Database Tuning, ITU, Spring 2009

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1 Representation of relations

In this problem we consider a relation `R(a,b)`, where `a` and `b` are integers (of type `INT`). We let $B > 1$ denote the number of integers that fits in a disk block. Suppose that R consists of N tuples, $\{(a_1, b_1), \ldots, (a_N, b_N)\}$, sorted such that $a_1 < a_2 < a_3 < \cdots < a_N$. There are two natural ways of representing the relation on disk, ordered according to `a`:

Horizontal: $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, \ldots, a_N, b_N$ (this is the standard order).

Vertical: $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_N, b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_N$.

Some DBMSs allow the user to specify that vertical order should be used (this is an example of *vertical partitioning*). We assume that there are no updates to the data, and it is thus stored as a sequential file. The size N of the relation is known.

a) How many I/Os are needed to read the K smallest values of `a`, i.e., $a_1, \ldots, a_K$, in each of the two representations? State your answers as functions of K and B (exact numbers, no asymptotic notation).

b) How many I/Os are needed to read the K smallest values of `b` in each of the two representations? State your answers as functions of N, K, and B (exact numbers, no asymptotic notation).

c) Assume that there in no index on `R`. How many I/Os are needed to find the tuple with a particular value of `a` in each of the two representations? State the worst case number of I/Os for the best algorithms you can think of (exact numbers, no asymptotic notation).

We now consider a third alternative representation, the *multi-sorted* representation. Assume that the number of tuples in `R` is a perfect square, i.e., that $\sqrt{N}$ is an integer. The idea is to change the horizontal representation by splitting it into $\sqrt{N}$ intervals of $\sqrt{N}$ tuples, and sorting each interval according to the value of `b`. An example instance with $N = 9$ is the following (we mark tuples by parentheses and intervals by square brackets for readability):

$$[(3,2),(2,3),(5,5)],[(5,4),(13,9),(11,10)],[(23,1),(19,6),(17,14)]$$

d) Show that in the multi-sorted representation, it is possible to search for a particular value of `a`, as well as a particular value of `b`, in $O(\sqrt{N}\log N)$ I/Os (without any index). You should describe search algorithms achieving this I/O bound (or better). Can you improve the representation, in terms of search time for particular values?

2 B$^+$-trees

Consider the following setting: We have a disk with block size 2404 bytes, and want to construct a B$^+$-tree index on an integer attribute of a relation R. An integer occupies 8 bytes of space, and a pointer uses 4 bytes of space. The size of a tuple in R is 100 bytes. The leaves of the B$^+$-tree contain pointers to the tuples of the relation, i.e., the index is dense. Each node in the B$^+$-tree is contained in 1 disk block.

a) What is the largest possible degree of an internal node in the B$^+$-tree?

b) In the above setting, what is the size of the largest relation that can be indexed by a B$^+$-tree with two levels of internal nodes?

In GUW it is described how keys can be deleted from a B$^+$-tree. A deletion may require several I/Os in addition to those needed for locating the key. An alternative strategy would be to use *tombstones* to mark keys as deleted. This could always be done using one I/O.

c) Discuss possible disadvantages of the tombstone approach. Consider:

- The space occupied by deleted keys.
- The time complexity of searching for a key in the B$^+$-tree.
- The time complexity of range queries.