DB 2

08 - Predicate Evaluation

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Torsten Grust Universität Tübingen, Germany SQL's WHERE/HAVING/FILTER clauses use expressions of type Boolean (predicates) to filter rows. Predicates may use Boolean connectives (AND, OR, NOT) to build complex filters from simple predicate building blocks:

```
SELECT t.a, t.b

FROM ternary AS t

WHERE t.a % 2 = 0 AND [OR] t.c < 1 -- either AND or OR
```

Evaluate predicate for every row t scanned. Here: assume that evaluation of the predicate is *not* supported by a specific index. (\triangle Index support for predicates is essential \rightarrow see upcoming chapters.)



```
EXPLAIN VERBOSE
 SELECT t.a, t.b
 FROM ternary AS t
                                   -- 1000 rows
 WHERE t.a \% 2 = 0 AND t.c < 1;
                              QUERY PLAN
  Seq Scan on ternary t (cost=... rows=1 ...) (actual time=... rows=5 ...)
    Filter: ((c < '1'::double precision)) AND ((a % 2) = 0))
    Rows Removed by Filter: 995
 Planning time: 2.125 ms
  Execution time: 1.894 ms
```

- Filter predicate evaluated during Seq Scan.
- Estimated **selectivity** of predicate 1/1000 (real: 5/1000).

t.a % 2 = 0 AND t.c < 1: An Expression of Type bool



• In the absence of index support, use the regular expression interpreter to evaluate predicates:

• Uses "jumps" in program to implement Boolean shortcut.

PostgreSOL source code (expression interpreter):

- Boolean shortcut in BOOL_AND_STEP_FIRST: src/backend/executor/execExpInterp.c, function ExecInterpExpr()
- Invocation of expression interpreter in Seq Scan: src/backend/executor/execScan.c, function ExecScan(). See call ExecQual(qual, econtext), preceded by comment:

```
/*
 * check that the current tuple satisfies the qual-clause
 *
 * check for non-null qual here to avoid a function call to ExecQual()
 * when the qual is null ... saves only a few cycles, but they add up
 * ...
 */
if (qual == NULL || ExecQual(qual, econtext))
[...]
```

• Function ExecQual() found in src/include/executor/executor.h. Can process entire list ps of conjunctive clauses:
• ExecQual() handles case ps = [] and immediately returns *true* (ex falso quod libet).

Heuristic Predicate Simplification

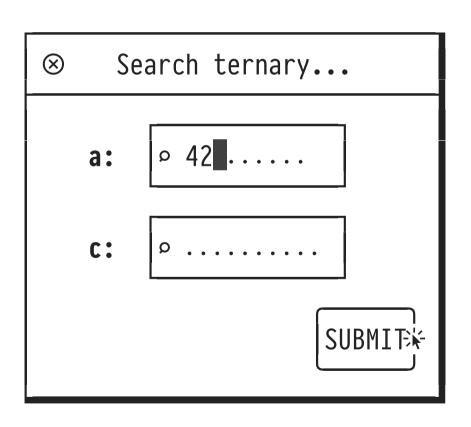


- Predicate evaluation effort is multiplied by the number of rows processed. Even small simplifications add up.
- PostgreSQL performs basic predicate simplifications:
 - Reduce constant expressions to true/false.
 - ∘ Apply basic identities (e.g., NOT(NOT(p)) ≡ p and (p AND q) OR (p AND r) ≡ p AND (q OR r)).
 - \circ Remove duplicate clauses (e.g., p AND $p \equiv p$)
 - Apply De Morgan's laws.
- 1 These are **heuristics** (expected to improve evaluation time): selectivity is *not yet* taken into account.

```
Show heuristic predicate simplification at work:
 -- 1 Remove double NOT() + De Morgan:
db2=# EXPLAIN VERBOSE
        SELECT t.a, t.b
        FROM ternary AS t
        WHERE NOT(NOT(NOT(t.a \% 2 = 0 AND t.c < 1)));
                              OUERY PLAN
   Seq Scan on public.ternary t (cost=0.00..27.50 rows=1000 width=37)
    Output: a, b
     Filter: ((t.a \% 2) <> 0) OR (t.c >= '1'::double precision))
-- 2 Inverse distributivity of AND:
db2=# EXPLAIN VERBOSE
        SELECT t.a, t.b
        FROM ternary AS t
        WHERE (t.a \% 2 = 0 AND t.c < 1) OR (t.a \% 2 = 0 AND t.c > 2);
                                             OUERY PLAN
   Seq Scan on public.ternary t (cost=0.00..30.00 rows=5 width=37)
    Output: a, b
     Filter: (((t.c < '1'::double precision) OR (t.c > '2'::double precision)) AND ((t.a \% 2) = 0))
```

