A Practical Theory of Language-Integrated Query

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SCRIPT

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What is the difference between theory and practice?

In theory there is no difference. But in practice there is. How does one integrate SQL and a host language?

How does one integrate SQL and a host language?

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

Domain-Specific Language (DSL) Domain-Specific Embedded Language (DSEL) A functional language is a Domain-Specific Language for defining Domain-Specific Languages

Links





Wadler, Yallop, Lindley, Cooper (Edinburgh)



Meijer (C#,VB), Syme (F#) (Microsoft)



Links





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Scylla and Charybdis



Avoid Scylla and Charybdis Each host query generates one SQL query *Scylla:* failure to generate a query (×) *Charybdis:* multiple queries, avalanche (^{av})

Example	F# 2.0	F# 3.0	us
differences	17.6	20.6	18.1
range	×	5.6	2.9
satisfies	2.6	×	2.9
satisfies	4.4	×	4.6
compose	×	×	4.0
$P(t_0)$	2.8	×	3.3
P(t ₁)	2.7	×	3.0
expertise'	7.2	9.2	8.0
expertise	×	66.7^{av}	8.3
xp ₀	×	8.3	7.9
xp ₁	×	14.7	13.4
xp_2	×	17.9	20.7
xp ₃	×	3744.9	3768.6
marks query avalanche.		All time	s in millisecor

Series of examples Join queries Abstraction over values (first-order) Abstraction over predicates (higher-order) Dynamic generation of queries Nested intermediate data Compiling XPath to SQL

Closed quotation vs. open quotation Expr $< A \rightarrow B > vs.$ Expr $< A > \rightarrow$ Expr< B >

> *T-LINQ: the theory* Scylla and Charybdis Theorem

> > *P-LINQ: the practice*

Measured times comparable Normalisation a small fraction of time

Part I

Join queries

A database

people						
	name	age				
	"Alex"	60				
	"Bert"	56				
	"Cora"	33				
	"Drew"	31				
	"Edna"	21				
	"Fred"	60				

CO	uples	
	her	him
	"Alex"	"Bert"
	"Cora"	"Drew"
	"Edna"	"Fred"

A query in SQL

select w.name as name, w.age - m.age as diff

- from couples as c,
 - people **as** w,
 - people as m

where c.her = w.name and c.him = m.name and w.age > m.age

name	diff
"Alex"	4
"Cora"	2

A database as data

 $\{people =$ $[{name = "Alex" ; age = 60};$ ${name = "Bert" ; age = 56};$ ${name = "Cora"; age = 33};$ ${name = "Drew"; age = 31};$ $\{name = "Edna"; age = 21\};$ $\{name = "Fred"; age = 60\}];$ couples = $[{her = "Alex" ; him = "Bert" };$ {her = "Cora"; him = "Drew"};

{her = "Edna"; him = "Fred" }]

Importing the database (naive)

type DB =

 $\{people:$

{name : **string**; age : **int**} list;

couples :

{her : string; him : string} list} let db' : DB = database("People") A query as a comprehension (naive)

```
let differences' : {name : string; diff : int} list =
  for c in db'.couples do
  for w in db'.people do
  for m in db'.people do
  if c.her = w.name && c.him = m.name && w.age > m.age then
  yield {name : w.name; diff : w.age - m.age}
```

```
{\rm differences}'
```

```
[\{name = "Alex"; diff = 4\} \\ \{name = "Cora"; diff = 2\}]
```

Importing the database (quoted)

type DB =
 {people :
 {name : string; age : int} list;
 couples :
 {her : string; him : string} list}
let db : Expr< DB > = <@ database("People") @>

A query as a comprehension (quoted)

```
let differences : Expr< {name : string; diff : int} list > =
  <@ for c in (%db).couples do
    for w in (%db).people do
    for m in (%db).people do
    if c.her = w.name && c.him = m.name && w.age > m.age then
    yield {name : w.name; diff : w.age - m.age} @>
```

run(differences)

 $[{name = "Alex"; diff = 4}]$ ${name = "Cora"; diff = 2}]$

Running a query

- 1. compute quoted expression
- 2. simplify quoted expression
- 3. translate query to SQL
- 4. execute SQL
- 5. translate answer to host language

