

Introduction to SQL

brought to you by:

Kayla Thomas(Neil Bezdek, Frank Burkholder,Taryn Heilman, Jordan Hagan)

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Objectives

- Describe why we use Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS)
- Understand primary keys, foreign keys, and table relationships
- Write simple SQL queries on a single table using SELECT, FROM, WHERE, GROUP BY, ORDER BY clauses as well as aggregation functions (COUNT, AVG, etc.)
- Write more complex SQL queries using joins, subqueries, and temporary tables.
- Discuss SQL best practices
- Interact with a Postgres database from the command line
- Learn how to say PostgreSQL ([link](#))

Motivation

2016 Data Science Salary Survey

Tools, Trends, What Pays (and What Doesn't) for Data Professionals

Key findings include:

- Python and Spark are among the tools that contribute most to salary.
- Among those who code, the highest earners are the ones who code the most.
- **SQL**, Excel, R and Python are the most commonly used tools.

An inefficient way to store data...

A single table with records of customer purchases at an outdoor sports store.

| id | cust_name | cust_state | item_purchased | price | date |
|----|-----------|------------|----------------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO | skis | \$300 | 10/30 |
| 2 | Kayla | CO | goggles | \$75 | 11/14 |
| 3 | Erich | CO | snowboard | \$400 | 11/18 |
| 4 | Adam | NY | skis | \$300 | 12/11 |
| 5 | Frank | AZ | skis | \$300 | 12/19 |
| 6 | Adam | NY | goggles | \$75 | 12/24 |

Relational Database Management Systems

A RDBMS is a type of database where **data is stored in multiple related tables**.

The tables are related through **primary** and **foreign keys**.

The same information as shown before in an RDBMS:

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

products

| prod_id | description | price |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | skis | \$300 |
| 2 | goggles | \$75 |
| 3 | snowboard | \$400 |

purchases

| cust_id | prod_id | date |
|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 4 | 1 | 12/19 |
| 3 | 2 | 12/24 |

Primary Keys

- Every table in a RDBMS has a **primary key** that uniquely identifies that row
- Each entry must have a primary key, and primary keys cannot repeat within a table
- Primary keys are usually integers but can take other forms

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

products

| prod_id | description | price |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | skis | \$300 |
| 2 | goggles | \$75 |
| 3 | snowboard | \$400 |

purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 12/24 |

Foreign Keys and Table Relationships

- A **foreign key** is a column that uniquely identifies a column in another table
- Often, a foreign key in one table is a primary key in another table
- We can use foreign keys to join tables

