Grouping the aggregated rows and using sub queries

- The learning objectives for this week are:
 - Knowing how the GROUP BY clause operates and how it is related to the aggregate functions
 - Knowing how to use the aggregate functions in filtering with the clause
 - Knowing what are subqueries and how they can be used in a SELECT statement
 - Knowing different kind of use-cases for subqueries, including row filter criteria,
 correlated subqueries, in the SELECT list, in the HAVING clause, and in the
 FROM clause

Grouping the aggregated rows

- So, an aggregate function performs a calculation for multiple rows so that the end result is a single value
- If the result table always contains just a single row, how can we write a query such as, "what's the average grade from each course?"
- To achieve this, we need to *group* the rows based on a specific column and perform the aggregate function for each group separately
- This can be done using the GROUP BY clause

```
GROUP BY column_list [ HAVING group_filtering_condition ]
```

• The GROUP BY clause uses a column or a group of columns in a SELECT statement to form groups of rows which the aggregate function operators on:

```
-- what's the average grade from each course?
SELECT course_code, AVG(grade) as average_grade FROM CourseGrade
-- form the groups based on the course_code
GROUP BY course_code
```

- The result table will have a row for *each distinct column value* of the GROUP BY column
- Each row has the corresponding aggregate function result for that group
- In the example's case the result table would contain the average grade for each distinct course_code :

course_code	average_grade
a290	2.5
a450	3.0
•••	•••

- As mentioned, the GROUP BY clause can have multiple columns
- In this case the result table will have a row for each distinct combination of column values of the GROUP BY columns

```
-- what's the average grade from each course instance?

SELECT course_code, instance_number, AVG(grade) as average_grade FROM CourseGrade
-- form the groups based on the course_code and instance_number

GROUP BY course_code, instance_number
```

• In the example's case the result table would contain the average grade for each distinct combination of course_code and instance_number:

SELECT course_code, instance_number, AVG(grade) as average_grade FROM CourseGrade GROUP BY course_code, instance_number

course_code	instance_number	average_grade
a290	1	4.5
a290	2	3.0
a450	1	2.9
	•••	•••

• It is worth noting that in the SELECT statement we can only select columns that are either aggregate functions or columns used in the GROUP BY clause:

```
-- X student_number is not an aggreagate function, nor it is in the GROUP BY clause.
-- This will lead into an error
SELECT course_code, student_number, AVG(grade) as average_grade FROM CourseGrade
GROUP BY course_code
```

This causes the following error:

"Column 'CourseGrade.student_number' is invalid in the select list because it is not contained in either an aggregate function or the GROUP BY clause"

Combining with the WHERE clause

• We can use the WHERE clause to apply filtering before the grouping is done by the GROUP BY clause:

```
-- how many employees whose salary is above 10000 there are in each department?

SELECT deptno, COUNT(*) AS number_of_employees

FROM Employee

WHERE salary > 10000 -- The WHERE clause is applied before grouping is done

GROUP BY deptno

ORDER BY deptno
```

Using aggregate functions in filtering

- The WHERE clause can't use aggregate functions because it is *applied before* the GROUP BY clause while the query is executed
- Instead, we can use the HAVING clause to filter based on aggregate functions:

```
-- which departments have more than 10 employees?
-- X can't use aggregate functions with the WHERE clause, this won't work
SELECT deptno, COUNT(*) AS number of employees
FROM Employee
WHERE COUNT(*) > 10
GROUP BY deptno
-- ✓ we should use the HAVING clause instead
SELECT deptno, COUNT(*) AS number of employees
FROM Employee
GROUP BY deptno
HAVING COUNT(*) > 10
```

Examples of GROUP BY clause

What do we get from the following queries?

```
-- ? what do we get from this query?

SELECT campus_code, COUNT(campus_code) AS number_of_teachers

FROM Teacher

GROUP BY campus_code

-- ? what do we get from this query?

SELECT course_code, AVG(grade) AS average_grade

FROM CourseGrade

WHERE grade_date BETWEEN '2024-01-01' AND '2024-12-31'

GROUP BY course_code

HAVING COUNT(grade) > 10
```

Subqueries

- A *subquery* is a query within another query, which is used to retrieve data that will be processed by the outer query
- The most common use case for a subquery is to use subquery result in a filtering condintion in a WHERE clause
- Subqueries can also contain another subquery
- Most of our examples will cover usage of subqueries with the SELECT statement, but they can be used with e.g. INSERT INTO and UPDATE statements as well

```
--- who are the teachers with a above average salary?

SELECT first_name, surname, salary

FROM Teacher

WHERE salary > (
    -- subquery for calculating the average salary

SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Teacher
)
```

Subqueries in a SELECT statement

- The subquery is placed inside brackets () and its result will be passed to the outer query
- In a SELECT statement, we can nest a subquery within a:
 - WHERE clause as a row filter criteria to be used in the condition
 - WHERE clause as a correlated subquery
 - SELECT list as a column expression or as a part of a column expression
 - HAVING clause as a group filter criteria within a GROUP BY clause
 - FROM clause to create a temporary derived table
 - © WITH clause to create a temporary named result set, known as common table expression (CTE)

