Query optimization

Lecture 7 2ID35, Spring 2015

George Fletcher

Faculteit Wiskunde & Informatica Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

13 May 2015

Admin

- Project part 2 due today
 - ▶ Part 3 has been posted

Admin

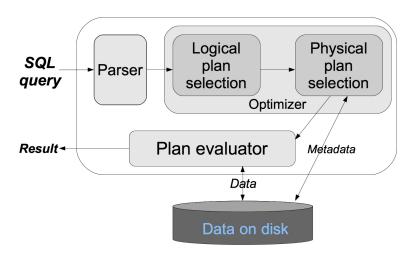
- Project part 2 due today
 - ▶ Part 3 has been posted
- No lecture this Friday or next Wednesday
- Written individual assignment will be posted this week

Last time

Size estimation (heuristics, histograms)

View creation, maintenance, and use

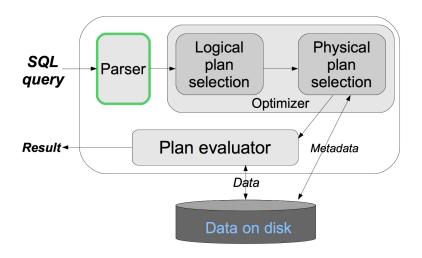
The life of a query



Today

Query compilation

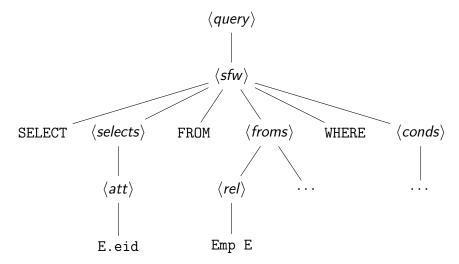
- parsing
- logical optimization
- physical optimization

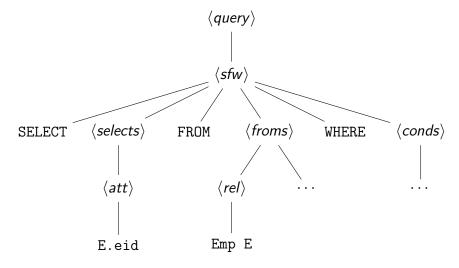


- Employee(EID, Name, ECity)
- Company(CID, Name, CCity)
- WorksFor(EID, CID, Salary)

What are the ID's of employees living and working in Best with above-average salaries?

- Employee(EID, Name, ECity)
- Company(CID, Name, CCity)
- WorksFor(EID, CID, Salary)





... and preprocess for semantics (e.g., typing)

Parser generates a collection of query blocks

- block = a S-F-W query with no nesting
 - essentially, a conjunctive query

Parser generates a collection of query blocks

- block = a S-F-W query with no nesting
 - essentially, a conjunctive query
- typically focus on optimizing one block at a time

- Employee(EID, Name, ECity)
- Company(CID, Name, CCity)
- WorksFor(EID, CID, Salary)

nested block

- Employee(EID, Name, ECity)
- Company(CID, Name, CCity)
- WorksFor(EID, CID, Salary)

outer block

- Employee(EID, Name, ECity)
- Company(CID, Name, CCity)
- WorksFor(EID, CID, Salary)

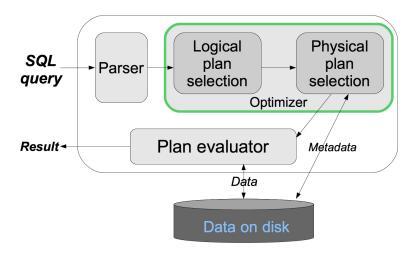
```
SELECT E.EID

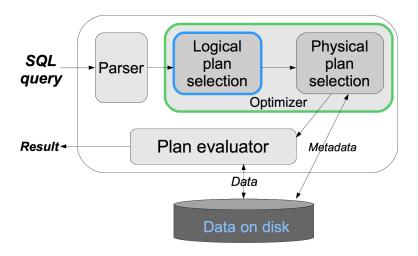
FROM Employee E, WorksFor W, Company C
WHERE E.EID = W.EID AND W.CID = C.CID
AND E.ECity = 'Best'
AND C.CCity = 'Best'
AND W.Salary >

(SELECT AVG(SALARY)
FROM WorksFor)
```

