

# **Chapter 14: Indexing**

**Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.** 

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## **Chapter 14: Indexing**

- Basic Concepts
- Ordered Indices
- B+-Tree Index Files
- B+-Tree Extensions
- B-Tree Index Files
- Hash Indices
- Multiple-Key Access
- Creation of Indices
- Write-Optimized Index Structures
- Bitmap Indices
- Indexing of Spatial and Temporal Data



### **Basic Concepts**

- Indexing mechanisms is used to speed up access to desired data.
  - E.g., author catalog in library
- Search Key attribute to set of attributes used to look up records in a file.
- An index file consists of records (called index entries) of the form

search-key	pointer
------------	---------

- Index files are typically much smaller than the original file
- Two basic kinds of indices:
  - Ordered indices: search keys are stored in sorted order
  - Hash indices: search keys are distributed uniformly across "buckets" using a "hash function".



#### **Index Evaluation Metrics**

- Access types are supported efficiently.
  - Records with a specified value in the attribute
  - Records with an attribute value falling in a specified range of values.
  - Etc.
- Access time
- Insertion time
- Deletion time
- Space overhead



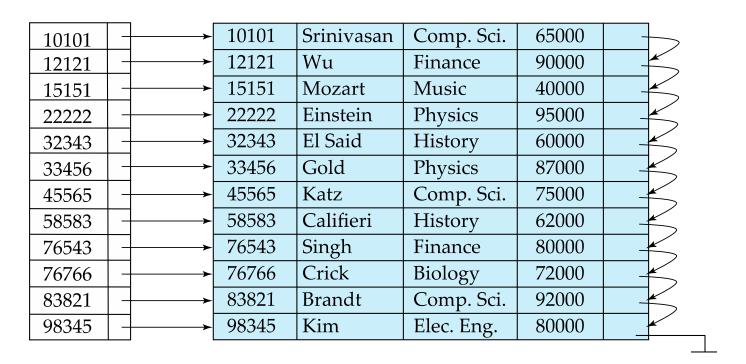
#### **Ordered Indices**

- Ordered index: index entries are stored based on a sorted ordering of the search key values.
  - E.g., author catalog in library.
- Clustering index: in a sequentially ordered file, the index whose search key specifies the sequential order of the file.
  - Also called primary index
  - The search key of a clustering index is usually (but not necessarily) the primary key.
- Secondary index: an index whose search key specifies an order different from the sequential order of the file. Also called non-clustering index.
- Index-sequential file: ordered sequential file with a primary index.
- Two types of ordered indices: dense and sparse.



#### **Dense Index Files**

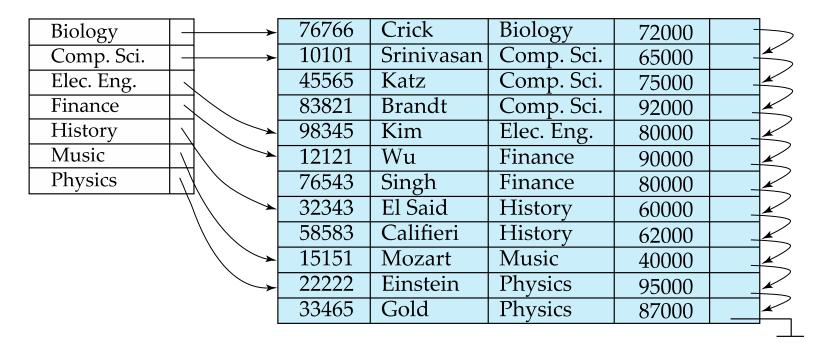
- **Dense index** Index record appears for every search-key value in the file.
- Example: Clustering index on *ID* attribute of *instructor* relation





### **Dense Index Files (Cont.)**

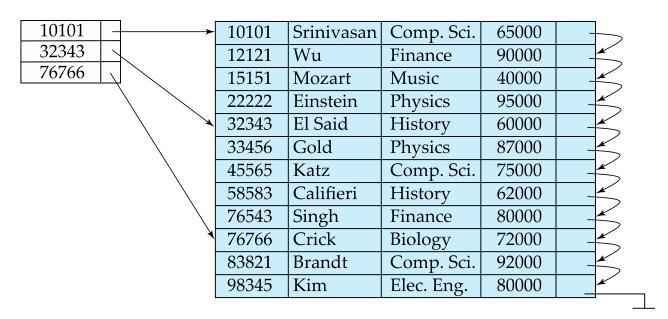
Dense (clustering) index on dept\_name, with instructor file sorted on dept\_name





### **Sparse Index Files**

- Sparse Index: contains index records for only some search-key values.
  - Applicable only when records are sequentially ordered on search-key
- To locate a record with search-key value K we:
  - Find index record with largest search-key value < K</p>
  - Search file sequentially starting at the record to which the index record points



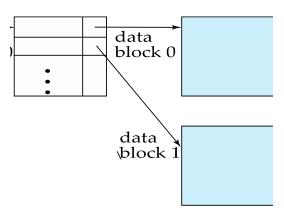


### **Sparse Index Files (Cont.)**

- Compared to dense indices:
  - Less space and less maintenance overhead for insertions and deletions.
  - Generally slower than dense index for locating records.

#### Good tradeoff:

 For clustered index: sparse index with an index entry for every block in file, corresponding to least search-key value in the block.



For un-clustered index: sparse index on top of dense index (multilevel index)

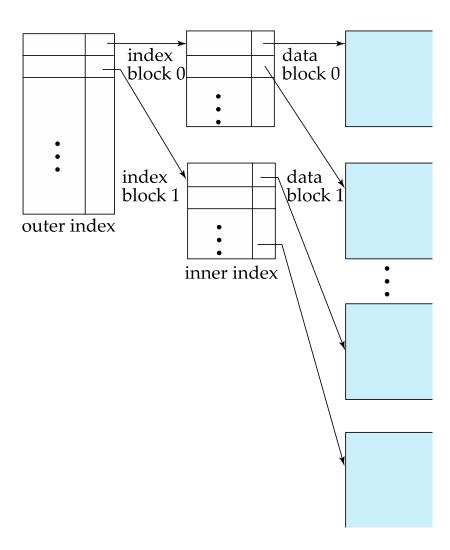


#### **Multilevel Index**

- If a primary index does not fit in memory, access becomes expensive.
- Solution: treat primary index kept on disk as a sequential file and construct a sparse index on it.
  - Outer index a sparse index of primary index
  - Inner index the primary index file
- If even outer index is too large to fit in main memory, yet another level of index can be created, and so on.
- Indices at all levels must be updated on insertion or deletion from the file.



