

A rule-based geospatial reasoning system for trip price calculations



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Acknowledgements

Before you lies the graduation report that displays all the accomplishments and research conducted during the final phase of my Bachelor Software Engineering study at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, written to fulfill the graduation requirements. The moment I was introduced to my assignment reminded me of a chapter in a book called Clean Code, in which this exact pursuit is used as a common example for which the book would provide solutions; "Now the two teams are in a race. The tiger team must build a new system that does everything that the old system does. Not only that, they have to keep up with the changes that are continuously being made to the old system. Management will not replace the old system until the new system can do everything that the old system does." [2]. This challenge, I could not have accomplished without the help of my colleagues, therefore I would like to thank Dan Stefancu, Marco Strijker and Martin Zwaneveld for their insightful criticism that has led to the most useful lessons during my internship.

Stefan Schenk

Andijk, 01-05-2018

Abstract

A purely geometrical interpretation of user-defined locations would allow taxi-companies around the world to set up rules so that trip prices could be calculated without depending on distinct postal code systems. Geolocation datatypes provide part of the solution, but the benefits of geometrical definitions are lost when areas intersect. A precedence hierarchy of rules that are tied to reusable locations would eliminate these competing rule matches.

A solution is proposed to implement a microservice with a single responsibility of calculating trip prices that is accessible to existing systems and portals in which users can define the pricing rules. The company for which this system is realized requires customers to be able to migrate to the new system without downtime, while keeping the existing rules that determine the prices of taxi trips.

The core system manages user and company data, this complicates identity management in the microservice. A JSON Web Token would allow user identity to be stored in the payload of the token, thereby delegating authentication to the core system, maintaining the single responsibility of the microservice.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Automatic fare estimations and calculations are one of many common features in taxi dispatch systems. A passenger books a ride, and a predicted price is displayed based on pickup and drop off locations. When the destination is reached, the system calculates the final price, with or without discounts, including taxes, and additional costs added by the driver. Taxi companies compete for customers, and prices are shifting regularly. This increases the demand for dispatch systems with easy and solid price management features.

1.1 Context

This thesis is written during an assignment at taxiID, an Amsterdam based company providing end-to-end cloud solutions for taxi companies. Founded as a startup that successfully introduced smartphone taxi booking in The Netherlands, and offers a wide range of IT solutions to serve the taxi market, including a passenger app, a driver app, administrative panels, and track and trace hardware. taxiID solutions have proven to be a reliable set of tools for all size businesses. For independent taxi companies with 2 cars or a companies with large fleets, affordable solutions are available. taxiID's goal is to deliver affordable, time-saving solutions for taxi companies to allow for convenient planning and dispatching without requiring local installation. Though based in Amsterdam, the development team is located in Medemblik, consisting of two mobile developers, two backend developers, a designer and two project managers. Clients are located across the globe, introducing challenges when developing applications that rely on clearly defined locations and infrastructures that vastly differ between countries.

1.2 Assignment

YourDriverApp (YDA) requires a pricing calculation functionality that is similar to the existing taxiID implementation. All functionalities within the current system align with the clients demands, but some features introduce difficulties, for example: region names are too vague for specific database queries. Some features could be abstracted so more possibilities can be implemented, some features are still unimplemented, and some features could be improved along the way. A system must be implemented in which group admins can define pricing rules based on user defined locations and time schedules, that can be used for calculating a passengers trip price, or show prices of different products based on the trip the passenger is about to make. For example: a passenger may book a taxi ride from Utrecht to Schiphol using the passenger app. Available products are presented with their respective prices based on the distance and duration of the trip using the pricing rules that were created by the group admin of a taxi company. The system must be usable in countries with a poor postal code system. There should be a way for a group admin to describe locations in a way that are precise and consistent with reality, meaning that a defined location should be usable from outside of the system, or at least be interpretable. An example of this requirement would be: a taxi company that operates in Afghanistan. A passenger wants to be picked up on some road near the mountains. How would a group admin describe that location in order to define a price beforehand? The system should be accessible to other systems, meaning that applications that currently rely on the old system should be able to migrate to the new system. As the old system shouldn't be used for new applications, as it was not designed for this use case, the new system should. It should have a single responsibility, and should be autonomous in that regard.

