SQL: Queries, Constraints, Triggers
Part 1

Chapter 5.1-5.4
Structured Query Language (SQL)

- Introduced in 1974 by IBM
- “De facto” standard db query language
- Caveats
  - Standard has evolved (major revisions in 1992 and 1999)
  - Semantics and Syntax may vary slightly among DBMS implementations
“Baby” Example Instances

We will start with these instances of the Sailors and Reserves relations in our examples.

If the key for the Reserves relation contained only the attributes sid and bid, how would the semantics differ?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sailors:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sid</td>
<td>sname</td>
<td>rating</td>
<td>age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>dustin</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>lubber</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>rusty</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserves:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sid</td>
<td>bid</td>
<td>day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10/10/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>11/12/96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basic SQL Query

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

- **target-list** A list of attributes of relations in `relation-list`
- **relation-list** A list of relation names (possibly with a `range-variable` after each name).
- **qualification** Comparisons (Attr `op` const or Attr1 `op` Attr2, where `op` is one of `<, >, =, ≤, ≥, ≠`) 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 the relation-list.
- Select (\(\sigma\)) tuples if they satisfy qualifications.
- Project (\(\pi\)) attributes that in the 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.
Example of Conceptual Evaluation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(sid)</th>
<th>sname</th>
<th>rating</th>
<th>age</th>
<th>(sid)</th>
<th>bid</th>
<th>day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>dustin</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10/10/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>dustin</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>11/12/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>lubber</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10/10/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>lubber</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>11/12/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>rusty</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10/10/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>rusty</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>11/12/96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

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

OR

```sql
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, S.age-5 AS age1, 2*S.age AS age2
FROM    Sailors S
WHERE   S.sname LIKE ‘_us%’

- 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 renames fields (\(\rho\)) in result. (Some SQL implementations allow the use of ‘newalias=expr’ as well)
- LIKE is used for string matching. “_” stands for any one character and “%” stands for 0 or more arbitrary characters.
More Examples

- “Infant” Sailors/Reserves/Boats instance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sailors:</th>
<th>Reserves:</th>
<th>Boats:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sid</td>
<td>sname</td>
<td>rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Dustin</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Brutus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lubber</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Andy</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Rusty</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Horatio</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Zorba</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Horatio</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Find sid’s of sailors who’ve reserved a red or a green boat

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

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

```
SELECT S.sid
FROM Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
  AND B.color="red"
UNION
SELECT S.sid
FROM Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
  AND B.color="green"
```
Find sid’s of sailors who’ve reserved a red and a green boat

- Solution 1: Multiple instancing of the same relation in the relation-list using another variable
- Solution 2: \texttt{INTERSECT}: Can be used to compute the intersection of any two \textit{union-compatible} sets of tuples.
- Contrast symmetry of the \texttt{UNION} and \texttt{INTERSECT} queries with the first version.

```sql
SELECT DISTINCT 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")
```

```sql
SELECT S.sid
FROM Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
    AND B.color="red"
INTERSECT
SELECT S.sid
FROM Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R
    AND B.color="green"
```
Nested Queries

Find names of sailors who’ve never reserved boat #103:

```sql
SELECT S.sid, S.sname
FROM Sailors S
WHERE S.sid NOT IN (SELECT DISTINCT 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 reserved #103, use 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 any boat:

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

- **EXISTS** is another set comparison operator, like **IN**.
- Illustrates why, in general, a subquery must be re-evaluated for each Sailors tuple.
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:  \( op \ ANY, \ op \ ALL, \ op \ IN \ \ {>, <, =, \geq, \leq, \neq} \)
- Find sailors whose rating is greater than that of some sailor called Horatio:

```sql
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:

\[
\text{SELECT } S.sid \\
\text{FROM } \text{Sailors S, Boats B, Reserves R} \\
\text{WHERE } S.sid=R.sid \text{ AND } R.bid=B.bid \text{ AND } B.color='red' \text{ AND } S.sid \text{ IN } (\text{SELECT } S2.sid \\
\text{FROM } \text{Sailors S2, Boats B2, Reserves R2} \\
\text{WHERE } S2.sid=R2.sid \text{ AND } R2.bid=B2.bid \text{ AND } B2.color='green')
\]

- 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.

- The hard way, without EXCEPT:

(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)

(2) 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
Next Time

- We’ve covered the portion of SQL that has the same power as relation algebra
- Next time we will consider some important extensions, that cannot be expressed in relational algebra, but are nonetheless useful tools for and a natural additions to query specification