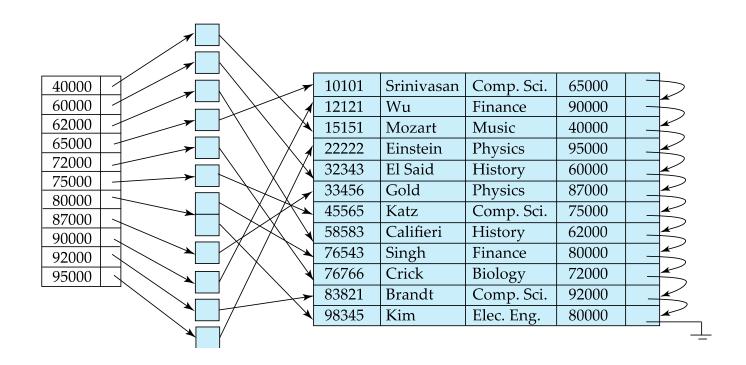
# **Multilevel Index Example**





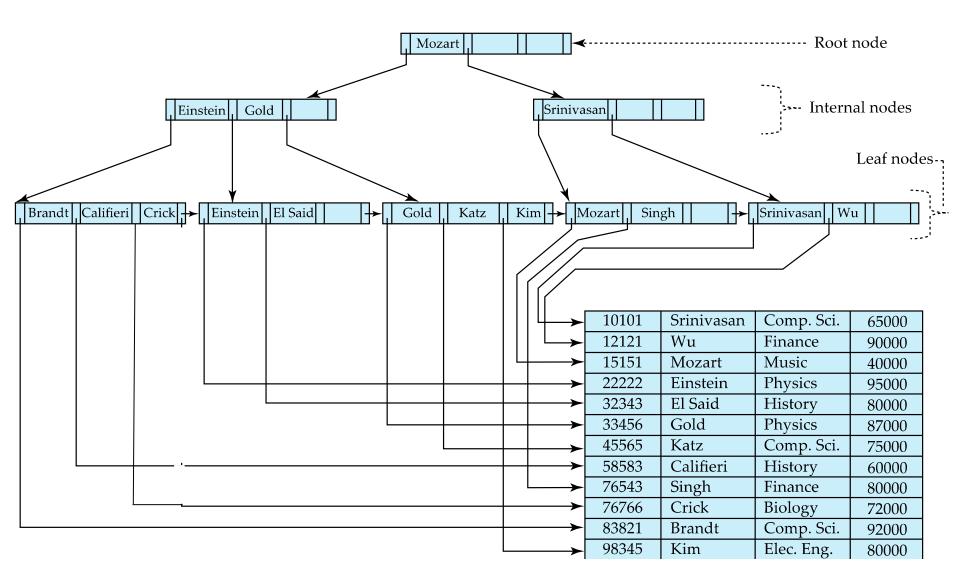
### **Secondary Indices Example**

- Index record points to a bucket that contains pointers to all the actual records with that particular search-key value.
- Secondary indices have to be dense
  - Example: secondary index on salary field of instructor





#### **Example of B\*-Tree**





### B<sup>+</sup>-Tree Index Files (Cont.)

A B<sup>+</sup>-tree is a rooted tree satisfying the following properties:

- All paths from root to leaf are of the same length
- Each node that is not a root or a leaf has between  $\lceil n/2 \rceil$  and n children.
- A leaf node has between [(n-1)/2] and n-1 values
- Special cases:
  - If the root is not a leaf, it has at least 2 children.
  - If the root is a leaf (that is, there are no other nodes in the tree), it can have between 0 and (n-1) values.



#### **B**<sup>+</sup>-Tree Node Structure

Typical node

$P_1$ $K_1$	$P_2$	•••	$P_{n-1}$	$K_{n-1}$	$P_n$
-------------	-------	-----	-----------	-----------	-------

- K<sub>i</sub> are the search-key values
- P<sub>i</sub> are pointers to children (for non-leaf nodes) or pointers to records or buckets of records (for leaf nodes).
- The search-keys in a node are ordered

$$K_1 < K_2 < K_3 < \ldots < K_{n-1}$$

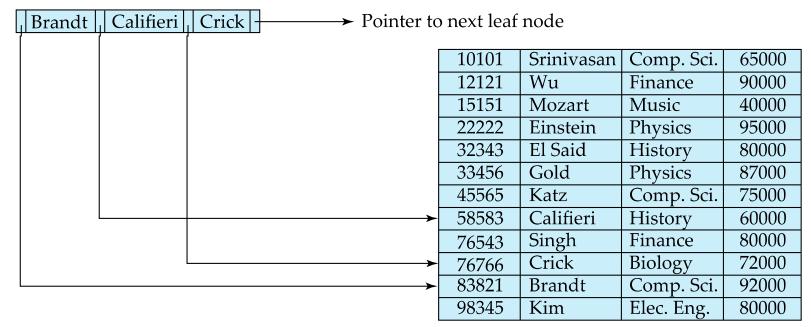
(Initially assume no duplicate keys, address duplicates later)



#### Leaf Nodes in B<sup>+</sup>-Trees

#### Properties of a leaf node:

- For i = 1, 2, ..., n-1, pointer  $P_i$  points to a file record with search-key value  $K_i$ ,
- If  $L_i$ ,  $L_j$  are leaf nodes and i < j,  $L_i$ 's search-key values are less than or equal to  $L_i$ 's search-key values
- $P_n$  points to next leaf node in search-key order





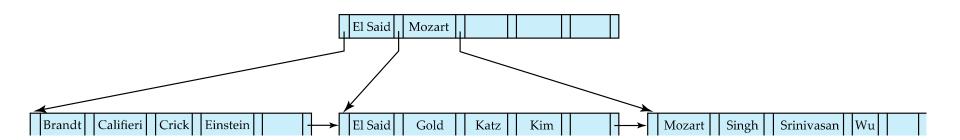
#### Non-Leaf Nodes in B<sup>+</sup>-Trees

