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Query Processing – Overview

1. Users **submit** SQL queries to a DBMS.
2. The DBMS **processes and executes** them in a database.

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- **Note:** SQL is a declarative language, so it is the task of DBMSs to decide how SQL queries should be executed.



Query Processing – Example

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- **Questions:**
 - How does a relational DBMS process this?
 - How can a relational DBMS process this efficiently?



Query Processing – Example

```
SELECT name FROM Person WHERE age < 21
```

High-level language
(SQL)

Low-level language
(gebra)

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name
Rickon
Bran

Query result



Query Processing – Example

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Query Processing Steps

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- **Query parser and translator**

- 1 Check the syntax of SQL queries



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- **Query optimiser**

- 1 Transform into the best possible execution plan
- 2 Specify the implementation of each operation



- **Evaluation engine**

- 1 Evaluate the query execution plan
- 2 Return the result to the user





Query Processing – Parser

- The **parser** checks the syntax of the query:
 - Validation of table names, attributes, data types, access permission ...;
 - Either the query is executable or an error message is generated.

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Query Processing – Parser

- Consider the relation schema:

`Person(id:integer, name:string, age:integer, address:string)`

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-	-		
id	Person		
name	Person		
age	Person		
address	Person		
...

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- Question:** Can the following query be accepted by the parser?

```
SELECT fname, lname FROM Person WHERE address<21;
```




Query Processing – Parser

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- Consider the relation schema.

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```
SELECT fname, lname FROM Person WHERE ad
```

- Answer:** The query would be rejected

- 1 The attributes fname and lname are
- 2 The attribute address is not comparable with 21.

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Query Processing – Translator

- The **translator** translates queries into RA expressions (not necessarily equivalent due to duplicates):

- A query is first decomposed into **query blocks**.



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Recall: RA and SQL Queries

RA operators

- selection σ_φ
- projection π_{A_1, \dots, A_n}
- join
- difference

- difference $R_1 - R_2$

SQL statement

```
SELECT attribute_list
FROM table_list
]
```

```
ist
[condition]
ist];
```

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$$\sigma_\varphi(R) \Leftrightarrow \text{SELECT } F$$

$$\pi_{A_1, \dots, A_n}(R) \Leftrightarrow \text{SELECT DISTINCT}$$

$$R_1 \times R_2 \Leftrightarrow \text{SELECT DISTINCT } * \text{ FROM } R_1, R_2;$$

...

- Aggregate operations in SQL require extended RA expressions.



Recall: RA and SQL Queries

- Nested subqueries are decomposed into separate query blocks.

- Example:

```
SELECT Lname, Fname
```

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Outer query block

```
SELECT Lname, Fname FROM EMPLOYEE WHERE  
Salary > c
```

⇓ translated

$\pi_{Lname, Fname}(\sigma_{Salary > c}(EMPLOYEE))$

```
ssn=5)
```

⇓ translated

$\pi_{Salary}(\sigma_{ssn=5}(EMPLOYEE))$



Query Processing – Query Optimiser

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- 1 Transform into the best possible execution plan

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(will be covered in this course)

- 2 Specify the implementation of each operator in the

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There are different possible implementations of each operator!

(will not be covered in this course)



Query Processing – Query Optimiser

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- SQL queries only specify **what data to be retrieved** and **not how to retrieve data**.

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n plan:

1 enumerating alternative plans (typically

2 choosing the one with the least estimated co

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- Query optimisation is one of the most important tasks of a relational DBMS.
A good DBMS must have a good query optimiser!



Equivalent RA Expressions

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- Suppose that we have:

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```
SELECT lastName, result, title
```

```
FROM STUDENTS, EXAMS, COU
```

```
WHERE STUDENTS.matNr=EXAMS
```

```
EXAMS.crsNr=COURSES.
```

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- **Question:**

How many equivalent RA expressions for this SQL query can you find?



Equivalent RA Expressions

Students(matNr, firstName, lastName, email)
Exams(matNr, crsNr, result, semester)
Courses(crsNr, title, unit)

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EXAMS.crsNr=COURSES.crsNr AND result > 1.3;

Answer:

1. $\pi_{lastName, result, title}(\sigma_{result > 1.3}((\text{Students} \bowtie_{\text{Exams.crsNr=Courses.crsNr}} \text{Exams}) \times \text{Courses}))$

2. $\pi_{lastName, result, title}(\sigma_{result > 1.3}(\sigma_{\text{EXAMS.crsNr=Courses.crsNr}}(\sigma_{\text{Students.matNr=Exams.matNr}}(\text{Students} \times \text{Exams} \times \text{Courses}))))$

3. $\pi_{lastName, result, title}((\text{Students} \bowtie_{\text{Students.matNr=Exams.matNr}} (\sigma_{result > 1.3}(\text{Exams}))) \bowtie_{\text{Exams.crsNr=Courses.crsNr}} \text{Courses})$



Query Trees

- Each RA expression can be represented as a **query tree**:
 - **leaf nodes** represent the input relations;
 - **internal nodes** represent the intermediate result;
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Query Trees

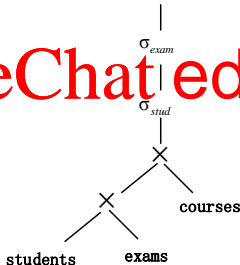
- **Exercise:** Can you draw the query tree for the following RA expression?

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$$\pi_{\text{lastName}, \text{result}, \text{title}}(\sigma_{\text{result} \leq 1.3}(\sigma_{\text{Exams.crsNr} = \text{Courses.crsNr}}(\sigma_{\text{Students.matNr} = \text{Exams.matNr}}(\text{Students} \bowtie \text{Exams} \bowtie \text{Courses}))))$$

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Query Trees

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- For each query tree, computation proceeds bottom-up:
 - child nodes must be executed before their parent nodes;
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Execution Plan

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- A **query execution plan** consists of an (extended) query tree with additional annotation at each node indicating:

- (1) the *access method* to use for each table, and
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Query Processing – Evaluation Engine

- The ~~evaluation engine~~ executes an execution plan, and returns the query answer to the user.

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