

A Parallel Algorithm for the Generalized Partially Instantiated Same Generation Query in Deductive Databases

Nabil Arman

Associate Professor of Computer Science
Palestine Polytechnic University
Hebron, Palestine

Abstract - *The expressive power and intelligence of traditional database systems can be improved by recursion. Using recursion, relational database systems are extended into knowledge-base systems (deductive database systems). Linear recursion is the most frequently found type of recursion in deductive databases. Deductive databases queries are computationally intensive and lend themselves naturally to parallelization to speed up the solution of such queries. In this paper, a parallel algorithm to solve the generalized partially instantiated form of the same generation query in deductive databases is presented. The algorithm uses special data structures, namely, a special matrix that stores paths from source nodes of the graph representing a two-attribute normalized database relation to all nodes reachable from these source nodes, and a reverse matrix that stores paths from any node to all source nodes related to that node.*

Keywords: Deductive Databases, Linear Recursive Rules, Same Generation Query, Parallel Databases.

1. Introduction

The development of efficient algorithms to process recursive rules and queries within the context of large database systems has recently attracted a large amount of research efforts due to the important role of recursive rules in improving the intelligence of database systems and extending them into knowledge-base systems [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8]. One of the main features of these intelligent database systems, namely deductive databases, is their ability to define recursive rules and to process queries on them directly.

Many queries in deductive databases, including the same generation query, have data requirements that may run into terabytes. Handling such large volumes of data at an acceptable rate is difficult, if not impossible, using single-processor systems. In fact, a set of commercial parallel database systems, such as Teradata DBC series of computers have demonstrated the feasibility of parallel database queries. As a matter of fact, the set-oriented nature of database queries naturally lends itself to parallelization [9].

In deductive databases, most recursive rules appear in a simple form in which the rule's head appears only

once in the body [3]. In general, this type of logic rules are called **linearly recursive**. A same generation (*sg*) rule is a linearly recursive rule of the following form:

$$sg(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) :- par(Y_1, X_2), par(Y_2, X_2), \dots, \\ par(Y_n, X_n), sg(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$$

where “*par*” is an extensional (base) predicate and “*sg*” is an intentional database predicate. Within the context of deductive databases, the extensional database predicate “*par*” is defined by a two-attribute normalized database relation with very many tuples as shown in Figure 1 (a) [3,4]. Another common view for the base relation is represented by a directed graph, as shown in Figure 1 (b). For every tuple $\langle x, y \rangle$ of the base relation, there exists, in the corresponding graph, a directed edge from node x to node y . The nodes in such a graph are the set of distinct values in the two columns of the base relation (i.e., the domain). To generate solutions from the above recursive rule, another non-recursive rule, the exit rule, which defines the predicate “ $sg(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ ” must exist. This non-recursive rule is given by:

$$sg(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) :- par(Y, X_1), par(Y, X_2), \dots, \\ par(Y, X_n)$$

A query on a predicate that is defined by the recursive and the exit rule is called a same generation query. This query is a headless rule of the form:

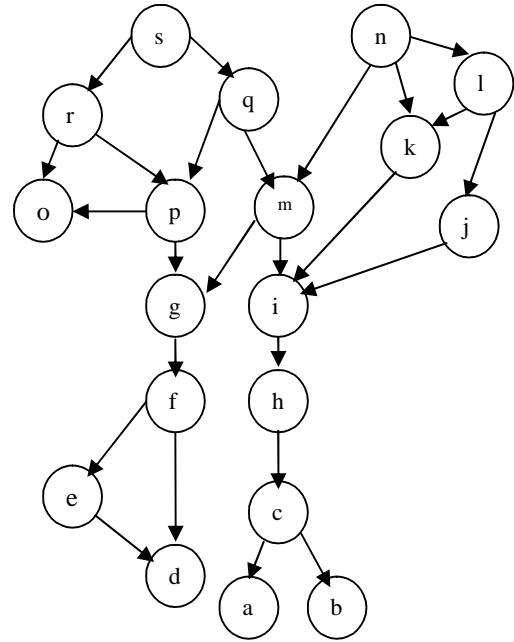
$$:- sg(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$$

