Sub-queries

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Dean Smith
Founder, Atamai Analytics



How do sub-queries look?

(SELECT * FROM...) ← sub-query

How do sub-queries look?

```
SELECT * FROM.... ← outer query
results from subquery returned to the outer query

(SELECT * FROM...) ← sub-query
```

Sub-query with FROM

```
SELECT OrderID,
      CustomerID,
      NumDays
FROM
     (SELECT *,
     DATEDIFF(DAY,OrderDate,ShippedDate) AS NumDays
     FROM Orders) AS o
WHERE NumDays >= 35;
```

Sub-query with FROM

OrderID	CustomerID	NumDays
10380	HUNGO	35
10427	PICCO	35
10545	LAZYK	35
10593	LEHMS	35
10660	HUNGC	37
10777	GOURL	37
10924	BERGS	35

Sub-query with WHERE

```
SELECT CustomerID
      ,CompanyName
FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerID
       IN (SELECT CustomerID
          FROM Orders
          WHERE Freight > 800);
```



Sub-query with WHERE

```
SELECT CustomerID
, CompanyName

FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerID
IN (SELECT CustomerID
FROM Orders
WHERE Freight > 800);
```

CustomerID	CompanyName
QUEEN	Queen Cozinha
QUICK	QUICK-Stop
SAVEA	Save-a-lot Markets

Sub-query with SELECT

FROM Customers c;

```
SELECT CustomerID,

CompanyName,
(SELECT AVG(Freight)

FROM Orders o

WHERE c.CustomerID = o.CustomerID) AS AvgFreight
```



Sub-query with SELECT

CustomerID	CompanyName	AvgFreight
ALFKI	Alfreds Futterkiste	37.6
ANATR	Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	24.4
ANTON	Antonio Moreno Taquería	38.4
•••	•••	•••

Types of sub-queries

Uncorrelated sub-query

```
SELECT CustomerID
    ,CompanyName
FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerID IN
    (SELECT CustomerID
    FROM Orders
    WHERE Freight > 800);
```

- Sub-query *does not* contain a reference to the outer query
- Sub-query *can* run independently of the outer query
- Used with WHERE and FROM

Correlated sub-query

- Sub-query contains a reference to the outer query
- Sub-query *cannot* run independently of the outer query
- Used with WHERE and SELECT

Sub-query performance

Correlated

• Sub-query executes for each row in the outer query

Uncorrelated

• Sub-query executes only once and returns the results to the outer query

Sub-query vs. INNER JOIN

Correlated sub-query

INNER JOIN

Let's practice!

