DQ-MeeRKat: Automating Data Quality Monitoring with a Reference-Data-Profile-Annotated Knowledge Graph

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Abstract: High data quality (e.g., completeness, accuracy, non-redundancy) is essential to ensure the trustworthiness of AI applications. In such applications, huge amounts of data is integrated from different heterogeneous sources and complete, global domain knowledge is often not available. This scenario has a number of negative effects, in particular, it is difficult to monitor data quality centrally and manual data curation is not feasible. To overcome these problems, we developed DQ-MeeRKat, a data quality tool that implements a new method to automate data quality monitoring. DQ-MeeRKat uses a knowledge graph to represent a global, homogenized view of local data sources. This knowledge graph is annotated with reference data profiles, which serve as quasi-gold-standard to automatically verify the quality of modified data. We evaluated DQ-MeeRKat on six real-world data streams with qualitative feedback from the data owners. In contrast to existing data quality tools, DQ-MeeRKat does not require domain experts to define rules, but can be fully automated.

1 INTRODUCTION

The main motivation for this paper can be summarized with a quote from Mike Stonebraker that "without clean data, machine learning is worthless". This quote outlines the fact that the best artificial intelligence (AI) model cannot provide reliable results without high-quality training data (Fischer et al., 2021).

In a typical AI application, data is integrated from heterogeneous sources into a central repository (Stonebraker and Ilyas, 2018), which is the basis for training and testing computational models. According to the Seattle Report on Database Research (Abadi et al., 2019), the quality of data in such applications cannot be taken for granted. Despite a precise definition of ETL (extract, transform, load) processes, data quality (DQ) can vary over time, either in the source systems, or through updates or deletes in the central repository. Thus, it is crucial to monitor DQ, because undetected DQ deterioration affects data analysis results (Ehrlinger and Wöß, 2017). The next step is automation, to cope with the speed and volume of data, which quickly overwhelms any DQ monitoring effort (Sebastian-Coleman, 2013).

Motivating Example. A company from the automotive industry has several factories distributed globally. While customer data is created manually by employees, sensor data from the entire production process is collected automatically and stored in different grades of granularity. Individual departments maintain their own databases (DBs), ranging from relational DBs, over semi-structured DBs, over semi-structured JSON files, to unstructured text documents. Data comes in different variance (static master data to highly volatile data streams) and with different semantic expressiveness.

Challenges. Based on scenario above, the following challenges can be identified: (C1) DQ problems occur over the entire data lifecycle, which is partially caused by (C2) the absence of one global view on the data. (C3) Semi- and unstructured data sources do not enforce schema constraints and (C4) manual data curation is not feasible due to the large amounts of data processed in these pipelines. The decisions taken by AI applications in such a setting cannot be trusted.

Contributions. In this paper, we present DQ-MeeRKat (Automated Data Quality Measurement using a Reference-data-profile-annotated Knowledge Graph), a data quality tool, which addresses (C1–C4) and enables automated DQ monitoring (ADQM) in real-world AI applications. DQ-MeeRKat combines the aspects of semantic data integration using...
a knowledge graph (KG) with our newly introduced reference data profiles (RDPs) for ADQM. The applicability of DQ-MeeRKat is demonstrated and evaluated with six data streams provided by Tributech Solutions GmbH. The significant advantage of DQ-MeeRKat in contrast to existing DQ tools is the fully automated RDP-based approach into DQ monitoring, which does not require domain experts to define rules.

2 RELATED WORK

ADQM describes the calculation and storage of DQ measurements over time to ensure that the qualitative condition of the data remains stable (Ehrlinger and Wöß, 2017; Sebastian-Coleman, 2013). Ehrlinger and Wöß (2017) defined the requirements for ADQM as follows: (R1) defining a DQ measurement strategy, (R2) setting up a DQ repository to store DQ measurement results over time, (R3) defining the analysis and visualization of the DQ time series, and (R4) automating (i.e., scheduling) of DQ measurement. While (R2–4) depend on the implementation, the question “how DQ should actually be measured” is not trivial and according to (Sebastian-Coleman, 2013) one of the biggest challenges for DQ practitioners. The state of the art offers two attempts to measure DQ: (1) the theoretical perspective based on DQ dimensions and metrics, and (2) the practitioners perspective implemented in most DQ tools. Following, we discuss the limitations of both perspectives for ADQM and explain the advantages of our RDP-based approach.

