Relational Algebra and SQL

Chapter 5

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Relational Query Languages

- Languages for describing queries on a relational database
- *Structured Query Language* (SQL)
  - Predominant application-level query language
  - Declarative
- *Relational Algebra*
  - Intermediate language used within DBMS
  - Procedural

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What is an Algebra?

- A language based on operators and a domain of values
- Operators map values taken from the domain into other domain values
- Hence, an expression involving operators and arguments produces a value in the domain
- When the domain is a set of all relations (and the operators are as described later), we get the *relational algebra*
- We refer to the expression as a *query* and the value produced as the *query result*

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Relational Algebra

- *Domain*: set of relations
- *Basic operators*: select, project, union, set difference, Cartesian product
- *Derived operators*: set intersection, division, join
- *Procedural*: Relational expression specifies query by describing an algorithm (the sequence in which operators are applied) for determining the result of an expression

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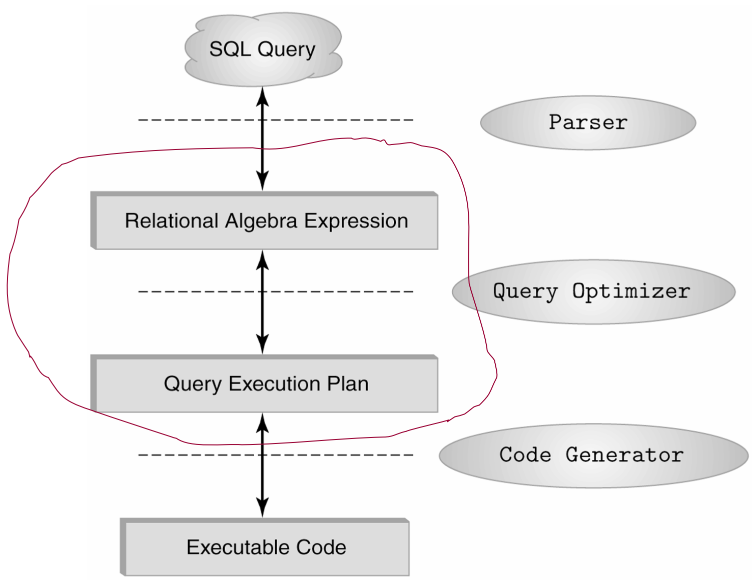
The Role of Relational Algebra in a DBMS



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Select Operator

- Produce table containing subset of rows of argument table satisfying condition

  $\sigma_{condition}\,(relation)$

- Example:

Person

Id	*Name*	*Address*	*Hobby*
1123	John	123 Main	stamps
1123	John	123 Main	coins
5556	Mary	7 Lake Dr	hiking
9876	Bart	5 Pine St	stamps

$\sigma_{Hobby=\text{'stamps'}}(\text{Person})$

Id	*Name*	*Address*	*Hobby*
1123	John	123 Main	stamps
9876	Bart	5 Pine St	stamps

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Selection Condition

- Operators: <, ≤, ≥, >, =, ≠
- Simple selection condition:
  - *<attribute> operator <constant>*
  - *<attribute> operator <attribute>*
- *<condition>* AND *<condition>*
- *<condition>* OR *<condition>*
- NOT *<condition>*

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Selection Condition - Examples

- $\sigma_{Id>3000 \text{ OR } Hobby=\text{'hiking'}}$ (Person)
- $\sigma_{Id>3000 \text{ AND } Id<3999}$ (Person)
- $\sigma_{\text{NOT}(Hobby=\text{'hiking'})}$ (Person)
- $\sigma_{Hobby\neq\text{'hiking'}}$ (Person)

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Project Operator

- Produces table containing subset of columns of argument table

$\pi_{attribute\ list}(relation)$

- Example:

Person

Id	*Name*	*Address*	*Hobby*
1123	John	123 Main	stamps
1123	John	123 Main	coins
5556	Mary	7 Lake Dr	hiking
9876	Bart	5 Pine St	stamps

$\pi_{Name,Hobby}$(Person)

Name	*Hobby*
John	stamps
John	coins
Mary	hiking
Bart	stamps

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Project Operator

- Example:

Person

Id	*Name*	*Address*	*Hobby*
1123	John	123 Main	stamps
1123	John	123 Main	coins
5556	Mary	7 Lake Dr	hiking
9876	Bart	5 Pine St	stamps

