Everything old is new again: Quoted Domain Specific Languages

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Mayer
THERE'S
WHEN SHEEP
GROWN - BLU

How does one integrate a Domain-Specific Language and a host language?

Quotation (McCarthy, 1960)

Normalisation (Gentzen, 1935)

A functional language is a
domain-specific language
for creating
domain-specific languages

Part I

Getting started: Join queries

A query: Who is younger than Alex?

people

name	age
“Alex”	40
“Bert”	30
“Cora”	35
“Drew”	60
“Edna”	25
“Fred”	70

```
select v.name as name,
       v.age as age
from people as u,
     people as v
where u.name = “Alex” and
      v.age < u.age
```

answer

name	age
“Bert”	30
“Cora”	35
“Edna”	25

A database as data

people

name	age
“Alex”	40
“Bert”	30
“Cora”	35
“Drew”	60
“Edna”	25
“Fred”	70

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\{\text{people} = \\
&\quad [\{\text{name} = \text{“Alex”}\ ;\ \text{age} = 40\}; \\
&\quad\ \{\text{name} = \text{“Bert”}\ ;\ \text{age} = 30\}; \\
&\quad\ \{\text{name} = \text{“Cora”};\ \text{age} = 35\}; \\
&\quad\ \{\text{name} = \text{“Drew”};\ \text{age} = 60\}; \\
&\quad\ \{\text{name} = \text{“Edna”};\ \text{age} = 25\}; \\
&\quad\ \{\text{name} = \text{“Fred”}\ ;\ \text{age} = 70\}]\}
\end{aligned}
$$

A query as F# code (naive)

$$
\begin{array}{l}
\textbf{type}\ \mathsf{DB} = \{\mathsf{people} : \{\mathsf{name} : \textbf{string};\ \mathsf{age} : \textbf{int}\}\ \textbf{list}\} \\
\textbf{let}\ \mathsf{db}' : \mathsf{DB} = \textbf{database}(\text{“People”}) \\
\textbf{let}\ \mathsf{youths}' : \{\mathsf{name} : \textbf{string};\ \mathsf{age} : \textbf{int}\}\ \textbf{list} = \\
\quad \textbf{for}\ \mathsf{u}\ \textbf{in}\ \mathsf{db}'.\mathsf{people}\ \textbf{do} \\
\quad \textbf{for}\ \mathsf{v}\ \textbf{in}\ \mathsf{db}'.\mathsf{people}\ \textbf{do} \\
\quad \textbf{if}\ \mathsf{u.name} = \text{“Alex”}\ \ \&\&\ \ \mathsf{v.age} < \mathsf{u.age}\ \textbf{then} \\
\quad \textbf{yield}\ \{\mathsf{name} : \mathsf{v.name}; \mathsf{age} : \mathsf{v.age}\}
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{l}
\mathsf{youths}' \rightsquigarrow \\
\quad [\{\mathsf{name} = \text{“Bert”}\ ;\ \mathsf{age} = 30\} \\
\quad\ \{\mathsf{name} = \text{“Cora”};\ \mathsf{age} = 35\} \\
\quad\ \{\mathsf{name} = \text{“Edna”};\ \mathsf{age} = 25\}]
\end{array}
$$

A query as F# code (quoted)

```
type DB = {people : {name : string; age : int} list}
let db : Expr< DB > = <@ database("People") @>
let youths : Expr< {name : string; age : int} list > =
  <@ for u in (%db).people do
     for v in (%db).people do
     if u.name = "Alex" && v.age < u.age then
     yield {name : v.name; age : v.age} @>

run(youths) ⇝
  [{name = "Bert" ; age = 30}
   {name = "Cora"; age = 35}
   {name = "Edna"; age = 25}]
```

What does **run** do?

1. Simplify quoted expression
2. Translate query to SQL
3. Execute SQL
4. Translate answer to host language

Theorem

Each **run** generates one query if

A. answer type is flat (list of record of scalars)

B. only permitted operations (e.g., no recursion)

C. only refers to one database

Scala (naive)

```
val youth′ : List[{ val name : String; val age : Int}] =
  for {u ← db′.people
       v ← db′.people
       if u.name == "Alex" && v.age < u.age}
  yield new Record { val name = v.name; val age = v.age }
```

Scala (quoted)

```
val youth : Rep[ List[{ val name : String; val age : Int}] ] =
  for {u ← db.people
       v ← db.people
       if u.name == "Alex" && v.age < u.age}
  yield new Record { val name = v.name; val age = v.age }
```

Part II

Abstraction, composition, dynamic generation

Abstracting over values

```
let range : Expr< (int, int) → Names > =
  <@ fun(a, b) → for w in (%db).people do
                 if a ≤ w.age && w.age < b then
                 yield {name : w.name} @>
```

```
run(<@ (%range)(30, 40) @>)
```

```
select w.name as name
from people as w
where 30 ≤ w.age and w.age < 40
```

