Exercises Data Warehousing
Indexing

Solutions

1. Consider the following relation Cars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opel</td>
<td>Corsa</td>
<td>Grey</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opel</td>
<td>Corsa</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peugeot</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Construct a bitmap index for the attributes Brand and Color for this table.

Solution

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<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opel</td>
<td>Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opel</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peugeot</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Indicate how these two bitmap indices can be used to answer the query: Give the total number of red Opel cars with a medium risk score.

Solution: First we intersect the bitmap for Opel with the bitmap index for Red by taking the logical AND of the bitmaps, resulting in the bitmap: (0 1 0 0). Then, for all 1-entries, we directly access the corresponding tuple in the relation, check the condition Risk=medium, and if this condition is satisfied, we count the tuple. Hence, in this case, we access the second tuple only. As the tuple satisfies the condition, it is counted. The final result 1 is returned.

2. Consider the following Star schema for a ROLAP database. A fact \((c, p, s, up, q, d)\) represents that customer \(c\) bought \(q\) units of product \(p\) in store \(s\) at unit price \(up\) and received a discount \(d\).

(a) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the following indices; for instance, describe under what circumstances and for which types of queries are these indices interesting.

i. a bitmap join index for the attribute country from the table Client into the fact table (mapping countries to tuples in the fact table that are about this country);

Solution: The advantage of this index is that it will speed up queries that slice on a country as it will allow to immediately select the disk blocks in which facts are stored that are needed to answer the query. One caveat, however: if there is only an index on country, it is likely that this index will not be sufficiently selective because, depending on the block size, every block may contain every country. Hence, in such a situation, unless the index can be used in combination with other bitmap or bitmap-join indices, the index will not be helpful. So, in summary, this index is probably only useful in combination with other bitmap indices.

ii. a bitmap index on table Client for the attribute gender; and,

Solution: Again a similar argumentation as for the previous index applies, because there are only two possible values for gender. Therefore, a bitmap index on gender will only be useful in combination with other bitmap indices on the same table, such as for instance on city.
iii. a bitmap index for the attribute unit_price in table Fact.

**Solution:** This index is clearly suboptimal as there will be many different values in unit_price. In such a situation it is always better to use for instance a btree index. Furthermore, in this case unit_price is a measure, not a dimension. Hence it will be unlikely that there will be many queries making selections on the basis of unit_price, which renders an index on this attribute useless.

(b) Consider the following query:

```sql
SELECT Client.Gender, SUM(Fact.quantity)
FROM Fact, Client
WHERE Fact.CID=Client.CID AND
  (Client.country = "The Netherlands"
   OR Client.country = "Belgium")
group by Client.Gender
```

Select one of the indices from (a) and explain how this index may help to answer this query efficiently.

**Solution:** The only candidate is the first bitmap-join index. This index allows to select only those facts that are about Belgium and The Netherlands. For these facts, however, we will have to lookup the associated clients in the client dimension table because we need to know the gender in order to get access to the gender. Hence, it is unlikely that any of the indices above will actually help, unless the selection (Client.country = "The Netherlands" OR Client.country = "Belgium") is very selective and there is a (BTree) index on CID in the client table that allows to retrieve tuples in the Client table by CID instead of by a full table scan.

3. Deduplication is an important task in data cleaning. To do deduplication it is useful to have a measure of distance between string values such as names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. The edit distance is one such distance measure. Compute the edit distance between “Brussel” and “Bruges”.

4. Consider a cube with three dimensions A, B, and C, and one measure M. Suppose that the complete cube needs to be materialized for the aggregation function M. That is, given the base table B(IDA, IDB, IDC, M), we need to compute:

```sql
SELECT IDA, IDB, IDC, sum(M)
FROM B
GROUP BY CUBE(IDA, IDB, IDC)
```

Show how you could apply the pipe-sort algorithm to compute the cube. Assume that sorting a relation X takes SORT(X) time, and scanning the table takes FTS(X) (FTS stands for “full table scan”). Express the time needed by the query plan developed by the pipe-sort algorithm with the time needed by a brute-force solution that computes the aggregations for all grouping sets separately. What is the gain? (Express costs and gain in terms of SORT(X) and FTS(X) for X any of the aggregation tables constructed along the way)