

Lecture 11: Persistent Memory Databases

Recap

Larger-than-Memory Databases

- Allow an in-memory DBMS to store/access data on disk without bringing back all the slow parts of a disk-oriented DBMS.
 - ▶ Minimize the changes that we make to the DBMS that are required to deal with disk-resident data.
 - ▶ It is better to have only the buffer manager deal with moving data around
 - ▶ Rest of the DBMS can assume that data is in DRAM.
- Need to be aware of hardware access methods
 - ▶ In-memory Access = Tuple-Oriented.
 - ▶ Disk Access = Block-Oriented.

Design Decisions

- **Run-time Operation**

- ▶ Cold Data Identification: When the DBMS runs out of DRAM space, what data should we evict?

- **Eviction Policies**

- ▶ Timing: When to evict data?
- ▶ Evicted Tuple Metadata: During eviction, what meta-data should we keep in DRAM to track disk-resident data and avoid false negatives?

- **Data Retrieval Policies**

- ▶ Granularity: When we need data, how much should we bring in?
- ▶ Merging: Where to put the retrieved data?

Reference

Today's Agenda

- Disk-oriented vs In-Memory DBMSs
- Persistent Memory DBMSs
- Storage Engine Architectures

Disk-oriented vs In-Memory DBMSs

Background

- Much of the development history of DBMSs is about dealing with the limitations of hardware.
- Hardware was much different when the original DBMSs were designed in 1970s:
 - ▶ Uniprocessor (single-core CPU)
 - ▶ DRAM capacity was very limited.
 - ▶ The database had to be stored on disk.
 - ▶ Disks were even slower than they are now.

Background

- But now DRAM capacities are large enough that most databases can fit in memory.
 - ▶ Structured data sets are smaller.
- We need to understand why we can't always use a "traditional" disk-oriented DBMS with a large cache to get the best performance.

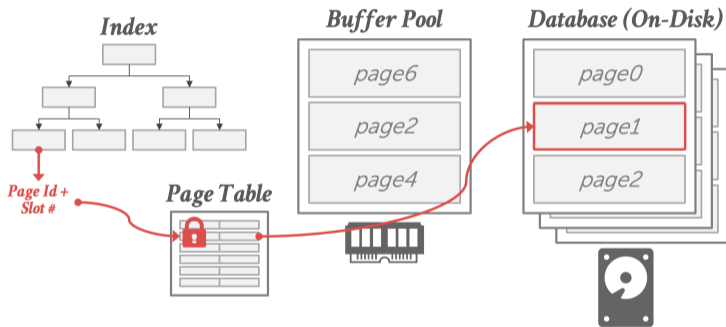
Disk-Oriented DBMS

- The primary storage location of the database is on non-volatile storage (*e.g.*, HDD, SSD).
- The database is organized as a set of fixed-length pages (aka blocks).
- The system uses an in-memory buffer pool to cache pages fetched from disk.
 - ▶ Its job is to manage the movement of those pages back and forth between disk and memory.

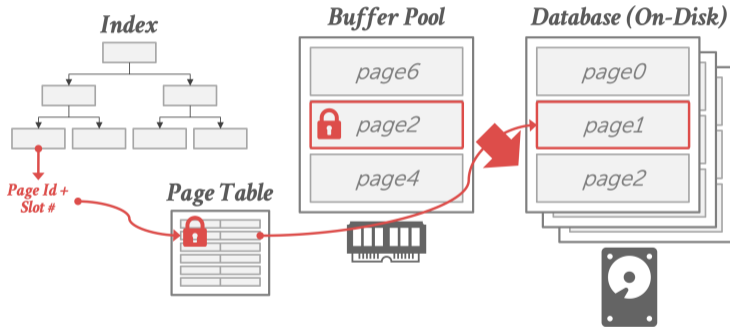
Buffer Pool

- When a query accesses a page, the DBMS checks to see if that page is already in memory:
 - ▶ If it's not, then the DBMS must retrieve it from disk and copy it into a **frame** in its buffer pool.
 - ▶ If there are no free frames, then find a page to evict.
 - ▶ If the page being evicted is dirty, then the DBMS must write it back to disk.
- Once the page is in memory, the DBMS translates any **on-disk addresses** to their **in-memory addresses**.

