

Chapter 12: Indexing and Hashing

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Chapter 12: Indexing and Hashing

- Basic Concepts
- Ordered Indices
- B+-Tree Index Files
- B-Tree Index Files
- Static Hashing
- Dynamic Hashing
- Comparison of Ordered Indexing and Hashing
- Index Definition in SQL
- Multiple-Key Access



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Basic Concepts

- Indexing mechanisms used to speed up access to desired data.
 - E.g., author catalog in library
- Search Key attribute to set of attributes used to look up records in a file
- An index file consists of records (called index entries) of the form

search-key pointer

- Index files are typically much smaller than the original file
- Two basic kinds of indices:
 - Ordered indices: search keys are stored in sorted order
 - **Hash indices:** search keys are distributed uniformly across "buckets" using a "hash function".



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Index Evaluation Metrics

- Access types supported efficiently. E.g.,
 - records with a specified value in the attribute
 - or records with an attribute value falling in a specified range of values.
- Access time
- Insertion time
- Deletion time
- Space overhead



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Ordered Indices

- In an ordered index, index entries are stored sorted on the search key value. E.g., author catalog in library.
- **Primary index:** in a sequentially ordered file, the index whose search key specifies the sequential order of the file.
 - Also called clustering index
 - The search key of a primary index is usually but not necessarily the primary key.
- Secondary index: an index whose search key specifies an order different from the sequential order of the file. Also called non-clustering index.
- Index-sequential file: ordered sequential file with a primary index.



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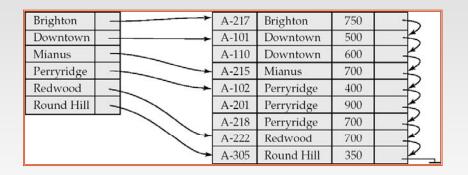
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Dense Index Files

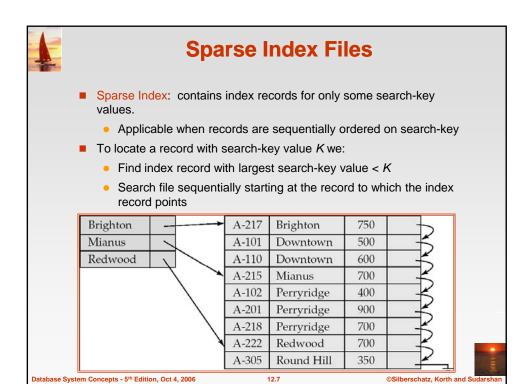
 Dense index — Index record appears for every search-key value in the file.

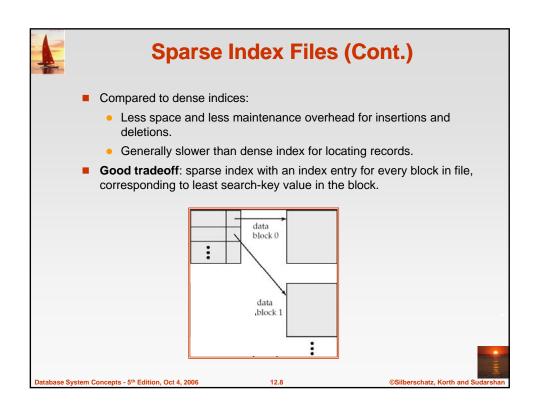


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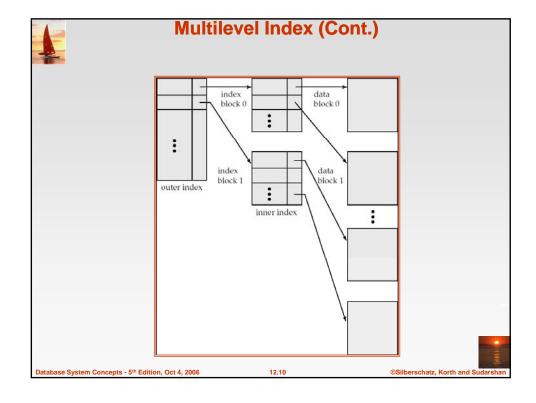
Multilevel Index

- If primary index does not fit in memory, access becomes expensive.
- Solution: treat primary index kept on disk as a sequential file and construct a sparse index on it.
 - outer index a sparse index of primary index
 - inner index the primary index file
- If even outer index is too large to fit in main memory, yet another level of index can be created, and so on.
- Indices at all levels must be updated on insertion or deletion from the file.



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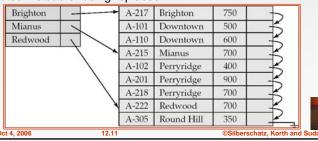
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Index Update: Deletion

- If deleted record was the only record in the file with its particular searchkey value, the search-key is deleted from the index also.
- Single-level index deletion:
 - **Dense indices** deletion of search-key:similar to file record deletion.
 - Sparse indices
 - if an entry for the search key exists in the index, it is deleted by replacing the entry in the index with the next search-key value in the file (in search-key order).
 - If the next search-key value already has an index entry, the entry is deleted instead of being replaced.



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Index Update: Insertion

- Single-level index insertion:
 - Perform a lookup using the search-key value appearing in the record to be inserted.
 - Dense indices if the search-key value does not appear in the index, insert it.
 - Sparse indices if index stores an entry for each block of the file, no change needs to be made to the index unless a new block is created.
 - If a new block is created, the first search-key value appearing in the new block is inserted into the index.
- Multilevel insertion (as well as deletion) algorithms are simple extensions of the single-level algorithms



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Secondary Indices

- Frequently, one wants to find all the records whose values in a certain field (which is not the search-key of the primary index) satisfy some condition.
 - Example 1: In the account relation stored sequentially by account number, we may want to find all accounts in a particular branch
 - Example 2: as above, but where we want to find all accounts with a specified balance or range of balances
- We can have a secondary index with an index record for each search-key value



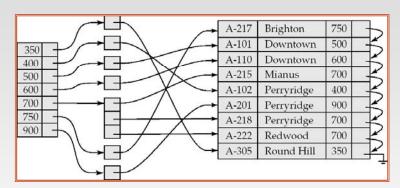
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Secondary Indices Example



Secondary index on balance field of account

- Index record points to a bucket that contains pointers to all the actual records with that particular search-key value.
- Secondary indices have to be dense



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Primary and Secondary Indices

- Indices offer substantial benefits when searching for records.
- BUT: Updating indices imposes overhead on database modification -when a file is modified, every index on the file must be updated,
- Sequential scan using primary index is efficient, but a sequential scan using a secondary index is expensive
 - Each record access may fetch a new block from disk
 - Block fetch requires about 5 to 10 milliseconds
 - versus about 100 nanoseconds for memory access



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B+-Tree Index Files

B+-tree indices are an alternative to indexed-sequential files.

