

# Categorical ontologies and databases

David I. Spivak

dspivak@math.mit.edu  
Mathematics Department  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Presented on 2012/07/26  
at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Research

# Research goal

- My goal is to develop a rigorous understanding of information:
  - what it is,
  - how it is used,
  - how it evolves,
  - how it can be faithfully transmitted.
- A good mathematical abstraction will be characterized by
  - clarity and obviousness;
  - coincidence: a matching of well-known ideas in math with well-known ideas in information science;
  - grace: coherent and well-coordinated extensions to differing perspectives on data.

# Purpose of this talk:

To communicate a modern mathematical approach to databases and ontologies that is

- simple: intended that non-mathematicians can follow most of it without struggle;
- expressive: the model includes both databases and ontologies;
- efficient: well-established notation lets us speak easily about big ideas;
- effective: mathematical theorems can be applied to improve productivity.

# Mantra: database schemas are categories

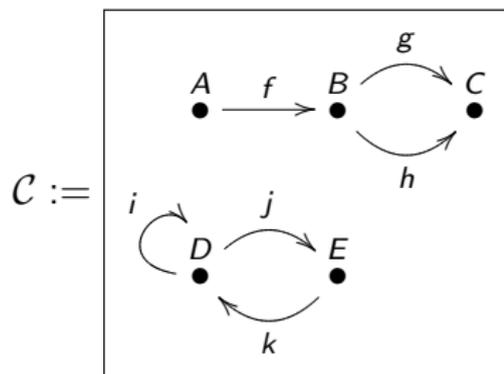
- A high-level view of data is captured in a database schema.
- A high-level view of mathematical objects is captured in a category.
- There is a deep similarity between database schemas and categories.
- We will examine this similarity and see where it takes us.

# Plan of the talk

- Lay out the basic idea of categories and that of databases, and show the tight connection between them.
- Discuss schema evolution, data migration, and querying.
- Show how the RDF representation flows naturally from this model.
- Discuss SPARQL graph pattern queries in this language.

# What is a category?

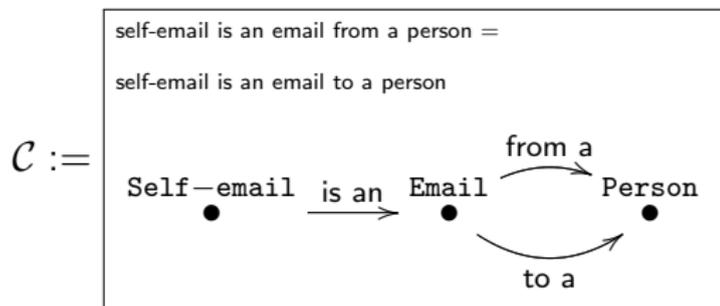
- A category is like a directed graph.



- Categories come with one extra piece of expressivity: the ability to declare different paths to be equivalent.
  - Example: declare that  $j; k \simeq i; i$  and  $f; g \simeq f; h$ .

# Example

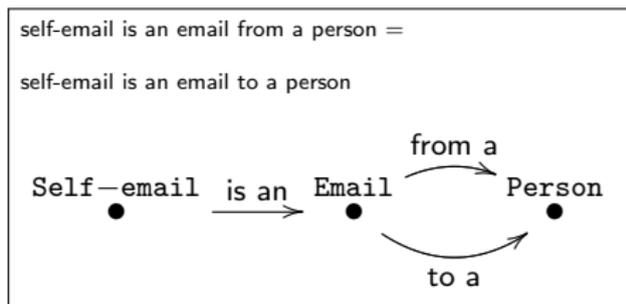
- How could one interpret this kind of abstraction?



- Such “business rules” can be encoded into the category.

# Example continued

Category:



Self-email	
ID	is an Email
SEm1207	Em1207
SEm1210	Em1210
SEm1211	Em1211

Email		
ID	from a Person	to a Person
Em1206	Bob	Sue
Em1207	Carl	Carl
Em1208	Sue	Martha
Em1209	Chris	Bob
Em1210	Chris	Chris
Em1211	Julia	Julia
Em1212	Martha	Chris

Person	
ID	
Bob	
Carl	
Chris	
Julia	
Martha	
Sue	

# A little history

- Since its invention in the early 1940s, category theory has revolutionized math.
  - Most modern papers in topology, algebra, or geometry could not even be written without category theory.
- It's like set theory and logic, except less floppy, more principles-based.
- It was invented to build bridges between disparate branches of math by distilling the essence of mathematical structure.
  - In a similar way, it can build bridges between different schemas....

# Branching out

- Category theory naturally fosters connections between disparate fields.
- It has branched out of math and into physics, linguistics, and materials science.
- It has had much success in the theory of programming languages.
  - The pure category-theoretic concept of *monads* has vastly extended the reach of functional programming.
- I propose category theory as the natural language of informatics.

# What is the essence of structure?

- If mathematics is the art of getting organized, what organizes math?
- After thousands of years, people realized that there was a common abstraction by which to structure much of mathematics.
- It consists of: objects, arrows, paths, and path equivalence.
- Or: things, tasks, processes, and “sameness of outcome”.
- Or: primary keys, foreign keys, paths of FKs, and path equations.
- Let's give the definition.

# Definition of a category I: Constituents

A category  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of the following constituents:

- ① A set  $\mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ , called *the set of objects of  $\mathcal{C}$* .
  - I'll denote each object  $x \in \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$  by  $\bullet^x$ .
- ② A set  $\mathbf{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$ , called *the set of arrows of  $\mathcal{C}$* , and two functions

$$\mathit{src}, \mathit{tgt}: \mathbf{Arr}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C}),$$

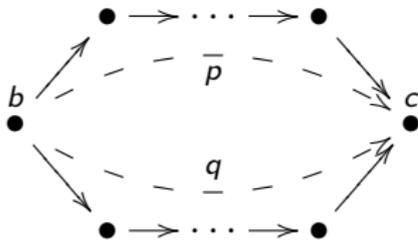
assigning to each arrow its *source* and its *target* object, respectively.

- An arrow  $f \in \mathbf{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$  is often written  $\bullet^x \xrightarrow{f} \bullet^y$ , where  $x = \mathit{src}(f), y = \mathit{tgt}(f)$ .
  - We define a *path in  $\mathcal{C}$*  to be a finite "head-to-tail" sequence of arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$ , e.g.  $\bullet^x \xrightarrow{f} \bullet^y \xrightarrow{g} \bullet^z$ .
  - Paths can have length  $n$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , including  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$ .
- ③ An notion of equivalence for paths, denoted  $\simeq$ .

