A PropEr Talk

Kostis Sagonas



With PropEr help by Manolis Papadakis Eirini Arvaniti



A PropEr announcement



Kostis Sagonas

A PropEr question

Why did you create PropEr?

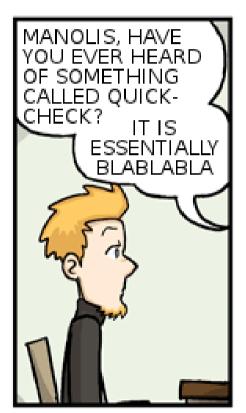
How Erlang modules used to look

```
emacs@localhost
                                                                        _ _ ×
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Erlang Help
            🔲 🖪 🥱 🐰 🛅 🕲 🖴 💢
  zip_open(Archive) -> zip_open(Archive, []).
  zip_open(Archive, Options) ->
      Pid = spawn(fun() -> server_loop(not_open) end),
      request(self(), Pid, {open, Archive, Options}).
  zip_get(Pid) when is_pid(Pid) ->
      request(self(), Pid, get).
  zip_close(Pid) when is_pid(Pid) ->
      request(self(), Pid, close).
                     61% L1010 CVS:1.14 (Erlang)
      zip.erl
  Auto-saving...done
```

How modern Erlang modules look

```
emacs@localhost
                                                                          _ ≜ ×
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Erlang Help
                [A S X III B Q A X V
  -type zip_open_option() :: 'memory' | 'cooked' | {'cwd', file:filename()}.
  -type zip_open_return() :: {'ok', pid()} | {'error', term()}.
  -spec zip_open(archive()) -> zip_open_return().
  zip_open(Archive) -> zip_open(Archive, []).
  -spec zip_open(archive(), [zip_open_option()]) -> zip_open_return().
  zip_open(Archive, Options) ->
      Pid = spawn(fun() -> server_loop(not_open) end),
      request(self(), Pid, {open, Archive, Options}).
  -spec zip_get(pid()) -> {'ok', [filespec()]} | {'error', term()}.
  zip_get(Pid) when is_pid(Pid) ->
      request(self(), Pid, get).
  -spec zip_close(pid()) -> 'ok' | {'error', 'einval'}.
  zip_close(Pid) when is_pid(Pid) ->
      request(self(), Pid, close).
                     60% L1018 CVS:1.14 (Erlang)
      zip.erl
```

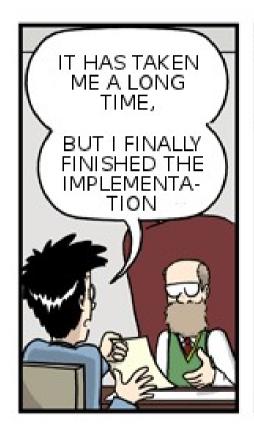
A PropEr start...







PropEr progress four months later









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PropEr: A property-based testing tool

- Inspired by QuickCheck
- Available open source under GPL
- Has support for
 - Writing properties and test case generators

```
?FORALL/3, ?IMPLIES, ?SUCHTHAT/3, ?SHRINK/2,
?LAZY/1, ?WHENFAIL/2, ?LET/3, ?SIZED/2,
aggregate/2, choose2, oneof/1, ...
```

- Concurrent/parallel "statem" and "fsm" testing
- Fully integrated with the language of types and specs
 - Generators often come for free!

Testing simple properties (1)

```
-module(simple_props).

%% Properties are automatically exported.
-include_lib("proper/include/proper.hrl").

%% Functions that start with prop_ are considered properties
prop_t2b_b2t() ->
    ?FORALL(T, term(), T =:= binary_to_term(term_to_binary(T))).
```

```
1> c(simple_props).
{ok,simple_props}
2> proper:quickcheck(simple_props:prop_t2b_b2t()).

OK: Passed 100 test(s)
true
```

Testing simple properties (2)

```
%% Testing the base64 module:
%% encode should be symmetric to decode:
prop enc dec() ->
  ?FORALL(Msg, union([binary(), list(range(1,255))]),
      begin
        EncDecMsg = base64:decode(base64:encode(Msg)),
        case is binary (Msq) of
          true -> EncDecMsq =:= Msq;
           false -> EncDecMsg =:= list to binary(Msg)
        end
      end).
```

PropEr integration with simple types

```
%% Using a user-defined simple type as a generator
-type bl() :: binary() | [1..255].
prop enc dec() ->
  ?FORALL(Msq, bl(),
      begin
        EncDecMsg = base64:decode(base64:encode(Msg)),
         case is binary (Msq) of
           true -> EncDecMsq =:= Msq;
           false -> EncDecMsg =:= list to binary(Msg)
         end
      end).
```