1.3 Research Objective

Three main challenges that construct the assignment can be identified. Research must be done to attain the best possible way of mapping locations to pricing rules. What this means is that locations must be storable, comparable, and interpretable. The database must be able to store locations in an efficient manner, to which queries can efficiently be made in order to find out whether a pricing rule applies to a given ride. For this to be the case, the stored locations must be comparable to the location of the passenger, or the destination. The user must be able to reason about his pricing rules, from which an understanding of his defined locations logically follows.

Secondly, a system has to be developed that encapsulates the solution that is the result of the conducted research. It is helpful to extend the research of the problem to finding out how to incorporate the answers into a working system, where architecture has a major influence in the tools that are available. For example: if a solution to the main problem requires a database system capable of handling high quantities of geospatial queries, this requirement has to be satisfied in order to proceed in finding the final solution.

Finally, a portal has to be created that enables users to define the pricing rules. The complexity of the portal depends on how straight forward the price calculation system is put together. The best way of making the systems capabilities available to the user through the UI in the portal, must be investigated.

1.4 Questions

From the description of the problem, one main important research question can be derived:

How can a generic location-based price calculation system be implemented that is usable around the globe?

Which varieties of address formats exist around the world?

Is it possible to redefine different address formats as a generic address?

- Gps
- Postal code
- Intersecting areas
- The hotel case
- The airport case

To what extent do address formats have an impact on performance of a price calculation?

Chapter 2

Literature Review

2.1 Reasonably long section title

I'm going to randomly include a picture Figure 2.1.

If you have trouble viewing this document contact Krishna at: kks32@cam.ac.uk or raise an issue at <https://github.com/kks32/phd-thesis-template/>

Enumeration

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed vitae laoreet lectus. Donec lacus quam, malesuada ut erat vel, consectetur eleifend tellus. Aliquam non feugiat lacus. Interdum et malesuada fames ac ante ipsum primis in faucibus. Quisque a dolor sit amet dui malesuada malesuada id ac metus. Phasellus posuere egestas mauris, sed porta arcu vulputate ut. Donec arcu erat, ultrices et nisl ut, ultricies facilisis urna. Quisque iaculis, lorem non maximus pretium, dui eros auctor quam, sed sodales libero felis vel orci. Aliquam neque nunc, elementum id accumsan eu, varius eu enim. Aliquam blandit ante et ligula tempor pharetra. Donec molestie porttitor commodo. Integer rutrum turpis ac erat tristique cursus. Sed venenatis urna vel tempus venenatis. Nam eu rhoncus eros, et condimentum elit. Quisque risus turpis, aliquam eget euismod id, gravida in odio. Nunc elementum nibh risus, ut faucibus mauris molestie eu. Vivamus quis nunc nec nisl vulputate fringilla. Duis tempus libero ac justo laoreet tincidunt. Fusce sagittis gravida magna, pharetra venenatis mauris semper at. Nullam eleifend felis a elementum sagittis. In vel turpis eu metus euismod tempus eget sit amet tortor. Donec eu rhoncus libero, quis iaculis lectus. Aliquam erat volutpat. Proin id ullamcorper tortor. Fusce vestibulum a enim non volutpat. Nam ut interdum nulla. Proin lacinia felis malesuada arcu aliquet fringilla. Aliquam condimentum, tellus eget maximus

