

# Introduction to database management with open source tools

Guillaume Larocque  
research professional,  
Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science

<http://qcbs.ca/wiki/opendb>



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QUEBEC CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE



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# Objectives

- Understand what databases do
- Concepts of database management
- Intro to the SQL language
- Brief intro to LibreOffice Base
- Connecting PostgreSQL with other tools
- Where to find more info?

# Getting started...

## What is a database?

- An organized collection of data.



## Options for database management



## Benefits of open-Source Software

- Free today, free tomorrow.
  - Collaborative development.
  - Collaborative help system.
  - Links more easily with other open source software.
- Disadvantages: not always good with user interface. No support from company.



# What is a database?

- An organized collection of data.

## what is a relational database?

- Data is stored in formatted tables.
- Tables are linked together with "keys".



## what is a DBMS?

- Database Management System.
- Software.
- Controls the creation, maintenance, and use of a database.
- Allows concurrent access by several users and applications.
- Does not necessarily come with a user interface.

RDBMS = Relational.

## what is SQL?

- Structured query language.
- Often pronounced 'sequel'
- Programming language designed for RDBMS.
- Standards-based.
- Used by most RDBMS systems.
- Variations between implementations.

# What is a relational database?

- Data is stored in formatted tables.
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QCBS\_students

student_id	first_name	last_name	university_institution_affiliation	project_title_and	supervisor
1	Tyler	Bennell		1. Spatial simulations of infectious disease dynamics.	34
2	Yousaf	Jamil		2. Molecular interactions of stemborer mycoges ...	42
3	Aykut	Gökhan		3. The role of a subtropical oasis of natural a...	8
4	Marianne	Rousseau		4. MALL	35
5	Marianne	Rousseau		7. Potential response of boreal vegetation to warmi...	2
6	Rodrigo	Lima Bezerra		1. Morphological Variation of the Red-backed Vole (Myo...	32
7	Magnus	Dolin		1. MALL	29
8	Mathew	Hargreaves		4. MALL	35
9	Laura	Boučeková Hanáčková		5. Subminimally charged at the northern limit of tr...	28
10	Jeffrey	Brodie		7. Predicting the establishment success of non-native...	8
11	Dominic	Charron		1. Modeling tree abundance in eastern North America: L...	28
12	Craig	Christie		1. Predicting spread of invasive species	8
13	Karen	Colautti		1. Evaluating the effects of climate change on invasiv...	4
14	Fernley	Edmund		3. Phylogenetic diversity of edge communities	88
15	Monica-Julia	Pérez		1. The ecological and developmental genetic basis of ...	13
16	Silvana	Gagnon		2. Phylogenetic relationships and biogeography of Cen...	18
17	Mallika	Grassi		7. MALL	32
18	Natalie	Jones		1. Monitoring the effects of climate change on the dis...	28
19	Amelia	Keay		1. The role of biotic and abiotic factors in exotic s...	38
20	Inessa	Mitrofanov		7. MALL	33
21	Inessa	Mitrofanov		1. Direct development with name eggs in the cyparium...	13
22	Mayana	Lassaway		2. Impacts des activités humaines sur la végétation du ...	73
23	Christelle	Morand		1. The Biological Causes and Consequences of the Mass...	37
24	Georgina	O'Hanrahan		1. The Biological Causes and Consequences of the Mass...	37

Universities

university_institution_affiliation_id	name	front_id
1	McGill University	41035
2	Université de Montréal	41037
3	Université du Québec à Montréal	41038
4	Université de Sherbrooke	41039
5	Université de Gaspésie	41040
6	Université de Moncton	41041
7	Université Laval	41042
8	Université de Montréal	41043
9	Agriculture & AgriFood Canada	41044
10	Genetics and Bioinformatics	41045
11	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environne...	41046
12	UQTR University	41047
13	Carleton University	41048
14	Université de Montréal	41049
15	Université de Montréal pour le développement du Québec	41050
16	Université de Montréal	41051
17	University of British Columbia	41052
18	University of Manitoba	41053
19	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	41055

Supervisors

member_id	first_name	last_name	university_institution_affiliation	research_in
1	Beckie	Bonin		3. My research program is currently focused on three ...
2	Monica	Boulin		7. e-Health management, medical and commercial ...
3	Asya	Holm		3. N/A
4	Anne-Marie	Hovest		1. Devil's suggested that evolution proceeds very slow ...
5	Archie	Hardy		1. phylogenetic invasions
6	Eric	Leung		1. e-Design of data ...
7	Claire	Larose		7. The Research Laboratory on Invasive Plants (RLPI) ...
8	Patrice	Leblanc		7. N/A
9	Bertrand	Lebel		2. N/A
10	Eric	Lehoux		1. My research program focuses on the evolution of do ...
11	Bertrand	Angers		2. N/A
12	Yannick	Reis		1. Major Research Thematic Areas: ->Adaptive radiat ...
13	Claire	Bennell		1. Research in the General area around quarks
14	Monica	Grassi		1. N/A
15	Beccie	Brosius		2. N/A
16	Jessica	Brosius		2. e-Health: medical information and intelligent contr ...
17	Jacques	Brousseau		2. N/A
18	Luc	Brouard		2. N/A
19	Anne	Brewer		2. e-Water: water management of irrigation and the Rive ...
20	Christelle	Bubis		1. Microbial biochemistry e-Design: Artificial ...

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1	Tyler	Bonnell		1	Spatial simulations of infectious disease: environ...	24
2	Youssef	Ismail		2	Molecular interactions of arbuscular mycorrhizal f...	42
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4	Université de Sherbrooke	44811
5	Université du Québec à Rimouski	44988
6	Concordia University	46092
7	Université Laval	44501
8	Bishop's University	45674
9	Agriculture & Agroalimentaire Canada	45080
10	Service canadien des forêts	45809
11	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environne...	48535
12	Yale University	45066
13	La recherche agronomique pour le développement (Ci...	0
14	Duke University	46724
15	Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)	47712
16	NA	0
17	University of British Columbia	45729
18	University of Manitoba	44933
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1	Beatrix	Beisner		3 My research program is currently centred on three ...
2	Monique	Poulin		7 <li>Wetland management, restoration and conservati...
4	Jean-Pierre	Revéret		3 NULL
5	Andrew	Hendry		1 Darwin suggested that evolution proceeds very slow...
6	Brian	Leung		1 <li>Biological invasions</li> <li>Ecology of dise...
7	Claude	Lavoie		7 The Research Laboratory on Invasive Plants (RELIP)...
8	Philippe	Le Prestre		7 NULL
9	Bernadette	Pinel-Alloul		2 NULL
10	Ehab	Abouheif		1 My research program focuses on the evolution of de...
11	Bernard	Angers		2 NULL
12	Graham	Bell		1 Major Research Themes:  <b>Adaptive radiat...
13	Elena	Bennett		1 Research in the Bennett lab centers around questio...
15	Dominique	Berteaux		5 NULL
16	Jacques	Brisson		2 NULL
17	Jacques	Brodeur		2 <li>Plant-insect interactions and biological contr...
18	Luc	Brouillet		2 NULL
19	Anne	Bruneau		2 <li>Molecular systematics of legumes and the Rosa ...
20	Christopher	Buddle		1 <li>Arctic Biodiversity</li> <li>Canopy Arthropod...

