Optimizing Multiple Multi-Way Stream Joins

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Abstract—We address the joint optimization of multiple stream joins in a scale-out architecture by tailoring prior work on multi-way stream joins to predicate-driven data partitioning schemes. We present an integer linear programming (ILP) formulation for selecting the partitioning and tuple routing with minimal probe load and describe how routing and operator placement can be rewired dynamically at data characteristics and arrival or expiration of queries. The presented algorithms and optimization schemes are implemented in CLASH, a data stream processor developed by our group that translates queries to deployable Apache Storm topologies after optimization. The experiments conducted over real-world data exhibit the potential of multi-query optimization of multi-way stream joins and the effectiveness and feasibility of the ILP optimization problem.

I. INTRODUCTION

Processing data streams is a ubiquitous problem in data management, especially in the context of handling large-volume streams in scale-out systems. Prominent engines like Spark Streaming [1], Flink [2], [3], Apache Storm’s Trident [4], or Kafka [5], [6] allow users or higher-level applications to express queries in SQL-style languages, deployed and executed over potentially very many compute tasks in a data center. In most cases, such queries do not merely filter or aggregate tuples from a single relation but involve joins that connect information pieces from various sources. For instance, search-engine queries and ad-clicks need to be joined for billing purposes [7] and in complex event processing, events are commonly expressed by multiple criteria that do not originate from a single sensor [8]. Once such queries are posted, they remain registered in the system and continuously report results. Computational resources can be shared for answering multiple queries. Trying to share work between data stream queries is not a new idea [9]–[11], and traditionally, sharing is done on a per-operator basis. This means, a query execution plan is produced for each query and joins or other operators share their result with downstream operators to contribute to answer multiple queries at once.

In this paper, we propose a fine-grained and easy to rewire tuple routing scheme that enables sharing of partial results between multiple multi-way join queries. Our approach is implemented in CLASH[12], a system for optimizing continuous queries, built on top of Apache Storm. [4], [13]. However, the concepts are applicable to all modern streaming systems that give control over the routing between workers and access to local state.

1https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZxNiwvEQDw

Fig. 1: Four streaming relations with queries that are enabled and expire over time.

A. Problem Statement

In this paper, we consider optimizing multiple equi-join queries over streamed input relations \(S_1, \ldots, S_m\). We write \(S_i.a\) for naming an attribute, and \(s_i.a\) for the value of attribute \(a\) in tuple \(s_i\). Tuples have a special attribute \(\tau\) which is their timestamp. The individual join predicates comprise predicates over pairs of relations, like \(S_i.a = S_j.b\), where \(a\) and \(b\) are attributes of \(S_i\) and \(S_j\), respectively. For each relation, a window defines the maximal time difference between a tuple of this relation and another tuple for being considered joinable. When a tuple \(s_i \in S_i\) is observed, immediately, join result tuples \(s_1 \circ \cdots \circ s_i \circ \cdots \circ s_m\) are produced for all joinable tuples \(s_1, \ldots, s_{i-1}, s_{i+1}, \ldots, s_m\) that arrived within the window depending on the arrival time of \(s_i\). For example, the tuples arriving at times 10, 12, and 16, marked in red in Figure 1 satisfy the join predicates and windows of query \(q_1\). Then the join result of this tuple is produced at time \(\tau_1 = 16\), as soon as the tuple of \(S_2\) arrives.

Given streamed relations \(S_1, \ldots, S_m\) and queries \(q_1, \ldots, q_k\) where each \(q_i\) is a join query over a subset of the relations. Then the goal is, to produce both, a selection of state to materialize on workers in a distributed environment, and a routing and probing strategy between these workers which produces the correct join result, has a low memory footprint and provides high throughput. In order to enable efficient local join computation, cross products are avoided. The processing scheme should adapt to changes in data characteristics and the addition of new or removal of old queries.

For example, in Figure 1 at time \(\tau_1\) query \(q_1\) is known to
the system, so a processing strategy optimal for this query is deployed. This involves sending arriving tuples from \( S_2 \) to \( S_1 \) for producing an intermediate result and then sending this to \( S_3 \) for the complete result. At time \( \tau_2 \) query \( q_2 \) is also incorporated into the system. Now, tuples arriving from \( S_2 \) are routed differently: first to \( S_3 \) (marked green) in order to produce the partial join result, and then both to \( S_4 \) (marked purple) and to \( S_1 \) (marked blue) in order to produce both results for \( q_2 \) and \( q_1 \), respectively. Both queries expire eventually and \( q_3 \) is installed initially with the probe strategy from \( S_3 \) to \( S_4 \) then to \( S_1 \). At \( \tau_3 \) that data characteristics have changed and thus it is more efficient to send \( S_3 \) tuples first to \( S_1 \) and then to \( S_1 \).

\[ S_1 \to S_2 \to S_3 \to S_4 \to S_1 \]

**B. Contribution and Outline**

In this paper, we make the following contributions:

1. We provide a sound and feasible working solution for optimizing multiple multi-join queries in modern scale-out data stream processors.
2. To do so, we provide an ILP formulation of data partitioning and probing optimization.
3. We describe how on-the-fly rewiring of tuple routing can be realized to enable fast adaptation of shared plans and intra-plan tuple routing, for changing data characteristics as well as for arriving or expiring queries.
4. We report on detailed finding of a thorough experimental evaluation and provide lessons learned in optimizing multiple multi-way join queries.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section II discusses related work and Section III briefly introduces fundamentals of stream join processing in scale-out environments. Section IV describes the architectural setup and the core concepts of mating partitioning schemes imposed by equi-join predicates on tuple routing and storage. Section V presents the modeling of the optimization problem as integer linear program (ILP). Section VI describes how tuple routing and result sharing can be adapted to changing query load and data characteristics. Section VII reports on the results of our experimental study and lessons learned. Finally, Section VIII concludes the paper.

