SQL: Programming

CPS 116

Introduction to Database Systems

Announcements (September 29)

- Homework #2 due today
  - Sample solution available next Tuesday
- Homework #1 graded
  - Please verify your score on Blackboard
  - See me or Ming if you have further questions
- Sample midterm (from last year) available
  - Solution available next Tuesday
- Midterm in class next Thursday
  - Format similar to the sample midterm
  - Covers everything up to next Tuesday's lecture
  - Emphasizes on materials exercised in homeworks

Motivation

- Pros and cons of SQL
  - Very high-level, possible to optimize
  - Not intended for general-purpose computation
- Solutions
  - Augment SQL with constructs from general-purpose programming languages (SQL/PSM)
  - Use SQL together with general-purpose programming languages (JDBC, embedded SQL, etc.)

Impedance mismatch and a solution

- SQL operates on a set of records at a time
- Typical low-level general-purpose programming languages operates on one record at a time
- ☞ Solution: cursor
  - Open (a table or a result table): position the cursor just before the first row
  - Get next: move the cursor to the next row and return that row; raise a flag if there is no such row
  - Close: clean up and release DBMS resources
  - ☞ Found in virtually every database language/API (with slightly different syntaxes)
  - ☞ Some support more cursor positioning and movement options, modification at the current cursor position (analogous to the view update problem), etc.

Augmenting SQL: SQL/PSM

- PSM = Persistent Stored Modules
- `CREATE PROCEDURE` *proc_name* `(` *parameter_declarations* `)`
  local_declarations
  procedure_body`;`
- `CREATE FUNCTION` *func_name* `(` *parameter_declarations* `)`
  `RETURNS` *return_type*
  local_declarations
  procedure_body`;`
- `CALL` *proc_name* `(` *parameters* `);`
- Inside procedure body:
  `SET` *variable* `=` `CALL` *func_name* `(` *parameters* `);`

SQL/PSM example

```
CREATE FUNCTION SetMaxGPA(IN newMaxGPA FLOAT)
  RETURNS INT
  -- Enforce newMaxGPA; return number of rows modified.
BEGIN
  DECLARE rowsUpdated INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE thisGPA FLOAT;
  -- A cursor to range over all students:
  DECLARE studentCursor CUSOR FOR
      SELECT GPA FROM Student
  FOR UPDATE;
  -- Set a flag whenever there is a "not found" exception:
  DECLARE noMoreRows INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE CONTINUE HANDLER FOR NOT FOUND
      SET noMoreRows = 1;
  … (see next slide) …
  RETURN rowsUpdated;
END
```

SQL/PSM example continued


```
-- Fetch the first result row:
OPEN studentCursor;
FETCH FROM studentCursor INTO thisGPA;
-- Loop over all result rows:
WHILE noMoreRows <> 1 DO
    IF thisGPA > newMaxGPA THEN
        -- Enforce newMaxGPA:
        UPDATE Student SET Student.GPA = newMaxGPA
        WHERE CURRENT OF studentCursor;
        -- Update count:
        SET rowsUpdated = rowsUpdated + 1;
    END IF;
    -- Fetch the next result row:
    FETCH FROM studentCursor INTO thisGPA;
END WHILE;
CLOSE studentCursor;
```

Other SQL/PSM features

- Assignment using scalar query results
  - `SELECT INTO`
- Other loop constructs
  - `FOR`, `REPEAT UNTIL`, `LOOP`
- Flow control
  - `GOTO`
- Exceptions
  - `SIGNAL`, `RESIGNAL`

Interfacing SQL with another language

- API approach
  - SQL commands are sent to the DBMS at runtime
  - Examples: JDBC, ODBC (for C/C++/VB), Perl DBI
  - These API's are all based on the SQL/CLI (Call-Level Interface) standard
- Embedded SQL approach
  - SQL commands are embedded in application code
  - A precompiler checks these commands at compile-time and converts them into DBMS-specific API calls
  - Examples: embedded SQL for C/C++, SQLJ (for Java)

Example API: JDBC

- JDBC (Java DataBase Connectivity) is an API that allows a Java program to access databases

```
…
// Use the JDBC package:
import java.sql.*;
…
public class … {
    …
    static {
        // Load the JDBC driver:
        Class.forName("COM.ibm.db2.jdbc.net.DB2Driver");
        …
    }
    …
}
```

Connections


```
…
// Connection URL is a DBMS-specific string:
String url =
    "jdbc:db2://rack40.cs.duke.edu/dbcourse";
// Making a connection:
Connection con =
    DriverManager.getConnection(url);
…
// Closing a connection:
con.close();
…
```

Statements


```
…
// Create an object for sending SQL statements:
Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
// Execute a query and get its results:
ResultSet rs =
    stmt.executeQuery("SELECT SID, name FROM Student");
// Work on the results:
…
// Execute a modification (returns the number of rows affected):
int rowsUpdated =
    stmt.executeUpdate
    ("UPDATE Student SET name = 'Barney' WHERE SID = 142");
// Close the statement:
stmt.close();
…
```

Query results


```
…
// Execute a query and get its results:
ResultSet rs =
    stmt.executeQuery("SELECT SID, name FROM Student");
// Loop through all result rows:
while (rs.next()) {
    // Get column values:
    int sid = rs.getInt(1);
    String name = rs.getString(2);
    // Work on sid and name:
    …
}
// Close the ResultSet:
rs.close();
…
```

