



**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



# TeDS: Joint Learning of Diachronic and Synchronic Perspectives in Quaternion Space for Temporal Knowledge Graph Completion

---

Jiujiang Guo<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Mankun Zhao<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Wenbin Zhang<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Tianyi Xu<sup>1 2 3</sup>,  
Linying Xu<sup>1</sup>, Jian Yu<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Mei Yu<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Ruiguo Yu<sup>1 2 3 \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Intelligence and Computing, Tianjin University

<sup>2</sup>Tianjin Key Laboratory of Advanced Networking, Tianjin University

<sup>3</sup>Tianjin Key Laboratory of Cognitive Computing and Application, Tianjin University

## Background



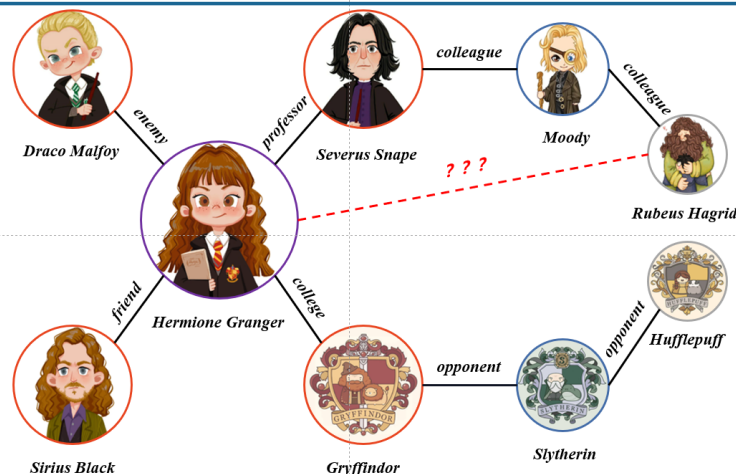
**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



Knowledge Graph(KGs)

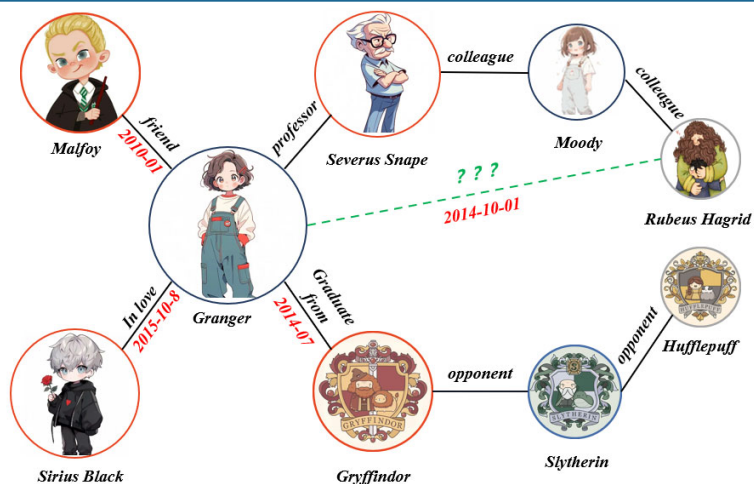
SKGs

Static  
Knowledge Graph



TKGs

Temporal  
Knowledge Graph



Google



Baidu



Wikidata



Yago

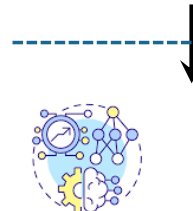


Bing



OpenKG

Large-Scale  
Knowledge Graph



Intelligent Financial  
Data Analysis



Natural  
Language  
Processing



Intelligent  
Information  
Retrieval



Intelligent  
Prediction



Question  
Answering



Intelligent  
Healthcare

Downstream  
Applications

# Motivation



**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



**Highlight Summary.** Existing temporal knowledge graph completion research regards temporal information as supplementary, failing to observe various **features** and **trajectories** that facts can present from a temporal perspective.



Inspired by the structuralist linguist Ferdinand de Saussure's perspective on temporal contexts (**diachronicity** and **synchronicity**), the characteristics of temporalized facts can be summarized as follows:

(a) **Diachronicity**: Facts often exhibit varying **characteristics** and **developmental trends** across different temporal domains.

