Approximate Query Processing for Lambda Architecture

Aleksey Burdakov\textsuperscript{1a}, Uriy Grigorev\textsuperscript{1b}, Andrey Ploutenko\textsuperscript{2c} and Oleg Ermakov\textsuperscript{1d}

\textsuperscript{1}Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Moscow, Russia
\textsuperscript{2}Amur State University, Blagoveschensk, Russia

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Abstract: The lambda architecture is widely used to implement streaming data processing systems. These systems create batch views (subsets of data) at the Serving Layer to speed up queries. This operation takes significant time. The article proposes a novel approach to lambda architecture implementation. A new method for Approximate Query Processing in a system with Lambda Architecture (LA-AQP) significantly reduces aggregate (sum, count, avg) calculation error. This is achieved by using a new way of calculating the reading segments probabilities. The developed method is compared with the modern Sapprox method for processing large distributed data. Experiments demonstrate that LA-AQP almost equals Sapprox in terms of volume and time characteristics. The introduced accuracy measures ($\delta$-accuracy and $\varepsilon$-accuracy) are up to two times better than Sapprox for total aggregate calculation. Aggregate values can vary greatly from segment to segment. It is shown that in this case the LA-AQP method gives a small error in the total aggregate calculation in contrast to Sapprox.

1 INTRODUCTION

Real-time large data volume processing is an important requirement for modern high-load systems. Streaming data processing serves this task. Data stream processing applies to various fields: search engines, social networks, fraud detection systems, trade and financial systems, equipment monitoring systems, military and intelligence systems (Kleppmann, 2017).

Lambda architecture enables implementation of streaming data processing (Marz et al., 2015). Sources (Kiran et al., 2015; Gribaudo et al., 2018) provide lambda architecture implementation for data processing backend in Amazon EC2. It provides high bandwidth with low network maintenance costs. The lambda architecture enables streaming processing implementation in many other areas: heatmap tracking (Perrot et al., 2017), query processing (Yang et al., 2017), medical surgery predictions (Spangenberg et al. 2017), etc.

The lambda architecture (see Fig. 1 (Marz et al., 2015)) has Batch, Speed and Serving Layers.

![Lambda Architecture](https://example.com/lambda-architecture.png)

Figure 1: Lambda Architecture.

Apache Hadoop-based Data Lake typically represent a Batch Processing Layer. This layer stores a dataset master copy. The Serving Layer generates batch representations from the data. Each batch is a
data chunk prepared for fast query processing. The Speed Layer provides real-time data processing, since data cannot quickly reach the Serving Layer.

The described lambda architecture implementation has a number of significant drawbacks:

1. Effective implementation of different levels may require different databases. This in turn requires different development, support and data access software tools. Source (Marz et al., 2015) provides an example of the Batch Layer implementation based on the Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS), while the Serving Layer is based on ElephantDB, and Speed Layer uses Cassandra database.

2. A new request may require a new batch representation (data subset). This will lead to searching the large Batch Layer database.

3. The new data appears at the Serving Layer with a delay. This leads to introduction of a cumbersome Speed Layer in order to provide prompt access to such data (Psaltis, 2017).

The article proposes a novel approach to building systems with lambda architecture. It allows the Serving Layer implementation in a form of metadata describing data segments of the Batch Layer. The new approach provides an approximate query processing based on this metadata.

2 LAMBDA ARCHITECTURE WITH SERVING LAYER IN METADATA FORM

The proposed new Lambda Architecture is shown on Fig. 2.

![Diagram](image-url)

**Figure 2: New Lambda Architecture.**

First, new data blocks come from a source (e.g. Kafka/ Storm) to the changelog. The entries in each block are sorted by timestamp, but they are not sorted throughout different blocks.

After a certain period of time, e.g. one second, the background process is started. It sorts the incoming block records by timestamp (merge sort). This process then adds the sorted record segments to the main dataset (Batch Layer).

The background process analyzes each record segment. It extracts the attributes, calculates the aggregated values, and stores them as metadata (Serving Layer). One line of metadata corresponds to one segment of the Batch Layer. The processed blocks are removed from the change log (the log is compacted), and the background process goes into a waiting state. The new blocks received during the execution of the background process will be processed in the next period of this process activation.

