

Multithreaded query execution on multicore processors

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ABSTRACT

Modern CPUs follow multicore designs with multiple threads running in parallel. The dataflow of query engine algorithms needs to be adapted to exploit such designs. We identify memory accesses and thread synchronization as the main bottlenecks in a multicore execution environment. We present a uniform framework to mitigate the impact of these bottlenecks in multithreaded versions of the most frequently used query processing algorithms, namely sorting, partitioning, join evaluation, and aggregation. Through an analytical model, we extract the expected behavior and scalability of the proposed algorithms. We conduct an extensive experimental analysis of both the analytical model and the algorithms. Our results show that: (a) the analytical model adequately captures the performance of the algorithms, and (b) the algorithms themselves achieve considerable speedups compared to their single-threaded counterparts.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a detailed analysis of multithreaded query execution on multicore processors. Extending the elementary query evaluation operators for multithreaded processing is far from straightforward. Multithreading introduces resource contention that penalizes scalability; cores share resources both at the hardware (caches and physical memory) and at the software (lock-based synchronization) levels, thereby restricting the degree of parallelism. To counter that we posit that multiple threads should independently process cache-resident data to the highest possible extent, thereby minimizing contention and enhancing parallelism. To that end we: (a) give a uniform framework to generalize for multithreaded execution the most frequently used query processing algorithms, and (b) present an analytical model to estimate the multithreaded performance of the proposed algorithms. The model statically estimates if multithreaded execution will result in a substantial speedup or not. To the best of our knowledge this is the first paper that provides a uniform framework for and an analyti-

cal performance model of multithreaded query execution on chip multiprocessors.

Multicore means shared memory. Modern CPUs integrate multiple cores and provide hardware support for parallel processing. Their architecture resembles shared-memory systems: the cores share main memory and, possibly, the lowest level of the cache hierarchy. Query evaluation on this type of parallel systems has been tackled before (*e.g.*, [10]); previous work, however, has not taken into consideration the cache hierarchy and its impact on multithreaded execution. As shown in [1, 14], database workloads suffer from excessive stalls due to the high latency of memory operations. This is aggravated in multicore processors as the memory subsystem serves requests from multiple cores. The hardware community is also concerned with scalability restrictions on multicores due to contention for the memory bus [20].

Busier is faster. Multicore processors have more “raw” processing power, but this is not harvested when executing data-intensive workloads. To alleviate this, we propose to exploit cache locality by maximizing the amount of processing whenever a data block is in the CPU caches. As an example of our techniques, “pushing” more query-relevant processing into partitioning an input may result in an extra per-thread processing cost for the operation of 15%; however, this means that the cores are now busier with processing the input instead of waiting for memory operations. The busier a core is with processing cache-resident data, the less it contends with the other cores for accessing the memory. The extra per-thread cost in the previous example results in an almost three-fold improvement in the Cycles Per Instruction (CPI) ratio when the technique is applied to a quad-core Intel Xeon E5420 CPU. In turn, this results in a higher speedup of the execution of the entire query.

We apply this approach to the prominent query evaluation algorithms and provide a uniform framework for multithreaded processing. Our goals are to: (a) minimize data transfers from main memory, and (b) evenly distribute both work and data across multiple threads. To minimize synchronization overhead, we assign different input and output streams to each thread, while locking (if any) is performed on a coarse granularity, thus aiding parallel execution. To gauge the impact of multithreaded execution, we analytically model the effect of input cardinality, tuple size, selectivity, and projectivity to performance on specific hardware. We introduce the *multithreaded utility ratio* to describe the overlap of computations and memory accesses and we show how this ratio determines the *effective* cost of memory operations. This allows us to estimate the cost of query operations

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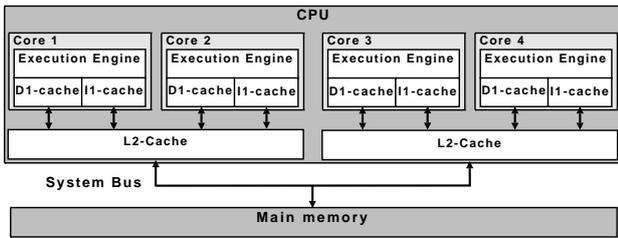


Figure 1: The architecture of the Intel Xeon E5420

and the expected speedup of multithreaded execution.

Contributions. The main contributions of this work can be outlined as follows:

- We give a uniform framework to extend existing query processing algorithms for multithreaded execution on multicore CPUs.
- We present partitioning and buffering techniques that determine which part of the input each thread processes and where in the cache hierarchy it is buffered.
- We introduce an analytical model to accurately estimate the speedup of multithreaded query execution.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 we present the main characteristics of multicore processors. In Section 3 we give a general framework for multithreaded execution, along with algorithms for the main query processing operations. We model the behavior of the proposed algorithms in Section 4, while in Section 5 we conduct an experimental study of our proposals. We discuss previous work in Section 6 and draw our conclusions and identify future research directions in Section 7.

2. CHIP MULTIPROCESSORS

During the past decade, the dominant trend in processor design is the integration of multiple processing cores on the same die. Termed *chip multiprocessors* (CMPs), multicore chips natively support parallel execution, while combining scalability with energy efficiency [12]. Multicore chips have been implemented in various ways. The main difference is the type of parallelism supported by each core. Some processor designs, *e.g.*, the Intel Quad Core and the AMD Phenom, support out-of-order execution and Instruction-Level Parallelism (ILP); alternatively, the pipelines of the Sun UltraSPARC T2 and the IBM Power 6 support only in-order execution but use Thread-Level Parallelism (TLP). There are also hybrid designs, *e.g.*, the Intel Core i7 CPU, which combine out-of-order execution with hardware supported multithreading, similar to Simultaneous Multithreading. A detailed analysis of design trends in processor architecture, along with their effect on the execution of OLTP and DSS workloads, can be found in [11].

Designs also differ in terms of memory hierarchy, specifically whether on-chip caches are shared between all or some of the cores. In Figure 1 we show the architecture of the Intel Xeon E5420 quad-core processor: each pair of cores shares a common L2-cache and cores from different pairs communicate through the memory bus. In other designs, *e.g.*, the AMD Phenom and the Intel Core i7, each core has its own L1- and L2-caches, while all cores share a common on-chip L3-cache. The salient challenge in multicore CPUs is to keep all cores processing data at rates close to their clock. To do so, manufacturers improve memory throughput by integrating memory controllers inside the chip and

using multiple memory banks. Still, if the caches and the memory are concurrently accessed by all cores, contention for their utilization may increase the latency of memory operations and degrade performance.

As multiple cores share main memory but not necessarily individual caches, it is common practice to replicate data inside the caches of different cores to enhance parallelism. Cache coherency involves the propagation of data writes from one core to the others. Caches are organized in small blocks termed *cache lines*. When one cache line is shared between cores and is updated by one of them, the other cores invalidate their cached copy and refetch the cache line on the next access. Invalidation takes place on true sharing, *i.e.*, the cores access the same data of the cache line, or on false sharing, *i.e.*, when one core updates a part of the cache line that no other core accesses. Coherency protocols “snoop” updates to all cores or use directories to maintain data sharing information [12].

Concurrent execution at the hardware level (*i.e.*, processing independently scheduled threads) does not imply synchronization at the software level. The latter is achieved by providing hardware support for atomic operations through mutexes and *spin locking*. Each mutex is a memory word set to 0 when free and 1 when locked; to operate on the mutex, a core must have it in its D1-cache. To acquire a lock, a core continuously probes the mutex (*i.e.*, the core “spins”) using the *compare-and-swap* instruction. Once the lock is acquired the core executes the synchronized code and resets the lock. Each core spins on a locally cached copy of the mutex without affecting other cores. Whenever the mutex is released, cache coherency instructs that the cache line containing it must be invalidated and refetched. The first core to refetch the cache line will acquire the lock, while other cores waiting on the lock will continue spinning.

