A Multi-Objective Approach for Materialized View Selection

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ABSTRACT

In today's world, business transactional data has become the critical part of all business-related decisions. For this purpose, complex analytical queries have been run on transactional data to get the relevant information, from therein, for decision making. These complex queries consume a lot of time to execute as data is spread across multiple disparate locations. Materializing views in the data warehouse can be used to speed up processing of these complex analytical queries. Materializing all possible views is infeasible due to storage space constraint and view maintenance cost. Hence, a subset of relevant views needs to be selected for materialization that reduces the response time of analytical queries. Optimal selection of subset of views is shown to be an NP-Complete problem. In this article, a non-Pareto based genetic algorithm, is proposed, that selects Top-K views for materialization from a multidimensional lattice. An experiments-based comparison of the proposed algorithm with the most fundamental view selection algorithm, *HRUA*, shows that the former performs comparatively better than the latter. Thus, materializing views selected by using the proposed algorithm would improve the query response time of analytical queries and thereby facilitate in decision making.

KEYWORDS

Data Warehouse, Decision Making, Evolutionary Algorithm, Materialized View Selection, Multi-Objective Optimization, Online Analytical Processing

1. INTRODUCTION

The penetration of smart technologies has made it increasingly convenient to capture and store the data of day to day business transactions. It has become standard practice in the business world to make every transaction in digital form. The transactional data has a hidden value, which can provide useful insight about business performance. These trends and insights aid smarter business decisions. If this transactional data is analyzed and used properly, it can empower the business world to make smarter decisions about their future business operations. In today's competitive business environment, smarter decisions are necessary in order to sustain in the global market. The multi-national companies capture business transactional data and store them in multiple disparate databases spread across the globe.

There are two approaches to access this information namely the lazy (on-demand) approach or eager (in-advance) approach (Widom, 1995). In the former approach, the data is gathered based on the

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user query and is used when data at local data sources changes frequently. In the latter approach, the data is accumulated and stored apriori in a central repository and queries are processed against this already stored information. A data warehouse is based on the latter approach. In a data warehouse, relevant data accumulated from multiple disparate databases, spread across multiple locations, is integrated and stored for analytical query processing. A data warehouse stores subject-specific data, which is non-volatile and time-variant, integrated from multiple sources for supporting strategic decision making (Inmon, 2003; Kimball & Ross, 2003). The complex analytical queries are posed against the data in the data warehouse in order to get insights and trends for business operations. These complex and analytical queries take a lot of time for processing considering that a data warehouse grows continuously with time as data in it is non-volatile. This processing time can be reduced by materializing views in the data warehouse and use these for querying purposes (Mohania et al., 1999). Since all possible views cannot be materialized due to storage space constraints, an appropriate subset amongst them needs to be selected that conform to the storage space constraint and can result in efficient decision making. The selection of such a subset of relevant views is referred to as view selection (Chirkova et al., 2002). View selection is discussed next.

1.1. View Selection

View selection, as defined in (Chirkova et al., 2002), is “Given a database schema R , storage space B , and a workload of queries Q , choose a set of views V over R to materialize whose combined size is at most B ”. This problem is an NP-complete problem (Gupta, 1997; Dondi et al., 1999). Several view selection algorithms exist, most of which are empirical-based or heuristic-based. The empirical algorithms consider data accessed by past queries as indicators of data likely to be accessed by future queries (Lehner et al., 1996, Vijay Kumar & Devi, 2012, 2013; Vijay Kumar et al., 2010a). On the other hand, heuristic based view selection algorithms (Harinarayan et al., 1996; Gupta et al., 1997; Choi et al., 2002, Theodoratos & Sellis, 1997; Yang et al., 1997; Baralis et al., 1997; Gupta & Mumick, 2005; Horng et al., 2003; Lin & Kernighan, 1973; Zhang et al., 2001; Valluri et al., 2002) find solutions, from among all possible solutions, without guaranteeing the globally optimal solution. Three frameworks have been considered for the view selection problem, i.e. the data cube lattice (Harinarayan et al., 1996; Gray et al., 1997), *AND/OR* view graph (Roussopoulos et al., 1982) and Multiview processing plan (*MVVP*) (Yang et al., 1997). The data cube lattice framework, which has been considered in this paper for view selection, is based on star schema, which is widely used for data warehouse design. The multi-dimensional lattice is a simple representation of all possible views. The node of the lattice represents a view and the top most, or root view, represents the fact table. A multi-dimensional lattice is a dependency lattice framework, where the query on any node can be answered by its ancestor node. For example, consider a 3-dimensional lattice shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Lattice 3-dimensional with view size

