

# Static and Dynamic Semantics of NoSQL Languages

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# Not Only SQL ?

SQL (and the Relational DBMS) are not good for everything

NoSQL is class of Database Management Systems that :

- Optimized for *scalability* and *performances*
- Often implemented on top of MapReduce\* frameworks
  - \* : distributed computations as the combination of node-local operations (Map) and global agregation of intermediary results (Reduce)
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Writing applications directly with MapReduce is tedious

# NoSQL programming languages

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- Not standard (yet) : Jaql, Pig/Latin, Sawzall, Unql, ...
- No formal semantics  $\Rightarrow$  hard to reason about the code
- Weak notion of schema (data types)  $\Rightarrow$  hard to specify program input/output (unusual for the DB community)
- No static typing (usual for the DB community)

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# Jaql in a nutshell

Data-model is JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)

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//sequence of department records
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depts = [ {depnum:154, name:"HR", size:40}, ... ];
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“Some sophisticated dependent type” what about type inference?

# Outline

## Using semantic subtyping to define JSON schema

A way to precisely describe the data

### Filters

Recursive combinators that implement sequence iterators

### Filters (Types)

Evaluating the program over an input type to compute the output type

Disclaimer : I'm "mostly" telling the truth (details in the paper)

# JSON schema using regular expression types

What type can we give to depts, employee and the result of union?

```
type Depts = [{size:int, name:string, depnum:int}* ]
```

```
type Emp = [{name:string, depid: string, salary:int }* ]
```

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```

```
[ ({size:int, name:string, depnum:int; kind:"department" }  
  |{name:string, depid:string, salary:int; kind:"employee"})* ]
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type Depts = [{size:int, name:string, depnum:int}* ]
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```
[ ({size:int, name:string, depnum:int; kind:"department" }  
  |{name:string, depid:string, salary:int; kind:"employee"})* ]
```

How can we achieve that?

# Semantic subtyping 1/2

## Definition (Types)

$t ::=$  `int` | `string` | ... (basic types)  
| `'nil` | `42` | ... (singleton types)  
|  $(t, t)$  (products)  
|  $\{l:t, \dots, l:t\}$  (closed records)  
|  $\{l:t, \dots, l:t, \dots\}$  (open records)  
|  $t | t$  (union types)  
|  $t \& t$  (intersection types)  
|  $\neg t$  (negation type)  
| `empty` (empty type)  
| `any` (any type)  
|  $\mu T. t$  (recursive types)  
|  $T$  (recursion variable)

$\mu T. ($   
  `'nil`  
   $| (\{ \text{"name"} : \text{string}, \dots \}, T)$   
   $)$   
 $\equiv$   
[ `{name: string, ..}*` ]

## Semantic subtyping 2/2

Definition (Semantic subtyping)

$$s \leq t \Leftrightarrow \llbracket s \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket t \rrbracket$$

$\llbracket - \rrbracket$  : set-theoretic interpretation : a type is the set of the value that have that type

- Arbitrary regular expressions :  $[\text{char}^+ (\text{int}|\text{bool})?]$
- **Semantic** equivalence of types :
  - $(\text{int}, \text{int})|(2,4) \equiv (\text{int}, \text{int})$
  - $\{\text{"id":int, ..}\} \& \{\text{"here":bool, ..}\} \equiv \{\text{"id":int, "here":bool, ..}\}$
  - $\{\text{"id":int, ..}\} | \{\text{"id":bool, ..}\} \equiv \{\text{"id":(int | bool), ..}\}$
- Decidable emptiness (since  $s \leq t \Leftrightarrow s \& \neg t = \text{empty}$ )
- Decidable finiteness (since types are regular)

# Basic expressions

## Definition (Basic expressions)

$e ::= c$	(constants)
$x$	(variables)
$(e, e)$	(pairs)
$\{e:e, \dots, e:e\}$	(records)
$e + e$	(record concatenation)
$e \setminus \ell$	(field deletion)
$op(e, \dots, e)$	(built-in operators)
$f e$	(filter application)

