Chapter 3: Introduction to SQL

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Outline

- Overview of The SQL Query Language
- Data Definition
- Basic Query Structure
- Additional Basic Operations
- Set Operations
- Null Values
- Aggregate Functions
- Nested Subqueries
- Modification of the Database

History

- IBM Sequel language developed as part of System R project at the IBM San Jose Research Laboratory
- Renamed Structured Query Language (SQL)
- ANSI and ISO standard SQL:
  - SQL-86
  - SQL-89
  - SQL-92
  - SQL:1999 (language name became Y2K compliant!)
  - SQL:2003
- Commercial systems offer most, if not all, SQL-92 features, plus varying feature sets from later standards and special proprietary features.
  - Not all examples here may work on your particular system.

Data Definition Language

The SQL data-definition language (DDL) allows the specification of information about relations, including:

- The schema for each relation.
- The domain of values associated with each attribute.
- Integrity constraints
- And as we will see later, also other information such as
  - The set of indices to be maintained for each relations.

Domain Types in SQL

- **char(n).** Fixed length character string, with user-specified length *n.*
- **varchar(n).** Variable length character strings, with user-specified maximum length *n.*
- **int.** Integer (a finite subset of the integers that is machine-dependent).
- **smallint.** Small integer (a machine-dependent subset of the integer domain type).
- **numeric(p,d).** Fixed point number, with user-specified precision of *p* digits, with *d* digits to the right of decimal point. (ex., **numeric**(3,1), allows 44.5 to be stores exactly, but not 444.5 or 0.32)
- **real, double precision.** Floating point and double-precision floating point numbers, with machine-dependent precision.
- **float(n).** Floating point number, with user-specified precision of at least *n* digits.
- More are covered in later lectures.

Create Table Construct

- A SQL relation is defined using the **create table** command:

  create table r (A_1 D_1, A_2 D_2, ..., A_n D_n,
  (integrity-constraint$_1$),
  ...,
  (integrity-constraint$_k$))

  - r is the name of the relation
  - each A_i is an attribute name in the schema of relation r
  - D_i is the data type of values in the domain of attribute A_i

- Example:

  create table *instructor* (
  ID **char**(5),
  name **varchar**(20),
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  salary **numeric**(8,2))

Integrity Constraints in Create Table

- **not null**
- **primary key** (A_1, ..., A_n)
- **foreign key** (A_m, ..., A_n) **references** *r*

Example:

create table *instructor* (
    ID **char**(5),
    name **varchar**(20) **not null,**
    dept_name **varchar**(20),
    salary **numeric**(8,2),
    primary key (*ID*),
    foreign key *(dept_name*) **references** *department);*

primary key declaration on an attribute automatically ensures **not null**

SQL prevents any update that violates an integrity constraint

And a Few More Relation Definitions

- **create table** *student* (
  ID **varchar**(5),
  name **varchar**(20) not null,
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  tot_cred **numeric**(3,0),
  primary key *(ID),*
  foreign key *(dept_name*) **references** *department*);

- **create table** *takes* (
  ID **varchar**(5),
  course_id **varchar**(8),
  sec_id **varchar**(8),
  semester **varchar**(6),
  year **numeric**(4,0),
  grade **varchar**(2),
  primary key *(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year)* ,
  foreign key (*ID*) **references** *student,*
  foreign key (*course_id, sec_id, semester, year*) **references** *section*);
  - Note: *sec_id* can be dropped from primary key above, to ensure a student cannot be registered for two sections of the same course in the same semester

Updates to tables

- **Insert**
  - **insert into** *instructor* **values** ('10211', 'Smith', 'Biology', 66000);
- **Delete**
  - Remove all tuples from the *student* relation
    - **delete from** *student*
- **Drop Table**
  - **drop table** *r*
- **Alter**
  - **alter table** *r* **add** *A D*
    - where *A* is the name of the attribute to be added to relation *r* and *D* is the domain of *A.*
    - All existing tuples in the relation are assigned *null* as the value for the new attribute.
  - **alter table** *r* **drop** *A*
    - where *A* is the name of an attribute of relation *r*
    - Dropping of attributes not supported by many databases.

Basic Query Structure

- A typical SQL query has the form:

  select $A_1, A_2, ..., A_n$
  from $r_1, r_2, ..., r_m$
  where P

  - A_i represents an attribute
  - r_i represents a relation
  - P is a predicate.
- The result of an SQL query is a relation.