Machine-Generated Queries and Predicate Simplification

Automatically generated SQL text may differ significantly from human-authored queries. Consider a web search form:



- 1. User enters search keys for columns **a** and/or **c**.
- 2. Web form maps missing keys to **NULL** (interpret as wildcard).
- 3. DBMS executes parameterized query:

```
FROM ternary AS t
WHERE (t.a = :a OR :a IS NULL)
AND (t.c = :c OR :c IS NULL)
```

```
db2=# EXPLAIN VERBOSE
    SELECT t.*
    FROM ternary AS t
    WHERE (t.a = 42 OR 42 IS NULL)
    AND (t.c = NULL OR NULL IS NULL);
```

OUERY PLAN

Seq Scan on public.ternary t (cost=0.00..22.50 rows=1 width=45)
 Output: a, b, c
 Filter: (t.a = 42)

db2=# EXPLAIN VERBOSE

SELECT t.*
FROM ternary AS t
WHERE (t.a = NULL OR NULL IS NULL)
AND (t.c = NULL OR NULL IS NULL);

QUERY PLAN

Seq Scan on public.ternary t (cost=0.00..20.00 rows=1000 width=45)
 Output: a, b, c

Heuristics May Not Be Enough



• Heuristics only go so far. The (estimated) **cost** of evaluation may suggest better predicate rewrites:

```
SELECT t.* (expected) cost FROM ternary_10m AS t length(btrim(t.b, '0...9')) < length(t.b) p_1 or t.a % 1000 <> 0 p_2
```

- With Boolean shortcut it makes a difference which disjunct is evaluated first. (Both predicates not selective, p_1 : 85.9%, p_2 : 99.9% of 10⁷ rows pass.)
- ⇒ Many optimizer decisions indeed are cost-based.

Selectivity-based decisions are important in query optimization, but selectivity is secondary for this example. Predicate evaluation cost dominates the overall query evaluation cost:

QUERY PLAN

```
Seq Scan on ternary_10m (cost=0.00..342594.10 rows=9966711 width=45) (actual time=0.043..14219.828 rows=9998573 loops=1) Filter: ((length(btrim(b, '01234567890'::text)) < length(b)) OR ((a % 1000) <> 0)) Rows Removed by Filter: 1427 Planning time: 0.156 ms Execution time: 14741.087 ms —
```

db2=# EXPLAIN ANALYZE

SELECT *

FROM ternary_10m AS t WHERE t.a % 1000 <> 0

OR length(btrim(t.b, '01234567890')) < length(t.b);

OUERY PLAN

```
Seq Scan on ternary_10m (cost=0.00..342594.10 rows=9966711 width=45) (actual time=0.025..2302.257 rows=9998573 loops=1) Filter: (((a % 1000) <> 0) OR (length(btrim(b, '01234567890'::text)) < length(b)))
```

Rows Removed by Filter: 1427

Planning time: 0.116 ms

Execution time: 2803.925 ms -

2 Q_7 — Predicate (or Filter) Evaluation



```
SELECT t.a, t.b

FROM ternary AS t

WHERE t.a % 2 = 0 AND [OR] t.c < 1 -- either AND or OR
```

MonetDB can evaluate basic predicates on individual column BATs (here: a and c)

• but then needs to

- 1. derive the result of composite predicates ② and
- 2. propagate the filter effect to all output columns (here: a, b) 3 to form the final selection result.

