CS165 Project for Fall 2017

|| Overview

The goal of the project is to design and build a main-memory optimized column-store database system.

By the end of the project you will have designed, implemented, and evaluated several key elements of a modern data system and you will have experienced several design tradeoffs in the same way they are experienced in all major data industry labs.

This is a heavy but fun project! We will also point to several open research problems throughout the semester that may be studied on top of the class project and that you may decide to take on as a research project if you like.

The project runs throughout the whole semester. There are a total of five milestones with specific expected software deliverables. The deliverables will be tested using predefined automated tests for functionality and, as extra credit, performance. We will provide these tests so you can test your system as you develop it. In addition, you are free to add your own tests throughout the semester to either check for correctness or benchmark performance.

The project aims to create a server-based database that remote users interact with using a query language. We will provide you with starting code that implements the basic client-server functionality, i.e., anything that has to do with how the server communicates with a client over a socket. In addition, we will provide the starting point for a parser of the domain specific language that you need to support. In this way, your focus will be on designing and building the core of the database server, i.e., the essential core data processing algorithms and data structures of a database system.

With the exception of C library calls from standard packages, there will be no use of external libraries in the project. As a general rule, standard packages consist of C packages implementing the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD). If you wish for an exception to this rule for a specific case, please check in with the course staff.

The project involves designing storage methods such as hash tables and B-trees. It also involves creating access methods such as fast scans that are optimized for modern hardware and can utilize features such as CPU prefetching and multi-cores. We expect you to provide main-memory optimized designs and implementation for several core operators of a data system: select, fetch, join, aggregations, and basic math. In addition, the project includes work on supporting updates and efficient execution of workloads that include multiple concurrent queries using scan sharing.

Putting everything together you will have a data system that takes as input the CS165 domain specific query language, which is similar to the language used by modern data system optimizers to describe a physical query plan. The system will be able to run complete select-project-join queries and it will be at least an order of magnitude faster than traditional row-store database systems on analytical workloads.

|| Logistics
**Implementation Language:** The implementation language for the project is C. This is because a low-level language is required to design and build efficient systems as we need to have full control of how we utilize memory and computational resources. (Part of our bonus tasks include using alternative languages.)

**Why not C++:** As a class, logistically it only makes sense to support a single language. We require C instead of C++ because C is the purest language in terms of its low-level control over memory allocation and processor commands. By removing more advanced language constructs such as virtual function tables, lambda expressions, etc., we code in a way that requires constant thought about how our design is being used physically by the processor and memory subsystems.

**Test Machine:** All evaluation and formal testing for this class will occur on our lab machine. In particular, credit for assignments is given when your submitted code runs correctly on our lab machine; no credit is given for assignments which run correctly on your local machine but not on the lab machine. The lab machine will run automated tests multiple times per week and you will receive automated email notifications on the status of your code, and so you will be aware of what tests are passing on the lab machine. This machine is a Debian “Wheezy” Linux machine using kernel version 3.18.11. Tips for debugging why code might not work on the lab machine are given in the starting code distribution and you can also get help with set-up issues at our daily labs.

**Compiler:** gcc 4.7.2 will be used to compile your code on the test machine before running it. You should not rely on any features or functionality that have been added since this version. gcc is generally backward compatible so if you are using an older version of gcc you should be fine but you should confirm this by running your code on the test machine. You are free to use a different compiler on your own machine but it is your own responsibility to make sure that your code compiles on the test machine. Compilation using gcc 4.7.2 can be easily verified through the use of virtual machines to setup an environment identical to the test machine.

**Libraries:** Before using any library, check with the instructor or the TFs. In general, we will not allow any library that has to do with data structures. The reason is that one of the main objectives of the course is to learn about the trade-offs in designing these data structures/algorithms yourself. By controlling the data structures, you have control over every last bit in your system and you can minimize the amount of data your system moves around (which is the primary bottleneck).

**IDE:** You may use any IDE and development environment that you are familiar with. As long as your project compiles on the test machine, everything is OK. We do not support, though, specific IDEs. If you are looking for an IDE, simple yet powerful IDEs include Vim, Emacs, and Sublime Text.

**Evaluation:** Individual deliverables should pass the automated tests on the test machine. However, you will not be judged only on how well your system works; it should be clear that you have designed and implemented the whole system, i.e., you should be able to perform changes on-the-fly, explain design details, etc.

At the end of the semester each student will have a 1-hour meeting with the instructor and a 1-hour meeting with the TFs. In this meeting, each student will demonstrate their system, as well as answer questions about their current design and how their design would change to support alternative functionality. [Tip: From past experience we found that frequent participation in office hours, brainstorming sessions and sections implies that the instructor and the TFs are very well aware of your system and your progress which makes the final evaluation a mere formality for these cases.]

