

Better Full Text Search in PostgreSQL

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FTS in PostgreSQL

- FTS is a powerful built-in text search engine
- No new features since 2006 !
- Popular complaints:
 - Slow ranking
 - No phrase search
 - No efficient alternate ranking
 - Working with dictionaries is tricky
 - Dictionaries are stored in the backend memory
 - FTS is flexible, but not enough

FTS in PostgreSQL

- **tsvector** – data type for document optimized for search
- **tsquery** – textual data type for rich query language
- **Full text search operator:** tsvector @@ tsquery
- **SQL interface** to FTS objects (CREATE, ALTER)
 - Configuration: {tokens, {dictionaries}}
 - Parser: {tokens}
 - Dictionary: tokens → lexeme{s}
- **Additional functions and operators**
- **Indexes:** GiST, GIN, RUM

```
to_tsvector('english','a fat cat sat on a mat and ate a fat rat')
      @@
to_tsquery('english','(cats | rat) & ate & !mice');
```

Some FTS problems: #1

156676 Wikipedia articles:

- Search is fast, ranking is slow.

```
SELECT docid, ts_rank(text_vector, to_tsquery('english', 'title')) AS rank
FROM ti2
WHERE text_vector @@ to_tsquery('english', 'title')
ORDER BY rank DESC
LIMIT 3;
```

```
Limit (actual time=476.106..476.107 rows=3 loops=1)
  Buffers: shared hit=149804 read=87416
  -> Sort (actual time=476.104..476.104 rows=3 loops=1)
    Sort Key: (ts_rank(text_vector, ''titl''::tsquery)) DESC
    Sort Method: top-N heapsort  Memory: 25kB
    Buffers: shared hit=149804 read=87416
    -> Bitmap Heap Scan on ti2 (actual time=6.894..469.215 rows=47855 loops=1)
      Recheck Cond: (text_vector @@ ''titl''::tsquery)
      Heap Blocks: exact=4913
      Buffers: shared hit=149804 read=87416
      -> Bitmap Index Scan on ti2_index (actual time=6.117..6.117 rows=47855 loops=1)
        Index Cond: (text_vector @@ ''titl''::tsquery)
        Buffers: shared hit=1 read=12
```

```
Planning time: 0.255 ms
Execution time: 476.171 ms
(15 rows)
```



**HEAP IS SLOW
470 ms !**

Some FTS problems: #2

- No phrase search
 - “A & B” is equivalent to “B & A»
There are only 92 posts in -hackers with person 'Tom Good', but FTS finds 34039 posts
- FTS + regex is slow and can be used only for simple queries.

Some FTS problems: #3

- Slow FTS with ordering by timestamp («fresh» results)

```
SELECT sent, subject from pglist
WHERE fts @@ to_tsquery('english', 'server & crashed')
and sent < '2000-01-01'::timestamp
ORDER BY sent desc
LIMIT 5;
```

- Bitmap index scan by GIN (fts)
- Bitmap index scan by Btree (date)
- BitmapAND
- Bitmap Heap scan
- Sort
- Limit
- 10 ms

Inverted Index in PostgreSQL

Report Index

ENTRY TREE

A

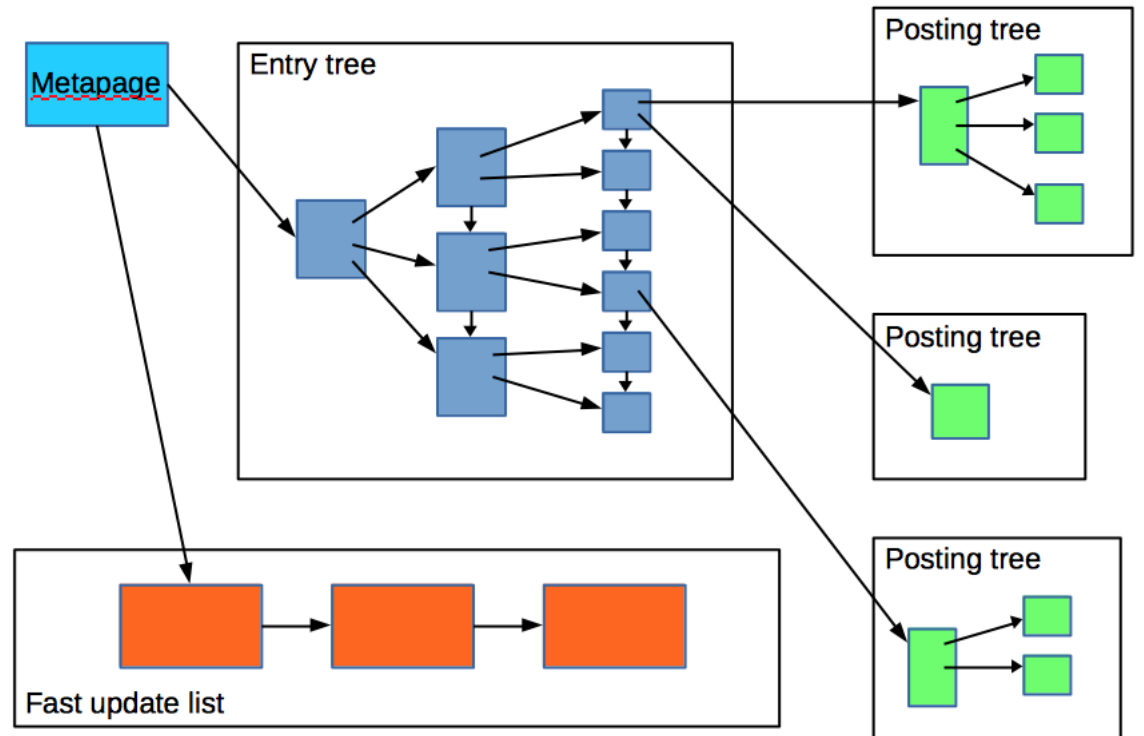
abrasives, 27
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 accelerometers, 5, 10, 25, 28, 30, 36, 58, 59, 61, 73, 74
 actuators, 4, 37, 46, 49
 adaptive Kalman filters, 60, 61
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Posting tree

