

The Relational Model

CS 186, Fall 2006, Lecture 2
R & G, Chap. 3



Review

- Why use a DBMS? OS provides RAM and disk



Review

- Why use a DBMS? OS provides RAM and disk
 - Concurrency
 - Recovery
 - Abstraction, Data Independence
 - Query Languages
 - Efficiency (for most tasks)
 - Security
 - Data Integrity



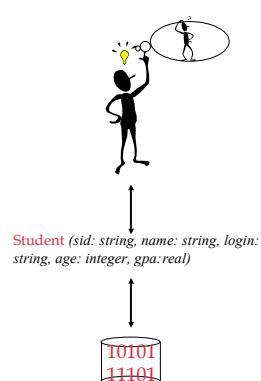
Glossary

- Byte
- Kilobyte: 2^{10} B
- Megabyte: 2^{20} B
- Gigabyte: 2^{30} B
- Terabyte: 2^{40} B
 - Typical video store has about 8 TB
 - Library of Congress is about 20TB
 - Costs you about \$600 at PCConnection, will hold your family videos
- Petabyte: 2^{50} B
 - Internet Archive WayBack Machine is now about 2 PetaByte
- Exabyte: 2^{60} B
 - Total amount of printed material in the world is 5 Exabytes
- Zettabyte: 2^{70} B
- Yottabyte: 2^{80} B



Data Models

- DBMS models real world
- *Data Model* is link between user's view of the world and bits stored in computer
- Many models exist
- We will concentrate on the Relational Model



Why Study the Relational Model?

- Most widely used model.
- "Legacy systems" in older models
 - e.g., IBM's IMS
- Object-oriented concepts merged in
 - "Object-Relational" model
 - Early work done in POSTGRES research project at Berkeley
- XML features in most relational systems
 - Can export XML interfaces
 - Can embed XML inside relational fields



Relational Database: Definitions

- Relational database: a set of relations.
- Relation: made up of 2 parts:
 - Schema : specifies name of relation, plus name and type of each column.
 - E.g. Students(sid: string, name: string, login: string, age: integer, gpa: real)
 - Instance : a table, with rows and columns.
 - #rows = cardinality
 - #fields = degree / arity
- Can think of a relation as a set of rows or tuples.
 - i.e., all rows are distinct



Ex: Instance of Students Relation

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8

- Cardinality = 3, arity = 5 , all rows distinct
- Do all values in each column of a relation instance have to be distinct?



SQL - A language for Relational DBs

- SQL (a.k.a. "Sequel"), standard language
- Data Definition Language (DDL)
 - create, modify, delete relations
 - specify constraints
 - administer users, security, etc.
- Data Manipulation Language (DML)
 - Specify queries to find tuples that satisfy criteria
 - add, modify, remove tuples



SQL Overview

- CREATE TABLE <name> (<field> <domain>, ...)
- INSERT INTO <name> (<field names>) VALUES (<field values>)
- DELETE FROM <name> WHERE <condition>
- UPDATE <name> SET <field name> = <value> WHERE <condition>
- SELECT <fields> FROM <name> WHERE <condition>



Creating Relations in SQL

- Creates the Students relation.
 - Note: the type (**domain**) of each field is specified, and enforced by the DBMS whenever tuples are added or modified.

```
CREATE TABLE Students
  (sid CHAR(20),
   name CHAR(20),
   login CHAR(10),
   age INTEGER,
   gpa FLOAT)
```



Table Creation (continued)

- Another example: the Enrolled table holds information about courses students take.

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
  (sid CHAR(20),
   cid CHAR(20),
   grade CHAR(2))
```



Adding and Deleting Tuples

- Can insert a single tuple using:

```
INSERT INTO Students (sid, name, login, age, gpa)
VALUES ('53688', 'Smith', 'smith@ee', 18, 3.2)
```

- **Can delete all tuples satisfying some condition (e.g., name = Smith):**

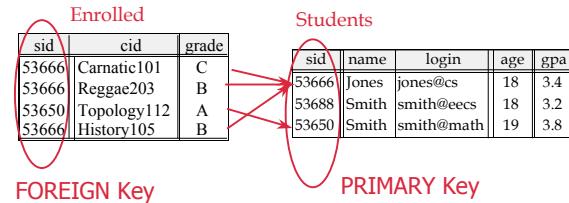
```
DELETE
FROM Students S
WHERE S.name = 'Smith'
```

Powerful variants of these commands are available; more later!



Keys

- Keys are a way to associate tuples in different relations
- Keys are one form of integrity constraint (IC)



Primary Keys

- A set of fields is a superkey if:
 - No two distinct tuples can have same values in all key fields
- A set of fields is a key for a relation if :
 - It is a superkey
 - No subset of the fields is a superkey
- what if >1 key for a relation?
 - One of the keys is chosen (by DBA) to be the primary key. Other keys are called candidate keys.
- E.g.
 - sid is a key for Students.
 - What about name?
 - The set {sid, gpa} is a superkey.



Primary and Candidate Keys in SQL

- Possibly many **candidate keys** (specified using **UNIQUE**), one of which is chosen as the **primary key**.
- Keys must be used carefully!
 - "For a given student and course, there is a single grade."

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
(sid CHAR(20)
cid CHAR(20),
grade CHAR(2),
PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid))
```

vs.

