

The background is an abstract, colorful painting with various shapes and colors like red, blue, yellow, green, and white. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the title text.

Databases and Search-based Program Optimization

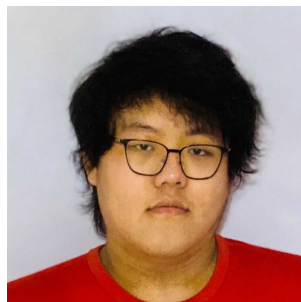
Yihong Zhang¹, Dan Suciu¹, Remy Wang², Max Willsey³

¹ University of Washington

² University of California, Los Angeles

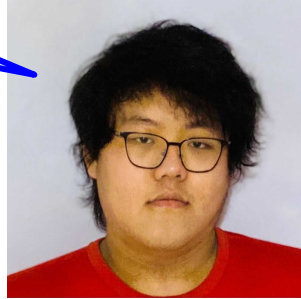
³ University of California, Berkeley

About me



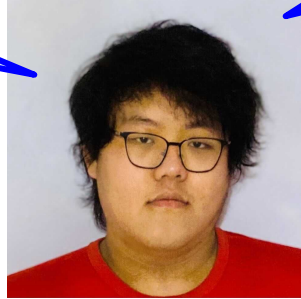
About me

PhD student at
Univ. of Washington



About me

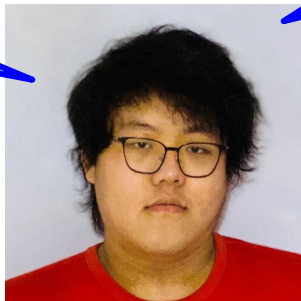
PhD student at
Univ. of Washington



I work on
Equality Saturation

About me

PhD student at
Univ. of Washington



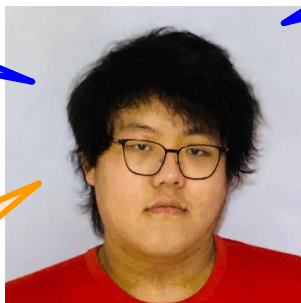
I work on
Equality Saturation

Program optimization technique
used in 50+ projects

- Awards: PLDI '15, OOPSLA '21, ASPLOS '24, POPL '24.
- Industry users: Intel, Certora, Bytecode Alliance, ...
- EqSat Papers: VLDB '20, SIGMOD '22 '23, ICDE '22, PLDI '20 '24^{x2}, OOPSLA '21 '23 '24, ASPLOS '21 '23 '24^{x3} '25, POPL '09 '23, ICFP '24, CCA '21, CCS '22, CGO '24^{x2} '25^{x2}, DAC '23^{x2} '24, EGRAPHIS '22 '23^{x4}, FCCM '22^{x2}, PACT '22^{x2} '24, DAC '23^{x2} '24, FMCAD '22, MLSys '21, MAPS '21, IDDM '23, SIGA '19, TOG '22 ...

About me

PhD student at
Univ. of Washington



The more I study EqSat,
the more I realize:
It's just databases!

I work on
Equality Saturation

Program optimization technique
used in 50+ projects

- Awards: PLDI '15, OOPSLA '21, ASPLOS '24, POPL '24.
- Industry users: Intel, Certora, Bytecode Alliance, ...
- EqSat Papers: VLDB '20, SIGMOD '22 '23, ICDE '22, PLDI '20 '24^{x2}, OOPSLA '21 '23 '24, ASPLOS '21 '23 '24^{x3} '25, POPL '09 '23, ICFP '24, CCA '21, CCS '22, CGO '24^{x2} '25^{x2}, DAC '23^{x2} '24, EGRAPHS '22 '23^{x4}, FCCM '22^{x2}, PACT '22^{x2} '24, DAC '23^{x2} '24, FMCAD '22, MLSys '21, MAPS '21, IDDM '23, SIGA '19, TOG '22 ...

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \rightarrow a$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$(a * 2) / 2$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad a * (2 / 2)$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)$$

$$x / x = 1$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad a * (2 / 2) \quad \longrightarrow \quad a * 1$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

$$(a * 2) / 2$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{x * 2 = x \ll 1} (a \ll 1) / 2$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{x * 2 = x \ll 1} (a \ll 1) / 2 \xrightarrow{\quad} ?$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{x * 2 = x \ll 1} (a \ll 1) / 2 \xrightarrow{\quad} ?$$

$$a \xrightarrow{\quad} a * 1 \xrightarrow{\quad} a * 1 * 1 \xrightarrow{\quad} \dots$$

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$

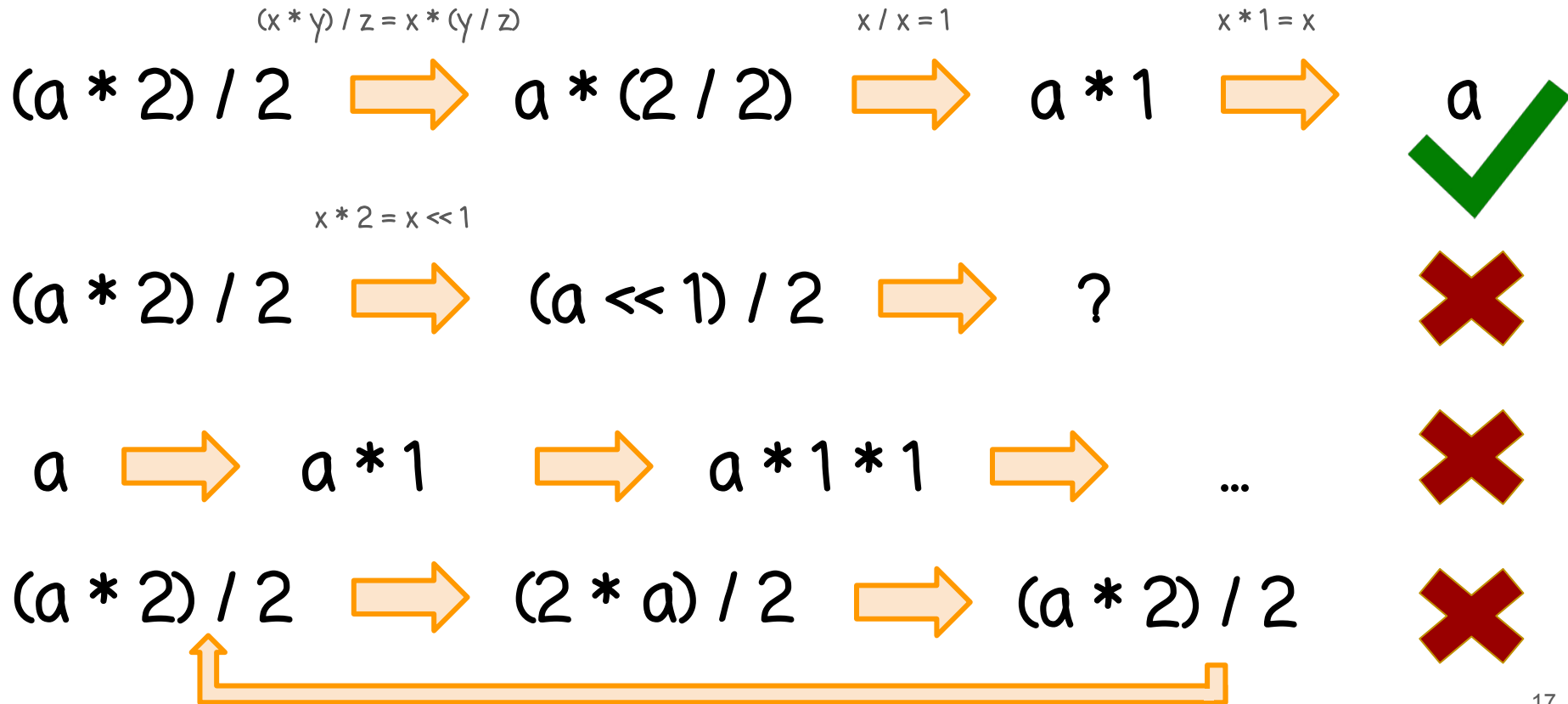
$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{x * 2 = x \ll 1} (a \ll 1) / 2 \xrightarrow{\quad} ?$$

$$a \xrightarrow{\quad} a * 1 \xrightarrow{\quad} a * 1 * 1 \xrightarrow{\quad} \dots$$

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{\quad} (2 * a) / 2 \xrightarrow{\quad} (a * 2) / 2$$



Optimizing programs using term rewriting



Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)$

$(a * 2) / 2 \longrightarrow a * (2 / 2) \longrightarrow a * 1 \longrightarrow a$ ✓


$x * 2 = x \ll 1$

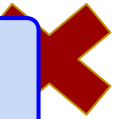
$(a * 2) / 2 \longrightarrow (a \ll 1) / 2 \longrightarrow ?$ ✗

$a \longrightarrow a * 1 \longrightarrow a * 1 * 1 \longrightarrow \dots$ ✗

$(a * 2) / 2 \longrightarrow (2 * a) / 2 \longrightarrow (a * 2) / 2$ 🤔

Optimizing programs using term rewriting

$$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{(x * y) / z = x * (y / z)} a * (2 / 2) \xrightarrow{x / x = 1} a * 1 \xrightarrow{x * 1 = x} a$$


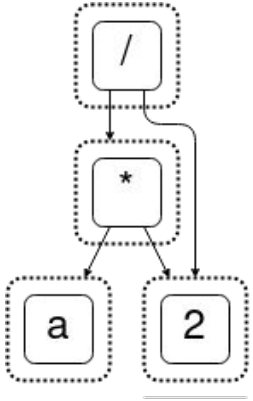
$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{x * 2 = x \ll 1}$ Equality Saturation: apply all the rules all the time! 

