Database Technologies (TBD) 2021/2022

Database Query Optimization Teaching Service

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1. Problem description

Our problem consists on a database with information regarding the distribution of teaching service in a faculty.

There are courses (table XUCS), described by a code (codigo), a designation (designacao), an acronym (sigla_uc) and a program (curso). Courses have occurrences in several years. Each occurrence is recorded by a row in the table XOCORRENCIAS, with information on the course code (codigo), academic year (ano_letivo), period of classes (periodo, that may be A-annual, 1S- first semester, 1T-first trimester, etc.), number of enrolled students (inscritos), students with distributed assessment (com_frequencia), number of approved (aprovados), course goals (objetivos) and content (conteudo), and department in charge (departamento).

Each occurrence may have one or more class types (T-theoretic, P-practical, L-laboratory, TP-theoretic/practical, OT- tutorial guidance). Each class type for an occurrence is recorded on table XTIPOSAULA with the number of similar classes (turnos), the number of week hours for each class (horas turno), and in some cases the number of weekly classes (n aulas).

The table XDSD records the teaching service distribution, in each semester, for each professor. More specifically, it records, for each class type of an occurrence, how many weekly hours are assigned to that professor. If a professor is teaching, in a single class, more than one course at the same time, for example from different programs, the weight of that course, in the perspective of the professor, may be less than 1 and recorded in attribute fator. Otherwise, the attribute fator will be 1. From the program perspective, the attribute fator is ignored. The attribute ordem enables listing the set of professors of a specific course occurrence in a specific order.

The professors are recorded in the table XDOCENTES with a number (nr), a name (nome), an acronym (sigla), a category code (categoria), a given name (proprio), a family name (apelido), and a status (estado: A-ativo, NA-não ativo, R-reformado).

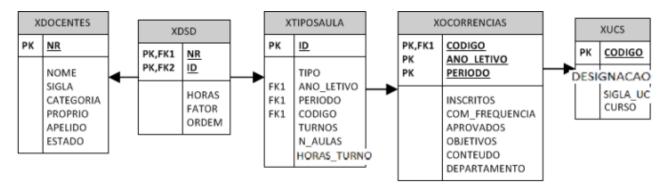


Figure 1.1: Relational model for the case Teaching Service.

2. Setup

In the setup phase, we've copied the tables XDOCENTES, XDSD, XOCORRENCIAS, XTI-POSAULA and XUCS three times, each one with the prefixes 'X', 'Y' and 'Z'.

- X no indexes and no integrity constraints.
- Y with the standard integrity constraints (primary keys and foreign keys).
- Z with the standard integrity constraints and extra indexes (the extra indexes were created as needed, which means they'll be justified in each question and their use is cumulative, starting from question 1 and ending up in question 6).

