

How do I...

Get a random 1% (or x%) subset of the SDSS data?

The SDSS catalog database is about a terabyte (1,000,000 MB) - far too big for you to download and work with it all at once. But you can get a random subset of the data using an [SQL Search](#) (link opens in a new window). To learn more about SQL, see SkyServer's [SQL Tutorial](#) and guide to [Using SQL with SkyServer](#).

1. Go to the [SQL Search](#) page (link opens in new window). From the astronomers' main page, look under *Search Tools*. From the public main page, look under *SkyServer Tools*, then *Search*.
2. In the large textbox, type the following SQL query:

```
SELECT u, g, r, i, z
FROM Galaxy
WHERE htmid*37 & 0x000000000000FFFF < (650 * 1)
```

3. The query will return a 1% subset of the data. To return a different percentage subset of the data, change the final 1 to a different number (for example, for a random 0.5% subset of the data, change it to 0.5).
4. The query will return the magnitudes of a 1% subset of the data. You can also return other data, such as positions and object IDs.