

Parser-Combinators for Context-Free Path Querying*

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ABSTRACT

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CCS CONCEPTS

- **Information systems** → **Graph-based database models;**
- Query languages for non-relational engines;**
- **Theory of computation** → *Grammars and context-free languages;*

KEYWORDS

Graph data bases, Language-constrained path problem, Context-Free path querying, Parser Combinators, Generalized LL, GLL, Neo4J, Scala

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1 INTRODUCTION

Graph as data model, Graph data bases.

Navigation queries. Path querying and context-free path querying. Same generation query is not a regular. Static code analysis.

Integration with general purpose programming languages is a problem. String-embedded DSLs. Special DSL vs Combinators (LINQ [4, 11], etc) [9]

We propose !!! and we make the following contributions in this paper.

- (1) Combinators for CF path querying with structural representation of result. Transparent integration of query language into general-purpose programming language.
- (2) Implementation in Scala. Generalization of linear parsing. Integration with Neo4J graph data base. Available on [github:https://github.com/YaccConstructor/Meerkat](https://github.com/YaccConstructor/Meerkat)
- (3) Evaluation on realistic data, which shows that it is applicable. Comparison with other tools for CF path querying.

2 RELATED WORK

Some different formulation of the similar problems: Language-constrained path querying and language reachability. Language-constrained path querying, Yannakakis [18]. Hellings [6, 7], RDF [19], etc [2, 3, 12, 15, 17]

Special graph query languages. SPARQL, cypher

Language integration problem: special DSLs for SQL, ORM, Linq.
Transparent integration into gp programming language: static correctness, typing.

Parser-combinators is one of classical approach for parsing!!!

Scala combinators for graph [9] — one of attempt to adopt combinators technique for graph processing. Only an idea of combinators using, but language class and restrictions are not discussed. Problems with cycles in graph. Ad-hoc solution. We propose a general solution. Problems with left-recursive grammars(???Should be checked)

Classical combinators are based on LL(k) and has restrictions: left-recursive grammars. GLL [16] can handle arbitrary context-free grammars. SPPF [13]

Parser combinators library based on GLL – Meerkat¹ [8]. Can handle arbitrary context-free grammars Written in Scala

Structural representation of result: not only reachability, but paths; debuggibg; understanding.

¹<https://github.com/meerkat-parser/Meerkat>

3 PARSER-COMBINATORS FOR PATH QUERYING

In this section we present our implementation of and describe some details.

Our implementation is based on Meerkat library. We need only some steps for generalization.

As far as linear input is a one of case of graph, it is possible to provide input abstraction which make possible to generalize combinators.

SPPF may be an arbitrary graph in opposite of linear input parsing.

Let we introduce an example. Graph. Grammar. In terms of combinators.

Interface for Neo4j data base

Extensible solution

An architecture of the solution.

4 EVALUATION

In this section we present evaluation of Meerkat graph parsing. We show its performance on a classical ontology graphs for in memory graph and for Neo4j database, show application on may-alias static code analysis problem, and compare with Trails [9] library for graph traversals.

All tests are performed on a machine running Fedora 27 with quad-core Intel Core i7 2.5 GHz CPU with 8 GB of memory.

Some experiments on real data and comparison with existing solutions

4.1 Ontology querying

One of well-known graph querying problems is a queries for ontologies [1]. We use Meerkat to evaluate it on some popular ontologies presented as RDF files from paper [19]. We convert RDF files to a labeled directed graph like the following: for every RDF triple (*subject*, *predicate*, *object*) we create two edges (*subject*, *predicate*, *object*) and (*object*, *predicate*⁻¹, *subject*). On those graphs we apply two queries from the paper [5] which grammars are on Fig. 1, and Fig. 2

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow subClassOf^{-1} S subClassOf \\ S &\rightarrow type^{-1} S type \\ S &\rightarrow subClassOf^{-1} subClassOf \\ S &\rightarrow type^{-1} type \end{aligned}$$

Figure 1: Query 1 grammar

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow B subClassOf \\ B &\rightarrow subClassOf^{-1} B subClassOf \\ B &\rightarrow subClassOf^{-1} subClassOf \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2: Query 2 grammar

Meerkat representation of those queries in terms of parser combinators is similar to its EBNF form and presented on Fig. 3 and Fig. 4

```
val S: Nonterminal = syn(
  "subclassof-1" ~~ S ~~ "subclassof" |
  "type-1" ~~ S ~~ "type" |
  "subclassof-1" ~~ "subclassof" |
  "type-1" ~~ "type")
```

Figure 3: Meerkat representation of Query 1

```
val S: Nonterminal = syn(
  "subclassof-1" ~~ S ~~ "subclassof" |
  "subclassof")
```

Figure 4: Meerkat representation of Query 2

The queries applied in two following ways.

- Convert RDF files to a graph input for meerkat and then directly parse on query 1 and query 2
- Convert RDF files to a Neo4j database and then parse this database on given queries

Table 1 shows experimental results of those two approaches over the testing RDF files where *number of results* is a number of pairs of nodes (v_1 , v_2) such that exists S-path from v_1 to v_2 .

