

[illegible]

# Database System Concept (CSE 3103)

Lecture 02-Day 03

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# Relational Algebra

- Procedural language
- Six basic operators
  - select:  $\sigma$
  - project:  $\Pi$
  - union:  $\cup$
  - set difference:  $-$
  - Cartesian product:  $\times$
  - rename:  $\rho$
- The operators take one or two relations as inputs and produce a new relation as a result.

# Select Operation

- Notation:  $\sigma_p(r)$
- $p$  is called the **selection predicate**
- Defined as:

$$\sigma_p(r) = \{t \mid t \in r \text{ and } p(t)\}$$

Where  $p$  is a formula in propositional calculus consisting of **terms** connected by  $\wedge$  (**and**),  $\vee$  (**or**),  $\neg$  (**not**)  
Each **term** is one of:

$\langle \text{attribute} \rangle \quad op \quad \langle \text{attribute} \rangle \text{ or } \langle \text{constant} \rangle$

where  $op$  is one of:  $=, \neq, >, \geq, <, \leq$

- Example of selection:

$$\sigma_{dept\_name="Physics"}(instructor)$$

# Project Operation

- Notation:  $\Pi_{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k}(r)$

where  $A_1, A_2$  are attribute names and  $r$  is a relation name.

- The result is defined as the relation of  $k$  columns obtained by erasing the columns that are not listed
- Duplicate rows removed from result, since relations are sets
- Example: To eliminate the *dept\_name* attribute of *instructor*

$$\Pi_{ID, name, salary}(instructor)$$

# Union Operation

- Notation:  $r \cup s$

- Defined as:

$$r \cup s = \{t \mid t \in r \text{ or } t \in s\}$$

- For  $r \cup s$  to be valid.
  1.  $r, s$  must have the *same* **arity** (same number of attributes)
  2. The attribute domains must be **compatible** (example: 2<sup>nd</sup> column of  $r$  deals with the same type of values as does the 2<sup>nd</sup> column of  $s$ )
- Example: to find all courses taught in the Fall 2009 semester, or in the Spring 2010 semester, or in both

$\Pi_{\text{course\_id}} (\sigma_{\text{semester}=\text{"Fall"} \wedge \text{year}=2009}(\text{section})) \cup$

$\Pi_{\text{course\_id}} (\sigma_{\text{semester}=\text{"Spring"} \wedge \text{year}=2010}(\text{section}))$

# Set Difference Operation

- Notation  $r - s$
- Defined as:

$$r - s = \{t \mid t \in r \text{ and } t \notin s\}$$

- Set differences must be taken between **compatible** relations.
  - $r$  and  $s$  must have the **same** arity
  - attribute domains of  $r$  and  $s$  must be compatible
- Example: to find all courses taught in the Fall 2009 semester, but not in the Spring 2010 semester

$$\Pi_{course\_id}(\sigma_{semester="Fall" \wedge year=2009}(section)) - \Pi_{course\_id}(\sigma_{semester="Spring" \wedge year=2010}(section))$$

# Set-Intersection Operation

- Notation:  $r \cap s$
- Defined as:
- $r \cap s = \{ t \mid t \in r \textbf{ and } t \in s \}$
- Assume:
  - $r, s$  have the *same arity*
  - attributes of  $r$  and  $s$  are compatible
- Note:  $r \cap s = r - (r - s)$



# Cartesian-Product Operation

- Notation  $r \times s$
- Defined as:

$$r \times s = \{t \ q \mid t \in r \textbf{ and } q \in s\}$$

- Assume that attributes of  $r(R)$  and  $s(S)$  are disjoint. (That is,  $R \cap S = \emptyset$ ).
- If attributes of  $r(R)$  and  $s(S)$  are not disjoint, then renaming must be used.

# Rename Operation

- Allows us to name, and therefore to refer to, the results of relational-algebra expressions.
- Allows us to refer to a relation by more than one name.
- Example:

$$\rho_x(E)$$

returns the expression  $E$  under the name  $X$

- If a relational-algebra expression  $E$  has arity  $n$ , then

$$\rho_{x(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)}(E)$$

returns the result of expression  $E$  under the name  $X$ , and with the attributes renamed to  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ .

# Formal Definition

- A basic expression in the relational algebra consists of either one of the following:
  - A relation in the database
  - A constant relation
- Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be relational-algebra expressions; the following are all relational-algebra expressions:
  - $E_1 \cup E_2$
  - $E_1 - E_2$
  - $E_1 \times E_2$
  - $\sigma_p(E_1)$ ,  $P$  is a predicate on attributes in  $E_1$
  - $\Pi_S(E_1)$ ,  $S$  is a list consisting of some of the attributes in  $E_1$
  - $\rho_x(E_1)$ ,  $x$  is the new name for the result of  $E_1$