SQL Statistics 506

SQL and Relational Databases

A relational database is a set of rectangular data frames called tables linked by keys relating one table to another. Software implementations of such data structures are known as *relational database management systems* (RDBMS). Most RDBMS use **structured query language** or **SQL** ("sequel" or "S-Q-L") to modify or search the relational database.

Here is an example of a relational database. "Primary" keys are ones which uniquely identify rows of a particular table; "foreign" keys simply refer to "primary" keys in other tables. A key can contain multiple variables.



SQL provides a syntax for interfacing with relational data. It is largely a declarative language in that we use SQL to specify *what* we wish to accomplish, leaving the *how* to the RDBMS. While there are standards for SQL implementations put out by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), there are several open source and commercial implementations that each have unique features.

I will try to focus on the commonalities, but will be using an SQLite engine in R for providing examples. One unique feature of SQLite is that it does not follow the client-server model. In

this model, a physical computer storing the data and executing queries within the RDMBS, the *server*, is separate from the machine requesting the queries known as the *client*.

The client-server model is popular in business, health care, and other domains as it allows security and monitoring of how the data is queried. It is also popular for many large open data projects (i.e ensemble) where it is beneficial for data to be centrally maintained and frequently accessed on the fly.

For the examples in class, we will use SQL to access smaller data-sets for which there are more efficient approaches. In real world scenarios, databases can be extremely large (multiple gigabytes or larger) that would be difficult to access directly in R.

There are a wild number of SQL-related packages in R - some for connecting to databases, some for sending SQL queries. We will primarily use the "DBI" package. There may be others which are better for interfacing with particular SQL databases, but generally the SQL syntax should not differ across packages.

Lahman Example

For our examples, we will use the "Lahman" dataset which contains historical baseball data from 1871-2022. It can be downloaded from https://github.com/jknecht/baseball-archive-sqlite.

(Image from https://relational.fit.cvut.cz/dataset/Lahman.)

The *RSQLite* package contains the backend required to load up an SQLite database. The *DBI* package interfaces with any database, in this case the SQLite data.

```
# Packages
library(DBI)  # For interfacing with a database
# Import the SQLite database of the Lahman data
lahman <- dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), "data/lahman_1871-2022.sqlite")
lahman
```

```
<SQLiteConnection>
```

```
Path: /Users/josh/repositories/_teaching/506-f23/data/lahman_1871-2022.sqlite Extensions: TRUE
```

We now have an SQLite database we can work with. Let's start by getting a list of all tables contained within the database.

dbListTables(lahman)



[1]	"AllstarFull"	"Appearances"	"AwardsManagers"
[4]	"AwardsPlayers"	"AwardsShareManagers"	"AwardsSharePlayers"
[7]	"Batting"	"BattingPost"	"CollegePlaying"
[10]	"Fielding"	"FieldingOF"	"FieldingOFsplit"
[13]	"FieldingPost"	"HallOfFame"	"HomeGames"
[16]	"Managers"	"ManagersHalf"	"Parks"
[19]	"People"	"Pitching"	"PitchingPost"
[22]	"Salaries"	"Schools"	"SeriesPost"
[25]	"Teams"	"TeamsFranchises"	"TeamsHalf"

We can also dive into a particular table and get a list of all columns.

```
dbListFields(lahman, "Batting")
```

[1]	"playerID"	"yearID"	"stint"	"teamID"	"lgID"	"G"
[7]	"G_batting"	"AB"	"R"	"H"	"2B"	"3B"
[13]	"HR"	"RBI"	"SB"	"CS"	"BB"	"SO"
[19]	"IBB"	"HBP"	"SH"	"SF"	"GIDP"	"G_old"

Working with tables

Search, subset, and limiting clauses

The basic structure of a SQL query contains a SELECT statement indicating which columns are desired and a FROM clause explaining where to find them (as we saw above).

dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT playerID FROM Batting LIMIT 5")

playerID 1 aardsda01 2 aardsda01 3 aardsda01 4 aardsda01 5 aardsda01

The string, "SELECT playerID FROM Batting LIMIT 5" is an SQL query. SELECT is the statement, and it has the basic syntax of

SELECT var1, var2 FROM table

We add an additional **clause**, LIMIT 5 to reduce the amount of output. This is good practice when developing new queries as it prevents large wait times only to discover a bug.