**Collaboration Policy:** The project is an individual project. The final deliverable should be personal, you must write from scratch all the code for your system and all documentation and reports. Discussing design and implementation problems with other students is allowed and encouraged! We will do so in the class as well and during office hours, labs and brainstorming sessions.
Late Days Policy: We allow for 1000 late days or until Harvard requires us to upload your grade! The more input you give us, the more we can help you learn. On the project website and in the project description you can find a detailed time-schedule that we propose you follow. With the exception of the midway check-in (which is a hard deadline), the rest is a “suggested schedule” that will allow you to spread the work throughout the semester and to have sufficient time for each milestone based on the complexity and the work required at each phase of the project. This is an involved project that requires commitment through the entire semester and cannot be done in 2-3 weeks at the end. Not submitting the project milestones on time will have no side effect on your grade, but we will not be able to provide you with any feedback on your progress until we have your design documents and your code.

Note: Experience says that every year a number of students cannot handle the freedom to self-pace, and end up significantly deviating from the schedule. We will send you frequent reminders but you should know that deviating from the schedule by more than a couple of weeks will most likely mean that you will not be able to finish the whole project by the end of the semester.

Midway Check-In: The goal here is to demonstrate that you are having decent progress and mainly to avoid falling behind. By October 10th midnight each student should 1) deliver a design document that describes their intended design for each of the first three milestones (5% of total class grade) and 2) have implemented a project that passes at least the first three tests of the first milestone in the automated testing infrastructure (5% of total class grade). A template of the expected design document is provided online.

The midway check-in deadline is a hard one; no extensions will be given so please do not ask for one unless you think there is a fair reason such as a medical issue.

Design Document and Feedback: For every milestone, once you have a basic design that you think you want to try and before you start implementing it, create a 1-2 page PDF with the design and give it to us for feedback. Evaluation and feedback of design documents (and feedback in general) happens during office hours and labs. We have 1 hour of OH every day and 1 hour of labs so you have 10 hours every week to get feedback. Come with your design so we can review it live together. Your design does not have to be perfect; the idea is that we can give you early feedback, help you with your design decisions, and point to possible optimizations.

Note, that there is hard deadline to deliver a design document for the first 3 milestones as part of the midway check in on October 10th. After that, the design document is optional for the rest of the milestones but is strongly encouraged.

Bonus Points for Extra Tasks: We will regularly assign extra tasks or you can come up with your own extra tasks for the various components of the project. With these extra tasks you gain extra points.

Leaderboard: We will have a running competition and an anonymous leaderboard infrastructure so you can continuously test your system against the rest of the class, as well as best projects from previous iterations of the class.

Grading: Each of the milestones are worth 7.25% of the class grade, except the B-tree milestone counts for 11%. Each of the bonus tasks counts for an extra 0.25% of the total class grade. The top 3 projects in every milestone will get 1% of the class grade as bonus (so you may accumulate a total of 5%).

Starting Code and API

We have created a repository with handout code that you can use to get started on your project. The goal of providing this code is twofold. First, in this repository we provide the parts of your system that are
not directly related to the architecture of the data system kernel (such as client/server communication and a parser for the domain specific query language). Second, we give you a starting implementation of various parts of the database system that can help you with your own design. You are free to build upon the given code or to start over with your own architecture.

You will find the repository on code.seas. Please clone the repository into your own working repository. We will notify you if/when the base code changes (bug fixes or added functionality), but you may also want to pull from the master periodically.

To add the repository, do the following:

1. Login to code.seas.
3. Click "Clone repository".
4. Choose a new name if you want, then click "Clone repository".

This will bring a copy of the base code into your personal account. You can now clone, pull, and push to this copy. Please make sure to add read permission for cs165-staff to both your project and the repository so we can view your code submissions. If you are unfamiliar with working with git, here is a nice summary: [http://cs61.seas.harvard.edu/wiki/2017/Git](http://cs61.seas.harvard.edu/wiki/2017/Git).
Milestones

MILESTONE 1: BASIC COLUMN-STORE -
SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE: October 1

In this milestone, the goal is to design and implement the basic functionality of a column-store with the ability to run single-table queries. The first part of this milestone is about the storage and organization of relational data in the form of columns, one per attribute. This requires the creation and persistence of a database catalog containing metadata about the tables in your database as well as the creation and maintenance of files to store the data contained in these tables. While the data in your database should be persistent, it does not need to be fault tolerant (you may assume power is never interrupted, disks don’t fail, etc). Your system should support storing integer data.

The next step is to implement a series of scan-based operators on top of the columns to support queries with selection, projection, aggregation and math operators. Then using these operators, you will synthesize single-table query plans such as $\text{SELECT max(A) FROM R where B < 20 and C > 30}$ that work with a bulk processing data flow. It should be noted that even when columns store only integer data, the results of aggregation statements (such as AVG) may produce non-integer results.

