

# Machine Learning and Knowledge Graphs: Existing Gaps and Future Research Challenges

Claudia d’Amato     
University of Bari, Italy

Louis Mahon    
Oxford University, United Kingdom

Pierre Monnin     
Université Côte d’Azur, Inria, CNRS, I3S, France

Giorgos Stamou    
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

## Abstract

The graph model is nowadays largely adopted to model a wide range of knowledge and data, spanning from social networks to knowledge graphs (KGs), representing a successful paradigm of how symbolic and transparent AI can scale on the World Wide Web. However, due to their unprecedented volume, they are generally tackled by Machine Learning (ML) and mostly numeric based methods such as graph embedding models (KGE) and deep neural networks (DNNs). The latter methods have been proved lately very efficient, leading the current AI spring. In this vision paper, we introduce some of the main existing methods for combining KGs

and ML, divided into two categories: those using ML to improve KGs, and those using KGs to improve results on ML tasks. From this introduction, we highlight research gaps and perspectives that we deem promising and currently under-explored for the involved research communities, spanning from KG support for LLM prompting, integration of KG semantics in ML models to symbol-based methods, interpretability of ML models, and the need for improved benchmark datasets. In our opinion, such perspectives are stepping stones in an ultimate view of KGs as central assets for neuro-symbolic and explainable AI.

**2012 ACM Subject Classification** Information systems → World Wide Web; Computing methodologies → Artificial intelligence

**Keywords and phrases** Graph-based Learning, Knowledge Graph Embeddings, Large Language Models, Explainable AI, Knowledge Graph Completion & Curation

**Digital Object Identifier** 10.4230/TGDK.1.1.42

**Category** Vision

**Funding** *Claudia d’Amato*: Partially supported by the project FAIR - Future AI Research (PE00000013), spoke 6 - Symbiotic AI (<https://future-ai-research.it/>), under the NRRP MUR program funded by the NextGenerationEU and by the project HypeKG - Hybrid Prediction and Explanation with Knowledge Graphs (H53D23003700006), under PRIN 2022 program funded by MUR.

*Pierre Monnin*: Supported by the AT2TA project (<https://at2ta.loria.fr>), funded by the French National Research Agency (“Agence Nationale de la Recherche” – ANR) under grant ANR-22-CE23-0023.

**Received** Date of submission **Accepted** Date of acceptance **Published** Date of publishing

**Editor** TGDK section area editor

## 1 Introduction

Graph data refers to data that lends itself naturally to being represented as a graph-based data model. Examples of graph data are social networks, computer networks, entailment graphs [94], concept graphs [26]. Several standards have been proposed to represent graph data, including the W3C devised standards OWL, RDF, and RDFS. These enable easy sharing and combining of graph data from different sources, and so further facilitate the adoption of the graph formalism.



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Transactions on Graph Data and Knowledge, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Article No. 42, pp. 42:1–42:35



Transactions on Graph Data and Knowledge

TGDK Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany

17 Amongst the several types of graph data in widespread use, one prominent example is the  
 18 Knowledge Graph (KG). A KG aims to convey knowledge of the real world and represent it  
 19 conforming to a graph-based data model, where nodes represent concepts of interest, such as  
 20 human or lion, and edges represent possibly different relations between these entities, such as  
 21 isTypeOf or isPredatorOf [68]. A closely related concept that we do not discuss any further is  
 22 Property Graph, where both nodes and edges can have multiple properties which are represented  
 23 as key-value pairs (the interested reader may refer to [68] for further details). Graphs data may  
 24 be stored in native graph databases or relational databases [68].

25 When referring to the representation of information, the term ‘knowledge’, as opposed to  
 26 ‘data’, is usually what is predicated of humans. It suggests the information is stored in a more  
 27 structured and actionable manner, e.g. that it enables reasoning. This distinction from ‘data’ was  
 28 first made in relation to the concept of a knowledge base (KB) [105], in the context of expert  
 29 systems [64], in order to distinguish them from databases using, *e.g.*, lookup tables or hash tables.  
 30 A KB is a representation of information as a set of facts or sentences [163].

31 A KG can be formalized as a triple of sets  $\langle E, R, T \rangle$ , where  $E$  is a set of entities,  $R$  a set  
 32 of relations, and  $T$  is of the form  $\{(s, p, o) \mid s, o \in E, p \in R\}$  [29], by which it is immediately  
 33 equivalent to a KB, considered as a set of facts. Moreover, a graph  $G = (\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E})$ , can be written  
 34 equivalently as a set of facts, by equating  $\mathcal{N}$  with the set of all entities appearing as arguments  
 35 to facts, and equating each fact  $\langle s, p, o \rangle$  to a directed edge from  $s$  (*subject*) to  $o$  (*object*) labelled  
 36  $p$  (*predicate*). On a higher level, one difference between a KG and KB as a set of facts, is that  
 37 the former has a greater emphasis on the connection to the graph-based data model, and is more  
 38 directly associated with the agreed formatting standards for graph data. Our discussion here does  
 39 not require precise disambiguation of the term and in the remainder of this paper, we use the two  
 40 terms interchangeably.

41 A closely related concept to a KG is an ontology. Intuitively, an ontology defines a set of  
 42 object types, and how these types relate to each other. For example, if the domain is living things,  
 43 then an ontology would specify that human and lion are two distinct types of a mammal, mammal  
 44 and reptile are two distinct types of vertebrates etc. Formally, an ontology has been defined as  
 45 comprising two components, the TBox, which introduces the vocabulary of an application domain,  
 46 and the ABox, which contains assertions about named individuals in terms of this vocabulary  
 47 [11]. Often the set of concepts in a KG forms an ontology, and their ontological relations can be  
 48 incorporated into the structure of the KG. In the remainder of this paper, we will treat the term  
 49 ‘ontology’ as interchangeable with ‘knowledge base’, as defined above.

50 Many important applications, such as e-Commerce [211], financial trading [29], semantic search  
 51 [208], fact-checking [167], recommendation [198], (medical) decision support systems [205], question  
 52 answering [73] and even machine translation [224, 136] benefit from access to real-world knowledge  
 53 in a form that is both machine-readable and human-interpretable (i.e. entities, properties, relations  
 54 and types). There has thus been a general convergence on KGs as the means to represent and  
 55 store such knowledge. This interest from academia and especially from industry, has led to  
 56 several large-scale efforts at constructing KGs. Some are freely available and accessible, such as  
 57 DBpedia [9]<sup>1</sup>, Freebase [18]<sup>2</sup>, YAGO [174]<sup>3</sup>, Wikidata [190]<sup>4</sup>. Others are private, developed for  
 58 commercial use by companies such as Google, Amazon, IKEA, Uber, Microsoft, Facebook and  
 59 LinkedIn. The interested reader could refer to [69] for a comprehensive overview of the history

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dbpedia.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://developers.google.com/freebase>

<sup>3</sup> <https://yago-knowledge.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wikidata.org/>

60 and current use of KGs.

61 The amount of data that may be of interest to KG applications is very large, e.g., English-  
62 language Wikipedia contains close to 7 million articles at the time of writing<sup>5</sup>. Developing KGs of  
63 this size is a difficult, expensive process, requiring the integration of multiple sources of information,  
64 along with input from human experts and crowdsourcing. Despite significant efforts for making  
65 KGs as comprehensive and reliable as possible, they tend to suffer from incompleteness and  
66 noise, due to the complex building process [69, 196]. This has prompted a search for automatic  
67 construction and enrichment [83, 193], often through the use of machine learning (ML). Indeed,  
68 the ML world has advanced considerably in the past decade, particularly with the rise of deep  
69 learning. From the victory of AlexNet in the ILSVRC in 2012 [97], to the release of ChatGPT in  
70 2022, deep learning has come to dominate ML research and powers many industry applications.

71 One method of combining the world of knowledge and KGs with ML, and especially deep  
72 learning, is to form a vector representation of each node and edge in the KG, by optimizing  
73 some loss function based on the graph structure. The resulting set of vector representations is  
74 known as a knowledge graph embedding (KGE) and it enables several important use cases. In one  
75 direction, KGEs allow the use of predictive machine learning techniques to improve the KG, for  
76 example, by KG completion, where sparse KGs, such as those automatically constructed from  
77 text [90], are augmented with missing triples. Also, by using the deep neural network (DNN)  
78 feature vector extracted from a video, KGEs have been used to represent the content of a video  
79 as a graph [121]. Other uses of KGEs include triple (fact) classification, for assessing if a fact  
80 within the KG is correct or not, KG question answering and node clustering. Node clustering  
81 indeed can reveal similarities and differences between groups of nodes in the KG [59] and this  
82 can, for example, help uncover certain types of users in a social network, or article subjects, in a  
83 citation network. KG question answering uses the information in a KG to answer natural language  
84 questions [73]. In the other direction, KGEs allow KGs to be used to improve ML performance: for  
85 example, knowledge-aware visual question-answering [108], or reasoning of large language models  
86 (LLMs) [215].