You can use a wild card * to select all columns in a table:

dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT * FROM Batting LIMIT 5")

	pl	laye	rID	yeaı	TD	stint	teamID	lgID	G	$G_{batting}$	AB	R	Η	2B	ЗB	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB
1	aar	dsda	a01	20	004	1	SFN	NL	11	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	aar	dsda	a01	20	006	1	CHN	NL	45	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	aar	dsda	a01	20	07	1	CHA	AL	25	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	aar	dsda	a01	20	800	1	BOS	AL	47	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	aar	dsda	a01	20	009	1	SEA	AL	73	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SO	IBB	HBP	SH	SF	GIDP (_old													
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
2	0	0	0	1	0	0	NA													
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
4	1	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													

Note that by convention, the keywords in SQL queries are capitalized, but SQL is itself not case sensitive, so this works as well:

dbGetQuery(lahman, "select * from batting limit 5")

	pl	ayeı	ID ;	year	TD	stint	teamID	lgID	G	G_batting	AB	R	Η	2B	ЗB	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB
1	aar	dsda	a01	20	004	1	SFN	NL	11	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	aar	dsda	a01	20	006	1	CHN	NL	45	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	aar	dsda	a01	20	007	1	CHA	AL	25	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	aar	dsda	a01	20	800	1	BOS	AL	47	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	aar	dsda	a01	20	009	1	SEA	AL	73	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SO	IBB	HBP	SH	SF	GIDP	G_old													
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
2	0	0	0	1	0	0	NA													
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
4	1	0	0	0	0	0	NA													
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA													

To obtain the number of rows in a table, we can use the COUNT() function:

dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT COUNT(*) FROM Batting")

COUNT(*) 1 112184

A quick loop can tell us the size of all tables:

```
for (t in dbListTables(lahman)) {
  rows <- dbGetQuery(lahman, paste("SELECT COUNT(*) FROM", t))
  cols <- length(dbListFields(lahman, t))
  print(paste(t, "-", rows, "x", cols))
}</pre>
```

```
[1] "AllstarFull - 5516 x 8"
[1] "Appearances - 112106 x 21"
[1] "AwardsManagers - 179 x 6"
[1] "AwardsPlayers - 6531 x 6"
[1] "AwardsShareManagers - 425 x 7"
[1] "AwardsSharePlayers - 6879 x 7"
[1] "Batting - 112184 x 24"
[1] "BattingPost - 16374 x 22"
[1] "CollegePlaying - 17350 x 3"
[1] "Fielding - 149365 x 18"
[1] "FieldingOF - 12028 x 6"
[1] "FieldingOFsplit - 35315 x 18"
[1] "FieldingPost - 15540 x 17"
[1] "HallOfFame - 4323 x 9"
[1] "HomeGames - 3200 x 9"
[1] "Managers - 3718 x 10"
[1] "ManagersHalf - 93 x 10"
[1] "Parks - 255 x 7"
[1] "People - 20676 x 25"
[1] "Pitching - 50402 x 30"
[1] "PitchingPost - 6538 x 30"
[1] "Salaries - 26428 x 5"
[1] "Schools - 1207 x 5"
[1] "SeriesPost - 378 x 9"
[1] "Teams - 3015 x 48"
[1] "TeamsFranchises - 120 x 4"
[1] "TeamsHalf - 52 x 10"
```

Limiting Clauses

Aside from LIMIT, there are more nuanced and powerful ways of extracting specific entries.

WHERE

We can use Boolean comparisons in a WHERE clause as shown in the example below. We find all player-seasons since 2000 in which the player was credited with an RBI 100 or more times.

Here is our query:

```
SELECT playerID, yearID, RBI
FROM batting
WHERE RBI >= 100 AND yearID >= 2000
```

And here it is in R:

```
## Get all 100+ RBI seasons since 2000
head(dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT playerID, yearID, RBI
FROM batting
WHERE RBI >= 100 AND yearID >= 2000
"))
```

	playerID	yearID	RBI
1	abreubo01	2001	110
2	abreubo01	2003	101
3	abreubo01	2004	105
4	abreubo01	2005	102
5	abreubo01	2007	101
6	abreubo01	2008	100

(Note that the spacing here is stylistic - in both SQL and dbGetQuery splitting onto multiple lines and aligning on the first space do not affect the query, but do make it easier to read!)

