

Plato Transformations

Structure-Preserving Transforms Through Functors

A framework for automatic, provably correct data transformations using category theory

Slide 1: The Problem

Data Transformation is Hard

Every enterprise faces the same challenge:

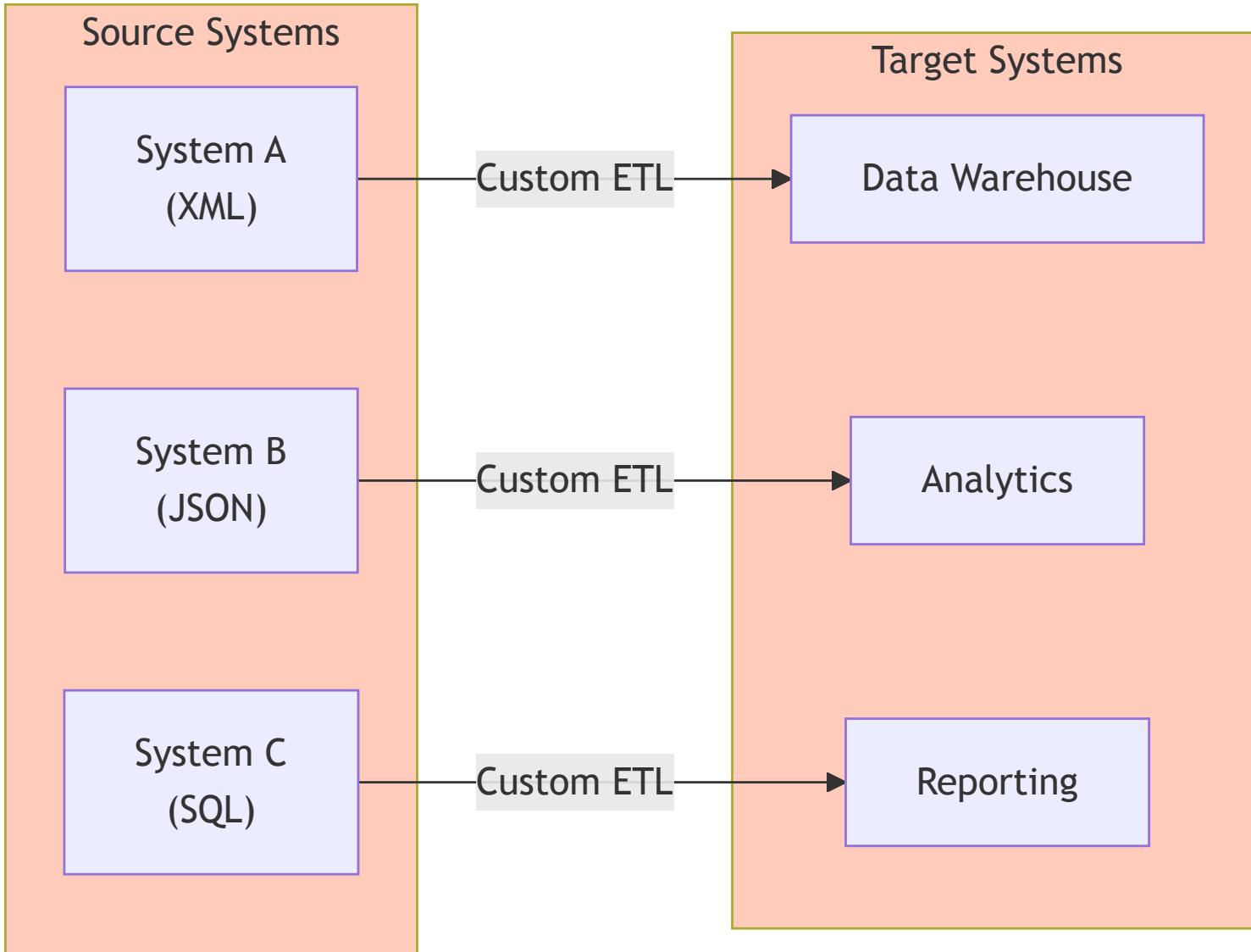


Diagram 0

The pain: - N sources × M targets = N×M custom transformations - Each transformation is hand-coded - Changes propagate unpredictably - No guarantees about correctness

Slide 2: The Observe/Interpret/Solve Cycle

How We Actually Solve Problems

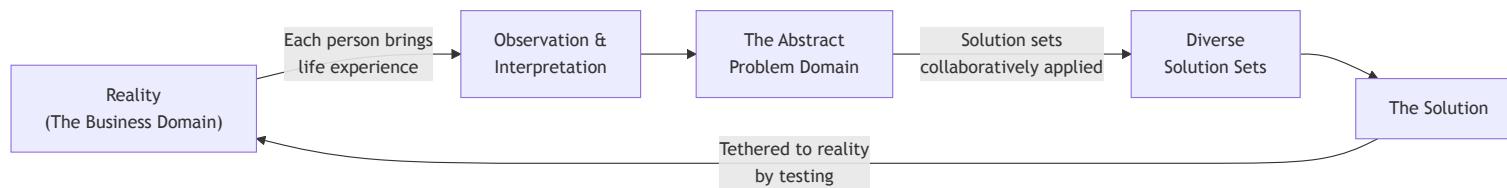


Diagram 1

Key insight: This is the scientific method applied at every granularity.

Slide 3: Business Domain Software Life Cycle

The Traditional Approach

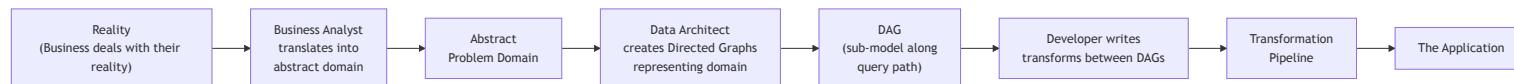


Diagram 2

Problem: Developer manually writes transforms between DAGs - error-prone and expensive.

Slide 4: Business Domain Life Cycle with Plato

The Automated Approach

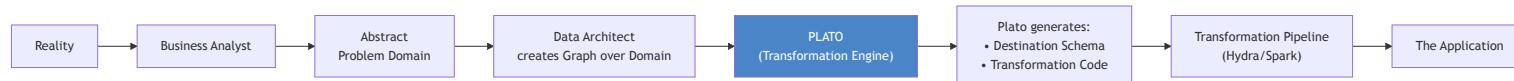


Diagram 3

Key change: Developer declares the destination DAG; Plato generates the transformation code automatically.

