Overview of Storage and Indexing
Storing Data: Disks and Files

Chapters 8-9

Cost Model for Our Analysis

We ignore CPU costs, for simplicity:

- **B:** The number of data pages
- **R:** Number of records per page
- **D:** (Average) time to read or write disk page
- Measuring number of page I/O's ignores gains of pre-fetching a sequence of pages; thus, even I/O cost is only approximated.
- Average-case analysis; based on several simplistic assumptions.
- The size of the data entry is 10%of the corresponding record

☛ *Good enough to show the overall trends!*

Comparing File Organizations

- Heap files (random order; insert at eof)
- Sorted files, sorted on <*age, sal*>
- Clustered B+ tree file, Alternative (1), search key <*age, sal*>
- Heap file with unclustered B + tree index on search key <*age, sal*>
- Heap file with unclustered hash index on search key <*age, sal*>

Operations to Compare

- Scan: Fetch all records from disk
- Equality search
- Range selection
- Insert a record
- Delete a record

Assumptions in Our Analysis

- Heap Files:
  - Equality selection on key; exactly one match.
- Sorted Files:
  - Files compacted after deletions.
- Indexes:
  - Alt (2), (3): data entry size = 10% size of record
  - Hash: No overflow buckets.
    - 80% page occupancy => File size = 1.25 data size
  - Tree: 67% occupancy (this is typical).
    - Implies file size = 1.5 data size

Cost of Operations

	(a) Scan	(b) Equality	(c) Range	(d) Insert	(e) Delete
(1) Heap	BD	0.5BD	BD	2D	Search +D
(2) Sorted	BD	Dlog $_2$B	D(log $_2$ B + # pgs with match recs)	Search + BD	Search +BD
(3) Clustered	1.5BD	Dlog $_F$ 1.5B	D(log $_F$ 1.5B + #·pgs w. match recs)	Search + D	Search +D
(4) Unclust. Tree index	BD(R+0.15)	D(1 + log $_F$ 0.15B)	D(log $_F$ 0.15B + # match recs)	Search + 2D	Search + 2D
(5) Unclust. Hash index	BD(R+0.125)	2D	BD	Search + 2D	Search + 2D

☛ *Several assumptions underlie these (rough) estimates!*

Understanding the Workload

- For each query in the workload:
  - Which relations does it access?
  - Which attributes are retrieved?
  - Which attributes are involved in selection/join conditions? How selective are these conditions likely to be?
- For each update in the workload:
  - Which attributes are involved in selection/join conditions? How selective are these conditions likely to be?
  - The type of update (INSERT/DELETE/UPDATE), and the attributes that are affected.

Choice of Indexes

- What indexes should we create?
  - Which relations should have indexes? What field(s) should be the search key? Should we build several indexes?
- For each index, what kind of an index should it be?
  - Clustered? Hash/tree?

Choice of Indexes (Contd.)

- One approach: Consider the most important queries in turn. Consider the best plan using the current indexes, and see if a better plan is possible with an additional index. If so, create it.
  - Obviously, this implies that we must understand how a DBMS evaluates queries and creates query evaluation plans!
  - For now, we discuss simple 1-table queries.
- Before creating an index, must also consider the impact on updates in the workload!
  - Trade-off: Indexes can make queries go faster, updates slower. Require disk space, too.

Index Selection Guidelines

- Attributes in WHERE clause are candidates for index keys.
  - Exact match condition suggests hash index.
  - Range query suggests tree index.
    - Clustering is especially useful for range queries; can also help on equality queries if there are many duplicates.

Index Selection Guidelines

- Multi-attribute search keys should be considered when a WHERE clause contains several conditions.
  - Order of attributes is important for range queries.
  - Such indexes can sometimes enable index-only strategies for important queries.
    - For index-only strategies, clustering is not important!

- Try to choose indexes that benefit as many queries as possible. Since only one index can be clustered per relation, choose it based on important queries that would benefit the most from clustering.