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Presence and absence

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER

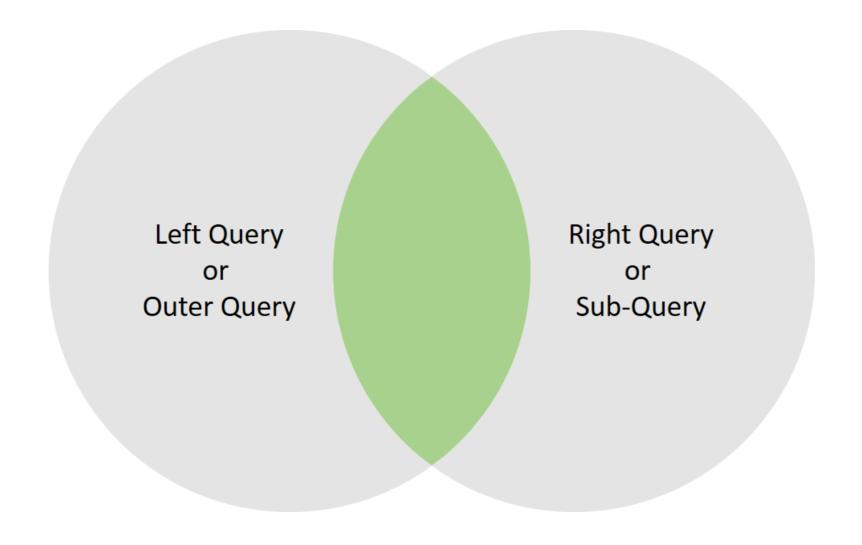


Dean SmithFounder, Atamai Analytics



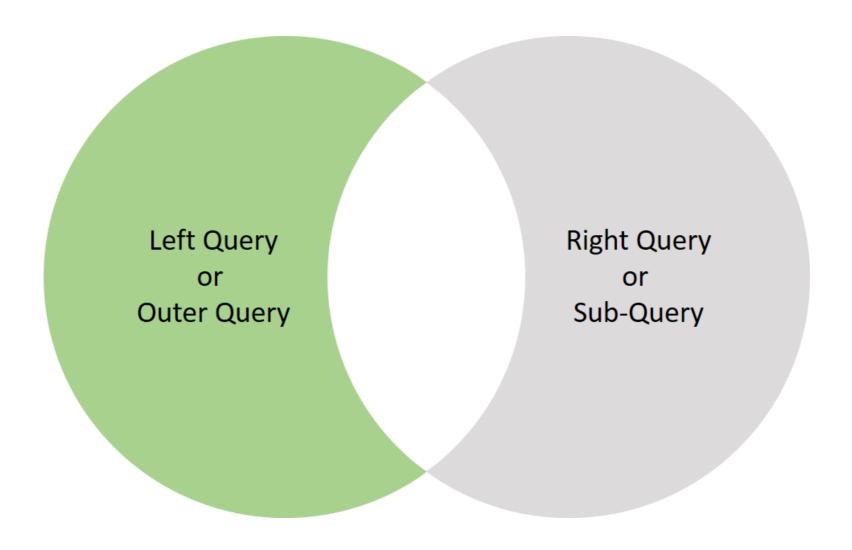
Venn diagram - presence

Data present in both tables.

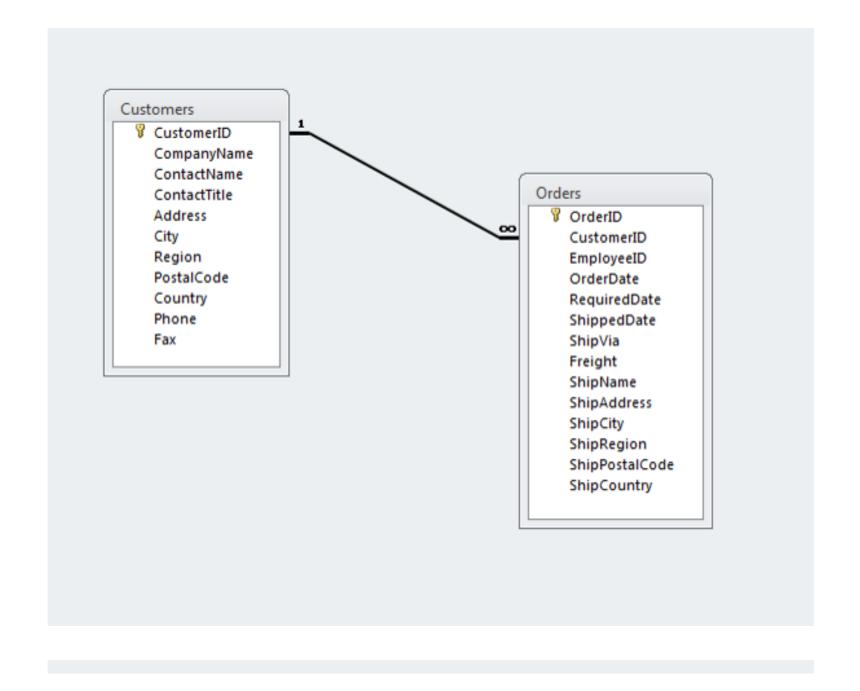


Venn diagram - absence

Data present in the left table but absent in the right table.