Slide 5: TLDR - What Plato Does

The Value Proposition

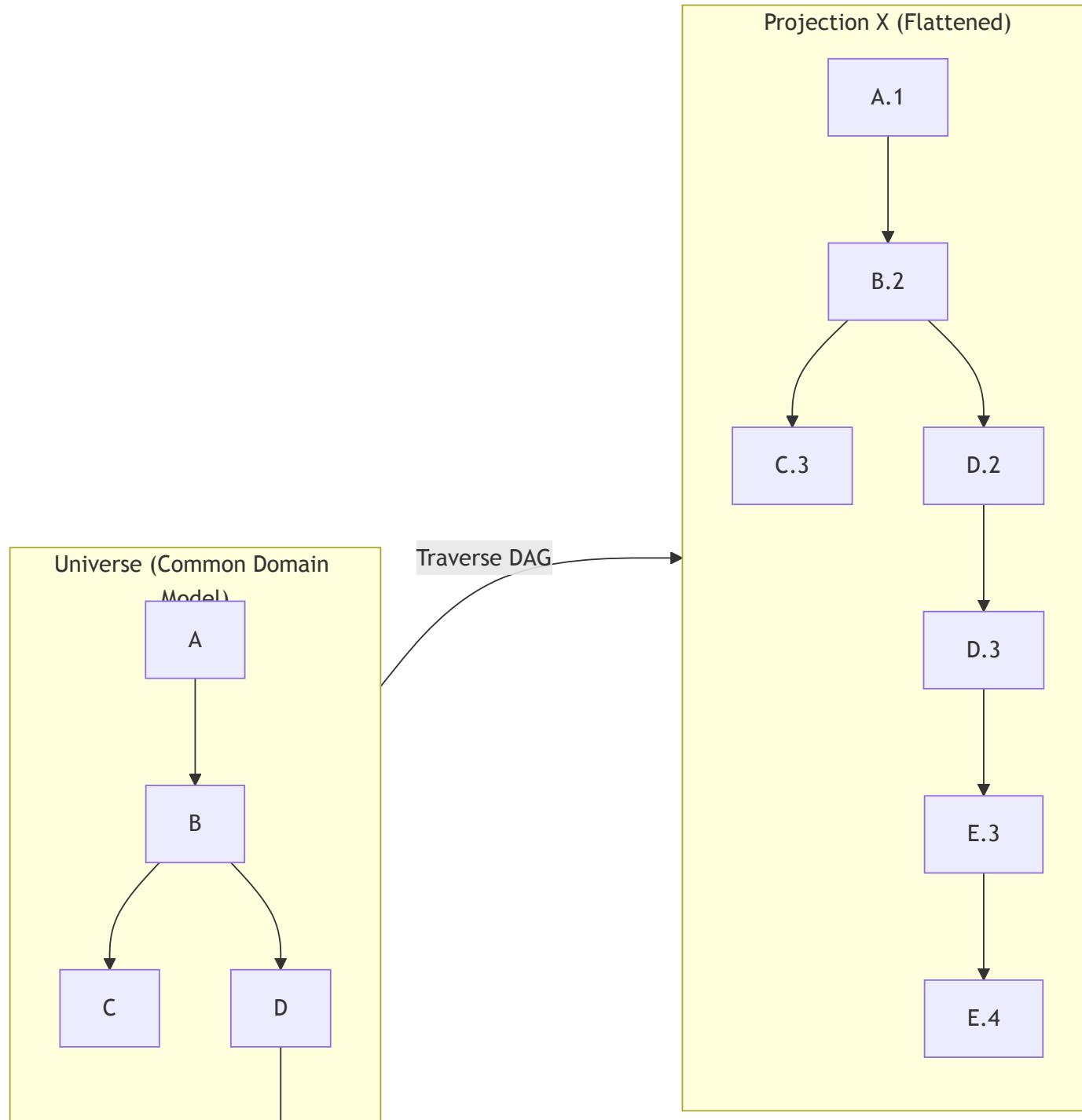
Plato allows: 1. Definition of a **network of entities and their relationships** 2. The Transformation module generates **instructions to copy data** from any projection to any other projection 3. The DSL can be converted to **any target language** (Spark, Java, Python, Beam, SQL) 4. Generated code used by **Hydra or standalone**

Example flow:

```
Source: Trade XML in Avro format
      ↓ (Plato projection definition)
User defines: Destination Projection from common Universe
      ↓ (Transformation module)
Generated: DSL instruction set (source → destination)
      ↓ (Adaptor)
Output: Executable Spark code for Hydra
```

Slide 6: The Core Concept - Structure Preservation

Automatic Structure-Preserving Transformation



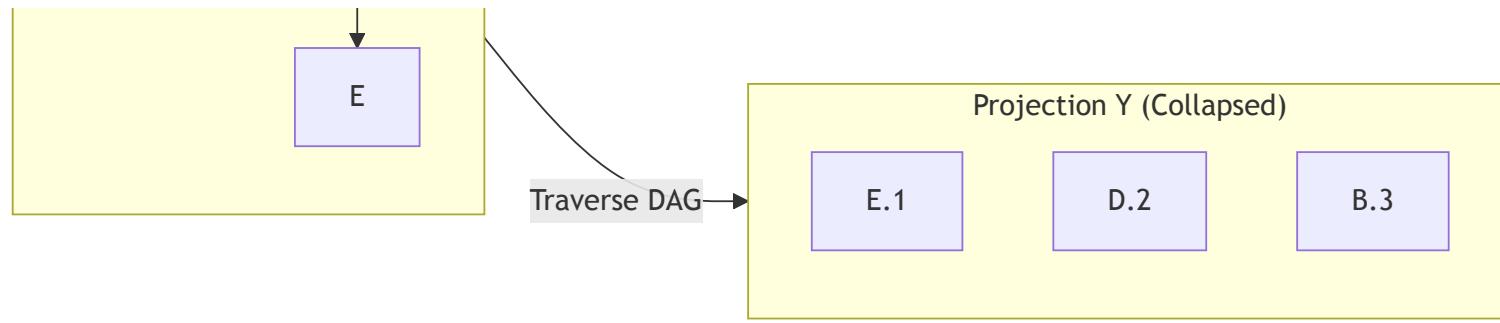


Diagram 4

Language (minimal instruction set): 1. CREATE node 2. COPY (node).ATTRIBUTES (a).FILTER(predicate)