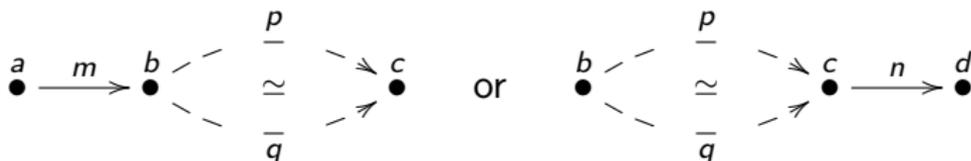
## Definition of a category II: Rules

These constituents must satisfy the following requirements:

- ① If  $p \simeq q$  are equivalent paths then the sources agree:  $src(p) = src(q)$ .
- ② If  $p \simeq q$  are equivalent paths then the targets agree:  $tgt(p) = tgt(q)$ .
- ③ Suppose we have two paths (of any lengths)  $b \rightarrow c$ :



If  $p \simeq q$  then for any extensions



$m; p \simeq m; q$

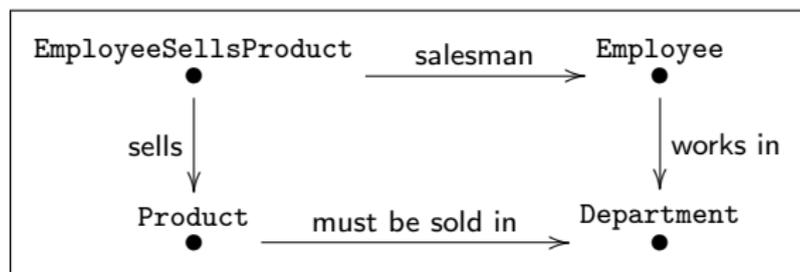
and

$p; n \simeq q; n$

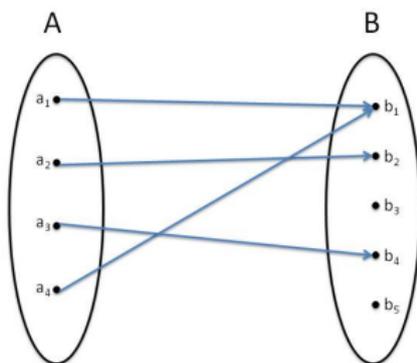
# What does equivalence of paths mean?

- Nodes represent tables; arrows represent foreign keys.
- A path  $p: \bullet \xrightarrow{a} \bullet \xrightarrow{b}$  represents "following foreign keys" from table  $a$  to table  $b$ .
- Following a path  $p$ , we can take any record in table  $a$  and return a record in table  $b$ .
- We declare two paths  $p, q: \bullet \xrightarrow{a} \bullet$  equivalent if they should return the same record in  $b$  for any record in  $a$ .

Category:



# The category of Sets



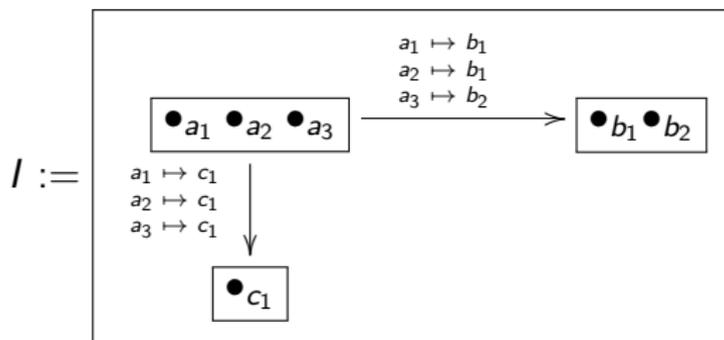
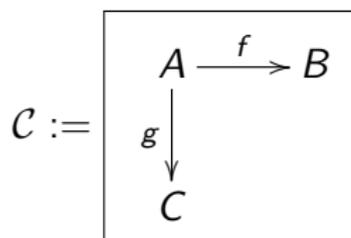
- Above we see two sets and a function between them. We would denote this categorically by  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$ 
  - The objects of **Set** represent sets.
  - The arrows in **Set** represent functions.
  - A path represents a sequence of composable functions.
  - Two paths are equivalent if their compositions are the same.
- Note that  $b_3$  and  $b_5$  have been inserted, and  $a_1$  and  $a_4$  have been merged.

# Functors: mappings between categories

- One way to think of a category is as a directed graph, where certain paths have been declared equivalent.
- A functor is a graph mapping that is required to respect equivalence of paths.
- **Definition:** A functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  consists of
  - a function  $\mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{D})$  and
  - a function  $\mathbf{Arr}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Path}(\mathcal{D})$ ,such that  $F$ 
  - respects sources and targets,
  - respects equivalences of paths.

# Functors to **Set**

- A category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a system of objects and arrows, and an equivalence relation on its paths.
- A functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is a mapping that preserves these structures.
- **Set** is the category whose objects are sets, whose arrows are functions, and where paths are equivalent if they compose to the same function.
- If  $\mathcal{C}$  is the category on the left below, then a functor  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  might look like this:



# What is a database?

- A database consists of a bunch of tables and relationships between them.
- The rows of a table are called “records” or “tuples.”
- The columns are called “attributes.”
- An attribute may be “pure data” or may be a “key.”
  - A table may have “foreign key columns” that link it to other tables.
  - A foreign key of table  $A$  links into the primary key of table  $B$ .
- A schema may have “business rules.”

# Foreign Keys and business rules

- Example:

Employee				
ID	First	Last	Mgr	Dpt
101	David	Hilbert	103	q10
102	Bertrand	Russell	102	x02
103	Alan	Turing	103	q10

Department		
ID	Name	Secr
q10	Sales	101
x02	Production	102

- Note the ID (primary key) columns and the foreign key columns.
- Perhaps we should enforce certain integrity constraints (business rules):
  - The manager of an employee  $E$  must be in the same department as  $E$ ,
  - The secretary of a department  $D$  must be in  $D$ .

