



Building a Domain Specific Query Language on top of Clickhouse

Clickhouse Spring Meetup, April 2023

Make Things. Better.



ODEN
TECHNOLOGIES

Agenda

Introduction

Part 1.

- Why are we doing this?
- What does it mean to design a language?

Part 2.

- Oden's data model
- How it's used now

Part 3.

- The Implementation

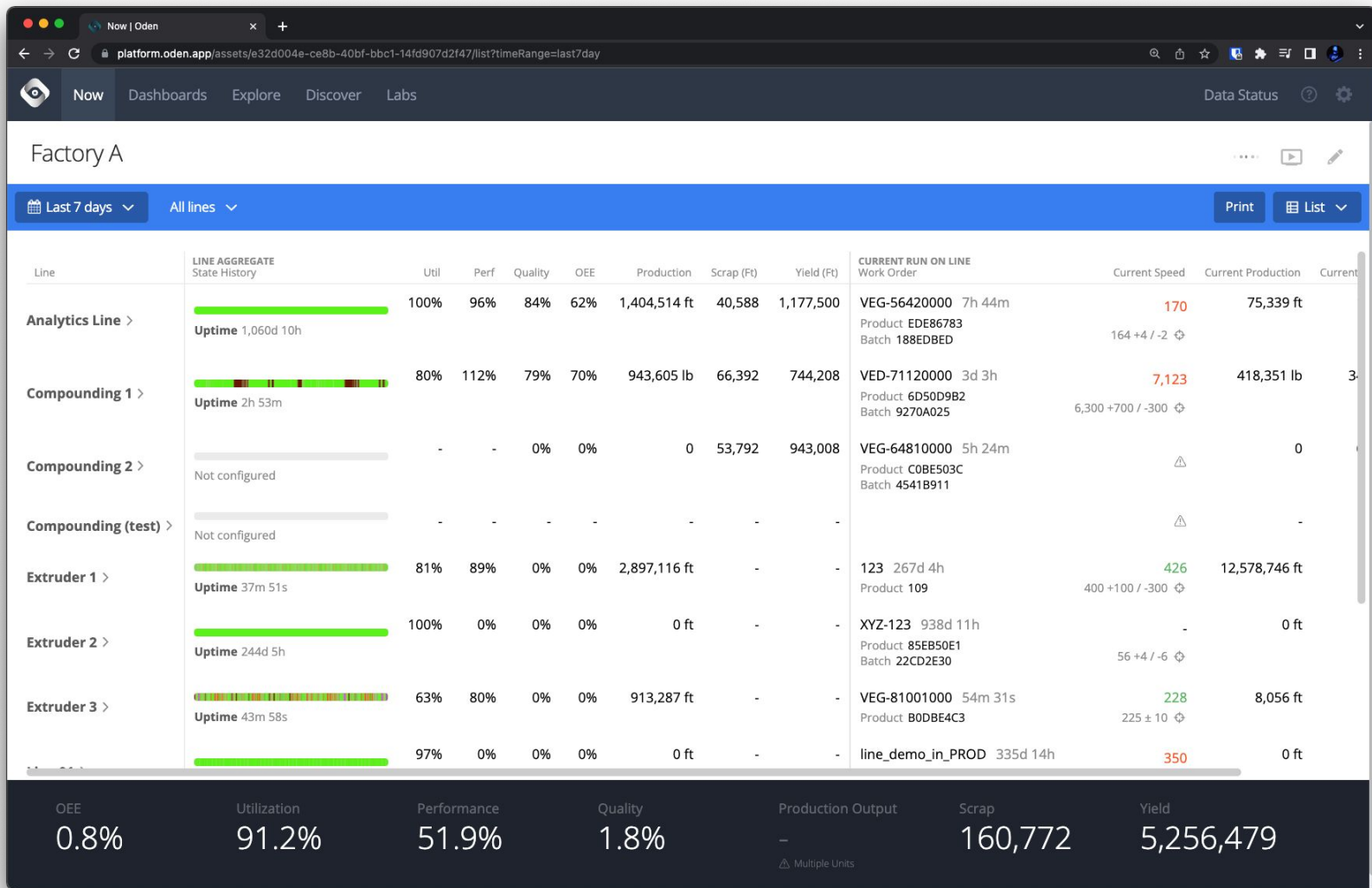
Hi, I'm Russ!