The following SQL code represents the copy process, followed by the creation of the standard integrity constraints for both 'Y' and 'Z' prefixed tables.

```
1 /* COPY TABLES - X, Y, Z */
2
3 CREATE TABLE XDOCENTES AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdocentes;
4 CREATE TABLE YDOCENTES AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdocentes;
5 CREATE TABLE ZDOCENTES AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdocentes;
7 CREATE TABLE XDSD AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdsd;
8 CREATE TABLE YDSD AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdsd;
  CREATE TABLE ZDSD AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xdsd;
11 CREATE TABLE XOCORRENCIAS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xocorrencias;
12 CREATE TABLE YOCORRENCIAS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xocorrencias:
13 CREATE TABLE ZOCORRENCIAS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xocorrencias;
14
15 CREATE TABLE XTIPOSAULA AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xtiposaula;
16 CREATE TABLE YTIPOSAULA AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xtiposaula;
17 CREATE TABLE ZTIPOSAULA AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xtiposaula;
19 CREATE TABLE XUCS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xucs;
20 CREATE TABLE YUCS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xucs;
21 CREATE TABLE ZUCS AS SELECT * FROM GTD10.xucs;
23 /* CREATE PRIMARY AND FOREIGN KEY CONSTRAINTS Y */
25 ALTER TABLE YDOCENTES ADD CONSTRAINT YDOCENTES_PK PRIMARY KEY (NR);
26 ALTER TABLE YDSD ADD CONSTRAINT YDSD_PK PRIMARY KEY (NR, ID);
27 ALTER TABLE YOCORRENCIAS ADD CONSTRAINT YOCORRENCIAS_PK PRIMARY KEY (CODIGO, ANO_LETIVO,
       PERIODO);
28 ALTER TABLE YTIPOSAULA ADD CONSTRAINT YTIPOSAULA_PK PRIMARY KEY (ID);
29 ALTER TABLE YUCS ADD CONSTRAINT YUCS_PK PRIMARY KEY (CODIGO);
31 ALTER TABLE YDSD ADD CONSTRAINT YDSD_FK1 FOREIGN KEY (NR) REFERENCES YDOCENTES(NR);
```

```
32 ALTER TABLE YDSD ADD CONSTRAINT YDSD_FK2 FOREIGN KEY (ID) REFERENCES YTIPOSAULA(ID);
33 ALTER TABLE YOCORRENCIAS ADD CONSTRAINT YOCORRENCIAS_FK FOREIGN KEY (CODIGO) REFERENCES
      YUCS (CODIGO);
34 ALTER TABLE YTIPOSAULA ADD CONSTRAINT YTIPOSAULA_FK FOREIGN KEY (ANO_LETIVO, PERIODO,
      CODIGO) REFERENCES YOCORRENCIAS (ANO_LETIVO, PERIODO, CODIGO);
35
36 /* CREATE PRIMARY AND FOREIGN KEY CONSTRAINTS Z */
37
38 ALTER TABLE ZDOCENTES ADD CONSTRAINT ZDOCENTES_PK PRIMARY KEY (NR);
39 ALTER TABLE ZDSD ADD CONSTRAINT ZDSD_PK PRIMARY KEY (NR, ID);
40 ALTER TABLE ZOCORRENCIAS ADD CONSTRAINT ZOCORRENCIAS_PK PRIMARY KEY (CODIGO, ANO_LETIVO,
       PERIODO);
41 ALTER TABLE ZTIPOSAULA ADD CONSTRAINT ZTIPOSAULA_PK PRIMARY KEY (ID);
42 ALTER TABLE ZUCS ADD CONSTRAINT ZUCS_PK PRIMARY KEY (CODIGO);
44 ALTER TABLE ZDSD ADD CONSTRAINT ZDSD_FK1 FOREIGN KEY (NR) REFERENCES ZDOCENTES(NR);
45 ALTER TABLE ZDSD ADD CONSTRAINT ZDSD_FK2 FOREIGN KEY (ID) REFERENCES ZTIPOSAULA(ID);
46 ALTER TABLE ZOCORRENCIAS ADD CONSTRAINT ZOCORRENCIAS_FK FOREIGN KEY (CODIGO) REFERENCES
      ZUCS (CODIGO);
47 ALTER TABLE ZTIPOSAULA ADD CONSTRAINT ZTIPOSAULA_FK FOREIGN KEY (ANO_LETIVO, PERIODO,
      CODIGO) REFERENCES ZOCORRENCIAS (ANO_LETIVO, PERIODO, CODIGO);
```

3. Questions

In this chapter, each subsection will present the SQL query and the corresponding answer, as well as the execution plans and time for each one of the six raised questions. Each subsection starts with the question itself.

Note 1: It will only be presented the SQL query for the 'X' prefixed tables execution plan. The queries for the 'Y' and 'Z' prefixed tables execution plans are similar, with the difference of the prefix. The same happens to the result, which is the same for all, as expected.

Note 2: The execution times were calculated using the average of the obtained times for three consecutive executions on the same machine.

