

Fast Join Project Query Evaluation using Matrix Multiplication

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Introduction | Why do we care about Join-Project queries?

- There are many efficient algorithms that achieve worst-case optimal runtime for full join queries
- However, there is not much support for queries involve projections
 - Standard approach: Compute full join $\rightarrow$ Project $\rightarrow$ Deduplicate
 - Inefficient if the Full join results much larger than final result
 - Critical since many tasks can be formulated as Join-Project queries

Introduction | Example 1

- Consider relation $R(x,y)$ of size N denotes that x and y are friends.
- We wish to enumerate all users pairs who have at least one friend in common
- This task can be captured by the query $Q''(x, z) = R(x,y), R(z,y)$

```
SELECT DISTINCT R1.x, R2.x
FROM R1 as R, R2 as R
WHERE R1.y = R2.y
```

- Suppose that the graph contains a constant number of communities and the users are spread evenly across them, Each community has $O(\sqrt{N})$ users
- Full join output: $\Theta(N^{3/2})$, Final output: $\Theta(N)$

Introduction | Other Applications

- Set Similarity Join (Entity Matching, Recommender Systems)
 - Find all set pairs with $\geq c$ common elements
 - Previous best: $O(|D|^{2-1/c} \cdot |OUT|^{1/2c})$, near to $O(|D|^2)$ as the c increase
- Set Containment Join
 - Find all pairs where one set contains another
- Both tasks can be answered using the query

```
SELECT R1.x, R2.x count(*)  
FROM R1 as R, R2 as R  
WHERE R1.y = R2.y  
GROUP BY R1.x, R2.x
```

Introduction | Other Applications

- Graph Analytics(Collaborative Networks)
 - Co-authorship graphs: $V(x,y) = R(x,p), R(y,p)$
 - Batched boolean queries: "Do authors a_1 and a_2 share papers? "

Problem Setting | Definitions

- 2-path query

$$\ddot{Q}(x, z) = R(x, y), S(z, y)$$

- Star Join

$$Q_k^\star(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = R_1(x_1, y), R_2(x_2, y), \dots, R_k(x_k, y)$$

- Key Metrics

- $|D| = \max(|R|, |S|)$ - input size
- $|\text{OUT}|$ - projected output size
- $|\text{OUT} \bowtie|$ - full join size (before projection)

Problem Setting | Definitions

- Set Similarity (SSJ): given two families of sets $R(x,y)$ and $S(z,y)$. $R(x,y)$ means set x contains element y , $S(z,y)$ means set z contains element y , $c \geq 1$.

