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Structured Query Language – SQL

- "Programming" language for DBMS
 - Data definition language: creation of data models (table design)
 - Data manipulation language: insertion, modification, deletion of data
 - Data query language: queries
- It is run on a DBMS
- The most widely used standard
 - Created in 1974 (D. D. Chamberlin & R. F. Boyce, IBM)
 - ANSI in 1986, ISO in 1987
 - Core (all DBMS) + packages (optional modules)



- SQL1 SQL 86
- SQL2 SQL 92
- SQL3 SQL 1999, not fully supported by industry (recursion, programming, objects...)
- Limitations
 - It is not purely relational (e.g. views are multisets of tuples)
 - Important divergences between implementations (not directly portable in general, incompleteness, extensions) –one ends up learning SQL variants



Donald D. Chamberlin

Elements of an SQL database

- Database = set of tables
- Table (relation, entity, schema...) =
 - Fixed field structure (schema)
 - Set of records with field values
- Field (attribute, property, "column"), has a data type
- Record (tuple, "row")
- Primary key
- Foreign keys

Lexical structure of the language

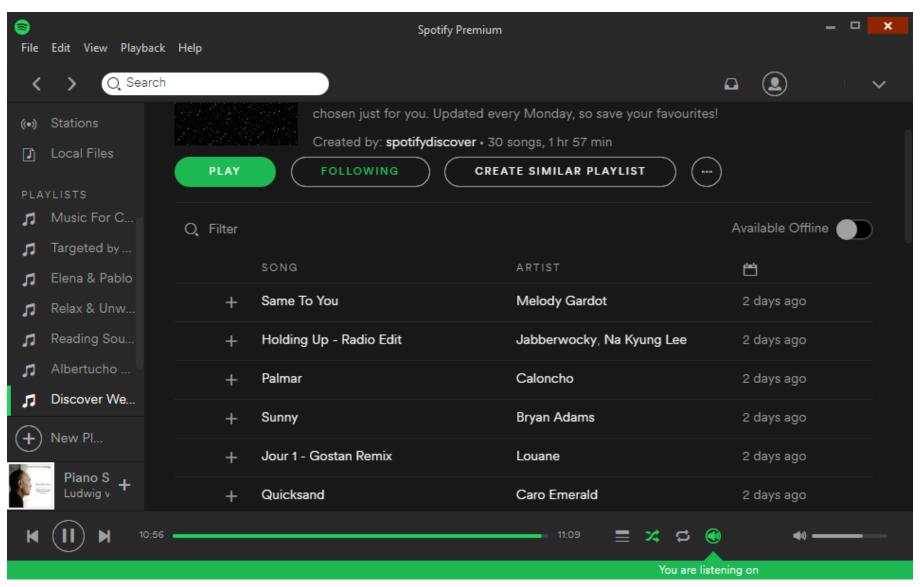
SQL operations

- DDL Table creation, design, modification
- DML Record insertion, modification, removal
- DQL Query

Lexical structure of SQL

- Case-insensitive, insignificant whitespace
- Sentences, expressions, values, data types
- References
 - Elmasri cap. 8
 - PostgreSQL SQL ref: http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.4

Example: DB for music application



Example: informal description

Music streaming with social network

- Data types: users, songs, albums, artists...
- Structures:
 - Users have a name, username, email...
 - Songs have a title, style, duration, date...
 - Artists have name, nationality...
- Relations:
 - Songs have authors, albums have songs, users have friends, favorite artists, users play songs...
- Functionalities:
 - Search for a song, play it, browse song data...
 - View / add friends...

Artist

id	name	nationality
0	The Beatles	UK
1	The Rolling Stones	UK
2	David Bowie	UK

Example: table view

Song

id	title	genre	duration	release_date	author
0	Norwegian Wood	Pop	125	1965-03-12	0
1	Here, there and everywhere	Pop	145	1966-08-05	0
2	Jumping jack flash	Pop	225	1968-04-20	1

User

username	name	email
amy	Amelia amy@gmail.cor	
jim	James	jim@gmail.com
nick	Nicholas	nick@gmail.com
cate	Catherine	cate@gmail.com

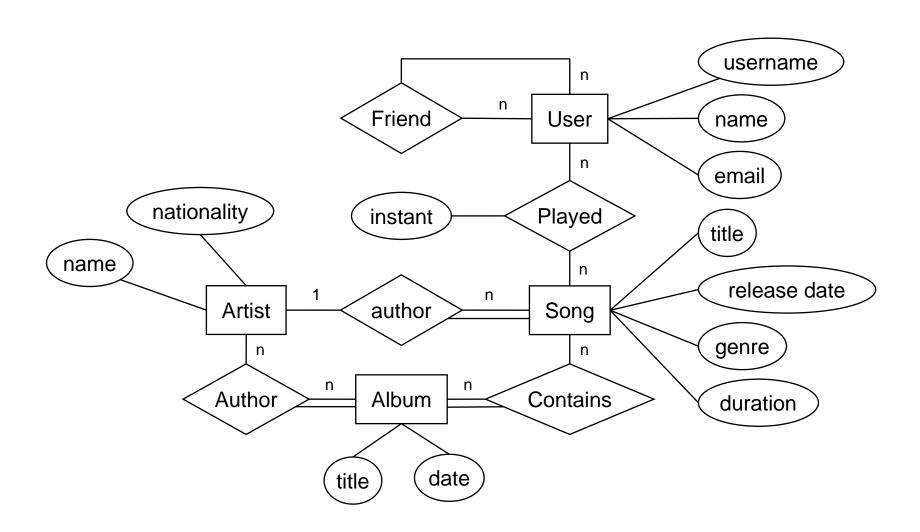
Friend

user1	user2
jim	amy
cate	jim
nick	cate

Played

user	played_song	instant
cate	1	2019-09-09 16:57:54
jim	2	2019-09-12 21:15:30

Example – ER diagram



Motivation

Database for music artist, songs, users, play records, social network

Example queries

Songs of the 60's (show title and genre)

Set of all nationalities of artists in the DB

Songs of artists from the UK

Titles of songs that a user ever listened to

All the friends of a given user

Users with the same name

All users at distance 2 of a given user in the social network

Common friends to two given users

How many times a song has been played

Artists sorted from most to least played

Users with more than two friends

Users sorted by their number of friends

User with most friends

Data definition

```
CREATE TABLE name (
    field1 type1 [constraints1],
    field2 type2 [constraints2],
     ...,
                                ALTER commands are useful for slight
     [constraints]
                              design modifications of non-empty tables
ALTER TABLE name ADD COLUMN field type [constraints];
ALTER TABLE name ADD constraint;
ALTER TABLE name DROP COLUMN field;
DROP TABLE name;
DROP CONSTRAINT constraint-name;
```