- Disadvantage of indexed-sequential files
 - performance degrades as file grows, since many overflow blocks get created.
 - Periodic reorganization of entire file is required.
- Advantage of B+-tree index files:
 - automatically reorganizes itself with small, local, changes, in the face of insertions and deletions.
 - Reorganization of entire file is not required to maintain performance.
- (Minor) disadvantage of B+-trees:
 - extra insertion and deletion overhead, space overhead.
- Advantages of B+-trees outweigh disadvantages
 - B+-trees are used extensively



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B+-Tree Index Files (Cont.)

A B+-tree is a rooted tree satisfying the following properties:

- All paths from root to leaf are of the same length
- Each node that is not a root or a leaf has between $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ and n children.
- A leaf node has between $\lceil (n-1)/2 \rceil$ and n-1 values
- Special cases:
 - If the root is not a leaf, it has at least 2 children.
 - If the root is a leaf (that is, there are no other nodes in the tree), it can have between 0 and (n-1) values.



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B⁺-Tree Node Structure

Typical node

 P_1 K_1 P_2 \dots P_{n-1} K_{n-1} P_n

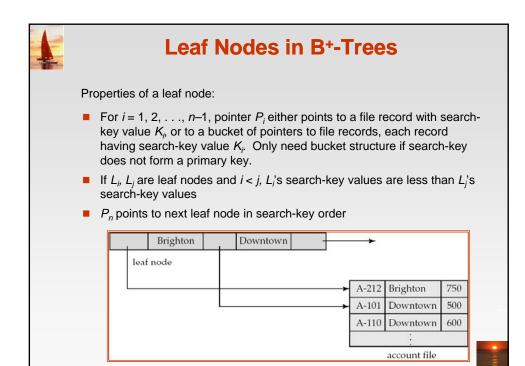
- K_i are the search-key values
- P_i are pointers to children (for non-leaf nodes) or pointers to records or buckets of records (for leaf nodes).
- The search-keys in a node are ordered

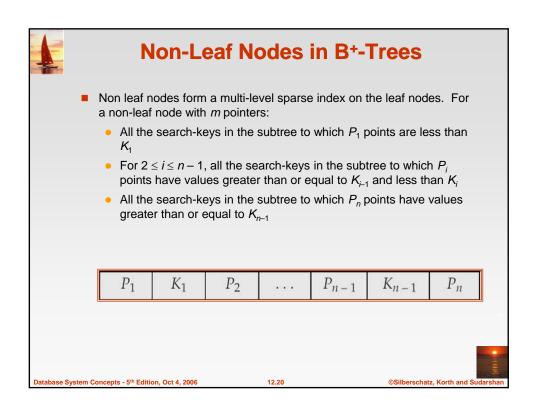
$$K_1 < K_2 < K_3 < \ldots < K_{n-1}$$

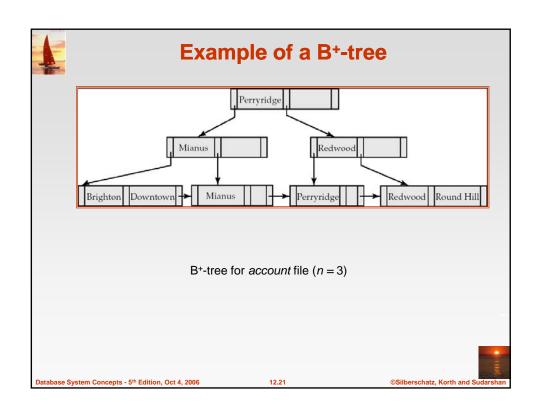


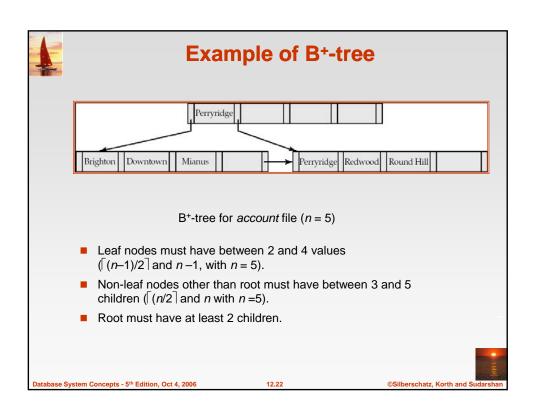
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Observations about B+-trees

- Since the inter-node connections are done by pointers, "logically" close blocks need not be "physically" close.
- The non-leaf levels of the B+-tree form a hierarchy of sparse indices.
- The B+-tree contains a relatively small number of levels
 - ▶ Level below root has at least 2* n/2 values
 - Next level has at least 2* \[n/2 \] * \[n/2 \] values
 - .. etc
 - If there are K search-key values in the file, the tree height is no more than \[log_{\(n/2\) \]}(K) \]
 - thus searches can be conducted efficiently.
- Insertions and deletions to the main file can be handled efficiently, as the index can be restructured in logarithmic time (as we shall see).



