



## Virtual Memory

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Yajin Zhou (<http://yajin.org>)

Zhejiang University



# Review

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- Logical vs physical address
- Memory allocation
  - Contiguous allocation: first-, best-, worst-fit
  - Fragmentation: external vs internal
- paging: page number + page offset
- TLB
- Structure of page table
  - Hierarchical page table, hashed page table, inverted page table
- Swapping



# Background

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- Code needs to be in memory to execute, but entire program **rarely** needed or used at the same time
  - error handling code, unusual routines, large data structures
- Consider ability to execute **partially-loaded program**
  - program no longer constrained by limits of physical memory
  - programs could be larger than physical memory

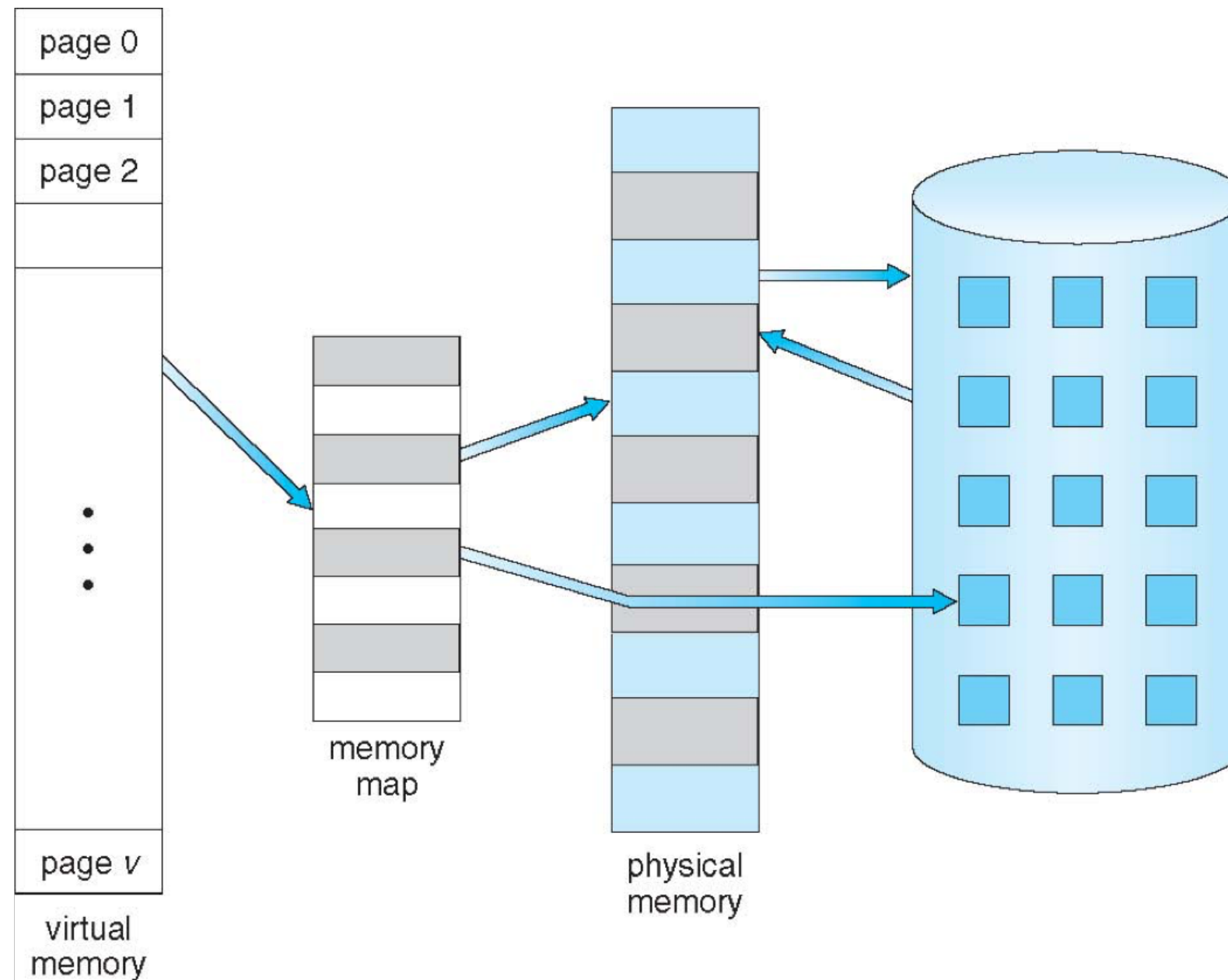


# Background

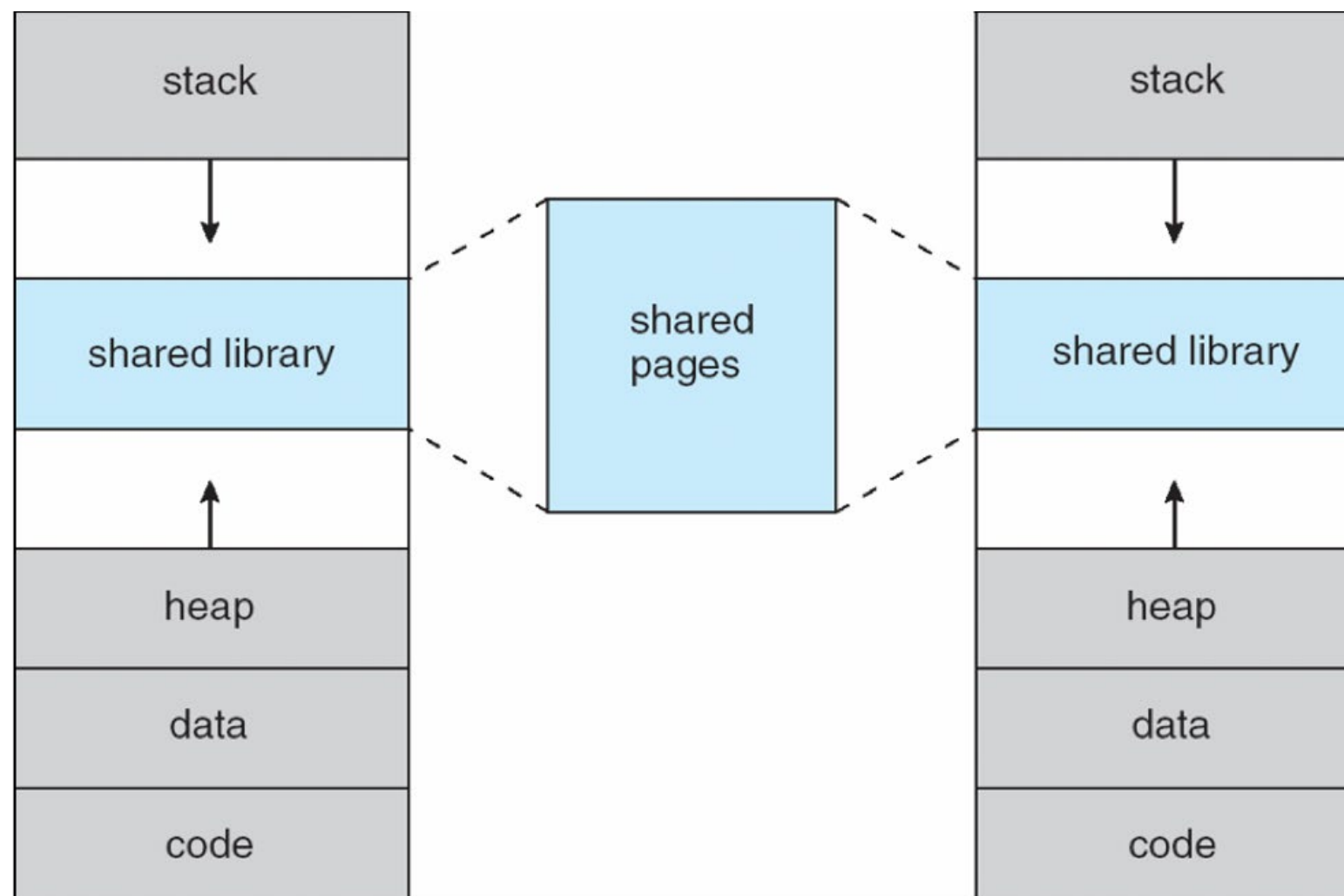
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- Virtual memory: separation of **logical memory** from **physical memory**
  - only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
    - logical address space can be much larger than physical address space
    - more programs can run concurrently
    - less I/O needed to load or swap processes (part of it)
  - allows memory (e.g., shared library) to be shared by several processes: better IPC performance
  - allows for more efficient process forking (**copy-on-write**)
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
  - **demand paging**

# Virtual Memory Larger Than Physical Memory



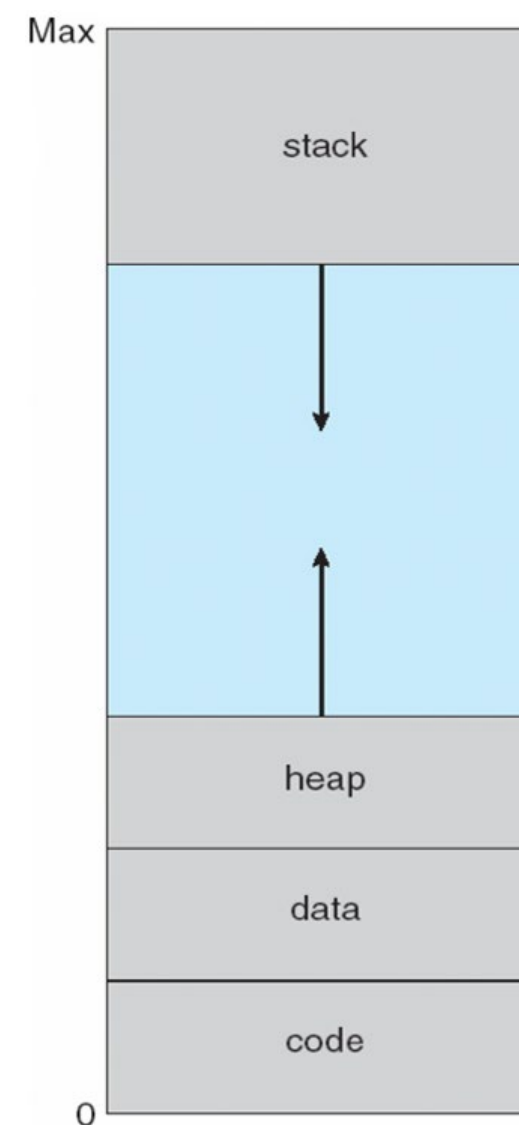
# Shared Library Using Virtual Memory





# Virtual-address Space

- Usually design logical address space for stack to start at Max logical address and grow “down” while heap grows “up”
  - Maximizes address space use
  - Unused address space between the two is hole
    - No physical memory needed until heap or stack grows to a given new page
- Enables **sparse** address spaces with holes left for growth, dynamically linked libraries, etc
- System libraries shared via mapping into virtual address space
- **Shared memory by mapping pages read-write into virtual address space**
- Pages can be shared during fork(), speeding process creation: COW