Batch level segment records are stored as <key><value>, where "key" is a timestamp and "value" is a JSON document. All records of the main data set are sorted by key (by analogy with LSM trees based on SS tables (Kleppmann, 2017; O’Neil, 1996)).

Metadata is used to approximate the aggregated values (sum, avg, count) of some JSON document attributes. As noted, one metadata record corresponds to one segment of the Batch Layer. Metadata records are stored as <key><value>, where "key" is the number of the corresponding segment, "value" is a JSON field.

The search attributes for which the search is performed will be denoted as SA. The attributes by which the aggregation is performed will be designated as AA. The information for each search attribute SAi is stored in the metadata record as JSON field elements. This item has the following structure:

$$<k \text{ is the SA}_i \text{ value number}> <\text{number of records in the g segment with the kth } \text{SA}_i \text{ value}> \{<\text{aggregate value by the } \text{AA}_m \text{ attribute for the kth } \text{SA}_i \text{ value in the g segment}>\}_m = <Z_k ^i> <M_g ^i> \{<A_{igm} ^k>\}_m$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

The values of each SAi search attribute are stored in a dictionary, which is common for all segments. The dictionary is a hash table located in RAM. The hash table elements have the following form: <SAi value> <k - number of SAi value> = <Ci> <Zi>.

The dictionary is populated as new values of the search attribute appear in the data stream when parsing data segments. The length of a numeric field <k - the number of the SAi value> is often much shorter than the length of the character field <SAi,
value>. Therefore, the size of the metadata record will be smaller.

The following data is additionally stored in the metadata record:

\[
\langle g\text{-th segment timestamp} \rangle \langle g\text{-th segment number of records} \rangle \langle g \text{ segment number of search attributes} \rangle \{\langle \text{aggregate value by attribute } \text{AA}_m \text{ for this segment } g \rangle \}_{m=1}^{<T_g><S_g><Q_g>} \{\langle \text{AA}_m \rangle \}^m
\]

The \(\text{AA}_m^g\) and \(\text{AA}_m\) aggregate values in (1) and (2) accumulate as records are retrieved from the data stream.

The considered lambda architecture organization has the following advantages over the classical scheme (see Fig. 1):

1. One database can be used to implement the Package and Serving Layer.
2. There is no need to build batch views at the Serving Layer. The Approximate Query Processing is fast, and it only requires changing the view which means only changing the SELECT query. Moreover, aggregate values computation is usually performed at some time interval. Having a timestamp index at the Serving Layer allows quick reading of the required segments from the main data set.
3. The Speed Layer is optional. For example, let us assume that a background compaction process is invoked every second. If the minimum statistics collection interval is one minute, then the Speed Layer is not needed. This Layer would be required if statistics was collected every second.

3 RELATED WORK

Modern clusters provide enormous processing power. But querying large-scale datasets remains challenging. To solve this problem, approximate calculations are used in big data analytics environments (Laptev et al., 2012; Agarwal et al., 2013; Pansare et al., 2011; Goiri et al., 2015; Kandula et al., 2016).

There are various ways of dataset approximate query processing (Cormode et al., 2011): data sampling, histograms, wavelets.

Histogram and wavelet application presents the following issues: 1) it is difficult to distribute data across several nodes and process them in parallel, 2) it is very difficult to perform the table join operation.

Therefore, the most acceptable way of Approximate Query Processing is selecting data from the general population. Let us consider some methods in this area.

BlinkDB (Agarwal et al., 2013) generates patterns on the most commonly used column sets (QCS) in WHERE, GROUP BY, and HAVING clauses. If the query does not match the pattern, then the aggregate calculation error can be large. But the important thing is that it is not possible to generate separate samples for all data subsets.

The data sampling system ApproxHadoop (Goiri et al., 2015) works on the assumption that the requested datasets are evenly distributed across the entire dataset. Unfortunately, in many real cases, dataset subsets are actually spread unevenly across the entire dataset partitions. The system suffers from inefficient sampling and large variance in the computed aggregate value.

Source (Zhang et al., 2016) proposed a more effective method for processing large distributed data (Sapprox method) and presented comparison results of Approximate Query Processing in Sapprox, ApproxHadoop and BlinkDB. The Sapprox method was the most effective. Let us consider it in more detail.

