BIG DATA

Batch layer

INTRODUCTION

- In the last chapters you learned
 - how to form a data model for your dataset
 - how to store your data in the batch layer in a scalable way
- In this chapter
 - you'll learn how to compute arbitrary functions on that data.
 - We'll start by introducing some motivating examples to illustrate the concepts of computation on the batch layer.
 - Then you'll learn in detail how to compute indexes of the master dataset that the application layer will use to complete queries.
 - You'll examine the trade-offs between recomputation algorithms and incremental algorithms
 - You'll see what it means for the batch layer to be scalable
 - Then you'll learn about MapReduce

MOTIVATING EXAMPLES

• Number of pageviews over time

```
function pageviewsOverTime(masterDataset, url, startHour, endHour) {
    pageviews = 0
    for(record in masterDataset) {
        if(record.url == url &&
            record.time >= startHour &&
            record.time <= endHour) {
            pageviews += 1
            }
        }
        return pageviews
}</pre>
```

MOTIVATING EXAMPLES

• Gender inference

```
Normalizes all
       names
               function genderInference(masterDataset, personId) {
associated with
                    names = new Set()
   the person
                    for(record in masterDataset) {
               \neg
                        if(record.personId == personId) {
                             names.add(normalizeName(record.name))
                                                                    Averages each name's
                                                                    probability of being male
                    maleProbSum = 0.0
                    for(name in names) {
                        maleProbSum += maleProbabilityOfName(name)
                    maleProb = maleProbSum / names.size()
                    if(maleProb > 0.5) {
                                                <
                        return "male"
                                                     Returns the gender with
                    } else {
                                                     the highest likelihood
                        return "female"
```

MOTIVATING EXAMPLES

• Influence score

```
function influence score(masterDataset, personId) {
                                                               Computes amount of influence
                                                               between all pairs of people
    influence = new Map()
    for(record in masterDataset) {
         curr = influence.get(record.responderId) || new Map(default=0)
         curr[record.sourceId] += 1
        influence.set(record.sourceId, curr)
    }
                                                    Counts the number of people for
                                                    whom personld is the top influencer
    score = 0
   for(entry in influence) {
        if(topKey(entry.value) == personId) {
            score += 1
    return score
}
```

• A naive strategy



• Instead, you can precompute intermediate results



• Precompute intermediate results for pageviews example

URL	Hour	# Pageviews	
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 15:00	876	
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 16:00	987	
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 17:00	762	Function: Results: 2930
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 18:00	413	Sum 2000
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 19:00	1098	
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 20:00	657	
foo.com/blog	2012/12/08 21:00	101	

• Recomputation algorithms vs. incremental algorithms



key trade-offs between the two approaches are performance, human-fault tolerance, and the generality of the algorithm

- Recomputation algorithms vs. incremental algorithms
 - Performance has two aspects
 - the amount of resources required to update a batch view with new data
 - incremental algorithm almost always uses significantly less resources
 - the size of the batch views produced
 - the size of the batch view for incremental algorithm can be significantly larger

URL	# Unique visitors	URL	URL # Unique visitors	
foo.com	2217	foo.com	2217	1,4,5,7,10,12,14,
foo.com/blog	1899	foo.com/blog	1899	2,3,5,17,22,23,27,
foo.com/about	524	foo.com/about	524	3,6,7,19,24,42,51,
foo.com/careers	413	foo.com/careers	413	12,17,19,29,40,42,
foo.com/faq	1212	foo.com/faq	1212	8,10,21,37,39,46,55,

Recomputation batch view

Incremental batch view

Figure 6.7 A comparison between a recomputation view and an incremental view for determining the number of unique visitors per URL

- Recomputation algorithms vs. incremental algorithms
 - Human-fault tolerance
 - recomputation algorithms are inherently human-fault tolerant
 - human mistakes can cause serious problems in incremental algorithms
 - Generality of the algorithms
 - incremental algorithm can generate prohibitively large batch views
 - storage cost can be reduced at the price of making the algorithm approximate instead of exact
 - incremental algorithms shift complexity to on-the-fly computations
 - Example: improving semantic normalization in gender inference example

