L4 Relational Algebra

Eugene Wu Fall 2015

Reading

Ramakrishnan
Sections 4.1 and 4.2

Helpful References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relational_algebra

Overview

Last time, learned about pre-relational models an informal introduction to relational model an introduction to the SQL query language.

Learn about formal relational query languages
Relational Algebra (algebra: perform operations)
Relational Calculus (logic: are statements true?)

Keys to understanding SQL and query processing

Who Cares?

Clean query semantics & rich program analysis

Helps/enables optimization

Opens up rich set of topics

Materialized views

Data lineage/provenance

Query by example

Distributed query execution

. . .

What's a Query Language?

Allows manipulation and retrieval of data from a database.

Traditionally: QL != programming language

Doesn't need to be turing complete

Not designed for computation

Supports easy, efficient access to large databases

Recent Years

Scaling to large datasets is a reality

Query languages are a powerful way to

think about data algorithms scale

think about asynchronous/parallel programming

What's a Query Language?

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MapReduce is **not** the answer

- MapReduce is a powerful primitive to do many kinds of parallel data processing
- BUT
 - Little control of data flow
 - Fault tolerance guarantees not always necessary
 - Simplicity leads to inefficiencies
 - Does not interface with existing analysis software
 - Industry has existing training in SQL



SQL interface for Hadoop critical for mass adoption

SQL-on-Hadoop Tutorial

9002015

Tutorial at VLDB 2015 Abadi et al. http://www.slideshare.net/abadid/sqlonhadoop-tutorial

Formal Relational Query Languages

Formal basis for real languages e.g., SQL

Relational Algebra

Operational, used to represent execution plans

Relational Calculus

Logical, describes what data users want (not operational, fully declarative)

Prelims

Query is a function over relation instances

$$Q(R_1,...,R_n) = R_{result}$$

Schemas of input and output relations are *fixed* and well defined by the query Q.

Positional vs Named field notation

Position easier for formal defs

one-indexed (not 0-indexed!!!)

Named more readable

Both used in SQL

Prelims

Relation (for this lecture)
Instance is a set of tuples
Schema defines field names and types (domains)
Students(sid int, name text, major text, gpa int)

How are relations different than generic sets (\mathbb{R})? Can assume item structure due to schema Some algebra operations (x) need to be modified Will use this later

Relational Algebra Overview

Core 5 operations

PROJECT (π)

SELECT (σ)

UNION (U)

SET DIFFERENCE (-)

CROSSPRODUCT (x)

Additional operations

RENAME (p)

INTERSECT (∩)

JOIN (⋈)

DIVIDE (/)

Instances Used Today: Library

Students, Reservations

R

sid	rid	day
1	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

Use positional or named field notation

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

Fields in query results are inherited from input relations (unless specified)

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

Project

$$\pi_{\langle attr1,...\rangle}(A) = R_{result}$$

Pick out desired attributes (subset of columns)
Schema is subset of input schema in the projection list

 $\pi_{\langle a,b,c\rangle}(A)$ has output schema (a,b,c) w/ types carried over

Project

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

$$\pi_{\text{name,age}}(S2) =$$

name	age
aziz	21
barak	21
trump	88
rusty	21

Project

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

$$\pi_{age}(S2) = \frac{21}{88}$$

Where did all the rows go? Real systems typically don't remove duplicates. Why?

Select

$$\sigma_{}(A) = R_{result}$$

Select subset of rows that satisfy condition p
Won't have duplicates in result. Why?
Result schema same as input

