

Data Analytics Immersion

3.9: Common Table Expressions

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Step 1: Answer the business questions from steps 1 and 2 of task 3.8 using CTEs

1. Rewrite your queries from steps 1 and 2 of task 3.8 as CTEs.
2. Copy-paste your CTEs and their outputs into your answers document.
3. Write 2 to 3 sentences explaining how you approached this step, for example, what you did first, second, and so on.

The screenshot shows the pgAdmin 4 interface. The left sidebar displays the database structure, including the 'Rockbuster' database and its tables. The main pane shows a SQL query using a Common Table Expression (CTE) to calculate the average amount paid by country. The query is as follows:

```
1 SELECT AVG(total_amount_paid) AS average_amount_paid
2 FROM (
3     SELECT
4         SUM(p.amount) AS total_amount_paid
5     FROM customer A
6     INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
7     INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
8     INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
9     INNER JOIN payment P ON A.customer_id = P.customer_id
10    WHERE C.city IN (
11        SELECT C.city
12        FROM customer A
13        INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
14        INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
15        INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
16        WHERE D.country IN (
17            SELECT
18                D.country
19            FROM customer A
20            INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
21            INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
22            INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
23            GROUP BY D.country
24        )
25    )
26    GROUP BY D.country
27 )
28 ORDER BY D.country
29 LIMIT 10
```

The Data Output pane shows the result of the query, which is a single row with the average amount paid by country.

average_amount_paid
105.554000000000000000

Total rows: 1 Query complete 00:00:00.098

The screenshot shows the pgAdmin 4 interface. The left sidebar displays the database structure, including the 'Rockbuster' database and its tables. The main pane shows a SQL query using a Common Table Expression (CTE) to calculate the average amount paid by country. The query is as follows:

```
11 SELECT C.city
12 FROM customer A
13 INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
14 INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
15 INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
16 WHERE D.country IN (
17     SELECT
18         D.country
19     FROM customer A
20     INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
21     INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
22     INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
23     GROUP BY D.country
24     ORDER BY COUNT (A.customer_id) DESC
25     LIMIT 10
26 )
27 GROUP BY D.country, C.city
28 ORDER BY COUNT (A.customer_id) DESC
29 LIMIT 10
30 )
31 GROUP BY A.customer_id, A.first_name, A.last_name, D.country, C.city
32 ORDER BY total_amount_paid DESC
33 LIMIT 5) AS average_amount_paid
```

The Data Output pane shows the result of the query, which is a single row with the average amount paid by country.

average_amount_paid
105.554000000000000000

Total rows: 1 Query complete 00:00:00.098

pgAdmin 4 Object Tools Edit View Window Help

pgAdmin 4

Dependents X Processes X Testing/postgres... X postgres/postgres... X Preferences X Rockbuster/postgres@My Server*

Servers (1)

- My Server
 - Databases (5)
 - Actor
 - Rockbuster
 - Casts
 - Catalogs (2)
 - Event Triggers
 - Extensions (1)
 - Foreign Data W
 - Languages (1)
 - Publications
 - Schemas (1)
 - public
 - Subscriptions
 - Testing
 - mehreenbecker
 - postgres
 - Login/Group Roles
 - Tablespaces

Query Query History

```

1 WITH top_countries AS (
2   SELECT
3     D.country
4   FROM customer A
5   INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
6   INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
7   INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
8   GROUP BY D.country
9   ORDER BY COUNT(A.customer_id) DESC
10  LIMIT 10
11 ),
12 top_cities AS (
13   SELECT
14     D.country,
15     C.city
16   FROM customer A
17   INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
18   INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
19   INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
20   WHERE D.country IN (SELECT country FROM top_countries)
21   GROUP BY D.country, C.city
22   ORDER BY COUNT(A.customer_id) DESC
23   LIMIT 10
24 )
25 
```