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 compressive strength, 54
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 computer games, 56
 concurrent engineering, 14
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 coplanar waveguide components, 40
 Couette flow, 21
 creep, 17
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B

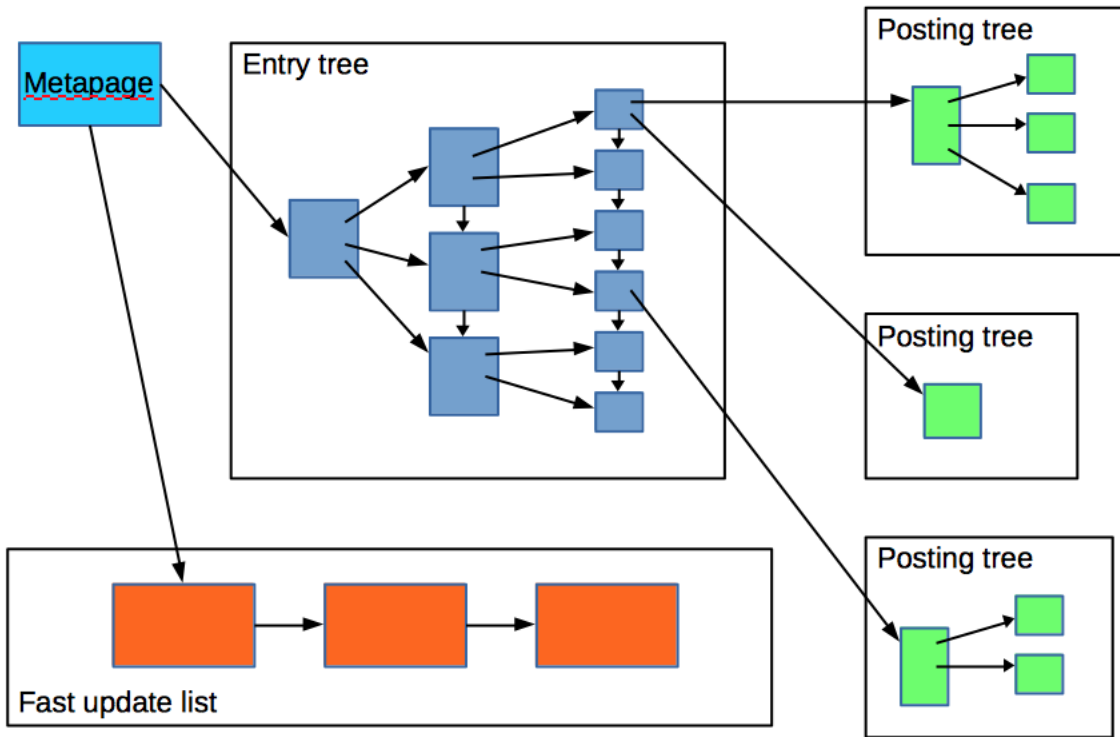
backward wave oscillators, 45



Improving GIN

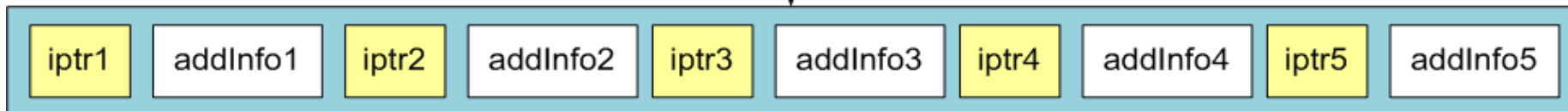
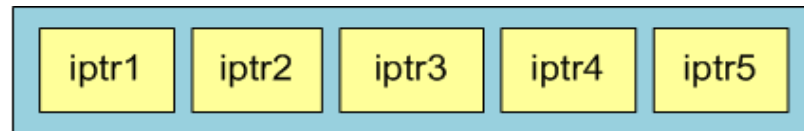
- Improve GIN index
 - Store additional information in posting tree, for example, lexemes positions or timestamps
 - Use this information to order results

Improving GIN



9.6: CREATE AM
GENERIC WAL

Create access methods
RUM as extension !