- Non leaf nodes form a multi-level sparse index on the leaf nodes. For a non-leaf node with *m* pointers:
  - All the search-keys in the subtree to which  $P_1$  points are less than  $K_1$
  - For  $2 \le i \le n 1$ , all the search-keys in the subtree to which  $P_i$  points have values greater than or equal to  $K_{i-1}$  and less than  $K_i$
  - All the search-keys in the subtree to which  $P_n$  points have values greater than or equal to  $K_{n-1}$





#### **Example of B**<sup>+</sup>-tree



B<sup>+</sup>-tree for *instructor* file (n = 6)

- Leaf nodes must have between 3 and 5 values  $(\lceil (n-1)/2 \rceil)$  and n-1, with n=6).
- Non-leaf nodes other than root must have between 3 and 6 children ( $\lceil (n/2 \rceil)$  and n with n = 6).
- Root must have at least 2 children.



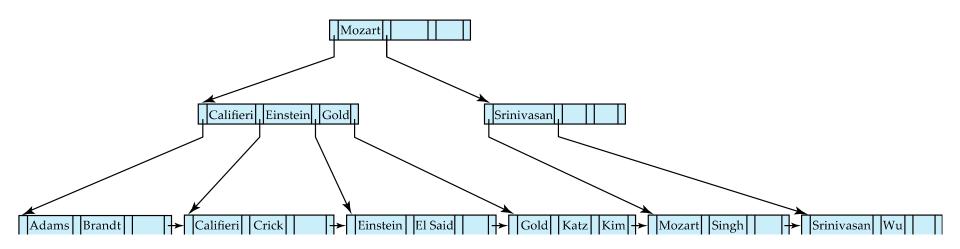
#### Observations about B<sup>+</sup>-trees

- Since the inter-node connections are done by pointers, "logically" close blocks need not be "physically" close.
- The non-leaf levels of the B+-tree form a hierarchy of sparse indices.
- The B+-tree contains a relatively small number of levels
  - Level below root has at least 2\* [n/2] values
  - Next level has at least 2\* [n/2] \* [n/2] values
  - .. etc.
  - If there are K search-key values in the file, the tree height is no more than  $\lceil \log_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}(K) \rceil$
  - thus searches can be conducted efficiently.
- Insertions and deletions to the main file can be handled efficiently, as the index can be restructured in logarithmic time (as we shall see).



### Queries on B<sup>+</sup>-Trees

- Find record with search-key value *V.* 
  - 1. C=root
  - 2. While C is not a leaf node {
    - 1. Let *i* be least value s.t.  $V \leq K_i$ .
    - 2. If no such exists, set C = last non-null pointer in C
    - 3. Else { if  $(V = K_i)$  Set  $C = P_{i+1}$  else set  $C = P_i$ }
  - 3. Let *i* be least value s.t.  $K_i = V$
  - 4. If there is such a value i, follow pointer  $P_i$  to the desired record.
  - 5. Else no record with search-key value k exists.





#### **Handling Duplicates**

- With duplicate search keys
  - In both leaf and internal nodes,
    - we cannot guarantee that  $K_1 < K_2 < K_3 < ... < K_{n-1}$
    - but can guarantee  $K_1 \le K_2 \le K_3 \le \ldots \le K_{n-1}$
  - Search-keys in the subtree to which  $P_i$  points
    - are  $\leq K_{i,}$ , but not necessarily  $< K_{i,}$
    - To see why, suppose same search key value V is present in two leaf node  $L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$ . Then in parent node  $K_i$  must be equal to V



### **Handling Duplicates**

- We modify find procedure as follows
  - traverse  $P_i$  even if  $V = K_i$
  - As soon as we reach a leaf node C check if C has only search key values less than V
    - if so set C = right sibling of C before checking whether C contains V
- Procedure printAll
  - uses modified find procedure to find first occurrence of V
  - Traverse through consecutive leaves to find all occurrences of V

<sup>\*\*</sup> Errata note: modified find procedure missing in first printing of 6th edition



## Queries on B+Trees (Cont.)

- If there are K search-key values in the file, the height of the tree is no more than  $\lceil \log_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}(K) \rceil$ .
- A node is generally the same size as a disk block, typically 4 kilobytes
  - and n is typically around 100 (40 bytes per index entry).
- With 1 million search key values and n = 100
  - at most  $log_{50}(1,000,000) = 4$  nodes are accessed in a lookup.
- Contrast this with a balanced binary tree with 1 million search key values — around 20 nodes are accessed in a lookup
  - above difference is significant since every node access may need a disk I/O, costing around 20 milliseconds



#### **Updates on B<sup>+</sup>-Trees: Insertion**

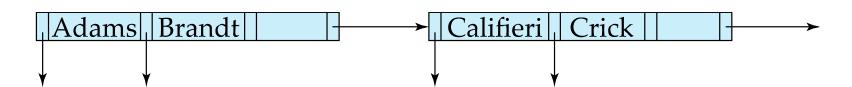
Assume record already added to the file. Let

- pr be pointer to the record, and let
- v be the search key value of the record
- 1. Find the leaf node in which the search-key value would appear
  - 1. If there is room in the leaf node, insert (v, *pr*) pair in the leaf node
  - 2. Otherwise, split the node (along with the new (*v*, *pr*) entry) as discussed in the next slide, and propagate updates to parent nodes.



### **Updates on B<sup>+</sup>-Trees: Insertion (Cont.)**

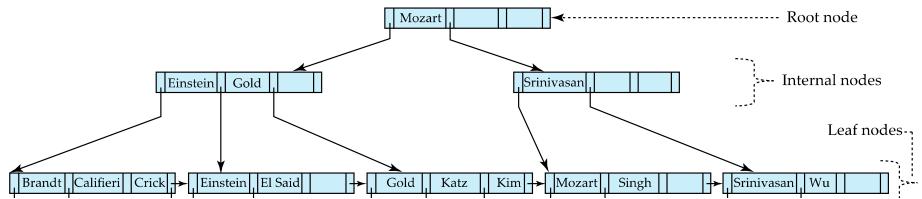
- Splitting a leaf node:
  - take the n (search-key value, pointer) pairs (including the one being inserted) in sorted order. Place the first  $\lceil n/2 \rceil$  in the original node, and the rest in a new node.
  - let the new node be p, and let k be the least key value in p. Insert (k,p) in the parent of the node being split.
  - If the parent is full, split it and propagate the split further up.
- Splitting of nodes proceeds upwards till a node that is not full is found.
  - In the worst case the root node may be split increasing the height of the tree by 1.

