Structured Query Language

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SQL

- SQL (Structured Query Language) is the most prominent relational database language, used in more than 99% of database applications.
- SQL supports schema creation and modification; data insertion, retrieval, update and deletion; constraints, indexing of attributes, transactions, data access control (authorisation), plus lots more.
- Most SQL implementations also provide one or more procedural languages for writing procedures (*stored procedures*) that execute SQL statements within a RDBMS. Such procedures can be called directly by the user, by client programs, by other stored procedures or called automatically by the database when certain events happen (*triggers*), for example after a tuple is updated.
- We'll do a tour of SQL (well a subset of SQL)

Relational Algebra to SQL

Relation Algebra	SQL		
$R\cupS$	R union S		
$R \cap S$	R intersect S		
R - S	R except S		
$\prod_{\text{attributes}} (R)$	select attributes from R		
σ _{condition} (R)	from R where condition		
R×S	R, S or R cross join S		
$R \bowtie S$	R natural join S		
$R \bowtie_{condition} S$	R join S on condition		

Vocabulary

Relation Algebra	SQL	Comment	
Relation	Table	Tables are persistent relations stored on disk.	
Relational Expression	Views	Views are relations based on other relations. Views are not normally stored nor updateable, unless they're materialised.	
Tuple	Row	Sometimes called a record	
Attribute	Column	Sometimes called a field	
Domain	Туре	Types include char, int, float, date, time	

SQL Gotcha's

Standards	Which SQL? Every SQL vendor supports a different subset of one of the SQL standards plus their own extensions. Moving a database from one vendor to another is non-trivial.
Duplicates	SQL is based on multi-sets(bags) not sets. Relations in SQL can have duplicate tuples. <i>Duplicate are best avoided</i> .
Nulls	Attributes do not need to have a value, they can be null . null s can be used to indicate a missing value, a value that is not known, a value that is private, etc. <i>Nulls are best avoided</i> .
Booleans	Booleans are based on three-valued logic (3VL). They can be true , false or unknown !

Types

Most SQL implementations support a wide range of types including:

int, smallint, real, double precision, float(n), numeric(p,d), decimal(p,d)	Most DBs support a variety of integer and floating point types. Ranges are implementation dependent. The usual arithmetic operators are available.
char, char(n), varchar(n), clob/text,	Strings can be fixed length (padded with spaces), varying length (upto n), or unlimited length clob/text. The concatenation operator is . string like 'pattern' performs pattern matching where pattern can include _ for any character and % for zero or more chars, e.g. X like 'B%' matches any strings starting with B. Also similar to for regular expression matches.
bit(n), byte(n), blob	Bits, bytes, and binary large objects (blobs). Often used for audio, images, movies, files, etc.

Types

A few more types:

boolean	Booleans are based on three-valued logic (3VL). They can be true, false or unknown! See later for truth tables. Comparison operators include between, not between, in, not in. Examples: age between 45 and 49 for age>=45 and age<=49 name not in ('Fred', 'Jim', 'Alice')
date, time, timestamp	Dates and times are specified like: date '1994-02-25', time '12:45:02', timestamp '1994-02-25 12:45:02' SQL supports date and time expressions as well as timezones and intervals
•••	Each RDBMS has a long list of additional types for <i>currency</i> , <i>xml</i> , <i>geo-spatial data</i> , <i>CAD data</i> , <i>multi-media</i> , etc. Some also support user-defined types.

Truth Table for 3-valued Logic

X	У	x and y	x or y	not x
TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
TRUE	unknown			FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE
unknown	TRUE			
unknown	unknown			
unknown	FALSE			
FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE
FALSE	unknown			TRUE
FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE

You can complete the Truth table with the following mapping:

1 - TRUE

½ - unknown

0 - FALSE

x and y = min x, y

 $x \text{ or } y = \max x, y$

not x = 1 - x

Truth Table for 3-valued Logic

Х	У	x and y	x or y	not x
TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
TRUE	unknown	unknown	TRUE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE
unknown	TRUE	unknown	TRUE	unknown
unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
unknown	FALSE	FALSE	unknown	unknown
FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE
FALSE	unknown	FALSE	unknown	TRUE
FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE

You can complete the Truth table with the following mapping:

1 - TRUE

½ - unknown

0 - FALSE

x and y = min x, y

 $x \text{ or } y = \max x, y$

not x = 1 - x

Nulls

SQL attributes can have the special value **null**. There are many interpretations for null, including:

Missing	There is some value, but we don't know what it is at the moment, e.g. missing birthdate
Not applicable	No value makes sense, e.g. spouse's name for an unmarried person
Withheld	There is a value, but we're not entitled to record the value, e.g. an unlisted phone number.