A query typically involves a predicate symbol with some variable arguments, and its meaning or answer is the different constant combinations that when bound (assigned) to the variables, can make the predicate true. In general, an n -place unit query, such as the above one, may have different forms depending on the instantiation status of the variables [5]. The generalized fully instantiated same generation query has the form:

$$:- sg(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$$

X	Y
s	r
s	q
r	o
r	p
q	p
q	m
p	o
p	g
n	m
n	k
n	l
m	g
m	i
l	k
l	j
k	i
j	i
i	h
h	c
g	f
f	e
f	d
e	d
e	a
e	b

(a) TABLE FORM



(b) GRAPH FORM

FIGURE 1. THE BINARY RELATION “par” IN (a) TABLE FORM (b) GRAPH FORM

where c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are constants representing nodes in the graph. The order of the arguments is irrelevant since “sg” is a symmetric relation. Let the instantiated set of nodes (ISN) be $\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$, then the answer of such a query is either TRUE if c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are at the same generation (i.e., the set of nodes c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are on the same level of a family tree), or FALSE if c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are not at the same generation (i.e., the set of nodes c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are not on the same level of a family tree).

Our article presents an algorithm for solving the generalized partially instantiated form of the same generation query, i.e., a query that has the form:

$$:- sg(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i, c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n)$$

where X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i are the uninstantiated variables whose values are to be determined and $c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n$ are constants representing nodes in the graph. The order of the arguments is irrelevant since “sg” is a symmetric relation. Let the uninstantiated set of nodes (USN) be $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i\}$ and the instantiated set of nodes (ISN) be $\{c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n\}$,

then the answer of such a query is the set of nodes with a cardinality of i that are of the same generation as $c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n$ (i.e., the set of nodes that are on the same level of a family tree with $c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n$).

2. The Structure Used in the Algorithm

The structure used in the algorithm is a special matrix. This structure has been used in computing the transitive closure of a database relation [5], and in developing a sequential algorithm for the generalized form of the partially instantiated same generation query in deductive databases [4]. This matrix structure has been compared with other graph representation schemes. The comparison has shown that the matrix representation has more information than the other schemes [10,11]. In this matrix, the rows represent some paths in the graph starting from the source nodes to the leaves. Basically, depth-first search is used to create the paths of the graph. Instead of storing every node in all paths, the common parts of these paths can be stored only once to avoid duplications. If two paths $P_1 = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m \rangle$ and $P_2 = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_l \rangle$ have the common parts $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$, then P_1 and P_2 can

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	s	r	o				
1			p	0,2			
2				g	f	e	d
3						2,6	
4		q	1,2				
5			m	2,3			
6				i	h	c	a
7							b
8	n	5,2					
9		k	6,3				
10		l	9,1				
11			j	6,3			

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	o	r	s				
1		p	0,1				
2			q	0,2			
3	d	e	f	g	1,1		
4					m	2,2	
5						n	
6		3,2					
7	a	c	h	i	4,4		
8					k	5,5	
9						l	5,5
10					j	9,5	
11	b	7,1					

FIGURE 2. (a) MATRIX REPRESENTATION (b) REVERSE MATRIX REPRESENTATION

0,0	0,1	0,2	1,2	1,3	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,6	3,5	4,1	4,2	5,2	5,3	6,3	6,4	6,5
s	r	o	p	0,2	g	f	e	d	2,6	q	1,2	m	2,3	i	h	c

6,6	7,6	8,0	8,1	9,1	9,2	10,1	10,2	11,2	11,3
a	b	n	5,2	k	6,3	l	9,1	j	6,3

FIGURE 3. THE MATRIX AS LINEAR ARRAY

be stored in the two consecutive rows of the matrix as $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m \rangle$ and $\langle \dots n \text{ empty entries } \dots, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_l \rangle$, where the first n entries of the second row are empty. To prevent the duplicate storage of the nodes in the matrix, a different technique is used; for the first visit to the node, it is entered into the matrix and the coordinates of its location are recorded. On subsequent visits, instead of entering the node itself, its coordinates are entered into the matrix (a pointer to the already stored node). In this way, only a single copy of each of the graph's nodes is guaranteed to be entered in the matrix. Moreover, there will be only one entry (either a node or a pointer) in the matrix for each edge in the graph. In Figure 2 (a), the matrix representation of the graph given in Figure 1 (b) is presented. In that graph, there are 25 edges, and in its matrix representation there are $25+2=27$ nonempty entries in the matrix (another two entries for the nodes s and n). An important advantage of this matrix structure is that it stores a path from each node to all the source nodes that can reach the node. In the implementation of this sparse matrix, the empty entries are not stored explicitly. The matrix can be stored sequentially row by row as shown in Figure 3. For each row, storing the column number of its first non-empty entry and the sequence of non-empty entries in the row is sufficient. Thus, the size of the stored matrix is much smaller than the original relation and matrix. After the special matrix form is created, a (reverse) matrix, which is the matrix representation of the reverse graph, is generated using the reverse graph. Let $G=(V,E)$ be a graph, where V is a finite set of vertices/nodes and E is a finite set of arcs/edges such that each arc e in E is associated with an ordered pair of vertices/nodes v and w , written as