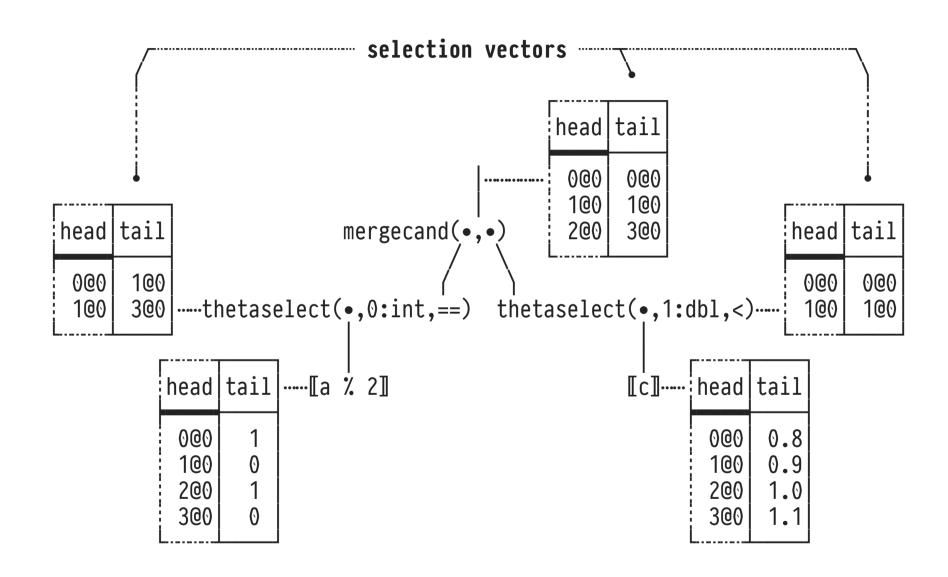
Using EXPLAIN on Q_7 (Boolean Connective: OR)



```
sql> EXPLAIN SELECT t.a, t.b
           FROM ternary AS t
           WHERE t.a \% 2 = 0 OR t.c < 1;
 ternary :bat[:oid] := sql.tid(sql, "sys", "ternary");
        :bat[:int] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "a", 0:int);
 a0
        :bat[:int] := algebra.projection(ternary, a0);
 а
        :bat[:int] := batcalc.%(a, 2:int);
 e1
1 p1 :bat[:oid] := algebra.thetaselect(e1, 0:int, "=="); - p<sub>1</sub> = a % 2 = 0
        :bat[:dbl] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "c", 0:int);
 c0
        :bat[:dbl] := algebra.projection(ternary, c0);
 С
        :bat[:oid] := algebra.thetaselect(c, 1:dbl, "<"); -p_2 \equiv c < 1
1 p2
        :bat[:oid] := bat.mergecand(p1, p2);
2 or
                                                      -p_1 \vee p_2
 b0 :bat[:str] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "b", 0:int);
bres :bat[:str] := algebra.projectionpath(or, ternary, b0); - result col b
```

Result of a Predicate ≡ Selection Vectors





Selection Vectors (also: Candidate Lists)