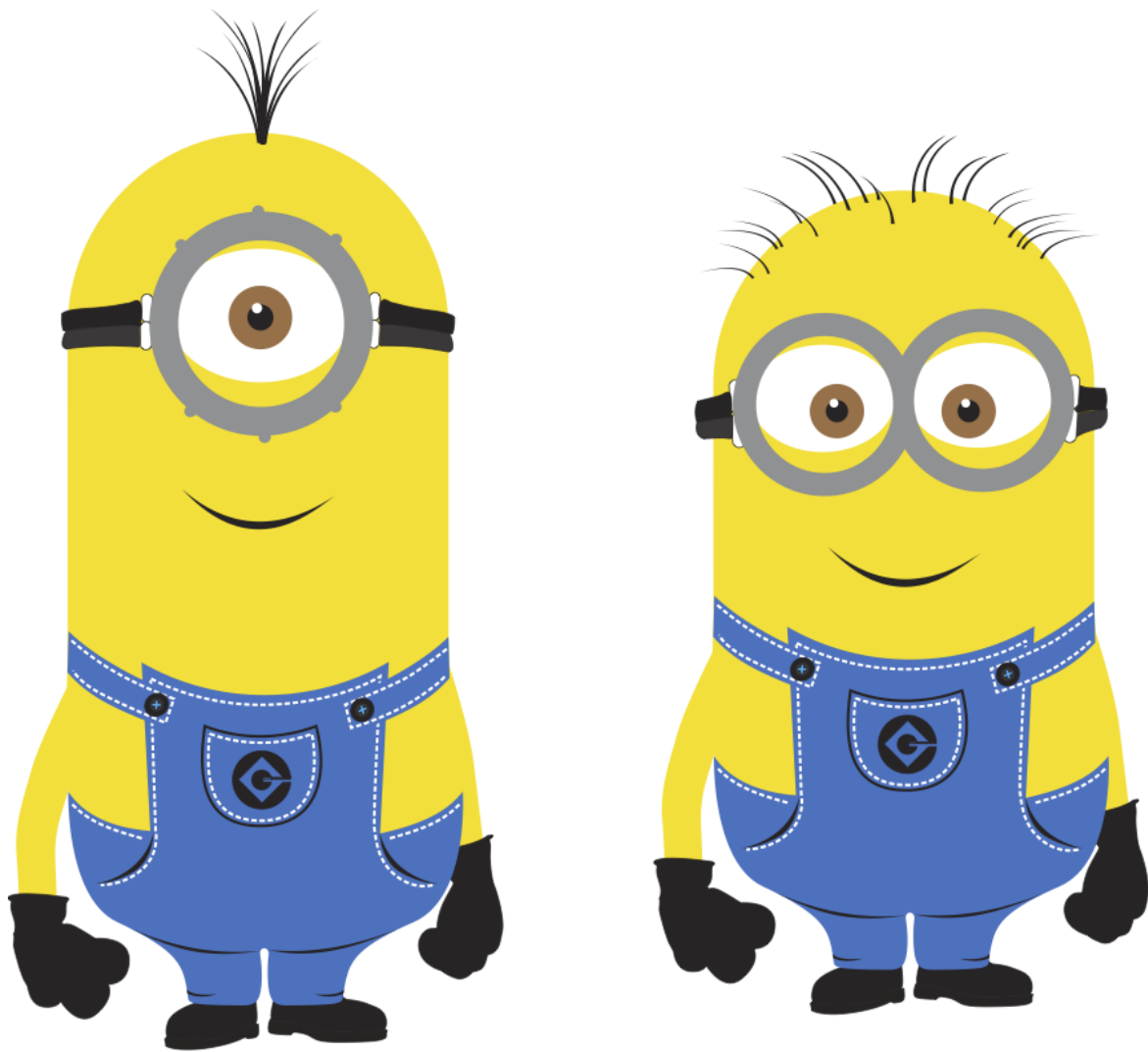


Fig. 2.1 This is just a long figure caption for the minion in Despicable Me from Pixar

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1. The first topic is dull
2. The second topic is duller
 - (a) The first subtopic is silly
 - (b) The second subtopic is stupid
3. The third topic is the dullest

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Itemize

- The first topic is dull
- The second topic is duller
 - The first subtopic is silly
 - The second subtopic is stupid
- The third topic is the dullest

Description

The first topic is dull

The second topic is duller

The first subtopic is silly

The second subtopic is stupid

The third topic is the dullest

2.2 Hidden section

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¹My footnote goes blah blah blah! ...



Fig. 2.2 Best Animations

Subplots

I can cite Wall-E (see Fig. 2.2b) and Minions in despicable me (Fig. 2.2c) or I can cite the whole figure as Fig. 2.2

Chapter 3

Proposed Approach

3.1 First section of the third chapter

And now I begin my third chapter here ...