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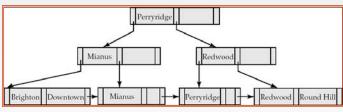


Queries on B+-Trees

- Find all records with a search-key value of *k*.
 - 1. N=root
 - 2. Repeat
 - 1. Examine N for the smallest search-key value > k.
 - 2. If such a value exists, assume it is K_i . Then set $N = P_i$
 - 3. Otherwise $k \ge K_{n-1}$. Set $N = P_n$

Until N is a leaf node

- 3. If for some *i*, key $K_i = k$ follow pointer P_i to the desired record or bucket.
- 4. Else no record with search-key value k exists.



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Queries on B+-Trees (Cont.)

- If there are K search-key values in the file, the height of the tree is no more than $\lceil \log_{\lceil n/2 \rceil}(K) \rceil$.
- A node is generally the same size as a disk block, typically 4 kilobytes
 - and *n* is typically around 100 (40 bytes per index entry).
- With 1 million search key values and n = 100
 - at most $log_{50}(1,000,000) = 4$ nodes are accessed in a lookup.
- Contrast this with a balanced binary tree with 1 million search key values — around 20 nodes are accessed in a lookup
 - above difference is significant since every node access may need a disk I/O, costing around 20 milliseconds



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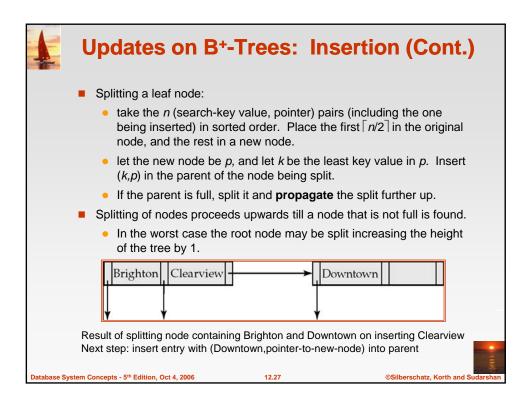
Updates on B+-Trees: Insertion

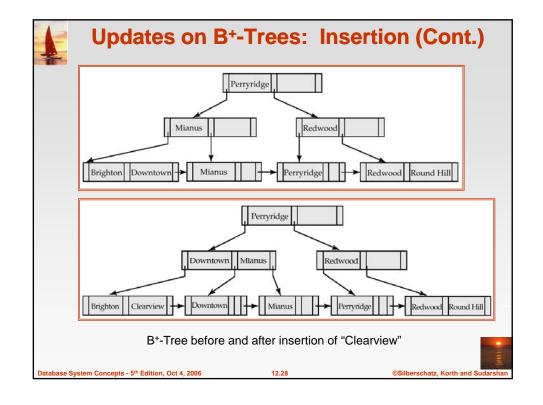
- 1. Find the leaf node in which the search-key value would appear
- 2. If the search-key value is already present in the leaf node
 - 1. Add record to the file
 - 2. If necessary add a pointer to the bucket.
- 3. If the search-key value is not present, then
 - add the record to the main file (and create a bucket if necessary)
 - 2. If there is room in the leaf node, insert (key-value, pointer) pair in the leaf node
 - 3. Otherwise, split the node (along with the new (key-value, pointer) entry) as discussed in the next slide.

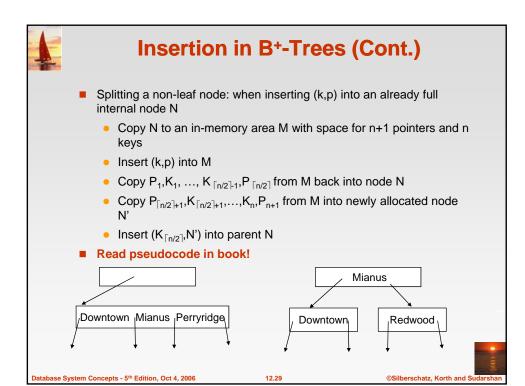


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Updates on B*-Trees: Deletion

- Find the record to be deleted, and remove it from the main file and from the bucket (if present)
- Remove (search-key value, pointer) from the leaf node if there is no bucket or if the bucket has become empty
- If the node has too few entries due to the removal, and the entries in the node and a sibling fit into a single node, then merge siblings:
 - Insert all the search-key values in the two nodes into a single node (the one on the left), and delete the other node.
 - Delete the pair (K_{i-1}, P_i), where P_i is the pointer to the deleted node, from its parent, recursively using the above procedure.



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Updates on B*-Trees: Deletion

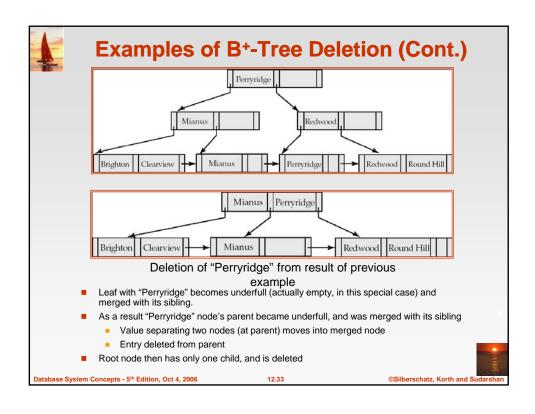
- Otherwise, if the node has too few entries due to the removal, but the entries in the node and a sibling do not fit into a single node, then redistribute pointers:
 - Redistribute the pointers between the node and a sibling such that both have more than the minimum number of entries.
 - Update the corresponding search-key value in the parent of the node.
- The node deletions may cascade upwards till a node which has $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ or more pointers is found.
- If the root node has only one pointer after deletion, it is deleted and the sole child becomes the root.

