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A Method for Constructing an Urban Waterlogging Emergency Knowledge Graph Based on Spatiotemporal Processes

Wei Mao [1], Jie Shen [1,2,3,*], Qian Su [4], Sihu Liu [1], Saied Pirasteh [5] and Kunihiro Ishii [6]

1   School of Geography, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210023, China; 201302114@njnu.edu.cn (W.M.);
    221302071@njnu.edu.cn (S.L.)
2   Key Laboratory of Virtual Geographic Environment of Ministry of Education, Nanjing Normal University,
    Nanjing 210023, China
3   Jiangsu Center for Collaborative Innovation in Geographical Information Resource Development and
    Application, Nanjing 210023, China
4   ShanDong EastDawn Corporation, Jinan 250101, China; suqian@east-dawn.com.cn
5   Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Shaoxing University, Shaoxing 312000, China; sapirasteh1@usx.edu.cn
6   Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd., Tokyo 160-0023, Japan; khr.ishii@ajiko.co.jp
*   Correspondence: 09126@njnu.edu.cn

Abstract: Urban waterlogging is one of the major "diseases" faced by cities, posing a great challenge to the healthy and sustainable development of cities. The traditional geographic knowledge graph struggles to capture dynamic changes in urban waterlogging over time. Therefore, the objective of this study is to analyze the time, events, properties, geographic objects, and activities associated with urban waterlogging emergency responses from the geographic spatial and temporal processes perspective and to construct an urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph by combining top-down and bottom-up approaches. We propose a conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency response ontology based on spatiotemporal processes by analyzing the basic laws and influencing factors of urban waterlogging occurrence and development. Secondly, we describe the construction process of the urban waterlogging emergency response knowledge graph from knowledge extraction, knowledge fusion, and knowledge storage. Finally, the knowledge graph was visualized using 159 urban waterlogging events in China from 2020–2022, with a quality assessment indicating 81% correctness, 65.5% completeness, and 95% data conciseness. The results show that this method can effectively express the spatiotemporal process of an urban waterlogging emergency response and can provide a reference for the spatiotemporal modeling of the knowledge graph.

Keywords: urban waterlogging; emergency response; knowledge graph; spatiotemporal processes; ontology

1. Introduction

Urban waterlogging is a water hazard where surface runoff exceeds drainage capacity during heavy precipitation [1], leading to economic losses, transportation issues, water pollution, and social and environmental problems [2]. It is a significant challenge for healthy and sustainable urban development in cities.

Research on urban waterlogging has expanded with advancements in science and technology. Various spatial and temporal data sources, including geographic, statistical, and social media data, offer valuable resources for disaster emergency management [3]. However, the development of data application technology has been slow, and only a small portion of these data have been applied, resulting in a low proportion of data transformed into knowledge [4].

In order to better analyze geographic spatiotemporal data, obtain key knowledge from the data, analyze the relationships between geographic entities, and identify hidden geographic relationships, relevant researchers have proposed geographic knowledge

graphs [5,6]. The geographic knowledge graph is a way to organize knowledge in the field of geography into a graph, which can structure and semantically express the information of geographic information, geographic entities, geographic relationships, and geographic phenomena to realize the intelligent processing and application of geographic knowledge [7,8]. However, traditional geographic knowledge graphs mainly describe static facts and struggle to represent changes [9]. Current research mainly focuses on the construction of geographic entities and relationships, but the representation of geographic spatiotemporal process knowledge is neglected, which greatly limits its application in disaster emergency spatiotemporal processes. How to represent and analyze the spatiotemporal process knowledge of urban waterlogging emergency is an urgent problem, which is the key to spatiotemporal data processing and its intelligent application. Meanwhile, what is different from the current research on geographic knowledge graph is that the field of urban waterlogging emergency response has its own characteristic conceptual system and spatial knowledge rules, in addition to its general characteristics as a geospatial object. Therefore, it is the focus of our research to consider the influencing factors and property characteristics of an urban waterlogging emergency in the process of constructing the knowledge graph.

This paper investigates the construction method of an urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph based on spatiotemporal processes. Beginning with existing knowledge pertaining to urban waterlogging and emergency management systems, we propose a conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency ontology rooted in spatiotemporal processes. This involves defining the conceptual hierarchy of the ontology and establishing attribute relationships, spatiotemporal relationships, and semantic relationships among entities. We then explore the construction of a knowledge graph for urban waterlogging emergencies, encompassing key technologies such as knowledge extraction, fusion, and storage. Subsequently, we undertake a quality assessment of the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph to enable query and visualization, event association analysis, and event evolution analysis. These applications aim to bolster urban waterlogging emergency response intelligence and provide essential support for effective decision-making in such scenarios.

The remaining parts of this paper include related works presented in Section 2. Section 3 describes the methodology in detail, including the overall framework, the timeline-based representation of the urban waterlogging emergency response process, the proposed ontology conceptual model, and the construction method of the knowledge graph. Experiments and results are analyzed in Section 4. Section 5 presents the discussion. Finally, conclusions and future directions are presented in Section 6.

2. Related Works

2.1. Geographic Knowledge Graph and Construction Methods

2.1.1. Geographic Knowledge Graph

The geographic knowledge graph (GeoKG) can be understood as the application of knowledge graph technology in the field of geography; it is a multidimensional, cross-domain data representation model covering geographic entities, attributes, and relationships [5]. It centers on providing a comprehensive framework for geographic information through the combination of semantic networks and spatial relationships. The GeoKG includes not only the spatial location and geometry of entities, but also the temporal dimension, semantic information, and spatial and logical relationships between entities [9,10]. In recent years, geographic knowledge graphs were constructed around application tasks such as intelligent remote sensing image interpretation [11], epidemic disease monitoring and trend prediction [12,13], disaster emergency response and mitigation [14], urban flow analysis [15], and geographic data correlation and recommended reasoning [16,17]. For example, researchers constructed a knowledge graph of landslide disaster scenarios oriented to the needs of multiple types of users, realizing the accurate definition and clear description of multiple types of users and scenario objects as well as the efficient management of complex semantic relationships [18]. Based on a knowledge graph, the water

quality dataset of the Bogota River Basin has been characterized [19]. A knowledge graph of landslide disasters has also been constructed by analyzing the elemental characteristics and association relations of landslide disasters [20].

2.1.2. Construction Methods for Geographic Knowledge Graph

The construction of the GeoKG involves multiple steps, aiming to combine the geographic information system (GIS) with knowledge graph technology in order to achieve the semantic, structured, and intelligent processing of geographic data. Currently, progress has been made in geographic entity extraction [21,22], relationship extraction [23], geographic knowledge fusion [24,25], and geographic knowledge representation and complementation [9,26]. For example, researchers have constructed a neural network place name recognition model for linguistic irregularities for location extraction from social media messages [27]. Ontology and rule-based approaches utilize geographic ontology libraries and predefined semantic rules to construct knowledge graphs [28,29], and such a construction process not only improves the intelligence level of knowledge graphs but also promotes cross-domain information sharing. When exploring the application of machine learning methods in entity and relationship extraction, CRF and its variants are indispensable techniques. Meanwhile, CNN and RNN structures based on deep learning, such as BERT–BiLSTM–Attention–CRF models [30], Transformer models [31], and DeBERTa models [32], have become classic and cutting-edge designs in this field. An entity alignment method between knowledge graphs using attribute embedding has helped to align entities from different knowledge graphs, thus enabling the integration of multiple knowledge graphs [33]. In addition, researchers have proposed a holistic approach to align geospatial data with multidimensional similarity measures in response to the need for effective similarity-matching methods for the semantic alignment of heterogeneous geospatial datasets from multiple sources [34]. Most current studies rely on predefined ontologies and rules, which may limit the flexibility and scalability of the resulting knowledge graphs, especially when dealing with dynamic geographic data. In contrast, advanced machine learning techniques, including deep learning models, are used to learn dynamically and extract semantic patterns from unstructured data, thereby improving the adaptability and accuracy of GeoKG.

2.2. Representation of Geographic Spatiotemporal Process Knowledge

The traditional geographical spatiotemporal process offers a diverse range of static data representations. To better capture the evolving relationships of geographical entities and reflect spatiotemporal processes, researchers have introduced object-oriented spatiotemporal data models [35], i.e., spatiotemporal models of events and geographical process models. In the era of big data, various spatiotemporal data models have emerged, including dynamic object storage models [36], graph-based data models [37,38], and spatiotemporal data models in the cloud environment [39], all of which play pivotal roles across various industries. However, despite their abundance, the current landscape of spatiotemporal data models lacks a universal framework, making it challenging to address the complexities of urban waterlogging scenarios adequately.

Urban waterlogging emergency response necessitates not only the depiction of entity states and their transformation processes but also the intricate interrelationships between entities and events. Consequently, harnessing the power of knowledge graphs to extract the rich semantics embedded within spatiotemporal data becomes imperative. This approach enables the construction of a semantic operational data model that unifies the representation of time, space, attributes, relationships, and change processes. Such a model effectively expresses the interconnectedness between entity objects, events, and their evolutionary trajectories, thereby catering to the unique demands of urban waterlogging management.

