# 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_2022_10_28]$ 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
2
```

### **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
```

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# **Pretty Output**

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

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

# select() using SELECT

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

```
1 sqlite> SELECT name AS first_name, salary FROM employees;

2 3 first_name salary
4 -------
5 Alice 52000.0
6 Bob 40000.0
7 Carol 30000.0
8 Dave 33000.0
9 Eve 44000.0
10 Frank 37000.0
```

# 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

# 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.

```
sqlite> SELECT dept, COUNT(*) AS n FROM employees GROUP BY dept;

dept n

Accounting 3

Sales 3
```

# 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

## **Exercise 1**

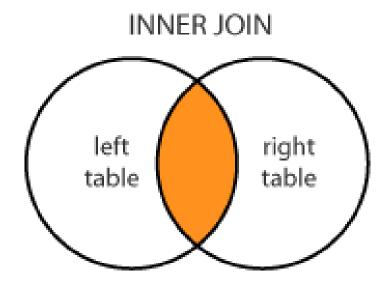
Using sqlite calculate the following quantities,

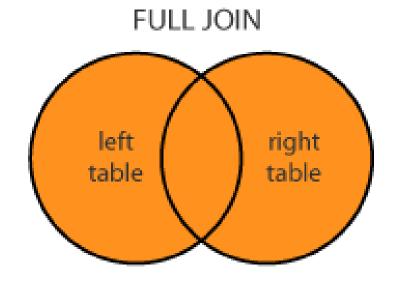
- 1. The total costs in payroll for this company
- 2. The average salary within each department

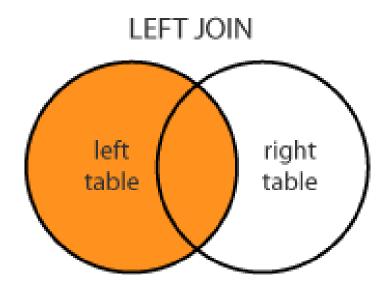
# **Import CSV files**

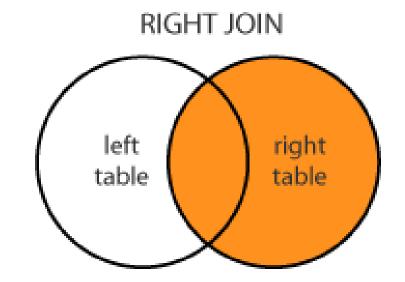
```
1 sqlite> .mode csv
2 sqlite> .import phone.csv phone
3 sqlite> .tables
5 employees phone
 6
7 sqlite> .mode column
8 sqlite> SELECT * FROM phone;
  name phone
12 Bob 919 555-1111
13 Carol 919 555-2222
14 Eve 919 555-3333
15 Frank 919 555-4444
```