PropEr shrinking

```
%% A lists delete implementation
-spec delete(T, list(T)) -> list(T).
delete(X, L) ->
    delete(X, L, []).

delete(_, [], Acc) ->
    lists:reverse(Acc);
delete(X, [X|Rest], Acc) ->
    lists:reverse(Acc) ++ Rest;
delete(X, [Y|Rest], Acc) ->
    delete(X, [Y|Rest], Acc) ->
    delete(X, Rest, [Y|Acc]).
```

PropEr shrinking

```
41> c(simple_props).
{ok,simple_props}
42> proper:quickcheck(simple_props:prop_delete()).
.....!
Failed: After 42 test(s).
{12,[-36,-1,-2,7,19,-14,40,-6,-8,42,-8,12,12,-17,3]}
Shrinking ...(3 time(s))
{12,[12,12]}
false
```

PropEr integration with types

```
-type tree(T) :: 'leaf' | {'node',T,tree(T),tree(T)}.
```

What one would have to write in EQC

```
tree(G) ->
  ?SIZED(S, tree(S, G)).
tree(0, ) ->
 leaf;
tree(S, G) ->
  frequency([
   {1, tree(0, G)},
   {9, ?LAZY(
          ?LETSHRINK(
            [L,R],
             [tree(S div 2, G), tree(S div 2, G)],
            {node,G,L,R}
       ))}
  ]).
```

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What one has to write in PropEr

This slide intentionally left blank

PropEr testing of specs

```
-module (myspecs).
-export([divide/2, filter/2, max/1]).
-spec divide(integer(), integer()) -> integer().
divide(A, B) ->
  A div B.
-spec filter(fun((T) \rightarrow term()), [T]) \rightarrow [T].
filter(Fun, List) ->
  lists:filter(Fun, List).
-spec max([T]) -> T.
max(List) ->
  lists:max(List).
```

PropEr testing of specs

```
1> c(myspecs).
{ok, myspecs}
2> proper:check spec({myspecs,divide,2}).
Failed: After 1 test(s).
An exception was raised: error:badarith.
Stacktrace: [{myspecs,divide,2}].
[0,0]
Shrinking (0 time(s))
[0,0]
false
      .... AFTER FIXING THE PROBLEMS ....
42> proper:check specs(myspecs).
```

PropEr integration with remote types

- We want to test that array:new/0 can handle any combination of options
- Why write a custom generator (which may rot)?
- We can use the remote type as a generator!

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A PropEr talk @ London

PropEr testing of stateful systems

- PropEr can be used to test these as well
 - We simply have to define a callback for the PropEr statem or fsm behavior
- What are these behaviors?
 - Libraries that can be used to test a system by generating and performing API calls to that system
- The callback module specifies a PropEr abstract model of the system under test

PropEr testing of stateful systems

- PropEr statem or fsm libraries
 - automatically generate test cases from the model and
 - execute them to test the real implementation against the model
- However, the test cases should be generated strictly before they are run
 - otherwise, they are not repeatable and we cannot shrink them

PropEr statem testing of pdict

Intention: test put/2, get/1, erase/1 operations

Test cases are sequences of symbolic API calls

```
-define(KEYS, [a,b,c,d]).
key() ->
  elements(?KEYS).
```

PropEr commands

- We have put a rule: first generate, then execute
- What if we need to use the result of a previous call in a subsequent one?

Commands to the rescue!

 PropEr automatically binds the result of each symbolic call to a symbolic variable

```
[{set, {var,1}, {call, erlang, put, [a,42]}},
  {set, {var,2}, {call, erlang, erase, [a]}},
  {set, {var,3}, {call, erlang, put, [b,{var,2}]}}]
```

The PropEr model states

- A model of the system's internal state (at least of the useful part of it!)
- We model the process dictionary as a property list

```
initial_state() -> [].

next_state(State, _Result, {call,erlang,put,[Key,Value]}) ->
    State ++ [{Key,Value}];
next_state(State, _Result, {call,erlang,erase,[Key]}) ->
    proplists:delete(Key, State);
next_state(State, _Result, {call,erlang,get,[_Key]}) ->
    State.
```