2.3. Structured Representation of Urban Waterlogging Knowledge

Structured representations of waterlogged elements, which provide the basis for intelligent computation, reasoning, and prediction, can be categorized into ontology-based representations and graph-structure-based representations [9].

Ontology-based representation: Gruber's definition of ontology [40], which states that an ontology is "an explicit specification of a conceptualization", serves as a fundamental cornerstone for understanding the organization and representation of domain knowledge. This definition has been widely adopted and applied in various fields, providing a framework for constructing, sharing, and reusing domain knowledge structures. Ontologies have been utilized in many urban waterlogging studies, such as hazard monitoring [41], risk assessment [42], and disaster management [43]. Constructing a flood ontology demonstrates a conceptual framework of flooding, showing the relationship between the causes of flooding and the different actions taken to minimize its consequences [44]. The framework based on the ontology calculates the impact index of the factors affecting flood hazards, thus identifying the factors that have the greatest impact on flood hazards [45].

Representation based on graph structure: Knowledge graphs are semantic networks that structurally represent concepts, property, and the relationships between them and are used to reveal complex connections and deep knowledge in the real world. Geographic entities have spatiotemporal characteristics, and knowledge graphs are gradually being used to model changes [9]. Disaster events have typical timeline characteristics, e.g., researchers identified disaster timelines during storms and floods in the UK through Twitter contextual information [46]. A timeline disaster prevention plan has been constructed for underground flood protection measures through field investigations [47]. The "My Timeline" planning program has been developed to equip residents with the information needed for urban flood evacuation for crisis management [48].

In conclusion, more and more researchers have participated in academic and applied technology research on urban inland inundation emergencies and have achieved significant research results. However, the current research still has the following problems: (1) Most of the current research on geographic ontologies and knowledge graphs starts from the overall characteristics of geographic elements, while less consideration is given to the spatial characteristics specific to different domains. However, the urban waterlogging disaster emergency response field has its characteristic conceptual system and spatial knowledge rules, in addition to its generic characteristics as a geospatial object. Therefore, to construct a knowledge graph with the characteristics of urban waterlogging disaster and emergency response domain, it is necessary to combine the knowledge of the influencing factors and attribute characteristics of urban waterlogging and emergency response. (2) The current research on geographic knowledge graphs and the construction of knowledge graphs in the disaster domain mainly focuses on the geographic entities or events. It describes the attributes and relationships between the geographic entities or events, and the knowledge service is limited to the static facts, with less attention paid to the representation of the spatiotemporal process knowledge. How to represent and analyze the spatiotemporal process knowledge of urban waterlogging emergency is an urgent problem, which is the key to spatiotemporal data processing and its intelligent application.

3. Methodology

3.1. Overall Framework

The construction methods of the knowledge graphs are mainly divided into top-down construction and bottom-up construction [49]. In this paper, we use the combination of top-down and bottom-up construction to construct a knowledge graph of urban waterlogging emergency response, as shown in Figure 1. First, top-down construction constructs the ontology of the knowledge graph and describes the concepts, attributes, and relationships of urban waterlogging emergency response domain in a unified way. Then, the data of the urban waterlogging emergency response domain are extracted from the bottom up, and the

mapping from the data layer to the schema layer is realized through knowledge extraction, knowledge fusion, and designing an appropriate knowledge storage schema.
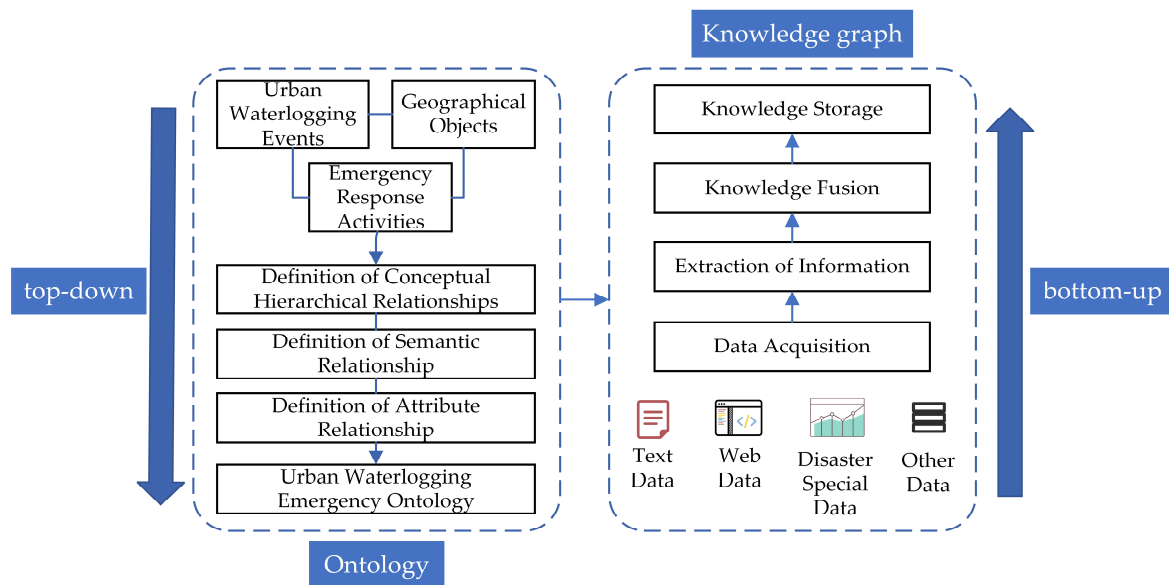

Figure 1. The overall process of constructing the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph.

3.2. Timeline-Based Representation of Urban Waterlogging Emergency Response Process

Extreme events such as urban waterlogging are inherently dynamic; i.e., they evolve over time, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, spatiotemporal analysis of such catastrophic events is very important. Disaster events such as waterlogging are dynamic and evolve during the duration of flooding, and various factors such as topography, urban drainage systems, and rainfall intensity during the period of waterlogging can have an impact on this dynamically evolving behavior.
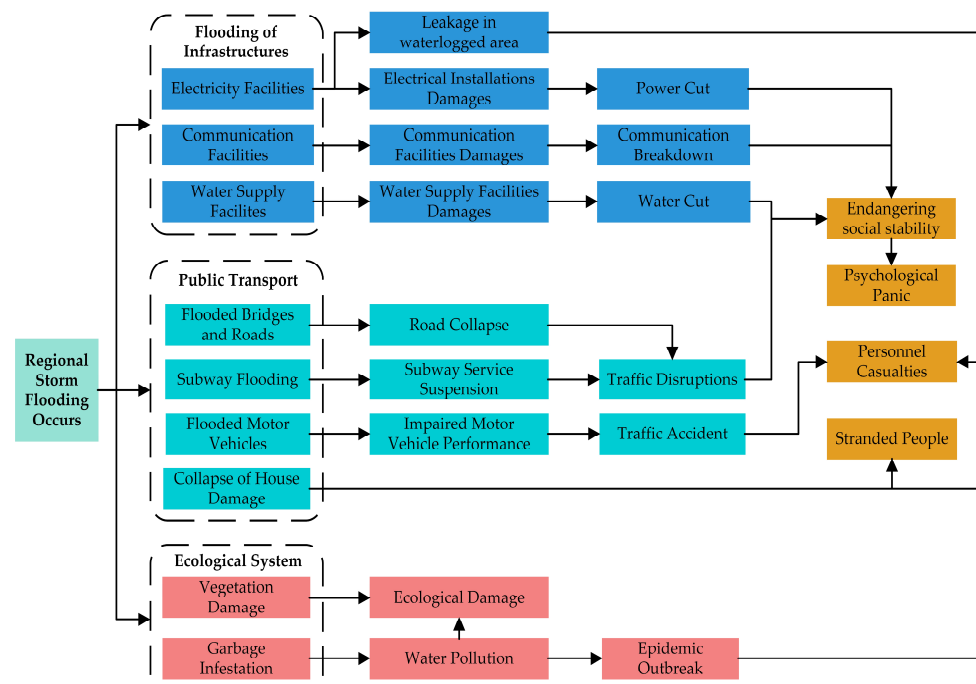

Figure 2. Schematic diagram of urban waterlogging disaster chain process.

The timeline-based representation of the urban waterlogging emergency process is an effective method by of helping urban emergency management, rescue agencies, and other related departments develop waterlogging emergency plans and response strategies to deal with waterlogging events. The timeline-based urban waterlogging emergency process representation method mainly includes the following steps:

(1) Identify key events and stages in the internal flooding emergency response process, such as warning, response, rescue, and recovery. These phases are the activities and tasks that must be performed during the emergency response process.

(2) Create a timeline and place the key events and phases of the inland flooding emergency response process on the timeline. The timeline can help to clarify the sequence of the phases in the inland flooding emergency response process and to analyze and evaluate the time constraints and limitations in the inland flooding emergency response process.

(3) Detailed descriptions and analyses of each critical event and phase, including the start time and end time of the event, the event characteristics, the scope of the impacts, and the emergency response activities and tasks.

(4) Conduct relationship analysis between key events and phases in the internal flooding emergency response process, especially analyzing and evaluating the causal and interactive relationships between events.