87 In this paper, we introduce some of the main existing methods for combining KGs and ML,  
88 divided into two categories: those using ML to improve KGs, and those using KGs to improve  
89 results on ML tasks. From this introduction, we draw research gaps and perspectives that we  
90 consider urgent as well as promising. These gaps and perspectives are summarised in Table 1 (and  
91 analyzed and developed in section 3) and are concerned with the topics: LLM prompting, KG  
92 semantics and KGE models, symbol-based methods, ML model interpretability, and benchmark  
93 datasets. For each topic, we provide a description of some unsolved problems (gaps) that we  
94 consider to be of particular importance for future research work, and provide our views, claims, and  
95 proposals to overcome them. In particular, we support the use of KGs to formalise LLM prompting  
96 (*e.g.*, providing concept, defining sequencing). We claim that KGE could benefit from the injection  
97 of KG semantics and usage of various reasoning capabilities, *e.g.*, in terms of performance or  
98 negative generation. Informative negatives could also be generated by exploiting symbol-based  
99 method learning disjointness axioms (that are often missing). With respect to interpretability  
100 using KG, we argue that little progress has been made, and that in-model KG-based approaches  
101 that demonstrably produce reliable explanations are needed to validate ML results. Assessing  
102 these improvements in KGE performance or interpretability also calls for extensive empirical  
103 evaluations. Such evaluations require benchmark datasets that feature various schema constructs  
104 or levels of semantics that are currently lacking, unnoticed, or uncommon in the state of the art.  
105 That is why, we call for a systematic characterization and collection of available datasets as well

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<sup>5</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Statistics>

106 as the creation of synthetic KG generators to produce tailored datasets to support experiments.

107 The remainder of this paper is organised as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of existing  
108 work linking KG and ML, under the framework of KGs for ML (Section 2.1) and ML for KGs  
109 (Section 2.2). Section 3 describes some gaps in the literature that we deem important, and outlines  
110 our vision of future research directions for filling these gaps. We particularly focus on: the use of  
111 KGs for prompting LLMs (Section 3.1), the integration of KG semantics and associated reasoning  
112 capabilities in KGE models for improved performance and negatives handling (Section 3.2), the  
113 potential of symbol-based ML for KGs (Section 3.3), the attempts to use KGs for explainable AI  
114 (Section 3.4), and the need for further benchmark datasets and metrics to assess improvements  
115 brought by aforementioned directions (Section 3.5). Finally, Section 4 concludes and summarises  
116 this work.

## 117 **2 Machine Learning and Knowledge Graphs**

118 In this section we focus on the interlink between ML and KGs. As sketched in [19], two main  
119 perspectives can be drawn: a) KGs as input to ML, whose main goal is to improve the performance  
120 in many learning tasks, e.g. question answering, image classification, instance disambiguation,  
121 text summarization, etc.; b) ML as input to KG, whose main goal is to improve the KG itself,  
122 e.g. in terms of coverage, quality, and adding new facts. In the following, we analyze the most  
123 impactful approaches in the literature, along these two perspectives.

### 124 **2.1 Knowledge Graphs as Input to Machine Learning**

125 KGs, as representations of background and contextual knowledge in a structured form, have gained  
126 significant interest from both academia and industry in the area of machine learning, enabling  
127 models to tackle complicated tasks that need prior knowledge [44]. ML models are knowledge-aware  
128 and thus can benefit from the incorporation of information that effectively captures the semantic  
129 meanings [84]. From traditional ML to modern DNNs, KGs can offer advantages, enhancing  
130 the functionality of ML systems by addressing various challenges and solving problems. In the  
131 following, we will briefly describe key applications of KGs in ML. Specifically, in Section 2.1.1, we  
132 elaborate on the key methodologies for incorporating KGs in ML, with a particular emphasis on  
133 the shortcomings they seek to mitigate. In Section 2.1.2, our focus shifts to recent advancements  
134 in describing large language models (LLMs) enhancement using KGs, a domain we believe will be  
135 increasingly significant in the future, given the widespread adoption of LLMs.

#### 136 **2.1.1 Addressing Machine Learning Challenges with Knowledge Graphs**

137 KGs represent semantic descriptions of entity types and properties with a well-defined meaning.  
138 Hence, they can be employed when attempting to automatically extract features (that are difficult  
139 to measure or quantify directly) from data points [93, 134]. A feature extractor is a transformation  
140 function that maps data from a higher-dimensional space to a lower-dimensional vector space,  
141 encompassing a wide range of dimensionality reduction techniques. Early approaches map the  
142 output of feature extractors to hierarchies [101, 41] or use hierarchies as input to feature extraction  
143 [164], or use large-scale real world labels and their inter-relations [142, 39]. Many recent approaches  
144 rely on image annotation that is linked to KGs, such as WordNet [128], like the image databases  
145 that have been established based on these concepts (see for example [40, 95]). On the other  
146 hand, knowledge graph embedding methods can be also seen as methods to build semantic feature  
147 extractors. This involves the mapping of entities and relations into low-dimensional vectors,  
148 effectively capturing their semantic meanings in a form that is more compatible to deep learning

■ **Table 1** Overview of the research topics considered, the identified gaps, and our claims and proposals to address them.

Topics	Gaps	Claims & Proposals
LLM prompting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ LLM hallucinations</li> <li>■ No formalized process to interact with LLMs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Use KG at inference time to formalize the dialogue process between humans and LLM</li> <li>■ Ground prompts in knowledge (<i>e.g.</i>, adding context, analyzing response, defining prompt sequence)</li> </ul>
KG semantics & KGE models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Semantics not (fully) considered</li> <li>■ Deductive capabilities not (fully) considered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Investigate the full exploitation of KG semantics (<i>e.g.</i>, to improve model performance, to generate informative negatives)</li> <li>■ Possibly with different reasoning types (deductive, analogical)</li> <li>■ Empirical full assessment of the role of semantics</li> </ul>
Symbol-based methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Largely disregarded</li> <li>■ Scalability issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Leverage mining of disjointness axioms to generate informative negatives needed in ML models training</li> <li>■ Alleviate scalability issues</li> </ul>
Interpretability of ML models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pre-/post-model approaches do not fulfil necessary requirements</li> <li>■ In-model KG-based explainable approaches not proved to improve interpretability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Infuse KG in ML training</li> <li>■ Demonstrate that this improves ML interpretability</li> </ul>
Benchmark datasets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of needed characteristics (<i>e.g.</i>, schemas)</li> <li>■ Some datasets under-used or unnoticed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Develop a unified repository of datasets</li> <li>■ Automatically crawl in the wild and qualify datasets w.r.t. needed characteristics</li> <li>■ Create synthetic KG generators that generate both tailored schemas and KGs</li> </ul>

149 models [195, 139]. This field of research offers significant opportunities for exploration and  
 150 advancement [147, 113] and will be analysed in more detail in the next sections.

151 DNNs require a substantial amount of data for training. Sometimes, the data can either be  
 152 unavailable or come with a high cost of collection. This issue, commonly referred to as the *sample*  
 153 *shortage*, comes with different settings. Among them, the *zero-shot learning* (ZSL) [143] [49, 197]  
 154 and the *few-shot learning* (FSL) [199] has recently gained significant research attention and call  
 155 for the use of structured knowledge [71]. ZSL is formally defined as the task of predicting labels  
 156 for new classes that have never been encountered during training, while FSL involves the task of  
 157 predicting labels for new classes for which only a small number of labeled samples are provided.  
 158 In both cases, the proposed solutions try to somehow transfer knowledge from seen classes to  
 159 unseen classes (see [231] for recent advances on transfer learning, specifically describing knowledge  
 160 transfer). Here, KGs play an important role, since they can represent background knowledge  
 161 such as class hierarchies, instances of classes (samples), features, properties, relations as well  
 162 as meta information like model parameters, providing the necessary auxiliary information. The  
 163 interested reader can check [197] and [199] for a systematic review on ZSL and FSL, [71] and  
 164 [27] for ZSL and FSL based on external knowledge (covering some works that use KGs as the  
 165 background knowledge), [134] covers the use of knowledge graphs specifically for visual transfer  
 166 learning and [28] that is a recent thorough survey paper that specifically classifies and analyzes  
 167 methods utilizing KGs for ZSL and FSL.

168 The capabilities of DNNs have enabled the development of numerous models and techniques  
 169 to address challenging problems, particularly those involving multimodal data. In this context,  
 170 multimodal machine learning [14, 61, 133] has emerged as one of the rapidly advancing fields  
 171 within artificial intelligence, addressing various challenging problems, including visual question  
 172 answering, visual reasoning, image captioning, image-text retrieval, visual storytelling, visual  
 173 dialoging and others [3, 66, 220, 207, 171, 45, 45, 96]. Not surprisingly, the proposed DNNs  
 174 models (mainly based on transformers) often struggle with generalization to various concepts  
 175 and scenarios that demand commonsense knowledge, or understanding of abstract entities, facts,  
 176 and real-world events, due to the lack of formal representation of background, contextual and  
 177 commonsense knowledge [152, 74, 91]. Hence, integrating external knowledge at different stages  
 178 of multimodal learning, especially in pre-training or fine-tuning, augments the capabilities of  
 179 models, enabling them to better address a broader range of real-world scenarios. Several proposed  
 180 DNNs models are based on external knowledge that is represented using semantic descriptions  
 181 stored in KGs. In particular, there have been proposed datasets that leverage external knowledge  
 182 [123, 179, 151, 203] linked to web resources and KGs [107] to learn the alignment between visual  
 183 and textual information [30] in order to solve multimodal learning tasks. The interested reader  
 184 can find information in several survey papers classifying and analyzing methods in the area of  
 185 multimodal learning (see for example [14, 61, 133], specifically presenting works that make use of  
 186 KGs [120]).

187 The adoption of symbolic knowledge representation and reasoning as a means to address the  
 188 opacity of machine learning classifiers is a research domain that has recently garnered significant  
 189 attention from researchers [58]. The need to provide explanations grounded in domain knowledge  
 190 with formal semantics has driven the utilization of KGs in explainable AI [32, 112, 42, 25, 183].  
 191 As this field holds considerable interest and offers numerous prospects for future research, we  
 192 discuss it in more detail in section 3.4.

