CS 348 Lecture 4

SQL Part 1

Semih Salihoğlu

Jan 15th, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | DSg Data Systems Group

SQL

- SQL: Structured Query Language
  - Pronounced “S-Q-L” or “sequel”
  - The standard query language supported by most DBMS
- A brief history
  - IBM System R
  - ANSI SQL96
  - ANSI SQL89
  - ANSI SQL92 (SQL2)
  - ANSI SQL99 (SQL3)
  - ANSI SQL 2003 (added OLAP, XML, etc.)
  - ANSI SQL 2006 (added more XML)
  - ANSI SQL 2008, …

SQL

- Data-definition language (DDL): define/modify schemas, delete relations
- Data-manipulation language (DML): query information, and insert/delete/modify tuples
- Integrity constraints: specify constraints that the data stored in the database must satisfy

this week

- Intermediate/Advanced topics: (next week)
  - E.g., triggers, views, indexes, programming, recursive queries

DDL

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- CREATE TABLE *table_name* (..., *column_name column_type*, ...);

```
CREATE TABLE User(uid INT, name VARCHAR(30), age INT, pop FLOAT);
CREATE TABLE Group (gid VARCHAR(10), name VARCHAR(100));
CREATE TABLE Member (uid INT, gid VARCHAR(10));
```

How does it work with MySQL?

- DROP TABLE *table_name*;

```
DROP TABLE User;
DROP TABLE Group;
DROP TABLE Member;
```

```
-- everything from -- to the end of line is ignored.
-- SQL is insensitive to white space.
-- SQL is insensitive to case (e.g., ...CREATE... is
-- equivalent to ...create...).
```

Basic queries for DML: SFW statement

- SELECT $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n$
  FROM $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m$
  WHERE $condition;$

- Also called an SPJ (select-project-join) query

- Corresponds to (but not really equivalent to) relational algebra query:

$$\pi_{A_1,A_2,\ldots,A_n}\left(\sigma_{condition}(R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m)\right)$$

Examples

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- List all rows in the User table

```
SELECT * FROM User;
```

  - * is a short hand for "all columns"

- List name of users under 18 (selection, projection)

```
SELECT name FROM User where age <18;
```

- When was Lisa born?

```
SELECT 2021-age FROM User where name = 'Lisa';
```

  - SELECT list can contain expressions
    - Can also use built-in functions such as SUBSTR, ABS, etc.
  - String literals (case sensitive) are enclosed in single quotes

Example: join

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- List ID's and names of groups with a user whose name contains "Simpson"

```
SELECT Group.gid, Group.name
        FROM User, Member, Group
        WHERE User.uid = Member.uid
                AND Member.gid = Group.gid
                AND … .;
```

Example: join

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- List ID's and names of groups with a user whose name contains "Simpson"

```
SELECT Group.gid, Group.name
        FROM User, Member, Group
        WHERE User.uid = Member.uid
                AND Member.gid = Group.gid
                AND User.name LIKE '%Simpson%';
```

  - LIKE matches a string against a pattern
    - % matches any sequence of zero or more characters
  - Okay to omit *table_name* in *table_name.column_name* if *column_name* is unique

Example: rename

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- ID's of all pairs of users that belong to one group
  - Relational algebra query:

$$\pi_{m_1.uid,m_2.uid}\left(\rho_{m_1}Member \bowtie_{m_1.gid=m_2.gid \wedge m_1.uid>m_2.uid} \rho_{m_2}Member\right)$$

  - SQL (not exactly):

```
SELECT m1.uid AS uid1, m2.uid AS uid2
        FROM Member AS m1, Member AS m2
        WHERE m1.gid = m2.gid
                AND m1.uid > m2.uid;
```

  - AS keyword is completely optional

A more complicated example

- Names of all groups that Lisa and Ralph are both in

Tip: Write the FROM clause first, then WHERE, and then SELECT

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

A more complicated example

- Names of all groups that Lisa and Ralph are both in

```
SELECT g.name
    FROM User u1, …, Member m1, …
    WHERE u1.name = 'Lisa' AND …
            AND u1.uid = m1.uid AND …
            AND …;
```