The Sapprox method uses the following metadata storage structures:

1. List of attributes of the dataset table: \{<name of the search attribute of the \text{SA}_i of the dataset table> <pointer to the hash table with the values of the search attribute of the \text{SA}_i>\}.
2. Hash table with the search attribute \text{SA}_i values:
   \{<k-th value of \text{SA}_i> <pointer to the table of occurrences of the k-th value of \text{SA}_i>\}_k.
3. Table of occurrences of the k-th \text{SA}_i value:
   \{<k-th value of \text{SA}_i> \{<g - segment number> <number of records in the g-th segment with k-th value of \text{SA}_i> \}_{g=1}^{<C_i>} \{<g><M_i^g>\}^g\}.
4. Table of segment offsets in the HDFS file system: \{<segment number> <segment offset in HDFS (bytes)>\}

Sapprox allows approximate aggregate value calculation (agg - sum, count) in the following queries:

\[
\text{SELECT } \{\text{agg}(\text{AA}_m) \text{ as } \text{AA}_m\}_m
\]
\[
\text{FROM table}
\]
\[
\text{WHERE } \text{SA}_1=\text{C}_1^{k_1} \text{ and } \text{SA}_2=\text{C}_2^{k_2} \text{ and } ... \text{ and } \text{SA}_h=\text{C}_h^{k_h}
\]
The algorithm is provided below:

1. For all \( i=1..h, \ g=1 \ldots N \), calculate the probability that the record of the \( g \)-th segment satisfies the condition for the \( i \)-th search attribute \( (SA_i = C^k_i) \): \( P_{gi} = M_{gi}^{k} / S \), where \( M_{gi}^{k} \) is the number of records in the \( g \)-th segment with the \( k \)-th value of the \( SA_i \) (see (3)), \( S \) is the number of records in the segment (it is the same for all \( g \)), \( N \) is the total number of segments in the HDFS data array.

2. For each \( g=1...N \) calculate the probability that the record of the \( g \)-th segment satisfies the condition specified after the WHERE keyword (see (4)):

\[
P_g = \prod_{j=1}^{h} P_{gj}
\]

3. For each \( g = 1 \ldots N \) calculate the probability

\[
\pi_g = \frac{P_g}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} P_j}
\]

4. Get a sample of \( 'n' \) segment numbers using the probability distribution function \( \{\pi_g\} \).

5. Read these \( 'n' \) segments. Find records in each segment that satisfy the WHERE clause. Calculate the aggregated value \( \tau_j (j=1..n) \) for each \( A_{Am} \) attribute of the found records (see (4)).

6. Estimate each desired aggregate \( A_{Am} \) value with the formula:

\[
\tau(n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\tau_j}{\pi_j} \right)
\]  

(5)

Estimate (5) is unbiased. For a sufficiently large \( 'n' \) value (5) has normal distribution (Zukerman, 2020) (Lyapunov theorem). It was shown in (Liese et al., 2008) that the random variable 

\[t=\sqrt{n-1} \cdot \left( \tau(n) - \tau \right) / \sqrt{D(n)} \]

has Student’s distribution with \( n-1 \) degrees of freedom, where \( \tau \) is the mathematical expectation \( \tau(n) \), i.e. the true value of \( A_{Am} \). \( D(n) = \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \tau_j / \pi_j - \tau(n) \right) \right)^2 / n \) is an estimate of the sample variance. We derive the following formula:

\[
|\tau - \tau(n)| <= t_{n-1,\alpha} \frac{1}{(n-1)n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\tau_j}{\pi_j} - \tau(n) \right)^2 \]  

(6)

where \( \alpha \) is the degree of confidence of inequality (6). For \( n \geq 121 \) the coefficient \( t_{n-1,\alpha} \) practically does not depend on \( 'n' \), and for \( \alpha = 0.9 \), 0.95; 0.99 it is equal to 1.645, respectively; 1.960; 2.576.

The Sapprox method has several serious disadvantages:

1. The probability distribution \( \{\pi_g\} \) depends only on the probabilities \( \{P_g\} \) that the segment records satisfy the WHERE condition. This can lead to a large estimation error if the aggregated values of \( \tau_j \) differ significantly for different segments (see the Discussion section).

