

# MEMORY HIERARCHY (PART II)

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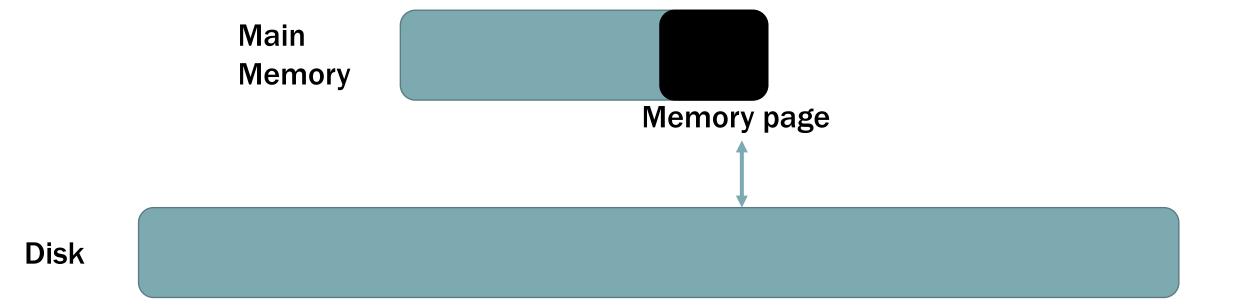
**Assistant Professor** 

# Data in Memory Hierarchy: Basic Cost Analysis



Big data cannot be fully loaded into main memory. Hence, often there are data movements between main memory and disks.

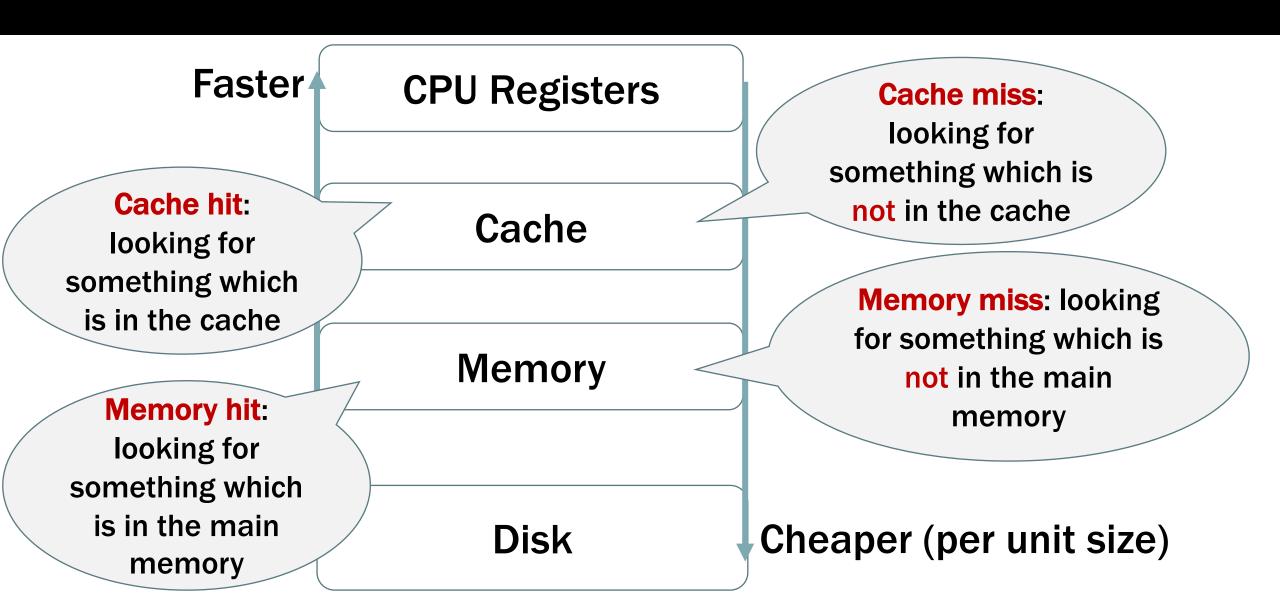
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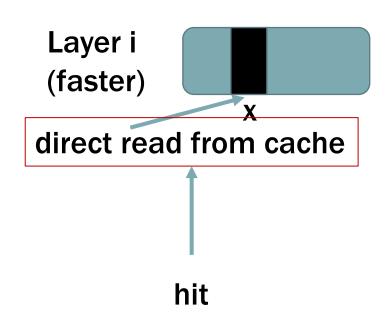


