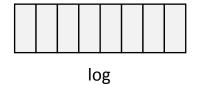


- in-memory buffer that temporarily stores the incoming writes
- self-balancing binary search tree (e.g. red-black tree)

memory disk

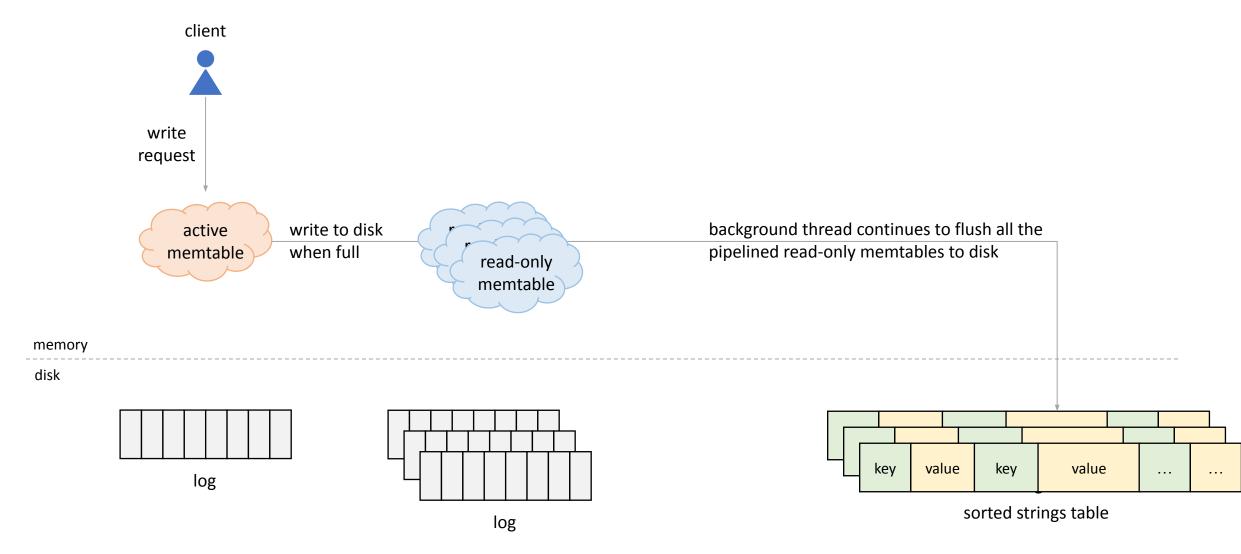




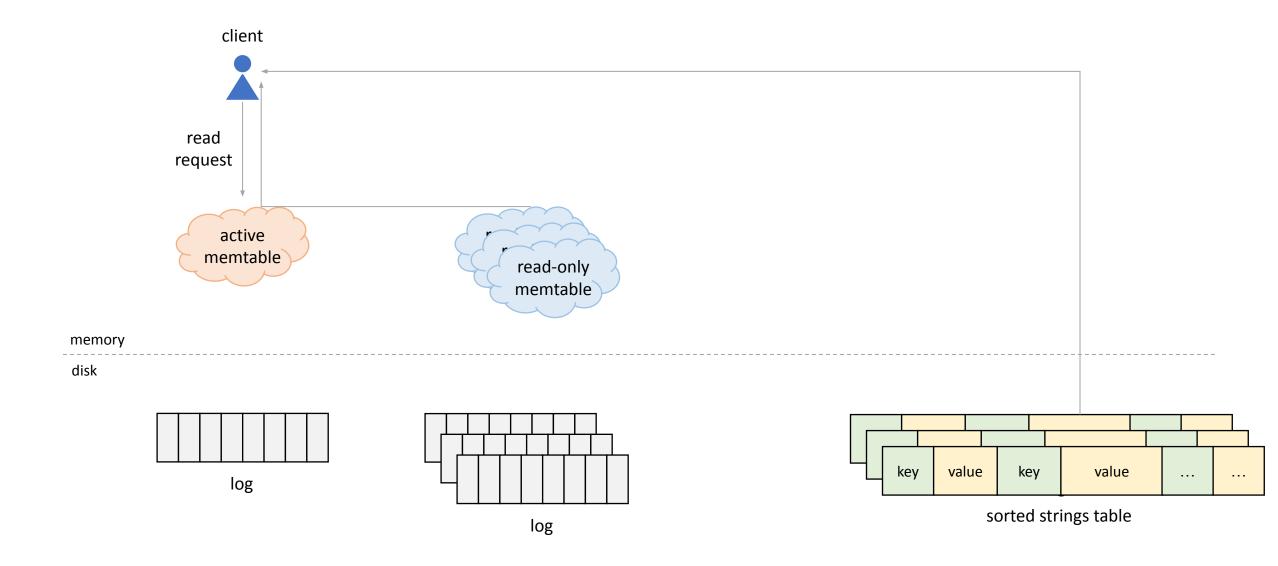
sorted strings table

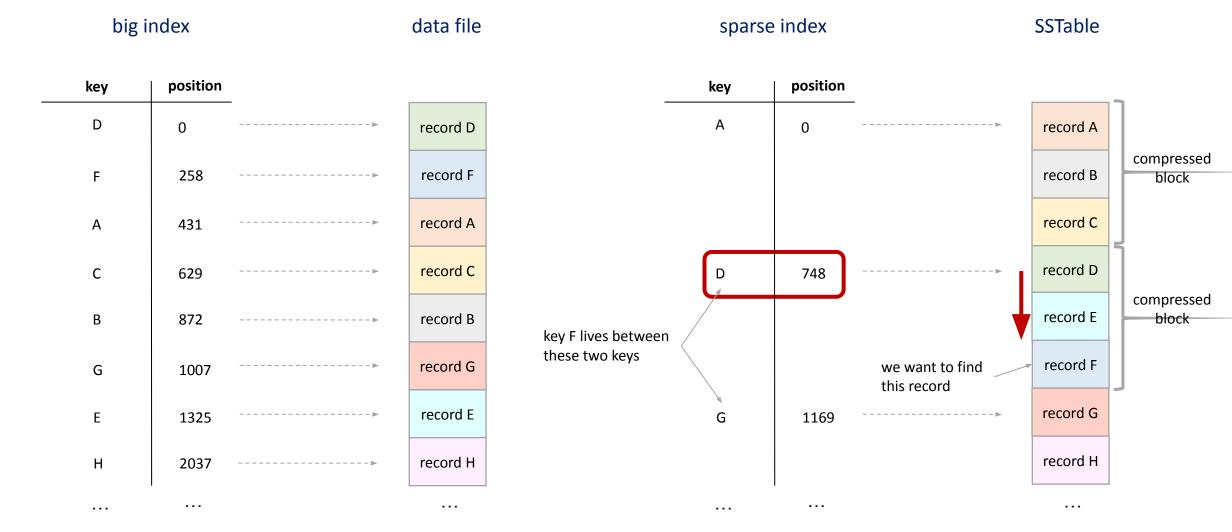
- write-ahead log (append-only file that captures every write)
- used to restore the memtable after a database crash

• file of key-value pairs sorted by keys



log files are archived when the memtable is flushed out to disk





- 1. run binary search for the key F
- 2. scan records one by one to find the key F