The node ABC is a fact table and all other nodes are possible views i.e. AB, AC, BC, A, B, C and $None$.

Size S of each views is shown alongside the view. The direct dependencies are captured by edges between the adjacent hierarchies whereas, the indirect dependencies are captured transitively between views in the same hierarchy, but not in adjacent hierarchy. The edge between view A and AB shows direct dependency whereas A is indirectly dependent on ABC . All views directly or indirectly depend on the root view ABC and the view $NONE$ has no dependent view.

The greedy view selection algorithm proposed in (Harinarayan et al., 1996) has been employed on the multidimensional lattice to select $Top-K$ views from it. This algorithm, hereinafter referred to as $HRUA$, is the most fundamental view selection algorithm in literature. However, for higher dimension data sets, it becomes almost infeasible for $HRUA$ to select the $Top-K$ views for materialization. Heuristics like randomized (Vijay Kumar & Kumar, 2012a, 2012c, 2015), greedy (Harinarayan et al., 1996; Shukla et al., 1998; Haider & Vijay Kumar, 2011, 2017; Vijay Kumar, 2013; Vijay Kumar & Ghoshal, 2009; Vijay Kumar & Haider, 2010, 2011a, 2011b, 2012, 2015, Vijay Kumar et al., 2010b, 2011), evolutionary (Vijay Kumar & Kumar, 2012b, 2013, 2014, 2018b) and swarm (Arun & Vijay Kumar, 2015a, 2015b, 2017a, 2017b; Vijay Kumar & Arun, 2016, 2017, Vijay Kumar et al., 2017, Kumar & Vijay Kumar, 2017, 2018a) have addressed this limitation with the $HRUA$. Their objective was to select $Top-K$ views from the multidimensional lattice that minimized the total cost of evaluating all the views, this cost is referred to as the Total View Evaluation Cost (TVEC) and is defined in (Vijay Kumar & Kumar, 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2013, 2014, 2015) as:

$$TVEC(V_{Top-K}) = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{v_i}=1}^N Size(V_i) + \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{v_i}=0}^N SizeSMA(V_i)$$

where, N is total number of views in the lattice, SM_{v_i} is the Status Materialized of view V_i ($SM_{v_i}=1$ materialized, and $SM_{v_i}=0$ Not materialized), $Size(V_i)$ is the size of view V_i , $SizeSMA(V_i)$ is size of smallest materialized ancestor of view V_i .

The existing view selection algorithms addressed the view selection problem as a single objective optimization problem with the objective to minimize the $TVEC$. In this paper, an attempt has been made to formulate this view selection problem as a bi-objective optimization problem so as to simultaneously optimize and achieve a better trade-off between the cost due to materialized views and the cost due to non-materialized views. Further, an attempt has been made to address this bi-objective Materialized View Selection (MVS) problem using a non-Pareto based vector evaluated genetic algorithm ($VEGA$) (Schaffer, 1985). Accordingly, a $VEGA$ based MVS algorithm has been proposed that selects the $Top-K$ views from a multi-dimensional lattice. Further, experiment-based comparison of the proposed view selection algorithm with $HRUA$ is carried out in terms of the quality of the $Top-K$ views selected by them.