PropEr pre- and post- conditions

```
precondition(_, {call,erlang,put,[_Key,_Val]}) ->
    true;
precondition(State, {call,erlang,get,[Key]}) ->
    proplists:is_defined(Key, State);
precondition(State, {call,erlang,erase,[Key]}) ->
    proplists:is_defined(Key, State).
```

```
postcondition(State, {call,erlang,put,[Key,_]}, undefined) ->
   not proplists:is_defined(Key, State);
postcondition(State, {call,erlang,put,[Key,_Val]}, Old) ->
   {Key,Old} =:= proplists:lookup(Key, State);
postcondition(State, {call,erlang,get,[Key]}, Val) ->
   {Key,Val} =:= proplists:lookup(Key, State);
postcondition(State, {call,erlang,erase,[Key]}, Val) ->
   {Key,Val} =:= proplists:lookup(Key, State);
postcondition(_, _, _) ->
   false.
```

A PropEr property for pdict...

random symbolic command sequence evaluate the command generator sequence prop pdict() -> ?FORALL(Cmds, commands(?MODULE), begin {Hist, State, Res} = run commands(?MODULE, Cmds), clean up(), ?WHENFAIL(io:format("H: ~w\nSt: ~w\nRes: ~w\n", the PropEr [Hist, S thing to do... tests pass when Res =:= ok) no exception is end). raised and all postconditions are true clean up() -> lists:foreach(fun(Key) -> erlang:erase(Key) end, ?KEYS).

...with a PropEr failure

```
42> proper:quickcheck(pdict_statem:prop_pdict()).
.....!
Failed: After 13 test(s).
[{set,{var,1},{call,erlang,put,[a,-12]}},{set,{var,2},{call,erlang,put,[a,-18]}},
    {set,{var,3},{call,erlang,put,[c,4]}},{set,{var,4},{call,erlang,put,[b,6]}},
    {set,{var,5},{call,erlang,erase,[b]}},{set,{var,6},{call,erlang,put,[d,39]}},
    {set,{var,7},{call,erlang,get,[a]}}]
H: [{[],undefined},{[{a,-12}],-12},{[{a,-12},{a,-18}],undefined},{[{a,-12},{a,-18},{c,4}],undefined},{[{a,-12},{a,-18},{c,4}],{b,6}],6},{[{a,-12},{a,-18},{c,4}],undefined},{[{a,-12},{a,-18},{c,4}],{d,39}],-18}]
St: [{a,-12},{a,-18},{c,4},{d,39}]
Res: {postcondition,false}
```

```
Shrinking ....(4 time(s))
[{set,{var,1},{call,erlang,put,[a,-12]}},
    {set,{var,2},{call,erlang,put,[a,-18]}},
    {set,{var,7},{call,erlang,get,[a]}}]
H: [{[],undefined},{[{a,-12}],-12},{[{a,-12},{a,-18}],-18}]
St: [{a,-12},{a,-18}]
Res: {postcondition,false}
false
```

PropEr already used out there!

```
    C    https://github.com/lehoff/erlware commons/blob/master/test/ec dictionary proper.erl

YouTube Research
                                                                                    Other Bookmarks
       %% compile with
      % erl -pz ebin --make
       %% start test with
      % erl -pz ebin -pz test
       % proper:module(ec dictionary proper).
       -module(ec dictionary proper).
   9
       -compile(export all).
  11
       -include lib("proper/include/proper.hrl").
  13
   14
       % Properties
  18
  19
       prop size increases with new key() ->
  20
           ?FORALL({Dict,K}, {my dict(),integer()},
                  begin
                      Size = ec dictionary:size(Dict),
                      case ec_dictionary:has_key(K,Dict) of
  24
                          true ->
  25
                             Size == ec_dictionary:size(ec_dictionary:add(K,0,Dict));
  26
                          false ->
                              (Size + 1) == ec dictionary:size(ec dictionary:add(K,0,Dict))
                      end
                  end).
```

Quote from a PropEr user

"I ran PropEr using statem on a real example which I already had for EQC. It was just to switch include file, recompile and run!"

Property-based testing by experts

From: Ulf Wiger on erlang-questions

Date: 16/3/2011, 18:13

When I use ordered_set ets over gb_trees it has more than once been due to the fact that you can do wonderful stuff with first, next, prev and last - and gb_trees doesn't have them.

I've made a stab at implementing these functions for the gb_trees data structure, together with a quickcheck spec to verify that they work as expected (you can use eqc mini to run the tests). I think they are reasonably efficient, but perhaps someone can think of a way to optimize them?