2. It is possible to calculate the aggregated attribute values of only one table (table joins are not supported). The search term includes elementary terms with the logical operation 'and'. The query does not explicitly support the GROUP BY clause.

3. When executing a query, it is necessary to read and analyze metadata for all \( N \) segments that are stored in the main data set (indexing by timestamps is not supported).

4. It is necessary to read both metadata and data segments even when a search condition is specified for only one attribute.

5. Only HDFS file system is used, which makes it difficult to move to other systems for storing the main data and metadata.

6. The record number in different segments must be the same \( (S) \). This can result in reading the same segment from different nodes.

7. When adding a new value of the search attribute or a new segment it is necessary to modify the metadata created earlier (see (3)).

4 NEW APPROXIMATE QUERY PROCESSING METHOD

Structures (1) and (2) describe metadata of the system with the proposed lambda architecture (see Fig. 2). These include the aggregated values calculated for each search attribute value in the segment \( (A_{Am}) \) and for the segment as a whole \( (A_{Am}) \). They can be obtained by processing streaming data entering the system.

A method of Approximate Query Processing in a system with Lambda Architecture (LA-AQP) was developed. It allows approximately calculation of the aggregated values (agg - sum, count, avg) when executing queries of the following form:

\[
SELECT \ SA_i; \{agg(A_{Am}) as A_{Am}\}m \\
FROM \ array \ JSON-documents \\
WHERE \ TSR \ and \ [Predicate(SA_1,SA_2, ..., SA_h)] \ GROUP \ BY \ SA_i,
\]

TSR defines timestamp search condition (time slot, multiple time slots),

Predicate \( (SA_1, SA_2, ..., SA_h) \) includes elementary conditions for search attributes \( (SA_i) \), logical operations AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.

The low level \( A_{igm} \) and \( A_{gm} \) values are known (see (1) and (2)). But the problem is how to use them.
to quickly estimate the total aggregate $A_m$ in accordance with query (7). So the $A_{g,m}$ or $A_{g,m}$
metadata values cannot be simply added because only a part of the segment records match the WHERE
search condition. The challenge is calculating the aggregate value that is linked to this part of the
records. The problem of estimating the number of record parts that satisfy the search condition is also
not trivial. A probabilistic approach is used to solve it.

The algorithms for query (7) execution are provided below:

**Algorithm 1.** No predicate.
1. Read metadata records for TSR using a timestamp index.
2. Check all found metadata records. Accumulate the values $A_{m,k} += A_{g,m,k}$ for each $k$-th value of the search attribute $S_A$, and each aggregated attribute $AA_m$ (see (1)). $S_A$ is an attribute by which grouping is performed (see (7)).

**Algorithm 2.** Predicate is present.
1. For TSR, read metadata records using a timestamp index.
2. For each metadata record found, calculate the probability $P_g$ that the segment record satisfies the condition specified in the Predicate. This requires the following steps:
   1. Calculate the probability that the segment record satisfies the elementary condition for the $i$-th search attribute ($S_A = C_i^{(k,i)}$): $P_g = M_{g,k}^{(i)} / S_g$, where $C_i^{(k,i)}$ is one or several values $\{k_i\}$ from the search dictionary the $S_A$ attribute, $M_{g,k}^{(i)}$ is the number of records in the $g$-th segment with the values $\{k_i\}$ of the $S_A$ search attribute, $S_g$ is the number of records in the $g$ segment (see (1), (2));
   2. Calculate the probability $P_g$ that the record of the $g$-th segment satisfies the condition specified in the Predicate. For this one should use recursive functions for calculating probabilities (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Probability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;condition&gt; AND &lt;condition&gt;</code></td>
<td><code>&lt;P&gt; AND &lt;P&gt;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>&lt;condition&gt; OR &lt;condition&gt;</code></td>
<td><code>&lt;P&gt; OR &lt;P&gt;</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>NOT &lt;condition&gt;</code></td>
<td><code>1 - &lt;P&gt;</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$P_g$ probabilities for elementary conditions initially act as `$<P>$`.
3. Calculate the probability $\pi_{g,m}$ for each $g$ segment and each aggregated attribute $AA_m$:
   1. Calculate $d_{j,m} = (A_{g,m} / S_g) (P_g / S_g)$ - this is an estimate of an aggregate value in the segment; indeed, the expression in the first parentheses is an estimate of the aggregate value per segment record (see (2)); and the expression in the second parentheses is an estimate of the number of segment records that satisfy the condition specified in the Predicate:
   2. Calculate the probability $\pi_{g,m} = d_{g,m} / \sum_{\{g\}} d_{g,m}$, where $\{g\}$ is the set of segment numbers obtained from the read metadata.