1.2. Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized as follows: The formulation of the view selection problem as a bi-objective optimization problem along with the $VEGA$ based MVS algorithm to address it is presented in section 2. An example illustrating the use of the proposed multi-objective view selection algorithm is given in section 3. Section 4 discusses the experimental based comparison of the proposed view selection algorithm with $HRUA$. Conclusion is given in section 5.

2. MVS USING VEGA

As mentioned before, the objective of a view selection algorithms is to select the *Top-K* views from amongst all possible views that entail the least *TVEC*. The existing view selection algorithms addresses the *MVS* problem as a single objective optimization problem with the objective to minimize *TVEC*. In this paper, the *MVS* problem is formulated as a bi-objective optimization problem as discussed next.

2.1. The Bi-Objective MVS Optimization Problem

TVEC, as define above, comprises the summation of the two costs namely the cost due to materialized views (C_{MV}) and the cost due to non-materialized views (C_{NMV}) as given below:

$$C_{MV} = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{v_i}=1}^N Size(V_i)$$

C_{MV} is a summation of sizes of all views that are materialized, as queries on these views are answered by the view itself. On the other hand, C_{NMV} is the summation of the sizes of the smallest materialized ancestor of the non-materialized views as queries on non-materialized views would be cost effectively answered by that ancestor view that is materialized and has the smallest size. Minimization of the costs C_{MV} and C_{NMV} would lead to minimization of the *TVEC*. However, reducing the cost C_{MV} , i.e. materializing fewer number views, would lead to increase in the number of non-materialized views, which in turn would increase the cost C_{NMV} . On the other hand, reducing the cost C_{NMV} , i.e. more views need to be materialized, would in turn lead to an increase in C_{MV} . That is, costs C_{MV} and C_{NMV} conflict with each other as minimization or improvement in C_{MV} lead to a deterioration in C_{NMV} and vice-versa. Therefore, costs C_{MV} and C_{NMV} needs to be simultaneously optimized or minimized in order to achieve an optimum trade-off between the two costs. Thus, the single objective *MVS* optimization problem is formulated as a bi-objective *MVS* optimization problem that would require optimization of the two objectives given below:

$$Minimize C_{MV} = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{v_i}=1}^N Size(V_i)$$

and:

$$Minimize C_{NMV} = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{v_i}=0}^N SizeSMA(V_i)$$

Several algorithms exist to solve such multi-objective optimization problems. One way to address such a problem is by using the scalar based approach, which employs weighted aggregation of multiple objectives to form a single objective optimization problem. The original problem of minimization of *TVEC* is a weighted aggregation of the two costs C_{MV} and C_{NMV} , each having the same weight. The major limitation of this approach is the requirement of aprior knowledge of the weights. Alternatively, approaches exist that does not require aprior knowledge of weights. These are majorly classified as *Pareto* based and non-*Pareto* based approaches (Schaffer, 1985; Deb, 2001). The *Pareto*-based approaches use the concept of *Pareto* optimality to simultaneously optimize the multiple objectives whereas, the non-*Pareto* approaches address the multiple objectives individually to simultaneously

optimize them. In this paper, a non-*Pareto* based multi-objective genetic algorithm *VEGA* (Schaffer, 1985) has been used to address the bi-objective *MVS* optimization problem. *VEGA* is discussed next.

2.2. VEGA

VEGA (Schaffer, 1985; Deb, 2001) is the first multi-objective variant of the GA, which is a minor modification of the single objective GA to solve multi-objective optimization problems. In this algorithm, an objective vector is evaluated in which every element of the vector represents an objective function. In *VEGA*, for an M objective optimization problem, the population of individuals is divided into M equal subpopulations in every generation. The fitness of individuals in each subpopulation is evaluated using only one amongst the M objectives. Further, no two subpopulation individuals are evaluated on the same objective. In this way, individuals in each of the subpopulations are evaluated on a distinct objective and their respective fitness is computed. Next, from each subpopulation, individuals are selected using proportionate selection (Goldberg, 1989). The selected individuals from each of the subpopulations are combined together and shuffled to generate a mating pool of individuals. This is followed by applying crossover and mutation operators to generate a new offspring population for the next generation. The algorithms run for a pre-specified number of generations after which the best set of individuals is produced as the output. *VEGA* has been used to address the bi-objective *MVS* problem. Accordingly, a *VEGA* based *MVS* algorithm (MVS_{VEGA}) has been proposed and is discussed next.

