SQL: Data Manipulation Language

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Introduction

- So far, we have defined database schemas and queries mathematically.
- SQL is a formal language for doing so with a DBMS.
- "Structured Query Language", but it's for more than writing queries.
- Two sub-parts:
 - DDL (Data Definition Language), for defining schemas.
 - DML (Data Manipulation Language), for writing queries and modifying the database.



PostgreSQL

- We'll be working in PostgreSQL, an open-source relational DBMS.
- Learn your way around the documentation; it will be very helpful.
- Standards?
 - There are several, the most recent being SQL:2008.
 - The standards are not freely available. Must purchase from the International Standards Organization (ISO).
 - PostgreSQL supports most of it SQL:2008.
 - DBMSs vary in the details around the edges, making portability difficult.



A high-level language

- SQL is a very high-level language.
 - Say "what" rather than "how."
- You write queries without manipulating data.
 Contrast languages like Java or C++.
- Provides physical "data independence:"
 - Details of how the data is stored can change with no impact on your queries.
- You can focus on readability.
 - But because the DMBS optimizes your query, you get efficiency.



Heads up: SELECT vs O

- In SQL,
 - "SELECT" is for choosing columns, i.e., Π .
 - Example:

```
SELECT surName
FROM Student
WHERE campus = 'StG';
```

- In relational algebra,
 - "select" means choosing rows, i.e., σ.



Basic queries

[Slides 8-16 are essentially covered by Prep4]



Meaning of a query with one relation

```
SELECT name
FROM Course
WHERE dept = 'CSC';
```

$$\pi_{\text{name}} \left(\sigma_{\text{dept="csc"}} \left(\text{Course} \right) \right)$$



... and with multiple relations

```
SELECT name
FROM Offering, Took
WHERE Offering.id = Took.oid and
dept = 'CSC';
```

$$\pi_{\text{name}} (\sigma_{\text{Offering.id=Took.id}} \land_{\text{dept='csc'}} (\sigma_{\text{offering}} \times Took))$$



Temporarily renaming a table

 You can rename tables (just for the duration of the statement):

```
SELECT e.name, d.name
FROM employee e, department d
WHERE d.name = 'marketing'
AND e.name = 'Horton';
```

Can be convenient vs the longer full names:

```
SELECT employee.name, department.name
FROM employee, department
WHERE department.name = 'marketing'
AND employee.name = 'Horton';
```

• This is like ρ in relational algebra.



Self-joins

- As we know, renaming is required for self-joins.
- Example:

```
SELECT el.name, e2.name
FROM employee e1, employee e2
WHERE e1.salary < e2.salary;
```



* In SELECT clauses

- A * in the SELECT clause means "all attributes of this relation."
- Example:

```
SELECT *
FROM Course
WHERE dept = 'CSC';
```



Renaming attributes

- Use AS «new name» to rename an attribute in the result.
- Example:

```
SELECT name AS title, dept FROM Course WHERE breadth;
```



Complex Conditions in a WHERE

- We can build boolean expressions with operators that produce boolean results.
 - comparison operators: =, <>, <, >, <=, >=
 - and many other operators:
 see section 6.1.2 of the text and chapter 9 of the postgreSQL documentation.
- Note that "not equals" is unusual:
- We can combine boolean expressions with:
 - Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT.



Example: Compound condition

Find 3rd- and 4th-year CSC courses:

```
SELECT *
FROM Offering
WHERE dept = 'CSC' AND cnum >= 300;
```



ORDER BY

- To put the tuples in order, add this as the final clause:
 - ORDER BY "attribute list" [DESC]
- The default is ascending order; DESC overrides it to force descending order.
- The attribute list can include expressions: e.g., ORDER BY sales+rentals
- The ordering is the last thing done before the SELECT, so all attributes are still available.



Case-sensitivity and whitespace

Example query:

```
SELECT surName
FROM Student
WHERE campus = 'StG';
```

- Keywords, like SELECT, are not case-sensitive.
 - One convention is to use uppercase for keywords.
- Identifiers, like Student are not case-sensitive either.
 - One convention is to use lowercase for attributes, and a leading capital letter followed by lowercase for relations.
- Literal strings, like 'StG', are case-sensitive, and require single quotes.
- Whitespace (other than inside quotes) is ignored.

