

Query Planning: Translating SQL into Relational Algebra

Refreshing the Relational Algebra

- **Relations** are tables whose columns have names, called **attributes**
- The set of all attributes of a relation is called the **schema** of the relation
- The rows in a relation are called **tuples**
- A relation is **set-based** if it does not contain **duplicate** tuples.
- It is called **bag-based** otherwise.
- A Relational Algebra (RA) **operator** takes as input 1 or more relations and produces as output a new **relation**

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	5
3	4	5	6
5	6	3	4

Selection

$\sigma_{A \geq 3}$

A	B
1	2
3	4
5	6

=

A	B
3	4
5	6

Projection

$\pi_{A,C}$

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	5
3	4	3	6
5	6	5	9
1	6	3	5

=

Set-based

A	C
1	3
3	3
5	5

Cartesian Product

A	B	×	C	D	=	A	B	C	D
1	2		2	6		1	2	2	6
3	4		3	7		1	2	3	7
			4	9		1	2	4	9
						3	4	2	6
						3	4	3	7
						3	4	4	9

Input relations must have disjoint schema (disjoint set of attributes), otherwise rename first

Natural Join

Join on the common attributes

A	B
1	2
3	4



B	D
2	6
3	7
4	9

=

A	B	D
1	2	6
3	4	9

A B C

B C D

A B C D X.B=Y.B X.C=Y.C

Natural Join

A	B	\bowtie	C	D	=	A	B	C	D
1	2		2	6		1	2	2	6
3	4		3	7		1	2	3	7
			4	9		1	2	4	9
						3	4	2	6
						3	4	3	7
						3	4	4	9

Same as cartesian product

Theta Join

A	B
1	2
3	4

\bowtie B=C

C	D
2	6
3	7
4	9

=

A	B	C	D
1	2	2	6
3	4	4	9

Renaming

ρ_T

A	B
1	2
3	4
5	6

=

T.A	T.B
1	2
3	4
5	6

Renaming specifies that the input **relation** (and its attributes) should be given a new name.

Relational Algebra Expressions

Built using relation variable, AND

RA operators

 $\sigma_{\text{length} \geq 100}(\text{Movie}) \bowtie_{\text{title}=\text{movietitle}} \text{StarsIn}$