2.3. MVS_{VEGA}

In the *MVS* problem, there is a need to select an appropriate subset of the *Top-K* views that minimizes the *TVEC*. Since the *MVS* problem is an *NP-Complete* problem, there is no deterministic view selection algorithm that can select the globally optimal *Top-K* views. One way to address such problems is by using the Genetic Algorithm. Further, the existing view selection algorithms solve the *MVS* problem as a single-objective optimization problem with the objective to minimize the *TVEC*. As mentioned above, the *TVEC* comprises of two costs C_{MV} and C_{NMV} and these two costs need to be simultaneously optimized, in order to reduce the *TVEC*. The proposed algorithm MVS_{VEGA} attempts to select the *Top-K* views by simultaneously minimizing these two costs. The algorithm MVS_{VEGA} is given in Figure 2 and the process in MVS_{VEGA} is depicted in Figure 3. The algorithm MVS_{VEGA} takes a lattice of views with size of each view L , probability of crossover P_c , probability of mutation P_m , number of views to be selected K and the maximum number of generations for which the algorithms should run G as the input and produces the *Top-K* views TKV as the output. In MVS_{VEGA} , initially a population of the *Top-K* views, $PTKV$, is randomly generated. Since *MVS* is formulated as a bi-objective optimization problem, the population $PTKV$ is divided into two sub-populations $PTKV_1$ and $PTKV_2$, each of size $PTKV/2$. The fitness of the *Top-K* views in $PTKV_1$ is computed using the first objective function, i.e. C_{MV} , and fitness of *Top-K* views in $PTKV_2$ is computed using the second objective function, i.e. C_{NMV} . Next, the *Top-K* views from each of the subpopulations $PTKV_1$ and $PTKV_2$ are selected using the proportionate selection based on the fitness of the *Top-K* views in it and are computed using the corresponding objective function to generate the selected subpopulation of *Top-K* views $SPTKV_1$ and $SPTKV_2$. The *Top-K* views in $SPTKV_1$ and $SPTKV_2$ are then combined and shuffled to generate a mating population of *Top-K* views $MPTKV$. Thereafter, the modified crossover (Davis, 1985) and the random mutation (Goldberg, 1989) operators are applied to generate the offspring population of the *Top-K* views. This forms the new $PTKV$ for the next generation. MVS_{VEGA} runs for a pre-specified number of generations G whereafter, the *Top-K* views in $PTKV$ having the least *TVEC*, i.e. TKV , is produced as the output. An example illustrating use of MVS_{VEGA} to compute the *Top-K* views is given next.

Figure 2. Algorithm MVS_{VEGA}

3. AN EXAMPLE

Consider the selection of the $Top-4$ views from a three-dimensional lattice shown in Figure 1. Let the initial parameters for MVS_{VEGA} be $PTKV = 8$, $P_c = 0.8$ and $P_m = 0.1$. The initial random population of the $Top-4$ views $PT4V$ is generated as shown in Figure 4.

Since there are two objectives, i.e. Minimize C_{MV} and Minimize C_{NMV} , the population is divided in two equal sub-populations $PT4V_1$ and $PT4V_2$. These are given in Figure 5.

The fitness of the $Top-4$ views in $PT4V_1$ and $PT4V_2$ are computed using C_{MV} and C_{NMV} respectively. The fitness so computed is given in Figure 6.

