CMPT 321
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Structured Query Language SQL

Lecture 03.01

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SELECT FROM WHERE

Structured Query Language (SQL)

- SQL is a high-level special-purpose language for manipulating relations
- SQL is mostly a declarative language:

  you declare what you want without specifying how you want to get answer
- SQL provides a limited set of operations:

  mostly implementations of Relational Algebra operators
- SQL programmer needs to focus on readability and on getting the right results – do not need to worry about efficiency:

  because the DMBS optimizes every query and chooses the most efficient implementation for each operation

Sub-sets of SQL

- Data Definition Language (DDL): CREATE, ALTER, DROP, RENAME
- Data Manipulation Language (DML): INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, SELECT, Transaction control: COMMIT, ROLLBACK
- Data Control Language (DCL): GRANT, REVOKE

Language elements

- Clauses
- Expressions - produce either scalar values, or tables
- Predicates - specify conditions that can be evaluated according to SQL three-valued logic (3VL) to true/false/unknown
- Queries
- Statements

SELECT clause corresponds to projection π in RA

Query: list student names with GPA >3

Student		
Name	GPA	Country
Bob	3	Canada
John	3	Britain
Tom	3.5	Canada
Maria	4	Mexico

S		
Name	GPA	Country
Tom	3.5	Canada
Maria	4	Mexico

S =

SELECT name → π_{name}

FROM Student → $\sigma_{gpa>3}$ (Student)

WHERE gpa > 3

How the query is evaluated

- Each tuple of *Student* is inspected
- Each attribute of WHERE clause is substituted with the actual tuple value
- The condition is then evaluated, and if true – this tuple is added to the output relation

Student		
Name	GPA	Country
Bob	3	Canada
John	3	Britain
Tom	3.5	Canada
Maria	4	Mexico

WHERE 3 > 3
FALSE

WHERE 4 > 3
TRUE

How to parse SQL query

```
SELECT a,b
FROM X,Y,Z
WHERE X.c=Y.c AND Z.d > 12
```

1. What relations are involved: FROM clause
2. Selection condition on rows: WHERE clause
3. Projection on columns: SELECT clause

FROM clause

FROM clause

FROM is always followed by name(s) of input relation(s):

```
SELECT   *  FROM   Student
```

FROM clause: sub-queries

- You can construct a new relation using a sub-query, give it a name (optional in most DBMSs), and use it in FROM clause

- Thus, the result of one query (*sub-query*) becomes an input to another.

Student		
Name	GPA	Country
Bob	3	Canada
John	3	Britain
Tom	3.5	Canada
Maria	4	Mexico

```
SELECT   name   FROM
   (SELECT *
    FROM  Student
    WHERE   gpa > 3) AS goodStudent
```

FROM clause: table alias example I

- We can rename input relations and their attributes to use in SELECT and WHERE clauses

- In that way we can perform queries on self-relationships

Faculty		
ID	Name	SupID
1	Dr. Monk	2
2	Dr. Pooh	3
3	Dr. Patel	

```
SELECT   e.name [AS] employee,  s.name [AS] supervisor
FROM Faculty AS e, Faculty AS s
WHERE   e.SupID = s.ID
```

FROM clause: table alias example II

- We can rename input relations and their attributes to use in SELECT and WHERE clauses

- Or perform join of table with itself

Student	
Name	Address
Bob	Canada 1
John	Britain 2
Tom	Canada 1
Maria	Britain 2

```
SELECT S1.name, S2.name
FROM Student S1, Student S2
WHERE S1.address = S2.address
AND S1.name < S2.name;
```

Producing a new table from multiple tables

FROM clause: list of tables

- List of tables without any condition in the WHERE clause produces …

Student
Name
Bob
John
Tom
Maria

Professor
Name
Dr. Monk
Dr. Pooh
Dr. Patel

SELECT * FROM Student, Professor

Unexpected result?