The performance is about 2 times slower than in [5] and shows the same results. If compare the performance of in memory graph querying and database querying, the second one is slower in about 2 – 4 times.

4.2 Integration with Neo4j

4.3 Static code analysis

Alias analysis is one of the fundamental static analysis problems[10]. Alias analysis checks may-alias relations between code expressions and can be formulated as a Context-Free language (CFL) reachability problem[14]. In that case program represented as Program Expression Graph (PEG)[20]. Vertices in PEG are program expressions and edges are relations between them. In a case of analysing C source code there is two kind of edges **D**-edge and **A**-edge.

- Pointer dereference edge (**D**-edge). For each pointer dereference $*e$ there is a directed D-edge from e to $*e$.
- Pointer assignment edge (**A**-edge). For each assignment $*e_1 = e_2$ there is a directed A-edge from e_2 to $*e_1$

Also, for the sake of simplicity, there are edges labeled by \overline{D} and \overline{A} which corresponds to reversed D-edge and A-edge, respectively.

The grammar for may-alias problem from [20] presented on Fig. 5. It consists of two nonterminals **M** and **V**. It allows us to make two kind of queries for each of nonterminals **M** and **V**.

- **M** production shows that two l-value expression are memory aliases i.e. may stands for the same memory location.

Ontology	Number of tripples	Query 1			Query 2		
		Number of results	In memory graph query time (ms)	DB query time (ms)	Number of results	In memory graph query time (ms)	DB query time (ms)
atom-primitive	425	15454	174	236	122	49	56
biomedical-mesure-primitive	459	15156	328	398	2871	36	52
foaf	631	4118	23	42	10	1	2
funding	1086	17634	151	175	1158	18	23
generations	273	2164	9	27	0	0	0
people_pets	640	9472	68	87	37	2	3
pizza	1980	56195	711	792	1262	44	56
skos	252	810	4	29	1	0	1
travel	277	2499	23	93	63	2	2
univ-bench	293	2540	19	74	81	2	3
wine	1839	66572	578	736	133	5	7

Table 1: Evaluation results for In Memory Graph and Graph DB

$$M \rightarrow \bar{D} V D$$

$$V \rightarrow (M? A)^* M? (A M?)^*$$

Figure 5: Context-Free grammar for the may-alias problem in syntax

Program	Code Size (KLOC)	Count of aliases		Time (ms)
		M aliases	V aliases	
wc-5.0	0.5K	0	174	350
pr-5.0	1.7K	13	1131	532
ls-5.0	2.8K	52	5682	436
bzip2-1.0.6	5.8K	9	813	834
gzip-1.8	31K	120	4567	1585

Table 2: Running may-alias queries on Meerkat on some C open-source projects

- **V** shows that two expression are value aliases i.e. may evaluate to the same pointer value.

We made **M** and **V** queries on the code some open-source C projects. The results are presented on the Table 2

It may be usefull for tools development.

4.4 Comparison with GLL

4.5 Comparison with Trails

Trails [9] is a Scala graph combinator library which provides combinators for graph traversals. It provides traversers for describing paths in graphs in terms of parser combinators and allows to get results as a stream (maybe infinite) of all possible paths described by composition of basic traversals. Trails as well as Meerkat support parsing in memory graphs, so we compare performance of Trails and Meerkat on the queries from subsection 4.1. Query 1 and Query 2 in terms of Trails are on Fig. 6 and Fig 7.

Here queries made in same way as in Meerkat. S traversal returns pairs (*begin node*, *start node*) of S-path. Combine operators ~ and ~> in queries made in the way to get only last node from path.

```
val B = (out("type-1") ~> out("type")) |
  (out("subclassof-1") ~> B ~> out("subclassof")) |
  (out("type-1") ~> B ~> out("type")) |
  (out("subclassof-1") ~> out("subclassof"))
val S = V ~ B
```

Figure 6: Trails representation of Query 1

```
val B = out("subclassof") |
  (out("subclassof-1") ~> B ~> out("subclassof"))
val S = V ~ B
```

Figure 7: Trails representation of Query 2

Ontology	Query 1		Query 2	
	Trails time (ms)	Meerkat time (ms)	Trails time (ms)	Meerkat time (ms)
atom-primitive	2849	174	453	49
biomedical-mesure-primitive	3715	328	60	36
foaf	432	23	1	1
funding	367	151	76	18
generations	9	9	0	0
people_pets	75	68	2	2
pizza	7764	711	905	44
skos	6	4	0	0
travel	34	23	1	2
univ-bench	31	19	2	2
wine	3156	578	4	5

Table 3: Trails performance comparison wit Meerkat

The result of comparison are in table 3. Trails gives the same results as Meerkat (column *results* in table 1) but slower than Meerkat

5 CONCLUSION

We propose a native way to integrate language for language-constrained path querying into general purpose programming language. We implement it and show that our implementation can be applied for real problems.

Code is available on GitHub:

Future work is

SPPF processing for debugging and results processing

Attributed grammars processing to provide mechanism for semantics calculation

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