

The TTC 2020 OCL2PSQL Case

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ABSTRACT

The Object Constraint Language (OCL) is a textual, declarative language used as part of the UML standard for specifying constraints and queries on models. As such, generating code from OCL expressions is part of an end-to-end model-driven development process. Certainly, this is the case for database-centric application development, where integrity constraints and queries can be naturally specified using OCL. Not surprisingly, there have been already several attempts to map OCL into SQL. In this case study, we invite participants to implement, using their own model-transformation methods, one of these mappings, called OCL2PSQL. We propose this case study as a showcase for different methods to prove their readiness to copying with a moderately complex model-transformations, by showing the usability, conciseness, and ease of understanding of their solutions when implementing OCL2PSQL.

KEYWORDS

Model-transformation, OCL, SQL, TTC

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Object Constraint Language (OCL) [7] is a textual language typically used, as part of the UML standard [8], for specifying constraints and queries on models. It is a pure specification language: when an expression is evaluated, it simply returns a value without changing anything in the underlying model. OCL is a strongly-typed language: expressions either have a primitive type, a class type, a tuple type, or a collection type. The language provides standard operators on primitive data, tuples, and collections. It also provides a dot-operator to access the properties of the objects, and several *iterators* to iterate over collections.

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The Structured Query Language (SQL) [9] is a special-purpose programming language designed for managing data in relational database management systems (RDBMS). Its scope includes data insert, query, update and delete, schema creation and modification, and data access control. Although SQL is to a great extent a declarative language, it also contains *stored procedures*. These are routines stored in the database that may execute *loops* using the so-called *cursors*.

In the context of model-driven engineering (MDE), there exists several proposals for translating OCL into SQL [1, 3–5], which mostly differ in the way OCL iterators are translated. In particular, [3, 4] resort to imperative features of SQL, namely, loops and cursors, for translating OCL iterators, while [1] introduces a mapping, called OCL2PSQL, which only uses standard *subselects* and *joins* for translating OCL iterators.

As an example of the transformations produced by OCL2PSQL, suppose that we want to know if, in a given scenario, *there is at least one car whose color is different from 'black'*. We can formalize this query in OCL as follows:

```
Car.allInstances()—>exists(c|c.color <>'black')
```

where *Car* is a class and *color* is an attribute of *Car*. OCL2PSQL translates this expression into an SQL select-statement as follows:

```
SELECT COUNT(*) > 0 AS res, TRUE AS val
FROM
  (SELECT TEMP_LEFT.res <> TEMP_RIGHT.res AS res,
    TEMP_LEFT.ref_c AS ref_c,
    TEMP_LEFT.val AS val
  FROM
    (SELECT color AS res, Car_id AS ref_c,
      TRUE as val FROM Car)
    AS TEMP_LEFT
  JOIN
    (SELECT 'black' AS res, TRUE as val)
    AS TEMP_RIGHT
  ) AS TEMP_exists_body
WHERE TEMP_exists_body.res = TRUE;
```

The full recursive definition of OCL2PSQL can be found in [1]. The *correctness* of this mapping is formulated as follows. Let *e* be an OCL expressions (with no free variables) and let \mathcal{O} be a scenario of its context model. Then, the evaluation of the expression *e* in the scenario \mathcal{O} should return the same result that the execution of the query OCL2PSQL(*e*), i.e., the SQL query generated by OCL2PSQL from *e*, in the

database OCL2PSQL(\mathcal{O}), i.e., the database corresponding to \mathcal{O} according to OCL2PSQL.¹

The TTC 2020 OCL2PSQL Case welcomes participants to implement the OCL2PSQL mapping using their own model-transformation methods. This case study can serve a showcase for different methods to prove their readiness to copying with a moderately complex model-transformations, by showing the usability, conciseness, and understandability of their solutions when implementing OCL2PSQL. Participants are also welcome to extend or modify the OCL2PSQL mapping, or even to propose their own mapping from OCL to SQL, in which cases they should also provide convincing arguments that their solution is correct. Finally, participants are most welcome to propose their own attributes of interests: for example, flexibility for multiple RDBMSs, or support for formal verification.

