

Execution order in SQL

1. **FROM** - the database gets the data from tables in FROM clause and if necessary performs the JOINS,
2. **WHERE** - the data are filtered with conditions specified in WHERE clause,
3. **GROUP BY** - the data are grouped by with conditions specified in WHERE clause,
4. **Aggregate functions** - the aggregate functions are applied to the groups created in the GROUP BY phase,
5. **HAVING** - the groups are filtered with the given condition,
6. **Window functions**,
7. **SELECT** - the database selects the given columns,
8. **DISTINCT** - repeated values are removed,
9. **UNION/INTERSECT/EXCEPT** - the database applies set operations,
10. **ORDER BY** - the results are sorted,
11. **OFFSET** - the first rows are skipped,
12. **LIMIT/FETCH/TOP** - only the first rows are selected