$$\{(a, b) \mid |\pi_y(\sigma_{x=a}(R)) \cap \pi_y(\sigma_{z=b}(S))| \geq c\}$$

When $c = 1$, SSJ = 2-path query

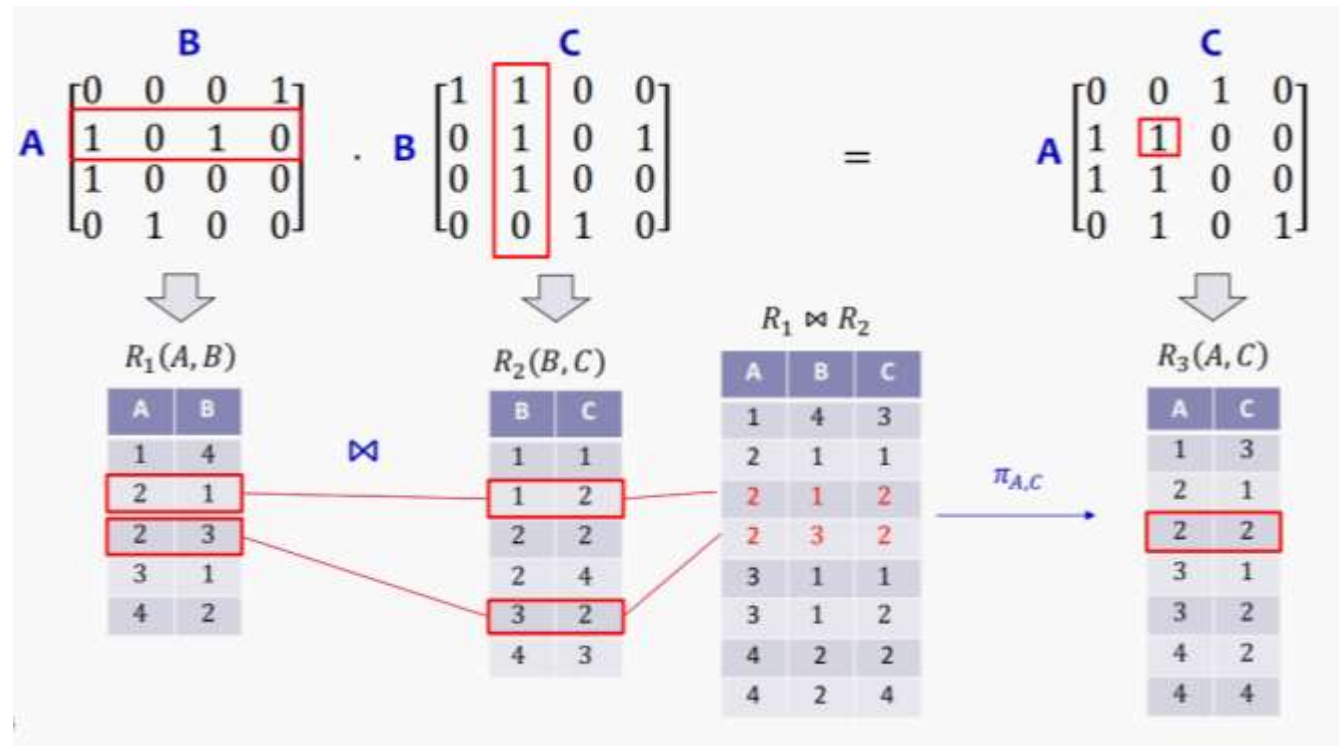
- Set Containment (SCJ):

$$\{(a, b) \mid \pi_y(\sigma_{x=a}(R)) \subseteq \pi_y(\sigma_{z=b}(S))\}$$

- Complexity Model:
 - Uniform-cost RAM model: Data values and pointers are constant size
 - Data complexity: Query is fixed, complexity measured in database size

Problem Setting | Matrix Multiplication

- view the 2-path query as a matrix computation over the boolean field



Problem Setting | Matrix Multiplication

- Complexity
 - For matrices $U \times V$ and $V \times W$:

$$O(UVW\beta^{\omega-3})$$

where $\beta = \min\{U, V, W\}$

- Special case ($\omega = 2$):

$$O(UVW/\beta)$$

Problem Setting | The Baseline

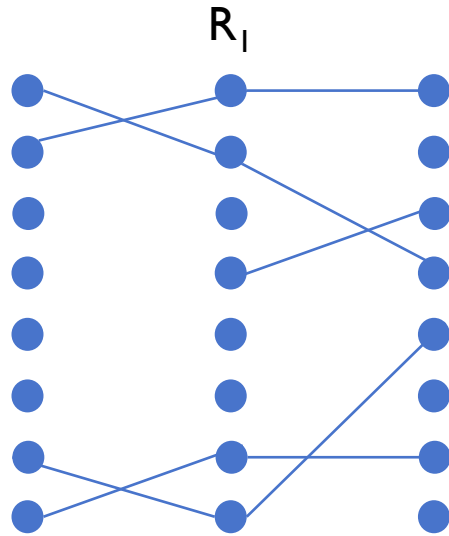
- Worst-Case Optimal Joins (WCOJ)
- Any CQ Q with fractional edge cover ρ^* can be computed in $O(|D|^{\rho^*})$
 - For star join Q_k^* : $O(|D|^k)$
 - Problem: Oblivious to actual $|OUT|$!
- Combinatorial Improvement (Amossen & Pagh 2009)
 - Q^k computable in $O(|D| \cdot |OUT|^{1-1/k})$ For star join Q_k^* $O(|D|^k)$
 - For $k=2$: $O(|D| \cdot |OUT|^{1/2})$

Problem Setting | The Baseline

- Worst-Case Optimal Joins (WCOJ)
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Join-Project | Key Ideas