Nulls do not mean 0, nor empty string, nor midnight, etc. However, they are often presented as blank when displayed or printed.

Nulls

We need to understand the implications of **null**s on arithmetic and comparisons including for joins (see later).

Arithmetic	Any arithmetic that involves a null will result in a null . Note: In SQL, 0*y where y is null is null ! y-y is also null if y is null !
Comparisons	Any comparison involving a null will result in unknown , e.g. x>y where y is null will result in unknown . null is not a constant value like true and can't be used in comparisons. To test if an attribute y is null, use y is null , or y is not null null will never match any other value (even null itself), unless we explicitly use is null or is not null .

Queries

Probably the most used and most complex statement in SQL is the **select** statement which is used to query (retrieve) data from a database.

select supports all the relational operators as well as sorting, grouping and aggregate functions. The relation produced by a **select** is normally returned to the user or client program, but can be used as a *subquery* in expressions.

```
movie(title, year, length, genre studio producer)

select title, length projected attributes

from movie
where studio='fox' and year>19

selection condition
```

To return all attributes, use * for the projected attributes.

Renaming Attributes

We can rename attributes (and use expressions) in the projection part of a **select** with the **as** keyword. Renaming is useful if we have clashing attribute names that represent different things, or we want to carry out set operations on relations with differing attribute names. as can also be used to rename relations as we'll see.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

select title as name, length/60 as hours

from movie

where studio='fox' and year>1990

For readability or to disambiguate attributes we can prefix the relation name, e.g.

select movie.title as name, movie.length/60 as hours

from movie

where movie.studio='fox' and movie.year>1990

Sorting Results

In contrast to relational algebra, SQL's select statement can sort the tuples in the resulting relation. This is achieved by adding an order **by** clause at the end of the **select**.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

select title, length
from movie
where studio='fox' and year>1990
order by year desc, title asc

This will sort the resulting tuples first by year in descending order, then by title in ascending order. Note: we can use all the attributes of movie (e.g. year), not just those in the projection. So the order of evaluation is **from**, **where**, **order**, **select** (FWOS).

We can also sort based on expressions e.g. attr1+attr2 desc

Cartesian Product and Natural Join

The **from** clause is used to define a cartesian product or perform various joins.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer) casting(title, year, name)

```
select *
from movie , casting ←
```

We can use **cross join** instead of comma (,).

This is equivalent to movie × casting in relational algebra

while

```
from movie natural join casting
```

is equivalent to movie ⋈ casting in relational algebra.

Theta join lets us join a predicate

Theta Join

Theta join is performed with join and an on condition or a using attribute list.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

casting(title, year, name)

select title, year, name

from movie join casting on movie.producer=casting.name

This is equivalent to

 \prod title, year, name(σ movie.producer=casting.name(movie × casting))

using can be used if we want to join on specific attributes, e.g.

select title
from movie join casting using (title, year)

which is the same as on movie.title=casting.title **and** movie.year=casting.year

Renaming Relations

To form a query over two tuples from the same relation (self-join), we list the relation twice (i.e. perform a cartesian product on itself and rename one or both of the listed relations using the **as** keyword. Renamed relations are known as **correlation names**.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer) casting(title, year, name, address)

select casting1.name, casting2.name

We can also use correlation names to give us a shorter name to use in other parts of the query:

```
select m.title, m.studio, a.name
from movie m join casting c on m.producer=c.name
```

If you prefer, you can omit **as** after a relation, e.g. movie m is fine.

