

# Other Query Interfaces and Languages

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Database Explorer - sa...

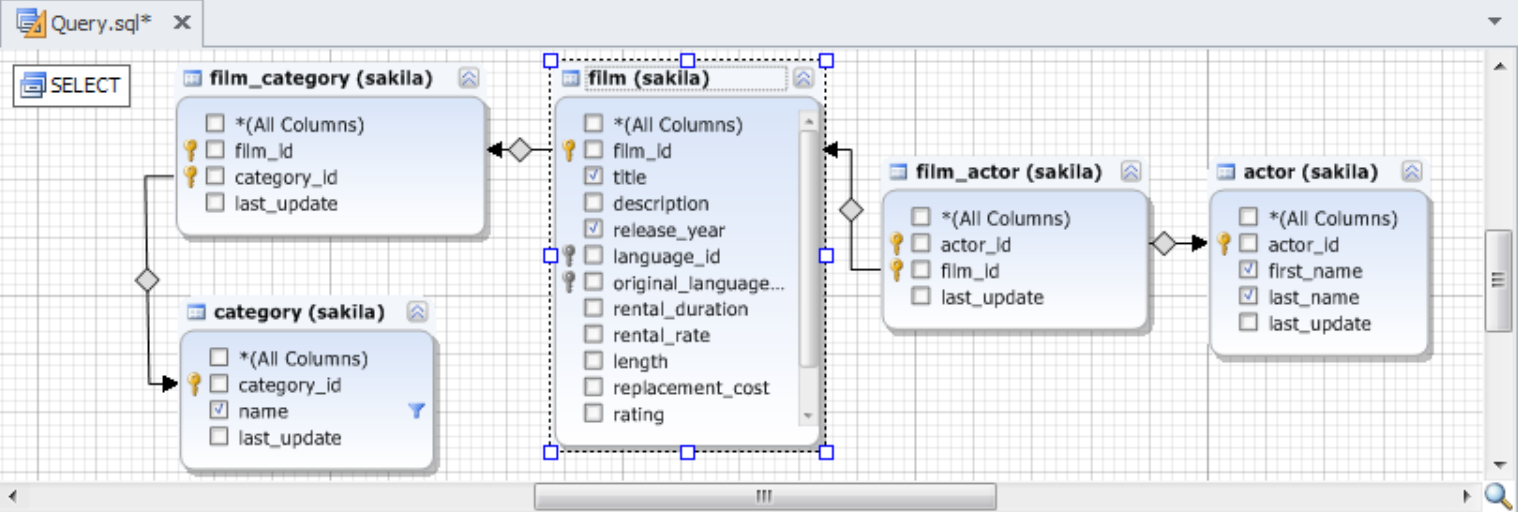
sakila.Prod

- Tables
  - actor
  - address
  - category
  - city
  - country
  - customer
  - film
  - film\_actor
  - film\_category
  - film\_text
  - inventory
  - language
  - payment
  - rental
  - staff
  - store
- Views
  - actor\_info
  - customer\_list

Properties

sakila.film Table

(Name)	film
Charset	utf8
Collation	utf8_general_ci
Comment	
Owner	sakila
Table Type	INNODB