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16	MRA	0
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4	Anne-Marie	Brivio		3. NOLL
5	Archie	Hardy		1. Devil's suggested that evolution proceeds very slow ...
6	Isaac	Living		1. phylogeny of insect-eating birds 2. Ecology of diets 3. Diet ecology of birds
7	Claude	Lepage		7. The Research Laboratory on Invasive Plants (RLPI) ...
8	Patrice	Lo Presti		7. NOLL
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19	Anne	Brousseau		2. Insect-Vector symbioses of lepidoptera and the Ross ...
20	Christopher	Bubis		1. Microbial biochemistry -Chlorophytes -Chlorophytes

# What is a DBMS?

- Database Management System.
- Software.
- Controls the creation, maintenance, and use of a database.
- Allows concurrent access by several users and applications.
- Does not necessarily come with a user interface.
- **RDBMS** - Relational.

# What is SQL?

- Structured query language.
- Often pronounced 'sequel'
- Programming language designed for RDBMS.
- Standards-based.
- Used by most RDBMS systems.
- Variations between implementations.

# Options for database management



Microsoft Excel?

- Poor at working with multiple linked tables.
- Poor at working with very large datasets.
- No multi-user access.
- No strict formatting.
- No server access.
- Performing complex queries can be difficult.
- Data and 'reports' are not separated.



MicroSoft Access?

- MS Access is a front-end to a database 'server' called Jet/ACE. It can be used with other database servers such as PostgreSQL.
- Not an open platform.
- Multiple versions and document formats.
- Not frequently used on servers.
- Limits to the file sizes and concurrent users.
- Can make a good front-end for designing forms or generating reports.

Full-fledged DBMS

Open source

- MySQL/MariaDB
- PostgreSQL

Proprietary

- Oracle
- Microsoft SQL Server

# MicroSoft Excel?



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# Full-fledged DBMS

## Open source

- MySQL/MariaDB
- PostgreSQL

## Proprietary

- Oracle
- Microsoft SQL Server

# Benefits of open-Source Software

- Free today, free tomorrow.
- Collaborative development.
- Collaborative help system.
- Links more easily with other open source software.
- Disadvantages: not always good with user interface. No support from company.



# MySQL/MariaDB and PostgreSQL



- Open source.
- Extremely powerful.
- Fast.
- Can handle very large datasets.
- Good development.
- Used by major companies (Facebook, Twitter, Google, etc.).
- SQL standard.
- MySQL - developed mostly by Oracle.
- Postgres and MariaDB - community development.
- Database servers with no backends.



# When Should I use a DBMS?

- Standardization of data is important
- Very large datasets
- Multiple users, multiple platforms
- Access on a server
- Interaction with other software or computer tools

## When I Should not use a DBMS?

- Small datasets that don't need standardization
- Single users, simple needs
- Lack of technical expertise/time

### Examples of DBMS use

- QCBS student/prof database and website
- Des nids chez vous website
- The internet (e.g. <http://quebio.ca/bam>)
- Collaborative databases (GBIF, GENBANK, etc.)

## ExampleS of DBMS uSe

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- Des nids chez vous website
- The internet (e.g. <http://quebio.ca/bam>)
- Collaborative databases (GBIF, GENBANK, etc.)

# Database design principles

**Basic principles**  
• Standardization  
• Coherence  
• Expandability  
• Flexibility

**Steps of database design**  
• Determine entities and  
  relationships/cardinality  
• Establish primary keys  
• Establish data types

**Rules of thumb**  
• One attribute per column. Consider for  
  normalization to denormalize when view  
  is being created.  
• Use foreign keys to link tables  
• Simplify data entry by creating views or  
  stored procedures such as 'insert', 'update',  
  'insert or update', etc.

**Entity relationship diagram**

# Basic principles

- Standardization
- Coherence
- Expandability
- Flexibility

# Steps of database design

- Determine entities and tables
- Relationships/cardinality
- Establish primary keys
- Establish data types



Determine entities and tables

- One table per type of entity
- Short but meaningful table and column names. No spaces (e.g., \_3\_no storage characters (asciicd), RDBMS1.1)



Establish relationships/  
cardinality

- One to one
- One to many
- Many to many



Establish primary keys

- Mechanism used to relate tables together
- One entity = one unique key
- Unique columns, combination of columns or logical primary key



Establish data types

- Has to allow all possible current and future values.

# Determine entities and tables

- One table per type of entity
- Short but meaningful table and column names. No spaces (use \_ ), no strange characters (accented, ?&%\$@'(",)

Entity ID	Entity	Category	Comments	Primary Key	Alternative Keys
1	Year	Overall	Global statistics for entities	Year	Year
2	Product	Overall	Global statistics of products	Product	Product
3	Customer	Overall	Global statistics of customers	Customer	Customer
4	Employee	Overall	Global statistics of employees	Employee	Employee
5	CustomerOrder	Customer	Global statistics of customer orders	CustomerOrder	CustomerOrder
6	EmployeeOrder	Employee	Global statistics of employee orders	EmployeeOrder	EmployeeOrder
7	ProductOrder	Product	Global statistics of product orders	ProductOrder	ProductOrder
8	CustomerOrderLineItem	CustomerOrder	Global statistics of customer order line items	CustomerOrderLineItem	CustomerOrderLineItem
9	EmployeeOrderLineItem	EmployeeOrder	Global statistics of employee order line items	EmployeeOrderLineItem	EmployeeOrderLineItem
10	ProductLineItem	Product	Global statistics of product line items	ProductLineItem	ProductLineItem
11	CustomerReview	Customer	Global statistics of customer reviews	CustomerReview	CustomerReview
12	EmployeeReview	Employee	Global statistics of employee reviews	EmployeeReview	EmployeeReview
13	OrderLineItem	Overall	Global statistics of order line items	OrderLineItem	OrderLineItem
14	ProductCategory	Overall	Global statistics of product categories	ProductCategory	ProductCategory
15	CustomerDemographic	Customer	Global statistics of customer demographics	CustomerDemographic	CustomerDemographic
16	EmployeeDemographic	Employee	Global statistics of employee demographics	EmployeeDemographic	EmployeeDemographic
17	ProductCategoryDemographic	Overall	Global statistics of product category demographics	ProductCategoryDemographic	ProductCategoryDemographic
18	ProductCategoryDemographicLineItem	ProductCategoryDemographic	Global statistics of product category demographic line items	ProductCategoryDemographicLineItem	ProductCategoryDemographicLineItem
19	CustomerDemographicLineItem	CustomerDemographic	Global statistics of customer demographic line items	CustomerDemographicLineItem	CustomerDemographicLineItem
20	EmployeeDemographicLineItem	EmployeeDemographic	Global statistics of employee demographic line items	EmployeeDemographicLineItem	EmployeeDemographicLineItem
21	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrder	CustomerDemographicLineItem	Global statistics of customer demographic line item orders	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrder	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrder
22	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrder	EmployeeDemographicLineItem	Global statistics of employee demographic line item orders	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrder	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrder
23	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrder	Global statistics of customer demographic line item order line items	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem	CustomerDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem
24	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrder	Global statistics of employee demographic line item order line items	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem	EmployeeDemographicLineItemOrderLineItem

