

Enterprise Programming 2

Lesson 04: Wrapped Responses, Errors and Pagination

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Goals

- Understand the concept of *Wrapped Responses*, and how it helps in logging/debugging of errors
- Understand and tune how Spring deals with uncaught exceptions and bean validation
- Understand how to enable *Pagination* with *Links* when dealing with requests retrieving large amounts of data

Wrapped Responses

Errors

- HTTP request can fail due to a 4xx or 5xx error
- But what was the reason?
- How to tell the user that a 400 was due to an invalid query parameter s/he provided?
- Not so great solution: provide an *error message* as a HTML body payload
- Why not so great? Need to marshal payloads in different ways based on status code...
 - ie JSON when OK, and HTML when errors

JSON Wrapped Response

```
{  
  "code": 400,  
  "status": "ERROR",  
  "data": null,  
  "message": "Invalid query parameter x"  
}  
  
{  
  "code": 200,  
  "status": "SUCCESS",  
  "data": {foo:4, bar:"a"},  
  "message": null  
}
```

Wrapping

- Instead of returning a payload directly in the HTTP body of the response, wrap it in a JSON object
- The payload will be in a field called “**data**”
- If there is any error, then “**data**” will be null, with a field “**message**” explaining reason, ie the *error message*
- Can also have fields for the status of the response (eg success vs failure/error)

Benefits

- Error message, if any, is part of the response body, easy to access
- Unmarshaling of HTTP response payload from JSON regardless of success or failure/error
 - ie, success and error responses have the same JSON structure
- Very limited overhead

Standard

- How to specify which fields to use in a wrapped response?
- This is not part of HTTP, nor something discussed in REST
- There is no “standard”
- Could use your own format for your APIs
- Or use some existing specification like *JSend*
 - <https://labs.omniti.com/labs/jsend>

Errors/Validation In Spring

Validation

- In JEE, we have seen how *@annotation* constraints could be put on the inputs of EJB beans
 - same way as on JPA @Entity
- In Spring, we can do the same, which can be useful when handling query parameters
- But Spring does not do validation by default, needs to be activated with *@Validated*
 - *org.springframework.validation.annotation.Validated*

Exceptions

- When an exception is thrown and not caught, Spring creates a 500 HTTP response
 - exceptions in your code will not crash the whole server...
- When using *Wrapped Responses*, the format used by Spring might be different from ours, so we might want to override it
- Might be cases in which we want to manually throw exceptions, which should results in 400 responses with our Wrapped format

Overriding Spring Defaults

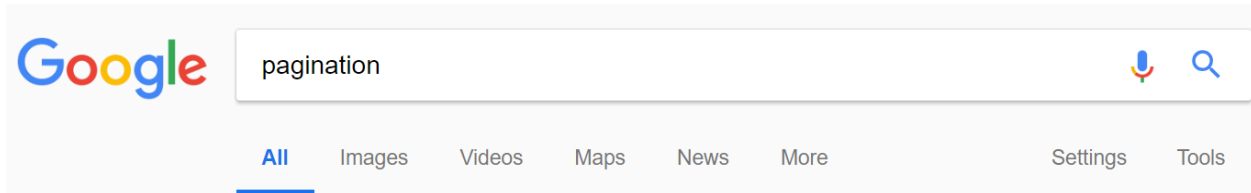
- To change how Spring deals with exceptions, we can create a bean tagged with *@ControllerAdvice*, extending *ResponseBodyExceptionHandler*
- Can have different exception handlers by using annotation *@ExceptionHandler* on different methods

Pagination

Amount of Data

- Example: **GET /news**
- Return all news in database, marshalling into JSON
- But what if the database has 2 billion news???
- You do not want to return terabytes of data for a single GET...
- It would end up in a easy to exploit Denial-Of-Service (DOS) attack

Searches



About 66,400,000 results (0.41 seconds)

[Pagination - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pagination)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pagination>

Pagination also known as **Paging** is the process of dividing a document into discrete pages, either electronic pages or printed pages. In reference to books ...