Example

Artist

id	name	nationality

```
id int,
name text,
nationality text
);
```

Example

Artist

id	name	nationality

```
CREATE TABLE Artist (
    id int PRIMARY KEY,
    name text NOT NULL,
    nationality text
);
```

Example

Song

id	title	genre	duration	release_date	author

```
CREATE TABLE Song (
     id
                               PRIMARY KEY,
                     int
    title
                               NOT NULL,
                    text
                    text,
    genre
     duration
                    int,
     release_date
                    date,
     author
                               NOT NULL REFERENCES Artist (id)
                    int
```

```
CREATE TABLE User (
                 varchar(30) PRIMARY KEY,
    username
                             NOT NULL,
                 text
    name
    email
                             NOT NULL UNIQUE
                 text
CREATE TABLE Friend (
                 varchar(30) REFERENCES User (username),
    user1
                 varchar(30) REFERENCES User (username),
    user2
    PRIMARY KEY (user1, user2)
);
CREATE TABLE Played (
                   varchar(30),
    user
    played_song int REFERENCES Song (id),
    instant
                   timestamp,
    PRIMARY KEY (user, played_song, instant)
);
```

Example: change tables after created

ALTER TABLE Played DROP COLUMN instant;

ALTER TABLE Played ADD instant timestamp; /* NULL's */

ALTER TABLE Played ADD FOREIGN KEY (user)

REFERENCES User (username);

ALTER TABLE User ADD PRIMARY KEY (username);

Summary

- Did you say "constraints"?
- Yes, I did.
- What is that?
- Mainly primary and foreign keys.
 We'll see that in a few moments,
 let us se how to enter data first

Artist id name nationality

Resulting DB state: a set of empty tables



	_	Frie	end		
username	username name email				user2

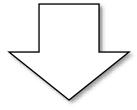
	Pla	ayed	Let's fill this in!		
user	played_song	instant		Let 3 IIII till3 III:	

Data manipulation

```
INSERT INTO table [(field1, field2, ...)]
VALUES
       (value11, value12, ...),
                                A query can also be nested here:
       (value21, value22, ...),
                                the returned tuples are inserted
UPDATE table SET field1 = value1, field2 = value2, ...
/* PostgreSQL: [FROM ...] to form conditions with other tables */
[WHERE ...];
DELETE FROM table
/* PostgreSQL: [USING table1, table2, ...] for conditions with other tables */
[WHERE ...];
```

Example: insert rows

INSERT INTO Artist VALUES (0, 'The Beatles', 'UK');

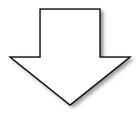


Artist

id	name	nationality
0	The Beatles	UK

Example: insert rows

INSERT INTO Artist VALUES (0, 'The Beatles', 'UK');
INSERT INTO Artist VALUES (1, 'The Rolling Stones', 'UK');

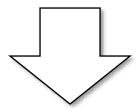


Artist

id	name	nationality
0	The Beatles	UK
1	The Rolling Stones	UK

Example: insert incomplete rows

INSERT INTO Artist VALUES (0, 'The Beatles', 'UK');
INSERT INTO Artist VALUES (1, 'The Rolling Stones', 'UK');
INSERT INTO Artist (id, name) VALUES (2, 'David Bowie');



Artist

id	name	nationality	
0	The Beatles	UK	
1	The Rolling Stones	UK	
2	David Bowie	NULL	

Example: insert in the other tables

```
INSERT INTO Song VALUES
     (0, 'Norwegian wood', 'Pop', 125, '1965-03-12', 0),
     (1, 'Here, there and everywhere', 'Pop', 145, '1966-08-05', 0),
     (2, 'Jumping jack flash', 'Pop', 225, '1968-04-20', 1);
INSERT INTO User VALUES
     ('amy', 'Amelia', 'amy@gmail.com'),
     ('jim', 'James', 'jim@gmail.com'),
     ('nick', 'Nicholas', 'nick@gmail.com'),
     ('cate', 'Catherine', 'cate@gmail.com');
INSERT INTO Friend VALUES
                                        INSERT INTO Played VALUES
                                             ('cate', 2, '2019-09-09 16:57:54'),
     ('jim', 'amy'),
     ('cate', 'jim'),
                                             ('jim', 3, '2019-09-12 21:15:30');
     ('nick', 'cate');
```

Artist

id	name	nationality	
0	The Beatles	UK	
1	The Rolling Stones	UK	
2	David Bowie	NULL	

Resulting DB state

Song

id	title	genre	duration	release_date	author
0	Norwegian Wood	Pop	125	1965-03-12	0
1	Here, there and everywhere	Pop	145	1966-08-05	0
2	Jumping jack flash	Pop	225	1968-04-20	1

User

username	name	email
amy	Amelia	amy@gmail.com
jim	James	jim@gmail.com
nick	Nicholas	nick@gmail.com
cate	Catherine	cate@gmail.com

Friend

user1	user2
jim	amy
cate	jim
nick	cate

Played

user	played_song	instant
cate	1	2019-09-09 16:57:54
jim	2	2019-09-12 21:15:30

Example: change cell values

```
UPDATE Artist SET nationality = 'UK'
WHERE name = 'David Bowie';

UPDATE Album SET price = price * 1.2;
/* Fictional field, for illustrative purpose */

DELETE FROM Played WHERE instant < '2000-01-01 00:00:00';</pre>
```

- What literal values can I use?
- What data types to I have?
- How do I write conditions?
- How do I write expressions?

- What literal values can I use?
- What data types to I have?
- How do I write conditions?
- How do I write expressions?

These are common questions for any "programming language"

Types and expressions

```
SQL types
     character(n) \equiv char(n), varchar(n), text
     integer \equiv int, smallint
     float, real, double precision
     numeric (precision, scale) \equiv decimal (precision, scale)
     date, time, timestamp
                                         integral fractional digits
Literal values
                                          digits (0 by default)
     Strings in between '...'
     Numeric values similar e.g. to C
     date 'YYYY-MM-DD', time 'HH:MM:SS'
Expressions
     Can be used in WHERE, SELECT, SET, DEFAULT, CHECK...
Operators
                                               Comments
     +-*/%^
                                               /* ... */
     AND OR NOT
     = <> <= >= LIKE ISNULL
     string operations: concatenation, like, regular expressions ('%' '_')
```

Now, about constraints...