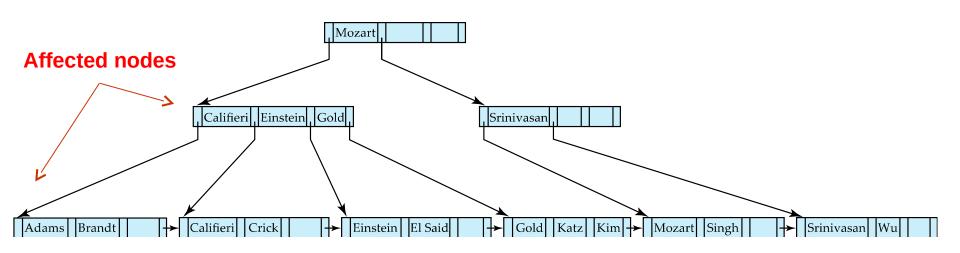


Result of splitting node containing Brandt, Califieri and Crick on inserting Adams Next step: insert entry with (Califieri, pointer-to-new-node) into parent



#### **B**<sup>+</sup>-Tree Insertion

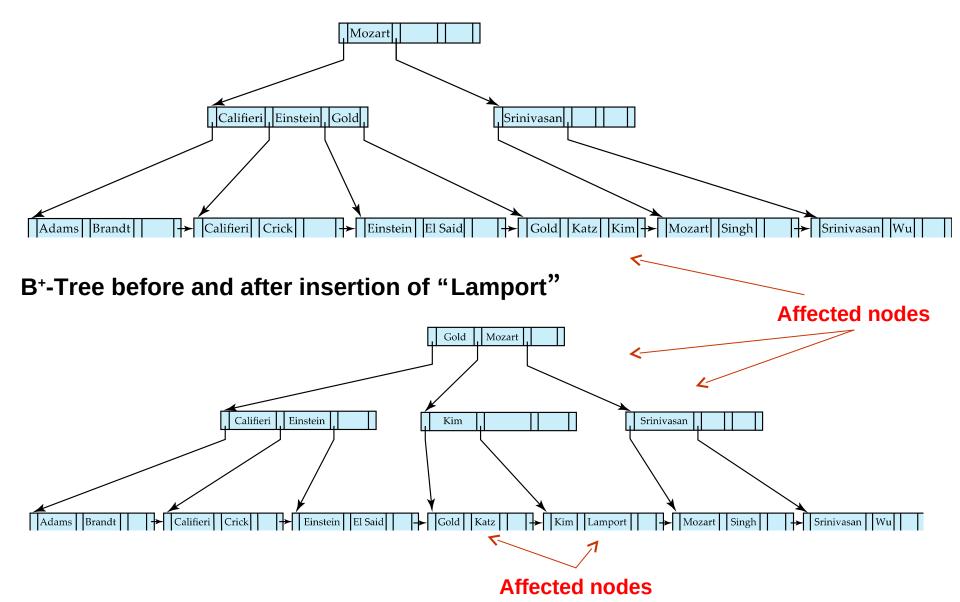




B+-Tree before and after insertion of "Adams"



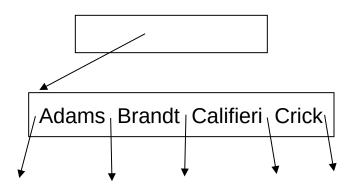
#### B<sup>+</sup>-Tree Insertion

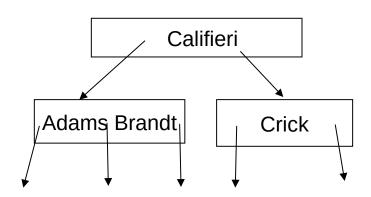




# Insertion in B+-Trees (Cont.)

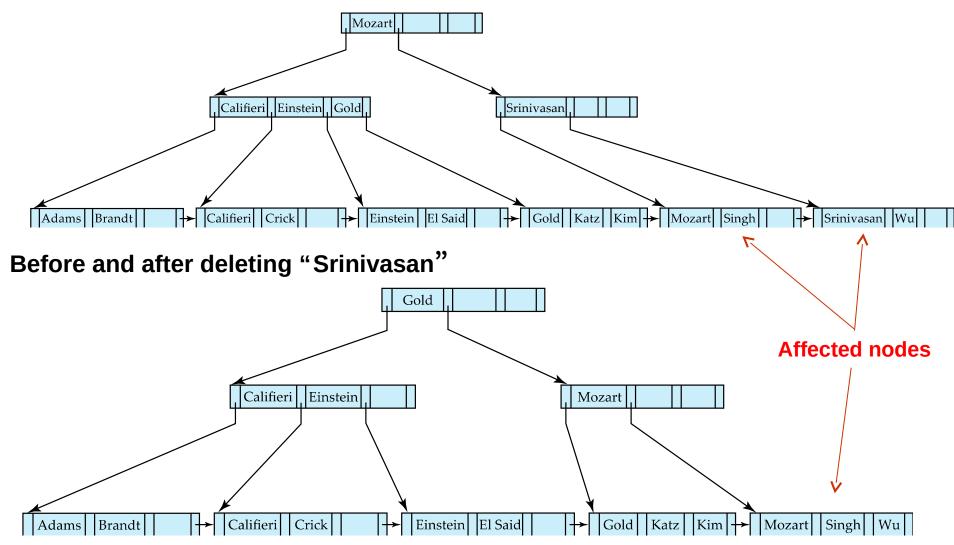
- Splitting a non-leaf node: when inserting (k,p) into an already full internal node N
  - Copy N to an in-memory area M with space for n+1 pointers and n keys
  - Insert (k,p) into M
  - Copy  $P_1, K_1, ..., K_{\lceil n/2 \rceil 1}, P_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}$  from M back into node N
  - Copy  $P_{[n/2]+1}, K_{[n/2]+1}, \dots, K_n, P_{n+1}$  from M into newly allocated node N'
  - Insert (K<sub>[n/2]</sub>,N') into parent N
- Read pseudocode in book!







