



***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 07**

**Exercise 1**

Write the following queries in **SQL** on the known university schema:

- (a) How many students are there?
- (b) Find all students that are in the third semester.
- (c) Figure out if there is a lecture with more than five *weeklyhours*.
- (d) Print out a list with all professor names and avoid duplicates.
- (e) Find students whose name start and end with the letter 'a'.

**Solution:**

- (a) How many students are there?

```
select count(*) from Students;
```

- (b) Find all students that are in the third semester.

```
select * from students where semester = 3;
```

- (c) Figure out if there is a lecture with more than five *weeklyhours*.

```
select * from lectures where weeklyhours > 5;
```

→ No.

- (d) Print out a list with all professor names and avoid duplicates.

```
select distinct name from professors;
```

- (e) Find students whose name start and end with the letter 'a'.

```
select * from students where name like 'A%' and name like '%a';
```

**Exercise 2**

Answer the following questions on our university database using SQL:

- (a) List the name and person number of the *Assistants* of *Professor Sokrates*.
- (b) Which *Professors* does Fichte know from attending their *Lectures*.
- (c) Which *Lectures* are attended by *Students* in the 1.-4. semester? Print only the title of the lectures.
- (d) Find all *Students* that attend at least one *Lecture* together with Fichte.

## Solution:

- (a) List the name and person number of the *Assistants* of *Professor Sokrates*.

```
select a.persNr, a.name
from Professors p, Assistants a
where p.name = 'Sokrates'
and p.persNr = a.boss;
```

- (b) Which *Professors* does Fichte know from attending their *Lectures*.

```
select distinct p.persNr, p.name
from Professors p, attend a, Lectures l, Students s
where p.PersNr = l.given_by
and l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
and a.studNr = s.studNr
and s.name = 'Fichte';
```

- (c) Which *Lectures* are attended by *Students* in the 1.-4. semester? Print only the title of the lectures.

```
select distinct l.title
from Lectures l, attend a, Students s
where l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
and a.studNr = s.studnr
and s.semester between 1 and 4;
```

- (d) Find all *Students* that attend at least one *Lecture* together with Fichte.

```
select distinct other_s.studNr, other_s.name
from Students fichte_s, attend fichte_a, attend other_a, Students
other_s
where fichte_s.name = 'Fichte'
and fichte_a.studNr = fichte_s.studNr
and other_a.lectureNr = fichte_a.lectureNr
and other_s.studNr = other_a.studNr
and other_s.studNr != fichte_s.studnr
```

## Exercise 3

Answer the following questions on our university database using SQL:

- Figure out the average semester of all students.
- What is the average semester of students that are not attending any lecture?
- Determine the average semester of students that attend at least one lecture of *Sokrates*.
- Calculate how many lectures students are attending on average. Students who do not attend any lecture should be reflected in the result as well. If you get stuck, see hints:  
1 2
- 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).

---

<sup>1</sup>Remember that the from clause is optional ('select 1.0 / 2.0;' is a valid query).

<sup>2</sup>Remember that you can use sub-queries in the select clause.

**Solution:**

- a) Figure out the average semester of all students.

```
select avg(semester) from students;
```

- b) What is the average semester of students that are not attending any lecture?

```
select avg(semester)
from students s
where not exists (
  select *
  from attend a
  where s.studnr = a.studnr)
```

Or:

```
select avg(semester)
from students s
where s.studnr not in (
  select a.studnr
  from attend a)
```

- c) Determine the average semester of students that attend at least one lecture of *Sokrates*.

```
select avg(semester)
from students s
where exists (
  select *
  from attend a, lectures l, professors p
  where s.studnr = a.studnr
  and a.lecturenr = l.lecturenr
  and l.given_by = p.persnr
  and p.name = 'Sokrates')
```

In this query we need to make sure that each student is only counted once, even if she is attending two lectures by *Sokrates*. In our solution, the use of *exists* takes care of this. However, we could have also used *distinct* in combination with a sub-query:

```
select avg(semester)
from (select distinct s.*
  from Students s, attend a, lectures l, professors p
  where s.studnr = a.studnr
  and a.lecturenr = l.lecturenr
  and l.given_by = p.persnr
  and p.name = 'Sokrates')
```

- d) Calculate how many lectures students are attending on average. Students who do not attend any lecture should be reflected in the result as well.

```
select attend_count/(student_count*1.000)
from (select count(*) as attend_count from attend) a,
     (select count(*) as student_count from students) s
```

Or:

```
select attend_count / cast(student_count as numeric(10,4))
from (select count(*) as attend_count from attend) a,
     (select count(*) as student_count from students) s
```

Or:

```
select ((select count(*) from attend) * 1.000)/ (select count(*)
from students)
```

- e) [Bonus] 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*).

In this exercise we have to make sure to include students that do not attend any lecture.

```
select s.studnr, s.name, (select count(*) from attend a where a.
studnr = s.studnr)
from students s;
```

Another possible solution would be to use *union*. We first calculate the number of attended lectures for each student that does attend a lecture. Then we create a query that produces the student number, student name and a zero for all students that do not attend a lecture. We then simply combine the two results using the *union* operator. Note, however, that it is important to only allow students that do not attend any lecture in the second sub-query. Otherwise, duplicates would be possible.

```
(select s.studnr, s.name, count(*)
from students s, attend a
where s.studnr = a.studnr
group by s.studnr, s.name)
union
(select s.studnr, s.name, 0
from students s
where not exists (select * from attend a where a.studnr = s.
studnr))
```

A similar approach that takes care of duplicates in a different way is shown in the following query. Here we do not avoid duplicates, but filter them out in a second step, instead.

```
select x.studnr, x.name, sum(x.cnt)
from
((
select s2.studnr, s2.name, count(*) as cnt
from students s2, attend a
where s2.studnr = a.studnr
group by s2.studnr, s2.name
)
union
(
select s1.studnr, s1.name, 0 as cnt
from students s1
)) x
group by x.studnr, x.name
```

As should be clear from this exercise, there are many different ways how a query can be written. As a rule of thumb, shorter queries are often better, because these are easier to understand. That holds for everyone involved: you yourself (when proof-reading your queries in the exam), other people (who read your queries and need to understand them) and the database (which has to execute your queries in an efficient manner).