QUERY OPTIMIZATION & TUNING IN ORACLE DATABASES
Part I
Query Optimization & Tuning Hints
Query Tuning Hints

➢ Avoid redundant DISTINCT
➢ Avoid HAVING when WHERE is enough
➢ Avoid using intermediate relations (tables)
➢ Optimize set difference queries
➢ Change nested queries (subqueries) to joins
➢ Avoid complicated correlation subqueries
➢ Join on clustering and integer attributes
➢ Avoid views (pseudotables) with unnecessary joins
➢ Maintain frequently used aggregates
➢ Avoid external loops
➢ Avoid cursors
➢ Retrieve needed columns only
➢ Use direct path for bulk loading
Avoid Redundant DISTINCT

```
SELECT DISTINCT <expression>
FROM Employee
WHERE dept = 'information systems'
```

where `<expression>` == `ssnum` or `ssnum1, ssnum2, ...`

- **DISTINCT** usually entails a sort operation
  - Slows down query optimization because one more “interesting” order to consider. Depends on many factors (i.e. database version, query expression etc). Newer versions (>= Oracle DB 10g) use hash instead of sorting.
- Remove if you know the result has no duplicates (or duplicates are acceptable) or if answer contains a (primary or foreign) key.
- Intuitively, when multiple expressions are provided in the DISTINCT clause then the query will retrieve all unique combinations for the expressions listed.
Avoid HAVING when WHERE is enough

The WHERE clause will filter or limit rows as they are selected from the table, but before grouping is done. The HAVING clause will filter rows after the grouping.

HINT: Consider DBMS’s use of index when writing arithmetic expressions:

E.age = 2*D.age will benefit from index on E.age, but might not benefit from index on D.age!
Avoid Using Intermediate Relations

```
SELECT * INTO Temp
FROM Emp E, Dept D
WHERE E.dno = D.dno
AND D.mgrname = 'Joe'
```

```
SELECT T.dno, AVG(T.sal)
FROM Temp T
GROUP BY T.dno
```

and

```
SELECT E.dno, AVG(E.sal)
FROM Emp E, Dept D
WHERE E.dno = D.dno
AND D.mgrname = 'Joe'
GROUP BY E.dno
```

vs.
Creating the Temp table causes frequent updates to catalog (i.e. database).

- The columns of the newly created table inherit the column names, their data types, whether columns can contain null values or not, and any associated IDENTITY property from the source table. However, the SELECT INTO clause does have some restrictions: it will not copy any constraints, indexes, or triggers from the source table.

Materialization of the intermediate relation Temp consumes resources (even if it takes place in-memory).

Suppose you have to select all of the employee’s that are not account representatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soc_number</th>
<th>last_name</th>
<th>first_name</th>
<th>salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Table2 (s_account_rep)

| soc_number | last_name | first_name | region |

```
SELECT soc_number FROM s_emp
MINUS
SELECT soc_number FROM s_account_rep;
```

The above query is slow because the minus has to select distinct values from both tables.
SELECT soc_number
FROM s_emp
WHERE soc_number NOT IN
(SELECT soc_number
 FROM s_account_rep);

The above query is faster but we are not joining and are not taking advantage of indexes.
Optimizing Set Difference Queries

```
SELECT /*+ index(t1) */ soc_number
FROM s_emp t1
WHERE NOT EXISTS
    (SELECT /*+ index(t1) index(t2) */
     * FROM s_account_rep t2
     WHERE t1.soc_number = t2.soc_number);
```

Regardless of indexes, the above query is generally preferred when having to choose between [NOT] IN and [NOT] EXISTS since [NOT] EXISTS does not take into account any null values present.
Change Nested Queries to Joins

An index may or may not be applied on E.dept.

In most cases JOINs are faster than sub-queries and it is very rare for a sub-query to be faster.
Avoid Complicated Correlation Subqueries

SELECT ssnum
FROM Employee e1
WHERE salary  =  
  (SELECT MAX(salary)
   FROM Employee e2
   WHERE e2.dept = e1.dept

The subquery references the dept in the outer query. The value of the dept changes by row of the outer query, so the DB must rerun the subquery for each row comparison. This has a significant performance impact on the execution time of the query, and for that reason, correlated subqueries should be avoided if possible.
Nowadays, most RDBMS makes this efficient although legacy ones made it expensive to use it (i.e. most DBs used the naive implementation of nested loops between query blocks whereas MS SQL 2000 used hashed joins).
Join on Clustering and Integer Attributes

Table `Employee` is clustered on `ssnum` where `ssnum` is an integer.

```
SELECT Employee.ssnum
FROM Employee E, Student S
WHERE E.name = S.name
```

```
SELECT Employee.ssnum
FROM Employee E, Student S
WHERE E.ssnum = S.ssnum
```
Avoid Views with Unnecessary Joins

CREATE VIEW Techlocation AS
  (SELECT ssnum,
   Techdept.dept,
   location
   FROM Employee E, Techdept
   TD
   WHERE E.dept =
   TD.dept)

SELECT dept FROM Techlocation
TD
WHERE ssnum = 4444

SELECT dept
FROM Employee E
WHERE E.ssnum = 4444

Join with Techdept is unnecessary.
Avoid External Loops

**No loop:**

```plaintext
sqlStmt = "select * from lineitem where l_partkey <= 200;"
odbcd->prepareStmt(sqlStmt);
odbcd->execPrepared(sqlStmt);
```

**Loop:**

```plaintext
sqlStmt="select * from lineitem where l_partkey = ?;"  odbc->prepareStmt(sqlStmt);
for (int i=1; i<200; i++) {
    odbc->bindParameter(1, SQL_INTEGER, i);
    odbc->execPrepared(sqlStmt);
}
```
Avoid External Loops

Graphical impact of loops vs no-loops in MS SQL Server 2000 on Windows 2000

Let the DBMS optimize set operations since crossing the application interface has a significant impact on performance.
Avoid Cursors

**No cursor**

```sql
SELECT * FROM employees;
```

**Cursor**

```sql
DECLARE
  v_emp employees%ROWTYPE;
CURSOR crs IS
  SELECT * FROM employees;
BEGIN
  OPEN crs;
  LOOP
    FETCH crs INTO v_emp;
    EXIT WHEN crs%NOTFOUND;
  END LOOP;
  CLOSE crs;
END;
```

Graphical response time of cursor vs no-cursor in MS SQL Server 2000 on Windows 2000 (>1h vs some seconds)

* A cursor is a pointer to a private SQL area that stores information about the processing of a SELECT or data manipulation language (DML) statement (INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, or MERGE).

