Common Table Expressions (CTEs) allow queries to be more imperative, allowing looping and processing hierarchical structures that are normally associated only with imperative languages.

Creative Commons Attribution License  http://momjian.us/presentations

Last updated: September, 2018
1. Imperative vs. declarative
2. Syntax
3. Recursive CTEs
4. Examples
5. Writable CTEs
6. Why use CTEs
1. Imperative vs. Declarative

https://www.flickr.com/photos/visit_cape_may/
In computer science, **imperative** programming is a programming paradigm that describes computation in terms of statements that change a program state. In much the same way that imperative mood in natural languages expresses commands to take action, imperative programs define sequences of commands for the computer to perform.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperative_programming
Declarative Programming Languages

The term is used in opposition to declarative programming, which expresses what the program should accomplish without prescribing how to do it in terms of sequence.
BASIC:

    10 PRINT "Hello";
    20 GOTO 10

C:

    while (1)
        printf("Hello\n");

Perl:

    print("Hello\n") while (1);
An infinite loop is not easily implemented in simple SQL.
Imperative Database Options

- Client application code (e.g., libpq, JDBC, DBD::Pg)
- Server-side programming (e.g., PL/pgSQL, PL/Perl, C)
- Common table expressions
2. Syntax
WITH [ RECURSIVE ] with_query_name [( column_name [, ...] )] AS
  ( select ) [, ...]
SELECT ...
Keep Your Eye on the Red (Text)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/alltheaces/
WITH source AS ( 
    SELECT 1
)
SELECT * FROM source;

The CTE created a source table that was referenced by the outer SELECT. All queries in this presentation can be downloaded from http://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/cte.sql
Let’s Name the Returned CTE Column

WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1 AS col1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
  col1  
    -----
      1

The CTE returned column is `source.col1`. 
The Column Can Also Be Named in the WITH Clause

WITH source (col1) AS (  
    SELECT 1  
  )  
SELECT * FROM source;  
col1  
------  
1
Columns Can Be Renamed

WITH source (col2) AS ( 
   SELECT 1 AS col1 
)
SELECT col2 AS col3 FROM source;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>col3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The CTE column starts as \textit{col1}, is renamed in the \texttt{WITH} clause as \textit{col2}, and the outer \texttt{SELECT} renames it to \textit{col3}. 
Multiple CTE Columns Can Be Returned

WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1, 2  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;

| ?column? | ?column? |
|----------+----------|
| 1        | 2        |
SELECT 1
UNION
SELECT 1;

?column?
----------
1

SELECT 1
UNION ALL
SELECT 1;

?column?
----------
1

1

1
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1, 2  
),  
    source2 AS (  
    SELECT 3, 4  
)  
SELECT * FROM source  
UNION ALL  
SELECT * FROM source2;  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>column?</th>
<th>column?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT lanname, rolname  
    FROM pg_language JOIN pg_roles ON lanowner = pg_roles.oid  
  )  
SELECT * FROM source;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lanname</th>
<th>rolname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>internal</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sql</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plpgsql</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT lanname, rolname  
    FROM pg_language JOIN pg_roles ON lanowner = pg_roles.oid  
    ORDER BY lanname
)

SELECT * FROM source
UNION ALL
SELECT MIN(lanname), NULL  
FROM source;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lanname</th>
<th>rolname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>internal</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plpgsql</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sql</td>
<td>postgres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH class AS (  
    SELECT oid, relname  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relkind = 'r'  
)
SELECT class.relname, attname  
FROM pg_attribute, class  
WHERE class.oid = attrelid  
ORDER BY 1, 2  
LIMIT 5;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>relname</th>
<th>attname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pg_aggregate</td>
<td>aggfinalfn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_aggregate</td>
<td>aggfnoioid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_aggregate</td>
<td>agginitval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_aggregate</td>
<td>aggsortop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_aggregate</td>
<td>aggtransfn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Imperative Control With CASE

CASE
  WHEN condition THEN result
  ELSE result
END

For example:

SELECT col,
  CASE
    WHEN col > 0 THEN 'positive'
    WHEN col = 0 THEN 'zero'
    ELSE 'negative'
  END 'negative'
FROM tab;
3. Recursive CTEs
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
    SELECT 1
)
SELECT * FROM source;

This does not loop because source is not mentioned in the CTE.
This Is an Infinite Loop

SET statement_timeout = '1s';

WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
SELECT 1  
UNION ALL  
SELECT 1 FROM source
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
ERROR: canceling statement due to statement timeout
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
SELECT 1  
UNION ALL  
SELECT 1 FROM source  
)
SELECT * FROM source;
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
  SELECT 'Hello'
  UNION ALL
  SELECT 'Hello' FROM source
)
SELECT * FROM source;
ERROR: canceling statement due to statement timeout
RESET statement_timeout;
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
    SELECT 'Hello'  
    UNION  
    SELECT 'Hello' FROM source  
  )  
SELECT * FROM source;
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS ( 
    -- seed value
    SELECT 1
    UNION ALL
    SELECT counter + 1
    FROM source
    -- terminal condition
    WHERE counter < 10
)
SELECT * FROM source;
Of course, this can be more easily accomplished using `generate_series(1, 10)`.
for (my $i = 1; $i <= 10; $i++)
{
    print "$i\n";
}
sub f {
    my $arg = shift;
    print "$arg\n";
    f($arg + 1) if ($arg < 10);
}
f(1);
my @table;
sub f {
    my $arg = shift // 1;
    push @table, $arg;
    f($arg + 1) if ($arg < 10);
}
f();
map {print "$_\n"} @table;

This is the most accurate representation of CTEs because it accumulates results in an array (similar to a table result).
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, product) AS (  
    SELECT 1, 1  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1, product * (counter + 1)  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
  )  
SELECT counter, product FROM source;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>40320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>362880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3628800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, product) AS ( 
    SELECT 1, 1
    UNION ALL
    SELECT counter + 1, product * (counter + 1)
    FROM source
    WHERE counter < 10
)
SELECT counter, product
FROM source
WHERE counter = 10;

counter | product
----------+---------
  10       | 3628800
my @table;
sub f
{
    my ($counter, $product) = @_; 
    my ($counter_new, $product_new);
    if (!defined($counter)) {
        $counter_new = 1;
        $product_new = 1;
    } else {
        $counter_new = $counter + 1;
        $product_new = $product * ($counter + 1);
    }
    push(@table, [$counter_new, $product_new]);
    f($counter_new, $product_new) if ($counter < 10);
}
f();
map {print "@$_
" if ($_->[0]) == 10} @table;
WITH RECURSIVE source (str) AS (  
    SELECT 'a'
    UNION ALL
    SELECT str || 'a'
    FROM source
    WHERE length(str) < 10
)
SELECT * FROM source;
str
----------
a
aa
aaa
aaaa
aaaaa
aaaaaa
aaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaa
WITH RECURSIVE source (str) AS ( 
    SELECT 'a'
    UNION ALL
    SELECT str || chr(ascii(substr(str, length(str))) + 1)
    FROM source
    WHERE length(str) < 10
)
SELECT * FROM source;
str

----------
a
ab
abc
abcd
abcde
abcdef
abcdefg
abcdefgh
abcdefghi
abcdefghij
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
  SELECT -10  
  UNION ALL  
  SELECT counter + 1  
  FROM source  
  WHERE counter < 10
)

SELECT repeat(' ', 5 - abs(counter) / 2) ||  
  'X' ||  
  repeat(' ', abs(counter)) ||  
  'X'  
FROM source;
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
  SELECT -10  
  UNION ALL  
  SELECT counter + 1  
  FROM source  
  WHERE counter < 10  
)

SELECT counter,
  repeat(' ', 5 - abs(counter) / 2) || 'X' || 
  repeat(' ', abs(counter)) || 'X'
FROM source;

This generates Integers from -10 to 10, and these numbers are used to print an appropriate number of spaces.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>?column?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>XX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-3</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-4</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-6</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-7</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-8</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-9</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-10</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
  SELECT -10  
  UNION ALL  
  SELECT counter + 1  
  FROM source  
  WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT repeat(' ', abs(counter)/2) || 'X' || repeat(' ', 10 - abs(counter)) || 'X'  
FROM source;
A Diamond

?column?

