SQL & Indexes

Lecture 17

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SQL

Structures Query Language is a special purpose language for interacting with (querying and modifying) indexed tabular data.

- ANSI Standard but with dialect divergence (MySql, Postgres, SQLite, etc.)
- This functionality maps very closely (but not exactly) with the data manipulation verbs present in dplyr.
- SQL is likely to be a foundational skill if you go into industry learn it and put it on your CV

Connecting via CLI

```
1 cr173@trig2 [class_2023_10_27]$ sqlite3 employees.sqlite
2
3 SQLite version 3.36.0 2021-06-18 18:36:39
4 Enter ".help" for usage hints.
5 Connected to a transient in-memory database.
6 Use ".open FILENAME" to reopen on a persistent database.
7 sqlite>
```

Table information

The following is specific to SQLite

```
1 sqlite> .tables
2
3 ## employees
```

```
1 sqlite> .schema employees
2
3 ## CREATE TABLE `employees` (
4 ## `name` TEXT,
5 ## `email` TEXT,
6 ## `salary` REAL,
7 ## `dept` TEXT
8 ## );
```

```
1 sqlite> .indices employees
```

SELECT Statements

```
1 sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees;
2
3 ## Alice|alice@company.com|52000.0|Accounting
4 ## Bob|bob@company.com|40000.0|Accounting
5 ## Carol|carol@company.com|30000.0|Sales
6 ## Dave|dave@company.com|33000.0|Accounting
7 ## Eve|eve@company.com|44000.0|Sales
8 ## Frank|frank@comany.com|37000.0|Sales
```

Pretty Output

We can make this table output a little nicer with some additional SQLite options:

```
1 sqlite> .mode column
2 sqlite> .headers on
  sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees;
4
  ## name email
                                 salary
                                            dept
 ## Alice
               alice@company.com
                                 52000.0
                                            Accounting
  ## Bob
               bob@company.com
                                            Accounting
                                 40000.0
 ## Carol
               carol@company.com
                                            Sales
                                 30000.0
  ## Dave
               dave@company.com
                                            Accounting
                                 33000.0
               eve@company.com
                                            Sales
 ## Eve
                                 44000.0
 ## Frank
                frank@comany.com
                                 37000.0
                                            Sales
```

select() using SELECT

We can subset for certain columns (and rename them) using SELECT

arrange() using ORDER BY

We can sort our results by adding ORDER BY to our SELECT statement

We can sort in the opposite order by adding DESC

```
1 SELECT name AS first_name, salary FROM employees ORDER BY salary DESC;

2 ## first_name salary
4 ## --------
5 ## Alice 52000.0
6 ## Eve 44000.0
7 ## Bob 40000.0
8 ## Frank 37000.0
9 ## Dave 33000.0
10 ## Carol 30000.0
```

filter() using WHERE

We can filter rows by adding WHERE to our statements

group_by() using GROUP BY

We can create groups for the purpose of summarizing using GROUP BY. As with dplyr it is not terribly useful by itself.

head() using LIMIT

We can limit the number of rows we get by using LIMIT and order results with ORDER BY with or without DESC

```
1 sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees LIMIT 3;
 ## name email salary dept
5 ## Alice alice@company.com 52000.0 Accounting
6 ## Bob bob@company.com 40000.0 Accounting
7 ## Carol carol@company.com 30000.0
                                     Sales
1 sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees ORDER BY name DESC LIMIT 3;
 ## name email salary dept
5 ## Frank frank@comany.com 37000.0 Sales
6 ## Eve eve@company.com 44000.0 Sales
7 ## Dave
             dave@company.com 33000.0 Accounting
```

Exercise 1

Using sqlite calculate the following quantities,

- 1. The total costs in payroll for this company
- 2. The average salary within each department

Import CSV files

```
1 sqlite> .mode csv
2 sqlite> .import phone.csv phone
3 sqlite> .tables
5 ## employees phone
 6
7 sqlite> .mode column
8 sqlite> SELECT * FROM phone;
10 ## name phone
11 ## -----
12 ## Bob 919 555-1111
13 ## Carol 919 555-2222
14 ## Eve 919 555-3333
15 ## Frank 919 555-4444
```

