Chapter 15: Query Processing

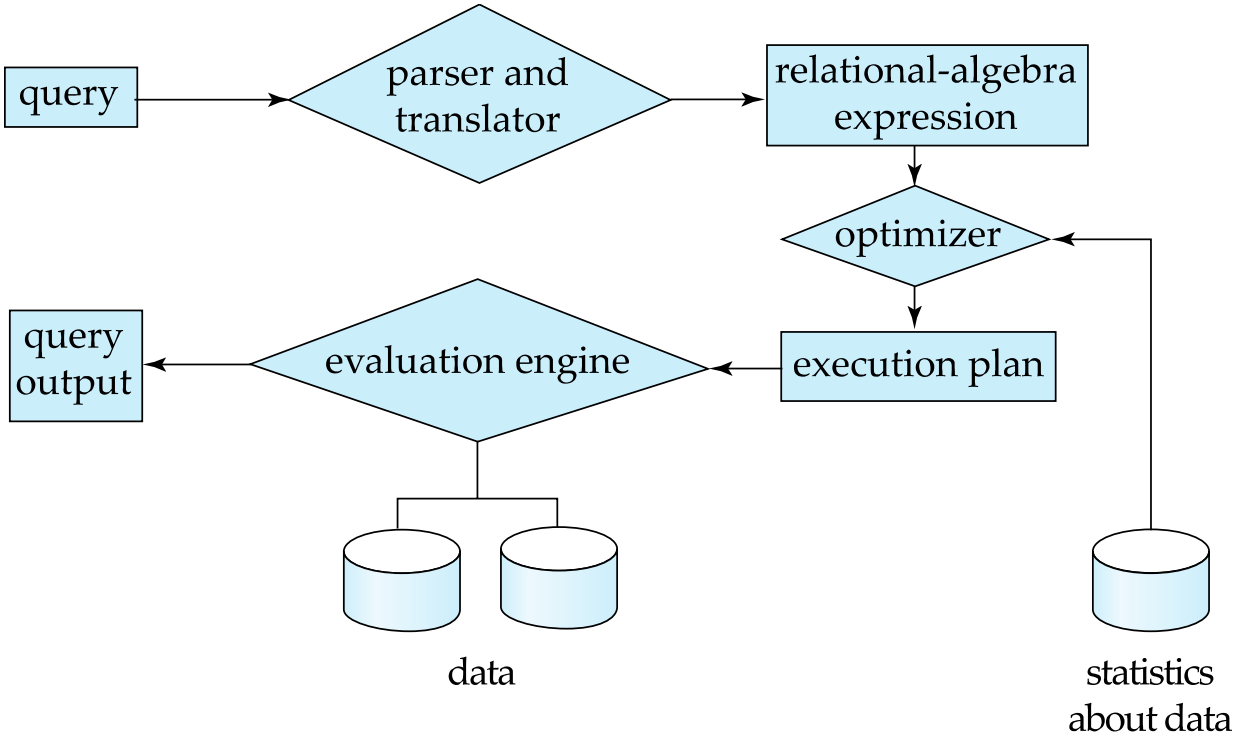
Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.

Chapter 15: Query Processing

- Overview
- Measures of Query Cost
- Selection Operation
- Sorting
- Join Operation
- Other Operations
- Evaluation of Expressions

Basic Steps in Query Processing

1. Parsing and translation
2. Optimization
3. Evaluation



Basic Steps in Query Processing (Cont.)

- Parsing and translation
  - translate the query into its internal form. This is then translated into relational algebra.
  - Parser checks syntax, verifies relations
- Evaluation
  - The query-execution engine takes a query-evaluation plan, executes that plan, and returns the answers to the query.

Basic Steps in Query Processing: Optimization

- A relational algebra expression may have many equivalent expressions
  - E.g., $\sigma_{salary<75000}(\prod_{salary}(instructor))$ is equivalent to $\prod_{salary}(\sigma_{salary<75000}(instructor))$
- Each relational algebra operation can be evaluated using one of several different algorithms
  - Correspondingly, a relational-algebra expression can be evaluated in many ways.
- Annotated expression specifying detailed evaluation strategy is called an **evaluation-plan**. E.g.,:
  - Use an index on *salary* to find instructors with salary < 75000,
  - Or perform complete relation scan and discard instructors with salary ≥ 75000

Basic Steps: Optimization (Cont.)