Slide 7: Graph Representation

Entities, Relationships, and Arcs

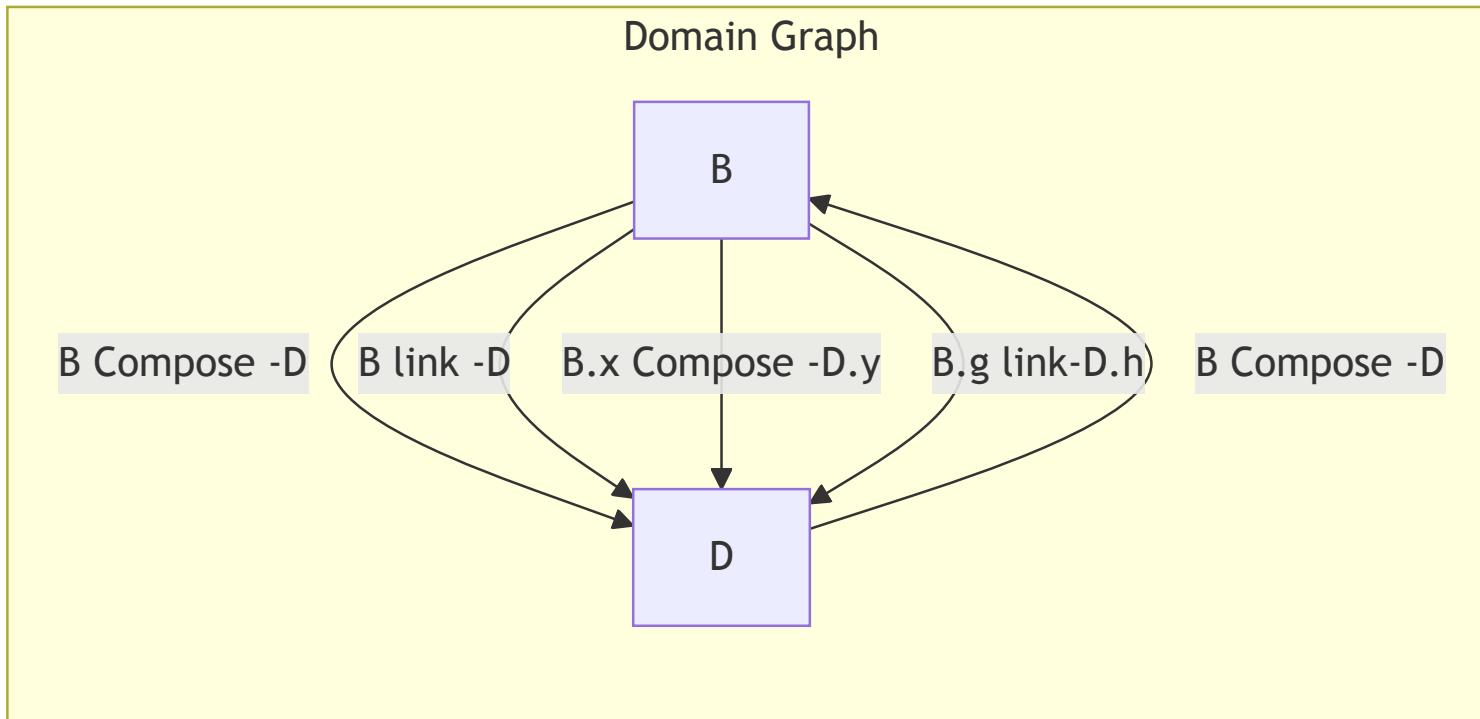


Diagram 5

Arc properties: - **Relationship:** Table key (Link, Composition) - **Multiplicity:** Foreign Key - Mono (Single, Many) - **Direction:** Mono(Left, Right), BiDirection

Processing rules: - A → Adjacent Nodes & Arcs - For each Arc: check if reference exists → FK if Mono - For each unique Arc to same table: different reference name - If Bidirectional: Create Join table for each unique Arc

Slide 8: The Plato DSL

SQL Code Construction from Plato DSL

Plato DSL Commands:

```
CREATE, COPY  
Copy Result([source.Path]) to [destination.Path]  
Result <= Query( A )(Result A)
```

```
Path = Seq[Arc] from Src to Dest  
Arc = (left_node, right_node, ref_type(link,composition))
```

```
Query( Path(n) => Arc 'n)  
(L1, R1) => (L2, R2) => (L3, R3) => (L4, R4) ...  
Where A'n( Ln, Rn ) :: R(n) == L(n+1)
```

```
Result'n ( Query(Arc(L,R) ) )
```