Write the equivalent SQL

`select * from Movie, StarsIn where title=movietitle and length >= 100;`



The Extended Relational Algebra

Add more operators

Extended projection
allows renaming

Π

A, C \rightarrow D

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	5
3	4	3	6
5	6	5	9
1	6	3	5

=

Set-based

A	D
1	3
3	3
5	5

The Extended Relational Algebra

Add more operators

Grouping

Y $A, \min(B) \rightarrow D$

A	B	C
1	2	a
1	3	b
2	3	c
2	4	a
2	5	a

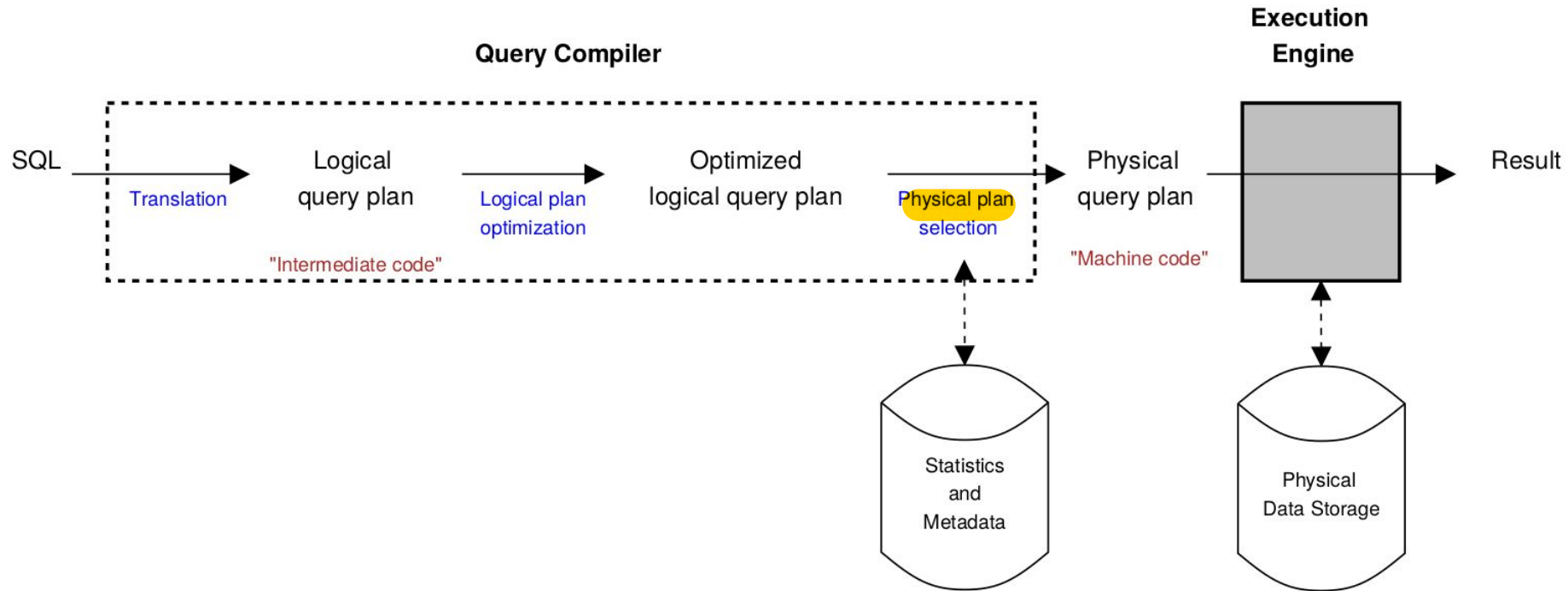
=

A	D
1	2
2	3

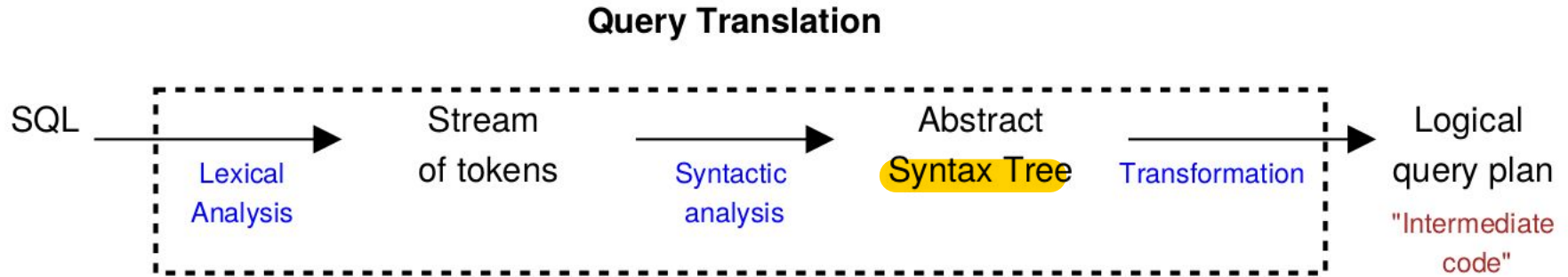
The Extended Relational Algebra

Operator		Operator	
\cup	Union	\bowtie	Natural join
\cap	Intersection	$\bowtie_{B=C}$	Theta join
$-$	Difference	$\Join_{B=C}$	Left outer join
$\sigma_{A \geq 3}$	Selection	$\Join_{B=C}$	Right outer join
$\pi_{A,C}$	Projection	$\Join_{B=C}$	Full outer join
\times	Cartesian product	γ	Aggregation
		$\rho_{A, \min(B) \rightarrow D}$	
ρ	Rename	\leftarrow	Assignment