- **Query Optimization**: Amongst all equivalent evaluation plans choose the one with lowest cost.
  - Cost is estimated using statistical information from the database catalog
    - e.g.. number of tuples in each relation, size of tuples, etc.
- In this chapter we study
  - How to measure query costs
  - Algorithms for evaluating relational algebra operations
  - How to combine algorithms for individual operations in order to evaluate a complete expression
- In Chapter 16
  - We study how to optimize queries, that is, how to find an evaluation plan with lowest estimated cost

Measures of Query Cost

- Many factors contribute to time cost
  - *disk access, CPU*, and network *communication*
- Cost can be measured based on
  - **response time**, i.e. total elapsed time for answering query, or
  - total **resource consumption**
- We use total resource consumption as cost metric
  - Response time harder to estimate, and minimizing resource consumption is a good idea in a shared database
- We ignore CPU costs for simplicity
  - Real systems do take CPU cost into account
  - Network costs must be considered for parallel systems
- We describe how estimate the cost of each operation
  - We do not include cost to writing output to disk

Measures of Query Cost

- Disk cost can be estimated as:
  - Number of seeks * average-seek-cost
  - Number of blocks read * average-block-read-cost
  - Number of blocks written * average-block-write-cost
- For simplicity we just use the **number of block transfers** *from disk and the* **number of seeks** as the cost measures
  - t_T – time to transfer one block
    - Assuming for simplicity that write cost is same as read cost
  - t_S – time for one seek
  - Cost for b block transfers plus S seeks
    $b * t_T + S * t_S$
- t_S and t_T depend on where data is stored; with 4 KB blocks:
  - High end magnetic disk: t_S = 4 msec and t_T =0.1 msec
  - SSD: t_S = 20-90 microsec and t_T = 2-10 microsec for 4KB

Measures of Query Cost (Cont.)

- Required data may be buffer resident already, avoiding disk I/O
  - But hard to take into account for cost estimation
- Several algorithms can reduce disk IO by using extra buffer space
  - Amount of real memory available to buffer depends on other concurrent queries and OS processes, known only during execution
- Worst case estimates assume that no data is initially in buffer and only the minimum amount of memory needed for the operation is available
  - But more optimistic estimates are used in practice

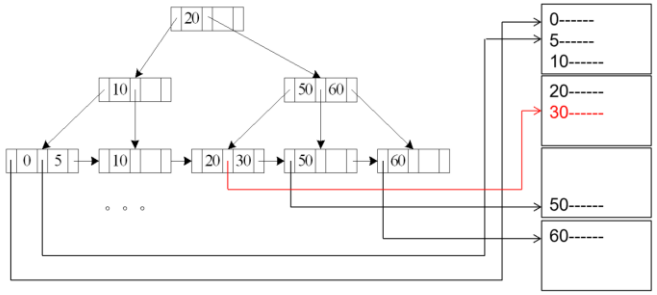
Selection Operation

- **File scan**
- Algorithm **A1** (**linear search**). Scan each file block and test all records to see whether they satisfy the selection condition.
  - Cost estimate = b_r block transfers + 1 seek
    - b_r denotes number of blocks containing records from relation r
  - If selection is on a key attribute, can stop on finding record
    - cost = (b_r /2) block transfers + 1 seek
  - Linear search can be applied regardless of
    - selection condition or
    - ordering of records in the file, or
    - availability of indices
- Note: binary search generally does not make sense since data is not stored consecutively
  - except when there is an index available,
  - and binary search requires more seeks than index search