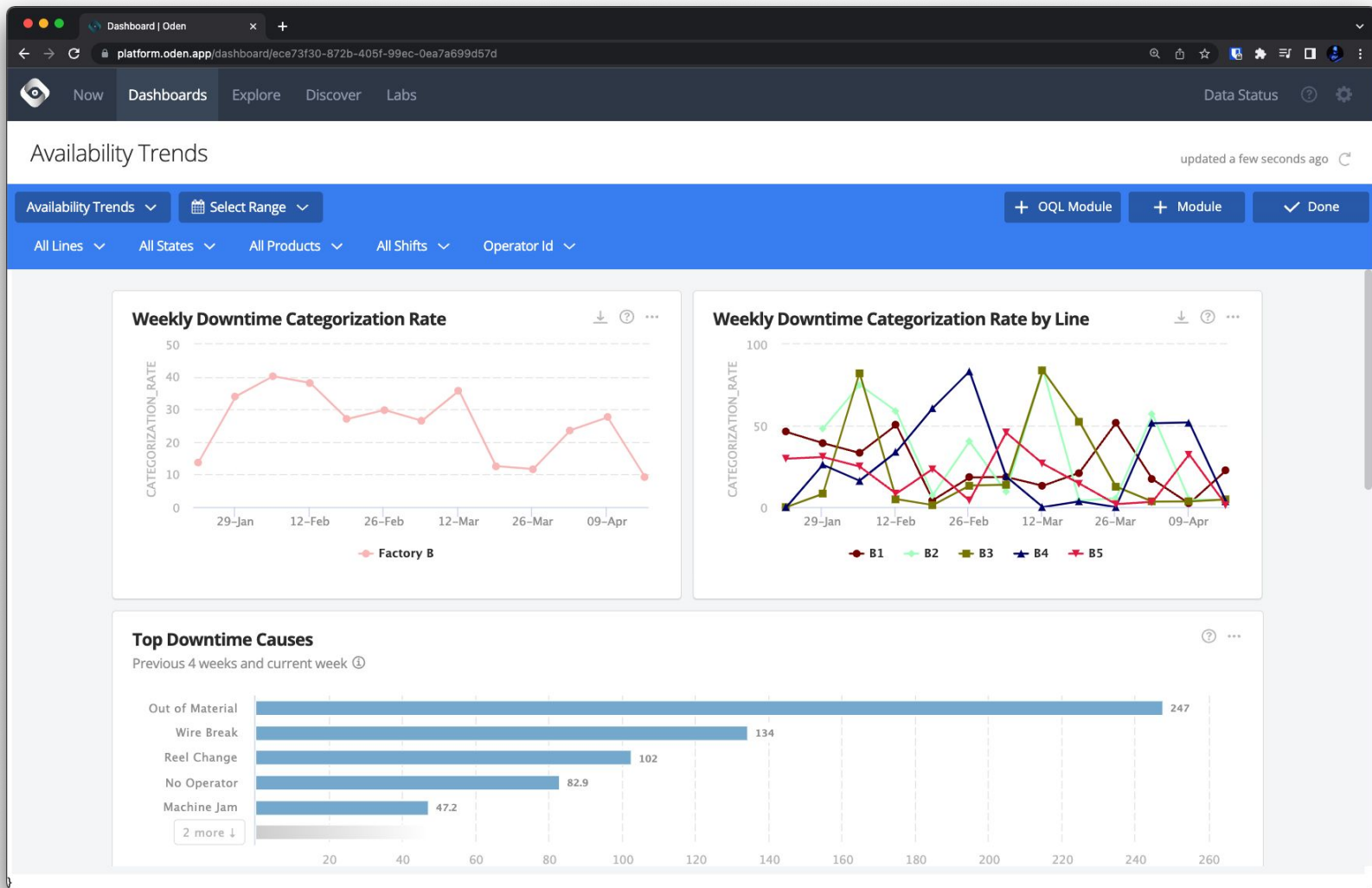
- Sr TLM, Oden Technologies (Manager + IC)
- Manage the Integrations Team and the Core Data Team
- As an IC, primarily focused on query execution
- Before Oden, spent five years at Uber
- Before that, CS + math @ Rutgers University