$\pi_{Name,Address}$(Person)

Name	*Address*
John	123 Main
Mary	7 Lake Dr
Bart	5 Pine St

Result is a table (no duplicates); can have fewer tuples than the original

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Expressions

$\pi_{Id, Name} (\sigma_{Hobby='stamps' \text{ OR } Hobby='coins'} (Person))$

Id	*Name*	*Address*	*Hobby*
1123	John	123 Main	stamps
1123	John	123 Main	coins
5556	Mary	7 Lake Dr	hiking
9876	Bart	5 Pine St	stamps

Person

Id	*Name*
1123	John
9876	Bart

Result

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Set Operators

- Relation is a set of tuples, so set operations should apply: $\cap$, $\cup$, $-$ (set difference)
- Result of combining two relations with a set operator is a relation => all its elements must be tuples having same structure
- Hence, scope of set operations limited to *union compatible relations*

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Union Compatible Relations

- Two relations are *union compatible* if
  - Both have same number of columns
  - Names of attributes are the same in both
  - Attributes with the same name in both relations have the same domain
- Union compatible relations can be combined using *union*, *intersection*, and *set difference*

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Example

Tables:

Person (*SSN*, *Name*, *Address*, *Hobby*)

Professor (*Id*, *Name*, *Office*, *Phone*)

are not union compatible.

But

π_{Name} (Person) and π_{Name} (Professor)

are union compatible so

π_{Name} (Person) - π_{Name} (Professor)

makes sense.

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Cartesian Product

- If R and S are two relations, $R \times S$ is the set of all concatenated tuples <*x*,*y*>, where x is a tuple in R and y is a tuple in S
  - R and S need not be union compatible
- $R \times S$ is <u>expensive to compute</u>:
  - Factor of two in the size of each row
  - Quadratic in the number of rows

A	*B*
x1	x2
x3	x4

R

C	*D*
y1	y2
y3	y4

S

A	*B*	*C*	*D*
x1	x2	y1	y2
x1	x2	y3	y4
x3	x4	y1	y2
x3	x4	y3	y4

$R \times S$

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Renaming

- Result of expression evaluation is a relation
- Attributes of relation must have distinct names. This is not guaranteed with Cartesian product
  - e.g., suppose in previous example *a* and *c* have the same name
- Renaming operator tidies this up. To assign the names $A_1, A_2, \ldots A_n$ to the attributes of the n column relation produced by expression *expr* use

$$expr\ [A_1, A_2, \ldots A_n]$$

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Example

Transcript (*StudId*, *CrsCode*, *Semester*, *Grade*)
Teaching (*ProfId*, *CrsCode*, *Semester*)

$\pi_{StudId, CrsCode}$ (Transcript)[*StudId*, *CrsCode1*]
$\times$ $\pi_{ProfId, CrsCode}$(Teaching) [*ProfId*, *CrsCode2*]

This is a relation with 4 attributes:
StudId, *CrsCode1*, *ProfId*, *CrsCode2*

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Derived Operation: Join

A (*general* or *theta*) *join* of R and S is the expression

$$R \bowtie_{join\text{-}condition} S$$

where *join-condition* is a *conjunction* of terms:

$$A_i \ \ oper\ B_i$$

in which A_i is an attribute of R; B_i is an attribute of S; and *oper* is one of =, <, >, ≥ ≠, ≤.

The meaning is:

$$\sigma_{join\text{-}condition'}\ (R \times S)$$

where *join-condition* and *join-condition*´ are the same, except for possible renamings of attributes (next)

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Join and Renaming

- **Problem**: *R* and *S* might have attributes with the same name – in which case the Cartesian product is not defined
- **Solutions**:
  1. Rename attributes prior to forming the product and use new names in *join-condition*´.
  2. Qualify common attribute names with relation names (thereby disambiguating the names). For instance: Transcript.*CrsCode* or Teaching.*CrsCode*
     – This solution is nice, but doesn't always work: consider

$$R \bowtie_{join\_condition} R$$

In *R.A*, how do we know which R is meant?

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Theta Join – Example

Employee(*Name*,*Id*,*MngrId*,*Salary*)
Manager(*Name*,*Id*,*Salary*)

Output the names of all employees that earn more than their managers.

$$\pi_{\text{Employee}.Name}(\text{Employee} \bowtie_{MngrId=Id \text{ AND } Salary>Salary} \text{Manager})$$

The join yields a table with attributes:

Employee.*Name*, Employee.*Id*, Employee.*Salary*, *MngrId*
Manager.*Name*, Manager.*Id*, Manager.*Salary*

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Equijoin Join - Example

Equijoin: Join condition is a conjunction of *equalities*.