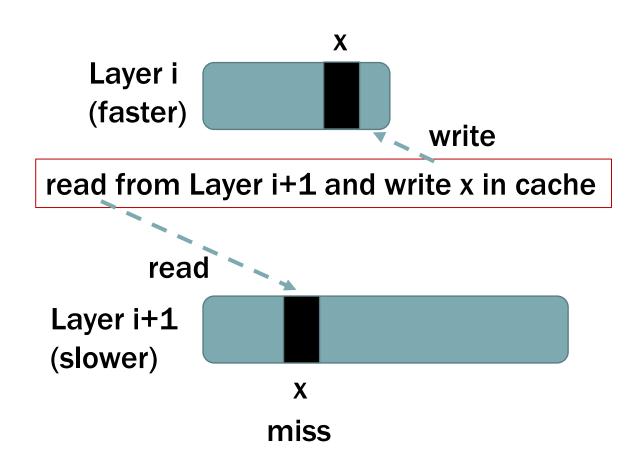
☐ We often analyze the data access cost considering two consecutive layers: Layer i and i+1. □ (Layer i, Layer i+1) can be (cache, memory) □(Layer i, Layer i+1) can also be (disk-cache, disk), where diskcache is part of memory. Layer i (smaller, faster) Layer i+1 (bigger, slower)

□Some data item in Layer i+1 has been cached in Layer i
□When reading a data item in Layer i+1, it will first check whether the data item is cached in Layer i.
□If yes, directly read the data from the faster Layer i
□If no, read the data from Layer i+1 and write the data into Layer i+1's cache (usually located in Layer i).

# CACHE HIT/MISS AND MEMORY HIT/MISS







#### Question:

Suppose a data item is located in **main memory** and can be **cached** in the **cache memory**.

- 1. accessing cache memory once incurs *cost\_access\_cache*;
- 2. accessing main memory once incurs cost\_access\_mem;
- 3. cache miss rate is  $h (0 \le h \le 1)$ .

How to estimate the cost of reading data item?

```
☐ If cache hit: cost_access_cache x (1-h)
☐ If cache miss: (cost_access_cache + cost_access_mem) x h
☐ A simplified estimation
☐ Overall: cost_access_mem_overall
```

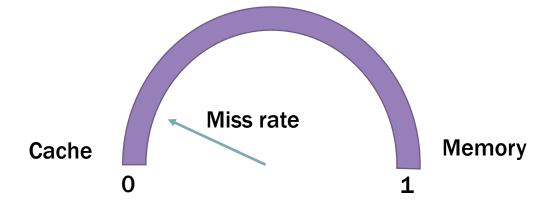
=cost access cache x (1-h) + (cost access cache + cost access mem) x h

```
Overall: cost_access_mem_overall
=cost_access_cache x (1-h) + (cost_access_cache + cost_access_mem) x h
```

- ☐ If h = 1 (cache miss rate is high), then the cost is cost\_access\_cache + cost\_access\_mem ≈ cost\_access\_mem
  - ☐ The above estimation is due to the fact that *cost\_access\_mem* is significantly higher (say, 1000x) than *cost\_access\_cache*
- ☐ If h = 0 (cache miss rate is low), then the cost is *cost\_access\_cache*

☐ Overall: cost\_access\_mem\_overall =cost\_access\_cache x (1-h) + (cost\_access\_cache + cost\_access\_mem) x h

- □ Summary
  - ☐ If cache miss rate is low, then data read performance is close to cache read performance.
  - ☐ If cache miss rate is high, then data read performance is close to memory read performance.



It is important to minimize the cache miss rate!

### Question:

Suppose data items are located in the **disk** and can be cached in **main memory** as well.

(We only consider two layers)

- 1. Accessing disk once incurs a cost of cost\_access\_disk;
- 2. Accessing main memory once incurs a cost of *cost\_access\_mem*;
- 3. Memory miss rate is  $h^*$  (0<= $h^*$ <=1).

How to estimate the cost of reading the data Item?



