Standard SQL Gap Analysis

Features where PostgreSQL lags behind its competitors

PgCon.org 2018 – @MarkusWinand





Background: Where the data comes from

I run <u>modern-sql.com</u>:

modern SQL A Lot Has Changed Since SQL-92

Teaching "new" SQL features to developers



Showing availability of those features in popular databases

Background: Where the data comes from

filter clause

Emulation using case

⁰ The filter plugin extension (3rd party) rewrites filter to case using regular expressions.

The charts are based on test cases.^[0] The test cases are created while reading ISO/IEC 9075:2016. The level of detail for different features varies widely at the moment.

^[0] Some "legacy charts" are still based on reading the docs.



One last Word

- For brevity, I'm using the word "wrong" to mean
- "not conforming to the standard".
- This neither implies that it is "bad" nor that it is a bug, nor that it is worth changing.
- I just means that it is not the way I understand the standard.

Less Complete or Conforming Features

EXTRACT Get a Field from a Date or Time Value

EXTRACT: "Wrong" declared type

extract(... from <datetime>)

extract(... from <interval>)

cast(<timestamp> as date)

cast(<timestamp> as time)

⁰ No time zone fields.

¹ No time zone fields SECOND does not include fractions. Use SECOND_MICROSECOND.

² Returns approximate numeric type.

See Gaution. Gracie Database abové.



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Oce Gaution. Gracie Database abové.



EXTRACT: "Wrong" declared type

- If <extract expression> is specified, then 7) Case:
 - a) numeric type with scale 0 (zero).



- ² Returns approximate numeric type.
 - JEE GAULION. GIACIE DALADASE ADUVE.

<pre>extract(field from timestamp)</pre>	double precision
<pre>extract(field from interval)</pre>	double precision

If <extract field> is a <primary datetime field> that does not specify SECOND or <extract field> is not a <primary datetime field>, then the declared type of the result is an implementation-defined exact

b) Otherwise, the declared type of the result is an implementation-defined exact numeric type with scale not less than the specified or implied <time fractional seconds precision> or <interval fractional seconds precision>, as appropriate, of the SECOND <primary datetime field> of the <extract source>.

¹ No time zone fields SECOND does not include fractions. Use SECOND_MICROSECOND.



[RESPECT | IGNORE] NULLS Skip over **null** values in window functions lead, lag, fist_value, last_value, nth_value (T616, T618)

Window Functions: null handling, from last

LEAD and LAG

FIRST_VALUE, LAST_VALUE

NTH_VALUE

Nested window functions

⁰ No IGNORE NULLS Different syntax: first_value(<expr>, 'IGNORE NULLS') (it's a string argument)
¹ No IGNORE NULLS No default possible (3rd argument).

² No IGNORE NULLS

³ No IGNORE NULLS Different syntax: lead(<expr>, 1, null, 'IGNORE NULLS') (it's a string argument)

⁴ No IGNORE NULLS. NO FROM LAST



Window Functions: null handling, from last

Note

The SQL standard defines a RESPECT NULLS or IGNORE NULLS option for lead, lag, first_value, last_value, and nth_value. This is not implemented in PostgreSQL: the behavior is always the same as the standard's default, namely RESPECT NULLS. Likewise, the standard's FROM FIRST or FROM LAST option for nth_value is not implemented: only the default FROM FIRST behavior is supported. (You can achieve the result of FROM LAST by reversing the ORDER BY ordering.)

NTH_VALUE

Nested window functions

⁰ No IGNORE NULLS Different syntax: first_value(<expr>, 'IGNORE NULLS') (it's a string argument)
¹ No IGNORE NULLS No default possible (3rd argument).
² No IGNORE NULLS

³ No IGNORE NULLS Different syntax: lead(<expr>, 1, null, 'IGNORE NULLS') (it's a string argument)

⁴ No IGNORE NULLS. NO FROM LAST

COUNT (DISTINCT ...) OVER (...) Distinct aggregates as window function (T611)

Window Functions: no distinct aggregates

Aggregates (count, sum, min, ...)

