3. User Interfaces and SQL Language (1/4)

User interface of DBMS

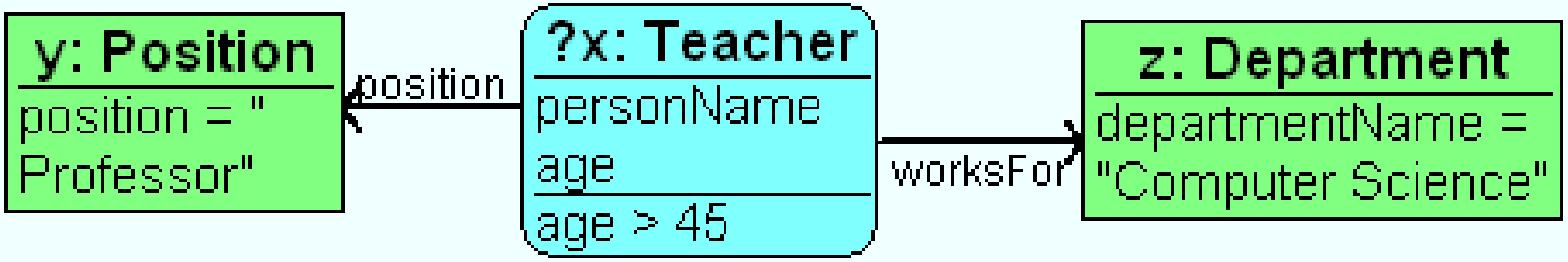
- A DBMS must offer some interfaces to support user to access database, including:
  - Query Languages
  - Interface and maintaining tools (GUI)
  - APIs
  - Class Library
- Query Languages
  - Formal Query Language
  - Tabular Query Language
  - Graphic Query Language
  - Limited Natural Language Query Language

Example of TQL & GQL

Find the names of all students in the department of Info. Science

Student	Sno	Sname	Ssex	Sage	Sdept
		P.T			IS

PRINT — Domain Variables — Conditions



Find all Teachers, which have position="Professor" and which have age>"45" and which work for department="Computer Science"

Relational Query Languages

- Query languages: Allow manipulation and retrieval of data from a database.
- Relational model supports simple, powerful QLs:
  - Strong formal foundation based on logic.
  - Allows for much optimization.
- Query Languages **!=** programming languages!
  - QLs not expected to be "Turing complete".
  - QLs not intended to be used for complex calculations.
  - QLs support easy, efficient access to large data sets.

Formal Relational Query Languages

- Two mathematical Query Languages form the basis for "real" languages (e.g. SQL), and for implementation:
  - *Relational Algebra*: More operational, very useful for representing execution plans.
  - *Relational Calculus*: Lets users describe what they want, rather than how to compute it. (Non-operational, *declarative*.)
- The most successful relational database language --- SQL (Structured Query Language, Standard Query Language(1986))

SQL Language

- It can be divided into four parts according to functions.
  - Data Definition Language (DDL), used to define, delete, or alter data schema.
  - Query Language (QL), used to retrieve data
  - Data Manipulation Language (DML), used to insert, delete, or update data.
  - Data Control Language (DCL), used to control user's access authority to data.
- QL and DML are introduced in detail in this chapter.

Important terms and concepts

- Base table
- View
- Data type supported
- NULL
- UNIQUE
- DEFAULT
- PRIMARY KEY
- FOREIGN KEY
- CHECK (Integration Constraint)

Example Instances

- We will use these instances of the Sailors, Reserves and Boats relations in our examples.

R1

sid	bid	day
22	101	10/10/96
58	103	11/12/96

B1

bid	bname	color
101	tiger	red
103	lion	green
105	hero	blue

S1

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0

S2

sid	sname	rating	age
28	yuppy	9	35.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
44	guppy	5	35.0
58	rusty	10	35.0

Basic SQL Query

SELECT	[DISTINCT] *target-list*
FROM	*relation-list*
WHERE	*qualification*

- *relation-list* A list of relation names (possibly with a *range-variable* after each name).
- *target-list* A list of attributes of relations in *relation-list*
- *qualification* Comparisons combined using AND, OR and NOT.
- DISTINCT is an optional keyword indicating that the answer should not contain duplicates. Default is that duplicates are *not* eliminated!