Cursor management of DML statements is handled by Oracle Database, but PL/SQL offers several ways to define and manipulate cursors to execute SELECT statements.
Retrieve Needed Columns Only

All

SELECT * FROM lineitem;

Covered subset

SELECT l_orderkey,
    l_partkey,
    l_suppkey,
    l_shipdate,
    l_commitdate
FROM lineitem;

Avoid transferring unnecessary data
Use of a covering index may enhance performance.

An index covers the query if all the columns specified in the query are part of the index.
Use Direct Path for Bulk Loading

sqlldr directpath=true control=load_lineitem.ctl data=E:\Data\lineitem.tbl
load data
infile "lineitem.tbl"
into table LINEITEM append
fields terminated by 'l'
(
    L_ORDERKEY, L_PARTKEY, L_SUPPKEY, L_LINENUMBER,
    L_QUANTITY, L_EXTENDEDPRICE, L_DISCOUNT, L_TAX,
    L_RETURNFLAG, L_LINESTATUS, L_SHIPDATE DATE "YYYY-MM-DD",
    L_COMMITDATE DATE "YYYY-MM-DD", L_RECEIPTDATE DATE "YYYY-MM-DD",
    L_SHIPINSTRUCT, L_SHIPMODE,
    L_COMMENT
)
Use Direct Path for Bulk Loading

Graphical illustration of
conventional path load vs direct path load vs common insert methods.

Direct path loading bypasses the query engine and the storage manager. As such, it is orders of magnitude faster than for conventional bulk load (commit every 100 records) and inserts (commit for each record).
Part II
Rule-Based & Cost-Based Optimization Techniques
Oracle supports two approaches for query optimization: **Rule-based** and **Cost-based**, which was introduced in Oracle 7i in order to improve query optimization.

➢ **Rule-based**: The optimizer ignores statistics.

➢ **Cost-based**: Three different goals.

❖ **All_Rows**: The optimizer optimizes with a goal of best throughput (minimum resource use to complete the entire statement).

❖ **First_Rows_n**: The optimizer optimizes with a goal of best response time to return the first n number of rows; n can equal 1, 10, 100 or 1000.

❖ **First_Rows**: The optimizer uses a mix of cost and heuristics to find a best plan for fast delivery of the first few rows.
ORACLE Query Optimization Approaches

The **CHOOSE** mode states that:

- The optimizer chooses between a cost-based approach and a rule-based approach, depending on whether statistics are available. This is the default value.

- If the data dictionary (i.e. DBA_, USER_ & ALL_ views) contains statistics for at least one of the accessed tables, then the optimizer uses a cost-based approach and optimizes with a goal of best throughput.

- If the data dictionary contains only some statistics, then the cost-based approach is still used, but the optimizer must guess the statistics for the subjects without any statistics. This can result in suboptimal execution plans.
Rule-Based Approach

When ignoring statistics & heuristics, there should be a way to choose between possible access paths suggested by different execution plans.

Thus, 15 rules were ranked in order of efficiency. An access path for a table is chosen if the statement contains a predicate or other construct that makes that access path available.

Score assigned to each execution strategy (plan) using these rankings and strategy with best (lowest) score selected.

When two strategies produce the same score, the “tie-break” rule is used by making a decision based on order in which tables occur in the SQL statement.
Rule-Based Approach

Table 20.4  Rule-based optimization rankings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Access path</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Single row by ROWID (row identifier)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Single row by cluster join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Single row by hash cluster key with unique or primary key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Single row by unique or primary key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cluster join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hash cluster key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Indexed cluster key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Composite key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Single-column indexes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bounded range search on indexed columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Unbounded range search on indexed columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sort–merge join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>MAX or MIN of indexed column</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ORDER BY on indexed columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Full table scan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding the RBO: An Example

Suppose there is a table “PropertyForRent” with **indexed** attributes: propertyNo, rooms and city. Consider the query:

```
SELECT propertyNo
    FROM PropertyForRent
    WHERE rooms > 7 AND city = 'Sydney'
```

- Single-column access path using index on city from WHERE condition (city = ‘Sydney’): **rank 9**
- Unbounded range scan using index on rooms from WHERE condition (rooms > 7): **rank 11**.
- Full table scan: **rank 15**
- Although there is an index on propertyNo, the column does not appear in the **WHERE** clause and so is not considered by the optimizer.

Based on these paths, rule-based optimizer will choose to use the index on the “city” column.
Cost-Based Approach

➢ Cost-based optimizer depends on statistics for all tables, clusters, and indexes accessed by query. As such, it’s the user’s responsibility to generate statistics and keep them up-to-date.

➢ Two ways for generating and managing statistics:

  ❑ By using package DBMS_STATS, for example (strongly recommended):
      • EXECUTE
        DBMS_STATS.GATHER_SCHEMA_STATS('schema_name');

  ❑ By issuing the ANALYZE statement, for example (avoid if possible):
      • ANALYZE TABLE <table> COMPUTE/ESTIMATE STATISTICS;
      • ANALYZE TABLE <table> COMPUTE/ESTIMATE STATISTICS FOR TABLE;
      • ANALYZE TABLE <table> COMPUTE/ESTIMATE STATISTICS FOR ALL INDEXES;
Understanding the CBO

1) **Functionality**
   I. Parse the statement.
   II. Generate a list of all potential execution plans.
   III. Calculate (estimate) the cost of each execution plan using internal rules and exploiting already known parameters (see below) about the relevant tables.
   IV. Select the plan with the lowest cost.