Entity ID	Entity	Category	Comments	Primary Key	Alternative Keys
1	Customer	Basic	Customer basic information	Customer	Customer
2	CustomerDemographic	Basic	Customer demographic information	CustomerDemographic	CustomerDemographic
3	Employee	Basic	Employee basic information	Employee	Employee
4	EmployeeDemographic	Basic	Employee demographic information	EmployeeDemographic	EmployeeDemographic
5	Product	Basic	Product basic information	Product	Product
6	ProductCategory	Basic	Product category basic information	ProductCategory	ProductCategory
7	Order	Basic	Order basic information	Order	Order
8	OrderLineItem	Basic	Order line item basic information	OrderLineItem	OrderLineItem
9	CustomerOrder	Basic	Customer order basic information	CustomerOrder	CustomerOrder
10	EmployeeOrder	Basic	Employee order basic information	EmployeeOrder	EmployeeOrder
11	CustomerOrderLineItem	Basic	Customer order line item basic information	CustomerOrderLineItem	CustomerOrderLineItem
12	EmployeeOrderLineItem	Basic	Employee order line item basic information	EmployeeOrderLineItem	EmployeeOrderLineItem
13	ProductLineItem	Basic	Product line item basic information	ProductLineItem	ProductLineItem
14	CustomerReview	Basic	Customer review basic information	CustomerReview	CustomerReview
15	EmployeeReview	Basic	Employee review basic information	EmployeeReview	EmployeeReview

Entity ID	Entity	Category	Comments	Primary Key	Alternative Keys
1	Customer	Demographic	Customer demographic information	Customer	Customer
2	CustomerDemographic	Demographic	Customer demographic information	CustomerDemographic	CustomerDemographic
3	Employee	Demographic	Employee demographic information	Employee	Employee
4	EmployeeDemographic	Demographic	Employee demographic information	EmployeeDemographic	EmployeeDemographic
5	Product	Demographic	Product demographic information	Product	Product
6	ProductCategory	Demographic	Product category demographic information	ProductCategory	ProductCategory
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12	EmployeeOrderLineItem	Demographic	Employee order line item demographic information	EmployeeOrderLineItem	EmployeeOrderLineItem
13	ProductLineItem	Demographic	Product line item demographic information	ProductLineItem	ProductLineItem
14	CustomerReview	Demographic	Customer review demographic information	CustomerReview	CustomerReview
15	EmployeeReview	Demographic	Employee review demographic information	EmployeeReview	EmployeeReview

Keyword ID	Keyword
1	biology
2	orange
3	monkey
4	ecosystem services
5	population ecology
6	peacock
7	ecosystem functioning
8	forests ecology
9	plants
10	population genetics
11	geographic information systems
12	parallel linear models
13	innovacy
14	forestry
15	biogeochemistry
16	spatial statistics

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4	Jean-Pierre	Revéret		3 NULL
5	Andrew	Hendry		1 Darwin suggested that evolution proceeds very slow...
6	Brian	Leung		1 <li>Biological invasions</li> <li>Ecology of dise...
7	Claude	Lavoie		7 The Research Laboratory on Invasive Plants (RELIP)...
8	Philippe	Le Prestre		7 NULL
9	Bernadette	Pinel-Alloul		2 NULL
10	Ehab	Abouheif		1 My research program focuses on the evolution of de...
11	Bernard	Angers		2 NULL
12	Graham	Bell		1 Major Research Themes:  <b>Adaptive radiat...
13	Elena	Bennett		1 Research in the Bennett lab centers around questio...
15	Dominique	Berteaux		5 NULL
16	Jacques	Brisson		2 NULL
17	Jacques	Brodeur		2 <li>Plant-insect interactions and biological contr...
18	Luc	Brouillet		2 NULL
19	Anne	Bruneau		2 <li>Molecular systematics of legumes and the Rosa ...
20	Christopher	Buddle		1 <li>Arctic Biodiversity</li> <li>Canopy Arthropod...

university_institution_affiliation_id	name	FRQNT_ID
1	McGill University	44563
2	Université de Montréal	44607
3	Université du Québec à Montréal	44986
4	Université de Sherbrooke	44811
5	Université du Québec à Rimouski	44988
6	Concordia University	46092
7	Université Laval	44501
8	Bishop's University	45674
9	Agriculture & Agroalimentaire Canada	45080
10	Service canadien des forêts	45809
11	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environne...	48535
12	Yale University	45066
13	La recherche agronomique pour le développement (Ci...	0
14	Duke University	46724
15	Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)	47712
16	NA	0
17	University of British Columbia	45729
18	University of Manitoba	44933
19	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	44993

keyword_id	keyword
1	biodiversity
2	ecology
3	ecosystem
4	ecosystem services
5	population ecology
6	genetics
7	ecosystem functioning
8	forest ecology
9	phylogenetics
10	population genetics
11	geographic information systems
12	generalized linear models
13	limnology
14	forestry
15	bayesian analysis
16	spatial statistics

# Establish relationships/ cardinality

- One to one
- One to many
- Many to many

Storing one to many relationships

Option 1 - Multiple columns

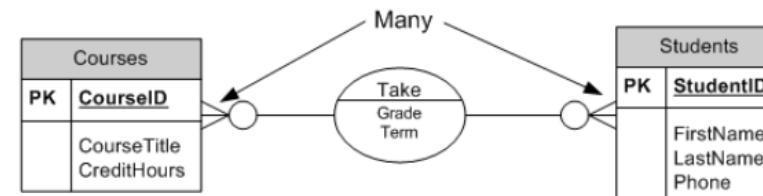
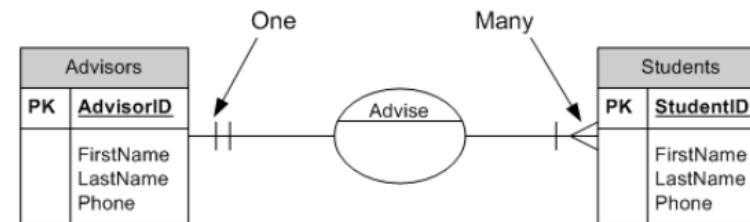
Adviser	student	Students	StudentID
Jill Smith	100-200	2002-2003	
Alia Gomes	100-200		

