Database and SQL Workshop

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Goals

- A brief background of relational databases and SQL
- How to design databases
- How to access and manipulate data using SQL
- How to use your database with R

Background

Spreadsheets

- Data is stored in tables
- Little/no enforcement of structure or integrity
- Not designed to relate data between tables
- Difficult to directly access data from other applications
- Single user; no user management

(Relational) Databases

- Provide a way to organize and store data in tables
- Allow you to define relationships between your data
- Allow you to insert, modify, and delete data
- Allow you to retrieve information for processing in other applications
- Allow you to manage data access and integrity

Importance of Databases

- Your data is the first step in any process; everything else depends on it
- Properly designed databases reduce potential data issues dramatically
- Makes managing your data easier
- The first step to automating your work (analyses, GIS, generating reports, etc)

Implementations

Single User/Embedded

- Microsoft Access
- SQLite

Multiple User/Backend

- Microsoft SQL Server
- Oracle
- MySQL
- PostgreSQL
- IBM DB2

Who uses these?

- SQLite: https://www.sqlite.org/famous.html
- MySQL: https://www.mysql.com/customers/
- PostgreSQL: http://www.postgresql.org/about/users/

Simply put, there's a reason major businesses, corporations, government agencies, non-profits, etc do not use csv or excel files for storing data.

Why don't more people use databases?

<u>Awareness</u>

- They don't know they exist
- They aren't aware of the advantages

Motivation

- They're easy to learn, but not quite as easy as spreadsheets
- Other people might not be using them
- Transferring existing data

Structured Query Language (SQL)

- Typically pronounced "sequel"
- An international standard: ISO/IEC 9075
- Multiple revisions
- Specifically designed for accessing and manipulating relational databases

Caveats

- Different implementations (SQLite, MySQL, etc) might support different versions of the SQL standard
- The standards are not enforced
- Certain parts of the standard leave it open to vendors to decide implementation details
- Some parts of the standard are optional
- Vendors may add their own extensions

Generally speaking, what you are going to learn here is broadly applicable to any SQL implementation. However, being aware that there can be differences is important, especially if searching for help or answers online

Database Design

Tables

- Tables are used to store and organize data
- Each table represents a category or 'entity type' (e.g., capture data)
- Each row, or record, represents a unique instance of that entity (e.g., a single capture)
- Each column, or **field**, represents a unique attribute of that entity (e.g., date, species, sample id, etc).
- Other examples:

Table	Record (row)	Fields (columns)
People	A single person	Name, age, height, phone number
Products	A single product	Product name, serial number, price
States	A single state	Name, year of statehood, governor, state flower

Table Design

- Planning ahead is important, and will save time later
- Consistent and clear naming of the table fields is important
- Following database normalization rules

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database_normalization
- Process for organizing fields and tables
- Eliminates redundancy
- Eliminates data anomalies
- Makes future changes to table design easier

- Every row should be unique (no duplicates)
- There should be no top-to-bottom ordering of rows
- There should be no left-to-right ordering of columns
- Columns in a table should not be calculated from other columns in that table

- Every value entered into a column should be atomic (indivisible)
- Whether a value is atomic or not can depend on the situation

Name	
Shonda Bendel	
Matt Apple	

VS

FirstName	LastName	
Shonda	Bendel	
Matt	Apple	

Date
2016-06-19
2014-12-21

VS

Year	Month	Day
2016	06	19
2014	12	21

- For each row, only a single value should be entered into a column
- E.g., no comma separated values

Bad

Student	Classes	
Chu Turco	History	
Kip Belle	Math, English	
Winnie Gully	English, History	

Good

Student	Classes	
Chu Turco	History	
Kip Belle	Math	
Kip Belle	English	
Winnie Gully	English	
Winnie Gully	English	

- Subsets of your columns should not contain corresponding values
- Split into multiple tables

Bad (1 table)

Student	StudentID	Age	Course
Marlon Story	0912	14	Math
Marlon Story	0912	14	English
Shonda Bendel	4325	13	Math

Good (2 tables)

Student	StudentID	Age
Marlon Story	0912	14
Shonda Bendel	4325	13

Student	Course	
Marlon Story	Math	
Marlon Story	English	
Shonda Bendel	Math	

Other Table Design Rules

• You should not have multiple columns with the same type of data.

Bad

Student	Class1	Class2	Class3	Class4
Deanna	Math	History	English	Biology
Gordon	Biology			
Lisa	Math	English	History	

Good

Student	Class
Deanna	Math
Deanna	History
Deanna	English
Deanna	Biology
Gordon	Biology
Lisa	Math
Lisa	English
Lisa	History

Keys

- Keys refer to a set of zero or more columns
- Technically, you may be able to make your database work without keys, but you then lose some potentially major advantages of using databases
- Several types of keys:
 - Super key
 - Candidate key
 - Primary key
 - Alternate key
 - Composite key
 - Compound key
 - Unique key
 - Foreign key
- Most of these are esoteric. You only really need to understand Primary and Foreign Keys.

Primary Key

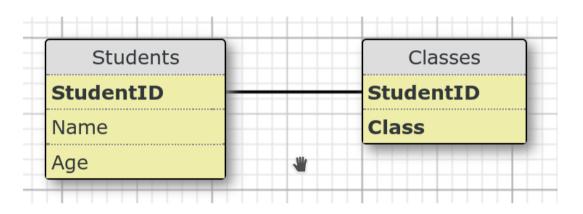
- Can be a single column, or combination of columns (composite primary key)
- Every value or combination of values in a primary key must be unique and not null
- Every table should have a primary key

Foreign Key

- Column that references a column (typically a primary key) of another table
- Used to create a parent-child relationship between tables
- Enforces referential integrity
- Propagates changes throughout the database

Visualizing Keys

- Two tables (Students, Classes)
- Bold = primary key
- Line = foreign key relationship
- Students has a single column primary key
- Classes has a composite primary key, but a single column foreign key
- In this case, Students is a parent table, and Classes is a child table.
 In other words, Classes depends on the Students table



StudentID	Name	Age
1924	Marlon Story	14
6784	Shonda Bendel	13

StudentID	Course
1924	Math
1924	English
6784	Math

Design Practice 1

- Let's design a database that contains data about people and their pets
- Examples of data that we might be interested in:
 - The person's name
 - Date of birth
 - Sex
 - Address(s)
 - Phone number(s)
 - Email(s)
 - Pet(s)

Design Practice 2

- Let's design a database that contains data about schools, courses, employees/faculty, and students
- Examples of data that we might be interested in:
 - School name
 - Address
 - Course title
 - Course numbers
 - Names
 - IDs
 - etc

Structured Query Language

Components of SQL

- Data Definition Language
- Data Manipulation Language
- Data Control Language

Data Control Language

- Used to control how users can access and modify different aspects of the database and its data
- Basic Commands:
 - GRANT
 - REVOKE

Included for reference. It's very unlikely you will ever actually be in a situation where you have to use these commands

Data Definition Language

- Used to define the database schema, or structure
- How things like tables, views, etc are created and modified
- Basic Commands:
 - CREATE
 - ALTER
 - RENAME
 - DROP
 - TRUNCATE

Data Manipulation Language

- Used to add and modify data in the database
- Commands:
 - SELECT
 - INSERT
 - UPDATE
 - DELETE
 - MERGE

Data Types

- Different implementations specify slightly different data types
- Generally, data types will fall along these lines:
 - BOOLEAN
 - INT, INTEGER, UNSIGNED INT, BIGINT, etc.
 - DECIMAL, FLOAT, REAL, NUMERIC, DOUBLE, etc.
 - STRING, CHARACTER, VARCHAR, TEXT, etc
 - BINARY, BLOB, RAW, etc
- Most of these are just specialized versions of a couple core types