Subquery as a row filter criteria

• The most common use of the subquery is to use it as a row filter criteria similarly as e.g. litrals:

```
-- using literal 5000 as a filter criteria
WHERE salary > 5000

-- using a subquery as a filter criteria (note the brackets wrapping the subquery)
WHERE salary > (
    -- the result of the subquery will be used in the comparison
    SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Teacher
)
```

Subquery as a row filter criteria

```
-- which countries have larger population than Australia?
SELECT country name, population
FROM Country
WHERE population > (
  -- subquery for getting the population of Australia
 SELECT population
 FROM Country
 WHERE country name = 'Australia'
-- ? what do we get from this query?
SELECT country name, population
FROM Country
WHERE population = (SELECT MAX(population) FROM Country)
-- ? what do we get from this query?
SELECT empno, empname
FROM Employee
WHERE empno NOT IN (SELECT empno FROM Project Employee)
```

Correlated subqueries

- A correlated subquery (inner query) uses one or more values from the outer query
- The correlated subquery is executed once for each row that is selected by the outer query

```
-- which students are from a city where there is a campus?
SELECT city, surname, given_name, student_number
FROM Student
-- using a correlated subquery
WHERE EXISTS (
    -- does any such row EXIST in the Campus table where Campus.city = Student.city
    SELECT * FROM Campus
    WHERE Campus.city = Student.city
)
```

Performance of correlated subqueries

- In the example, the correlated subquery is executed once per each student, which will degrade the query performance
- Sometimes It might be better to use a non-correlated subquery to improve readability and performance:

```
--  same result, with using a non-correlated subquery

SELECT city, surname, given_name, student_number

FROM Student

WHERE city IN (SELECT city FROM Campus)
```

Subqueries within a SELECT list

• A subquery can be used in the SELECT list to calculate a value for a column that will be displayed in the result table:

```
-- what is the percentage of red cars?
SELECT (SELECT 100.0 * COUNT(*) FROM Car WHERE colour = 'red') / COUNT(*)
AS percentage of red cars
FROM Car
-- what is the average grade for each student?
SELECT
student number, (
  SELECT AVG(grade) FROM CourseGrade
 WHERE CourseGrade.student_number = Student.student_number
) AS average grade
FROM Student
```

Subqueries within a HAVING clause

• Similarly as in the WHERE clause, a subquery can be used in the HAVING clause to filter the groups based on the aggregate function result:

```
-- in which departments the average salary is higher than the average salary of all employees?
SELECT deptno, AVG(salary) AS average_salary
FROM Employee
GROUP BY deptno HAVING AVG(salary) > (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Employee)
```

Subqueries within a FROM clause

- A subquery can be used in the FROM clause to create a temporary derived table that can be used in the outer query
- The subquery must have an alias name (FROM (subquery) AS alias_name)
- The subquery's result set can be used in the FROM clause similarly to a normal table
- Let's consider the following example:

"what is the count, and the minimum and the maximum grade point average (GPA) of such students who have passed more than 20 courses?"

Subqueries within a FROM clause

• First, we define a query for the grade point average of students who have passed more than 20 courses:

```
SELECT AVG(grade) AS gpa
FROM CourseGrade
WHERE grade > 0
GROUP BY student_number
HAVING COUNT(*) > 20
```

Subqueries within a FROM clause

• Then, we use this query as a subquery in the FROM clause:

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS count, MIN(gpa) AS min_gpa, MAX(gpa) AS max_gpa
FROM (
   -- our subquery from the previous slide
   SELECT AVG(grade) AS gpa
   FROM CourseGrade
   WHERE grade > 0
   GROUP BY student_number
   HAVING COUNT(*) > 20
) AS GpaTable -- A alias name for the subquery is required
```

Subqueries within a WITH clause

- A subquery can be used in the WITH clause to create a temporary named result set, known as common table expression (CTE)
- CTEs are useful for improving the readability of the query and can be used multiple times in the query
- Let's consider the following example:

"Which department has the highest number of employees"

Subqueries within a WITH clause

• First, we define a CTE with the WITH clause for the number of employees in each department:

```
-- common table expression
WITH DeptInfo (deptno, employee_count) AS (
   SELECT deptno, COUNT(*) AS employee_count
   FROM Employee
   GROUP BY deptno
)
```

Subqueries within a WITH clause

• Then, we use this CTE in the main query to find the department with the highest number of employees:

```
-- common table expression from the previous slide
WITH DeptInfo (deptno, employee_count) AS (
    SELECT deptno, COUNT(*) AS employee_count
    FROM Employee
    GROUP BY deptno
)

-- main query
SELECT deptno, employee_count
FROM DeptInfo -- using the CTE
WHERE employee_count = (SELECT MAX(employee_count ) FROM DeptInfo) -- using the CTE again
```

Summary

- The GROUP BY clause is used to group the rows based on a specific column or columns
- The HAVING clause is used to filter the groups based on the aggregate function result
- Subqueries are queries within another query
- Subqueries can be used in a SELECT statement in the WHERE clause, SELECT list, HAVING clause, FROM clause, and WITH clause
- The WITH clause is used to create a temporary named result set, known as common table expression (CTE)