Distinct Aggregates

FETCH [FIRST|NEXT] ... The standard's answer to **LIMIT**, but more options (T866, T867)

FETCH FIRST: no percent, no with ties

Top-level fetch first

Subqueries with fetch first

Top-level fetch first in views

Dynamic quantity

fetch first ... percent

fetch first ... with ties

SQL State 2201W if quantity < 1

⁰ Use proprietary limit

¹ Use proprietary top

² Use nested query: CREATE VIEW ... AS SELECT ... FROM (SELECT ... FROM ... FETCH FIRST ...) t

³ Poquiros paranthasis: ())

⁴ Use proprietary select top ... percent

⁵ Use proprietary select top ... with ties

Not for 0 (zero)

FETCH FIRST: no percent, no with ties

Docs: unsupported features:

F866	FETCH FIRST clause: option	PEF
F867	FETCH FIRST clause: TIES option	WI.

Top-level fetch first in views

Dynamic quantity

fetch first ... percent

fetch first ... with ties

SQL State 2201W if quantity < 1

- ⁰ Use proprietary limit
- ¹ Use proprietary top
- ³ Requires parenthesis: (?)
- ⁴ Use proprietary select top ... percent
- ⁵ Use proprietary select top ... with ties
- ⁶ Not for 0 (zero)

² Use nested query: CREATE VIEW ... AS SELECT ... FROM (SELECT ... FROM ... FETCH FIRST ...) t

Functional Dependencies

(T301)

Base table PRIMA

Base table

Joined

WHERE

GROUP BY

⁰ Not following joins to PRIMARY KEYs or UNIQUE constraints

Docs: unsupported features:

Functional dependencies

T301

		2			2 CIO			Jot Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol Jol
	$\langle \diamond$		No.	$\frac{3}{0}$	2	S/S	3/5	5
RY KEY	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×	×	
UNIQUE	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	
d tables	×	×	\checkmark	×	0	×	×	
clause	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	
' clause	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	

partially supported

SELECT COUNT(*) cnt, t2.b FROM t1 INNER JOIN t2 ON (t1.pk = t2.pk)GROUP BY t1.pk

Base table PRIMARY KEY

Base table UNIQUE

GROUP BY clause

⁰ Not following joins to PRIMARY KEYs or UNIQUE constraints

Docs: unsupported features:

Functional dependencies

T301

partially supported

- 4.24 Functional dependencies.
- 4.24.1 Overview of functional dependency rules and
- General rules and definitions..... 4.24.2
- 4.24.3 Known functional dependencies in a base tab
- Known functional dependencies in a viewed 4.24.4
- 4.24.5 Known functional dependencies in a transition
- 4.24.6 Known functional dependencies in <table val
- 4.24.7 Known functional dependencies in a <joined
- 4.24.8 Known functional dependencies in a <table p
- 4.24.9 Known functional dependencies in a <table fa
- 4.24.10 Known functional dependencies in a <table r
- 4.24.11 Known functional dependencies in the result
- Known functional dependencies in the result 4.24.12
- 4.24.13 Known functional dependencies in the result
- Known functional dependencies in the result 4.24.14
- Known functional dependencies in a <query 4.24.15
- 4.24.16

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Known functional dependencies in the result of a <from clause=""></from>	103
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Known functional dependencies in the result of a <group by="" clause=""></group>	104
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- 4.24.13 Known functional dependencies in the result
- 4.24.14 Known functional dependencies in the result
- Known functional dependencies in a <query 4.24.15
- Known functional dependencies in a <query 4.24.16

Still room for vendor extensions. e.g. related to ROW NUMBER and ORDINALITY.

table
on table
lue constructor>
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orimary>
actor>
eference>
of a <from clause="">103</from>
of a <where clause="">104</where>
of a <group by="" clause="">104</group>
of a <having clause="">105</having>
specification>
expression>

Unsupported features that other DBs have

Row Pattern Recognition (match_recognize)

(R010, R020, R030)


```
SELECT COUNT(*) sessions
     , AVG(duration) avg_duration
  FROM log
       MATCH_RECOGNIZE(
        ORDER BY ts
        MEASURES
         LAST(ts) - FIRST(ts) AS duration
        ONE ROW PER MATCH
        PATTERN ( any cont* )
        DEFINE cont AS ts < PREV(ts)
                          + INTERVAL '30' minute
        t t
```