Scylla and Charybdis:

Each **run** generates one query if

- A. answer type is flat (bag of record of scalars)
- B. only permitted operations (e.g., no recursion)
- C. only refers to one database

Scala (naive)

```
val differences:
List[{ val name: String; val diff: Int }] =
for {
    c <- db.couples
    w <- db.people
    m <- db.people
    if c.her == w.name && c.him == m.name && w.age > m.age
    } yield new Record {
      val name = w.name
      val diff = w.age - m.age
    }
```

Scala (quoted)

```
val differences:
Rep[List[{ val name: String; val diff: Int }]] =
for {
    c <- db.couples
    w <- db.people
    m <- db.people
    if c.her == w.name && c.him == m.name && w.age > m.age
    } yield new Record {
      val name = w.name
      val diff = w.age - m.age
    }
```

Part II

Abstraction, composition, dynamic generation

Abstracting over values

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

select w.name as name from people as w where $30 \le w$.age and w.age < 40 Abstracting over a predicate

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

run(<@ (\statisfies)(fun(x) \rightarrow 30 \leq x & x < 40) @>)

select w.name as name from people as w where $30 \le w$.age and w.age < 40 Datatype of predicates

type Predicate =

| Above of int

| Below of int

| And of Predicate \times Predicate

| Or of Predicate \times Predicate

| Not of Predicate

let t_0 : Predicate = And(Above(30), Below(40))

Dynamically generated queries

let rec $P(t : Predicate) : Expr < int \rightarrow bool > = match t with$

 $| Above(a) \rightarrow \langle e fun(x) \rightarrow (e fift(a)) \leq x e \rangle$

 $| \text{ Below}(a) \rightarrow \langle \text{e} \text{ fun}(x) \rightarrow x \langle \text{e} \text{ lift}(a) \rangle \rangle \rangle$

 $| And(t, u) \rightarrow \langle e fun(x) \rightarrow (e P(t))(x) \& \& (e P(u))(x) e \rangle$

 $| \text{ Or}(t, u) \rightarrow \langle \text{@ fun}(x) \rightarrow (\text{@}P(t))(x) | | (\text{@}P(u))(x) \text{@} \rangle$

 $| Not(t) \longrightarrow \langle e fun(x) \rightarrow not((e P(t))(x)) \rangle e \rangle$

Generating the query

run(<@ (\$satisfies)(\$P(t₀)) @>)

select w.name as name from people as w where $30 \le w$.age and w.age < 40

Part III

Nested intermediate data

Flat data

{departments = $[{dpt = "Product"};$ dpt = "Quality" ;dpt = "Research" ; $\{dpt = "Sales"\}];$ employees = $[\{dpt = "Product"; emp = "Alex" \};$ $dpt = "Product"; emp = "Bert" \};$ dpt = "Research"; emp = "Cora"; dpt = "Research"; emp = "Drew"; dpt ="Research"; emp = "Edna"; $\{dpt = "Sales"; emp = "Fred"\}\};$

Flat data (continued)

tasks = $[\{emp = "Alex"; tsk = "build"\};$ $\{emp = "Bert"; tsk = "build"\};$ $\{emp = "Cora"; tsk = "abstract"\};$ $\{emp = "Cora"; tsk = "build"\};$ $\{emp = "Cora"; tsk = "design"\};$ $\{emp = "Drew"; tsk = "abstract"\};$ $\{emp = "Drew"; tsk = "design"\};$ $\{emp = "Edna"; tsk = "abstract"\};$ $\{emp = "Edna"; tsk = "call"\};$ $\{emp = "Edna"; tsk = "design"\};$ $\{emp = "Fred"; tsk = "call"\}\}$

Importing the database

type Org = {departments : {dpt : string} list; employees : {dpt : string; emp : string} list; tasks : {emp : string; tsk : string} list }

let org : Expr< Org > = <@ database("Org") @>

Departments where every employee can do a given task

```
let expertise' : Expr< string → {dpt : string} list > =
<@ fun(u) → for d in (%org).departments do
if not(exists(
for e in (%org).employees do
if d.dpt = e.dpt && not(exists(
for t in (%org).tasks do
if e.emp = t.emp && t.tsk = u then yield {})
)) then yield {})
```

```
run(<@ (%expertise')("abstract") @>)
[{dpt = "Quality"}; {dpt = "Research"}]
```