And now to cite some more people Read [3], Ancey et al. [1]

3.1.1 First subsection in the first section

...and some more

3.1.2 Second subsection in the first section

...and some more ...

First subsub section in the second subsection

...and some more in the first subsub section otherwise it all looks the same doesn't it? well we can add some text to it ...

3.1.3 Third subsection in the first section

...and some more ...

First subsub section in the third subsection

...and some more in the first subsub section otherwise it all looks the same doesn't it? well we can add some text to it and some more and some more and some more and some more and some more and some more and some more ...

Second subsub section in the third subsection

... and some more in the first subsub section otherwise it all looks the same doesn't it? well we can add some text to it ...

3.2 Second section of the third chapter

and here I write more ...

3.3 The layout of formal tables

This section has been modified from “Publication quality tables in L^AT_EX^{*}” by Simon Fear.

The layout of a table has been established over centuries of experience and should only be altered in extraordinary circumstances.

When formatting a table, remember two simple guidelines at all times:

1. Never, ever use vertical rules (lines).
2. Never use double rules.

These guidelines may seem extreme but I have never found a good argument in favour of breaking them. For example, if you feel that the information in the left half of a table is so different from that on the right that it needs to be separated by a vertical line, then you should use two tables instead. Not everyone follows the second guideline:

There are three further guidelines worth mentioning here as they are generally not known outside the circle of professional typesetters and subeditors:

3. Put the units in the column heading (not in the body of the table).
4. Always precede a decimal point by a digit; thus 0.1 *not* just .1.
5. Do not use ‘ditto’ signs or any other such convention to repeat a previous value. In many circumstances a blank will serve just as well. If it won't, then repeat the value.

A frequently seen mistake is to use ‘`\begin{center}`’ ... ‘`\end{center}`’ inside a figure or table environment. This center environment can cause additional vertical space. If you want to avoid that just use ‘`\centering`’

Table 3.1 A badly formatted table

	Species I		Species II	
Dental measurement	mean	SD	mean	SD
I1MD	6.23	0.91	5.2	0.7
I1LL	7.48	0.56	8.7	0.71
I2MD	3.99	0.63	4.22	0.54
I2LL	6.81	0.02	6.66	0.01
CMD	13.47	0.09	10.55	0.05
CBL	11.88	0.05	13.11	0.04

Table 3.2 A nice looking table

Dental measurement	Species I		Species II	
	mean	SD	mean	SD
I1MD	6.23	0.91	5.2	0.7
I1LL	7.48	0.56	8.7	0.71
I2MD	3.99	0.63	4.22	0.54
I2LL	6.81	0.02	6.66	0.01
CMD	13.47	0.09	10.55	0.05
CBL	11.88	0.05	13.11	0.04

Table 3.3 Even better looking table using booktabs

Dental measurement	Species I		Species II	
	mean	SD	mean	SD
I1MD	6.23	0.91	5.2	0.7
I1LL	7.48	0.56	8.7	0.71
I2MD	3.99	0.63	4.22	0.54
I2LL	6.81	0.02	6.66	0.01
CMD	13.47	0.09	10.55	0.05
CBL	11.88	0.05	13.11	0.04

References

- [1] Ancey, C., Coussot, P., and Evesque, P. (1996). Examination of the possibility of a fluid-mechanics treatment of dense granular flows. *Mechanics of Cohesive-frictional Materials*, 1(4):385–403.
- [2] Martin, R. C. (2008). *Clean Code*. Prentice Hall.
- [3] Read, C. J. (1985). A solution to the invariant subspace problem on the space l_1 . *Bull. London Math. Soc.*, 17:305–317.

