Indexing

CPS 196.3

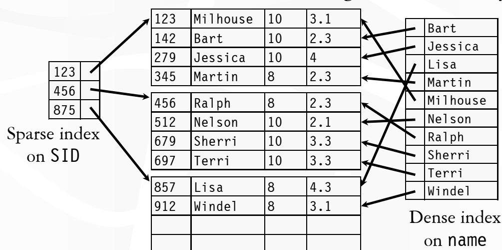
Introduction to Database Systems

Basics

- Given a value, locate the record(s) with this value
  - SELECT * FROM *R* WHERE *A* = *value*;
  - SELECT * FROM *R*, *S* WHERE *R*.*A* = *S*.*B*;
- Other search criteria, e.g.
  - Range search
    SELECT * FROM *R* WHERE *A* > *value*;
  - Keyword search
    database indexing [Search]

Dense and sparse indexes

- Dense: one index entry for each search key value
- Sparse: one index entry for each block
  - Records must be clustered according to the search key



Dense versus sparse indexes

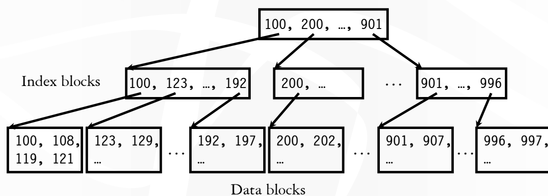
- Index size
  - Sparse index is smaller
- Requirement on records
  - Records must be clustered for sparse index
- Lookup
  - Sparse index is smaller and may fit in memory
  - Dense index can directly tell if a record exists
- Update
  - Easier for sparse index

Primary and secondary indexes

- Primary index
  - Created for the primary key of a table
  - Records are usually clustered according to the primary key
  - Can be sparse
- Secondary index
  - Usually dense
- SQL
  - `PRIMARY KEY` declaration automatically creates a primary index, `UNIQUE` key automatically creates a secondary index
  - Secondary index can be created on non-key attribute(s)
    `CREATE INDEX StudentGPAIndex ON Student(GPA);`

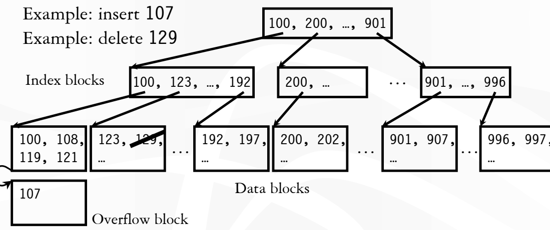
ISAM

- What if an index is still too big?
  - Put a another (sparse) index on top of that!
  - ☞ISAM (Index Sequential Access Method), more or less



Updates with ISAM

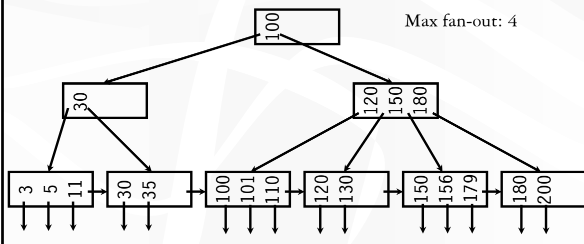
Example: insert 107
Example: delete 129



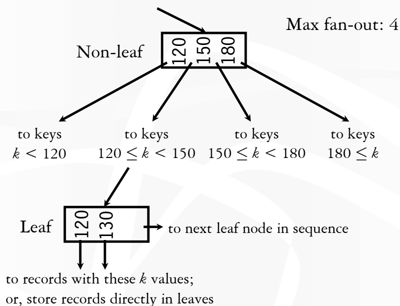
- Overflow chains and empty data blocks degrade performance
  - Worst case: most records go into one long chain

B$^+$-tree

- Balanced (although not perfectly): good performance guarantee
- Disk-based: one node per block; large fan-out



Sample B$^+$-tree nodes



B$^+$-tree balancing properties

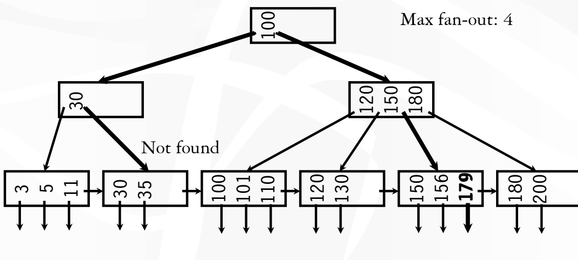
- ❖ All leaves at the same lowest level
- ❖ All nodes at least half full (except root)

	Max # pointers	Max # keys	Min # active pointers	Min # keys
Non-leaf	f	$f-1$	$\lceil f/2 \rceil$	$\lceil f/2 \rceil - 1$
Root	f	$f-1$	2	1
Leaf	f	$f-1$	$\lfloor f/2 \rfloor$	$\lfloor f/2 \rfloor$

Lookups

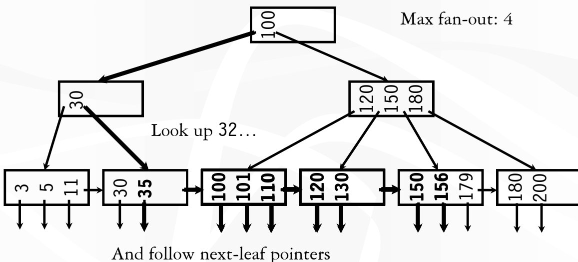
SELECT * FROM R WHERE k = 179;

SELECT * FROM R WHERE k = 32;



