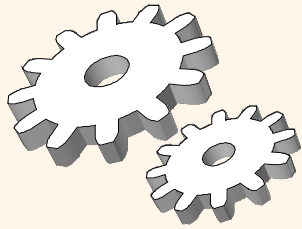
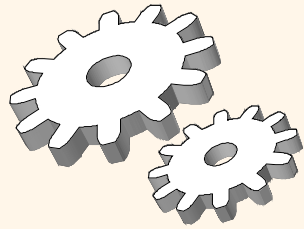


External Sorting

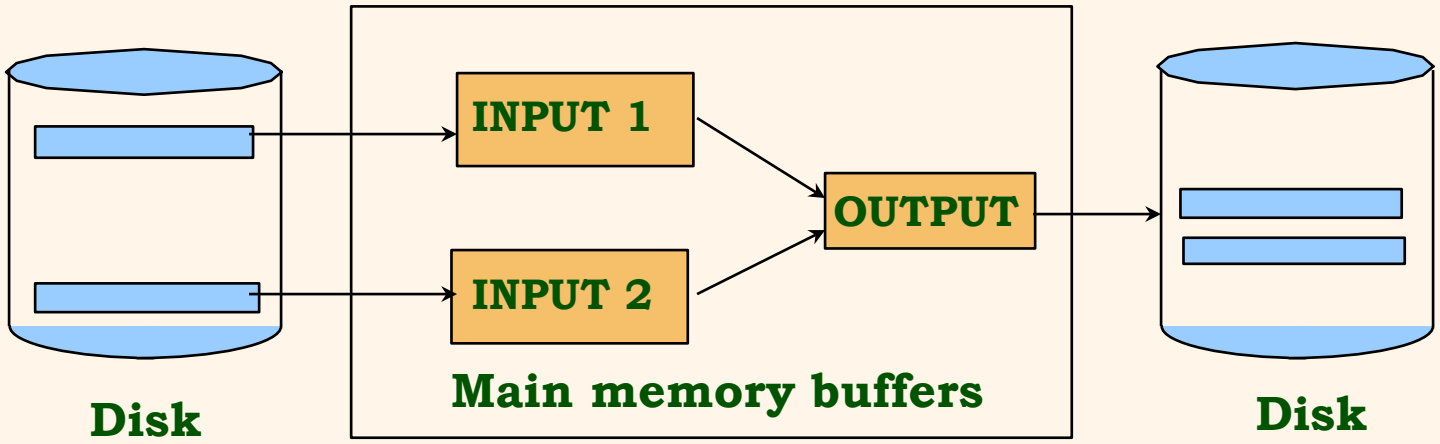
Why Sort?



- A classic problem in computer science!
- Data requested in sorted order
  - e.g., find students in increasing *gpa* order
- Sorting is first step in *bulk loading* B+ tree index.
- Sorting useful for eliminating *duplicate copies* in a collection of records (Why?)
- *Sort-merge* join algorithm involves sorting.
- Problem: sort 1Gb of data with 1Mb of RAM.
  - why not virtual memory?

