

Relational Algebra

Chapter 4, Part A

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Relational Query Languages

- * <u>Query languages</u>: 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.

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Formal Relational Query Languages

- Two mathematical Query Languages form the basis for "real" languages (e.g. SQL), and for implementation:
 - <u>Relational Algebra</u>: More operational, very useful for representing execution plans.
 - <u>Relational Calculus</u>: Lets users describe what they want, rather than how to compute it. (Nonoperational, <u>declarative</u>.)

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Preliminaries

- * A query is applied to relation instances, and the result of a query is also a relation instance.
 - Schemas of input relations for a query are fixed (but query will run regardless of instance!)
 - The schema for the *result* of a given query is also fixed! Determined by definition of query language constructs.
- Positional vs. named-field notation:
 - · Positional notation easier for formal definitions, named-field notation more readable.
 - Both used in SOL

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Example Instances

- R1 sid bid <u>day</u> 22 101 10/10/96 58 103 11/12/96
- "Sailors" and "Reserves" relations for our examples. S1
- We'll use positional or named field notation, assume that names of fields in query results are `inherited' from names of fields in query input relations.

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

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

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Relational Algebra



- * Basic operations:
 - $\underline{Selection}$ (σ) Selects a subset of rows from relation.
 - ullet <u>Projection</u> ($\mathcal{\pi}$) Deletes unwanted columns from relation.
 - $\underline{Cross-product}$ (X) Allows us to combine two relations.
 - <u>Set-difference</u> (—) Tuples in reln. 1, but not in reln. 2.
 - \underline{Union} (\square) Tuples in reln. 1 and in reln. 2.
- * Additional operations:
 - Intersection, <u>join</u>, division, renaming: Not essential, but (very!) useful.
- * Since each operation returns a relation, operations can be composed! (Algebra is "closed".)

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Projection

- Deletes attributes that are not in projection list.
- Schema of result contains exactly the fields in the projection list, with the same names that they had in the (only) input relation.
- Projection operator has to eliminate duplicates! (Why??)
 - Note: real systems typically don't do duplicate elimination unless the user explicitly asks for it. (Why not?)

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rating	TY.
9	\
8	
5	
10	
	9 8 5

 $\pi_{sname,rating}(S2)$

age
35.0
55.5

 $\pi_{age}(S2)$

Selection

- * Selects rows that satisfy *selection condition*.
- No duplicates in result! (Why?)
- Schema of result identical to schema of (only) input relation.
- * Result relation can be the input for another relational algebra operation! (Operator composition.)

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sid	sname	rating	age	M
28	yuppy	9	35.0	ľ
58	rusty	10	35.0	

 $\sigma_{rating>8}$ (S2)

sname	rating
yuppy	9
rusty	10

 $\pi_{sname,rating}(\sigma_{rating>8}(S2))$

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Union, Intersection, Set-Difference

- All of these operations take two input relations, which must be <u>union-compatible</u>:
 - Same number of fields.
 - Corresponding' fields have the same type.
- * What is the schema of result?

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0

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sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0
44	guppy	5	35.0
28	yuppy	9	35.0

 $S1 \cup S2$

sid	0-111-	rating	age
31	lubber	8	55.5
58	rusty	10	35.0

S1−S2 S1∩S2

Cross-Product

- * Each row of S1 is paired with each row of R1.
- * Result schema has one field per field of S1 and R1, with field names `inherited' if possible.
 - Conflict: Both S1 and R1 have a field called sid.

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(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

Renaming operator: ρ (C(1→sid1,5→sid2), S1×R1)

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Joins

* Condition Join: $R \coprod_{c} S = \sigma_{c}(R \times S)$

(sid)	sname	rating	age			-
22	dustin	7	45.0	58	103	11/12/96 11/12/96
31	lubber	8	55.5	58	103	11/12/96

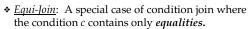
$$S1 \square_{S1.sid < R1.sid} R1$$

- ❖ *Result schema* same as that of cross-product.
- Fewer tuples than cross-product, might be able to compute more efficiently
- * Sometimes called a theta-join.