2) **Parameters**
   I. Primary Key – Unique Index
   II. Non – Unique Index
   III. Range evaluation (with bind variables)
   IV. Histograms
   V. System Resource Usage (CPU & I/O – Data Dictionary tables)
   VI. Current Stats
Part III
Access Paths of Indexes
B*-Tree Indexes

1. Excellent performance for **highly selective columns**, thus perfect for OLTPs.
   - NOT effective for low selectivity columns.
   - Null values “break” performance.
2. Unique scan is most efficient when equality predicate on unique index is involved.
3. Range scan can be quite efficient but be careful of the size of the range specified.
4. Excellent for FIRST_ROWS access, particularly with queries returning a small number of results.

**Index access paths**

- INDEX UNIQUE SCAN/RANGE SCAN
- INDEX FULL SCAN/FAST FULL SCAN
- INDEX SKIP SCAN
- INDEX JOIN SCAN
B*-Tree Indexes

(Non-)Unique Index creation:

```
CREATE [UNIQUE] INDEX table_idx ON
table(column_idx_key);
```

B*-Tree indexes are pairs of (key, rowid).

It can also be specified using `INDEX(alias index_name)`, if not created, or `INDEX`. However, the latter form allows the optimizer to freely choose any column as index of the table or use multiple columns as index if that access path provides the lowest cost.

Providing multiple independent index hints is legal but it is recommended to use `INDEX_COMBINE` for a combination of multiple indexes since it is more versatile hint.

`INDEX_DESC` hint uses a descending index.
I. INDEX UNIQUE SCAN
   - Equality predicate on unique or primary key column(s).
   - Generally considered most efficient access path.
   - Usually, no more than 3 – 4 buffer gets.
   - If table is “small”, FULL TABLE SCAN could be cheaper.

II. INDEX RANGE SCAN
   - Equality predicate on non-unique index, incompletely specified unique index, or range predicate on unique index.
   - Be careful of the size of the range:
     - Large ranges could amount to huge # of buffer Gets.
     - If so, consider a FAST FULL INDEX SCAN or FULL TABLE SCAN.
III. INDEX FULL SCAN
- Will scan entire index by walking tree in index order.
- Provides ordered output, can be used to avoid sorts for ORDER BY clauses that specify index column order.
- Slower than INDEX FAST FULL SCAN if there is no ORDER BY requirement.

IV. INDEX FAST FULL SCAN
- Attempt to read index, in disk block order, and discard root and branch blocks.
- Attempt a DB file scattered read, reading `db_file_multiblock_read_count` blocks at a time.
- Equivalent to FULL TABLE SCAN for an index.
- Fastest way to read entire contents of an index.
V. INDEX SKIP SCAN

- Allows some benefits of multi-column index even without specifying the leading edge.
- Oracle will “skip scan” starting with root block skipping through B*-tree structure masking sections of tree that cannot have applicable data.
- Could be costly, depending on size of index, distribution of data and bind variable values.

VI. INDEX JOIN SCAN

- INDEX JOIN SCAN = HASH JOIN (more on this later) followed by INDEX RANGE + INDEX FAST FULL SCAN in the explain plan generation
Bitmap Indexes

1. Most often implemented in a Data Warehouse environment by using BITMAP INDEXES.

2. Useful for columns which:
   - have relatively low cardinality where B*-Tree indexes will fail to provide any benefit.
   - Contain null values (does not affect performance).
   - are often specified along with other columns in WHERE clauses of SQL statements, optimizer will BITMAP AND the results of many single column bitmap indexes together.

1. Most efficient when doing COUNT(*) operations, where optimizer can utilize the BITMAP CONVERSION COUNT access path.

Index Access Paths
- BITMAP INDEX SINGLE VALUE
- BITMAP INDEX RANGE SCAN/FULL SCAN
- BITMAP AND/OR/NOT
- BITMAP CONVERSION COUNT/TO ROWIDs
- BITMAP MERGE
Bitmap Indexes

**Bitmap Index creation:**

```
CREATE BITMAP INDEX table_idx ON table(column_idx_key);
```

**Bitmap Join Index creation:**

```
CREATE BITMAP INDEX table_idx ON table1(column_idx_key)
FROM table1 t1, table2 t2
WHERE t1.id [=, [!=|<>], <, <=, >, >=] t2.id;
```

A bitmap index is a quadruple of **(key, low-rowid, high-rowid, series of 0 & 1)**
I. **BITMAP INDEX SINGLE VALUE (BISV)**
   - Used to satisfy equality predicate.

II. **BITMAP INDEX RANGE SCAN (BIRS)**
   - Used to satisfy range operations such as BETWEEN.
   - Unlike range scans on B*-Tree, BIRS is very efficient even for very large ranges.

III. **BITMAP INDEX FULL SCAN (BIFS)**
   - Used to satisfy NOT predicate.
   - Scan of entire index to identify rows NOT matching.

IV. **BITMAP AND, OR, NOT**
   - Used for bitwise combinations of multiple bitmap indexes.
   - A **BITMAP MERGE** takes place between conditions before bitwise operations.
VI. BITMAP CONVERSION COUNT (BITCOC)

- Used to evaluate COUNT(*) operation for queries whose where clause predicates only specify columns having bitmap indexes.
- Very fast & very efficient.

V. BITMAP CONVERSION TO ROWIDS (BITCOROW)

- Used in cases where row source produced by bitmap index operations needs to be joined to other row sources, i.e., join to another table, group by operation, to satisfy a TABLE ACCESS BY ROWID operation.
- More resource intensive than BITMAP CONVERSION COUNT.
- Can be quite expensive if number of ROWIDs is large.
Other Miscellaneous Access Paths

I. UNION, UNION [ALL], MINUS, INTERSECTION
   - Directly correspond to the SQL set operators.
   - UNION ALL is the cheapest of all since no SORT (UNIQUE) is required.

II. TABLE FULLSCAN
   - Reads all blocks allocated to table.
   - Can be most efficient access path for “small” tables.
   - Can cause significant physical I/O, especially on larger tables.
     - Consider ALTER TABLE table_name CACHE (more on this later).
     - Consider putting table into KEEP buffer pool (more on this later).
Other Miscellaneous Access Paths

III. TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID
- Generally used in conjunction with an index access path, where ROWID has been identified, but Oracle needs access to a column not in the index.
- Consider whether adding a column to an existing index will provide substantial benefit.
- Cost is directly proportional to number of ROWID lookups that are required.