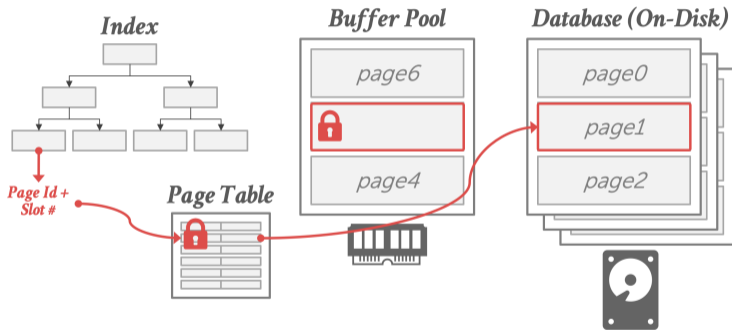
Disk-oriented DBMS: Data Organization



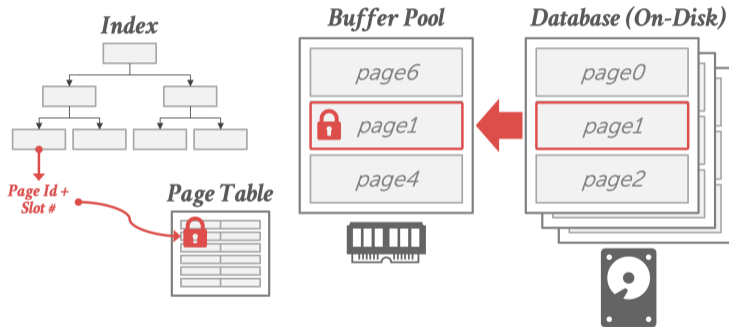
Disk-oriented DBMS: Data Organization



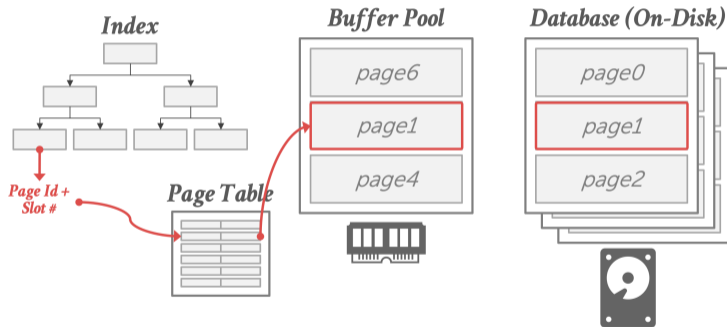
Disk-oriented DBMS: Data Organization



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Disk-oriented DBMS: Data Organization

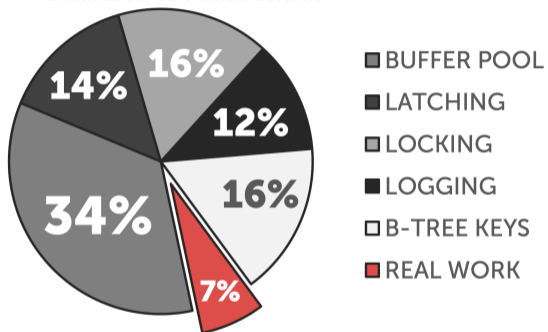


Buffer Pool

- Every tuple access goes through the buffer pool manager regardless of whether that data will always be in memory.
 - ▶ Always translate a tuple's record id to its memory location.
 - ▶ Worker thread must pin pages that it needs to make sure that they are not **swapped to disk**.

Disk-Oriented DBMS Overhead

Measured CPU Instructions



Reference

In-memory DBMS

- Assume that the primary storage location of the database is permanently in memory.
- Early ideas proposed in the 1980s but it is now feasible because DRAM prices are low and capacities are high.
- First commercial in-memory DBMSs were released in the 1990s.
 - ▶ Examples: TimesTen, DataBlitz, Altibase

Storage Access Latencies

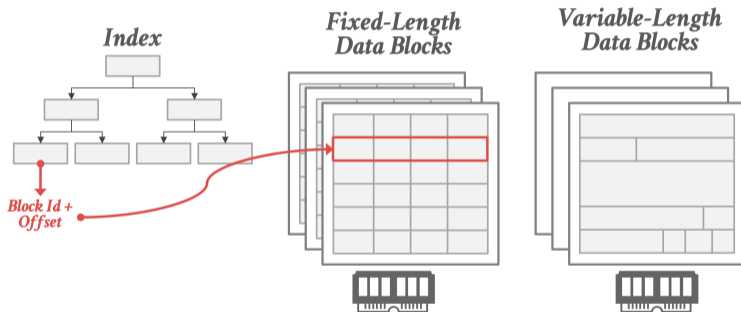
	L3	DRAM	SSD	HDD
Read Latency	20 ns	60 ns	25,000 ns	10,000,000 ns
Write Latency	20 ns	60 ns	300,000 ns	10,000,000 ns

