Querying a database

Selecting Data

Our films database

| films | | | | |
|---------------|---------|--|--|--|
| id | INT4 | | | |
| title | VARCHAR | | | |
| release_year | INT4 | | | |
| country | VARCHAR | | | |
| duration | INT4 | | | |
| language | VARCHAR | | | |
| certification | VARCHAR | | | |
| gross | INTB | | | |
| budget | INT8 | | | |

| people | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|--|
| id | INT4 | | |
| name | VARCHAR | | |
| birthdate | DATE | | |
| deathdate | DATE | | |

| reviews | | | |
|----------------|--------|--|--|
| id | INT4 | | |
| film_id | INT4 | | |
| num_user | INT4 | | |
| num_critic | INT4 | | |
| imdb_score | FLOAT4 | | |
| num_votes | INT4 | | |
| facebook_likes | INT4 | | |

| roles | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| id | INT4 | |
| film_id | INT4 | |
| person_id | INT4 | |
| role | VARCHAR | |

COUNT()

- COUNT()
- Counts the number of records with a value in a field
- Use an alias for clarity

```
SELECT COUNT(birthdate) AS count_birthdates
FROM people;
```

```
|count_birthdates|
|-----|
|6152 |
```

COUNT() multiple fields

```
SELECT COUNT(name) AS count_names, COUNT(birthdate) AS count_birthdates
FROM people;
```

```
|count_names|count_birthdates|
|-----|----|
|6397 |6152 |
```

Using * with COUNT()

- COUNT(field_name) counts values in a field
- COUNT(*) counts records in a table
- * represents all fields

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS total_records
FROM people;
```

```
|total_records|
|-----|
|8397 |
```

DISTINCT

 DISTINCT removes duplicates to return only unique values

```
SELECT language
FROM films;
```

```
|language |
|-----|
|Danish |
|Danish |
|Greek |
|Greek |
```

Which languages are in our films table?

```
SELECT DISTINCT language
FROM films;

|language |
|-----|
|Danish |
```

Greek

COUNT() with DISTINCT

Combine COUNT() with DISTINCT to count unique values

```
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT birthdate) AS count_distinct_birthdates
FROM people;
```

```
|count_distinct_birthdates|
|-----|
|5398 |
```

- COUNT() includes duplicates
- DISTINCT excludes duplicates

Query execution

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Order of execution

SQL is not processed in its written order

```
-- Order of execution
SELECT name
FROM people
LIMIT 10;
```

- LIMIT limits how many results we return
- Good to know processing order for debugging and aliasing
- Aliases are declared in the SELECT statement
 - 1. From people
 - 2. SELECT name
 - 3. LIMIT 10;

Debugging SQL

```
SELECT nme
FROM people;
```

```
field "nme" does not exist
LINE 1: SELECT nme

^
HINT: Perhaps you meant to reference the field "people.name".
```

- Misspelling
- Incorrect capitalization
- Incorrect or missing punctuation

Comma errors

Look out for comma errors!

```
SELECT title, country duration FROM films;
```

```
syntax error at or near "duration"
LINE 1: SELECT title, country duration
```

Keyword errors

```
SELCT title, country, duration

FROM films;
```

```
syntax error at or near "SELCT"
LINE 1: SELCT title, country, duration
```

Final note on errors

Most common errors:

- Misspelling
- Incorrect capitalization
- Incorrect or missing punctuation, especially commas

Learn by making mistakes



SQL style

SQL formatting

- Formatting is not required
- But lack of formatting can cause issues

select title, release_year, country from films limit 3

Best practices

```
SELECT title, release_year, country
FROM films
LIMIT 3;
```

- Capitalize keywords
- Add new lines

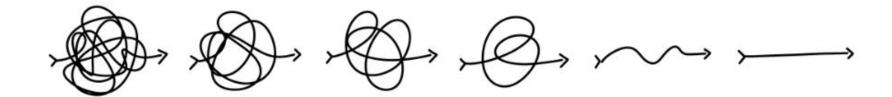
Style guides

