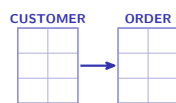


Databases

AS Computer Science • Topic 8

A-Level Computer Science



Databases

What we will cover

- 1 Files vs the database approach
- 2 The relational model
- 3 E-R diagrams
- 4 Normalisation
- 5 DBMS & SQL
- 6 Recap



1 Files vs database

Databases

Files vs database

Why not just use files?

Separate files for each program duplicate data and go out of step.

duplication

the same customer stored in sales, accounts and support

inconsistency

one file is updated; the others are not

no sharing

each program owns its files – no single source of truth

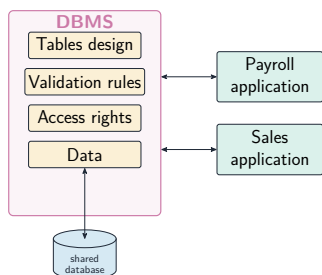
hard queries

"all orders for this customer" means writing a new program

Databases

Files vs database

The database approach

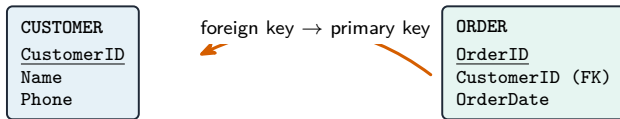


A **relational database** 关系数据库 stores data in **tables**, managed by one **DBMS** 数据库管理系统 that all programs share. Each fact is stored **once**.

2 Relational model

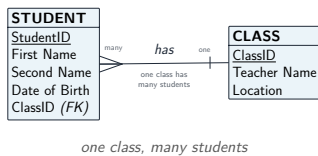
The relational model

- **table** 表 of **records** 记录 (rows) and **fields** 字段 (columns)
- **primary key** 主键 – uniquely identifies a record
- **foreign key** 外键 – matches a PK in another table
- **referential integrity** 参照完整性 – no orphan FKs



3 E-R and normalisation

Entity-relationship diagrams



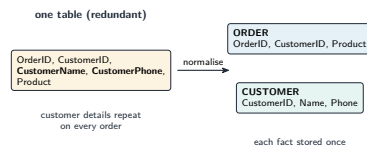
one class, many students

Cardinality 基数 at each end:

- one-to-one (1:1)
- **one-to-many** 一对多 (1:M)
- **many-to-many** 多对多 (M:N)

M:N needs a **link table** 连接表 of two foreign keys.

Normalisation



customer details repeat on every order

each fact stored once

Normalisation 规范化 cuts redundancy through **normal forms** 范式:

- **1NF**: atomic fields, a key
- **2NF**: depend on the **whole** key
- **3NF**: no **transitive dependency** 传递依赖

Aim for 3NF – each fact stored once.

Worked example: to third normal form

Not 3NF: TeacherName depends on ClassID, not on the key –

StudentID	Name	ClassID	TeacherName
S01	Li Wei	C1	Mr Chen
S02	Anna	C1	Mr Chen
S03	Ben	C2	Ms Roy

split off the transitive fact

StudentID	Name	ClassID
S01	Li Wei	C1
S02	Anna	C1
S03	Ben	C2

FK

ClassID	TeacherName
C1	Mr Chen
C2	Ms Roy

Now "Mr Chen" is stored **once** – renaming a teacher touches one row.

4 DBMS and SQL

Databases
└ DBMS and SQL

The DBMS

A **DBMS** 数据库管理系统 manages the database centrally:

data dictionary
数据字典

concurrent access
并发访问

transactions 事务

views 视图

backup & security

query processor
查询处理器

Databases
└ DBMS and SQL

SQL – DDL and DML

DDL – builds the structure
CREATE, ALTER, DROP

SQL

DML – works with the data
SELECT, INSERT,
UPDATE, DELETE

DDL

CREATE TABLE CUSTOMER
(CustomerID INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
Name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL);

DDL 数据定义语言: structure

DML 数据操纵语言: the data

Databases
└ DBMS and SQL

SQL – querying data

SELECT

SELECT Name, Phone
FROM CUSTOMER
WHERE City = 'London'
ORDER BY Name ASC;

SELECT name, grade
FROM students
WHERE grade > 80;

result

name	grade
Ann	88
Cara	91

A **join** 连接 combines tables on a foreign key;
aggregate functions 聚合函数 (COUNT, SUM)
pair with GROUP BY.

Always put a WHERE on UPDATE/DELETE, or it hits every row.

5

Recap

Databases
└ Recap

Topic 8 – key takeaways

1

Why databases

remove redundancy &
inconsistency

2

Keys

primary identifies; foreign links
tables

3

Normalisation

1NF → 2NF → 3NF; each fact
once

4

SQL

DDL builds structure; DML
queries data

Databases
└ Recap

Check yourself

1

What links one table to another?

2

How do you store a many-to-many relationship?

→

3

Which SQL keyword filters rows?

4

What does 3NF remove?

Answers

1. a foreign key 2. a link table 3. WHERE 4. transitive dependencies