Relational Algebra

Chapter 4, Part A

Relational Query Languages

- <u>Query languages</u>: Allow manipulation and retrieval of data from a database.
- Relational model supports simple, powerful QLs:
 - Strong formal foundation based on logic.
 - Allows for much optimization.
- Query Languages != programming languages!
 - QLs not expected to be "Turing complete".
 - QLs not intended to be used for complex calculations.
 - QLs support easy, efficient access to large data sets.

Formal Relational Query Languages

- Two mathematical Query Languages form the basis for "real" languages (e.g. SQL), and for implementation:
 - <u>Relational Algebra</u>: More operational, very useful for representing execution plans.
 - <u>Relational Calculus</u>: Lets users describe what they want, rather than how to compute it. (Non-operational, <u>declarative</u>.)

Preliminaries

- A query is applied to *relation instances*, and the result of a query is also a relation instance.
 - Schemas of input relations for a query are fixed (but query will run regardless of instance!)
 - The schema for the result of a given query is also fixed!
 Determined by definition of query language constructs.
- Positional vs. named-field notation:
 - Positional notation easier for formal definitions, namedfield notation more readable.
 - Both used in SQL

Example Instances

- "Sailors" and "Reserves" relations for our examples.
- We'll use positional or named field notation, assume that names of fields in query results are `inherited' from names of fields in query input relations.

R1

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

*S*1

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

*S*2

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

Relational Algebra

- Basic operations:
 - Selection (σ) Selects a subset of rows from relation.
 - <u>Projection</u> (π) Deletes unwanted columns from relation.
 - $\underline{Cross-product}$ (\times) Allows us to combine two relations.
 - <u>Set-difference</u> (___) Tuples in reln. 1, but not in reln. 2.
 - <u>Union</u> ([]) Tuples in reln. 1 and in reln. 2.
- Additional operations:
 - Intersection, join, division, renaming: Not essential, but (very!) useful.
- Since each operation returns a relation, operations can be composed! (Algebra is "closed".)

Projection

- Deletes attributes that are not in projection list.
- Schema of result contains exactly the fields in the projection list, with the same names that they had in the (only) input relation.
- Projection operator has to eliminate duplicates! (Why??)
 - Note: real systems typically don't do duplicate elimination unless the user explicitly asks for it. (Why not?)

sname	rating
yuppy	9
lubber	8
guppy	5
rusty	10

$$\pi_{sname,rating}(S2)$$

age 35.0 55.5

$$\pi_{age}(S2)$$

Selection

- Selects rows that satisfy selection condition.
- No duplicates in result! (Why?)
- Schema of result identical to schema of (only) input relation.
- Result relation can be the input for another relational algebra operation! (Operator composition.)

sid	sname	rating	age
28	yuppy	9	35.0
58	rusty	10	35.0

$$\sigma_{rating>8}(S2)$$

sname	rating
yuppy	9
rusty	10

$$\pi_{sname,rating}(\sigma_{rating} > 8^{(S2)})$$

Union, Intersection, Set-Difference

- All of these operations take two input relations, which must be <u>union-compatible</u>:
 - Same number of fields.
 - `Corresponding' fields have the same type.
- What is the *schema* of result?

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0

S1	-S2
\sim $-$	\sim $-$

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0
44	guppy	5	35.0
28	yuppy	9	35.0

$$S1 \cup S2$$

sid	sname	rating	age
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0

$$S1 \cap S2$$

Cross-Product

- Each row of S1 is paired with each row of R1.
- Result schema has one field per field of S1 and R1, with field names 'inherited' if possible.
 - Conflict: Both S1 and R1 have a field called sid.