```
SELECT
   title,
   release_year,
   country
FROM films
LIMIT 3;
```

| title | release_year country | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|-----|
| [| I | | I |
| Intolerance: Love's Struggle Throughout | the Ages 1916 | USA | I |
| Over the Hill to the Poorhouse | 1920 | USA | - 1 |
| The Big Parade | 1925 | USA | - 1 |

Style guides

Holywell's style guide: https://www.sqlstyle.guide/



Write clear and readable code

Semicolon

```
SELECT title, release_year, country
FROM films
LIMIT 3;
```

- Best practice
- Easier to translate between SQL flavors
- Indicates the end of a query

Dealing with non-standard field names

- release year instead of release_year
- Put non-standard field names in double-quotes

```
SELECT title, "release year", country

FROM films

LIMIT 3;
```

Why do we format?

- Easier collaboration
- · Clean and readable
- Looks professional
- · Easier to understand
- · Easier to debug

Filtering numbers

INTERMEDIATE SQL

WHERE

WHERE filtering clause



WHERE

WHERE color = 'green'



WHERE with comparison operators

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year > 1960;
```

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year < 1960;</pre>
```

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year <= 1960;</pre>
```

```
|title
|------|
|------|
|Intolerance:Love's Struggle Throughout the Ages|
|Over the Hill to the Poorhouse |
|The Big Parade |
|Metropolis |
```

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 1960;
```

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year <> 1960;
```

- > Greater than or after
- < Less than or before
- = Equal to
- >= Greater than or equal to
- <= Less than or equal to
- Not equal to

WHERE with strings

Use single-quotes around strings we want to filter

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE country = 'Japan';
```

Order of execution

```
-- Written code:

SELECT item

FROM coats

WHERE color = 'green'
LIMIT 5;
```

```
-- Order of execution:

SELECT item

FROM coats

WHERE color = 'green'
LIMIT 5;
```

- 1. From coats
- 2. Where color = 'green'
- 3. SELECT item
- 4. LIMIT 5;

Multiple criteria

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Multiple criteria



Multiple criteria



Multiple criteria



Multiple criteria

• OR , AND , BETWEEN

```
SELECT *
FROM coats
WHERE color = 'yellow' OR length = 'short';
SELECT *
FROM coats
WHERE color = 'yellow' AND length = 'short';
SELECT *
FROM coats
WHERE buttons BETWEEN 1 AND 5;
```

OR operator

• Use OR when you need to satisfy at least one condition



OR operator

· Correct:

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 1994
    OR release_year = 2000;
```

```
|title
|-----|
|3 Ninjas Kick Back
|A Low Down Dirty Shame
|Ace Ventura:Pet Detective|
```

Invalid:

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 1994 OR 2000;
```

```
argument of OR must be type boolean,
not type integer
LINE 3: WHERE release_year = 1994
OR 2000;
```

AND operator

- Use AND if we need to satisfy all criteria
- Correct:

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year > 1994
AND release_year < 2000;</pre>
```

Invalid:

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year > 1994 AND < 2000;</pre>
```

```
syntax error at or near "[removed]
1994 AND < 2000;
```

AND, OR

- Filter films released in 1994 or 1995, and certified PG or R
- Enclose individual clauses in parentheses

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE (release_year = 1994 OR release_year = 1995)
    AND (certification = 'PG' OR certification = 'R');
```

BETWEEN, AND

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 1994
   AND release_year <= 2000;</pre>
```

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year
BETWEEN 1994 AND 2000;
```

```
|title
|------|
|3 Ninjas Kick Back
|A Low Down Dirty Shame
|Ace Ventura:Pet Detective|
|Baby's Day Out |
```

```
|title
|-----|
|3 Ninjas Kick Back
|A Low Down Dirty Shame
|Ace Ventura:Pet Detective
|Baby's Day Out |
```

BETWEEN, AND, OR

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year
BETWEEN 1994 AND 2000 AND country='UK';
```

INTERMEDIATE SQL

WHERE can also filter text

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE country = 'Japan';
```