It is important to establish a disaster preparedness action plan with a timeline for disaster events such as urban waterlogging. By planning, organizing, and allocating resources and action plans in advance and by developing timelines through the cooperation of all parties, timely emergency responses can be made when flooding events occur. The timeline-based representation of the emergency response process for urban waterlogging helps to analyze the evolutionary trajectory and dynamics of waterlogging disaster events for the better planning and implementation of disaster prevention action plans.

3.3. An Ontology Construction Method Based on Spatiotemporal Process

3.3.1. Proposed Conceptual Model

According to the characteristics of the elements in the spatiotemporal process of urban waterlogging emergency response, an ontology conceptual model is constructed, which contains five core elements: time, event, property, geographic object, and emergency response activity. Specifically, the model is capable of dynamically capturing and storing spatiotemporal changes and supports the querying of the relationships between entities at any time node or time period. Compared with traditional static knowledge graph ontology models, the model is able to flexibly retrieve and analyze the evolution of a flood event, including but not limited to the beginning, development, and decline of the event, thus providing a powerful tool for users to gain insights into the spatiotemporal dynamics of a flood event.

(1) Time, including time point and timeline: The waterlogging event's occurrence, development, and recession have the property of time. There is a temporal relationship between t_i and t_{i+1}, which is expressed in terms of $r_{temporal}$.

(2) Event: Urban waterlogging is a dynamic process of occurrence and evolution, including the induction, occurrence, development, and end of a disaster and a series of secondary disaster events.

(3) Property: Property is used to describe urban waterlogging disaster events, geographic objects, and emergency response activities, which is a further refinement of the logical architecture of the ontology. In urban waterlogging emergency response ontology, spatiotemporal properties are a typical characteristic, and they also include non-spatiotemporal properties, such as the depth of waterlogging, the scope of the disaster, etc.

(4) Geographic object: Urban waterlogging involves a series of geographic objects, including the disaster-inducing environment and disaster receptor. The disaster-inducing environment mainly refers to the elevation, climate, topography, water system, vegetation, soil, etc. The disaster receptor mainly refers to the sum of the people and property that

may suffer from meteorological threats. The spatial distribution and impact range of waterlogging can be determined by describing and modeling the geographic objects.

(5) Emergency response activities: The changes with time during the spatiotemporal evolution of the waterlogging event correspond to different emergency response activities, which are denoted as Era_n.

Based on time, disaster event, and emergency action, the conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency ontology can be represented as follows:

$$Ontology = \{< Ev_{tri}, Era_{tri}, T_{tri} >\}, \tag{1}$$

where Ev_{tri} denotes a disaster event at a given time, Era_{tri} denotes emergency response activity at that time, and T_{tri} denotes change over time.

The conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency ontology is shown in Figure 3. According to the representation method of urban waterlogging emergency elements and relations, a cubic graph structure with time level is established to represent the evolution of urban waterlogging emergency elements and relations. A timeline T represents a collection of times, which, for simplicity, we refer to as "timepoints". These timepoints could represent individual events, observations, or milestones in a temporal sequence, which contains discrete instances relevant to our analysis. This structure can be used to represent the development and change process of two-dimensional graphics along the time dimension to express the evolution of urban waterlogging events, geographical objects, property, and emergency tasks over time. Given a time value, the state of the corresponding section can be obtained from the 3D cube.
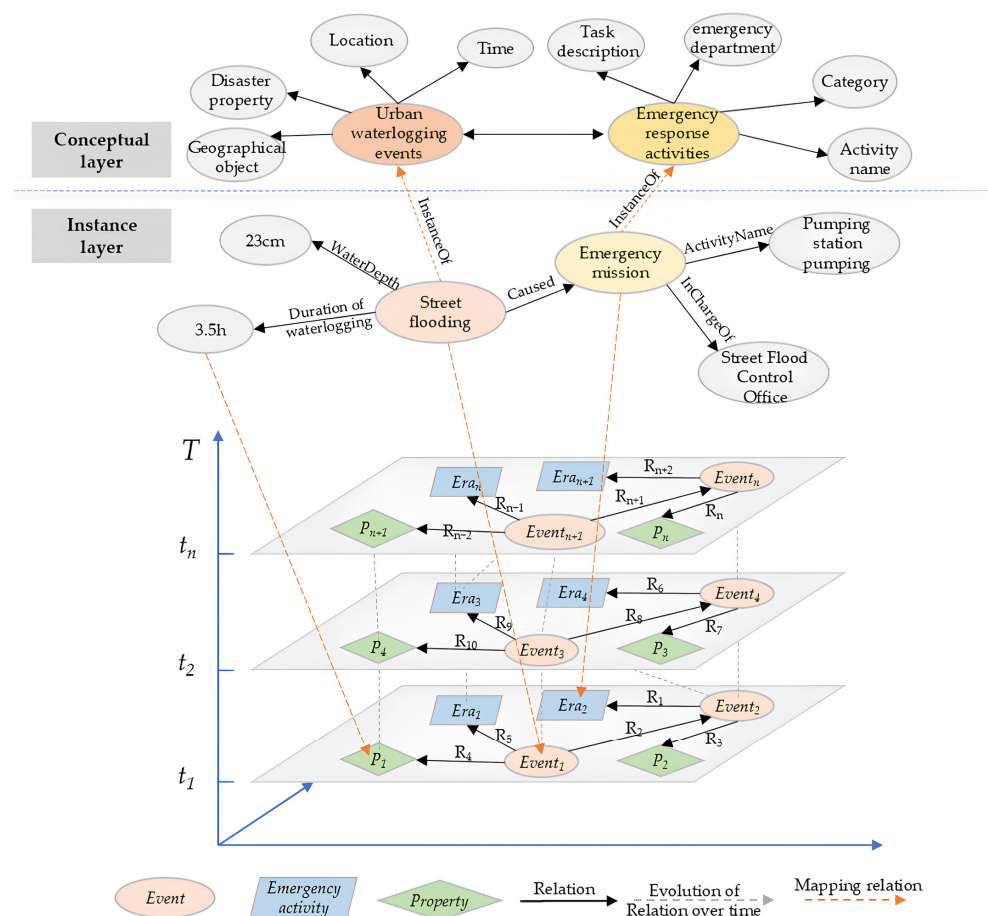

Figure 3. Conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency ontology.

3.3.2. Ontology Construction for Urban Waterlogging Emergency

(1) Conceptual hierarchy construction

This includes three aspects: urban waterlogging events, emergency response, and geographical objects. Urban waterlogging has obvious spatiotemporal characteristics, which are categorized into four phases: early warning period, beginning period, climax period, and demise period. Urban waterlogging events are a complex system developed by multiple factors interacting and influencing each other, and conductivity is one of its remarkable features. Once serious damage occurs in a certain system, it will be propagated through the correlation between urban systems, eventually leading to urban waterlogging and present chain development.

The emergency response mainly involves two aspects: emergency organization and emergency action. Emergency organizations mainly include emergency response agencies, relevant departments, and personnel. Emergency response operations are divided into three phases: before, during, and after a disaster. These phases are listed according to the entire process of the disaster, with different objectives and tasks for each phase.

The geographic objects of urban waterlogging events are diverse, mainly including two aspects: the disaster-inducing environment and the disaster receptor.

(2) Property construction

The description of urban waterlogging event attributes can be divided into four categories: temporal properties, spatial properties, morphological properties, and disaster properties, as shown in Table 1. These properties are interconnected and constitute the ontology of urban waterlogging events.

Table 1. Properties of urban waterlogging events.

Category	Property	Description
Time property	Start time	Event start time
	End time	Event end time
Spatial property	Location (latitude and longitude)	The latitude and longitude coordinates of the disaster event
	Location (administrative division)	Indicates the administrative division where the waterlogging event occurred
Morphological properties	Scope of disaster	Refers to the extent of the area involved in an urban waterlogging event, usually expressed in km^2
	Depth of waterlogging	Refers to the depth to which waterlogged ground is submerged during an urban waterlogging event, usually expressed in cm
	Waterlogging flow rate	Refers to the velocity of waterlogged water flow during an urban waterlogging event, usually expressed in units of m/s
Disaster Property	Intensity of disaster	Refers to the severity of urban waterlogging events, which are generally categorized as light, medium, or heavy
	Damage to buildings	Refers to the extent of damage to buildings during urban waterlogging events, e.g., number of collapsed houses, number of severely damaged houses, etc.
	Damage to the transportation system	Documentation of damage to the transportation system caused by urban waterlogging events
	Casualties	Describes the human casualties of a disaster event, including the number of people killed, injured, and missing
	Economic loss	This attribute describes the economic damage caused by the disaster event
	Other losses	Described other losses that may be caused by urban waterlogging events, such as the area of crops affected, the number of livestock affected, etc.

The emergency response to urban waterlogging can be categorized into three phases: pre-disaster, disaster, and post-disaster, involving task names, categories, and descriptions of actions, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Description of emergency response properties.

