

Topic 1: Data models and query languages

Unit 3: Relational Algebra (RA)

Lecture 6

Wolfgang Gatterbauer

CS7240 Principles of scalable data management (sp23)

<https://northeastern-datalab.github.io/cs7240/sp23/>

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Algebra and the connection to logic and queries

- Algebra
- Relational Algebra
 - Operators
 - Independence
 - Power of algebra: optimizations
- Equivalence RA and safe RC (Codd's theorem)

What is “Algebra”?

- **Algebra** is the study of mathematical symbols and the rules for manipulating these symbols
 - e.g., Linear Algebra
 - e.g., Relational Algebra
 - e.g., Boolean Algebra
 - e.g., Elementary algebra
 - e.g., Abstract algebra (groups, rings, fields, ...)

The diagram shows the algebraic expression $3x^2 - 2xy + c$ with various parts highlighted and numbered. A green box highlights the coefficient '3' in the first term, with a green '2' above it and a downward arrow. A blue box highlights the exponent '2', with a blue '1' above it and a downward arrow. A red box highlights the entire first term '3x^2', with a red '3' below it. A red box highlights the entire second term '2xy', with a red '3' below it. A green box highlights the coefficient '2' in the second term, with a green '2' above it and a downward arrow. A red box highlights the operator '-', with a red '4' below it and an upward arrow. A red box highlights the operator '+', with a red '4' below it and an upward arrow. A red box highlights the constant 'c', with a red '5' below it. Below the expression, a legend explains the numbers: 1 – Exponent (power), 2 – coefficient, 3 – term, 4 – operator, 5 – constant, and x, y - variables.

1 – Exponent (power), 2 – coefficient, 3 – term, 4 – operator, 5 – constant,
 x, y - variables

Picture source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebraic_expression

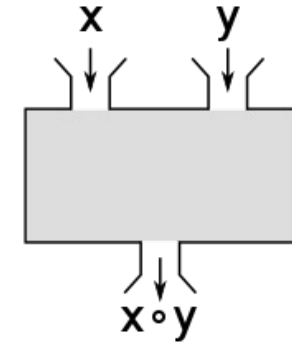
Also watch "What is abstract algebra?", Socratica, 2016: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP7nW_hKB7I

Wolfgang Gatterbauer. Principles of scalable data management: <https://northeastern-datalab.github.io/cs7240/>

What is “Abstract Algebra”?

- Abstract algebra: studies **algebraic structures**, which consist of:

- A **domain** (i.e. a set of elements)
- A collection of **operators**
 - each of **arity** d ; maps a domain of sequences (x_1, \dots, x_d) to an element y of its **codomain** (usually that is also the domain)
- A set of **axioms** (or identities) that these operators must satisfy.
 - e.g. commutativity: $x \oplus y \equiv y \oplus x$ or $\oplus(x, y) \equiv \oplus(y, x)$ or $\text{op}(x, y) \equiv \text{op}(y, x)$



- Examples:

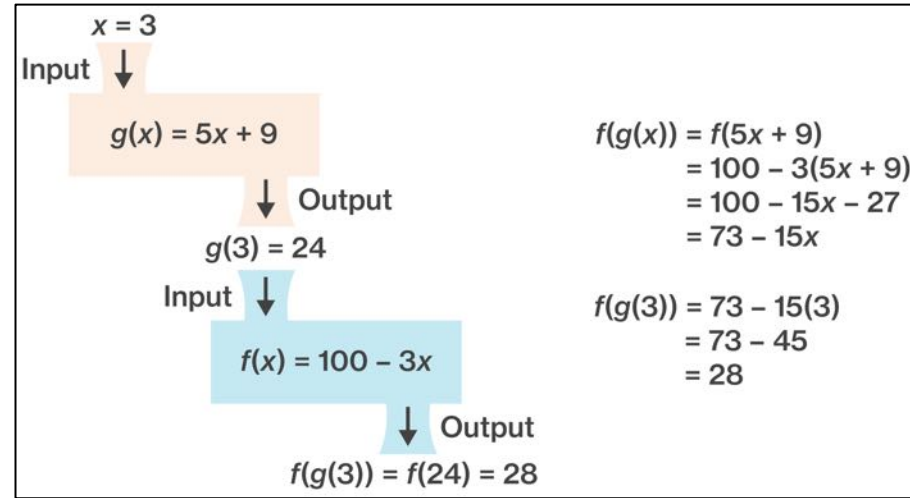
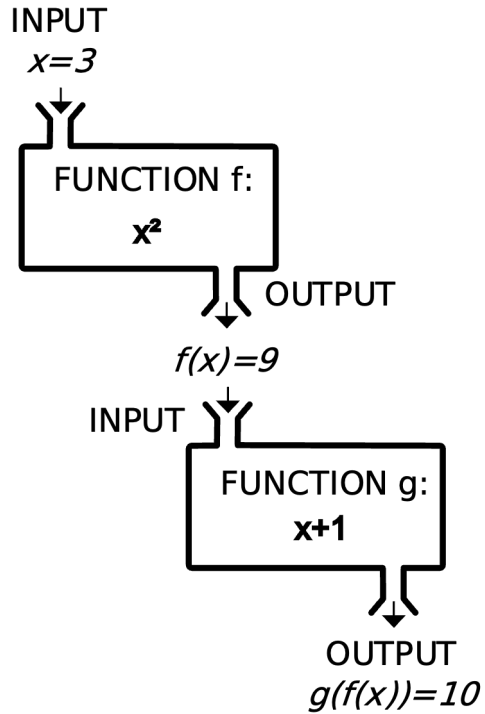
- Boolean algebra: $(\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}, \{\wedge, \vee, \neg\})$
- Ring of integers: $(\mathbb{Z}, \{+, \cdot\})$
- **Relational algebra**

ring: set equipped with two binary operations with certain properties like distributivity of multiplication over addition

- The definition of an operator allows for **composition**:

- e.g. $\text{op}_1(\text{op}_2(x), \text{op}_1(y, \text{op}_4(x, z)))$

Function composition



$$[f \circ g](x) = f[g(x)]$$

Let's find FoG(x) of two example equations:

$$f(x) = x + 2$$

$$g(x) = x^2 + 1$$

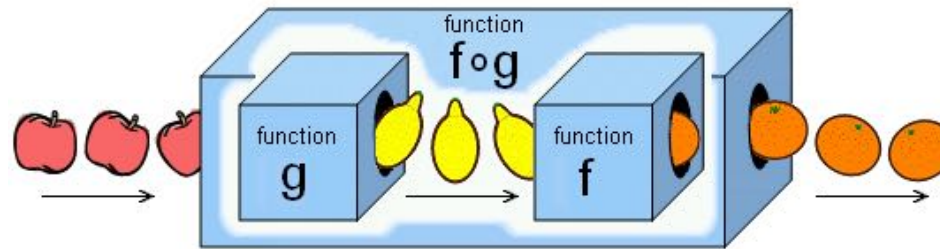
What is $[f \circ g](x)$?

$$[f \circ g](x) = f[g(x)]$$

$$[f \circ g](x) = f[x^2 + 1]$$

$$[f \circ g](x) = (x^2 + 1) + 2$$

$$[f \circ g](x) = x^2 + 3$$

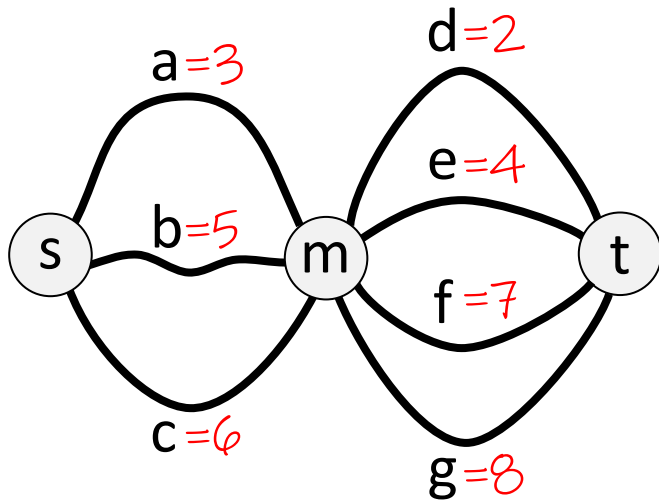


Sources: <https://www.coursehero.com/sg/college-algebra/composition-of-functions/>, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/Function_machine5.svg,

