```
In [1]: # PySpark Join is used to combine two DataFrames and by chaining these you can join multiple DataFrames; it sup
In [2]: # PySpark Joins are wider transformations that involve data shuffling across the network.
In [3]: # PySpark SQL Joins comes with more optimizations by default (thanks to DataFrames), but there are still some po
        # Understanding how to effectively utilize PySpark joins is essential for conducting comprehensive data analysis
        # In this PySpark SQL Join, you will learn different Join syntaxes and use different Join types on two or more l
        # PySpark Join Syntax
        # PySpark Join Types
        # Inner Join DataFrame
        # Full Outer Join DataFrame
        # Left Outer Join DataFrame
        # Right Outer Join DataFrame
        # Left Anti Join DataFrame
        # Left Semi Join DataFrame
        # Self Join DataFrame
        # Using SQL Expression
```

1. PySpark Join Syntax

PySpark SQL join has a below syntax and it can be accessed directly from DataFrame.

```
In [4]: # Syntax
        # join(self, other, on=None, how=None)
In [5]: # join() operation takes parameters as below and returns DataFrame.
        # param other: Right side of the join
        # param on: a string for the join column name
        # param how: default inner. Must be one of inner, cross, outer,full, full_outer, left, left_outer, right, right
In [6]: # You can also write Join expression by adding where() and filter() methods on DataFrame and can have Join on mi
```

2. PySpark Join Types

Join

In [7]: # Below are the different Join Types PySpark supports.

```
String Equivalent SQL Join
          # inner
                         INNER JOIN
         # outer,
                          full, fullouter, full_outer
                                                                FULL OUTER JOIN
                            # left,
          # right,
                           rightouter, right_outer RIGHT JOIN
          # cross
          # anti,
                            leftanti, left_anti
          # semi,
                            leftsemi, left_semi
In [8]: # Before diving into PySpark SQL Join illustrations, let's initiate "emp" and "dept" DataFrames.
          \# The emp DataFrame contains the "emp_id" column with unique values, while the dept DataFrame contains the "dep
          # Additionally, the "emp dept id" from "emp" refers to the "dept id" in the "dept" dataset.
In [9]: import findspark
          findspark.init()
In [10]: # Prepare Data
          import pyspark
          from pyspark.sql import SparkSession
          spark = SparkSession.builder.appName('Joins').master('local[*]').getOrCreate()
          emp = [(1, "Smith", -1, "2018", "10", "M", 3000),
                 (2, "Rose", 1, "2010", "20", "M", 4000),
(3, "Williams", 1, "2010", "10", "M", 1000),
(4, "Jones", 2, "2005", "10", "F", 2000),
(5, "Brown", 2, "2010", "40", "", -1),
(6, "Brown", 2, "2010", "50", "", -1)
          empColumns = ["emp_id", "name", "superior_emp_id", "year_joined", \
                            "emp_dept_id", "gender", "salary"]
          empDF = spark.createDataFrame(data = emp, schema = empColumns)
          empDF.printSchema()
          empDF.show(truncate = False)
```

```
|-- superior_emp_id: long (nullable = true)
       |-- year_joined: string (nullable = true)
       |-- emp dept id: string (nullable = true)
       |-- gender: string (nullable = true)
       |-- salary: long (nullable = true)
      +----+
      |emp_id|name |superior_emp_id|year_joined|emp_dept_id|gender|salary|
      |2018 |10 |M
|2010 |20 |M
      |1
           |Smith |-1
                                                       |3000
                                                       |4000
      12
           |Rose |1
           |Williams|1
                               .
|2010
|2005
                                                        1000
                                                 јм
JF
      13
                                         |10
           |Jones |2
                                                         12000
      14
                                         110
           |Brown |2
                               |2010
      15
                                         |40
                                                         |-1
                                        |50
                               |2010
                                                        |-1
           |Brown |2
      |6
In [11]: dept = [("Finance", 10),
             ("Marketing", 20),
             ("Sales", 30),
             ("IT", 40)
       deptColumns = ["dept_name", "dept_id"]
       deptDF = spark.createDataFrame(data = dept, schema = deptColumns)
       deptDF.printSchema()
       deptDF.show(truncate = False)
       |-- dept_name: string (nullable = true)
       |-- dept_id: long (nullable = true)
      +----+
      |dept_name|dept_id|
      +----+
      |Finance | 10
```

