Lecture 8

SQL: Schema Definition, Constraints, and Queries and Views

Relational Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

FNAME	MINIT	LNAME	SSN	BDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	SUPERSSN	DNO
		l	l	I		l	l		i

DEPARTMENT

DNAME	DNILIMBED	MCDCCNI	MODETARTRATE
DNAME	<u>DNUMBER</u>	MGRSSN	MGRSTARTDATE

DEPT_LOCATIONS

DNUMBER	DLOCATION

PROJECT

PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM
PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM

WORKS_ON

ESSN	PNO	HOURS

DEPENDENT

ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME	SEX	BDATE	RELATIONSHIP

Populated Database

EMPLOYEE	FNAME	MINIT	LNAME	SSN	BDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	SUPERSSN	DNO
	John	В	Smith	123456789	1965-01-09	731 Fondren, Houston, TX	М	30000	333445555	5
	Franklin	Т	Wong	333445555	1955-12-08	638 Voss, Houston, TX	М	40000	888665555	5
	Alicia	J	Zelaya	999887777	1968-07-19	3321 Castle, Spring, TX	F	25000	987654321	4
	Jennifer	S	Wallace	987654321	1941-06-20	291 Berry, Bellaire, TX	F	43000	888665555	4
	Ramesh	K	Narayan	666884444	1962-09-15	975 Fire Oak, Humble, TX	М	38000	333445555	5
	Joyce	Α	English	453453453	1972-07-31	5631 Rice, Houston, TX	F	25000	333445555	5
	Ahmad	>	Jabbar	987987987	1969-03-29	980 Dallas, Houston, TX	М	25000	987654321	4
	James	Ш	Borg	888665555	1937-11-10	450 Stone, Houston, TX	М	55000	null	1

					DEPT_LOCATI	ONS	DNUMBER	DLOCATION
							1	Houston
							4	Stafford
DEPARTMENT	DNAME	DNUMBER	MGRSSN	MGF	STARTDATE		5	Bellaire
	Research	5	333445555	1	988-05-22		5	Sugarland
	Administration	4	987654321	1	995-01-01		5	Houston

WORKS_ON	<u>ESSN</u>	PNO	HOURS
	123456789	1	32.5
	123456789	2	7.5
	666884444	3	40.0
	453453453	1	20.0
	453453453	2	20.0
	333445555	2	10.0
	333445555	3	10.0
	333445555	10	10.0
	333445555	20	10.0
	999887777	30	30.0
	999887777	10	10.0
	987987987	10	35.0
	987987987	30	5.0
	987654321	30	20.0
	987654321	20	15.0
	888665555	20	null

PROJECT	PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM
	ProductX	1	Bellaire	5
	ProductY	2	Sugarland	5
	ProductZ	3	Houston	5
	Computerization	10	Stafford	4
	Reorganization	20	Houston	1
	Newbenefits	30	Stafford	4

DEPENDENT	ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME		BDATE	RELATIONSHIP
	333445555	Alice	F	1986-04-05	DAUGHTER
	333445555	Theodore	М	1983-10-25	SON
	333445555	Joy	F	1958-05-03	SPOUSE
	987654321	Abner	М	1942-02-28	SPOUSE
	123456789	Michael	М	1988-01-04	SON
	123456789	Alice	F	1988-12-30	DAUGHTER
	123456789	Flizabeth	F	1967-05-05	SPOUSE

The general format of the SELECT statements

▶ A query in SQL can consist of up to six clauses, but only the first two, SELECT and FROM, are mandatory. The clauses are specified in the following order:

Retrieval Queries in SQL

- <attribute list> is a list of attribute names whose values are to be retrieved by the query
- is a list of the relation names required to process the query
- <condition> is a conditional (Boolean) expression that identifies the tuples to be retrieved by the query
- ► We may use the comparison operators : =, <, >, \leq , \geq , \neq
- We may use the Boolean operators AND, OR and NOT

Simple SQL Queries

Example of a simple query on one relation

Query 0: Retrieve the birthdate and address of the employee whose name is 'John B. Smith'.

