Relationships in SQL

Springboard

Download Demo Code

Goals

- Learn what makes SQL databases "relational"
- Understand one-to-many and many-to-many relationships
- Describe and make use of the different types of joins (inner, outer)

Data Example: Movies

id	title	studio
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures
2	Avatar	20th Century Fox
3	Black Panther	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures
4	Jurassic World	Universal Pictures
5	Marvel's The Avengers	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

- So much duplication!
- What if we want other info about studios?

A Better Way

id	title	studio_id
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	1
2	Avatar	2
3	Black Panther	1
4	Jurassic World	3
5	Marvel's The Avengers	1

id	name	founded_in
1	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures	1953-06-23
2	20th Century Fox	1935-05-31
3	Universal Pictures	1912-04-30

One-to-Many (1:M)

- Our ***studio_id*** column provides us with a reference to the corresponding record in the ***studios*** table by its **primary key**.
- Typically this is implemented with a **foreign key constraint**, which makes sure every ***studio_id*** exists somewhere in the ***studios*** table.
- One-to-Many (1:M) in the sense that one studio *has many* movies, but each movie has one studio.
- In this example, we can say **movies** is the *referencing* table, and **studios** is the *referenced* table.

The Foreign Key Constraint

Setting up a foreign key constraint with DDL:

```
CREATE TABLE studios
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   name TEXT,
   founded_in TEXT);

CREATE TABLE movies
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   title TEXT,
   studio_id INTEGER REFERENCES studios (id));
```

Constraints are specified by the DDL, but affect DML query behavior.

```
INSERT INTO studios (name, founded_in) VALUES
  ('Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures', '1953-06-23'),
  ('20th Century Fox', '1935-05-31'),
  ('Universal Pictures', '1912-04-30');
```

```
-- reference Disney's primary key
INSERT INTO movies (title, studio_id)
  VALUES ('Star Wars: The Force Awakens', 1);
```

```
-- Throws an Foreign Key Constraint Error...
-- There is no studio with a primary key of 1000
INSERT INTO movies (title, studio_id)
  VALUES ('Black Panther', 1000);
```

Deleting Data Examples

When trying to delete a studio...

We cannot delete it outright while movies still reference it.

```
DELETE FROM studios WHERE id=1;  -- error
```

Option 1: Clear out the ***studio_id*** columns of movies that reference it.

```
UPDATE movies SET studio_id=NULL WHERE studio_id=1;
DELETE FROM studios WHERE id=1;
```

Option 2: Delete the movies associated with that studio first.

```
DELETE FROM movies WHERE studio_id=1;
DELETE FROM studios WHERE id=1;
```

What are the trade-offs? We will revisit this when we look at how to implement each of the two options above in the DDL.

Joining Tables

JOIN Operation

- The `JOIN` operation allows us to create a table in memory by combining information from different tables
- Data from tables is matched according to a join condition
- Most commonly, the join condition involves comparing a **foreign key** from one table and a **primary key** in another table

Setting Up the Data

```
CREATE TABLE studios
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   name TEXT,
   founded_in TEXT);

CREATE TABLE movies
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   title TEXT,
   release_year INTEGER,
   runtime INTEGER,
   rating TEXT,
   studio_id INTEGER REFERENCES studios (id));
```

```
INSERT INTO studios
  (name, founded_in)
VALUES
  ('Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures', '1953-06-23'),
  ('20th Century Fox', '1935-05-31'),
  ('Universal Pictures', '1912-04-30');
```

```
INSERT INTO movies
  (title, release_year, runtime, rating, studio_id)
VALUES
  ('Star Wars: The Force Awakens', 2015, 136, 'PG-13', 1),
  ('Avatar', 2009, 160, 'PG-13', 2),
  ('Black Panther', 2018, 140, 'PG-13', 1),
  ('Jurassic World', 2015, 124, 'PG-13', 3),
  ('Marvel's The Avengers', 2012, 142, 'PG-13', 1);
```

Our First Join

```
SELECT title, name
  FROM movies
  JOIN studios
    ON movies.studio_id = studios.id;
```

```
SELECT title, name
  FROM movies
  INNER JOIN studios
    ON movies.studio_id = studios.id;
```

`JOIN` and `INNER JOIN` are the same, the `INNER` keyword is optional.