3.1 Question 1

Selection and join. Show the codigo, designação, ano_letivo, inscritos, tipo, and turnos for the course 'Bases de Dados' of the program 275.

3.1.1 SQL query

The following SQL query selects the 'codigo', 'designacao', 'ano_letivo', 'inscritos', 'tipo' and 'turnos' fields from the join between the tables 'xucs', 'xocorrencias' and 'xtiposaula', with the constraint of the 'designacao' being equal to 'Bases de Dados' and 'curso' equal to 275.

3.1.2 Answer

The result for this first question is the following:

| | | ♦ DESIGNACAO | | | ∯ TIPO | ∜ TURNOS |
|---|---------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 1 | EIC3106 | Bases de Dados | 2003/2004 | 92 | T | 1 |
| 2 | EIC3106 | Bases de Dados | 2003/2004 | 92 | TP | 4 |
| 3 | EIC3106 | Bases de Dados | 2004/2005 | 114 | T | 1 |
| 4 | EIC3106 | Bases de Dados | 2004/2005 | 114 | TP | 4 |
| 5 | EIC3111 | Bases de Dados | 2005/2006 | (null) | T | 1 |
| 6 | EIC3111 | Bases de Dados | 2005/2006 | (null) | TP | 6 |

Figure 3.1: Question 1 - Answer.

3.1.3 Execution Plans

Starting with the tables prefixed with 'X', the following picture shows the execution plan.



Figure 3.2: Question 1 - X Execution Plan.

As we can see, the operation performed was to join the tables was a Semi Merge Join with the operation total cost being 642.

Moving on to the tables prefixed with 'Y', the following picture shows the execution plan, this time with a Nested Loops join and a total cost of 55.

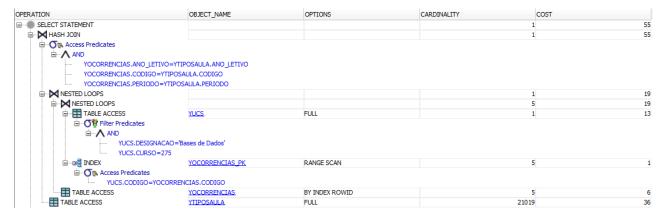


Figure 3.3: Question 1 - Y Execution Plan.

Last but not least, the execution plan for the tables prefixed with 'Z', similar to the one above, but with a lower cost since the following index was introduced, avoiding the 'and' operator between the two contraints:

1 CREATE INDEX ZUCS_DESIGNACAO ON ZUCS(DESIGNACAO);



Figure 3.4: Question 1 - Z Execution Plan.

The reason behind the creation of this index was the fact that the 'designação' field contains 3285 unique values, which might give us a performance advantage by having an index on it.

3.1.4 Execution Time

The execution times were 0,050 sec. for the first execution plan ('X') and 0,022 sec. for the last two ('Y' and 'Z').

3.2 Question 2

Aggregation. How many class hours of each type did the program 233 planned in year 2004/2005?

Note 3: For this question, we assumed that it was supposed to obtain the weekly hours for each type of class of the program 233, year 2004/2005, calculating by multiplying 'turnos' by 'horas' turno'.

3.2.1 SQL query

The following SQL query selects the 'tipo' and 'class_hours' (multiplication of 'turnos' by 'horas_turno') from the join of 'xucs' and 'xtiposaula' tables, having as constraints the 'ano_letivo' being equal to '2004/2005' and 'curso' equal to 233, with all this grouped by the type of class.

```
1 SELECT xtiposaula.tipo, sum(xtiposaula.turnos*xtiposaula.horas_turno) as "CLASS_HOURS"
2 FROM xucs JOIN xtiposaula ON xucs.codigo=xtiposaula.codigo
3 WHERE xtiposaula.ano_letivo = '2004/2005' and xucs.curso = 233
4 GROUP BY xtiposaula.tipo;
```

3.2.2 Answer

The following picture shows the answer for this question.

| | ∯ TIPO | CLASS_HOURS | | |
|---|--------|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | P | 581,5 | | |
| 2 | TP | 697,5 | | |
| 3 | T | 308 | | |

Figure 3.5: Question 2 - Answer.