3. MULTITHREADED PROCESSING

In this section we provide a framework for parallelizing the data flow of the most frequently used query processing algorithms [9]: sorting, partitioning, join evaluation and aggregation. The premises of our framework are:

- We use the N-ary Storage Model (NSM) with tuples stored consecutively within pages of 4kB. Each table resides in its own file on disk, and a storage manager is responsible for caching file pages in the buffer pool. We have not used vertical partitioning as we wanted to keep the same baseline with most commercial and research database systems. We also wanted to explicitly account for the interaction between the query engine and the storage manager in our analysis.
- Our techniques only depend on the number of threads that can be efficiently supported by hardware. Naturally, the techniques need to be “fitted” to a specific CPU but the approach is uniform and remains largely the same across CPUs. For instance, the Intel Xeon 5400 series of quad-core processors of Figure 1 (the one also used in our experiments) has per-core pipelines supporting out-of-order execution. However, there is no in-core support for TLP so only four concurrent threads are supported by hardware. We will be pointing out any subtleties that require fitting the data flow to the specifications of each CPU.

Our approach stems from the observation that CMPs are in essence shared-memory systems. Parallel query evalua-

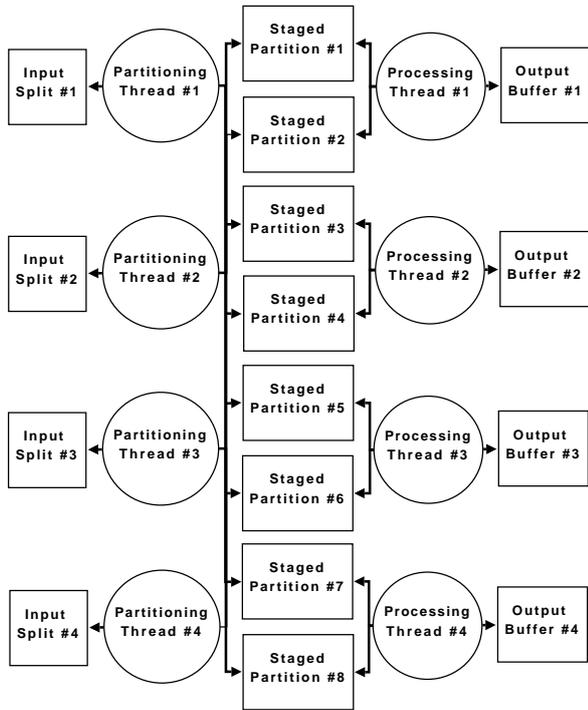


Figure 2: Multithreaded operator implementation

tion has been tackled before [8, 10]; the rule of thumb is to split the input in disjoint partitions and then process them in parallel. However, the naïve extension of this technique for multicores would not take advantage of the cache hierarchy’s buffering effect. For example, synchronizing accesses to a shared hash table would severely penalize performance, in case the table does not fit inside caches [5]. To that end, we fine-tune the implementation of partitioning and parallel processing to the characteristics of multicore processors. We focus on reducing concurrent memory requests by interleaving memory accesses and cached data processing to the highest possible extent. This technique keeps the cores busy and reduces memory stalls. We also avoid using fine-grained thread synchronization. Threads are initialized once for each operation and use *restricted affinity* (i.e., they are assigned to a specific core); that way they can run with the minimum synchronization overhead. Finally, we pay special attention to avoid false sharing: we align shared data (such as mutexes) with the size of the cache line and replicate writeable variables and buffers for each thread.

An example of the uniform framework for the implementation of each operator is shown in Figure 2. The input is first split in as many “splits” as there are threads of execution that can be efficiently supported by hardware (e.g., four splits for the Intel Xeon, eight splits for the Core i7). If the input is a primary table we divide the total page count by the number of threads; each split is assigned to one thread. Next, we partition the input in disjoint partitions using the specified number of threads. Each thread scans its split and writes tuples to appropriate output partitions. We do not use tuple references, but physically copy to the partitions the fields required for further query processing. That way we increase cache locality and avoid uncontrollable and costly random access patterns outside the cache hierarchy. After staging all inputs, we invoke a new team of threads to

process the partitions. A set of disjoint partitions is assigned to each thread and processed with no synchronization overhead. Threads store output tuples to individually assigned output buffers. The set of all output buffers is the final operator output that will either be used by subsequent query operators, or be forwarded to the client as a final result.

3.1 Data staging

During data staging the selections and projections are applied and the input is appropriately “formatted”. For example, for merge join, inputs are sorted, while for hash join the input is hash-partitioned. Our measurements have shown that data staging can take up to 90% of the total execution time of an operator. It is therefore important to adapt all common staging algorithms for multithreaded execution.

Our algorithms use partitioning for multithreaded processing with minimal overhead. The main partitioning algorithms are: (a) range partitioning, (b) hash partitioning, and (c) value mapping. Range partitioning generates partitions containing tuples within a specific range of values of the partitioning attribute. Value distribution statistics, e.g., histograms, can be used to extract the bounds of each partition to balance the distribution of tuples to partitions. Hash partitioning uses hash and modulo computations to map tuples to partitions with no assumption on value distributions. This leads to similarly sized partitions, within a factor of about 20%. Finally, the values of the partitioning attribute can be directly mapped to partitions, a technique applicable in case the partitioning attribute has only a few distinct values. We elaborate on each staging algorithm.

Sorting. We build on the AlphaSort algorithm [16], where input partitions fitting the L2-cache are sorted with *quicksort* and then merged through multi-way merging. We use N hardware-supported threads to sort partitions and assign $(\frac{1}{N})^{\text{th}}$ of the total number of input pages to each thread. Each thread applies quicksort to blocks that fit inside its share of the L2-cache. For example, in the Intel Xeon processor of Figure 1 the block size is less than half the size of the L2-cache; for the AMD Phenom processor, where each core has its own L2-cache and shares the on-chip L3-cache, a block can fully occupy the L2-cache.

After sorting each block we invoke N new threads to merge the blocks. We use range partitioning to separate work. We assign a specific range of values to each thread, as shown in Figure 3 (value ranges are individually colored). Each thread processes only the part of each block that contains values of its assigned range. The sorting threads specify the tuple range for each merging thread in each block during the previous step. Through value distribution statistics, it is possible to assign ranges to threads so that each thread will output approximately the same number of tuples. That way all threads will have comparable processing rates. Each merging thread maintains a heap of the currently examined tuples from each block to identify the tuple with the minimum value. Note that no synchronization is needed during sorting since threads process disjoint datasets.

Partitioning. Hash and range partitioning use the same multithreaded process, the difference being the function used to forward tuples to partitions. As shown in Figure 2, each thread scans its split of input pages and forwards tuples to partitions by applying the partitioning function to each tuple. We use buffering on a page granularity, in the sense that each thread uses one page from each partition to store

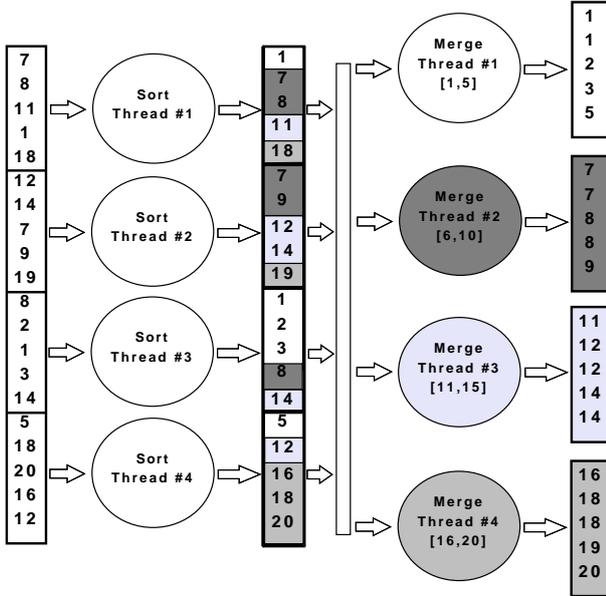


Figure 3: Multithreaded sorting

tuples. When a page fills up, the thread replaces it with a new one through a call to the storage manager.