[Pagination in word ...](#) · [Pagination in print](#) · [Pagination in electronic ...](#)

[Bootstrap Pagination - W3Schools](https://www.w3schools.com/bootstrap/bootstrap_pagination.asp)

https://www.w3schools.com/bootstrap/bootstrap_pagination.asp

Basic Pagination. If you have a web site with lots of pages, you may wish to add some sort of **pagination** to each page. A basic **pagination** in Bootstrap looks like ...

[CSS Pagination Examples - W3Schools](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css3_pagination.asp)

https://www.w3schools.com/css/css3_pagination.asp

Learn how to create a responsive **pagination** using CSS. ... If you have a website with lots of pages, you may wish to add some sort of **pagination** to each page:.

[Pagination | GraphQL](https://graphql.org/learn/pagination/)

<https://graphql.org/learn/pagination/>

Pagination. Different **pagination** models enable different client capabilities. A common use case in GraphQL is traversing the relationship between sets of objects ...

[GitHub - vapor-community/pagination: Simple Vapor 3 Pagination](https://github.com/vapor-community/pagination)

<https://github.com/vapor-community/pagination>

Mar 7, 2018 - Simple Vapor 3 **Pagination**. Contribute to vapor-community/**pagination** development by creating an account on GitHub.

[GitHub - react-component/pagination: React Pagination](https://github.com/react-component/pagination)

<https://github.com/react-component/pagination>

React **Pagination**. Contribute to react-component/**pagination** development by creating an account on GitHub.

Searches related to pagination

[pagination example](#)

[pagination javascript](#)

[pagination html](#)

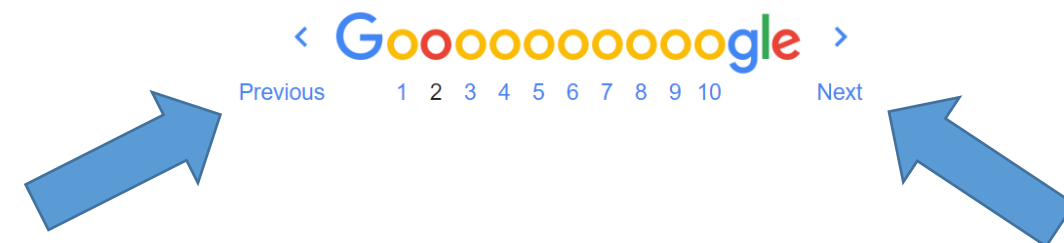
[pagination bootstrap](#)

[pagination website](#)

[pagination php](#)

[pagination design](#)

[pagination jquery](#)



Page

- Instead of billions of elements, just return a single *Page*
- A *Page* will contain n elements (eg 10 or 20) from the collection
- It will have information on the *previous* and the *next* page
- If you want, can iterate over the whole collection by checking one page at a time, following the *next* links

Two Types of Pagination

- **Offset Pagination**

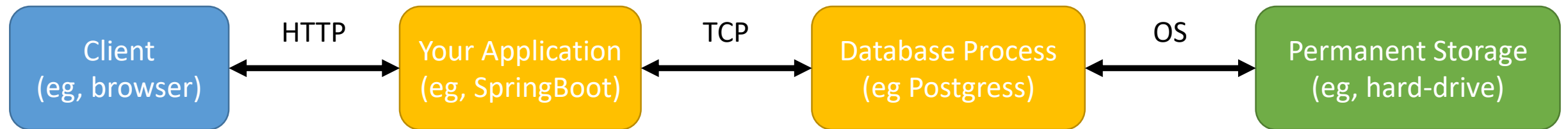
- likely the most common
- can jump directly to a specific page
- VERY INEFFICIENT, unless limited to read only a few pages from start
- issues when database is manipulated while iterating over it

- **Keyset Pagination**

- most efficient
- bit more complex to implement
- can't jump directly to a specific page, without reading previous pages
 - not a problem if we just care of “*next*” page, or jumps ahead of only few pages (eg 5-10)