3.2.3 Execution Plans

The execution plans for this question use all Hash Joins. The difference is in the one for the 'Z' prefixed tables, since we created the following index, reducing the cost of the first two executions from 50 to 43.

1 CREATE INDEX ZUCS_CURSO ON ZUCS(CURSO);

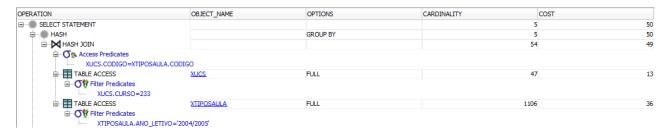


Figure 3.6: Question 2 - X Execution Plan.

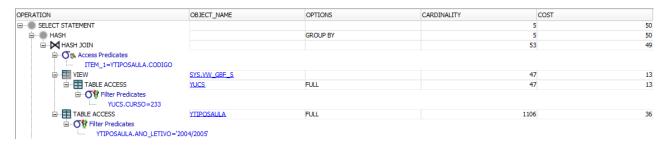


Figure 3.7: Question 2 - Y Execution Plan.

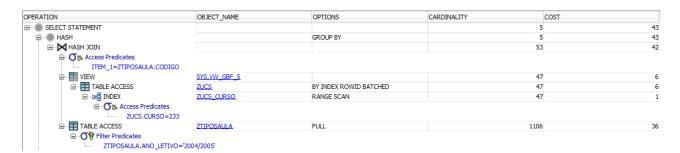


Figure 3.8: Question 2 - Z Execution Plan.

3.2.4 Execution Time

Regarding the execution time, it was the same for all the execution plans: 0,020 sec.

3.3 Question 3

Negation. Which courses (show the code) did have occurrences planned but did not get service assigned in year 2003/2004?

Note 4: This question raised some ambiguity inside the group, so we have decided to assume it was referring to something in particular: we assumed that it was intended to get the 'codigo' of the UCS that didn't had any 'inscritos' in the 'ano_letivo' equal to '2003/2004'. We also considered to

include UCS with 'inscritos', but without 'com_frequencia'. However, this last option was discarded since there was no way to check when we were in the presence of a non-occurrence or of an occurrence without a single student having enough frequency.

3.3.1 a. Use not in.

3.3.1.1 SQL query

For the first part of the question, this SQL query select the 'codigo' from 'xocorrencias' where the same 'codigo' is not in the list of 'codigo' obtained from a sub-query where the 'inscritos' field is not null and the 'ano_letivo' is '2003/2004'.

- 1 **SELECT** CODIGO
- 2 FROM XOCORRENCIAS
- 3 WHERE CODIGO NOT IN (SELECT CODIGO FROM XOCORRENCIAS WHERE INSCRITOS IS NOT NULL AND ANO_LETIVO = '2003/2004') AND ANO_LETIVO = '2003/2004';

3.3.1.2 Answer

The answer for this first part of the question was different of the answer obtained for the second part. Having searched for the reason why that happened, we found that the 'NOT IN' in Oracle SQL has a problem with 'NULL' values, which makes it produce different results.

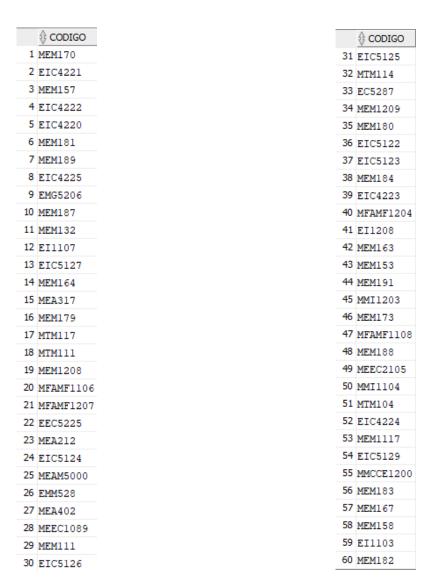


Figure 3.9: Question 3a. - Answer.