$a \xrightarrow{} a * 1 \xrightarrow{} a * 1 * 1 \xrightarrow{} \dots$ 

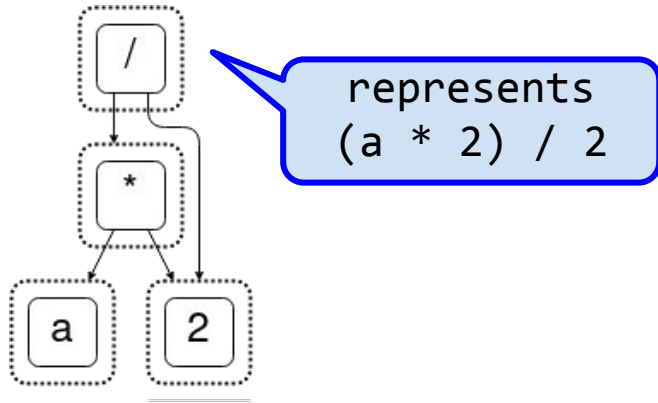
$(a * 2) / 2 \xrightarrow{} (2 * a) / 2 \xrightarrow{} (a * 2) / 2$ 



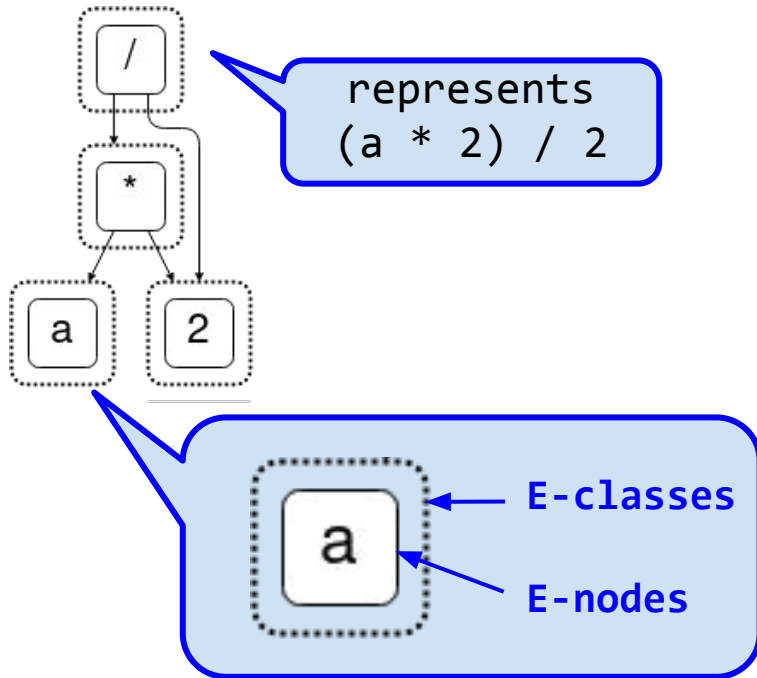
E-graphs and Equality saturation



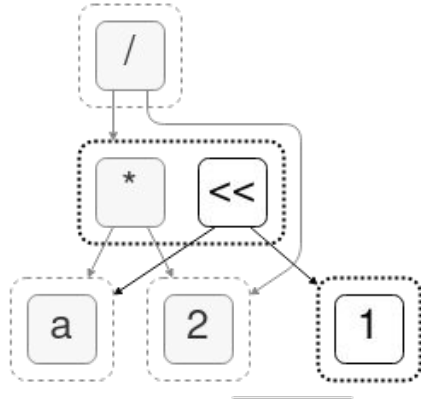
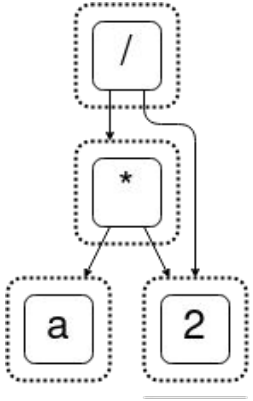
E-graphs and Equality saturation



E-graphs and Equality saturation

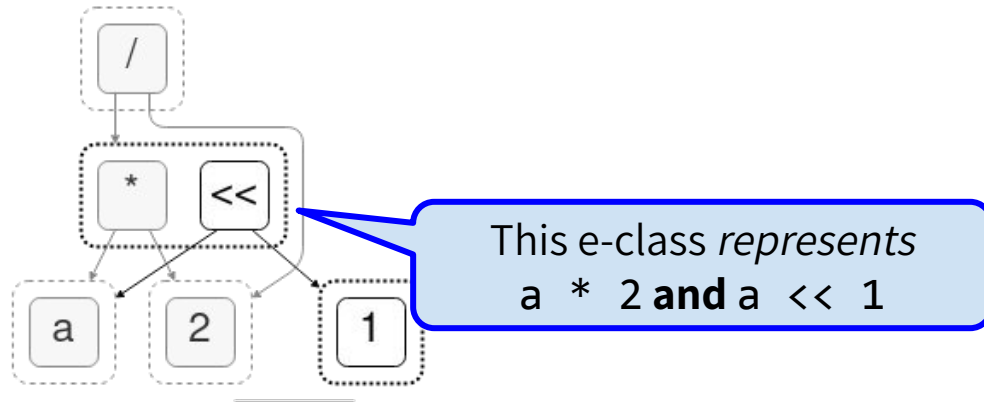
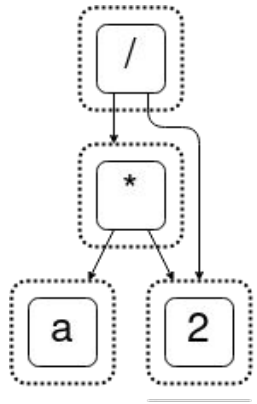


E-graphs and Equality saturation



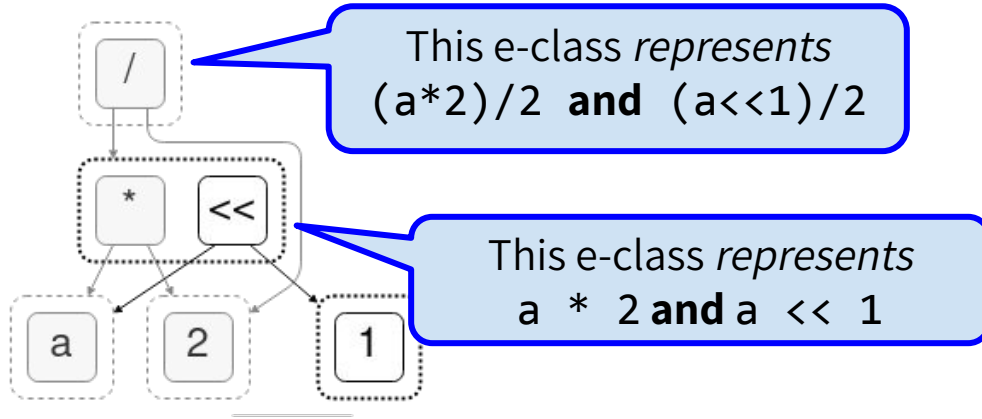
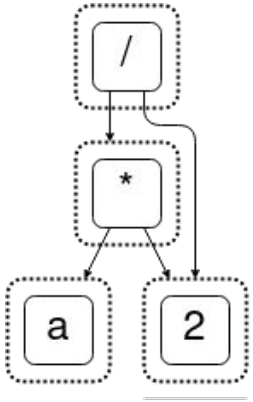
$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

E-graphs and Equality saturation



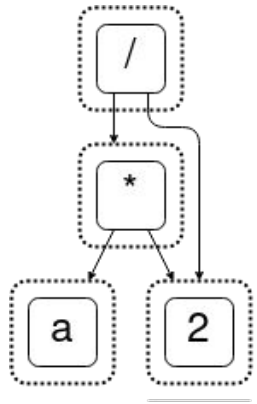
$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

E-graphs and Equality saturation

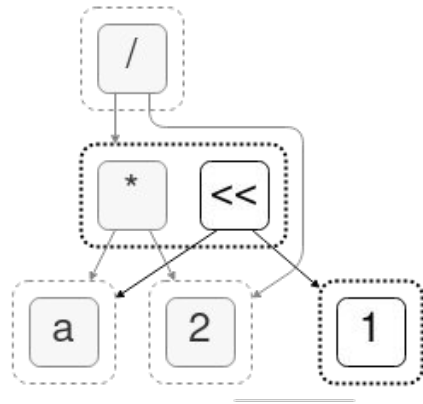


$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

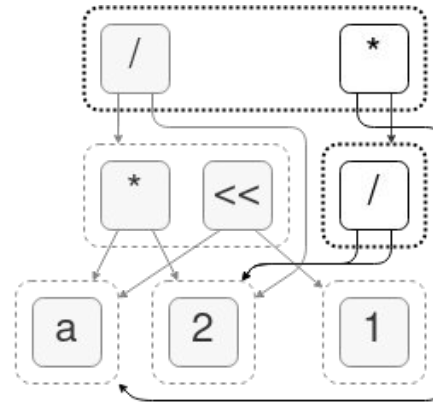
E-graphs and Equality saturation



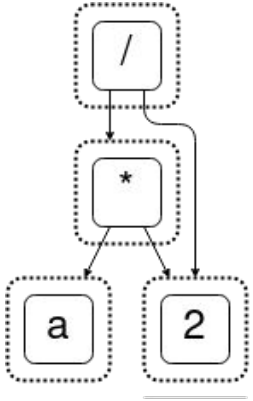
$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$