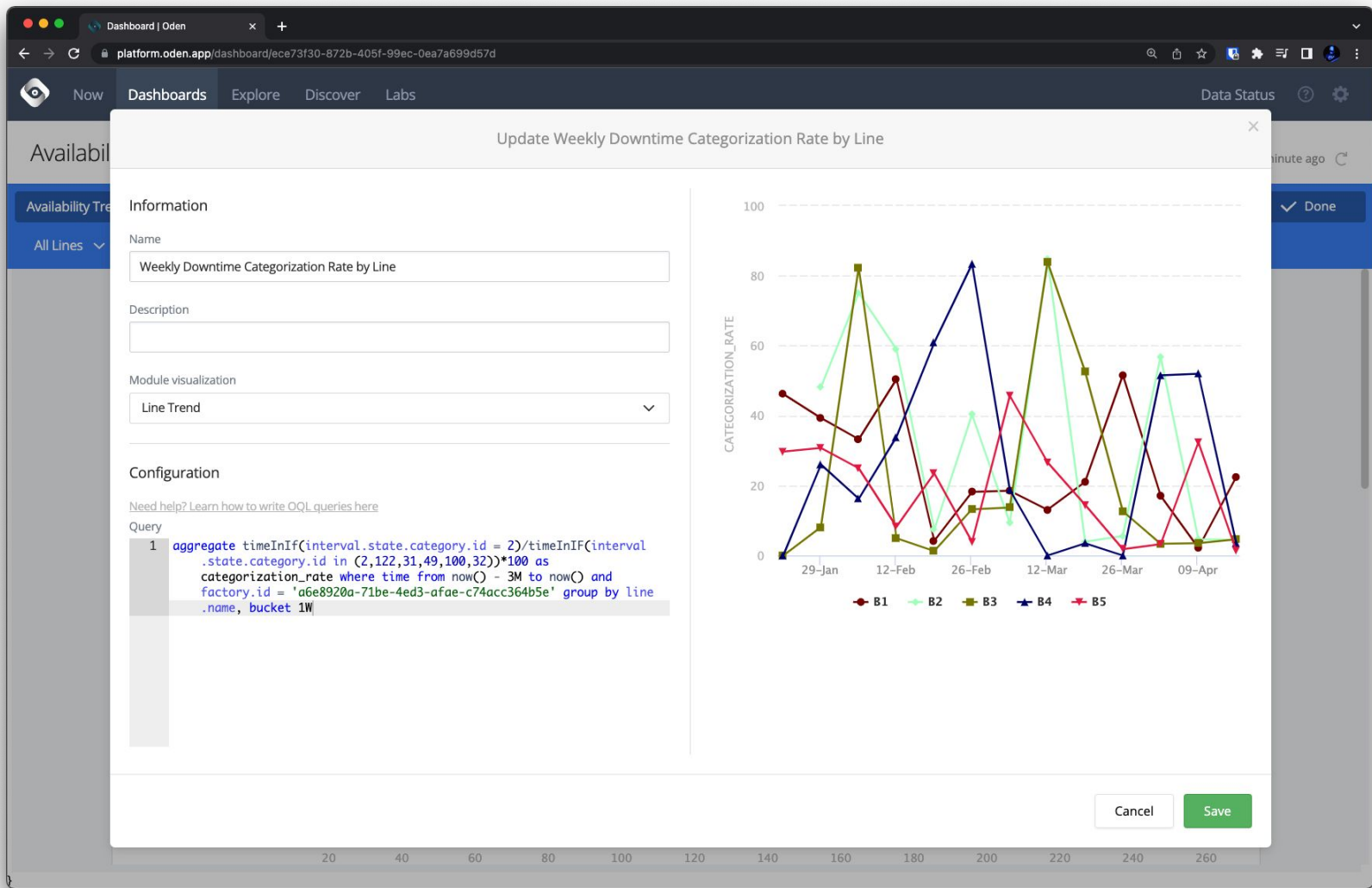


Oden Technologies: Manufacturing Analytics

- Help manufacturers waste less material, improve quality, etc
- Mostly timeseries data from sensors combined with contextual information about some process
- SaaS product
- Tech stack: React, Golang, Apache Beam / Dataflow, Postgres, Clickhouse









Part 1

Justifying OQL, Language Design

Google

site:newegg.com -pixel "android" \$500...\$1000

[All](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Shopping](#)

About 70,200 results (0.54 seconds)

<https://www.newegg.com> › d=android+one

[android one - Newegg.com](#)

Refurbished: WD 4TB My Cloud Home Duo Personal Cloud Storage (10TB Compatible) - (WDBMUT0040JWT-NESN). \$147. \$49.99 Shipping.

<https://www.newegg.com> › d=android+12+tablet

[android 12 tablet - Newegg.com](#)

Samsung Galaxy Tab S7+ 12.4" 256GB Android Tablet w/ Snapdragon Processor - Mystic Black. \$1,165. Free Shipping. CompareAdd To Wish

<https://www.newegg.com> › insider › why-android-phon...

[Why Android Phones are Cheaper than Ever - Ne](#)

Feb 2, 2015 — The Wall Street Journal just revealed new API research

EXPLORER

DIAGNOSTICS

CONFIGURATION

MQL

PROMQL



FORMAT

EXAMPLE QUERIES



Press Alt+F1 for Accessibility Options.

```
1 fetch dataflow_job
2 | metric 'dataflow.googleapis.com/job/elements_produced_count'
3 | filter (resource.job_name =~ '.*bifrost.*')
4 | align rate(1m)
5 | every 1m
6 | group_by [],
7 | [value_elements_produced_count_mean: mean(value.elements_produced_count)]
```

Assigned to current user, sprint is open ...

Save as [Details](#)

✓ assignee = currentUser() and (sprint in openSprints() or sprint in futureSprints()) and status != Released and status != Closed

1-8 of 8

T Key

Summary

SQL to GQL enable calculating percentiles for metrics

OQL Justifications

- **Densely** and completely represent what data we want for a particular use case
- Highly **expressive**; boolean and mathematical expressions
- **Domain knowledge** built into the language for ease of use: **inferred joins**, no worrying about different data sources
- Flexibility to **cache** or **optimize** in the backend
- **Parallelization** of work streams: backend engineers focus on fetching & aggregating data, frontend engineers focus on display
 - Corollary: immediate delivery of features
 - Faster iteration
- Provide a **powerful tool** to those with domain expertise

What does it mean to design a language?

- Formal grammar: describing languages based on production rules
- Each rule maps one string of symbols to another
- Originally applied to natural languages
- Now is used mostly in computer science to describe programming languages
- Concretely, designing a language results in a grammar file, which can be used by programs to parse strings of that language



Sentence → Subject “ ” Verb “ ” Object “.”
Subject → (Article? Noun) / ProperNoun
Verb → “eats” / “likes”
Article → “a” / “the”
Object → (Article? Noun) / ProperNoun
Noun → “dog” / “cheese”

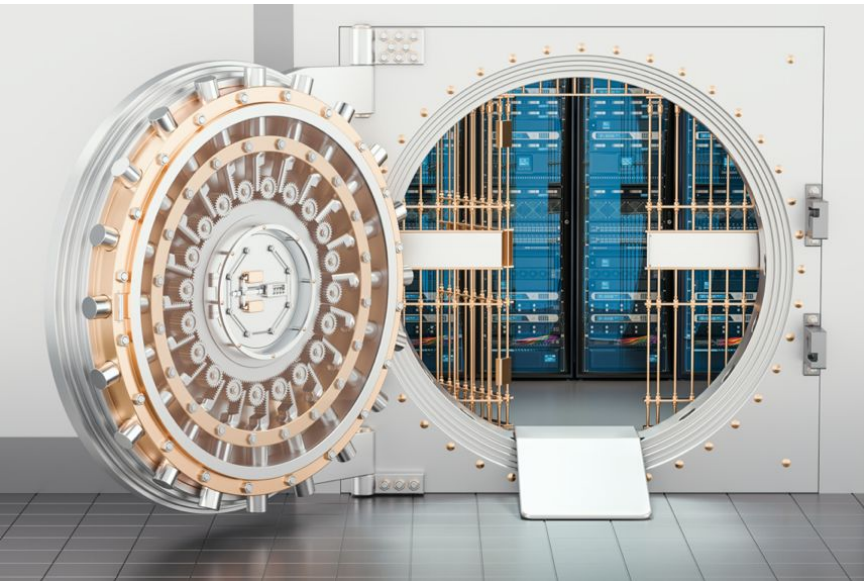
The dog likes cheese.
The cheese eats dog.