Select

SI sid name gpa age 20 4 eugene 2 21 barak 3 3 2 88 trump

$$\sigma_{age < 30}$$
 (S1) =

sid	name	gpa	age
1	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21

$$\pi_{name}(\sigma_{age < 30} (S1)) = \begin{bmatrix} name \\ eugene \\ barak \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A + B = B + A$$

$$A * B = B * A$$

$$A + (B * C) = (B * C) + A$$

$$A + (B + C) = (A + B) + C$$

 $A + (B * C) = (A + B) * C$

$$A + B = B + A$$

$$A * B = B * A$$

$$A + (B * C) = (B * C) + A$$

$$A + (B + C) = (A + B) + C$$

 $A + (B * C) = (A + B) * C$

$$\pi_{age}(\sigma_{age < 30} (SI))$$

	sid	name	gpa	age	
	I	eugene	4	20	
$\sigma_{age < 30}$	2	barak	3	21	
,	3	trump	2	88	

sid	name	gpa	age
1	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21

$$\pi_{age}(\sigma_{age < 30} (SI))$$

	sid	name	gpa	age	1
π_{age}		eugene	4	20	
age	2	barak	3	21	

age
20
21

$$\sigma_{age < 30}(\pi_{age}(SI))$$

	sid	name	gpa	age	
	I	eugene	4	20	
π_{age}	2	barak	3	21	
	3	trump	2	88	

age
20
21
88

$$\sigma_{age < 30}(\pi_{age}(SI))$$

age
20
21

Does Project and Select commute?

$$\pi_{age}(\sigma_{age < 30} (SI)) = \sigma_{age < 30}(\pi_{age}(SI))$$

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{age}<30}(SI))$$
?

Does Project and Select commute?

$$\pi_{\text{age}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) = \sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{age}}(SI))$$

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) \mathrel{!=} \sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{name}}(SI))$$

Does Project and Select commute?

$$\pi_{\text{age}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) = \sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{age}}(SI))$$

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) := \sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{name, age}}(SI))$$

Does Project and Select commute?

$$\pi_{\text{age}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) = \sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{age}}(SI))$$

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30} (SI)) = \pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{age} < 30}(\pi_{\text{name}, \text{age}}(SI)))$$



Union, Set-Difference

A op
$$B = R_{result}$$

A, B must be union-compatible

Same number of fields

Field i in each schema have same type

Result Schema borrowed from first arg (A)

A(big int, poppa int) U B(thug int, life int) = ?

Union, Set-Difference

A op
$$B = R_{result}$$

A, B must be union-compatible

Same number of fields

Field i in each schema have same type

Result Schema borrowed from first arg (A)

A(big int, poppa int) U B(thug int, life int) = R_{result}(big int, poppa int)

Union, Intersect, Set-Difference

SI

sid	sid name		age
1	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

SIUS2 =

sid	name	gpa	age
1	eugene	4	20
4	aziz	3.2	21
5	rusty	3.5	21
3	trump	2	88
2	barak	3	21

Union, Intersect, Set-Difference

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
1	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

$$SI-S2 =$$

sid	sid name		age
1	eugene	4	20

Note on Set Difference & Performance

Notice that most operators are monotonic increasing size of inputs \rightarrow outputs grow if $A \supseteq B \rightarrow Q(A,T) \supseteq Q(B,T)$ can compute incrementally

Set Difference is not monotonic

if
$$A \supseteq B \rightarrow T-A \subseteq T-B$$

e.g., $5 > I \rightarrow 9-5 < 9-I$

Set difference is blocking:

For T – S, must wait for all S tuples before any results

Cross-Product

$$A(a_1,...,a_n) \times B(a_{n+1},...,a_m) = R_{result}(a_1,...,a_m)$$

Each row of A paired with each row of B

Result schema concats A and B's fields, inherit if possible

Conflict: students and reservations have sid field

Different than mathematical "X" by flattening results:

math A x B = { (a, b) | a
$$\in$$
 A ^ b \in B }
e.g., {1, 2} X {3, 4} = { (1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4) }
what is {1, 2} x {3, 4} x {5, 6}?