Multi-relation Joins

We can join as many relations as we like. The evaluation is carried out left to right unless we use parentheses. Note: in practice a query optimiser rewrites all queries for performance while maintaining the semantics of the query.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

casting(title, year, name)

studio(name, address, boss)

select casting.name, movie.producer, studio.boss

from casting **join** movie **using** (title)

join studio on movie.studio=studio.name

where movie.year >= 1990

Union, Intersection, Difference

We can combine relations using the set operators union(\cup), intersect(\cap) and except(-). We typically use these operators on the relations generated by **select**s, which should be parenthesised.

```
Example: actor(name, address, gender, birthdate)
    producer(name, address, networth)

(select name, address
    from actor
    where gender='F')
        intersect
    (select name, address
    from producer
    where networth>=100000000)
```

The two **intersect** operands are subqueries that return relations

union, intersect and except remove duplicates. To retain duplicates use union all, intersect all, except all.

More Joins

leftrelation JOIN-OPERATOR **rightrelation**

inner join returns tuples when there is at least one match in both relations. This corresponds to the join we've seen in relational algebra.

left outer join is like inner join but includes all tuples from the left relation, even if there are no matches in the right relation. Nulls are used for missing values.

right outer join is like inner join but includes all tuples from the right relation, even if there are no matches in the left relation. Nulls are used for missing values.

full outer join is like inner join but includes all umatched tuples from both relations. Nulls are used for missing values.

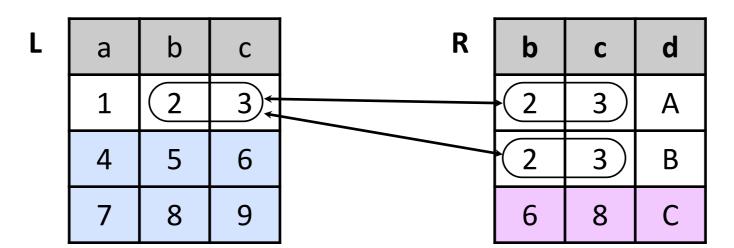
The joins above can be natural joins (joined by matching attributes) or theta joins (joined by a condition).

The keywords inner and outer are optional

Natural Outer Joins

Although natural and theta joins are often what's required, there are occasions when we'd like to retain tuples that don't match, outerjoins give us this capability.

Examples:



L natural left join R

а	b	С	d
1	2	\bigcap	Α
1	2	(3)	В
4	5	6	null
7	8	9	null

L natural right join R

а	b	С	d
1	2	(M)	Α
1	2	3	В
null	6	8	С

nulls are used for missing values

L natural full join R

а	b	С	d
1	2	\bigcirc	Α
1	2	(3)	В
4	5	6	null
7	8	9	null
null	6	8	С

Theta Outer Joins

We can also perform theta outerjoins using **left outer join**, **right outer join**, or **full outer join** along with an **on** condition.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

casting(title, year, name)

select title, year, name

from movie left outer join casting on

movie.producer=casting.name and movie.year=casting.year

Eliminating Duplicates

Unlike relational algebra, SQL queries can potentially produce duplicate tuples. We can eliminate them by adding the keyword **distinct** after the keyword **select**. Recall that **union**, **intersect** and **except** eliminate duplicates unless **all** is used.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

casting(title, year, name)

select distinct title, year, name

from movie left outer join casting on

movie.producer=casting.name and movie.year=casting.year

Removing duplicates is potentially a costly operation requiring sorting of the tuples and comparison of adjacent tuples, only use **distinct** if it's really necessary to do so.

Aggregation Functions

The aggregate functions **sum**, **avg**, **min**, **max** and **count** can be used in a projection list to calculate a single value, either from the whole resulting relation or from a part of it - see grouping later). The parameter is typically an *attribute* but can be an *expression*. Fortunately, **null**s are excluded from these calculations.

count(**distinct** *attribute*) counts the number of distinct values of the attribute. **count**(*) is an aggregate function that counts the number of tuples in a relation or group (including nulls)