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

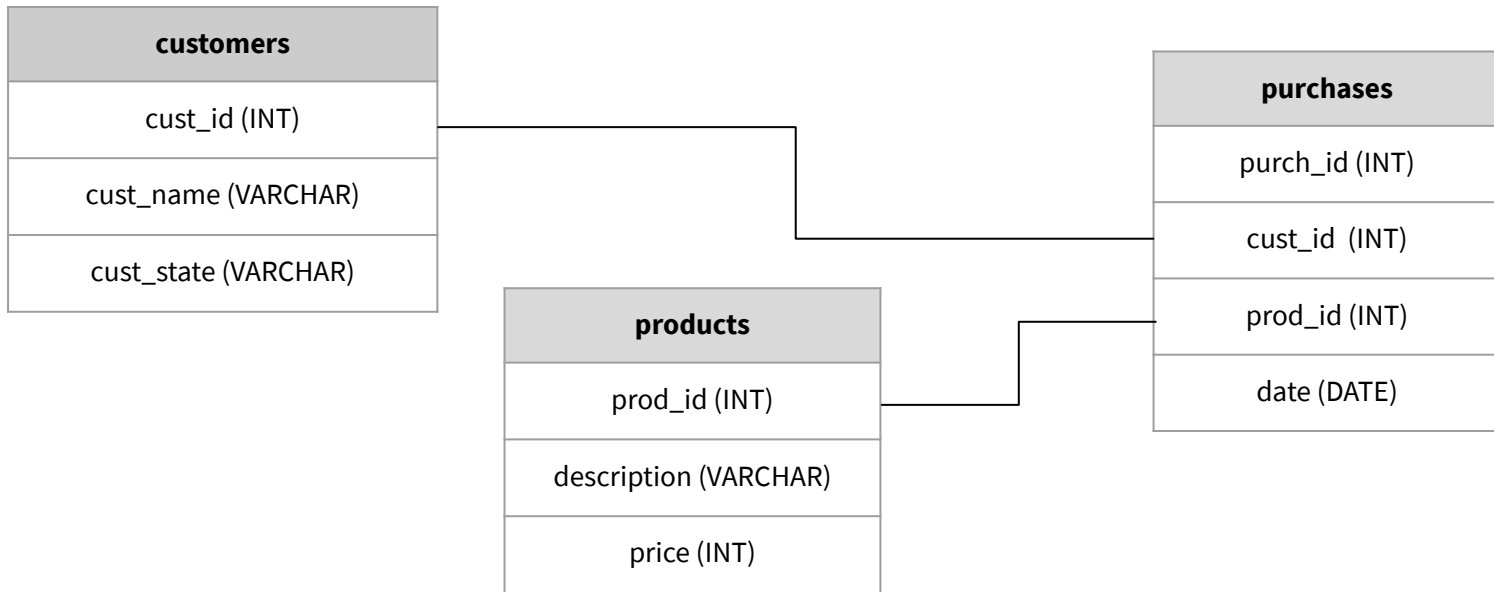
products

| prod_id | description | price |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | skis | \$300 |
| 2 | goggles | \$75 |
| 3 | snowboard | \$400 |

purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 12/24 |

Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)



RDBMS Terminology

- **Schema** defines the structure of a table or a database
- Database is composed of a number of user-defined **tables**
- Each table has **columns** (or fields) and **rows** (or records)
- A column is of a certain **data type** such as an *integer*, *text*, or *date*

With a new data source, your first task is typically to understand the schema.

This will likely take time and conversations with those that gave you access to the database or its data.

Structured Query Language (SQL)

SQL is the tool we use to interact with RDBMS. We can use SQL commands to:

- Create tables
- Alter tables
- Insert records
- Update records
- Delete records
- **Query (`SELECT`) records within or across tables**

The most critical skill for a Data Scientist--as opposed to a Data Engineer or Database Administrator--is to extract information from databases.

We will focus on writing queries in PostgreSQL, but all of the commands use similar vocabulary and syntax. ([PostgreSQL syntax](#))

SQL Query Basics

SQL queries have three main components:

SELECT # What data (columns) do you want?

FROM # From what location (table) you want it?

WHERE # What data (rows) do you want?

Note: SQL queries always return tables.

Note: SQL is a *declarative* language, unlike Python, which is *imperative*. With a declarative language, you tell the machine *what* you want, instead of *how*, and it figures out the best way to do it for you.

Query Components vs. Order of Evaluation

| Order of Components | Order of Evaluation |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SELECT | 5 - Targeted list of columns evaluated and returned |
| FROM | 1 - Product of all tables is formed |
| JOIN / ON | |
| WHERE | 2 - Rows filtered out that do not meet condition |
| GROUP BY | 3 - Rows combined according to GROUP BY clause and aggregations applied |
| HAVING | 4 - Aggregations that do not meet that HAVING criteria are removed |
| ORDER BY | 6 - Rows sorted by column(s) |
| LIMIT | 7 - Final table truncated based on limit size |
| ; | 8 - Semicolon included as reminder |

Formatting SQL statements

Unlike Python, whitespace and capitalization do not matter (except for strings)

```
select column1, column2 from my_table;
```

Convention is to use ALL CAPS for keywords

Line breaks and indentation help make queries more readable (especially complex ones)

```
SELECT
    column1,
    column2
FROM
    my_table;
```

Punctuation such as commas (between items under each clause) and semicolons (after each statement) are required for proper evaluation

SELECT *

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

SELECT *

TABLE(S)

QUERY

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

SELECT

FROM

customers;

The asterisk means “everything.”

