



Chapter 3: Introduction to SQL

Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.

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History

- IBM Sequel language developed as part of System R project at the IBM San Jose Research Laboratory
- Renamed Structured Query Language (SQL)
- ANSI and ISO standard SQL:
 - SQL-86
 - SQL-89
 - SQL-92
 - SQL:1999 (language name became Y2K compliant!)
 - SQL:2003
- Commercial systems offer most, if not all, SQL-92 features, plus varying feature sets from later standards and special proprietary features.
 - Not all examples here may work on your particular system.



SQL Parts

- DML -- provides the ability to query information from the database and to insert tuples into, delete tuples from, and modify tuples in the database.
- integrity – the DDL includes commands for specifying integrity constraints.
- View definition -- The DDL includes commands for defining views.
- Transaction control –includes commands for specifying the beginning and ending of transactions.
- Embedded SQL and dynamic SQL -- define how SQL statements can be embedded within general-purpose programming languages.
- Authorization – includes commands for specifying access rights to relations and views.



Data Definition Language

The SQL data-definition language (DDL) allows the specification of information about relations, including:

- The schema for each relation.
- The type of values associated with each attribute.
- The Integrity constraints
- The set of indices to be maintained for each relation.
- Security and authorization information for each relation.
- The physical storage structure of each relation on disk.



Domain Types in SQL

- **char(*n*)**. Fixed length character string, with user-specified length *n*.
- **varchar(*n*)**. Variable length character strings, with user-specified maximum length *n*.
- **int**. Integer (a finite subset of the integers that is machine-dependent).
- **smallint**. Small integer (a machine-dependent subset of the integer domain type).
- **numeric(*p*,*d*)**. Fixed point number, with user-specified precision of *p* digits, with *d* digits to the right of decimal point. (ex., **numeric**(3,1), allows 44.5 to be stored exactly, but not 444.5 or 0.32)
- **real, double precision**. Floating point and double-precision floating point numbers, with machine-dependent precision.
- **float(*n*)**. Floating point number, with user-specified precision of at least *n* digits.
- More are covered in Chapter 4.



Create Table Construct

- An SQL relation is defined using the **create table** command:

create table *r*

$(A_1 D_1, A_2 D_2, \dots, A_n D_n,$
 (integrity-constraint₁),
 ...,
 (integrity-constraint_k))

- *r* is the name of the relation
 - each A_i is an attribute name in the schema of relation *r*
 - D_i is the data type of values in the domain of attribute A_i
- Example:

```
create table instructor (  
    ID           char(5),  
    name        varchar(20),  
    dept_name varchar(20),  
    salary     numeric(8,2))
```



Integrity Constraints in Create Table

- Types of integrity constraints
 - **primary key** (A_1, \dots, A_n)
 - **foreign key** (A_m, \dots, A_n) **references** r
 - **not null**
- SQL prevents any update to the database that violates an integrity constraint.
- Example:

```
create table instructor (  
    ID          char(5),  
    name       varchar(20) not null,  
    dept_name varchar(20),  
    salary     numeric(8,2),  
    primary key (ID),  
    foreign key (dept_name) references department);
```



And a Few More Relation Definitions

- **create table** *student* (
 ID **varchar**(5),
 name **varchar**(20) not null,
 dept_name **varchar**(20),
 tot_cred **numeric**(3,0),
 primary key (*ID*),
 foreign key (*dept_name*) **references** *department*);

- **create table** *takes* (
 ID **varchar**(5),
 course_id **varchar**(8),
 sec_id **varchar**(8),
 semester **varchar**(6),
 year **numeric**(4,0),
 grade **varchar**(2),
 primary key (*ID*, *course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*) ,
 foreign key (*ID*) **references** *student*,
 foreign key (*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*) **references** *section*);



And more still

- **create table** *course* (
 course_id **varchar**(8),
 title **varchar**(50),
 dept_name **varchar**(20),
 credits **numeric**(2,0),
 primary key (*course_id*),
 foreign key (*dept_name*) **references** *department*);



Updates to tables

- **Insert**
 - **insert into** *instructor* **values** ('10211', 'Smith', 'Biology', 66000);
- **Delete**
 - Remove all tuples from the *student* relation
 - **delete from** *student*
- **Drop Table**
 - **drop table** *r*
- **Alter**
 - **alter table** *r* **add** *A D*
 - where *A* is the name of the attribute to be added to relation *r* and *D* is the domain of *A*.
 - All existing tuples in the relation are assigned *null* as the value for the new attribute.
 - **alter table** *r* **drop** *A*
 - where *A* is the name of an attribute of relation *r*
 - Dropping of attributes not supported by many databases.



Basic Query Structure

- A typical SQL query has the form:

select A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n
from r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m
where P

- A_i represents an attribute
 - R_i represents a relation
 - P is a predicate.
- The result of an SQL query is a relation.



The select Clause

- The **select** clause lists the attributes desired in the result of a query
 - corresponds to the projection operation of the relational algebra

- Example: find the names of all instructors:

select *name*
from *instructor*

- NOTE: SQL names are case insensitive (i.e., you may use upper- or lower-case letters.)
 - E.g., *Name* \equiv *NAME* \equiv *name*
 - Some people use upper case wherever we use bold font.



The select Clause (Cont.)

- SQL allows duplicates in relations as well as in query results.
- To force the elimination of duplicates, insert the keyword **distinct** after select.
- Find the department names of all instructors, and remove duplicates

```
select distinct dept_name  
from instructor
```

- The keyword **all** specifies that duplicates should not be removed.

```
select all dept_name  
from instructor
```



The select Clause (Cont.)