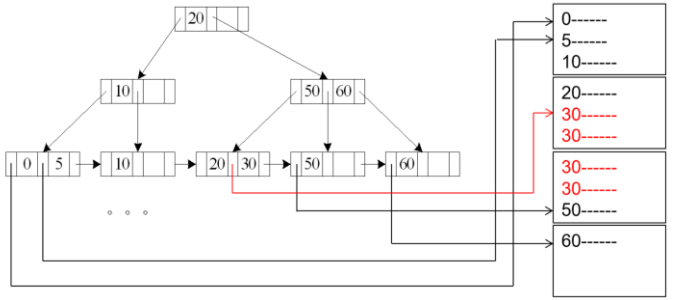
Selections Using Indices

- **Index scan** – search algorithms that use an index
  - selection condition must be on search-key of index.
- **A2** (**clustering index, equality on key**). Retrieve a single record that satisfies the corresponding equality condition
  - $Cost = (h_i + 1) * (t_T + t_S)$
- **A3** (**clustering index, equality on nonkey**) Retrieve multiple records.
  - Records will be on consecutive blocks
    - Let b = number of blocks containing matching records
  - $Cost = h_i * (t_T + t_S) + t_S + t_T * b$

主索引，key 上的等值查找



主索引，nonkey 上的等值查找

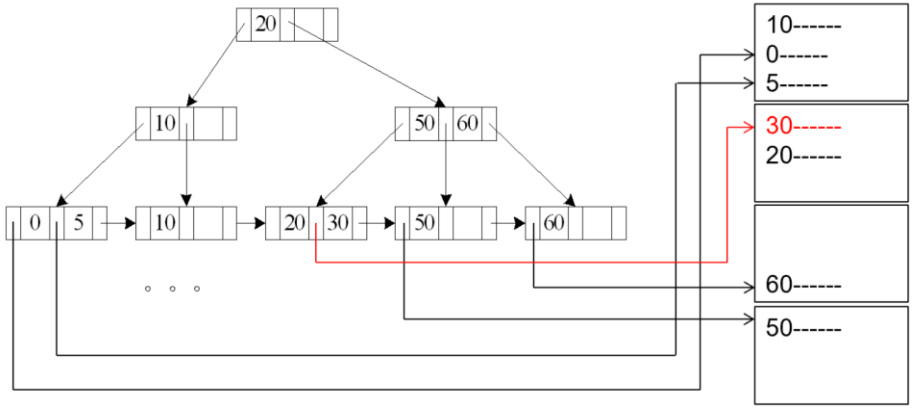


这里的高度从 1 开始（+1 表示最后到叶子节点，需要从磁盘中读）

Selections Using Indices

- **A4** (**secondary index, equality on key/non-key**).
  - Retrieve a single record if the search-key is a candidate key
    - *Cost* = $(h_i + 1) * (t_T + t_S)$
  - Retrieve multiple records if search-key is not a candidate key
    - each of *n* matching records may be on a different block
    - Cost = $(h_i + n) * (t_T + t_S)$
      - Can be very expensive!