(sid)	sname	rating	age	(sid)	bid	day
22	dustin	7	45.0	22	101	10/10/96
22	dustin	7	45.0	58	103	11/12/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	22	101	10/10/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	58	103	11/12/96
58	rusty	10	35.0	22	101	10/10/96
58	rusty	10	35.0	58	103	11/12/96

• Renaming operator: $\rho(C(1 \rightarrow sid1, 5 \rightarrow sid2), S1 \times R1)$

Joins

• Condition Join:

$$R \bowtie_{c} S = \sigma_{c}(R \times S)$$

(sid)	sname	rating	age	(sid)	bid	day
22	dustin	7	45.0	58	103	11/12/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	58	103	11/12/96

- Result schema same as that of cross-product.
- Fewer tuples than cross-product, might be able to compute more efficiently
- Sometimes called a *theta-join*. $S1 \bowtie_{S1.sid} < R1.sid$

Joins

• <u>Equi-Join</u>: A special case of condition join where the condition *c* contains only **equalities**.

sid	sname	rating	age	bid	day
22	dustin	7	45.0	101	10/10/96
58	rusty	10	35.0	103	11/12/96

$$S1 \bowtie_{sid} R1$$

- Result schema similar to cross-product, but only one copy of fields for which equality is specified.
- Natural Join: Equijoin on all common fields.

Division

 Not supported as a primitive operator, but useful for expressing queries like:

Find sailors who have reserved all boats.

- Let A have 2 fields, x and y; B have only field y:
 - A/B = $\{\langle x \rangle | \exists \langle x, y \rangle \in A \ \forall \langle y \rangle \in B\}$
 - i.e., A/B contains all x tuples (sailors) such that for <u>every</u> y tuple (boat) in B, there is an xy tuple in A.
 - Or: If the set of y values (boats) associated with an x value (sailor) in A contains all y values in B, the x value is in A/B.
- In general, x and y can be any lists of fields; y is the list of fields in B, and x y is the list of fields of A.

U

Examples of Division A/B

sno	pno	pno	pno	pno
s1	p1	p2	p2	p1
s1	p2	B1	p4	p2
s1	p2 p3 p4	D1	<i>B</i> 2	p4
s1	p4		DZ	В3
s2	p1	sno		DS
s2	p2	s1		
s2 s3	p2 p2	s2	sno	
s4	p2	s3	s1	sno
s4	p4	s4	s4	s1
	\overline{A}	A/B1	A/B2	A/B3

Expressing A/B Using Basic Operators

- Division is not essential op; just a useful shorthand.
 - (Also true of joins, but joins are so common that systems implement joins specially.)
- *Idea*: For *A/B*, compute all *x* values that are not `disqualified' by some *y* value in *B*.
 - x value is disqualified if by attaching y value from B, we obtain an xy tuple that is not in A.

Disqualified x values:
$$\pi_{\chi}((\pi_{\chi}(A) \times B) - A)$$

A/B:
$$\pi_{\chi}(A)$$
 – all disqualified tuples

Find names of sailors who've reserved boat #103

• Solution 1: $\pi_{sname}((\sigma_{bid=103} \text{Reserves}) \bowtie Sailors)$

* Solution 2: ρ (Templ, $\sigma_{bid=103}$ Reserves)

 ρ (Temp2, Temp1 \bowtie Sailors)

 π_{sname} (Temp2)

* Solution 3: $\pi_{sname}(\sigma_{bid=103}(\text{Reserves} \bowtie Sailors))$

Find names of sailors who've reserved a red boat

 Information about boat color only available in Boats; so need an extra join:

$$\pi_{sname}((\sigma_{color='red'}, Boats) \bowtie Reserves \bowtie Sailors)$$

* A more efficient solution:

$$\pi_{sname}(\pi_{sid}((\pi_{bid}\sigma_{color='red'},Boats)\bowtie Res)\bowtie Sailors)$$

A query optimizer can find this, given the first solution!

Find sailors who've reserved a red or a green boat

 Can identify all red or green boats, then find sailors who've reserved one of these boats:

$$\rho$$
 (Tempboats, ($\sigma_{color='red' \lor color='green'}$ Boats))
$$\pi_{sname}$$
 (Tempboats \bowtie Reserves \bowtie Sailors)

- Can also define Tempboats using union! (How?)
- ❖ What happens if ∨ is replaced by ∧ in this query?