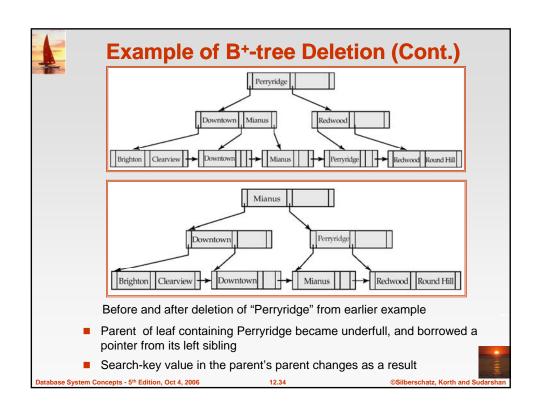


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Examples of B+-Tree Deletion Perryridge Downtown Mianus Redwood Mianus Brighton Perryridge Perryridge Mianus Redwood Brighton Clearview Perryridge | Before and after deleting "Downtown' Deleting "Downtown" causes merging of under-full leaves • leaf node can become empty only for n=3! Patabase System Concepts - 5th Edition, Oct 4, 2006







B+-Tree File Organization

- Index file degradation problem is solved by using B+-Tree indices.
- Data file degradation problem is solved by using B+-Tree File Organization.
- The leaf nodes in a B+-tree file organization store records, instead of pointers.
- Leaf nodes are still required to be half full
 - Since records are larger than pointers, the maximum number of records that can be stored in a leaf node is less than the number of pointers in a nonleaf node.
- Insertion and deletion are handled in the same way as insertion and deletion of entries in a B+-tree index.



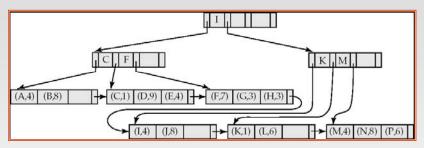
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B*-Tree File Organization (Cont.)



Example of B+-tree File Organization

- Good space utilization important since records use more space than pointers.
- To improve space utilization, involve more sibling nodes in redistribution during splits and merges
 - Involving 2 siblings in redistribution (to avoid split / merge where possible) results in each node having at least $\lfloor 2n/3 \rfloor$ entries



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Indexing Strings

- Variable length strings as keys
 - Variable fanout
 - Use space utilization as criterion for splitting, not number of pointers
- Prefix compression
 - Key values at internal nodes can be prefixes of full key
 - Keep enough characters to distinguish entries in the subtrees separated by the key value
 - E.g. "Silas" and "Silberschatz" can be separated by "Silb"
 - Keys in leaf node can be compressed by sharing common prefixes



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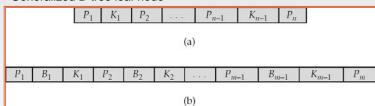
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B-Tree Index Files

- Similar to B+-tree, but B-tree allows search-key values to appear only once; eliminates redundant storage of search keys.
- Search keys in nonleaf nodes appear nowhere else in the Btree; an additional pointer field for each search key in a nonleaf node must be included.
- Generalized B-tree leaf node

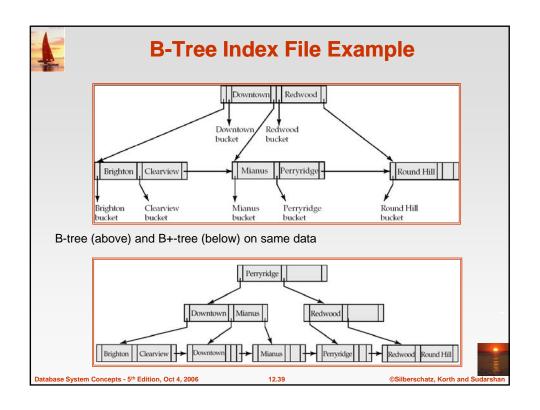


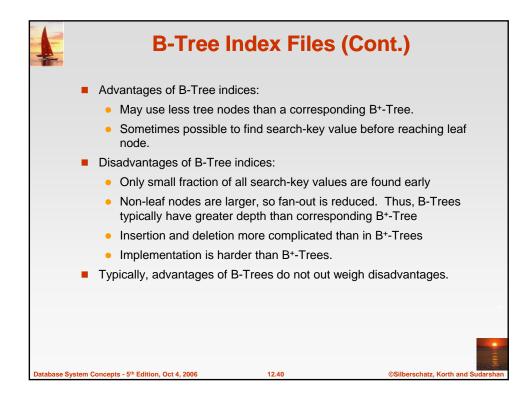
 Nonleaf node – pointers Bi are the bucket or file record pointers.



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Multiple-Key Access

- Use multiple indices for certain types of queries.
- Example:

select account_number

from account

where branch_name = "Perryridge" and balance = 1000

- Possible strategies for processing query using indices on single attributes:
 - 1. Use index on *branch_name* to find accounts with branch name Perryridge; test *balance* = 1000
 - 2. Use index on *balance* to find accounts with balances of \$1000; test *branch_name* = "Perryridge".
 - 3. Use *branch_name* index to find pointers to all records pertaining to the Perryridge branch. Similarly use index on *balance*. Take intersection of both sets of pointers obtained.



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Indices on Multiple Keys

- Composite search keys are search keys containing more than one attribute
 - E.g. (branch_name, balance)
- Lexicographic ordering: $(a_1, a_2) < (b_1, b_2)$ if either
 - $a_1 < b_1$, or
 - $a_1 = b_1$ and $a_2 < b_2$



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Indices on Multiple Attributes

Suppose we have an index on combined search-key (*branch_name*, *balance*).

With the where clause

where branch_name = "Perryridge" and balance = 1000 the index on (branch_name, balance) can be used to fetch only records that satisfy both conditions.