**II. RELATED WORK**

There is ample research on the implementation of local joins (like the Grace hash join [14] or the hybrid hash join [15]) as well as the optimization of join orders [16], [17], and both topics are regularly revisited [18], [19]. Joglekar and Ré [20] propose using information on the multiplicity of values to optimize multi-way joins, but not considering distributed computation (although some results are of generic nature). Specifically addressing window stream joins (cf., [21]), Hammad et al. [22] present two algorithms for processing multi-way joins in a centralized setting; there is no consideration of how such algorithms could potentially be executed in a distribution fashion. The algorithms are, however, oblivious to the matching predicate, and, thus, not bound to equi joins. Zhou et al. [23] propose an approach for minimizing the communication cost between nodes when evaluating a multi-way equi join. Afrati et al. [24] present a multi-round algorithm with bounded communication cost for computing equi joins over multiple relations.

For data streaming applications, Viglas and Naughton [25] propose rate-based rather than classical cost-based optimization and in [26] they introduce the MJoin operator for multi-way join computation on a single node. Golab and Özsu [27] process windowed stream joins on a single machine using multiple nested loop joins, where the join order is determined using the arrival rate of the streams and selectivity of the predicates. Wang and Rundensteiner [28] present a way to distribute the work of a single join operation over multiple stages by employing time-slicing of the join operators state. Lin et al. present the BiStream [29] operator, which enables equi and theta joins over two relations without redundancy in state.

With partial key grouping, Nasir et al. [30] introduce a value-based partitioning scheme that is able to reduce the load of individual nodes in a computing cluster if the partitioning key is skewed, and Qiu et al. [31] apply streaming hypercube for heavily skewed data.

Madsen et al. [32] discuss the benefits of exposing query intention to the system, rather than keeping it in the black box of UDFs. Oguz et al. [33] propose changing the implementation during query answering from symmetric hash join to bound join and back, depending on arrival rates and result size. Rödiger et al. [34] and Li et al. [35] split the handling of heavy hitters from the rest of the tuples. Specifically for joins, Gomes et al. [36] propose changing roles of relations in a binary join tree. Similarly, in DBMSs adaptive processing techniques are employed, e.g., for long running queries where the initially selected plan turns out to be suboptimal. Li et al. [37] also changing the roles of relations in the join tree. An example for tuple centric routing strategies for continuous query optimization is Avenir and Hellerstein’s work on Eddies [38] and later Distributed Eddies [39]. Query optimization using mathematical programming was explored by Trummer and Koch for join ordering [40] and multi query optimization [41]. Dökeroğlu et al. [42] propose multi query optimization using ILP for streaming data but only with binary joins.

Yang et al. [10] propose cost-based optimization where operators are shared between plans for multiple queries if they produce the same or implied output streams. Jonathan et al. [43] show multi-query optimization where multiple data centers are involved and slower inter-dc-communication is respected. They introduce operator sharing strategies for saving both, computation and communication. Kolchinsky and Schuster [8] propose optimization techniques for complex event processing systems where many patterns are registered simultaneously. Karimov et al. [11] present AStream, a system for sharing resources for multiple streaming queries. They share parts of the history of joins however compared to our approach, only if exactly the same joins are used in different queries and they ignore partitioning.
III. SCALE-OUT STREAM JOIN PRELIMINARIES

Distributed stream joins are generally conducted as follows: Tuples are placed on some compute nodes, and future tuples are routed to these compute nodes, such that all possible join partners meet and the correct result is produced. A prominent example is the symmetric hash join [29] where \( R \bowtie S \) is computed by storing \( R \)-tuples in one set of nodes and \( S \)-tuples in another set of nodes. In a scale-out architecture, multiple processes are responsible for storing subsets of individual relations. For instance, there might be \( n \) tasks instantiated to store the tuples of relation \( R \). When a tuple \( s \) of relation \( S \) arrives, dependent on the kind of join, it is sent to all or a dedicated subset of tasks of relation \( R \). Most importantly, all relevant tuples need to be stored as long as they might be join partners for incoming tuples. Starting from this, there are several refinements, e.g., arranging the nodes in a hyper-cube scheme or doing a combination of random partitioning and broadcasting for computing theta joins [29], [45].

The described processing schemes allow trading off storage and communication cost. Storage cost is the cost for deploying all partitions of input relations as well as additional intermediate relations. The minimally required cost of this is achieved when only the input relations are materialized, and with each introduced intermediate store this cost grows.

Communication cost consists of two aspects: the size of all tuples sent across the computing topology and the number of messaging events. A tuple \( r \in R \) probing tuples of \( S \) can produce between 0 and \( |S| \) many result tuples, increasing the number of tuples sent. However, the number of messages sent is always the same, as result tuples are sent together in one message. We call the number of tuples sent the probe cost, and this our subject of minimization. Some systems opt to further group tuples into micro batches [1] and thereby further reduce the number of messaging events. However, the overall size of these messages still depends on the number of sent tuples.

IV. DISTRIBUTING MULTI-WAY STREAM JOINS

Figure 2 demonstrates the architecture of our system, CLASH, that we are using for answering multi-way join queries, in this case configured for answering query \( R(a), S(a, b), T(b) \). The input section on the left demonstrates connections to other systems where data items originate, e.g., Kafka-Topics or JMS (Java Message Service) queues. The center top section contains the workers that perform the join computation. The graph formed by the workers and their inter connections (not all shown in the figure) is also called a topology. Each worker stores a partition of a relation, e.g., \( R3 \) stores a fraction of the tuples of relation \( R \). We call the joint set of workers for one specific relation a store; e.g., \( T1, T2, \) and \( T3 \) form the \( T \)-store. Stores need to be partitioned when the number of tuples to be stored exceeds the local memory limit of a single worker. For non-equi joins, partitioning can also enable parallel computation of the predicates and thus increase throughput. However, as we consider only equi joins in this paper, we assume efficient local computation as a given.

