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The bottleneck of external sorting is to merge the records from input buffers to the output buffers.

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Polyphase merge is a method for speeding up k-way merge in external sorting.

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Replacement selection is a method for generating longer runs in external sorting.

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For the purpose of parallel operations, we need 2k input buffers and 2 output buffers for a k-way merge.

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答案正确: 1分

For a k-way merge in external sorting, the primary reason for k not assuming a large value is that:

- A. the I\O time would increase
- \circ B. k has to be a finite integer
- O. C. during merging, the number of comparisons would increase
- \circ D. k is bounded above by the number of runs

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Suppose we only have 2 tapes, T_a and T_b , to do external sorting. Suppose that the data which has N records is initially on T_a . Suppose further that the internal memory can hold (and sort) M records at a time. A simple algorithm works as the following:

- Step 1: read M records at a time from T_a , sort the records internally, and then write the sorted records to T_b
- Step 2: read M records at a time from T_a , sort the records internally, and merge them with sorted records from T_b , and write them (2M records) to T_a
- $\bullet \ \ \text{Step 3: read } M \ \text{records from } T_a \text{, sort them internally, and merge them with sorted } 2M \ \text{records from } T_a \text{, and write them } (3M \ \text{records}) \ \text{to } T_b \text{.}$

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until all the records are sorted. This algorithm will require _ passes.

- \circ A. $\lceil N/M \rceil$
- \circ B. logN
- ${}^{\odot}$ C. $log_M N$
- $\quad \ \, \circ \,\, \mathrm{D.} \,\, \lceil log(N/M) \rceil \\$