$\pi_{Name,CrsCode}(\text{Student} \bowtie_{Id=StudId} \sigma_{Grade='A'}(\text{Transcript}))$

Student

Id	*Name*	*Addr*	*Status*
111	John	…..	…..
222	Mary	…..	…..
333	Bill	…..	…..
444	Joe	…..	…..

Transcript

StudId	*CrsCode*	*Sem*	*Grade*
111	CSE305	S00	B
222	CSE306	S99	A
333	CSE304	F99	A

Mary	CSE306
Bill	CSE304

The equijoin is used very frequently since it combines related data in different relations.

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Natural Join

- Special case of equijoin:
  - join condition equates *all* and *only* those attributes with the same name (condition doesn't have to be explicitly stated)
  - duplicate columns eliminated from the result

Transcript (*StudId*, *CrsCode*, *Sem*, *Grade*)
Teaching (*ProfId*, *CrsCode*, *Sem*)

Transcript $\bowtie$ Teaching =

$\pi_{StudId,\ Transcript.CrsCode,\ Transcript.Sem,\ Grade,\ ProfId}$
(Transcript $\bowtie_{CrsCode=CrsCode \text{ AND } Sem=Sem}$ Teaching)
[*StudId*, *CrsCode*, *Sem*, *Grade*, *ProfId*]

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Natural Join (cont'd)

- More generally:

$$R \bowtie S = \pi_{attr\text{-}list} (\sigma_{join\text{-}cond} (R \times S))$$

where

attr-list = *attributes* (R) $\cup$ *attributes* (S)

(duplicates are eliminated) and *join-cond* has the form:

$A_1 = A_1$ AND … AND $A_n = A_n$

where

$\{A_1 \ldots A_n\}$ = *attributes*(R) $\cap$ *attributes*(S)

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Natural Join Example

- List all Ids of students who took at least two different courses:

$$\pi_{StudId} (\sigma_{CrsCode \neq CrsCode2} (\text{Transcript} \bowtie \text{Transcript} [StudId, CrsCode2, Sem2, Grade2]))$$

We don't want to join on *CrsCode*, *Sem*, and *Grade* attributes, hence renaming!

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Division

- Goal: Produce the tuples in one relation, r, that match *all* tuples in another relation, s
  - $r\ (A_1, \ldots A_n, B_1, \ldots B_m)$
  - $s\ (B_1 \ldots B_m)$
  - *r/s*, with attributes $A_1, \ldots A_n$, is the set of all tuples <*a*> such that for every tuple <*b*> in *s*, <*a,b*> is in *r*
- Can be expressed in terms of projection, set difference, and cross-product

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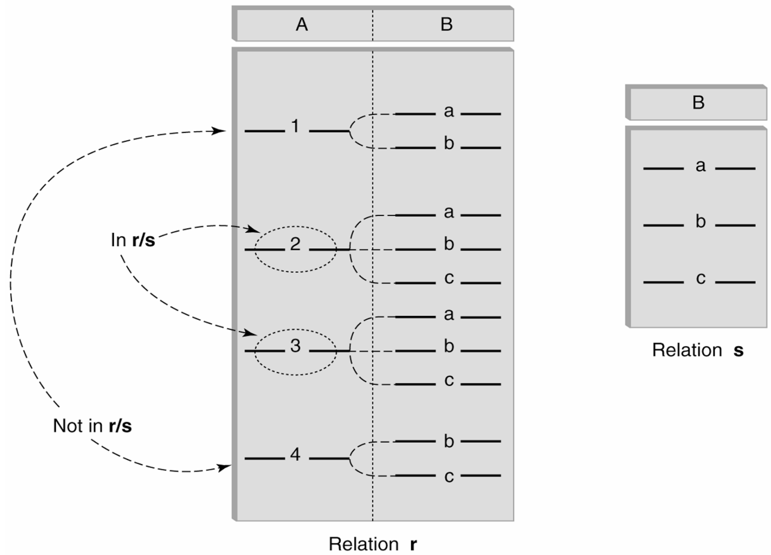
Division (cont'd)



