

CS 4110

Programming Languages & Logics

Lecture 35 Domain-Specific Languages

21 November 2012



A word cloud featuring various terms related to data management and processing. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster. The most prominent words are 'data' (large blue font), 'update' (large green font), 'query' (large orange font), and 'replicate' (large blue font). Other visible words include 'convert' (orange), 'exchange' (orange), 'redact' (pink), 'integrate' (red), 'analyze' (green), 'mashup' (orange), 'transform' (blue), 'reconcile' (blue), 'clean' (blue), 'curate' (green), 'hide' (blue), 'maintain' (blue), 'evolve' (orange), 'synchronize' (red), 'modify' (blue), 'summarize' (red), and 'extract' (green). The words are oriented in various directions, creating a dynamic and interconnected visual.

convert
exchange
redact
update
clean
data
replicate
integrate
query
analyze
mashup
transform
reconcile
curate
hide
maintain
evolve
synchronize
modify
summarize
extract



We *can* write complicated data transformations in C...



or Java...



or C++...



...or a tool specifically designed for the task!

Domain-specific languages

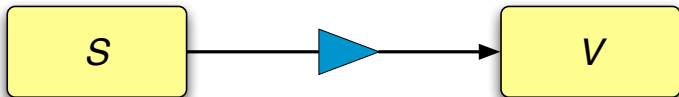
- Clean semantics
- Natural syntax
- Better tools

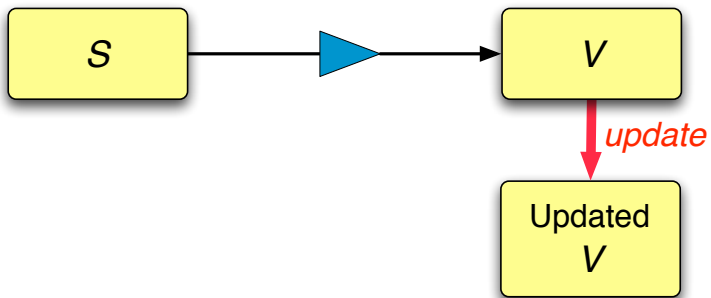
A word cloud featuring various terms related to data management and processing. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster. The most prominent words are 'data' (large blue font), 'update' (large green font), 'query' (large orange font), and 'transform' (medium blue font). Other visible words include 'convert' (orange), 'exchange' (orange), 'replicate' (blue), 'redact' (pink), 'integrate' (red), 'analyze' (green), 'mashup' (orange), 'clean' (blue), 'curate' (green), 'reconcile' (blue), 'hide' (blue), 'maintain' (blue), 'evolve' (orange), 'synchronize' (red), 'modify' (blue), 'summarize' (red), and 'extract' (green). The colors used include shades of blue, green, orange, red, pink, and purple.

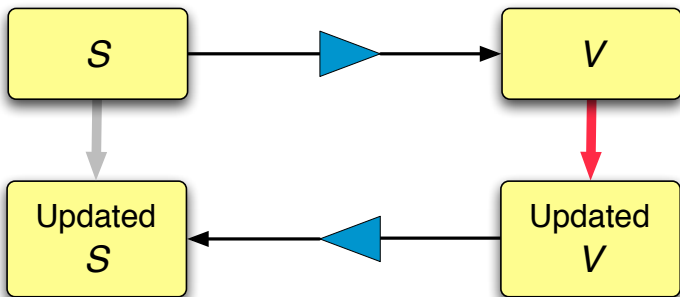
convert
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A word cloud featuring various terms related to data management and processing. The words are arranged in a horizontal, somewhat circular pattern. The largest words are 'update' (green), 'data' (blue), 'query' (orange), and 'transform' (blue). Other prominent words include 'convert' (orange), 'replicate' (blue), 'integrate' (red), 'mashup' (orange), 'hide' (blue), 'maintain' (blue), 'synchronize' (red), 'evolve' (orange), 'analyze' (green), 'reconcile' (blue), 'curate' (green), 'modify' (blue), 'summarize' (red), 'extract' (green), 'clean' (blue), 'exchange' (orange), and 'redact' (red). The words are in various colors (green, blue, orange, red) and orientations (horizontal, vertical, diagonal).

update
data
query
transform
convert
replicate
integrate
mashup
hide
maintain
synchronize
evolve
analyze
reconcile
curate
modify
summarize
extract
clean
exchange
redact

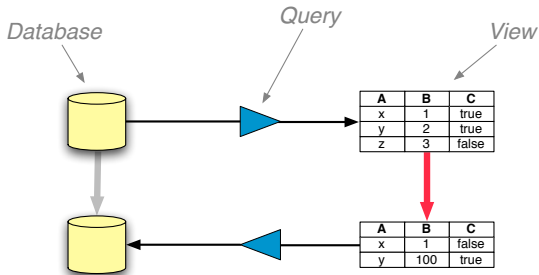






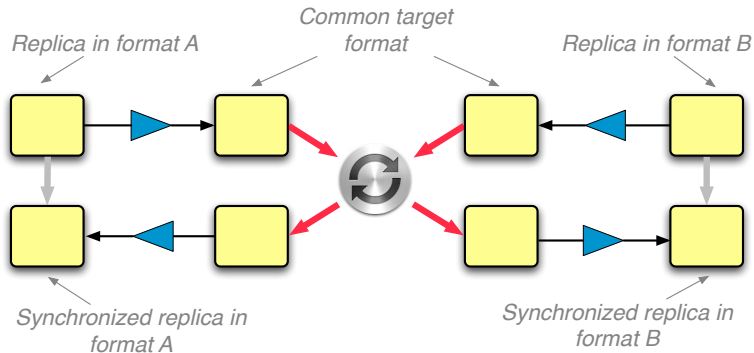
The View Update Problem

In databases, this is known as the **view update problem**.