$e=(v,w)$, then the reverse graph RG is given by $RG=(V,E')$ where V is a finite set of vertices/nodes (the same set of vertices of the original graph) and E' is a finite set of arcs such that each arc e' in E' is associated with an ordered pair of vertices w and v , written by $e'=(w,v)$ for each $e=(v,w)$ in E . The reverse matrix representation generated from the graph in Figure 1 (b) is the matrix given in Figure 2 (b). An important advantage of this matrix structure is that it stores paths from every node to the (s). For solving the same generation query, we are interested in the parents and ancestors of a certain node and not in its descendants and this information can be extracted easily from the reverse matrix (and not from the original matrix). Therefore, we need the reverse matrix representation. The reverse matrix can also be stored sequentially row by row as explained for the original matrix. In fact, there is no need even to store the whole matrix structure, because storing the row beginnings, row ends, the entries stored at the row ends, and matrix coordinates of the nodes is sufficient. This is due to the fact that we are interested in the path lengths and not in the stored nodes themselves, from the reverse matrix structure.

3. The Generalized Partially Instantiated Same Generation Query Parallel Algorithm

The evaluation of the generalized partially instantiated same generation query can be parallelized using intraoperation parallelism. The processing of these queries can be speeded up by parallelizing the execution of many individual operations involved in the

solution of these queries. To simplify the explanation and presentation of the algorithms, it is assumed that there are n processors, P_1, \dots, P_n , and n disks D_1, \dots, D_n , where disk D_i is associated with processor P_i .

A benefit of the matrix structure is that it stores paths from the source nodes to all nodes reachable from these source nodes. This means that the nodes in the matrix are clustered on the source nodes of the graph, i.e., starting from any source, all nodes reachable from that source can be accessed. The reverse matrix structure stores paths from each node to all source nodes related to that node, which means that the nodes in the reverse matrix are clustered on the leaves of the graph, i.e., starting from any node, all source nodes related to that node can be accessed. As mentioned before, there is no need even to store the whole matrix structures, because storing the row beginnings, row ends, the entries stored at the row ends, and matrix coordinates of the nodes is sufficient. This is due to the fact that we are interested in the path lengths and not in the actual paths and the stored nodes themselves. These structures, which are small, in size, when compared to the original structures, are replicated across all the processors.

The replicated structures can be used to solve the generalized partially instantiated same generation query. In solving such a query, the parallel algorithm proceeds as follows:

(1) Starting from each node c_i in the instantiated set of nodes (ISN), a processor P_i computes all path lengths to all relevant source nodes using the replicated structures generated from the reverse matrix structure, where each processor works on one node. During this computation, only the row beginnings and ends are used. After that, these path lengths are sorted locally by the processors in ascending order, according to the source nodes and lengths, and duplicate paths are removed.

(2) The source nodes obtained from the above step are partitioned in a round-robin technique across all the processors. Taking each source node and using the replicated structures generated from the forward matrix structure, all nodes having the same path lengths are determined by each processor. Let this set of nodes in the result be (RS) for a certain path length. In this step, only the row beginnings and row ends are also used in the computation of the paths.

(3) Having all nodes (RS) collected in step (2), the algorithm makes sure that all nodes in ISN are in the result i.e., $ISN \subseteq RS$. In addition, the number of nodes in $RS-ISN$ should be greater than or equal to the number of nodes in USN

(i.e., $|RS-ISN| \geq |USN|$). The result of the query will consist of all combinations of the nodes in the set $RS-ISN$.

