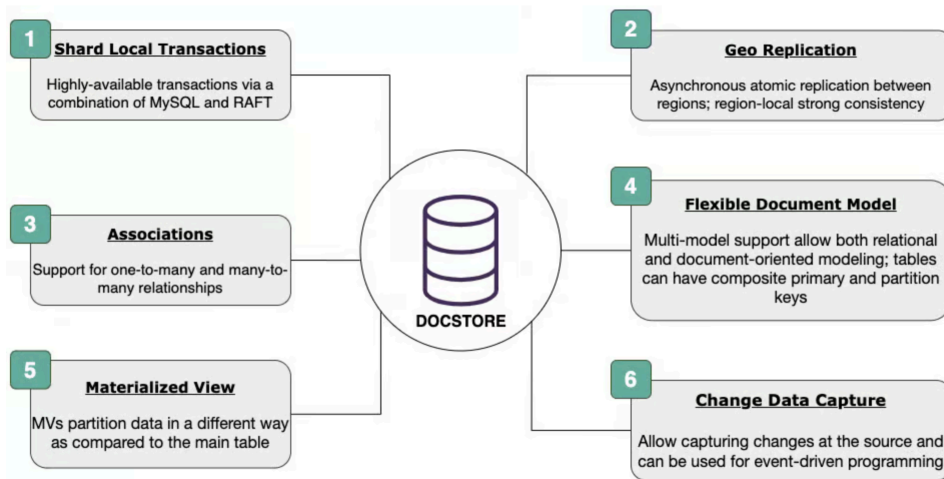


Engineering

Evolving Schemaless into a Distributed SQL Database

February 23, 2021 / Global



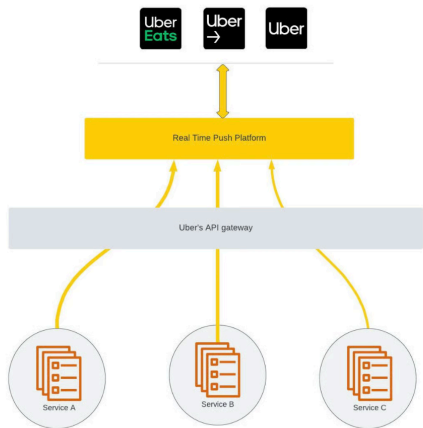
- Flexible schema, not no schema!
- Centralizing the complexity of consistency
- Operational reality may not be “beautiful”

<https://www.uber.com/blog/schemaless-sql-database/>

Engineering, Backend, Mobile

Uber's Next Gen Push Platform on gRPC

August 16, 2022 / Global



In our last [blog post](#) we talked about how we went from polling for refreshing the app to a push-based flow to build our app experience.

- Not request/response but streaming
- From REST-like to RPC-like
- Transport is as important as anything else
- Don't reinvent the wheel

<https://www.uber.com/blog/ubers-next-gen-push-platform-on-grpc/>

Protocol Buffers

- API Schema definition language
- Provides libraries for convenience
- Comparable to JSON and XML
 - But better!
- Binary on the wire

Protocol Buffers

- API Schema definition language
- Provides libraries for convenience
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```
edition = "2023";
```

```
package tutorial;
```

```
message Person {  
    string name = 1;  
    int32 id = 2;  
    string email = 3;  
}
```

```
enum PhoneType {  
    PHONE_TYPE_UNSPECIFIED  
= 0;  
    PHONE_TYPE_MOBILE = 1;  
    PHONE_TYPE_HOME = 2;  
    PHONE_TYPE_WORK = 3;  
}
```

```
message PhoneNumber {  
    string number = 1;  
    PhoneType type = 2;  
}
```

```
repeated PhoneNumber  
phones = 4;  
}
```

```
message AddressBook {  
    repeated Person people =  
1;  
}
```

JSON vs. Protobuf

- Example person record in JSON (105 bytes minified)

```
{"name":"Alice Smith","id":12345,"email":"alice@example.com","phones":  
[{"number":"555-1234","type":1},{ "number":"555-5678","type":2}]}
```

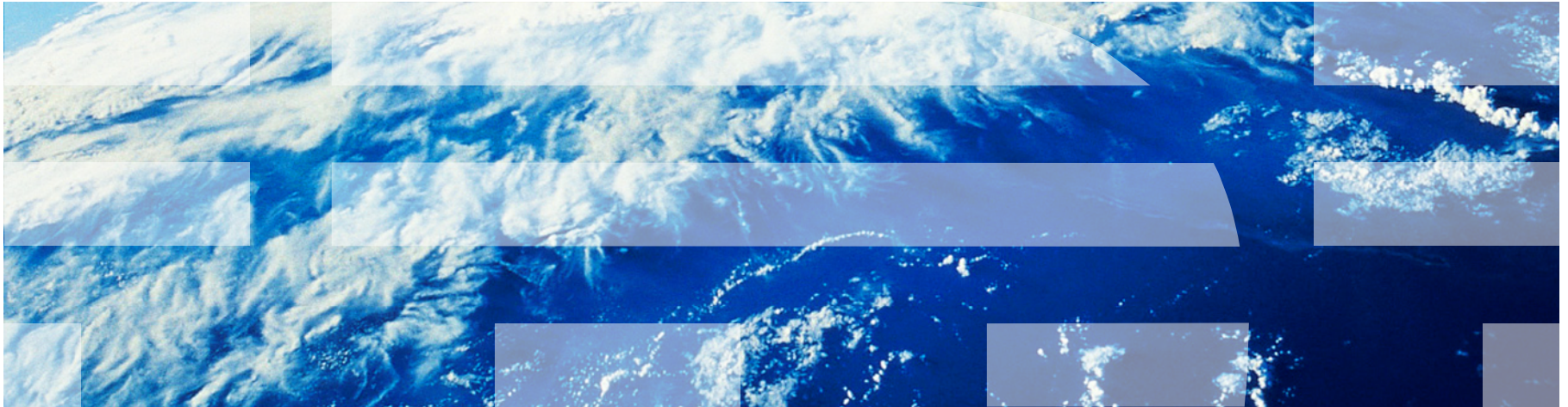
- Same record in Protobuf (45 bytes)

```
0a 0b 41 6c 69 63 65 20 53 6d 69 74 68 10 b9 60 1a 11 61 6c 69 63 65 ...
```

- Why Is Protobuf Smaller?

| | JSON | Protobuf |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Field names | Repeated as strings ("name", "id") | Integer tags (1, 2, 3...) |
| Integers | ASCII digits (12345 = 5 bytes) | Varint encoding (2 bytes) |
| Schema required | No (self-describing) | Yes |
| ⁴ Human readable | Yes | No |

Single Table Query



SQL Query

Basic form (there are many many more bells and whistles)

SELECT <attributes>

FROM <one or more relations>

WHERE <conditions>

Call this a **SFW** query.

Simple SQL Query: Selection

Selection is the operation of filtering a relation's tuples on some condition

| PName | Price | Category | Manuf |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| Gizmo | \$19.99 | Gadgets | GWorks |
| Powergizmo | \$29.99 | Gadgets | GWorks |
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```
SELECT *  
FROM Product  
WHERE Category = 'Gadgets'
```


