Advanced Database Management Systems Query Processing: Query Evaluation

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Outline

Algorithmic Strategies

Query Evaluation Strategies

Evaluating Relational-Algebraic Operators

Query Evaluation (1)

Some Common Algorithmic Strategies

Algorithms for implementing query-algebraic operators tend to adopt one of the following strategies:

- **Scanning** Sometimes it is faster to scan all the tuples even if there is an index. Sometimes we can scan the data entries in an index instead of the table itself.
- **Indexing** It often pays handsomely to build indexes on attributes so that when predicates are evaluated (e.g., in selections, and, most importantly, in joins) one retrieves from the index only a small set of tuples.
- **Partitioning** Using sorting or hashing, we can partition the input tuples on a given key and thereby decompose an operation into a collection of operations on smaller inputs, i.e., the partitions.

Query Evaluation (2) Operator-to-Operator Protocol (1)

Given a QEP, there are two principal ways of evaluating as far as the interaction between physical operators goes:

Materialization Evaluating a physical operator *o* involves first evaluating its child(ren) **to completion**, and then computing *o* from the results produced by those child(ren).

Pipelining Evaluating a physical operator *o* involves continuously requesting partial results from its child(ren), processing them to produce corresponding partial results of *o* and passing those on, in turn, to the parent of *o* as they become available.

Query Evaluation (3) Operator-to-Operator Protocol (2)

Materialization

- ► The result produced by each physical operator is stored either in memory or on disk as it is produced.
- ► This process of temporarily storing intermediate results is referred to as **materialization**.

Pipelining

- ► While individual physical operators may keep state, no intermediate results are temporarily stored.
- ▶ In pipelining (unlike in materialization), many physical operators are likely to be actively executing soon after the start of the evaluation of the QEP as a whole.

Summary

Equivalence-Based Rewriting of Logical QEPs

- ► Most algorithms that implement relational-algebraic operators can be seen to adopt one or more of just a few algorithmic strategies.
- ► Likewise, the interaction protocols between algorithms in an executing QEP are, in the classical case, few in kind.

The Iterator Model

The Interface: {Open, Next, Close}

- ► Iterators are widely used to implement pipelining.
- ► In the iterator model, each physical operator must implement the following functions:
 - **Open** Initialize any local data structure used by the operator to keep state, and call Open on all its inputs (i.e., its children in the QEP).
 - **Next** Compute (typically by first calling Next on one or more of its inputs) the next tuple of the result, update any local data structures so as to allow continuation, and return that result tuple. Return a not-found condition if there are no more tuples to return.
 - **Close** Call Close on the inputs and clear up any local data structures used by the operator.

The Iterator Model

The Consequences (1)

- ► Calls cascade down, recursively, the tree from the root to the leaves.
- ► Since, by definition, the leaves are childless, returns bubble up from (i.e., bounce back up as they hit) the leaves to the root.
- ► The evaluation of a QEP in the iterator model, roughly speaking, goes through distinct phases:
 - 1. There is a wavefront of Open calls from the root to the leaves that bubble up in return.
 - 2. This followed by a period of productive activity in which children operators respond to Next calls sent by their parent.
 - 3. This period gradually winds down as a result of a reverse wavefront (from the leaves to the root) of failed calls to Next (because all results that the children could produce have been produced.
 - 4. There is a final wavefront of Close calls from the root to the leaves that bubble up in return, thereby concluding the evaluation

The Iterator Model

The Consequences (2)

- ▶ Under the iterator model, results are produced on demand.
- ▶ Operators tend to be busy at the level they can afford to.
- ► This reduces the chances that the query engine will hog resources and draw punitive action by the operating system (OS).
- ▶ If each operator were to run as a distinct thread, then the OS scheduler is more likely to keep its cool and not intervene.

Categories of Physical Operator

Physical operators can be classified based on the number of times data is read from disk:

One-pass algorithms read data from disk only once, but usually only work when at least one operand fits in memory.

Two-pass algorithms read data from disk, in chunks the size of the available memory, process that data in memory (e.g. by hashing or sorting it), and then write the processed version to disk. The processed version can then be read in sorted order for subsequent processing.

This course assumes one-pass algorithms most of the time.

Physical Operators (1)

Iterator-Based Scan (1)

- ▶ Scan reads the tuples from a table one at a time.
- ▶ It is parameterized by the relation R that we wish to scan.
- ► We assume that the notion of reading a block and the auxiliary notions it suggests are supported by the storage manager.
- ► The Open method essentially obtains a reference to the start of the area of disk containing R.

```
class Scan implements Iterator
Block b; // Block being read from
Tuple t; // Next tuple to be returned
Relation R;

Open()
  b := the first block of R;
  t := the first tuple of b;
...
```

Physical Operators (2)

Iterator-Based Scan (2)

- ► The Next method uses the state stored in t and b to remember where it has reached.
- ► The Close method has nothing to do in this case.

```
class Scan implements Iterator
...
Next()
   IF (t is after the last tuple in b)
      increment b to next block;
   IF (there is no next block)
      RETURN nil;
   ELSE t := first tuple in b;

res := t;
   increment t to next tuple of b;
   RETURN res;
```

Close()

Physical Operators (3)

Iterator-Based Select (1)

- ► Select has local, tuple-at-a-time semantics: we need not be aware of any other tuple than the one we have read.
- $ightharpoonup \sigma_{\theta}(R)$ can be implemented in a single pass over the collection R.
- ► As for all other non-leaf physical operators, the results of any other physical operator can constitute the input to select.
- \blacktriangleright Tuples that satisfy θ are returned, those that do not are passed over.

Physical Operators (4)

Iterator-Based Select (2)

```
class Select implements Iterator
  Iterator i; // Input collection
  Condition theta;
  Open()
    i.Open();
  Next()
    Tuple t;
    WHILE ((t:=i.Next()) != nil)
      IF (t satisfies theta) RETURN t;
    RETURN nil;
  Close()
    i.Close();
```

Physical Operators (5) Project

- ▶ Under bag semantics, $\pi_{a_1,...,a_n}(R)$ also has local, tuple-at-a-time semantics.
- \blacktriangleright It can be implemented in a single pass over the collection R.
- New tuples are generated that retain only the attributes a_1, \ldots, a_n of R.
- ▶ Under set semantics, project is a full-relation operator, i.e., it has global, set-at-a-time semantics: we do need to be aware of other tuples than the one we have read, otherwise the projection may generate duplicates, which sets do not have.