Reference

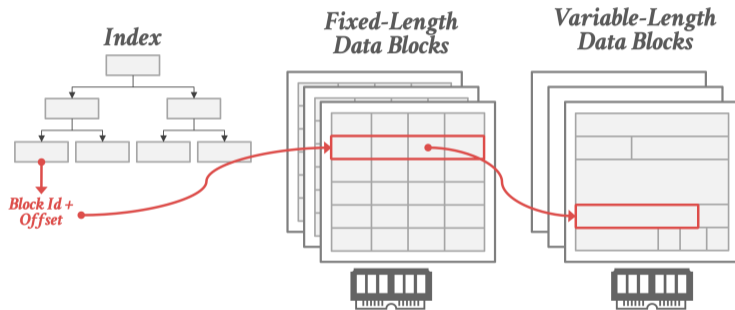
In-Memory DBMS: Data Organization

- An in-memory DBMS does **not** need to store the database in slotted pages but it will still organize tuples in pages:
 - ▶ **Direct memory pointers** vs. record ids
 - ▶ Fixed-length vs. variable-length data **memory pools**
 - ▶ Use checksums to detect software errors from trashing the database.
- The OS organizes memory in pages too. We already covered this.

In-Memory DBMS: Data Organization



In-Memory DBMS: Data Organization



Persistent Memory DBMSs

Importance of Hardware

- People have been thinking about using hardware to accelerate DBMSs for decades.
- 1980s: Database Machines
- 2000s: FPGAs + Appliances
- 2010s: FPGAs + GPUs
- 2020s: PM + FPGAs + GPUs + CSAs + More!
- [Reference](#)

Persistent Memory

- Emerging storage technology that provide low latency read/writes like DRAM, but with persistent writes and large capacities like SSDs.
 - ▶ *a.k.a.*, Non-Volatile Memory, Storage-class Memory
- First-generation devices were block-addressable
- Second-generation devices are byte-addressable

Persistent Memory

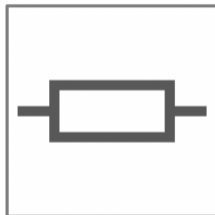
- Block-addressable Optane SSD
 - ▶ **NVM Express** works with PCI Express to transfer data to and from Optane SSDs
 - ▶ NVMe enables rapid storage in SSDs and is an improvement over older HDD-related interfaces (*e.g.*, Serial Attached SCSI (**SAS**) and Serial ATA (**SATA**))
- Byte-addressable Optane DIMMs
 - ▶ New assembly instructions and hardware support

Fundamental Elements of Circuits

Capacitor
(1745)



Resistor
(1827)



Inductor
(1831)



Fundamental Elements of Circuits

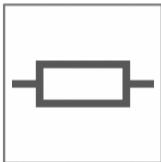
- In 1971, Leon Chua at Berkeley predicted the existence of a fourth fundamental element.
- A two-terminal device whose resistance depends on the voltage applied to it, but when that voltage is turned off it permanently remembers its last resistive state.
- Reference

Fundamental Elements of Circuits

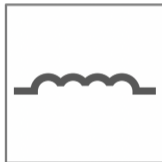
Capacitor
(1745)



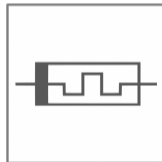
Resistor
(1827)



Inductor
(1831)



Memristor
(1971)



Memristors

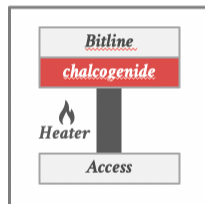
- A team at HP Labs led by Stanley Williams stumbled upon a nano-device that had weird properties that they could not understand.
- It wasn't until they found Chua's 1971 paper that they realized what they had invented.
- [Reference](#)
- [Video](#)

NVM Technologies

- Phase-Change Memory (PRAM)
- Resistive RAM (ReRAM)
- Magnetoresistive RAM (MRAM)

