

EXAMPLES

Time to play. Perhaps postpone examples after comparison with SQL (next subsections)

Aspects

- join as “extending” operation (cartesian product – “all pairs of X and Y such that ...”)
- equijoin as “restricting” operation
- natural join/equijoin in many cases along key/foreign key relationships
- relational division (in case of queries of the style “return all X that are in a given relation with all Y such that ...”)

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3.2 SQL

SQL: Structured (Standard) Query Language

Literature: A Guide to the SQL Standard, 3rd Edition, C.J. Date and H. Darwen, Addison-Wesley 1993

History: about 1974 as SEQUEL (IBM System R, INGRES@Univ. Berkeley, first product: Oracle in 1978)

Standardization:

SQL-86 and **SQL-89:** core language, based on existing implementations, including procedural extensions

SQL-92 (SQL2): some additions

SQL-99 (SQL3):

- active rules (triggers)
- recursion
- object-relational and object-oriented concepts

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Underlying Data Model

SQL uses the relational model:

- SQL relations are **multisets (bags)** of tuples (i.e., they can contain duplicates)
- Notions: Relation \rightsquigarrow Table
Tuple \rightsquigarrow Row
Attribute \rightsquigarrow Column

The relational algebra serves as theoretical base for SQL as a query language.

- comprehensive treatment in the “Practical Training SQL”
(<http://dbis.informatik.uni-goettingen.de/Teaching/DBP/>)

BASIC STRUCTURE OF SQL QUERIES

```
SELECT  $A_1, \dots, A_n$       (... corresponds to  $\pi$  in the algebra)
FROM  $R_1, \dots, R_m$     (... specifies the contributing relations)
WHERE  $F$                 (... corresponds to  $\sigma$  in the algebra)
```

corresponds to the algebra expression $\pi[A_1, \dots, A_n](\sigma[F](r_1 \times \dots \times r_m))$

- Note: cartesian product \rightarrow prefixing (optional)

Example

```
SELECT code, capital, country.population, city.population
FROM country, city
WHERE country.code = city.country
      AND city.name = country.capital
      AND city.province = country.province;
```

PREFIXING, ALIASING AND RENAMING

- Prefixing: *tablename.attr*
- Aliasing of relations in the FROM clause:

```
SELECT alias1.attr1, alias2.attr2
FROM table1 alias1, table2 alias2
WHERE ...
```

- Renaming of result columns of queries:

```
SELECT attr1 AS name1, attr2 AS name2
FROM ... WHERE ...
```

(formal algebra equivalent: renaming)

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SUBQUERIES

Subqueries of the form (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...) can be used anywhere where a relation is required:

Subqueries in the FROM clause allow for selection/projection/computation of intermediate results/subtrees before the join:

```
SELECT ...
FROM (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE ...),
     (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE ...)
WHERE ...
```

(interestingly, although “basic relational algebra”, this has been introduced e.g. in Oracle only in the early 90s)

Subqueries in other places allow to express other intermediate results:

```
SELECT ... (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE ...) FROM ...
WHERE [NOT] value1 IN (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE)
AND [NOT] value2 comparison-op [ALL|ANY] (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE)
AND [NOT] EXISTS (SELECT ...FROM ...WHERE);
```

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SUBQUERIES IN THE FROM CLAUSE

- often in combination with aliasing and renaming of the results of the subqueries.

```
SELECT alias1.name1,alias2.name2
FROM (SELECT attr1 AS name1 FROM ...WHERE ...) alias1,
     (SELECT attr2 AS name2 FROM ...WHERE ...) alias2 WHERE ...
```

... all big cities that belong to large countries:

```
SELECT city, country
FROM (SELECT name AS city, country AS code2
      FROM city
      WHERE population > 1000000
     ),
     (SELECT name AS country, code
      FROM country
      WHERE area > 1000000
     )
WHERE code = code2;
```

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SUBQUERIES

- Subqueries of the form (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...) that result in a **single value** can be used anywhere where a value is required

```
SELECT function(..., (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...))
FROM ... ;

SELECT ...
FROM ...
WHERE value1 = (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...)
      AND value2 < (SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...);
```

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Subqueries in the WHERE clause

