

CS 325 - Exam 1 Review Suggestions

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- You are responsible for material covered in lectures and labs, and especially anything that's been on a homework or lab exercise; BUT, here's a quick overview of especially important material.
 - It is strongly advised that you study posted examples and notes, and make sure you can do exercises such as those on homeworks and lab exercises;
 - (Note that if your understanding of the material is not strong enough, you may have difficulty completing the exam within its time limit.)
- You are permitted to bring into the exam a single piece of paper (8.5" by 11") on which you have handwritten whatever you wish on one or both sides. This paper must include your name, it must be handwritten by you, and it will not be returned.
 - Other than this piece of paper, the exam is closed-note, closed-book, and closed-computer.
- This will be a pencil-and-paper exam; you will be reading and writing SQL*Plus commands and SQL statements in this format, as well as answering questions about concepts we have discussed.
- Note that you are also responsible for knowing -- and following -- the course SQL style standards and the course ERD notation.

Introduction to DBMS's

- What is a DBMS? What is an example of a DBMS? What are some typical capabilities of a DBMS?
- What is a database? What is a relational database?
 - What are the four main elements of a database? (user data, metadata, indexes, and application metadata)
- What are some of the important limitations of file-processing systems?
 - What are some of the advantages of the database approach over these file-processing systems?
- What is metadata?
 - What is a data dictionary? What is an index?
- There are three major *implementation* models for DB's:
 - hierarchical, network, relational

...but we have discussed only one of these, and in fact it is the one most used for new databases. Which of these is that? (relational)

- What is a relation?
 - How do you represent a relation in relation structure form? ...in tabular form? ...in SQL create table statement form?
 - (possible question: here's a table/relation. Write a relation structure for it.)

- What are the important "restrictions"/features of a relation?
- (possible question: is the following a relation? Why not?)
- What is a primary key? How do you indicate one in a relation structure?
- DBMS - database management system
 - What are some typical capabilities of a DBMS?
 - What is a DDL, a DML, and a DCL? What does each of these do?
 - What are some capabilities that a (high-end) DBMS might provide?
- You should know that a database design/schema defines a database's structure, and typically includes:
 - its tables,
 - relationships,
 - domains, and
 - business rules
- What are business rules?
- How do you create tables in Oracle SQL? How do you define relationships between tables?

Introduction to the relational model and relational operations

- Who developed it? When? (Codd, 1970) Why was it first resisted?
- What is a relation? (including: What are the restrictions?)
 - Be comfortable with relation/table, tuple/row/record, attribute/column/field terminology
 - Single-valued cells, no duplicate rows, order of rows/columns not important, column entries all of same "kind"; must have a primary key

Functional Dependencies and Key Definitions

- What is a functional dependency? What does it mean for one attribute to be functionally dependent on another?
 - Understand the \rightarrow notation;
 - What is the determinant in $A \rightarrow B$?
 - Given a relation in relation structure form -- what are some functional dependencies that you can assume?
 - Does a determinant have to be a primary key? Why or why not?
 - Does a primary key have to be a determinant? Why or why not?
 - if $(A, B) \twoheadrightarrow C$, does it logically follow that $A \twoheadrightarrow C$ and $B \twoheadrightarrow C$?
 - if $A \twoheadrightarrow (B, C)$, does it logically follow that $A \twoheadrightarrow B$ and $A \twoheadrightarrow C$?

- What is a superkey? ...a minimal key? ...a candidate key? ...a primary key?
 - How does one indicate a primary key in a relation structure?
 - How does one indicate a primary key in a SQL `create table` statement?
 - How many attributes may be in a primary key?

Relational Operations

- The set-theoretic relational operations are union, difference, intersection, Cartesian product -- we have discussed only Cartesian product thus far;
- The relation-theoretic relational operations are rename, selection, projection, equi-join/natural join/other joins, and division -- we have discussed only selection, projection, equi-join, and natural join so far;
- At this point, you are expected to know and understand selection, projection, equi-join, natural join, and Cartesian product;
 - Expect to have to show that you can perform some or all of these operations on example relations; (note that I may describe the desired relational operation in words OR give it in SQL form);
 - What is an equi-join? How does it differ from a natural join?
 - Know the `relation_name.attribute_name` notation;
 - You should be able to express queries as combinations of relational algebra operations;

Introduction to the Entity-Relationship Model

- What is (should be) the database development process? What is a database model? What are some of the general strategies for developing a database model?
 - Important: the idea is that you come up with a database model *before* you come up with tables! Why should you develop a data model/database model before starting to create database tables?
 - Note: there is more than one type of database model; we are focusing on one of these, the entity-relationship model
- Remember: you are responsible for entity-relationship diagram (ERD) notation given in class and in the course handouts; see also the guidelines mentioned in the Homework 3 handout.
- What are the elements of the E-R model? (entities, attributes, identifying attributes, relationships, cardinalities)
- What is an entity? How is it depicted in an ERD? What is/are an entity's identifying attribute(s)?
 - Remember: an entity is *not* equivalent to a table or relation!
 - (Eventually, each entity will *result* in *one or more* corresponding tables/relations in the database schema/design that we develop from a model;)
- What is a relationship? How is it depicted in an ERD?
- What is an attribute? What is its domain? How is an attribute depicted in an ERD (according to our

course ERD standards)?