Physical Operators (6)

Join Algorithms: Nested-Loop Join (1)

- ▶ Joins are among the most expensive operations performed in a relational database.
- Much effort has been directed at finding efficient strategies for evaluating them.
- ▶ One (not very efficient) algorithm for $R \bowtie S$ is (tuple-based) nested-loop join (NLoopJoin):

```
result := \emptyset
FOR EACH r \in R DO
FOR EACH s \in S DO
IF s matches r to give t
result := result \cup \{t\}
```

Physical Operators (7)

Join Algorithms: Nested-Loop Join (2)

- ► Tuple-based NLoopJoin has very high I/O costs (as the inner relation S is scanned in its entirety for each tuple in R).
- ► Variants include:
 - reading pages rather than tuples (i.e., we have $r \in RPage$ and $s \in SPage$ instead;
 - ► making use of buffers more wisely, e.g., if we can hold the smaller relation, say *R*, in memory and have two extra buffer pages, we can use one of those to scan *S* and the other one to place the output tuples in;
 - ▶ if we cannot hold *R* in its entirety we can still use blocks into which we fit as much of *R* as we can;
 - ▶ if there is an index on the join attributes for either *R* or *S*, we can make it the inner relation and rather than scanning it for every tuple in the outer relation, we only look-up and retrieve the matching tuples from it.

Physical Operators (8) Join Algorithms: Hash Join (1)

- ▶ Joins based on partitioning strategies use sorting or hashing, e.g., sort-merge join and hash join.
- ► Hash join is altogether more efficient than nested-loop join.
- ► Firstly, a hash table is populated, indexed on the join attributes, for every tuple in *R*. Then, the hash table is probed, again on the join attributes, using every tuple in *S*.
- ► Assuming that the hash table look-up retrieves the exact matches (rather than every item with the same hash position), every tuple that is retrieved using the probe contributes to the join result.

Physical Operators (9)

Join Algorithms: Hash Join (2)

```
result := \emptyset
hashtable := new \ HashTable()
FOR \ EACH \ r \in R \ DO
hashtable.insert(r(a_1, \dots, a_n), r)
FOR \ EACH \ s \in S \ DO
matches = hashtable.lookup(s(a_1, \dots, a_n))
WHILE \ ((r := matches.Next()) \neq nil)
result := result \cup \{ \ match \ of \ s \ with \ r \}
```

Physical Operators (10)

Two-Pass Algorithms

- ▶ If the tables to be operated on are too big to fit in memory, one option is to base algorithms on sorted or hashed partitions.
- ► The two passes for an operator involve:
 - Scanning the data from the original collection(s), for division into a number of partitions that whose size takes into account the amount of memory available.
 - 2. Storing the partitions on disk either hashed or sorted, so that data items can be accessed in a systematic way.
- ▶ Let a **block** (sometimes called **(disk) page**) be the basic unit of data storage on disk; a **buffer** (sometimes called **buffer page**) be the unit of main memory associated with a block on disk; and a **bucket** be an entry in a hash table.

Physical Operators (11)

Hash-Based Partitioning

If there are M memory buffers available, then the following partitions R into not more than M-1 buckets on the attributes a_1, \ldots, a_n :

```
FOR i := 1 TO M - 1 DO initialize buffer B_i
FOR EACH block b \in R DO
    read b into the M^{th} buffer
    FOR EACH tuple t \in b DO
        IF B_{hash(t(a_1,...,a_n))} is full
            copy the buffer to disk
             initialize a new buffer
        copy t to B_{hash(t(a_1,...,a_n))}
FOR i := 1 TO M - 1 DO
    IF B_i is not empty
        write the buffer to disk
```

Physical Operators (12)

Two-Pass Hash-Join (1)

- ► The first pass of a two-pass hash-join is one partitioning step (as described) for each operand.
- ► The tuples of each operand are hashed (using the same hash function for both operands) into buckets and written out.
- ▶ In the second pass, corresponding partitions are operated upon as if they were entire relations themselves.
- ► In this second pass, one can, in principle, use any one-pass join algorithm.
- ► The use of the in-memory hash join algorithm in the second pass of a hash-partitioned two-pass join is known as a GRACE join (for the system in which it was first used).

Physical Operators (13)

Two-Pass Hash-Join (1)

- ▶ Using a nested-loop strategy is also possible.
- ▶ For $R \bowtie S$, on join attributes a_1, \ldots, a_n , where BR_i (resp., BS_i) is the bucket with index i in the hash table for R (resp., S), the second pass is:

```
result := \emptyset
FOR EACH bucket BR_i \in R DO
FOR EACH tuple t \in BR_i DO
IF t matches some tuple s \in BS_i
result := result \cup \{ match of s with r \}
```

► The buckets associated with *R* can be read in any order; the buckets associated with *S* are read directly, based on the hash index of the current *R* bucket.

Physical Operators (14) Set Operations

- ► There are two groups:
 - 1. Intersection and Cartesian product are special cases of join.
 - 2. Set union and set difference are very similar.
- ► As with joins, one can use sort-based approaches or hash-based ones.
- ▶ In a sort-based approach to union:
 - 1. Sort both relations (on combination of all attributes).
 - 2. Scan sorted relations and merge them skipping duplicates.
- ► The hash-based approach to union is very similar to the approach used for hash join:
 - 1. Partition R and S using one hash function h on both.
 - 2. For each S-partition, build in-memory hash table (using another hash function h', then scan the corresponding R-partition and add tuples to table skipping duplicates.

Physical Operators (15)

Aggregate Operations

- ► There are two cases:
 - 1. Without grouping
 - 2. With grouping
- ► Ungrouped aggregates can be computed by scanning the relation while keeping running information (e.g., counts, sums, smallest value, largest value).
- Given an index whose search key includes all attributes in the SELECT or WHERE clauses, it is possible to an index (as opposed to a table) scan.
- ► Like join and set union/difference, grouped aggregates can be computed using sort-based or hash-based partitioning.

Summary

Evaluating Relational-Algebraic Operators

- ▶ It is a fact of central importance in query processing that the collection of concrete algorithms that implement relational-algebraic operators is well-defined and well-studied.
- ➤ This a priori knowledge essentially implies that QEPs are compositions of primitives whose functional and non-functional models (e.g., their space and time costs) are well-known.
- ► This knowledge allows for cost-based optimization, as we will shortly see.

Advanced Database Management Systems

Query Processing: Estimating Costs

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Outline

Metadata in the System Catalogue

Cost Estimation

The System Catalogue (1)

- ▶ A relational DBMS maintains descriptive statistical information about every table and index that it contains.
- ► This information is itself store in a collection of special tables called the **catalogue tables**.
- ► The catalogue tables are also commonly referred to as the (system) catalogue and the data dictionary.
- ▶ It records information about users and about the contents.