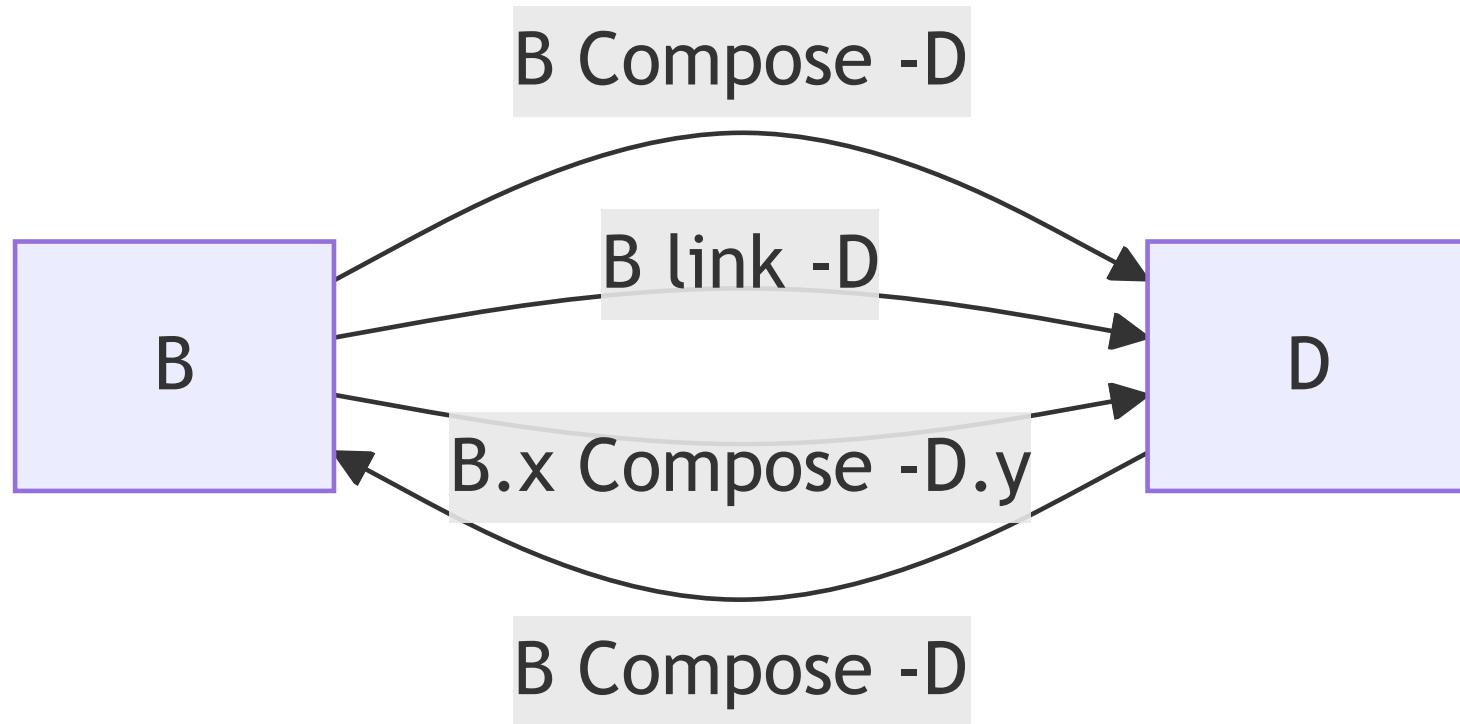


Diagram 6

Slide 9: Copy Transform Algorithm

How Transformations Are Generated

```
create A
copy ( A=>A ) :: 
create D
copy ( A=>D ) :: [ A, B, right, link, many, A_id, B_id],
                   [ B, D, right, link, many, B_id, D_id]
create B
copy ( A=>B ) :: [ A, B, right, link, many, A_id, B_id]
```

SQL Generation:

```
Select * from D where d_id in
  ( select d_id from B where b_id in
    ( select b_id from A ) )
```

```
RESULT_SET = select * from D
RESULT_KEYS = select d_id from B
RESULT_SET = Query_SET ( RESULT_KEYS )
RESULT_KEYS = Query_KEYS( Path, Arc = Path.head, RESULT_KEYS )
```

Slide 10: The Algorithm - Network to Projections

Transform ($\{U:P1 \rightarrow X\} \rightarrow \{U:P2 \rightarrow Y\}$)

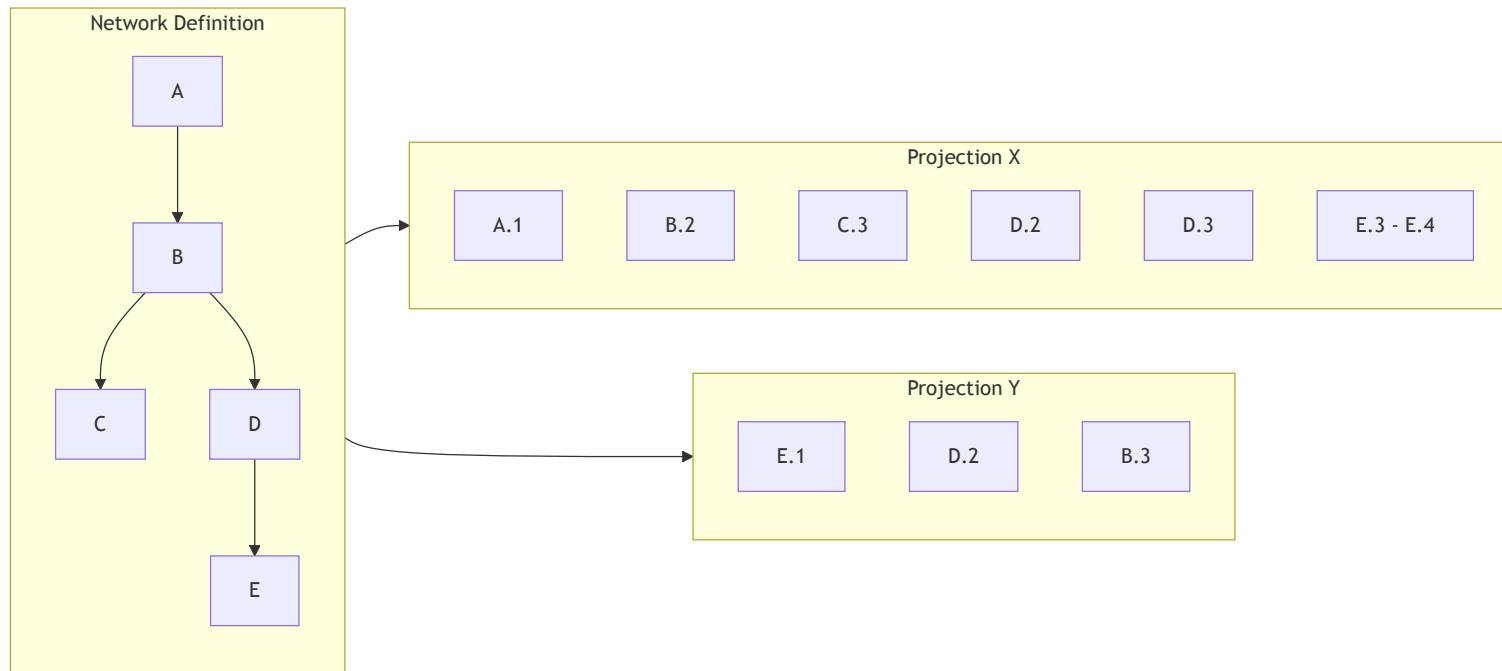


Diagram 7

Algorithm:

1. Given Y, traverse over X.Data \rightarrow Y.Data
2. META SETS - Mapping each node type
3. Traverse DAG Y
4. Traverse Y.E \rightarrow Query X for Y.E \rightarrow Create Y.E (X.E <- Query X)
5. Construct E.attribute <- Query(U:X.E).attributes
6. Resolve Links from B.E to B.D

