CompSci 516
Database Systems

Lecture 21
Recursive Query Evaluation
and
Datalog
Instructor: Sudeepa Roy

Annoucements

- HW3 due Monday 11/26
- Next week
  – practice pop-up quiz on transactions (all lectures)

Where are we now?

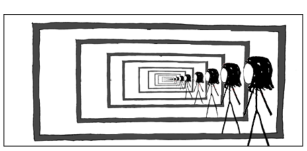
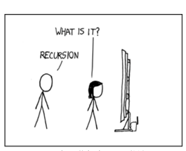
We learnt
- ✓ Relational Model and Query Languages
  - ✓ SQL, RA, RC
  - ✓ Postgres (DBMS)
  - ▪ HW1
- ✓ Database Normalization
- ✓ DBMS Internals
  - ✓ Storage
  - ✓ Indexing
  - ✓ Query Evaluation
  - ✓ Operator Algorithms
  - ✓ External sort
  - ✓ Query Optimization
- ✓ Map-reduce and spark
  - ▪ HW2

- Transactions
  - Basic concepts
  - Concurrency control
  - Recovery
- Distributed DBMS
- NOSQL
- Parallel DBMS

Today

- Semantic of recursion in databases
- Datalog
  – for recursion in database queries
- Views

Recursion!

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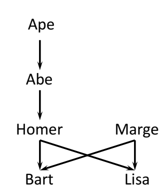
A motivating example

Parent (*parent*, *child*)

parent	child
Homer	Bart
Homer	Lisa
Marge	Bart
Marge	Lisa
Abe	Homer
Ape	Abe



- Example: find Bart's ancestors
- "Ancestor" has a recursive definition
  – X is Y's ancestor if
    - X is Y's parent, or
    - X is Z's ancestor and Z is Y's ancestor

Recursion in SQL

- SQL2 had no recursion
  - You can find Bart's parents, grandparents, great grandparents, etc.

```
SELECT p1.parent AS grandparent
FROM Parent p1, Parent p2
WHERE p1.child = p2.parent
AND p2.child = 'Bart';
```

  - But you cannot find all his ancestors with a single query

Recursion in Databases

- Consider a graph G(V, E). Can you find out all "ancestor" vertices that can reach "x" using Relational Algebra/Calculus?
- NO! – ANCESTOR cannot be defined using a constant-size union of select-project-join queries (conjunctive queries)
- No RA/RC expressions can express ANCESTOR or REACHABILITY (TRANSITIVE CLOSURE) (Aho-Ullman, 1979)
- A limitation of RA/RC in expressing recursive queries

Recursion in Databases

- What can we do to overcome the limitation?

1. Embed SQL in a high level language supporting recursion
   - (-) destroys the high level declarative characteristic of SQL
2. Augment RC with a high level declarative mechanism for recursion
   - Datalog (Chandra-Harel, 1982)

- SQL:1999 (SQL3) and later versions support "linear Datalog"

Brief History of Datalog

- Motivated by Prolog – started back in 80's – then quiet for a long time
- A long argument in the Database community whether recursion should be supported in query languages
  - *"No practical applications of recursive query theory ... have been found to date"*—Michael Stonebraker, 1998
    Readings in Database Systems, 3rd Edition Stonebraker and Hellerstein, eds.
  - Recent work by Hellerstein et al. on Datalog-extensions to build networking protocols and distributed systems. [Link]

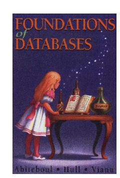
Datalog is resurging!

- Number of papers and tutorials in DB conferences
- Applications in
  - data integration, declarative networking, program analysis, information extraction, network monitoring, security, and cloud computing
- Systems supporting datalog in both academia and industry:
  - Lixto (information extraction)
  - LogicBlox (enterprise decision automation)
  - Semmle (program analysis)
  - BOOM/Dedalus (Berlekey)
  - Coral
  - LDL++

Reading Material: Datalog

Optional:

1. The datalog chapters in the "Alice Book"
Foundations of Databases
Abiteboul-Hull-Vianu
Available online: http://webdam.inria.fr/Alice/