The System Catalogue (2)

Metadata on Tables, Indexes and Views

- ► For each table, the catalogue stores:
 - ► The table name, the file name in which the table is stores and the organization (e.g., heap file) of the file
 - ► The name and type of each attribute
 - ► The name of every index on the table
 - ► The integrity constraints on the table
- ► For each index, the catalogue stores:
 - ► The name and organization (e.g., B+ tree) of the index
 - ► The search-key attributes
- ► For each view, the catalogue stores:
 - ► The name of the view
 - ► The definition of (i.e., the query used to compute) the view

The System Catalogue (3) Statistical Information (1)

Cardinality The number of tuples T(R) for each relation R.

Size The number of blocks B(R) for each relation R.

Index Cardinality The number of distinct key values NKeys(I) for each index I.

Index Size The number of blocks B(I) for each index I.

Index Height The number of non-leaf levels IH(I) or each tree index I.

Index Range The minimum present key value IL(I) and the maximum present key value IH(I) for each index I.

The System Catalogue (4) Statistical Information (2)

- Statistical information is updated periodically.
- ► Updating statistical information every time the data is updated is too expensive.
- A great deal of approximation takes place anyway, so slight inconsistency or staleness is not overly damaging, most of the time.
- ▶ More detailed information (e.g., histograms of the value distribution for some attributes) are sometimes stored.

The Need for Cost Estimates

- ▶ It should be clear from the previous material that:
 - There are many different equivalent algebraic representations of a typical query.
 - 2. There are often several different algorithms for implementing algebraic operators.
- ► A query optimizer has to be able to select efficient plans from the many options available.
- ► This is done by estimating the cost of evaluating alternative expressions.

Dominant Costs

Memory Access Dominates, and Secondary Memory Dominates Primary Memory

- ▶ It takes typically 10^{-7} to 10^{-8} seconds to access a word in primary memory.
- ► It takes typically 10⁻² seconds to read a block from secondary memory into primary memory.
- ► As access to main memory is so much faster than access to disk, many cost models assume that I/O cost is dominant in query processing.
- ▶ In this course, we focus on the I/O cost for different operations.
- ▶ In so doing, the general assumption is that the inputs of a physical operator are read off disk, but that the outputs are not written back onto disk.

Cost Model Parameters

Main Memory M denotes the number of main memory buffers available to an operator.

A buffer is the same size as a disk block.

Relation Size B(R) is the number of blocks need to store the number of tuples T(R) (or just T) in relation R.

It is assumed that data is read from disks in blocks, and that the blocks of a relation are clustered together.

Value Distributions V(R, a) denotes the number of distinct values that appear in the a column of R.

 $V(R, [a_1, \ldots, a_n])$ is the number of distinct n-tuples for the columns a_1, \ldots, a_n .



Example Schemas

Example

Flights (fltno: string, from: string, to: string, dep: date, arr: date)

UsedFor (planeid:string, fltid: string, weekday: string)

Usable (flid:string, pltype: string)

Certified (pilid:string, planetype: string)

Estimating I/O Costs (1)

- ► The algorithm for Scan given earlier reads a block at a time from disk.
- ▶ Thus, for a table R, if the tuples are clustered, the number of disk I/Os is B(R).
- ▶ If R is not clustered (e.g., because its tuples have been deliberately clustered with another relation), there could be as many as T(R) I/Os required to scan R.

Estimating I/O Costs (2) Nested-Loop Join

- Assuming $R \bowtie S$, the amount of I/O required by a nested loop join depends on the sizes of R and S relative to the available memory.
- ▶ In the algorithm given earlier:
 - ▶ If B(R) < M then I/O cost = B(R) + B(S).
 - ▶ In general, the smaller of the operand relations is used in the inner loop.
 - ▶ If only one buffer is available to each relation, then I/O cost = $B(S) + T(S) \times B(R)$.
 - ► The outer relation, *S* is read only once, but the inner relation is read once for every tuple in *S*.

Estimating I/O Costs (3)

- ► The one-pass hash join is very dependent on the hash table fitting in main memory (otherwise the algorithm causes thrashing).
- ▶ For $R \bowtie S$, for the algorithm given earlier, if B(R) < M then I/O cost = B(R) + B(S).
- ► If there is plenty memory, the I/O costs of hash join and nested-loop join are the same.
- ▶ But note that the number of tuple comparisons in nested loop is $T(R) \times T(S)$, whereas it is generally nearer to T(S) in hash-join.
- ▶ For the two pass hash join, the I/O cost is: 3(B(R) + B(S)).
- ► This is because each block is read, then the corresponding hashed partition is written, then each block is read one more time during the matching phase of the join.



Estimating Sizes (1)

The Problem of Intermediate Results

- ▶ So far, we have assumed that the sizes of the operands are known.
- ▶ Data dictionaries generally store size and cardinality details for stored data, so I/O costs can be estimated for operations acting on base relations (i.e., the leaf nodes in a QEP).
- ► However, the size and cardinality of intermediate relations depends both on the inputs and on the operation that generates them.
- ► This is so, for every non-leaf node, and recursively for its child(ren).
- ► Although the size and cardinality of intermediate results cannot be known for certain when queries are optimized, they are important for cost estimation, and hence for plan selection.
- ► Thus, the sizes of intermediate data sets must be estimated, based on the nature of the operators and known properties of their inputs.



Estimating Sizes (2)

Projection

- ► The size of the result of a projection can be computed directly from the size of its input.
- ▶ Given the function length(A) which computes the number of bytes occupied by the list of attributes $A = a_1, ..., a_n$:

$$B(\pi_A(R)) = \frac{B(R) \times length(A)}{length(R)}$$

Example

Given $\pi_{from,to}(Flights)$, if *Flights* occupies 500 blocks, and *from* and *to* each occupy 25 bytes from a total of 100 bytes in a *Flights* tuple, then:

$$B(\pi_{from,to}(Flights)) = \frac{500 \times 50}{100} = 250 \ blocks$$



Estimating Sizes (3) Selection (1)

- ▶ Unlike projection, any computation of the size of a selection really is an estimate.
- ▶ There are several cases depending on the form of predicate θ .
- \blacktriangleright In the following, A is an attribute in R, and c is a constant.

Estimating Sizes (4)

Selection (2): Typical Cases

► $S = \sigma_{A=c}(R)$: Given statistics on the number of distinct values for A in R:

$$T(S) = \frac{T(R)}{V(R,A)}$$

where the denominator is the **selectivity (factor)** of a σ operation, i.e., the proportion of tuples that it retains, so if $\sigma_{A=c}(R)$ then $sel(\sigma_{A=c}(R)) = \frac{1}{V(R,A)}$.