Perform the following steps of the algorithm for each $AA_m$:
4. Get a sample of `$n$` segment numbers $\{g\}$ using the probability distribution function $\{\pi_{g,m}\}$ - Sampling should be done with repetition. Otherwise, estimate (5) will be biased and the confidence interval calculated using formula (6) will be erroneous. Samples of segment numbers for different $AA_m$ may have a non-empty intersection.
5. Read these `$n$` segments from the main dataset. Find JSON documents in each segment that satisfy the condition specified in the Predicate. Calculate the aggregated value $\tau_j (j = 1..n)$ for them for the $AA_m$ attribute (ie select the $AA_m$ values from JSON documents). For each $k$-th value of the $S_A$ search attribute, accumulate the values $A_{m,k} += AA_{m,k}$.
6. Estimate the aggregated $A_m$ value (without grouping) using the formula (5). Calculate the confidence interval using formula (6). The confidence interval for the group aggregate $AA_{m,k}$ (see clause 5) does not exceed this value. This is derived from the fact that the variance $D(n)$ for $A_m$ is equal to the sum of the variances calculated for $A_{m,k}$.

The LA-AQP method has the following advantages:
1. The confidence interval, calculated using the formula (6), decreases. The quantity $d_{j,m} / \pi_{j,m}$ (see item 3 of Algorithm 2) is some approximation of the quantity $\tau_j / \pi_j$ in $D(n)$ (see (6)). Since $d_{j,m} / \pi_{j,m} = \sum_{\{g\}} d_{g,m}$ these relationships are the same for different $j$. Therefore, the variance $D(n)$ can be expected to be smaller.
2. It is not necessary to read segments from the main data set of the Batch Layer to obtain the result in some important cases (see Algorithm 1).
3. An arbitrary Predicate for search attributes of JSON documents and use the GROUP BY clause (see (7)) can be specified in a query.
4. There is a timestamp index that allows reducing the number of analyzed metadata records and, thereby, reducing the sample size.
5. The number of $S_g$ JSON documents in the segments can be different (see (2)).
6. The old metadata records are not changed when new records are added during the data stream processing.
7. Different distributed file systems (not necessarily HDFS) can be used to implement the method. The required segments of the main dataset are read at offset.

8. There is no need to develop a method for related tables approximate query processing. Suppose it is necessary to approximately process the following query:

```
SELECT sum(Cost) FROM Customer T1, Purchases T2 WHERE T1.id1=T2.id1 AND Name= "José".
```

If linked tables are used (Figure 3, left), then the tables "Customer" and "Purchases" need to be split into segments. Let their number be N1 and N2 respectively. In further processing, it is necessary to consider pairs of segments in order to take into account the relationship of segments by the common attribute id1. The number of such pairs (new segments) equals \( N_1\times N_2 \).

The JSON document stores all information related to the client (see Figure 3, right). So that the tables were already joined by the id1 attribute in these documents. In this case, the number of segments is reduced to N1.

![Figure 3: Related tables and the corresponding structure of the JSON document.](image)

## 5 COMPARISON OF SAPPROX AND LA-AQP APPROXIMATE QUERY PROCESSING METHODS

The comparison was carried out on a computer with a four-core processor and 16 GB RAM. Testing of Sapprox and LA-AQP methods was done on synthetic dataset. The system received a stream of financial transactions in JSON format. Each document included the following fields:

- sum is the payment amount (random value from 0 to 10,000),
- city is the client's city (one of 1000 random cities),
- user_id is the id of a specific client (one of 1,000,000 random user IDs),
- factor is deposit/withdrawal (one of 2 values),
- a variable number of additional fields.

Outlying peak values were generated to simulate the trend of increasing payments in different cities. They did not coincide with the distribution function of payment amounts at the previous points in time.