2. Datalog tutorial
SIGMOD 2011
"Datalog and Emerging Applications: An Interactive Tutorial"

Acknowledgement:
Some of the following slides have been borrowed from slides by Prof. Jun Yang

Recursive Query in SQL

Recursion in SQL

- SQL2 had no recursion
- SQL3 introduces recursion
  - WITH clause
  - Implemented in PostgreSQL (common table expressions)

Ancestor query in SQL3

Define a relation recursively

```
WITH RECURSIVE
Ancestor(anc, desc) AS
(
 (SELECT parent, child FROM Parent)        -- base case
 UNION
 (SELECT a1.anc, a2.desc                   -- recursion step
    FROM Ancestor a1, Ancestor a2
    WHERE a1.desc = a2.anc)
)
SELECT anc
FROM Ancestor
WHERE desc = 'Bart';
```

Query using the relation defined in WITH clause

Fixed point of a function

- If $f: T \rightarrow T$ is a function from a type T to itself, a fixed point of f is a value x such that $f(x) = x$
- Example: What is the fixed point of $f(x) = x/2$?
  - 0, because $f(0) = 0/2 = 0$

To compute fixed point of a function f

- Start with a "seed": $x \leftarrow x_0$
- Compute $f(x)$
  - If $f(x) = x$, stop; x is fixed point of f
  - Otherwise, $x \leftarrow f(x)$; repeat
- Example: compute the fixed point of $f(x) = x/2$
  - With seed 1: 1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, … → 0

☞Doesn't always work, but happens to work for us!

Fixed point of a query

- A query q is just a function that maps an input table to an output table, so a fixed point of q is a table T such that $q(T) = T$

To compute fixed point of q

- Start with an empty table: $T \leftarrow \emptyset$
- Evaluate q over T
  - If the result is identical to T, stop; T is a fixed point
  - Otherwise, let T be the new result; repeat

☞ Starting from $\emptyset$ produces the unique minimal fixed point (assuming q is monotone)

Finding ancestors

- WITH RECURSIVE Ancestor(anc, desc) AS ((SELECT parent, child FROM Parent) UNION (SELECT a1.anc, a2.desc FROM Ancestor a1, Ancestor a2 WHERE a1.desc = a2.anc))
  - Think of the definition as *Ancestor* = *q*(*Ancestor*)

parent	child
Homer	Bart
Homer	Lisa
Marge	Bart
Marge	Lisa
Abe	Homer
Ape	Abe

anc	desc

→

anc	desc
Homer	Bart
Homer	Lisa
Marge	Bart
Marge	Lisa
Abe	Homer
Ape	Abe

→

anc	desc
Homer	Bart
Homer	Lisa
Marge	Bart
Marge	Lisa
Abe	Homer
Ape	Abe
Abe	Bart
Abe	Lisa
Ape	Homer

→

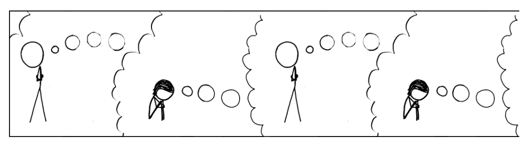
anc	desc
Homer	Bart
Homer	Lisa
Marge	Bart
Marge	Lisa
Abe	Homer
Ape	Abe
Abe	Bart
Abe	Lisa
Ape	Homer
Ape	Bart
Ape	Lisa

Linear recursion

- With linear recursion, a recursive definition can make only one reference to itself
- Non-linear
  - WITH RECURSIVE Ancestor(anc, desc) AS ((SELECT parent, child FROM Parent) UNION (SELECT a1.anc, a2.desc FROM Ancestor a1, Ancestor a2 WHERE a1.desc = a2.anc))
- Linear
  - WITH RECURSIVE Ancestor(anc, desc) AS ((SELECT parent, child FROM Parent) UNION (SELECT anc, child FROM Ancestor, Parent WHERE desc = parent))

Linear vs. non-linear recursion

- Linear recursion is easier to implement
  - For linear recursion, just keep joining "newly generated" *Ancestor* rows with *Parent*
    - *Homework: try to figure out why it should work*
  - For non-linear recursion, need to join newly generated *Ancestor* rows with all existing *Ancestor* rows
- Non-linear recursion may take fewer steps to converge, but perform more work
  - Example: $a \to b \to c \to d \to e$
  - Linear recursion takes 4 steps
  - Non-linear recursion takes 3 steps
    - More work: e.g., $a \to d$ has two different derivations