### 193 2.1.2 Knowledge Graphs for Large Language Models

194 The current ML literature is dominated by Deep Learning solutions that have been proved very  
 195 effective in multiple domains and for multiple tasks. Particularly, nowadays LLMs and related

196 systems are catalyzing the attention of the scientific and industrial community for their impressive  
197 ability to provide highly accurate results in a very limited amount of time, as for the case of  
198 ChatGPT<sup>6</sup> and similar solutions. LLMs behind these systems (like the GPT models [22] that  
199 currently guide ChatGPT) are usually deep learning models that have been trained on huge  
200 amounts of text data and are capable of understanding and generating human-like text. Typically,  
201 they get a text in their input and provide a text as a response. Lately, they can be also directly  
202 connected to other generative models like Midjourney<sup>7</sup> and DALLE-3<sup>8</sup> that get text as input and  
203 give image or videos in the output, advancing the user experience and extending the scope of  
204 application domains.

205 There are many ways of using KGs to improve or understand the operation of LLMs. There  
206 are works that aim to enhance the text generation (see for example the survey [219]) or more  
207 generally to enhance visiolinguistic learning with knowledge (see for example the survey [120]). In  
208 [144] several methods are discussed that try to unify LLMs and KGs, combining their advantages.  
209 Among others, methods that use KGs to improve the operation of LLMs are analysed. An  
210 interesting approach is to incorporate knowledge graph information into LLMs in order to enhance  
211 their performance, by advancing the factual knowledge understanding. This is a way to improve the  
212 LLM performance on knowledge-intensive tasks, and to generate more informed and contextually  
213 grounded text. In particular, there are works that try to enhance word representations with  
214 knowledge graph embeddings providing context, improving the model's performance [148], or to  
215 learn contextualized representations that capture both linguistic and factual knowledge [119], or  
216 to use KGs in pre-training to enhance the model's understanding of factual knowledge [176, 110].  
217 Other works in the area try to decompose knowledge into separate modules to improve its natural  
218 language understanding capabilities [222], or to integrate KG and language understanding in a  
219 joint pre-training framework [218].

220 Moreover, there are other approaches for graph-to-text generation integrating knowledge from a  
221 knowledge graph into the text generation process, trying to produce more informative and coherent  
222 outputs [217]. In this framework, combining language representations with knowledge graph  
223 embeddings can be used to enhance the representation of contextualised knowledge [175, 173, 65].  
224 Sentiment knowledge can be also incorporated with the use of KGs, thus enhancing the performance  
225 of language models with respect to sentiment analysis accuracy [181, 180].

226 Finally, KGs can be used to prob and possibly understand different aspects of the operation of  
227 LLMs. In particular, KGs can be used to elicit knowledge from language models using automatically  
228 generated prompts, enabling targeted information retrieval from the model's knowledge base  
229 [166], or for querying language models effectively, through a query generation technique that  
230 leverages explicit context [2], or to contrastively probing LLMs to investigate the domain knowledge  
231 of pretrained language models by comparing their performance to specially designed contrast  
232 models [126]. Prompting can be also used for understanding the limitations LLMs, revealing  
233 scenarios where language models may produce unreliable or incorrect responses [122], or to enable  
234 the exploration and understanding of the underlying knowledge captured by LLMs [178], or to  
235 understand how LLMs capture factual knowledge and identify the key factors that contribute to  
236 their acquisition of factual information [109].

237 Of particular significance in this context is the utilization of KGs to validate LLMs, mitigating  
238 the issue of hallucination, that causes the generation of factually incorrect content [85]. Hallucin-  
239 ation of LLMs poses a substantial challenge to their reliability [15]. Although some LLMs are

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<sup>6</sup> <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.midjourney.com/home/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://openai.com/dall-e-3>



240 equipped with the ability to explain their predictions, their explanatory capabilities also suffer  
 241 from hallucination and this has been particularly connected to the criticism that LLMs have  
 242 limited ability to encode factual knowledge [232, 191, 56]. Hence, it becomes crucial to examine  
 243 and authenticate the knowledge embedded within LLMs to prevent hallucination. Recently, there  
 244 is some work in the area of utilizing KGs for hallucination detection. Specifically, KGs are used as  
 245 an external source to validate LLMs reliability [86], or to develop fact-checking models, identifying  
 246 and mitigating hallucinations [48]. This is a very interesting area for future work.

247 In Section 3.1, we outline our viewpoint on the most important research areas that require  
 248 attention in order to address the challenges discussed here.

## 249 2.2 Machine Learning as Input to Knowledge Graphs

250 From the perspective of ML as input to KGs, the main objective is to improve the quality of  
 251 existing KGs overall. Particularly, given the well-known issues concerning noise and incompleteness  
 252 of KGs, most solutions have focussed on KG refinement which actually encompasses several tasks.  
 253 Among the others, triple classification (aiming at assessing the correctness of a statement in a  
 254 KG and generally regarded as a binary classification problem) and mostly link/type prediction  
 255 (aiming at predicting missing links/types between entities and generally regarded as a learning to  
 256 rank problem) gained most of the attention, aiming at improving/limiting KG incompleteness.

257 Different approaches have been developed over the years, with the goal of improving effectiveness  
 258 (mostly targeting the link prediction problems) while scaling to very large KGs. Mostly, numeric-  
 259 based methods have been investigated. Among the very first proposals, *probabilistic latent variable*  
 260 *models* from the Statistical Relational Learning (SRL) [54] field (having as main goal the creation  
 261 of statistical models for relational/graph-based data) have been formalized. Successive and very  
 262 efficient solutions have been represented by *Knowledge Graph Embedding* (KGE) models. Other  
 263 approaches focusing on propositionalization techniques, recently also exploiting Graph Neural  
 264 Networks (GNN) [204]) have been also pursued. Complementary to these numeric-based solutions,  
 265 research directions targeting symbol-based models have been also proposed, particularly focusing  
 266 on rule-based methods for predicting triples in KGs.

267 In the following we summarize the most representative methods for each of the aforementioned  
 268 categories. We dedicate particular attention to KGE methods that represent the main subject of  
 269 study for our successive proposals, illustrated in Section 3.2.

### 270 2.2.1 Probabilistic Latent Variable Models

271 Probabilistic Latent Variable Models explain relations between entities by associating each resource  
 272 to a set of intrinsic latent attributes (i.e. attributes not directly observable in the data) and  
 273 conditions the probability distribution of the relations between two resources on their latent  
 274 attributes. All relations are considered conditionally independent given the latent attributes. This  
 275 allows the information to propagate through the network of interconnected latent variables.

276 One of the first solutions belonging to this category is the *Infinite Hidden Semantic Model*  
 277 (IHSM) [155]. It formalises a probabilistic latent variable that associates a latent class variable  
 278 with each node and makes use of constraints expressed in First Order Logic during the learning  
 279 process. IHSM showed promising results but resulted limited in scaling on large data collections,  
 280 because of the complexity of the probabilistic inference and learning, which is intractable in  
 281 general [92].



## 2.2.2 Knowledge Graph Embedding Models

KGE models have received considerable attention because of their impressive ability to scale on very large KGs. KGE are numeric-based approaches that convert the data graph into an optimal low-dimensional space in which *graph structural information* and *graph properties* are preserved as much as possible [23, 83]. The embedding procedure consists of learning embeddings such that the score of a valid (positive) triple is lower than the score of an invalid triple, i.e. the invalid triples function as negative examples. Graph embedding methods may differ in their main building blocks: the *representation space* (e.g. point-wise, complex, discrete, Gaussian, manifold), the *encoding model* (e.g. linear, factorization, neural models) and the *scoring function* (that can be based on distance, energy, semantic matching or other criteria) [83]. Over the years, several models have been developed. Some are presented below. It should also be noted that several libraries or frameworks such as Deep Graph Library<sup>9</sup> [194], PyKEEN<sup>10</sup> [6], or PyTorch-BigGraph<sup>11</sup> [106] have been developed and provide unified implementations of wide ranges of models.

One of the first solutions that has been proposed is RESCAL [141], which performs graph embedding by computing a three-way factorization of an adjacency tensor that represents the multi-graph structure of the data collection. It resulted in a powerful model that was also able to capture complex relational patterns over multiple hops in a graph, however it was not able to scale on very large graph-based data collections (e.g. the whole YAGO or DBpedia). The main limitation was represented by the parameter learning phase, which may take rather long for converging to optimal solutions.

The very first highly scalable embedding model is TRANSE [20]. It introduces a simple but effective and efficient model: each entity is represented by an embedding vector and each predicate is represented by a (vector) *translation operation*. The score of a triple is given by the similarity of the translated subject embedding to the object embedding. The optimal embedding and translation vectors for predicates are learned jointly. The method relies on a *stochastic optimization process*, that iteratively updates the distributed representations by increasing the score of the positive triples i.e. the observed triples, while lowering the score of unobserved triples standing as negative examples. The embedding of all entities and predicates in the KG is learned by minimizing a *margin-based ranking loss*.

Despite its scalability and effectiveness, TRANSE remained limited in properly representing various types of properties such as *reflexivity*, and 1-to- $N$ ,  $N$ -to-1 and  $N$ -to- $N$  relations that can be easily found in KGs (e.g. `typeOf` as an example of  $N$ -to- $N$  relationship). To tackle this limitation while keeping the ability to scale to very large KGs, a large family of models has been developed that build on TRANSE, such as TRANSH [200] and TRANSR [114].