Have at it, and pls use the spec to verify that you didn't break them (recalling that an incorrect program can be made arbitrarily fast)

Code from Ulf Wiger

```
-module (qb1).
-compile(export all).
-include lib("eqc/include/eqc.hrl").
gb next(K, { , T}) ->
    gb next 1(K, T).
gb next 1(K, {K1, , Smaller, Bigger}) when K < K1 ->
    case gb next 1(K, Smaller) of
      none ->
         case gb next 1(K, Bigger) of
           none ->
               {value, K1};
           {value, K2} ->
              {value, erlang:min(K1, K2)}
         end;
      {value, } = Res ->
         Res
    end:
gb next 1(K, {K1, , , Bigger}) when K > K1 ->
    gb next 1(K, Bigger);
gb_next_1(K, {_, _, _, Bigger}) ->
    case Bigger of
      nil ->
         none;
      {K1, , Smaller, } ->
         case gb next 1(K, Smaller) of
           none ->
               {value, K1};
           {value, } = Res ->
              Res
         end
    end:
gb next 1( , nil) ->
    none.
```

```
gb prev(K, { , T}) ->
    gb prev 1(K, T).
gb prev 1(K, {K1, , Smaller, Bigger}) when K > K1 ->
    case gb prev 1(K, Bigger) of
      none ->
         case gb prev 1(K, Smaller) of
            none ->
               {value, K1};
           {value, K2} ->
              {value, erlang:max(K1, K2)}
         end;
      {value, } = Res ->
         Res
    end;
gb prev 1(K, {K1, , Smaller, }) when K < K1 ->
    gb prev 1(K, Smaller);
gb_prev_1(K, {_, _, Smaller, _}) ->
    case Smaller of
      nil ->
         none;
      {K1, , , Bigger} ->
         case gb prev 1(K, Bigger) of
           none ->
              {value, K1};
           {value, } = Res ->
              Res
         end
    end:
gb prev 1( , nil) ->
    none.
```

More code from Ulf Wiger

```
prop first() ->
  first({ , T}) ->
                                                               ?FORALL(L, list(int()),
      first 1(T).
                                                                       begin
  first 1({K, ,nil, }) ->
                                                                         {T, Sorted} = make tree(L),
                                                                         case first(T) of
      {value, K};
                                                                            none -> Sorted == [];
  first 1({ , ,Smaller, }) ->
                                                                             {value, X} -> X == hd(Sorted)
      first 1(Smaller);
                                                                         end
  first 1(nil) ->
                                                                       end).
      none.
                                                          prop last() ->
  last({ , T}) ->
                                                               ?FORALL(L, list(int()),
      last 1(T).
                                                                       begin
                             all next([X], T) ->
                                                                         {T, Sorted} = make tree(L),
  last 1({K, , ,nil}) ->
                                {X,none} = {X,gb next(X, T)},
                                                                         case last(T) of
      {value, K};
                             all next([A,B|Rest], T) ->
                                                                             none -> Sorted == [];
  last 1({ , , ,Bigger}) -
                                {A, \{value, B\}} = {A, qb next(A, T)},
                                                                             {value,X} -> X == lists:last(Sorted)
      last 1(Bigger);
                                all next([B|Rest], T);
                                                                         end
  last 1(nil) ->
                             all next([], ) ->
                                                                     end).
                                ok.
      none.
                             all prev([X], T) ->
                                                                prev() ->
                                {X,none} = {X,gb prev(X, T)},
                                                                FORALL(L, list(int()),
                                                                      begin
                             all prev([A,B|Rest], T) ->
                                {A, \{value, B\}} = {A, qb prev(A, T)},
                                                                          {T, Sorted} = make tree(L),
                                all prev([B|Rest], T);
                                                                          ok == all prev(lists:reverse(Sorted), T)
                             all prev([], ) ->
                                                                       end).
make tree(L) ->
                                                          prop next() ->
    T = lists:foldl(fun(X,T) ->
                                                               ?FORALL(L, list(int()),
                       gb trees:enter(X,1,T)
                                                                       begin
                     end, gb trees:empty(), L),
                                                                          {T, Sorted} = make tree(L),
    Sorted = [K || {K, } <- gb trees:to list(T)],</pre>
                                                                          ok == all prev(lists:reverse(Sorted), T)
    {T, Sorted}.
                                                                       end).
```

A closer look at the code

```
-module(gb1).
-compile(export_all).
-include_lib("eqc/include/eqc.hrl").

gb_next(K, {_, T}) ->
    gb_next_1(K, T).
```

A better version

```
-module (gb1).
-export([gb next/2, gb prev/2,
         first/1, last/1]).
-include lib("eqc/include/eqc.hrl").
-spec gb next(term(), gb tree()) ->
          'none' | {'value', term()}.
gb next(K, { , T}) ->
    gb next 1(K, T).
```

A PropEr version

```
-module (gb1).
-export([gb next/2, gb prev/2,
         first/1, last/1]).
-include lib("proper/include/proper.hrl").
-spec gb next(term(), gb tree()) ->
          'none' | {'value', term()}.
gb next(K, { , T}) ->
    gb next 1(K, T).
```

A closer look at the properties

Comments from a guru

From: John Hughes on erlang-questions

Date: 16/3/2011, 20:58

Nice!