IV. TABLE ACCESS HASH
- Ideal in situations where equality predicates prevail.
- More efficient than indexed access (queried more, modified less).
- Requires creation of hash cluster (same as index cluster but uses a hash) and they impose administrative/maintenance overhead (tables require frequent FTS and truncating).
Index/Hash Cluster

**Index cluster creation:**

```sql
CREATE CLUSTER emp_depts_cluster
  (dept_id NUMBER(4)) SIZE 512;
```

```sql
CREATE INDEX emp_depts_cluster_idx
  ON CLUSTER emp_depts_cluster;
```

**Hash cluster creation:**

```sql
CREATE CLUSTER emp_depts_cluster
  (dept_id NUMBER(4)) SIZE 8192 HASHKEYS 100;
```
Access Paths of Join Methods

1. **Nested Loops**
   - Generally geared towards FIRST_ROWS access.
   - Ideal for B*-Tree index driven access, small row sources.
   - When this is the case, always best for first row response time.
   - Can get very costly very quickly if no index path exists or index path is inefficient.

2. **Sort Merge**
   - Generally geared towards ALL_ROWS access.
   - Can be useful for joining small to medium size row sources, particularly if viable index path is not available or if Cartesian join is desired.
   - Be wary of `sort_area_size`, if it's too small, sorts will write to disk, performance will plummet.

3. **Hash Join**
   - Most controversial (and misunderstood) join method.
   - Can be very powerful, when applied correctly.
   - Useful for joining small to medium sized to a large row source.
   - Can be sensitive to instance parameters such as `hash_area_size`, `hash_multiblock_io_count`, `db_block_size`. 
Optimize Joins

• **Pick the best join method**
  - Nested loops joins are best for indexed joins of subsets
  - Hash joins are usually the best choice for “big” joins
  - Hash Join can only be used with equality
  - Merge joins work on inequality
  - If all index columns are in the where clause a merge join will be faster

• **Pick the best join order**
  - Pick the best “driving” table
  - Eliminate rows as early as possible in the join order

• **Optimize “special” joins when appropriate**
  - STAR joins for data-warehousing applications
  - STAR_TRANSFORMATION if you have bitmap indexes
  - ANTI-JOIN methods for NOT IN sub-queries
  - SEMI-JOIN methods for EXISTS sub-queries
Using ORACLE Optimization Modes

• When will the RBO be used?
  ‣ OPTIMIZER_MODE = RULE
  ‣ =CHOOSE & statistics are not present for all tables in SQL statement
  ‣ Alter session has been issued
  ‣ RULE hint is present

• When will the CBO be used?
  ‣ OPTIMIZER_MODE = CHOOSE
  ‣ =CHOOSE & statistics are not present for any tables in SQL statement
  ‣ Alter session set optimizer_mode = (choose, first_rows or all_rows)
  ‣ CHOOSE, ALL_ROWS or FIRST_ROWS hint is present
Part IV
Tuning Tools
A significant portion of SQL that performs poorly in production was originally crafted against empty or nearly empty tables.

Make sure you establish a reasonable sub-set of production data that is used during development and tuning of SQL.

In order to monitor execution plans and tune queries, Oracle 9i (and higher) provides the following three tools:
- **Explain Plan** command
- **TkProf** trace file formatter
- The **SQLTrace** (or **AutoTrace**) facility

These tools, mainly, allow the user to verify which access paths are considered by an execution plan.
- Some of them provide, also, information about the number of buffers used, physical reads from buffers, rows returned from each step, etc.
Explain Plan

- The **EXPLAIN PLAN** reveals the execution plan for an SQL statement
  - The execution plan reveals the exact sequence of steps that the Oracle optimizer has chosen to employ to process the SQL
- The execution plan is stored in an Oracle table called the **PLAN_TABLE**
  - Suitably formatted queries can be used to extract the execution plan from the **PLAN_TABLE**
  - Create **PLAN_TABLE** command:
    - `@$ORACLE_HOME/rdbms/admin/utlxplan.sql`
  - Issue explain plan command:
    - `Explain plan set *statement_id = 'MJB' for select * from dual;`
  - Issue query to retrieve execution plan:
    - `@$ORACLE_HOME/rdbms/admin/utlxpls.sql`
- The more heavily indented an access path is, the earlier it is executed
  - If two steps are indented at the same level, the uppermost statement is executed first
  - Some access paths are “joined” – such as an index access that is followed by a table lookup
create table PLAN_TABLE (  
  statement_id varchar2(30),  
  timestamp date, 
  remarks varchar2(80),  
  operation varchar2(30),  
  options varchar2(30),  
  object_node varchar2(128),  
  object_owner varchar2(30),  
  object_name varchar2(30), 
  object_instance numeric, 
  object_type varchar2(30),  
  optimizer varchar2(255),  
  search_columns id  
  parent_id  
  position_cost  
  cardinality  
  bytes  
  other_tag  
  partition_start  
  partition_stop  
  partition_id  
  other_distribution  
  number, numeric,  
  numeric, numeric,  
  numeric, numeric,  
  numeric,  
  varchar2(255),  
  varchar2(255),  
  varchar2(255),  
  numeric,  
  long,  
  varchar2(30)  
);
Explain Plan

- **Sample Query:** Explain plan set statement_id = ‘MJB’ for
  
  ```sql
  select doc_title
  from documents doc, page_collections pc
  where pc.pc_issue_date = '01-JAN-2002'
  and pc.pc_id = doc.pc_id;
  ```

- **Sample Explain plan output**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Object_Name</th>
<th>Rows</th>
<th>Bytes</th>
<th>Cardinality</th>
<th>Pstart</th>
<th>Pstop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SELECT STATEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td>61K</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>328</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESTED LOOPS</td>
<td></td>
<td>61K</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>328</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROI</td>
<td>PAGE_COLL</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>9K</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX RANGE SCAN IPC_PC2_UK</td>
<td></td>
<td>834</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX RANGE SCAN IDOC_DOC2</td>
<td></td>
<td>86M</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viewing the Execution Plan of a Query in Oracle

