PIVOT and UNPIVOT in Sql Server

PIVOT and UNPIVOT relational operators - change a table-valued expression into another table.

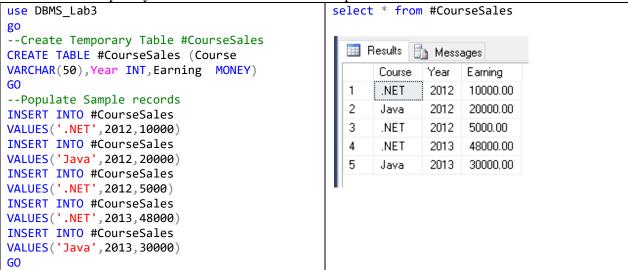
PIVOT rotates a table-valued expression by turning the unique values from one column in the expression into multiple columns in the output, and performs aggregations where they are required on any remaining column values that are wanted in the final output. When aggregate functions are used, the presence of any null values in the value column are not considered when computing an aggregation. PIVOT- an easy mechanism in Sql Server to transform rows into columns.

UNPIVOT performs the opposite operation to PIVOT by rotating columns of a table-valued expression into column values. UNPIVOT performs almost the reverse operation of PIVOT, by rotating columns into rows.

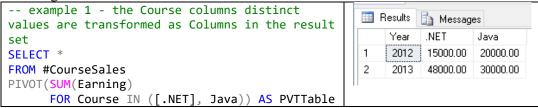
Notice that UNPIVOT is not the exact reverse of PIVOT. PIVOT performs an aggregation and, therefore, merges possible multiple rows into a single row in the output. UNPIVOT does not reproduce the original table-valued expression result because rows have been merged. Besides, null values in the input of UNPIVOT disappear in the output, whereas there may have been original null values in the input before the PIVOT operation.

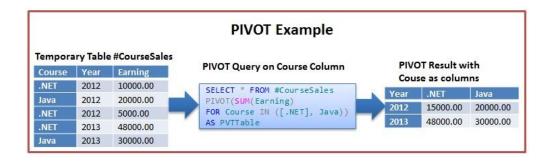
PIVOT

Consider a Temporary Table #CourseSales with sample records

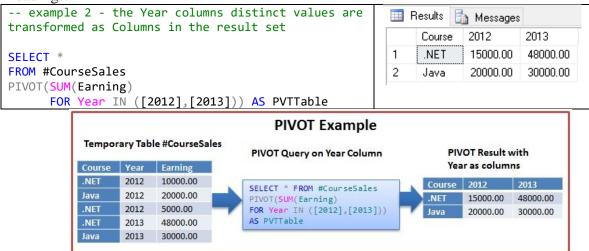


Example 1: the #CourseSales Table data is Pivoted so that the Course becomes the column headings.

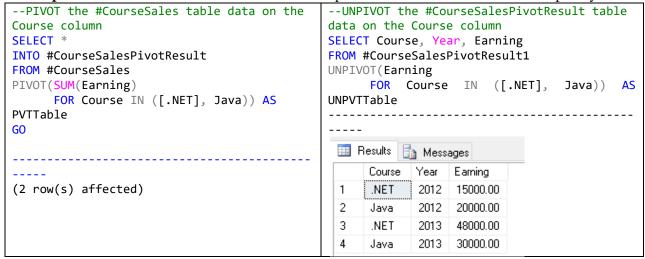




Example 2: the #CourseSales Table data is Pivoted so that the Year becomes the column headings.



Example 3: simulate the PIVOT and UNPIVOT operation on the #CourseSales Temporary



References:

https://www.codeproject.com/Tips/500811/Simple-Way-To-Use-Pivot-In-SQL-Query http://sqlhints.com/2014/03/10/pivot-and-unpivot-in-sql-server/