focus on optimizing each block separately

The life of a query: optimization





Goal: map a query-block to a "preferred" logical query plan

Goal: map a query-block to a "preferred" logical query plan

Step A: map the block's parse tree to equivalent RA expression, working bottom-up

map FROM list to cartesian product of all relations

Goal: map a query-block to a "preferred" logical query plan

Step A: map the block's parse tree to equivalent RA expression, working bottom-up

- map FROM list to cartesian product of all relations
- 2. form single σ for WHERE conditions

Goal: map a query-block to a "preferred" logical query plan

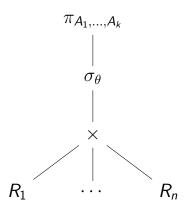
Step A: map the block's parse tree to equivalent RA expression, working bottom-up

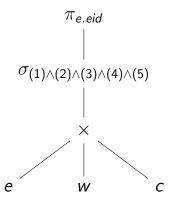
- map FROM list to cartesian product of all relations
- 2. form single σ for WHERE conditions
- 3. form π list from the SELECT clause

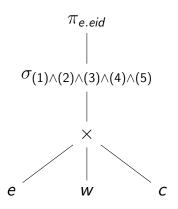
Goal: map a query-block to a "preferred" logical query plan

Step A: map the block's parse tree to equivalent RA expression, working bottom-up

- map FROM list to cartesian product of all relations
- 2. form single σ for WHERE conditions
- 3. form π list from the SELECT clause any aggregation can be applied after this $\pi \cdot \sigma \cdot \times$







- (1) e.eid = w.eid
- (2) w.cid = c.cid
- (3) e.ecity = 'Best'
- (4) c.ccity = 'Best'
- (5) w.salary > V

Step B: improve this initial logical query plan (i.e., generate a preferred logical query plan)

Step B: improve this initial logical query plan (i.e., generate a preferred logical query plan)

based on equivalence rules, used to identify different ways of formulating the query

Step B: improve this initial logical query plan (i.e., generate a preferred logical query plan)

based on equivalence rules, used to identify different ways of formulating the query

this defines a search space of alternative plans, to be considered by the optimizer

RA equivalence rules: commutativity & associativity

$$R \star S = S \star R$$
$$(R \star S) \star T = R \star (S \star T)$$
for $\star \in \{ \times, \bowtie, \cup, \cap \}$

RA equivalence rules: commutativity & associativity

So, we have for example

$$R \cap S = S \cap R$$

 $(R \cap S) \cap T = R \cap (S \cap T)$

RA equivalence rules: commutativity & associativity

So, we have for example

$$R \cap S = S \cap R$$

 $(R \cap S) \cap T = R \cap (S \cap T)$

example application.

$$\sigma_{\theta}(\pi_{A}(R)) \cap (\pi_{A}(S) \cap \pi_{A}(T))$$

$$= (\sigma_{\theta}(\pi_{A}(R)) \cap \pi_{A}(S)) \cap \pi_{A}(T)$$

splitting

$$\sigma_{C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_n}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(\cdots \sigma_{C_n}(R)\cdots)$$

splitting

$$\sigma_{C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_n}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(\cdots \sigma_{C_n}(R) \cdots)$$

$$\sigma_{C_1 \vee C_2}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(R) \cup \sigma_{C_2}(R)$$

splitting

$$\sigma_{C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_n}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(\cdots \sigma_{C_n}(R) \cdots)$$

$$\sigma_{C_1 \vee C_2}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(R) \cup \sigma_{C_2}(R)$$

example application.

$$\sigma_{a=1}(\sigma_{b < c}(R)) \cup \sigma_{a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R))$$

splitting

$$\sigma_{C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_n}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(\cdots \sigma_{C_n}(R) \cdots)$$

$$\sigma_{C_1 \vee C_2}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(R) \cup \sigma_{C_2}(R)$$

example application.