Category	Property	Description
Pre-, During, and Post-disaster	Mission name	Refers to the name of a specific mission developed in response to urban waterlogging, e.g., "Drainage Pumping Station Activation Mission", "Leakage Plugging Mission", etc.
	Type of mission	Refers to the categorization of urban waterlogging emergency response missions, e.g., drainage missions, rescue missions, flood control missions, etc.
	Mission level	Attributes that describe the urgency and importance of the urban waterlogging emergency response mission
	Name of emergency response organization	Indicates the name of the agency that performs the emergency response mission, e.g., a city's Emergency Management Agency, or a county's Flood Control Office
	emergency worker	Records information on personnel involved in emergency response
	Description of emergency action	Refers to the description of specific actions taken by emergency response agencies and personnel in response to an urban waterlogging event, such as evacuation of people and deployment of materials

(3) Relationship construction

The semantic relations of urban waterlogging emergency ontology refer to the semantic associations between different entities, i.e., their meanings and semantic relationships. In the construction of urban waterlogging emergency ontology, there are usually three types of semantic relationships: implementation, containment, and logical relationships. The semantic relationships are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Semantic relations of the urban waterlogging emergency ontology.

Relationship Class	Relationship Name	Relationship Description
Implementation relationship	In Charge Of Executed By Has Participant	A in charge of B A executed by B A has participant B
Containment relationship	Is Part Of Has Component	A is part of B A has component B
logical relationship	Caused Caused By Follow	A caused B to respond A's response is caused by B A follows the onset of B

(4) Generation of ontology

After the above steps, the definition of classes and properties in the urban waterlogging emergency ontology is basically completed. Using GeoSPARQL to represent spatial data, we can define and query features (features class), geometrical objects of features (geometries class), and spatial relationships between these objects. The geometries' classes can be points, lines, circles, and polygons. In order to facilitate the spatial query using Cypher language in Neo4j at a later stage, we use the WKT (Well-Known Text) format to store the geometries. The basic structure of the WKT format consists of geometric object types (e.g., POINT, LINESTRING, and POLYGON) and specific coordinate data. We define and process spatial relations through GeoSPARQL and define time-related descriptions based on the existing temporal ontology [50]. Then, relying on the Unified Modeling Language (UML), we transform these classes and attributes into an intuitive, easy-to-understand, and highly extensible ontology model, as shown in Figure 4.
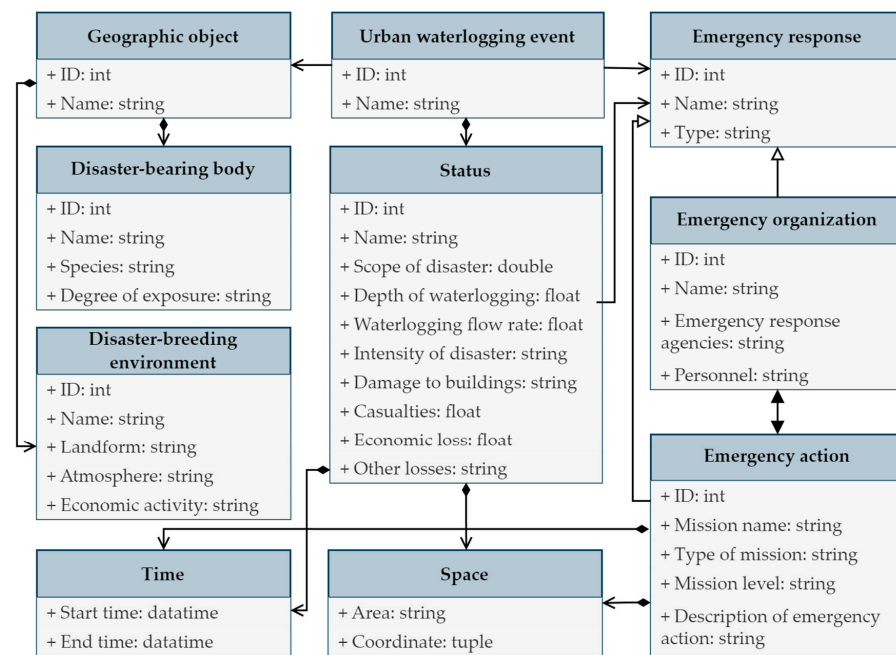
Figure 4. Urban waterlogging emergency ontology.

3.4. Urban Waterlogging Emergency Knowledge Graph Construction Method

3.4.1. Construction Process

The flowchart is shown in Figure 5. There are two types of knowledge sources: structured data sources (e.g., thematic databases); and semi-structured and unstructured data sources (e.g., disaster public announcement web pages, domain literature). For thematic databases, field values, records, and other valid information needed for research can be obtained directly from the database. For the unstructured data in the ubiquitous network, the data volume is larger and contains more information, which is an important data source for this study and needs to be considered. The knowledge graph is constructed using XLNet-BiLSTM-CRF to extract entity, relationship, and event information from textual and web data. This includes flooding event information concerning the time, location, people involved, and the disaster itself from news reports and social media. The knowledge is fused and stored in a Neo4j graph database. Finally, the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph will be generated.
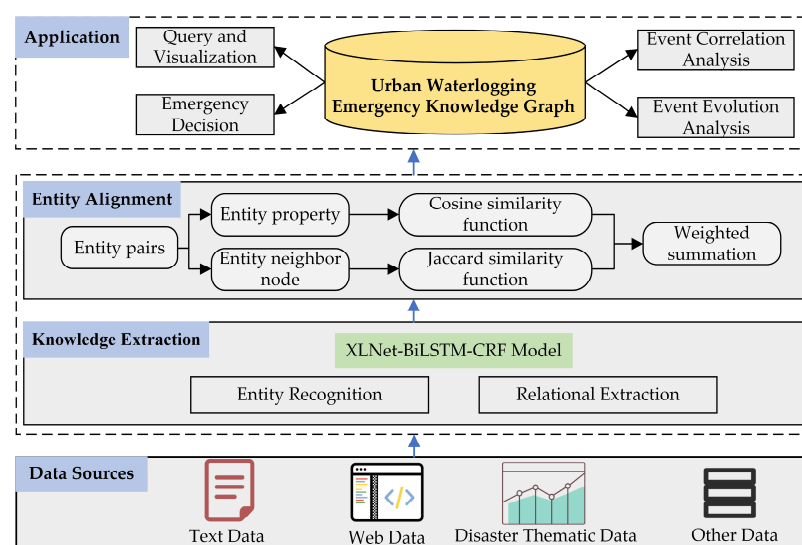

Figure 5. Flowchart for constructing knowledge graph for urban waterlogging emergency response.

3.4.2. Entity and Relation Extraction

For the task of entity recognition in disaster events, we adopt a deep-learning-based approach. This is because deep-learning-based methods can fully utilize large-scale data and the expressive power of deep neural networks to recognize entities in complex and variable disaster events accurately.

We use an entity recognition and relationship extraction model based on XLNet-BiLSTM-CRF [51], which has shown excellent performance in related tasks and is in line with our task requirements. This model first converts the text into a sequence of word vectors then obtains each word's contextual information by BiLSTM feature extraction, as shown in Figure 6. BiLSTM consists of two LSTMs: one forward LSTM and one backward LSTM.
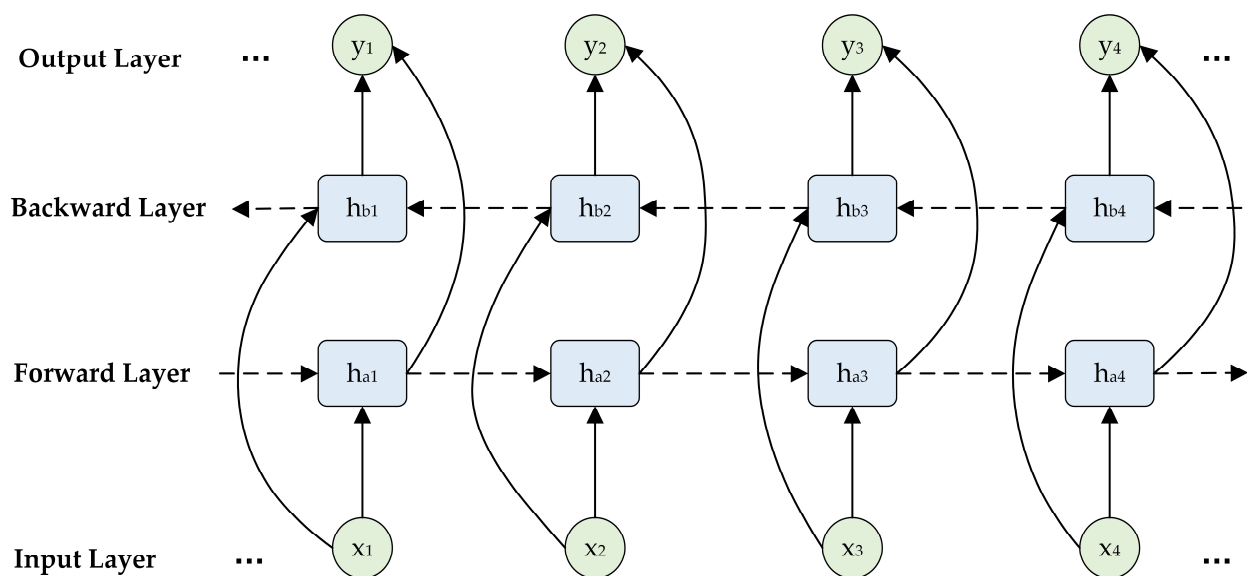

Figure 6. Structure of the BiLSTM model.