CREATE INDEX ... USING RUM

- Use positions to calculate rank and order results
- Introduce distance operator `tsvector <=> tsquery`

```
CREATE INDEX ti2_rum_fts_idx ON ti2 USING rum(text_vector rum_tsvector_ops);
```

```
SELECT docid, ts_rank(text_vector, to_tsquery('english', 'title')) AS rank
FROM ti2
WHERE text_vector @@ to_tsquery('english', 'title')
ORDER BY
text_vector <=> plainto_tsquery('english','title') LIMIT 3;
QUERY PLAN
```

```
-----
L Limit (actual time=54.676..54.735 rows=3 loops=1)
  Buffers: shared hit=355
  -> Index Scan using ti2_rum_fts_idx on ti2 (actual time=54.675..54.733 rows=3 loops=1)
        Index Cond: (text_vector @@ '''titl''':tsquery)
        Order By: (text_vector <=> '''titl''':tsquery)
        Buffers: shared hit=355
```

```
Planning time: 0.225 ms
```

```
Execution time: 54.775 ms vs 476 ms !
```

```
(8 rows)
```

CREATE INDEX ... USING RUM

- Top-10 (out of 222813) postings with «Tom Lane»
 - GIN index — 1374.772 ms

```
SELECT subject, ts_rank(fts,plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane')) AS rank
FROM pglisT WHERE fts @@ plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane')
ORDER BY rank DESC LIMIT 10;
```

QUERY PLAN

```
-----
Limit (actual time=1374.277..1374.278 rows=10 loops=1)
-> Sort (actual time=1374.276..1374.276 rows=10 loops=1)
    Sort Key: (ts_rank(fts, '''tom'' & ''lane''::tsquery)) DESC
    Sort Method: top-N heapsort  Memory: 25kB
    -> Bitmap Heap Scan on pglisT (actual time=98.413..1330.994 rows=222813 loops=1)
        Recheck Cond: (fts @@ '''tom'' & ''lane''::tsquery)
        Heap Blocks: exact=105992
        -> Bitmap Index Scan on pglisT_gin_idx (actual time=65.712..65.712
rows=222813 loops=1)
            Index Cond: (fts @@ '''tom'' & ''lane''::tsquery)
Planning time: 0.287 ms
Execution time: 1374.772 ms
(11 rows)
```

CREATE INDEX ... USING RUM

- Top-10 (out of 222813) postings with «Tom Lane»
 - RUM index — 216 ms vs 1374 ms !!!

```
create index pglisr_rum_fts_idx on pglisr using rum(fts rum_tsvector_ops);
```

```
SELECT subject FROM pglisr WHERE fts @@ plainto_tsquery('tom lane')  
ORDER BY fts <=> plainto_tsquery('tom lane') LIMIT 10;
```

```
QUERY PLAN
```

```
-----  
Limit (actual time=215.115..215.185 rows=10 loops=1)
```

```
-> Index Scan using pglisr_rum_fts_idx on pglisr (actual time=215.113..215.183 rows=10 loops=1)
```

```
Index Cond: (fts @@ plainto_tsquery('tom lane'::text))
```

```
Order By: (fts <=> plainto_tsquery('tom lane'::text))
```

```
Planning time: 0.264 ms
```

```
Execution time: 215.833 ms
```

```
(6 rows)
```

CREATE INDEX ... USING RUM

- RUM uses new ranking function (ts_score) — combination of ts_rank and ts_rank_cd
 - ts_rank doesn't supports logical operators
 - ts_rank_cd works poorly with OR queries

```
SELECT ts_rank(fts,plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane')) AS rank,
       ts_rank_cd (fts,plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane')) AS rank_cd ,
       fts <=> plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane') as score, subject
FROM pglist WHERE fts @@ plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane')
ORDER BY fts <=> plainto_tsquery('english', 'tom lane') LIMIT 10;
```

rank	rank_cd	score	subject
0.999637	2.02857	0.487904	Re: ATTN: Tom Lane
0.999224	1.97143	0.492074	Re: Bug #866 related problem (ATTN Tom Lane)
0.99798	1.97143	0.492074	Tom Lane
0.996653	1.57143	0.523388	happy birthday Tom Lane ...
0.999697	2.18825	0.570404	For Tom Lane
0.999638	2.12208	0.571455	Re: Favorite Tom Lane quotes
0.999188	1.68571	0.593533	Re: disallow LOCK on a view - the Tom Lane remix
0.999188	1.68571	0.593533	Re: disallow LOCK on a view - the Tom Lane remix
0.999188	1.68571	0.593533	Re: disallow LOCK on a view - the Tom Lane remix
0.999188	1.68571	0.593533	Re: [HACKERS] disallow LOCK on a view - the Tom Lane remix

(10 rows)

Phrase Search (8 years old!)