- Selection vector sv: BAT of type bat[:oid].
 i@0 ∈ sv ⇔ ith input row satisfies filter predicate.
- Use algebra.projection(sv, col) to propagate filter effect to column col.
- Implement Boolean connectives for predicate p_i with sv_i :
 - $\circ p_1$ OR p_2 : bat.mergecand(sv_1, sv_2)
 - $\circ p_1$ AND p_2 : algebra.projectionpath(sv_2, sv_1, \bullet) with

```
algebra.projectionpath(sv_2, sv_1, \bullet) = algebra.projection(sv_2, algebra.projection(<math>sv_1, \bullet)).
```

```
Demonstrate evaluation of disjunctive condition in MAL:
$ mclient -d scratch -l mal
  sql.init();
  sql := sql.mvc();
  ternary:bat[:oid] := sql.tid(sql, "sys", "ternary");
a0    :bat[:int] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "a", 0:int);
         :bat[:int] := algebra.projection(ternary, a0);
         :bat[:int] := batcalc.%(a, 2:int); # - a % 2
  io.print(e1);
 #----#
 #ht #name
# void int # type
 [ 000, 1 ]
 [ 100, 0 ]
 [ 200, 1 ]
 [ 300, 0 ]
 [...]
         :bat[:oid] := algebra.thetaselect(e1, 0:int, "=="); # \leftarrow p<sub>1</sub> = a % 2 = 0
  p1
  io.print(p1);
# h t # name
# void oid # type
 #----#
 [ 000, 100 ]
 [ 100, 300 ]
 [\ldots]
 [ 49800, 99700 ]
 [ 499@0, 999@0 ]
  c0 :bat[:dbl] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "c", 0:int);
         :bat[:dbl] := algebra.projection(ternary, c0);
         :bat[:oid] := algebra.thetaselect(c, 1:dbl, "<"); # = p_2 \equiv c < 1
  io.print(p2);
#-----#
 #ht #name
# void void # type
\begin{bmatrix} 000, & 000 \end{bmatrix} = c = 0 = c = 0.6931471805599453
 # -----
# Interlude on range selection
```

 $v < !-- \le hi (false = <) complement result?$

```
# algebra.select(col, lo, hi, true, false, false):
             lo </≤ v (true ≡ ≤)
# Return oids of values v in col in the range [lo, hi)
 sv := algebra.select(c, 2:dbl, 2.5:dbl, true, false, false); # - 2 \leq c < 2.5
 io.print(sv);
#-----#
#ht #name
# void void # type
[ 000, 700 ]
[ 100, 800 ]
[ 200, 900 ]
[ 300, 1000 ]
[ 400, 1100 ]
 range := algebra.projection(sv, c);
 io.print(range);
 or := bat.mergecand(p1, p2); #  = p_1 \lor p_2 
 io.print(or);
#ht #name
# void oid # type
[ 000, 000 ] — contributed by e3
[ 100, 100 ] — contributed by e2 and e3
[ 200, 300 ] — contributed by e2
[...]
        :bat[:str] := sql.bind(sql, "sys", "ternary", "b", 0:int);
 bres :bat[:str] := algebra.projectionpath(or, ternary, b0); # - applies visibility in ternary AND THEN selection vector
      :bat[:int] := algebra.projection(or, a); # - applies selection vector
 ares
 io.print(ares, bres);
#ttt # name
# void int str # type
[ 0@0, 1, "c4ca4238a0b923820dcc509a6f75849b" ]
[ 1@0, 2, "c81e728d9d4c2f636f067f89cc14862c" ]
[...]
[ 499@0. 998. "9ab0d88431732957a618d4a469a0d4c3" ]
[ 500@0, 1000, "a9b7ba70783b617e9998dc4dd82eb3c5" ]
```



Under a layer of C macros, the core of MonetDB's filtering routine $sv := thetaselect(col:bat[:int], v:int, \theta)$ resembles:

```
int thetaselect(int *sv, int *col, int v, \theta)
  int SIZE = <number of rows in col>;
                                                      /* input cardinality */
  int out = 0;
  for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {</pre>
      if (col[i] \theta v) {
                                                  /* test filter condition */
         sv[out] = i;
                                                 /* build selection vector */
          out += 1;
  return out;
                                                    /* output cardinality */
```

Instruction Pipelining in Modern CPUs

Control flow branches (for, but particularly if) are a challenge for modern pipelining CPUs:

Branch Taken? Yes, Flush Pipeline

This pipeline decides the outcome of branch #i (end of ID) only after instruction #i+1 has already been fetched (IF):