- Forward LSTM: Starting from the starting position of the input sequence, it gradually reads each word vector (X_i) and generates a forward hidden state vector (h_{ai}).
- Backward LSTM: Starting from the end position of the input sequence, it reverse-reads each word vector (X_i) and generates a backward hidden state vector (h_{bi}).

Then, the model concatenates the forward hidden state vector (h_{ai}) and the backward hidden state vector (h_{bi}) to obtain a complete bidirectional hidden state vector (H_i). Finally, the model outputs a label prediction score (y_i) for each input data point (usually a word in a sentence or sequence).

Next, the context information is modeled using XLNet to obtain the context representation of each word. Then, the context representation is input into the CRF layer for label prediction. Finally, entity recognition and relationship extraction are performed based on the prediction results. By combining the advantages of XLNet, BiLSTM, and CRF, the model can effectively capture the semantic information in the text and improve the accuracy of entity recognition and relationship extraction.

3.4.3. Knowledge Fusion

Knowledge fusion is the process of integrating and merging knowledge extracted from different sources. We use the method based on attribute and structure similarity for knowledge fusion based on the cosine similarity function [33] and that based on the Jaccard similarity function to calculate the degree of attribute similarity and the degree of neighboring node similarity, respectively, as shown in Figure 7.
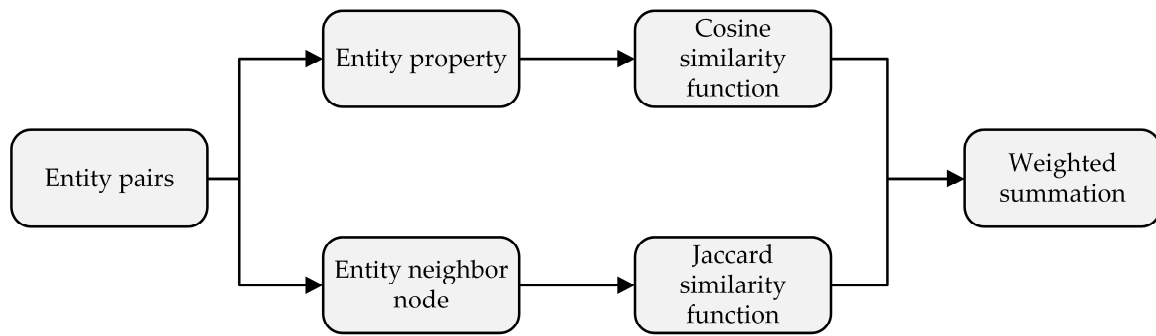
Figure 7. Entity alignment methods based on the attribute–structure similarity approach.

(1) Attribute similarity calculation

In order to assess the similarity of two entities at the attribute level, the cosine similarity function is used in this paper. Specifically, the attribute set of each entity is regarded as a vector in the vector space, the dimensions of the vector correspond to different attributes, and the values of the attributes are normalized as the components of the vector. Subsequently, the cosine value of the angle cosine between two vectors is calculated using the cosine similarity formula, which is used as a measure of attribute similarity.

(2) Structure similarity calculation

In order to measure the similarity of two entities in the graph structure, the Jaccard similarity function is introduced in this paper. This method evaluates the degree of similarity between two entities in the graph structure by comparing the ratio of the intersection and concatenation of their sets of neighbor nodes. The selection of neighbor nodes is based on direct relationships between entities, such as edge connections.

(3) Combined scoring and fusion decision making

By means of weighted summation, the two are combined into a composite score to fully reflect the degree of similarity between two entities. Based on a set threshold, determine whether the similarity between the two entities is high enough to decide whether to fuse them into one entity. If the similarity is higher than the threshold, the fusion operation is performed, including merging attributes, updating link relationships, etc.

In the knowledge fusion process, the similarity function between the computed entity E_1 and the candidate entity E_2 is defined as follows:

$$F_{sim}(E_1, E_2) = (1 - \alpha) \sum_{(M_1, M_2) \in (E_1, E_2)} f_{sima}(E_1, E_2) + \alpha f_{simn}(E_1, E_2), \tag{2}$$

$$f_{sim}(M_1, M_2) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{1j} w_{2j}}{W_1 W_2}, \tag{3}$$

$$W_1 = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{1j}^2}, \tag{4}$$

$$W_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{2j}^2}, \tag{5}$$

$$f_{simn}(E_1, E_2) \frac{|N(E_1) \cap N(E_2)|}{|N(E_1) \cup N(E_2)|}. \tag{6}$$

$0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$, and $\alpha = 0.5$ is chosen for the experiment. M_1 and M_2 denote the set of tokens of the two entity strings, which are converted into n-dimensional vectors, and the weight of token in each vector is calculated as w. The attribute similarity of the entities is obtained through Equation (3). Meanwhile, the ratio of the intersection and concatenation of the set of common neighbors of the two entities to be aligned is calculated to determine the degree of similarity between the neighboring nodes of the entities, and the structural similarity is obtained through Equation (6). When conducting several experiments, we adjusted the threshold interval from 0.3 to 0.6 in steps of 0.05 and finally found that the fusion

results were most satisfactory when the threshold was set to 0.55. Finally, the attribute similarity and structural similarity correspond to their respective weights to obtain the final knowledge fusion results. Table 4 shows some knowledge fusion examples.

Table 4. Examples of knowledge fusion.

Entity 1	Entity 2	After Fusion
Urban drainage system	Urban wastewater treatment systems	Urban wastewater treatment systems -> Urban drainage system
Sewer	Drainage pipe	Sewer -> Drainage pipe
Drainage pumping station	Drainage engine room	Drainage pumping station -> Drainage engine room
Rainwater well	Drainage well	Rainwater well -> Drainage well

3.4.4. Knowledge Storage Based on Neo4j Graph Database

The data in the field of urban waterlogging emergency response, after entity identification, relationship extraction, and knowledge fusion, form knowledge triples of <entity, relationship, entity> and <entity, property, property value> structures, as shown in Figure 8, and the next step needs to store and manage these triples in a specific way. There are three main storage methods for knowledge graphs: RDF, relational, and graph databases. Aiming at the characteristics of an urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph, we adopt the storage method of the Neo4j graph database. This method can solve the storage and query problem of complex relations and attributes in the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph and can also well support the interaction and fusion of knowledge graph data.
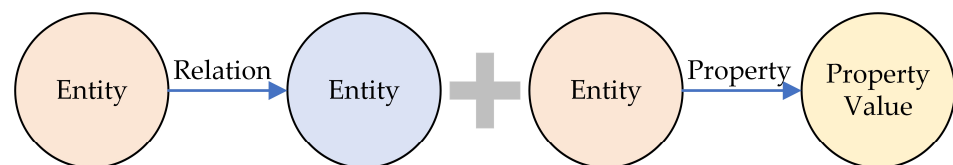

Figure 8. Representation of knowledge triples.

4. Experiment and Result Analysis

4.1. Experimental Data Acquisition and Processing

The data sources include two types, as shown in Table 5: (1) structured data sources, mainly from the National Earth System Science Data Center, which contain the basic geographic, sociodemographic, and flood prediction and forecasting data of the affected area in their thematic data; (2) unstructured data sources, mainly from disaster public announcement web pages and encyclopedias; for example, the National Disaster Reduction Official Website (NDRCC) and Wikipedia contain information on the time and location of the disaster, the attributes of the disaster-causing factors, and information on the damage of the disaster, such as that inflicted on the population, housing, and economy.

We directly obtain the required data records for structured data types. For unstructured data types, we obtain disaster-related data through web crawlers. In this paper, a total of 159 urban waterlogging events from January 2020 to December 2022 were acquired as a data source from which to obtain information about urban waterlogging event entities and their attributes. Through entity and relationship extraction, the corresponding urban waterlogging event attributes and relationships are extracted, including the start time and end time, "province–city–county" information, disaster-causing factors, the affected population, the emergency relocation of the population, the number of damaged houses, and the economic losses. Most of these waterlogging events occur in southeastern China, i.e., in the plains of the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, Yangtze River, and Pearl River. The waterlogging events in megacities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou show a clustering effect. Waterlogging sites in these cities are more concentrated in certain areas, which may be related to the topography, drainage system layout, and land use of the cities. The incidence of internal flooding is higher in certain specific locations in the city,

such as overpasses, underground garages, and underground shopping malls. Some of the results of the knowledge extraction are shown in Table 6.

Table 5. Data introduction.