Non-Correlated subqueries

... the simple ones. Inner SFW independent from outer SFW

```
SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE area >
  (SELECT area
   FROM country
   WHERE code='D');

SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE code IN
  (SELECT country
   FROM encompasses
   WHERE continent='Europe');
```

Correlated subqueries

Inner SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE references value of outer SFW in its WHERE clause:

```
SELECT name
FROM city
WHERE population > 0.25 *
  (SELECT population
   FROM country
   WHERE country.code = city.country);

SELECT name, continent
FROM country, encompasses enc
WHERE country.code=enc.country
  AND area > 0.25 *
  (SELECT area
   FROM continent
   WHERE name = enc.continent);
```

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Subqueries: EXISTS

- EXISTS makes only sense with a correlated subquery:

```
SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT *
              FROM city
              WHERE country.code = city.country
                 AND population > 1000000);
```

algebra equivalent: semijoin.

- NOT EXISTS can be used to express things that otherwise cannot be expressed by SFW:

```
SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT *
                  FROM city
                  WHERE country.code = city.country
                     AND population > 1000000);
```

Alternative: use (SFW) MINUS (SFW)

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SET OPERATIONS: UNION, INTERSECT, MINUS/EXCEPT

```
(SELECT name FROM city) INTERSECT (SELECT name FROM country)
```

Often applied with renaming:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (SELECT river AS name, country, province FROM geo_river)  
      UNION (SELECT lake AS name, country, province FROM geo_lake)  
      UNION (SELECT sea AS name, country, province FROM geo_sea)  
WHERE country = 'D'
```

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GROUPING AND AGGREGATION

General Structure of SQL Queries

SELECT A_1, \dots, A_n	list of attributes
FROM R_1, \dots, R_m	list of relations
WHERE F	condition(s)
GROUP BY B_1, \dots, B_k	list of grouping attributes
HAVING G	condition on groups, same syntax as WHERE clause
ORDER BY H	sort order

Aggregation: SUM, AVG, MIN, MAX

Applied to a whole relation or to each group (GROUP BY):

```
SELECT MAX(population) FROM country  
  
SELECT country, SUM(population), MAX(population)  
FROM City  
GROUP BY Country  
HAVING SUM(population) > 10000000;
```

SELECT contains only aggregates, and attributes that are the same inside each group.

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CONSTRUCTING QUERIES

For each problem there are multiple possible equivalent queries in SQL (cf. Example 3.15). The choice is mainly a matter of personal taste.

- analyze the problem “systematically”:
 - collect all relations (in the FROM clause) that are needed
 - generate a suitable conjunctive WHERE clause⇒ leads to a single “broad” SFW query
(cf. conjunctive queries, relational calculus)
- analyze the problem “top-down”:
 - take the relations that directly contribute to the result in the (outer) FROM clause
 - do all further work in correlated subquery/-queries in the WHERE clause⇒ leads to a “main” part and nested subproblems
- decomposition of the problem into subproblems:
 - subproblems are solved by nested SFW queries that are combined in the FROM clause of a surrounding query

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Comparison

SQL:

```
SELECT  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  FROM  $R_1, \dots, R_m$  WHERE  $F$ 
```

- **equivalent expression in the relational algebra:**

$$\pi[A_1, \dots, A_n](\sigma[F](r_1 \times \dots \times r_m))$$

- **Algorithm (nested-loop):**

FOR each tuple t_1 in relation R_1 DO

 FOR each tuple t_2 in relation R_2 DO

 :

 FOR each tuple t_n in relation R_n DO

 IF tuples t_1, \dots, t_n satisfy the WHERE-clause THEN

 evaluate the SELECT clause and generate the result tuple (projection).

Note: the tuple variables can also be introduced in SQL explicitly as alias variables:

```
SELECT  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  FROM  $R_1$   $t_1, \dots, R_m$   $t_m$  WHERE  $F$ 
```

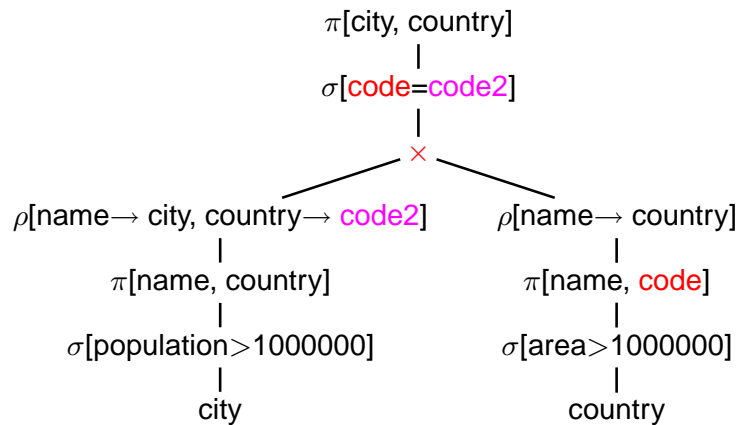
(then optionally using $t_i.attr$ in SELECT and WHERE)

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Comparison: Subqueries

- Subqueries in the FROM-clause (cf. Slide 116): **joined subtrees** in the algebra

```
SELECT city, country.name
FROM (SELECT name AS city,
        country AS code2
      FROM city
      WHERE population > 1000000
    ),
     (SELECT name AS country, code
      FROM country
      WHERE area > 1000000
    )
WHERE code = code2;
```

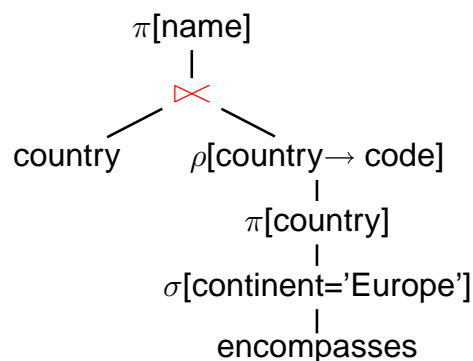


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Comparison: Subqueries in the WHERE clause

- WHERE ... IN uncorrelated-subquery (cf. Slide 118):
Natural semijoin outer tree with the subquery tree;

```
SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE code IN
  (SELECT country
   FROM encompasses
   WHERE continent='Europe');
```



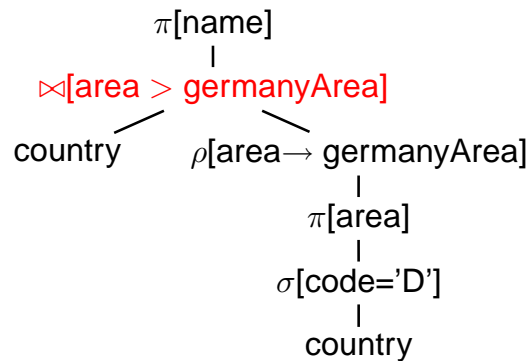
Note that the natural semijoin serves as an equi-selection where all tuples from the outer expression qualify that match an element of the result of the inner expression.

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Comparison: Subqueries

- WHERE value *op* uncorrelated-subquery:
(cf. Slide 118):
join of outer expression with subquery, selection, projection to outer attributes

```
SELECT name
FROM country
WHERE area >
  (SELECT area
   FROM country
   WHERE code='D');
```



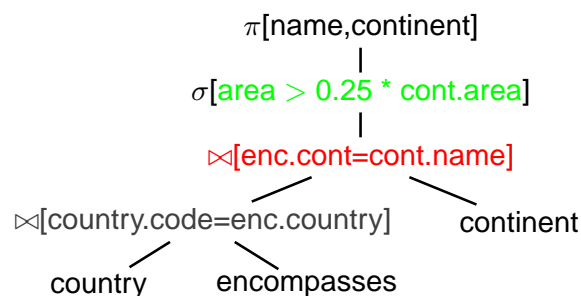
Note: the table that results from the join has the format (name, code, area, population, ..., germanyArea).

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Comparison: Correlated Subqueries

- WHERE value *op* correlated-subquery:
 - tree₁: outer expression
 - tree₂: subquery, uncorrelated
 - natural join/semijoin of both trees contains the **correlating condition**
 - afterwards: **WHERE condition**