Constraints

```
In a field
                                       With name
                                           CONSTRAINT name constraint
    NOT NULL
                   If omitted, will take
    UNIQUE
                     the primary key
    PRIMARY KFY
    REFERENCES table (key) [(ON DELETE | ON UPDATE)
                                 (NO ACTION | RESTRICT | CASCADE
                                    | SET NULL | SET DEFAULT)]
    DEFAULT value
In a table
    PRIMARY KEY (field1, field2, ...)
    FOREIGN KEY (field1, field2, ...) REFERENCES table (key1, key2, ...)
    UNIQUE (field1, field2, ...)
    CHECK (expression)
```

Primary keys

- They designate a unique identifier for the rows of a table
- There can be only one primary key per table, though it can comprise several fields
- It is very advisable that all tables have their primary key
- Technically equivalent to UNIQUE plus NOT NULL
- But they play a different role in indexing (we shall see this later on)
- Design choice: selection of primary key among several options
 - "Natural" primary key (email, web domain, SSN, ISBN, license plate, etc.)
 - "Artificial" primary key: usually an integer ID, typically self-incremented (serial)

Foreign keys

- Conceptually comparable to pointers
- They reference unique fields of another table
- The reference field is commonly a primary key
 - At least it has to be 'unique'
- Technically they are not indispensable
- But they are greatly helpful in enforcing consistency in references!
 - 1. They throw an error when an attempt is made at inserting or setting a FK field to a value that does not exist in the referenced table
 - 2. And they automate what should happen when a referenced row is deleted
- In general it is preferable (more efficient) that FKs have integer type

Keys: in summary...

- The primary key of a table acts as a row identifier
 - Plays a similar role to the memory address of data in C
 - Only one per table (albeit not mandatory, always designate one)
 - Can be a natural field or (better) an artificial dedicated field (an integer)
 - Can be composed of several fields
- Foreign keys play the part of pointers between rows of different (or the same) tables
 - They typically point to a primary key
 - But they can also just point to a unique field
 - Foreign keys can also be composite
- What is the advantage of declaring a primary key?
 - Forbid the repetition of values in different rows (by raising an error)
 - Difference to unique not null: a matter of low-level implementation (indexes)
- What is the advantage of declaring foreign keys?
 - Enforce that its value appears in the pointed table (raising an error otherwise)
 - React automatically to changes in the pointed primary key

Example: primary and foreign keys

<u>PK</u>

FK

Follows

user1	user2
6	24
73	6
81	73

User

<u>id</u>	name	email
24	Amelia	amy@gmail.com
6	James	jim@gmail.com
81	Nicholas	nick@gmail.com
73	Catherine	cate@gmail.com

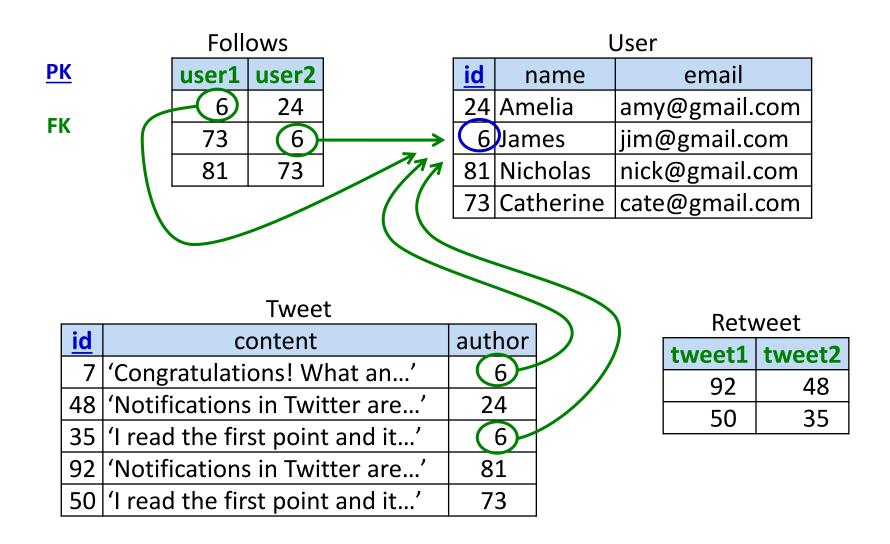
Tweet

<u>id</u>	content	author
7	'Congratulations! What an'	6
48	'Notifications in Twitter are'	24
35	'I read the first point and it'	6
92	'Notifications in Twitter are'	81
50	'I read the first point and it'	73