Student
Name
Bob
John
Tom
Maria

Professor
Name
Dr. Monk
Dr. Pooh
Dr. Patel

SELECT * FROM Student, Professor

T=Student **x** Professor

T	
S.Name	P.Name
Bob	Dr. Monk
Bob	Dr. Pooh
Bob	Dr. Patel
John	Dr. Monk
John	Dr. Pooh
John	Dr. Patel
Tom	Dr. Monk
Tom	Dr. Pooh
Tom	Dr. Patel
Maria	Dr. Monk
Maria	Dr. Pooh
Maria	Dr. Patel

FROM clause: list of tables - warning

- List of tables without any condition in the WHERE clause produces **Cartesian product**

The implicit writing of Cartesian product - a dangerous illusion that you are asking the list of Professors to be appended to the end of the list of students, while in fact you are asking to pair each tuple in Student with each tuple in Professor

Combination of 2 tables: Cartesian product in SQL

- Results from multi-table query that does not have a WHERE clause
- The product results in a huge output which normally is not very useful
- To avoid a Cartesian product, we use one or more valid join conditions

Joins: NATURAL JOIN

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

RegisteredFor	
Name	Topic
Bob	Algorithms
John	Algorithms
Tom	Algorithms
Bob	Python
Tom	Python
Bob	Databases
John	Databases
Maria	Databases
John	GUI
Maria	GUI

```
SELECT *
FROM Student NATURAL JOIN RegisteredFor;
```

More explicit:

```
SELECT *
FROM Student JOIN RegisteredFor USING (name);
```

Joins: NATURAL JOIN - USING

Teacher	
Name	Score
Bob	2
John	3
Tom	4

Student		
Name	Country	Score
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

If you want to join only on a single common attribute – specify it with USING:

```
SELECT name, Teacher.score, Student.score
FROM Teacher JOIN Student USING (name);
```

Joins: theta join

Teacher	
Name	Score
Bob	2
John	3
Tom	4

Student		
Name	Country	Score
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

```
SELECT name
FROM Teacher JOIN Student
ON  Teacher.score > Student.score
    AND Teacher.name = Student.name
```

Join condition

Multiple joins are required to collect information from multiple tables

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Teaches	
Name	Topic
Dr. Monk	Algorithms
Dr. Pooh	Python
Dr. Patel	Databases
Dr. Patel	GUI

RegisteredFor	
Name	Topic
Bob	Algorithms
John	Algorithms
Tom	Algorithms
Bob	Python
Tom	Python

It is preferably to write joining attributes explicitly, using WHERE clause - to avoid mistakes:

```
SELECT s.name AS student, r.topic AS course, t.name AS professor
FROM Student s, RegisteredFor r, Teaches t
WHERE s.name = r.name
AND r.topic = t.topic
```

NULL values in joined columns

We use NULL to indicate:

- Value unknown
- Value inapplicable
- Value withheld

NULL is a special value

- When joining on condition involving attributes A and B:
- If both A and B are NULL:
  - A=B returns false
  - A<>B returns false
- If one of A or B is NULL
  - A=B returns false
  - A<>B returns false

- The reason is that DBMS uses a **3-valued logic**
- The NULLs do not generally appear in the results of joins

OUTER JOIN

- Preserves dangling tuples (that did not match any tuple in another table) by padding them with **NULL**
- Has 3 types:
- **Full**: Pad dangling tuples in both tables.
  - L FULL OUTER JOIN R
- **Left outerjoin**: Only pad dangling tuples of L.
  - L LEFT OUTER JOIN R
- **Right outerjoin**: Only pad dangling tuples of R.
  - L RIGHT OUTER JOIN R

Keywords INNER and OUTER

- There are keywords INNER and OUTER, but you never need to use them.
- Your intentions are clear anyway:
  - You get an OUTER join iff you use the keywords LEFT, RIGHT, or FULL.
  - If you don't use these keywords you get an inner join – normal join.