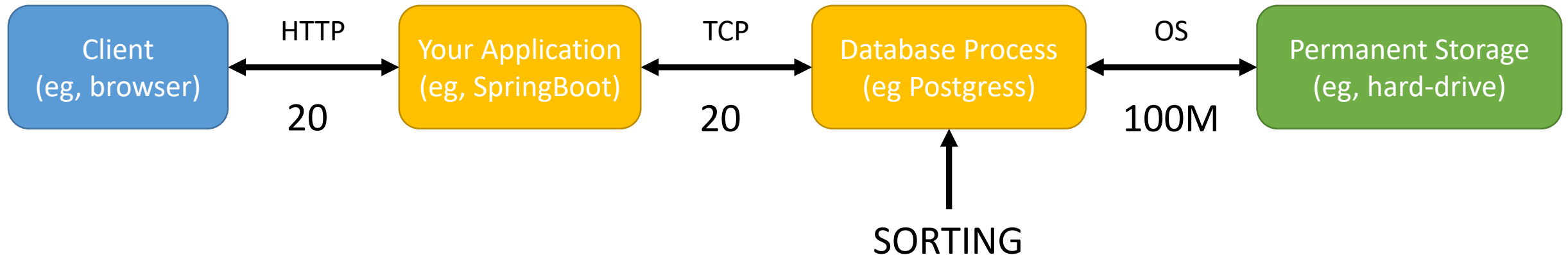
Efficiency

- Assume for example *100 millions* items in database
- Pages of small fixed size, eg $n=20$
- Data is sent through 3 steps



Ordering

- To iterate over collection of data in deterministic order, data must be sorted, eg with ORDER BY in SQL
- Sorting **MUST** be done on database, and **NOT** in the application
 - otherwise need to send all data to the application



Offset Pagination

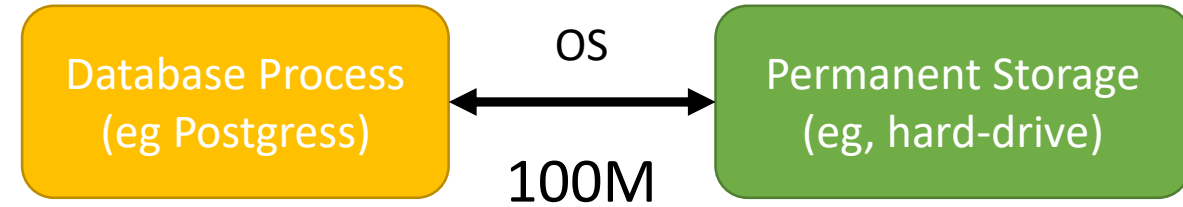
Offset/Limit

- When dealing with large collections, need a way to specify the boundaries of a *Page*
- Example: *GET /news?offset=40&limit=10*
- *Offset*: given the collection sorted like an array, this would be the starting index *i*
- *Limit*: starting from the offset, how many elements to return

Offset in SQL

- SQL has direct support for OFFSET and LIMIT
- Eg: *select * from News **ORDER BY** id desc **LIMIT 20 OFFSET 0***
- LIMIT: how many rows to return
- OFFSET: how many rows to skip before returning data
- Page: defined by OFFSET and LIMIT
 - 1st page: *LIMIT 20 OFFSET 0*
 - 2nd page: *LIMIT 20 OFFSET 20*
 - 3rd page: *LIMIT 20 OFFSET 40*
 - *etc.*

Why Inefficient?