# Data columns as foreign keys

- Theoretically we can consider a data-type as a 1-column table.
- Examples:

String	
ID	
a	
b	
⋮	
z	
aa	
ab	
⋮	

Integer	
ID	
0	
1	
⋮	
9	
10	
11	
⋮	

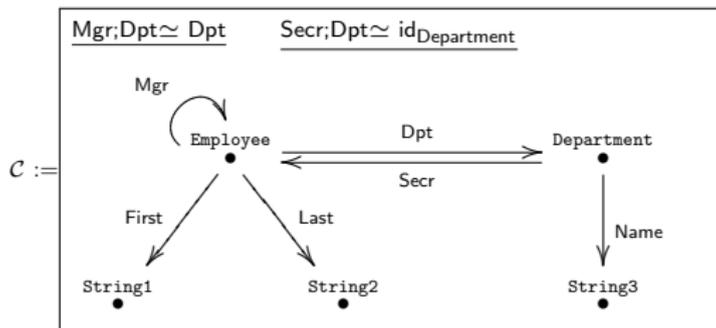
- So even data columns can be considered as foreign keys (to respective 1-column tables).
- Conclusion: each column in a table is a key – one primary, the rest foreign.

# Example again

Employee				
ID	First	Last	Mgr	Dpt
101	David	Hilbert	103	q10
102	Bertrand	Russell	102	x02
103	Alan	Turing	103	q10

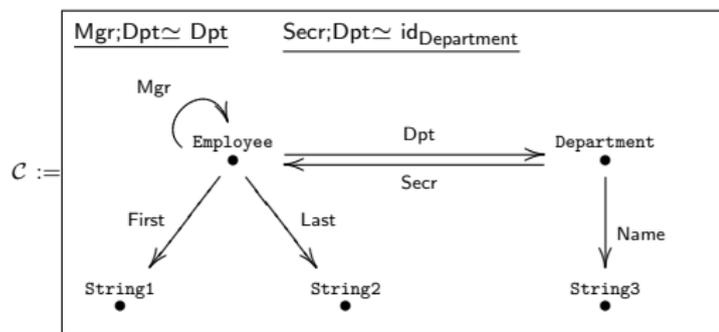
Department		
ID	Name	Secr
q10	Sales	101
x02	Production	102

String
ID
a
b
.
.
z
aa
ab
.
.



# Database schema as a category

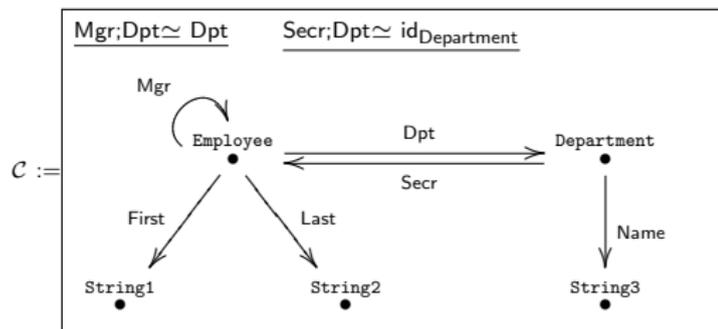
- A database schema is a system of tables linked by foreign keys.
- In case you missed it, this is the same thing as a category.



- Each object  $x$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  is a table (Employee, Departments, String);
- each arrow  $x \rightarrow y$  is a column of table  $x$ .
- ID column of a table corresponds to the trivial path on that object.
- Declaring business rules (e.g.  $\text{Mgr};\text{Dpt} \simeq \text{Dpt}$ ) is declaring the path equivalence.

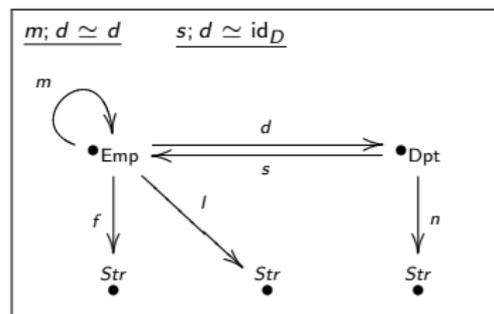
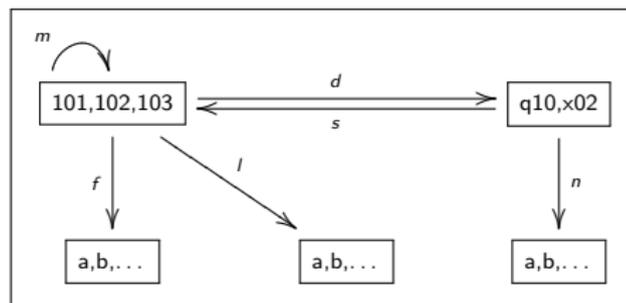
# Schema=Category, Instance=Set-valued functor

- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the following category



- A functor  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  consists of
  - A set for each object of  $\mathcal{C}$  and
  - a function for each arrow of  $\mathcal{C}$ , such that
  - the declared equations hold.
- In other words,  $I$  fills the schema with compatible data.
- Categorical databases could also be called *functional databases*.

# Data as a set-valued functor

 $\mathcal{C} :=$ 

 $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ 


- A category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a schema. An object  $c \in \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$  is a table.
- A functor  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  fills the tables with compatible data.
- For each table  $c$ , the set  $I(c)$  is its set of rows.
- The path equivalences in  $\mathcal{C}$  are enforced by  $I$  as business rules.

# Summary of basic setup

- The connection between categories and databases is simple.
- A schema is a custom category.
  - Note a key departure from Codd's model: categories are holistic.
  - The schema is captured as a whole.
  - Normal form results naturally from the language of path equivalence.
- A functors  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  is an instance of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- What about functors  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  between schemas?

# Changes

- We've discussed the situation as though static: a single schema and a single instance.
- Next we'll discuss changes.
- Changing the schema (schema mappings).
  - Without holistic model, the language isn't really there to discuss schema evolution, data migration, etc.
- Changing the data (updates).

# Changes in schema

- Suppose in our modeling of a given situation, we evolve from schema  $\mathcal{C}$  to schema  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- We should find a functorial connection between them.
- Over time we may have something like

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_0 \xrightarrow{F_0} \mathcal{C}_1 \xrightarrow{F_1} \cdots \xrightarrow{F_{n-1}} \mathcal{C}_n = \mathcal{D}$$

- We want to be able to migrate data from  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  and vice versa.
- We want to be able to migrate queries against  $\mathcal{C}$  to queries against  $\mathcal{D}$  and vice versa.
- And we want this all to work as it “should”.

# Composing functors

- Suppose  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  and  $G: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  are functors.
- What is their composition  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ ?
  - We have a way to take objects in  $\mathcal{C}$  to objects in  $\mathcal{E}$ ,
  - Arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$  turn into paths in  $\mathcal{D}$  and arrows in  $\mathcal{D}$  turn into paths in  $\mathcal{E}$ .
  - We can concatenate these, thus taking arrows in  $\mathcal{C}$  to paths in  $\mathcal{E}$ .
  - Our rules ensure that the equivalences in  $\mathcal{C}$  will be preserved in  $\mathcal{E}$ .
- Composing functors is going to make migrating data more straightforward.