Expressions in SELECT clauses

- Instead of a simple attribute name, you can use an expression in a SELECT clause.
- Operands: attributes, constants
 Operators: arithmetic ops, string ops
- Examples:

```
SELECT sid, grade+10 AS adjusted FROM Took;
```

```
SELECT dept | cnum FROM course;
```



Expressions that are a constant

- Sometimes it makes sense for the whole expression to be a constant (something that doesn't involve any attributes!).
- Example:

```
SELECT dept, cNum,
'satisfies' AS breadthRequirement
FROM Course
WHERE breadth;
```



Pattern operators

- Two ways to compare a string to a pattern by:
 - *«attribute»* LIKE *«pattern»*
 - *«attribute»* NOT LIKE *«pattern»*
- Pattern is a quoted string
 - % means: any string
 - _ means: any single character
- Example:

```
SELECT *
FROM Course
WHERE name LIKE '%Comp%';
```



Aggregation

Computing on a column

- We often want to compute something across the values in a column.
- SUM, AVG, COUNT, MIN, and MAX can be applied to a column in a SELECT clause.
- Also, COUNT(*) counts the number of tuples.
- We call this aggregation.
- Note: To stop duplicates from contributing to the aggregation, use DISTINCT inside the brackets. (Does not affect MIN or MAX.)
- Example: aggregation.txt

Grouping

- Example: group-by.txt
- If we follow a SELECT-FROM-WHERE expression with GROUP BY <attributes>
 - The tuples are grouped according to the values of those attributes, and
 - any aggregation gives us a single value per group.



Restrictions on aggregation

- If any aggregation is used, then each element of the SELECT list must be either:
 - aggregated, or
 - an attribute on the GROUP BY list.
- Otherwise, it doesn't even make sense to include the attribute.



HAVING Clauses

- Example: having.txt
- WHERE let's you decide which tuples to keep.
- Similarly, you can decide which groups to keep.
- Syntax:

```
GROUP BY «attributes»
HAVING «condition»
```

Semantics:
 Only groups satisfying the condition are kept.



Restrictions on HAVING clauses

- Outside subqueries, HAVING may refer to attributes only if they are either:
 - aggregated, or
 - an attribute on the GROUP BY list.
- (Same requirement as for SELECT clauses with aggregation)



Set operations

Tables can have duplicates in SQL

- A table can have duplicate tuples, unless this would violate an integrity constraint.
- And SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements leave duplicates in unless you say not to.
- Why?
 - Getting rid of duplicates is expensive!
 - We may want the duplicates because they tell us how many times something occurred.



Bags

- SQL treats tables as "bags" (or "multisets") rather than sets.
- Bags are just like sets, but duplicates are allowed.
- {6, 2, 7, 1, 9} is a set (and a bag)
 {6, 2, 2, 7, 1, 9} is not a set, but is a bag.
- Like with sets, order doesn't matter.
 {6, 2, 7, 1, 9} = {1, 2, 6, 7, 9}
- Example: Tables with duplicates



Union, Intersection, and Difference

These are expressed as:

```
(«subquery») UNION («subquery»)
(«subquery») INTERSECT («subquery»)
(«subquery») EXCEPT («subquery»)
```

- The brackets are mandatory.
- The operands must be queries; you can't simply use a relation name.



Example

```
(SELECT sid
FROM Took
WHERE grade > 95)
UNION
(SELECT sid
FROM Took
WHERE grade < 50);
```



Operations U, N, and – with Bags

- For U, ∩, and the number of occurrences of a tuple in the result requires some thought.
- (But it makes total sense.)



Operations U, N, and – with Bags

- Suppose tuple t occurs
 - m times in relation R, and
 - n times in relation S.

Operation	Number of occurrences of t in result
R∩S	min(m, n)
RUS	m + n
R - S	max(m-n, 0)

Bag vs Set Semantics: which is used

- We saw that a SELECT-FROM-WHERE statement uses bag semantics by default.
 - Duplicates are kept in the result.
- The set operations use set semantics by default.
 - Duplicates are eliminated from the result.



Motivation: Efficiency

- When doing projection, it is easier not to eliminate duplicates.
 - Just work one tuple at a time.
- For intersection or difference, it is most efficient to sort the relations first.
 - At that point you may as well eliminate the duplicates anyway.



Controlling Duplicate Elimination

- We can force the result of a SFW query to be a set by using SELECT DISTINCT ...
- We can force the result of a set operation to be a bag by using ALL, e.g.,

```
(SELECT sid
FROM Took
WHERE grade > 95)
UNION ALL
(SELECT sid
FROM Took
WHERE grade < 50);
```

Examples: controlling-dups.txt, except-all.txt

Views

The idea

- A view is a relation defined in terms of stored tables (called base tables) and other views.
- Access a view like any base table.
- Two kinds of view:
 - Virtual: no tuples are stored; view is just a query for constructing the relation when needed.
 - Materialized: actually constructed and stored.
 Expensive to maintain!
- We'll use only virtual views.
 - PostgreSQL did not support materialized views until version 9.3 (which we are not running).

