

Balanced B+ Trees

Algorithms and Data Structures Report

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1. Introduction

The goal of this report is to study and learn from authoritative sources topics related to the Algorithms and Data Structures course.

In order to understand what B+ Trees are we first need to talk about some of the history related to this data structure. Why it is created? What problem solves? What was before?

So it's first necessary a bit about to talk about Binary search trees (BST), B-trees and the differences

Explain why B-trees are used when the search structure is on disk

The difference is that in B+-trees only leaf nodes contain the actual key values. The nonleaf nodes of the B+-trees contain router values.

Routers are entities of the same type as the key values, but they are not the keys stored in the search structure. They are only used to guide the search in the tree. In classical B-trees, the key values are stored in both leaf and non-leaf nodes of the tree.

The key to performance in a DBMS is to reduce the number of disk reads, and that is accomplished by increasing the number of positive hits on the cache.

B+ Tree vs AVL Tree

When an index is already present in the cache, no additional disk read is necessary to find it. In a B+ tree, each index node contains many indexes whereas there are only two index entries in an AVL tree node. And just as importantly, the indexes in the B+ tree are in sequential order by the collating sequence of that key column. That is not the case in an AVL tree.

So a B+ tree may require a read of the index from disk once every ten, twenty, or even 100 records, whereas an AVL tree would need to read the disk, often more than once, for each record.

Example

Think of it this way... Forget about code and let's just say that you are manually thumbing through a printed product catalog, but you want to view the items in alphabetical order by name. You have a choice of using either of two index schemes:

1. A B+ tree type index where each index page contains about 100 entries to lookup. You could put a bookmark on that page (cache it) so that it would be easy to return to when you want to lookup the next entry.
2. An AVL tree index where each page has only two index entries and those are not even sequential, so you have to follow one of those to another index page that has two entries, selecting one and following it to another index page, and so forth, possibly looking up dozens of pages, until you find the leaf (destination) node. For the next lookup you have to start over from the beginning.

If you only wanted to lookup one entry, then either approach would work. But if you are scanning through those entries in order by key, the first approach could be magnitudes faster.

B-trees:

B-trees have become, de facto, a standard for file organization. File indexes of users, dedicated database systems, and general-purpose access methods have all been proposed and implemented using B-trees

Lectures:

Search and insertion complexities in BSTs are linear in the height of the tree.

- Degenerate cases of low branching factor lead to slow searches,
- it would be best to keep some balance:
- AVL trees are binary trees that keep a height balance: the height of siblings never differs by more than one.
- This suffices to guarantee logarithmic time search.
- B+ trees are multiway trees (that is, many subtrees per root, very appropriate for disk-based memory) that keep a strict height balance: all leaves at the same depth.

How do they work?

- AVL trees keep a height balance by means of rotations.
- B-trees and B+ trees instead keep balance by allowing a varying number of data items in each node.
- The most elementary case of B-trees is 2-3-trees;
- general B-trees are not common, but a little variant, B+ trees, is heavily used by many DBMS's for index creation.

2. B+ tree

2.1. Structure

A B+ tree T consists of nodes. One of the nodes is a special node $T.root$.

If a node x is a non-leaf node, it has the following fields:

- $x.n$ the number of router values currently stored in node x
- The router values stored in node x in increasing order
 $x.router1 < x.router2 < \dots < x.routerx.n$
- $x.leaf$, a boolean field whose value is FALSE meaning that x is a non-leaf node
- $x.n+1$ pointers $x.c1, x.c2, x.c3, \dots, x.cx.n+1$ to the children of x .

If the node x is a leaf node, it has the following fields

- $x.n$ number of key values currently stored in x . 1
- The key values stored in node x in increasing order
 $x.key1 < x.key2 < \dots < x.keyx.n$
- $x.leaf$, a boolean field whose value is TRUE meaning that x is a leaf node.

If we consider a non-leaf node x and pointers in it $x.c1, x.c2, x.c3, \dots, x.cx.n+1$ the following condition is true:

$$k1 \leq x.router1 < k2 \leq x.router2 < k3 \dots < kx.n \leq x.routerx.n < kx.n+1$$

where k_i is any key or router value in the subtree pointed by the pointer $x.c_i$.

An example of the non-leaf node containing 5 router values:

2.2. B+ Properties

The B+ tree has to satisfy the following balance conditions:

- Every path from the root node to a leaf node has an equal length, i.e. every leaf node has the same depth which is the height of the tree.
- Every node of the B+-tree except the root node is at least half-filled. The latter condition can be formulated more exactly: denote by $s(x)$ the number of children of node x if x is a non-leaf node and the number of keys stored in x if x is a leaf node. Let $t \geq 2$ be a fixed integer constant. For each node x of the B+-tree, the following is true:
 - $1 \leq s(x) \leq 2t$, if x is the only node in the tree.
 - $2 \leq s(x) \leq 2t$, if x is the root node and the tree contains also other nodes in addition to the root node.
 - $t \leq s(x) \leq 2t$, otherwise.

Because the B+-tree satisfies the given balance conditions, we can prove that the height h of the B+-tree

$$h \leq \log_t n$$

where n is the number of the keys stored in the tree.

2.3. B+ Operations

Searching

```
BTreeSearch(T, k)
x = T.root
while not x.leaf
    i = 1
    while i ≤ x.n and k > x.routeri
        i = i+1
    x = x.ci
    DiskRead(x)
i = 1
while i ≤ x.n and k > x.keyi
    i = i+1
if i ≤ x.n and k = x.keyi
    return ( x, i )
else return NIL
```

Time Complexity.

Insertion

Deletion

3. Uses of the B+ Tree

B+ trees are one of the most popular data structures for databases today. They are used to store and retrieve large amounts of data very quickly.

4. Conclusion: Thoughts

In a nutshell, in this report has been very interesting to perform, see and explore.

Whether you're interested in how exactly people get rich by mining bitcoin to do so yourself or you're

simply curious to know about database security structure and how exactly you are identified on your accounts, the answer to that is to understand the various concepts that hashing revolves around.

Finding out these things and seeing how hashing and them are tied together was interesting and dynamic to explore and learn about, as many of these are things we observe and interact with every other day and we never really stop to give them any thought. By doing so, we learnt some more about hashing and in turn about the world we live in, and that which surrounds us.

5. References: Sources of Information

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