▶ $S = \sigma_{A < c}(R)$: One estimate could be that in practice half the tuples satisfy the condition, another that a smaller proportion (say, a third) do:

$$T(S) = \frac{T(R)}{2}$$

or

$$T(S) = \frac{T(R)}{3}$$

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Estimating Sizes (5)

Selection (3): Compound Conditions

- ► Compound conditions must combine the selectivity factors of the component conditions, e.g.:
 - $S = \sigma_{\theta_1 \wedge \theta_2}(R)$: Given the splitting laws, this can be treated as a succession of simple selections.
 - ► The effect is to obtain an overall selectivity factor by multiplying the selectivity factors of each condition.

$$\sigma_{A=c_1\wedge B=c_2}(R) \Leftrightarrow \sigma_{A=c_1}(\sigma_{B=c_2})(R)) \to \frac{1}{V(R,A)} \times \frac{1}{V(R,B)}$$

- $S = \sigma_{\theta_1 \vee \theta_2}(R)$: One possibility is to assume that no tuple satisfies both conditions, which leads to the number of tuples in the result being the sum of the number of tuples satisfying each condition.
- ▶ This could yield a cardinality estimate greater than T(R), so restricting it to that maximum value seems appropriate.

Estimating Sizes (6)

Selection (4)

Example

Recall the *UsedFor* table, and let its instance U1 =

| flid | pltype |
|------|--------|
| BA83 | A319 |
| BA83 | 737 |
| BA85 | A319 |
| DE87 | 767 |
| DE89 | 767 |

Given
$$T(Usable) = 5$$
, $V(Usable, flid) = 4$, $V(Usable, pltype) = 3$, then:

- ► $T(\sigma_{flid=BA83}(Usable)) = \frac{1}{4} \times 5 = 1.25$
- ► $T(\sigma_{flid=BA83 \land pltype=A319}(Usable)) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} \times 5 = 0.42.$

Estimating Sizes (7) Join (1)

- ▶ Given a join of R with schema (X, Y) and S with schema (Y, Z) on a single attribute Y, there are various outcomes possible:
 - 1. The relations have disjoint sets of Y values, in which case $T(R \bowtie_Y S) = 0$.
 - 2. Y may be the key of S and a foreign key of R, so each tuple of R joins with one tuple of S, in which case $T(R \bowtie_Y S) = T(R)$.
 - 3. Almost all tuples of R and S have the same Y value, in which case $T(R \bowtie_Y S) \approx T(R) \times T(S)$.
- ► Thus, the possible range of size estimates for a join is very wide, although the second outcome above is very common in practice.
- ► Recall, when we speak of a single attribute *Y* that the actual name in the schema of each relation may differ (i.e., may be different at the syntactic level).



Estimating Sizes (8)

Join (2): Assumptions

▶ The following assumptions are made regarding the value sets:

Containment

- If Y is an attribute appearing in several relations, then each relation takes its values from the front of a list y₁, y₂, y₃,... of values in dom(Y) and has all the values in that prefix.
- ▶ As a consequence, if $V(R, Y) \le V(S, Y)$ then every Y-value of R will be a Y-value of S.

Preservation If A is an attribute of R, but not of S, then $V(R \bowtie S, A) = V(S \bowtie R, A) = V(R, A)$.

▶ Both of these conditions are satisfied when *Y* is a key of *S* and a foreign key of *R*.

Estimating Sizes (9)

Join (3)

- ▶ Given the previous assumptions, and further assuming that $V(R, Y) \leq V(S, Y)$:
 - 1. Every tuple $t \in R$ has a chance equal to $\frac{1}{V(S,Y)}$ of joining with a given tuple of S.
 - 2. As there are T(S) tuples in S, t can be expected to join with $\frac{T(S)}{V(S,Y)}$ tuples from S.
 - 3. As there are T(R) tuples in R

$$T(R \bowtie S) = \frac{T(R) \times T(S)}{V(S, Y)}$$

Estimating Sizes (10) Join (4)

► A symmetrical argument gives

$$T(R \bowtie S) = \frac{T(R) \times T(S)}{V(R, Y)}$$

▶ In general, the larger divisor is used

$$T(R \bowtie S) = \frac{T(R) \times T(S)}{\max(V(R, Y), V(S, Y))}$$

Estimating Sizes (11)

Join (5)

Example

Recall the *UsedFor* and *Certified* tables, and the instance ${\bf U1}$ of the former. Let the following be an instance of the latter, ${\bf C1}=$

| pilid | planetype |
|----------|-----------|
| Smith | A319 |
| Jones | 737 |
| Atkinson | A319 |
| Smith | 737 |

Given the previous metadata about *Usable* and T(Certified) = 4, V(Certified, planetype) = 2, then (abbreviating names):

$$T(U \bowtie C) = \frac{T(U) \times T(C)}{\max(V(U, pltype), V(C, planetype))} = \frac{5 \times 4}{\max(3, 2)} = 6.7$$

Summary Cost Estimation

In query optimization:

- 1. Cost estimation is important, as it is necessary to be able to distinguish between plans.
- I/O cost is often considered to be the dominant cost, which is incurred from accesses to base relations and from disk storage of intermediate results.
- 3. Identifying the sizes of intermediate results involves estimates based on information stored in the data dictionary.

Advanced Database Management Systems

Query Processing: Cost-Based Optimization

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Outline

Cost-Based Plan Selection

Generating and Ranking Logical QEPs

Selecting Join Orders

Choosing Physical Operators

Cost-Based Plan Selection

- ► The number of I/Os performed by a plan is influenced by:
 - 1. The logical operators used to implement the query.
 - 2. The physical operators used to implement the logical operators.
 - 3. The sizes of intermediate relations.
 - 4. The evaluation order of operators.
 - 5. The way in which information is passed between operators.
- ► The following slides indicate how these issues can be taken into account by a query optimizer.

Obtaining Values for Cost Model Parameters

- ► As we have seen, the data dictionary stores statistical information for use by the optimizer.
- ► The database administrator has general responsibility for configuring of parameter and for updating statistics.
- ► In general:
 - ► *M* is normally a configuration parameter.
 - B(R) is easily computed from the information on where/how a relation is stored.
 - T(R) is either stored explicitly or can be estimated (as exemplified above).
 - V(R,A) (like T(R)) can be computed in a single scan through a relation.
 - ▶ To avoid scanning the complete relation, V(R, A) may be estimated by sampling.

Ranking a Logical QEP

- ► As logical QEPs are not associated with physical operators, there is no direct way to compute the disk I/Os of a logical QEP.
- ► Thus, as exemplified by the heuristics-based rewrite algorithm we saw, logical optimization proceeds by:
 - Structuring the process by which transformations are applied so that it is directed by chosen heuristics.
 - For example, that a logical QEP with likely smaller intermediate results is to be preferred on efficiency grounds.
 - Appealing to and applying transformations that are consistent with the chosen heuristics.
 - For example, that by pushing selections and projections to lie as close as possible to the leaves smaller intermediate results are likely to result.