Joins - Default

By default SQLite uses a CROSS JOIN which is not terribly useful most of the time (similar to R's expand.grid())

1	sq]	sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees JOIN phone;							
2	##	name	email	salary	dept	name	phone		
4	##								
5	##	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555	5-1111	
6	##	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555	5-2222	
7	##	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555	5-3333	
8	##	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555	5-4444	
9	##	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555	5-1111	
10	##	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555	5-2222	
L1	##	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555	5-3333	
L2	##	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555	5-4444	
3	##	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Bob	919 555	5-1111	
4	##	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Carol	919 555	5-2222	
.5	##	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Eve	919 555	5-3333	
6	##	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Frank	919 555	5-4444	
. 7	##	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555	5-1111	
8	##	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555	5-2222	
19	##	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555	5-3333	
20	##	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555	5-4444	
21	##	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0	Sales	Bob	919 555	5-1111	
22	##	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0	Sales	Carol	919 555	5-2222	
23	##	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0 Sta 5	23 Fall 2023	Eve	919 555	5-3333	

Inner Join

If you want SQLite to find the columns to merge on automatically then we prefix the join with NATURAL.

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees NATURAL JOIN phone;
## name email
                           salary
                                     dept
                                               phone
             bob@company.com 40000.0
## Bob
                                     Accounting 919 555-1111
## Carol
             carol@company.c 30000.0
                                     Sales
                                               919 555-2222
             eve@company.com 44000.0
## Eve
                                     Sales
                                               919 555-3333
             frank@comany.co 37000.0
## Frank
                                     Sales
                                               919 555-4444
```

Inner Join - Explicit

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees JOIN phone ON employees.name = phone.name;
  ## name
              email
                            salary
                                      dept
                                                         phone
                                               name
 ## Bob
              bob@company.com 40000.0
                                  Accounting Bob
                                                         919 555-1111
 Sales
                                               Carol
                                                         919 555-2222
7 ## Eve
              eve@company.com 44000.0
                                     Sales
                                               Eve
                                                         919 555-3333
              frank@comany.co 37000.0
8 ## Frank
                                      Sales
                                               Frank
                                                         919 555-4444
```

to avoid the duplicate name column we can use USING instead of ON

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees JOIN phone USING(name);
2
  ## name
           email
                            salary
                                    dept
                                                phone
  ## Bob bob@company.com 40000.0 Accounting 919 555-1111
  ## Carol carol@company.com 30000.0 Sales
                                                919 555-2222
           eve@company.com
  ## Eve
                            44000.0 Sales
                                                919 555-3333
8 ## Frank frank@comany.com
                            37000.0 Sales
                                                919 555-4444
```

As a rule, the USING (or NATURAL) clause is used if the column names match between tables, otherwise ON is needed.

Left Join - Natural

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees NATURAL LEFT JOIN phone;
2
 ## name
             email
                             salary
                                      dept
                                                phone
 ## Alice
             alice@company.com 52000.0
                                      Accounting
 ## Bob
             bob@company.com
                            40000.0
                                      Accounting 919 555-11
 ## Carol
             carol@company.com 30000.0
                                      Sales
                                                919 555-22
 ## Dave
             dave@company.com
                            33000.0
                                      Accounting
 ## Eve
             eve@company.com
                                      Sales 919 555-33
                            44000.0
             frank@comany.com
 ## Frank
                             37000.0
                                      Sales 919 555-44
```

Left Join - Explicit

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees LEFT JOIN phone ON employees.name = phone.name;
   ## name
                 email
                                   salary
                                                                      phone
                                               dept
                                                          name
   ## Alice
            alice@company.com 52000.0
                                               Accounting
                 bob@company.com
                                               Accounting Bob
   ## Bob
                                   40000.0
                                                                      919 555-11
   ## Carol
                 carol@company.com
                                   30000.0
                                               Sales
                                                          Carol
                                                                      919 555-22
                 dave@company.com
   ## Dave
                                               Accounting
                                    33000.0
9 ## Eve
                 eve@company.com
                                   44000.0
                                               Sales
                                                          Eve
                                                                      919 555-33
10 ## Frank
                 frank@comany.com
                                    37000.0
                                               Sales
                                                          Frank
                                                                      919 555-44
```

As above to avoid the duplicate name column we can use USING, or can be more selective about our returned columns,