Slight typo: you tested prev twice... your prop_next actually tested prev, it's a copy-and-paste of prop_prev without the renaming to next!

One drawback of your approach is that you only test next and prev on gb_trees constructed using empty and enter. Conceivably the other functions could create gb_trees with a different structure that you might fail on.

Here's some code that uses ALL of the constructors to build the test data (no bugs found though!).

Code from a guru

From: John Hughes on erlang-questions

More code from a guru

From: John Hughes on erlang-questions

```
compound gb() ->
  ?LETSHRINK([GB], [gb()],
             oneof([{call,gb trees,Fun,Args++[GB]}
                     || [Fun|Args] <-
                          lists:map(fun tuple to list/1,
                                    gb constructors())]
                   ++
                     [{call,erlang,element,
                       [3, {call, gb trees,
                           take smallest,[GB]}]},
                      {call,erlang,element,
                       [3, {call, gb trees,
                           take largest,[GB]}])).
```

Even more code from a guru

From: John Hughes on erlang-questions

```
gb constructors() ->
  [{balance},
    {delete, key()},
    {delete any, key()},
    {enter,key(),val()},
    {insert,key(),val()},
    {update, key(), val()}].
key() ->
  nat().
val() ->
   int().
orddict() ->
   ?LET(L, list({key(),val()}),
        orddict:from list(L)).
```

The PropEr solution

Why not just write this?

%% gb tree constructors

?LET(L, list({key(),val()}),
 orddict:from list(L)).

Compare with:

prop_next()

?FORALL (I

```
qb() ->
           ?SIZED (Size,
                   frequency([{1,{call,gb trees,empty,[]}},
                                {1,{call,gb trees,from orddict,[orddict()]}},
                                '^'.ze,?LAZY(compound qb())}])).
  ab constructors() ->
     [{balance},
     {delete,key()},
      {delete any, key()},
      {enter,key(),val()},
                                   l,qb trees,Fun,Arqs++[GB]}
      {insert,key(),val()},
                                   Fun | Args | <-
      {update,key(),val()}].
                                     lists:map(fun tuple to list/1,gb constructors())]
€ key() ->
                                   ll, erlang, element,
     nat().
                                   ,{call,gb trees,take smallest,[GB]}]},
                                   ll, erlang, element,
  val() ->
                                   ,{call,gb trees,take largest,[GB]}]})).
     int().
  orddict() ->
```

Is this really all?

Yes, but we recommend that you also write:

```
-type key() :: integer().
-type val() :: integer().
```

Do I **really** need to write these type declarations? Well, no. You could write the property as:

I do not believe this...

OK, let's do a demo...

Thanks from the PropEr developers!





A PropEr announcement



A PropEr question

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PropEr shrinking

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Shrinking ...(3 time(s))
{12,[12,12]}
false
```

PropEr integration with types