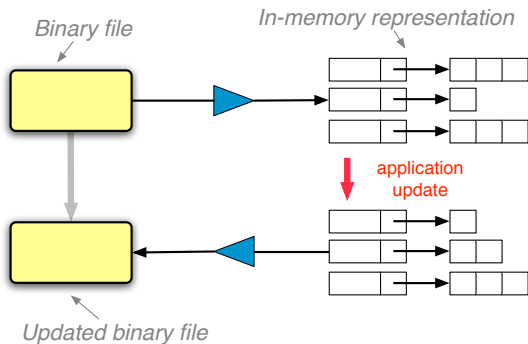
The View Update Problem In Practice

It also arises in **data converters** and **synchronizers**...



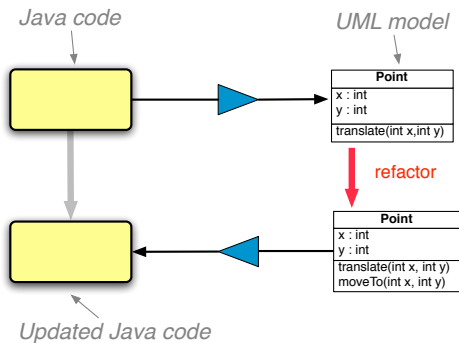
The View Update Problem In Practice

...in **picklers** and **unpicklers**...



The View Update Problem In Practice

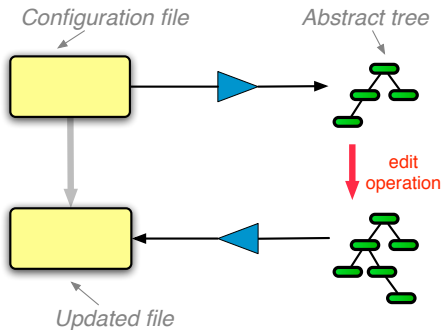
...in model-driven software development...



[Stevens '07]— bidirectional model transformations

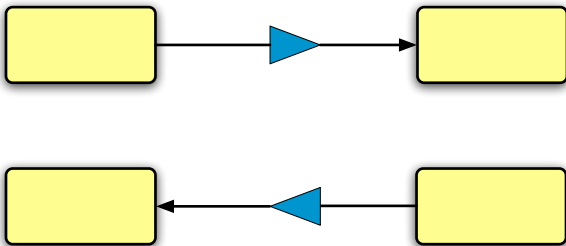
The View Update Problem In Practice

...in tools for managing **operating system configurations**...



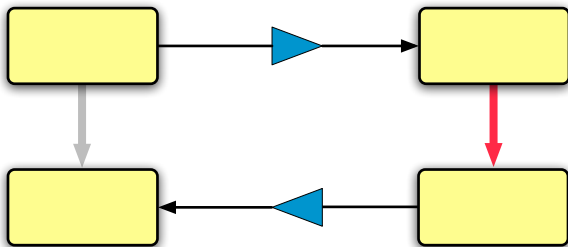
Problem

How do we write these **bidirectional transformations**?



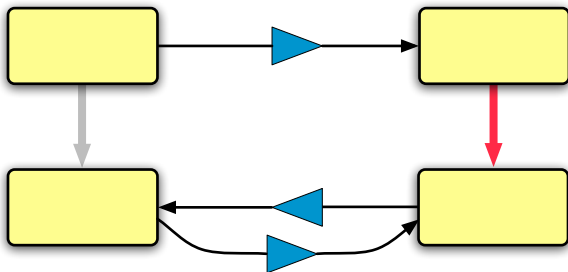
Problem: Why is it hard?

We want updates to the view to be translated “exactly”...



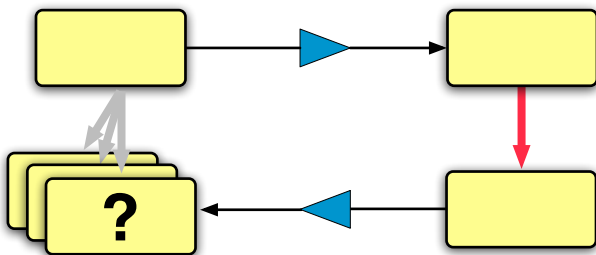
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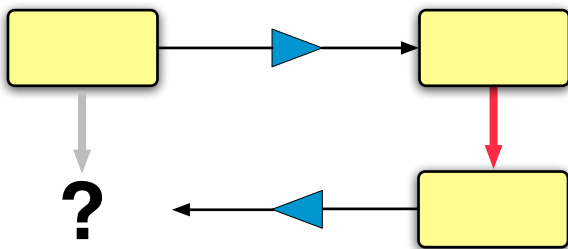
Problem: Why is it hard?

...but some updates have *many* corresponding source updates...

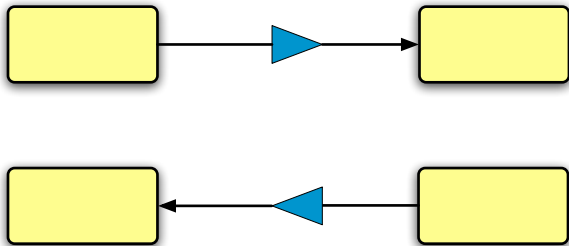


Problem: Why is it hard?

...while others have *none*!



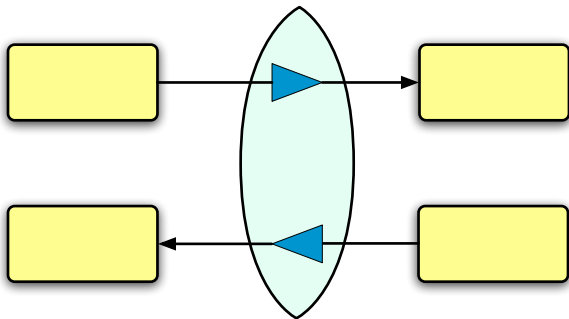
Possible Approaches



Bad: write the two transformations as **separate functions**.

- tedious to program
- difficult to get right
- a nightmare to maintain

Possible Approaches



Good: derive both transformations from the **same program**.