3. How Join Works?

|Marketing|20 |Sales |30

|IT

|40

+----+

root

|-- emp_id: long (nullable = true)
|-- name: string (nullable = true)

```
In [12]: # PySpark's join operation combines data from two or more Datasets based on a common column or key.
         # It is a fundamental operation in PySpark and is similar to SQL joins.
         # Common Key:
         # =======
         # In order to join two or more datasets we need a common key or a column on which you want to join. This key is
         # Partitioning:
         # PySpark Datasets are distributed and partitioned across multiple nodes in a cluster.
         # Ideally, data with the same join key should be located in the same partition.
         # If the Datasets are not already partitioned on the join key, PySpark may perform a shuffle operation to redis
         # Shuffling can be an expensive operation, especially for large Datasets.
         # Join Type Specification:
         # We can specify the type of join like inner join, full join, left join, etc., by specifying on "how" parameter
         # This parameter determines which rows should be included or excluded in the resulting Dataset.
         # Join Execution:
         # ========
         # PySpark performs the join by comparing the values in the common key column between the Datasets.
         # Inner Join:
         # Returns only the rows with matching keys in both DataFrames.
```

```
# Left Join:
# Returns all rows from the left DataFrame and matching rows from the right DataFrame.
# Right Join:
# Returns all rows from the right DataFrame and matching rows from the left DataFrame.
# Full Outer Join:
# ========
# Returns all rows from both DataFrames, including matching and non-matching rows.
# Left Semi Join:
# Returns all rows from the left DataFrame where there is a match in the right DataFrame.
# Left Anti Join:
# Returns all rows from the left DataFrame where there is no match in the right DataFrame.
```

4. PySpark Inner Join DataFrame

The default join in PySpark is the inner join, commonly used to retrieve data from two or more DataFrames based on a shared key. An Inner join combines two DataFrames based on the key (common column) provided and results in rows where there is a matching found. Rows from both DataFrames are dropped with a non-matching key.

```
empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id, "inner") \
  .show(truncate = False)
+----+
|emp_id|name |superior_emp_id|year_joined|emp_dept_id|gender|salary|dept_name|dept_id|
+-----+
  11
|3
12
  |Brown |2
15
```

This example drops "emp dept id" with value 50 from "emp" And "dept id" with value 30 from "dept" datasets. Following is the result of the above Join statement.

5. PySpark Left Outer Join

16

Left a.k.a Leftouter join returns all rows from the left dataset regardless of match found on the right dataset when join expression doesn't match, it assigns null for that record and drops records from right where match not found.

```
In [14]: # Left Outer Join
     empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id, "left") \
       .show(truncate = False)
     empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id, "leftouter") \
       .show(truncate = False)
    |emp_id|name |superior_emp_id|year_joined|emp_dept_id|gender|salary|dept_name|dept_id|
               11
        |Smith |-1
        lRose
             11
    13
        |Williams|1
        |Jones |2
    15
        |Brown |2
                      |2010
                                           NULL
                                               |NULL
    16
        |Brown |2
    +----+
    +----+
    |emp id|name | superior emp id|year joined|emp dept id|gender|salary|dept name|dept id|
    +----+
        12
    13
    14
    |5
       |Brown |2
```

NULL

In our dataset, the record with "emp_dept_id" 50 does not have a corresponding entry in the "dept" dataset, resulting in null values in the "dept" columns (dept_name & dept_id). Additionally, the entry with "dept_id" 30 from the "dept" dataset is omitted from the results. Above is the outcome of the provided join expression.

