

Decision support, OLAP

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Reading: RG25, [WOS04, sec. 1+2]



Today's lecture

- Multi-dimensional data and OLAP.
- Bitmap indexing.
- Materialized views: Use and maintenance.
- Some other uses of sampling.

Background

- Data of an organization is often a gold mine!
 - Data can identify useful patterns that can be used to form a proper business strategy.
- Two main approaches:
 - Data mining: Automated “mining” of patterns.
 - OLAP: Interactive investigation of data. (This lecture.)
- OLAP = On-Line Analytic Processing
OLTP = On-Line Transaction Processing



Multi-dimensional data model

- Tuples with d attributes can be viewed as points in a d -dimensional "cube".
- **Example:** (DBT,'John Doe',13) can be viewed as the point with coordinates DBT, 'John Doe', and 13 along the dimensions Course, Name, and Grade.
- Natural view of data, specifically for *aggregation* queries. Dimensions often have several *granularities*.
- **Example:** We may want to compute the average grade of all SDT courses.



Sample OLAP query (in SQL)

```
SELECT SUM(S.sales)
FROM   Sales S, Times T, Locations L
WHERE  S.timeid=T.timeid AND S.locid=L.locid
GROUP BY T.year, L.state
```

```
SELECT SUM(S.sales)
FROM   Sales S, Times T
WHERE  S.timeid=T.timeid
GROUP BY T.year
```

```
SELECT SUM(S.sales)
FROM   Sales S, Location L
WHERE  S.timeid=L.timeid
GROUP BY L.state
```

Get fine-grained
aggregate data

Get dimension
"coordinates"
+ aggregates



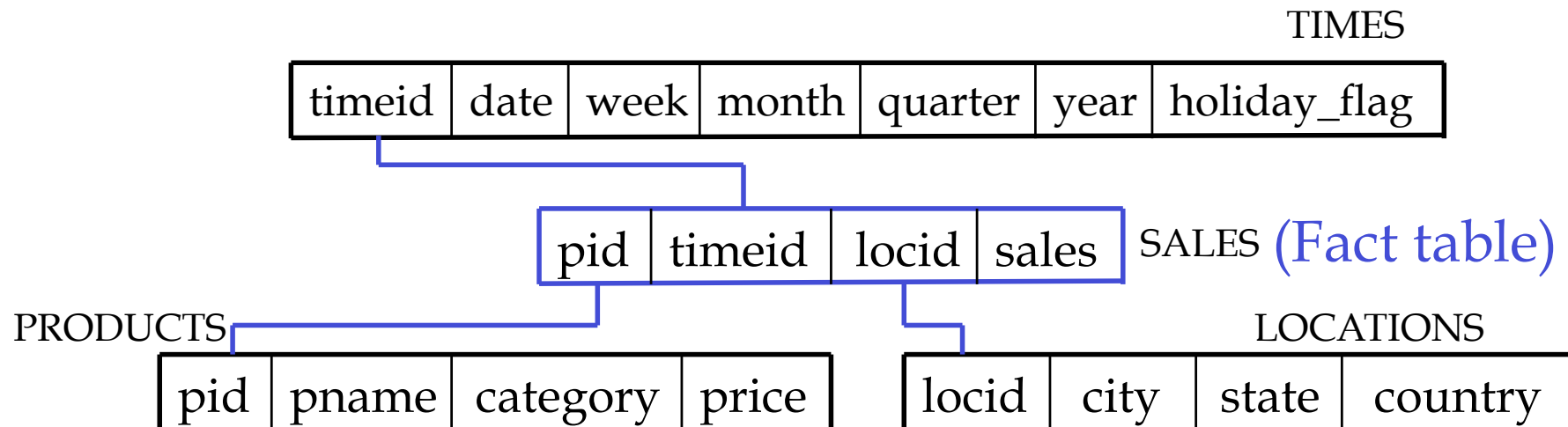
Typical OLAP query

- Selection on one or more dimensions (e.g. select only sales to a certain customer group).
- Grouping by one or more dimensions (e.g., group sales by quarter).
- Aggregation over each group (e.g. total sales revenue).