Data Output Messages Explain X Notifications

Showing rows: 1 to 1 Page No: 1 of 1

average_amount_paid
105.55400000000000000000

Total rows: 1 Query complete 00:00:00.073

pgAdmin 4 Object Tools Edit View Window Help

pgAdmin 4

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Query Query History

```

22 ORDER BY COUNT(A.customer_id) DESC
23 LIMIT 10
24 ),
25 customer_totals AS (
26   SELECT
27     A.customer_id,
28     A.first_name,
29     A.last_name,
30     D.country,
31     C.city,
32     SUM(P.amount) AS total_amount_paid
33   FROM customer A
34   INNER JOIN address B ON A.address_id = B.address_id
35   INNER JOIN city C ON B.city_id = C.city_id
36   INNER JOIN country D ON C.country_id = D.country_id
37   INNER JOIN payment P ON A.customer_id = P.customer_id
38   WHERE C.city IN (SELECT city FROM top_cities)
39   GROUP BY A.customer_id, A.first_name, A.last_name, D.country, C.city
40   ORDER BY total_amount_paid DESC
41   LIMIT 5
42 )
43 SELECT AVG(total_amount_paid) AS average_amount_paid
44 FROM customer_totals;

```

Data Output Messages Explain X Notifications

Showing rows: 1 to 1 Page No: 1 of 1

average_amount_paid
105.55400000000000000000

Total rows: 1 Query complete 00:00:00.073

pgAdmin 4 Object Tools Edit View Window Help

pgAdmin 4

Rockbuster/postgres@My Server

Query Query History

```
1 SELECT
2     d.country,
3     COUNT(DISTINCT a.customer_id) AS all_customer_count,
4     COUNT(DISTINCT CASE
5         WHEN (
6             SELECT SUM(p2.amount)
7             FROM payment p2
8             WHERE p2.customer_id = a.customer_id
9         ) > (
10            SELECT AVG(total_sum)
11            FROM (
12                SELECT SUM(p.amount) AS total_sum
13                FROM payment p
14                GROUP BY p.customer_id
15            ) AS customer_totals
16        )
17        THEN a.customer_id
18        ELSE NULL
19    END) AS top_customer_count
20 FROM customer a
21 JOIN address b ON a.address_id = b.address_id
22 JOIN city c ON b.city_id = c.city_id
23 JOIN country d ON c.country_id = d.country_id
24 GROUP BY d.country
25 ORDER BY top_customer_count DESC
26 LIMIT 10;
```

Data Output Messages Explain X Notifications

Showing rows: 1 to 10 Page No: 1 of 1

country	all_customer_count	top_customer_count
India	60	26
China	53	25
United States	36	16
Japan	31	14
Russian Federation	28	13
Brazil	28	12
Mexico	30	11
Philippines	20	11
Taiwan	10	7
Turkey	15	7

Total rows: 10 Query complete 00:00:00.300

pgAdmin 4 Object Tools Edit View Window Help

pgAdmin 4

Rockbuster/postgres@My Server

Query Query History

```
15 ) AS customer_totals
16 )
17 THEN a.customer_id
18 ELSE NULL
19 END) AS top_customer_count
20 FROM customer a
21 JOIN address b ON a.address_id = b.address_id
22 JOIN city c ON b.city_id = c.city_id
23 JOIN country d ON c.country_id = d.country_id
24 GROUP BY d.country
25 ORDER BY top_customer_count DESC
26 LIMIT 10;
```

Data Output Messages Explain X Notifications

Showing rows: 1 to 10 Page No: 1 of 1

country	all_customer_count	top_customer_count
India	60	26
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Mexico	30	11
Philippines	20	11
Taiwan	10	7
Turkey	15	7

Total rows: 10 Query complete 00:00:00.300

pgAdmin 4

Query

```

1 WITH customer_totals AS (
2     SELECT
3         p.customer_id,
4         SUM(p.amount) AS total_sum
5     FROM payment p
6     GROUP BY p.customer_id
7 ),
8 average_total AS (
9     SELECT
10        AVG(total_sum) AS avg_total
11    FROM customer_totals
12 ),
13 customer_with_country AS (
14     SELECT
15        a.customer_id,
16        d.country
17    FROM customer a

```

Data Output

	country	all_customer_count	top_customer_count
1	India	60	26
2	China	53	25
3	United States	36	16
4	Japan	31	14
5	Russian Federation	28	13
6	Brazil	28	12

Total rows: 10 Query complete 00:00:00.098

pgAdmin 4

Query

```

18 JOIN address b ON a.address_id = b.address_id
19 JOIN city c ON b.city_id = c.city_id
20 JOIN country d ON c.country_id = d.country_id
21 )
22 SELECT
23     cw.country,
24     COUNT(DISTINCT cw.customer_id) AS all_customer_count,
25     COUNT(DISTINCT CASE
26         WHEN ct.total_sum > at.avg_total THEN cw.customer_id
27         ELSE NULL
28     END) AS top_customer_count
29 FROM customer_with_country cw
30 JOIN customer_totals ct ON cw.customer_id = ct.customer_id
31 CROSS JOIN average_total at
32 GROUP BY cw.country
33 ORDER BY top_customer_count DESC
34 LIMIT 10;