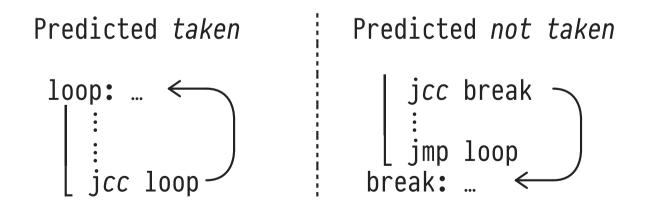
• If the branch is taken, **flush** instruction #i+1 from pipeline \P , instead fetch instruction #j at jump target:

Branch Prediction: History and Heuristics

CPUs thus try to predict the outcome of a branch #i based on earlier recorded outcomes of the same branch:

Branch	prediction	Fetch instruction
	taken	# <i>j</i>
	not taken	#i+1

• Also: heuristics based on typical control flow patterns:



Avoiding Branch Mispredictions

- - 1. pipeline flushes—effectively a stall—and
 - 2. (possibly) instruction cache misses.
- The resulting runtime penalty indeed is significant ⇒
 DBMSs aim to avoid branch mispredictions in tight inner loops:
 - prefer branch-less implementations of query logic,
 - reduce number of random/hard-to-predict branches.

```
Demonstrate the effects of branch misprediction using a selection col < v. Linearly grow v from 0...max. Selectivity of predicate col < v
linearly grows from 0% to 100%.
See file mat/branch-prediction.c, core tight loop:
 out = 0:
 for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
     if (col[i] < v) {
         sv[out] = i:
         out += 1:
Compile via (! no -0 or -02 here):
 $ cc -Wall branch-prediction.c -o branch-prediction
OUIZ: Let students speculate about outcome of experiment.
1 Sample run:
 $ ./branch-prediction
                                       predicate always false: branch always taken (perfect to predict, also meets heuristic)
  0 (selectivity: 0.00%) 33207µs
  1 (selectivity: 10.00%) 55499µs
                                        branch outcome increasingly random and thus hard to predict,
  2 (selectivity: 20.00%) 82161µs
                                        branch mispredictions increasingly likely
  3 (selectivity: 29.99%) 107224µs
  4 (selectivity: 40.00%) 153250µs
  5 (selectivity: 49.99%) 128811µs
                                        branch outcome essentially arbitrary and thus impossible to predict
  6 (selectivity: 59.98%) 120362µs
                                        branch becomes more and more like to be untaken,
  7 (selectivity: 69.99%) 103390µs
  8 (selectivity: 80.01%) 83365µs
                                        branch mispredictions decrease
  9 (selectivity: 90.01%) 65245µs
 10 (selectivity: 100.00%) 48755µs
                                    predicate always true: branch never taken (perfect to predict)
2 Experiment (1): Sort the column vector in ascending order. Column vector is effectively divided into two parts:
    1. starting region of column vector where always col < v: branch never taken ⇒ perfect to predict
    2. ending region of column vector where always col > v: branch always taken ⇒ perfect to predict