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Simple SQL Query: Projection

Projection is the operation of producing an output table with tuples that have a subset of their prior attributes

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```
SELECT Pname, Price, Manufacturer
```

```
FROM Product
```

```
WHERE Category = 'Gadgets'
```

Simple SQL Query: Projection

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```
SELECT Pname, Price, Manufacturer
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Notation

Input Schema

Product(PName, Price, Category, Manufacturer)

```
SELECT Pname, Price, Manufacturer  
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Notation

Input Schema

Product(PName, Price, Category, Manufacturer)

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SELECT Pname, Price, Manufacturer  
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```



Output Schema

Answer(PName, Price, Manufacturer)

A Few Details

- **SQL commands** are case insensitive:
Same: SELECT, Select, select
Same: Product, product

A Few Details

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Same: Product, product

- **Values are not:**

Different: 'Seattle', 'seattle'

A Few Details

- **SQL commands** are case insensitive:
Same: SELECT, Select, select
Same: Product, product
- **Values are not:**
Different: 'Seattle', 'seattle'
- Use single quotes for constants:
'abc' - yes
"abc" - no

LIKE: Simple String Pattern Matching

```
SELECT *  
FROM Products  
WHERE PName LIKE '%gizmo%'
```

LIKE: Simple String Pattern Matching

```
SELECT *  
FROM Products  
WHERE PName LIKE '%gizmo%'
```

- s **LIKE** p: pattern matching on strings
- p may contain two special symbols:
 - % = any sequence of characters
 - _ = any single character

DISTINCT: Eliminating Duplicates

```
SELECT DISTINCT Category  
FROM Product
```



Category

Gadgets

Photography

Household

Versus

```
SELECT Category  
FROM Product
```



Category

Gadgets

Gadgets

Photography

Household

ORDER BY: Sorting the Results

ORDER BY: Sorting the Results

```
SELECT    PName, Price, Manufacturer
FROM      Product
WHERE     Category='gizmo' AND Price > 50
ORDER BY  Price, PName
```

ORDER BY: Sorting the Results

```
SELECT    PName, Price, Manufacturer
FROM      Product
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ORDER BY  Price, PName
```

Ties are broken by the second attribute on the ORDER BY list, etc.

ORDER BY: Sorting the Results

```
SELECT    PName, Price, Manufacturer
FROM      Product
WHERE     Category='gizmo' AND Price > 50
ORDER BY  Price, PName
```

Ties are broken by the second attribute on the ORDER BY list, etc.

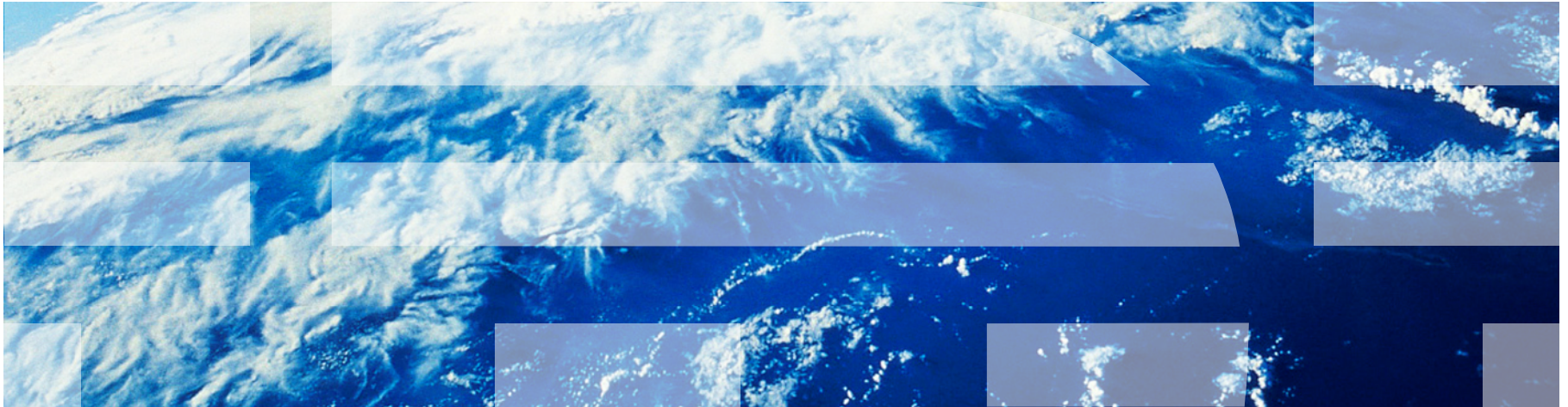
Ordering is ascending, unless you specify the DESC keyword.

LIMIT

LIMIT

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| SELECT | PName, Price, Manufacturer |
| FROM | Product |
| WHERE | Category='gizmo' AND Price > 50 |
| ORDER BY | Price, PName |
| LIMIT | 5 |

Multi-Table Query



Foreign Key constraints

- Suppose we have the following schema :

Students(cuid: *string*, name: *string*, gpa: *float*)

Enrolled(student_id: *string*, cid: *string*, grade: *string*)

Foreign Key constraints

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Only bona fide students may enroll in courses' i.e. a student must appear in the Students table to enroll in a class

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Students

| cuid | name | gpa |
|------|------|-----|
| 102 | Bob | 3.9 |
| 123 | Mary | 3.8 |

Enrolled

| student_id | cid | grade |
|------------|-----|-------|
| 102 | CS1 | A |
| 123 | CS4 | A+ |

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We say that cuid is a foreign key that refers to Students

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We say that cuid is a foreign key that refers to Students

Declaring Foreign Keys

Students(cuid: *string*, name: *string*, gpa: *float*)
Enrolled(student_id: *string*, cid: *string*, grade: *string*)