Conceptual Evaluation Strategy

- Semantics of an SQL query defined in terms of the following conceptual evaluation strategy:
  - Compute the cross-product of *relation-list*.
  - Discard resulting tuples if they fail *qualifications*.
  - Delete attributes that are not in *target-list*.
  - If DISTINCT is specified, eliminate duplicate rows.
- This strategy is probably the least efficient way to compute a query! An optimizer will find more efficient strategies to compute *the same answers*.

Simple Example

```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM    Sailors S, Reserves R
WHERE   S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=103
```

(sid)	sname	rating	age	(sid)	bid	day
22	dustin	7	45.0	22	101	10/10/96
22	dustin	7	45.0	58	103	11/12/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	22	101	10/10/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	58	103	11/12/96
58	rusty	10	35.0	22	101	10/10/96
58	**rusty**	10	35.0	58	103	11/12/96

result

A Note on Range Variables

- Really needed only if the same relation appears twice in the FROM clause. The previous query can also be written as:

```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM    Sailors S, Reserves R
WHERE   S.sid=R.sid AND bid=103
```

OR

```
SELECT  sname
FROM    Sailors, Reserves
WHERE   Sailors.sid=Reserves.sid
          AND bid=103
```

It is good style, however, to use range variables always!

Find sailors who've reserved at least one boat

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid
```

- Would adding DISTINCT to this query make a difference?
- What is the effect of replacing *S.sid* by *S.sname* in the SELECT clause? Would adding DISTINCT to this variant of the query make a difference?

Expressions and Strings

```
SELECT  S.age, age1=S.age-5, 2*S.age AS age2
FROM  Sailors S
WHERE  S.sname LIKE 'B_%B'
```

- Illustrates use of arithmetic expressions and string pattern matching: *Find triples (of ages of sailors and two fields defined by expressions) for sailors whose names begin and end with B and contain at least three characters.*
- AS and = are two ways to name fields in result.
- LIKE is used for string matching. '_' stands for any one character and '%' stands for 0 or more arbitrary characters.

Find sid's of sailors who've reserved a red or a green boat

- UNION: Can be used to compute the union of any two *union-compatible* sets of tuples (which are themselves the result of SQL queries).
- If we replace OR by AND in the first version, what do we get?
- Also available: EXCEPT (What do we get if we replace UNION by EXCEPT?)

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid
  AND (B.color='red' OR B.color='green')
```

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid
            AND B.color='red'
UNION
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid
            AND B.color='green'
```

Find sid's of sailors who've reserved a red and a green boat

- INTERSECT: Can be used to compute the intersection of any two *union-compatible* sets of tuples.
- Included in the SQL/92 standard, but some systems don't support it.
- Contrast symmetry of the UNION and INTERSECT queries with how much the other versions differ.

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B1, Reserves R1,
          Boats B2, Reserves R2
WHERE  S.sid=R1.sid AND R1.bid=B1.bid
   AND  S.sid=R2.sid  AND R2.bid=B2.bid
   AND (B1.color='red' AND
          B2.color='green')
```

