Relational Model and Algebra

Introduction to Databases

CompSci 316 Fall 2014



Announcements (Thu. Aug. 28)

- Registration
 - As a courtesy to others, please add/drop ASAP
 - Tonight: permission #'s will be emailed to 18 on the wait list
 - Monday evening: another round of permission #'s
 - If you are not on the official wait list, check http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/fall14/compsci316/duke-only/more-wait-list.txt
- UTAs and office hours to be announced soon
- Next week
 - Brett will run the class (I will be away at a conference)
 - Tuesday: lab to help with setup, VM, RA—bring laptop!
 - Thursday: relational database design
- Homework #1 assigned; due in ~2 weeks
 - Sign up for Gradiance and Piazza
 - Wait for our email to start setting up VM (and signing up for Amazon if needed)

Edgar F. Codd (1923-2003)



- Pilot in the Royal Air Force in WW2
- Inventor of the relational model and algebra while at IBM
- Turing Award, 1981

Relational data model

- A database is a collection of relations (or tables)
- Each relation has a set of attributes (or columns)
- Each attribute has a name and a domain (or type)
 - Set-valued attributes are not allowed
- Each relation contains a set of tuples (or rows)
 - Each tuple has a value for each attribute of the relation
 - Duplicate tuples are not allowed
 - Two tuples are duplicates if they agree on all attributes

^CSimplicity is a virtue!

Example

User

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

Group

gid	name
abc	Book Club
gov	Student Government
dps	Dead Putting Society
•••	

Ordering of rows doesn't matter (even though output is always in some order)

Member	uid	gid
	142	dps
	123	gov
	857	abc
	857	gov
	456	abc
	456	gov
		•••

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