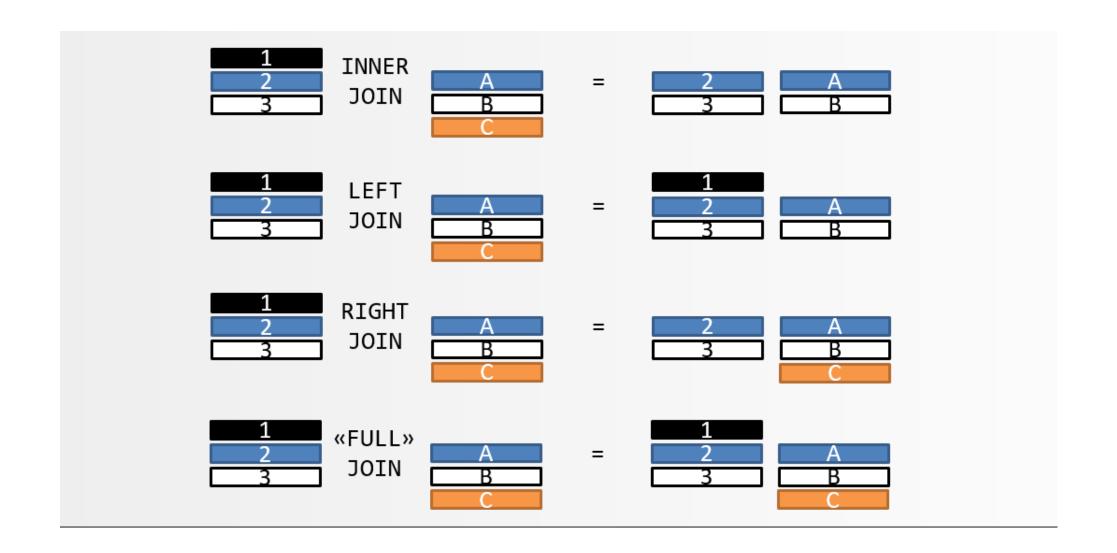
# **SQL Joins**

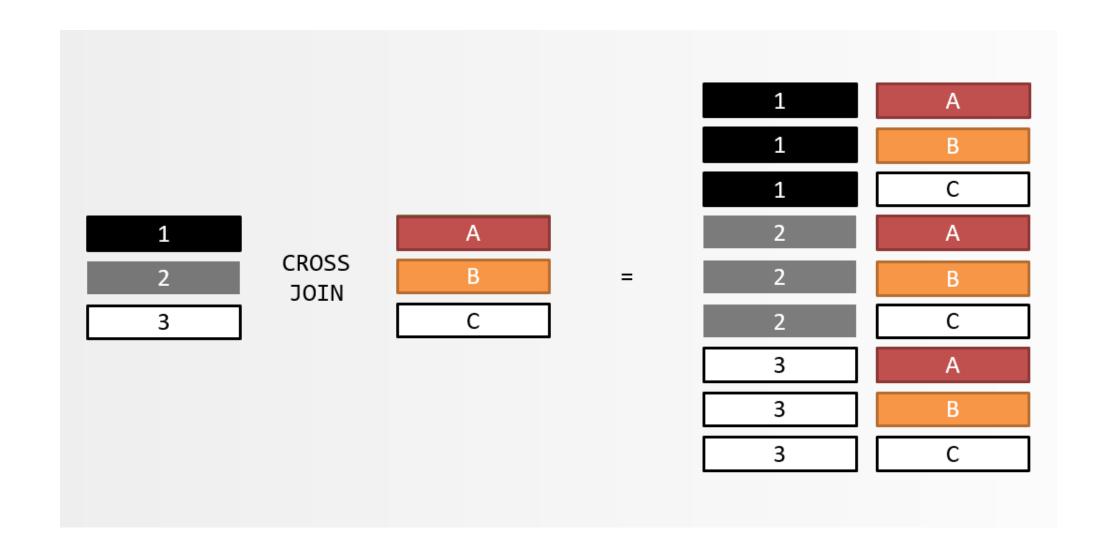












## Joins - Default

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

1	sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees JOIN phone;					
2			_			_
3	name	email	salary	dept	name	phone
5	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555-1111
6	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555-2222
7	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555-3333
8	Alice	alice@company.com	52000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555-4444
9	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555-1111
.0	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555-2222
. 1	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555-3333
. 2	Bob	bob@company.com	40000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555-4444
	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Bob	919 555-1111
3	Carol				Carol	919 555-2222
		carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales		
5	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Eve	919 555-3333
6	Carol	carol@company.com	30000.0	Sales	Frank	919 555-4444
- 7	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Bob	919 555-1111
8	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Carol	919 555-2222
19	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Eve	919 555-3333
20	Dave	dave@company.com	33000.0	Accounting	Frank	919 555-4444
21	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0	Sales	Bob	919 555-1111
22	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0	Sales	Carol	919 555-2222
23	Eve	eve@company.com	44000.0	Sta 523 - Fall 20	Éve	919 555-3333