- Recomputation algorithms vs. incremental algorithms
 - Choosing a style of algorithm

	Recomputation algorithms	Incremental algorithms
Performance	Requires computational effort to process the entire master dataset	Requires less computational resources but may generate much larger batch views
Human-fault tolerance	Extremely tolerant of human errors because the batch views are continually rebuilt	Doesn't facilitate repairing errors in the batch views; repairs are ad hoc and may require estimates
Generality	Complexity of the algorithm is addressed dur- ing precomputation, resulting in simple batch views and low-latency, on-the-fly processing	Requires special tailoring; may shift complexity to on-the-fly query processing
Conclusion	Essential to supporting a robust data- processing system	Can increase the efficiency of your sys- tem, but only as a supplement to recom- putation algorithms

SCALABILITY IN THE BATCH LAYER

- Scalability definition:
 - the ability of a system to maintain performance under increased load by adding more resources
- More important scalability is linear scalability
 - maintaining performance by adding resources in proportion to the increased load
- MapReduce is linearly scalable
 - should the size of your master dataset double, then twice the number of servers will be able to build the batch views with the same latency

- Expresses computations in terms of map and reduce functions that manipulate key/value pairs
- The canonical example: word count

```
function word_count_map(sentence) {
  for(word in sentence.split(" ")) {
    emit(word, 1)
  }
}
function word_count_reduce(word, values) {
    sum = 0
    for(val in values) {
        sum += val
        }
    emit(word, sum)
    }
}
```

- Scalability
 - programs written in terms of MapReduce are inherently scalable
 - MapReduce automatically parallelizes the computation across a cluster of machines regardless of input size.
 - All the details of concurrency, transferring data between machines, and execution planning are abstracted by the framework

• Scalability



During the shuffle phase, all of the key/value pairs generated by the map tasks are distributed among the reduce tasks. In this process, all of the pairs with the same key are sent to the same reducer.

- Fault-tolerance
 - MapReduce computations are also fault tolerant
 - MapReduce watches for errors and automatically retries that portion of the computation on another node
 - MapReduce requires that your map and reduce functions be deterministic
 - An entire application will fail only if a task fails more than a configured number of times—typically four

- Generality of MapReduce
 - MapReduce computational model is expressive enough to compute almost any functions on your data
 - Pageviews over time

```
function map(record) {
    key = [record.url, toHour(record.timestamp)]
    emit(key, 1)
}
function reduce(key, vals) {
    emit(new HourPageviews(key[0], key[1], sum(vals)))
}
```

- Generality of MapReduce
 - Gender inference

```
Semantic normalization
                                                                  occurs during the
function map(record) {
                                                                  mapping stage.
    emit(record.userid, normalizeName(record.name))
function reduce(userid, vals) {
                                                          A set is used
    allNames = new Set()
                                                          to remove any
    for(normalizedName in vals) {
                                                          potential duplicates.
         allNames.add(normalizedName)
    maleProbSum = 0.0
    for(name in allNames) {
        maleProbSum += maleProbabilityOfName(name)
                                                                 Averages the
                                                                 probabilities
    maleProb = maleProbSum / allNames.size()
                                                                 of being male.
    if(maleProb > 0.5) {
         gender = "male"
                                              Returns the most
                                              likely gender.
    } else {
         gender = "female"
    emit(new InferredGender(userid, gender))
```

- Generality of MapReduce
 - Influence score

```
function map1(record) {
    emit(record.responderId, record.sourceId)
                                                         The first job determines
                                                        the top influencer for
function reduce1(userid, sourceIds) {
                                                         each user.
    influence = new Map(default=0)
    for(sourceId in sourceIds) {
        influence[sourceId] += 1
    emit(topKey(influence))
function map2(record) {
    emit(record, 1)
                                                                   The top influencer data is
                                                                   then used to determine
                                                                   the number of people
function reduce2(influencer, vals) {
                                                                   each user influences.
    emit(new InfluenceScore(influencer, sum(vals)))
}
```