Annotating a Logical QEP

Size-Estimate Annotations

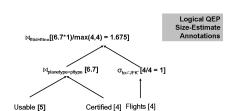
Example

Given the following statistics:

| Table | T(R) | V(R,A) | | |
|-----------------|------|-------------------------|---|---|
| Usable | 5 | V(Usable,pltype) | = | 3 |
| | | V(Usable,flid) | _ | 4 |
| Certified | 4 | V(Certified, planetype) | _ | 2 |
| Flights | 4 | V(Flights,fltno) | _ | 4 |
| | | V(Flights,to) | = | 4 |
| the logical QEP | | | | |

(Usable $\bowtie_{pltype=planetype}$ Certified) $\bowtie_{flid=fltno}$ ($\sigma_{to=JFK}(Flights)$)

can be annotated with size estimates as shown to the right.



Generating Alternative QEPs

- ▶ Optimizers differ in where alternative QEPs are generated.
- ► Two possibilities are:

1.

- ► The logical optimizer generates alternative tree shapes by applying transformation rules, and retains those that are judged to be of reasonable quality (e.g., considering the size of intermediate results).
- ► The physical optimizer then assigns physical operators for their logical counterparts and ranks the resulting alternative QEPs.

2.

- ► The logical optimizer works in a purely heuristic manner (e.g., in particular, it is agnostic about deciding on join ordering).
- ► The physical optimizer then considers alternative join orderings and assigns physical operators for their logical counterparts.

Selecting a Join Order (1)

An Intractable Problem

- Recall that joins are commutative and associative, therefore in a sequence of joins, varying the order in which they are applied does not affect the result.
- ► However, different orders have very different associated costs.
- ► In practice, selecting a join order is crucial for efficient query evaluation.
- ► There are many different algorithms for choosing a join ordering for queries with many joins.
- ► For complex queries it is impractical to enumerate all the possibilities.

Selecting a Join Order (2) A Greedy Algorithm

- ▶ Let $\mathcal{R} = \{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$ be a collection of relations, and let $minsize(\mathcal{P}, S, \mathcal{R})$ be true iff the relation S in \mathcal{R} is the one that leads to the smallest estimated result size when joined with the logical QEP fragment \mathcal{P} .
- ► Then, the following greedy algorithm seeks to keep intermediate relations as small as possible:

```
\begin{split} \mathcal{P} &:= \{R_i \bowtie R_j | \forall i,j: R_i \in \mathcal{R}, R_j \in \mathcal{R}: \textit{minsize}(R_i, R_j, \mathcal{R})\} \\ \mathcal{R} &:= \mathcal{R} \setminus \{R_i, R_j\} \\ \text{WHILE } &(\mathcal{R} \neq \emptyset) \text{ DO} \\ &\mathcal{P} &:= \{\mathcal{P} \bowtie R_i \mid \forall i: R_i \in \mathcal{R}: \textit{minsize}(\mathcal{P}, R_i, \mathcal{R})\} \\ &\mathcal{R} &:= \mathcal{R} \setminus \{R_i\} \\ \text{RETURN } &\mathcal{P} \end{split}
```

Selecting a Join Order (3)

Example

► Given the following statistics:

| Join | $R\bowtie S$ | $R\bowtie T$ | $R\bowtie U$ | 5 ⋈ T | <i>S</i> ⋈ <i>U</i> | $T\bowtie U$ |
|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| Size | 5,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 2,000 | 40,000 | 1,000 |

- ▶ Therefore, the initial logical QEP is $T \bowtie U$.
- ► Then, there are two possibilities to consider:

| Join | $(T \bowtie U) \bowtie R$ | $(T\bowtie U)\bowtie S$ | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Size | 10,000 | 2,000 | | |

- ▶ Therefore, the grown logical QEP is $(T \bowtie U) \bowtie S$.
- ▶ Then, there are is only one possibility left and the final logical QEP is $((T \bowtie U) \bowtie S) \bowtie R$.
- ► Note that the search was not exhaustive and hence the result may not be optimal.

Choosing Physical Operators (1)

Options for $\sigma_{\theta}(R)$ include:

- ▶ Scanning the tuples in R, which is necessary if there is no index on R, in which case the I/O cost is B(R), or zero if R is already in memory.
- ▶ Using an index on R if it exists, and θ includes A = c, where A is an indexed attribute and c is a constant.
- ▶ For a typical indexed select, the I/O cost is $\frac{T(R)}{V(R,A)}$, assuming that the cost of reading the index is negligible and each tuple identified as a result of an index lookup is stored in a different block.

Choosing Physical Operators (2) Join

- ► The join operator of choice depends on:
 - ▶ the anticipated sizes of operand collections
 - ▶ the amount of available memory
 - ► the availability of indexes
 - whether or not the data is sorted.
- ▶ If both collections are sorted on the join attribute, a merge join is typically used.
- ▶ If there is an index on a join attribute, then index-based join algorithms significantly reduces total I/O.
- ▶ If operands are likely to fit in memory, then one-pass algorithms are to be preferred, but these deteriorate rapidly when there is not enough memory.
- ► For large collections, two-pass algorithms provide more predictable performance.

Choosing Physical Operators (3)

Pipelining and Materialization

Some operators fit in better with pipelining than others.

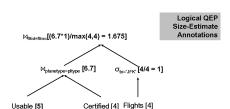
- **Select** works well pipelined, requiring one input and one output buffer.
- **Project** needs to eliminate duplicates, and thus needs to cache its result table.
- **Nested-loop Join** (if it is to be practical) reads and caches one operand, giving significant storage overheads.
 - **Hash Join** reads one operand into a hash table giving significant storage overheads.

All of the above can provide some results before completing generation of the result set.

Estimating Memory Use

- It is important that query evaluation avoids causing thrashing.
- ► It is easier to anticipate the memory needs of materialized than pipelined plans.
- ► For example, if the QEP to the right is evaluated using materialization, the temporary memory of the lower join can be freed up before the upper join starts to be evaluated.
- ▶ Not so with pipelining.

- ► However, with materialization, the result of the lower join must be stored until the upper join starts to be evaluated.
- ► Not so with pipelining.



Summary Query Processing

- ▶ Query processing is what distinguishes DBMSs from other systems.
- Very few other classes of complex software artifacts have emerged that offer such quality guarantees to so many and so varied applications.
- ► The query processing stack, the advanced and fundamentally elegant concepts and ideas that it embodies, it what delivers added-value and empowers users and applications to an unprecedented extent.
- ► The remainder of this course will look primarily into how the query processing stack has been changing to deliver advanced functionalities that classical DBMSs are not as well-equipped to deliver.

