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Parallel SPARQL Query Optimization

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Abstract—Existing parallel SPARQL query optimizers assume hash-based data partitioning and adopt plan enumeration algorithms with unnecessarily high complexity. Therefore, they cannot easily accommodate other partitioning methods and only consider an unnecessarily limited plan space. To address these problems, we first define a generic RDF data partitioning model to capture the common structure of various state-of-the-art RDF data partitioning methods. Then we propose a query plan enumeration algorithm that not only has an optimal efficiency, but also accommodates different data partitioning methods. Furthermore, based on a solid analysis of the complexity of the plan enumeration algorithm, we propose two new heuristic methods that can consider a much larger plan space than the existing methods, and at the same time can still confine the search space of the algorithm. An autonomous approach is proposed to choose one of the two methods by considering the structure and the size of a complex SPARQL query. We conduct extensive experiments using synthetic and a real-world dataset, which show the superiority of our algorithms in comparing to existing ones.

I. INTRODUCTION

The simplicity and flexibility of RDF (Resource Description Framework) model have attracted an increasing number of organizations storing their data in the RDF format, i.e., triple statements as (subject, predicate, object). For example, the DBpedia community extracts structured information from Wikipedia and makes it available in the RDF format, whose size has reached 3 billion triples. The statistics from Linked Open Data Project show that more than 52 billion triples had been published [1]. With the rapidly increasing sizes of RDF data repositories, using MapReduce-like parallel data analytic platforms to process queries over big RDF datasets have recently attracted much attention [2]–[12].

In a parallel engine, RDF datasets would be partitioned onto a cluster of computing nodes. Then a query would be first decomposed into several local subqueries to be executed in parallel without cross-node interactions. Given the outputs of the local subqueries, distributed joins are used to produce the final output. Optimizing query plans to minimize the cost of distributed joins is crucial to query performance [2]–[4]. This is challenging because RDF queries tend to involve a large number of joins and complex join graphs simply because the RDF schema only contains three columns. We observe that existing parallel SPARQL optimizers [6], [7] adopt inefficient plan enumeration algorithms which have exponential amortized complexity. The inefficiency of plan enumeration limits the plan space that can be considered. In this paper, we attempt to answer the question of “can we design a plan enumeration algorithm with optimal efficiency, which allows us to explore a larger plan space leading to better query plans?”. We propose an efficient query plan enumeration algorithm that has linear amortized complexity per enumerated join operator. According to the previous studies on relational query optimizations [13]–[16], such an algorithm is of optimal efficiency, which means no other algorithms can enumerate the same number of query plans with lower complexity. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work to study efficient algorithms to enumerate k-ary (k ≥ 2) bushy plans.

In many RDF analytical applications [17], the sizes and the complexities of the join graphs could be very high, which result in a large plan space. For these cases, due to the NP-hardness of the query optimization problem, we cannot enumerate all the plans within a reasonable time even with our efficient enumeration algorithm. Similar to the state-of-the-art optimizers [6]–[8], we need heuristics to reduce the plan space. Therefore, we need to answer the second important question: “can we design heuristics that can confine the complexity of the plan enumeration algorithm, and at the same time consider as many potentially good query plans as possible?”. To avoid over-pruning the plan space, we carefully analyze the factors (such as the size and structure of the query graph) that determines the complexity of the plan enumeration algorithm, and then carefully prune the plan space to simplify the algorithm while keeping the potentially good query plans. We propose two heuristic-based approaches that are suitable for different types of queries as well as an algorithm to autonomously choose the appropriate heuristic according to the size and the structure of the join graph. In comparing to the existing optimizers [2]–[4], [6], our approach considers a much larger solution space and produces significantly better query plans, meanwhile, thanks to our efficient query plan enumeration algorithm, it runs much faster in most tested cases.

Last but not least, to maximize the use of local subqueries and to reduce the cost of distributed joins, many RDF data partitioning methods [2]–[5] have been proposed for different types of workloads [9]. However, many existing optimizers [6]–[8] that consider static data partitioning assume data is hash partitioned and hence it remains unclear how to extend them to other partitioning methods. We argue that a parallel RDF engine should be able to choose its data partitioning method according to the actual application. Hence the last question we attempt to answer is “can a query optimizer accommodate different data partitioning methods?”. We design our query optimizer as partition-aware but not tightly coupled with a particular data partitioning method. This is achieved by employing a simple yet effective generic RDF data partitioning model, which can provide the query optimizer with necessary information of the actual data partitioning. In summary, our contributions include:

- We propose a generic model to capture the structure of existing static RDF data partitioning methods, which
Fig. 1. SPARQL Query and Join Graph

algorithm uses a join graph to capture the join relationships among a query’s triple patterns.

Definition 1: (Join Graph) The join graph \( J(Q) \) of a query \( Q \) is a bipartite graph \( J(Q) = (V_T, V_J, E_J) \), where \( V_T \) is a set of vertices, each corresponding to one triple pattern in \( Q \), \( V_J \) is another set of vertices, each corresponding to a shared variable among the triple patterns of \( Q \), and \( E_J \subseteq V_T \times V_J \), is a set of edges, each connecting one vertex \( v_i \) from \( V_T \) with another one \( v_j \) from \( V_J \) and denoting that the triple pattern \( v_i \) contains the join variable \( v_j \).

In the join graph, the neighborhood of a join variable \( v_j \) is a set of triple patterns that contain \( v_j \), denoted by \( N_{tp}(v_j) \). The degree of \( v_j \) is denoted by \( |N_{tp}(v_j)| \).

Example 1: Figure 1b is the join graph of Figure 1a. A rectangle vertex denotes a triple pattern, while a circular one is a join variable shared by multiple triple patterns. The neighborhood of the join variable \( ?c \) is denoted by \( N_{tp}(?c) = \{tp_2, tp_6\} \) and the degree of \( ?c \), \( |N_{tp}(?c)| = 2 \).

A subquery \( SQ \) of \( Q \) is a subset of \( Q \)’s triple patterns. Similarly, a join graph with respect to the subquery \( SQ \) can be denoted as \( J(SQ) \). We call a query or a subquery connected, if its query graph is connected. As a side note, evaluating a non-connected subquery involves cross-products.

Based on the join graph, we can categorize a query as: a star query whose triple patterns share a single join variable, a chain query whose join graph is a chain, a cycle query whose join graph is a cycle, a tree query whose join graph is an acyclic graph or a dense query whose join graph contains cycles. Figure 2 gives an example for each query type.

C. Data Partitioning Model

In a parallel RDF processing engine, a dataset is usually partitioned and allocated to a set of computing nodes by a data partitioning algorithm. In this paper, we mainly focus on static partitioning algorithms and we discuss about the integration with dynamic partitioning in the extended version [18]. Although the different data partitioning algorithms proposed in the literature [2]–[5] differ in the implementation and performance, they share a common overall structure. We introduce a generic model to capture this structure as follows.

This model consists of two conceptual phases: combining and distributing. In the combining phase, the triples correlated to a vertex are assembled into an indivisible partitioning element by a generalized combine function. Specifically, given an RDF graph \( G_R = (V_R, E_R) \), in the combining phase, for each vertex \( v \in V_R \), \( \text{combine}(v, G_R) \) assembles a set of triples related to \( v \) into an indivisible partitioning element anchored at \( v \), denoted as \( e_v \). The combine function is used to choose the triples to be included in the partitioning element \( e_v \):
Fig. 3. The query plans generated by the state-of-the-art SPARQL query optimization algorithms.

Note that, for two different vertices \( v \) and \( v' \), it is possible that \( e_v = e_{v'} \).

After the combining phase, there are at most \(|V_R|\) partitioning elements, each consisting of a set of triples. A triple can appear in multiple partitioning elements anchored at different vertices. Then, in the distribute phase, another function \( \text{distribute} \) distributes each partitioning element to a computing node. This phase runs as:

\[
\forall e_v: \quad \mathcal{P}_i \leftarrow \text{distribute}(e_v)
\]

where \( \mathcal{P}_i \) denotes a computing node. The main purpose of the function \( \text{distribute} \) is to reduce the duplicate triples (a triple can appear in several partitioning elements) and balance the load of computing nodes [2]–[4].

**Example 2:** We show the examples of three different data partitioning algorithms proposed in [2]–[4] respectively. For the un-one hop algorithm in [4], the \( \text{combine}(v, G_R) \) function assembles all the triples in \( G_R \), whose subject or object is \( v \), into the partitioning element \( e_v \). Then the \( \text{distribute} \) function is a graph partitioner, e.g., METIS [19], to place the vertices with the partitioning elements into different computing nodes.

For the 2f algorithm in [3], the \( \text{combine}(v, G_R) \) function assembles all the edges within 2-hop distance from \( v \). Then the \( \text{distribute} \) function assigns the partitioning elements to the computing servers by the hash value of \( v \).

In the Path-BM algorithm in [2], all the end-to-end paths starting from a start vertex \( v \) would be merged into one element (definition can be found in [2]). In our model, the \( \text{combine} \) function is applied on each start vertex \( v \) and assembles all the triples that are reachable from \( v \). Then the \( \text{distribute} \) function is the bottom-up path merging algorithm in [3].