Other `ResultSet` features

- Move the cursor (pointing to the current row) backwards and forwards, or position it anywhere within the `ResultSet`
- Update/delete the database row corresponding to the current result row
  - Analogous to the view update problem
- Insert a row into the database
  - Analogous to the view update problem

Prepared statements: motivation


```
…
Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
for (int age=0; age<100; age+=10) {
    ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery
        ("SELECT AVG(GPA) FROM Student" +
         " WHERE age >= " + age + " AND age < " + (age+10));
    // Work on the results:
    …
}
…
```

- Every time an SQL string is sent to the DBMS, the DBMS must perform parsing, semantic analysis, optimization, compilation, and then finally execution
- These costs are incurred 10 times in the above example, even though all strings are essentially the same query (with different parameter values)

Prepared statements: syntax


```
…
// Prepare the statement, using ? as placeholders for actual parameters:
PreparedStatement stmt = con.prepareStatement
    ("SELECT AVG(GPA) FROM Student WHERE age >= ? AND age < ?");
for (int age=0; age<100; age+=10) {
    // Set actual parameter values:
    stmt.setInt(1, age);
    stmt.setInt(2, age+10);
    ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery();
    // Work on the results:
    …
}
…
```

- The DBMS performs parsing, semantic analysis, optimization, and compilation only once, when it prepares the statement
- At execution time, the DBMS only needs to check parameter types and validate the compiled execution plan

Transaction processing

- Set isolation level for the current transaction
  - `con.setTransactionIsolationLevel(`*l*`);`
  - Where *l* is one of `TRANSACTION_SERIALIZABLE` (default), `TRANSACTION_REPEATABLE_READ`, `TRANSACTION_READ_COMITTED`, and `TRANSACTION_READ_UNCOMMITTED`
- Set the transaction to be read-only or read/write (default)
  - `con.setReadOnly(true|false);`
- Turn on/off `AUTOCOMMIT` (commits every single statement)
  - `con.setAutoCommit(true|false);`
- Commit/rollback the current transaction (when `AUTOCOMMIT` is off)
  - `con.commit();`
  - `con.rollback();`

Odds and ends of JDBC

- Most methods can throw `SQLException`
  - Make sure your code catches them
  - `getSQLState()` returns the standard SQL error code
  - `getMessage()` returns the error message
- Methods for examining metadata in databases
- Methods to retrieve the value of a column for all result rows into an array without calling `ResultSet.next()` in a loop
- Methods to construct and execute a batch of SQL statements together
- …

JDBC drivers – Types I, II

- Type I (bridge): translate JDBC calls to a standard API not native to the DBMS (e.g., JDBC-ODBC bridge)
  - Driver is easy to build using existing standard API's
  - Extra layer of API adds overhead
- Type II (native API, partly Java): translates JDBC calls to DBMS-specific client API calls
  - DBMS-specific client library needs to be installed on each client
  - Good performance

JDBC drivers – Types III, IV

- Type III (network bridge): sends JDBC requests to a middleware server which in turn communicates with a database
  - Client JDBC driver is completely Java, easy to build, and does not need to be DBMS-specific
  - Middleware adds translation overhead
- Type IV (native protocol, full Java): converts JDBC requests directly to native network protocol of the DBMS
  - Client JDBC driver is completely Java but is also DBMS-specific
  - Good performance

Embedded C example


```
…
/* Declare variables to be "shared" between the application
   and the DBMS: */
EXEC SQL BEGIN DECLARE SECTION;
int thisSID; float thisGPA;
EXEC SQL END DECLARE SECTION;
/* Declare a cursor: */
EXEC SQL DECLARE CPS116Student CURSOR FOR
    SELECT SID, GPA FROM Student
    WHERE SID IN
        (SELECT SID FROM Enroll WHERE CID = 'CPS116')
    FOR UPDATE;
…
```

Embedded C example continued


```
/* Open the cursor: */
EXEC SQL OPEN CPS116Student;
/* Specify exit condition: */
EXEC SQL WHENEVER NOT FOUND DO break;
/* Loop through result rows: */
while (1) {
    /* Get column values for the current row: */
    EXEC SQL FETCH CPS116Student INTO :thisSID, :thisGPA;
    printf("SID %d: current GPA is %f\n", thisSID, thisGPA);
    /* Update GPA: */
    printf("Enter new GPA: ");
    scanf("%f", &thisGPA);
    EXEC SQL UPDATE Student SET GPA = :thisGPA
        WHERE CURRENT OF CPS116Student;
}
/* Close the cursor: */
EXEC SQL CLOSE CPS116Student;
```

Pros and cons of embedded SQL

- Pros
  - More compile-time checking (syntax, type, schema, …)
  - Code could be more efficient (if the embedded SQL statements do not need to checked and recompiled at run-time)
- Cons
  - DBMS-specific
    - Vendors have different precompilers which translate code into different native API's
    - Application executable is not portable (although code is)
    - Application cannot talk to different DBMS at the same time

Pros and cons of augmenting SQL

- Cons
  - Already too many programming languages
  - SQL is already too big
  - General-purpose programming constructs complicate optimization, and make it difficult to tell if code running inside the DBMS is safe
  - At some point, one must recognize that SQL and the DBMS engine are not for everything!
- Pros
  - More sophisticated stored procedures and triggers
  - More application logic can be pushed closer to data