Customer Orders database



INTERSECT

SELECT CustomerID
FROM Customers

SELECT CustomerID
FROM Orders;



INTERSECT

SELECT CustomerID

FROM Customers

INTERSECT

SELECT CustomerID

FROM Orders;

CustomerID

ALFKI

LAUGB

QUICK

REGGC

SPLIR

CHOPS

•••

EXCEPT

SELECT CustomerID
FROM Customers

SELECT CustomerID
FROM Orders;



EXCEPT

SELECT CustomerID

FROM Customers

EXCEPT

SELECT CustomerID

FROM Orders;

CustomerID

FISSA

PARIS

INTERSECT and EXCEPT

Advantages

- Great for data interrogation
- Remove duplicates from the returned results

Disadvantages

• The number and order of columns in the SELECT statement must be the same between queries

Let's practice!

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Alternative methods 1

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Dean SmithFounder, Atamai Analytics



EXISTS

CustomerID	CompanyName	ContactName
ALFKI	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders
LAUGB	Laughing Bacchus Wine Cellars	Yoshi Tannamuri
QUICK	QUICK-Stop	Horst Kloss
•••	•••	•••

IN

```
SELECT CustomerID,
CompanyName,
ContactName

FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerID IN
(SELECT CustomerID
FROM Orders);
```

CustomerID	CompanyName	ContactName
ALFKI	Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders
LAUGB	Laughing Bacchus Wine Cellars	Yoshi Tannamuri
QUICK	QUICK-Stop	Horst Kloss
•••	•••	•••

EXISTS vs. IN

• EXISTS will stop searching the sub-query when the condition is TRUE

• IN collects all the results from a sub-query before passing to the outer query

• Consider using EXISTS instead of IN with a sub-query

NOT EXISTS

CustomerID	CompanyName	ContactName
FISSA	FISSA Fabrica Inter. Salchichas S.A.	Diego Roel
PARIS	Paris spécialités	Marie Bertrand

NOT IN

```
SELECT CustomerID,
CompanyName,
ContactName
FROM Customers
WHERE CustomerID NOT IN
(SELECT CustomerID
FROM Orders);
```

CustomeID	CompanyName	ContactName
FISSA	FISSA Fabrica Inter. Salchichas S.A.	Diego Roel
PARIS	Paris spécialités	Marie Bertrand

NOT IN and NULLs

```
SELECT UNStatisticalRegion AS UN_Region
    ,CountryName
    ,Capital
FROM Nations
WHERE Capital NOT IN
        (SELECT NearestPop
        FROM Earthquakes);
```

UN_Region	CountryName	Capital

Handling NOT IN NULLs

```
SELECT UNStatisticalRegion AS UN_Region
,CountryName
,Capital
FROM Nations
WHERE Capital NOT IN

(SELECT NearestPop
FROM Earthquakes
WHERE NearestPop IS NOT NULL);
```

UN_Region	CountryName	Capital
South Asia	India	New Delhi
East Asia and Pacific	Indonesia	Jakarta
East Asia and Pacific	East Timor	Dili
Sahara Africa	Comoros	Moroni
•••	•••	•••

EXISTS, NOT EXISTS, IN and NOT IN

Advantages

• Results can contain any column from the outer query, and in any order

Disadvantages

The way NOT IN handles NULL values in the sub-query

Let's practice!