**D. Query Plan and Join Algorithms**

A query plan of a query \( Q \) is a labeled bushy tree, denoted by \( p(Q) \). It is a physical query plan that indicates how to evaluate \( Q \) in the system. In \( p(Q) \), each leaf node denotes the bindings of a triple pattern. An inner node denotes a \( k \)-way join operator \((k \geq 2)\), which has \( k \) inputs. The \( k \)-way join operator joins all the intermediate results from its children using the labeled join algorithm and output the join intermediate results to its parent node (if it is not the root node). Note that, an inner node represents the join results of the bindings of all its descendant triple patterns.

The \( k \)-way join operator can be evaluated by a number of different algorithms, which have different cost in different situations. We discuss different types of algorithms below.

Given the data partitions, if a join can be processed in parallel on each computing node without any cross-node data communication, then it is called a local join. A query that can be evaluated by local joins is called a local query. Whether a query is a local query mainly relies on the data partitioning algorithm. According to our generic data partitioning model, we have the following definition.

**Definition 2: (Local Query)** Given an RDF graph \( G_R = (V_R, E_R) \), a query \( Q \) and a data partitioning algorithm (i.e., a \( \text{combine} \) function and a \( \text{distribute} \) function), if, for each subgraph of \( G_R \) that matches \( G_Q \), denoted as \( \mu(G_Q) \), there exists a vertex \( v \in V_R \) such that \( \mu(G_Q) \) is a subgraph of \( \text{combine}(v, G_R) \), then \( Q \) is a local query.

Since for each \( v \), \( \text{combine}(v, G_R) \) is an indivisible partitioning element, therefore, all the matches of a query defined above can be found using local joins. If a join is not a local query, then it has to be processed by a distributed join algorithm. We consider not only binary but also multi-way distributed join algorithms, which join multiple inputs at the same time. Two distributed join algorithms are considered:

1) The \( k \)-way broadcast \( \text{join} \) algorithm first broadcasts \( k-1 \) smaller inputs to all the computing nodes holding the partitions of the largest input. Then the join can be executed in parallel.

2) The \( k \)-way \( \text{repartition} \) \( \text{join} \) algorithm repartitions all the inputs by the shared join variable, and then performs the join in parallel.

These two algorithms can be implemented in MapReduce [20] and in Spark [21].

**Example 3:** Figure 3 shows several query plans of the query shown in Figure 1 \( \times_L, \times_R \) and \( \times_{lo} \) denote local join, broadcast join and repartition join respectively.

**E. Cost Model and Problem Statement**

While our optimization algorithm is independent on the cost model, we provide its details here for completeness. Given a query \( Q \), the cost of a parallel query plan \( p(Q) \), denoted as \( C(p(Q)) \), can be estimated as follows:

\[
C(p(Q)) = \max\{C(p(SQ_1)), \ldots, C(p(SQ_k))\} + C(op_{\text{join}})
\]

Each \( SQ_i \) \((1 \leq i \leq k)\) is a subquery of \( Q \) such that all of them can be joined by a \( k \)-way join operator \( op_{\text{join}} \) to produce the complete results of \( Q \). Since each input of a \( k \)-way join is the intermediate results of a subquery, we define the cost of \( p(Q) \) recursively by using the cost of the plans of the subqueries and the \( k \)-way join operator. We only consider the cost of the subquery with the maximal cost to account for the concurrent execution of the subqueries.

The cost of a \( k \)-way \( \text{join} \) operator consists of three components: I/O cost, network cost and join computation cost, denoted by \( C_{\text{io}}, C_{\text{trans}} \) and \( C_{\text{join}} \) respectively.

\[
C(op_{\text{join}}) = C_{\text{io}} + C_{\text{trans}} + C_{\text{join}}
\]

Let \( |SQ_i| \) and \( \times_{lo}^{k=1} SQ_i \) denote the cardinality of a subquery and the cardinality of the join of a set of subqueries.
respectively. We summarize the cost of three join algorithms in Table I, where \( n \) denotes the number of computing nodes in the cluster, \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma \) are the normalization factors for I/O, data transfer and join computation.

The above cost model is simple but we find it consistent with the query running time in our experiments. Developing a sophisticated and more accurate cost model is out of the scope of this paper. Furthermore, since our algorithm is loosely coupled with the cost model and explores a larger space than existing ones, a better cost model can certainly be used to improve our optimization results.

**Problem Statement.** Given a query \( Q \), the query optimization problem is to find a \( k \)-way bushy plan without Cartesian-product that has minimum cost estimated by the cost model.

### III. Efficient Query Plan Enumeration

Query plan enumeration algorithm is an important component of a query optimizer. Its complexity significantly affects the number of possible query plans that we can afford to explore. However, we observe that the state-of-the-art optimizers for parallel SPARQL engines do not employ efficient algorithms to enumerate bushy plans involving multi-way joins, and therefore they have to opt for heuristics that only consider a limited plan space. For example, both the MSC algorithm [6] and the DP-Bushy algorithm [7] consider multi-way joins. However, MSC [6] needs to run an expensive minimum set cover algorithm to construct each level of the query plan. As minimum set cover is an NP-hard problem, the complexity of enumerating the join operators at each level is exponential. DP-Bushy [7] does not check connectivity in the join graph in enumerating join operators. It can only check and eliminate Cartesian products afterwards. Enumerating plans that eventually lead to Cartesian products is inefficient. As proved in [14], for chain and cycle queries, such an approach has an exponential amortized complexity per join operator. TriAD [8] adopts a bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm to enumerate binary bushy plans, which is similar to [13]. As proved in [13], its amortized complexity per enumerated join operator is linear to the number of triple patterns, hence it is of optimal efficiency. However, it cannot enumerate multi-way bushy plans. We will return to the limitation of the heuristics adopted by the existing optimizers in Section IV.

To address the inefficiency and limitations of the existing plan enumeration algorithms, we propose a new algorithm to enumerate \( k \)-ary bushy plans with optimal efficiency.

#### A. Connected Multi-Division

Given a query \( Q \) with triple patterns \( \{t_1, ..., t_n\} \). A \( k \)-way join (\( k \geq 2 \)) of \( Q \) is a join of \( k \) inputs \( SQ_1, ..., SQ_k \) on a common join variable \( v_j \) that produces the complete results of \( Q \). Each input \( SQ_i \) is a subquery of \( Q \). We call \( \{SQ_1, ..., SQ_k, v_j\} \) a connected multi-division (or \( cmd \) for short) of \( Q \), if it meets the following definition:

**Definition 3: (Connected Multi-Division)** Given a connected query \( Q \) and its join graph \( J(Q) = (V_T, V_J, E_J) \), \( \{SQ_1, ..., SQ_k, v_j\} \) is a connected multi-division of \( Q \) on the join variable \( v_j \in V_J \), if all the following conditions hold:

1. \( \forall i, j (1 \leq i, j \leq k \text{ and } i \neq j), \forall v_j \in V_J, T \subseteq \{t_1, ..., t_n\}, \exists \text{ a } \forall v_j \in V_J, t_i \in N_i (v_j). \)

### Algorithm 1: Top-Down Join Enumeration

**Function: GetBestPlan (\( Q, isLocal \))**

**Input:** Query \( Q = \{t_1, ..., t_n\} \)

**Output:** The best query plan of \( Q \)

1. if \( BestPlan(Q) = \text{Null} \) then
2. if \( isLocal \neq \text{true} \) then
3. \( isLocal \leftarrow \text{IsLocalQuery}(Q); \)
4. \( BestPlan(Q) \leftarrow \text{BestPlanGen}(Q, isLocal); \)
5. return \( BestPlan(Q); \)

**Function: BestPlanGen (\( Q, isLocal \))**

**Output:** The best plan \( bPlan \)

1. \( bPlan \leftarrow \text{Null}; \)
2. if \( |Q| = 1 \) then
3. \( bPlan \leftarrow \text{best scanning plan of } Q; \)
4. else
5. if \( isLocal = \text{true} \) then
6. \( bPlan \leftarrow \text{local join plan of } Q; \)
7. \( \forall cmd \in \text{ConnMultiDivision}(Q) \) do
8. \( \forall cmd \in \text{ConnMultiDivision}(Q) \) iterates \( D_{cmd}(Q) \)
9. \( p(SQ_i) \leftarrow \text{GetBestPlan}(SQ_i, isLocal); \)
10. \( OP \leftarrow \{B, R\}; \) // broadcast and repartition join
11. \( \forall op \in OP \) do
12. \( cPlan \leftarrow \text{BuildPlan}(p(SQ_1), ..., p(SQ_{cmd})); \)
13. \( cPlan \leftarrow \text{BuildPlan}(p(SQ_1), ..., p(SQ_{cmd})); \)
14. if \( C(cPlan) < C(bPlan) \) then
15. \( bPlan \leftarrow cPlan; \)
16. return \( bPlan; \)

**Function: IsLocalQuery (\( Q \))**

**Output:** whether \( Q \) can be processed locally

1. if \( \text{first time then} \) generate all maximal local queries of \( Q; \)
2. \( \forall v \in V_G \) do
3. \( \forall t_i \in \{t_1, ..., t_n\} \) do
4. if \( Q \) is the subquery of the maximal local query at \( v \) then
5. \( \text{return true}; \)
6. \( \text{return false}; \)

Note that, each \( cmd \) represents a \( k \)-way join. Condition (3) is to avoid Cartesian products. The set of all \( cmd \)s of the query \( Q \) is denoted by \( D_{cmd}(Q) \). We do not consider the order of the subqueries in a \( cmd \), e.g., \( \{SQ_1, SQ_2, ..., SQ_k, v_j\} \) is equivalent to \( \{SQ_1, ..., SQ_k, v_j\} \).

