

# SQL for Data Engineers

SQL Querying Techniques for Data Engineers



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## **SQL Subqueries**

**Executing queries within queries**

**AKA Nested or Inner queries**



```
SELECT employee_name
FROM employees
WHERE employee_id = (
    SELECT manager_id FROM employees
    WHERE employee_name = 'John'
);
```

```
SELECT product_name
FROM products
WHERE category_id IN (
    SELECT category_id FROM
categories
    WHERE category_name =
'Electronics'
);
```

◀ Single value subquery

◀ Subquery returns single value

◀ Multiple row subquery



```
SELECT customer_name
FROM customers c
WHERE EXISTS (
    SELECT 1
    FROM orders o
    WHERE o.customer_id =
           c.customer_id
    AND o.order_date > '2023-01-01'
);
```

```
SELECT
    customer_name,
    (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM orders
     WHERE orders.customer_id =
           customers.customer_id)
      AS order_count
FROM
    customers;
```

◀ Correlated subquery

◀ WHERE EXISTS is a best practice

◀ Subquery in column list





## Aggregation

Aggregation in SQL can be used to summarize and analyze data, which can help to get important insights and statistics.



# SQL Aggregation Functions

```
SELECT SUM(sales_amount) FROM sales;
```

```
SELECT AVG(sales_amount) FROM sales;
```

```
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM customers;
```

```
SELECT MIN(order_date) FROM orders;
```

```
SELECT MAX(order_date) FROM orders;
```

```
STDEV(), VAR(), COVAR() ...
```



```
SELECT department_id,  
       AVG(salary) AS avg_salary  
FROM employees  
GROUP BY department_id  
ORDER BY department_id;
```

```
SELECT department_id,  
       AVG(salary) AS avg_salary  
FROM employees  
GROUP BY department_id  
HAVING AVG(salary) <= 50000  
ORDER BY department_id;
```

```
SELECT *  
FROM employees  
WHERE salary >  
      (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM  
       employees);
```

◀ Aggregation by category

◀ Average per department

◀ Aggregation with filtering

◀ Filter results by average salary

◀ Aggregation as a filter in a subquery





## SQL Window Functions

Window functions do aggregations over subsets of rows in a dataset





```
SELECT employee_id,  
       department_id,  
       salary,  
  
       ROW_NUMBER()  
       OVER (  
           PARTITION BY department_id  
           ORDER BY salary DESC)  
       AS rn  
FROM employees;
```

```
SELECT employee_id,  
       department_id,  
       salary,  
  
       AVG(salary)  
       OVER (  
           PARTITION BY department_id  
           )  
       AS avg_salary  
FROM employees;
```

◀ Query using a window function

◀ Window function

◀ OVER Clause

◀ PARTITION BY defines the subset

◀ ORDER BY controls evaluation of function

◀ No ORDER BY clause





## Common Table Expressions (CTEs)

Writing subqueries ahead of time



```
WITH
  -- First CTE
  cte1 [(col1, col2, ...)]
  AS (
    SELECT ...),

  -- Second CTE
  cte2 [(col1, col2, ...)]
  AS (
    SELECT ...),

  -- Other CTEs

-- Outer query using the CTEs as
tables
SELECT | INSERT | UPDATE | DELETE
```

- ◀ Keyword **WITH** starts things off
- ◀ **Common Table Expression (CTE)** with optional list of column names
- ◀ **Query definition**
- ◀ **Optional second common table expression**
- ◀ **Additional CTEs, as required**
- ◀ **Final query, using the common table expressions as tables**



```

WITH
-- CTEs
    emps AS (
        SELECT * FROM employee
        WHERE BirthDate > '1990-01-
01'
    ),
    peeps AS (
        SELECT * FROM Person AS p
        WHERE LastName LIKE 'K%'
    )

-- Main query
SELECT CONCAT(p.FirstName, ' ',
              p.LastName)
        AS full_name
FROM emps e
JOIN peeps p
    ON p.emp_id = e.emp_id

