Sistemi Operativi

Corso di Laurea in Informatica a.a. 2020-2021

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Paging + Segmentation

- Paging (OS' view of memory)
 - Divide memory into fixed-size pages and map them to physical frames
- Segmentation (compiler's view of memory)
 - Divide process into logical segments (e.g., code, data, stack, heap)
- Combine paging with segmentation to get the best of both worlds
 - Segmented Paging

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Virtual Memory uses backing storage (i.e., disk) to store unused pages and give the illusion of infinite virtual address space

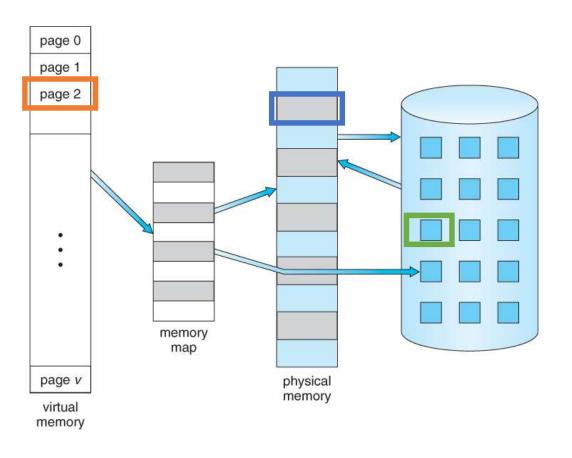
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 - Less I/O is needed for swapping processes in and out of memory, speeding things up

Virtual Memory: The Big Picture



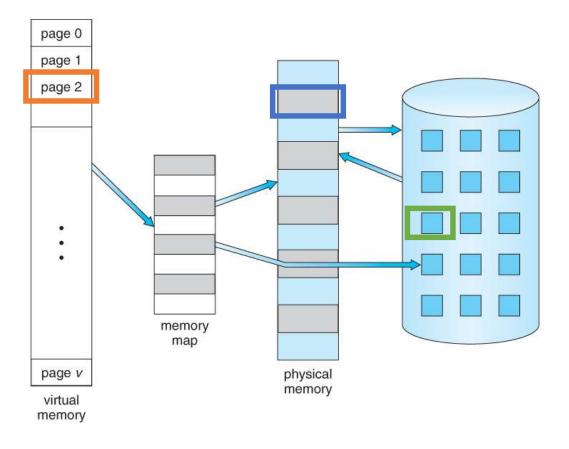
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Virtual Memory: The Big Picture

virtual memory can be much larger than physical memory



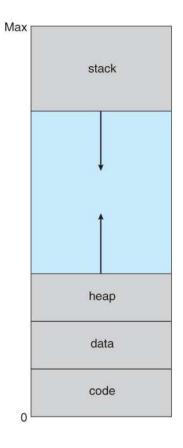
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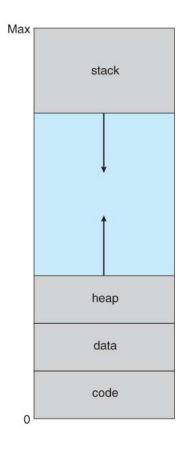
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- Remember: access to disk is extremely slower than access to memory
- Therefore, memory accesses must reference pages that are in memory with high probability

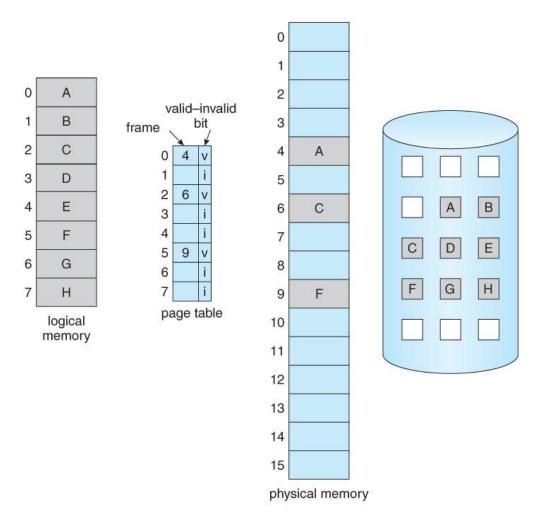
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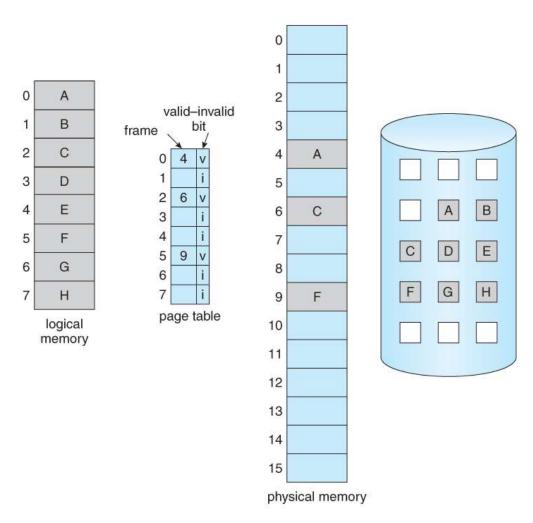
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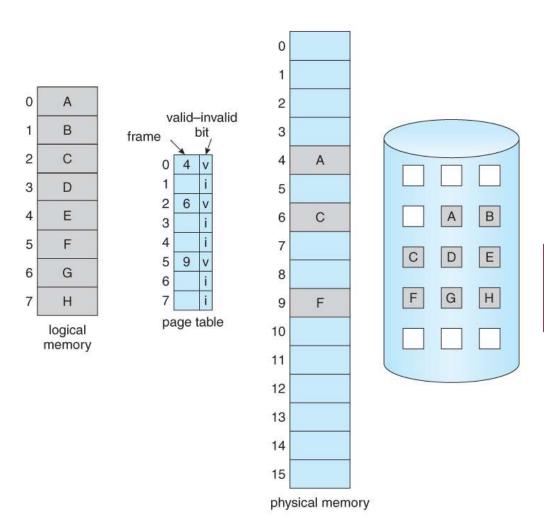


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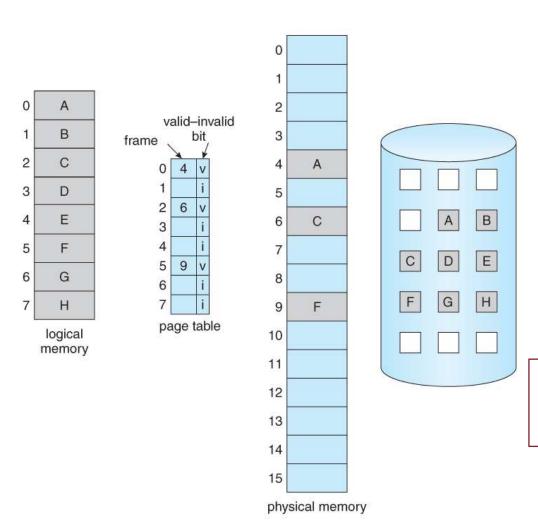
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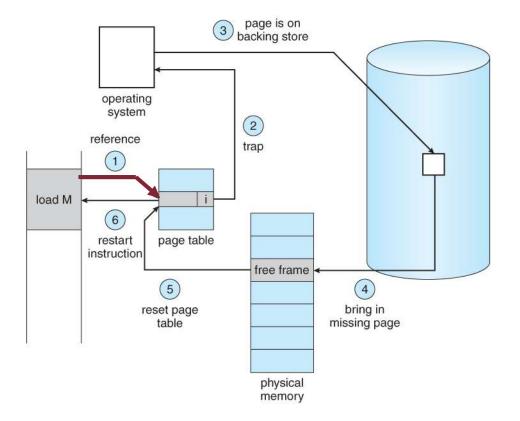
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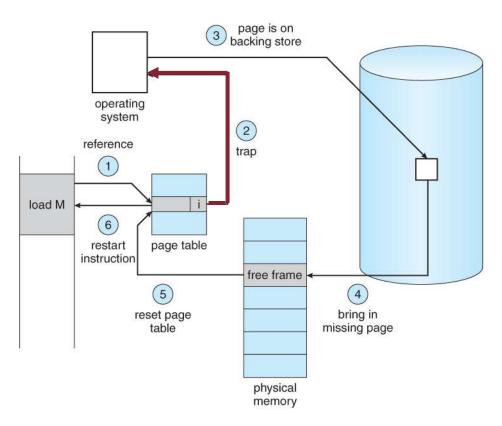
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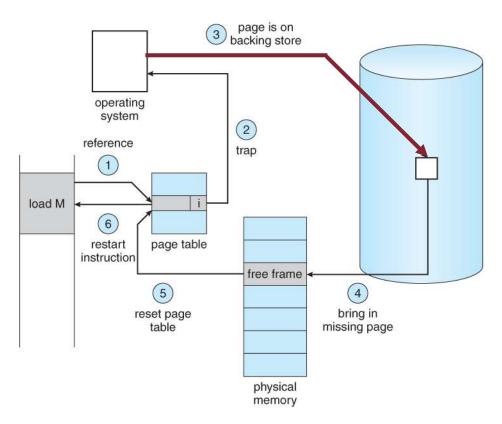
Otherwise, a page fault trap occurs, and the page has to be loaded (i.e., fetched) from disk

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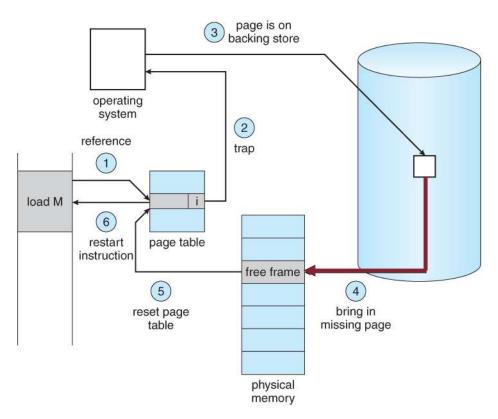




