

Take Everything From Me, But Leave Me the Comprehension

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ABSTRACT

For more than twenty years now I am roaming the frontier between the database query and programming language fields. During all that time, one trusty companion has never let me down: the comprehension. Its elegant, concise syntactic form and flexible semantics render it one of the most versatile tools in query and collection processing, analysis, transformation, and optimization. I will highlight a variety of places where the DBPL community has depended on comprehensions – and will also point out how existing work might have turned out differently if it would have embraced comprehensions. Comprehensions glue DB and PL together. Give them a proper hug the next time you encounter them.

CCS CONCEPTS

• **Information systems** → *Query languages; Query optimization*; • **Software and its engineering** → *Functional languages; Syntax; Semantics*;

KEYWORDS

Comprehensions, Monads

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