Desired Functionality:

After implementing this milestone, we expect that your system will be able to support loading and retrieving data from a simple column-store. In particular the system after Milestone 1 should be able to create a database, define tables and columns, load a file, insert new rows, select data from a column, fetch data from a column, and calculate aggregates (max, min, avg, sum, add, sub). For example, after creating a database, a table, and the corresponding columns:

```
create(db,"awesomebase") -- create db with name "awesomebase"
create(tbl,"grades",awesomebase,6) -- create table "grades" with 6 columns in the "awesomebase"
create(col,"project",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 1 with name "project"
create(col,"midterm1",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 2 with name "midterm1"
create(col,"midterm2",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 3 with name "midterm2"
create(col,"class",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 4 with name "class"
create(col,"quizzes",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 5 with name "quizzes"
create(col,"student_id",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 6 with name "student_id"
```

The system should be able to insert a few values:

```
relational_insert(awesomebase.grades,107,80,75,95,93,1)
relational_insert(awesomebase.grades,92,75,82,90,85,2)
relational_insert(awesomebase.grades,110,95,90,100,95,3)
relational_insert(awesomebase.grades,88,70,75,85,95,4)
```

In order to eventually, be able to select and fetch to implement a very simple query:
a_plus=select(awesomebase.grades.project,90,100) -- Find the students (rows) with project grade between 90 and 100
ids_of_students_with_top_project=fetch(awesomebase.grades.student_id,a_plus) -- Find the student id of the students

Finally, the database should shut down gracefully, storing the databases, tables, and columns in the database:

shutdown -- close the server and store all data to disk

To complete this milestone your database will need to implement a variable pool and database catalog. The variable pool is transient and keeps track of the state of client-server communication. This includes keeping track of named intermediate results. For instance, “a_plus” in the previous example is an intermediate result specific to the client that executed the query. These variables are not persistent and should be released on client shutdown. In contrast, the database catalog is a persistent structure that tells your database how to locate tables, columns, and their metadata. This information must be persisted on shutdown and recreated when the database starts up again.

**Bonus Tasks:**

1. Add support for variable length data.
2. Implement vectorized processing plans and provide a performance comparison with the bulk processing ones.
3. Implement this milestone in an alternative language of your choice and provide a performance comparison and analysis against the C implementation. We propose you use Go.
MILESTONE 2: FAST SCANS: SCAN SHARING & MULTI-CORES - SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE: October 22

The second milestone is about making your scans fast. You will be adding support for scan sharing to minimize data movement and making scans use multiple cores to fully utilize parallelization opportunities of modern CPUs.

Your system should be able to run N>>1 queries in parallel by reading data only once for the different queries’ select operators. The end goal is to be able to run simple single-table queries (as in the first milestone) but use the new select operators that are capable of scan sharing.

To introduce more opportunities and enable shared scans, we introduce batching operators. The client can declare a batch of queries to execute and then tell the server to execute them all at once. The server then must coordinate with the client when it is done with this batch. During this batching operation, it can be assumed that no print commands will be executed.

The end result of this milestone should be a linear scale up with the number of concurrent queries and number of cores. Your final deliverable should include a performance report (graphs and discussion) to demonstrate that you can achieve such a performance boost. This report should discuss your results with respect to the various parameters that affect shared scan performance such as the number of queries and the number of cores.

We also expect you to answer the following question: How many concurrent queries can your shared scan handle? Is there an upper limit? If yes, why?

Desired Functionality:

In Milestone 2, the main effort is in optimizing scanning and fetching. For example, the following calls should now run much faster.

```
batch_queries()
    a_plus = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 90, 100) -- Find the students (rows) with project grade between 90 and 100
    a = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 80, 90) -- Find the students (rows) with project grade between 80 and 90
    super_awesome_peeps = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 95, 105)
    ids_of_students_with_top_project = fetch(awesomebase.grades.student_id, a_plus) -- Find the student id of the a_plus students
    batch_execute() -- The three selects should run as a shared scan
```

Bonus Tasks:

1. Utilize scan-sharing outside of batching. Examples include supporting multiple clients or making the DSL asynchronous before implementing scan-sharing.
2. Utilize scan sharing for additional operators.
3. Implement this milestone in an alternative language of your choice and provide a performance comparison and analysis against the C implementation. We propose you use Go.
MILESTONE 3: INDEXING - SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE: November 5

The goal is to add indexing support to boost select operators. Your column-store should support memory-optimized B-tree indexes and sorted columns in both clustered and unclustered form. In the first case, all columns of a table follow the sort order of a leading column. We expect query plans to differentiate between the two cases and properly exploit their physical layout properties. The end goal is to be able to run single-table queries (as in the first milestone) but use the new index-based select operators instead. Your column-store should support multiple clustered indices as well as multiple unclustered indices. To support multiple clustered indices, your database must organize and keep track of several copies of your base data. To make the creation of these clustered indices easier, we place several restrictions on them:

1. All clustered indices will be declared before the insertion of data to a table.
2. The first declared clustered index will be the principal copy of the data. Only this copy of the data will support unclustered indices.