Slide 11: Plato Meta Model

HOCON Definition Structure

```
{  
    // bundles of attributes – independent of nodes  
    // nodes need the same tags as attributes  
    attributes_lists: {  
        Attrib_bundle1: []  
        Attrib_bundle2: []  
    }  
  
    // nodes don't need to be defined all here  
    // these are the common universe spanning definitions  
    Nodes: {}  
  
    // still need to think about how universes map (bounded context)  
    PlatonicUniverse: {  
        universeName: u {  
            Nodes: [n1,n2]  
            Arcs: [  
                [n1,n2]  
            ]  
        }  
    }  
  
    // can all projections be stored as projection set rules?  
    ProjectionSets: {  
        projName: {  
            Universe: u  
            From: n1  
            Ruleset: [  
                // Arc definitions with type, multiplicity, direction  
                {  
                    start: Trade,  
                    end: Order,  
                }  
            ]  
        }  
    }  
}
```

```
        type: composition,  
        multiplicity: single,  
        direction: bidirectional,  
        end_identity_alias: "trade_key2_order_id"  
    }  
]  
}  
}  
}
```

Slide 12: Plato Module Architecture

System Components

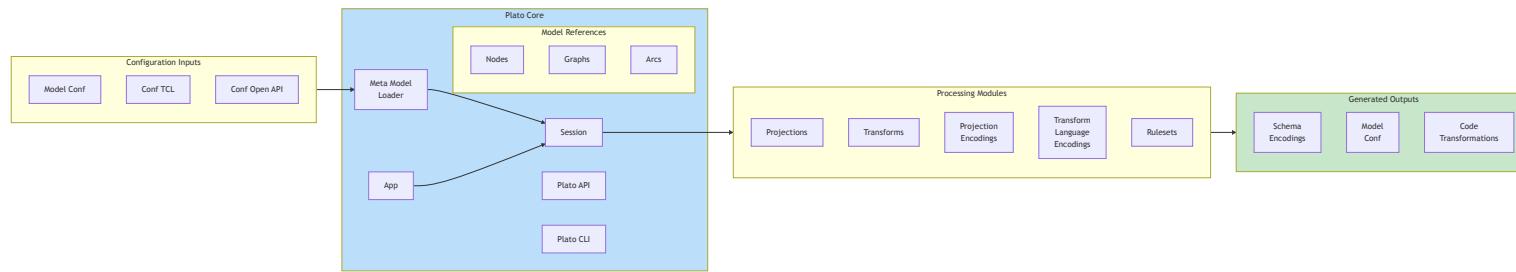


Diagram 8

Slide 13: Transformation Engine

Code Generation Pipeline

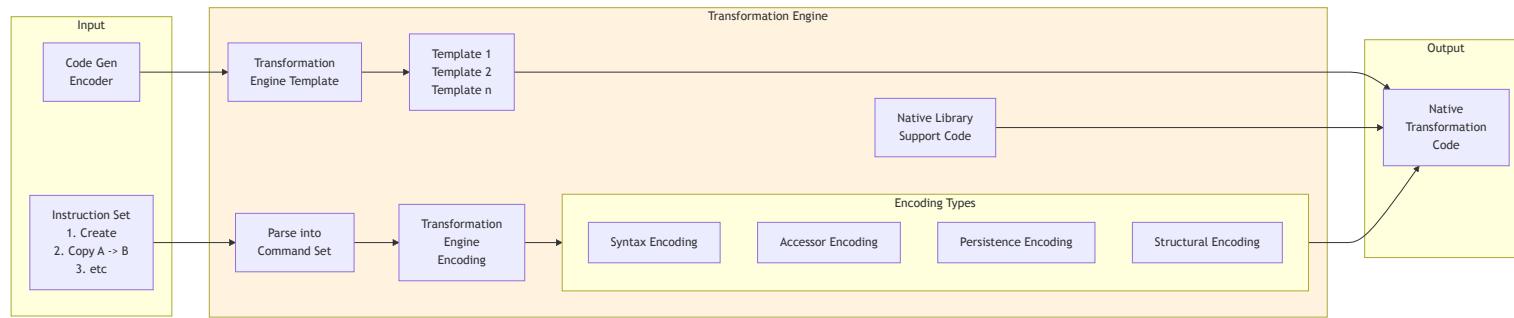


Diagram 9

Slide 14: Projections and Ideologies

Monads for Different Target Structures

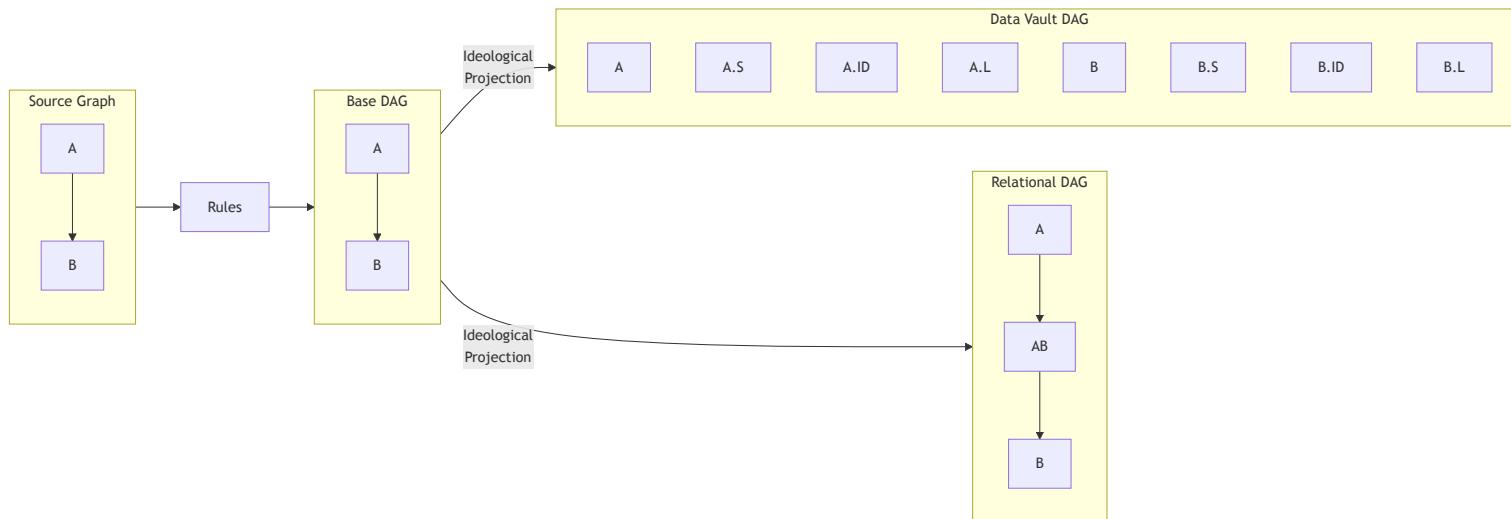


Diagram 10

Composability is against the base DAG, but prior to encoding needs to be projected into the adjacent category.