Appendix A

How to install L^AT_EX

Windows OS

TeXLive package - full version

1. Download the TeXLive ISO (2.2GB) from
<https://www.tug.org/texlive/>
2. Download WinCDEmu (if you don't have a virtual drive) from
<http://wincdemu.sysprogs.org/download/>
3. To install Windows CD Emulator follow the instructions at
<http://wincdemu.sysprogs.org/tutorials/install/>
4. Right click the iso and mount it using the WinCDEmu as shown in
<http://wincdemu.sysprogs.org/tutorials/mount/>
5. Open your virtual drive and run setup.pl

or

Basic MikTeX - T_EX distribution

1. Download Basic-MiK_TE_X(32bit or 64bit) from
<http://miktex.org/download>
2. Run the installer
3. To add a new package go to Start » All Programs » MikTeX » Maintenance (Admin)
and choose Package Manager

4. Select or search for packages to install

TexStudio - T_EX editor

1. Download TexStudio from
<http://texstudio.sourceforge.net/#downloads>
2. Run the installer

Mac OS X

MacTeX - T_EX distribution

1. Download the file from
<https://www.tug.org/mactex/>
2. Extract and double click to run the installer. It does the entire configuration, sit back and relax.

TexStudio - T_EX editor

1. Download TexStudio from
<http://texstudio.sourceforge.net/#downloads>
2. Extract and Start

Unix/Linux

TeXLive - T_EX distribution

Getting the distribution:

1. TeXLive can be downloaded from
<http://www.tug.org/texlive/acquire-netinstall.html>.
2. TeXLive is provided by most operating system you can use (rpm,apt-get or yum) to get TeXLive distributions

Installation

1. Mount the ISO file in the mnt directory

```
mount -t iso9660 -o ro,loop,noauto /your/texlive####.iso /mnt
```

2. Install wget on your OS (use rpm, apt-get or yum install)
3. Run the installer script install-tl.

```
cd /your/download/directory
./install-tl
```

4. Enter command 'i' for installation
5. Post-Installation configuration:
<http://www.tug.org/texlive/doc/texlive-en/texlive-en.html#x1-320003.4.1>
6. Set the path for the directory of TexLive binaries in your .bashrc file

For 32bit OS

For Bourne-compatible shells such as bash, and using Intel x86 GNU/Linux and a default directory setup as an example, the file to edit might be

```
edit ~/.bashrc file and add following lines
PATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/bin/i386-linux:$PATH;
export PATH
MANPATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/texmf/doc/man:$MANPATH;
export MANPATH
INFOPATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/texmf/doc/info:$INFOPATH;
export INFOPATH
```

For 64bit OS

```
edit ~/.bashrc file and add following lines
PATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/bin/x86_64-linux:$PATH;
export PATH
MANPATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/texmf/doc/man:$MANPATH;
export MANPATH
```

```
INFOPATH=/usr/local/texlive/2011/texmf/doc/info:$INFOPATH;  
export INFOPATH
```

Fedora/RedHat/CentOS:

```
sudo yum install texlive  
sudo yum install psutils
```

SUSE:

```
sudo zypper install texlive
```

Debian/Ubuntu:

```
sudo apt-get install texlive texlive-latex-extra  
sudo apt-get install psutils
```


Appendix B

Installing the CUED class file

\LaTeX .cls files can be accessed system-wide when they are placed in the $\langle\text{texmf}\rangle/\text{tex}/\text{latex}$ directory, where $\langle\text{texmf}\rangle$ is the root directory of the user's \TeX installation. On systems that have a local texmf tree ($\langle\text{texmflocal}\rangle$), which may be named “ texmf-local ” or “ localtexmf ”, it may be advisable to install packages in $\langle\text{texmflocal}\rangle$, rather than $\langle\text{texmf}\rangle$ as the contents of the former, unlike that of the latter, are preserved after the \LaTeX system is reinstalled and/or upgraded.

It is recommended that the user create a subdirectory $\langle\text{texmf}\rangle/\text{tex}/\text{latex}/\text{CUED}$ for all CUED related \LaTeX class and package files. On some \LaTeX systems, the directory look-up tables will need to be refreshed after making additions or deletions to the system files. For \TeX Live systems this is accomplished via executing “ texhash ” as root. MikTeX users can run “ initexmf -u ” to accomplish the same thing.

Users not willing or able to install the files system-wide can install them in their personal directories, but will then have to provide the path (full or relative) in addition to the filename when referring to them in \LaTeX .