• WHERE can also filter text

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE country = 'Japan';
```

- Filter a pattern rather than specific text
- LIKE
- NOT LIKE
- IN

LIKE

Used to search for a pattern in a field

% match zero, one, or many characters

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE name LIKE 'Ade%';
```

_ match a single character

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE name LIKE 'Ev_';
```

Ev_ Mendes

NOT LIKE

```
SELECT name
FROM people;
```

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE name NOT LIKE 'A.%';
```

Wildcard position

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE name LIKE '%r';
```

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE name LIKE '__t%';
```

```
|name |
|-----|
|A.J. Langer |
|Aaron Schneider|
|Aaron Seltzer |
|Abigail Spencer|
```

```
|name |
|-----|
|Aitana Sánchez-Gijón |
|Anthony 'Critic' Campos|
|Anthony Bell |
|Anthony Burrell |
```

WHERE, OR

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 1920
OR release_year = 1930
OR release_year = 1940;
```

WHERE, IN

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year IN (1920, 1930, 1940);
```

WHERE, IN

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE country IN ('Germany', 'France');
```

```
|title |
|-----|
|Metropolis |
|Pandora's Box|
|The Train |
```

NULL values

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Missing values

- COUNT(field_name) includes only non-missing values
- COUNT(*) includes missing values

null

- Missing values:
 - Human error
 - Information not available
 - Unknown

null

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS count_records
FROM people;
```

```
|count_records|
|-----|
|8397 |
```

```
SELECT *
FROM people;
```

```
|id|name |birthdate |deathdate|
|--|-----|----|
|1 |50 Cent |1975-07-06|null |
|2 |A. Michael Baldwin|1963-04-04|null |
|3 |A. Raven Cruz |null |null |
```

IS NULL

```
SELECT name
FROM people
WHERE birthdate IS NULL;
```

IS NOT NULL

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS no_birthdates
FROM people
WHERE birthdate IS NULL;
```

```
SELECT COUNT(name) AS count_birthdates
FROM people
WHERE birthdate IS NOT NULL;
```

```
|no_birthdates|
|-----|
|2245 |
```

```
|count_birthdates|
|-----|
|6152 |
```

COUNT() vs IS NOT NULL

```
SELECT
    COUNT(certification)
    AS count_certification
FROM films;
```

```
|count_certification|
|-----|
|4666 |
```

```
SELECT

COUNT(certification)

AS count_certification

FROM films

WHERE certification IS NOT NULL;
```

```
|count_certification|
|-----|
|4666 |
```

NULL put simply

- NULL values are missing values
- Very common
- Use IS NULL or IS NOT NULL to:
 - Identify missing values
 - Select missing values
 - Exclude missing values

Aggregate Functions

Summarizing data

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Summarizing data

• Aggregate functions return a single value



Aggregate functions

```
AVG(), SUM(), MIN(), MAX(), COUNT()
```

```
SELECT AVG(budget)
FROM films;
```

```
SELECT SUM(budget)
FROM films;
```

```
|sum |
|-----|
|181079025606|
```

Aggregate functions

```
SELECT MIN(budget)
FROM films;
```

```
SELECT MAX(budget)
FROM films;
```

```
|min|
|---|
|218|
```

```
|max
|-----|
|12215500000|
```

Non-numerical data

Numerical fields only

- AVG()
- SUM()

Various data types

- COUNT()
- MIN()
- MAX()

Non-numerical data

Minimum <-> Maximum

Lowest <-> Highest

A <-> Z

1715 <-> 2022

0 <-> 100

Non-numerical data

```
SELECT MIN(country)
FROM films;
```

```
SELECT MAX(country)
FROM films;
```

```
|min
|-----|
|Afghanistan|
```

Aliasing when summarizing

```
SELECT MIN(country)
FROM films;
```

```
SELECT MIN(country) AS min_country
FROM films;
```

```
|min
|-----|
|Afghanistan|
```

```
|min_country|
|-----|
|Afghanistan|
```

Summarizing subsets

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Using WHERE with aggregate functions