NULL

- NULL is a special marker to indicate the absence of a value in a field.
- It is not a value. I.e., it is not equivalent to 0 or an empty string
- Missing or empty values should be represented with NULL, not dummy values
- This concept is important for comparing values or doing calculations

SQL Syntax

- SQL keywords (SELECT, UPDATE, WHERE, etc) are case insensitive
- Table and column names may or may not be case sensitive, depending on the implementation. Typically not
- Technically, commands should end with a semicolon (;), but some implementations do not require it
- Order of commands matter

Making SQLite Databases

SQLite Manager

- Just one possible option for graphically managing sqlite databases
- As a plugin for Mozilla Firefox, it runs on all platforms with feature parity
- Instructions here apply specifically to SQLite Manager, but the concepts are broadly applicable

Creating Tables

- To create a table, right click on Tables in the left pane, and select the Create Table option
- For SQLite, we can just stick to INTEGER, REAL, and TEXT data types
- If not specified, columns in SQLite default to the TEXT data type

Importing Data

- Data can be imported from CSV files
- Can be imported into either an existing table, or a new table
- To import data, go to *Database* → *Import*
- By default, the table name will be set to the file name
- If the table doesn't exist, it will be created. If it does exist, the data will be added to it
- If an error occurs while trying to import the data, none of the data in the file will be added

Enabling Foreign Keys

- Foreign keys are not enabled in SQLite by default
- To enable them permanently in SQLite Manager:
 - Go to Tools > Open On-Connect SQL Tab
 - Enter PRAGMA foreign_keys=ON; into the On-Connect SQL tab
- Foreign keys can be added to either new or existing tables
- https://www.sqlite.org/foreignkeys.html

Adding Foreign Keys To A New Table

- To add a foreign key to a new table:
 - Right click "Tables" in the side pane, then click "Create Table"
 - Append REFERENCES table(column) to the data type
 - Include ON UPDATE CASCADE to allow changes to the data
- This is the recommend way to add keys to a table in SQLite Manager
- This is the only way to create multiple foreign keys in SQLite
 Manager (This is an issue with SQLite Manager itself, not SQLite in
 general)

Adding Foreign Keys To Existing Tables

- To add a foreign key to an existing table:
 - Select the table in the side pane, then click the structure tab
 - Select the field of interest, right click, edit
 - Append REFERENCES table(column) after the data type and clear the default value field
 - Include ON UPDATE CASCADE to allow changes to the data
- Because of the way SQLite manager works, only a single foreign key can be added to an existing table

Enabling Automatic Backups

- SQLite Manager lets you enable automatic, timestamped backups
- The backups are created in the same directory as the original, and uses a timestamp that allows chronological sorting
- Can be set to occur automatically or provide a prompt when the database is opened
- To enable:
 - Go to Tools → Options
 - Under the 'Main' tab, change the value of "Create a timestamped backup..."

SQL Queries

Queries

- Used to retrieve a result set of data from your database
- The results are stored in a virtual table in memory
 - They are not stored or saved physically on the hard drive
- Basic template of a single table query:

SELECT column(s)

FROM table

WHERE condition(s)

GROUP BY column(s)

ORDER BY columns(s)

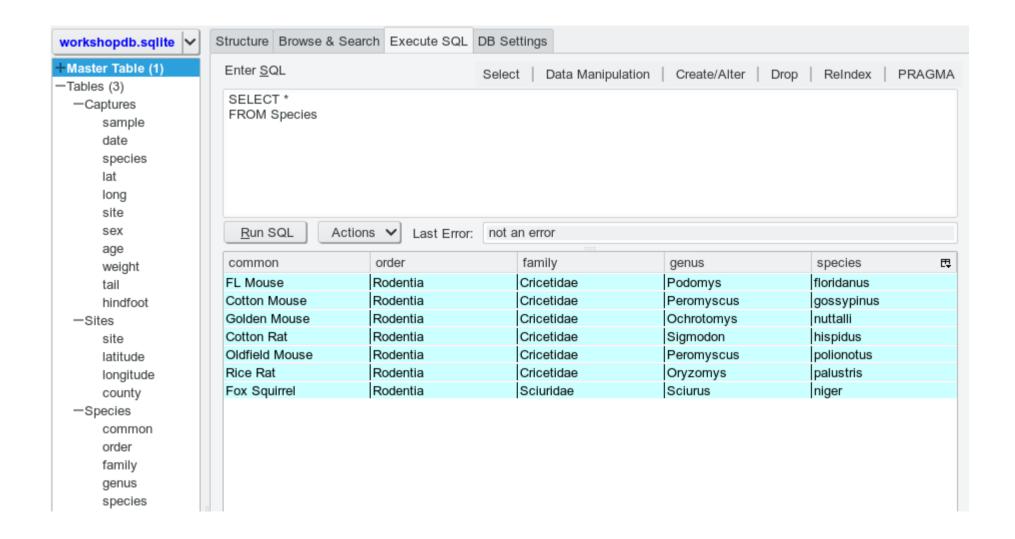
SELECT

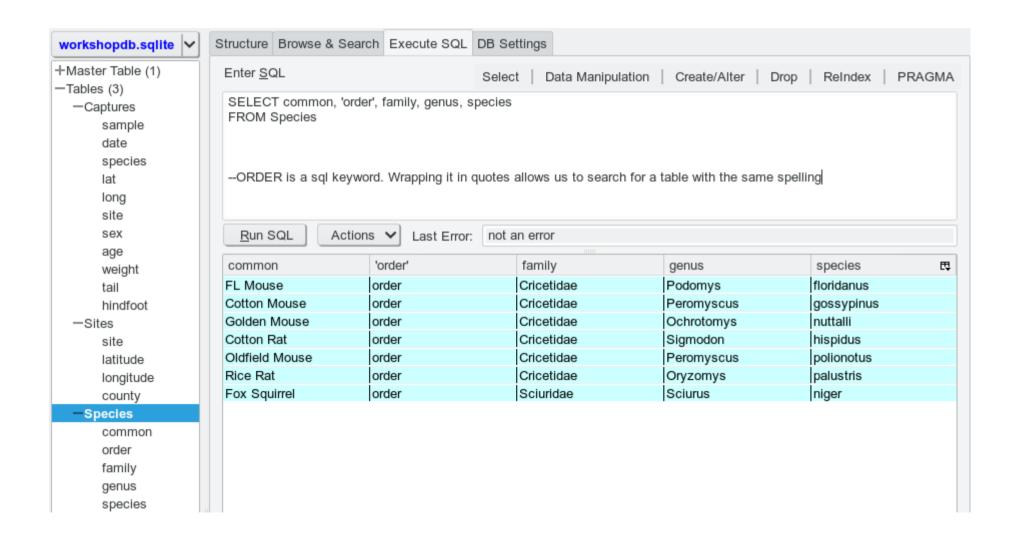
SELECT and FROM form the core of all SQL data queries