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled (  
  student_id CHAR(20),  
  cid CHAR(20),  
  grade CHAR(10),  
  PRIMARY KEY (student_id, cid),  
  FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES Students(cuid)  
)
```

Foreign Keys and update operations

Students(cuid: *string*, name: *string*, gpa: *float*)

Enrolled(student_id: *string*, cid: *string*, grade: *string*)

Foreign Keys and update operations

`Students(cuid: string, name: string, gpa: float)`

`Enrolled(student_id: string, cid: string, grade: string)`

- What if we insert a tuple into Enrolled, but no corresponding student?
INSERT is rejected (foreign keys are constraints)!

Foreign Keys and update operations

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Enrolled(student_id: string, cid: string, grade: string)

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- What if we delete a student?
 1. Disallow the delete
 2. Remove all of the courses for that student
 3. *SQL allows a third via NULL*

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DBA chooses

Keys and Foreign Keys

Keys and Foreign Keys

Company

| <u>CName</u> | StockPrice | Country |
|--------------|------------|---------|
| GizmoWorks | 25 | USA |
| Canon | 65 | Japan |
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Keys and Foreign Keys

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Product

| <u>PName</u> | Price | Category | Manufacturer |
|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
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Keys and Foreign Keys

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What is a foreign key vs. a key here?

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At GitHub we do not use foreign keys, ever, anywhere.

Personally, it took me quite a few years to make up my mind about whether foreign keys are good or evil, and for the past 3 years I'm in the unchanging strong opinion that foreign keys should not be used. Main reasons are:

- FKs are in your way to shard your database. Your app is accustomed to rely on FK to maintain integrity, instead of doing it on its own. It may even rely on FK to cascade deletes (shudder).
When eventually you want to shard or extract data out, you need to change & test the app to an unknown extent.
- FKs are a performance impact. The fact they require indexes is likely fine, since those indexes are needed anyhow. But the lookup made for each `insert / delete` is an overhead.
- FKs don't work well with online schema migrations.

This last bullet is not a chicken and an egg, as you might think. FKs impose a lot of constraints on what's possible and what's not possible.

Here's an old post of mine, reviewing the first appearance of Facebook's OSC, and which includes some thoughts on foreign keys: <http://code.openark.org/blog/mysql/mk-schema-change-check-out-ideas-from-oak-online-alter-table>

Let's say you have two tables, P & C, standing for Parent & Child, respectively. There's a foreign key in C such that each row in C points to some "parent" value in P.

Doing schema migration of C is possible. However since foreign keys have unique names, the new (migrated) C table will have a FK with a different name than the original one.

Doing schema migration of P is just not going to work. Recall that `gh-ost` renames the table at the end. Alas, when renaming a table away, the FK will move with the renamed table. To create a parent-side FK on the *ghost* table, one would need to migrate C ; and because `gh-ost` uses async approach, P and P-ghost are never in complete sync at any point in time (except at lock time) which makes it impossible for C to have both a FK to P and to P-ghost. some integrity will be broken.

There's more discussion on the documentation of [pt-online-schema-change](#)

<https://github.com/github/gh-ost/issues/331>



290



60



8



22



60

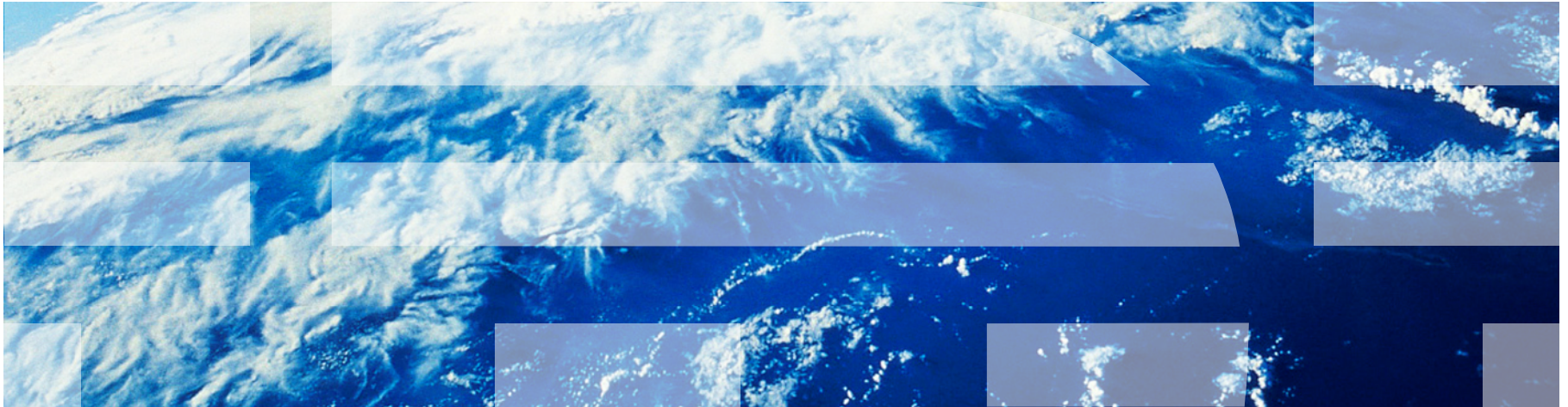


11



46

JOINS and Aggregations



Trade off between table complexity and query complexity

Students(cuid: *string*, name: *string*, gpa: *float*)

Enrolled(student_id: *string*, cid: *string*, grade: *string*)

- What is the GPA of all students enrolled in CSEE 4121?

Trade off between table complexity and query complexity

Students(cuid: *string*, name: *string*, gpa: *float*)

Enrolled(student_id: *string*, cid: *string*, grade: *string*)

- What is the GPA of all students enrolled in CSEE 4121?
- A possible (cumbersome solution) → create a new franken-table
 - A single attribute for each possible class:

Trade off between table complexity and query complexity

```
Students(cuid: string, name: string, gpa: float)
```

```
Enrolled(student_id: string, cid: string, grade: string)
```

- What is the GPA of all students enrolled in CSEE 4121?
- A possible (cumbersome solution) → create a new franken-table
 - A single attribute for each possible class:

```
FrankenTable(student_id: string, grade_course1: string, grade_course2: string, ...)
```

- Hundreds of attributes, most columns are NULL

Joins

Product(PName, Price, Category, Manufacturer)
Company(CName, StockPrice, Country)

Ex: Find all products under \$200
manufactured in Japan; return
product names and prices.

Joins

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Company(CName, StockPrice, Country)

Ex: Find all products under \$200
manufactured in Japan; return
product names and prices.

```
SELECT PName, Price
FROM   Product, Company
WHERE  Manufacturer = CName
       AND Country='Japan'
       AND Price <= 200
```

Joins

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WHERE Manufacturer = CName
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      AND Price <= 200
```

A **join**
between
tables returns
all unique
combinations
of their tuples
**which meet
some
specified join
condition**

Joins

Product

| <u>PName</u> | Price | Category | Manufacturer |
|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|
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      AND Price <= 200
```

| PName | Price |
|-------------|-------|
| SingleTouch | \$149 |


An example of SQL semantics

