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Increasing SSD Performance and Lifetime with Multi-stream Technology

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Agenda

- NAND flash characteristics
- Multi-stream
  - Multi-stream concept
  - Multi-stream system architecture
  - Multi-stream operation
- Performance benefit
- Summary
- Q&A

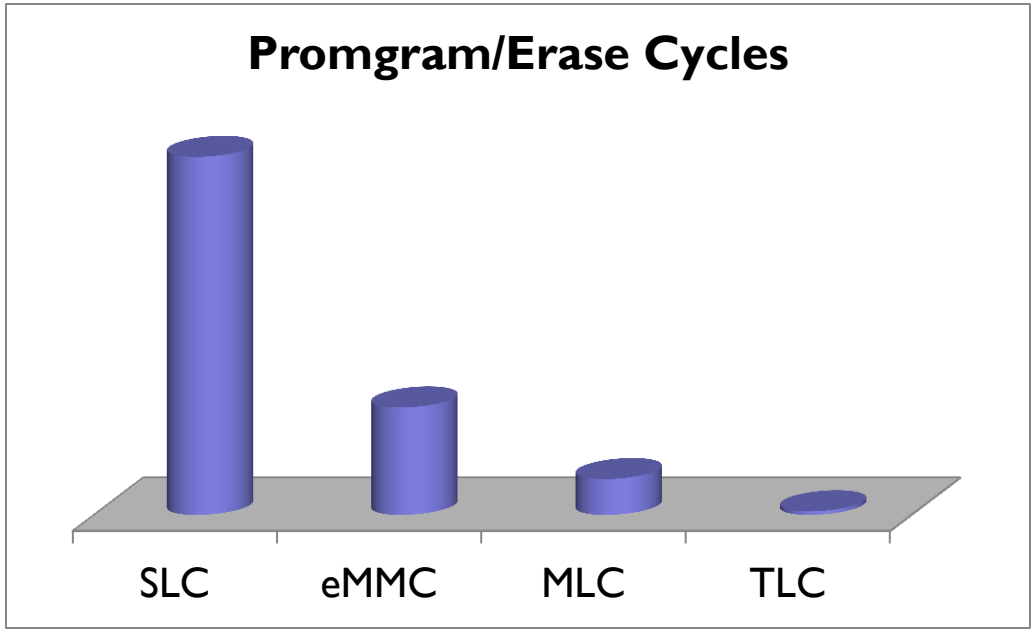
NAND Flash Characteristics

- Operation
  - Read/Program/Erase
- Operation unit
  - Read/Program: Page
  - Erase: block (= multiple pages)
- Out-of-place update
  - In-place update(=overwrite) NOT allowed
    - Invalidate overwritten data
  - Page MUST be erased before programming(writes)
    - Program/Erase (P/E) cycles
    - Needs garbage collection operation

Efficient data placement increases performance
with reduced garbage collection overhead

NAND Flash Characteristics (Cont'd)

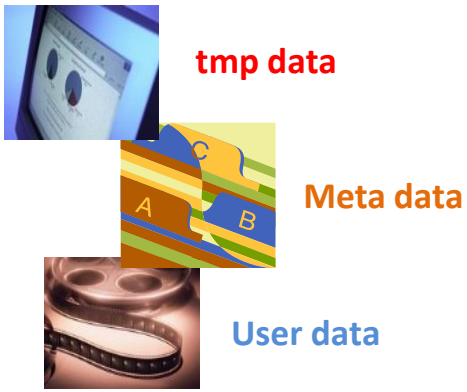
- Limited number of Program/Erase cycles