The select Clause

- The **select** clause lists the attributes desired in the result of a query
  - corresponds to the projection operation of the relational algebra
- Example: find the names of all instructors:

  select *name*
  from *instructor*

- NOTE: SQL names are case insensitive (i.e., you may use upper- or lower-case letters.)
  - E.g., *Name* ≡ *NAME* ≡ *name*
  - Some people use upper case wherever we use bold font.

The select Clause (Cont.)

- SQL allows duplicates in relations as well as in query results.
- To force the elimination of duplicates, insert the keyword **distinct** after select**.**
- Find the department names of all instructors, and remove duplicates

  select distinct *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

- The keyword **all** specifies that duplicates should not be removed.

  select all *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

The select Clause (Cont.)

- An asterisk in the select clause denotes “all attributes”

  select *
  from *instructor*

- An attribute can be a literal with no **from** clause

  select ‘437’

  - Results is a table with one column and a single row with value “437”
  - Can give the column a name using:

    select ‘437’ **as** *FOO*

- An attribute can be a literal with **from** clause

  select ‘A’
  from *instructor*

  - Result is a table with one column and *N* rows (number of tuples in the *instructors* table), each row with value “A”

The select Clause (Cont.)

- The **select** clause can contain arithmetic expressions involving the operation, +, –, $*$, and /, and operating on constants or attributes of tuples.
  - The query:

    select *ID, name, salary/12*
    from *instructor*

    would return a relation that is the same as the *instructor* relation, except that the value of the attribute *salary* is divided by 12.
  - Can rename "*salary/12*" using the **as** clause:

    select *ID, name, salary/12* **as** *monthly_salary*

The where Clause

- The **where** clause specifies conditions that the result must satisfy
  - Corresponds to the selection predicate of the relational algebra.
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept

  select *name*
  from *instructor*
  where *dept_name* = 'Comp. Sci.'

- Comparison results can be combined using the logical connectives **and, or,** and **not**
  - To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept with salary > 80000

    select *name*
    from *instructor*
    where *dept_name* = 'Comp. Sci.' **and** *salary* > 80000

- Comparisons can be applied to results of arithmetic expressions.

The from Clause

- The **from** clause lists the relations involved in the query
  - Corresponds to the Cartesian product operation of the relational algebra.
- Find the Cartesian product *instructor X teaches*

  select ∗
  from *instructor, teaches*

  - generates every possible instructor – teaches pair, with all attributes from both relations.
  - For common attributes (e.g., *ID*), the attributes in the resulting table are renamed using the relation name (e.g., *instructor.ID*)
- Cartesian product not very useful directly, but useful combined with where-clause condition (selection operation in relational algebra).

Cartesian Product

instructor

ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
32343	El Said	History	60000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

teaches

ID	*course_id*	*sec_id*	*semester*	*year*
10101	CS-101	1	Fall	2009
10101	CS-315	1	Spring	2010
10101	CS-347	1	Fall	2009
12121	FIN-201	1	Spring	2010
15151	MU-199	1	Spring	2010
22222	PHY-101	1	Fall	2009