- Low-level nature of MapReduce
 - Multistep computations are unnatural
 - Intermediate output of chained MapReduce jobs should be manually stored and cleaned
 - Joins are very complicated to implement manually



- Low-level nature of MapReduce
 - Joins are very complicated to implement manually
 - you need to read two independent datasets in a single MapReduce job



Imagine joining on multiple fields, with five sides to the join, with some sides as outer joins and some as inner joins

```
• Low-level nature of MapReduce
                                                        EXCLUDE WORDS = Set("a", "the")
    • Logical and physical execution tightly coupled
                                                        function map(sentence) {
        • Extended word-count example
                                                          for(word : sentence) {
            • Works, but it mixes together multiple tasks into
                                                            if(not EXCLUDE WORDS.contains(word)) {
               the same function
                                                               emit(word, 1)
            · Good programming practice involves separating
               independent functionality
            • Modularizing creates more MapReduce jobs, }
               making the computation hugely inefficient
                                                        function reduce(word, amounts) {
                                                          result = 0
                                                          for(amt : amounts) {
                                                            result += amt
                                                          emit(result * 2)
```

• Concepts

- The idea is to think of processing in terms of
 - Tuples
 - Functions
 - Filters
 - Aggregators
 - joins
 - merges



• Concepts



• Concepts



• Concepts



merge operation requires all tuple sets to have the same number of fields and specifies new names for the tuples

• Concepts



compute the number of males each person follows

- Executing pipe diagrams via MapReduce
 - Pipe diagrams can be compiled to a series of MapReduce jobs
 - Functions and filters
 - look at one record at a time
 - can be run either in a map step or in a reduce step following a join or aggregation
 - Group by
 - easily translated to MapReduce via the key emitted in the map step
 - Aggregators
 - looks at all tuples for a group
 - happens in the reduce step

- Executing pipe diagrams via MapReduce
 - Pipe diagrams can be compiled to a series of MapReduce jobs
 - Join
 - You've already seen the basics of implementing joins
 - require some code in the map step and some code in the reduce step
 - Merge
 - just means the same code will run on multiple sets of data

a smart compiler will pack as many operations into the same map or reduce step as possible

• Combiner aggregators Input: [value] • example • compute the count of all the records • every tuple should go into the same group Group by: • the aggregator should run on every single tuple in dataset. GLOBAL • Normally • that every tuple would go to the same machine • then the aggregator code would run on that machine Aggregator: • This isn't scalable count $() \rightarrow (count)$ • can be executed a lot more efficiently • compute partial counts • send the partial counts to a single machine to produce global count Output: [count]

- Combiner aggregators
 - All combiner aggregators work this way
 - doing a partial aggregation first
 - then combining the partial results to get the desired result.
 - Not every aggregator can be expressed this way
 - When it's possible you get huge performance and scalability boosts

• Examples

• Pageviews over time



- Examples
 - Gender inference



• Examples

• Influence score



ILLUSTRATION

- Jcascalog
 - a fairly direct mapping of pipe diagrams
 - enables a whole range of abstraction and composition techniques that just aren't possible with other tools
 - enables programming techniques that allow you to write very concise, very elegant code

AN ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

• Word count:

List SENTENCE = Arrays.asList(Arrays.asList("Four score and seven years ago our fathers"), Arrays.asList("brought forth on this continent a new nation"), Arrays.asList("conceived in Liberty and dedicated to"), Arrays.asList("the proposition that all men are created equal"), . . . Specifies the output types **Queries output** returned by the query to be written **Reads each** to the console $\[\]_{
ightarrow Api.execute(new StdoutTap(),$ sentence from new Subquery("?word", "?count") the input .predicate(SENTENCE, "?sentence") .predicate(new Split(), "?sentence").out("?word") **Tokenizes each** .predicate(new Count(), "?count")); sentence into separate words **Determines the count** for each word public static class Split extends CascalogFunction { **Partitions** public void operate(FlowProcess process, FunctionCall call) { a sentence String sentence = call.getArguments().getString(0); into words for (String word: sentence.split(" ")) { call.getOutputCollector().add(new Tuple(word)); \triangleleft **Emits each word** in its own tuple