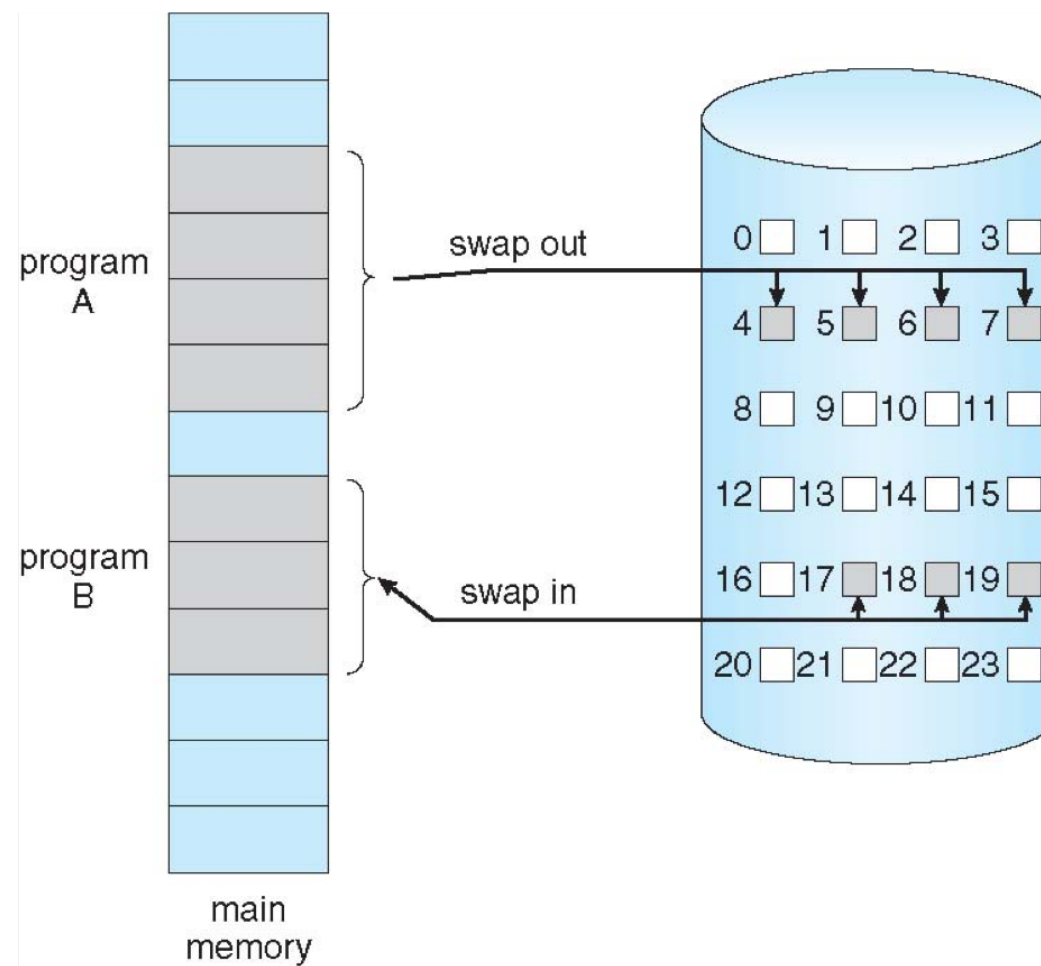
# Demand Paging

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- **Demand paging** brings a page into memory **only when it is accessed**
  - if page is invalid ➡ abort the operation
  - if page is valid but not in memory ➡ bring it to memory via swapping
  - no unnecessary I/O, less memory needed, faster response, more apps
- **Lazy swapper**: never **swaps a page in** memory unless it will be needed
  - the swapper that deals with pages is also called a pager
- **Pre-Paging**: pre-page all or some of pages a process will need, before they are referenced
  - it can reduce the number of page faults during execution
  - if pre-paged pages **are unused**, I/O and memory was wasted
    - although it reduces page faults, total I/O# likely is higher



# Demand Paging



Similar to paging system with swapping



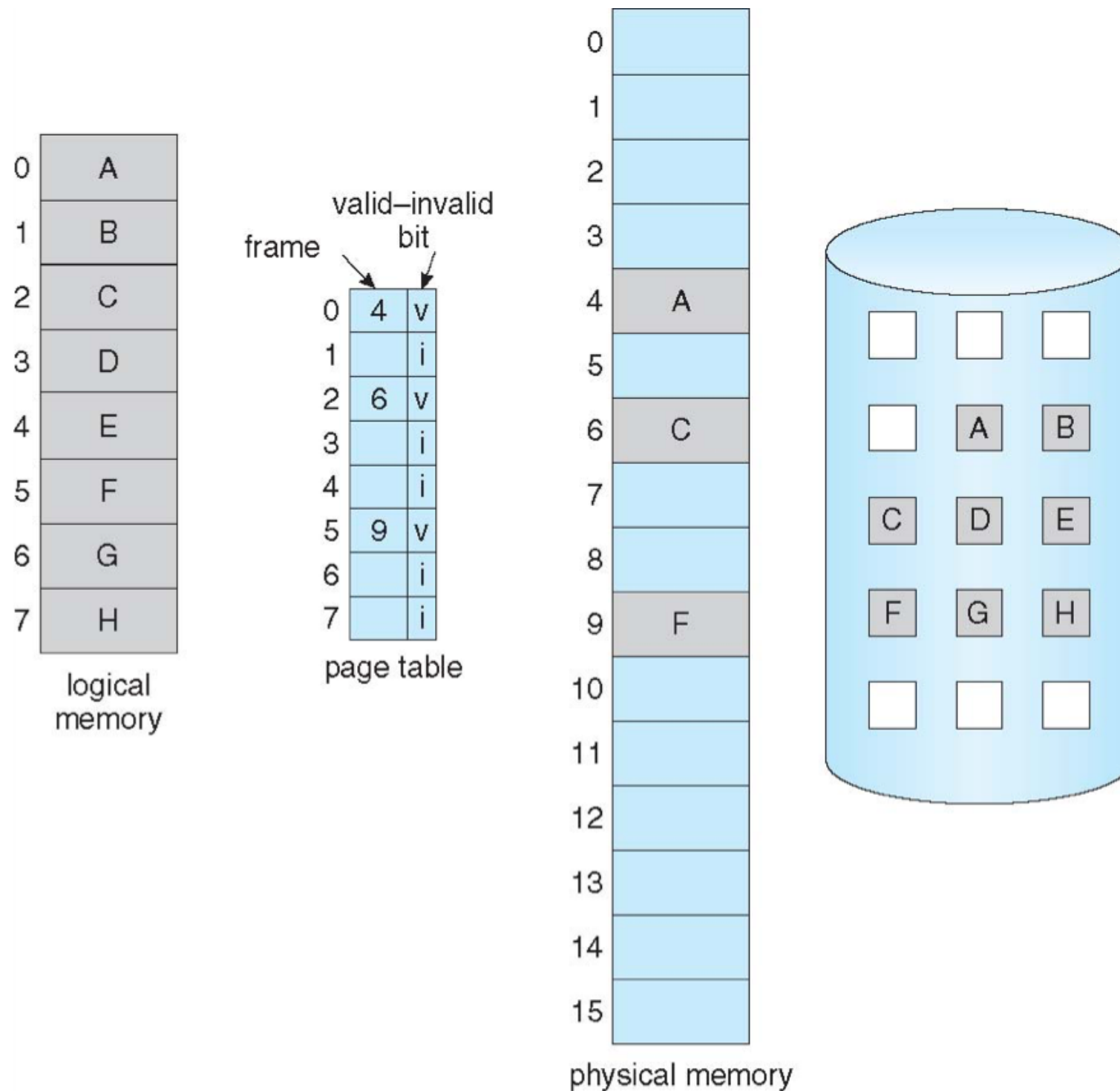
# Valid-Invalid Bit

- Each page table entry has a valid–invalid (present) bit
  - V  $\Rightarrow$  in memory (memory is resident), I  $\Rightarrow$  not-in-memory
  - initially, valid–invalid bit is set to i on all entries
  - during address translation, if the entry is invalid, it will trigger a **page fault**
- Example of a page table snapshot:

Frame #	v/i bit
	<b>v</b>
	<b>v</b>
	<b>v</b>
	<b>v</b>
	<b>i</b>
....	
	<b>i</b>
	<b>i</b>

page table

# Page Table (Some Pages Are Not in Memory)



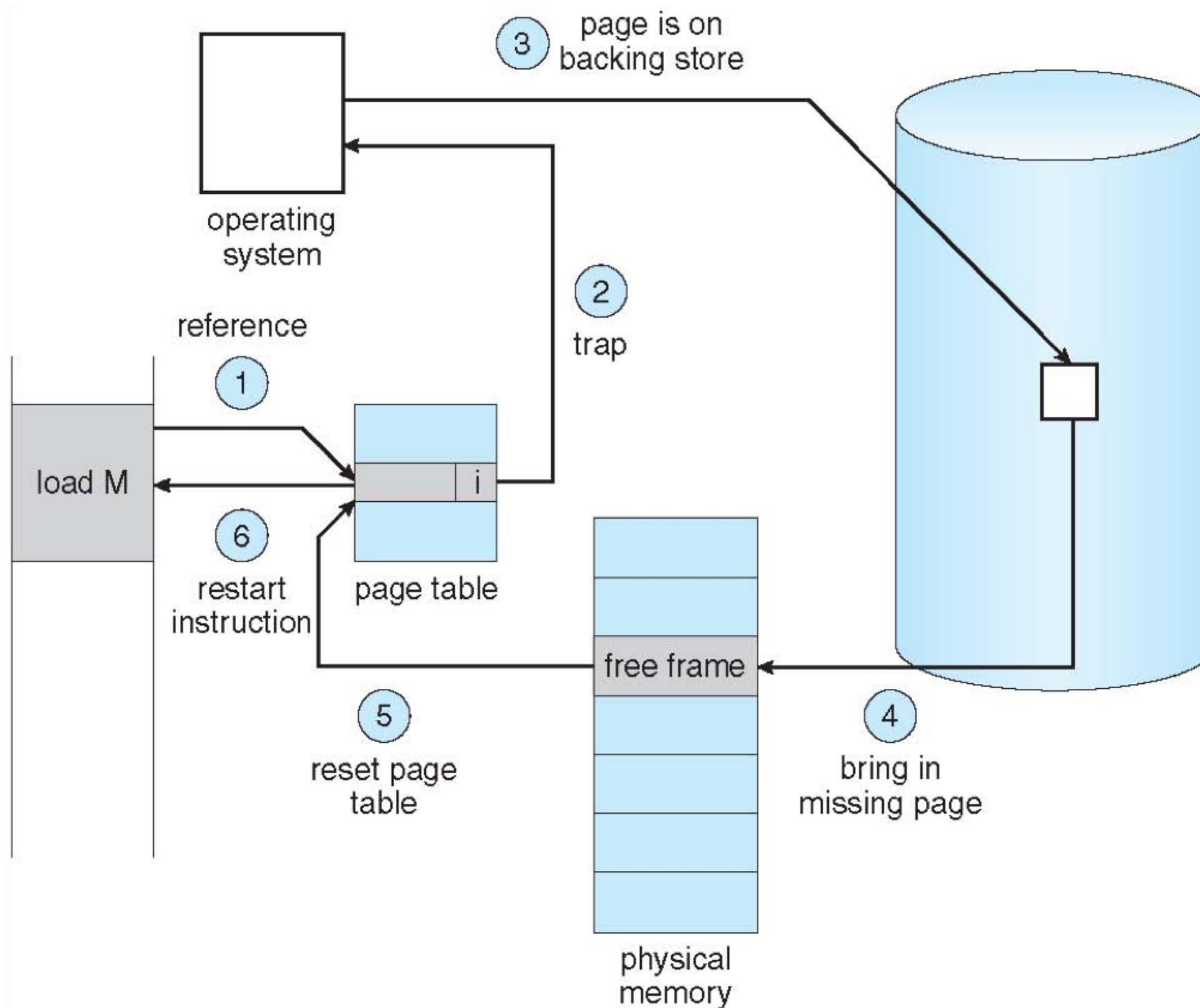


# Page Fault

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- First reference to a non-present page will trap to kernel: **page fault**
- Operating system looks at memory mapping to decide:
  - **invalid reference** ➡ deliver an exception to the process
  - **valid but not in memory** ➡ swap in
    - get an empty physical frame
    - swap page into frame via disk operation
    - set page table entry to indicate the page is now in memory
    - restart the instruction that caused the page fault

# Page Fault Handling





# Demand Paging

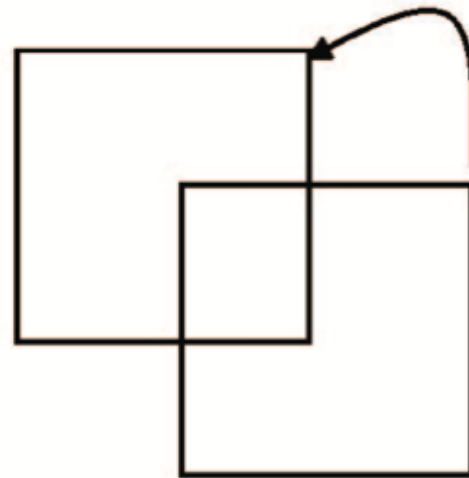
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- Extreme case: start process with no pages in memory (aka. **pure demand paging**)
  - OS sets instruction pointer to first instruction of process
    - invalid page  $\Rightarrow$  page fault
  - every page is paged in on first access
    - **program locality** reduces the overhead
  - an instruction could access multiple pages  $\Rightarrow$  multiple page faults
    - e.g., instruction, data, and page table entries for them
- Demand paging needs hardware support
  - page table entries with **valid / invalid bit**
  - **backing storage** (usually disks)
  - **instruction restart**

# Instruction Restart

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- Consider an instruction that could access several different locations
- Block move



- **Page fault when the operation is partially done**
  - Microcode access both block -> load page in
  - Use temporary registers



# Free-Frame List

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- When a page fault occurs, the operating system must bring the desired page from secondary storage into main memory.
- Most operating systems maintain a free-frame list -- a pool of free frames for satisfying such requests.



- Operating system typically allocate free frames using a technique known as **zero-fill-on-demand** -- the content of the frames zeroed-out before being allocated.
- When a system starts up, all available memory is placed on the free-frame list.





# Stages in Demand Paging – Worse Case

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- 1. Trap to the operating system
- 2. Save the user registers and process state
- 3. Determine that the interrupt was a page fault
- 4. Check that the page reference was legal and determine the location of the page on the disk
- 5. Issue a read from the disk to a free frame:
  - 5.1 Wait in a queue for this device until the read request is serviced
  - 5.2 Wait for the device seek and/or latency time
  - 5.3 Begin the transfer of the page to a free frame



# Stages in Demand Paging

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- 6. While waiting, allocate the CPU to some other user
- 7. Receive an interrupt from the disk I/O subsystem (I/O completed)
- 8. Save the registers and process state for the other user
- 9. Determine that the interrupt was from the disk
- 10. Correct the page table and other tables to show page is now in memory
- 11. Wait for the CPU to be allocated to this process again
- 12. Restore the user registers, process state, and new page table, and then resume the interrupted instruction



# Demand Paging: EAT

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- Page fault rate:  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ 
  - if  $p = 0$  no page faults
  - if  $p = 1$ , every reference is a fault
- Effective Access Time (EAT):  
 $(1 - p) \times \text{memory access} + p \times (\text{page fault overhead} + \text{swap page out} + \text{swap page in} + \text{instruction restart overhead})$



# Demand Paging Example

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- Assume memory access time: 200 nanoseconds, average page-fault service time: 8 milliseconds
- $EAT = (1 - p) \times 200 + p \times (8 \text{ milliseconds})$   
 $= (1 - p) \times 200 + p \times 8,000,000$   
 $= 200 + p \times 7,999,800$
- if one out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then  $EAT = 8.2$  microseconds
  - a slowdown by a factor of 40!
- if want < 10 percent, less than one page fault in every 400,000 accesses



# Demand Paging Optimizations

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- Swap space I/O faster than file system I/O even if on the same device
  - Swap allocated in larger chunks, less management needed than file system
- Copy entire process image to swap space at process load time
  - Then page in and out of swap space
- Used in older BSD Unix



# Demand Paging Optimizations

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- Demand page in from program binary on disk, but **discard** rather than paging out when freeing frame (and reload from disk next time)
- For some cases, still need to **write** to swap space
  - Pages not associated with a file (like stack and heap) – anonymous memory
- Mobile systems
  - Typically don't support swapping
  - Instead, demand page from **file system** and reclaim read-only pages (such as code)