2.1 The Theoretical Perspective

(Wang and Strong, 1996) suggest to start a DQ project with the selection of DQ dimensions (e.g., completeness, accuracy, timeliness), which are then objectively measured with DQ metrics (i.e., functions that represent a dimension’s fulfillment with a numerical value (Heinrich et al., 2018)). Although DQ dimensions and metrics are commonly cited in DQ research, a wide variety of definitions and classifications exist for both DQ dimensions (Scannapieco and Catari, 2002) and DQ metrics (Heinrich et al., 2018; Pipino et al., 2005). The following limitations appear when using DQ dimensions and metrics for ADQM:

- **Ambiguous Definitions.** Due to the wide variety of definitions and classifications, practitioners often find it unclear to decide which DQ dimensions and metrics should be used for DQ measurement in a specific context (Sebastian-Coleman, 2013).

- **DQ Metrics are Not Practically Applicable.** (Bronseth et al., 2018) point out that the majority of DQ metrics, specifically those that adhere to the requirements for DQ metrics defined by (Heinrich et al., 2018), cannot be well interpreted and lack sound aggregation properties. Many DQ metrics also rely on the existence of a gold standard (a perfect reference), which is often not available in practice (Ehrlinger et al., 2018). Only few DQ tools actually implement DQ metrics, and these implementations are most often applicable on attribute-level only (Ehrlinger et al., 2019).

2.2 The Practitioners Perspective

Most general-purpose DQ tools (e.g., Oracle EDQ, SAS, Talend, Informatica as investigated by (Ehrlinger et al., 2019)) support a domain expert in the creation of rules to resolve specific DQ problems, such as, duplicate records or missing values. According to (Stonebraker and Ilyas, 2018), humans can capture at most 500 rules, which is too little to solve big data problems, but their creation is still a very time-consuming and complex task for domain experts. DQ-MeeRKat circumvents the manual creation of DQ rules by implementing RDPs, which can be initialized automatically.

Most DQ implementations from the DB community focus on solving “point problems”, e.g., algorithms for specific challenges (Abadi et al., 2019). In addition to rule-based approaches, there exist a number of DQ tools dedicated to pattern-based error detection, outlier detection, or data deduplication. All of these tools are dedicated to a specific domain or DQ task (Ehrlinger et al., 2019).

The most similar tool to DQ-MeeRKat in terms of holistic DQ measurement is HoloDetect (Heidari et al., 2019). In contrast to DQ-MeeRKat, HoloDetect focuses on single tabular data files and does not consider non-relational data sources. A further difference is the use of neural networks to learn error representations, whereas we argue that explainability is a core requirement for DQ measurement and therefore focus on clearly interpretable statistics in the RDPs.

3 DQ-MeeRKat: APPROACH AND IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the previous research in Section 2, we suggest to use reference data profiles for ADQM. A RDP is a composition of different data profiling tasks, which can be calculated automatically and represent...
a quasi-gold-standard to verify whether DQ continues to conform to requirements. Figure 1 shows an overview of the approach on how to perform ADQM with RDPs. It is distinguished between two phases:

1. **Initialization**. Each input data source is described with a set of schema elements in the KG (cf. Section 3.1.1). For each schema element, a new RDP is calculated and annotated, which stores information about the desired target quality of the respective element (cf. Section 3.1.2).

2. **DQ Monitoring**. During runtime, current data profiles (DPs) are calculated on-the-fly, which have the same skeletal structure as their corresponding RDPs. In each DQ measurement run, the current DP is verified against its RDP. Deviating conformance can trigger an alert and is stored in a conformance report (CR).

Our RDP-based method for ADQM has the following advantages compared to existing solutions:

**Data and Domain-independent Solution.** While most DQ tools allow DQ measurement on single tabular files (Ehrlinger et al., 2019), the KG allows to investigate multiple heterogeneous data sources at once.

**Automation.** Initialization of DQ-MeeRKat, i.e., the creation of the KG (consisting of schema elements and their annotated RDPs) can be done fully automatically. This automated step replaces the arduous manual DQ rule creation (Stonebraker and Ilyas, 2018).

**DQ Dimensions Not Required.** In contrast to the dimension-oriented perspective on DQ, it is also not necessary to develop DQ metrics and to try to map them to DQ dimensions. Prior research shows that very little generally applicable DQ metrics exist and that they need to be developed separately for specific domains (Bronselaer et al., 2018; Sebastian-Coleman, 2013). The RDP-based approach can be interpreted as a measure-centered view with the aim to measure what can be measured, and that automatically.