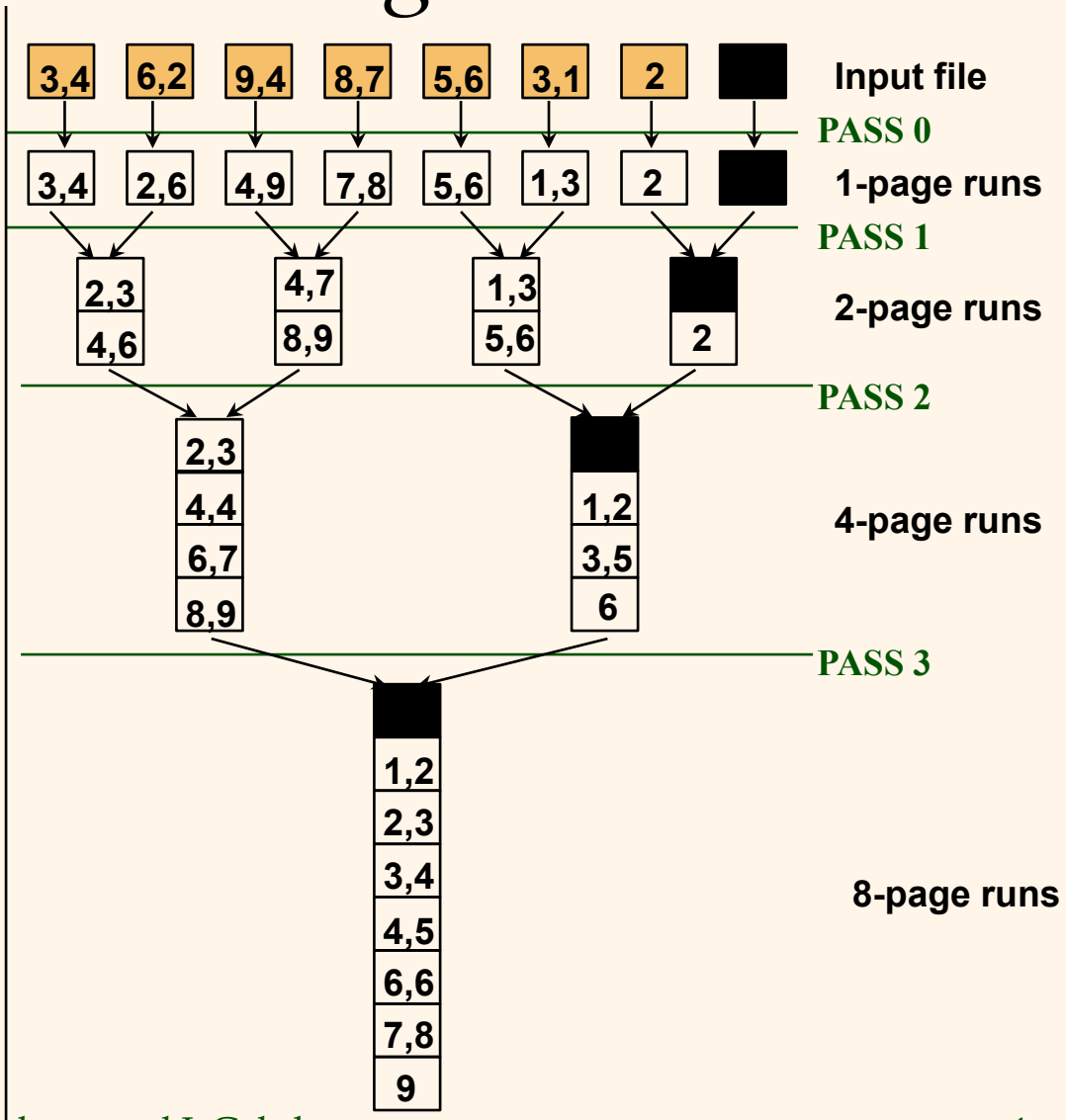
2-Way Sort: Requires 3 Buffers

- Pass 1: Read a page, sort it, write it.
  - only one buffer page is used
- Pass 2, 3, …, etc.:
  - three buffer pages used.