Query Planning



Query Translation



Translating SQL into Relational Algebra

In the examples that follow, we will use the following database:

- `Movie(title: string, year: int, length: int, genre: string, studioName: string, producerC#: int)`
- `MovieStar(name: string, address: string, gender: char, birthdate: date)`
- `StarsIn(movieTitle: string, movieYear: string, starName: string)`
- `MovieExec(name: string, address: string, CERT#: int, netWorth: int)`
- `Studio(name: string, address: string, presC#: int)`

select-from-where

SQL:

```
SELECT movieTitle  
FROM StarsIn S, MovieStar M  
WHERE S.starName = M.name AND M.birthdate = 1960
```

RA ?

select-from-where

SQL:

```
SELECT movieTitle
FROM   StarsIn S, MovieStar M
WHERE  S.starName = M.name AND M.birthdate = 1960
```

RA ?

$\pi_{\text{movieTitle}} \sigma_{S.\text{starName}=M.\text{name} \text{ and } M.\text{birthdate}=1960} (\rho_S(\text{StarsIn}) \times \rho_M(\text{MovieStar}))$

Other translations ?

select-from-where-groupby

SQL:

```
SELECT movieTitle, count(S.starName) AS numStars  
FROM    StarsIn S, MovieStar M  
WHERE   S.starName = M.name  
GROUP BY movieTitle
```

RA ?

select-from-where-groupby

SQL:

```
SELECT movieTitle, count(S.starName) AS numStars
FROM   StarsIn S, MovieStar M
WHERE  S.starName = M.name
GROUP BY movieTitle
```

RA ?

$\gamma_{M.movieTitle, count(S.starName) \rightarrow numStars} ($

$\rho_S(StarsIn) \bowtie_{S.starName=M.name} \rho_M(MovieStar))$

select-from-where-groupby-having

```
SELECT movieTitle, count(S.starName) AS numStars  
FROM   StarsIn S, MovieStar M  
WHERE  S.starName = M.name  
GROUP BY movieTitle  
HAVING count(S.starName) > 5
```

RA ?

select-from-where-groupby-having

```
SELECT movieTitle, count(S.starName) AS numStars
FROM   StarsIn S, MovieStar M
WHERE  S.starName = M.name
GROUP BY movieTitle
HAVING count(S.starName) > 5
```

RA ?

$\sigma_{\text{numStars} > 5}(\text{Relation } Y_{M.\text{movieTitle}, \text{count}(S.\text{starName}) \rightarrow \text{numStars}}(\rho_S(\text{StarsIn}) \bowtie_{S.\text{starName} = M.\text{name}} \rho_M(\text{MovieStar})))$

Subqueries

```
SELECT *  
FROM huge  
WHERE c1 IN  
      (SELECT c1 FROM tiny)
```

Loop over huge (optimizer has no choice)

V.S.

```
SELECT *  
FROM huge h, tiny t  
WHERE h.c1=t.c1
```

Optimizer has more choices

Which query is better ?