Advanced Database Management Systems Parallel Database Management Systems

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Outline

Historical Background

Parallelism Goals and Metrics

Parallel Architectures

Parallel Database Management Systems (1)

- ► (Beware that, this chunking into decades is highly idealized: nothing is ever as simple as that.)
- ► Successive failed attempts were made.
- ▶ The causes were of two main kinds:
 - ► Too much hope was placed on solving the problem with specialist hardware (e.g., special non-volatile primary memory, such as bubble memory, or specially fast secondary memory, such as head-per-track disk drives).
 - ► Key software mechanisms were not yet widely available (e.g., message-passing techniques, client-server protocols, etc.).

Parallel Database Management Systems (2)

Breakthroughs were finally made in the wake of:

- ▶ the acceptance of the relational model,
- ▶ the commoditization of hardware components (i.e., mainframes were dislodged by PCs from their previous central role), and
- progress in basic software infrastructure.

Parallel Database Management Systems (3) 1995-2005±

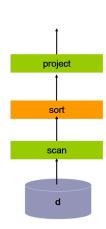
- ► Shared-nothing parallelization becomes the dominant approach.
- Most challenges have moved from query execution to query optimization.
- ► (Wait a bit more for what goes on from 2005 onwards.)

The Impact of the Relational Model

- ► The domination of the commercial market by relational DBMS allowed a focussing of minds and money.
- ► Relational queries are ideally suited to parallel execution:
 - Queries are a composition of a small collection of semantically well-understood, type-uniform operators applied to streams of data of a single underlying collection type.
 - ► The relational algebra is closed: each operator consumes one or more relations as input and produces a new relation as output.
 - ► Many operations are non-blocking (i.e., can produce a result based only on the last tuple(s) read) and those that are not (e.g., join) are easier to parallelize than most other algorithms.
 - ► Two forms of parallelism are made possible: **pipelined** and **partitioned**.
 - ► These are also referred, in the database literature, as **inter-operator** and **intra-operator** parallelism, respectively.

Parallelism in Relational Query Execution (1) Pipelined Parallelism

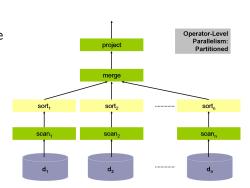
- With pipelining, each operator can execute in its own thread of control.
- ► However, if the operator has blocking semantics (i.e., if it needs to read all the tuples of any input before it can produce an output tuple), then pipelined-parallel execution yields limited benefits.
- ► In the figure, while the scan and project operators can take good advantage of pipelined parallelism, the sort operator blocks, thereby limiting the overall benefits.



Operator-Level Parallelism: Pipelined

Parallelism in Relational Query Execution (2)

- With partitioning, a plan fragment is replicated to execute on separate resources with their separate share of the overall load.
- ► The benefits can be much more significant.
- ► In the figure, the **sort** operator still blocks, but, assuming loads are balanced (i.e., that data partitions are assigned intelligently), the negative impact of the blocking behaviour is much reduced.



Commoditization of Hardware

- ▶ It has become increasingly difficult to build mainframe computers powerful enough to satisfy CPU and I/O demands of many large applications.
- ► Clusters based on relatively-small processing units became easier to build, and they:
 - provide more total power at a lower price,
 - ▶ have a modular architecture that allows for incremental growth, and
 - employ commodity components.

Enabling Software Technologies

- ► Tools for client-server computing are now commonplace, e.g. (remote procedure call mechanisms at various grains of functionality).
- ► Networking software is now commonplace (e.g., over Internet protocols).
- ► DBMSs themselves have evolved enough that it is commonplace to encapsulate them as components (e.g., using various kinds of connectivity middleware).

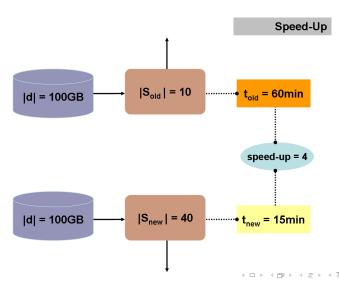
Summary Historical Background

- ▶ DBMSs offer the opportunity for both pipelined and partitioned parallelism.
- ► The abstract nature of relational languages and their minimalism, elegance and constrained expressiveness make database operations easier to parallelize than general computations.
- ▶ With the rise of the relational model, the availability of high-performance commodity hardware and network, and the development of powerful, general-purpose software mechanisms for making use of the latter, parallel DBMSs became easier to build.

Parallelism Goals and Metrics (1) Speed-Up (1)

- ► One goal is **linear speed-up**, e.g., twice as much hardware can perform the same task in half the elapsed time.
- ▶ A speed-up design performs a job that took elapsed time t in a system of size s in elapsed time $t \div k$ in a system of size $k \times s$.
- ► The **speed-up** is the ratio between the elapsed time in the old, smaller system and the elapsed time in the new, larger system.
- ► Speed-up holds the problem size constant and grows the system.

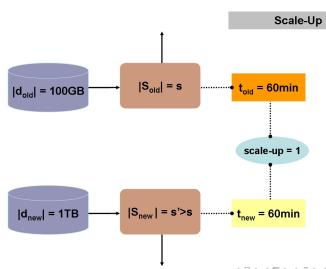
Parallelism Goals and Metrics (2) Speed-Up (2)



Parallelism Goals and Metrics (3) Scale-Up (1)

- ► The scale-up is the ratio between the elapsed time in the old, smaller system on the old, smaller problem and the elapsed time in the new, larger system on the new, larger problem.
- Scale-up measures the ability to grow both the problem and the system.
- ► Another goal, therefore, is **linear scale-up**, e.g., growing the system in response to the growth of the problem achieves a scale-up equal to 1.
- ► A scale-up design performs a *k*-times larger job in the same elapsed time as it takes a *k*-times larger system.
- ▶ (We will consider the notion of scale-out later.)

Parallelism Goals and Metrics (4) Scale-Up (2)



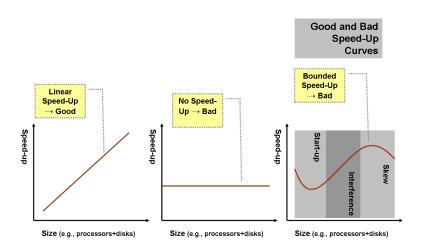
Parallelism Goals and Metrics (5)

Barriers to Linear Speed-Up and Scale-Up

- **start-up** is the time needed to start a parallel operation: too many start-ups can come to dominate the processing time.
- **interference** is the slow down each new parallel operation imposes on all others due to increased competition for shared resources.
 - **skew** as the number of parallel operations increase, the average size of each step decreases, but the variance grows significantly: the time taken ends up being the time taken by the slowest step.

