ISSN (Print) : 2319-5940
ISSN (Online) : 2278-1021

International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer and Communication Engineering
Vol. 2, Issue 9, September 2013

Custom Aggregations for Generating Datasets for Datamining

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Abstract- Data mining is the domain which has utility in real world applications. Data sets are prepared from regular transactional databases for the purpose of data mining. However, preparing datasets manually is time consuming and tedious in nature as it involves aggregations, sub queries and joins. Moreover the traditional SQL aggregations such as MAX, MIN etc. can generate single row output which is not useful in generating datasets. Therefore it is essential to build horizontal aggregations that can generate datasets in horizontal layout. These data sets can be used further for data mining in the real world applications. This paper focuses on building user-defined horizontal aggregations such as PIVOT, SPJ and CASE whose underlying logic uses SQL queries. We built a prototype that demonstrates the efficiency of the proposed horizontal aggregations. The empirical results revealed that the prototype is effective and can be used in real world applications.

Keywords– SQL, aggregations, horizontal aggregations, pivoting.

I. INTRODUCTION

Database model such as RDBMS has been used widely for storing and retrieving real world business data. Though the databases support mechanism for data storage and retrieval, they are used in data to day operations. For making well informed business decisions, it is essential to mine such data to extract trends or patterns from the data. However, transactional database cannot be used directly for data mining. Therefore preparing datasets for data mining purposes assumes significance. However, the existing aggregation functions available in SQL do not support to generate datasets as they can only produce single row outputs. The summary of business data can be given for data mining purposes instead of giving the whole business data. This is the idea behind preparing datasets for data mining. As the vertical aggregations fail to deliver goods, it is essential to have horizontal aggregations. However, SQL does not support them [1]. But the vertical aggregations are useful in statistical algorithms [2], [3]. As data mining requirements expect data set to have horizontal layout (set of rows and columns), it is important to generated datasets with that layout. There are data mining techniques like clustering, classification, regression, PCA and so on [4].

Horizontal aggregations proposed in this paper include PIVOT, SPJ and CASE. Actually these are new programming constructs that can produce output with horizontal layout which is further used in data mining operations. These horizontal aggregations are made using the underlying SQL commands and other logic required. The data mining operations generally come under OLAP (Online Analytical Processing) as it acts on historical data rather than regular data. We built a web based prototype to demonstrate the proposed horizontal aggregations. The proposed horizontal aggregations work faster as they are made pre-compiled objects. This will save time as the horizontal aggregations are pre-compiled objects. They are executed faster when compared to normal SQL queries. The application is user-friendly with provision for generating data sets for data mining. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II reviews literature. Section III describes horizontal aggregations. Section IV presents experimental results while section V concludes the paper.

II. RELATED WORK

SQL is the de facto standard to interact with relational databases. It is widely used in all kinds of applications where connectivity to database containing valuable business data is required. SQL provides commands of various categories such as DML, DDL, TCL and DCL. Using SELECT query it is possible to use aggregations, sub queries and joins. The vertical aggregations supported by SQL include COUNT, MIN, AVG, MAX and SUM. These are known as aggregate functions as they produce summary of data [5]. The output of these functions is in the form of single row values. These values can't be directly used for data mining. Therefore it is essential to use some data mining procedures in order to generate data sets. Association rule mining [6] is used in OLAP applications as they can generate trends in the data [7]. In this paper we extend the SQL aggregate functions in order to build new constructs namely PIVOT, SPJ and CASE. SQL queries are used in clustering algorithms also as explored in [5]. Spreadsheet like operations as extensions to SQL queries are proposed in [8]. The paper also discussed optimizations for joins and other operations. However, it is known that CASE and PIVOT can be used to avoid joins. New class of aggregations can be generated by using algebra that has

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been used traditionally [9]. In fact this paper focuses on generating new class of aggregations known as horizontal aggregations which will optimize the joins as presented in [10]. For optimizing queriestree-based plans are used traditionally [11]. On aggregations also there is lot of research found in the literature. Literature also includes cube queries and cross tabulations [12]. Relational tables can unpivoted as presented din [13]. Transformations are available that can be used for horizontal aggregations [14]. Unpivot and TRANSPOSE operators are similar. When compared with PIVOT transpose can reduce the number of operations required. They have inverse relationship between them. They can produce vertical aggregations and decisions tree required by data mining. Both operations are available in SQL Server [15].