PostgreSQL Source Code git master



Main Page	Namespaces ▾	Data Structures ▾	Files ▾
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">foreignjitliblibpqmainnodesoptimizer<ul style="list-style-type: none">geqopathplan<ul style="list-style-type: none">analyzejoins.ccreateplan.cinitsplan.cplanagg.cplanmain.cplanner.csetrefs.csubselect.cpreputilparser		<pre>645 /* 646 * If there is a WITH list, process each WITH query and either convert it 647 * to RTE_SUBQUERY RTE(s) or build an initplan SubPlan structure for it. 648 */ 649 if (parse->cteList) 650 SS_process_ctes(root); 651 652 /* 653 * If the FROM clause is empty, replace it with a dummy RTE RESULT RTE, so 654 * that we don't need so many special cases to deal with that situation. 655 */ 656 replace_empty_jointree(parse); 657 658 /* 659 * Look for ANY and EXISTS SubLinks in WHERE and JOIN/ON clauses, and try 660 * to transform them into joins. Note that this step does not descend 661 * into subqueries; if we pull up any subqueries below, their SubLinks are 662 * processed just before pulling them up. 663 */ 664 if (parse->hasSubLinks) 665 pull_up_sublinks(root); 666 667 /* 668 * Scan the rangetable for function RTEs, do const-simplification on them, 669 * and then inline them if possible (producing subqueries that might get 670 * pulled up next). Recursion issues here are handled in the same way as 671 * for SubLinks. 672 */ 673 preprocess_function_rtes(root); 674 675 /* 676 * Check to see if any subqueries in the jointree can be merged into this 677 * query. 678 */ 679 pull_up_subqueries(root); 680</pre>

Subquery processing and transformations

Subqueries are notoriously expensive to evaluate. This section describes some of the transformations that Derby makes internally to reduce the cost of evaluating them.

[Materialization](#)

Materialization means that a subquery is evaluated only once. There are several types of subqueries that can be materialized.

[Flattening a subquery into a normal join](#)

[Flattening a subquery into an EXISTS join](#)

[Flattening VALUES subqueries](#)

[DISTINCT elimination in IN, ANY, and EXISTS subqueries](#)

[IN/ANY subquery transformation](#)

Parent topic: [Internal language transformations](#)

Related concepts

[Predicate transformations](#)

[Transitive closure](#)

Subqueries

We can always normalize subqueries to use only **EXISTS** and **NOT EXISTS** [Van den Bussche, Vansummeren]^{1,2}

```
SELECT movieTitle FROM StarsIn
WHERE starName IN (SELECT name
                   FROM MovieStar
                   WHERE birthdate=1960)
```

```
⇒  SELECT movieTitle FROM StarsIn
    WHERE EXISTS (SELECT name
                  FROM MovieStar
                  WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name=starName)
```

1 Only valid for **set-based** Relations

2 https://cs.ulb.ac.be/public/_media/teaching/infoh417/sql2alg_eng.pdf

Subqueries

We can always normalize subqueries to use only **EXISTS** and **NOT EXISTS** [Van den Bussche, Vansummeren]^{1,2}

```
SELECT name FROM MovieExec
WHERE netWorth >= ALL (SELECT E.netWorth
                       FROM MovieExec E)
```

```
⇒ SELECT name FROM MovieExec
   WHERE NOT EXISTS(SELECT E.netWorth
                    FROM MovieExec E
                    WHERE netWorth < E.netWorth)
```

1 Only valid for set-based Relations

2 https://cs.ulb.ac.be/public/_media/teaching/infoh417/sql2alg_eng.pdf

Subqueries

We can always normalize subqueries to use only **EXISTS** and **NOT EXISTS** [Van den Bussche, Vansummeren]^{1,2}

```
SELECT C FROM S
WHERE C IN (SELECT SUM(B) FROM R
            GROUP BY A)
```

⇒ ?

1 Only valid for set-based Relations

2 https://cs.ulb.ac.be/public/_media/teaching/infoh417/sql2alg_eng.pdf

Subqueries

We can always normalize subqueries to use only **EXISTS** and **NOT EXISTS** [Van den Bussche, Vansummeren]^{1,2}

```
SELECT C FROM S
WHERE C IN (SELECT SUM(B) FROM R
           GROUP BY A)
```

```
⇒ SELECT C FROM S
   WHERE EXISTS (SELECT SUM(B) FROM R
                GROUP BY A
                HAVING SUM(B) = C)
```