Example: defining a virtual view

 A view for students who earned an 80 or higher in a CSC course.

```
CREATE VIEW topresults AS
SELECT firstname, surname, cnum
FROM Student, Took, Offering
WHERE
    Student.sid = Took.sid AND
    Took.oid = Offering.oid AND
    grade >= 80 AND dept = 'CSC';
```



Uses for views

- Break down a large query.
- Provide another way of looking at the same data, e.g., for one category of user.



Outer Joins

The joins you know from RA

These can go in a FROM clause:

Expression	Meaning
R, S	R×S
R cross join S	1
R natural join S	R ⋈ S
R join S on Condition	$R \bowtie_{condition} S$



In practise, natural join is brittle

- A working query can be broken by adding a column to a schema.
 - Example:

```
SELECT sID, instructor
FROM Student NATURAL JOIN Took
NATURAL JOIN Offering;
```

- What if we add a column called campus to Offering?
- Also, having implicit comparisons impairs readability.
- Best practise: Don't use natural join.

Students(<u>sID</u>, surName, campus)
Courses(<u>cID</u>, cName, WR)
Offerings(<u>oID</u>, cID, term, instructor, <u>campus</u>)
Took(<u>sID</u>, <u>oID</u>, grade)

SELECT sID, instructor
FROM Student NATURAL JOIN Took
NATURAL JOIN Offering;



Dangling tuples

- With joins that require some attributes to match, tuples lacking a match are left out of the results.
- We say that they are "dangling".
- An outer join preserves dangling tuples by padding them with NULL in the other relation.
- A join that doesn't pad with NULL is called an inner join.



Three kinds of outer join

- LEFT OUTER JOIN
 - Preserves dangling tuples from the relation on the LHS by padding with nulls on the RHS.
- RIGHT OUTER JOIN
 - The reverse.
- FULL OUTER JOIN
 - Does both.

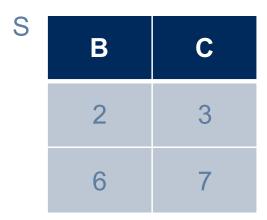


Example: joining R and S various ways

A B

1 2

4 5



R NATURAL JOIN S

Α	В	С
1	2	3



Example

A B

1 2

4 5

S B C 2 3 6 7

R NATURAL FULL JOIN S

Α	В	С
1	2	3
4	5	NULL
NULL	6	7



Example

A B

1 2

4 5

S B C 2 3 6 7

R NATURAL LEFT JOIN S

Α	В	С
1	2	3
4	5	NULL



Example

A B

1 2

4 5

S B C 2 3 6 7

R NATURAL RIGHT JOIN S

Α	В	С
1	2	3
NULL	6	7



Summary of join expressions

Cartesian product

A CROSS JOIN B

same as A, B

Theta-join

A JOIN B ON C

✓A {LEFT|RIGHT|FULL} JOIN B ON C

Natural join

A NATURAL JOIN B

✓A NATURAL {LEFT|RIGHT|FULL} JOIN B

✓ indicates that tuples are padded when needed.



Keywords INNER and OUTER

- There are keywords INNER and OUTER, but you never need to use them.
- Your intentions are clear anyway:
 - You get an outer join iff you use the keywords LEFT, RIGHT, or FULL.
 - If you don't use the keywords LEFT, RIGHT, or FULL you get an inner join.



Impact of having null values

Missing Information

- Two common scenarios:
 - Missing value.
 E.g., we know a student has some email address, but we don't know what it is.
 - Inapplicable attribute.
 E.g., the value of attribute spouse is inapplicable for an unmarried person.



Representing missing information

- One possibility: use a special value as a placeholder. E.g.,
 - If age unknown, use 0.
 - If StNum unknown, use 9999999999.
- Implications?
- Better solution: use a value not in any domain.
 We call this a null value.
- Tuples in SQL relations can have NULL as a value for one or more components.



Checking for null values

- You can compare an attribute value to NULL with
 - IS NULL
 - IS NOT NULL
- Example:

```
SELECT *
FROM Course
WHERE breadth IS NULL;
```



In SQL we have 3 truth-values

- Because of NULL, we need three truth-values:
 - If one or both operands to a comparison is NULL, the comparison *always* evaluates to UNKNOWN.
 - Otherwise, comparisons evaluate to TRUE or FALSE.