Input tuples can arrive at any point in time, like the tuple \( r \in R \) shown in the illustration. It is sent to the partition \( R2 \) due to its \( a \)-value where it will be stored and is ready for joining with later arriving tuples. At the same time, \( r \) is sent to partition \( S1 \), again due to its \( a \)-value [2], where now the join between \( r \) and all previously arrived tuples of \( S \) is computed (i.e., \( \{s|s \in S, s.\tau < r.\tau\} \)). If there are any results, they contain a value for attribute \( y \), which can be used for determining the correct partition of relation \( T \). In our example, the intermediate tuple is sent to \( T3 \) [3]. At \( T3 \), the final join result for tuple \( r \) is computed and sent to the output [4]. In this case, \( S \) was partitioned according to attribute \( a \), hence, tuples of relation \( T \) that do not have a value for \( a \) have to be broadcast to all instances of \( S \). This poses the question, which attributes should be used for partitioning. We address this further below. Additionally, there is the possibility of materializing intermediate results. Introducing a \( R \bowtie S \)-store to keep intermediate join results can be extremely beneficial in case the intermediate result is very small or the work for computing that intermediate result is very high. Now, the resulting tuple of \( r \) joined with \( S \) also needs to be sent to the \( R \bowtie S \)-store [5]. This enables tuples from \( T \) also to be sent to this store for probing and producing the join result in a single step as opposed to iteratively sending it to the \( R \)- and \( S \)-store.

Per se, there is no fixed order in which tuples are sent through the stores of other relations. For equi joins like in the above example, it seems obvious to send a tuple of relation \( R \) first to the \( S \)-store if \( S \) is partitioned by attribute \( a \) and not sending it to the \( T \)-store first. But even for arbitrary theta joins, the order in which tuples are sent to to-be-joined relations has shown to impact performance, because of vast differences in join selectivities between pairs of relations [46]. This order is called probe order, written as \( (R, S, T) \), for example. It dictates how the tuple of the first mentioned relation, here \( R \), is sent to other stores for incrementally computing the join result. Here, tuples of \( R \) are sent first to the \( S \)-store, then the intermediate result \( r \bowtie S \) is forwarded to the \( T \)-store.

In general, for a join query \( Q \) over \( n \) relations \( S_1, \ldots, S_n \), there is a probe order \( \sigma_i \) for each starting relation \( S_i \). This probe order is a permutation over a subset of the installed stores, hence the symbol \( \sigma \). The probe cost for this query is the sum of the cost of executing all individual probe orders:

\[
PCost(Q) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n-1} \left| j^{i-1} S_{\sigma_i(k)} \right| \cdot \frac{1}{j} \cdot \chi_{\sigma_i(j+1)}.
\] (1)

Here, \( i \) references the input of the current probe order and \( j \) the step in that probe order. In each step, a fraction of the join between the previous relations is produced as intermediate result. This fraction is \( 1/j \), as in each step the arriving tuple is only joined with tuples that arrived earlier. The last factor \( \chi \) is either 1 if the partitioning attribute for the \( \sigma_i(j) \)-store is known, or it is equal to the parallelism of this store since tuples need to be broadcast to every task. This is illustrated by \( \sigma \) in Figure 2 where \( S \) is partitioned according to an attribute.
unknown to \( T \), and, thus, potential join partners can be in every \( S \)-partition. In order to compute the correct result, \( t \) has to be broadcast to all five partitions of \( S \).

A. Simultaneously Answering Multiple Queries

The optimization of a single multi-way join query like \( q = R(a), S(a,b), T(b) \) can already be interpreted as a multi-query optimization problem. For this, we decompose the query into subqueries \( q = q_R \odot q_S \odot q_T \) with \( q_R = \{ r \odot s \circ t | r \in R, s \in S, t \in T, r.a = s.a, s.b = t.b, r.t > s.t, r.t > t.t \} \) and analogously for \( q_S \) and \( q_T \). These subqueries compute only that part of the join result where the tuple of the relevant relation arrives latest and is probed against the previously stored tuples, so they are the result of executing a single probe order. In general, each subquery can have a different optimal partitioning attribute for the involved stores. However, each store is only partitioned according to one attribute, and thus we need to take into account the overall probe cost for all subqueries simultaneously.

If multiple join queries are answered and they share inputs, the choice of a partitioning scheme might impact the cost of the probe orders of all queries. However, there is also a potential for exploiting common parts of probe orders. For example, consider queries \( q_1 = R(a), S(a,b), T(b) \) and \( q_2 = R(a), S(a,c), U(c) \). The intermediate result generated in Figure 2 from probing \( r \) at \( S2 \) can be used for answering \( q_1 \) by sending it, as before, to \( T3 \) (5), and also sending it to \( U2 \) for answering \( q_2 \) (8).

V. Optimization Using Integer Linear Programming

An integer linear program (ILP) is in general an optimization problem that determines assignments for a set of variables such that a cost term is minimized (or maximized) \cite{42}. The cost term is the inner product of the user-defined cost for each variable, \( c_i \), and the integer variable \( x_i \). So, \( c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + \ldots \) is subject to minimization (or maximization). Further, these variables have to fulfill a set of constraints, all given in the form of \( a_{1,1} x_1 + a_{1,2} x_2 + \ldots \geq b_1 \).

