Query Optimization in Relational Database Systems

It is safer to accept any chance that offers itself, and extemporize a procedure to fit it, than to get a good plan matured, and wait for a chance of using it.

Thomas Hardy (1874)
in *Far from the Madding Crowd*

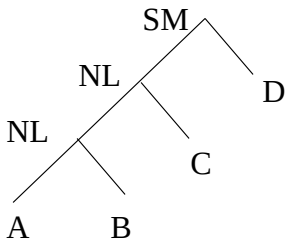
Review: Case where index is useful

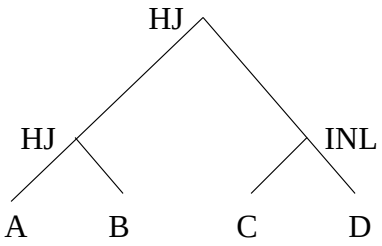
Query Optimization

- Since each relational op returns a relation, ops can be *composed*!
- Queries that require multiple ops to be composed may be composed in different ways - thus *optimization* is necessary for good performance, e.g. A ⋈ B ⋈ C ⋈ D can be evaluated as follows:
  - (((A ⋈ B) ⋈ C) ⋈ D)
  - ((A ⋈ B) ⋈ (C ⋈ D))
  - ((B ⋈ A) ⋈ (D ⋈ C))
  - …

Query Optimization

- Each strategy can be represented as a query evaluation plan (QEP) - Tree of R.A. ops, with choice of algo for each op.





- Goal of optimization: To find the “best” plan that compute the same answer (to avoid “bad” plans)

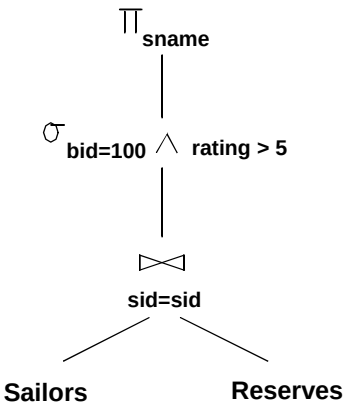
More on Motivating Examples

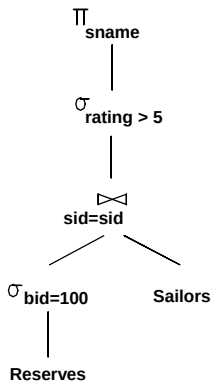
Sailors (*sid*: integer, *sname*: string, *rating*: integer, *age*: real)
Reserves (*sid*: integer, *bid*: integer, *day*: dates, *rname*: string)

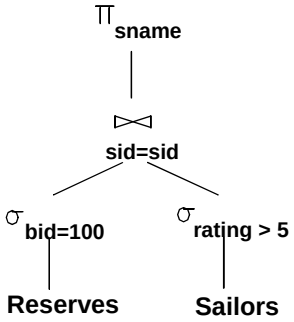
- Reserves:
  - Each tuple is 40 bytes long, 100 tuples per page, 1000 pages.
- Sailors:
  - Each tuple is 50 bytes long, 80 tuples per page, 500 pages.


```
SELECT  S.sname
FROM  Reserves R, Sailors S
WHERE  R.sid=S.sid AND
   R.bid=100 AND S.rating>5
```

Example







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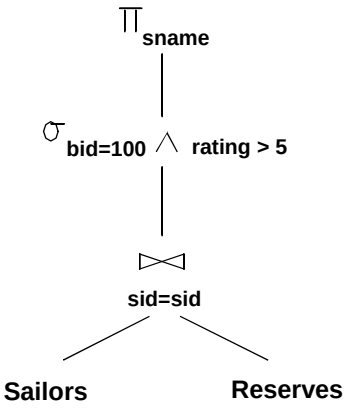

sname
lubber

sid	sname	rating	age	bid	day	rname
31	lubber	8	55.5	100	10/11/96	lubber

sid	sname	rating	age	bid	day	rname
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58	rusty	10	35.0	103	11/12/96	dustin

sid	sname	rating	age
22	dustin	7	45.0
28	yuppy	9	35.0
31	lubber	8	55.5
44	guppy	5	35.0
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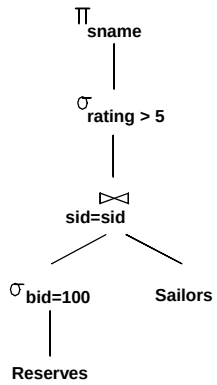

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CS5208: Query Optimization

Example

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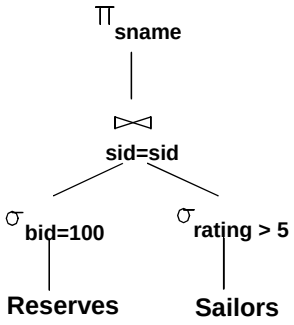

