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To cite this version:
Alexandre Bento, Lionel Médini, Kamal Singh, Frederique Laforest. LiRoT: A lightweight incremental reasoner for the Web of Things. Colloque 2023 du GDR SoC2, Jun 2023, Villeurbanne, France. hal-04127326

HAL Id: hal-04127326
https://hal.science/hal-04127326
Submitted on 13 Jun 2023

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LiRoT: A lightweight incremental reasoner for the Web of Things

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CoSWoT

- Platform for the WoT
- Use Semantic Web technologies (ontologies, reasoning)
- Constrained and heterogeneous devices
- Decentralized architecture
- Applications in smart building and agriculture

Challenges and hypotheses

- Traditional reasoners are built for desktop computers or servers
- Targeted platforms are more constrained (desktop computer: ≈ 10GB RAM vs. ESP32: 320KB SRAM)

→ Reduce reasoning memory footprint

- Small datasets (= 1000 explicit facts)
- Dynamic data → incremental reasoning

ESP32 platform

LiRoT [Bento22]: Lightweight incremental reasoner based on the RETE algorithm [Forgy89]

Optimizing RETE reduces the memory footprint significantly

On laptop and with small datasets (scope of CoSWoT), LiRoT performs better than Jena and RDFox

LiRoT is the only reasoner to run on Arduino platforms

Rule-based reasoning

- RDF data is stored in triples (e.g. coswot:Room1Thermometer1 rdf:type sosa:Sensor)
- Generic rules (multiple conditions with variables) are applied to explicit triples to derive new information (implicit triples). Example of a rule:


Proposed approach: LiRoT

- LiRoT [Bento22]: Lightweight incremental reasoner based on the RETE algorithm [Forgy89]
- Adapt the Backward/Forward algorithm to optimize incremental maintenance
- Custom Memory optimizations
  - Merge memory spaces for nodes that have equivalent conditions
  - Index terms to avoid duplicates
  - Encode data in CBOR (ongoing work)
- Open-source implementation in C
- For desktop and Arduino platforms

https://gitlab.com/coswot/lirot

Conclusions

- Optimizing RETE reduces the memory footprint significantly
- On laptop and with small datasets (scope of CoSWoT), LiRoT performs better than Jena and RDFox
- LiRoT is the only reasoner to run on Arduino platforms

Future works

- Conversion of the algorithm to:
  - WASM for GPU
  - VHDL for FPGA

Publications and references

Do Arduinos dream of efficient reasoners?
Extended Semantic Web Conference 2022
A. Bento, L. Médini, K. Singh, F. Laforest

The CoSWoT project is supported by grant ANR-19-CE23-0012 from Agence Nationale de la Recherche.