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Mutual recursion example

- Table *Natural* (*n*) contains 1, 2, …, 100
- Which numbers are even/odd?
  - An odd number plus 1 is an even number
  - An even number plus 1 is an odd number
  - 1 is an odd number

```
WITH RECURSIVE Even(n) AS
    (SELECT n FROM Natural
     WHERE n = ANY(SELECT n+1 FROM Odd)),
    RECURSIVE Odd(n) AS
    ((SELECT n FROM Natural WHERE n = 1)
     UNION
     (SELECT n FROM Natural
      WHERE n = ANY(SELECT n+1 FROM Even)))
```


Semantics of WITH

- WITH RECURSIVE R_1 AS Q_1, …, RECURSIVE R_n AS Q_n Q;
  - Q and $Q_1, \dots, Q_n$ may refer to $R_1, \dots, R_n$
- Semantics
  1. $R_1 \leftarrow \emptyset, \dots, R_n \leftarrow \emptyset$
  2. Evaluate $Q_1, \dots, Q_n$ using the current contents of $R_1, \dots, R_n$: $R_1^{new} \leftarrow Q_1, \dots, R_n^{new} \leftarrow Q_n$
  3. If $R_i^{new} \neq R_i$ for some i
     3.1. $R_1 \leftarrow R_1^{new}, \dots, R_n \leftarrow R_n^{new}$
     3.2. Go to 2.
  4. Compute Q using the current contents of $R_1, \dots R_n$ and output the result

Computing mutual recursion

```
WITH RECURSIVE Even(n) AS
        (SELECT n FROM Natural
         WHERE n = ANY(SELECT n+1 FROM Odd)),
        RECURSIVE Odd(n) AS
        ((SELECT n FROM Natural WHERE n = 1)
         UNION
         (SELECT n FROM Natural
          WHERE n = ANY(SELECT n+1 FROM Even)))
```

- *Even* = ∅, *Odd* = ∅
- *Even* = ∅, *Odd* = {1}
- *Even* = {2}, *Odd* = {1}
- *Even* = {2}, *Odd* = {1, 3}
- *Even* = {2, 4}, *Odd* = {1, 3}
- *Even* = {2, 4}, *Odd* = {1, 3, 5}
- …

Mixing negation with recursion

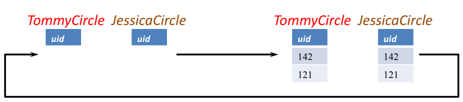
- If q is non-monotone
  - The fixed-point iteration may flip-flop and never converge
  - There could be multiple minimal fixed points—we wouldn't know which one to pick as answer!
- Example: popular users (pop ≥ 0.8) join either Jessica's Circle or Tommy's (but not both)
  - Those not in Jessica's Circle should be in Tom's
  - Those not in Tom's Circle should be in Jessica's

```
WITH RECURSIVE TommyCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM JessicaCircle)),
  RECURSIVE JessicaCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM TommyCircle))
```


Fixed-point iter may not converge

```
WITH RECURSIVE TommyCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM JessicaCircle)),
  RECURSIVE JessicaCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM TommyCircle))
```

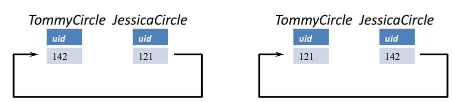
uid	name	age	pop
142	Bart	10	0.9
121	Allison	8	0.85



Multiple minimal fixed points

```
WITH RECURSIVE TommyCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM JessicaCircle)),
  RECURSIVE JessicaCircle(uid) AS
  (SELECT uid FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8
   AND uid NOT IN (SELECT uid FROM TommyCircle))
```

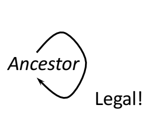
uid	name	age	pop
142	Bart	10	0.9
121	Allison	8	0.85

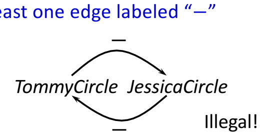


Problem: What do we answer if someone asks whether 121 belongs to JessicaCircle?