Simplified OQL-like Grammar

Query	→ “aggregate” Spacing TargetList Spacing WhereClause
TargetList	→ Expression (“,” Spacing Expression)*
Expression	→ MetricID (Operator Spacing MetricID)*
Operator	→ “+” / “-” / “*” / “/”
MetricID	→ “metric(“ String “)”
WhereClause	→ Key “=” Value
GroupBy	→ “group by line”

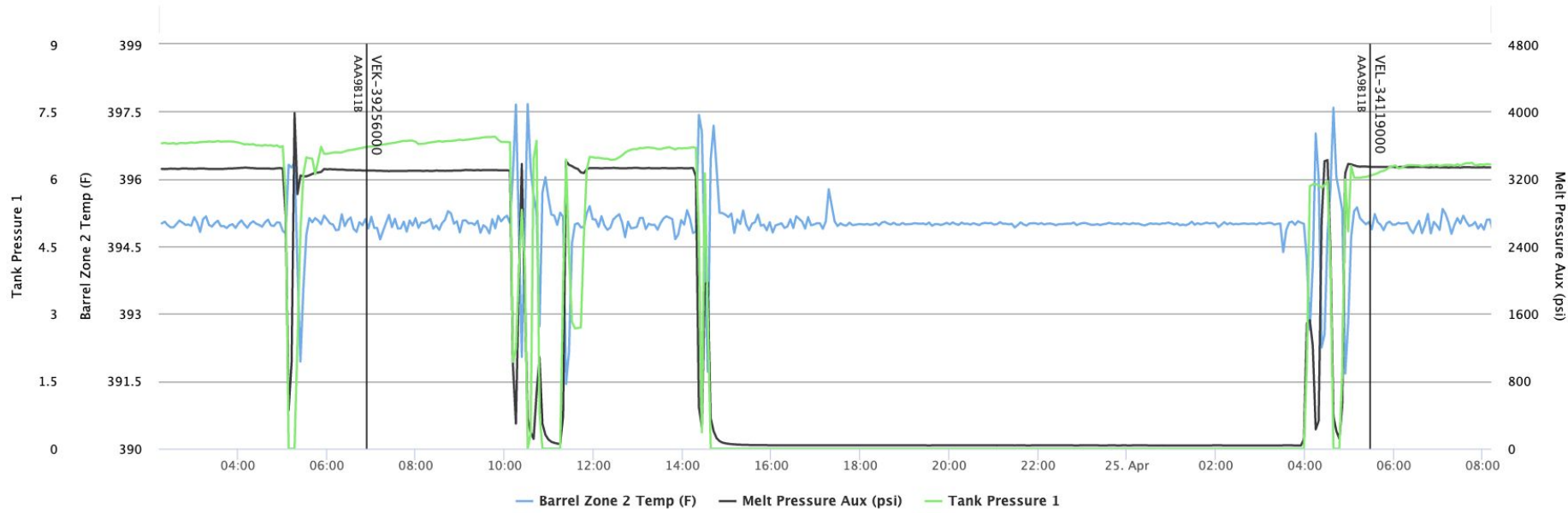
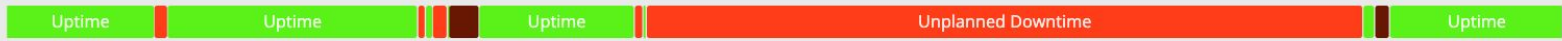
aggregate metric(“line_speed”) where state=“uptime” group by line

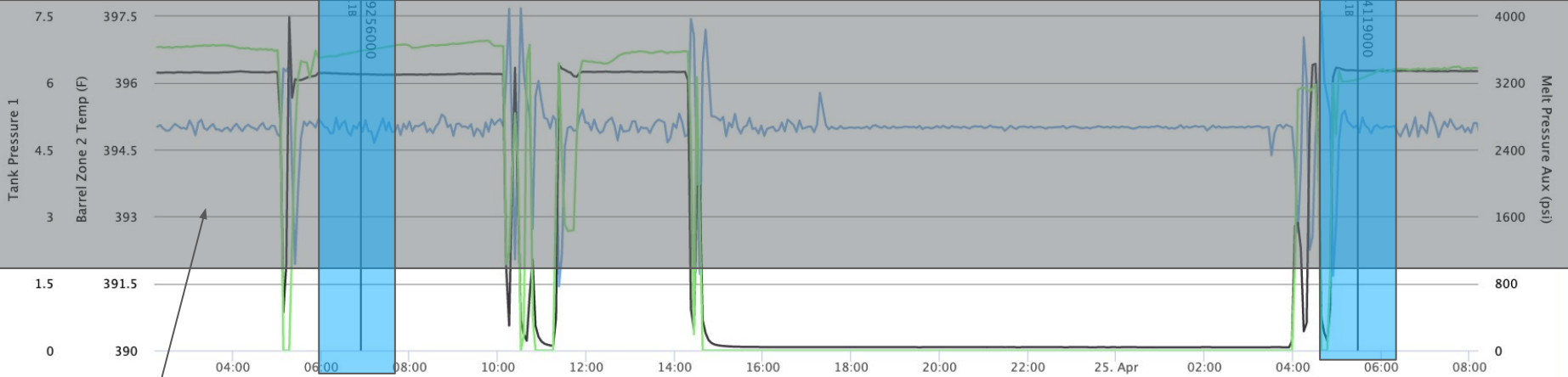
aggregate metric(“line_speed”) / metric(“output”), metric(“line_speed”) where
product=“blue 14awg” group by line