Plan_Table – an SQL Table
Statement_id – plan identifier
Id – a number assigned to each step
Parent_id – id of next step which operates on output of this step
Operation – eg internal operation select, insert etc
Options – name of internal operation
A more complex EXPLAIN PLAN
TkProf

- More details provided than Autotrace or Explain Plan

- For more useful information:
  
  ```sql
  alter session set timed_statistics = true;
  ```

- To enable tracing:
  
  ```sql
  alter session set sql_trace = true;
  ```

- Trace file written to `user_dump_dest`

- Use:
  
  ```bash
  tkprof <trace_file> <output_file>
  ```
TkProf Sample Output

---

### Table: TkProf Sample Output Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>CPU</th>
<th>Elapsed</th>
<th>Disk</th>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Rows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execute</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetch</td>
<td>1415</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1417</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Notes:**
- **count**: number of times OCI procedure was executed
- **cpu**: cpu time in seconds executing
- **elapsed**: elapsed time in seconds executing
- **disk**: number of physical reads of buffers from disk
- **query**: number of buffers gotten for consistent read
- **current**: number of buffers gotten in current mode (usually for update)
- **rows**: number of rows processed by the fetch or execute call

---

**Sample SQL Query:**
```
SELECT doc_title, documents.doc, COUNT(*) AS count
FROM page_collections pc
WHERE pc.pc_issue_date = '01-JAN-2002' AND pc.pc_id = doc.pc_id
```

---

**Fall 2017**

---

CSD Univ. of Crete
## TkProf Sample Output

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rows</th>
<th>Row Source Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21206</td>
<td>TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>PAGE_COLLECTIONS INDEX RANGE SCAN (object id 22993)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21206</td>
<td>INDEX RANGE SCAN (object id 22873)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rows</th>
<th>Execution Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>SELECT 21206 GOAL: NESTED LOOPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STATEMENT 21206 CHOOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>TABLE ACCESS: ANALYZED (RANGE SCAN) OF 'PC_PC2_UK' (UNIQUE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>INDEX GOAL: ANALYZED (RANGE SCAN) OF 'DOC_DOC2_UK' (UNIQUE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• ALTER SESSION SET SQL_TRACE TRUE causes a trace of SQL execution to be generated.

• The TKPROF utility formats the resulting output.

• Tkprof output contains breakdown of execution statistics, execution plan, and rows returned for each step:
  - These stats are not available from any other source.

• Tkprof is the most powerful tool, but requires a significant learning curve.
Tkprofoutput

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>call</th>
<th>count</th>
<th>cpu elapsed</th>
<th>disk</th>
<th>query</th>
<th>current</th>
<th>rows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execute</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetch</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

----------------- ----------- -------------- ------- -- ---- -------
total            59   0.23           0.23  0    28     6    849

Misses in library cache during parse: 1
Optimizer goal: CHOOSE
Parsing user id: 5  (SYSTEM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rows</th>
<th>Execution Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>SELECT STATEMENT GOAL: CHOOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>849</td>
<td>MERGE JOIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5113</td>
<td>SORT (JOIN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5113</td>
<td>TABLE ACCESS (FULL) OF 'TKP_EXAMPLE2'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part V
Practical Optimization/Tuning
Query Tuning – What to do?

- Problematic SQL statements usually have:
  - Excessive number of buffer gets
  - Excessive number of physical reads
- So, if we consume less resources, we save time
  - *Reduce buffer gets* (more efficient access paths)
    - Avoid (most) full table scans
    - Check selectivity of index access paths
    - Stay away from Nested Loop joins on large row sources
  - *Avoid physical I/O*
    - Avoid (most) full table scans
    - Try to avoid sorts that write to disk, such as order by, group by, merge joins (set adequate sort_area_size)
    - Try to avoid hash joins writing to disk (hash_area_size)
Choosing a Driving Table

- The **driving table** is the table that is first used by Oracle in processing the query.
  - Choosing the correct driving table is critical.

- Driving table should be the table that returns the **smallest number of rows** and do the smallest number of buffer gets.
  - Driving table should not necessarily be the table with the smallest number of rows.

- In the case of cost-based optimization, the driving table is first after the FROM clause. Thus, place smallest table first after FROM, and list tables from smallest to largest.
  - The table order still makes a difference in execution time, even when using the cost-based optimizer.
Choosing a Driving Table

- **Example:**
  ```sql
  select doc_title
  from documents doc, page_collections pc
  where pc.pc_issue_date = '01-JAN-2002'
  and pc.pc_id = doc.pc_id
  ```

- **Which table should be driving?**
  - DOCUMENTS has 110+ million rows
    - No filtering predicates in where clause, all rows will be in row source
  - PAGE_COLLECTIONS has 1.4+ million rows
    - PC_ISSUE_DATE predicate will filter down to 30 rows
Using Hints

- Hints are used to convey your tuning suggestions to the optimizer
  - Misspelled or malformed hints are quietly ignored
- Commonly used hints include:
  - ORDERED
  - INDEX(table_alias index_name)
  - FULL(table_alias)
  - INDEX_FFS(table_alias index_name)
  - INDEX_COMBINE(table_alias index_name1.. index_name_n)
  - And_EQUAL(table_alias index_name1 index_name2.. Index_name5)
  - USE_NL(table_alias)
  - USE_MERGE(table_alias)
  - USE_HASH(table_alias)
- Hints should be specified as: /*+ hint */
  - Hints should immediately follow the ‘SELECT’ keyword
  - The space following the ‘+’can be significant inside of PL/SQL, due to bug in Oracle parser (see bug #697121)
- Driving table will never have a join method hint, since there is no row source to join it to
Simple Example of Tuning with Hints

- **Initial SQL**
  
  ```sql
  select doc_id, doc_title, pc_issue_date
  from documents doc, page_collections pc
  where doc.pc_id = pc.pc_id and doc.doc_id = 9572422;
  ```

