Oracle 8 Nested Tables

Another structuring tool provided in Oracle 8 is the ability to have a relation with an attribute whose value is not just an object, but a (multi)set of objects, i.e., a relation.

- Keyword THE allows us to treat a nested relation as a regular relation, e.g., in FROM clauses.

- Keywords CAST(MULTISET(…)) let us turn the result of a query into a nested relation.

Defining Table Types

If we have an object type, we can create a new type that is a bag of that type by AS TABLE OF.
Example

Suppose we have a more complicated beer type:

```
CREATE TYPE BeerType AS OBJECT (
    name CHAR(20),
    kind CHAR(5),
    color CHAR(5)
);
/
```

We may create a type that is a (nested) table of objects of this type by:

```
CREATE TYPE BeerTableType AS TABLE OF BeerType;
/
```
Now, we can define a relation of manufacturers that will nest their beers inside.

- In a sense, we normalize an unnormalized relation, since other data about the manufacturer appears only once no matter how many beers they produce.

```
CREATE TABLE Manfs (  
    name CHAR(30),  
    addr CHAR(50),  
    beers BeerTableType  
)
```

- However, to tell the system how to store the little beers tables, we must follow this statement, prior to the semicolon, by a statement

```
NESTED TABLE beers STORE AS     
    BeerTable;
```

- The name of the table that stores the tuples for the nested beers relations is arbitrary; here we used BeerTable.
Querying With Nested Tables

An attribute that is a nested table can be printed like any other attribute.

- The value has two type constructors, one for the table, one for the type of its tuples.

Example

List the beers made by Anheuser-Busch.

```sql
SELECT beers
FROM Manfs
WHERE name = 'Anheuser Busch';
```

- A single value will be printed, looking something like:

```plaintext
BeerTableType(
    BeerType('Bud', 'lager', 'yello'),
    BeerType('Lite', 'malt', 'pale'),...
)
```
Operating on Nested Tables

Use THE to get the nested table itself, then treat it like any other relation.

Example

Find the ales made by Anheuser-Busch.

```sql
SELECT bb.name
FROM THE(
    SELECT beers
    FROM Manfs
    WHERE name = 'Anheuser Busch'
) bb
WHERE bb.kind = 'ale';
```
Casting to Create Nested Tables

Create a value for a nested table by using a select-from-where query and “casting” it to the table type.

Example

- Suppose we have a relation `Beers(beer, manf)`, where `beer` is a `BeerType` object and `manf` its manufacturer.

- We want to insert into `Manfs` a tuple for Pete’s Brewing Co., with all the beers brewed by Pete’s (according to `Beers`) in one nested table.

  ```sql
  INSERT INTO Manfs VALUES('Pete’s', 'Palo Alto',
                          CAST(MULTISET(
                            SELECT bb.beer
                            FROM Beers bb
                            WHERE bb.manf = 'Pete’s'
                          ) AS BeerType)
  );
  ```
Transactions

= units of work that must be:

1. \textit{Isolated} = appear to have been executed when no other DB operations were being performed.
   ✦ Often called \textit{serializable} behavior.

2. \textit{Atomic} = either all work is done, or none of it.
Commit/Abort Decision

Each transaction ends with either:

1. *Commit* = the work of the transaction is installed in the database; previously its changes may be invisible to other transactions.

2. *Abort* = no changes by the transaction appear in the database; it is as if the transaction never occurred.

✦ *ROLLBACK* is the term used in SQL and the Oracle system.

• In the ad-hoc query interface (e.g., Oracle’s SQLplus), transactions are single queries or modification statements.

✦ Oracle allows *SET TRANSACTION READ ONLY* to begin a multistatement transaction that doesn’t change any data, but needs to see a consistent “snapshot” of the data.