Example (Cont)

```
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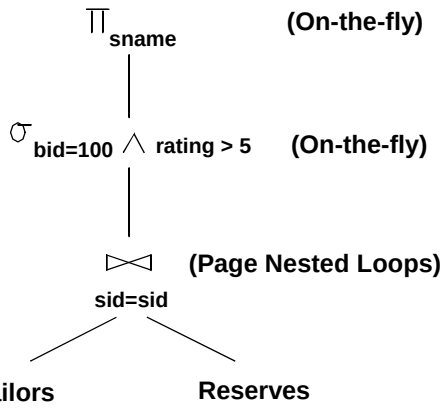
- Cost?

Query Evaluation Plan:



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Example (Cont)

- Cost: 500+500*1000 I/Os

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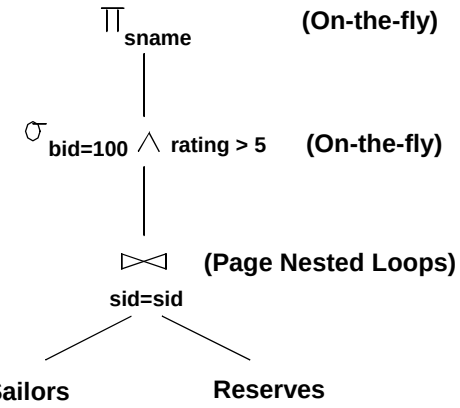


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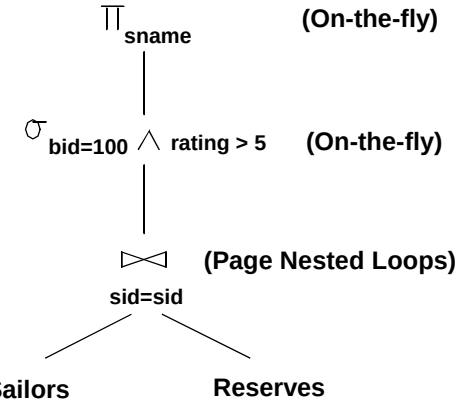

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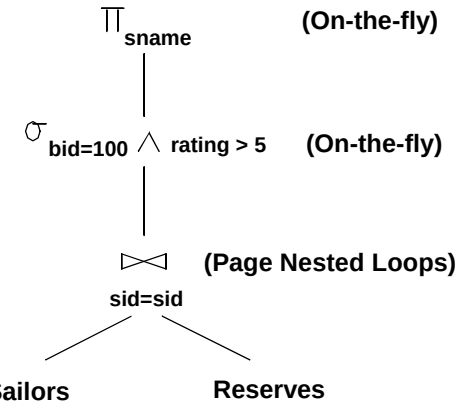
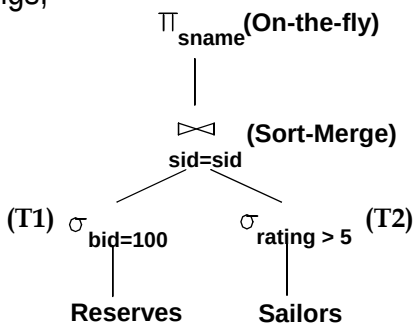


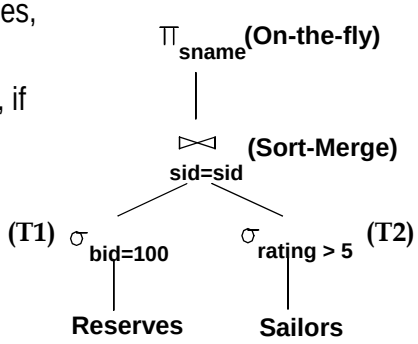
Alternative Plans 1 (No Indexes)

- Main difference: push selections down
- Assume 5 buffers, T1 = 10 pages (100 boats, uniform distribution), T2 = 250 pages (10 ratings, uniform distribution)



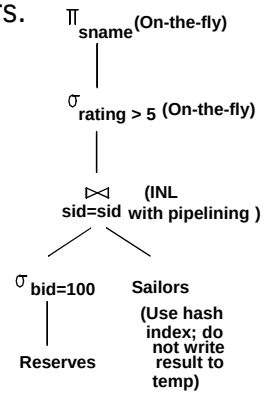
Alternative Plans 1 (No Indexes)

- Main difference: push selections down
- With 5 buffers, cost of plan:
  - Scan Reserves (1000) + write temp T1 (10 pages, if we have 100 boats, uniform distribution).
  - Scan Sailors (500) + write temp T2 (250 pages, if we have 10 ratings).
  - Sort T1 (2*2*10), sort T2 (2*4*250), merge (10+250)
  - Total: 4060 page I/Os.



Alternative Plans 2 (With Indexes)

- Clustered index on bid of Reserves
  - 100,000/100 = 1000 tuples on 1000/100 = 10 pages
- Hash index on sid. Join column sid is a key for Sailors.
- INL with pipelining (outer is not materialized)
  - Project out unnecessary fields from outer doesn't help.
- At most one matching tuple, unclustered index on sid OK.
- Did not push "rating>5" before the join. Why?



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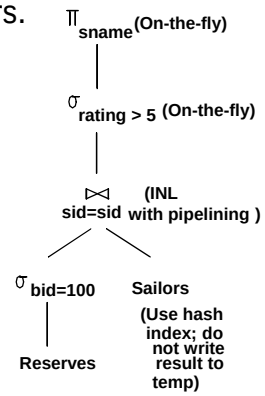
- Decision not to push rating>5 before the join is based on availability of sid index on Sailors.
- Cost?



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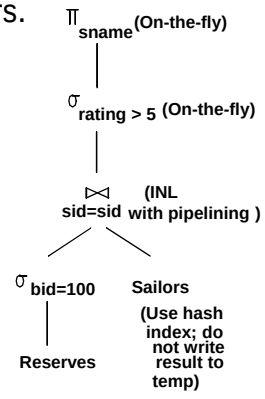
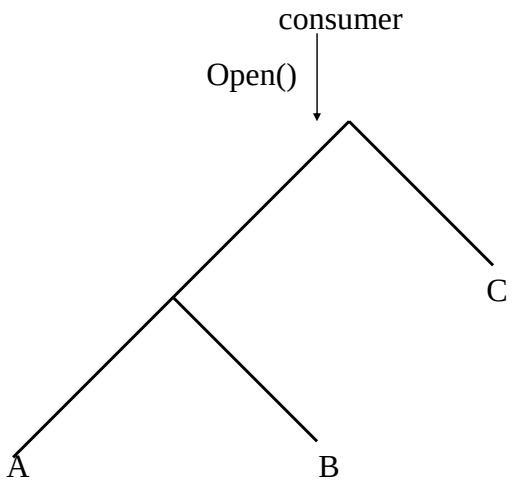
- At most one matching tuple, unclustered index on sid OK.
- Decision not to push rating>5 before the join is based on availability of sid index on Sailors.
- Cost: Selection of Reserves tuples (10 I/Os); for each, must get matching Sailors tuple (1000*2.2); total 2210 I/Os.



Plan Execution under the Iterator Model



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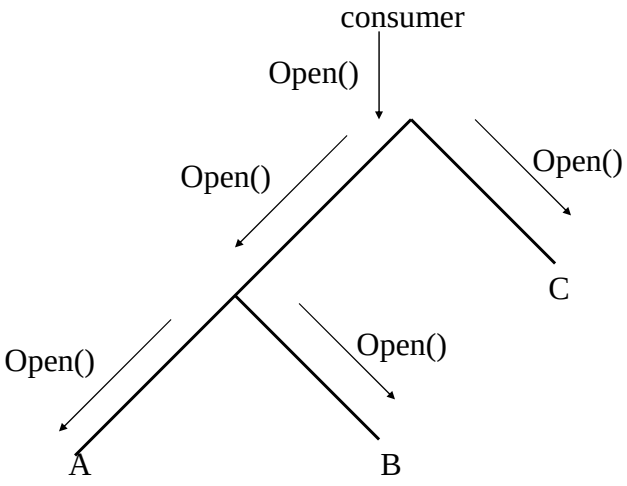

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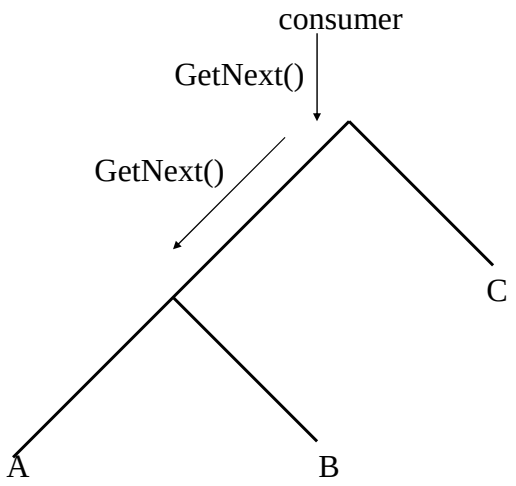

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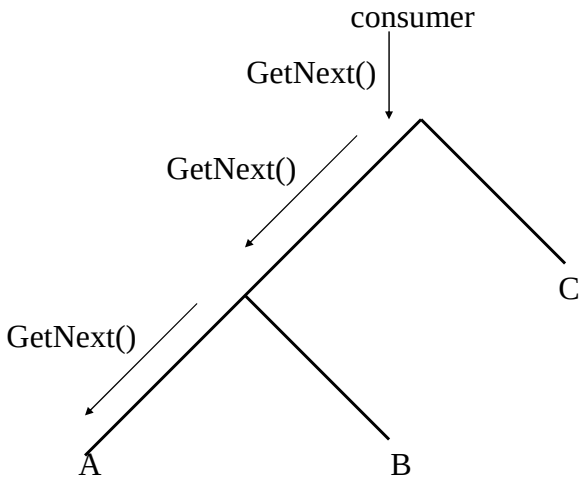

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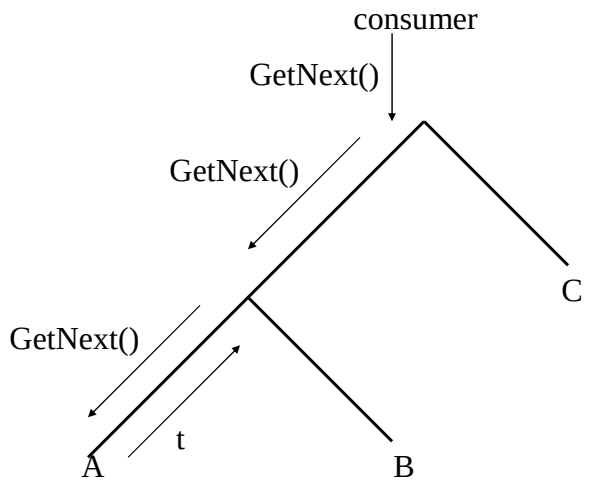

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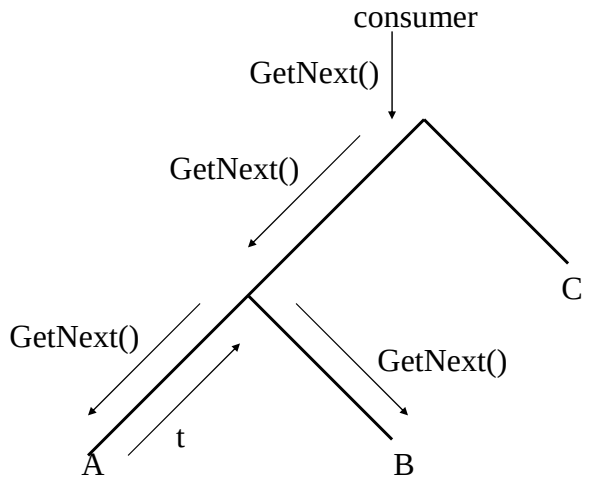

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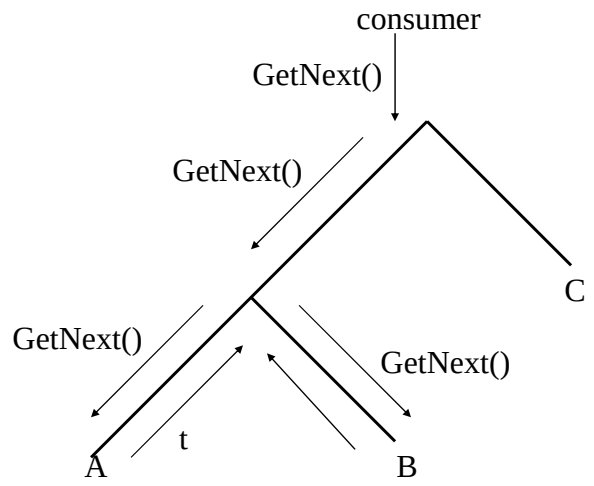

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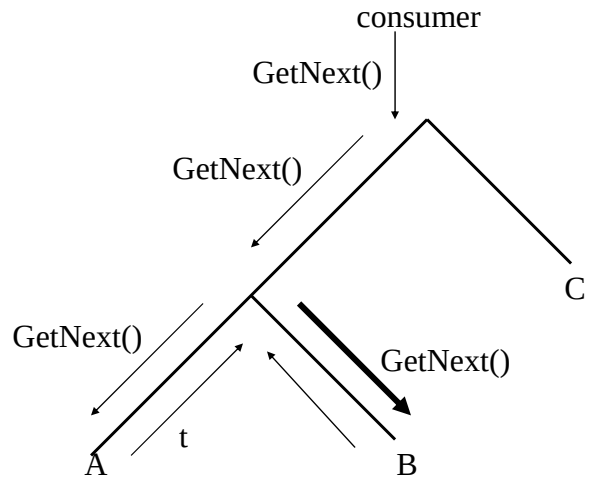

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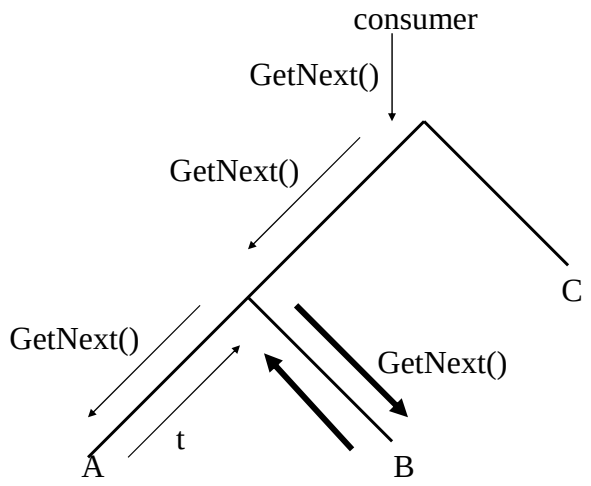

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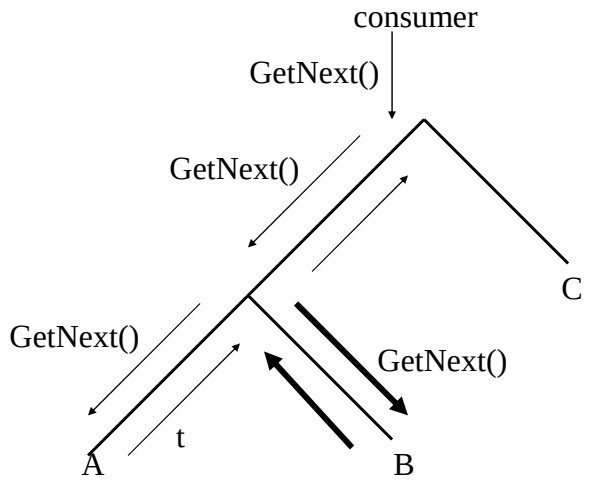

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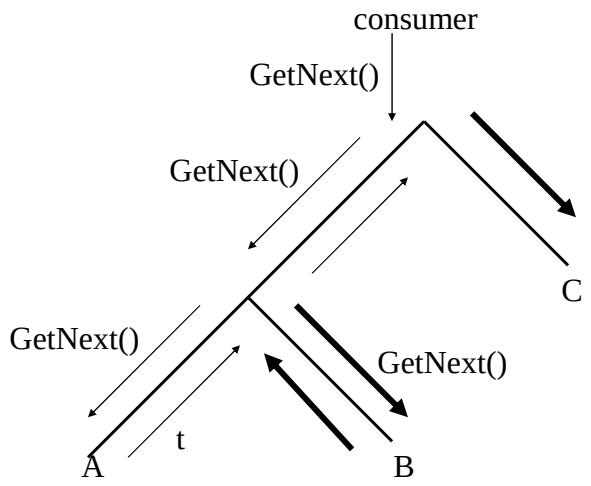