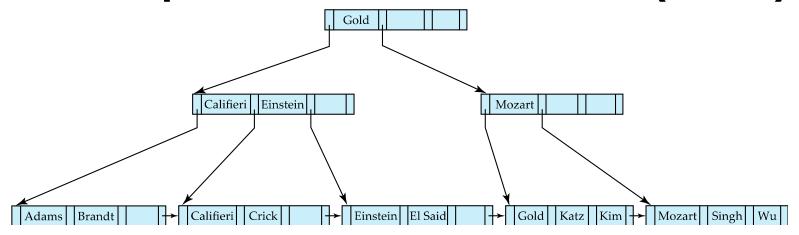
#### **Examples of B<sup>+</sup>-Tree Deletion**

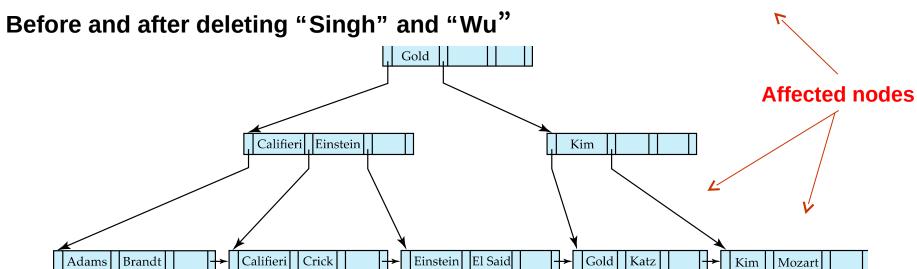


Deleting "Srinivasan" causes merging of under-full leaves



### **Examples of B<sup>+</sup>-Tree Deletion (Cont.)**

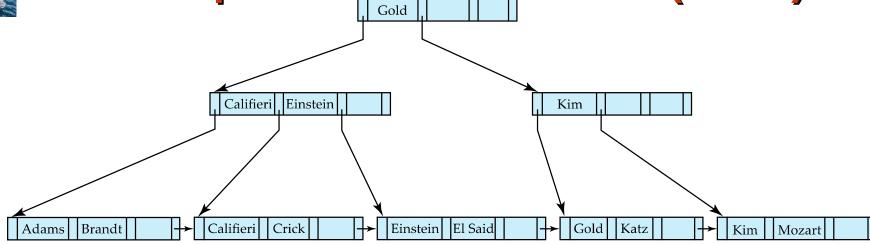




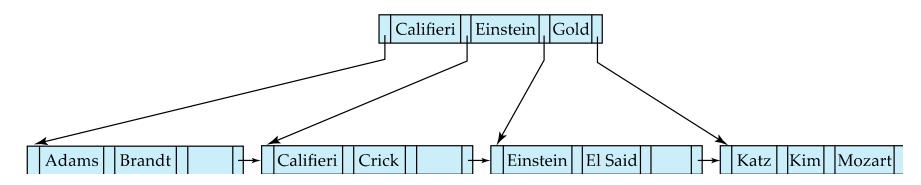
- Leaf containing Singh and Wu became underfull, and borrowed a value Kim from its left sibling
- Search-key value in the parent changes as a result



### Example of B<sup>+</sup>-tree Deletion (Cont.)



#### Before and after deletion of "Gold"



- Node with Gold and Katz became underfull, and was merged with its sibling
- Parent node becomes underfull, and is merged with its sibling
  - Value separating two nodes (at the parent) is pulled down when merging
- Root node then has only one child, and is deleted



#### **Updates on B<sup>+</sup>-Trees: Deletion**

Assume record already deleted from file. Let V be the search key value of the record, and Pr be the pointer to the record.

- $\blacksquare$ Remove (Pr, V) from the leaf node
- If the node has too few entries due to the removal, and the entries in the node and a sibling fit into a single node, then *merge siblings:* 
  - Insert all the search-key values in the two nodes into a single node (the one on the left), and delete the other node.
  - Delete the pair  $(K_{i-1}, P_i)$ , where  $P_i$  is the pointer to the deleted node, from its parent, recursively using the above procedure.



#### **Updates on B<sup>+</sup>-Trees: Deletion**

- Otherwise, if the node has too few entries due to the removal, but the entries in the node and a sibling do not fit into a single node, then redistribute pointers:
  - Redistribute the pointers between the node and a sibling such that both have more than the minimum number of entries.
  - Update the corresponding search-key value in the parent of the node.
- The node deletions may cascade upwards till a node which has  $\lceil n/2 \rceil$  or more pointers is found.
- If the root node has only one pointer after deletion, it is deleted and the sole child becomes the root.



### Non-Unique Search Keys

- Alternatives to scheme described earlier
  - Buckets on separate block (bad idea)
  - List of tuple pointers with each key
    - Extra code to handle long lists
    - Deletion of a tuple can be expensive if there are many duplicates on search key (why?)
    - Low space overhead, no extra cost for queries
  - Make search key unique by adding a record-identifier
    - Extra storage overhead for keys
    - Simpler code for insertion/deletion
    - Widely used

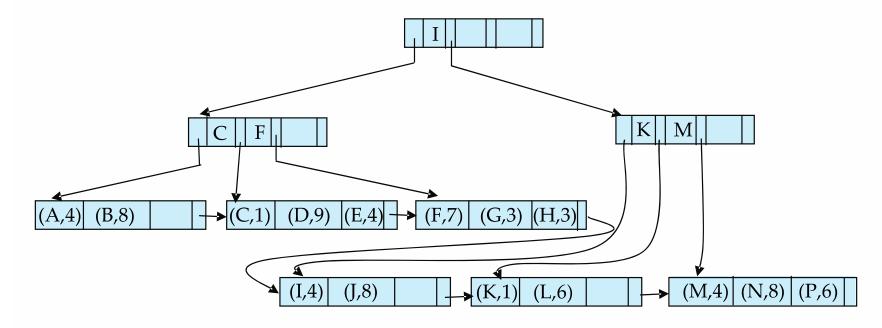


### **B**<sup>+</sup>-Tree File Organization

- B+-Tree File Organization:
  - leaf nodes in a B+-tree file organization store records, instead of pointers
  - Helps keep data records clustered even when there are insertions/deletions/updates
- Leaf nodes are still required to be half full
  - Since records are larger than pointers, the maximum number of records that can be stored in a leaf node is less than the number of pointers in a nonleaf node.
- Insertion and deletion are handled in the same way as insertion and deletion of entries in a B+-tree index.