- **Initial Execution Plan**
  
  ```
  Execution Plan
  0  SELECT STATEMENT Optimizer=CHOOSE (Cost=2575 Card=50 Bytes=3600)
  1   1. MERGE JOIN (Cost=2575 Card=50 Bytes=3600)
  2   2. TABLE ACCESS (BY INDEX ROWID) OF 'PAGE_COLLECTIONS' (Cost=2571 Card=1442348)
  3   2. INDEX (FULL SCAN) OF 'PC_PK' (UNIQUE) (Cost=3084 Card=1442348)
  4   1. SORT (JOIN) (Cost=3 Card=1 Bytes=60)
  5   4. TABLE ACCESS (BY INDEX ROWID) OF 'DOCUMENTS' (Cost=1 Card=1 Bytes=60)
  6   5. INDEX (UNIQUE SCAN) OF 'DOC_PK' (UNIQUE) (Cost=2 Card=1)
  ```

- **Initial number of buffer gets:** 444
Simple Example of Tuning with Hints

• First Tuning attempt

```sql
select /*+ FULL(pc)*/ doc_id, doc_title, pc_issue_date from documents doc, page_collections pc
where doc.pc_id = pc.pc_id and doc.doc_id = 9572422;
```

• Tuned Execution Plan

Execution Plan

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Card</th>
<th>Bytes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>SELECT STATEMENT Optimizer=CHOOSE</td>
<td>3281</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HASH JOIN (Cost=3281 Card=50 Bytes=3600)</td>
<td>3281</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TABLE ACCESS (FULL) OF 'PAGE_COLLECTIONS'</td>
<td>1675</td>
<td>1442348</td>
<td>17308176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TABLE ACCESS (BY INDEX ROWID) OF 'DOCUMENTS'</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>INDEX (UNIQUE SCAN) OF 'DOC_PK' (UNIQUE)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

• Number of buffer gets: 364
Simple Example of Tuning with Hints

- Second Tuning attempt

```sql
select /*+ ORDERED USE_NL(pc)*/ doc_id, doc_title, pc_issue_date from documents doc, page_collections pc where doc.pc_id = pc.pc_id and doc.doc_id = 9572422;
```

- Second Tuned Execution Plan

```
Execution Plan
----------------------------------------------------------
0  SELECT STATEMENT Optimizer=CHOOSE (Cost=2 Card=50 Bytes=3600)
1 0 NESTED LOOPS (Cost=2 Card=50 Bytes=3600) 1
2 TABLE ACCESS (BY INDEX ROWID) OF 'DOCUMENTS' (Cost=1 Card=1 Bytes=60)
3 2 INDEX (UNIQUE SCAN) OF 'DOC_PK' (UNIQUE) (Cost=2 Card=2)
4 1 TABLE ACCESS (BY INDEX ROWID) OF 'PAGE_COLLECTIONS' (Cost=1 Card=1442348)
5 4 INDEX (UNIQUE SCAN) OF 'PC_PK' (UNIQUE) (Cost=1 Card=1442348)
```

- Number of buffer gets: 7
Considerations and Cautions

- Fundamental changes to the query structure allow the optimizer different options
- Using select in the select list allowed for a GROUP BY result without a GROUP BY operation, thus avoiding costly BITMAP CONVERSION TO ROWIDS
- Other places where re-writing query can have benefits:
  - Rewrite sub-select as join, allows optimizer more options
  - consider EXISTS/NOT EXISTS and IN/NOT IN operations
- Adding hints to a large number of your SQL statements?
  - Take a step back, consider whether you need to tune your CBO params
  - Hand tuning a majority of SQL in an application will complicate code, and add a lot of time to development effort
  - As new access paths are introduced in Oracle, statements that use hints will not utilize them, and continue using the old access paths
- When individual statement tuning is necessary, a solid understanding of access paths, join order and join methods is the key to success
Considerations and Cautions

- Use hints sparingly
  - If you have the opportunity, tune via CBO parameters first
  - Don’t over-specify hints
  - SQL Tuning is as important as ever:
    - Need to understand the access paths, join orders, and join methods, even if only to evaluate what the CBO is doing
    - CBO gets better with each release, but it will never know as much about the application and data model as a well-trained developer
Myths

- SQL tuned for RBO will run well in the CBO
- SQL developers do not need to be retrained to write SQL for the CBO
- 10g, 11g & 12c do not support the RBO
- You can’t run RULE and COST together
- Oracle says the CBO is unreliable and you should use RULE
- Hints can’t be used in RULE
Top 9 Oracle SQL Tuning Tips

1. Design and develop with performance in mind
2. Index wisely
3. Reduce parsing
4. Take advantage of Cost Based Optimizer
5. Avoid accidental table scans
6. Optimize necessary table scans
7. Optimize joins
8. Use array processing
9. Consider PL/SQL for “tricky” SQL
Design and Develop with Performance in Mind

- Explicitly identify performance targets

- Focus on critical transactions
  - Test the SQL for these transactions against simulations of production data

- Measure performance as early as possible

- Consider prototyping critical portions of the applications

- Consider de-normalization and other performance by design features early on
De-Normalization

- If normalizing your OLTP database forces you to create queries with many multiple joins (4 or more)

- De-normalization is the process of selectively taking normalized tables and re-combining the data in them in order to reduce the number of joins needed to produce the necessary query results

- Sometimes the addition of a single column of redundant data to a table from another table can reduce a 4-way join into a 2-way join, significantly boosting performance by reducing the time it takes to perform the join
De-Normalization

- Example: We have the following schema:

  **Similarities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>user1</th>
<th>user2</th>
<th>similarity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

  **Averages:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>user</th>
<th>average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

  - **Similarities** table contains the similarity measure for all the possible pairs of users and **Averages** table the average ratings of all users in Database.
  - In order to update all similarity measures we need the average value for each user.
  - Suppose we have over 1,000,000 users stored in our Database (about 500 billions of user-pairs!)
  - To avoid joining we should consider of the following schema:

  **Similarities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>user1</th>
<th>user2</th>
<th>similarity</th>
<th>average1</th>
<th>average2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
De-Normalization

- While de-normalization can boost join performance, it can also have negative effects. For example, by adding redundant data to tables, you risk the following problems:
  - More data means reading more data pages than otherwise needed, hurting performance
  - Redundant data can lead to data anomalies and bad data
  - In many cases, extra code will have to be written to keep redundant data in separate tables in synch, which adds to database overhead
  - As you consider whether to de-normalize a database to speed joins, be sure you first consider if you have the proper indexes on the tables to be joined
    - It is possible that your join performance problem is more of a problem with a lack of appropriate indexes than it is of joining too many tables
Index Wisely