This simple approach has two drawbacks. Firstly, storage manager interaction needs to be an atomic operation; thus, requests to the storage manager need to be serialized. Secondly, and more importantly, the only per-tuple processing is the evaluation of the partitioning function. This requires at most a few tens of CPU cycles, while fetching data from main memory costs an order of magnitude more. Since memory is a shared resource across all cores, if multiple cores issue memory requests concurrently, memory operations will be queued and their effective latency will increase; this restricts the scalability of multithreaded partitioning. We have verified this hypothesis for the Intel Xeon processor, which uses a single memory bus, but it is likely to hold for processors with multiple embedded memory controllers.

The solution we propose is to maximize reuse by processing the input to a greater extent once it is cache-resident. One way of doing so is sorting each full partition page before replacing it with a new page. If the number of partitions is moderate we can expect the page to be inside the L2-cache (or even the L1-cache) before being sorted, thus sorting is performed efficiently. Table 1 shows the results of hardware profiling for hash partitioning and for the combination of hash partitioning and sorting at the same time on the reference CPU.¹ The input table has 1,000,000 tuples of 72 bytes each. The overhead of partitioning the input while sorting each partition page in single-threaded execution is 74% over partitioning the input alone, but is reduced to 15% when four threads are used. Furthermore, though in both cases the L2-cache misses increase (due to the interaction with the storage manager and thread synchronization), simple multithreaded partitioning increases the CPI ratio by a factor of 2.3 and the number of pending memory requests by a factor of 2.4; combined partitioning and sorting results in a slight increase of a factor of 1.2 for the CPI ratio and the pending requests. The above show that, though the same dataset

¹We show sample counts for L2-cache misses and pending memory requests, as extracted with the OProfile tool [17].

Listing 1: Accessing the mapping directory

```

int offset = lookup(directory, value);
if (offset < 0) {
    lock(directory.lock);
    offset = lookup(directory, value);
    if (offset < 0) offset = insert(directory, value);
    unlock(directory.lock);
}

```

| Algorithm | Threads | Time | CPI | L2-cache misses | Pending requests |
|--------------------|---------|--------|------|-----------------|------------------|
| Partition | 1 | 0.085s | 1.68 | 335 | 4672 |
| | 4 | 0.072s | 3.86 | 699 | 11086 |
| Partition and Sort | 1 | 0.148s | 1.21 | 342 | 7556 |
| | 4 | 0.083s | 1.41 | 661 | 9008 |

Table 1: Profiling results for partitioning

is accessed in both cases, the cores need to wait longer for memory operations in hash partitioning alone because they all attempt to access main memory at the same time. When combining partitioning with sorting, while one core is busy sorting a page, the remaining cores face less contention for memory operations. Synchronization overhead is also reduced, as the time to obtain a reference to a new page from the storage manager is only a small portion of the time to fetch a page and sort it. Note that, since the partitions end up containing sorted pages, one merging phase per partition is needed to sort it. This step can be integrated with query evaluation, as we shall see in Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Value mapping. If the partitioning attribute has a small number of distinct values, one can map each value to a specific partition, using a directory to maintain this mapping. Any data structure can be used for the directory; we use a sorted array of attribute values and perform binary search for lookups. Note that there is a limit beyond which this approach becomes inefficient: if the partitioning attribute has a high distinct cardinality the mapping directory will span outside the L1-cache and accesses will trigger cache misses.

Each thread scans its assigned input split and copies its tuples to the corresponding partitions. Since tuple processing requires a directory lookup (and may trigger an insertion), there is sufficient computational load to overlap with memory operations, resulting in considerable speedups. The more entries the directory has, the closer to linear the speedup will be: the time spent on lookups dominates the cost of fetching data. Note that since the number of distinct values is small, all cores share the same directory. In Listing 1 we show the code to synchronize directory insertions and lookups. The synchronization penalty is paid until the directory contains all entries. From then on threads replicate the directory inside each core’s L1-cache and perform lookups without locking it, as it is not updated any more.

3.2 Join evaluation

Merge Join. The input tables are staged by sorting them on the join attributes. To decide on the ranges each thread will process during sorting, we use a simple approach. Using value statistics we obtain the highest minimum and the lowest maximum values for each join attribute. Assuming a uniform distribution, we then divide this range by the number of threads, which gives us the range of each partition. More sophisticated techniques can combine histograms with the cardinality of each table and compute ranges that are estimated to create partitions of similar size, which is especially helpful in the presence of skew.

After sorting the input tables, we initialize a new set of threads to evaluate the join predicate. Each thread processes a specific value range of the join attribute and evaluates the join for corresponding partitions; there is also a separate output buffer per thread. As partitions are disjoint there is no synchronization overhead. The only performance restriction is the ability of the memory subsystem to provide the cores with data in the rates the threads consume them.

Hash Join. Recall that during hash partitioning each page of each partition is also sorted. Thus, there is no need to build per-partition hash tables during the join phase. Each input is partitioned using a fanout wide enough for the largest corresponding partitions of each table to fit in the lowest cache level. For example, if we join table *A* of size 100MB with table *B* of size 250MB using four threads on a quad-core processor with a shared 8MB L2-cache (and no L3-cache), the partitions of both tables should be smaller than 1MB: during the join phase the threads sharing L2 will be joining two partitions each. We therefore need to use a fanout of at least 250 for both tables (*i.e.*, the size of the largest table over the target size of each partition). In practice, it is better to use higher fanouts (even double). Doing so will amortize the variance in partition sizes, and procure for space to hold instructions and data belonging to the operating system and the storage manager, as well as the merging buffers that will be shortly introduced.

After partitioning the inputs and individually sorting the partition pages, we start new threads to join the corresponding partitions. Each thread processes a disjoint set of partitions, so all threads work independently. First, we merge the pages of each partition and generate a fully sorted partition. As this is repeated for all partitions, we dedicate a single output buffer per thread and we (re)use it to store the tuples of each partition in sorted order. Since the partition size is small, one can expect the merging buffers for all threads to remain inside the lower cache level during the join process, thus avoiding accesses to main memory. After merging we join corresponding partitions just as in merge join. Note that the partitions have already been brought in the lower cache level so this step is efficient. Our hybrid join technique interleaves computation with memory operations and efficiently exploits the cache hierarchy; at the same time it incurs negligible synchronization overhead.

Map Join. If the join attributes have a small number of distinct values we stage the inputs using value mapping. We then join the partitions for the same attribute value with nested loops join. This algorithm is applicable only when both inputs have a small distinct value cardinality. Its performance degrades fast as the number of entries in the mapping directory increases: as the directory grows it will not fit the L1-cache, so lookups will trigger cache misses.

3.3 Aggregation algorithms

Sort aggregation. We first sort blocks of the input on the grouping attributes. In line with performing as much computation as we can during data staging, we modify the merging phase of Section 3.1 to incorporate the on-the-fly evaluation of the aggregate functions. That way, we avoid flushing the sorted output to memory and refetching it to the caches to compute the aggregate values of each group. Doing so reduces main memory accesses and enhances parallelism.

Partition-based aggregation. We first hash- or range-partition the input and individually sort the pages of each

| <i>R.a</i> | | <i>R.b</i> | | <i>R.c</i> | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| <i>value</i> | <i>id</i> | <i>value</i> | <i>id</i> | <i>value</i> | <i>id</i> |
| <i>x</i> | 0 | A | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| <i>y</i> | 1 | B | 1 | 20 | 1 |
| <i>z</i> | 2 | C | 2 | 30 | 2 |
| | | | | 40 | 3 |

(a) Multiple mapping directories

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Offset}(R.a = y, R.b = C, R.c = 20) &= R.a[y] \cdot |R.b| \cdot |R.c| + R.b[C] \cdot |R.c| + R.c[20] \\
 &= 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 4 + 1 = 21
 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Offset of aggregate value

Figure 4: Mapping directories for aggregation

partition (see also Section 3.1). The partitioning fanout can be smaller than the one used in join evaluation, as there is only one input. Next, we invoke new threads, each processing disjoint sets of partitions. For each partition, the thread merges the sorted pages; instead of saving the output to a merge buffer (as with join evaluation) it directly evaluates the aggregate values per group and outputs them, which significantly reduces the number of memory operations.