- Using separate indices in less efficient we may fetch many records (or pointers) that satisfy only one of the conditions.
- Can also efficiently handle

where branch_name = "Perryridge" and balance < 1000

But cannot efficiently handle

where branch_name < "Perryridge" and balance = 1000

 May fetch many records that satisfy the first but not the second condition



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Non-Unique Search Keys

- Alternatives:
 - Buckets on separate block (bad idea)
 - List of tuple pointers with each key
 - Extra code to handle long lists
 - Deletion of a tuple can be expensive if there are many duplicates on search key (why?)
 - Low space overhead, no extra cost for queries
 - Make search key unique by adding a record-identifier
 - Extra storage overhead for keys
 - > Simpler code for insertion/deletion
 - Widely used



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Other Issues in Indexing

- Covering indices
 - Add extra attributes to index so (some) queries can avoid fetching the actual records
 - Particularly useful for secondary indices
 - Why?
 - Can store extra attributes only at leaf
- Record relocation and secondary indices
 - If a record moves, all secondary indices that store record pointers have to be updated
 - Node splits in B+-tree file organizations become very expensive
 - Solution: use primary-index search key instead of record pointer in secondary index
 - Extra traversal of primary index to locate record
 - Higher cost for queries, but node splits are cheap
 - Add record-id if primary-index search key is non-unique



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Hashing

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Static Hashing

- A bucket is a unit of storage containing one or more records (a bucket is typically a disk block).
- In a hash file organization we obtain the bucket of a record directly from its search-key value using a hash function.
- Hash function h is a function from the set of all search-key values K to the set of all bucket addresses B.
- Hash function is used to locate records for access, insertion as well as deletion.
- Records with different search-key values may be mapped to the same bucket; thus entire bucket has to be searched sequentially to locate a record.



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Example of Hash File Organization

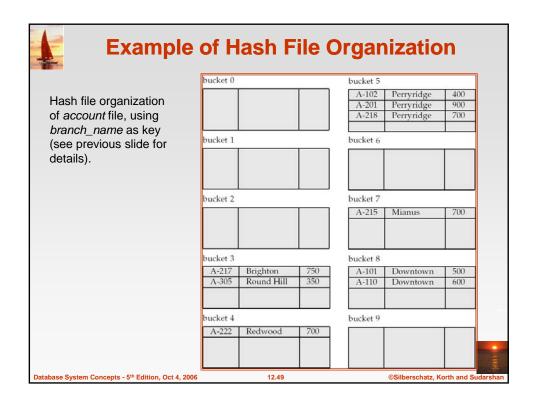
Hash file organization of account file, using branch_name as key (See figure in next slide.)

- There are 10 buckets,
- The binary representation of the *i*th character is assumed to be the integer *i*.
- The hash function returns the sum of the binary representations of the characters modulo 10
 - E.g. h(Perryridge) = 5 h(Round Hill) = 3 h(Brighton) = 3



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Hash Functions

- Worst hash function maps all search-key values to the same bucket; this makes access time proportional to the number of search-key values in the file.
- An ideal hash function is **uniform**, i.e., each bucket is assigned the same number of search-key values from the set of *all* possible values.
- Ideal hash function is random, so each bucket will have the same number of records assigned to it irrespective of the actual distribution of search-key values in the file.
- Typical hash functions perform computation on the internal binary representation of the search-key.
 - For example, for a string search-key, the binary representations of all the characters in the string could be added and the sum modulo the number of buckets could be returned.



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Handling of Bucket Overflows

- Bucket overflow can occur because of
 - Insufficient buckets
 - Skew in distribution of records. This can occur due to two reasons:
 - multiple records have same search-key value
 - chosen hash function produces non-uniform distribution of key values
- Although the probability of bucket overflow can be reduced, it cannot be eliminated; it is handled by using *overflow buckets*.



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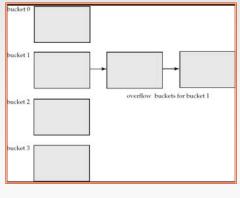
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Handling of Bucket Overflows (Cont.)

- Overflow chaining the overflow buckets of a given bucket are chained together in a linked list.
- Above scheme is called closed hashing.
 - An alternative, called open hashing, which does not use overflow buckets, is not suitable for database applications.



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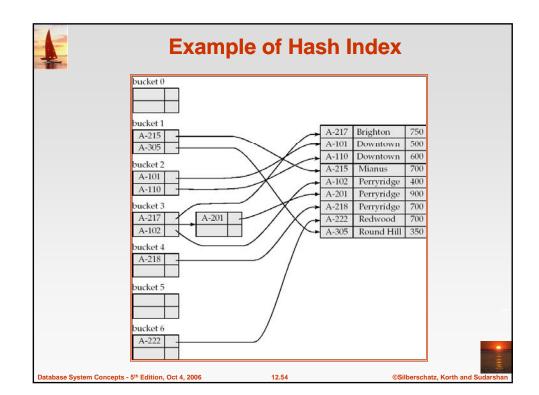
Hash Indices

- Hashing can be used not only for file organization, but also for indexstructure creation.
- A hash index organizes the search keys, with their associated record pointers, into a hash file structure.
- Strictly speaking, hash indices are always secondary indices
 - if the file itself is organized using hashing, a separate primary hash index on it using the same search-key is unnecessary.
 - However, we use the term hash index to refer to both secondary index structures and hash organized files.



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Deficiencies of Static Hashing

- In static hashing, function h maps search-key values to a fixed set of B of bucket addresses. Databases grow or shrink with time.
 - If initial number of buckets is too small, and file grows, performance will degrade due to too much overflows.
 - If space is allocated for anticipated growth, a significant amount of space will be wasted initially (and buckets will be underfull).
 - If database shrinks, again space will be wasted.
- One solution: periodic re-organization of the file with a new hash function
 - Expensive, disrupts normal operations
- Better solution: allow the number of buckets to be modified dynamically.