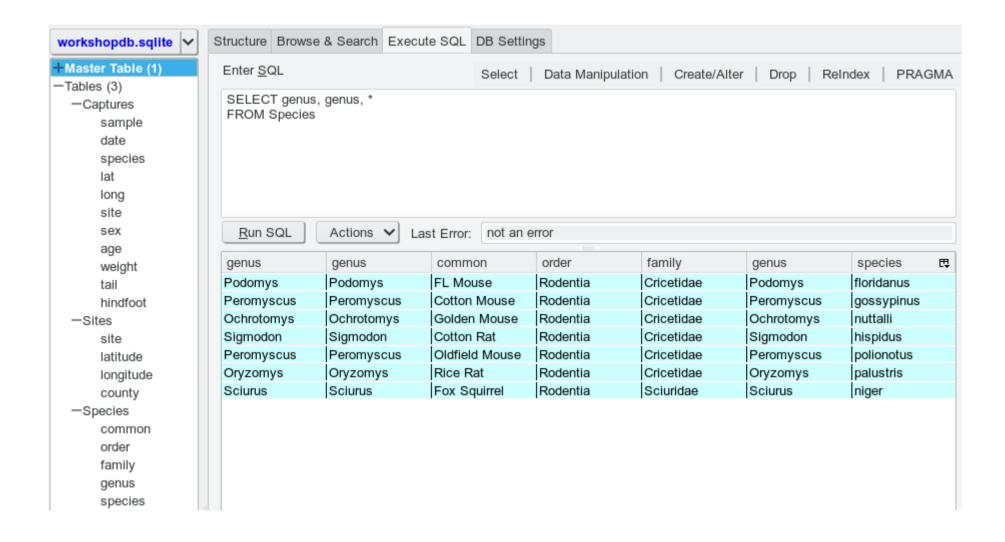
SELECT column(s)

FROM table

- columns(s): a comma separated list of the fields to include in the results
 - -Using an asterisk (*) in place of a column name returns all columns
- table: specifies the table to retrieve the fields from







Views

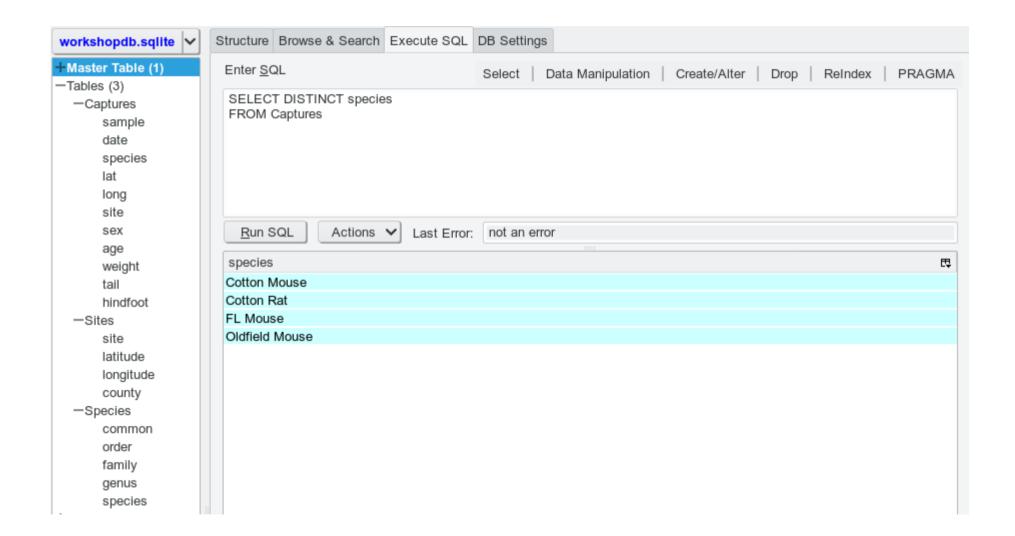
- A virtual table
- The data isn't actually stored physically on the hard drive
- You can't directly modify the data in a view
- Think of it as a way to store a query
- You can query data from a view just like you would from a table
- To create a view in SQLite Manager, right click on 'Views' in the left pane, and select 'Create View'

SELECT - DISTINCT

• The DISTINCT keyword eliminates duplicate results

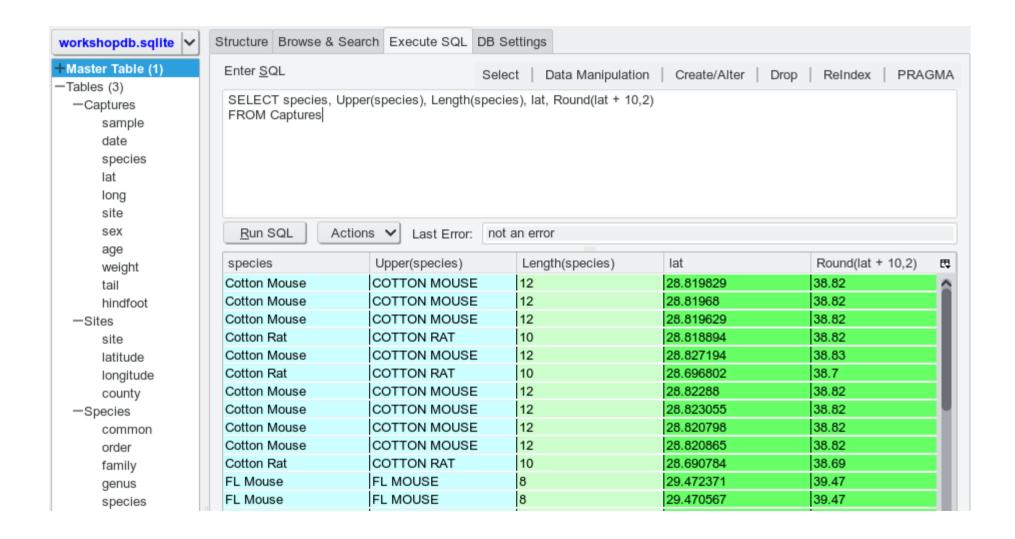
SELECT DISTINCT column(s)

FROM tableName



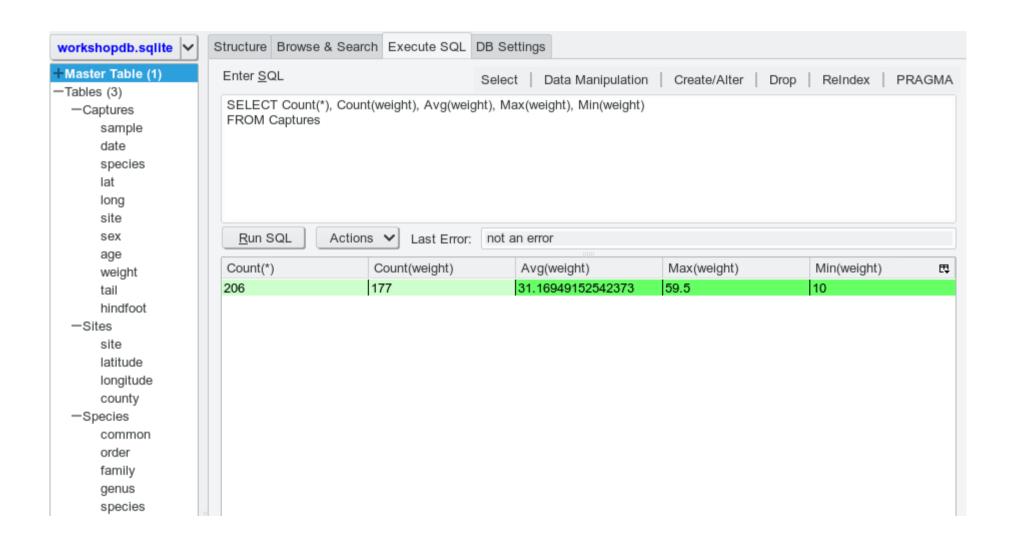
SELECT – Scalar Functions

- Used to modify individual values
- Common scalar functions:
 - Abs(X) returns absolute value of a number
 - Length(X) returns the length of a string
 - Lower(X) converts a text value to all lower case
 - Upper(X) converts a text value to all upper case
 - Min(X,Y,..) returns the argument with the lowest value
 - Max(X,Y,..) returns the argument with the highest value
 - Round(X,Y) rounds a number to Y digits after the decimal place
- Arithmetic operators can also be performed (+,-,*,/,%)
- Other implementations may spell these differently (e.g., upper() vs ucase())
- A full list of SQLite scalar functions: https://www.sqlite.org/lang_corefunc.html
- Note that Min() and Max() are aggregate functions when only passed a single argument



