







DataXFormer: Leveraging the Web for Semantic Transformations

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Integration of multiple sources



HOTELS

FLIGHTS

CARS

PACKAGES

DEALS





Flights













Show details ▼ Only 2 seats left at this price

Eco

Different value representations







Departure	BOS
Destination	SFO
Cabin	Choice
Time	5:50 am
Price	563 \$

Boston , MA (BOS)	
San Fransisco, CA (SFO)	
Coach	
5:50 AM	
561\$	

Boston – Logan International		
San Fransisco, CA (SFO)		
Economy Restricted		
14:26		
613 €		

Departure	Boston (BOS)	
Destination	San Fransisco (SFO)	
Cabin	Economy	
Time	5:50a	
	563 \$	

Boston (BOS)
San Fransisco (SFO)
Economy
5:50a
561 \$

Boston (BOS)	
San Fransisco (SFO)
Economy	
02:26p	
731 \$	4

Data Transformation Tasks

Airport code $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ City

Airport code	City
BOS	Boston
JFK	New York
ORD	Chicago
BER	Berlin
CDG	Paris

- - MM/DD/YYYY \rightarrow DD/MM/YY
- currency conversion
 - -1 USD \rightarrow 0.7? EUR

- model → brand
 - Iphone 6 \rightarrow Apple Inc.
- ISBN → title
 - 0-553-57340-3 → "A Game of Thrones"
- unit conversion
 - $-1 \text{ Mi} \rightarrow 1.6 \text{ km}$
- date format transformations long/lat → location
 - language translation
 - ...

Problem Statement:

Automatically discover transformations!

Given Find

airport	City
BER	?
JFK	?
ORD	?
HBE	?
IST	?
FRA	?
BOS	?
DFW	?
••	•••

airport	City
BER	Berlin
JFK	New York
ORD	Chicago
HBE	Alexandria
IST	Istanbul
FRA	Frankfurt
BOS	Boston
DFW	Dallas
••	•••

Syntactic Transformations

US date	EU date
11/01/2014	01.11.2014
11/02/2014	02.11.2014
10/30/2014	30.10.2014
11/05/2014	05.11.2014
11/04/2014	04.11.2014

Liter	Gallon	
	1	0.26
	5	1.04
	100	26.42
	34	8.98
	6	1.58

GB		MB
	1	1,024
	0.49	500
	100	102,400
	2	2,048
	6	6,144

Name	Last name
Michael Stonebraker	Stonebraker
Michael Bay	Вау
Michael Brodie	Brodie
Michael Jordan	Jordan

Semantic Transformations

Name	Nickname
Michael	Mike
Samuel	Sam
Ziawasch	Zia
Rebeccea	Весса

ISBN	Title	
0-553-57340-3	A Game of Thrones	
0-553-80202-X	Universe in a Nutshell	
0-671-62964-6	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	
0-374-53355-7	Thinking Fast and Slow	
0-875-84585-1	The Innovator's Dilemma	

Airport code	City
BOS	Boston
JFK	New York
ORD	Chicago
BER	Berlin
CDG	Paris

Model	Category
Iphone 6	Mobile Phone
MacBook Air	Notebook
Logitech mouse	Accessory
Nexus 5	Mobile Phone

Problem Statement

Given

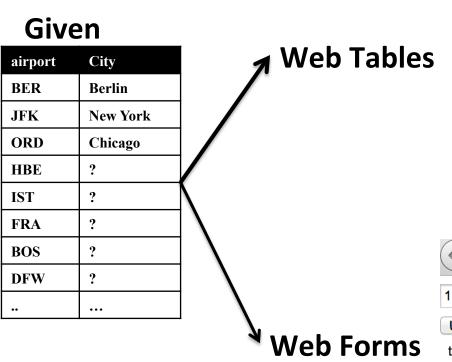
airport City **Berlin BER** JFK **New York** Chicago **ORD** ? **HBE** ? **IST** FRA ? ? **BOS** ? **DFW** • • •

Example transformations

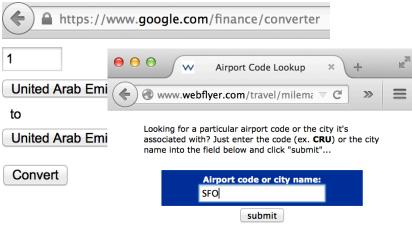
Find

airport	City
BER	Berlin
JFK	New York
ORD	Chicago
HBE	Alexandria
IST	Istanbul
FRA	Frankfurt
BOS	Boston
DFW	Dallas
••	•••

