Sorting with ORDER BY

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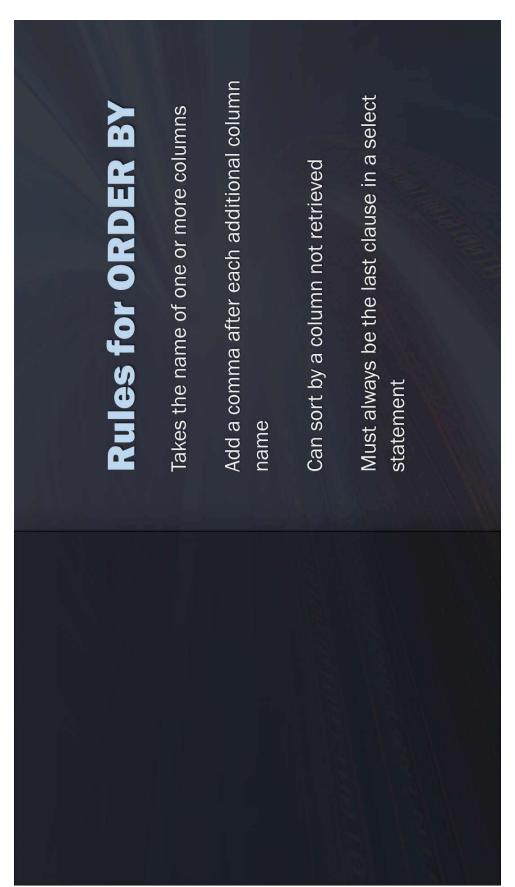*Data Scientist, VSP*

UC**DAVIS**
EXTENSION

Slide 1: Sorting with ORDER BY

Learning Objectives

Discuss the importance of sorting data for analysis purposes

Explain some of the rules related to using the ORDER BY clause

Use the ORDER BY clause to sort data either in ascending or descending order

Slide 2: Learning Objectives

Why Sort Data?

Data displayed appears in the order of the underlying tables

Updated and deleted data can change this order

Sequence of retrieved data cannot be assumed if order was not specified

Slide 3: Why Sort Data?

Why Sort Data?

Sorting data logically helps keep information you want on top

ORDER BY clause allows user to sort data by particular columns

```
SELECT something
FROM database
ORDER BY characteristic
```

Slide 4: Why Sort Data?

Rules for ORDER BY

Takes the name of one or more columns

Add a comma after each additional column name

Can sort by a column not retrieved

Must always be the last clause in a select statement

Sorting by Column Position

ORDER BY 2,3

2 means 2ⁿᵈ column

3 means 3ʳᵈ column, etc.

Sort Direction

DESC descending order

ASC ascending order

Only applies to the column names it directly precedes