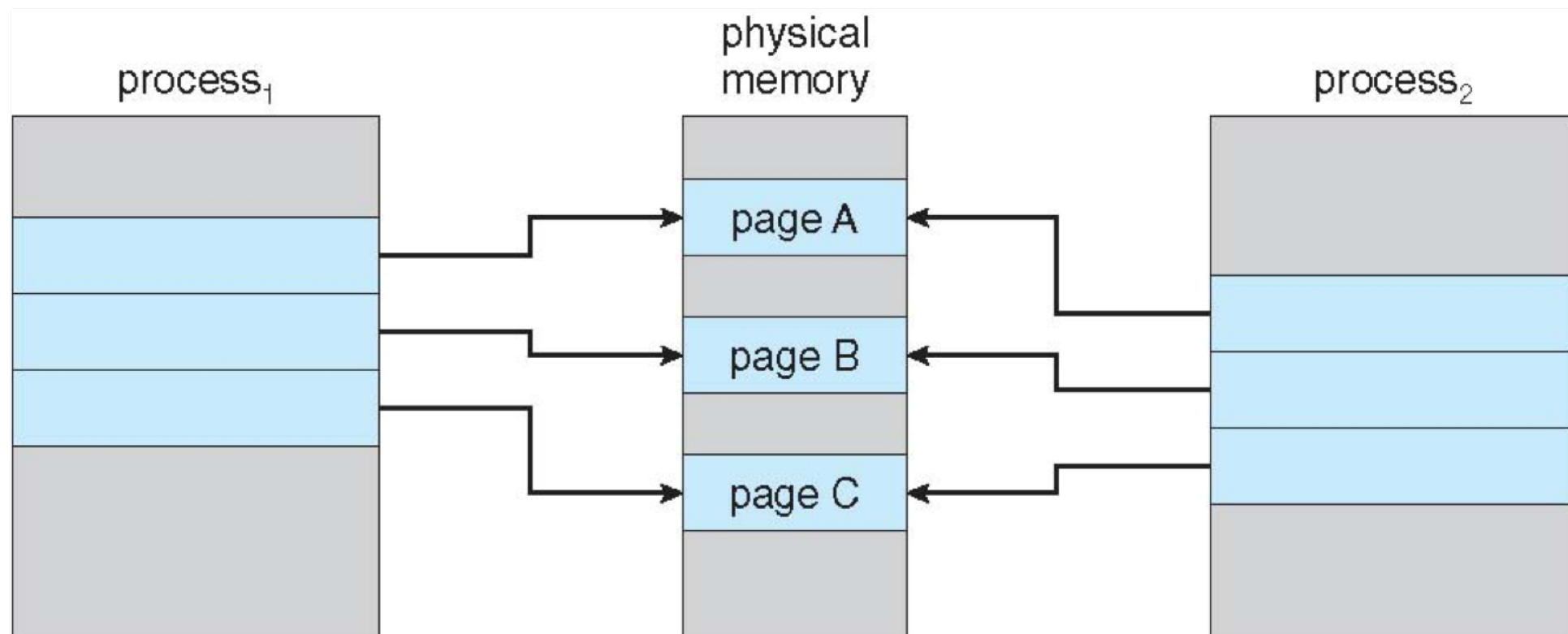


# Copy-on-Write

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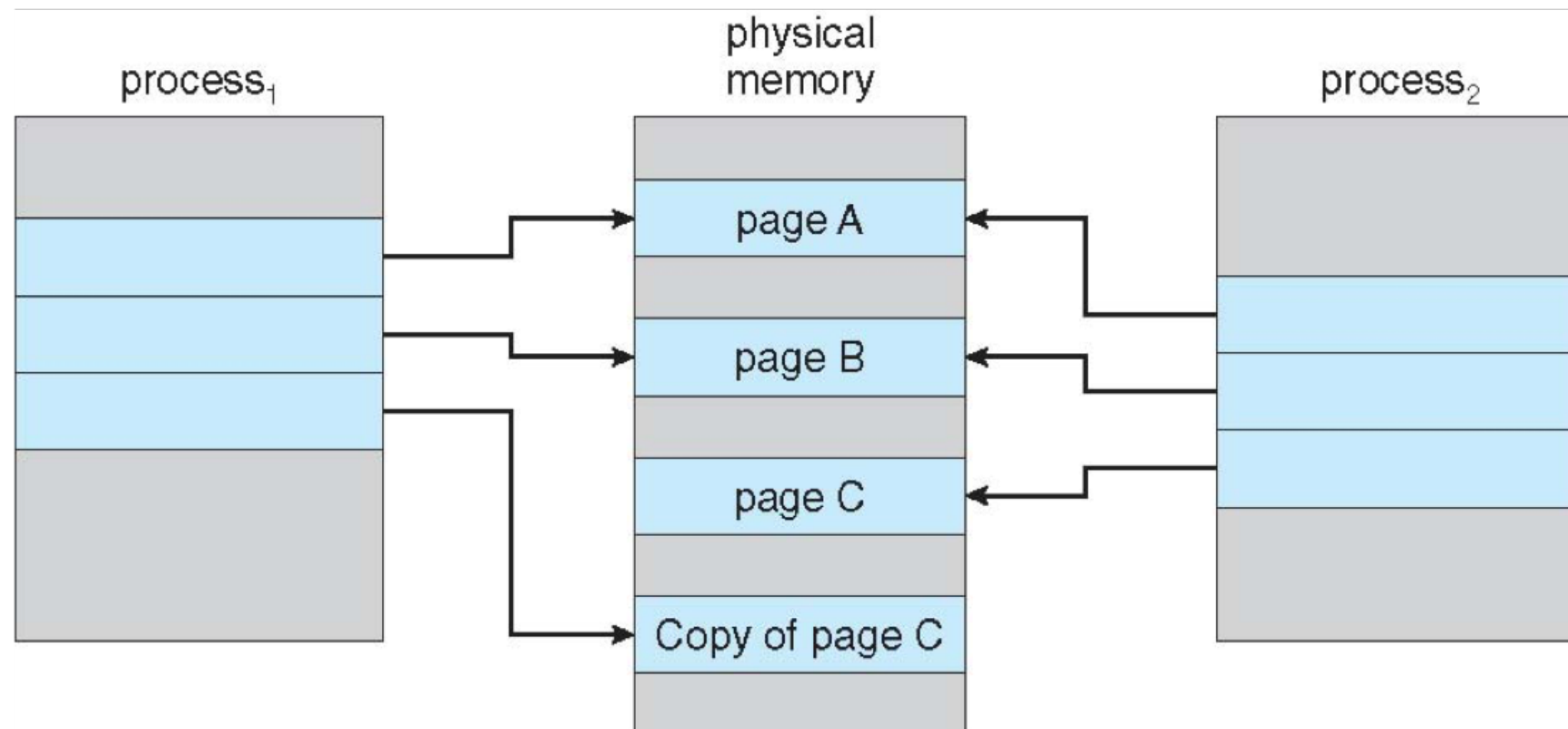
- **Copy-on-write** (COW) allows parent and child processes to initially share the same pages in memory
  - the page is shared as long as no process modifies it
  - if either process modifies a shared page, only then is the page copied
- COW allows more efficient **process creation**
  - no need to copy the parent memory during fork
  - only changed memory will be copied later
- vfork syscall optimizes the case that child calls **exec** immediately after fork
  - parent is suspend until child exits or calls exec
  - child shares the parent resource, including the heap and the stack
    - child cannot return from the function or call exit
  - vfork could be fragile, **it is invented when COW has not been implemented**

# Before Process 1 Modifies Page C





# After Process 1 Modifies Page C





# What Happens if There is no Free Frame?

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- Used up by process pages
- Also in demand from the kernel, I/O buffers, etc
- How much to allocate to each?
- **Page replacement** – find some page in memory, but not really in use, page it out
  - Algorithm – terminate? swap out? replace the page?
  - Performance – want an algorithm which will result in minimum number of page faults
- Same page may be brought into memory several times

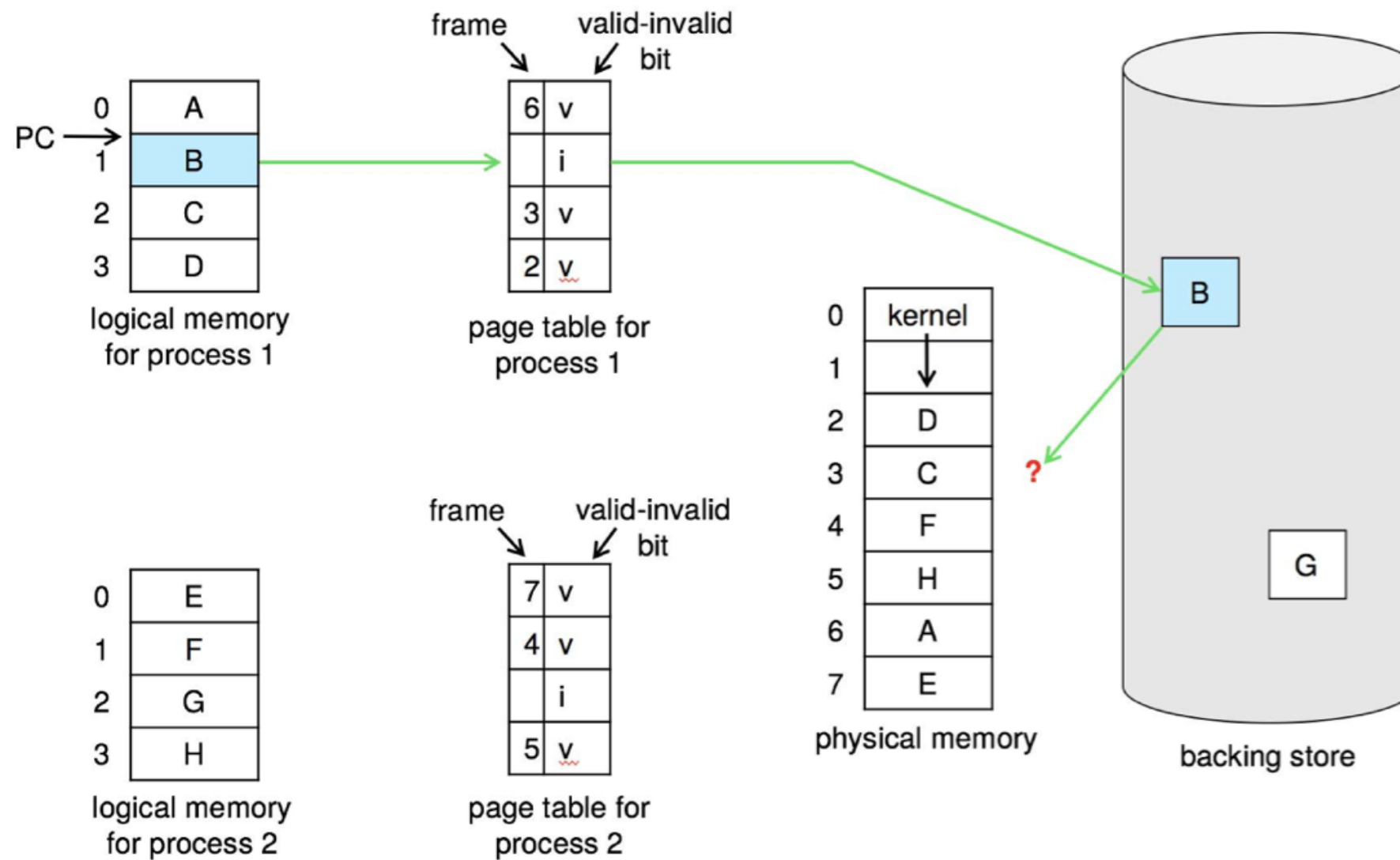


# Page Replacement

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- Memory is an important resource, system may run out of memory
- To prevent out-of-memory, swap out some pages
  - page replacement usually is a part of the page fault handler
  - policies to select victim page require careful design
    - need to reduce overhead and avoid **thrashing**
  - use modified (dirty) bit to reduce number of pages to swap out
    - only modified pages are written to disk
  - select some processes to kill (last resort)
- Page replacement completes separation between logical memory and physical memory – large virtual memory can be provided on a smaller physical memory

