Chapter 5: Advanced SQL

Database System Concepts, 6th Ed.

Chapter 5: Advanced SQL

- Accessing SQL From a Programming Language
  - Dynamic SQL
    - JDBC and ODBC
  - Embedded SQL
- SQL Data Types and Schemas
- Functions and Procedural Constructs
- Triggers
- Advanced Aggregation Features
- OLAP

JDBC and ODBC

- API (application-program interface) for a program to interact with a database server
- Application makes calls to
  - Connect with the database server
  - Send SQL commands to the database server
  - Fetch tuples of result one-by-one into program variables
- ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) works with C, C++, C#, and Visual Basic
  - Other API's such as ADO.NET sit on top of ODBC
- JDBC (Java Database Connectivity) works with Java

JDBC

- **JDBC** is a Java API for communicating with database systems supporting SQL.
- JDBC supports a variety of features for querying and updating data, and for retrieving query results.
- JDBC also supports metadata retrieval, such as querying about relations present in the database and the names and types of relation attributes.
- Model for communicating with the database:
  - Open a connection
  - Create a “statement” object
  - Execute queries using the Statement object to send queries and fetch results
  - Exception mechanism to handle errors

JDBC Code

```
public static void JDBCexample(String dbid, String userid, String passwd)
{
    try {
        Class.forName ("oracle.jdbc.driver.OracleDriver");
        Connection conn = DriverManager.getConnection(
              "jdbc:oracle:thin:@db.yale.edu:2000:univdb", userid, passwd);
        Statement stmt = conn.createStatement();
           … Do Actual Work ….
        stmt.close();
        conn.close();
    }
    catch (SQLException sqle) {
        System.out.println("SQLException : " + sqle);
    }
}
```

JDBC Code (Cont.)

- Update to database

```
try {
    stmt.executeUpdate(
        "insert into instructor values('77987', 'Kim', 'Physics', 98000)");
} catch (SQLException sqle)
{
   System.out.println("Could not insert tuple. " + sqle);
}
```

- Execute query and fetch and print results

```
ResultSet rset = stmt.executeQuery(
                        "select dept_name, avg (salary)
                         from instructor
                         group by dept_name");
while (rset.next()) {
    System.out.println(rset.getString("dept_name") + " " +
                                rset.getFloat(2));
}
```

JDBC Code Details

- Getting result fields:
  - **rs.getString("dept_name") and rs.getString(1) equivalent if dept_name is the first argument of select result.**
- Dealing with Null values
  - **int a = rs.getInt("a");**

    if (rs.wasNull()) Systems.out.println("Got null value");

Quiz Q1: What happens if rs.getString("salary") is executed with a query "select * from instructor":
(A) A run time error occurs since the type of salary is numeric, not string
(B) A compile time error occurs due to the type mismatch
(C) The JDBC API automatically converts the numeric value to a string
(D) None of the above

Prepared Statement

- PreparedStatement pStmt = conn.prepareStatement(
  "insert into instructor values(?,?,?,?)");
  pStmt.setString(1, "88877"); pStmt.setString(2, "Perry");
  pStmt.setString(3, "Finance"); pStmt.setInt(4, 125000);
  pStmt.executeUpdate();
  pStmt.setString(1, "88878");
  pStmt.executeUpdate();
- For queries, use pStmt.executeQuery(), which returns a ResultSet
- WARNING: always use prepared statements when taking an input from the user and adding it to a query
  - **NEVER create a query by concatenating strings which you get as inputs**
  - "insert into instructor values(' " + ID + " ', ' " + name + " ', " +
    " ' + dept name + " ', " ' balance + ")“
  - What if name is “D’Souza”?

SQL Injection

- Suppose query is constructed using
  - "select * from instructor where name = '" + name + "'"
- Suppose the user, instead of entering a name, enters:
  - X' or 'Y' = 'Y
- then the resulting statement becomes:
  - "select * from instructor where name = '" + "X' or 'Y' = 'Y" + "'"
  - which is:
    - select * from instructor where name = 'X' or 'Y' = 'Y'
  - User could have even used
    - X'; update instructor set salary = salary + 10000; --
- Prepared statement internally uses:
  "select * from instructor where name = 'X\' or \'Y\' = \'Y'
  - **Always use prepared statements, with user inputs as parameters**

Quiz Break

Quiz Q2: Consider the following piece of code

```
PreparedStatement pstmt = conn.prepareStatement(
        "select * from instructor where name = '" + name + "'");
ResultSet rs = pstmt.executeQuery();
```

Is the above code secure?
(A)Yes, since we are using prepared statements
(B) No, since we are concatenating strings SQL injection can still occur
(C)Yes, since we are using executeQuery();
(D) No, since we are using executeQuery();

Metadata Features

- ResultSet metadata
- E.g., after executing query to get a ResultSet rs:
  - ResultSetMetaData rsmd = rs.getMetaData();

```
for(int i = 1; i <= rsmd.getColumnCount(); i++) {
    System.out.println(rsmd.getColumnName(i));
    System.out.println(rsmd.getColumnTypeName(i));
}
```

- How is this useful?