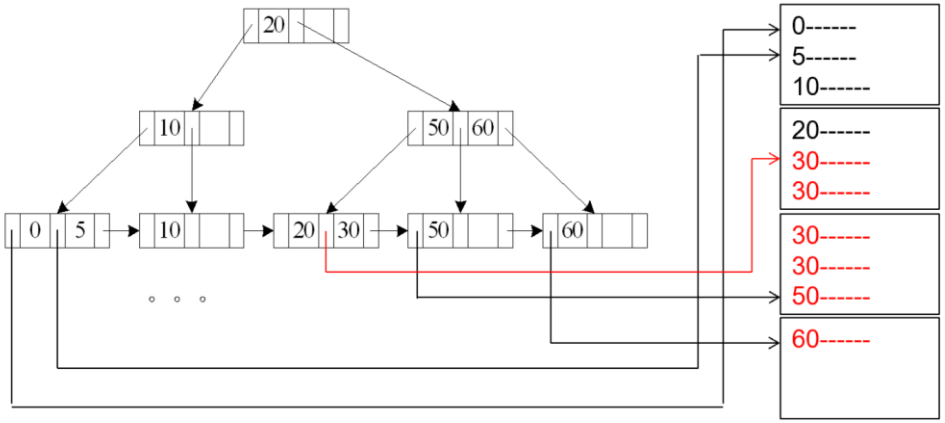
辅助索引，key 上的等值查找



Selections Involving Comparisons

- Can implement selections of the form $\sigma_{A \le V}(r)$ or $\sigma_{A \ge V}(r)$ by using
  - a linear file scan,
  - or by using indices in the following ways:
- **A5** (**clustering index, comparison**). (Relation is sorted on A)
  - For $\sigma_{A \ge V}(r)$ use index to find first tuple $\ge v$ and scan relation sequentially from there
  - For $\sigma_{A \le V}(r)$ just scan relation sequentially till first tuple > *v;* do not use index

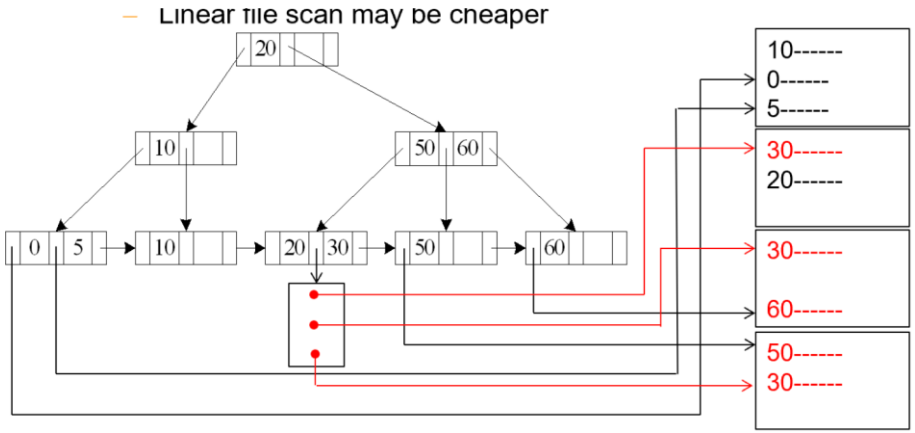
主索引，key 上的比较



Selections Involving Comparisons

- **A6** (**clustering index, comparison**).
  - For $\sigma_{A \geq V}(r)$ use index to find first index entry $\geq v$ and scan index sequentially from there, to find pointers to records.
  - For $\sigma_{A \leq V}(r)$ just scan leaf pages of index finding pointers to records, till first entry $> v$
  - In either case, retrieve records that are pointed to
  - requires an I/O per record; Linear file scan may be cheaper!

辅助索引，nonkey 上的比较



Implementation of Complex Selections

- **Conjunction:** $\sigma_{\theta 1 \wedge \theta 2 \wedge \ldots \theta n}(r)$
- **A7** (**conjunctive selection using one index**).
  - Select a combination of θ_i and algorithms A1 through A7 that results in the least cost for $\sigma_{\theta i}$ (*r).*
  - Test other conditions on tuple after fetching it into memory buffer.
- **A8** (**conjunctive selection using composite index**).
  - Use appropriate composite (multiple-key) index if available.
- **A9** (**conjunctive selection by intersection of identifiers***).*
  - Requires indices with record pointers.
  - Use corresponding index for each condition, and take intersection of all the obtained sets of record pointers.
  - Then fetch records from file
  - If some conditions do not have appropriate indices, apply test in memory.

Algorithms for Complex Selections

- **Disjunction:** $\sigma_{\theta 1 \vee \theta 2 \vee \ldots \theta n}(r)$.
- **A10** (**disjunctive selection by union of identifiers**).
  - Applicable if *all* conditions have available indices.
    - Otherwise use linear scan.
  - Use corresponding index for each condition, and take union of all the obtained sets of record pointers.
  - Then fetch records from file
- **Negation:** $\sigma_{\neg\theta}(r)$
  - Use linear scan on file
  - If very few records satisfy $\neg\theta$, and an index is applicable to θ
    - Find satisfying records using index and fetch from file