# Changes in data

- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a schema and let  $I, J: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  be two instances.
- A *natural transformation*  $u: I \rightarrow J$  consists of the following:
  - For each object (table)  $T \in \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$  we get a map of record sets

$$u_T: I(T) \rightarrow J(T).$$

- For each arrow (foreign key)  $f: T \rightarrow T'$ , we get data consistency; formally,

$$J(f) \circ u_T = u_{T'} \circ I(f).$$

- These correspond to updates like insert, merge, delete, and split.

# The category of instances

- Given a schema  $\mathcal{C}$ , the *category of instances* on  $\mathcal{C}$  is denoted  $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$ .
  - The objects of  $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$  are instances, i.e. functors  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ .
  - The arrows are natural transformations (updates).
  - The paths are sequences of updates.
  - Two paths are equivalent if they result in the same update.
- The category  $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$  is a topos; it has an internal language and logic supporting the *typed lambda calculus*.
- That means, it works well with the theory of programming languages.

# Data migration

- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be different schemas.
- We call a functor between them,  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ , a *schema mapping*.
- Given such a mapping, we want to be able to canonically transfer instances on  $\mathcal{C}$  to instances on  $\mathcal{D}$  and vice versa.
- That means, given  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  we want functors

$$\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst}$$

and

$$\mathcal{D}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}.$$

## What a functor $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst}$ means.

A functor  $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst}$  means:

- **Objects:** To every instance on  $\mathcal{C}$  we associate an instance on  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- **Arrows:** For every update on a  $\mathcal{C}$ -instance there is a corresponding update on the associated  $\mathcal{D}$ -instance.
- **Path equivalences:** If two different sequences of updates on  $\mathcal{C}$ -instances result in the same mapping, then the same will hold of the corresponding sequences on  $\mathcal{D}$ -instances.

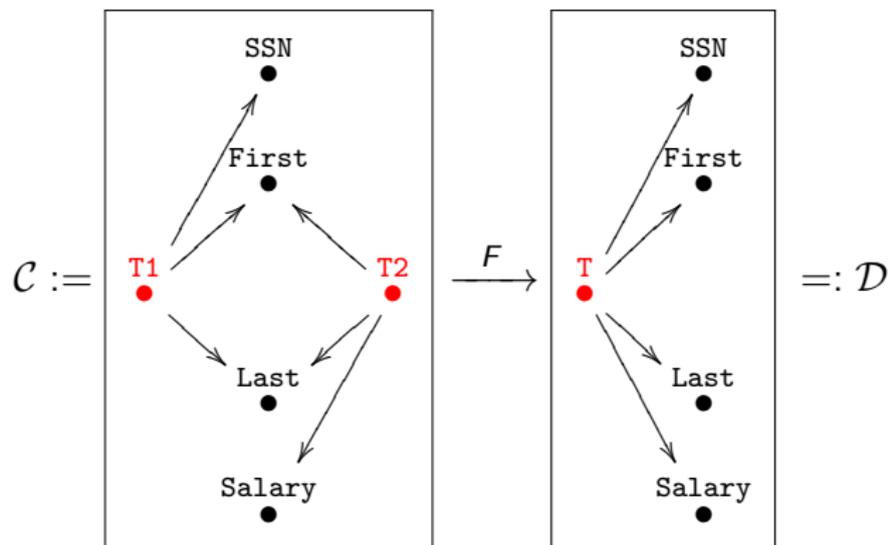
# Functorial data migration for CT experts

- For any schema (category)  $\mathcal{C}$ , we have the category  $\mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$  of set-valued functors  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  and natural transformations. These are the instances of the database.
- A functor  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  serves as a translation between schemas.
- Composition with  $F$  induces a functor  $\Delta_F: \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$ ,

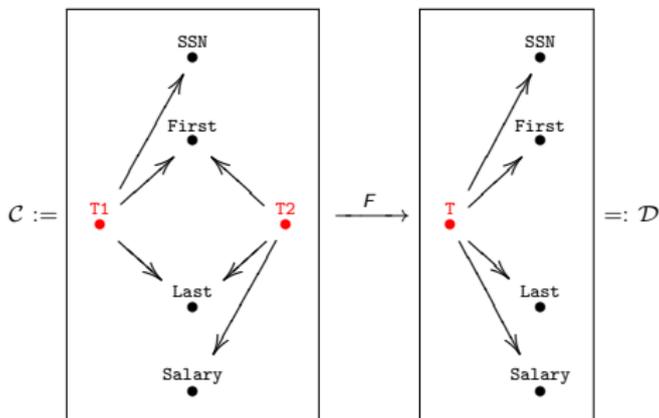
$$\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{I} \mathbf{Set}.$$

- The functor  $\Delta_F$  migrates data from  $\mathcal{D}$  back to  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- It has two adjoints  $\Sigma_F: \mathcal{C}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst}$  and  $\Pi_F: \mathcal{C}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst}$ .

# Uses of functorial data migration 1: Translation $F$



# Uses of functorial data migration 2: Projection via $\Delta_F$


 $J: D \rightarrow \text{Set}$ 

T				
ID	SSN	First	Last	Salary
XF667	115-234	Bob	Smith	\$250
XF891	122-988	Sue	Smith	\$300
XF221	198-877	Alice	Jones	\$100

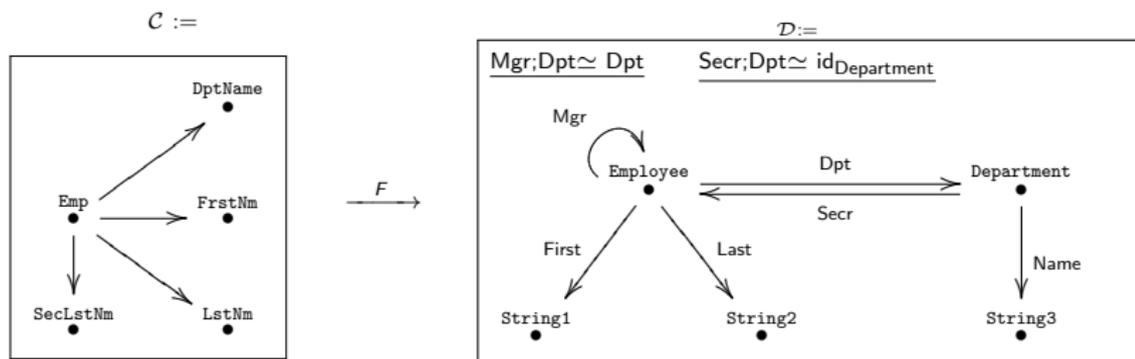
 $\Delta_F(J): C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ 

