



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



CHAI

Humanities-Centered AI

# Databases

**Malte Luttermann – Institute for Humanities-Centered  
Artificial Intelligence (CHAI)**

December 4, 2025

# Topics for Today

- Structured Query Language (SQL)
- Architecture of Database Management Systems (DBMS)

# Acknowledgement

- Some of the upcoming content is taken from the following lecture (and corresponding exercises) and has been translated and partially modified:
  - PD Dr. habil. Özgür L. Özçep: »Datenbanken«

## SQL – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »The use of `CHECK` enables assertions to be made about a table.«
- »The result of an SQL query might contain duplicate rows.«
- »The `HAVING` clause is used to filter rows before grouping them.«
- »Assertions are not required, as all functionalities also work using checks.«

## SQL – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »The use of `CHECK` enables assertions to be made about a table.«
  - Correct. For example, `CHECK (age >= 18)` requires that every new entry that is entered must have an age of at least 18.
- »The result of an SQL query might contain duplicate rows.«
- »The `HAVING` clause is used to filter rows before grouping them.«
- »Assertions are not required, as all functionalities also work using checks.«

## SQL – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »The use of `CHECK` enables assertions to be made about a table.«
  - Correct. For example, `CHECK (age >= 18)` requires that every new entry that is entered must have an age of at least 18.
- »The result of an SQL query might contain duplicate rows.«
  - Correct. To eliminate duplicates, one can use the `DISTINCT` keyword.
- »The `HAVING` clause is used to filter rows before grouping them.«
- »Assertions are not required, as all functionalities also work using checks.«

# SQL – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »The use of `CHECK` enables assertions to be made about a table.«
  - Correct. For example, `CHECK (age >= 18)` requires that every new entry that is entered must have an age of at least 18.
- »The result of an SQL query might contain duplicate rows.«
  - Correct. To eliminate duplicates, one can use the `DISTINCT` keyword.
- »The `HAVING` clause is used to filter rows before grouping them.«
  - Incorrect. The `HAVING` clause filters groups after the `GROUP BY` operation.
- »Assertions are not required, as all functionalities also work using checks.«

# SQL – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »The use of `CHECK` enables assertions to be made about a table.«
  - Correct. For example, `CHECK (age >= 18)` requires that every new entry that is entered must have an age of at least 18.
- »The result of an SQL query might contain duplicate rows.«
  - Correct. To eliminate duplicates, one can use the `DISTINCT` keyword.
- »The `HAVING` clause is used to filter rows before grouping them.«
  - Incorrect. The `HAVING` clause filters groups after the `GROUP BY` operation.
- »Assertions are not required, as all functionalities also work using checks.«
  - Incorrect. Assertions are required to create cross-table assurances. Constraints only refer to one table.

## SQL – Constraints

Let the following relational schemas be given:

- $Customer = \{\underline{CustomerId}, FirstName, LastName\}$
- $Drink = \{\underline{DrinkId}, DrinkName, Price, Type\}$
- $Order = \{\underline{OrderId}, CustomerId\}$
- $OrderDetails = \{\underline{OrderId}, \underline{DrinkId}, Quantity\}$

Add a constraint that ensures that each drink has a type of either »Beer«, »Cocktail«, or »SoftDrink«.

## SQL – Constraints

Add a constraint that ensures that each drink has a type of either »Beer«, »Cocktail«, or »SoftDrink«.

```
1 ALTER TABLE Drink
2 ADD CONSTRAINT EnsureType
3 CHECK (Type IN VALUES('Beer', 'Cocktail', 'SoftDrink'));
```

## SQL – Constraints

Let the following relational schemas be given:

- *Customer* = { CustomerId, *FirstName*, *LastName* }
- *Drink* = { DrinkId, *DrinkName*, *Price*, *Type* }
- *Order* = { OrderId, *CustomerId* }
- *OrderDetails* = { OrderId, DrinkId, *Quantity* }

Add a constraint that ensures that there is at least one drink for each type (»Beer«, »Cocktail«, »SoftDrink«).