Parallelism Goals and Metrics (6)

Good and Bad Speed-Up Curves



Summary

Parallelism Goals and Metrics

- ▶ Parallelization aims to achieve linear speed-up and linear scale-up.
- ▶ Often overheads caused by start-up costs, interference and skew lead to sub-linear behaviour.

Parallel Architectures (1)

The Ideal and the Approximation of the Ideal

- ► The ideal environment has infinitely-fast processing with infinite memory and infinite bandwidth.
- ► The challenge is to approximate this ideal out of a large number of components with finite capabilities.
- ▶ In other words, a very fast processing capability out of very many processors of individually-limited capability, and a very large store with very large bandwidth out of very many memory and disk units of individually-limited capability.
- ► In the DBMS arena, the spectrum of possible designs is describable with three cases:
 - shared-memory designs
 - shared-disk designs
 - shared-nothing designs

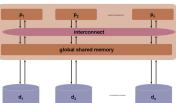


Parallel Architectures (2)

Shared-Memory Designs

- All the processors share direct access to a common global memory and to all disks.
- ► The limitations to scaling are:
 - The bandwidth of the interconnect must equal the sum of the processors and disks, which is hard to achieve in large scales.
 - Severe shared-resource interference (e.g., lock tables, buffer access), which is hard to avoid.
 - Cache hit rates must be high, which is hard to ensure.
- ➤ The response is a move towards **affinity scheduling** (i.e., each process has a propensity to use a certain processor).

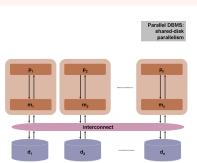




Parallel Architectures (3)

Shared-Disk Designs

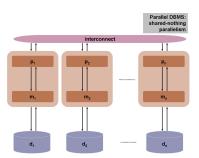
- Each processor has direct access to its private memory but shares direct access to all disks.
- ▶ One limitation to scaling in this case is that the software mechanisms required to coordinate low-level access to shared data in the presence of updates are complex, and more so in larger scales.
- ► Interference may become, here too, a major issue.
- ➤ The response is a move towards data affinity (i.e., each data item has a propensity to use a certain processor that, then, through low-level message exchange, serves the other processors).



Parallel Architectures (1)

Shared-Nothing Designs

- ► Each memory and disk unit is owned by some processor that acts as a server for that data.
- ► This offers the best hope of scaling because it minimizes the data that moves through the interconnect: in principle, only questions and answers do so.



Parallel Architectures (2)

The DBMS Case for Shared-Nothing Designs (1)

- ► The move in shared-memory designs towards affinity scheduling is a move towards implicit data partitioning.
- ▶ In this sense, it is a move towards shared-nothing designs, but incurs the same load balancing problems in the presence of skew without reaping the benefits of a simpler interconnect.
- ▶ It is easier to make the interconnect scale to many more units in shared-disk designs, but this only works well for read-only databases or databases with little concurrent sharing (e.g., some kinds of data warehouse).
- ► Otherwise, data affinity is needed and, again, this is a move towards shared-nothing designs.
- ▶ In shared-nothing designs, messages are exchanged at a much higher level (viz., of queries and answers) than in shared-disk designs.

Parallel Architectures (3) The DBMS Case for Shared-Nothing Designs (2)

- ► The case for shared-nothing designs became more compelling as the availability of simple, high-performance, low-cost components grew.
- ▶ The case was made stronger by the ascendancy of the relational paradigm because the constrained expressiveness of the relational languages makes parallelization simpler than that of general computations.
- ► In particular, it is possible to take interesting SQL-based workloads written with a single processor in mind and execute them in parallel in shared-nothing architectures with near-linear speed-ups and scale-ups.

Summary Parallel Architectures

- ► In databases, particularly those involving concurrent access to shared data in the presence of updates, shared-nothing architectures are often the best design.
- ► They minimize the burden on the interconnect since only queries and answers are exchanged.

Advanced Database Management Systems Parallel Query Processing Techniques

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Outline

Data Partitioning Approaches

Parallelizing Relational Operators

Key Techniques for Parallel Query Processing

- 1. Partition relation extents across multiple mass-storage units.
- 2. Pipeline tuples between relational operators.
- 3. Execute multiple copies of relational operators across multiple processing elements.

Data Partitioning (1)

- ► Partitioning a relation extent involves distributing its tuples across several hardware-architectural elements.
- ► In the cases of mass-storage units, this can provide superior I/O bandwidth superior to RAID-style devices without any specialized hardware.
- ► The three basic partitioning strategies are **round-robin**, **hash-based**, and **range-based**.

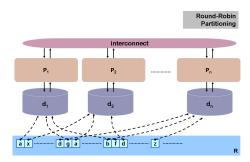
Data Partitioning (2) Round-Robin Partitioning

element i mod n.

► Given *n* architectural elements, round-robin partitioning maps the

i-th tuple in the data to the

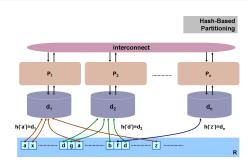
► In the figure, assuming *n* disks, the *i*-th tuple in *R* is loaded onto the *i* mod *n* disk.



Data Partitioning (3)

Hash-Based Partitioning

- ► Given *n* architectural elements, hash-based partitioning maps the *i*-th tuple in the data to the element returned by a hash function (whose range has cardinality *n*) applied to he chosen attribute in the tuple.
- ► In the figure, for loading a relation onto disks, assuming *n* disks, the disk each tuple is loaded into is determined by its hashed value.

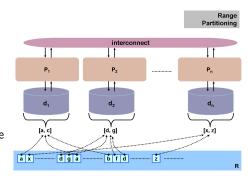


Data Partitioning (4)

Range Partitioning

- ► Given a relation, let a set of *k* disjoint clusters on one of its attributes be defined over it.
- ► This can be obtained by different methods (e.g., a simple one could split the lexicographically-ordered domain of the attribute into *k* intervals).
- ► Given *n* = *k* architectural elements and a (*k* = *n*)-clustered data set, range-based partitioning maps the *i*-th tuple in the data to the element *j* if the corresponding value of the clustering attribute in that tuple belongs to the *j*-th cluster.

▶ In the figure, for loading a relation onto disks, assuming *n* disks, each disk stores the tuples in the disk corresponding to its interval.