Metadata (Cont)

- Database metadata
- DatabaseMetaData dbmd = conn.getMetaData();

```
ResultSet rs = dbmd.getColumns(null, "univdb", "department", "%");
// Arguments to getColumns: Catalog, Schema-pattern, Table-pattern,
// and Column-Pattern
// Returns: One row for each column; row has a number of attributes
// such as COLUMN_NAME, TYPE_NAME
while( rs.next()) {
        System.out.println(rs.getString("COLUMN_NAME"),
                                        rs.getString("TYPE_NAME");
}
```

- And where is this useful?

Transaction Control in JDBC

- By default, each SQL statement is treated as a separate transaction that is committed automatically
  - bad idea for transactions with multiple updates
- Can turn off automatic commit on a connection
  - conn.setAutoCommit(false);
- Transactions must then be committed or rolled back explicitly
  - conn.commit(); or
  - conn.rollback();
- conn.setAutoCommit(true) turns on automatic commit.

Procedural Extensions and Stored Procedures

- SQL provides a **module** language
  - Permits definition of procedures in SQL, with if-then-else statements, for and while loops, etc.
- Stored Procedures
  - Can store procedures in the database
  - then execute them using the **call** statement
  - permit external applications to operate on the database without knowing about internal details
- Object-oriented aspects of these features are covered in Chapter 22 (Object Based Databases)

SQL Functions

- Define a function that, given the name of a department, returns the count of the number of instructors in that department.

```
create function dept_count (dept_name varchar(20))
returns integer
begin
    declare d_count integer;
    select count (* ) into d_count
    from instructor
    where instructor.dept_name = dept_name
    return d_count;
end
```

- Find the department name and budget of all departments with more that 12 instructors.

```
select dept_name, budget
from department
where dept_count (dept_name ) > 1
```

Table Functions

- SQL:2003 added functions that return a relation as a result
- Example: Return all accounts owned by a given customer

```
create function instructors_of (dept_name char(20)
        returns table (  ID varchar(5),
                         name varchar(20),
                            dept_name varchar(20),
                         salary numeric(8,2))
return table
        (select ID, name, dept_name, salary
         from instructor
         where instructor.dept_name = instructors_of.dept_name)
```

- Usage

```
select *
from table (instructors_of ('Music'))
```

SQL Procedures

- The *dept_count* function could instead be written as procedure:

  create procedure *dept_count_proc* (**in** *dept_name* **varchar**(20),
  out *d_count* **integer)**
  begin
  select count(*) **into** *d_count*
  from *instructor*
  where *instructor.dept_name = dept_count_proc.dept_name*
  end

- Procedures can be invoked either from an SQL procedure or from embedded SQL, using the **call** statement.

  declare *d_count* **integer**;
  call *dept_count_proc*('Physics', *d_count*);

  Procedures and functions can be invoked also from JDBC/ODBC/..

Procedural Constructs

- Warning: most database systems implement their own variant of the standard syntax below
  - read your system manual to see what works on your system
- Compound statement: **begin ... end**,
  - May contain multiple SQL statements between **begin** and **end**.
  - Local variables can be declared within a compound statements
- **While, repeat and for loops**:

```
declare n integer default 0;
while n < 10 do
    set n = n + 1
end while
```

Triggers

Triggers

- A **trigger** is a statement that is executed automatically by the system as a side effect of a modification to the database.
- To design a trigger mechanism, we must:
  - Specify the conditions under which the trigger is to be executed.
  - Specify the actions to be taken when the trigger executes.
- Triggers introduced to SQL standard in SQL:1999, but supported even earlier using non-standard syntax by most databases.
  - Syntax illustrated here may not work exactly on your database system; check the system manuals