Map aggregation. If all grouping attributes have small distinct value cardinalities, we can aggregate in a single pass over the input. The input is first split to the number of threads used. We keep a mapping directory for each grouping attribute, with directories shared across threads. We generate an array of aggregate values, one per aggregate function per thread. A thread looks up each tuple in each directory and finds the row to update in its private array of aggregate values. For example, consider grouping table *R* on fields *a*, *b* and *c*. The mapping directories are shown in Figure 4, where we also show how we can compute the offset of the row to update in the aggregation arrays. As the distinct value cardinality for the grouping attributes is small, the mapping directories quickly fill up and hold all input values; thus, aggregation bears minimal synchronization overhead. After processing all tuples, the individual aggregate value arrays are “merged” depending on the aggregate function (*e.g.*, for `sum()` corresponding group values are added).

The scalability of multithreaded aggregation grows with the size of the mapping directories, as lookups become more expensive and overlap to a greater extent with input tuple fetching. Directories, however, should not grow too large: as the directories and aggregation arrays grow (the size of each aggregation array being the product of distinct values of each grouping attribute), they start “spilling” outside the L1-cache, or even the L2-cache, so lookups and aggregate value updates are likely to trigger cache misses. This is aggravated by multiple threads sharing the lowest cache level, so the cache capacity available per thread is reduced.

4. PERFORMANCE MODELLING

In CMPs, multiple cores can work independently provided there is no synchronization overhead and their datasets are cache-resident; this would provide linear speedups. This is not always feasible, though, as cores will contend to access memory-resident data. Consider the case of *N* threads processing a single relation: these threads will have to share the physical memory. If all need to fetch data at the same time, fetch requests will be serialized, diminishing the performance gains of multithreaded execution.

Consider a memory block (*e.g.*, a hash partition). Each thread’s operation on it can be divided in three stages:

| | |
|-------|--|
| P | page size (bytes) |
| CL | cache line size (bytes) |
| K | input tuple cardinality |
| K' | staged tuple cardinality, $0 \leq K' \leq K$ |
| D | distinct value cardinality |
| T | input tuple size (bytes) |
| T' | staged tuple size (bytes), $1 \leq T' \leq T$ |
| $L1$ | cost for L1-cache access (CPU cycles) |
| $L2$ | cost for L2-cache access (CPU cycles) |
| M | cost for main memory access (CPU cycles) |
| OUT | cost for building an output tuple (CPU cycles) |
| N | number of threads |
| LK | cost per locking operation (CPU cycles), 0 for $N = 1$ |
| TO | overhead per thread (scheduling, joining <i>etc</i>) |

Table 2: Model parameters

(a) the fetch stage, where the block is requested from main memory, (b) the processing stage, and (c) the locking stage, where the thread interacts with the storage manager to request a new block. Ideally, with N threads, one thread will be in the fetching stage, while $N - 1$ threads will be processing a cache-resident block. This defines the *multithreaded utility ratio* R , shown in Equation 1: the time gained by overlapping operations through having multiple threads operate on different parts of the input. The numerator, C_f , is the cost of fetching a block, and the denominator is the sum of the costs of fetching, processing (C_p), and locking (C_l).

$$R = \frac{C_f}{C_f + C_p + C_l} \quad (1)$$

Let M be the cost of a memory access. In single-threaded execution the memory is accessed by one thread. For N threads the memory bus is shared; in the worst case an equivalent $(\frac{1}{N})^{\text{th}}$ of the maximum memory throughput is available to each core and, hence, the cost of a memory access reaches MN . Through overlapping operations, captured by the utility ratio R , the effective memory throughput will be greater. We define M' , the *effective memory access cost*, as shown in Equation 2. If R is less than $\frac{1}{N}$, block operations will overlap so each thread will face negligible contention for accessing memory. Else, the cost will increase depending on the multithreaded utility ratio and will approach MN as $R \rightarrow 1$ when there is no processing overlap among threads.

$$M' = \begin{cases} M & R \leq \frac{1}{N} \\ MN R, & R > \frac{1}{N} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

We use the above framework to estimate the speedup of multithreaded execution and give formulas for the cost of each algorithm based on a per-memory-access model. We then extract memory utility ratios for each algorithm of Section 3 and “plug in” these ratios to the cost formulas. Our objective is not to have an accurate description of execution on a CPU-cycle granularity (which is most likely impossible due to the complexity of modern hardware), but a coarse characterization of the differences between single- and multithreaded execution. We therefore track the accesses each algorithm makes to each level of the memory hierarchy. We do not account for calculations running over registers, as their execution costs are negligible compared to memory operations. We also omit the impact of hardware prefetchers, cache associativity, and non-blocking caches: their effect depends on the design of each CPU and the runtime environment. The parameters of our model are shown in Table 2;

we assume a two-level deep cache hierarchy.

4.1 Sorting

The first step of sorting is to partition the input into blocks of B bytes each and sort them using quicksort; the blocks are then merged to produce the final sorted output. To generate a single block to be sorted, the core needs to fetch both the input data and the block’s cache lines. If the input is a primary table we have to account for projections and for filtering the input on (any) selection predicates, as explained in Section 3. The size of the input that is used to fill one block is then estimated to $\frac{KT}{K'T'}B$. This means that, for each block, $(1 + \frac{KT}{K'T'})B$ bytes will be fetched from main memory, at a cost of M for each cache line of CL bytes. The cost of fetching a single block of input is given by Equation 3. Once a block containing $\frac{B}{T'}$ tuples has been generated it is (at least) L2-cache-resident. To apply quicksort, tuples need to be L1-cache-resident, so each tuple needs to be fetched twice from the L2-cache, for reading and writing it. In our implementation, each tuple examination and exchange required roughly four L1-cache accesses, for a total of $\frac{B}{T'} \log(\frac{B}{T'})$ operations. Given the above, the total cost of sorting a block is shown in Equation 4.

$$C_f^{\text{sort}}(B) = \left(1 + \frac{KT}{K'T'}\right) \frac{B}{CL} M \quad (3)$$

$$C_p^{\text{sort}}(B) = 2 \frac{B}{CL} L2 + 4 \frac{B}{T'} \log\left(\frac{B}{T'}\right) L1 \quad (4)$$

The utility ratio of the sorting step, $R^{\text{sort}}(B)$, is given by Equation 5. We use that to derive the cost of multithreaded execution. The entire relation will produce $\frac{K'T'}{B}$ blocks, so fetching the input and the blocks requires $\frac{KT+K'T'}{CL}$ memory accesses. This will be divided across N execution threads, with each thread having an effective memory access cost equal to M' , as defined by Equation 2 when R is substituted for $R^{\text{sort}}(B)$. Since sorting runs inside the cache hierarchy (mainly in the L1-cache), the use of N threads will most likely result in a linear speed-up, so the cost for sorting the input is reduced by a factor of N . Given all these observations, the cost of the sorting step is given by Equation 6.

$$R^{\text{sort}}(B) = \frac{C_f^{\text{sort}}(B)}{C_f^{\text{sort}}(B) + C_p^{\text{sort}}(B)} \quad (5)$$

$$C^{\text{sort}}(B) = (KT + K'T') \frac{M'}{N \cdot CL} + \frac{C_p^{\text{sort}}(B)}{N} \quad (6)$$

The second step in sorting a relation is to merge the individually sorted blocks. We maintain a heap of processed tuples across merged blocks, as explained in Section 3. The input contains $\frac{K'T'}{B}$ blocks of $\frac{B}{CL}$ cache lines each, so the cost of fetching the sorted blocks during the merging phase is given by Equation 7. Each tuple will be fetched twice, since we need to insert its value in the heap, and then output it to the appropriate position in the merged output. However, some algorithms (*e.g.*, merge aggregation) do not require materializing the sorted output, so we include a factor S , set to 2 if we materialize the output, or 1 otherwise. The processing cost is given by Equation 8, stemming from heap processing: for each output tuple, the input tuple with the smallest value is retrieved and the heap is re-organized.

