



CHALMERS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Relational Algebra

LECTURE 5

Dr. Philipp Leitner



philipp.leitner@chalmers.se



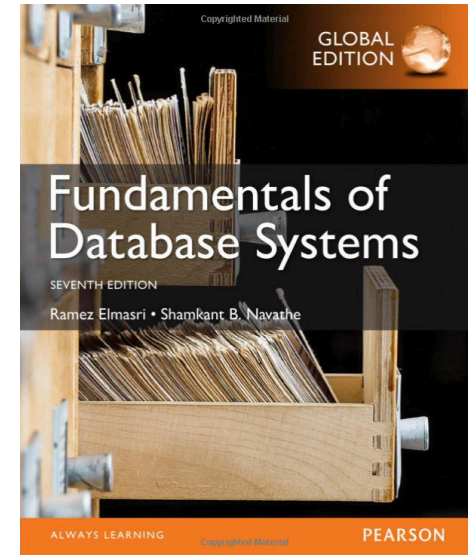
@xLeitix

LECTURE 5

Covers ...

Chapter 8

Please read this up until next lecture!



What we will be covering

Basics of Relational Algebra

Unary Relational Operations

Standard Set Theory Relational Operations

Binary Relational Operations (i.e., JOINS)

Reminder - Formal Definitions

Define a relation as:

$$R(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$$

$$r(R) \subseteq \text{dom}(A_1) \times \text{dom}(A_2) \times \dots \times \text{dom}(A_n)$$

$r(R)$:

a specific state (or "value" or "population") of R (set of tuples)

$r(R) = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\}$ where each t_i is an n -tuple

$t_i = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \rangle$ where each v_j element-of $\text{dom}(A_j)$

Reminder - Formal Definitions

Denoting attribute values - for a tuple t :

$t[1]$... value of first attribute in the list (remember - ordered!)

$t[a]$... value of attribute a

$t.a$... same as $t[a]$

$t[X]$, with X a subset of attributes
... values of all attributes in X

Reminder - Formal Definitions

Database state is collection of the state of all relations

$$DB = \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m\}$$

Database is in a valid state if all r_i are valid

Referential integrity

Example:

In the EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT relationships, the attribute that specifies which department an employee works in needs to refer to a department that actually exists.

A constraint **involving two relations**

The previous constraints involved only a single relation

Used to specify a **relationship among tuples** in two relations:

AKA referencing relation and the referenced relation

Foreign keys **FK**

Tuples in the referencing relation R_1 have attributes FK (the **foreign key**) that reference the primary key attributes PK of the referenced relation R_2 .

A tuple t_1 in R_1 is said to reference a tuple t_2 in R_2 if

$$t_1[FK] = t_2[PK]$$

Foreign keys FK

Note that (in 1:N or N:M relationships), **foreign keys are not keys themselves!**

E.g., multiple employees work in the same department, hence have the same value in their department FK

FKs may also be allowed to be NULL

If relationship is optional, e.g., employees may not be assigned to a department at all

