



Chapter 2: Intro to Relational Model

Relational Query Languages

Database System Concepts, 6th Ed.

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Relational Query Languages

- Procedural vs .non-procedural, or declarative
- “Pure” languages:
 - Relational algebra *~~~> QUERY OPTIMIZATION*
 - Tuple relational calculus *[SQL CAN BE THOUGHT OF AS THE "COMMERCIAL" VERSION OF 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 *→ THEY ALL OPERATE ON RELATIONS AND PROVIDE A RELATION AS A RESULT*

- 1) SELECTION
- 2) PROJECTION
- 3) UNION
- 4) SET DIFFERENCES
- 5) CARTESIAN PRODUCT
- 6) RENAMING

*DERIVED OPS : SET INTERSECTION,
NATURAL JOIN, DIVISION,
ASSIGNMENT*



Select operation – selection of rows (tuples)

- Relation r

DEGREE = 4

CARDINALITY = 4

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

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

COMPARISON
BETWEEN
ATTRIBUTES

CONSTANT
VALUE

A	B	C	D
α	α	1	7
β	β	23	10

OBSERVE THAT THE
OPERATION CAN REDUCE
THE CARDINALITY, NOT
THE DEGREE -



Project operation – selection of columns (attributes)

- Relation r :

	A	B	C
α	10	1	
α	20	1	
β	30	1	
β	40	2	

SIMPLER ALGEBRA OPERATIONS
PROVIDE RELATIONS AS THEIR RESULT,
WE CAN EASILY COMPOSE OPERATIONS,
FOR INSTANCE:

$$\overline{\Pi}_{A,e}(\sigma_{e_1}(R))$$

WHILE SWAPPING Π AND σ PROVIDES
HERE THE SAME RESULT, THE TWO
QUERIES MIGHT BE DIFFERENT W.R.T. EFFICIENCY

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

↙
LIST OF
ATTRIBUTES

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline A & C \\ \hline \alpha & 1 \\ \hline \alpha & 1 \\ \hline \beta & 1 \\ \hline \beta & 2 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline A & C \\ \hline \alpha & 1 \\ \hline \beta & 1 \\ \hline \beta & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

CAN REDUCE BOTH
DEGREE AS WELL AS
CARDINACITY (REMEMBER
THAT RELATIONS ARE SETS)



Union of two relations

- Relations r, s :

A	B
α	1
α	2
β	1

r

A	B
α	2
β	3

s

TO PERFORM SET OPERATIONS, THE INVOLVED RELATIONS MUST BE COMPATIBLE



RENAMING OPERATION

- $r \cup s$:

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

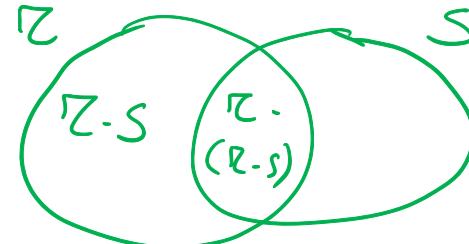
s

NOTE THAT WE DO
NOT HAVE SET
CONTINUATION;
THIS BECAUSE ITS
RESULT OF OPERATIONS
MUST BE FINITE

- $r \cap s$

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

- $r \times s$:

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

NOT SO USEFUL ALONE...
TYPICALLY IT IS FOLLOWED
BY * SELECTION

CARTESIAN PRODUCT + Selection = JOIN



Cartesian product – naming issue

- Relations r, s :

A	B
α	1
β	2

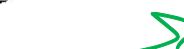
r

B	D	E
α	10	a
β	10	a
β	20	b
γ	10	b

s

- $r \times s$:

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



WITH THIS
NOTATION WE
CAN AVOID DUPLICATE
COLUMN NAMES



Renaming

By means of the renaming operator, we can rename the attributes of a relation, and change their order:

$$P_{B_1, B_2 \dots B_k \leftarrow A_1, A_2 \dots A_n} (R)$$

where $R \in \mathcal{R}(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$



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

CARTESIAN
PRODUCT BETWEEN + KEEP ONLY THE ROWS
R AND S HAVING THE SAME VALUE + REMOVE REDUNDANT
+ ON COMMON ATTRIBUTES ATTRIBUTES (I.E., KEEP JUST
OF R AND S THE R OR S COPY OF
THOSE IN BOTTOM)



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
 - $r \bowtie s$

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

THERE IS ALSO THE MORE GENERAL THETA JOIN OPERATION, WHICH ALLOWS US TO SPECIFY THE FILTERING CONDITION:

$r \bowtie_{A=c} s$

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



Summary of Relational Algebra Operators

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

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