Abstracting over a predicate

```
let satisfies : Expr< (int → bool) → Names > =
  <@ fun(p) → for w in (%db).people do
                if p(w.age) then
                yield {name : w.name} @>

run(<@ (%satisfies)(fun(x) → 30 ≤ x && x < 40) @>)

        select w.name as name
        from people as w
        where 30 ≤ w.age and w.age < 40
```

Dynamically generated queries

```
type Predicate =
  | Above of int
  | Below of int
  | And of Predicate × Predicate
```

```
let rec P(t : Predicate) : Expr< int → bool > =
  match t with
  | Above(a)→ <@ fun(x) → (%lift(a)) ≤ x @>
  | Below(a)→ <@ fun(x) → x < (%lift(a)) @>
  | And(t, u) → <@ fun(x) → (%P(t))(x) && (%P(u))(x) @>
```

Dynamically generated queries

$$\mathsf{P}(\mathsf{And}(\mathsf{Above}(30), \mathsf{Below}(40)))$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \texttt{<@}\ \ \textbf{fun}(x) \rightarrow (\textbf{fun}(x_1) \rightarrow 30 \leq x_1)(x)\ \ \&\&\ \ (\textbf{fun}(x_2) \rightarrow x_2 < 40)(x)\ \ \texttt{@>}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \texttt{<@}\ \ \textbf{fun}(x) \rightarrow 30 \leq x\ \ \&\&\ \ x < 40\ \ \texttt{@>}$$

$$\textbf{run}(\texttt{<@}\ (\%\mathsf{satisfies})(\%\mathsf{P}(\mathsf{And}(\mathsf{Above}(30), \mathsf{Below}(40)))))\ \texttt{@>})$$

```
select w.name as name
from people as w
where 30 ≤ w.age and w.age < 40
```

Part III

Closed quotation vs. open quotation

Dynamically generated queries, revisited

```
let rec P(t : Predicate) : Expr< int → bool > =
  match t with
  | Above(a)→ <@ fun(x) → (%lift(a)) ≤ x @>
  | Below(a)→ <@ fun(x) → x < (%lift(a)) @>
  | And(t, u) → <@ fun(x) → (%P(t))(x) && (%P(u))(x) @>
```

vs.

```
let rec P'(t : Predicate)(x : Expr< int >) : Expr< bool > =
  match t with
  | Above(a)→ <@ (%lift(a)) ≤ (%x) @>
  | Below(a)→ <@ (%x) < (%lift(a)) @>
  | And(t, u) → <@ (%P'(t)(x)) && (%P'(u)(x)) @>
```

Abstracting over a predicate, revisited

```
let satisfies : Expr< (int → bool) → Names > =
  <@ fun(p) → for w in (%db).people do
                if p(w.age) then
                yield {name : w.name} @>
```

vs.

```
let satisfies'(p : Expr< int > → Expr< bool >) : Expr< Names > =
  <@ for w in (%db).people do
     if (%p(<@ w.age @>)) then
     yield {name : w.name} @>
```

QDSL		EDSL	
$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A \to B \rangle$	✔	$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A \rangle \to \mathsf{Expr}\langle B \rangle$	✔
$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A \times B \rangle$	✔	$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A \rangle \times \mathsf{Expr}\langle B \rangle$	✔
$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A + B \rangle$	✔	$\mathsf{Expr}\langle A \rangle + \mathsf{Expr}\langle B \rangle$	✗

closed quotations

vs.

open quotations

quotations of functions

$(\mathsf{Expr}\langle\, \mathsf{A} \rightarrow \mathsf{B}\,\rangle)$

vs.

functions of quotations

$(\mathsf{Expr}\langle\, \mathsf{A}\,\rangle \rightarrow \mathsf{Expr}\langle\, \mathsf{B}\,\rangle)$

Part IV

The Subformula Principle

Subformula principle

> Perhaps we may express the essential properties of such a normal proof by saying: it is not roundabout. No concepts enter into the proof than those contained in its final result, and their use was therefore essential to the achievement of that result.