DataXFormer: The Web as general Repository







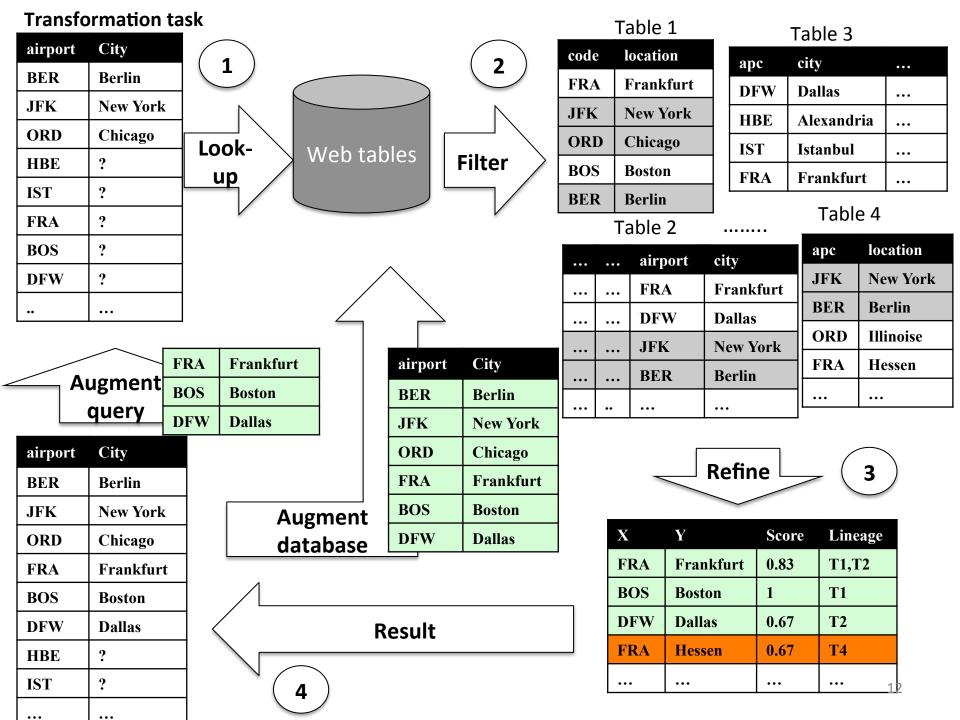
Web Tables

- Dataset
 - Dresden Web table Corpus
 - 120 Million tables
- Efficiently discovering transformation Examples:
 - Filter irrelevant tables
 - Overcome fragmentation
 - Average rowcount = 12
 - Dirty and Heterogeneous

Filter and Refine approach

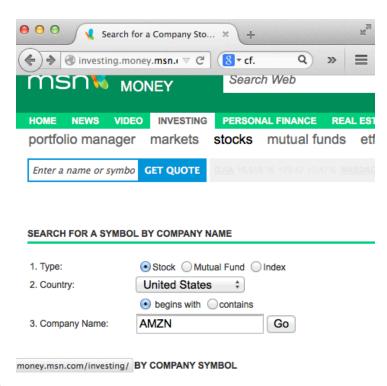
Multiple iterations and example augmentation

Rate transformations based on example hits and majority vote



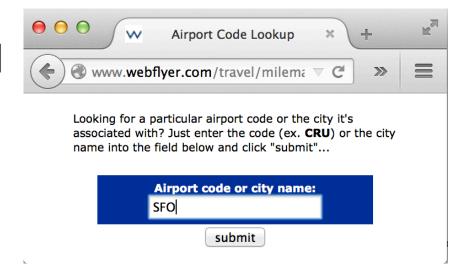
Web Forms

- How to find Web forms?
 - Use search engine
- How to use a Web form?
 - Generate a wrapper
- How to avoid high response time?
 - Cache results as new tables

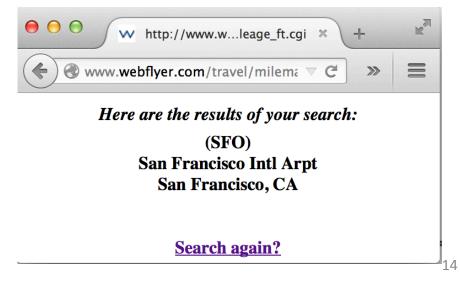


Wrapping Web forms

 Parse the HTML and find request parameters



 Locate output path by probing with examples



Expert System for Corner Cases

- Evaluate transformations
- Solve conflicts
- Create Transformations



Experiments

 Collected 50 queries from computer scientists and Tamr customers

1.	Fahrenheit to Celsius	17.	sentence to language	34.	patent ID to name	
2.	miles to km	18.	text to encoding	35.	city to long/lat	
3.	pound to kg	19.	Gregorian to Hijri	36.	Entity to wikipedia link	
4.	USD to EUR	20.	CUSIP to company	37.	Entity to google graph	id
5.	zip to state	21.	CUSIP to ticker	38.	person to twitter id	
6.	zip to city	22.	symbol to company	39.	ip to domain	
7.	UPS tracking	23.	iban to bank name	40.	company to CEO	
	to address	24.	Location to temperature	41.	company to industry	
8.	english to german	25.	location to humidity	42.	US standard to metric	
9.	swift code to bank	26.	car plate to details	43.	fractions to decimals	
10.	hex to RGB	27.	country code to country	44.	country to code	
11.	ISBN to publisher	28.	ascii to char	45.	State to state abbry	
12.	ISBN to title	29.	car model to brand	46.	time zone to abbrv	
13.	ISBN to author	30.	country to demonym	47.	city to country	
14.	ISSN to title	31.	country to language	48.	airport code to city	
15.	ip adress to country	32.	country to currency	49.	RGB to color	
16.	Domain to primary ip	33.	company to BBGID	50.	ASCII to unicode	10

Coverage of the System

Tested random input values for each query

	Web form wrapped	Web form found but not wrapped		
Covered by Tab	12	5	12	29
Not covered	12	5	4	21
	24	10	16	50

Covered: 24 + 29 -12= 41/50 (82%)

Precision and Recall of the Covered Transformations

- 10 Input values per query
- Average precision = 91%
- Average recall = 81.3%

Conclusion & Future Work

DataXFormer:

- Web tables are good at semantic transformations
- Web forms are good at syntactic transformations
- The expert crowd helps with difficult tasks

Future Work

- Extend our Web table repository
- Apply fuzzy matching
- Multi-column transformations
- Collect more queries
 - http://www.dataxformer.org

Please Help!!!

"Humans and Transformers should be friends..."
Optimus Prime

Give us your transformation!

http://www.dataxformer.org

Thank you! (abedjan@csail.mit.edu)