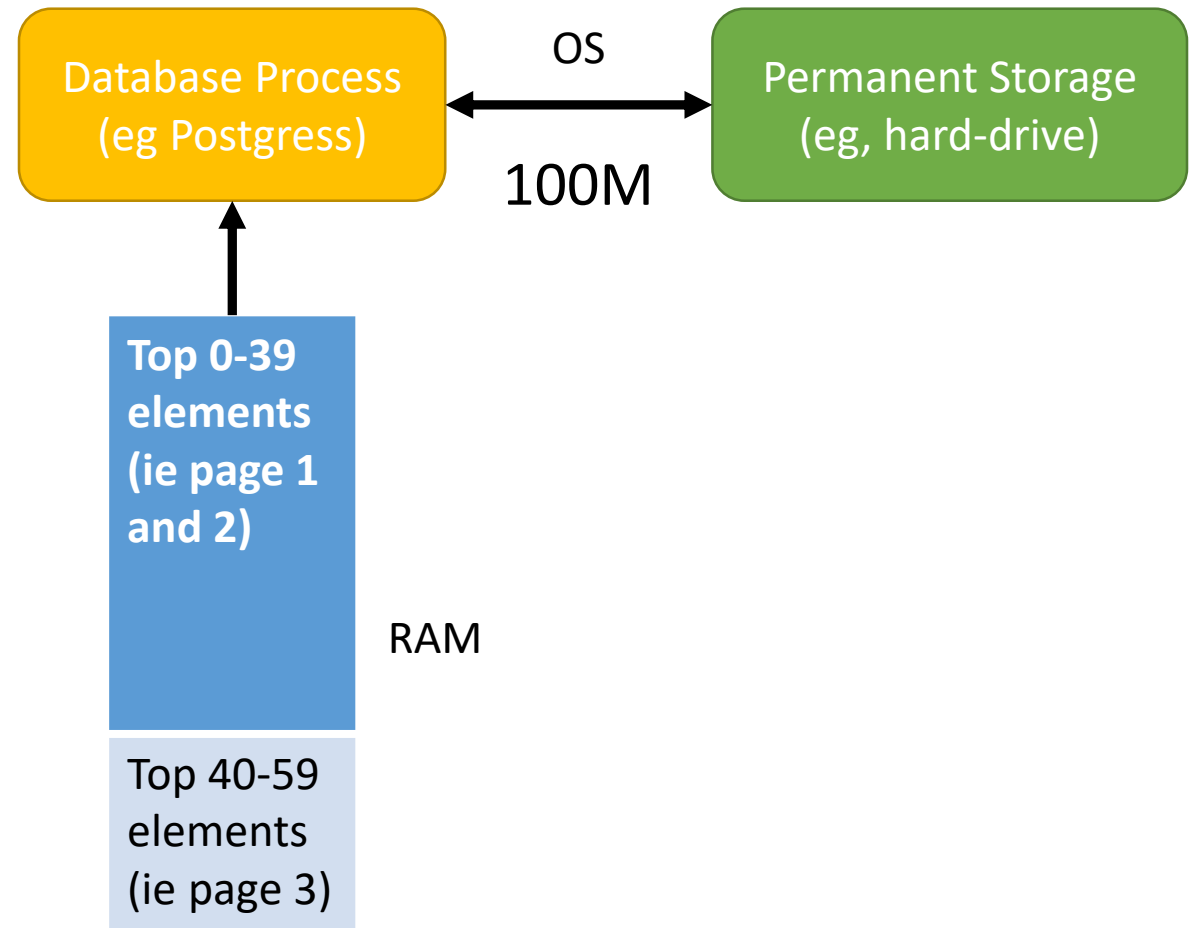
- To read page N, need to know the previous N-1 pages to skip
- To be able to sort, database has to keep a buffer of size OFFSET+LIMIT (which represent all pages till N)
- Have to read all data (eg 100M rows), but for sorting no need to keep in RAM all of that, as at most returning LIMIT rows
- If sorting on descending ID, only need to keep track of highest $K=OFFSET+LIMIT$ ids
 - if when reading new row out of 100m, no need to store it in RAM if id smaller than the smallest in current K buffer