- An asterisk in the select clause denotes “all attributes”

```
select *  
from instructor
```

- An attribute can be a literal with no **from** clause

```
select '437'
```

- Results is a table with one column and a single row with value “437”
- Can give the column a name using:

```
select '437' as FOO
```

- An attribute can be a literal with **from** clause

```
select 'A'  
from instructor
```

- Result is a table with one column and N rows (number of tuples in the *instructors* table), each row with value “A”



The select Clause (Cont.)

- The **select** clause can contain arithmetic expressions involving the operation, +, −, *, and /, and operating on constants or attributes of tuples.

- The query:

```
select ID, name, salary/12  
from instructor
```

would return a relation that is the same as the *instructor* relation, except that the value of the attribute *salary* is divided by 12.

- Can rename “*salary/12*” using the **as** clause:

```
select ID, name, salary/12 as monthly_salary
```



The where Clause

- The **where** clause specifies conditions that the result must satisfy
 - Corresponds to the selection predicate of the relational algebra.
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.'
```

- SQL allows the use of the logical connectives **and**, **or**, and **not**
- The operands of the logical connectives can be expressions involving the comparison operators **<**, **<=**, **>**, **>=**, **=**, and **<>**.
- Comparisons can be applied to results of arithmetic expressions
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept with salary > 80000

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.' and salary > 80000
```




The from Clause

- The **from** clause lists the relations involved in the query
 - Corresponds to the Cartesian product operation of the relational algebra.

- Find the Cartesian product *instructor X teaches*

select *
from *instructor, teaches*

- generates every possible instructor – teaches pair, with all attributes from both relations.
 - For common attributes (e.g., *ID*), the attributes in the resulting table are renamed using the relation name (e.g., *instructor.ID*)
- Cartesian product not very useful directly, but useful combined with where-clause condition (selection operation in relational algebra).



Examples

- Find the names of all instructors who have taught some course and the course_id
 - **select** *name, course_id*
from *instructor , teaches*
where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID*

- Find the names of all instructors in the Art department who have taught some course and the course_id
 - **select** *name, course_id*
from *instructor , teaches*
where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID and instructor. dept_name = 'Art'*



The Rename Operation

- The SQL allows renaming relations and attributes using the **as** clause:

old-name as new-name

- Find the names of all instructors who have a higher salary than some instructor in 'Comp. Sci'.

- **select distinct** *T.name*
from *instructor as T, instructor as S*
where *T.salary > S.salary and S.dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.'*

- Keyword **as** is optional and may be omitted
instructor as T \equiv *instructor T*



String Operations

- SQL includes a string-matching operator for comparisons on character strings. The operator **like** uses patterns that are described using two special characters:
 - percent (%). The % character matches any substring.
 - underscore (_). The _ character matches any character.
- Find the names of all instructors whose name includes the substring “dar”.

```
select name  
from instructor  
where name like '%dar%'
```

- Match the string “100%”

```
like '100 \%' escape '\'
```

in that above we use backslash (\) as the escape character.



String Operations (Cont.)

- Patterns are case sensitive.
- Pattern matching examples:
 - 'Intro%' matches any string beginning with “Intro”.
 - '%Comp%' matches any string containing “Comp” as a substring.
 - '___' matches any string of exactly three characters.
 - '___ %' matches any string of at least three characters.
- SQL supports a variety of string operations such as
 - concatenation (using “||”)
 - converting from upper to lower case (and vice versa)
 - finding string length, extracting substrings, etc.



Ordering the Display of Tuples

- List in alphabetic order the names of all instructors

```
select distinct name  
from instructor  
order by name
```

- We may specify **desc** for descending order or **asc** for ascending order, for each attribute; ascending order is the default.
 - Example: **order by** *name desc*
- Can sort on multiple attributes
 - Example: **order by** *dept_name, name*



Where Clause Predicates

- SQL includes a **between** comparison operator
- Example: Find the names of all instructors with salary between \$90,000 and \$100,000 (that is, $\geq \$90,000$ and $\leq \$100,000$)
 - **select** *name*
from *instructor*
where *salary* **between** 90000 **and** 100000
- Tuple comparison
 - **select** *name, course_id*
from *instructor, teaches*
where (*instructor.ID, dept_name*) = (*teaches.ID*, 'Biology');



Null Values

- It is possible for tuples to have a null value, denoted by **null**, for some of their attributes
- **null** signifies an unknown value or that a value does not exist.
- The result of any arithmetic expression involving **null** is **null**
 - Example: $5 + \text{null}$ returns **null**
- The predicate **is null** can be used to check for null values.
 - Example: Find all instructors whose salary is null.
select *name*
from *instructor*
where *salary is null*
- The predicate **is not null** succeeds if the value on which it is applied is not null.



Null Values (Cont.)

- SQL treats as **unknown** the result of any comparison involving a null value (other than predicates **is null** and **is not null**).
 - Example: $5 < \text{null}$ or $\text{null} \diamond \text{null}$ or $\text{null} = \text{null}$
- The predicate in a **where** clause can involve Boolean operations (**and**, **or**, **not**); thus the definitions of the Boolean operations need to be extended to deal with the value **unknown**.
 - **and** : $(\text{true and unknown}) = \text{unknown}$,
 $(\text{false and unknown}) = \text{false}$,
 $(\text{unknown and unknown}) = \text{unknown}$
 - **or**: $(\text{unknown or true}) = \text{true}$,
 $(\text{unknown or false}) = \text{unknown}$
 $(\text{unknown or unknown}) = \text{unknown}$
- Result of **where** clause predicate is treated as *false* if it evaluates to *unknown*