We follow the approach of \cite{42} for formulating a multi-query optimization problem as ILP. Consider a query \( q_i \) for which we have alternative join plans \( p_{i,1}, \ldots, p_{i,k} \) to choose from. For each such query \( q_i \), we generate equations for the ILP:

\[
x_{i,1} + x_{i,2} + \ldots + x_{i,k} = 1
\]

where \( x_{i,j} = 1 \) iff plan \( j \) is chosen for query \( i \). As the variables \( x_{i,j} \) are integers, these equations are satisfied iff exactly one plan is chosen for each query. Each plan is composed of multiple tasks which represent the computation of a subresult and have cost assigned. For example, plan \( p_{i,1} \) is composed of tasks \( t_1, \ldots, t_r \) with cost \( c_1, \ldots, c_r \) respectively. Then, we also add equations

\[
-C x_{i,1} + c_1 x_{t_1} + \ldots + c_r x_{t_r} \geq 0
\]

where \( C := \sum_{i=1}^{r} c_r \). Thus, if plan \( p_{i,j} \) is chosen, \( x_{i,j} \) is set to 1 and negative cost have to be balanced by selecting all the associated tasks. The same tasks might appear in candidate plans for different queries, and thus, if such plans are selected, computation can be shared between these plans. In total, the sum of costs times tasks is subject to minimization.

For our scenario, we need to generate candidate probe orders to choose from, and then translate these choices into topologies. In order to translate the given query set into an ILP, we first create for each query materializable intermediate results (MIR) and, based on that, a set of candidate probe orders. An MIR consists of a subset of the queried relations and the join predicates defined on them such that cross products are avoided. For example, for query \( R(a), S(a,b), T(b) \) the materializable intermediate results would be \( (R(a), S(a,b)) \) and \( (S(a,b), T(b)) \) but not \( (R(a), T(b)) \).

The candidate probe orders are determined using Algorithm 1. For each relation in the query the recursive subfunction \texttt{construct_rec} is called in order to construct probe orders from head to tail. It returns all probe orders that can be used to answer \( q \) if the starting tuple is the result of joining \texttt{head}. In this subfunction in Line 3, we iterate over all MIRs which are, according to the given query, joinable.
Algorithm 1 Candidate probe order construction algorithm.

input: query q, MIR
output: candidate probe orders
1 fun construct_rec(head)
2 result ← []
3 for r ∈ joinable(q, head, MIR)
4 newHead ← head + r
5 if newHead is complete
6 result ← result + [newHead]
7 else
8 result ← result + construct_rec[newHead]
9 for relation in query
10 construct_rec(relation)

Algorithm 2 ILP construction procedure.

input: queries Q, probe order candidates C, partitioning candidates P
output: ilp constraints A, optimization goal G
1 A ← { }
2 for q ∈ Q, S ∈ S(q)
3 p ← apply_partitioning(C[S], P)
4 for σ ∈ p
5 A ← A ∪ cost_constraint(σ)
6 A ← A ∪ probe_order_constraint(p)
7 G ← goal(A)

distinguish between differently partitioned stores.

For computing probe_order_constraint(p), with probe orders \(σ_1, \ldots, σ_n \in p\), for each probe order \(σ_i\), a new variable \(x_i \in \{0, 1\}\) is introduced.

\[ x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n = 1 \]

This line resembles Equation 2. If the probe order identified by \(x_i\) contains a materialized intermediate result over relations \(1, \ldots, l\), this also has to be computed. Hence for each of the inputs, a probe order which creates the intermediate result needs to be installed, which is made sure by the following constraints:

\[-k_1 \cdot x_i + x'_{1,1} + x'_{1,2} + \cdots + x'_{1,k_1} \geq 0 \]
\[ \vdots \]
\[-k_l \cdot x_i + x'_{l,1} + x'_{l,2} + \cdots + x'_{l,k_l} \geq 0 \]

Here, \(k_j\) is set to the number of probe orders required for computing the result starting from relation \(j ∈ 1, \ldots, l\). Variables \(x'\) indicate if the probe order for that subquery will be executed. Since each line needs to be non-negative, it is guaranteed that the intermediate result is actually computed.

The cost_constraint(σ), which we will model using Equation 3 is composed of the cost of all the steps of that probe order. With \(σ = (S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_m)\) these steps are \(ρ_1 = S_1 \bowtie S_2, ρ_2 = (S_1 \bowtie S_2) \bowtie S_3\) until \((S_1 \bowtie S_{m-1}) \bowtie S_m\), so the computation of the partial join result. Note that computing a step is equivalent to completing a probe order, hence we can also identify steps with probe-order prefixes. For example, a probe-order prefix \((S_1, S_2, S_3)\) yields the same result as sending the partial result \(S_1 \bowtie S_2\) to \(S_3\). For each step we introduce a step variable \(y_i\), and it is crucial, that all equal steps used in candidates of other queries get the same variable \(y\) assigned. For each of these steps, we also introduce the step cost which is innermost term of the inner sum in Equation 1.

Thus, for each probe order \(σ\) the following constraint is added:

\[-P\text{Cost}(σ) \cdot x_1 + \text{StepCost}(ρ_1) \cdot y_1 \]
\[ + \cdots + \text{StepCost}(ρ_n) \cdot y_m \geq 0 \]
In Line 7, the goal is set. The goal is derived from the step cost and step variables of the previously added constraints:

\[ \min \sum_{i=1}^{m} \text{StepCost}(p_i) \cdot y_i \]

As \( y_i \in \{0, 1\} \), the value of the sum is only affected by the variables set to 1. Only combinations of variables \( y_i \) can be set to 1 such that all queries have all necessary probe orders for computing their results. Thus, a solution that minimizes this term can also be translated to a correctly working topology. This topology needs to be deployed to a stream processor like Apache Storm where it processes the query.

1) ILP Creation Example: Consider queries \( q_1 = R(b), S(b, c), T(c) \) and \( q_2 = S(c), T(c, d), U(d) \). In Figure 3, we see first the materializable intermediate results composed of the input relations as well the intermediate results. E.g., \( RS \) stands here for the result of the subquery \( q_{RS} = R(a, b), S(b, c) \). Since we have potential intermediate results, they also need to be created, and thus, probe orders for them have to be installed as well. The probe orders are listed next. There is one probe order per input relation of each query. For example, \( q_1 \) consists of three inputs and hence, three sets of probe orders are created and one of the candidates of each set need to be used.