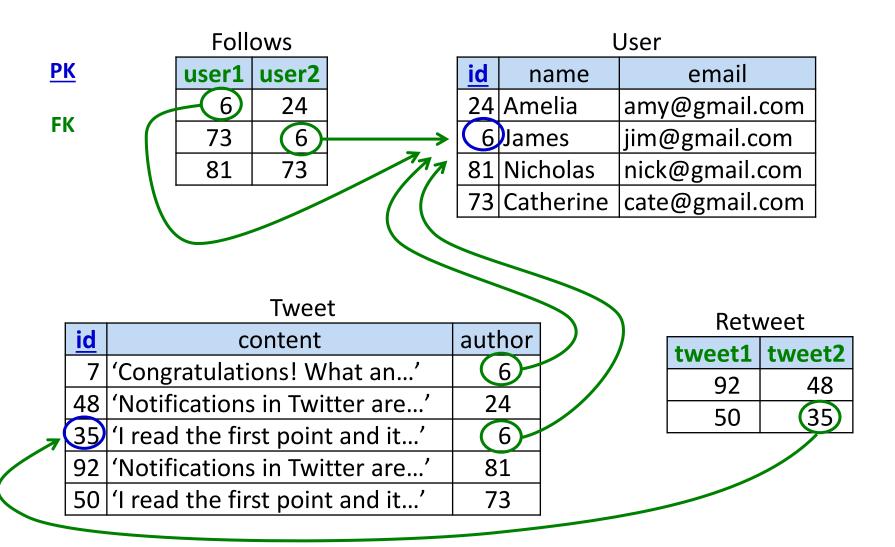
Retweet

tweet1	tweet2
92	48
50	35

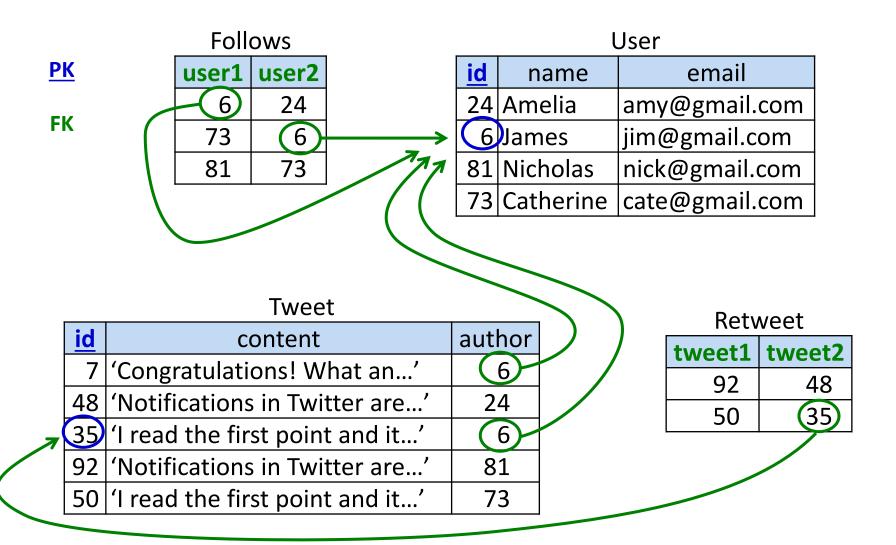
Example: primary and foreign keys



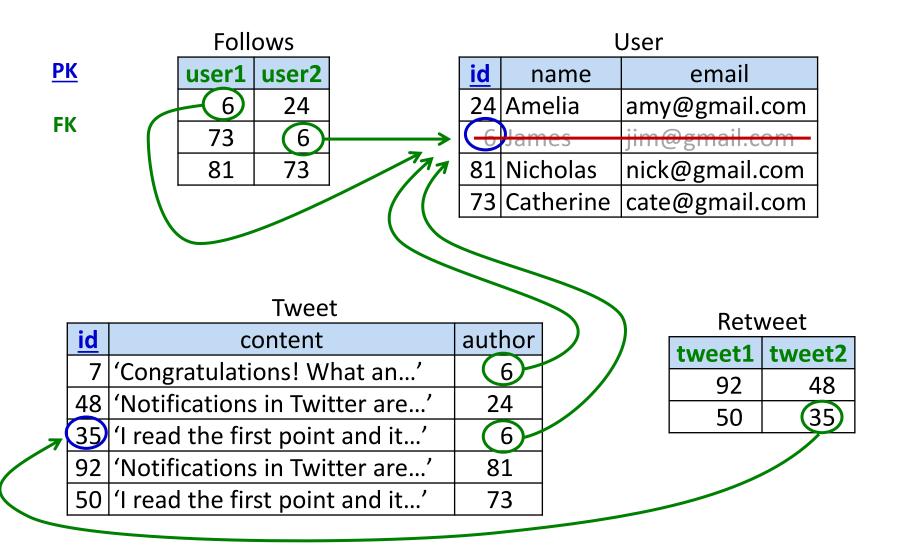
Example: primary and foreign keys



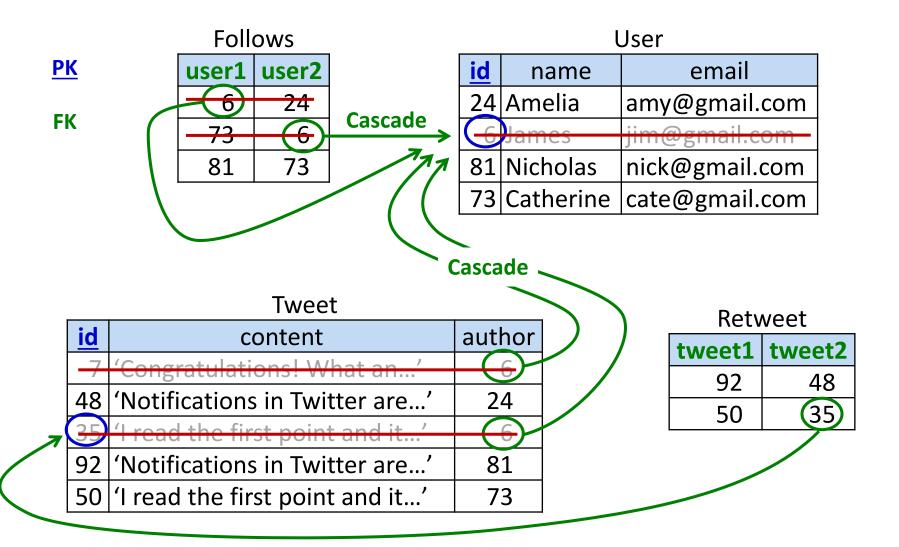
Example: primary and foreign keys



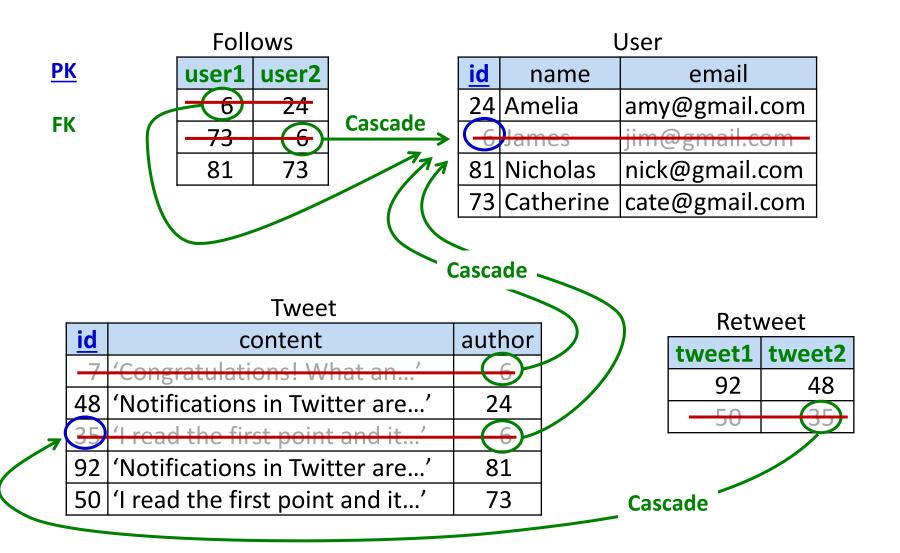
Example: on delete



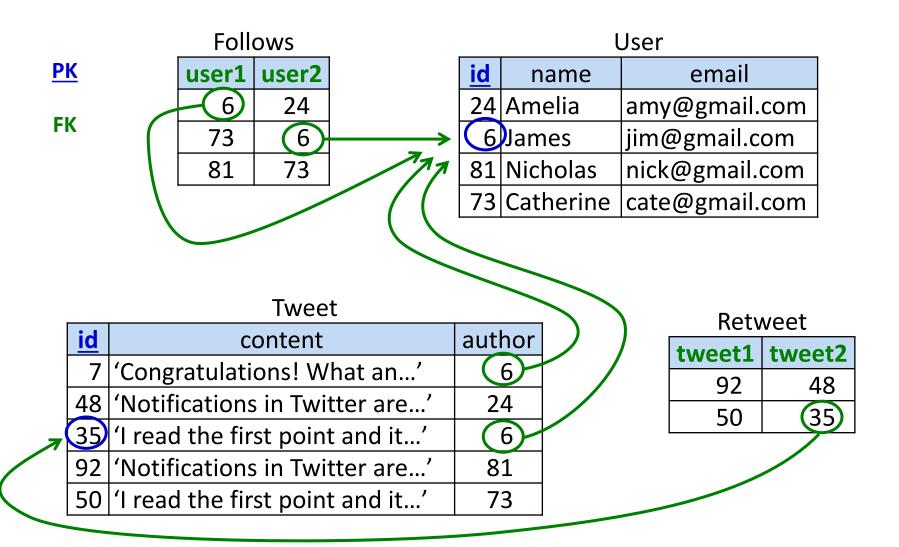
Example: on delete cascade



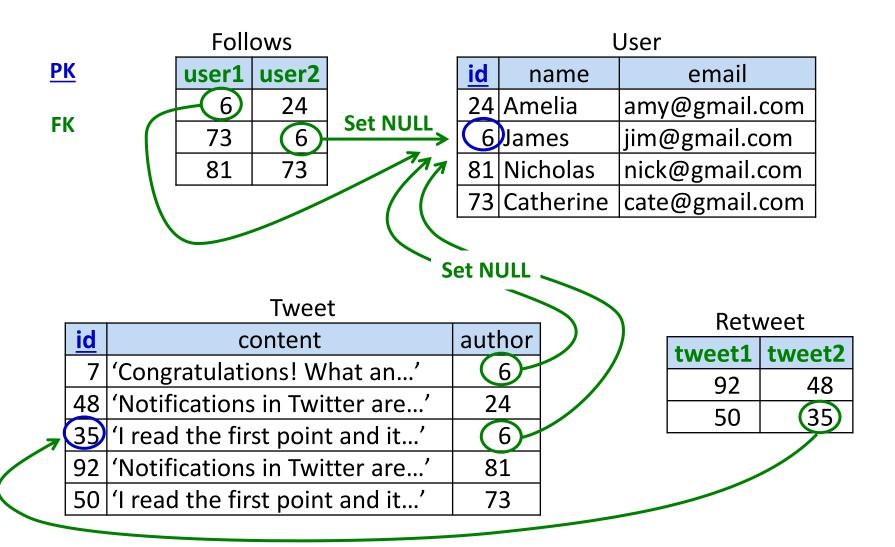
Example: on delete cascade



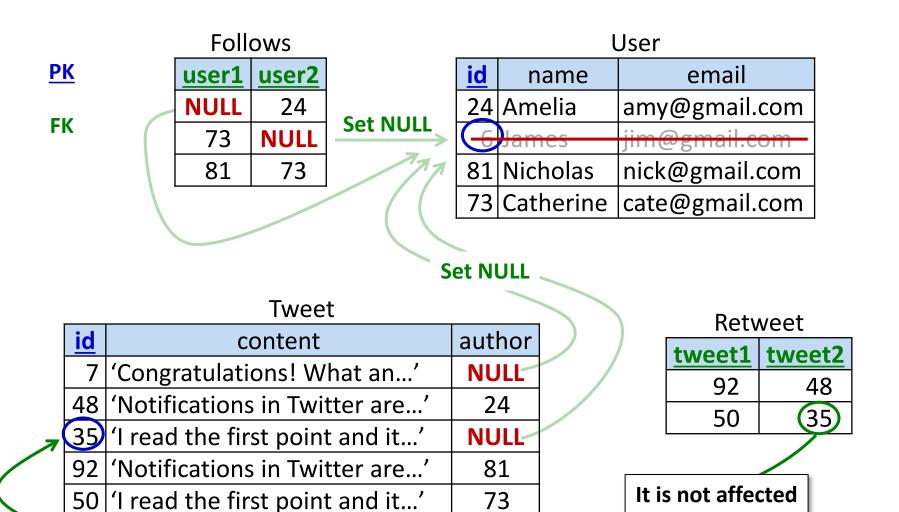
Example: on delete



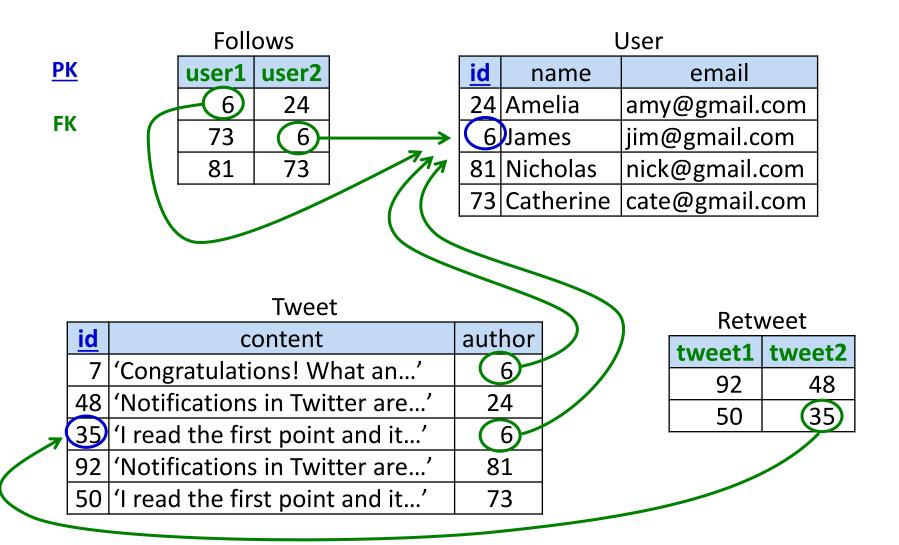
Example: on delete set null



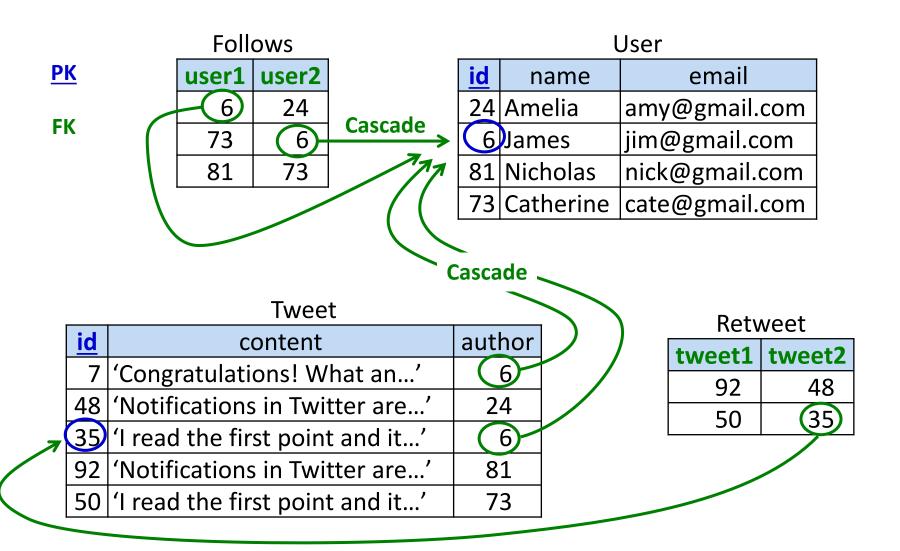
Example: on delete set null



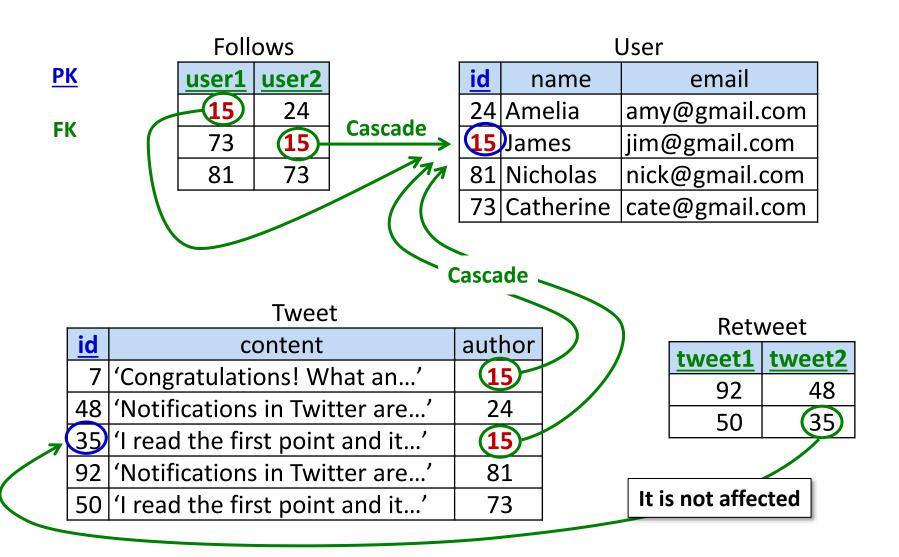
Example: on update



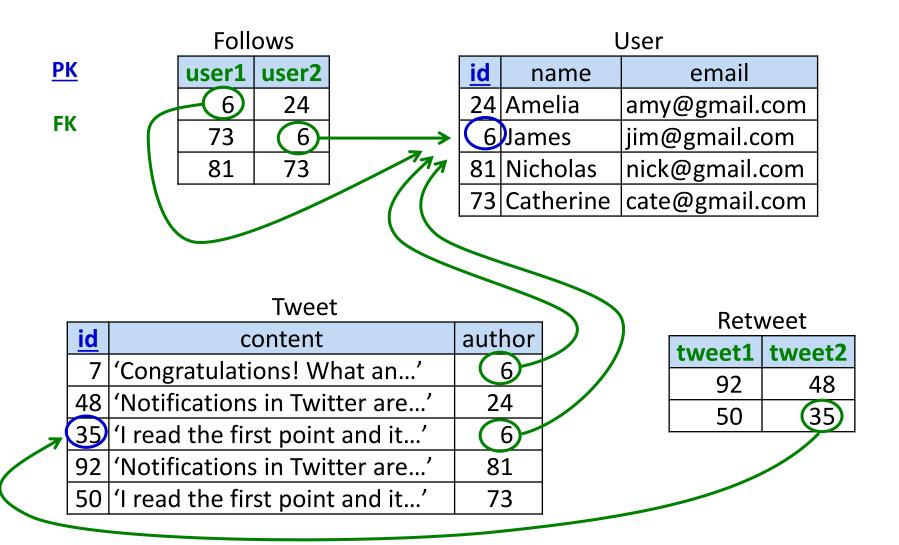
Example: on update cascade



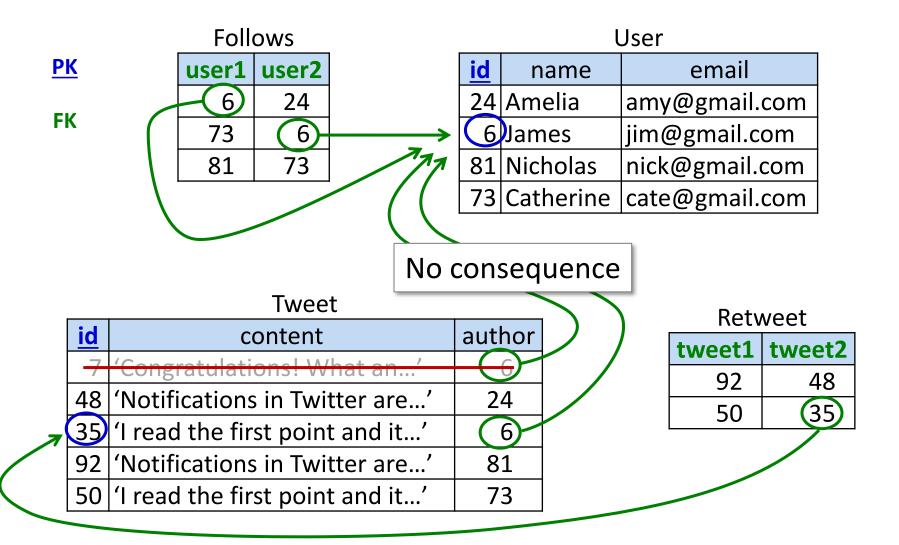
Example: on update cascade



What if references are deleted?



What if references are deleted?



Motivation