LAST(ts) - FIRST(ts) AS duration **DEFINE cont AS ts < PREV(ts)** + INTERVAL '30' minute

 \times \times \times \times

 \rightarrow


```
LAST(ts) - FIRST(ts) AS duration
DEFINE cont AS ts < PREV(ts)
                  + INTERVAL '30' minute
```


Time

LAST(ts) - FIRST(ts) AS duration **DEFINE cont AS ts < PREV(ts)** + INTERVAL '30' minute

Row Pattern Matching

Since SQL:2016


```
SELECT COUNT(*) sessions
     , AVG(duration) avg_duration
  FROM log
       MATCH_RECOGNIZE(
        ORDER BY ts
        MEASURES
         LAST(ts) - FIRST(ts) AS duration
        ONE ROW PER MATCH
        PATTERN ( any cont* )
        DEFINE cont AS ts < PREV(ts)
                          + INTERVAL '30' minute
        t t
```


Row Pattern Matching

GROUP BY ➡ ONE ROW PER MATCH OVER () ➡ ALL ROWS PER MATCH, FINAL, RUNNING HAVING, WHERE \rightarrow **PATTERN** (unmatched, suppressed { - ... - }) Mixing GROUP BY and OVER() ➡ ALL ROWS PER MATCH + all-but-one rows suppressed Data-driven match length ➡ SUM, COUNT, ... in DEFINE

Duplicating rows (to some extend)

➡ ALL ROWS PER MATCH + AFTER MATCH SKIP TO ...

Endless possibilites

Row pattern matching — match_recognize

)	from clause
)	window clause
)	full aggregate support

Free technical report by ISO: http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/ <u>c065143 ISO IEC TR 19075-5 2016.zip</u>

Row Pattern Matching

https://www.slideshare.net/MarkusWinand/row-pattern-matching-in-sql2016

Stew Ashton has a lot material on this too: https://stewashton.wordpress.com/category/match_recognize/

Since SQL:2016

Temporal and bi-temporal tables

(T180, T181)
- First appeared in SQL:2011.
- There is an excellent free paper on it:

Temporal features in SQL:2011

https://sigmodrecord.org/publications/sigmodRecord/1209/pdfs/07.industry.kulkarni.pdf

If you don't have access to the standard, this is the next best resource on it.

There are two versioning features:

System Versioning

Mostly transparent (done by the system). Models when changes

happened in the DB.

Both can be applied on per table level as needed.

Application Versioning

Managed by the application (with SQL support).

Can model when changes happened in the real world.

Both require explicit datetime columns and a period:

System Versioning

Generated columns GENERATED ALWAYS

Period name fixed: SYSTEM_TIME Application Versioning
 Arbitrary columns

Arbitrary period names (but only one per table)

System versioning takes care of the DMLs.

System Versioning

Datetime columns visible (not 100% transparent)^[0] User cannot set them.

Constraints remain unchanged.

^[0] Some databases offer invisible or hidden columns for transparency.

Application Versioning
 Datetime columns visible

User has to provide values. Constraints need to consider periods (e.g. WITHOUT OVERLAPS).

For queries, they use a different syntax:

System Versioning

FROM ...
FOR SYSTEM_TIME
[AS OF|BETWEEN|FROM...TO]

Application Versioning
 In where clause.
 New predicates for periods:

contains, overlaps, precedes, succeeds,...

System Versioning

"AS OF Queries" Konstantin Knizhnik Dec 2017 - Jan 2018

Recent discussions on -hackers:

Application Versioning

"Periods" Vik Fearing May 2018



- generate always as row ...
 - period for system_time
- Add system versioning to table
- Drop system versioning from table
 - for system_time as of ...
 - for system_time between ...
 - for system_time from ...

Immutable transaction time

- ⁰ Requires row begin instead of row start
- ¹ Without keyword for (period system_time (...))
- ² Syntax varies widely
- ³ Expressions not supported.
- ⁴ Without between symmetric
- ⁵ Expressions not supported. Without between symmetric
- ⁶ Row [start|end] uses statement time, not transaction time.