In addition, in this milestone we expect that you implement a very basic query optimizer. In particular, we expect your system to decide between using an index or using a scan for the select operator. This will require the keeping of very basic statistics such as a rough histogram of the data distribution for each column and will allow you to demonstrate the performance gains from your Milestone 3 index design.

Desired Functionality:

After the third milestone, the system should be able to create indexed columns organized using a B-Tree or in sorted form. For example we may want an index for column 6 of the example in Milestone 1 in order to locate easily each student based on their id. In this case, we should be able to give:

```
create(idx, awesomebase.grades.student_id, btree)
```

**TIP** Be careful of random access during tuple reconstruction after an unclustered index-based select.

We expect your B-tree to be tuned for main-memory, i.e., to minimize cache misses by properly tuning design parameters such as the fan-out of the tree based on the underlying hardware as well as any other design parameter that may affect performance. Consider changing various design decisions for internal vs. leaf nodes in the B-Tree, and then as well consider optimizations that can be made for clustered vs. unclustered indices. A common example of an optimization that deviates away from the standard B-tree is making leaf nodes contain more elements than internal nodes. In order to optimize performance, you are allowed to move away from the basic B-tree design.

Your final deliverable should include a performance analysis (i.e., graphs and discussion) that shows the performance difference between your various select methods (alternative tree designs, scans, and binary search) based on various parameters that affect performance such as selectivity and number of tuples.
Bonus Tasks:

1. Add support for zone-maps and provide performance comparison with scans and indexes.
2. Utilize multiple cores for the B-tree index.
3. Implement this milestone in an alternative language of your choice and provide a performance comparison and analysis against the C implementation. We propose you use Go.
For the fourth milestone you will be adding join support to your system. We expect you to support cache-conscious hash joins and nested-loop join that utilize all cores of the underlying hardware.

In addition you need to support query plans that use these new join operators, e.g.:

```sql
SELECT max(R.d), min(S.g)
FROM R, S
WHERE
  R.a = S.a
AND R.c >= 1
AND R.c <= 9
AND S.f >= 31
AND S.f <= 99
```

Your plans should use late materialization and bulk processing.

**TIP** Make sure you minimize random access during fetch operators after a join.

The final deliverable for this milestone includes a performance report of nested loops vs hash joins, and a comparison of a grace-hash join vs. a one-pass hash join for large data sizes.

### Desired Functionality:

Milestone 4 introduces joins, a key relational operation. The result would be that the system would support joins, and be able to join two tables. For example, after creating two tables and populating them with tuples, the user should be able to join them:

```sql
positions1=select(awesomebase.cs165.project_score,100,null) -- select positions where project score >= 100 in cs165
positions2=select(awesomebase.cs265.project_score,100,null) -- select positions where project score >= 100 in cs265
values1=fetch(awesomebase.cs165.student_id,positions1)
values2=fetch(awesomebase.cs265.student_id,positions2)
r1,r2=join(positions1,values1,positions2,values2,hash) -- positions of students who have project score >= 100 in both classes
```

### Bonus Tasks:

1. Add support for sort-merge joins and provide a performance comparison with hash joins.
2. Download an open-source row-store DBMS such as PostgreSQL and an open-source column-store DBMS such as MonetDB and provide a comparison with your system on this milestone’s tests.
3. Implement this milestone in an alternative language of your choice and provide a performance comparison and analysis against the C implementation. We propose you use Go.
MILESTONE 5: UPDATES - SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE: DECEMBER 5

For the final milestone we will be adding update support. We expect you to support inserts, deletes, and updates on relational tables. Any changes to data should be persistent, i.e., they should not get lost if we restart the server.

The goal is to add update support, maintaining the correctness of the various indexes on the base data. In this milestone you should be able to run workloads where read queries interleave with updates (inserts, deletes or actual updates). As a bonus task, you can add parallelism to updates, allowing multiple queries to work in parallel, updating/reading the same data but this is not mandatory for the main deliverable.

An update requires changing each copy of the data. This means keeping metadata around in some form such that updates made on one copy of the data get propagated to the other copies of the data! Come to office hours and labs early and often on this front if unsure about the best way to achieve this. One suggested way is to keep a table which maps row numbers in your primary copy to each of the other copies. Then given positions for one copy of the data, the other positions can be found using a join on this table.

**Desired Functionality:**

In the final milestone general updates should be supported. In addition to inserts, relational deletes and relational updates should be implemented.

```sql
low_project = select(awesomebase.grades.project,0,10) -- Find the rows with project grade less than 10
relational_delete(awesomebase.grades,low_project) -- clearly this is a mistake!!
-- or update
update(awesomebase.grades.project,low_project,85) -- change value of column project of table grades
```

**Bonus Tasks:**

1. Add support for concurrent updates in batched queries, making sure to guarantee correctness as well as performance improvements.
2. Implement this milestone in an alternative language of your choice and provide a performance comparison and analysis against the C implementation. We propose you use Go.

