Announcements (Thu. Nov. 3)

- Homework #3 due next Tuesday
- Project milestone #2 due next Thursday

Motivation

- Pros and cons of SQL
  - Very high-level, possible to optimize
  - Not intended for general-purpose computation
- Solutions
  - Augment SQL with constructs from general-purpose programming languages
    - E.g.: SQL/PSM
  - Use SQL together with general-purpose programming languages
    - E.g.: JDBC, embedded SQL
  - Extend general-purpose programming languages with SQL-like constructs
    - E.g.: LINQ (Language Integrated Query for .NET), HQL (Hibernate Query Language)

Impedance mismatch and a solution

- SQL operates on a set of records at a time
- Typical low-level general-purpose programming languages operates on one record at a time
- Solution: cursor
  - Open (a result table): position the cursor before the first row
  - Get next: move the cursor to the next row and return that row; raise a flag if there is no such row
  - Close: clean up and release DBMS resources
- Found in virtually every database language/API
  - With slightly different syntaxes
- Some support more positioning and movement options, modification at the current position, etc.

Augmenting SQL: SQL/PSM

- PSM = Persistent Stored Modules
- CREATE PROCEDURE proc_name ( parameter_declarations )
  local_declarations
  procedure_body;
- CREATE FUNCTION func_name ( parameter_declarations )
  RETURNS return_type
  local_declarations
  procedure_body;
- CALL proc_name ( parameters );
- Inside procedure body:
  SET variable = CALL func_name ( parameters );

SQL/PSM example

```sql
CREATE FUNCTION SetMaxGPA(IN newMaxGPA FLOAT)
RETURNS INT
-- Enforce newMaxGPA; return number of rows modified.
BEGIN
  DECLARE rowsUpdated INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE thisGPA FLOAT;
  DECLARE studentCursor CURSOR FOR
    SELECT GPA FROM Student
    FOR UPDATE;
  DECLARE noMoreRows INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE CONTINUE HANDLER FOR NOT FOUND
    SET noMoreRows = 1;
  … (see next slide) …
  RETURN rowsUpdated;
END
```
SQL/PSM example continued

```
-- Fetch the first result row:
OPEN studentCursor;
-- Loop over all result rows:
WHILE noMoreRows <> 1 DO
  IF thisGPA > newMaxGPA THEN
    -- Enforce newMaxGPA:
    UPDATE Student SET Student.GPA = newMaxGPA
    WHERE CURRENT OF studentCursor;
    -- Update count:
    SET rowsUpdated = rowsUpdated + 1;
  END IF;
  -- Fetch the next result row:
  FETCH FROM studentCursor INTO thisGPA;
END WHILE;
CLOSE studentCursor;
```

Other SQL/PSM features

- Assignment using scalar query results
- SELECT INTO
- Other loop constructs
  - FOR, REPEAT UNTIL, LOOP
- Flow control
  - GOTO
- Exceptions
  - SIGNAL, RESIGNAL
- For more PostgreSQL-specific information, look for “PL/pgSQL” in PostgreSQL documentation
- Link available from course website (under Programming Notes: PostgreSQL Notes)

Interfacing SQL with another language

- API approach
  - SQL commands are sent to the DBMS at runtime
  - Examples: JDBC, ODBC (C/C++, VB), Python DB API
  - These API’s are all based on the SQL/CLI (Call-Level Interface) standard
- Embedded SQL approach
  - SQL commands are embedded in application code
  - A precompiler checks these commands at compile-time and converts them into DBMS-specific API calls
  - Examples: embedded SQL for C/C++, SQLJ (for Java)

Example API: JDBC

```
public class … {
...
  static {
    // Load the JDBC driver:
    try {
      Class.forName("org.postgresql.Driver");
    } catch (ClassNotFoundException e) {
      …
    }
  }
...
  // Use the JDBC package:
  import java.sql.*;
  …
  // Connections
  String url = "jdbc:postgresql://localhost:ubuntu";
  Properties props = new Properties();
  props.setProperty("user", "ubuntu");
  props.setProperty("password", "reverse");
  Connection con = DriverManager.getConnection(url, props);
  …
  // Statements
  Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
  …
  // Execute a query and get its results:
  ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery("SELECT SID, name FROM Student");
  …
  // Execute a modification (returns the number of rows affected):
  int rowsUpdated = stmt.executeUpdate("UPDATE Student SET name = 'Barney' WHERE SID = 142");
  …
  // Close the statements:
  stmt.close();
```

Connections

```
// Connection URL is a DBMS-specific string:
String url = "jdbc:postgresql://localhost:ubuntu";

// Making a connection:
Properties props = new Properties();
props.setProperty("user", "ubuntu");
props.setProperty("password", "reverse");
Connection con = DriverManager.getConnection(url, props);

// Closing a connection:
con.close();
```
Query results

```java
// Execute a query and get its results:
ResultSet rs =
    stmt.executeQuery("SELECT SID, name FROM Student");

// Loop through all result rows:
while (rs.next()) {
    // Get column values:
    int sid = rs.getInt(1);
    String name = rs.getString(2);
    // Work on sid and name:
    ...
}

// Close the ResultSet:
rs.close();
```

Other ResultSet features

- Move the cursor (pointing to the current row) backwards and forwards, or position it anywhere within the ResultSet
- Update/delete the database row corresponding to the current result row, or insert a row into the database
  - Possible only when there is a clear 1-1 correspondence between the change and a row in the underlying table
  - Analogous to the view update problem
    - Covered in the lecture on SQL views
- Obtain metadata: `rs.getMetaData()` returns a `ResultSetMetaData` object describing the output table schema (number, order, names, types of columns, etc.)