1 Only valid for set-based Relations

2 https://cs.ulb.ac.be/public/_media/teaching/infoh417/sql2alg_eng.pdf

Normalization

- Before translating a query we first **normalize** it such that all of the subqueries that occur in a WHERE condition are of the form EXISTS or NOT EXISTS.
- We may hence assume without loss of generality in what follows that all subqueries



Correlated Subqueries

A subquery can refer to attributes of relations that are introduced in an outer query.

```
SELECT movieTitle
FROM StarsIn S
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT name
              FROM MovieStar
              WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name=S.starName)
```

- The “outer” relations are called the **context relations** of the subquery.
- The set of all attributes of all context relations of a subquery are called **the parameters of the subquery.**

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
             FROM MovieStar
             WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
            FROM MovieStar
            WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

First translate the subquery

$\pi_{\text{name}} \sigma_{\text{birthdate}=1960 \wedge \text{name}=\text{S.starName}}(\text{MovieStar})$

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
            FROM MovieStar
            WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Fix: add the context relation and parameters

$$\pi_{\text{name}, S.\text{movieTitle}, S.\text{movieYear}, S.\text{starName}} \sigma_{\text{birthdate}=1960 \wedge \text{name}=S.\text{starName}} (\text{MovieStar} \times \rho_S (\text{StarsIn}))$$

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
            FROM MovieStar
            WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Next, translate the FROM clause of the outer query

$$\rho_S(\text{StarsIn}) \times \rho_M(\text{Movie})$$

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
            FROM MovieStar
            WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Synchronize both expressions by means of a join.

$$\rho_S(\text{StarsIn}) \times \rho_M(\text{Movie}) \bowtie$$
$$\pi_{\text{name}, S.\text{movieTitle}, S.\text{movieYear}, S.\text{starName}}$$
$$\sigma_{\text{birthdate}=1960 \wedge \text{name}=S.\text{starName}}(\text{MovieStar} \times \rho_S(\text{StarsIn}))$$

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
            FROM MovieStar
            WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Simplify

$\rho_M(\text{Movie}) \bowtie$

$\pi_{S.\text{movieTitle}, S.\text{movieYear}, S.\text{starName}}$

$\sigma_{\text{birthdate}=1960 \wedge \text{name}=S.\text{starName}}(\text{MovieStar} \times \rho_S(\text{StarsIn}))$

Translation of correlated select-from-where subqueries

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
             FROM MovieStar
             WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

Complete the expression

$\pi_{S.movieTitle, M.studioName} \sigma_{S.movieYear \geq 2000 \wedge S.movieTitle = M.title}$
 $\rho_M(Movie) \bowtie$

$\pi_{S.movieTitle, S.movieYear, S.starName}$

$\sigma_{birthdate=1960 \wedge name=S.starName} (MovieStar \times$

Wait !

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
             FROM MovieStar
             WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

SQL Result ?

```
Movie
=====
title studioName  movieYear
-----
DBSA      ULB      2005
```

```
StartsIn
=====
starName  movieTitle
-----
Foo              DBSA
```

```
MovieStar
=====
name firstname birthdate
-----
Foo    Bar      1960
Foo    Baz      1960
```


Wait !

```
SELECT S.movieTitle, M.studioName
FROM StarsIn S, Movie M
WHERE S.movieYear >= 2000
AND S.movieTitle = M.title
AND EXISTS (SELECT name
             FROM MovieStar
             WHERE birthdate=1960 AND name= S.starName)
```

SQL Result ?

movieTitle	studioName
DBSA	ULB

Movie		
=====		
title	studioName	movieYear

DBSA	ULB	2005

StartsIn	
=====	
starName	movieTitle

Foo	DBSA

MovieStar		
=====		
name	firstname	birthdate

Foo	Bar	1960
Foo	Baz	1960

Wait !

```

$$\pi_{S.movieTitle, M.studioName}$$

$$\sigma_{S.movieYear \geq 2000 \wedge S.movieTitle = M.title}$$

$$\rho_M(Movie) \bowtie$$

$$\pi_{S.movieTitle, S.movieYear, S.starName}$$

$$\sigma_{birthdate = 1960 \wedge name = S.starName}$$

$$MovieStar \times \rho_S(StarsIn))$$

```

RA Result ?

```
Movie
=====
title studioName  movieYear
-----
DBSA      ULB      2005
```

```
StarsIn
=====
starName  movieTitle
-----
Foo      DBSA
```

```
MovieStar
=====
name firstname birthdate
-----
Foo    Bar    1960
Foo    Baz    1960
```

Wait !

