. Because of this, the authors of Cichlid (and WebPIE before them) identified a number of optimisations that influence the rule application order with the view to increasing the efficiency of the saturation. In what follows, we discuss the main ones.

1. *RDF Schema is to be saturated first.* The size of the RDF schema<sup>2</sup> in an RDF graph is usually small, even when saturated. It is usually orders of magnitudes smaller than the size of the remaining *instance* triples. This suggests that the schema of the RDF graph is to be saturated first. By saturating the schema of an RDF graph we mean applying rules that produce triple that describes the vocabulary used in an RDF graph. Furthermore, because the size of the schema is small, schema saturation can be done in centralized fashion. In this respect, the RDFS rules presented in Table 1 can be categorised into two disjoint categories: schema-level and instance-level RDFS rules. Schema-level RDFS rules (*rdfs5* and *rdfs7*) designate the rules that produce triples describing the vocabulary (classes, properties, and their relationships). Instance-level triples, on the other hand, specifies resource instances of the classes in the RDF vocabularies and their relationships. Each rule is made up of two premises and one conclusion, each of which is an RDF triple. While premises of schema-level rules are schema triples, premises of instance-level rules are a schema triple and an instance triple. Also, instance-level rules entail an RDF instance triple, while schema-level rules entail an RDF schema triple.
2. *Dependencies between rules.* When determining the rule execution order, the dependencies among rules must be taken into account too. In particular, a rule  $R_i$  precedes a rule  $R_j$  if the conclusion of  $R_i$  is used as a premise for rule  $R_j$ . For example *rdfs7* has a conclusion that is used as a premise for rules *rdfs2* and *rdfs3*. Therefore, *rdfs7* should be applied before *rdfs2* and *rdfs3*.

By taking (1) and (2) into consideration, the authors of Cichlid established the orders of applications of rules illustrated in Figure 3. To illustrate how rules are implemented in Spark, we will use a concrete example considering *rdfs9*, which can be expressed as follows. If a resource  $s$  is of type  $x$ , i.e.  $s \tau x$ , and  $x$  is a sub-class of  $y$ , i.e.  $x \prec_{sc} y$ , then  $s$  is also an instance of  $y$ , i.e.  $s \tau y$ . Note that, as the output of *rdfs2* and *rdfs3* are instance triples with predicate  $\tau$ , these rules are executed in Cichlid before executing *rdfs9* (see [7] for more details). In our approach we will rely on the same ordering for streaming saturation.

To implement *rdfs9* in Spark, Cichlid uses the *filter*, *map*, and *collect* operators in Algorithm 1. The algorithm first retrieves over all the partitions the RDFS schema, the classes and their corresponding sub-classes in the schema, by means of the filter transformation and the collect action (this last one is

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<sup>2</sup> By Schema, we mean the RDF triples that describe the vocabulary of an RDF graph, i.e., classes, properties and their constraints.

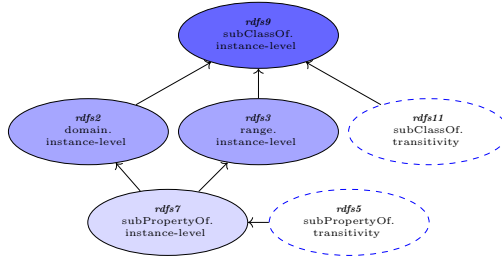


Fig. 3: The optimized execution RDFS rules order. Dashed ellipses show the schema-level entailment, while the solid ellipses are for the Instance-level entailment. The white colour ellipse has no dependency prerequisite with other RDFS. The lighter ellipses come first.

---

**Algorithm 1** Optimized Parallel reasoning of RDFS *rdfs9*

---

```

1: Input: input triple set named triples
2: Output: reasoning results named results
3: Begin
4:   val schema = sc.textFile("hdfs://schema-path")
5:   val subClassOf = schema
6:   .filter(t ⇒ t..2.contains("rdfs : subClassOf"))
7:   .map(t ⇒ (t..1, t..3)).collect
8:   val bc = sc.broadcast(subClassOf.toMap)
9:   val triples = sc.textFile("hdfs://instance-path")
10:  val results = triples.filter(t ⇒ bc.value.contains(t..3))
11:  .map(t ⇒ (t..1, τ, bc.value(t..3))
12: End

```

---

needed in order to collect on the master/driver machine the total filtered information). This information is then broad-casted<sup>3</sup>(i.e., locally cached in each machine in the cluster) as pairs (e.g.,  $x \rightarrow y$ ), thereby avoiding the cost of shipping this information every time it is needed. It first retrieves the RDFS schema (line 4), the classes and their corresponding sub-classes (lines 5-7), and the obtained information is then broad-casted (line 8). Therefore, for each broad-casted pair of subclass and superclass, the instances of the subclass are retrieved (line 9), and new triples are derived stating that such instances are also instances of the broad-casted super-class, by means of the map transformation (line 10-11). Spark provides other operators, which are used for implementing other rules, such as *distinct*, *partitionBy*, *persist*, *union*, *mapPartitions*, *mapPartitionsWithIndex*, etc.

Notice that as the saturation process may derive triples that are already asserted or have been derived in previous steps of the saturation operation, Cichlid [7] eliminates the duplicated triples from the derived ones, in order to improve efficiency.

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<sup>3</sup> Broadcast operation can be used in Spark to cache a copy of data on every node of a cluster. This helps in avoiding the cost of shipping this information every-time it is used by the nodes.



## 4 Our Contribution: Streaming RDF Saturation

Our goal is to support the saturation of RDF streams by leveraging on Spark stream processing capabilities. Using Spark, an RDF stream is discretized into a series of timestamped micro-batches that come (and are, therefore, processed) at different time intervals. In our work, we assume that a micro-batch contains a set of instance RDF triples, but may also contain schema (i.e., RDFS) triples.

Consider, for example, an RDF stream composed of the following series of micro-batches  $[\text{mb}_1, \dots, \text{mb}_n]$ , where  $i > 0$ . A first approach for saturating such a stream using a batch-oriented solution would proceed as follows: when a micro-batch  $\text{mb}_i$  arrives, it unions  $\text{mb}_i$  with the previous instance dataset (including triples obtained by previous saturation) and then the resulting dataset is totally re-saturated.

On the contrary, our approach allows for RDF saturation in a streaming fashion, by sensibly limiting the amount of data re-processing upon the arrival of a new micro-batch. To this end we have devised the following optimization techniques:

1. *Rule pruning for schema saturation.* Given a new micro-batch  $\text{mb}_i$ , we filter all the schema triples contained in it. Note that in the general case it is not likely that these new schema triples trigger all the saturation rules, i.e. it is not the case that the new micro-batch includes all kinds of RDFS triples at once - i.e. *subPropertyOf*, *domain*, *range*, and *subClassOf*. So for saturating the schema at the level of the new micro-batch we first filter new schema triples, and then obtain the set of new schema triples  $NST = \text{Saturation}(\text{new received schema} \cup \text{past schema}) - \text{past schema}$ . The Saturation operation is local and only triggers rules that do need to be applied, in the right order. All possible cases are indicated in Table 2, and Saturation selects one line of this table, depending on the kind of schema predicates met in the new schema triples. This avoids triggering useless rules. Once saturation for  $\text{mb}_i$  schema triples is done in this optimized fashion, obtained triples are merged with the existing RDFS schema for a second-pass of global schema saturation, taking into account triples deriving from both  $\text{mb}_i$  and the pre-existing schema.
2. *Efficiently saturate existing instance triples by leveraging our incremental indexing scheme.* Given the new schema triples that are provided by the micro-batch  $\text{mb}_i$  or inferred in (1), we need to scan existing instances triples to identify those that if combined with the new schema triples will trigger RDFS rules in Table 1. This operation can be costly as it involves examining all the instance triples that have been provided and inferred micro-batches received before  $\text{mb}_i$ . To alleviate this problem, we have devised an incremental indexing technique that allows for the fast retrieval of the instance triples that are likely will trigger the RDFS rules given some schema triples. The technique we developed index instance triples based on their predicate and object, and, as we will show later, allow to greatly reduce the data processing effort for the saturation under the new schema. Once retrieved, such instances triples are used together with the new schema triples to generate

Table 2: The **1** and **0** indicate for the availability of that particular schema rules in  $\text{mb}_i$ .  $X \rightarrow Y$  means: The output of rule  $X$  used as an input of rule  $Y$ .

	subPropertyOf	domain	range	subClassOf	Saturation order
1	1	1	1	1	$R7 \rightarrow (R2, R3) \rightarrow R9$
2	1	1	1	0	$R7 \rightarrow (R2, R3)$
3	1	1	0	1	$R7 \rightarrow R2 \rightarrow R9$
4	1	1	0	0	$R7 \rightarrow R2$
5	1	0	1	1	$R7 \rightarrow R3 \rightarrow R9$
6	1	0	1	0	$R7 \rightarrow R3$
7	1	0	0	1	$R7, R9$
8	1	0	0	0	$R7$
9	0	1	1	1	$(R2, R3) \rightarrow R9$
10	0	1	1	0	$R2, R3$
11	0	1	0	1	$R2 \rightarrow R9$
12	0	1	0	0	$R2$
13	0	0	1	1	$R3 \rightarrow R9$
14	0	0	1	0	$R3$
15	0	0	0	1	$R9$
16	0	0	0	0	-

new instance triples. Notice here that we cannot infer new schema triple. This is because the rules for inferring new schema triples require two schema triples as a premise (see Table 1).

3. *Saturate new instance triples.* As well as those that are inferred in (2) need to be examined as they may be used to infer new instance triples. Specifically, each of those triples is examined to identify the RDFS rule(s) to be triggered. Once identified such rules are activated to infer instance triples. The instance triples in  $\text{mb}_i$  as well as those inferred in (2) and (3) are stored and indexed using the method that we will detail next.

We will now turn our attention to our indexing scheme, mentioned above. For a micro-batch  $\text{mb}_i$  received at time-stamp  $\mathbf{t}$  we create an HDFS directory named as  $\mathbf{t}$ , in which we store other indexing information related to  $\text{mb}_i$ , as follows. The instance triples that are asserted in  $\text{mb}_i$ , as well as those that are inferred (see (2) and (3) above), are stored into two  $\mathbf{t}$  separate sub-directories, which we name  $\mathbf{o}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$ .