- Queries 'A & B'::tsquery and 'B & A'::tsquery produce the same result
- Phrase search - preserve order of words in a query

Results for queries 'A & B' and 'B & A' should be different !

- Introduce new FOLLOWED BY (<->) operator:
 - Guarantee an order of operands
 - Distance between operands

$$a <n> b == a \& b \& (\exists i,j : \text{pos}(b)_i - \text{pos}(a)_j = n)$$

Phrase search - definition

- FOLLOWED BY operator returns:
 - false
 - true and array of positions of the **right** operand, which satisfy distance condition
- FOLLOWED BY operator requires positions

```
select 'a b c'::tsvector @@ 'a <-> b'::tsquery; – false, there no positions
?column?
```

```
-----
```

```
f
(1 row)
```

```
select 'a:1 b:2 c'::tsvector @@ 'a <-> b'::tsquery;
?column?
```

```
-----
```

```
t
(1 row)
```

Phrase search - properties

- 'A <-> B' = 'A<1>B'
- 'A <0> B' matches the word with two different forms (infinitives)

```
=# SELECT ts_lexize('ispell','bookings');
       ts_lexize
-----
 {booking,book}
to_tsvector('bookings') @@ 'booking <0> book'::tsquery
```

Phrase search - properties

- Precedence of tsquery operators - '! <-> & |'
- Use parenthesis to control nesting in tsquery

```
select 'a & b <-> c'::tsquery;
      tsquery
```

```
-----
'a' & 'b' <-> 'c'
```

```
select 'b <-> c & a'::tsquery;
      tsquery
```

```
-----
'b' <-> 'c' & 'a'
```

```
select 'b <-> (c & a)'::tsquery;
      tsquery
```

```
-----
'b' <-> 'c' & 'b' <-> 'a'
```

Phrase search - example

- `TSQUERY phraseto_tsquery([CFG,] TEXT)`
Stop words are taken into account.

```
select phraseto_tsquery('PostgreSQL can be extended by the user in many ways');
        phraseto_tsquery
```

```
-----
'postgresql' <3> 'extend' <3> 'user' <2> 'mani' <-> 'way'
(1 row)
```

- It's possible to combine `tsquery`'s

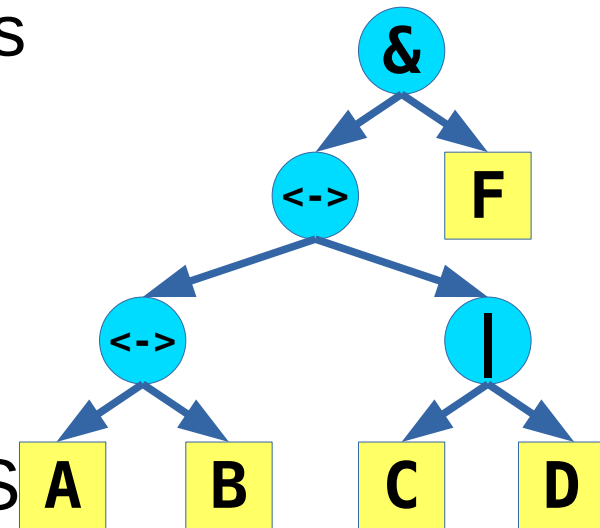
```
select phraseto_tsquery('PostgreSQL can be extended by the user in many ways') ||
        to_tsquery('oho<->ho & ik');
        ?column?
```

```
-----
'postgresql' <3> 'extend' <3> 'user' <2> 'mani' <-> 'way' | 'oho' <-> 'ho' & 'ik'
(1 row)
```

Phrase search - internals

- Phrase search has overhead, since it requires access and operations on posting lists