3.3.1.3 Execution Plans

For this question, having the two indexes previously defined, we didn't found the need to create new indexes. Also, for all the execution plans, a Hash Join was verified. The cost for the first was 1185, 595 for the second and third.

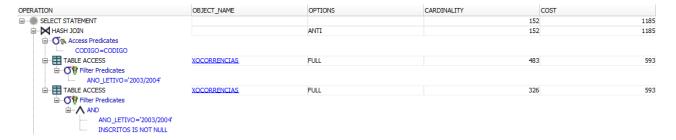


Figure 3.10: Question 3a. - X Execution Plan.

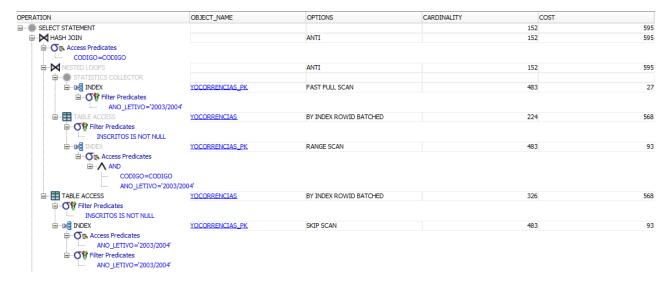


Figure 3.11: Question 3a. - Y Execution Plan.

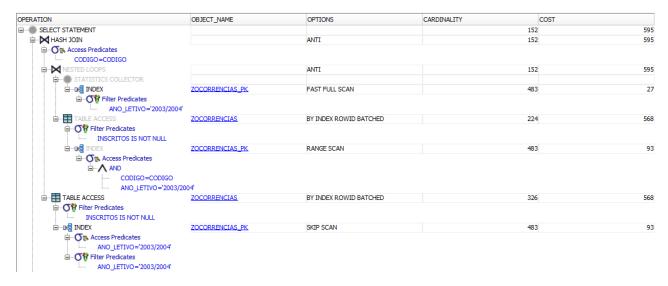


Figure 3.12: Question 3a. - Z Execution Plan.

3.3.1.4 Execution Time

Regarding the execution times, they were similar to all the execution plans: 0,046 sec.

3.3.2 b. Use external join and is null.

3.3.2.1 SQL query

For this second part of the question, instead of the use of 'NOT IN', the 'codigo' field is selected from the join between the tables 'xucs' and 'xocorrencias' considering all the entries where 'inscritos' is 'NULL' and for the 'ano_letivo' equal to '2003/2004'.

```
1 SELECT XUCS.CODIGO
2 FROM XUCS JOIN XOCORRENCIAS ON XUCS.CODIGO = XOCORRENCIAS.CODIGO
3 WHERE XOCORRENCIAS.INSCRITOS IS NULL AND XOCORRENCIAS.ANO_LETIVO = '2003/2004';
```

3.3.2.2 Answer

The answer, as mentioned above, was different.

