



Database System Concepts for Non-Computer Scientist - WiSe 23/24

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<http://db.in.tum.de/teaching/ws2324/DBSandere/?lang=en>

Sheet 09

Exercise 1

Answer the following questions on our university database using SQL:

- a) Calculate how many lectures each student is attending. Students who do not attend any lecture should be included in the result as well (*attend_count* = 0) (use outer joins).
- b) Figure out how many students each professor knows: A professor knows students from one of their lectures or via a test they have supervised. Include professors not knowing any students and use outer joins. Hint: ¹

¹Remember that SQL has set operations.

Solution:

- a) `select s.studNr, s.name, count(a.studNr)
from Students s left outer join attend a on s.studnr = a.studnr
group by s.studNr, s.name`
- b) `select p.persNr, p.name, count(p.studNr)
from
(
select p.persNr, p.name, t.studNr
from Professors p
left outer join test t on p.persNr = t.persNr
)
union
(
select p.persNr, p.name, a.studNr
from Professors p
left outer join Lectures l on p.persNr = l.given_by
left outer join attend a on l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
) p
group by p.persNr, p.name`

Uncorrelated subqueries can be easily transformed into with-statements to make the query more readable:

```
with known_from_tests as (  
select p.persNr, p.name, t.studNr  
from Professors p  
left outer join test t on p.persNr = t.persnr  
)  
known_from_lectures as (  
select p.persNr, p.name, a.studNr  
from Professors p  
left outer join Lectures l on p.persNr = l.given_by  
left outer join attend a on l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr  
)  
known as (  
select * from known_from_tests  
union  
select * from known_from_lectures  
)  
select persNr, name, count(distinct studNr)  
from known  
group by persNr, name
```

Exercise 2

Find those students who have attended all lectures that they wrote a test in.

Solution:

The requirement that students in the query result should have attended all lectures that they were tested in, can be rephrased as follow: “For a given student, there should be no test/exam, that has no entry in *attend*”. This can then be translated into sql easily.

```
select s.*
from Students s
where not exists(select * from test t
                 where s.studNr = t.studNr
                 and not exists
                   (select *
                    from attend a
                    where a.studNr = s.studNr
                        and a.lectureNr = t.lectureNr));
```

This query is an example of a “for all query” where the counting-based technique can not be applied. The reason is that we can not simply count the number of attended lectures, because we need to make sure that the attended lectures match the ones that were tested.

An alternative way that only requires one “not exists” would be to connect the students with their tests and if available add the corresponding attend entry. If there is no attend available, the “left outer join” will leave the “lecture” column empty (adds a “null” value). If we find in our “not exists” subquery an entry where the lecture is null, we can remove

```
with students_tests_optLectures as (
  select s.studnr student, t.lecturenr test, a.lecturenr lecture
  from students s inner join test t on s.studnr = t.studnr
  left outer join attend a on s.studnr = a.studnr and a.lecturenr =
    t.lecturenr
)

select *
from students
where not exists (select * from students_tests_optLectures where
  studnr = student and lecture is null)
```

A second alternative without “not exists” would be to directly search for those students with a null-entry in the with-statement with an additional where clause. The resulting “students_test_woLectures” contains a list of all students that took a test without attending the lecture. Since we are interested in the opposite, we use a set operation to select all students “except” those who took a test without attending the respective lecture.

```
with students_tooktest_didnotattendlecture as (
  select distinct s.studnr
  from students s inner join test t on s.studnr = t.studnr
  left outer join attend a on s.studnr = a.studnr and a.lecturenr =
    t.lecturenr
  where a.lecturenr is null
)

select studnr from students
except
select * from students_tooktest_didnotattendlecture
```

Exercise 3

„Busy Students“: Find all students that have more weekly hours in total than the average student. Try to simplify the query using the with construct. (Also consider students that do not attend any lecture).

Solution:

The following query determines the „busy students“:

```
select s.*
from Students s
where s.studNr in
  (select a.studNr
   from attend a, Lectures l
   where a.lectureNr = l.lectureNr
   group by a.studNr
   having sum(weeklyHours) >
    (select sum(cast(weeklyHours as decimal(5,2)))
     / count(distinct(s2.studNr))
    from Students s2
     left outer join attend a2
     on a2.studNr = s2.studNr
     left outer join Lectures l2
     on l2.lectureNr = a2.lectureNr));
```

By using the **with** construct or **case**, we can write a query that is much easier to read. First with **with**:

```
with TotalWeeklyHours as (
  select sum(cast(weeklyHours as decimal(5,2))) as CountWeeklyHours
  from attend a, Lectures l
  where l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
),
TotalStudents as (
  select count(studNr) as CountStudents
  from Students
)
select s.*
from Students s
where s.studNr in (
  select a.studNr
  from attend a, Lectures l
  where a.lectureNr = l.lectureNr
  group by a.studNr
  having sum(weeklyHours)
    > (select CountWeeklyHours / CountStudents
      from TotalWeeklyHours, TotalStudents));
```

And here with **case**:

```
with WeeklyHoursPerStudent as (
  select s.studNr,
    cast((case when sum(l.weeklyHours) is null
              then 0 else sum(l.weeklyHours)
            end) as real) as CountWeeklyHours
  from Students s
```

```

    left outer join attend a on s.studNr = a.studNr
    left outer join Lectures l on a.lectureNr = l.lectureNr
group by s.studNr
)

select s.*
from Students s
where s.studNr in (select weeklyHours.studNr
                  from WeeklyHoursPerStudent weeklyHours
                  where weeklyHours.CountWeeklyHours
                     > (select avg(CountWeeklyHours)
                        from WeeklyHoursPerStudent));

```

Exercise 4

Create SQL DML statements for the following tasks:

- a) “Professor meeting”: Move all professors to room 419.
- b) “Lazy students”: Remove all students from the database who have ever failed a test (grade worse than 4.0).

Solution:

- a) “Professor meeting”: Move all professors to room 419.

```
update Professors set room = 419;
```

- b) “Lazy students”: Remove all students from the database who have ever failed a test (grade worse than 4.0).

```
delete from students s
where exists (select *
             from test t
             where t.grade > 4.0
             and t.studNr = s.studNr);

```