-------------

 XX
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X
 X X

XX
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS ( 
    SELECT -10 
    UNION ALL 
    SELECT counter + 1 
    FROM source 
    WHERE counter < 10 
)
SELECT repeat(' ', int4(pow(counter, 2)/10)) || 'X' || 
    repeat(' ', 2 * (10 - int4(pow(counter, 2)/10))) || 'X'
FROM source;
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
  )  
SELECT repeat(' ', int4(pow(counter, 2)/5)) ||  
    'X' ||  
    repeat(' ', 2 * (20 - int4(pow(counter, 2)/5))) ||  
    'X'  
FROM source;
The prime factors of $X$ are the prime numbers that must be multiplied to equal a $X$, e.g.:

$10 = 2 \times 5$
$27 = 3 \times 3 \times 3$
$48 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3$
$66 = 2 \times 3 \times 11$
$70 = 2 \times 5 \times 7$
$100 = 2 \times 2 \times 5 \times 5$
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 56, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT  
        CASE WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter ELSE counter + 1 END,  
        CASE WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter ELSE factor END,  
        CASE WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true ELSE false END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>factor</th>
<th>is_factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 56, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT  
        CASE  
            WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        ELSE counter + 1  
        END,  
        CASE  
            WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
        END,  
        CASE  
            WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
        END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>factor</th>
<th>is_factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS ( 
SELECT 2, 322434, false 
UNION ALL 
SELECT 
  CASE 
    WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter 
  ELSE counter + 1 
  END, 
  CASE 
    WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter 
  ELSE factor 
  END, 
  CASE 
    WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true 
  ELSE false 
  END
FROM source 
WHERE factor <> 1
)
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>factor</th>
<th>is_factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>161217</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>53739</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17913</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5971</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>853</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
  SELECT 2, 66, false  
  UNION ALL  
  SELECT  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
      ELSE counter + 1  
    END,  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
      ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
      ELSE false  
    END  
  FROM source  
  WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>factor</th>
<th>is_factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
  SELECT 2, 66, false  
  UNION ALL  
  SELECT  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
      -- is 'factor' prime?  
      WHEN counter * counter > factor THEN factor  
      -- now only odd numbers  
      WHEN counter = 2 THEN 3  
      ELSE counter + 2  
    END,  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
      ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
      WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
      ELSE false  
    END  
  FROM source  
  WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
| counter | factor | is_factor |
|---------+--------+-----------|
| 2       | 66     | f         |
| 2       | 33     | t         |
| 3       | 33     | f         |
| 3       | 11     | t         |
| 5       | 11     | f         |
| 11      | 11     | f         |
| 11      | 1      | t         |
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2,66, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT  
        CASE  
            WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
            -- is 'factor' prime?  
        WHEN counter * counter > factor THEN factor  
            -- now only odd numbers  
        WHEN counter = 2 THEN 3  
        ELSE counter + 2  
        END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
        END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
        END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counter</th>
<th>factor</th>
<th>is_factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
my @table;
sub f {
    my ($counter, $factor, $is_factor) = @_; 
    my ($counter_new, $factor_new, $is_factor_new);
    if (!defined($counter)) {
        $counter_new = 2;
        $factor_new = 66;
        $is_factor_new = 0;
    } else {
        $counter_new = ($factor % $counter == 0) ?
            $factor : ($counter * $counter > $factor) ?
            $factor :
            ($counter == 2) ?
            3 :
            $counter + 2;
        $factor_new = ($factor % $counter == 0) ?
            $factor / $counter :
            $factor;
        $is_factor_new = ($factor % $counter == 0);
    }
    push(@table, [$counter_new, $factor_new, $is_factor_new]);
    f($counter_new, $factor_new) if ($factor != 1);
}
f();
map {print "$_->[0] $_->[1] $_->[2]\n" if ($_->[2]) == 1} @table;
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE part (parent_part_no INTEGER, part_no INTEGER);

INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 11);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 12);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 13);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 21);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 22);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 23);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (11, 101);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (13, 102);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (13, 103);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (22, 221);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (22, 222);
INSERT INTO part VALUES (23, 231);
WITH RECURSIVE source (part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;

Using UNION without ALL here would avoid infinite recursion if there is a loop in the data, but it would also cause a part with multiple parents to appear only once.
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
  )  
SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree  
FROM source;

part_tree
-----------
+2
+-21
+-22
+-23
+--221
+--222
+--231
### The Parts in ASCII Order

```sql
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, '2', 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, tree || ' ' || part.part_no::text, part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)

SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree, tree  
FROM source  
ORDER BY tree;
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>part_tree</th>
<th>tree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--21</td>
<td>2 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--22</td>
<td>2 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----221</td>
<td>2 22 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----222</td>
<td>2 22 222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--23</td>
<td>2 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----231</td>
<td>2 23 231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (
  SELECT 0, '{2}'::int[], 2
  UNION ALL
  SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, part.part_no), part.part_no
  FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)
)
SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree, tree
FROM source
ORDER BY tree;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>part_tree</th>
<th>tree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+2</td>
<td>{2}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--21</td>
<td>{2,21}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--22</td>
<td>{2,22}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----221</td>
<td>{2,22,221}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----222</td>
<td>{2,22,222}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+--23</td>
<td>{2,23}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+----231</td>
<td>{2,23,231}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, '{2}':::int[], 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, part.part_no), part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)

SELECT *, '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree  
FROM source  
ORDER BY tree;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>level</th>
<th>tree</th>
<th>part_no</th>
<th>part_tree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>{2}</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>{2,21}</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>+--21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>{2,22}</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>+--22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>{2,22,221}</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>+----221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>{2,22,222}</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>+----222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>{2,23}</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>+--23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>{2,23,231}</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>+----231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE deptest (x1 INTEGER);
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
    oid  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
    )  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
(SELECT typname FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
(SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
(SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
(SELECT adsrc FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef,  
(SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>kind</th>
<th>attrdef</th>
<th>constraint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (
    SELECT classid, objid
    FROM pg_depend JOIN pg_class ON (refobjid = pg_class.oid)
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'
    UNION ALL
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)
)

SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,
(SELECT typname FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,
(SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,
(SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,
(SELECT adsrc FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef,
(SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint
FROM dep
ORDER BY obj;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>kind</th>
<th>attrdef</th>
<th>constraint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALTER TABLE deptest ADD PRIMARY KEY (x1);
NOTICE: ALTER TABLE / ADD PRIMARY KEY will create implicit index "deptest_pkey" for table "deptest"
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (
    SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),
           oid
    FROM pg_class
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'
    UNION ALL
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)
)
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,
        (SELECT typname FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,
        (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,
        (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,
        (SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint
FROM dep
ORDER BY obj;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>kind</th>
<th>attrdef</th>
<th>constraint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_pkey</td>
<td>i</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_pkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_constraint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALTER TABLE deptest ADD COLUMN x2 SERIAL;

