

SCHOOL OF COMPUTATION,  
INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY —  
INFORMATICS

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Master's Thesis in Information Systems

**Visualization and statistical analysis of  
performance measurements of database  
systems**

Julian Macias De La Rosa

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**Visualisierung und statistische  
Aufbereitung von Performance Messungen  
von Datenbanksystemen**

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Submission Date: 20.10.2023

I confirm that this master's thesis is my own work and I have documented all sources and material used.

Munich, 20.10.2023

Julian Macias De La Rosa

## **Acknowledgments**

# **Abstract**

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# **1 Introduction**

Interactive performance visualization is a powerfull skill and plays a vital role for the demonstration of meaningful data insights in the context of performance measurements. Our goal is to use this powerfull skill properly to enable potential optimization possibilities for compiling database systems.

## **1.1 Motivation**

## **1.2 Technical Background**

### **1.2.1 React**

### **1.2.2 Redux**

### **1.2.3 React Sweet State//**

### **1.2.4 Plotly**

### **1.2.5 React-Flow**

### **1.2.6 Material UI**

## **1.3 Existing Visualization of Performance Data of Umbra //PDF**

## **1.4 Research objectives**

## **1.5 Scope and contribution of the thesis**

## **1.6 Thesis structure**

## 2 Related Work

In this chapter, we give an overview about the existing work in the domain of the visualization of database performance profiling. We will investigate the importance of optimizing query executions in database systems and the role of visualizations in identifying potential improvements. As performant measurement and analysis play a crucial role in developing and optimizing database systems, it is essential to examine the state-of-the-art techniques and tools that have been used in this domain. We will also cover a visualization tool closely associated with this thesis, as its key feature is integrated into the Benchy Viewer.

### 2.1 Performance Visualization

Sektion eher in Background **Todo: Was es alles in dieser Domain gibt. Was effektiv ist und wir benutzen. Was wir nicht benutzen mit Begründung.**

### 2.2 Database Performance Profiling

Performance profiling in database systems is crucial for optimizing their execution regarding achieving optimal hardware utilization and query efficiency. Profiling the performance of database systems involves collecting and analyzing various performance metrics during query execution.

Besides profilers presenting results at the instruction and function granularity, a paper on "Profiling Dataflow Systems on Multiple Abstraction Levels" [Bei+21] proposes a solution that tracks the code generation process and aggregates profiling data to higher abstraction levels. This approach helps bridging the semantic gap between low-level profiles and high-level constructs, making it easier for developers to interpret profiling results and identify bottlenecks and hotspots in the system. The paper introduces the concept of Tailored Profiling, which extends the compilation steps to annotate the generated code with metadata. This enables the mapping of profiling results back to desired abstraction levels and provides more understandable profiling data. Building on the insights from this work, the opportunity arises to create more meaningful visualizations regarding the dataflow in system performance profiling.

An essential concept of this thesis is to build upon the concepts of tailored profiling to gain a deeper understanding of the system's performance and support the location of potential optimization possibilities. Thus, we integrate an intuitive and interactive query plan visualization feature that is able to break down complex queries into their constituent operators and pipelines. We clarify further details about the query plan in section 2.3.1 and in chapter X (Implementation) **Todo: Chapter linking**.

## 2.3 Related visualization tools

This section explores related visualization tools that aid developers analyse their database system queries, with a specific focus on performance visualization. We will go through the Query Plan Difference Visualizer and the Umbra Profiler **Todo: Zitat**, which are both tools, that are strongly related to the Benchy Viewer.

### 2.3.1 Query Plan Difference Visualizer

The efficiency of a database system's query execution relies on the physical execution plan it generates. Given the complexity of finding the best plan, the comparison of query plans both within a single system and across different systems has garnered attention. This comparative analysis aims to gain valuable insights and identify potential optimisation opportunities. Previous efforts in this direction have mainly focused on quantitative metrics, in particular the total cost of the plan.

Query execution plans describe the step-by-step hierarchical sequence of physical operations that a database system uses to process a particular SQL query. The fascinating aspect of this is that identical queries can result in different plans when processed by different database systems. This variability in plan generation can have a significant impact on overall performance.