```
SELECT AVG(budget) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
|avg_budget |
|-----|
|41072235.18324607...|
```

Using WHERE with aggregate functions

```
SELECT SUM(budget) AS sum_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 2010;
```

```
SELECT MIN(budget) AS min_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 2010;
```

```
|sum_budget|
|-----|
|8942365000|
```

```
|min_budget|
|-----|
|65000 |
```

Using WHERE with aggregate functions

```
SELECT MAX(budget) AS max_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 2010;
```

```
SELECT COUNT(budget) AS count_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 2010;
```

```
|max_budget|
|-----|
|600000000 |
```

```
|count_budget|
|-----|
|194 |
```

ROUND()

Round a number to a specified decimal

```
SELECT AVG(budget) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
|avg_budget |
|-----|
|41072235.18324607...|
```

```
ROUND(number_to_round, decimal_places)
```

```
SELECT ROUND(AVG(budget), 2) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
|avg_budget |
|-----|
|41072235.18|
```

ROUND() to a whole number

```
SELECT ROUND(AVG(budget)) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
SELECT ROUND(AVG(budget), 0) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
|avg_budget|
|-----|
|41072235 |
```

ROUND() using a negative parameter

```
SELECT ROUND(AVG(budget), -5) AS avg_budget
FROM films
WHERE release_year >= 2010;
```

```
|avg_budget|
|-----|
|41100000 |
```

Numerical fields only

Aliasing and arithmetic

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Arithmetic

```
+ , - , * , and /
```

|7|

|12|

SELECT (4 / 3);

|1|

|1|

Arithmetic

```
SELECT (4 / 3);
```

SELECT (4.0 / 3.0);

[1]

|1.333...|

Aggregate functions vs. arithmetic

Aggregate functions

| title | ticket_price | fees | tax |
|----------|--------------|------|-----|
| The Host | 5 | 1 | 0.5 |
| The Mask | 5 | 1 | 0.5 |
| Titanic | 6 | 2 | 0.6 |

Arithmetic

| title The Host | ticket_price 5 | fees 1 | tax 0.5 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| | | | |
| Titanic | 6 | 2 | 0.6 |

Aliasing with arithmetic

```
      SELECT (gross - budget)
      SELECT (gross - budget) AS profit

      FROM films;
      FROM films;

      |?column?|
      |profit |

      |------|
      |null |

      |2900000 |
      |2900000 |

      |null |
      |null |
```

Aliasing with functions

```
SELECT MAX(budget), MAX(duration)
FROM films;
```

```
|max_budget |max_duration|
|-----|
|12215500000|334 |
```

Order of execution

Step 1: FROM

Step 2: WHERE

Step 3: SELECT (aliases are defined here)

• Step 4: LIMIT

 Aliases defined in the SELECT clause cannot be used in the WHERE clause due to order of execution

```
SELECT budget AS max_budget
FROM films
WHERE max_budget IS NOT NULL;
```

```
column "max_budget" does not exist
LINE 5: WHERE max_budget IS NOT NULL;
```

Sorting and Grouping

Sorting results

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Sorting results



ORDER BY

```
FROM films
ORDER BY budget;
```

```
SELECT title, budget
FROM films
ORDER BY title;
```

ASCending

```
SELECT title, budget
FROM films
ORDER BY budget ASC;
```

DESCending

```
SELECT title, budget
FROM films
ORDER BY budget DESC;
```

```
|title |budget|
|-----|
|Love and Death on Long Island |null |
|The Chambermaid on the Titanic|null |
|51 Birch Street |null |
```

```
SELECT title, budget
FROM films
WHERE budget IS NOT NULL
ORDER BY budget DESC;
```

Sorting fields