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

A more complicated example

- Names of all groups that Lisa and Ralph are both in

```
SELECT g.name
    FROM User u1, User u2, Member m1, Member m2, …
    WHERE u1.name = 'Lisa' AND u2.name = 'Ralph'
            AND u1.uid = m1.uid AND u2.uid=m2.uid
            AND …;
```

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

A more complicated example

- Names of all groups that Lisa and Ralph are both in

```
SELECT g.name
    FROM User u1, User u2, Member m1, Member m2, Group g
    WHERE u1.name = 'Lisa' AND u2.name = 'Ralph'
            AND u1.uid = m1.uid AND u2.uid=m2.uid
            AND m1.gid = g.gid AND m2.gid = g.gid;
```

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

Why SFW statements?

- Many queries can be written using only selection, projection, and cross product (or join)

- These queries can be written in a canonical form which is captured by SFW:

$$\pi_L\left(\sigma_p(R_1 \times \cdots \times R_m)\right)$$

  - Example: $\pi_{R.A,S.B}\left(R \bowtie_{p_1} S\right) \bowtie_{p_2} \left(\pi_{T.C}\sigma_{p_3}T\right)$

$$= \pi_{R.A,S.B,T.C}\sigma_{p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge p_3}(R \times S \times T)$$

Set versus bag

User

uid	*name*	*age*	*pop*
142	Bart	10	0.9
123	Milhouse	10	0.2
857	Lisa	8	0.7
456	Ralph	8	0.3
…	…	…	…

$\pi_{age} User$

age
10
8
…

Set

- No duplicates
- Relational model and algebra use set semantics

```
SELECT age
FROM User;
```

age
10
8
8
8
…

Bag

- Duplicates allowed
- Number of duplicates is significant
- SQL uses bag semantics by default

A case for bag semantics

- Efficiency
  - Saves time of eliminating duplicates

- Which one is more useful?

$\pi_{age}User$

```
SELECT age
FROM User;
```

  - The first query just returns all possible user ages
  - The second query returns the user age distribution

- Besides, SQL provides the option of set semantics with DISTINCT keyword

Forcing set semantics

- ID's of all pairs of users that belong to one group

```
SELECT m1.uid AS uid1, m2.uid AS uid2
    FROM Member AS m1, Member AS m2
    WHERE m1.gid = m2.gid
            AND m1.uid > m2.uid;
```

→Say Lisa and Ralph are in both the book club and the student government, they id pairs will appear twice

- Remove duplicate (uid1, uid2) pairs from the output

```
SELECT DISTINCT m1.uid AS uid1, m2.uid AS uid2
    FROM Member AS m1, Member AS m2
    WHERE m1.gid = m2.gid;
            AND m1.uid > m2.uid;
```

Semantics of SFW

- SELECT [DISTINCT] $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_n$
  FROM $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m$
  WHERE $condition;$
- For each t_1 in R_1:
  For each t_2 in R_2: … …
  For each t_m in R_m:
  If $condition$ is true over $t_1 \bullet t_2 \bullet \ldots \bullet t_m$:
  Compute and output $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_n$ as a row

  If DISTINCT is present
  Eliminate duplicate rows in output
- $t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_m$ are often called tuple variables

SQL set and bag operations

- Set: UNION, EXCEPT, INTERSECT
  - Exactly like set ∪, −, and ∩ in relational algebra
  - Duplicates in input tables, if any, are first eliminated
  - Duplicates in result are also eliminated (for UNION)

Bag1

fruit
apple
apple
orange

Bag2

fruit
orange
orange
orange

```
(SELECT * FROM Bag1)
UNION
(SELECT * FROM Bag2);
```