SELECT – Aggregate Functions

- Used to return a single value that is calculated from a column
- Common aggregate functions:
 - Count(column) returns the number of rows (see below)
 - Max(column) returns the largest value in a column
 - Min(column) returns the smallest value in a column
 - Sum(column) returns the sum of all values in a column
 - Avg(column) returns the average of all values in a column
- Be aware of how NULL values are used in each function
 - E.g., Count(*) returns the number of rows in the table and Count(column) returns the number of rows with non null-values in a column



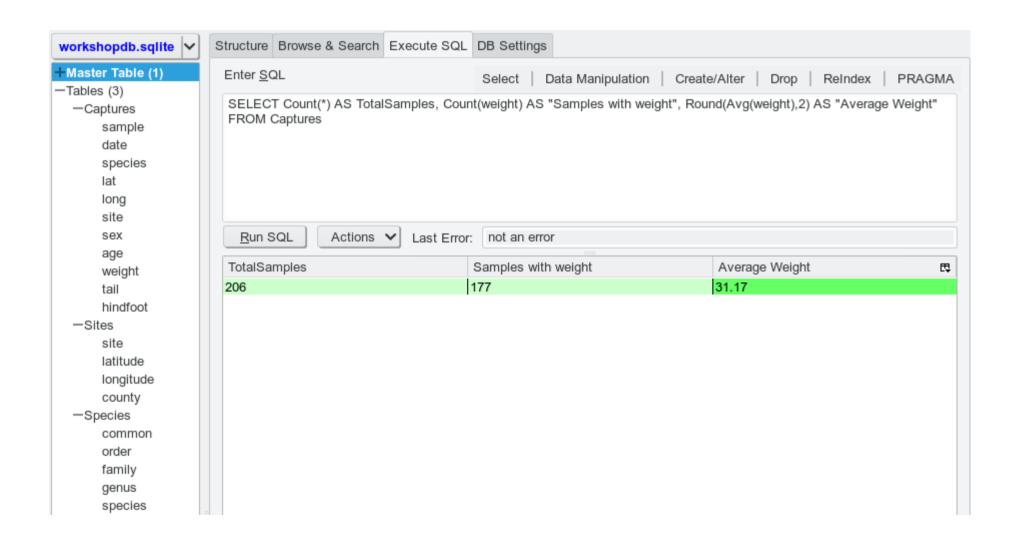
SELECT - AS

The AS keyword allows you to rename tables and/or fields in your query

SELECT column1 AS newColumn1, ...

FROM table AS newTable

 When renaming fields, quotes are only necessary if the new name has spaces



SELECT - JOIN

- The JOIN keyword is used to combine rows from two or more tables
- There are different types:
 - CROSS JOIN
 - INNER JOIN
 - OUTER JOIN
- INNER JOIN is by far the most common, and is the default when a type of JOIN isn't specified in SQLite
- When working with multiple tables, it may be necessary to specify which table a column belongs to, e.g.:

SELECT table.column, ...

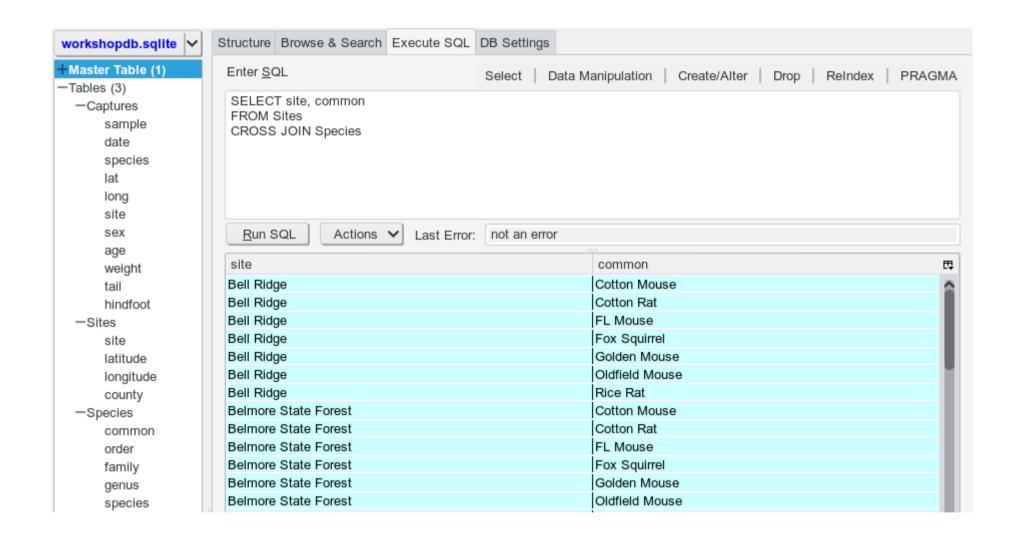
SELECT - CROSS JOIN

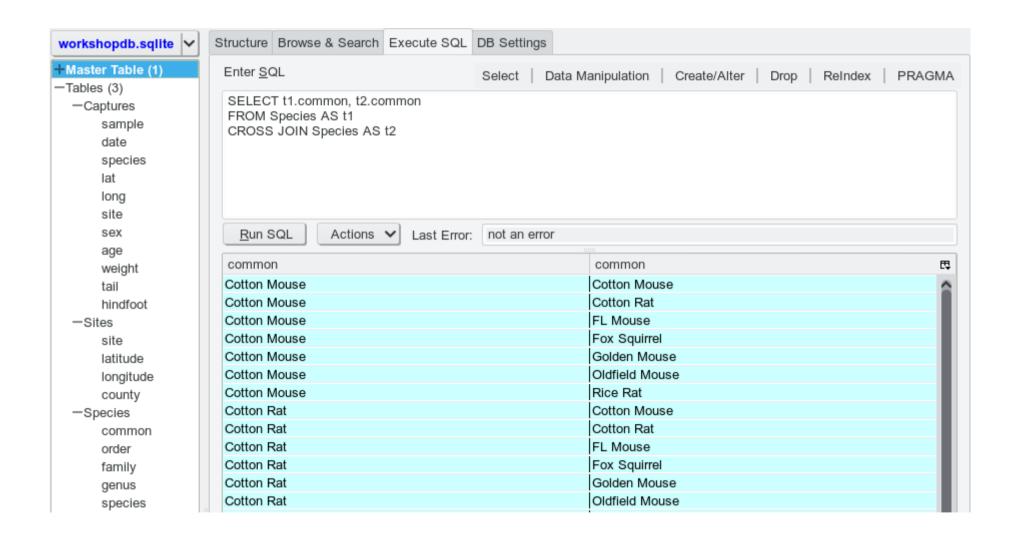
- A CROSS JOIN matches every row of one table with every row of another table
- Can generate extremely large tables if not careful

SELECT table.column,...