OUTER JOIN example: LEFT JOIN

Teacher	
Name	Score
Bob	2
John	3
Tom	4
Kim	3

Student		
Name	Country	Score
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Result	
Name	Country
Bob	Canada
John	Britain
Tom	Canada
Kim	NULL

```
SELECT t.name, country
FROM Teacher t LEFT JOIN Student s
ON t.name = s.name
```

OUTER JOIN example: FULL JOIN

Teacher	
Name	Score
Bob	2
John	3
Tom	4
Kim	**3**

Student		
Name	Country	Score
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	**Mexico**	**4**

Result			
Name	Country	t.score	s.score
Bob	Canada	2	3
John	Britain	3	3
Tom	Canada	4	3.5
Kim	NULL	3	NULL
Maria	Mexico	NULL	4

```
SELECT *
FROM Teacher t FULL JOIN Student s
ON t.name = s.name
```

Subquery or Join?

- We can achieve the same result by using both subqueries and joins
- Which one is better?
- The one which is more readable – both queries will be parsed and optimized into the same code by DBMS

Example 2

- What does this do?

```
SELECT studentID, courseID, grade
FROM Took,
  (SELECT *
   FROM Offering
   WHERE instructor='David') Doffering
WHERE Took.courseID = Doffering. courseID;
```

- Can you suggest another version?

WHERE clause

WHERE clause

The predicates (conditions) can be written using:

- Column names
- Logical and comparison operators
- Mathematical expressions
- Constants
- Built-in DBMS functions
- Sub-queries

Building Boolean expressions

- We can build Boolean expressions with operators that produce Boolean results.
  - comparison operators: =, <>, <, >, <=, >=
  - and many other operators:
    see section 6.1.2 – 6.1.3 in the textbook

- Compound conditions are constructed using logical operators: AND, OR, NOT.

Checking for NULLs

- Can’t meaningfully use = or <>
- Should use:

  IS NULL

  IS NOT NULL

```
SELECT *
FROM Students
WHERE age IS NOT NULL;
```

Operations involving NULL

- A tuple is in a query result iff the WHERE clause evaluates to TRUE.

- When we compare using any comparison operators: (for example *a* < *b)*, and *a* or *b* or both are NULL, the result is UNKNOWN – the third truth value, SQL special

- But a query only produces a tuple in the answer if its truth value for the WHERE clause is TRUE (not FALSE or UNKNOWN).

3-valued truth of databases

Rule to remember:

TRUE = 1, FALSE = 0, UNKNOWN (NULL) = ½

AND: min, OR: max, NOT: 1-x

x	y	x AND y (min)	x OR y (max)
FALSE (0)	FALSE (0)		
FALSE (0)	NULL(½)		
FALSE (0)	TRUE (1)		
NULL(½)	NULL(½)		
NULL(½)	TRUE (1)		
TRUE (1)	TRUE (1)		

x	NOT x (1-x)
FALSE (0)	
NULL(½)	
TRUE (1)	

3-valued truth of databases

Rule to remember:

TRUE = 1, FALSE = 0, UNKNOWN (NULL) = ½

AND: min, OR: max, NOT: 1-x

x	**y**	**x AND y (**min**)**	**x OR y (**max**)**
FALSE (0)	FALSE (0)	FALSE (0)	FALSE (0)
FALSE (0)	NULL(½)	FALSE (0)	NULL(½)
FALSE (0)	TRUE (1)	FALSE (0)	TRUE (1)
NULL(½)	NULL(½)	NULL(½)	NULL(½)
NULL(½)	TRUE (1)	NULL(½)	TRUE (1)
TRUE (1)	TRUE (1)	TRUE (1)	TRUE (1)

x	**NOT x (**1-x**)**
FALSE (0)	TRUE (1)
NULL(½)	NULL(½)
TRUE (1)	FALSE (0)

Example

```
SELECT *
FROM course
WHERE year <=3 OR year >3
```

Course	
Topic	Year
Databases	3
HTML	
GUI	2

Meaning:

```
SELECT *
FROM course
WHERE year is NOT NULL
```

Comparison of strings

- Strings can be compared (lexicographically) using the same operators:

=

<>

<

>

<=

>=

BETWEEN A and B – is equivalent to >=A and <=B

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Joan	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

```
SELECT *
FROM student
WHERE name <= 'John'
```

```
SELECT *
FROM student
WHERE name > 'Job'
```

