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A Workflow PROV-Corpus based on Taverna and Wings

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1. SUMMARY

We describe a corpus¹ of provenance traces that we have collected by executing 120 real world scientific workflows. The workflows are from two different workflow systems: Taverna [5] and Wings [3], and 12 different application domains (see Figure 1). Table 1 provides a summary of this PROV-corpus.

The information in the provenance traces is mostly specified using the PROV-O ontology [4]. Terms from other vocabularies, including the Research Object Model² [1] and the Open Provenance Model for Workflows (OPMW)³ [2], are also used to associate the provenance traces with descriptions about the corresponding workflows.

Table 1: Information about the PROV-corpus.

Data format	RDF	
Data model	PROV-O	
Size	360 Megabytes	
Tools used for gen-	Taverna and Wings provenance	
erating provenance	plug-ins	
Domain	see Figure 1	
Submission group	Wf4Ever-Wings	
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2. CORPUS CREATION SETUP

The selected workflows were executed within the system where they were designed (either Taverna or Wings) and the provenance traces of these runs runs were exported using the native plugins of the two workflow systems, respectively. All workflows were executed at least one time. In total, we collected the provenance traces of 198 workflow runs. It is also worth mentioning that not all the workflows finished their execution successfully. 30 workflow runs out of 198 failed for different reasons: unavailability of third party resources,

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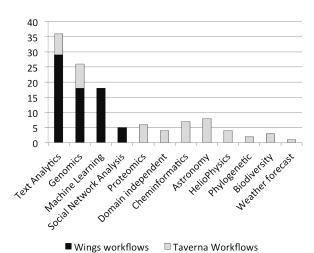


Figure 1: Domains of workflows.

illegal input values, etc. We chose to include the traces of failed workflow runs, since they can be particularly relevant to researchers who are investigating topics such as incomplete provenance, workflow decay, etc.

3. APPLICATION

We expect a wide range of applications to be built from our provenance traces. Some exemplars are listed below:

- i) Identification of dependencies between data products and processes: provenance traces can be used to identify the process that generated a given data product, and how it was derived from other data products in order to identify dependencies.
- ii) Debug workflow executions: the PROV-corpus can be used to identify the processes that are responsible for workflow failure and detect the steps in the workflow that were affected.
- iii) Detection of workflow decay: provenance traces captured over time can be used to monitor and compare the results generated by the same workflow template. Such traces can be used to detect changes in workflow results and/or to repair a failed workflow by using results from previous runs.

4. EXEMPLAR PROVENANCE QUERIES

We provide a list of exemplar provenance queries that can be issued against our provenance corpus:

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¹https://github.com/provbench/Wf4Ever-PROV

²http://wf4ever.github.com/ro-primer

³http://www.opmw.org/model/OPMW/

- 1. What are the workflow runs available, and what is their start and end time?
- 2. What are the workflow runs associated with a given workflow template, and how many of them failed?
- 3. What are the workflow runs of a given workflow template, and what are the inputs they used and the outputs they generated?
- 4. How many process runs are associated with a given workflow run, what is the start and end time of each one of them (only available in Taverna provenance logs), and what are the inputs they used and the outputs they generated?
- 5. Who executed a given workflow run?
- What are the services executed as a result of the execution of a given workflow run? (only available in Wings provenance logs).

5. COVERAGE OF PROV TERMS

Our provenance traces have been specified using mostly the PROV-O ontology and an extensions of it, namely the wfprov ontology [1] and OPMW, for expressing workflow-specificic provenance information. Table 2 and Table 3 show the coverage of the PROV terms by both workflow systems. As illustrated in Table 2, most of the starting-point PROV-O terms ⁴ are covered by the two systems, except for prov:actedOnBehalfOf (the only chain of responsibility we have is between the user and the software executing the workflow, and it is not recorded) and prov:wasDerivedFrom (data derivation relationships cannot be asserted easily without a proper understanding of the exact function of each process of a workflow run. This is part of our ongoin work).

Table 2: Coverage of Starting-point PROV Terms.

PROV Terms	Support	Comments
1 100 V Terms	by the	Comments
	Systems	
prov:Activity	Taverna	
provincervicy	and Wings	
prov:Agent	Taverna	
	and Wings	
prov:Entity	Taverna	
	and Wings	
prov:actedOnBehalfOf	-	
prov:endedAtTime	Taverna	Activity start and end
		not recorded in Wings
		provenance traces
prov:startedAtTime	Taverna	Same as above
prov:used	Taverna	
	and Wings	
prov:wasAssociatedWith	Taverna	
	and Wings	
prov:wasAttributedTo	Wings	No direct attribution
		is recorded in Taverna
		provenance traces
prov:wasDerivedFrom	-	
prov:wasGeneratedBy	Taverna	
	and Wings	
prov:wasInformedBy	Taverna	Used to express the
		connection between
		sub-workflows

Table 3 shows additional coverage of PROV terms for each workflow system. Those entries marked with a star imply

Table 3: Coverage of Additional PROV Terms.

PROV Terms	Support	Comments
	by the	
	Systems	
prov:Bundle	Wings	
prov:Plan	Taverna*	prov:hadPlan is used
	and Wings	in Taverna, instead of
		prov:Plan
prov:wasInfluencedBy	Taverna*	No explicit influence re-
	and Wings	lationship is expressed
		in Taverna, but only
		its subproperties, e.g.,
		prov:used, etc.
prov:hadPrimarySource	Wings	
prov:atLocation	Wings	

that the PROV statement is not directly asserted in the traces, but it can be inferred.

6. MAINTENANCE AND FUTURE WORK

We expect new provenance traces will continue to be added to this corpus. Future work includes providing access to the corpus via a SPARQL endpoint and web interfaces, maintaining the corpus to keep it aligned with possible changes in PROV-O, Research Object and OPMW ontologies. We also intend to investigate further interoperable queries to retrieve provenance results from both workflows systems, and improve the corpus in the light of community feedback.

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⁴http://www.w3.org/TR/prov-o/ #description-starting-point-terms