

To Iterate is Human, To Recurse is Divine

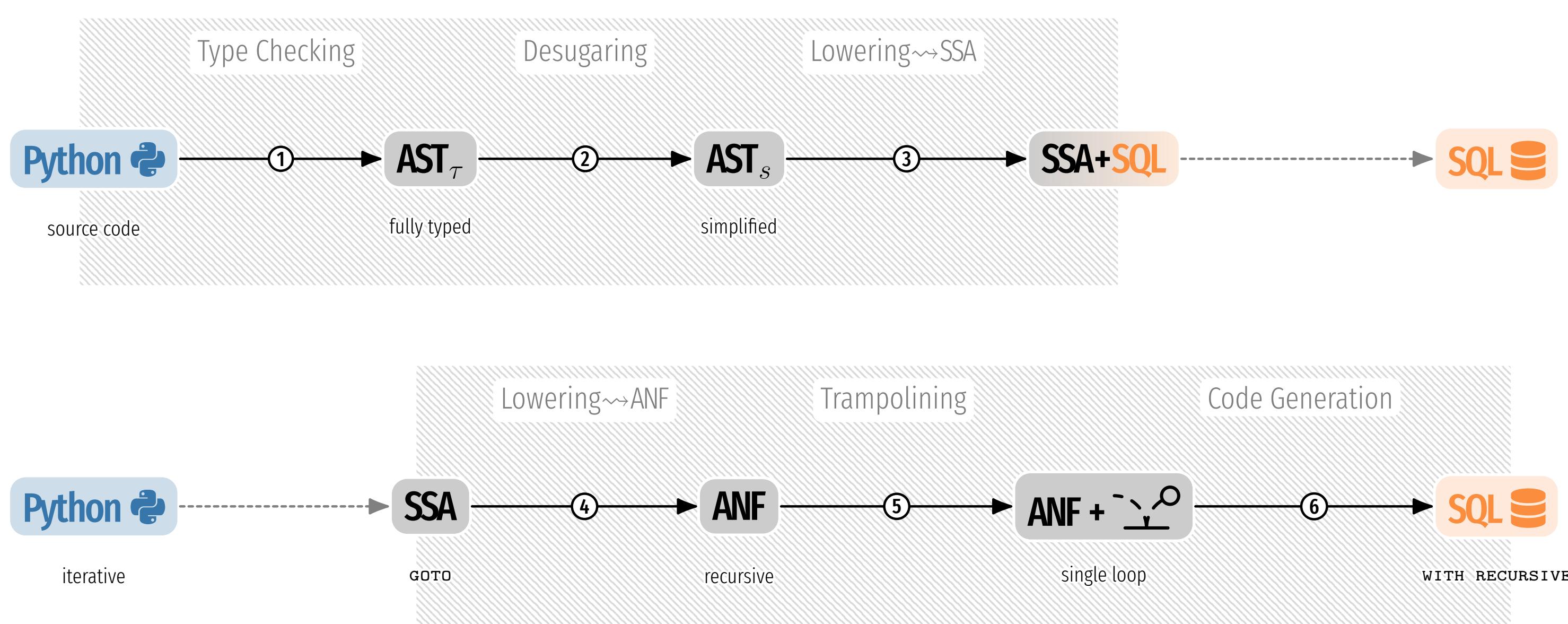
Tim Fischer

✉ tim.fischer@uni-tuebingen.de

(Newly) Supported Python Features

- conditional statements as well as expressions (`if, elif, else`)
- conditional-, range-, and list-loops (`while, for`)
- flow control statements (`break, continue, return`)
- a large range of builtin operators (+, `in, is None, ...`) and functions (`len, min, max, ...`)
- arbitrarily nested (augmented-)assignments (`i[1].a += {"key": True}`)
- embedded read-only queries (`SQL("..."), SQL("$1...", [1])`)
- composite types via dataclasses, attributes access (`thing.attr`)
- lists, indexed access and slicing (`i[1:4]`), stateful list methods (`i.pop()`)
- dictionaries, key access (`d["key"]`), stateful dictionary methods (`d.update({...})`)
- delete statements (`del d["key"], del i[4:2]`)
- implicit “truthiness” (`... if [] else ...`)