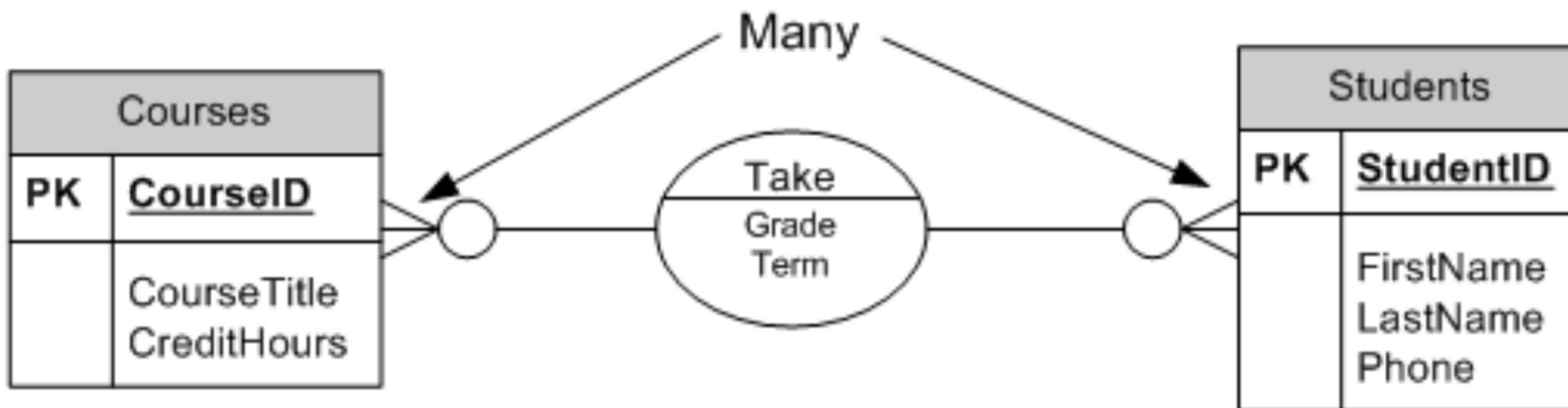
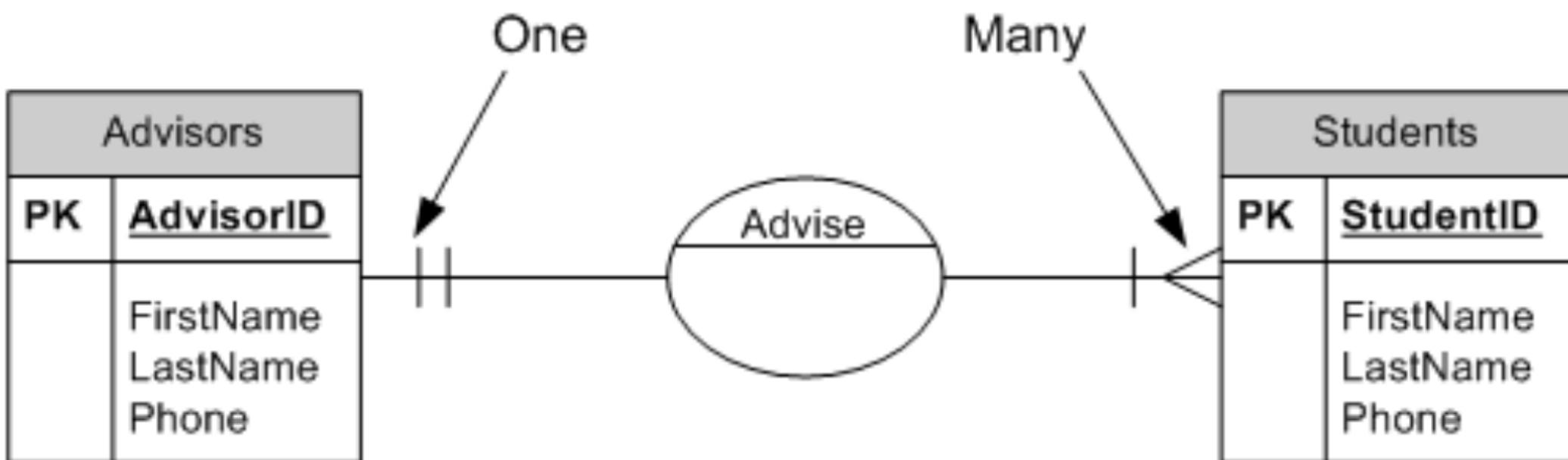
Option 2 - Lists

Adviser	student	Students	StudentID
Jill Smith	100-200	2002-2003	
Alia Gomes	100-200		

Option 3 - Lookup table

Adviser	student	Students	StudentID
Jill Smith	100-200	2002-2003	
Alia Gomes	100-200		





# Storing one to many relationships

## Option 1 - Multiple columns

Supervisor	Students1	Students2	Student3
John Smith	Vicky Côté	Alain Lambert	
Alan Gartner	Marc Sauv��		

## Option 2 - Lists

Supervisor	Students
John Smith	Vicky Côt��, Alain Lambert
Alan Gartner	Marc Sauv��

## Option 3 - Lookup table

Supervisor	Student
John Smith	Vicky Côt��
John Smith	Alain Lambert
Alan Gartner	Marc Sauv��

# Establish primary keys

- Mechanism used to relate tables together
- One entity = one unique key
- Unique columns, combination of columns or logical primary key

Supervisor_Id	Supervisor_name
54	John Smith
56	Alan Gartner

Student_Id	Student_name
23	Vicky O'Me
15	Alain Lambert
12	Marc Sauve

Supervisor_Id	Student_Id
54	23
54	15
56	12

Primary  
keys

No Key

Student_Id	Firstname	Lastname	University_Institution_Affiliation	Project_Title_ID	\$ sponsored
1	Tyler	Bennet		1 Spatial simulation of infectious disease vector...	24
2	Yosef	Ismail		2 Molecular interactions of adenosine myoinositol...	40
3	Kyle	McKee		3 Association as a spatiotemporal measure of seasonal...	0
4	Stephanie	Alexis		4 PMA	31
5	Marianne	Bachand		7 Functional response of forest vegetation to precip...	2
6	Rodrigo	Lima Berros		1 Morphological Variation of the Red-backed Vireo (Vireo...	52
7	Magnus	Karl		2 MPA	39
8	Peter	Benjamin		3 SPPA	39
9	Laura	Elizabeth Marsh		4 Spatiotemporal changes of the northern limit of V...	20
10	Johanna	Bratke		5 Investigating the establishment success of tree-knife...	6
11	Dominic	Chambers		6 Modeling tree distribution in eastern North America (...	25
12	Danny	Dowdy		7 Predicting tree species distribution in eastern N...	0
13	Pilar	Alvarado		8 managing invasive species	6
14	Terry	Keller		9 Interdependency of wedge communities	0
15	Mario-Juli	Farr		10 The ecological and developmental genetic basis of...	10
16	Gordon	Georges		11 Geographic relationships and biogeography of Ge...	0
17	Malissa	Wolff		7 MPA	0
18	Natalie	Jones		12 Modeling the effects of climate change on the dis...	20
19	Lisa	Jones		13 The role of biotic and abiotic factors in coastal L...	50
20	Zoe	McLellan de Serres		14 The effect of climate change on the distribution...	50
21	Maryna	Lesserney		15 Effect development with mouse eggs in the catapyle...	10
22	Charlene	Molnar		16 Impacts the estuarine benthic inter-tidal bi...	70
23	Gaëtane	Olivier		17 The biological Causes and Consequences of tree Mass...	37