Q0: SELECT BDATE, ADDRESS
FROM EMPLOYEE
WHERE FNAME="John" AND MINIT='B'
AND LNAME="Smith";

►The SELECT-clause specifies the projection attributes and the WHERE-clause specifies the selection condition

BDATE	ADDRESS			
1965-1-9	171 street			

The result of the query may contain duplicate tuples

Relational Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

FNAME MINIT LNAME SSN	BDATE ADDRESS	SEX SALARY	SUPERSSN DNO
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DEPARTMENT

DNAME	DNUMBER	MGRSSN	MGRSTARTDATE

DEPT_LOCATIONS

DNUMBER	DLOCATION

PROJECT

PLOCATION	DNUM
	PLOCATION

WORKS_ON

ESSN	PNO	HOURS

DEPENDENT

ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME	SEX	BDATE	RELATIONSHIP

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	453453453	2	20.0
	333445555	2	10.0
	333445555	3	10.0
	333445555	10	10.0
	333445555	20	10.0
	999887777	30	30.0
	999887777	10	10.0
	987987987	10	35.0
	987987987	30	5.0
	987654321	30	20.0
	987654321	20	15.0
	888665555	20	null

PROJECT	PNAME	<u>PNUMBER</u>	PLOCATION	DNUM
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	ProductY	2	Sugarland	5
	ProductZ	3	Houston	5
	Computerization	10	Stafford	4
	Reorganization	20	Houston	1
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	987654321	Abner	М	1942-02-28	SPOUSE
	123456789	Michael	М	1988-01-04	SON
	123456789	Alice	F	1988-12-30	DAUGHTER
	123456789	Elizabeth	F	1967-05-05	SPOUSE

UNSPECIFIED WHERE-clause

- ► A missing WHERE-clause indicates no condition; hence, all tuples of the relations in the FROMclause are selected
 - This is equivalent to the condition WHERE TRUE
- Query 1: Retrieve the SSN values for all employees.

Q1: SELECT SSN FROM EMPLOYEE

SSN

12345678 12223334

•••••

USE OF *

➤ To retrieve all the attribute values of the selected tuples, a * is used, which stands for all the attributes

Examples:

Q2: SELECT *
FROM EMPLOYEE
WHERE DNO=5

USE OF DISTINCT

- SQL does not treat a relation as a set; duplicate tuples can appear
- ► To eliminate duplicate tuples in a query result, the keyword **DISTINCT** is used
- For example, the result of Q3 may have duplicate SALARY values whereas Q3A does not have any duplicate values

Q3: SELECT SALARY FROM EMPLOYEE

Q3A: SELECT DISTINCT SALARY FROM EMPLOYEE

11

SALARY

1000

2000

1000

1500

Simple SQL Queries

Query 4: Retrieve the name and address of all employees who work for the 'Research' department.

Q4: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT WHERE DNAME="Research" AND DNUMBER=DNO

- (DNAME="Research") is a selection condition
- (DNUMBER=DNO) is a join condition

Relational Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

FNAME MINIT LNAME SSN BDATE ADDRESS SEX SALARY SUPERSSN D	FNAME	LNAME	FNAME MINIT	SSN	BDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	SUPERSSN	DNO
---	-------	-------	-------------	-----	-------	---------	-----	--------	----------	-----

DEPARTMENT

DNAME <u>DNUMBER</u>	MGRSSN	MGRSTARTDATE
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DEPT_LOCATIONS

DNUMBER	DLOCATION

PROJECT

PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM
PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM

WORKS_ON

ESSN	PNO	HOURS

DEPENDENT

ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME	SEX	BDATE	RELATIONSHIP

Aliases, * and DISTINCT, Empty WHERE-clause

- In SQL, we can use the same name for two (or more) attributes as long as the attributes are in different relations
- A query that refers to two or more attributes with the same name must *qualify* the attribute name with the relation name by *prefixing* the relation name to the attribute name
- Example:

EMPLOYEE.LNAME, DEPARTMENT.DNAME

Simple SQL Queries

The above query may be re-written using Relation name.attribute

Q4m: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS
FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT
WHERE DEPARTMENT.DNAME="Research"
AND DEPARTMENT.DNUMBER= EMPLOYEE.DNO

► Q4m: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS
FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT
WHERE DEPARTMENT.DNAME="Research" AND
DEPARTMENT.DNO= EMPLOYEE.DNO

Simple SQL Queries

Query 5: For every project located in 'Stafford', list the project number, the controlling department number, and the department manager's last name, address, and birth date.