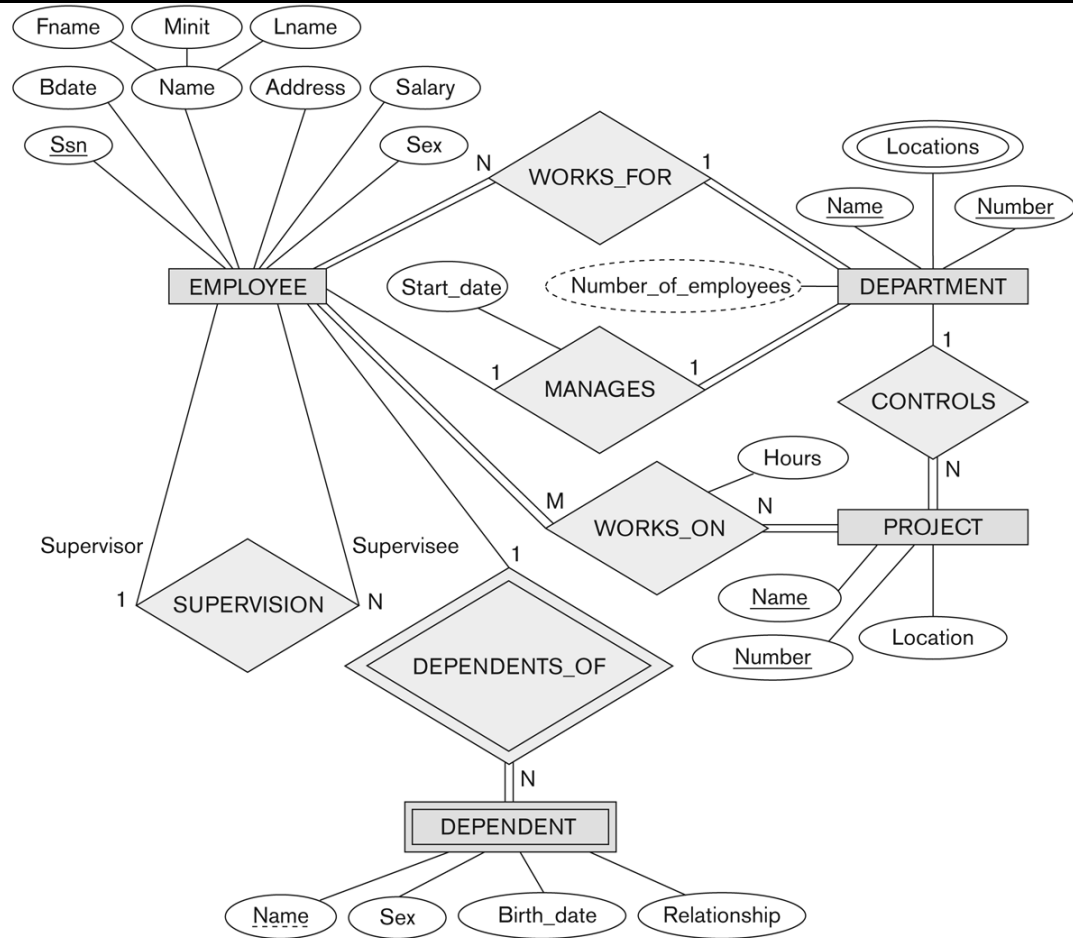


Figure 3.2

An ER schema diagram for the COMPANY database. The diagrammatic notation is introduced gradually throughout this chapter.

Figure 5.7

Referential integrity constraints displayed on the COMPANY relational database schema.

EMPLOYEE

| Fname | Minit | Lname | <u>Ssn</u> | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|

DEPARTMENT

| Dname | <u>Dnumber</u> | Mgr_ssn | Mgr_start_date |
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|

DEPT_LOCATIONS

| <u>Dnumber</u> | <u>Dlocation</u> |
|----------------|------------------|
|----------------|------------------|

PROJECT

| Pname | <u>Pnumber</u> | Plocation | Dnum |
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|

WORKS_ON

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Pno</u> | Hours |
|-------------|------------|-------|
|-------------|------------|-------|

DEPENDENT

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Dependent_name</u> | Sex | Bdate | Relationship |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|

Partial mapping
of company
example

Relational Algebra

A formalism to define **queries** over relational models

A **mathematical language** that we can use to “ask questions” about our data model

What is the Ssn of the employee “Philipp Leitner”?

How many employees are there?

Who is the supervisor of “Philipp Leitner”?

...

Directly implemented in the query language of SQL

Aside on algebras

Algebra is *“the study of mathematical symbols and the rules for manipulating these symbols”* [Wikipedia]

We call those rules **operators**.

You know operators from math and from programming:

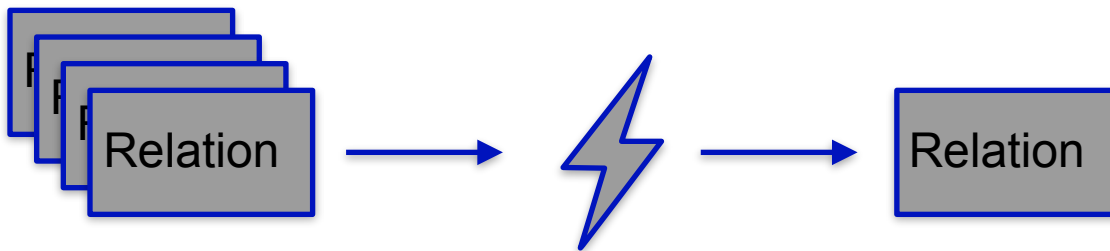
$$4x + 17 = e$$

```
int variable = 17 * other_var;
```

Relational algebra follows similar rules:

$$\text{TEMP} \leftarrow \sigma_{\text{Ssn}=125763}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$$

Basic Structure



Relational Algebra Operation
("Query")

Query results lead to new relations

Makes relational algebra a **closed** algebra

Overview

Unary Relational Operations

SELECT (symbol: σ (sigma))

PROJECT (symbol: π (pi))

RENAME (symbol: ρ (rho), or simply \leftarrow)

Relational Algebra Operations From Set Theory

UNION (\cup), INTERSECTION (\cap), DIFFERENCE (or MINUS, $-$)

CARTESIAN PRODUCT (\times)

Overview

Binary Relational Operations

JOIN (several variations)

DIVISION

Additional Relational Operations

OUTER JOINS, OUTER UNION

AGGREGATE FUNCTIONS

SUM, COUNT, AVG, MIN, MAX

Figure 5.7

Referential integrity constraints displayed on the COMPANY relational database schema.