Example: select

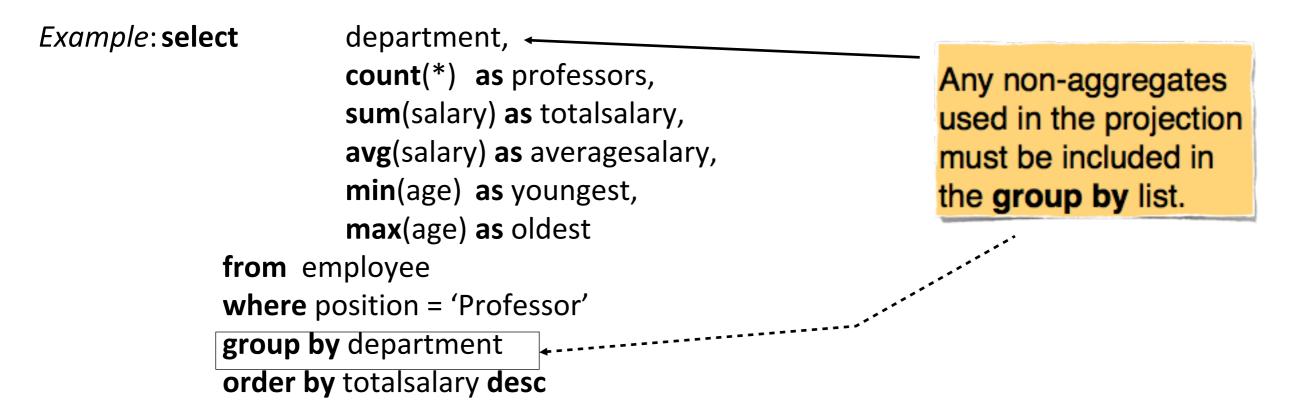
count(*) as professors,
sum(salary) as totalsalary,
avg(salary) as averagesalary,
min(age) as youngest,
max(age) as oldest

from employee
where position = 'Professor'

Note: this query will produce a relation with a single tuple with 5 attributes.

Grouping

The **select** statement can group the tuples in a resulting relation. This is achieved by providing a list of grouping attributes in a **group by** clause. If aggregate functions are used in the projection list they are applied to each group.



This query will produce a relation with one tuple for each department. The results are sorted in descending order by totalsalary.

Example

```
count(*) as professors,
sum(salary) as totalsalary,
avg(salary) as averagesalary,
min(age) as youngest,
max(age) as oldest
from employee
where position = 'Professor'
group by department
order by totalsalary desc
```

department	professors	totalsalary	averagesalary	youngest	oldest
physics	30	3000000	100000	35	68
computing	25	2000000	80000	40	65
•••					
materials	4	360000	90000	50	62

Filtering groups by aggregate functions

We can filter groups using a predicate with aggregate functions that is applied to each group by adding a **having** clause after the **group by** clause.

```
count(*) as professors,
sum(salary) as totalsalary,
avg(salary) as averagesalary,
min(age) as youngest,
max(age) as oldest
from employee
where position = 'Professor'
group by department
having count(*)>=10
order by totalsalary desc
```

Any non-aggregates used in the **having** filter must be included in the **group by** list.

This query will produce a relation with one tuple for each department that has at least 10 professors. The results are sorted in descending order by totalsalary.

Example

```
select department,
    count(*) as professors,
    sum(salary) as totalsalary,
    avg(salary) as averagesalary,
    min(age) as youngest,
    max(age) as oldest
from employee
where position = 'Professor'
group by department
having count(*)>=10
order by totalsalary desc
```

department	professors	totalsalary	averagesalary	youngest	oldest
physics	30	3000000	100000	35	68
computing	25	2000000	80000	40	65
•••					
- materials	4	360000	90000	50	

Subqueries

One of the most powerful features of **select**s is that they can be used as subqueries in expressions by enclosing them in parentheses i.e. (*subquery*). SQL supports scalar, set and relations subqueries.

Scalar
subquery

A subquery that produces a single value. Typically a select with an aggregate function.

Set subquery

A subquery that produces a set of distinct values (a single column). Typically used for (i) set membership using operators **in** or **not in**, or (ii) set comparisons using operators **some(any)** or **all**.