$$C_f^{\text{merge}}(B, S) = S \frac{K'T'}{B} M \frac{B}{CL} = SK'T' \frac{M}{CL} \quad (7)$$

$$C_p^{\text{merge}}(B) = 2K' \log \left(\frac{K'T'}{B} \right) L1 \quad (8)$$

As with block sorting, the utility ratio of the merging step $R^{\text{merge}}(B, S)$ is given by Equation 9. For the total cost of the merging step we generalize the last two equations for N threads, as shown in Equation 10. We cater for multiple threads by substituting $R^{\text{merge}}(B, S)$ in Equation 2 and dividing Equation 7 by the number of threads N ; we do the same for the heap processing cost of a block. The cost of the entire algorithm is then the sum of Equations 6 and 10.

$$R^{\text{merge}}(B, S) = \frac{C_f^{\text{merge}}(B, S)}{C_f^{\text{merge}}(B, S) + C_p^{\text{merge}}(B)} \quad (9)$$

$$C^{\text{merge}}(B, S) = SK'T' \frac{M'}{N \cdot CL} + \frac{C_p^{\text{merge}}(B)}{N} \quad (10)$$

4.2 Partitioning

Recall from Section 3.1 that the general partitioning algorithm is similar to sorting, with two differences: (a) the blocking granularity is equal to a single page, and (b) there is a locking overhead when directing tuples to partitions, as multiple threads will be adding pages to them. The cost $C_f^{\text{part}}(P)$ of fetching a page for partitioning is given by Equation 11, *i.e.*, similar to Equation 3 with B substituted for P , as each partition page is individually sorted. Most likely pages are buffered in the L2-cache, so they need to be fetched to the L1-cache before being sorted, and written back to the L1-cache. The cost of processing a partition page is given by Equation 12, *i.e.*, similar to Equation 4, but assuming that the page is L1-resident on its second access.

$$C_f^{\text{part}}(P) = \left(1 + \frac{KT}{K'T'} \right) \frac{P}{CL} M \quad (11)$$

$$C_p^{\text{part}}(P) = \frac{P}{CL} (L2 + L1) + 4 \frac{P}{T'} \log \left(\frac{P}{T'} \right) L1 \quad (12)$$

The utility ratio of partitioning, $R^{\text{part}}(P)$, is defined as shown in Equation 13, where the denominator includes the locking overhead (since the new page needs to be added to the partition). The total cost of multithreaded partitioning using N threads is given by Equation 14, where we use the effective memory access cost (obtained by Equation 2 with $R = R^{\text{part}}(P)$). The formula is similar to Equation 6 with the difference being the addition of the cost for locking each page of each partition (a total of $\frac{K'T'}{P}$ pages).

$$R^{\text{part}}(P) = \frac{C_f^{\text{part}}(P)}{C_f^{\text{part}}(P) + C_p^{\text{part}}(P) + LK} \quad (13)$$

$$C^{\text{part}}(P) = (KT + K'T') \frac{M'}{N \cdot CL} + \frac{C_p^{\text{part}}(P)}{N} + \frac{K'T'}{P} LK \quad (14)$$

Locking is used to synchronize the interaction with the storage manager. Assuming the partitioning fanout is F ,

each thread will contend with the other $N - 1$ threads; the probability of any thread requesting access to a partition is $\frac{1}{F}$. The probability of contention then depends on the factor $\frac{N!}{F^N}$ (*i.e.*, all permutations of threads into the probability of all threads accessing the same partition); that is very small. It also depends on the ratio of the duration of the lock to the duration of page processing, which also includes data fetching and sorting ($\frac{C_l}{C_f + C_p + C_l}$). We therefore expect that threads rarely need to wait for a lock to be released.

The partition pages are individually sorted, so we need to merge them in a separate step, similarly to general sorting. The difference lies in the use of the merge buffer that replaces memory accesses with accesses to the L2-cache. The fetching and processing costs are therefore modified as shown in Equations 15 and 16. Recall that if the size of the L2-cache is $|L2|$, the partition size will roughly be $\frac{|L2|}{2N}$.

$$C_f^{\text{merge}}(P, S, M) = K'T' \frac{M}{CL} + SK'T' \frac{L2}{CL} \quad (15)$$

$$C_p^{\text{merge}}(P) = 2K' \log \left(\frac{|L2|}{2NP} \right) L1 \quad (16)$$

In Equation 15, S is 0 when the output is processed on-the-fly (*e.g.*, in aggregation), or 2 when the output is saved to the merge buffer. The modified utility ratio and the merge cost are shown in Equations 17 and 18. The total cost for partitioning is the sum of Equations 14 and 18; M' is given by Equation 2 after setting $R = R^{\text{merge}}(P, S)$.

$$R^{\text{merge}}(P, S) = \frac{C_f^{\text{merge}}(P, S, M)}{C_f^{\text{merge}}(P, S, M) + C_p^{\text{merge}}(P)} \quad (17)$$

$$C^{\text{merge}}(P, S) = \frac{C_f^{\text{merge}}(P, S, M') + C_p^{\text{merge}}(P)}{N} \quad (18)$$

4.3 Join evaluation

All join algorithms run exclusively inside the L1-cache and build largely on the staging primitives. Recall from Section 3.2 that, when joining, there is no need to synchronize threads, as they operate over disjoint inputs. The difference between the algorithms lies in where they “read” their data from. For sort-merge join each block is read from main memory; for the partition-based algorithms the input is buffered in the L2-cache. Therefore, we only need to assess the cost of fetching the input and generating the output. Assuming two inputs A and B , and N threads, the cost of processing the entire input will be given by Equation 19, where σ_{\bowtie} is the selectivity factor of the join predicate. For sort-merge join the input tables are fetched from main memory, so the cost will be given by Equation 20. For partition-based join the equivalent cost of fetching from the L2-cache is given by Equation 21. To those costs we need to add the thread scheduling overhead, equal to $N \cdot TO$ in all cases.

$$C_p^{\text{join}} = \frac{K'_A K'_B \sigma_{\bowtie}}{N} OUT \quad (19)$$

$$C_f^{\text{merge-join}} = (K'_A T'_A + K'_B T'_B) \frac{M}{N \cdot CL} \quad (20)$$

$$C_f^{\text{partition-join}} = (K'_A T'_A + K'_B T'_B) \frac{L2}{N \cdot CL} \quad (21)$$

The total cost of sort-merge join will be equal to the cost

of first sorting both inputs (given by Equations 6 and 10 with S set to 2), plus fetching the blocks of both inputs from main memory (Equation 20), plus the cost of generating the output (Equation 19), plus the cost of thread scheduling ($N \cdot TO$). Similarly, one can extract the cost of partition-based join evaluation: it is equal to the cost of partitioning the input (Equation 14 and Equation 18 with S set to 3 to include each input’s contribution to Equation 21 as well), plus the cost of generating the output (Equation 19), plus the thread overhead cost.

4.4 Aggregation

Recall from Section 3.3 that aggregation allows on-the-fly evaluation of the aggregates, without restructuring the input table. For merge and hash aggregation this means that we do not materialize the output of the merging phase; rather, we use it directly to update the aggregate values. The aggregation cost can then be extracted by the data staging cost equations: we set S to 1 for merge aggregation and to 0 for hash aggregation. We also include the scheduling cost $N \cdot TO$ for multithreaded execution.