```

Data Output

	country	all_customer_count	top_customer_count
1	India	60	26
2	China	53	25
3	United States	36	16
4	Japan	31	14
5	Russian Federation	28	13
6	Brazil	28	12

Total rows: 10 Query complete 00:00:00.098

I first identified the top countries with the most customers by joining the customer, address, city and country tables and grouping them by country. Then, I narrowed the focus to the top 10 cities located within those countries, again by counting customers per city and ordering by that count. After that, I calculated information about the top 5 customers who paid the most using the payment table joined to the geographic data, and limited it to the customers from the top city. Finally I summarized the results in one query by find the average of the top 5 total payments, and in the other by comparing counts of all customers versus top customers per country.

Step 2: Compare the performance of your CTEs and subqueries.

1. **Which approach do you think will perform better and why?** I'm sure that both CTEs and subqueries produce the same, if not a similar, result. With my limited experience with CTEs, I feel like subqueries allow for better optimization potentially and I also felt like I had to scan fewer rows.
2. **Compare the costs of all the queries by creating query plans for each one.**

Difference in cost:

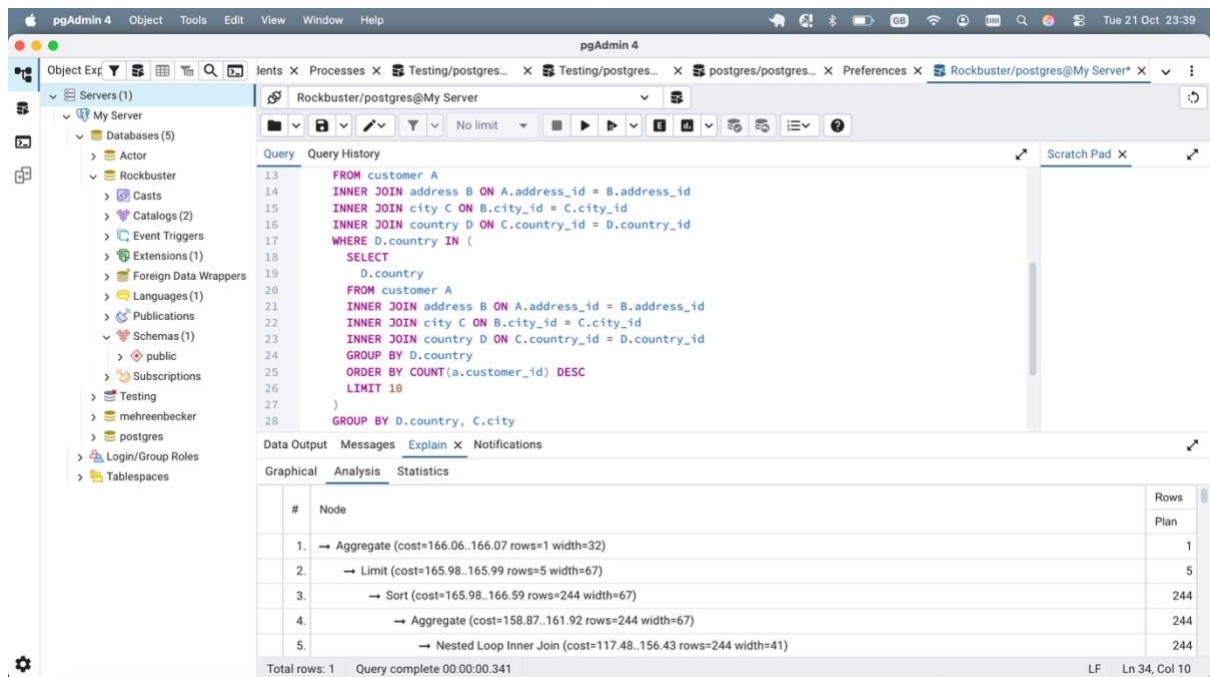


Figure 1: Cost (CTE)