T1			
ID	SSN	First	Last
XF667T1	115-234	Bob	Smith
XF891T1	122-988	Sue	Smith
XF221T1	198-877	Alice	Jones

T2			
ID	First	Last	Salary
XF667T2	Bob	Smith	\$250
XF891T2	Sue	Smith	\$300
XF221T2	Alice	Jones	\$100

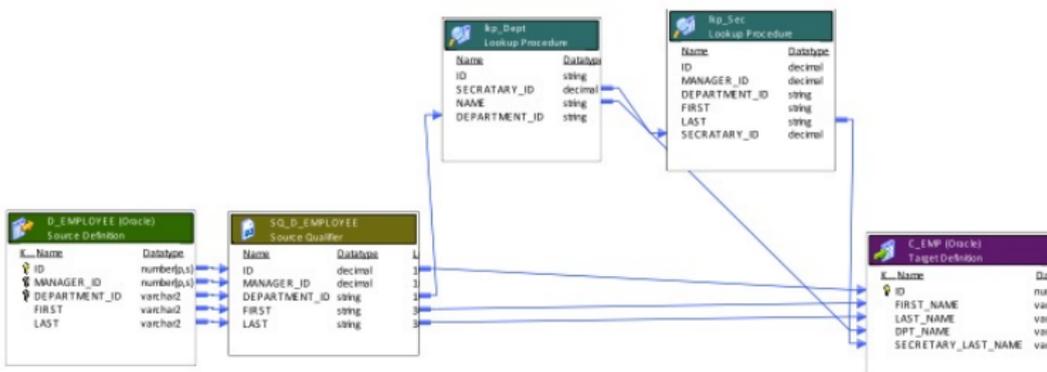
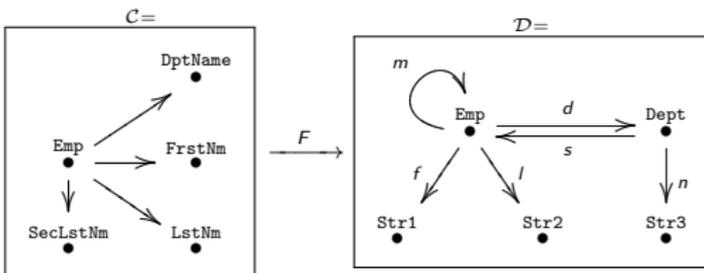
## Another example of $\Delta_F$

- Consider the schema mapping



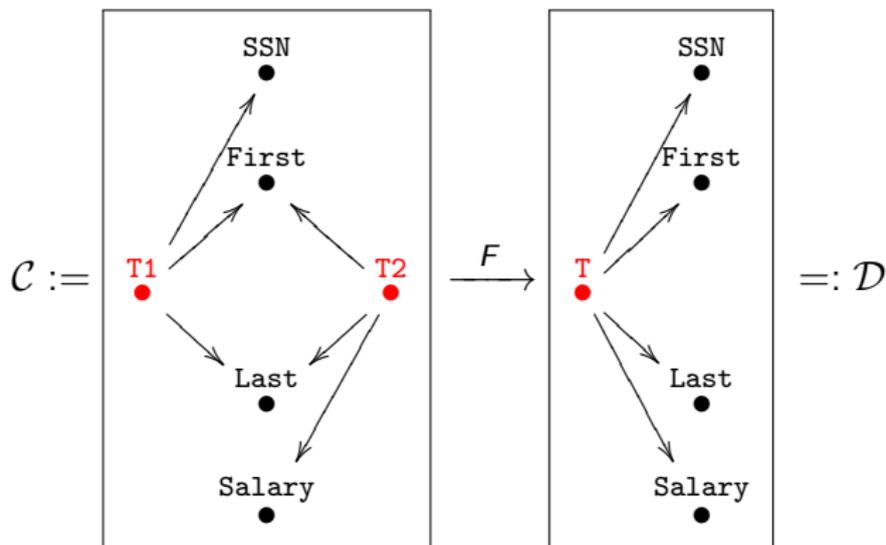
- We get  $\Delta_F: \mathcal{D}\text{-Inst} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}\text{-Inst}$
- Given an instance on  $\mathcal{D}$  we get one on  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- Given an update on  $\mathcal{D}$  we get one on  $\mathcal{C}$ .

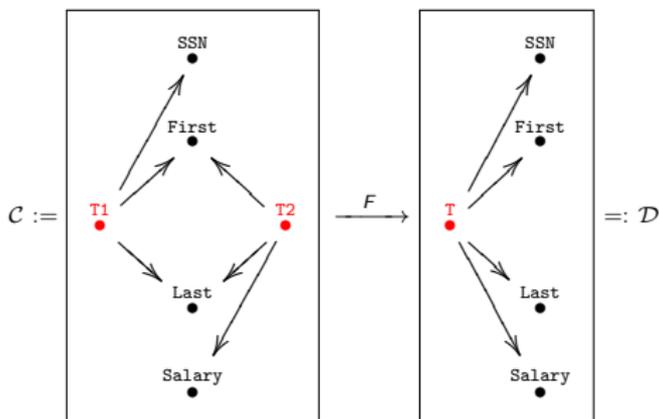
# Compare the Informatica picture



# How could you move data forward along $F$ ?

Question: How could you take data on  $\mathcal{C}$  and get data on  $\mathcal{D}$ ?