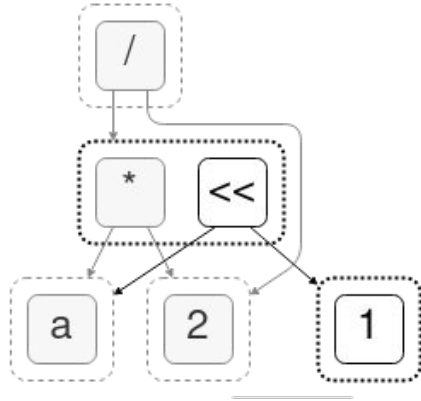
$$(x * y) / z \Rightarrow x * (y / z)$$



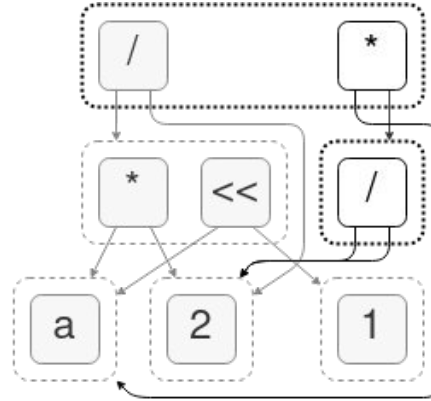
E-graphs and Equality saturation



$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

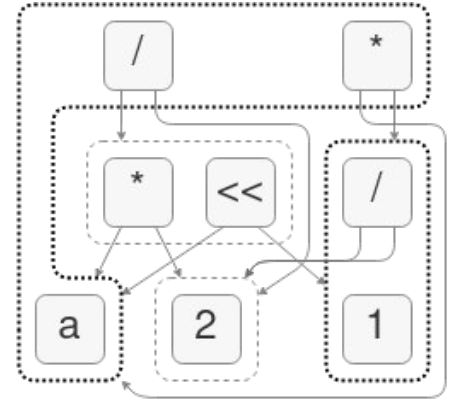


$$(x * y) / z \Rightarrow x * (y / z)$$



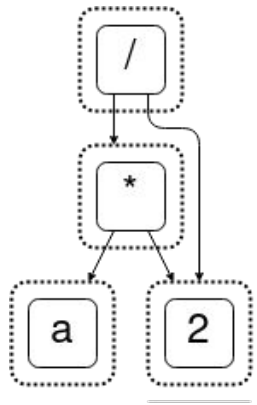
$$x / x \Rightarrow 1$$

$$x * 1 \Rightarrow x$$

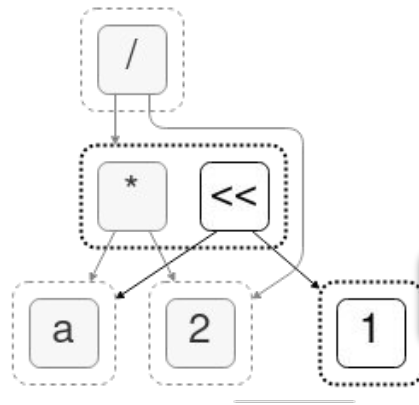


loop until
fixpoint / timeout!

E-graphs and Equality saturation

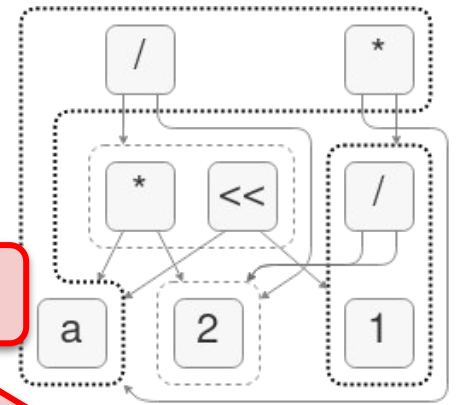
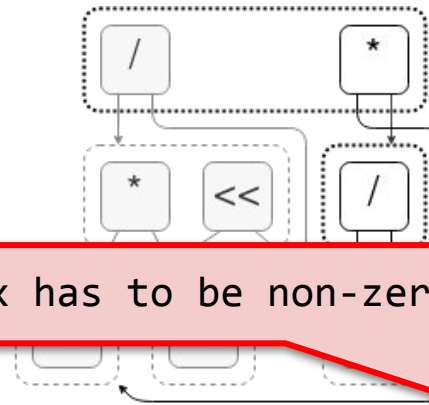


$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$



x has to be non-zero!

$$(x * y) / z \Rightarrow x * (y / z)$$

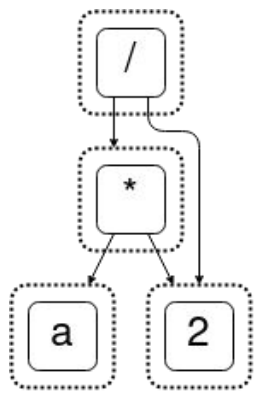


$$x / x \Rightarrow 1$$

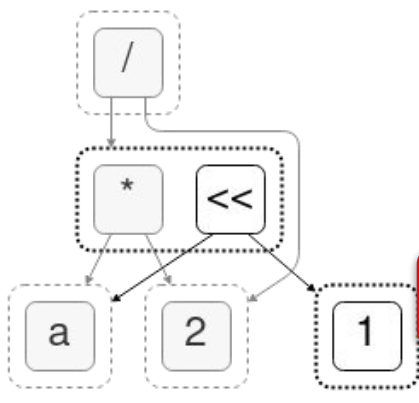
$$x * 1 \Rightarrow x$$

loop until
fixpoint / timeout!

E-graphs and Equality saturation

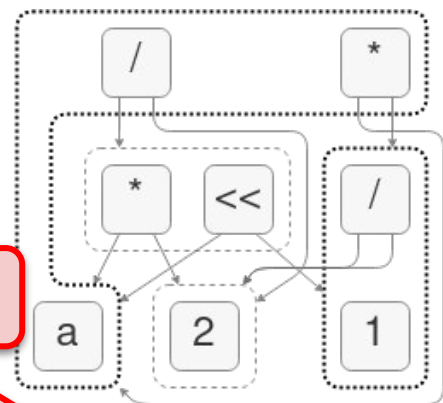
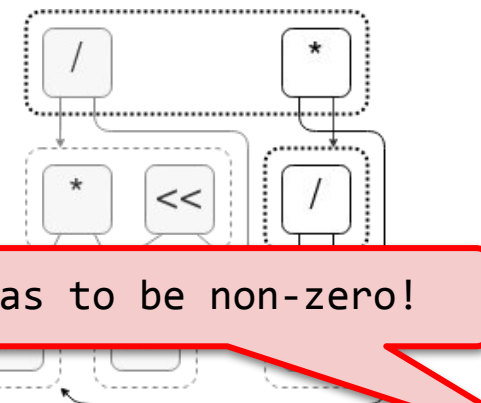


$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$



x has to be non-zero!

$$(x * y) / z \Rightarrow x * (y / z)$$



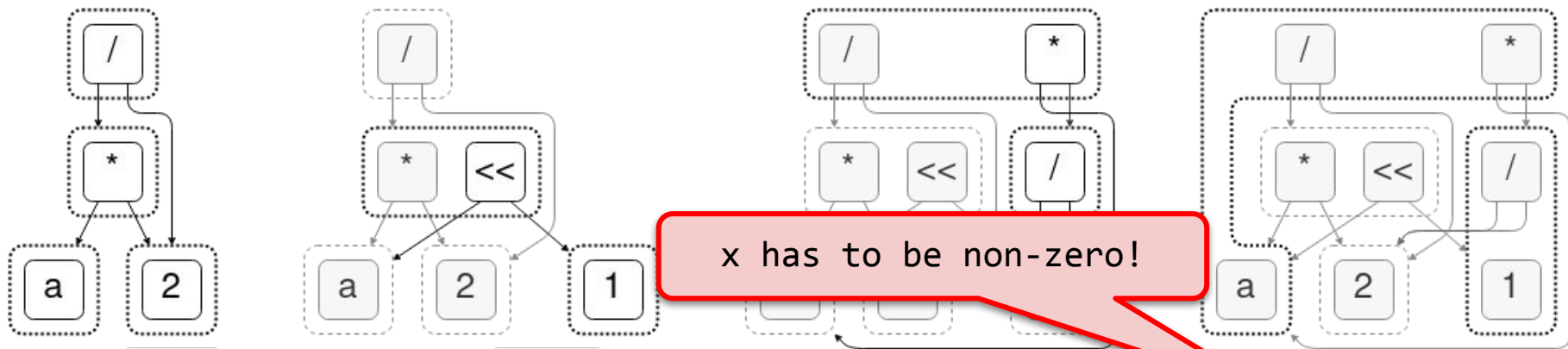
$$x / x \Rightarrow 1$$

$$x * 1 \Rightarrow x$$

$0 \notin \text{rangeOf}(2)$

loop until
fixpoint / timeout!

E-graphs and Equality saturation



x has to be non-zero!

$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

“E-class analyses”

$$(y / z)$$

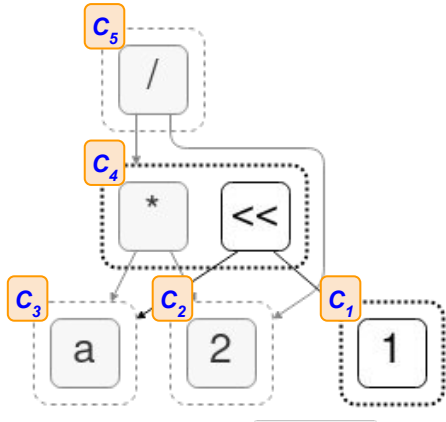
$$x / x \Rightarrow 1$$

$$x * 1 \Rightarrow x$$

$\emptyset \notin \text{rangeOf}(2)$

loop until
fixpoint / timeout!

