

**SQL: Part I**

CompSci 316  
Introduction to Database Systems

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**Announcements (Thu. Sep. 13)** 2

- ❖ Homework #1 next Tuesday
- ❖ Homework #2 will be assigned this weekend

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**SQL** 3

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

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## Creating and dropping tables

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- ❖ CREATE TABLE *table\_name*  
(..., *column\_name<sub>i</sub>* *column\_type<sub>i</sub>*, ...);
- ❖ DROP TABLE *table\_name*;
- ❖ Examples

```
create table Student (SID integer,
                      name varchar(30), email varchar(30),
                      age integer, GPA float);
create table Course (CID char(10), title varchar(100));
create table Enroll (SID integer, CID char(10));
drop table Student;
drop table Course;
drop table Enroll;
-- everything from -- to the end of the line is ignored.
-- SQL is insensitive to white space.
-- SQL is insensitive to case (e.g., ...Course... is equivalent to
-- ...COURSE...)
```

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## Basic queries: SFW statement

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- ❖ SELECT  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$   
FROM  $R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m$   
WHERE *condition*;
- ❖ Also called an SPJ (select-project-join) query
- ❖ Corresponds to (but not really equivalent to)  
relational algebra query:  
 $\pi_{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n}(\sigma_{condition}(R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_m))$

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## Example: reading a table

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- ❖ SELECT \* FROM Student;
- Single-table query, so no cross product here
- WHERE clause is optional
- \* is a short hand for “all columns”

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## Example: selection and projection <sup>7</sup>

- ❖ Name of students under 18
  - `SELECT name FROM Student WHERE age < 18;`
- ❖ When was Lisa born?
  - `SELECT 2011 - age  
FROM Student  
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

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## Example: join <sup>8</sup>

- ❖ SID's and names of students taking courses with the word "Database" in their titles
  - `SELECT Student.SID, Student.name  
FROM Student, Enroll, Course  
WHERE Student.SID = Enroll.SID  
AND Enroll.CID = Course.CID  
AND title LIKE '%Database%';`
  - LIKE matches a string against a pattern
    - % matches any sequence of 0 or more characters
  - Okay to omit `table_name` in `table_name.column_name` if `column_name` is unique

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## Example: rename <sup>9</sup>

- ❖ SID's of all pairs of classmates
  - Relational algebra query:  
$$\pi_{e_1.SID, e_2.SID} (\rho_{e_1} Enroll \bowtie_{e_1.CID=e_2.CID \wedge e_1.SID > e_2.SID} \rho_{e_2} Enroll)$$
  - SQL:  
`SELECT e1.SID AS SID1, e2.SID AS SID2  
FROM Enroll AS e1, Enroll AS e2  
WHERE e1.CID = e2.CID  
AND e1.SID > e2.SID;`
  - AS keyword is completely optional

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## A more complicated example

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- ❖ Titles of all courses that Bart and Lisa are taking together

```
SELECT
FROM
WHERE
```

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

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## Why SFW statements?

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- ❖ Out of many possible ways of structuring SQL statements, why did the designers choose SELECT-FROM-WHERE?

- A large number of queries can be written using only selection, projection, and cross product (or join)
- Any query that uses only these operators can be written in a canonical form:  $\pi_L(\sigma_p(R_1 \times \dots \times R_m))$ 
  - Example:  $\pi_{R,A,S,B}(R \bowtie_{p_1} S) \bowtie_{p_2} (\pi_{T,C} \sigma_{p_3} T)$   
 $= \pi_{R,A,S,B,T,C} \sigma_{p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge p_3} (R \times S \times T)$
- SELECT-FROM-WHERE captures this canonical form

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## Set versus bag semantics

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- ❖ Set
  - No duplicates
  - Relational model and algebra use set semantics
- ❖ Bag
  - Duplicates allowed
  - Number of duplicates is significant
  - SQL uses bag semantics by default

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## Set versus bag example

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<i>Enroll</i>		$\pi_{SID}Enroll$
<i>SID</i>	<i>CID</i>	<i>SID</i>
142	CPS316	142
142	CPS310	123
123	CPS316	857
857	CPS316	456
857	CPS330	...
456	CPS310	
...	...	

