

4. Relational Algebra

Consider the following schema:

Supplier(sid: integer, sname: string, address: string)

Part(pid: integer, pname: string, colour: string)

Catalog(sid: integer, pid: integer, cost: real)

The relation **Supplier** stores suppliers and the key of that relation is **sid**. The relation **Part** stores parts, and **pid** is the key of that relation. Finally, **Catalog** stores which supplier supplies which part at which cost. The key is the combination of the two attributes **sid** and **pid**.

1. Write queries in relational algebra

Write the following queries in relational algebra.

1. Find the names of suppliers who supply some red part.
2. Find the IDs of suppliers who supply some red or green part.
3. Find the IDs of suppliers who supply some red part or are based at 21 George Street.
4. Find the names of suppliers who supply some red part or are based at 21 George Street.
5. Find the IDs of suppliers who supply some red part and some green part.
(Hint: use intersection of relations or join the same relation several times)
6. Find pairs of IDs such that the supplier with the first ID charges more for some part than the supplier with the second ID.
(Hint: you may want to create temporary relations to get two copies of Catalog)
7. Find the IDs of suppliers who supply only red parts.
(Hint: A supplier supplies only red parts if it is not the case that the supplier offers a part that is not red. This question is a challenge!)
8. Find the IDs of suppliers who supply every part.
(Hint: A supplier supplies every part if it is not the case that there is some part which they do not supply. Use set difference and cartesian product. This question is a challenge, too!)

2. Queries in relational algebra, what do they mean?

For each of the following relational algebra queries, say in English what they mean.

1. $\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='red'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier})$
2. $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='red'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog})) \bowtie \text{Supplier})$
3. $\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='red'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier}) \cap$
 $\pi_{\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='green'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier})$
4. $\pi_{\text{sid}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='red'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier}) \cap$
 $\pi_{\text{sid}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='green'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier})$
5. $\pi_{\text{name}}(\pi_{\text{sid},\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='red'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier}) \cap$
 $\pi_{\text{sid},\text{name}}(\sigma_{\text{colour}='green'}(\text{Part}) \bowtie \sigma_{\text{cost}<100}(\text{Catalog}) \bowtie \text{Supplier}))$

References

Most of these exercises are taken from the book “Database Management Systems” by Ramakrishnan/Gehrke, Chapter 4.