Cross-Product

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

RI

sid	rid	day
I	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

S		X	R	1	=
---	--	---	---	---	---

(sid)	name	gpa	age	(sid)	rid	day
I	eugene	4	20	1	101	10/10
2	barak	3	21	I	101	10/10
3	trump	2	88	I	101	10/10
I	eugene	4	20	2	102	11/11
2	barak	3	21	2	102	11/11
3	trump	2	88	2	102	11/11

Rename

Explicitly defines/changes field names of schema

$$p(C(1 \rightarrow sid1, 5 \rightarrow sid2), S1 \times R1)$$

Compound/Convenience Operators

INTERSECT (∩)

JOIN (⋈)

DIVIDE (/)

$$A \cap B = R_{result}$$

A, B must be union-compatible

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

S2

sid	name	gpa	age
4	aziz	3.2	21
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88
5	rusty	3.5	21

SI∩S2 =

	sid	name	gpa	age
2	<u>)</u>	barak	3	21
3	3	trump	2	88

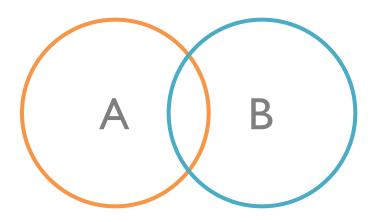
$$A \cap B = R_{result}$$

A, B must be union-compatible

Can we express using core operators?

$$A \cap B = ?$$

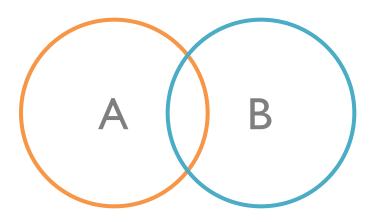
$$A \cap B = R_{result}$$



Can we express using core operators?

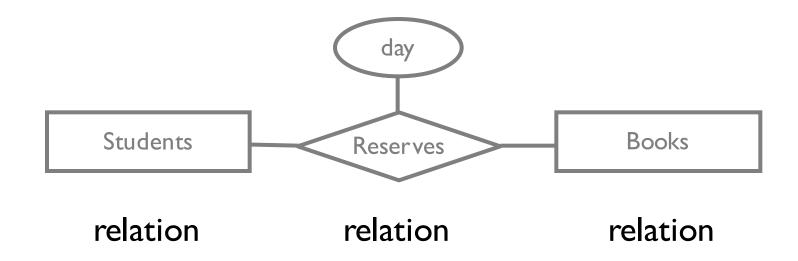
 $A \cap B = A - ?$ (think venn diagram)

$$A \cap B = R_{result}$$



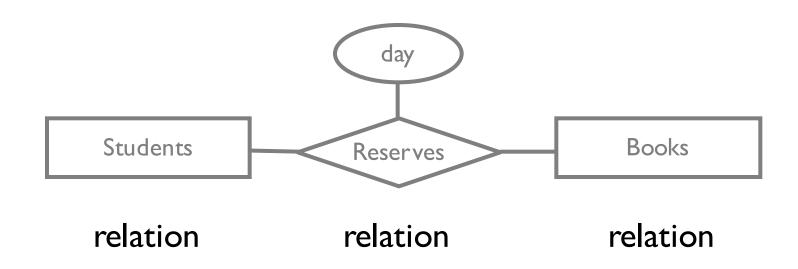
Can we express using core operators?

$$A \cap B = A - (A - B)$$



What if you want to query across all three tables? e.g., all names of students that reserved "The Purple Crayon"

Need to combine these tables (cross product? foreign key references?)



SI

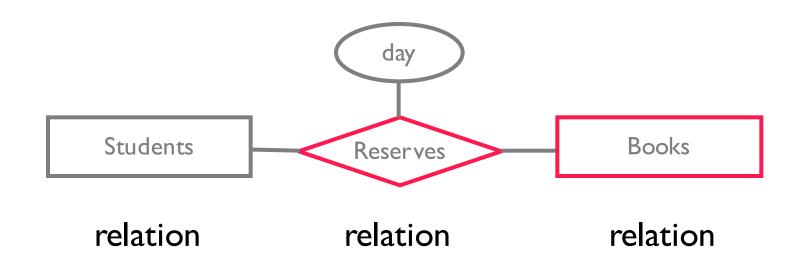
sid	name	gpa	age
	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