#### B<sup>+</sup>-Tree File Organization (Cont.)



Example of B<sup>+</sup>-tree File Organization

- Good space utilization important since records use more space than pointers.
- To improve space utilization, involve more sibling nodes in redistribution during splits and merges
  - Involving 2 siblings in redistribution (to avoid split / merge where possible) results in each node having at least |2n/3| entries



### Other Issues in Indexing

#### Record relocation and secondary indices

- If a record moves, all secondary indices that store record pointers have to be updated
- Node splits in B+-tree file organizations become very expensive
- Solution: use primary-index search key instead of record pointer in secondary index
  - Extra traversal of primary index to locate record
    - Higher cost for queries, but node splits are cheap
  - Add record-id if primary-index search key is non-unique



### **Indexing Strings**

- Variable length strings as keys
  - Variable fanout
  - Use space utilization as criterion for splitting, not number of pointers

#### Prefix compression

- Key values at internal nodes can be prefixes of full key
  - Keep enough characters to distinguish entries in the subtrees separated by the key value
    - E.g. "Silas" and "Silberschatz" can be separated by "Silb"
- Keys in leaf node can be compressed by sharing common prefixes

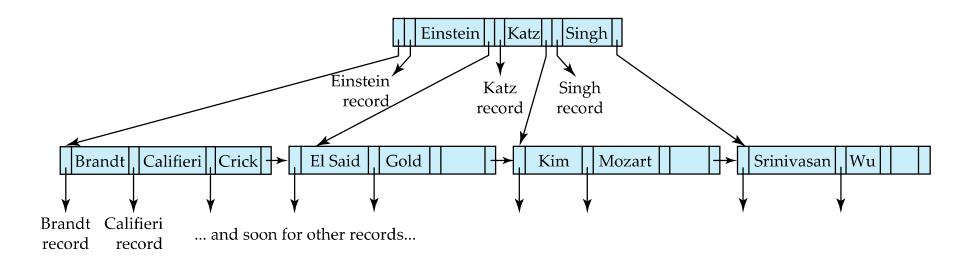


#### **Bulk Loading and Bottom-Up Build**

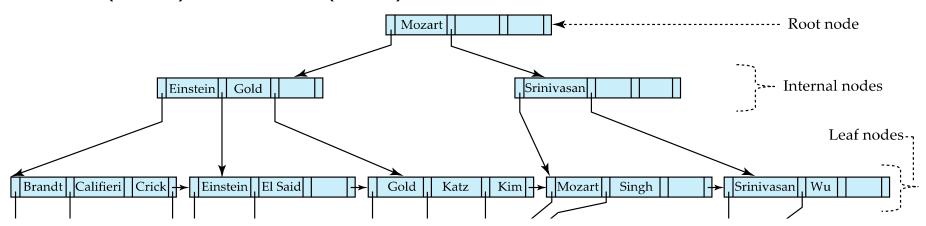
- Inserting entries one-at-a-time into a B+-tree requires  $\geq 1$  IO per entry
  - assuming leaf level does not fit in memory
  - can be very inefficient for loading a large number of entries at a time (bulk loading)
- Efficient alternative 1:
  - sort entries first (using efficient external-memory sort algorithms discussed later in Section 12.4)
  - insert in sorted order
    - insertion will go to existing page (or cause a split)
    - much improved IO performance, but most leaf nodes half full
- Efficient alternative 2: Bottom-up B+-tree construction
  - As before sort entries
  - And then create tree layer-by-layer, starting with leaf level
    - details as an exercise
  - Implemented as part of bulk-load utility by most database systems



#### **B-Tree Index File Example**



#### B-tree (above) and B+-tree (below) on same data





#### **Multiple-Key Access**

- Use multiple indices for certain types of queries.
- Example:

select ID

**from** instructor

where dept\_name = "Finance" and salary = 80000

- Possible strategies for processing query using indices on single attributes:
  - 1. Use index on *dept\_name* to find instructors with department name Finance; test *salary* = 80000
  - 2. Use index on salary to find instructors with a salary of \$80000; test dept\_name = "Finance".
  - 3. Use *dept\_name* index to find pointers to all records pertaining to the "Finance" department. Similarly use index on *salary*. Take intersection of both sets of pointers obtained.



### **Indices on Multiple Keys**

- Composite search keys are search keys containing more than one attribute
  - E.g. (dept\_name, salary)
- Lexicographic ordering:  $(a_1, a_2) < (b_1, b_2)$  if either
  - $a_1 < b_1$ , or
  - $a_1 = b_1$  and  $a_2 < b_2$



#### **Indices on Multiple Attributes**

Suppose we have an index on combined search-key (dept\_name, salary).

- With the where clause where dept\_name = "Finance" and salary = 80000 the index on (dept\_name, salary) can be used to fetch only records that satisfy both conditions.
  - Using separate indices in less efficient we may fetch many records (or pointers) that satisfy only one of the conditions.
- Can also efficiently handle
  where dept\_name = "Finance" and salary < 80000</p>
- But cannot efficiently handle
  where dept\_name < "Finance" and balance = 80000</p>
  - May fetch many records that satisfy the first but not the second condition



#### **Other Features**

- Covering indices
  - Add extra attributes to index so (some) queries can avoid fetching the actual records
  - Store extra attributes only at leaf
    - Why?
- Particularly useful for secondary indices
  - Why?



