

**Query Optimization**

CPS 116  
Introduction to Database Systems

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**Announcements (November 20)**

- ❖ Homework #4 (last one and short) assigned today
  - Due next Thursday

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**Query optimization**

- ❖ One logical plan → “best” physical plan
- ❖ Questions
  - How to enumerate possible plans
  - How to estimate costs
  - How to pick the “best” one
- ❖ Often the goal is not getting the optimum plan, but instead avoiding the horrible ones

Any of these will do

1 second      1 minute      1 hour

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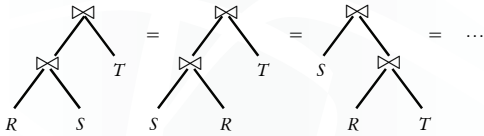
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## Plan enumeration in relational algebra <sup>4</sup>

❖ Apply relational algebra equivalences

☞ Join reordering:  $\times$  and  $\bowtie$  are associative and commutative (except column ordering, but that is unimportant)




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## More relational algebra equivalences <sup>5</sup>

- ❖ Convert  $\sigma_p \times$  to/from  $\bowtie_p$ :  $\sigma_p(R \times S) = R \bowtie_p S$
- ❖ Merge/split  $\sigma$ :  $\sigma_{p_1}(\sigma_{p_2} R) = \sigma_{p_1 \wedge p_2} R$
- ❖ Merge/split  $\pi$ :  $\pi_{L_1}(\pi_{L_2} R) = \pi_{L_1} R$ , where  $L_1 \subseteq L_2$
- ❖ Push down/pull up  $\sigma$ :  
 $\sigma_{p \wedge pr \wedge ps}(R \bowtie_p S) = (\sigma_{pr} R) \bowtie_{p \wedge p'} (\sigma_{ps} S)$ , where
  - $pr$  is a predicate involving only  $R$  columns
  - $ps$  is a predicate involving only  $S$  columns
  - $p$  and  $p'$  are predicates involving both  $R$  and  $S$  columns
- ❖ Push down  $\pi$ :  $\pi_L(\sigma_p R) = \pi_L(\sigma_p(\pi_{L'} R))$ , where
  - $L'$  is the set of columns referenced by  $p$  that are not in  $L$
- ❖ Many more (seemingly trivial) equivalences...
  - Can be systematically used to transform a plan to new ones

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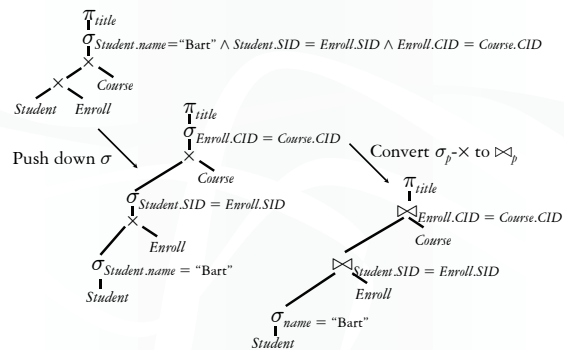
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## Relational query rewrite example <sup>6</sup>




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## Heuristics-based query optimization <sup>7</sup>

- ❖ Start with a logical plan
- ❖ Push selections/projections down as much as possible
  - Why?
  - Why not?
- ❖ Join smaller relations first, and avoid cross product
  - Why?
  - Why not?
- ❖ Convert the transformed logical plan to a physical plan (by choosing appropriate physical operators)

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## SQL query rewrite <sup>8</sup>

- ❖ More complicated—subqueries and views divide a query into nested “blocks”
  - Processing each block separately forces particular join methods and join order
  - Even if the plan is optimal for each block, it may not be optimal for the entire query
- ❖ Unnest query: convert subqueries/views to joins
- ☞ We can just deal with select-project-join queries
  - Where the clean rules of relational algebra apply

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## SQL query rewrite example <sup>9</sup>

- ❖ `SELECT name  
FROM Student  
WHERE SID = ANY (SELECT SID FROM Enroll);`
- ❖ `SELECT name  
FROM Student, Enroll  
WHERE Student.SID = Enroll.SID;`

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## Dealing with correlated subqueries <sup>10</sup>

- ❖ 

```
SELECT CID FROM Course
WHERE title LIKE 'CPS%'
AND min_enroll > (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM Enroll
                  WHERE Enroll.CID = Course.CID);
```
- ❖ 

```
SELECT CID
FROM Course, (SELECT CID, COUNT(*) AS cnt
              FROM Enroll GROUP BY CID) t
WHERE t.CID = Course.CID AND min_enroll > t.cnt
AND title LIKE 'CPS%';
```

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## “Magic” decorrelation <sup>11</sup>

- ❖ 

```
SELECT CID FROM Course
WHERE title LIKE 'CPS%'
AND min_enroll > (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM Enroll
                  WHERE Enroll.CID = Course.CID);
```
- ❖ 

```
CREATE VIEW Supp_Course AS
SELECT * FROM Course WHERE title LIKE 'CPS%';
```