<https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Algebra/Functions>, <http://www.statisticslectures.com/topics/compositionoffunctions/>

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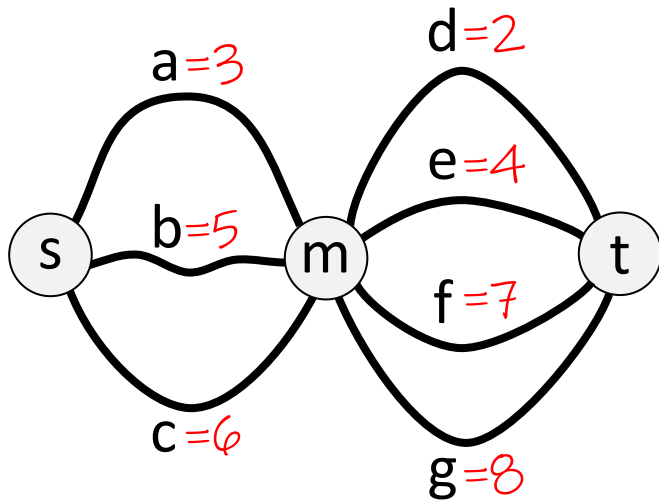
Distributivity = efficient factorization



What is the shortest path from s to t?



Distributivity = efficient factorization



$\min [a + d, a + e, a + f, a + g, \dots, c + g]$

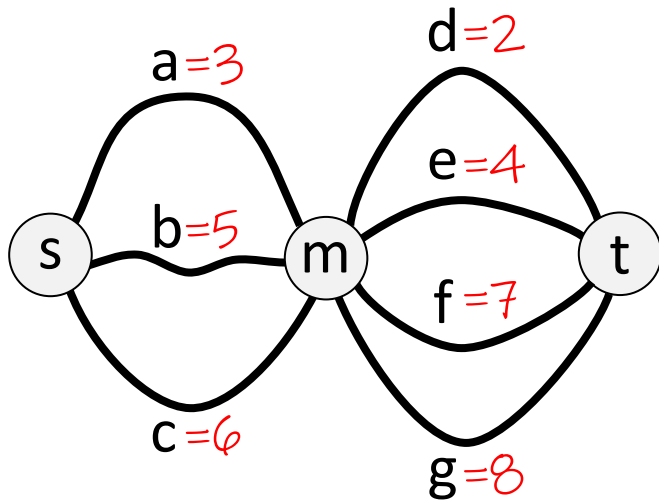
$\min [3 + 2, 3 + 4, 3 + 7, 3 + 8, \dots, 6 + 8]$

?

What is the shortest path from s to t?

Answer: $5 = 3 + 2$

Distributivity = efficient factorization



What is the shortest path from s to t?

Answer: $5 = 3 + 2$

$$\min [a + d, a + e, a + f, a + g, \dots, c + g]$$
$$\min [3+2, 3+4, 3+7, 3+8, \dots, 6+8]$$

$$= \min [a, b, c] + \min [d, e, f, g]$$
$$\min [3, 5, 6] + \min [2, 4, 7, 8]$$

$$\min [x, y] + z = \min [(x+z), (y+z)]$$

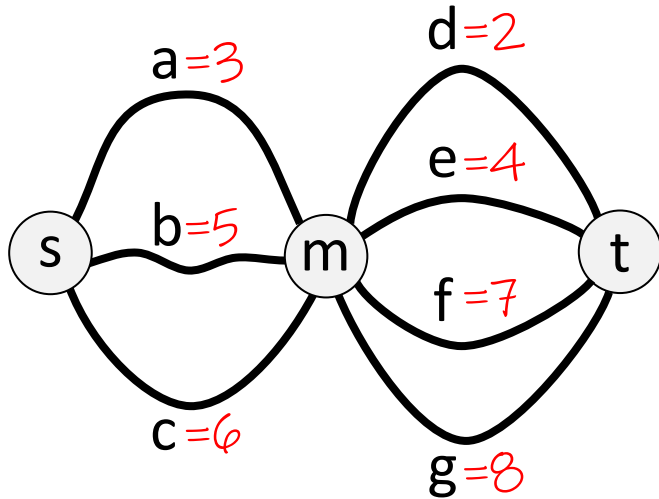
(+ distributes over min)

Distributivity = efficient factorization

(Tropical semiring)

- Semiring $(\mathbb{R}^\infty, \min, +, \infty, 0)$

Principle of optimality from Dynamic Programming:
irrespective of the initial state and decision, an optimal solution continues optimally from the resulting state



What is the shortest path from s to t?

Answer: $5 = 3 + 2$

$$\min [a + d, a + e, a + f, a + g, \dots, c + g]$$

$$\min[3+2, 3+4, 3+7, 3+8, \dots, 6+8]$$

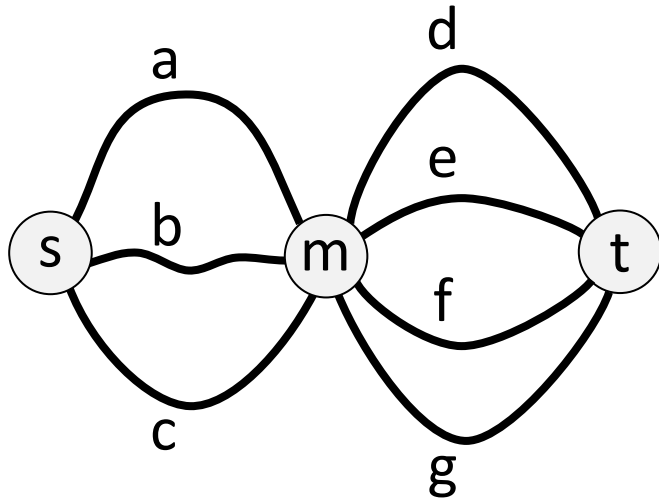
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(+ distributes over min)

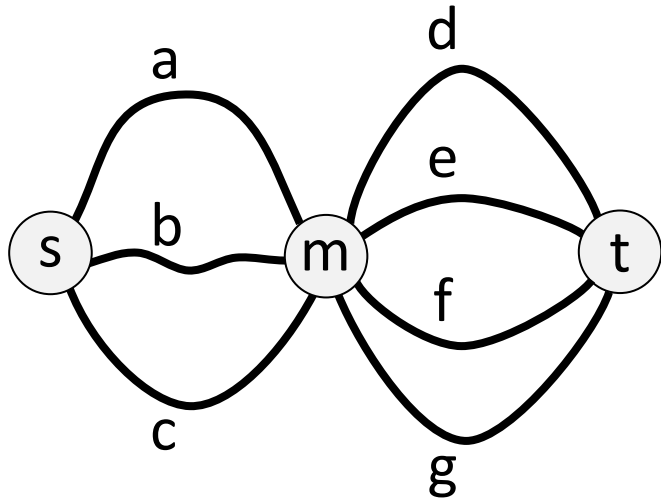
Distributivity = efficient factorization



How many paths are there from s to t?



Distributivity = efficient factorization



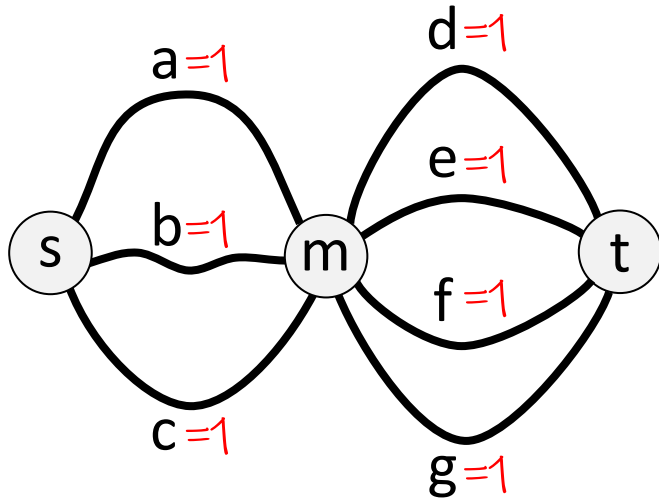
How many paths are there from s to t?

