SQL Language

- It can be divided into four parts according to functions.
  - Data Definition Language (DDL), used to define, delete, or alter data schema.
  - Query Language (QL), used to retrieve data
  - Data Manipulation Language (DML), used to insert, delete, or update data.
  - Data Control Language (DCL), used to control user's access authority to data.
- QL and DML are introduced in detail in this chapter.

Important terms and concepts

- Base table
- View
- Data type supported
- NULL
- UNIQUE
- DEFAULT
- PRIMARY KEY
- FOREIGN KEY
- CHECK (Integration Constraint)

Example Instances

- We will use these instances of the Sailors, Reserves and Boats relations in our examples.

R1

sid	bid	day
22	101	10/10/96
58	103	11/12/96

B1

bid	bname	color
101	tiger	red
103	lion	green
105	hero	blue

S1

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0

S2

sid	sname	rating	age
28	yuppy	9	35.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
44	guppy	5	35.0
58	rusty	10	35.0

Basic SQL Query

SELECT	[DISTINCT] *target-list*
FROM	*relation-list*
WHERE	*qualification*

- *relation-list* A list of relation names (possibly with a *range-variable* after each name).
- *target-list* A list of attributes of relations in *relation-list*
- *qualification* Comparisons combined using AND, OR and NOT.
- DISTINCT is an optional keyword indicating that the answer should not contain duplicates. Default is that duplicates are *not* eliminated!

Conceptual Evaluation Strategy

- Semantics of an SQL query defined in terms of the following conceptual evaluation strategy:
  - Compute the cross-product of *relation-list*.
  - Discard resulting tuples if they fail *qualifications*.
  - Delete attributes that are not in *target-list*.
  - If DISTINCT is specified, eliminate duplicate rows.
- This strategy is probably the least efficient way to compute a query! An optimizer will find more efficient strategies to compute *the same answers*.