```
SELECT R.A  
FROM R, S  
WHERE R.A = S.B
```

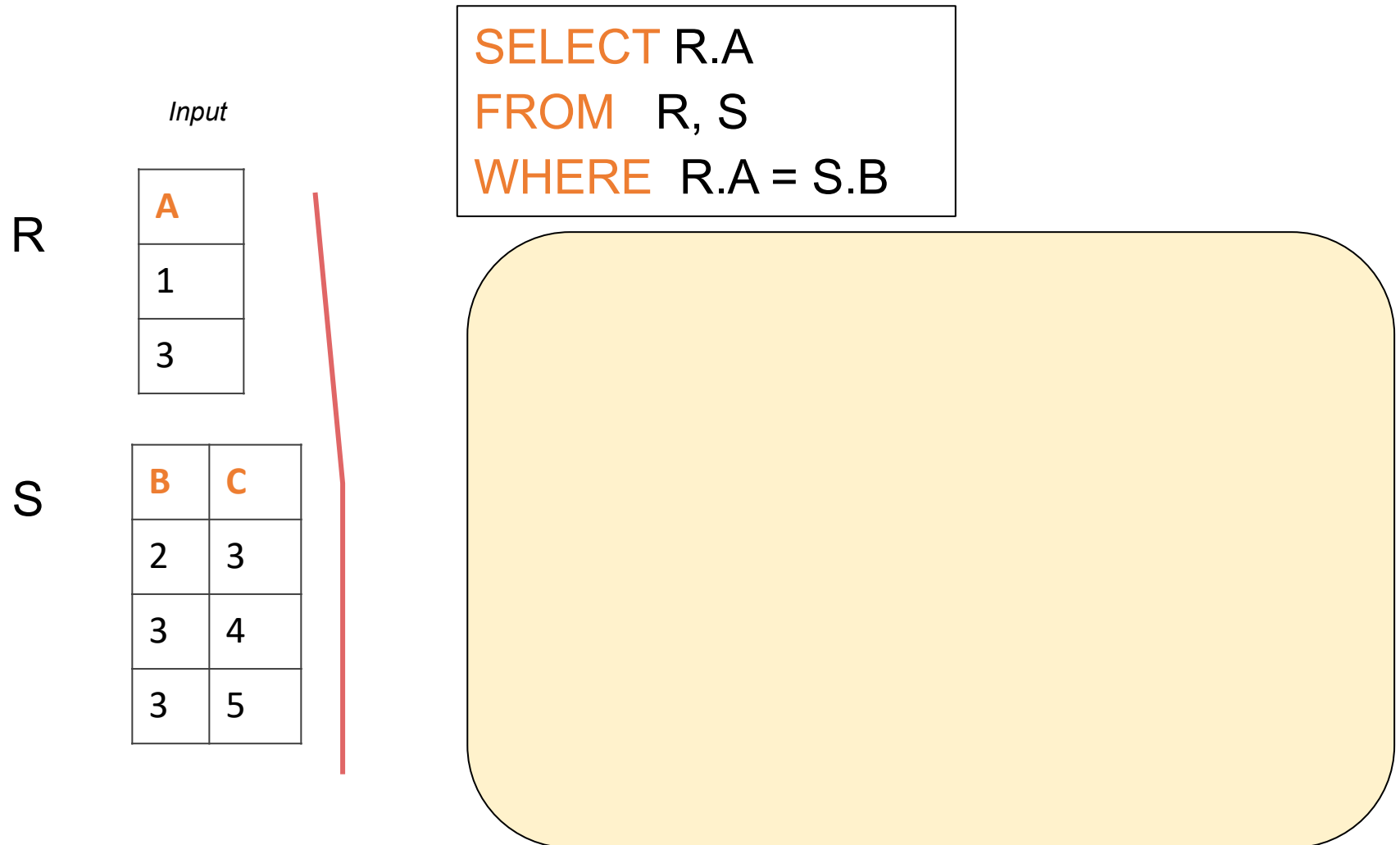
Input

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| R | A | |
| | 1 | |
| | 3 | |

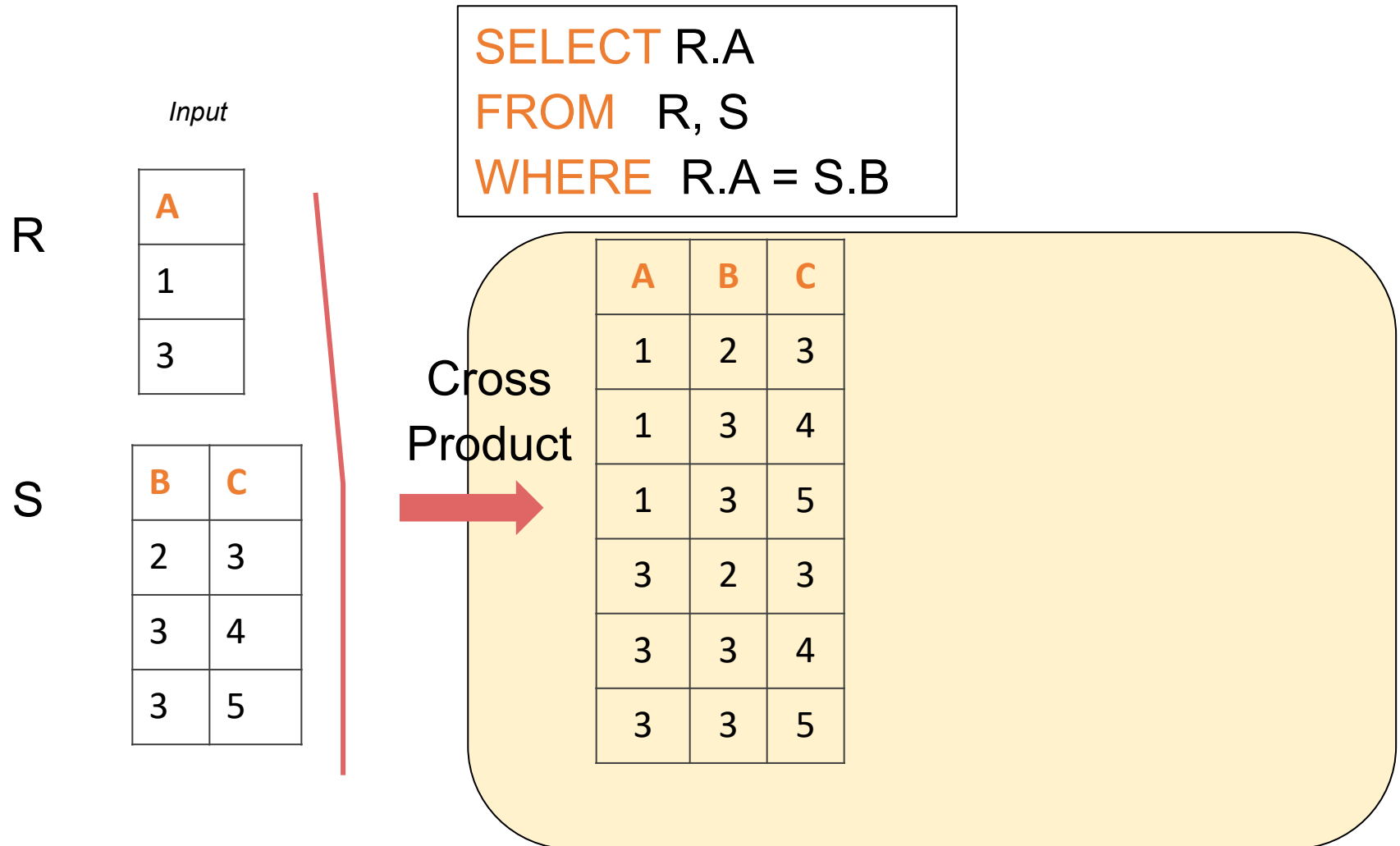
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S | B | C |
| | 2 | 3 |
| | 3 | 4 |
| | 3 | 5 |



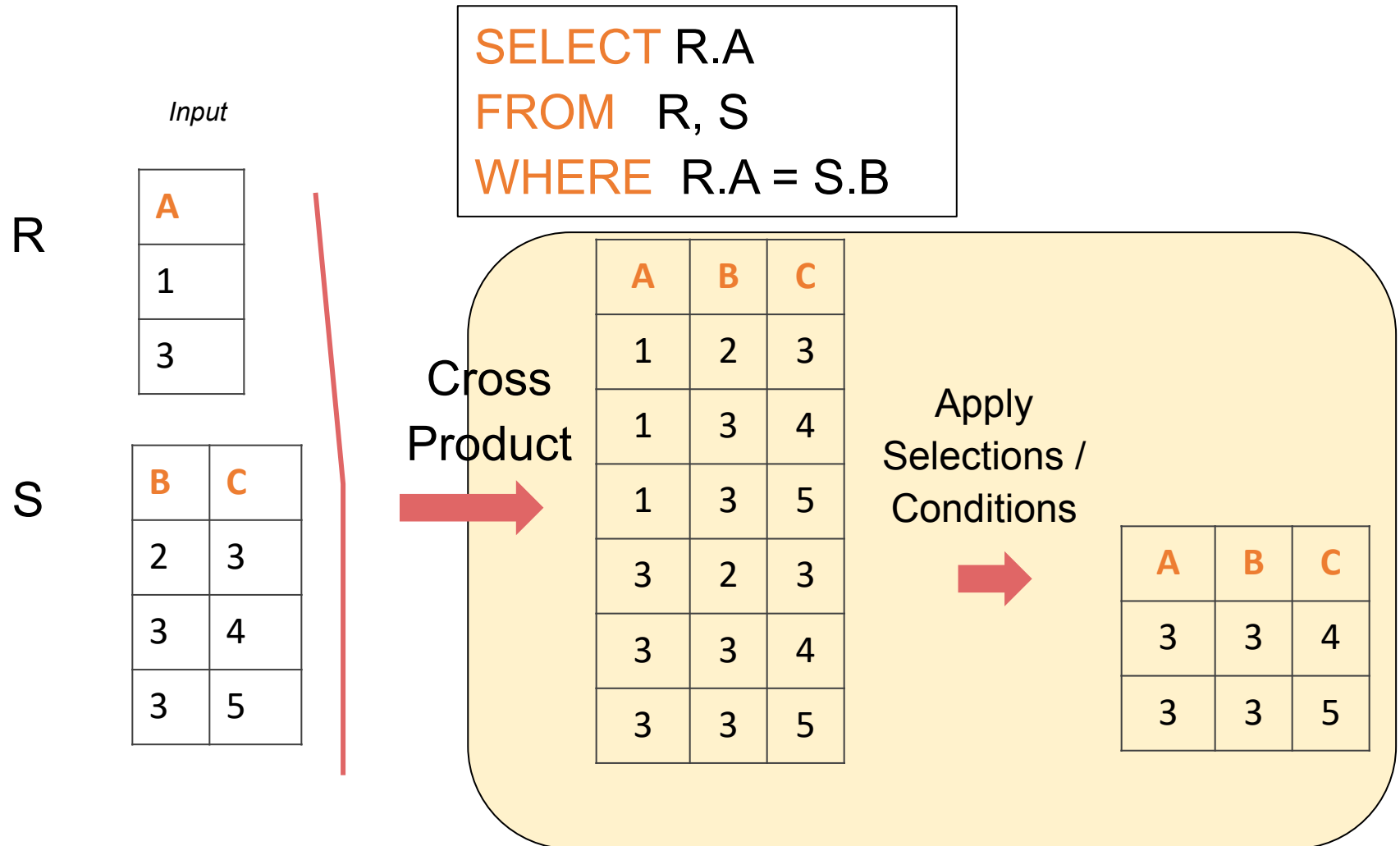
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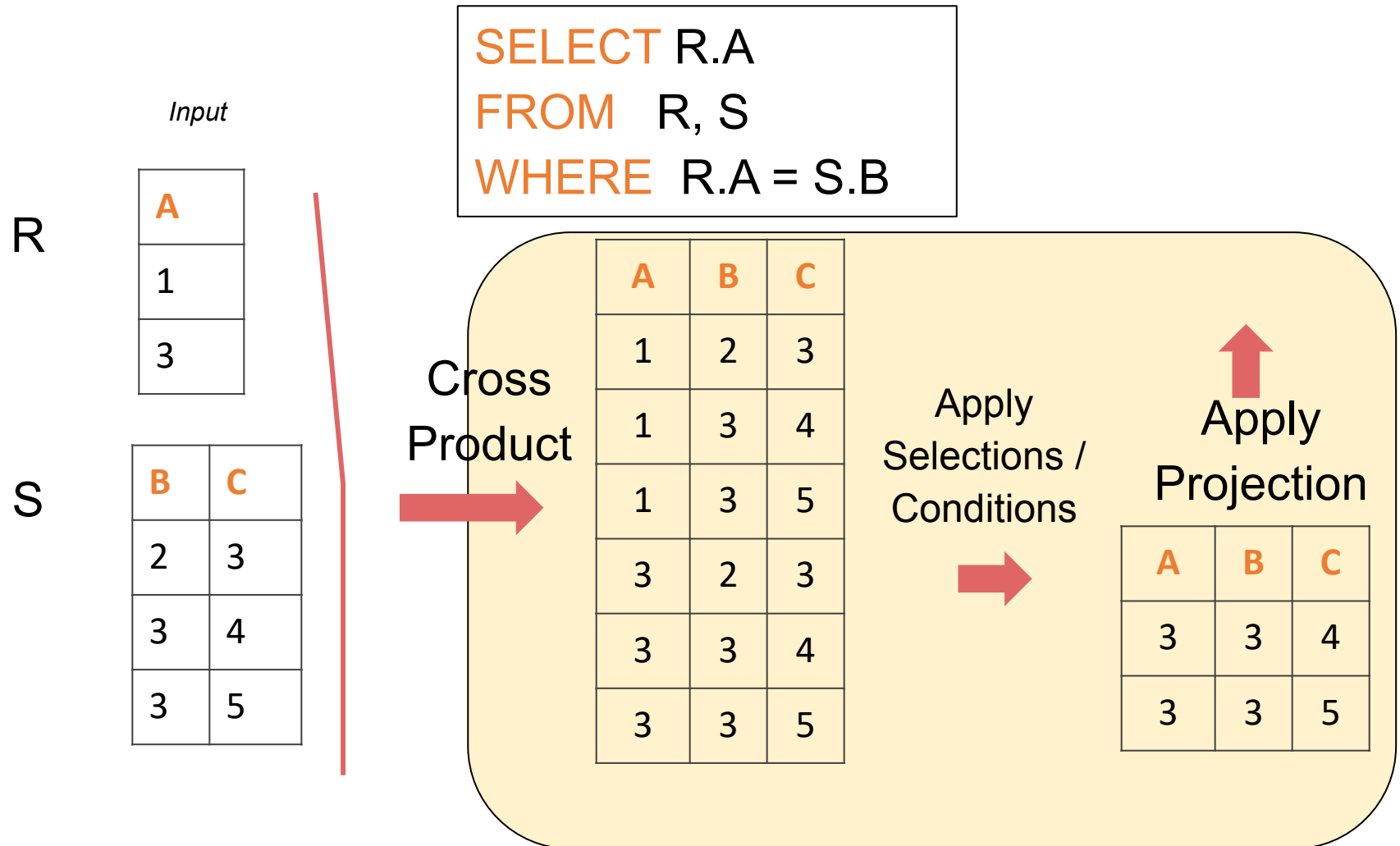
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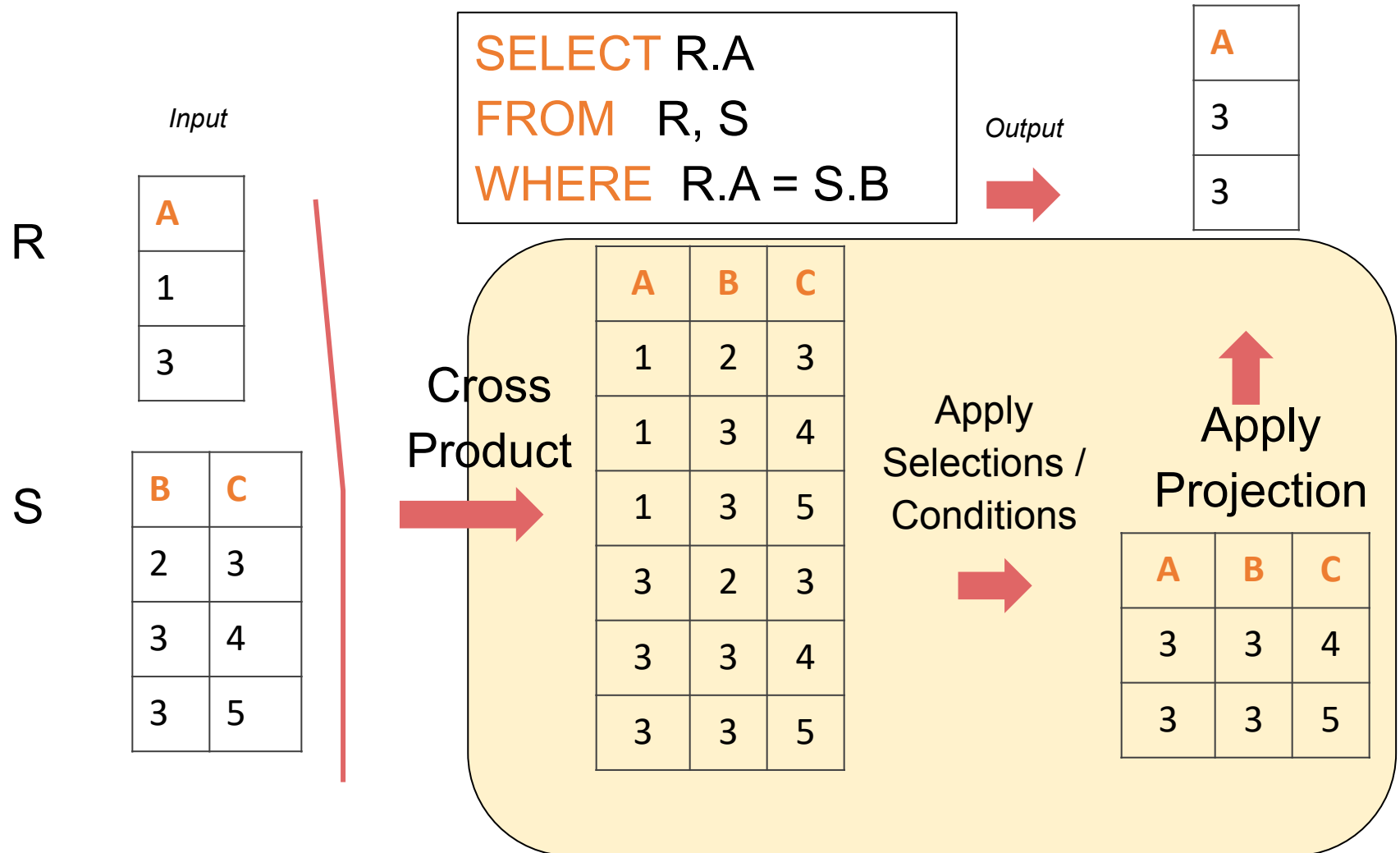
An example of SQL semantics



An example of SQL semantics



An example of SQL semantics



Note: this is how SQL logically works, not actually how it's implemented

- The preceding slide show *what a join means*
- Not actually how the database executes it under the covers

Aggregations

Product

| <u>PName</u> | Price | Category | Manufacturer |
|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|
| Gizmo | \$10 | Gadgets | GizmoWorks |
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Aggregations

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```
SELECT AVG(price)
FROM Product
WHERE Manufacturer = "GizmoWorks"
```