☐ If memory hit: cost\_access\_mem x (1-h\*)

☐ If memory miss: (cost\_access\_disk + cost\_access\_mem) x h\*

☐ Overall: cost access disk overall

=cost\_access\_mem x (1-h\*) + (cost\_access\_disk + cost\_access\_mem) x h\*

```
□ cost access disk overall =
  cost access mem x (1-h*) + (cost access disk + cost access mem) x h*
☐ If h*=1(high miss rate):
  cost access disk overall
  = cost access disk + cost access mem ≈ cost access disk
  The above step is due to the fact that cost access disk significantly larger than
  (e.g., 1000x) cost access mem
```

☐ If h\*=0: cost access disk overall = cost access mem

- □ cost\_ access \_disk\_overall = cost\_ access \_mem x (1-h\*) + (cost\_ access \_disk + cost\_ access \_mem) x h\*
- □ Summary
  - ☐ If h\*=1(high miss rate), then the read performance is close to the read performance of disk
  - ☐ If h\*=0(low miss rate), then the read performance is close to the read performance of memory.



# What about considering more than two layers?

We will see this in tutorial questions.

#### How to obtain a smaller cache miss rate?

We will see this in the coming lectures about cache conscious designs.

# Data in Memory Hierarchy: Page-based Access

### SMALLEST UNIT TRANSFERRED BETWEEN TWO LAYERS

☐ The data unit swapped between cache memory and main memory is called cache line ☐ Cache line size is usually 32, 64 and 128 bytes ☐ A cache line contains continuous memory segment Cache Memory **Cache Line** Memory

Main

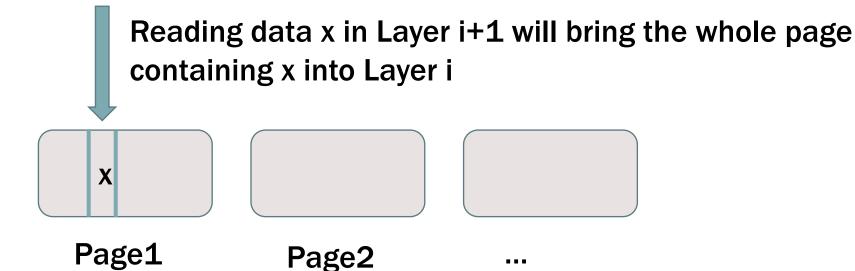
### SMALLEST UNIT TRANSFERRED BETWEEN TWO LAYERS

data unit between Layer i and Layer i+1.

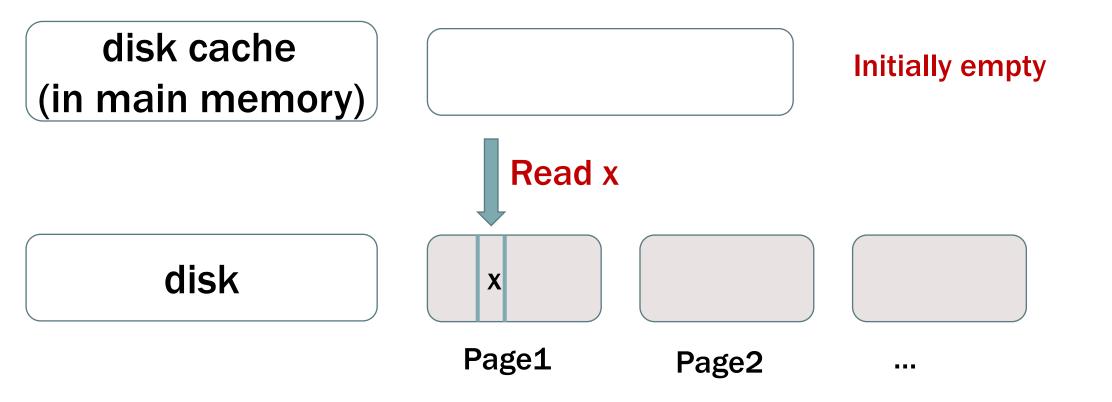
☐ The data unit swapped between cache memory and main memory is called cache line ☐ Cache line size is usually 32, 64 and 128 bytes ☐ A cache line contains continuous memory segment ☐ The data unit swapped between main memory and disk is called (memory) page. ☐ Page size is usually about 4KB ☐ A page contains continuous memory segment ☐ We use "page" as a common term to refer to the transfer