— Gerhard Gentzen, 1935

Normalisation—Call By Name

$$
\begin{aligned}
(\textbf{fun}(x) \to N)\ M &\rightsquigarrow N[x := M] \\
\{\overline{\ell = M}\}.\ell_i &\rightsquigarrow M_i \\
\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ (\textbf{yield}\ M)\ \textbf{do}\ N &\rightsquigarrow N[x := M] \\
\textbf{for}\ y\ \textbf{in}\ (\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ L\ \textbf{do}\ M)\ \textbf{do}\ N &\rightsquigarrow \textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ L\ \textbf{do}\ (\textbf{for}\ y\ \textbf{in}\ M\ \textbf{do}\ N) \\
\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ (\textbf{if}\ L\ \textbf{then}\ M)\ \textbf{do}\ N &\rightsquigarrow \textbf{if}\ L\ \textbf{then}\ (\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ M\ \textbf{do}\ N) \\
\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ [\ ]\ \textbf{do}\ N &\rightsquigarrow [\ ] \\
\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ (L \mathbin{@} M)\ \textbf{do}\ N &\rightsquigarrow (\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ L\ \textbf{do}\ N) \mathbin{@} (\textbf{for}\ x\ \textbf{in}\ M\ \textbf{do}\ N) \\
\textbf{if true then}\ M &\rightsquigarrow M \\
\textbf{if false then}\ M &\rightsquigarrow [\ ]
\end{aligned}
$$

Normalisation—Call By Value

$$E ::= [\,]\,M \mid V\,[\,] \mid ([\,], N) \mid (V, [\,]) \mid \textbf{fst}\,[\,] \mid \textbf{snd}\,[\,]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[M] &\rightsquigarrow \textbf{let}\ x = M\ \textbf{in}\ E[x], \quad x \text{ fresh, } M \text{ not a value} \\
\textbf{let}\ y = (\textbf{let}\ x = L\ \textbf{in}\ M)\ \textbf{in}\ N &\rightsquigarrow \textbf{let}\ x = L\ \textbf{in}\ (\textbf{let}\ y = M\ \textbf{in}\ N) \\
(\textbf{fun}(x) \to N)\,V &\rightsquigarrow N[x := V] \\
\textbf{fst}\ (V, W) &\rightsquigarrow V \\
\textbf{snd}\ (V, W) &\rightsquigarrow W \\
\textbf{let}\ x = V\ \textbf{in}\ N &\rightsquigarrow N[x := V] \\
\textbf{let}\ x = M\ \textbf{in}\ N &\rightsquigarrow N, \quad x \notin FV(N)
\end{aligned}$$

Applications of the Subformula Principle

- Normalisation eliminates higher-order functions (SQL, Feldspar)
- Normalisation eliminates nested intermediate data (SQL)
- Normalisation fuses intermediate arrays (Feldspar)

Part V

Results

SQL LINQ results (F#)

Example	F# 2.0	F# 3.0	us	(norm)
differences	17.6	20.6	18.1	0.5
range	×	5.6	2.9	0.3
satisfies	2.6	×	2.9	0.3
$P(t_0)$	2.8	×	3.3	0.3
$P(t_1)$	2.7	×	3.0	0.3
expertise′	7.2	9.2	8.0	0.6
expertise	×	66.7^{av}	8.3	0.9
xp_0	×	8.3	7.9	1.9
xp_1	×	14.7	13.4	1.1
xp_2	×	17.9	20.7	2.2
xp_3	×	3744.9	3768.6	4.4

Times in milliseconds; ^{av} marks query avalanche.

Feldspar results (Haskell)

	QDSL Feldspar		EDSL Feldspar		Generated Code	
	Compile	Run	Compile	Run	Compile	Run
IPGray	16.96	0.01	15.06	0.01	0.06	0.39
IPBW	17.08	0.01	14.86	0.01	0.06	0.19
FFT	17.87	0.39	15.79	0.09	0.07	3.02
CRC	17.14	0.01	15.33	0.01	0.05	0.12
Window	17.85	0.02	15.77	0.01	0.06	0.27

Times in seconds; minimum time of ten runs.

Part VI

Conclusion

‘Good artists copy, great artists steal’

– Pablo Picasso”

“ ‘Good artists copy, great artists steal’

– Pablo Picasso”

– Steve Jobs

“ ‘Good artists copy, great artists steal’

– Pablo Picasso”

– Steve Jobs

EDSL	QDSL
types	types
syntax (some)	syntax (all)
	normalisation

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Normalisation (Gentzen, 1935)

The script-writers dream, Cooper, DBPL, 2009.

A practical theory of language integrated query,
Cheney, Lindley, Wadler, ICFP, 2013.

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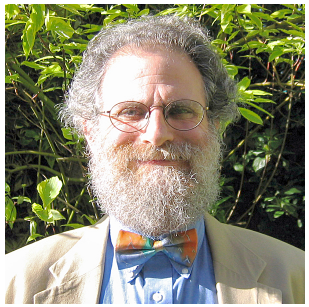
Najd, Lindley, Svenningsson, Wadler, PEPM, 2016.

Propositions as types, Wadler, CACM, December 2015.

http://fsprojects.github.io/FSharp.Linq.Experimental.ComposableQuery/





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