SELECT *

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    *
FROM
    customers;
```

OUTPUT

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | MA |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

The asterisk means “everything.”

Aliases

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_name AS name,
    cust_state state
FROM
    customers;
```

OUTPUT

| name | state |
|-------|-------|
| Kayla | CO |
| Erich | CO |
| Adam | NY |
| Frank | AZ |

- Aliasing can be used to rename columns and even tables (more on this later).
- “AS” makes code clearer but is not necessary.
- Be careful not to use keywords (e.g. count) as aliases!

WHERE

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_name AS name,
    cust_state AS state
FROM
    customers
WHERE
    cust_state = 'CO' ;
```

OUTPUT

| name | state |
|-------|-------|
| Kayla | CO |
| Erich | CO |

- WHERE specifies criterion for selecting specific rows (row filter)
- Note that the WHERE statement must reference the original column name, not the alias
- However, WHERE can reference a table column that is not in SELECT (e.g. cust_id)

WHERE (Multiple Criteria)

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

Think about **AND** first, then **OR**
(even though the actual execution order isn't done this way)

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_name AS name,
    cust_state AS state
FROM
    customers
WHERE
    (cust_state = 'CO'
    AND cust_name = 'Kayla')
    OR cust_state = 'NY' ;
```

OUTPUT

| name | state |
|-------|-------|
| Kayla | CO |
| Adam | NY |

The order of **AND** and **OR** can get confusing with multiple conditions: Use parentheses to clarify desired order

- We can specify multiple conditions on the “WHERE” clause by using AND/OR
- Note that comparison operator uses a single equal sign (= instead of ==)

LIMIT and ORDER BY

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    *
FROM
    customers
ORDER BY
    cust_name DESC
LIMIT 3;
```

OUTPUT

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |
| 2 | Erich | CO |

- ORDER BY is ascending by default; specify DESC for reverse sorting
- LIMIT specifies the number of records returned

SELECT DISTINCT

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT DISTINCT
  cust_state
FROM
  customers;
```

OUTPUT

| cust_state |
|------------|
| CO |
| NY |
| AZ |

- SELECT DISTINCT grabs all the unique records.
- If multiple columns are selected, then all unique combinations are returned.

CASE WHEN

TABLE(S)

QUERY

OUTPUT

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

```
SELECT
    cust_name AS name,
    CASE WHEN cust_state = 'CO' THEN 1
          ELSE 0 END AS in_state
FROM
    customers;

When __ THEN __ Else __ END
```

| name | in_state |
|-------|----------|
| Kayla | 1 |
| Erich | 1 |
| Adam | 0 |
| Frank | 0 |

- CASE WHEN statement is the SQL version of an if-then-else statement
- Used in the SELECT clause
- Can combine multiple WHEN statements and/or multiple conditionals

Something about Coalesce

Aggregators

TABLE(S)

products

| prod_id | description | price |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | skis | 300 |
| 2 | goggles | 75 |
| 3 | snowboard | 400 |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    COUNT ( * ) ,
    MAX ( price )
FROM
    products ;
```

OUTPUT

| COUNT | MAX |
|-------|-----|
| 3 | 400 |

- Aggregators combine information from multiple rows into a single row.
- Other aggregators include MIN, MAX, SUM, COUNT, STDDEV, etc.

pets

| id | name | species | age | gender | owner |
|----|--------|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| 1 | Max | cat | 8 | M | Taryn |
| 2 | Belle | cat | 10 | F | Taryn |
| 3 | Bailey | dog | 11 | F | Kyrie |
| 4 | Daisy | cat | 5 | F | Kyrie |
| 5 | Kahlua | dog | 7 | F | Blair |
| 6 | Henley | dog | 9 | F | Megan |
| 7 | Salem | cat | 1 | F | Megan |
| 8 | Teeny | cat | 1 | F | Megan |

Write queries that would return:

- 1) Owner(s) of Male pet(s)
- 2) Names of dogs
- 3) Names and ages of oldest two pets
- 4) The species of the youngest pet
- 5) Names of cats that are 8 years old or younger
- 6) Pets that are babies (≤ 1 year) are expensive. Senior pets (≥ 8) can also be expensive. Who owns one or more expensive pets?

GROUP BY

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_state as state,
    count(*)
FROM
    customers
GROUP BY
    cust_state;
```