Data Partitioning (5) Summary

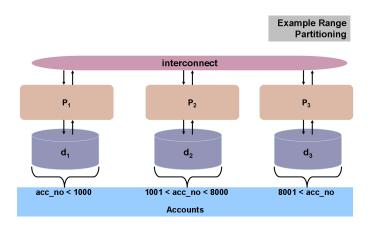
- ▶ Round robin is excellent for sequential access of full relations but poor for associative access, i.e., one requiring all tuples with a particular value.
- ► Hashing is excellent for associative access (i.e., queries involving exact matches).
- ► While hashing tends to randomize data, range partitioning clusters it, making it useful in both sequential and associative access.
- ► However, range partitioning can cause data skew (i.e., uneven allocation of tuples across storage elements) and execution skew (i.e., uneven load across processing elements), where the other approaches are less susceptible to that.
- ► Clearly, picking appropriate partitioning criteria in range partitioning is crucial.

Parallelizing Relational Operators (1)

Assumptions and Requirements

- ► The goal is to use existing operator implementations without modification.
- ► Any new mechanisms for parallelization should either act on operators or be operators themselves
- ▶ In other words, all the characteristics of elegance and economy of design in the relational model and algebra aim to be preserved here.
- ► Given:
 - a shared-nothing architecture, and
 - operating system support for at least reliable datagrams and processes/threads,
- ► Three new mechanisms are added:
 - 1. operator replication
 - merge operator
 - 3. split operator
- ► The result is a parallel DBMS capable of providing linear speed-up and linear scale-up.

Parallelizing Relational Operators (2) An Example Partitioned Relation



Parallelizing Relational Operators (3)

Operator Replication

Example

Assume the following queries:

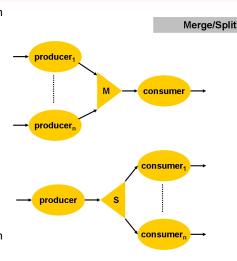
```
q_1 = \\ 	ext{SELECT} 	ext{ A.name, A.balance} \\ 	ext{FROM} 	ext{ Accounts A} \\ 	ext{WHERE} 	ext{ A.balance} > 10000
```

```
q_2 =
SELECT A.name, A.balance
FROM Accounts A
WHERE A.acc no = 339
```

- ▶ q₁ executes with maximum degree of parallelism (3, in this case), i.e., on p₁, p₂, and p₃
- ▶ q₂ executes on p₁; the data in p₂ and p₃ is not scanned; p₂ and p₃ are free to run other queries in parallel with q₂.
- ► Operator replication scales arbitrarily, subject to the overheads of starting an operator on each participating processing element and of their interfering with one another.

Parallelizing Relational Operators (4) Merge and Split Operators

- ► Given input streams stemming from n producers, a **merge operator** generates from them a single output stream destined for a consumer.
- Given one input stream stemming from a producer, a split operator defines a mapping from one or more attribute values to a set of output streams each destined for a corresponding consumer process.
- ► For example, on a numeric field (like acc_no in Accounts) if there are n consumers a splitting function could be acc_no mod n.



Parallelizing Relational Operators (5)

Merge: An Example

Example

Assume the following SQL statement:

 $q_3 =$ INSERT

LargeBalances

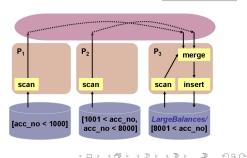
SELECT A.name, A.balance FROM Accounts A

WHERE A.balance > 10000

- ► Scans are replicated and run in parallel.
- Assuming a cost-neutral interconnect, the merge operator could run anywhere.

► Assuming that *LargeBalances* is meant to be co-located with *acc_no* > 8001, the merge ensures that the result of the parallel scans end up there to be inserted.

Example Merge

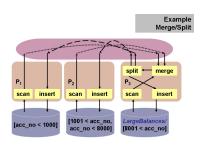


Parallelizing Relational Operators (6)

Merge/Split: An Example

- Assume now that LargeBalances is meant to be split across the storage elements according to some splitting function with a range whose cardinality is three.
- ► Both scans and inserts are replicated and run in parallel.
- ► The merge coalesces the results of the scans and feeds the split.
- ► The split redistributes the results of the merge to feed the inserts.
- ► Again, the merge and split could run anywhere, even separately.

- ► Note that merge and split take responsibility for flow of control and data.
- ► For example, they buffer, and then block producers if buffers are full until consumption resumes.

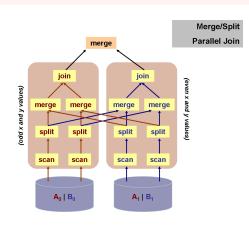


Parallelizing Relational Operators (7)

Merge-Split Parallel Join: An Example

Example Assume the following query: $q_4 =$ SELECT FROM A, B WHERE A.x = B.y

- ► The figure shows how a join can be parallelized.
- ► Splits send odd values of the join attribute to the left processing element and even ones to the right one.
- ► The topmost merge may turn out to be just a union operator.



Parallelizing Relational Operators (8)

- ► There will be lots of processes, lightweight threads are better.
- ► Merge is handled automatically by communication mechanisms (e.g., sockets).
- ► Split is tacked onto the producing process themselves (e.g., scan or join)
- It is possible, and elegant, to encapsulate merge and split as two-parts of a single operator, known in the literature as an exchange operators.
- ► Exchange operators further abstract away from low-level mechanisms, which turns out to be useful (as we will see later on).

Summary

Query Processing Techniques in Parallel DBMSs

- ► The strategies for processing queries in parallel in DBMSs are remarkably simple.
- ► They require no disruption of the classical operators, just three additional mechanisms: one to replicate operators, one to split data to feed them and one to merge the results of the replicated operators.
- ▶ These mechanisms scale well and compose with few constraints.
- ► They can be used to parallelize query execution with linear speed-up and scale-up being more achievable than in most other areas.

Summary Parallel Database Management Systems

- ► Parallel DBMSs can be seen to have been the first major class of complex software systems to be satisfactorily capable of benefitting from parallelization.
- ► The role of the relational model and algebra in this development was paramount.
- As high-commodity hardware became the norm and as software techniques evolved to enable abstraction from low-level communication mechanisms, parallel DBMSs capitalized elegantly on such developments.
- ▶ It is clearer than ever that most data management systems will rely heavily on massively-parallel designs, which we will explore later on in the course.

Acknowledgements

The material presented mixes original material by the author and by Norman Paton as well as material adapted from

- ► [DeWitt and Gray, 1992]
- ► [Garcia-Molina et al., 2002]
- ► [Ramakrishnan and Gehrke, 2003]
- ► [Silberschatz et al., 2005]

The author gratefully acknowledges the work of the authors cited while assuming complete responsibility any for mistake introduced in the adaptation of the material.

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