- **Clean semantics:** behavioral laws guide language design
- **Natural syntax:** parsimonious and compositional
- **Better tools:** type system guarantees well-behavedness

This talk: Goal

“Bidirectional programming languages are an effective and elegant means of describing updatable views”

This talk: Outline

1. Lenses

- ▶ Design goals
- ▶ Semantics

2. String Lenses

- ▶ Core operators
- ▶ Type system

3. Boomerang

- ▶ Ordered data
- ▶ Ignorable data
- ▶ Implementation & Applications

4. Ongoing Work

- ▶ Updatable Security Views

5. Future Directions

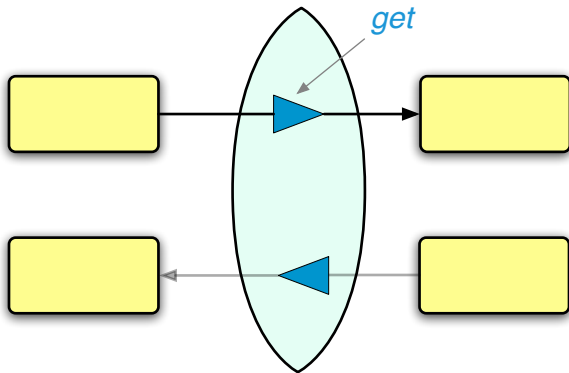
- ▶ Data provenance
- ▶ Model transformations

Lenses

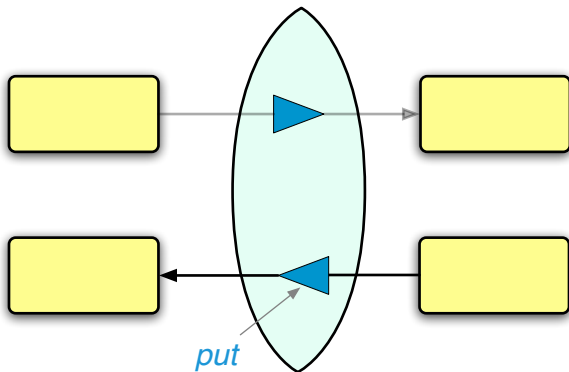
“Never look back unless
you are planning to go that way”

—H D Thoreau

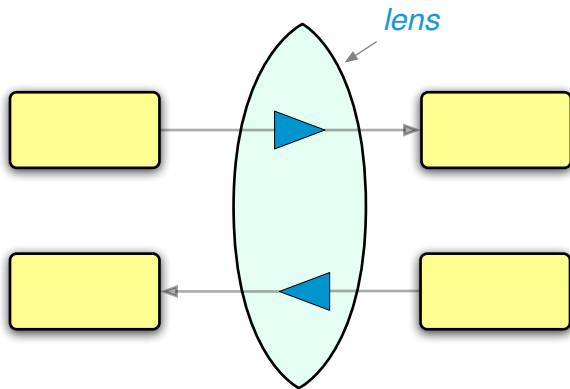
Terminology



Terminology



Terminology



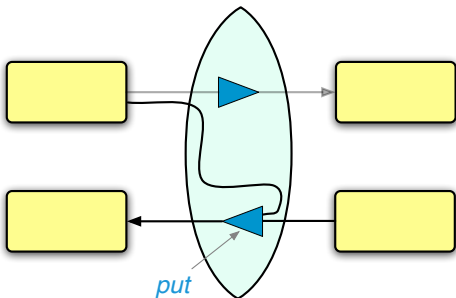
Bidirectional vs. Bijective

Goal #1: lenses should be capable of **hiding** source data.

Bidirectional vs. Bijective

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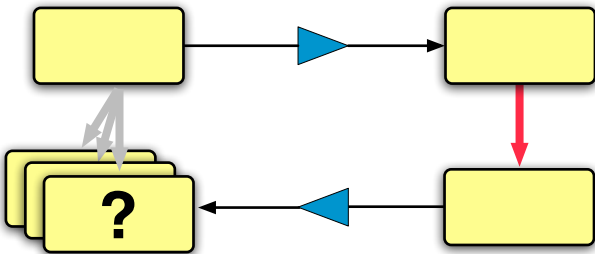
- In general, **get** may be **non-injective**
- and so **put** needs to take the **original source** as an argument



(Of course, the purely bijective case is also very interesting.)

Choice of Put Function

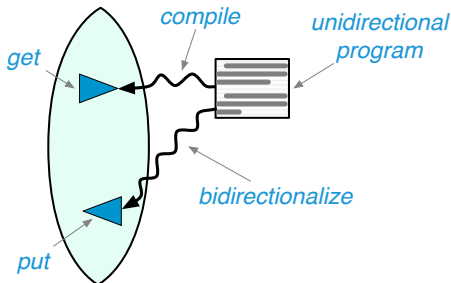
Recall that for some view updates there are *many* corresponding source updates.



Choice of Put Function

Goal #2: programmers should be able to choose a **put** function that embodies an appropriate policy for propagating updates back to sources.

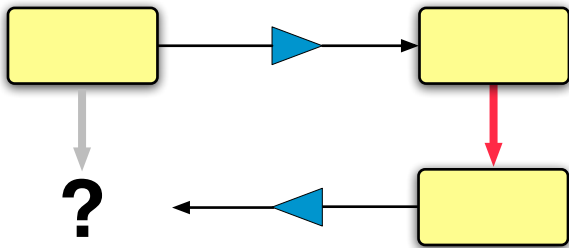
“Bidirectionalization” appears attractive...



...but does not provide a way to make this choice.

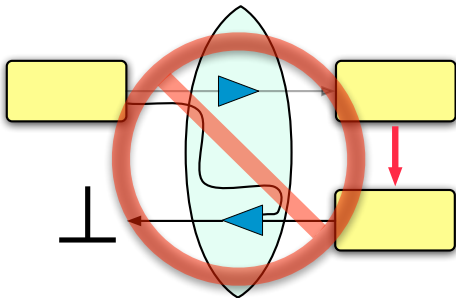
Totality

Recall that some view updates do not have *any* corresponding source updates.



Totality

Goal #3: the **put** function should be a **total** function, capable of doing *something* reasonable with every view and source.



Totality ensures that the view is a **robust abstraction**, but forces us to use an **extremely precise** type system.