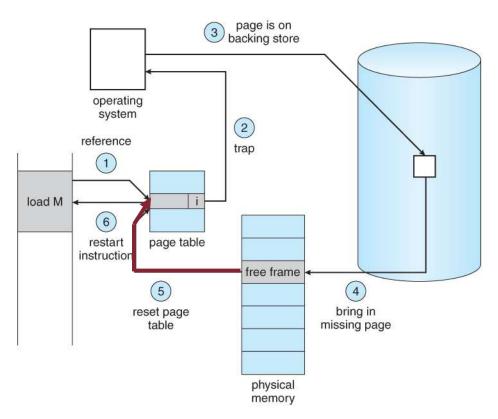
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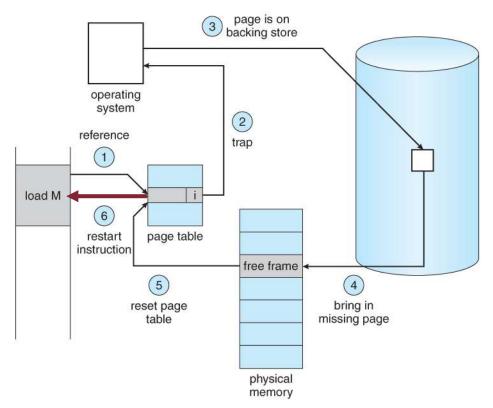
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- 6. The current process gets interrupted and the instruction that caused the page fault must be restarted from the beginning

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- TLB hit means the requested page entry is in the cache **and** the referenced frame is also in memory

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 - The OS picks a TLB entry to replace and fills it with the new entry as follows
 - invalidates the TLB entry
 - performs page fault trap operations
 - updates the TLB entry
 - restarts the faulting instruction

Page Fault Handling: Faulty Address

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- How does the OS figure out which page generated the fault?
- Architecture-dependant:
 - x86: hardware saves the virtual address that caused the fault (CR2 register)
 - On some platforms OS gets only address of faulting instruction, must simulate the instruction and try every address to find the one that generated the fault

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- To restart (from scratch) a faulty instruction the OS needs hardware support for saving:
 - The faulting instruction
 - The CPU state

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- idempotent → just restart the faulting instruction (hardware saves instruction address during page fault)
- non-idempotent \rightarrow much more difficult to restart
 - MOV [%R1], + (%R2) → increment the value of R2 and store it to memory address in R1
 - What if memory address [%R1] causes the page fault?
 - Cannot naively redo the instruction from scratch otherwise R2 gets incremented twice

- Even harder when using instructions that are not easily undoable
 - E.g., instructions that are used to move a block of memory at once
 - The block may span multiple pages: some of them can be in memory while some others not
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How to unwind those complicated side-effects?

Make sure all the addresses within the block to be transferred are in memory before starting executing the instruction

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- Still, an overhead must be paid every time a page fault occurs as the OS needs to interact with slower disk

 t_{MA} = physical memory access time t_{FAULT} = time to handle a page fault $p \in [0, 1]$ = probability of page fault t_{ACCESS} = effective time for each memory reference

$$t_{ACCESS} = (1 - p) * t_{MA} + p * t_{FAULT}$$

Let's assume: $t_{MA} = 100$ nsec and $t_{FAULT} = 20$ msec = 20,000,000 nsec

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This heavily depends on p!

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The access time increases from just 100 nsec up to ~20.1 microsec

200 times slowdown factor

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$$1.1 * 100 = 100 - 100p + 20,000,000p = 19,999,900p = 110 - 100 =$$

To achieve that goal, we can tolerate at most I page fault every about 2 million accesses!

$$p = \frac{10}{19,999,900} = \frac{1}{1,999,990} \approx 0,0000005 = 5 * 10^{-7}$$

More generally, given t_{MA} , t_{FAULT} , and a threshold $\varepsilon > 0$ if we want to find p s.t.:

$$t_{ACCESS} = (1 + \epsilon) * t_{MA}$$

We substitute t_{ACCESS} and solve for p the resulting equation:

$$(1-p) * t_{MA} + p * t_{FAULT} = (1+\epsilon) * t_{MA} = t_{MA} - p * t_{MA} + p * t_{FAULT} = t_{MA} + \epsilon * t_{MA}$$

 $p(t_{FAULT} - t_{MA}) = \epsilon * t_{MA} = t_{MA}$

$$p = \frac{\epsilon * t_{MA}}{t_{FAULT} - t_{MA}}$$

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- So far, we have described how the OS (with the support of HW) manages page faults
- Still, the OS has to answer 2 fundamental questions:
 - When to load process' pages into main memory (page fetching)
 - Which page to remove from memory if this gets filled (page replacement)

Page Fetching Goals

- The overall goal is still to make physical memory look larger than it is
- Exploiting the locality reference of programs
- Keep in memory only those pages that is being used
- Keep on disk those pages that are unused
- Ideally, producing a memory system with the performance of main memory and the cost/capacity of disk!

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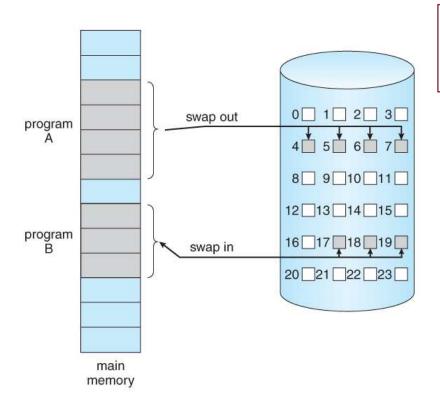
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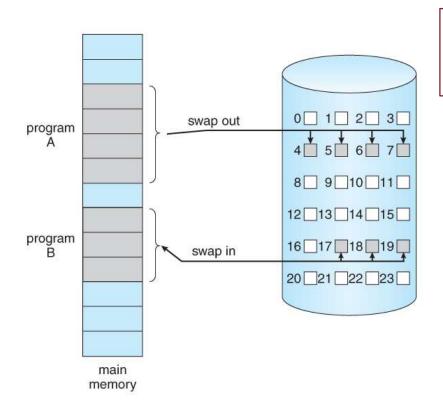
Most modern OSs use demand fetching

(Pure) Demand Paging

- When a process starts up, none of its pages are loaded
- Rather, a page is swapped in only when the process references it (upon a page fault)
- This is termed a lazy swapper or pager
- Opposite of loading all the pages at process startup!

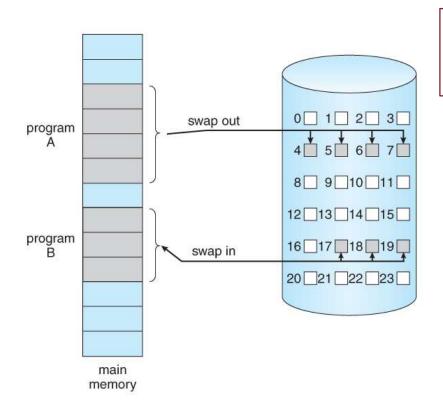


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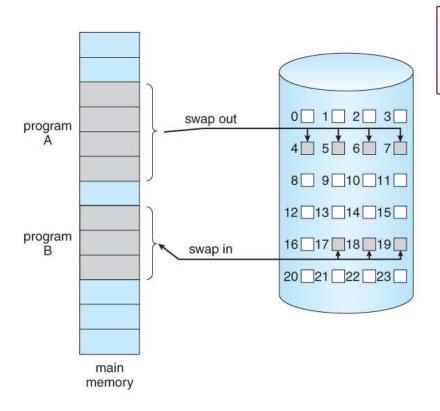
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Possible approach: upon page fault, load many pages instead of only the faulty one

works if program accesses memory sequentially

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- On Mac, instead, swap space is part of the file system
 - swapfiles

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- Depending on which kind of page is removed, different optimizations may apply upon page swap-out

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- Data page:
 - Data content does actually change!
 - Save it to a separate paging file, so that no changes are lost when it will be loaded in the future
 - Need to use the dedicated swap space

Page Replacement: Motivation

- On a page fault, we need to load a page from disk into memory
- If physical memory has still free frames, the page can be safely loaded into one of those
- However, if physical memory is full (i.e., all of its frames are loaded) a frame must be swapped out to make room for the swap-in page
- Several algorithms to select the page to evict from memory

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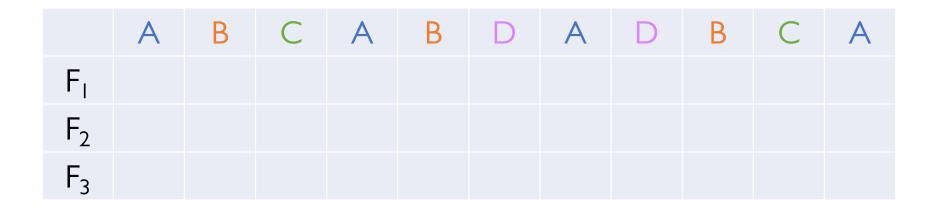
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- LRU (Least Recently Used): approximation of MIN, remove the page that has not been used in the longest time
 - Assumes the past is a good predictor of the future (not always true!)

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4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

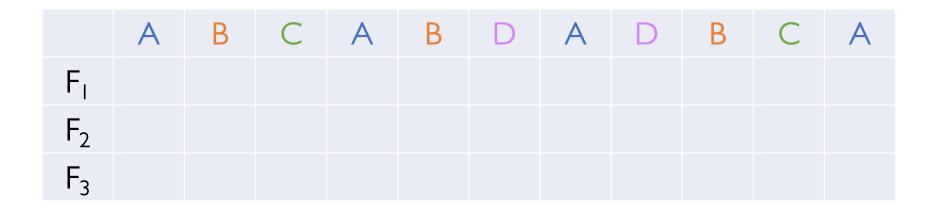


How many page faults (denoted by *)?