Specifically, TRANSR adopts a score function that projects entities into a different vectorial space for each relation through a suitable projection matrix. TRANSR associates to `typeOf`, and to all other properties, a specific vector space in which entity vectors are projected. This leads to training specific projection matrices for `typeOf` (and any other relation) so that the projected entities can be located more suitably to be linked by the vector translation associated to the (`typeOf`) relation. This differs from TRANSE, which models `typeOf` as simple vector translation. The considered individuals and classes may be quite different in terms of the properties and attributes they are involved in, thus determining strong semantic differences (according to [213]) taking place at small reciprocal distances in the underlying vector space, hence revealing the weakness of employing the mere translation.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dgl.ai/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://github.com/pykeen/pykeen>

<sup>11</sup> <https://github.com/facebookresearch/PyTorch-BigGraph>

## 42:10 Machine Learning and Knowledge Graphs: Existing Gaps and Future Research Challenges

326 With the goal of capturing additional properties in the data, such as inverse relationship,  
327 symmetry, anti-symmetry and composition, more complex embedding models have been formalized,  
328 either targeting more complex vector representation spaces, such as the complex representation,  
329 as for the case of COMPLEX [187] and (PATH-)ROTATE [227], Gaussian representation, as for the  
330 case of KG2E [67] and TRANSG [206], and manifold representation, as for the case of MURP [13]  
331 and DIHEDRAL [209], or targeting more complex encoding models such as neural models, as for  
332 the case of CONVKB [138] and COMPGCN [188]. Nevertheless, these additional models became  
333 rather computationally expensive, which limits their usefulness.

334 Nevertheless, several additional semantic aspects that are generally available within KGs, such  
335 as hierarchies of concepts and roles, type constraints and transitivity of relationships are currently  
336 almost disregarded by existing KGE models. The need for *semantic embedding methods* has been  
337 argued [33, 146, 82]. In [60] a KG embedding method considering logical rules has been proposed,  
338 where triples in the KG and rules are represented in a unified framework. Specifically, triples are  
339 represented as atomic formulae while rules are represented as more complex formulae modelled  
340 by t-norm fuzzy logics. A common loss function over both representations is defined, which is  
341 minimized to learn the embeddings. This proposal resulted in a novel solution but the specific form  
342 of prior knowledge that has to be available constitutes its main drawback. A similar drawback also  
343 applies to [130], where a solution based on adversarial training is formalized, exploiting Datalog  
344 clauses to encode assumptions which are used to regularize neural link predictors.

345 Complementary solutions, directly targeting rich representation languages as RDFS and OWL  
346 and not requiring additional formalism for representing prior knowledge have been proposed.  
347 Particularly, [129] has proven the effectiveness of combining embedding methods and strategies  
348 relying on reasoning services for the injection of prior Background Knowledge (BK) to enhance  
349 the performance of a specific predictive model. Following this line, TRANSOWL, aiming at  
350 injecting schema level information, particularly during the learning process, and its upgraded  
351 version TRANSROWL, have been formalized [36, 35]. The main focus is on the application of this  
352 idea to enhance well-known basic scalable models, namely TRANSE [20] and TRANSR [114], even  
353 if, in principle, the proposed approach could be applied to more complex embedding methods,  
354 with an additional formalization. In TRANSOWL the original TRANSE setting is maintained  
355 while resorting to reasoning with schema axioms to derive further triples to be considered for  
356 training and that are generated consistently with the semantics of the properties. Particularly, for  
357 each considered axiom, TRANSOWL defines, on the score function, specific constraints that guide  
358 the way embedding vectors are learned. A set of different axioms, specifically `equivalentClass`,  
359 `equivalentProperty`, `inverseOf` and `subClassOf`, are employed for the definition of constraints on the  
360 score function so that the resulting vectors, related to such axioms, reflect their specific properties.  
361 As a consequence, new triples are added to the training set on the grounds of the specified axioms.  
362 TRANSROWL further develops TRANSOWL by adopting TRANSR as the base model in order  
363 to handle non 1-to-1 properties in a more proper way. TRANSOWL and TRANSROWL have  
364 been proven to improve their effectiveness on link prediction and triple classification tasks when  
365 compared to the baseline models (TRANSE and TRANSR) that focus on structural graph properties.  
366 Some additional efforts in the formalization of KGE and Deep Learning solutions taking into  
367 account limited semantics can be found in the literature [57, 12, 72, 62, 100]. Nevertheless, none of  
368 the existing KGE model is able to exploit the full expressiveness that a KG may have in principle.

369 Independently of the specific model, another important issue needs to be highlighted: most of  
370 the existing KGs only contain positive (training) examples, since usually false facts are generally  
371 not encoded. However, training a learning model in all-positive examples could be tricky, because  
372 the model might easily overgeneralize. As such, for obtaining negative examples, that are needed  
373 when training KGE models, two different approaches are generally adopted: either *corrupting*

374 true/observed triples randomly, with the goal of generating plausible negative examples or  
375 adopting a *local-closed world assumption* (LCWA) in which the data collection is assumed as  
376 *locally* complete [140]. In both cases, wrong negative triples may be generated and thus used when  
377 training and learning the embedding models.

378 In Section 3.2, we present our perspective on the research directions that need to be tackled to  
379 cope with the problems illustrated particularly in this section.

### 380 2.2.3 Neural Methods for Vector Space Embeddings

381 Another research direction focused on the exploitation of vector space embeddings for obtaining  
382 a propositional feature vector representation of a KG. One of the first solutions targeting this  
383 research direction is RDF2Vec [156], which adapts the well-known Word2Vec technique, devised  
384 for natural language processing, to graph representations. A two-step approach is adopted. First  
385 the data graph is converted into a set of sequences of entities (two different approaches can be  
386 used for this purpose: graph walks and Weisfeiler-Lehman Subtree RDF graph kernels). In the  
387 second step, the obtained sequences are used to train a neural language model to estimate the  
388 likelihood of a sequence of entities appearing in a graph. The result is that each entity in the graph  
389 is represented as a vector of latent numerical features. In order to show that the obtained vector  
390 representation is independent of the downstream task and the specific algorithm, an experimental  
391 evaluation involving a number of classification and regression tasks has been performed.

392 An upgrade of RDF2Vec has been presented in [31], where global patterns are considered  
393 (differently from the initial RDF2Vec proposition grounded on local patterns). These solutions  
394 cannot cope with literals.

395 Another way to better capture global information is to use a more powerful model, such as a  
396 graph neural network (GNN). These are a class of methods for allowing artificial neural networks  
397 to operate on graph data. Given that graphs are a very general data structure, GNNs can take a  
398 wide variety of forms. It has also been shown that many popular deep learning architectures, such  
399 as convolutional neural networks, recurrent neural networks, and transformers, can be seen as  
400 a GNN for a suitably defined graph [21]. In a GNN, as for RDF2Vec and KGE models, nodes  
401 are represented as vectors. These vectors are fed through a sequence of message-passing layers,  
402 where nodes update their values based on their neighbours' values, and local pooling layers, where  
403 groups of neighbouring nodes are combined into a single vector representation. The final layer  
404 aggregates the entire input into a single vector representation for the entire graph. Because of this  
405 iterative process, GNNs are better able to capture multi-hop relations and global graph structure,  
406 compared to RDF2Vec [156]. They are also able to reduce an entire graph to a single embedding  
407 vector, as well as computing embedding vectors for each node. See [226] or [229] for an overview  
408 of GNN design and applications.

409 Several works have applied GNNs to construct or enhance KGs. [230] integrates Bellman-Ford  
410 into the GNNs training procedure, and then uses the resulting model for link prediction on  
411 KGs. [145] show that GNNs can be trained, in a supervised setting, to accurately estimate node  
412 importance in a KG. GNNs have also been used for entity alignment, which seeks to discover  
413 when the same entity appears in two different knowledge graphs. [201] embeds entities in both  
414 KGs and then uses the distance between the embeddings to identify when nodes in different KGs  
415 correspond to the same entity. More recent works have built on this method, for example by  
416 capturing time-sensitive information [210] or multi-modal inputs [172]. Another common use of  
417 GNNs for KG is to improve the use of KGs in recommender systems [52], and inference [137]. For  
418 an overview of the use for GNNs for KGs, see [216].

419 **2.2.4 Rule Learning Solutions**

420 With the goal of finding new facts (namely new triples) that are missing in a KG, AMIE [51, 50]<sup>12</sup>  
 421 has been proposed. AMIE represents one of the most well-known and efficient solutions grounded  
 422 on a symbol-based approach. Inspired by *association rule mining* [4] and the Inductive Logic  
 423 Programming (ILP) literature, AMIE is able to learn logic rules from KGs, that are ultimately  
 424 used for predicting new unseen triples. Interestingly AMIE is tailored to support the Open World  
 425 Assumption (OWA) characterizing KGs, differently from all numeric-based solutions that are  
 426 grounded on the Closed World Assumption (CWA). Nevertheless, AMIE mines rules inspecting  
 427 the triples that are directly observable in the KG and it does not exploit the additional semantics  
 428 that is available in the KG as well as any form of deductive reasoning.

429 A related rule mining system, based on a level-wise generate and test strategy has been further  
 430 proposed [37], with the goal of learning SWRL rules [70] while exploiting schema level information  
 431 and deductive reasoning capabilities during learning. As for AMIE, the goal was to exploit the  
 432 discovered rules for predicting new facts. This system actually outperformed AMIE in terms of  
 433 new predicted triples, and this was due to the exploitation of the schema level information and  
 434 reasoning capabilities. Nevertheless, they have been also the main cause of the reduced ability of  
 435 the system to scale on large KGs, when compared to AMIE.

436 More recently AnyBURL [124] has been proposed. It is a scalable bottom-up rule learning  
 437 system for KG completion that works by sampling random paths, that are generalized into  
 438 Horn rules. Reinforcement learning is exploited to guide path sampling and make efficient use of  
 439 computational resources. AnyBURL also showed improved scalability and competitive performance  
 440 in comparison to numeric-based approaches. Even more so, it has been also shown that AnyBURL  
 441 can be used to explain predictions made by a latent model when restricting the types of learned  
 442 rules. Nevertheless, as for AMIE, no exploitation of the KG semantics and reasoning capabilities  
 443 can be found.