Data Type		Data Source	Data Description
Structured data	Disaster thematic data	National Earth System Science Data Center	Contains basic geographic, sociodemographic, and flood prediction and forecasting data of the affected area in its thematic data
Unstructured data	Search engine	Wikipedia	Using waterlogging disaster events as key words to search, including basic information
	Disaster public announcement	National Disaster Reduction Official Website (NDRCC)	With a high degree of authority and credibility, it can quickly release disaster-related information, including the time, place, and scope of impact of the disaster
	News media	CCTV	Disaster-related information is provided through news reports and special programs
		Huanqiu net	Not only provides coverage of news events but also provides in-depth analysis and commentary

Table 6. Example entity extraction results.

Original Text	Extraction Result		
	Entity	Relation/property	Entity/property value
A historically rare rainstorm occurred in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China, on 20 July 2021. The rain lasted for 24 h, flooding subway lines and bringing traffic to a standstill. Citizens were trapped in subway cars and flooded homes. The local government launched an emergency plan, and emergency rescue teams and volunteers rushed to the scene to carry out rescue work. In dozens of hours of struggle, rescue workers moved scores of stranded citizens and took steps to unblock drainage systems. The storm has killed at least 300 people, left more than 50 missing and caused direct economic losses of more than 10 billion yuan.	Urban waterlogging	Start time	20 July 2021
	Urban waterlogging	Location	Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China
	Urban waterlogging	Duration	Lasted for 24 h
	Urban waterlogging	Caused	Flooding subway lines
	Urban waterlogging	Caused	Traffic to a standstill
	Urban waterlogging	Caused	Citizens are trapped
	Local government	Launched	An emergency plan
	Emergency rescue teams	Carry out	Rescue work
	Emergency rescue teams	Moved	Scores of stranded citizens
	Emergency rescue teams	Unblock	Drainage systems
	Urban waterlogging	Casualties	At least 300 people
	Urban waterlogging	Economic loss	More than 10 billion yuan

4.2. Knowledge Graph Generation for Urban Waterlogging Emergency

The processed knowledge triples can be batch-imported into the Neo4j graph database using py2neo. Specifically, the nodes and relationships can be created, queried, and analyzed through Neo4j's API and Cypher language. Such a knowledge graph can provide support for emergency management and decision making in urban waterlogging and achieve efficient management and utilization of complex urban waterlogging information.

4.3. Quality Assessment of Urban Waterlogging Emergency Knowledge Graph

The knowledge graph's construction strives to be automated, i.e., using as little human labor as possible, but there are some quality issues. For example, data extracted from semi-structured or unstructured resources usually suffer from problems such as inconsistent information, erroneous and incomplete narratives, etc. [52]. Therefore, quality assessment of knowledge graphs is essential to knowledge graph construction [53]. Knowledge graph

quality assessment dimensions generally include three items: correctness, completeness, and conciseness [54]. Correctness refers to whether the entities and relationships described in the knowledge graph are compatible with those in the real world. Completeness refers to whether the knowledge graph contains all the important entities and relationships in the domain. Succinctness is whether the knowledge graph's description of entities and relationships is sufficiently concise and clear.

We adopt a partial gold standard approach [55] for quality evaluation, selecting part of the knowledge graph as the sample set for evaluation by sampling and manually annotating it so that we can use a smaller annotation cost to complete the assessment of the correctness, completeness, and conciseness of the knowledge graph with greater precision, and the framework of quality evaluation is shown in Figure 9.
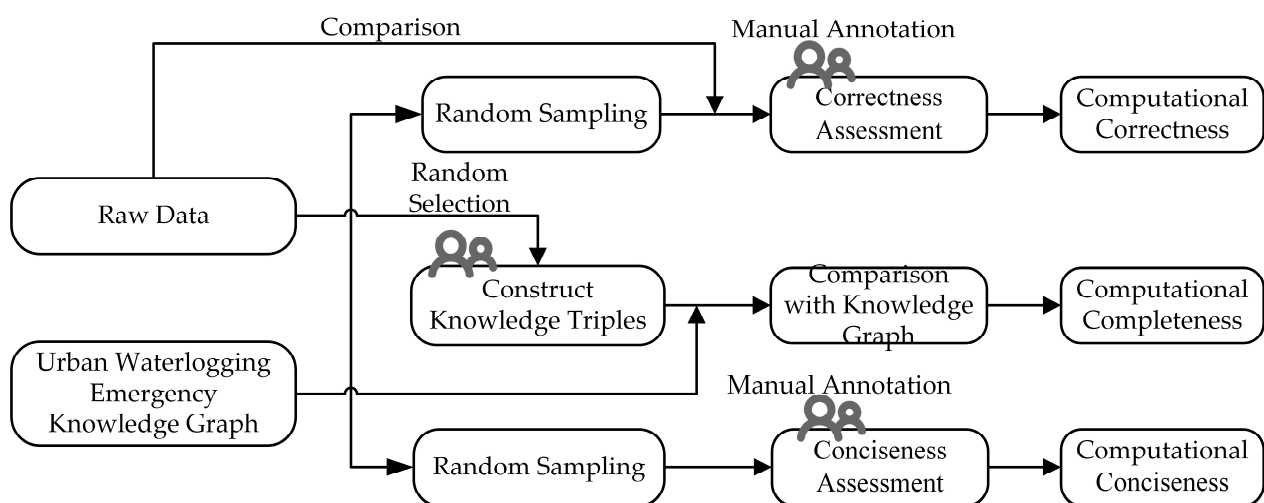

Figure 9. Urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph quality assessment framework.

Computational correctness: It is generally believed that knowledge from reliable data sources is usually reliable. Therefore, we use random sampling and manual comparison to compare the content in the knowledge graph with the original content in the data sources. Some entities are randomly selected as evaluation samples, which are evenly divided into n groups, and all triples involved in these entities are manually labeled, and the accuracy rate of each sampling group is calculated.

Computational completeness: Raw data from different sources are randomly extracted and knowledge triples are manually constructed and then compared with the knowledge transformed by this data in the knowledge graph. For structured and semi-structured data, each extracted datum is a set of continuous and related data. For unstructured text data, each extracted datum is a descriptive text containing multiple sentences. The entities, attributes, and relationships are manually extracted according to the ontology model in Section 3.3.2 and organized into the form of triples. In order to prevent the limitation of single-person cognition, multiple people are used to conduct multi-group experiments. The completeness calculation takes the constructed knowledge triples as the smallest unit and compares the triples in the knowledge graph with the manually constructed triples.

Computational conciseness: There are two main aspects, redundancy and data conciseness, where entity redundancy = number of redundant entities/total number of entities; and relationship redundancy = number of redundant relationships/total number of relationships. Data conciseness is used to evaluate the knowledge in the data that are not related to the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph; data conciseness = 1 − number of irrelevant entities/total number of entities. We calculated the conciseness degree by randomly sampling the triples in the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph and manually labeling the redundant entities, attributes, and relationships, such as recurrence, redun-

dancy, and ambiguity, and comparing them with the sampled overall entities, attributes, and relationships.

(1) Correctness assessment: In the correctness assessment, 300 entities are randomly selected, which involve a total of 1638 triples. In our random selection process, we strive to ensure that these entities can cover different types of nodes and diverse relationships. These triples are divided equally into 10 groups to be manually labeled and compared with the original data. The results of the assessment are shown in Table 7 and Figure 10, in which the highest correctness rate is 89%, the lowest is 73%, and the average correctness rate is 81%.

Table 7. Nodal and relational correctness assessment.

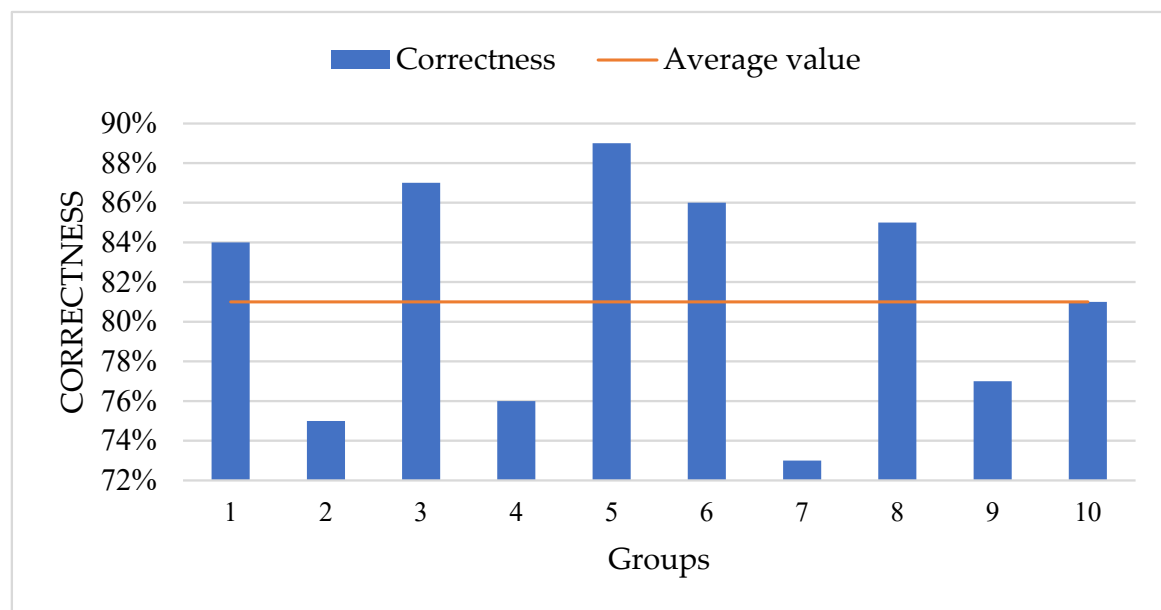| Node or Relationship Type	Number of Nodes or Relationships	Number of Errors	Correctness
Event nodes	58	5	91.4%
Emergency response nodes	117	26	77.8%
Geographic object nodes	74	21	71.6%
Time attribute nodes	36	5	86.1%
Spatial attribute nodes	15	2	86.7%
Composition	972	179	81.6%
Association	377	52	86.2%
Generalization	166	45	72.9%
Aggregation	123	27	78.0%

Figure 10. Results of correctness assessment of urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph.