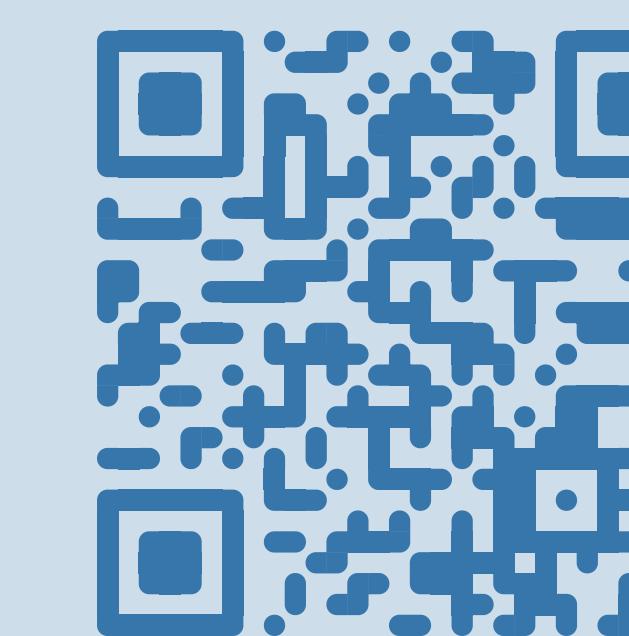
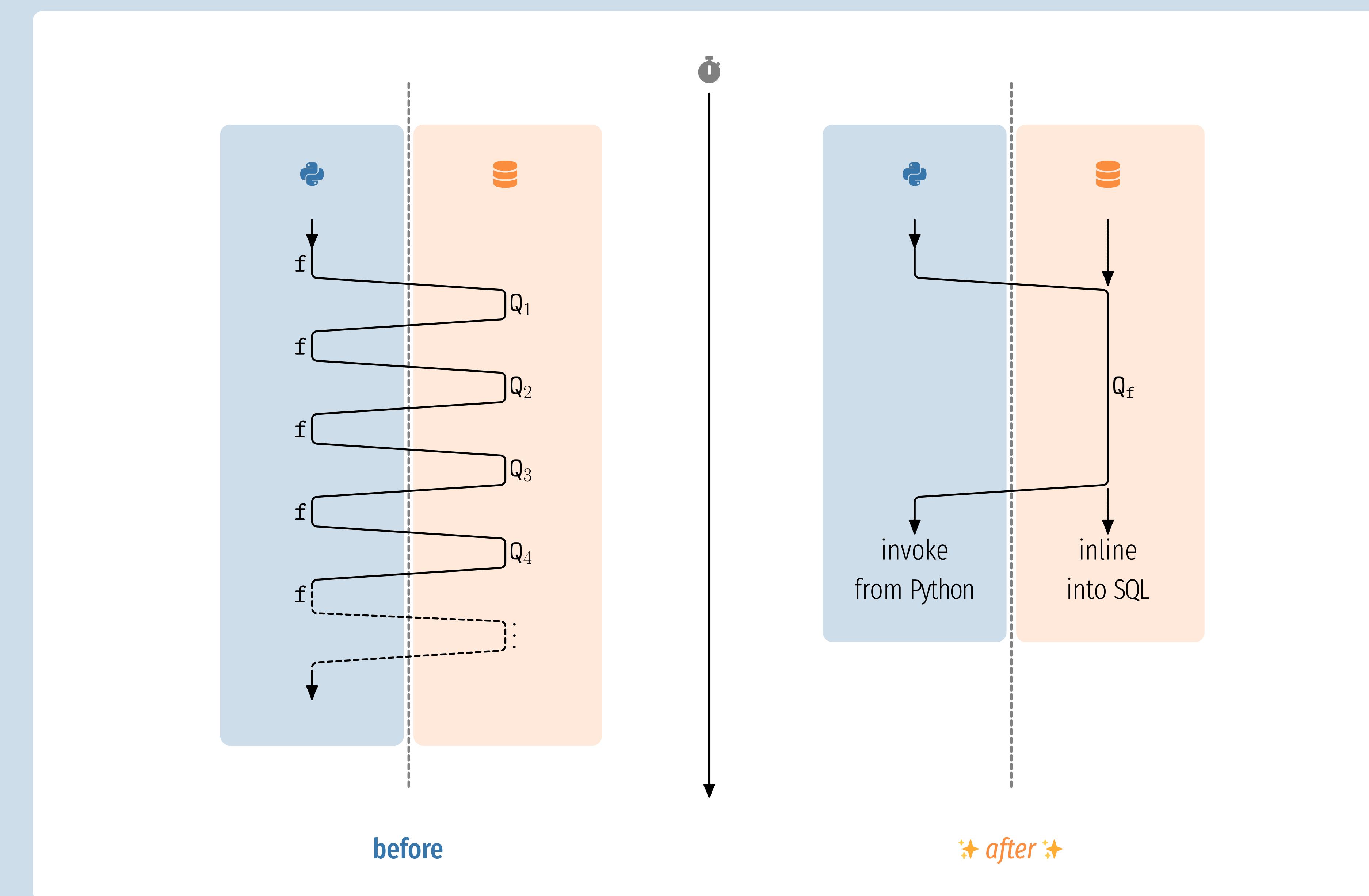
Compiler Stages