# Primary keys

Primary  
keys



Supervisor_Id	Supervisor_name
54	John Smith
58	Alan Gartner
Student_Id	Student_name
23	Vicky Côté
15	Alain Lambert
12	Marc Sauv�
Supervisor_Id	Student_Id
54	23
54	15
58	12

student_id	Firstname	Lastname	University_Institution_affiliation		Project_title_en	Supervisor
1	Tyler	Bonnell		1	Spatial simulations of infectious disease: environ...	24
2	Youssef	Ismail		2	Molecular interactions of arbuscular mycorrhizal f...	42
3	Kiyoko	Gotanda		1	Adaptation as a spatiotemporal mosaic of natural a...	5
4	Marie-Eve	André		4	NULL	21
6	Marianne	Bachand		7	Functional response of boreal vegetation to overab...	2
7	Rodrigo	Lima Barata		1	Morphological Variation of the Red-backed Vole (My...	52
8	Magnus	Bein		1	NULL	29
9	Patrick	Bergeron		4	0	35
10	Laura	Boisvert-Marsh		1	Spatiotemporal changes at the northern limit of tr...	28
11	Johanna	Bradie		1	Predicting the establishment success of non-indige...	6
12	Dominic	Chambers		1	Modeling tree abundance in eastern North America i...	28
13	Corey	Chivers		1	Predicting spread of invasive species	6
14	Paul	Edwards		1	managing invasive species	6
15	Tammy	Elliot		1	Phylobetadiversity of sedge communities	65
16	Marie-Julie	Favé		1	The ecological and developmental genetic basis of ...	10
17	Edeline	Gagnon		2	Phylogenetic relationships and biogeography of Cae...	19
18	Melissa	Girard		7	NULL	33
19	Natalie	James		1	Modelling the effects of climate change on the dis...	28
20	Lisa	Jones		1	The role of biotic and abiotic factors in exotic s...	56
21	Joseph	Moisan de Serres		7	NULL	33
22	Maryna	Lesoway		1	Direct development with nurse eggs in the calyptra...	10
23	Chantale	Moisan		2	Impacts des activités humaines sur <i>Arethusa bul...	75
24	Georgina	O'Farrill		1	The Ecological Causes and Consequences of the Move...	37

# Establish data types

- Has to allow all possible current and future values.

## String types

**CHAR( )** A fixed section from 0 to 255 characters long.  
**VARCHAR( )** A variable section from 0 to 255 characters long.  
**TINYTEXT** A string with a maximum length of 255 characters.  
**TEXT** A string with a maximum length of 65535 characters.  
**BLOB** A string with a maximum length of 65535 characters.  
**MEDIUMTEXT** A string with a maximum length of 16777215 characters.  
**MEDIUMBLOB** A string with a maximum length of 16777215 characters.  
**LONGTEXT** A string with a maximum length of 4294967295 characters.  
**LONGBLOB** A string with a maximum length of 4294967295 characters.

## Numeric types

**TINYINT( )** -128 to 127 normal 0 to 255 UNSIGNED.  
**SMALLINT( )** -32768 to 32767 normal 0 to 65535 UNSIGNED.  
**MEDIUMINT( )** -8388608 to 8388607 normal 0 to 16777215 UNSIGNED.  
**INT( )** -2147483648 to 2147483647 normal 0 to 4294967295 UNSIGNED.  
**BIGINT( )** -9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807 normal 0 to 18446744073709551615 UNSIGNED.  
**FLOAT** A small number with a floating decimal point.  
**DOUBLE( , )** A large number with a floating decimal point.  
**DECIMAL( , )** A DOUBLE stored as a string , allowing for a fixed decimal point.

## Date-time

**DATE** YYYY-MM-DD.  
**DATETIME** YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS.  
**TIMESTAMP** YYYYMMDDHHMMSS.  
**TIME** HH:MM:SS.

## NULL

Used for unknown attributes

# String types

**CHAR( )** A fixed section from 0 to 255 characters long.

**VARCHAR( )** A variable section from 0 to 255 characters long.

**TINYTEXT** A string with a maximum length of 255 characters.

**TEXT** A string with a maximum length of 65535 characters.

**BLOB** A string with a maximum length of 65535 characters.

**MEDIUMTEXT** A string with a maximum length of 16777215 characters.

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# Date-time

**DATE** YYYY-MM-DD.

values.

# Numeric types

**TINYINT( )** -128 to 127 normal 0 to 255 UNSIGNED.

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**BIGINT( )** -9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807 normal  
0 to 18446744073709551615 UNSIGNED.

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**DOUBLE( , )** A large number with a floating decimal point.

**DECIMAL( , )** A DOUBLE stored as a string , allowing for a fixed decimal point.

# NULL

Used for unknown attributes

# Date-time

DATE YYYY-MM-DD.

DATETIME YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS.

TIMESTAMP YYYYMMDDHHMMSS.

TIME HH:MM:SS.