Legal mix of negation and recursion

- Construct a dependency graph
  - One node for each table defined in WITH
  - A directed edge $R \rightarrow S$ if R is defined in terms of S
  - Label the directed edge "–" if the query defining R is not monotone with respect to S
- Legal SQL3 recursion: no cycle with a "–" edge
  - Called stratified negation
- Bad mix: a cycle with at least one edge labeled "–"

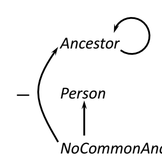




Stratified negation example

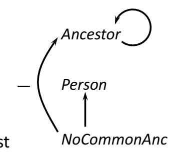
- Find pairs of persons with no common ancestors

```
WITH RECURSIVE Ancestor(anc, desc) AS
   ((SELECT parent, child FROM Parent) UNION
    (SELECT a1.anc, a2.desc
     FROM Ancestor a1, Ancestor a2
     WHERE a1.desc = a2.anc)),
   Person(person) AS
   ((SELECT parent FROM Parent) UNION
    (SELECT child FROM Parent)),
   NoCommonAnc(person1, person2) AS
   ((SELECT p1.person, p2.person
     FROM Person p1, Person p2
     WHERE p1.person <> p2.person)
    EXCEPT
    (SELECT a1.desc, a2.desc
     FROM Ancestor a1, Ancestor a2
     WHERE a1.anc = a2.anc))
SELECT * FROM NoCommonAnc;
```



Evaluating stratified negation

- The stratum of a node R is the maximum number of "—" edges on any path from R in the dependency graph
  - *Ancestor*: stratum 0
  - *Person*: stratum 0
  - *NoCommonAnc*: stratum 1
- Evaluation strategy
  - Compute tables lowest-stratum first
  - For each stratum, use fixed-point iteration on all nodes in that stratum
    - Stratum 0: *Ancestor* and *Person*
    - Stratum 1: *NoCommonAnc*
  - ☞Intuitively, there is no negation within each stratum



Summary so far

- SQL3 WITH recursive queries
- Solution to a recursive query (with no negation): unique minimal fixed point
- Computing unique minimal fixed point: fixed-point iteration starting from ∅
- Mixing negation and recursion is tricky
  - Illegal mix: fixed-point iteration may not converge; there may be multiple minimal fixed points
  - Legal mix: stratified negation (compute by fixed-point iteration stratum by stratum)
- Another language for recursion: Datalog

Datalog

Datalog: Another query language for recursion

- Ancestor(x, y) :- Parent(x, y)
- Ancestor(x, y):- Parent(x, z), Ancestor(z, y)

- Like logic programming
- Multiple rules
- Same "head" = union
- "," = AND

- Same semantics that we discussed so far

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Recall our drinker example in RC (Lecture 4)

Find drinkers that frequent some bar that serves some beer they like.

Q(x) = ∃y. ∃z. Frequents(x, y)∧Serves(y,z)∧Likes(x,z)

Drinker example is from slides by Profs. Balazinska and Suciu and the [GUW] book

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Write it as a Datalog Rule

Find drinkers that frequent some bar that serves some beer they like.

RC:
Q(x) = ∃y. ∃z. Frequents(x, y)∧Serves(y,z)∧Likes(x,z)

Datalog:
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, y), Serves(y,z), Likes(x,z)

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Write it as a Datalog Rule

Find drinkers that frequent <u>some</u> bar that serves <u>some</u> beer they like.

RC:
Q(x) = ∃y. ∃z. Frequents(x, y) ∧ Serves(y,z) ∧ Likes(x,z)

Datalog:
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, y), Serves(y,z), Likes(x,z)

- Quick differences:
  - Uses ":-" not =
  - no need for ∃ (assumed by default)
  - Use "," on the right hand side (RHS)
  - Anything on RHS the of :- is assumed to be combined with ∧ by default
  - ∀, ⇒, not allowed – they need to use negation ¬
  - Standard "Datalog" does not allow negation
  - Negation allowed in datalog with negation
- How to specify disjunction (OR / ∨)?