Combining truth values

- We need to know how the three truth-values combine with AND, OR and NOT.
- Can think of it in terms of the truth table.
- Or can think in terms of numbers:
 - TRUE = I, FALSE = 0, UNKNOWN = 0.5
 - AND is min, OR is max,
 - NOT x is (I-x), i.e., it "flips" the value



The three-valued truth table

Α	В	A and B	A or B
Т	Т	Т	Т
TF c	r FT	F	Т
F	F	F	F
TU c	r UT	U	Т
FU o	r UF	F	U
U	U	U	U

A	not A
Т	F
F	Т
U	U



Thinking of the truth-values as numbers

A	В	as nums	A and B	min	A or B	max
Т	Т	1, 1	Т	1	Т	1
TF	or FT	1, 0	F	0	Т	1
F	F	0, 0	F	0	F	0
TU	or UT	1, 0.5	U	0.5	Т	1
FU	or UF	0, 0.5	F	0	U	0.5
U	U	0.5, 0.5	U	0.5	U	0.5



Thinking of the truth-values as

A	as a num, x	not A	1 - x
Т	1	F	0
F	0	Т	1
U	0.5	U	0.5



Surprises from 3-valued logic

- Some laws you are used to still hold in threevalued logic. For example,
 - AND is commutative.
- But others don't. For example,
 - The law of the excluded middle breaks:
 (p or (NOT p)) might not be TRUE!
 - (0*x) might not be 0.



Impact of null values on WHERE

- A tuple is in a query result iff the WHERE clause is TRUE.
- UNKNOWN is not good enough.
- "WHERE is picky."
- Example: where-null



Impact of null values on aggregation

- Summary: Aggregation ignores NULL.
 - NULL never contributes to a sum, average, or count, and
 - Can never be the minimum or maximum of a column (unless every value is NULL).
- If there are no *non*-NULL values in a column, then the result of the aggregation is NULL.
 - Exception: COUNT of an empty set is 0.



Aggregation ignores nulls

	some nulls in A	All nulls in A	
min(A)			
max(A)		null	
sum(A)	ignore the nulls		
avg(A)			
count(A)		0	
count(*)	all tuples count		

Example: aggregation-nulls

More re the impact of null values

- Other corner cases to think about:
 - SELECT DISTINCT: are 2 NULL values equal?
 - natural join: are 2 NULL values equal?
 - set operations: are 2 NULL values equal?
- And later, when we learn about constraints:
 - UNIQUE constraint: do 2 NULL values violate?

This behaviour may vary across DBMSs.



Summary re NULL

- Any comparison with NULL yields UNKNOWN.
- WHERE is picky: it only accepts TRUE.
- Therefore NATURAL JOIN is picky too.
- Aggregation ignores NULL.
- In other situations where NULLs matter
 - when a truth-value may be NULL
 - when it matters whether two NULL are considered the same
 - Don't assume. Behaviour may vary by DBMS.



Subqueries

Where can a subquery go?

- Relational algebra syntax is so elegant that it's easy to see where subqueries can go.
- In SQL, a bit more thought is required ...



Subqueries in a FROM clause

- In place of a relation name in the FROM clause, we can use a subquery.
- The subquery must be parenthesized.
- Must name the result, so you can refer to it in the outer query.



Worksheet, QI:

```
SELECT sid, dept||cnum as course, grade
FROM Took,
   (SELECT *
    FROM Offering
   WHERE instructor='Horton') Hoffering
WHERE Took.oid = Hoffering.oid;
```

This FROM is analogous to:

```
Took × ρ<sub>Hoffering</sub> («subquery»)
```

Can you suggest another version?



Subquery as a value in a WHERE

- If a subquery is guaranteed to produce exactly one tuple, then the subquery can be used as a value.
- Simplest situation: that one tuple has only one component.



Worksheet, Q2:

```
SELECT sid, surname
FROM Student
WHERE cgpa >
    (SELECT cgpa
    FROM Student
WHERE sid = 99999);
```

We can't do the analogous thing in RA:

 Π_{sid} , surname $\sigma_{cgpa} > (\text{"subquery"})$ Student



Special cases

- What if the subquery returns NULL?
- What if the subquery could return more than one value?



Quantifying over multiple results

- When a subquery can return multiple values, we can make comparisons using a quantifier.
- Example:

```
SELECT sid, surname
FROM Student
WHERE cgpa >
    (SELECT cgpa
    FROM Student
    WHERE campus = 'StG');
```

- We can require that
 - cgpa > all of them, or
 - cgpa > at least one of them.

The Operator ANY

Syntax:

```
x «comparison» ANY («subquery»)
or equivalently
x «comparison» SOME («subquery»)
```

• Semantics:

Its value is true iff the comparison holds for at least one tuple in the subquery result, i.e.,

```
∃ y ∈ «subquery results» | x «comparison» y
```

x can be a list of attributes,
 but this feature is not supported by psql.