**Example 4:** For the query in Figure I \( \{\{t_1, t_5\}, \{t_7\}, \{t_2, t_6\}, \{t_3, t_4\}, \{a\}\} \) is a \( cmd \) and so is \( \{\{t_1, t_5, t_7\}, \{t_2, t_6\}, \{t_3, t_4, \{a\}\} \).

### B. Top-down Join Enumeration

The top-down join enumeration algorithm generates all the query plans of the given query. It adopts the memoization algorithm [14, 15], which recursively enumerate the query plans and choose the best one. There are two important functions in the algorithm: ConnMultiDivision and IsLocalQuery. ConnMultiDivision is to enumerate \( D_{cmd}(Q) \), i.e. the \( cmd \)s of query \( Q \). Each \( cmd \) corresponds to one multi-way join operator. IsLocalQuery is used to examine whether an input query is a local query, and makes the algorithm partition-aware.

The pseudo-code is shown in Algorithm I. The input is a query, i.e. a set of triple patterns, and the output is the optimized query plan. In our implementation, a query or a subquery is encoded into a bitset. Each bit indicates if a triple pattern is contained in a subquery. The algorithm maintains a global data structure, called BestPlan, to store the best query plan generated for each subquery. Hence, the procedure first checks if the best plan of the input query has already been generated. If not, it needs to generate the best plan. The idea is to try every possible \( k \)-way join of the input query, i.e. the \( cmd \) of the input query (recall Definition 5), and find the best plan for each subquery in the \( cmd \) by recursively calling function GetBestPlan. Then it enumerates the feasible join algorithms to construct all the possible join plans, and computes the cost.
for each of them. Finally it stores the plan with the lowest cost into BestPlan.

Function isLocalQuery uses the generic partitioning model to check if a subquery is local. Due to the space limit, we only briefly explain the algorithm and refer the readers to the extended version \cite{8} for the detail analysis. First, given a query \( Q \) and a vertex \( v \in G_Q \), we define the maximal local query at \( v \) as a local query that has the largest number of triple patterns in \( Q \) containing \( v \), denoted as \( MLQ_v(Q) \), which can be obtained by calling combine(\( v, G_Q \)) (Section II-C). The reason that combine(\( v, G_Q \)) is a local query is that if there is a match of combine(\( v, G_Q \)) in \( G_R \), then there must exist a match of \( v \) in \( G_R \), denoted as \( \mu(v) \), such that the match of combine(\( v, G_Q \)) is a subgraph of combine(\( \mu(v), G_R \)). Furthermore, combine(\( v, G_Q \)) is the maximal local query at \( v \) that we can deduce from the partitioning model and combine(\( v, G_Q \)) covers all the local queries that can be detected in the existing static partitioning methods \cite{2,5}. Accordingly, to check whether a subquery \( SQ \) is a local query, we first generate the maximal local queries at all the vertices in \( V_Q \) and then check if \( SQ \) is a subquery of one of them. The worst-case complexity of this approach is \( \Theta(|V_Q|) \).

Example 5: Suppose the data are partitioned using path partitioning \cite{2}. For the query in Figure 1a by applying combine(\( ?b, G_Q \)), we can get the maximal local query at \( ?b \) as \( \{tp_1, tp_3, tp_4, tp_5, tp_7\} \). This is because combine(\( v, G_R \)) in the path partitioning algorithm returns all the triple patterns that are reachable from vertex \( v \). One can also see that all the subqueries of \( \{tp_1, tp_3, tp_4, tp_5, tp_7\} \) are local queries.

C. Connected Multi-Division Enumeration

To achieve optimal efficiency, we should only enumerate multi-divisions that are connected. The naive strategy of enumerating cnd of a query \( Q \) is a generate-and-check method, which generates all multi-divisions and then check if they fulfill the definition of cnds. This method suffers from two drawbacks. Firstly, the number of multi-division is huge, which is equal to \( B_{|V_T|} \), the Bell Number, where \( |V_T| \) is the number of triple patterns in \( Q \). Secondly, the cost of checking whether a multi-division is connected or not is high, which is \( \Theta(|V_T|) \). Thus, we aim at designing an efficient algorithm that only enumerates the cnds, and only enumerates each cnd once.

To achieve the above goal, we begin with solving the special case, enumerating connected binary-divisions. A connected binary-division (or cdb) for short is a special case of cnd, which has only two subqueries. The set of all cdbds of a query \( Q \) is denoted by \( D_{\text{cbd}}(Q) \). Our idea of using \( D_{\text{cbd}}(Q) \) to enumerate cnd is as follows. Given a query \( Q \), each of its cdbds is also a cnd. In addition, suppose \((SQ_1, SQ_2, v_j)\) is a cdb of \( Q \), if \( SQ_2 \) has a cdb on the join variable \( v_j \), denoted as \((SQ_{21}, SQ_{22}, v_j)\), then \((SQ_1, SQ_{21}, SQ_{22}, v_j)\) is a cnd of \( Q \). Again, if \( SQ_{22} \) has a cdb on \( v_j \), which is \((SQ_{221}, SQ_{222}, v_j)\), then \((SQ_1, SQ_{221}, SQ_{222}, v_j)\) is a cnd of \( Q \), and so on. In this way, we can enumerate all the possible cnds.

Enumeration of connected binary-division. We first present the algorithm to find all the cdbds on a particular join variable of a query, which is presented in Algorithm \ref{alg2}. Given a query \( Q \) and a join variable \( v_j \) in \( J(Q) \), the basic idea of this algorithm is to recursively extend a connected subquery \( SQ \).

\begin{algorithm}
\caption{Algorithm 2: Connected Binary-Division Enumeration}
\begin{algorithmic}
\Function{ConnBinDivision}{$Q, v_j$}
\State \textbf{Input:} A query \( Q \) and a join variable \( v_j \)
\State \textbf{Output:} \( D_{\text{cbd}}(Q) \) on the join variable \( v_j \)
\State \( C_{v_j} \leftarrow \text{GetComponents}(Q, v_j) \);
\State \( \text{CBDRec}(\emptyset, \emptyset, Q) \);
\Function{CBDRec}{$SQ, X, Q$}
\State \textbf{Function:} \( \text{CBDRec}(SQ, X, Q) \)
\State \textbf{Output:} emits connected binary-divisions
\If{$SQ = Q$ and $SQ \cap X \neq \emptyset$}
\State \textbf{return} \;
\EndIf
\If{$SQ \neq \emptyset$}
\State \textbf{Emit}((\( SQ, SQ, v_j \)));
\State $X' \leftarrow X$;
\State $X' \leftarrow X' \cup \{tp\}$;
\EndIf
\If{$\text{component is indivisible}$}
\State \( \text{CBDRec}(SQ \cup \text{component}, X', Q) \);
\Else
\State $S \leftarrow \text{GetPartInComponent}(\text{component})$;
\State \( \text{CBDRec}(SQ \cup \{tp\} \cup S, X', Q) \);
\EndIf
\EndFunction
\State $X' \leftarrow X' \cup \{tp\}$;
\EndFunction
\EndAlgorithm
\end{algorithm}

Initially, \( SQ \) contains an arbitrary triple pattern in \( N_{tp}(v_j) \), which contains all \( v_j \)’s neighboring triple patterns in the query graph. If the extension of \( SQ \) does not make \( Q \setminus SQ \) mismatch the cdb conditions, then it outputs one cdb.

Note that, the size of \( D_{\text{cbd}}(Q) \) might be huge. Therefore, to avoid storing all of them, we implement Algorithm \ref{alg2} as an Iterator, which generates and returns one cdb on each invocation. The Emit function (line 5) is similar to the yield return statement in C#. Concretely, it returns one cdb at a time and maintains the current running state. When the iterator function is called again, the execution will be restarted from the maintained state to generate the next cdb.

In line 1 of Algorithm \ref{alg2}, we first divide the query into a set of connected components by removing \( v_j \) from the join graph \( J(Q) \), and save them in \( C_{v_j} \). Each of the resulting connected components has at least one triple pattern in \( N_{tp}(v_j) \). The connected components can be classified into two categories: indivisible component, which has only one triple pattern adjacent to \( v_j \), and divisible component, which has more than one triple pattern adjacent to \( v_j \).

Example 6: In the following, we use the join graph in Figure 4 as the running example to illustrate our algorithm. Figure 4 shows the indivisible and divisible components in the example join graph after removing \( v_j \). Here \( C_{v_j} = \{\{tp_1, tp_2\}, \{tp_3, tp_4\}, \{tp_5, tp_6, tp_7, tp_8, tp_9\}\} \), where \( \{tp_1, tp_2\} \) and \( \{tp_3, tp_4\} \) are indivisible components and \( \{tp_5, \ldots, tp_9\} \) is a divisible component. Each component contains at least one triple pattern in \( N_{tp}(v_j) \).

Then Algorithm \ref{alg2} calls the recursive function \( \text{CBDRec} \) (line 2) to produce the cdbds on the join variable \( v_j \). In this function, \( SQ \) is extended incrementally on each recursive invocation. \( SQ \) is initialized as \( \emptyset \) and \( A \) is initialized with an arbitrary
theorems in this paper are omitted but can be found in [18].