All resources for this case are available on Github². Please follow the description in the footnote and create a pull request with your own solution after you have submitted your description to EasyChair.

The rest of the document is structured as follows: Section 2 describes the input and output of the OCL2SQL transformation. Then, Section 3 provides the main task that should be tackled in a solution (participants are free to propose their own tasks of interest). Finally, Section 4 proposes the case evaluation scheme for the contest.

2 TRANSFORMATION DESCRIPTION

OCL2PSQL is a recently proposed mapping from OCL to SQL [1]. It addresses some of the challenges and limitations of previous OCL-to-SQL mappings, particularly with respect to the execution-time efficiency of the generated SQL queries. [2]

Next, we give a detail description of the input and output metamodels for the TTC 2020 OCL2PSQL Case. The input metamodels represent the part of OCL language that is currently covered by OCL2PSQL. The output metamodel represent the part of the SQL language that is currently used by OCL2PSQL to translate OCL. Obviously, for solutions that extend or modify the OCL2PSQL mapping, as well as for solutions that propose an entirely different mapping from OCL to SQL, the input and output metamodels presented here may need to be extended or modify accordingly.

2.1 Input Metamodel

OCL is a contextual language: its expressions are written in the context provided by a *data model*. Consequently, the input metamodel for OCL2PSQL can be seen as consisting of two, inter-related metamodels: namely, the metamodel for data models and the metamodel for OCL expressions.

2.1.1 OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models. For OCL2PSQL, a data model contains classes and associations. A class

may have attributes and associations-ends. The multiplicity of an association-end is either ‘one’ or ‘many’.

The data model metamodel for OCL2PSQL is shown in Figure 1. **EDataModel** is the root element and contains a set of **EEntity**s. Every **EEntity** represents a class in the data model: it has a unique name and is related to a set of **EAttribute**s and a set of **EAssociationEnd**s. Each **EAttribute** represents an attribute of a class: it has a name and a type. Each **EAssociationEnd** represents an association-end: it has a name and an **EMultiplicity** value. Each **EAssociationEnd** is also linked to its opposite **EAssociationEnd**, and with its **target EEntity**.

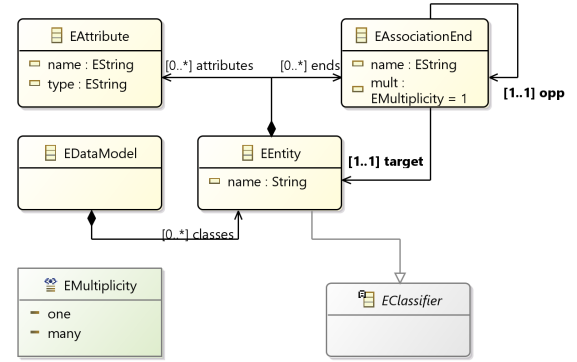


Figure 1: OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models.

2.1.2 OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL expressions. The definition of the OCL mapping, as presented in [1], only covers a subset of the OCL language. The OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL is shown in Figure 2. **E0clExpression** is the root element. It is an abstract class. An **E0clExpression** can be either an **ECallExp**, an **ELiteralExp**, an **EVariableExp**, or an **ETypeExp**. Next, we describe each of these classes.

An **ELiteralExp** represents a literal value. It is an abstract class. An **ELiteralExp** can be either an **EIntegerLiteralExp**, an **EStringLiteralExp**, or an **EBooleanLiteralExp**. Each of these classes contains an attribute to represent, respectively, an integer, a string, or a boolean literal value.

An **ETypeExp** represents a type expression. It contains an attribute **referredType** of type **EClassifier**. In this contest, we consider one realization of **EClassifier**, which is **EEntity** class from the OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models.

An **EVariableExp** represents a variable expression.

An **ECallExp** represents an expression that consists of calling a *feature* over a *source*. The later is represented by an **E0clExpression**. **ECallExp** is an abstract class. An **ECallExp** can be either an **EOperationCallExp**, an **EPropertyCallExp**, an **EAssociationClassCallExp**, or an **EIteratorExp**. Next, we describe each of these classes.

