QUERY OPTIMIZATION

CS 564- Spring 2018

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WHAT IS THIS LECTURE ABOUT?

• What is a query optimizer?

• Generating query plans

• Cost estimation of query plans
ARCHITECTURE OF AN OPTIMIZER

query (SQL)

Query Parser

parsed query (Relational Algebra)

Query Optimizer
- Plan generator
- Plan cost estimator

System Catalog

Relational Algebra is the glue!

query plan (annotated RA tree)
EXAMPLE: FROM SQL TO RA

EMP(ssn, ename, addr, sal, did)
DEPT(did, dname, floor, mgr)

SELECT DISTINCT ename
FROM Emp E, Dept D
WHERE E.did = D.did
AND D.dname = ‘Toy’ ;
The query optimizer

1. identifies candidate equivalent RA trees
2. for each RA tree, it finds the best annotated version (using any available indexes)
3. chooses the best overall plan by estimating the I/O cost of each plan
QUERY PLANS

• The space of possible query plans is typically huge and it is hard to navigate through
• Relational Algebra provides us with mathematical rules that transform one RA expression to an equivalent one
  – push down selections & projections
  – join reordering
• These transformations allow us to construct many alternative query plans
A selection can be pushed down through

- projections
- joins
- other selections

\[
\begin{align*}
\sigma_{\text{dname} = 'Toy'} \quad \pi_{\text{ename}} \quad \text{EMP} \\
\bowtie \\
\sigma_{\text{dname} = 'Toy'} \quad \pi_{\text{ename}} \quad \text{DEPT}
\end{align*}
\]

selection pushed through join
PUSHING DOWN SELECTIONS

\[ \sigma_{A=10} \]
\[ \pi_{A,B} \]
\[ R(A, B, C) \]

selection pushed through projection

\[ \pi_{A,B} \]
\[ \sigma_{A=10} \]
\[ R(A,B,C) \]
It is always possible to change the order of selections.

\[ \sigma_{A=10} \]
\[ \sigma_{B>0} \]
\[ R(A, B, C) \]

selection pushed through another selection

\[ \sigma_{B>0} \]
\[ \sigma_{A=10} \]
\[ R(A, B, C) \]
PUSHING DOWN PROJECTIONS

A projection can be pushed down through

- selections
- joins

\[ R(A,B,D) \bowtie S(B,C) \]

\[ \pi_{A,C} \]

\[ \pi_{A,B} \]

\[ \pi_{A,C} \]

R(A,B,D)

S(B,C)

D is projected out earlier in the plan!
SELECTIONS & PROJECTIONS

• Heuristically, we want selections and projections to occur as early as possible in the query plan
• The reason: we will have fewer tuples in the intermediate steps of the plan
  – this could fail if the selection condition is very very expensive
  – projection could be a waste of effort, but more rarely
\[ R(A,B) \bowtie S(B,C) \bowtie T(C,D) \]

\[ \pi_A \]

\[ \sigma_{C=10} \]

\[ \pi_{A,C} \]

\[ \sigma_{C=10} \]

\[ \pi_C \]
• **Commutativity** of join
  \[ R \bowtie S \equiv S \bowtie R \]

• **Associativity** of join
  \[ (R \bowtie S) \bowtie T \equiv R \bowtie (S \bowtie T) \]

We can reorder the computation of joins in any way (exponentially many orders)!
JOIN REORDERING

\[ R(A, B) \bowtie S(B, C) \bowtie T(C, D) \bowtie U(D, E) \]

left-deep join plans

correct, but not a good plan!
JOIN REORDERING

\[ R(A, B) \bowtie S(B, C) \bowtie T(C, D) \bowtie U(D, E) \]
PLAN GENERATION: RECAP

- selections can be evaluated in any order
- joins can be evaluated in any order
- selections and projections can be pushed down the tree using the RA equivalence transformations
Query Plan Cost Estimation
COST ESTIMATION

Estimating the cost of a query plan involves:

- estimating the **cost** of each operation in the plan
  - depends on input cardinalities
  - algorithm cost (we have seen this!)
- estimating the **size** of intermediate results
  - we need statistics about input relations
  - for selections and joins, we typically assume independence of predicates
COST ESTIMATION

• Statistics are stored in the system catalog:
  – number of tuples (cardinality)
  – size in pages
  – # distinct keys (when there is an index on the attribute)
  – range (for numeric values)

• The system catalog is updated periodically

• Commercial systems use additional statistics, which provide more accurate estimates:
  – histograms
  – wavelets
REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

```sql
SELECT CONCAT(customer.last_name, ', ', customer.first_name) AS customer,
       address.phone, film.title
FROM rental
INNER JOIN customer ON rental.customer_id = customer.customer_id
INNER JOIN address ON customer.address_id = address.address_id
INNER JOIN inventory ON rental.inventory_id = inventory.inventory_id
INNER JOIN film ON inventory.film_id = film.film_id
WHERE rental.return_date IS NULL
AND rental_date + INTERVAL film.rental_duration DAY < CURRENT_DATE() LIMIT 5;
```
EXAMPLE: COST ESTIMATION

• EMP(ssn, ename, addr, sal, did)
  – 10000 tuples, 1000 pages
• DEPT(did, dname, floor, mgr)
  – 500 tuples, 50 pages
  – 100 distinct values for dname

```
SELECT DISTINCT ename
FROM   Emp E, Dept D
WHERE  E.did = D.did
AND    D.dname = 'Toy';
```
EXAMPLE: COST ESTIMATION

- cost of projection = 20
- intermediate result ~ 20 pages
- cost of selection = 2000
- intermediate result ~ 2000 pages
- cost of SMJ = 3 * (1000 + 50)

buffer size B = 40

π_{ename} \quad \sigma_{dname} = 'Toy'

Sort Merge Join

EMP

DEPT

total I/O cost =
- OUT
- +20
- +20 \{materialize\}
- +2000
- +2000 \{materialize\}
- +3150
= 7550 + OUT

after each operator, we write (materialize) the result to disk
After each operator, we have 2 choices:
• **materialize** the intermediate result before we start the next operator
• **pipeline** the result to the next operator without writing to disk!

We can apply the selection condition as the tuples are generated from the join operator, before writing the full result to disk!
By using pipelining we benefit from:
- no reading/writing to disk of the temporary relation
- overlapping execution of operators

Pipelining is not always possible!

Left-deep join plans allow for fully pipelined evaluation!
COST ESTIMATION W/ PIPELINING

- **cost of projection = 20**
- **cost of selection = 0**
- **cost of SMJ = 3 \times (1000 + 50)**

**buffer size B = 40**

**intermediate result \sim 20 pages**

**intermediate result \sim 2000 pages**

**total I/O cost =**

- **OUT**
- **+20**
- **+20 \{\text{materialize}\}**
- **+0**
- **+0 \{\text{pipeline}\}**
- **+3150**
- **= 3550 + \text{OUT}**

**we pipeline the result after the join operator**
**EXAMPLE: COST ESTIMATION**

- **cost of projection** = 20
- **cost of BNLJ** = 1000 + 1
- **cost of selection** ~ 1

intermediate result ~ 20 pages

buffer size \( B = 40 \)

\( \pi_{ename} \)

\( \sigma_{dname} = \text{‘Toy’} \)

\( \text{DEPT} \)

\( \text{EMP} \)

**total I/O cost** =

- OUT
- +20
- +20 \{materialize\}
- +1001
- +1 \{materialize\}
- +1

= 1043 + OUT