Binary-division. If a triple pattern $tp$ consists of a set of connected components $S_1, ..., S_i$. Then the recursive call of $CBDRec$ produces a cbd, which is $\{\{tp_1, tp_2\}, \{tp_3, tp_4, ..., tp_9\}, v_j\}$. 

However, if $tp \in A$ is contained in a divisible component, then we do not need to use the whole component containing $tp$ to extend $SQ$. Instead, we use the following lemma to extend $SQ$ to generate a cbd.

Lemma 2: Assume $(SQ, Q \setminus SQ, v_j)$ is a connected binary-division. If a triple pattern $tp \in A$ is contained in a divisible component $C_{v_j}[i] \subseteq (Q \setminus SQ)$, then, (1) $(SQ \cup C_{v_j}[i], Q \setminus SQ \cup C_{v_j}[i], v_j)$ is also a cbd, (2) for any subset $\mathcal{J} \subseteq C_{v_j}[i]$, $(SQ \cup \mathcal{J}, Q \setminus SQ \cup \mathcal{J}, v_j)$ is not a cbd. 

Due to the space limit, the proofs of all the lemmas and theorems in this paper are omitted but can be found in [18].

Example 6: (continued) Suppose $A$ is set to $\{tp_1\}$ in the first run of $CBDRec$. Since $tp_1$ belongs to an indivisible component $C_{v_j}[1] = \{tp_1, tp_2\}$, we should extend $SQ$ with the whole component $C_{v_j}[1]$. Therefore, $SQ$ is set to $\{(Q \setminus SQ)\}$ (line 13-14). Then the recursive call of $CBDRec$ produces a cbd, which is $\{\{tp_1, tp_2\}, \{tp_3, tp_4, ..., tp_9\}, v_j\}$. 

Algorithm 3: Connected Multi-Division Enumeration

Function: ConnMultiDivision($Q$)
Input: A query $Q$ and $J(Q) = (V_j, V_r, E_j)$
Output: $D_{cmd}(Q)$
1 foreach $v_j \in V_j$ do
2 stack.Init(); $SQ_l \leftarrow Q$;
3 $CBDRec(v_j, SQ_l, stack)$;
Function: $CBDRec(v_j, SQ_l, stack)$
Output: emits connected multi-divisions
4 if stack $\neq \emptyset$ then
5 cmd $\leftarrow \emptyset$;
6 foreach $SQ \in stack$ do cmd.Add($SQ_l$);
7 cmd.Add($SQ_l$); cmd.Add($v_j$);
8 Emit($cmd$);
9 $R \leftarrow Ntp(v_j) \cap SQ_l$;
10 if $|R| = 1$ then
11 if $|stack| > 0$ then stack.Pop();
12
13 return;
14 foreach $SQ'_L, SQ'_U, v_j$ in ConnBinDivision($SQ_l, v_j$) do
15 /* ConnBinDivision($SQ_l, v_j$) iterates $D_{cmd}(SQ_l)$ on $v_j$/
16 stack.Push($SQ'_L$);
17 $CBDRec(v_j, SQ'_L, stack)$;
18 stack.Pop();

Example 6: (continued) Recall that the initial invocation of $CBDRec$ sets $SQ$ as $\{tp_1, tp_2\}$, therefore, in the next recursive invocation, line 10 sets $A = \{tp_5, tp_6, tp_9\}$, which are the neighbors of $SQ$. Suppose lines 11 picks $tp_5$, which belongs to the divisible component $C_{v_j}[3]$. Since $C_{v_j}[3] \subseteq (SQ \cup tp_5)$, which is equal to $\{tp_3, tp_4, tp_6, tp_7, tp_8\}$, contains only one connected component, according to Lemma 2(1), $SQ$ can be extended with $tp_5$, i.e. $SQ = \{tp_1, tp_2, tp_5\}$. Then the next recursive invocation of $CBDRec$ produces a new cbd (lines 4–5), which is $\{\{tp_1, tp_2, tp_5\}, \{tp_3, tp_4, tp_6, tp_7, tp_8, tp_9\}, v_j\}$. 

Now in line 10, $A$ is set to $\{tp_6, tp_8, tp_9\}$ and $tp_3$. Suppose line 11 picks $tp_8$, which again belongs to the divisible component $C_{v_j}[3]$. $C_{v_j}[3] \cap (SQ \cup tp_8) = \{tp_7, tp_8, tp_9\}$ contains two connected components, which are $\{tp_7\}$ and $\{tp_8, tp_9\}$ respectively. Based on Lemma 2(2), $\{tp_7\}$ does not contain any triple patterns in $Ntp(v_j)$, so $SQ$ should be extended with $tp_8$ and the component $\{tp_7\}$, i.e. $SQ = \{tp_1, tp_2, tp_5, tp_6, tp_7\}$ (line 17). Then the next recursive invocation of $CBDRec$ produces a new cbd, which is $\{\{tp_1, tp_2, tp_5, tp_6, tp_7\}, \{tp_3, tp_4, tp_8, tp_9\}, v_j\}$.

The recursion will return when $SQ$ contains all the elements in $Q$ or $SQ$ contains elements in $X$ (line 3), where $X$ denotes all the triple patterns used for extending $SQ$ (line 18).

Theorem 1: Algorithm 3 generates all cbds of a query on a particular join variable once and only once.

Enumeration of connected multi-division. Algorithm 3 is a recursive algorithm that enumerates all $cmds$. Similar to Algorithm 2, the Emit function (line 7) suspends the execution and maintains the current running state. The execution will be restarted from the maintained state at the next invocation. Given a query $Q$, the algorithm enumerates $cmds$ for each join variable in $J(Q)$. Initially, subquery $SQ_l$ contains all the triple patterns in $Q$. The core idea of this algorithm is to recursively generate a connected binary-division of $SQ_l$ denoted as $(SQ'_L, SQ'_U, v_j)$. $SQ'_L$ is pushed into a stack and all its triple patterns are removed from $SQ_l$. After that, all the subqueries in stack and $SQ'_L$ and $v_j$ form a cbd. By doing this recursively, we can produce all the $cmds$.

Precisely, for each join variable $v_j$ in $J(Q)$, we initialize stack as empty and $SQ_l$, as containing all the triple patterns in $Q$ (line 2). Then the function $CBDRec$ is invoked recursively. At each recursive invocation, if stack is not empty, the algorithm emits a cmd consisting of $SQ_l$ and all the subqueries in stack (line 4–6). Then the algorithm checks if subquery $SQ_l$ has cbds. Since $SQ_l$ is connected, it only needs to check if $SQ_l$ contains more than one triple pattern that is the neighbor of $v_j$ (line 8–9). If $SQ_l$ contains only one such triple pattern, then the recursion will stop. Otherwise, the algorithm uses the function ConnBinDivision to generate the cbds for subquery $SQ_l$. For each $cbd$, denoted by $(SQ'_L, SQ'_U, v_j)$, the algorithm pushes $SQ'_L$ into the stack (line 12) and recursively invoke itself with subquery $SQ'_U$ (line 13).

Theorem 2: Algorithm 3 generates all $cmds$ once and
only once. □

D. Complexity Analysis

To analyze the complexity of Algorithm 1, we first introduce an important notation. Let $Q$ be the input query, $T(Q)$ denotes the number of $cmd$s of all the subqueries of $Q$. It is formally defined as follows,

$$T(Q) = \sum_{SQ_i \in S} |D_{cmd}(SQ_i)|$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where $S$ denotes the set of all the connected subqueries of $Q$.

In Algorithm 1, function ConnMultiDivision is invoked as many times as the number of all the connected subqueries of the input query (recall Theorem 2). Hence, the complexity of Algorithm 1 is equal to the number of $cmd$s of all the subqueries (i.e. $T(Q)$) multiplied by the amortized complexity of generating each $cmd$ and the complexity of local query checking. The complexity of local query checking is discussed in Section III-B and [18]. We focus on the other two parts here.

The Amortized Complexity. In fact, the amortized complexity per enumerated join operator of Algorithm 1 is the cost of enumerating each $cmd$ in Algorithm 3. Hence, we have:

**Lemma 3:** Given a join graph $J(Q) = (V_T, V_J, E_J)$, the worst-case amortized complexity per enumerated $cmd$ of Algorithm 3 is $\Theta(|V_T|)$. □

In other words, Algorithm 3 has a linear amortized complexity per enumerated $cmd$.

**Measurement of $T(Q)$:** Different query structures might lead to very different values of $T(Q)$. So in the following we discuss a number of cases individually.

The worst case for $T(Q)$ depends on the number of connected subqueries and the number of connected multi-divisions of each connected subquery. The worst case w.r.t. the number of connected subqueries is $2^n - 1$, which occurs when each subset of the input query is a connected subquery. The worst case w.r.t. the number of connected multi-division of each subquery happens when every multi-division is a connected multi-division. The number of the multi-divisions of a set can be counted by the Bell Number. The Bell Number of a set with $k$ elements is denoted by $B_k$. Thus in the worst case, the number of connected multi-division is $B_k - 1$.