FROM table1

CROSS JOIN table2





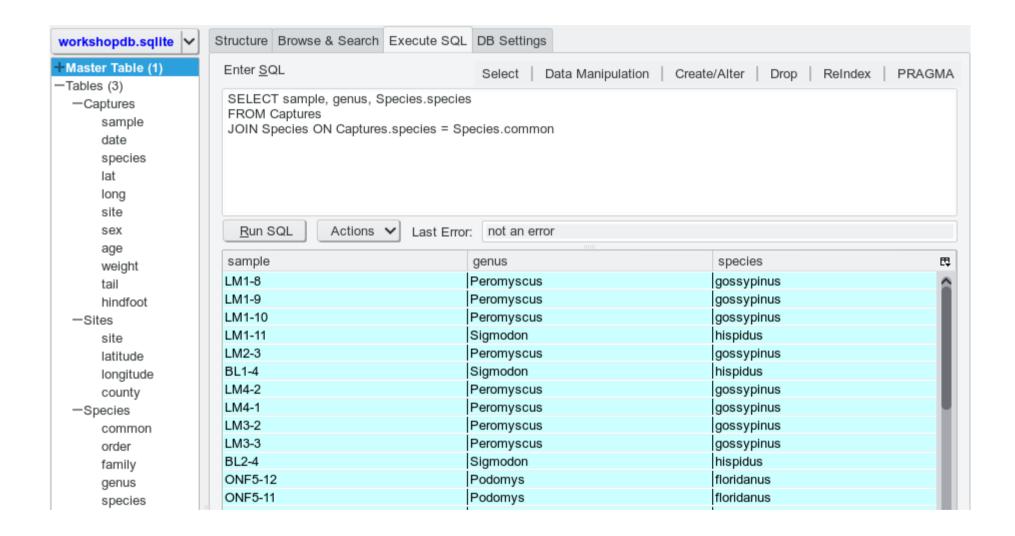
SELECT - INNER JOIN

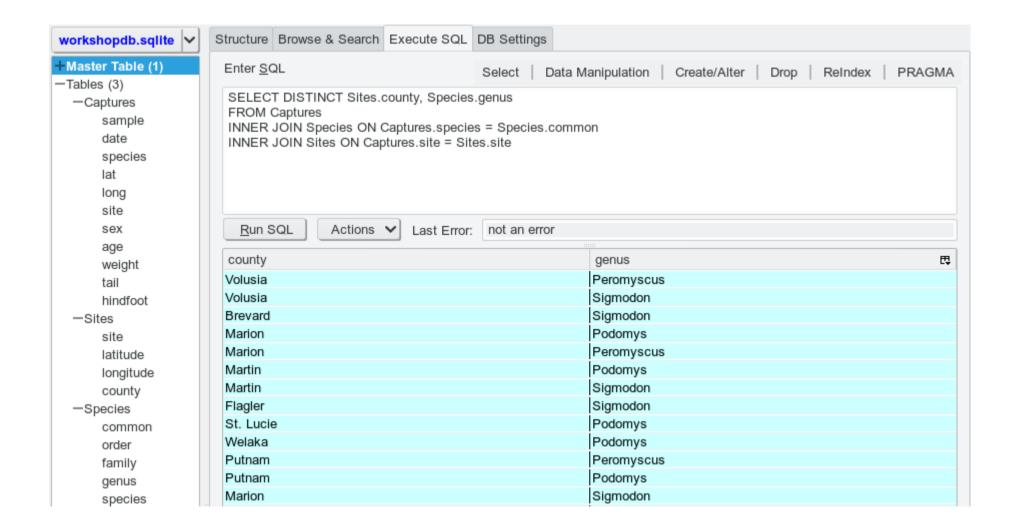
- The most common type of JOIN, an INNER JOIN matches rows together from multiple tables
- Because it is the default type of JOIN in SQLite, the INNER portion can be omitted

SELECT table.column,...

FROM table1

[INNER] JOIN table2 ON table1.column = table2.column





SELECT – OUTER JOIN

- OUTER JOIN is an extension of INNER JOIN
- Basically, it includes unmatched rows as well, but pads them with null values
- Technically, there are 3 types (LEFT OUTER JOIN, RIGHT OUTER JOIN, and FULL OUTER JOIN), but SQLite only supports LEFT OUTER JOIN

SELECT table.column,...

FROM table1

LEFT OUTER JOIN table 2 ON table 1.column = table 2.column

WHERE

WHERE is used to filter your data

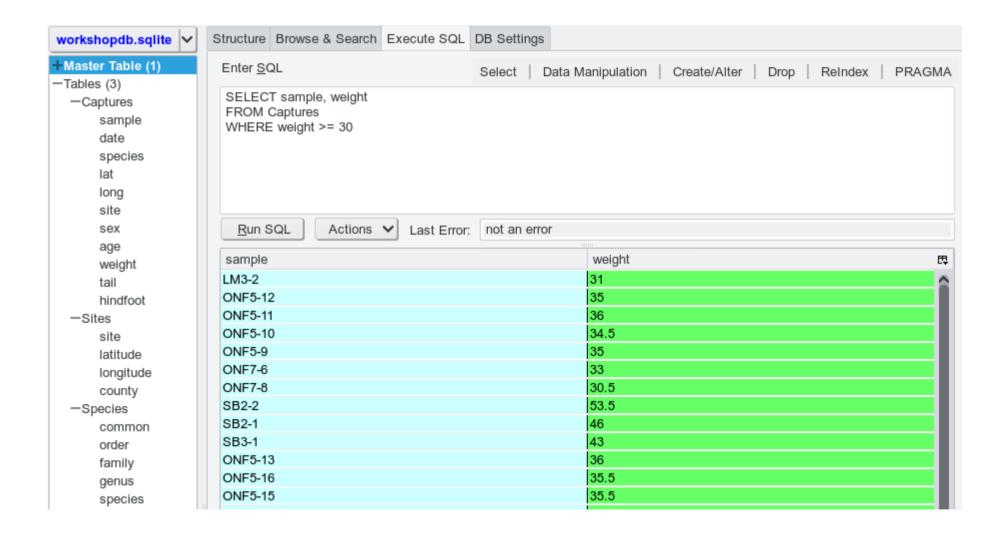
WHERE column operator [value]

 operator can be one of the following: =, <>, >, >=, <, <=, IN, BETWEEN, LIKE, IS NULL, IS NOT NULL

WHERE – Comparators

- Comparators: =, <>, >, >=, <, <=
- Used to compare numeric values
- Basically will return false for NULL values