**MIDWAY CHECK-IN: October 10**

**EVALUATION: DECEMBER 5-12 (Hard Deadline)**
CS165 Domain Specific Language

Here you can find the syntax of the CS165 Domain Specific Language (165L). In a full system design, this language would be used by the optimizer to pass instructions (i.e., query plans) to the execution engine after parsing and optimizing incoming SQL queries. In this project you only work at the lower level, i.e., the storage and execution engine, and you will use 165L to write query plans to test your engine. As 165L is the interface between your data system and our test files, supporting the exact 165L syntax is mandatory.

A few details about things you will encounter in the rest of the language description:

1. Keywords are unqualified text and symbols. For example: create, tbl, col etc. (These are static words that you can use to parse the instructions. They will appear in the same order and location in the string).
2. Items that appear in brackets are required but indicate good opportunities for extensions, or relate to one of the extra features found in the project description. For example, 'create(idx,<col_name>,[btree])' means that you must support creating at least B-tree indexes, but you may want to also support additional indexes like zone maps or hash maps.
3. Variables appear in-between angle brackets. They are strings that appear in 165L and are either identifiers like the name of a table or are labels that the system must carry through the execution of the commands (this will become more clear through the examples).
4. End of line indicates next instruction (but your design can buffer or parse multiple lines at a time as you see fit).
5. Comments are marked with '--' and continue until the end of the line. The two dashes will always appear at the beginning of the input line.

CREATING NEW DATABASE OBJECTS

create(<object_type>,<object_name>,<parameter1>,<parameter2>,...)

The create function creates new structures in the system. The possible structures are databases, tables, columns, and indexes. It does not return anything. Below you can see all possible instances.

create(db,<db_name>)
create(tbl,<t_name>,<db_name>,<col_cnt>)
create(col,<col_name>,<tbl_var>)
create(idx,<col_name>,[btree, sorted], [clustered, unclustered])

Usage

create(db,"awesomebase") -- create db with name "awesomebase"
create(tbl,"grades",awesomebase,6) -- create table "grades" with 6 columns in the "awesomebase"
create(col,"project",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 1 with name "project"
create(col,"midterm1",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 2 with name "midterm1"
create(col,"midterm2",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 3 with name "midterm2"
create(col,"class",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 4 with name "class"
create(col,"quizzes",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 5 with name "quizzes"
create(col,"student_id",awesomebase.grades) -- create column 6 with name "student_id"

**SQL Example**

```sql
CREATE DATABASE awesomebase
CREATE TABLE grades (grades int, project int, midterm1 int, midterm2 int, class int, quizzes int, student_id int)
```

In the create table statement, the first value of a parameter is the column name and the second parameter is its type. VARCHAR(n), BINARY(n), BIGINT, and TIMESTAMP are examples of other SQL data types.

**LOADING**

load(<filename>)

This function loads values from a file. Both absolute and relative paths should be supported. The columns within the file are assigned names that correspond to already created database objects. The files take the format of a csv file with the header line consisting of the names of the columns where the data should be inserted into.

**Parameters**

<filename>: The name of the file to load the database from.

**Return Value**

None.

**Usage**

load("/path/to/myfile.txt")  
-- or relative path
load("./data/myfile.txt")
**File Format**

Input data will be provided as ASCII-encoded CSV files. For example:

```
foo.t1.a,foo.t1.b
10,-23
-22,910
```

This file would insert two rows into columns 'a' and 'b' of table 't1' in database 'foo'.

**SQL Example**

There is no statement in SQL to load data. That being said, almost all vendors have commands to load a file into a table. The MySQL version would be:

```
LOAD DATA INFILE myfile.txt
```

**INSERTING ROWS INTO A TABLE**

The system should support relational, that is, row-wise (one row at a time) inserts:

```
relational_insert(<tbl_var>,[INT1],[INT2],...)
```

**Parameters**

- `<tbl_var>`: A fully qualified table name.
- INT/INTk: The value to be inserted (32 bit signed).

**Return Value**

None.

**Usage**

```
relational_insert(awesomebase.grades,107,80,75,95,93,1)
```

**SQL Example**
There are two different insert statements in SQL. In the first statement below, the column names are omitted and the values are inserted into the columns of the table in the order those columns were declared in table creation. In the second statement, column names are included and the values in the insert statement are put in the corresponding given column. The two statements below perform the same action.

```
INSERT INTO grades VALUES (107,80,75,95,93,1)
```

```
INSERT INTO grades (midterm1, project, midterm2, class, quizzes, student_id) VALUES (80,107,75,95,93,1)
```

### SELECTING VALUES

There are two kinds of select commands.

*Select from within a column:*

```
<vec_pos>=select(<col_var>,<low>,<high>)
```

**Parameters**

*<col_name>*: A fully qualified column name or an intermediate vector of values

*<low>*: The lowest qualifying value in the range.

*<high>*: The exclusive upper bound.

null: specifies an infinite upper or lower bound.