 Process the outer query without the subquery
- CRFATF VTFW Magic AS  

```
SELECT DISTINCT CID FROM Supp_Course;
```

 Collect bindings
- CREATE VIEW DS AS  

```
(SELECT Enroll.CID, COUNT(*) AS cnt
 FROM Magic, Enroll WHERE Magic.CID = Enroll.CID
 GROUP BY Enroll.CID) UNION
(SELECT Magic.CID, 0 AS cnt FROM Magic
 WHERE Magic.CID NOT IN (SELECT CID FROM Enroll));
```

 Evaluate the subquery with bindings
- ```
SELECT Supp_Course.CID FROM Supp_Course, DS
WHERE Supp_Course.CID = DS.CID
AND min_enroll > DS.cnt;
```

 Finally, refine the outer query

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## Heuristics- vs. cost-based optimization <sup>12</sup>

- ❖ Heuristics-based optimization
  - Apply heuristics to rewrite plans into cheaper ones
- ❖ Cost-based optimization
  - Rewrite logical plan to combine “blocks” as much as possible
  - Optimize query block by block
    - Enumerate logical plans (already covered)
    - Estimate the cost of plans
    - Pick a plan with acceptable cost
  - Focus: select-project-join blocks

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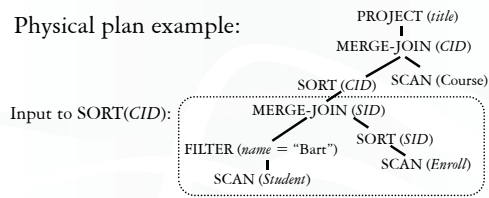
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## Cost estimation

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Physical plan example:



- ❖ We have: cost estimation for each operator
  - Example:  $SORT(CID)$  takes  $2 \times B(input)$ 
    - But what is  $B(input)$ ?
- ❖ We need: size of intermediate results

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## Selections with equality predicates

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- ❖  $Q: \sigma_{A=v} R$
- ❖ Suppose the following information is available
  - Size of  $R$ :  $|R|$
  - Number of distinct  $A$  values in  $R$ :  $|\pi_A R|$
- ❖ Assumptions
  - Values of  $A$  are uniformly distributed in  $R$
  - Values of  $v$  in  $Q$  are uniformly distributed over all  $R.A$  values
- ❖  $|Q| \approx |R| / |\pi_A R|$ 
  - Selectivity factor of  $(A = v)$  is  $1 / |\pi_A R|$

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## Conjunctive predicates

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- ❖  $Q: \sigma_{A=u \text{ and } B=v} R$
- ❖ Additional assumptions
  - $(A = u)$  and  $(B = v)$  are independent
    - Counterexample: major and advisor
  - No “over”-selection
    - Counterexample:  $A$  is the key
- ❖  $|Q| \approx |R| / (|\pi_A R| \cdot |\pi_B R|)$ 
  - Reduce total size by all selectivity factors

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## Negated and disjunctive predicates

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- ❖  $Q: \sigma_{A \neq v} R$ 
  - $|Q| \approx |R| \cdot (1 - 1/|\pi_A R|)$ 
    - Selectivity factor of  $\neg p$  is  $(1 - \text{selectivity factor of } p)$
- ❖  $Q: \sigma_{A = u \text{ or } B = v} R$ 
  - $|Q| \approx |R| \cdot (1/|\pi_A R| + 1/|\pi_B R|)$
  - $|Q| \approx$

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## Range predicates

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- ❖  $Q: \sigma_{A > v} R$
- ❖ Not enough information!
  - Just pick, say,  $|Q| \approx |R| \cdot 1/3$
- ❖ With more information
  - Largest  $RA$  value:  $\text{high}(RA)$
  - Smallest  $RA$  value:  $\text{low}(RA)$
  - $|Q| \approx |R| \cdot (\text{high}(RA) - v) / (\text{high}(RA) - \text{low}(RA))$
  - In practice: sometimes the second highest and lowest are used instead

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## Two-way equi-join

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- ❖  $Q: R(A, B) \bowtie S(A, C)$
- ❖ Assumption: containment of value sets
  - Every tuple in the “smaller” relation (one with fewer distinct values for the join attribute) joins with some tuple in the other relation
  - That is, if  $|\pi_A R| \leq |\pi_A S|$  then  $\pi_A R \subseteq \pi_A S$
  - Certainly not true in general
  - But holds in the common case of foreign key joins
- ❖  $|Q| \approx |R| \cdot |S| / \max(|\pi_A R|, |\pi_A S|)$ 
  - Selectivity factor of  $RA = SA$  is  $1 / \max(|\pi_A R|, |\pi_A S|)$

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## Multiway equi-join

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- ❖  $Q: R(A, B) \bowtie S(B, C) \bowtie T(C, D)$
- ❖ What is the number of distinct  $C$  values in the join of  $R$  and  $S$ ?
- ❖ Assumption: preservation of value sets
  - A non-join attribute does not lose values from its set of possible values
  - That is, if  $A$  is in  $R$  but not  $S$ , then  $\pi_A(R \bowtie S) = \pi_A R$
  - Certainly not true in general
  - But holds in the common case of foreign key joins (for value sets from the referencing table)

