# Advanced SQL Techniques: Manipulation, Integration, and Optimization

\$ echo "Data Sciences Institute"

## **Expanding your Database:**

 $\rightarrow$  INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE

**Views** 

**Importing and Exporting Data** 

**CROSS & Self Joins** 

## INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE

Prior to this, we've focused solely on retrieving values from tables:

- Tables can also be manipulated with INSERT, UPDATE, and/or DELETE
- - Generally, follow a policy that avoids altering data
  - Make backups of tables before you run a query
  - Never hurts to test on a temporary table first!
- But they are useful, and sometimes the correct solution
- There is no SELECT statement for these types of queries

#### **INSERT**

- INSERT allows you to add a record
- Specify where you want to add:
  - INSERT INTO [some\_table\_name]
- ...and what you want to add:
  - VALUES(column\_one\_value, column\_two\_value)
- VALUES come in the order of the columns within the tables
- VALUES must respect table constraints
  - e.g. NULLs, UNIQUE, data types, etc
- INSERT can help create small helper tables
  - Can we think of any scenarios?

#### **UPDATE**

- UPDATE allows you to change a record
- Specify where you are making your change:
  - UPDATE [some\_table\_name]
- ...and what you want to change:
  - SET column\_one = value1, column\_one = value2
- SPECIFY A WHERE CONDITION
  - WHERE condition
- You can change a single column, a few columns, all the columns, etc
  - (Respecting table constraints)
- What happens if you don't specify a WHERE condition?

#### DELETE

- DELETE allows you to remove a record
- Specify where you want to delete:
  - DELETE FROM [some\_table\_name]
- SPECIFY A WHERE CONDITION
  - WHERE condition
- What happens if you don't specify a WHERE condition?!?
- DELETE doesn't remove a table from a database
  - Instead it removes the data from it, leaving the table structure and constraints in place
    - DROP TABLE instead if you want to remove it altogether

## INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE

( INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE live coding with a TEMP TABLE)

## What questions do you have about INSERT UPDATE DELETE?

## **Expanding your Database:**

**INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE** 

ightarrow Views

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#### **Views**

- Views instantiate a query result permanently
- They are particularly useful in highly normalized databases, where reproducing a query is tiresome or prone to query errors
- In databases that have live data flowing in:
  - Tables that are created from queries need to be continuously updated whenever there is new data
    - This requires either downtime where the table is empty
    - Or the chance of a "dirty read" (where a table is read before the data is fully updated)
  - Views, on the other hand, will always show the most up-to-date values!

#### **Views**

• Views are created just like tables:

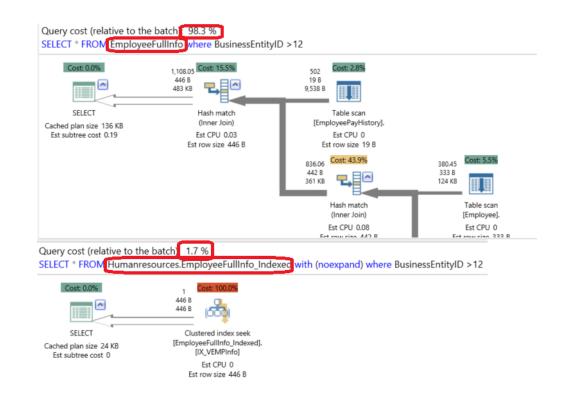
```
CREATE VIEW history AS SELECT ...
```

#### **Views Performance**

- Views can be very slow if poorly created
- Always use primary keys and indexing to make them more performative
- Select the most important columns
- Avoid stacking views (views within a view)

#### **Views Performance**

- In commercial RDBMs, use execution plans and/or performance dashboards to analyze the underlying engine mechanisms the view uses for instantiation
- Image: Yaseen, SQLShack



## **Views**

(Views live coding)

What questions do you have about views?