Answer: $12 = 3 \cdot 4$

Distributivity = efficient factorization

(Ring of real numbers)

- Semiring $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$



How many paths are there from s to t?

Answer: $12 = 3 \cdot 4$

$$\text{count}[a \cdot d, a \cdot e, a \cdot f, a \cdot g, \dots, c \cdot g]$$

$$\text{count}[1 \cdot 1, 1 \cdot 1, 1 \cdot 1, 1 \cdot 1, \dots, 1 \cdot 1]$$

$$= \text{count}[a, b, c] \cdot \text{count}[d, e, f, g]$$

$$\text{count}[1, 1, 1] \cdot \text{count}[1, 1, 1, 1]$$

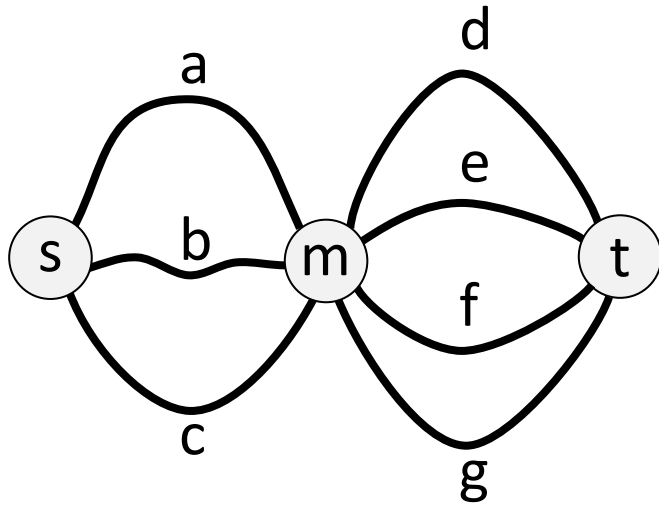
$$+[x, y] \cdot z = +[x \cdot z, y \cdot z]$$

(\cdot distributes over $+$)

Distributivity = efficient factorization

- Semiring $(S, \oplus, \otimes, 0, 1)$

Semirings generalize this idea



$$\oplus [a \otimes d, a \otimes e, a \otimes f, a \otimes g, \dots, c \otimes g]$$

$$= \oplus [a, b, c] \otimes \oplus [d, e, f, g]$$

$$\oplus [x, y] \otimes z = \oplus [x \otimes z, y \otimes z]$$

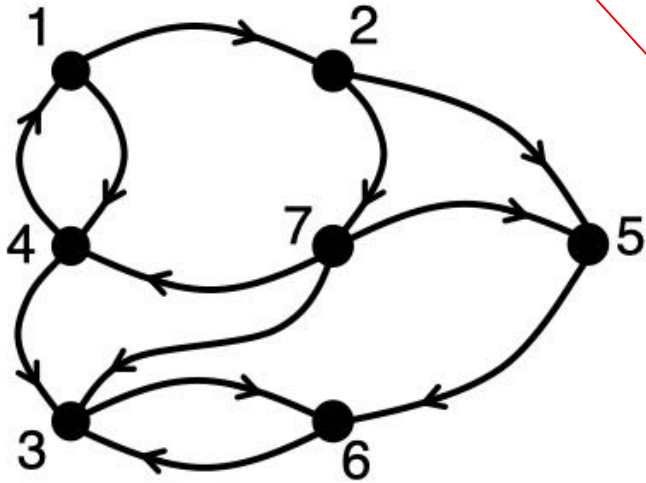
(\otimes distributes over \oplus)

Matrix multiplication



A... Adjacency matrix, or Arcs

think of dots as "1"s



in-vertex

A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1		•		•			
2					•		•
3						•	
4	•		•				
5						•	
6			•				
7			•	•	•		

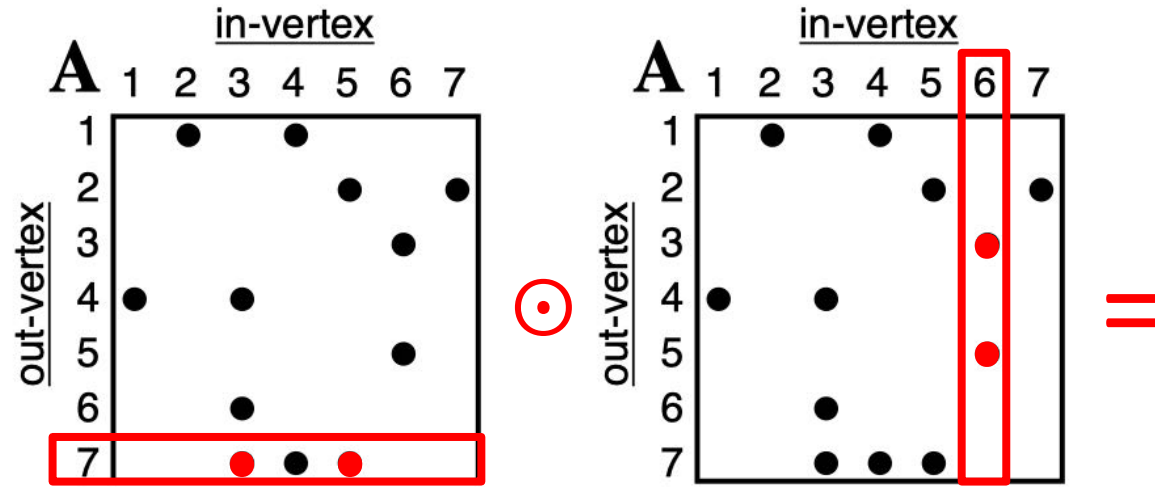
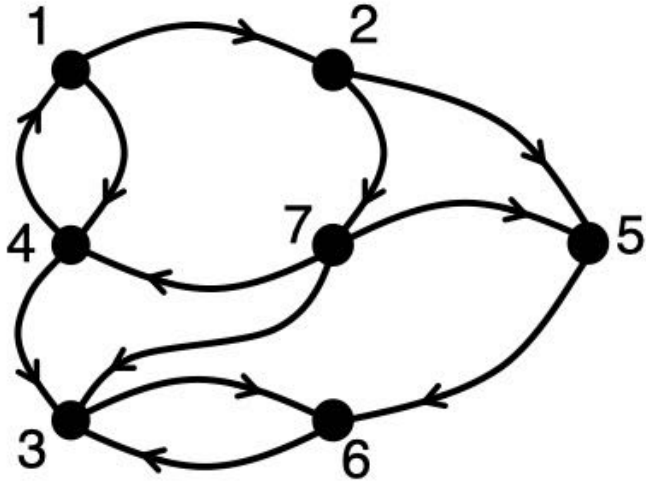
out-vertex

How many paths of length 2 are there from 7 to 6?



Matrix multiplication

A... Adjacency matrix, or Arcs



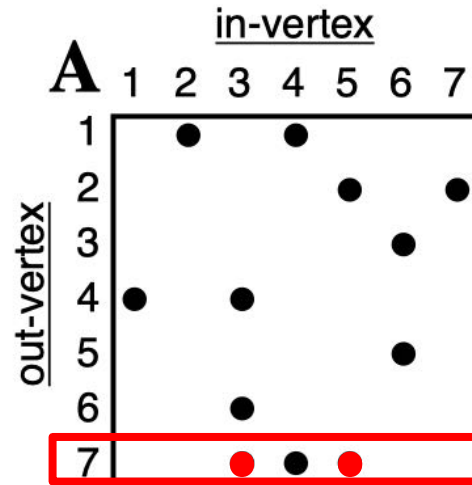
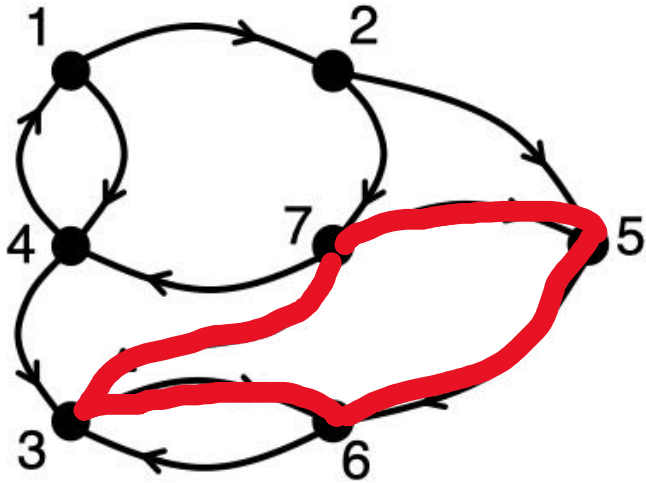
*matrix
multiplication*