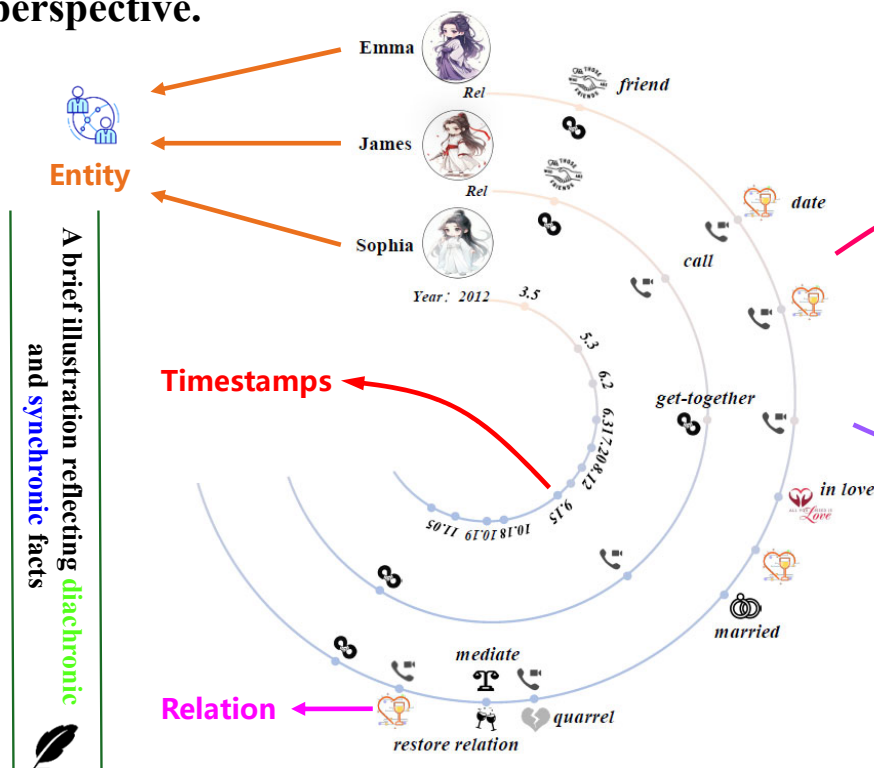
In **March**, James is friends with Emma and Sophia. By **May** and **June**, James starts dating Emma, and their relation progresses smoothly into a romantic one by July. Meanwhile, James remains ordinary friends with Sophia.

(b) **Synchronicity**: In specific temporal contexts, various relations between entities often **influence each other**, thereby generating **latent semantics**.

In **May** and **June**, relation between Emma and James noticeably becomes closer, showing signs of ambiguity. Meanwhile, during this period, James and Sophia only have one call, remaining ordinary friends.



The above perspectives (**Synchronic Perspective** and **Diachronic Perspective**) are not entirely independent, they often **mutually depend** on and **serve as foundations for each other**. Thus, designing a unified framework to simultaneously consider both diachronicity and synchronicity is an interesting work.





**Motivation Summary.** Inspired by structuralist linguist Ferdinand de Saussure's perspective on temporal scenarios, we summarize the properties of temporalized facts as follows:

- (a) **Diachronicity:** Facts often exhibit varying **characteristics** and **developmental trends** across different temporal domains
- (b) **Synchronicity:** Various relations between entities often **influence each other**, thereby generating **latent semantics**.



## Synchronic perception (SP)

$$Q_{\tau_{sp}r}^{\Delta} = \frac{Q_{\tau_{sp}r}}{|Q_{\tau_{sp}r}|} = \frac{a_{s\tau} + e_{s\tau}\mathbf{i} + f_{s\tau}\mathbf{j} + g_{s\tau}\mathbf{k}}{\sqrt{a_{s\tau}^2 + e_{s\tau}^2 + f_{s\tau}^2 + g_{s\tau}^2}}$$