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Example: OR in Datalog

Find drinkers that (a) either frequent <u>some</u> bar that serves <u>some</u> beer they like, (b) or like beer "BestBeer"

RC:
Q(x) = [∃y. ∃z. Frequents(x, y) ∧ Serves(y,z) ∧ Likes(x,z)] ∨ [Likes(x, "BestBeer")]

Datalog:
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, y), Serves(y,z), Likes(x,z)
Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Check yourself

Example: OR in Datalog

Find drinkers that (a) either frequent <u>some</u> bar that serves <u>some</u> beer they like, (b) or like beer "BestBeer", (c) or, frequent bars that "Joe" frequents

RC:
Q(x) = [∃y. ∃z. Frequents(x, y) ∧ Serves(y,z) ∧ Likes(x,z)] ∨ [Likes(x, "BestBeer")]
∨ [∃w Frequents(x, w) ∧ Frequents("Joe", w)]

Datalog:
JoeFrequents(w) :- Frequents("Joe", w)
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, y), Serves(y,z), Likes(x,z)
Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, w), JoeFrequents(w)

- To specify "OR", write multiple rules with the same "Head"
- Next: terminology for Datalog

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Datalog Rules

- Each rule is of the form Head :- Body
- Each variable in the head of each rule must appear in the body of the rule

JoeFrequents(w) :- Frequents("Joe", w)
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, y), Serves(y,z), Likes(x,z)
Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")
Q(x) :- Frequents(x, w), JoeFrequents(w)

Four rules

Head Body Atom Variable

Termination of a Datalog Program

Q. A Datalog program always terminates – why?

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Unsafe/Safe Datalog Rules

Find drinkers who like beer "BestBeer" Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")

Find drinkers who DO NOT like beer "BestBeer" Q(x) :- ¬Likes(x, "BestBeer")

- What is the problem with this rule?
- What should this rule return?
  - names of all drinkers in the world?
  - names of all drinkers in the USA?
  - names of all drinkers in Durham?

Another Problem with Negation in Datalog Rules

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Domain-dependency is bad

Find drinkers who like beer "BestBeer" — Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")

Find drinkers who DO NOT like beer "BestBeer" — Q(x) :- ¬Likes(x, "BestBeer")

- What is the problem with this rule?
- Dependent on "domain" of drinkers
  - domain-dependent
  - infinite answers possible too..
    - keep generating "names"
  - Unsafe rule

Another Problem with Negation in Datalog Rules

Likes(drinker, beer)
Frequents(drinker, bar)
Serves(bar, beer)

Safe Datalog Rules

Find drinkers who like beer "BestBeer" — Q(x) :- Likes(x, "BestBeer")

Find drinkers who DO NOT like beer "BestBeer" — Q(x) :- ¬Likes(x, "BestBeer")

- Solution:
- Restrict to "active domain" of drinkers from the input *Likes* (or *Frequents*) relation
  - "domain-independence" – same finite answer always
- Becomes a "safe rule"

Q(x) :- Likes(x, y), ¬Likes(x, "BestBeer")

Views

- A view is like a "virtual" table
  - Defined by a query, which describes how to compute the view contents on the fly
  - DBMS stores the view definition query instead of view contents
  - Can be used in queries just like a regular table

Creating and dropping views

User(uid, name, pop)
Member(gid, uid)

- Example: members of Jessica's Circle
  - CREATE VIEW JessicaCircle AS
    SELECT * FROM User
    WHERE uid IN (SELECT uid FROM Member
    WHERE gid = 'jes');
  - Tables used in defining a view are called "base tables"
    - *User* and *Member* above
- To drop a view
  - DROP VIEW JessicaCircle;

Using views in queries

- Example: find the average popularity of members in Jessica's Circle
  - SELECT AVG(pop) FROM JessicaCircle;
  - To process the query, replace the reference to the view by its definition
  - SELECT AVG(pop)
    FROM (SELECT * FROM User
    WHERE uid IN
    (SELECT uid FROM Member
    WHERE gid = 'jes'))
    AS JessicaCircle;

Why use views?

- To hide data from users
- To hide complexity from users
- Logical data independence
  - If applications deal with views, we can change the underlying schema without affecting applications
- To provide a uniform interface for different implementations or sources

☞ Real database applications use tons of views