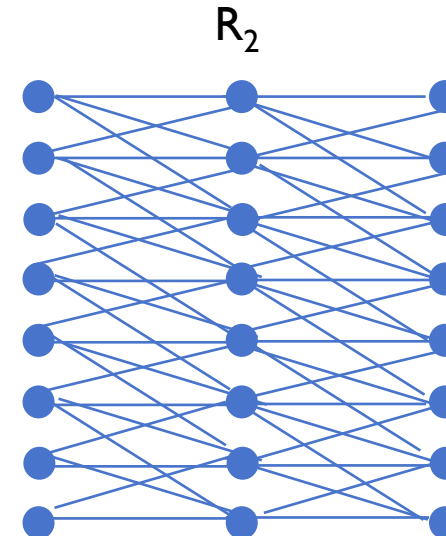
When does WCOJ and matrix multiplication work well?



Graph vertices have low degree(i.e sparse)

WCOJ **good**

MM **bad**



Graph vertices have large degree(i.e dense)

WCOJ **bad**

MM **good**

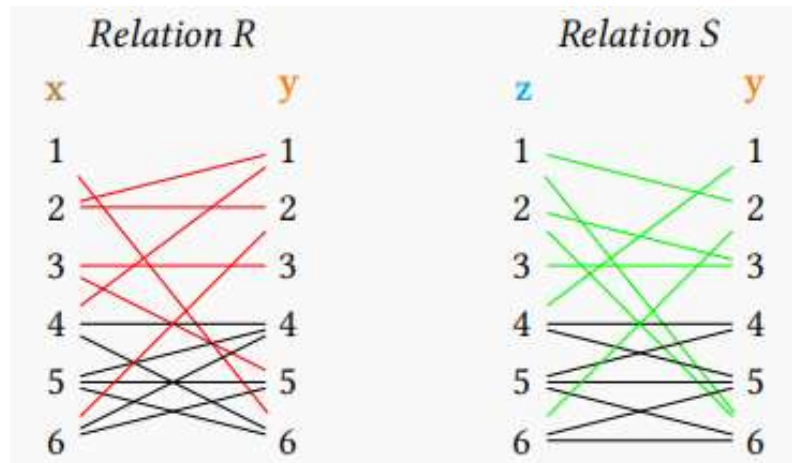
Join-Project | Assumptions

- know the output size $|\text{OUT}|$ (drop this assumption later)
- removed any tuples that do not contribute to the query result (linear time)
- In 2 path query, assume that $N_S \leq N_R$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm

- Partition the relations based on degree of vertices to achieve best of both worlds

$$R^- = \{R(a, b) \mid |\sigma_{x=a}R(x, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b}S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$$
$$S^- = \{S(c, b) \mid |\sigma_{z=c}S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b}S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$$



R- R+

S- S+

$$(R^- \bowtie S) \cup (R \bowtie S^-), \text{ WOCJ}$$
$$R^+ \bowtie S^+, \text{ MM}$$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm

Algorithm 1: Computing $\pi_{xz} R(x, y) \bowtie S(z, y)$

```
1  $R^- \leftarrow \{R(a, b) \mid |\sigma_{x=a} R(x, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$ ,  $R^+ \leftarrow R \setminus R^-$ 
2  $S^- \leftarrow \{S(c, b) \mid |\sigma_{z=c} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$ ,  $S^+ \leftarrow S \setminus S^-$ 
3  $T \leftarrow (R^- \bowtie S) \cup (R \bowtie S^-)$  /* use wcoj */
4  $M_1(x, y) \leftarrow R^+$  adj matrix,  $M_2(y, z) \leftarrow S^+$  adj matrix
5  $M \leftarrow M_1 \times M_2$  /* matrix multiplication */
6  $T \leftarrow T \cup \{(a, c) \mid M_{ac} > 0\}$ 
7 return  $T$ 
```

WOCJ for sparse component:

- $|\text{OUT} \bowtie|$ bounded by $N_s \cdot \Delta_1 + |\text{OUT}| \cdot \Delta_2$
 - Why?
 - Each light y -value contributes $\leq \Delta_1$ tuples
 - Each output tuple has x -degree $\leq \Delta_2$
- Runtime:
 - $O(N_R + N_s + |\text{OUT} \bowtie|)$
 - $= O(N_R + N_s \cdot \Delta_1 + |\text{OUT}| \cdot \Delta_2)$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm

Algorithm 1: Computing $\pi_{xz} R(x, y) \bowtie S(z, y)$

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1  $R^- \leftarrow \{R(a, b) \mid |\sigma_{x=a} R(x, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$ ,  $R^+ \leftarrow R \setminus R^-$ 
2  $S^- \leftarrow \{S(c, b) \mid |\sigma_{z=c} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_2 \text{ or } |\sigma_{y=b} S(z, y)| \leq \Delta_1\}$ ,  $S^+ \leftarrow S \setminus S^-$ 
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MM for dense component:

- M_1 : $N_R/\Delta_2 \times N_S/\Delta_1$ (for R^+)
- M_2 : $N_S/\Delta_1 \times N_S/\Delta_2$ (for S^+)
- **Cost:** $M(N_R/\Delta_2, N_S/\Delta_1, N_S/\Delta_2)$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm

Total Cost

$$N_R + N_S \Delta_1 + |\text{OUT}| \Delta_2 + M\left(\frac{N_R}{\Delta_2}, \frac{N_S}{\Delta_1}, \frac{N_S}{\Delta_2}\right) + C$$

For $\omega = 2$ (theoretical optimal MM), assume $N_R = N_S = N$

$$f(\Delta_1, \Delta_2) = N + N \cdot \Delta_1 + |\text{OUT}| \cdot \Delta_2 + \frac{N^2}{\Delta_2 \min\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2\}}$$

while ensuring $1 \leq \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \leq N$.

If $\Delta_1 > \Delta_2$, we can always improve the solution by decreasing the value of Δ_1 to Δ_2 . So impose the constraint $1 \leq \Delta_1 \leq \Delta_2 \leq N$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm

- Case 1: $|\text{OUT}| \leq N$
 - Optimal: $\Delta_1 = |\text{OUT}|^{1/3}$, $\Delta_2 = N/|\text{OUT}|^{2/3}$
 - Runtime: $O(N + N \cdot |\text{OUT}|^{1/3})$
- Case 2: $|\text{OUT}| > N$
 - Optimal: $\Delta_1 = \Delta_2 = (2N^2/(N + |\text{OUT}|))^{1/3}$
 - Runtime: $O(N^{2/3} \cdot |\text{OUT}|^{2/3})$
- Lemma 3. Assuming that the exponent in matrix multiplication is $\omega = 2$, the query Q'' can be computed in time

$$O(|D| + |D|^{2/3} \cdot |\text{OUT}|^{1/3} \cdot \max\{|D|, |\text{OUT}|\}^{1/3})$$

- Compare to baseline: $O(|D| \cdot |\text{OUT}|^{1/2})$

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm Optimization

- Two Key issue:
 - How to estimate $|OUT|$
 - $|\text{dom}(x)| \leq |OUT| \leq \min\{|\text{dom}(x)|^2, |OUT_{\bowtie}|\}$
 - $|OUT_{\bowtie}| \leq N \cdot \sqrt{|OUT|} \rightarrow |OUT| \geq (|OUT_{\bowtie}|/N)^2$
 - Paper suggests: geometric mean of $\max\{|\text{dom}(x)|, (|OUT_{\bowtie}|/N)^2\}$ and $\min\{|\text{dom}(x)|^2, |OUT_{\bowtie}|\}$
 - How to estimate MM cost

```
if  $|OUT_{\bowtie}| \leq 20 \cdot N$  then  
    | use worst-case optimal join algorithm
```

Rationale:

- MM has overhead (matrix construction, memory allocation)
- Only beneficial when avoiding large intermediate results
- Threshold of $20 \times$ is empirically determined