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Division - Example

- List the Ids of students who have passed <u>*all*</u> courses that were taught in spring 2000
- *Numerator*:
  - *StudId* and *CrsCode* for every course passed by every student:

$$\pi_{StudId,\ CrsCode}(\sigma_{Grade \neq \text{'F'}}(\text{Transcript}))$$

- *Denominator*:
  - *CrsCode* of all courses taught in spring 2000

$$\pi_{CrsCode}(\sigma_{Semester = \text{'S2000'}}(\text{Teaching}))$$

- Result is *numerator/denominator*

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Schema for Student Registration System

Student (*Id, Name, Addr, Status*)
Professor (*Id, Name, DeptId*)
Course (*DeptId, CrsCode, CrsName, Descr*)
Transcript (*StudId, CrsCode, Semester, Grade*)
Teaching (*ProfId, CrsCode, Semester*)
Department (*DeptId, Name*)

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Query Sublanguage of SQL

```
SELECT C.CrsName
FROM Course C
WHERE C.DeptId = 'CS'
```

- *Tuple variable* C ranges over rows of Course.
- Evaluation strategy:
  - FROM clause produces Cartesian product of listed tables
  - WHERE clause assigns rows to C in sequence and produces table containing only rows satisfying condition
  - SELECT clause retains listed columns
- Equivalent to: $\pi_{CrsName}\sigma_{DeptId=\text{'CS'}}(\text{Course})$

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Join Queries

```
SELECT C.CrsName
FROM Course C, Teaching T
WHERE C.CrsCode=T.CrsCode AND T.Semester='S2000'
```

- List CS courses taught in S2000
- Tuple variables clarify meaning.
- Join condition "C.*CrsCode*=T.*CrsCode*"
  - relates facts to each other
- Selection condition " T.*Semester*='S2000' "
  - eliminates irrelevant rows
- Equivalent (using natural join) to:

$$\pi_{CrsName}(\text{Course} \bowtie \sigma_{Semester=\text{'S2000'}}(\text{Teaching}))$$

$$\pi_{CrsName}(\sigma_{Sem=\text{'S2000'}}(\text{Course} \bowtie \text{Teaching}))$$

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Correspondence Between SQL and Relational Algebra

SELECT C.*CrsName*
FROM Course C, Teaching T
WHERE C.*CrsCode* = T.*CrsCode* AND T.*Semester* = 'S2000'

Also equivalent to:

$$\pi_{CrsName}\ \sigma_{C\_CrsCode=T\_CrsCode\ AND\ Semester='S2000'}$$
$$(\text{Course}\ [C\_CrsCode, DeptId, CrsName, Desc]$$
$$\times\ \text{Teaching}\ [ProfId, T\_CrsCode, Semester])$$

- This is the simplest evaluation algorithm for SELECT.
- Relational algebra expressions are procedural.
  - Which of the two equivalent expressions is more easily evaluated?

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Self-join Queries

Find Ids of all professors who taught at least two courses in the same semester:

SELECT T1.*ProfId*
FROM Teaching T1, Teaching T2
WHERE T1.*ProfId* = T2.*ProfId*
AND T1.*Semester* = T2.*Semester*
AND T1.*CrsCode* <> T2.*CrsCode*

Tuple variables are essential in this query!

Equivalent to:

$$\pi_{ProfId}\,(\sigma_{T1.CrsCode \neq T2.CrsCode}(\text{Teaching}[ProfId, T1.CrsCode, Semester] \bowtie \text{Teaching}[ProfId, T2.CrsCode, Semester]))$$

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Duplicates

- Duplicate rows not allowed in a relation
- However, duplicate elimination from query result is costly and not done by default; must be explicitly requested:

```
SELECT DISTINCT …..
FROM …..
```

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Use of Expressions

Equality and comparison operators apply to strings (based on lexical ordering)

WHERE S.*Name* < ‘P’

Concatenate operator applies to strings

WHERE S.*Name* || ‘--’ || S. *Address* = …

Expressions can also be used in SELECT clause:

```
SELECT  S.Name || ‘--’ || S. Address AS NmAdd
FROM  Student S
```

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Set Operators

- SQL provides UNION, EXCEPT (set difference), and INTERSECT for union compatible tables
- Example: Find all professors in the CS Department and all professors that have taught CS courses

```
(SELECT   P.Name
 FROM   Professor P, Teaching T
 WHERE  P.Id=T.ProfId AND T.CrsCode LIKE 'CS%')
UNION
(SELECT  P.Name
 FROM  Professor P
 WHERE  P.DeptId = 'CS')
```

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Nested Queries

List all courses that were not taught in S2000

```
SELECT C.CrsName
FROM Course C
WHERE C.CrsCode  NOT  IN
     (SELECT T.CrsCode      --subquery
      FROM Teaching T
      WHERE T.Sem = 'S2000')
```

Evaluation strategy: subquery evaluated once to produces set of courses taught in S2000. Each row (as C) tested against this set.