Reading Pages

- First page is fast: only 20 rows in RAM, which are fast to sort
- N th page requires a buffer of $20 * N$, which needs to be sorted to determine the first $N-1$ pages to skip
 - recall that sorting has complexity $O(n \log n)$
- Last page? Database (eg Postgres) has to keep in RAM 100m rows, and sort them, to decide which are the first $n-1$ pages to skip
 - if reading first page could take just a few *milliseconds*, reading last page could take *minutes*...
- **The higher the page number, the slower it will be**

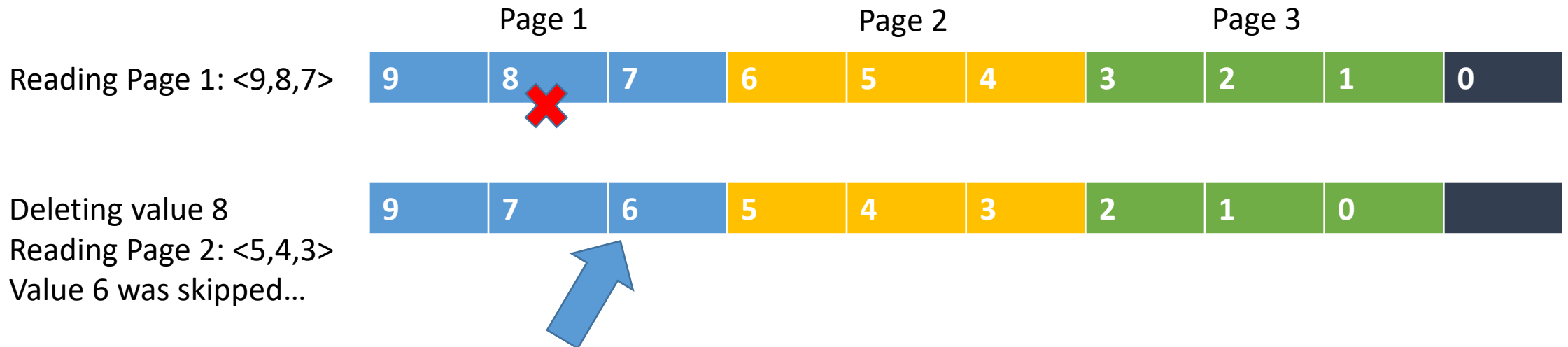
Ex. Reading Page 3

- OFFSET=40, LIMIT=20
- Only need a buffer B of size 60, and sort 60 elements
- If in current B the lowest id is X , then ignore all elements read from storage with id lower than X , as anyway impossible it will be part of the top 60
- Even if returning top 40-59, still need to determine which are the top 0-39 😞

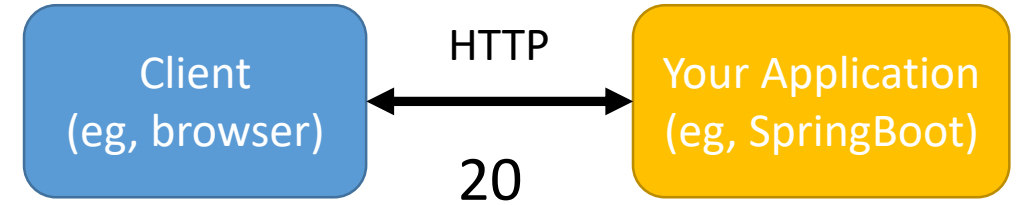


Problem: Database Modifications

- *Question:* what if, after reading Page 1, someone else does a DELETE of an element in first page?
- *Answer:* an element will be skipped when reading Page 2
- Eg, assume page size $n=3$, and someone removes id 8



Links



- Database data will be converted into JSON, to send over HTTP to the client
- To access the next/previous pages, client could compute the needed offsets/limits
- Or, we could just provide valid URLs in the JSON responses with “*links*” to those pages
- This is an instance of HATEOAS
 - *Hypermedia as the Engine of Application State*
- Easier to navigate

```
dto = { "list": [ ... ],    //the actual payload  
       "rangeMin": 40,  
       "rangeMax": 49,    //so, 10 element pages  
       "totalSize": 66400000,  
       "_links":[  
           "next": {"href": "/news?offset=50&limit=10"},  
           "self": {"href": "/news?offset=40&limit=10"},  
           "previous" : {"href": "/news?offset=30&limit=10"},  
       ]  
}
```