$$\mathcal{M} = Q_{r\tau_{sp}} \otimes Q_{\tau_{sp}r}^{\Delta}$$

$$Q_{sp} = Q_s \otimes \mathcal{M}^{\Delta}$$

Details of perception

Workflow of perception

Foundational to  
each other

Mutually  
dependent



## Diachronic perception (DP)

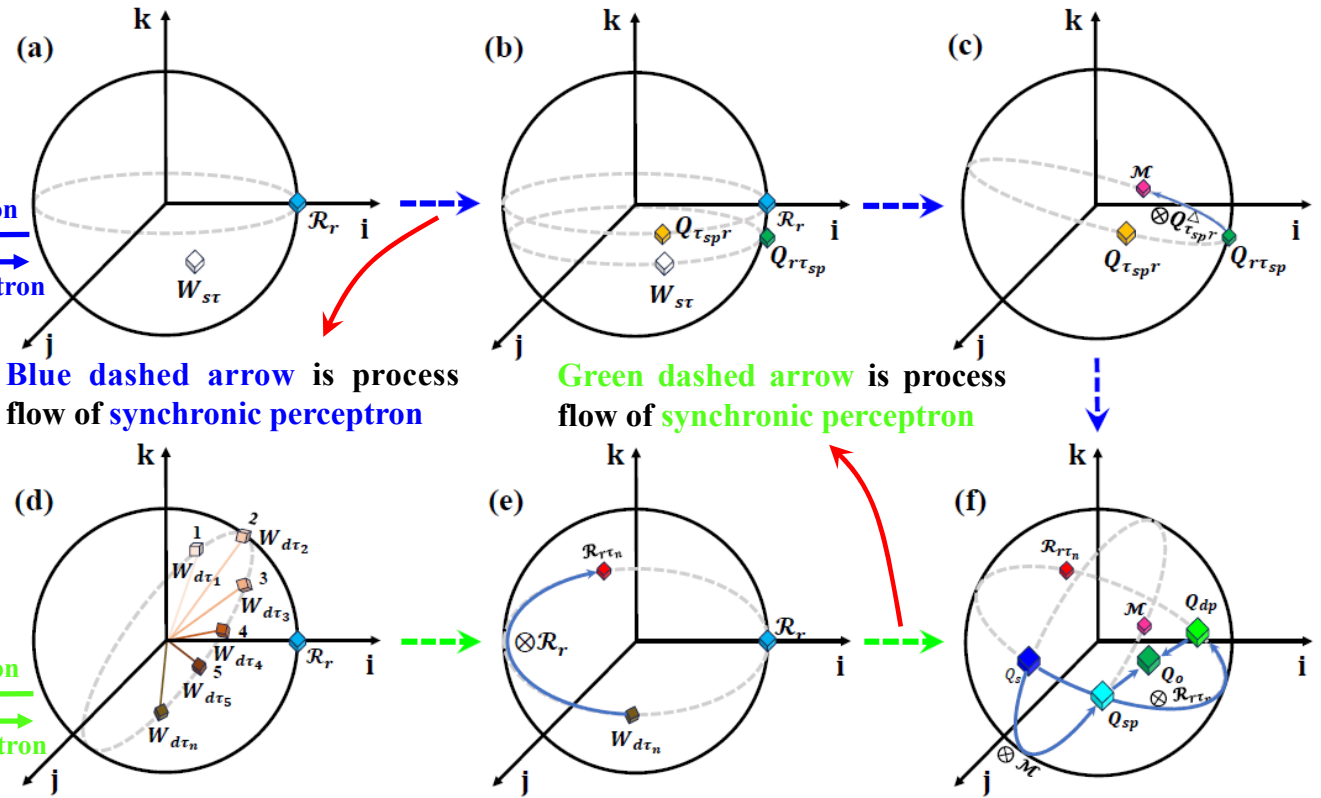
$$W_{d\tau_n} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi \mathcal{T}_n}{2T}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\pi \mathcal{T}_n}{2T}\right)e'\mathbf{i} + \sin\left(\frac{\pi \mathcal{T}_n}{2T}\right)f'\mathbf{j} + \sin\left(\frac{\pi \mathcal{T}_n}{2T}\right)g'\mathbf{k}$$