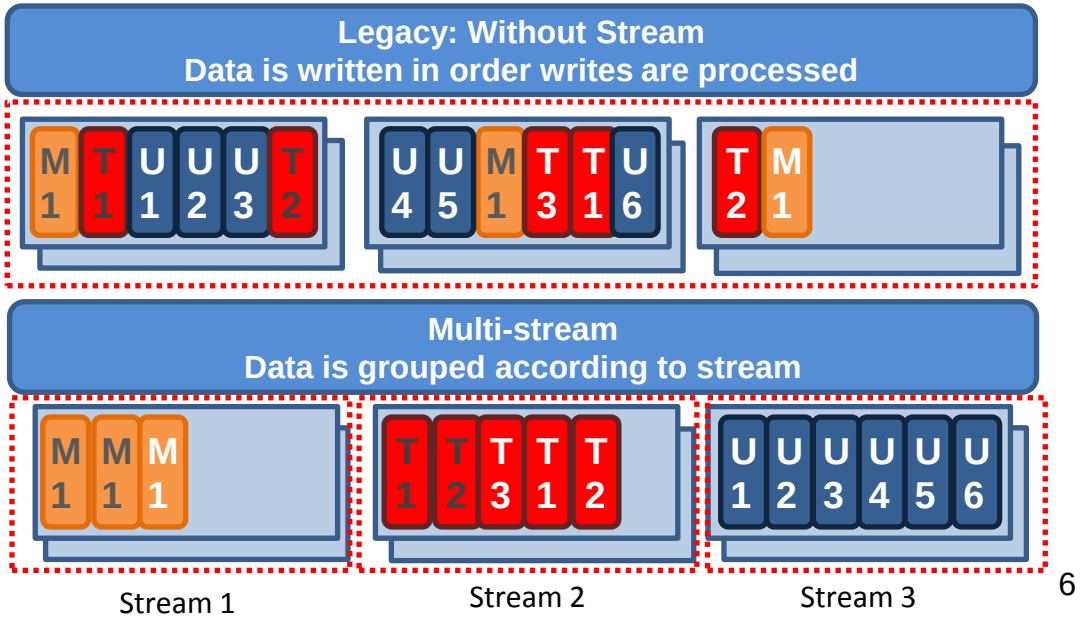


Efficient data placement increases lifetime of SSD(endurance)

Multi-stream

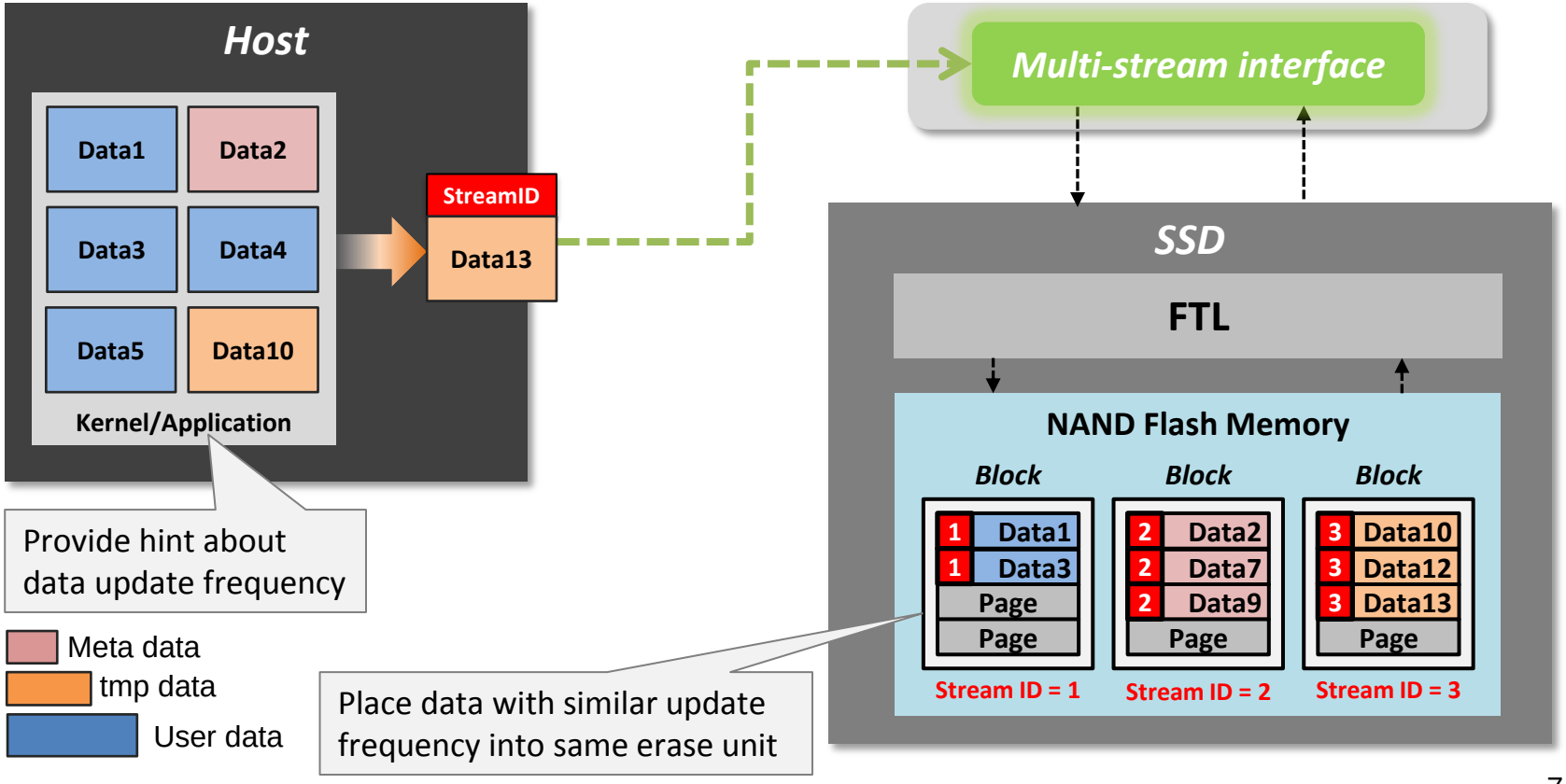
- Provide better endurance, improved performance, and consistent latency
  - Allow host to associate each write operation with a stream
  - All data associated with a stream is expected to be invalidated at the same time (e.g., updated, trimmed, unmapped, deallocated)
  - Align NAND block allocation based on application data characteristics(e.g., lifetime)