Thereafter, the partitioning is applied to the probe orders. In Figure 3, we only show the options for probe orders for \( q_1 \) and \( R \). Here it is interesting to see, that also partitioning which is not beneficial to the current query is included. For example, the probe order \( \langle R, S[b], T[d] \rangle \) indicates that the \( S \)-store is partitioned according to attribute \( b \) and the \( T \)-store is partitioned according to \( d \). If this probe order is installed, a tuple from \( R \) after it probe the \( S \)-store needs to be broadcast to all \( T \)-workers in order to compute the result for \( q_1 \), because this tuple does not contain the value of attribute \( d \). The partitioning of \( T \) according to \( d \) is only useful for \( q_2 \).

Finally, the constraints for the ILP are added. The first constraint requires that exactly one from the probe order candidates \( \sigma_1 \) to \( \sigma_6 \) is chosen. For this we add an ILP variable \( x_i \) for each \( \sigma_i \) that takes values in \( \{0, 1\} \). Then, we need to make sure, that for probe orders which include intermediate results, these intermediate results are actually computed. The next constraint shows this for \( \sigma_6 \). In this probe order, \( R \)-tuples are sent to the \( ST \)-store which is partitioned according to \( b \) for probing. To do so, the \( ST \)-store needs to be installed and also kept up to date with this intermediate result. In turn, probe orders for computing \( S \times T \) need to be installed. In this case, there are four probe orders, one for sending \( S \) to the \( T \)-store and one for sending \( T \) to the \( S \)-store and each store can be partitioned according to two attributes. Out of these probe orders we need two (one for each relation) and thus we add constraints 2 and 3. Actually, the computation of the intermediate result is independent from the partitioning of this result’s store. Thus, the same intermediate result computation can be used for \( \sigma_6 \). We then need to make sure that each probe order, if it is chosen, is computed correctly. Probe order \( \sigma_1 \), for example, has the prefix \( \sigma_7 \). In this example, the probe order steps and prefixes are used interchangeably. Now, we add constraint 4 where ILP variables for each step in that probe order are set, \( y_7 \) and \( y_1 \). These variables are associated with the step cost for \( \sigma_7 \), i.e., sending tuples from \( R \) to the \( S \)-store which is partitioned by \( b \), and the step cost for \( \sigma_1 \), i.e., sending tuples from the \( S \)-store to the \( T \)-store which is partitioned by \( c \). In constraint 5, the next probe order has the same first step, and thus, it is crucial that the same variable \( y_7 \) is put into the ILP. The optimization goal of the ILP is then to minimize the sum of the step costs of all used steps.

2) Multi Query Optimization Example: In this example, we only focus on choosing probe orders and ignore materializing subqueries and partitioning. Thus, we ignore additional cost for broadcasting and do not write the partitioning attribute. Consider the queries \( q_1 = R(a, b), T(b) \) and \( q_2 = S(b), T(b, c), U(c) \) where each relation streams at a rate of 100 tuples per time unit and the join between \( S \) and \( T \) produces 150 intermediate results, while the other join produces only 100 intermediate results. We now focus on what happens with relations \( S \) in \( q_1 \) and \( T \) in \( q_2 \). Optimizing each query
individually, we would install the probe orders $\langle S, R, T \rangle$ and $\langle T, U, S \rangle$ in order to avoid the more expensive intermediate join between $S$ and $T$, and send in total 475 tuples for probing tuples in each query, thus 950 tuples in total. Since for answering $q_1$ (respectively, $q_2$) correctly tuples must to be sent from $T$ to $S$ ($S$ to $T$), we can exploit this and instead install probe orders $\langle T, S, U \rangle (\langle S, T, R \rangle)$ for $q_2$ ($q_1$).

For the optimization problem we assign variables for the steps in the probe order, e.g., $x_{RS}$ for the cost of sending $R$-tuples to the $S$-store for probing, or $X_{RST}$ for the cost of sending the intermediate result of $R \bowtie S$ to the $T$-store for probing. The cost associated with these variables is 100 for all first steps, and 75 for joins between $S$ and $T$ and 50 for the other joins (cf. Formula 1). For $q_1$ and starting relation $S$ the following constraint rows are added to the ILP:

\[
\begin{align*}
    & x_1 + x_2 = 1 \\
    & -150x_1 + 100x_{SR} + 50x_{SRT} \geq 0 \\
    & -175x_2 + 100x_{ST} + 75x_{STR} \geq 0
\end{align*}
\]

$x_1$ stands for the probe order $\langle S, R, T \rangle$ and $x_2$ for the probe order $\langle S, T, R \rangle$. The first line makes sure that only one of these variables can be 1 and this variable determines which of the probe orders will be installed in the running topology. The second line enforces that if $x_1$ is set to 1, then also $x_{SR}$ and $x_{SRT}$ are set to 1.

For $q_2$ and starting relation $S$ there is only one probe order, thus the following constraint rows are added to the ILP:

\[
\begin{align*}
    & x_3 = 1 \\
    & -150x_3 + 100x_{ST} + 75x_{STU} \geq 0
\end{align*}
\]

Essentially, this leaves no choice: $x_3$ has to be set, and consequently also $x_{ST}$ and $x_{STU}$ have to be set, and thus $S$ tuples need to be sent to $T$ and afterwards to $U$ in order to produce all desired join results. The optimization goal then includes the here mentioned cost-variables and more which are not shown for clarity:

\[
\min 100x_{SR} + 50x_{SRT} + 100x_{ST} + 75x_{STR} + 75x_{STU}
\]

As discussed, $x_{ST}$ and $x_{STU}$ need to be set due to $q_2$. This way, selecting the probe order $x_2$ (and thus setting $x_{STR}$ to 1) adds only 75 to the cost. Selecting $x_1$, on the other hand, requires $x_{SR} = x_{SRT} = 1$ and adds 150 to the cost. Hence, the locally—for query $q_1$ in isolation—suboptimal probe order $x_2$ is chosen and an overall lower number of tuples need to be sent around.