## **Expanding your Database:**

**INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE** 

**Views** 

→ Importing and Exporting Data

**CROSS & Self Joins** 

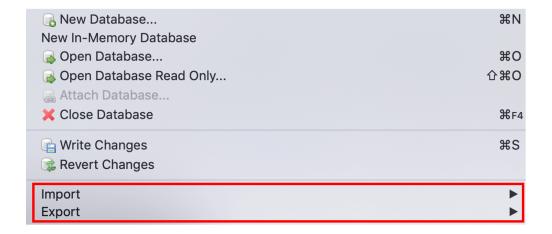
## **Import & Export**

- RDBMs allow data to flow into and out of them.
  - Some processes are easy:
    - e.g. exporting a table as a CSV file
  - ...while others are complex
    - e.g. writing a CRM to a normalized data warehouse on a nightly basis
- In DB Browser for SQLite, we can make use of the following:
  - Import and export CSV files
  - Manipulate and export JSON files
- SQLite more broadly can:
  - Produce CSVs from queries (using the command line, which we won't do)
  - Connect to other programming languages

- CSV stands for "Comma Separated Values"
- CSVs are file formats well designed to store SQL tables
  - The values of each row are separated by commas
    - Sometimes it makes more sense to use a "|" (pipe), if there is complex text data stored, which might be more sensitive to the presence of commas and/or line breaks
- They are a common file format for transporting structured data
- CSVs can be opened by:
  - Excel
  - Simple text editors (e.g. notepad++, sublime)
  - Programming languages (e.g. python, R)

DB Browser for SQLite natively supports CSV importing and exporting for tables:

You can also export queries if they are stored in Temporary Tables



DB Browser for SQLite allows us to extract a query result in a somewhat roundabout method:

• First, write a query

```
SELECT * FROM product p
JOIN product_category pc ON p.product_category_id = pc.product_category_id
```

Second, right click the results, and select "Copy as SQL"

• Third, instantiate a table with CREATE

```
CREATE TABLE "example" ("product_id", "product_name", "product_size",
"product_category_id", "product_qty_type", "product_category_name");
```

Fourth, paste the results from your clipboard

```
INSERT INTO "example" ("product_id", "product_name", "product_size",
"product_category_id", "product_qty_type", "product_category_name")
VALUES ('1', 'Habanero Peppers - Organic', 'medium', '1', 'lbs', 'Fresh Fruits & Vegetables');
...etc for each row
```

Finally, export the table to CSV

We can also extract a query result to CSV with python:

```
import pandas as pd
import sqlite3
#set your location, slash direction will change for windows and mac
DB = '/Users/thomas/Documents/GitHub/DSI SQL/SQL/FarmersMarket.db'
#establish your connection
conn = sqlite3.connect(DB, isolation_level=None,
                       detect types=sqlite3.PARSE COLNAMES)
#run your query, use "\" to allow line breaks
db_df = pd.read_sql_query("SELECT p.*,pc.product_category_name \"
                          FROM product p \
                          JOIN product_category pc \
                             ON p.product category id = pc.product category id"
                          , conn)
#save
db_df.to_CSV('database-py.CSV', index=False)
```

(CSV live importing to update our view, CSV live exporting)

- JSON stands for "JavaScript Object Notation"
- JSONs are file formats well designed to store tables, lists, arrays, and nested objects
  - Their syntax follows specific rules:
    - Data is in name/value pairs
    - Data is separated by columns
    - Curly brackets '{ }' hold objects
    - Square brackets '[]' hold arrays

```
• e.g. {"first_name":"Ralph", "last_name":"Kimball"}
```

or for tables:

- JSON can be opened by:
  - Web browsers
  - Simple text editors (e.g. notepad++, sublime)
  - Programming languages (e.g. python, R)
- SQLite also provides support for JSON value query and manipulation

DB Browser for SQLite supports a lot of JSON functions:

- Some are helper functions:
  - JS0N and JS0N\_VALID , which confirm whether or not a string is JSON and/or in a valid JSON format
  - JSON\_TYPE
    - When using extracting, type will help to inform column types that SQL will assume, based on the JSON
- Other functions can be used for manipulation or extraction:
- JS0N\_EXTRACT will allow you to return the values of a well-formed JSON string into desired parts
  - Importing JSON into SQL will use either JSON\_EXTRACT or JSON\_EACH

