

-- Does SELECT DISTINCT treat two NULLs as the same?

-- Setup:

csc343h-dianehe=> create table X(a int, b int);

CREATE TABLE

csc343h-dianehe=> insert into X values (1, 2), (null, 3), (null, 4);

INSERT 0 3

csc343h-dianehe=> select \* from X

csc343h-dianehe-> ;

a	b
1	2
	3
	4

(3 rows)

-- If we ask for just column a, of course we will see the two NULL values.

csc343h-dianehe=> select a from X;

a
1

(3 rows)

-- If we ask for distinct values, the two NULLs are collapsed to one.

-- SELECT DISTINCT has considered the two NULL values to be the same.

csc343h-dianehe=> select distinct a from x;

a
1

(2 rows)

-- But notice that it didn't consider NULL to be the same as 1, or it

-- would have had to remove either the 1 or the NULL in order to give us

-- distinct values.