Slide 15: Projection From a Universe

Session and Lineage Tracking

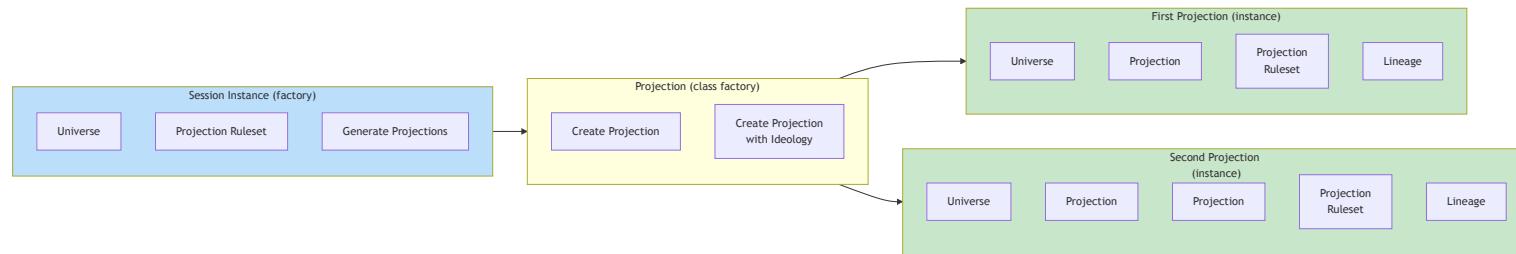


Diagram 11

Slide 16: Graph Joins

Composing Universes

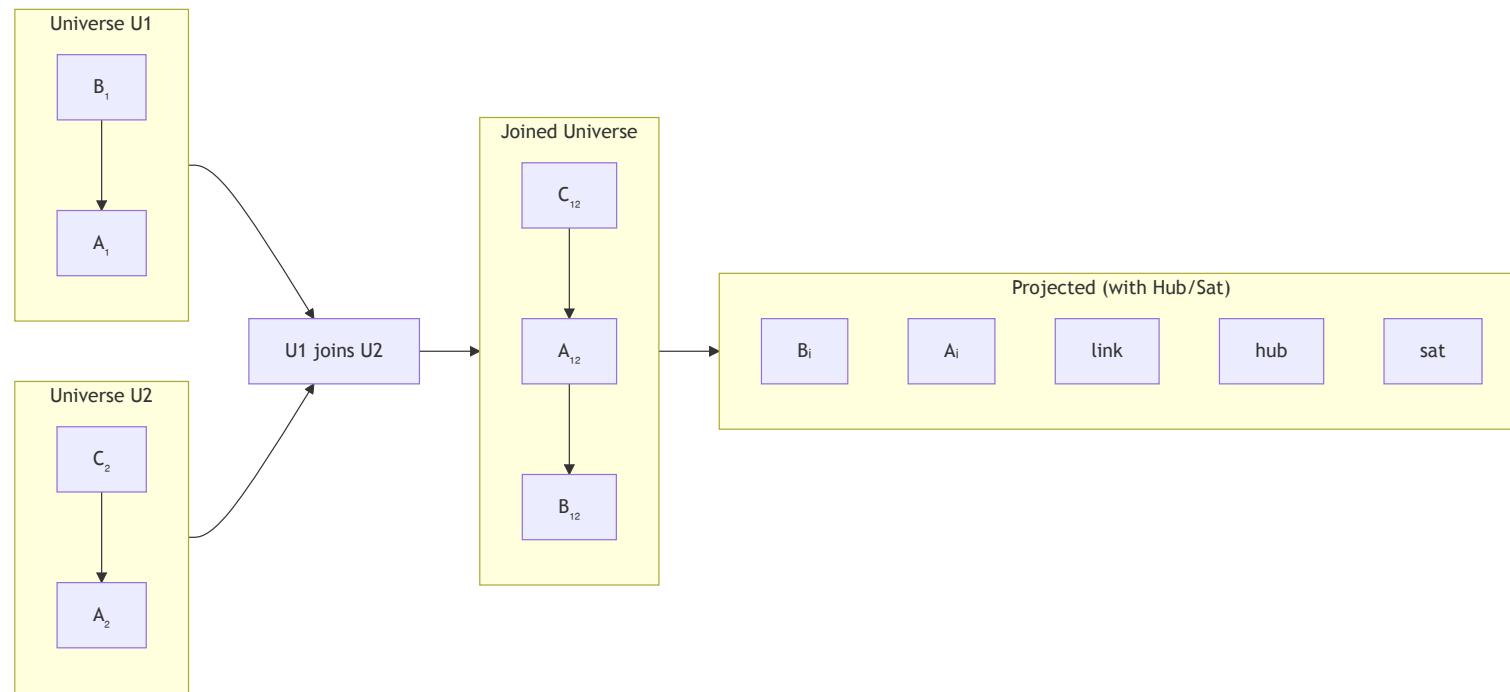


Diagram 12

Slide 17: Transformation Between DAGs

Path-Based Transformation

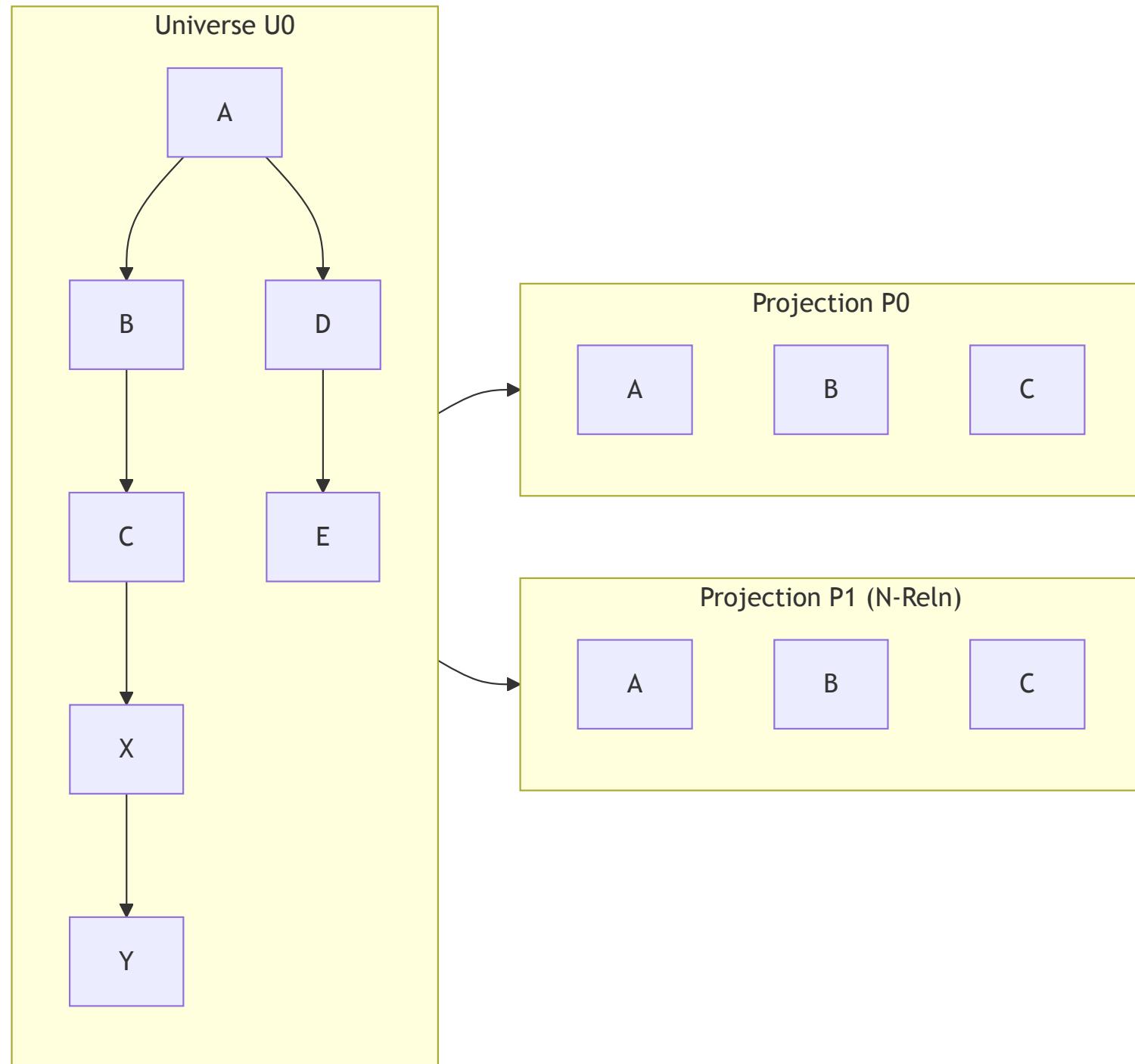


Diagram 13

Pre-Condition: 1. Get Path: U0.Path(A,B) 2. Missing Nodes P0 needs to be fully contained within P0 - U0.Path(A,B)

Transformation:

```
P1.Traverse(P0.Path(A,B)).Arcs_Sequence.map(  
    (p1.A, Seq(p0.A)) => Create_Node( Read_Node(p0.A), p1.A )  
)
```

Slide 18: Transform Instruction Set

Aggregation and Optimization

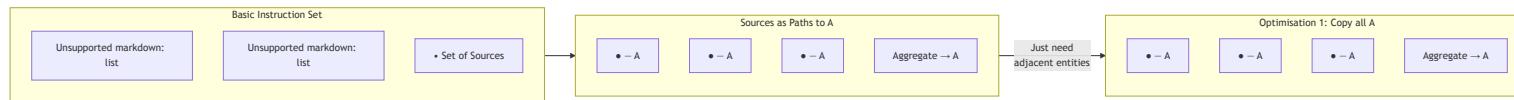


Diagram 14

Slide 19: Transforms Over Entities

Two Fundamental Transform Types

Type 1: Identity Preserving Transforms

- Usually **row-level operations** where entity identity is preserved through transformation
- New Aggregate Entities are created, but composing entity identities are preserved in the new aggregate

Type 2: Aggregate Transforms

- New Aggregate Entities are created
- Composing entity identities are preserved in the new aggregate