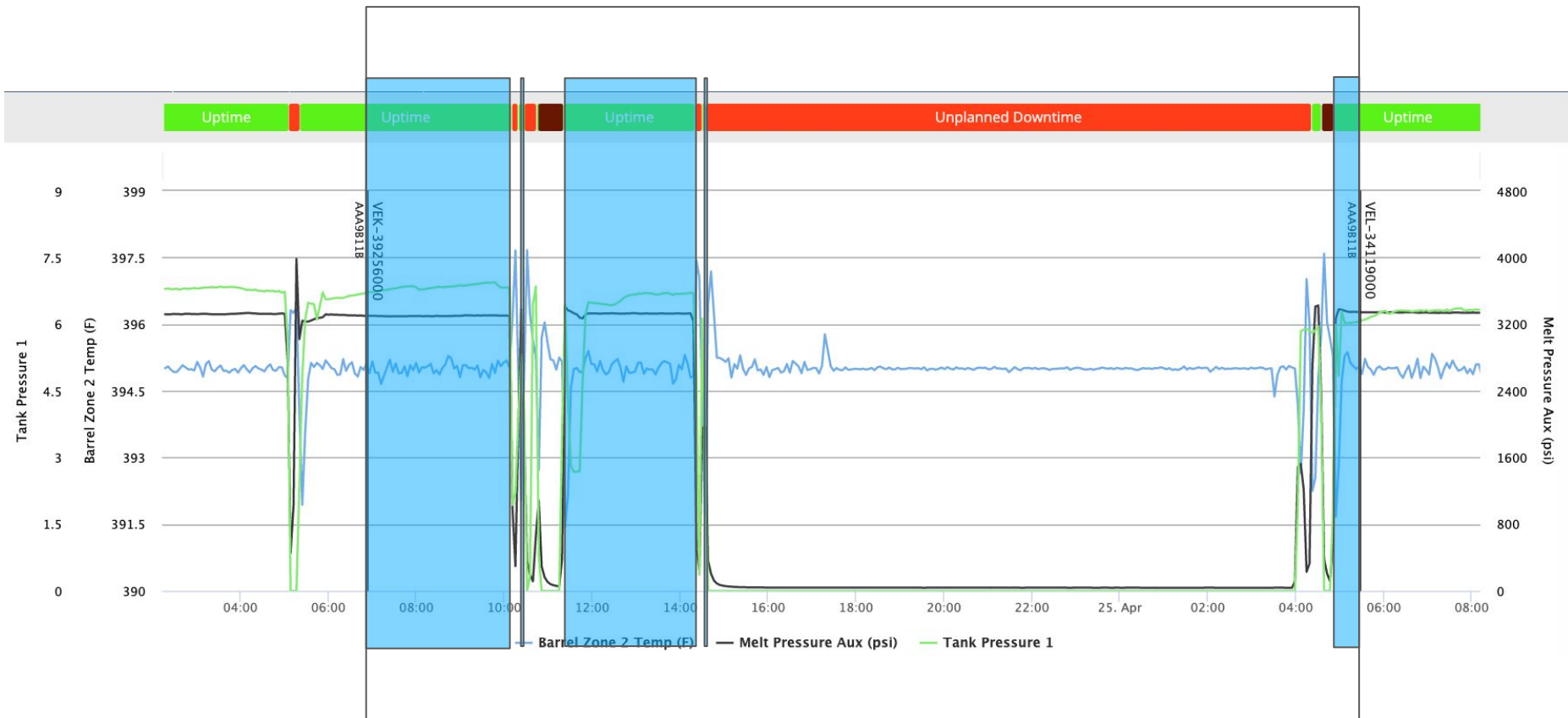


Part 2

Oden's data, How to use OQL










What is Oden Query Language?


- OQL is an analytics language for describing queries about manufacturing data
- SQL-like: general syntax is inspired by SQL, some functions are the same as they are in SQL
- “aggregate” queries are the main use case since manufacturing data needs to be aggregated in order to be useful (i.e. line speed while in uptime)

OQL Basics

aggregate ...  Measures: the actual aggregations we want.
Comma separate expressions.

where time from ... to ...  Time range of query

and ...  Additional filtering, e.g. on state = uptime

group by ...  Dimensions: what we are grouping by; can be an entity or a time bucket, or omitted to return a single row

- The grouping keys are always included in the response; don't need to include them in the measures we actually want
- Expressions are supported over the measures: + - * / are all supported as well as () for grouping

Simple measures

- High level KPIs:
 - aggregation.output
 - aggregation.scrap
 - aggregation.yield
 - aggregation.oeo
 - aggregation.availability
 - aggregation.quality
 - aggregation.performance
 - aggregation.utilization
- Or, you can specify metrics directly & metric groups:
 - `sum(metric("uuid"))`
 - `count(metric_group("performance"))`
 - `deltaSum(metric_group("uuid"))`

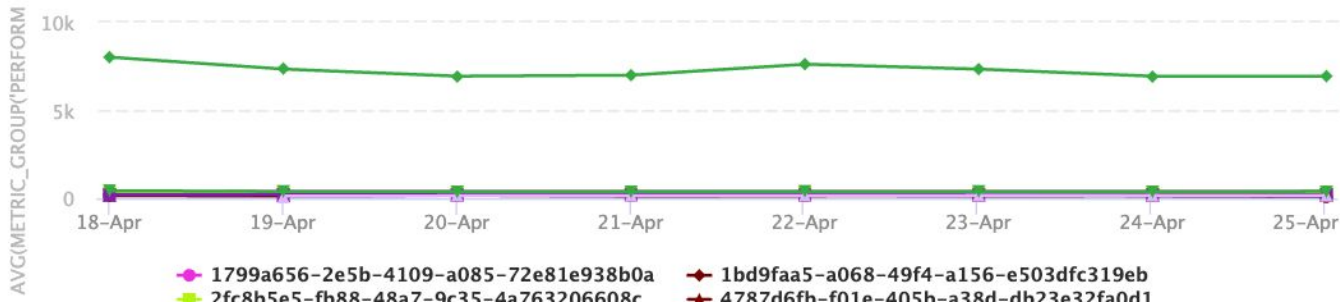
```
aggregate aggregation.output  
where time from now() - 48h to now()  
and factory.id =  
'a6e8920a-71be-4ed3-afae-c74acc364b5e'  
group by line.id, bucket 1h
```