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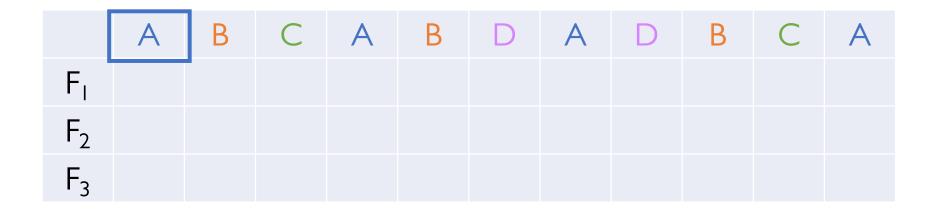


Initially, no frame is loaded in memory at all (pure demand paging)

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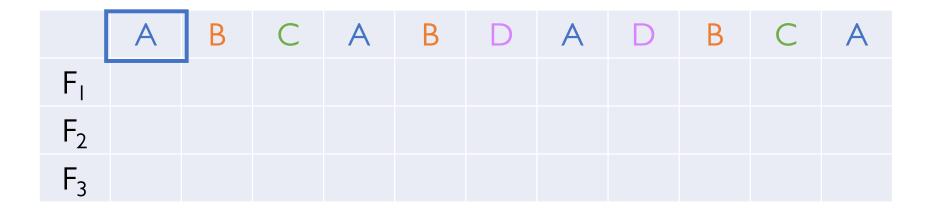


Virtual address within page A is referenced

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced

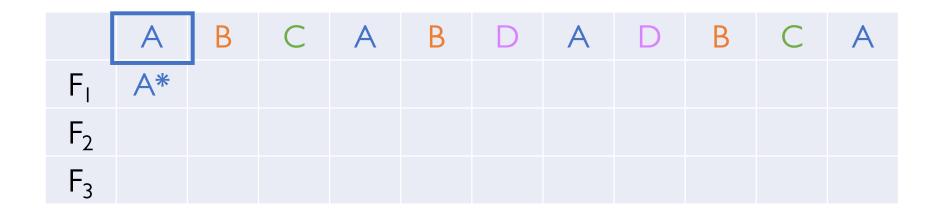


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced



page fault

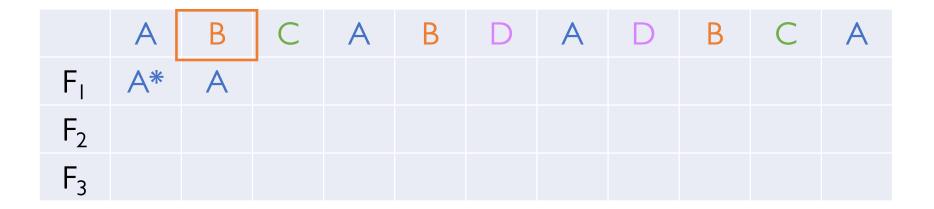


A loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

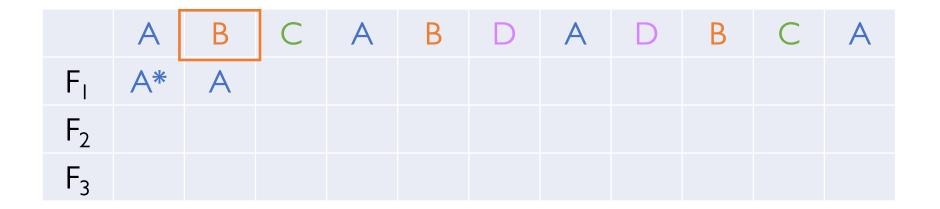


Virtual address within page B is referenced

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page B is referenced

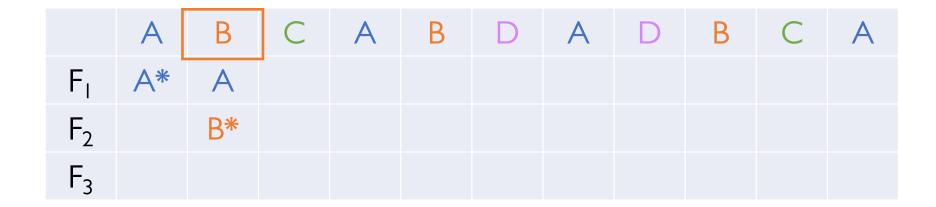


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page B is referenced



page fault

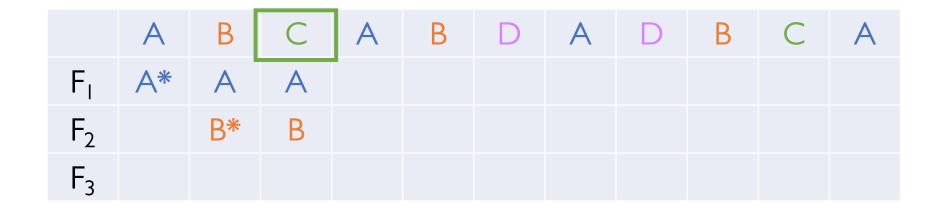


B loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



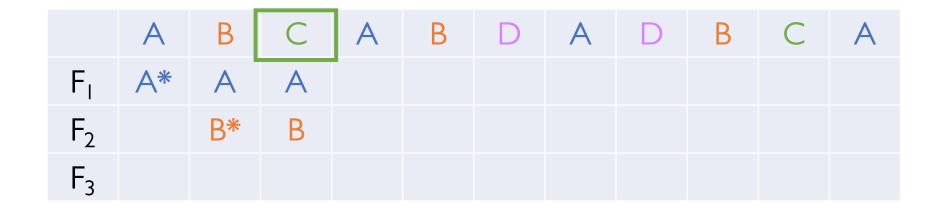
Virtual address within page C is referenced

$$\mathsf{FIFO} = \mathsf{A} \to \mathsf{B}$$

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced

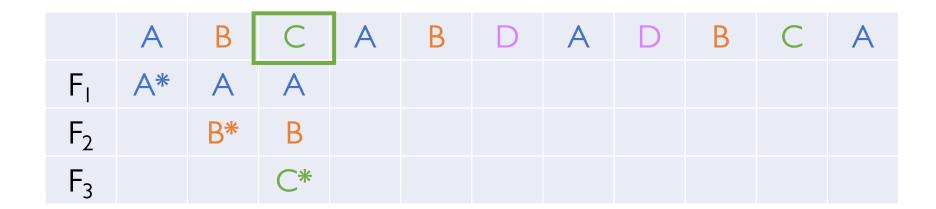


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced



page fault

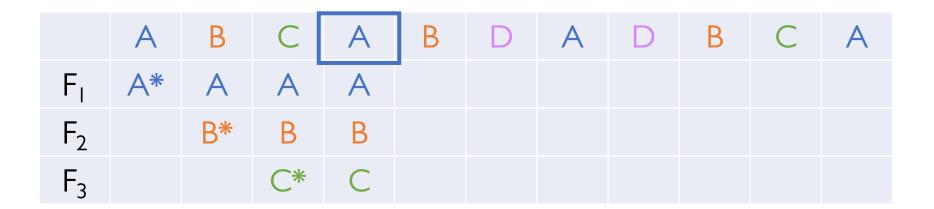


C loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced

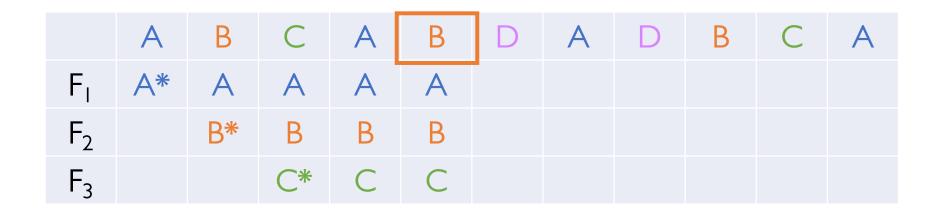


A is already loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page B is referenced

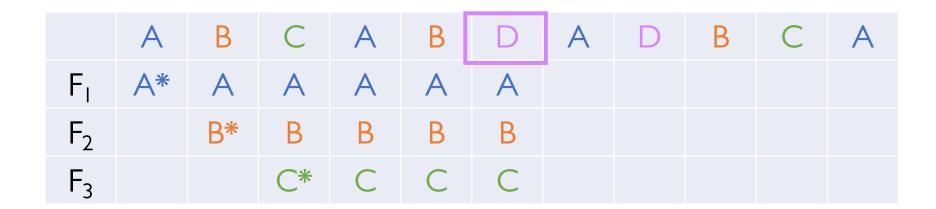


B is already loaded

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



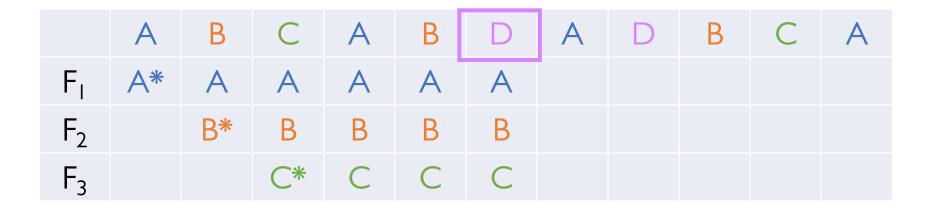
Virtual address within page D is referenced

$$FIFO = A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$$

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page □ is referenced

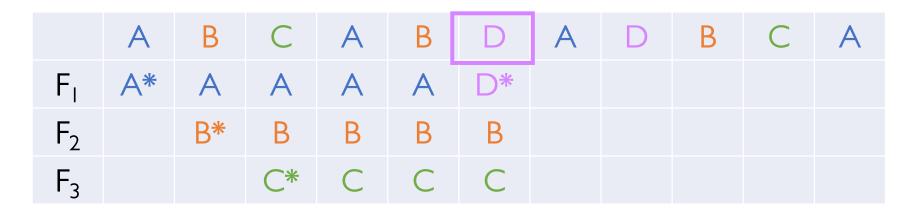


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page □ is referenced



page fault



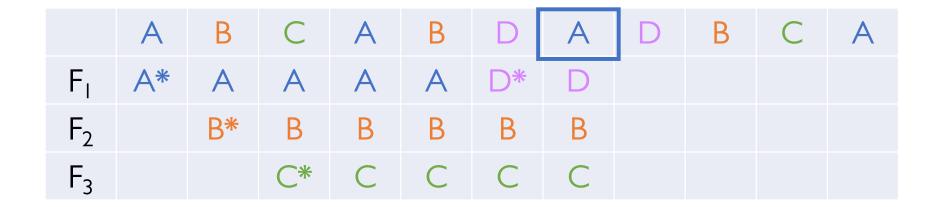
A replaced

D loaded

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



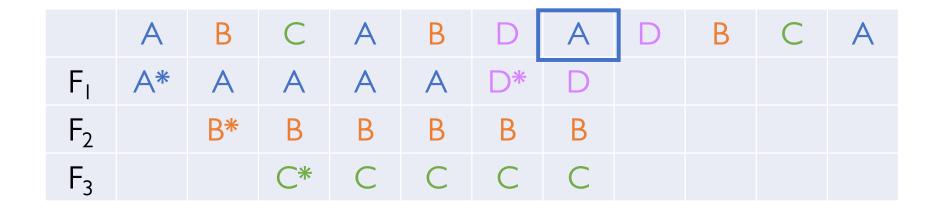
Virtual address within page A is referenced

$$\mathsf{FIFO} = \mathsf{B} \mathrel{\Rightarrow} \mathsf{C} \mathrel{\Rightarrow} \mathsf{D}$$