Find sailors who've reserved a red <u>and</u> a green boat

• Previous approach won't work! Must identify sailors who've reserved red boats, sailors who've reserved green boats, then find the intersection (note that *sid* is a key for Sailors):

$$\rho$$
 (Tempred, π_{sid} (($\sigma_{color} = red$ | Boats) \bowtie Reserves))
$$\rho$$
 (Tempgreen, π_{sid} (($\sigma_{color} = green$ | Boats) \bowtie Reserves))
$$\pi_{sname}$$
 ((Tempred \cap Tempgreen) \bowtie Sailors)

Find the names of sailors who've reserved all boats

 Uses division; schemas of the input relations to / must be carefully chosen:

$$\rho$$
 (Tempsids, ($\pi_{sid,bid}$ Reserves) / (π_{bid} Boats))
$$\pi_{sname}$$
 (Tempsids \bowtie Sailors)

* To find sailors who've reserved all 'Interlake' boats:

....
$$/\pi_{bid}(\sigma_{bname=Interlake'}Boats)$$

Additional information on Relational Algebra

A Basic Relational Algebra

• A data model must include a set of operation to manipulate the database.

• This basic set of operation for relational model is Relational Algebra.

 A sequence of relational algebra operations forms a Relational Algebra expression.

Importance of Relational Algebra:

• It provides a formal foundation for relational model operation.

• It is used as a basis for implementing and optimizing queries in RDBMS.

 Some of its concepts are incorporated into the SQL standard query language for RDBMS.

Two groups of operations

- Set Operations:
 - Union
 - Intersection
 - Difference
 - Cartesian product
- Developed specially for relational database:
 - Select
 - Project
 - Join

- Unary operation:
 - Select
 - Project
- Binary operation:
 - All set operations
 - Join

Select Operation

• Used to select a subset of the tuples from a relation that satisfy a selection condition.

example

- It is a horizontal partitioning of the relation:
 - One partition satisfying the condition and will be shown as result.
 - Other partition not satisfying the condition will be discarded.

Select Operation

- σ <selection condition> (R)
 - Where σ (sigma) is for select operation
 - selection condition is a boolean expression specified on the attributes of Relation R

- Clauses of selection condition
 - <Attribute name> <comparison operator> <constant value>
 - <Attribute name> <comparison operator> <Attribute name>

- Comparison operator
 - =, <, >, \neq , \geq , \leq for numeric value or date
 - =, ≠ for strings of characters
- Constant value
 - Value from attribute domain

- Degree of resulting relation is same as that of R
- No. of tuples in resulting relation <= no. of tuples in R
 - i.e. $\sigma_c(R) \leq R$
- Selection condition may be more than one
 - i.e. (Cond1 and Cond2) → true if both are true
 - i.e. (Cond1 or Cond2) \rightarrow true if any one or both are true
 - Not Cond → true if cond is false

- Select operation is Commutative:
 - σ <cond1> (σ <cond2> (R)) = σ <cond2> (σ <cond1> (R))
 - A sequence of Selects can be applied in any order.
 <u>Example</u>
- Cascade of Selects can be used through one select using Conjunctive (AND)
 - σ<cond1> (σ<cond2> (....(σ<condn>(R)).....))
 - = **σ**<cond1> AND<cond2>AND..... AND<condn> (R)

Project Operation

 Project operation selects certain column from relation and discards rest.

- It is a vertical partitioning of the relation:
 - One partition satisfying the condition and will be shown as result.
 - Other partition not satisfying the condition and will be discarded.

- Π <attribute list> (R) operation
 - Where Π (pi) is for project
- Attribute list is the desired list of attributes from relation R

 Resulting relation has attribute only those specified in list and in same order

- Degree of resulting relation is same as no. of attributes in list
- No. of tuples in resulting relation?
 - If attribute list has Primary key, the no. of tuples will be same as in Relation R
 - If attribute list does not have Primary key, the duplicate tuples will be removed to give valid relation
 - No. of tuples in resulting relation =< no. of tuples in relation R

- Project operation is not Commutative:
 - $\Pi < \text{list1} > (\Pi < \text{list2} > (R)) \neq \Pi < \text{list2} > (\Pi < \text{list1} > (R))$
 - Π <|ist1> $(\Pi$ <|ist2> $(R)) = \Pi$ <|ist1> (R)

Sequence of operations

- Several algebraic expressions:
 - As a single relational expression by nesting operations
 - Π <|ist1> (σ <|cond1> (R)) Example

Or

- Name the intermediate relation and get final result as a series of operations
- temp $\leftarrow \sigma < cond1 > (R)$
- result $\leftarrow \Pi < \text{list1} > \text{(temp)} \; \underline{\text{Example}}$

Rename

- Attributes can be renamed in resulting relation
 - temp $\leftarrow \sigma$ <cond1> (Employee)
 - Emp(empid, empname, empsalary) $\leftarrow \Pi$ <eid, ename, salary> (temp)
- If no renaming is not applied, resulting relation will have same names and order of attributes as parent relation has.