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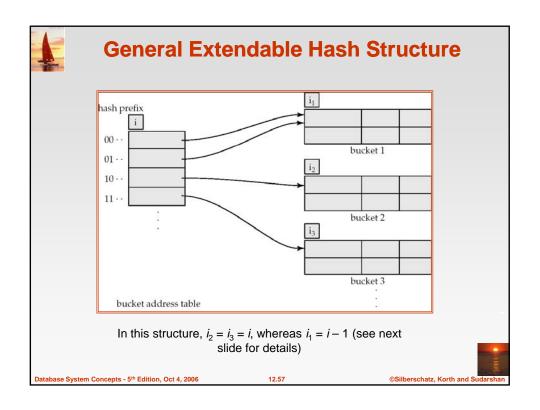
Dynamic Hashing

- Good for database that grows and shrinks in size
- Allows the hash function to be modified dynamically
- Extendable hashing one form of dynamic hashing
 - Hash function generates values over a large range typically b-bit integers, with b = 32.
 - At any time use only a prefix of the hash function to index into a table of bucket addresses.
 - Let the length of the prefix be *i* bits, $0 \le i \le 32$.
 - Bucket address table size = 2^{i} . Initially i = 0
 - Value of i grows and shrinks as the size of the database grows and shrinks.
 - Multiple entries in the bucket address table may point to a bucket (why?)
 - Thus, actual number of buckets is < 2^l
 - The number of buckets also changes dynamically due to coalescing and splitting of buckets.



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Use of Extendable Hash Structure

- Each bucket j stores a value i,
 - All the entries that point to the same bucket have the same values on the first *i_i* bits.
- To locate the bucket containing search-key K;
 - 1. Compute $h(K_i) = X$
 - 2. Use the first *i* high order bits of *X* as a displacement into bucket address table, and follow the pointer to appropriate bucket
- To insert a record with search-key value K_i
 - follow same procedure as look-up and locate the bucket, say j.
 - If there is room in the bucket *j* insert record in the bucket.
 - Else the bucket must be split and insertion re-attempted (next slide.)
 - Overflow buckets used instead in some cases (will see shortly)



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Insertion in Extendable Hash Structure (Cont)

To split a bucket j when inserting record with search-key value K_{j} .

- If $i > i_i$ (more than one pointer to bucket j)
 - allocate a new bucket z, and set $i_i = i_z = (i_i + 1)$
 - Update the second half of the bucket address table entries originally pointing to j, to point to z
 - remove each record in bucket j and reinsert (in j or z)
 - recompute new bucket for K_j and insert record in the bucket (further splitting is required if the bucket is still full)
- If $i = i_j$ (only one pointer to bucket j)
 - If i reaches some limit b, or too many splits have happened in this insertion, create an overflow bucket
 - Else
 - increment *i* and double the size of the bucket address table.
 - replace each entry in the table by two entries that point to the same bucket.
 - recompute new bucket address table entry for K_j Now i > i_i so use the first case above.



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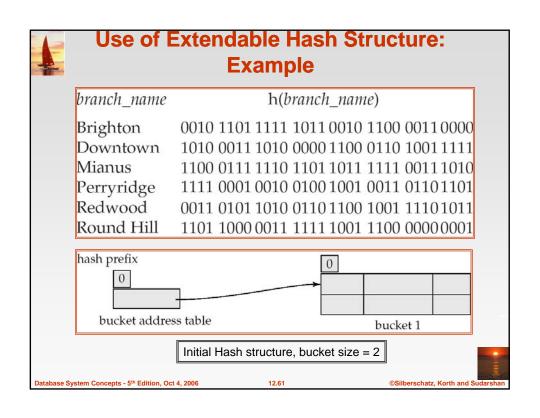
Deletion in Extendable Hash Structure

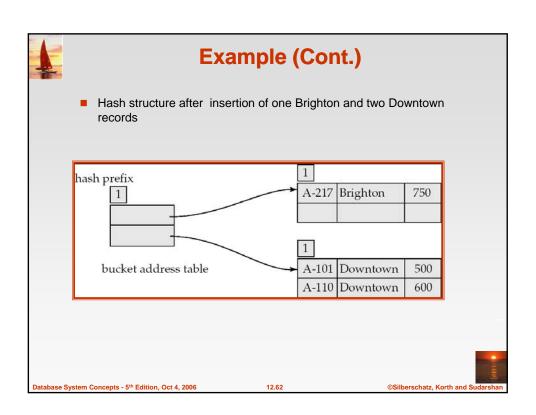
- To delete a key value,
 - locate it in its bucket and remove it.
 - The bucket itself can be removed if it becomes empty (with appropriate updates to the bucket address table).
 - Coalescing of buckets can be done (can coalesce only with a "buddy" bucket having same value of i_j and same i_j -1 prefix, if it is present)
 - Decreasing bucket address table size is also possible
 - Note: decreasing bucket address table size is an expensive operation and should be done only if number of buckets becomes much smaller than the size of the table