```
SELECT title
FROM films
ORDER BY release_year;
```

```
SELECT title, release_year
FROM films
ORDER BY release_year;
```

```
|title
|-----|
|Intolerance: Love's Struggle Throu...|
|Over the Hill to the Poorhouse |
|The Big Parade |
|Metropolis |
```

ORDER BY multiple fields

ORDER BY field_one, field_two

```
SELECT title, wins
FROM best_movies
ORDER BY wins DESC;
```

Think of field_two as a tie-breaker

```
SELECT title, wins, imdb_score
FROM best_movies
ORDER BY wins DESC, imdb_score DESC;
```

```
    |title
    |wins|imdb_score|

    |-----|
    |----|

    |Lord of the Rings:...|11 |9 |
    |

    |Ben-Hur | 11 | 8.1 |
    |

    |Titanic | 11 | 7.9 |
    |
```

Different orders

```
SELECT birthdate, name
FROM people
ORDER BY birthdate, name DESC;
```

Order of execution

```
-- Written code:

SELECT item

FROM coats

WHERE color = `yellow`

ORDER BY length

LIMIT 3;
```

```
-- Order of execution:

SELECT item

FROM coats

WHERE color = `yellow`

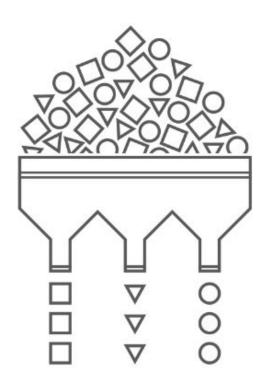
ORDER BY length

LIMIT 3;
```

Grouping data

INTERMEDIATE SQL

Grouping data



GROUP BY single fields

```
SELECT certification, COUNT(title) AS title_count
FROM films
GROUP BY certification;
```

Error handling

```
SELECT certification, title
FROM films
GROUP BY certification;
```

```
column "films.title" must appear in the GROUP BY clause or be used in an aggregate function
LINE 1: SELECT certification, title
```

```
SELECT

certification,

COUNT(title) AS count_title

FROM films

GROUP BY certification;
```

GROUP BY multiple fields

```
SELECT certification, language, COUNT(title) AS title_count
FROM films
GROUP BY certification, language;
```

GROUP BY with ORDER BY

```
SELECT

certification,

COUNT(title) AS title_count

FROM films

GROUP BY certification;
```

```
COUNT(title) AS title_count
FROM films
GROUP BY certification
ORDER BY title_count DESC;
```

Order of execution

```
-- Written code:

SELECT

certification,
COUNT(title) AS title_count

FROM films

GROUP BY certification

ORDER BY title_count DESC

LIMIT 3;
```

```
-- Order of execution:

SELECT

certification,
COUNT(title) AS title_count

FROM films

GROUP BY certification

ORDER BY title_count DESC

LIMIT 3;
```

Filtering grouped data

INTERMEDIATE SQL

HAVING

```
syntax error at or near "WHERE"

LINE 4: WHERE COUNT(title) > 10;
```

```
|release_year|title_count|
|------|
|1988 |31 |
|null |42 |
|2008 |225 |
```

Order of execution

```
-- Written code:
SELECT
       certification,
       COUNT(title) AS title_count
FROM films
WHERE certification
       IN ('G', 'PG', 'PG-13')
GROUP BY certification
HAVING COUNT(title) > 500
ORDER BY title count DESC
LIMIT 3;
```

```
-- Order of execution:
SELECT
       certification,
       COUNT(title) AS title count
FROM films
WHERE certification
       IN ('G', 'PG', 'PG-13')
GROUP BY certification
HAVING COUNT(title) > 500
ORDER BY title count DESC
LIMIT 3;
```

HAVING vs WHERE

- WHERE filters individual records, HAVING filters grouped records
- What films were released in the year 2000?

```
SELECT title
FROM films
WHERE release_year = 2000;
```

• In what years was the average film duration over two hours?

HAVING vs WHERE

In what years was the average film duration over two hours?

```
SELECT release_year
FROM films
GROUP BY release_year
HAVING AVG(duration) > 120;
```