(Actual value of v immaterial—the larger v, the longer sv grows which needs a bit of work.)
Sample run for Experiment (1):
```

```
0 (selectivity: 0.00%) 27578µs

    builds empty selection vector, no memory writes

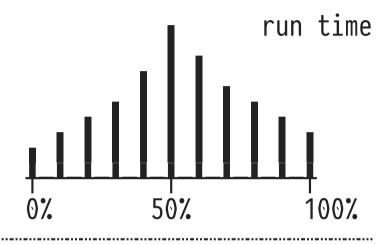
 1 (selectivity: 10.00%) 35127µs
 2 (selectivity: 20.00%) 37500µs
 3 (selectivity: 29.99%) 40296µs
 4 (selectivity: 40.00%) 39552µs
 5 (selectivity: 49.99%) 41864us
 6 (selectivity: 59.98%) 43514µs
 7 (selectivity: 69.99%) 43268µs
 8 (selectivity: 80.01%) 43903µs
 9 (selectivity: 90.01%) 46592us
10 (selectivity: 100.00%) 50677µs — builds long selection vector, lots of memory writes
■ Experiment (2): A branch-less selection.
out = 0:
for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
    sv[out] = i:
    Sample run for Experiment (2):
 0 (selectivity: 0.00%) 45288µs
                                    repeatedly writes to sv[0] only
 1 (selectivity: 10.00%) 46625µs
 2 (selectivity: 20.00%) 49592µs
 3 (selectivity: 29.99%) 47187µs
 4 (selectivity: 40.00%) 49891µs
                                    run time unaffacted by predicate selectivity
 5 (selectivity: 49.99%) 49738us
 6 (selectivity: 59.98%) 49811µs
 7 (selectivity: 69.99%) 46630µs
 8 (selectivity: 80.01%) 47391µs
 9 (selectivity: 90.01%) 47367µs
10 (selectivity: 100.00%) 52009µs — writes to entire sv[0...SIZE-1]
File mat/branch-prediction.c:
/* Demonstrate the effects of branch mispredictions for a selection
 * col < v implemented in a tight loop
 */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <sys time.h="">
#include <assert.h>
#define MICROSECS(t) (1000000 * (t).tv_sec + (t).tv_usec)
```

```
#define SIZE (16 * 1024 * 1024)
#define STEPS 11
/* comparison of a, b (used in gsort) */
int cmp (const void *a, const void *b)
    return *((int*) a) - *((int*) b);
int main()
                   /* column vector */
    int *col;
                     /* selection vector */
    int *sv;
    int out;
    float selectivity;
    struct timeval t0, t1;
    unsigned long duration;
    /* allocate memory */
    col = malloc(SIZE * sizeof(int));
    assert(col);
    sv = malloc(SIZE * sizeof(int));
    assert(sv);
    /* initialize column with (pseudo) random values in interval 0...RAND_MAX */
    srand(42);
    for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
        col[i] = rand();
    /* Experiment (1):
   // qsort(col, SIZE, sizeof(int), cmp);
    for (int step = 0; step < STEPS; step += 1) {</pre>
        /* v grows linearly 0...RAND_MAX in STEPS steps */
        int v = step * (RAND_MAX / (STEPS - 1));
        gettimeofday(&t0, NULL);
        out = 0:
        for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
```