We of course could use LIMIT instead of head() to keep it entirely inside the query. In addition, LIMIT will be much faster than head():

```
library(microbenchmark)
microbenchmark(
    head = head(dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT playerID FROM batting")),
    limit = dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT playerID FROM batting LIMIT 6"))
```

Warning in microbenchmark(head = head(dbGetQuery(lahman, "SELECT playerID FROM batting")), : less accurate nanosecond times to avoid potential integer overflows

Unit: microseconds expr min lq median max neval cld mean uq head 13709.990 13784.385 14000.0289 13837.1925 13917.4295 16826.523 100 а limit 101.106 102.664 106.5336 104.8985 107.5635 143.787 100 b

IN

To select on a column by testing against a set of fixed values use IN. We also rename the columns as we gather them, leaving the original data alone

```
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last, birthYear
FROM master
WHERE nameLast IN ('Alou', 'Griffey')
```

Use single quotations (') instead of double (") - in some flavors of SQL, double quotes have different meaning (if they're used at all), whereas it is consistent that single quotes start and end strings. In addition, this avoids conflict if you use double quotes to start the string in R, and single quotes in the actual query.

```
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last, birthYear
FROM People
WHERE nameLast IN ('Alou', 'Griffey')
")
```

	given	last	birthYear
1	Felipe Rojas	Alou	1935
2	Jesus Maria Rojas	Alou	1942
3	Mateo Rojas	Alou	1938
4	Moises Rojas	Alou	1966
5	George Kenneth	Griffey	1950
6	George Kenneth	Griffey	1969

LIKE

Use a LIKE predicate with a WHERE clause to get partial string matching. You can use % to match any sub-string.

```
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last, birthYear
FROM People
WHERE nameLast LIKE '%riff%'
```

```
## Find all players with last name containing a 'riff' sub-string
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last, birthYear
FROM People
WHERE nameLast LIKE '%riff%'
LIMIT 5
")
```

given last birthYear Arthur Joseph Griffin 1 1988 2 Alfredo Claudino Griffin 1957 3 Bartholomew Joseph Griffith 1896 Clark Calvin Griffith 4 1869 5 Robert Derrell Griffith 1943

Most SQL implementations also have a REGEXP or REGEXLIKE function that works with regular expressions, but SQLite requires a user defined regex() for its use so we skip it here.

Combining limiting clauses

Limiting WHERE clauses can be combined using AND and OR. Clauses can be negated using NOT.

```
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last,
        birthYear, birthCountry
FROM People
WHERE birthCountry == 'P.R.' AND birthYear LIKE '199%'
## Find all players born in Puerto Rico during the 1990's
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT nameGiven AS given, nameLast AS last,
        birthYear, birthCountry
FROM People
WHERE birthCountry == 'P.R.' AND birthYear LIKE '199%'
LIMIT 5
")
```

	given	last	birthYear	birthCountry
1	Ednel Javier	Baez	1992	P.R.
2	Jose Orlando	Berrios	1994	P.R.

3	Victor	Manuel	Caratini	1993	P.R.
4	Willi	Rafael	Castro	1997	P.R.
5	Ale	exander	Claudio	1992	P.R.

					given	last	birthYear	birthState
1				Benny	Peter	Agbayani	1971	HI
2	Dustin	Kamakana	Mai	Ku'u Maku	ualani	Antolin	1989	HI
3				Anthor	ny Lee	Barnette	1983	AK
4				Chad F	Robert	Bentz	1980	AK
5				Douglas H	Edmund	Capilla	1952	HI

				given	last	birthYear	birthState
1	Dustin	Kamakana	Mai	Ku'u Makualani	Antolin	1989	HI
2				Anthony Lee	Barnette	1983	AK
3				Chad Robert	Bentz	1980	AK
4				Douglas Edmund	Capilla	1952	HI
5				Shawn Anthony	Chacon	1977	AK

ORDER BY

Use an ORDER BY clause with a comma separated list of columns to arrange the table.

```
SELECT playerID, yearID, RBI
    FROM Batting
   WHERE RBI >= 100 AND yearID >= 2010
   ORDER BY yearID, RBI
  ## Get all 100+ RBI seasons since 2010, ordered
  rbi100 <- dbGetQuery(lahman, "</pre>
  SELECT playerID, yearID, RBI
    FROM batting
   WHERE RBI >= 100 AND yearID >= 2010
   ORDER BY yearID, -RBI
  ")
  head(rbi100)
   playerID yearID RBI
1 cabremi01
             2010 126
2 rodrial01
              2010 125
3 bautijo02
              2010 124
4 pujolal01
              2010 118
5 gonzaca01
              2010 117
6 guerrvl01
              2010 115
  tail(rbi100)
     playerID yearID RBI
201 olsonma02 2022 103
202 croncj01
                2022 102
203 machama01 2022 102
204 garciad02 2022 101
205 freemfr01
                2022 100
206 turnetr01
                2022 100
```