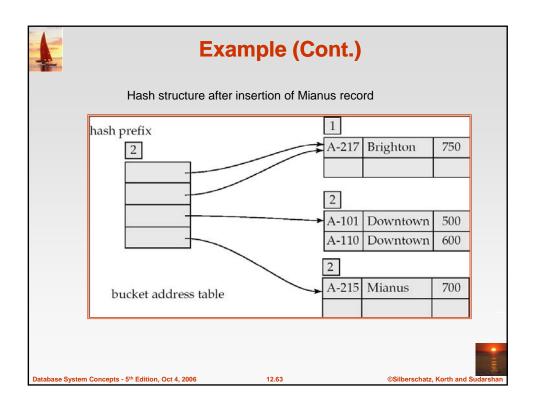


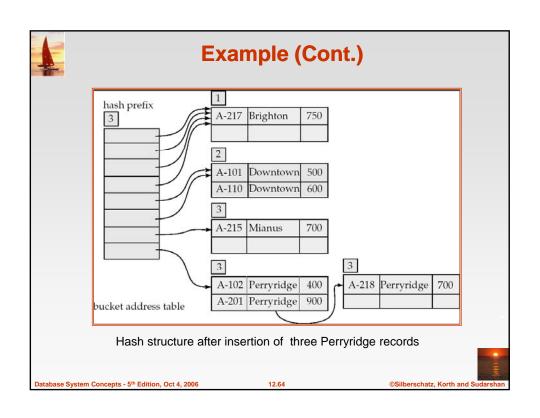
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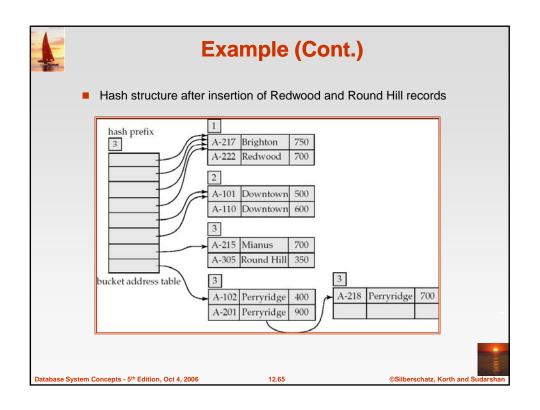
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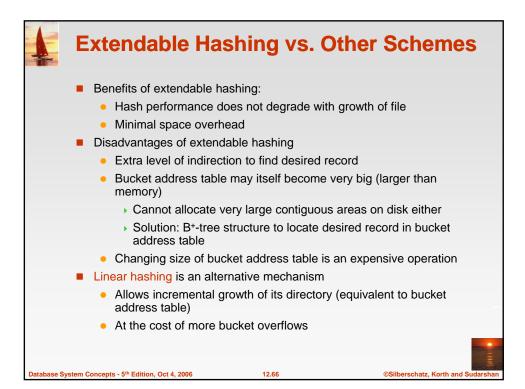














Comparison of Ordered Indexing and Hashing

- Cost of periodic re-organization
- Relative frequency of insertions and deletions
- Is it desirable to optimize average access time at the expense of worst-case access time?
- Expected type of queries:
 - Hashing is generally better at retrieving records having a specified value of the key.
 - If range queries are common, ordered indices are to be preferred
- In practice:
 - PostgreSQL supports hash indices, but discourages use due to poor performance
 - Oracle supports static hash organization, but not hash indices
 - SQLServer supports only B+-trees



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Bitmap Indices

- Bitmap indices are a special type of index designed for efficient querying on multiple keys
- Records in a relation are assumed to be numbered sequentially from, say, 0
 - Given a number *n* it must be easy to retrieve record *n*
 - Particularly easy if records are of fixed size
- Applicable on attributes that take on a relatively small number of distinct values
 - E.g. gender, country, state, ...
 - E.g. income-level (income broken up into a small number of levels such as 0-9999, 10000-19999, 20000-50000, 50000- infinity)
- A bitmap is simply an array of bits



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Bitmap Indices (Cont.)

- In its simplest form a bitmap index on an attribute has a bitmap for each value of the attribute
 - Bitmap has as many bits as records
 - In a bitmap for value v, the bit for a record is 1 if the record has the value v for the attribute, and is 0 otherwise

record number	name	gender	address	income _level	Bitmaps for gender m 10010	Bitmaps for income_level
0	John	m	Perryridge	L1	f 01101	L1 10100
1	Diana	f	Brooklyn	L2	01101	L2 01000
2	Mary	f	Jonestown	L1		L3 00001
3	Peter	m	Brooklyn	L4		L4 00010
4	Kathy	f	Perryridge	L3		L5 00000



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Bitmap Indices (Cont.)

- Bitmap indices are useful for queries on multiple attributes
 - not particularly useful for single attribute queries
- Queries are answered using bitmap operations
 - Intersection (and)
 - Union (or)
 - Complementation (not)
- Each operation takes two bitmaps of the same size and applies the operation on corresponding bits to get the result bitmap
 - E.g. 100110 AND 110011 = 100010

100110 OR 110011 = 110111 NOT 100110 = 011001

- Males with income level L1: 10010 AND 10100 = 10000
 - Can then retrieve required tuples.
 - Counting number of matching tuples is even faster



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Bitmap Indices (Cont.)

- Bitmap indices generally very small compared with relation size
 - E.g. if record is 100 bytes, space for a single bitmap is 1/800 of space used by relation.
 - If number of distinct attribute values is 8, bitmap is only 1% of relation size
- Deletion needs to be handled properly
 - Existence bitmap to note if there is a valid record at a record location
 - Needed for complementation
 - not(A=v): (NOT bitmap-A-v) AND ExistenceBitmap
- Should keep bitmaps for all values, even null value
 - To correctly handle SQL null semantics for NOT(A=v):
 - intersect above result with (NOT bitmap-A-Null)



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Efficient Implementation of Bitmap Operations

- Bitmaps are packed into words; a single word and (a basic CPU instruction) computes and of 32 or 64 bits at once
 - E.g. 1-million-bit maps can be and-ed with just 31,250 instruction
- Counting number of 1s can be done fast by a trick:
 - Use each byte to index into a precomputed array of 256 elements each storing the count of 1s in the binary representation
 - Can use pairs of bytes to speed up further at a higher memory cost
 - Add up the retrieved counts
- Bitmaps can be used instead of Tuple-ID lists at leaf levels of B+-trees, for values that have a large number of matching records
 - Worthwhile if > 1/64 of the records have that value, assuming a tuple-id is 64 bits
 - Above technique merges benefits of bitmap and B⁺-tree indices



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Index Definition in SQL

Create an index

create index <index-name> on <relation-name>
 (<attribute-list>)

E.g.: **create index** *b-index* **on** *branch(branch_name)*

- Use **create unique index** to indirectly specify and enforce the condition that the search key is a candidate key is a candidate key.
 - Not really required if SQL unique integrity constraint is supported
- To drop an index

drop index <index-name>

Most database systems allow specification of type of index, and clustering.



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End of Chapter

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Partitioned Hashing

 Hash values are split into segments that depend on each attribute of the search-key.