RI

sid	rid	day
I	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

BI

rid	name	
101	The Purple Crayon	
102	1984	



SI

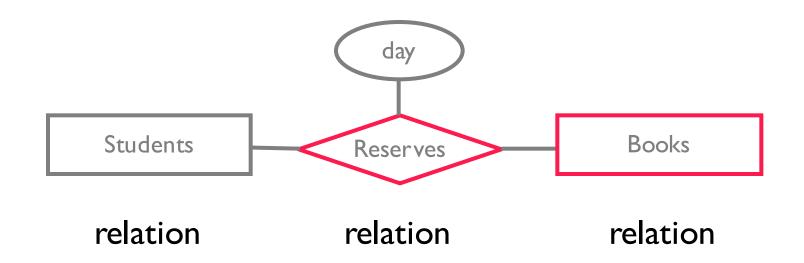
sid	name	gpa	age
	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

RI

sid	rid	day
	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

BI

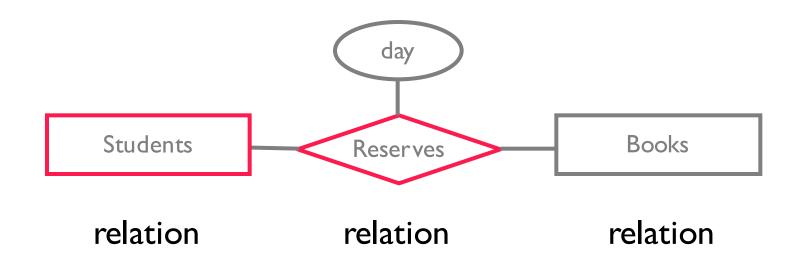
rid	name	
101	The Purple Crayon	
102	1984	



SI RBI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

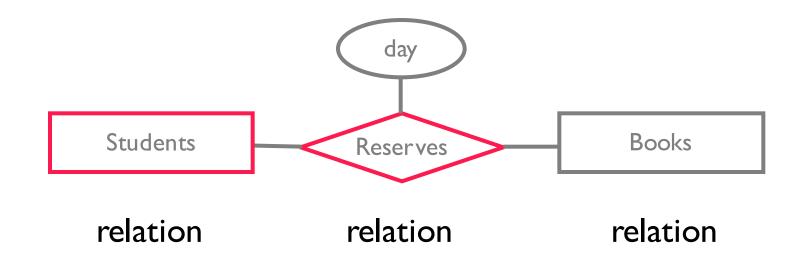
sid	(rid)	day	(rid)	name
I	101	10/10	101	The Purple Crayon
2	102	11/11	102	1984



SI RBI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

sid	(rid)	day	(rid)	name
1	101	10/10	101	The Purple Crayon
2	102	11/11	102	1984



SRBI

(sid)	name	gpa	age	(sid)	rid	day	(rid)	name
l	eugene	4	20	ı	101	10/10	101	The Purple Crayon
2	barak	3	21	2	102	11/11	102	1984

theta (θ) Join

$$A \bowtie_{c} B = \sigma_{c}(A \times B)$$

Most general form

Result schema same as cross product

Often far more efficient to compute than cross product

Commutative

$$(A\bowtie_c B)\bowtie_c C = A\bowtie_c (B\bowtie_c C)$$

theta (θ) Join

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

RI

sid	rid	day
1	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

SI	⋈ _{SI.si}	d < B I	sid RI
	' '31.SI	$0 \leq KI$.SIQ

	(sid)	name	gpa	age	(sid)	rid	day
_	I	eugene	4	20	1	101	10/10
-	I	eugene	4	20	2	102	11/11
	2	barak	3	21	2	102	11/11

Equi-Join

$$A\bowtie_{attr} B = \pi_{everything\ except\ B.attr}(A\bowtie_{A.attr\ =\ B.attr} B)$$

Special case where the condition is attribute equality Result schema only keeps *one copy* of equality fields Natural Join ($A\bowtie B$):