WHERE column comparator value



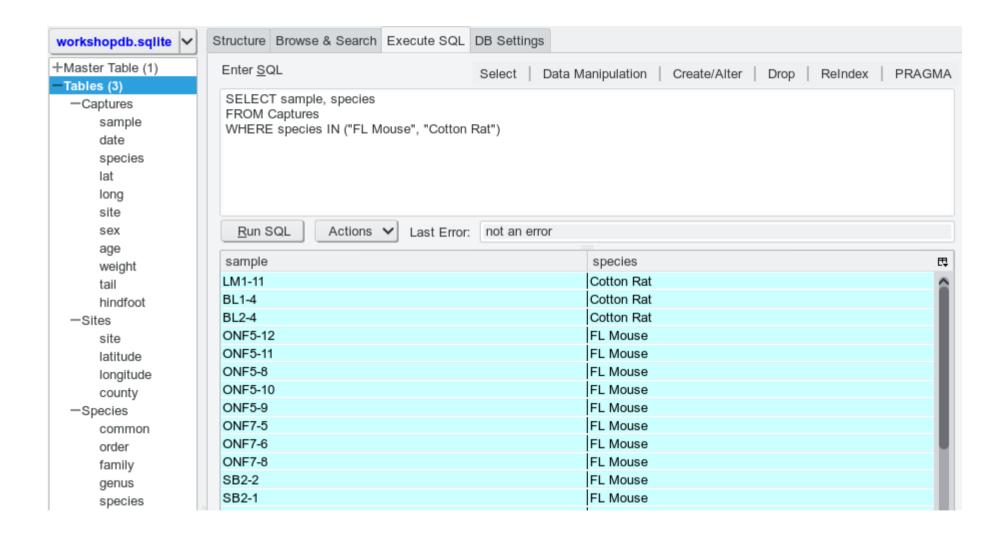
WHERE - IN, BETWEEN

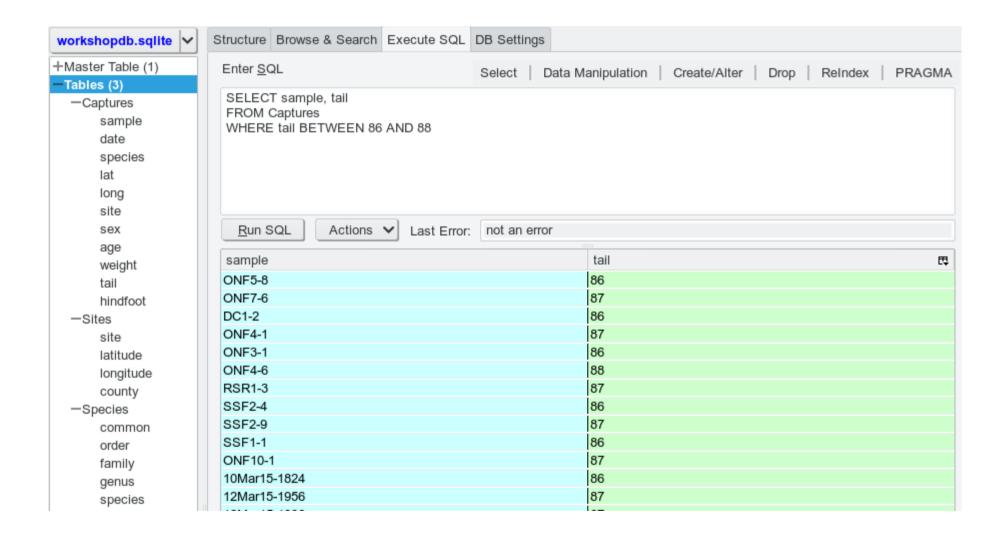
IN is used to find values in a set (text or numeric)

WHERE column IN (value1, value2, ...)

BETWEEN is used to find values in a range

WHERE column BETWEEN value1 AND value2





WHERE - LIKE

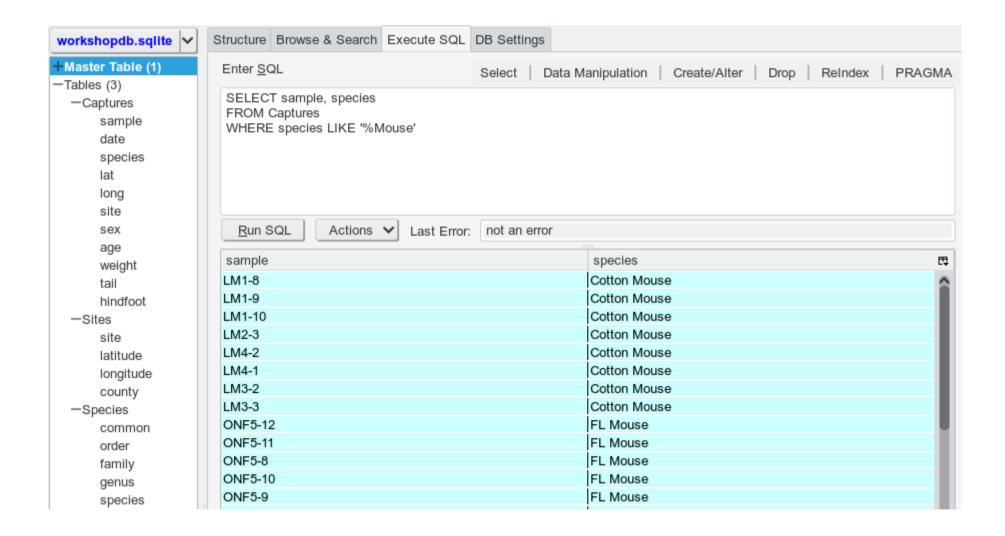
- LIKE is used to search for patterns of text
- Is not case sensitive
- Wildcards essentially allow you to look for substitutes in a string
 - The percent sign (%) wildcard means 0 or more characters
 - The underscore (_) wildcard means exactly 1 character

WHERE column LIKE pattern

- The '=' operator can also be used to determine if two strings are equal, but can behave differently than LIKE in certain situations
- GLOB is a more advanced and case sensitive alternative to LIKE

Wildcard examples

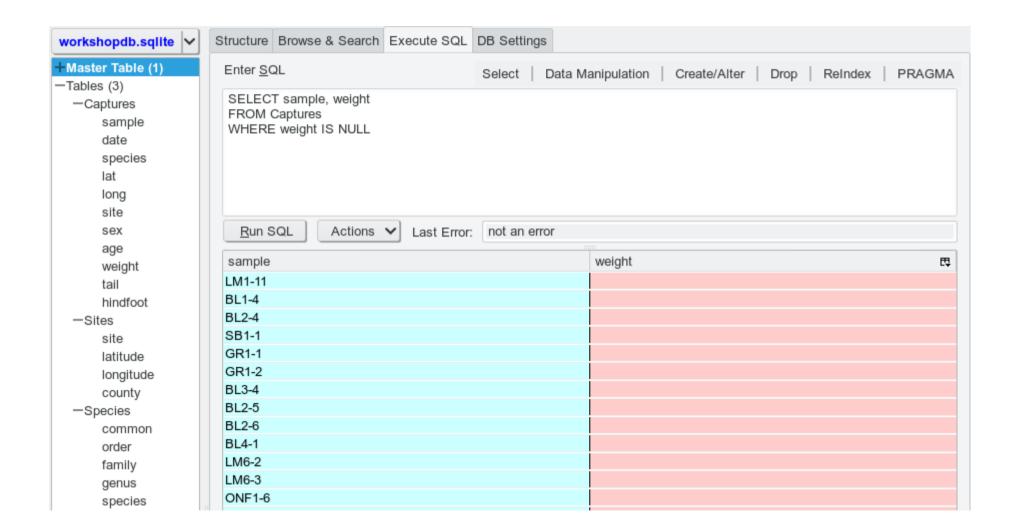
Statement	Description
LIKE 'ace%'	Finds all strings that start with 'ace'
LIKE 'ace_'	Finds all strings that start with 'ace' and are exactly 4 characters long
LIKE '%ace'	Finds all strings that end with 'ace'
LIKE '_ace'	Finds all strings that end with 'ace' and are exactly 4 characters long
LIKE 'ac%e'	Finds all strings that start with 'ac' and end with 'e'
LIKE 'ac_e'	Finds all strings that start with 'ac', end with 'e', and the 3 rd character is anything
LIKE '%a_c_e%'	Finds all strings that have 5 characters in them. The 5 characters must start with an 'a', followed by any single character, followed by a 'c', followed by any single character, followed by an 'e'



WHERE - IS NULL

- IS NULL is used to find rows with null values
- Necessary because null values are the absence of a value, and can't be used in comparisons

WHERE column IS NULL



WHERE – NOT

- The NOT operator is used to reverse or negate the meaning of a logical operator
 - LIKE → NOT LIKE
 - IN → NOT IN
 - BETWEEN → NOT BETWEEN
 - IS NULL → IS NOT NULL

WHERE - AND, OR, ()

- The use of the AND and OR keywords allows you to combine multiple conditions
- The AND conditions are checked first, followed by the OR conditions
- The use of parentheses allows you to control the order and readability of conditions