Types of Joins

There are two primary types of joins: ***inner*** and ***outer***.

- **Inner**

  Only the rows that match the condition in both tables.

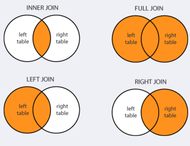
- **Outer**

  Left - All of the rows from the first table (left), combined with matching rows from the second table (right).

  Right - The matching rows from the first table (left), combined with all the rows from the second table (right).

  Full - All the rows from both tables (left and right).

Join Diagrams



Joins in Practice

- Practically speaking, you'll mostly be using Inner Joins
- Outer joins can be helpful when trying to find rows in one table with no match in another table (e.g. an independent movie with no studio)
- Outer join example:

```
-- this query will include the indie movie
SELECT name FROM movies
  LEFT JOIN studios
    ON movies.studio_id = studios.id;
```

Many-to-Many

Movies Revisited

- We've seen an example of a ***one-to-many*** relationship: one studio has many movies, and one movie belongs to one studio.
- But not every relationship can be expressed in this way...
- Consider actors: one movie has many different actors, but each actor also has roles in many different movies!
- This is an example of a many-to-many relationship.
- A *many-to-many* is just two *one-to-many*s back-to-back!

Setting Up Actors and Roles

```
-- We've already created the movies database
CREATE TABLE actors
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   first_name TEXT,
   last_name TEXT,
   birth_date TEXT);

CREATE TABLE roles
  (id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
   movie_id INTEGER REFERENCES movies (id),
   actor_id INTEGER REFERENCES actors (id));
```

```
INSERT INTO actors
  (first_name, last_name, birth_date)
VALUES
  ('Scarlett', 'Johansson', '1984-11-22'),
  ('Samuel L', 'Jackson', '1948-12-21'),
  ('Kristen', 'Wiig', '1973-08-22');
```

```
INSERT INTO roles
  (movie_id, actor_id)
VALUES
  (1, 1),
  (1, 2),
  (3, 2);
```

Many-to-Many (M:N)

Let's see what the movies, actors and roles tables look like!

id	title	release_year	runtime	rating
1	Marvel's The Avengers	2012	142	PG-13
2	Avatar	2009	160	PG-13
3	Star Wars: Episode I	1999	133	PG

id	first_name	last_name	birth_date
1	Scarlett	Johansson	1984-11-22
2	Samuel L	Jackson	1948-12-21
3	Kristen	Wiig	1973-08-22

id	movie_id	actor_id
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	2

Visualizing the Relationships

Check out this color-coded spreadsheet.

Join Tables

- The ***roles*** table in our current schema is an example of a join table (aka an associative table aka a mapping table).
- A join table serves as a way to connect two tables in a many-to-many relationship.
- The join table consists of, at a minimum, two foreign key columns to the two other tables in the relationship.
- It is completely valid to put other data in the join table (e.g. how much was an actor paid for the role).
- Sometimes the join table has a nice name (when it has meaning on its own, e.g. ***roles***), but you can also just call it ***table1_table2***.

Querying a Many-to-Many

Connecting movies and actors:

```
SELECT * FROM movies
  JOIN roles
    ON movies.id = roles.movie_id
  JOIN actors
    ON roles.actor_id = actors.id;
```

Selecting certain columns, using table alias shorthand:

```
SELECT m.title, a.first_name, a.last_name
  FROM movies m
  JOIN roles r
    ON m.id = r.movie_id
  JOIN actors a
    ON r.actor_id = a.id;
```

Get all the id, first name and last name of the actors that have been in more than one movie

```
SELECT a.id, a.first_name, a.last_name
  FROM movies m
  JOIN roles r
    ON m.id = r.movie_id
  JOIN actors a
    ON r.actor_id = a.id
  GROUP BY a.id, a.first_name, a.last_name
  HAVING count(*) >= 2;
```

Your Turn!