E-graphs and Equality saturation

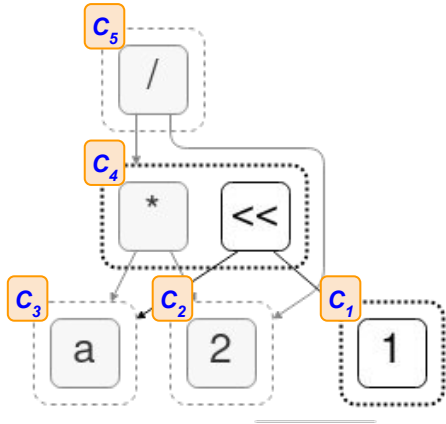


=



$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

E-graphs and Equality saturation



=

Table: number

child	out
1	c_1
2	c_2

Table: variable

child	out
"a"	c_3

Table: *

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_3	c_2	c_4

Table: <<

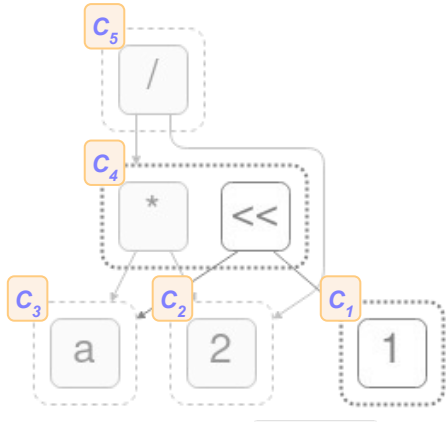
ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_3	c_1	c_4

Table: /

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_4	c_2	c_5

$$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$$

E-graphs and Equality saturation



=

Table: number

child	out
1	c_1
2	c_2

Table: variable

child	out
"a"	c_3

Table: *

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_3	c_2	c_4

Table: <<

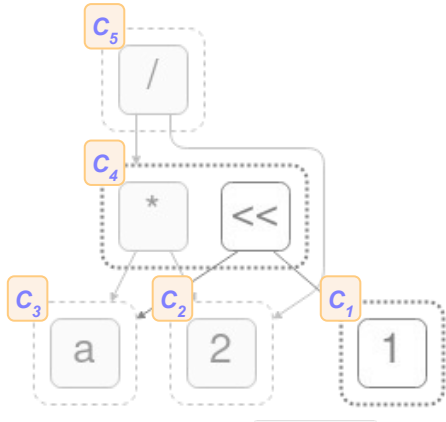
ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_3	c_1	c_4

Table: /

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
c_4	c_2	c_5

$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$

E-graphs and Equality saturation



=

Table: number

child	out
1	C_1
2	C_2

Table: variable

child	out
"a"	C_3

Table: *

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
C_3	C_2	C_4

Table: <<

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
C_3	C_1	C_4

Table: /

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
C_4	C_2	C_5

$x * 2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$

$\ll(x, C_1, r) :- *(x, C_2, r)$

E-graphs and Equality saturation

E-graphs

E-nodes

E-classes

Rewrite rules

Congruence closure

E-class analyses

E-graph extraction

Equality Saturation



Databases

Tuples

Labeled null

Tuple-generating dep. (TGD)

Functional dep. (FD)

Monotonic Aggregation

Chase

E-graphs and Equality saturation

E-graphs

E-nodes

E-classes

Rewrite rules

Congruence closure

E-class analyses

E-graph extraction

Equality Saturation



Databases

Tuples

Labeled null

Tuple-generating dep. (TGD)

Functional dep. (FD)

Monotonic Aggregation

Chase

More details in our ICDT paper (Suciu, Wang, Zhang)

It's also true the other way around!

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano and Cascades are query optimization frameworks that combines rule-based optimization and cost-based optimization.

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano and Cascades are query optimization frameworks that combines rule-based optimization and cost-based optimization.

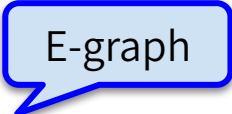
Key ideas

- apply rewrite rules over a memo table data structure
- use a cost model to select the best query plan

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano and Cascades are query optimization frameworks that combines rule-based optimization and cost-based optimization.

Key ideas



E-graph

- apply rewrite rules over a **memo table** data structure
- use a cost model to select the best query plan

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano and Cascades are query optimization frameworks that combines rule-based optimization and cost-based optimization.

Key ideas

- apply rewrite rules over a **memo table** data structure
- use a cost model to **select the best query plan**

E-graph

E-graph Extraction

Volcano/Cascades is also EqSat!

Volcano and Cascades are query optimization frameworks that combines rule-based optimization and cost-based optimization.

Key ideas

- apply rewrite rules over a **memo table** data structure
- use a cost model to **select the best query plan**

E-graph

E-graph Extraction

🔥 Hot take: EqSat is a more principled framework


```
(sort Mat)
(function Matrix (String String String) Mat)
(function Prod (Mat Mat) Mat)
(function Agg (String Mat) Mat)
```

```
(sort Mat)
(function Matrix (String String String) Mat)
(function Prod (Mat Mat) Mat)
(function Agg (String Mat) Mat)
```

Table: Matrix

ch ₁	ch ₂	ch ₃	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----

Table: Prod

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----

Table: Agg

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----

```

(sort Mat)
(function Matrix (String String String) Mat)
(function Prod (Mat Mat) Mat)
(function Agg (String Mat) Mat)

(let A (Matrix "A" "i" "j")) ;; Ai,j
(let B (Matrix "B" "j" "k")) ;; Bj,k
(let C (Matrix "C" "k" "l")) ;; Ck,l
;;  $\sum_k \sum_j (AB)C$ 
(let ABC (Agg "k" (Agg "j"
                    (Prod (Prod A B) C))))

```

Table: Matrix

ch ₁	ch ₂	ch ₃	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----

Table: Prod

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----

Table: Agg

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
-----------------	-----------------	-----

```

(sort Mat)
(function Matrix (String String String) Mat)
(function Prod (Mat Mat) Mat)
(function Agg (String Mat) Mat)

(let A (Matrix "A" "i" "j")) ;; Ai,j
(let B (Matrix "B" "j" "k")) ;; Bj,k
(let C (Matrix "C" "k" "l")) ;; Ck,l
;;  $\sum_k \sum_j (AB)C$ 
(let ABC (Agg "k" (Agg "j"
                    (Prod (Prod A B) C))))

```

Table: Matrix

ch ₁	ch ₂	ch ₃	out
"A"	"i"	"j"	C _A
"B"	"j"	"k"	C _B
"C"	"k"	"l"	C _C

Table: Prod

ch ₁	ch ₂	out
C _A	C _B	C _{AB}
C _{AB}	C _C	C _{ABC}

Table: Agg

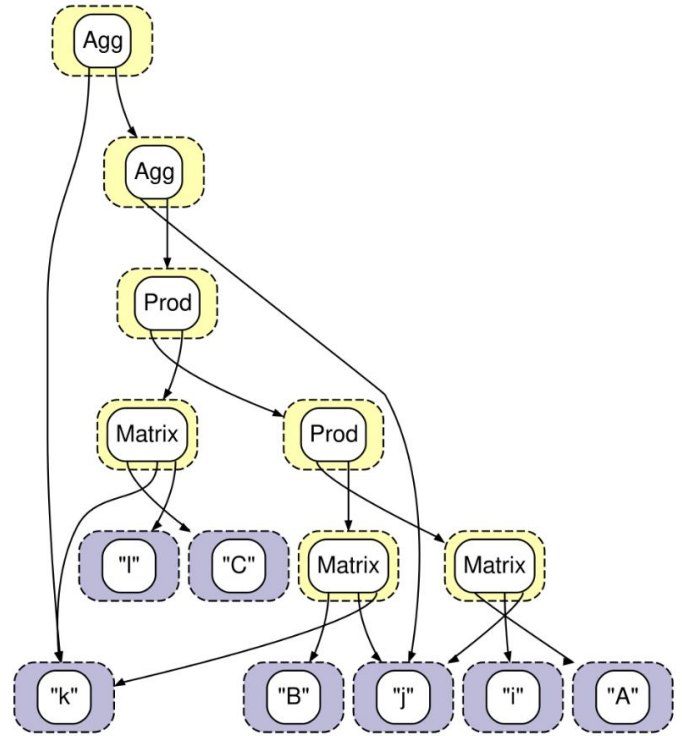
ch ₁	ch ₂	out
"j"	C _{ABC}	C _j
"k"	C _j	C _k


```

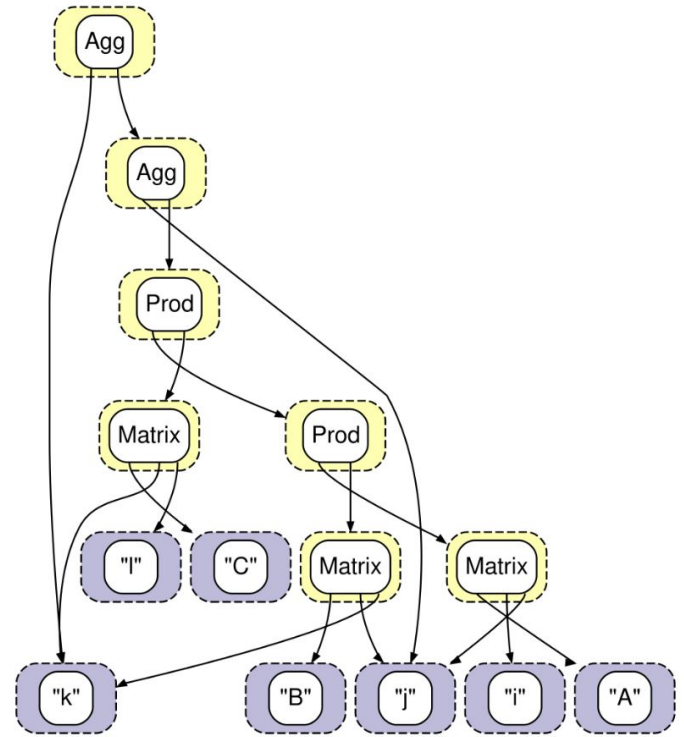
(sort Mat)
(function Matrix (String String String) Mat)
(function Prod (Mat Mat) Mat)
(function Agg (String Mat) Mat)

(let A (Matrix "A" "i" "j")) ;; Ai,j
(let B (Matrix "B" "j" "k")) ;; Bj,k
(let C (Matrix "C" "k" "l")) ;; Ck,l
;;  $\sum_k \sum_j (AB)C$ 
(let ABC (Agg "k" (Agg "j"
                    (Prod (Prod A B) C))))

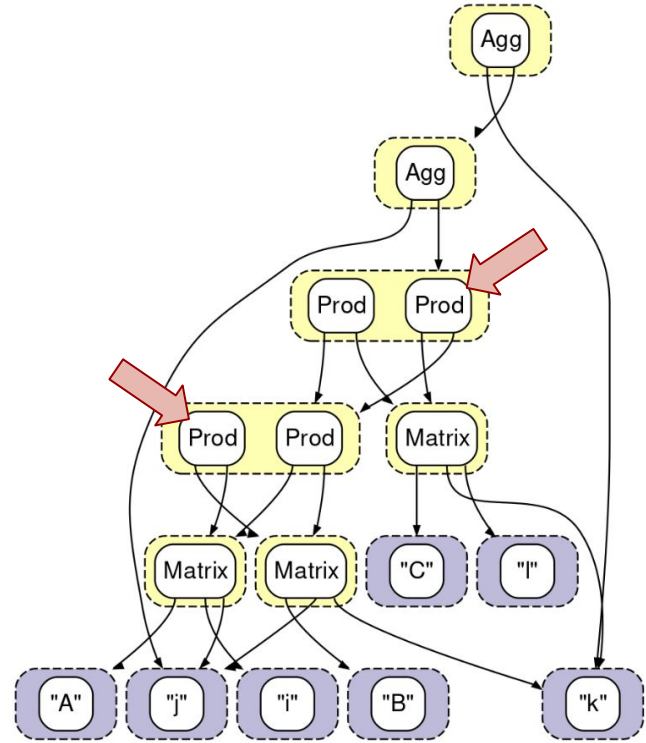
```



