# Leveraging Synergy Between Database and Programming Language Courses

## Brian Howard DePauw University

This work was supported by the 2008–11 Donald E. Town Faculty Fellowship from DePauw University.

### **Motivation and Overview**

- Enhance DB or PL course by building on connections with the other
- Examples:
  - Syntax-Directed SQL Translation
  - Comprehension Syntax
  - Object-Relational Mapping
  - Transactional Memory
  - Document-Oriented Databases
  - MapReduce

# Syntax-Directed SQL Translation

#### Grammar for a subset of SQL

```
Expr ::= SELECT * FWGH

| SELECT (ColName \mid Agg), FWGH

FWGH ::= FWG (HAVING Cond)?

FWG ::= FW (GROUP BY ColName, FW)?

FW ::= F (WHERE Cond)?

FW ::= FROM TableName,
```

#### **Translation Functions**

```
\mathcal{E}[\![\mathsf{SELECT} * FWGH]\!] = \mathcal{H}[\![FWGH,\emptyset]\!]
\mathcal{E}[\![\mathsf{SELECT} (\mathit{ColName} \,|\, Agg)_{,}^{+} FWGH]\!] = \mathbf{project}(\mathcal{H}[\![FWGH,\{Agg_{,}^{*}\}]\!],\{(\mathit{ColName} \,|\, Agg)_{,}^{+}\}))
\mathcal{H}[\![FWG, aggs]\!] = \mathcal{G}[\![FWG, aggs]\!]
\mathcal{H}[\![FWG \, \mathsf{HAVING} \, \mathit{Cond}, aggs]\!] = \mathbf{select}(\mathcal{G}[\![FWG, aggs]\!], \mathit{Cond})
\mathcal{G}[\![FW,\emptyset]\!] = \mathcal{W}[\![FW]\!]
\mathcal{G}[\![FW, aggs]\!] = \mathbf{groupby}(\mathcal{W}[\![FW]\!], \emptyset, aggs)
\mathcal{G}[\![FW \, \mathsf{GROUP} \, \mathsf{BY} \, \mathit{ColName}_{,}^{+}, aggs]\!] = \mathbf{groupby}(\mathcal{W}[\![FW]\!], \{\mathit{ColName}_{,}^{+}\}, aggs))
\mathcal{W}[\![F]\!] = \mathcal{F}[\![F]\!]
\mathcal{W}[\![F \, \mathsf{WHERE} \, \mathit{Cond}]\!] = \mathbf{select}(\mathcal{F}[\![F]\!], \mathit{Cond})
\mathcal{F}[\![\mathsf{FROM} \, \mathit{TableName}]\!] = \mathbf{TableName}
\mathcal{F}[\![\mathsf{FROM} \, \mathit{TableName}]\!] = \mathbf{product}(\mathcal{F}[\![\mathsf{FROM} \, \mathit{TableName}]\!)
```

#### **Example Translation**

What is the difference between a HAVING and a WHERE condition when there is no GROUP BY?

# **Comprehension Syntax**

Generalized for loop, based on set builder notation

#### Scala Example

```
val mentorPairs = for {
  mentor <- students
  other <- students
  if mentor.year < other.year &&
     mentor.major == other.major
} yield (mentor, other)</pre>
```

This is equivalent to

```
val mentors = students.flatMap(mentor =>
    students.withFilter(other =>
        mentor.year < other.year &&
        mentor.major == other.major
).map(other =>
        (mentor, other)
)
```

#### **C# LINQ Equivalent**

```
var mentors =
  from mentor in students
  from other in students
  where mentor.year < other.year
    && mentor.major == other.major
  select new {a = mentor, b = other};</pre>
```

#### **SQL** Equivalent

```
SELECT mentor.ID as a, other.ID as b
FROM Student mentor, Student other
WHERE mentor.Year < other.Year
AND mentor.Major = other.Major;</pre>
```

# **Object-Relational Mapping**

#### Java Database Connectivity (JDBC)

```
List mentors = new ArrayList();
Statement statement =
connection.createStatement();
String query =
  "SELECT mentor.ID as a, other.ID as b " +
  "FROM Student mentor, Student other " +
  "WHERE mentor.Year < other.Year " +
     AND mentor.Major = other.Major;";
ResultSet results =
statement.executeQuery(query);
while (results.next()) {
  String mentorID = results.getString("a");
  String otherID = results.getString("b");
  mentors.add(new MIDPair(mentorID,
otherID));
results.close();
```

#### Java Persistence API (JPA)

```
@Entity
@Table(name="Student")
public class Student {
    @Id @Column(name="ID")
    private String id; // Primary key

    @Column(name="Year")
    private int year;

@ManyToOne @JoinColumn(name="Major")
    private Department major; // Foreign key

    // usual constructors, accessors, etc. go
here
}
```

#### Java Persistence Query Language (JPQL)

```
List mentors = new ArrayList();
String queryString =
   "select mentor, other " +
   "from Student mentor, Student other " +
   "where mentor.year < other.year " +
   " and mentor.major = other.major";

Query query =
   entityMgr.createQuery(queryString);
for (Object result : query.getResultList()) {
   Object[] pair = (Object[]) result;
   Student mentor = (Student) pair[0];
   Student other = (Student) pair[1];
   mentors.add(new MPair(mentor, other));
}</pre>
```

#### **C# LINQ to Entities**

```
var context = ...;
var query =
  from mentor in context.students
  from other in context.students
  where mentor.year < other.year
    && mentor.major == other.major
  select new {a = mentor, b = other};
var mentors = query.ToList();</pre>
```

# **Transactional Memory**

```
class Fork { val inUse = Ref(false) }

def meal(left: Fork, right: Fork) {
    // thinking

    atomic { implicit txn =>
        if (left.inUse() || right.inUse())
            retry // forks are not both ready, wait
        left.inUse() = true
        right.inUse() = true
}

// eating

atomic { implicit txn =>
        left.inUse() = false
        right.inUse() = false
    }
}
```

Example from ScalaSTM library documentation

#### **Document-Oriented Databases**

JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)

```
{
  "ID": "12-34567",
  "Name": "Ann O'Nemus",
  "Year": 2015,
  "Major": "Computer Science",
  "Home Address": {
    "Street": "123 Main",
    "City": "Springfield",
    "State": "AK",
    "ZIP": 98765
  },
  "Phones": [
    {"Type": "Home", "Number":
"555-555-1234"},
   {"Type": "Cell", "Number":
"555-555-5678"}
}
```

# **MapReduce**

Example in MongoDB: count number of students per major/year

```
var map = function() {
  emit({"Major": this.Major,
        "Year": this.Year}, 1)
}
var reduce = function(key, values) {
  var total = 0;
  for (index in values) total +=
values[index];
  return total;
}
db.runCommand({
  "mapreduce": "students", // source
collection
  "map": map,
  "reduce": reduce,
  "out": "graduates" // output collection
})
```