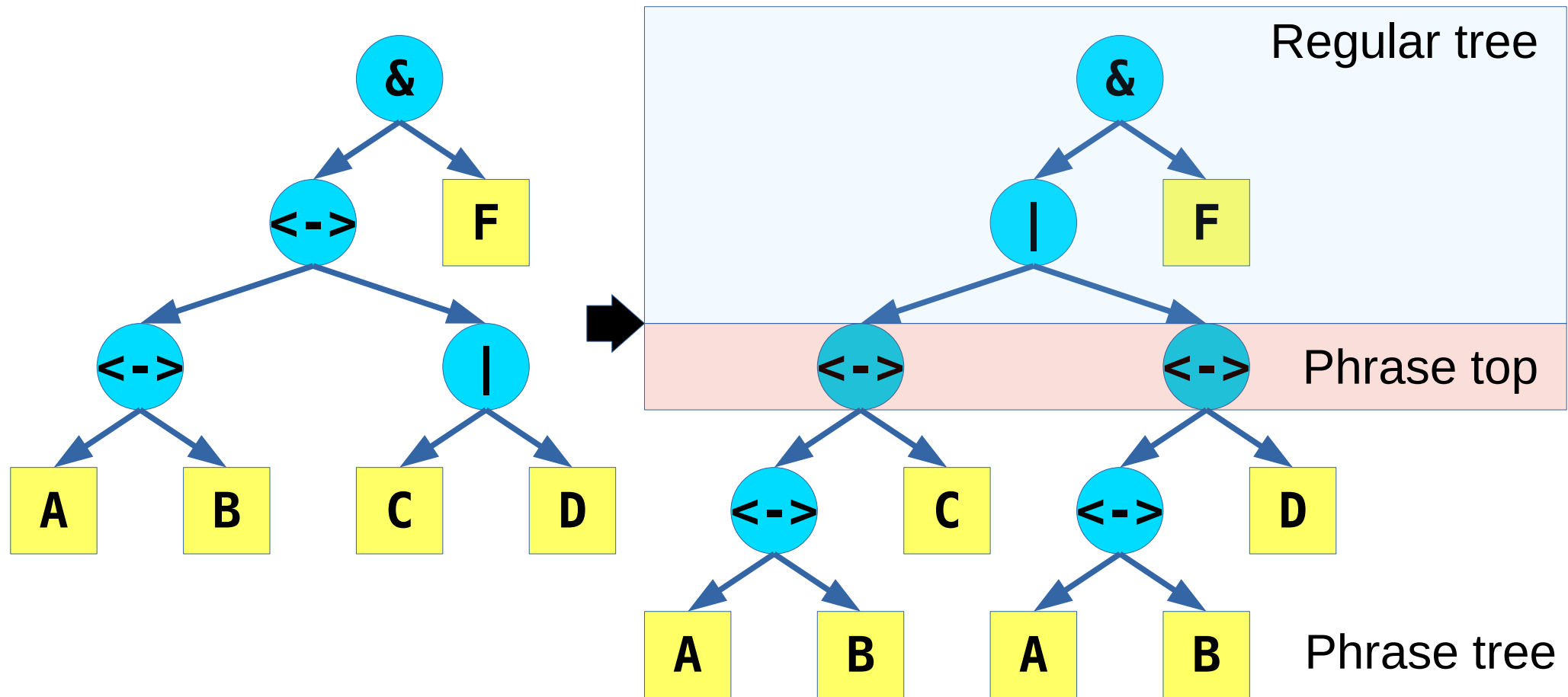
$((A \leftrightarrow B) \leftrightarrow (C \mid D)) \& F$



- We want to avoid slowdown FTS operators (& |), which do not need positions.
- Rewrite query, so any <-> operators pushed down in query tree and call phrase executor for the top <-> operator.

Phrase search - transformation

$((A \leftrightarrow B) \leftrightarrow (C \mid D)) \& F$



$('A' \leftrightarrow 'B' \leftrightarrow 'C' \mid 'A' \leftrightarrow 'B' \leftrightarrow 'D') \& 'F'$

Phrase search - push down

$a \text{ <-> } (b \& c) \Rightarrow a \text{ <-> } b \ \& \ a \text{ <-> } c$

$(a \& b) \text{ <-> } c \Rightarrow a \text{ <-> } c \ \& \ b \text{ <-> } c$

$a \text{ <-> } (b \mid c) \Rightarrow a \text{ <-> } b \ \mid \ a \text{ <-> } c$

$(a \mid b) \text{ <-> } c \Rightarrow a \text{ <-> } c \ \mid \ b \text{ <-> } c$

$a \text{ <-> } !b \Rightarrow a \ \& \ !(a \text{ <-> } b)$

there is no position of A followed by B

$!a \text{ <-> } b \Rightarrow !(a \text{ <-> } b) \ \& \ b$

there is no position of B preceded by A

Phrase search - transformation

```
# select '( A | B ) <-> ( D | C )'::tsquery;  
          tsquery
```

```
'A' <-> 'D' | 'B' <-> 'D' | 'A' <-> 'C' | 'B' <-> 'C'
```

```
# select 'A <-> ( B & ( C | ! D ) )'::tsquery;  
          tsquery
```

```
'A' <-> 'B' & ( 'A' <-> 'C' | 'A' & !( 'A' <-> 'D' ) )
```

Phrase search

1.1 mln postings (postgres mailing lists)

- Phrase search has overhead

```
select count(*) from pglist where fts @@ to_tsquery('english', 'tom <-> lane');
count
```

```
-----
222777
(1 row)
```

	<->(s)		&(s)	
Sequential Scan:	2.6		2.2	
GIN index:	1.1		0.48	- significant overhead
RUM index:	0.5		0.48	- solves the problem !