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm Optimization

- How to estimate MM cost

Algorithm 3: Cost Based Optimizer

Output: degree threshold Δ_1, Δ_2

```
1 Estimate full join result  $|\text{OUT}_{\bowtie}|$  and  $|\text{OUT}|$ 
2 if  $|\text{OUT}_{\bowtie}| \leq 20 \cdot N$  then
3   | use worst-case optimal join algorithm
4  $t_{\text{light}} \leftarrow |\text{OUT}_{\bowtie}|, t_{\text{heavy}} \leftarrow 0, \text{prev}_{\text{light}} \leftarrow \infty, \text{prev}_{\text{heavy}} \leftarrow$ 
    $0, \Delta_1 = N$ 
5 while true do
6    $\text{prev}_{\text{light}} \leftarrow t_{\text{light}}, \text{prev}_{\text{heavy}} \leftarrow t_{\text{heavy}}$ 
7    $\text{prev}_{\Delta_1} \leftarrow \Delta_1, \text{prev}_{\Delta_2} \leftarrow \Delta_2$ 
8    $\Delta_1 \leftarrow (1 - \epsilon)\Delta_1, \Delta_2 \leftarrow N \cdot \Delta_1 / |\text{OUT}|$ 
9    $t_{\text{light}} \leftarrow T_I \cdot \text{sum}(y_{\Delta_1}) + \cdot T_I \cdot \text{sum}(x_{\Delta_2}) +$ 
10     $T_m \cdot |\text{dom}(x)| + T_s \cdot \text{cdf}_x(y_{\Delta_1}) \cdot |\text{dom}(x)|$ 
11    $u, v, w \leftarrow \# \text{heavy } x, y, z \text{ values using count}(w_\delta)$ 
12    $t_{\text{heavy}} \leftarrow \hat{M}(u, v, w, co) + T_m \cdot (u \cdot v + u \cdot w)$ 
13   if  $\text{prev}_{\text{light}} + \text{prev}_{\text{heavy}} \leq t_{\text{light}} + t_{\text{heavy}}$  then
14     | return  $\text{prev}_{\Delta_1}, \text{prev}_{\Delta_2}$ 
```

Symbol	Description
T_s	avg time for sequential access
T_m	avg time for allocating 32 bytes of memory
co	number of cores available
$\hat{M}(u, v, w, co)$	estimate of time required to multiply matrices of dimension $u \times v$ and $v \times w$ using co cores
T_I	avg time for random access and insert

Join-Project | The 2-Path Query Algorithm Optimization

- How to estimate MM cost

Challenge: $M(u,v,w,co)$ is hardware and library dependent!

Solution: Precomputed Lookup Table

1.Offline phase: Benchmark $M(p,p,p,co)$ for:

1. $p \in \{1000, 2000, 3000, \dots, 20000\}$
2. $co \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

2.Online phase: Given arbitrary (u,v,w,co) :

1. Find nearest p in table
2. Extrapolate using scaling rules
3. Example: $M(1500, 8000, 1500, 4) \approx$ interpolate from nearby values

Why this works:

- MM performance scales predictably within ranges
- Don't need exhaustive table (memory efficient)
- Captures hardware-specific optimizations (AVX, SIMD, cache effects)

Join-Project | Start Query

- Partition

$$R_i^- = \{R_i(a, b) \mid |\sigma_{x_i=a} R_i(x_i, y)| \leq \Delta_2\}$$

Light x_i values

$$R_i^\diamond = \{R_i(a, b) \mid |\sigma_{y=b} R_j(x_j, y)| \leq \Delta_1, \text{ for each } j \in [k] \setminus i\}$$

y -values light in ALL other relations

$$R_i^+ = R_i \setminus (R_i^- \cup R_i^\diamond)$$

Heavy values only

- Algorithm:
 - 1. Compute joins with R_j^- using WCOJ (for each j), $O(|\text{OUT}| \cdot \Delta_2)$
 - 2. Compute joins with $R_j^\diamond$ using WCOJ (for each j), $O(N \cdot \Delta_1^{k-1})$
 - 3. Matrix multiplication for $R_1^+, \dots, R_k^+$

Join-Project | Start Query

Star Join Matrix Construction

For k relations, create two matrices:

Matrix V: $(N/\Delta_2)^{\lceil k/2 \rceil} \times N/\Delta_1$

$$V_{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{\lceil k/2 \rceil}), b} = \begin{cases} 1, & (a_1, b) \in R_1, \dots, (a_{\lceil k/2 \rceil}, b) \in R_{\lceil k/2 \rceil} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Matrix W: $(N/\Delta_2)^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} \times N/\Delta_1$

$$W_{(a_{\lceil k/2 \rceil + 1} \dots a_k), b} = \begin{cases} 1, & (a_{\lceil k/2 \rceil + 1}, b) \in R_{\lceil k/2 \rceil + 1}, \dots, (a_k, b) \in R_k \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Total Cost:

$$N \cdot \Delta_1^{k-1} + |\text{OUT}| \cdot \Delta_2 + M\left(\left(\frac{N}{\Delta_2}\right)^{\lceil k/2 \rceil}, \frac{N}{\Delta_1}, \left(\frac{N}{\Delta_2}\right)^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor}\right)$$

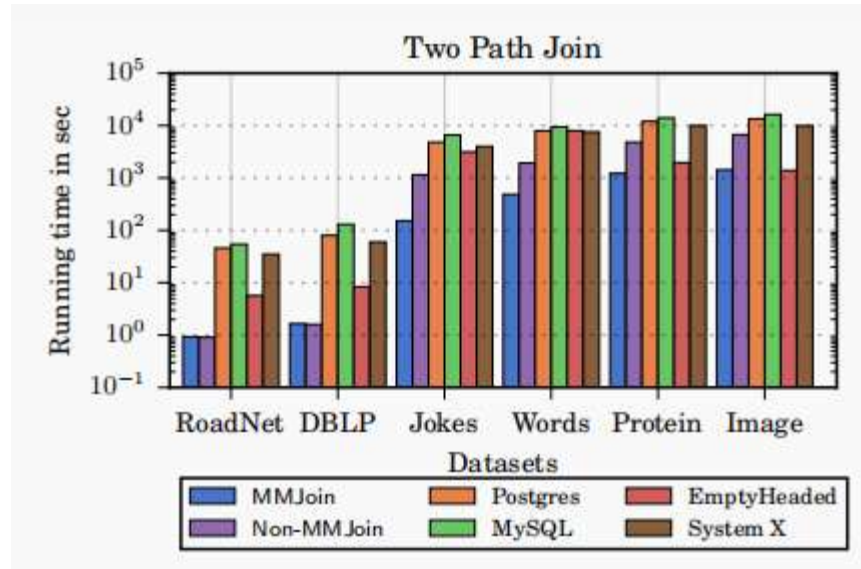
Experiments

- on 150GB RAM, Intel Xeon CPU E5 with 20 cores
 - use AVX and OpenMp for vectorized, multicore execution support
 - Intel MKL is the underlying linear algebra library
 - Use 6 datasets with different characteristics

Dataset	$ R $	No. of sets	$ \text{dom} $	Avg set size	Min set size	Max set size
DBLP	10M	1.5M	3M	6.6	1	500
RoadNet	1.5M	1M	1M	1.5	1	20
Jokes	400M	70K	50K	5.7K	130	10K
Words	500M	1M	150K	500	1	10K
Protein	900M	60K	60K	15K	50	50K
Image	800M	70K	50K	11.4K	10K	50K

