

CMPT 354: Database System I

Lecture 3. SQL Basics

Announcements!

- About Piazza
 - 97 enrolled (as of today)
 - Posts are anonymous to classmates
- You should have started doing A1
 - Please come to office hours if you need any help

SQL Motivation

- Dark times in 2000s
 - Are relational databases dead?
- Now, as before: everyone sells SQL
 - Pig, Hive, Impala
 - SparkSQL
- NoSQL
 - “Non SQL”
 - “Not-Only-SQL”
 - “Not-Yet-SQL”



SQL: Introduction

- “S.Q.L.” or “sequel”
- Supported by all major commercial database systems
- Standardized – many new features over time
- Declarative language

SQL is a...

- Data Definition Language (DDL)
 - Define relational *schema*
 - Create/alter/delete tables and their attributes
- Data Manipulation Language (DML)
 - Insert/delete/modify tuples in tables
 - Query one or more tables – discussed next!

Outline

- **Single-table Queries**

- The SFW query
- Useful operators: DISTINCT, ORDER BY, LIKE
- Handle missing values: NULLs

- **Multiple-table Queries**

- Foreign key constraints
- Joins: basics
- Joins: SQL semantics

The SFW Query

```
SELECT <columns>
FROM   <table name>
WHERE  <conditions>
```

- To write the query, ask yourself three questions:
 - Which **table** are you interested in?
 - Which **rows** are you interested in?
 - Which **columns** are you interested in?

Conditions

```
SELECT <columns>
FROM   <table name>
WHERE  <conditions>
```

- Which rows are you interested in?
 - WHERE gpa > 3.5
 - WHERE school = 'SFU' AND gpa > 3.5
 - WHERE (school = 'SFU' OR school = 'UBC') AND gpa > 3.5
 - WHERE age * 365 > 7500

Columns

```
SELECT <columns>
FROM   <table name>
WHERE  <conditions>
```

- Which columns are you interested in?
 - `SELECT *`
 - `SELECT name, age`
 - `SELECT name as studentName, age`
 - `SELECT name, age * 365 as ageDay`

A Few Details

- SQL **commands** are case insensitive:
 - Same: SELECT, Select, select
 - Same: Student, student
 - Same: gpa, GPA
- **Values are not:**
 - Different: 'SFU', 'sfu'
- SQL strings are enclosed in **single quotes**
 - e.g. name = 'Mike'
 - Single quotes in a string can be specified using an initial single quote character as an escape
 - author = 'Shaq O''Neal'
- Strings can be compared **alphabetically** with the comparison operators
 - e.g. 'fodder' < 'foo' is TRUE

DISTINCT: Eliminating Duplicates

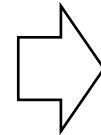
```
SELECT School  
FROM Students
```



School
SFU
SFU
UBC
UT
UT

Versus

```
SELECT DISTINCT School  
FROM Students
```



School
SFU
UBC
UT

ORDER BY: Sorting the Results

```
SELECT      name, gpa, age
FROM        Students
WHERE       school = 'SFU'
ORDER BY    gpa DESC, age ASC
```

- The output of an SQL query can be ordered
 - By any number of attributes, and
 - In either ascending or descending order
- The default is to use ascending order, the keywords **ASC** and **DESC**, following the column name, sets the order

LIKE: Simple String Pattern Matching

```
SELECT *
FROM   Students
WHERE  name  LIKE 'Sm_t%'
```

SQL provides pattern matching support with the **LIKE** operator and two symbols

- The **%** symbol stands for zero or more arbitrary characters
- The **_** symbol stands for exactly one arbitrary character
- The **%** and **_** characters can be escaped with \
 - E.g., name **LIKE** 'Michael_Jordan'

Exercise - 1

- Which names will be returned?

```
SELECT *
FROM Students
WHERE name LIKE 'Sm_t%'
```

1. Smit
2. SMIT
3. Smart
4. Smith
5. Smythe
6. Smut
7. Smeath
8. Smt

Exercise - 1

- Which names will be returned?

```
SELECT *
FROM Students
WHERE name LIKE 'Sm_t%'
```