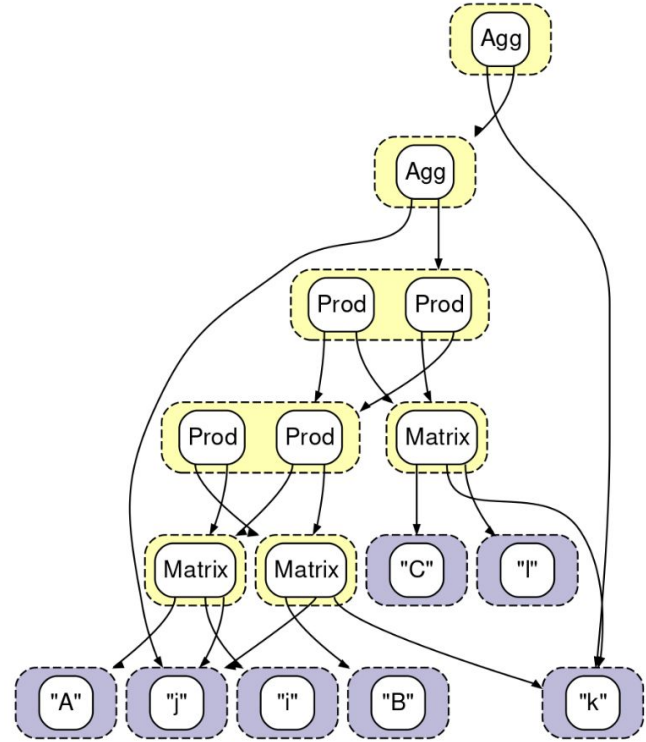
```
;; commutativity  
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
```



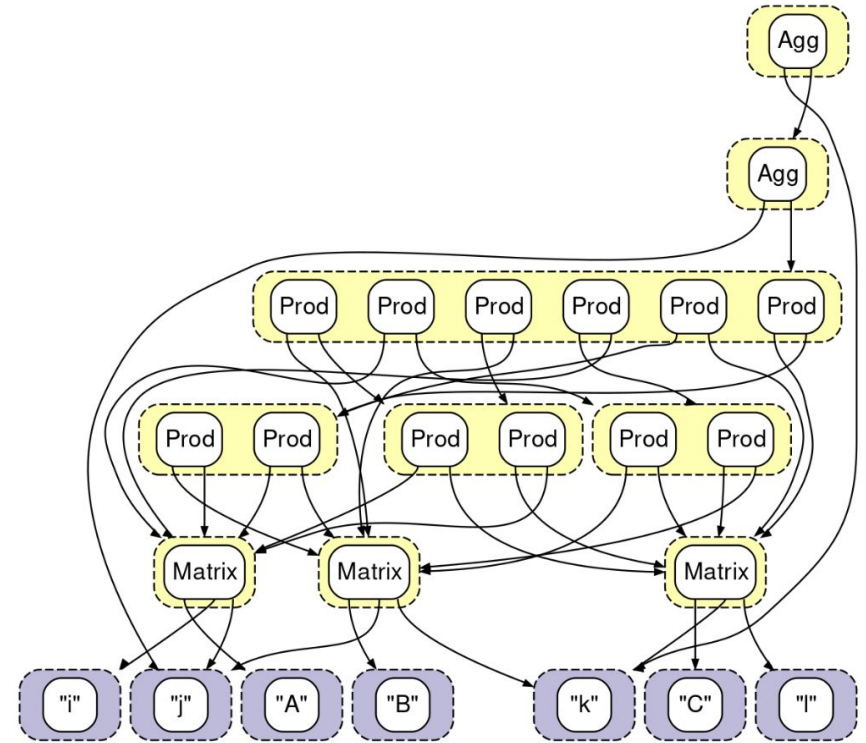
```
;; commutativity  
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
```



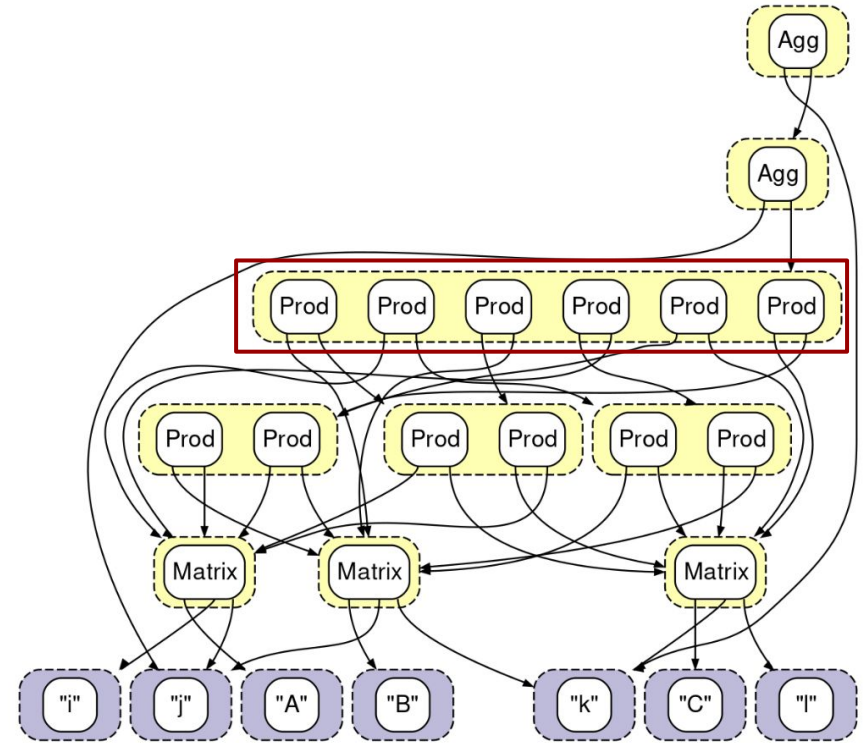
```
;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
```



```
;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
```



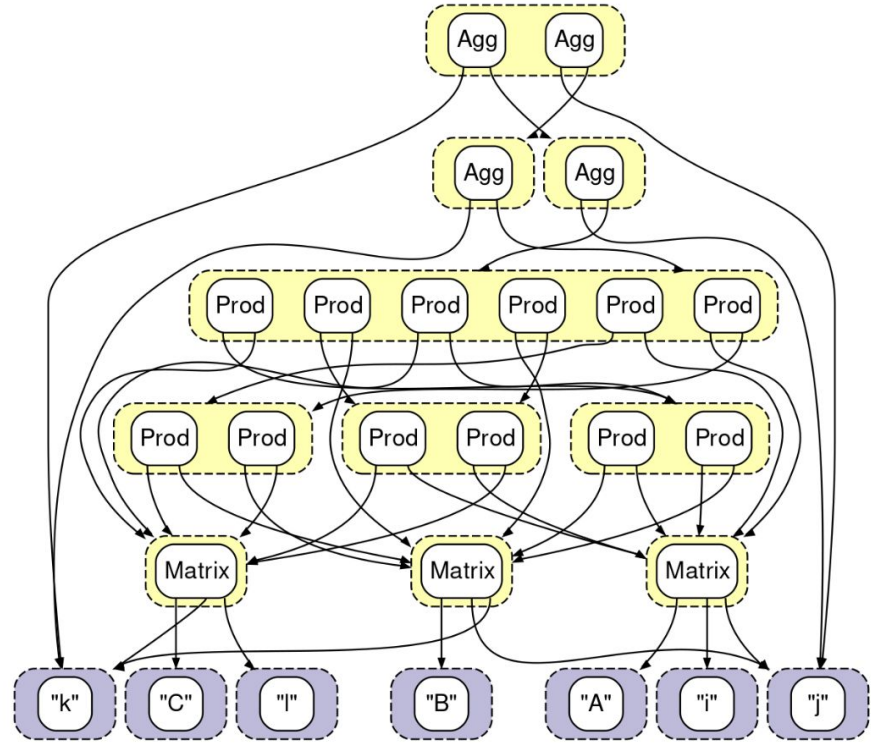
```
;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
```