Trigger Example

- E.g. *time_slot_id* is not a primary key of *timeslot,* so we cannot create a foreign key constraint from *section* to *timeslot.*
- Alternative: use triggers on *section* and *timeslot* to enforce integrity constraints

```
create trigger timeslot_check1 after insert on section
referencing new row as nrow
for each row
when (nrow.time_slot_id not in (
            select time_slot_id
            from time_slot)) /* time_slot_id not present in time_slot */
begin
    rollback
end;
```

Trigger Example Cont.

```
create trigger timeslot_check2 after delete on timeslot
    referencing old row as orow
    for each row
    when (orow.time_slot_id not in (
                select time_slot_id
                from time_slot)
                /* last tuple for time slot id deleted from time slot */
            and orow.time_slot_id in (
                select time_slot_id
                from section)) /* and time_slot_id still referenced from section*/
    begin
       rollback
    end;
```

Triggering Events and Actions in SQL

- Triggering event can be **insert**, **delete** or **update**
- Triggers on update can be restricted to specific attributes
  - **E.g., after update of** *takes* **on** *grade*
- Values of attributes before and after an update can be referenced
  - **referencing old row as** **:** for deletes and updates
  - **referencing new row as** **:** for inserts and updates

When Not To Use Triggers

- Triggers were used earlier for tasks such as
  - maintaining summary data (e.g., total salary of each department)
  - Replicating databases by recording changes to special relations (called **change** or **delta** relations) and having a separate process that applies the changes over to a replica
- There are better ways of doing these now:
  - Databases today provide built in materialized view facilities to maintain summary data
  - Databases provide built-in support for replication
- Encapsulation facilities can be used instead of triggers in many cases
  - Define methods to update fields
- Risk of unintended execution of triggers, for example, when
  - loading data from a backup copy
  - replicating updates at a remote site
  - Trigger execution can be disabled before such actions.

Recursive Queries

Recursion in SQL

- Example: find which courses are a prerequisite, whether directly or indirectly, for a specific course

```
with recursive rec_prereq(course_id, prereq_id) as (
        select course_id, prereq_id
        from prereq
    union
        select rec_prereq.course_id, prereq.prereq_id,
        from rec_prereq, prereq
        where rec_prereq.prereq_id = prereq.course_id
    )
select ∗
from rec_prereq;
```

This example view, *rec_prereq,* is called the *transitive closure* of the *prereq* relation

course_id	*prereq_id*
CS-401	CS-301
CS-301	CS-201
CS-201	CS-101

Note: 1st printing of 6th ed erroneously used c_prereq in place of rec_prereq in some places

Recursion in SQL: Iterative Execution

- **with recursive** *rec_prereq*(*course_id*, *prereq_id*) **as** (
  select *course_id*, *prereq_id*
  from *prereq*
  union
  select *rec_prereq.course_id*, *prereq.prereq_id*,
  from *rec_prereq*, *prereq*
  where *rec_prereq.prereq_id* = *prereq.course_id*
)
  select ∗
  from *rec_prereq*;

course_id	*prereq_id*
CS-401	CS-301
CS-301	CS-201
CS-201	CS-101

Iteration 1

+

course_id	*prereq_id*
CS-401	CS-201
CS-301	CS-101

New in iteration 2

+

course_id	*prereq_id*
CS-401	CS-101

New in iteration 3

Advanced Aggregation Features

Ranking

- Ranking is done in conjunction with an order by specification.
- Suppose we are given a relation
  student_grades(ID, GPA)
  giving the grade-point average of each student
- Find the rank of each student.

  select *ID*, **rank**() **over** (**order by** *GPA* **desc) as** *s_rank*
  from *student_grades*
- An extra **order by** clause is needed to get them in sorted order

  select *ID*, **rank**() **over** (**order by** *GPA* **desc) as** *s_rank*
  from *student_grades*
  order by *s_rank*
- Ranking may leave gaps: e.g. if 2 students have the same top GPA, both have rank 1, and the next rank is 3
  - **dense_rank** does not leave gaps, so next dense rank would be 2

Ranking

- Ranking can be done using basic SQL aggregation, but resultant query is very inefficient

```
select ID, (1 + (select count(*)
                 from student_grades B
                 where B.GPA > A.GPA)) as s_rank
from student_grades A
order by s_rank;
```

Ranking (Cont.)