*As well, one can optionally implement a fetch-select operator. This combines the fetch (see below) and select operators, and performs the select on the column being fetched without materializing intermediate results.*

```
<vec_pos>=select(<posn_vec>,<col_var>,<low>,<high>)
```

**Parameters**

*<posn_vec>*: A vector of positions

*<col_var>*: A vector of values.

*<low>*: The lowest qualifying value in the range.

*<high>*: The exclusive upper bound.

null: specifies an infinite upper or lower bound.
Return Value

<vec_pos>: A vector of qualifying positions.

Usage

-- select
pos_1=select(awesomebase.grades.project,90,100) -- Find the rows with project
score between 90 and 99
pos_2=select(awesomebase.grades.project,90,null) -- Find the rows with project
greater --or equal to 90

SQL Example

SELECT student_id FROM grades WHERE midterm1 > 90 AND midterm2 > 90

In the statement above, we might select on midterm1 using the first select, then select on midterm2
using a fetch-select.

FETCHING VALUES

This function collects the values from a column at given positions.

<vec_val>=fetch(<col_var>,<vec_pos>)

Parameters

<col_var>: A fully qualified column name.

Usage

a_plus=select(awesomebase.grades.project,100,null) -- Find the rows with
project greater or equal to 100
-- used here
ids_of_top_students=fetch(awesomebase.grades.student_id,a_plus) -- Return
column 6 (student id) of the said rows (students)
DELETING ROWS

Row deletions happen using the relational delete operation. It will internally issue multiple separate column deletes.

\[ \text{relational}\_\text{delete}(\text{<tbl}\_\text{var}>,\text{<vec}\_\text{pos}}) \]

**Parameters**

- \text{<tbl}\_\text{var}}>: A fully qualified table name.
- \text{<vec}\_\text{pos}>: A vector of positions.

**Return Value**

None.

**Usage**

\[
\text{low}\_\text{project}=\text{select}(\text{awesomebase}.\text{grades}.\text{project},0,10) \quad -- \text{Find the rows with project less than 10}
\quad -- \text{used here}
\text{relational}\_\text{delete}(\text{awesomebase}.\text{grades},\text{low}\_\text{project}) \quad -- \text{Clearly this is a mistake!}
\]

**SQL Example**

\[
\text{DELETE FROM grades WHERE midterm1 < 40 AND midterm2 < 40}
\]

JOINING COLUMNS

This function performs a join between two inputs, given both the values and respective positions of each input. We expect at least a hash and nested-loop join to be implemented, but implementing others (such as sort-merge) is a possibility.

\[
\text{<vec}\_\text{pos1}\_\text{out}},\text{<vec}\_\text{pos2}\_\text{out}}>=\text{join}(\text{<vec}\_\text{val1}},\text{<vec}\_\text{pos1}},\text{<vec}\_\text{val2}},\text{<vec}\_\text{pos2}}
\quad, \text{[hash, nested-loop]}
\]

**Parameters**

- \text{<vec}\_\text{val1}}>: The vector of values 1.
<vec_pos_1>: The vector of positions 1.
<vec_val_2>: The vector of values 2.
<vec_pos_2>: The vector of positions 2.
<type>: The type of join to execute. An example of type is hash or nested loop.

**NOTE:** There is no explicit indication which is the smaller relation. Why this matters will become apparent when we discuss joins.

**Return Value**

<vec_pos1_out>,<vec_pos2_out>: The concatenation of the positions in each input table of the resulting join.

**Usage**

positions1=select(awesomebase.cs165.project_score,100,null) -- select positions where project score >= 100 in cs165
positions2=select(awesomebase.cs265.project_score,100,null) -- select positions where project score >= 100 in cs265
values1=fetch(awesomebase.cs165.student_id,positions1)
values2=fetch(awesomebase.cs265.student_id,positions2)
r1,r2=join(positions1,values1,positions2,values2, hash) -- positions of students who have project score >= 100 in both classes
student_ids=fetch(awesomebase.cs165.student_id, r1)
print(student_ids)

**SQL Example**

```
SELECT student_id FROM cs165_grades JOIN cs265_grades
WHERE cs165_grades.project > 100
AND cs165_grades.project > 100
AND cs165_grades.student_id = cs265_grades.student_id
```

**MIN AGGREGATE**

There are two kinds of min aggregate commands.

<min_val>=min(<vec_val>)

The first min aggregation signature returns the minimum value of the values held in <vec_val>.
Parameters

<vec_val>: A vector of values to search for the min OR a fully qualified name.

Return Value

<min_val>: The minimum value of the input <vec_val>.

The second min aggregation signature returns the minimum value and the corresponding position(s) (as held in <vec_pos>) from the values in <vec_val>.

<min_pos>,<min_val>=min(<vec_pos>,<vec_val>)

Parameters

<vec_pos>: A vector of positions corresponding to the values in <vec_val>.

<vec_val>: A vector of values to search for the min OR a fully qualified name.

