

Two Types of GraphQL Pagination: Offset and Cursor

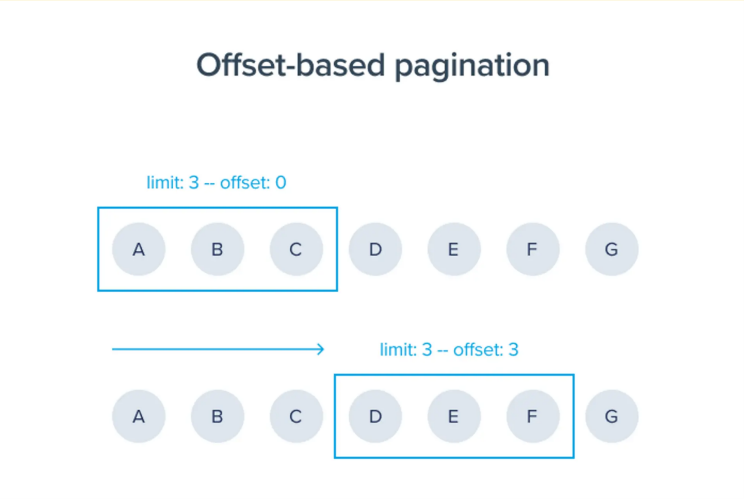
There are multiple ways to achieve pagination, but most APIs use one of two patterns:

GraphQL Offset-based pagination

- Simpler
- Easier to implement
- Less robust, especially with rapidly changing data

GraphQL Cursor-based pagination

- More complex
- More robust, less repeated data on paging
- Supports bi-directional pagination
- Provides valuable fields to improve UX ('totalCount', 'hasNextPage', 'hasPreviousPage')

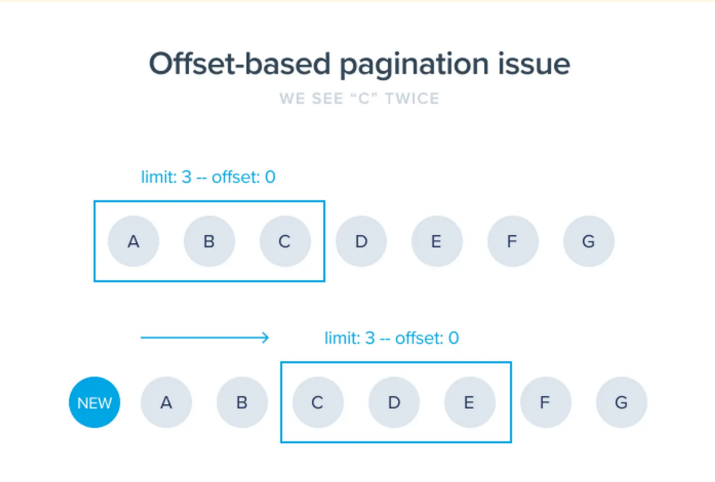


Pro

Very simple to implement

Cons

- repeated data in certain situations specially if you add a new row while paging
- No way to retrieve the last page (this is a commonly desired feature for table views of data)
- No way to know if there are more pages (for disabling the next page button)
- No way to know the total number of items



Offset-based is preferable where, for example:

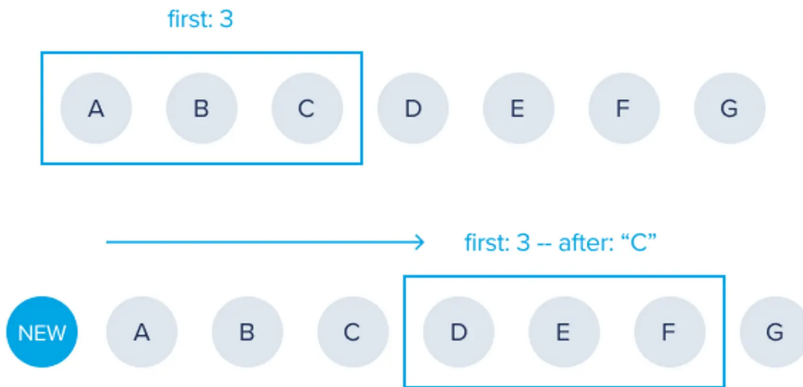
- You want to keep your app development simple
- Data doesn't change very often, or seeing duplicates is not a deal breaker
- You need to retrieve (ie., skip to) a specific page at the start

courses \longrightarrow find() -> limit
it to passed
limit
 \downarrow
limit,offset

Relay - styled

Cursor-based pagination solution

RELATIVE TO CURSOR, NOT TO START OF LIST



Pro

- provides a lot more data which can be helpful for UX
- Supports reverse pagination
- Pagination is relative to specific rows to avoid issues around dynamic data

Cons

- More verbose than Offset-based pagination
- Results in larger and more nested queries
- No way to grab an arbitrary page to start (for example, you can't start on page 3, you need to get each page to retrieve the cursors)

cursor-based is preferred where:

- Your lists are dynamic, changing often (e.g., a newsfeed)
- Users want to navigate back and forth, or jump to the very first or last page
- You want a professional pagination experience (i.e., no duplicate entries, additional data like total entries/pages, etc.)

Http - Stateless Protocol

