Chapter 6

SQL: SubQueries
Definition

- A **subquery** contains one or more nested Select statements
- Example: List the staff who work in the branch at ‘163 Main St’
  ```sql
  SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position
  FROM Staff
  WHERE branchNo = (SELECT branchNo
                FROM Branch
                WHERE street = '163 Main St');
  ```
Subquery Resolution

- If the branchNo corresponding to ‘163 Main St’ is ‘B003’, then the query resolves to:

```
SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position
FROM Staff
WHERE branchNo = 'B003';
```
Sometimes, but not always, a subquery can be replaced with a join:

```sql
SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position
FROM Staff, Branch
WHERE (Staff.branchNo = Branch.branchNo)
    AND (street = '163 Main St');
```
Types of Subqueries

- **Scalar subquery**: Returns a single value
  
  **Example**: See previous example
  
  **Example**: List all staff whose salary is greater than the average salary, and show by how much their salary is greater than the average

  ```sql
  SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position,
          salary - (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Staff) AS salDiff
  FROM Staff
  WHERE salary > (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Staff);
  ```
Suppose the average salary is 17,000.

Then the query resolves as:

```sql
SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position, salary - 17000
FROM Staff
WHERE salary > 17000;
```
Using SQL Variables

- You can use SQL variables to store intermediate results
  1) Limited to storing single values (i.e., scalar values)
  2) Cannot store tables
  3) Prefix name with ‘@’

- Example
  ```sql
  SELECT @avgSalary := AVG(salary) FROM Staff;
  SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position, salary - @avgSalary AS salDiff
  FROM Staff
  WHERE salary > @avgSalary;
  ```
Types of Subqueries (Cont)

- Row subquery: Returns multiple columns possibly multiple rows
- Only used in an EXISTS predicate
- Example: Find all staff who work in a London branch office

```
SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position
FROM Staff s
WHERE EXISTS (SELECT * FROM Branch b
    WHERE s.branchNo = b.branchNo
    AND city = 'London');
```
Types of Subqueries (cont)

- **Table subquery**: Returns a table suitable for use with IN (only 1 column allowed in result returned by subquery)

**Example**: List the properties that are handled by staff who work in the branch at ‘163 Main St’

```sql
SELECT propertyNo, street, city, postcode, type, rooms, rent
FROM PropertyForRent
WHERE staffNo IN (SELECT staffNo
FROM Staff
WHERE branchNo = (SELECT branchNo
FROM Branch
WHERE street = ‘163 Main St’));
```
Subquery Rules

- ORDER BY clause may not be used in a subquery
- The subquery SELECT list must consist of a single column name or expression (except row queries in EXIST predicates)
- By default, column names in a subquery refer to the table name in the FROM clause of the subquery.
  
  It is possible to refer to a table in a FROM clause of an outer query by qualifying the column name

- When a subquery is one of the two operands involved in a comparison, the subquery must be the right hand side operand

  Example: In the previous aggregate subquery, it would not be permissible to have written:

  `WHERE (SELECT AVG(salary) FROM Staff) < salary;`
Exercise

- List all guests currently staying at the Grosvenor Hotel

  Hotel \( (\text{hotelNo}, \text{hotelName}, \text{city}) \)

  Room \( (\text{roomNo}, \text{hotelNo}, \text{type}, \text{price}) \)

  Booking \( (\text{hotelNo}, \text{guestNo}, \text{dateFrom}, \text{dateTo}, \text{roomNo}) \)

  Guest \( (\text{guestNo}, \text{guestName}, \text{guestAddress}) \)
Exercise

- List all guests currently staying at the Grosvenor Hotel
  
  Hotel  (hotelNo, hotelName, city)
  Room   (roomNo, hotelNo, type, price)
  Booking (hotelNo, guestNo, dateFrom, dateTo, roomNo)
  Guest  (guestNo, guestName, guestAddress)

SELECT * FROM Guest
  WHERE guestNo IN (SELECT guestNo FROM Booking
  WHERE (CURRENT_DATE BETWEEN dateFrom AND dateTo)
  AND hotelNo = (SELECT hotelNo FROM Hotel
  WHERE hotelName = 'Grosvenor Hotel'));
A Join Solution to the Exercise

◆ There is also a solution that involves join, without using a subquery

```sql
SELECT Guest.guestNo, Guest.guestName, Guest.guestAddr
FROM Guest, Booking, Hotel
WHERE (Guest.guestNo = Booking.guestNo)
  AND (CURRENT_DATE BETWEEN dateFrom AND dateTo)
  AND (Booking.hotelNo = Hotel.hotelNo)
  AND (hotelName = 'Grosvenor Hotel');
```