Some FTS problems: #3

- Slow FTS with ordering by timestamp («fresh» results)
 - Store timestamps in additional information in timestamp order !

```
create index pglis_fts_ts_order_rum_idx on pglis using
rum(fts rum_tsvector_timestamp_ops, sent) WITH (attach =
'sent', to = 'fts', order_by_attach = 't');
```

```
select sent, subject from pglis
where fts @@ to_tsquery('server & crashed')
order by sent <=| '2000-01-01'::timestamp limit 5;
```

- Index Scan by RUM (fts, sent)
- Limit
- **0.08 ms vs 10 ms !**

RUM vs GIN

- 6 mln classifies, real fts queries, concurrency 24, duration 1 hour
 - GIN — 258087 qph
 - RUM — 1885698 qph (**7x speedup**)
- RUM has no pending list (not implemented) and stores more data.

Insert 1 mln messages shows no significant overhead:

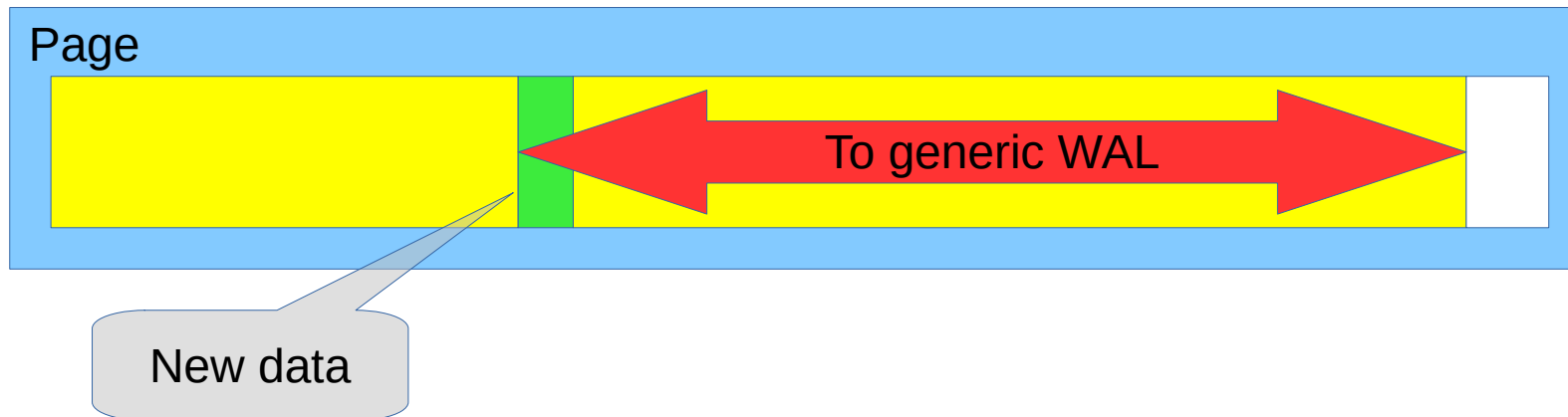
Time(min): GiST(10), GIN(10), GIN_no_fast(21), RUM(34)

WAL(GB): GiST(3.5), GIN(7.5), GIN_no_fast(24), RUM(29)

RUM vs GIN

- CREATE INDEX

- GENERIC WAL (9.6) generates too big WAL traffic



Inverse FTS (FQS)

- Find queries, which match given document
- Automatic text classification

```
SELECT * FROM queries;
```

q	tag
'supernova' & 'star'	sn
'black'	color
'big' & 'bang' & 'black' & 'hole'	bang
'spiral' & 'galaxi'	shape
'black' & 'hole'	color

(5 rows)

```
SELECT * FROM queries WHERE
```

```
to_tsvector('black holes never exists before we think about them')  
@@ q;
```

q	tag
'black'	color
'black' & 'hole'	color

(2 rows)

Inverse FTS (FQS)

- RUM index supported – store branches of query tree in addinfo

Find queries for the first message in postgres mailing lists

```

\d pg_query
   Table "public.pg_query"
  Column |  Type   | Modifiers
-----+-----+-----
   q     | tsquery |
  count | integer |
Indexes:
    "pg_query_rum_idx" rum (q)          33818 queries

select q from pg_query pgq, pglist where q @@ pglist.fts and pglist.id=1;
      q
-----
'one' & 'one'
'postgresql' & 'freebsd'
(2 rows)

```

Inverse FTS (FQS)