```
sqlite> SELECT employees.*, phone FROM employees LEFT JOIN phone ON employees.name = phone.name;
         email
## name
                           salary
                                   dept
                                               phone
## Alice alice@company.com 52000.0 Accounting
## Bob
         bob@company.com
                           40000.0 Accounting 919 555-1111
## Carol carol@company.com 30000.0 Sales
                                               919 555-2222
## Dave
         dave@company.com
                           33000.0 Accounting
## Eve
         eve@company.com
                           44000.0 Sales
                                               919 555-3333
## Frank frank@comany.com
                           37000.0 Sales
                                               919 555-4444
```

Other Joins

Note that SQLite does not support directly support an OUTER JOIN (e.g a full join in dplyr) or a RIGHT JOIN.

- A RIGHT JOIN can be achieved by swapping the two tables (i.e. A right join B is equivalent to B left join A)
- An OUTER JOIN can be achieved via using UNION ALL with both left joins (A on B and B on A)

Subqueries

7 ## Eve

8 ## Frank

We can nest tables within tables for the purpose of queries.

eve@company.com 44000.0

frank@comany.co 37000.0

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Sales 919 555-3333

Sales 919 555-4444

Exercise 2

Lets try to create a table that has a new column - abv_avg which contains how much more (or less) than the average, for their department, each person is paid.

Hint - This will require joining a subquery.

employees.sqlite is available in the exercises repo.

Creating an index

```
1 sqlite> CREATE INDEX index_name ON employees (name);
2 sqlite> .indices
3
4 index_name
5
6 sqlite> CREATE INDEX index_name_email ON employees (name,email);
7 sqlite> .indices
8
9 index_name
10 index_name_email
```

Query performance

Setup

To give us a bit more variety, we have created another SQLite database flights.sqlite that contains both nycflights13::flights and nycflights13::planes, the latter of which has details on the characteristics of the planes in the dataset as identified by their tail numbers.

```
db = DBI::dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), "flights.sqlite")
dplyr::copy_to(db, nycflights13::flights, name = "flights", temporary = FALSI
dplyr::copy_to(db, nycflights13::planes, name = "planes", temporary = FALSE,
DBI::dbDisconnect(db)
```

All of the following code will be run in the SQLite command line interface, make sure you've created the database and copied both the flights and planes tables into the db.

Opening flights.sqlite

The database can then be opened from the terminal tab using,

```
1 > sqlite3 flights.sqlite
```

As before we should set a couple of configuration options so that our output is readable, we include .timer on so that we get time our queries.

```
1 sqlite> .headers on
2 sqlite> .mode column
3 sqlite> .timer on
```

flights

```
1 sqlite> SELECT * FROM flights LIMIT 10;
 2
   ## year month day dep time sched dep time dep delay arr time sched arr time arr delay carrier
 5 ## 2013 1
                  1
                       517
                                 515
                                                2.0
                                                           830
                                                                    819
                                                                                   11.0
                                                                                              UA
 6 ## 2013 1
                       533
                                                4.0
                                                          850
                                                                    830
                                                                                   20.0
                                 529
                                                                                              UA
 7 ## 2013 1
                       542
                                 540
                                                2.0
                                                          923
                                                                    850
                                                                                   33.0
                                                                                              AA
 8 ## 2013 1
                       544
                                                -1.0
                                 545
                                                          1004
                                                                    1022
                                                                                   -18.0
                                                                                              В6
 9 ## 2013 1
                       554
                                 600
                                                -6.0
                                                          812
                                                                    837
                                                                                   -25.0
                                                                                              DL
10 ## 2013 1
                                                -4.0
                                                                    728
                                                                                   12.0
                       554
                                 558
                                                          740
                                                                                              UA
11 ## 2013 1
                                                -5.0
                                                                    854
                       555
                                 600
                                                           913
                                                                                   19.0
                                                                                              В6
12 ## 2013 1
                       557
                                 600
                                                -3.0
                                                          709
                                                                    723
                                                                                   -14.0
                                                                                              EV
13 ## 2013 1
                       557
                                                -3.0
                                                                    846
                                 600
                                                          838
                                                                                   -8.0
                                                                                              В6
14 ## 2013 1
                       558
                                 600
                                                -2.0
                                                          753
                                                                    745
                                                                                   8.0
                                                                                              AA
15 ##
16 ## Run Time: real 0.051 user 0.000258 sys 0.000126
```

planes

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM planes LIMIT 10;
   ## tailnum year type
                                              manufacturer
                                                                model
                                                                           engines seats speed
                                                                                                 engine
   ## N10156
               2004
                     Fixed wing multi engine EMBRAER
                                                                EMB-145XR 2
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
                                                                                    55
   ## N102UW
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A320-214
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
               1998
                                                                                    182
   ## N103US
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                              A320-214
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
                                                                                    182
   ## N104UW
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                                A320-214
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
                                                                                    182
   ## N10575
                     Fixed wing multi engine
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
               2002
                                              EMBRAER
                                                                EMB-145LR 2
                                                                                    55
   ## N105UW
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A320-214
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
                                                                           2
                                                                                    182
   ## N107US
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
               1999
                                                                A320-214
                                                                                    182
   ## N108UW
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                               A320-214
                                                                                    182
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
12
   ## N109UW
                                                                                                 Turbo-fa
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                                A320-214
                                                                                    182
   ## N110UW
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                               A320-214
                                                                           2
                                                                                    182
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
   ##
15
16 ## Run Time: real 0.001 user 0.000159 sys 0.000106
```