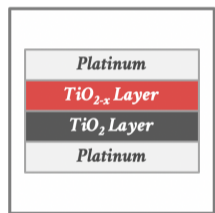
Phase-Change Memory

- Storage cell is comprised of two metal electrodes separated by a resistive heater and the phase change material (chalcogenide).
- The value of the cell is changed based on how the material is heated.
 - ▶ A short pulse changes the cell to a '0'.
 - ▶ A long, gradual pulse changes the cell to a '1'.
- Reference



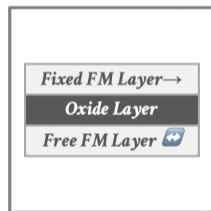
Resistive RAM

- Two metal layers with two TiO₂ layers in between.
- Running a current one direction moves electrons from the top TiO₂ layer to the bottom, thereby changing the resistance.
- Potential programmable storage fabric. . .
 - ▶ Bertrand Russell's Material Implication Logic
- Reference



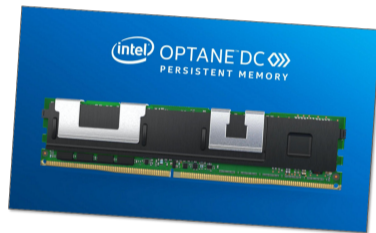
Magnetoresistive RAM

- Stores data using magnetic storage elements instead of electric charge or current flows.
- Spin-Transfer Torque (STT-MRAM) is the leading technology for this type of PM.
 - ▶ Supposedly able to scale to very small sizes (10nm) and have SRAM-like latencies. What is SRAM used for?
- Reference

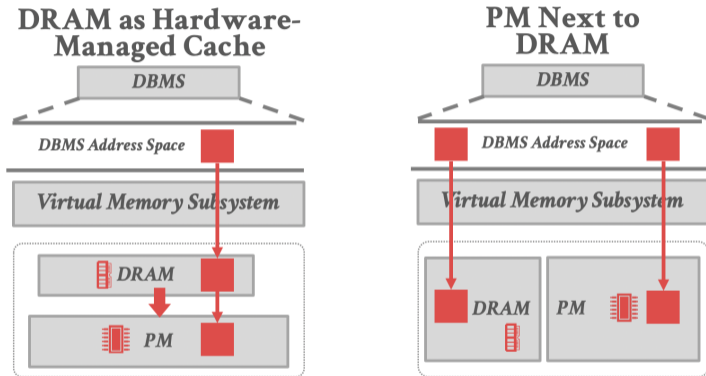


Why This is for Real

- Industry has agreed to standard technologies and form factors (JDEC).
- Linux and Microsoft added support for PM in their kernels (DAX).
- Intel added new instructions for flushing cache lines to PM (CLFLUSH, CLWB).



PM Configurations



Reference

PM for Database Systems

- Block-addressable PM is not that interesting.
- Byte-addressable PM will be a game changer but will require some work to use correctly.
 - ▶ In-memory DBMSs will be better positioned to use byte-addressable PM.
 - ▶ Disk-oriented DBMSs will initially treat PM as just a faster SSD.

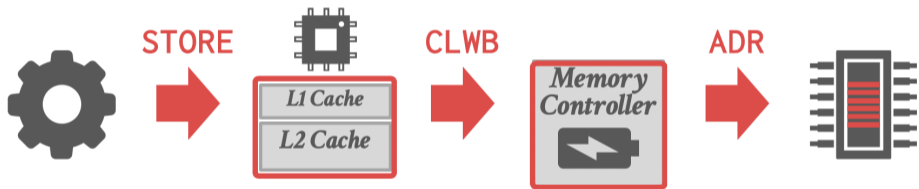
Storage & Recovery Methods

- Understand how a DBMS will behave on a system that only has byte-addressable PM.
- Develop PM-optimized implementations of standard DBMS architectures.
- Based on the **N-Store** prototype DBMS.
- **Reference**

Synchronization

- Existing programming models assume that any write to memory is non-volatile.
 - ▶ CPU decides when to move data from caches to DRAM.
- The DBMS needs a way to ensure that data is flushed from caches to PM.