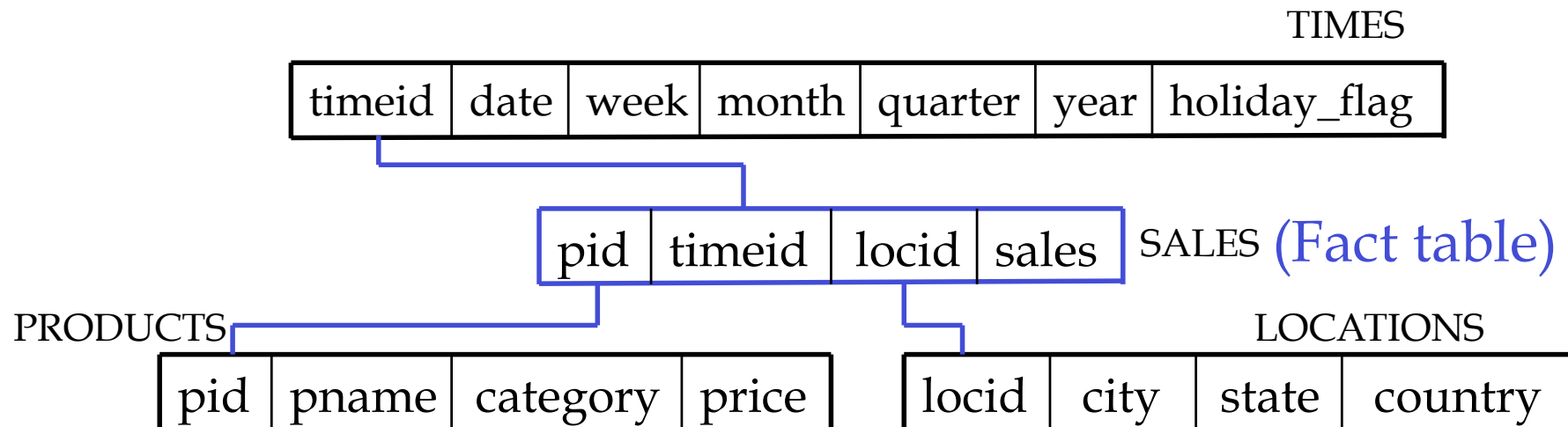
Relational set-up of OLAP

- **Star schema:** A “fact table”, plus a number of “dimension tables” whose keys are foreign keys of the fact table.
- Example from RG’s slides:



Problem session

- How would you efficiently answer the query: *"Find the total sales of raincoats for each location last year."*
- You may assume suitable indexes.



Queries on star schemas

Special considerations, 1:

- Dimension tables are often small, especially when considering only the tuples matching a select operation.
 - Common assumption that all dimension tables fit in RAM.
 - Complete join can then be made in a single scan of the fact table, using pipelining.

Queries on star schemas

Special considerations, 2:

- Number of relations can be large - join size estimation is difficult.
- Two interesting cases:
 - If the join with some dimension table results in much fewer tuples than in the fact table, we may perform this join first using an index (if available).
 - Otherwise we may use the pipelined join that scans the whole fact table.

Queries on star schemas

Special considerations, 3:

- Often data can be assumed to be *static* (a snapshot of the operational data). This means that we have the option to *precompute*. Will be used in two ways:
 - Indexing
 - Pre-aggregation

Indexing low cardinality attributes

- Suppose there are only 4 different locations in our previous example.
- Then we may represent the locations of N fact table tuples using only $2N$ bits.
- However, an (unclustered) index on location seems to require at least $N \log N$ bits.
- Can we get by reading less data?



Basic bitmap index

- For each possible value (of "location") and each tuple, store a bit that is 1 iff the tuple contains the given value.
- Store these bits **ordered by column**.
- In the context of this example, the bitmap index is a **join index** that can be used when computing joins.
- How?

L1?	L2?	L3?	L4?	RID
0	0	1	0	1
1	0	0	0	2
1	0	0	0	3
0	1	0	0	4
0	0	0	1	5

Gain of bitmap indexes

- How much can **at most** be gained by using bitmap indexes to do a star join (with a selection on each dimension table), compared to using a space-efficient B-tree index?
 - Theoretically 1 bit/tuple vs $\log N$ bits/tuple.
 - Typically 1 bit/tuple vs 32 bits/tuple.
- Main case where there is no gain:
 - A single dimension is very selective.
 - (Usually only the case for high cardinality attributes.)



Compressed bitmap indexes

- If there are many possible values for an attribute (it has "high cardinality"), basic bitmap indexing is not space efficient (nor time efficient).
- **Observation:** A column will have few 1s, on average. It should be possible to "compress" long sequences of 0s.
- **How to compress?** Usual compression algorithms consume too much computation time. Need simpler approach.



Word-aligned hybrid (WAH) coding

[WOS04]

- In a nutshell:
 - Split the bitmap B into pieces of 31 bits.
 - A 32-bit word in the encoding contains one of the following, depending on the value of its first bit:
 - A number specifying the length of an interval of bits where all bits of B are zeros.
 - A piece of B (31 bits).
 - The conjunction ("AND") or disjunction ("OR") of two compressed bitmaps can be computed in linear time ($O(1)$ ops/word).

