AN ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION OF

Parisa Ataei for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science presented on June ?, 2021.

Title: Theory and Implementation of a Variational Database Management System

Abstract approved: _____

Eric Walkingshaw

In this thesis I present the variational database management system, a formal framework and its implementation for representing variation in relational databases and managing variational information needs. The variational database is intended to support any instance of variation in database, both the existing instances and more importantly newly arisen instances which could be a combination of existing instances. For example, existing instances of variation in databases are when a single database evolves over time and when data from different sources is combined. While there are context-specific solutions to both problems neither solution can address when data sources combined in one database evolves over time.

This thesis collects a large amount of work: It

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Theory and Implementation of a Variational Database Management System

by

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APPROVED:

Major Professor, representing Computer Science

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Dean of the Graduate School

I understand that my dissertation will become part of the permanent collection of Oregon State University libraries. My signature below authorizes release of my dissertation to any reader upon request.

Parisa Ataei, Author

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

[Eric. Committee. jeff. abu. parents. friends.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Motivation and Impact . . . 1
1.1.1 Motivating Example . . . 1

1.2 Contributions and Outline of this Thesis . . . 1

2 Background 2

2.1 The Relational Database . . . 2

2.2 Relational Algebra . . . 2

2.3 Variational Set . . . 2
2.3.1 Variational Set Configuration . . . 2

2.4 The Formula Choice Calculus . . . 2

3 The Variational Database Framework 3

3.1 Variational Needs in a Relational Database . . . 3

3.2 Variation Space in a Variational Database Framework . . . 3

3.3 Variational Schema . . . 3
3.3.1 Variational Schema Configuration . . . 3

3.4 Variational Table . . . 3
3.4.1 Variational Table Configuration . . . 3

3.5 Variational Database . . . 3
3.5.1 Variational Database Configuration . . . 4

3.6 Properties of a Variational Database Framework . . . 4

4 The Variational Query Language 5

4.1 Variational Relational Algebra . . . 5
4.1.1 VRA Configuration . . . 5
4.1.2 VRA Semantics . . . 5
4.1.3 VRA Type System . . . 5
4.1.4 VRA Variation-Minimization Rules . . . 5

4.2 Variational Query Language Properties . . . 5

5 Variational Database Management System (VDBMS) 6

5.1 Implemented Approaches . . . 6

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

5.2 Experiments 6

6 Related Work 7

6.1 Instances of Variation in Databases 7

6.2 Instances of Database Variation Resulted from Software Development . . . 7

6.3 Variational Research 7

7 Conclusion 8

Bibliography 8

Appendices 9

A Variational Database Usecases 10

LIST OF ALGORITHMS

Algorithm Page

Chapter 1: Introduction

[points: - def variation in db and is everywhere - instances but context specific solution don't suffice - thus a generic framework that addresses problems]

[- dimension, behaviour - instances but context specific solution don't suffice - example of instances - well-studied: schema evolution - partial: SPL - new instance either out of combination of other or new - generic framework to instantiate for each instance and address all variational needs.]

1.1 Motivation and Impact

[motivation]

1.1.1 Motivating Example

[combination of instances, behaviours, and dimensions]

1.2 Contributions and Outline of this Thesis

[contribution]

Chapter 2: Background

[background]

2.1 The Relational Database

[relational database]

2.2 Relational Algebra

[relational algebra]

2.3 Variational Set

[vset]

2.3.1 Variational Set Configuration

[vset configuration.]

2.4 The Formula Choice Calculus

[formula choice calculus]

Chapter 3: The Variational Database Framework

[needs. must have configuration.]

3.1 Variational Needs in a Relational Database

[needs and examples of them.]

3.2 Variation Space in a Variational Database Framework

[fexp. evaluation.]

3.3 Variational Schema

[vsch]

3.3.1 Variational Schema Configuration

[vsch configuration.]

3.4 Variational Table

[vtab]

3.4.1 Variational Table Configuration

[vtab configuration]

3.5 Variational Database

[vdb]

3.5.1 Variational Database Configuration

[vdb configuration]

3.6 Properties of a Variational Database Framework

[well-formed vdb properties.context-specific properties.]
[show that they hold for vdb.]

Chapter 4: The Variational Query Language

[vql]

4.1 Variational Relational Algebra

[vra]

4.1.1 VRA Configuration

[vra configuration]

4.1.2 VRA Semantics

[vra semantics]

4.1.3 VRA Type System

[type sys]

4.1.4 VRA Variation-Minimization Rules

[rules]

4.2 Variational Query Language Properties

[prop. show for vra.]

Chapter 5: Variational Database Management System (VDBMS)

[vdbms]

5.1 Implemented Approaches

[apps]

5.2 Experiments

[exp.]

Chapter 6: Related Work

[related work! have to work on this!]

6.1 Instances of Variation in Databases

[schema evolution. database versioning. data integration. data provenance.]

6.2 Instances of Database Variation Resulted from Software Development

[SPL. data model. query.]

6.3 Variational Research

[blah]

Chapter 7: Conclusion

[conclusion]

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Variational Database Usecases

A.1 Variation in Space

[enron email usecase]

A.2 Variation in Time

[employee evolution usecase]