

Relational Algebra

Relational Algebra	English	Explanation	SQL	Example
$\pi_L(R)$	Projection of R on L	Retrieves only column L from table R, removing duplicates.	<code>SELECT DISTINCT L FROM R;</code>	If R has columns (ID, Name, Age) and data {(1, Alice, 25), (2, Bob, 30)}, then $\pi_{\text{Name}}(R)$ returns {Alice, Bob}.
$\sigma_C(R)$	Selection (Filter) of R by condition C	Retrieves rows that satisfy condition C.	<code>SELECT DISTINCT * FROM R WHERE C;</code>	If R has {(1, Alice, 25), (2, Bob, 30)} and C is Age > 25, then $\sigma_{\text{age}>25}(R)$ returns {(2, Bob, 30)}.
$\rho_S(R)$	Renaming R as S	Renames relation R to S for easier reference.	<code>R AS S</code>	If R contains {(1, Alice), (2, Bob)}, then $\rho_T(R)$ treats it as T with the same data.
$R \bowtie S$	Natural Join of R and S	Joins R and S on common attributes.	<code>R NATURAL JOIN S</code> (or, as <code>SELECT</code>) <code>SELECT DISTINCT * from R NATURAL JOIN S;</code>	If $R = \{(1, \text{Alice}), (2, \text{Bob})\}$ and $S = \{(1, \text{NYC}), (2, \text{LA})\}$, $R \bowtie S = \{(1, \text{Alice}, \text{NYC}), (2, \text{Bob}, \text{LA})\}$.
$R \bowtie_{\theta} S$	Theta Join of R and S on condition θ	Joins R and S where θ holds.	<code>R INNER JOIN S</code> <code>SELECT DISTINCT * from R INNER JOIN S ON θ;</code> <code>SELECT DISTINCT * FROM R, S WHERE θ</code>	If R has {(1, Alice), (2, Bob)} and S has {(1, NYC), (3, LA)}, then with $\theta: R.ID = S.ID$, the result is {(1, Alice, NYC)}.
$R \otimes S$	Cartesian Product of R and S	Pairs every row of R with every row of S.	<code>SELECT DISTINCT * FROM R, S;</code>	If $R = \{(1, \text{Alice})\}$ and $S = \{(\text{NYC}), (\text{LA})\}$, then $R \otimes S = \{(1, \text{Alice}, \text{NYC}), (1, \text{Alice}, \text{LA})\}$.

Operations

Operation	Symbol	Meaning	Example
Union	$R \cup S$	Rows in either R or S	If $R = \{A, B, C\}$ and $S = \{B, C, D\}$, then $R \cup S = \{A, B, C, D\}$.
Intersection	$R \cap S$	Rows in both R and S	If $R = \{A, B, C\}$ and $S = \{B, C, D\}$, then $R \cap S = \{B, C\}$.
Difference	$R - S$	Rows in R that are not in S	If $R = \{A, B, C\}$ and $S = \{B, C, D\}$, then $R - S = \{A\}$.

Common SQL Types

Data Type	Description	Example
VARCHAR (n)	A text string.	'hello'
INTEGER	A whole number.	42
FLOAT	A floating point number.	9.7
NUMERIC (m, n)	A number with m digits, with n after the decimal point.	190.14 (E.g. monday w/ NUMERIC(3,2))
DATE	A date in the calendar.	'2020-09-01'
TIME	A time of day.	'11:25:00'
TIMESTAMP	Both a date and a time.	'2020-09-01T 11:25:00'
CHAR (n)	Fixed-length string of length n.	'02155' (E.g. zip codes w/ CHAR(5))

Closures

The *closure* of a set of attributes X - denoted as X^+ - is the set of attributes determined by X according to a given set of FDs F

The Closure Algorithm:

- Start by setting X^+ to X .
- Repeat:
 - Choose an FD $L \rightarrow R$ where $L \subseteq X^+$.
 - Add R to X^+ .
 - Record $L \rightarrow R$ as having been used.
- Until there are no usable FDs left unused.



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