Patterns

Student		
Name	Birthdate	Comment
Bob	'1990-12-04'	Mike's brother
John	'1987-11-30'	
Joan	'1993-12-09'	John's sister
Maria	'1989-02-28'	

- General form:

<Attribute> **LIKE** <pattern>

or

<Attribute> **NOT LIKE** <pattern>

- <pattern> is a quoted string which may contain

  % = meaning "any string"

  _ = meaning "any character."

```
SELECT *
FROM student
WHERE name LIKE 'Jo%';
```

Patterns: apostrophe

- Two consecutive apostrophes represent one apostrophe and not the end of the string.

Student		
Name	Birthdate	Comment
Bob	‘1990-12-04’	Mike’s brother
John	‘1987-11-30’	
Joan	‘1993-12-09’	John’s sister
Maria	‘1989-02-28’	

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE comment LIKE '%''s%';
```

Patterns: % and _

- What if the pattern contains the characters **%** or _?

  We should “escape” their special meaning preceding them by some escape character. **SQL** allows us to use a custom escape character.

- Syntax: s **LIKE** 'x%%x%%' **ESCAPE** 'x'

  x will be the escape character.

  Example of matched string: '%aaaa%bb'

Student		
Name	Birthdate	Comment
Bob	‘1990-12-04’	Mike’s brother
John	‘1987-11-30’	
Joan	‘1993-12-09’	John’s sister
Maria	‘1989-02-28’	m_1

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE comment LIKE 'my_%'
ESCAPE ‘y';
```

Comparison of dates

- SQL syntax is often DBMS-specific, and does not necessarily completely follows standards
- In particular date and time syntax, string concatenation, NULLs, and comparison case sensitivity vary from vendor to vendor

- In SQLite dates are stored as strings
- Standard date-time data type format is

'YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS': for example '1990-04-12 12:42:30'

Comparison of dates in SQLite

- Default date-time data type format is

'YYYY-MM-DD': for example '1990-04-12'

- Dates can be compared against string literal using regular comparison operators

Student	
Name	Birthdate
Bob	'1990-12-04'
John	'1987-11-30'
Joan	'1993-12-09'
Maria	'1989-02-28'

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE birthdate < '1989-03-28'
```

Pattern example with dates in standard format

- Born in 1980s:

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE Birthdate > '1979-12-31'
AND Birthdate < '1990-01-01'
```

Student	
Name	Birthdate
Bob	'1990-12-04'
John	'1987-11-30'
Joan	'1993-12-09'
Maria	'1989-02-28'

- We can use LIKE:

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE Birthdate LIKE '__8%'
```

Conditions involving lists

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE country = 'Canada'
  OR country = 'Britain'
  OR country='Australia'
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

- Instead:

```
SELECT name
FROM
Student
WHERE country IN ('Canada', 'Australia', 'Britain')
```

WHERE clause

The conditions can be written using

- Column names
- Logical and comparison operators
- Mathematical expressions
- Constants
- Built-in DBMS functions
- Sub-queries

Sub-queries in WHERE clause

- We can compare the value in the column in the current tuple to a value in another column (of the same tuple)
- We can also compare it to the result of a subquery

- Syntax:
  - The subquery must be parenthesized.
  - May name the result, so you can refer to it in the outer query.

Subquery as a value in a WHERE clause

- If a subquery is guaranteed to produce exactly one tuple, then the subquery can be used as a value.
- Simplest situation: that one tuple has only one component.

Example

- Find all students with a gpa greater than that of John.

```
SELECT name
FROM Student
WHERE gpa >
  (SELECT gpa
   FROM Student
   WHERE name = 'John');
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

- This is analogous to something we **can't do in RA**:

$\pi_{\text{name}}\ \sigma_{\textbf{gpa > («subquery»)}}$ Student

What if the subquery returns more than one value?