 (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n) for n attribute search-key

■ Example: *n* = 2, for *customer*, search-key being (*customer-street*, *customer-city*)

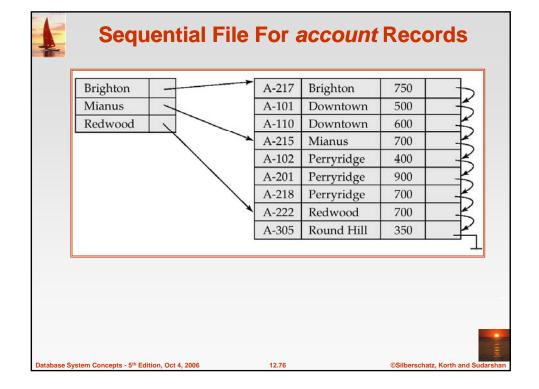
search-key value hash value
(Main, Harrison) 101 111
(Main, Brooklyn) 101 001
(Park, Palo Alto) 010 010
(Spring, Brooklyn) 001 001
(Alma, Palo Alto) 110 010

■ To answer equality query on single attribute, need to look up multiple buckets. Similar in effect to grid files.

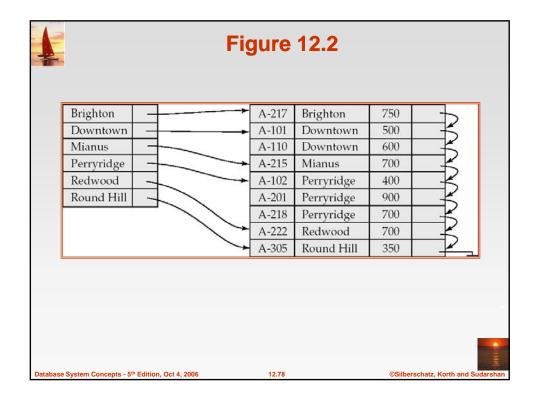


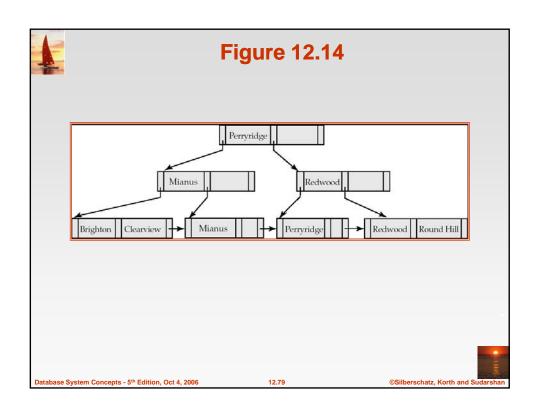
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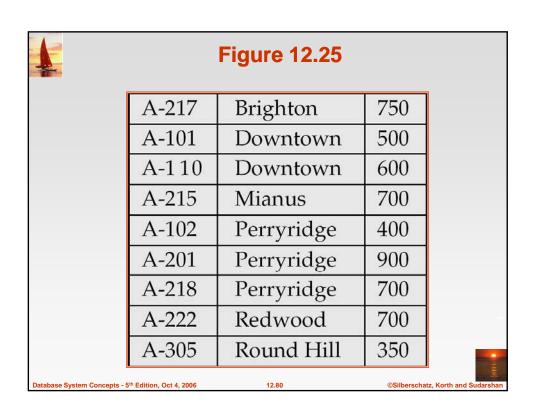
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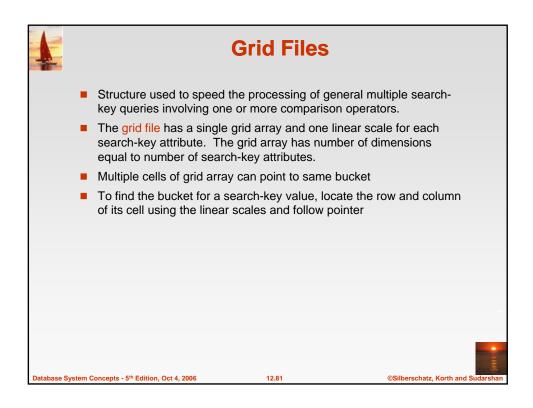


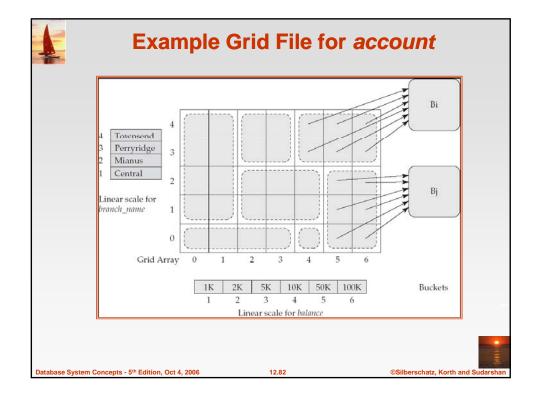
A-217	Brighton	750
A-101	Downtown	500
A-110	Downtown	600
A-215	Mianus	700
A-102	Perryridge	400
A-201	Perryridge	900
A-218	Perryridge	700
A-222	Redwood	700
A-305	Round Hill	350













Queries on a Grid File

- A grid file on two attributes A and B can handle queries of all following forms with reasonable efficiency
 - $(a_1 \le A \le a_2)$
 - $(b_1 \le B \le b_2)$
 - $(a_1 \le A \le a_2 \land b_1 \le B \le b_2),$
- E.g., to answer $(a_1 \le A \le a_2 \land b_1 \le B \le b_2)$, use linear scales to find corresponding candidate grid array cells, and look up all the buckets pointed to from those cells.



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Grid Files (Cont.)

- During insertion, if a bucket becomes full, new bucket can be created if more than one cell points to it.
 - Idea similar to extendable hashing, but on multiple dimensions
 - If only one cell points to it, either an overflow bucket must be created or the grid size must be increased
- Linear scales must be chosen to uniformly distribute records across cells.
 - Otherwise there will be too many overflow buckets.
- Periodic re-organization to increase grid size will help.
 - But reorganization can be very expensive.
- Space overhead of grid array can be high.
- R-trees (Chapter 23) are an alternative



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