The instances triples in  $\text{mb}_i$  that provide information about the type of a resource, i.e., having as predicate `rdf:type`, are stored in the  $\mathbf{o}$  directory. Such triples are grouped based on their object and they are stored in files within the  $\mathbf{o}$  directory of the micro-batch  $\text{mb}_i$ . Specifically, instance triples with the same object are stored in the same file. Additionally, our indexing scheme utilizes an associative hash-table stored in a cached RDD in main memory, associating each encountered object with the list of HDFS addresses corresponding to files in the  $\mathbf{o}$  directories, which include at least one triple with that object. Notice

that triples with the `rdf:type` predicate are used in the premises of *rdfs9*. Given a schema triple of the form  $y \prec_{sc} z$ , our indexing approach allows for the fast retrieval of the files in the `o` directories of the micro-batches that have as an object the resource  $y$ , and therefore can be used to trigger *rdfs9*.

The remaining instance triples in  $mb_i$ , i.e., those that do not have `rdf:type` as a predicate, are grouped based on their predicate, and stored within files under the `p` directory. Additionally, an associative hash-table stored in an RDD persisted in main memory, associating each encountered property with the list of HDFS addresses corresponding to files in the `p` directories including at least one triple with that property is created and maintained. By means of this kind of indexing, we can optimize application of rules *rdfs2*, *rdfs3* and *rdfs7* to infer new instance triples as we can inspect the previously described hash-table in order to retrieve only files containing triples with properties needed by these 3 rules.

To illustrate, consider for example that a new micro-batch  $mb_i$  arrives at a given time instant  $t$ , and that it contains the schema triple  $\tau_{sc}: s_1 \prec_{sc} s_2$ . Such schema triple can contribute to the inference of new schema triples (i.e., by means of *rdfs11*) as well as new instance triples by means of *rdfs9*. Since the indexation mechanism we elaborated is sought for the inference of instance triple, let us focus on *rdfs9*. To identify the instance triples that can be utilized together with the schema triple  $\tau_{sc}$ , we need to examine existing instance triples. Our indexing mechanism allows us to sensibly restrict the set of triples that need to be examined, as the hash-table indexing the files under the `o` directories enables the fast recovering of files containing triples with  $s_1$  as an object resource, and that can be combined with the schema triple  $\tau_{sc}$  to trigger *rdfs9*. The indexing on files in `p` directories are operated in a similar manner in order to efficiently recover files containing *instance* triples with a given property so as to use included triples to trigger *rdfs2/3/7*, under the arrival of a correspondent schema triple in the stream.

To illustrate our approach more in detail let's consider the following example.

*Example 2.* We assume that we have the initial schema  $\mathbf{S}$  of Figure 1 and that we saturate it by obtaining  $\mathbf{S}'$  as indicated below.

$$\mathbf{S}' = \mathbf{S} \cup \{ hasContactA \hookrightarrow_r rdfs:Literal, \quad \_ : b_0 \prec_{sc} paper \}$$

This operation is fast and centralized, as the initial schema is always relatively small in size. Our approach then proceeds according to the following steps.

1. The saturated schema  $\mathbf{S}'$  is broad-casted to each task, so that it can access  $\mathbf{S}'$  with no further network communication.
2. Then available micro-batches are processed. For the sake of simplicity we make here the, unnatural, assumption that each micro-batch consists of only one triple. The stream of micro-batches is in Table 3.
3. The first received micro-batch triggers *rdfs9* so that we have the derivation of two new triples:

$$\begin{aligned} \{ doi_1 \quad \tau \quad \_ : b_0 \mid \_ : b_0 \prec_{sc} confP \} - rdfs9 &\rightarrow doi_1 \quad \tau \quad confP \\ \{ doi_1 \quad \tau \_ : b_0 \mid \_ : b_0 \prec_{sc} paper \} - rdfs9 &\rightarrow doi_1 \quad \tau \quad paper \end{aligned}$$

Table 3: Instance triples

$mb$	Subject	Predicate	Object
1	$doi_1$	$\tau$	$_:b_0$
2	$doi_1$	<i>hasTitle</i>	“CAQU MV”
3	$doi_1$	<i>hasAuthor</i>	“SA”
4	$doi_1$	<i>hasContactA</i>	$_:b_1$
5	$doi_1$	<i>inProceedingsOf</i>	$_:b_2$
6	$_:b_2$	<i>hasName</i>	“PODS’98”

The received triple plus the two derived ones are then stored according to our indexing strategy. As already said, triples are grouped by their objects when having `rdf:type` property, so as to obtain the following file assignment, knowing that  $t_1$  is the time stamp for the current micro-batch:

$$\begin{aligned} doi_1 \tau confP &\Rightarrow o/t_1/file_1, \\ doi_1 \tau paper &\Rightarrow o/t_1/file_2, \\ doi_1 \tau _:b_0 &\Rightarrow o/t_1/file_3 \end{aligned}$$

- The processing goes on by deriving new instance triples for the micro-batches from 2 to 6, as indicated in the Table 4, which also indicates how instance triples are stored/indexed.

Table 4: Saturated streaming triples

$mb_i$	Received triple(s)	Schema-triple	Entails( $E.$ ) & Received( $R.$ )	stored path
1	$doi_1 \tau _:b_0$	$_:b_0 \prec_{sc} confP,$ $_:b_0 \prec_{sc} paper$	$E. doi_1 \tau confP,$ $E. doi_1 \tau paper,$ $R. doi_1 \tau _:b_0$	$o/t_1/file_1,$ $o/t_1/file_2,$ $o/t_1/file_3$
2	$doi_1 hasTitle$ “CAQU MV”	$hasTitle \leftrightarrow_d confP$	$E. doi_1 \tau paper,$ $R. doi_1 hasTitle$ “CAQU MV”	$o/t_2/file_1,$ $p/t_2/file_1$
3	$doi_1 hasAuthor$ “SA”	$hasAuthor \leftrightarrow_d paper$	$E. doi_1 \tau paper,$ $R. doi_1 hasAuthor$ “SA”	$o/t_3/file_1,$ $p/t_3/file_1$
4	$doi_1 hasContactA$ $_:b_1$	no inference	$R. doi_1 hasContactA$ $_:b_1$	$p/t_4/file_1$
5	$doi_1 inProceedingOf$ $_:b_2$	$inProceesingOf \leftrightarrow_d confP,$ $inProceesingOf \leftrightarrow_r conference$	$E. doi_1 \tau confP,$ $E. _:b_2 \tau conference,$ $R. doi_1 inProceedingOf$ $_:b_2$	$o/t_5/file_1,$ $o/t_5/file_2,$ $p/t_5/file_1$
6	$_:b_2 hasName$ “PODS’98”	$hasName \leftrightarrow_d conference$	$E. _:b_2 \tau conference,$ $R. _:b_2 hasName$ “PODS’98”	$o/t_6/file_1,$ $p/t_6/file_1$

Now assume that in micro-batch 7 we have the followed RDF schema triples:

$$\text{NST} = \{ \textit{paper} \prec_{sc} \textit{publication}, \textit{hasContactA} \prec_{sp} \textit{hasAuthor}, \\ \textit{posterCP} \prec_{sc} \textit{publication}, \textit{confP} \prec_{sc} \textit{publication}, \\ \textit{:b0} \prec_{sc} \textit{publication}, \textit{hasContactA} \leftrightarrow_d \textit{paper} \}$$

Fig. 4: *New received and inferred Schema Triples (NST)*

$$\textit{paper} \prec_{sp} \textit{publication}, \\ \textit{hasContractA} \prec_{sp} \textit{hasAuthor}$$

So we have now three steps: **i**) infer the new schema triples plus filtering out already present triples, **ii**) broadcast these schema triples minus the already exist/broadcast schema triples (Figure 4), to enable tasks to locally access them, **iii**) re-processing previously met/inferred instance triples by taking into consideration the new schema. Consider for instance  $\{\textit{hasContactA} \prec_{sp} \textit{hasAuthor}\}$  as new schema triple. This schema triple triggers *rdfs7*. Therefore, our indexing tells us that *only* file  $p/t_4/file_1$  (Table 4, line 4) needs to be loaded to infer new triples, that, of course, will be in turn stored according to our indexing strategy.

As we will see in our experimental analysis, the pruning of loaded files ensured by our indexing will entail fast incremental saturation. Also, note that our approach tends to create a non-negligible number of files, but fortunately without compromising efficiency thanks to distribution.

## 5 Streaming Saturation Algorithm

The overall streaming saturation algorithm is shown in Algorithm 2, and commented hereafter.

Given a micro-batch  $mb_i$ , we first perform schema saturation if  $mb_i$  contains schema triples (*lines 12, 13*). The related instance triples are retrieved based on  $mb_{NST}$  (*line 14*). Given newly inferred schema triples, instance triples are retrieved and examined to identify cases where new instance triples may be inferred (*line 15*). The obtained schema triples (i.e.,  $mb_{NST}$ ) are added and broad-casted within the initial schema RDD (*line 17, 18*). The inferred triples, if any, are merged with instance triples of  $mb_i$  (i.e.,  $mb_{ins}$ ) and the saturation is applied to them. In the next step, the received and inferred instance triples are combined and obtained duplicates, if any, are removed (*line 22*). In the last step, the instance triples from the previous step are saved and indexed using our method (*line 24-25*).

Otherwise by receiving an RDFS free  $mb_i$ , the applied saturation process on the  $mb_i$  (*line 21-25*) is same as Cichlid. The results then will send to Indexing algorithm (Algorithm 3) to store on HDFS at the intended paths but also collect the object/predicate of triples and their paths for indexing variable. We rather focus here on the algorithm for indexing, which is central to our contribution. Central to the efficiency of the solution presented in the previous section is the technique that we elaborated for incrementally indexing the new instance triples that are asserted or inferred given a new micro-batch.