$$\sigma_{\mathsf{a}=1}(\sigma_{b< c}(R)) \cup \sigma_{\mathsf{a}=3}(\sigma_{b< c}(R)) = \sigma_{\mathsf{a}=1 \vee \mathsf{a}=3}(\sigma_{b< c}(R))$$

splitting

$$\sigma_{C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_n}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(\cdots \sigma_{C_n}(R) \cdots)$$

$$\sigma_{C_1 \vee C_2}(R) = \sigma_{C_1}(R) \cup \sigma_{C_2}(R)$$

example application.

$$\sigma_{a=1}(\sigma_{b < c}(R)) \cup \sigma_{a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R)) = \sigma_{a=1 \lor a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R))$$
$$= \sigma_{(a=1 \lor a=3) \land b < c}(R)$$

union

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R \cup S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) \cup \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

union

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R \cup S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) \cup \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

difference

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R-S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) - \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

union

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R \cup S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) \cup \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

difference

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R - S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) - \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

= $\sigma_{\theta}(R) - S$

union

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R \cup S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) \cup \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

difference

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R - S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) - \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

= $\sigma_{\theta}(R) - S$

and similarly for \times , \bowtie , \cap

union

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R \cup S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) \cup \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

difference

$$\sigma_{\theta}(R - S) = \sigma_{\theta}(R) - \sigma_{\theta}(S)$$

= $\sigma_{\theta}(R) - S$

and similarly for \times , \bowtie , \cap

proof of the difference rule

$$\sigma_{(a=1 \lor a=3) \land b < c}(R \bowtie S)$$

$$\sigma_{(a=1\lor a=3)\land b < c}(R\bowtie S) = \sigma_{a=1\lor a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R\bowtie S))$$

$$\sigma_{(a=1\vee a=3)\wedge b < c}(R \bowtie S) = \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R \bowtie S))$$

= $\sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(R \bowtie \sigma_{b < c}(S))$

$$\sigma_{(a=1\vee a=3)\wedge b < c}(R \bowtie S) = \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R \bowtie S))
= \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(R \bowtie \sigma_{b < c}(S))
= \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(R) \bowtie \sigma_{b < c}(S).$$

example application. for R(a, b) and S(b, c)

$$\sigma_{(a=1\vee a=3)\wedge b < c}(R \bowtie S) = \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(\sigma_{b < c}(R \bowtie S))
= \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(R \bowtie \sigma_{b < c}(S))
= \sigma_{a=1\vee a=3}(R) \bowtie \sigma_{b < c}(S).$$

note how this brings the selection conditions closer to the input relations ...

RA equivalence rules: projection law

if, for each $1 \le i \le n$, we have $a_i \subseteq a_{i+1}$, for subsets a_1, \ldots, a_n of atts(R), then

$$\pi_{a_1}(R) = \pi_{a_1}(\pi_{a_2}(\cdots(\pi_{a_n}(R))\cdots)).$$

RA equivalence rules: projection law

if, for each $1 \le i \le n$, we have $a_i \subseteq a_{i+1}$, for subsets a_1, \ldots, a_n of atts(R), then

$$\pi_{a_1}(R) = \pi_{a_1}(\pi_{a_2}(\cdots(\pi_{a_n}(R))\cdots)).$$

example application. for R(a, b, c)

$$\pi_{\mathsf{a}}(R) = \pi_{\mathsf{a}}(\pi_{\mathsf{a},\mathsf{b}}(R)).$$

Prove or disprove: $\pi_a(R - S) = \pi_a(R) - \pi_a(S)$, where a is a nonempty set of attributes in R and S.

Prove or disprove: $\pi_a(R - S) = \pi_a(R) - \pi_a(S)$, where a is a nonempty set of attributes in R and S.

counterexample. Consider R(a,b) and S(a,b), with respective instances $r = \{(1,2)\}$ and $s = \{(1,3)\}$. Then $\pi_a(r-s) = \{(1)\}$, but $\pi_a(r) - \pi_a(s) = \{\}$.