Standard

- There is no official standard to define pages and links
- In the past, there were some attempts like HAL, but they look like abandoned

Keyset Pagination

Goal: Performance

- Given a page of size N , cost of reading it should be constant
 - ie, reading last page should not take much, much more time than first
- Deleting items in read pages should not impact the reading of the next pages

SQL WHERE on Last Read Item

- Assume sorting by ID in descending order
- Page 1: *select * from News **ORDER BY** id desc **LIMIT** 3*
- Page 2: *select * from News **ORDER BY** id desc **LIMIT** 3 **WHERE** id < 7*
 - 7 is the id of lowest item in previous page
- Page 3: *select * from News **ORDER BY** id desc **LIMIT** 3 **WHERE** id < 4*

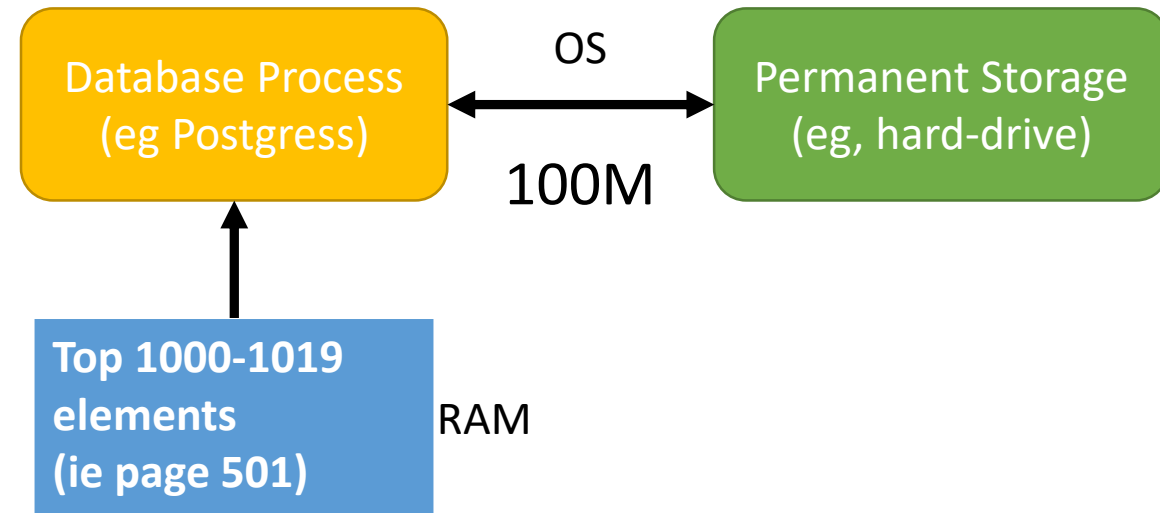


Downside

- To read page N , we first must read the previous $N-1$ pages, to know lowest id of page $N-1$
 - can't jump directly to a specific page, but no problem if we iterate over them in order
- Need to keep track of last read item
 - all of its columns involved in the ORDER BY, more on this later...