NOTICE:  ALTER TABLE will create implicit sequence "deptest_x2_seq" for serial column "deptest.x2"
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
    oid  
FROM pg_class  
WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
UNION ALL  
SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
    (SELECT typname FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
    (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
    (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
    (SELECT adsrc FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef  
-- column removed to reduce output width  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>kind</th>
<th>attrdef</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_pkey</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>nextval('deptest_x2_seq'::regclass)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_constraint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_x2_seq</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>nextval('deptest_x2_seq'::regclass)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest_x2_seq</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_attrdef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_attrdef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pg_attrdef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WITH RECURSIVE dep (level, tree, classid, obj) AS (
    SELECT 0, array_append(null, oid)::oid[],
        (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),
        oid
    FROM pg_class
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'
    UNION ALL
    SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, objid),
        pg_depend.classid, objid
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)
)
SELECT tree,
    (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,
    (SELECT typname FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,
    (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,
    (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind
    -- column removed to reduce output width
FROM dep
ORDER BY tree, obj;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tree</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>kind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{16458}</td>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16460}</td>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16460,16459}</td>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>_deptest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16462}</td>
<td>pg_constraint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16462,16461}</td>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_pkey</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16463}</td>
<td>pg_class</td>
<td></td>
<td>deptest_x2_seq</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16463,16464}</td>
<td>pg_type</td>
<td>deptest_x2_seq</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16463,16465}</td>
<td>pg_attrdef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{16458,16465}</td>
<td>pg_attrdef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Writable CTEs

https://www.flickr.com/photos/dmelchordiaz/
Writable CTEs

- Allow data-modification commands (INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE) in WITH clauses
  - These commands can use RETURNING to pass data up to the containing query.
- Allow WITH clauses to be attached to INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE statements
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo (x NUMERIC);

INSERT INTO retdemo VALUES (random()), (random()), (random()) RETURNING x;

---------------------
0.00761545216664672
0.85416117589920831
0.10137318633496895

WITH source AS (  
    INSERT INTO retdemo  
    VALUES (random()), (random()), (random()) RETURNING x
  )  
SELECT AVG(x) FROM source;

---------------------
0.46403147140517833
WITH source AS ( 
    DELETE FROM retdemo RETURNING x 
)
SELECT MAX(x) FROM source;

max
---------------------
0.93468171451240821
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo2 (x NUMERIC);

INSERT INTO retdemo2 VALUES (random()), (random()), (random());

WITH source (average) AS (  
    SELECT AVG(x) FROM retdemo2
 )
DELETE FROM retdemo2 USING source
WHERE retdemo2.x < source.average;

SELECT * FROM retdemo2;
    x
-------------------
0.777186767663807
WITH RECURSIVE source (part_no) AS ( 
    SELECT 2 
    UNION ALL 
    SELECT part.part_no 
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no) 
) 
DELETE FROM part 
USING source 
WHERE source.part_no = part.part_no;
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo3 (x NUMERIC);

INSERT INTO retdemo3 VALUES (random()), (random()), (random());

WITH source (average) AS (  
    SELECT AVG(x) FROM retdemo3
  ),
  source2 AS (    
    DELETE FROM retdemo3 USING source
    WHERE retdemo3.x < source.average
    RETURNING x
  )
SELECT * FROM source2;

  x
-------------------
  0.185174203012139
  0.209731927141547

92 / 96
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE orders (order_id SERIAL, name text);

CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE items (order_id INTEGER, part_id SERIAL, name text);

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    INSERT INTO orders VALUES (DEFAULT, 'my order') RETURNING order_id
)
INSERT INTO items (order_id, name) SELECT order_id, 'my part' FROM source;

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    DELETE FROM orders WHERE name = 'my order' RETURNING order_id
)
DELETE FROM items USING source WHERE source.order_id = items.order_id;
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE old_orders (order_id INTEGER);

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    DELETE FROM orders WHERE name = 'my order' RETURNING order_id
), source2 AS (
    DELETE FROM items USING source WHERE source.order_id = items.order_id
)
INSERT INTO old_orders SELECT order_id FROM source;
6. Why Use CTEs

- Allows imperative processing in SQL
- Merges multiple SQL queries and their connecting application logic into a single, unified SQL query
- Improves performance by issuing fewer queries
  - reduces transmission overhead, unless server-side functions are being used
  - reduces parsing/optimizing overhead, unless prepared statements are being used
- Uses the same row visibility snapshot for the entire query, rather than requiring serializable isolation mode
- Adds a optimizer barrier between each CTE and the outer query
  - helpful with writable CTEs
  - can hurt performance when a join query is changed to use CTEs
http://momjian.us/presentations

https://www.flickr.com/photos/theophilusphotography/