# Need For Page Replacement



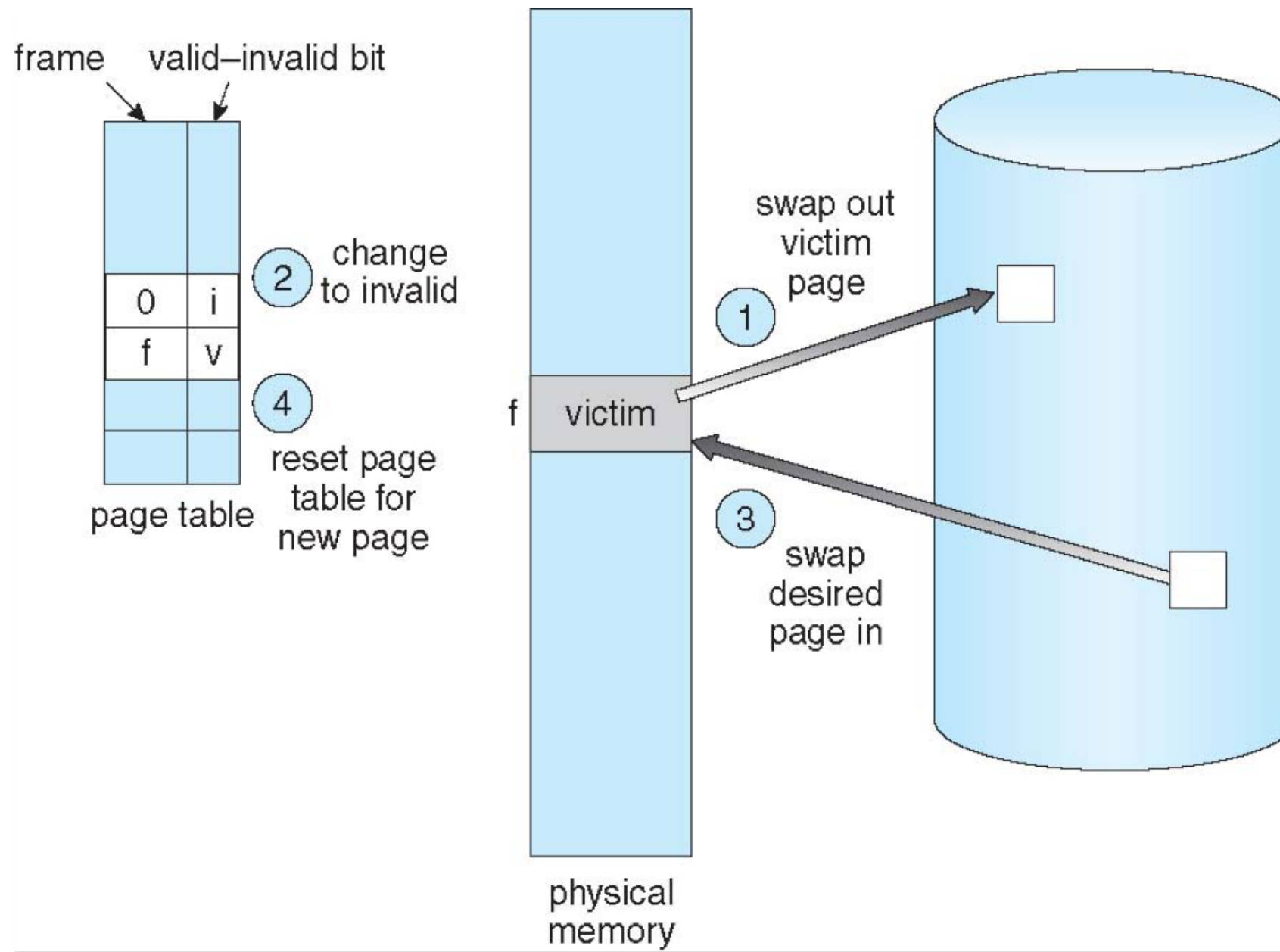


# Page Fault Handler (with Page Replacement)

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- To page in a page:
  - find the location of the desired page on disk
  - find a free frame:
    - if there is a free frame, use it
    - if there is none, use a page replacement policy to pick a victim frame, write victim frame to disk if dirty
  - bring the desired page into the free frame; update the page tables
  - restart the instruction that caused the trap
- Note now potentially **2 page I/O** for **one page fault** ➡ increase EAT

# Page Replacement



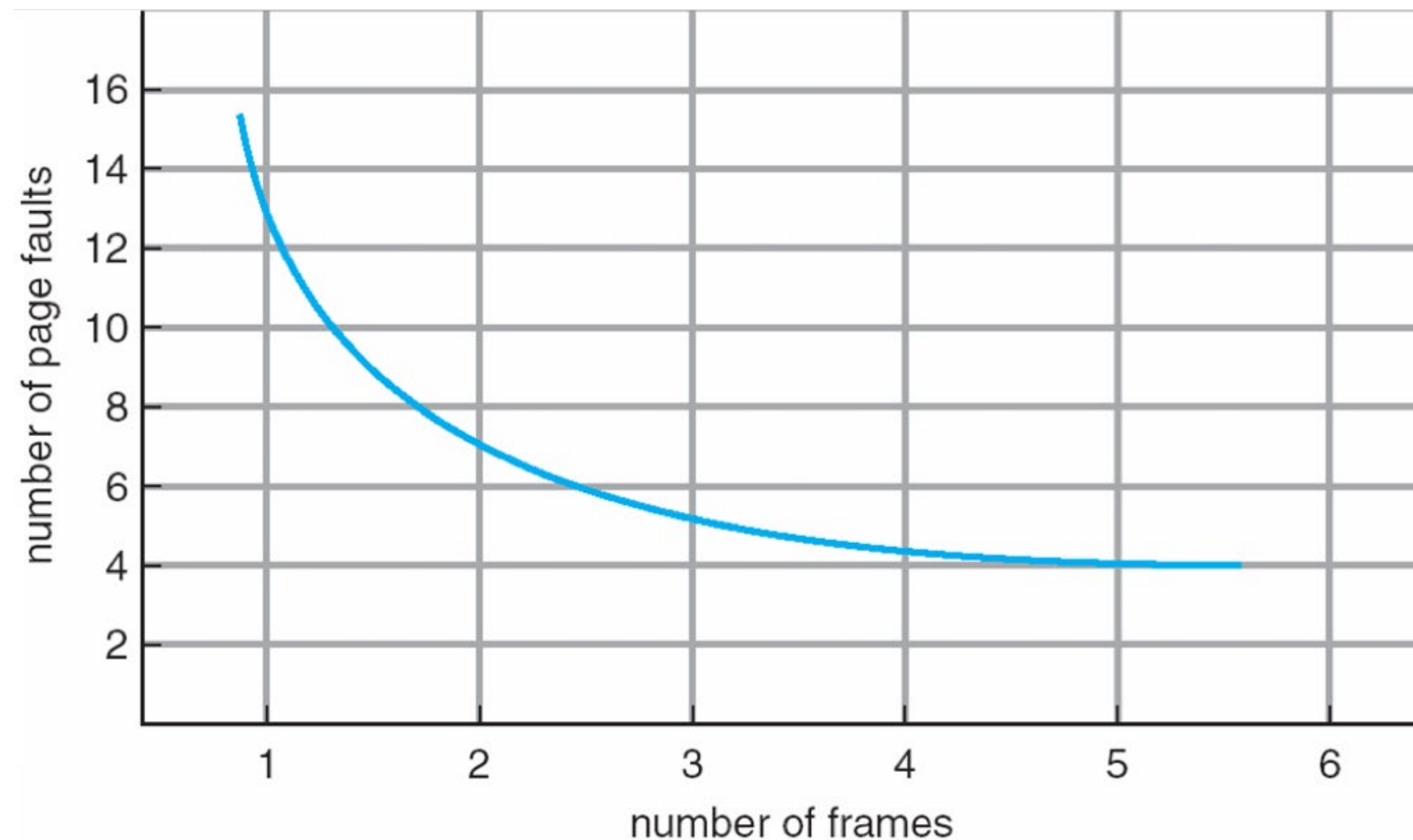


# Page Replacement Algorithms

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- Page-replacement algorithm should have lowest page-fault rate on both first access and re-access
  - **FIFO, optimal, LRU, LFU, MFU...**
- To evaluate a page replacement algorithm:
  - run it on a particular string of memory references (reference string)
    - string is just page numbers, not full addresses
  - compute the number of page faults on that string
    - repeated access to the same page does not cause a page fault
  - in all our examples, the reference string is  
7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1