Database for music artist, songs, users, play records, social network Example queries

Songs of the 60's (show title and genre)

Set of all nationalities of artists in the DB

Songs of artists from the UK

Titles of songs that a user ever listened to

All the friends of a given user

Users with the same name

All users at distance 2 of a given user in the social network

Common friends to two given users

How many times a song has been played

Artists sorted from most to least played

Users with more than two friends

Users sorted by their number of friends

User with most friends

Data query

SELECT [DISTINCT] *fields* FROM *tables*

[WHERE condition];

Examples:

Can be expressions involving fields

```
SELECT title, genre FROM Song
WHERE release_date > '1959-12-31' AND release_date < '1970-01-01';
SELECT DISTINCT nationality FROM Artist;
/* Several tables */
SELECT * FROM Song, Artist
WHERE Song.author = Artist.id AND Artist.nationality = 'UK';
/* Expressions */
SELECT sid, theory * 0.6 + labs * 0.4 FROM Grades;
```

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Join

```
SELECT fields
```

FROM table1 JOIN table2 ON condition

[WHERE condition];

Typically (though not only) with foreign keys: ON *foreign* = *primary*More efficient (?) than cartesian product (i.e. just aggregating tables)

Examples:

```
SELECT title FROM Song, Played
WHERE user = 'amy' AND played_song = id;

SELECT title FROM Song JOIN Played ON played_song = id
WHERE user = 'amy';

SELECT * FROM Friend JOIN User
ON (user1 = username OR user2 = username)
WHERE name = 'Catherine';
```

Types of join

INNER
 By default (no need to indicate it)

◆ LEFT | RIGHT | FULL Rows that do not fulfil the condition are

also included (incompatible with INNER),

especially useful in certain queries with

aggregative operations

NATURAL The condition is of equality between fields

with the same name

table 1 JOIN table 2 USING (fields) is equivalent to a natural join restricted to the fields indicated by 'using'.