## Example

$\{\text{"age":30, "name":"Kim"}\} + \{\text{"age":31}\} \rightsquigarrow \{\text{"age":31, "name":"Kim"}\}$

$\{\text{"age":30, "name":"Kim"}\} \setminus \text{"name"} \rightsquigarrow \{\text{"age":30}\}$

$\{\text{strconcat("a", "ge")}:30\} \rightsquigarrow \{\text{"age":30}\}$

# Basic expression typing

[VARS]

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash x : \Gamma(x)}$$

[CONSTANT]

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash c : c}$$

[PROD]

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : t_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : t_2}{\Gamma \vdash (e_1, e_2) : (t_1, t_2)}$$

[FOREIGN]

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : t_1 \quad \dots \quad \Gamma \vdash e_n : t_n}{\Gamma \vdash \text{op}(e_1, \dots, e_n) : \text{type}((\Gamma, x_1:t_1, \dots, x_n:t_n), \text{op}(x_1, \dots, x_n))}$$

[RCD-FIN]

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : l_1 | \dots | l_n \quad \Gamma \vdash e' : t}{\Gamma \vdash \{e:e'\} : \{l_1:t\} | \dots | \{l_n:t\}}$$

[RCD-INF]

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : t \quad \Gamma \vdash e' : t'}{\Gamma \vdash \{e:e'\} : \{..\}} \quad \begin{array}{l} t \leq \text{string} \\ t \text{ is infinite} \end{array}$$

...

# Filters

## Definition (Filters)

$f ::= e$	(expression)	$a ::= x$	(variables)
$p \Rightarrow f$	(pattern)	$c$	(constants)
$f \mid f$	(union)	$(a, a)$	(pairs)
$f ; f$	(composition)	$\{l:a, \dots, l:a\}$	(record)
$(f, f)$	(product)		
$\{l:f, \dots, l:f, \dots\}$	(record)	$p ::=$	types with capture variables
$\text{let } X = f$	(rec. definition)		
$X a$	(guarded rec.)		

## Definition ((Big-step) semantics of filters)

$$\delta; \gamma \vdash_{eval} f(v) \rightsquigarrow r$$

$\delta$  : recursion variable environment

$\gamma$  : capture variable environment

$r$  is either a value or  $\Omega$  (error)

## Filters (by example)

	Jaql expression	Filter
Field access	<code>e.l</code>	<code>e;{l : x,..}=&gt;x</code>
Conditional	if <code>e<sub>1</sub></code> then <code>e<sub>2</sub></code> else <code>e<sub>3</sub></code>	<code>e<sub>1</sub>; 'true=&gt;e<sub>2</sub>   'false=&gt;e<sub>3</sub></code>
Filter	filter each <code>x</code> with <code>x.size &lt; 50</code>	let <code>X =</code> <code>'nil =&gt; 'nil</code> <code>  (x,xs)=&gt; if x.size &lt; 50</code> <code>then (x,X xs)</code> <code>else X xs</code>
Transform	transform each <code>x</code> with <code>{x.*,age:x.age+1}</code>	let <code>X = 'nil =&gt; 'nil</code> <code>  ({"age" : i=&gt;i + 1, ..},y=&gt;X y)</code>

# Typing filter application

“Evaluate the filter on the *type* of its argument”

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Definition (Type inference)

$$\Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} f(t) : s$$

$\Gamma$  capture variable environment

$\Delta$  recursion variable environment

$M$  memoization environment (for recursive types)

$$\frac{\Gamma \cup t/p ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} f(t) : s}{\Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} p \Rightarrow f(t) : s} \quad t \leq \{p\} \quad \frac{i = 1, 2 \quad \Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} f_i(t) : s_i}{\Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} f_1 | f_2(t) : s_1 | s_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma ; \Delta, (X \mapsto f) ; M, ((X, t) \mapsto T) \vdash_{fil} f(t) : s}{\Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} (\text{let } X = f)(t) : \mu T.s} \quad T \text{ fresh}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma ; \Delta ; M \vdash_{fil} (X a)(s) : T} \quad \begin{array}{l} t = \text{type}(\Gamma, a) \\ ((X, t) \mapsto T) \in M \end{array}$$

...