A. Analysis

The number of materializable intermediate results of a query over $n$ relations is in the worst case $2^n$ when the query graph is a clique, i.e., for every pair of relations there is a join predicate. For example for a linear query, the size of MIRs is the number of consecutive subsequences of a word of length $n$, so only $n(n+1)$. The number of candidate probe orders per query and relation is, in the worst case, the number of permutations of these subsequences times the number of partitioning options. This all heavily depends on the query. For example, for a linear query there are $2^{n-2}$ and a star query has only $n-1$ partitions to choose from. The number of ILP variables is then for all queries the sum of the amount of candidates for each query, as well as the prefixes of the probe orders.

B. Transformation to Executable Strategies.

The result of the ILP optimization is the assignment of probe order variables (and step variables, but we can ignore them). We now detail on how to construct a topology of compute tasks for actually computing the query.

The probe orders with variables assigned 1 are the probe orders that should be used in the actual query execution. We merge probe orders into probe trees, as illustrated in Figure 4. Here, we see several probe orders for the starting relation $R$. Since $q_1$ and $q_2$ both have the same first step, probing the $S$-store, they are represented by the edge from $R$ to the node with label $S[d]$. Multiple outgoing edges in this graph indicate that a tuple is copied and sent to both target stores. This is done for all probe orders, such that we end up with a forest of such probe trees. For each distinct label of the inner nodes, a store is introduced in the topology. This way, nodes with the same label in different probe trees refer to the same store and data is not stored redundantly. For the roots, ingestion methods (in case of Storm these are Spouts) need to be installed. For each edge of a probe graph, a new, unique, edge label is introduced.

With help of these edge labels, rules are registered at all stores. These rules define the behavior of the store for a received tuple based on the incoming edge label. The sending store is not enough, as there might be tuples from different probe trees sent from one to the other store. These tuples stem from different (sub)relations and the probe result is sent to different stores for further processing, so we use the edge labels instead. A rule follows the pattern if tuple arrives from edge $E_{in}$, probe using predicate $P$, and send result (if any) to $E_{out}$. All rules registered to a store are organized in a ruleset. On each arriving tuple this ruleset is consulted for deciding how to proceed with the tuple. During runtime, Algorithm 3 is used to decide on a worker how to process a tuple: in Line 2, the matching rules for the incoming edge are extracted. Since this is done for every tuple, this must happen quickly, so the ruleset is organized as hash map keyed by the incoming edge labels. Then the type of the rule decides how the arriving tuple has to be handled. If the rule is a store rule, like in Line 4, the arriving tuple is added to the local store of arrived tuples, and is ready for other later arriving probe tuples. These arrive over edges where a probe rule is registered. If such a tuple arrives, Line 5 makes sure it probes with the previously arrived tuples of the stored relation.

A probe rule contains a description of the way of accessing the tuples. For example, a tuple sent via $s_3$ in Figure 4 contains a partial result of $R \bowtie S$, and the $T$-store contains the
Algorithm 3 Non-adaptive version of incoming tuple handling procedure.

1 fun handle(*\text{\texttt{e}}_{in}, \text{\texttt{tuple}})  
2   \text{\texttt{rules}} \leftarrow \text{\texttt{ruleset}}[\text{\texttt{e}}_{in}]  
3   \textbf{for} \text{\texttt{rule}} \textbf{in} \text{\texttt{rules}}  
4     \textbf{switch} \text{\texttt{type}}(\text{\texttt{rule}})  
5     \hspace{1em} \text{\textbf{case}} \text{\texttt{StoreRule}}: \text{\texttt{store}}(\text{\texttt{tuple}})  
6     \hspace{1em} \text{\textbf{case}} \text{\texttt{ProbeRule}}: \text{\texttt{probe}}(\text{\texttt{tuple}})  

\[
\sigma_1 : \langle R, S[d], T[b] \rangle \\
\sigma_2 : \langle R, S[d], W[e] \rangle \\
\sigma_3 : \langle R, U[a] \rangle 
\]

Fig. 4: Three probe orders for the same starting relation merged into a probe tree.

Previously arrived tuples of \( T \). For the local probe handling at workers it is irrelevant how the store is partitioned. Consider here that the probe should determine join partners for the predicate \( R.b = T.c \). The probe rule accesses the \( R.b \)-attribute of the incoming tuple and needs to find all stored tuples with the same value in \( T.c \) for creating join results. For each distinct attribute access in a store, indices are created locally for efficiently answering probe request.

VI. ADAPTIVE JOIN PROCESSING

As data characteristics or query work loads change, it might be beneficial to switch to a new strategy. We achieve the goal to perform this switch without downtime or loss of results in the meantime by dividing time into epochs and making the configuration of all components depending on these epochs.

A. Epoch-Based Configuration

Time is divided into non-overlapping epochs \( e_1, e_2, \ldots \). An epoch has a starting timestamp and is considered the current epoch until another epoch with a later timestamp is created. For each epoch, the data sampled from the epoch is used to create epoch-local data characteristics. This is done in the next epoch, and so changes can be decided for the epoch after that. Figure 5 illustrates this: during epoch \( i \) sample data is gathered from the inputs. When epoch \( i + 1 \) starts, the statistics from \( i \) are evaluated and fed into the ILP optimizer. If the optimization result differs from the previous one, a new configuration is created. This configuration is sent to all workers to be active starting at epoch \( i + 2 \).