Equijoin on all shared fields (fields w/ same name)

Equi-Join

SI

sid	name	gpa	age
I	eugene	4	20
2	barak	3	21
3	trump	2	88

RI

sid	rid	day
I	101	10/10
2	102	11/11

	sid	name	gpa	age	rid	day
_	I	eugene	4	20	101	10/10
	2	barak	3	21	102	11/11

Division

Let us have relations A(x, y), B(y)

$$A/B = \{ <_{X}> \mid \forall y \in B <_{X}, y > \in A \}$$

Find all students that have reserved all books

A/B = all x (students) s.t. for every y (reservation), $\langle x,y \rangle \in A$

Good to ponder, not supported in most systems (why?)

Generalization

y can be a list of fields in B

x U y is fields in A

A

sid	rid
I	I
I	2
1	3
1	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

RI

	rid	
2		

R2

	rid	
2		
4		

R3

	rid	
2		
4		

A/RI

A/R2

A

sid	rid
1	I
	2
1	3
I	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

RI

rid 2

sid

2

3

4

A/R I

R2

rid 2 4 R3

A/R2

A

sid	rid
I	I
I	2
l	3
I	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

RI

	rid	
2		

R2

	rid	
2		
4		

R3

	rid
2	
4	

sid

I	
2	
3	
4	

A/RI

sid
I
4

A/R2

Α

sid	rid
	1
I	2
I	3
I	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

RI

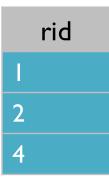
	rid	
2		

sid	
1	
2	
3	
4	
A/R I	

R2

	rid
2	
4	

R3



sid I 4

A/R2

sid

Is A/B a Fundamental Operation?

No. Shorthand like Joins

joins so common, it's natively supported

Hint: Find all xs not 'disqualified' by some y in B. x value is disqualified if

- 1. by attaching y value from B (e.g., create $\langle x, y \rangle$)
- 2. we obtain an $\langle x,y \rangle$ that is not in A.

A

sid	rid
1	I
I	2
I	3
1	4
2	
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

B

	rid
2	
4	

Disqualified = A/B =

A

sid	rid
	I
I	2
I	3
I	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

B

	rid	
2		
4		

$$\pi_x(A) \times B$$

sid	rid
1	2
	4
2	2
2	4
3	2
3	4
4	2
4	4

Disqualified =
$$(\pi_{sid}(A) \times B)$$

A/B =

sid	rid
1	I
	2
	3
I	4
2	I
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

B

	rid
2	
4	

$$\pi_{\times}(A) \times B$$

sid	rid
1	2
I	4
2	2
2	4
3	2
3	4
4	2
4	4

$$\pi_{\mathsf{x}}(\mathsf{A}) \times \mathsf{B} \qquad \qquad \pi_{\mathsf{x}}(\mathsf{A}) \times \mathsf{B}) - \mathsf{A}$$

sid	rid
2	4
3	4

Disqualified =
$$((\pi_{sid}(A) \times B) - A)$$

A/B =

Α

sid	rid
1	I
I	2
I	3
1	4
2	1
2	2
3	2
4	2
4	4

B

	rid
2	
4	

$$\pi_{sid}(A) \times B$$

sid	rid
1	2
I	4
2	2
2	4
3	2
3	4
4	2
4	4

$$(\pi_{sid}(A) \times B) - A$$

sid	rid
2	4
3	4

sid I 4

A/B

Disqualified =
$$\pi_{sid}((\pi_{sid}(A) \times B) - A)$$

 $A/B = \pi_{x}(A)$ - Disqualified

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{rid}=2} (R1) \bowtie SI)$$

Equivalent Queries

p(tmp1,
$$\sigma_{rid=2}$$
 (R1))
p(tmp2, tmp1 \bowtie SI)
 π_{name} (tmp2)

$$\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{rid}=2}(\text{R1}\bowtie\text{SI}))$$