• In program interfaces (e.g., Pro*C or PL/SQL), transactions begin whenever the database is accessed, and end when either a *COMMIT* or *ROLLBACK* statement is executed.
Example

\[
\text{Sells(\text{bar, beer, price})}
\]

- Joe’s Bar sells Bud for $2.50 and Miller for $3.00.
- Sally is querying the database for the highest and lowest price Joe charges:
  
  (1) SELECT MAX(price) FROM Sells
      WHERE bar = 'Joe’s Bar’;
  
  (2) SELECT MIN(price) FROM Sells
      WHERE bar = 'Joe’s Bar’;

- At the same time, Joe has decided to replace Miller and Bud by Heineken at $3.50:
  
  (3) DELETE FROM Sells
      WHERE bar = 'Joe’s Bar’ AND
          (beer = 'Miller’ OR beer = 'Bud’);
  
  (4) INSERT INTO Sells
      VALUES('Joe’s bar’, 'Heineken’, 3.50);

- If the order of statements is 1, 3, 4, 2, then it appears to Sally that Joe’s minimum price is
greater than his maximum price.

- Fix the problem by grouping Sally’s two statements into one transaction, e.g. with one PL/SQL statement.
Example: Problem With Rollback

Suppose Joe executes statement 4 (insert Heineken), but then, during the transaction thinks better of it and issues a ROLLBACK statement.

- If Sally is allowed to execute her statement 1 (find max) just before the rollback, she gets the answer $3.50, even though Joe doesn’t sell any beer for $3.50.

- Fix by making statement 4 a transaction, or part of a transaction, so its effects cannot be seen by Sally unless there is a COMMIT action.
SQL2 Isolation Levels

*isolation levels* determine what a transaction is allowed to see. The declaration, valid for one transaction, is:

\[
\text{SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL } X; \\
\]

where:

- \( X = \text{SERIALIZABLE} \): this transaction must execute as if at a point in time, where all other transactions occurred either completely before or completely after.

  - Example: Suppose Sally’s statements 1 and 2 are one transaction and Joe’s statements 3 and 4 are another transaction. If Sally’s transaction runs at isolation level \text{SERIALIZABLE}, she would see the Sells relation either before or after statements 3 and 4 ran, but not in the middle.

- \( X = \text{READ COMMITTED} \): this transaction can only read committed data.

  - Example: if transactions are as above, Sally could see the original Sells for
statement 1 and the completely changed \textit{Sells} for statement 2.

- \( X = \text{REPEATABLE READ} \): if a transaction reads data twice, then what it saw the first time, it will see the second time (it may see more the second time).
  - Example: If 1 is executed before 3, then 2 must see the Bud and Miller tuples when it computes the min, even if it executes after 3. But if 1 executes between 3 and 4, then 2 may see the Heineken tuple.

- \( X = \text{READ UNCOMMITTED} \): essentially no constraint, even on reading data written and then removed by a rollback.
  - Example: 1 and 2 could see Heineken, even if Joe rolled back his transaction.
Authorization in SQL2

- File systems identify certain access privileges on files, e.g., read, write, execute.
- In partial analogy, SQL2 identifies six access privileges on relations, of which the most important are:

  1. **SELECT** = the right to query the relation.
  2. **INSERT** = the right to insert tuples into the relation — may refer to one attribute, in which case the privilege is to specify only one column of the inserted tuple.
  3. **DELETE** = the right to delete tuples from the relation.
  4. **UPDATE** = the right to update tuples of the relation — may refer to one attribute.
Granting Privileges

- You have all possible privileges to the relations you create.
- You may grant privileges to any user if you have those privileges “with grant option.”
  ✦ You have this option to your own relations.

Example

1. Here, Sally can query Sells and can change prices, but cannot pass on this power:

   \[
   \text{GRANT SELECT ON Sells,}
   \text{UPDATE\{price\} ON Sells}
   \text{TO sally;}
   \]

2. Here, Sally can also pass these privileges to whom she chooses:

   \[
   \text{GRANT SELECT ON Sells,}
   \text{UPDATE\{price\} ON Sells}
   \text{TO sally}
   \text{WITH GRANT OPTION;}
   \]
Revoking Privileges

- Your privileges can be revoked.
- Syntax is like granting, but `REVOKE ... FROM` instead of `GRANT ... TO`.
- Determining whether or not you have a privilege is tricky, involving “grant diagrams” as in text. However, the basic principles are:
  
a) If you have been given a privilege by several different people, then all of them have to revoke in order for you to lose the privilege.

b) Revocation is transitive. if A granted $P$ to $B$, who granted $P$ to $C$, and then $A$ revokes $P$ from $B$, it is as if $B$ also revoked $P$ from $C$. 