444 **3 Gaps in Machine Learning and Knowledge Graphs and Next Challenges**

445 In this section we analyse existing gaps of the class of methods illustrated in Section 2 that  
 446 we identify as important. Hence, for each of them, we provide our perspective on the research  
 447 directions that need to be pursued in order to fill these gaps. Specifically, the following Section 3.1  
 448 primarily focuses on the need of having a clear methodology for interleaving LLMs with KGs and  
 449 drafts a preliminary proposal. Section 3.2 primarily focuses and provides preliminary proposals  
 450 for the need of taking into account reasoning capabilities and schema level information of KGs,  
 451 to be used for setting up a more informative way for generating negative training examples as  
 452 well as for injecting schema level information in KGE. Beyond the gaps, Section 3.3 presents our  
 453 view supporting that symbolic ML methods may still have a role in KG, particularly for KG  
 454 refinement and more specifically for mining disjointness axioms, that are quite often missing in  
 455 KGs and related ontologies. Section 3.4 presents our position on the need for an approach that  
 456 demonstrably produces reliable explanations to validate ML results when applied to KGs. Hence,  
 457 Section 3.5 shows the need for diverse, high-quality benchmark datasets when combining ML and  
 458 KGs as well as new metrics for capturing new behaviours.

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<sup>12</sup>AMIE system is currently at its third version. For more details see <https://github.com/dig-team/amie>

### 3.1 Knowledge Graphs for Prompting Large Language Models

From what has been described in section 2.1, we understand that the use of KGs, as an additional tool, during the (pre-)training phase or during the inference phase of LLMs are important fields of research, attracting the interest of many researchers, and could potentially improve the operation of the LLM and the results of LLMs, respectively. Although the operation of modern LLMs and respective systems (like chatGPT) is impressive and traditional machine learning gaps (like reasoning capabilities) have started to close, **there is still room for improvement**, and the use of KGs as an additional tool during the training and fine-tuning phases can play an important role, here. Specifically, KGs can provide background knowledge (encyclopaedic, commonsense, domain-specific, multimodal etc), represent human-oriented processes, and explain opaque machine operation. On the other hand, the practical use of LLMs increases dramatically and **there is a great need for advancing the use of LLMs inference, making the process of dialoguing LLMs more formal and systematic**. Therefore, the use of KGs during the phase of the design of the input to be given to LLMs and during the phase of the analysis of the LLM response seems to have a great potential.

Following the above, interesting open problems and challenges is the use of KGs in LLM *prompt engineering* or simply LLM *prompting* [144, 117]. Prompting is the process of providing a sequence of instructions or queries to a LLM in order to get the desired output or to check the LLM's operation and characteristics. It is actually a dialogue between a user (human or agent) and a LLM, that reflects the user's intent and finally results in the desired task or information that the user wants to get from the model. Although the field is new, there are some attempts to formalise the process (see for example the *Automatic Prompt Engineer (APE)* approach [228]). The formalization of the dialogue process should be grounded on some type of background knowledge, so there is a need for representing and using this knowledge. Here, we describe the great potential of using KGs in LLM prompting, based on the nature of prompts, their types and effectiveness, the tasks and the methodology to provide adequate prompts during the prompting process, focusing on the potential use of KGs.

There are many ways to modify the prompt that is given to LLM, using KGs. First, the instruction or question can be more explicit and specific, capturing the user requirements, since it is well-understood that the more specific the prompt the better chance of guiding the LLM to the desired response. For example, the instruction "*Summarise text A*" can be specified as "*Summarise the text A in 200 words*", using the knowledge that an abstract should be between 200 and 300 words. Or the question "Is there any recent paper in the area of prompting machine learning systems?" can be specified as "Is there any recent paper in the area of prompting *LLMs*?". On the other hand, sometimes it may be helpful, depending on the instruction or the question, to generalise it, for example, the question "Is there any recent paper in the area of prompting machine learning systems?" can be generalised as "Is there any recent *work* in the area of prompting machine learning systems?". Also, may be useful to *contextualise* or *style* the prompt, by providing examples ("Suggest romantic musicals, *like "La La Land"*"), or conditions ("Suggest papers for prompting LLM, *published in top conferences*"), or style ("Paraphrase text A, *using more formal language*"). It is not difficult to see that KGs can be very helpful in constructing knowledge-enhanced prompts like the above (and not restricted to them), guiding prompt changes, as they capture formal domain knowledge descriptions. Interesting ideas can be found in [228] that the instruction generation is framed as natural language program synthesis, in [168] that simple and effective prompts are constructed to improve GPT-3's reliability, in [192] that multi-step reasoning tasks are tackled by constructing planning and solving prompts, in [225] that LLMs are asked to provide explanations for their choices (in this case for a specific task that is model selection) and in [117] that prompting with generated knowledge rectifies model prediction.

507 **Response analysis** Another interesting issue that could be considered is to use KGs to characterise  
 508 the prompt, for example to measure its *effectiveness* or *reliability*, by analysing and evaluating  
 509 the response. The effectiveness of prompts depends on the response of the LLM, i.e. the answer  
 510 to a specific prompt in comparison with the desired output, given the task. Depending on the  
 511 prompt and response languages, it is important to formalise effectiveness or reliability evaluation  
 512 measures that guide a process of iterative refinement of the results, by using formal knowledge  
 513 represented in KGs. Interesting ideas can be found in [144, 119, 168].

514 **Prompt sequencing** Designing and controlling prompting, i.e. producing a sequence of prompts  
 515 to elicit a desired output, can be a challenging task that requires a systematic strategy, evaluation  
 516 and experimentation. Although LLMs are powerful, their operation is complex and unpredictable  
 517 and thus a dialogue for producing a sequence of prompts may be helpful to understand LLM  
 518 characteristics, like complex reasoning capabilities. There is lately some work in the area, for  
 519 example: Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompts [202] decompose complex reasoning capabilities into  
 520 a set of simpler reasoning steps; In [117], the usefulness of using knowledge in common sense  
 521 reasoning is discovered, extracting knowledge from an LLM and then using this knowledge as  
 522 additional input to refine the prompt result. The APE methodology proposed in [228] uses ideas  
 523 from program synthesis in order to optimise the prompt selection process, based on efficient score  
 524 estimations. Future steps would benefit from the use of KGs as formal knowledge representations,  
 525 because there is a clear requirement formalising the prompting extraction methodology.

### 526 3.2 Handling Semantics, Reasoning and Negative Information in Knowledge 527 Graph Embedding Methods

528 One of the key features of KGs is that they can be enriched with schema-level information. For the  
 529 purpose ontologies are generally adopted, which coupled with deductive reasoners, allow to make  
 530 explicit knowledge which is implicitly coded in a KG<sup>13</sup>. For example, given a KG containing the  
 531 triple `<c typeOf Woman>` (or equivalently `Woman(c)`, by adopting a Description Logic formalism)  
 532 and referring to the following simple ontology formalizing a hierarchy of concepts `Man ⊆ Human`  
 533 and `Woman ⊆ Human`, the fact `Human(c)` can be derived by the use of a deductive reasoner.  
 534 Similarly, new knowledge can be derived when additional axioms are available, such as equivalence  
 535 axioms, disjointness axioms, as well as restrictions on domain and ranges<sup>14</sup>. However, due to the  
 536 limited ability of reasoners to scale on very large KGs, deductive reasoning is currently almost  
 537 disregarded.

538 Indeed, when talking about ML methods coupled with KGs, as for the case of KGE methods,  
 539 generally only facts that can be directly observed are taken into account e.g. when projecting the  
 540 data graph into a lower vectorial representation space. This is clearly a limitation, since knowledge  
 541 that is somehow already available within the KGs (as for the fact `Human(c)` in the example above)  
 542 and that may play a role when considering KGE is ignored. For instance, by considering the fact  
 543 `Human(c)`, a more appropriate vectorial representation for the entity `c` could be provided thus  
 544 limiting errors also when solving downstream tasks. By only considering observable facts, schema  
 545 level information, that is a seminal element of knowledge, and all additional knowledge that can  
 546 be derived are actually fully dismissed.

<sup>13</sup>Several reasoners exist and may be used for the purpose. Some examples are RDFox (<https://www.oxfordsemantic.tech/rdfoc>), Hermit (<http://www.hermit-reasoner.com/>), FaCT++ (<http://owl.cs.manchester.ac.uk/tools/fact/>). See <http://owl.cs.manchester.ac.uk/tools/list-of-reasoners/> for the full list of reasoners.

<sup>14</sup>See <https://www.w3.org/TR/owl2-overview/> for details on the representation language.