The Query Plan Difference Visualizer is a web application that compares and visualizes these physical query execution plans from different relational database systems, as shown in Figure 2.1. It is designed for database developers who want to inspect the correlation between variations in query execution speed and the respective query plans. Through enhanced hierarchical differencing algorithms with semantic information about query plans, the tool is able to interactively capture and present the difference between query plans. This is particularly useful for comparing different database systems or different versions of the same system when varying query plans are used by the systems under test to process the same query. Furthermore, it provides the flexibility to pick an arbitrary number of systems for which to compare plans and select a metric for evaluating query performance, such as total runtime or compilation time. For the given metric, it directly shows the difference between the baseline system and

## 2 Related Work

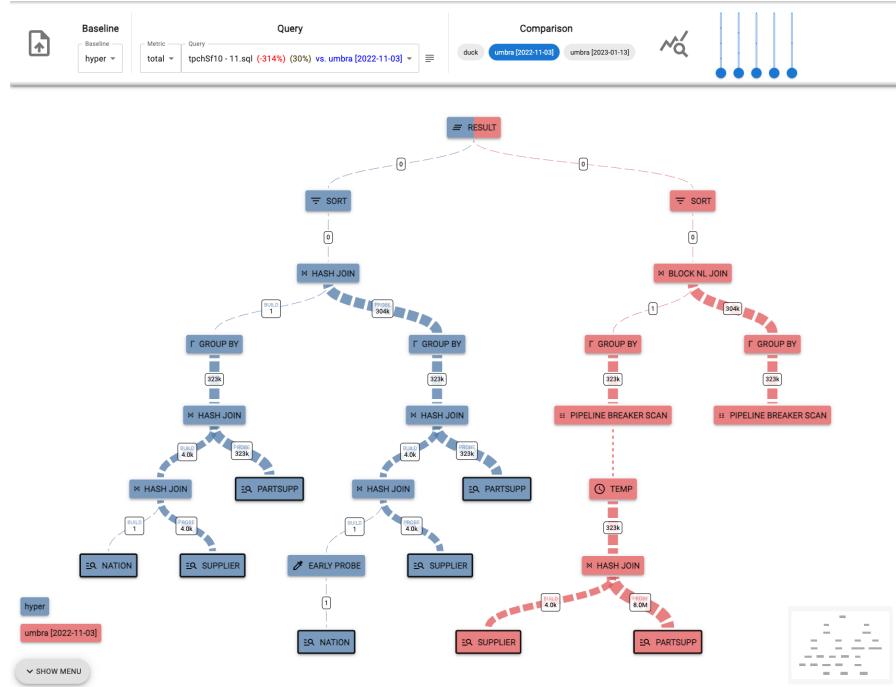


Figure 2.1: Query Plan Difference Visualizer

the better system.

Once a query plan is initialized, the comparative tool provides the option to improve the clarity of the query plan visualization using various configuration settings. For instance, the tool offers a match mode selection, allowing users to capture the tree from, e.g., a top-down or bottom-up matching perspective. With the Expand and Collapse feature, users can collapse entire subtrees and selectively expand specific child nodes, customizing the focus of the visualization and tailoring the area of attention to the most interesting parts of the tree. For query plans containing Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) edges, such as the Pipeline Breaker Scan operator in Umbra, the tool offers support to include these DAG edges and consider them during the matching process. Additionally, to enable more effective comparisons against systems that generate non-DAG-shaped plans, an option is available to replicate subtrees instead.

Database developers often find value in comparing query plans, particularly when they have thoroughly examined different results using quantitative metrics. Therefore, we decided to integrate the Query Plan Difference Visualizer with its core features of comparing query plans. In addition to visualizing quantitative metrics from different database systems within the Benchy Viewer, the incorporation of the Query Plan Differ-

ence Visualizer with its capabilities will further enhance our objective of simplifying the detection of performance bottlenecks in query execution and optimizing database systems.

Hence, the Query Plan Difference Visualizer is strongly related to this thesis and we will dive deeper into the integration of the comparative tool in Chapter X. **Todo: Chapter linking**

### 2.3.2 Umbra Profiler

The Umbra Profiler is a tool that enables in-depth analysis for identifying bottlenecks in query execution processes of the database system Umbra.

It is integrated with a backend application for preparing extensive profiling data and offers multiple perspectives, including a runtime dashboard, a memory dashboard, and an instruction dashboard, each depicting distinct information, as illustrated in Figure 2.2.



Figure 2.2: Umbra-Profiler: A tool for analyzing and profiling Umbra’s compiling queries. From left-to-right: runtime dashboard, memory dashboard, and instruction dashboard.

The runtime dashboard is the default view that appears after providing recorded hardware samples of a query execution. It offers an initial overview of the query execution structure, allowing users to analyze the activity of specific processor events, operators, and pipelines over time. Abnormalities in execution, such as resource-intensive operations, can be identified, aided by visualizations including key performance indicators, activity histograms, bar charts, query plans, sunburst charts, and swim lanes.