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Correlated Nested Queries

Output a row <*prof, dept*> if *prof* has taught a course in *dept.*

```
SELECT  P.Name, D.Name                    --outer query
  FROM Professor P, Department D
  WHERE  P.Id  IN
         -- set of  all ProfId's who have taught a course in D.DeptId
         (SELECT T.ProfId                         --subquery
          FROM Teaching T, Course C
          WHERE T.CrsCode=C.CrsCode  AND
                C.DeptId=D.DeptId          --correlation
         )
```

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Correlated Nested Queries (con't)

- Tuple variables T and C are *local* to subquery
- Tuple variables P and D are *global* to subquery
- *Correlation*: subquery uses a global variable, D
- The value of D.*DeptId* parameterizes an evaluation of the subquery
- Subquery must (at least) be re-evaluated for each distinct value of D.*DeptId*

- *Correlated queries can be expensive to evaluate*

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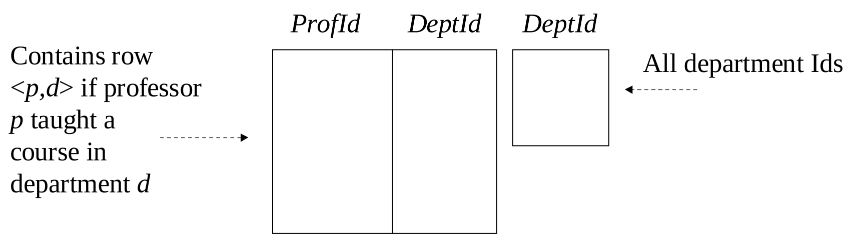
Division in SQL

- *Query type*: Find the subset of items in one set that are related to *all* items in another set
- *Example*: Find professors who taught courses in *all* departments
  - Why does this involve division?



$$\pi_{\text{ProfId,DeptId}}(\text{Teaching} \bowtie \text{Course}) \;/\; \pi_{\text{DeptId}}(\text{Department})$$

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Division in SQL

- *Strategy for implementing division in SQL*:
  - Find set, A, of all departments in which a particular professor, *p*, has taught a course
  - Find set, B, of all departments
  - Output *p* if A $\supseteq$ B, or, equivalently, if B–A is empty

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Division – SQL Solution

```
SELECT  P.Id
FROM  Professor P
WHERE NOT EXISTS
   (SELECT  D.DeptId          -- set B of all dept Ids
    FROM  Department D
        EXCEPT
    SELECT  C.DeptId          -- set A of dept Ids of depts in
                              -- which P taught a course
    FROM  Teaching T, Course C
    WHERE  T.ProfId=P.Id      -- global variable
        AND  T.CrsCode=C.CrsCode)
```

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Aggregates

- Functions that operate on sets:
  - COUNT, SUM, AVG, MAX, MIN
- Produce numbers (not tables)
- Not part of relational algebra (but not hard to add)

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM  Professor P
```

```
SELECT MAX (Salary)
FROM  Employee E
```

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Aggregates (cont'd)

Count the number of courses taught in S2000

```
SELECT COUNT (T.CrsCode)
FROM Teaching T
WHERE  T.Semester = 'S2000'
```

But if multiple sections of same course are taught, use:

```
SELECT COUNT (DISTINCT T.CrsCode)
FROM Teaching T
WHERE  T.Semester = 'S2000'
```

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Grouping

- But how do we compute the number of courses taught in S2000 *per professor*?
  - Strategy 1: Fire off a separate query for <u>each</u> professor:

```
SELECT   COUNT(T.CrsCode)
FROM     Teaching T
WHERE  T.Semester = 'S2000' AND T.ProfId = 123456789
```

- Cumbersome
- What if the number of professors changes? Add another query?
  - Strategy 2: define a special *grouping operator*:

```
SELECT     T.ProfId, COUNT(T.CrsCode)
FROM       Teaching  T
WHERE      T.Semester = 'S2000'
GROUP BY  T.ProfId
```

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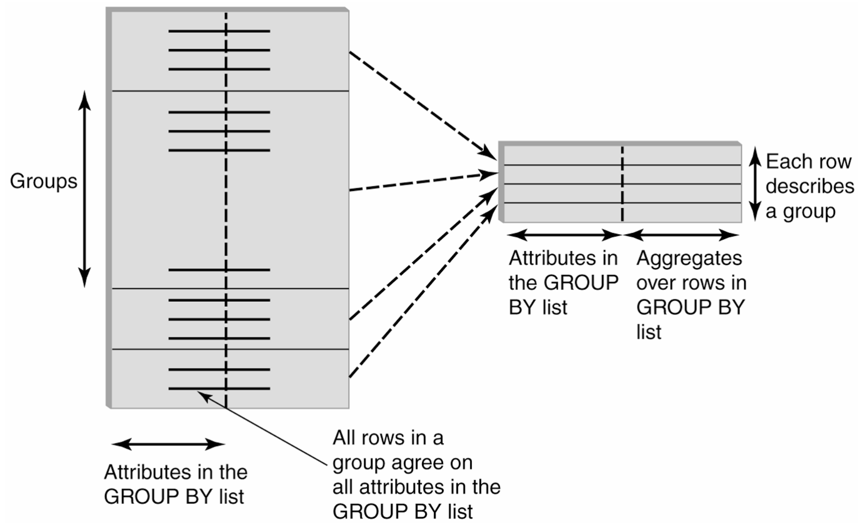
GROUP BY



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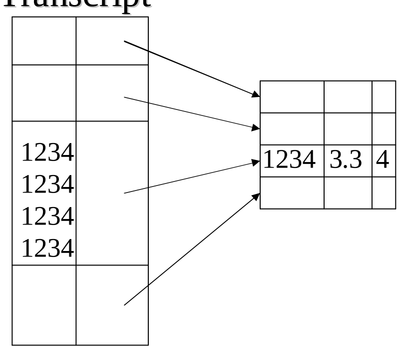
GROUP BY - Example

Transcript



Attributes:
- –student's *Id*
- –avg grade
- –number of courses

SELECT T.*StudId*, AVG(T.*Grade*), COUNT (*)
FROM Transcript T
GROUP BY T.*StudId*

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HAVING Clause

- Eliminates unwanted groups (analogous to WHERE clause, but works on groups instead of individual tuples)
- HAVING condition is constructed from attributes of GROUP BY list and aggregates on attributes not in that list

```
SELECT   T.StudId,
         AVG(T.Grade) AS CumGpa,
         COUNT (*) AS NumCrs
FROM     Transcript T
WHERE    T.CrsCode LIKE 'CS%'
GROUP BY T.StudId
HAVING   AVG (T.Grade) > 3.5
```

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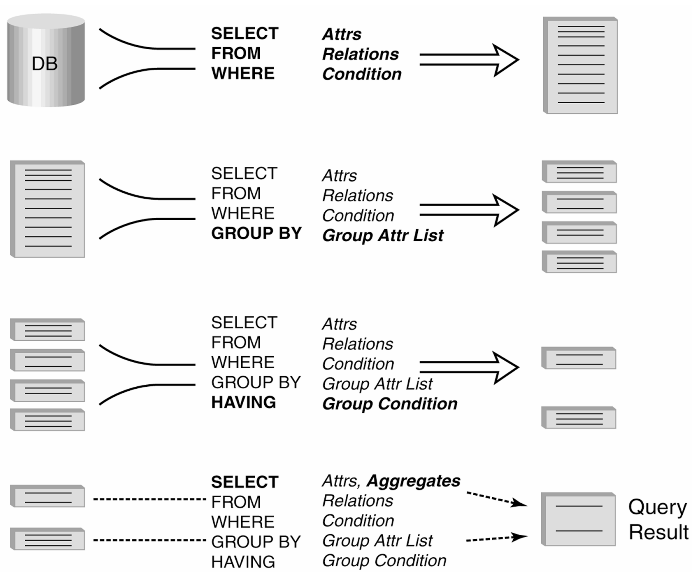
Evaluation of GroupBy with Having



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Example

- Output the name and address of all seniors on the Dean's List

SELECT S.*Id*, S.*Name*
FROM Student S, Transcript T
WHERE S.*Id* = T.*StudId* AND S.*Status* = 'senior'

GROUP BY < S.*Id* -- *wrong* / S.*Id*, S.*Name* -- *right*

Every attribute that occurs in SELECT *clause must also occur in* GROUP BY *or it must be an aggregate. S.Name does not.*

HAVING AVG (T.*Grade*) > 3.5 AND SUM (T.*Credit*) > 90

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Aggregates: Proper and Improper Usage

SELECT COUNT (T.*CrsCode*), T. *ProfId*
– *makes no sense (in the absence of* GROUP BY *clause)*

SELECT COUNT (*), AVG (T.*Grade*)
– *but this is OK*

WHERE T.*Grade* > COUNT (SELECT ….)
– *aggregate cannot be applied to result of* SELECT *statement*

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ORDER BY Clause

- Causes rows to be output in a specified order