## **Hashing**

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### **Static Hashing**

- A bucket is a unit of storage containing one or more records (a bucket is typically a disk block).
- In a hash file organization we obtain the bucket of a record directly from its search-key value using a hash function.
- Hash function h is a function from the set of all search-key values K to the set of all bucket addresses B.
- Hash function is used to locate records for access, insertion as well as deletion.
- Records with different search-key values may be mapped to the same bucket; thus entire bucket has to be searched sequentially to locate a record.



## **Example of Hash File Organization**

	•	-	
bucket	t 0		
bucket	t 1		
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
bucket	t 2		
32343	El Said	History	80000
58583	Califieri	History	60000
bucket	+ 3		
22222		Physics	95000
	Gold	Physics	87000
98345		Elec. Eng.	
70343	IXIII	Ziee. Ziig.	00000

Hash file organization of *instructor* file, using *dept\_name* as key.



#### **Handling of Bucket Overflows**

- Bucket overflow can occur because of
  - Insufficient buckets
  - Skew in distribution of records. This can occur due to two reasons:
    - multiple records have same search-key value
    - chosen hash function produces non-uniform distribution of key values
- Although the probability of bucket overflow can be reduced, it cannot be eliminated; it is handled by using overflow buckets.



## **Handling of Bucket Overflows (Cont.)**

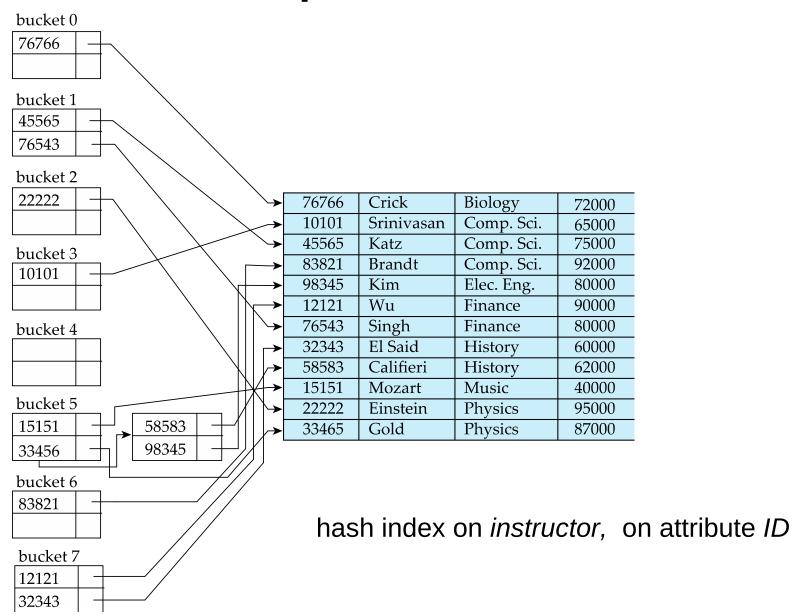
- Overflow chaining the overflow buckets of a given bucket are chained together in a linked list.
- Above scheme is called closed addressing (also called closed hashing or open hashing depending on the book you use)
  - An alternative, called open addressing (also called open hashing or closed hashing depending on the book you use) which does not use overflow buckets, is not suitable for database applications.

bucket 0 bucket 1 overflow buckets for bucket 1 bucket 2 bucket 3

See errata re. open vs. closed hashing



#### **Example of Hash Index**





### **Deficiencies of Static Hashing**

- In static hashing, function *h* maps search-key values to a fixed set of *B* of bucket addresses. Databases grow or shrink with time.
  - If initial number of buckets is too small, and file grows, performance will degrade due to too much overflows.
  - If space is allocated for anticipated growth, a significant amount of space will be wasted initially (and buckets will be underfull).
  - If database shrinks, again space will be wasted.
- One solution: periodic re-organization of the file with a new hash function
  - Expensive, disrupts normal operations
- Better solution: allow the number of buckets to be modified dynamically.



#### **Comparison of Ordered Indexing and Hashing**

- Cost of periodic re-organization
- Relative frequency of insertions and deletions
- Is it desirable to optimize average access time at the expense of worst-case access time?
- Expected type of queries:
  - Hashing is generally better at retrieving records having a specified value of the key.
  - If range queries are common, ordered indices are to be preferred
- In practice:
  - PostgreSQL supports hash indices, but discourages use due to poor performance
  - Oracle supports static hash organization, but not hash indices
  - SQLServer supports only B+-trees



#### **Bitmap Indices**

- Bitmap indices are a special type of index designed for efficient querying on multiple keys
- Records in a relation are assumed to be numbered sequentially from, say, 0
  - Given a number n it must be easy to retrieve record n
    - Particularly easy if records are of fixed size
- Applicable on attributes that take on a relatively small number of distinct values
  - E.g. gender, country, state, ...
  - E.g. income-level (income broken up into a small number of levels such as 0-9999, 10000-19999, 20000-50000, 50000- infinity)
- A bitmap is simply an array of bits



## **Bitmap Indices (Cont.)**

- In its simplest form a bitmap index on an attribute has a bitmap for each value of the attribute
  - Bitmap has as many bits as records
  - In a bitmap for value v, the bit for a record is 1 if the record has the value v for the attribute, and is 0 otherwise

record number	ID	gender	income_level
0	76766	m	L1
1	22222	f	L2
2	12121	f	L1
3	15151	m	L4
4	58583	f	L3

1	s for gender	Bitmaps for income_level		
m	10010			
f	01101	L1	10100	
		L2	01000	
		L3	00001	
		L4	00010	
		L5	00000	



## **Bitmap Indices (Cont.)**

- Bitmap indices are useful for queries on multiple attributes
  - not particularly useful for single attribute queries
- Queries are answered using bitmap operations
  - Intersection (and)
  - Union (or)
  - Complementation (not)
- Each operation takes two bitmaps of the same size and applies the operation on corresponding bits to get the result bitmap
  - E.g. 100110 AND 110011 = 100010
     100110 OR 110011 = 110111
     NOT 100110 = 011001
  - Males with income level L1: 10010 AND 10100 = 10000
    - Can then retrieve required tuples.
    - Counting number of matching tuples is even faster