Aggregations

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```
SELECT AVG(price)
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```

Output: \$15

Aggregations

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```
SELECT AVG(price)
FROM Product
WHERE Manufacturer = "GizmoWorks"
```

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM Product
WHERE Price > 15
```

Output: \$15

Aggregations

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```
SELECT AVG(price)
FROM Product
WHERE Manufacturer = "GizmoWorks"
```

Output: \$15

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM Product
WHERE Price > 15
```

Output: 2

Aggregations

Product

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Output: 2

- SQL supports several **aggregation** operations:
 - SUM, COUNT, MIN, MAX, AVG

Aggregations

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Output: \$15

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```

Output: 2

- SQL supports several **aggregation** operations:
 - SUM, COUNT, MIN, MAX, AVG
- All operators ignore NULL, **except COUNT**

Aggregations

Product

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FROM Product
WHERE Manufacturer = "GizmoWorks"
```

Output: \$15

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM Product
WHERE Price > 15
```

Output: 2

- SQL supports several **aggregation** operations:
 - SUM, COUNT, MIN, MAX, AVG
- All operators ignore NULL, **except COUNT**

Aggregations

Product

| <u>PName</u> | Price | Category | Manufacturer |
|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|
| Gizmo | \$10 | Gadgets | GizmoWorks |
| Powergizmo | \$20 | Gadgets | GizmoWorks |
| SingleTouch | \$10 | Photography | Canon |
| MultiTouch | \$203 | Household | Hitachi |

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Output: \$15

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Simple Aggregations

Purchase

| Product | Date | Price | Quantity |
|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| bagel | 10/21 | 1 | 20 |
| banana | 10/3 | 0.5 | 10 |
| banana | 10/10 | 1 | 10 |
| bagel | 10/25 | 1.50 | 20 |