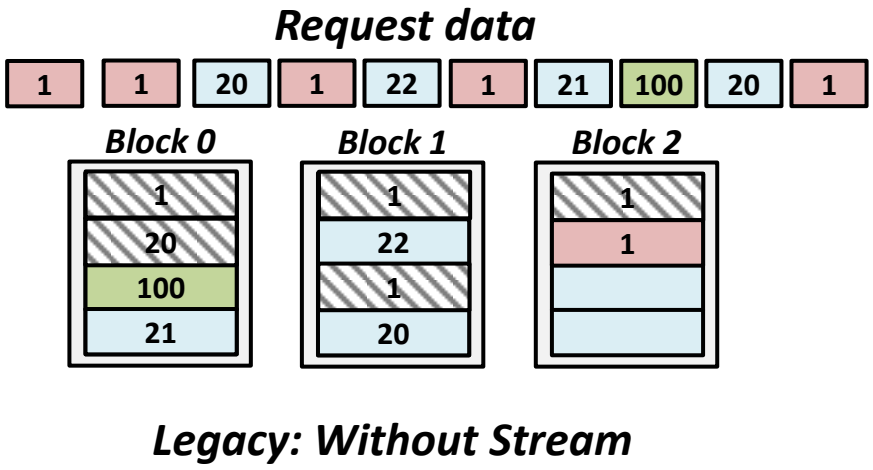
Multi-stream Operation

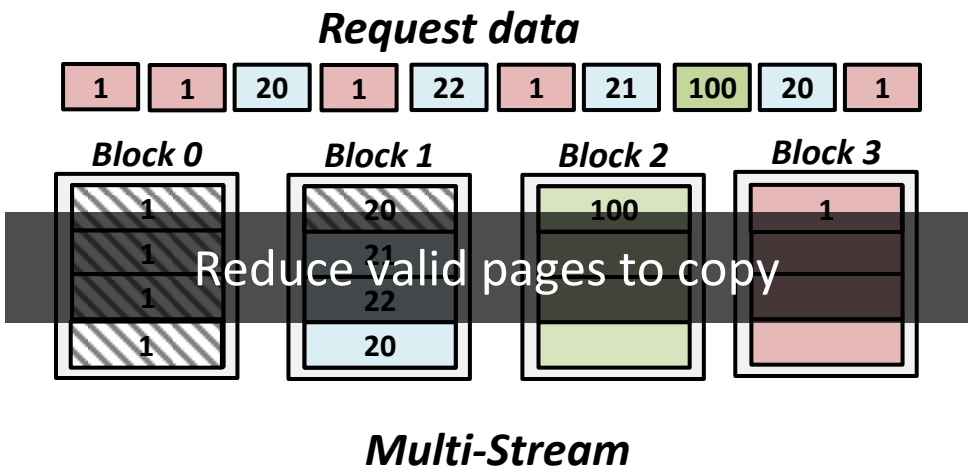
- Mapping data with different lifetime to different streams



Operation Example

- Efficient data placement with multi-stream
  - Reduce GC overheads -> better performance and lifetime!