Selection Joins Where Group By Having Order By

And

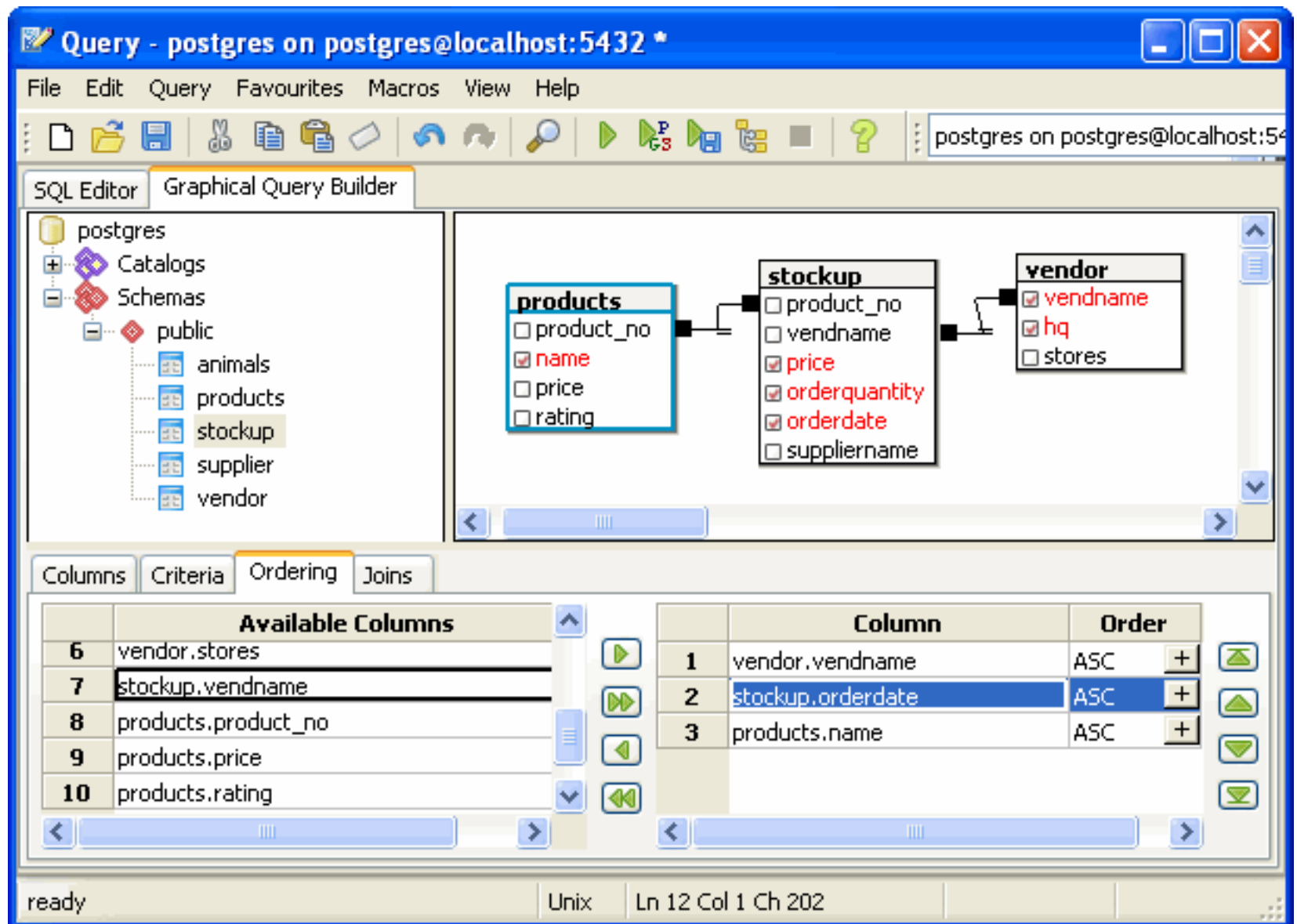
- film.film\_id not between 410 and 470
- category.name = 'comedy'

Or

sakila.film.release\_year = <enter a value>

Table: sakila.film

Column	Function
name (sakila.category)	abs (x)
original_language_id (sakila.language)	acos (x)
rating (sakila.film)	adddate (expr, days)
release_year (sakila.film)	adddate (date, interval, expr)
rental_duration (sakila.film)	addtime (expr1, expr2)
rental_rate (sakila.film)	release_year (sakila.film)
replacement_cost (sakila.film)	Double-click a column to add it to the expression
special_features (sakila.film)	
title (sakila.film)	asbinary (g)



dbForge Studio for Oracle - Query.sql\*

File Edit View Database Comparison Query Layout SQL Debug Tools Window Help

Connection: HUMAN\_RESOURCE@O...

89%

Execute Change Type

Database Explorer - HUMA...

