

# Join clauses


- The learning objectives for this week are:
  - Knowing what *join clauses* are and what kind of query problems can they solve
  - Knowing how to use the `INNER JOIN`, `OUTER JOIN` and `CROSS JOIN` clauses to perform different kind of joins operations
  - Knowing the difference between `INNER JOIN` and `OUTER JOIN` clauses


# Join clauses


- In the relational model a table can have a foreign key referencing primary key in another table
- A common query problem is to select columns from the referenced table based on the foreign key value
- For example, *"What is the name of each course instance's teacher?"*
- We would need to select course instance rows from the `CourseInstance` table and *join* them with the teacher rows from the `Teacher` table based on the `teacher_number` foreign key column value

# Join clauses

- The first table resembles the `CourseInstance` table row, the second table the `Teacher` table row and the third table the desired result table row:

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number
a290	1	 h430

teacher_number	first_name	surname
 h430	Emma	Virta

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	 h430	Emma	Virta

# Join clauses


```
SELECT [ DISTINCT ] {  
    -- ...  
}  
FROM table_name [ [ AS ] table_alias ]  
-- JOIN clause  
[ { [ INNER ] JOIN table_name [ [ AS ] table_alias ] ON join_condition }... ]
```

- Instead of combining rows, like set operators (e.g. `UNION`), a *join clause* combines *columns* from one or more tables into a new table
- Rows are join based on a condition called *join condition*
- There's three different kind of join operations which operate in different ways: *inner join*, *outer join* and *cross join*

# Join clauses

- With a `SELECT` statement we get the `teacher_number` foreign key column value:


```
SELECT course_code, instance_number, teacher_number
FROM CourseInstance
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number
a290	1	 h430

# Join clauses

- We can use the `INNER JOIN` clause to combine the matching columns from the `Teacher` table:


```
-- what is the first name and surname of each course instance teacher?  
SELECT  
CourseInstance.course_code, CourseInstance.instance_number, Teacher.teacher_number, Teacher.first_name, Teacher.surname  
FROM CourseInstance  
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	 h430	Emma	Virta

# Join clauses

- In the example each row of the `CourseInstance` table is combined with a row from the `Teacher` table based on the *join condition*:

```
-- the teacher_number of column in the CourseInstance table  
-- must match the teacher_number column of the Teacher table  
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

-  The join condition *does not* have to compare primary key to a foreign key, any kind of condition can be used

# Join clauses

- With join clauses we operate on multiple tables, which can have columns with the same name
- This leads to errors caused by *ambiguous column names*, which can be avoided by specifying the table name before the column name using the

`table_name.column_name` syntax:

```
-- ✗ teacher_number column name is ambiguous because
-- both CourseInstance and Teacher table have the teacher_number column
SELECT teacher_number
FROM CourseInstance
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number

-- ✓ we specify that the teacher_number column
-- of the CourseInstance table should be selected
SELECT CourseInstance.teacher_number
FROM CourseInstance
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```



# INNER JOIN clause

- The `INNER JOIN` clause (or `JOIN` in short) *only* selects rows that have matching values in *both* tables based on the join condition
- If we consider the previous example, this means that course instances without teacher number ( `teach_number` column value is `NULL` ) won't be included in the result table
- This is because we can't match `teacher_number` of value `NULL` with a row in the `Teacher` table because the primary key value can't be `NULL`

# INNER JOIN clause

- Let's consider the following rows in `CourseInstance` and `Teacher` tables:

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number
a290	1	h430
a290	2	⚠ NULL
a450	1	h303

teacher_number	first_name	surname
h430	Emma	Virta
h303	Veli	Ponteva
h777	Mauri	Matikka

# INNER JOIN clause

- The result table only has rows that have the corresponding `teacher_number` column value in the `Teacher` table

```
SELECT  
CourseInstance.course_code, CourseInstance.instance_number,  
Teacher.teacher_number, Teacher.first_name, Teacher.surname  
FROM CourseInstance  
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	h430	Emma	Virta
a450	1	h303	Veli	Ponteva

# INNER JOIN clause

- If the foreign key is a composite key, the join condition must include all columns of the composite key
- For example, the `CourseInstance` table has a composite key consisting of `course_code` and `instance_number` columns