Prove or disprove: $\pi_x(R \bowtie S) = \pi_x(\pi_{xy}(R) \bowtie S)$, where $y = atts(R) \cap atts(S)$ and $x \subseteq atts(R)$.

Prove or disprove: $\pi_x(R \bowtie S) = \pi_x(\pi_{xy}(R) \bowtie S)$, where $y = atts(R) \cap atts(S)$ and $x \subseteq atts(R)$.

proof. We show that $\pi_x(R \bowtie S) \subseteq \pi_x(\pi_{xy}(R) \bowtie S)$. The other direction is similar.

Suppose that $t \in \pi_x(R \bowtie S)$. Then we have that (1) there exists $t' \in R \bowtie S$ such that t = t'[x] (i.e., t' projected on x).

It then follows that there exists $r \in R$ and $s \in S$ such that (2) t'[atts(R)] = r, (3) t'[atts(S)] = s, and (4) r[y] = s[y].

From (2) we have that (5) $t'[xy] \in \pi_{xy}(R)$.

From (2), (4), and (5) we have that (6) $t'[xy] \bowtie s \in \pi_{xy}(R) \bowtie S$.

From (1) and (6), we have that $t = t'[x] \in \pi_x(\pi_{xy}(R) \bowtie S)$, as desired.

1. if $atts(\theta) \subseteq \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$, then $\pi_{\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}}(\sigma_{\theta}(R)) = \sigma_{\theta}(\pi_{\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}}(R))$

1. if
$$atts(\theta) \subseteq \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$$
, then
$$\pi_{\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}}(\sigma_{\theta}(R)) = \sigma_{\theta}(\pi_{\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}}(R))$$

2.
$$R \bowtie_{\theta} S = \sigma_{\theta}(R \times S)$$

3. if $a_1 \cup a_2 = a$, $a_1 \subseteq atts(R)$, and $a_2 \subseteq atts(S)$, then

$$\pi_a(R \times S) = \pi_{a_1}(R) \times \pi_{a_2}(S)$$

3. if $a_1 \cup a_2 = a$, $a_1 \subseteq atts(R)$, and $a_2 \subseteq atts(S)$, then

$$\pi_a(R \times S) = \pi_{a_1}(R) \times \pi_{a_2}(S)$$

4. if $a_1 \cup a_2 = a$, $a_1 \subseteq atts(R)$, $a_2 \subseteq atts(S)$, and $atts(\theta) \subseteq a$, then

$$\pi_{a}(R \bowtie_{\theta} S) = \pi_{a_{1}}(R) \bowtie_{\theta} \pi_{a_{2}}(S)$$

3. if $a_1 \cup a_2 = a$, $a_1 \subseteq atts(R)$, and $a_2 \subseteq atts(S)$, then

$$\pi_a(R \times S) = \pi_{a_1}(R) \times \pi_{a_2}(S)$$

4. if $a_1 \cup a_2 = a$, $a_1 \subseteq atts(R)$, $a_2 \subseteq atts(S)$, and $atts(\theta) \subseteq a$, then

$$\pi_{\mathsf{a}}(R \bowtie_{\theta} S) = \pi_{\mathsf{a}_1}(R) \bowtie_{\theta} \pi_{\mathsf{a}_2}(S)$$

exercise. prove 4

Some heuristics

1. push down selections (σ) as far as they can go, splitting conjunctions in conditions (\wedge)

Some heuristics

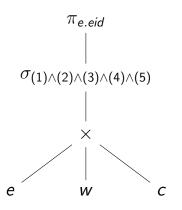
- 1. push down selections (σ) as far as they can go, splitting conjunctions in conditions (\wedge)
 - single most important strategy

Some heuristics

- 1. push down selections (σ) as far as they can go, splitting conjunctions in conditions (\wedge)
 - single most important strategy
- 2. push down projections (π)