Nested data

```
[{dpt = "Product"; employees =
   \{ \{ emp = "Alex"; tasks = ["build"] \} \}
    \{emp = "Bert"; tasks = ["build"] \}];
 dpt = "Quality"; employees = [];
 dpt = "Research"; employees =
   [{emp = "Cora"; tasks = ["abstract"; "build"; "design"]};
    {emp = "Drew"; tasks = ["abstract"; "design"] };
    \{emp = "Edna"; tasks = ["abstract"; "call"; "design"] \}] \};
 \{dpt = "Sales"; employees =
   [\{emp = "Fred"; tasks = ["call"] \}]
```

Nested data from flat data

```
type NestedOrg = [{dpt : string; employees :
                        [{emp : string; tasks : [string]}]
let nestedOrg : Expr< NestedOrg > =
  <@ for d in (%org).departments do</pre>
     yield {dpt = d.dpt; employees = 
              for e in (%org).employees do
              if d.dpt = e.dpt then
              yield {emp = e.emp; tasks = 
                       for t in (%org).tasks do
                       if e.emp = t.emp then
                       yield t.tsk}}} @>
```

Higher-order queries

```
let any : Expr< (A list, A \rightarrow bool) \rightarrow bool > =
   <@ fun(xs, p) \rightarrow
          exists(for x in xs do
                    if p(x) then
                    yield { }) @>
let all : Expr< (A list, A \rightarrow bool) \rightarrow bool > =
   <@ fun(xs, p) \rightarrow
          not((\&any)(xs, fun(x) \rightarrow not(p(x)))) @>
let contains : Expr< (A list, A) \rightarrow bool > =
   <@ fun(xs, u) \rightarrow
          (\text{any})(xs, fun(x) \rightarrow x = u) @>
```

Departments where every employee can do a given task

```
let expertise : Expr< string \rightarrow {dpt : string} list > =
<@ fun(u) \rightarrow for d in (%nestedOrg)
if (%all)(d.employees,
fun(e) \rightarrow (%contains)(e.tasks, u) then
yield {dpt = d.dpt} @>
```

```
run(<@ (%expertise)("abstract") @>)
[{dpt = "Quality"}; {dpt = "Research"}]
```

Part IV

Compiling XPath to SQL

Part V

Closed quotation vs. open quotation

Dynamically generated queries, revisited

let rec $P(t : Predicate) : Expr < int \rightarrow bool > = match t with$

 $| Above(a) \rightarrow \langle @ fun(x) \rightarrow (\$ lift(a)) \leq x @ \rangle \\| Below(a) \rightarrow \langle @ fun(x) \rightarrow x < (\$ lift(a)) @ \rangle \\|$

 $| And(t, u) \rightarrow \langle e fun(x) \rightarrow (e P(t))(x) \& \& (e P(u))(x) e \rangle$

VS.

let rec P(t : Predicate)(x : Expr< int >) : Expr< bool > =
match t with

| Above(a) $\rightarrow \langle @ (\$lift(a)) \leq (\$x) @ \rangle$

| Below(a) $\rightarrow \langle @ (x) \rangle \langle (Blift(a)) @ \rangle$

 $| And(t, u) \rightarrow \langle @ (\ensuremath{\$} P(t)(x)) \ensuremath{\And} \& (\ensuremath{\$} P(u)(x)) \ensuremath{@} >$

Abstracting over a predicate, revisited

 $\label{eq:letsatisfies} \begin{array}{l} \mbox{lets satisfies} : Expr<(\mbox{int} \rightarrow \mbox{bool}) \rightarrow \mbox{Names} > = \\ \mbox{<@ fun(p) } \rightarrow \mbox{for } w \mbox{ in ($\ensurement{\sc bool}).people do} \\ \mbox{if } p(w.age) \mbox{ then} \\ \mbox{yield } \{name: w.name\} \mbox{@>} \end{array}$

VS.