547 **Abboud et al. [1] analyzed the shortcomings of the existing embedding mod-**  
548 **els. These shortcomings can be summarized in: theoretical inexpressiveness, lack**  
549 **of support for inference patterns and higher-arity relations, need for logical rule**  
550 **incorporation.**

551 Here, we specifically claim that KGE methods need to be equipped with the full usage of KGs  
552 semantics which comprises the exploitation of all axioms that can be found in the ontologies that are  
553 used for supplying (rich) schema level information to KGs, as well as the exploitation of deductive  
554 reasoning services that allow to obtain additional knowledge both at schema and assertion level.  
555 Indeed, whilst the need for *semantic embedding methods* has been advocated [33, 146, 82], only a  
556 few proposals can be found in the literature that actually address this problem (see section 2.2.2  
557 for details) and mainly focusing on `equivalentClass`, `equivalentProperty`, `inverseOf` and `subClassOf`  
558 axioms. To the best of our knowledge, none of the existing methods is able to exploit all kinds of  
559 axioms that in principle can be found in expressive ontologies. Even more so, a complementary  
560 research direction would be needed, calling for a solid and extensive experimental evaluation  
561 aiming at providing a clear position on the need (or not) to fully exploit the KG semantics as well  
562 as reasoning capabilities. Specifically, we claim that a comprehensive experimental evaluation,  
563 involving most of the KGE methods currently available is needed. Two main scenarios should be  
564 considered: the first one (currently adopted) where only observable facts are considered; the second  
565 one where the full knowledge available within KG is made explicit by considering schema-level  
566 information (e.g. transitivity, equivalence axioms, same as axioms etc.) and reasoning capabilities.  
567 Hence performances on the very same downstream tasks, adopting the two settings, should be  
568 compared, in order to experimentally prove the value added, if any, of exploiting the KGs entirely.  
569 Importantly the second scenario could be possibly divided into two intermediate steps, one where  
570 knowledge is partially completed by considering the schema level information but no exploitation  
571 of deductive reasoners and a second step where the actual full knowledge is gained by adopting  
572 available deductive reasoners. This is on one hand, for assessing the impact of the usage of the  
573 full knowledge and on the other hand, for assessing if some complexity, due to reasoning, can be  
574 saved whilst still trying to make knowledge explicit as much as possible.

575 Another issue with KGE models is given by the need of negative examples (for training KGE  
576 models) that anyhow are generally missing in KGs, where generally only positive information  
577 is coded. As illustrated in section 2.2.2, this problem is usually addressed either by *corrupting*  
578 true/observed triples randomly, that is by replacing either the subject or the object of the observed  
579 triple with an entity picked randomly from the KG, or by adopting a *local-closed world assumption*  
580 (LCWA), in which the data collection is assumed as *locally* complete [140]. In both cases, wrong  
581 negative triples may be generated and thus used when training and learning the embedding models.  
582 In order to mitigate this issue, preliminary proposals tried to take under control the number of  
583 negatives that are randomly generated [43]. Clearly this solution does not solve the problem of  
584 generating false negatives, it simply try to somehow control the effect of the false negatives. One  
585 of the first proposal trying to generate and materialize actual negative triples has been formalized  
586 in [8]. Nevertheless, the proposed solution is grounded on the exploitation of additional and  
587 external sources of information besides KGs. Specifically, the proposed solution is grounded on  
588 two complementary approaches: a statistical ranking for statements obtained based on related  
589 entities, and a pattern-based text extraction, applied to search engine query logs.

590 On the contrary, here we claim that KGs semantics should be fully and solely exploited  
591 for making explicit correct negative statements. For instance, given a restriction on domain  
592 and/or range of predicate appearing in a true observed triple, the restriction can be exploited for  
593 generating negative triples where e.g. the object entity of the negative triple can be deductively  
594 proved to be out of the declared range restriction. Similarly, given an observed true triple with a



595 predicate having a functional restriction, negative statements may be generated by constructing  
 596 triples having objects that are different from the object in the true statement. More generally, the  
 597 approach for generating correct negative statements that is envisioned, is deeply grounded on the  
 598 semantics of the schema axioms. The approach should basically construct triples that are in the  
 599 complement of the set of triples representing the semantics of a given schema axiom.

600 An initial proposal in this direction can be found in [36, 35, 118], where only `domain`, `range`,  
 601 `disjointWith` and `functionalProperty` constraints are considered. Whilst we consider this proposal  
 602 a valuable way to go as in agreement with the envisioned solution, it needs to be extended for  
 603 comprising all axioms and constraints that can be possibly found in a KGs, e.g. transitivity,  
 604 same-as, equivalence axioms, for citing a few. Even more so, we consider it worthwhile to conduct  
 605 an extensive experimental study comparing the different settings for generating negative examples  
 606 in order to prove experimentally the actual role of semantics, if any.

607 Up to now, when referring to reasoning we basically meant deductive reasoning applied to  
 608 ontologies/KGs [11]. Nevertheless, besides deductive reasoning, other forms of reasoning could be  
 609 investigated. These different reasoning forms could be useful in KG-related tasks, and conversely,  
 610 knowledge contained in KGs could be leveraged in their reasoning process. Here we specifically  
 611 focus on analogical reasoning that is a remarkable capability of the human mind [132] relying  
 612 on analogical proportions. They are statements of the form “A is to B as C is to D” that can  
 613 be formalized as quadruples  $A : B :: C : D$  [127]. An example of such a quadruple is “leg :  
 614 human :: paw : dog”. Analogical reasoning relies on similarity and dissimilarity to extrapolate  
 615 knowledge between objects of potentially different domains. To illustrate, the given example  
 616 quadruple leverages the similarity between body parts and whole, and the relation linking them  
 617 to constitute a valid analogy. Analogical reasoning is mainly concerned with two tasks: *analogy*  
 618 *detection* that aims to determine whether a quadruple  $A : B :: C : D$  is a valid analogy, and  
 619 *analogy solving* that aims to predict a missing element  $X$ , given three elements  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$   
 620 such that  $A : B :: C : D$  constitutes a valid analogy. When elements are represented as vectors,  
 621 analogies can be thought of as parallelograms, *i.e.*,  $e_B - e_A = e_D - e_C$ . Such a view can thus  
 622 be adopted with embeddings, which attracted works on ML-based analogy for various Natural  
 623 Language Processing tasks, *e.g.*, word morphology [7] or machine translation [102]. In the realm  
 624 of KGs, to the best of our knowledge, only few works consider analogical reasoning. However, KG  
 625 embeddings are suited for analogical formalization. For instance, by using translations to model  
 626 relations, TRANSE inherently validates the parallelogram rule. This motivated Portisch *et al.* [149]  
 627 to investigate whether some KG embedding models are well-suited for the task of analogy detection  
 628 with standard analogical datasets. But analogical reasoning could also be directly applied to KGs.  
 629 In the link prediction task, it is natural to extrapolate edges from one (part of a) KG to another  
 630 (part), which motivated the ANALOGY model [116]. Interestingly, ANALOGY is based on the  
 631 parallelogram rule and the authors showed that it subsumes some other models such as DISTMULT,  
 632 COMPLEX, and HOLE. Analogical reasoning can also be considered as an enhancer of existing  
 633 KGE models by using triples, relations or entities in analogies to enrich the training process [214].  
 634 In fact, the integration of analogical reasoning into KG-related tasks and KGE models is not  
 635 limited to one formalization or one task. Jarnac *et al.* re-used a convolutional model for analogy  
 636 detection and applied it on pre-trained graph embeddings to select subgraphs of interest from  
 637 Wikidata to bootstrap a domain-specific KG [81]. Analogies also inherently appear in several  
 638 other tasks, *e.g.*, Semantic Table Interpretation, matching, or recommendation [135]. It remains  
 639 to explore both theoretically and empirically the best formalizations, models, improvement in  
 640 performance, and interactions with other forms of reasoning, especially deductive reasoning that  
 641 is inherently permitted by ontologies.

### 3.3 Symbol-based Methods for Knowledge Graphs

Given KGs volumes, the need for scalable ML solutions has obfuscated the attention to symbol-based ML solutions. Nevertheless, the important gain, in terms of scalability, that numeric-based methods (such as KGEs) are obtaining is penalizing: a) the possibility to have interpretable models as a result of a learning process (see Section 3.4 for more details); b) the ability to exploit deductive (and complementary forms of) reasoning (see Section 3.2 for more details); c) the expressiveness of the representations to be considered and related assumptions (such as the Open World Assumption (OWA)).

Indeed, suitable symbol-based methods, often inspired by the *Inductive Logic Programming* (ILP) [153] field (aiming at inducing a hypothesised logic program from background knowledge and a collection of examples), have been proposed [34, 87, 104, 51, 182]. Most of them are able to cope with expressive representation languages such as Description Logics (DLs) [11], theoretical foundation for OWL, and the *Open World Assumption* (OWA) typically adopted, differently from the *Closed World Assumption* (CWA) that is usually assumed in the traditional ML settings. Also, problems such as ontology refinement and enrichment at terminology/schema level have been proposed [46, 47, 103, 189, 159].

Particularly, with the purpose of enriching ontologies at the terminological level, methods for learning concept descriptions for a concept name have been formalized. The problem has been regarded as a supervised concept learning problem aiming at approximating an intensional DLs definition, given a set of individuals of an ontological KB acting as positive/negative training examples. Various solutions, e.g. DL-FOIL<sup>15</sup> [46] and CELOE [103] (part of the DL-LEARNER suite<sup>16</sup>), have been formalized. They are mostly grounded on a *separate-and-conquer* (sequential covering) strategy: a new concept description is built by specializing, via suitable *refinement operators*, a partial solution to correctly cover (i.e. decide a consistent classification for) as many training instances as possible. Whilst DL-FOIL works under OWA, CELOE works under CWA. Both of them may suffer of ending up in sub-optimal solutions. In order to overcome such issue, DL-FOCL<sup>17</sup> [161, 160], PARCEL [185] and SPACEL [186] have been proposed. DL-FOCL is an optimized version of DL-FOIL, implementing a base greedy covering strategy. PARCEL combines top-down and bottom-up refinements in the search space. Specifically, the learning problem is split into various sub-problems, according to a divide-and-conquer strategy, that are solved by running CELOE as a subroutine. Once the partial solutions are obtained, they are combined in a bottom-up fashion. SPACEL extends PARCEL by performing a symmetrical specialization of a concept description. All these solutions proved to be able to learn approximated concept descriptions for a target concept name to be used for possibly introducing new (inclusion or equality) axioms in the KB. Nevertheless, quite often, relatively small ontological KBs have been considered for the experiments, revealing that, currently, they have **limited ability to scale** on very large KGs.