---

**Algorithm 2** Overall algorithm for saturating RDF stream.

---

```
1: Input: MB  $\leftarrow$  [mb1, ..., mbn] // a stream of micro-batches.
2: Output: Schemas  $\leftarrow$  [Sch1, ..., Schn] // Schi represents the schema triples obtained as a result
of saturating the micro-batches MB = [mb1, ..., mbi].
3: Output: Datasets  $\leftarrow$  [DS1, ..., DSn] // DSi represents the instance triples obtained as a result of
saturating the micro-batches MB = [mb1, ..., mbi].
4: Output: IndexInformations  $\leftarrow$  [oIndex, pIndex] // oIndex and pIndex keeps object- and predicate-
based information respectively.
5: Dins  $\leftarrow$   $\emptyset$  // Initialize a dataset for instance triples
6: Dsc  $\leftarrow$   $\emptyset$  // Initialize a dataset for schema triples
7: br  $\leftarrow$  if Dsc exist then TransitiveClosure and broadcast them
8: do {
9:   (mbsch, mbins)  $\leftarrow$  SeparatingTriples(mbi) // Separate schema from instance triples in mb
10:  if (mbsch exist then) {
11:    // i) Retrieve the already saturated instance triples and re-saturate them based on combi-
of received and existing RDFS triples
12:    mb'sch  $\leftarrow$  (TransitiveClosure (mbsch  $\cup$  Dsc)) - Dsc
13:    mbNST  $\leftarrow$  broadcast(mb'sch) // Just updated parts
14:    D'ins  $\leftarrow$  Retrieve saturated triples using Indexing variable based on mbNST
15:    mbi  $\leftarrow$  Saturate(D'ins, mbNST)
16:    // Combine received and existing RDFS triples and re-broadcast them
17:    Dsc  $\leftarrow$  mbNST  $\cup$  Dsc
18:    br  $\leftarrow$  broadcast(Dsc) // The total so far schema received.
19:  }
20:  // Saturate the received instance triples with total RDFS triples
21:  mbimp  $\leftarrow$  Saturate(mbins  $\cup$  mb'i, br)
22:  mb''i  $\leftarrow$  (mbins  $\cup$  mb'i  $\cup$  mbimp).distinct
23:  // The following two lines are handled by Indexing Algorithm
24:  Save mb''i in the HDFS
25:  [oIndex, pIndex]  $\cup$   $\leftarrow$  indexing(mb''i)
26: } while(is there an incoming micro-batch mb?)
27: End
```

---

As mentioned in the previous section, indexed instance triples are classified into two disjoint categories: *object-* or *predicate-*based triples. Specifically, a triple is considered an object-based if its predicate is `rdf:type`. Triples of this kind are used as a premise to *rdfs9* (see Table 1). On the other hand, a triple is considered to be predicate-based if its predicate is different from `rdf:type`. Triples of this kind are used as premise for rules *rdfs2*, *rdfs3* and *rdfs7* (see Table 1).

Labeling a new instance triple as object-based or predicate-based is not sufficient. To speed up the retrieval of the triples that are relevant for activating a given RDFS rule, object- and predicate-based triples are grouped in files based on their object and predicate. This allows for triples having a given predicate/object to be located in only one file inside the directory associated with a micro-batch. More specifically, Algorithm 3 details how the indexation operation is performed. It takes as input new instance triples that are asserted or inferred given the last micro-batch `mb'`. It filters the instances triples to create two RDDs. The first RDD is used for storing object-based triples (*line 9-11*). Since the predicate of object-based triples is `rdf:type`, we only store *subject* and *object* of object-based triples. The second RDD is used for predicate-based triples (*line 13-15*). Notice that the triples of the two RDDs are grouped based on their object and predicate, respectively, by utilizing RDD partitioning. The Spark method *partitionBy()* takes as an argument the number of partitions to be created. In the case of the RDD used for storing object-based triples, we use

---

**Algorithm 3** Incremental RDFS Indexing Algorithm

---

```
1: //  $mb'_i$  is indicated as instance and implicit triples from received  $mb'_i$ 
2: Input: Saturated  $mb'_i$ 
3: // The information of  $mb'_i$  keeps as two RDDs in memory.
4: Output:  $oIndexingRDD$ ,  $pIndexingRDD$ 
5: Begin
6: // Get a fixed timestamp to save the  $mb'_i$  triples.
7: val  $fts$  = System.currentTimeMillis.toString
8: // The  $mb'_i$  triples partitions by their object where their predicate is rdf:type.
9: val  $oPartition$  =  $mb'_i$ .filter(  $!_{..2}$ .contains("rdf-syntax-ns#type") ).
10:   map( $t \Rightarrow (t._3, t._1)$ ).partitionBy(number of different object).
11:   mapPartitions( $_{..}$ .map( $t \Rightarrow (t._2, t._1)$ ))
12: // The  $mb'_i$  triples partitions by their predicate where their predicate is NOT rdf:type.
13: val  $pPartition$  =  $mb'_i$ .filter(  $!_{..2}$ .contains("rdf-syntax-ns#type") ).
14:   map( $t \Rightarrow (t._2, t)$ ).partitionBy(number of different predicate).
15:   mapPartitions( $_{..}$ .map( $_{..2}$ ))
16: // The  $oPartitions$  and  $pPartitions$  store on HDFS at fixed timestamp under  $o$  and  $p$  sub-
    directory paths respectively.
17:  $oPartition$ .saveAsTextFile(outputPath + "o/" +  $fts$  + "/data/")
18:  $pPartition$ .saveAsTextFile(outputPath + "p/" +  $fts$  + "/data/")
19: //  $oIndexingRDD$  is a HashTable which keeps the object of instance triple as key and their
    physical paths as value.
20:  $oIndexingRDD$  +=  $\cup$   $oPartition$ .mapPartitionsWithIndex(( $index, iterator$ )  $\Rightarrow$  {
21:    $iterator$ .map( $t \Rightarrow (t._2, fts + "." + index + ".")$  )}.mapPartitions(
22:    $_{..}$ .map( $t \Rightarrow (t,1)$ )).reduceByKey( $_{..}$ ).mapPartitions( $_{..}$ .map( $_{..1}$ ))
23: //  $pIndexingRDD$  is a HashTable which keeps the predicate of instance triple as key and
    their physical paths as value.
24:  $pIndexingRDD$  +=  $\cup$   $pPartition$ .mapPartitionsWithIndex(( $index, iterator$ )  $\Rightarrow$  {
25:    $iterator$ .map( $t \Rightarrow (t._2, fts + "." + index + ".")$  )}.mapPartitions(
26:    $_{..}$ .map( $t \Rightarrow (t,1)$ )).reduceByKey( $_{..}$ ).mapPartitions( $_{..}$ .map( $_{..1}$ ))
27: return  $oIndexingRDD$  &  $pIndexingRDD$ 
28: End
```

---

the number of different objects that appear in the triples as an argument. In the case of the RDD used for storing predicate-based triples, we use the number of different predicates that appear in the triples. It is worth mentioning here that we could have used the method `sortBy()` provided by Spark for RDDs instead of `partitionBy()`. However, `sortBy()` is computationally more expensive as it requires a local sort.

Besides grouping the RDDs containing the triples, the algorithm creates two auxiliary lightweight hash structures to keep track of the partitions that store triples with a given object (line 20-22) and predicate (line 24-26), respectively. Such memory-based hash structures act as indexes. They are lightweight memory-based structures that are utilized during the saturation to quickly identify partitions that contain a given object and predicate, respectively. Note that all the steps of the algorithm, with the exception of the first one (line 7) are processed in a parallel manner.

**Soundness and completeness.** We deal now with the proof of soundness and completeness of our approach.

We need the following lemma, which is at the basis of soundness and completeness of our system as well as of WebPIE [19] and Cichlid [7], and reflects rule ordering expressed in Figure 3. To illustrate the lemma, assume we have  $D = \{s \tau c1\}$  while the schema includes four triples of the form  $c_i \prec_{sc} c_{i+1}$ , for

$i = 1 \dots 4$ . Over  $D$  and  $S$  we can have the tree T1 corresponding to:

$$\{c_1 \prec_{sc} c_2 \mid c_2 \prec_{sc} c_3\} - rdfs11 \rightarrow c_1 \prec_{sc} c_3$$

A more complex tree is T2 defined in terms of T1:

$$\{s \tau c_1 \mid T1\} - rdfs9 \rightarrow s \tau c_3$$

Imagine now we have T3 defined as

$$\{c_3 \prec_{sc} c_4 \mid c_4 \prec_{sc} c_5\} - rdfs11 \rightarrow c_3 \prec_{sc} c_5$$

We can go on by composing our derivation trees, obtaining T4:

$$\{T2 \mid T3\} - rdfs9 \rightarrow s \tau c_5$$

Note that the above tree T4 includes two applications of  $rdfs9$ . At the same time we can have the tree T5

$$\{T1 \mid T3\} - rdfs11 \rightarrow c_1 \prec_{sc} c_5$$

enabling us to have the tree T4' which is equivalent to T4, having only one application of rule 9, and consisting of

$$\{s \tau c_1 \mid T5\} - rdfs9 \rightarrow s \tau c_3$$

As shown by this example, and as proved by the following lemma, repeated applications of instance rules  $\{2, 3, 7, 9\}$  can be collapsed into only one, provided that this rule is then applied to an instance triple and to a schema triple in  $S^*$ , obtained by repeated applications of schema rules 5 and 11. This also proves that it is sound to first saturate the schema  $S$  and then applying instance rules  $\{2, 3, 7, 9\}$  (each one at most once) over schema rules in  $S^*$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Given an RDF data set  $D$  of instance triples and a set  $S$  of RDFS triples, for any derivation tree  $T$  over  $D$  and  $S$ , deriving  $t \in D_S^*$ , there exists an equivalent  $T'$  deriving  $t$ , such that each of the instance rules  $\{2, 3, 7, 9\}$  are used at most once, with rule 7 applied before either rule 2 or 3, which in turn is eventually applied before 9 in  $T'$ . Moreover, each of these four rules is applied to a  $S^*$  triple.*

**Proof.** To prove the above lemma, we examine the dependencies between the rules  $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11\}$ . A rule  $r$  depends on a rule  $r'$  where possibly  $r$  and  $r'$  are the same rule, if the activation of  $r'$  produces a triple that can be used as a premise for the activation of  $r$ . This examination of rule dependencies reveals that:

- Rule 5 depends on itself only.
- Rule 11 depends on itself only..
- Rule 7 depends on rule 5: rule 7 uses as a premise triples of the form  $p \prec_{sp} q$ , which are produced by the activation of rule 5.



- Rules 2 and 3 depend on rule 7: both rules 2 and 3 uses as a premise triples of the form  $spo$ , which are given in prior and produced by rule 7.
- Rule 9 depends on rules 2, 3 and all given triples in prior with  $\tau$  as a predicate: both rules produce triples of the form  $p \tau x$ , a premise for activating rule 9. It also depends on rule 5.