COMMON PITFALLS OF DATA-PROCESSING TOOLS

- Complexity in code
 - Essential complexity
 - Accidental complexity
 - Minimize this to have code that easier to maintain
 - Two sources:
 - Custom languages
 - Poorly composable abstractions

- The JCascalog data model
 - the same as that of the pipe diagrams
 - manipulates and transforms tuples
 - A set of tuples shares a schema
 - When executing a query
 - represents the initial data as tuples
 - transforms input into other tuple sets at each stage
 - Punctuation:
 - ? for non-nullable

! For nullable

?gender

"f"

"m"

"m"

"f"

!! for nullable in outer joisn

• Examples dataset:

		_		
AG	Ε		GEN	IDER
?person	ı ?age		?person	?gei
"alice"	28		"alice"	'
"bob"	33		"bob"	"
"chris"	40		"chris"	י"
"david"	25		"emily"	"

FOLL	.OWS		INTEGER
?person	person ?follows		?num
"alice"	"david"		-1
"alice"	"bob"		0
"bob"	"david"		1
"emily"	"gary"		2

- The structure of a JCascalog query
 - Consist of
 - a destination tap
 - a subquery that defines the actual computation



- The structure of a JCascalog query
 - predicates can be categorized into four main types:
 - Function predicate
 - specifies a relationship between a set of input fields and a set of output fields
 - Filter predicate
 - specifies a constraint on a set of input fields and removes all un matched tuples
 - Aggregator predicate
 - a function on a group of tuples
 - generator predicate
 - simply a finite set of tuples.
 - can either be
 - A source of data like an in-memory data structure or file on HDFS
 - Result from another subquery

- The structure of a JCascalog query
 - Predicate examples:

Туре	Example	Description
Generator	.predicate(SENTENCE, "?sentence")	A generator that creates tuples from the SENTENCE dataset, with each tuple consisting of a single field called ?sentence.
Function	.predicate(new Multiply(), 2, "?x").out("?z")	This function doubles the value of $2x$ and stores the result as $2z$.
Filter	.predicate(new LT(), "?y", 50)	This filter removes all tuples unless the value of $?y$ is less than 50.

- The structure of a JCascalog query
 - Predicates share a common structure
 - first argument is the predicate operation
 - remaining arguments are parameters for that operation
 - labels for the outputs are specified using the out method
 - provide extremely rich semantics

Туре	Example	Description
Function as filter	.predicate(new Plus(), 2, "?x").out(6)	Although $Plus()$ is a function, this predicate filters all tuples where the value of $?x \neq 4$.
Compound filter	<pre>.predicate(new Multiply(), 2, "?a").out("?z") .predicate(new Multiply(), 3, "?b").out("?z")</pre>	In concert, these predicates filter all tuples where 2(?a) ≠ 3(?b).

- Querying multiple datasets
 - Joins are expressed explicitly in SQL
 - Joins in JCascalog are implicit based on the variable names

Language	Query	Description
SQL	SELECT AGE.person, AGE.age, GENDER.gender FROM AGE INNER JOIN GENDER ON AGE.person = GENDER.person]	This clause explicitly defines the join condition.
JCascalog	<pre>new Subquery("?person", "?age", "?gender") .predicate(AGE, "?person", "?age") .predicate(GENDER, "?person", "?gender);</pre>	By specifying ?person as a field name for both datasets, JCascalog does an implicit join using the shared name.