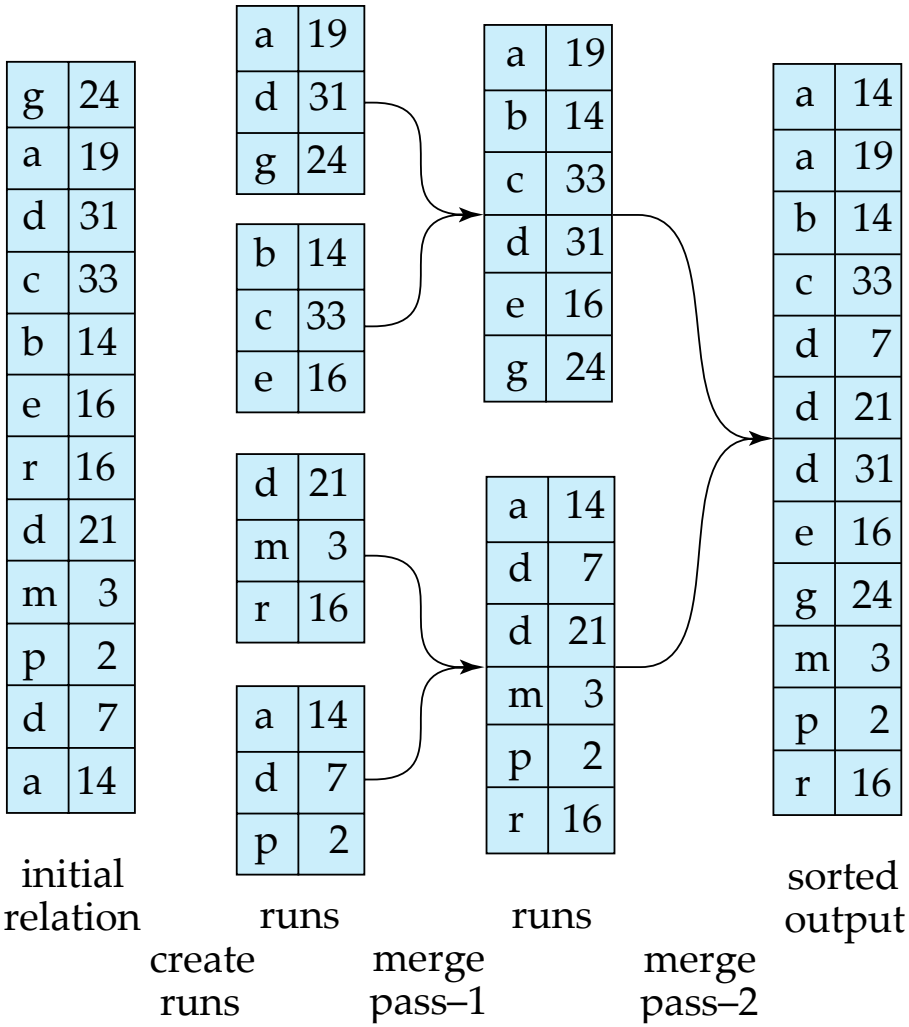
Bitmap Index Scan

- The **bitmap index scan** algorithm of PostgreSQL
  - Bridges gap between secondary index scan and linear file scan when number of matching records is not known before execution
  - Bitmap with 1 bit per page in relation
  - Steps:
    - Index scan used to find record ids, and set bit of corresponding page in bitmap
    - Linear file scan fetching only pages with bit set to 1
  - Performance
    - Similar to index scan when only a few bits are set
    - Similar to linear file scan when most bits are set
    - Never behaves very badly compared to best alternative

Sorting

- We may build an index on the relation, and then use the index to read the relation in sorted order. May lead to one disk block access for each tuple.
- For relations that fit in memory, techniques like quicksort can be used.
  - For relations that don't fit in memory, **external sort-merge** is a good choice.

Example: External Sorting Using Sort-Merge



External Sort-Merge

Let *M* denote memory size (in pages).

1. **Create sorted runs**. Let *i* be 0 initially.
   Repeatedly do the following till the end of the relation:
   (a) Read *M* blocks of relation into memory
   (b) Sort the in-memory blocks
   (c) Write sorted data to run R_i; increment *i.*

Let the final value of *i* be *N*

2. *Merge the runs (next slide)…..*

External Sort-Merge (Cont.)