- RUM index supported – store branches of query tree in addinfo

Find queries for the first message in postgres mailing lists

```

create index pg_query_rum_idx on pg_query using rum(q);
select q from pg_query pgq, pglis where q @@ pglis.fts and pglis.id=1;
                                QUERY PLAN
-----
Nested Loop (actual time=0.719..0.721 rows=2 loops=1)
  -> Index Scan using pglis_id_idx on pglis
(actual time=0.013..0.013 rows=1 loops=1)
    Index Cond: (id = 1)
  -> Bitmap Heap Scan on pg_query pgq
(actual time=0.702..0.704 rows=2 loops=1)
    Recheck Cond: (q @@ pglis.fts)
    Heap Blocks: exact=2
        -> Bitmap Index Scan on pg_query_rum_idx
(actual time=0.699..0.699 rows=2 loops=1)
            Index Cond: (q @@ pglis.fts)
Planning time: 0.212 ms
Execution time: 0.759 ms
(10 rows)

```

Inverse FTS (FQS)

- RUM index supported – store branches of query tree in addinfo

Monstrous postings

```
select id, t.subject, count(*) as cnt into pglist_q from pg_query,
(select id, fts, subject from pglist) t where t.fts @@ q
group by id, subject order by cnt desc limit 1000;
```

```
select * from pglist_q order by cnt desc limit 5;
```

id	subject	cnt
248443	Packages patch	4472
282668	Re: release.sgml, minor pg_autovacuum changes	4184
282512	Re: release.sgml, minor pg_autovacuum changes	4151
282481	release.sgml, minor pg_autovacuum changes	4104
243465	Re: [HACKERS] Re: Release notes	3989

(5 rows)

RUM vs GIN

- CREATE INDEX

- GENERIC WAL(9.6) generates too big WAL traffic.

It currently doesn't supports shift.

rum(fts, ts+order) generates 186 Gb of WAL !

- RUM writes WAL AFTER creating index

	table	gin	rum (fts	rum(fts,ts)	rum(fts,ts+order)
Create time		147 s	201	209	215
Size(mb)	2167/1302	534	980	1531	1921
WAL (Gb)		0.9	0.68	1.1	1.5

RUM Todo

- Allow multiple additional info (lexemes positions + timestamp)
- Add support for arrays
- improve ranking function to support TF/IDF
- Improve insert time (pending list ?)
- Improve GENERIC WAL to support shift

Availability:

- 9.6+ only: <https://github.com/postgrespro/rum>

Better FTS configurability

- The problem

- Search multilingual collection requires processing by several language-specific dictionaries. Currently, logic of processing is hidden from user and example would“nt works.

```
ALTER TEXT SEARCH CONFIGURATION multi_conf
ALTER MAPPING FOR asciiword, asciihword, hword_asciipart,
word, hword, hword_part
WITH unaccent, german_ispell, english_ispell, simple;
```

- Logic of tokens processing in FTS configuration

- Example: German-English collection

```
ALTER TEXT SEARCH CONFIGURATION multi_conf
ALTER MAPPING FOR asciiword, asciihword, hword_asciipart,
word, hword, hword_part
WITH unaccent THEN (german_ispell AND english_ispell) OR simple;
```

Some FTS problems #4

- Working with dictionaries can be difficult and slow
 - Installing dictionaries can be complicated
 - Dictionaries are loaded into memory for every session (slow first query symptom) and eat memory.

```
time for i in {1..10}; do echo $i; psql postgres -c "select  
ts_lexize('english_hunspell', 'evening')" > /dev/null; done
```

```
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10
```

```
real    0m0.656s  
user    0m0.015s  
sys 0m0.031s
```

For russian hunspell dictionary:

```
real 0m3.809s  
user 0m0.015s  
sys 0m0.029s
```

Each session «eats» 20MB of RAM !

Dictionaries in shared memory

- Now it's easy (Artur Zakirov, Postgres Professional + Thomas Vondra)

https://github.com/postgrespro/shared_ispell

```
CREATE EXTENSION shared_ispell;
CREATE TEXT SEARCH DICTIONARY english_shared (
    TEMPLATE = shared_ispell,
    DictFile = en_us,
    AffFile = en_us,
    StopWords = english
);
CREATE TEXT SEARCH DICTIONARY russian_shared (
    TEMPLATE = shared_ispell,
    DictFile = ru_ru,
    AffFile = ru_ru,
    StopWords = russian
);
time for i in {1..10}; do echo $i; psql postgres -c "select ts_lexize('russian_shared', 'туши')" > /dev/null; done
1
2
.....
10

real 0m0.170s      VS      real 0m3.809s
user 0m0.015s      user 0m0.015s
sys  0m0.027s      sys  0m0.029s
```

Dictionaries as extensions

- Now it's easy (Artur Zakirov, Postgres Professional)
https://github.com/postgrespro/hunspell_dicts

```
CREATE EXTENSION hunspell_ru_ru; -- creates russian_hunspell dictionary
CREATE EXTENSION hunspell_en_us; -- creates english_hunspell dictionary
CREATE EXTENSION hunspell_nn_no; -- creates norwegian_hunspell dictionary
SELECT ts_lexize('english_hunspell', 'evening');
    ts_lexize
```

```
-----
{evening,even}
(1 row)
```

```
Time: 57.612 ms
SELECT ts_lexize('russian_hunspell', 'туши');
    ts_lexize
```