Map aggregation performs a single pass of the input with no intermediate staging. Memory accesses overlap with lookups on the mapping directories, since the latter are cache-resident. If we assume there are G grouping attributes and A aggregation functions, as well as the use of binary search for mapping directory lookups, input fetching and processing are modelled by Equations 22 and 23 respectively, where D_i is the distinct value cardinality of group i .

$$C_f^{\text{map}} = \frac{KT}{CL} M \quad (22)$$

$$C_p^{\text{map}} = \left(\sum_{i=0}^G (\log(D_i) L1) + A \cdot L2 \right) K' \quad (23)$$

The first term in Equation 23 is the cost of binary search in each directory; the second term is the cost of updating the aggregation arrays. The assumption is that the mapping directories fit in the L1-cache, while the (possibly) larger aggregation arrays are evicted to the L2-cache. We can now extract the map aggregation cost as shown in Equation 25, where M' is given by using the utility ratio of Equation 24.

$$R^{\text{map}} = \frac{C_f^{\text{map}}}{C_f^{\text{map}} + C_p^{\text{map}}} \quad (24)$$

$$C^{\text{map}} = \frac{KT}{N \cdot CL} M' + \frac{C_p^{\text{map}}}{N} \quad (25)$$

5. EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

To verify the efficiency of the proposed framework and the correctness of the analytical model we implemented our algorithms in C and conducted an extensive experimental study. The hardware platform used for experiments was a Dell Precision T5400 workstation, with an Intel Xeon E5420 quad-core processor, clocked at 2.5GHz, and 4GB of physical memory. The operating system was Debian 4 (64-bit version, kernel 2.6.26). The C code was compiled with the GNU gcc compiler (version 4.3.2) using the `-O2` compilation flag. We used the `pthread` thread library. Detailed information

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| System | Dell Precision T5400 |
| Processor | Intel Xeon E5420 |
| Number of cores | 4 |
| Frequency | 2.5GHz |
| Cache line size | 64B |
| I1-cache | 32KB ×4 |
| D1-cache | 32KB ×4 |
| L2-cache | 6MB ×2 |
| L1-cache access latency | 3 cycles |
| L1-cache miss latency (sequential) | 9 cycles |
| L1-cache miss latency (random) | 14 cycles |
| L2-cache miss latency (sequential) | 48 cycles |
| L2-cache miss latency (random) | 85-250 cycles |
| RAM type | 4×1GB Fully Buffered DIMM DDR2 667MHz |

Table 3: Testbed specifications

about the testbed is shown in Table 3. The cache latencies were measured with the RightMark Memory Analyser [19].

We used tables of various schemata and cardinalities and stored them using NSM. Primary tables were cached in the buffer pool of a typical storage manager controlling file accesses. All intermediate results (*e.g.*, partitions) were saved as temporary tables, also controlled by the storage manager. We used uniform attribute distributions so as to simplify the analysis of an already complex system; the effect of skew to multithreaded execution is an important issue that needs to be separately addressed in its entirety. We hard-coded the implementations of all benchmark queries to reduce instruction-level overhead. This choice improved mainly single-threaded performance, as multithreading can exploit the instruction caching and issuing mechanisms of multiple cores. We expect iterator-based implementations of our algorithms (*e.g.*, based on the *exchange* operator of [10]) to result in higher speedups but slower response times. We ran each query ten times in isolation. We report average response times, with the deviation being less than 3% in all cases. We also present the speedup for each operation, between single-threaded and multithreaded execution.

Measured speedups were compared with the ones estimated by the analytical model. To apply the model, we set N to 4, as our reference CPU supports one thread per core, $L1$ to 3, $L2$ to 14 and M to 100, as accesses are both sequential and random. We also calibrated the locking cost LK to $5M$ and TO to 2.5% of total execution time. We set OUT to zero and did not generate results during experiments (unless explicitly stated), to isolate the multithreaded performance of the algorithms; result generation runs inside the L1-cache for each thread and thus inflates scalability.

5.1 Aggregation

We measured the impact of input tuple size by using a table of 1,000,000 tuples ($K = K'$) and varying the tuple size between 4 and 256 bytes ($T = T' \in [4, 256]$), using one grouping attribute with a distinct value cardinality of 1,000 (D). The expected and measured costs for merge, hash and map aggregation, as well as their comparative performance when using four threads, are shown in Figure 5. When R becomes greater than $\frac{1}{N}$ we expect the effective memory access cost M' to start increasing. This is verified experimentally, as the gradient significantly grows when R passes this threshold. The estimate for hash aggregation is more accurate than that for merge aggregation. The fluctuation in the latter is due to cache line alignment effects, which are not included in our model. In terms of algorithm performance, the measured speedup is over 3 for small tuple sizes.

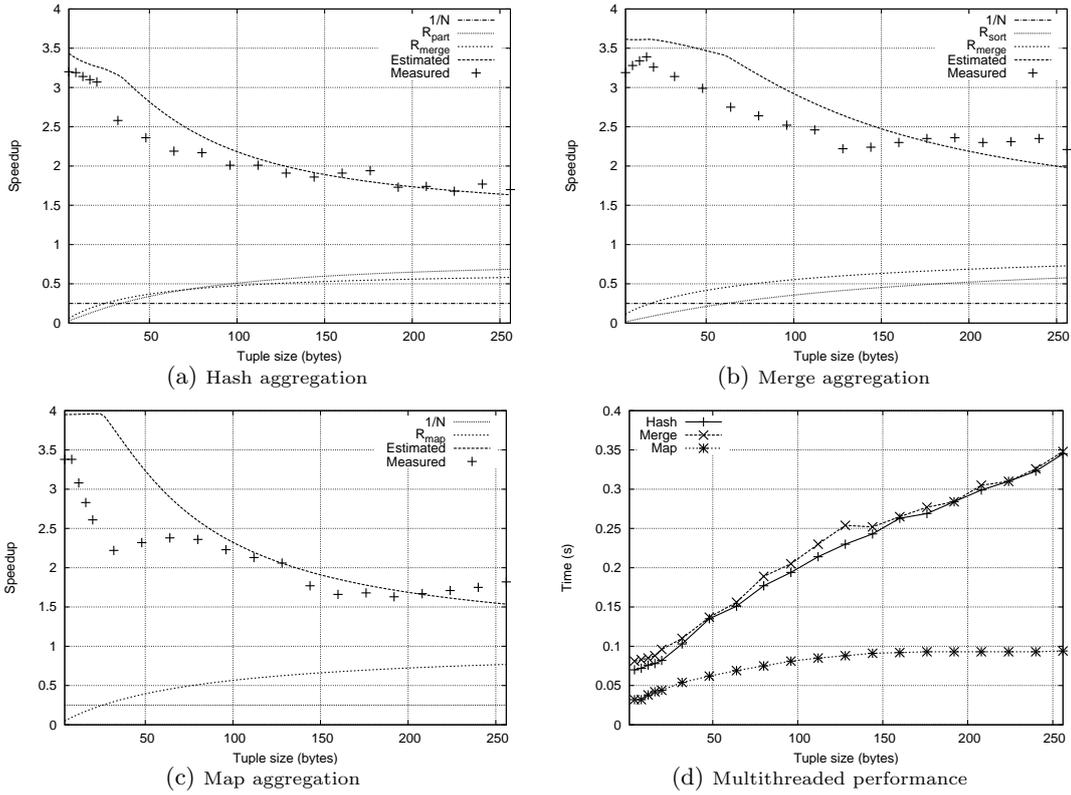


Figure 5: Impact of tuple size on aggregation

It deteriorates for wider tuples, as the cores will spend more time fetching data from memory. This is more intensive in hash than merge aggregation, as the computational load for sorting and merging larger blocks keeps the cores busy to a higher extent. For map aggregation, the mapping directory has enough entries to make the lookup cost comparable to the cost of fetching small tuples. As the tuple size increases the fetching cost scales and dominates, resulting in poorer performance. The deviation in Figure 5(c) for small tuple sizes is due to overestimating the cost of updating the aggregation arrays: it varied between $L1$ and $L2$, but is set to $L2$ in Equation 25. As shown in Figure 5(d), merge and hash aggregation have comparable performance, as they incur a similar number of accesses to main memory. Map aggregation benefits from the lack of input staging and is faster and less sensitive to changes of the tuple size, for the given (small) number of values of the grouping attribute.

We then examined the impact of input cardinality after applying selections and projections. We used a table of 10,000,000 (K) tuples of 72 bytes (T) each and varied the selectivity between 0.1 and 1; the tuple size after staging (T') was set to 20 bytes; D was set to 1,000 again. The results are shown in Figure 6. The measured performance is accurately modelled, with estimated and measured curves for all aggregation algorithms being close and following the same trends. For a small selectivity, the cost of fetching the primary table is higher than sorting the filtered data. As selectivity increases the speedup increases and converges to a maximum value, reached when R is less than $\frac{1}{N}$. Again, observe that the merge-based implementation exhibits higher speedups, as it better exploits the computational power of multiple cores. As for absolute multithreaded performance

(Figure 6(d)), hash aggregation outperforms merge aggregation, its advantage increasing with growing selectivity. As expected, map aggregation widely outperforms the other algorithms and is less sensitive to selectivity as it does not build intermediate partitions.