Types of join (cont)

Example

```
CREATE TABLE Student (
   sid VARCHAR(12) PRIMARY KEY, name text);
CREATE TABLE Course (
   cid NUMERIC PRIMARY KEY, name text);
CREATE TABLE Grades (
   sid VARCHAR(12) REFERENCES Student(sid),
   cid NUMERIC REFERENCES Course(cid),
   theory NUMERIC (4,2), labs NUMERIC (4,2),
   PRIMARY KEY (sid, cid));
SELECT name, theory FROM Grades NATURAL JOIN Course;
SELECT name, theory FROM Grades JOIN Course
ON Grades.cid = Course.cid;
```

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Alias

SELECT *fields* FROM *table* **AS** *alias* [(*alias-field1*, *alias-field2*, ...)] [WHERE *condition*];

SELECT *field* **AS** *alias* FROM ...

Example:

SELECT u1.name FROM User **AS** u1, User **AS** u2
WHERE u1.name = u2.name AND u1.username < > u2.username;

SELECT sid, theory * 0.6 + labs * 0.4 **AS** average FROM Grades;

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Nested queries

```
SELECT fields FROM (SELECT ...) AS alias WHERE ...;
SELECT fields FROM table
WHERE field1, field2, ... IN (SELECT field1, field2, ...);
SELECT fields FROM table
WHERE field comparison (SOME | ALL) (SELECT ...);
SELECT fields FROM table
WHERE [NOT] EXISTS (SELECT ...);
SELECT fields FROM table
WHERE (SELECT ...) CONTAINS (SOME | ALL) (SELECT ...);
```

Nested queries (cont)

Examples:

```
SELECT c1.user1

FROM Friend AS c1 JOIN

(SELECT * FROM Friend WHERE Friend.user2 = 'amy')

AS c2 /* In FROM always with AS */

ON c1.user2 = c2.user1

SELECT user1 FROM Friend

WHERE user2 IN (SELECT user1 FROM Friend WHERE user2 = 'amy')
```

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Set algebra

query1 UNION query2

query1 INTERSECT query2

query1 EXCEPT query2

- Homogeneous tuples: the sets of tuples need to have the same fields
- An implicit DISTINCT is applied (unless we indicate ALL)
- Can typically be reformulated as a simple query with AND, OR, NOT in the WHERE condition \rightarrow the advantage could be of readability in some cases

Example:

(SELECT user2 FROM Friend WHERE user1 = 'cate'

UNION

SELECT user1 FROM Friend WHERE user2 = 'cate')

INTERSECT

(SELECT user2 FROM Friend WHERE user1 = 'amy'

UNION

SELECT user1 FROM Friend WHERE user2 = 'amy')

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Order and aggregation

```
SELECT COUNT ([DISTINCT] field) FROM table ...
    [GROUP BY field1, field2, ... [HAVING condition]];
                                                               Post-aggregation
                                                                     filter
   SELECT SUM | MAX | MIN | AVG (field) FROM table ...
    [GROUP BY field1, field2, ...];
   SELECT ...
                                                              Why?
    [ORDER BY field1, field2, ... [DESC]];
                           In general when GROUP BY is used, only
Useful combined
                           those fields can be used in the SELECT
  with LIMIT n
                           clause (though some DBMS tolerate it)
```

```
SELECT COUNT (*) FROM Played JOIN Song ON played_song = id WHERE title = 'Norwegian Wood';
```

SELECT author, **COUNT** (*) FROM Played JOIN Song ON played_song = id **GROUP BY** author;