```
SELECT name, continent
FROM country, encompasses enc
WHERE country.code=enc.country
  AND area > 0.25 *
  (SELECT area
   FROM continent
   WHERE name=enc.continent);
```



- equivalent with semijoin: $\bowtie [enc.cont=cont.name \wedge area > 0.25 * cont.area]$

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Comparison: Correlated Subqueries

... comment to previous slide:

- although the tree expression looks less target-oriented than the SQL correlated subquery, it does the same:
- instead of iterating over the tuples of the outer SQL expression and evaluating the inner one for each of the tuples,
- the results of the inner expression are “precomputed” and iteration over the outer result just fetches the corresponding one.
- effectiveness depends on the situation:
 - how many of the results of the subquery are actually needed (worst case: no tuple survives the outer local WHERE clause).
 - are there results of the subquery that are needed several times.

database systems are often able to internally choose the most effective solution (schema-based and statistics-based)

... see next section.

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Comparison: EXISTS-Subqueries

- WHERE EXISTS: similar to above:
correlated subquery, no additional condition after natural semijoin
- SELECT ... FROM X,Y,Z WHERE NOT EXISTS (SFW):

```
SELECT ...  
FROM ((SELECT * FROM X,Y,Z) MINUS  
      (SELECT X,Y,Z WHERE EXISTS (SFW)))
```

Results

- all queries (without NOT-operator) including subqueries without grouping/aggregation can be translated into SPJR-trees (selection, projection, join, renaming)
- they can even be flattened into a single broad cartesian product, followed by a selection and a projection.

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Comparison: the differences between Algebra and SQL

- The relational algebra has no notion of grouping and aggregate functions
- SQL has no clause that corresponds to relational division

Example 3.17

Consider again Example 3.10 (Slide 91).

The corresponding SQL formulation that implements division corresponds to the textual

“all countries that occur in $\pi[\text{country}](enc)$, with the additional condition that they occur in enc together with each of the continent values that occur in cts ”,

or equivalent

“all countries c in $\pi[\text{country}](enc)$ such that there is no continent value $cont$ in cts such that c does not occur together with $cont$ in enc ”: □

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Example 3.17 (Continued)

“all countries c in $\pi[\text{country}](enc)$ such that there is no continent value $cont$ in cts such that c does not occur together with $cont$ in enc ”:

SELECT $enc1.country$

FROM enc $enc1$

— consider $enc1.country = \text{“R”}$ and $enc1.country = \text{“D”}$

WHERE NOT EXISTS

— correlated subquery

((SELECT ct
FROM cts)

— always

“Europe”
“Asia”

MINUS

(SELECT ct

FROM enc $enc2$

WHERE $enc1.country = enc2.country$

for “R”:

for “D”:

“R”	“Asia”
“R”	“Europe”

“D”	“Europe”
-----	----------

)
)

— remains: for “R”: nothing \leadsto “R” belongs to the result

for D: “Asia” \leadsto “D” does not belong to the result

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Orthogonality

Full orthogonality means that an expression that results in a relation is allowed everywhere, where an input relation is allowed

- subqueries in the FROM clause
- subqueries in the WHERE clause
- subqueries in the SELECT clause (returning a single value)
- combinations of set operations

But:

- Syntax of aggregation functions is not fully orthogonal:

Not allowed: `SUM(SELECT ...)`