These two worst cases might appear simultaneously with a star query. For a star query $Q$ with $n$ triple patterns, since each subquery of a star query is also a star query, Equation (5) can be transformed into:

$$T(Q_{\text{star}}) = \sum_{k=2}^{n} D(k) \cdot N(k)$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

where $D(k)$ denotes the number of subgraphs containing $k$ triple patterns, and $N(k)$ denotes the number of connected multi-divisions of the subgraphs containing $k$ triples patterns. Thus, $T(Q_{\text{star}})$ can be calculated by:

$$T(Q_{\text{star}}) = \sum_{k=2}^{n} (B_k - 1)C_n^k$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

We also analyze some special cases for $T(Q)$. All the connected subqueries of a chain query are chain queries as well. Let $Q_{\text{chain}}$ be a chain query with $n$ triple patterns. For a subquery with $k$ triple patterns, $D(k) = n - k + 1$ and $N(k) = k - 1$. Then, $T(Q_{\text{chain}})$ can be calculated by :

$$T(Q_{\text{chain}}) = \sum_{k=2}^{n} (n - k + 1) \cdot (k - 1) = \frac{n^3 - n}{6}$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

For a cycle query with $n$ triple patterns, denoted by $Q_{\text{cycle}}$, if a subquery has $k \neq n$ triple patterns, then it is a chain query. So we have $D(k) = n$, $N(k) = k - 1$. Otherwise, it is a cycle query, thus $D(k) = 1$ and $N(k) = (k - 1)$. Therefore,

$$T(Q_{\text{cycle}}) = \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} n \cdot (k - 1) + n(n - 1) = \frac{n^3 - n^2}{2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

**Summary.** As aforementioned, putting all the three parts together, including the complexity of local query checking, the amortized complexity and the measurement of $T(Q)$, we have:

**Theorem 3:** Given a query $Q$ and its query graph $G_Q=(V_Q, E_Q)$ and join graph $J(Q)=(V_T, V_J, E_J)$, the worst-case complexity of Algorithm 1 is $\Theta(|V_Q|+|V_T|\cdot |T(Q)|)$. □

Accordingly, the complexity of Algorithm 1 mainly depends on $T(Q)$. Based on Equation (7) and Equation (5), we find that the complexity of Algorithm 1 increases along with two factors: the number of triple patterns in the query and the degree of the join variables. If a join variable has a high degree or the average degree of all the join variables is high, then the number of $cmd$s on these join variables are large and hence the value of $T(Q)$ would be large.

IV. Heuristics

Since the query optimization problem is NP-hard, it is too costly to enumerate all the possible plans of a complex query. Therefore, for complicated queries, the state-of-the-art optimizers adopt heuristics to limit the number of plans explored by the enumeration algorithm. For example, TriAD [8] adopt heuristics that only consider binary join operators. However, as shown in previous work, such as [6], [10], [22], multi-way joins may be significantly more efficient than multiple binary joins in modern massively parallel computation systems, such as MapReduce-like systems, where intermediate data have to be reshuffled over the cluster. MSC [6] intends to find the so-called flat plan, which has the minimum number of levels, to reduce the cost of data reshuffling. However, as shown in our experiments in Section V the flattest plan is not always the best plan. DP-Bushy [7] adopts a recursive top-down dynamic programming algorithm to enumerate bushy plans. On each recursive call, it considers all the possible binary joins and the multi-way join that can join the maximal number of inputs. In comparing to MSC, DP-Bushy can find good query plans that are not the flattest. But it only considers very limited possible multi-way joins, i.e. those that can join the most inputs at each plan level. Figure 3 illustrates typical plans that could be generated by these optimizers for the query in Figure 1.

We argue that due to the inefficiency of the plan enumeration algorithms adopted in the aforementioned optimizers, they consider unnecessarily limited plan spaces that may miss many
good query plans. Given our efficient plan enumeration algorithm presented in the previous section, we intend to develop heuristics that consider a plan space as large as possible. Unlike the previous work, which designs heuristics without correlating them to the complexity of the enumeration algorithms, we carefully analyze the factors that affect the complexity of the enumeration algorithm and avoid over-pruning as much as possible. This is based on our extensive complexity analysis presented above.

As analyzed in Section [III-D] there are two main factors that determine the complexity of the algorithm: (1) the degree of a join variable and (2) the total number of triple patterns. We present two new heuristic algorithms that focus on these factors, respectively, to limit the plans considered by the enumeration algorithm. Finally, as these two algorithms are suitable for different types of queries, we introduce an autonomous algorithm, which can analyze the structure of the input query and choose the suitable approach to optimize it.

A. TD-CMDP: Connected Multi-Division with Pruning

As shown in Section [III-D], a join variable with a high degree would dramatically increase the number of connected multi-divisions, and consequently increase the complexity. To reduce the algorithm running time, we should prune the less promising portions of the search space.

Initially, we introduce a variant of connected multi-division, namely connected complete-multi-division (ccmd for short). Suppose $(SQ_1, ..., SQ_k, v_j)$ is a cmd, if $\forall SQ_i$, there exists only one $tp \in SQ_i$ s.t. $tp \in N_{tp}(v_j)$, then it is a ccmd.

Rule 1: For a $k$-way join ($k > 2$), we only take the plans constructed by ccmd into account.

This heuristic is based on the observation that for all $k$-way join plans ($k > 2$) using repartition join operators, using ccmds can construct a plan with fewer levels, which may incur less reshuffling of intermediate data. This heuristic might dramatically reduce the search space for queries that has a join variable with a very high degree in the join graph.

Rule 2: For all broadcast join plans, we only consider binary broadcast joins.

Among all the $k$-way broadcast joins, binary broadcast join is a good choice in many cases, since it only needs to broadcast one input, instead of $k - 1$ inputs.

Rule 3: If a subquery is a local query, then the best plan for this subquery is to join all of the triple patterns using the local join algorithm.

Based on this heuristic, in Algorithm [1] (line 10), if $Q$ is a local query, the best plan is to use a local join, i.e., $BestPlan_Q$ is the local join plan and the function $BestPlanGen$ will directly return the local join plan. So the procedure from line 11 to line 19 will be skipped, including function ConnMultiDivision.

Eventually, we combine these pruning rules into function ConnMultiDivisionPruning, which only outputs the cbsd and ccmds. In Algorithm [1] we use this function to replace ConnMultiDivision. We refer to the original Algorithm [1] and this variant as TD-CMD and TD-CMDP respectively.

Note that TD-CMDP is very different from the heuristic of choosing the flattest plan as adopted in MSC [6]. For each enumerated subset of triple patterns, say with size $m > 2$, if they cannot be joined by a local query, TD-CMDP considers an $m$-way join (if possible) as well as all the possible binary broadcast joins, and then it continues to enumerate the join plans for the remaining $m - 1$ triple patterns. On the contrary, MSC would consider a $k$-way join with the maximum possible $k$ at each step. Therefore, TD-CMDP considers a lot of binary join and $k$-way join operators that are not considered by MSC.

B. HGR-TD-CMD: Heuristic-based Join Graph Reduction

As discussed in the previous section, the pruning algorithm can decrease the complexity for queries that have a join variable with a high degree in the join graph. However, according to Section [III-D] if the total number of triple patterns is large, it will become the key factor of the complexity of the optimization algorithm. Hence, in this section, we propose a new algorithm aiming at large SPARQL queries, i.e., queries containing a large number of triple patterns. To reduce the complexity for generating the optimal query plan, the first intuition is to reduce the size of the query. If the input query can be reduced to a moderate size, then we can use the aforementioned enumeration algorithm to generate the best plan on the reduced query.

To realize this idea, we need to design an algorithm to reduce the input join graph. Here, we use the following heuristic. We find the triple patterns that can be processed by a local join and collapse them into one vertex in the join graph. Thus, we need to solve a join graph reduction problem defined as follows.

Definition 4: (Join Graph Reduction (JGR) Problem) Let $J(Q)$ be a join graph, the join graph reduction problem is to construct a new graph $J'(Q)$ that satisfies the following conditions: (1) each vertex in $V'_T$ in $J'(Q)$ must be a local query, and (2) the sum of the cardinalities of each $v \in V'_T$ in $J'(Q)$ is minimized.

Theorem 4: The JGR problem is NP-Hard. $\square$

To solve the JGR problem efficiently, we use a greedy weighted set cover algorithm, which can achieve an approximation ratio of $\ln n$, where $n$ is the number of all candidate sets. Specifically, given a query $Q$, we first compute all of its maximal local queries and then put all the subqueries of each maximal local query, i.e., all the local queries of $Q$, into a set $C$. Each element $SQ$ in $C$ is weighted by its cardinality. Then the algorithm runs as follows. Initially, let $E$ be an empty set. If $Q$ has uncovered elements, the algorithm picks an element $SQ$ in $C$ with the minimal value of $|SQ|/\lambda_{|SQ|}$, and adds it to $E$. This continues until $E$ is a cover of $Q$.

After reducing the join graph, we run the top-down join enumeration algorithm on the reduced join graph to generate
the optimized query plan. Note that, the degrees of join variables will also be reduced along with join graph reduction. We call this variant as HGR-TD-CMD.

C. TD-Auto: Autonomous Algorithm

Putting the above three variants together, we present the autonomous algorithm, called TD-Auto, which is to choose the right algorithm for a given query. Based on the two factors that have great impacts on the algorithm complexity, we summarize the characteristics of these algorithms into a decision tree to construct the autonomous algorithm, as shown in Figure 5.