- Make sure it is clear to you what is *not* an attribute in an ERD as well: attribute lists in an ERD should include *no* relationship-related information. *Only* the relationship lines in the ERD show the relationships between entities!
- What are maximum cardinalities of a relationship?
 - What are the possible maximum cardinality values (typically)? (one and many)
 - Based on the maximum cardinalities, what are the 3 (4) "kinds" of relationships? (1:1, 1:N, N:M)
 - Given the pertinent information about a scenario, you should be able to determine which maximum cardinalities are appropriate for a relationship;
 - According to our course ERD standards, how are maximum cardinalities depicted in an ERD? You should be able to read and understand an ERD's maximum cardinalities, and you should be able to create an ERD with appropriate maximum cardinalities;
- What are minimum cardinalities of a relationship?
 - What are the possible minimum cardinality values (typically)? (0 and 1)
 - Given the pertinent information about a scenario, you should be able to determine which minimum cardinalities are appropriate for a relationship;
 - According to our course ERD standards, how are minimum cardinalities depicted in an ERD? You should be able to read and understand an ERD's minimum cardinalities, and you should be able to create an ERD with appropriate minimum cardinalities;
- What is a recursive relationship? How is it depicted in an ER diagram?
- What is a weak entity class? How is it depicted in an ER diagram?
- What is a supertype entity class? What is a subtype entity class?
 - How is a supertype/subtype relationship depicted in an ER diagram? (Remember to follow class style standards for these)
 - What is meant by having a Δ in the circle in depicting supertype/subtypes entity classes? ...having an \circ in that circle? ...having a \cup in that circle?
- It is very likely that you will be asked questions about a given ERD, to see if you can read it correctly;
- It is very likely that you will be asked to either draw or complete an ERD given scenario information;

Basics of Oracle SQL and Oracle SQL*Plus

- You will be required to read *and* write proper syntax SQL and SQL*Plus statements;
 - (By "read", I mean that I may give you a statement and ask you questions about it; I could also give you various table contents, and ask you what the results of running a given statement would be;)
 - And, of course, I could ask you to write a SQL statement that would perform a specified action or query;
- How do you start up SQL*Plus on nrs-projects?

- How do you create a table using SQL?
 - How do you define attributes? What are some of the common data types?
 - How do you define a table's primary key in SQL?
 - What is a foreign key? How do you define a foreign key in SQL?
 - What kind of integrity checking do you get "automatically" in Oracle when you make an attribute a foreign key? ...a primary key?
- How can you grant access to a table in SQL? What are the levels/kinds of access that can be granted? How can such access be removed?
- How do you insert rows into a table? (know both variants)
- How do you use a `select` statement to show the contents of a table?
- What is a SQL script? How is it created? How is it run?
 - How can you write a SQL comment?
- You should be familiar with the SQL*Plus commands we have discussed so far, especially:
 - Which command can be used to list the column definitions for a table? (`describe`)
 - Which can be used to start spooling results to a file (and which can stop such spooling)?
 - Which can be used to execute a SQL script?
 - Which can be used to output specified characters to the screen?
- How do you delete a table?
- What is the basic syntax and basic semantics of the SQL `select` statement?

Writing "pure" relational operations using a SQL `select` statement

- How can you write a (pure) relational **projection** using a SQL `select` statement?
 - What SQL keyword can mean the difference between a "pure" relational projection and a not-so-"pure" one? What is the effect of this keyword? Where must it be placed?
- How can you write a relational **selection** using a SQL `select` statement?
- How can you write a relational **Cartesian product** using a SQL `select` statement?
- How can you write a relational **equi-join** using a SQL `select` statement? a relational **natural join**?
- How can these relational operations be combined within a single SQL `select` statement?
 - How can you express a query/question as a **combination** of relational algebra operations?
 - How can you express a query/question as a SQL `select` statement?

More on the basic SQL `select` statement

- Be familiar with the `where` clause possibilities discussed so far:

- = < > <= >= <> !=
- in
- is null, is not null
- and, or, not
- between
- like, %, _ (underscore)
- aliases
 - What is a table alias (within the `from` clause)? what is a column alias (within the `select` clause)?
 - Why is a table alias useful? (2 reasons)
 - Why is a column alias useful?
- Computed columns
 - You should be able to read and write queries that project computed columns;
 - Make sure that you understand: whatever computations you choose to project from a `select` statement, projecting those computations does **not** change the contents of the database!
- Aggregate functions
 - avg, min, max, sum, count
 - Expect to have to read and/or write some of these;
 - Where can these be used within a `select` statement?
 - What effect do `null` values have with regard to these?
 - In a basic `select` statement (with just `from` and `where` clauses), either zero or how many rows will **always** be in the result of a `select` statement projecting an aggregate function