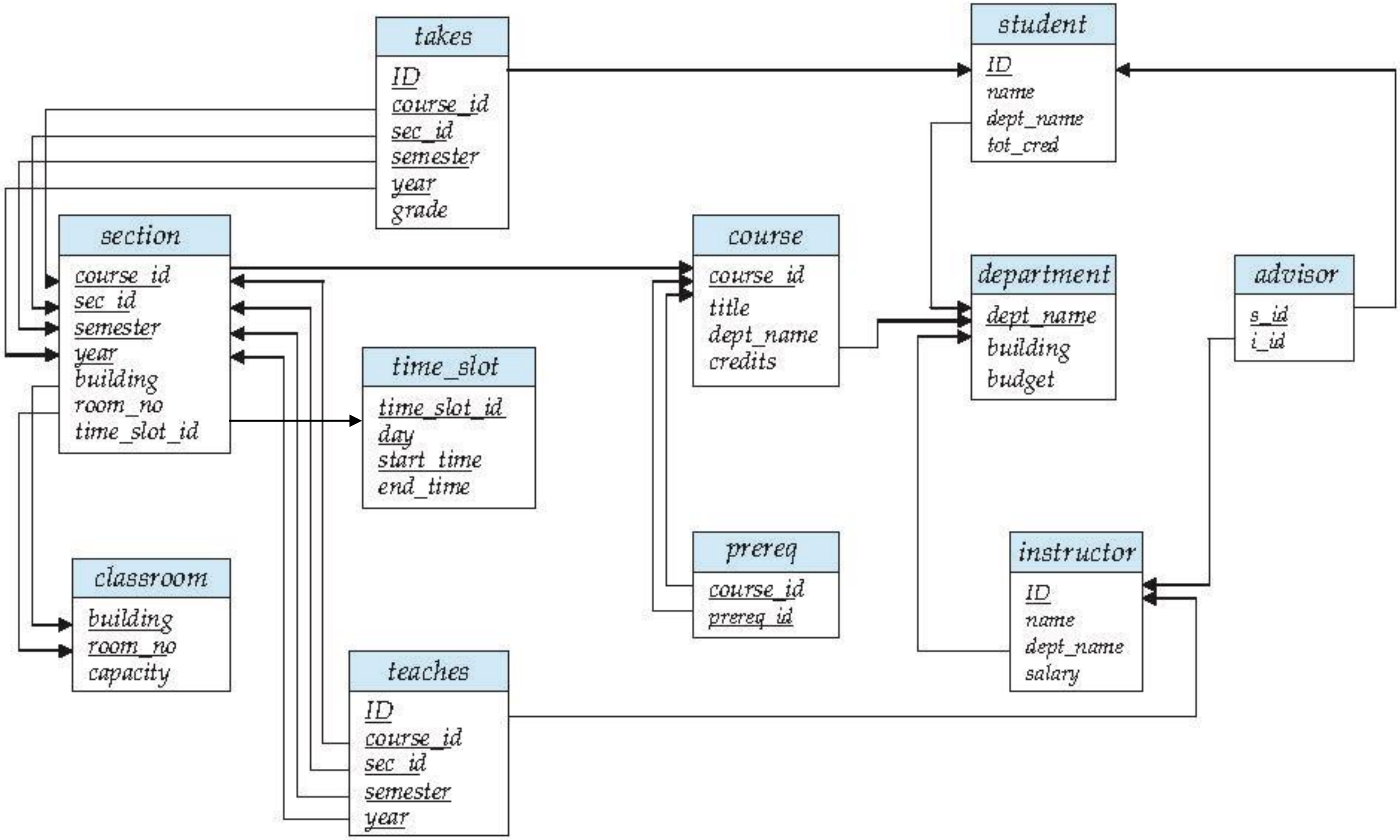
Inst.ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*	*teaches.ID*	*course_id*	*sec_id*	*semester*	*year*
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	10101	CS-101	1	Fall	2009
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	10101	CS-315	1	Spring	2010
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	10101	CS-347	1	Fall	2009
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	12121	FIN-201	1	Spring	2010
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	15151	MU-199	1	Spring	2010
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	22222	PHY-101	1	Fall	2009
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	10101	CS-101	1	Fall	2009
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	10101	CS-315	1	Spring	2010
12121	Wu	Pinance	90000	10101	CS-347	1	Fall	2009
12121	Wu	Pinance	90000	12121	FIN-201	1	Spring	2010
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	15151	MU-199	1	Spring	2010
12121	Wu	Pinance	90000	22222	PHY-101	1	Fall	2009
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Meaning of a SQL query

- Generate a Cartesian product of the relations listed in the **from** clause
- Apply the predicates specified in the **where** clause on the result of Step 1.
- For each tuple in the result of Step 2, output the attributes (or results of expressions) specified in the **select** clause.

Note: A real implementation will not execute the query as above

Schema Diagram for University Database



Examples

- Find the names of all instructors who have taught some course and the course_id

- Find the names of all instructors in the Art department who have taught some course and the course_id

Examples

- Find the names of all instructors who have taught some course and the course_id
  - **select** *name, course_id*
    from *instructor , teaches*
    where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID*

- Find the names of all instructors in the Art department who have taught some course and the course_id
  - **select** *name, course_id*
    from *instructor , teaches*
    where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID* ***and*** *instructor. dept_name* = 'Art'

Natural Join

- **Natural join:**

  select $A_1, A_2, ..., A_n$
  from r_1 **natural join** r_2 **natural join** ... **natural join** r_m
  where P