## Typing filter application (example)

Typing the application of

```
transform each x with { x.*, age: x.age+1 }
```

to a value of type

```
[ {name:string, age:int}* ]
```

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transform each  $x$  with  $\{ x.*, \text{age}: x.\text{age}+1 \}$

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$[ \{ \text{name}: \text{string}, \text{age}: \text{int} \}^* ]$

let  $Y = \text{'nil} \Rightarrow \text{'nil}$        $\mu T. \text{'nil}$   
 $| (\{ \text{"age"} : i \Rightarrow i + 1, \dots \}, y \Rightarrow Y y)$      $| (\{ \text{"name"} : \text{string}, \text{"age"} : \text{int} \}, T)$

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$Y(T) \mapsto U$

Output type

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 $i \mapsto \text{int}$

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# Typing problem : Termination

What about :

let  $Y = \text{'nil} \Rightarrow \text{'nil}$   
 $\mid (x, y) \Rightarrow Y(x, (x, y))$  applied to  $\mu T. \text{'nil} \mid (\text{int}, T)$

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⋮

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How to refuse such ill-founded filters ?

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- 1 Assign an identifier to each (term) variable :  $x \mapsto i_1, y \mapsto i_2,$

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⋮

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- 1 Assign an identifier to each (term) variable :  $x \mapsto i_1, y \mapsto i_2,$
- 2 For each recursive call, build an abstract value :  $(i_1, (i_1, i_2))$

# Typing problem : Termination

What about :

let  $Y = \text{'nil} \Rightarrow \text{'nil}$   
|  $(x, y) \Rightarrow Y(x, (x, y))$  applied to  $\mu T. \text{'nil} | (\text{int}, T)$

$Y(T) \mapsto U_1$

$Y((\text{int}, (\text{int}, T))) \mapsto U_2$

$Y((\text{int}, (\text{int}, (\text{int}, (\text{int}, T)))))) \mapsto U_3$

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- 1 Assign an identifier to each (term) variable :  $x \mapsto i_1, y \mapsto i_2,$
- 2 For each recursive call, build an abstract value :  $(i_1, (i_1, i_2))$
- 3 Apply the filter to the abstract values. Variables must be bound to exactly one identifier :  $x \mapsto i_1, y \mapsto (i_1, i_2)$

# Notable results

## 1 Type safety (of course !)

If  $\emptyset; \emptyset; \emptyset \vdash_{fil} f(t) : s$ , then  $\forall v : t, \emptyset; \emptyset \vdash_{eval} f(v) \rightsquigarrow r$  implies  $r : s$   
(in particular,  $r \neq \Omega$ )

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- 7 Sound (approximate) typing of non structural operators (`group_by`, `join`, `order_by`, ...)

## Some thoughts...

- DB community always comes up with interesting languages : SQL, XML query languages, NoSQL languages, RDF querying...
- Almost never a decent “safety oriented” static analysis
- Filter as type level combinators allows us to balance :
  - expressivity
  - decidability
  - precision
  - exotic use of polymorphism and subtyping

with some costs

- Not for higher-order languages
- Modularity

# Summary, future work

Summary :

- 1 Precise JSON schema via regexp type via semantic subtyping
- 2 Expressive calculus of combinators to encode iterators
- 3 Precise typing of filter application

⇒ framework for ensuring type-safety of NoSQL programs

Future work :

- 1 Relax some conditions on static analysis (allows one to express count, average, sum and other numerical aggregate functions)

$$\text{let } X = (c, \text{'nil'}) \Rightarrow c \\ | (c, (x, xs)) \Rightarrow X (c + x, xs)$$

- 2 Implementation effort to integrate in the Jaql framework
- 3 Study connections between filters and the actual compilation scheme (MapReduce)