*How many paths of
length 2 are there
from 7 to 6?*

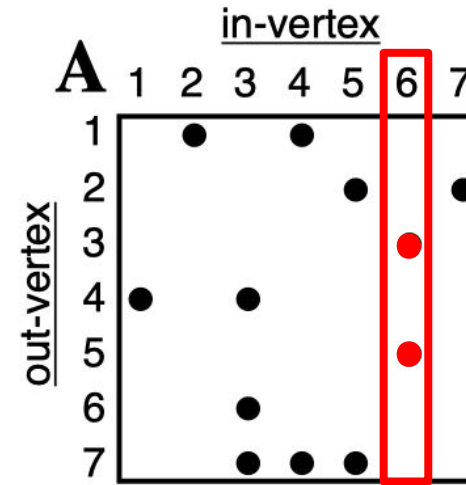
Matrix multiplication

A... Adjacency matrix, or Arcs

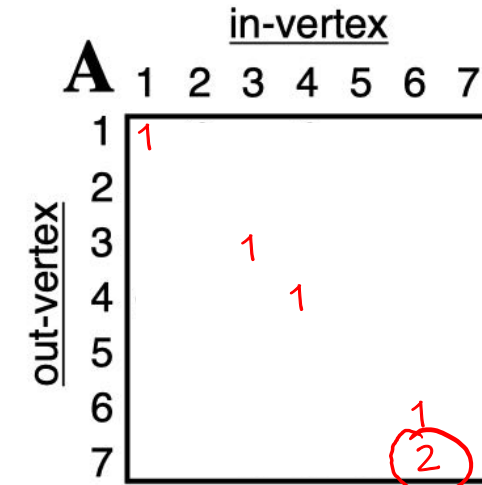
only diagonals and $7 \rightarrow 6$ are shown



⊙



=



matrix
multiplication

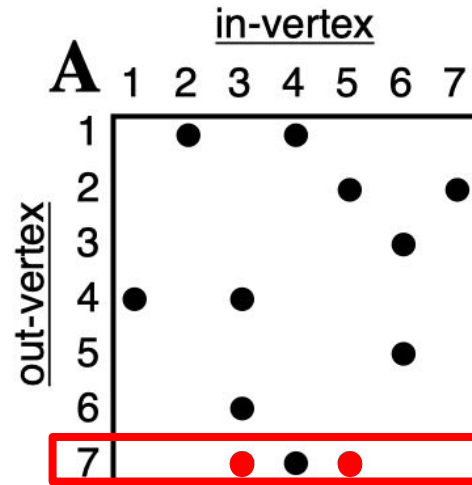
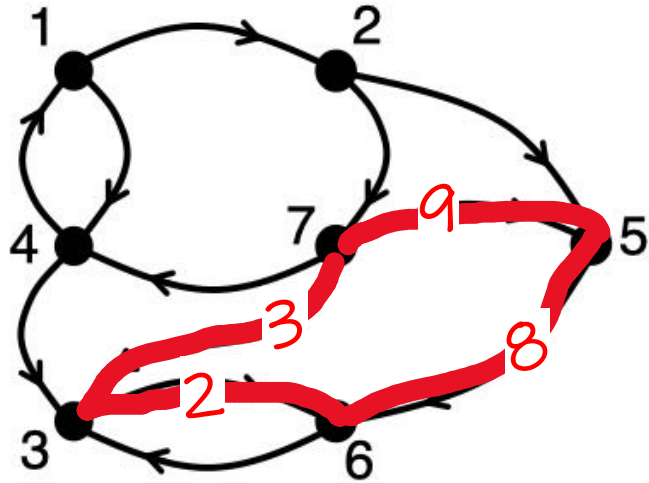
$$= 0 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 + \dots$$

How many paths of length 2 are there from 7 to 6?

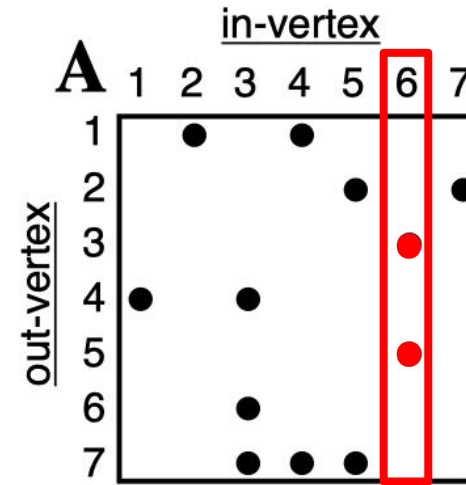
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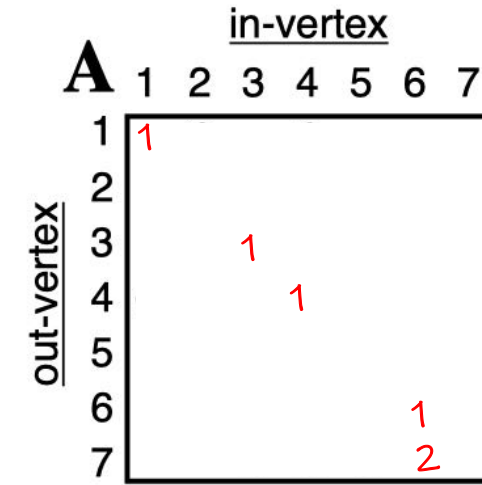
only diagonals and $7 \rightarrow 6$ are shown



⊙



=



matrix
multiplication

$$= 0 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 + \dots$$

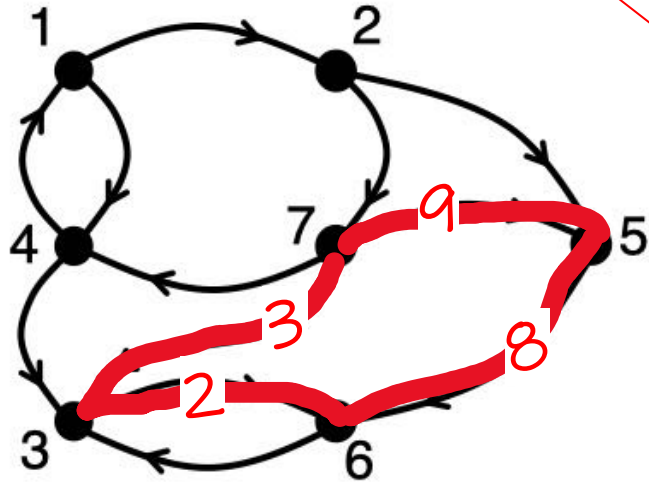
How long is the "shortest path" (minimal sum of weights) from 7 to 6? ?

Matrix multiplication

Neutral element ∞ instead of 0

A... Adjacency matrix, or Arcs

only diagonals and $7 \rightarrow 6$ are shown



		in-vertex						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
out-vertex	1		•		•			
	2					•		•
	3							•
	4	•		•				•
	5						•	
	6				•			
	7	∞		3			9	

		in-vertex						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
out-vertex	1		•		•		∞	
	2					•		•
	3						2	
	4	•		•				•
	5						8	
	6				•			
	7				•	•	•	

		in-vertex						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
out-vertex	1	•						
	2							
	3			•				
	4							
	5							
	6							
	7							•

MIN

= $\min[\infty + \infty, \infty + \infty, 3 + 2, 3 + \infty, 9 + 8, \dots]$

How long is the "shortest path" (minimal sum of weights) from 7 to 6?

The Relational Algebra

- In the relational algebra (RA) the elements are **relations**
 - A relation is a schema together with a finite set of tuples
- RA has **5 primitive operators**:
 - Unary: **projection**, **selection**
 - Binary: **union**, **difference**, **Cartesian product**
- Each of the 5 is essential or "**independent**": we cannot define it using the others
 - We will see what exactly this means and how this can be proved
- In practice, we allow many more useful operators that can be defined by the primitive ones (thus also called **derived operators**)
 - For example, **equi-joins** via Cartesian product and selection

Company

<u>cid</u>	CName	StockPrice	Country
1	GizmoWorks	25	USA
2	Canon	65	Japan
3	Hitachi	15	Japan

RA vs other Query Languages (QLs)



- There are some subtle (yet important) differences between RA and other QLs. In RA, ...
 - ... can tables have **duplicate** records?
?
 - ... are missing (**NULL**) values allowed?
?
 - ... is there any **order** among records?
?
 - ...is the answer dependent on the **domain** from which values are taken (not just the database at hand)?
?