The Operator ALL

Syntax:

```
x «comparison» ALL («subquery»)
```

• Semantics:

Its value is true iff the comparison holds for every tuple in the subquery result, i.e.,

∀ y ∈ «subquery results» | x «comparison» y

x can be a list of attributes,
 but this feature is not supported by psql.

• Example: any-all

The Operator IN

Syntax:

```
x IN («subquery»)
```

- Semantics:
 - Its value is true iff x is in the set of rows generated by the subquery.
- x can be a list of attributes, and psql does support this feature.



Worksheet, Q3:



Worksheet, Q4:

Suppose we have tables R(a, b) and S(b, c).

I. What does this query do?

```
SELECT a
FROM R
WHERE b IN (SELECT b FROM S);
```

2. Can we express this query without using IN?



The Operator EXISTS

- Syntax: EXISTS («subquery»)
- Semantics:
 Its value is true iff the subquery has at least one tuple.

Read it as "exists a row in the subquery result"



Example: EXISTS



Worksheet, Q5:

```
SELECT instructor
FROM Offering Off1
WHERE NOT EXISTS (
   SELECT *
   FROM Offering
   WHERE
      oid <> Off1.oid AND
      instructor = Off1.instructor );
```



Worksheet, Q6:

```
SELECT DISTINCT oid
FROM Took
WHERE EXISTS (
   SELECT *
   FROM Took t, Offering o
   WHERE
      t.oid = o.oid AND
      t.oid <> Took.oid AND
      o.dept = 'CSC' AND
      took.sid = t.sid );
```



Scope

- Queries are evaluated from the inside out.
- If a name might refer to more than one thing, use the most closely nested one.
- If a subquery refers only to names defined inside it, it can be evaluated once and used repeatedly in the outer query.
- If it refers to any name defined outside of itself, it must be evaluated once for each tuple in the outer query.
 - These are called correlated subqueries.



Renaming can make scope explicit

```
SELECT instructor
FROM Offering Off1
WHERE NOT EXISTS (
   SELECT *
   FROM Offering Off2
   WHERE
      Off2.oid <> Off1.oid AND
      Off2.instructor = Off1.instructor );
```



Summary: where subqueries can go

- As a relation in a FROM clause.
- As a value in a WHERE clause.
- With ANY, ALL, IN or EXISTS in a WHERE clause.
- As operands to UNION, INTERSECT or EXCEPT.
- Reference: textbook, section 6.3.



Modifying a Database

Database Modifications

- Queries return a relation.
- A modification command does not; it changes the database in some way.
- Three kinds of modifications:
 - Insert a tuple or tuples.
 - Delete a tuple or tuples.
 - Update the value(s) of an existing tuple or tuples.



Two ways to insert

 We've already seen two ways to insert tuples into an empty table:

```
INSERT INTO «relation» VALUES «list of tuples»;
INSERT INTO «relation» («subquery»);
```

 These can also be used to add tuples to a nonempty table.



Naming attributes in INSERT

- Sometimes we want to insert tuples, but we don't have values for all attributes.
- If we name the attributes we are providing values for, the system will use NULL or a default for the rest.
- Convenient!



Example

```
CREATE TABLE Invite (
   name TEXT,
   campus TEXT DEFAULT 'StG',
   email TEXT,
   age INT);
INSERT INTO Invite(name, email)
   SELECT firstname, email
   FROM Student
   WHERE cgpa > 3.4);
```

Here, name and email get values from the query, campus gets the default value, and age gets NULL.

Deletion

Delete tuples satisfying a condition:

```
DELETE FROM «relation»
WHERE «condition»;
```

Delete all tuples:

```
DELETE FROM «relation»;
```



Example 1: Delete Some Tuples

```
DELETE FROM Course
WHERE NOT EXISTS (
   SELECT *
   FROM Took JOIN Offering
             ON Took.oid = Offering.oid
   WHERE
     grade > 50 AND
     Offering.dept = Course.dept AND
     Offering.cnum = Course.cnum
```



Updates

 To change the value of certain attributes in certain tuples to given values:

```
UPDATE «relation»
SET «list of attribute assignments»
WHERE «condition on tuples»;
```



Example: update one tuple

Updating one tuple:

```
UPDATE Student
SET campus = 'UTM'
WHERE sid = 999999;
```

Updating several tuples:

```
UPDATE Took
SET grade = 50
WHERE grade >= 47 and grade < 50;</pre>
```