SELECT author, **COUNT** (*) AS n FROM Played JOIN Song ON played_song = id

GROUP BY author

ORDER BY n

DESC

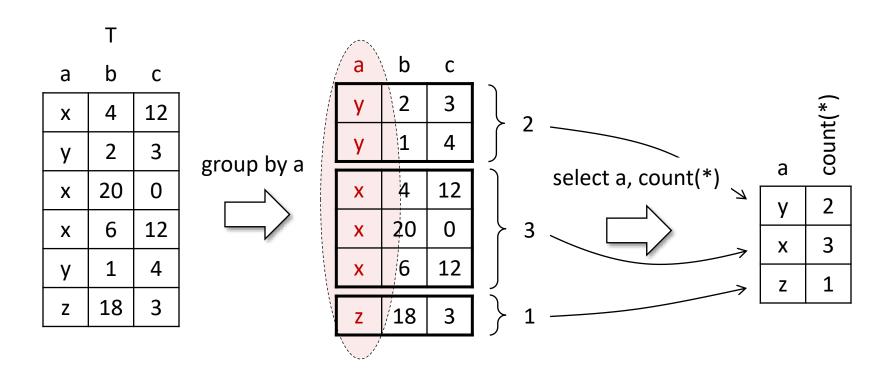
LIMIT 1

SELECT author FROM Played JOIN Song ON played_song = id

GROUP BY author

HAVING COUNT (*) > 100

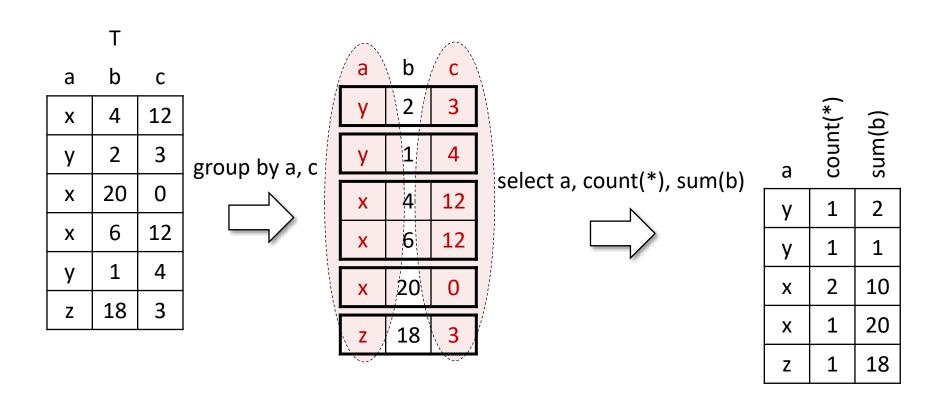
SELECT a, count(*) FROM T GROUP BY a



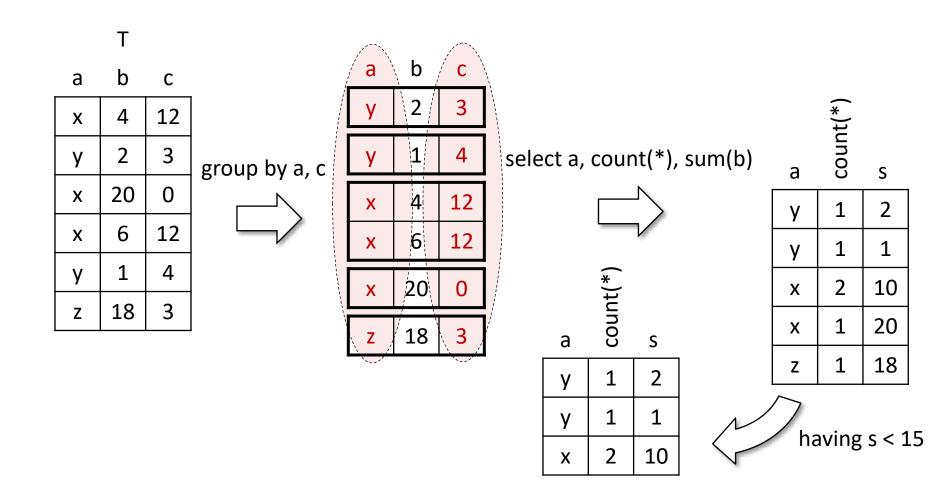
SELECT a, count(*), sum(b) FROM T GROUP BY a

	Т									
а	b	С	group by a	<u>/</u> a `	a b c					
Х	4	12		У	2	3			t(*)	(q
У	2	3		У	1	4		а	count(*)	sum(b)
x	20	0		Х	x 4 12 S	select a, count(*), sum(b)	V	2	3	
Х	6	12		Х	20	0		У		
								X	3	30
У	1	4		X	x 6 12	Z	1	18		
Z	18	3		Z	/18	3				
					,	<u> </u>				

SELECT a, count(*), sum(b) FROM T GROUP BY a, c

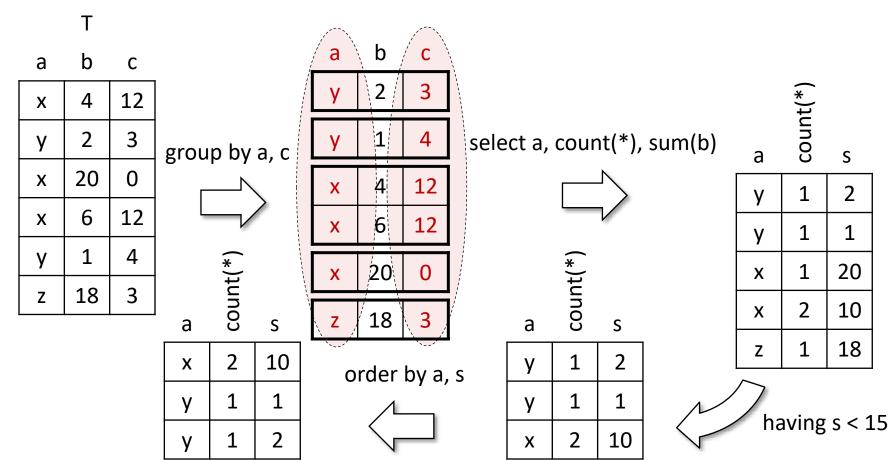


SELECT a, count(*), sum(b) as s FROM T GROUP BY a, c HAVING s < 15



SELECT a, count(*), sum(b) as s FROM T GROUP BY a, c HAVING s < 15

ORDER BY a, s



Views

CREATE VIEW name **AS** SELECT...;

A way to assign a name to a query Equivalent to nested query, but...

- Useful to reuse nested queries and improve readability of complex queries
- Views are always up to date when the data change
- Can be configured to be stored on disk (to save re-execution cost)

Examples:

```
CREATE VIEW UserFriends AS

SELECT u1.username, u2.name FROM User AS u1, User AS u2

WHERE (u1.username, u2.username) IN

((SELECT user1, user2 FROM Friend)

UNION (SELECT user2, user1 FROM Friend));
```

SELECT name FROM UserFriends WHERE username = 'jim';

Other elements of SQL...

Schemas

To define namespaces for tables, similar to e.g. Java packages

Domains

 Data types defined by properties and conditions over a primitive data type (e.g. a string with a certain format defined by a regular expression)

Triggers

 Run a procedure when certain update actions (insert, update, delete) are produced in a table

Asserts

Taylor-made checks over several rows and/or several tables

Transactions

- Establish sequences of actions and queries that must always be completed or cancelled together as a block
- Also allow to synchronize (block) concurrent operations
- And many more basic functionalities supported by each DBMS, extending the SQL standard...

Practical informal comments

- When several tables are included in in the from clause, two types of conditions will be usually defined in the where clause:
 - The ones expressed in the 'natural' query
 - The ones that connect tables to each other (not expressed in the query)
 - Typically foreign key = primary key
 - Each table is connected to some other, in such a way that all tables are connected
 - This is not mandatory, but it is usual for a query to make sense
- The alias are used mainly...
 - On tables: when the same table is involved several times in the same query
 - On fields: to use fields defined by operations (typically in nested queries, or with aggregation)
- In an initial version of a query it may not be worthwhile to use join
 - Let the SQL engine optimize the order of operations
 - If (or when) we have a crisp idea of the optimal order, then go for joins
 - External joins can also be useful in certain queries with aggregation

Practical informal comments (cont)

- Nested queries are typically useful...
 - To facilitate complex operations using e.g. not exists, not in
 - To concatenate aggregations, e.g. "Average [avg] number [count] of followers"
 - As views, to ease up complex queries and/or reuse subqueries
 - In other cases it is very often possible to write queries without nesting
- Queries can generally be written in different equivalent ways
 - Some ways are usually more efficient than others
 - In particular, queries with IN can be generally rewritten with EXISTS and viceversa, with EXCEPT when they are negated, etc.
 - And any query with OR, AND and NOT in the where clause can be rewritten as a UNION, INTERSECT, EXCEPT
- The order in which the parts of a query are executed is:
 - FROM, WHERE, GROUP BY, HAVING, SELECT, ORDER BY