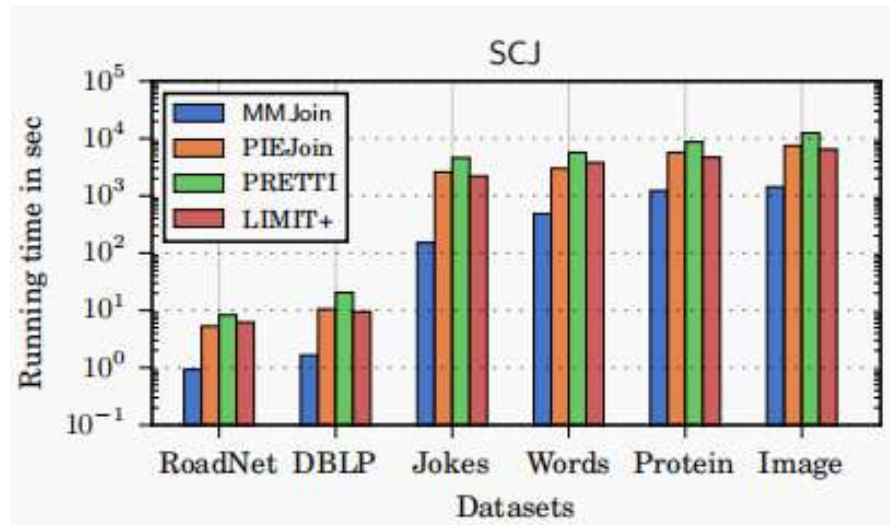
Table 2: Dataset Characteristics

Experiments



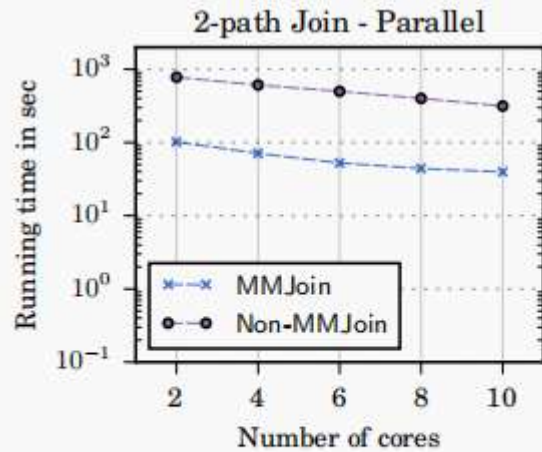
- MMJoin is up to two orders of magnitude Faster
- Matrix multiplication avoids materializing large intermediate results
- Intel MKL is highly optimized for vectorized execution

Experiments

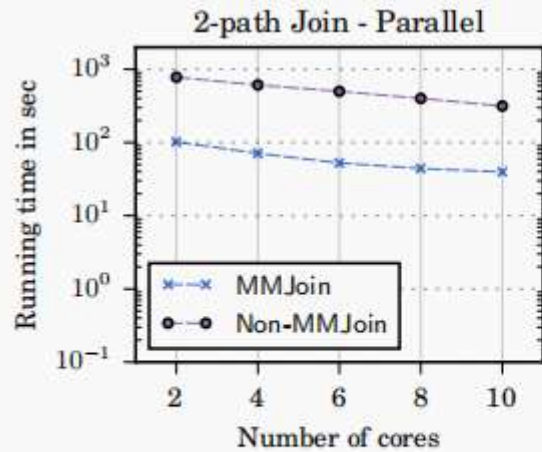


- MMJoin is faster than SCJ algorithms on dense datasets
- Matrix multiplication allows for coordination-free parallelization