The memory behavior dashboard focuses on memory access patterns in query execution. It offers memory heatmaps for each operator, showing either absolute memory accesses or sequential memory address differences.

The instruction Dashboard facilitates detailed analysis of query execution using Umbra Intermediate Representation (UIR) **Zitat** instructions. It allows comparison of UIR instructions with query plans to identify performance problems based on costs and occurrences.

Similar to the Benchy Viewer, the goal is to support database engineers in optimizing

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## *2 Related Work*

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query execution by providing an interactive user interface, enabling an effective in-depth analysis process.

The Umbra Profiler is designed based on the innovative Tailored Profiling approach [Bei+21], where the connection between query plans and compiled code is maintained. This technique was previously unaddressed by standard profilers and is now used in both the Umbra Profiler and the Benchy Viewer.

However, unlike the Benchy Viewer, the Umbra Profiler is focused to operate exclusively with the database system Umbra. In contrast, the Benchy Viewer has the versatility to function with multiple database systems or multiple instances of a single database system.

In broad terms, the Umbra Profiler is primarily designed for in-depth analysis of query performance within a single database system, while the Benchy Viewer is oriented towards its comparative function, enabling the comparison of queries executed by different instances. This comparative approach is the main essence of the concept of the Benchy Viewer, which aims to enhance the understanding of differences between database instances.

An effective scenario that synergizes the Benchy Viewer and the Umbra Profiler would involve identifying intriguing queries using the Benchy Viewer and subsequently conducting comprehensive analyses using the Umbra Profiler.

# 3 Theoretical Foundations

In this chapter, we investigate the theoretical foundations by examining database performance measurements and in the next step describing used datasets and the data structure.

We will start by discussing the characteristics of database systems and elaborate on the significance of performance measurements in this context. Additionally, we will outline the common performance metrics, that play a central role in the evaluation of performance analysis.

For clarifying used datasets and the data structure, we commence by describing the utilized performance data, followed by giving an overview of the structure of the Benchy Viewer's input file containing the performance measurements. Moreover, the data preparation for this input file will be explained.

## 3.1 Database Systems and Performance Measurements

Performance measurement and analysis are fundamental in the realm of database systems. They offer valuable insights into system behavior, helping to pinpoint bottlenecks and optimization opportunities. This process is crucial not only for evaluating one's own system but also for making meaningful comparisons with other systems. Visualizations play a pivotal role in understanding performance data and are often used to convey complex findings effectively. To interpret performance data effectively, we begin by understanding the characteristics and core traits of a Database System.

### 3.1.1 Characteristics of Database Systems

Database systems are complex structures that manage and store vast amounts of data efficiently, involving interrelated factors that must be finely tuned to ensure optimal performance.

One of the fundamental functions of a database system is query processing. A query is essentially a request for specific information from the database. This involves receiving and then executing that query. The process includes tasks like parsing, optimization, and execution.

Queries go through two main phases: compilation and execution. During compilation,

the query is transformed into an execution plan. This plan outlines the steps the system should take to retrieve the requested data. In the execution phase, the system follows this plan to fetch the data.

Query plans are roadmaps that guide how a database executes queries, with operators as specialized components responsible for specific actions. Operators, like selection and join operators, perform data operations during query execution, such as filtering and combining data. Optimizing query plans is vital for database efficiency, with query optimizers selecting the best plan considering factors like data distribution and hardware capabilities.

Query processing can be time-consuming due to various challenges. For instance, complex queries, large datasets, and suboptimal query plans can lead to slow performance. Identifying and overcoming these challenges is essential for improving system efficiency.

Understanding these characteristics is key to understanding the complexity of database performance. Challenges such as optimising query plans and dealing with large data sets are common, and manual assessment is often impractical.

The need for objective metrics is therefore obvious, making performance measurements essential for targeted optimisations. Due to the complexity of these metrics, visualisation techniques are invaluable for easier interpretation and analysis.

In the next section, we will explore the important role of performance measurements and their visualisation in improving database efficiency.

### 3.1.2 Importance of Performance Measurements

Database systems are the core of a wide range of applications. Consequently, their performance matters not just in terms of user-friendliness and reliability, but also in terms of efficiency. Performance measurements play a central role in this context.

One of the key advantages of performance measurements lies in their capacity to assist in optimization efforts. By quantifying performance in a series of metrics, database developers can pinpoint precisely where bottlenecks occur, whether it is in the compilation phase, the query plan, data retrieval, or any other component of the database system. This focused approach minimizes the trial and error often involved in performance tuning and directs resources toward the most impactful modifications.

