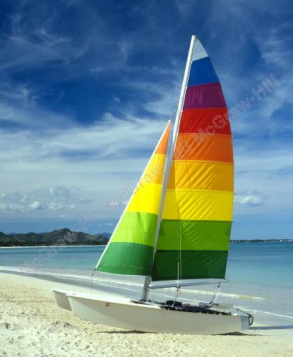

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Chapter 2: Intro to Relational Model

Relational Query Languages

Database System Concepts, 6th Ed.

Relational Query Languages

- Procedural vs .non-procedural, or declarative
- “Pure” languages:
  - Relational algebra
  - Tuple relational calculus
  - Domain relational calculus
- The above 3 pure languages are equivalent in computing power
- We will concentrate in this chapter on relational algebra
  - Not Turing-machine equivalent
  - It consists of 6 basic operations

Select operation – selection of rows (tuples)

- Relation r

A	B	C	D
α	α	1	7
α	β	5	7
β	β	12	3
β	β	23	10

- $\sigma_{A=B \wedge D > 5}(r)$

A	B	C	D
α	α	1	7
β	β	23	10

Project operation – selection of columns (attributes)

- Relation *r*:

A	B	C
α	10	1
α	20	1
β	30	1
β	40	2

- $\Pi_{A,C}\,(r)$

A	C
α	1
α	1
β	1
β	2

=

A	C
α	1
β	1
β	2

Union of two relations

- Relations *r, s:*

A	B
α	1
α	2
β	1

r

A	B
α	2
β	3

s

- r ∪ s:

A	B
α	1
α	2
β	1
β	3

Set difference of two relations

- Relations *r*, *s*:

A	*B*
α	1
α	2
β	1

r

A	*B*
α	2
β	3

s

- *r* – *s*:

A	*B*
α	1
β	1

Set intersection of two relations

- Relation *r, s*:

A	B
α	1
α	2
β	1

r

A	B
α	2
β	3

s

- $r \cap s$

A	B
α	2

Note: $r \cap s = r - (r - s)$

Joining two relations – Cartesian product

- Relations *r, s*:

A	B
α	1
β	2

r

C	D	E
α	10	a
β	10	a
β	20	b
γ	10	b

s

- *r* x *s*:

A	B	C	D	E
α	1	α	10	a
α	1	β	10	a
α	1	β	20	b
α	1	γ	10	b
β	2	α	10	a
β	2	β	10	a
β	2	β	20	b
β	2	γ	10	b

Cartesian product – naming issue

- Relations *r, s*:

A	*B*
α	1
β	2

r

B	*D*	*E*
α	10	a
β	10	a
β	20	b
γ	10	b

s

- *r* x *s*:

A	*r.B*	*s.B*	*D*	*E*
α	1	α	10	a
α	1	β	10	a
α	1	β	20	b
α	1	γ	10	b
β	2	α	10	a
β	2	β	10	a
β	2	β	20	b
β	2	γ	10	b

Renaming a table

- Allows us to refer to a relation, (say E) by more than one name.

$$\rho_x(E)$$

returns the expression E under the name X

- Relations r

A	B
α	1
β	2

r

- $r \times \rho_s(r)$

$r.A$	$r.B$	$s.A$	$s.B$
α	1	α	1
α	1	β	2
β	2	α	1
β	2	β	2

Composition of operations

- Can build expressions using multiple operations
- Example: $\sigma_{A=C}(r \times s)$

- $r \times s$

A	B	C	D	E
α	1	α	10	a
α	1	β	10	a
α	1	β	20	b
α	1	γ	10	b
β	2	α	10	a
β	2	β	10	a
β	2	β	20	b
β	2	γ	10	b

- $\sigma_{A=C}(r \times s)$

A	B	C	D	E
α	1	α	10	a
β	2	β	10	a
β	2	β	20	b

Joining two relations – Natural Join

- Let r and s be relations on schemas R and S respectively. Then, the "natural join" of relations R and S is a relation on schema $R \cup S$ obtained as follows:
  - Consider each pair of tuples t_r from r and t_s from s.
  - If t_r and t_s have the same value on each of the attributes in $R \cap S$, add a tuple t to the result, where
    - t has the same value as t_r on r
    - t has the same value as t_s on s

Natural Join Example

- Relations r, s:

A	B	C	D
α	1	α	a
β	2	γ	a
γ	4	β	b
α	1	γ	a
δ	2	β	b

r

B	D	E
1	a	α
3	a	β
1	a	γ
2	b	δ
3	b	ε

s

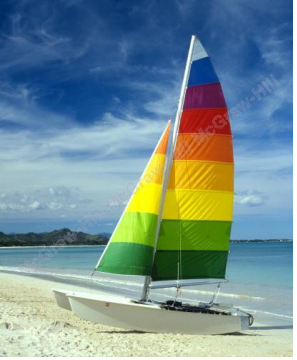
- Natural Join
  - r ⋈ s

A	B	C	D	E
α	1	α	a	α
α	1	α	a	γ
α	1	γ	a	α
α	1	γ	a	γ
δ	2	β	b	δ

$$\Pi_{A,\ r.B,\ C,\ r.D,\ E}(\sigma_{r.B = s.B \wedge r.D = s.D}(r \times s))$$

Summary of Relational Algebra Operators

Symbol (Name)	Example of Use
σ (Selection)	$\sigma_{salary >= 85000}(instructor)$
	Return rows of the input relation that satisfy the predicate.
Π (Projection)	$\Pi_{ID, salary}(instructor)$
	Output specified attributes from all rows of the input relation. Remove duplicate tuples from the output.
x (Cartesian Product)	*instructor* x *department*
	Output pairs of rows from the two input relations that have the same value on all attributes that have the same name.
∪ (Union)	$\Pi_{name}(instructor) \cup \Pi_{name}(student)$
	Output the union of tuples from the *two* input relations.
– (Set Difference)	$\Pi_{name}(instructor) - \Pi_{name}(student)$
	Output the set difference of tuples from the two input relations.
⋈ (Natural Join)	*instructor* ⋈ *department*
	Output pairs of rows from the two input relations that have the same value on all attributes that have the same name.



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End of Chapter 2