Relation subquery

A subquery that produces a relation. Typically used as an operand of (i) products, joins, **unions**, **intersects**, **excepts**, (iii) operators **exists** or **not exists** to test if a relation is empty or not, (iv) operators **not unique** or **unique** to test if a relation has duplicates or not.

Scalar Subquery

A select that produces a single value. Scalar subqueries can be used in any expression, e.g. in projection lists, in **where** and **having** clauses. Are often selects with a single aggregate function.

Note the use of a relation from an outer query in the subquery. This is an example of a **correlated subquery** that has to be evaluated multiple times for each outer tuple.

Join Instead of Subquery

Joins can often be used instead of subqueries. Clearer to use joins when possible.

Alternative with joins:

```
select title, year
      count(name) as numactors
from movie join casting using (title)
group by title, year
```

Set Membership Subqueries

Subqueries that produce a set of values can be used to test if a value is a member of the set by using the in or not in operators.

Example: movie(title, year, length, genre, studio, producer)

casting(title, year, name)

studio(name, address, boss)

select title

from movie

where studio in (select name from studio where address like 'C%')

We can extend the approach to tuple values enclosed in parentheses:

select name

from casting

where (title, year) not in

(**select** title, year **from** movie **where** genre='sf')

Join instead of a subquery

select title **from** movie

Example1:

```
where studio in (select name from studio
                      where address like 'C%')
             Alternative:
             select title
             from movie join studio on studio.name=movie.studio
             where studio.address='C%'
Example2:
             select name
             from casting
             where (title, year) not in
                       (select title, year from movie where genre='sf')
             Alternative:
             select name
             from casting join movie using (title, year)
             where genre<>'sf'
```

Set Comparison Subqueries

We can use subqueries to compare a value against *some* or *all* values returned by a subquery, using the **some** (=any) and all functions respectively.

```
select title
from movie m1
where year < some(select year from movie m2
where m2.title=m1.title)

All requires:
select name
from employee
where salary <> all(select salary from employee
where position='Professor')
```

Set Comparison Subquery Examples

Example SOME:

SELECT ProductName FROM Product WHERE Id = SOME
(SELECT ProductId FROM OrderItem WHERE Quantity = 1)

Example ALL:

SELECT DISTINCT FirstName + ' ' + LastName as CustomerName FROM Customer, Order

WHERE Customer.Id = Order.CustomerId AND TotalAmount > ALL (SELECT AVG(TotalAmount) FROM [Order] GROUP BY CustomerId)

Relation subqueries

The **exists** and **not exists** functions with a subquery argument can be used to test whether a relation is empty (has no tuples) or not.

The **not unique** function can be used to test whether a relation has duplicates, or hasn't duplicates with **unique**.

DoC Teaching Database

Help Reading Options Classes • Students • GTA/UTAs • GTA/UTAs Ph	Teaching Database Staff Curr :			
Reading Options Classes Students GTA/UTAS GTA/UTAS GTA/UTAS Prof Photo Login Title Firstname Lastname Tel Room Dept Cluster Category	PhD Record	O Record SQL Query		
Reports Rooms Regulations Staff on Leave Photo Login Title Firstname Lastname Tel Room Dept Cluster Category Find jd Prof John Darlington 48361, Fujitsu 48362 W213 DoC HPC Academ 48362		O On Leave Finger		
Find jd Prof John Darlington 48361, Fujitsu 48362 W213 DoC HPC Academ	PhD FullPa			
jd Prof John Darlington 48361, Fujitsu 48362 W213 DoC HPC Academ		Dept Superv		
jd Prof John Darlington Fujitsu 48362 W213 DoC HPC Academ				
ajd Dr Andrew Davison 48316 306c DoC VIP Academ	ademic L (I S C	Director LeSC (London e C Science Centre) & Head of Section		
(SANDES)	ademic	c		
	ministrative S	Research Support aon Officer		