2. **Merge the runs (N-way merge)**. We assume (for now) that $N < M$.
   1. Use N blocks of memory to buffer input runs, and 1 block to buffer output. Read the first block of each run into its buffer page
   2. **repeat**
      1. Select the first record (in sort order) among all buffer pages
      2. Write the record to the output buffer. If the output buffer is full write it to disk.
      3. Delete the record from its input buffer page.
         If the buffer page becomes empty **then**
         read the next block (if any) of the run into the buffer.
   3. **until** all input buffer pages are empty:

External Sort-Merge (Cont.)

- If $N \geq M$, several merge *passes* are required.
  - In each pass, contiguous groups of M - 1 runs are merged.
  - A pass reduces the number of runs by a factor of M -1, and creates runs longer by the same factor.
    - E.g. If M=11, and there are 90 runs, one pass reduces the number of runs to 9, each 10 times the size of the initial runs
  - Repeated passes are performed till all runs have been merged into one.

External Merge Sort (Cont.)

- Cost analysis:
  - 1 block per run leads to too many seeks during merge
    - Instead use b_b buffer blocks per run
      - ➔ read/write b_b blocks at a time
    - Can merge $\lfloor M/b_b \rfloor - 1$ runs in one pass
  - Total number of merge passes required: $\lceil \log_{\lfloor M/bb \rfloor - 1}(b_r/M) \rceil$.
  - Block transfers for initial run creation as well as in each pass is $2b_r$
    - for final pass, we don't count write cost
      - we ignore final write cost for all operations since the output of an operation may be sent to the parent operation without being written to disk
    - Thus total number of block transfers for external sorting:
      $$b_r (2 \lceil \log_{\lfloor M/bb \rfloor - 1} (b_r / M) \rceil + 1) \lceil$$
  - Seeks: next slide

External Merge Sort (Cont.)

- Cost of seeks
  - During run generation: one seek to read each run and one seek to write each run
    - $2\lceil b_r / M \rceil$
  - During the merge phase
    - Need $2\lceil b_r / b_b \rceil$ seeks for each merge pass
      - except the final one which does not require a write
    - Total number of seeks:
      $2\lceil b_r / M \rceil + \lceil b_r / b_b \rceil (2\lceil \log_{\lfloor M/bb \rfloor - 1}(b_r / M) \rceil - 1)$

Join Operation

- Several different algorithms to implement joins
  - Nested-loop join
  - Block nested-loop join
  - Indexed nested-loop join
  - Merge-join
  - Hash-join
- Choice based on cost estimate
- Examples use the following information
  - Number of records of *student*: 5,000 *takes*: 10,000
  - Number of blocks of *student*: 100 *takes*: 400

Nested-Loop Join

- To compute the theta join $r \bowtie_\theta s$

  for each tuple t_r **in** r **do begin**
    for each tuple t_s **in** s **do begin**
      test pair (t_r, t_s) to see if they satisfy the join condition θ
      if they do, add $t_r \bullet t_s$ to the result.
    end
  end

- r is called the **outer relation** and s the **inner relation** of the join.
- Requires no indices and can be used with any kind of join condition.
- Expensive since it examines every pair of tuples in the two relations.

Nested-Loop Join (Cont.)

- In the worst case, if there is enough memory only to hold one block of each relation, the estimated cost is

  $n_r * b_s + b_r$ block transfers, plus $n_r + b_r$ seeks

- If the smaller relation fits entirely in memory, use that as the inner relation.
  - Reduces cost to $b_r + b_s$ block transfers and 2 seeks
- Assuming worst case memory availability cost estimate is
  - with *student* as outer relation:
    - 5000 * 400 + 100 = 2,000,100 block transfers,
    - 5000 + 100 = 5100 seeks
  - with *takes* as the outer relation
    - 10000 * 100 + 400 = 1,000,400 block transfers and 10,400 seeks
- If smaller relation (*student*) fits entirely in memory, the cost estimate will be 500 block transfers.
- Block nested-loops algorithm (next slide) is preferable.