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))

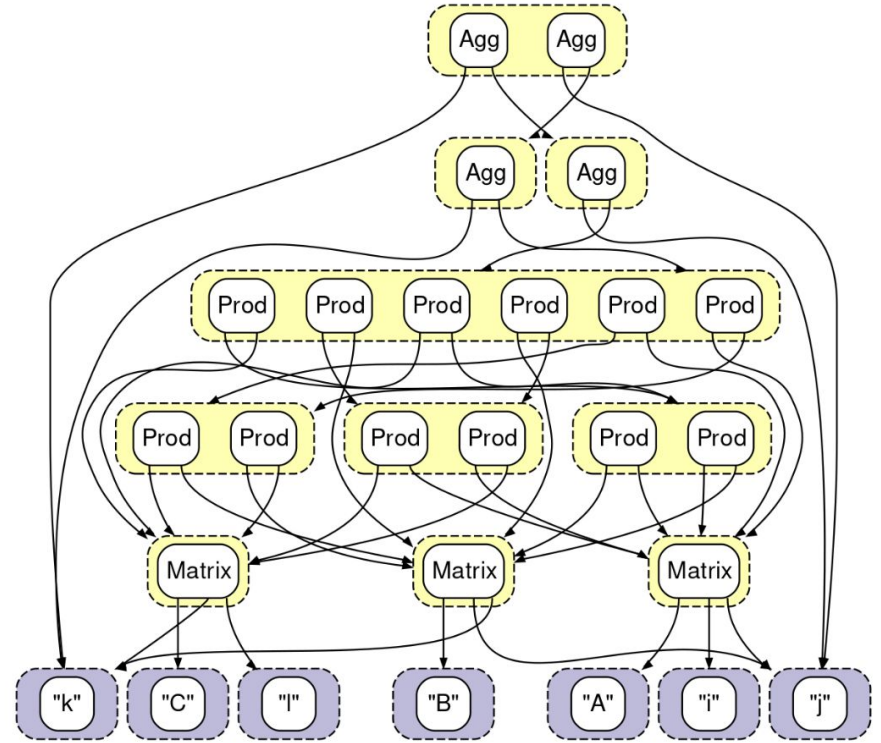
```



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y)
        :when (( $\notin$  v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y))
        :when (( $\notin$  v (vars-of x))))

```

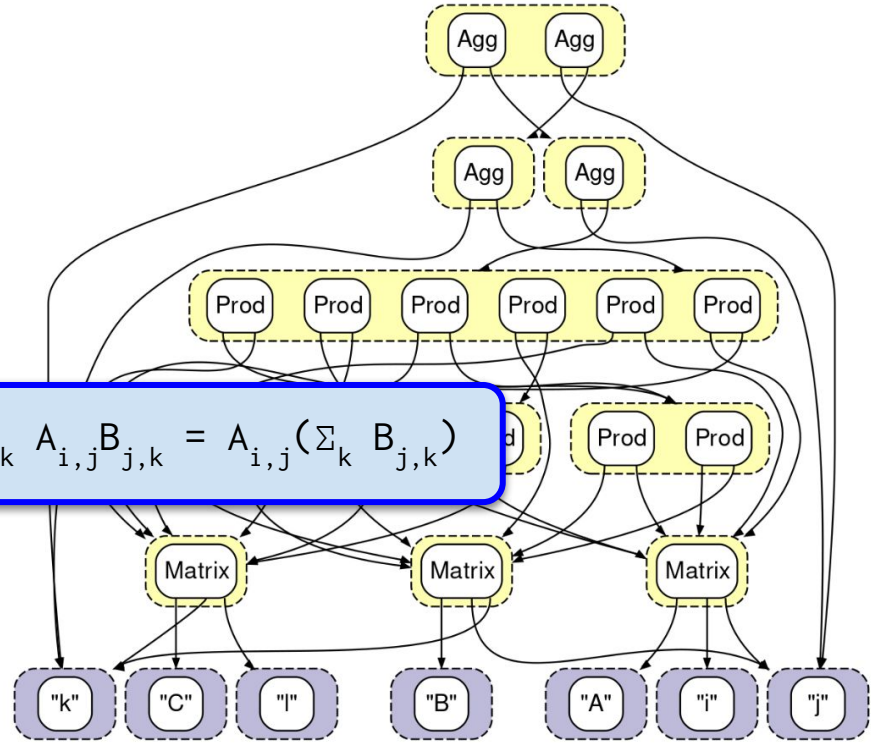



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
         (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
         (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
         (Prod (Agg v x) y)
         :when ((⊄ v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
         (Prod x (Agg v y))
         :when ((⊄ v (vars-of x))))

```

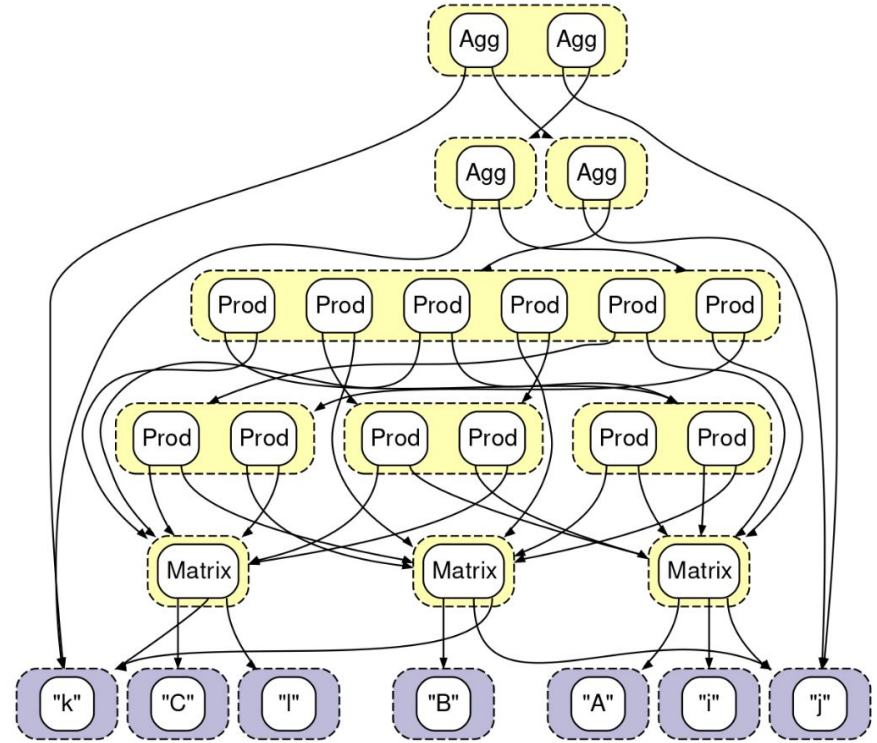
Example: $\sum_k A_{i,j} B_{j,k} = A_{i,j} (\sum_k B_{j,k})$



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y)
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y))
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of x))))

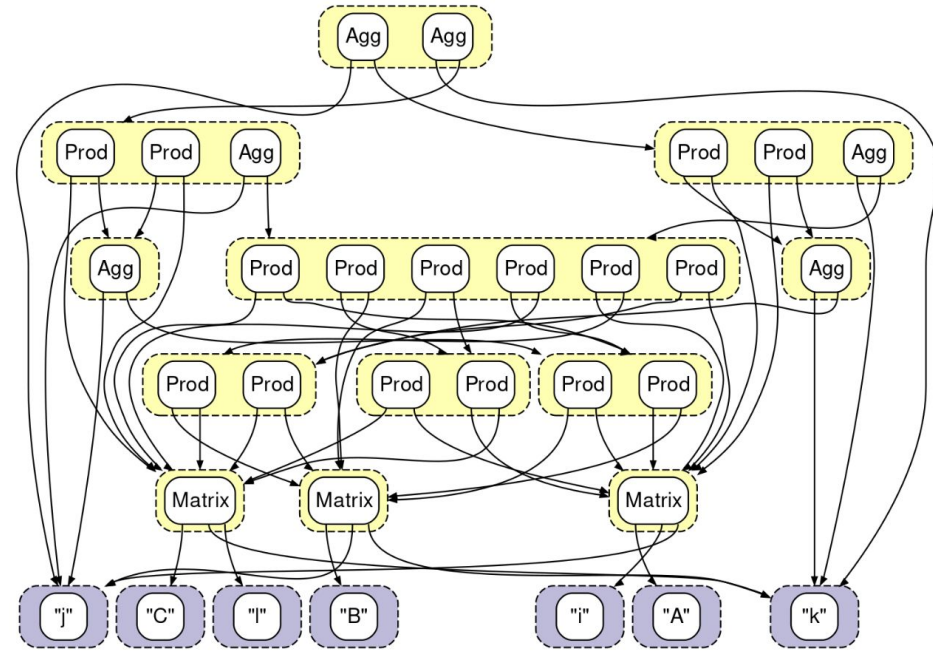
```