$$R_{r\tau_n} = W_{d\tau_n} \otimes R_r$$

$$Q_{dp} = Q_s \otimes R_{r\tau_n}^{\Delta}$$

Details of perception

Workflow of perception



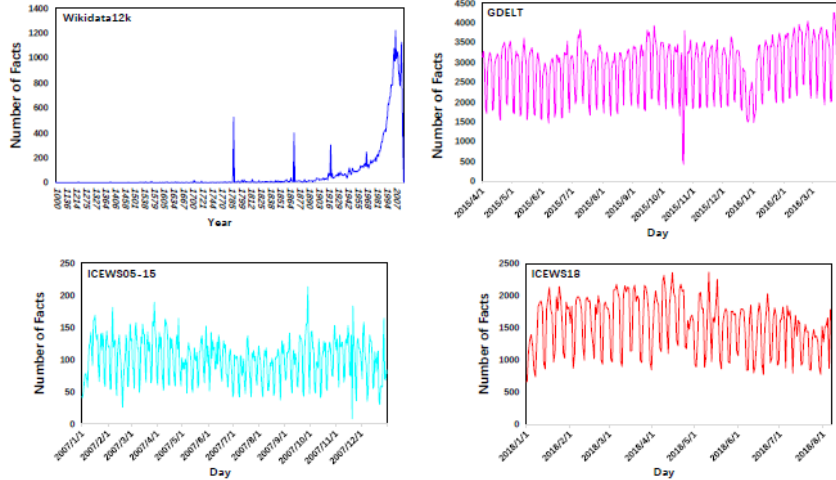
# Experiments



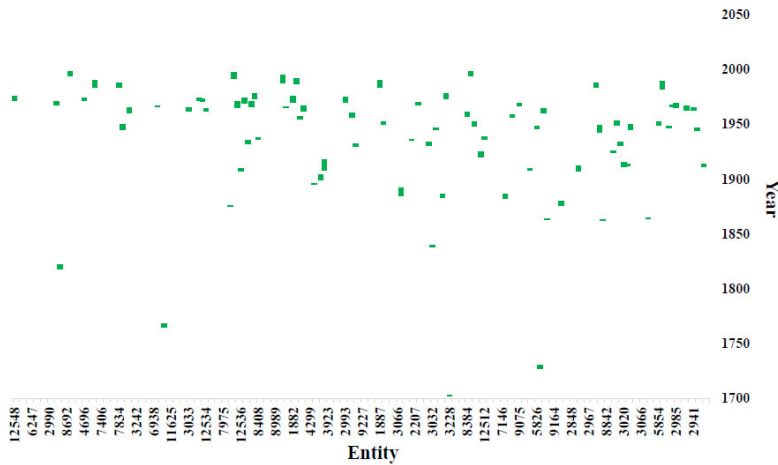
**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



Distribution of facts over time in Wikidata12k, GDELT and ICEWS



Visualization of relation educated at between entities comes from Wikidata



## Evaluation Protocol and Baselines

**MRR** calculates average score of reciprocal ranks of the relevant KGs for a given query, where a higher MRR means better performance.

**Hit@n** represents the percentage of the top n, where  $n \in \{1, 3, 10\}$ , where a higher Hit@n indicates better performance.

DE-Simple (2020), HyTE (2018), TeRo (2020), TeMP-SA (2020), TNTComplex (2020), DyERNIE (2020), ChronoR (2021), TeLM (2021), RotateQVS (2022), **TBDRI** (2023), **BTDG** (2023), **TeAST** (2023), **TuckER-FA** (2023), **ODETKGE** (2024), **SANe** (2024), **MTE** (2025), **MDRQS** (2025), **Neo-TKGC** (2025), **GLARGCN** (2025)

	ICEWS14	ICEWS05-15	ICEWS18
Entities	6,869	10,488	23,033
Relations	230	251	256
Facts	90,730	461,329	468,558
Period(year)	2014	2005-2015	2018
	YAGO11k	Wikidata12k	GDELT
Entities	10,623	12,544	500
Relations	10	24	20
Facts	20,507	40,621	3,419,607
Period(year)	1513-2017	1526-2020	2015-2016