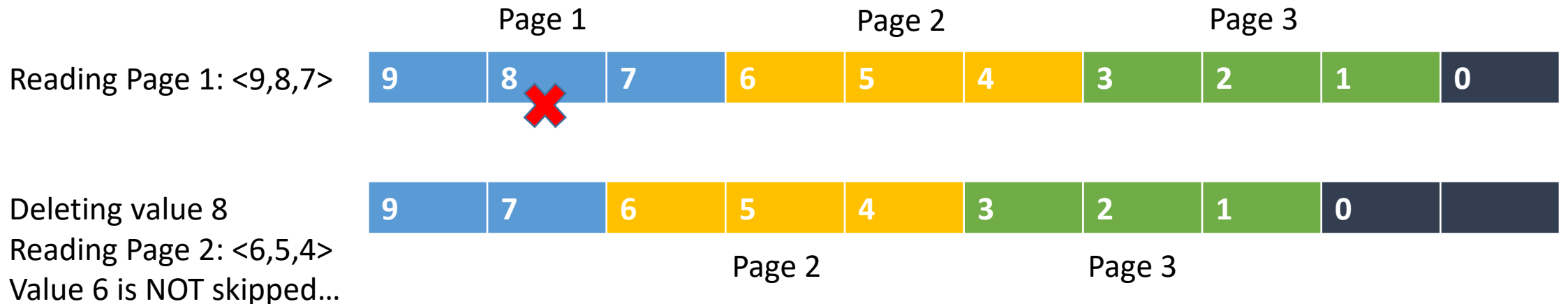
Benefit 1: Performance

- Example, $N=20$, reading Page 501
- Assume read all previous pages, where X is lowest id in Page 500
- Keep buffer B of only size 20
- No need to keep track of top 1-1000, as “*WHERE id < X*” takes care of it



Benefit 2: Data Consistency

- *Question:* what if, after reading Page 1, someone else does a DELETE of an element in first page?
- *Answer:* no problem!
- Eg, assume page size $N=3$, and someone removes id 8
- Due to “*WHERE id < 7*”, the value 6 is not skipped when reading Page 2