Figure 2 shows the architecture of DQ-MeeRKat with the Java runtime environment in the center. In alignment with the indices, we first describe the components for the initialization phase: (3.1.1) data source connectors and data source description (DSD) elements as the semantic abstraction layer for accessing heterogeneous data sources, (3.1.2) the creation of RDPs and how they are annotated to DSD elements, and (3.1.3) GraphDB to store the entire KG. Section 3.2 covers the components to deploy DQ-MeeRKat for ADQM: (3.2.1) storage of DQ measurements over time with InfluxDB, and (3.2.2) visualization of the DQ time series with Grafana.

### 3.1 Components for Initialization Phase

#### 3.1.1 Connectors and DSD Elements

For initializing the KG with semantic information from different data sources, e.g., relational DBs, CSV files, or NoSQL DBs, the data source connectors of the DQ tool QuaIIe (Ehrlinger et al., 2018) have been reused. The connectors enable access to heterogeneous data sources and transform their schema to a semantic abstraction layer using the DSD vocabulary\(^3\). Here, we list the most important terms and refer for details on the connectors to (Ehrlinger et al., 2018):

\(^3\)Download the DSD vocabulary: http://dqm.faw.jku.at
• A **Datasource** represents one schema of an information source and has a type (e.g., relational DB) and an arbitrary number of concepts.

• A **Concept** is a real-world object type and can, e.g., be a table in a relational DB.

• An **Attribute** is a property of a concept or an association; e.g., the column “first_name” provides information about the concept “employees”.

We refer to these terms jointly as “DSD elements”. During the initialization, the KG is created by mapping all data source schemas to their semantic representation in the graph. This step is a prerequisite for comparing the quality of similar elements (e.g., two tables storing customers) from different data sources. To complete the KG, each DSD element is annotated with a RDF. Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of the schema graph with the DSD elements (white) along with their annotated RDPs (green). Note that the schema graph is more complex than a simple tree, but relationships (i.e., associations) have been omitted for clarity. The mirrored RDF graph is actually a tree where higher-level RDPs (e.g., on concept or data source level) are partially based on metrics of lower-level RDPs.

### 3.1.2 Initialization of Reference Data Profiles

During initialization, each DSD element is annotated with a RDP, which model the qualitative target state of the respective element. A RDP contains a set of data profiling (DP) statistics, which are grouped into DP categories and have three properties in common: a label for its identification, a value representing the value determined by the statistic, and a valueClass storing the corresponding data type of the value. The valueClass allows an automated selection of the correct computation process. Table 1 outlines the current structure of the RDPs (with respect to DP categories and statistics) as well as the values for one data stream (cf. Section 4.4 for details). Deviations from this target state are reported and need to be further investigated.

We used the work on data profiling by (Abedjan et al., 2019) as starting point to populate our RDPs. The current version of DQ-MeeRKat supports all single-column DP tasks from (Abedjan et al., 2019), which are listed in Table 1, including information like the number of distinct or null values, data types of attributes, or occurring patterns and their frequency (e.g., formatting of telephone numbers) (Abedjan et al., 2019). The evaluation of all remaining DP tasks from (Abedjan et al., 2019) is part of our ongoing research. Specifically, we are currently working on the incorporation of multi-column DP tasks and ML models for outlier detection.

### Table 1: RDP Structure and Values for ACC-UoD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DP Category</th>
<th>DP Statistic</th>
<th>ACC-UoD Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardinals</td>
<td>RDP size</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of nulls</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of nulls</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number distinct</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uniqueness</td>
<td>17.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data types,</td>
<td>Basic type</td>
<td>Numeric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patterns,</td>
<td>Data type</td>
<td>Double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and domains</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>8.7966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>12.2485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>10.2310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>10.2185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td>0.3736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean absolute deviation</td>
<td>0.2256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of digits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of decimals</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histogram</td>
<td>Number of classes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Class range</td>
<td>0.3138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bucket values</td>
<td>[4, 10, 60, 223, 376, 240, 62, 16, 4, 2, 3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependencies</td>
<td>Key candidate</td>
<td>false</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.1.3 Knowledge Graph Store

Knowledge graphs have become a powerful tool to manage domain knowledge since their core strength are (1) semantic data modeling, (2) enabling a homogenized view of integrated data sources, and (3) inference of new facts with a reasoner (Hogan et al., 2019).