1. Smit
2. SMIT
3. Smart
4. Smith 1, 4, 5, 6
5. Smythe
6. Smut
7. Smeath
8. Smt

NULLS in SQL

- Whenever we don't have a value, we can put a NULL
- Can mean many things:
 - Value does not exists
 - Value exists but is unknown
 - Value not applicable
 - Etc.
- NULL constraints

```
CREATE TABLE Students (
    name CHAR(20) NOT NULL,
    age CHAR(20) NOT NULL,
    gpa FLOAT
)
```

What will happen?

name	age	gpa
Mike	20	4.0
Joe	18	NULL
Alice	21	3.8

1. SELECT gpa*100 FROM students
2. SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa > 3.5
3. SELECT name FROM students WHERE age > 15 OR gpa > 3.5

Two Important Rules

- Arithmetic operations (+, -, *, /) on nulls return **NULL**
 - $\text{NULL} * 100$ 1. `SELECT gpa*100 FROM students`
 - $\text{NULL} * \text{NULL}$ 2. `SELECT gpa*0 FROM students`
 - $\text{NULL} * 0$ 3. `SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa > 3.5`
 - $\text{NULL} > 3.5$ 4. `SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa = NULL`
 - $\text{NULL} = \text{NULL}$ 5. `SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa = gpa`
- Comparisons with nulls evaluate to **UNKNOWN**
 - $\text{NULL} > 3.5$ 1. `SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa > 3.5`
 - $\text{NULL} = \text{NULL}$ 2. `SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa = NULL`

Combinations of true, false, unknown

- Truth values for *unknown* results

- *true OR unknown = true*,

```
SELECT * FROM students WHERE  
age > 15 OR gpa > 3.5
```

- *false OR unknown = unknown*,

- *unknown OR unknown = unknown*,

- *true AND unknown = unknown*,

- *false AND unknown = false*,

```
SELECT * FROM students WHERE  
age > 15 AND gpa > 3.5
```

- *unknown AND unknown = unknown*

- The result of a **WHERE** clause is treated as *false* if it evaluates to *unknown*
 - *WHERE unknown → false*

What will happen?

name	age	gpa
Mike	20	4.0
Joe	18	NULL
Alice	21	3.8

1. SELECT gpa*100 FROM students
2. SELECT name FROM students WHERE gpa > 3.5
3. SELECT name FROM students WHERE age > 15 OR gpa > 3.5

gpa
400
NULL
380

name
Mike
Alice

name
Mike
Joe
Alice

Exercise - 2

- Will it return all students?

```
SELECT *
FROM   Students
WHERE  age < 25 OR age >= 25
```

Exercise - 2

- Will it return all students?

```
SELECT *
FROM Students
WHERE age < 25 OR age >= 25
      OR age IS NULL
```

There are special operators to test for null values

- **IS NULL** tests for the presence of nulls and
- **IS NOT NULL** tests for the absence of nulls

Outline

- Single-table Queries
 - The SFW query
 - Other useful operators: DISTINCT, LIKE, ORDER BY
 - NULLs
- Multiple-table Queries
 - Foreign key constraints
 - Joins: basics
 - Joins: SQL semantics

Foreign Key constraints

- Foreign-key constraint:
 - **student_id** references **sid**

Students

sid	name	gpa
101	Bob	3.2
123	Mary	3.8

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A



Foreign Key constraints

- Foreign-key constraint:
 - **student_id** references **sid**

Students

sid	name	gpa
101	Bob	3.2
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A



Declaring Foreign Keys

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled(
    student_id CHAR(20),
    cid         CHAR(20),
    grade       CHAR(10),
    PRIMARY KEY (student_id, cid),
    FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES Students(sid)
)
```

Insert operations

- What if we insert a tuple into Enrolled, but no corresponding student?
 - INSERT is rejected

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A
190	354	A

Delete operations

- What if we delete a student, who has enrolled courses?
 - Disallow the delete (*ON DELETE RESTRICT*)

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

ON DELETE RESTRICT

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled(
    student_id CHAR(20),
    cid         CHAR(20),
    grade       CHAR(10),
    PRIMARY KEY (student_id, cid),
    FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES Students(sid)
    ON DELETE RESTRICT
)
```