Note: When null is specified as the first input of the function, it returns the position of the min from the <vec_val> array.

Return Value

<min_pos>: The position (as defined in <vec_pos>) of the min.

<min_val>: The minimum value of the input <vec_val>.

Usage

positions1=select(awesomebase.grades.project,100,null) -- select students with project more than or equal to 100
values1=fetch(awesomebase.grades.midterm1,positions1) -- used here
min1=min(values1) -- the lowest midterm1 grade for students who got 100 or more in their project

SQL Example

SELECT min(midterm1) FROM grades WHERE project >= 100
MAX AGGREGATE

There are two kinds of max aggregate commands.

<max_val>=max(<vec_val>)

The first max aggregation signature returns the maximum value of the values held in <vec_val>.

Parameters

<vec_val>: A vector of values to search for the max OR a fully qualified name.

Return Value

<max_val>: The maximum value of the input <vec_val>.

The second max aggregation signature returns the maximum value and the corresponding position(s) (as held in <vec_pos>) from the values in <vec_val>.

<max_pos>,<max_vals>=max(<vec_pos>,<vec_val>)

Parameters

<vec_pos>: A vector of positions corresponding to the values in <vec_val>.
<vec_val>: A vector of values to search for the max OR a fully qualified name.

Note: When null is specified as the first input of the function, it returns the position of the max from the <vec_val> array.

Return Value

<max_pos>: The position (as defined in <vec_pos>) of the max.
<max_val>: The maximum value of the input <vec_val>.

Usage

positions1=select(awesomebase.grades.midterm1,null,90) -- select students with midterm less than 90
values1=fetch(awesomebase.grades.project,positions1)  
-- used here
max1=max(values1) -- get the maximum project grade for students with midterm less than 90

SQL Example

SELECT max(project) FROM grades WHERE midterm1 < 90

SUM AGGREGATE

<scl_val>=avg(<vec_val>)

This is the aggregation function sum. It returns the sum of the values in <vec_val>.

Parameters

<vec_val>: A vector of values.

Return Value

<scl_val>: The scalar value of the sum.

Usage

positions1=select(awesomebase.grades.project,100,null)  
-- select students with project more than or equal to 100
values1=fetch(awesomebase.grades.quizzes,positions1)  
-- used here
sum_quizzes=sum(values1) -- get the sum of the quizzes grade for students with project more than or equal to 100

SQL Example

SELECT SUM(quizzes) FROM grades WHERE project >= 100

AVERAGE AGGREGATE

<scl_val>=avg(<vec_val>)

This is the aggregation function average. It returns the arithmetic mean of the values in <vec_val>. 
Parameters

<vec_val>: A vector of values.

Return Value

<scl_val>: The scalar value of the average.

Usage

positions1=select(awesomebase.grades.project,100,null) -- select students with project more than or equal to 100
values1=fetch(awesomebase.grades.quizzes,positions1) -- used here
avg_quizzes=avg(values1) -- get the average quizzes grade for students with project more than or equal to 100

SQL Example

SELECT AVG(quizzes) FROM grades WHERE project >= 100

ADDITION TWO VECTORS

<vec_val>=add(<vec_val1>,<vec_val2>)

This function adds two vectors of values.

Parameters

<vec_val1>: The vector of values 1.
<vec_val2>: The vector of values 2.

Return Value

<vec_val>: A vector of values equal to the component-wise addition of the two inputs.

Usage

midterms=add(awesomebase.grades.midterm1,awesomebase.grades.midterm2)

SQL Example
SELECT midterm1 + midterm2 FROM grades

**SUBTRACTING TWO VECTORS**

<vec_val> = sub(<vec_val1>,<vec_val2>)

This function subtracts two vectors of values.

**Parameters**

<vec_val1>: The vector of values 1.
<vec_val2>: The vector of values 2.

**Return Value**

<vec_val>: A vector of values equal to the component-wise addition of the two inputs.

**Usage**

```sql
-- used here
score = sub(awesomebase.grades.project, awesomebase.grades.penalty)
```

**SQL Example**

SELECT AVG(project - penalty) FROM grades

**UPDATING VALUES**

This function updates values from a column at given positions with a given value.

```sql
update(<col_var>,<vec_pos>,[INT])
```

**Parameters**

<col_var>: A variable that indicates the column to update.
<vec_pos>: A vector of positions.
INT: The new value.

**Return Value**

None.

**Usage**

```sql
project_to_update=select(awesomebase.grades.project,0,100) -- ...it should obviously be over 100!
update(awesomebase.grades.project,project_to_update,113)
```

**SQL Example**

```sql
UPDATE grades SET midterm1 = 100 WHERE midterm2 = 100
```

**PRINTING RESULTS**

```sql
print(<vec_val1>,...)
```

The print command prints one or more vector in a comma separated format.

**Parameters**

<vec_val1>: One or more vectors of values to be combined and printed.