- Querying multiple datasets
 - Outer joins

Join type	Query	Results		
Left outer join	<pre>new Subquery("?person", "?age", "!!gender") .predicate(AGE, "?person", "?age")</pre>	?name	?age	?gender
	.predicate(GENDER, "?person", "!!gender);	"bob"	33	"m"
		"chris"	40	"m"
		"david"	25	null
		"jim"	32	null
Full outer	<pre>new Subquery("?person", "!!age", "!!gender") predicate(AGE "?person" "!!age")</pre>	?name	?age	?gender
	.predicate(GENDER, "?person", "!!gender);	"alice"	null	"f"
		"bob"	33	"m"
		"chris"	40	"m"
		"david"	25	null
		"emily"	null	"f"
		"jim"	32	null

- Querying multiple datasets
 - combine and union



- Grouping and aggregators
 - grouping is implicit based on the desired query output



• Stepping though an example query



VAL1		
?a	?a ?b	
"a"	1	
"b"	2	
"c"	5	
"d"	12	
"d"	1	

VAL2			
?a	?c		
"b"	4		
"b"	6		
"c"	3		
"d"	15		

• Stepping though an example query



• Stepping though an example query



- Custom predicate operations
 - done by implementing the appropriate interfaces
 - FILTERS

```
public static class GreaterThanTenFilter extends CascalogFilter {
   public boolean isKeep(FlowProcess process, FilterCall call) {
      return call.getArguments().getInteger(0) > 10;
   }
   Obtains the first
   element of the
   input tuple and
   treats the value
   as an integer
```

- Custom predicate operations
 - FUNCTIONS
 - emits zero or more tuples as output



- Custom predicate operations
 - FUNCTIONS
 - can act as a filter if it emits zero tuples



- Custom predicate operations
 - FUNCTIONS
 - each output tuple is appended to its own copy of the input arguments



- Custom predicate operations
 - AGGREGATORS : three different types
 - First: aggregator
 - looks at one tuple at a time for each tuple in a group
 - adjusts some internal state for each observed tuple
 - can be chained in a query

```
• computing multiple aggregations at the same time for the same group
```

```
Initializes the
              public static class SumAggregator extends CascalogAggregator {
  aggregator
                public void start(FlowProcess process, AggregatorCall call) {
internal state
                  call.setContext(0);
                public void aggregate(FlowProcess process, AggregatorCall call) {
                  int total = (Integer) call.getContext();
                   call.setContext(total + call.getArguments().getInteger(0));
Called for each
tuple; updates
  the internal
                public void complete(FlowProcess process, AggregatorCall call) {
state to store
                  int total = (Integer) call.getContext();
  the running
                   call.getOutputCollector().add(new Tuple(total));
        sum
                                                          Once all tuples are processed,
                                                       emits a tuple with the final result
```

- Custom predicate operations
 - AGGREGATORS : three different types
 - Second: buffer
 - receives an iterator to the entire set of tuples for a group
 - easier to write than aggregators
 - can not be chained in a query

```
• can't be used along with any other aggregator type
public static class SumBuffer extends CascalogBuffer {
   public void operate(FlowProcess process, BufferCall call) {
     Iterator<TupleEntry> it = call.getArgumentsIterator();
                                                                            The tuple set is
     int total = 0;
                                                                            accessible via
     while(it.hasNext()) {
                                                                            an iterator.
       TupleEntry t = it.next();
       total+=t.getInteger(0);
     }
     call.getOutputCollector().add(new Tuple(total)); <--</pre>
                                                                 A single function iterates
                                                                 over all tuples and emits
                                                                 the output tuple.
```

- Custom predicate operations
 - AGGREGATORS : three different types
 - Third: parallel aggregators
 - analogous to combiner aggregators
 - performs an aggregation incrementally by doing partial aggregations in the map tasks

- Custom predicate operations
 - AGGREGATORS : three different types
 - Third: parallel aggregators



- Custom predicate operations
 - AGGREGATORS : three different types
 - Third: parallel aggregators
 - you must implement two functions:
 - init: maps the arguments from a single tuple to a partial aggregation for that tuple
 - combine: specifies how to combine two partial aggregations into a single aggregation value
 - can be chained with other parallel aggregators or regular aggregators

```
· But act like regular aggregators when chaining with regular aggregators
```

```
For sum,
                public static class SumParallel implements ParallelAgg
    the partial
                  public void prepare(FlowProcess process, OperationCall call) {}
 aggregation is
just the value in
                  public List<Object> init(List<Object> input) {
 the argument.
               -1>
                    return input;
                  public List<Object> combine(List<Object> input1,
                    List<Object> input2)
                                                                         To combine two
                    int val1 = (Integer) input1.get(0);
                                                                         partial aggregations,
                    int val2 = (Integer) input2.get(0);
                                                                         simply sum the values.
                    return Arrays.asList((Object) (val1 + val2));
                }
```