We'll be using this
example relational model

EMPLOYEE

| Fname | Minit | Lname | <u>Ssn</u> | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|

DEPARTMENT

| Dname | <u>Dnumber</u> | Mgr_ssn | Mgr_start_date |
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|

DEPT_LOCATIONS

| <u>Dnumber</u> | <u>Dlocation</u> |
|----------------|------------------|
|----------------|------------------|

PROJECT

| Pname | <u>Pnumber</u> | Plocation | Dnum |
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|

WORKS_ON

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Pno</u> | Hours |
|-------------|------------|-------|
|-------------|------------|-------|

DEPENDENT

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Dependent_name</u> | Sex | Bdate | Relationship |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|

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Unary Relational Operations: SELECT

SELECT operation (σ -sigma) is used to select a subset of the tuples from a relation based on a **selection condition**

Selection condition acts as a filter

Keeps only those tuples that satisfy the qualifying condition

Examples:

Select the EMPLOYEE tuples whose department number is 4:

$\sigma_{DNO=4} (EMPLOYEE)$

Select the employee tuples whose salary is greater than \$30,000:

$\sigma_{SALARY>30000} (EMPLOYEE)$

Unary Relational Operations: SELECT

General format:

$$\sigma_{\langle \text{condition} \rangle} (R)$$

Result is a new relation R' containing only those tuples for which `condition` evaluates to `true`.

R' has the **same schema** as R

All attributes are the same

Mathematical Properties of SELECT

SELECT σ is **commutative**:

$$\sigma_{\langle \text{condition1} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{condition2} \rangle} (R)) = \sigma_{\langle \text{condition2} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{condition1} \rangle} (R))$$

Because of commutativity property, a cascade (sequence) of SELECT operations may be applied **in any order**:

$$\sigma_{\langle \text{cond1} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond2} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond3} \rangle} (R))) = \sigma_{\langle \text{cond2} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond3} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond1} \rangle} (R)))$$

Mathematical Properties of SELECT

A cascade of SELECT operations **may be replaced by a single selection** with a conjunction of all the conditions:

$$\sigma_{\langle \text{cond1} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond2} \rangle} (\sigma_{\langle \text{cond3} \rangle} (R))) = \sigma_{\langle \text{cond1} \rangle \text{ AND } \langle \text{cond2} \rangle \text{ AND } \langle \text{cond3} \rangle} (R))$$

The number of tuples in the result of a SELECT is **less than (or equal to)** the number of tuples in the input relation R

Unary Relational Operations: PROJECT

Denoted by π (pi)

Keeps certain attributes from a relation and discards the others

Vertical partitioning

Example:

List each employee's first and last name and salary:

$\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, \text{SALARY}} (\text{EMPLOYEE})$

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Figure 5.6

One possible database state for the COMPANY relational database schema.

EMPLOYEE

| Fname | Minit | Lname | <u>Ssn</u> | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|----------|-------|---------|------------|------------|--------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
| John | B | Smith | 123456789 | 1965-01-09 | 731 Fondren, Houston, TX | M | 30000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Franklin | T | Wong | 333445555 | 1955-12-08 | 638 Voss, Houston, TX | M | 40000 | 888665555 | 5 |
| Alicia | J | Zelaya | 999887777 | 1968-01-19 | 3321 Castle, Spring, TX | F | 25000 | 987654321 | 4 |
| Jennifer | S | Wallace | 987654321 | 1941-06-20 | 291 Berry, Bellaire, TX | F | 43000 | 888665555 | 4 |
| Ramesh | K | Narayan | 666884444 | 1962-09-15 | 975 Fire Oak, Humble, TX | M | 38000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Joyce | A | Leskar | 459459459 | 1960-03-01 | 10500 Bellaire, TX | F | 185000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Ahmad | | | | | | | | 87654321 | 4 |
| James | | | | | | | | NULL | 1 |

σ (SELECT)

$\sigma_{\text{Fname} = (\text{Alicia OR Jennifer OR Ramesh})}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$

