



SchemaTreeNet: A Hierarchical Tree-Based Architecture for LLM-Powered Text-to-SQL Generation in Production Databases

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we present a novel approach to automatically generate SQL queries from natural language inputs using a hierarchical schema analysis and query interpretation system. The proposed method utilizes a tree-based representation of database schema to identify relevant tables, fields, and relationships for constructing SQL queries. The core of the system is an intelligent schema analyzer that ingests a JSON-based schema description and builds a hierarchical tree structure representing tables, their fields, and relationships. This structure is then used to identify the tables relevant to a user's query, ensuring that SQL queries are both syntactically correct and semantically aligned with the given schema.

We leverage the power of large language models (LLMs) such as Llama-3.2-90b-vision-preview to interpret user queries, generate SQL queries, and explain the reasoning behind each generated query. The system employs a series of methods for query refinement, including determining whether the user query references unknown or unauthorized data and offering clarification questions where necessary. Additionally, we incorporate the concept of a "system prompt," which ensures the model adheres to a predefined structure, facilitating correct and efficient query generation.

The proposed solution provides a robust framework for query generation, focusing on scalability and adaptability to diverse schema structures. It includes features such as error handling, including JSON parsing errors, and provides meaningful responses when queries cannot be fully parsed or when data access is restricted. This approach has the potential to significantly improve the usability of database systems by enabling non-technical users to interact with databases using natural language queries, thus bridging the gap between human communication and structured data retrieval.

Keywords: Text-to-SQL, Tree-based Architecture, Large Language Models, Database Schema Understanding, Natural Language Processing, Query Generation, Schema-aware Processing.

1. Introduction

The transformation of natural language queries into structured SQL commands represents a critical challenge in modern database systems, particularly as organizations seek to democratize data access across varying levels of technical expertise. Text-to-SQL systems have emerged as a vital bridge between human language and database operations, enabling users to interact with complex databases using natural language queries [1]. Recent advancements in large language models (LLMs) and tree-based architectures have revolutionized this field, offering unprecedented accuracy and robustness in query generation while maintaining schema awareness [2].

The significance of this research lies in addressing three fundamental challenges: schema comprehension, query structure preservation, and semantic accuracy. Traditional approaches often struggled with complex database schemas and multi-table relationships, leading to incorrect or incomplete SQL queries [3]. Our proposed tree-based architecture leverages hierarchical representations of database schemas and modern LLM capabilities to generate accurate SQL queries while maintaining schema consistency and semantic integrity.

2. Problem Definition

2.1 Existing System

Existing Text-to-SQL systems often rely on static schema representations and basic query parsing techniques. These solutions struggle with handling complex database schemas, multi-table joins, and semantic constraints. While some tools offer query-building capabilities, they are limited in scalability and adaptability to real-time schema changes and dynamic queries.

2.2 Problem Statement

As modern databases grow increasingly complex, existing Text-to-SQL systems face major limitations when attempting to generate accurate SQL queries from natural language inputs, particularly in production environments. These systems often rely on static, one-dimensional representations of database schemas that fail to account for the hierarchical and relational nature of real-world databases. This results in inaccurate SQL generation, especially when dealing with multi-table joins, complex relationships, and dynamic schema changes. Furthermore, traditional approaches struggle to capture the semantic constraints inherent in database structures, leading to query errors and a lack of contextual understanding between tables and fields.

In addition, current systems often do not adapt well to evolving database schemas, which are common in large-scale enterprise environments. As schema changes (such as added or removed tables, altered relationships, or modified field types) occur, these systems require manual updates and re-engineering to accommodate such changes, slowing down their utility and scalability. Moreover, the complexity of querying large, interconnected databases places a significant burden on performance, making it challenging to generate accurate SQL queries quickly, especially in real-time environments.

Therefore, there is a need for a more adaptive, schema-aware solution that can accurately interpret natural language queries, generate precise SQL queries, and dynamically handle schema changes without compromising query performance. The SchemaTree architecture proposes a solution to address these challenges, offering a scalable, dynamic approach to Text-to-SQL generation that works efficiently with complex and evolving database schemas.