An **EOperationCallExp** represents an expression that calls an operation over its *source*, possibly with arguments. The OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL only considers the following operations: (i) literal comparisons: $=, <, >, \geq, \leq$; (ii)

¹The OCL2PSQL mapping rests on an underlying mapping between data models and SQL database schema. The full definition of this mapping is also provided in [1].

²<https://github.com/bluezio/ttc2020-ocl2sql> (temporary, to be moved to main TTC Github organisation if accepted)

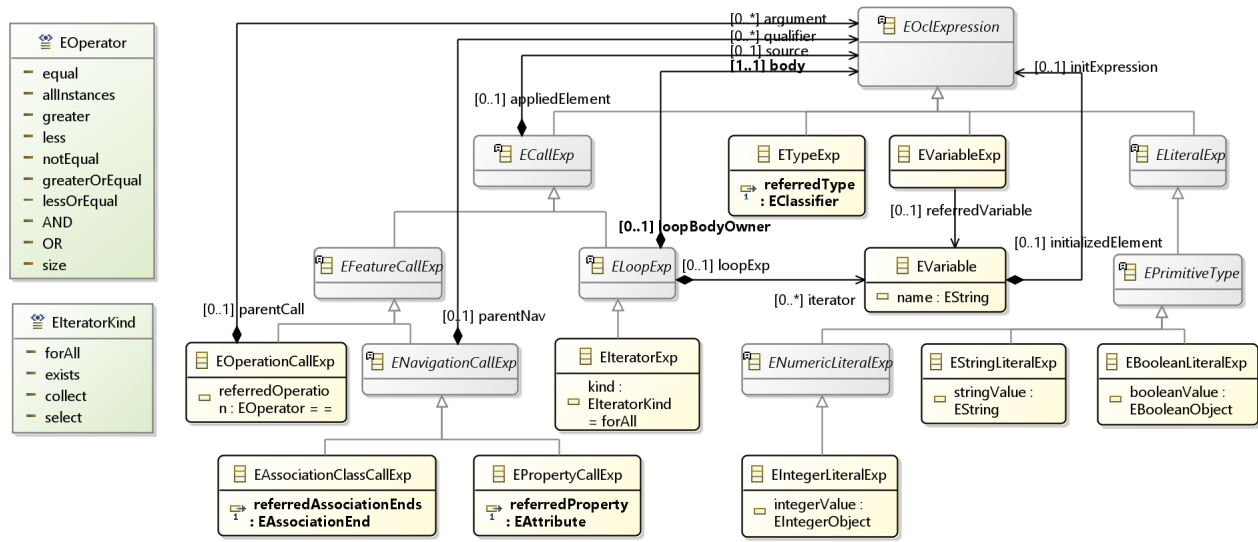


Figure 2: OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL expression.

logical operations: AND, OR, NOT; and (iii) operations on collections: allInstances() and size().

An EPropertyCallExp represents an expression that calls an attribute over an object. The attribute is represented by an EAttribute and the object is represented by an EEntity; both belong to the OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models. OCL2PSQL only supports EPropertyCallExp expressions whose source is an EVariableExp expression.

An EAssociationClassCallExp represents an expression that calls an association-end over an object. The association-end is represented by an EAssociationEnd and the object is represented by an EEntity; both belong to the OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models. OCL2PSQL only supports EAssociationClassCallExp expressions whose source is an EVariableExp expression.

An EIteratorExp represents an expression that calls an iterator over a collection. The body of the iterator is represented by an EOCLExpression expression. The iterator-variable is represented by a Variable. OCL2PSQL supports the following kinds of iterators: forAll, exists, collect, and select.

2.2 Output Metamodel

For OCL2PSQL, a SQL query is a basic SQL SELECT-statement, which may contain subselects, WHERE-clauses, GROUP BY-clauses, and JOINS.

The OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL queries consists of two, inter-related metamodels: namely, the metamodel for SQL select-statements, shown in Figure 3, and the metamodel for SQL expressions, shown in Figure 4.

2.2.1 OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL select-statements. ESelect is the root element. Every ESelect has a selectBody

of type ESelectBody, which represents the *body* of the select-statement. ESelectBody is an interface. OCL2PSQL only supports one type of ESelectBody, namely, EPlainSelect.

An EPlainSelect may contain the following elements: a fromItem element of type EFromItem; a list of selectedItems elements, each of type ESelectItem; a distinct element of type EDistinct; a where element of type EExpression; a groupBy element of type EGroupByElement; a list of joins elements, each of type EJoin; and a having element of type EExpression. Next, we describe each of these classes:

An ESelectItem represents a *column* that the select-statement retrieves. It is an interface. An ESelectItem element can be either an EExpression (see below) or an EAllColumns. The latter represents *.

An EDistinct element represents the modifier DISTINCT. It contains the list onSelectItems of the columns to which the modifier applies.

An EFromItem element represents the *table* or *subselect* from which the select-statement retrieves information. It is an interface. An EFromItem element can be either an ETable or a SubSelect. The former represents a *table*. The latter represents a *subselect*.

A where element of type EExpression represents a *where*-clause.

An EJoin element represents a *join* with a rightItem of type EFromItem, possibly according to an onExpression of type EExpression.

An EGroupByElement element represents a *groupby*-clause. It contains a list groupByExpressions of expressions of type EExpression that defines how the rows are to be *grouped by*.

A having element of type EExpression represents a *having*-clause.

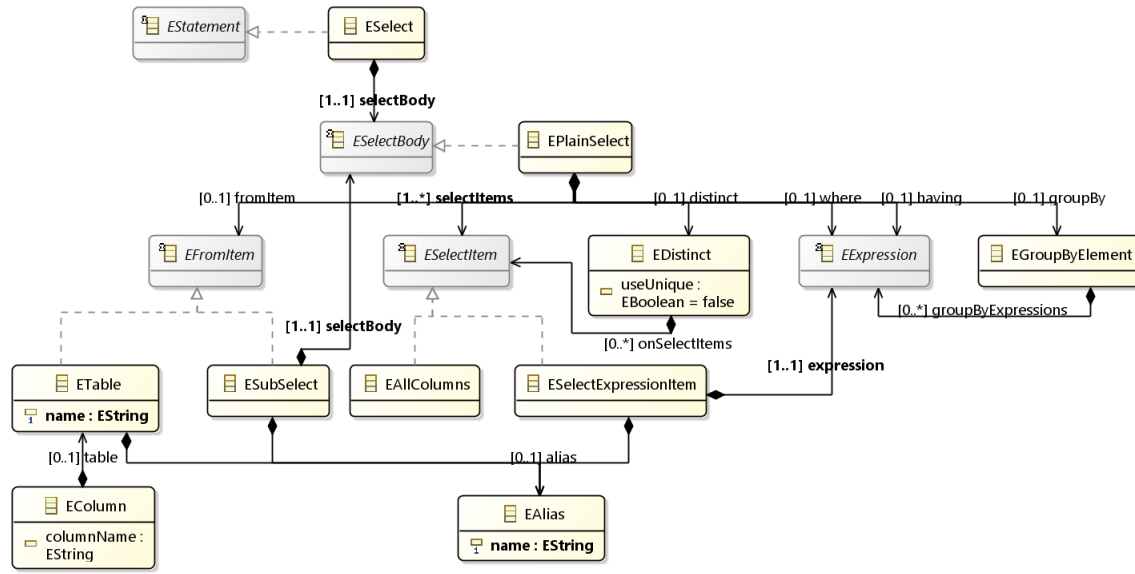


Figure 3: OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL select-statements.

