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### CrumbTrail: an Efficient Methodology to Reduce Multiple Inheritance in Knowledge Graphs

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#### Abstract

In this paper we present CRUMBTRAIL, an algorithm to clean large and dense knowledge graphs. CRUMBTRAIL removes cycles, out-of-domain nodes and nonessential nodes, i.e., those that can be safely removed without breaking the knowledge graph's connectivity. It achieves this through a bottom-up topological pruning on the basis of a set of input concepts that, for instance, a user can select in order to identify a domain of interest. Our technique can be applied to both noisy hypernymy graphs – typically generated by ontology learning algorithms as intermediate representations – as well as crowdsourced resources like Wikipedia, in order to obtain clean, domain-focused concept hierarchies. CRUMBTRAIL overcomes the time and space complexity limitations of current state-of-art algorithms. In addition, we show in a variety of experiments that it also outperforms them in tasks such as pruning automatically acquired taxonomy graphs, and domain adaptation of the Wikipedia category graph.

Keywords: Semantic Networks, Ontologies, Knowledge Graph Pruning

#### 1. Introduction

In the recent years, research in information extraction and knowledge acquisition produced knowledge resources on a scale that was arguably hard to imagine a few years ago. Web-scale open information extraction systems like NELL

5 [1] or ReVerb [2] have been successful in acquiring massive amounts of machine-

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