DOC Teaching Database

Title

Pervasive Computing

Code

338

		People:	Teaching:	Tutoring:	Helpers:			
Contacts Books	Courses Degrees	• Staff	• Staff	• Staff	• Staff	PhD Record	SQL Query	
Help Reading	Options Classes	• Students	• GTA/UTAs • GTA/UTAs		• GTA/UTA	PhD On Leave	<u>Finger</u>	
Reports Rooms	Regulations	 Staff on Leave 				PhD FullPart	Log	
EDIT RECORD	ADD RECORD							
ValidFrom	01 Oct 2002	ValidTo	31 Dec 2020		Id	52		
Login	jd	Email	J.Darlington		Initials	J.		
Firstname	John	Middlenames			Lastname	Darlington		
Salutation	Prof	Telephone	48361, Fujitsu 48362		Room	W213		
Appointment	Professor	Category	Academic		Department	DoC		
ResearchCluster	HPC	Supervisor						
DeptRole	Director LeSC (London	e Science Centre) & H	lead of Section					
Photo	200							
URL	http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk	<u>/~jd</u>						
Notes								
Teaching								

Role

Lecturer

Pop

Est

32

Term

Hrs

Pop

Reg

Classes

c3, o4, s5, y5

DOC Teaching Database

Common Attributes

id, opened, openedby, updated, updatedby, validfrom, validto

Main Relations

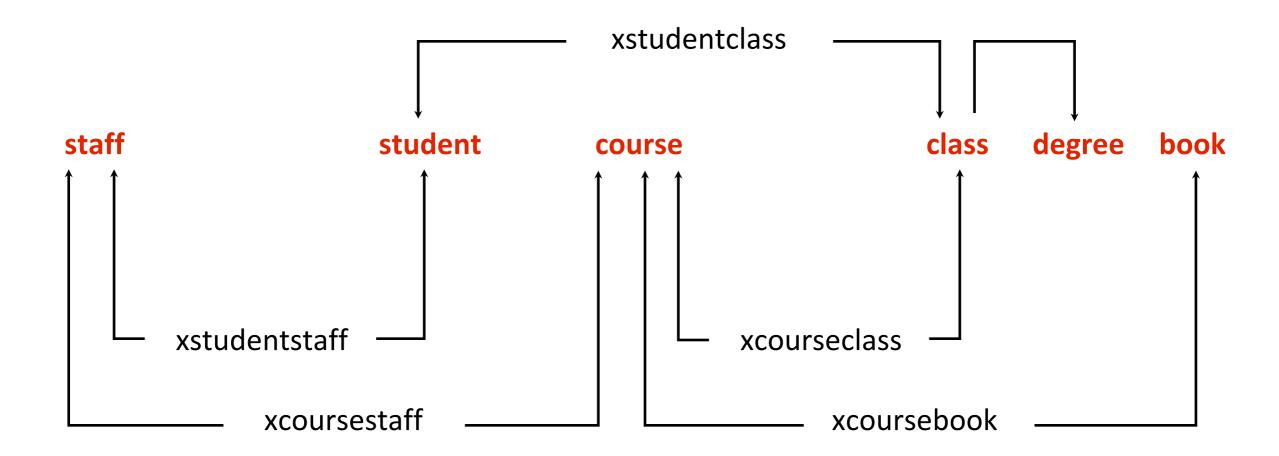
```
staff(login, email, lastname, firstname, telephone, room, deptrole, department) student(login, email, lastname, status, entryyear, externaldept) course(code, title, syllabus, term, classes, popestimate) class(degreeid, yr, degree, degreeyr, major, majoryr, letter, letteryr) degree(title, code, major, grp, letter, years) book(code, title, authors, publisher)
```

Many-to-Many Joining Relations

```
xcourseclass(courseid, classid, required, examcode)
xcoursebook(courseid, bookid, rating)
xcoursestaff(courseid, staffid, staffhours, role, term)
xstudentclass(studentid, classid)
xstudentstaff(studentid, staffid, role, grp, projecttitle)
```

- Q. List all staff who do not have a College or Department email address, sort results by lastname
- Q. List all staff with the same lastname, show names of staff and their namesake(s)

DoC Teaching Database



Each relation has several temporal views (named relational expressions), e.g.:

coursecurr - courses for current year **course0910** - courses for academic year 2009-2010, similar for 0809 etc.