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 π (PROJECT) $\pi_{\text{Ssn, Bdate}}$ (EMPLOYEE)**Figure 5.6**
A relational database schema.**EMPLOYEE**

| Fname | Minit | Lname | <u>Ssn</u> | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|----------|-------|---------|------------|------------|-------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
| John | B | Smith | 123456789 | 1965-01-09 | 31 Fondren, Houston, TX | M | 30000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Franklin | T | Wong | 333445555 | 1955-12-08 | 38 Voss, Houston, TX | M | 40000 | 888665555 | 5 |
| Alicia | J | Zelaya | 999887777 | 1968-01-19 | 321 Castle, Spring, TX | F | 25000 | 987654321 | 4 |
| Jennifer | S | Wallace | 987654321 | 1941-06-20 | 91 Berry, Bellaire, TX | F | 43000 | 888665555 | 4 |
| Ramesh | K | Narayan | 666884444 | 1962-09-15 | 75 Fire Oak, Humble, TX | M | 38000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Joyce | A | English | 453453453 | 1972-07-31 | 631 Rice, Houston, TX | F | 25000 | 333445555 | 5 |
| Ahmad | V | Jabbar | 987987987 | 1969-03-29 | 80 Dallas, Houston, TX | M | 25000 | 987654321 | 4 |
| James | E | Borg | 888665555 | 1937-11-10 | 50 Stone, Houston, TX | M | 55000 | NULL | 1 |

Unary Relational Operations: PROJECT

General format:

$$\pi_{\langle \text{attribute_list} \rangle} (R)$$

Result is a new relation R' containing **some or all** tuples from R , but with a **different schema**

Namely, the new schema is exactly $\langle \text{attribute_list} \rangle$
(attributes are in listed order)

Unary Relational Operations: PROJECT

Why would there ever be less tuples in the result relation?

The project operation removes any duplicate tuples

Remember that R' is a mathematical set, which cannot have duplicates

Example:

$\pi_{\text{FNAME}}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$

... returns a list of all first names

... removes tuples where employees had the same first name

In general, tuples may be lost if projecting on non-key attributes.

Mathematical Properties of PROJECT

PROJECT is **not** commutative, but:

$$p_{\langle list1 \rangle} (p_{\langle list2 \rangle} (R)) = p_{\langle list1 \rangle} (R)$$

iff $\langle list2 \rangle$ contains all the attributes in $\langle list1 \rangle$

(returns an empty relation otherwise)

Generalized PROJECT

If we allow the parameters of π to be **functions** instead of simple attribute names we arrive at a more powerful version of PROJECT

Report yearly salary for all employees:

$$\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, 12} * \text{SALARY}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$$

Unary Relational Operations: Assignment

General format:

$$E \leftarrow \langle \text{expression} \rangle$$

Used to “**store**” an intermediary result from a complex relational algebra operation

We could always write it in a single operation, but it is often more convenient / clear to use an assignment

Example Assignment

In one operation:

$$\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, \text{SALARY}} (\sigma_{\text{DNO}=5} (\text{EMPLOYEE}))$$

Split up using assignment:

$$\text{DEP5_EMPS} \leftarrow \sigma_{\text{DNO}=5} (\text{EMPLOYEE})$$
$$\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, \text{SALARY}} (\text{DEP5_EMPS})$$

More general version of assignment: RENAME

General format:

$$\rho_{S(B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n)}(R)$$

This does 2 things:

- (1) Renames the relation to s (this is the part that's identical to the assignment operator)
- (2) Renames the attributes

Note that the **degree of the relation remains unchanged**
(RENAME is not a superset of PROJECT)

RENAME is very useful together with generalized PROJECT

Remember that we can use the generalized PROJECT function to have functions in attribute lists.

Problem: these derived attributes **don't have a natural name**

We can use RENAME to give them one:

$$\text{YEMPLOYEE} \leftarrow \rho_{(\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, \text{YSALARY})}(\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, 12 * \text{SALARY}}(\text{EMPLOYEE}))$$

Summary Unary Operators

$\sigma_{\text{DNO}=4 \text{ AND Salary} > 30000}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$

Partition the relation horizontally (filter)

$\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}}((\text{EMPLOYEE}))$

Partition the relation vertically (slice attributes)

$\text{NAMES} \leftarrow \pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}}((\text{EMPLOYEE}))$

Assign a name to results

$\rho_{(\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, \text{YSALARY})}(\pi_{\text{LNAME}, \text{FNAME}, 12 * \text{SALARY}}(\text{EMPLOYEE}))$

Rename derived attributes

Relational Algebra Operations from Set Theory

There are three operations that relational algebra “inherits” from set theory:

UNION (\cup)

INTERSECTION (\cap)

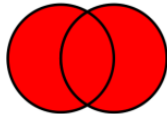
SET DIFFERENCE ($-$)

These are easy to understand when you keep in mind that **relations are mathematically sets of tuples**

So clearly they can do everything that other sets can do

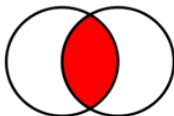
Relational Algebra Operations from Set Theory

$$R1 \cup R2$$



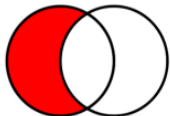
Resulting relation has all tuples from R1 and R2

$$R1 \cap R2$$



Resulting relation has only those tuples that are in R1 and R2

$$R1 - R2$$



Resulting relation has only those tuples that are in R1 but not in R2

Type Compatibility

Important caveat:

R1 and R2 must be **type-compatible**

$R1(A1, A2, \dots, An)$ is type-compatible to $R2(B1, B2, \dots, Bn)$ *iff*

(1) R1 and R2 have the same number of attributes

(2) the domains of all attributes are the same:

$\text{dom}(Ai) = \text{dom}(Bi)$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, n$

Note that **attribute names don't matter** for type compatibility (only the domains!)