```
SELECT SUM(pop_biggest)
      FROM (SELECT country, MAX(population) AS pop_biggest
            FROM City
            GROUP BY country);
```

- The language OQL (Object Query Language) uses similar constructs and is fully orthogonal.

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3.3 Efficient Algebraic Query Evaluation

Queries are formulated *declaratively* (e.g., SQL or algebra trees), actually built over a small set of basic operations (cf. the definition of the relational algebra).

Semantical optimization: consider integrity constraints in the database.

Example: $population > 0$, thus, a query that asks for negative values can be answered without explicit computation.

- not always obvious
- general case: first-order theorem proving.
- special cases: [see lecture on Database Theory]

Logical/algebraic optimization: search for an equivalent algebra expression that performs better:

- size of intermediate results,
- implementation of operators as algorithms,
- presence of indexes and order.

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ALGEBRAIC OPTIMIZATION

The operator tree of an algebra expression provides a base for several optimization strategies:

- reusing intermediate results
- equivalent restructuring of the operator tree
- “shortcuts” by melting several operators into one (e.g., join + equality predicate \rightarrow equijoin)
- combination with actual situation: indexes, properties of data

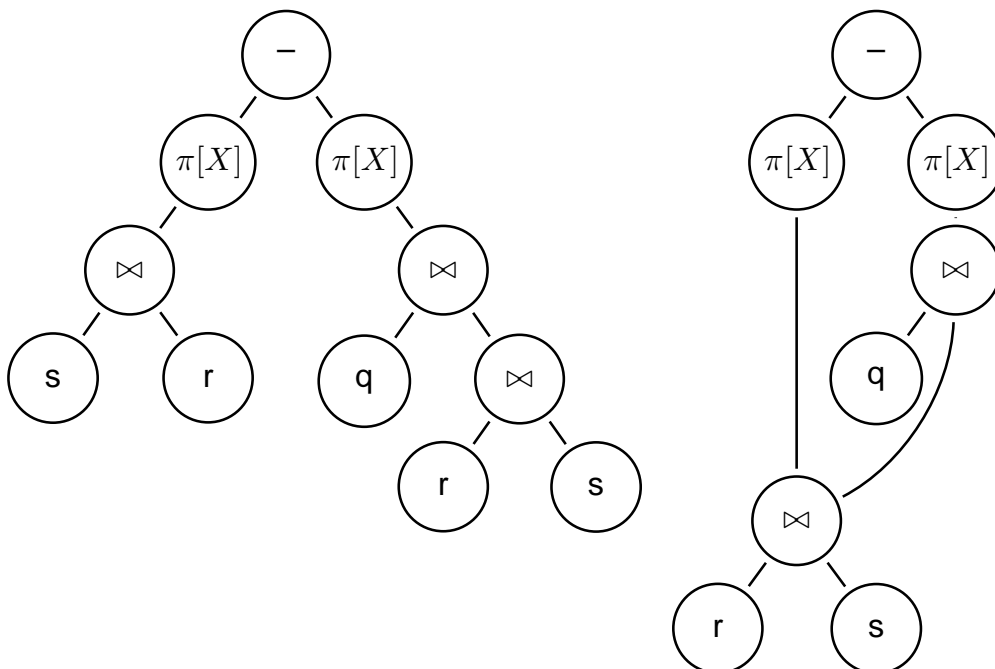
Real-life databases implement this functionality.

- SQL: **declarative** specification of a query
- internal: algebra tree + optimizations

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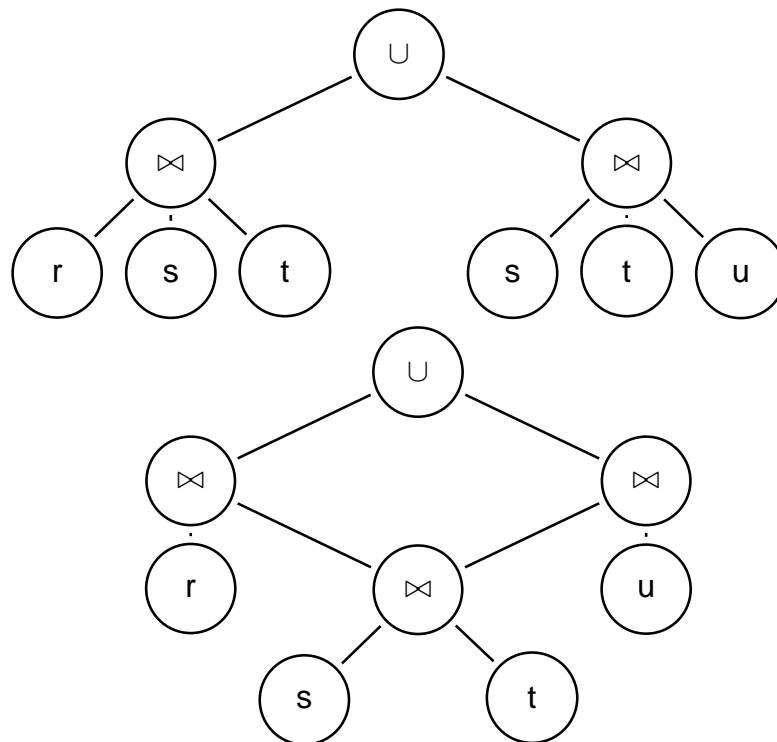
REUSING INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

- Multiply occurring subtrees can be reused (directed acyclic graph (DAG) instead of algebra tree)



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Reusing intermediate results



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OPTIMIZATION BY TREE RESTRUCTURING

- Equivalent transformation of the operator tree that represents an expression
- Based on the equivalences shown on Slide 107.
- minimize the size of intermediate results
(reject tuples/columns as early as possible during the computation)
- selections reduce the number of tuples
- projections reduce the size of tuples
- apply both as early as possible (i.e., before joins)
- different application order of joins
- semijoins instead of joins (in combination with implementation issues; see next section)

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Push Selections Down

Assume $r, s \in \text{Rel}(\bar{X})$, $\bar{Y} \subseteq \bar{X}$.

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](\pi[\bar{Y}](r)) \equiv \pi[\bar{Y}](\sigma[\text{cond}](r))$$

(condition: *cond* does not use attributes from $\bar{X} - \bar{Y}$,
otherwise left term is undefined)

$$\sigma_{\text{pop} > 1E6}(\pi[\text{name, pop}](\text{country})) \equiv \pi[\text{name, pop}](\sigma_{\text{pop} > 1E6}(\text{country}))$$

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](r \cup s) \equiv \sigma[\text{cond}](r) \cup \sigma[\text{cond}](s)$$

$$\sigma_{\text{pop} > 1E6}(\pi[\text{name, pop}](\text{country}) \cup \pi[\text{name, pop}](\text{city}))$$

$$\equiv \sigma_{\text{pop} > 1E6}(\pi[\text{name, pop}](\text{country})) \cup \sigma_{\text{pop} > 1E6}(\pi[\text{name, pop}](\text{city}))$$