Well-Behaved Lenses

A lens / mapping between a set S of sources and V of view is a pair of total functions

$$l.\text{get} \in S \rightarrow V$$

$$l.\text{put} \in V \rightarrow S \rightarrow S$$

obeying “round-tripping” laws

$$l.\text{get} (l.\text{put } v \ s) = v \quad (\text{PutGet})$$

$$l.\text{put} (l.\text{get } s) \ s = s \quad (\text{GetPut})$$

for every $s \in S$ and $v \in V$.

Related Frameworks

Databases: *many* related ideas

- [Dayal, Bernstein '82] “exact translation”
- [Bancilhon, Spryatos '81] “constant complement”
- [Gottlob, Paolini, Zicari '88] “dynamic views”

User Interfaces: [Meertens '98] “constraint maintainers”

See [Foster *et. al* TOPLAS '07] for details...

Related Languages

Harmony Group @ Penn

- [Foster *et al.* TOPLAS '07] — trees
- [Bohannon, Pierce, Vaughan PODS '06] — relations
- [Foster *et al.* JCSS '07] — data synchronizer

Bijjective languages

- [PADS Project @ AT&T] — picklers and unpicklers
- [Hosoya, Kawanaka '06] — biXid
- [Braband, Møller, Schwartzbach '05] — XSugar

Bidirectional languages

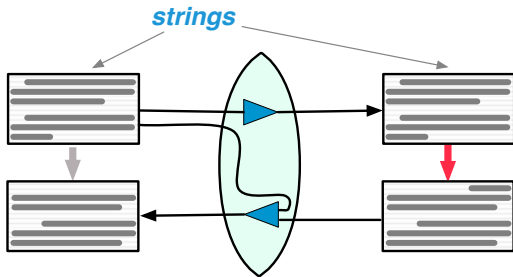
- [PSD @ Tokyo] — “bidirectionalization”, structure editors
- [Gibbons, Wang @ Oxford] — Wadler’s views
- [Voigtlaender '09] — bidirectionalization “for free”
- [Stevens '07] — lenses for model transformations

String Lenses

“The art of progress is
to preserve order amid change
and to preserve change amid order.”

—A N Whitehead

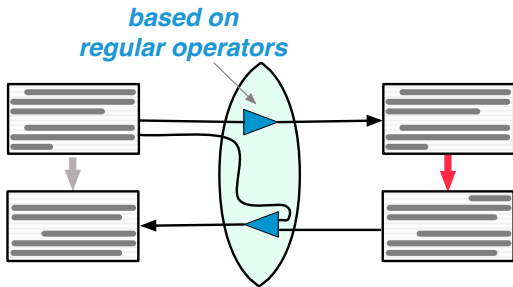
Data Model



Why strings?

1. Simple setting \rightarrow exposes fundamental issues
2. There's a lot of string data in the world
3. Programmers are already comfortable with regular operators (union, concatenation, and Kleene star)

Computation Model

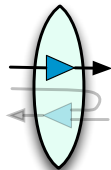


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Example: Redacting Lens (Get)

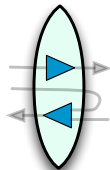
*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)
12:15 PLDg (Upson 5126)
*15:00 Workout (Noyes)



08:30 BUSY
12:15 PLDg
15:00 BUSY

Example: Redacting Lens (Update)

*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)
12:15 PLDg (Upson 5126)
*15:00 Workout (Noyes)



08:30 BUSY
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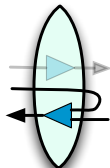
08:30 BUSY
12:15 **PLDG**
15:00 BUSY
16:00 Meeting

Example: Redacting Lens (Put)

*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)
12:15 PLDg (Upson 5126)
*15:00 Workout (Noyes)



*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)
12:15 **PLDG** (Upson 5126)
*15:00 Workout (Noyes)
16:00 Meeting (Unknown)



08:30 BUSY
12:15 PLDg
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08:30 BUSY
12:15 **PLDG**
15:00 BUSY
16:00 Meeting