- Limitations and gaps in the standard:
- Schema changes are not supported (Most ALTER statements on system-versioned tables fail)
- No functionality for retention (also: delete cannot delete historic rows—GDPR right of erasure ;)
- ➡ FOR SYSTEM TIME only works for base tables (not for views, for example. Also no session setting in the standard).
- Based on "transaction time" (!= commit time)

- Notes from current implementations:
- History tables are most popular Db2 (LUW) and SQL Server use separate tables for old data.
- Partitions let the user choose MariaDB 10.3 use a single logical table that can optionally be partitioned so that current and historic data are segregated.
- Finding history data in UNDO (data kept for rollback) Oracle uses the UNDO segment to access historic data. Automatic retention, configurable up to 2³² seconds (136yrs)^[0].

^[0] Don't know if there is a way to retire selected rows (GDPR)

Application-versioned tables

 $(\top 181)$

Application-versioned tables — model the real world



"Periods" Patch from May 26 2018



Period Predicates



	overlaps
	equals
	contains
	precedes
	succeeds
immediately	precedes
immediately	succeeds

^o Doesn't recognize period names. Use (start_ts, end_ts) syntax without keyword period. ¹ Use range type and respective operators.

Period Predicates — like range type operators





Period Predicates — like range type operators

Generated Columns

$(\top 175)$

Generated Columns

Syntax is shared with system-versioned tables and identity columns.

generate always as (...)

⁰ Requires data type declaration.

¹ Requires data type declaration. Without keywords generated always.

From standards perspective:

 Generated columns can
 be used almost like base columns (e.g. in constraint definitions)



Other use cases:

Function-based indexes (MariaDB/MySQL, SQL Server)

Combined data change and retrieval Similar to writeable CTEs



Combined Data Change and Retrieval

INSERT INTO target SELECT * FROM OLD TABLE (DELETE FROM source) WITH cte AS (DELETE FROM source **RETURNING** * **INSERT INTO target** SELECT * FROM cte



Combined Data Change and Retrieval

- INSERT INTO demo t495 c SELECT *
- Differences to writeable CTEs:

- Three modes: OLD, NEW, FINAL (similar to triggers) ➡ NEW and FINAL is still before AFTER triggers ➡ FINAL fails in case the target table is further modified by
 - constraints (cascade) ► AFTER triggers

FROM OLD TABLE (DELETE FROM demo t495)

Combined Data Change and Retrieval



⁰ Main statement must be select. Workaround via chained with clause.

Partitioned Join (not related to partitioned tables)

(F403)

Gap	ts	value
	1	
	3	
	4	
	5	



SELECT * FROM data **RIGHT JOIN generate_series(...) ON** ...



SELECT * FROM data **RIGHT JOIN generate_series(...) ON** ...

grp	ts	value	
Α	1		
Α	3	•••	
Α	4	•••	
Α	5		
В	2		
В	4		
B	5		

SELECT *

Partitioned Join — Filling gaps in time series

What if you have several time series, all of them to be padded?

FROM (SELECT **DISTINCT** grp FROM data) dist CROSS JOIN LATERAL (SELECT * FROM data **RIGHT JOIN** generate_series(...) ON AND data.grp = dist.grp

ts value grp Α 1 . . . 3 Α . . . A 4 . . . 5 A . . . 2 B . . . B 4 . . . 5 B - - -

FROM data **PARTITION BY (key) RIGHT JOIN generate_series(...)** ON ...

Partitioned Join — Filling gaps in time series

What if you have several time series, all of them to be padded?

SELECT *

LEFT OUTER partitioned join

RIGHT OUTER partitioned join

FULL OUTER partitioned join

⁰ Alternative: Select distinct partition key and join lateral for each partition. Alternative: join to cross join of distinct partition key and gap-filler.