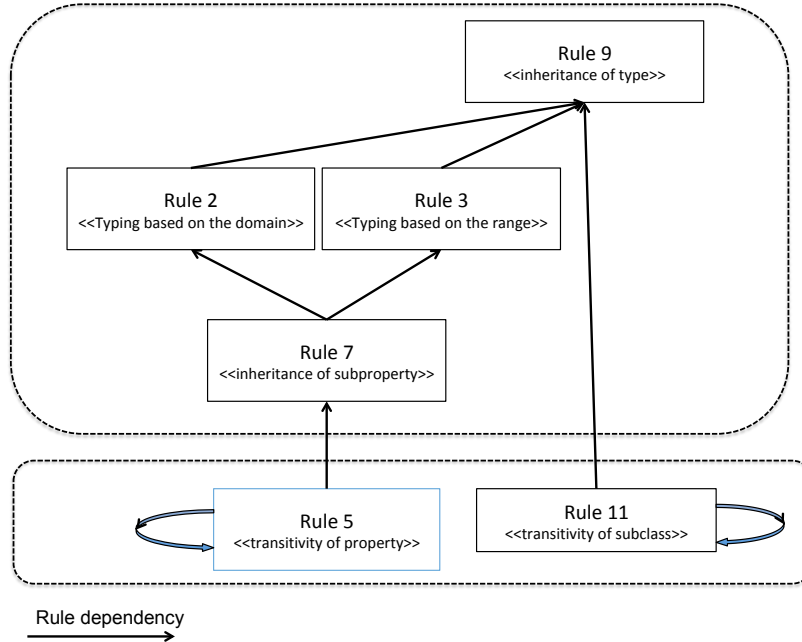


Fig. 5: **RDFS rule dependencies.**

Figure 5 depicts the obtained rule dependency graph. With the exception of rule 5 and 11, the graph is acyclic, meaning that the saturation can be performed in a single pass. Furthermore, the dependency graph shows that in order for the saturation to be made in a single pass schema rules 5 and 11 needs to be first (transitively) applied to saturate the schema, followed by the instance rules. Rule 7 is the first instance rule to be executed, followed by the instance rules 2 and 3 (which can be applied simultaneously or in any order), before applying at the end rule 9. That said, we need to prove now that for an arbitrary  $T$  there is exist an equivalent  $T'$  as described in the lemma. This follows from the fact that if (\*)  $T$  contains more than one rule  $rdfsX$  with  $X \in \{2, 3, 7, 9\}$ , then it must be because of subsequent applications of rule 9 (resp. rule 7) each one applied to a schema triple eventually derived by rule 11 (resp. rule 5), exactly as depicted by the example just before the lemma. As shown by the example, this chain of rule 9 (resp. rule 7) applications can be contracted so as to obtain a unique application of rule 9 (resp. rule 7) applied to as schema triple in  $S^*$ , obtained

by subsequent applications of rule 11 (resp. rule 9). So in case (\*) holds, the just described rewriting for chains of rule 9 (resp. rule 7) can be applied to T in order to obtain T'

□

Given the above lemma, we can now present the theorem stating the soundness of our approach.

**Theorem 1.** *Given a set of instance triples  $D$  and schema triples  $S$ , assume the two sets are partitioned in  $n$  micro-batches  $\mathbf{mb}_i = D_i \cup S_i$  with  $i = 1 \dots n$ , we have that there exists a derivation tree  $\{T1 \mid T2\} - \text{rdfs}X \rightarrow t$  over  $D$  and  $S$ , with  $t \in D_S^*$ , if and only if there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such  $t$  is derived by our system when  $\mathbf{mb}_j$  is processed, after having processed micro-batches  $\mathbf{mb}_h$  with  $h = 1 \dots j - 1$ .*

**Proof.** The 'if' direction (soundness) is the easiest direction. We prove this case by induction on  $j$ . In case one triple  $t$  is derived by our system when processing the micro-batch  $\mathbf{mb}_1$ , then we can see that in Algorithm 2, this triple is obtained by a derivation tree calculated by Saturate(), and including at the leaves instance triple in  $D_1$  and schema triple in  $S_1^*$ . As  $D_1 \subseteq D$  and  $S_1^* \subseteq S^*$ , we have that his derivation tree can derive  $t$  also from  $D$  and for  $S$ . Assume now  $t$  is derived by our system when processing the micro-batch  $\mathbf{mb}_j$  with  $j > 1$ . Triple  $t$  is derived by a derivation tree  $T$  possibly using triples  $t'$  derived in  $\mathbf{mb}_h$  with  $h < j$ , as well as triples in  $D_j$  and  $(\bigcup_1^j S_i)^*$ . By induction we have that for each  $t'$  derived at step  $h < j$  there exists a derivation tree  $T'$  over  $D$  and  $S$  deriving  $t'$ . So to conclude it is sufficient to observe that if in  $T$  we replace leaves corresponding to triples  $t'$  with the correspondent  $T'$  then we obtain the desired derivation tree for  $t$ .

Let's now consider the 'only-if' direction (completeness). We proceed by a double induction, first on  $n$ , the number of micro-batches, and then on the size of the derivation tree  $T$  deriving  $t$ . Assume  $n = 1$ , this means that we only process one micro-batch. By Lemma 1 we have that there exists an equivalent  $T'$  for  $t$ , satisfying the properties stated in the lemma, and hence that can be produced by our algorithm, as we first saturate the schema and then apply instance rules in sequence 7-2-9 or 7-3-9, as in  $T'$ .

Assume now  $n > 1$ . We proceed by induction on the tree derivation  $T = \{T1 \mid T2\} - \text{rdfs}X \rightarrow t$ . The base case is that both  $T1$  and  $T2$  are simple triples in  $D$  and  $S$  respectively. In this case let  $j$  be the minimal index ensuring that both triples have been met in processed micro-batches  $\mathbf{mb}_h$ , with  $h \leq j$ . This  $j$  exists by hypothesis, and we have that either  $t1$  or  $t2$  is in  $\mathbf{mb}_j$ . Assume it is  $t1$ , a schema triple and that  $t2$  has been met in  $\mathbf{mb}_s$  with  $s < j$ . Then by means of our index we recover  $t2$  (line 14) and saturation for the step  $j$  in line 21, builds  $T$  to derive the triple  $t$ .

Assume now that both  $T1$  and  $T2$  do not consist of a simple triple (the case only one is a triple is similar). By Lemma 1, we have that there exists an equivalent  $T' = \{T1' \mid T2'\} - \text{rdfs}Y \rightarrow t$  such that instance rules are use a most once (in the order of Figure 3), where each rule uses a schema triple in

$S^*$ . This means that, w.l.o.g,  $T2'$  is a schema triple  $t2'$  in  $S^*$ . By hypothesis ( $S = \bigcup_1^n S_i$ ) we have that there exists  $mb_h$  such that  $t2$  is obtained by schema saturation (which is globally kept in memory) and that there exists  $mb_s$  in which  $t1$  is derived and indexed by our algorithm. Now consider  $j = \max(s, h)$ . At step  $j$  our algorithm disposes of both  $t1$  (indexed) and  $t2$  (in the RAM) and can hence produce  $\{t1 \mid t2\} - rdfsY \rightarrow t$ .

The remaining cases are similar. □

## 6 Evaluation

The saturation method we have just presented lends itself, at least in principle, to outperform state of the art techniques, notably Cichlid, when dealing with streams of RDF data. This is particularly the case when the information about the RDF schema is also obtained in a stream-based fashion.

An empirical evaluation is, however, still needed to be able to answer the following question: *Does our method actually outperform in practice the Cichlid solution for saturating streams of RDF? And if so, to what extent?* To answer this question, we conducted an experimental analysis that we reported on in this section.

### 6.1 Datasets

**Pre-processing data in stream** We used for our experiments three RDF datasets that are widely used in the semantic web community: DBpedia [2], LUBM [8], and dblp<sup>4</sup>. These datasets are not stream-based datasets, and therefore we had to partition them into micro-batches to simulate a setting where the data is received in a streamed manner. We make in our experiments the assumption that a substantial part of the data is received initially and that micro-batches arrive then in a streaming fashion. We consider this to be a realistic assumption, in those scenario where a substantial part of the data is known initially, and new triples arrive as time goes by.

Specifically, we created the following stream-based datasets:

1. **DBpedia:** by using DBpedia, we created three stream-based datasets DBpedia-100, DBpedia-200, and DBpedia-300. They are composed of initial chunks that contain 100, 200, and 300 million instance triples respectively, and a series of 15 micro-batches, each composed of 1.7 million triples. The initial chunks contain no blended schema triples; instead, 25% of schema triples given in prior. Each of the following micro-batches, however, contains between 64 and 2500 schema triples.
2. **LUBM:** LUBM [8] is a generator of synthetic RDF datasets. We used it to create three stream datasets LUBM-35, LUBM-69, and LUBM-152, composed of an initial chunk containing 35, 69, and 152 million triples respectively, and a series of 10 micro-batches, each containing 3.1 million triples.

<sup>4</sup> Computer science bibliography (<https://dblp.uni-trier.de/faq/What+is+dblp.html>)

The initial chunk contains no blended schema triples, instead 9% of schema triples given in prior; while the micro batches contain 7 schema triples each.

3. **DBLP-190:** DBLP is a computer science dataset. We created a stream-based dblp, composed of an initial chunk containing 190 million triples, and a series of 9 micro-batches, each containing 1000 triples. The initial chunk contains no blended schema triples; instead, 10% of schema triples given in prior. The micro-batches, on the other hand, contain each 9 schema triples.

For each of the above datasets, we ran our saturation algorithm initially for the first chunk, and then incrementally for each of the succeeding micro-batches. For comparison purposes, for each of the above datasets, we run the Cichlid algorithm on the initial chunk, and then on each of the micro-batches. Given that Cichlid is not incremental, for each micro-batch, we had to consider the previous micro-batches and the initial chunk as well as the micro-batch in question.

We conducted our experiment on a cluster with two configurations: 4 nodes and 8 nodes. One node was reserved to act as the master node and the remaining nodes (3 and 7 respectively) as worker nodes. Each node has a Xeon Octet 2.4 GHz processor, 48 GB memory and 33 TB Hadoop file system. The nodes are connected with 1 Gb/s Ethernet. All the nodes run on Debian 9.3 operating system. The version of the Spark we used is 2.1.0 and Hadoop v2.7.0 with Java v1.8 is installed on the cluster.

## 6.2 Experiment Setup

For each of the above datasets, we ran our saturation algorithm initially for the first chunk, and then incrementally for each remaining micro-batch. For comparison purposes, for each of the above datasets, we run the Cichlid algorithm on the initial chunk, and then on each of the micro-batches. Given that Cichlid is not incremental, for each micro-batch, we had to consider the previous micro-batches and the initial chunk as well as the current micro-batch.

We performed our experiment on a cluster with 4 nodes, connected with 1 Gb/s Ethernet. One node was reserved to act as the master node and the remaining 3 nodes as worker nodes. Each node has a Xeon Octet 2.4 GHz processor, 48 GB memory, and 33 TB Hadoop file system, and runs Linux Debian 9.3, Spark 2.1.0, Hadoop 2.7.0, and Java 1.8.