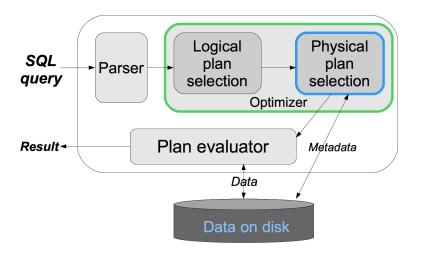
Some heuristics

- 1. push down selections (σ) as far as they can go, splitting conjunctions in conditions (\wedge)
 - single most important strategy
- 2. push down projections (π)
- 3. if possible, turn $\sigma + \times$ into \bowtie , which is generally much cheaper to evaluate than σ and \times evaluated separately



- (1) e.eid = w.eid
- (2) w.cid = c.cid
- (3) e.ecity = 'Best'
- (4) c.ccity = 'Best'
- (5) w.salary > V

let's logically optimize our query, under these heuristics



Decisions

- two crucial decisions the optimizer makes
 - the order in which the physical operators are applied on the input relations
 - the choice of physical algorithms for each node of the plan
- of course, these are not independent

cost-based query optimization

- enumerate alternative plans, estimate the cost of each plan, pick the plan with minimum cost
- access methods and join algorithms define a search space
 - this space can be huge!
 - plan enumeration is the exploration of this search space

For example, suppose we have five relations, only one access method, only one join algorithm, and we only consider "linear" joins

For example, suppose we have five relations, only one access method, only one join algorithm, and we only consider "linear" joins

• there are then 5! = 120 possible plans

For example, suppose we have five relations, only one access method, only one join algorithm, and we only consider "linear" joins

- ▶ there are then 5! = 120 possible plans
- if we add one additional access method, we then have $2^5 \cdot 5! = 3840$ possible plans

For example, suppose we have five relations, only one access method, only one join algorithm, and we only consider "linear" joins

- there are then 5! = 120 possible plans
- if we add one additional access method, we then have $2^5 \cdot 5! = 3840$ possible plans
- if we add one additional join algorithm, we then have $2^4 \cdot 2^5 \cdot 5! = 61440$ possible plans

For example, suppose we have five relations, only one access method, only one join algorithm, and we only consider "linear" joins

- ▶ there are then 5! = 120 possible plans
- if we add one additional access method, we then have $2^5 \cdot 5! = 3840$ possible plans
- if we add one additional join algorithm, we then have $2^4 \cdot 2^5 \cdot 5! = 61440$ possible plans

In general, with n relations, there are $\frac{(2(n-1))!}{(n-1)!}$ different join orders. For n=5, this gives us 860,160 possible plans with two access methods and join algorithms. For n=10, this gives us roughly 17.6 billion plans ...

cost-based query optimization

- exhaustive search is certainly out of the question
- it could be that exploring the search space might take longer than actually evaluating the query

The life of a query: physical optimization

cost-based query optimization

- exhaustive search is certainly out of the question
- it could be that exploring the search space might take longer than actually evaluating the query
- the manner in which the plan space is explored describes a (physical) query optimization method
 - dynamic programming, rule-based optimization, randomized search, ...

The life of a query: physical optimization cost-based query optimization

- costing plans and exploring a plan space is nontrivial
- now, consider that the DBMS must do this for 1000's of queries, simultaneously!
- hence, all of this must be done quickly, without looking back

The life of a query: physical optimization cost-based query optimization

- costing plans and exploring a plan space is nontrivial
- now, consider that the DBMS must do this for 1000's of queries, simultaneously!
- hence, all of this must be done quickly, without looking back
- query optimization is very much still an active area of research
- indeed, rarely will an optimizer find the optimal plan
 - it must, however, not pick a bad plan just an OK one

Query optimization: dynamic-programming algorithm

```
procedure FindBestPlan(S)

if (bestplan[S].cost \neq \infty) /* bestplan[S] already computed */

return bestplan[S]

if (S \text{ contains only 1 relation})

set bestplan[S].plan and bestplan[S].cost based on best way of accessing S

else for each non-empty subset S1 of S such that S1 \neq S

P1 = FindBestPlan(S1)

P2 = FindBestPlan(S - S1)

A = best algorithm for joining results of P1 and P2

cost = P1.cost + P2.cost + cost of A

if cost < bestplan[S].cost

bestplan[S].cost = cost
bestplan[S].cost = cost
bestplan[S].plan = "execute P1.plan; execute P2.plan;
join results of P1 and P2 using A"

return bestplan[S]
```

