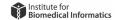
Database Theory and Applications for Biomedical Research and Practice

BMIN 502 / EPID 635 Week 8: More database implementation

John H. Holmes, PhD



Agenda

- Review MySQL installation
- More relational theory
 - Joins
- · The data dictionary
- · Assignment 6, continued
- Preparing for the PennOmics class

Relationships between tables

- Join
 - Association between a field in one table and its counterpart in another table
- View (or Dynaset)
 - Sets (virtual tables) created dynamically as the result of joining two or more tables

Types of joins

Equijoin

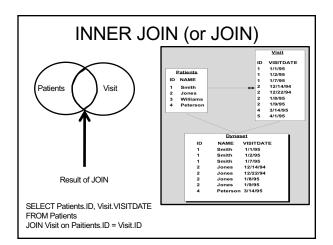
 Records are combined and added to dynaset only when values are equal for the join fields

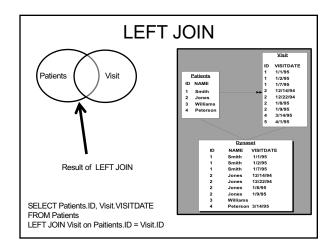
· Left outer join

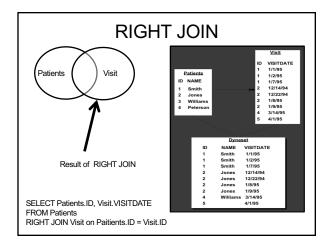
 Records from "left-hand" table are added to dynaset even if none in "right-hand" table match

· Right outer join

 Records from "right-hand" table are added to dynaset even if none in "left-hand" table match







You can create a view with a join...

CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW 'patient_list' AS

SELECT demographics.subject_id AS demo_subject_id, demographics.dob, admission.subject_id AS adm_subject_id, admission.adm_date FROM demographics

JOIN admission ON demographics.subject_id = admission.subject_id

- Note that we need to rename the PKs here, using the AS statement. This is because the view is a virtual table that represents the join, and you would have two subject_id fields in that view.
- Renaming them to represent the table the PKs belong to is the way to get around this constraint
- Duplicate PKs are not allowed in any tables!!

The Data Dictionary

Data Dictionaries

- · "Metadata"
- Repository of attributes characterizing all elements in a database
- Primary external documentation for a database system

Common data dictionary contents

- Table
- Field name
- Type
- Description
- Length (optional)
- Coding information

Implementing the data dictionary

- Word processing document
 - Low budget, low tech
 - Difficult to manipulate (sort, reporting, etc.)
 - Difficult to upgrade
- Database
 - Low budget, high tech
 - Versatile for sorting and reporting
 - Easy to upgrade

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