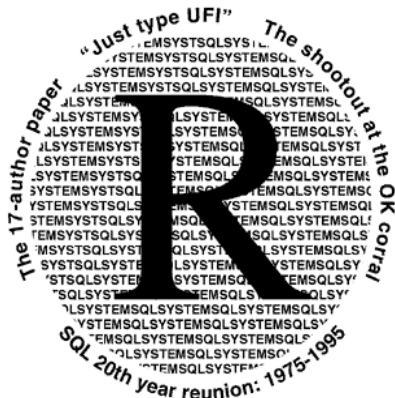
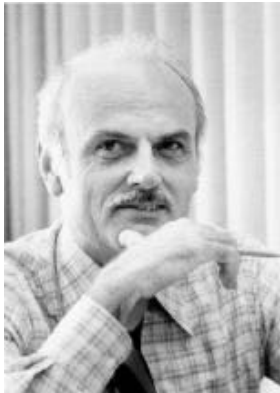
RA vs other Query Languages (QLs)



- There are some subtle (yet important) differences between RA and other QLs. In RA, ...
 - ... can tables have **duplicate** records?
 - (RA vs. **SQL**)
 - ... are missing (**NULL**) values allowed?
 - (RA vs. **SQL**)
 - ... is there any **order** among records?
 - (RA vs. **SQL**)
 - ...is the answer dependent on the **domain** from which values are taken (not just the database at hand)?
 - (RA vs. **unsafe RC**)

Recall: Virtues of the relational model

- "Separation of concerns": Physical independence (logical too), Declarative
- Simple, elegant clean: Everything is a relation
- Why did it take multiple years?
 - Doubted it could be done efficiently.



System R is a database system built as a research project at IBM San Jose Research (now IBM Almaden Research Center) in the 1970's. System R introduced the SQL language and also demonstrated that a relational system could provide good transaction processing performance.

again in System R and in Eagle, the big project at Santa Teresa. Nevertheless, what kicked off this work was a key paper by Ted Codd – was it published in 1970 in CACM?

Mike Blasgen: Yes.

Irv Traiger: A couple of us from the Systems Department had tried to read it – couldn't make heads nor tails out of it. *[laughter]* At least back then, it seemed like a very badly written paper: some industrial motivation, and then right into the math. *[laughter]*

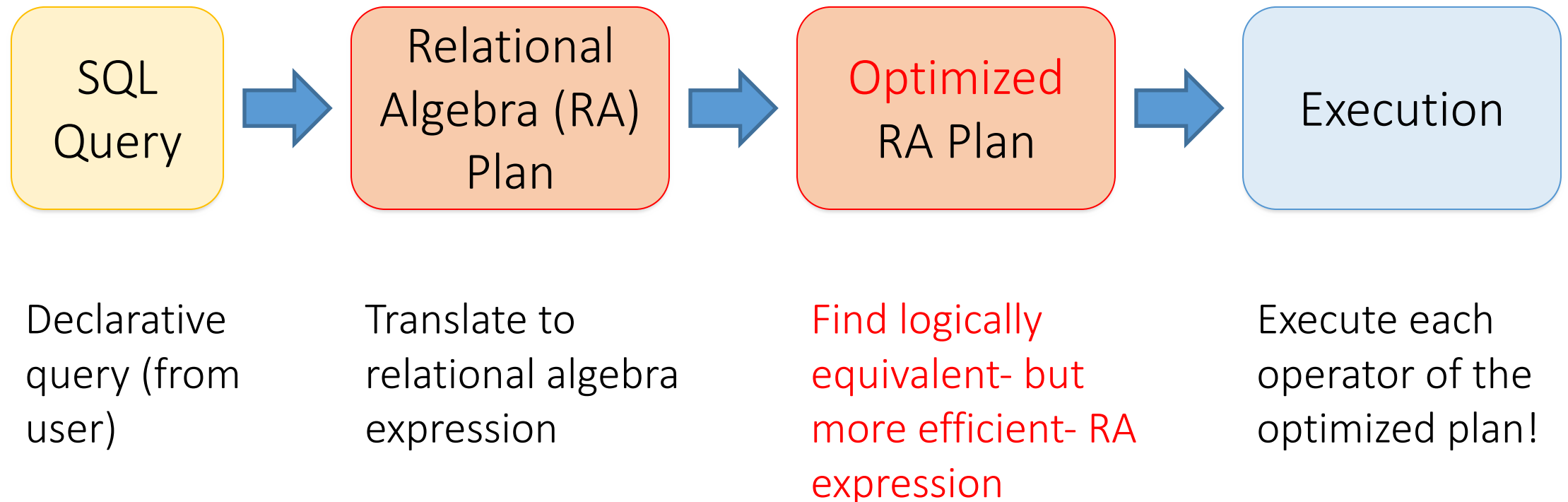
Bob Yost: I went over there with several other people – I was in the Advanced Systems Development Division – I remember going over there in about 1970 to see this because we were working with the IMS⁸ guys at the time. We couldn't believe it; we thought it's going to take at least ten years before there's going to be anything. And it was ten years. *[laughter]*

Irv Traiger: So we had this 1970 paper; there were a couple of other papers that Ted had written after that; one on a language called DSL/Alpha⁹, which was based on the predicate calculus. Glenn Bacon, who had the Systems Department, used to wonder how Ted could justify that everybody would be able to write this language that was based on mathematical predicate calculus, with universal quantifiers and existential quantifiers and variables and really, really hairy stuff.

RDBMS Architecture

- How does a SQL engine work ?

Relational Algebra allows us to translate declarative (SQL) queries into precise and optimizable expressions!



Algebra and the connection to logic and queries

- Algebra
- Relational Algebra
 - Operators
 - Independence
 - Power of algebra: optimizations
- Equivalence RA and safe RC (Codd's theorem)

Relational Algebra (RA) operators

All operators take in 1 or more relations as inputs and return another relation

- Five basic operators:

1. Selection: σ ("sigma")
2. Projection: Π
3. Cartesian Product: \times
4. Union: \cup
5. Difference: $-$

- Auxiliary operators (sometimes counted as basic):

6. Renaming: ρ ("rho")

- Derived

7. Joins \bowtie (natural, equi-join, theta join, semi-join)
8. Intersection / complement
9. Division

$R(A, B)$ $R.A$ $R(A, _)$

Two perspectives: we focus on the named perspective, where every attribute must have a unique name, thus attribute order does not matter (contrast with vectors)

- Extended RA

1. Duplicate elimination δ
2. Grouping and aggregation γ
3. Sorting τ

RDBMSs use multisets (bags), however in RA we will consider sets

Relational Algebra (RA) operators

- Five basic operators:
 1. Selection: σ ("sigma")
 2. Projection: Π
 3. Cartesian Product: \times
 4. Union: \cup
 5. Difference: $-$
- Auxiliary (or special) operator
 6. Renaming: ρ ("rho")
- Derived (or implied) operators
 7. Joins \bowtie (natural, theta join, equi-join, semi-join)
 8. Intersection / complement
 9. Division



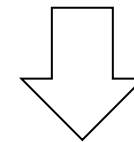
1. Selection (σ)

- Returns all tuples which satisfy a condition
- Notation: $\sigma_c(R)$
- Examples
 - Employee(ssn, name, salary)
 - $\sigma_{\text{Salary} > 40000}$ (Employee)
 - $\sigma_{\text{name} = \text{“Smith”}}$ (Employee)
- The condition c can be comparison predicates =, <, ≤, >, ≥, <> combined with AND, OR, NOT

Student(sid, sname, gpa)

SQL:

```
SELECT *  
FROM Student  
WHERE gpa > 3.5
```



RA:





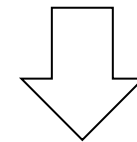
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RA:

$\sigma_{\text{gpa} > 3.5}$ (Student)