```

◀ Example using two CTEs

◀ Employees, filtered by date of birth

◀ People, filter by last name

◀ Main query getting full name

◀ JOIN the CTEs on employee id





# Recursive Common Table Expressions

Use CTEs to navigate hierarchical or graphical data with recursion



```
WITH
  -- Recursive CTE
  recurs [(col1, col2, ...)]
AS (
  -- Anchor member: Base case
  SELECT c1, c2, c3
  FROM table1
  WHERE [condition]

  UNION ALL

  -- Recursive member:
  SELECT c1, c2, c3
  FROM recurs
  WHERE [condition]
)

-- Outer query using the recursive
SELECT | INSERT | UPDATE | DELETE
FROM recurs
```

◀ Beginning of recursive CTE

◀ Anchor query: Base case

◀ UNION ALL operator is required

◀ Recursive query: References itself

◀ Main query: uses recursive CTE



```

WITH RECURSIVE EmployeeHierarchy AS (
    SELECT
        employee_id, employee_name, manager_id,
        1 AS level
    FROM
        employees
    WHERE
        manager_id IS NULL

    UNION ALL

    SELECT
        employee_id, employee_name, manager_id,
        eh.level + 1 AS level
    FROM
        employees e
    INNER JOIN
        EmployeeHierarchy eh
        ON e.manager_id = eh.employee_id
)
SELECT
    employee_id, employee_name, manager_id,
    level
FROM
    EmployeeHierarchy;

```

◀ Recursive CTE for employees

◀ Anchor member

◀ Top-level managers have NULL as manager\_id

◀ Recursive Member

◀ Self reference

◀ Recursion stops when JOIN returns no results

◀ Main query





## **SQL JOIN operations**

**Combining data from two or more tables**





# SQL Join types

Table 1

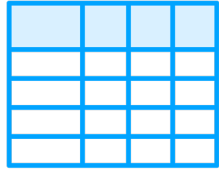
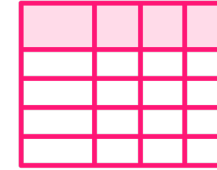


Table 2



JOIN type	Results returned	Row count
INNER JOIN	Matching rows from both tables	0 -   largest
FULL OUTER JOIN	All rows from both tables	largest
LEFT OUTER JOIN	All rows from left table, matching or not	Table 1
RIGHT OUTER JOIN	All rows from right table, matching or not	Table 2
CROSS JOIN	Cartesian product: all possible combinations	T1  *  T2





# Dynamic SQL

Building SQL statements at runtime



# Dynamic SQL in T-SQL on SQL Server

```
DECLARE @ColumnName NVARCHAR(50)
DECLARE @SQLQuery NVARCHAR(MAX)

SET @ColumnName = 'FirstName' -- Example column name

SET @SQLQuery = '
    SELECT ' + @ColumnName + '
    FROM Employees
'

-- Execute the dynamic SQL query
EXEC sp_executesql @SQLQuery
```



# Dynamic SQL in PL-SQL on Oracle

```
DECLARE
    ColumnName VARCHAR2(50);
    SQLQuery VARCHAR2(1000);
    result_value VARCHAR2(100);
BEGIN
    ColumnName := 'FirstName';

    -- Build the dynamic statement
    SQLQuery := 'SELECT " || ColumnName || " FROM Employees';

    -- Execute the dynamic SQL query
    EXECUTE IMMEDIATE SQLQuery INTO result_value;
END;
```



# Dynamic SQL in PL/pgSQL on PostgreSQL

```
DO $$  
DECLARE  
    ColumnName TEXT;  
    SQLQuery TEXT;  
    result_value TEXT;  
BEGIN  
    ColumnName := 'FirstName';  
  
    -- Build the dynamic statement  
    SQLQuery := 'SELECT "' || ColumnName || '" FROM Employees';  
  
    -- Execute the dynamic SQL query  
    EXECUTE SQLQuery INTO result_value;  
END;  
$$;
```



# Dynamic SQL Gotchas

Maintenance

Performance

SQL Injection  
'FirstName; DROP  
TABLE Employees;'