Delete operations

- What if we delete a student, who has enrolled courses?
 - Remove all of the courses for that student (*ON DELETE CASCADE*)

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

ON DELETE CASCADE

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled(
    student_id CHAR(20),
    cid         CHAR(20),
    grade       CHAR(10),
    PRIMARY KEY (student_id, cid),
    FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES Students(sid)
    ON DELETE CASCADE
)
```

Delete operations

- What if we delete a student, who has enrolled courses?
 - *Set Foreign Key to NULL (ON DELETE SET NULL)*

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
NULL	354	A

Interestingly, although it satisfies the foreign-key constraint, it violates the primary-key constraint, thus the deletion operation is disallowed.

ON DELETE SET NULL

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled(
    student_id CHAR(20),
    cid         CHAR(20),
    grade       CHAR(10),
    PRIMARY KEY (student_id, cid),
    FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES Students(sid)
    ON DELETE SET NULL
)
```

Outline

- Single-table Queries
 - The SFW query
 - Other useful operators: DISTINCT, LIKE, ORDER BY
 - NULLs
- Multiple-table Queries
 - Foreign key constraints
 - **Joins: basics**
 - Joins: SQL semantics
 - Set Operators

Why do we have multiple tables?

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A
123	454	A+
156	354	A

VS.

EnrolledStudents

student_id	name	gpa	cid	grade
123	Mary	3.8	354	A
123	Mary	3.8	454	A+
156	Mike	3.7	354	A

Store data into multiple tables vs. single table

- Multiple tables
 - Data updating is easier (e.g., update Mary's gpa to 3.9)
 - Querying each individual table is faster (e.g., retrieve Mary's gpa)
- A single table
 - Data exchange is easier (e.g., share your data with others)
 - Avoid the cost of joining multiple tables (e.g., retrieval all the courses that Mary has taken)

Joins

The SFW query
over a single table

```
SELECT <columns>
FROM   <table name>
WHERE  <conditions>
```

Which rows are you
interested in?

The SFW query
over multiple tables

```
SELECT <columns>
FROM   <table names>
WHERE  <conditions>
```

Which rows are you
interested in?

How to join the
multiple tables?

Joins: Example

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

Find all student who have got an A+ in 354;
return their names and gpas

SELECT name

FROM Students, Enrolled

WHERE sid = student_id AND

cid = 354 AND grad = 'A+'

How to join the
two tables?

Which rows are you
interested in?

Other ways to write joins

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id AND  
cid = 354 AND grad = 'A+'
```

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students  
JOIN Enrolled ON sid = student_id  
WHERE cid = 354 AND grad = 'A+'
```

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students  
JOIN Enrolled ON sid = student_id  
AND cid = 354 AND grad = 'A+'
```

The Need fo Tuple Variable

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	name	grade
123	354	DB I	A+
123	454	DB II	A+
156	354	DB I	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id
```



Which name?

Tuple Variable

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	name	grade
123	354	DB I	A+
123	454	DB II	A+
156	354	DB I	A

```
SELECT Students.name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id
```

```
SELECT S.name  
FROM Students S, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id
```

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- Single-table Queries
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 - Joins: basics
 - **Joins: SQL semantics**
 - Set Operators

Meaning (Semantics) of Join Queries

```
SELECT x1.a1, x1.a2, ..., xn.ak
FROM   R1 AS x1, R2 AS x2, ..., Rn AS xn
WHERE  Conditions(x1,..., xn)
```

```
Answer = {}
for x1 in R1 do
  for x2 in R2 do
    ....
    for xn in Rn do
      if Conditions(x1,..., xn)
        then Answer = Answer  $\cup$  {(x1.a1, x1.a2, ..., xn.ak)}
return Answer
```