WAH analysis

- Let N be the number of rows of the indexed relation, and c the cardinality of the indexed attribute.
- At most N WAH words will encode a piece of the bitmap.
- Reasonable assumption:
 - All (or most) gaps between consecutive 1s can be encoded using 31 bits.
 - Thus, at most $N+c$ gaps.
- Total space usage: $2N+c$ words.
- Compares favorably to B-trees.



Bitmap index in Oracle

- `CREATE BITMAP INDEX ON sales(locations.state)`
- Internal representation is another compressed bitmap format (BBC).
- Documentation recommends use mainly for low-cardinality attributed, and systems with low concurrency (crude locking mechanism).
- **Tip:** High cardinality can be mapped to low cardinality using a function, e.g. `CREATE BITMAP INDEX ON R(x/1000)`.



Join indexing

- The book talks about join indexes in two distinct senses:
 - Precomputing the join result (“basic join index”).
 - Precomputing *projections* of the join result onto tuples of pairs of relations.
- In both cases, compact row IDs (rids) are used to represent the tuples forming each result tuple.
- It is for the latter that we can use bitmap indexing with advantage – use to perform rid intersection.



Bitmap join index in Oracle

- Similar to defining a join!
 - A join index is an index on a join result.
- Example:
A bitmap join index that allow us to find the sales in a given state:

```
CREATE BITMAP INDEX ON
    sales(locations.state)
FROM sales, locations
WHERE sales.locid=locations.locid
```
- Can even index multiple attributes in a multi-way join.



Next: Materialized views

- An SQL *view* is similar to a macro.
- Example:

```
CREATE VIEW MyView AS
SELECT *
FROM     Sales S, Times T, Locations L
WHERE    S.timeid=T.timeid AND
         S.locid=L.locid
```
- A query on MyView is transformed into a query that performs the join of Sales, Times, and Locations.
- In contrast, a **materialized view** *physically* stores the query result. Additionally: can be indexed!



Using a materialized view

1. DBA grants permission:

```
GRANT CREATE MATERIALIZED VIEW TO hr
```

2. Materialized view is created:

```
CREATE MATERIALIZED VIEW SalaryByLocation AS  
SELECT location_id, country_id, SUM(salary) AS s  
FROM Employees NATURAL JOIN Departments  
      NATURAL JOIN Locations  
GROUP BY location_id, country_id
```

3. Materialized view is used:

```
SELECT country_id, SUM(salary) AS salary  
FROM SalaryByLocation  
GROUP BY country_id
```

Factor 10 faster than direct query on
Oracle XEs example DB.



Automatically using mat. views

- Suppose a user does not know about the materialized view and writes directly

```
SELECT location_id, country_id, SUM(salary) AS s
FROM Employees NATURAL JOIN Departments
      NATURAL JOIN Locations
GROUP BY country_id
```

- A smart DBMS will realize that this can be rewritten to a query on the materialized view. (Disabled in Oracle XE...)
- Rewrite capability is a key technique in relational OLAP systems.

"Refreshing" a materialized view

- Any change to the underlying tables may give rise to a change in the materialized view. There are at least three options:
 - Update for every change ("ON COMMIT")
 - Update only on request ("ON DEMAND")
 - Update when the view is accessed ("lazy")
- RG describes a way of refreshing where recomputing the defining query is often not necessary ("FAST"). ((board))



Materialized views in Oracle

- `CREATE MATERIALIZED VIEW myView [REFRESH <mode>] AS (SELECT ...)`
- Subset of choices for refresh mode:
 - `REFRESH FORCE (default)`
 - `REFRESH FAST`
 - `REFRESH ON COMMIT`
 - `REFRESH ON DEMAND`
 - `NEVER REFRESH`
- Can also schedule periodic refreshing (e.g. refresh every night).



On-line aggregation

- For aggregates like sums and averages, the result on a sample can be used to estimate the result on all data.
- Same principle as used in opinion polls!
- Can give statistical guarantees on an answer, e.g. "Answer is 3200 ± 180 with 95% probability".
- The longer the query runs, the smaller the uncertainty gets.
- Possibly ok to terminate before precise answer is known.



"Top K" queries

- Suppose, in a given query result, we are only interested in the K tuples with the largest values of attribute A.

- In Oracle:

```
SELECT *  
FROM (SELECT ... ORDER BY A DESC)  
WHERE rownum<=K.
```

- If the DBMS knew the "cutoff" value for A, we could add this as a condition, possibly reducing dramatically the amount of data to be considered.
- Sampling approach: Estimate (conservatively) the right cutoff based on the sample.



Exercises

Please look at these two exercises from RG (to be discussed later):

- 25.8.
- 25.10, 2) and 4).

Schema:

Locations (locid, city, state, country)

Products (pid, pname, category, price)

Sales (pid, timeid, locid, sales)