CARTESIAN PRODUCT

Another “general” set theoretical operation is the **cartesian product** (also called cross product, cross join) denoted by \times

$$R(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) \times S(B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n)$$

Result of the cartesian product is a new relation which contains **all possible combinations** of both source relations.

New relation has all attributes of the source relations

And $x * y$ tuples, where x and y are the number of tuples in the source relations

Type-compatiblity not required

CARTESIAN PRODUCT – Intuition

Ranks = {A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2}

Suits = {♠, ♥, ♣, ♦}

Ranks x Suits = {

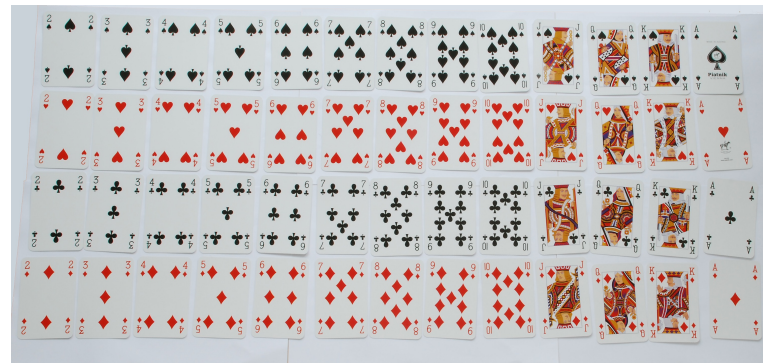
(A, ♠), (A, ♥), (A, ♣), (A, ♦),

(K, ♠), (K, ♥), (K, ♣), (K, ♦),

...,

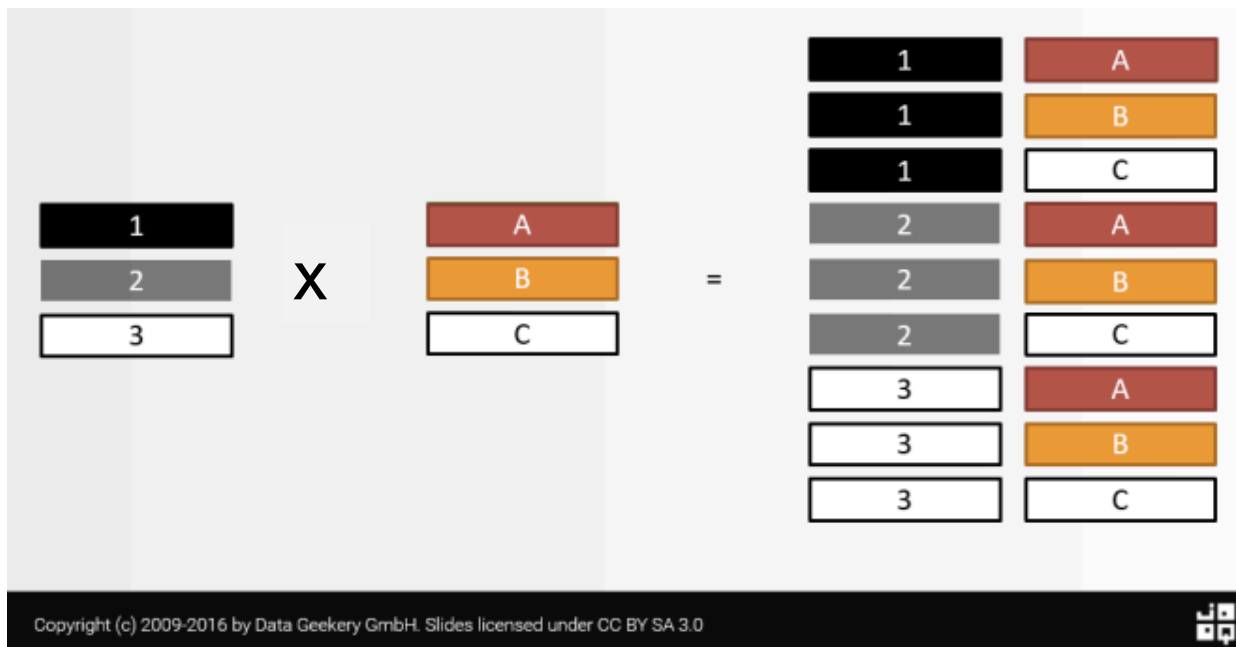
(2, ♠), (2, ♥), (2, ♣), (2, ♦),

}



CC BY 3.0: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartesian_product#/media/File:Piatnikcards.jpg