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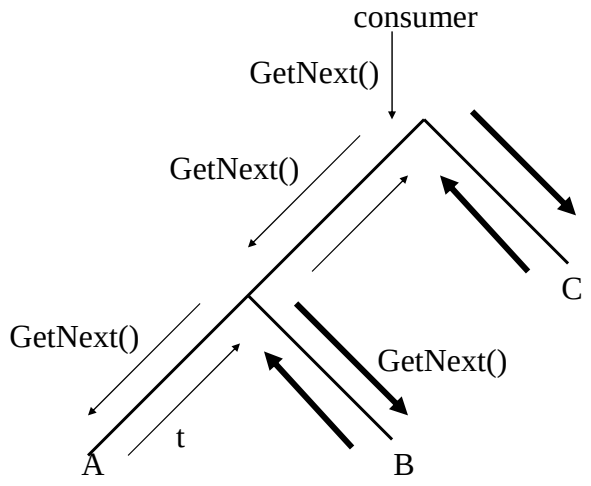

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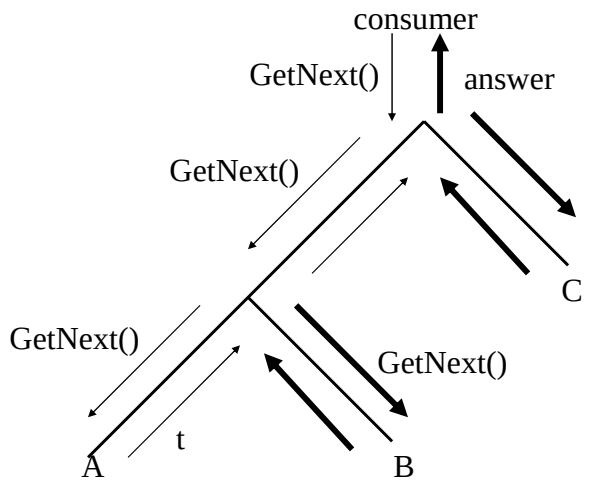

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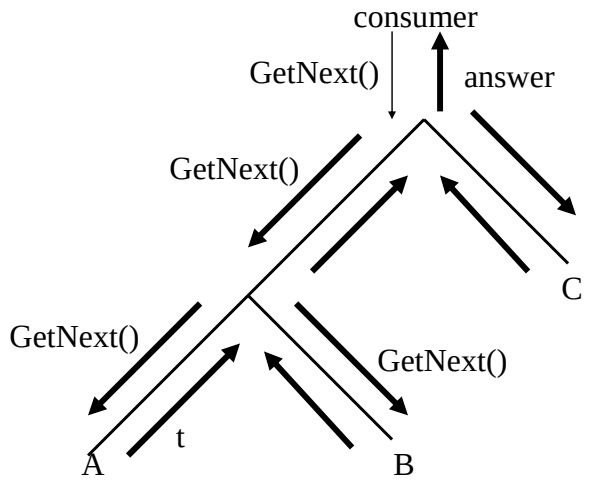
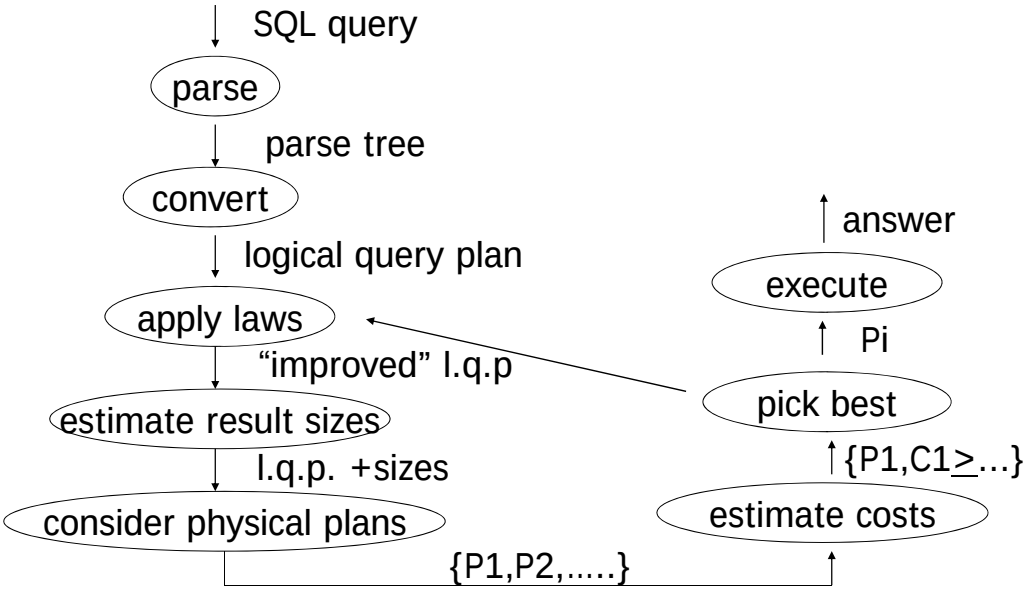


Overview of Query Optimization

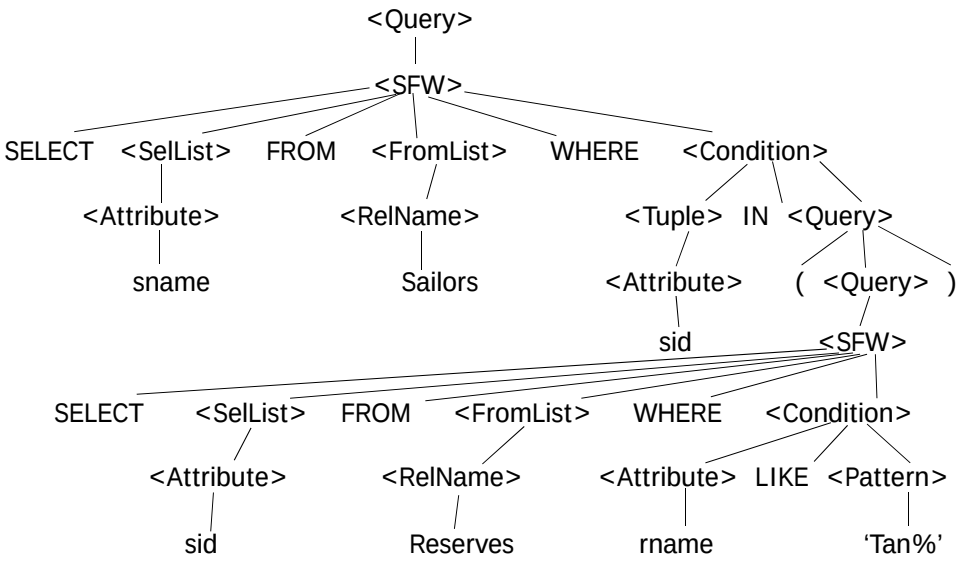


Example: SQL query

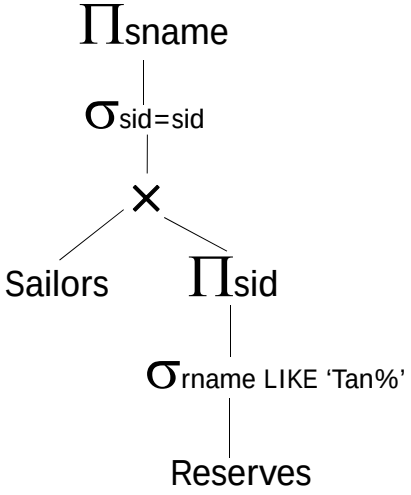
```
SELECT sname
FROM Sailors
WHERE sid IN (
        SELECT sid
        FROM Reserves
        WHERE rname LIKE 'Tan%'
);
```

(Find names of sailors whose reservation is made by someone whose name begins with "Tan")

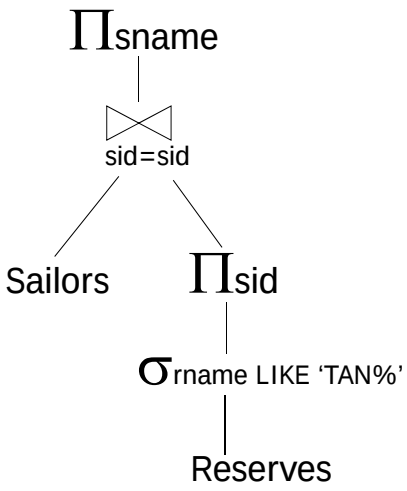
Example: Parse Tree



Example: Logical Query Plan

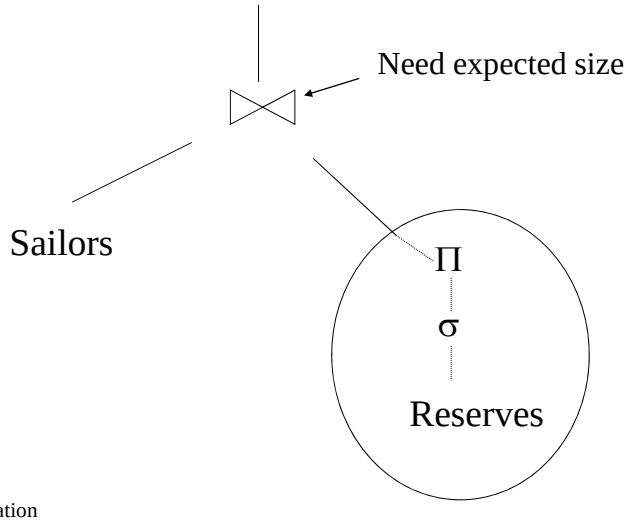


Example: Improved Logical Query Plan

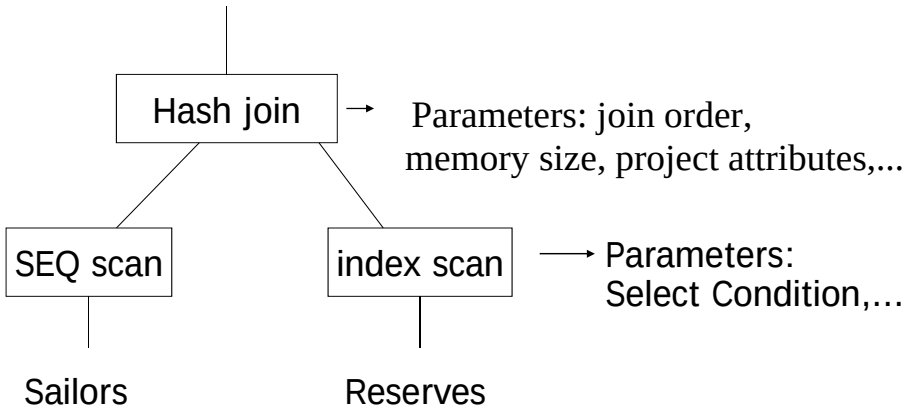


Question:
Push project to Sailors?

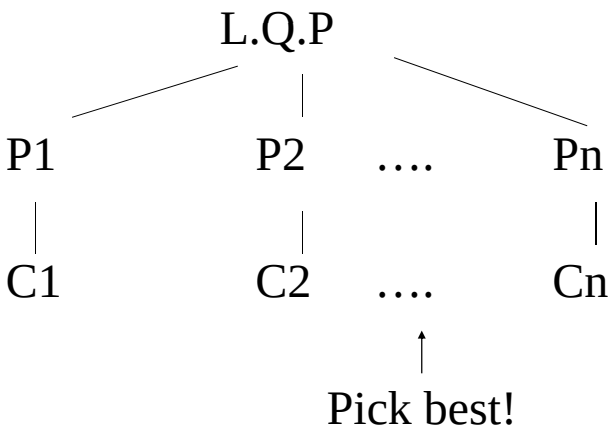
Example: Estimate Result Sizes



Example: One Physical Plan



Example: Estimate costs



Relational Algebra Equivalences

- Allow us to choose different join orders and to `push' selections and projections ahead of joins.
- Rules on joins, cross products and union

$$R \bowtie S = S \bowtie R$$

$$(R \bowtie S) \bowtie T = R \bowtie (S \bowtie T)$$

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$$R \times S = S \times R$$

$$(R \times S) \times T = R \times (S \times T)$$

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$R \times S = S \times R$

$(R \times S) \times T = R \times (S \times T)$

$R \cup S = S \cup R$

$R \cup (S \cup T) = (R \cup S) \cup T$

Rules: Selects

$\sigma_{p1 \wedge p2}(R) =$

$\sigma_{p1 \vee p2}(R) =$

Rules: Selects

$\sigma_{p1 \wedge p2}(R) = \sigma_{p1} [\sigma_{p2}(R)]$

$\sigma_{p1 \vee p2}(R) = [\sigma_{p1}(R)] \cup [\sigma_{p2}(R)]$

Rules: Project

Let: X = set of attributes

Y = set of attributes

XY = X U Y

$\pi_{xy}(R) = \pi_x [\pi_y (R)]$

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Let: X = set of attributes

Y = set of attributes

XY = X U Y

$\pi_{xy}(R) = \pi_x[\pi_y(R)]$

$\pi_x(R) = \pi_x[\pi_y(R)]$ if y contains x

Rules: $\sigma + \bowtie$ combined

Let P = predicate with only R attribs

Q = predicate with only S attribs

M = predicate with only R,S attribs

$\sigma_p (R \bowtie S) =$

$\sigma_q (R \bowtie S) =$

Rules: $\sigma + \bowtie$ combined

Let P = predicate with only R attribs

Q = predicate with only S attribs

M = predicate with only R,S attribs

$\sigma_p (R \bowtie S) = [\sigma_p(R)] \bowtie S$

$\sigma_q (R \bowtie S) = R \bowtie [\sigma_q(S)]$

Bags vs. Sets

R = {a,a,b,b,b,c}
S = {b,b,c,c,d}
RUS = ?

- Option 1 SUM
  RUS = {a,a,b,b,b,b,b,c,c,c,d}
- Option 2 MAX
  RUS = {a,a,b,b,b,c,c,d}

"SUM" is implemented

- Use "SUM" option for bag unions
- Some rules cannot be used for bags
  - e.g. $A \cap_s (B \cup_s C) = (A \cap_s B) \cup_s (A \cap_s C)$

Let A, B and C be {x}
$B \cup_B C = \{x, x\}$ **$A \cap_B (B \cup_B C) = \{x\}$**
$A \cap_B B = \{x\}$ $A \cap_B C = \{x\}$
$(A \cap_B B) \cup_B (A \cap_B C) = \{x, x\}$

Review

- Consider the join R JOIN(R.a=S.b) S, given the following information about the relations to be joined. The cost metric is the number of page I/Os, and the cost of writing out the result should be ignored.