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



closed quotations vs. open quotations

quotations of functions $(Expr < A \rightarrow B >)$ VS. functions of quotations $(Expr < A > \rightarrow Expr < B >)$

Part VI

T-LINQ: the theory

Host language

Fun	App				
$\Gamma, x: A \vdash N:$	$B \qquad \Gamma \vdash L$	$L: A \to B$	$\Gamma \vdash M : A$		
$\Gamma \vdash fun(x) \to N:$	$A \rightarrow B$	$\Gamma \vdash L M$	<i>T</i> : <i>B</i>		
SINGLETON	For				
$\Gamma \vdash M : A$	$\Gamma \vdash M : A$ list	$\Gamma, x: A$	$\vdash N: B$ list		
$\Gamma \vdash$ yield $M : A$ list	$\Gamma \vdash$ for x	in M do N	B list		
QUOTE	Ru	JN			
$\Gamma;\cdotdash M:A$. Γ	$\Gamma \vdash M: Expr < T >$			
$\Gamma dash$ <@ M @> : Exp	or< A >	$\Gamma \vdash \operatorname{run}(M)$:T		
Ri	EC				
Γ	$f: A \to B, x: A$	$\vdash N: \mathbf{B}$			
$\overline{\Gamma}$	$\vdash \operatorname{rec} f(x) \to N$	$A \to B$			

Quoted language

FUNQ $\frac{\Gamma; \Delta, x : A \vdash N : B}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash \mathsf{fun}(x) \to N : A \to B}$ $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{APPQ} \\ \\ \underline{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash L : A \rightarrow B} \qquad \Gamma; \Delta \vdash M : A \\ \\ \hline \Gamma; \Delta \vdash L M : B \end{array}$

 $\frac{\text{SingletonQ}}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash M : A}$

 $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash$ yield M : A list

FORQ $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash M : A$ list $\Gamma; \Delta, x : A \vdash N : B$ list $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash$ for x in M do N : B list

ANTIQUOTELIFT $\Gamma \vdash M : \mathsf{Expr} < A >$ $\Gamma \vdash M : O$ $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash (\$M) : A$ $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{lift}(M) : \mathsf{Expr} < O >$

DATABASE $\Sigma(db) = \{\overline{\ell : T}\}$ $\overline{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash database(db) : \{\overline{\ell : T}\}}$ Normalisation: symbolic evaluation

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

Normalisation: ad hoc rewriting

for x in L do $(M @ N) \hookrightarrow$ (for x in L do M) @ (for x in L do N) for x in L do $[] \hookrightarrow []$ if L then $(M @ N) \hookrightarrow$ (if L then M) @ (if L then N) if L then $[] \hookrightarrow []$ if L then $[for x in M do N) \hookrightarrow$ for x in M do (if L then N) if L then (if M then N) \hookrightarrow if (L & & M) then N

Theorem (Scylla and Charybdis) If

 $\vdash L: A$

and A is a table type (list of record of scalars) then

$$L \rightsquigarrow^* M$$
 and $M \hookrightarrow^* N$,

where M and N are in normal form with respect to \rightsquigarrow and \hookrightarrow , and N is isomorphic to an SQL query.

Part VII

P-LINQ: the practice

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			
satisfies	4.4	×	4.6	0.3			
compose	×	×	4.0	0.8			
$P(t_0)$	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			
^{av} marks query avalanche. All times in milliseconds.							

Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)	Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)
Q1	2.0	2.4	0.3	Q15	3.5	4.0	0.5
Q2	1.5	1.7	0.2	Q16	3.5	4.0	0.5
Q5	1.7	2.1	0.3	Q17	6.2	6.7	0.4
Q6	1.7	2.1	0.3	Q18	1.5	1.8	0.2
Q7	1.5	1.8	0.2	Q19	1.5	1.8	0.2
Q8	2.3	2.4	0.2	Q20	1.5	1.8	0.2
Q9	2.3	2.7	0.3	Q21	1.6	1.9	0.3
Q10	1.4	1.7	0.2	Q22	1.6	1.9	0.3
Q11	1.4	1.7	0.2	Q23	1.6	1.9	0.3
Q12	4.4	4.9	0.4	Q24	1.8	2.0	0.3
Q13	2.5	2.9	0.4	Q25	1.4	1.6	0.2
Q14	2.5	2.9	0.3	Q27	1.8	2.1	0.2

Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)	Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)
Q29	1.5	1.7	0.2	Q42	4.7	5.5	0.5
Q30	1.8	2.0	0.2	Q43	7.2	6.9	0.7
Q32	2.7	3.1	0.3	Q44	5.4	6.2	0.7
Q33	2.8	3.1	0.3	Q45	2.2	2.6	0.3
Q34	3.1	3.6	0.5	Q46	2.3	2.7	0.4
Q35	3.1	3.6	0.4	Q47	2.1	2.5	0.3
Q36	2.2	2.4	0.2	Q48	2.1	2.5	0.3
Q37	1.3	1.6	0.2	Q49	2.4	2.7	0.3
Q38	4.2	4.9	0.6	Q50	2.2	2.5	0.3
Q39	4.2	4.7	0.4	Q51	2.0	2.4	0.3
Q40	4.1	4.6	0.4	Q52	6.1	5.9	0.4
Q41	6.3	7.3	0.6	Q53	11.9	11.2	0.6

Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)	Q#	F# 3.0	us	(norm)
Q54	4.4	4.8	0.4	Q61	5.8	6.3	0.3
Q55	5.2	5.6	0.4	Q62	5.4	5.9	0.2
Q56	4.6	5.1	0.5	Q63	3.4	3.8	0.4
Q57	2.5	2.9	0.4	Q64	4.3	4.9	0.6
Q58	2.5	2.9	0.4	Q65	10.2	10.1	0.4
Q59	3.1	3.6	0.5	Q66	8.9	8.7	0.6
Q60	3.6	4.4	0.7	Q67	14.7	13.1	1.1

All times in milliseconds.

Part VIII

What else are we up to?

Blame: Integrating static and dynamic typing



Ahmed, Findler, Siek, Wadler

- Well-typed programs can't be blamed, ESOP 2009.
- Threesomes, with and without blame, POPL 2010.
- Blame for all, POPL 2011.
- A plague on both your houses: Allocating blame symmetrically and precisely 2013, to appear.

Links: Web programming without tiers



Wadler, Yallop, Lindley, Cooper

- Links: Web programming without tiers, FMCO 2006.
- The essence of form abstraction, ASPLAS 2008.
 F# (WebSharper), Haskell (Tupil, Digestive Functors, Happstack, Yesod), Common Lisp, JavaScript, Racket, Scala.
- Idioms are Oblivious, Arrows are Meticulous, Monads are Promiscuous MSFP 2008.
- The arrow calculus, JFP 2010.

ABCD: A Basis for Concurrency and Distribution



Najd, Wadler, Lindley, Morris

- From Session Types to Data Types: A Basis for Concurrency and Distribution, EPSRC 2013–2018.
- Co-PIs: Simon Gay, Glasgow, and Nobuko Yoshida, Imperial. Collaborators: Amazon, Cognizant, OOI, Red Hat, VMWare.
- Propositions as Sessions, ICFP 2012, JFP 2014.
- A practical theory of language-integrated query, ICFP 2013.

Part IX

Conclusion

Series of examples Join queries Abstraction over values (first-order) Abstraction over predicates (higher-order) Dynamic generation of queries Nested intermediate data Compiling XPath to SQL

Closed quotation vs. open quotation Expr $< A \rightarrow B > vs.$ Expr $< A > \rightarrow$ Expr< B >

> *T-LINQ: the theory* Scylla and Charybdis Theorem

> > *P-LINQ: the practice*

Measured times comparable Normalisation a small fraction of time

Good DSLs copy, great DSLs steal

Nikola (Mainland and Morrisett 2010) Feldspar (Axelsson et al. 2010; Axelsson and Svenningsson 2012)

Host	DSEL
a + b	a+b
a < b	a .<. b
if a then b else c	a ? (b, c)

DSEL's steal the host's *type system*.

We steal the host's type system and syntax, and we provide normalisation.

Theory and Practice

T-LINQ:

doesn't cover sorting, grouping, aggregation (work for tomorrow)

P-LINQ:

covers all of LINQ (put it to work today!)

What is the difference between theory and practice?

In theory there is no difference. But in practice there is. What is the difference between theory and practice?

In theory there is a difference. But in practice there isn't.