Exercise 3

Write a query that determines the total number of seats available on all of the planes that flew out of New York in 2013.

Incorrect

```
1 sqlite> SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights NATURAL LEFT JOIN planes;
2
3 ## sum(seats)
4 ## ------
5 ## 614366
6 ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.148 user 0.139176 sys 0.007804
```

Why?

Correct

Join and select:

```
1 sqlite> SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights LEFT JOIN planes USING (tailnum);
2
3 ## sum(seats)
4 ## -----
5 ## 38851317
6 ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.176 user 0.167993 sys 0.007354
```

• • •

Select then join:

EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN

```
sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights

LEFT JOIN planes USING (tailnum);

## QUERY PLAN

## |--SCAN flights

## `--SEARCH planes USING AUTOMATIC COVERING INDEX (tailnum=?)
```

```
sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM (SELECT tailnum FROM flights)

LFET JOIN (SELECT tailnum, seats FROM planes) USING (tailnum);

## QUERY PLAN

## | --MATERIALIZE SUBQUERY 2

## | `--SCAN planes

## |--SCAN flights

## `--SEARCH SUBQUERY 2 USING AUTOMATIC COVERING INDEX (tailnum=?)
```

Key things to look for:

- SCAN indicates that a full table scan is occurring
- SEARCH indicates that only a subset of the table rows are visited
- AUTOMATIC COVERING INDEX indicates that a temporary index has been created for this query

Adding indexes

```
1 sqlite> CREATE INDEX flight_tailnum ON flights (tailnum);
2
3 ## Run Time: real 0.241 user 0.210099 sys 0.027611

1 sqlite> CREATE INDEX plane_tailnum ON planes (tailnum);
2
3 ## Run Time: real 0.003 user 0.001407 sys 0.001442

1 sqlite> .indexes
2
3 ## flight_tailnum plane_tailnum
```

Improvements?

```
1 sqlite> SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights LEFT JOIN planes USING (tailnum);
2
3 ## sum(seats)
4 ## -----
5 ## 38851317
6 ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.118 user 0.115899 sys 0.001952
```

```
sqlite> SELECT sum(seats) FROM (SELECT tailnum FROM flights)

LEFT JOIN (SELECT tailnum, seats FROM planes) USING (tailnum);

## sum(seats)

## ------

## 38851317

##

## Run Time: real 0.131 user 0.129165 sys 0.001214
```

```
1 sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights
2   LEFT JOIN planes USING (tailnum);
3
4 ## QUERY PLAN
5 ## |--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flight_tailnum
6 ## `--SEARCH planes USING INDEX plane_tailnum (tailnum=?)
1 sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM (SELECT tailnum FROM flights)
```

```
sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM (SELECT tailnum FROM flights)

LEFT JOIN (SELECT tailnum, seats FROM planes) USING (tailnum);

## QUERY PLAN

## |--MATERIALIZE SUBQUERY 2

## | `--SCAN planes

## |--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flight_tailnum

## `--SEARCH SUBQUERY 2 USING AUTOMATIC COVERING INDEX (tailnum=?)
```