Formal Rename operation

Renaming both relation name and attributes

Renaming only relation name

Renaming only attributes

Set Theoretic Operation

- Binary operation
- Both relational should be union Compatible
 - i.e. for R(A1, A2,An) & S(B1,B2,....Bn)
 - dom(Ai) = dom(Bi) for 1 <=i<=n
- UNION (RUS)
- INTERSECTION (R\(\Gamma\)S)
- MINUS (R-S)

- UNION (RUS)
 - It includes all tuples that are either in R or S or in both
 - Duplicate tuples are eliminated.

Example

- INTERSECTION (R\Gammas)
 - It includes all tuples that are in R & S both

Example

- Set difference (MINUS)
- (R-S) <u>example</u>
 - It includes all tuples that are in R but not in S
- (S-R) <u>example</u>
 - It includes all tuples that are in S but not in R
- (R-S) ≠ (S-R)

example

- Union & Intersection are:
- 1. Commutative
 - (RUS) = (SUR)
 - (R□S) = (S□R)
- Associative
 - (RU(SUT) = (RUS)UT)
 - $(R \cap (S \cap T) = (R \cap S) \cap T)$

<u>example</u>

Cartesian Product

- Binary Operation
- Union Compatibility not required
- R x S <u>example</u>
 - no. of tuples in Resultant relation = no. of tuples in R x no. of tuples in S
 - It includes one tuple from each combination
 - No. of attributes in Resultant relation = n + m
 - R(A1, A2,....,An) x S(B1, B2,....,Bn) = Q(A1, A2,....,An, B1, B2,....,Bn)
- Result will have some irrelevant tuple which can be further processed by select & project operation

Join operation

- R It is used to combine related tuples from two relations into single tuple.
- It allows to process relationships among relations
- R <join condition> S <u>example</u>
 - Attributes in Resultant relation = n + m
 - R 1, A2,....,An) S(B1, B2,...,Bn) = Q(A1, A2,....,An, B1, B2,....,Bn)
 - No. of tuples wherever join condition is satisfied.

 Join operation can be stated as Cartesian product operation followed by Select operation

- Theta join: <u>example</u>
 - Ai θ Bi
 - dom(Ai) = dom(Bi)
 - θ is one of the $\{=,<,>,\geq,\leq,\neq\}$
 - Tuples whose join attributes are null do not appear in the result

Equi join:

Most commonly used

• Operator is =

One or more pairs of attributes that have identical values

• E.g. Mgrssn = ssn

example

Natural join:

• R * S <u>example</u>

No condition is required

 Both the tables should have one same attribute with same name

• If attribute is same but name is different (first perform rename than natural join)

Join selectivity

 If join condition is not satisfied → no tuple in resultant relation

Tuples are in between zero and nR x ns

 Join selectivity ratio = expected size of join result / maximum size m-way join

• ((Project DIMM = DNUMBER Department) MGRSSN SIN Employee)

A complete set of relational algebra operation

- {σ, п, U, -, x) is a complete set
- $R \cap S = (RUS) ((R-S) \cup (S-R))$
- R <condition> S = σ <condition> (R x S)
- Natural join = π ...(σ ...(ρ(R x S)))
- But for convenience, different operations are used.

Division operation

- Denoted by ÷
- Operation is applied to two relations $R(Z) \div S(X)$

example

Summary

- The relational model has rigorously defined query languages that are simple and powerful.
- Relational algebra is more operational; useful as internal representation for query evaluation plans.
- Several ways of expressing a given query; a query optimizer should choose the most efficient version.