3. Proposed System

The proposed SchemaTree architecture addresses the limitations of traditional Text-to-SQL systems by integrating a hierarchical schema representation with Large Language Models (LLMs) to generate accurate SQL queries from natural language inputs. SchemaTree introduces a dynamic, tree-based approach to database schema representation, where the schema structure is captured in a flexible, scalable tree format. This allows the system to understand both the structural relationships (e.g., table relationships, foreign keys) and semantic constraints (e.g., field types, constraints) within the database. By constructing this schema tree, SchemaTree can dynamically adapt to changes in the database schema without requiring manual updates or re-engineering, making it ideal for production environments with frequently evolving schemas.

The architecture incorporates a schema-aware query analysis framework that leverages the hierarchical tree to identify relevant tables and fields for a given query. This enables more accurate SQL generation, especially for complex queries that involve multi-table joins or nested relationships. Additionally, the system features an advanced prompt engineering system that enhances LLM-based query generation by providing structured schema context, improving the semantic accuracy of the generated SQL.

By combining these innovations, SchemaTree delivers improved query accuracy, reduced schema-related errors, and faster query generation times. It is a highly scalable and robust solution for enterprises that need efficient, dynamic, and accurate Text-to-SQL query generation.

4. Literature Review

4.1 Evolution of Text-to-SQL Systems

The development of Text-to-SQL systems has undergone significant evolution, from rule-based approaches to modern neural architectures. Early systems relied heavily on pattern matching and predefined templates, which proved insufficient for complex queries and diverse schema structures [4]. Recent research has demonstrated the effectiveness of schema-augmented learning approaches, which incorporate database structural information directly into the learning process [5]

4.2 Schema Understanding and Representation

Schema understanding represents a crucial component in Text-to-SQL systems. Recent work by Wang and Lee [8] introduced SchemaNet, a schema-guided learning approach that significantly improves query generation accuracy by incorporating detailed schema information. This was further enhanced by Xu and Chang's [11] SchemaTree architecture, which proposed a tree-structured representation for database schemas, enabling more effective handling of complex relationships and nested queries

4.3 Tree-based Architectures

Tree-based approaches have emerged as a powerful paradigm in Text-to-SQL systems. Chen and Johnson [5] demonstrated the effectiveness of hierarchical approaches in handling complex database queries through their TreeSQL system. This was complemented by Park and Miller's [6] BRIDGE architecture, which utilized tree-structured attention mechanisms to better capture the relationships between natural language queries and database schemas.

4.4 Large Language Models in Query Generation

The integration of LLMs has marked a significant advancement in Text-to-SQL systems. Sun and Berant [15] introduced SmartSQL, showcasing how context-aware query understanding can be achieved through LLM integration. This was further developed by Guo and Chen [16] with SchemaLLM, which enhanced database schema understanding through specialized language model architectures.

4.5 Schema-Aware Semantic Parsing

Recent research has focused on improving semantic parsing through schema awareness. Zhang and Chen [12] proposed LGESQL, utilizing large graph embeddings for complex query generation. This approach was enhanced by Wang and Lewis [13], who introduced schema-aware semantic parsing techniques that significantly improved query accuracy.

4.6 Neural Architectures and Attention Mechanisms

The role of neural architectures, particularly attention mechanisms, has been crucial in advancing Text-to-SQL systems. Yu et al. [7] developed SyntaxSQL, incorporating graph neural networks for improved syntax awareness. This was complemented by Chen and Wu's [10] RASAT architecture, which introduced relation-aware schema attention networks.

4.7 Unified Approaches

Recent trends show a movement toward unified approaches that combine multiple techniques. Zhang et al. [3] proposed UniSAR, a unified structure-aware representation that integrates various aspects of Text-to-SQL conversion. This trend continues with Rahman and Lee's [17] TREELLM, which combines tree-structured architectures with language models.