SELECT SID  
FROM Enroll;

<i>SID</i>
142
142
123
857
857
456
...

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## A case for bag semantics

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

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## Forcing set semantics

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- ❖ SID's of all pairs of classmates
  - SELECT e1.SID AS SID1, e2.SID AS SID2  
FROM Enroll AS e1, Enroll AS e2  
WHERE e1.CID = e2.CID  
AND e1.SID > e2.SID;
  - SELECT DISTINCT e1.SID AS SID1, e2.SID AS SID2  
...
  - With DISTINCT, all duplicate (SID1, SID2) pairs are removed from the output

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## Operational semantics of SFW

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- ❖ SELECT [DISTINCT]  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$   
FROM  $R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m$   
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  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m$ :  
        Compute and output  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$  as a row  
    If DISTINCT is present  
      Eliminate duplicate rows in output
- ❖  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m$  are often called tuple variables

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## SQL set and bag operations

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- ❖ UNION, EXCEPT, INTERSECT
  - Set semantics
    - Duplicates in input tables, if any, are first eliminated
  - Exactly like set  $\cup$ ,  $-$ , and  $\cap$  in relational algebra
- ❖ UNION ALL, EXCEPT ALL, INTERSECT ALL
  - Bag semantics
    - Think of each row as having an implicit count (the number of times it appears in the table)
    - Bag union: sum up the counts from two tables
    - Bag difference: proper-subtract the two counts
    - Bag intersection: take the minimum of the two counts

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## Examples of bag operations

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Bag1	Bag2
fruit	fruit
apple	apple
apple	orange
orange	orange

Bag1 UNION ALL Bag2

fruit
apple
apple
orange
apple
orange
orange

Bag1 INTERSECT ALL Bag2

fruit
apple
orange

Bag1 EXCEPT ALL Bag2

fruit
apple

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## Examples of set versus bag operations <sup>19</sup>

### ❖ *Enroll*(SID, CID), *ClubMember*(club, SID)

- (SELECT SID FROM ClubMember)  
EXCEPT  
(SELECT SID FROM Enroll);
- (SELECT SID FROM ClubMember)  
EXCEPT ALL  
(SELECT SID FROM Enroll);

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## Summary of SQL features covered so far <sup>20</sup>

- ❖ SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements (select-project-join queries)
- ❖ Set and bag operations
- ☞ Next: how to nest SQL queries

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## Table expression <sup>21</sup>

- ❖ Use query result as a table
  - In set and bag operations, FROM clauses, etc.
  - A way to “nest” queries
- ❖ Example: names of students who are in more clubs than classes

```
SELECT DISTINCT name
FROM Student,
  ((SELECT SID FROM ClubMember)
  EXCEPT ALL
  (SELECT SID FROM Enroll)) AS S
WHERE Student.SID = S.SID;
```

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## Scalar subqueries

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- ❖ A query that returns a single row can be used as a value in WHERE, SELECT, etc.
- ❖ Example: students at the same age as Bart

```
SELECT *           What's Bart's age?
FROM Student
WHERE age = (SELECT age
             FROM Student
             WHERE name = 'Bart');
```
- ❖ Runtime error if subquery returns more than one row
  - Under what condition will this runtime error never occur?
- ❖ What if subquery returns no rows?
  - The return value is treated as a special value NULL, and the comparison fails
- ❖ Can be used in SELECT to compute a value for an output column

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## IN subqueries

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- ❖  $x$  IN (*subquery*) checks if  $x$  is in the result of *subquery*
- ❖ Example: students at the same age as (some) Bart

```
SELECT *           What's Bart's age?
FROM Student
WHERE age IN (SELECT age
             FROM Student
             WHERE name = 'Bart');
```

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## EXISTS subqueries

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- ❖ EXISTS (*subquery*) checks if the result of *subquery* is non-empty
- ❖ Example: students at the same age as (some) Bart
  - ```
SELECT *
FROM Student AS s ←
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT * FROM Student
             WHERE name = 'Bart'
             AND age = s.age);
```
  - This happens to be a correlated subquery—a subquery that references tuple variables in surrounding queries

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## Operational semantics of subqueries <sup>25</sup>

- ❖ SELECT \*  
FROM Student AS s  
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT \* FROM Student  
WHERE name = 'Bart'  
AND age = s.age);
- ❖ For each row *s* in Student
  - Evaluate the subquery with the appropriate value of *s.age*
  - If the result of the subquery is not empty, output *s.\**
- ❖ The DBMS query optimizer may choose to process the query in an equivalent, but more efficient way (example?)

