



The `first_value` or `last_value` analytical functions will 'fix' the value for the selected column as being either the value found in the first row of the query or the last row of the query.

The basic syntax for the column is as follows ...

`first_value(<column_name>) over (order by <column_name>) as <column_alias>`

In this first example, the User is selecting the first and therefore 'oldest' date from the table ...

Advanced Queries – Using First_Value/Last_Value in SQL



```
select to_char(first_value(sts_date) over (order by sts_date), 'DD-Mon-RRRR') as "First Date"  
      ,to_char(sts_date, 'DD-Mon-RRRR') as "Date Sold"  
      ,sts_date - first_value(sts_date) over (order by sts_date) as "Difference"  
from stock_sales  
order by sts_date
```

<i>First Date</i>	<i>Date Sold</i>	<i>Difference</i>
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<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>12-Aug-1999</i>	<i>541</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>14-Aug-1999</i>	<i>543</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>14-Aug-1999</i>	<i>543</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>14-Aug-1999</i>	<i>543</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>15-Aug-1999</i>	<i>544</i>
<i>17-Feb-1998</i>	<i>04-Oct-1999</i>	<i>594</i>



The User can specify whether the function should ignore nulls when performing first_value and last_value ...

```
select sts_stock_number as "Stock"  
      ,first_value(sts_date ignore nulls) over (order by sts_date) as "First Date"  
      ,sts_date as "Original Date"  
from stock_sales  
order by sts_stock_number
```