OUTPUT

| state | count(*) |
|-------|----------|
| CO | 2 |
| NY | 1 |
| AZ | 1 |

- The GROUP BY clause calculates aggregate statistics for groups of data
- **Any column that is not an aggregator *must* be in the GROUP BY clause** (for example, if we added `cust_name` to the SELECT clause only, SQL would not know whether to return Kayla or Erich in the CO row)
- Any column in the GROUP BY by clause must also appear in the SELECT clause (true of Postgres but not MySQL)

GROUP BY and WHERE

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_state AS state,
    COUNT(*) AS total
FROM
    customers
WHERE
    cust_name != 'Adam'
GROUP BY
    cust_state;
```

OUTPUT

| state | total |
|-------|-------|
| CO | 2 |
| AZ | 1 |

GROUP BY and WHERE (cont'd)

TABLE(S)

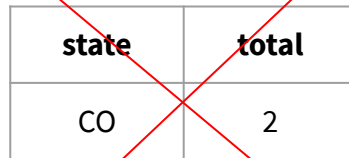
customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_state AS state,
    COUNT(*) AS total
FROM
    customers
WHERE
    COUNT(*) >= 2
GROUP BY
    cust_state;
```

OUTPUT



| state | total |
|-------|-------|
| CO | 2 |

ERROR

- Why does the query above not work?

GROUP BY and HAVING

TABLE(S)

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

QUERY

```
SELECT
    cust_state AS state,
    COUNT(*) AS total
FROM
    customers
WHERE
count(*) >= 2
GROUP BY
    cust_state
HAVING
    COUNT(*) >= 2;
```

OUTPUT

| state | total |
|-------|-------|
| CO | 2 |

- Use HAVING instead of WHERE when filtering rows *after* aggregation
- WHERE clause filters rows in the root table *before* aggregation
- Like WHERE clause, HAVING clause cannot reference an alias (in Postgres, at least)

pets

| id | name | species | age | gender | owner |
|----|--------|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| 1 | Max | cat | 8 | M | Taryn |
| 2 | Belle | cat | 10 | F | Taryn |
| 3 | Bailey | dog | 11 | F | Kyrie |
| 4 | Daisy | cat | 5 | F | Kyrie |
| 5 | Kahlua | dog | 7 | F | Blair |
| 6 | Henley | dog | 9 | F | Megan |
| 7 | Salem | cat | 1 | F | Megan |
| 8 | Teeny | cat | 1 | F | Megan |

Write queries that would return:

- 1) Owners and the number of pets they own
- 2) Owners and the count of each species of pet
- 3) Count of pets by gender and species
- 4) All owners who own two or more cats

purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 12/24 |

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |

JOINS

QUERY

```
SELECT
    purchases.purch_id,
    customers.cust_id,
    customers.cust_state
FROM
    purchases
JOIN
    customers
ON
    purchases.cust_id =
    customers.cust_id;
```

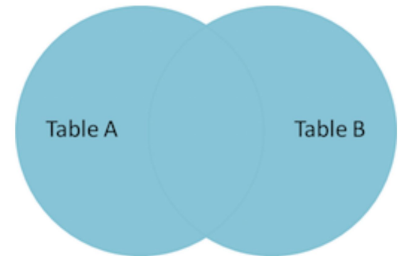
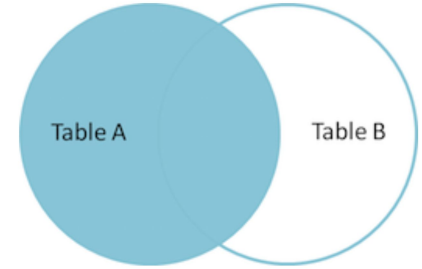
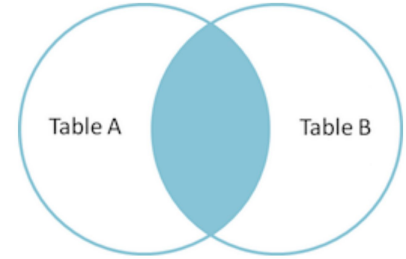
OUTPUT

| purch_id | cust_id | cust_state |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 1 | CO |
| 2 | 1 | CO |
| 3 | 2 | CO |
| 4 | 3 | NY |
| 5 | 4 | AZ |
| 6 | 3 | NY |

JOIN Types

SELECT ... FROM TableA _____ JOIN TableB ON...