CARTESIAN PRODUCT – Example



CARTESIAN PRODUCT

In general, the result of applying the cartesian product arbitrarily to two relations delivers garbage

Example:

EMPLOYEE x DEPENDENT

... result is a relation with 15 attributes and many, many tuples, one for every combination of employee and dependent

(not only for the employees **and their** dependents)

EMPLOYEE

| Fname | Minit | Lname | <u>Ssn</u> | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|

DEPARTMENT

| Dname | <u>Dnumber</u> | Mgr_ssn | Mgr_start_date |
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|

DEPT_LOCATIONS

| <u>Dnumber</u> | <u>Dlocation</u> |
|----------------|------------------|
|----------------|------------------|

PROJECT

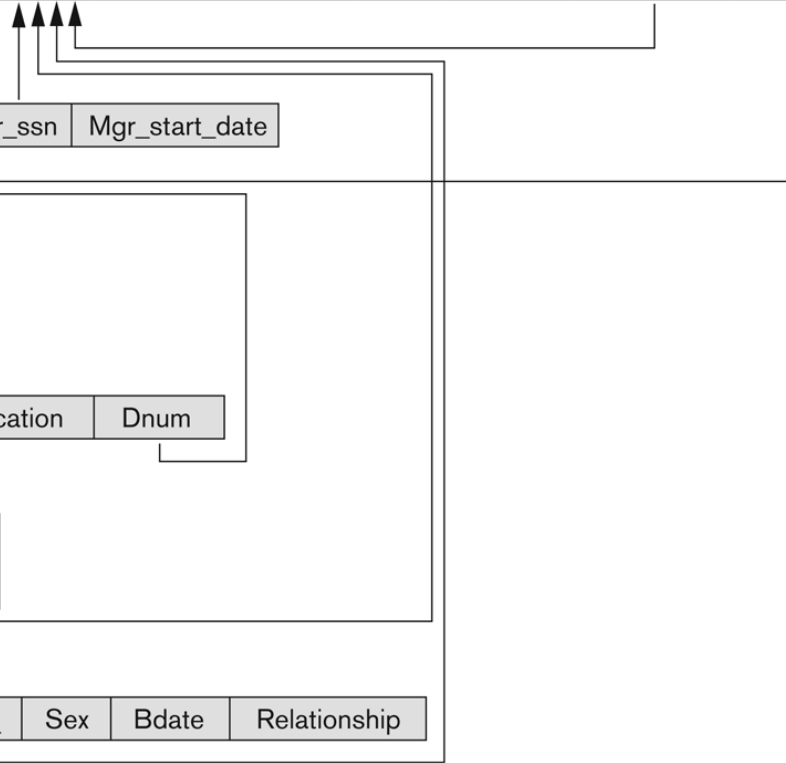
| Pname | <u>Pnumber</u> | Plocation | Dnum |
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|

WORKS_ON

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Pno</u> | Hours |
|-------------|------------|-------|
|-------------|------------|-------|

DEPENDENT

| <u>Essn</u> | <u>Dependent_name</u> | Sex | Bdate | Relationship |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------|



CARTESIAN PRODUCT

Usually, need to combine cartesian product with selection to make it meaningful
But then it becomes a powerful tool for **joining** tables

Example:

$$\text{FEMALE_EMPS} \leftarrow \sigma_{\text{SEX}=\text{F}}(\text{EMPLOYEE})$$
$$\text{EMP_NAMES} \leftarrow \pi_{(\text{FNAME}, \text{LNAME}, \text{SSN})}(\text{FEMALE_EMPS})$$
$$\text{EMP_DEPENDENTS} \leftarrow \text{EMP_NAMES} \times \text{DEPENDENT}$$
$$\text{ACTUAL_DEPS} \leftarrow \sigma_{\text{SSN}=\text{ESSN}}(\text{EMP_DEPENDENTS})$$
$$\text{RESULT} \leftarrow \pi_{(\text{FNAME}, \text{LNAME}, \text{DEPENDENT_NAME})}(\text{ACTUAL_DEPS})$$

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FEMALE_EMPS

| Fname | Minit | Lname | Ssn | Bdate | Address | Sex | Salary | Super_ssn | Dno |
|----------|-------|---------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|
| Alicia | J | Zelaya | 999887777 | 1968-07-19 | 3321 Castle, Spring, TX | F | 25000 | 987654321 | 4 |
| Jennifer | S | Wallace | 987654321 | 1941-06-20 | 291 Berry, Bellaire, TX | F | 43000 | 888665555 | 4 |
| Joyce | A | English | 453453453 | 1972-07-31 | 5631 Rice, Houston, TX | F | 25000 | 333445555 | 5 |