(2) Completeness assessment: In the completeness assessment, divided into eight groups, each group randomly selected 20 raw data and manually constructed knowledge triples. To calculate the completeness, they were compared with the corresponding triples in the automatically generated knowledge graph for urban waterlogging emergency. The assessment results are shown in Figure 11, where the highest completeness is 71.3%, the lowest is 60.2%, and the average completeness is 65.5%.
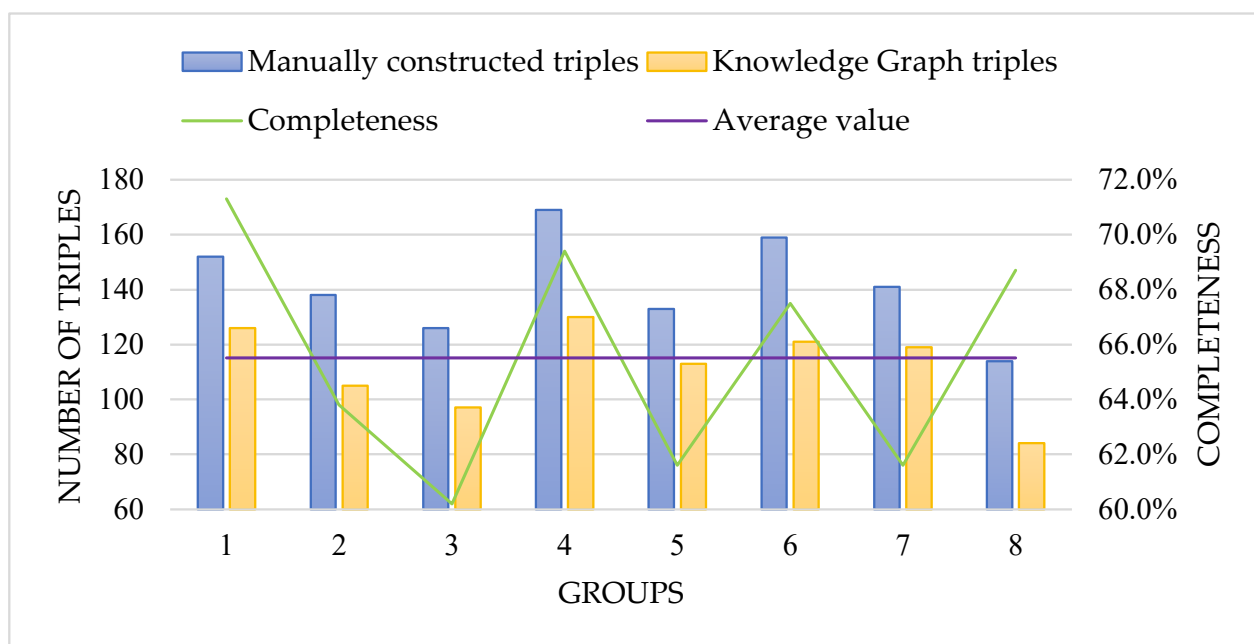
Figure 11. Results of urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph completeness assessment.

(3) Conciseness assessment: A total of 1638 triples and 742 entities in them were labeled for redundancy, with 126 and 179 redundant entities and relationships, respectively, and 37 entities unrelated to the urban waterlogging emergency domain were labeled, resulting in a calculated entity redundancy of 17.0%, a relationship redundancy of 10.9%, and a data conciseness of 95%.

This shows that in the evaluation experiment, the correctness is 81%, completeness is 65.5%, entity redundancy is 17.0%, relationship redundancy is 10.9%, and data concise-ness is 95%. To summarize, most of the triples in this graph are accurate, but there are still some relevant triples that are not covered, which may be due to the insufficient data sources for the construction of the knowledge graph, or the failure to extract all the knowledge during the construction process. The knowledge graph needs to be constantly updated and supplemented with new knowledge to achieve satisfactory results.

4.4. Application of Knowledge Graph for Urban Waterlogging Emergency

4.4.1. Query and Visualization

(1) Event query

By querying the records of historical waterlogging events, the pattern of waterlogging occurrence is analyzed. This allows the government to make scientific decisions and helps to improve emergency management capabilities. We can use the Cypher query language for querying and analysis, as well as the visualization tools provided by Neo4j, such as Neo4j Browser or Neo4j Bloom. In Neo4j-based Cypher query, MATCH, WHERE, and RETURN are commonly used keywords to specify the query's schema, filter conditions, and return results. By specifying different query statements, temporal distribution queries, spatial distribution queries, and impact factor queries can be executed. The query results should meet the following requirements:

Accuracy and reliability: Query results should be constructed based on trusted data and authoritative sources to ensure the accuracy and reliability of information.

Space coverage: Query results should cover a wide geographical area, ensuring that queries and analysis can be conducted for different cities and regions.

Diversified query methods: Query results should support different types of query requirements, such as multi-dimensional queries based on geographic location, time range, degree of influence.

User friendliness: The interface design should be simple and clear and easy to operate, and users should be able to find the information they need quickly and understand the meaning of the query results.

Using the Cypher language, we can query urban waterlogging events in a given city. For example, we query an urban waterlogging event that occurred in Henan Province, specifying the name of the city as "Henan" through the "city" entity, and the relationship as "HAS_FLOODING_EVENT", returning the waterlogging event. The following are the steps for querying.

```
MATCH (c:City {name:" city name "})-[:HAS_FLOODING_EVENT]->(e:Event)
RETURN e
```

This query statement returns the urban waterlogging events for the specified city, as shown in Figure 12. This query result is accurate and able to query different cities by defining query statements. By analyzing the query results, we can see the statistics of specific data such as the affected area, the number of people affected, and the economic loss. These data intuitively reflect the severity and scope of influence of the rainstorm event. The cause analysis reveals the background and conditions under which the rainstorm event occurred. The triggering and evolution of subsequent disasters are also closely related to the spatial and temporal context, with torrential rains leading to secondary disasters such as river flooding and landslides.
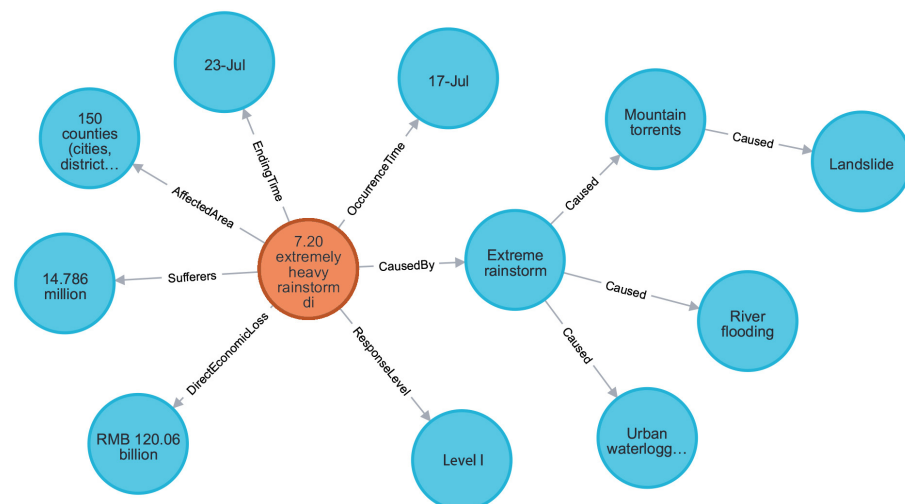

Figure 12. "7.20" rainstorm and waterlogging event in Henan.

(2) Query using geospatial functions

Neo4j's Geospatial plugin provides a series of geospatial functions, such as distance, withinDistance, withinRadius, for performing geospatial queries.

Example 1: Finding locations within a certain range from a specific point.

```
MATCH (n:Location)
WHERE geo.distance(n.location, point({x: 34.804909, y: 113.300109})) < 10,000
RETURN n.name, n.location, geo.distance(n.location, point({x: 34.804909, y: 113.300109})) AS distance
ORDER BY distance
```

This query returns all locations within 10 km of Zhengzhou city (latitude and longitude: 34.804909, 113.300109) and their distance from Zhengzhou city center.