Q. List all staff who do not have a College or Department email address, sort results by lastname.

Q. List all staff with the same lastname, show names of staff and their namesake(s)

Solutions 1

Q. List all staff who do not have a College or Department email address, sort by lastname.

```
select id, lastname, email
from staffcurr
where not(email like '%imperial.ac.uk' or email like '%doc.ic.ac.uk')
order by lastname
```

Q. List all staff with the same lastname, show names of staff and their namesake(s)

Q. List all books recommended for courses taught by Prof Kelly, similar to:

Code	Course	Cat.	Title	Authors	Publisher/Pub Date	Code
221	Compilers	A	Engineering a compiler		Morgan Kaufmann, 2004	<u>EAC</u>
221	Compilers		Building an optimizing compiler	Morgan, Robert C.	Heinemann, 1998	<u>BAOC</u>
221	Compilers	В	A retargetable C compiler: design and implementation	Fraser, Christopher W. and Sanson, David R.	Benjamin/Cummings, 1995	<u>ARCCDI</u>

Solution 2

order by c.code, xb.rating

Q. List all books recommended for courses taught by Prof Kelly, similar to:

Code	Course	Cat.	Title	Authors	Publisher/Pub Date	Code
221	Compilers	A	Engineering a compiler	A .	Morgan Kaufmann, 2004	<u>EAC</u>
221	Compilers			Morgan, Robert C.	Heinemann, 1998	<u>BAOC</u>
221	Compilers	В	A retargetable C compiler: design and implementation	Fraser, Christopher W. and Sanson, David R.	Benjamin/Cummings, 1995	<u>ARCCDI</u>

```
select c.code, c.title, xb.rating, b.title, b.authors, b.publisher,
    b.code
from staffcurr s join xcoursestaffcurr xc on s.id=xc.staffid
        join coursecurr c on xc.courseid=c.id
        join xcoursebookcurr xb on c.id=xb.courseid
        join bookcurr b on xb.bookid=b.id
where s.lastname='Kelly'
```

Q List courses being taken by student with login rf611, similar to

Code	Title	Exam Code	Term	Pop Est	Classes
<u>112</u>	Hardware	C114	1	134	c1
<u>113</u>	Architecture	C113	2	166	c1, j1
<u>114</u>	Operating Systems Concepts	C113	2	166	c1, j1
120.1	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.2	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.3	Programming	None	3	166	c1, j1

Solution 3a

Q List courses being taken by student with login rf6111, similar to

Code	Title	Exam Code	Term	Pop Est	Classes
112	Hardware	C114	1	134	c1
<u>113</u>	Architecture	C113	2	166	c1, j1
114	Operating Systems Concepts	C113	2	166	c1, j1
120.1	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.2	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.3	Programming	None	3	166	c1, j1

Solution 3b

Q List courses being taken by student with login rf611, similar to

Code	Title	Exam Code	Term	Pop Est	Classes
112	Hardware	C114	1	134	c1
<u>113</u>	Architecture	C113	2	166	c1, j1
114	Operating Systems Concepts	C113	2	166	c1, j1
120.1	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.2	Programming	+XC120	1	166	c1, j1
120.3	Programming	None	3	166	c1, j1

where s.login='rf611' order by c.code

This is a neater solution. Compare with previous.

Q. List all PPT tutors and their PPT tutees (role=PPT) order staff and students: Tutor lastname, tutor firstname, Tutee lastname, firstname suitably sorted.

Q. List all PPT tutors and how many PPT tutees they have, suitably sorted.

Solutions 4

Q. List all PPT tutors and their PPT tutees (role=PPT) order staff and students: Tutor lastname, tutor firstname, Tutee lastname, firstname suitably sorted.

Q. List all PPT tutors and how many PPT tutees they have, suitably sorted.

Q. List all tutoring roles

Q. List all tutoring roles and how many tutors there are for each role

Solutions 5

Q. List all tutoring roles

select role
from xstudentstaffcurr
group by role
order by role

Alternative query:
select distinct role
from xstudentstaffcurr
order by role

Q. List all tutoring roles and how many tutors there are for each role

select role, count(distinct staffid) as tutors
from xstudentstaffcurr
group by role
order by role