**Return Value**

None.

**Usage**

```sql
print(awesomebase.grades.project,awesomebase.grades.quizzes) -- print project grades and quiz grades
--OR--
pos_high_project=select(awesomebase.grades.project,80,null) -- select project more than or equal to 80
val_project=fetch(awesomebase.grades.project,pos1) -- fetch project grades
val_studentid=fetch(awesomebase.grades.student_id,pos1) -- fetch student id
```
val_quizzes = fetch(awesomebase.grades.quizzes, pos1) -- fetch quiz grades
print(val_studentid, val_project, val_quizzes) -- print student_id, project grades and quiz grades for projects more than or equal to 80

Then, the result should be:

1,107,93
2,92,85
3,110,95
4,88,95

**SQL Example**

This instruction is used to print out the results of a query. As such, this command is used in every query in a database which returns values.

**Batching Commands**

Batching consists of two commands. The first command, `batch_queries`, tells the server to hold the execution of the subsequent requests. The second command, `batch_execute`, then tells the server to execute these queries.

`batch_queries()`  
`batch_execute()`  

**Return Value**

`batch_queries`: none.

`batch_execute`: No explicit return value, but the server must work out with the client when it is done sending results of the batched queries.

**Usage**

`batch_queries()`  
`a_plus = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 90, 100) -- Find the students (rows) with project grade between 90 and 100`  
`a = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 80, 90) -- Find the students (rows) with project grade between 80 and 90`  
`super_awesome_peeps = select(awesomebase.grades.project, 95, 105)`  
`ids_of_students_with_top_project = fetch(awesomebase.grades.student_id, a_plus) -- Find the student id of the a_plus students`
batch_execute() -- The three selects should run as a shared scan

SQL Example

There is no batching command in the SQL syntax. However, almost all commercial databases have a command to submit a batch of queries.

SHUTTING DOWN

This command shuts down the server. Data relating to databases, tables, and columns should be persisted so that they are available again when the server is restarted. Intermediate results and the variable pool should not be persisted.

shutdown

Return Value

None.
Practicing SQL and Column-Store Plans

A great way to practice your SQL skills is to go to the state-of-the-art benchmark for analytical workloads (TPC-H) and study the queries. TPC-H is a very popular ad-hoc decision support benchmark used both by academia and industry to test data systems.

You can install any db system you prefer (e.g., MonetDB, MySQL, PostgreSQL or a combination of them).

And use the database generator (dbgen) of the TPCH data in order to create raw files which you can then bulk load.

In the specification of the TPC-H you can find:

1. the TPC-H schema on page 13
2. all 22 TPC-H queries in English and SQL starting from page 29 (subsections 2.4.1.1, 2.4.2.1, 2.4.3.1, ..., 2.4.22.1 have the English description and 2.4.1.1, 2.4.2.2, 2.4.3.2, ..., 2.4.22.2 have the SQL of them).

You can use these queries, which are typically an excellent and challenging exercise for thinking how to "convert" English to SQL as well as formulate more queries of your own on top of this schema.

In addition, it is a good idea to practice with column-store plans so that you can get a better understanding of concepts such as late tuple reconstructions and how data flows as queries get more complex. This will help you a lot with your project. Use MonetDB and prefix your SQL queries with the keyword “explain”. What you will see then is the column-store plan (equivalent of our DSL language). (Use MonetDB in read-only mode to get a simpler plan that does not consider on-the-fly merging of pending updates.)

What is a Successful Project ?

A successful project passes all predefined tests we provide and the students successfully pass the final face-to-face evaluation meetings with the instructor and the TFs.

A successful final evaluation is one where the student is able:

1. to fully explain every detail of the design, and
2. to propose efficient designs for new functionality on the spot.

A project will get extra points for going the extra mile to provide solutions that are efficient and are elegantly implemented and designed. Efficiency is judged by comparing against other systems. Elegance is judged by the course staff. Participating in office hours, labs and extra sessions guarantees that you get feedback about your design often.

Project Dos and Don’ts ?

1) Do start early. Starting early will mean that you keep up with the class better and will prevent you from failing to complete all milestones.

2) Do get a Linux test environment. This means even if you code regularly on your MacBook, you should test on a virtual machine that you download. Linux and Mac machines tend to perform system calls differently and perform differently on program close. For instance, your MacBook may
save files and flush them to disk even if you don’t properly close them, but then the test machine will not. As well, Linux requires several include and define statements that Mac machines do not.

3) Do all coding on a Unix environment (i.e., not Windows). The system calls are incompatible and all work using Windows system calls will be wasted.

4) Don’t use outside libraries. This is against the spirit of the project and will adversely effect your grade.

5) The lab TFs will keep an up-to-date list of common bugs and errors. Please check these before coming into lab whenever you have a problem.

6) Do come to lab! Lab is not just about solving bugs and errors, you can also come to discuss design decisions or how to most efficiently implement various operators in the database. Also we are loving people.