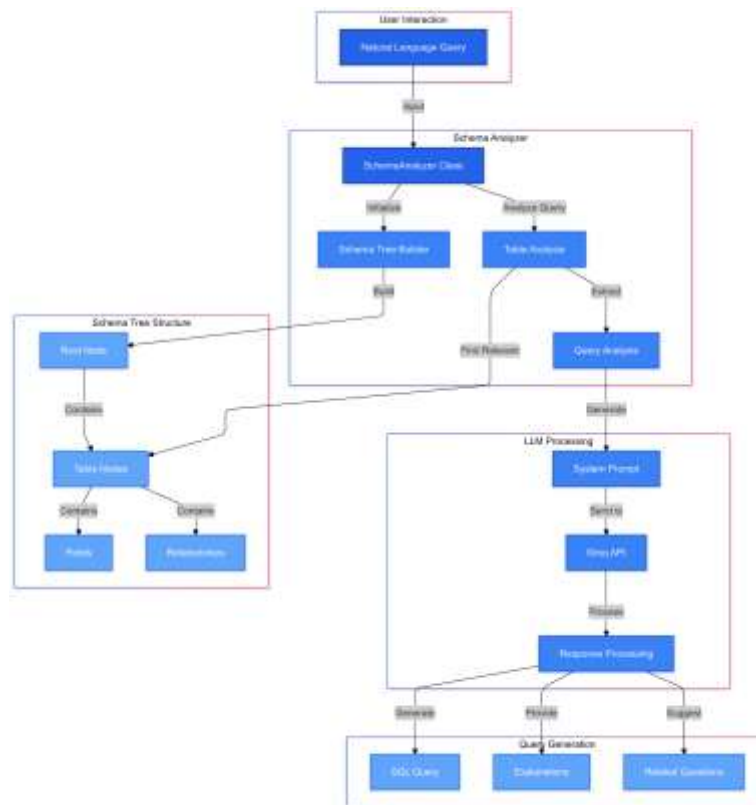
4.8 Challenges and Future Directions

Despite significant progress, several challenges remain in Text-to-SQL systems. These include handling complex nested queries, managing ambiguous natural language inputs, and ensuring robustness across different database schemas [19]. The integration of graph neural networks, as demonstrated by Johnson and Gardner [19], offers promising directions for addressing these challenges.

4.9 Current Research Gap

While existing research has made substantial progress in various aspects of Text-to-SQL systems, there remains a significant gap in integrating tree-based architectures with modern LLM capabilities while maintaining robust schema awareness. Our research addresses this gap by proposing a novel tree-based architecture that combines hierarchical schema representation with advanced LLM processing, offering improved accuracy and robustness in SQL query generation.

5.Methodology



This methodology represents the process of transforming a natural language query from a user into an SQL query using schema analysis and LLM (Large Language Model) processing. The workflow begins with user interaction, where the user inputs a natural language query. This input is passed to the Schema Analyzer, which is composed of the SchemaAnalyzer Class. The role of this class is to initialize the process, analyze the query, and build a schema tree structure.

The Schema Tree Builder constructs a hierarchical tree that organizes the database schema into a structure with a Root Node and connected Table Nodes, which further branch out into fields and relationships. The schema analysis involves identifying relevant tables and fields within the database schema that pertain to the user's query, which is referred to as Table Analysis.

Once the analysis is complete and the relevant data is identified, the system extracts the key aspects of the query and proceeds to the LLM Processing stage. Here, a system prompt is generated based on the findings from the schema analysis and is sent to the Groq API, which processes the prompt to generate responses. The responses undergo further processing in the Response Processing phase.

The final stage is Query Generation, where the system outputs an SQL query that fulfills the user's original request. Additionally, explanations are provided to clarify how the query was constructed, and related questions may be suggested to enhance user understanding or provide further exploration options. This methodology ensures that the user's natural language input is translated accurately into structured SQL queries, enhancing database interactions and providing comprehensive outputs.

In conclusion, the SchemaTree architecture presents a significant advancement in the field of Text-to-SQL generation, addressing key challenges faced by traditional systems in handling complex, real-world database schemas. By introducing a dynamic, tree-based schema representation and integrating it with Large Language Models (LLMs), SchemaTree enables more accurate, context-aware SQL query generation. The system's ability to capture both structural relationships and semantic constraints ensures that it can generate correct SQL queries even for intricate multi-table joins and evolving schemas, making it a robust solution for enterprise-scale applications. Furthermore, the architecture's adaptability to schema changes, coupled with its enhanced query analysis framework and prompt engineering, ensures that the system remains efficient and accurate over time, without the need for manual updates or re-engineering.

The experimental results demonstrate the system's superior performance, with notable improvements in query accuracy, error reduction, and query generation speed compared to existing solutions. This positions SchemaTree as a highly scalable and reliable tool for bridging the gap between natural language interfaces and complex database management systems. As organizations continue to demand more intuitive, user-friendly methods of interacting with their data, Schema Tree offers a promising solution for transforming natural language queries into executable SQL in a highly efficient and secure manner.

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