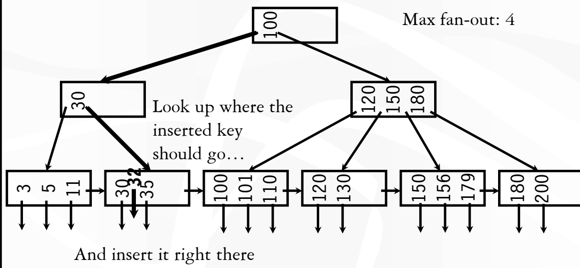
Range query

SELECT * FROM R WHERE k > 32 AND k < 179;



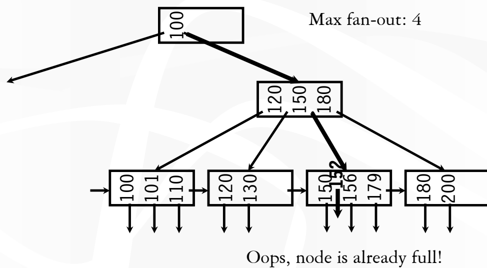
Insertion

❖ Insert a record with search key value 32

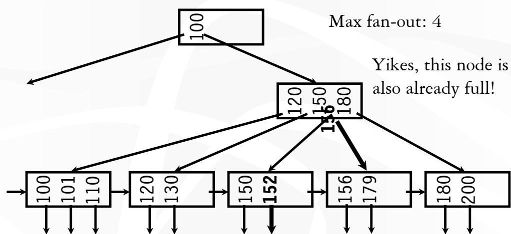


Another insertion example

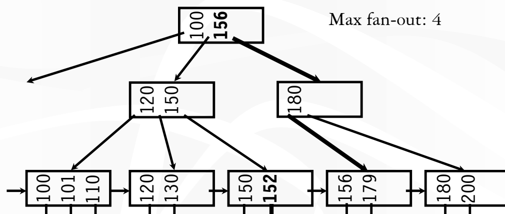
❖ Insert a record with search key value 152



Node splitting



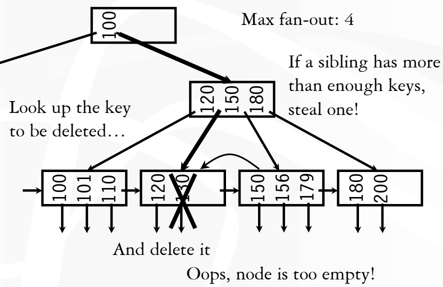
More node splitting



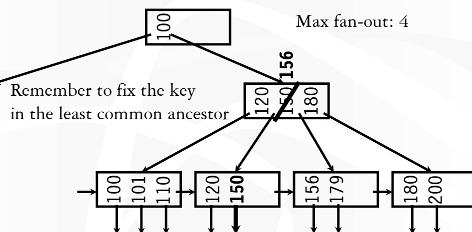
- In the worst case, node splitting can "propagate" all the way up to the root of the tree (not illustrated here)
  - Splitting the root causes the tree to grow "up" by one level

Deletion

- Delete a record with search key value 130

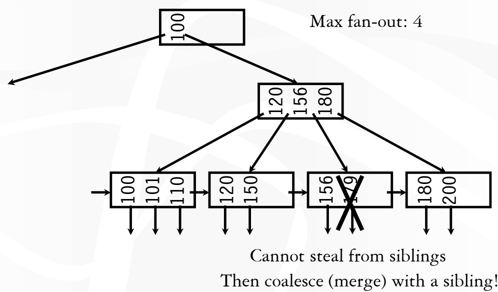


Stealing from a sibling

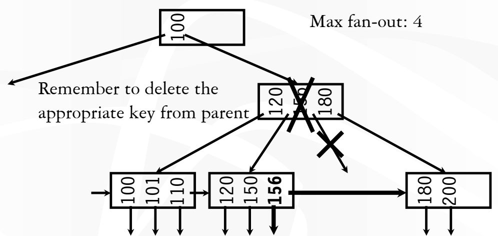


Another deletion example

- ❖ Delete a record with search key value 179



Coalescing



- ❖ Deletion can "propagate" all the way up to the root of the tree (not illustrated here)
  - When the root becomes empty, the tree "shrinks" by one level

Performance analysis

- ❖ How many I/O's are required for each operation?
  - h (more or less), where h is the height of the tree
  - Plus one or two to manipulate actual records
  - Plus $O(h)$ for reorganization (should be very rare if f is large)
  - Minus one if we cache the root in memory
- ❖ How big is h?
  - Roughly $\log_{\text{fan-out}} N$, where N is the number of records
  - B^+-tree properties guarantee that fan-out is least f / 2 for all non-root nodes
  - Fan-out is typically large (in hundreds)—many keys and pointers can fit into one block
  - A 4-level B^+-tree is enough for typical tables

B^+-tree in practice

- Complex reorganization for deletion often is not implemented (e.g., Oracle, Informix)
- Most commercial DBMS use B^+-tree instead of hashing-based indexes because B^+-tree handles range queries

B^+-tree versus ISAM

- ISAM is more static; B^+-tree is more dynamic
- ISAM is more compact (at least initially)
  - Fewer levels and I/O's than B^+-tree
- Overtime, ISAM may not be balanced
  - Cannot provide guaranteed performance as B^+-tree does

B^+-tree versus B-tree

- B-tree: why not store records (or record pointers) in non-leaf nodes?
  - These records can be accessed with fewer I/O's
- Problems?