- Index to support selective WHERE clauses and join conditions
- Use concatenated indexes where appropriate
- Consider over-indexing to avoid table lookups
- Consider advanced indexing options
  - Hash Clusters
    - When a table is queried frequently with equality queries
    - You can avoid using the ORDER BY clause, as well as sort operations
    - More administrative overhead
  - Bit mapped indexes
    - Can use large amounts of memory
    - Use sparingly
  - Index only tables
Index Wisely

- **Do not index columns that are modified frequently**
  - UPDATE statements that modify indexed columns and INSERT and DELETE statements that modify indexed tables take longer than if there were no index
    - must modify data in indexes as well as data in tables
- **Do not index keys that appear only with functions or operators**
  - A WHERE clause that uses a function (other than MIN or MAX) or an operator with an indexed key does not make available the access path that uses the index (except with function-based indexes)
- When choosing to index a key, consider whether the performance gain for queries is worth the performance loss for INSERTs, UPDATEs, and DELETEs and the use of the space required to store the index
  - You might want to experiment by comparing the processing times of the SQL statements with and without indexes
    - You can measure processing time with the SQL trace facility
Reduce Parsing

- Use Bind variables
  - Bind variables are key to application scalability
  - If necessary set cursor CURSOR_SHARING to FORCE

- Reuse cursors in your application code
  - How to do this depends on your development languages

- Use a cursor cache
  - Setting SESSION_CACHED_CURSORS can help applications that are not re-using cursors
Bind Values

- Use bind variables rather than literals in SQL statements whenever possible
- For example, the following two statements cannot use the same shared area because they do not match character for character:

```sql
SELECT employee_id FROM employees
WHERE department_id = 10;
SELECT employee_id FROM employees
WHERE department_id = 20;
```

- By replacing the literals with a bind variable, only one SQL statement would result, which could be executed twice:

```sql
SELECT employee_id FROM employees
WHERE department_id = :dept_id;
```
Bind Values

- In SQL*Plus you can use bind variables as follows:

```
SQL variable dept_id exec number
> :dept_id := 10
SQL SELECT employee_id FROM employees
> WHERE department_id = :dept_id;
SQL
```

- What we've done to the SELECT statement now is take the literal value out of it, and replace it with a placeholder (our bind variable), with SQL*Plus passing the value of the bind variable to Oracle when the statement is processed.
Instead of:

```sql
select count(*) into tot from s_emp
where emp_id = v_emp_id;
```

Declare a cursor for the count:

```sql
cursor cnt_emp_cur(v_emp_id number) is
select count(*) emp_total from s_emp
emp_id = v_emp_id;
cnt_emp_rec cnt_emp%rowtype;
```

And then do the fetch from this cursor:

```sql
...
open cnt_emp(v_emp_id);
fetch cnt_emp into cnt_emp_rec;
...
close cnt_emp;
```

Or if just checking for existence

```sql
cursor cnt_emp_cur(v_emp_id number) is
select emp_id from s_emp where
emp_id= v_emp_id and rownum = 1;
```
The older rule based optimizer is inferior in almost every respect to the modern cost based optimizer; basic RBO problems

- Incorrect driving table 40%
- Incorrect index 40%
- Incorrect driving index 10%

Using the cost based optimizer effectively involves:

- Regular collection of table statistics using the ANALYZE or DBMS_STATS command
- Understand hints and how they can be used to influence SQL statement execution
- Choose the appropriate optimizer mode;
  - FIRST_ROWS is best for OLTP applications
  - ALL_ROWS suits reporting and OLAP jobs
Analyze – Wrong Data

- Tables were analyzed with incorrect data volumes

- When does this occur?
  - Table rebuilt
  - Index added
  - Migrate schema to production
  - Analyze before a bulk load

- Missing Stats:
  - Oracle will estimate the stats for you
  - These stats are for this execution only
  - Stats on Indexes
Avoid Accidental Table Scans

- Table scans that occur unintentionally are a major source of poorly performing SQL

- Causes include:
  - Missing Index
  - Using “!=“, “<>” or NOT
    - Use inclusive range conditions or IN lists
  - Looking for values that are NULL
    - Use NOT NULL values with a default value
  - Using function on indexed columns
Factors that can Cause an Index not to be Used

1) Using a function on the left side

```
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE substr(title,1,3) = 'Man';
```

```
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE trunc(hire_date)=trunc(sysdate);
```

→Since there is a function around this column the index will not be used. This includes Oracle functions `to_char`, `to_number`, `ltrim`, `rtrim`, `instr`, `trunc`, `rpad`, `lpad`.

Solution:

Use ‘like’:

```
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE title LIKE 'Man%';
```

Use >, <:

```
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE hire_date >= sysdate
AND hire_date < sysdate + 1;
```
Factors that can Cause an Index not to be Used

2) Comparing incompatible data types

SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE employee_number = '3';
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE hire_date = '12-jan-01';

→ There will be an implicit to_char conversion used
→ There will be an implicit to_date conversion used

Solution:

SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE employee_number = 3;
SELECT * FROM s_emp
WHERE hire_date = to_date('12-jan-01');
Factors that can Cause an Index not to be Used

3) Using null and not null

Since the column title has null values, and is compared to a null value, the index can not be used

Oracle hints are always enclosed in /*+ */ and must come directly after the select clause
The index hint causes indexes to be used

Solution:

Since the column title has null values, and is compared to a null value, the index can not be used

Oracle hints are always enclosed in /*+ */ and must come directly after the select clause
The index hint causes indexes to be used
Factors that can Cause an Index not to be Used

4) Adding additional criteria in the where clause for a column name that is of a different index

Solution:

(Use an Oracle hint)

\[
\text{SELECT } * \text{ FROM s_emp} \\
\text{WHERE title='Manager'} \\
\text{AND salary = 100000;}
\]

