

## **Nulls**

In place of a value in a tuple's component.

- Interpretation is not exactly “missing value.”
- There could be many reasons why no value is present, e.g., “value inappropriate.”

## **Comparing Nulls to Values**

- 3rd truth value UNKNOWN.
- **SELECT** clause only lists tuples if the condition evaluates to **TRUE** (UNKNOWN is not sufficient).

## Example

bar	beer	price
Joe's bar	Bud	NULL

```
SELECT bar
FROM Sells
WHERE price < 2.00 OR price >= 2.00;
```

```
-----
UNKNOWN          UNKNOWN
-----
                UNKNOWN
```

## 3-Valued Logic

Think of true = 1; false = 0, and unknown = 1/2.  
Then:

- AND = min.
- OR = max.
- NOT( $x$ ) =  $1 - x$ .

## Some Key Laws Fail to Hold

Example: Law of the excluded middle, i.e.,

$$p \text{ OR NOT } p = \text{TRUE}$$

- For 3-valued logic: if  $p = \text{unknown}$ , then left side =  $\max(1/2, (1-1/2)) = 1/2 \neq 1$ .
- Like bag algebra, there is no way known to make 3-valued logic conform to all the laws we expect for sets/2-valued logic, respectively.

## Outerjoin

$R \overset{\circ}{\bowtie} S = R \bowtie S$  with *dangling* tuples padded with nulls and included in the result.

- A tuple is dangling if it doesn't join with any other tuple.

$R =$

A	B
1	2
3	4

$S =$

B	C
2	5
2	6
7	8

$R \overset{\circ}{\bowtie} S =$

A	B	C
1	2	5
1	2	6
3	4	NULL
NULL	7	8

## Outerjoin in SQL2

A number of forms are provided.

- Can be used either stand-alone (in place of a select-from-where) or to define a relation in the FROM-clause.

*R* NATURAL JOIN *S*

*R* JOIN *S* ON condition

e.g., condition:  $R.B = S.B$

*R* CROSS JOIN *S*

*R* OUTER JOIN *S*

- The last of these can be modified by:
  1. Optional NATURAL in front.
  2. Optional ON condition at end.
  3. Optional LEFT, RIGHT, or FULL before OUTER.
  - ❖ LEFT = pad dangling tuples of *R* only;
  - RIGHT = pad dangling tuples of *S* only.

## Oracle Outerjoin

There is a rudimentary facility that allows either left or right outerjoin.

- Add (+) to one side of the equality that forms a join between two tables.

### Example

List the beers sold by Joe's Bar, with their manufacturers, but include the beer even if the manufacturer is not known.

```
Beers(name, manf)
Sells(bar, beer, price)

SELECT beer, manf
FROM Sells, Beers
WHERE bar = 'Joe's Bar' AND
       beer = name(+);
```

## Constraints

Commercial relational systems allow much more “fine-tuning” of constraints than do the modeling languages we learned earlier.

- In essence: SQL programming is used to describe constraints.

## Outline

1. Primary key declarations (covered).
2. Foreign-keys = referential integrity constraints.
3. Attribute- and tuple-based checks = constraints within relations.
4. SQL2 Assertions = global constraints.
  - ❖ Not found in Oracle.
5. Oracle Triggers.
  - ❖ A substitute for assertions.
6. SQL3 triggers and assertions.

## Foreign Keys

In relation  $R$  a clause that “attribute  $A$  references  $S(B)$ ” says that whatever values appear in the  $A$  column of  $R$  must also appear in the  $B$  column of relation  $S$ .

- $B$  must be declared the primary key for  $S$ .

## Example

```
CREATE TABLE Beers (  
    name CHAR(20) PRIMARY KEY,  
    manf CHAR(20)  
);
```

```
CREATE TABLE Sells (  
    bar CHAR(20),  
    beer CHAR(20) REFERENCES  
        Beers(name),  
    price REAL  
);
```



- Alternative: add another element declaring the foreign key, as:

```
CREATE TABLE Sells (  
    bar CHAR(20),  
    beer CHAR(20),  
    price REAL,  
    FOREIGN KEY beer REFERENCES  
        Beers(name)  
);
```

- Extra element essential if the foreign key is more than one attribute.

## What Happens When a Foreign Key Constraint is Violated?

- Two ways:
  1. Insert or update a `Sells` tuple so it refers to a nonexistent beer.
    - ❖ Always rejected.
  2. Delete or update a `Beers` tuple that has a `beer` value some `Sells` tuples refer to.
    - a) Default: reject.
    - b) *Cascade*: Ripple changes to referring `Sells` tuple.

### Example

- Delete “Bud.” Cascade deletes all `Sells` tuples that mention Bud.
- Update “Bud” → “Budweiser.” Change all `Sells` tuples with “Bud” in `beer` column to be “Budweiser.”

- c) *Set Null*: Change referring tuples to have NULL in referring components.

### **Example**

- Delete “Bud.” Set-null makes all `Sells` tuples with “Bud” in the `beer` component have NULL there.
- Update “Bud” → “Budweiser.” Same change.

## Selecting a Policy

Add ON [DELETE, UPDATE] [CASCADE, SET NULL] to declaration of foreign key.

### Example

```
CREATE TABLE Sells (  
    bar CHAR(20),  
    beer CHAR(20),  
    price REAL,  
    FOREIGN KEY beer REFERENCES  
        Beers(name)  
        ON DELETE SET NULL  
        ON UPDATE CASCADE  
);
```

- “Correct” policy is a design decision.
  - ❖ E.g., what does it mean if a beer goes away? What if a beer changes its name?

## Attribute-Based Checks

Follow an attribute by a condition that must hold for that attribute in each tuple of its relation.

- Form: CHECK (condition).
  - ❖ Condition may involve the checked attribute.
  - ❖ Other attributes and relations may be involved, but *only* in subqueries.
  - ❖ Oracle: *No subqueries allowed in condition.*
- Condition is checked only when the associated attribute changes (i.e., an insert or update occurs).

## Example

```
CREATE TABLE Sells (  
    bar CHAR(20),  
    beer CHAR(20) CHECK (  
        beer IN (SELECT name  
                FROM Beers)  
    ),  
    price REAL CHECK (  
        price <= 5.00  
    )  
);
```

- Check on `beer` is like a foreign-key constraint, except:
  - ❖ The check occurs only when we add a tuple or change the `beer` in an existing tuple, not when we delete a tuple from `Beers`.

## Tuple-Based Checks

Separate element of table declaration.

- Form: like attribute-based check.
- But condition can refer to any attribute of the relation.
  - ❖ Or to other relations/attributes in subqueries.
  - ❖ Again: Oracle forbids the use of subqueries.

## Example

Only Joe's Bar can sell beer for more than \$5.

```
CREATE TABLE Sells (  
    bar CHAR(20),  
    beer CHAR(20),  
    price REAL,  
    CHECK (bar = 'Joe' 's Bar' OR  
           price <= 5.00)  
);
```