```
-- how long does it take to grade each course on average?
SELECT
    CourseInstance.course_code,
    AVG(DATEDIFF(DAY, end_date, grade_date)) AS average_grading_time
FROM CourseGrade
-- join condition must include all columns of the composite key
INNER JOIN CourseInstance ON CourseGrade.course_code = CourseInstance.course_code
AND CourseGrade.instance_number = CourseInstance.instance_number
GROUP BY CourseInstance.course_code
```

# OUTER JOIN clause

- The `OUTER JOIN` clause selects *matching* and *non-matching* rows from either or both tables
- The `OUTER JOIN` clause has two variations: `LEFT OUTER JOIN` and `RIGHT OUTER JOIN`
- The difference between these two lies in the inclusion of non-matching rows
- The `LEFT OUTER JOIN` clause (or `LEFT JOIN` in short) includes the non-matching rows from the table which is on the *left* of the join clause
- The `RIGHT OUTER JOIN` clause (or `RIGHT JOIN` in short) includes the non-matching rows from the table which is on the *right* of the join clause

# OUTER JOIN clause

- The "left table" is before the join clause and the "right table" after it:

```
SELECT -- ...  
FROM LeftTable  
LEFT OUTER JOIN RightTable  
ON -- ...
```

# LEFT OUTER JOIN clause

- With the `LEFT OUTER JOIN` clause the result table has *all* rows from the `CourseInstance` table *and the matching rows* from the `Teacher` table

```
SELECT
CourseInstance.course_code, CourseInstance.instance_number, Teacher.teacher_number, Teacher.first_name, Teacher.surname
FROM CourseInstance
LEFT OUTER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	h430	Emma	Virta
a290	2	! NULL	! NULL	! NULL
a450	1	h303	Veli	Ponteva

# RIGHT OUTER JOIN clause

- With the `RIGHT OUTER JOIN` clause the result table has *all* rows from the `Teacher` table *and the matching rows* from the `CourseInstance` table

```
SELECT
CourseInstance.course_code, CourseInstance.instance_number, Teacher.teacher_number, Teacher.first_name, Teacher.surname
FROM CourseInstance
RIGHT OUTER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	h430	Emma	Virta
a450	1	h303	Veli	Ponteva
! NULL	! NULL	h777	Mauri	Matikka



# OUTER JOIN clause

- Technically, every `RIGHT OUTER JOIN` clause can be handled with a `LEFT OUTER JOIN` clause
- This is because `TableA RIGHT OUTER JOIN TableB` is the same as `TableB LEFT OUTER JOIN TableA`
- It might be easier to think every outer join operation as a `LEFT OUTER JOIN` clause and not to use `RIGHT OUTER JOIN` clause

# Difference between INNER JOIN and OUTER JOIN

- The difference between `INNER JOIN` and `OUTER JOIN` lies in the way the *non-matching rows are handled*

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number
a290	1	h430
a290	2	⚠ NULL
a450	1	h303


teacher_number	first_name	surname
h430	Emma	Virta
h303	Veli	Ponteva
h777	Mauri	Matikka

# Difference between INNER JOIN and OUTER JOIN

- The `INNER JOIN` clause *omits the rows that don't have a matching row* in the other table:

```
INNER JOIN Teacher ON CourseInstance.teacher_number = Teacher.teacher_number
```

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	h430	Emma	Virta
a450	1	h303	Veli	Ponteva

-  The course instance with the `teacher_number` columns value as `NULL` is omitted from the result table because it doesn't have a matching row in the `Teacher` table

# Difference between INNER JOIN and OUTER JOIN

- **OUTER JOIN** *includes the rows that don't have a matching row in the other table and the corresponding columns values are **NULL***

**LEFT OUTER JOIN** Teacher **ON** CourseInstance.teacher\_number = Teacher.teacher\_number

course_code	instance_number	teacher_number	first_name	surname
a290	1	h430	Emma	Virta
a290	2	! NULL	! NULL	! NULL
a450	1	h303	Veli	Ponteva

# CROSS JOIN clause

- The `CROSS JOIN` clause selects rows from *both* tables *without a join condition*
- The `CROSS JOIN` clause operates similarly as the *cartesian product*
- The result table has every possible combination of rows of the first and the second table
- ⚠ The result table can potentially have a very large number of rows

```
-- what are all possible shoe color and size combinations?  
SELECT ShoeColor.name, ShoeSize.name  
FROM ShoeColor  
CROSS JOIN ShoeSize
```

# Summary

- *Join clauses* combines *columns* from one or more tables into a new table
- The `INNER JOIN` clause *only* selects rows that have matching values in *both* tables based on the join condition
- The `LEFT OUTER JOIN` clause includes the non-matching rows from the table which is on the *left* of the join clause and the matching rows from the table on the right
- The `RIGHT OUTER JOIN` clause includes the non-matching rows from the table which is on the *right* of the join clause and the matching rows from the table on the left
- The difference between `INNER JOIN` and `OUTER JOIN` lies in the way the *non-matching rows are handled*
- The `CROSS JOIN` clause selects rows from *both* tables *without a join condition*