Horizontal aggregations are also presented by researchers in [16] and [17] with known limitations. The limitation is that the resultant data cannot be directly used for data mining. In this paper we proposed newoperators that are best used for horizontal aggregations. The results of these operations can be used for data mining purposes further. The proposed operations include SPJ, PIVOT and CASE.

III. HORIZONTAL AGGREGATIONS

Horizontal aggregations are the operations that perform horizontal summary of data in tabular format or horizontal layout. The base tables used to describe the proof of concept are presented in fig. 1. These tables are used for describing operations of SPJ, PIVOT and CASE.

K	D_1	D_2	A
1	3	X	9
2	2	Y	6
3	1	Y	10
4	1	Y	0
5	2	X	1
6	1	X	null
7	3	X	8
8	2	X	7

D_1	D_2	A
1	X	null
1	Y	10
2	X	8
2	Y	6
3	X	17

D_1	D_2X	D_2Y
1	null	10
2	8	6
3	17	null

Fig. 1 – Input table (a), traditional vertical aggregation (b), and horizontal aggregation (c)

As seen in fig. 1, sample data is given in input table. Vertical aggregation result is presented in (b). In fact the result generated by SUM function of SQL is presented in (b). Horizontal aggregation results are presented in (c).

Steps Used in All Methods

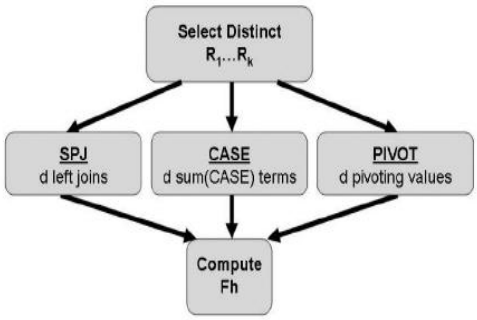

Fig. 2 shows steps on all methods based on input table

As seen in fig. 2, for all aggregations such as PIVOT, CASE and SPJ certain steps are carried out. However, the first step of all operations starts with SELECT query. Then based on the operation other activities are performed for computing horizontal aggregations.

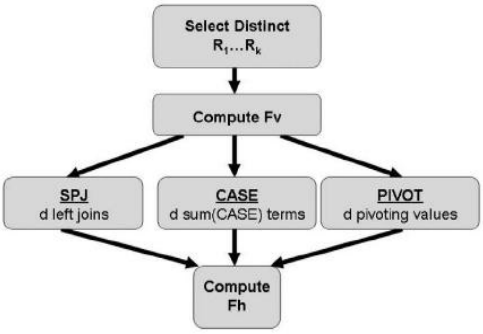

Fig. 3 shows steps on all methods based on table containing results of vertical aggregations

As seen in fig. 2, for all aggregations such as PIVOT, CASE and SPJ certain steps are carried out. However, the first step of all operations starts with SELECT query. Then based on the operation other activities are performed for computing horizontal aggregations.

SPJ Method

Vertical operations are used in SPJ method. For every column one table is generated in this model. Afterwards, the tables generated are joined in order to obtain final horizontal aggregations. The procedure followed is as given in [18].

PIVOT Method

RDBMS has built in PIVOT operation. This is used by the PIVOT operation we proposed in this paper. This construct can provide transpositions. Therefore for evaluating horizontal aggregations it can be used.