DQ-MeeRKat uses a KG to store the global domain knowledge (consisting of single schema descriptions) and their RDPs. Our schema descriptions are based on the DSD vocabulary (Ehrlinger et al., 2018), which is an extension of the W3C standards Resource Description Framework (RDF) 4 and Web Ontology Language (OWL) 5. Since RDF and OWL support is required to import and process DSD, we use GraphDB 6, formerly “OWLIM” (Kiryakov et al., 2005), as KG store for DQ-MeeRKat. In contrast to other investigated graph DBs (like AllegroGraph or Virtuoso), it met all performance requirements for our use case and integrated seamlessly with DQ-MeeRKat and frameworks like RDF4J since it is fully implemented in Java (Ledvinka and Kremen, 2019).

### 3.2 Components for DQ Monitoring

After the initialization phase of DQ-MeeRKat, which is ideally performed on a cleaned subset of the data, the quality of modified (i.e., inserted, updated, or

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4https://www.w3.org/RDF
5https://www.w3.org/OWL
6http://graphdb.ontotext.com
deleted) data in the data sources can be continuously checked by comparing it to the respective RDP. In each ADQM run, DQ-MeeRKat creates a new current DP for each DSD element in the KG. These DPs have the same skeletal structure as the RDP described in Section 3.1.2. In addition to the three basic properties (label, value, and valueClass), the current DPs also store the reference to their respective RDP. Thus, each DP statistic could be verified independently.

Based on the foundations for ADQM (Ehrlinger and Woß, 2017), there are (in addition to automation and the selection of a proper DQ measurement method) two more requirements for deploying our framework over time: (3.2.1) to persist DQ measurements with a timestamp, which indicates when the measurement was taken, and (3.2.2) to visualize the measurements to allow human supervision of outliers and tracking the DQ development over time.

### 3.2.1 Data Quality Repository

We used InfluxDB to store DQ measurements over time, which is the most popular time series DB according to DB-Engines and according to the discussion by (Naqvi et al., 2017) suitable for our use case. The enterprise version would also allow visualization, which could be used instead of Grafana.

### 3.2.2 Visualization

Since DQ is usually perceived as subjective and domain-dependent concept (Wang and Strong, 1996), it is key to visualize the generated time series data for the assessment through domain experts (complementary to automated post-analysis). Although it is possible to use any visualization on top of InfluxDB, we employed the well-known open-source software Grafana, which is also recommended by (Naqvi et al., 2017). Grafana offers a customizable user interface (UI) that is divided into dashboards, which group DP statistics into separate visualization cases.

### 4 DEMONSTRATION AND EVALUATION

In this section, we demonstrate and evaluate the initialization (of the RDPs) as well as DQ monitoring with DQ-MeeRKat. The data and setup used for the experiments is described in Section 4.1. Following, we conducted a qualitative evaluation in Section 4.2 and demonstrate the applicability of DQ-MeeRKat by means of two experiments: (1) to monitor the quality of batch-loaded data in Section 4.3, and (2) to monitor the quality of streaming data in Section 4.4.

#### 4.1 Evaluation Data and Setup

For the evaluation, we used the six real-world data streams listed in Table 2, which were recorded by an automotive telematic device. The data was provided by Tributech Solutions GmbH, an Austrian company that offers a solution for the audability of provisioned data streams. In addition to the values collected by the sensors, each data stream contains information about the vehicle in which the device was mounted, a timestamp, a description of the sensor, the source system, the controller, and the device group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Records</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACC-BoF</td>
<td>23,194</td>
<td>Acceleration measures whether the driver is braking or pushing forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC-Sis</td>
<td>23,194</td>
<td>Lateral movement (acceleration – side to side)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC-UoD</td>
<td>23,194</td>
<td>Acceleration - up or down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Voltage</td>
<td>7,275</td>
<td>Device voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-RPM</td>
<td>11,316</td>
<td>Engine revolutions per minute (RPM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Speed</td>
<td>11,316</td>
<td>Engine speed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Evaluation Data Sets.

DQ-MeeRKat is available on GitHub to support further evaluations and repeatability. We used InfluxDB version 1.7.7.1 and Grafana version 6.2.5. Information on how to install the external requirements to execute this demo are provided on GitHub.