The number of distinct values of the grouping attribute(s) has a detrimental effect on the performance of map aggregation, as it affects the size of the directories and the aggregation arrays. As the grouping cardinality increases, the auxiliary data structures are evicted to lower levels of the cache hierarchy or even span outside it. This penalizes performance, as there is a significant increase in cache misses, and scalability, as all threads compete for accessing memory to a greater extent. This is shown in Figure 7 for an aggregation query on 10,000,000 tuples of 72 bytes each, using one grouping attribute of varying cardinality D and four `sum()` functions. In the first two figures there is no result generation; in the third case we examine the impact of result generation on scalability. Merge and hash aggregation are moderately affected by the cardinality of the grouping attribute, their difference being the number of iterations during quick-sort runs. Conversely, map aggregation is 2.5 times faster for small cardinalities but its performance degrades fast, indicating the inflated cost for accesses to the L2-cache and the main memory. In terms of scalability (Figure 7(b)), hash and memory aggregation exhibit high speedups, increasing with cardinality. Map aggregation has a low speedup for small cardinalities, as the directory lookup cost is too small to hide memory latencies. Then, speedups increase with cardinality and start dropping again, as the auxiliary data structures are evicted to the L2-cache or outside it. Output generation offers sufficient computational load to mask

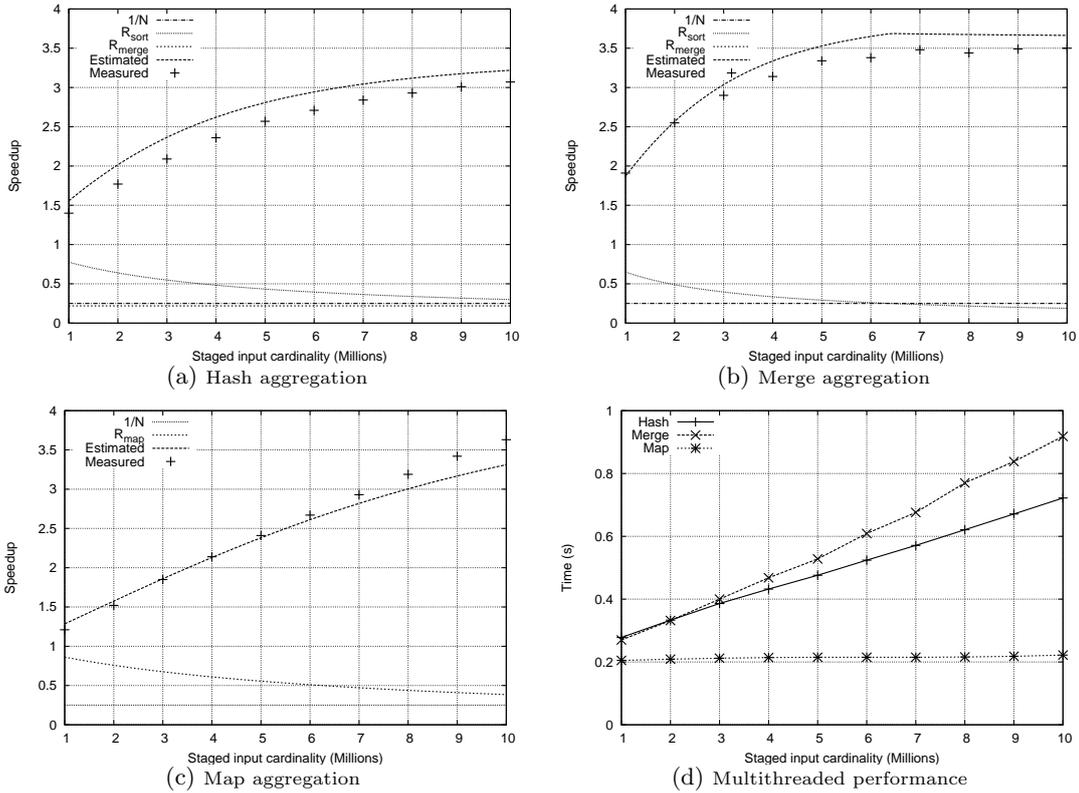


Figure 6: Impact of selectivity on aggregation

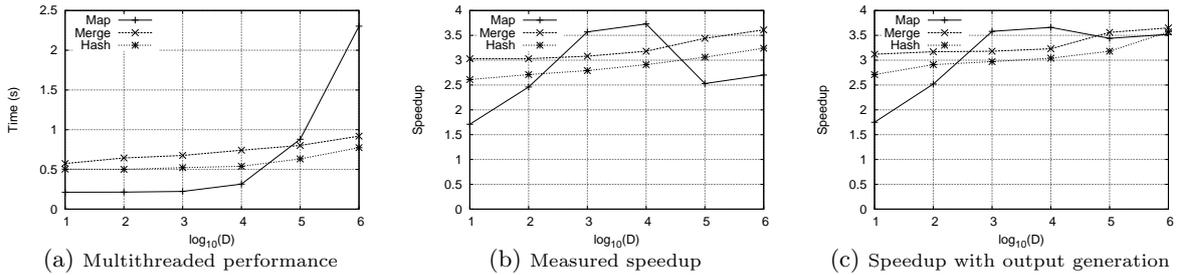


Figure 7: Impact of group cardinality

memory accesses (Figure 7(c)), with all algorithms exhibiting speedups over 3 for considerable result sizes.

5.2 Join evaluation

We next examined the multithreaded performance and the measured speedup for varying input tuple size, input cardinality, and join selectivity. To measure the impact of input tuple size we joined two tables of 1,000,000 tuples each. The outer table’s tuples were 72 bytes long; the tuple size after staging was 20 bytes. The inner table’s tuple size varied between 20 and 300 bytes. Each outer tuple matched with 10 inner tuples. The results of Figures 8(a) and 9(a) show trends similar to the ones for aggregation (Figure 5). This is expected, as input staging accounted for 90% of execution time (omitting result generation) and is the same process for both aggregation and join evaluation. Hash join exhibits better performance; the use of merge buffers increases cache locality and reduces the cost of memory operations. Still, merge join results in higher speedups by exploiting the

higher computational cost of sorting larger blocks.

For cardinality experiments we used two tables with tuple sizes of 72 bytes, reduced to 20 bytes after staging; each outer tuple matched with 10 inner ones. The outer table’s cardinality was 1,000,000 and the inner’s was 10,000,000, but we filtered the inner table with a predicate of selectivity ranging between 0.1 and 1. The results of Figures 8(b) and 9(b) are similar to those of Figure 6, with speedups increasing and converging to a maximum value. In terms of join predicate selectivity, we joined two tables of 1,000,000 tuples, 72 bytes each, but staged to 20 bytes. We varied the number of matching inner tuples per outer tuple to 1, 4, 10, 100, and 1,000. As join selectivity grows, the speedup is close to linear for both algorithms, as shown in Figures 8(c) and 9(c). This is due to join predicate evaluation effectively “backtracking” between multiple matches. Processing runs inside the L1-cache, reducing the frequency of memory accesses and resulting in high speedups.