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## Multiway equi-join (cont'd)

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- ❖  $Q: R(A, B) \bowtie S(B, C) \bowtie T(C, D)$
- ❖ Start with the product of relation sizes
  - $|R| \cdot |S| \cdot |T|$
- ❖ Reduce the total size by the selectivity factor of each join predicate
  - $R.B = S.B: 1 / \max(|\pi_B R|, |\pi_B S|)$
  - $S.C = T.C: 1 / \max(|\pi_C S|, |\pi_C T|)$
  - $|Q| \approx (|R| \cdot |S| \cdot |T|) / (\max(|\pi_B R|, |\pi_B S|) \cdot \max(|\pi_C S|, |\pi_C T|))$

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## Cost estimation: summary

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- ❖ Using similar ideas, we can estimate the size of projection, duplicate elimination, union, difference, aggregation (with grouping)
- ❖ Lots of assumptions and very rough estimation
  - Accurate estimate is not needed
  - Maybe okay if we overestimate or underestimate consistently
  - May lead to very nasty optimizer "hints"  
`SELECT * FROM Student WHERE GPA > 3.9;`  
`SELECT * FROM Student WHERE GPA > 3.9 AND GPA > 3.9;`
- ❖ Not covered: better estimation using histograms

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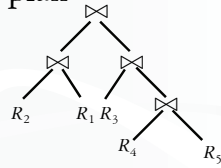
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## Search for the best plan

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- ❖ Huge search space
- ❖ “Bushy” plan example:



- ❖ Just considering different join orders, there are  $(2n - 2)! / (n - 1)$  bushy plans for  $R_1 \bowtie \dots \bowtie R_n$ 
  - 30240 for  $n = 6$
- ❖ And there are more if we consider:
  - Multiway joins
  - Different join methods
  - Placement of selection and projection operators

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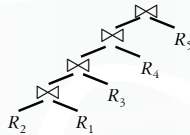
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## Left-deep plans

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- ❖ Heuristic: consider only “left-deep” plans, in which only the left child can be a join
  - Tend to be better than plans of other shapes, because many join algorithms scan inner (right) relation multiple times—you will not want it to be a complex subtree
- ❖ How many left-deep plans are there for  $R_1 \bowtie \dots \bowtie R_n$ ?

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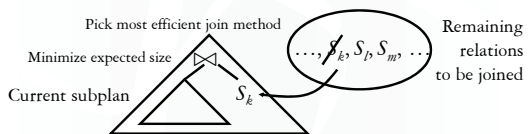
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## A greedy algorithm

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- ❖  $S_1, \dots, S_n$ 
  - Say selections have been pushed down; i.e.,  $S_i = \sigma_p R_i$
- ❖ Start with the pair  $S_i, S_j$  with the smallest estimated size for  $S_i \bowtie S_j$
- ❖ Repeat until no relation is left:
  - Pick  $S_k$  from the remaining relations such that the join of  $S_k$  and the current result yields an intermediate result of the smallest size




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## A dynamic programming approach <sup>25</sup>

- ❖ Generate optimal plans bottom-up
  - Pass 1: Find the best single-table plans (for each table)
  - Pass 2: Find the best two-table plans (for each pair of tables) by combining best single-table plans
  - ...
  - Pass  $k$ : Find the best  $k$ -table plans (for each combination of  $k$  tables) by combining two smaller best plans found in previous passes
  - ...
- ❖ Rationale: Any subplan of an optimal plan must also be optimal (otherwise, just replace the subplan to get a better overall plan)
- ☞ Well, not quite...

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## The need for “interesting order” <sup>26</sup>

- ❖ Example:  $R(A, B) \bowtie S(A, C) \bowtie T(A, D)$
- ❖ Best plan for  $R \bowtie S$ : hash join (beats sort-merge join)
- ❖ Best overall plan: sort-merge join  $R$  and  $S$ , and then sort-merge join with  $T$ 
  - Subplan of the optimal plan is not optimal!
- ❖ Why?
  - The result of the sort-merge join of  $R$  and  $S$  is sorted on  $A$
  - This is an interesting order that can be exploited by later processing (e.g., join, duplicate elimination, GROUP BY, ORDER BY, etc.)!

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## Dealing with interesting orders <sup>27</sup>

- ❖ When picking the best plan
  - Comparing their costs is not enough
    - Plans are not totally ordered by cost anymore
  - Comparing interesting orders is also needed
    - Plans are now partially ordered
    - Plan  $X$  is better than plan  $Y$  if
      - Cost of  $X$  is lower than  $Y$
      - Interesting orders produced by  $X$  subsume those produced by  $Y$
- ❖ Need to keep a set of optimal plans for joining every combination of  $k$  tables
  - At most one for each interesting order

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## Summary

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- ❖ Relational algebra equivalence
- ❖ SQL rewrite tricks
- ❖ Heuristics-based optimization
- ❖ Cost-based optimization
  - Need statistics to estimate sizes of intermediate results
  - Greedy approach
  - Dynamic programming approach

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