- Ranking can be done within partition of the data.
- "Find the rank of students within each department."

```
select ID, dept_name,
        rank () over (partition by dept_name order by GPA desc)
                as dept_rank
    from dept_grades
    order by dept_name, dept_rank;
```

- Multiple **rank** clauses can occur in a single **select** clause.
- Ranking is done *after* applying **group by** clause/aggregation
- Can be used to find top-n results
  - More general than the **limit** *n* clause supported by many databases, since it allows top-n within each partition
- **Windowing constructs**: see book for details

OLAP**

Data Analysis and OLAP

- **Online Analytical Processing (OLAP)**
  - Interactive analysis of data, allowing data to be summarized and viewed in different ways in an online fashion (with negligible delay)
- Data that can be modeled as dimension attributes and measure attributes are called **multidimensional data**.
  - **Measure attributes**
    - measure some value
    - can be aggregated upon
    - e.g., the attribute *number* of the *sales* relation
  - **Dimension attributes**
    - define the dimensions on which measure attributes (or aggregates thereof) are viewed
    - e.g., attributes *item_name, color,* and *size* of the *sales* relation

Example sales relation

item_name	*color*	*clothes_size*	*quantity*
skirt	dark	small	2
skirt	dark	medium	5
skirt	dark	large	1
skirt	pastel	small	11
skirt	pastel	medium	9
skirt	pastel	large	15
skirt	white	small	2
skirt	white	medium	5
skirt	white	large	3
dress	dark	small	2
dress	dark	medium	6
dress	dark	large	12
dress	pastel	small	4
dress	pastel	medium	3
dress	pastel	large	3
dress	white	small	2
dress	white	medium	3
dress	white	large	0
shirt	dark	small	2
shirt	dark	medium	6
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

Cross Tabulation of *sales* by *item_name* and *color*

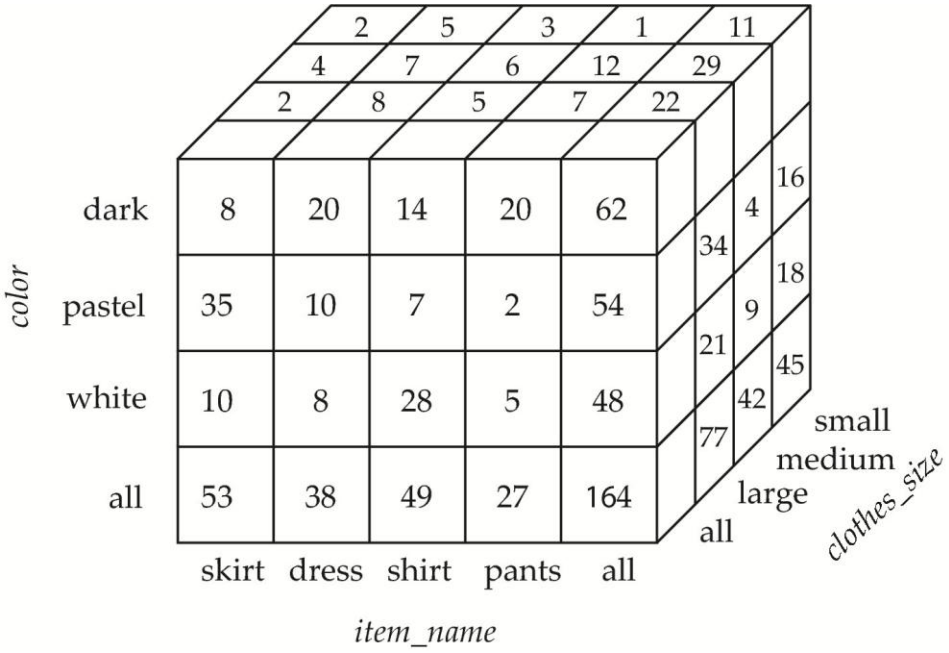
clothes_size **all**

item_name	*color* dark	pastel	white	total
skirt	8	35	10	53
dress	20	10	5	35
shirt	14	7	28	49
pants	20	2	5	27
total	62	54	48	164

- The table above is an example of a **cross-tabulation** (**cross-tab**), also referred to as a **pivot-table**.
  - Values for one of the dimension attributes form the row headers
  - Values for another dimension attribute form the column headers
  - Other dimension attributes are listed on top
  - Values in individual cells are (aggregates of) the values of the dimension attributes that specify the cell.