## SQL – Constraints

Add a constraint that ensures that there is at least one drink for each type (»Beer«, »Cocktail«, »SoftDrink«).

```
1 ALTER TABLE Drink
2 ADD CONSTRAINT EnsureAtLeastOneDrinkPerType
3 CHECK (
4     EXISTS(SELECT * FROM Drink WHERE Type = 'Beer') AND
5     EXISTS(SELECT * FROM Drink WHERE Type = 'Cocktail') AND
6     EXISTS(SELECT * FROM Drink WHERE Type = 'SoftDrink')
7 );
```

## Architecture – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »If a page is no longer needed in the buffer, it is always written back to the hard disk.«
- »The page size is always the maximum table size in a database.«
- »The record identifier (RID) is another name for the primary key of a table.«

## Architecture – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »If a page is no longer needed in the buffer, it is always written back to the hard disk.«
  - Incorrect. Only if the page has been modified. If this is the case, the dirty bit is set.
- »The page size is always the maximum table size in a database.«
- »The record identifier (RID) is another name for the primary key of a table.«

## Architecture – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »If a page is no longer needed in the buffer, it is always written back to the hard disk.«
  - Incorrect. Only if the page has been modified. If this is the case, the dirty bit is set.
- »The page size is always the maximum table size in a database.«
  - Incorrect. Tables can be significantly larger than a predetermined page size.
- »The record identifier (RID) is another name for the primary key of a table.«

## Architecture – Comprehension Questions

Are the following statements correct?

- »If a page is no longer needed in the buffer, it is always written back to the hard disk.«
  - Incorrect. Only if the page has been modified. If this is the case, the dirty bit is set.
- »The page size is always the maximum table size in a database.«
  - Incorrect. Tables can be significantly larger than a predetermined page size.
- »The record identifier (RID) is another name for the primary key of a table.«
  - Incorrect. The RID uniquely identifies rows in a database at the physical level. The primary key identifies (as a combination of attributes) each row in a table in an abstract sense.

## Architecture – Memory Hierarchy

Explain why a memory hierarchy is necessary, i.e., why there are several types of memory organised in the form of a pyramid.

|                      | Capacity         | Latency   |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| CPU (with registers) | Bytes            | < 1 ns    |
| Cache memory         | Kilo-/Mega-Bytes | < 10 ns   |
| Main memory          | Giga-Bytes       | 20-100 ns |
| Flash memory         | Giga/Tera-Bytes  | 30-250 ms |
| Hard disk            | Tera-Bytes       | 3-10 ms   |
| Tape machine         | Peta-Bytes       | varying   |

## Architecture – Memory Hierarchy

Explain why a memory hierarchy is necessary, i.e., why there are several types of memory organised in the form of a pyramid.

- A single memory cannot simultaneously meet all requirements:
  - Access time,
  - data transfer rate,
  - price,
  - size, and
  - energy consumption.
- The memory hierarchy creates the illusion of a kind of ideal memory for the processor that is fast, inexpensive, small and energy-efficient

# Architecture – Sequential vs. Random Access

Explain the difference between sequential and random access.

# Architecture – Sequential vs. Random Access

Explain the difference between sequential and random access.

- Random access:

- The desired track is searched for again for each block (search time), the correct data block is waited for (rotation delay) and then the data is read (transfer time).
- The blocks are searched for independently of each other.

- Sequential access:

- We look at  $n$  contiguous (sequential) blocks.
- The first block is searched for, then we read the next  $n - 1$  blocks (transfer time) and if the blocks are spread across multiple tracks, track changes occur.

## Architecture – Sequential vs. Random Access

What factors determine access times for sequential and random access? Please provide the specific formula for each case.

# Architecture – Sequential vs. Random Access

## ■ Random access:

$$t_{random\ access} = n(t_s + t_r + t_{tr})$$

- $n$ : Number of blocks to be read
- $t_s$ : Movement of arms to the desired track (seek time)
- $t_r$ : Waiting time for the desired block to rotate under the arm (rotation time)
- $t_{tr}$ : Read time or write time (transfer time)

## ■ Sequential access:

$$T_{sequential\ access} = t_s + t_r + n \cdot t_{tr} + m \cdot t_{s,track-to-track}$$

- $m$ : Number of track changes (number of tracks occupied by file to be read)
- $t_{s,track-to-track}$ : Time to move from one track to the next

# Architecture – Replacement Strategies

When should the random replacement strategy be used? Give an example and explain in more detail why the other strategies are not appropriate in this case.

## Architecture – Replacement Strategies

When should the random replacement strategy be used? Give an example and explain in more detail why the other strategies are not appropriate in this case.

- Access patterns for the cache are unknown
- The cache should displace pages independently of access patterns
- Any other strategy would create a bias, which must be avoided