# Page Faults v.s. Number of Frames

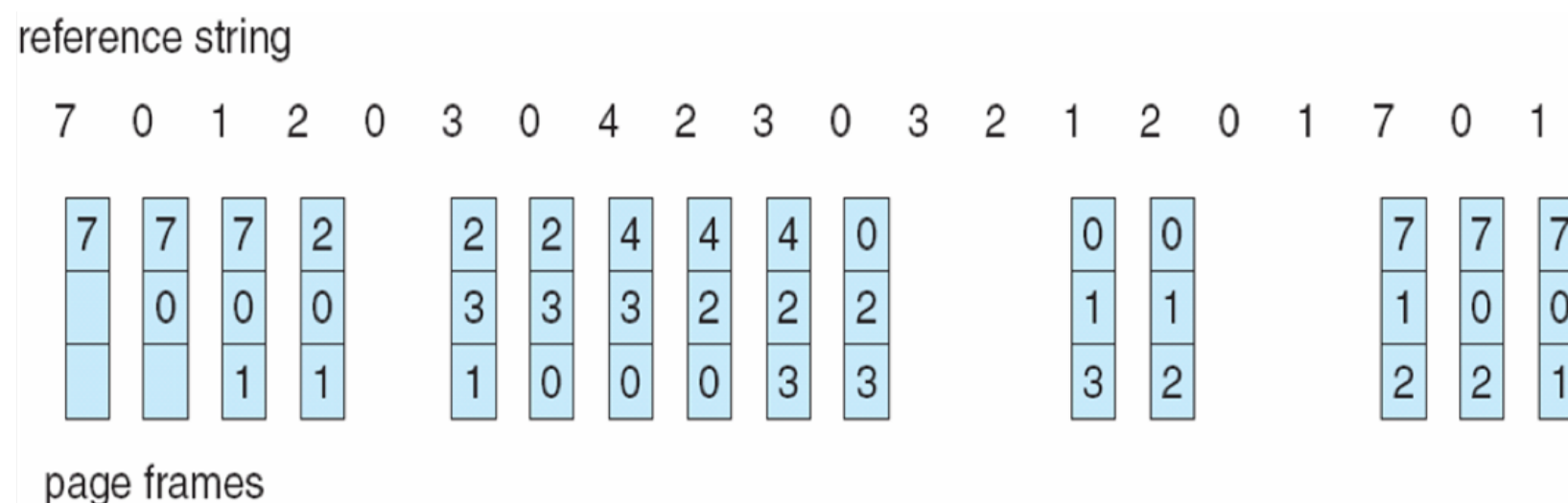






# First-In-First-Out (FIFO)

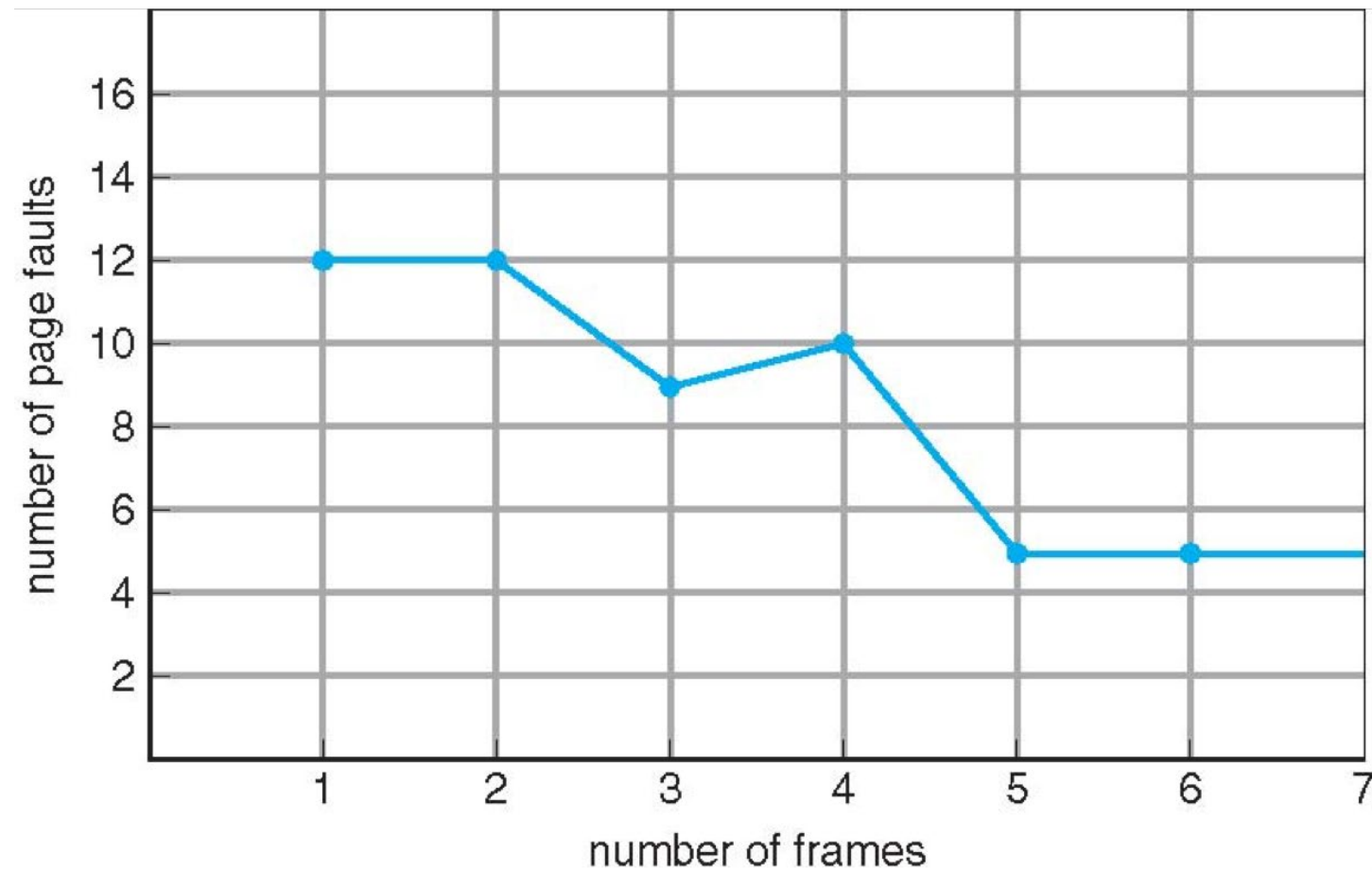
- **FIFO**: replace the first page loaded
  - similar to sliding a window of n in the reference string
  - our reference string will cause 15 page faults with 3 frames
  - how about reference string of 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4,5 /w 3 or 4 frames?
- For FIFO, adding **more frames** can cause **more page faults**!
- **Belady's Anomaly**



15 page faults



# FIFO Illustrating Belady's Anomaly



1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5



# Belady's Anomaly

1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5

1	1	1	4	4	4	5
	2	2	2	1	1	1
		3	3	3	2	2

5	5
3	3
2	4

9 page faults

1	1	1	1
	2	2	2
		3	3
			4

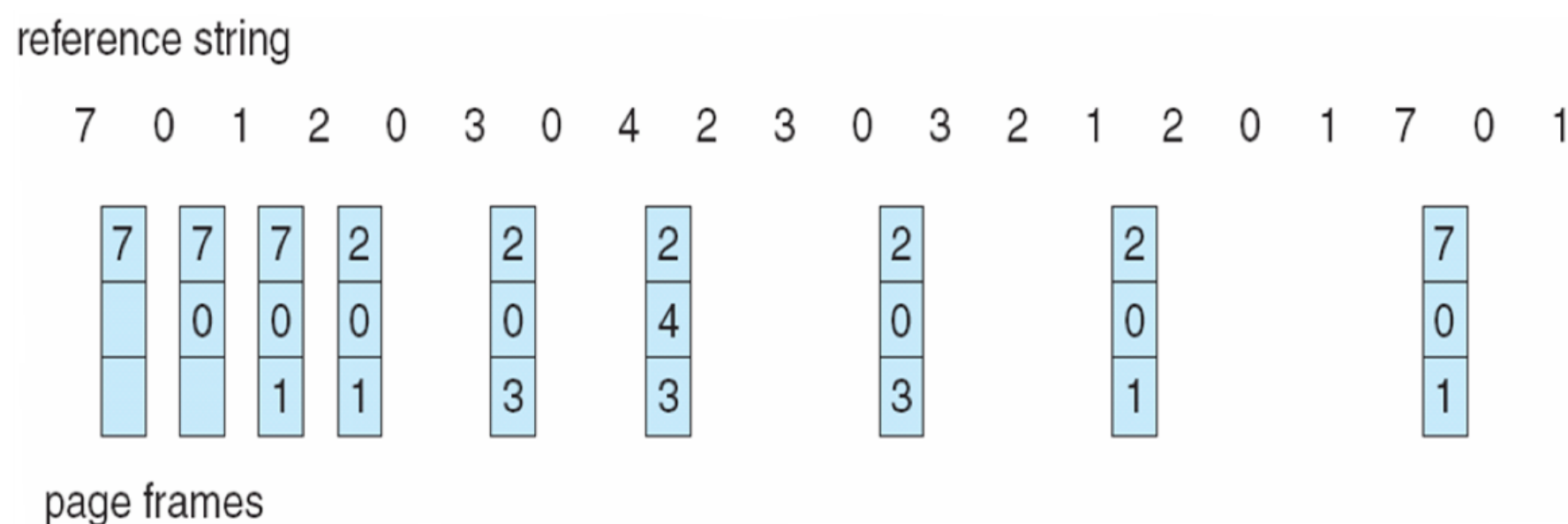
5	5	5	5	4	4
2	1	1	1	1	5
3	2	2	2	2	2
4	3	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	3	3	3

10 page faults!