The developed system prototype consists of three main components: balancer, database, and multithreaded daemon for segment processing.

The balancer splits the incoming JSON documents into segments and writes them to the database (Data table).

The database is implemented with PostgreSQL DBMS. Each segment is an inheritor of the base table. Each new segment is a separate table where JSON documents are stored. Segment reading performs read operation of the blocks associated with the table. Metadata is stored in a separate table. This table key is the segment index, and the value is a JSON field. The value is saved in the metadata instead of the search attribute value number for the LA-AQP method. The dictionary was not implemented in the developed prototype. It also stores aggregated values for search attributes and for the segment as a whole (see (1), (2)).

68 million records (JSON documents) were generated for the test, the segment size was set to \( S=10,000 \) records. The following query was tested (no timestamp constraints):

```
SELECT sum(Data.sum) FROM Data
WHERE city = 'City_1' and factor = 'Expense';
```

(8)

The experiments were repeated 3 times for each method and each sample size (10\% and 30\%). Table 2 shows the averaged volume-time characteristics of SQL (exact execution of the query (8)), as well as the Sapprox and LA-AQP methods. According to these data, the Sapprox and LA-AQP methods performed on par.
Table 2: The averaged volume-time characteristics of SQL for Sapprox and LA-AQP methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>SQL</th>
<th>Sapprox</th>
<th>LA-AQP</th>
<th>LA-AQP/Sapprox Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time to include one segment (10,000 records) into the database (ms)</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to build metadata for one segment (ms)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request execution time (ms)</td>
<td>33,372</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request execution time (ms), sample size 10%</td>
<td>1,132</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request execution time (ms), sample size 30%</td>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>2,847</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total database size (GB)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows the characteristics of the sum aggregate calculation accuracy. The accuracy was evaluated in two ways:

1. \( \delta = \max (1-L/E, U/E-1) \), where \( L \) is the lower limit of the calculated aggregate; \( E \) is the aggregate exact value; \( U \) is the upper bound of the calculated aggregate.

2. \( \varepsilon \) is the value of the confidence interval (this is the doubled value of the right-hand side of inequality (6)) divided by 5,000. The exact value of the aggregate sum divided by 5,000 is 63,014,300/5,000 = 12,603.

Table 3 demonstrates that the developed LA-AQP method is almost two times better in \( \delta \)-accuracy than the Sapprox method. Moreover, the LA-AQP method with a 10% sample is better in \( \delta \)-accuracy than the Sapprox method with a 30% sample. In terms of \( \varepsilon \)-accuracy, the LA-AQP method is almost 1.8-2 times better than Sapprox.

Table 3: The characteristics of the sum aggregate calculation accuracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Sapprox</th>
<th>LA-AQP</th>
<th>LA-AQP difference from Sapprox</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \delta ), 10% sample volume</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta ), 30% sample volume</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>-56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \varepsilon ), 10% sample volume, ( \alpha=0.9/0.95/0.99 )</td>
<td>1209/1440/1896</td>
<td>704/838/1106</td>
<td>-42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \varepsilon ), 30% sample volume, ( \alpha=0.9/0.95/0.99 )</td>
<td>1050/1253/1647</td>
<td>544/648/847</td>
<td>-48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 DISCUSSION

In the developed LA-AQP method, when calculating the probabilities \( \pi_{gm} \), the values of the aggregates in the segment are taken into account. This is the fundamental difference between LA-AQP and Sapprox as well as other methods. As shown in Section 4, this allows reducing the confidence interval (6) when estimating \( \tau \).

The aggregated values of \( \tau_j \) can differ significantly for different segments. The Sapprox method in this case can lead to a large estimation error \( \tau \). Let us give a small example.

Let the number of segments be \( N=2000 \) and the sample size \( n=100 \). Suppose that \( P_g=0.1, g = 1 \ldots N \), i.e. 10% of the records in each segment satisfy the WHERE search condition. Let the aggregated values \( \tau_j \) of any attribute of these records be distributed over segments significantly unevenly: \( \tau_1=10000, \tau_j=1, j=2 \ldots 2000 \).