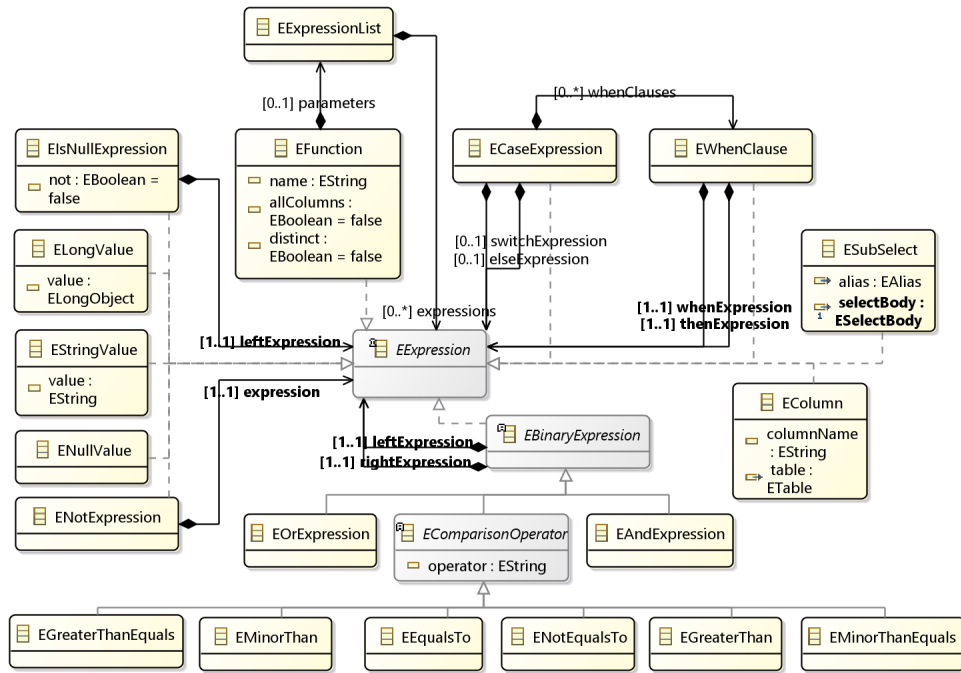


Figure 4: OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL expressions.

2.2.2 OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL expressions. *EExpression* is the root element. It is an interface. Next, we describe the realizations of this expression that OCL2PSQL currently considers.

An *ELongValue*, *EStringValue*, and *ENullValue* represent, respectively, a literal integer, a literal string, and the value NULL in SQL.

An *EColumn* represents a column in SQL.

An *EBinaryExpression* represents a binary expression in SQL. It contains a *leftExpression* and a *rightExpression*,

both of type `EExpression`. `EBinaryExpression` is an abstract class. It can be either a logical expression, namely `EOrExpression` and `EAndExpression`, or a comparison expression, namely `EEqualsTo`, `ENotEqualsTo`, `EMinorThan`, `EMinorThanEquals`, `EGreaterThan`, and `EGreaterThanEquals`.

An `ENotExpression` represents a NOT-expression in SQL. It contains an expression of type `EExpression`.

An `EIsNullExpression` represents an IS NULL-expression in SQL. It contains a `leftExpression` of type `EExpression`.

An `EFunction` represents a functional expression in SQL. It contains the `name` of the function, a boolean value `allColumns` (to indicate whether the function applies to all columns or not), and a boolean value `distinct` (to indicate whether the DISTINCT modifier applies or not). It also contains a list of `parameters` of type `EExpressionList`. An `EExpressionList` simply contains a list of `EExpressions`.

An `ECaseExpression` represents a CASE-expression in SQL. It contains a list `whenClauses` of `EWhenClause`, representing CASE-WHEN-clauses in SQL. It may also contain a `switchExpression` of type `EExpression`, representing a CASE-switch in SQL, as well as an `elseExpression` of type `EExpression`, representing a CASE-ELSE clause in SQL. An `EWhenClause` contains a `whenExpression` and a `thenExpression`, both of type `EExpression`.

An `ESubSelect` represents a subselect-expression in SQL. It contains a `selectBody` of type `ESelectBody`, which is introduced in the OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL select-statements.