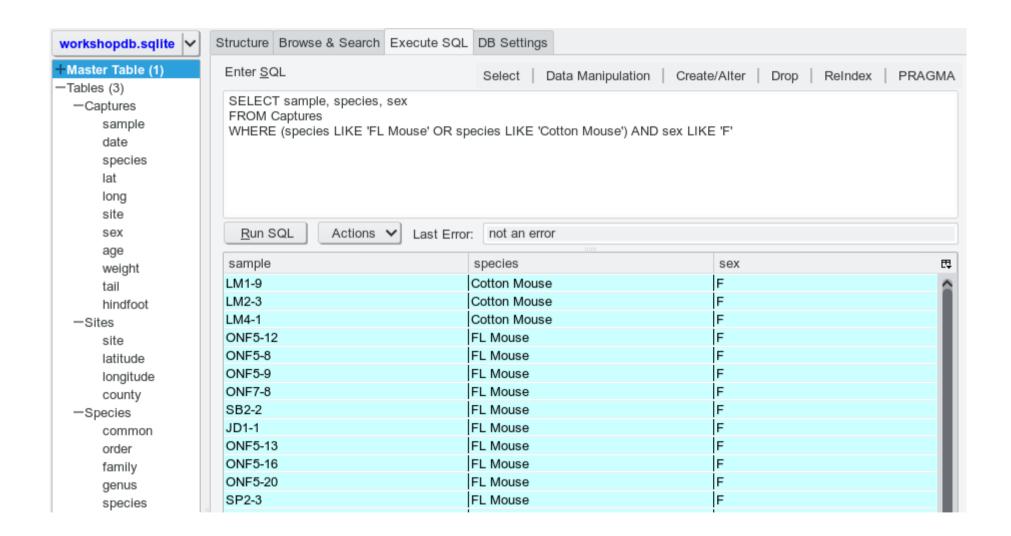
WHERE condition 1 AND condition 2 OR condition 3

Is equivalent to:

WHERE (condition1 AND condition2) OR condition3

And is different from:

WHERE condition1 AND (condition2 OR condition3)

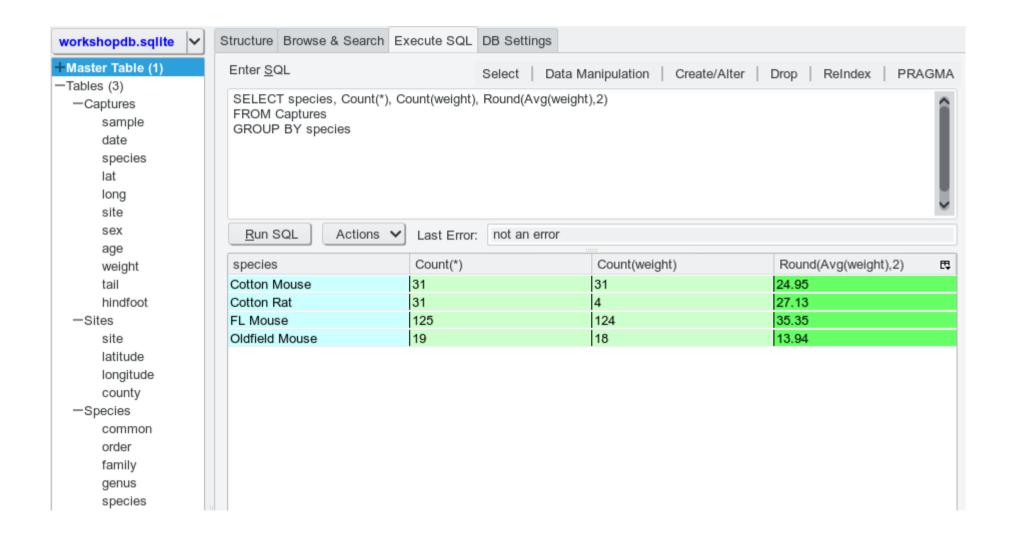


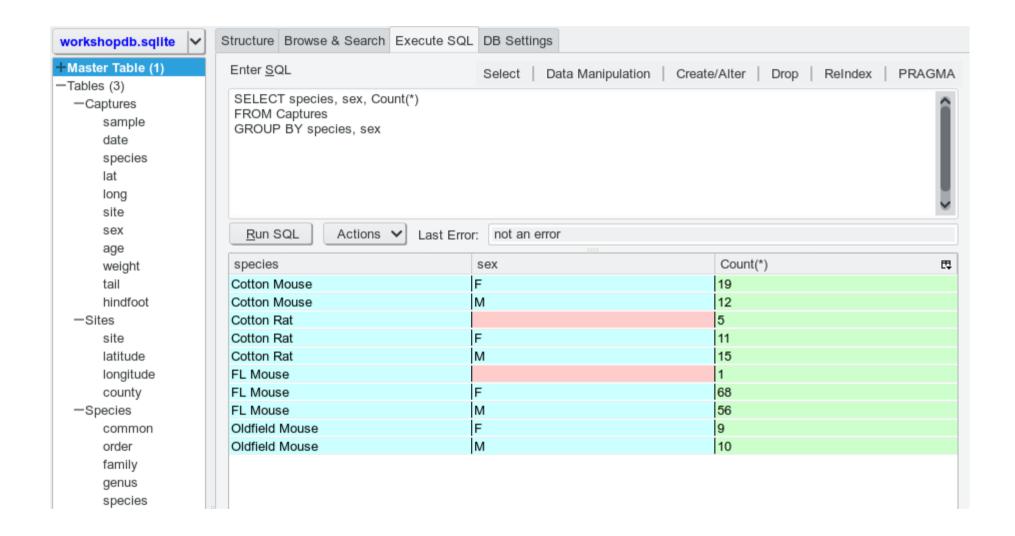
GROUP BY

- Allows you to group your data based on values from one or more columns
- Aggregate functions will be applied to each group instead of the whole table

GROUP BY column(s)

 column(s) is a comma separated list of columns that you want group your results by



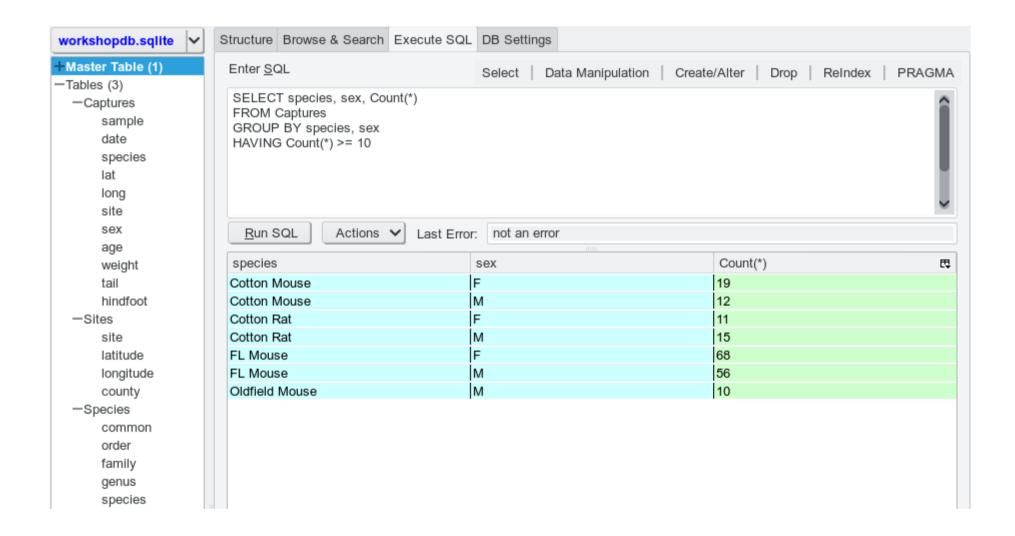


GROUP BY – HAVING

- WHERE is used to filter each row before it is grouped
- HAVING is used to filter your data after it has been grouped