Concretely, for a join graph \( J(Q) \), if the value of \( \frac{|V_J|}{|T_J|} \) is larger than a threshold \( \theta \), if the join variables have low degrees, such as chain and cycle greater than or equal to 1, then the join graph is an acyclic graph or a graph with exactly one cycle. Among these queries, if the join variables have low degrees, such as chain and cycle queries, TD-CMD is very efficient. If the maximum degree of the join variables is larger than a threshold \( \theta_d \), then we have to choose the algorithm HGR-TD-CMD or TD-CMDP based on the number of triple patterns. For queries with more than one cycles, TD-CMD is only a good choice if the number of triple patterns is less than \( \lambda_n \). Otherwise HGR-TD-CMD is chosen for larger queries. In practice, based on our experiments, we set \( \theta_d = 5 \), \( \theta_n = 30 \) and \( \lambda_n = 14 \).

V. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

A. Experimental Setup

System. We use a cluster of 10 computing nodes for the experiments. Each node in the cluster has 64GB RAM, two 2.4GHz Intel Xeon E5-2670 CPUs, each with 8 cores and 16 threads, and 1Gb network adapter. The OS is RHEL 6.2. All nodes are used for query processing while only one node is used for query optimization. We make use of RDF-3X [23] and Hadoop to build the prototype system. Each node is powered by RDF-3X version 0.3.5 to perform matchings of individual triple patterns as well as local joins. The distributed joins (broadcast join and repartition join) are implemented on Hadoop 1.2 running on Java 1.6, following the implementation of broadcast join and improved repartition join proposed in [20].

Query optimization algorithms. We compare our algorithms with the state-of-the-art algorithms of optimizing multi-way bushy plans proposed in [6] and [7]. They are denoted by MSC and DP-Bushy respectively. We use the implementations of MSC and DP-Bushy algorithms provided by the authors, which are written in Java. To make a fair comparison, we also implement all our algorithms in Java without using any special external library. We do not compare with the optimizer of TriAD because TriAD only considers binary join query plans and [6] has shown that the MSC plans outperform binary join query plans. All the algorithms use the same cost model. The parameters of the cost model listed in Table II are given in Table II. They are obtained by our experiments.

Workloads. We use two datasets, LUBM and UniProt. LUBM is a benchmark generator. We generate an LUBM dataset, LUBM-10000, with 1.38 billion of triples. UniProt is a real-world protein dataset with 2 billion of triples. The benchmark queries, L1 to L10 for LUBM and U1 to U5 for UniProt (see the [18] for details), come from [2], [23]–[26], covering most types of queries mentioned earlier in the paper, as shown in Table III.

To perform further analysis of the algorithms described in Section V.C, we use the stress testing in Waterloo SPARQL Diversity Test Suite (WatDiv) [27], which contains 124 structurally diverse query templates, each created by a random walk over the graph representation of the data schema and instantiated with 100 queries. The test case contains in total 12,400 random queries. Furthermore, we have implemented a query generator that can randomly generate chain, cycle, tree and dense queries (recall Section II-B), which are not sufficiently represented in the aforementioned benchmark. The workload contains 116 queries, each with 3 different cardinalities and bindings. So in total, 348 input queries are generated for the optimization algorithms. The query size, i.e., the number of triple patterns, ranges from 2 to 30. For both the query generators, the cardinalities and the number of bindings are randomly attached with the triple patterns and variables respectively. More precisely, the cardinality of each triple pattern \( t_{pi} \) is a positive integer \( x_i \) randomly chosen from 1 to 1,000 (we have also used the range between 1 to 100,000, which does not affect any of our conclusions). The number of bindings of each variable in \( t_{pi} \) is a random integer from 1 to \( x_i \). The cardinality of joins is computed based on the cost model (see the [18] for details).

Data partitioning. We consider three state-of-the-art data partitioning methods. (1) Hash partitioning with a hash function on both the subject and the object of an RDF triple. This can be used for all query optimization algorithms. (2) The semantic hash partitioning algorithm, 2-hop forward (2f for short), proposed in [3]. 2f extends each vertex in RDF graph with 2-hop forward expansion to form the partitioning element, then hashes the partitioning elements to the computing nodes. (3) The path partitioning approach in [2], called Path-BMC. This algorithm firstly decomposes the RDF graph into end-to-end paths, and then merges them in a greedy manner based on the weights of the vertices. Note that only our methods can make use of the last two data partitioning methods.

B. Query Performance Comparison

The first part of our experiments is to analyze the query performance over two datasets: LUBM-10000 and UniProt. The queries (as shown in Table III) are optimized by three query optimizers and all query plans are running on our prototype system. As shown in our previous analysis and the experimental analysis in the next section, TD-Auto is the most practical method among those we proposed. Therefore we only use TD-Auto in this section.

All numbers in Table IV and Table V are averages over at least three runs. Table IV shows the query optimization time of the algorithms. We observe that the MSC algorithm always spends more time to generate the query plans, especially for the complex queries. Table V shows the query processing.
time. The general observation is that the plans of TD-Auto outperform the best plans generated by MSC and DP-Bushy on the chain, tree and dense benchmark queries. Moreover, TD-Auto can leverage more data partitioning algorithms, such as 2f and Path-BMC, and hence the performance improvement can be more significant. For example, the TD-Auto plans using Path-BMC partitioning can outperform the MSC and DP-Bushy plans by an order of magnitude, since all of the queries are local queries with the Path-BMC partitioning. While Path-BMC has a superior query performance, it is less flexible in dealing with dynamic RDF datasets than simple hash-based methods. TD-Auto can be employed in a general RDF engine that can adapt its partitioning methods according to the application’s requirements.

For L1, U1 and L2, because hash partitioning will collocate all the triples sharing the same subjects and objects, all the queries can be evaluated with local joins. So the query performance are similar for all the algorithms. For the long chain query U2, the TD-Auto plan is faster than DP-Bushy plan and MSC plan.

The search space of the DP-Busy algorithm for the complex queries, such as tree queries and dense queries, is much smaller than that of TD-Auto (see Section V-C for details). The limited search space causes DP-Bushy to miss the optimal plans. Therefore, for tree queries L3, L4, L5 and U4, the TD-Auto plans are faster than the best DP-Bushy plans by a factor of about 2. For L5, TD-Auto with 2f achieves a much lower cost due to the massive reshuffling of intermediate results. However, MSC generates flat plans, which cannot take advantage of broadcast joins, hence it has low performance.

For the dense queries, the MSC plans are not efficient. The MSC plan for L8 generates a huge amount of intermediate results, which incurs a large reshuffling cost. MSC runs 432 seconds to generate the plan for L9, which is more than the total execution time of TD-Auto. For L10, MSC cannot even finish within 10 hours. In addition, the DP-Bushy plans are significantly slower than the TD-Auto plans, due to the limited plan space of DP-Bushy.
In Figure 6b and Figure 8, we present the costs of the query plans produced by the algorithms using a cumulative frequency analysis. Since TD-CMD always select the optimal plan, for the ease of comparison, we use the cost of the query plan generated by TD-CMD to normalize the cost of the plans generated by the other algorithms for the same query. We only include the plans that can be generated within 600 seconds by the algorithms. Then we draw the cumulative frequency distribution of these normalized values. The $x$-axis indicates the ratio of the cost of the query plan generated by an algorithm to the cost of the plan generated by TD-CMD.

TD-CMD is very efficient for chain, cycle and tree queries, whose join variables have moderate degrees in the join graph. On the contrary, for the queries, whose join variables have high degrees, such as star and dense queries, TD-CMD has a high cost and it can complete within 600 seconds only for queries with a dozen triple patterns. However, one can see from Table VII that its search space is much larger than all the other algorithms.

TD-CMDP prunes a large number of cmds, especially for star, tree and dense queries, resulting in a great performance improvement. As shown in Figure 6a and 7, it is usually faster than TD-CMD by a factor of 2-5 for large tree and dense queries. Moreover, due to the carefully selected pruning strategies, the costs of the plans produced by TD-CMDP are very close to those produced by TD-CMD, as shown in Figure 6b and 8.

HGR-TD-CMD significantly reduces the optimization time especially for large queries and as shown in Figure 6b and 8, the costs of the plans it produced are not too far-off from those produced by TD-CMD. Thus, it is very effective when the query size is large. Finally, by autonomously choosing the suitable algorithms for different queries, TD-Auto achieves a good trade-off between optimization time and plan cost.

MSC runs an expensive minimum set cover algorithm for each level. Therefore, its running time increases exponentially with the number of triple patterns for all types of queries. Moreover, since it focuses on finding flat plans, its search space is limited. As shown in Figure 6b, only less than 50% of the plans generated by MSC have costs comparable to those produced by TD-CMD.

DP-Bushy has a high efficiency with star queries but not with many other queries. This is because it cannot prevent enumerating plans with Cartesian products but rather eliminating them when they are formed. It is not a problem for star queries because any subquery of a star query is connected. DP-Bushy runs fast with dense queries, because it explores a limited portion of the plan space. However, as shown in Figure 8d, 90% of its plans are more expensive than the plans generated by TD-CMD.

VI. RELATED WORK

SPARQL query optimization is one of the most challenging problems in SPARQL query processing, which can have a dramatic impact on query performance [23]. Query optimization has been well studied in a centralized context [17], [23], [25], [26], [28], [29]. However, the centralized query optimization algorithms do not take into account the RDF data partitioning and the communication overhead.