```
SELECT   T.StudId, COUNT (*) AS NumCrs,
         AVG(T.Grade) AS CumGpa
FROM     Transcript T
WHERE    T.CrsCode LIKE 'CS%'
GROUP BY T.StudId
HAVING   AVG (T.Grade) > 3.5
ORDER BY DESC CumGpa, ASC StudId
```

Descending (DESC)

Ascending (ASC)

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Query Evaluation with GROUP BY, HAVING, ORDER BY

As before (steps 1–5):

1. Evaluate FROM: produces Cartesian product, A, of tables in FROM list
2. Evaluate WHERE: produces table, B, consisting of rows of A that satisfy WHERE condition
3. Evaluate GROUP BY: partitions B into groups that agree on attribute values in GROUP BY list
4. Evaluate HAVING: eliminates groups in B that do not satisfy HAVING condition
5. Evaluate SELECT: produces table C containing a row for each group. Attributes in SELECT list limited to those in GROUP BY list and aggregates over group
6. Evaluate ORDER BY: orders rows of C

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Views

- Used as a relation, but rows are not physically stored.
  - The contents of a view is *computed* when it is used within an SQL statement
- View is the result of a SELECT statement over other views and base relations
- When used in an SQL statement, the view definition is substituted for the view name in the statement
  - As SELECT statement nested in FROM clause

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View - Example

```
CREATE VIEW  CumGpa (StudId, Cum) AS
  SELECT  T.StudId,  AVG (T.Grade)
  FROM Transcript T
  GROUP BY T.StudId

SELECT  S.Name, C.Cum
FROM  CumGpa C,  Student S
WHERE  C.StudId = S.StudId AND C.Cum > 3.5
```

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View Benefits

- *Access Control*: Users not granted access to base tables. Instead they are granted access to the view of the database appropriate to their needs.
  - *External schema* is composed of views.
  - View allows owner to provide SELECT access to a subset of columns (analogous to providing UPDATE and INSERT access to a subset of columns)

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Views – Limiting Visibility

Grade projected out

```
CREATE VIEW PartOfTranscript (StudId, CrsCode, Semester) AS
    SELECT T. StudId, T.CrsCode, T.Semester      -- limit columns
    FROM Transcript T
    WHERE T.Semester = 'S2000'                    -- limit rows
```

Give permissions to access data through view:

GRANT SELECT ON PartOfTranscript TO joe

This would have been analogous to:

GRANT SELECT (*StudId,CrsCode,Semester*)
ON Transcript TO joe

on regular tables, <u>if</u> SQL allowed attribute lists in GRANT SELECT

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View Benefits (cont'd)

- *Customization*: Users need not see full complexity of database. View creates the illusion of a simpler database customized to the needs of a particular category of users
- A view is *similar in many ways to a subroutine* in standard programming
  - Can be reused in multiple queries

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Nulls

- *Conditions*: *x op y* (where *op* is <, >, <>, =, etc.) has value *unknown* (*U*) when either x or y is null
  - WHERE T.*cost* > T.*price*
- *Arithmetic expression*: x *op y* (where *op* is +, –, *, etc.) has value NULL if x or y is NULL
  - WHERE (T. *price*/T.*cost*) > 2
- *Aggregates*: COUNT counts NULLs like any other value; other aggregates ignore NULLs