For each dataset we ran our experiment 5 times, and reported the average running time.

## 6.3 Results

Figure 6 - 11 show the results obtained when saturating 100M, 200M and 300M of DBpedia dataset respectively. The x-axis represents the initial chunk and the micro-batches that composed the dataset. For the initial chunk, the y-axis reports the time required for its saturation. For each of the succeeding micro-batches, the y-axis reports the time required for saturating the dataset composed

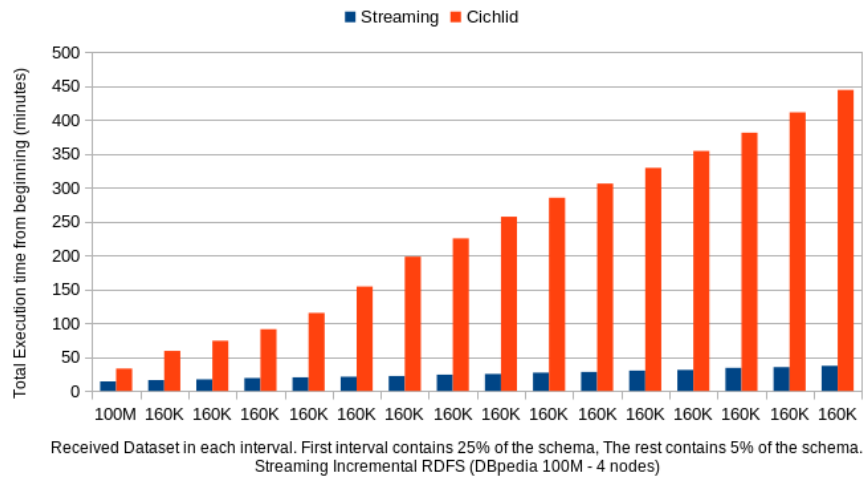


Fig. 6: DBpedia 100M run on 4 nodes.

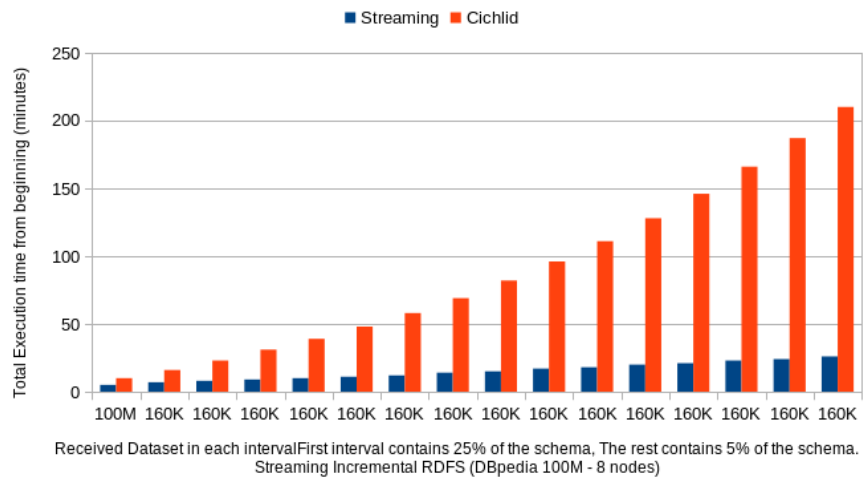


Fig. 7: DBpedia 100M run on 8 nodes.

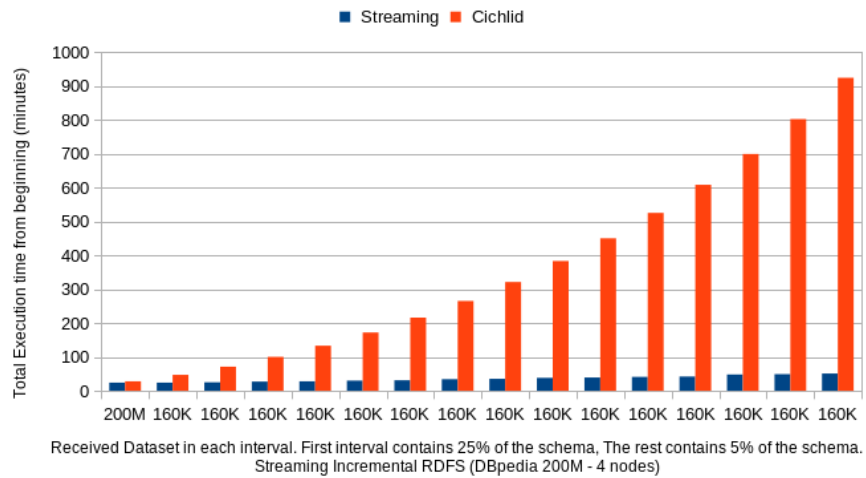


Fig. 8: DBpedia 200M run on 4 nodes.

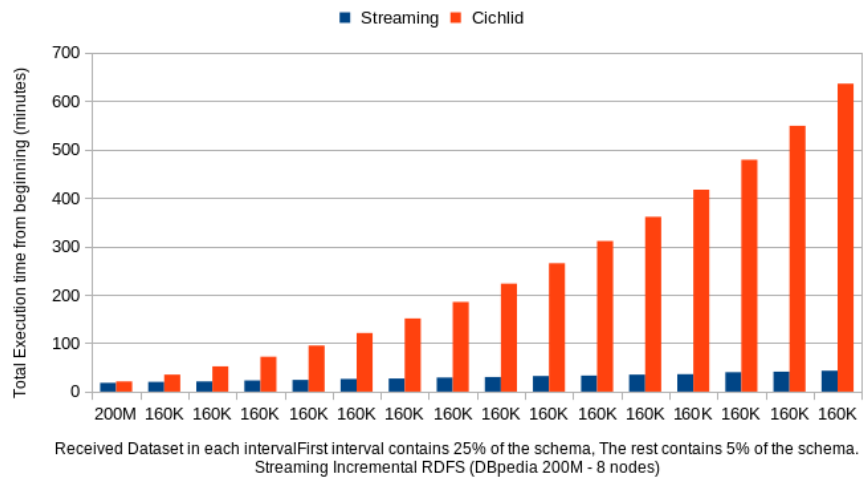


Fig. 9: DBpedia 200M run on 8 nodes.

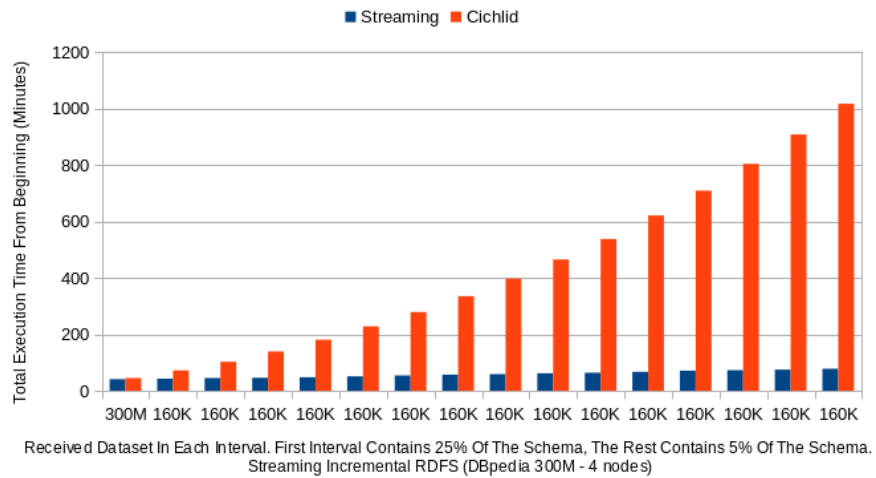


Fig. 10: DBpedia 300M Run On 4 Nodes.

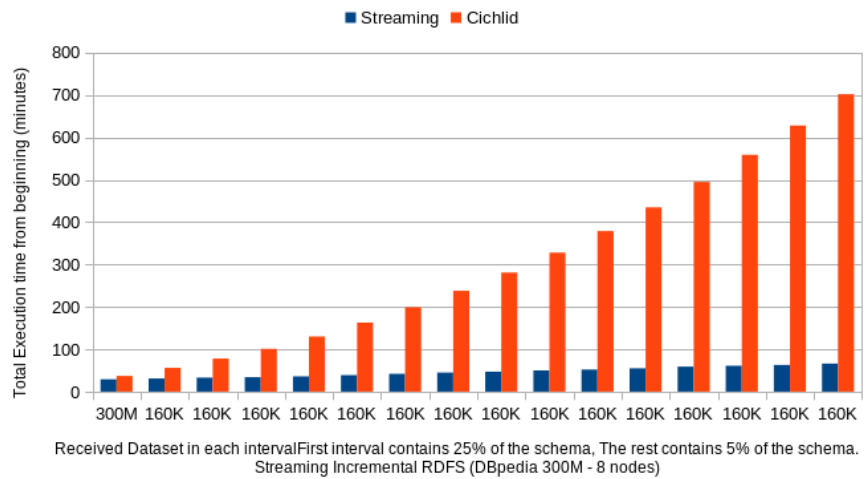


Fig. 11: DBpedia 300M run on 8 nodes.

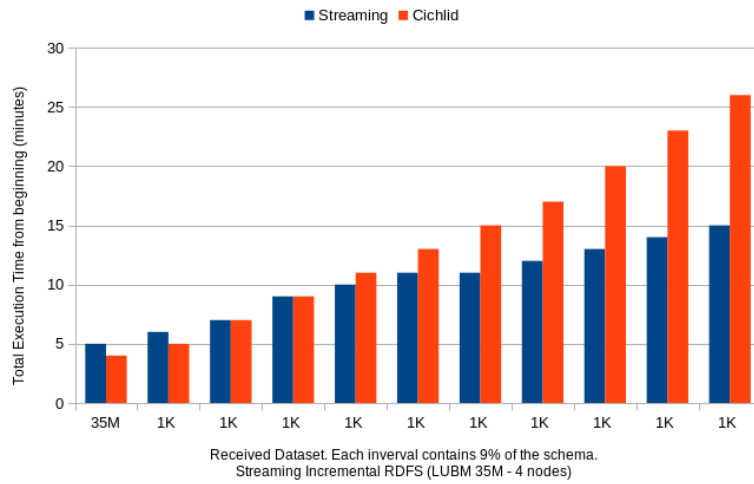


Fig. 12: LUBM 35M run on 4 nodes.