fruit
apple
orange

```
(SELECT * FROM Bag1)
EXCEPT
(SELECT * FROM Bag2);
```

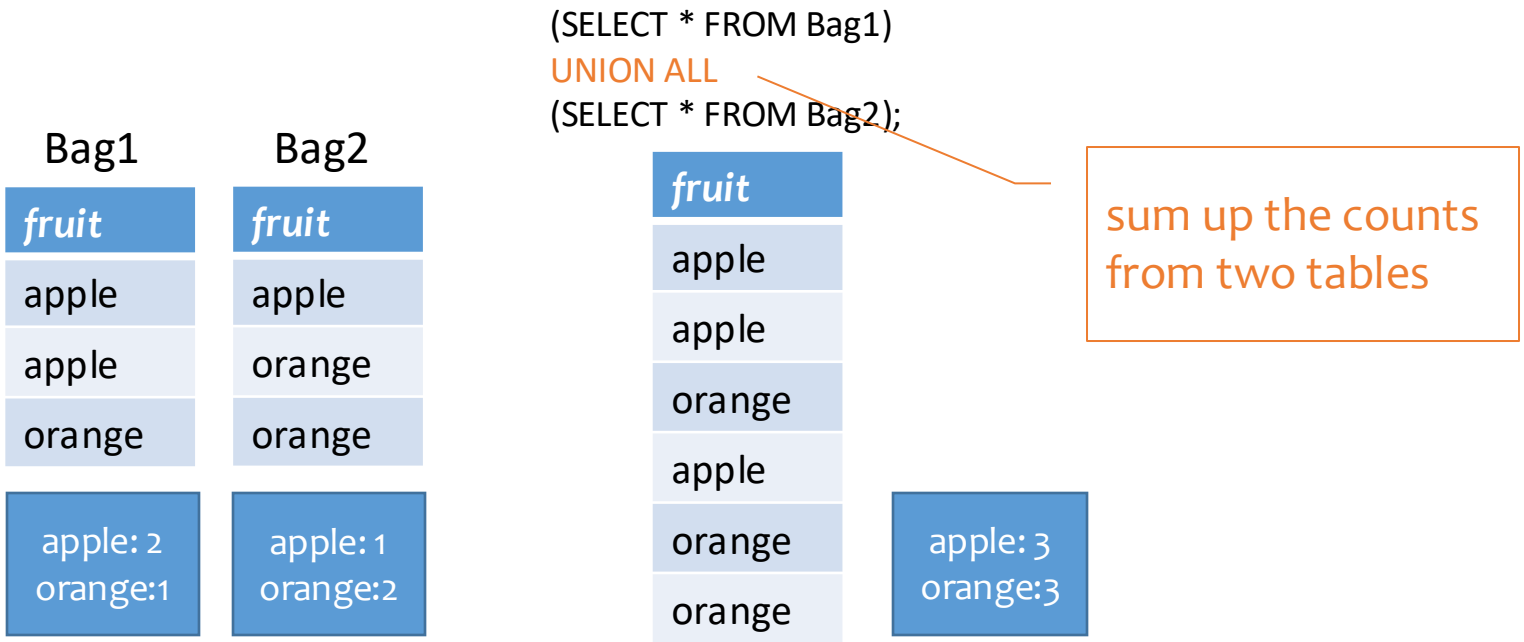
fruit
apple

```
(SELECT * FROM Bag1)
INTERSECT
(SELECT * FROM Bag2);
```