The parallel algorithm for the generalized partially instantiated same generation query can be summarized as follows:

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Procedure Parallel_Generalized_Partially_
Instantiated_Same_Generation_Query()
begin
  Distribute the nodes in ISN to the available
processors using a round-robin scheme
  Starting from  $c_i$  in ISN,  $P_i$  computes all path
lengths to all relevant source nodes using the
reverse matrix structure
  Each processor  $P_i$  sorts, locally, path lengths in
ascending order
  Each processor  $P_i$  remove duplicate paths
  find source nodes that are common to all nodes in
  ISN using all Processors  $P_i$ 
  Partition source nodes using round-robin
  technique
  Starting from  $s_j$ ,  $P_i$  collects the nodes RS that are
  of length  $l$  from  $s_j$ 
  if  $ISN \subseteq RS$  and  $|RS-ISN| \geq |USN|$  then
    the result of the query will consist of all
    combinations of the nodes in  $RS-ISN$ 
end

```

The path lengths will be sorted because the algorithm will collect all the nodes in the same generation with the given node in a single step. For example, if a certain node has a set of path lengths $\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k \mid l_1 < l_2 < \dots < l_k\}$ from the selected query node, then all nodes that are reachable from that source node with these path lengths are collected in a single step. The duplicate paths will be removed because they will not add new nodes to the solution set.

The intelligence of the algorithm is exhibited by the approach it uses to answer the queries. The algorithm considers only the relevant part of the database/graph, i.e., it considers only the set of nodes that are somehow relevant to the instantiated part of the query (the nodes in ISN). In addition to that, the algorithm jumps from one node to another, skipping many nodes on the paths of the underlying graph, since it only uses the row beginnings and row ends of the matrices in the computation of the paths rather than the nodes of the graph themselves.

Depth-first search based techniques, such as the magic-sets rule rewriting technique and the counting technique [6], consider all source nodes of the graph. Starting from each source node, all nodes of the graph reachable from that node will be considered, even though such nodes may not be related to the instantiated set of nodes in the query. Our algorithm, on the other hand, determines the set of relevant source nodes by starting from one of the nodes in the instantiated set using the reverse graph.

Another important aspect is the benefit obtained from the parallelism of the query solution. As mentioned before, intraoperation parallelism is used to speed up the execution of the algorithm.

If the number of nodes in ISN is less than the number of processors, then $|ISN|$ number of processors are used. If the number of processors is greater than $|ISN|$, the nodes of ISN are assigned to processors in a round-robin scheme. If $|ISN|$ is equal to the number of processors, then node c_i is assigned to P_i .

Example: Assume there are three processors P_1, P_2 , and P_3 , with three disks D_1, D_2 , and D_3 respectively. For the graph in Figure 1 (b), the answer of the generalized partially instantiated same generation query

$:- sg(j,i,g,X)$

is computed as follows.

(1) The algorithm starts from the instantiated arguments and distributes the nodes j,i,g to processors P_1, P_2 , and P_3 respectively. P_1 starts with j and computes all path lengths to all relevant source nodes. P_2 and P_3 do the same for nodes i and g respectively. These paths are sorted and duplicates are removed locally on each of the processors. Thus, this step generates one path of length 2 from j to source node n using processor P_1 . This step also generates two paths of length 2 and 3 from i to n using processor P_2 . Finally, the step generates a path of length 3 from g to n and a path of length 2 from g to s using processor P_3 .

(2) From the above step, the algorithm determines that n is the only relevant source node (the source node s is not considered in the computation since it is not common to all nodes in ISN). Therefore, the algorithm starts from n and uses the forward matrix structure to determine all nodes with path lengths of 2 from source node n . When a node of path length 2 is reached, it is recorded and the search continues until all relevant parts of the graph is traversed up to path lengths of 2 (the search terminates at this point for the current path of the graph since nodes with lengths greater than 2 are irrelevant in answering the query) or until leafs are encountered. The set of nodes in the result is $RS=\{g,i,k,j\}$.

(3) Based on the above, $X=k$ is the only answer of the query..

4. Conclusion

This paper presents a parallel algorithm to solve the generalized partially instantiated same generation query in deductive databases. The algorithm exhibits some intelligence by focusing on the relevant portion of the graph/database rather than considering all source nodes of the graph. In addition, the algorithm uses

intraoperation parallelism to execute many steps in parallel. The algorithm uses special data structures, namely, a matrix representation of the graph, representing the two-attribute normalized database relation, and a reverse matrix representation of the reverse graph.

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