Next, the $Top-4$ views in $PT4V_1$ and the $Top-4$ views in $PT4V_2$ are selected using the proportionate selection (Goldberg, 1989) considering their respective fitness values to generate the selected subpopulation of the $Top-4$ views $SPT4V_1$ and $SPT4V_2$. These are given in Figure 7.

The $Top-4$ views in $SPT4V_1$ and $SPT4V_2$ are then combined and shuffled to generate a mating population of $Top-4$ views $MPT4V$, as given in Figure 8.

This is followed by applying the modified crossover on the $Top-4$ views in $MPT4V$ with probability 0.8 as shown in Figure 9.

After crossover, the random mutation with probability 0.1 is performed on the $Top-4$ views produced after crossover, as shown in Figure 10. The $Top-4$ views after mutation form the new

Figure 3. View selection in MVS_{VEGA}

Figure 4. PT4V

<i>PT4V</i>			
4	2	5	6
4	6	7	5
3	4	6	2
3	5	6	4
7	3	6	2
3	5	4	2
4	2	3	7
5	7	2	3

population of *Top-4* views $PT4V$ for the next generation. The algorithms run for a pre-defined number of generations G . Thereafter, the *Top-K* views with having the least $TVEC$ is produced as the output.

Next, experimental results comparing the outputs generated by MVS_{VEGA} and the most fundamental greedy view selection algorithm $HRUA$, is discussed.

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The proposed view selection algorithm MVS_{VEGA} and the fundamental greedy view selection algorithm MVS_{HRUA} , were implemented using MATLAB-2012 in a Windows-7 environment on an Intel based

Figure 5. PT4V1 and PT4V2

<i>PT4V₁</i>			
4	2	5	6
4	6	7	5
3	4	6	2
3	5	6	4

<i>PT4V₂</i>			
7	3	6	2
3	5	4	2
4	2	3	7
5	7	2	3

Figure 6. C_{MV} and C_{NMV} of Top-4 views in $PT4V_1$ and $PT4V_2$

<i>PT4V₁</i>	Fitness Function C_{MV}	C_{MV}
4 2 5 6	$C_{MV} = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{V_i}=1}^N \text{Size}(V_i)$	269
4 6 7 5		230
3 4 6 2		319
3 5 6 4		284
<i>PT4V₂</i>	Fitness Function C_{NMV}	C_{NMV}
7 3 6 2	$C_{NMV} = \sum_{i=1 \wedge SM_{V_i}=0}^N \text{SizeSMA}(V_i)$	182
3 5 4 2		144
4 2 3 7		148
5 7 2 3		191

Figure 7. $SPT4V_1$ and $SPT4V_2$

<i>PT4V₁</i>	Proportionate Selection	<i>SPT4V₁</i>
4 2 5 6		4 2 5 6
4 6 7 5		4 6 7 5
3 4 6 2		4 6 7 5
3 5 6 4	Proportionate Selection	3 5 6 4
<i>PT4V₂</i>		<i>SPT4V₂</i>
7 3 6 2		7 3 6 2
3 5 4 2		4 2 3 7
4 2 3 7		3 5 4 2
5 7 2 3		4 2 3 7

Figure 8. MPT4V

<i>MPT4V</i>			
4	2	5	6
4	6	7	5
7	3	6	2
4	6	7	5
4	2	3	7
3	5	4	2
3	5	6	4
4	2	3	7

Figure 9. Modified crossover on *Top-4* views in MPT4V

<i>Top-4 views for Crossover</i>	Crossover Point	<i>Top-4 views after Crossover</i>
4 2 5 6 4 2 3 7	3	4 2 5 7 4 2 3 6
4 6 7 5 7 3 6 2	2	4 6 2 7 7 3 5 4
4 2 3 7 3 5 4 2	1	4 5 2 3 3 2 7 4
4 2 3 7 4 6 7 5	2	4 2 7 5 4 6 3 7