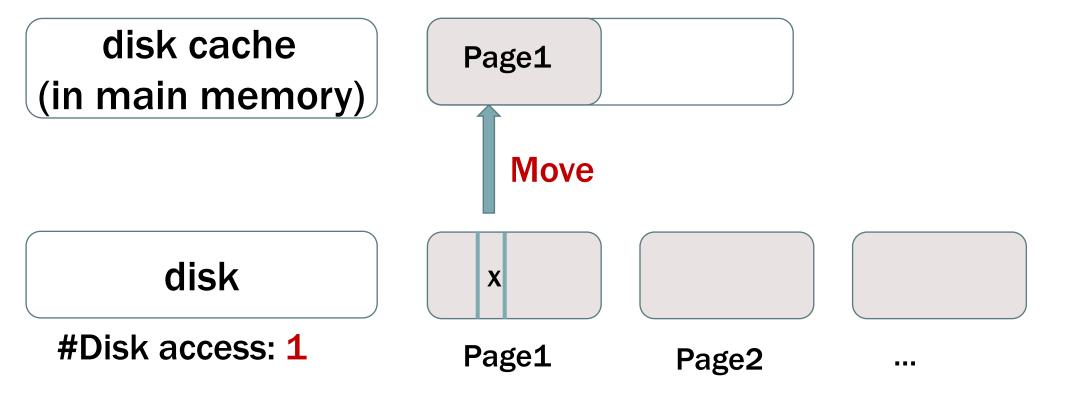
Layer i

Layer i+1



Note: A page can contain many data items.





disk cache (in main memory)