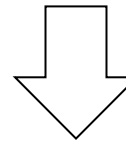
1. Selection example



Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	John	20000
5423341	Smith	60000
4352342	Fred	50000

$\sigma_{\text{Salary} > 40000}$ (Employee)



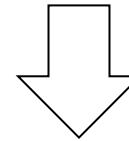
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SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	John	20000
5423341	Smith	60000
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$\sigma_{\text{Salary} > 40000}$ (Employee)



SSN	Name	Salary
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4352342	Fred	50000



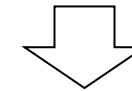
2. Projection (Π)

- Eliminates columns, then removes duplicates (set perspective!)
- Notation: $\Pi_{A_1, \dots, A_n}(R)$
- Alternative: $\Pi_{-B_1, \dots, B_n}(R)$
"project away" operator (not standard)
- Example: project on social-security number and names:
 - Employee(ssn, name, salary)
 - $\Pi_{SSN, Name}(Employee)$
 - Output schema: Answer(SSN, Name)

Student(sid, sname, gpa)

SQL:

```
SELECT DISTINCT sname, gpa  
FROM Student
```



RA:





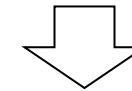
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RA:

$\Pi_{sname, gpa}(Student)$

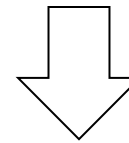
2. Projection example



Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	Ciara	20000
5423341	Ciara	60000
4352342	Ciara	20000

Π_{name} (Employee)



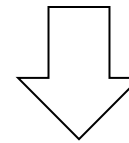
2. Projection example



Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	Ciara	20000
5423341	Ciara	60000
4352342	Ciara	20000

Π_{name} (Employee)



Name
Ciara

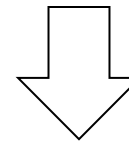
2. Projection example



Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	Ciara	20000
5423341	Ciara	60000
4352342	Ciara	20000

$\Pi_{\text{name, salary}}(\text{Employee})$



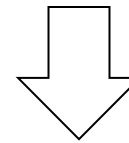


2. Projection example

Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	Ciara	20000
5423341	Ciara	60000
4352342	Ciara	20000

$\Pi_{\text{name, salary}}(\text{Employee})$



Bag semantics



Name	Salary
Ciara	20000
Ciara	60000

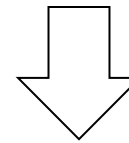


2. Projection example

Employee

SSN	Name	Salary
1234545	Ciara	20000
5423341	Ciara	60000
4352342	Ciara	20000

$\Pi_{\text{name, salary}}$ (Employee)



Which semantics is more efficient?



Bag semantics

Name	Salary
Ciara	20000
Ciara	60000
Ciara	20000

Name	Salary
Ciara	20000
Ciara	60000

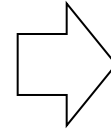
Composing RA Operators



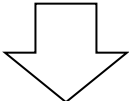
Patient

no	name	zip	disease
1	p1	98125	flu
2	p2	98125	heart
3	p3	98120	lung
4	p4	98120	heart

$\pi_{\text{zip,disease}}(\text{Patient})$



zip	disease
98125	flu
98125	heart
98120	lung
98120	heart

$\sigma_{\text{disease}='heart'}(\pi_{\text{zip,disease}}(\text{Patient}))$ 

zip	disease
98125	heart
98120	heart

Composing RA Operators

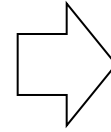
How do we call what we see on this page / the property of these two operators



Patient

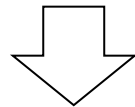
no	name	zip	disease
1	p1	98125	flu
2	p2	98125	heart
3	p3	98120	lung
4	p4	98120	heart

$\pi_{zip,disease}(Patient)$



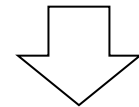
zip	disease
98125	flu
98125	heart
98120	lung
98120	heart

$\sigma_{disease='heart'}(Patient)$

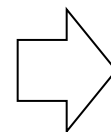


no	name	zip	disease
2	p2	98125	heart
4	p4	98120	heart

$\sigma_{disease='heart'}(\pi_{zip,disease}(Patient))$



zip	disease
98125	heart
98120	heart



$\pi_{zip,disease}(\sigma_{disease='heart'}(Patient))$

Composing RA Operators

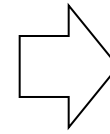


"commuting operators"

Patient

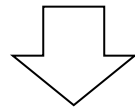
no	name	zip	disease
1	p1	98125	flu
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$\Pi_{zip,disease}(Patient)$



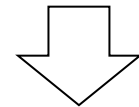
zip	disease
98125	flu
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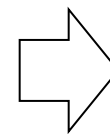


no	name	zip	disease
2	p2	98125	heart
4	p4	98120	heart

$\sigma_{disease='heart'}(\Pi_{zip,disease}(Patient))$



zip	disease
98125	heart
98120	heart



$\Pi_{zip,disease}(\sigma_{disease='heart'}(Patient))$

Logical Equivalence of RA Plans

R(A,B)



$$\Pi_A(\sigma_{A=5}(R)) \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} \sigma_{A=5}(\Pi_A(R))$$

Do projection & selection
commute in this example?



Logical Equivalence of RA Plans

R(A,B)



$$\Pi_A(\sigma_{A=5}(R)) \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} \sigma_{A=5}(\Pi_A(R))$$

Do projection & selection
commute in this example?

Yes 😊

$$\Pi_B(\sigma_{A=5}(R)) \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} \sigma_{A=5}(\Pi_B(R))$$

What about here?



Logical Equivalence of RA Plans

R(A,B)



$$\Pi_A(\sigma_{A=5}(R)) \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} \sigma_{A=5}(\Pi_A(R))$$

Do projection & selection
commute in this example?

Yes 😊

$$\Pi_B(\sigma_{A=5}(R)) \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} \sigma_{A=5}(\Pi_B(R))$$

$R'(B)$

What about here?

No 😊

Commuting functions: a digression

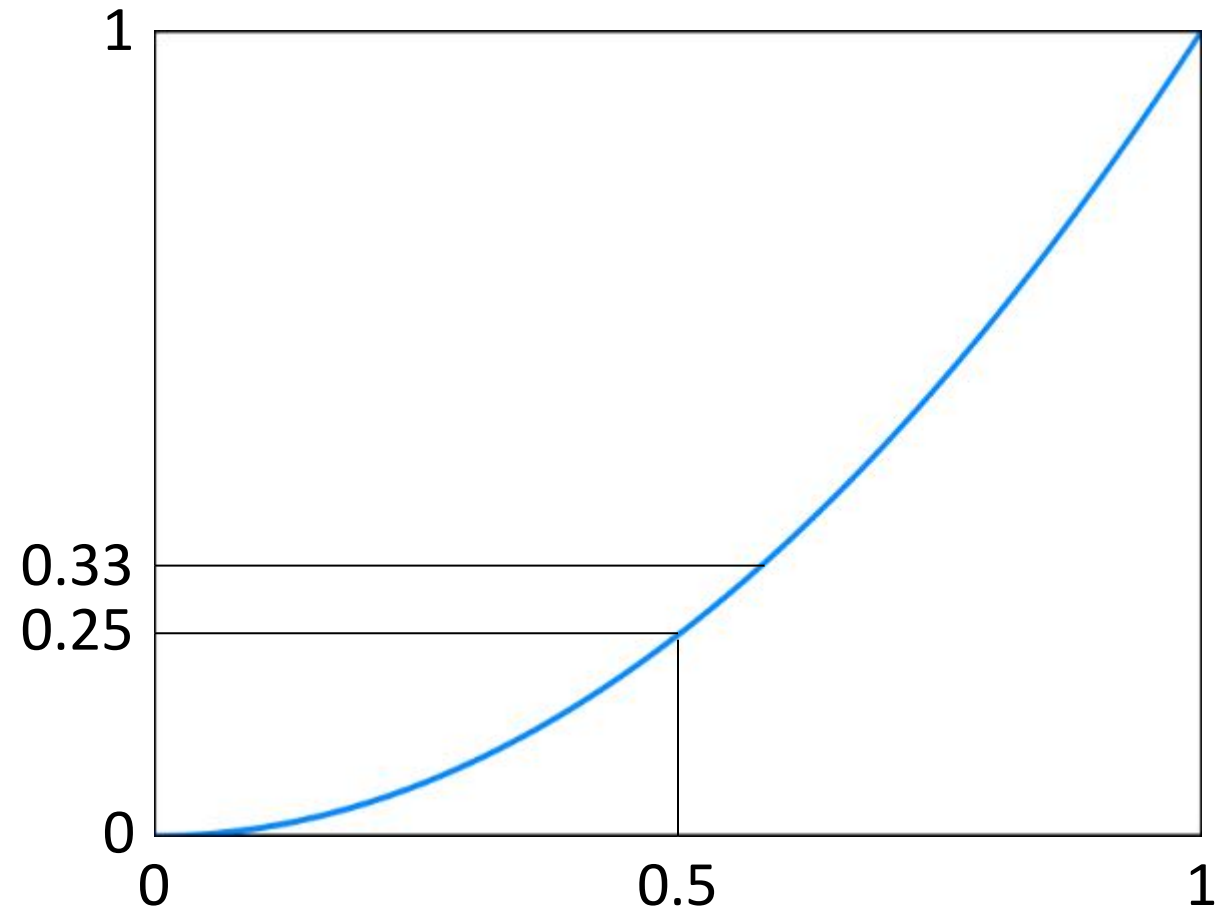
- Do functions commute with taking the expectation?
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = f(\mathbb{E}[x])$?