Q5:

SELECT PNUMBER, DNUM, LNAME, BDATE, ADDRESS
FROM PROJECT, DEPARTMENT, EMPLOYEE
WHERE DNUM=DNUMBER AND MGRSSN=SSN
AND PLOCATION='Stafford'

- In Q5, there are two join conditions
- The join condition DNUM=DNUMBER relates a project to its controlling department
- The join condition MGRSSN=SSN relates the controlling department to the employee who manages that department

Relational Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

FNAME	MINIT	LNAME	SSN	BDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	SUPERSSN	DNO
		l	l	I		l	l		i

DEPARTMENT

DNAME	DNUMBER	MGRSSN	MGRSTARTDATE

DEPT_LOCATIONS

DNUMBER	DLOCATION

PROJECT

PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM
PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM

WORKS_ON

ESSN	PNO	HOURS

DEPENDENT

ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME	SEX	BDATE	RELATIONSHIP

ALIASES

- Some queries need to refer to the same relation twice
 - In this case, *aliases* are given to the relation name
- Query 6: For each employee, retrieve the employee's name, and the name of his or her immediate supervisor.

Q6:

```
SELECT E.FNAME, E.LNAME, S.FNAME, S.LNAME
FROM EMPLOYEE E S
WHERE E.SUPERSSN=S.SSN
```

ALIASES

- In Q6, the alternate relation names E and S are called *aliases* or *tuple variables* for the EMPLOYEE relation
- We can think of E and S as two different copies of EMPLOYEE; E represents employees in role of supervisees and S represents employees in role of supervisors
- Can use the AS keyword to specify aliases

Q6m:

SELECT E.FNAME, E.LNAME, S.FNAME, S.LNAME FROM EMPLOYEE AS E, EMPLOYEE AS S WHERE E.SUPERSSN=S.SSN

UNSPECIFIED WHERE-clause

Example:

Q7: SELECT SSN, DNAME FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT

- If more than one relation is specified in the FROMclause and there is no condition, then the CARTESIAN PRODUCT of tuples is selected
- It is extremely important not to overlook specifying any selection and join conditions in the WHEREclause; otherwise, incorrect and very large relations may result

fname	mname	lname	SSN					
•••								
••••								

SET OPERATIONS

- SQL has directly incorporated some set operations
- There is a union operation (UNION), and in some versions of SQL there are set difference (MINUS) and intersection (INTERSECT) operations
- The resulting relations of these set operations are sets of tuples; duplicate tuples are eliminated from the result
- ➤ The set operations apply only to *union* compatible relations; the two relations must have the same attributes and the attributes must appear in the same order

SET OPERATIONS

Query 8: Make a list of all project numbers for projects that involve an employee whose last name is 'Smith' as a worker or as a manager of the department that controls the project.

Q8: (SELECT PNAME

FROM PROJECT, DEPARTMENT, EMPLOYEE

WHERE DNUM=DNUMBER AND

MGRSSN=SSN AND LNAME="Smith")

UNION

(SELECT PNAME

FROM PROJECT, WORKS_ON, EMPLOYEE

WHERE PNUMBER=PNO AND

ESSN=SSN AND LNAME="Smith")

Relational Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

FNAME	MINIT	LNAME	SSN	BDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	SUPERSSN	DNO
		l	l	I		l	l		

DEPARTMENT

DNIANAE	DAILIMADED	MODOON	MODOTADTDATE
DNAME	<u>DNUMBER</u>	MGRSSN	MGRSTARTDATE

DEPT_LOCATIONS

DNUMBER	DLOCATION

PROJECT

PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM
PNAME	PNUMBER	PLOCATION	DNUM