Example 2: Finding locations within a polygon.

```
MATCH (n:Location)
WHERE geo.withinPolygon(n.location, [[34.17, 112.42], [34.17, 114.14], [34.45, 114.14], [34.45, 112.42],
[34.17, 112.42]])
RETURN n.name, n.location
```

This query returns all locations that lie within the specified polygon. The polygon is defined by a series of points (latitude/longitude pairs) that are arranged in a clockwise or a counterclockwise order.

4.4.2. Analysis of Urban Waterlogging Emergency Events

(1) Event correlation analysis

The relationship between the waterlogging event and the emergency response plan can be queried through the MATCH and WHERE statements to better understand the cause of the event and the response measures. The following is a sample Cypher query statement.

```
MATCH (n:Event)-[r:RELATED_TO]->(m:ResponsePlan)
WHERE n.name = "October 2021 Shanxi rainstorms " AND r.relation_type = "emergency_response"
RETURN n,r,m
```

Through the above Cypher query statement, we can obtain the emergency response plans related to the "October 2021 Shanxi rainstorm" event, as shown in Figure 13, and further analyze whether these emergency response plans are effective and need to be improved. In this way, we can better understand the relationship between the flooding event and the emergency response plan and provide a reference basis for the development of a more effective emergency response strategy.

Figure 13. "October 2021 rainstorm in Shanxi" event.

(2) Event Evolution Analysis

With the MATCH and WHERE statements, it is possible to query the evolutionary relationships of waterlogging events in time and space to better understand the evolutionary patterns of the events. For example, we can query the waterlogging events that occurred in Jiangsu Province within the past year to understand their occurrence time and duration. The query statement can be shown as follows.

MATCH (n: WaterloggingEvent)
WHERE n. occurrence time >= date("2022-01-01") AND n. occurrence time < date("2022-12-31")
RETURN n. event name, n. occurrence time, n. duration, n. occurrence area, n. response level

---

At the same time, in the urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graph, the event evolution analysis algorithm can be used to analyze the evolution of waterlogging events in time and space quantitatively, such as the change of the outbreak timing, the duration, and the influence range of the event. As shown in Figure 14, based on the results of the event evolution analysis, it can be seen that the occurrence time of rainstorms and waterlogging disasters in Jiangsu Province in 2022 is mostly concentrated in the period from June to September, and the duration is mostly 2–3 days. The causes of rainstorms and waterlogging are twice as many as those of typhoons, and the affected areas are mainly located in the Huaibei and Huaibei regions. Therefore, event evolution analysis can better understand the development process of waterlogging events and provide a reference for formulating emergency response strategies.
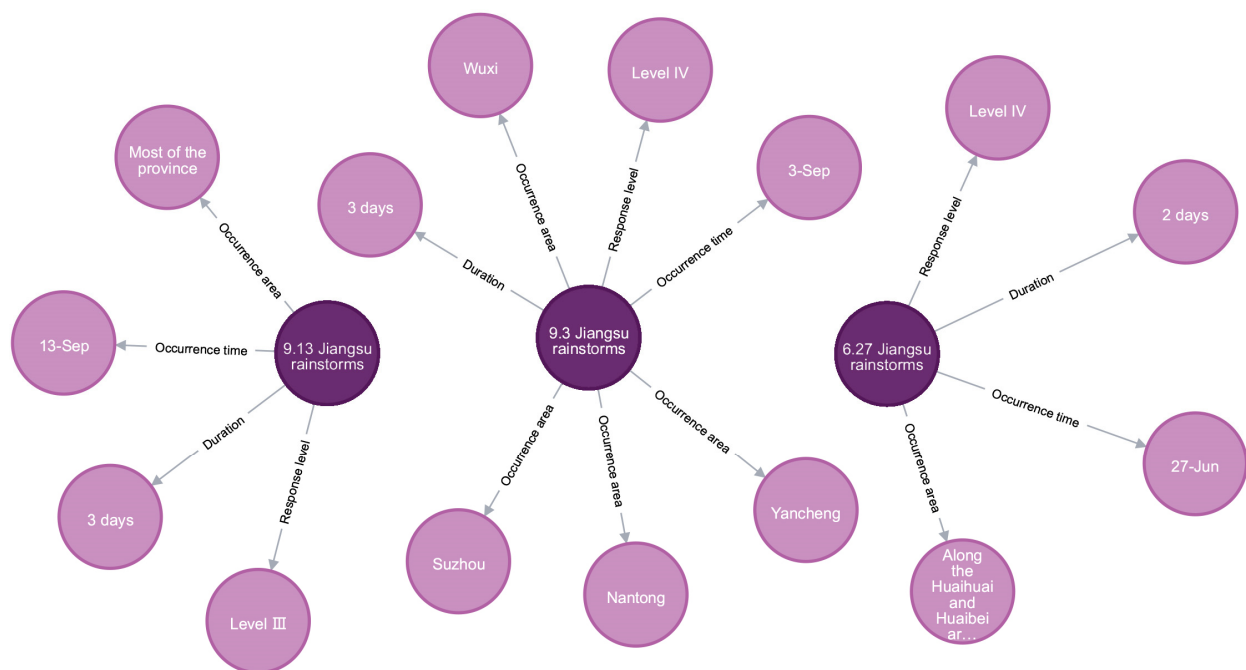

Figure 14. Analysis of rainfall event evolution in Jiangsu Province in 2022.

5. Discussion

Most of the current research on geographic ontologies and knowledge graphs focuses on the overall characteristics of geographic elements and tends to ignore domain-specific spatial characteristics. However, emergency response to urban waterlogging requires a conceptual framework that integrates general geographic properties and domain-specific spatial knowledge rules. Our approach addresses this gap by integrating the influencing factors and property features related to urban waterlogging into the knowledge graph construction. Existing knowledge maps in geography and disaster domains mainly describe static facts and relationships between geographic entities or events. They largely

neglect the characterization of spatiotemporal process knowledge, which is critical for understanding urban flood dynamics and emergency response. This limitation highlights the urgent need for methods that can effectively capture and analyze spatiotemporal process knowledge in knowledge graphs. This study proposes a timeline-based representation of urban waterlogging emergency processes. In order to represent the spatiotemporal characteristics and evolutionary patterns of urban waterlogging more comprehensively, we further constructed an ontology conceptual model based on spatiotemporal processes. The model abstractly defines the concepts of urban waterlogging events, emergency response measures, and related geographic objects and establishes the hierarchical structure, attributes, and spatiotemporal semantic relationships among these concepts. By using a hybrid top-down and bottom-up approach, we successfully modeled the spatiotemporal processes associated with urban waterlogging and emergency response.

However, due to the complexity of the problem, some shortcomings still remain. First, more elements need to be considered to further summarize the refinement of concept descriptions in the ontology library, as well as to expand and refine the axioms and the semantic constraint rules in order to improve the effectiveness of its comprehensive application. Second, when conducting the completeness assessment, the average completeness is 65.5%, which may be due to the insufficient data sources of the knowledge graph construction, so the data scope can be further expanded to include pictures, videos, and other data sources to improve its practicability. Third, in the section on entity and relationship extraction, we adopt the model architecture of XLNet BiLSTM CRF, a combination that has demonstrated excellent performance in the paper [12] and performs equally well in the application scenario of this paper. However, given the space limitation, we were not able to analyze it in an exhaustive comparison with other state-of-the-art models, which, to some extent, constitutes a limitation of this study. Finally, during the practical application, it is very inconvenient for people who are not familiar with Neo4j and do not have a programming foundation; this is because we are using Cypher language for querying. Therefore, further designing a Q&A form for querying and analyzing the knowledge graph will be needed in future research.

6. Conclusions and Future Directions

In this paper, we studied the method of constructing a knowledge graph for urban waterlogging emergencies based on spatiotemporal processes. Extreme events like urban waterlogging are dynamic and evolve over time, so we proposed a timeline-based representation of the urban waterlogging emergency response process. In addition, various factors, such as the topography, the urban drainage system, and the rainfall intensity during inundation, which are constantly evolving during the flooding continuum, have an impact on this dynamic evolving behavior. We have explored and analyzed these factors and investigated the conceptual framework of urban waterlogging emergency ontology and its construction method. A conceptual model of urban waterlogging emergency ontology based on spatiotemporal processes is proposed, and an ontology including conceptual hierarchies, attributes, and relationships is constructed. Then, we carried out the instance supplementation of the knowledge graph, including entity identification, relationship extraction, knowledge fusion, and knowledge storage, and elaborated the specific operation methods and technical means of each link. The knowledge graph is visualized, quality-assessed, and applied through specific experiments, which verifies the effectiveness and application value of the proposed method.

In the future, we will consider introducing more experts in the field to conduct collaborative research to build a more comprehensive, accurate, and practical knowledge graph for urban waterlogging emergencies. We will further study how to integrate the knowledge graph for an urban waterlogging emergency with pictures, videos, and existing data on urban waterlogging monitoring and early warning to achieve better results. We will further study the entity and relationship extraction methods in the urban waterlogging emergency domain to improve the correctness and efficiency of the extraction. In addition,

we will conduct a study based on urban waterlogging emergency knowledge graphs and determine how the knowledge graph query method can improve the efficiency of urban waterlogging emergency knowledge query and analysis.

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