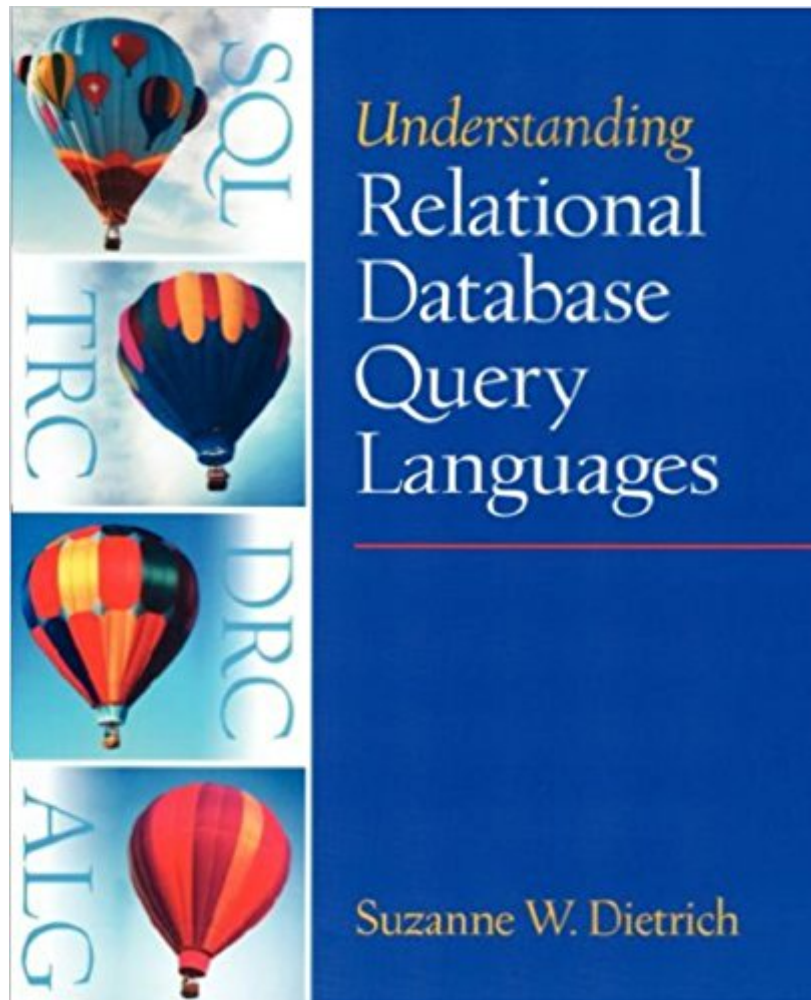




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Understanding Relational Database Query Languages



Synopsis

This invaluable learning tool provides an understanding of the industry-standard query language SQL. Using an appropriate mix of underlying mathematical formalism and hands-on activities with numerous examples, the book is designed to help users grasp the essential concepts of relational database query languages. The book provides a complete presentation of the relational data model, relational algebra, domain and tuple relational calculus and SQL, with case studies and Microsoft Access. For individuals in computer science, information services and industrial engineering interested in gaining an understanding of the foundations of industry SQL.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a pretty good book. It's strength lies in it's limited scope: you learn relational database query languages, and get a short primer on Access (Microsoft) and WinRDBI (by author). It doesn't give you the various SQL dialects that exist (Oracle, MySQL, etc.), because that would make it a whole lot thicker book. If you are overwhelmed by the vast syntax of any particular SQL flavor, than this is the book for you. Here is tersely presented what a minimal language needs, and why it is convenient to have a bigger language (ie. larger syntax). The book teaches 4 relational "languages", each with it's own chapter: relational algebra, domain relational calculus (DRC), tuple relational calculus (TRC), and SQL. The preface states that relational algebra is considered crucial to understanding SQL. DRC is treated because it is often used for data mining techniques and artificial intelligence applications. TRC is treated because it's very similar to SQL. And SQL is the very

reason that I picked up this book. Each of these four chapters first introduces the basics of the language at hand. And then the language is further explained with example queries. For these examples a data model for an "employee training enterprise" is used; this data model was introduced in chapter 1. Chapter 1 also introduces entity relationship diagrams that are used to explain the data model. Having the same data model and queries reappear in these different languages, makes that the reader picks up each language easily. From the chapter on relational algebra you learn what the minimum set of operators is, that you need to express most queries that you might think of. And that it is convenient to have more operators, for common combinations of the basic operators.

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