Chapter 4: Intermediate SQL

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Chapter 4: Intermediate SQL

- Join Expressions
- Views
- Transactions
- Integrity Constraints
- SQL Data Types and Schemas
- Authorization

Views – The need

Views

- In some cases, it is not desirable for all users to see the entire logical model (that is, all the actual relations stored in the database.)
- Consider a person who needs to know instructors name and department, but not the salary. This person should see a relation described, in SQL, by

  select *ID*, *name*, *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

Views contd.

- A **view** provides a mechanism to hide certain data from the view of certain users.
- Any relation that is not of the conceptual model but is made visible to a user as a “virtual relation” is called a **view**.
- Not pre-computed and stored

View Definition

- A view is defined using the **create view** statement which has the form

  create view *v* **as** < query expression >

  where <query expression> is any legal SQL expression. The view name is represented by *v.*

- Once a view is defined, the view name can be used to refer to the virtual relation that the view generates.

View definition contd.

- View definition
  - is not the same as creating a new relation by evaluating the query expression
  - Rather, it causes the saving of an expression
  - The saved expression is substituted into queries using the view name.

Example Views

- A view of instructors without their salary

  create view *faculty* **as**
  select *ID*, *name*, *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

- Find all instructors in the Biology department

  select *name*
  from *faculty*
  where *dept_name* = ‘Biology’

- Create a view of department salary totals

  create view *departments_total_salary*(*dept_name*, *total_salary*) **as**
  select *dept_name*, **sum** (*salary*)
  from *instructor*
  group by *dept_name*;

Views Defined Using Other Views

- **create view** *physics_fall_2009* **as**
  select *course*.*course_id*, *sec_id*, *building*, *room_number*
  from *course*, *section*
  where *course*.*course_id* = *section*.*course_id*
  and *course*.*dept_name* = ’Physics’
  and *section*.*semester* = ’Fall’
  and *section*.*year* = ’2009’;
- **create view** *physics_fall_2009_watson* **as**
  select *course_id*, *room_number*
  from *physics_fall_2009*
  where *building*= ’Watson’;

View Expansion

- Expand use of a view in a query/another view

```
create view physics_fall_2009_watson as
(select course_id, room_number
from (select course.course_id, building, room_number
      from course, section
      where course.course_id = section.course_id
          and course.dept_name = 'Physics'
          and section.semester = 'Fall'
          and section.year = '2009')
where building= 'Watson';
```

Update of a View

- Add a new tuple to *faculty* view which we defined earlier

  insert into *faculty* **values** (’30765’, ’Green’, ’Music’);

  This insertion must be represented by the insertion of the tuple

  (’30765’, ’Green’, ’Music’, null)

  into the *instructor* relation

Some Updates cannot be Translated Uniquely

- **create view** *instructor_info* **as**
  select *ID*, *name*, *building*
  from *instructor*, *department*
  where *instructor*.*dept_name*= *department*.*dept_name*;
- **insert into** *instructor_info* **values** (’69987’, ’White’, ’Taylor’);
  - which department, if multiple departments in Taylor?
  - what if no department is in Taylor?
  - if nulls are inserted for unknown values, the view *instructor_info* still does not include (’69987’, ’White’, ’Taylor’)
- Therefore, modifications are generally not permitted on view relations, except in limited cases

Updates on views in SQL

- Most SQL implementations allow updates only on simple views
  - The **from** clause has only one database relation.
  - The **select** clause contains only attribute names of the relation, and does not have any expressions, aggregates, or **distinct** specification.
  - Any attribute not listed in the **select** clause can be set to null
  - The query does not have a **group by** or **having** clause.

Tuples not satisfying where

- **create view** *history_instructors* **as**
  select *
  from *instructor*
  where *dept_name*= ’History’;
- What happens if we insert (’25566’, ’Brown’, ’Biology’, 100000) into *history_instructors?*
  - SQL will allow this
- **with check option** clause at the end of view definition
  - ensures tuples not satisfying the where clause are not inserted

Materialized Views

- **Materializing a view**: create a physical table containing all the tuples in the result of the query defining the view
- If relations used in the query are updated, the materialized view result becomes out of date
  - Need to **maintain** the view, by updating the view whenever the underlying relations are updated.
- SQL does not provide a standard way of specifying that a view is materialized

Transactions

- Unit of work
- A sequence of of query and/or update statements
- Atomic transaction
  - either fully executed or rolled back as if it never occurred
- Isolation from concurrent transactions

Transactions contd.

- Transactions begin implicitly
  - Ended by **commit work** or **rollback work**
- But default on most databases: each SQL statement commits automatically
  - Can turn off auto commit for a session (e.g. using API)
  - In SQL:1999, can use: **begin atomic** …. **end**
    - Not supported on most databases