- **(INNER) JOIN:** Discards any entries that do not have match between the keys specified in the ON clause. No null/nan values.
- **LEFT (OUTER) JOIN:** Keeps all entries in the left (FROM) table, regardless of whether any matches are found in the right (JOIN) tables. Some null/nan values.
 - **RIGHT (OUTER) JOIN:** Is the same, except keeps all entries in the right (JOIN) table instead of the left (FROM) table); usually avoided because it does the same thing as a LEFT join
- **FULL (OUTER) JOIN:** Keeps the rows in both tables no matter what. More null/nan values.



purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|----------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | NULL | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | NULL | 2 | 12/24 |

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |
| 5 | Neil | NY |

(INNER) JOIN

QUERY

```
SELECT
    purchases.purch_id,
    customers.cust_id,
    customers.cust_state
FROM
    purchases
INNER JOIN
    customers
ON
    purchases.cust_id =
    customers.cust_id;
```

OUTPUT

| purch_id | cust_id | cust_state |
|----------|---------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | CO |
| 2 | 1 | CO |
| 3 | 2 | CO |
| 4 | 3 | NY |

INNER JOIN discards records that do not have a match in both tables

purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | NULL | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | NULL | 2 | 12/24 |

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |
| 5 | Neil | NY |

LEFT (OUTER) JOIN

QUERY

```
SELECT
    purchases.purch_id,
    customers.cust_id,
    customers.cust_state
FROM
    purchases
LEFT OUTER JOIN
    customers
ON
    purchases.cust_id =
    customers.cust_id;
```

OUTPUT

| purch_id | cust_id | cust_state |
|----------|---------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | CO |
| 2 | 1 | CO |
| 3 | 2 | CO |
| 4 | 3 | NY |
| 5 | NULL | NULL |
| 6 | NULL | NULL |

LEFT OUTER JOIN retains all records from the left (FROM) tables and includes records from the right (JOIN) table if they are available

purchases

| purch_id | cust_id | prod_id | date |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 5 | NULL | 1 | 12/19 |
| 6 | NULL | 2 | 12/24 |

customers

| cust_id | cust_name | cust_state |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Kayla | CO |
| 2 | Erich | CO |
| 3 | Adam | NY |
| 4 | Frank | AZ |
| 5 | Neil | NY |

FULL (OUTER) JOIN

QUERY

```
SELECT
    purchases.purch_id,
    customers.cust_id,
    customers.cust_state
FROM
    purchases
FULL OUTER JOIN
    customers
ON
    purchases.cust_id =
    customers.cust_id;
```

OUTPUT

| purch_id | cust_id | cust_state |
|----------|---------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | CO |
| 2 | 1 | CO |
| 3 | 2 | CO |
| 4 | 3 | NY |
| 5 | NULL | NULL |
| 6 | NULL | NULL |
| NULL | 4 | AZ |
| NULL | 5 | NY |

FULL OUTER JOIN retains all records from both tables regardless of matches

Subqueries

- In general, you can replace any table name with a subquery:

```
SELECT ... FROM (SELECT ...)
```

- If a query returns a single value, you can use it as such:

```
...WHERE column1 = (SELECT ...)
```

- If a query returns a single column, you can treat it like a vector:

```
...WHERE column1 IN (SELECT ...)
```

call_history

| caller_id | receiver_id | date |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 3 | 4 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 4 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 2 | 3 | 12/19 |

customers

| id | name |
|----|-------|
| 1 | Kayla |
| 2 | Erich |
| 3 | Adam |
| 4 | Frank |

Subquery motivation

QUERY

OUTPUT

How many calls did each person make?

| name | total_calls |
|-------|-------------|
| Kayla | NULL |
| Erich | 2 |
| Adam | 2 |
| Frank | 1 |

call_history

| caller_id | receiver_id | date |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 3 | 4 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 4 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 2 | 3 | 12/19 |

customers

| id | name |
|----|-------|
| 1 | Kayla |
| 2 | Erich |
| 3 | Adam |
| 4 | Frank |