In this example, there are two targets for the first probe, and in general there can be more. Thus, the task receiving the input tuple needs to keep track of where tuples need to be sent. Algorithm 4 demonstrates how this is done. In Line 2, we determine the target epochs where join partners according to the windows in the query can be. This also depends on the queries installed in the system. In Figure 5, for tuple \( r \) the target epochs are \( i, i + 1, \) and \( i + 2 \), and the receivers are the \( S \) and the \( ST \)-store. This could be the result of the optimizer deciding for epochs \( i \) and \( i + 2 \) to use probe orders \( \langle R, S, T \rangle \) and for epoch \( i + 1 \) epoch \( \langle R, ST \rangle \). In Line 3, we iterate over the receivers and then emit the tuple in Line 4 to the receivers and also send the target epoch. This epoch variable signals the state of the stores the probe tuple wants to see.

This is reflected in the changed handle function, also shown in Algorithm 4. Here each tuple arrives annotated with an epoch. Using this epoch, we get the ruleset that is valid for this epoch in Line 7. If there are store or probe rules, we also store or probe with respect to this epoch in Lines 10 and 11. This means, that also for each epoch, an independent container is created on each worker together with all aforementioned indexes. If at the end of probing a result is observed, the receivers of the next step depend on the epochs determined by the originating tuple’s timestamp. In the end, the entire result consists of the union of the results of all covered epochs.

As the query’s window is not aligned with the epochs, the workers need to check not only the join predicate, but also that the window condition is satisfied.

B. Supporting Query Changes

So far, the description focused on a given set of queries and how to adapt to changing data characteristics. In a long-standing streaming system, users also want to install new
queries or remove old ones when they are not interesting anymore, which also captures updating a query. When a new query is installed, at the next run of the optimization procedure, it is also considered and corresponding probe orders will be generated. Hence, results can start being reported as soon as the new configuration is installed.

Typically, if a system starts answering a new query, the first window size does not contain all data. This is because only after the query is installed, tuples are started to be collected in operators for joining. Consider the scenario in Figure 6 where at time $\tau_0$ a new query for joining $R \bowtie S$ is installed. If streamed relations $R$ and $S$ were only to be observed since $\tau_0$, consequently only these tuples can be probed against. This means, if at $\tau_1$, a tuple from $R$ arrives, and it is probed against the $S$-store, it is not possible for the system to match these tuples from $S$ that satisfy the join predicate and the window condition, but were observable in the original data stream before $\tau_0$, as indicated by the red line from $\tau_1$ into the past. Vice versa for the tuple arriving at $\tau_2$ which cannot meet the theoretical join partner from $R$. If at time $\tau_3$ the tuple arrives and a join partner was arriving after $\tau_0$ in the probed stream, this partial result can be made. Thus, only after waiting a full window length, such a system can provide complete answers. If a system is continuously running, and as it is answering other queries, the state used for the other queries is available to a new one. This means, the registered stores can be exploited to provide complete answer for new queries quicker.

If for all but one inputs of a query, stores are registered, we compute probe orders for all epochs that overlap with the current window, and append these probe orders to the worker’s configurations. This way, we can instantly begin answering all desired join results, and avoid the bootstrap problem of having incomplete statistics.

When a query is not needed anymore, it is removed from the optimizer input. But that also means, that previous store windows might not be needed anymore. A reference counting strategy determines the number of queries a store is serving. As soon as this counter drops to zero, the store is deregistered.

The experiments are organized into three sections. First, we investigate the overall performance of the methods provided in this paper, that is, adaptive multi query optimization. Second, we specifically look at single-query performance to understand the benefits of adapting query plans to changing data characteristics. Last, the impact of input sizes to the ILP performance is investigated in detail.

We implemented the described routines as extensions to CLASH [12] in Kotlin 1.4, publicly available on GitHub[13] while Gurobi 9.0.0rc2[14] is used as the solver for the ILPs. The optimized query plans are translated by CLASH into Apache Storm v2.2.0 [15] topologies and executed on OpenJDK 11 running on a compute cluster of 8 machines. Each machine has 128GB DDR3 memory and two Intel Xeon CPUs 1.7 GHz with 6 cores. This means, we could run up to 96 workers with 10GB memory in parallel. The cluster nodes are connected using 10Gbs ethernet network. Input data is consumed from and output is written to Kafka over the same network; the state of the stores is kept in the main memory of the worker processes.

A. Multi-Query Performance

The following alternatives to processing bulks of queries are considered for comparison:

1) Several independent Apache Flink [3] Jobs, one for each query, are initiated. We refer to this strategy as Flink Independent (FI).
2) Analogously for Apache Storm topologies, coined Storm Independent (SI).
3) A naive multi query optimization strategy where each query is optimized individually with common subplans being executed only once and shared, in Flink, coined Flink Shared (FS) and
4) likewise for Storm, Storm Shared (SS).
5) Lastly, our approach of global optimization: CLASH-MQO (CMQO).

We used the well-known TPC-H data set [48] with a scale factor of 10. We create join queries based on present primary, foreign keys and, additionally, type compatible data of TPC-H, which means that two columns can be used for joining if they contain equal values. This leads to a mixture of common primary-foreign-key style joins, high-selectivity joins (e.g., on ‘lineitem.linestatus’ and ‘orders.orderstatus’ where the domain consists only of F, O, and P), and low-selectivity joins (e.g., on ‘customer.custkey’ and ‘nation.nationkey’ where only customer tuples with the lowest keys find a join partner). Using these potential joins, we construct queries by selecting a random relation and then randomly adding joins until the desired query size is reached.

We start by investigating the throughput of the systems. For this, data is fed into Kafka at the maximum sustainable rate for each configuration. The throughput is the time difference

https://github.com/clash-streaming/clash
https://www.gurobi.com/
The inputs arrive with a constant rate of 100k tuples per second.