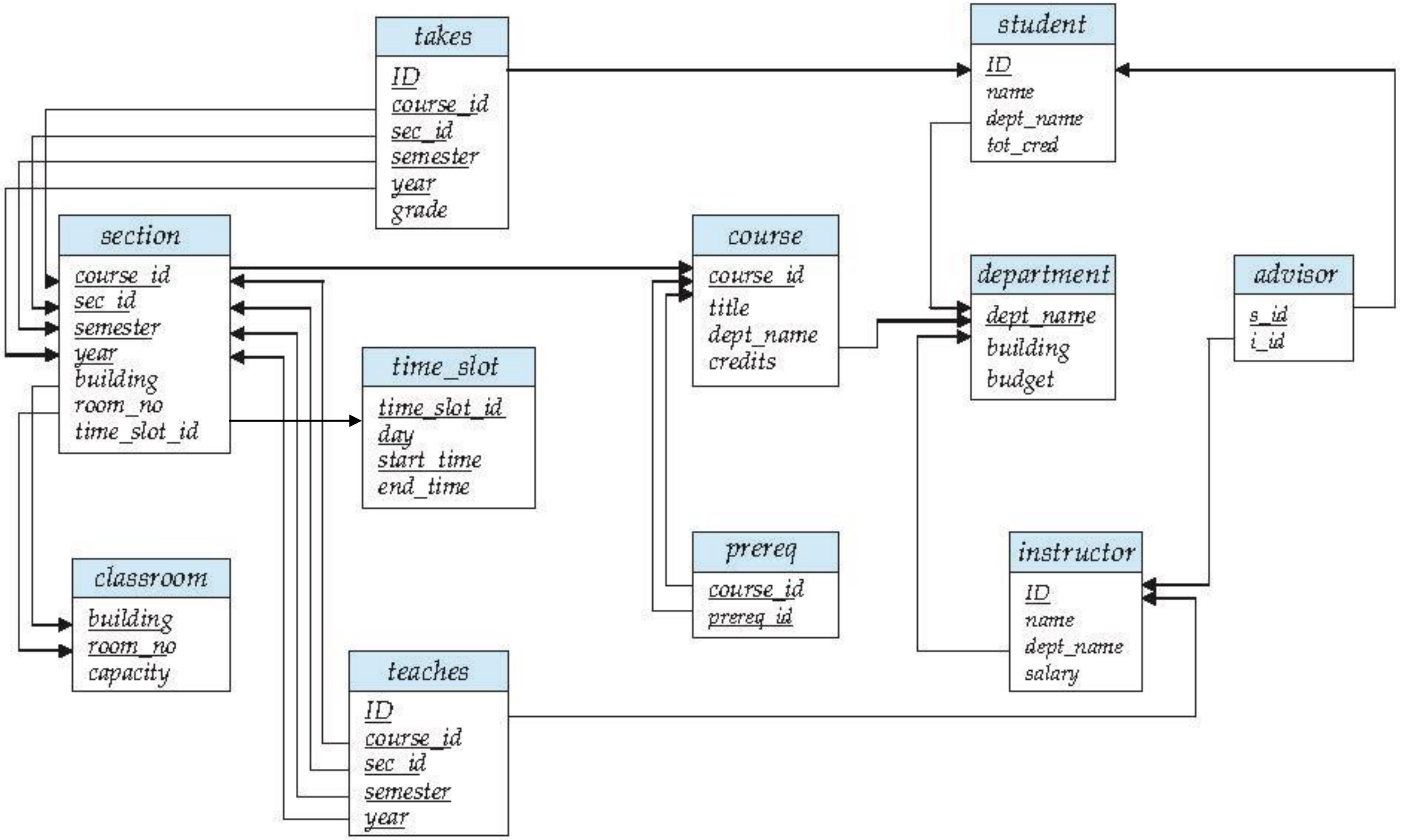
- "For all instructors in the university who have taught some course, find their names and the course ids of all the courses they have taught"

  select *name, course_id*
  from *instructor, teaches*
  where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID;*

OR

  select *name, course_id*
  from *instructor* **natural join** *teaches;*

Schema Diagram for University Database



Natural Join cont.

- List the names of instructors along with the courses that they teach

  select *name, title*
  from *instructor* **natural join** *teaches, course*

  where *teaches.course_id = course.course_id;*

Does the query below compute the same result ?

  select *name, title*
  from *instructor* **natural join** *teaches* **natural join** *course*

Natural Join cont.

- List the names of instructors along with the courses that they teach

  select *name, title*
  from *instructor* **natural join** *teaches, course*
  where *teaches.course_id = course.course_id;*

Does the query below compute the same result ?

  select *name, title*
  from *instructor* **natural join** *teaches* **natural join** *course*

No!

To avoid equating attributes wrongly,

  select *name, title*
  from (*instructor* **natural join** *teaches)* **join** *course* **using** *(course_id);*