How to write a SQL query to find top n values in each row of a table  
  
  
Let get started by considering the following simple example:   
In a class of the grades of students for three courses are stored in the following table:

Calculus Physics Biology

John 4, 3.3, 3.7  
  
Matt 3.3,4,3  
  
Axel 3.7,3,4  
  
Jane 2.7,4,3.3  
  
Rose 3.7,4,2.7

If one wants to sort records based on Physics, she can write the following SQL query in Postgres:  
  
SELECT

\*

FROM

grades

ORDER BY Physics DESC

In this way, top grades for each course are sorted in the descending way. Instead, if someone wants to sort grades for each student, he can first creates a temporary table and then sort the grades in descending order, the following query hence can be used:

CREATE TABLE grades (

Name VARCHAR (255),

Calculus FLOAT4,

Physics FLOAT4,

Biology FLOAT4

)

INSERT INTO grades (Name,Calculus,Physics,Biology) VALUES ('Rose',3.7,4,2.7)