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students $\sigma_{type='db'}$ (Book)

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\sigma_{type='db'}$ (Book) \bowtie Reserve

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\sigma_{type='db'}$ (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\pi_{name}(\sigma_{type='db'}, (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)$

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\pi_{name}(\sigma_{type='db'})$ (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)

More efficient query

 $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid}}((\pi_{\text{rid}} \sigma_{\text{type='db'}} (\text{Book})) \bowtie \text{Reserve}) \bowtie \text{Student})$

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\pi_{name}(\sigma_{type='db'} (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)$

More efficient query

 $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid}}((\pi_{\text{rid}} \sigma_{\text{type='db'}} (\text{Book})) \bowtie \text{Reserve}) \bowtie \text{Student})$

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\pi_{name}(\sigma_{type='db'})$ (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)

More efficient query

 $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid}}((\pi_{\text{rid}} \sigma_{\text{type='db'}} (\text{Book}))) \bowtie \text{Reserve}) \bowtie \text{Student})$

Book(rid, type) Reserve(sid, rid) Student(sid)

Need to join DB books with reserve and students

 $\pi_{name}(\sigma_{type='db'}, (Book) \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)$

More efficient query

 $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid}}((\pi_{\text{rid}} \sigma_{\text{type='db'}} (\text{Book})) \bowtie \text{Reserve}) \bowtie \text{Student})$

Students that reserved DB or HCl book

- Find all DB or HCl books
- 2. Find students that reserved one of those books

p(tmp,
$$(\sigma_{type='DB'v\ type='HCl'}(Book))$$

 $\pi_{name}(tmp\bowtie Reserve\bowtie Student)$

Alternatives

define tmp using UNION (how?) what if we replaced v with ^ in the query?

Students that reserved a DB and HCl book

Does previous approach work?

p(tmp,
$$(\sigma_{type='DB' \land type='HCI'}(Book))$$

 $\pi_{name}(tmp \bowtie Reserve \bowtie Student)$



Students that reserved a DB and HCl book

Does previous approach work?

- I. Find students that reserved DB books
- 2. Find students that reversed HCI books
- 3. Intersection

```
p(tmpDB, \pi_{sid}(\sigma_{type='DB'} Book) \bowtie Reserve)
p(tmpHCl, \pi_{sid}(\sigma_{type='HCl'} Book) \bowtie Reserve)
\pi_{name}((tmpDB \cap tmpHCl) \bowtie Student)
```

Students that reserved all books

Use division

Be careful with schemas of inputs to / !

p(tmp, (
$$\pi_{sid,rid}$$
 Reserves) / (π_{rid} Books))
 π_{name} (tmp \bowtie Student)

What if want students that reserved all horror books?

p(tmp, (
$$\pi_{sid,rid}$$
 Reserves) / ($\pi_{rid}(\sigma_{type='horror}, Book)))$

Let's step back

Relational algebra is expressiveness benchmark

A language equal in expressiveness as relational algebra is relationally complete

But has limitations

nulls

aggregation

recursion

duplicates

Equi-Joins are a way of life

Matching of two sets based on shared attributes

Shopping: Join between your tastes and store inventory

Eating: Join between my body and food supply

Market: Join between consumers and suppliers

High five: Join between two hands on time and space

Comm.: Join between minds on ideas/concepts

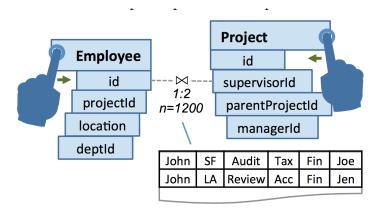


What can we do with RA?

Query by example

Here's my data and examples of the result, generate the query for me

Novel relationally complete interfaces



GestureDB. Nandi et al.

Summary

Relational Algebra (RA) operators

Operators are closed (inputs & outputs are relations)

Multiple Relational Algebra queries can be equivalent (same semantics) but different performance

Forms basis for optimizations

Next Time

Relational Calculus SQL