HUMAN\_RESOURCE@ORCL1

- Tables
  - COUNTRIES
  - DEPARTMENTS
  - EMPLOYEES
  - JOB\_HISTORY
  - JOBS
  - LOCATIONS
  - REGIONS
- Columns
  - REGION\_ID
  - REGION\_NAME

Query.sql\* Start Page

Root Query LOCATIONS SubQuery

**SELECT**

**REGIONS**

- \*(All Columns)
- REGION\_ID
- REGION\_NAME

**COUNTRIES**

- \*(All Columns)
- COUNTRY\_ID
- COUNTRY\_NAME
- REGION\_ID

**LOCATIONS**

- \*(All Columns)
- STREET\_ADDRESS
- POSTAL\_CODE
- CITY
- STATE\_PROVINCE
- COUNTRY\_ID
- Department
- Manager Name

Selection Joins Where Group By Having Order By

☐ Unique records

Column	Alias	Table	Aggregate	Sort	Filter
REGION_NAME	Continents	REGIONS		Ascending	
COUNTRY_NAME	Country	COUNTRIES			
STATE_PROVINCE	State Province	LOCATIONS			is not null
CITY	City	LOCATIONS			
POSTAL_CODE	Postal Code	LOCATIONS		Descending	

```
SELECT
  REGIONS.REGION_NAME AS "Continents", COUNTRIES.COUNTRY_NAME AS "Country", LOCATIONS.STATE_PROVINCE AS "State Province",
  LOCATIONS.CITY AS "City", LOCATIONS.POSTAL_CODE AS "Postal Code"
FROM
  COUNTRIES
INNER JOIN REGIONS ON
  COUNTRIES.REGION_ID = REGIONS.REGION_ID
INNER JOIN LOCATIONS ON
  COUNTRIES.COUNTRY_ID = LOCATIONS.COUNTRY_ID
```

Query Builder Text Data Profiler

# Graphical Query Interfaces

- Oracle SQL query builder
- MySQL query builder
- SQL Server visual query builder
- Postgress query builder
- SQLite query builder
- Microsoft Access query interface

# Roots

- Based on relational calculus
  - So is SQL
- Declarative
- Known as Query by Example (QBE)
- Limited expressive power

# QBE: Query by Example

- Declarative query language, like SQL
- Developed in 1970s at IBM
- Based on DRC
- Visual
- Other visual query languages (MS Access, Paradox) are just incremental improvements

# QBE - Examples

Q1. Print all professors' names in the Math department

Professor	<i>Id</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>DeptId</i>
		<b>P.</b>	Math

Q2. Print all professors' names who taught c291 in Fall 2002.

Professor	<i>Id</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>DeptId</i>
	<b>_123</b>	<b>P.</b>	

Teaching	<i>ProfId</i>	<i>CrsCode</i>	<i>Semester</i>
	<b>_123</b>	C291	F2002



# Condition Boxes

- Some conditions are too complex to be placed directly in table columns

<i>Transcript</i>	<i>StudId</i>	<i>CrsCode</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Grade</i>
	<b>P.</b>	CS532		_Gr

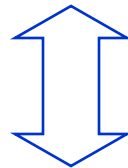
Conditions
_Gr = 'A' OR _Gr = 'B'

- Students who took CS532 & got A or B

# Connection to Rel. Calculus

- A graphical representation of DRC

Transcript	<i>StudId</i>	<i>CrsCode</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Grade</i>
	_123	_CS532	F2002	A



DRC:

Transcript( $x, y$ , 'F2002', 'A')

TRC: Transcript( $t$ ) AND  $t$ .Semester='F2002' AND  $t$ .Grade = 'A'

# Relational Calculus

- Two flavors
  - Tuple Relational Calculus (TRC)
    - Variables range over tuples (e.g. SQL)
  - Domain Relational Calculus (DRC)
    - Variables range over domains (e.g. QBE)
- Query  $\sim$  formula
- Answer  $\sim$  an assignment that makes the formula true

# Examples

TRC:

$\{t \mid \text{Transcript}(t) \text{ AND } t.\text{Semester} = \text{'F2002'} \text{ AND } t.\text{Grade} = \text{'A'}\}$

$\{s \mid \text{Students}(s) \text{ AND } \exists e \in \text{Enroll} (s.\text{sid} = e.\text{sid} \text{ AND } e.\text{cid} = \text{'291'})\}$

$\{s \mid \text{Students}(s) \text{ AND } \exists c \in \text{Courses} (c.\text{instructor} = \text{'John Smith'} \\ \implies \exists e \in \text{Enroll} (e.\text{sid} = s.\text{sid} \text{ AND } e.\text{cid} = c.\text{cid}))\}$

DRC:

