PURDUE UNIVERSITY

CS34800
Information Systems

Brief Introduction to SQL

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47

SQL

- The most widely used commercial language
- SQL is NOT a Turing machine equivalent language
- To be able to compute complex functions SQL is usually embedded in some higher-level language
- Application programs generally access databases through one of
  - Language extensions to allow embedded SQL
  - Application program interface (e.g., ODBC/JDBC) which allow SQL queries to be sent to a database

Data Definition Language (DDL)

- Specification notation for defining the database schema

  Example: **create table** *instructor* (
  ID **char**(5),
  name **varchar**(20),
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  salary **numeric**(8,2))

- DDL compiler generates a set of table templates stored in a ***data dictionary***
- Data dictionary contains metadata (i.e., data about data)
  - Database schema
  - Integrity constraints
    - Primary key (ID uniquely identifies instructors)
  - Authorization
    - Who can access what

Data Manipulation Language (DML)

- Language for accessing and manipulating the data organized by the appropriate data model
  - DML also known as query language
- Two classes of languages
  - **Pure** – used for proving properties about computational power and for optimization
    - Relational Algebra
    - Tuple relational calculus
    - Domain relational calculus
  - **Commercial** – used in commercial systems
    - SQL is the most widely used commercial language

SQL, an interactive query language

Courses

Course-Name	Instructor	Room-Name
Database	Aref	DS1
Operating Syst.	Rodriguez	N3
Networks	Fahmy	N3
Security	Spafford	G

Rooms

Room-Name	Building	Floor
DS1	Recitation	1
N3	Recitation	1
G	Univ. Hall	2

```
SELECT Course-Name, Room-Name, Floor
FROM Courses, Rooms WHERE
Courses.Room-Name =
   Rooms.Room-Name
AND  Instructor = 'Fahmy';
```

Course-Name	Room-Name	Floor
Networks	N3	1
Security	G	2

Basic Query Structure

- A typical SQL query has the form:

  select $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n$
  from $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_m$
  where P

  - A_i represents an attribute
  - R_i represents a relation
  - P is a predicate.
- The result of an SQL query is a relation.

The select Clause

- The **select** clause lists the attributes desired in the result of a query
  - corresponds to the projection operation of the relational algebra
- Example: find the names of all instructors:

  select *name*
  from *instructor*
- NOTE: SQL names are case insensitive (i.e., you may use upper- or lower-case letters.)
  - E.g., *Name* ≡ *NAME* ≡ *name*
  - Some people use upper case wherever we use bold font.

The select Clause (Cont.)

- SQL allows duplicates in relations as well as in query results.
- To force the elimination of duplicates, insert the keyword **distinct** after select**.**
- Find the department names of all instructors, and remove duplicates

  select distinct *dept_name*
  from *instructor*
- The keyword **all** specifies that duplicates should not be removed.

  select all *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

The select Clause (Cont.)

- An asterisk in the select clause denotes "all attributes"

  select *
  from *instructor*

- An attribute can be a literal with no **from** clause

  select '437'

  - Results is a table with one column and a single row with value "437"
  - Can give the column a name using:

    select '437' **as** *FOO*

- An attribute can be a literal with **from** clause

  select 'A'
  from *instructor*

  - Result is a table with one column and *N* rows (number of tuples in the *instructors* table), each row with value "A"

The select Clause (Cont.)

- The **select** clause can contain arithmetic expressions involving the operation, +, –, ∗, and /, and operating on constants or attributes of tuples.
  - The query:

    select *ID, name, salary/12*
    from *instructor*

    would return a relation that is the same as the *instructor* relation, except that the value of the attribute *salary* is divided by 12.
  - Can rename "s*alary/12"* using the **as** clause:

    select *ID, name, salary/12* **as** *monthly_salary*

The where Clause

- The **where** clause specifies conditions that the result must satisfy
  - Corresponds to the selection predicate of the relational algebra.
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.'
```

- Comparison results can be combined using the logical connectives **and, or,** and **not**
  - To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept with salary > 80000

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.' and salary > 80000
```

- Comparisons can be applied to results of arithmetic expressions.

String Operations

- SQL includes a string-matching operator for comparisons on character strings. The operator **like** uses patterns that are described using two special characters:
  - percent (%). The % character matches any substring.
  - underscore (_). The _ character matches any character.
- Find the names of all instructors whose name includes the substring "dar".

```
select name
from instructor
where name like '%dar%'
```

- Match the string "100%"

```
like '100 \%' escape '\'
```

in that above we use backslash (\) as the escape character.

String Operations (Cont.)

- Patterns are case sensitive.
- Pattern matching examples:
  - 'Intro%' matches any string beginning with "Intro".
  - '%Comp%' matches any string containing "Comp" as a substring.
  - '_ _ _' matches any string of exactly three characters.
  - '_ _ _ %' matches any string of at least three characters.
- SQL supports a variety of string operations such as
  - concatenation (using "||")
  - converting from upper to lower case (and vice versa)
  - finding string length, extracting substrings, etc.

Where Clause Predicates

- SQL includes a **between** comparison operator
- Example: Find the names of all instructors with salary between $90,000 and $100,000 (that is, ≥ $90,000 and ≤ $100,000)
  - **select** *name*
    from *instructor*
    where *salary* **between** 90000 **and** 100000

Ordering the Display of Tuples

- List in alphabetic order the names of all instructors

  select distinct *name*
  from *instructor*
  order by *name*

- We may specify **desc** for descending order or **asc** for ascending order, for each attribute; ascending order is the default.
  - Example: **order by** *name* **desc**
- Can sort on multiple attributes
  - Example: **order by** *dept_name, name*

And now, some examples

- Ideas on a favorite table?
- https://www.cs.purdue.edu/undergraduate/curriculum/bachelor.html