EMPNames

| Fname | Lname | Ssn |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 |

EMPNames $\leftarrow \Pi_{(FNAME, LNAME, SSN)} (FEMALE_EMPS)$



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EMP_DEPENDENTS ← EMPNAMES x DEPENDENT

EMP_DEPENDENTS

| Fname | Lname | Ssn | Essn | Dependent_name | Sex | Bdate | ... |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 333445555 | Alice | F | 1986-04-05 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 333445555 | Theodore | M | 1983-10-25 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 333445555 | Joy | F | 1958-05-03 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 987654321 | Abner | M | 1942-02-28 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 123456789 | Michael | M | 1988-01-04 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 123456789 | Alice | F | 1988-12-30 | ... |
| Alicia | Zelaya | 999887777 | 123456789 | Elizabeth | F | 1967-05-05 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 333445555 | Alice | F | 1986-04-05 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 333445555 | Theodore | M | 1983-10-25 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 333445555 | Joy | F | 1958-05-03 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 987654321 | Abner | M | 1942-02-28 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 123456789 | Michael | M | 1988-01-04 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 123456789 | Alice | F | 1988-12-30 | ... |
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 123456789 | Elizabeth | F | 1967-05-05 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 333445555 | Alice | F | 1986-04-05 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 333445555 | Theodore | M | 1983-10-25 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 333445555 | Joy | F | 1958-05-03 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 987654321 | Abner | M | 1942-02-28 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 123456789 | Michael | M | 1988-01-04 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 123456789 | Alice | F | 1988-12-30 | ... |
| Joyce | English | 453453453 | 123456789 | Elizabeth | F | 1967-05-05 | ... |

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$ACTUAL_DEPS \leftarrow \sigma_{SSN=ESSN}(EMP_DEPENDENTS)$

ACTUAL_DEPENDENTS

| Fname | Lname | Ssn | Essn | Dependent_name | Sex | Bdate | ... |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Jennifer | Wallace | 987654321 | 987654321 | Abner | M | 1942-02-28 | ... |

RESULT

| Fname | Lname | Dependent_name |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| Jennifer | Wallace | Abner |

$RESULT \leftarrow \pi_{(FNAME, LNAME, DEPENDENT_NAME)}(ACTUAL_DEPS)$

JOIN Operator

Given how useful (and cumbersome) this joining via a combination of cartesian product and selection is, there are a number of **common shortcut operators**

The most fundamental one of those is the the **THETA JOIN**

Denoted by:

$$R \bowtie_{\langle \text{join condition} \rangle} S$$

Example

Suppose that we want to retrieve the name of the **manager** of each **department**.

To get the manager's name, we need to combine each DEPARTMENT tuple with the EMPLOYEE tuple whose SSN value matches the MGRSSN value in the department tuple.

$$\text{DEPT_MGR} \leftarrow \text{DEPARTMENT} \bowtie_{\text{MGRSSN}=\text{SSN}} \text{EMPLOYEE}$$

(MGRSSN=SSN is the join condition, or **theta**)

Example

DEPT_MGR

| Dname | Dnumber | Mgr_ssn | ... | Fname | Minit | Lname | Ssn | ... |
|----------------|---------|-----------|-----|----------|-------|---------|-----------|-----|
| Research | 5 | 333445555 | ... | Franklin | T | Wong | 333445555 | ... |
| Administration | 4 | 987654321 | ... | Jennifer | S | Wallace | 987654321 | ... |
| Headquarters | 1 | 888665555 | ... | James | E | Borg | 888665555 | ... |

Note that result relation contains **all attributes** from both source relations, **including join attributes**

Often desired to combine JOIN with a projection

Resolving ambiguity

When joining, attribute names are **not necessarily unique**

Especially, but not only, join attributes are often called the same in both source relations

Solution is to **prefix with relation name**:

`CAR ⋈CAR.MANUFACTURER_ID=MANUFACTURER.MANUFACTURER_ID MANUFACTURER`

This can be done with **any** attribute name, not just ambiguous ones

Joins and Foreign Keys

In practice the single most important task of joins is to connect two relations based on a **primary key - foreign key** connection

Think about the join as creating a single relation from two separate input relations, where each tuple is “glued together” based on the equality of foreign keys in one relation to the primary keys in the other.