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced

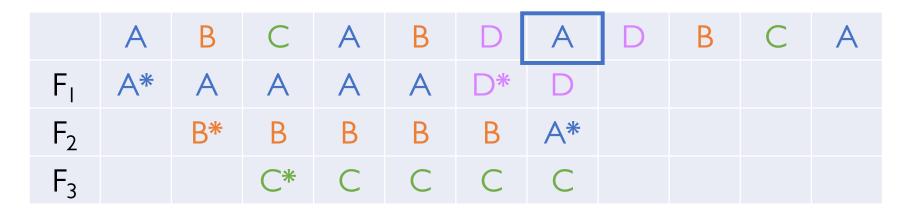


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced



page fault

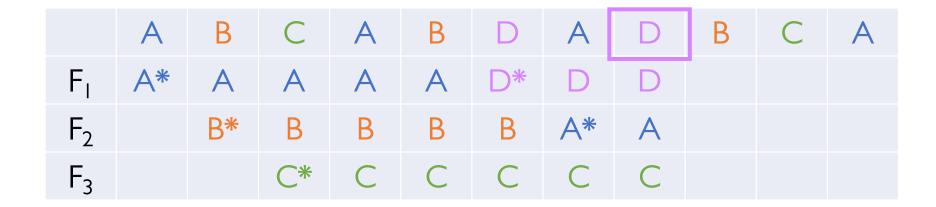


B replaced A loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page D is referenced

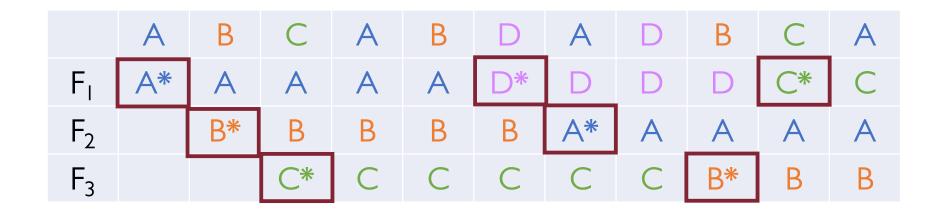


D is already loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

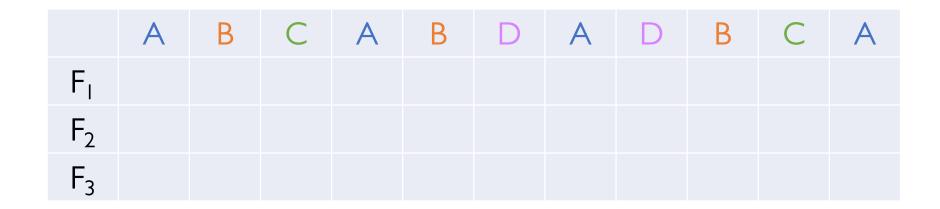


Eventually, we get a total of 7 page faults

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

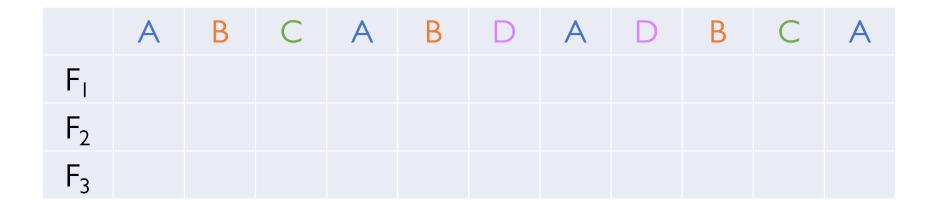


How many page faults (denoted by *)?

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

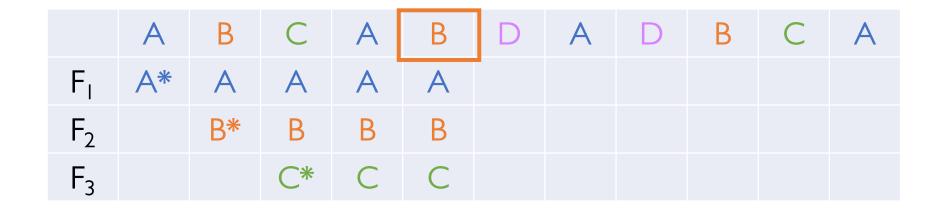


Initially, no frame is loaded in memory at all (pure demand paging)

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

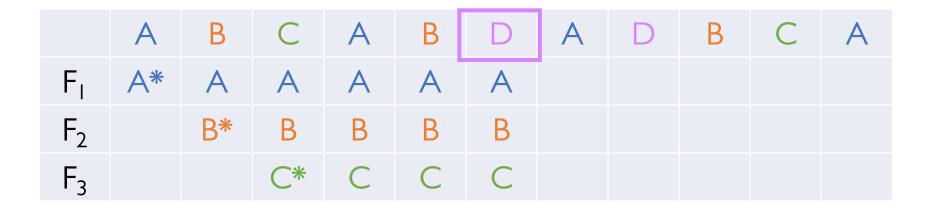


Up to this point, the same as FIFO

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

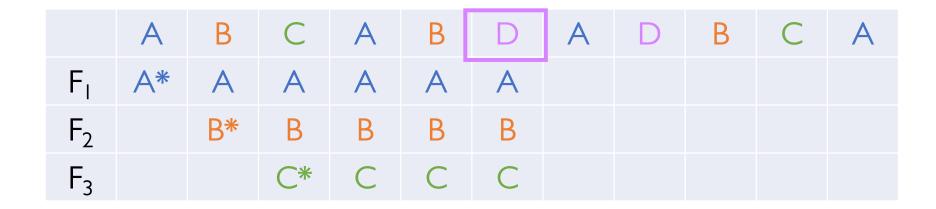


Virtual address within page D is referenced

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page D is referenced

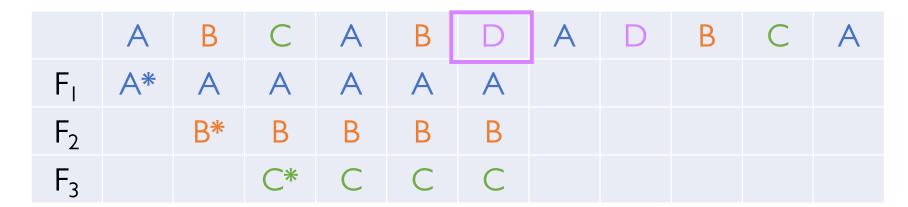


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page □ is referenced



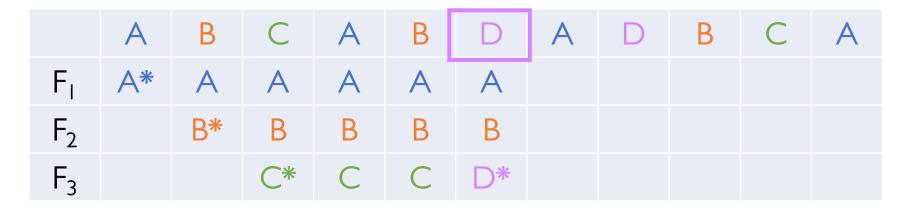
page fault

What's the page that will be requested the furthest away?

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page D is referenced



page fault



C replaced

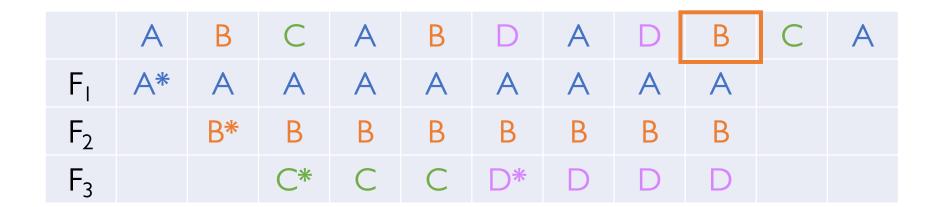
D loaded

C is the page that will be requested the furthest away

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

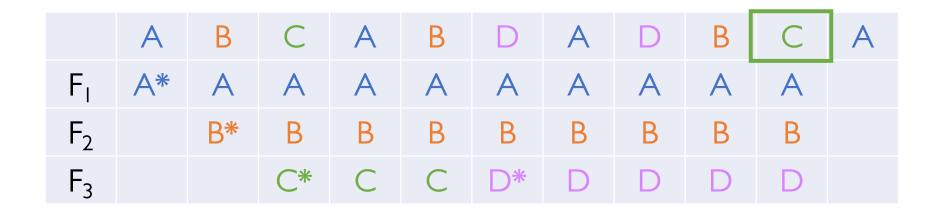


Up to this point, no more page faults

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

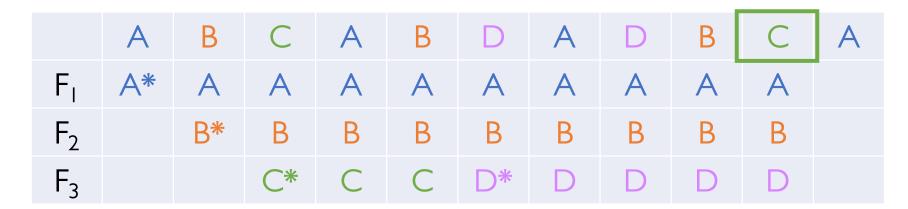


Virtual address within page C is referenced

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced



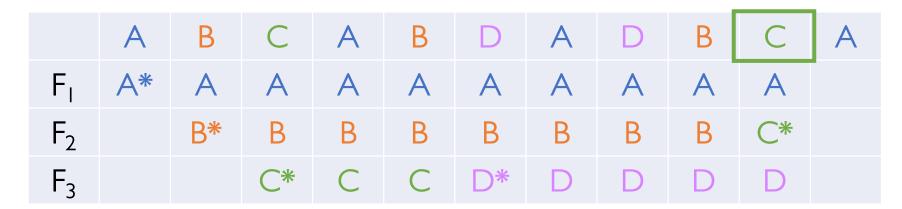
page fault

What's the page that will be requested the furthest away?