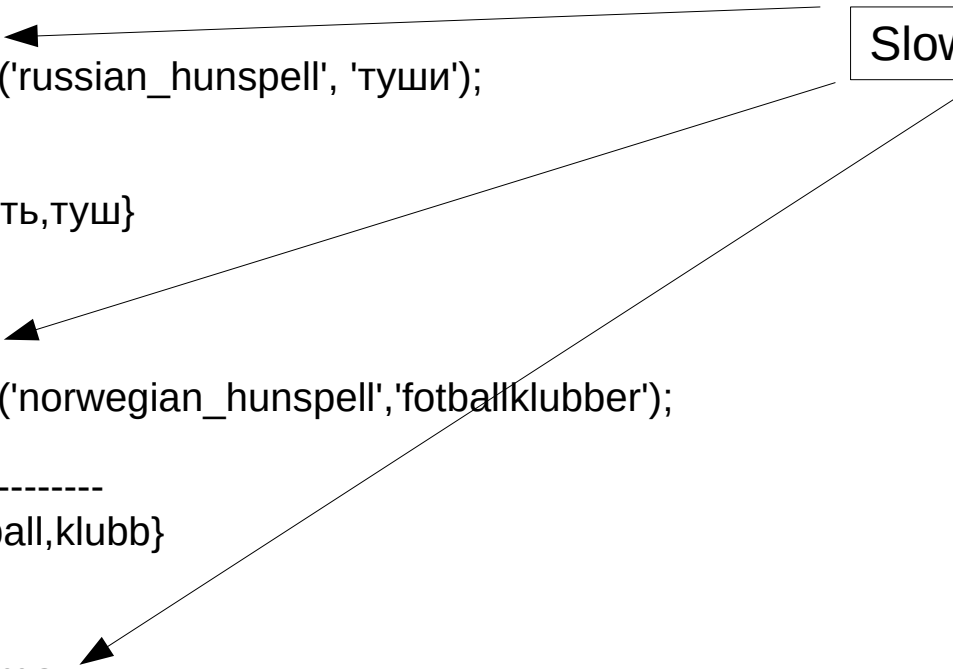
```
-----
{туша,тушь,тушить,туш}
(1 row)
```

```
Time: 382.221 ms
SELECT ts_lexize('norwegian_hunspell', 'fotballklubber');
    ts_lexize
```

```
-----
{fotball,klubb,fot,ball,klubb}
(1 row)
```

```
Time: 323.046 ms
```

Slow first query syndrom



Tsvector editing functions

- Stas Kelvich (Postgres Professional)
- `setweight(tsvector, 'char', text[])` - add label to lexemes from `text[]` array

```
select setweight( to_tsvector('english', '20-th anniversary of PostgreSQL'),
'A',    '{postgresql,20}');
           setweight
-----
'20':1A 'anniversari':3 'postgresql':5A 'th':2
(1 row)
```

- `ts_delete(tsvector, text[])` - delete lexemes from tsvector

```
select ts_delete( to_tsvector('english', '20-th anniversary of PostgreSQL'),
'{20,postgresql}'::text[]);
           ts_delete
-----
'anniversari':3 'th':2
(1 row)
```

Tsvector editing functions

- `unnest(tsvector)`

```
select * from unnest( setweight( to_tsvector('english',
'20-th anniversary of PostgreSQL'), 'A',  '{postgresql,20}'));
lexeme      | positions | weights
-----+-----+-----
20          | {1}      | {A}
anniversari | {3}      | {D}
postgresql  | {5}      | {A}
th          | {2}      | {D}
(4 rows)
```

- `tsvector_to_array(tsvector)` — tsvector to text[] array
`array_to_tsvector(text[])`

```
select tsvector_to_array( to_tsvector('english',
'20-th anniversary of PostgreSQL'));
tsvector_to_array
-----
{20,anniversari,postgresql,th}
(1 row)
```

Tsvector editing functions

- `ts_filter(tsvector, text[])` - fetch lexemes with specific label{s}

```
select ts_filter($$'20':2A 'anniversari':4C 'postgresql':1A,6A 'th':3$$::tsvector,
'{C}');
      ts_filter
-----
'anniversari':4C
(1 row)

select ts_filter($$'20':2A 'anniversari':4C 'postgresql':1A,6A 'th':3$$::tsvector,
'{C,A}');
              ts_filter
-----
'20':2A 'anniversari':4C 'postgresql':1A,6A
(1 row)
```

FTS demo

- How to configure and use FTS with PostgreSQL?

https://github.com/select-artur/apod_fts

ToDo:

- Exampe of fixing misspelled user queries
- Query suggestion for user



Thanks !