- We can make comparisons using a special quantifier.

```
SELECT name
FROM Student
WHERE gpa >
  (SELECT gpa
   FROM Student
   WHERE name = 'John');
```

- We can require that

gpa >= all of them, or

gpa > at least one of them.

SQL operators on subquery that returns multiple tuples - to produce a Boolean result

- **ANY**
- **ALL**
- **IN**
- **EXISTS**

ANY and ALL are not supported by SQLite

- These operators can be **negated** by putting **NOT** in front of the entire expression.

ANY

- Suppose subquery returns relation R. If R is a unary relation (on a single column) then
- Condition ***s* > ANY *R*** is true if ***s*** is greater than **at least one** value in unary relation ***R***.
  - Similarly we can use any other comparison operators in place of >. For instance, ***s* = ANY *R*** is the same as ***s* IN *R***.

- If R is not unary we could match the entire tuple, but this feature is not supported by most DBMSs.

ALL

- Suppose subquery returns relation R.
- ***s* > ALL *R*** is true if ***s*** is greater than **every** value in the **unary** (one column) relation ***R***.
  - Similarly, the > operator could be replaced by any other comparison operator with the analogous meaning. For instance, ***s* <> ALL *R*** is the same as ***s* NOT IN *R***.

Example with ANY

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE GPA > ANY
  (SELECT GPA
   FROM
   Student)
```

What is the result?

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Example with ANY

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE GPA > ANY
  (SELECT GPA
   FROM
   Student)
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

- "Any" sounds a lot like "every" in this query. But it means "any one or more".
- Remember that ANY is existentially quantified.
- This query sounds much better when we express it instead with the keyword SOME, which is a synonym for ANY in SQL.

Example with ALL

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE GPA > ALL
  (SELECT GPA
   FROM
   Student)
```

What is the result?

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Example with ALL

```
SELECT name
FROM student
WHERE GPA > = ALL
  (SELECT GPA
   FROM
   Student)
```

What is the result?

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

IN

- For subquery R:

- ***s* IN *R*** is true if ***s*** is equal to one of the tuples in ***R***. Likewise, ***s* NOT IN *R*** is true if and only if ***s*** is equal to **no** tuple in *R*.

- s can be a list of attributes and the entire tuple is compared

Example with IN

```
SELECT name
FROM
Student
WHERE country IN
  (SELECT countryName
   FROM EnglishSpeakingCountries)
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Exercise

Suppose we have tables R(a, b) and S(b, c).

1. What does this query do?

```
SELECT a
FROM R
WHERE b IN (SELECT b FROM S);
```

2. Can we express this query without using IN?

EXISTS

- For subquery R:
- **EXISTS *R*** is a condition that is true if **R** is not empty.
- Read it as “exists at least one row in the subquery result”

Correlated subqueries

- EXISTS (NOT EXISTS) are used with *correlated subqueries*
- The EXISTS operator checks if the inner query returns at least one row, and it returns TRUE or FALSE

- If a subquery refers only to names defined inside it, it can be evaluated once and used repeatedly in the outer query.
- If it refers to any name defined outside of itself, it must be evaluated once for each tuple in the outer query. These are called *correlated subqueries*.

Example 1: EXISTS

```
SELECT Teacher.Name
FROM Teacher outer
WHERE EXISTS
    (SELECT '1'
    FROM Student
    WHERE name = outer. name);
```

Teacher	
Name	Score
Tom	4
Kim	3

Student		
Name	Country	Score
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	Canada	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

Example 2: EXISTS

```
SELECT name, gpa
FROM Student
WHERE EXISTS (
  SELECT *
  FROM Took
  WHERE Student.name = Took.name
    AND grade > 85 );
```

Student	
Name	GPA
Bob	3
John	3
Tom	3.5
Maria	4

Took		
Name	Course	Grade
Bob	Algo	55
John	Algo	90
Tom	DB	85
Maria	HCI	100

Example 3: EXISTS