  - R contains 10,000 tuples and has 10 tuples per page.
  - S contains 20,000 tuples and has 10 tuples per page.
  - S.b is the primary key for S.
  - Both relations are stored as simple heap files.
  - 102 buffer pages are available (inclusive of input/output buffers).
- What is the cost of joining R and S using a block nested-loops join algorithm? What is the minimum number of buffer pages required for this cost to remain unchanged?
- What is the cost of joining R and S using a sort-merge join algorithm? What is the minimum number of buffer pages required for this cost to remain unchanged?

Review

- Block Nested Loops Join.
  - Using R as the outer relation, and 1 page for input and output buffer.
  - cost = 10,000/10 + (10,000/10)/100*20,000/10 = 21,000
  - minimum number of buffer page s= 102 (no change)

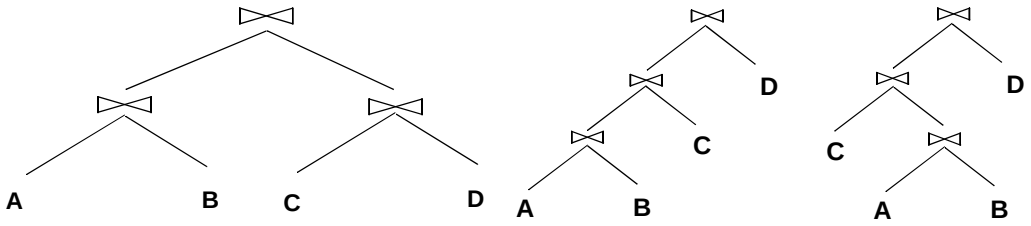
- Sort-merge Join
  - Each relation needs 2 passes to sort
  - Cost to sort R = 2*2*10,000/10; cost to sort S = 2*2*20,000/10
  - Cost = 4000+8000+1000+2000 = 15,000
  - min buffer required is the same as that required to sort the larger relation, which is S. So, min buffer = 46

Query Optimizer

- Find the "best" plan (more often avoids the bad plan)
- Comprises the following
  - Plan space
    - huge number of alternative, semantically equivalent plans
    - computationally expensive to examine all
    - Conventional wisdom: avoid bad plans
      - need to include plans that have low cost
  - Cost model
    - facilitate comparisons of alternative plans
    - has to be "accurate"
  - Enumeration algorithm (Search space)
    - search strategy (optimization algorithm) that searches through the plan space
    - has to be efficient (low optimization overhead)

Plan Space

- Left-deep trees: right child has to be a base table
- Right-deep trees: left child has to be a base table
- Deep trees: one of the two children is a base table
- Bushy tree: unrestricted



Bushy tree Left-deep tree Deep tree

Cost Models

- Typically, a combination of CPU and I/O costs
- Objective is to be able to rank plans
  - exact value is not necessary
- Relies on
  - statistics on relations and indexes
  - formulas to estimate CPU and I/O cost
  - formulas to estimate selectivities of operators and intermediate results

Cost Estimation

- For each plan considered, must estimate cost:
  - Must estimate cost of each operation in plan tree.
    - Depends on input cardinalities.
    - We've already discussed how to estimate the cost of operations (sequential scan, index scan, joins, etc.)
  - Must estimate size of result for each operation in tree!
    - Use information about the input relations.
    - For selections and joins, assuming independence of predicates can simplify size estimation but is error prone.

Statistics and Catalogs

- Need information about the relations and indexes involved. Catalogs typically contain at least:
  - # tuples of R (T(R)), #bytes in each R tuple (S(R))
  - # blocks to hold all R tuples (B(R))
  - # distinct values in R for attribute A (V(R,A))
  - NPages for each index.
  - Index height, low/high key values (Low/High) for each tree index.
- Catalogs updated periodically.