Example: Redacting Lens (Definition)

```
(* regular expressions *)
let TEXT : regexp = ([^\\n\\() ] | "\\(" | "\\)" | "\\\"\\\"\\\"\\\"")*
let TIME : regexp = DIGIT{2} . COLON . DIGIT{2} . SPACE
let LOCATION : regexp = SPACE . LPAREN . TEXT . RPAREN

(* helper lenses *)
let public : lens =
  del SPACE .
  copy TIME .
  copy TEXT .
  default (del LOCATION) " (Unknown)"

let private : lens =
  del ASTERISK .
  copy TIME .
  default (TEXT . LOCATION <-> "BUSY") "Unknown (Unknown)"

let event : lens =
  (public | private) .
  copy NL

(* main lens *)
let redact : lens = event*
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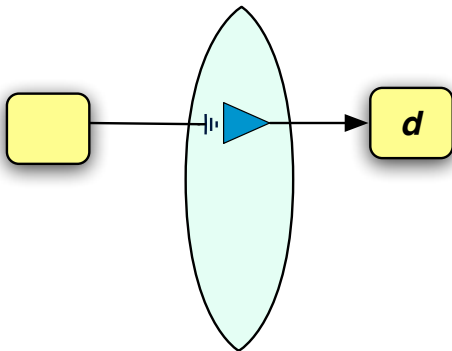
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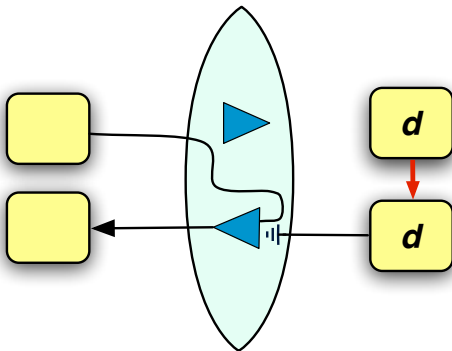
$$E \leftrightarrow d$$

(Get)



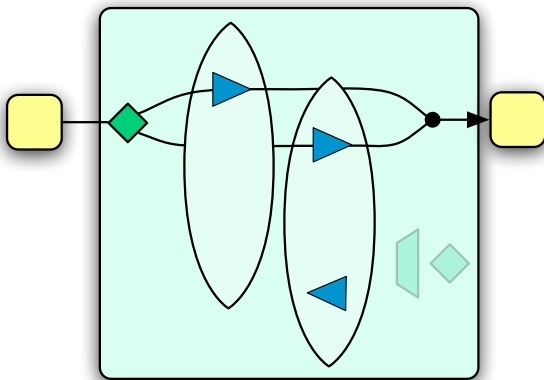
$$E \leftrightarrow d$$

(Put)



$(l_1 \mid l_2)$

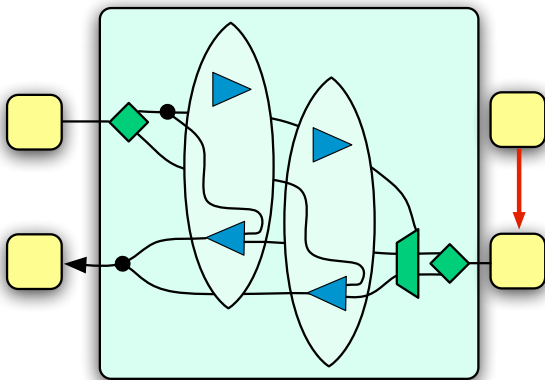
(Get)



Type system ensures that choice is deterministic.

$(l_1 \mid l_2)$

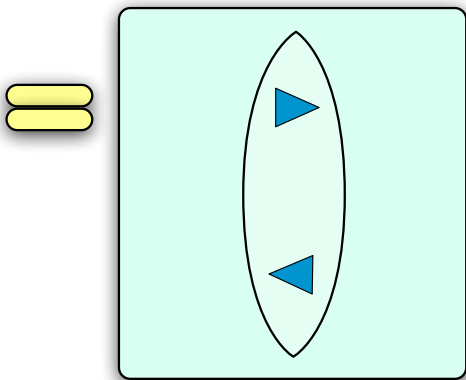
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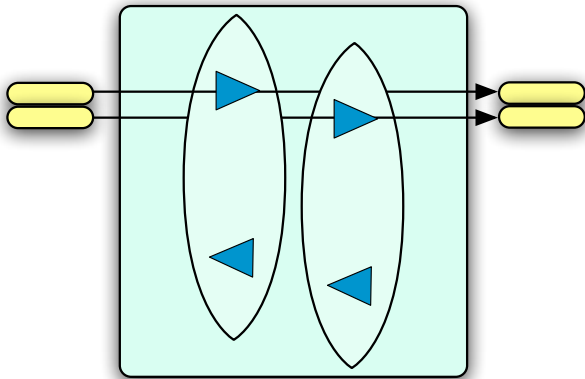
/*

(Get)



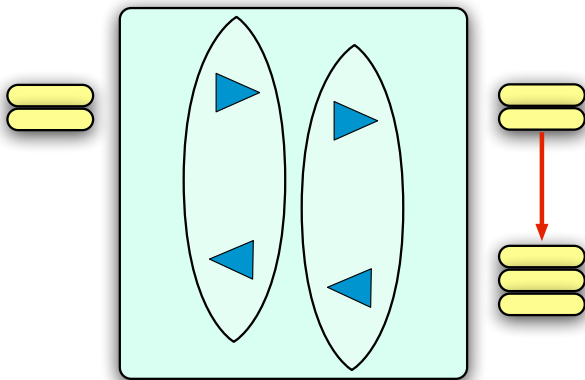
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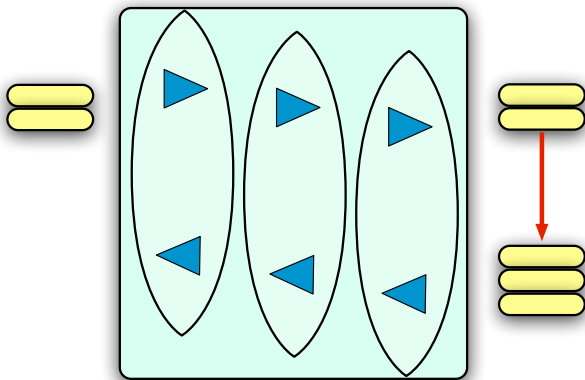
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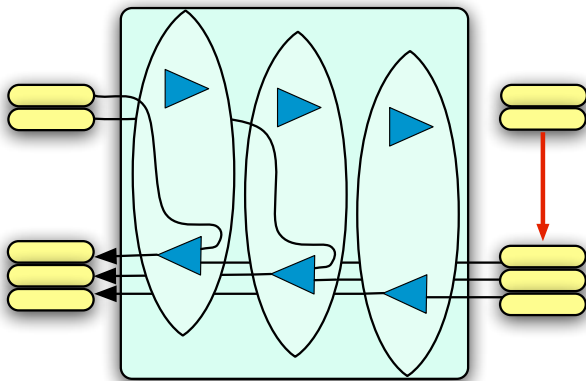
/*

(Put)



/*

(Put)



Type system ensures that strings are split the same way.

String Lens Type System

Based on [regular expression](#) types...

String Lens Type System

Based on [regular expression](#) types...

$\overline{\text{copy } E \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \llbracket E \rrbracket}$	$\overline{E \leftrightarrow d \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \{d\}}$
$\frac{I \in S \iff V \quad d \in \llbracket S \rrbracket}{\text{default } I d \in S \iff V}$	$\frac{\begin{array}{l} I_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad S_1 \cdot^! S_2 \\ I_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2 \quad V_1 \cdot^! V_2 \end{array}}{(I_1 \cdot I_2) \in S_1 \cdot S_2 \iff V_1 \cdot V_2}$
$\frac{\begin{array}{l} I_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset \\ I_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2 \end{array}}{(I_1 \mid I_2) \in S_1 \cup S_2 \iff V_1 \cup V_2}$	$\frac{I \in S \iff V \quad S^{!*} \quad V^{!*}}{I^* \in S^* \iff V^*}$

$S_1 \cdot^! S_2$ (or $S^{!*}$) means that the concatenation (or iteration) is unambiguous.

String Lens Type System

Based on [regular expression](#) types...

$$\overline{\text{copy } E \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \llbracket E \rrbracket}$$

$$\overline{E \leftrightarrow d \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \{d\}}$$

$$\frac{l \in S \iff V \quad d \in \llbracket S \rrbracket}{\text{default } l d \in S \iff V}$$

$$\frac{l_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad S_1 \cdot^! S_2 \quad l_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2 \quad V_1 \cdot^! V_2}{(l_1 \cdot l_2) \in S_1 \cdot S_2 \iff V_1 \cdot V_2}$$

$$\frac{l_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset \quad l_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2}{(l_1 \mid l_2) \in S_1 \cup S_2 \iff V_1 \cup V_2}$$

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$\overline{\text{copy } E \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \llbracket E \rrbracket}$	$\overline{E \leftrightarrow d \in \llbracket E \rrbracket \iff \{d\}}$
$\frac{I \in S \iff V \quad d \in \llbracket S \rrbracket}{\text{default } I d \in S \iff V}$	$\frac{I_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad I_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2 \quad \begin{matrix} S_1 \cdot^! S_2 \\ V_1 \cdot^! V_2 \end{matrix}}{(I_1 \cdot I_2) \in S_1 \cdot S_2 \iff V_1 \cdot V_2}$
$\frac{I_1 \in S_1 \iff V_1 \quad I_2 \in S_2 \iff V_2 \quad S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset}{(I_1 \mid I_2) \in S_1 \cup S_2 \iff V_1 \cup V_2}$	$\frac{I \in S \iff V \quad \begin{matrix} S^{!*} & V^{!*} \end{matrix}}{I^* \in S^* \iff V^*}$

$S_1 \cdot^! S_2$ (or $S^{!*}$) means that the concatenation (or iteration) is unambiguous.

Theorem

If $I \in S \iff V$ then I is a well-behaved lens.

Comparison: Separate Functions

[illegible]

```

if i = 0 then then (do_it " " aux_buf; do_it "\n" line_buf)
else
  (if b[i] = 0 then then do_it " " aux_buf
   if i < end_char aux_buf b[i])
  line (auxc i) in
loop 0
R. contacts buf

let unmap c = R.global_replace (rx "([C])" (String.map i " " c))

let field tag s =
  try
    ignore(buf (rx tag ~:"" (\"{ \" \" \"\\(\\w*)\"}\")) s) ;
    R.matched_group 1 s
  with Not_found -> error ("Couldn't find " tag ~:"" s ~:" " \"\\(\\w*)\"")

let rlines c = String.map c ~:0. String.cvt a 11 2

```

```
let qm =
  let buf = E.create 128
  let add = E.add_string buf is
  let count = L.L1 (R.split begin_event c) is
  let event = c
  let p = field "NAME" "PUBLIC" PRIVATE = c
  let t1,t2 = times (field "TIME" "TIME" "TIME" is
  let c = escape codes (field "CODE" "CODE" "CODE" is
  let t1 = escape codes (field "TIME" "TIME" "TIME" is
  if p = "PUBLIC" then add "PUBLIC"
  add (t1 ~ " " t2 ~ " ")
  add (t1 ~ " " t2 ~ " ")
  add (t1 ~ " " t2 ~ " ")
  add "END" is
  L.iter event count;
```

[illegible][illegible]

Helpers

View to Source

Comparison: String Lens

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

to View

$$Y^* = c + \text{EXP.WALKINDAR}(a^*) \quad \text{in}$$

1997) 224.

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 395–401

$$\text{let } \gamma = \gamma(\gamma) \text{ (}\gamma(\gamma) = \text{vector}(\gamma) \text{)} \neq 0$$

100

100

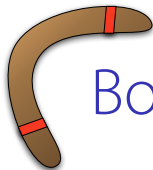
13 2 1a

100

Source

[Bohannon, Foster, Pierce, Pilkiewicz, Schmitt POPL '08]

[Foster, Pierce, Pilkiewicz ICFP '08]



Boomerang

“Good men must not obey
the laws too well”

—R W Emerson

Challenge: Ignorable Data

Many real-world data formats contain **inessential** data.

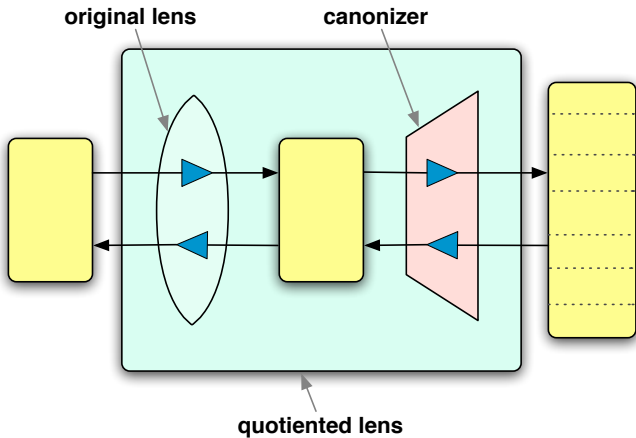
- whitespace, wrapping of long lines of text
- order of fields in record-structured data
- escaping of special characters
- aggregate values, timestamps, etc.

In practice, to handle these details, we need lenses that are well behaved modulo equivalence relations on the source and view.

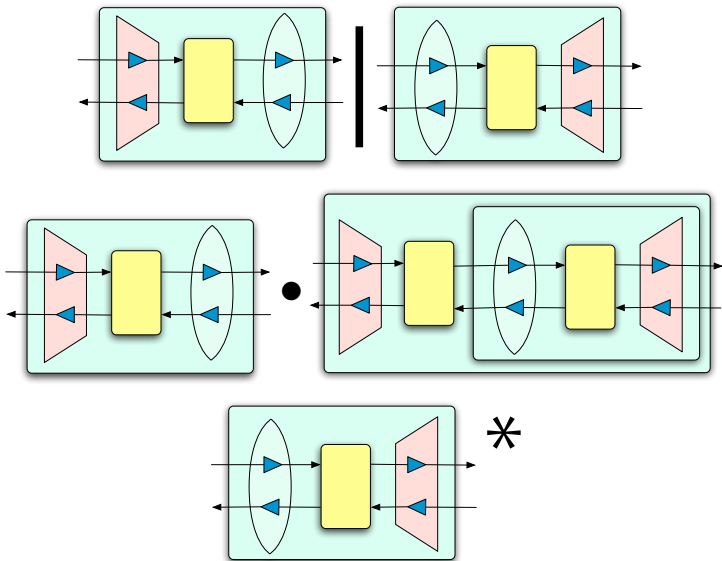
$$l.\mathbf{get} \ (l.\mathbf{put} \ v \ s) \sim_V v \qquad (\text{PutGet})$$

$$l.\mathbf{put} \ (l.\mathbf{get} \ s) \ s \sim_S s \qquad (\text{GetPut})$$

Quotient Lenses



Quotient Lenses



Challenge: Ordered Data

The lenses we have seen so far align data by **position**.

But, in practice, we often need to align data according to different criteria—e.g., by **key**.

Challenge: Ordered Data

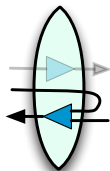
The lenses we have seen so far align data by [position](#).

But, in practice, we often need to align data according to different criteria—e.g., by [key](#).

```
*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)  
 12:15 PLDg (Upson 5126)  
*15:00 Workout (Noyes)
```



```
*08:30 Coffee with Sara (Gimme!)  
*15:00 Unknown (Unknown)  
 16:00 Meeting (Unknown)
```



```
08:30 BUSY  
12:15 PLDg  
15:00 BUSY
```



```
08:30 BUSY  
15:00 BUSY  
16:00 Meeting
```

A Better Redact Lens

Similar to previous version but with a **key** annotations and a combinator (<1>) that identifies “chunks”

```
(* helper lenses *)
let location : lens = default (del LOCATION) " (Unknown)"

let public : lens =
  del SPACE .
  key TIME .
  copy TEXT .
  default (del LOCATION) " (Unknown)"

let private : lens =
  del ASTERISK .
  key TIME .
  default (TEXT . LOCATION <-> "BUSY") "Unknown (Unknown)" .

let event : lens =
  (public | private) .
  copy NL

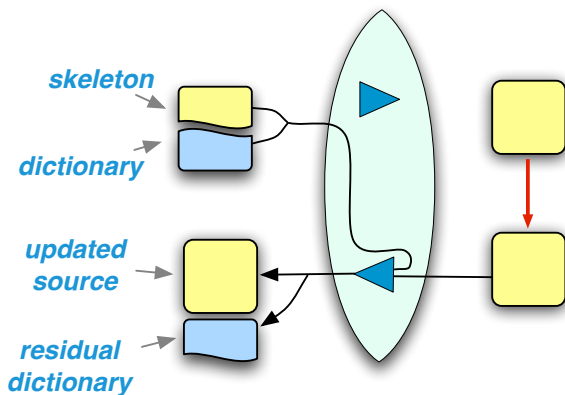
(* main lens *)
let redact : lens = <~ event>*
```

A Better Redact Lens

Similar to previous version but with a **key** annotations and a combinator (<1>) that identifies “chunks”

```
(* helper lenses *)  
let location : lens = default (del LOCATION) " (Unknown)"  
  
let public : lens =  
  del SPACE .  
  key TIME  
  copy TEXT .  
  default (del LOCATION) " (Unknown)"  
  
let private : lens =  
  del ASTERISK .  
  key TIME  
  default (TEXT . LOCATION <-> "BUSY") "Unknown (Unknown)" .  
  