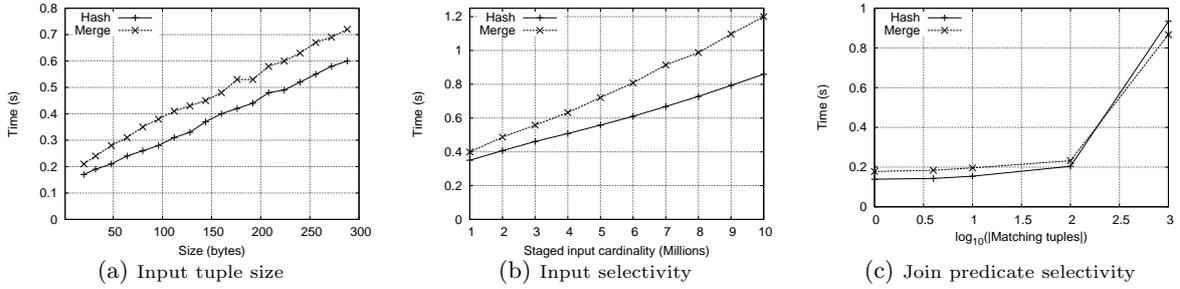


Figure 8: Multithreaded performance of join evaluation

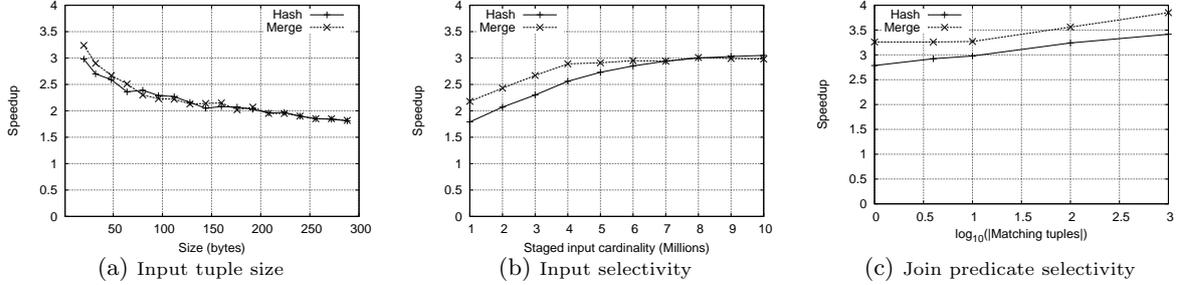


Figure 9: Measured speedup for join evaluation

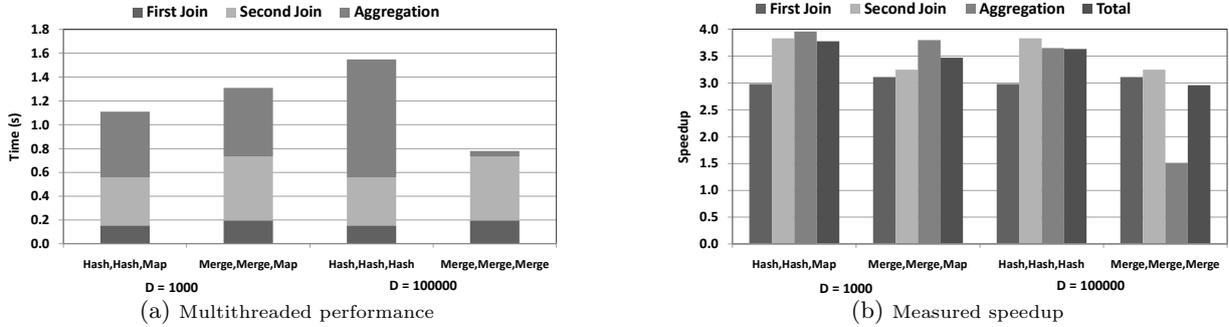


Figure 10: Multiple operators

5.3 Pipelined operators

We now move on to a more complex query combining two joins and an aggregation. We used three tables with 1,000,000 tuples of 72 bytes each. In the first join, each outer tuple matched with 4 inner ones; in the second join the number of matching inner tuples was 10. The two joins produce 4,000,000 and 40,000,000 tuples respectively. We used both merge and hash join. The result was sum-aggregated over one grouping attribute with either 1,000 or 100,000 distinct values. In the first case we used map aggregation. In the second case, the grouping attribute was the same as the join attribute of the second join, to examine the impact of sorted runs. The results are shown in Figure 10, with the labels indicating the algorithms used for each operator.

Hash join is faster than merge join, verifying once again that the use of an L2-cache buffer for merging pays back. For aggregation, when the number of values for the grouping attribute is 1,000, the use of map aggregation is very efficient: it needs 0.55s for 40M tuples, resulting in a throughput of 72.6M tuples/s. In terms of scalability, the reduction in tuple size allows all operators apart from the first to work on small tuples and, hence, they do not fetch data not needed for processing. The observed speedups are over 3 and, for

hash join and map aggregation, close to linear.

When the number of groups increases to 100,000, hash and merge aggregation become more efficient as map aggregation suffers from excessive cache misses. We use either all hash-based or all merge-based algorithms. The cost of hash aggregation is twice that of map aggregation in the previous case (*i.e.*, when $D = 1,000$). However, since the output of the second join is already sorted on the grouping attribute, merge aggregation does not need intermediate partitions, but is evaluated in a single pass of the join result. A direct comparison of map and merge aggregation shows that the latter needs only a small portion of the time needed by the former, as there are no directory lookups and updates of aggregate arrays. However, the speedup of merge aggregation is limited as there is no computational load to effectively mask the cost of memory accesses.

6. RELATED WORK

Main memory query evaluation has been studied extensively. MonetDB [2, 14] is a system optimized for modern hardware and based on vertical partitioning. We used NSM in our work to keep the same baseline with most commercial DBMSs. The authors of [3, 4] used software prefetching

to reduce memory stalls. We experimented with software prefetching, but as such instructions are merely hints to the CPU, they did not improve the performance of our algorithms. Most likely, this was because the cache controller was busy with pending requests and ignored the hints.

The advent of processors supporting multithreaded execution has recently been explored by the database community. Simultaneous multithreading (SMT), a form of TLP, was explored in [21]: a helper thread was used to aggressively prefetch data to be used by the main thread. Still, this technique is not applicable in multicores with no in-core support for TLP, as the helper thread will fetch data to a different L1-cache than the one used by the main thread. The authors of [7] examined inter-operator communication and proposed using chunks of the output as buffers for each thread. We preferred to use a separate output buffer per thread to avoid synchronization. However, we use a similar approach for partitioning (see also [6]), since each thread has exclusive access to one partition page. As we sort pages during partitioning, the processing time per page increases and thread contention is minimized. In [5], the authors analyzed aggregation on CMPs; they tested and modelled the use of private and/or shared hash tables. Their approach, though, is tailored to processors supporting multiple (eight for the employed CPU) threads inside each core; it is not clear how it can efficiently be ported to architectures with no in-core support for TLP. Aggregation performance in [5] reached 150Mt(uples)/s against 72.6Mt/s for us (see Section 5.3), using arrays of two-integer records as input. A per-core reduction gives 18.75Mt/s for [5] over 18.15Mt/s for us; a per-thread one gives 18.15Mt/s for our approach over 4.69Mt/s for [5]. Still, the testbed used in [5] is entirely different than ours, so comparisons cannot be straightforward.

In [15], the authors proposed an analytical model for single-threaded main memory query execution. The model captured the cost of stalls, *e.g.*, cache and TLB misses, according to the access pattern. We follow a different approach: we do not distinguish between sequential and random patterns but we account for accesses to the L1-cache, as CPUs do not have enough memory ports to serve successive read and write operations. Finally, [13] examined work sharing in CMPs and modelled the performance of concurrently processed, staged queries, while [18] investigated scheduling of multiple queries for scan sharing. These are complementary to our work; we focus on intra-operator parallelism and model the contention for shared hardware resources.

7. CONCLUSION

We examined multithreaded query processing on chip multiprocessors. By identifying main memory accesses as the main performance bottleneck, we provided a uniform framework for implementing query processing algorithms that: (a) reduces contention for hardware resources, and (b) bears minimal synchronization overhead. We analytically modelled the performance and scalability of each multithreaded algorithm variant to statically estimate the benefit of multithreaded execution. We implemented our proposals and experimentally validated them. Our results verify the correctness of our model and the efficiency of the proposed algorithms, which, in some cases, achieve almost linear speedups.

Next, we will extend our approach to multi-query execution. We plan to examine how we can combine inter- and intra-query parallelism to schedule operations and maximize

query processing throughput. The challenge is to exploit work and data sharing across queries under the restrictions imposed by hardware resources.

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