WORKS_ON

ESSN	PNO	HOURS

DEPENDENT

ESSN	DEPENDENT_NAME	SEX	BDATE	RELATIONSHIP

NESTING OF QUERIES

- A complete SELECT query, called a nested query, can be specified within the WHERE-clause of another query, called the outer query
 - Many of the previous queries can be specified in an alternative form using nesting
- Query 4: Retrieve the name and address of all employees who work for the 'Research' department.

```
Q4m: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS FROM EMPLOYEE DNO IN

(SELECT DNUMBER FROM DEPARTMENT WHERE DNAME="Research")
```

NESTING OF QUERIES

- The nested query selects the number of the 'Research' department
- ► The outer query select an EMPLOYEE tuple if its DNO value is in the result of either nested query
- The comparison operator IN compares a value v with a set (or multi-set) of values
 V, and evaluates to TRUE if v is one of the elements in V

NESTING OF QUERIES

- ▶ In general, we can have several levels of nested queries
- ► A reference to an unqualified attribute refers to the relation declared in the innermost nested query
- In this example, the nested query is *not* correlated with the outer query
- ▶ If a condition in the WHERE-clause of a *nested* query references an attribute of a relation declared in the *outer query*, the two queries are said to be *correlated*

CORRELATED NESTED QUERIES

Query 9: Retrieve the name of each employee who has a dependent with the same first name as the employee.

Q9: SELECT FROM WHERE

E.FNAME, E.LNAME EMPLOYEE AS E E.SSN IN

(SELECT ESSN FROM DEPENDENT

WHERE ESSN=E.SSN AND

E.FNAME=DEPENDENT_NAME)

CORRELATED NESTED QUERIES

- In Q9, the nested query has a different result in the outer query
- ► A query written with nested SELECT...
 FROM... WHERE... blocks and using the = or
 IN comparison operators can *always* be
 expressed as a single block query. For
 example, Q9 may be written as in Q9A

Q9A: SELECT E.FNAME, E.LNAME
FROM EMPLOYEE E, DEPENDENT D
WHERE E.SSN=D.ESSN AND
E.FNAME=D.DEPENDENT_NAME

Example

Get employee numbers for employees who have the same salary as "John"

```
SELECT SSN

FROM EMPLOYEE

WHERE SALARY = ( SELECT SALARY

FROM EMPLOYEE

WHERE FNAME="John")
```

THE EXISTS FUNCTION

- EXISTS is used to check whether the result of a correlated nested query is empty (contains no tuples) or not
 - We can formulate Query 9 in an alternative form that uses EXISTS as Q9B

THE EXISTS FUNCTION

Query 9: Retrieve the name of each employee who has a dependent with the same first name as the employee.

```
Q9B: SELECT FNAME, LNAME
FROM EMPLOYEE
WHERE EXISTS

(SELECT *
FROM DEPENDENT
WHERE SSN=ESSN
AND
FNAME=DEPENDENT_NAME)
```

THE EXISTS FUNCTION

Query 10: Retrieve the names of employees who have no dependents.

Q10: SELECT FNAME, LNAME FROM EMPLOYEE WHERE NOT EXISTS

(SELECT *
FROM DEPENDENT
WHERE SSN=ESSN)

► In Q10, the correlated nested query retrieves all DEPENDENT tuples related to an EMPLOYEE tuple. If none exist, the EMPLOYEE tuple is selected

EXPLICIT SETS

- ▶ It is also possible to use an explicit (enumerated) set of values in the WHERE-clause rather than a nested query
- ▶ Query 11: Retrieve the social security numbers of all employees who work on project number 1, 2, or 3.

```
Q11: SELECT DISTINCT ESSN
FROM WORKS_ON
WHERE PNO IN (1, 2, 3)
```

NULLS IN SQL QUERIES

- SQL allows queries that check if a value is NULL (missing or undefined or not applicable)
- SQL uses IS or IS NOT to compare NULLs because it considers each NULL value distinct from other NULL values, so equality comparison is not appropriate.
- Query 12: Retrieve the names of all employees who do not have supervisors.