$\{x, y \mid \text{Transcript}(x, y, \text{'F2002'}, \text{'A'})\}$

# Relational Calculus

a base for other query languages

# Relation Between TRC and SQL

- List the names of all professors who have taught MGT123

– In TRC:

$$\{p.Name \mid \text{Professor}(p) \text{ AND } \exists t \in \text{Teaching} \\ (p.Id = t.ProfId \text{ AND } t.CrsCode = \text{'MGT123'}) \}$$

– In SQL:

```
SELECT  p.Name
FROM    Professor p, Teaching t
WHERE   p.Id = t.ProfId AND t.CrsCode = 'MGT123'
```

*Core of SQL is merely a syntactic sugar on top of TRC*

# What Happened to Quantifiers in SQL?

- SQL has no quantifiers: how come? It uses conventions:
  - *Convention 1.* Universal quantifiers are not allowed (but SQL:1999 introduced a limited form of explicit  $\forall$ )
  - *Convention 2.* Make existential quantifiers *implicit*: Any tuple variable that does not occur in SELECT is assumed to be implicitly quantified with  $\exists$

- Compare:

$\{p.Name \mid \text{Professor}(p) \text{ AND } \exists t \in \text{Teaching} \dots \}$

and

```
SELECT  P.Name
FROM    Professor p, Teaching t
... ..
```

*Implicit*

$\exists$

# Relation Between TRC and SQL (cont'd)

- SQL uses a subset of TRC with simplifying conventions for quantification
- Restricts the use of quantification and negation (so TRC is more general in this respect)
- SQL uses aggregates, which are absent in TRC (and relational algebra, for that matter). But aggregates can be added
- SQL is extended with relational algebra operators (MINUS, UNION, JOIN, etc.)
  - This is just more syntactic sugar, but it makes queries easier to write



# Graphical Interfaces

## Of PC Databases

# Microsoft Access

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Access interface. At the top, two tables are shown in design view:

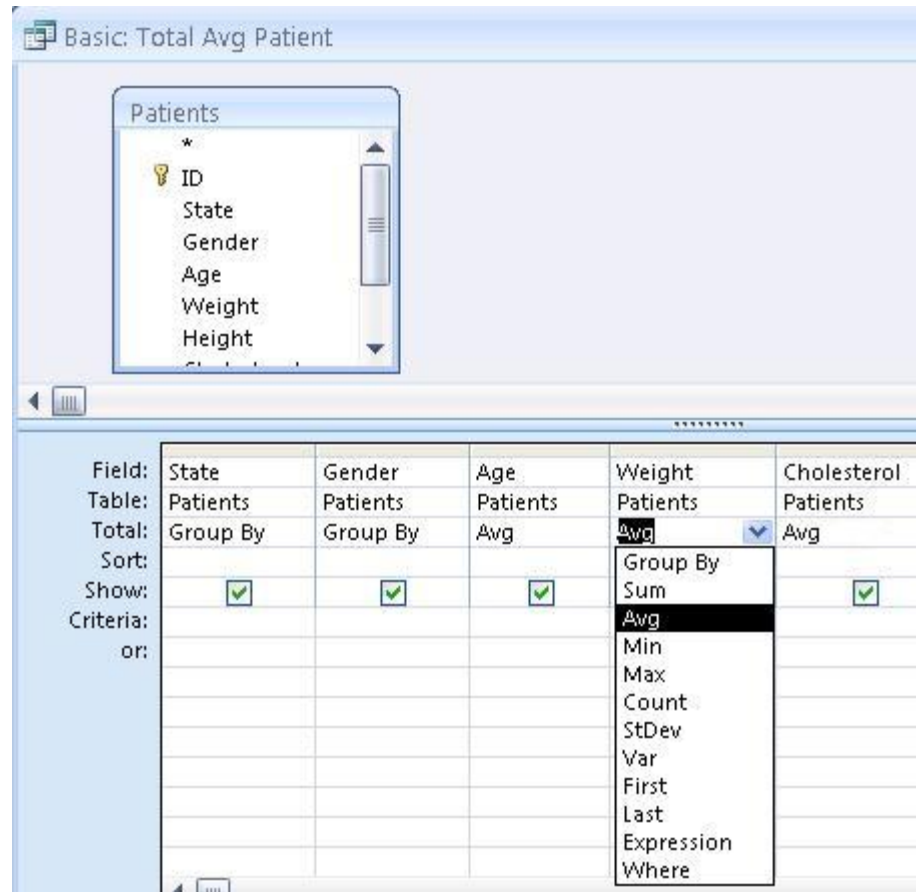
- account**:
  - \* **account-number**
  - branch-name
  - balance
- depositor**:
  - \* customer-name
  - account-number

A line connects the **account-number** field in the **account** table to the **account-number** field in the **depositor** table, indicating a relationship.