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y)
        :when (( $\notin$  v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y))
        :when (( $\notin$  v (vars-of x))))

```



```

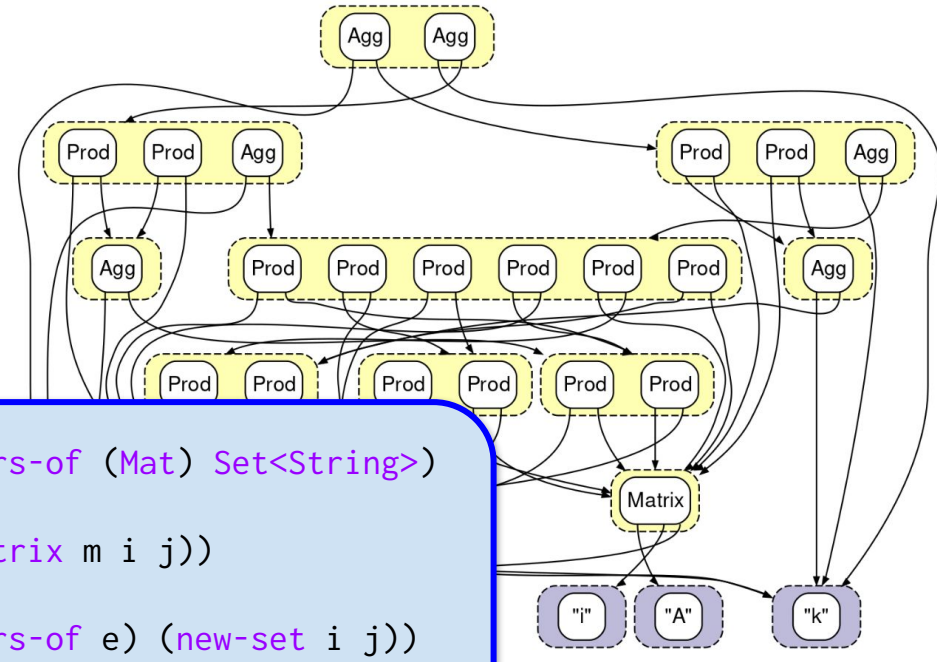
;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y))
:when (( $\exists$  v (vars-of y)))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y)))
:when (( $\exists$  v (vars-of x)))

```

```

(function vars-of (Mat) Set<String>)
(rule (
  (= e (Matrix m i j))
) (
  (set (vars-of e) (new-set i j))
))

```

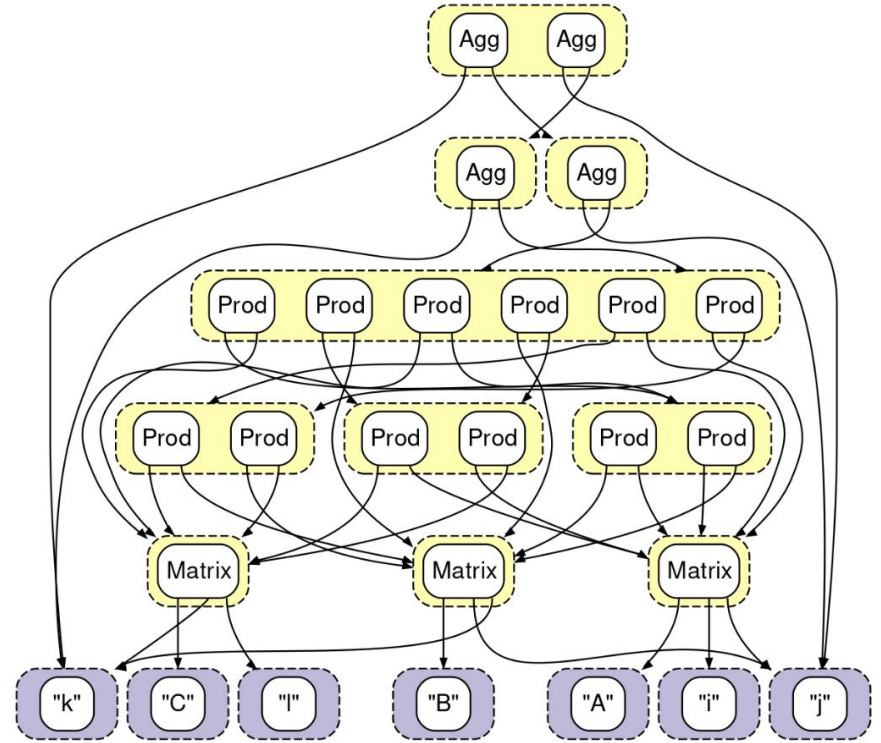


```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y)
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y))
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of x))))

```

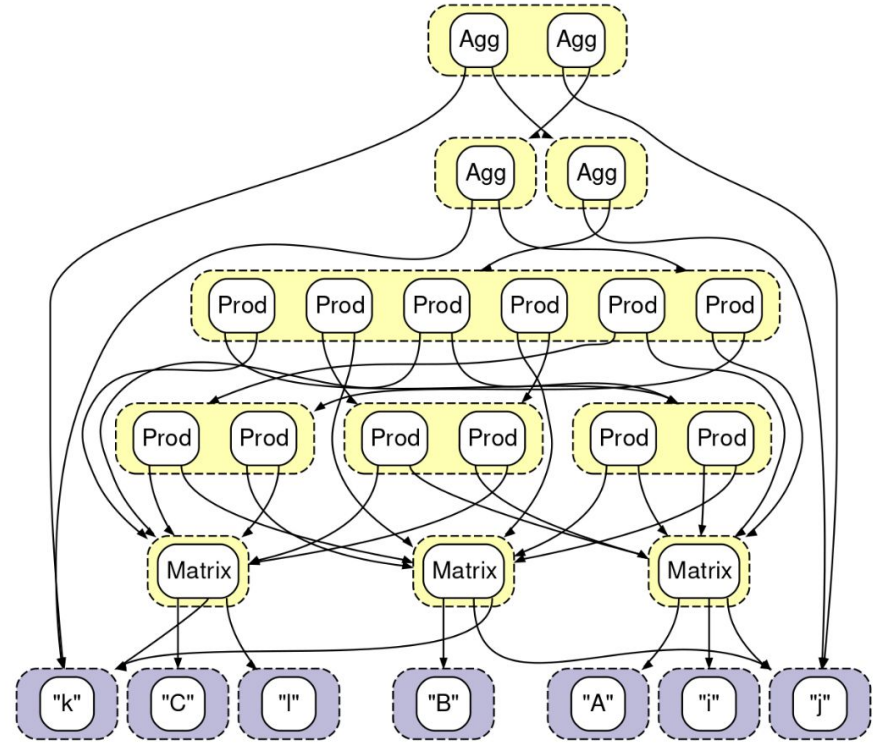
Rule-based Opt. ✓



```

;; commutativity
(rewrite (Prod x y) (Prod y x))
;; associativity
(rewrite (Prod (Prod x y) z)
        (Prod x (Prod y z)))
;; commuting aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v1 (Agg v2 e))
        (Agg v2 (Agg v1 e)))
Cost-based Opt. ?
;; pushing down aggregation
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod (Agg v x) y)
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of y))))
(rewrite (Agg v (Prod x y))
        (Prod x (Agg v y))
        :when ((∈ v (vars-of x))))

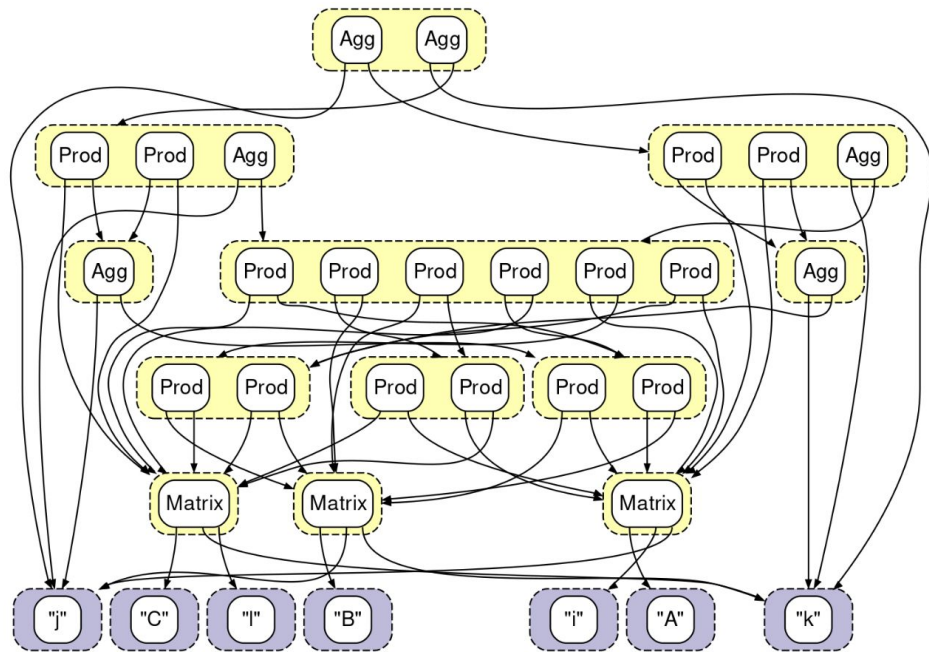
```



```
;; user provided dimension information  
(function dim-of (String) i64)
```

```
;; estimate the size of a matrix expr  
(function size-of (Mat) i64)
```

```
(rule (  
  (= (vars-of e) vs)  
) (  
  (set (size-of e)  
        ( $\prod$  (map dim-of vs))))  
))
```