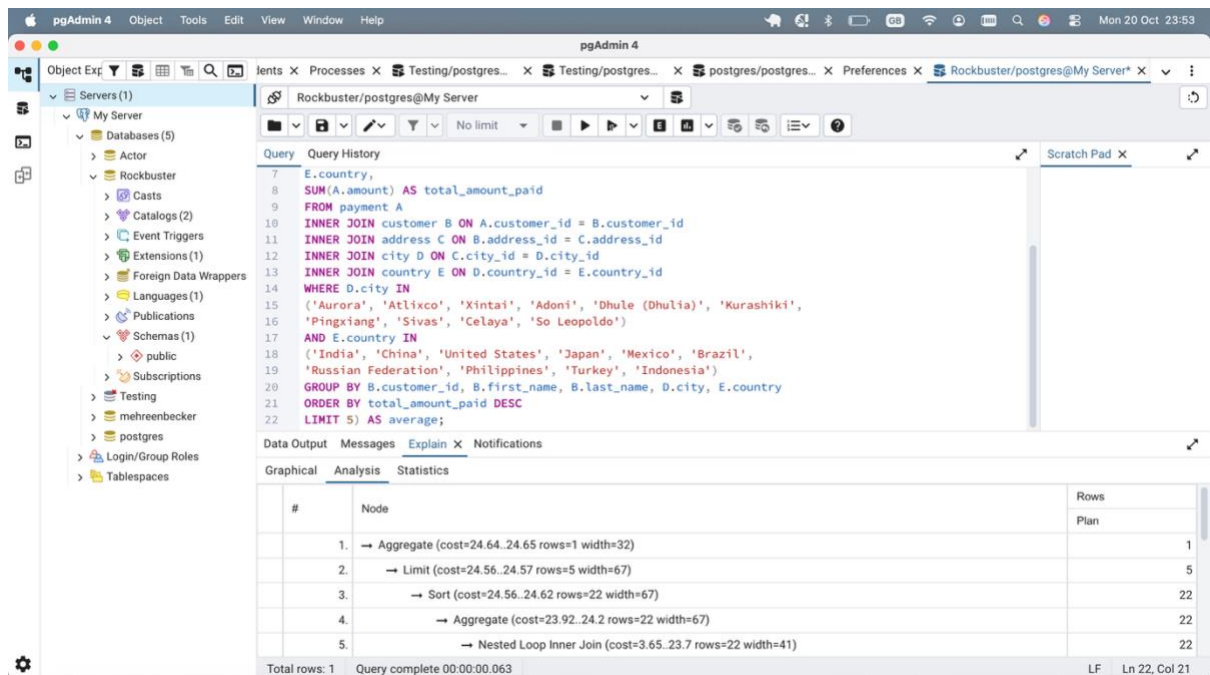


Figure 2: Cost (Subquery)

- The **EXPLAIN** command gives you an *estimated* cost. To find out the actual speed of your queries, run them in pgAdmin 4. After you've run each query, a popup window will display its speed in milliseconds.

Difference in query run time:

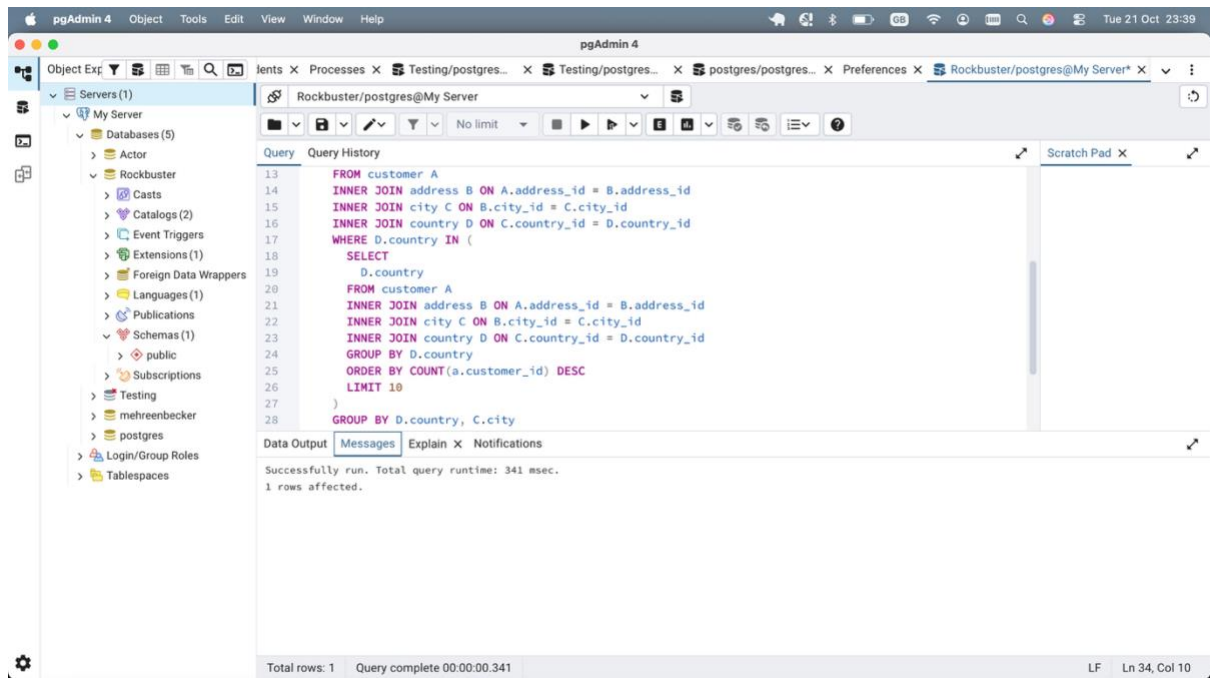


Figure 1: Total Query Runtime: 341 msec (CTE)

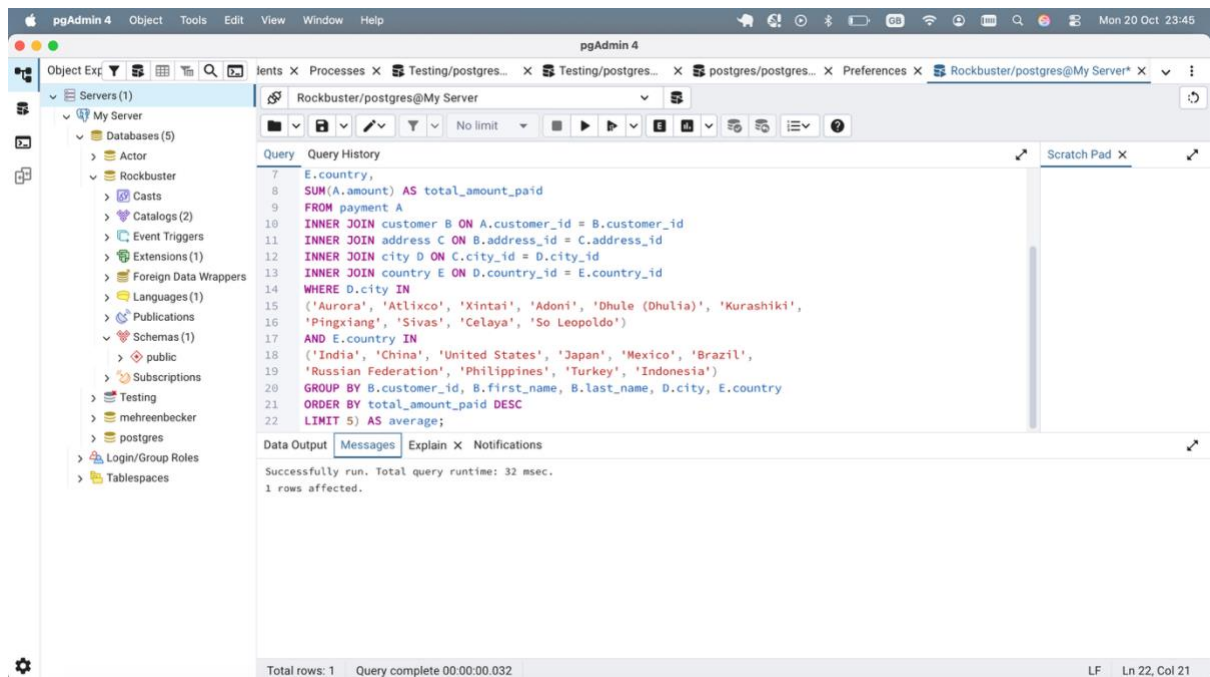


Figure 2: Total Query Runtime: 32 msec (Subquery)

4. **Did the results surprise you?** Write a few sentences to explain your answer. To be honest, no. I did think that subqueries would run faster (not that I noticed the few milisecond difference) but more because they feel more straightforward and less complex.

Step 3: Write 1 to 2 paragraphs on the challenges you faced when replacing your subqueries with CTEs. Since we were asked to use CTEs and not subqueries, one of the main challenges for me was to make sure that everything made sense. I did find myself feeling a little lost and confused since it's easier with CTEs to misplace filters and to also join things together. I

found myself scanning rows multiple times to ensure that the string made sense and that everything was connected with each other and connected in a way that it should be.