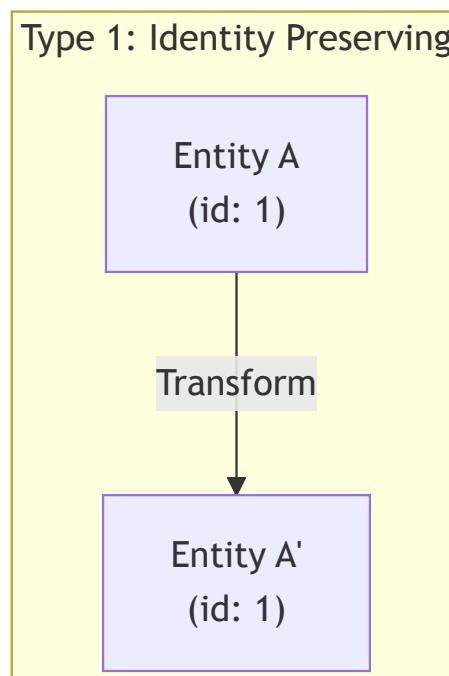
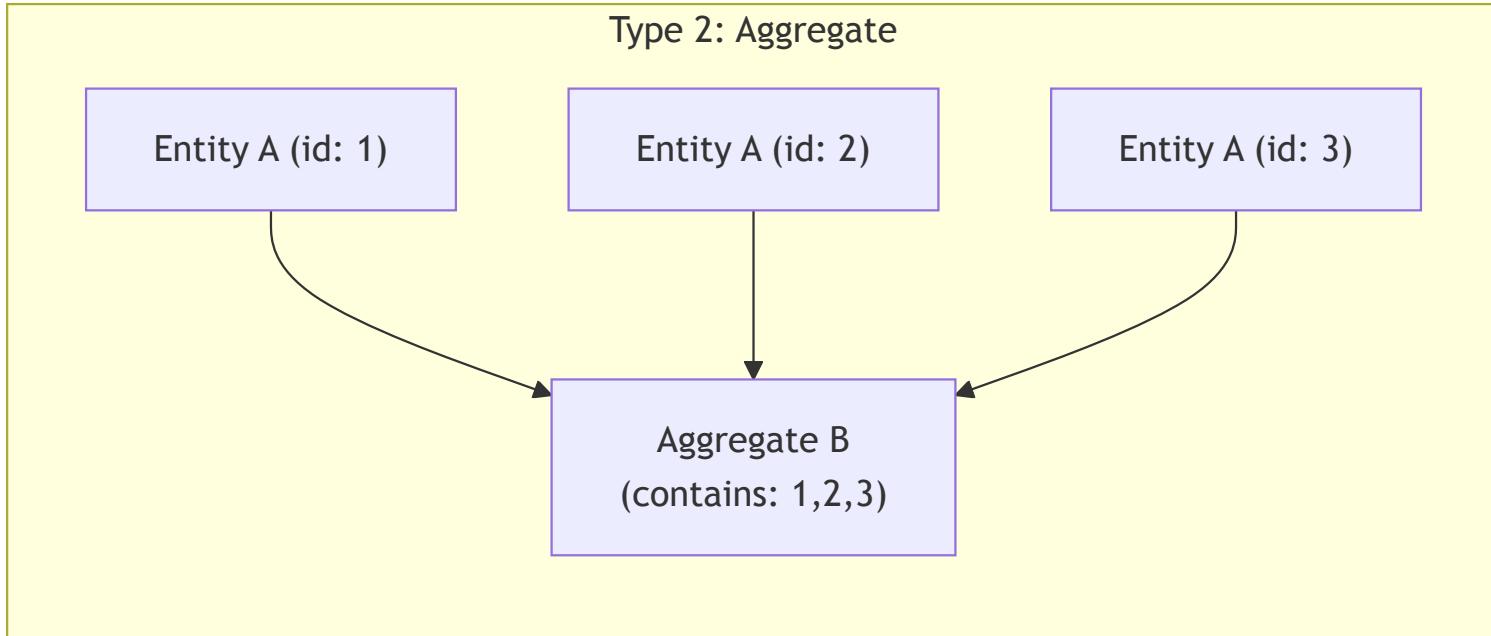




Diagram 15

Slide 20: Connection to Constraint Ontology

Plato as Constraint-Preserving Transformation

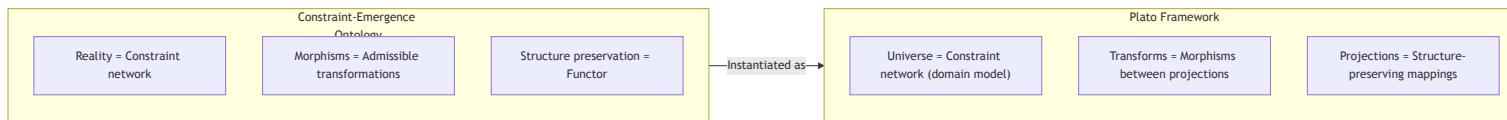


Diagram 16

Category Theory	Plato Implementation
Objects	Entities (Nodes)
Morphisms	Arcs (Relationships)
Functor	Projection (structure-preserving map)
Natural Transformation	Transform between projections
Composition	Path traversal

Plato is category theory made practical - it automates what mathematicians call “functorial mappings” between data structures.

Slide 21: Why This Matters

The Business Value

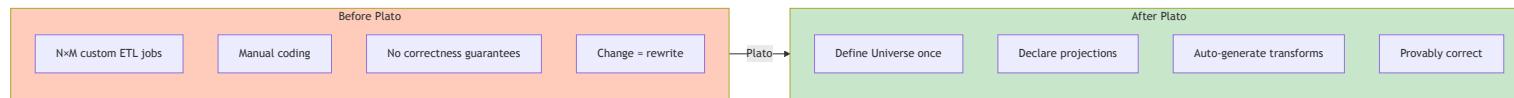


Diagram 17

Benefits: 1. **Reduced development time** - Declare, don't code 2. **Correctness by construction** - Structure preservation is guaranteed 3. **Change resilience** - Modify universe, regenerate transforms 4. **Multi-target** - Same model → Spark, SQL, Python, etc. 5. **Lineage built-in** - Every transformation is traceable

Slide 22: Summary

Plato Transformations

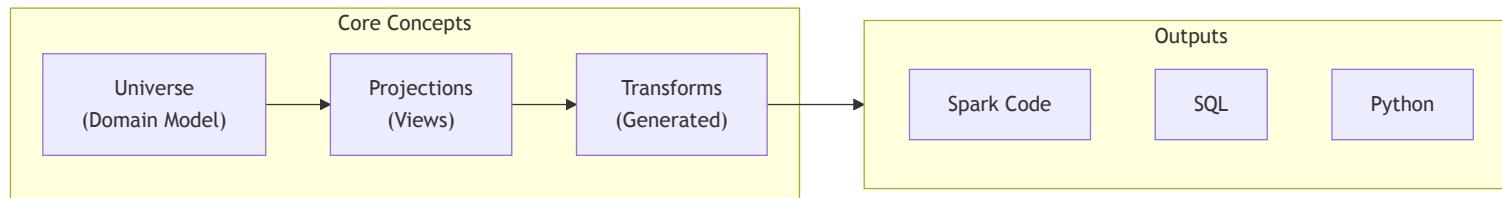


Diagram 18

Key Takeaways:

1. **Define once, transform anywhere** - Single domain model, multiple projections
2. **Structure preservation** - Category-theoretic guarantees
3. **Automatic code generation** - DSL → executable transformation code
4. **Ideological projections** - Same model → Data Vault, Relational, etc.
5. **Composable universes** - Graph joins for cross-domain integration

| **The insight:** Data transformation is not about writing code - it's about declaring structure and letting mathematics generate the correct transformations.

This presentation covers the Plato Transformations framework for automatic, structure-preserving data transformations using category theory principles.

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