Q12: SELECT FNAME, LNAME FROM EMPLOYEE WHERE SUPERSSN IS NULL

 Note: If a join condition is specified, tuples with NULL values for the join attributes are not included in the result

Joined Relations Feature in SQL2

- Can specify a "joined relation" in the FROM-clause
 - Looks like any other relation but is the result of a join
 - Allows the user to specify different types of joins (regular "theta" JOIN, NATURAL JOIN, LEFT OUTER JOIN, RIGHT OUTER JOIN, CROSS JOIN, etc)

DEFINITIONS

- ► Theta JOIN: Produces all combinations of tuples from R and S that satisfies the join condition
- NATURAL JOIN (inner join): As theta join but with equal conditions, and the joined attributes in S are not included
- ► LEFT OUTER JOIN: R left outer join S means keep all the tuples in R even if they are not matching the conditions.
- ► RIGHT OUTER JOIN: R right outer join S the same as above but keep all tuples of S

Joined Relations Feature in SQL2

Examples:

Q13:

SELECT E.FNAME, E.LNAME, S.FNAME, S.LNAME

FROM EMPLOYEE E S

WHERE E.SUPERSSN=S.SSN

can be written as:

SELECT E.FNAME, E.LNAME, S.FNAME, S.LNAME FROM (EMPLOYEE E LEFT OUTER JOIN EMPLOYEE S ON E.SUPERSSN=S.SSN)

E.FNAME	E.LNAME	S.FNAME	S.LNAME
Hoda	Mohamed	Aly	Ahmed
Aly	Ahmed		

Joined Relations Feature in SQL2

Examples:

Q4: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT DNAME="Research" AND DNUMBER=DNO

could be written as:

Q4: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS

FROM (EMPLÓYEE JOIN DEPARTMENT

ON DNUMBER=DNO)

WHERE DNAME="Research"

or as:

Q4: SELECT FNAME, LNAME, ADDRESS

FROM (EMPLOYEE NATURAL JOIN DEPARTMENT

AS DEPT(DNAME, DNO, MSSN, MSDATE)

WHERE DNAME="Research"

Joined Relations Feature in SQL2

Another Example: Q5 could be written as follows; this illustrates multiple joins in the joined tables Q5:

SELECT PNUMBER, DNUM, LNAME, BDATE, ADDRESS

FROM (PROJECT JOIN DEPARTMENT ON

DNUM=DNUMBER) JOIN EMPLOYEE ON

MGRSSN=SSN))

WHERE PLOCATION="Stafford"

AGGREGATE FUNCTIONS

- Include COUNT, SUM, MAX, MIN, and AVG
- Query 14: Find the maximum salary, the minimum salary, and the average salary among all employees.

Q14: SELECT MAX(SALARY), MIN(SALARY), AVG(SALARY) FROM EMPLOYEE

► Some SQL implementations may not allow more than one function in the SELECT-clause

10000, 200, 4500

AGGREGATE FUNCTIONS

Query 15: Find the maximum salary, the minimum salary, and the average salary among employees who work for the 'Research' department.

Q15: SELECT MAX(SALARY), MIN(SALARY), AVG(SALARY)

FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT

WHERE DNO=DNUMBER AND

DNAME="Research"

5000, 300, 2000

AGGREGATE FUNCTIONS

Queries 16 and 17: Retrieve the total number of employees in the company (Q16), and the number of employees in the 'Research' department (Q17).

Q16: SELECT COUNT (*)
FROM EMPLOYEE

Q17: SELECT COUNT (*)
FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT
WHERE DNO=DNUMBER AND

DNAME="Research"

GROUPING

- In many cases, we want to apply the aggregate functions to *subgroups of tuples* in a relation
- Each subgroup of tuples consists of the set of tuples that have the same value for the grouping attribute(s)
- The function is applied to each subgroup independently
- ► SQL has a **GROUP BY**-clause for specifying the grouping attributes, which *must also appear in the SELECT-clause*

GROUPING

Query 18: For each department, retrieve the department number, the number of employees in the department, and their average salary.

