Lecture 6: Nested Queries in SQL
Announcements

• HW1 is due today 11pm

• WQ1 is due tomorrow 11pm
  – no late days

• WQ3 is posted and due on Oct. 19, 11pm
Lecture Goals

• Today we will learn how to write (even) more powerful SQL queries

• Reading: Ch. 6.3
Subqueries

• A subquery is a SQL query nested inside a larger query
  – such inner-outer queries are called nested queries

• A subquery may occur in:
  – A SELECT clause
  – A FROM clause
  – A WHERE clause

• Rule of thumb: avoid nested queries when possible; keep in mind that sometimes it’s impossible
  – (though use in FROM is often not as bad)
Subqueries…

- Can return a single constant and this constant can be compared with another value in a WHERE clause
- Can return relations that can be used in various ways in WHERE clauses
- Can appear in FROM clauses, followed by a tuple variable that represents the tuples in the result of the subquery
- Can appear as computed values in a SELECT clause
1. Subqueries in SELECT

Product (pname, price, cid)
Company(cid, cname, city)

For each product, return the city where it is manufactured

```
SELECT X.pname, (SELECT Y.city
FROM Company Y
WHERE Y.cid=X.cid) as City
FROM Product X
```

What happens if the subquery returns more than one city?
We get a runtime error
• (SQLite simply ignores the extra values)
1. Subqueries in SELECT

Product \((\text{pname}, \text{price}, \text{cid})\)
Company\((\text{cid}, \text{cname}, \text{city})\)

For each product return the city where it is manufactured

\[
\text{SELECT X.pname, (SELECT Y.city \\
FROM Company Y \\
WHERE Y.cid=X.cid) as City}
\]

FROM Product X

What happens if the subquery returns more than one city?
We get a runtime error
• (SQLite simply ignores the extra values)
1. Subqueries in SELECT

Whenever possible, don’t use nested queries:

```
SELECT X.pname, (SELECT Y.city
  FROM Company Y
  WHERE Y.cid=X.cid) as City
FROM  Product X
```

```
SELECT X.pname, Y.city
FROM  Product X, Company Y
WHERE X.cid=Y.cid
```

We have “unnested” the query.

DBMS also does this…
1. Subqueries in SELECT

Compute the number of products made by each company

SELECT DISTINCT C.cname, (SELECT count(*)
FROM Product P
WHERE P.cid=C.cid)
FROM Company C

Better: we can unnest by using a GROUP BY

SELECT C.cname, count(*)
FROM Company C, Product P
WHERE C.cid=P.cid
GROUP BY C.cname
1. Subqueries in SELECT

But are these really equivalent?

```
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname, (SELECT count(*)
    FROM Product P
    WHERE P.cid=C.cid)
FROM Company C
```

```
SELECT C.cname, count(*)
FROM Company C, Product P
WHERE C.cid=P.cid
GROUP BY C.cname
```

```
SELECT C.cname, count(pname)
FROM Company C LEFT OUTER JOIN Product P
ON C.cid=P.cid
GROUP BY C.cname
```

No! Different results if a company has no products
2. Subqueries in FROM

Find all products whose prices is > 20 and < 500

```
SELECT X.pname
FROM (SELECT * FROM Product AS Y WHERE price > 20) as X
WHERE X.price < 500
```

Unnest this query!

```
SELECT pname
FROM Product
WHERE price > 20 AND price < 500
```
2. Subqueries in FROM

- We will see that sometimes we really need a subquery
  - will see most compelling examples next lecture
  - in that case, we can put it in the FROM clause
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies that make some products with price < 100

Using EXISTS:

```
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT *
    FROM Product P
    WHERE C.cid = P.cid and P.price < 100)
```
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies that make some products with price < 100

Using **IN**

```
SELECT DISTINCT  C.cname
FROM    Company C
WHERE  C.cid IN (SELECT P.cid
    FROM Product P
    WHERE P.price < 100)
```
Product \((pname, \ price, \ cid)\) 
Company\((cid, \ cname, \ city)\)

3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies that make some products with price < 100

Using ANY:

```
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname  
FROM Company C  
WHERE 100 > ANY (SELECT price  
FROM Product P  
WHERE P.cid = C.cid)
```

Existential quantifiers

Not supported in sqlite
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies that make **some** products with price < 100

```
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C, Product P
WHERE C.cid = P.cid and P.price < 100
```

Existential quantifiers are easy ! 😊

Product (pname, price, cid)
Company(cid, cname, city)
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

same as:

Find all companies that make only products with price < 100

Universal quantifiers are hard! 😞
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

1. Find the other companies with some product having price ≥ 100

```sql
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C
WHERE C.cid IN (SELECT P.cid
    FROM Product P
    WHERE P.price >= 100)
```

2. Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

```sql
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C
WHERE C.cid NOT IN (SELECT P.cid
    FROM Product P
    WHERE P.price >= 100)
```
Product (pname, price, cid)
Company(cid, cname, city)

3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

Using EXISTS:

```
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C
WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT *
    FROM Product P
    WHERE P.cid = C.cid and P.price >= 100)
```
3. Subqueries in WHERE

Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

Using \textbf{ALL}:

\begin{verbatim}
SELECT DISTINCT C.cname
FROM Company C
WHERE 100 >= ALL (SELECT price
FROM Product P
WHERE P.cid = C.cid)
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Universal quantifiers}

\textbf{Not supported in sqlite}
Question for Database Fans and their Friends

• Can we unnest the universal quantifier query?
  – No
Monotone Queries

- Definition: A query $Q$ is monotone if:
  - Whenever we add tuples to one or more input tables, the answer to the query will not lose any of the tuples.
Monotone Queries

• **Theorem:** If Q is a SELECT-FROM-WHERE query that does not have subqueries, and no aggregates, then it is monotone.

• **Proof.** We use the nested loop semantics: if we insert a tuple in a relation $R_i$, this will not remove any tuples from the answer.
Monotone Queries

- The query:

  Find all companies where all their products have price < 100

  is not monotone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pname</th>
<th>price</th>
<th>cid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>19.99</td>
<td>c001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadget</td>
<td>999.99</td>
<td>c001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Consequence: we cannot write it as a SELECT-FROM-WHERE query without nested subqueries
Queries that must be nested
(that is, cannot be SFW queries)

• Queries with universal quantifiers or negation

• Queries that use aggregates in usual ways are not monotone
  – Note: sum( .. ) etc. are NOT monotone
  – select count( * ) from R is not monotone!