Synchronization

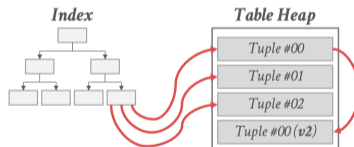


Synchronization

- Cache-line Flush (CLFLUSH)
 - ▶ This instruction allows the DBMS to flush a cache-line out to memory.
 - ▶ If that cache line contains modified data at any level of the cache hierarchy, that data is written back to memory.
- Cache-line Write Back (CLWB)
 - ▶ Writes back the cache line (if modified) to memory
 - ▶ The cache line may be retained in the cache hierarchy in non-modified state
 - ▶ Improves performance by reducing cache misses
 - ▶ CLWB instruction is ordered only by store-fencing (SFENCE) operation.
- Asynchronous DRAM Refresh (ADR)
 - ▶ In case of a power loss, there is sufficient reserve power to flush the stores pending in the memory controller back to Optane DIMM.
 - ▶ Stores are posted to the Write Pending Queue (WPQ) in the memory controller
- Reference

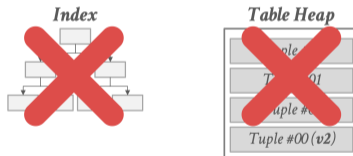
Naming

- If the DBMS process restarts, we need to make sure that all the pointers for in-memory data point to the same data.



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PM-Aware Memory Allocator

- **Feature 1: Synchronization**

- ▶ The allocator writes back CPU cache lines to PM using the CLFLUSH instruction.
- ▶ It then issues a SFENCE instruction to wait for the data to become durable on PM.

- **Feature 2: Naming**

- ▶ The allocator ensures that virtual memory addresses assigned to a memory-mapped region never change even after the OS or DBMS restarts.

Storage Engine Architectures

Storage Engine Architectures

- **Choice 1: In-place Updates**

- ▶ Table heap with a write-ahead log + snapshots.
- ▶ Example: VoltDB

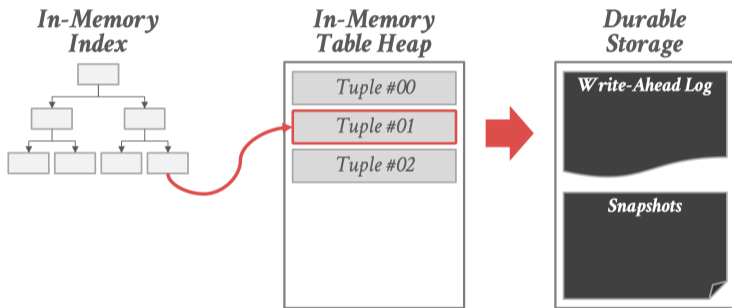
- **Choice 2: Copy-on-Write**

- ▶ Create a shadow copy of the table when updated.
- ▶ No write-ahead log.
- ▶ Example: LMDB