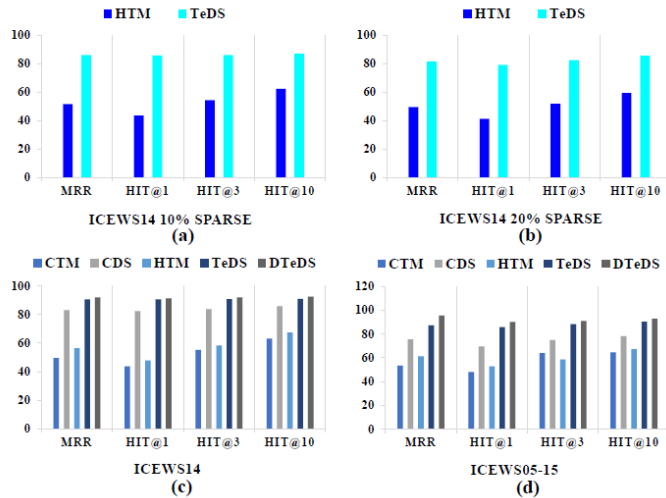
# Experiments



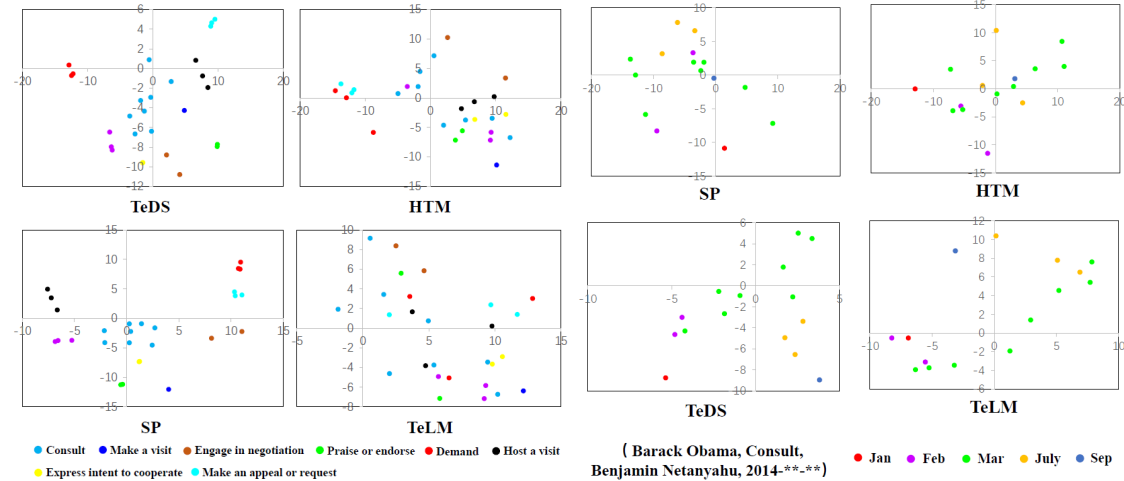
**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



Analysis of robustness and portability



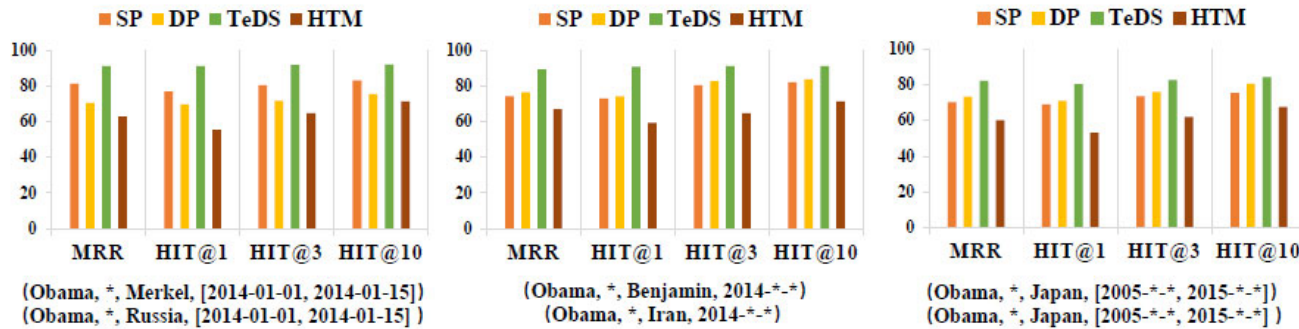
(Barack Obama,\*\*\*, Benjamin Netanyahu, [2014-01-\*\*, 2014-06-\*\*])



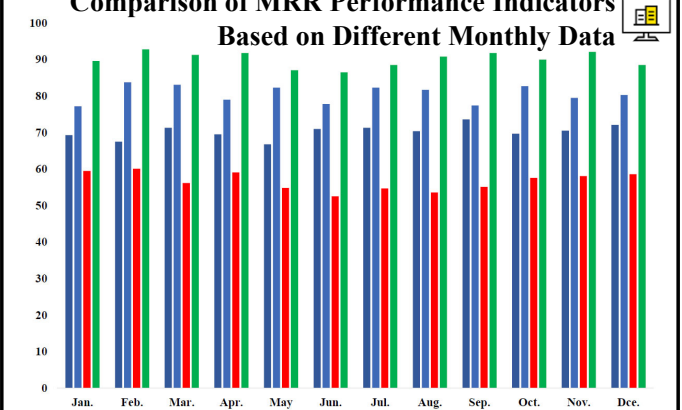
(Barack Obama, Consult, Benjamin Netanyahu, 2014-\*\*-\*\*)



Evaluation results on different quadruples in test set.



Comparison of MRR Performance Indicators Based on Different Monthly Data







**ICML**  
International Conference  
On Machine Learning



**Thank you for your attention!**