```
;; user provided dimension information
(function dim-of (String) i64)
```

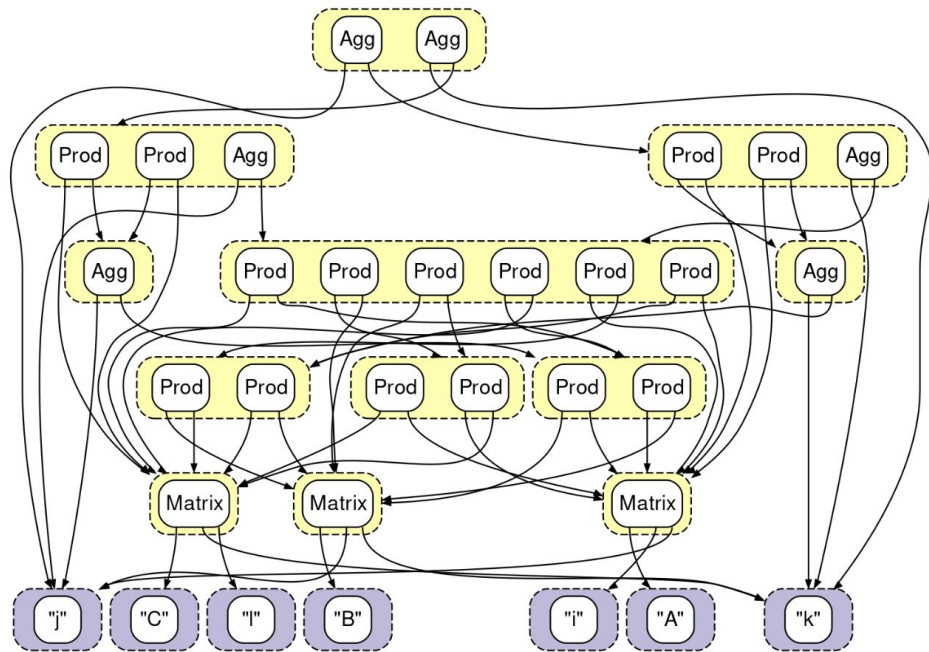
```
;; estimate the size of a matrix expr
(function size-of (Mat) i64)
```

```
(rule (
  (= (vars-of e) vs)
) (
  (set (size-of e)
    ( $\prod$  (map dim-of vs)))
))
```

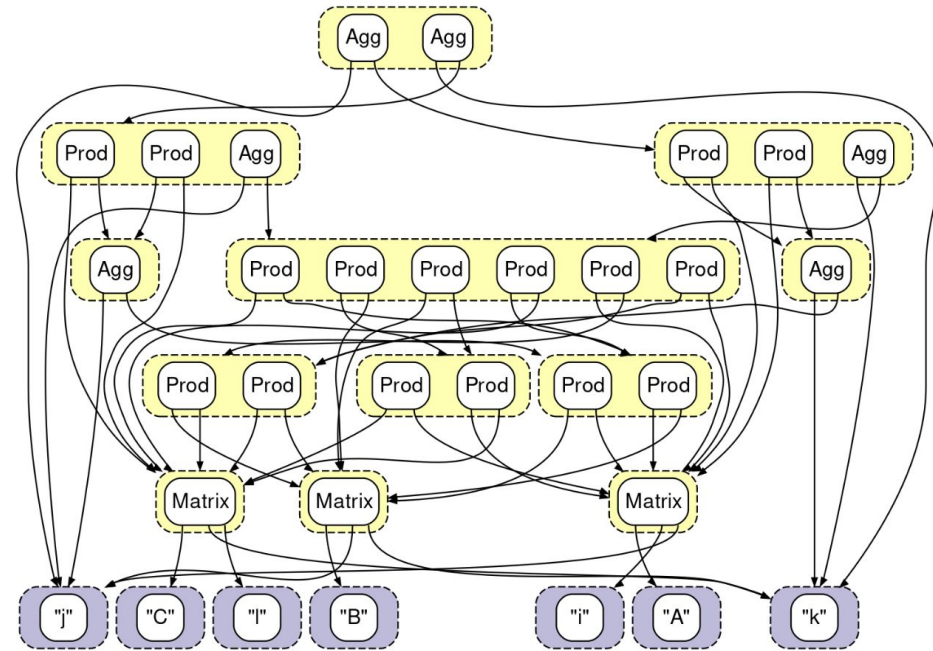
```
;; set the cost of an expr as its size
```

```
(rule (
  (= (size-of (Prod e1 e2)) k)
) (
  (set-cost (Prod e1 e2) k)
))
```

...



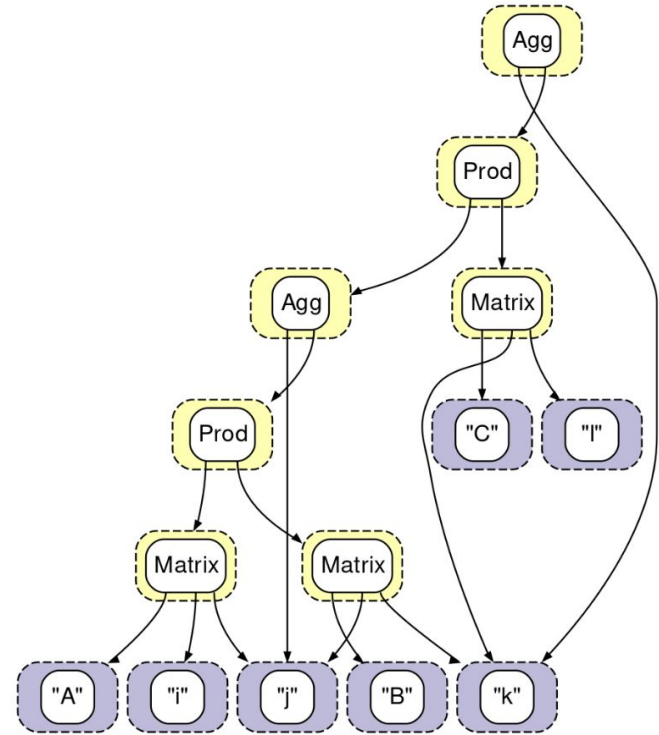

```
(set (dim-of "i") 256)
(set (dim-of "j") 64)
(set (dim-of "k") 16)
(set (dim-of "l") 256)
```



```
(set (dim-of "i") 256)
(set (dim-of "j") 64)
(set (dim-of "k") 16)
(set (dim-of "l") 256)
```

```
(extract ABC)
```

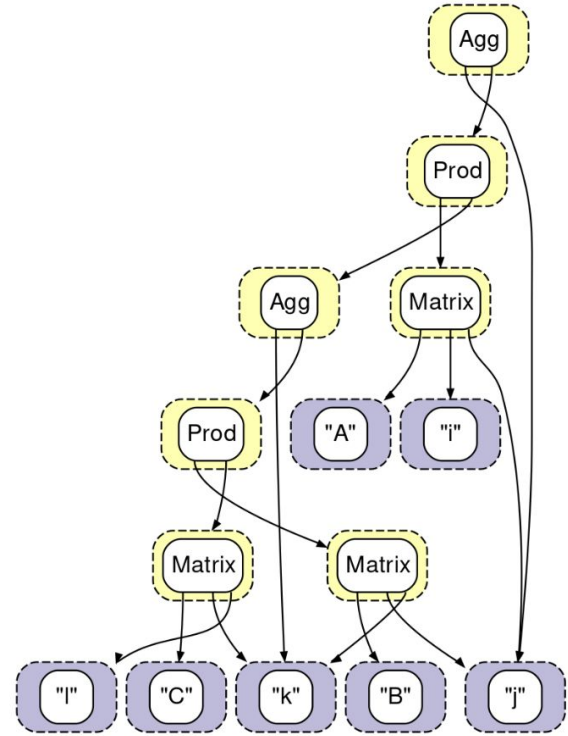
```
extracted with cost 1401867:
(Agg "k" (Prod
  (Agg "j" (Prod
    (Matrix "A" "i" "j")
    (Matrix "B" "j" "k")))
  (Matrix "C" "k" "l")))
```



```
(set (dim-of "i") 256)
(set (dim-of "j") 64)
(set (dim-of "k") 128)
(set (dim-of "l") 256)
```

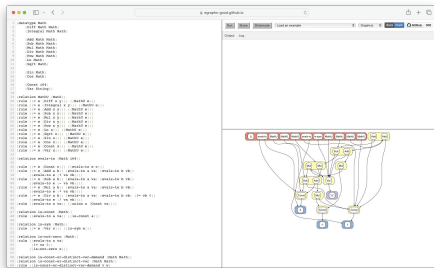
```
(extract ABC)
```

```
extracted with cost 6430731:
(Agg "j" (Prod
  (Matrix "A" "i" "j")
  (Agg "k" (Prod
    (Matrix "B" "j" "k")
    (Matrix "C" "k" "l"))))))
```

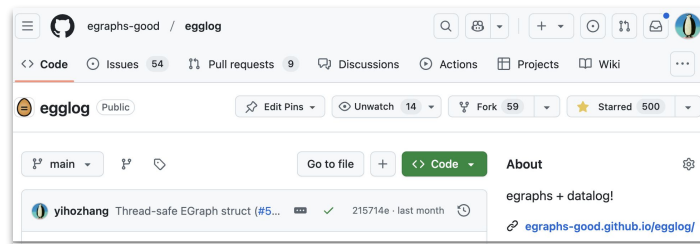


This talk

- EqSat: a promising approach to search-based program optimization
- EqSat \subseteq the Chase
- Cascades/Volcano \subseteq Equality Saturation
- EqSat unifies rule- and cost-based program optimization.



egraphs-good.github.io/egglog



github.com/egraphs-good/egglog