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced



page fault



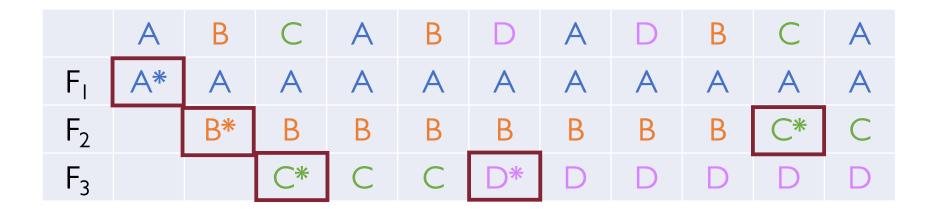
B replaced C loaded

B or D will be requested the furthest away (surely not A): pick one (e.g., B)

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

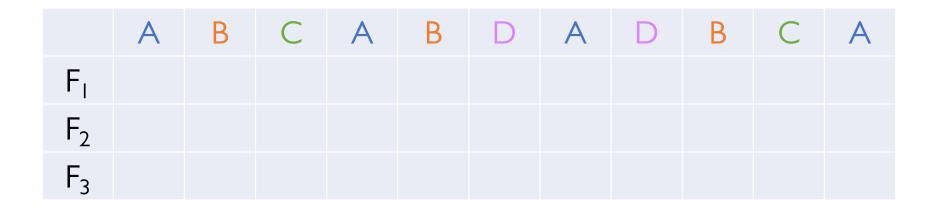


Eventually, we get a total of 5 page faults

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

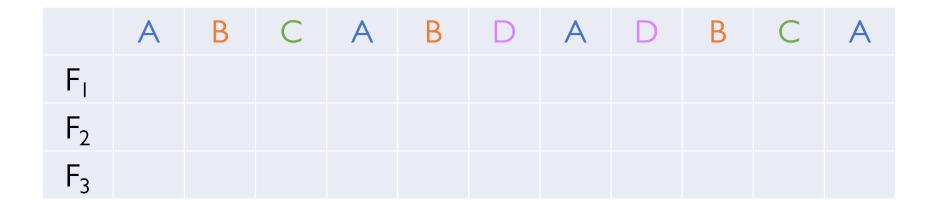


How many page faults (denoted by *)?

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

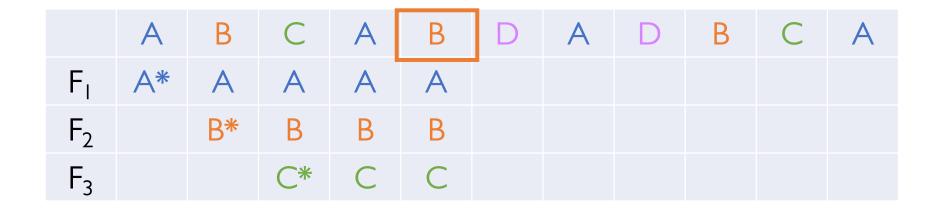


Initially, no frame is loaded in memory at all (pure demand paging)

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

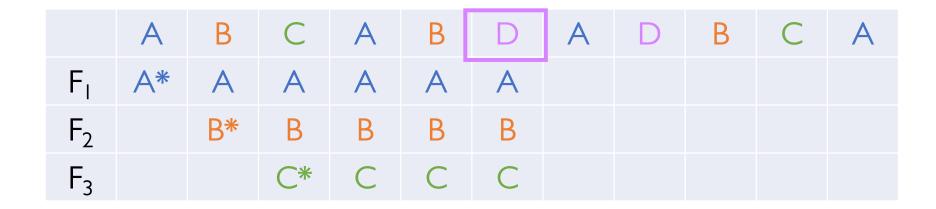


Up to this point, the same as FIFO

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page D is referenced

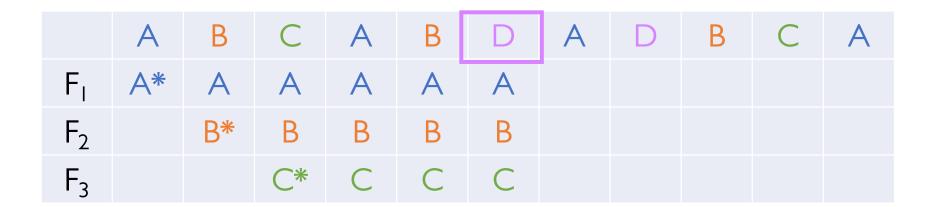


page fault

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page □ is referenced



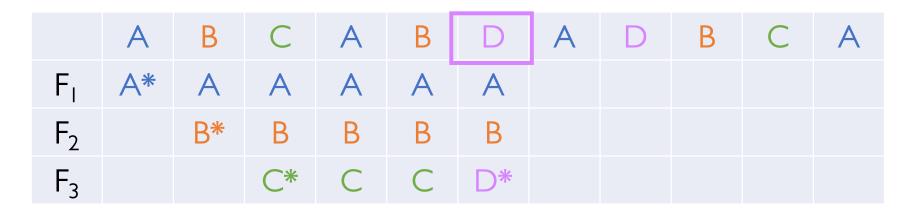
page fault

We can't look forward anymore!

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page □ is referenced



page fault



C replaced

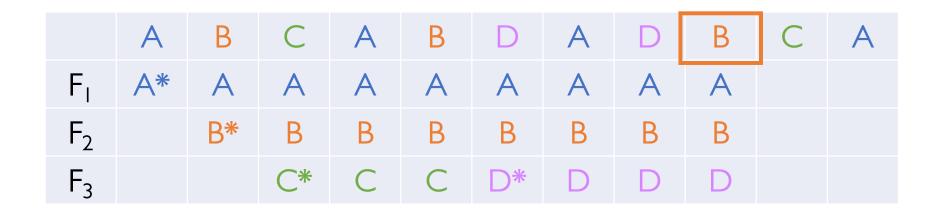
D loaded

C is the page that has not been used for the longest time in the past

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

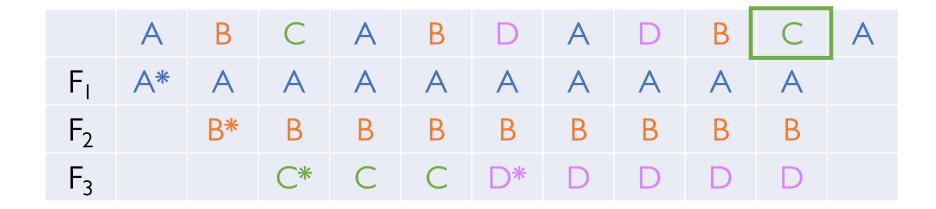


Up to this point, no more page faults

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

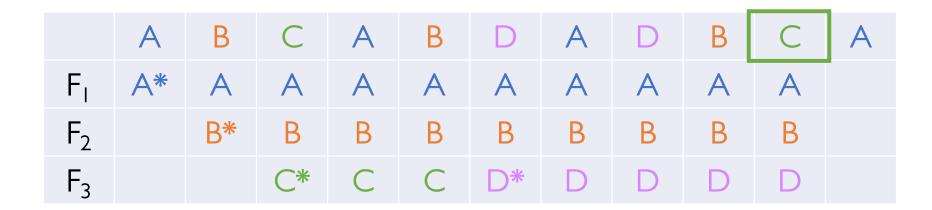


Virtual address within page C is referenced

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced



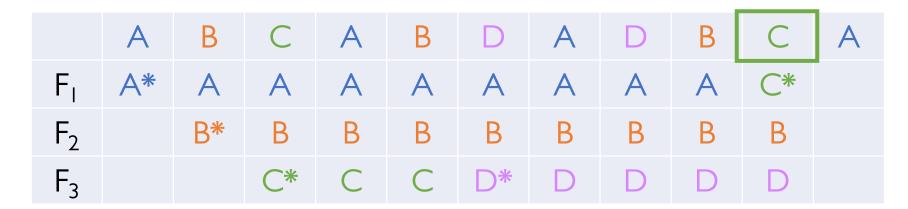
page fault

We can't look forward anymore!