fruit
orange

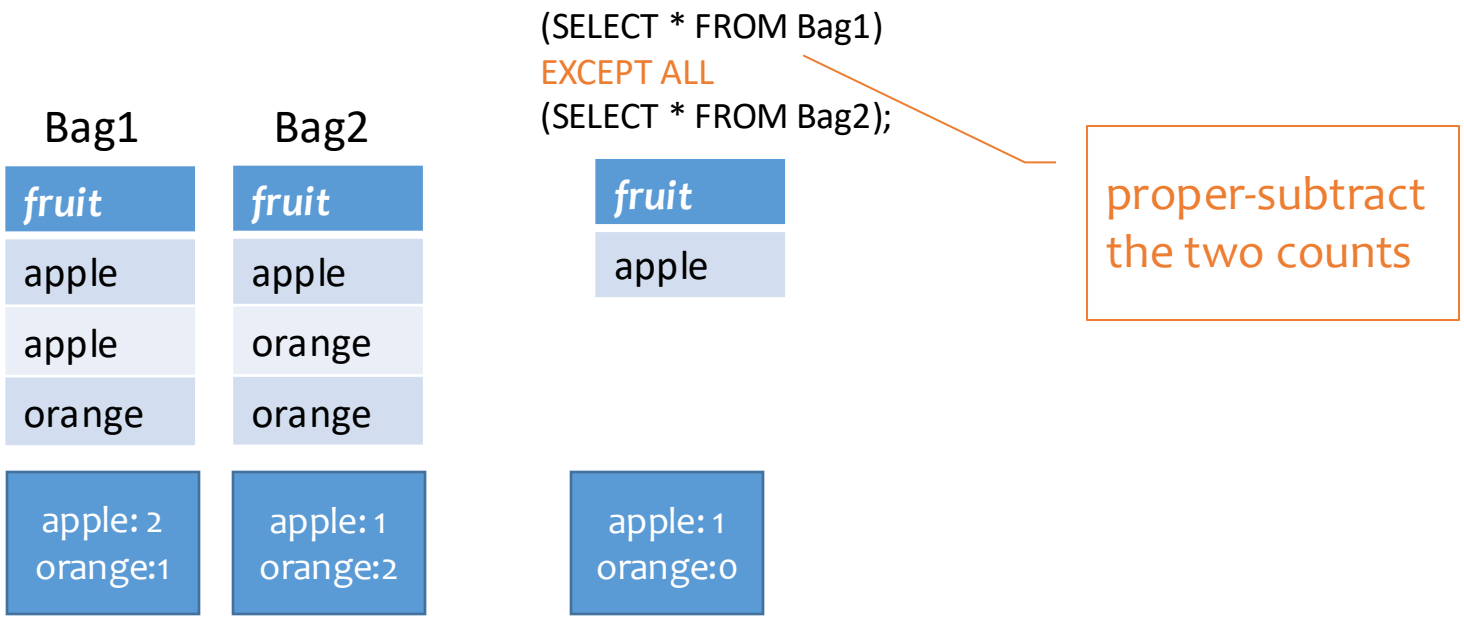
SQL set and bag operations

- Set: UNION, EXCEPT, INTERSECT
  - Exactly like set ∪, −, and ∩ in relational algebra
- Bag: UNION ALL, EXCEPT ALL, INTERSECT ALL
  - Think of each row as having an implicit count (the number of times it appears in the table)