- Do functions commute with taking the expectation?
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = f(\mathbb{E}[x])$?
- Only for linear functions
 - Thus $f(x) = ax + b$
 - $\mathbb{E}[ax+b] = a \mathbb{E}[x] + b$
- Jensen's inequality for convex f



- Do functions commute with taking the expectation?
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = f(\mathbb{E}[x])$?
- Only for linear functions
 - Thus $f(x) = ax + b$
 - $\mathbb{E}[ax+b] = a \mathbb{E}[x] + b$
- **Jensen's inequality** for convex f
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(x)] \geq f(\mathbb{E}[x])$
- Example $f(x) = x^2$
 - Assume $0 \leq x \leq 1$
 - $f(\mathbb{E}[x]) = f(0.5) = 0.25$
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = \frac{\int_0^1 f(x)}{1-0} = \frac{x^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = 0.33$



Ratio of averages != average of ratios

- Assume you developed a new **variant "1"** and want to experimentally compare it against a baseline **variant "2"**.
- Your Professor suggests to compare the methods on two data points (North and South) and **report the AVG of their relative ratios**. How does this sound?



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DATA (higher ↑ is better):

	Variant 1	Variant 2	Ratio $\frac{\text{Variant 1}}{\text{Variant 2}}$
North	20	10	20/10 = ?
South	10	20	10/20 = ?

AVG = ?

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AVG = 1.25 + 25%

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CONCLUSION
Variant 1 is on average
25% better

AVG = 1.25 + 25%



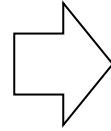
RA Operators are Compositional, in general



Student(sid,sname,gpa)

*How do we represent
this query in RA?*

```
SELECT DISTINCT sname, gpa  
FROM Student  
WHERE gpa > 3.5
```

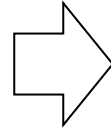


RA Operators are Compositional, in general



Student(sid,sname,gpa)

```
SELECT DISTINCT sname, gpa  
FROM Student  
WHERE gpa > 3.5
```



$\Pi_{\text{sname,gpa}}(\sigma_{\text{gpa}>3.5}(\text{Students}))$

$\sigma_{\text{gpa}>3.5}(\Pi_{\text{sname,gpa}}(\text{Students}))$

which of those two variants is correct?

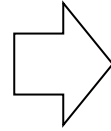


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```



$\Pi_{\text{sname,gpa}}(\sigma_{\text{gpa}>3.5}(\text{Students}))$

$\sigma_{\text{gpa}>3.5}(\Pi_{\text{sname,gpa}}(\text{Students}))$

Both are correct: logically equivalent 😊

Relational Algebra (RA) operators

- Five basic operators:
 1. Selection: σ ("sigma")
 2. Projection: Π
 3. Cartesian Product: \times
 4. Union: \cup
 5. Difference: $-$
- Auxiliary (or special) operator
 6. Renaming: ρ ("rho")
- Derived (or implied) operators
 7. Joins \bowtie (natural, theta join, equi-join, semi-join)
 8. Intersection / complement
 9. Division



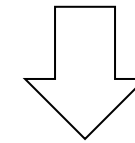
3. Cross-Product (\times)

- Each tuple in R with each tuple in S
- Notation: $R \times S$
- Example:
 - Students \times Advisors
- Rare in practice; mainly used to express joins

```
Student(sid,sname,gpa)
People(ssn,pname,address)
```

SQL:

```
SELECT *
FROM People, Student
```



RA:



3. Cross-Product (\times)

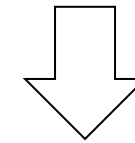


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People(ssn,pname,address)
```

SQL:

```
SELECT *  
FROM People, Student
```



RA:

People \times Student

3. Cross join example



People

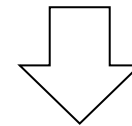
ssn	pname	address
1234545	John	216 Rosse
5423341	Bob	217 Rosse

×

Student

sid	sname	gpa
001	John	3.4
002	Bob	1.3

People × Student



3. Cross join example



People

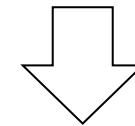
ssn	pname	address
1234545	John	216 Rosse
5423341	Bob	217 Rosse

×

Student

sid	sname	gpa
001	John	3.4
002	Bob	1.3

People × Student



ssn	pname	address	sid	sname	gpa
1234545	John	216 Rosse	001	John	3.4
5423341	Bob	217 Rosse	001	John	3.4
1234545	John	216 Rosse	002	Bob	1.3
5423341	Bob	216 Rosse	002	Bob	1.3

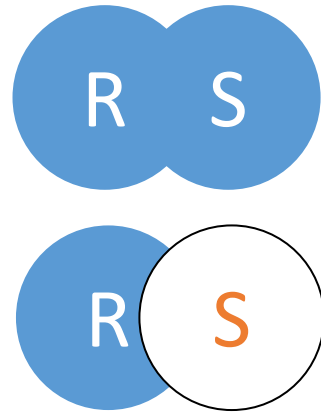
Relational Algebra (RA) operators

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4. Union (U) and 5. Difference (–)

$R \cup S$
 $R - S$



- Examples:
 - Students \cup Faculty
 - AllNEUEmployees – RetiredFaculty

Student (neuid, fname, lname)
Faculty (neuid, fname, lname, college)

*What about the union of
Student and Faculty?*

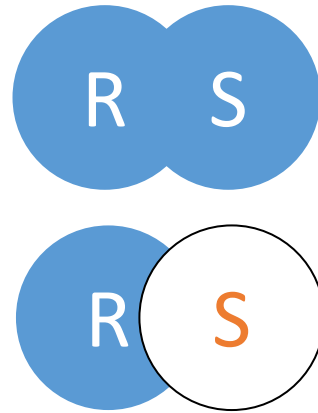


4. Union (U) and 5. Difference (−)



Actor (aid, fname, lname)
Play (aid, mid, role)

R U S
R − S



Other example: find actor ids who don't play in any movie:



- Examples:
 - Students U Faculty
 - AllNEUEmployees − RetiredFaculty

$\pi_{\text{-college}}$ (Student (neuid, fname, lname)
Faculty (neuid, fname, lname, college))

What about the union of Student and Faculty?

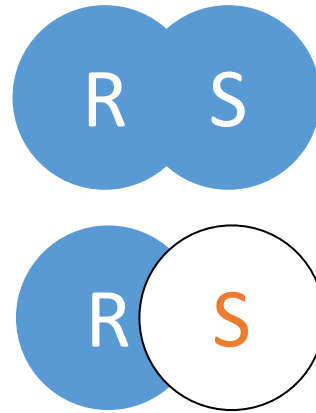
No! Only makes sense if R and S are "compatible", thus have the same schema!

4. Union (U) and 5. Difference (−)



Actor (aid, fname, lname)
Play (aid, mid, role)

R U S
R − S



Other example: find actor ids who don't play in any movie:

$$\pi_{aid}(\text{Actor}) - \pi_{aid}(\text{Play})$$

- Examples:

- Students U Faculty
- AllNEUEmployees − RetiredFaculty

$\pi_{-college}(\text{Student}(\underline{neuid}, \text{fname}, \text{lname}) \text{ Faculty}(\underline{neuid}, \text{fname}, \text{lname}, \text{college}))$

What about the union of Student and Faculty?

No! Only makes sense if R and S are "compatible", thus have the same schema!

Relational Algebra (RA) operators

- Five basic operators:
 1. Selection: σ ("sigma")
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6. Renaming (ρ rho)

- Does not change the instance, only the schema (table or attribute names)
- Only needed in named perspective, thus a 'special' operator (neither basic nor derived)
- Several existing conventions:

$$\rho_S(R) \quad \text{S new table name}$$

$$\rho_{S(B_1, \dots, B_n)}(R) \quad \text{if positions can be used}$$

$$\rho_{S(A_1 \rightarrow B_1, \dots, A_n \rightarrow B_n)}(R) \quad \text{if attribute names,}$$

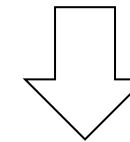
$$\rho_{A_1 \rightarrow B_1, \dots, A_n \rightarrow B_n}(R) \quad \text{not order matters}$$

$$\rho_{B_1, \dots, B_n}(R)$$

Student(sid, sname, gpa)

SQL:

```
SELECT
  sid      AS studId,
  sname    AS name,
  gpa      AS gradePtAvg
FROM Student
```



RA:





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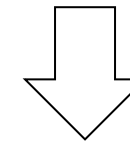
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$$\rho_{B_1, \dots, B_n}(R)$$

Student(sid, sname, gpa)

SQL:

```
SELECT
  sid      AS studId,
  sname   AS name,
  gpa     AS gradePtAvg
FROM Student
```



RA:

$\rho_{\text{studId, name, gradePtAvg}}(\text{Student})$

6. Why we need renaming



R

A	B
1	2
3	4

S

B	C	D
2	5	6
4	7	8
9	10	11

$R \times S$



6. Why we need renaming



R

A	B
1	2
3	4

S

B	C	D
2	5	6
4	7	8
9	10	11

$R \times S$

A	R.B	S.B	C	D
1	2	2	5	6
1	2	4	7	8
1	2	9	10	11
3	4	2	5	6
3	4	4	7	8
3	4	9	10	11

What if we use renaming



6. Why we need renaming



R

A	B \rightarrow E
1	2
3	4

S

B	C	D
2	5	6
4	7	8
9	10	11

R \times S

A	R.B	S.B	C	D
1	2	2	5	6
1	2	4	7	8
1	2	9	10	11
3	4	2	5	6
3	4	4	7	8
3	4	9	10	11

$\rho_{B \rightarrow E}(R) \times S$

A	E	B	C	D
1	2	2	5	6
1	2	4	7	8
1	2	9	10	11
3	4	2	5	6
3	4	4	7	8
3	4	9	10	11

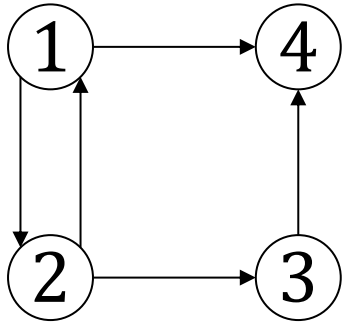
We need renaming if we had R \times R

6. Named vs Unnamed perspective



Q: Nodes that have a grand-child {1,2}

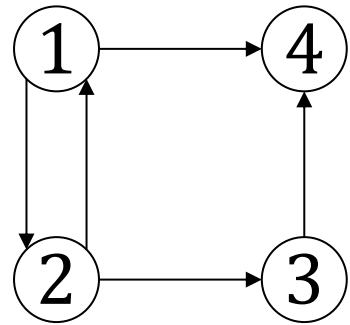
In DRC:



A:

	S	T
1	2	
2	1	
2	3	
1	4	
3	4	

6. Named vs Unnamed perspective



Q: Nodes that have a grand-child {1,2}

In DRC:

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z.[A(x,y) \wedge A(y,z)] \}$$

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z,u,w.[A(y,z) \wedge A(u,w) \wedge z=u \wedge y=x] \}$$

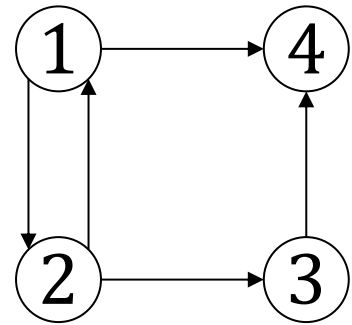
A:

S	T
1	2
2	1
2	3
1	4
3	4

In RA:



6. Named vs Unnamed perspective



Q: Nodes that have a grand-child {1,2}

In DRC:

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z.[A(x,y) \wedge A(y,z)] \}$$

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z,u,w.[A(y,z) \wedge A(u,w) \wedge z=u \wedge y=x] \}$$

A:

S	T	S2	T2
1	2	1	2
2	1	2	1
2	3	2	3
1	4	1	4
3	4	3	4

In RA:

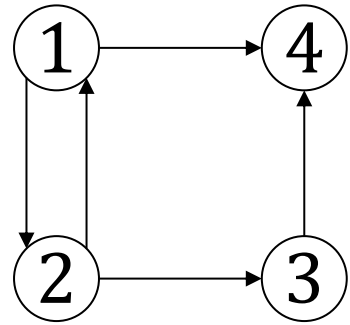
$$\pi_S(\sigma_{T=S_2}(A \times \rho_{S \rightarrow S_2, S \rightarrow S_2}(A)))$$



named perspective

unnamed perspective

6. Named vs Unnamed perspective



Q: Nodes that have a grand-child {1,2}

In DRC:

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z.[A(x,y) \wedge A(y,z)] \} \quad \text{"unnamed"}$$

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z,u,w.[A(y,z) \wedge A(u,w) \wedge z=u \wedge y=x] \}$$

A:

	\$1 S	\$2 T		\$3 S2	\$4 T2
	1	2		1	2
	2	1		2	1
	2	3		2	3
	1	4		1	4
	3	4		3	4



In RA:

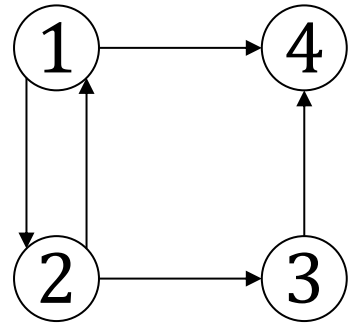
$$\pi_S(\sigma_{T=S2}(A \times \rho_{S \rightarrow S2, S \rightarrow S2}(A))) \quad \text{"named perspective"}$$

$$\pi_{\$1}(\sigma_{\$2=\$3}(A \times A)) \quad \text{"unnamed perspective"}$$

I adopt the notation \$2 from Ullman's old textbook. Often just written as " $\pi_1(\sigma_{2=3}(A \times A))$ ", which is ambiguous. A more recent database textbook uses " $2 \doteq 3$ " for " $\$2=\3 " which gets confusing for " $\$2=3$ "...



6. Named vs Unnamed perspective



Q: Nodes that have a grand-child {1,2}

In DRC:

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z.[A(x,y) \wedge A(y,z)] \} \quad \text{"unnamed"}$$

$$\{ x \mid \exists y,z,u,w.[A(y,z) \wedge A(u,w) \wedge z=u \wedge y=x] \}$$

In TRC:

$$\{ q(S) \mid \exists a1, a2 \in A[a1.T=a2.S \wedge a1.S=q.S] \}$$

"named"

In RA:

$$\pi_S(\sigma_{T=S_2}(A \times \rho_{S \rightarrow S_2, S \rightarrow S_2}(A))) \quad \text{named perspective}$$

$$\pi_{\$1}(\sigma_{\$2=\$3}(A \times A)) \quad \text{unnamed perspective}$$

A:

	\$1 S	\$2 T		\$3 S2	\$4 T2
	1	2		1	2
	2	1		2	1
	2	3		2	3
	1	4		1	4
	3	4		3	4

I adopt the notation \$2 from Ullman's old textbook. Often just written as " $\pi_1(\sigma_{2=3}(A \times A))$ ", which is ambiguous. A more recent database textbook uses " $2 \doteq 3$ " for " $\$2=\3 " which gets confusing for " $\$2=3$ "...