3 MAIN TASK

The main task for the participants in the TTC 2020 OCL2PSQL Case consists of implementing, using their own model-transformation methods, the OCL2PSQL mapping as it is defined in [1] (with the “fixes” included in Appendix A). Participants are free to extend or modify the OCL2PSQL mapping, or even to propose their own mapping from OCL to SQL, in which case they should also provide convincing arguments that their solution is correct with respect to the semantics of OCL and SQL.

During the contest, the participants will be presented with different *challenges* of increasing complexity. Each challenge will be an OCL2PSQL OCL expression, i.e., an instance of the OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL. The *context* for all the challenges will be an OCL2PSQL data model, i.e., an instance of the OCL2PSQL metamodel for data models. Then, the participants will be asked to generate the *solutions* for these challenges, applying their own transformation rules. Very importantly: (i) each solution should be an SQL select-statement valid in the database schema corresponding to the given data model, according to the definition of the OCL2PSQL mapping; moreover, (ii) each solution should be an SQL select-statement returning a table with (at least) a column `res`. Then, when *executing* the solution for a challenge on a given scenario, this column `res` will be interpreted as holding the result of *evaluating* the given challenge in

the same scenario. Finally, the solutions will be checked for *correctness*, using a set of selected *scenarios*.

For purpose of testing, the participants can find in the `ttc2020` repository the following material:

- In the `docs` folder, the file `challenges.txt` contains a list of *challenges* grouped in *stages*. Each stage has a unique number, and each challenge within a stage has also a unique number. The greater the number of a stage, the greater its complexity. The *context* for all the challenges in `challenges.txt` is the data model `CarPerson` shown in Figure 5. In this same folder the file `carperson.sql` contains the MySQL database schema that corresponds to `CarPerson`, according to definition of the OCL2PSQL mapping. Also in the `docs` folder, the file `scenarios.txt` contains a list of *scenarios*. Each scenario describes an instance of the database `carperson.sql`. Then, for each scenario, and each (relevant) *stage/challenge* listed in `challenges.txt`, the file `scenarios.txt` gives the *correct* result: i.e., the result-table that corresponds to the evaluation of the given *stage/challenge* in the given scenario.
- The folder `input` contains the challenges listed in `challenges.txt` in XMI-format. More specifically, each file `StageiChallengej.xmi` contains the representation, in XMI-format, of the challenge *j* within the stage *i* in the file `challenges.txt`. In the same folder, the file `CarPerson.xmi` contains the data model `CarPerson` in XMI-format.
- In the folder `metamodels`, the file `ocl.ecore` contains the EMF implementation of the OCL2PSQL metamodel for OCL expressions. Also in the same folder, the file `sql.ecore` contains the EMF implementation of the OCL2PSQL metamodel for SQL-select statements.

Finally, the participants can use, also for the purpose of testing:

- The OCL2PSQL REST API, described in Appendix B, to check the *solutions* generated by OCL2PSQL for their own *challenges* in the context of the datamodel `CarPerson`.
- The OCL2PSQL-TEST REST API, described in Appendix C, to test the correctness of their own *solutions* for the *stages/challenges* in `challenges.txt`, with respect to the scenarios in `scenarios.txt`.



Figure 5: The CarPerson data model.

Listing 1: solution.ini file for the ReferenceXMI solution

```

[build]
default=mvn compile
skipTests=mvn compile

[run]
cmd=mvn -f pom.xml -quiet -Pxm exec:exec

```

4 BENCHMARK FRAMEWORK

The case resources on Github include an automated benchmark framework for systematic measurement of the performance and correctness of the various solutions. It is based on the framework of the TTC 2017 Smart Grid case [6], without the visualisation components. Solution authors are heavily recommended to adapt their solutions to this framework, to allow for the easier integration and comparison of the various solutions.

The configuration of the benchmark framework for the TTC 2020 OCL2PSQL CASE is stored in the file `config.json` inside the folder `config`. This file includes the definitions of the various stages and challenges, the names of the tools to be run, the number of repetitions to be used, and the timeout in milliseconds for each execution. Currently, for purpose of testing, the file `config.json` contains the stages and challenges listed in the file `challenges.txt`. But, for the final contest, the stages and challenges may be different.