Line.Id	Bucket	Aggregation.Output
B3	Sun, 2AM	5842.91
B3	Sun, 1AM	11099.99
B3	Sun, 12AM	11099.99
B3	Sat, 11PM	11099.99
B3	Sat, 10PM	11099.99
B3	Sat, 9PM	1903.81
B3	Sat, 8PM	0
B2	Mon, 8PM	4743.75
B2	Mon, 7PM	13499.99
B2	Mon, 6PM	13499.99
B2	Mon, 5PM	13499.99

Aggregating a metric only when in uptime

```
aggregate avg(metric_group('performance'))  
where time from now() - 1W to now()  
and interval.state.category.id = 1  
group by line.id, bucket 1D
```

Results



Advanced Measures

- `countIf` can count the number of intervals matching a certain condition within each group
- `timeInIf` can sum the time spent in intervals matching a certain condition within each group
- How much time did we spend in uptime each day?
- How many downtime intervals happened each day?

```
aggregate timeInIf(interval.state.category.name = 'Uptime')  
where time from now() - 48h to now()  
and factory.id = 'a6e8920a-71be-4ed3-afae-c74acc364b5e'  
group by line.id, bucket 1D
```

Line.Id	Bucket	TimeInIf(Interval.State.Category.Name = "Uptime")
B5	Mon, 12AM	0
B5	Sun, 12AM	0
B5	Sat, 12AM	5351.34
B4	Mon, 12AM	0
B4	Sun, 12AM	32010
B4	Sat, 12AM	8421.34
B3	Mon, 12AM	0
B3	Sun, 12AM	9110
B3	Sat, 12AM	8000
B2	Mon, 12AM	77978.66
B2	Sun, 12AM	86400
B2	Sat, 12AM	8421.34
B1	Mon, 12AM	77978.66
B1	Sun, 12AM	74280
B1	Sat, 12AM	0

Other grouping types

- bucket ...
 - E.g. 1m 1h 1D 1M 1W
- line.id
- factory.id
- product.name
- shift.name
- interval.state.category
- interval.state.reason
- interval.<custom type>.value

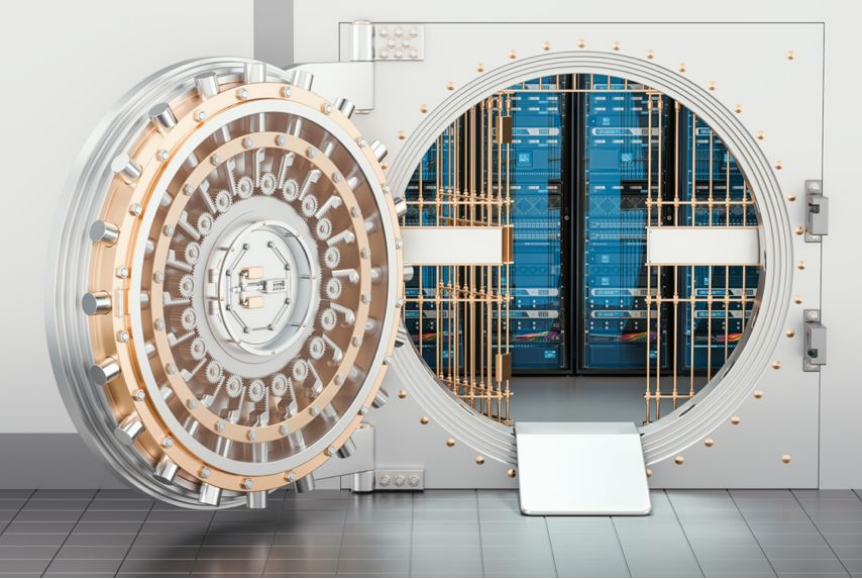
```
aggregate countIf(interval.state.reason.name='Reel  
Change') as events  
where time from now() - 3M to now()  
and factory.id = 'a6e8920a-71be-4ed3-afae-c74acc364b5e'  
group by shift.name, bucket 1W
```



Expressions over aggregates

```
aggregate aggregation.scrap / aggregation.output  
where time from now() - 1W to now()  
and factory.id="a6e8920a-71be-4ed3-afae-c74acc364b5e"  
group by shift.name, bucket 1D
```





Part 3

How it's done

High level: Three Phases

1. Parse the query into a concrete syntax tree
2. Translate syntax tree into an Intermediate Representation
3. Execute the IR in a backend; the Clickhouse backend will emit SQL
 - a. Creates a Query Plan Tree
 - b. Each node in the tree emits its own SQL

```

89 // AST is an intermediate representation of a query
90 type AST struct {
91     Type          QueryType      `json:"query_type"`
92     Aggregates    []Aggregate  `json:"aggregates,omitempty"`
93     Metrics       []Metric    `json:"metrics,omitempty"`
94     TimeRange     TimeRange   `json:"time_range"`
95     Filters       []Filter    `json:"filters,omitempty"`
96     GroupBy       []GroupBy   `json:"group_bys,omitempty"`
97     Expressions   []*Expression `json:"expressions,omitempty"`
98
99     // Query metadata
100    UserID        uuid.UUID   `json:"user_id,omitempty"` /
101    UserOrgID     uuid.UUID   `json:"user_org_id,omitempty"` /
102    OrgID         uuid.UUID   `json:"org_id,omitempty"` /
103    Timezone      *time.Location `json:"timezone,omitempty"` /
104 }
105


```

Why have an Intermediate Representation?