```
SELECT DISTINCT Course
FROM Took
WHERE EXISTS (
  SELECT *
  FROM Took t, Offering o
  WHERE
    t.course = o.course AND
    t.course <> Took.course AND
    o.dept = 'CSC' AND
    took.name = t.name );
```

Offering	
Course	Dept
Algo	CSC
DB	CSC
Java	CSC
HCI	CSC

Took		
Name	Course	Grade
Bob	Algo	55
John	Algo	90
Tom	DB	85
Maria	HCI	100

SELECT clause

Expressions in SELECT clauses

- Instead of a simple projection, you can use an expression in a SELECT clause.
- Operands: attributes, constants
  Operators: arithmetic ops, string ops
- Examples:

```
SELECT name, grade+10 AS adjusted
FROM Took;

SELECT dept||course
FROM Offering;
```

Operations involving NULL

- If we operate with arithmetic operators on two values: *a + b* – and *a* is NULL, the result is NULL

Substituting NULL's in SELECT

- The *coalesce* function converts a NULL value to an actual value supplied as an argument

coalesce (column, value)

- Coalesce evaluates the arguments in order and returns the current value of the first expression that initially does not evaluate to NULL

Examples:

coalesce (comission,0)

coalesce (prerequisites, 'None')

DISTINCT

Relations can have duplicates in SQL

- A table can have duplicate tuples, unless this would violate an integrity constraint.
- And SELECT-FROM-WHERE statements leave duplicates in unless you say not to.
- Why?
  - Getting rid of duplicates is expensive!
  - We may want the duplicates because they tell us how many times something occurred.
- To eliminate duplicates need to explicitly use DISTINCT:

```
SELECT DISTINCT *
FROM R;
```

Bags - reminder

- SQL treats tables as “bags” (or “multisets”) rather than sets.
- Bags are just like sets, but duplicates are allowed.
- {6, 2, 7, 1, 9} is a set (and a bag)
  {6, 2, 2, 7, 1, 9} is not a set, but is a bag.
- Like with sets, order doesn’t matter.
  {6, 2, 7, 1, 9} = {1, 2, 6, 7, 9}

Impact of null values on DISTINCT

- Does SELECT DISTINCT treat two NULLs as the same?

```
create table X(a int, b int);
insert into X values (1, 2), (null, 3), (null, 4);
select * from X
a  | b
---+---
 1 | 2
   | 3
   | 4
```

.

Impact of null values on DISTINCT

- 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.

```
select distinct a from x;
 a
---
 1

(2 rows)
```

- This behavior is DBMS-dependent

CASE in SELECT

- We can substitute values during selection using CASE clause:

```
CASE case_expression
    WHEN when_expression_1 THEN result_1
    WHEN when_expression_2 THEN result_2
    ...
    [ ELSE result_default]
END
```

CASE example

```
SELECT name,
      CASE
        WHEN country = 'USA' THEN 'domestic'
        ELSE 'intenational'
      END student_group
FROM Student
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	USA	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

CASE example: alternative syntax

```
SELECT name,
      CASE country
        WHEN  'USA' THEN 'domestic'
        ELSE 'intenational'
      END student_group
FROM Student
```

Student		
Name	Country	GPA
Bob	Canada	3
John	Britain	3
Tom	USA	3.5
Maria	Mexico	4

ORDER BY clause

ORDER BY

- To put the tuples in order, add this as the final clause: ORDER BY *«attribute list»* [DESC]
- The default is ascending order; DESC overrides it to force descending order.
- The attribute list can include expressions: e.g., ORDER BY sales+rentals
- The ordering is the last thing done before the SELECT, so all attributes are still available.

TOP-N analysis

- Top-N queries are used to sort rows in a table and then to find the first-N largest (smallest) values

- In PostgreSQL and in SQLite:

```
SELECT gpa, name FROM Student
ORDER BY gpa DESC
LIMIT 5
```

Example 1: TOP-4 largest rooms

```
SELECT Building, RoomNo, Capacity
FROM location
ORDER BY Capacity DESC
LIMIT 4;
```

Example 2: TOP(BOTTOM)-3 lowest salaries

```
SELECT Lname, Fname, Salary
FROM employee
ORDER BY Salary
LIMIT 3;
```