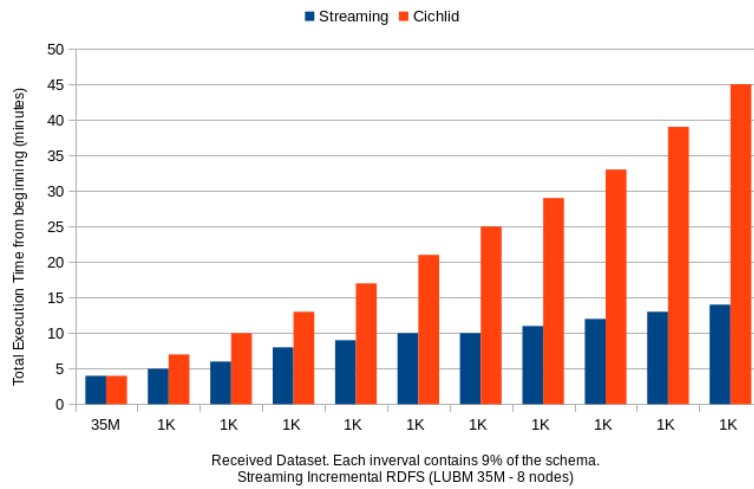


Fig. 13: LUBM 35M run on 8 nodes.



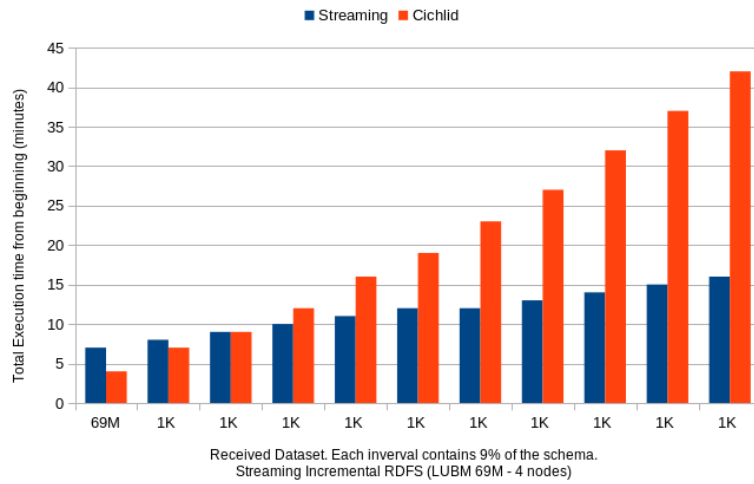


Fig. 14: LUBM 69M run on 4 nodes.

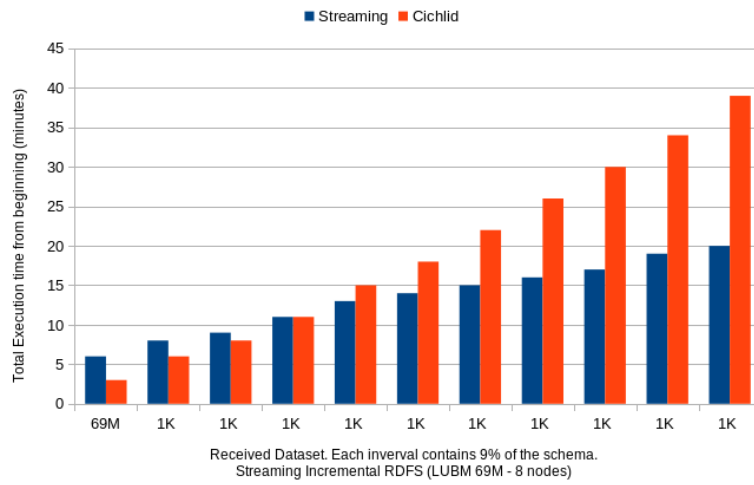


Fig. 15: LUBM 69M run on 8 nodes.

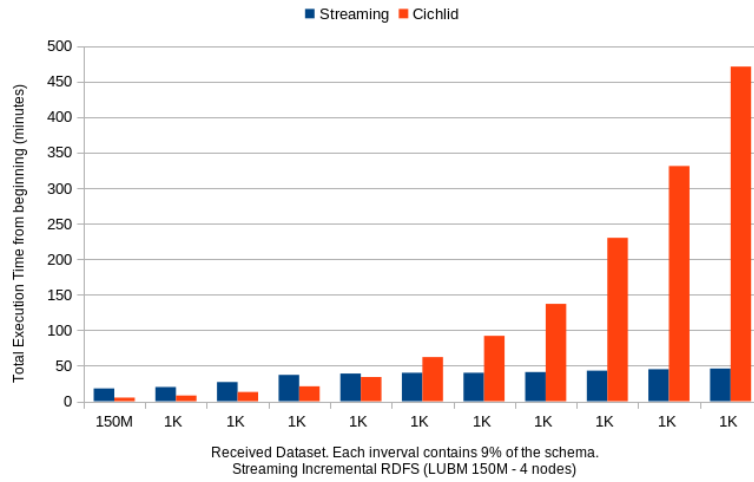


Fig. 16: LUBM 165M run on 4 nodes.

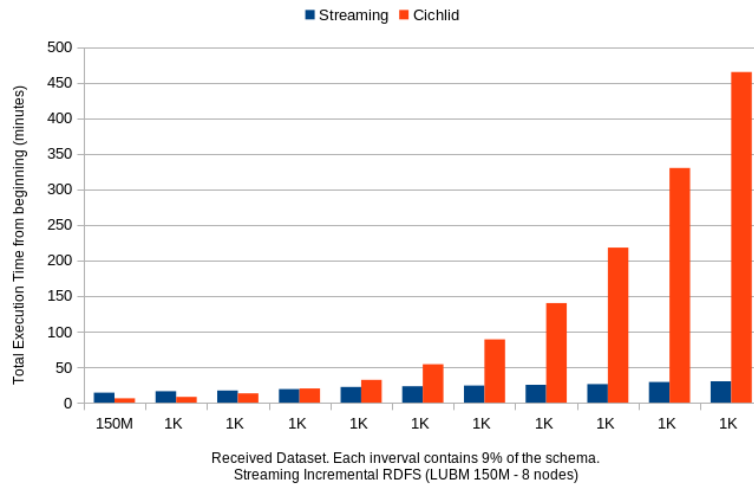


Fig. 17: LUBM 165M run on 8 nodes.

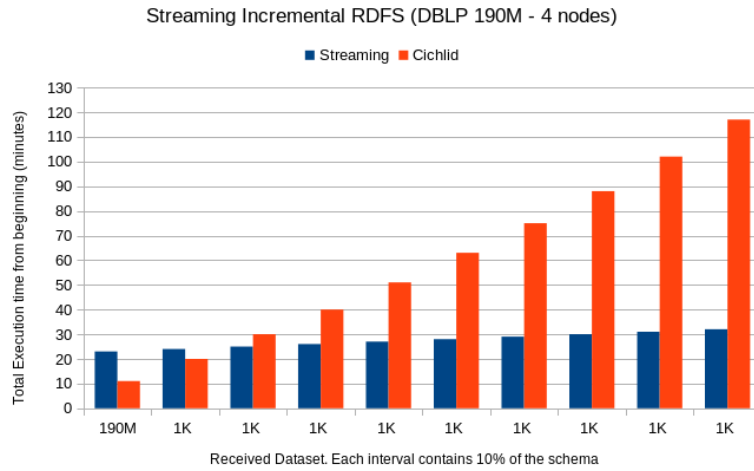


Fig. 18: DBLP 190M run on 4 nodes.

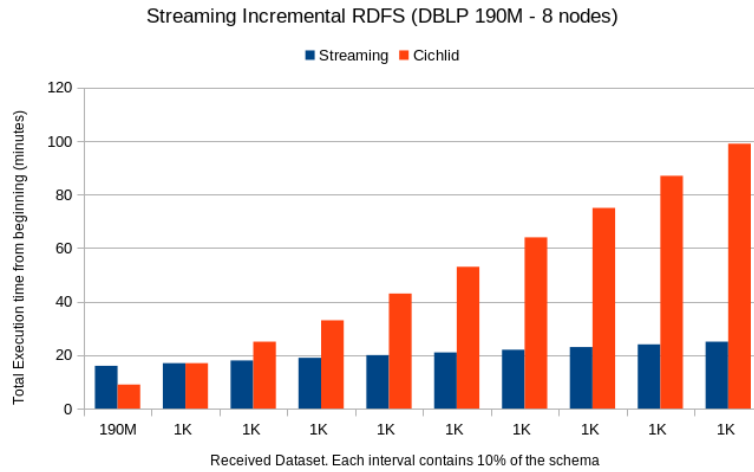


Fig. 19: DBLP 190M run on 8 nodes.

of the current micro-batch, the previous micro-batches, and the initial chunk put together.

For instance, the figure 10 shows that the time required by Cichlid for saturating the stream increases substantially as the number of micro-batches increases. Specifically, the saturation takes more than 1000 minutes given the last micro-batch. That is 22 times the amount of time required to saturate the first micro-batch, namely 45 minutes. On the other hand, our incremental algorithm takes almost the same time for all micro-batches. Specifically, it takes 41 minutes given the first micro-batch, and 78 minutes given the last micro-batch. The time required by Cichlid is substantially higher than the one required by our algorithm.

The good performance of our algorithm is due to its incremental nature, but also to its underlying indexing mechanism. To demonstrate this, Figure 20 illustrates for DBpedia, and for each micro-batch, the number of triples that are fetched using the index as well as the total number of triples that the saturation algorithm would have to examine in the absence of the indexing structure (that requires whole amount of triples to load). It shows that the number of triples fetched by the index is small compared to the total number of triples that compose the dataset.

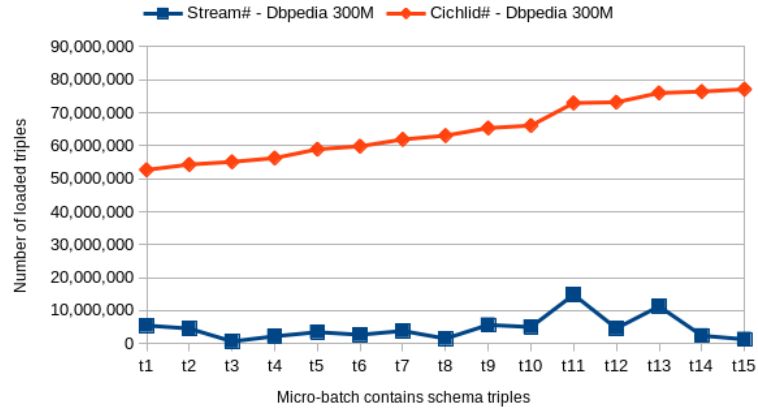


Fig. 20: DBpedia 300M - Retrieve triples by receiving new schema triples.