Then for Sapprox \( \pi_{g1}=P_g/(N-P_g)=0.0005, g = 1 \ldots N \) (see item 3 of the algorithm in Section 3). The probability that in \( n=100 \) trials the 1st segment will not be selected equals \( (1-\pi_1)^n=0.95 \). From formula (5), we obtain an aggregate estimate:

1st option - 1st segment is not selected:
\[
\tau(n) = (1/n) \cdot n \cdot (\tau_1=10,000)/(\pi_1=0.0005) = 2,000;
\]

2nd option - 1st segment will be selected with probability 1-0.95 = 0.05:
\[
\tau(n) = (1/n) \cdot (\tau_1=10,000)/\pi_1 + (n-1) \cdot (\tau_1=1)/\pi_1 = 201,980.
\]
In fact $\tau=(\tau_1=10,000)+(N-1)\cdot(\tau_j=1)=11,999$. The estimation error $\tau$ is large in options 1 and 2. Let us show that with the same initial data, the LA-AQP method allows estimating $\tau$ with a much smaller error. In this case, we obtain (see item 3 of the algorithm 2 in Section 4):

$$\pi_j^* = \frac{(\tau_1=10,000)\cdot P_j}{(\tau_1=10,000)\cdot P_1 + (N-1)\cdot (\tau_j=1)\cdot P_j} = 0.83;$$

$$\pi_j^* = \frac{(\tau_1=1)\cdot P_j}{(\tau_1=10,000)\cdot P_1 + (N-1)\cdot (\tau_j=1)\cdot P_j} = 8.33\cdot10^{-5}, j=2...N.$$  

The probability that for $n=100$ trials the 1st segment will not be selected is $(1-\pi_1)^n=1.1\cdot10^{-77}$ (i.e. it is practically 0). We derive an aggregate value estimate from formula (5):

Option 1 - the 1st segment will be selected only one time out of $n=100$:

$$\tau(n) = \frac{(1/n)\cdot \tau(1=10,000)}{\pi_1+(n-1)\cdot (\tau_j=1)/\pi_j} = 12,005;$$

Option 2 - the 1st segment will be selected 100 times out of $n=100$:

$$\tau(n) = \frac{(1/n)\cdot n\cdot \tau(1=10,000)/\pi_j} = 12,048.$$  

Option 3 - the 1st segment is not selected (this is an almost impossible event):

$$\tau(n) = \frac{(1/n)\cdot n\cdot (\tau_j=1)/\pi_j} = 12,004.$$  

Therefore the error in calculating the aggregate is small (exact value $\tau=11,999$) in options 1, 2 and 3 for LA-AQP. The sample size 'n' is not important in this example, and it can be equal to one. It also does not matter which segment numbers are selected for processing. The calculation error using the LA-AQP method will be small in any case.

To achieve the same level of error in Sapprox, it is necessary to significantly increase the sample size $n$. It should be comparable to $N$.

The LA-AQP method allows specifying a more complex search condition and a GROUP BY clause in a query (see (7)). Sapprox allows only AND (see (4)) connection of elementary conditions.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The existing systems with lambda-architecture requires constantly repeat package updates for new analytical queries execution acceleration. This consumes large time since it searches in a large database. The developed approach allows avoiding creation of package representations due to the introduction of metadata level. The queries are executed promptly but with a certain error. The developed LA-AQP method reduces this error.

Expression (5) gives an unbiased estimate of the $\tau$ aggregate for any probability distribution function $\{\pi_g\}$, $\pi_g>0$. The issue is in the sample size. The developed method for calculating $\{\pi_g\}$ makes it possible to obtain a good aggregate estimation accuracy for small $n$ values. This is achieved due to the fact that when calculating $\{\pi_g\}$, estimates of the values of the aggregates in the segment are used. As a result, the values $\tau_j/\pi_j$ in (5) become approximately the same. This allows minimizing the sample variance $D(n)$ (see (6)).

The LA-AQP method allows executing queries with a general search condition and with a grouping (see (7)). For calculations, aggregate values are used at the level of individual attributes and segments. The overhead costs of obtaining such aggregates are low: they accumulate as data arrives in the stream. The accuracy of the general aggregates increases approximately twofold as compared with the Sapprox method.

The future work includes development a method for processing queries at the Speed Layer in a Lambda Architecture system.

REFERENCES


Approximate Query Processing for Lambda Architecture