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## Scoping rule of subqueries <sup>26</sup>

- ❖ To find out which table a column belongs to
  - Start with the immediately surrounding query
  - If not found, look in the one surrounding that; repeat if necessary
- ❖ Use *table\_name.column\_name* notation and AS (renaming) to avoid confusion

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## Another example <sup>27</sup>

```
SELECT * FROM Student s
WHERE EXISTS
  (SELECT * FROM Enroll e
   WHERE [SID] = s.SID
   AND EXISTS
     (SELECT * FROM Enroll
      WHERE [SID] = [s.SID]
      AND CID <> e.CID));
```

Students who are taking at least two courses

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## Quantified subqueries

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- ❖ A quantified subquery can be used as a value in a `WHERE` condition
  - ❖ Universal quantification (for all):  
... `WHERE x op ALL (subquery) ...`
    - True iff for all  $t$  in the result of `subquery`,  $x op t$
  - ❖ Existential quantification (exists):  
... `WHERE x op ANY (subquery) ...`
    - True iff there exists some  $t$  in `subquery` result such that  $x op t$
- ☞ Beware
- In common parlance, "any" and "all" seem to be synonyms
  - In SQL, `ANY` really means "some"

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## Examples of quantified subqueries

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- ❖ Which students have the highest GPA?
    - `SELECT *`  
`FROM Student`  
`WHERE GPA >= ALL`  
`(SELECT GPA FROM Student);`
    - `SELECT *`  
`FROM Student`  
`WHERE NOT`  
`(GPA < ANY (SELECT GPA FROM Student));`
- ☞ Use `NOT` to negate a condition

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## More ways of getting the highest GPA

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- ❖ Which students have the highest GPA?

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## Summary of SQL features covered so far <sup>31</sup>

- ❖ SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
- ❖ Set and bag operations
- ❖ Table expressions, subqueries
  - Subqueries allow queries to be written in more declarative ways (recall the highest GPA query)
  - But they do not add much expressive power
    - Try translating other forms of subqueries into [NOT] EXISTS, which in turn can be translated into join (and difference)

☞ Next: aggregation and grouping

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## Aggregates <sup>32</sup>

- ❖ Standard SQL aggregate functions: COUNT, SUM, AVG, MIN, MAX
- ❖ Example: number of students under 18, and their average GPA
  - `SELECT COUNT(*), AVG(GPA)`  
`FROM Student`  
`WHERE age < 18;`
  - COUNT(\*) counts the number of rows

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## Aggregates with DISTINCT <sup>33</sup>

- ❖ Example: How many students are taking classes?
  - `SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT SID)`  
`FROM Enroll;`
- is equivalent to:
  - `SELECT COUNT(*)`  
`FROM (SELECT DISTINCT SID FROM Enroll);`

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## GROUP BY

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❖ SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ...  
GROUP BY *list\_of\_columns*;

- ❖ Example: find the average GPA for each age group
  - SELECT age, AVG(GPA)  
FROM Student  
GROUP BY age;

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## Operational semantics of GROUP BY

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SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ... GROUP BY ...;

- ❖ Compute FROM ( $\times$ )
- ❖ Compute WHERE ( $\sigma$ )
- ❖ Compute GROUP BY: group rows according to the values of GROUP BY columns
- ❖ Compute SELECT for each group ( $\pi$ )
  - For aggregation functions with DISTINCT inputs, first eliminate duplicates within the group
- ☞ Number of groups = number of rows in the final output

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## Example of computing GROUP BY