*Microbatch size* So far, we have considered that the size of the micro-batch is specified apriori. Ultimately, the size of the micro-batch depends, at least partly, on the time interval, the resource we have (cluster configuration). To investigate this point, we considered a DBpedia instance of 25.4GB and run 7 different incremental saturations. In saturation  $i$ , for  $i = 1 \dots 7$ , the size of the micro-batch is  $i * 100MB$ , resulting in  $n_i$  microbatches, in which the whole set of schema

triples have been heavenly distributed over the  $n_i$  microbatches. We used for this experiment a cluster with 4 nodes, 11 executors, 4 cores per executor, and 5GB memory per executor. The total processing time per micro-batch, time to loading data by using the indexed information and writing saturated data derived from loaded data for each size of dataset shows in Figure 22 until 28.

Figure 21 illustrates the average time required for performing the saturation given a micro-batch (blue line), and the average time required for the index management (red line). Regarding the saturation, the figure shows that micro-batches with different sizes require different times for processing. For example, the time required for processing a 100MB microbatch is smaller compared to the time required for processing microbatches with larger sizes. The increase is not steady. In particular, we observe that micro-batches with 400MB and 500MB require the same processing time. This means the cluster could process a bigger chunk of data within the given time-interval. We can also conclude that the cluster was idle for some time when processing 400MB micro-batches.

Regarding the index management (red line), it shows that it is comparatively small with respect to the saturation time, and it costs in the worse case less than half a minute. Moreover, as with the saturation time, micro-batch size is not the only factor. For example, the microbatch with a size of 600MB required more time for maintaining the index because the number of inferred tuples was higher compared with other microbatches, including the one with a size of 700MB. Concerning global execution time (for all micro-batches), experiments showed that when the number of micro-batches decreases, this time can decrease in some cases (this happens in particular for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , Table 5).

To summarize, the results we presented here show that it is possible to saturate streams of RDF data in an incremental manner by using big data platforms, and that our approach outperforms the state of the art.