2.27 Ghz PC having 8 GB RAM. The experiments have been conducted to ascertain the comparative performance of MVS_{VEGA} and MVS_{HRUA} in terms of the quality of the *Top-K* views selected by them. First, experiments were carried out to determine the appropriate value of the probability of crossover and the probability of mutation for which MVS_{VEGA} is able to select the *Top-10* views with least *TVEC* for dimensions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The corresponding graphs for the dimensions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are shown in Figure 11, Figure 12, Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15 and Figure 16 respectively. From these graphs, it can be inferred that MVS_{VEGA} is able to select *Top-K* views that have the minimum

Figure10. Mutation on Top-4 views produced after crossover

<i>Top-4 views for Mutation</i>	Mutation Point	<i>Top-4 views after Mutation</i>								
<table><tr><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr></table>	4	2	5	7	-	<table><tr><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr></table>	4	2	5	7
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4	6	2	7							
4	6	2	7							
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7	3	5	4							
7	3	6	4							
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4	5	2	3							
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<table><tr><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	3	2	7	4	1	<table><tr><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	5	2	7	4
3	2	7	4							
5	2	7	4							
<table><tr><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	4	2	7	5	2	<table><tr><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	4	6	7	5
4	2	7	5							
4	6	7	5							
<table><tr><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td></tr></table>	4	6	3	7	-	<table><tr><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td></tr></table>	4	6	3	7
4	6	3	7							
4	6	3	7							

Figure 11. $MVS_{VEGA} - TVEC$ of Top-10 views, Dimensions=5

$TVEC$ for $P_c=0.8$ and $P_m=0.1$. Using these values of P_c and P_m , MVS_{VEGA} is compared with the most fundamental view selection algorithm $HRUA$ (MVS_{HRUA}) in terms of the $TVEC$ of the Top- K views selected by the two algorithms for dimensions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. For these, the graphs are plotted and are shown in Figure 17, Figure 18, Figure 19, Figure 20, Figure 21 and Figure 22 respectively.

Figure 12. MVS_{VEGA} – $TVEC$ of *Top-10* views, Dimensions=6

Figure 13. MVS_{VEGA} – $TVEC$ of *Top-10* views, Dimensions=7

From these graphs, it can be observed that $TVEC$ values of the *Top-K* views selected using MVS_{VEGA} is comparatively lower than those selected using MVS_{HRUA} for all dimensions and for all values of K . The difference in $TVEC$ values of MVS_{VEGA} and MVS_{HRUA} increases with increase in the value of K and with an increase in the number of dimensions. The better performance of MVS_{VEGA} may be attributed to its ability to optimize the two objectives simultaneously, and thereby achieving a trade-off between the two objectives leading to a comparatively lower value of $TVEC$.

Figure 14. $MVS_{VEGA} - TVEC$ of Top-10 views, Dimensions=8

Figure 15. $MVS_{VEGA} - TVEC$ of Top-10 views, Dimensions=9

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the materialized views selection problem is formulated as a bi-objective optimization problem with the two objectives being the minimization of the cost due to materialized views and the minimization of the cost due to non-materialized views. These objectives, being conflicting in

Figure 16. $MVS_{VEGA} - TVEC$ of *Top-10* views, Dimensions=10

Figure 17. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=5

nature, are simultaneously optimized using *VEGA*. Accordingly, *VEGA* based materialized view selection algorithm MVS_{VEGA} has been proposed that selects *Top-K* views from a multidimensional lattice. Experiments based comparison of MVS_{VEGA} with the most fundamental view selection algorithm MVS_{HRUA} shows that the former is able to select comparatively better quality of *Top-K*

Figure 18. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=6

Figure 19. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=7

Figure 20. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=8

Figure 21. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=9

Figure 22. MVS_{VEGA} Vs. MVS_{HRUA} - Dimensions=10

views, in terms of $TVEC$, than those selected by the latter. Resultantly, views selected using MVS_{VEGA} , if materialized, would improve the query response time of analytical queries and thereby greatly facilitate decision making.

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