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SELECT age, AVG(GPA) FROM Student GROUP BY age;

| SID | name     | age | GPA |
|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| 142 | Bart     | 10  | 2.3 |
| 857 | Lisa     | 8   | 4.3 |
| 123 | Milhouse | 10  | 3.1 |
| 456 | Ralph    | 8   | 2.3 |
| --  | --       | --  | --  |

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



| SID | name     | age | GPA |
|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| 142 | Bart     | 10  | 2.3 |
| 123 | Milhouse | 10  | 3.1 |
| 857 | Lisa     | 8   | 4.3 |
| 456 | Ralph    | 8   | 2.3 |
| --  | --       | --  | --  |

Compute SELECT for each group



| age | AVG GPA |
|-----|---------|
| 10  | 2.7     |
| 8   | 3.3     |
| --  | --      |

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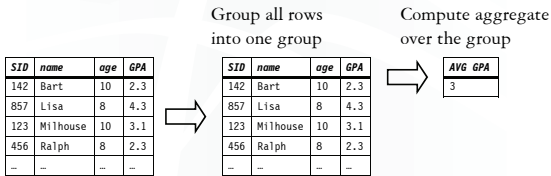
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## Aggregates with no GROUP BY

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- ❖ An aggregate query with no GROUP BY clause represent a special case where all rows go into one group

```
SELECT AVG(GPA) FROM Student;
```



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## Restriction on SELECT

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- ❖ If a query uses aggregation/group by, then every column referenced in SELECT must be either

- Aggregated, or
- A GROUP BY column

☞ This restriction

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## Examples of invalid queries

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- ❖ ~~SELECT SID, age~~ FROM Student GROUP BY age;
    - Recall there is one output row per group
    - There can be multiple SID values per group
  - ❖ ~~SELECT SID, MAX(GPA)~~ FROM Student;
    - Recall there is only one group for an aggregate query with no GROUP BY clause
    - There can be multiple SID values
    - Wishful thinking (that the output SID value is the one associated with the highest GPA) does NOT work
- ☞ Another way of writing the max GPA query?

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## HAVING

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- ❖ Used to filter groups based on the group properties (e.g., aggregate values, GROUP BY column values)
- ❖ `SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ... GROUP BY ... HAVING condition;`
  - Compute FROM ( $\times$ )
  - Compute WHERE ( $\sigma$ )
  - Compute GROUP BY: group rows according to the values of GROUP BY columns
  - Compute HAVING (another  $\sigma$  over the groups)
  - Compute SELECT ( $\pi$ ) for each group that passes HAVING

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## HAVING examples

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- ❖ Find the average GPA for each age group over 10
  - `SELECT age, AVG(GPA)`  
`FROM Student`  
`GROUP BY age`  
`HAVING age > 10;`
  - Can be written using WHERE without table expressions
- ❖ List the average GPA for each age group with more than a hundred students
  - `SELECT age, AVG(GPA)`  
`FROM Student`  
`GROUP BY age`  
`HAVING COUNT(*) > 100;`
  - Can be written using WHERE and table expressions

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## Summary of SQL features covered so far

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- ❖ SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
  - ❖ Set and bag operations
  - ❖ Table expressions, subqueries
  - ❖ Aggregation and grouping
    - More expressive power than relational algebra
- ☞ Next: ordering output rows

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## ORDER BY

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- ❖ SELECT {DISTINCT} ...  
FROM ... WHERE ... GROUP BY ... HAVING ...  
ORDER BY *output\_column* {ASC | DESC}, ...;
- ❖ ASC = ascending, DESC = descending
- ❖ Operational semantics
  - After SELECT list has been computed and optional duplicate elimination has been carried out, sort the output according to ORDER BY specification

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## ORDER BY example

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- ❖ List all students, sort them by GPA (descending) and name (ascending)
  - SELECT SID, name, age, GPA  
FROM Student  
ORDER BY GPA 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;

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## Summary of SQL features covered so far

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- ❖ SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements
  - ❖ Set and bag operations
  - ❖ Table expressions, subqueries
  - ❖ Aggregation and grouping
  - ❖ Ordering
- ☞ Next: NULL's, outerjoins, data modification, constraints, ...

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