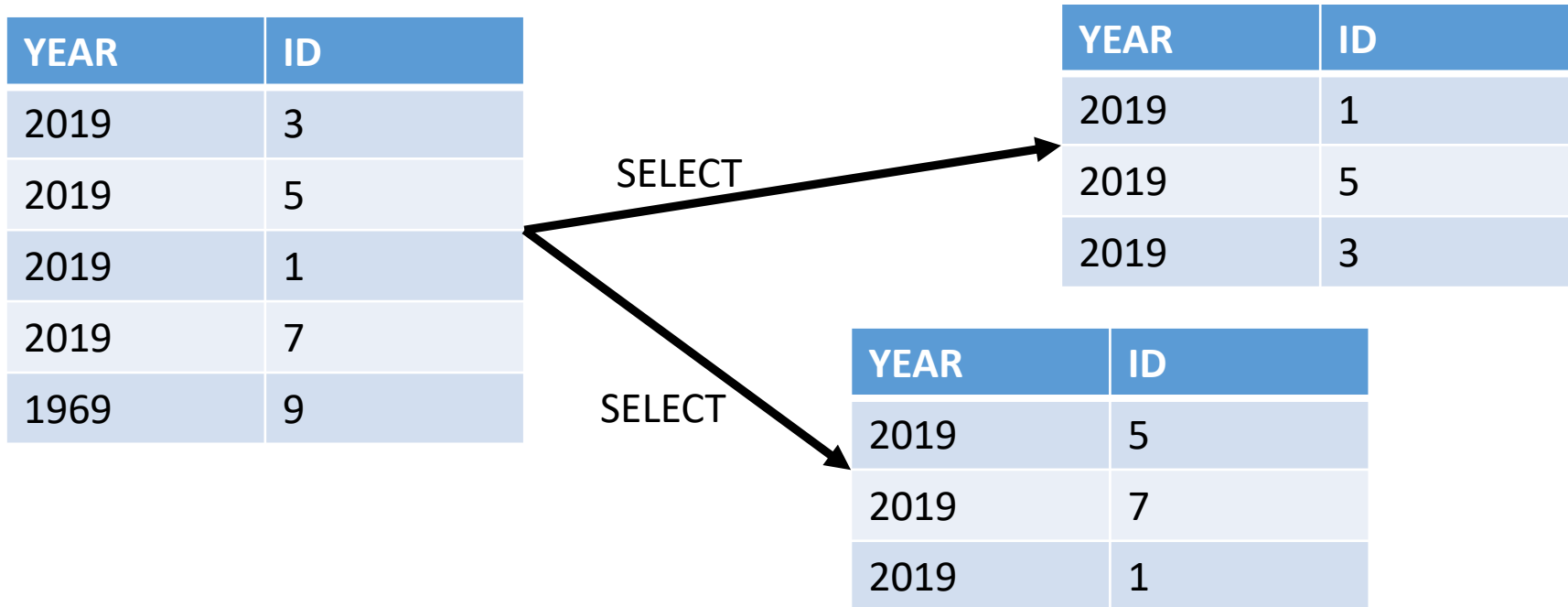


Multi-Column Ordering

- There might be different ways to order data
 - eg, posts in a discussion forum sorted in chronological order
- Ordering MUST be *deterministic* and *strict*
 - no 2 elements must be equal for the ordering relations
 - otherwise, multiple SELECTs on different pages could give inconsistent results if the actual returned values are in different order when equivalent
- Given some properties (eg Time) which do not guarantee strictness (ie 2 or more elements with same value), can sort by a unique second parameter (eg, the primary key) when ties

Example

- Books sorted only by YEAR in the ORDER BY
- Asking for first page twice could give 2 totally different sets
 - reading 2nd page then could lead to re-read some rows while skipping some others
- *SELECT * from Book order by YEAR desc limit 3*



Fixing Ordering

- If ordering is strict, then 2 SELECTs will have exactly same result
- *SELECT * from Book order by YEAR desc, ID desc limit 3*

YEAR	ID
2019	3
2019	5
2019	1
2019	7
1969	9

SELECT

YEAR	ID
2019	7
2019	5
2019	3

What About 2nd Page?

- IF WHERE only based on YEAR, we could lose data when iterating
- WHERE must be based on all columns in the ORDER BY
- *SELECT * from Book order by YEAR desc, ID desc limit 3 **where YEAR < 2019***
- The row <2019,1> would be wrongly skipped

YEAR	ID
2019	3
2019	5
2019	1
2019	7
1969	9

SELECT

YEAR	ID
1969	9

Fix: Handle Matches in WHERE

- Last element in first page: <2019,3>
- Page 2: *SELECT * from Book order by YEAR desc, ID desc limit 3 where **YEAR < 2019 or (YEAR = 2019 and ID < 3)***

YEAR	ID
2019	3
2019	5
2019	1
2019	7
1969	9

SELECT

YEAR	ID
2019	1
1969	9

JSON Marshalling

- In dto, can simply have a “*next*” link URL
- Need 2 query parameters to keep track of last item in current page

```
dto = {  
    “list”: [ ... ],    //the actual payload  
    “next”: “/books?keysetId=3&keysetYear=2019”  
}
```

Data Expansion

Expansion

- A “*news*” might have a *list* of “*comments*”
- A “*news*” might also have a *list* of “*users*” that liked it
- When retrieving a single item, might not want to download as well the hundreds/thousands of other items related to it
- As returning those lists can be very expensive, can have special query parameters to choose if downloaded or not
- Eg.: *GET /news?expand=NONE* (no lists)
- Eg.: *GET /news?expand=COMMENTS* (include comments)

Tradeoff

- Option 1: never return those lists
 - But, then, need further HTTP calls to retrieve those lists if needed
- Option 2: create “*expand*” query parameters to control what returned
 - Good: can return everything needed in a single HTTP request
 - Bad: needs to implement all the needed cases *manually*
- *GraphQL*: a selling point compared to REST is its ability to exactly specify what to return
 - we will see GraphQL later in the course

Git Repository Modules

- *NOTE: most of the explanations will be directly in the code as comments, and not here in the slides*
- **advanced/rest/wrapper**
- **advanced/rest/rest-dto**
- **advanced/rest/exception-handling**
- **advanced/rest/rest-exception**
- **advanced/rest/pagination**
- **advanced/rest/gui-v2**
- Study relevant sections in *RESTful Service Best Practices*
- Study relevant sections in RFC-7230 and RFC-7231