# Optimal Algorithm

- **Optimal** : replace page that will not be used for the longest time
  - 9 page fault is optimal for the example on the next slide
- How do you know which page will not be used for the longest time?
  - can't read the future
  - used for measuring how well your algorithm performs





# Least Recently Used (LRU)

- **LRU** replaces pages that have not been used for the longest time
  - associate time of last use with each page, select pages w/ oldest timestamp
  - generally good algorithm and frequently used
  - 12 faults for our example, better than FIFO but worse than OPT
- LRU and OPT do **NOT** have Belady's Anomaly
- How to implement LRU?
  - **counter-based**
  - **stack-based**

reference string

7 0 1 2 0 3 0 4 2 3 0 3 2 1 2 0 1 7 0 1

7	7	7	2		2		4	4	4	0			1		1		1		
	0	0	0		0		0	0	3	3			3		0		0		
		1	1		3		3	2	2	2			2		2		7		

page frames

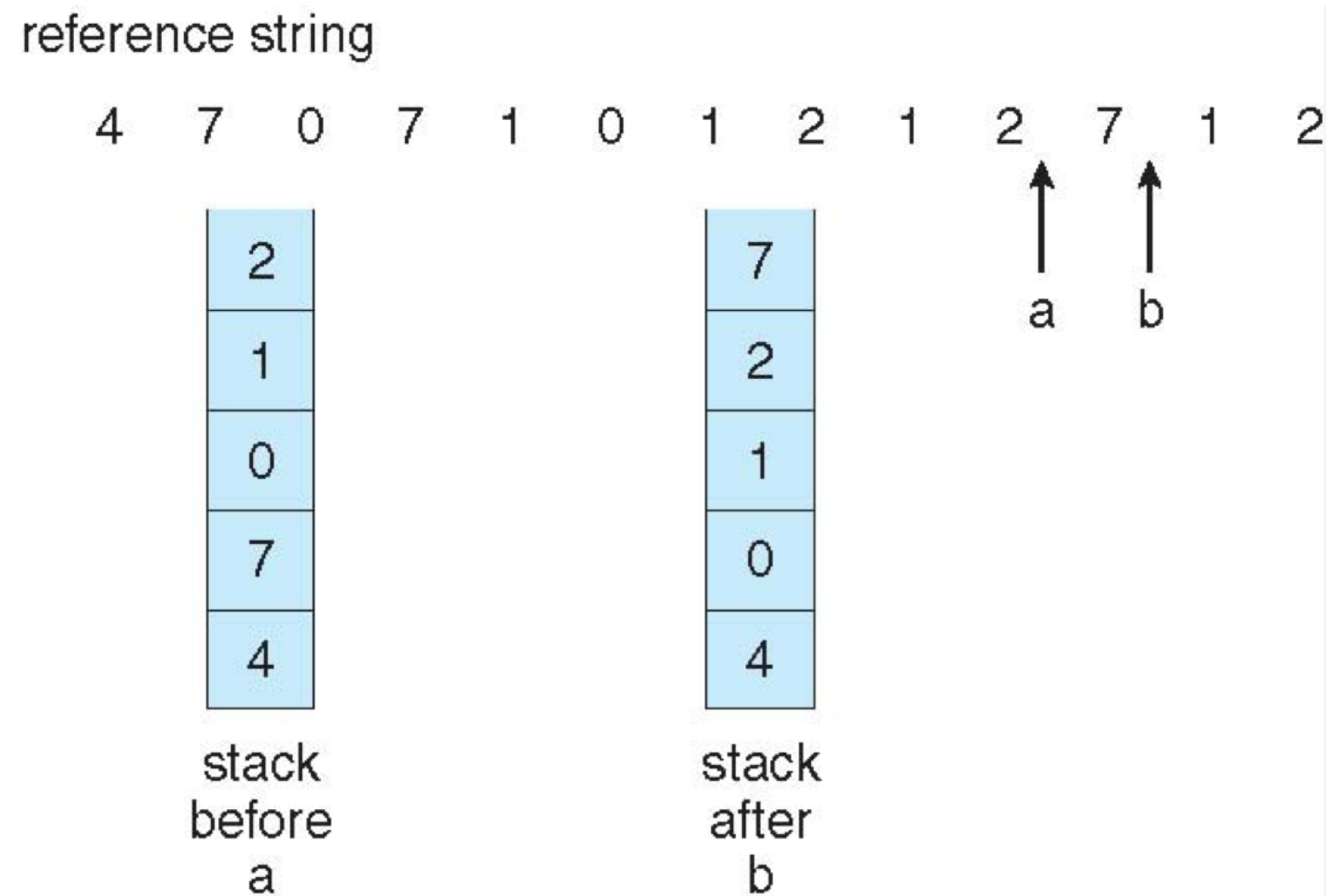


# LRU Implementation

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- **Counter-based** implementation
  - every page table entry has a counter
  - every time page is referenced, copy the **clock** into the counter
  - when a page needs to be replaced, search for page with smallest counter
    - min-heap can be used
- **Stack-based** implementation
  - keep a stack of page numbers (in double linked list)
  - when a page is referenced, move it to the top of the stack
  - each update is more expensive, but no need to search for replacement

# Stack-based LRU





# Review

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- Demanding paging: brings a page into memory when it is accessed
- Invalid/valid bit (present) bit
- Page fault: find free frame, swap in, set page table entry, restart
  - Performance overhead: EAT
  - Optimization: COW, dirty bit, directly use the swap space
- Page replacement: reference string
  - FIFO
  - Optimal
  - LRU: counter/stack based





# LRU Approximation Implementation

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- Counter-based and stack-based LRU have high performance overhead
- Hardware provides **a reference bit**
- LRU approximation with a **reference bit**
  - associate with each page a reference bit, initially set to 0
  - when page is referenced, set the bit to 1 (done by the hardware)
  - replace any page with reference bit = 0 (if one exists)
    - We do not know the **order**, however



# Additional-Reference-Bits Algorithm

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- Reordering the bits at regular intervals
  - Suppose we have 8-bits byte for each page
  - During a time interval (100ms), sets the high bit and shifts bit rights by 1 bit, and then discards the low-order bits
  - 00000000 => has not been used in 8 time intervals
  - 11111111 => has been used in all time intervals
  - 11000100 vs 01110111 : which one is used more recently?

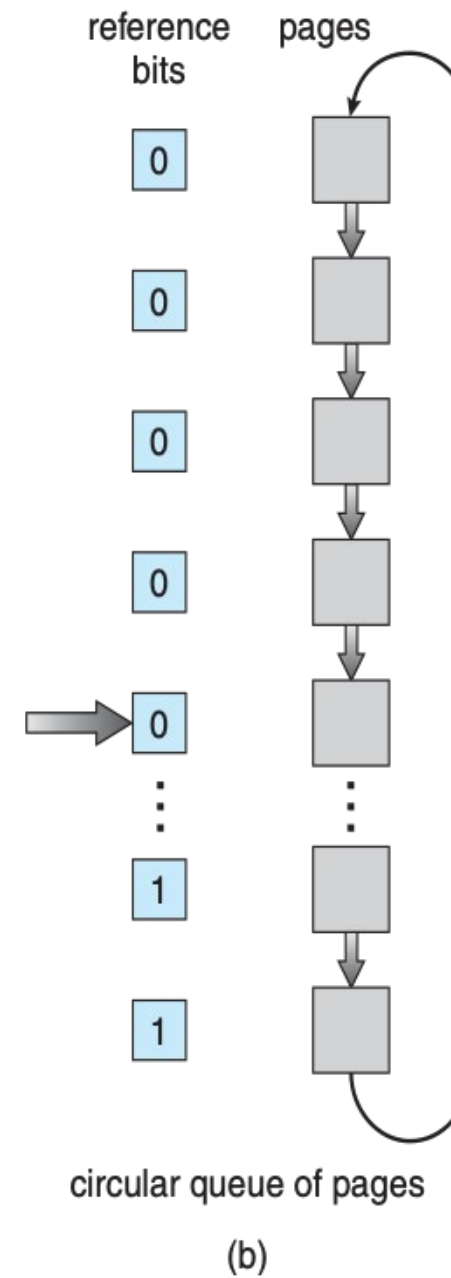
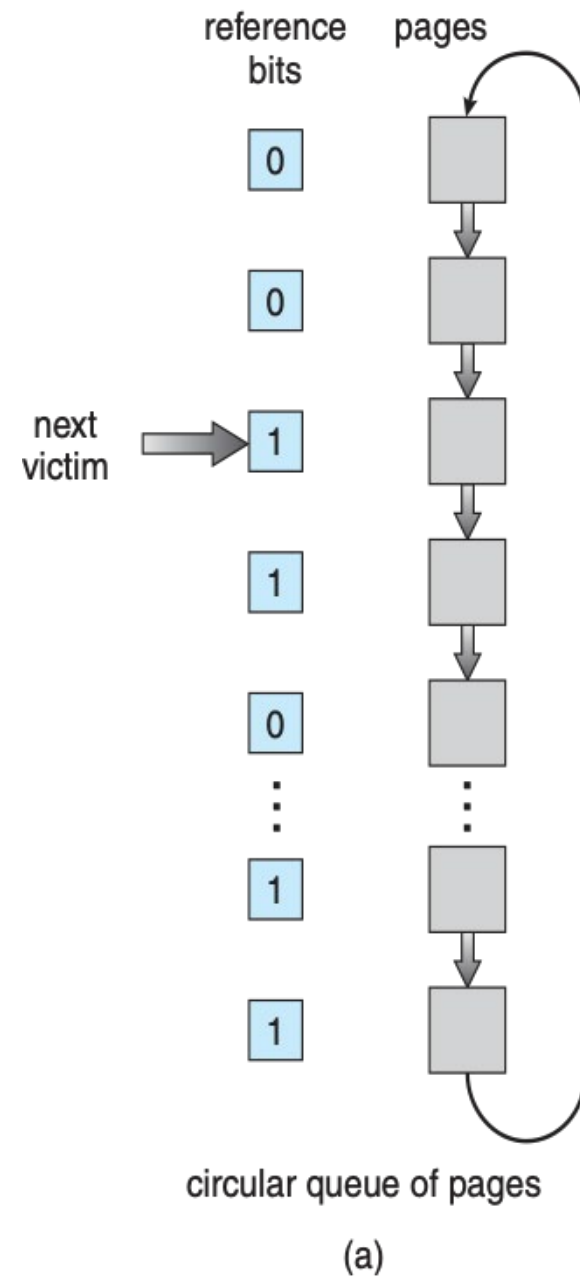


# LRU Implementation

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- **Second-chance** algorithm
  - Generally FIFO, plus hardware-provided **reference bit**
  - **Clock** replacement
  - If page to be replaced has
    - Reference bit = 0 -> replace it
    - reference bit = 1 then:
      - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
      - replace next page, subject to same rules

# Second-chance (clock) Page-replacement Algorithm





# Enhanced Second-Chance Algorithm

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- Improve algorithm by using **reference bit** and modify bit (if available) in concert
- Take ordered pair (reference, modify):
  - (0, 0) neither recently used nor modified – best page to replace
  - (0, 1) not recently used but modified – not quite as good, must write out before replacement
  - (1, 0) recently used but clean – probably will be used again soon
  - (1, 1) recently used and modified – probably will be used again soon and need to write out before replacement
- When page replacement called for, use the clock scheme but use the four classes to replace page in lowest non-empty class
  - Might need to search circular queue several times