Filtering

```
1 sqlite> SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin = "EWR";
  ## origin count(*)
  ## -----
  ## EWR 120835
  ##
6
7 ## Run Time: real 0.034 user 0.028124 sys 0.005847
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin = "EWR";
2
3 ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## `--SCAN flights
1 sqlite> SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin != "EWR";
  ## origin count(*)
  ## -----
  ## LGA 215941
  ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.036 user 0.029798 sys 0.006171
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin != "EWR";
  ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## \ --SCAN flights
```

Nested indexes

An index can be created on more than one column at a time. This is useful for queries that filter on multiple columns, but note that the order of the columns in the index matters.

```
1 sqlite> CREATE INDEX flights_orig_dest ON flights (origin, dest);
2
3 ## Run Time: real 0.267 user 0.232886 sys 0.030270
```

Filtering w/ indexes

```
1 sqlite> SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin = "EWR";
  ## origin count(*)
  ## -----
  ## EWR 120835
  ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.007 user 0.006419 sys 0.000159
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin = "EWR";
  ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## `--SEARCH flights USING COVERING INDEX flights orig dest (origin=?)
  sqlite> SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin != "EWR";
  ## origin count(*)
  ## -----
  ## JFK 215941
  ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.028 user 0.019203 sys 0.000497
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin != "EWR";
```

```
sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights WHERE origin != "EWR";

## QUERY PLAN

## `--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flights_orig_dest
```

!= alternative

```
sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights

WHERE origin > "EWR" OR origin < "EWR";

## QUERY PLAN

## `--MULTI-INDEX OR

## |--INDEX 1

## | `--SEARCH flights USING COVERING INDEX flights_orig_dest (origin>?)

## `--INDEX 2

## `--SEARCH flights USING COVERING INDEX flights_orig_dest (origin<?)</pre>
```

What about dest?

```
1 sqlite> SELECT dest, count(*) FROM flights WHERE dest = "LAX";
  ## dest count(*)
  ## ----
  ## LAX 16174
  ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.027 user 0.016513 sys 0.000237
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT dest, count(*) FROM flights WHERE dest = "LAX";
3 ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## `--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flights orig dest
  sqlite> SELECT dest, count(*) FROM flights WHERE dest = "LAX" AND origin = "EWR";
3 ## dest count(*)
  ## ----
  ## LAX 4912
  ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.001 user 0.000729 sys 0.000208
  sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT dest, count(*) FROM flights WHERE dest = "LAX" AND origin = "EWR";
  ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## `--SEARCH flights USING COVERING INDEX flights orig dest (origin=? AND dest=?)
```

Group bys

```
1 sqlite> SELECT carrier, count(*) FROM flights
   GROUP BY carrier;
 3
 4 ## carrier count(*)
 5 ## -----
 6 ## 9E
             18460
7 ## AA
             32729
8 ## AS
             714
9 ## B6
             54635
10 ## DL
             48110
11 ## EV
             54173
12 ## F9
              685
13 ## FL
              3260
14 ## HA
              342
15 ## MO
             26397
16 ## 00
              32
17 ## UA
              58665
18 ## US
             20536
19 ## VX
              5162
20 ## WN
             12275
21 ## YV
              601
22 ##
23 ## Run Time: real 0.172 user 0.114274 sys 0.0189
```

```
1 sqlite> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT carrier, count
2
3 ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## |--SCAN flights
5 ## `--USE TEMP B-TREE FOR GROUP BY
```

GROUP with index

```
1 sqlite> CREATE INDEX flight_carrier ON flights (carrier);
2
3 ##
4 ## Run Time: real 0.131 user 0.113260 sys 0.014691
```

Why not index all the things?

- As mentioned before, creating an index requires additional storage (memory or disk)
- Additionally, when adding or updating data indexes also need to be updated, making these processes slower (read vs. write tradeoffs)
- Index order matters flights (origin, dest), flights (dest, origin) are
 not the same and similarly are not the same as separate indexes on dest and
 origin.
 - common access patterns will determine what of the above will perform better