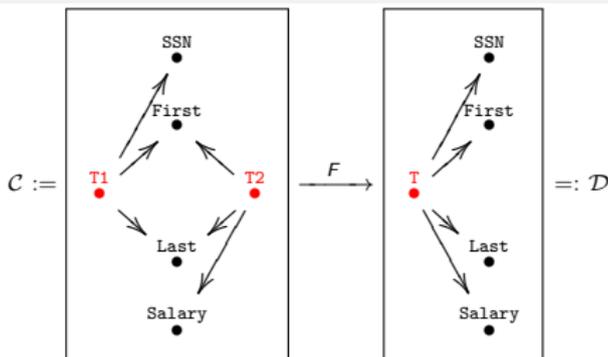
Uses of functorial data migration 3: Joins via  $\Pi_F$  $I: C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ :

T1			
ID	SSN	First	Last
T1-001	115-234	Bob	Smith
T1-002	122-988	Sue	Smith
T1-003	198-877	Alice	Jones

T2			
ID	First	Last	Salary
T2-A101	Alice	Jones	\$100
T2-A102	Sam	Miller	\$150
T2-A104	Sam	Smith	\$300
T2-A110	Carl	Pratt	\$200

 $\Pi_F(I): D \rightarrow \text{Set}$ :

T				
ID	SSN	First	Last	Salary
T1-002T2-A104	122-988	Sue	Smith	\$300
T1-003T2-A101	198-877	Alice	Jones	\$100

Uses of functorial data migration 4: Unions via  $\Sigma_F$ 
 $I: C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ 

T1			
ID	SSN	First	Last
T1-001	115-234	Bob	Smith
T1-002	122-988	Sue	Smith
T1-003	198-877	Alice	Jones

T2			
ID	First	Last	Salary
T2-A101	Alice	Jones	\$100
T2-A102	Sam	Miller	\$150
T2-A104	Sue	Smith	\$300
T2-A110	Carl	Pratt	\$200

 $\Sigma_F(I): D \rightarrow \text{Set}$ 

T				
ID	SSN	First	Last	Salary
T1-001	115-234	Bob	Smith	T1-001.Salary
T1-002	122-988	Sue	Smith	T1-002.Salary
T1-003	198-877	Alice	Jones	T1-003.Salary
T2-A101	T2-A101.SSN	Alice	Jones	\$100
T2-A102	T2-A102.SSN	Sam	Miller	\$150
T2-A104	T2-A104.SSN	Sue	Smith	\$300
T2-A110	T2-A110.SSN	Carl	Pratt	\$200

# Project, join, union

- Every category theorist knows about the functors  $\Delta$ ,  $\Pi$ , and  $\Sigma$ 
  - They occur throughout mathematics.
  - They have been well-studied and there are theorems about their behavior.
- It is a great coincidence that they correspond so well to Project, Union, and Join.
- We can leverage established theorems to predict the results of queries and data migration.

# Summary of data migration and views

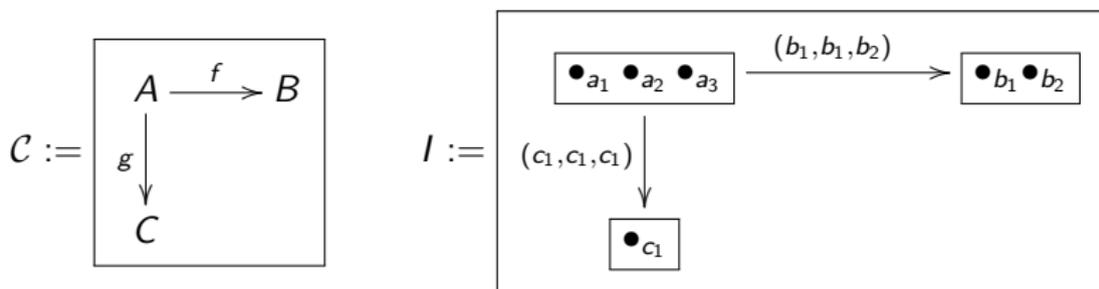
- The language of categories and functors puts everything on an equal footing.
  - Each schema is a category; each schema mapping is a functor.
  - **Set** is a category; an instance is a functor from a schema to **Set**.
  - Instances on a schema form a category; different instance categories can be compared with functors.
  - Everything is kept organized, but it's all interoperable.
- Schema mappings are totally graphical.
  - As a UI, just drag and drop bullets from one schema to another.
  - Creating or evolving schemas should be much easier.
  - In CTDB, instead of having a graphical interface on top, the graph is part of the formal structure.
  - Should increase productivity over current clumsy ETL software.

# Semi-structured data

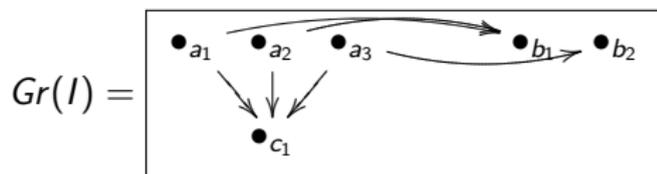
- The relational model demands adherence to a pre-defined schema.
- RDF allows for semi-structured data.
- The category-theoretic model extends easily, and it translates between these two viewpoints.
  - I will show how to convert a database to a triple store.
  - I will formulate graph pattern queries mathematically.
  - Everything below is classical mathematics, viewed from a data perspective.

# The Grothendieck construction

- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category and let  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  be a functor.
- We can convert  $I$  into a category  $Gr(I)$  in a canonical way:
  - Example:



- $Gr(I)$  is also known as *the category of elements of  $I$* :



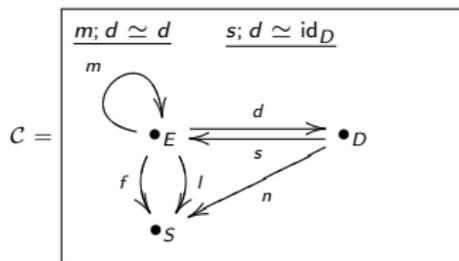
# Grothendieck construction applied to database instances

- Suppose given the following instance, considered as  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

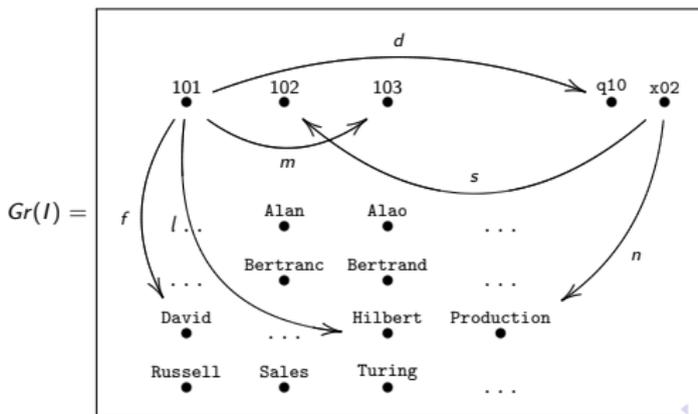
Employee				
ID	First	Last	Mgr	Dpt
101	David	Hilbert	103	q10
102	Bertrand	Russell	102	x02
103	Alan	Turing	103	q10

Department		
ID	Name	Secr'y
q10	Sales	101
x02	Production	102



Here is  $Gr(I)$ , the category of elements of  $I$ :