Query optimization: dynamic-programming algorithm

```
procedure FindBestPlan(S)

if (bestplan[S].cost \neq \infty) /* bestplan[S] already computed */
return bestplan[S]

if (S contains only 1 relation)
set bestplan[S].plan and bestplan[S].cost based on best way of accessing S

else for each non-empty subset S1 of S such that S1 \neq S

P1 = FindBestPlan(S1)
P2 = FindBestPlan(S - S1)
A = best algorithm for joining results of P1 and P2
cost = P1.cost + P2.cost + cost of A
if cost < bestplan[S].cost
bestplan[S].cost = cost
bestplan[S].plan = "execute P1.plan; execute P2.plan;
join results of P1 and P2 using A"
return bestplan[S]
```

Running time is $\mathcal{O}(3^n)$, which gives us roughly 59,000 plans for n = 10 (compare this with 17.6 billion plans)

Query optimization: dynamic-programming algorithm

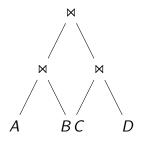
- most widely used strategy
- works well for queries with fewer than 10 to 15 joins

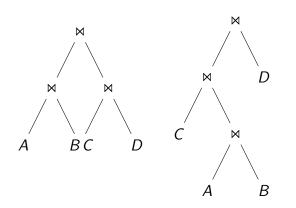
follows the classic dynamic programming approach

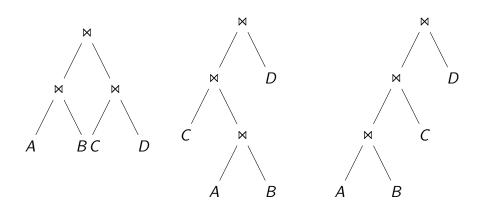
- follows the classic dynamic programming approach
- heuristics: use the equivalence rules to push down selections and projections, and delay cartesian products

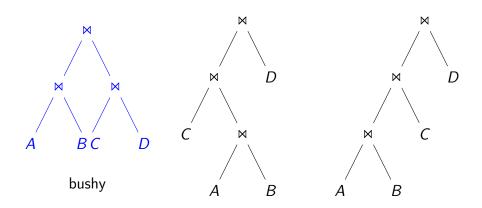
- follows the classic dynamic programming approach
- heuristics: use the equivalence rules to push down selections and projections, and delay cartesian products
- constraints: left-deep plans, nested-loops and sort-merge join only

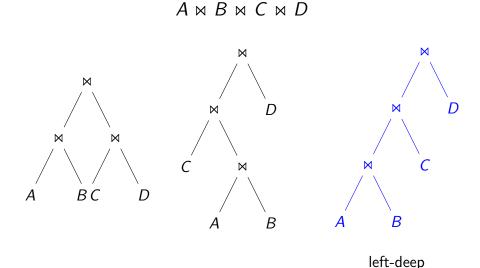
- follows the classic dynamic programming approach
- heuristics: use the equivalence rules to push down selections and projections, and delay cartesian products
- constraints: left-deep plans, nested-loops and sort-merge join only
 - left-deep plans facilitate pipelining of output of each operator into the next operator, without materializing intermediate result











left-deep plans differ only in the order of relations, the access method (file-scan or index) for each relation, and the join method for each join

- left-deep plans differ only in the order of relations, the access method (file-scan or index) for each relation, and the join method for each join
- in spite of pruning, the resulting search space is still exponential in the number of relations (as we saw earlier)
 - actually is $\mathcal{O}(n2^n)$ in practice
 - with n = 10, this is roughly 10,000 plans (compared with 59,000 and 17,600,000,000)

enumeration of left-deep plans: basic idea

identify cheapest way to access each single relation in the query

enumeration of left-deep plans: basic idea

- identify cheapest way to access each single relation in the query
- for every access method and join predicate, find the cheapest way to join in a second relation

enumeration of left-deep plans: basic idea

- identify cheapest way to access each single relation in the query
- for every access method and join predicate, find the cheapest way to join in a second relation
- **.**..