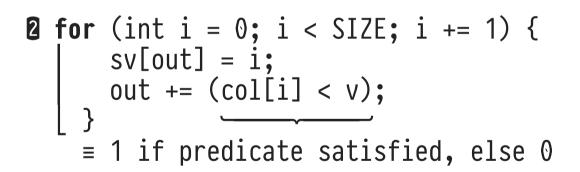


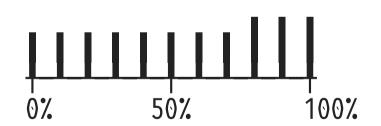
run time

```
1 for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
    if (col[i] < v) {
        sv[out] = i;
        out += 1;
        }
    }</pre>
```



selectivity





2: Only well-predictable loop control flow (for) remains.



There is an entire space of possibilities to implement composite predicates (e.g., the conjunction p_1 AND p_2):

- Use branch-less selection via out $+= p_1 \& p_2$ (note use of C's bit-wise and operator &).
- Identify the *more selective*¹ (and thus more predictable) conjunct p_1 , say, then use

```
if (p<sub>1</sub>) {
    sv[out] = i;
    out += (p<sub>2</sub>);
}
```

¹ This is important. Using if (p_2) ... instead, where p_2 is unpredictable, immediately ruins the plan.

```
Demonstrate three alternatives for the implementation of the composite predicate col < v AND col % 2 = 0.
See file mat/mixed-mode-conjunction.c. Compile via (A no -02 here):
$ cc -Wall mixed-mode-conjunction.c -o mixed-mode-conjunction
   • (A) Branch-less selection performs independent of selectivity of both predicates.
   • (B) Mixed-mode selection with selective/predictable col < v in if (col < v) performs better than branch-less as long as col < v is very
      selective (saves work).
   • (C) Mixed-mode selection with unpredictable col % 2 = 0 in if (col % 2 == 0) always performs the worst.
Sample run:
$ ./mixed-mode-conjunction
     sel
                    mixed B mixed C
                    28ms
                             208ms
     0.00%
             87ms
     5.00%
             87ms
                    58ms
                             201ms
    10.00%
             86ms
                    77ms
                             198ms
    15.00%
                    101ms
                             200ms
             84ms
    20.00%
             86ms
                   125ms
                             208ms
                                       \blacksquare selectivity of (col < v) = 50%
    25.00%
             83ms
                    150ms
                             205ms
                   135ms
    30.00%
             85ms
                             195ms
    35.00%
             82ms
                    122ms
                             200ms
 8 40.00%
             82ms
                    108ms
                             198ms
    45.00%
                   108ms
                             209ms
             81ms
 10 50.00%
             85ms
                    87ms
                             202ms
 selectivity of col < v AND col % 2 = 0
```

File mat/mixed-mode-conjunction.c:

```
/* Demonstrate alternatives for the implementation of
 * conjunctive predicate col < v \ col \% 2 = 0:
 * (A) branch-less selection (via & and +=)
 * (B) mixed mode selection (via if [varying selectivity] and +=)
 * (C) mixed mode selection (via if [unpredictable] and +=)
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <sys time.h="">
#include <assert.h>
#define MILLISECS(t) ((1000000 * (t).tv_sec + (t).tv_usec) / 1000)
```

```
#define SIZE (16 * 1024 * 1024)
#define STEPS 11
/* comparison of a, b (used in gsort) */
int cmp (const void *a, const void *b)
    return *((int*) a) - *((int*) b);
int main()
    int *col:
                 /* column vector */
                 /* selection vector */
   int *sv;
    int out;
    float selectivity;
    struct timeval t0, t1;
    unsigned long duration1, duration2, duration3;
    /* allocate memory */
    col = malloc(SIZE * sizeof(int));
    assert(col);
    sv = malloc(SIZE * sizeof(int));
    assert(sv);
    /* initialize column with (pseudo) random values in interval 0...RAND_MAX */
    srand(42);
    for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
        col[i] = rand();
    /* Quiz: how will sorting the column affect run time?
    // qsort(col, SIZE, sizeof (*col), cmp);
    printf("\tsel\tA\tmixed B\tmixed C\n");
    for (int step = 0; step < STEPS; step += 1) {</pre>
        /* v grows linearly 0...RAND_MAX in STEPS steps */
        int v = step * (RAND_MAX / (STEPS - 1));
        /* ----- alternative A ----- */
        gettimeofday(&t0, NULL);
```

```
out = 0:
for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
   sv[out] = col[i];
   out += ((col[i] < v) & (col[i] % 2 == 0));
}
gettimeofday(&t1, NULL);
duration1 = MILLISECS(t1) - MILLISECS(t0);
/* ----- alternative B ----- */
gettimeofday(&t0, NULL);
out = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
   if (col[i] < v) {
       sv[out] = col[i];
       out += (col[i] % 2 == 0);
}
gettimeofday(&t1, NULL);
duration2 = MILLISECS(t1) - MILLISECS(t0);
/* ----- alternative C ----- */
gettimeofday(&t0, NULL);
out = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < SIZE; i += 1) {
   if (col[i] % 2 == 0) {
       sv[out] = col[i];
       out += (col[i] < v);
gettimeofday(&t1, NULL);
duration3 = MILLISECS(t1) - MILLISECS(t0);
selectivity = ((float)out / SIZE) * 100.0;
printf ("%2u\t%5.2f%%\t%1ums\t%1ums\t%1ums\n",
       step, selectivity, duration1, duration2, duration3);
```

return 0;

1 File mat/mixed-mode-selection.c contains even more implementation alternatives, turn this into an assignment?