  - Updating whenever data changes is too expensive; lots of approximation anyway, so slight inconsistency ok.

Example

R

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	a
cat	1	20	b
dog	1	30	a
dog	1	40	c
bat	1	50	d

A: 20 byte string
B: 4 byte integer
C: 8 byte string
D: 5 byte string

T(R) = 5 S(R) = 37
V(R,A) = 3 V(R,C) = 5
V(R,B) = 1 V(R,D) = 4

Size estimate for W = $\sigma_{Z=val}$ *(R)*

R

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	a
cat	1	20	b
dog	1	30	a
dog	1	40	c
bat	1	50	d

V(R,A)=3
V(R,B)=1
V(R,C)=5
V(R,D)=4

$$T(W) = \frac{T(R)}{V(R,Z)}$$

S(W) = S(R)

Assumption:

Values in select expression Z = val are *uniformly distributed* over possible V(R,Z) values

Alternative assumption: use DOM(R,Z)

What about W = $\sigma_{z \geq val}$ *(R)?*

Solution: Estimate values in range

R

	Z

Min=1

Max=20

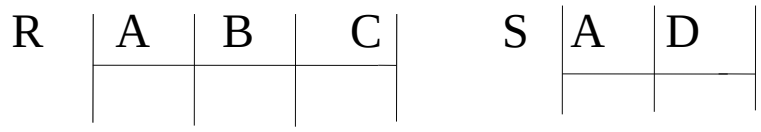
V(R,Z)=10

W= $\sigma_{z \geq 15}$ (R)

$$f \text{ (fraction of range)} = \frac{20-15+1}{20-1+1} = \frac{6}{20} \qquad T(W) = f \times T(R)$$

Alternative: (Max(Z)-value)/(Max(Z)-Min(Z))

$W = R1 \bowtie R2$



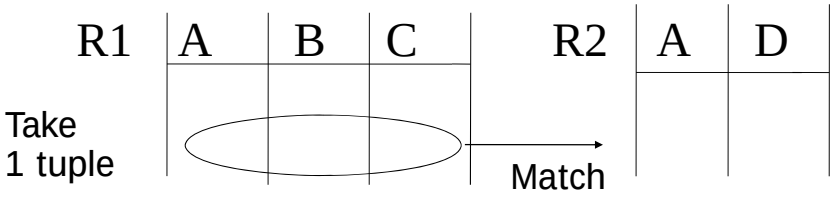
Assumption:

$V(R1,A) \leq V(R2,A) \Rightarrow$ Every A value in R1 is in R2

$V(R2,A) \leq V(R1,A) \Rightarrow$ Every A value in R2 is in R1

"containment of value sets"

Computing T(W) when $V(R1,A) \leq V(R2,A)$



1 tuple matches with $\frac{T(R2)}{V(R2,A)}$ tuples

so $T(W) = \frac{T(R2)}{V(R2,A)} T(R1)$

$V(R2,A) \leq V(R1,A)$ $\quad T(W) = \frac{T(R2)\,T(R1)}{V(R1,A)}$

For complex expressions, need intermediate T,S,V results.

E.g. $W = [\sigma_{A=a}(R1)] \bowtie R2$

Treat as relation U

$T(U) = T(R1)/V(R1,A)$ $\quad S(U) = S(R1)$

Also need V (U, *) !!

Example

R1

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	10
cat	1	20	20
dog	1	30	10
dog	1	40	30
bat	1	50	10

V(R1,A)=3
V(R1,B)=1
V(R1,C)=5
V(R1,D)=3
$U = \sigma_{A=a}(R1)$

V(U,A) = ?

Example

R1

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	10
cat	1	20	20
dog	1	30	10
dog	1	40	30
bat	1	50	10

V(R1,A)=3
V(R1,B)=1
V(R1,C)=5
V(R1,D)=3
$U = \sigma_{A=a}(R1)$

V(U,A) = 1 V(U, B) = ?

Example

R1

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	10
cat	1	20	20
dog	1	30	10
dog	1	40	30
bat	1	50	10

V(R1,A)=3
V(R1,B)=1
V(R1,C)=5
V(R1,D)=3
$U = \sigma_{A=a}(R1)$

V(U,A) = 1 V(U, B) = 1 (= V(R,B)) V(U,C) =

Example

R1

A	B	C	D
cat	1	10	10
cat	1	20	20
dog	1	30	10
dog	1	40	30
bat	1	50	10

V(R1,A)=3
V(R1,B)=1
V(R1,C)=5
V(R1,D)=3
$U = \sigma_{A=a}(R1)$

$V(U,A) = 1 \quad V(U,B) = 1 \quad V(U,C) = \frac{T(R1)}{V(R1,A)}$

V(D,U) … somewhere in between V(U,B) and V(U,C)

For Joins $U = R1(A,B) \bowtie R2(A,C)$

V(U,A) = min { V(R1, A), V(R2, A) }
V(U,B) = V(R1, B)
V(U,C) = V(R2, C)

(Assumption: Preservation of value sets)

Example

$Z = R1(A,B) \bowtie R2(B,C) \bowtie R3(C,D)$

R1 $T(R1) = 1000$ $V(R1,A)=50$ $V(R1,B)=100$

R2 $T(R2) = 2000$ $V(R2,B)=200$ $V(R2,C)=300$

R3 $T(R3) = 3000$ $V(R3,C)=90$ $V(R3,D)=500$

Partial Result: $U = R1 \bowtie R2$

$$T(U) = \frac{1000 \times 2000}{200}$$

$V(U,A) = 50$

$V(U,B) = 100$

$V(U,C) = 300$

$Z = U \bowtie R3$

$$T(Z) = \frac{1000 \times 2000 \times 3000}{200 \times 300}$$

$V(Z,A) = 50$

$V(Z,B) = 100$

$V(Z,C) = 90$

$V(Z,D) = 500$

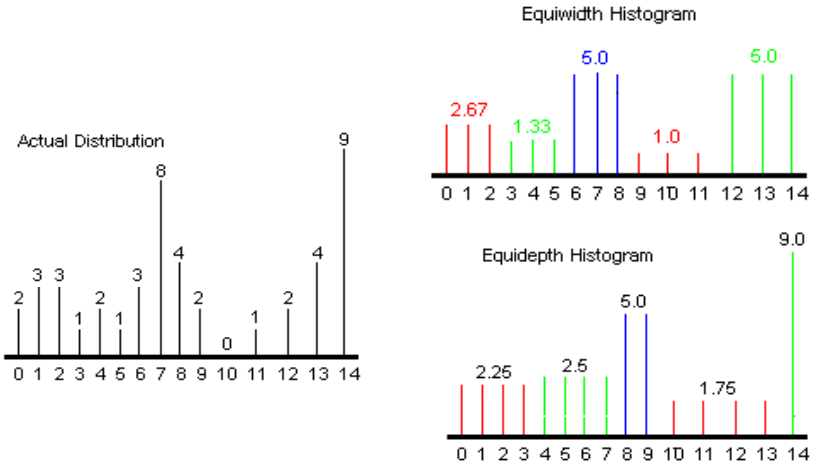
Estimating Size of Plan

