

Union, Difference, Intersection, and Division in MySQL

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```
CREATE TABLE a (x INT, y VARCHAR(5));
CREATE TABLE b (x INT, y VARCHAR(5));
```

```
INSERT INTO a(x,y) VALUES(1,'A');
INSERT INTO a(x,y) VALUES(2,'B');
INSERT INTO a(x,y) VALUES(3,'C');
INSERT INTO a(x,y) VALUES(4,'D');
INSERT INTO b(x,y) VALUES(1,'A');
INSERT INTO b(x,y) VALUES(3,'C');
```

```
SELECT * FROM a;      SELECT * FROM b;
+-----+-----+      +-----+-----+
| x     | y     |      | x     | y     |
+-----+-----+      +-----+-----+
| 1     | A     |      | 1     | A     |
| 2     | B     |      | 3     | C     |
| 3     | C     |      +-----+-----+
| 4     | D     |
```

Union:

```
SELECT * FROM a UNION SELECT * FROM b;
```

```
+-----+-----+
| x     | y     |
+-----+-----+
| 1     | A     |
| 2     | B     |
| 3     | C     |
| 4     | D     |
+-----+-----+
```

```
SELECT * FROM a UNION ALL SELECT * FROM b;
```

```
+-----+-----+
| x     | y     |
+-----+-----+
| 1     | A     |
| 2     | B     |
| 3     | C     |
| 4     | D     |
| 1     | A     |
| 3     | C     |
+-----+-----+
```

Difference (MySQL supports no MINUS or EXCEPT):

```
SELECT * FROM a WHERE (x,y) NOT IN (SELECT * FROM b);
```

x	y
2	B
4	D

```
SELECT * FROM a  
WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT * FROM b WHERE b.x = a.x AND b.y = a.y);
```

x	y
2	B
4	D

```
-- most efficient way;  
SELECT DISTINCT a.x AS x, a.y AS y  
FROM a LEFT OUTER JOIN b USING (x, y) WHERE b.x IS NULL;
```

x	y
2	B
4	D

Intersection (MySQL supports no INTERSECT):

```
SELECT * FROM a WHERE (x,y) IN (SELECT * FROM b)
```

x	y
1	A
3	C

```
SELECT * FROM a  
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT * FROM b WHERE b.x=a.x AND b.y = a.y);
```

x	y
1	A
3	C

```
-- most efficient way;  
SELECT DISTINCT a.x AS x, a.y AS y  
FROM a INNER JOIN b USING (x,y);
```

x	y
1	A
3	C

```
CREATE TABLE c (x INT, y VARCHAR(5));
CREATE TABLE d (x INT);
```

```
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(1,'A');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(2,'A');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(3,'A');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(1,'B');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(2,'B');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(3,'C');
INSERT INTO c(x,y) VALUES(3,'D');
INSERT INTO d(x) VALUES(1);
INSERT INTO d(x) VALUES(2);
INSERT INTO d(x) VALUES(3);
```

```
SELECT * FROM c;      SELECT * FROM d;
+-----+-----+      +-----+
| x     | y     |      | x     |
+-----+-----+      +-----+
| 1     | A     |      | 1     |
| 2     | A     |      | 2     |
| 3     | A     |      | 3     |
+-----+-----+      +-----+
| 1     | B     |
| 2     | B     |
| 3     | C     |
| 3     | D     |
+-----+-----+
```

Division (MySQL supports no DIVIDE):

```
SELECT DISTINCT c1.y AS y
FROM c c1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
  (SELECT d.x FROM d
   WHERE d.x NOT IN (SELECT c2.x FROM c c2 WHERE c2.y = c1.y));
```

```
+-----+
| y     |
+-----+
| A     |
+-----+
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT c1.y AS y
FROM c c1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
  (SELECT * FROM d
   WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT * FROM c c2 WHERE c2.y = c1.y AND c2.x = d.x));
```

```
+-----+
| y     |
+-----+
| A     |
+-----+
```

```

-- does not work;
SELECT DISTINCT c1.y AS y
FROM c c1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
  (SELECT d.x FROM d LEFT OUTER JOIN c c2 USING (x)
   WHERE c2.y = c1.y AND c2.x IS NULL );
+-----+
| y     |
+-----+
| A     |
| B     |
| C     |
| D     |
+-----+

-- does not work;
SELECT DISTINCT c1.y AS y
FROM c c1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
  (SELECT * FROM d LEFT OUTER JOIN c c2
   ON (d.x = c2.x) WHERE c2.y = c1.y AND c2.x IS NULL );
+-----+
| y     |
+-----+
| A     |
| B     |
| C     |
| D     |
+-----+

-- does not work;
SELECT DISTINCT c1.y AS y
FROM c c1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
  (SELECT * FROM d LEFT OUTER JOIN c c2
   ON (d.x = c2.x AND c2.y = c1.y AND c2.x IS NULL) );

ERROR 1054 (42S22): Unknown column 'c1.y' in 'on clause'

```