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](\rho[N](r)) \equiv \rho[N](\sigma[\text{cond}'](r))$$

(where *cond'* is obtained from *cond* by renaming according to *N*)

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](r \cap s) \equiv \sigma[\text{cond}](r) \cap \sigma[\text{cond}](s)$$

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](r - s) \equiv \sigma[\text{cond}](r) - \sigma[\text{cond}](s)$$

π : see comment above. Optimization uses only left-to-right.

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Push Selections Down (Cont'd)

Assume $r \in \text{Rel}(\bar{X})$, $s \in \text{Rel}(\bar{Y})$. Consider $\sigma[\text{cond}](r \bowtie s)$.

Let $\text{cond} = \text{cond}_{\bar{X}} \wedge \text{cond}_{\bar{Y}} \wedge \text{cond}_{\overline{\bar{X}\bar{Y}}}$ such that

- $\text{cond}_{\bar{X}}$ is concerned only with attributes in \bar{X}
- $\text{cond}_{\bar{Y}}$ is concerned only with attributes in \bar{Y}
- $\text{cond}_{\overline{\bar{X}\bar{Y}}}$ is concerned both with attributes in \bar{X} and in \bar{Y} .

Then,

$$\sigma[\text{cond}](r \bowtie s) \equiv \sigma[\text{cond}_{\overline{\bar{X}\bar{Y}}}] (\sigma[\text{cond}_{\bar{X}}](r) \bowtie \sigma[\text{cond}_{\bar{Y}}](s))$$

Example 3.18

Names of all countries that have been founded earlier than 1970, their capital has more than 1.000.000 inhabitants, and more than half of the inhabitants live in the capital. \square

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Example 3.18 (Continued)

(Solution)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \pi[Name](\sigma[establ < "01 01 1970" \wedge city.pop > 1.000.000 \wedge country.pop < 2 \cdot city.pop] \\
 & \quad (country \times_{country.(capital,prov,code)=city(name,prov,country)} city)) \\
 & \equiv \pi[Name](\sigma[country.pop < 2 \cdot city.pop] \\
 & \quad (\sigma[establ < "01 01 1970"](country) \\
 & \quad \quad \times_{country.(capital,prov,code)=city(name,prov,country)} \\
 & \quad \quad \sigma[city.pop > 1.000.000](city))) \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

- Nevertheless, if $cond$ is e.g. a complex mathematical calculation, it can be cheaper first to reduce the number of tuples by \cap , $-$, or \bowtie

\Rightarrow data-dependent strategies (see later)

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Push Projections Down

Assume $r, s \in \text{Rel}(\bar{X})$, $\bar{Y} \subseteq \bar{X}$.

Let $cond = cond_{\bar{X}} \wedge cond_{\bar{Y}}$ such that

- $cond_{\bar{Y}}$ is concerned only with attributes in \bar{Y}
- $cond_{\bar{X}}$ is the remaining part of $cond$ that is also concerned with attributes $\bar{X} \setminus \bar{Y}$.

$$\pi[\bar{Y}](\sigma[cond](r)) \equiv \sigma[cond_{\bar{Y}}](\pi[\bar{Y}](\sigma[cond_{\bar{X}}](r)))$$

$$\pi[\bar{Y}](\rho[N](r)) \equiv \rho[N](\pi[\bar{Y}'](r))$$

(where \bar{Y}' is obtained from \bar{Y} by renaming according to N)

$$\pi[\bar{Y}](r \cup s) \equiv \pi[\bar{Y}](r) \cup \pi[\bar{Y}](s)$$

- Note that this does *not* hold for “ \cap ” and “ $-$ ”!
- advantages of pushing “ σ ” vs. “ π ” are data-dependent
Default: push σ lower.

Assume $r \in \text{Rel}(\bar{X})$, $s \in \text{Rel}(\bar{Y})$.

$$\pi[\bar{Z}](r \bowtie s) \equiv \pi[\bar{Z}](\pi[\bar{X} \cap \bar{Z}\bar{Y}](r) \bowtie \pi[\bar{Y} \cap \bar{Z}\bar{X}](s))$$

- complex interactions between reusing subexpressions and pushing selection/projection

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Application Order of Joins

Minimize intermediate results:

```
SELECT organization.name, country.name
FROM organization, country, is_member
WHERE organization.abbrev = is_member.organization
      AND country.code = is_member.country
```

Exploit selectivity of join:

- $(\underbrace{\text{org} \times \text{country}}_{200 \cdot 200 = 40000}) \bowtie \text{is_member}$
7000
- $(\underbrace{\text{org} \bowtie \text{is_member}}_{200, 7000 \rightsquigarrow 7000}) \bowtie \text{country}$
7000

If indexes on country.code and organization.abbrev are available:

- loop over is_member
- extend each tuple with matching country and organization by using the indexes.

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Example/Exercise

Consider the equivalent (to the previous example) query:

```
SELECT organization.name, country.name
FROM organization, country,
WHERE EXISTS
  (SELECT *
   FROM is_member
   WHERE organization.abbrev = is_member.organization
        AND country.code = is_member.country)
```

- suggests the non-optimal evaluation!
- transform the above query into algebra
- ... yields the same “broad” join as before ...
- ... and leads to the optimized join ordering.

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OPERATOR EVALUATION BY PIPELINING

- above, each algebra operator has been considered separately
- if a query consists of several operators, the materialization of intermediate results should be avoided
- **Pipelining** denotes the immediate propagation of tuples to subsequent operators

Example 3.19

- $\sigma[A = 5 \wedge B > 6]R$:

Assume an index that supports the condition $A = 5$.

- *without pipelining*: compute $\sigma[A = 5]R$ using the index, obtain R' . Then, compute $\sigma[B > 6]R'$.
- *with pipelining*: compute $\sigma[A = 5]R$ using the index, and check **on-the fly** each qualifying tuple against $\sigma[B > 6]$. □

- **Unary** (i.e., selection and projection) operations can always be pipelined with the next lower binary operation (e.g., join)

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Example 3.19 (Continued)

- $\sigma[cond](R \bowtie S)$:

- *without pipelining*: compute $R \bowtie S$, obtain RS , then compute $\sigma[cond](RS)$.
- *with pipelining*: during computing $(R \bowtie S)$, each tuple is immediately checked whether it satisfies *cond*.

- $(R \bowtie S) \bowtie T$:

- *without pipelining*: compute $R \bowtie S$, obtain RS , then compute $RS \bowtie T$.
- *with pipelining*: during computing $(R \bowtie S)$, each tuple is immediately propagated to one of the described join algorithms for computing $RS \bowtie T$. □

Most database systems combine materialization of intermediate results, iterator-based implementation of algebra operators, and pipelining.

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