- Since a plan may contain multiple operators, need to propagate statistical information to those operators.
- Errors
  - source include uniformity assumption, and inability to capture correlation
  - propagated to other operators at the higher level of the plan tree
- During runtime, may need to sample the actual intermediate results
  - *dynamic* query optimization

Statistical Summaries of Data

- More detailed information are sometimes stored e.g., histograms of the values in some field
  - a histogram divides the values on a column into k buckets
    - k is predetermined or computed based on space allocation.
  - several choices for "bucketization'' of values
    - If a table has n records, an equi-depth histograms divides the set of values on a column into k ranges such that each range has the same number of records, i.e., n/k.
    - Equi-width histograms.
    - Frequently occurring values may be placed in singleton buckets.
  - histograms on single column do not provide information on the correlations among columns
    - 2-dimensional histograms can be used but too many buckets!

Histograms



Search Algorithms

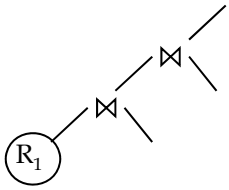
- Exhaustive
  - enumerate each possible plan, and pick the best
- Greedy Techniques
  - smallest relation next
  - smallest result next
  - typically polynomial time complexity
- Randomized/Transformation Techniques
- System R approach
  - Dynamic Programming with Pruning

Multi-Join Queries

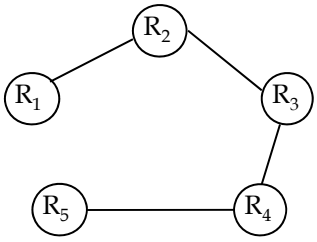
- Focus on multi-join queries first
  - Join is the most expensive operations
  - Selections and projections can be pushed down as early as possible
- Query
  - a query graph whose nodes are relations and edges represent a join condition between the two nodes

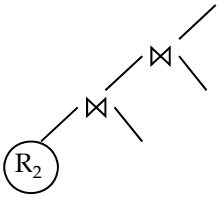
Greedy Algorithm (Example)

- Smallest relation next
  - Suppose $R_i < R_k$ for $i < k$



All plans must begin with R_1



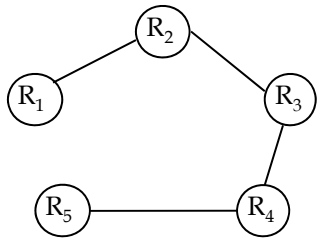


R_3 R_4 R_5

All plans beginning with R_2-R_5 have been pruned!

Greedy Algorithm (Example)

- Smallest relation next
  - What if R1 < R5 < R3 < R2 < R4???



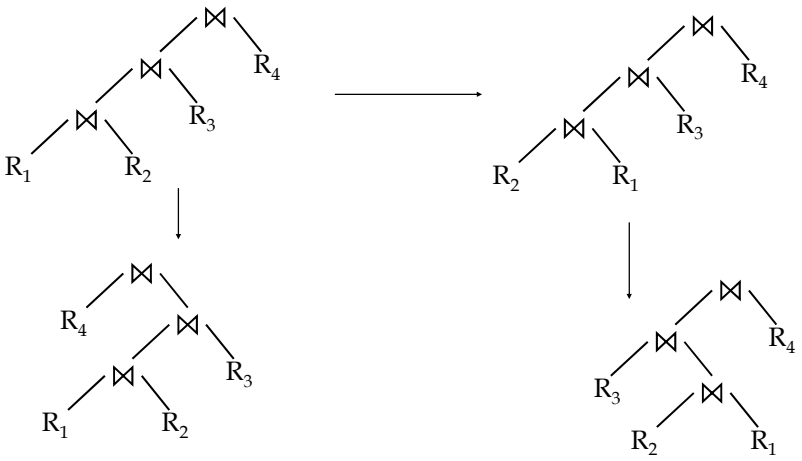
Randomized Techniques

- Employ randomized/transformation techniques for query optimization
- State space -- space of plans, State -- plan
- Each state has a cost associated with it
  - determined by some cost model
- A move is a perturbation applied to a state to get to another state
  - a move set is the set of moves available to go from one state to another
  - any one move is chosen from this move set randomly
  - each move set has a probability associated to indicate the probability of selecting the move

More on Randomized Techniques

- Two states are neighboring states if one move suffices to go from one state to the other
- A local minimum in the state space is a state such that its cost is lower than that of all neighboring states
- A global minimum is a state which has the lowest cost among all local minima
  - at most one global minimum
- A move that takes one state to another state with a lower cost is called a downward move; otherwise it is an upward move
  - in a local/global minimum, all moves are upward moves

Randomized Algorithm (Example)



Local Optimization