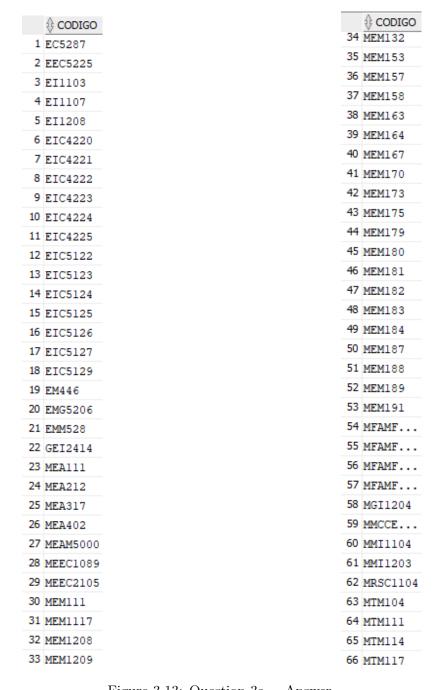


Figure 3.13: Question 3a. - Answer.

3.3.2.3 Execution Plans

Regarding the execution plans, for the first case, a Hash Join was used (cost = 606), while for the remaining ones it was a Table Access by RowID (cost = 568).



Figure 3.14: Question 3b. - X Execution Plan.

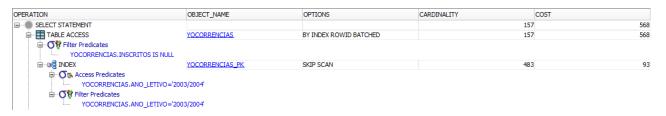


Figure 3.15: Question 3b. - Y Execution Plan.

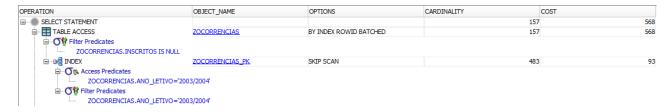


Figure 3.16: Question 3b. - Z Execution Plan.

3.3.2.4 Execution Time

Again, as for the first part of the question, the execution times were similar: 0,046 sec. ('X') and 0,042 sec. ('Y' and 'Z').

3.4 Question 4

Who is the professor with more class hours for each type of class, in the academic year 2003/2004? Show the number and name of the professor, the type of class and the total of class hours times the factor.

- 3.4.1 SQL query
- 3.4.2 Answer
- 3.4.3 Execution Plans
- 3.4.4 Execution Time

3.5 Question 5

Compare the execution plans (just the environment Z) and the index sizes for the query giving the course code, the academic year, the period, and number of hours of the type 'OT' in the academic years of 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

Note 5: This question raised some ambiguity inside the group, so we have decided to assume it was referring to something in particular: we assumed that it was intended to compare the execution plan of the query without indexes with the query using each type of indexes. We also assumed that it was supposed to compare the index size between the indexes of the type and academic year columns.

3.5.0.1 SQL query

Note 6: For this question, we assumed that it was supposed to obtain the weekly hours for the type of class equal to 'OT' of the year 2002/2003 or 2003/2004, calculating by multiplying 'turnos' by 'horas turno'.

The following SQL query selects the 'codigo', 'ano_letivo', 'periodo' and 'num_horas' (multiplication of 'turnos' by 'horas_turno') from the join of 'zucs' and 'ztiposaula' tables, having as constraints the 'tipo' equal to 'OT' and the 'ano_letivo' equal to 2002/2003 or 2003/2004, with all this grouped by course code, academic year and period.

3.5.0.2 Answer

The following picture shows the answer for this question.

| | | ♦ ANO_LETIVO | | ♦ NUM_HORAS |
|---|-----|--------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | 275 | 2002/2003 | 25 | 27 |
| 2 | 275 | 2003/2004 | 25 | 24 |

Figure 3.17: Question 5. - Answer.

3.5.0.3 Execution Plans

The following picture shows the execution plan for the above query.

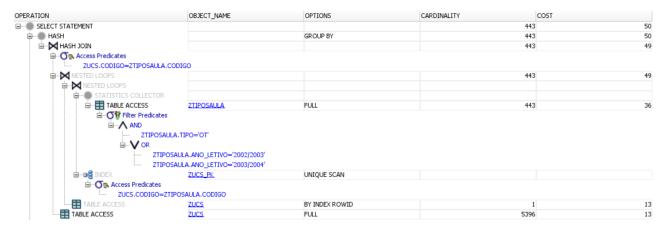


Figure 3.18: Question 5. - Z Execution Plan.

