

top

Description

The `top` command is an aggregation operator that limits the data returned to the first N rows based on an ordering expression. It is particularly useful for identifying the most frequent or highest-ranking values within a dataset.

NOTE

- Without grouping, `top` limits the full result set to N rows, ordered by a given expression.
- With grouping, it applies the same logic but within each group, returning the top N results per group.
- Sorting direction (ascending/descending) is determined by the expression or implicit aggregate ordering.

Syntax

```
top <limit> <result_expression1> [as <alias>] [, <result_expression2> [as  
<alias2>], ...] by <orderby_expression> [as <alias>]
```

Example 1

Use case: Identify the most active users by event count

The `top` command can be used to return only the N most active usernames by counting how frequently each appears in log data.

Example data

```
{ "user": "Ariel", "action": "login", "time_taken_ms": 50 },  
{ "user": "Harel", "action": "logout", "time_taken_ms": 500 },  
{ "user": "Maya", "action": "login", "time_taken_ms": 180 },  
{ "user": "Ariel", "action": "browse", "time_taken_ms": 200 },  
{ "user": "Harel", "action": "login", "time_taken_ms": 90 }
```

Example query

```
top 10 user by count()
```



Example output

user	_count
Ariel	2
Harel	2
Maya	1

Example 2

Use case: Get the slowest user interactions per action

By grouping and ordering data by `action` and `user`, the `top` command can return only the longest-duration interactions in each group.

Example data

```
{ "user": "Ariel", "action": "login", "time_taken_ms": 50 },  
{ "user": "Harel", "action": "logout", "time_taken_ms": 500 },  
{ "user": "Ariel", "action": "browse", "time_taken_ms": 200 },  
{ "user": "Maya", "action": "login", "time_taken_ms": 150 },  
{ "user": "Harel", "action": "browse", "time_taken_ms": 250 }
```



Example query

```
top 5 time_taken_ms by action, user
```



Example output

```
{ "action": "logout", "user": "Harel", "time_taken_ms": 500 },  
{ "action": "browse", "user": "Harel", "time_taken_ms": 250 },  
{ "action": "browse", "user": "Ariel", "time_taken_ms": 200 },
```



```
{ "action": "login", "user": "Maya", "time_taken_ms": 150 },  
{ "action": "login", "user": "Ariel", "time_taken_ms": 50 }
```

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