Early work on query optimization in traditional distributed and parallel databases mainly focuses on generating binary bushy plans [30]–[33]. Recently, researchers attempt to leverage MapReduce systems to process queries over massive datasets [34]. Many recent efforts are devoted to designing efficient join algorithms in MapReduce [20], [22], [35]. A few works investigate query optimization in MapReduce-like frameworks [36]–[38], which consider the left-deep plans and binary bushy plans. However, as shown in various studies [6], [10], [22], multi-way joins are significantly more efficient than multiple binary joins in MapReduce-like systems.

There are more query optimization algorithms proposed for distributed and parallel RDF engines. In [10], [39], the authors try to build flat query plans in MapReduce. However, in comparing to MSC, they cannot guarantee to find the flattest plan. DREAM [9] considers multi-way joins at the first plan level but uses only binary joins at the other levels. In [5], [40], a SPARQL query is evaluated in a graph processing system, such as Pregel [41] and Trinity [42]. Therefore, their query optimization problem is fundamentally different from ours, which assumes queries are evaluated by join operators.

To minimize communication overhead, [2]–[5], [43] focus on designing data partitioning methods to maximize the possibility of using local joins. The query optimization algorithms
in these papers focus on minimizing the number of distributed joins based on their data partitioning algorithms. Our generic data partitioning model can accommodate all these methods. Another research direction of RDF data partitioning is dynamic run-time data partitioning, which redistributes the RDF data according to the run-time changes of system workload or the hot queries in the workload [5], [44], [55]. We discuss how to how to accommodate these dynamic methods in [18].

Previous researches [14–16] have studied dividing a join graph into two connected components. However, these algorithms are not efficient for enumerating connected binary divisions. The reasons are two-fold. First, not all divisions with two connected components satisfy the definition of connected binary-division, hence these algorithms would enumerate useless divisions. Second, checking if a division satisfies the conditions of connected binary-division increases the complexity.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we analyze the pros and cons of the state-of-the-art SPARQL query optimization algorithms. We show that a generic data partitioning model and an efficient algorithm of checking local queries allows an optimizer to easily adapt to different state-of-the-art data partitioning methods. Furthermore, a carefully designed top-down join enumeration algorithm can generate multi-way bushy plans with linear amortized complexity. A more efficient enumeration algorithm allows the optimizer to explore a larger plan space within the same time and hence can achieve a better optimization result. Finally, heuristics to reduce the degrees of join variables and the number of triple patterns in join graphs are effective to reduce the problem complexity while maintaining good optimization results.

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APPENDIX

A. Checking Local Queries

In the RDF data partitioning literature [2]–[4], various algorithms are proposed to decompose a query into a set of local queries. The idea is to check the query based on the structures of their partitioning elements. For example, both MSC [9] and DP-Bushy [7] inherently assume data are hash partitioned. To check if a subquery SQ is a local query, one can see if there exists a vertex \( v \in SQ \) such that \( v \) exists in all the triple patterns in \( SQ \). In other words, if all the triple patterns in \( SQ \) share a common vertex, then it is a local query, because triples with the same values on the join variable would be hashed to the same node.

Basically, the algorithm has to enumerate every vertex in \( SQ \) and see if it is shared by all the triple patterns. The function isLocalQuery has to be invoked as many times as the number of connected subquery of \( Q \) in Algorithm 1 which could be very large. Furthermore, the existing algorithms can only be designed for a particular data partitioning method and cannot be readily applied to our generic partitioning model.

We aim to design an algorithm that is not only more efficient but also can accommodate different data partitioning algorithms. Our approach has a complexity as \( \Theta(|V_Q|) \) and uses the following concept:

**Definition 5:** (Maximal Local Query) Given a query \( Q \) and a vertex \( v \) in the query graph \( G_Q \), the maximal local query at \( v \) is a local query that has the most number of triple patterns in \( Q \) containing \( v \), denoted by \( MLQ_v(Q) \).

**Lemma 4:** If \( Q \) is a local query, then all subqueries of \( Q \) are local queries.

**Theorem 5:** For a query \( Q \), a subquery \( SQ \) of \( Q \) is a local query, if and only if there exists a vertex \( v \in V_Q \) such that \( SQ \) is a subquery of the maximal local query \( MLQ_v(Q) \).

The idea of our approach is to apply the combine function in our generic data partitioning model in Section II-C on the query graph \( G_Q \). For each \( v \in V_Q \), we set the maximal local query at \( v \) as \( MLQ_v(Q) \leftarrow combine_v(G_Q) \). The reason that \( combine_v(G_Q) \) is a local query is that if there is a match of \( combine(G_Q) \) in \( G_R \), then there must exist a match of \( v \) in \( G_R \), denoted as \( \mu(v) \), such that the match of \( combine(G_Q) \) is a subgraph of \( combine(\mu(v), G_R) \). Note that \( combine(\mu(v), G_R) \) is the partition element \( e_{\mu(v)} \) anchored at \( \mu(v) \), therefore any subgraph of \( combine(\mu(v), G_R) \) must be accessible on a single node and \( combine(G_Q) \) can be evaluated locally on each node. Furthermore, \( combine_v(G_Q) \) is the maximal local query at \( v \) that we can deduce from the partitioning model and \( combine(G_Q) \) covers all the local queries that can be detected in all the existing static partitioning methods [2]–[5].

Accordingly, to check whether a subquery \( SQ \) can be processed locally, we should first generate a maximal local query for each vertex and then check if \( SQ \) is a subquery of one of the maximal local queries \( MLQ_v \). While the general containment problem of conjunctive queries is NP-complete, here we can simply check if \( SQ \) is a subquery of \( MLQ_v \) by checking if \( MLQ_v \) contains all the triple patterns of \( SQ \) because both \( SQ \) and \( MLQ_v \) are subqueries of \( Q \) and are connected (by Definition 4 and 5). Recall that each subquery is encoded as a bitset. Therefore we can easily check if \( SQ \) is a subquery of \( MLQ_v \) using bit operations. Let \( b_{MLQ_v} = b_{SQ} = b_{SG} \) be the bitsets of \( MLQ_v \) and \( SQ \) respectively. If the equation \( b_{MLQ_v} \cap b_{SQ} = b_{SG} \) is true, then \( SQ \) is a local query.

**Example 7:** Assume that the data partitioning algorithm is hash partitioning on both the subject and object of an RDF triple. For the query in Figure 1 by applying combine(\( ?a, G_Q \)), we can get the maximal local query at \( ?a \) as \( \{tp_1, tp_2, tp_3, tp_4\} \). This is because combine(\( v, G_R \)) in this partitioning algorithm returns all the triple patterns containing \( v \). Then one can see that all the subqueries of \( \{tp_1, tp_2, tp_3, tp_4\} \) are local queries, e.g. \( \{tp_1, tp_2, tp_3\} \). □

The main advantages of this algorithm are twofold. First, the space complexity for storing the maximal local queries is quite low. This is because the number of maximal local query is less than or equal to the number of vertices in the query, denoted by \( |V_Q| \). In addition, the space required for storing each maximal local query is only a bitset. Furthermore, every local join detection is actually a bitset operation, which has a low complexity as \( \Theta(1) \). Since there are \( |V_Q| \) maximal local queries, the worst case complexity is \( \Theta(|V_Q|) \). In practice, it is even more efficient. As shown in Algorithm 1 (line 2-3), if a query is a local query, function isLocalQuery does not need to be invoked for all its subqueries.

B. Cardinality Estimation

Given a triple pattern \( tp \), its cardinality is denoted by \( |tp| \). The \( B(tp, v) \) indicates the number of distinct bindings of variable \( v \) in the matchings of \( tp \). Let \( var(tp_1, tp_2) = var(tp_1) \cap var(tp_2) \) denote the shared variables between \( tp_1 \) and \( tp_2 \). Then, we have

\[
|tp_1 \times tp_2| = \frac{|tp_1| \cdot |tp_2|}{\prod_{v \in var(tp_1, tp_2)} \max B(tp_i, v)}
\]

(10)

According to the above equation, we can estimate the cardinality of a subquery that is the join of \( n \) triple patterns by

\[
|tp_1 \times \cdots \times tp_n| = |(tp_1 \times \cdots \times tp_{n-1}) \times tp_n|
\]

(11)

The generic RDF data partitioning model can be extended to capture the dynamic RDF data partitioning methods [5]. In general, the dynamic RDF data partitioning algorithms pre-partition the data by a static partitioning algorithm, such as hash partitioning. Then at run-time, they redistribute the data based on some “hot queries” such that the hot queries can be evaluated locally.

Basically, We can extend our static data partitioning model with the list of the hot queries. Since the generic data partitioning model is mainly used to generate all the maximal local queries, therefore we focus on how to capture the dynamic RDF data partitioning methods to generate the maximal local...
queries. When computing the maximal local queries, we can leverage both the hot-query list and the combine function to generate the maximal local queries. For each vertex \( v \) in a query \( Q \), we first use combine\((v, G_Q)\) function to generate a local query that anchored at \( v \). Then we can check if there is an intersection, as a set of triple patterns, between a hot query and the query \( G_Q \). If such an intersection exists and both the following conditions are met: (1) the triple patterns contained in the intersection is connected; (2) one of the triple patterns contains the vertex \( v \), then the set of triple patterns in the intersection forms another local query that anchored at \( v \). Finally, \( MLQ_v \) is set as the one of the local queries anchored at \( v \) with the maximum number of triple patterns.

