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## Nested loop join

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A **nested loop join** is a naive algorithm that joins two sets by using two nested loops. Join operations are important to database management.

## Algorithm [edit]

Two relations R and S are joined as follows:

```
For each tuple r in R do

For each tuple s in S do

If r and s satisfy the join condition

Then output the tuple <r,s>
```

This algorithm will involve  $n_r^*b_s^+$  br block transfers and  $n_r^+b_r^-$  seeks, where  $b_r^-$  and  $b_s^-$  are number of blocks in relations R and S respectively, and  $n_r^-$  is the number of tuples in relation R.

The algorithm runs in O(|R||S|) l/Os, where |R| and |S| is the number of tuples contained in R and S respectively. Can easily be generalized to join any number of relations.

The block nested loop join algorithm is a generalization of the simple nested loops algorithm that takes advantage of additional memory to reduce the number of times that the S relation is scanned.

## Improved version [edit]

The algorithm can be improved without requesting additional memory blocks to involve only  $b_r^*b_s^+$   $b_r^-$  block transfers. For each read block from R, the relation S can be read only once.

```
For each block block_r in R do

For each tuple s in S do

For each tuple r in block_r do

If r and s satisfy the join condition

Then output the tuple <r,s>
```

Variable block\_r is stored in memory, thus it is not needed to read it from disk for each tuple s.

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