Examples for relational algebra in the following slides

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000
105	Pam	18,000

Resultant table:

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

σ salary>20,000 (Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000
105	Pam	18,000

Resultant table:

Empid	Name	Salary
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

σ salary>20,000

(σ Dno=2 (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
101	Ram	1	20,000
102	Shyam	2	22,000
103	Geeta	3	24,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000
105	Pam	2	18,000

Resultant table:

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
102	Shyam	2	22,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000

σ Dno=2

(σ salary>20,000 (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
101	Ram	1	20,000
102	Shyam	2	22,000
103	Geeta	3	24,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000
105	Pam	2	18,000

Resultant table:

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
102	Shyam	2	22,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000

 σ Dno=2 and

σ salary>20,000 (Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
101	Ram	1	20,000
102	Shyam	2	22,000
103	Geeta	3	24,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000
105	Pam	2	18,000

Resultant table:

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Dno	Salary
102	Shyam	2	22,000
104	Geeta	2	25,000

Π empid, salary (Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Resultant table:

<u>Empid</u>	Salary
101	20,000
102	22,000
103	24,000
104	25,000

□ name, salary (Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	25,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Resultant table:

Name	Salary
Ram	20,000
Shyam	22,000
Geeta	25,000

 Π empid (Π empid, salary (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Resultant table:

Employee

<u>Empid</u>
101
102
103
104

П salary (П empid, salary (Employee))

Employee →

Salary
20,000
22,000
24,000
25,000

 Π empid (Π empid, salary (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Resultant table:

Employee

<u>Empid</u>
101
102
103
104

Π empid (Employee))

Employee →

<u>Empid</u>
101
102
103
104

 Π empid (σ salary>20,000 (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Resultant table:

Employee

 Π empid (σ salary>20,000 (Employee))

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

П empid (temp)

Employee

temp ← σ
salary>20,000
(Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

<u>Empid</u>
102
103
104

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

EMP(EID) $\leftarrow \Pi$ empid (temp)

EMP

Employee

temp ← σ salary>20,000 (Employee)

<u>Empid</u>	Name	Salary
101	Ram	20,000
102	Shyam	22,000
103	Geeta	24,000
104	Geeta	25,000

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Instructor

Empid	Name
102	Shyam
106	Smith
107	Nita

Student U Instructor

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John
106	Smith
107	Nita

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Instructor

Empid	Name
102	Shyam
106	Smith
107	Nita

Student n Instructor

Stu_id	Name
102	Shyam

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Instructor

Empid	Name
102	Shyam
106	Smith
107	Nita

Student - Instructor

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Instructor

Empid	Name
102	Shyam
106	Smith
107	Nita

Instructor - Student

Stu_id	Name
106	Smith
107	Nita

Student - Instructor

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John

Instructor - Student

Stu_id	Name
106	Smith
107	Nita

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta

Instructor

Empid	Name
102	Shyam
106	Smith
107	Nita

Player

Play_id	Name
103	Geeta
102	Shyam

Student U (Instructor U Player)

Stu_id	Name
101	Ram
103	Geeta
104	Rita
105	John
102	Shyam

Cartesian Product

Employee

Emp_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta

Dependant

Dep_n	Bdate
ame	
Meena	23-02-1988
Raju	23-02-1990

Employee x dependant

	Emp _id	Name	Dep_n ame	Bdate
	101	Ram	Meena	23-02-1988
	101	Ram	Raju	23-02-1990
1	102	Shyam	Meena	23-02-1990
	102	Shyam	Raju	23-02-1990
	103	Geeta	Meena	23-02-1990
	103	Geeta	Raju	23-02-1990

Join operation

Employee Employee

.	D -	.
amn id-aid	Dependa	nт
elip_id=eldi	Dependa	

emp_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta

Dependant

Dep_na	eid
me	
Meena	101
Raju	102

emp_id	eid	Name	Dep_n ame
101	101	Ram	Meena
102	102	Shyam	Raju

Join operation

Employee

emp_id	Name
101	Ram
102	Shyam
103	Geeta

Dependant

Dep_n	emp_id
ame	
Meena	101
Raju	102

Employee * Dependant

emp_id	Name	Dep_n ame
101	Ram	Meena
102	Shyam	Raju

Division

R

ESSN	PNO
12345	1
12345	2
23456	2
23456	1
35346	3
21336	4

S

PNO	
1	
2	

 $R \div S$

ESSN
12345
23456