- Different backends
- Ease of testing
- Make changes to grammar without modifying the backend
- Make changes to the backend without modifying the grammar

AGGREGATE

```
    avg(metric_group('performance'))  
WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
AND interval.state.category.id = 1  
GROUP BY line.id, bucket 1D
```



```
Grammar "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
Query "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
AggregateQuery "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
Spacing " "  
Space " "  
TargetList "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
ANDExpression "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
ORExpression "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
LogicalAtom "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
AggregateExpr "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
AggregateTerm "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
AggregateFactor "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
AggregateOperand "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
MetricFuncCall "avg(metric_group('performance'))"  
FuncName "avg"  
MetricRef "metric_group('performance')"  
MetricGroupTerm "metric_group('performance')"  
StringLiteral "'performance'"  
SingleQuoteString "'performance'"  
Spacing " "  
Space " "  
WhereClause "WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() AND interval.state.category.id = 1"  
Spacing " "  
Space " "  
ClauseBody "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "  
TimeInClause "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "  
TimeFromToClause "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "
```

```

Grammar "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() AND in
Query "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() AND int
AggregateQuery "AGGREGATE avg(metric_group('performance')) WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now
Spacing " "
Space " "
TargetList "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
ANDExpression "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
ORExpression "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
LogicalAtom "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
AggregateExpr "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
AggregateTerm "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
AggregateFactor "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
AggregateOperand "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
MetricFuncCall "avg(metric_group('performance'))"
FuncName "avg"
MetricRef "metric_group('performance')"
MetricGroupTerm "metric_group('performance')"
StringLiteral "'performance'"
SingleQuoteString "'performance'"

Spacing " "
Space " "
WhereClause "WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() AND interval.state.category.id = 1"
Spacing " "
Space " "
ClauseBody "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "
TimeInClause "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "
TimeFromInClause "TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now() "

```



filters:

- comparator: '='
 - property: interval.state.category.id
 - type: interval
 - values:
 - 1

group_bys:

- property: line.id
 - type: line
- amount: 1
 - type: bucket
 - unit: D

lines:

- 6dc2fc41-b49f-4f26-a443-2f62c2cdb355
- b56b9924-d0ba-4e7c-b8b5-a5b6ec87e9c8
- ...

location: America/New_York

metrics:

- function: avg
 - metric_group_label: performance
 - type: metric_group_label

org_id: b949c5eb-449e-4e6b-8512-b1322f5b4c4

query_type: aggregate

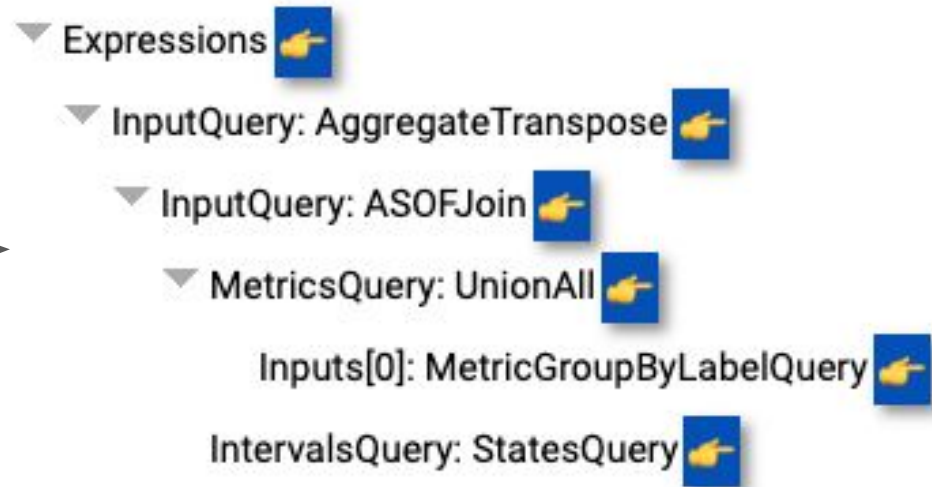
settings:

backend: v1

target_list:

- expressions:
 - terms:
 - factors:
 - metric_value:
 - Index: 0

```
filters
- comparator: '='
  property: interval.state.category.id
  type: interval
  values:
  - 1
group_bys:
- property: line.id
  type: line
- amount: 1
  type: bucket
  unit: D
lines:
- 6dc2fc41-b49f-4f26-a443-2f62c2cdb355
- b56b9924-d0ba-4e7c-b8b5-a5b6ec87e9c8
...
location: America/New_York
metrics:
- function: avg
  metric_group_label: performance
  type: metric_group_label
org_id: b949c5eb-449e-4e6b-8512-b1322f5b4c4a
query_type: aggregate
settings:
  backend: v1
target_list:
- expressions:
  - terms:
    - factors:
      - metric_value:
        Index: 0
```



```
1 -- name: ASOFJoin :sql-only
2 -- templater: text/template
3 -- interface: IntervalsQuery { Query() (string, error) }
4 -- interface: MetricsQuery { Query() (string, error) }
5 -- in: Metrics      MetricsQuery
6 -- in: Intervals    IntervalsQuery
7 SELECT * FROM (
8     {{ .Metrics.Query }}
9 ) metrics
10 ASOF JOIN (
11     {{ .Intervals.Query }}
12 ) intervals
13 ON metrics.timestamp ≥ intervals.start_timestamp AND metrics.line_id = intervals.line_id
14 ORDER BY timestamp ASC
```