As we can see, the operation total cost was 50.

3.5.0.4 Execution Time

The execution time was 0.027 sec.

3.5.1 a. With a B-tree index on the type and academic year columns of the ZTIPOSAULA table;

3.5.1.1 Execution Plans

Before running the query presented in question 5, we created the following B-tree indexes.

- 1 CREATE INDEX ZTIPOSAULA_TIPO ON ZTIPOSAULA(TIPO);
- 2 CREATE INDEX ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO ON ZTIPOSAULA(ANO_LETIVO);

Note 7: By default, Oracle Database creates B-tree indexes.

The following picture shows the execution plan for the query.

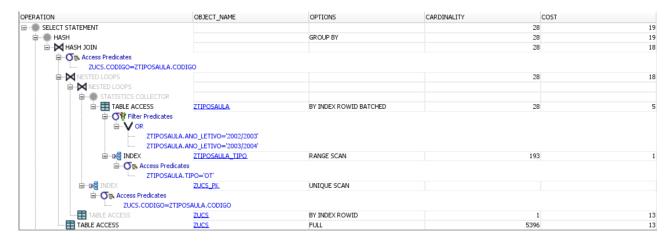


Figure 3.19: Question 5a. - Z Execution Plan.

As we can see, by using a index in type column, the operation total cost decreased from 50 to 19.

Note 8: By default, Oracle Database chooses if it should use the indexes or not in order to minimize costs. In this case, it choose not to use the index 'ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO'. If we force to use both indexes, using the hint '/*+INDEX(ZTIPOSAULA ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO)*/' immediately after the select instruction, we verified that the cost goes up to 75.

To get the size of the index used in the column type we used the following query.

As a result of that query, we obtained the following size to the 'ZTIPOSAULA TIPO' index.



Figure 3.20: Index Size Query - Answer.

To get the size of the index used in the column academic year we used the following query.

As a result of that query, we obtained the following size to the 'ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO' index.



Figure 3.21: Index Size Query - Answer.

We can see that the index size created in the academic year column is greater than the one created in the type column. This could be the reason so that the 'ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO' index is not used by the oracle optimizer.

3.5.1.2 Execution Time

The execution time was 0,024 sec.

3.5.2 b. With a bitmap index on the type and academic year columns of the ZTIPOSAULA table.

3.5.2.1 Execution Plans

Before running the query presented in question 5, we created the following bitmap indexes.

- 1 CREATE BITMAP INDEX BM_ZTIPOSAULA_TIPO ON ZTIPOSAULA(TIPO);
- 2 CREATE BITMAP INDEX BM_ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO ON ZTIPOSAULA(ANO_LETIVO);

The following picture shows the execution plan for the query.



Figure 3.22: Question 5b. - Z Execution Plan.

As we can see, by using bitmap indexes in the mentioned columns in the question, the total cost decreased from 50 to 22.

To get the index size of the type column we used the following query.

```
1 select sum(bytes)/1024/1024 as "Index Size (MB)" from user_segments
2 where segment_name='BM_ZTIPOSAULA_TIPO';
```

As a result of that query, we obtained the following size to the 'BM ZTIPOSAULA TIPO' index.



Figure 3.23: Index Size Query - Answer.

To get the index size of the academic year column we used the following query.

```
1 select sum(bytes)/1024/1024 as "Index Size (MB)" from user_segments where segment_name=' BM_ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLETIVO';
```

As a result of that query, we obtained the following size to the 'BM_ZTIPOSAULA_ANOLE-TIVO' index.



Figure 3.24: Index Size Query - Answer.

The size of each index turned out to be the same and smaller than in the previous ones.

3.5.2.2 Execution Time

The execution time was 0,024 sec.