A Collection of Compiled Python UDFs

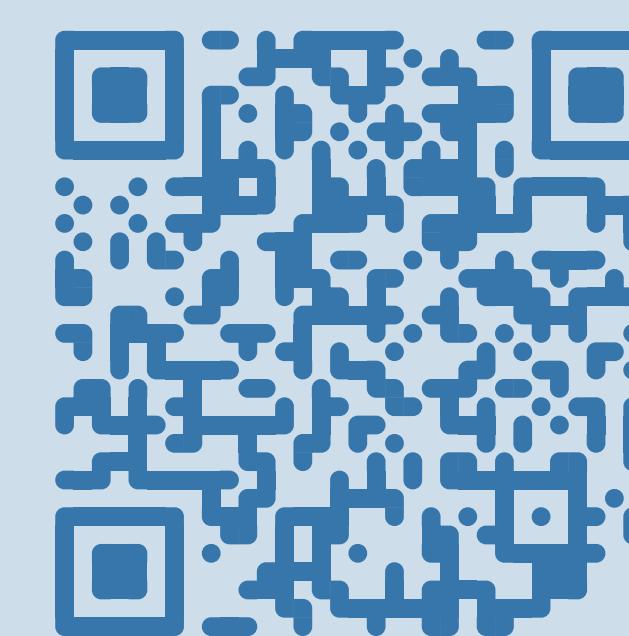
Function	CC	Loops	#loops per call	Runtime (Speedup)
march track border of 2D object (Marching Squares)	5	Q	2000	13% (7.6×)
savings optimize supply chain of a TPC-H order	4	QQ QQQQ	18	5% (19.5×)
packing pack TPC-H lineitems tightly into containers	9	QQ Q	45	16% (6.3×)
force n-body simulation (Barnes-Hut quad tree)	5	Q Q	126	27% (3.9×)
margin buy/sell TPC-H orders to maximize margin	5	Q QQ	61	24% (4.2×)
markov Markov-chain based robot control	5	QQQ	3000	39% (2.6×)
vm-collatz calculate the collatz conjecture on a simple VM	17	Q	67	30% (3.3×)
vm-padovan calculate the padovan sequence on a simple VM	17	Q	7100	12% (8.5×)

Compile an iterative Python function into a single recursive SQL query.



Try the demo

<https://apfel-db.cs.uni-tuebingen.de>



Download the full paper

<https://db.cs.uni-tuebingen.de/publications/2023/btw/>