GROUP BY column(s)

HAVING condition(s)

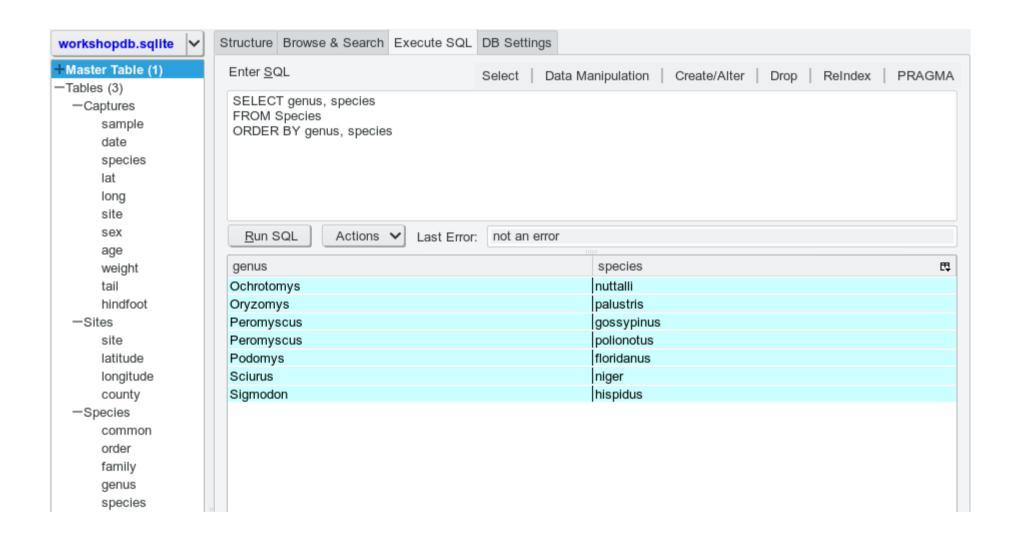


ORDER BY

- Allows you to order your results
- Without it, the order of your results is undefined, or not guaranteed

ORDER BY column(s)

- column(s) is a comma separated list of the columns you want to order your results by
- The order of the columns matters



ORDER BY – ASC, DESC

- By default, each column in ORDER BY is sorted in ascending order
- The sort order can be specified by including the ASC or DESC keyword after each column name

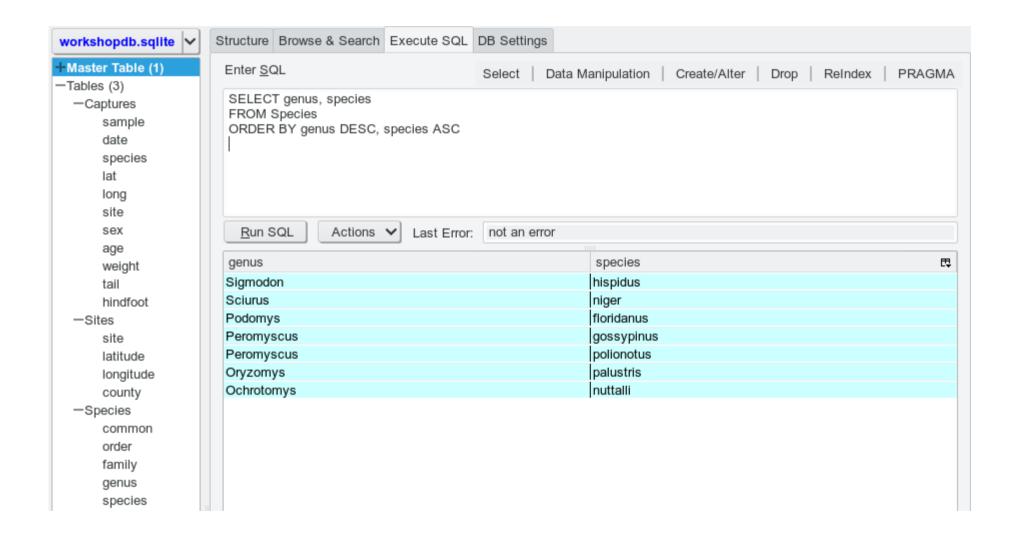
ORDER BY column

Is the same as:

ORDER BY column ASC

Is the reverse of:

ORDER BY column DESC



Integrating Databases With Other Software

Database Integration

- One of the main features of relational databases is their ability to be easily integrated with other software
- This facilitates automation of workflows, which can save significant amounts of time
- Many programming languages support it, including R and Python
- GIS software (ArcGIS, QuantumGIS, etc) supports it

R Integration

- Using relational databases with R is actually very simple
- The steps we use for SQLite in R is almost identical for other implementations like MySQL, PostgreSQL, etc
- Basic steps:
 - Load the database library
 - Connect to the database
 - Submit SQL command to database
 - Something happens (results)

RSQLite

- RSQLite is an implementation of the DBI library for SQLite
- Useful commands:
 - dbConnect()
 - dbListTables()
 - dbListFields()
 - dbSendQuery()
 - DbGetQuery()
 - dbReadTable()
 - dbWriteTable()
- These apply to other implementations (MySQL, PostgreSQL, etc) as well

RSQLite – dbConnect()

- dbConnect() is used to connect to databases
 connection = dbConnect(driver, dbname)
- driver is used to specify the type of database. For SQLite, driver = RSQLite::SQLite()
- dbname is a string used to specify the location of the database
- connection is a variable to store information about the connection

RSQLite – dbListTables(), dbListFields()

- dbListTables() lists the tables and views in a database tables = dbListTables(connection)
- dbListFields() lists the fields in a particular table
 fields = dbListFields(connection, table)
- connection is used to specify the database
- tables is a variable to store a vector of the table names in the database
- table is a string containing the name of a table in the database
- fields is a variable to store a vector of the field names in a table

RSQLite – dbSendQuery(), dbGetQuery()

- dbSendQuery() is used to send SQL commands to the database
- Does not directly return results
- Useful for making changes to the database (e.g, creating/deleting tables, adding data, etc)

dbSendQuery(connection, query)

- dbGetQuery() does the same thing, except it also returns results (if any)
 results = dbGetQuery(connection, query)
- query is a string containing an sql statement
- results is a variable to store the results of the query. Record data will be returned as a data frame

RSQLite – dbReadTable(), dbWriteTable()

- dbReadTable() is a shortcut for loading all the data from a table into a data frame
- Equivalent to running "SELECT * FROM table" in dbGetQuery()
 results = dbReadTable(connection, table)
- dbWriteTable() allows you to write a data frame to a new or existing table in the database
 - dbWriteTable(connection, table, dataframe)

Simple Example

```
library(RSQLite)
 3
    # The path to your database will probably be different
    con <- dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), dbname="/Database/workshopdb.sqlite")</pre>
 8
 9
   # We can load data from a table into a data frame
    # Lets get all my Florida mouse data
   # Note that you have to be careful about mixing quotes when your query involves strings
13
   data <- dbGetQuery(con, "SELECT * FROM Captures WHERE species LIKE 'FL Mouse'")</pre>
15
16
    # Personally, I prefer storing my queries as strings
17
18
19
   query <- "SELECT *
              FROM Captures
              WHERE species LIKE 'FL Mouse'"
21
22
23 data <- dbGetQuery(con, query)</pre>
24
25
```