Using a subquery

QUERY

```
SELECT
    customers.name,
    calls_made.total_calls
FROM
    customers
LEFT OUTER JOIN
    (SELECT
        caller_id,
        count(*) AS total_calls
    FROM call_history
    GROUP BY caller_id
    ) AS calls_made
ON
    customers.id = calls_made.caller_id;
```

OUTPUT

How many calls did each person make?

| name | total_calls |
|-------|-------------|
| Kayla | NULL |
| Erich | 2 |
| Adam | 2 |
| Frank | 1 |

Again, aliasing a subquery allows us to refer to it after creation (in ON clause).

call_history

| caller_id | receiver_id | date |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 3 | 4 | 10/30 |
| 2 | 4 | 11/14 |
| 3 | 2 | 11/18 |
| 4 | 1 | 12/11 |
| 2 | 3 | 12/19 |

customers

| id | name |
|----|-------|
| 1 | Kayla |
| 2 | Erich |
| 3 | Adam |
| 4 | Frank |

Another way: a temporary table

QUERY

```
WITH calls_made AS
  (SELECT
    caller_id,
    count(*) AS total_calls
  FROM call_history
  GROUP BY caller_id)
```

```
SELECT
  customers.name,
  calls_made.total_calls
FROM
  customers
LEFT OUTER JOIN
  calls_made
ON
  customers.id = calls_made.caller_id;
```

OUTPUT

How many calls did each person make?

| name | total_calls |
|-------|-------------|
| Kayla | NULL |
| Erich | 2 |
| Adam | 2 |
| Frank | 1 |

A single temporary table can be used in place of multiple identical subqueries.

Subquery vs Temp Table vs Create/Drop Table

All three approaches yield the same results. The best one might depend on how many times you will reference newTable. And which are the most readable?

```
SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable
    ) AS newTable;
```

```
WITH newTable AS
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable)
```

```
SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    newTable;
```

```
CREATE TABLE newTable AS
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable);
```

```
SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    newTable;
```

```
DROP TABLE newTable;
```


Subquery vs Temp Table vs Create/Drop Table

All three approaches yield the same results. The best one might depend on how many times you will reference newTable. And which are the most readable?

```
SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable
    ) AS newTable;
```

*In memory (if small enough),
dropped at end-of-session*

```
WITH newTable AS
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable)

SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    newTable;
```

```
CREATE TABLE newTable AS
    (SELECT
        col1,
        col2,
        col3
    FROM
        anotherTable);
```

```
SELECT
    newTable.col1,
    newTable.col2
FROM
    newTable;
```

```
DROP TABLE newTable;
```

written to hard disk

And you can have more than 1 Temp Table

```
WITH newTable1 AS
    (SELECT
        col1
    FROM
        anotherTable),

newTable2 AS
    (SELECT
        col1
    FROM
        anotherTable2)

SELECT
    newTable1.col1 AS alias1
    newTable2.col1 AS alias2
```

SQL Best Practices

“I spent 2 years refactoring poorly running SQL queries for a major healthcare company with 18,000+ tables in its database (some with over a billion rows in it).

Here is what I learned.”

-- Jordan Hagan, DSI alumna

SQL Best Practices

Don't use `SELECT *` unless you are learning about the data and trying to see what is in a table.

- People used to cite performance issues as a main reason for this. With today's technology that is not totally true any more.
- But what is true is that SQL is already pretty slow, and no reason to make it pull in every column if you don't need them all.
- It has "code smell" which means it's not wrong, it's just not a best practice.
- It makes your code unreadable to anyone else skimming it (i.e... on GitHub).

SQL Best Practices

The most important line of any SQL query you will ever write is your "FROM" statement.

- Your FROM statement dictates how the rest of the code is going to be written.
 - Joins that link back to the FROM table instead of other join tables run are much less computationally intensive because SQL is not running through all of FROM and all of the other tables to finally get the records it needs.
- I [Jordan] have never once had to write a RIGHT JOIN. If you have to, you can likely move that table to be your FROM table, and LEFT JOIN to the table you need to.
 - Not that this really matters, it's just easier to read.
- Your FROM table should be a small-medium concise table. (i.e... a site directory).