```
S = initialize()
minS = S
repeat {
    repeat {
        newS = move(S)
        if (cost(newS) < cost(S))
            S = newS
    } until ("local minimum reached")
    if (cost(S) < cost(minS))
        minS = S
    newStart(S);
} until ("stopping condition satisfied")
return (minS);
```

A move is accepted if the adjacent state being moved to has a lower cost

By doing so repeatedly, a local minimum can be reached

Run: sequence of moves to a local minimum from the start state

Issues on Local Optimization

- How is the start state obtained?
  - The state in which we start a run.
  - The start state of the first run is the initial state.
  - All start states should be different.
  - Should be obtained quickly
    - random
    - greedy heuristics
    - making a number of moves from the local minimum, except that this time each move is accepted irrespective of whether it increases or decreases the cost
- How is the local minimum detected?
- How is the stopping criterion detected?

Issues on Local Optimization (Cont)

- How is the local minimum detected?
  - Not practical to examine all neighbors to verify that one has reached a local minimum.
  - Based on random sampling
    - examine a sufficiently large number of neighbors
    - if any one is lower, we move to that state, and repeat the process
    - if no tested neighbor is of lower cost, the current state can be considered a local minimum
    - the number of neighbors to examine can be specified as a parameter, and is called the sequence length.

Issues in Local Optimization (Cont)

- How is the stopping criterion detected?
  - Determines the number of times that the outer loop is executed.
  - Can be fixed and is given by sizeFactor*N, where sizeFactor is a parameter, N is the number of relations.

Transformation Rules

- Restricted to left-deep trees
  - all possible permutations of the N relations
  - let S be the current state, S = (... i ... j ... k ...)
  - swap
    - select two relations, say i and j at random. Check if interchanging them results in a valid permutation. If so, the move consists of swapping i and j to get the new state newS = (... j ... i ... k ...)
  - 3Cycle
    - select three relations, say i and j and k at random. The move consists of cycling i, j and k: i is moved to the position of j, j is moved to the position of k and k is moved to the position of i. Check if resulting permutation is valid. If so, the move consists of swapping i and j to get the new state newS = (... k ... i ... j ...)
- Other methods (e.g., join methods)? Bushy trees?

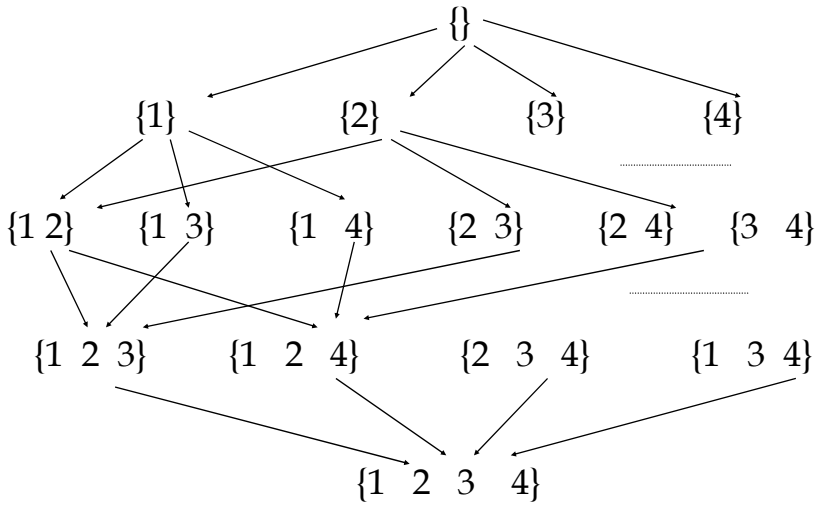
Comparison between Exhaustive, Greedy and Randomized Algorithms

- Plan quality
- Optimization overhead

Dynamic Programming (Left-Deep Trees)

- The algorithm proceeds by considering increasingly larger subsets of the set of all relations.
- Plans for a set of cardinality *i* are constructed as extensions of the best plan for a set of cardinality *i*-1
- Search space can be pruned based on the principal of optimality
  - if two plans differ only in a subplan, then the plan with the better subplan is also the better plan

Dynamic Programming (Cont)



Dynamic Programming (Left-Deep Trees)

- accessPlan(R) produces the best plan for relation R
- joinPlan(p1,R) extends the join plan p1 into another plan p2 in which the result of p1 is joined with R in the best possible way
- Optimal plans for subsets are stored in optplan() array and are reused rather than recomputed

Dynamic Programming (Cont)