A few scalable exceptions are represented by rule learning systems for KG completion such as AMIE and most of all AnyBURL (see section 2.2.4 for more details). Nevertheless, most of the existing symbol-based methods cannot scale to very large KGs [160].

Here we want to highlight particularly the **role that symbolic ML solutions may play in assessing disjointness axioms** within ontologies. Indeed, disjointness axioms are essential for making explicit the negative knowledge about a domain, yet they are often overlooked during the modelling process [196]. Furthermore, disjointness axioms would be absolutely beneficial for setting up an informed generation of negative examples in KGE models (see section 3.2 for details),

<sup>15</sup>System publicly available at: <https://bitbucket.org/grizzo001/dl-foil/src/master/>

<sup>16</sup>Suite publicly available at: <https://dl-learner.org/>

<sup>17</sup>System publicly available at: <https://bitbucket.org/grizzo001/dlfocl/src/master/>

686 thus limiting false negatives that random corruption may inject.

687 To tackle this problem, automated methods for discovering disjointness axioms from the  
 688 data distribution have been devised. A solution grounded on *association rule mining* [4] has  
 689 been proposed in [189]. It is based on studying the correlation between classes comparatively,  
 690 namely by considering *association rules*, *negative association rules* and *correlation coefficient*.  
 691 Background knowledge and reasoning capabilities are used to a limited extent. A different solution  
 692 has been proposed in [159, 158], where, moving from the assumption that two or more concepts  
 693 may be mutually disjoint when the sets of their (known) instances do not *overlap*, the problem  
 694 has been regarded as a clustering problem, aiming at finding partitions of similar individuals  
 695 of the knowledge base, according to a *cohesion* criterion quantifying the degree of homogeneity  
 696 of the individuals in an element of the partition. Specifically, the problem has been cast as a  
 697 *conceptual clustering* problem, where the goal is both to find the best possible partitioning of the  
 698 individuals and also to induce intensional definitions of the corresponding classes expressed in the  
 699 standard representation languages. Emerging disjointness axioms are captured by the employment  
 700 of *terminological cluster trees* (TCTs) and by minimizing the risk of mutual overlap between  
 701 concepts. Once the TCT is grown, groups of (disjoint) clusters located at sibling nodes identify  
 702 concepts involved in candidate disjointness axioms to be derived<sup>18</sup>. Unlike [189], that is based  
 703 on the statistical correlation between instances, the empirical evaluation of [159, 158] showed the  
 704 system ability to discover disjointness axioms also involving complex concept descriptions, thanks  
 705 to the exploitation of the underlying ontology as background knowledge.

706 Here, we claim that, when tackling the problem of learning disjointness axioms, a two-level  
 707 analysis needs to be conducted. One level relates to the expressiveness of the axioms that can  
 708 be learned. The other level is related to the usage of the learned axioms from a user/knowledge  
 709 engineering perspective. The goal of this two-level analysis should be finding a trade-off between  
 710 expressiveness and utility from a user modelling perspective. Whilst the former analysis, concerning  
 711 the expressiveness of the discovered axioms, has been conducted (as reported just above) the  
 712 latter, requiring an actual user study is currently missing, whilst we consider it necessary for  
 713 coming up with the aforementioned trade-off between expressiveness and utility of the discovered  
 714 disjointness axioms. Furthermore, additional efforts should be devoted to the scalability of the  
 715 developed methods that, even if not very limited, still they do not appear to be able to scale on  
 716 the existing KGs.

### 717 3.4 Knowledge Graphs for Interpretable Machine Learning

718 When considering the relation of KGs to deep learning, via KGEs for example, a popular research  
 719 objective is to use KGs for interpretability. The internal dynamics of DNNs are typically opaque,  
 720 and there is hope that KGs can be used to help provide (satisfying) explanations of their behaviour.  
 721 The general goal of producing explanations for behaviour of machine learning models is sometimes  
 722 referred to as *explainable AI* (XAI).

723 As argued in [55], the concepts of explainability and interpretability are intertwined in the  
 724 context of XAI, because what we really seek is an interpretable explanation. One could, for example,  
 725 detail exactly the activations of each hidden layer in a neural network to explain why it produced  
 726 the output from the corresponding input, but this is not a human-interpretable explanation, so is  
 727 unhelpful for XAI. Despite a strong incentive for interpretable machine learning [115], especially  
 728 in the area of healthcare [131, 5], and despite significant research attention, how to make complex  
 729 machine learning model interpretable and explainable remains an open problem [88, 111].

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<sup>18</sup>System publicly available at: <https://github.com/Giuseppe-Rizzo/TCTnew>

730 In this section, we give an overview of existing work, and needed future work, on using KGs  
731 for interpretable machine learning. We follow our above framework and divide the discussion into  
732 two parts: ML for KG and KG for ML.

733 The former uses ML techniques to augment or construct a KG. With respect to interpretability,  
734 the idea is that a KG is a human-readable representation of information. Once it is constructed,  
735 it can be used to produce an answer that is highly interpretable, because we can identify the facts  
736 and inference rules from which the answer was derived. The problem is that the construction  
737 itself, which is often a complex process, remains uninterpretable. The same also applies to work  
738 that uses LLMs for KG construction, such as [63, 99], which use BERT-based models to build a  
739 clinical KGs for clinical and financial applications, respectively. Once constructed, the KG can  
740 perhaps be used in an interpretable way, but the LLM that constructs it is not interpretable.  
741 Methods which use then use the KG as input to another stage, may see interpretability gains at  
742 those other stages. For example, [16] iteratively use a KG to augment the training data, and then  
743 use predictions from augmented training data to extend the KG. However, the initial creation of  
744 the KG remains uninterpretable.

745 In the other direction, there are several works which aim to use KGs to enhance the performance  
746 of ML models. There, the possible approaches to using KG for interpretable ML models can,  
747 following [154] be divided into three types, pre-model, post-model and in-model.

748 **Pre-model**, refers to using the KG as input to a DNN often referred to as “conditioning on  
749 the KG”, [100]. The idea is that the KG contains higher-quality structured information than  
750 images or free-form text, which can then be used by the DNN to solve the given task. This could  
751 potentially help interpretability if the network uses an attention mechanism that can be inspected  
752 to see which parts of the KG are attended to, as shown by [212] (although, interestingly, the  
753 authors were not motivated by explainability in the design of their model). A similar method  
754 was later also used by [221]. Similarly, [223] proposed a question-answering model that attends  
755 to paths in a KG from a question to the answer, and claims the attention map over these paths  
756 constitutes an explanation of the model output. However, these provide at best, only partial  
757 interpretability, because it is unclear how/why the model’s attention mechanism focuses on the  
758 information from the KG that it does.

759 **Post-model**, refers to obtaining the output of a ML model, and then invoking a KG to try to  
760 produce an explanation for where that output came from. For example, [53] proposes a visual  
761 classifier that matches the predicted classes to KG entities, and then uses the KG structure to  
762 give an explanation. Similarly, [169] claims to propose an explainable textual entailment model  
763 that, after predicting whether one text entails another, finds evidence for this entailment in a KG.  
764 The problem with generating post-hoc explanations is that they depend only on the model output  
765 and not on the processes internal to the model which produced that output, even though it is  
766 precisely the latter that explanations are supposed to shed light on. Two different ML models  
767 that produced the same output by very different means would, by methods such as [169] and  
768 [53], automatically receive the same ‘explanation’. For example, consider two visual classifiers  
769 which both assign the same label to an input image. Suppose one of these classifiers has been  
770 trained on and memorized the test set, while the other has actually learnt relevant visual features  
771 and used these to infer the label. We would surely want the explanation for the outputs of these  
772 two classifiers to be different, but if we use only the assigned label to produce an explanation,  
773 then they will automatically be the same. Thus, post-model XAI methods that invoke a KG after  
774 prediction are precluded from the outset from producing satisfactory explanations, because the  
775 explanation is independent of internal model behaviour (given the output), which is exactly the  
776 thing we want to explain.

777 **In-model**, the third manner of enhancing ML models with a KG, involves the KG during the

778 training of the model itself. In the case of DNNs, this faces the difficulty of connecting discrete  
 779 data from the KG, to a continuous loss function. Beyond some exploratory work, [100, 165], few  
 780 methods have attempted this approach. Additionally, even if one successfully improved predictive  
 781 performance, it is not immediately obvious that it would improve interpretability. It is possible  
 782 that such an in-model method, were it to be designed, would involve a complex interactive passing  
 783 of information between a KG and a DNN, which is highly uninterpretable. One such method  
 784 did explicitly target explanations [162], however this was a bespoke system that requires the  
 785 KG to consist of part-whole relationships only, as well as additional annotation of the images of  
 786 object-part classes.

787 **The use of KGs for interpretable ML remains an open problem, either to devise**  
 788 **a generalizable method of infusing KG in ML training that demonstrably improves**  
 789 **interpretability**, or to determine that such a method is not feasible. At the moment, there is  
 790 interest in the use of KGs for interpretable ML, but we do not have a KG-based method that  
 791 demonstrably improves interpretability in ML. This gap in the research was also noted by [38].  
 792 Moreover, in order for KGs to be of significant help for explainability, we contend that they must  
 793 be involved internally in the model itself. Using machine learning to generate KGs means that  
 794 this generation process itself is not interpretable, and invoking the KG after the operation of the  
 795 machine learning model means that it cannot distinguish between models that produced the same  
 796 output, even if by very different means.