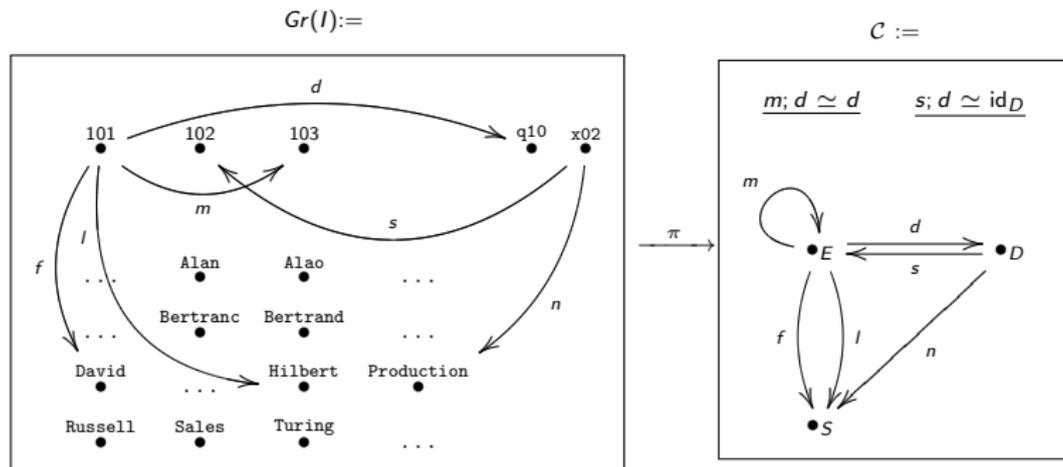


10 arrows left out.

# A different perspective on data

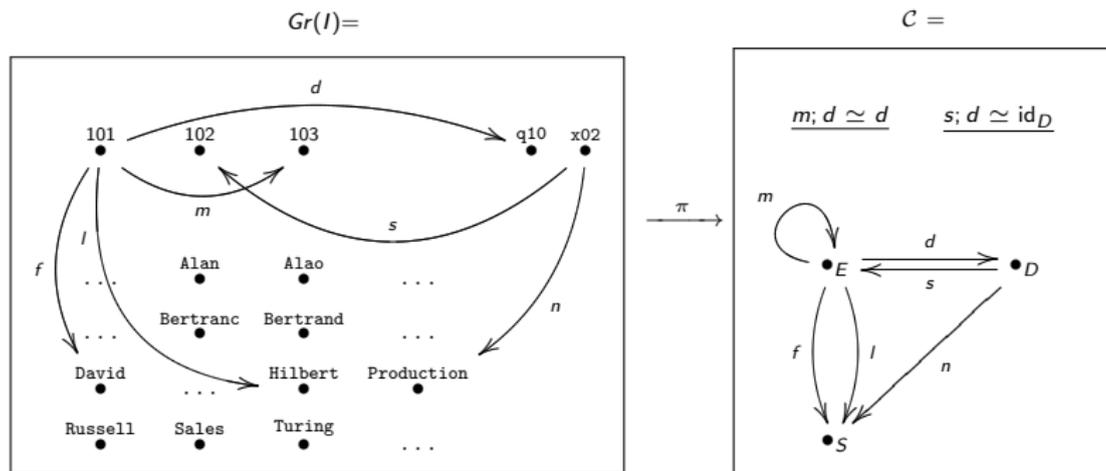
In fact, the Grothendieck construction of  $I: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  always yields not only a category  $Gr(I)$  but a functor

$$\pi: Gr(I) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}.$$



For each  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ , its inverse image is  $\pi^{-1}(X) = I(X)$ , the set of rows in table  $X$ .

# RDF schema and stores



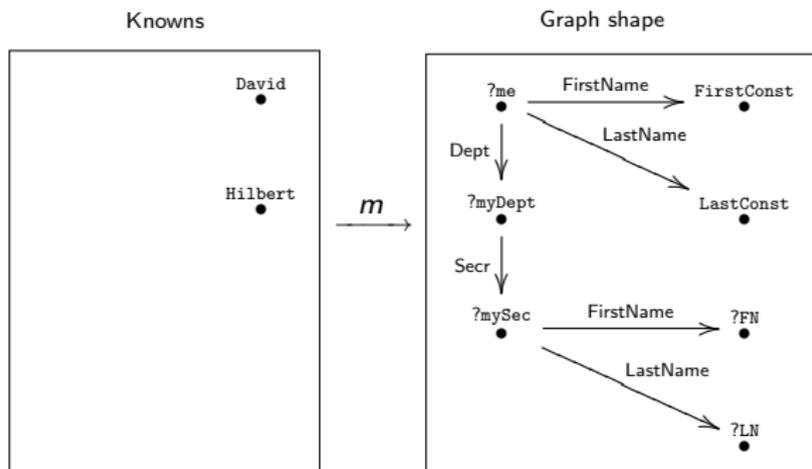
- The relation to RDF triples is clear: each arrow  $f: x \rightarrow y$  in  $Gr(I)$  is a triple with subject  $x$ , predicate  $f$ , and object  $y$ .
- For example (101 department q10), (x02 name Production), etc..
- $\mathcal{C}$  is the RDF schema and  $Gr(I)$  is the triple store.

# Graph pattern queries: Hilbert's problem

- Suppose David Hilbert wants to know the name of his department's secretary.
- The relevant SPARQL query would look something like

```
SELECT  ?FN ?LN
WHERE  {  ?me FirstName David
          ?me LastName Hilbert
          ?me Dept ?myDept
          ?myDept Secr ?mySec
          ?mySec FirstName ?FN
          ?mySec Lastname ?LN  }
```

# Encoding a graph pattern query categorically 1



```

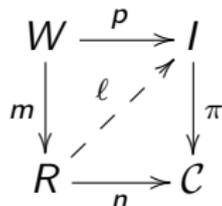
SELECT ?FN ?LN
WHERE {
  ?me FirstName David
  ?me LastName Hilbert
  ?me Dept ?myDept
  ?myDept Secr ?mySec
  ?mySec FirstName ?FN
  ?mySec Lastname ?LN
}

```

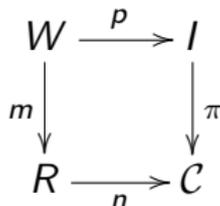
# Encoding a graph pattern query categorically 2

The “lifting problem approach.”