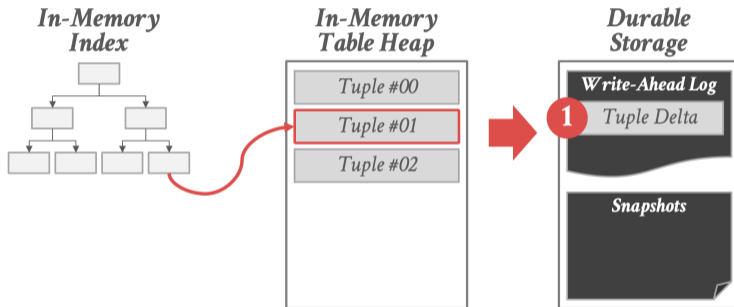
- **Choice 3: Log-structured**

- ▶ All writes are appended to log. No table heap.
- ▶ Example: RocksDB

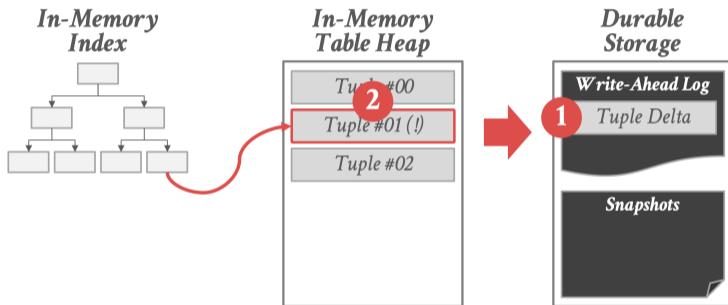
In-place Updates Engine



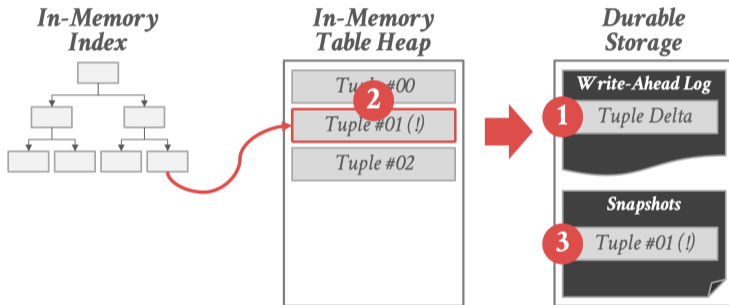
In-place Updates Engine



In-place Updates Engine



In-place Updates Engine



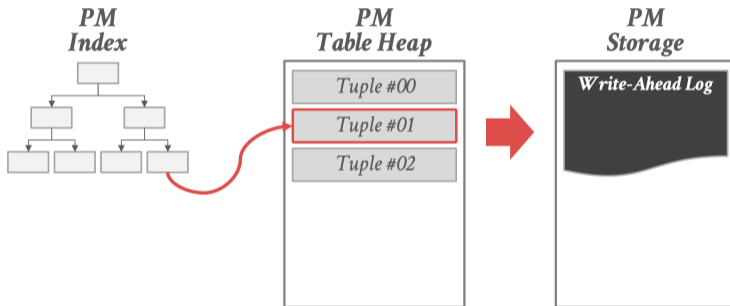
In-place Updates Engine

- Limitations
 - ▶ Duplicate Data
 - ▶ Recovery Latency

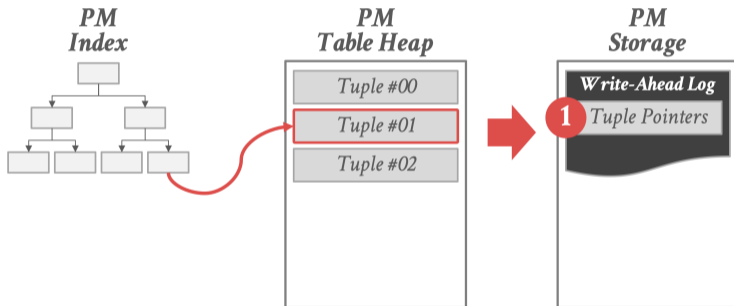
PM-Aware Architectures

- Leverage the allocator's non-volatile pointers to only record what changed rather than how it changed.
- The DBMS only must maintain a transient UNDO log for a txn until it commits.
 - ▶ Dirty cache lines from an uncommitted txn can be flushed by hardware to the memory controller.
 - ▶ No REDO log because we flush all the changes to PM at the time of commit.