Data Cube

- A **data cube** is a multidimensional generalization of a cross-tab
- Can have *n* dimensions; we show 3 below
- Cross-tabs can be used as views on a data cube



Online Analytical Processing Operations

- **Pivoting:** changing the dimensions used in a cross-tab is called
- **Slicing:** creating a cross-tab for fixed values only
  - Sometimes called **dicing**, particularly when values for multiple dimensions are fixed.
- **Rollup:** moving from finer-granularity data to a coarser granularity
- **Drill down:** The opposite operation - that of moving from coarser-granularity data to finer-granularity data

Cross Tabulation With Hierarchy

- Cross-tabs can be easily extended to deal with hierarchies
  - Can drill down or roll up on a hierarchy

clothes_size: **all**

category	*item_name*	*color*				
		dark	pastel	white	total	
womenswear	skirt	8	8	10	53	
	dress	20	20	5	35	
	subtotal	28	28	15		88
menswear	pants	14	14	28	49	
	shirt	20	20	5	27	
	subtotal	34	34	33		76
total		62	62	48		164

Relational Representation of Cross-tabs

- Cross-tabs can be represented as relations
  - We use the value **all** is used to represent aggregates.
  - The SQL standard actually uses null values in place of **all** despite confusion with regular null values.

item_name	*color*	*clothes_size*	*quantity*
skirt	dark	**all**	8
skirt	pastel	**all**	35
skirt	white	**all**	10
skirt	**all**	**all**	53
dress	dark	**all**	20
dress	pastel	**all**	10
dress	white	**all**	5
dress	**all**	**all**	35
shirt	dark	**all**	14
shirt	pastel	**all**	7
shirt	White	**all**	28
shirt	**all**	**all**	49
pant	dark	**all**	20
pant	pastel	**all**	2
pant	white	**all**	5
pant	**all**	**all**	27
all	dark	**all**	62
all	pastel	**all**	54
all	white	**all**	48
all	**all**	**all**	164

Extended Aggregation to Support OLAP

- The **cube** operation computes union of **group by**'s on every subset of the specified attributes
- Example relation for this section
  sales(*item_name, color, clothes_size, quantity*)
- E.g. consider the query

  select *item_name, color, size,* **sum**(*number*)
  from *sales*
  group by cube(*item_name, color, size*)

  This computes the union of eight different groupings of the *sales* relation:

  { (*item_name, color, size*), (*item_name, color*),
  (*item_name, size*), (*color, size*),
  (*item_name*), (*color*),
  (*size*), ( ) }

  where ( ) denotes an empty **group by** list.
- For each grouping, the result contains the null value for attributes not present in the grouping.
- See book for other operations such as **rollup**

End of Chapter

ODBC

- Open DataBase Connectivity(ODBC) standard
  - standard for application program to communicate with a database server.
  - application program interface (API) to
    - open a connection with a database,
    - send queries and updates,
    - get back results.
- Applications such as GUI, spreadsheets, etc. can use ODBC
- Was defined originally for Basic and C, versions available for many languages.

ADO.NET

- API designed for Visual Basic .NET and C#, providing database access facilities similar to JDBC/ODBC
  - Partial example of ADO.NET code in C#

```
using System, System.Data, System.Data.SqlClient;
SqlConnection conn = new SqlConnection(
            "Data Source=<IPaddr>, Initial Catalog=<Catalog>");
conn.Open();
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("select * from students",
                                                conn);
SqlDataReader rdr = cmd.ExecuteReader();
while(rdr.Read()) {
    Console.WriteLine(rdr[0], rdr[1]); /* Prints first 2 attributes of
result*/
}
rdr.Close(); conn.Close();
```

ADO.NET (Cont.)

- Translated into ODBC calls
- Can also access non-relational data sources such as
  - OLE-DB
  - XML data
  - Entity framework

Embedded SQL

- The SQL standard defines embeddings of SQL in a variety of programming languages such as C, Java, and Cobol.
- A language to which SQL queries are embedded is referred to as a **host language**, and the SQL structures permitted in the host language comprise *embedded* SQL.
- The basic form of these languages follows that of the System R embedding of SQL into PL/I.
- **EXEC SQL** statement is used to identify embedded SQL request to the preprocessor

  EXEC SQL <embedded SQL statement > END_EXEC

  Note: this varies by language (for example, the Java embedding uses

  # SQL { …. };)

Trigger to Maintain credits_earned value

- **create trigger** *credits_earned* **after update of** *takes* **on** (*grade*)
  referencing new row as *nrow*
  referencing old row as *orow*
  for each row
  when *nrow.grade* <> 'F' **and** *nrow.grade* **is not null**
  and (*orow.grade* = 'F' **or** *orow.grade* **is null**)
  begin atomic
  update *student*
  set *tot_cred= tot_cred* +
  (**select** *credits*
  from *course*
  where *course.course_id= nrow.course_id*)
  where *student.id = nrow.id*;
  end;