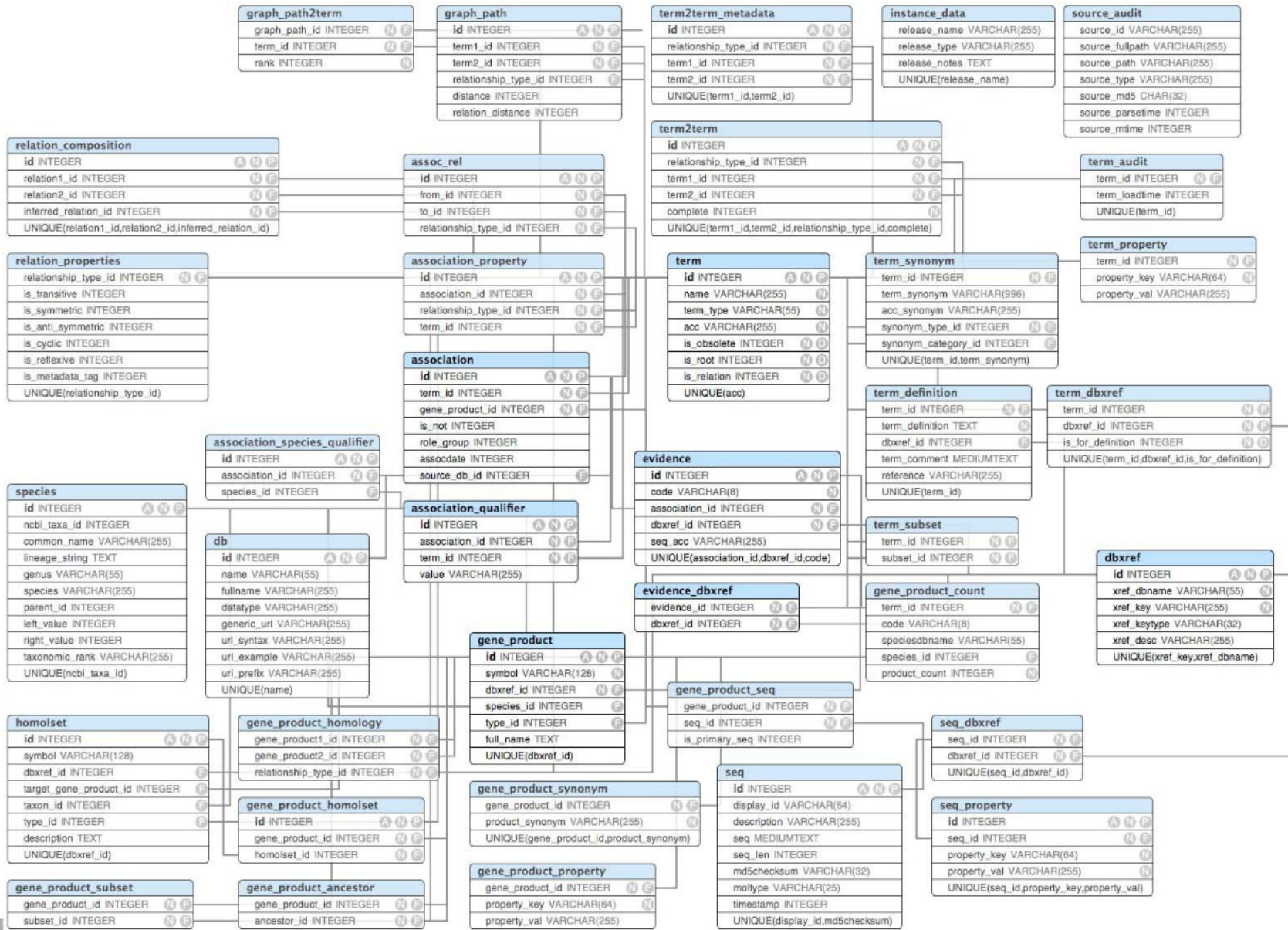
# NULL

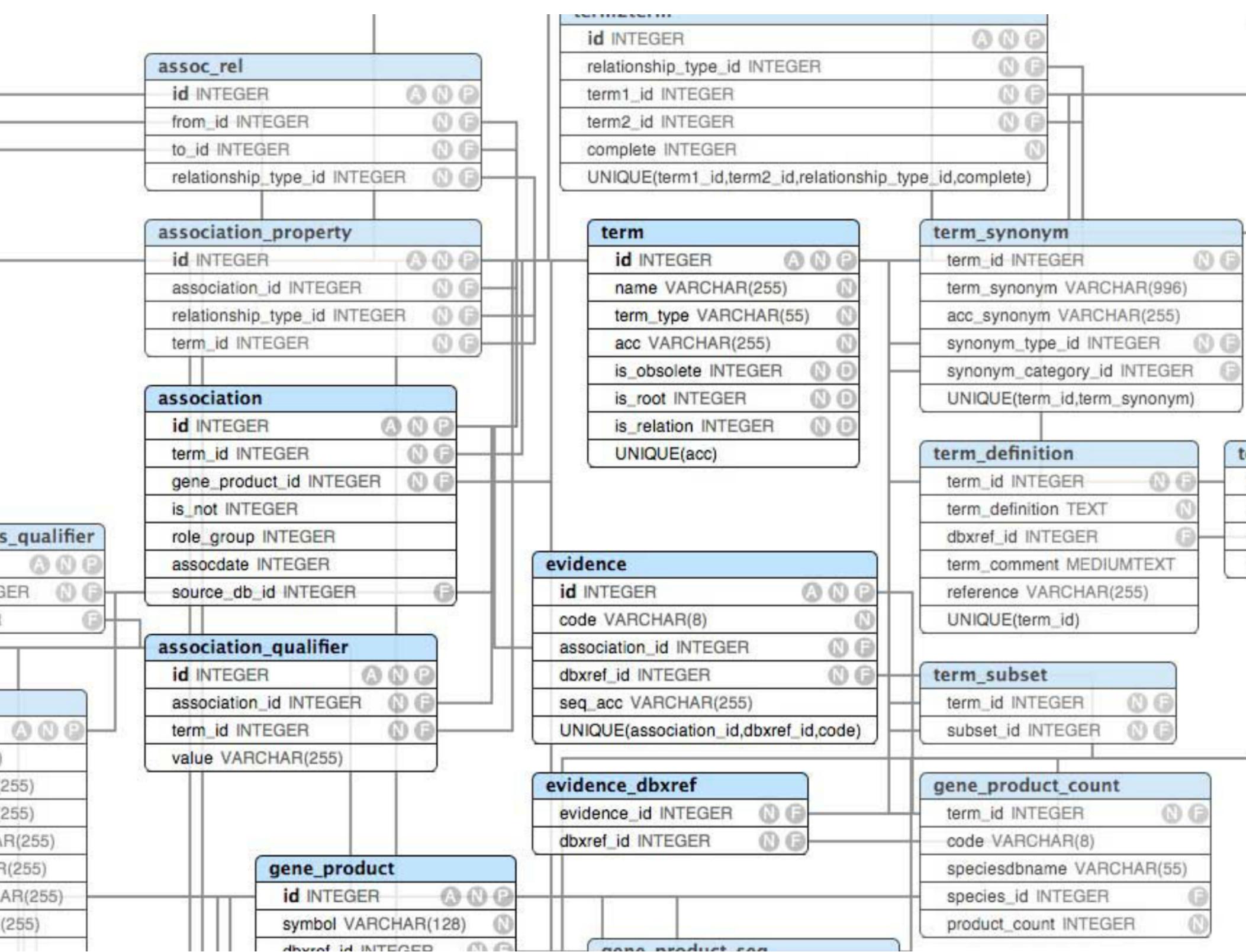
Used for unknown attributes

# Rules of thumb

- One attribute per column. Cannot be subdivided.
- Unique way to identify each row.
- No repeating info.
- Simple but meaningful table and column names. Avoid words such as 'name', 'text', 'count', 'long', etc.

# Entity-relationship diagram





# Basics of the PostgreSQL language

## Basics

- Table, column names separated by commas, not commands
- Strings are separated by ""
- Names can be enclosed with "" when spaces or special characters are present or for reserved words.
- Not case-sensitive. But always use good case.

User interface  
Command line client  
LibreOffice BASE/ MS Access  
PgAdmin III  
phpPgAdmin

Entering data...  
• Create forms (Access, LibreOffice, PHP)  
• Edit directly in user interface (e.g. LibreOffice Base)  
• INSERT command

Importing data...  
• From LibreOffice/Access (CsvImport)  
• From the PostgreSQL command line (CREATE TABLE COPY...)

Basic commands  
SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, CREATE, ALTER, DROP, GRANT, REVOKE, etc.

Operators  
SELECT DISTINCT FROM tables WHERE conditions  
JOIN, COUNT BY columns HAVING conditions  
ORDER BY columns

# USer interface

- Command line client
- LibreOffice BASE/ MS Access
- PgAdmin III
- Phppgadmin

# Basics

- Table, column names separated by commas, not commands
- Strings are separated by ” ”
- Names can be enclosed with “ ” when spaces or special characters are present or for reserved words.
- Not case-sensitive. But always use good case.

## Entering data...

- Create forms (Access, LibreOffice, PHP)
- Edit directly in user interface (e.g. Libreoffice Base)
- INSERT command

## Importing data...

- From Libreoffice/Access (csv,xls,ods)
- From the PostgreSQL command line (CREATE TABLE, COPY...)