```
-type tree(T) :: 'leaf' | {'node', T, tree(T), tree(T)}.
 %% A tree delete implementation
 -spec delete(T, tree(T)) -> tree(T).
 delete(X, leaf) ->
   leaf;
 delete(X, {node,X,L,R}) ->
                                       join(leaf, T) -> T;
   join(L, R);
                                       join({node,X,L,R}, T) ->
                                         {node,X,join(L,R),T}.
 delete(X, {node,Y,L,R}) ->
   {node,Y,delete(X,L),delete(X,R)}.
     prop delete() ->
        ?FORALL({X,L}, {integer(),tree(integer())},
                not lists:member(X, delete(X, L))).
                                               A PropEr talk @ London
Kostis Sagonas
```

What one would have to write in EQC

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What one has to write in PropEr

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PropEr testing of specs



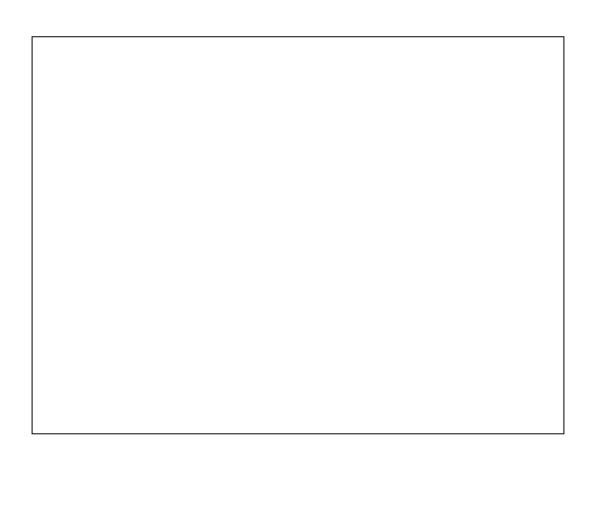


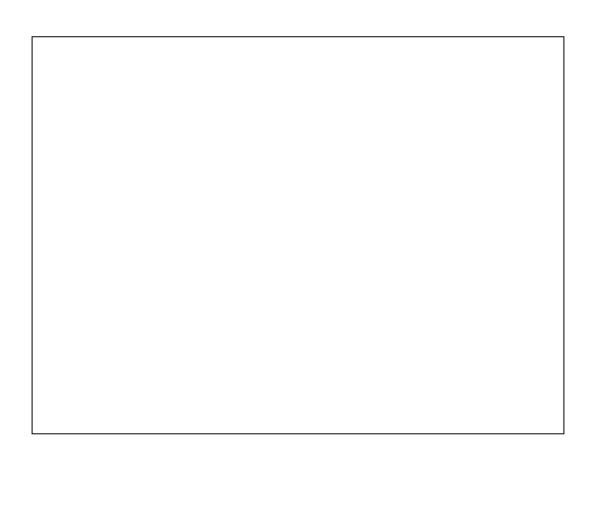
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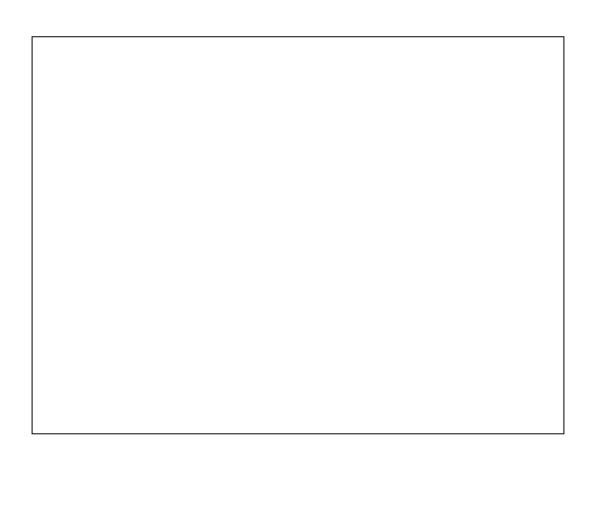
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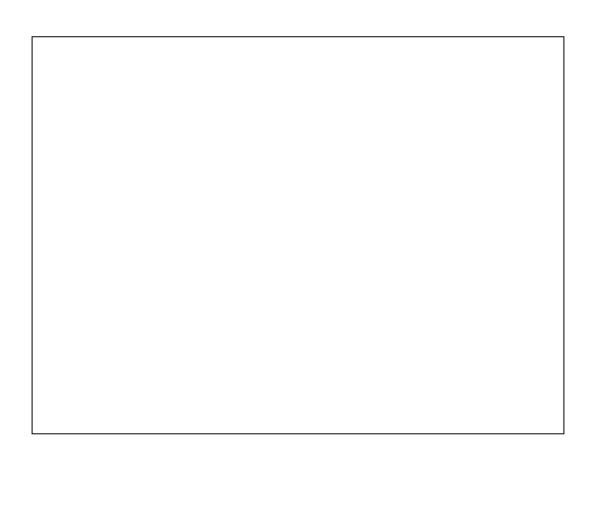