3.6 Question 6

Select the programs (curso) that have classes with all the existing types.

Note 9: For this question, we found ourselves trying to understand which of the following 3 interpretations was the correct one for this question:

• A. Get the UCs with classes from all types.

- B. Get the courses with classes from all types, i.e. the UCs belonging to a course may not have classes from all types, but all the classes, for all the UCs of that course, would have (or not) the overall class type representatives.
- C. Get the name(s) of the course(s) with at least 1 UC with all the class types.

We've decided that the interpretation B. was the one desired, so we moved one with that one in what respects to the analysis of the answer and the execution plan and time. However, before proceeding with that option, the following two SQL queries represent the ones that would retrieve the results for the interpretations A. and C.

```
1 /*A*/
2 select codigo
3 from (select codigo, tipo
4
         from xtiposaula
         group by codigo, tipo)
6 group by codigo
7 having count(codigo) = (select count(*)
                           from (select distinct tipo
9
                                 from xtiposaula));
1 /*C*/
2 create view aux_codigo as
3 select codigo
4 from (select codigo, tipo
         from xtiposaula
        group by codigo, tipo)
7 group by codigo
8 having count(codigo) = (select count(*)
9
                           from (select distinct tipo
10
                                  from xtiposaula));
11
12 select distinct curso
13 from aux_codigo join xucs on xucs.codigo = aux_codigo.codigo;
```

3.6.1 SQL query

The following SQL query, for the interpretation B., selects the 'curso' field from a sub-query that gets the list of courses and the corresponding class types, grouping then by course and having as constraint the fact that the course carnality (in this case the number of different class types) should be the same as the number of different course types (5) obtained by a nested sub-query.

3.6.2 Answer

The answer for this question is the one that follows:

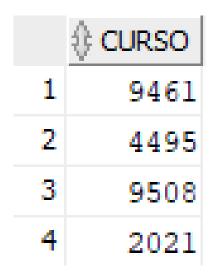


Figure 3.25: Question 6. - Answer.

3.6.3 Execution Plans

Considering the indexes created until now, we didn't find the need to create a new one for this question in particular.

That said, the following three pictures represent the three different execution plans for the 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' prefixed tables.

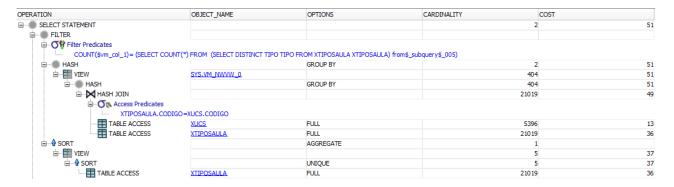


Figure 3.26: Question 6 - X Execution Plan.

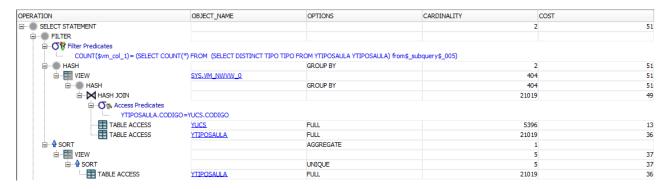


Figure 3.27: Question 6 - Y Execution Plan.

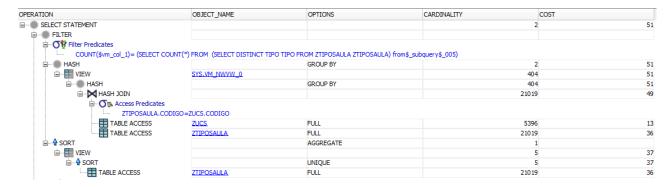


Figure 3.28: Question 6 - Z Execution Plan.

As we can see, the Hash Join was used for the three cases, and the cost was also the same for all: 51.

3.6.4 Execution Time

Regarding the execution times, they were 0,032, 0,030 and 0,029 sec. for the 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' prefixed tables, respectively.