enumeration of left-deep plans, for N relations

- Pass 1: find cheapest 1-relation plan for each relation
- Pass 2: find cheapest way to join result of each 1-relation plan (as outer) to another relation (output: all 2-relation plans)
- **.** . . .
- Pass N: find cheapest way to join result of a (N − 1)-relation plan (as outer) to the Nth relation (output: all N-relation plans)

for each subset of relations, retain only cheapest plan overall, using $\mathcal{O}(2^N)$ space

Suppose in our running example that we have 102 buffer pages available, and

- ► The Emp table has 10,000 tuples, on 1000 pages, with a clustered B-tree index on EID.
- ► The Works table has 20,000 tuples, on 2000 pages, sorted on ⟨EID, CID⟩.
- ► The Company table has 10,000 tuples, on 1000 pages, with a clustered B-tree index on CID.

Pass 1: finding cheapest 1-relation plans

▶ for Emp, we have the local predicate e.ecity = 'Best'. However, with only an index on EID, the cheapest plan is a file-scan (with on-the fly application of the selection predicate

Pass 1: finding cheapest 1-relation plans

- ▶ for Emp, we have the local predicate e.ecity = 'Best'. However, with only an index on EID, the cheapest plan is a file-scan (with on-the fly application of the selection predicate
- likewise, we have file-scans as cheapest access method for Works, and Company

Pass 2: finding cheapest 2-relation plans

we don't consider {E, C} since this is just a cartesian product

Pass 2: finding cheapest 2-relation plans

- we don't consider {E, C} since this is just a cartesian product
- for EW (or WE), we can perform merge-join at cost 1000 + 2000 = 3000
- for WE, we can perform index nested-loop-join at cost $2000 + 3 \cdot 20,000 = 62,000$
- for EW, we can perform block-nested-loops-join at cost $1000 + 2000 \cdot (1000/100) = 21,000$

Pass 2: finding cheapest 2-relation plans

- for WC, we can perform index nested-loop-join at cost $2000 + 3 \cdot 20,000 = 62,000$
- For WC (or CW), we can perform sort-merge-join at cost 4000 + 2000 + 1000 = 7000
- for CW, we can perform block-nested-loops-join at cost $1000 + 2000 \cdot 10 = 21,000$

Pass 2: finding cheapest 2-relation plans

- for WC, we can perform index nested-loop-join at cost $2000 + 3 \cdot 20,000 = 62,000$
- For WC (or CW), we can perform sort-merge-join at cost 4000 + 2000 + 1000 = 7000
- for CW, we can perform block-nested-loops-join at cost $1000 + 2000 \cdot 10 = 21,000$

So, best cost for $\{E, W\}$ is 3000, and for $\{W, C\}$ is 7000

Pass 3: finding cheapest 3-relation plans

• for EW joined with C, assuming 2000 pages in result of EW, we can perform sort merge-join at cost 2000 + 4000 + 1000 = 7000

Pass 3: finding cheapest 3-relation plans

- for EW joined with C, assuming 2000 pages in result of EW, we can perform sort merge-join at cost 2000 + 4000 + 1000 = 7000
- for WC joined with E, assuming 2000 pages in result of WC, we can perform sort merge-join at cost 2000 + 4000 + 1000 = 7000

The life of a query: logical optimization

So, best overall plan is

- a merge-join of Emp and Works (with local predicates applied)
- followed by a sort-merge-join with Company,
- followed by the final projection

at cost 3000 + 7000 = 10000 I/Os

Summary

- Query optimizer is at the heart of the query engine
- the paradigm typically followed is cost-based optimization
- System R follows a dynamic programming approach to plan space search
 - other practical approaches include randomized (e.g., simulated annealing) and genetic algorithms

Summary

- Query optimizer is at the heart of the query engine
- the paradigm typically followed is cost-based optimization
- System R follows a dynamic programming approach to plan space search
 - other practical approaches include randomized (e.g., simulated annealing) and genetic algorithms

Next time (Friday 22 May): distributed data management