SQL: Programming

CPS 116
Introduction to Database Systems

Announcements (September 29)

- Homework #2 due today
  - Sample solution available next Tuesday
- Homework #1 graded
  - Please verify your score on Blackboard
  - See me or Ming if you have further questions
- Sample midterm (from last year) available
  - Solution available next Tuesday
- Midterm in class next Thursday
  - Format similar to the sample midterm
  - Covers everything up to next Tuesday’s lecture
  - Emphasizes on materials exercised in homeworks

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 (SQL/PSM)
  - Use SQL together with general-purpose programming languages (JDBC, embedded SQL, etc.)
Impedance mismatch and a solution

- SQL operates on a set of records at a time
- Typical low-level general-purpose programming languages operate on one record at a time
- Solution: cursor
  - Open (a table or a result table): position the cursor just 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 cursor positioning and movement options, modification at the current cursor position (analogous to the view update problem), 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

CREATE FUNCTION SetMaxGPA(IN newMaxGPA FLOAT)
RETURNS INT
-- Enforce newMaxGPA; return number of rows modified.
BEGIN
  DECLARE rowsUpdated INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE thisGPA FLOAT;
  -- A cursor to range over all students:
  DECLARE studentCursor CURSOR FOR
    SELECT GPA FROM Student
    FOR UPDATE;
  -- Set a flag whenever there is a "not found" exception:
  DECLARE noMoreRows INT DEFAULT 0;
  DECLARE CONTINUE HANDLER FOR NOT FOUND
    SET noMoreRows = 1;
  … (see next slide) …
  RETURN rowsUpdated;
END
SQL/PSM example continued

```sql
-- Fetch the first result row:
OPEN studentCursor;
FETCH FROM studentCursor INTO thisGPA;
-- 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

Interfacing SQL with another language

- API approach
  - SQL commands are sent to the DBMS at runtime
  - Examples: JDBC, ODBC (for C/C++/VB), Perl DBI
  - 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

- JDBC (Java DataBase Connectivity) is an API that allows a Java program to access databases

```java
// Use the JDBC package:
import java.sql.*;
...
public class ...
{
    static {
        // Load the JDBC driver:
        Class.forName("COM.ibm.db2.jdbc.net.DB2Driver");
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Connections

```java
...// Connection URL is a DBMS-specific string:
String url =
"jdbc:db2://rack40.cs.duke.edu/dbcourse";
// Making a connection:
Connection con =
DriverManager.getConnection(url);
...
// Closing a connection:
con.close();
...```

Statements

```java
...// Create an object for sending SQL statements:
Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
// Execute a query and get its results:
ResultSet rs =
stmt.executeQuery("SELECT SID, name FROM Student");
// Work on the results:
...
// Execute a modification (returns the number of rows affected):
int rowsUpdated =
stmt.executeUpdate("UPDATE Student SET name = 'Barney' WHERE SID = 142");
// Close the statement:
stmt.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
  - Analogous to the view update problem
- Insert a row into the database
  - Analogous to the view update problem

Prepared statements: motivation

```java
Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
for (int age=0; age<100; age+=10) {
    String sql = "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, compilation, and then finally execution
- These costs are incurred 10 times in the above example, even though all strings are essentially the same query (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.

Transaction processing

- Set isolation level for the current transaction:
  ```java
  con.setTransactionIsolationLevel(l);
  ```
  Where l is one of TRANSACTION_SERIALIZABLE (default), TRANSACTION_REPEATABLE_READ, TRANSACTION_READ_COMMITTED, and TRANSACTION_READ_UNCOMMITTED.
- Set the transaction to be read-only or read/write (default):
  ```java
  con.setReadOnly(true|false);
  ```
- Turn on/off AUTOCOMMIT (commits every single statement):
  ```java
  con.setAutoCommit(true|false);
  ```
- Commit/rollback the current transaction (when AUTOCOMMIT is off):
  ```java
  con.commit();
  con.rollback();
  ```

Odds and ends of JDBC

- Most methods can throw SQLException:
  ```java
  Make sure your code catches them
  con.getSQLState() returns the standard SQL error code
  con.getMessage() returns the error message
  ```
- 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 and execute a batch of SQL statements together:
  ```java
  ...
JDBC drivers – Types I, II

- Type I (bridge): translate JDBC calls to a standard API not native to the DBMS (e.g., JDBC-ODBC bridge)
  - Driver is easy to build using existing standard API’s
  - Extra layer of API adds overhead
- Type II (native API, partly Java): translates JDBC calls to DBMS-specific client API calls
  - DBMS-specific client library needs to be installed on each client
  - Good performance

JDBC drivers – Types III, IV

- 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

Embedded C example

```c
.../

EXEC SQL BEGIN DECLARE SECTION;
int thisSID; float thisGPA;
EXEC SQL END DECLARE SECTION;
/

EXEC SQL DECLARE CPS116Student CURSOR FOR
(SELECT SID, GPA FROM Student
WHERE SID IN
(SELECT SID FROM Enroll WHERE CID = 'CPS116')
FOR UPDATE;
...
```
Embedded C example continued

```c
/* 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;
```

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Pros and cons of embedded SQL

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

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

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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 stored procedures and triggers
  - More application logic can be pushed closer to data