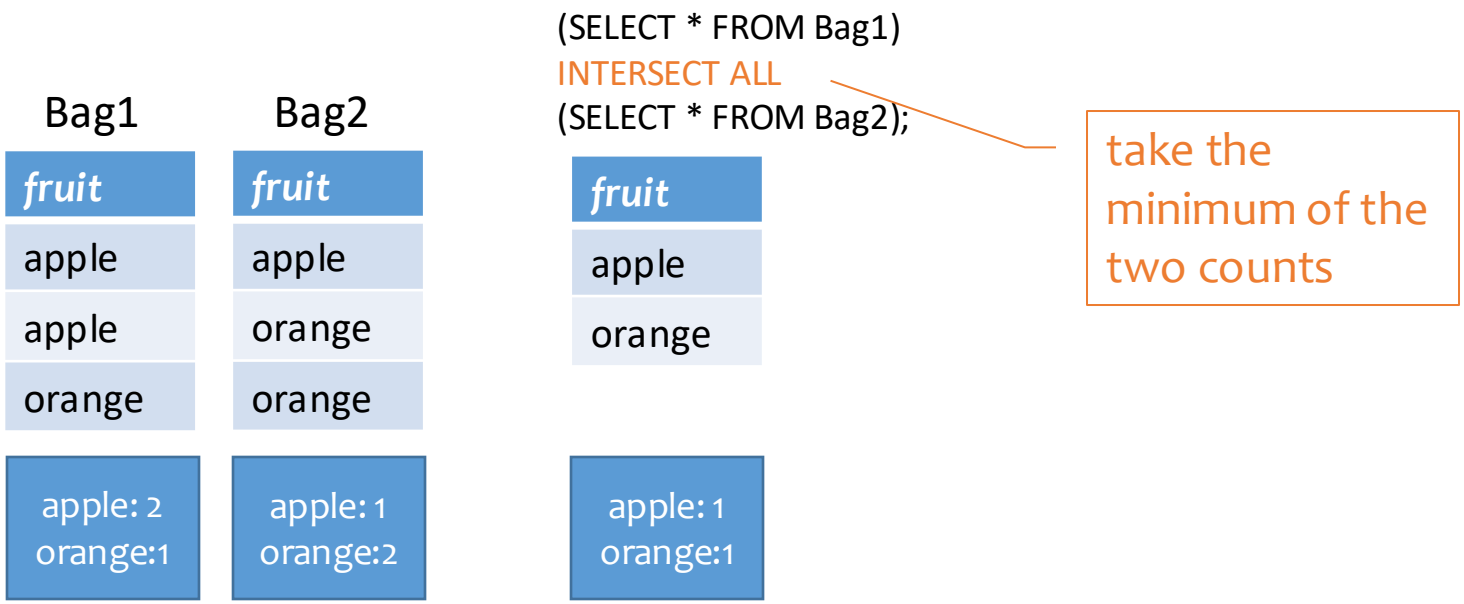
SQL set and bag operations

- Set: UNION, EXCEPT, INTERSECT
  - Exactly like set ∪, −, and ∩ in relational algebra
- Bag: UNION ALL, EXCEPT ALL, INTERSECT ALL
  - Think of each row as having an implicit count (the number of times it appears in the table)



SQL set and bag operations

- Set: UNION, EXCEPT, INTERSECT
  - Exactly like set ∪, −, and ∩ in relational algebra
- Bag: UNION ALL, EXCEPT ALL, INTERSECT ALL
  - Think of each row as having an implicit count (the number of times it appears in the table)



Set versus bag operations

Poke (*uid1*, *uid2*, *timestamp*)

- uid1 poked uid2 at timestamp

Question: How do these two queries differ?

```
Q1:
(SELECT uid1 FROM Poke)
EXCEPT
(SELECT uid2 FROM Poke);
```

```
Q2:
(SELECT uid1 FROM Poke)
EXCEPT ALL
(SELECT uid2 FROM Poke);
```

Set versus bag operations

Poke (*uid1*, *uid2*, *timestamp*)

- uid1 poked uid2 at timestamp

Question: How do these two queries differ?

```
Q1:
(SELECT uid1 FROM Poke)
EXCEPT
(SELECT uid2 FROM Poke);
```

Users who poked others but never got poked by others

```
Q2:
(SELECT uid1 FROM Poke)
EXCEPT ALL
(SELECT uid2 FROM Poke);
```

Users who poked others more than others poked them

SQL features covered so far

- SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
- Set and bag operations

☞Next: how to nest SQL queries

Table subqueries

- Use query result as a table
  - In set and bag operations, FROM clauses, etc.

- Example: names of users who poked others more than others poked them

```
SELECT DISTINCT name
FROM User,
      ((SELECT uid1 FROM Poke)
      EXCEPT ALL
      (SELECT uid2 FROM Poke)) AS T
WHERE User.uid = T.uid;
```

Scalar subqueries

- A query that returns a single value, i.e., a single row and single column can be used as a value in WHERE, SELECT, etc.
- Example: users at the same age as Bart

```
SELECT *
FROM User,
WHERE age = (SELECT age
             FROM User
             WHERE name = 'Bart');
```

- When can this query go wrong?
  - Return more than 1 row
  - Return no rows

IN subqueries

- x IN $(subquery)$ checks if x is in the result of $subquery$

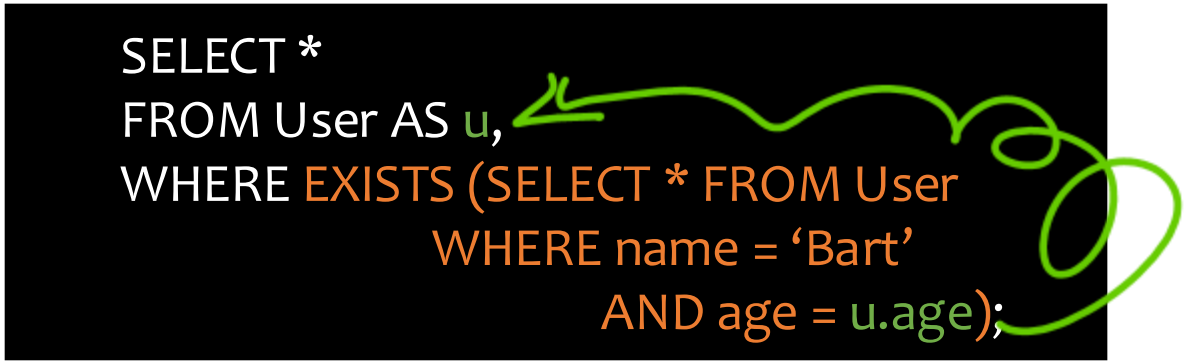
- Example: users at the same age as (some) Bart

```
SELECT *
FROM User,
WHERE age IN (SELECT age
              FROM User
              WHERE name = 'Bart');
```