Furthermore, bottlenecks and areas with room for improvement are often not obvious. With the aid of performance measurements, these elements come into sharp focus. Measurements can reveal, for example, if the system's weak point lies in query compilation or if the query plan needs to be optimized. Understanding and interpreting the findings correctly is crucial for making informed decisions on where to prioritize improvement efforts.

Another fundamental aspect is scalability. In a world where data is continuously growing, the scalability of a database system becomes a certain priority, because data volumes continue to grow. Performance measurements can identify the limitations of a system as it scales, revealing performance degradation points before they become critical bottlenecks. This approach is not only applied to solve current needs of data volume, but is also contributing to the system's scalability for the future.

Referring back to the introduction's implication, the complexity of performance metrics can often be overwhelming. Visualization techniques become invaluable tools in this context. By translating numerical data into graphical elements, these visualizations can illuminate patterns and trends that could otherwise be easily overlooked, offering an intuitive and interactive way to understand the performance bottlenecks and operational nuances.

In summary, performance measurements are essential in the effective management and optimization of complex database systems. With these basic principles in mind, the next section examines common performance metrics for evaluating database systems, which serve as the quantitative backbone for the analyses and visualisations discussed here.

### 3.1.3 Common Performance Metrics

Understanding the importance of performance measurements in database systems necessitates a deeper dive into the specific metrics that help analyze various aspects of performance. This section provides an overview of these metrics, their implications, and hints at those that will be leveraged in this study, discussed further in the "Used Datasets and Data Structure" section.

Was sind die wichtigsten Metriken? Was sagen sie aus? Beispiel Paper "Bringing Compiling Databases to RISC Architectures" Welche Metriken sie benutzen, wie sie visualisiert werden und findings zusammenfassen. Was werden wir benutzen? Genaueres in der nächsten Sektion

## 3.2 Used Datasets and Data Structure

### 3.2.1 Description of the Utilized Performance Data

### 3.2.2 Structure of the CSV File with Performance Measurements

### 3.2.3 Data Preparation

# 4 Example

## 4.1 Section

Citation test [Lam94].

Acronyms must be added in `main.tex` and are referenced using macros. The first occurrence is automatically replaced with the long version of the acronym, while all subsequent usages use the abbreviation.

E.g. `\ac{TUM}`, `\ac{TUM}`  $\Rightarrow$  Technical University of Munich (TUM), TUM

For more details, see the documentation of the `acronym` package<sup>1</sup>.

### 4.1.1 Subsection

See Table 4.1, Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2, Figure 4.3.

Table 4.1: An example for a simple table.

A	B	C	D
1	2	1	2
2	3	2	3

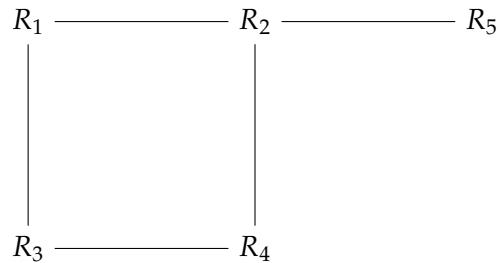


Figure 4.1: An example for a simple drawing.

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<sup>1</sup><https://ctan.org/pkg/acronym>

---

*4 Example*

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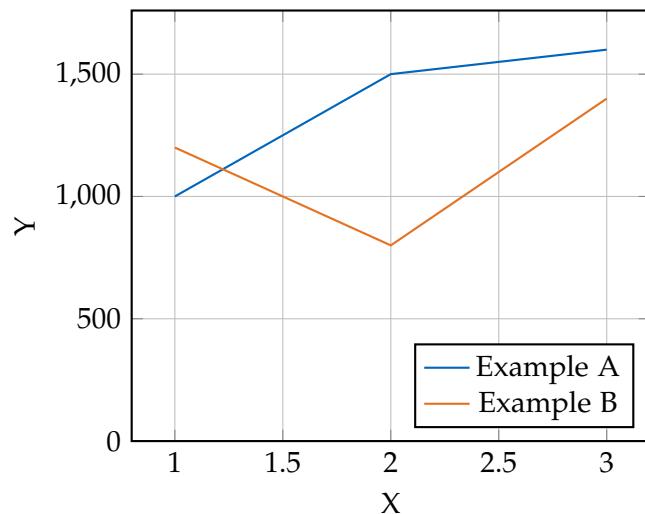


Figure 4.2: An example for a simple plot.

```
SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE tbl.str = "str"
```

Figure 4.3: An example for a source code listing.

# **Abbreviations**

**TUM** Technical University of Munich

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