SQL Best Practices

Do not make your joins in your WHERE statement.

```
SELECT
    table1.this,
    table2.that,
    table2.somethingelse
FROM
    table1, table2
WHERE
    table1.foreignkey = table2.primarykey
AND (some other conditions)
```

It's a personal pet peeve [Jordan] but it also way more computationally intensive, and much harder to read.

SQL Best Practices

Don't use subselects (subqueries) if you can avoid it.

- Again, there are computational and readability reasons.
- Sometimes it's necessary - but most of the time you can make it a temp table!
- Faster!
- Prettier!
- Easier to read!

[Check out Jordan's SQL code on Github.](#)

SQL Best Practices

SQL isn't case sensitive - so make your code pretty.

- This is different for everyone!
- I [Jordan] have strong opinions on how "SELECT, CASE, WHEN, END, FROM, WHERE, ORDER BY, HAVING, and GROUP BY" should all be all capitalized. But that's just a personal preference.
- Some people like commas in the SELECT before the columns, I prefer them to all be after the column.
- Some people are crazy and like all their columns on one line, I like each one on it's own line.

Whatever you do, just be consistent!

SQL Best Practices

```
SELECT
table1.this
,table2.that
,table2.somethingelse
FROM table1
INNER JOIN table2 ON table1.foreignkey = table2.primarykey
WHERE table1.name LIKE '%smith%'
AND table2.city = 'Denver'
```

OR **BUT MAYBE NOT**

```
SELECT
    tb1.this,
    tb2.that,
    tb2.somethingelse
FROM
    table1 AS tb1
INNER JOIN
    table2 AS tb2
ON
    tb1.foreignkey = tb2.primarykey
WHERE
    tb1.name LIKE '%smith%'
AND
    table2.city = 'Denver'
```

```
SELECT b.this, a.that, a.somethingelse
FROM table1 AS b, table2 AS a
WHERE b.foreignkey = a.primarykey
AND b.name LIKE '%smith%'
AND a.city = 'Denver'
```

Objectives

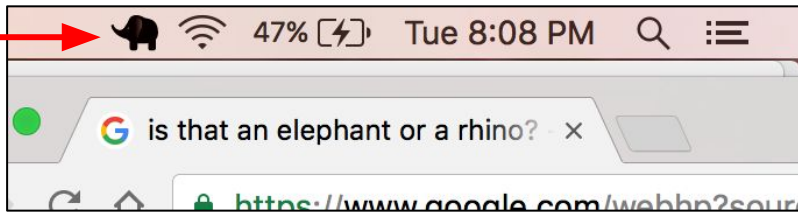
- Describe why we use Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS)
- Understand primary keys, foreign keys, and table relationships
- Write simple SQL queries on a single table using SELECT, FROM, WHERE, GROUP BY, ORDER BY clauses as well as aggregation functions (COUNT, AVG, etc.)
- Write more complex SQL queries using joins, subqueries, and temporary tables.
- Discuss SQL best practices
- Interact with a Postgres database from the command line
- Learn how to say PostgreSQL ([link](#))

Appendix

WHERE IS THIS

- Instructions on Postgres installation and set-up are in the *individual.md* file
- Postgres must be running in order to use it from the command line:

Look for
ambiguous
ungulate icon



- Instructions on loading the database and entering postgres prompt from the command line are also in the *individual.md* file

Load .sql file into a DB and run queries

One-time step to create a database and load .sql file. From the command line:

```
$ psql
# CREATE DATABASE MyDatabase;
# \q
$ psql MyDatabase < file.sql
```

Now you can access this database any time:

```
psql MyDataBase
```

Some Postgres commands

Useful commands from the psql interactive shell prompt:

- `\l` - list all databases
- `\d` - list all tables
- `\d <table name>` - describe a table's schema
- `\h <clause>` - Help for SQL clause help
- `q` - exit current view and return to command line
- `\q` - quit psql
- `\i script.sql` - run script (or query)