**B. Impact of Adaptation to Individual Queries**

During the decline phase, join partners are found already in the previous epoch and a store for the result of the join of all partner tuples is maintained. After 15 seconds the input changes drastically, now the size of the intermediate result of both topologies increases slowly to about 72ms, which is due to tuples being longer in buffers as the workers try to catch up. In the adaptive strategy this works and after roughly 22S time a healthy latency is regained. The static strategy cannot recover from this change and eventually the workers fail due to memory overflow.

We then use the same query, but with different input rates. R has 5M tuples per second, the other ones several orders of magnitude slower at 5k tuples per second. In Figure 8b we show the latency for the static topology which remains at the initial static plans; vice versa for the adaptive strategy which is closer to the initial static plans. The latency of both topologies is more consistent at 56ms latency, as depicted in Figure 8a. After 15 seconds the input changes drastically, now every tuple of S finds 100 join partners in R, but none in T; vice versa for T-tuples. Immediately after this the latency of both topologies increases slowly to about 72ms, which is due to tuples being longer in buffers as the workers try to catch up. In the adaptive strategy this works and after roughly a window a healthy latency is regained. The static strategy cannot recover from this change and eventually the workers fail due to memory overflow.

We simulate an environment consisting of multiple relations that can be joined together with given input rates and join selectivities. In this environment we randomly generate queries and for each query we generate all probe orders and the corresponding ILP model as described in Section V. This model is solved using Gurobi. We compare the cost of the joint query plan where query plans are shared and the cost of not sharing query plans.

**C. ILP Optimization**

We simulate an environment consisting of multiple relations that can be joined together with given input rates and join selectivities. In this environment we randomly generate queries and for each query we generate all probe orders and the corresponding ILP model as described in Section V. This model is solved using Gurobi. We compare the cost of the joint query plan where query plans are shared and the cost of not sharing query plans.
individually. Tests were conducted on a system with 3.1 GHz Intel Core i7 CPU and 16 GB main memory.

The input relations have all the same arrival rate and a join between any two relations has a selectivity of arrival rate $^{-1}$.

The first trial consists of ten input relations with three attributes each. We generate $n_Q$ queries that each span three relations and eliminate exact duplicates (as these would be anyway answered together by a naive implementation). Figure 9a shows the cost without sharing in the line for individual optimization and with sharing for multi query optimization. The more queries we generate (over the same set of input relations), the higher the average probe cost gets for both. But in case of multi query optimization, the probe cost of the MQO is significantly lower, around 50%, than without sharing of probe order prefixes.

In Figure 9b we show how the problem sizes grow: the number of variables fed into the ILP solver, indicated by the green line, grows more slowly the higher the number of queries; for 100 queries with each 3 relations, it is in average 1717. This slow growth is because the more queries are optimized simultaneously, the more potential for sharing probe order prefixes there is, and each shared probe order prefix also shares a variable. The purple line indicates the number of probe orders and it also grows slowly. This is due to the fact that as we draw more queries over the small amount of input queries, the chances of producing the same query again increases.

We now examine the benefits for a higher number of input relations: the queries are now randomly drawn from 100 input relations, each with three attributes. Figure 9c shows the probe cost savings, and here we see that for few queries nearly no savings are visible. For example, at 50 queries around 15% of the cost can be saved. In Figure 9d we see how also the problem size behaves more linearly. If we look at the absolute numbers, we see, for example for $n_Q = 50$ that 3000 variables are required compared to less than half of it in Figure 9b. This is due to the fact the generated queries have very little overlap and thus only little possibility of sharing. Both graphs are not linear but slightly convex. This is because each new query also adds more possibilities for partitioning of a store, and each partitioning choice also increases the numbers of probe orders generated for a single query and consequently also the number of variables generated in the ILP.

In Figure 9e we show the runtime for optimizing a different number of queries generated over 100 input relations, and see that it grows linearly, while even at 100 simultaneous queries, the optimization time is at 120 milliseconds. In this experiment, all queries where over three relations. We wanted to find out, how this approach scales to bigger queries, and thus altered the query size, i.e., the number of relations input into a query. In Figure 9f we see how the size of input relations effects optimization time. Already ten queries of size four take 400ms—one order of magnitude more than ten queries of size three. Optimizing ten queries of size five takes twelve seconds, and optimizing 30 queries of size five takes over two minutes. While this adds to the delay of restructuring the topology to run in an optimized way, query answering can begin earlier with locally optimized probe orders defined on the input relations.

D. Lessons Learned

• We have seen that there can be significant performance gains in combining multiple queries into one big topology. The increase in throughput means, that more tuples can be executed in the same time, thus the same cluster can process streams with a higher incoming rate.

• Sharing of state between operations increases the number of simultaneously answerable queries.

• Static joining ordering, like used in all currently available streaming systems, is prone to changes in the size of intermediate join results. A strategy for adopting to such
changes avoids crashes, expensive recovery, or missing results.

- The optimization takes least time if the individual queries are smaller. Up to 30 queries of size five can be optimized within a second, which is still very usable for streaming scenarios.

VIII. CONCLUSION

We presented an approach for multi-query optimization of multi-way joins in scale-out streaming environments. The specialty of the approach presented is a seamlessly integrated multi-stage optimization methodology, starting from optimizing intra-operator multiway tuple routing, optimized join plans, and inter query optimization by identifying common subplans. The multi query optimization is solved by generating and solving an integer linear program. We detailed on the translation of the optimization result into a deployable operator topology and the requirements of the runtime such that the correct join result is produced. While the translation and implementation was tailored to Apache Storm, we are positive that the same strategy can be also applied to other stream processors, e.g., Flink using Stateful Functions. Experiments showed that shared execution delivers a significant performance gain in terms of throughput and required memory.

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