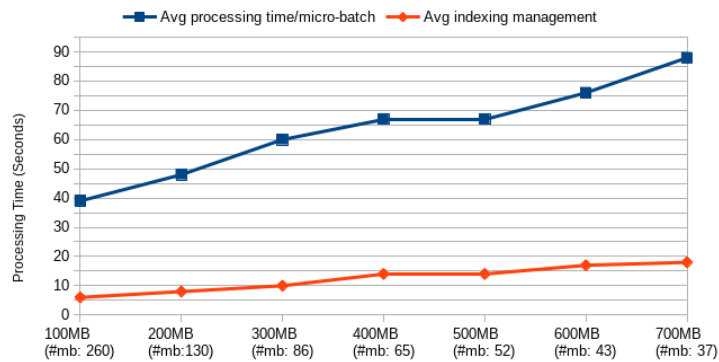


Fig. 21: Average processing time and indexing management / micro-batch

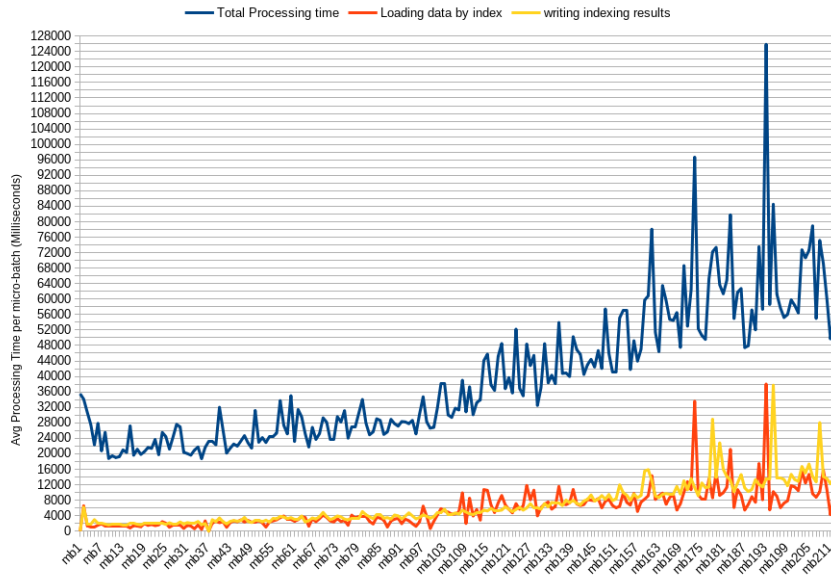


Fig. 22: 100MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

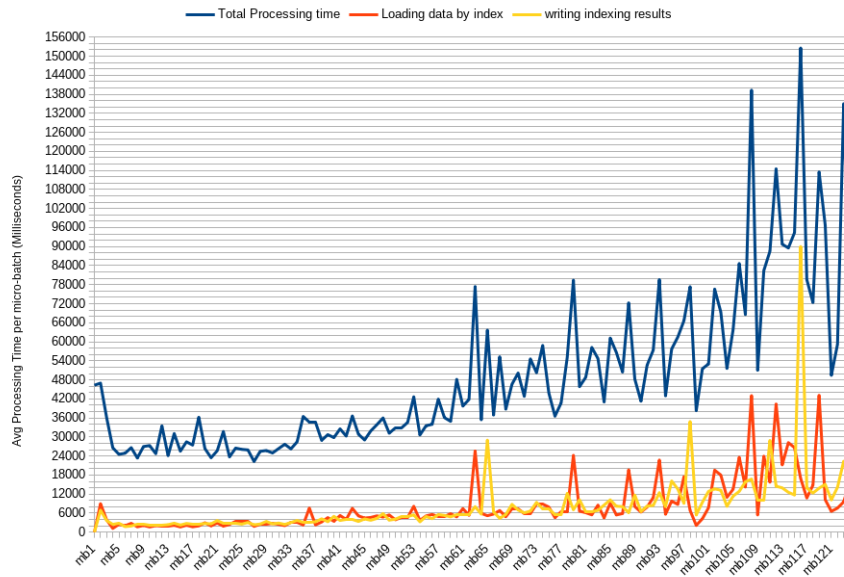


Fig. 23: 200MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

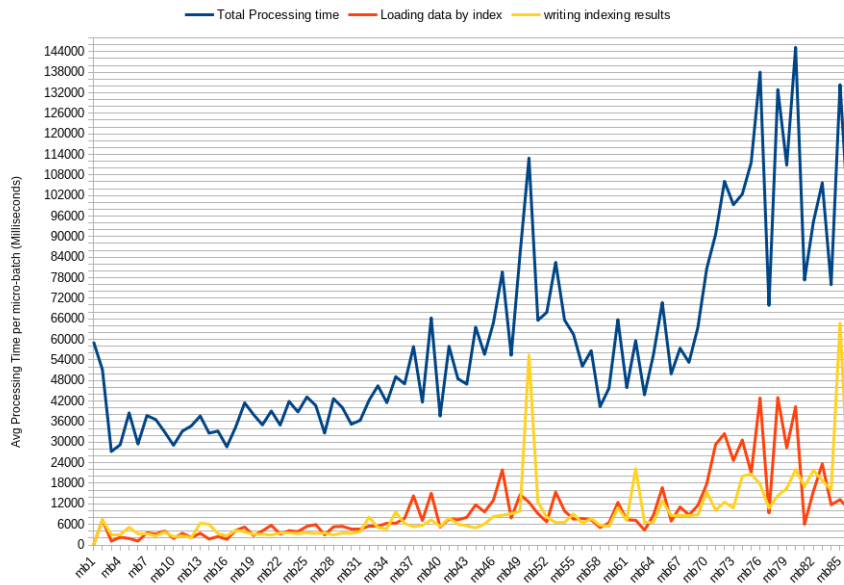


Fig. 24: 300MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

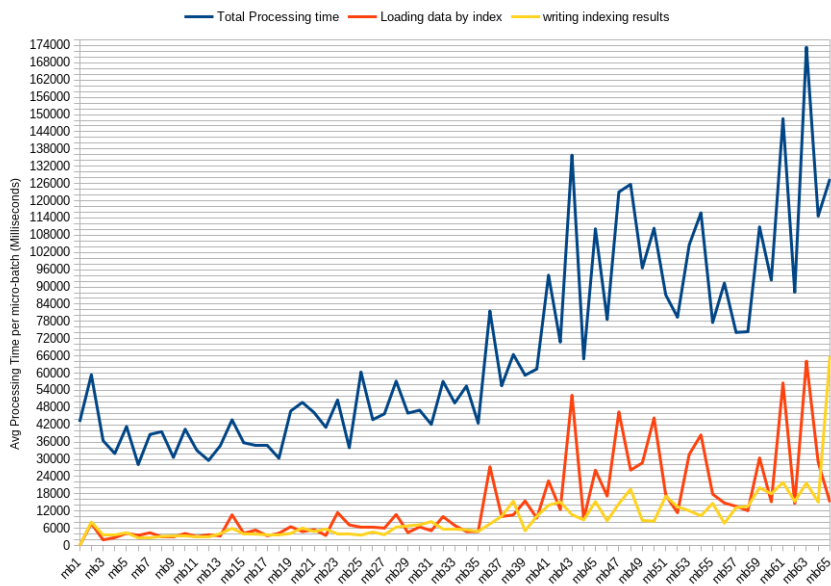


Fig. 25: 400MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

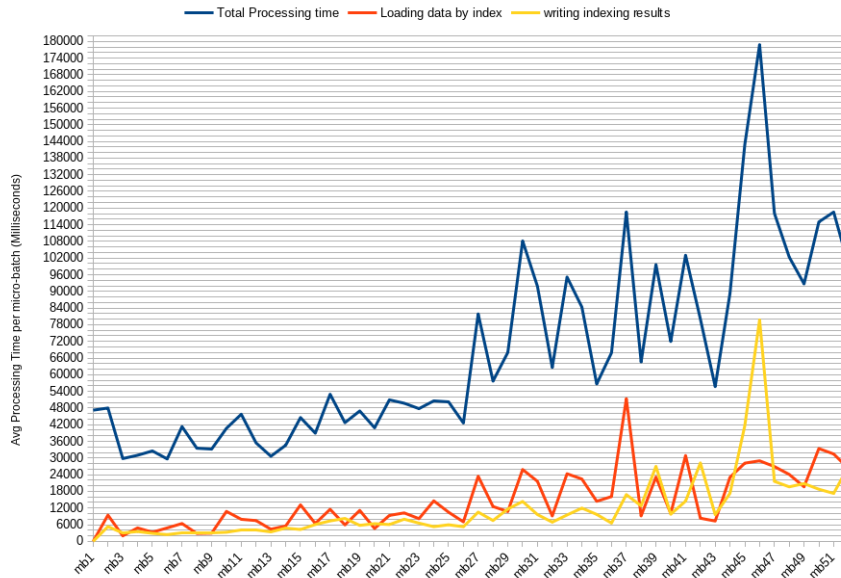


Fig. 26: 500MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

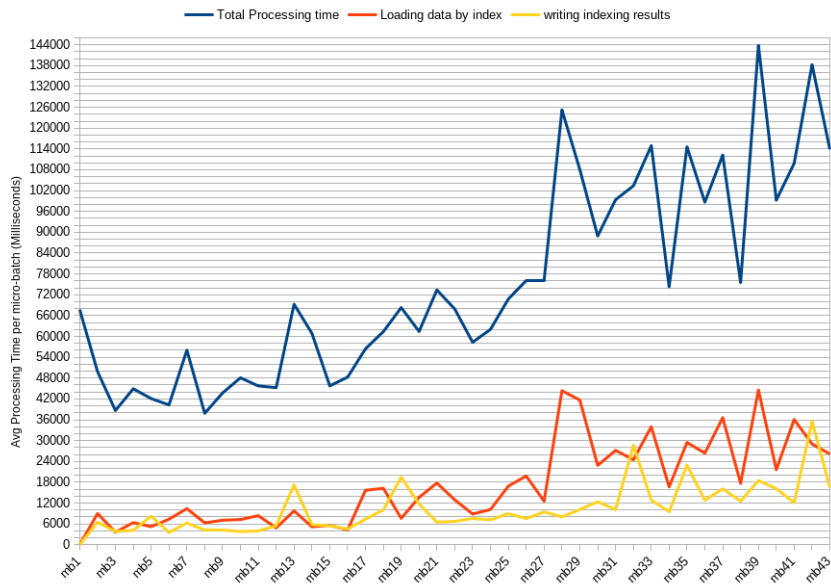


Fig. 27: 600MB per Micro-Batch + Schema



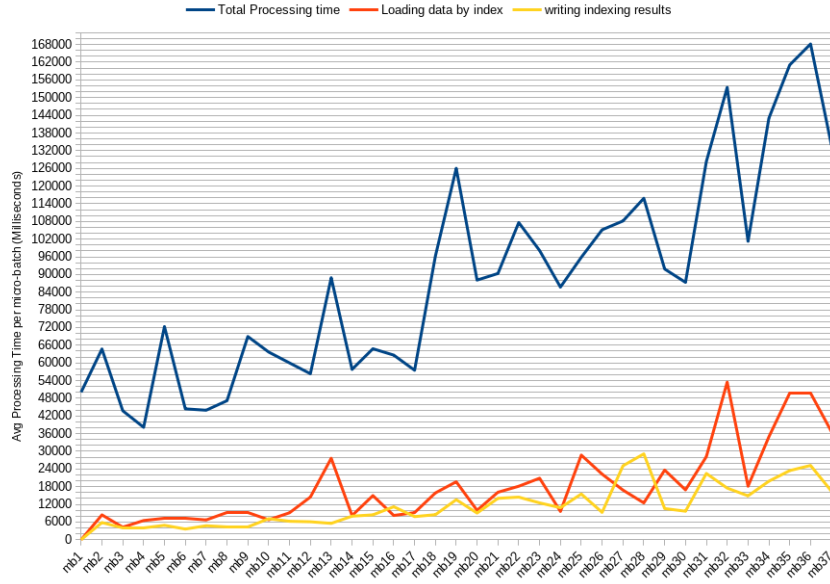


Fig. 28: 700MB per Micro-Batch + Schema

Table 5: Average time per micro-batch (*mb*). *TE*: Total Execution time of whole process (minutes). *PT*: Average of Processing Time per micro-batch (milliseconds). *Indexing*: Average of Indexing management to load instance triples based on the received schema triples. *LT*: Number of loaded triples, from already saturated data, by receiving new schema triples.

Size	# of <i>mb</i>	<i>TE</i> (mins)	<i>PT</i> (ms)	<i>Indexing</i>	# <i>LT</i>
100MB	260	105	34237	4568	1435032
200MB	130	95	60080	15664	3097778
300MB	86	93	73013	16129	6279178
400MB	65	78	70707	12077	9840728
500MB	52	59	67091	11212	11328902
600MB	43	88	127669	33328	12717641
700MB	37	88	102135	16152	15911994

To summarize, the results we presented here show that it is possible to reason over streams of RDF data in an incremental manner by using big data platforms, and that our approach outperforms the state of the art.

## 7 Related Work

**RDF Saturation Using Big data Platforms** To the best of our knowledge, the first proposal to use big data platforms, and MapReduce in particular, to scale the saturation operation is [12], but the authors did not present any experimental result. Other works then addressed the problem of large-scale RDF saturation by exploiting big data systems such as Hadoop and Spark, (see e.g., [20, 19, 7]). For example, Urbani *et al.* [20, 19] proposed a MapReduce-based distributed reasoning system called WebPIE. In doing so, they identified the order in which RDFS rules can be applied to efficiently saturate RDF data. Moreover, they specified for each of the RDFS rule how it can be implemented using map and/or reduce functions, and executed over the Hadoop system. Building on the work by Urbani *et al.*, the authors of Cichlid [7] implemented RDF saturation over Spark using, in addition to map and reduce, other transformations that are provided by Spark, such as filter, union, etc. Cichlid has shown that the use of Spark can speed up saturation wrt the case when Hadoop is used. Our solution builds and adapts the solutions proposed by WebPie and Cichlid to cater for the saturation of streams of massive RDF data.

**Incremental Saturation** The problem of incremental saturation of RDF data has been investigated by a number of proposals (see e.g., [21, 3, 5, 6, 19]). For example, Volz *et al.* investigated the problem of maintenance of entailments given changes at the level of the RDF instances as well as at the level of the RDF schema [21]. In doing so, they adapted a previous state of the art algorithm for incremental view maintenance proposed in the context of deductive database [17]. Barbieri *et al.* [3] builds on the solution proposed by Volz *et al.* by considering the case where the triples are associated with an expiration date in the context of streams (e.g., for data that is location-based). They showed that the deletion, in this case, can be done more efficiently by tagging the inferred RDF triples with an expiration date that is derived based on the expiration dates of the triples used in the derivation. While Volz *et al.* and Barbieri *et al.* [3] seek to reduce the effort required for RDF saturation, they do not leverage any indexing structure to efficiently perform the incremental saturation. As reported by the Volz *et al.* in the results of their evaluation study, even if the maintenance was incremental, the inference engine ran out in certain cases of memory. Regarding, Barbieri *et al.* [3], they considered in their evaluation a single transitive rule (Section 5 in [3]), and did not report on the size of the dataset used, nor the micro-batch size.

Chevalier *et al.* proposed Slider, a system for RDF saturation using a distributed architecture [5]. Although the objective of Slider is similar to our work, it differs in the following aspects. First, in Slider, each rule is implemented in

a separate module. We adopt a different approach, where rules are broken into finer operations (map, reduce, union, etc.). This creates opportunities for sharing the results of processing at a finer level. For example, the result of a map can be used by multiple rules, thereby reducing the overall processing required. Second, Slider utilizes vertical partitioning [1] for indexing RDF triples. This indexing structure is heavy since it creates a table for each property in the RDF. While such an indexing structure proved its efficiency in the context of RDF querying, it is heavy when it comes to RDF saturation. Indeed, we know in the context of RDF saturation the inference rules that can be triggered, and therefore can tune the indexing structure needed for this purpose, which we did in our solution.

Guasdoué *et al.* proposed an incremental solution for saturating RDF data [6]. The incrementality comes from the fact that only rules that have a premiss triple that is newly asserted or derived are triggered. We adopt a similar approach to Guasdoué *et al.*. However, we utilize an indexing structure to fetch existing triples that have been asserted/derived when processing previous micro-batches. Moreover, Guasdoué *et al.* applies the rules in an arbitrary order, whereas in our work, we order the rules in a way to minimize the number of iterations required for saturating the RDF data.

The authors of WebPie [19] briefly touched on the problem of incrementally saturating RDF data. In doing so, they timestamped the RDF tuples to distinguish new and old tuples. An inference rule  $R$  is then activated only if the timestamp associated with one of its premises is new, i.e., greater than the last time the saturation was performed. We proceed similarly in our work. However, unlike our work, WebPie does not leverage any indexing structures when querying the existing triples to identify those that may be used to activate a given rule  $R$ .

To sum up, compared with the existing state of the art in incremental saturation of RDF, we leverage a lightweight indexing structure, a fine-tuned ordering of the execution of the rules, as well as the use of a Big Data platform, namely Spark, to efficiently saturate large micro-batches of RDF data.

**Indexing structures for RDF data** The indexing mechanism we proposed here is comparable to those proposed by Weiss *et al.* [24], by Schätzle *et al.* [16] and by Kaoudi [9] *et al.* for efficiently evaluating SPARQL queries. For example, Weiss *et al.* developed Hexastore, a centralized system that maintains six indexes for all triple permutations, namely spo, sop, pso, pos, osp, and ops. For example, using spo indexing a subject  $s_i$  is associated with a sorted list of properties  $\{p_1^i, \dots, p_n^i\}$ . Moreover, each property is associated with an associated sorted list representing the objects. While this approach allows for efficiently evaluating SPARQL queries, it is expensive in terms of memory usage and index maintenance. According to the authors, Hexastore may require 5 times the size of the storage space required for storing an RDF dataset due to the indexes. The solution developed by Schätzle *et al.* [16], on the other hand, is meant for distributed evaluation of SPARQL queries using Hadoop. To do so, they use an indexing scheme named ExtVP, which precompute semi-join reductions for between all properties. As shown by the authors, the computation of such indexes

is heavy, e.g., it requires 290 seconds to index 100 million triples. To alleviate this, we proposed here an index that is aimed to speed up RDF saturation, as opposed to any SPARQL query, and that is amenable to incremental maintenance.

## **8 Conclusion and Future work**

In this work, we have shown how RDF data can be saturated in a stream-based fashion. We also showed that our solution outperforms state of the art solution for saturating RDF, namely Cichlid. It is worth mentioning that WebPIE and Cichlid support reasoning over OWL Horst. In our ongoing work, we are investigating the extension of the incremental saturation of RDF data considering OWL Horst, a dialect of the web ontology language (OWL).

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