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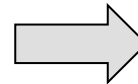
```
SELECT SUM(price * quantity)
FROM Purchase
WHERE product = 'bagel'
```

Simple Aggregations

Purchase

| Product | Date | Price | Quantity |
|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| bagel | 10/21 | 1 | 20 |
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```
SELECT SUM(price * quantity)
FROM Purchase
WHERE product = 'bagel'
```



$$1*20 + 1.50*20 = 50$$

Grouping and Aggregation

Purchase(product, date, price, quantity)

Grouping and Aggregation

```
Purchase(product, date, price, quantity)
```

```
SELECT product,  
        SUM(price * quantity) AS TotalSales  
FROM    Purchase  
WHERE   date > '10/1/2005'  
GROUP BY product
```

Grouping and Aggregation

Purchase(product, date, price, quantity)

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SELECT product,  
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Find total sales
after 10/1/2005
per product.

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Let's see what this means...

Grouping and Aggregation

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SELECT product,  
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Semantics of the query:

Grouping and Aggregation

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Semantics of the query:

1. Compute the **FROM** and **WHERE** clauses

Grouping and Aggregation

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Semantics of the query:

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2. Group by the attributes in the **GROUP BY**

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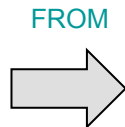
1. Compute the **FROM** and **WHERE** clauses
2. Group by the attributes in the **GROUP BY**
3. Compute the **SELECT** clause: grouped attributes and aggregates

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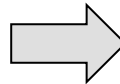
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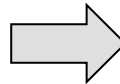


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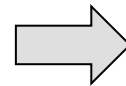
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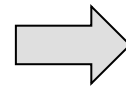


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SELECT



| Product | TotalSales |
|---------|------------|
| Bagel | 50 |
| Banana | 15 |

HAVING Clause

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```
SELECT product, SUM(price*quantity)
FROM Purchase
WHERE date > '10/1/2005'
GROUP BY product
HAVING SUM(quantity) > 100
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HAVING clauses contains conditions on **aggregates**

HAVING Clause

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HAVING SUM(quantity) > 100
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Same query as before, except that we consider only products that have more than 100 buyers

HAVING clauses contains conditions on **aggregates**

*Whereas WHERE clauses condition on **individual tuples...***

RECAP: Joins

By default, joins in SQL are “**inner joins**”:

```
Product(name, category)  
Purchase(prodName, store)
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```

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FROM Product, Purchase
WHERE Product.name = Purchase.prodName
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```
SELECT Product.name, Purchase.store
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```

} Both equivalent:
Both INNER JOINS!

Outer Joins

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INNER JOIN

Product

| name | category |
|------------|----------|
| iPhone | media |
| Tesla | car |
| Ford Pinto | car |

Purchase

| prodName | store |
|----------|-------------|
| iPhone | Apple store |
| Tesla | Dealer |
| iPhone | Apple store |

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|--------|-------------|
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| prodName | store |
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| iPhone | Apple store |
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| iPhone | Apple store |

```
SELECT Product.name, Purchase.store
FROM Product
INNER JOIN Purchase
ON Product.name = Purchase.prodName
```

Note: another equivalent way to write an INNER JOIN!



| name | store |
|--------|-------------|
| iPhone | Apple store |
| iPhone | Apple store |
| Tesla | Dealer |

LEFT OUTER JOIN

Product

| name | category |
|------------|----------|
| iPhone | media |
| Tesla | car |
| Ford Pinto | car |

Purchase

| prodName | store |
|----------|-------------|
| iPhone | Apple store |
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LEFT OUTER JOIN

Product

| name | category |
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| iPhone | Apple store |
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SELECT Product.name, Purchase.store
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LEFT OUTER JOIN

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| iPhone | media |
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Purchase

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| iPhone | Apple store |
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| iPhone | Apple store |

```
SELECT Product.name, Purchase.store
FROM Product
LEFT OUTER JOIN Purchase
ON Product.name = Purchase.prodName
```



| name | store |
|------------|-------------|
| iPhone | Apple store |
| iPhone | Apple store |
| Tesla | Dealer |
| Ford Pinto | NULL |

Other Outer Joins

- Left outer join:
 - Include the left tuple even if there's no match
- Right outer join:
 - Include the right tuple even if there's no match
- Full outer join:
 - Include the both left and right tuples even if there's no match

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries

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How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
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 - Minimum number of entries: 0

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \cdot R$

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L * R$
- Left outer join:

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- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L * R$
- Left outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: L

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \cdot R$
- Left outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: L
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \cdot R$

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \cdot R$
- Left outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: L
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \cdot R$
- Right outer join:

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Left outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: L
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Right outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: R

How many entries will output table have?

- Left table has L entries
- Right table has R entries
- Inner join:
 - Minimum number of entries: 0
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Left outer join:
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 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Right outer join:
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 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$

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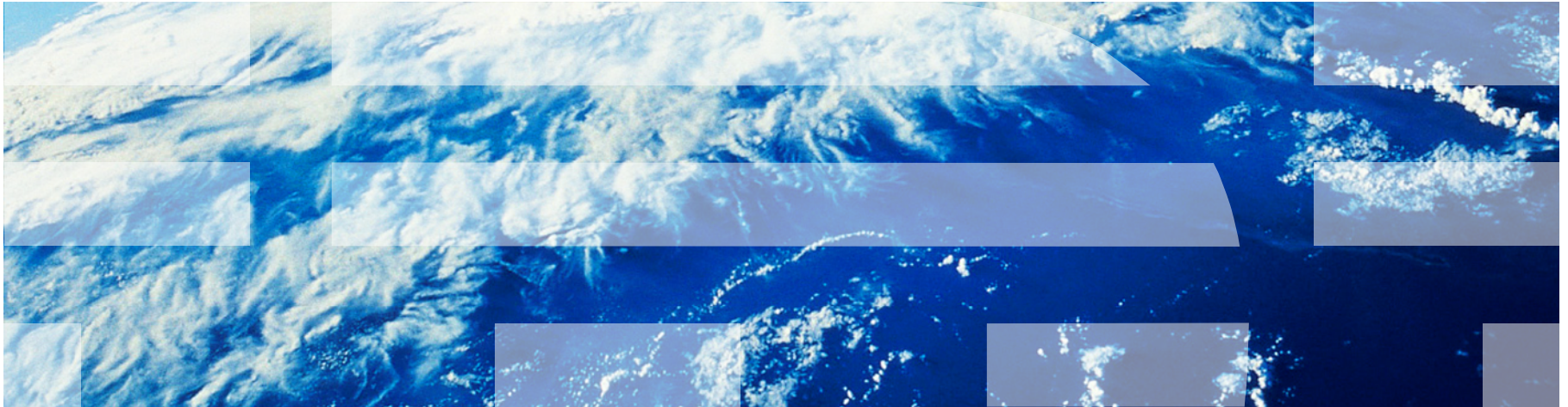
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 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Right outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: R
 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$
- Full outer join:
 - Minimum number of entries: $L + R$

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 - Minimum number of entries: 0
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- Full outer join:
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 - Maximum number of entries: $L \times R$

Nested Queries



SQL is Compositional

Can construct powerful query chains (e.g., $f(g(\dots(x)))$)

Inputs / outputs are multisets

⇒ Output of one query can be input to another (nesting)!