# Basic Commands

\l list tables in database  
\d+ describe table and columns  
CREATE create database or table  
INSERT insert line(s) into table  
SELECT make queries  
UPDATE modify column  
DELETE delete lines  
ALTER add columns or modify format  
DROP delete table or database

# Operators

SELECT columns FROM tables WHERE conditions  
JOIN ... GROUP BY columns HAVING condition  
ORDER BY columns

# Basic Commands

\l list tables in database

\d+ describe table and columns

**CREATE** create database or table

**INSERT** insert line(s) into table

**SELECT** make queries

**UPDATE** modify column

**DELETE** delete lines

**ALTER** add columns or modify format

**DROP** delete table or database

# Operators

**DELETE** delete lines

**ALTER** add columns or modify format

**DROP** delete table or database

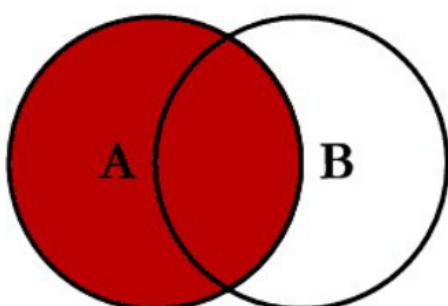
# Operators

**SELECT** columns **FROM** tables **WHERE** conditions

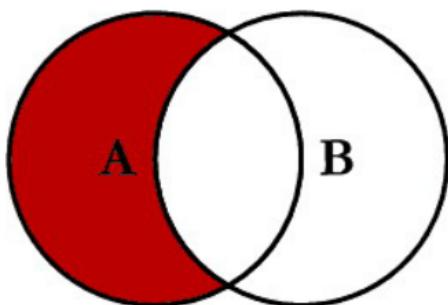
**JOIN** ... **GROUP BY** columns **HAVING** condition

**ORDER BY** columns

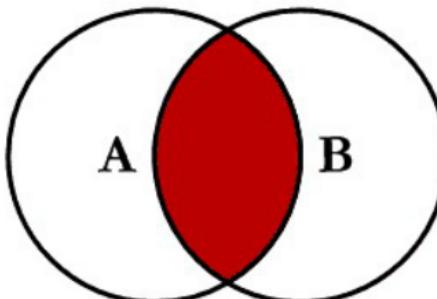
# SQL JOINS



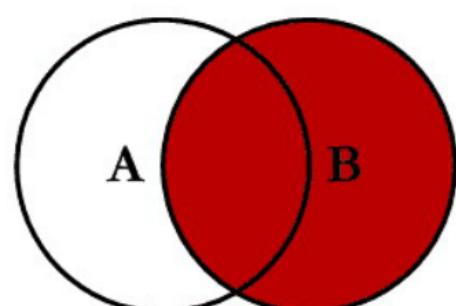
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
LEFT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```



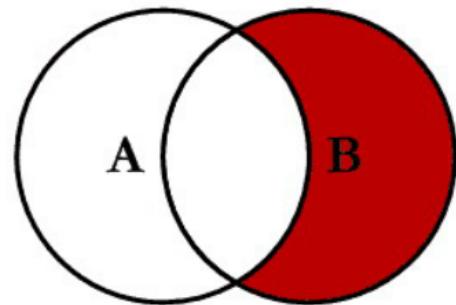
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
LEFT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
WHERE B.Key IS NULL
```



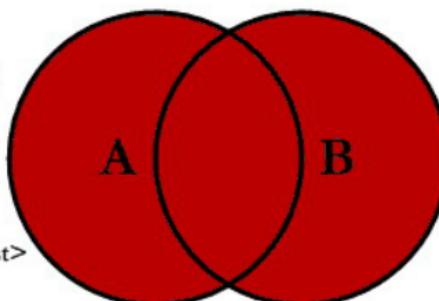
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
INNER JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```



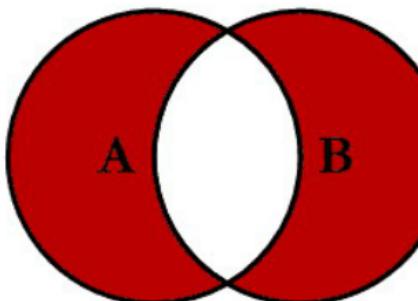
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
RIGHT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```



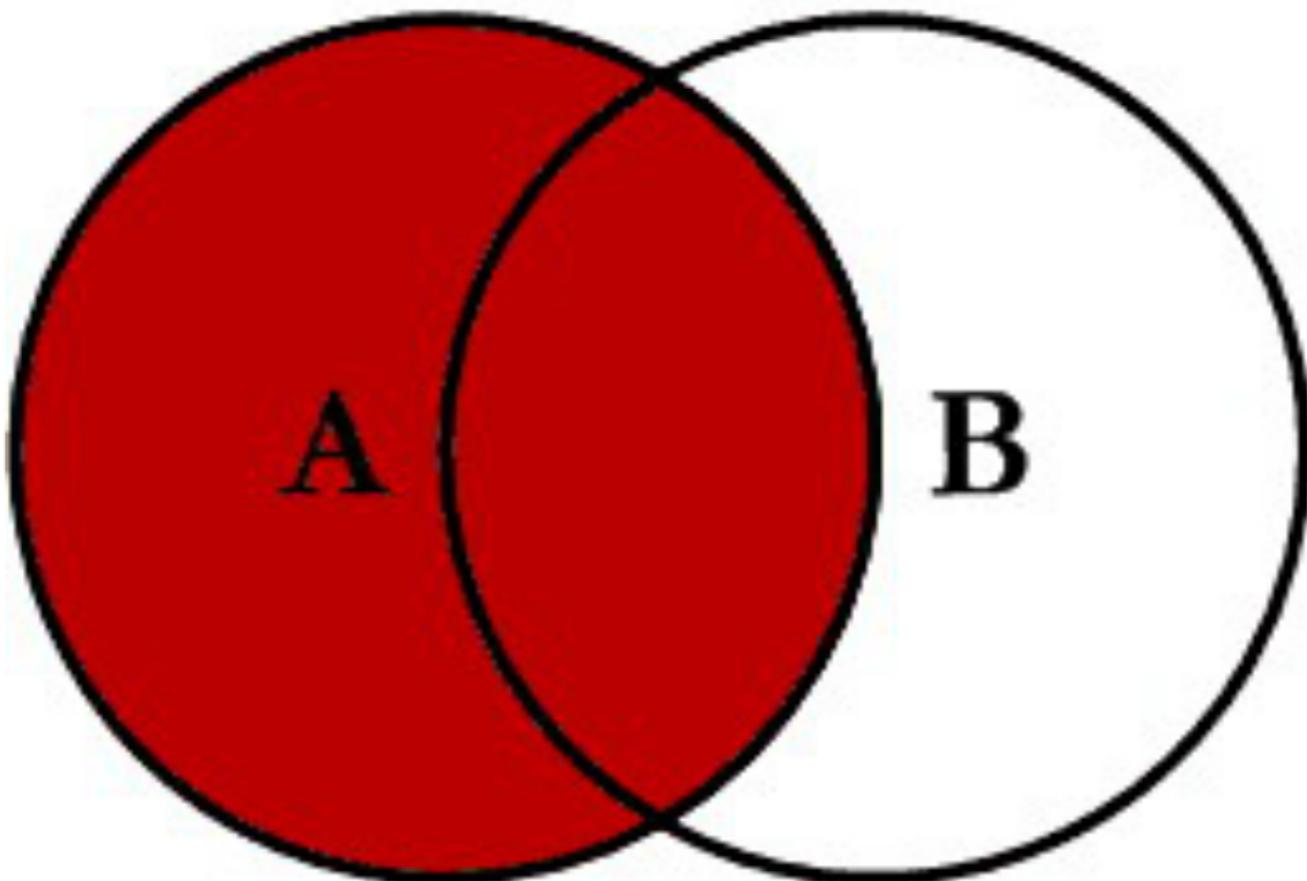
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
RIGHT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
WHERE A.Key IS NULL
```