### **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;
2
        email
                          salary
                                     dept
                                               phone
3
 name
            bob@company.com 40000.0
                                     Accounting 919 555-1111
 Bob
 Carol
            carol@company.c 30000.0
                                     Sales
                                               919 555-2222
 Eve
            eve@company.com 44000.0
                                     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;
                               salary
              email
                                           dept
                                                                  phone
  name
                                                       name
              bob@company.com 40000.0
                                          Accounting Bob
  Bob
                                                                   919 555-1111
             carol@company.c 30000.0
  Carol
                                          Sales
                                                       Carol
                                                                   919 555-2222
              eve@company.com 44000.0
                                                                   919 555-3333
  Eve
                                           Sales
                                                       Eve
              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
         email
                          salary
                                   dept
                                               phone
  name
        bob@company.com 40000.0 Accounting 919 555-1111
  Bob
  Carol carol@company.com 30000.0 Sales
                                               919 555-2222
        eve@company.com
                          44000.0 Sales
                                               919 555-3333
  Eve
 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.

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### Left Join - Natural

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees NATURAL LEFT JOIN phone;
 2
             email
                              salary
                                        dept
                                                   phone
  name
             alice@company.com 52000.0 Accounting
  Alice
  Bob
             bob@company.com
                              40000.0
                                        Accounting 919 555-11
  Carol
             carol@company.com 30000.0
                                        Sales 919 555-22
             dave@company.com
  Dave
                              33000.0
                                        Accounting
             eve@company.com
                                        Sales
                             44000.0
                                                  919 555-33
  Eve
             frank@comany.com
  Frank
                              37000.0
                                        Sales
                                                   919 555-44
10
```

# Left Join - Explicit

```
sqlite> SELECT * FROM employees LEFT JOIN phone ON employees.name = phone.name;
 2
                                  salary
               email
                                                                       phone
   name
                                               dept
                                                           name
               alice@company.com 52000.0
   Alice
                                              Accounting
               bob@company.com
                                              Accounting Bob
   Bob
                                  40000.0
                                                                       919 555-11
 6
               carol@company.com
                                  30000.0
   Carol
                                               Sales
                                                           Carol
                                                                       919 555-22
               dave@company.com
                                              Accounting
   Dave
                                   33000.0
               eve@company.com
   Eve
                                  44000.0
                                               Sales
                                                           Eve
                                                                       919 555-33
               frank@comany.com
                                  37000.0
                                               Sales
                                                           Frank
10 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;
2
                           salary
         email
                                    dept
                                                phone
  name
        alice@company.com 52000.0 Accounting
  Alice
        bob@company.com
                           40000.0 Accounting 919 555-1111
  Bob
6
        carol@company.com 30000.0 Sales
  Carol
                                                919 555-2222
        dave@company.com
                           33000.0 Accounting
  Dave
        eve@company.com
                           44000.0 Sales
  Eve
                                                919 555-3333
        frank@comany.com
                           37000.0 Sales
                                                919 555-4444
  Frank
```

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### **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

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

### 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
```

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# 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.

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# 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
                                                                                12.0
                      554
                               558
                                                        740
                                                                 728
                                                                                          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
                                                                                    55
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
   ## 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 EMBRAER
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
               2002
                                                                EMB-145LR 2
                                                                                    55
   ## N105UW
               1999
                     Fixed wing multi engine AIRBUS INDUSTRIE
                                                               A320 - 214
                                                                                    182
                                                                                                  Turbo-fa
   ## 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
                                                                                    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:

```
1 sqlite> SELECT sum(seats) FROM (SELECT tailnum FROM flights) LEFT JOIN (SELECT tailnum, seats FROM plan
2
3 ## sum(seats)
4 ## ------
5 ## 38851317
6 ##
7 ## Run Time: real 0.174 user 0.166085 sys 0.007122
```

### **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> EXPLAIN QUERY PLAN SELECT sum(seats) FROM flights

LEFT JOIN planes USING (tailnum);

## QUERY PLAN

## |--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flight_tailnum

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

```
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
  ##
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";
  ## QUERY PLAN
4 ## `--SCAN flights USING COVERING INDEX flights orig dest
```

### != alternative

```
sqlite> SELECT origin, count(*) FROM flights
WHERE origin > "EWR" OR origin < "EWR";

## origin count(*)
## -----
## JFK 215941
##
## Run Time: real 0.020 user 0.021148 sys 0.001290</pre>
```

```
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
```

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# 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