Aggregations, Group By

We can perform aggregations such as sums, means, and counts by using a GROUP BY clause. Here we find the players with the most total RBI since 2010.

```
SELECT playerID, SUM(RBI) AS rbi_total
 FROM Batting
WHERE yearID >= 2010
GROUP BY playerID
ORDER BY -rbi_total
## Count total RBIs since 2010 by player
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT playerID, SUM(RBI) AS rbi_total
 FROM Batting
WHERE yearID >= 2010
GROUP BY playerID
ORDER BY -rbi_total
LIMIT 10
")
 playerID rbi_total
cruzne02
               1144
```

```
1
2 pujolal01
                 1106
3 cabremi01
                 1094
4 goldspa01
                 1042
5 freemfr01
                 1041
6
  encared01
                  975
7
  stantmi03
                  971
8 arenano01
                  968
9 mccutan01
                  948
10 longoev01
                  933
```

Having

The operator defining a limiting clause on an aggregate variable is HAVING. It is essentially like WHERE except for operating on summary statistics rather than individual rows. In other words, HAVING refers to the output table specified in SELECT rather than the input table(s) specified using FROM.

In the query below, observe that the HAVING clause comes after the GROUP BY but before the ORDER BY.

```
SELECT playerID, SUM(RBI) AS rbi_total
FROM Batting
WHERE yearID >= 2010
```

```
GROUP BY playerID
  HAVING rbi_total >= 1000
   ORDER BY -rbi_total
  ## Players with 1000+ RBIs since 2010
  dbGetQuery(lahman, "
  SELECT playerID, SUM(RBI) AS rbi_total
    FROM Batting
   WHERE yearID >= 2010
   GROUP BY playerID
  HAVING rbi_total >= 1000
   ORDER BY -rbi_total
  ")
  playerID rbi_total
1 cruzne02
                 1144
2 pujolal01
                 1106
3 cabremi01
                 1094
```

4 goldspa01 1042 5 freemfr01 1041

Joins

So far we have discussed working with single tables only. The SQL term for merging data from two or more tables is a 'join'. All joins are based on the idea of equating rows that match on one or more variables. Here's a nice visualization of the different types of joins. In this image, the A table is the primary table (e.g. FROM), and the B table is the table you are joining in.



We'll demonstrate a few of these.

Inner Join

What if we wanted to supplement our earlier table showing players with 1000+ RBI since 2010 with information about those players? We could use an inner join of our RBI table with the "People" table to accomplish this.

JOINS are clauses (similar to FROM, GROUP BY, etc) but typically considered as "part of" the FROM. So in indentation here, I choose to indicate that relationship, though others may not.

```
SELECT p.nameFirst AS first, p.nameLast AS last, p.birthState AS state,
        p.birthCountry AS country, SUM(b.RBI) AS rbi_total
FROM Batting AS b
        INNER JOIN People AS p ON b.playerID = p.playerID
WHERE b.yearID >= 2010
GROUP BY b.playerID
HAVING rbi_total >= 1000
```

```
ORDER BY -rbi_total
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT p.nameFirst AS first, p.nameLast AS last, p.birthState AS state,
    p.birthCountry AS country, SUM(b.RBI) AS rbi_total
FROM Batting AS b
    INNER JOIN People AS p ON b.playerID = p.playerID
WHERE b.yearID >= 2010
GROUP BY b.playerID
HAVING rbi_total >= 1000
ORDER BY -rbi_total
")
first last state country rbi_total
```

1	Nelson	Cruz	Mont	te Cristi	D.R.	1144
2	Albert	Pujols	Distrito	Nacional	D.R.	1106
3	Miguel	Cabrera		Aragua	Venezuela	1094
4	Paul	${\tt Goldschmidt}$		DE	USA	1042
5	Freddie	Freeman		CA	USA	1041

Note the renaming of the tables - FROM batting AS b and INNER JOIN People AS p. This allows us to preface variables names, e.g. p.nameFirst, to indicate which table to look for the variable. We could of course use People.nameFirst but it's shorter to rename.

The ON clause determines the connecting variables between the two tables.

Left & Right (Outer) Joins

In a left join – sometimes called a left outer join – we add columns from the right table to the left table when matching rows are found. Rows from the left table with no matches from the right table are retained with columns from the right table filled in as NULL (i.e. NA). When there are multiple matches of a row from the left table to rows in the right table, these each become a row in the new table.