Read

disk

x
y

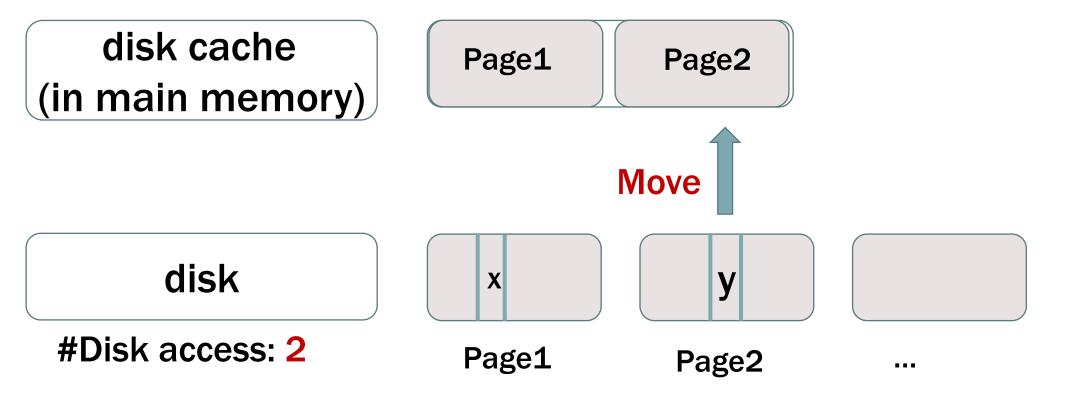
#Disk access: 1

Page1

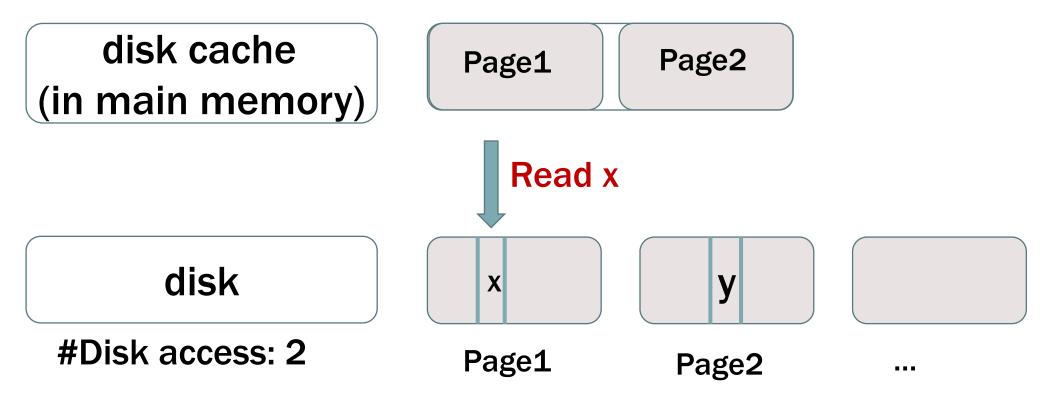
Page1

Page2

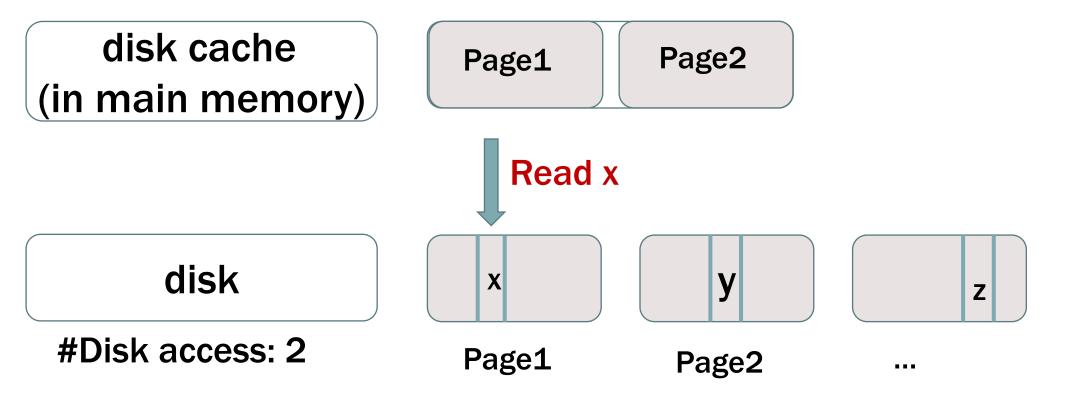
...



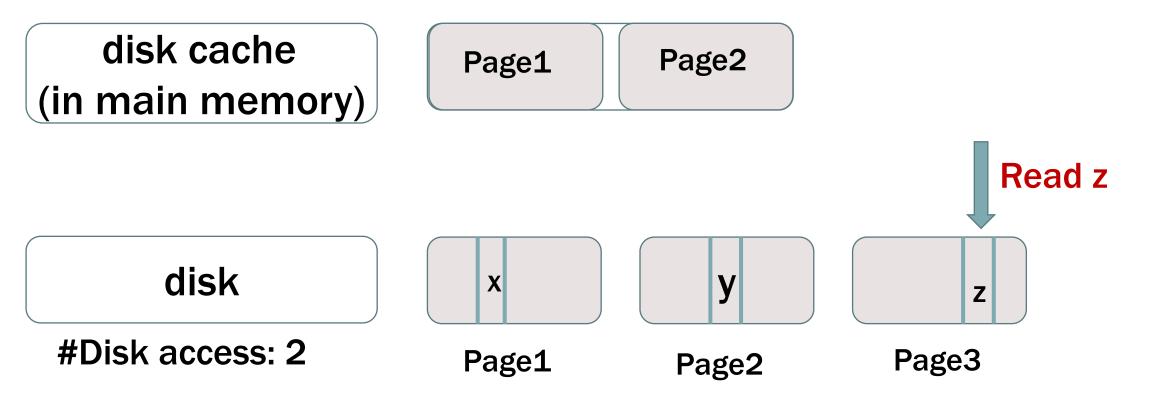
Now, if we further read x, no additional disk accesses because it is in main memory already.



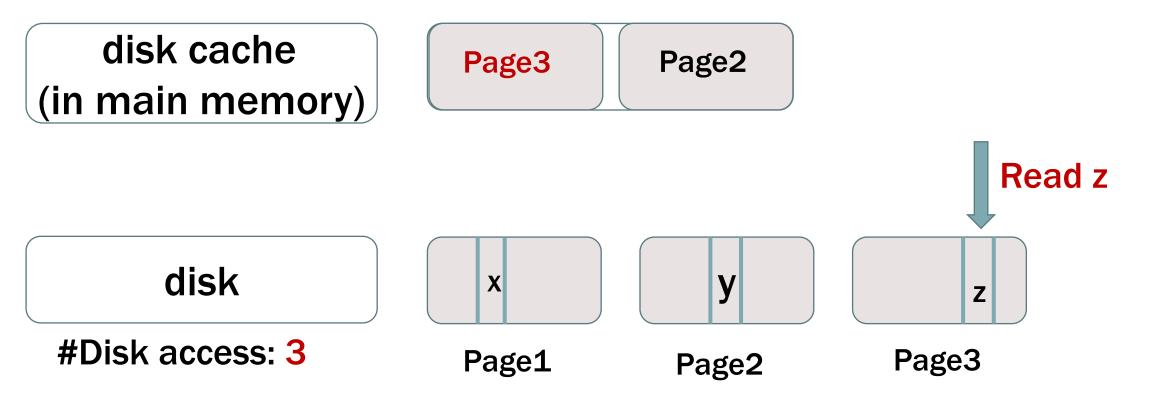
Now, what if we read the third page?