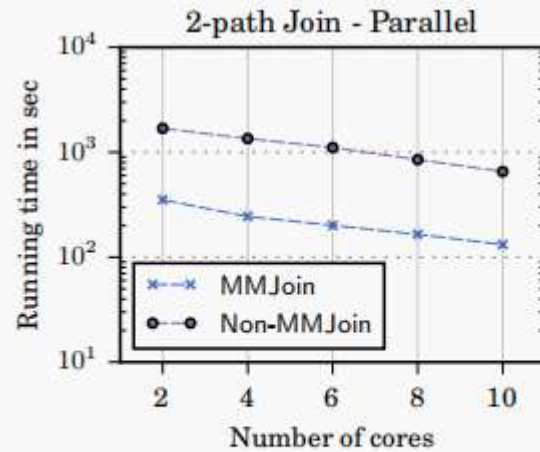
Experiments



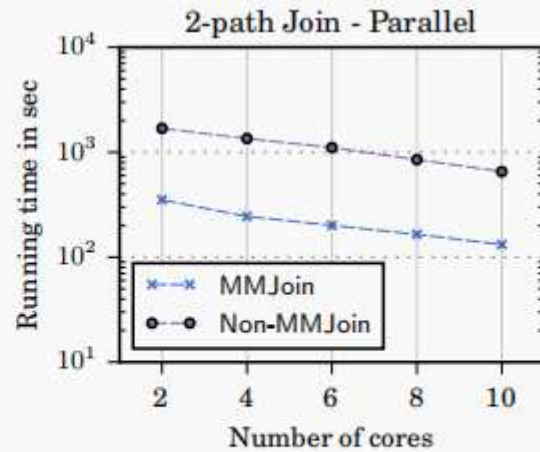
(d) Jokes - multi core



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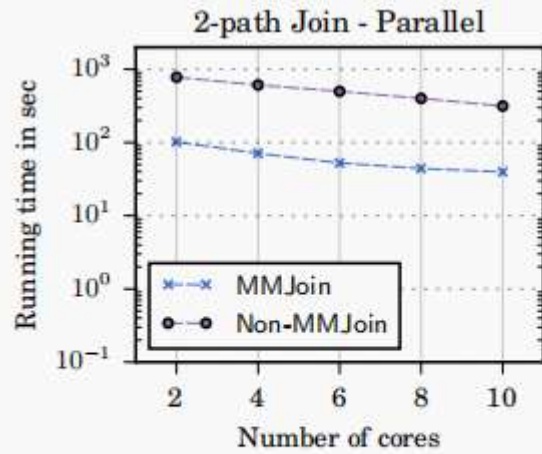
(e) Words - multi core



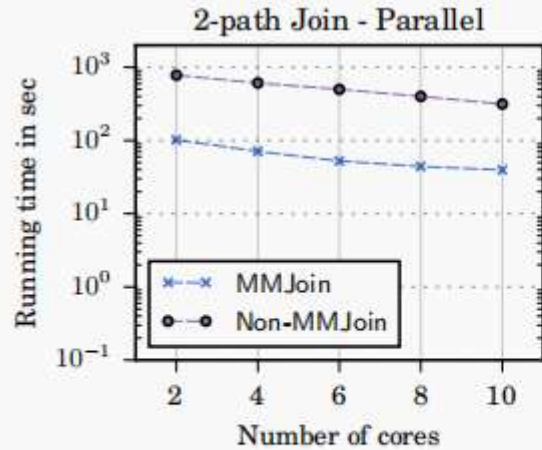
(e) Words - multi core

- SSJ

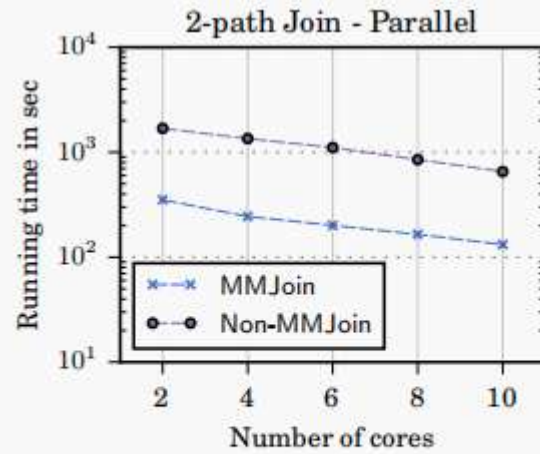
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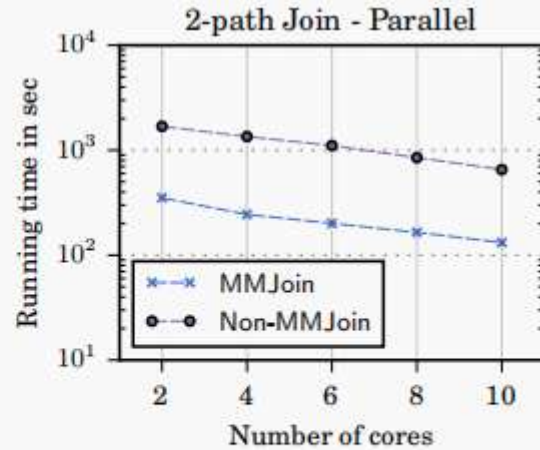
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(e) Words - multi core



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- SSJ

Reference

- Deep, Shaleen, Xiao Hu, and Paraschos Koutiris. "Fast join project query evaluation using matrix multiplication." Proceedings of the 2020 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data. 2020.
- Amossen, Rasmus Resen, and Rasmus Pagh. "Faster join-projects and sparse matrix multiplications." Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Database Theory. 2009.
- Xiao Hu. "Output-Optimal Algorithms for Join-Aggregate Queries." CS848: Advanced Database Systems, University of Waterloo, Lecture slides, Sep 22, 2025.

Thank you!