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page C is referenced



page fault

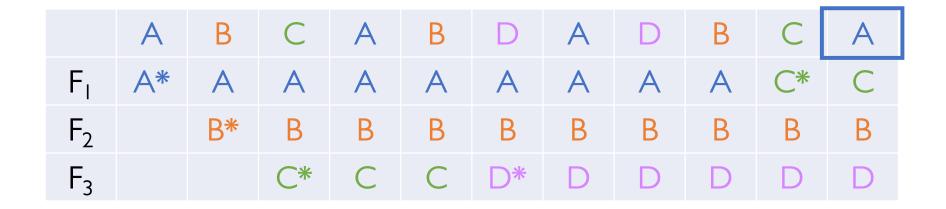


A replaced C loaded

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced



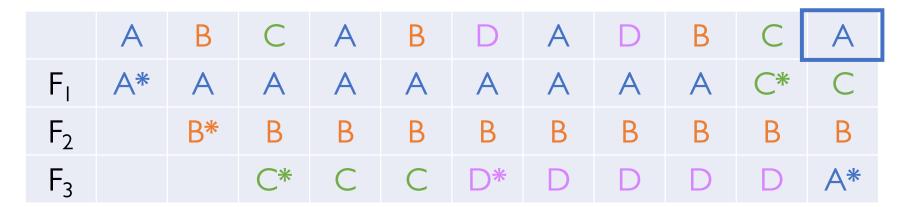
page fault

We can't look forward anymore!

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A



Virtual address within page A is referenced



page fault



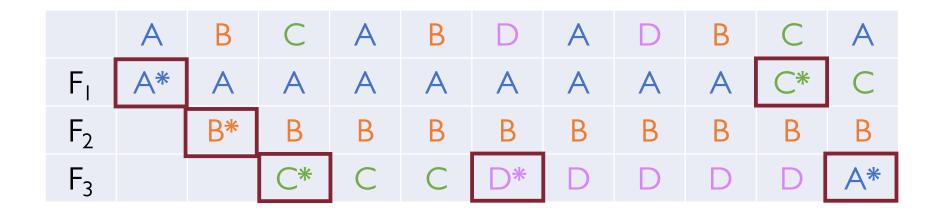
D replaced
A loaded

D is the page that has not been used for the longest time in the past

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, A, B, D, A, D, B, C, A

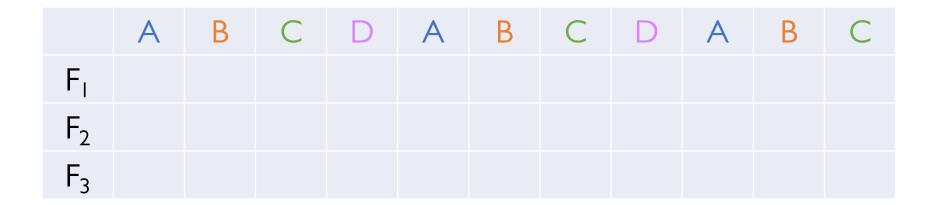


Eventually, we get a total of 6 page faults

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C



How many page faults (denoted by *)?

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C

	A	В	C	D	A	В	C	D	A	В	C
Fı	A*	A	A								
F_2		B*	В								
F_3			C*								

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

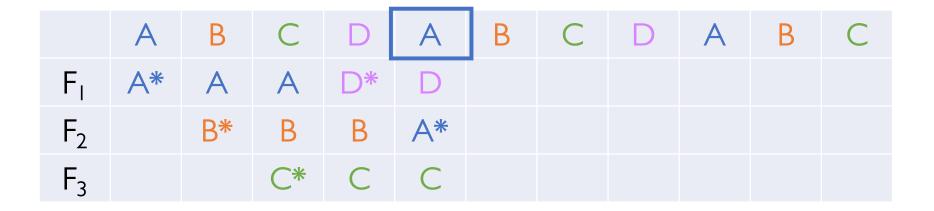
Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C

	A	В	С	D	Α	В	C	D	A	В	C
Fı	A*	A	Α	D*							
F_2		B*	В	В							
F_3			C*	C							

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C



3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C

	A	В	C	D	Α	В	С	D	A	В	C
Fı	A*	A	A	D*	D	D					
F_2		B*	В	В	A*	A					
F_3			C*	C	C	B*					

3 physical frames: F_1 , F_2 , F_3

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C

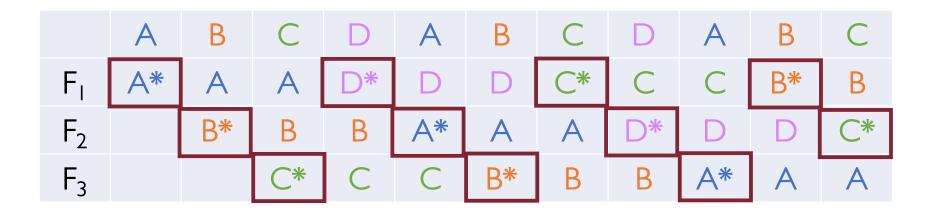
	A	В	C	D	A	В	С	D	A	В	C
Fı	A*	A	A	D*	D	D	C*				
F_2		B*	В	В	A*	Α	A				
F_3			C*	C	C	B*	В				

LRU Page Replacement: (An Unlucky) Example

3 physical frames: F₁, F₂, F₃

4 virtual pages: A, B, C, D

Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, C, D, A, B, C

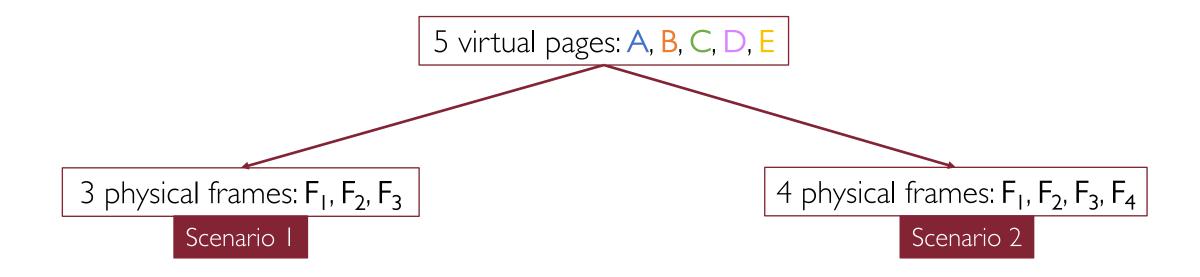


Eventually, we get a total of II page faults

Page Replacement: What If We Add Memory?

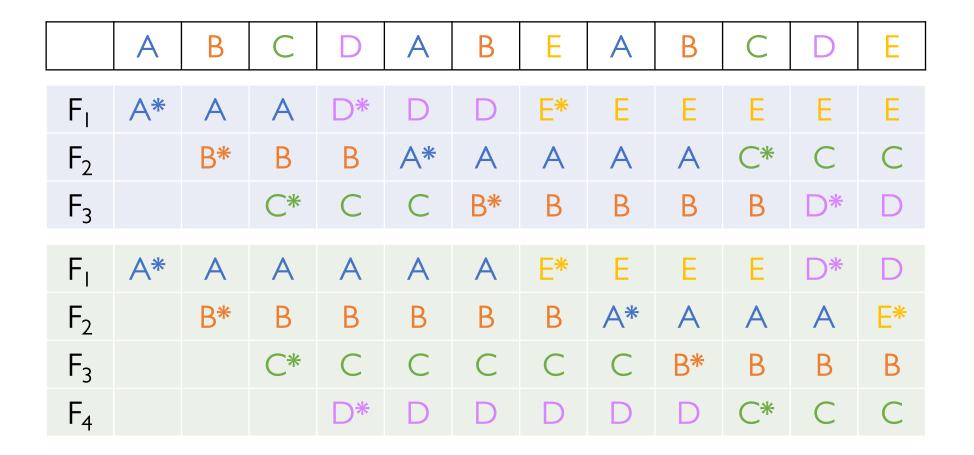
- Does adding memory always reduce the number of page faults?
- Intuitively, it would seem so...
- The answer, in fact, depends on the page replacement algorithm
- Let's see this with an example, using FIFO page replacement