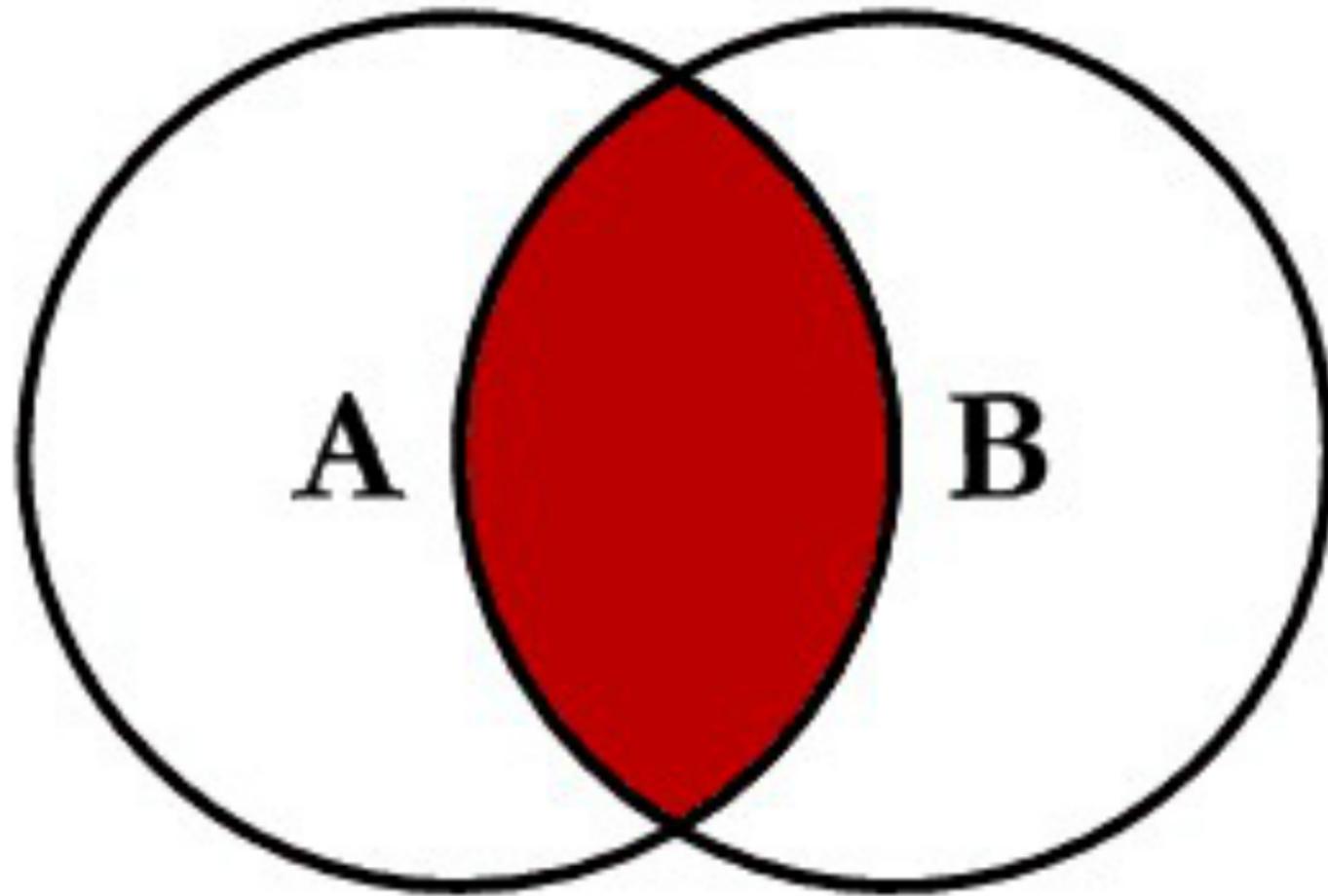
```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
FULL OUTER JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```



```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
FULL OUTER JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
WHERE A.Key IS NULL
OR B.Key IS NULL
```

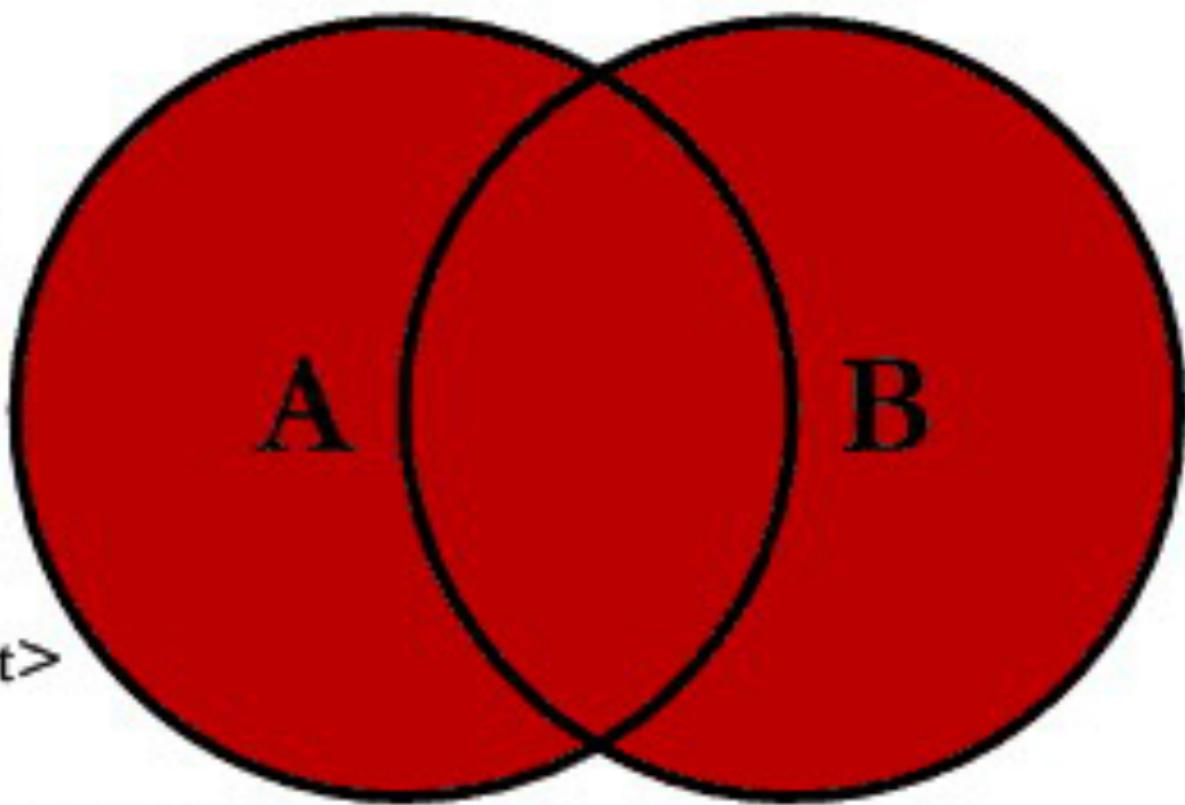


```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
LEFT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```



```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
INNER JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```

```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
LEFT JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
WHERE B.Key IS NULL
```



```
SELECT <select_list>
FROM TableA A
FULL OUTER JOIN TableB B
ON A.Key = B.Key
```

# Introduction to database management with open source tools

Guillaume Larocque  
research professional,  
Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science

<http://qcbs.ca/wiki/opendb>



CENTRE DE LA SCIENCE DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC  
QUEBEC CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE