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid
          AND B.color='red'
INTERSECT
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid
          AND B.color='green'
```

Nested Queries

Find names of sailors who've reserved boat #103:

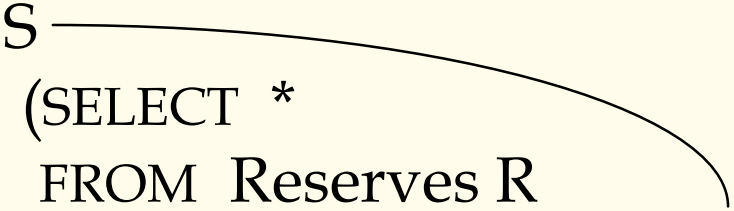
```
SELECT S.sname
FROM Sailors S
WHERE S.sid IN (SELECT R.sid
                FROM Reserves R
                WHERE R.bid=103)
```

- A very powerful feature of SQL: a WHERE clause can itself contain an SQL query! (Actually, so can FROM and HAVING clauses.)
- To find sailors who've *not* reserved #103, use NOT IN.
- To understand semantics of nested queries, think of a *nested loops* evaluation: *For each Sailors tuple, check the qualification by computing the subquery.*

Nested Queries with Correlation

Find names of sailors who've reserved boat #103:

```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM    Sailors S
WHERE   EXISTS  (SELECT  *
                 FROM  Reserves R
                 WHERE  R.bid=103 AND S.sid=R.sid)
```

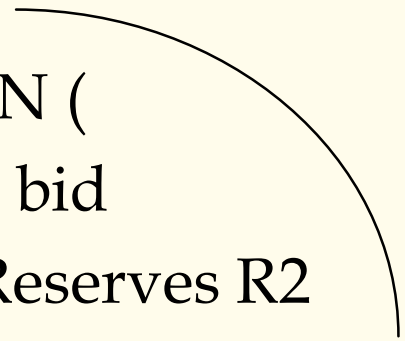


- EXISTS is another set comparison operator, like IN.
- Illustrates why, in general, subquery must be re-computed for each Sailors tuple.
- How to *find names of sailors who've reserved boat #103 and reserved only one time*?

Nested Queries with Correlation

- *Find IDs of boats which are reserved by only one sailor.*

```
SELECT bid
FROM Reserves R1
WHERE bid NOT IN (
        SELECT bid
        FROM Reserves R2
        WHERE R2.sid ¬= R1.sid)
```



More on Set-Comparison Operators

- We've already seen IN, EXISTS and UNIQUE. Can also use NOT IN, NOT EXISTS and NOT UNIQUE.
- Also available: *op* ANY, *op* ALL, *op* IN
  <,>,=,≤,≥,≠
- *Find sailors whose rating is greater than that of some sailor called Horatio*:

```
SELECT  *
FROM  Sailors S
WHERE  S.rating > ANY  (SELECT  S2.rating
                        FROM  Sailors S2
                        WHERE S2.sname='Horatio')
```

Rewriting INTERSECT Queries Using IN

Find sid's of sailors who've reserved both a red and a green boat:

```
SELECT  S.sid
FROM  Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
WHERE  S.sid=R.sid AND R.bid=B.bid AND B.color='red'
        AND S.sid IN  (SELECT  S2.sid
                       FROM  Sailors S2, Boats B2, Reserves R2
                       WHERE  S2.sid=R2.sid AND R2.bid=B2.bid
                              AND  B2.color='green')
```

- Similarly, EXCEPT queries re-written using NOT IN.
- To find *names* (not *sid*'s) of Sailors who've reserved both red and green boats, just replace *S.sid* by *S.sname* in SELECT clause. (What about INTERSECT query?)

Division in SQL

Find sailors who've reserved all boats.

Solution 1:

```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM  Sailors S
WHERE  NOT EXISTS
          ((SELECT  B.bid
            FROM  Boats B)
           EXCEPT
            (SELECT  R.bid
             FROM  Reserves R
             WHERE  R.sid=S.sid))
```

Division in SQL

Solution 2:

Let's do it the hard way, without EXCEPT:

```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM  Sailors S
WHERE  NOT EXISTS  (SELECT  B.bid
                    FROM  Boats B
                    WHERE  NOT EXISTS  (SELECT  R.bid
                                        FROM  Reserves R
                                        WHERE  R.bid=B.bid
                                            AND R.sid=S.sid))
```

Sailors S such that ...

there is no boat B without ...

a Reserves tuple showing S reserved B