FIFO Page Replacement: Example

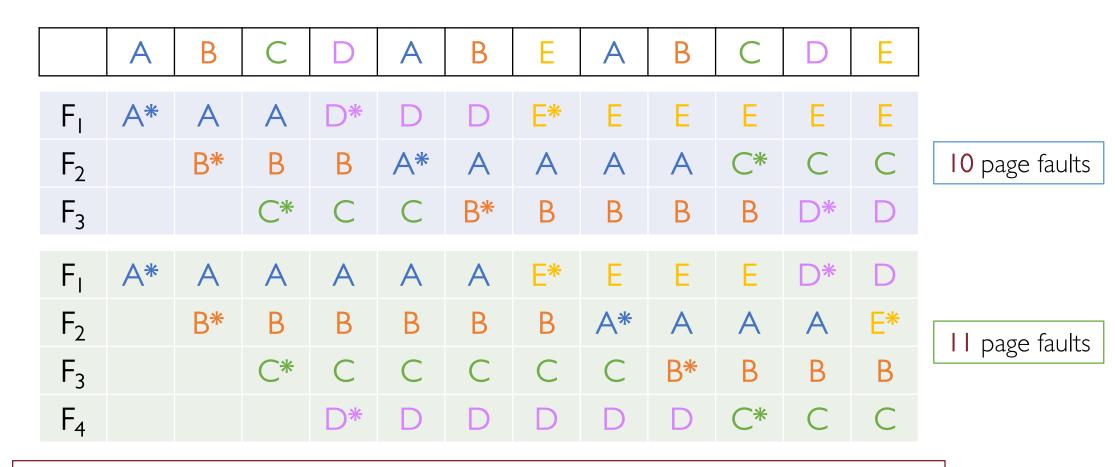


Reference sequence of pages: A, B, C, D, A, B, E, A, B, C, D, E

FIFO Page Replacement: Example



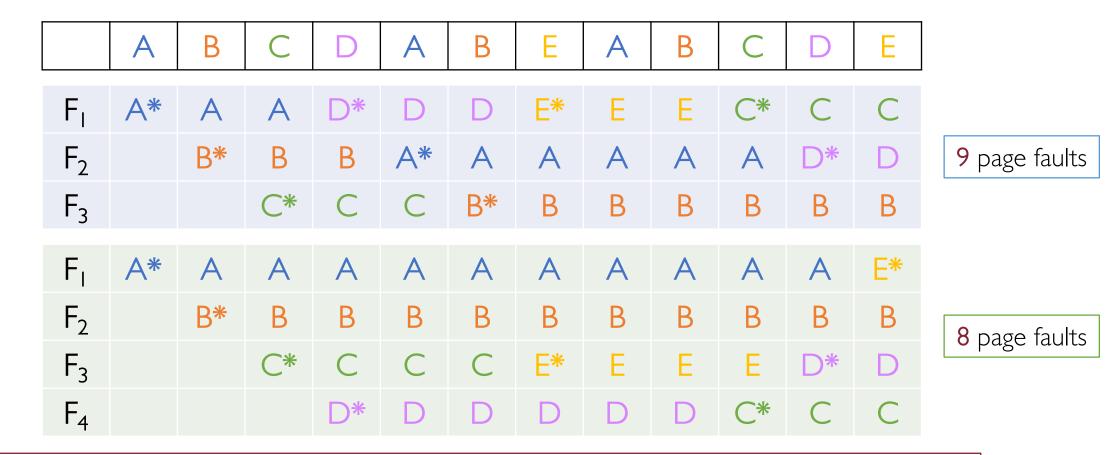
FIFO Page Replacement: Example



Belady's Anomaly

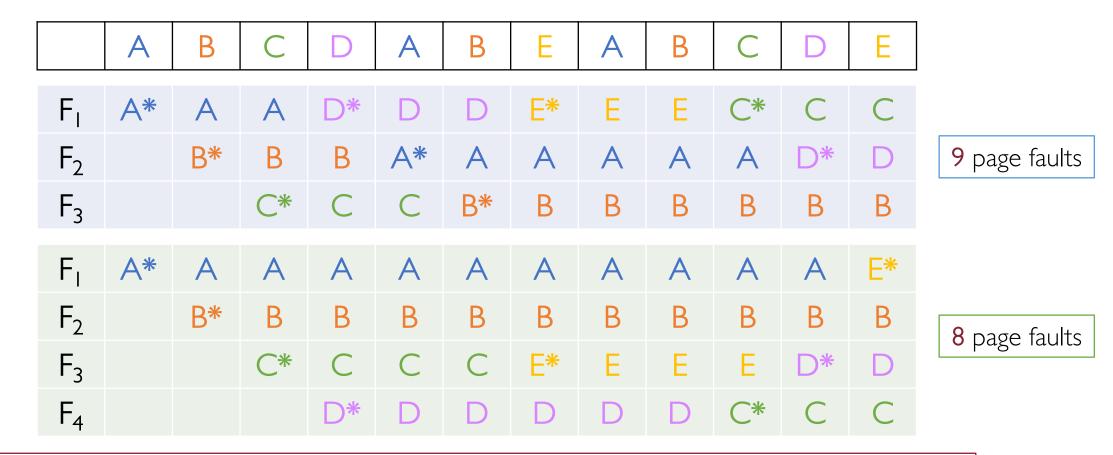
Adding page frames may cause more page faults with some algorithms

LRU Page Replacement: Example



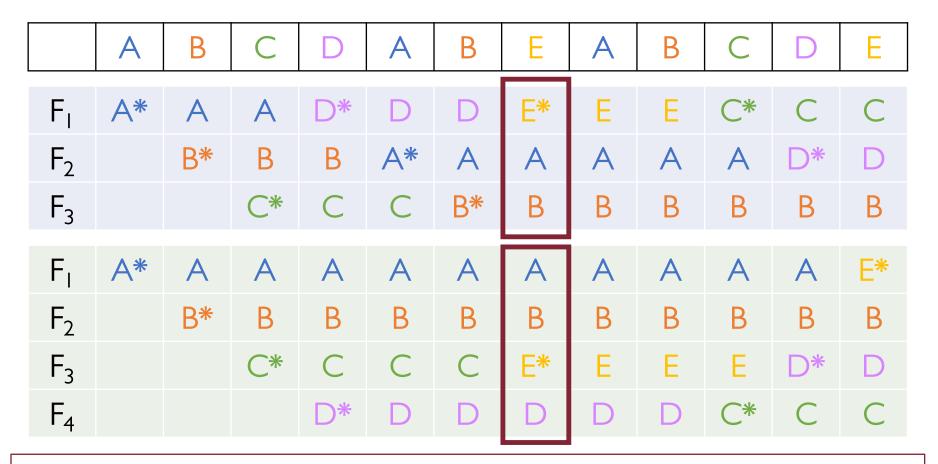
With LRU, adding page frames always decreases the number of page faults

LRU Page Replacement: Example



With LRU, adding page frames always decreases the number of page faults

LRU Page Replacement: Example



At each point in time 4-frame memory contains a subset of 3-frame

Page Replacement: Summary

- FIFO is easy to implement but may lead to too many page faults
 - May suffer from Belady's Anomaly

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- MIN is the optimal choice but cannot be used in practice since future memory references are never known in advance

Page Replacement: Summary

- FIFO is easy to implement but may lead to too many page faults
 - May suffer from Belady's Anomaly
- MIN is the optimal choice but cannot be used in practice since future memory references are never known in advance
- LRU is a fair approximation of MIN assuming the past is a good predictor of the future
 - Exploits the locality reference (small working set that fits in memory)
 - Works poorly when the locality reference doesn't hold (large working set)

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Still too expensive as the OS must change multiple pointers on each memory access

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- Many systems provide some HW support which is enough to approximate LRU fairly well
- Single-Reference Bit → Maintain I bit for each page table entry
 - Initially, all bits for all pages are set to 0
 - On each access to a page, the HW sets the reference bit to I
 - Enough to distinguish pages that have been accessed since the last clear
 - No total order of page access

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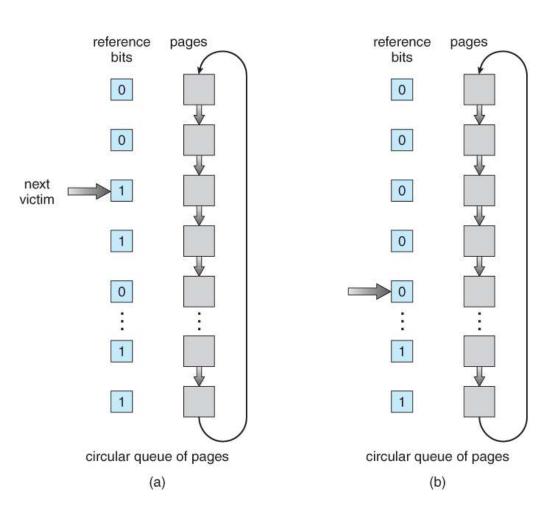
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- The specific number of bits used and the frequency with which the reference byte is updated are adjustable

Second Chance Algorithm → Single-Reference Bit + FIFO

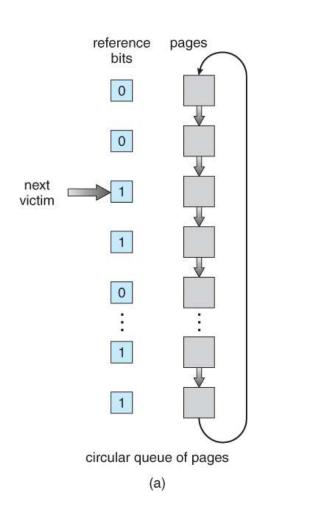
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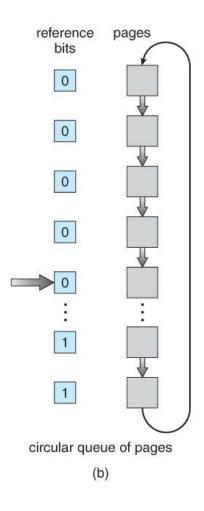
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- On a page fault, the OS scans the list of page table, checking the reference bit of the frame:
 - If this is 0, it replaces the page and sets it to I
 - If this is I, it sets it to 0 (second chance) and move to the next frame



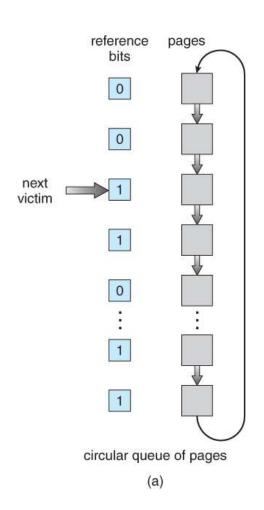
A raw partitioning into: young vs. old frames

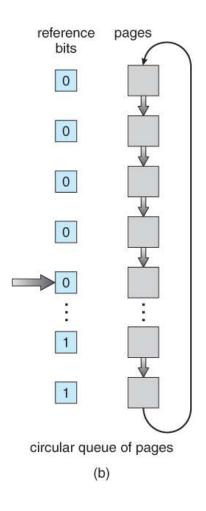




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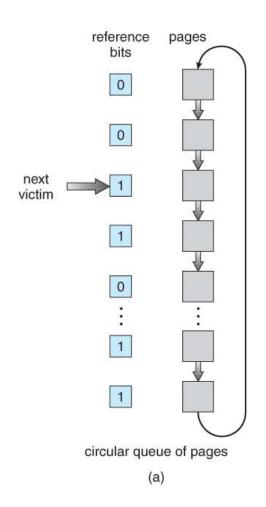


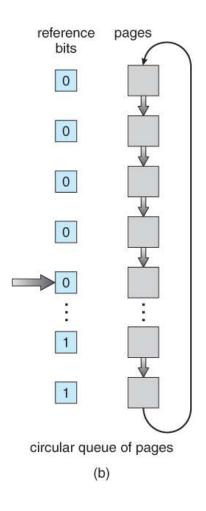


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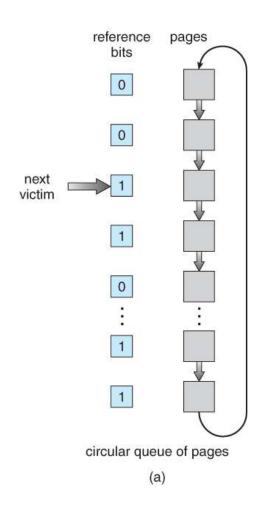