Prepared statements: motivation

```java
Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
for (int age=0; age<100; age+=10) {
    ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery
        ("SELECT AVG(GPA) FROM Student" +
         " WHERE age >= " + age + " AND age < " + (age+10));
    // Work on the results:
    ...
}
```

Every time an SQL string is sent to the DBMS, the DBMS must perform parsing, semantic analysis, optimization, and then finally execution
- These costs are incurred 10 times in the above example
- A typical application issues many queries with a small number of patterns (with different parameter values)

Prepared statements: syntax

```java
// Prepare the statement, using ? as placeholders for actual parameters:
PreparedStatement stmt = con.prepareStatement
    ("SELECT AVG(GPA) FROM Student WHERE age >= ? AND age < ?");
for (int age=0; age<100; age+=10) {
    // Set actual parameter values:
    stmt.setInt(1, age);
    stmt.setInt(2, age+10);
    ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery();
    // Work on the results:
    ...
}
```

- The DBMS performs parsing, semantic analysis, optimization, and compilation only once, when it "prepares" the statement
- At execution time, the DBMS only needs to check parameter types and validate the compiled execution plan

Odds and ends of JDBC

- Most methods can throw `SQLException`
- Make sure your code catches them
- Remember to close `Statement`, `ResultSet`, etc., in finally block
- `getSQLState()` returns the standard SQL error code
- `getMessage()` returns the error message
- `DataSource` interface for establishing connections
- Methods for examining metadata in databases
- Methods to retrieve the value of a column for all result rows into an array without calling `ResultSet.next()` in a loop
- Methods to construct/execute a batch of SQL statements ...
  - For additional information and example code, see course website: Programming Notes: JDBC Notes

A note on JDBC drivers

- Type I (bridge): translate JDBC calls to standard API not native to DBMS
  - E.g.: JDBC-ODBC bridge
  - Driver is easy to build using existing standard APIs
  - Extra layer of API adds overhead
- Type II (native API, partly Java): translates JDBC calls to DBMS-specific client API
  - DBMS-specific non-Java client library needs to be installed on each client
  - Good performance
- Type III (network bridge): sends JDBC requests to a middleware server which in turn communicates with a database
  - Client JDBC driver is completely Java, easy to build, and does not need to be DBMS-specific
  - Middleware adds translation overhead
- Type IV (native protocol, full Java): converts JDBC requests directly to native network protocol of the DBMS
  - Client JDBC driver is completely Java but is also DBMS-specific
  - Good performance
  - Supported by, e.g., `org.postgresql.Driver`
Embedded C example

/* Declare variables to be "shared" between the application and the DBMS: */
EXEC SQL BEGIN DECLARE SECTION;
  int thisSID; float thisGPA;
EXEC SQL END DECLARE SECTION;

/* Declare a cursor: */
EXEC SQL DECLARE CPS116Student CURSOR FOR
    SELECT SID, GPA FROM Student
    WHERE SID IN
        (SELECT SID FROM Enroll WHERE CID = 'CPS116')
    FOR UPDATE;

/* Open the cursor: */
EXEC SQL OPEN CPS116Student;

/* Specify exit condition: */
EXEC SQL WHENEVER NOT FOUND DO break;

/* Loop through result rows: */
while (1) {
  /* Get column values for the current row: */
  EXEC SQL FETCH CPS116Student INTO :thisSID, :thisGPA;
  printf("SID %d: current GPA is %f\n", thisSID, thisGPA);
  /* Update GPA: */
  printf("Enter new GPA: ");
  scanf("%f", &thisGPA);
  EXEC SQL UPDATE Student SET GPA = :thisGPA
    WHERE CURRENT OF CPS116Student;
}

/* Close the cursor: */
EXEC SQL CLOSE CPS116Student;

Embedded C example continued

Pros and cons of embedded SQL (vs. API)

- **Pros**
  - More compile-time checking (syntax, type, schema, ...)
  - Code could be more efficient (if the embedded SQL statements do not need to be checked and recompiled at run-time)

- **Cons**
  - DBMS-specific
    - Vendors have different precompilers which translate code into different native APIs
    - Application executable is not portable (although code is)
    - Application cannot talk to different DBMS at the same time

Pros and cons of augmenting SQL

- **Cons**
  - Already too many programming languages
  - SQL is already too big
  - General-purpose programming constructs complicate optimization, and make it difficult to tell if code running inside the DBMS is safe
  - At some point, one must recognize that SQL and the DBMS engine are not for everything!

- **Pros**
  - More sophisticated processing inside DBMS
  - More application logic can be pushed closer to data

Making a language SQL-like?

- E.g.: LINQ (for C#), HQL (for Java/Hibernate)
- Example LINQ code (from Wiki)
  ```csharp
  int someValue = 5;
  var results = from c in someCollection
                 let x = someValue * 2
                 where c.SomeProperty < x
                 select new {c.SomeProperty, c.OtherProperty};
  foreach (var result in results) { Console.WriteLine(result); }
  ```
- Automatic data mapping and query translation
- But a different syntax for each host language?