6. Right Outer Join

Right a.k.a Rightouter join is opposite of left join, here it returns all rows from the right dataset regardless of math found on the left dataset, when join expression doesn't match, it assigns null for that record and drops records from left where match not found.

```
# Right Outer Join
empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id, "right") \
    .show(truncate = False)
empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id, "rightouter") \
    .show(truncate = False)
|emp id|name |superior emp id|year joined|emp dept id|gender|salary|dept name|dept id|
     |Jones |2 | 2005 | 10 | F | 2000 | Finance | 10
|4
|3
     |Williams|1
                         2010
                                  |10
                                           ΙM
                                                 1000
                                                       |Finance | 10
                                  |10
|10
                                                 | 13000 | Finance | 110
|1
     |Smith |-1
                         |2018
                                           | M
12
     |Rose
            |1
                         |2010
                                  |20
                                                 |4000 |Marketing|20
NULL
            NULL
                                  NULL
                                            |NULL |NULL
     INULL
                         INULL
                                                       |Sales
                                                               130
|5
     |Brown
            |2
                         |2010
                                  140
                                                 |-1
                                                       IT
                                           |emp id|name
          |superior emp id|year joined|emp dept id|gender|salary|dept name|dept id|
|Jones |2
                        12005
                                  |10
                                                 |2000 |Finance |10
                        |2010
                                  10
                                           M
13
     |Williams|1
                                                |1000 |Finance |10
11
     ISmith
           |-1
                         12018
                                  110
                                            ΙM
                                                 13000
                                                       ||Finance ||10
                                            M
            11
                         12010
                                  120
                                                 14000
                                                       |Marketing|20
12
     lRose
NULL
                         NULL
                                  NULL
                                            NULL
                                                 |NULL |Sales
    INULL
                                  |40
                                                 |-1
                                                       |IT
15
            12
                         |2010
                                                               |40
     IBrown
```

In our example, the dataset on the right, containing "dept_id" with a value of 30, does not have a corresponding record in the left dataset "emp". Consequently, this record contains null values for the columns from "emp". Additionally, the record with "emp_dept_id" value 50 is dropped as no match was found in the left dataset. Below is the result of the aforementioned join expression.

7. PySpark Full Outer Join

Outer a.k.a full, fullouter join in PySpark combines the results of both left and right outer joins, ensuring that all records from both DataFrames are included in the resulting DataFrame. It includes all rows from both DataFrames and fills in missing values with nulls where there is no match. In other words, it merges the DataFrames based on a common key, but retains all rows from both DataFrames, even if there's no match. This join type is useful when you want to preserve all the information from both datasets, regardless of whether there's a match on the key or not.

+id	+ name +	+	year_joined	 emp_dept_id	 gender	 salary	+ dept_name	++ dept_id ++
1	Smith	-1	2018	10	M	3000	Finance	10
3	Williams	1	2010	10	M	1000	Finance	10
4	Jones	2	2005	10	F	2000	Finance	10
2	Rose	1	2010	20	M	4000	Marketing	20
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	Sales	30
5	Brown	2	2010	40		-1	IT	40
6	Brown	2	2010	50		-1	NULL	NULL
+	+	+ -		<u></u>	h	 	+	++
emp_id	name +	superior_emp_id +	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	dept_name 	dept_id
1	Smith	-1	2018	10	M	3000	Finance	10
	Williams	1			М	1000	Finance	10
4	Jones	2	2005	10	F	2000	Finance	10
2	Rose	1	2010	20	M	4000	Marketing	20
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	Sales	30
5	Brown	2	2010	40		-1	IT	40
6	Brown	2	2010	50		-1	NULL	NULL
+	+	+		<u> </u>	H		+	++
+id +	+ name +	+	year_joined	 emp_dept_id 	 gender 	 salary 	+ dept_name +	++ dept_id ++
1	Smith	-1	2018	10	M	3000	Finance	10
3	Williams		2010		М		Finance	10
4	Jones	2	2005	10	F	2000	Finance	10
2	Rose	1	2010	20	М	4000	Marketing	20
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	Sales	30
5	Brown	2	2010	40		-1	IT	 40
6	Brown	2	2010	50		-1	NULL	NULL
+	+	+		·	+	+	+	++