C. Proof of Theorem 3

Proof: (1) “⇒”. If \( SQ \) is a subquery of a maximal local query, then according to Lemma 4, \( SQ \) must be a local query.

(2) “⇐”. We prove this by contradiction. Suppose there exists a subquery \( SQ \) that is a local query, but it is not a subquery of any maximal local query. Then according to the definition of maximal local query, \( SQ \) must be a maximal local query, which is a contradiction.

D. Proof of Lemma 7

Proof: (1) Since \( C_{v_j}[i] \subseteq (Q \setminus SQ) \), there must be at least one triple pattern \( t_{p_i} \) such that \( t_{p_i} \in N_{tp(v_j)} \) and \( t_{p_i} \in (Q \setminus SQ) \setminus C_{v_j}[i] \). Otherwise, according to the definition of indivisible component, all the triple patterns in \((Q \setminus SQ) \setminus C_{v_j}[i]\) should be in \( C_{v_j}[i] \). In addition, removing/adding a \( C_{v_j}[i] \) from/to a connected subquery that contains triple patterns in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \) does not affect its connectivity. Thus, \( (SQ \cup C_{v_j}[i], Q \setminus SQ \setminus C_{v_j}[i], v_j) \) is a cdb.

(2) Suppose that there exists a subset \( \mathcal{J}' \subseteq C_{v_j}[i] \), and \( (SQ \cup \mathcal{J}', Q \setminus SQ \setminus \mathcal{J}', v_j) \) is a cdb. Then either \( \mathcal{J}' \) or \( C_{v_j}[i] \setminus \mathcal{J}' \) contains a cdb. Consider \( \mathcal{J}' \) contains \( t_{p_i} \). Then \( C_{v_j}[i] \setminus \mathcal{J}' \) is disconnected from \( Q \setminus SQ \), which is a contradiction. A contradiction can also be derived in a similar way for the case that \( C_{v_j}[i] \setminus \mathcal{J}' \) contains \( t_{p_i} \).

E. Proof of Lemma 2

Proof: (1) Removing \( \{t_p\} \) does not make \( Q \setminus SQ \setminus \{t_p\} \) disconnected. Thus \( (SQ \cup \{t_p\}, Q \setminus SQ \setminus \{t_p\}, v_j) \) is a cdb.

(2) We prove the first conclusion by contradiction. Suppose there are more than one connected components that contains the triple patterns in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \). Since all of them contain the triple patterns in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \), they must be connected by \( v_j \), which is a contradiction. Then we have that \( (SQ \cup \{t_p\} \cup S, Q \setminus SQ \setminus \{t_p\}, S, v_j) \) must be a cdb. We prove the second conclusion by contradiction. Suppose that there exists a subset \( \mathcal{J}' \subseteq \{t_p\} \cup S \), such that \( (SQ \cup \mathcal{J}', Q \setminus SQ \setminus \mathcal{J}', v_j) \) is a cdb. Since \( S_2, ..., S_n \) is not connected with \( SQ \) or \( Q \setminus SQ \setminus \{t_p\} \), but only is connected with \( \{t_p\} \). Assume \( \mathcal{J}' \) contains \( t_p \), then \( Q \setminus SQ \setminus \mathcal{J}' \) must be disconnected, and vice versa.

F. Proof of Theorem 7

Before giving the proof of this theorem, we first prove the following lemma.

Lemma 5: Given a connected binary-division \( (SQ', SQ'', v_j) \), if either \( SQ' \) or \( SQ'' \) contains one and only one triple pattern in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \), Algorithm 2 can enumerate this cdb.

Proof: If \( SQ' \) contains only one triple pattern in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \), then this triple pattern must be the triple pattern used to initialize the set \( A \) in Algorithm 2 (line 8). Thus this cdb can be enumerated. Otherwise, since Algorithm 2 is recursively extending \( SQ \) until \( Q \setminus SQ \) has only one triple pattern in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \), all cdb \( (SQ', SQ'', v_j) \) whose \( SQ'' \) contains only one triple pattern in \( N_{tp(v_j)} \) will be enumerated.

Then, Theorem 1 is proved as follows.

Proof: (1) We first prove that Algorithm 2 can generate all cdb of a query \( Q \) on a join variable \( v_j \) by contradiction. Assume that a set of cdb cannot be enumerated, denoted by \( N_{cbd} \). For each \( cdb \in N_{cbd} \), denoted by \( (SQ', SQ'', v_j) \), we denote the number of triple patterns neighboring join variable \( v_j \) in \( SQ' \) and \( SQ'' \) by \( T_{v_j}(SQ') \) and \( T_{v_j}(SQ'') \) respectively. Then for all \( T_{v_j}(SQ') \) and \( T_{v_j}(SQ'') \) of all cdb in \( N_{cbd} \), there must be one, denoted by \( SQ_{min} \), with the minimal \( |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min})| \). We choose the \( cdb \in N_{cbd} \) that contains this minimal one, denoted by \( (SQ_{min}, Q \setminus SQ_{min}, v_j) \) (or \( (Q \setminus SQ_{min}, SQ_{min}, v_j) \)). Moreover, Lemma 5 implies that \( |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min})| > 1 \).

Case 1: If a triple pattern \( t_{p_n} \in T_{v_j}(SQ_{min}) \) is contained in an indivisible component \( C_{v_j}[i] \), then \( SQ_{min} \setminus C_{v_j}[i], Q \setminus SQ_{min} \cup C_{v_j}[i] \) and \( v_j \) construct a cdb, and \( |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min} \setminus C_{v_j}[i])| < |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min})| \), which is a contradiction.

Case 2: If none of the triple patterns \( t_{p_n} \in T_{v_j}(SQ_{min}) \) is contained in an indivisible component, then for a triple pattern \( t_{p_n} \in T_{v_j}(SQ_{min}) \), \( (SQ_{min} \setminus \{t_{p_n}\}, Q \setminus SQ_{min} \cup \{t_{p_n}\}, v_j) \) is a cdb and \( |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min} \setminus \{t_{p_n}\})| < |T_{v_j}(SQ_{min})| \), which is a contradiction.

(2) Algorithm 2 is to extend the initial \( SQ \) (line 8) recursively, thus it generate all cdb on the join variable \( v_j \) only once.

G. Proof of Theorem 2

Proof: (1) We prove this theorem by contradiction. Assume there exists one cmd \( (S_1, S_2, ..., S_n, v_j) \) joined on variable \( v_j \), which cannot be found by Algorithm 3. Furthermore, we assume that at the first time of invoking the function ConnBinDivision, the triple pattern used to initialize \( A \) (line 8 in Algorithm 2) is in \( S_1 \). According to Theorem 1, the cdb \( (S_1, S_2 \cup S_3 \cup ... \cup S_n, v_j) \) can be generated by Algorithm 2. Similarly, the cdb \( (S_2, S_3 \cup ... \cup S_n, v_j) \) can be generated when processing connected binary-division on \( S_2 \cup S_3 \cup ... \cup S_n \). Consequently, one can see that the connected multi-division \( (S_1, S_2, ..., S_n, v_j) \) can be generated by Algorithm 5. Then a contradiction is derived.

(2) According to Theorem 1, Algorithm 3 generates all cmd only once.

H. Proof of Lemma 8

Before giving the proof of this lemma, we first prove the following lemma.
Lemma 6: Given a join graph \( J(Q) = (V_T, V_J, E_J) \), the worst-case complexity of Algorithm 2 for generating each connected binary-division is \( \Theta(|V_T|) \).

Proof: In Algorithm 2, the function Emit outputs a cbd on each invocation of function GetPartInComponent. The worst-case complexity of GetPartInComponent is \( \Theta(|V_T|) \). Thus, the worst-case complexity of Algorithm 2 for generating each connected binary-division is \( \Theta(|V_T|) \).

Then, Lemma 3 is proved as follows.

Proof: In Algorithm 3, the function Emit outputs a cmd on each generated cbd. According to Lemma 6, the function ConnBinDivision has a complexity of \( \Theta(|V_T|) \) per cbd in the worst case. Therefore, Algorithm 3 costs \( \Theta(|V_T|) \) per connected multi-division in the worst case.

I. Proof of Theorem 4

Proof: To prove that this problem is NP-Hard, we show a reduction from the weighted set cover problem. Consider a universe set \( U \) with \( n \) element, and a set \( S \) whose elements are the subsets of \( U \) with weights. The weighted set cover problem is to find a subset of \( S \) that can cover \( U \) with the minimum weight. Then we construct a query \( Q \) satisfying the following conditions. Let \( Q = \{tp_1, \ldots, tp_n\} \). \(|S|\) can be represented by \( |S| = a_k2^k + a_{k-1}2^{k-1} + \ldots + a_02^0\). For a term \( a_i2^i \) in this polynomial expression that \( a_i > 0 \), we construct a maximal local query with \( i \) triple patterns in \( Q \). Moreover, all the constructed maximal local queries should cover \( Q \). The subqueries of all maximal local queries are put in \( C \), thus \(|C| = |S|\). For each subquery in \( C \), it is assigned a cardinality identical to the weight of the corresponding element in \( S \). Thus, selecting a set \( E \) with \( m \) elements in \( C \) (i.e., \( m \) local queries of \( Q \)), such that every triple pattern in \( Q \) is contained by at least one element in \( E \) and the sum of the cardinality of each element in \( E \) is minimized if and only if the weighted set cover problem is solved.