## **Bitmap Indices (Cont.)**

- Bitmap indices generally very small compared with relation size
  - E.g. if record is 100 bytes, space for a single bitmap is 1/800 of space used by relation.
    - If number of distinct attribute values is 8, bitmap is only 1% of relation size
- Deletion needs to be handled properly
  - Existence bitmap to note if there is a valid record at a record location
  - Needed for complementation
    - not(A=v): (NOT bitmap-A-v) AND ExistenceBitmap
- Should keep bitmaps for all values, even null value
  - To correctly handle SQL null semantics for NOT(A=v):
    - intersect above result with (NOT bitmap-A-Null)



#### **Efficient Implementation of Bitmap Operations**

- Bitmaps are packed into words; a single word and (a basic CPU instruction) computes and of 32 or 64 bits at once
  - E.g. 1-million-bit maps can be and-ed with just 31,250 instruction
- Counting number of 1s can be done fast by a trick:
  - Use each byte to index into a precomputed array of 256 elements each storing the count of 1s in the binary representation
    - Can use pairs of bytes to speed up further at a higher memory cost
  - Add up the retrieved counts
- Bitmaps can be used instead of Tuple-ID lists at leaf levels of B+-trees, for values that have a large number of matching records
  - Worthwhile if > 1/64 of the records have that value, assuming a tuple-id is 64 bits
  - Above technique merges benefits of bitmap and B+-tree indices



#### **Index Definition in SQL**

Create an index

E.g.: **create index** *b-index* **on** *branch(branch\_name)* 

- Use create unique index to indirectly specify and enforce the condition that the search key is a candidate key is a candidate key.
  - Not really required if SQL unique integrity constraint is supported
- To drop an index

drop index <index-name>

Most database systems allow specification of type of index, and clustering.



# **End of Chapter 15**

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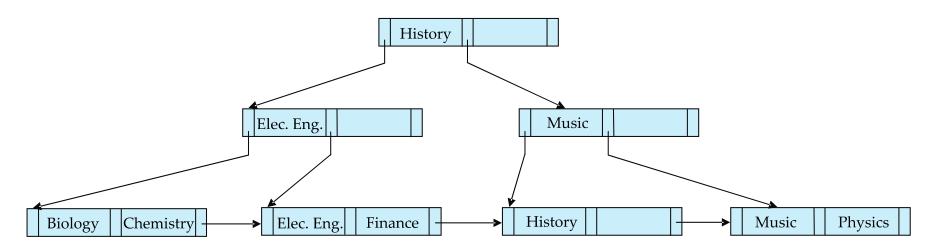


# **Figure 11.01**

10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	
15151	Mozart	Music	40000	
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000	
32343	El Said	History	60000	
33456	Gold	Physics	87000	
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000	
58583	Califieri	History	62000	
76543	Singh	Finance	80000	
76766	Crick	Biology	72000	
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000	
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000	



## **Figure 11.15**





#### **Partitioned Hashing**

Hash values are split into segments that depend on each attribute of the search-key.

$$(A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n)$$
 for  $n$  attribute search-key

Example: n = 2, for customer, search-key being (customer-street, customer-city)

search-key value	hash value
(Main, Harrison)	101 111
(Main, Brooklyn)	101 001
(Park, Palo Alto)	010 010
(Spring, Brooklyn)	001 001
(Alma, Palo Alto)	110 010

To answer equality query on single attribute, need to look up multiple buckets. Similar in effect to grid files.

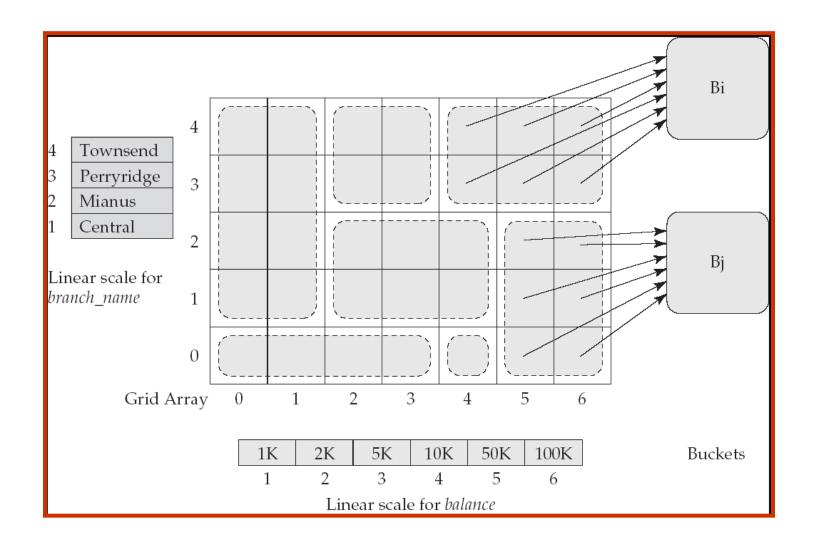


#### **Grid Files**

- Structure used to speed the processing of general multiple searchkey queries involving one or more comparison operators.
- The grid file has a single grid array and one linear scale for each search-key attribute. The grid array has number of dimensions equal to number of search-key attributes.
- Multiple cells of grid array can point to same bucket
- To find the bucket for a search-key value, locate the row and column of its cell using the linear scales and follow pointer



## **Example Grid File for account**





#### **Queries on a Grid File**

- A grid file on two attributes A and B can handle queries of all following forms with reasonable efficiency
  - $(a_1 \leq A \leq a_2)$
  - $(b_1 \le B \le b_2)$
  - $(a_1 \le A \le a_2 \land b_1 \le B \le b_2),$
- E.g., to answer ( $a_1 \le A \le a_2 \land b_1 \le B \le b_2$ ), use linear scales to find corresponding candidate grid array cells, and look up all the buckets pointed to from those cells.



## **Grid Files (Cont.)**

- During insertion, if a bucket becomes full, new bucket can be created if more than one cell points to it.
  - Idea similar to extendable hashing, but on multiple dimensions
  - If only one cell points to it, either an overflow bucket must be created or the grid size must be increased
- Linear scales must be chosen to uniformly distribute records across cells.
  - Otherwise there will be too many overflow buckets.
- Periodic re-organization to increase grid size will help.
  - But reorganization can be very expensive.
- Space overhead of grid array can be high.
- R-trees (Chapter 23) are an alternative