Reading query execution plans

Analyze the execution plan on the following query (which uses the AdventureWorks2012 database):

SELECT  Sales.SalesOrderDetail.OrderQty ,

Sales.SalesOrderDetail.SpecialOfferID ,

Sales.SalesOrderDetail.UnitPrice ,

Sales.SalesOrderDetail.UnitPriceDiscount ,

Sales.SalesOrderHeader.Status ,

Sales.SalesOrderHeader.AccountNumber

FROM    Sales.SalesOrderDetail

INNER JOIN Sales.SalesOrderHeader ON Sales.SalesOrderDetail.SalesOrderID = Sales.SalesOrderHeader.SalesOrderID

ORDER BY Sales.SalesOrderDetail.UnitPrice DESC

See if you can now answer a few questions about the execution plan:

1. There are two tables being joined, so you should expect to see two operations running on the right-hand side of the plan. What are the first two operations?  
     
   **They are each a clustered index seek.**
2. What kind of partitioning type do the parallelism operators use? You’ll need to look in the pop-up details box for this answer.  
     
   **Hash**
3. Given the type of partitioning, what kind of join operator might you expect to see next?  
     
   **Hash match**
4. Do you notice anything unusual about the icons in this execution plan, compared to the icons you saw in previous examples in this chapter?  
     
   **The icons all have a small “double arrow” added, indicating a parallel execution plan.**
5. What’s the most expensive operation in this execution plan?  
     
   **The sort**