This code snippet performs a full outer join between two PySpark DataFrames, empDF and deptDF, based on the condition that emp_dept_id from empDF is equal to dept_id from deptDF. In our "emp" dataset, the "emp_dept_id" with a value of 50 does not have a corresponding record in the "dept" dataset, resulting in null values in the "dept" columns. Similarly, the "dept_id" 30 does not have a record in the "emp" dataset, hence you observe null values in the "emp" columns. Above Code is the output of the provided join example.

8. Left Semi Join

A Left Semi Join in PySpark returns only the rows from the left DataFrame (the first DataFrame mentioned in the join operation) where there is a match with the right DataFrame (the second DataFrame). It does not include any columns from the right DataFrame in the resulting DataFrame. This join type is useful when you only want to filter rows from the left DataFrame based on whether they have a matching key in the right DataFrame. Left Semi Join can also be achieved by selecting only the columns from the left dataset from the result of the inner join

```
In [17]: # Left Semi Join
      empDF.join(deptDF, empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id, "leftsemi") \
        .show(truncate = False)
     +----+
     |emp id|name
              |superior_emp_id|year_joined|emp_dept_id|gender|salary|
     |2018
          |Smith |-1
                                  |10 |M
                                               13000 |
     11
     |3
          |Williams|1
                          |2010
                                  |10
                                          | M
                                               |1000
                          |2005
                                        İF
     14
          |Jones |2
                                  |10
                                               12000
     12
          Rose
                |1
                          |2010
                                  |20
                                          | M
                                               14000
     15
          Brown
                          |2010
                                               |-1
```

9. Left Anti Join

A Left Anti Join in PySpark returns only the rows from the left DataFrame (the first DataFrame mentioned in the join operation) where there is no match with the right DataFrame (the second DataFrame). It excludes any rows from the left DataFrame that have a corresponding key in the right DataFrame. This join type is useful when you want to filter out rows from the left DataFrame that have matching keys in the right DataFrame.

10. PySpark Self Join

Joins are not complete without a self join, Though there is no self-join type available in PySpark, we can use any of the above-explained join types to join DataFrame to itself. below example use inner self join.

11. Using SQL Expression

Alternatively, you can also use SQL query to join DataFrames/tables in PySpark. To do so, first, create a temporary view using createOrReplaceTempView(), then use the spark.sql() to execute the join query.

12. PySpark SQL Join on multiple DataFrames

When you need to join more than two tables, you either use SQL expression after creating a temporary view on the DataFrame or use the result of join operation to join with another DataFrame like chaining them. for example # Join on multiple dataframes df1.join(df2, df1.id1 == df2.id2, "inner") \ .join(df2, df1.id1 == df3.id3, "inner")