⇒ Including on same table

Nested queries: Sub-queries Return Relations

Company(name, city)
Product(name, manufacturer)
Purchase(id, product, buyer)

```
SELECT Product.manufacturer  
FROM Purchase, Product  
WHERE Purchase.product = Product.name  
AND Purchase.buyer = 'Alice'
```

Nested queries: Sub-queries Return Relations

Company(name, city)
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```
SELECT Product.manufacturer  
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```

1. Companies making products bought by 'Alice'
2. Location of companies?

Nested queries: Sub-queries Return Relations

Company(name, city)
Product(name, manufacturer)
Purchase(id, product, buyer)

```
SELECT Company.city
FROM   Company
WHERE  Company.name IN (
    SELECT Product.manufacturer
    FROM   Purchase, Product
    WHERE  Purchase.product = Product.name
          AND Purchase.buyer = 'Alice')
```

1. Companies making products bought by 'Alice'
2. Location of companies?

Subqueries Return Relations

You can also use operations of the form:

- $s > \text{ALL } R$
- $s < \text{ANY } R$
- $\text{EXISTS } R$

Example:

Product(name, price, category,
maker)

Note the scoping
of the variables!

Subqueries Return Relations

You can also use operations of the form:

- $s > \text{ALL } R$
- $s < \text{ANY } R$
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Example:

`Product(name, price, category,
maker)`

```
SELECT name
FROM Product
WHERE price > ALL(
    SELECT price
    FROM Product
    WHERE maker = 'Gizmo-Works')
```

Find products that are more
expensive than all those produced by
“Gizmo-Works”

Note the scoping
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Subqueries Return Relations

You can also use operations of the form:

- $s > \text{ALL } R$
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`Product(name, price, category,
maker)`

```
SELECT name
FROM Product
WHERE price > ALL(
    SELECT price
    FROM Product
    WHERE maker = 'Gizmo-Works')
```

Find products that are more expensive than all those produced by “Gizmo-Works”

```
SELECT p1.name
FROM Product AS p1
WHERE p1.maker = 'Gizmo-Works'
AND EXISTS(
    SELECT p2.name
    FROM Product AS p2
    WHERE p2.maker <> 'Gizmo-Works'
    AND p1.name = p2.name)
```

<> means !=

Find ‘copycat’ products, i.e. products made by competitors with the same names as products made by “Gizmo-Works”

Note the scoping of the variables!

Example: Complex Correlated Query

| |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| Product(<u>name</u> , price, category, maker, year) |
|------------------------------------------------------|

Example: Complex Correlated Query

Product(name, price, category, maker, year)

```
SELECT DISTINCT x.name, x.maker
FROM      Product AS x
WHERE     x.price > ALL(
    SELECT y.price
    FROM   Product AS y
    WHERE  x.maker = y.maker
AND y.year < 1972)
```

Find products (and their manufacturers) that are more expensive than all products made by the same manufacturer before 1972

Example: Complex Correlated Query

Product(name, price, category, maker, year)

```
SELECT DISTINCT x.name, x.maker
FROM   Product AS x
WHERE  x.price > ALL(
    SELECT y.price
    FROM   Product AS y
    WHERE  x.maker = y.maker
    AND y.year < 1972)
```

Find products (and their manufacturers) that are more expensive than all products made by the same manufacturer before 1972

Can be very powerful (also much harder to optimize)

Aggregates inside nested queries

1. Aggregates inside nested queries. Remember SQL is **compositional**
2. Hint 1: Break down query description to steps (subproblems)
3. Hint 2: Whenever in doubt always go back to the definition

Aggregates inside nested queries: example

Precipitation

| station_id | day | precipitation |
|------------|-----|---------------|
| 122 | 1 | 33 |
| 122 | 4 | 20 |
| 351 | 1 | 10 |
| 191 | 7 | 45 |

Aggregates inside nested queries: example

Example:

Precipitation

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| station_id | day | precipitation |
|------------|-----|---------------|
| 122 | 1 | 33 |
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| 191 | 7 | 45 |

Example:

```
SELECT station_id, day
FROM   Precipitation,
      (SELECT day AS maxd, MAX(precipitation) AS maxp
       FROM precipitation
       GROUP BY day)
WHERE day = maxd AND precipitation = maxp
```

Aggregates inside nested queries: example

Precipitation

| station_id | day | precipitation |
|------------|-----|---------------|
| 122 | 1 | 33 |
| 122 | 4 | 20 |
| 351 | 1 | 10 |
| 191 | 7 | 45 |

Example:

“Using a *single SQL query*, find all of the stations that had the highest daily precipitation (across all stations) on any given day.”

```
SELECT station_id, day
FROM   Precipitation,
      (SELECT day AS maxd, MAX(precipitation) AS maxp
       FROM precipitation
       GROUP BY day)
WHERE day = maxd AND precipitation = maxp
```

Step 1

```
(SELECT day AS maxd, MAX(precipitation) AS maxp  
FROM precipitation  
GROUP BY day)
```

| maxd | maxp |
|------|------|
| 1 | 33 |
| 4 | 20 |
| 7 | 45 |

Step 2

| station_id | day | precipitation |
|------------|-----|---------------|
| 122 | 1 | 33 |
| 122 | 4 | 20 |
| 351 | 1 | 10 |
| 191 | 7 | 45 |

JOIN

| maxd | maxp |
|------|------|
| 1 | 33 |
| 4 | 20 |
| 7 | 45 |

Step 2

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JOIN

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JOIN

| maxd | maxp |
|------|------|
| 1 | 33 |
| 4 | 20 |
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| station_id | day |
|------------|-----|
| 122 | 1 |
| 122 | 4 |
| 191 | 7 |

Postmortem: Service disruption on January 21-22, 2020



John Firebaugh Lead Infrastructure Engineer, Figma

INSIDE FIGMA

ENGINEERING

The root cause of our recent service outage and our next steps



TL;DR: Why did it happen?

Tuesday's incident was primarily caused by a long-running, expensive query. To prevent this issue from recurring, we will be improving our monitoring of expensive queries and setting tighter bounds on allowed running time.

The root cause of Wednesday's incident was that a routine change in database statistics caused PostgreSQL 9 to mis-plan the execution of one of our queries, causing expensive table scans and writes to temporary buffers. This was exacerbated by concurrent aggressive autovacuuming operations, which were happening because of a vacuuming backlog from the long-running query that had been terminated on Tuesday.

The upgrade to PostgreSQL 11 mitigated both of these causes: improvements to the query planner eliminated the possibility of the bad query plan, and the performance characteristics of autovacuuming have been significantly improved between versions 9 and 11.

<https://www.figma.com/blog/post-mortem-service-disruption-on-january-21-22-2020/>