Four steps are necessary to initialize DQ-MeeRKat and to create a set of RDPs: (1) establish the connection to the data sources, (2) load the schema information, (3) add the schema information to the KG, and (4) start the automated creation of the RDP for all DSD elements in the KG. In the following, we simulated a setting with heterogeneous data sources by storing each data streams in a different DB. The ACC-BoF data stream is accessed through a Cassandra connector and the ACC-UoD data stream through the CSV connector.

```java
// Connectors
ConnectorCassandra conn1 = new ConnectorCassandra(...);
ConnectorCSV conn2 = new ConnectorCSV("path/ACC-UoD.csv", ",", ",", "ACC-UoD");
DataSource dsBoF = conn1.loadSchema();
DataSource dsUoD = conn2.loadSchema();
```

The class DSDKnowledgeGraph allows to handle multiple DSD DataSource objects.
With the following statement, all elements within the KG are traversed and a new RDP is created for each of them. The parameter \( RDP\_SIZE \) denotes the number of records used to calculate the RDP.

\[ \text{kg.addDataProfile}( RDP\_SIZE ); \]

After the initial configuration of the RDPs, a current DP is created for each batch, which is then stored in InfluxDB with the respective timestamp.

\[
\text{InfluxDBConnection inf = new InfluxDBConnection();}
\text{kg.addProfilesToInflux(inf);}\]

### 4.2 Qualitative Evaluation

To evaluate the quality of automatically generated RDPs and to verify how much refactoring by domain experts is required after the initialization phase, we consulted the data owners from Tributech Solutions GmbH to verify the RDPs for the provided data streams. While Table 1 shows the RDP for the ACC-UoD data stream value, all other RDPs created in the course of this evaluation are available online\(^{10}\).

The feedback is summarized as follows:

- **RDP Quality:** after detailed investigation, the automatically generated RDPs were found to be plausible and to fit the provided data streams very well. No surprising information and none that contradicts the underlying data was found.

- **Practical Relevance:** since Tributech deals with the auditability of provisioned data streams\(^2\), our contact saw the major benefit of our RDP-based method in the automation of data stream monitoring. From the currently implemented statistics in the RDPs, uniqueness and domain information (such as minimum, maximum, median, average, and standard deviation) are specifically relevant parameters for this use case.

Generally, practical viability is hard to test without a large user study. However, the feedback from Tributech indicates the general practical relevance of the current development status of DQ-MeeRKat.

The data owners proposed the following enhancements to continue improving the value of DQ-MeeRKat for deployment in practice: (1) to support the verification of patterns in the data, e.g., to continuously monitor a specifically modeled temperature curve in production data, (2) to take changes in the RDP over time into account, e.g., when the occupancy rate of a machine depends on the day of the week, and (3) to enhance the interpretability for the end user, e.g., by adding guidelines and clear descriptions of the RDPs for less experienced users.

### 4.3 Experiment 1: Monitor the Quality of Batch-loaded Data

In integration scenarios, data is usually loaded batch-wise (e.g., via an ETL process) in periodic intervals into a data warehouse or data lake (Giebler et al., 2019). The task of an ADQM tool in such settings is to verify whether the newly loaded data continues to conform to the requirements modeled in the RDP. To apply DQ-MeeRKat in real-world ETL scenarios, we implemented the necessary extensions to use it as plugin for the data integration tool Pentaho\(^11\).

When performing RDP-based ADQM with batch-loaded data, 3 parameters need to be set: (1) a threshold \( \text{Threshold} \) to verify the conformance of a current DP to its corresponding RDP, (2) the batch size \( \text{bs} \), and (3) the number of records to learn the RDP \( \text{RDP size rs} \). To obtain the optimal parameter settings, we performed an evaluation of the influence of the three parameters on the average RDP conformance reported to the user (cf. Figure 3). To simulate a scenario with batch-loaded data, we grouped single records from the data streams to batches and verified whether the current DPs of the batch loaded at point \( t \) conforms to its corresponding RDP. The transformation of streaming data to batches with “window functions” is a common technique to analyze data streams (Meng et al., 2016).

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\(^{10}\)RDPs to this evaluation: https://github.com/lisehr/dq-meerkat/tree/master/documentation/TributechRDPs

for our data. Interestingly, the RDP conformance can deteriorate with an increasing number of records for learning the RDPs or current data profiles. This shows that the selection of larger batch sizes (time windows) moves the conformance focus from time-local information to time-global information.