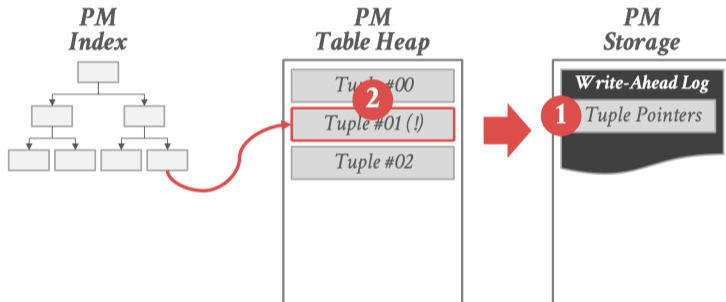
PM-Aware In-place Updates Engine



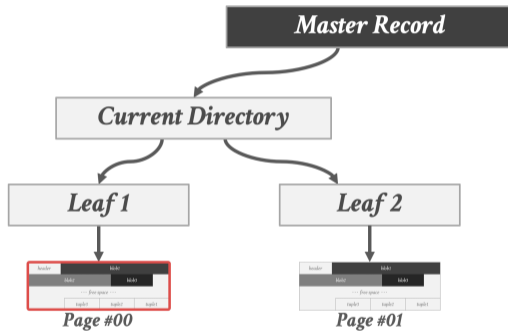
PM-Aware In-place Updates Engine



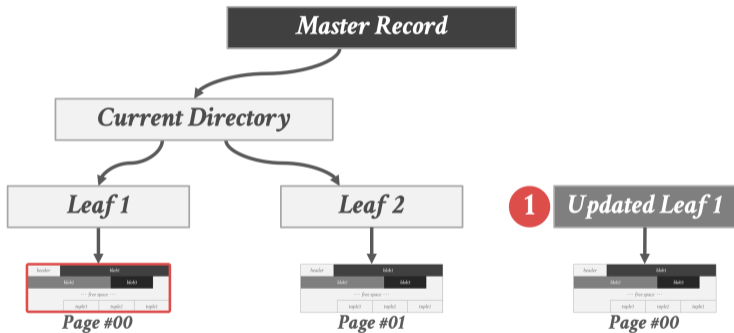
PM-Aware In-place Updates Engine



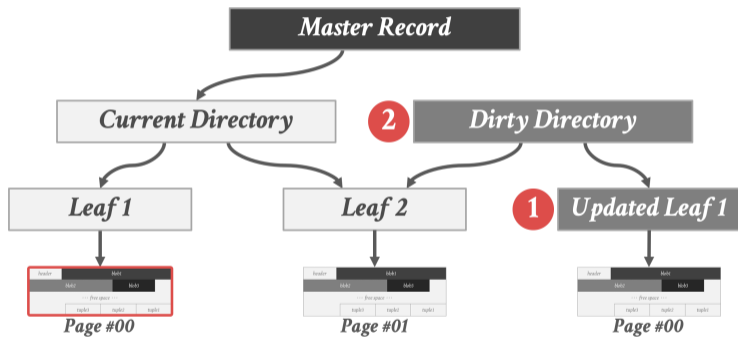
Copy-On-Write Engine



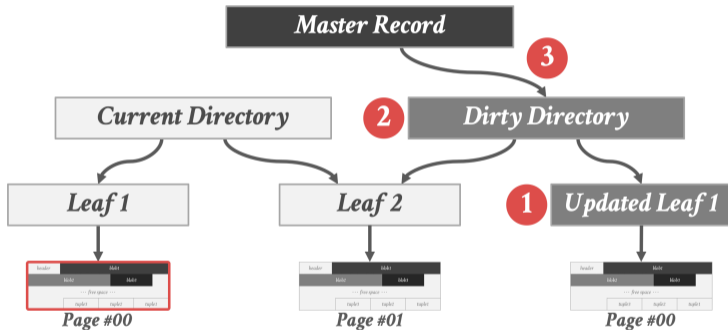
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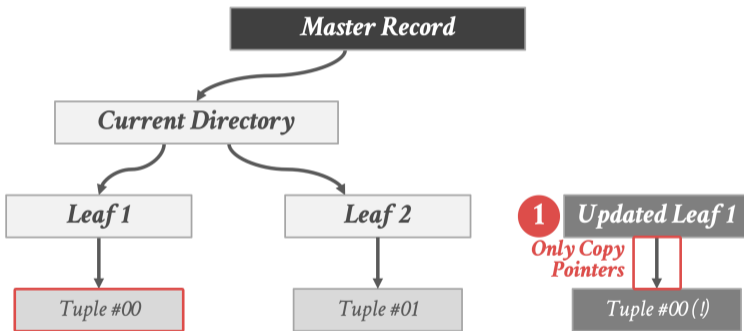
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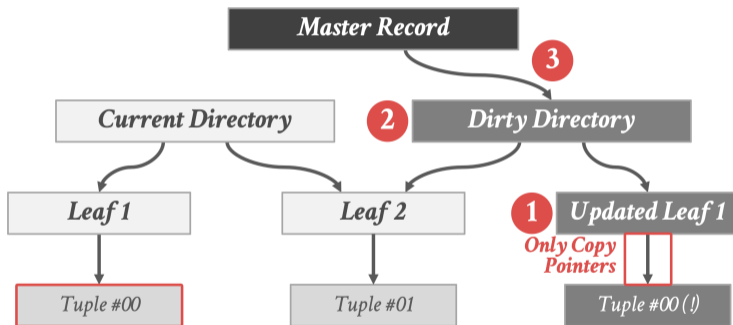
Copy-On-Write Engine