EXISTS subqueries

- EXISTS ($subquery$) checks if the result of $subquery$ is non-empty

- Example: users at the same age as (some) Bart



  - This happens to be a correlated subquery—a subquery that references tuple variables in surrounding queries

Another example

User (*uid* int, *name* string, *age* int, *pop* float)
Group (*gid* string, *name* string)
Member (*uid* int, *gid* string)

- Users who join at least two groups

```
SELECT * FROM User u
WHERE EXISTS
    (SELECT * FROM Member m
     WHERE uid = u.uid
     AND EXISTS
        (SELECT * FROM Member
         WHERE uid = u.uid
         AND gid <> m.gid));
```

Use *table_name*.*column_name* notation and AS (renaming) to avoid confusion

- How to find which table a column belongs to?
  - Start with the immediately surrounding query
  - If not found, look in the one surrounding that; repeat if necessary

Quantified subqueries

- Universal quantification (for all):
  - ... WHERE $x\ op$ ALL($subquery$) ...
  - True iff for all t in the result of $subquery$, $x\ op\ t$

```
SELECT *
FROM User
WHERE pop >= ALL(SELECT pop FROM User);
```

- Existential quantification (exists):
  - ... WHERE $x\ op$ ANY($subquery$) ...
  - True iff there exists some t in $subquery$ result s.t. $x\ op\ t$

```
SELECT *
FROM User
WHERE NOT
   (pop < ANY(SELECT pop FROM User));
```

More ways to get the most popular

- Which users are the most popular?

```
Q1. SELECT *
FROM User
WHERE pop >= ALL(SELECT pop FROM User);
```

```
Q2. SELECT *
FROM User
WHERE NOT
   (pop < ANY(SELECT pop FROM User);
```

EXISTS or IN?

```
Q3. SELECT *
FROM User AS u
WHERE NOT [EXITS or IN?]
   (SELECT * FROM User
    WHERE pop > u.pop);
```

```
Q4. SELECT * FROM User
WHERE uid NOT [EXISTS or IN?]
   (SELECT u1.uid
    FROM User AS u1, User AS u2
    WHERE u1.pop < u2.pop);
```

SQL features covered so far

- SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
- Set and bag operations
- Subqueries
  - Subqueries allow queries to be written in more declarative ways (recall the "most popular" query)
  - But in many cases, they don't add expressive power

☞ Next: aggregation and grouping

Aggregates

- Standard SQL aggregate functions: COUNT, SUM, AVG, MIN, MAX

- Example: number of users under 18, and their average popularity
  - COUNT(*) counts the number of rows

```
SELECT COUNT(*), AVG(pop)
FROM User
WHERE age <18;
```

Aggregates with DISTINCT

- Example: How many users are in some group?

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM (SELECT DISTINCT uid FROM Member);
```

Is equivalent to

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT uid)
FROM Member;
```

Grouping

- SELECT … FROM … WHERE …
  GROUP BY *list_of_columns*;

- Example: compute average popularity for each age group

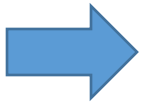
```
SELECT age, AVG(pop)
FROM User
GROUP BY age;
```

Example of computing GROUP BY

```
SELECT age, AVG(pop) FROM User GROUP BY age;
```

uid	*name*	*age*	*pop*
142	Bart	10	0.9
857	Lisa	8	0.7
123	Milhouse	10	0.2
456	Ralph	8	0.3

Compute GROUP BY: group rows according to the values of GROUP BY columns



uid	*name*	*age*	*pop*
142	Bart	10	0.9
123	Milhouse	10	0.2
857	Lisa	8	0.7
456	Ralph	8	0.3