Table 3 shows the conformance report of all six data streams using the parameter setting determined in Figure 3. It can be seen that all variables (third column) except for the attribute “value” conform perfectly to their corresponding RDP over time. Since the sensor values are the only variables with a relatively high variability, some values exceed the boundaries defined in the RDP when monitoring the entire data. This conformance report can be repeated for different data sets by executing RDP-ConformanceTributechData.java from the GitHub demos/repeatability folder.

Table 3: RDP Conformance of Stream Data “Value” with Threshold=0.1 and RDP Size=1,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CR % Value</th>
<th>Value bs=1,000</th>
<th>Value bs=1</th>
<th>Other Variables bs=1,000 ∨ 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACC-BoF</td>
<td>89.75</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC-StS</td>
<td>86.34</td>
<td>99.98</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC-UoD</td>
<td>93.17</td>
<td>94.73</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Voltage</td>
<td>94.90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-RPM</td>
<td>94.81</td>
<td>96.87</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Speed</td>
<td>75.97</td>
<td>86.71</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Experiment 2: Monitor the Quality of Streaming Data

Grouping of multiple streaming records (i.e., windowing) allows for the calculation of aggregates and complex statistics (Meng et al., 2016). Comparing only single records to their respective RDP precludes the use of some statistics presented in Table 1, because they are either not calculable (e.g., variance) or loose their semantic meaning (e.g., mean).

The third column in Table 3 shows the conformance report of all six data stream values using the same threshold and RDP size as for the batch data experiment, but considers single records only. All other variables (cf. fourth column) show the same perfect conformance (100 %) as in the previous experiment.

It can be seen that the overall conformance of the values is higher than with the batch-based conformance checks. Since no aggregation statistics are compared but only (automatically generated) boundaries are checked, the proportion of statistics that do not concern numeric variance (e.g., domain constraints, number of null values) is higher. This data set contains only numeric deviations in DQ with respect to the sensor values. Both experiments have their application in practice: experiment 1 for ETL-based data integration scenarios and experiment 2 for the conformance verification of sensor or other streaming data that is not preprocessed by window functions. This evaluation shows the differences between the two use cases and that compliance ratings may not be directly comparable between different systems and parameterizations.

The generation of conformance reports as demonstrated so far is useful for automated post-processing. Each record exceeding the RDP boundaries can trigger an alert or an automated DQ countermeasure can be set in place (e.g., the imputation of a missing value). In other applications, the visualization of the DQ time series to a user might be more interesting. Figure 4 shows an excerpt of the Grafana dashboard. The green line in Figure 4 represents the current values of the data stream ACC-BoF. The minimum and maximum values in the RDPs are colored (dark and light) red, average and median (dark and light) blue, and the standard deviation in purple. After a longer time of DQ monitoring, the ACC-BoF value suddenly increases to 8.00, which clearly exceeds the maximum value of 4.44 as defined in the RDP. Following, an automatic alert could be raised, which triggers subsequent actions, e.g., prevents the data to be stored in a central data store or requires intervention of a domain expert. The visualization dashboard can be invoked by executing DemoStreamingData.java from demos/repeatability and further visualizations are provided in the documentation/adqm-screenhots folder of the GitHub repository.
5 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

In this paper, we presented DQ-MeeRKat, a tool that implements a reference-data-profile-annotated KG for automated DQ monitoring. We demonstrated its applicability to (i) automatically learn RDPs for heterogeneous data sources, and (ii) to calculate new DPs on-the-fly to verify that newly inserted or updated data continues to conform to the constraints stored in the RDPs. We are currently working on and planning the following extensions:

- A UI to enable RDP refinement for domain experts (cf. suggestion (3) by Tributech).
- As already incorporated in our vision, DQ-MeeRKat aims to actively support the storage of different versions per RDP.
- The overall vision for DQ-MeeRKat is to create a comprehensive “AI-based surveillance state”, which is capable of characterizing various kinds of data to detect drifts and anomalies in DQ at the earliest possible stage. Thus, we are going to enhance our RDPs with more complex statistics and ML models, which are able to capture patterns in the data (cf. suggestion (1) by Tributech). We will focus on white-box models only since it is crucial that statements about DQ are always explainable.

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