$\pi_{S.movieTitle, M.studioName}$
 $\sigma_{S.movieYear \geq 2000 \wedge S.movieTitle = M.title}$
 $\rho_M(Movie) \bowtie$
 $\pi_{S.movieTitle, S.movieYear, S.starName}$
 $\sigma_{birthdate = 1960 \wedge name = S.starName}$
 $MovieStar \times \rho_S(StarsIn))$

RA Result ?

movieTitle	studioName
DBSA	ULB
DBSA	ULB

Only for set-based flattening

Movie		
=====		
title	studioName	movieYear

DBSA	ULB	2005

StarsIn	
=====	
starName	movieTitle

Foo	DBSA

MovieStar		
=====		
name	firstname	birthdate

Foo	Bar	1960
Foo	Baz	1960

Wait !

$\pi_{S.movieTitle, M.studioName}$
 $\sigma_{S.movieYear \geq 2000 \wedge S.movieTitle = M.title}$
 $\rho_M(Movie) \bowtie$
 $\pi_{S.movieTitle, S.movieYear, S.starName}$
 $\sigma_{birthdate = 1960 \wedge name = S.starName}$
 $(MovieStar \times \rho_S(StarsIn))$

RA Result ?

movieTitle	studioName
DBSA	ULB
DBSA	ULB

title	studioName	movieYear
DBSA	ULB	2005

starName	movieTitle
Foo	DBSA

name	firstname	birthdate
Foo	Bar	1960
Foo	Baz	1960

Flattening Subqueries in Bag-based Relations (probably all vendor implementations)

The requirements for flattening into a normal join are:

- There is a **uniqueness** condition that ensures that the subquery does not introduce any duplicates if it is flattened into the outer query block.
- Each table in the subquery's FROM list (after any view, derived table, or subquery flattening) must be a **base table**.
- The subquery is not under an **OR**.
- The subquery is not in the SELECT list of the outer query block.
- The subquery type is EXISTS, IN, or ANY, or it is an expression subquery on the right side of a comparison operator.

Flattening Subqueries in **Bag-based** Relations (probably all vendor implementations)

- There are no aggregates in the SELECT list of the subquery.
- The subquery does not have a GROUP BY clause.
- The subquery does not have an ORDER BY, result offset, or fetch first clause.
- If there is a WHERE clause in the subquery, there is at least one table in the subquery whose columns are in equality predicates with expressions that do not include any column references from the subquery block. These columns must be a superset of the key columns for any unique index on the table. For all other tables in the subquery, the columns in equality predicates with expressions that do not include columns from the same table are a superset of the unique columns for any unique index on the table.

System R: Relational Approach to Database Management

M. M. ASTRAHAN, M. W. BLASGEN, D. D. CHAMBERLIN,
K. P. ESWARAN, J. N. GRAY, P. P. GRIFFITHS,
W. F. KING, R. A. LORIE, P. R. MCJONES, J. W. MEHL,
G. R. PUTZOLU, I. L. TRAIGER, B. W. WADE, AND V. WATSON

IBM Research Laboratory

To read before the next lecture. We will discuss it in the lecture. Only read until end of The Optimizer section (unless you fall in love with it)

<https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~zives/cis650/papers/System-R.PDF>

Credits

Many slides are copied from:

- Stijn Vansummeren, Database Systems Architecture course slides.