A right join is equivalent to a left join with the exception that the roles between right and left are reversed.

Left joins are particularly useful when the information in the right table is only applicable to a subset of the rows from the left table. As an example, suppose we would like to know which US colleges and universities have produced the most "Rookie of the Year Awards" given to the best debuting player(s) each season. To get started, we first test a query to find the last college attended.

```
-- Last college attended
  SELECT *
    FROM CollegePlaying
   GROUP BY playerID
  HAVING yearID == max(YearID)
  # Query to find last college attended
  dbGetQuery(lahman, "
  SELECT *
    FROM CollegePlaying
   GROUP BY playerID
  HAVING yearID == max(YearID)
   LIMIT 5
  ")
  playerID schoolID yearID
1 aardsda01
               rice
                      2003
2 abadan01 gamiddl 1993
3 abbeybe01 vermont 1892
4 abbotje01 kentucky 1994
5 abbotji01 michigan 1988
```

Now, we find all distinct awards in the AwardPlayers table.

```
# Distinct Player Awards
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT DISTINCT(awardID)
FROM AwardsPlayers
LIMIT 5
")
```

awardID 1 Baseball Magazine All-Star 2 Triple Crown 3 Pitching Triple Crown 4 Most Valuable Player 5 TSN All-Star

Next we test a query for finding all Rookie of the Year Awards.

```
SELECT *
    FROM AwardsPlayers
   WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
  # Query to find Rookie of the Year Awards
  dbGetQuery(lahman, "
  SELECT *
    FROM AwardsPlayers
   WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
   LIMIT 5
  ")
  playerID
                      awardID yearID lgID tie notes
1 robinja02 Rookie of the Year
                                 1947
                                       ML <NA>
                                                <NA>
2 darkal01 Rookie of the Year
                                 1948
                                        ML <NA>
                                                <NA>
3 sievero01 Rookie of the Year
                                1949
                                       AL <NA> <NA>
4 newcodo01 Rookie of the Year
                                 1949
                                        NL <NA> <NA>
5 dropowa01 Rookie of the Year
                                        AL <NA> <NA>
                                 1950
```

Finally, we use a *left join* of the tables for Rookie of the Year awards and last college attended to match winners to their schools. We need a left join as many of the winners may never have played collegiate baseball, and we want to keep them, but we don't want to keep colleges which never produced any winners.

```
SELECT roy.playerID AS playerID, roy.yearID AS year, lgID AS league, schoolID
FROM AwardsPlayers AS roy
LEFT JOIN
(SELECT * --Final College Attended
FROM CollegePlaying
GROUP BY playerID
HAVING yearID == MAX(YearID)
) AS c ON c.playerID = roy.playerID
WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
```

Note the nested structure here - Inside the LEFT JOIN, we write a separate SELECT statement. We could have done this in two steps: generate a new table (using CREATE TABLE finalcollege AS followed by the SELECT statement) and then directly use it in the clause, LEFT JOIN finalcollege AS c.

```
# Query to find last college for ROY
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
```

```
SELECT roy.playerID AS playerID, roy.yearID AS year, lgID AS league, schoolID
FROM AwardsPlayers AS roy
LEFT JOIN
(SELECT * --Final College Attended
FROM CollegePlaying
GROUP BY playerID
HAVING yearID == MAX(YearID)
) AS c ON c.playerID = roy.playerID
WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
LIMIT 5
")
```

playerID year league schoolID 1 robinjaO2 1947 ML ucla 2 darkalO1 1948 ML ulala 3 sieveroO1 1949 AL <NA> 4 newcodoO1 1949 NL <NA> 5 dropowaO1 1950 AL uconn

To complete the example, we modify the query to display which schools have produced the most ROY awards in total.

```
SELECT schoolID, COUNT(c.playerID) AS ROY_awards
  FROM AwardsPlayers roy
       LEFT JOIN
       (SELECT * --Last College Attended
          FROM CollegePlaying
         GROUP BY playerID
       HAVING yearID == MAX(YearID)
       ) c ON c.playerID = roy.playerID
 WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
       AND schoolID IS NOT NULL
 GROUP BY schoolID
HAVING ROY_awards > 1
 ORDER BY -ROY_awards
# Which schools have produced the most ROY?
dbGetQuery(lahman, "
SELECT schoolID, COUNT(c.playerID) AS ROY_awards
  FROM AwardsPlayers roy
```

```
LEFT JOIN
```

```
(SELECT * --Last College Attended
        FROM CollegePlaying
        GROUP BY playerID
        HAVING yearID == MAX(YearID)
        ) c ON c.playerID = roy.playerID
    WHERE awardID LIKE 'Rookie%'
        AND schoolID IS NOT NULL
    GROUP BY schoolID
HAVING ROY_awards > 1
    ORDER BY -ROY_awards
")
```