```
SELECT  COUNT (T.CrsCode), AVG (T.Grade)
FROM    Transcript T
WHERE   T.StudId = '1234'
```

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Nulls (cont'd)

- WHERE clause uses a *three-valued logic – T, F, U(ndefined)* – to filter rows. Portion of truth table:

C1	*C2*	*C1* AND *C2*	*C1* OR *C2*
T	U	U	T
F	U	F	U
U	U	U	U

- Rows are discarded if WHERE condition is *F(alse)* or U(*nknown)*
- Ex: WHERE T.*CrsCode* = 'CS305' AND T.*Grade* > 2.5

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Modifying Tables – Insert

- Inserting a single row into a table
  - Attribute list can be omitted if it is the same as in CREATE TABLE (but do not omit it)
  - NULL and DEFAULT values can be specified

INSERT INTO Transcript(*StudId*, *CrsCode*, *Semester*, *Grade*)
VALUES (12345, 'CSE305', 'S2000', NULL)

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Bulk Insertion

- Insert the rows output by a SELECT

```
CREATE TABLE DeansList (
        StudId     INTEGER,
        Credits    INTEGER,
        CumGpa     FLOAT,
        PRIMARY KEY  StudId )

INSERT INTO  DeansList (StudId, Credits, CumGpa)
SELECT       T.StudId, 3 * COUNT (*),  AVG(T.Grade)
FROM         Transcript T
GROUP BY     T.StudId
HAVING  AVG (T.Grade) > 3.5  AND  COUNT(*) > 30
```

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Modifying Tables – Delete

- Similar to SELECT except:
  - No project list in DELETE clause
  - No Cartesian product in FROM clause (only 1 table name)
  - Rows satisfying WHERE clause (general form, including subqueries, allowed) are deleted instead of output

```
DELETE FROM Transcript T
WHERE  T.Grade IS NULL  AND  T.Semester <> 'S2000'
```

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Modifying Data - Update

```
UPDATE  Employee E
SET     E.Salary = E.Salary * 1.05
WHERE   E.Department = 'R&D'
```

- Updates rows in a single table
- All rows satisfying WHERE clause (general form, including subqueries, allowed) are updated

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Updating Views

- Question: Since views look like tables to users, can they be updated?
- Answer: Yes – a view update changes the underlying base table to produce the requested change to the view

```
CREATE VIEW  CsReg (StudId, CrsCode, Semester) AS
SELECT       T.StudId, T. CrsCode, T.Semester
FROM         Transcript T
WHERE        T.CrsCode LIKE 'CS%'  AND  T.Semester='S2000'
```

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Updating Views - Problem 1

INSERT INTO CsReg (*StudId, CrsCode, Semester*)
VALUES (1111, 'CSE305', 'S2000')

- **Question**: What value should be placed in attributes of underlying table that have been projected out (e.g., *Grade*)?
- **Answer**: NULL (assuming null allowed in the missing attribute) or DEFAULT

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Updating Views - Problem 2

INSERT INTO CsReg (*StudId, CrsCode, Semester*)
VALUES (1111, 'ECO105', 'S2000')

- **Problem**: New tuple not in view
- **Solution**: Allow insertion (assuming the WITH CHECK OPTION clause has not been appended to the CREATE VIEW statement)

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Updating Views - Problem 3

- Update to a view might *__not__* *__uniquely__* specify the change to the base table(s) that results in the desired modification of the view (ambiguity)

CREATE VIEW ProfDept (*PrName*, *DeName*) AS
SELECT P.*Name*, D.*Name*
FROM Professor P, Department D
WHERE P.*DeptId* = D.*DeptId*

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Updating Views - Problem 3 (cont'd)

- Tuple <Smith, CS> can be deleted from ProfDept by:
  - Deleting row for Smith from Professor (but this is inappropriate if he is still at the University)
  - Deleting row for CS from Department (not what is intended)
  - Updating row for Smith in Professor by setting *DeptId* to null (seems like a good idea, but how would the computer know?)

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Updating Views - Restrictions

- Updatable views are restricted to those in which
  - No Cartesian product in FROM clause
  - no aggregates, GROUP BY, HAVING
  - …

For example, if we allowed:

```
CREATE VIEW AvgSalary (DeptId, Avg_Sal ) AS
   SELECT  E.DeptId, AVG(E.Salary)
   FROM    Employee E
   GROUP BY E.DeptId
```

then how do we handle:

```
 UPDATE AvgSalary
   SET Avg_Sal = 1.1 * Avg_Sal
```

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