• SQLite gives the following (fairly comprehensive) example set:

```
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$')` → '{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}'
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$.c')` → '[4,5,{"f":7}]'
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$.c[2]')` → '{"f":7}'
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$.c[2].f')` → 7
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5],"f":7}','$.c','$.a')` → '[[4,5],2]'
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5],"f":7}','$.c[#-1]')` → 5
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$.x')` → NULL
- `json_extract('{"a":2,"c":[4,5,{"f":7}]}', '$.x', '$.a')` → '[null,2]'
- `json_extract('{"a":"xyz"}', '$.a')` → 'xyz'
- `json_extract('{"a":null}', '$.a')` → NULL
```

Importing a JSON array (table) into SQL with DB Browser for SQLite requires a bit more of nuanced approach:

• First copy and paste your JSON table array into SQLite, and put it in a temp table:

```
CREATE TEMP TABLE IF NOT EXISTS temp.[new_json]
(col BLOB);
INSERT INTO temp.[new_json](col)
VALUES('[{"a": 7, "b": "string"}]')
```

• Second, use the JSON\_EACH function as a table-valued function

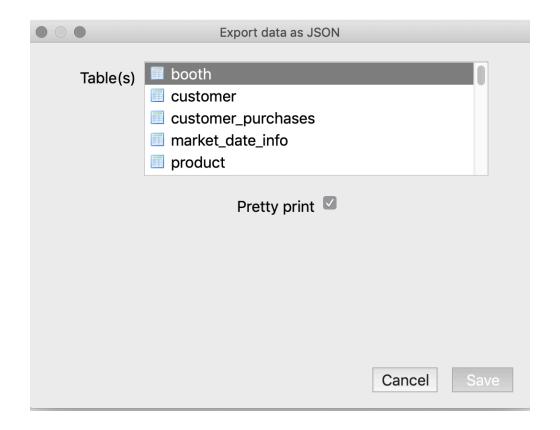
```
SELECT key,value
FROM new_json,JSON_EACH(new_json.col, '$' )
```

• Third, use this previous query as a subquery and combine with JSON\_EXTRACT, using the value column JSON\_EACH generated

```
SELECT * ,
JSON_EXTRACT(value, '$.a') AS a,
JSON_EXTRACT(value, '$.b') AS b
FROM (...{subquery goes here}...)
```

You now have a normal SQL table from a JSON array!

- DB Browser for SQLite natively supports JSON exporting for tables
- This also works for Temporary Tables, so queries can be exported as well



(JSON live exporting)

What questions	s do you have abo	ut Importing a	nd Exporting da	ta into SQL?

## **Expanding your Database:**

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→ CROSS & Self Joins

#### **CROSS JOIN**

- CROSS JOIN creates an unfiltered Cartesian Product
- They are not joined on any columns
- Recall our deck of cards example in Module 2:

SELECT suit, rank FROM suits CROSS JOIN ranks

 Because tables 'suits' and 'ranks' contain no common columns, we would have no other means to join

#### **CROSS JOIN**

- Hove to CROSS JOIN!
- They can be super useful when used correctly
  - What are some good examples that could be useful? Think, Pair, Share

#### **CROSS JOIN**

(CROSS JOIN live coding)

No complex query is complete without at least one `CROSS JOIN`

- (me, jokingly)

What questions do you have about CROSS JOIN?

#### **Self Joins**

- Self Joins are somewhat uncommon, but are the last type of possible join
- They are useful for comparison:
  - Determine maximum to-date
  - Generating pairings
- They can help with hierarchy
  - Child-to-Parent relationships

#### **Self Joins**

• The syntax is as we might expect:

```
SELECT
e.name as employee_name,
m.name as manager_name

FROM people e
LEFT JOIN people m ON e.manager_id = m.id
```

What questions do you have about anything from today?