- Composition
 - Combining subqueries
 - they can be addressed as data sources for other subqueries



find all the records in FOLLOWS dataset where each person in the record follows more than two people

- Composition
 - Combining subqueries
 - Subqueries are lazy
 - nothing is computed until Api.execute is called

```
The basic word
                                                                       count subquery
Subquery wordCount = new Subquery("?word", "?count")
                          .predicate (SENTENCE, "?sentence")
                          .predicate(new Split(), "?sentence").out("?word")
                          .predicate(new Count(), "?count");
                                                                       The second subquery
Api.execute(new StdoutTap(),
                                                                       only requires the
             new Subquery("?count", "?num-words")
                                                                      count for each word.
                .predicate(wordCount, "_", "?count")
                .predicate(new Count(), "?num-words"));
                                                              \triangleleft
                                                                    Determines the
                                                                    number of words
                                                                    for each count value
```

finding the number of words that exist for each computed word count

- Composition
 - Dynamically created subqueries

```
{"buyer": 123, "seller": 456, "amt": 50, "timestamp": 1322401523}
{"buyer": 1009, "seller": 12, "amt": 987, "timestamp": 1341401523}
{"buyer": 2, "seller": 98, "amt": 12, "timestamp": 1343401523}
```

The subquery needs a Cascalog

```
function to perform the actual parsing.
                                                                                   An external
                                                 A regular Java function dynamically
Generates
                                                                                      library
                                                         generates the subquery.
                                                                                             public static class ParseTransactionRecord extends CascalogFunction
a tap from
                                                                                    converts
                                                                                               public void operate(FlowProcess process, FunctionCall call) {
                                                                                   the JSON to
     the
          public static Subquery parseTransactionData(String path) {
                                                                                                 String line = call.getArguments().getString(0);
 provided
                                                                                     a map.
            return new Subquery("?buyer", "?seller", "?amt", "?timestamp")
                                                                                                Map parsed = (Map) JSONValue.parse(line);
HDFS path
                                                                                               > call.getOutputCollector().add(new Tuple(parsed.get("buyer"),
              .predicate(Api.hfsTextline(path), "?line")
                                                                                                                                   parsed.get("seller"),
              .predicate(new ParseTransactionRecord(), "?line") <-
                                                                   Calls the custom
                                                                                   The desired
                                                                                                                                    parsed.get("amt"),
              .out("?buyer", "?seller", "?amt", "?timestamp");
                                                                                 map values are
                                                                   ISON parsing
                                                                                                                                    parsed.get("timestamp")));
                                                                                 translated into
                                                                   function
                                                                                  a single tuple.
        public static Subquery buyerNumTransactions(String path) {
            return new Subquery("?buyer", "?count")
                .predicate(parseTransactionData(path), "?buyer", " ", " ", " ")
                                                                                                                                        Disregards
                .predicate(new Count(), "?count");
                                                                                                                                        all fields but
                                                                                                                                        the buyer
```

- Composition
 - Dynamically created subqueries
 - Dynamic predicates in sub-query
 - find all chains of retweets of a certain length

```
public static Subquery chainsLength3(Object pairs) {
  return new Subquery("?a", "?b", "?c")
  .predicate(pairs, "?a", "?b")
  .predicate(pairs, "?b", "?c");
}
public static Subquery chainsLength4(Object pairs) {
  return new Subquery("?a", "?b", "?c", "?d")
  .predicate(pairs, "?b", "?c")
  .predicate(pairs, "?c", "?d");
}
```

- Composition
 - Dynamically created subqueries
 - Dynamic predicates in sub-query
 - find all chains of retweets of a certain length

```
public static Subquery chainsLengthN(Object pairs, int n) {
  List<String> genVars = new ArrayList<String>();
  for(int i=0; i<n; i++) {
    genVars.add(Api.genNullableVar());
  }
  Generates
  unique nullable
  output variables
  Subquery ret = new Subquery(genVars);
  for(int i=0; i<n-1; i++) {
    ret = ret.predicate(pairs, genVars.get(i), genVars.get(i+1));
  }
  return ret;
  Loops to define the
  required number of joins
</pre>
```

- Composition
 - Dynamically created subqueries
 - draw a random sample of N elements from a dataset of unknown size
 - 1. Generate a random number for every element.
 - 2. Find the N elements with the smallest random numbers.



• Composition

- Predicate macros
 - is an operation that JCascalog expands to another set of predicates
 - can create powerful abstractions by composing predicates together



- Composition
 - Predicate macros
 - is an operation that JCascalog expands to another set of predicates
 - can create powerful abstractions by composing predicates together

```
new Subquery("?result")
.predicate(INTEGER, "?n")
.predicate(Average, "?n).out("?result");

new Subquery("?result")
.predicate(INTEGER, "?n")
.predicate(new Count(), "?count_gen1")
.predicate(new Sum(), "?n).out("?sum_gen2")
.predicate(new Div(), "?sum_gen2", "?count_gen1")
.out("?result");
```

Example source code using the Average predicate macro.

Behind the scenes, JCascalog expands the macro into its constituent predicates using unique field names so as not to conflict with the surrounding subquery.

- Composition
 - Predicate macros
 - Compute the number of distinct values for a given set of variables
 - Templates only support fixed sets of input and output variables
 - Macros with flexible number of input and output variables:



- Composition
 - Predicate macros

```
• Compute the number of distinct values for a given set of variables
      public static Subquery distinctCountManual() {
        return new Subquery("?distinct-followers-count")
                                                                             Sorts the tuple
           .predicate(FOLLOWS, "?person", " ")
                                                                             by ?person field
           .predicate(Option.SORT, "?person")
           .predicate(new DistinctCountAgg(), "?person")
           .out("?distinct-followers-count");
                                                             The input and output fields are
                                                              determined when the macro is
                                                                   used within a subquery.
             public static class DistinctCount implements PredicateMacro {
               public List<Predicate> getPredicates(Fields inFields,
                                                    Fields outFields) {
                List<Predicate> ret = new ArrayList<Predicate>();
                ret.add(new Predicate(Option.SORT, inFields));
                                                                        Groups are sorted
                ret.add(new Predicate(new DistinctCountAgg(),
                                                                        by the provided
                                       inFields,
                                                                        input fields.
                                       outFields));
                return ret;
                                     For this macro, the distinct count emits
                                        a single field, but the general macro
             3
                                          form supports multiple outputs.
```

- Composition
 - Dynamically created predicate macros



it's a simple query, but there's considerable repetition

- Composition
 - Dynamically created predicate macros

```
new Subquery("?x", "?y", "?z")
   .predicate(TRIPLETS, "?a", "?b", "?c")
   .predicate(new Each(new IncrementFunction()), "?a", "?b", "?c")
   .out("?x", "?y", "?z");
              public static class Each implements PredicateMacro {
                Object _op;
                                            Each is parameterized
                public Each(Object op) {
                                            with the predicate
                  _op = op;
                                            operation to use.
                public List<Predicate> getPredicates(Fields inFields,
                                                   Fields outFields) {
                  List<Predicate> ret = new ArrayList<Predicate>();
                  for(int i=0; i<inFields.size(); i++) {</pre>
                    Object in = inFields.get(i);
                                                                         The predicate macro
                    Object out = outFields.get(i);
                                                                         creates a predicate
                    ret.add(new Predicate( op,
                                                                         for each given input/
                                         Arrays.asList(in),
                                                                         output field pair.
                                         Arrays.asList(out)));
                  return ret;
```