More specialized JOINS

EQUIJOIN

Any JOIN where the theta consists **only of a single equality comparison**

In theory thetas can be arbitrary conditional statements, but in practice most joins will be over the equality of two attributes

No special syntax:

$$R \bowtie_{R.a = S.b} S$$

More specialized JOINS

NATURAL JOINS

If the join attributes are **named the same** in both relations, we can use a simpler syntax, the NATURAL JOIN

$$R * S$$

(this is shorthand for $R \bowtie_{R.a = S.a} S$)

More specialized JOINS

NATURAL JOINS

If there is more than one pair of same-named attributes, **all of them** need to be equal

$R(A, B, C, D) * S(C, D, E)$ is equivalent to:

$R(A, B, C, D) \bowtie_{(R.C=S.C \text{ AND } R.D=S.D)} S(C, D, E)$

JOIN Chains

In real databases we often need to join across a large number of relations:

$$\pi_{A.a, D.d} (A * B * C * D)$$

(“find the name of the department where the manager’s dependent lives in ...”)

Figure 8.7 Results of two natural join operations. (a) proj_dept \leftarrow project * dept. (b) dept_locs \leftarrow department * dept_locations.

(a)

PROJ_DEPT

| Pname | Pnumber | Plocation | Dnum | Dname | Mgr_ssn | Mgr_start_date |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| ProductX | 1 | Bellaire | 5 | Research | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 |
| ProductY | 2 | Sugarland | 5 | Research | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 |
| ProductZ | 3 | Houston | 5 | Research | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 |
| Computerization | 10 | Stafford | 4 | Administration | 987654321 | 1995-01-01 |
| Reorganization | 20 | Houston | 1 | Headquarters | 888665555 | 1981-06-19 |
| Newbenefits | 30 | Stafford | 4 | Administration | 987654321 | 1995-01-01 |

(b)

DEPT_LOCS

| Dname | Dnumber | Mgr_ssn | Mgr_start_date | Location |
|----------------|---------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Headquarters | 1 | 888665555 | 1981-06-19 | Houston |
| Administration | 4 | 987654321 | 1995-01-01 | Stafford |
| Research | 5 | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 | Bellaire |
| Research | 5 | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 | Sugarland |
| Research | 5 | 333445555 | 1988-05-22 | Houston |

PROJ_DEPT \leftarrow PROJECT * DEPT

DEPT_LOCS \leftarrow

DEPARTMENT * DEPT_LOCATIONS

Table 8.1 Operations of Relational Algebra

| OPERATION | PURPOSE | NOTATION |
|--------------|--|---|
| SELECT | Selects all tuples that satisfy the selection condition from a relation R . | $\sigma_{\langle \text{selection condition} \rangle}(R)$ |
| PROJECT | Produces a new relation with only some of the attributes of R , and removes duplicate tuples. | $\pi_{\langle \text{attribute list} \rangle}(R)$ |
| THETA JOIN | Produces all combinations of tuples from R_1 and R_2 that satisfy the join condition. | $R_1 \bowtie_{\langle \text{join condition} \rangle} R_2$ |
| EQUIJOIN | Produces all the combinations of tuples from R_1 and R_2 that satisfy a join condition with only equality comparisons. | $R_1 \bowtie_{\langle \text{join condition} \rangle} R_2$, OR $R_1 \bowtie_{(\langle \text{join attributes 1} \rangle), (\langle \text{join attributes 2} \rangle)} R_2$ |
| NATURAL JOIN | Same as EQUIJOIN except that the join attributes of R_2 are not included in the resulting relation; if the join attributes have the same names, they do not have to be specified at all. | $R_1^*_{\langle \text{join condition} \rangle} R_2$, OR $R_1^*_{(\langle \text{join attributes 1} \rangle), (\langle \text{join attributes 2} \rangle)} R_2$ OR $R_1 * R_2$ |

Table 8.1 Operations of Relational Algebra

| OPERATION | PURPOSE | NOTATION |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| UNION | Produces a relation that includes all the tuples in R_1 or R_2 or both R_1 and R_2 ; R_1 and R_2 must be union compatible. | $R_1 \cup R_2$ |
| INTERSECTION | Produces a relation that includes all the tuples in both R_1 and R_2 ; R_1 and R_2 must be union compatible. | $R_1 \cap R_2$ |
| DIFFERENCE | Produces a relation that includes all the tuples in R_1 that are not in R_2 ; R_1 and R_2 must be union compatible. | $R_1 - R_2$ |
| CARTESIAN PRODUCT | Produces a relation that has the attributes of R_1 and R_2 and includes as tuples all possible combinations of tuples from R_1 and R_2 . | $R_1 \times R_2$ |
| DIVISION | Produces a relation $R(X)$ that includes all tuples $t[X]$ in $R_1(Z)$ that appear in R_1 in combination with every tuple from $R_2(Y)$, where $Z = X \cup Y$. | $R_1(Z) \div R_2(Y)$ |

Key Takeaways

A lot to take in from this week ...

But most important are:

Understanding the basic concepts of RA

Projection, Selection, Renaming

Joining and the relationship of joins to foreign keys