- Limitations
 - ▶ Expensive Copies

PM-Aware Copy-On-Write Engine

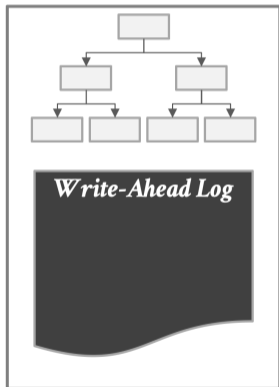


PM-Aware Copy-On-Write Engine

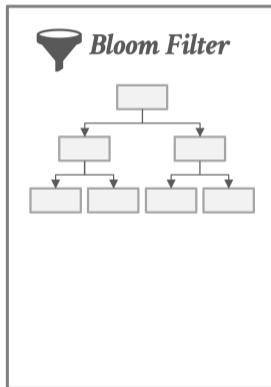


Log-Structured Engine

MemTable

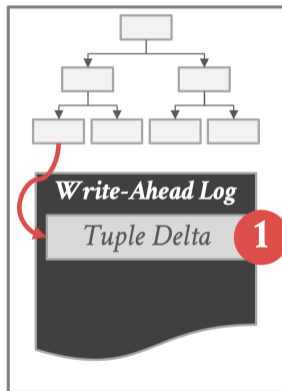


SSTable

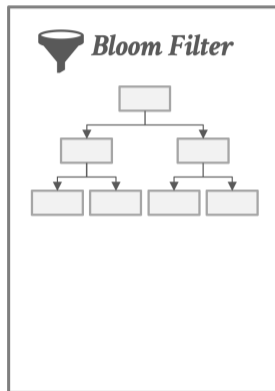


Log-Structured Engine

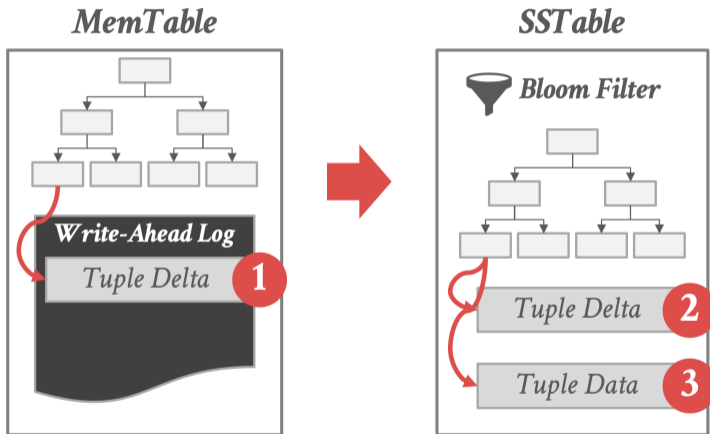
MemTable



SSTable



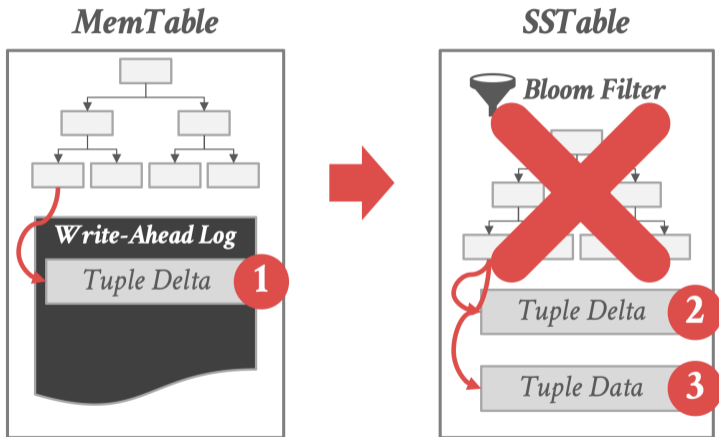
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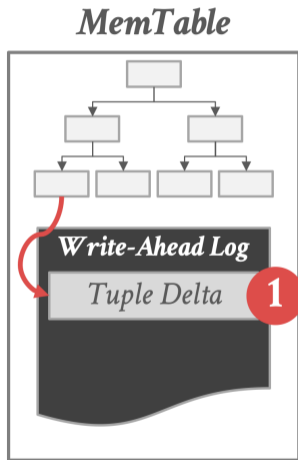
Log-Structured Engine

- Limitations
 - ▶ Duplicate Data
 - ▶ Compactions

PM-Aware Log-Structured Engine



PM-Aware Log-Structured Engine



PM Summary

- Optimization of Storage Engine Architectures
 - ▶ Leverage byte-addressability to avoid unnecessary data duplication.

Conclusion

- The design of a in-memory DBMS is significantly different than a disk-oriented system.
- The world has finally become comfortable with in-memory data storage and processing.
- Byte-addressable PM is going to be a game changer.
- We are likely to see many new computational components that DBMSs can use in the next decade.
 - ▶ The core ideas / algorithms will still be the same.

References I