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```
SELECT DISTINCT R1; . . .;Rk
FROM FV ;
INSERT INTO FH
SELECT L1,..,Lj
,sum(CASE WHEN R1 ¼ v11 and .. and Rk ¼ vk1
THEN A ELSE null END)
SELECT DISTINCT R1
FROM F; /* produces v1; . . . ; vd */
SELECT
L1; L2; . . . ; Lj
,v1; v2; . . . ; vd
INTO FH
FROM (
SELECT L1; L2; . . . ; Lj;R1;A
FROM F) Ft
PIVOT(
V ðAÞ FOR R1 in (v1; v2; . . . ; vd)
) AS P;
```

Listing 1 – Shows optimized instructions for PIVOT construct

As seen in listing 1, the queries have been optimized by choosing only the columns that are required by horizontal aggregations.

CASE Method

This operation is based on the CASE structure provided by SQL. It has many built in Boolean expressions. Out of them one of the expressions is returned. Projection or aggregation is similar to this from relational query point of view. It is achieved internally by using many conditions with conjunctions. In this case horizontal aggregations exhibit two strategies. The first one does the computations directly from the table given as input while the second one performs vertical aggregation and the results are sent to an arbitrary table. This table is used again in horizontal aggregation generation. The procedure used here is as presented in [18].

IV. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

The prototype is web based application which is built using the environment containing a PC with 4 GB RAM, core 2 dual processor running Windows 7 operating system. The application is built using Microsoft .NET platform. ASP.NET is used for designing application while SQL server is used as backend. For rich user experience AJAX is used. Coding is done using C#. Figure 4 shows SPJ results.

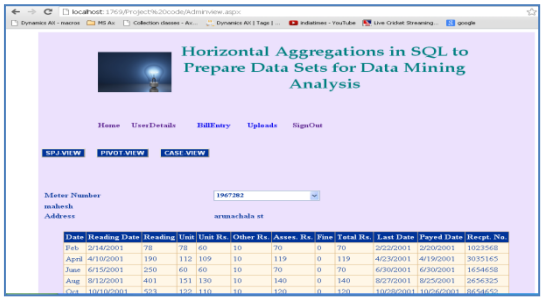

Fig. 4 – Results of SJP aggregation

As seen in fig. 4, SPJ operation's results are presented in horizontal layout. This kind of data can be used further for data mining operations.

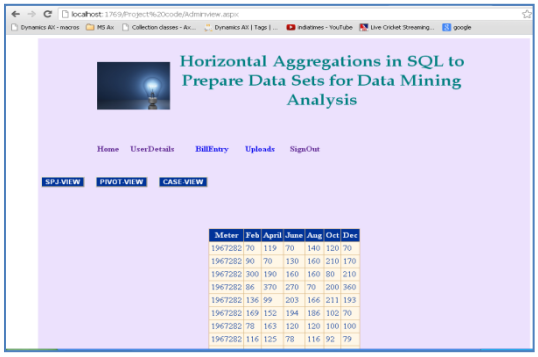

Fig. 5 – Result of Pivoting Aggregation

As seen in fig. 5, PIVOT operation's results are presented in horizontal layout. This kind of data can be used further for data mining operations.

Fig. 6 – Result of CASE Aggregation

As seen in fig. 6, CASE operation's results are presented in horizontal layout. This kind of data can be used further for data mining operations.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we built new class of aggregations known as horizontal aggregations. They aggregate operators we proposed and built include PIVOT, CASE and SPJ. Theoperators produce horizontal aggregations resulting data in tabular format or horizontal layout. This kind of data which is suitable for data mining operations is known as horizontal aggregations. They are used in OLAP applications. As vertical aggregations such as MIN, MAX, SUM, COUNT and AVG can't produce horizontal layout, it is essential to have custom-built constructs for horizontal aggregations. We built a web application that demonstrates the proof of concept. The empirical results revealed that the prototype is effective and help in producing horizontal aggregations.

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Vol. 2, Issue 9, September 2013

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