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Joins



e contained to contain only equiviles.							
	sid	sname	.,			-	
	22	dustin rusty	7	45.0	101	10/10/96	
	22 58	rusty	10	35.0	103	10/10/96 11/12/96	
	$S1 \square _{sid} R1$						

- * Result schema similar to cross-product, but only one copy of fields for which equality is specified.
- * Natural Join: Equijoin on all common fields.

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Division

 Not supported as a primitive operator, but useful for expressing queries like:

Find sailors who have reserved <u>all</u> boats.

- ❖ Let *A* have 2 fields, *x* and *y*; *B* have only field *y*:
 - $A/B = \{\langle x \rangle | \exists \langle x, y \rangle \in A \ \forall \langle y \rangle \in B \}$
 - i.e., A/B contains all x tuples (sailors) such that for <u>every</u> y tuple (boat) in B, there is an xy tuple in A.
 - *Or*: If the set of *y* values (boats) associated with an *x* value (sailor) in *A* contains all *y* values in *B*, the *x* value is in *A/B*.
- ❖ In general, x and y can be any lists of fields; y is the list of fields in B, and $x \cup y$ is the list of fields of A.

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Examples of Division A/B



	-		
sno pno	pno	pno	pno
s1 p1	p2	p2	p1
s1 p2 s1 p3	В1	p4	p2
s1 p3	DI	B2	p4
s1 p4		DZ	В3
s2 p1	sno		БЭ
s2 p1 s2 p2 s3 p2	s1	1	
s2 p2 s3 p2 s4 p2	s2	sno	
s4 p2	s3	s1	sno
s4 p4	s4	s4	s1
1	A/B1	A/B2	A/B3

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Expressing A/B Using Basic Operators

- * Division is not essential op; just a useful shorthand.
 - (Also true of joins, but joins are so common that systems implement joins specially.)
- ❖ *Idea*: For *A/B*, compute all *x* values that are not `disqualified' by some *y* value in *B*.
 - *x* value is *disqualified* if by attaching *y* value from *B*, we obtain an *xy* tuple that is not in *A*.

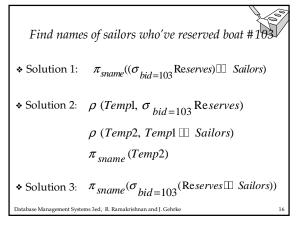
Disqualified x values: $\pi_{\chi}((\pi_{\chi}(A) \times B) - A)$

A/B: $\pi_{\chi}(A)$ – all disqualified tuples

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Find names of sailors who've reserved a red boat

 Information about boat color only available in Boats; so need an extra join:

 $\pi_{sname}((\sigma_{color='red}, Boats) \, \boxplus \, \operatorname{Re}serves \boxplus \, Sailors)$

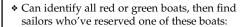
* A more efficient solution:

 $\pi_{sname}(\pi_{sid}((\pi_{bid}\sigma_{color} = red, Boats) \square \square Res) \square \square Sailors)$

A query optimizer can find this, given the first solution!

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Find sailors who've reserved a red or a green boar



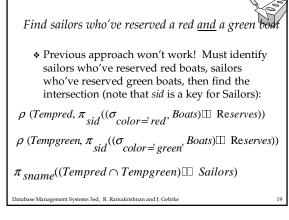
$$\rho~(Tempboats, (\sigma_{color = 'red' \vee color = 'green'}~Boats))$$

 $\pi_{sname}(Tempboats \boxplus \ \mathsf{Re}\,serves \boxplus \ Sailors)$

- * Can also define Tempboats using union! (How?)
- What happens if \vee is replaced by \wedge in this query?

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Find the names of sailors who've reserved all boats

 Uses division; schemas of the input relations to / must be carefully chosen:

 $\rho \ (Tempsids, (\pi_{sid,bid}^{Reserves}) / (\pi_{bid}^{Boats}))$

 π_{sname} (Tempsids \square Sailors)

❖ To find sailors who've reserved all 'Interlake' boats:

..... $/\pi_{bid}(\sigma_{bname='Interlake'}Boats)$

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Summary

- The relational model has rigorously defined query languages that are simple and powerful.
- Relational algebra is more operational; useful as internal representation for query evaluation plans.
- Several ways of expressing a given query; a query optimizer should choose the most efficient version.