Now, what if we read the third page? Now disk cache is full.



Now, what if we read the third page? Now disk cache is full.



Query x < 4 from the following data

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 40 Bytes

(size=120 bytes)
Memory Layer i

Query x < 4 from the following data

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

**Qualified results** 

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 80 Bytes

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

Query x < 4 from the following data
Scan

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2

**Qualified results** 

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 120 Bytes

(size=120 bytes)
Memory Layer i

Query x < 4 from the following data

Scan

Qualified results

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2, 3

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

# CAN WE DO BETTER ABOUT SCANNING?

☐ Consider a cost-free magic function for the example query:

By accessing a page, the function immediately tells you the positions of qualified keys (i.e., x<4) within the page.

☐ Consider another cost-free magic function:

The function tells you which pages will contain the qualified keys (i.e., x<4).

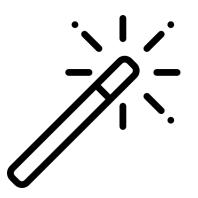
- Can we do better with such a function?
- Which one do you think is more useful?



### TRY THE FIRST MAGIC FUNCTION

☐ Consider a cost-free magic function for the example query:

By accessing a page, the function immediately tells you the positions of qualified keys (i.e., x<4) within the page.



Query x < 4 from the following data

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 40 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i



Memory Layer i+1

Magic function read

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 40 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

Memory Layer i+1

Magic function read

bring

**5**, **10**, **7**, **4**, **12** 

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 80 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes) Memory Layer i

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2

Memory Layer i+1

Magic function read

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 80 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

Qualified results

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2

Memory Layer i+1

Magic function read

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

bring

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 120 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

Qualified results

(size=120 bytes) Memory Layer i

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2, 3

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

**Magic function read** 

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 120 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes) Memory Layer i

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2, 3

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

bring

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

Magic function read

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

#### CAN WE DO BETTER ABOUT SCANNING?

☐ Consider a cost-free magic function regarding the example query:

By accessing a page, the function immediately tells you the positions of qualified keys (i.e., x<4) within the page.

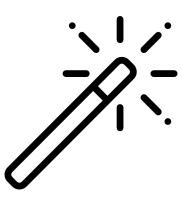
This seemingly good function does not help much. The reason is that the data movement is based on pages.

### TRY THE SECOND MAGIC FUNCTION

☐ Consider another cost-free magic function:

The function tells you **which pages** will contain the qualified keys (i.e., x<4). Can we do better with such a function?

In some situations, yes!



Query x < 4 from the following data

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 40 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes)

Memory Layer i



Magic function read Page 2

**Memory Layer i+1** 

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Page 1

Page 2

Page 3

Cost: 40 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes) Memory Layer i 2, 8, 9, 11, 7

2

bring

Memory Layer i+1

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Page 1

Page 2

Magic function read Page 2

Page 3

Each integer: 8 bytes

Cost: 80 Bytes

Query x < 4 from the following data

**Qualified results** 

(size=120 bytes) Memory Layer i 2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

2, 3

bring

Memory Layer i+1

Magic function read Page 3

5, 10, 7, 4, 12

2, 8, 9, 11, 7

7, 11, 3, 9, 8

Each integer: 8 bytes

Page 1

Page 2

Page 3

#### SUMMARY OF MAGIC FUNCTION EXERCISE

#### Take-away message

In general, if there is a magic function telling which pages locate the qualified data, and if these pages are only a subset of all pages, the read cost will be smaller than directly scanning all pages.

☐ In practice, we do not have such a magic function with a free cost. Typically, we design indexes, and put the indexes to a faster memory-layer so that its cost is minor compared with the slower memory-layer.