Compute SELECT for each group

age	*avg_pop*
10	0.55
8	0.50

Semantics of GROUP BY

SELECT … FROM … WHERE … GROUP BY …;

1. Compute FROM ($\times$)
2. Compute WHERE (σ)
3. Compute GROUP BY: group rows according to the values of GROUP BY columns
4. Compute SELECT for each group (π)
   - For aggregation functions with DISTINCT inputs, first eliminate duplicates within the group

☞ Number of groups =
number of rows in the final output

Aggregates with no GROUP BY

- An aggregate query with no GROUP BY clause = all rows go into one group

```
SELECT AVG(pop) FROM User;
```

Group all rows into one group

Aggregate over the whole group

uid	*name*	*age*	*pop*
142	Bart	10	0.9
857	Lisa	8	0.7
123	Milhouse	10	0.2
456	Ralph	8	0.3

uid	*name*	*age*	*pop*
142	Bart	10	0.9
857	Lisa	8	0.7
123	Milhouse	10	0.2
456	Ralph	8	0.3

avg_pop
0.525

Restriction on SELECT

- If a query uses aggregation/group by, then every column referenced in SELECT must be either
  - Aggregated, or
  - A GROUP BY column

Why?

☞This restriction ensures that any SELECT expression produces only one value for each group

```
SELECT uid, age FROM User GROUP BY age;
```

WRONG!

```
SELECT uid, MAX(pop) FROM User;
```

WRONG!

HAVING

- Used to filter groups based on the group properties (e.g., aggregate values, GROUP BY column values)
- Assume HAVING refers only to aggregations that also appear in SELECT (π). Then the computation order is:
- SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ... GROUP BY ...HAVING $condition$;
  1. Compute FROM ($\times$)
  2. Compute WHERE (σ)
  3. Compute GROUP BY: group rows according to the values of GROUP BY columns
  4. Compute SELECT (π): so the group by's and aggregates
  5. Output only those tuples from SELECT (π) if the group passes HAVING's σ condition

HAVING

- Note: HAVING can contain aggregations that are not in the SELECT. (see next slide)
- If so: then those aggregations are also computed in step 4.

HAVING examples

- List the average popularity for each age group with more than a hundred users

```
SELECT age, AVG(pop)
FROM User
GROUP BY age
HAVING COUNT(*)>100;
```

  - Can be written using WHERE and table subqueries

```
SELECT T.age, T.apop
FROM (SELECT age, AVG(pop) AS apop, COUNT(*) AS gsize
        FROM User GROUP BY age) AS T
WHERE T.gsize>100;
```

HAVING examples

- Find average popularity for each age group over 10

```
SELECT age, AVG(pop)
FROM User
GROUP BY age
HAVING age >10;
```

  - Can be written using WHERE without table subqueries

```
SELECT age, AVG(pop)
FROM User
WHERE age >10
GROUP BY age;
```

SQL features covered so far

- SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
- Set and bag operations
- Subqueries
- Aggregation and grouping
  - More expressive power than relational algebra

☞Next: ordering output rows

ORDER BY

- SELECT [DISTINCT] …
  FROM … WHERE … GROUP BY … HAVING …
  ORDER BY *output_column* [ASC|DESC], …;

- ASC = ascending, DESC = descending

- Semantics: After SELECT list has been computed and optional duplicate elimination has been carried out, sort the output according to ORDER BY specification

ORDER BY example

- List all users, sort them by popularity (descending) and name (ascending)

```
SELECT uid, name, age, pop
FROM User
ORDER BY pop DESC, name;
```

  - ASC is the default option
  - Strictly speaking, only output columns can appear in ORDER BY clause (although some DBMS support more)
  - Can use sequence numbers instead of names to refer to output columns: ORDER BY 4 DESC, 2;

SQL features covered so far

- Query
  - SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
  - Set/bag (DISTINCT, UNION/EXCEPT/INTERSECT (ALL))
  - Subqueries (table, scalar, IN, EXISTS, ALL, ANY)
  - Aggregation and grouping (GROUP BY, HAVING)
  - Ordering (ORDER)
  - Outerjoins (and Nulls)
- Modification
  - INSERT/DELETE/UPDATE
- Constraints

Lecture 4