This is called **nested loop semantics** since we are interpreting what a join means using a nested loop

Note: this is a *multiset* union

Three steps

```
SELECT x1·a1, x1·a2, ..., xn·ak
FROM    R1 AS x1, R2 AS x2, ..., Rn AS xn
WHERE   Conditions(x1,..., xn)
```

1. Take cross product

- $R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_n$

2. Apply conditions

- $Conditions(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

3. Apply projections

- $x_1·a_1, x_1·a_2, \dots, x_n·a_k$

Note: This is NOT how the DBMS executes the query.

Exercise

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id AND grad >= 'A+'
```

Which one(s) are correct?

name
Mary

(A)

name
Mary
Mike

(B)

name
Mary
Mike
Mary

(C)

name
Mary
Mary
Mike

(D)

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 - Joins: SQL semantics
 - **Set Operators**

Set Operations

- SQL supports union, intersection and set difference operations
 - Called **UNION**, **INTERSECT**, and **EXCEPT**
 - These operations must be performed on *union compatible* tables
- Although these operations are supported in the SQL standard, implementations may vary
 - **EXCEPT** may not be implemented
 - When it is, it is sometimes called **MINUS**

One of Two Courses

- Find all students who have taken either 354 or 454

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id AND (cid = 354 OR cid = 454)
```

One of Two Courses - UNION

- Find all students who have taken either 354 or 454

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name
FROM Students, Enrolled
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 354
UNION
SELECT name
FROM Students, Enrolled
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 454
```

Both Courses

- Find all students who have taken both 354 and 454

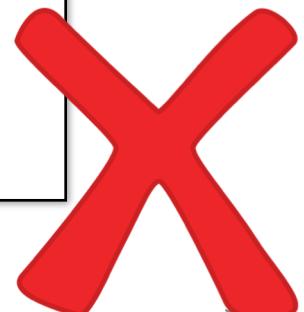
Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students S, Enrolled E  
WHERE sid = student_id AND  
(E.cid = 354 AND E.cid = 454)
```



Both Courses Again

- Find all students who have taken both 354 and 454

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students S, Enrolled E1, Enrolled E2  
WHERE sid = student_id AND  
(E1.cid = 354 AND E2.cid = 454)
```



Both Courses - INTERSECT

- Find all students who have taken both 354 and 454

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 354  
INTERSECT  
SELECT name  
FROM Students, Enrolled  
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 454
```



One Course But Not The Other

- Find all students who have taken 354 but not 454

Students

sid	name	gpa
123	Mary	3.8
156	Mike	3.7

Enrolled

student_id	cid	grade
123	354	A+
123	454	A+
156	354	A

```
SELECT name
FROM Students, Enrolled
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 354
EXCEPT
SELECT name
FROM Students, Enrolled
WHERE sid = student_id AND cid = 454
```

Set Operations and Duplicates

- Unlike other SQL operations, **UNION**, **INTERSECT**, and **EXCEPT** queries eliminate duplicates by default
- SQL allows duplicates to be *retained* in these three operations using the **ALL** keyword (i.e., multi-set operations)

```
SELECT name
FROM   Students, Enrolled
WHERE  sid = student_id AND cid = 354
INTERSECT ALL
SELECT name
FROM   Students, Enrolled
WHERE  sid = student_id AND cid = 454
```

Acknowledge

- Some lecture slides were copied from or inspired by the following course materials
 - “W4111: Introduction to databases” by Eugene Wu at Columbia University
 - “CSE344: Introduction to Data Management” by Dan Suciu at University of Washington
 - “CMPT354: Database System I” by John Edgar at Simon Fraser University
 - “CS186: Introduction to Database Systems” by Joe Hellerstein at UC Berkeley
 - “CS145: Introduction to Databases” by Peter Bailis at Stanford
 - “CS 348: Introduction to Database Management” by Grant Weddell at University of Waterloo