4.1 Solution requirements

All solutions must be forks of the main Github project, and should be submitted as pull requests after the descriptions have been uploaded to EasyChair.

All solutions should be in a subdirectory of the `solutions` folder, and inside this subdirectory they should include a `solution.ini` file describing how the solution should be built and how it should be run. As an example, Listing 1 shows the file for the reference solution. The build section provides the `default` and `skipTests` fields for respectively specifying how to build and test, and how to simply build. In the `run` section, the `cmd` field specifies the command to run the solution.

Solutions should print to their standard output streams a sequence of lines with the following fields, separated by semicolons:

- **Tool:** name of the tool.
- **Stage:** integer with the stage within the case whose challenge is being solved.
- **Challenge:** integer with the challenge within the stage which is being solved.
- **RunIndex:** integer with the current repetition of the transformation.
- **MetricName:** may be “TransformTimeNanos”, “TestTimeNanos”, or “ScenarioID” where *ID* is the identifier of the scenario under test.
- **MetricValue:** the value of the metric:

- For “TransformTimeNanos”, an integer with the nanoseconds spent performing the transformation.
- For “TestTimeNanos”, an integer with the nanoseconds spent testing the correctness of the transformation through the TEST REST API (refer to Appendix C).
- For metrics following the “ScenarioID” pattern, a string equal to either “passed” or “failed” (as provided by the TEST REST API).

The repetition of the transformation is handled by the framework. Moreover, for every repetition, the framework provides, through environment variables, the following information: the run index, stage number and challenge number, as well as the OCL expression, in XMI-format, corresponding to the challenge, and the context of the challenge, also in XMI-format. More specifically, the available environment variables are:

- **ChallengeIndex:** the index of the challenge within the stage which will be run.
- **Debug:** true if and only if the `-debug` flag has been used to run the main `run/script.py` script.
- **PathToOCLXMI:** the absolute path to the file containing the OCL expression, in XMI-format, corresponding to the challenge to be run.
- **PathToSchemaXMI:** the absolute path to the file containing the SQL schema, in XMI-format, corresponding to the context (data model) of the challenges to be run.
- **RunIndex:** the index of the repetition to be run.
- **Runs:** the total number of repetitions planned.
- **StageIndex, StageName:** the index and name of the stage whose challenge is to be run.
- **Tool:** the name of the tool (the name of the `solutions` subfolder).

Solution authors may wish to consult the reference solution for guidance on how to use the TEST REST API to test the correctness of their transformations, and how to use the various environment variables. Solution authors are free to reuse the source code of this reference solution for these aspects (e.g. the `CaseLauncher` and `Configuration` classes), as well as the classes related to the communication with the TEST REST API (in the `reference.api` Java package). The reference solution uses Maven to retrieve the appropriate libraries for communicating with the TEST REST API. In the case of Java, it is using the Apache CXF 3.3.5 JAX-RS implementation, with the Jackson JAX-RS JSON provider in its 2.10.2.1 version.

4.2 Running the benchmark

The benchmark framework needs Python 3.3 or later to be installed, and the reference solution requires Maven 3 and Java 8 or later. Solution authors are free to use alternative frameworks and programming languages, as long as these dependencies are explicitly documented. For the final evaluation, it is planned to construct a Docker image with all solutions, and this will require installing those dependencies into the image.

If all dependencies are installed, the benchmark can be run with `python scripts/run.py` (potentially `python3` if Python 2.x is installed globally in the same system).

5 EVALUATION

The benchmark framework will provide independent measurements of the correctness, completeness, and time usage of the solutions provided by the participants. Attendees to the contest will evaluate the usability, conciseness, and understandability of the transformation rules that define the different solutions, as well as the other attributes of interest that the solution providers may want to focus in. In this regard, although some solutions may not be entirely complete or may be hard to understand, they may still serve as examples of active research areas within model transformations that the community may wish to showcase. To recognize these contributions, an audience-driven “Most Promising” award will be given.