LISTAGG



LISTAGG

- listagg(...) within group (...)
 - listagg(... on overflow ...)
 - listagg(distinct ...)
 - SQLSTATE 22001 on truncation
 - listagg with grouping sets
- stagg... within group... filter...
- listagg... within group... over...
- ⁰ Since 12.2
- ² SQLSTATE 54006
- ³ SQLSTATE 72000



¹ If ordered by the aggregated values: listagg(distinct X,...) within group (order by X)

Distinct data types CREATE TYPE ... AS <predefined types>

(SO11 - Core SQL)

Distinct Data Types

CREATE TYPE...AS <pred. type>





Work in progress

(F312, F313, F314)

MERGE

MERGE — conditional insert/update/delete



MERGE — conditional insert/update/delete






⁰ No colon syntax (T814). No key uniqueness constraint (T830): [with|without] unique [keys]. ¹ Defaults to absent on null. No construction by query: json_array(select ...).

² No construction by query: json_array(select ...).

³ Supports comma (,) instead of values or colon (:).

⁴ No colon syntax (T814). No key uniqueness constraint (T830): [with|without] unique [keys]. Sup ⁵ Absent on null is buggy.

json_exists
json_value
json_query
json_table
⁰ Only returning [varchar2 number] — ¹ Defaults to error on error. ² No quotes behavior: [keep omit] quotant ³ with unconditional wrapper seems to be ⁴ Without plan clause.



JSON path: lax mode (default)

JSON path: strict mode

JSON path: item method

JSON path: multiple subscripts

JSON path: .* member accessor

JSON path: filter expressions

JSON path: starts with

JSON path: like_regex

⁰ Lax mode does not unwrap arrays.

¹ Keyword lax not accepted (only default mode). Lax mode does not unwrap arrays.

² Keyword strict is accepted but not honored.

³ Only in filters. Not supporting size(), datetime(), keyvalue(). type() returns null for arrays. ⁴ Not in json_value. Not in json_query. Not in json_table. Only as last step of expression. ⁵ Not in json_query. Only as last step of expression.



JSON — Preliminary testing of patches Used 7fe04ce92 as basis, applied those patches on top:

0001-strict-do_to_timestamp-v14.patch 0002-pass-cstring-to-do_to_timestamp-v14.patch 0003-add-to_datetime-v14.patch 0004-jsonpath-v14.patch 0005-jsonpath-gin-v14.patch 0006-jsonpath-json-v14.patch 0007-remove-PG_TRY-in-jsonpath-arithmetics-v14.patch 0010-add-invisible-coercion-form-v13.patch 0011-add-function-formats-v13.patch SQL/JSON: functions 0012-sqljson-v13.patch 0013-sqljson-json-v13.patch 0014-json_table-v13.patch 0015-json_table-json-v13.patch }SQL/JSON: JSON_TABLE

SQL/JSON: jsonpath

JSON — Preliminary testing of patches



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JSON — <u>Preliminary</u> testing of patches

json_exists json_value json_query json_table ⁰ Only returning [varchar2 | number] — neither is a standard type. ¹ Defaults to error on error. ² No quotes behavior: [keep | omit] quotes. ⁴ Without plan clause.



JSON — <u>Preliminary</u> testing of patches

JSON path: lax mode (default)

JSON path: strict mode

JSON path: item method

JSON path: multiple subscripts

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⁵ Not in json_value. Not in json_query.

⁶ Not in json_query. Only as last step of expression.

⁷ Not in json_value.



Standard SQL Gap Analysis

Incomplete or "wrong":

- > extract (declared type)
- ▶ ignore nulls
- agg(distinct) over()
- fetch...percent,with ties
- Functional dependencies

Work in progress >merge > JSON

Missing

- Row pattern recognition
- Temporal tables
- Generated Columns
- Combined data change and retrieval
- Partitioned join
- listagg
- Distinct data types
- ... (this list is not exhaustive)

How can I help?

- I publish an article on each new version once it is released (pretty late for helpful feedback)
- I start preparing for this article once a public beta is available (but it is often pushed by higher priority tasks -> no guarantee)
- I do <u>not</u> monitor -hackers, but Depesz's "waiting for" (This is typically the first time I notice a new feature is coming up)
- If you have questions on the standard or would like to get conformance test results at a earlier stage, **ping me**.

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