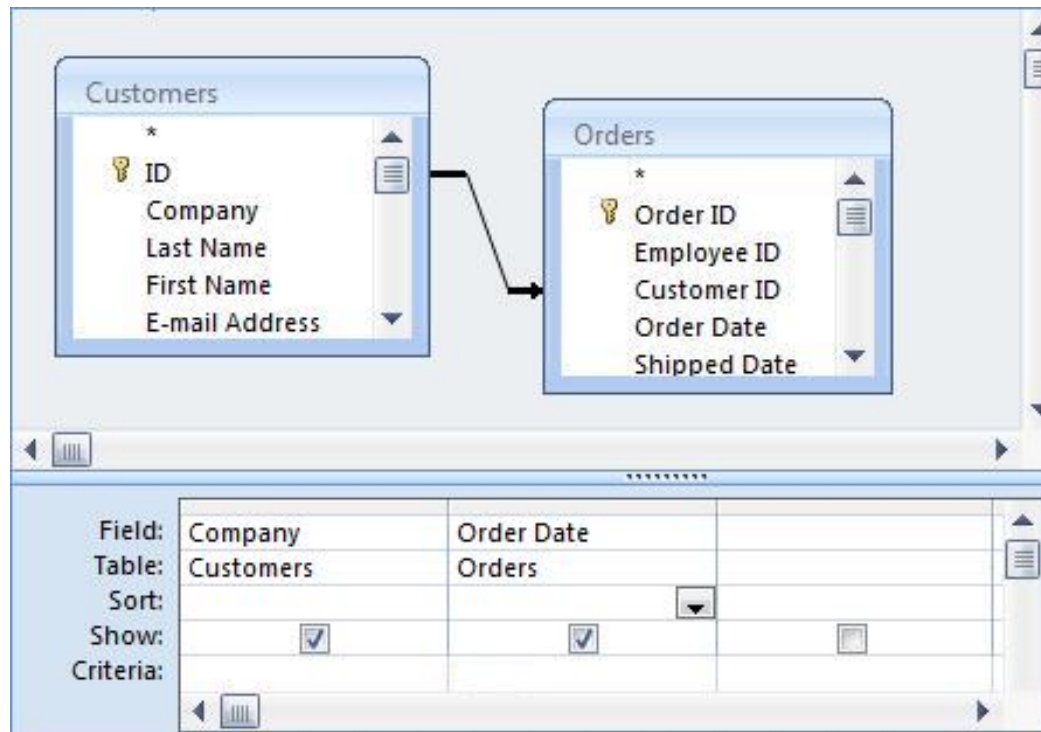
Below the tables is a query design view. The fields are arranged in a grid:

	customer-name	account-number	balance	branch-name
Field:	customer-name	account-number	balance	branch-name
Table:	depositor	account	account	account
Sort:				
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:				"Perryridge"
or:				

# Microsoft Access (Cont)



# Microsoft Access (Cont)



# Microsoft Access (Cont)

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Access interface for a query named "qryEntries with Search Criteria". The query is based on the "Entries" table. The table structure is shown in a box on the left, listing fields: ID (primary key), Username, and Category. Below this, a table with four columns is visible. The first column lists the field and table names. The second column shows the field name "Username" and the table name "Entries". The third column contains a search criterion: "Like '\*' & [forms]![Entries]![txtcriteria] & '\*'". The fourth column is empty.

Field:	Entries.*	Username	
Table:	Entries	Entries	
Sort:			
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:		Like '*' & [forms]![Entries]![txtcriteria] & '*'	
or:			

# PC Databases

- A spruced up version of QBE (better interface)
- Be aware of implicit quantification
- Beware of negation pitfalls
  - Sec. 13.4 gives some of the pitfalls under the heading “the price of free lunch”