Block Nested-Loop Join

- Variant of nested-loop join in which every block of inner relation is paired with every block of outer relation.

```
for each block B_r of r do begin
    for each block B_s of s do begin
        for each tuple t_r in B_r do begin
            for each tuple t_s in B_s do begin
                Check if (t_r,t_s) satisfy the join condition
                if they do, add t_r • t_s to the result.
            end
        end
    end
end
```

Block Nested-Loop Join (Cont.)

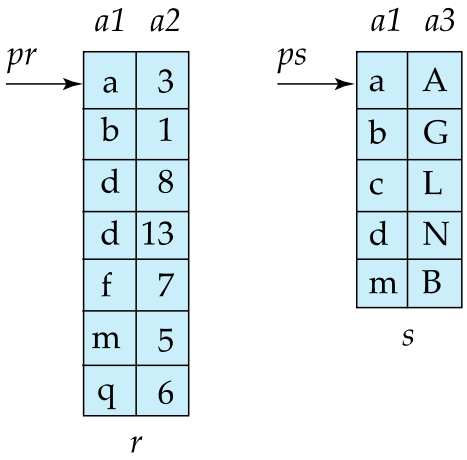
- Worst case estimate: $b_r * b_s + b_r$ block transfers + 2 * b_r seeks
  - Each block in the inner relation *s* is read once for each *block* in the outer relation
- Best case: $b_r + b_s$ block transfers + 2 seeks.
- Improvements to nested loop and block nested loop algorithms:
  - In block nested-loop, use (M – 2) disk blocks as blocking unit for outer relations, where M = memory size in blocks; use remaining two blocks to buffer inner relation and output
    - Cost = $\lceil b_r / (M-2) \rceil * b_s + b_r$ block transfers + $2 \lceil b_r / (M-2) \rceil$ seeks
  - If equi-join attribute forms a key of inner relation, stop inner loop on first match
  - Scan inner loop forward and backward alternately, to make use of the blocks remaining in buffer (with LRU replacement)
  - Use index on inner relation if available (next slide)

Indexed Nested-Loop Join

- Index lookups can replace file scans if
  - join is an equi-join or natural join and
  - an index is available on the inner relation's join attribute
    - Can construct an index just to compute a join.
- For each tuple t_r in the outer relation *r,* use the index to look up tuples in *s* that satisfy the join condition with tuple t_r.
- Worst case: buffer has space for only one page of *r*, and, for each tuple in *r*, we perform an index lookup on *s.*
- Cost of the join: $b_r\ (t_T + t_S) + n_r * c$
  - Where *c* is the cost of traversing index and fetching all matching *s* tuples for one tuple or *r*
  - *c* can be estimated as cost of a single selection on *s* using the join condition.
- If indices are available on join attributes of both *r* and *s,* use the relation with fewer tuples as the outer relation.

Merge-Join

1. Sort both relations on their join attribute (if not already sorted on the join attributes).
2. Merge the sorted relations to join them
    1. Join step is similar to the merge stage of the sort-merge algorithm.
    2. Main difference is handling of duplicate values in join attribute — every pair with same value on join attribute must be matched
    3. Detailed algorithm in book



Merge-Join (Cont.)

- Can be used only for equi-joins and natural joins
- Each block needs to be read only once (assuming all tuples for any given value of the join attributes fit in memory
- Thus the cost of merge join is:

  $b_r + b_s$ block transfers $+ \lceil b_r / b_b \rceil + \lceil b_s / b_b \rceil$ seeks

  + the cost of sorting if relations are unsorted.
- **hybrid merge-join:** If one relation is sorted, and the other has a secondary B^+-tree index on the join attribute
  - Merge the sorted relation with the leaf entries of the B^+-tree .
  - Sort the result on the addresses of the unsorted relation's tuples
  - Scan the unsorted relation in physical address order and merge with previous result, to replace addresses by the actual tuples
    - Sequential scan more efficient than random lookup

End of Chapter 15