let event : lens =  
  (public | private) .  
  copy NL  
  
(* main lens *)  
let redact : lens = <~ event>
```

Dictionary Lenses

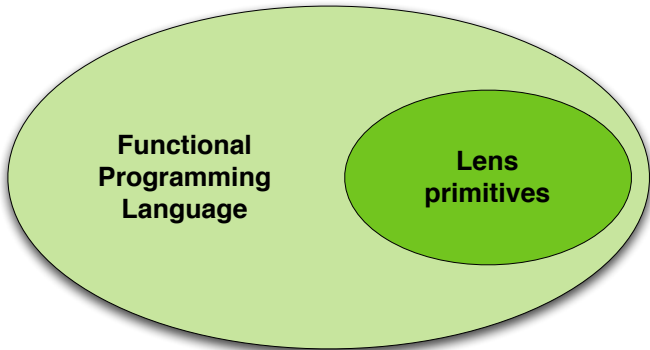


The **put** function works on a **dictionary** structure where chunks are organized by **key**.

Challenge: Language Design

Writing big programs only using combinators would not be fun!

Boomerang is a full-blown functional language over the base types `string`, `regexp`, `lens`, ...



Additional Features

Boomerang has *many* other lens primitives

- partition
- filter
- permute
- sort
- duplicate
- merge
- sequentially compose
- columnize
- normalize
- clobber
- probe
- etc.

and an extremely rich type system

- regular expression types
- dependent types
- refinement types
- polymorphism
- user-defined datatypes
- modules

implemented in hybrid style [Flanagan '06][Findler, Wadler '09]

Challenge: Typechecker Engineering

Typechecking uses *many* automata-theoretic operations.

- “Expensive” operations like intersection, difference, and interleaving are used often in practice
- Algorithms for checking ambiguity are computationally expensive rarely implemented

Implementation strategy:

- Compile compact automata [Brzozowski '64]
- Aggressive memoization [Foster *et al.* PLAN-X '07]

The Boomerang System

Lenses

- Bibliographies (BibTeX, RIS)
- Address Books (vCard, XML, ASCII)
- Calendars (iCal, XML, ASCII)
- Scientific Data (SwissProt, UniProtKB)
- Documents (MediaWiki, literate source code)
- Apple Preference Lists (e.g., iTunes)
- CSV

Libraries

- Escaping
- Sorting
- Lists
- XML

System

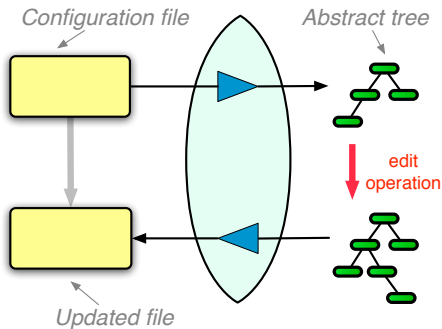
- Stable prototype complete
- Available under LGPL

Unison Integration

- On the way...



Augeas “a configuration API.”





Augeas “a configuration API.”

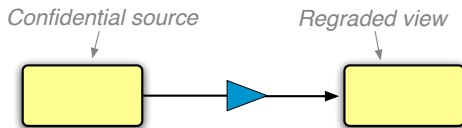
<code>aliases.aug</code>	<code>exports.aug</code>	<code>logrotate.aug</code>	<code>puppet.aug</code>	<code>sudoers.aug</code>
<code>aptpreferences.aug</code>	<code>fstab.aug</code>	<code>monit.aug</code>	<code>rsyncd.aug</code>	<code>sysctl.aug</code>
<code>aptsources.aug</code>	<code>gdm.aug</code>	<code>ntp.aug</code>	<code>samba.aug</code>	<code>util.aug</code>
<code>bbhosts.aug</code>	<code>group.aug</code>	<code>openvpn.aug</code>	<code>services.aug</code>	<code>vsftpd.aug</code>
<code>crontab.aug</code>	<code>grub.aug</code>	<code>pam.aug</code>	<code>shellvars.aug</code>	<code>webmin.aug</code>
<code>darkice.aug</code>	<code>hosts.aug</code>	<code>passwd.aug</code>	<code>slapd.aug</code>	<code>xinetd.aug</code>
<code>dhclient.aug</code>	<code>inifile.aug</code>	<code>php.aug</code>	<code>soma.aug</code>	<code>xorg.aug</code>
<code>dnsmasq.aug</code>	<code>inittab.aug</code>	<code>phpvars.aug</code>	<code>spacevars.aug</code>	<code>yum.aug</code>
<code>dpkg.aug</code>	<code>interfaces.aug</code>	<code>postfix_main.aug</code>	<code>squid.aug</code>	
<code>dput.aug</code>	<code>limits.aug</code>	<code>postfix_master.aug</code>	<code>sshd.aug</code>	

Also used in

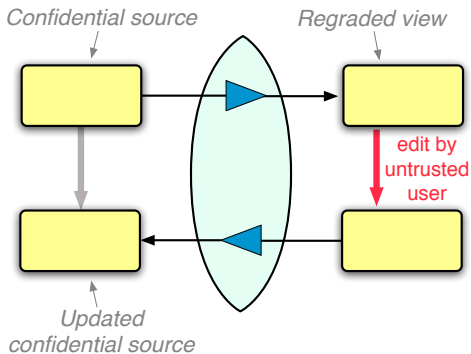
- Puppet – declarative configuration management tool
- Show – SQL-like queries on the filesystem
- Netcf – a network configuration library

Ongoing Work

Security Views

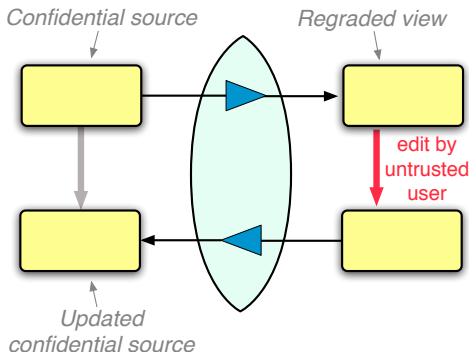


Updatable Security Views



[Foster, Pierce, Zdancewic CSF '09]

Requirements for Updatable Security Views

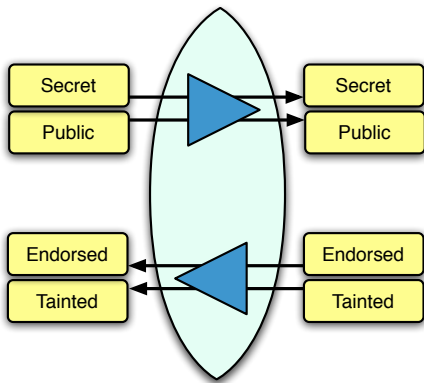


[Foster, Pierce, Zdancewic CSF '09]

1. Confidentiality: **get** does not leak secret data
2. Integrity: **put** does not taint endorsed data

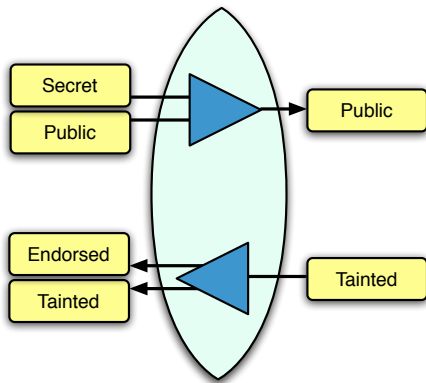
Non-interference

Requirements can be formulated as **non-interference** properties.



Non-interference

Requirements can be formulated as **non-interference** properties.



Secure Lenses

To distinguish high and low-security data we use equivalences

- \sim_k — “agree on k -public data”
- \approx_k — “agree on k -endorsed data”

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described using [annotated regular expressions](#).

$$\mathcal{R} ::= \emptyset \mid u \mid \mathcal{R} \cdot \mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{R} | \mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{R}^* \mid \mathcal{R} : k$$

Secure Lenses

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- \sim_k — “agree on k -public data”
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described using [annotated regular expressions](#).

$$\mathcal{R} ::= \emptyset \mid u \mid \mathcal{R} \cdot \mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{R} | \mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{R}^* \mid \mathcal{R} : k$$

A [secure lens](#) obeys refined laws:

$$\frac{s \sim_k s'}{l.\mathbf{get} \ s \sim_k l.\mathbf{get} \ s'} \quad (\text{GetNoLeak})$$

$$\frac{v \approx_k (l.\mathbf{get} \ s)}{l.\mathbf{put} \ v \ s \approx_k s} \quad (\text{GetPut})$$

(See paper for a [dynamic](#) approach to integrity tracking.)