→ Column title and salary have separate indexes on these columns

→ Oracle hints are always enclosed in /*+ */ and must come directly after the select clause
The index hint causes indexes to be used
S_EMP is the Oracle table
Make sure most Restrictive Indexes are being Used by using Oracle hints

```
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM vehicle
WHERE
  assembly_location_code = 'AP24A'
AND production_date = '06-apr-01';

COUNT(*)
--------
  787
Elapsed: 00:00:10.00
```

→ This does not use an index

→ Notice it is 10 seconds
Make sure most Restrictive Indexes are being Used by using Oracle hints

```
SELECT /*+ index (vehicle FKI_VEHICLE_1) */ COUNT(*)
FROM vehicle
WHERE assembly_location_code = 'AP24A'
AND production_date = '06-apr-01';

COUNT(*)
---------
    787

Elapsed: 00:00:00.88
```

→ This does use an index

→ Notice it is less than 1 second. USE THE MOST SELECTIVE INDEX that will return the fewest records
Some Idiosyncrasies

- Condition Order:
  - The order of your where clause will effect the performance
- OR may stop the index being used
  - break the query and use UNION

```sql
SELECT  /*+ CHOOSE */
        *
FROM emp
WHERE ename = 'smith'
  OR deptno = 1
```

PlanSteps
- SELECT STATEMENT (Optimizer: CHOOSE)
- TABLE ACCESS FULL SCOTT.EMP
SELECT /*+ INDEX(emp, I_EMP_DBPSUG) INDEX(emp, I_EMP_ENAME) */ *
FROM emp
WHERE name = 'smith'
  OR deptno = 1

SELECT *
FROM emp
WHERE name = 'smith'
  OR deptno = 1
Optimize Necessary Table scans

- There are many occasions where a table scan is the only option. If so:
  - Consider parallel query option

- Try to reduce size of the table
  - Adjust PCTFREE and PCTUSED
  - Relocate infrequently used long columns

- Improve the caching of the table
  - Use the CACHE hint or table property
  - Implement KEEP and RECYCLE pools

- Partition the table

- Consider the fast full index scan
IN Lists

SELECT empno FROM emp WHERE deptno IN (10, 20, 30)

Rewritten as:

SELECT empno FROM emp
WHERE deptno = 10
UNION ALL
SELECT empno FROM emp
WHERE deptno = 20
UNION ALL
SELECT empno FROM emp
WHERE deptno = 30
If you are designing a database that potentially could be very large, holding millions or billions of rows, consider the option of horizontally partitioning your large tables.

- Horizontal partitioning divides what would typically be a single table into multiple tables, creating many smaller tables instead of a single, large table.
- The advantage of this is that it is generally much faster to query a single small table than a single large table.

For example, if you expect to add 10 million rows a year to a transaction table, after five years it will contain 50 million rows.

- In most cases, you may find that most queries (although not all) queries on the table will be for data from a single year.
- If this is the case, if you partition the table into a separate table for each year of transactions, then you can significantly reduce the overhead of the most common of queries.
When Joining

• Make sure everything that can be joined is joined (for 3 or more tables)

   Instead of:

   ```sql
   SELECT * FROM t1, t2, t3
   WHERE t1.emp_id = t2.emp_id
   AND t2.emp_id = t3.emp_id
   ```

   add:

   ```sql
   SELECT * FROM t1, t2, t3
   WHERE t1.emp_id = t2.emp_id
   AND t2.emp_id = t3.emp_id
   AND t1.emp_id = t3.temp_id;
   ```

• Make sure smaller table is first in the from clause
Joining too Many Tables

- The more tables the more work for the optimizer
- Best plan may not be achievable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Permutations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>40320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>362880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3628800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>39916800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use ARRAY Processing

- Retrieve or insert rows in batches, rather than one at a time
- Methods of doing this are language specific
- Suppose that a new user registers in our Database
- We have to create an entry in Similarities table for each pair of new user and the existing users
- Instead of selecting all the existing users and make the insertion individually we should use the following statement:

```sql
insert into similarities (user1, user2, similarity)
    'new_user_id' as user1,
    select user_id from users as user2,
    0 as similarity;
```
Consider PL/SQL for “Tricky” SQL

- With SQL you specify the data you want, not how to get it
  - Sometime you need to specifically dictate your retrieval algorithms

- For example:
  - Getting the second highest value
  - Correlated updates
  - SQL with multiple complex correlated subqueries
  - SQL that seems to hard to optimize unless it is broken into multiple queries linked in PL/SQL

- Using explicit instead of implicit cursors
  - Implicit cursors always take longer than explicit cursors because they are doing an extra to make sure that there is no more data

- Eliminating cursors where ever possible
When your SQL is Tuned, Look to your Oracle Configuration

- When SQL is inefficient there is limited benefit in investing in Oracle server or operating system tuning.

- However, once SQL is tuned, the limiting factor for performance will be Oracle and operating system configuration.

- In particular, check for internal Oracle contention that typically shows up as latch contention or unusual wait conditions (buffer busy, free buffer, etc).
Other Parameters

- **OPTIMIZER_MAX_PERMUTATIONS**
  - Remember the too many joins?
  - Default is 80,000
  - Can lead to large Parse times
  - Altering can lead to non optimal plan selection

- **OPTIMIZER_INDEX_CACHING**
  - Represents # of blocks that can be found in the cache
  - Range 0 - 99
  - Default is 0 – implies that index access will require a *physical read*
  - Should be set to 90
Other Parameters

- **OPTIMIZER_INDEX_COST_ADJ**
  - Represents cost of index access to full table scans
  - Range 1 – 10000
  - Default is 100 – Means index access is as costly as Full Table Scan
  - Should be between 10 – 50 for OLTP and approx 50 for DSS

- **DB_FILE_MULTIBLOCK_READ_COUNT**
  - Setting too high can cause Full Table Scans
  - Can adjust for this by setting OPTIMIZER_INDEX_COST_ADJ

- **DB_KEEP_CACHE_SIZE**
- **DB_RECYCLE_CACHE_SIZE**
- **DB_BLOCK_HASH_BUCKETS**
References

- Mark Levis Common tuning pitfalls of Oracle’s optimizers, Compuware
- Duane Spencer TOP tips for ORACLE SQL tuning, Quest Software, Inc.