13. PySpark SQL Join Complete Example

```
In [21]: import pyspark

from pyspark.sql import SparkSession
from pyspark.sql.functions import col

spark = SparkSession.builder.appName('Join').master('local[*]').getOrCreate()

emp = [(1, "Smith", -1, "2018", "10", "M", 3000), \
```

```
(2, "Rose", 1, "2010", "20", "M", 4000), \
     (3,"Williams",1,"2010","10","M",1000), \
     (4,"Jones",2,"2005","10","F",2000), \
(5,"Brown",2,"2010","40","",-1), \
       (6, "Brown", 2, "2010", "50", "", -1) \
 empDF = spark.createDataFrame(data=emp, schema = empColumns)
 empDF.printSchema()
 empDF.show(truncate=False)
 dept = [("Finance",10), \
     ("Marketing",20), \
     ("Sales",30), \
     ("IT",40) \
 deptColumns = ["dept name", "dept id"]
 deptDF = spark.createDataFrame(data=dept, schema = deptColumns)
 deptDF.printSchema()
 deptDF.show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"inner") \
     .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id,"outer") \
     .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"full") \
     .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id,"fullouter") \
     .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"left") \
     .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"leftouter") \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"right") \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp_dept_id == deptDF.dept_id,"rightouter") \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id,"leftsemi") \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.join(deptDF,empDF.emp dept id == deptDF.dept id,"leftanti") \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.alias("emp1").join(empDF.alias("emp2"), \
     col("emp1.superior_emp_id") == col("emp2.emp_id"),"inner") \
     .select(col("emp1.emp_id"),col("emp1.name"), \
      col("emp2.emp id").alias("superior emp id"), \
      col("emp2.name").alias("superior emp name")) \
    .show(truncate=False)
 empDF.createOrReplaceTempView("EMP")
 deptDF.createOrReplaceTempView("DEPT")
 joinDF = spark.sql("select * from EMP e, DEPT d where e.emp dept id == d.dept id") \
   .show(truncate=False)
 joinDF2 = spark.sql("select * from EMP e INNER JOIN DEPT d ON e.emp dept id == d.dept id") \
  .show(truncate=False)
 |-- emp id: long (nullable = true)
 |-- name: string (nullable = true)
 |-- superior_emp_id: long (nullable = true)
 |-- year_joined: string (nullable = true)
 |-- emp dept id: string (nullable = true)
 |-- gender: string (nullable = true)
|-- salary: long (nullable = true)
|emp_id|name |superior_emp_id|year_joined|emp_dept_id|gender|salary|
+----+
                         |2018 |10 |M
      |Smith |-1
|Rose |1
|1
                                                           |3000
                                        | M
| 20 | M
| 10 | M
| 10 | F
| 40 |
                              |2010
                                                           4000
12
|3
      |Williams|1
                             |2010
                                                           |1000
      |Jones |2
|Brown |2
                              |2005
                                                           |2000
14
15
                              |2010
                                                             |-1
```

	6	Brown	2 +	2010	50 +	 +	-1 +	 -		
1			string (nullable ng (nullable = tr							
+		+ ame dept_i								
	Finance	- e 10	- 							
	Marketi Sales	ing 20 30	İ							
	IT	40	 +							
										
1	emp_id	name	superior_emp_id			gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id	
1	1	+ Smith	+	2018	 10	+ M	+ 3000	Finance	+ 10	
		Williams	'			•			10	
						F M		Finance Marketing	10 20	
			!		40				40	
4		+	+		+ -	+	+		+	
4		+	+		·	+	+		+	
	emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id +	
ĺ	1	 Smith	 -1	2018	10	М	3000	Finance	10	
		Williams				•			10	
						•			10	
			!					Marketing Sales	20 30	
	_ :				40		•		40	
	6	Brown	2	2010	50		-1	NULL	NULL	
4		+	+			+	+		+	
4		+	+			+			+	
	emp_id	name 	superior_emp_id	year_joined 	emp_dept_id	gender +	salary +	dept_name	dept_id +	
ĺ	1	Smith	 -1	2018	10	M	3000	Finance	10	
ĺ	3	 Williams	1	2010	10	M	1000	Finance	10	
						•	•		10	
			!	2010 NULL		M NULL		Marketing Sales	20 30	
					40	•			40	
					50				NULL	
+		+	+		·	+	+		+	
+		+	+			+			+	
ا	emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender		dept_name	dept_id	
1	1	Smith	-1	2018	10	 М			10	
		 Williams				•			10 j	
						•			10	
						'		Marketing Sales	20 30	
					40				40	
	6	Brown	2	2010	50	l	-1	NULL	NULL	
+		+	+			+	+		+	
4		+	+		·					
	emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id 	gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id +	
	1	Smith	-1	2018	10	М	3000	Finance	10	
		Rose	1	2010	20	M	4000	Marketing	20	
		Williams				•			10	
					10 40	•			10 40	
	_				50	•	•		NULL	
+		+	+		·	+	+		+	
4		+	+	·	·	+	+		+	
	emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id	
-	1	+ Smith	+ -1	2018	 10	+ M	+ 3000	Finance	+ 10	
						•		Marketing		
		Williams	1			•			10	
					10 40				10 40	
	_				40 50	•	•		40 NULL	
4		+	+			+	+		+	

emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id
- 4	+ Jones	+	 2005	+ 10	+ F	+ 2000	+ Finance	+ 10
	Williams							10
		- - 1					:	
	:_							10
							Marketing	:
		NULL		!	NULL	•	Sales	30
, 	Brown +	2 +	2010 +	40 +	 +	-1 +	IT +	40 +
	L	.	.	L
emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	dept_name	dept_id
 4	+ Jones	+	+ 2005	+ 10	+ F	+ 2000	+ Finance	+ 10
	Williams					•	:	10
_					:	:	:	10
	: _				:			
							Marketing	
				!		•	:	30
5 	Brown +	2 +	2010 +	40 +	 +	-1 +	IT +	40 +
				1.		L .	L	
emp_id	name	superior_emp_id	year_joined	emp_dept_id	gender	salary	Ī	
	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
						3000	<u> </u>	
3	Williams	1	2010	10	M	1000		
4	Jones	2	2005	10	F	2000		
2	Rose	1	2010	20	M	4000		
5	Brown	2	2010	40		-1		
	+			o_dept_id gen		+ lary +		
				o_dept_id gen	nder sa + -1	+ lary + 		
	+	+		o_dept_id ger		+ lary + 		
6	Brown 2 	+	10 50	<u>+</u>		+ lary + +		
6 	Brown 2 Brown 2 name	20: 	10 50 	<u>+</u>		lary + +		
6 	Brown 2 name 	20: 		<u>+</u>		lary + +		
6 emp_id 2 2	++	20: 	50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	<u>+</u>		lary + +		
6 emp_id 2 2 3	Brown 2 + name Rose Williams Jones	20: 	l0 50	<u>+</u>		+ lary + 		
emp_id	H+ Brown 2 H name H Rose Williams Jones Brown	20: 	Smith Sose Rose	<u>+</u>		+ lary + 		
emp_id	H+ Brown 2 H name H Rose Williams Jones Brown	20: superior_emp_id 1 1 1 2	l0 50	<u>+</u>		+ lary + +		
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14. Frequently asked questions on PySpark Joins

What is the default join in PySpark?

In PySpark the default join type is "inner" join when using with .join() method. If you don't explicitly specify the join type using the "how" parameter, it will perform the inner join. One can change the join type using the how parameter of .join().

Yes, Join in PySpark is expensive because of the data shuffling (wider transformation) that happens between the partitioned data in a cluster. It basically depends on the data size, data skew, cluster configuration, join type being performed, partitioning, and broadcast joins.

Can we join on multiple columns in PySpark?

Yes, we can join on multiple columns. Joining on multiple columns involves more join conditions with multiple keys for matching the rows between the datasets. It can be achieved by passing a list of column names as the join condition when using the .join() method.

How do I drop duplicate columns after joining PySpark?

PySpark distinct() function is used to drop/remove the duplicate rows (all columns) from Dataset and dropDuplicates() is used to drop rows based on selected (one or multiple) columns.

What is the difference between the inner join and the left join?

The key difference is that an inner join includes only the rows with matching keys in both Datasets, while a left join includes all the rows from the left Dataset and matches them with rows from the right Dataset where there's a match. Non-matching rows in the left Dataset in a left join are included with null values in the columns from the right Dataset.

What is the difference between left join and left outer join?

Both terms refer to the same type of join operation, and they can be used interchangeably. The "OUTER" keyword is optional when specifying a "LEFT IOIN"

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