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Alternative methods 2

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER



Dean Smith
Founder, Atamai Analytics



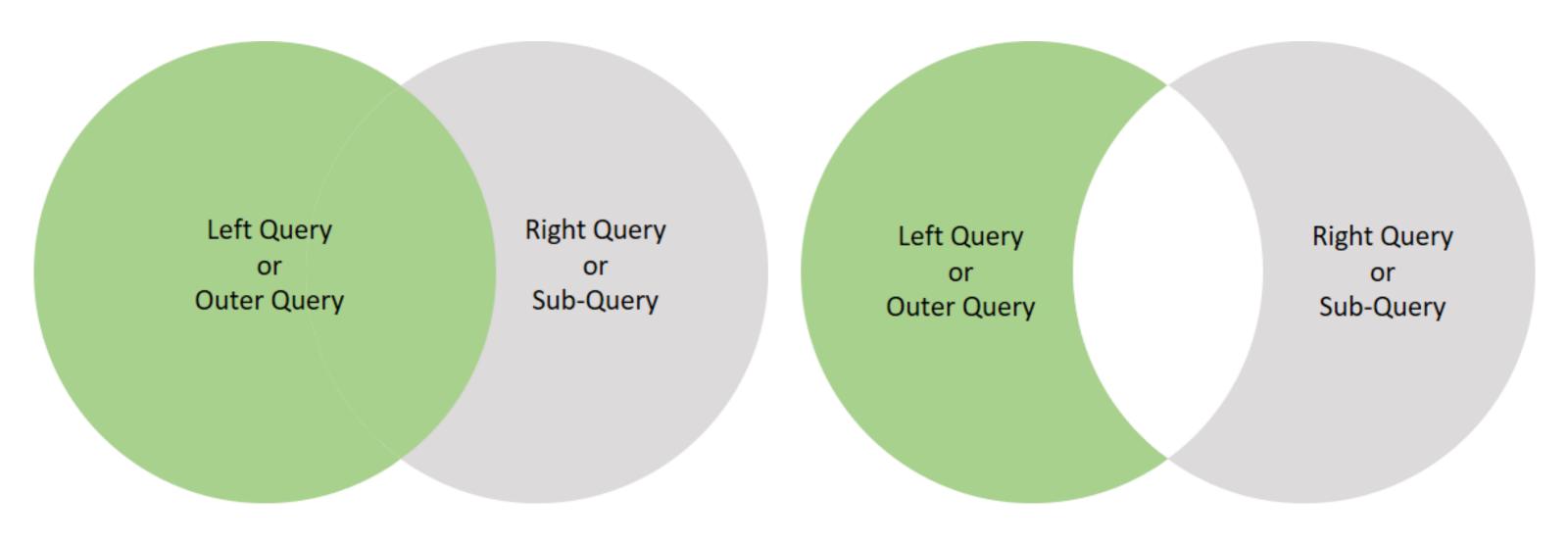
INNER JOIN

CustomerID	CompanyName	OrderID	•••
VINET	Vins et alcools Chevalier	10248	•••
HANAR	Hanari Carnes	10250	•••
VICTE	Victuailles en stock	10251	•••
SUPRD	Suprêmes délices	10252	•••
•••	•••	•••	•••

LEFT OUTER JOIN

Inclusive LEFT OUTER JOIN

Exclusive LEFT OUTER JOIN



Exclusive LEFT OUTER JOIN

```
SELECT c.CustomerID
      ,c.CompanyName
      ,o.OrderID
      ,o.OrderDate
      ,o.ShippedDate
      , o. Freight
FROM Customers c
LEFT OUTER JOIN Orders o
    ON c.CustomerID = o.CustomerID
WHERE o.CustomerID IS NULL
```

CustomerID	CompanyName	OrderID	•••
FISSA	FISSA Fabrica Inter. Salchichas S.A.	NULL	•••
PARIS	Paris spécialités	NULL	•••

Review: INTERSECT and EXCEPT

INTERSECT: checks for presence

EXCEPT: checks for absence

Advantages

- Great for data interrogation
- Remove duplicates from the returned results

Disadvantage

• The number and order of columns in the SELECT statement must be the same between queries

Review: EXISTS and NOT EXISTS

EXISTS: checks for presence

NOT EXISTS: checks for absence

Advantages

- The sub-query will stop searching as soon as it evaluates to TRUE
- Results can contain any column from the outer query, and in any order

Disadvantage

• Results can only contain columns from the outer query

Review: IN and NOT IN

IN: checks for presence

NOT IN : checks for absence

Advantage

Results can contain any column from the outer query, and in any order

Disadvantages

- Results can only contain columns from the outer query
- No results returned because of the way NOT IN handles nulls in the sub-query

Review: INNER JOIN and exclusive L.O.J

INNER JOIN : checks for presence

exclusive LEFT OUTER JOIN : checks for absence

Advantage

• Results can contain any column, from all joined queries, in any order

Disadvantage

• Requirement to add the IS NULL WHERE filter condition with the exclusive

LEFT OUTER JOIN

Let's practice!

IMPROVING QUERY PERFORMANCE IN SQL SERVER