Order of clauses

The previous example demonstrated the order of almost all clauses:

SELECT FROM JOIN WHERE GROUP BY HAVING ORDER BY LIMIT

Another Example

The "sakila" database is a fake data set created by the MySQL team which simulates a very rich database of many tables. A map of its contents is:



It simulates the database of a Blockbuster-style rental store. It includes customer data, movie data, and rental data linking the two. An SQLite database containing the data can be down-loaded from https://github.com/bradleygrant/sakila-sqlite3.

```
sakila <- dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), "~/Downloads/sakila_master.db")
dbListTables(sakila)</pre>
```

[1]	"actor"	"address"	"category"
[4]	"city"	"country"	"customer"
[7]	"customer_list"	"film"	"film_actor"
[10]	"film_category"	"film_list"	"film_text"
[13]	"inventory"	"language"	"payment"
[16]	"rental"	"sales_by_film_category"	"sales_by_store"
[19]	"staff"	"staff_list"	"store"

Let's use this data to examine which actor or actress it the most "rented". Looking at the tables, we have the "rental" table which contains records of every movie rented. From here, we are connected to the "inventory" table, which records which movie was actually rented. So first, let's obtain a list of every movie ever rented.

```
SELECT i.film_id
FROM rental AS r
LEFT JOIN inventory AS i ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
```

We use a left join here because there may be movies in the inventory that were never rented.

```
dbGetQuery(sakila, "
SELECT i.film_id
FROM rental AS r
LEFT JOIN inventory AS i ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
LIMIT 5
")
film_id
1
1
1
1
1
```

1

2

3

4

5

Now, we could join next to the "films" table, however, you may notice that both the "films" and "film_actor" have a film_id key, so we can completely bypass "films".

```
SELECT fa.actor_id
FROM film_actor AS fa
RIGHT JOIN
(SELECT i.film_id
FROM rental AS r
LEFT JOIN inventory AS i ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
) AS rr ON fa.film_id = rr.film_id
```

This time we use a right join as we don't want to list any actors which were in movies that weren't rented.

```
dbGetQuery(sakila, "
SELECT fa.actor_id
FROM film_actor AS fa
RIGHT JOIN
(SELECT i.film_id
FROM rental AS r
LEFT JOIN inventory AS i ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
```

```
) AS rr ON fa.film_id = rr.film_id
LIMIT 5
")
actor_id
1 1
2 1
3 1
4 1
5 1
```

We now have a list of actor ID's, next we just need to connect it to the actor names.

```
SELECT COUNT(a.actor_id) AS count, a.first_name, a.last_name
 FROM actor AS a
      RIGHT JOIN
       (SELECT fa.actor_id
          FROM film_actor AS fa
               RIGHT JOIN
               (SELECT i.film_id
                  FROM rental AS r
                       LEFT JOIN inventory AS i
                       ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
               ) AS rr ON fa.film_id = rr.film_id
       ) AS ff ON ff.actor_id = a.actor_id
GROUP BY a.actor_id
ORDER by -count
dbGetQuery(sakila, "
SELECT COUNT(a.actor_id) AS count, a.first_name, a.last_name
 FROM actor AS a
      RIGHT JOIN
       (SELECT fa.actor id
          FROM film_actor AS fa
               RIGHT JOIN
               (SELECT i.film_id
                  FROM rental AS r
                       LEFT JOIN inventory AS i
                       ON i.inventory_id = r.inventory_id
               ) AS rr ON fa.film_id = rr.film_id
      ) AS ff ON ff.actor_id = a.actor_id
```

```
GROUP BY a.actor_id
ORDER by -count
LIMIT 5
")
```

count	first_name	last_name
753	GINA	DEGENERES
678	MATTHEW	CARREY
674	MARY	KEITEL
654	ANGELA	WITHERSPOON
640	WALTER	TORN
	count 753 678 674 654 640	count first_name 753 GINA 678 MATTHEW 674 MARY 654 ANGELA 640 WALTER