Example OQL and SQL

AGGREGATE

```
avg(metric_group('performance'))  
WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
AND interval.state.category.id = 1  
GROUP BY line.id, bucket 1D
```

```
SELECT  
  line_id AS `line.id`,  
  timestamp AS timestamp,  
  avg_performance_highest AS `avg(metric_group('performance'))`  
FROM  
(  
  SELECT  
    toStartOfInterval(timestamp, toIntervalDay(1), 'America/New_York') AS timestamp,  
    avgWeightedIf(value, weight, identifier = 'performance_highest') AS avg_performance_highest,  
    line_id  
  FROM  
    (  
      SELECT *  
      FROM  
        (  
          WITH defs AS  
            (  
              SELECT  
                line_id,  
                argMin(metric_id, label_rank) AS metric_id,  
                argMin(display_name, label_rank) AS display_name  
              FROM metric_taxonomy  
              WHERE (line_id IN ('6dc2fc41-b49f-4f26-a443-2f62c2cdb355', 'b56b9924-d0bc-  
'4787d6fb-f01e-405b-a38d-db23e32fa0d1', '1bd9faa5-a068-49f4-a156-e503dfc319eb', '7c89b7d6-e9f1-  
'b10378d2-aa9b-4c5b-9906-e367a0284d4d', '3505d217-419a-4ee7-950d-6bb70089a961', '1799a656-2e5f-  
'703c6a90-69a1-401b-8c37-f21ea7673c6b', 'fff2fec36-72bc-43a1-9ca7-3cc566348abd', '2fc8b5e5-fb8b-  
'e5c9570e-22f5-48a9-9e48-66cdc0423ec5', '0a74ebb6-93ad-426f-b907-0b94d77405e7')) AND (label_r  
              GROUP BY line_id  
            )  
          )  
        SELECT  
          m.timestamp,  
          timestamp + toIntervalSecond(1) AS next_timestamp,  
          1 AS weight,  
          defs.line_id,  
          m.metric_id,  
          defs.display_name,  
          value,  
          'performance_highest' AS identifier
```


Example OQL and SQL

AGGREGATE

```
avg(metric_group('performance'))  
WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
AND interval.state.category.id = 1  
GROUP BY line.id, bucket 1D
```

```
FROM  
(  
    SELECT  
        timestamp,  
        metric_id,  
        value  
    FROM metrics  
    FINAL  
    PREWHERE (metric_id IN (  
        SELECT metric_id  
        FROM defs  
    )) AND (date >= (toDate('2023-04-13') - toIntervalDay(1))) AND (date <= (toDateTime('2023-04-13 20:01:36', '')) AND (timestamp <= toDateTime('2023-04-20 20:01:36', ''))  
    SETTINGS do_not_merge_across_partitions_select_final = 1, max_final_threads = 1  
    ) AS m  
    ANY LEFT JOIN defs ON m.metric_id = defs.metric_id  
) AS metrics  
ASOF INNER JOIN  
(  
    SELECT  
        line_id,  
        timestamp AS start_timestamp,  
        formatRow('JSONEachRow', category_id, reason_id, original_timestamp, id, type  
    FROM  
(  
        SELECT  
            *,  
            concat(toString(original_timestamp), toString(line_id)) AS id,  
            'state' AS type  
        FROM interval_state  
        WHERE (line_id IN ('6dc2fc41-b49f-4f26-a443-2f62c2cdb355', 'b56b9924-d0ba-4e7  
'4787d6fb-f01e-405b-a38d-db23e32fa0d1', '1bd9faa5-a068-49f4-a156-e503dfc319eb', '7c89b7d6-e9f  
'b10378d2-aa6b-4c5b-9906-e367a0284d4d', '3505d217-419a-4ee7-950d-6bb70089a961', '1799a656-2e5  
'703c6a90-69a1-401b-8c37-f21ea7673c6b', 'ff2fec36-72bc-43a1-9ca7-3cc566348abd', '2fc8b5e5-fb8  
'e5c9570e-22f5-48a9-9e48-66cdc0423ec5', '0a74ebb6-93ad-426f-b907-0b94d77405e7')) AND ((timestamp
```

Example OQL and SQL

AGGREGATE

```
avg(metric_group('performance'))  
WHERE TIME FROM now() - 1W TO now()  
AND interval.state.category.id = 1  
GROUP BY line.id, bucket 1D
```

```
SELECT  
    line_id,  
    max(timestamp) AS start_timestamp,  
    argMax(formatRow('JSONEachRow', category_id, reason_id, original_timestamp),  
FROM  
(  
    SELECT  
        *,  
        concat(toString(original_timestamp), toString(line_id)) AS id,  
        'state' AS type  
    FROM interval_state  
    WHERE (line_id IN ('6dc2fc41-b49f-4f26-a443-2f62c2cdb355', 'b56b9924-d0ba-4e7  
'4787d6fb-f01e-405b-a38d-db23e32fa0d1', '1bd9faa5-a068-49f4-a156-e503dfc319eb', '7c89b7d6-e9f  
'b10378d2-aafb-4c5b-9906-e367a0284d4d', '3505d217-419a-4ee7-950d-6bb70089a961', '1799a656-2e  
'703c6a90-69a1-401b-8c37-f21ea7673c6b', 'ff2fec36-72bc-43a1-9ca7-3cc566348abd', '2fc8b5e5-fb8  
'e5c9570e-22f5-48a9-9e48-66cdc0423ec5', '0a74ebb6-93ad-426f-b907-0b94d77405e7')) AND (timesta  
    )  
    GROUP BY line_id  
    ) AS intervals ON (metrics.timestamp >= intervals.start_timestamp) AND (metrics.line  
    ORDER BY timestamp ASC  
    )  
    WHERE JSONExtractString(state_metadata, 'category_id') = '1'  
    GROUP BY  
        timestamp,  
        line_id  
    ORDER BY timestamp ASC  
    SETTINGS enable_optimize_predicate_expression = 0  
    )
```

Conclusion

- Is a DSL the right approach for you?
- Design the language around the domain
- Use an intermediate / independent representation for flexibility of backend
- Create a query plan to manage the complexity of generating SQL

Thank you,
that's all!
Questions?