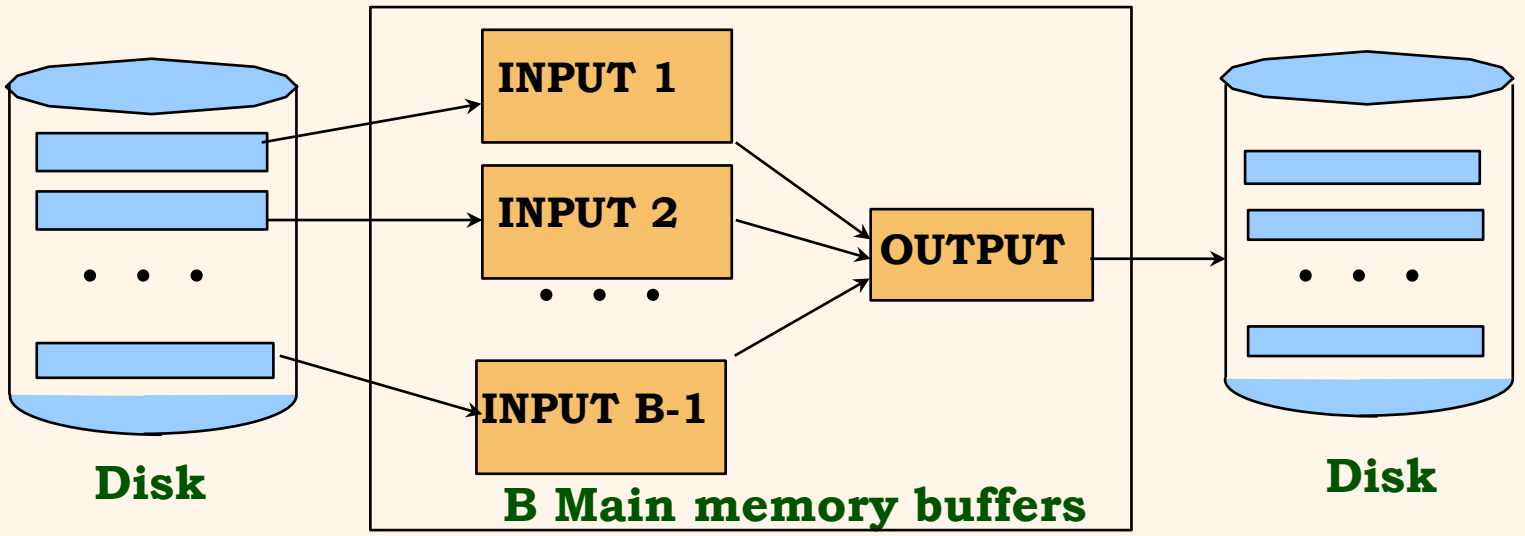
Two-Way External Merge Sort

- Each pass we read + write each page in file.
- N pages in the file => the number of passes
$$= \lceil \log_2 N \rceil + 1$$
- So toal cost is:
$$2N\left(\lceil \log_2 N \rceil + 1\right)$$
- *Idea:* ***Divide and conquer:*** sort subfiles and merge

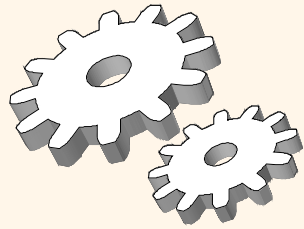


General External Merge Sort

- ***More than 3 buffer pages. How can we utilize them?***
- To sort a file with *N* pages using *B* buffer pages:
  - Pass 0: use *B* buffer pages. Produce $\lceil N / B \rceil$ sorted runs of *B* pages each.
  - Pass 2, …, etc.: merge *B-1* runs.

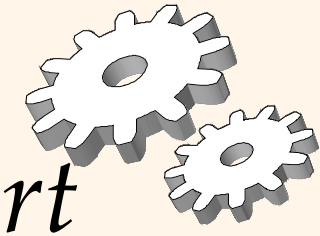


Cost of External Merge Sort



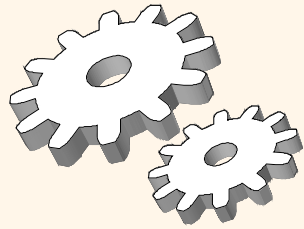
- Number of passes: $1 + \lceil \log_{B-1} \lceil N / B \rceil \rceil$
- Cost = 2N * (# of passes)
- E.g., with 5 buffer pages, to sort 108 page file:
  - Pass 0: $\lceil 108 / 5 \rceil$ = 22 sorted runs of 5 pages each (last run is only 3 pages)
  - Pass 1: $\lceil 22 / 4 \rceil$ = 6 sorted runs of 20 pages each (last run is only 8 pages)
  - Pass 2: 2 sorted runs, 80 pages and 28 pages
  - Pass 3: Sorted file of 108 pages

Number of Passes of External Sort



N	B=3	B=5	B=9	B=17	B=129	B=257
100	7	4	3	2	1	1
1,000	10	5	4	3	2	2
10,000	13	7	5	4	2	2
100,000	17	9	6	5	3	3
1,000,000	20	10	7	5	3	3
10,000,000	23	12	8	6	4	3
100,000,000	26	14	9	7	4	4
1,000,000,000	30	15	10	8	5	4

A Typical Case



- If have B memory pages, a file of M pages, and M < B*B
  - then cost of sort is 4M
- Pass 0: create runs of B pages long
- Pass 1: create runs of B*(B-1) pages long
  - if M < B*B, then we are done
- Cost of Pass 0: 2M
- Cost of Pass 1: 2M