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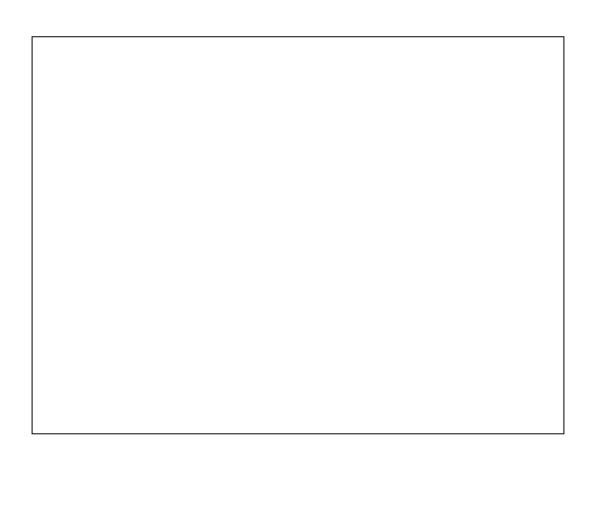






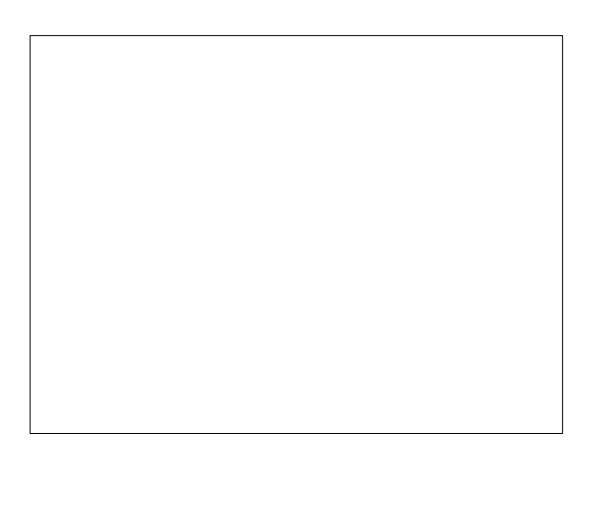














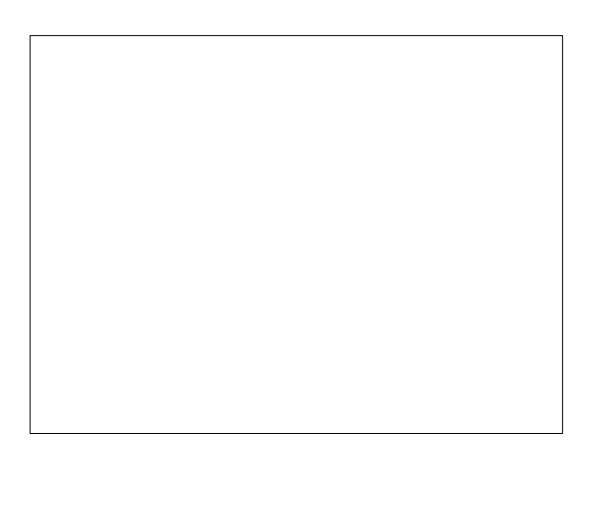


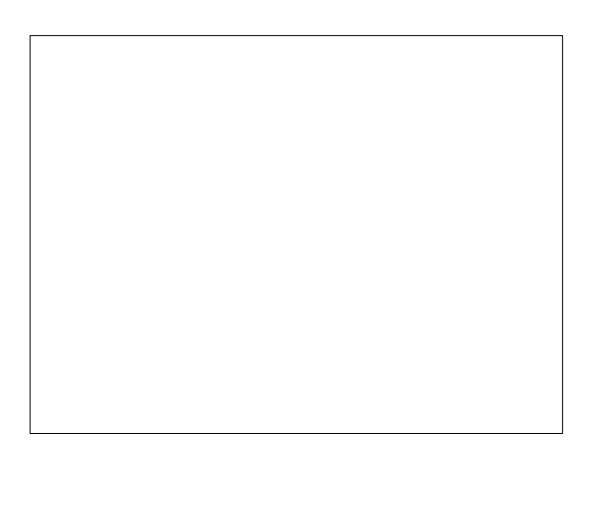


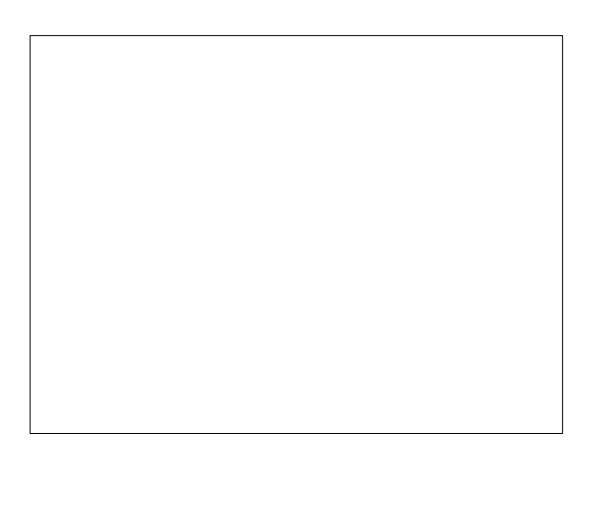


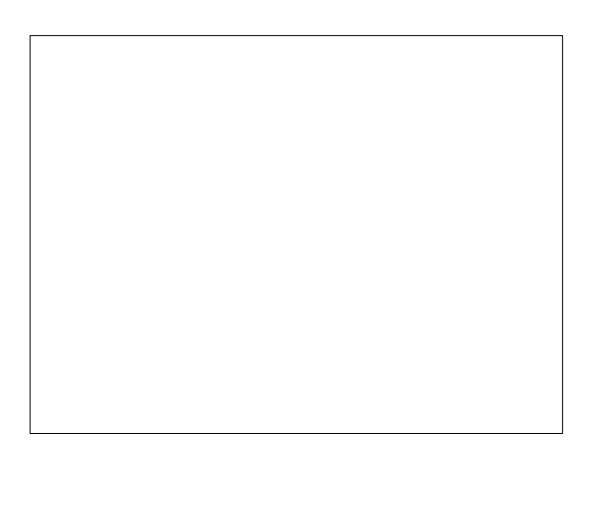


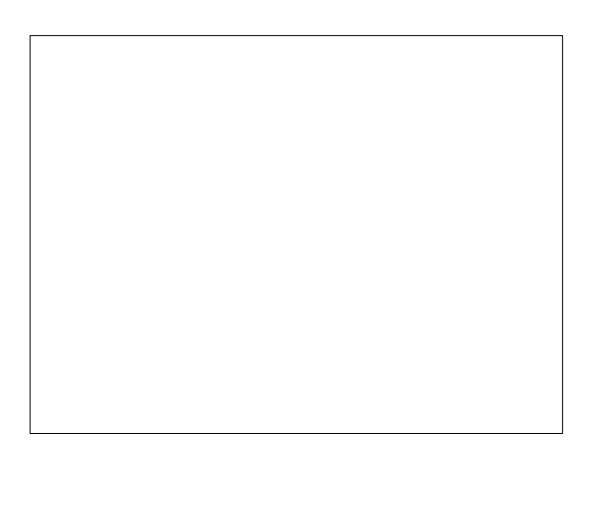


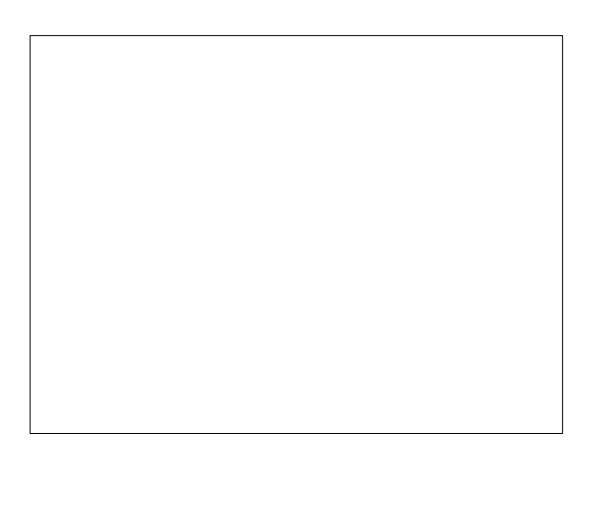


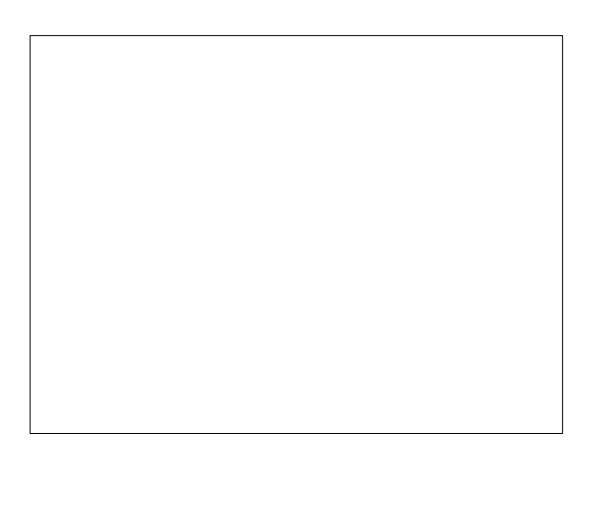












Thanks from the PropEr developers!



Kostis Sagonas A PropEr talk @ London