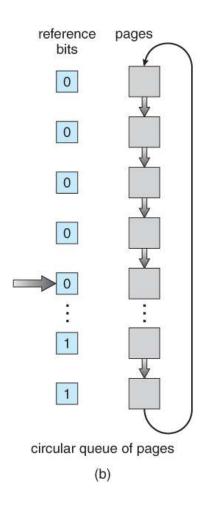
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This algorithm is also known as **clock** because it mimics the hands of a clock

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- Intuition: It is cheaper to replace a page which has not been modified,
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- OS should give preference to paging-out un-modified frames
 - Yet, it can proactively write to disk modified frames for later

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- Use both the reference and modify bits (r, m) to classify pages into:
 - (0, 0): neither recently used nor modified;
 - (0, I): not recently used, but modified;
 - (1,0): recently used, but clean
 - (I, I): recently used and modified

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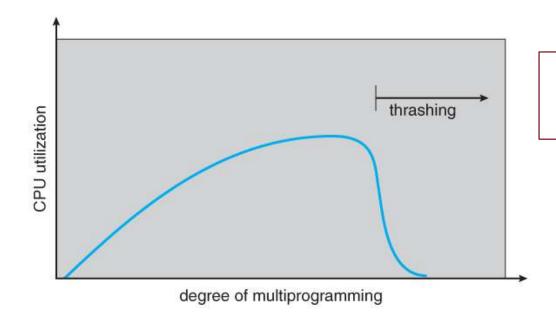
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- The degree of multiprogramming is not fixed apriori, yet it is driven by the locality reference (a.k.a. 90÷10 rule)
- This allows a system to load the working set (i.e., few pages) of many processes, thereby increasing the degree of multiprogramming

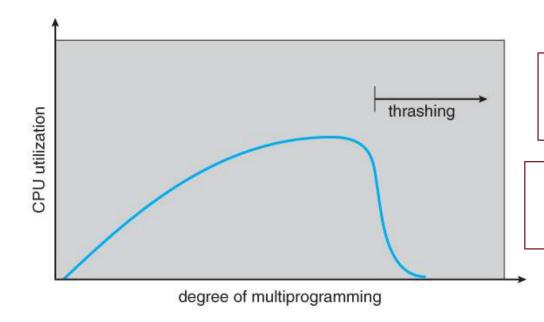
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- Thrashing

 Memory is over-committed and pages are continuously tossed out while they are still in use
 - Memory access time approaches disk access time due to many page faults
 - Drastic degradation of performance

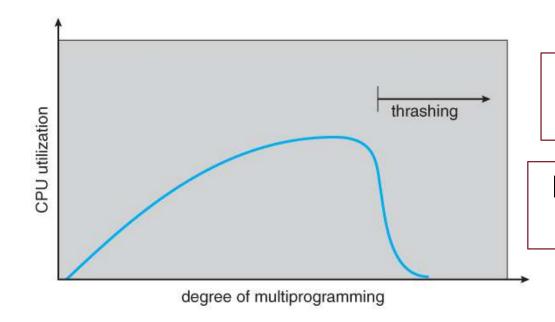


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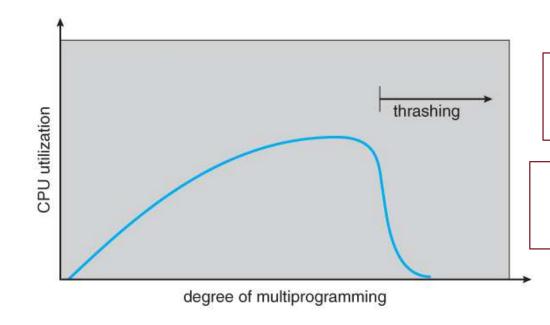
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Fixing the degree of multi-programming apriori may be a too inflexible option

Allocation/Replacement Policies

Ultimately, we want to give each process enough memory so as to avoid thrashing

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- All pages from all processes are in a single pool (single LRU queue)
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- PRO: flexibility
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Local Allocation/Replacement

- Each process has its own fixed pool of frames
- Run only group of processes that fits in memory
- LRU replacement affects only each process' frames
- PRO: isolation
- CON: performance (a process may not be given enough memory)

Local Allocation/Replacement

m = number of available physical page frames

n = number of processes

 S_i = size of the *i*-th process; $S = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i$ = total size of all processes

Equal Allocation/Replacement: $\frac{m}{n}$

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As allocations fluctuate over time, so does *m* (processes must either be swapped out or not allowed to start if not enough frames)

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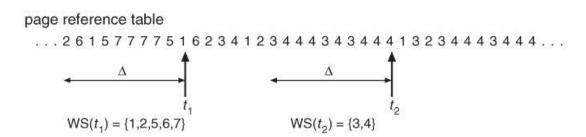
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- In other words, the working set of a process may not be correlated with its memory footprint

Matching the Working Set

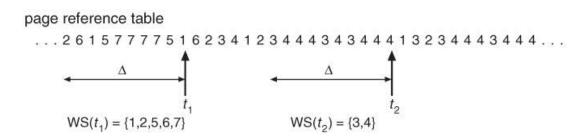
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- How does the OS pickT?
 - I page fault takes order of 10 msecs to be served
 - 10 msecs ~ 10 million instructions
 - T needs to account for a lot more than 10 million instructions



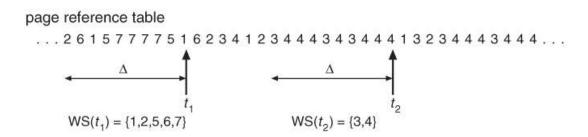
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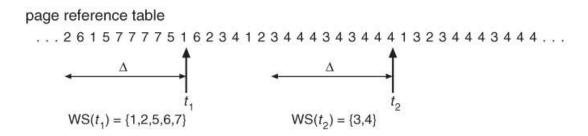
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Exact tracking is expensive: update the working set at each memory access

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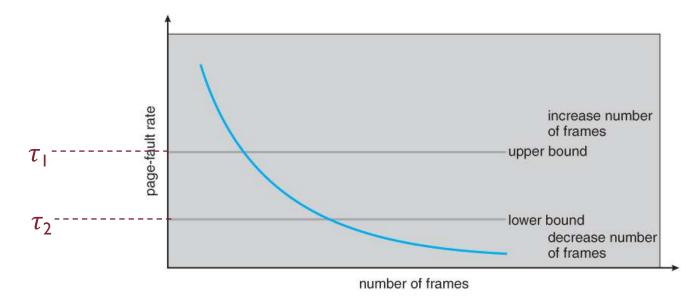
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- Every k memory references (e.g., k = 1,000), consider the working set to be all pages referenced within that period of time

Tracking Page Fault Rate

• Ultimately, our goal is to minimize the page fault rate

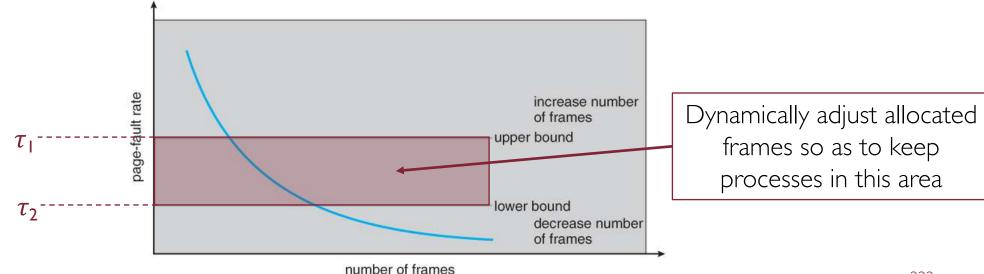
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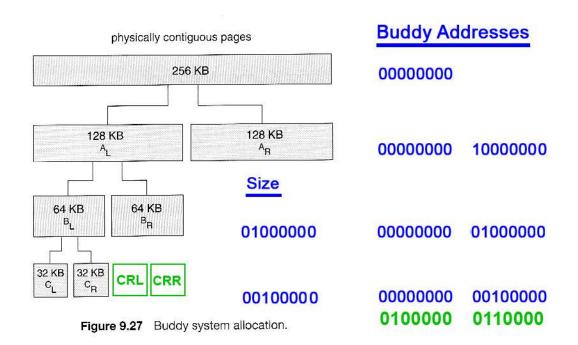
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Kernel Memory

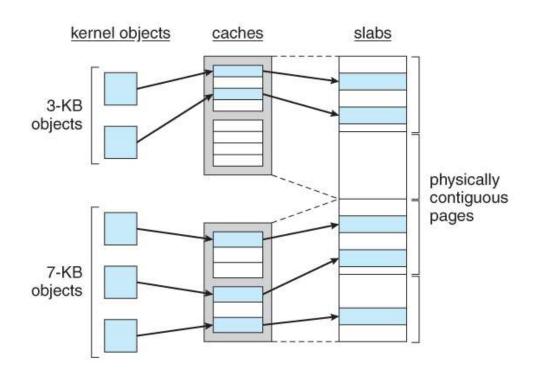
- So far, we only considered memory allocation for user processes
- But kernel needs memory to store things too: code and data structures like PCB, page tables, etc.
- Kernel does not use any of the advanced mechanisms seen so far
 - No paging
 what if a page fault occurs for the kernel?

Kernel Memory: Buddy Allocator



- Allocates memory using a power of 2 allocator (e.g., 4K, 8K, 16K), rounding up to the next nearest power of two if necessary
- If a block of the correct size is not available, then one is formed by (repeatedly) splitting the next larger block in two
- Can lead to internal fragmentation

Kernel Memory: Slab Allocator



- Group of objects of the same size in a slab
- Object cache points to one or more slabs
- Separate cache for each kernel data structure (e.g., PCB)
- No internal fragmentation
- Used in Solaris and Linux

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- Reasons for large pages?
 - Smaller page table size (i.e., smaller number of page table entries)
 - Fewer page faults (locality reference)
 - Amortizes disk overhead (reading a I KB page from disk takes approximately the same as reading an 8KB one)

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 - All algorithms approach to the optimum as the physical memory allocated to a process approaches to the virtual memory size
- The more processes running concurrently, the less physical memory each one can have
- The OS must choose how many processes (and the number of frames per process) can share memory simultaneously