Q18: SELECT DNO, COUNT (*), AVG (SALARY)
FROM EMPLOYEE
GROUPBY DNO

- In Q18, the EMPLOYEE tuples are divided into groups-
 - Each group having the same value for the grouping attribute DNO
- The COUNT and AVG functions are applied to each such group of tuples separately
- The SELECT-clause includes only the grouping attribute and the functions to be applied on each group of tuples
- A join condition can be used in conjunction with grouping

SSN	NAME	 SALARY	DNO
123		1000	1
1234		2000	1
213		100	2
1324		200	2
4356		300	2
12567		500	3
7689		700	4

DNO	COUNT	AVERAGE
1	2	1500
2	3	200
••••	••••	•••

GROUPING

Query 19: For each project, retrieve the project number, project name, and the number of employees who work on that project.

Q19: SELECT PNUMBER, PNAME, COUNT (*)
FROM PROJECT, WORKS_ON
WHERE PNUMBER=PNO
GROUPBY PNUMBER

In this case, the grouping and functions are applied after the joining of the two relations

THE HAVING-CLAUSE

- Sometimes we want to retrieve the values of these functions for only those groups that satisfy certain conditions
- ➤ The **HAVING**-clause is used for specifying a selection condition on groups (rather than on individual tuples)

THE HAVING-CLAUSE

Query 20: For each project on which more than two employees work, retrieve the project number, project name, and the number of employees who work on that project.

SELECT PNUMBER, PNAME, COUNT(*)

FROM PROJECT, WORKS_ON

WHERE PNUMBER=PNO

GROUPBY PNUMBER

HAVING COUNT (*) > 2

PNUMBER	PNAME
1	XX
1	XX
1	XX
2	YY

$$COUNT=3 > 2$$

PNUMBER	PNAME	COUNT
1	XX	3

SUBSTRING COMPARISON

- ► The LIKE comparison operator is used to compare partial strings
- ➤ Two reserved characters are used: '%' (or '*' in some implementations) replaces an arbitrary number of characters, and '_' replaces a single arbitrary character

SUBSTRING COMPARISON

Query 21: Retrieve all employees whose address is in Houston, Texas. Here, the value of the ADDRESS attribute must contain the substring 'Houston,TX' in it.

Q21: SELECT FNAME, LNAME

FROM EMPLOYEE

WHERE ADDRESS LIKE "%Houston,TX%"

SUBSTRING COMPARISON

- Query 22: Retrieve all employees who were born during the 1950s.
 - Here, '5' must be the 8th character of the string (according to our format for date), so the BDATE value is '__5____', with each underscore as a place holder for a single arbitrary character.

Q22: SELECT FNAME, LNAME
FROM EMPLOYEE
WHERE BDATE LIKE "__5___"

► The LIKE operator allows us to get around the fact that each value is considered atomic and indivisible

ARITHMETIC OPERATIONS

- ➤ The standard arithmetic operators '+', '-'. '*', and '/' (for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, respectively) can be applied to numeric values in an SQL query result
- ▶ Query 23: Show the effect of giving all employees who work on the 'ProductX' project a 10% raise.

Q23:

SELECT FNAME, LNAME, 1.1*SALARY
FROM EMPLOYEE, WORKS_ON, PROJECT
WHERE SSN=ESSN AND PNO=PNUMBER

AND PNAME="ProductX"

ORDER BY

- The ORDER BY clause is used to sort the tuples in a query result based on the values of some attribute(s)
- Query 24: Retrieve a list of employees and the projects each works in, ordered by the employee's department, and within each department ordered alphabetically by employee last name.

Q24: SELECT DNAME, LNAME, FNAME, PNAME

FROM DEPARTMENT, EMPLOYEE,

WORKS_ON, PROJECT

WHERE DNUMBER=DNO AND SSN=ESSN

AND PNO=PNUMBER

ORDER BY DNAME, LNAME

ORDER BY

- ► The default order is in ascending order of values
- We can specify the keyword DESC if we want a descending order; the keyword ASC can be used to explicitly specify ascending order, even though it is the default