For effective multi-streaming,
proper mapping of data to streams is important!

FIO Performance Measurement System

- Hardware
  - Quad Core Intel i7-4790 CPU 3.60GHz
  - 16GB memory
- Software
  - Ubuntu 14.04 LTS, v4.0.3 Kernel with multi-stream patch
  - FIO 2.2.5 with multi-stream patch
- Device
  - Multi-stream enabled NVMe SSD

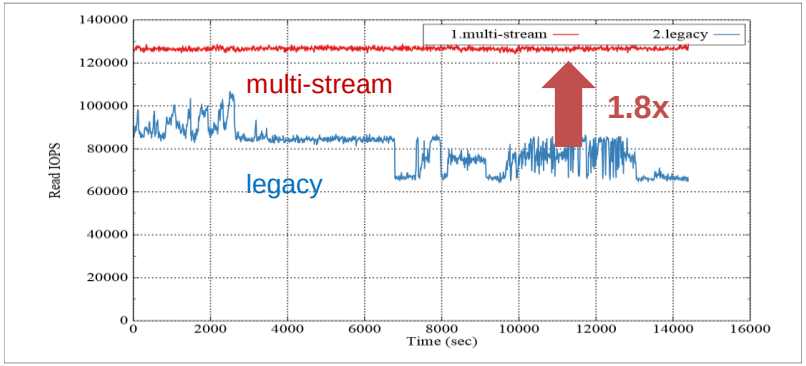
Performance Measurement Configuration

- Four sequential writes jobs 1+ random read job
  - Different data lifetime: 1x, 10x, 33x, 55x
- Precondition
  - 2 hours with four-write jobs

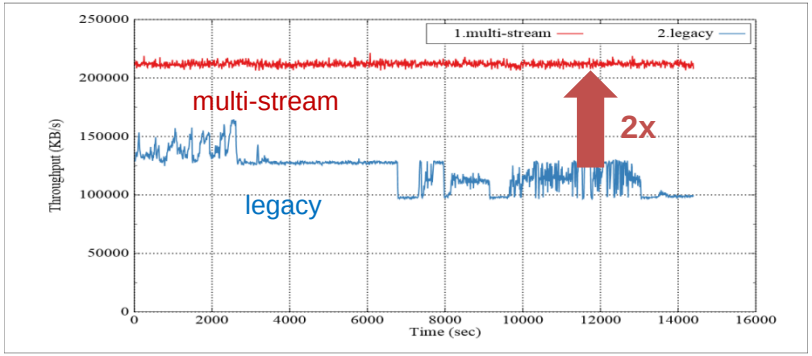
Four Streams – Read/Write(70%/30%)

- Reads
  - Jobs: 6
  - Block size: 4k
  - Iodepth: 64
- Writes
  - Jobs: 4
  - Block size: 128k
  - Iodepth: 1

Read IOPS



Write Throughput



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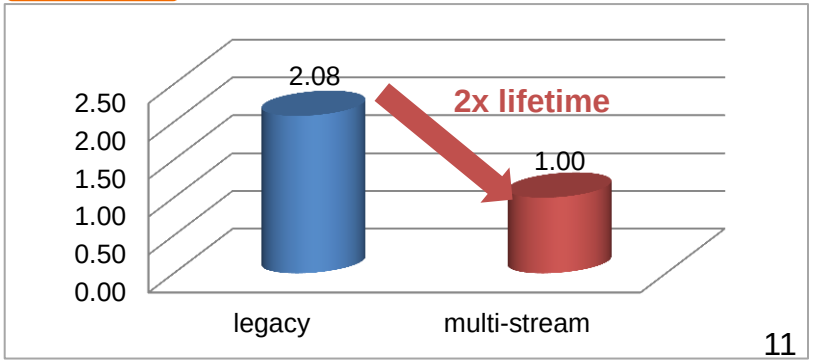

Standards

- SCSI/SAS: Completed in May, 2015
  - Standard spec:

    http://www.t10.org/cgi-bin/ac.pl?t=f&f=sbc4r10.pdf

- NVMe: standardization ongoing
- SATA: standardization ongoing

Summary

- With multi-stream, SSDs can be more efficiently used for
  - Consistent better performance
  - Better endurance (=better SSD lifetime)
- With multi-stream
  - FIO: more than 2x SSD lifetime in addition to the decent I/O performance enhancement