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A CORRIGENDUM

In [1], in the section 4.3 Expressions, in both the second case for **Exists**-expressions and the second case for **ForAll**-expression, instead of:

- $v \in \text{FVars}(b)$ and $\text{FVars}(e') \neq \emptyset$. Then

```
SELECT
  CASE TEMP_src.ref_v IS NULL
    WHEN 1 THEN 0
    ELSE TEMP.res END as res,
  1 as val,
```

```
TEMP_src.ref_v' as ref_v', for each  $v' \in \text{SVars}(s)$ ,
TEMP_body.ref_v' as ref_v',
  for each  $v' \in \text{SVars}(b) \setminus \text{SVars}(s) \setminus \{v\}$ 
FROM (map_e(s)) as TEMP_src
```

it should read:

- $v \in \text{FVars}(b)$ and $\text{FVars}(e') \neq \emptyset$. Assume $s = c.ase$ is an association-end, where c is a variable and ase is an association-end of a class, then:

```
SELECT
  CASE TEMP_body.ref_c IS NULL
    WHEN 1 THEN 0
    ELSE TEMP_body.res END as res,
  1 as val,
  TEMP_src.ref_v' as ref_v', for each  $v' \in \text{SVars}(s)$ ,
  TEMP_body.ref_v' as ref_v',
  for each  $v' \in \text{SVars}(b) \setminus \text{SVars}(s) \setminus \{v\}$ 
FROM (map_e(c)) as TEMP_src
```

B OCL2PSQL REST API

Description. Given an OCL expression in the context of the data model `CarPerson`, it returns the SQL select-statement corresponding to this expression, according to the definition of the OCL2PSQL mapping.

URL. <http://researcher-paper.ap-southeast-1.elasticbeanstalk.com/rest/map/carperson>.

Parameters. It can take an optional parameter `sqlAsXmi`. If `sqlAsXmi` is `true`, then the output is returned in XMI-format; otherwise, it is returned as a string.

Input. It takes a JSON object as input. This object has two fields:

- **contentType**: the type of the input content. It can be either `expression/text` or `expression/xml`.
- **content**: an OCL expression either given as a string (when `contentType` is `expression/text`) or in XMI-format (when `contentType` is `expression/xml`).

Output. It returns a JSON object. This object has the following fields:

- **status**. The status of the response: 200 indicates success. 400 indicates invalid input.
- **contentType**. The type of the output: it can be either `statement/text` or `statement/xml`, depending on the value of `sqlAsXmi`; by default, its value is `statement/text`.
- **content**. The SQL select-statement corresponding to the *input's* **content**, according to the definition of the OCL2PSQL mapping. This *output's* content is given in the format indicated in **contentType**.
- **transformationTime**. The time spent in generating the *output's* content from the *input's* content, measured in nanoseconds.

C OCL2PSQL-TEST REST API

Description. Given an OCL expression in `challenges.txt` and an SQL select-statement, it tests the correctness of the former as a translation of the latter, using the scenarios in `scenarios.txt`.

URL. <http://researcher-paper.ap-southeast-1.elasticbeanstalk.com/rest/ttc>.

Parameters. It takes two parameters: `stage` and `challenge`. The former is the number of a stage in the list `challenges.txt`. The latter is the number of a challenge of the stage given in `stage` in the list `challenges.txt`.

Input. It takes a JSON object as input. This object has two fields:

- **contentType**: the type of the input content. It should be `statement/xml`.

- **content**: an SQL-select statement (in XMI format).

Output. It returns a JSON object. It has only one field **scenarii** whose value is an array of JSON objects, one for each of the scenarios listed in `scenarios.txt` for the stage/challenge given in `stage/challenge`. Each object reports if the SQL select-statement given in **content** returns the expected results, as a translation of the OCL expression given in `stage/challenge`, when executed over the scenario corresponding to the object. In particular, each of the objects in the output contains the following fields:

- **scenario**. The number of the scenario.
- **status**. The result of the test: either **passed** or **failed**.
- **executionTime**. The execution time, measured in nano-seconds.