```
for i = 1 to N
    optPlan({Ri}) = accessPlan(Ri)
for i = 2 to N {
    forall S subset of {R1, R2, … Rn} such that |S|=i {
            bestPlan = dummy plan with infinite cost
            forall Rj, Sj such that S = {Rj} U Sj {
                    p = joinPlan(optPlan(Sj), Rj)
                    if cost(p) < cost(bestPlan)
                        bestPlan = p
            }
            optPlan(S) = bestPlan
     }
}
Popt = optPlan{R1, R2, … Rn}
```

Dynamic Programming Example

Consider the join of 4 relations, R, S, T and U
Each table has 1000 tuples
Assume intermediate result size (tuples) as cost metrics

R(a,b)	S(b,c)	T(c,d)	U(d,a)
V(R,a)=100			V(U,a)=50
V(R,b)=200	V(S,b)=100		
	V(S,c)=500	V(T,c)=20	
		V(T,d)=50	V(U,d)=1000

Example (Cont)

	{R}	{S}	{T}	{U}
Size	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cost	0	0	0	0
BestPlan	R	S	T	U

Example (Cont)

	{R,S}	{R,T}	{R,U}	{S,T}	{S,U}	{T,U}
Size	5,000	1M	10,000	2,000	1M	1,000
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0
BestPlan	R⋈S	R⋈T	R⋈U	S⋈T	S⋈U	T⋈U

What about S ⋈ R since its cost is also 0??

Example (Cont)

	{R,S,T}	{R,S,U}	{R,T,U}	{S,T,U}
Size	10,000	50,000	10,000	2,000
Cost	2,000	5,000	1,000	1,000
BestPlan	(S⋈T)⋈R	(R⋈S)⋈U	(T⋈U)⋈R	(T⋈U)⋈S

Example (Cont)

Grouping	Cost
((S ⋈ T) ⋈ R) ⋈ U)	12,000
((R ⋈ S) ⋈ U) ⋈ T)	55,000
((T ⋈ U) ⋈ R) ⋈ S)	11,000
((T ⋈ U) ⋈ S) ⋈ R)	3,000
(T ⋈ U) ⋈ (R ⋈ S)	6,000
(R ⋈ T) ⋈ (S ⋈ U)	2M
(S ⋈ T) ⋈ (R ⋈ U)	12,000

Example (Cont)

Grouping	Cost
((S ⋈ T) ⋈ R) ⋈ U)	12,000
((R ⋈ S) ⋈ U) ⋈ T)	55,000
((T ⋈ U) ⋈ R) ⋈ S)	11,000
((T ⋈ U) ⋈ S) ⋈ R)	**3,000**
(T ⋈ U) ⋈ (R ⋈ S)	6,000
(R ⋈ T) ⋈ (S ⋈ U)	2M
(S ⋈ T) ⋈ (R ⋈ U)	12,000

Dynamic Programming (Cont)

- Time & Space complexity
  - For k relations, for left-deep trees, $2^k - 1$ entries!
  - For bushy trees, $O(3^k)$
- DP may maintain multiple plans per subset of relations
  - Interesting orders
- Is DP optimal?

Summary

- Query optimization is NP-hard.
- Instead of finding the best, the objective is largely to avoid the bad plans
- Many different optimization strategies have been proposed
  - greedy heuristics are fast but may generate plans that are far from optimal
  - dynamic programming is effective at the expense of high optimization overhead