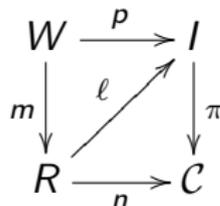
Abbreviation:



Query:

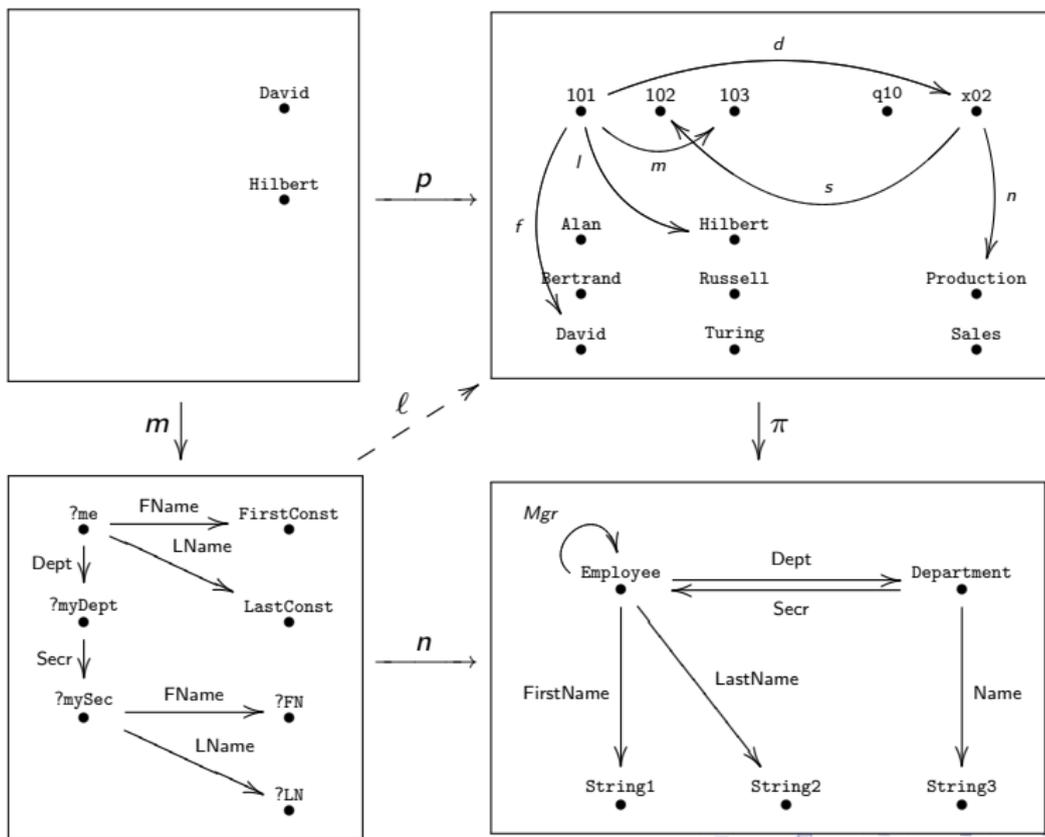


Solutions:



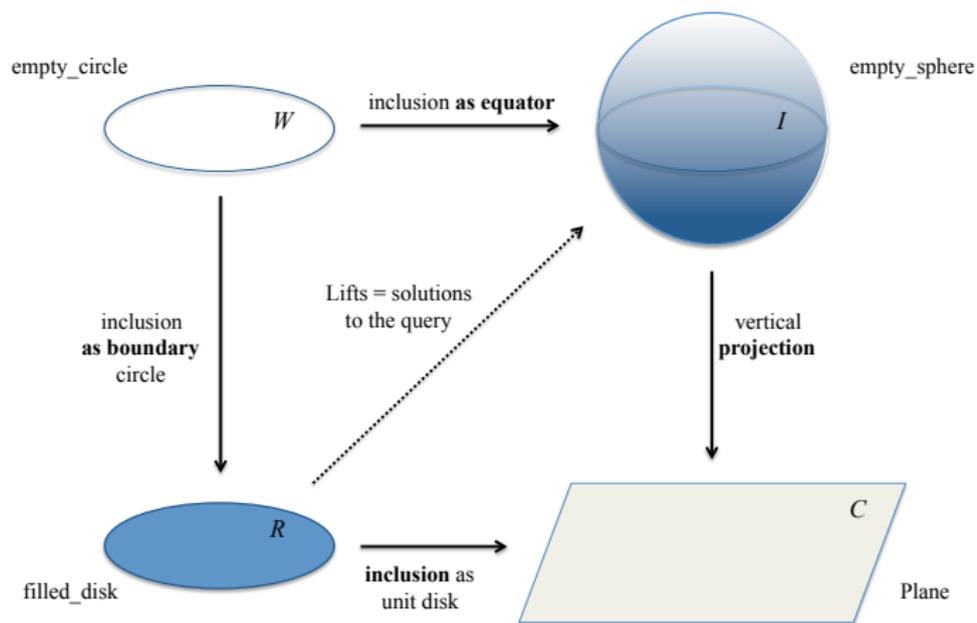
In the next slide you'll see such an arrangement for Hilbert's problem.

# Encoding a graph pattern query categorically 3

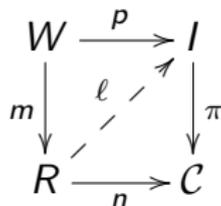


# The lifting problem approach in topology

This kind of picture pops up all over algebraic topology.



# It's all in the same language



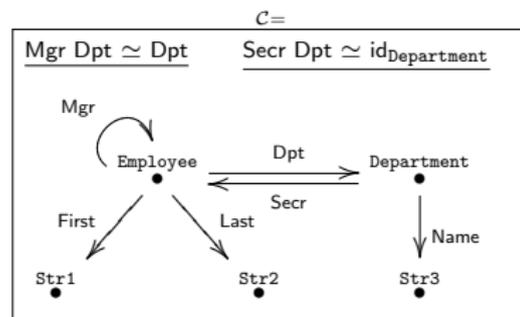
- Everything in the query above is a category or a functor.
- Queries and constraints can both be phrased in terms of lifting problems.
- For example, one can use lifting problems to declare that
  - a foreign key must be injective
  - a foreign key must be surjective
  - a relation must be reflexive, symmetric, or transitive,
  - a table must be non-empty, etc.

# Conclusion

- I hope the connection between databases and categories is clear.

Employee				
ID	First	Last	Mgr	Dpt
101	David	Hilbert	103	q10
102	Bertrand	Russell	102	x02
103	Alan	Turing	103	q10

Department		
ID	Name	Secr
q10	Sales	101
x02	Production	102



- I discussed how one can use this connection to facilitate:
  - schema mapping and data migration;
  - formalizing views;
  - merging relational and RDF outlooks.
- Category theory is well-suited for modeling informatics.

**Thanks for the invitation to speak!**