### 797 3.5 Benchmark datasets, and metrics

798 The ever-expanding number of available methods targeting KG construction, refinement, or usage  
 799 in ML approaches entails a need for appropriate benchmark datasets and metrics to evaluate their  
 800 capabilities. Some datasets are considered as *de facto* standards to evaluate approaches developed  
 801 for KG-related tasks such as FB15k-237 and WN18RR for link prediction, or Citeseer for node  
 802 classification. **However, we claim that current datasets do not suffice for a sound and**  
 803 **complete evaluation of the capabilities of developed approaches. Indeed, they present**  
 804 **several issues such as:**

- 805 ■ unwanted leakages between train and test sets;
- 806 ■ absence of shared patterns between train and test sets;
- 807 ■ lack of necessary characteristics to support the use of background knowledge in ML models  
 808 (*e.g.*, presence of inverse axioms, hierarchy of classes or properties).
- 809 ■ scattering of datasets across several repositories hindering their discovery and re-usage

810 In the following, we briefly illustrate and discuss each of these issues and propose possible ways to  
 811 overcome them.

812 Several datasets have been made available to the community over the past few years, *e.g.*,  
 813 by using (fragments of) open KGs [17, 150, 157]. At first, the presence of patterns in train and  
 814 test sets was regarded with a concern for unwanted leakages. For example, the two datasets  
 815 FB15k and WN18 were previously widely adopted to evaluate link prediction approaches. It  
 816 was later discovered that both datasets present data leakage between train and test sets due  
 817 to inverse relations [43, 184]. A link prediction approach can then easily learn to predict a test  
 818 triple  $(t, r^{-1}, h)$  if triple  $(h, r, t)$  is in the train set, where  $r^{-1}$  denotes the inverse relation of  $r$ .  
 819 Two filtered versions named FB15k-237 [184] and WN18RR [43] were thus created by filtering  
 820 such triples, to avoid spurious performance measures. Nevertheless, patterns such as inversion,  
 821 symmetry, hierarchy or composition and their capture by KGE models are now argued to be of  
 822 interest, especially if adequately considered in the experimental and evaluation setting [118, 24].  
 823 In particular, some authors claim that test triples should be inferrable from patterns learned  
 824 and premises existing in the train set. This imposes additional constraints when constituting

825 datasets but enables to evaluate the ability of KGE models to efficiently model, capture, and  
826 implement those patterns [118, 24]. In this view, train sets should contain samples of premises and  
827 conclusions of the considered patterns to learn. Test sets should contain conclusions that can be  
828 inferred from patterns learned and premises in train sets. This empirical evaluation is of interest to  
829 substantiate some theoretical guarantees of model design or, conversely, to outline some unexpected  
830 abilities. For instance, some KGE models such as ROTATE [177] are theoretically designed to  
831 capture patterns such as symmetry, antisymmetry, inversion, and composition and should be  
832 evaluated accordingly. It follows that detecting (and potentially removing) some patterns is an  
833 important step of dataset preprocessing. For now, detection (and removal) of inverses is performed  
834 statistically, as featured in the AYNEC/AYNEXT system [10, 170]. They detect whether two  
835 relations  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are inverses of each other if some proportions of triples involving  $r_1$  have their  
836 counterpart involving  $r_2$ . The identification of other patterns also relies on statistical approaches  
837 such as rule mining for their detection [118]. It is noteworthy that ontologies provide definitions of  
838 inverses, symmetric predicates and hierarchies of properties and classes. Hence, besides statistical  
839 approaches, ontological axioms should be taken into account to detect or implement patterns.  
840 Indeed, train sets could be completely based on ontological axioms and deductive reasoning to  
841 feature the needed patterns to learn or remove some unwanted ones.

842 Also, we previously outlined the interest in studying the role and usage of background knowledge  
843 in ML models. For now, datasets are often regarded as simple graph data without consideration for  
844 (or association with) additional knowledge potentially provided by ontologies. Beside improving  
845 datasets by adding triples respecting patterns or removing unwanted ones, the association of  
846 ontological axioms with datasets could support the development of learning techniques, settings,  
847 and models that consider them, following our claim for further consideration of knowledge in  
848 KGE models. To illustrate, instead of enriching datasets with triples respecting patterns, models  
849 could be evaluated on their ability to consider patterns stated by ontological axioms to predict  
850 missing triples in the test set. It is noteworthy that knowledge is already leveraged to enrich  
851 the training process in some proposals. For instance, Type-Constrained Negative Sampling [98]  
852 replaces the head or the tail of a triple with an entity of the same type when generating negative  
853 triples. d'Amato *et al.* [36] use a reasoner to deduce additional triples from axioms defining  
854 equivalent classes, equivalent properties, inverses, or subclasses. Similarly, Iana and Paulheim [79]  
855 test whether materializing all triples induced by transitive properties, symmetric properties, and  
856 sub-properties leads to improved embeddings. Ontological information is also needed to evaluate  
857 the semantics captured by KGE models. In this view, Jain *et al.* [80] relies on the existence  
858 of types of entities. They learn embeddings on the YAGO3-10 and FB15k-237 datasets with  
859 various KGE models and then use these embeddings to predict entity types with classification or  
860 clustering approaches. Their analysis shows that semantic representation in the embedding space  
861 is not universal across models. In a similar fashion, the DLCC node classification benchmark  
862 was introduced to evaluate the capability of classification approaches to reproduce classes defined  
863 by Description Logic Constructors [150]. For example, the constructor  $\exists r.T$  is used to group  
864 nodes having a particular outgoing relation. Interestingly, they propose two gold standards: one  
865 based on the real graph DBpedia and another synthetic standard that is generated by a gold  
866 standard generator publicly available. The analysis of ontological information captured by KGE  
867 models also motivates new metrics besides traditional metrics such as precision, recall, Hits@ $K$ ,  
868 or Mean Reciprocal Rank. For example, Hubert *et al.* introduced the Sem@ $K$  metric [76, 75, 77]  
869 to measure the number of predicted triples that respect domain and range of relations among the  
870 top- $K$  predicted triples. This metric can thus be seen as measuring the ability of KGE models  
871 to capture the semantic profiles of relations. The aforementioned work highlights an interest in  
872 using ontological information in KGE model design, learning process, or evaluation. Consequently,



we advocate for the further development of benchmark datasets that include various ontological axioms, separately or combined. The availability of such datasets would in turn encourage and support the development of neuro-symbolic methods leveraging such axioms. However, it is noteworthy that not all current benchmarks offer the ontological information that is needed by particular approaches. That is why some authors resort to synthetic KG generators [125, 150], sometimes with a fixed ontology. To further this research direction, synthetic KG generators should be enriched with the synthetic generation of schemas with different levels of expressiveness and constructs. This would allow an on-demand generation of specific ontologies and knowledge graphs featuring the needed ontological axioms.

To further support the research community, we also call for a more systematic approach in the development, characterisation, and collection of benchmark datasets. For now, benchmark datasets (or versions of) are scattered across several repositories such as GitHub or Zenodo. This leads to some of them being widely adopted (*e.g.*, FB15k-237) and some other to be only re-used in a few papers. A unified repository, similar to the UCI Machine Learning repository<sup>19</sup>, is needed to encourage their reuse and adoption by the community. Constituting such a repository first requires to crawl (semi-)automatically several sources, including GitHub or Zenodo, and links in papers available in digital libraries, arXiv, or PapersWithCode. Additionally, given that different approaches may leverage different characteristics of datasets (*e.g.*, DL constructors [150], sub-properties [36, 79], domain and range of predicates [78], patterns in train and test sets [118]), datasets should be qualified w.r.t. the presence or absence of these characteristics. This would help researchers and developers to select suitable datasets to evaluate their approaches. To this aim, scalable automatic methods need to be developed to crawl and analyse KG-based datasets in the wild and detect a broad range of characteristics including those aforementioned. This qualification process will produce metadata that enrich usual dataset metadata such as providers, or licence. To represent these new dataset metadata, an additional perspective thus lies in extending existing ontologies describing datasets (*e.g.*, VoID, DCAT). Ontologies introduced to describe mining processes and their features such as DMOP [89] could offer sources of inspiration in this matter.

## 4 Conclusion

The interrelation between knowledge graphs and machine learning has been supporting advances in both fields. Machine learning methods have indeed allowed efficient construction and refinement of large knowledge graphs. Conversely, knowledge graphs have been leveraged in various machine learning tasks to improve performance, *e.g.*, in question answering, or image classification.

However, this interrelation still does not consider parts of knowledge graphs and ML methods summarised in Table 1 that we deem important and offering promising research directions. In particular, we believe KGs constitute a major structure for prompting Large Languages Models and could allow researchers to formalise interactions (*e.g.*, providing contexts in prompts, or deciding prompt sequencing). Additionally, rich semantics of KGs and knowledge actionable by various forms of reasoning capabilities could benefit KGE models through a deeper integration. This could lead to improved performance, or a better handling or generation of informative negatives which are essential in model learning. Regarding informative negatives, we also believe that symbol-based ML, which is particularly adapted to the symbolic structure of KGs, could provide an interesting perspective, especially with the mining of disjointness axioms. KGs are human- and machine-interpretable, and thus are a promising structure on which construct in-model interpretable ML models. Nevertheless, the infusion of KGs directly within ML models and an

<sup>19</sup><https://archive.ics.uci.edu/>



917 actual demonstration of the production of more interpretable and reliable explanations are open  
 918 challenges. To assess improved performance or interpretability of ML models thanks to KGs,  
 919 extensive experimental evaluations are needed, which require datasets showcasing different levels  
 920 of semantics, or schema constructs to assess their individual impacts. That is why, we also call for  
 921 a more systematic collection and characterization of datasets, as well as the creation of synthetic  
 922 KG generators to enrich the collection of available benchmarks.

923 In our view, such integrations and interactions open promising challenges to foster both fields  
 924 of research. We believe these directions to be stepping stones to place KGs as central assets  
 925 towards neuro-symbolic and explainable AI.

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