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
(sid CHAR(20),
cid CHAR(20),
grade CHAR(2),
PRIMARY KEY (sid),
UNIQUE (cid,grade))
```

"Students can take only one course, and no two students in a course receive the same grade."



Foreign Keys, Referential Integrity

- **Foreign key:** Set of fields in one relation that is used to 'refer' to a tuple in another relation.
 - Must correspond to the primary key of the other relation.
 - Like a 'logical pointer'.
- If all foreign key constraints are enforced, **referential integrity** is achieved (i.e., no dangling references.)



Foreign Keys in SQL

- **E.g. Only students listed in the Students relation should be allowed to enroll for courses.**

– **sid** is a foreign key referring to **Students**:

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
(sid CHAR(20),cid CHAR(20),grade CHAR(2),
PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid),
FOREIGN KEY (sid) REFERENCES Students )
```

Enrolled		
sid	cid	grade
53666	Carnatic101	C
53666	Reggae203	B
53650	Topology112	A
53666	History105	B
11111	English102	A

Students				
sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8



Enforcing Referential Integrity

- Consider Students and Enrolled; *sid* in Enrolled is a foreign key that references Students.
- What should be done if an Enrolled tuple with a non-existent student id is inserted? (*Reject it!*)
- What should be done if a Students tuple is deleted?
 - Also delete all Enrolled tuples that refer to it?
 - Disallow deletion of a Students tuple that is referred to?
 - Set sid in Enrolled tuples that refer to it to a *default sid*?
 - (In SQL, also: Set sid in Enrolled tuples that refer to it to a special value *null*, denoting ‘*unknown*’ or ‘*inapplicable*’.)
- Similar issues arise if primary key of Students tuple is updated.



Integrity Constraints (ICs)

- **IC:** condition that must be true for *any* instance of the database; e.g., *domain constraints*.
 - ICs are specified when schema is defined.
 - ICs are checked when relations are modified.
- A *legal* instance of a relation is one that satisfies all specified ICs.
 - DBMS should not allow illegal instances.
- If the DBMS checks ICs, stored data is more faithful to real-world meaning.
 - Avoids data entry errors, too!



Where do ICs Come From?

- ICs are based upon the semantics of the real-world that is being described in the database relations.
- We can check a database instance to see if an IC is violated, but we can NEVER infer that an IC is true by looking at an instance.
 - An IC is a statement about all possible instances!
 - For example, we know name is not a key, but the assertion that sid is a key is given to us.
- Key and foreign key ICs are the most common; more general ICs supported too.



Administrivia

- Web page and Syllabus are coming on-line
 - Schedule and due dates may change (check frequently)
 - Lecture notes are/will be posted
 - Homework/project details to be posted
- **HW 0 posted -- due Monday midnight!**
 - Accts forms!
- Other textbooks
 - Korth/Silberschatz/Sudarshan
 - O’Neil and O’Neil
 - Garcia-Molina/Ullman/Widom



Relational Query Languages

- A major strength of the relational model: supports simple, powerful *querying* of data.
- Queries can be written intuitively, and the DBMS is responsible for efficient evaluation.
 - The key: precise semantics for relational queries.
 - Allows the optimizer to extensively re-order operations, and still ensure that the answer does not change.



The SQL Query Language

- The most widely used relational query language.
 - Current std is SQL:2003; SQL92 is a basic subset
- To find all 18 year old students, we can write:

```
SELECT *  
FROM Students S  
WHERE S.age=18
```

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8

- To find just names and logins, replace the first line:

```
SELECT S.name, S.login
```



Querying Multiple Relations

- What does the following query compute?

```
SELECT S.name, E.cid
FROM Students S, Enrolled E
WHERE S.sid=E.sid AND E.grade='A'
```

Given the following instance of Enrolled

sid	cid	grade
53831	Carnatic101	C
53831	Reggae203	B
53650	Topology112	A
53666	History105	B

we get:

S.name	E.cid
Smith	Topology112



Semantics of a Query

- A *conceptual evaluation method* for the previous query:
 1. do FROM clause: compute *cross-product* of Students and Enrolled
 2. do WHERE clause: Check conditions, discard tuples that fail
 3. do SELECT clause: Delete unwanted fields
- Remember, this is *conceptual*. Actual evaluation will be *much* more efficient, but must produce the same answers.



Cross-product of Students and Enrolled Instances

S.sid	S.name	S.login	S.age	S.gpa	E.sid	E.cid	E.grade
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4	53831	Carnatic101	C
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4	53832	Reggae203	B
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4	53650	Topology112	A
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4	53666	History105	B
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2	53831	Carnatic101	C
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2	53831	Reggae203	B
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2	53650	Topology112	A
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2	53666	History105	B
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8	53831	Carnatic101	C
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8	53831	Reggae203	B
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8	53650	Topology112	A
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8	53666	History105	B



Relational Model: Summary

- A tabular representation of data.
- Simple and intuitive, currently the most widely used
 - Object-relational support in most products
 - XML support added in SQL:2003, most systems
- Integrity constraints can be specified by the DBA, based on application semantics. DBMS checks for violations.
 - Two important ICs: primary and foreign keys
 - In addition, we always have domain constraints.
- Powerful query languages exist.
 - SQL is the standard commercial one
 - DDL - Data Definition Language
 - DML - Data Manipulation Language