# Counting-based Page Replacement

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- Keep the number of references made to each page
- **LFU** replaces page with the smallest counter
  - A page is heavily used during process initialization and then never used
- **MFU** replaces page with the largest counter
  - based on the argument that page with the smallest count was probably just brought in and has yet to be used
- LFU and MFU are not common



# Page-Buffering Algorithms

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- **Keep a pool of free frames, always**
  - **Then frame available when needed**, not found at fault time
  - Read page into free frames without waiting for victims to write out
    - Restart as soon as possible
  - When convenient, evict victim
- Possibly, keep list of **modified pages**
  - When backing store **otherwise idle**, write pages there and set to non-dirty: this page can be replaced **without** writing pages to backing store
- Possibly, keep free frame contents intact and note what is in them - a kind of cache
  - If **referenced again before reused**, no need to load contents again from disk
    - **cache hit**



# Applications and Page Replacement

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- All of these algorithms have OS guessing about future page access
- Some applications have better knowledge – i.e. databases
- Memory intensive applications can cause **double buffering - a waste of memory**
  - OS keeps copy of page in memory as I/O buffer
  - Application keeps page in memory for its own work
- Operating system can give direct access to the disk, getting out of the way of the applications
  - **Raw disk** mode
- Bypasses buffering, locking, etc





# Allocation of Frames

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- Each process needs **minimum number** of frames -according to instructions semantics
- Example: IBM 370 – **6 pages to handle SS MOVE** instruction:
  - instruction is 6 bytes, might span 2 pages
  - 2 pages to handle from
  - 2 pages to handle to
- **Maximum** of course is total frames in the system
- Two major allocation schemes
  - fixed allocation
  - priority allocation
- Many variations



# Fixed Allocation

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- Equal allocation – For example, if there are 100 frames (after allocating frames for the OS) and 5 processes, give each process 20 frames
  - Keep some as free frame buffer pool
- Proportional allocation – Allocate according to the size of process
  - Dynamic as degree of multiprogramming, process sizes change

$s_i$  = size of process  $p_i$

$S = \sum s_i$

$m$  = total number of frames

$a_i$  = allocation for  $p_i = \frac{s_i}{S} \times m$

$m = 62$

$s_1 = 10$

$s_2 = 127$

$a_1 = \frac{10}{137} \times 62 \approx 4$

$a_2 = \frac{127}{137} \times 62 \approx 57$



# Global vs. Local Allocation

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- **Global replacement** – process selects a replacement frame from the set of all frames; one process can take a frame from another
  - But then process execution time can **vary** greatly - depends on others
  - But greater throughput so more common
- **Local replacement** – each process selects from only its own set of allocated frames
  - More consistent per-process performance
  - But possibly underutilized memory

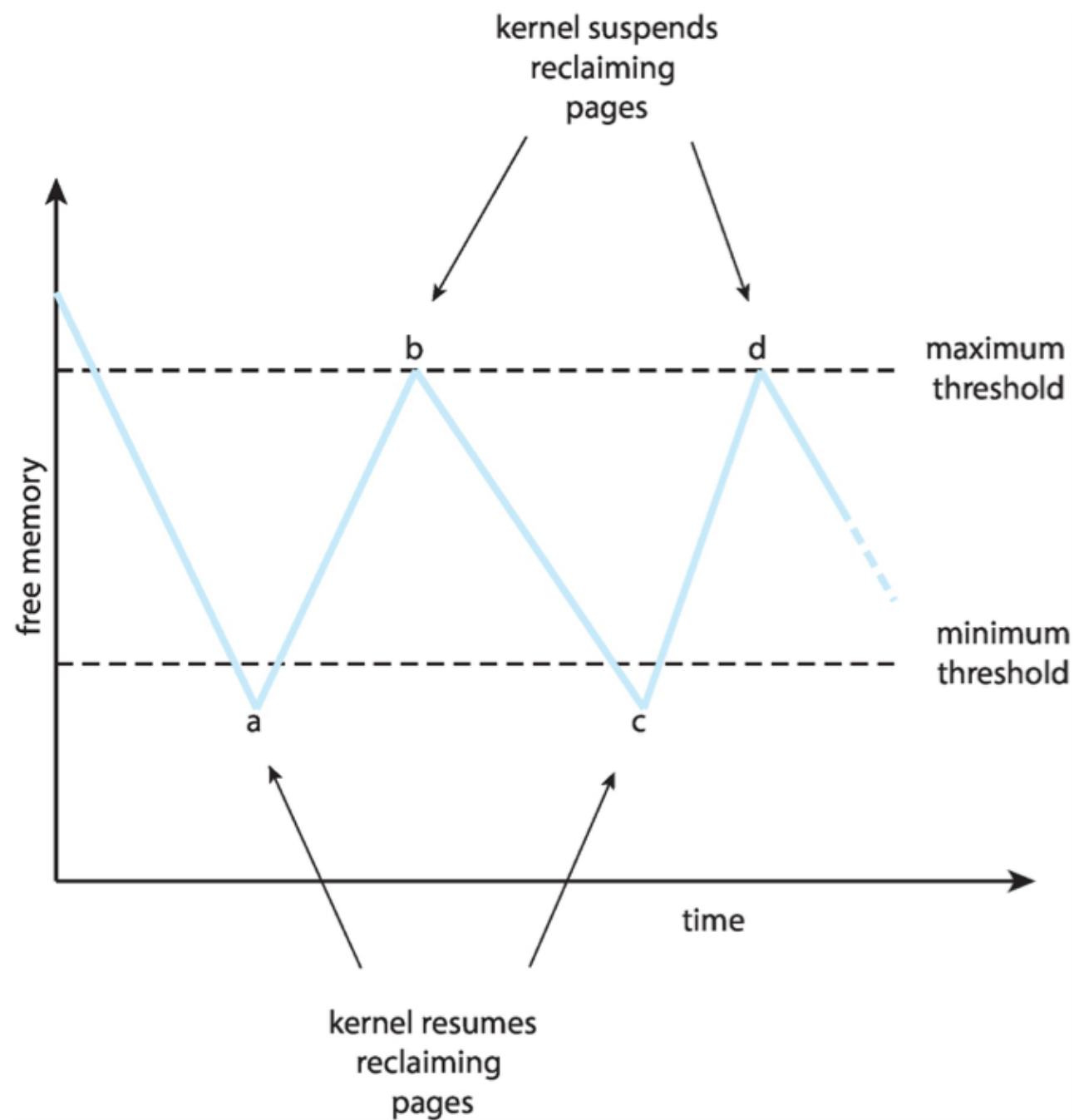


# Reclaiming Pages

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- A strategy to implement global page-replacement policy
- All memory requests are satisfied from the free-frame list, rather than waiting for the list to drop to zero before we begin selecting pages for replacement,
- Page replacement is triggered when the list falls below a **certain threshold.**
- This strategy attempts to ensure **there is always sufficient** free memory to satisfy new requests.

# Reclaiming Pages Example



# What happens if memory is below the minimum threshold

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- Reclaim pages aggressively
  - Kill some processes
  - OOM score



# Major and minor page faults

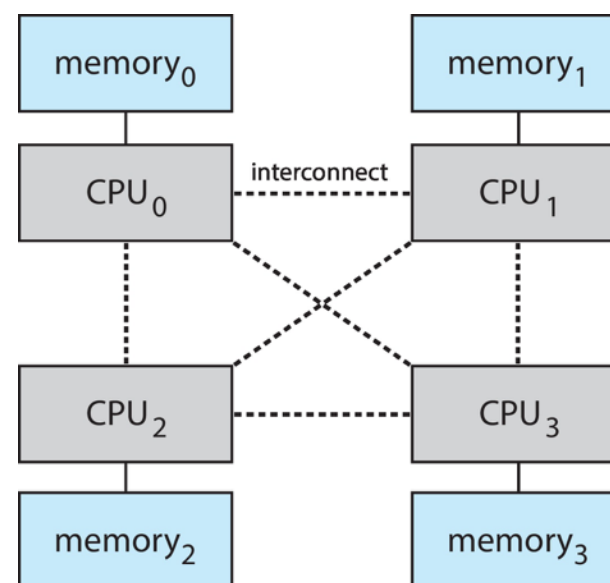
- Major: page is referenced but not in memory
- Minor: mapping does not exist, but the page is in memory
  - Shared library
  - Reclaimed and not freed yet

```
work@ubuntu:~$ ps eo minflt,majflt,cmd
MINFL  MAJFL  CMD
1308    1  -bash TERM=linux LANG=en_US.UTF-8 HOME=/home/work SHELL=/bin/bash U
20108   8  /bin/bash LESSOPEN=| /usr/bin/lesspipe %s TMUX=/tmp/tmux-1000/defau
1299    0  /bin/bash XDG_SESSION_ID=21 SHELL=/bin/bash TERM=screen SSH_CLIENT=
1830    0  -bash LC_CTYPE=UTF-8 USER=work LOGNAME=work HOME=/home/work PATH=/u
158     0  ps eo minflt,majflt,cmd XDG_SESSION_ID=35 TERM=xterm-256color SHE
```

Thanks to shared libraries!

# Non-Uniform Memory Access

- So far all memory accessed equally
- Many systems are NUMA – speed of access to memory varies
  - Consider system boards containing CPUs and memory, interconnected over a system bus
- NUMA multiprocessing architecture







# Non-Uniform Memory Access (Cont.)

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- Optimal performance comes from allocating memory “close to” the CPU on which the thread is scheduled
  - And modifying the **scheduler** to schedule the thread on the same system board when possible
- Linux
  - Kernel maintains scheduling domains: does not allow threads to migrate across domains
  - A separate free-frame list for each NUMA node - allocating memory from the node it is running

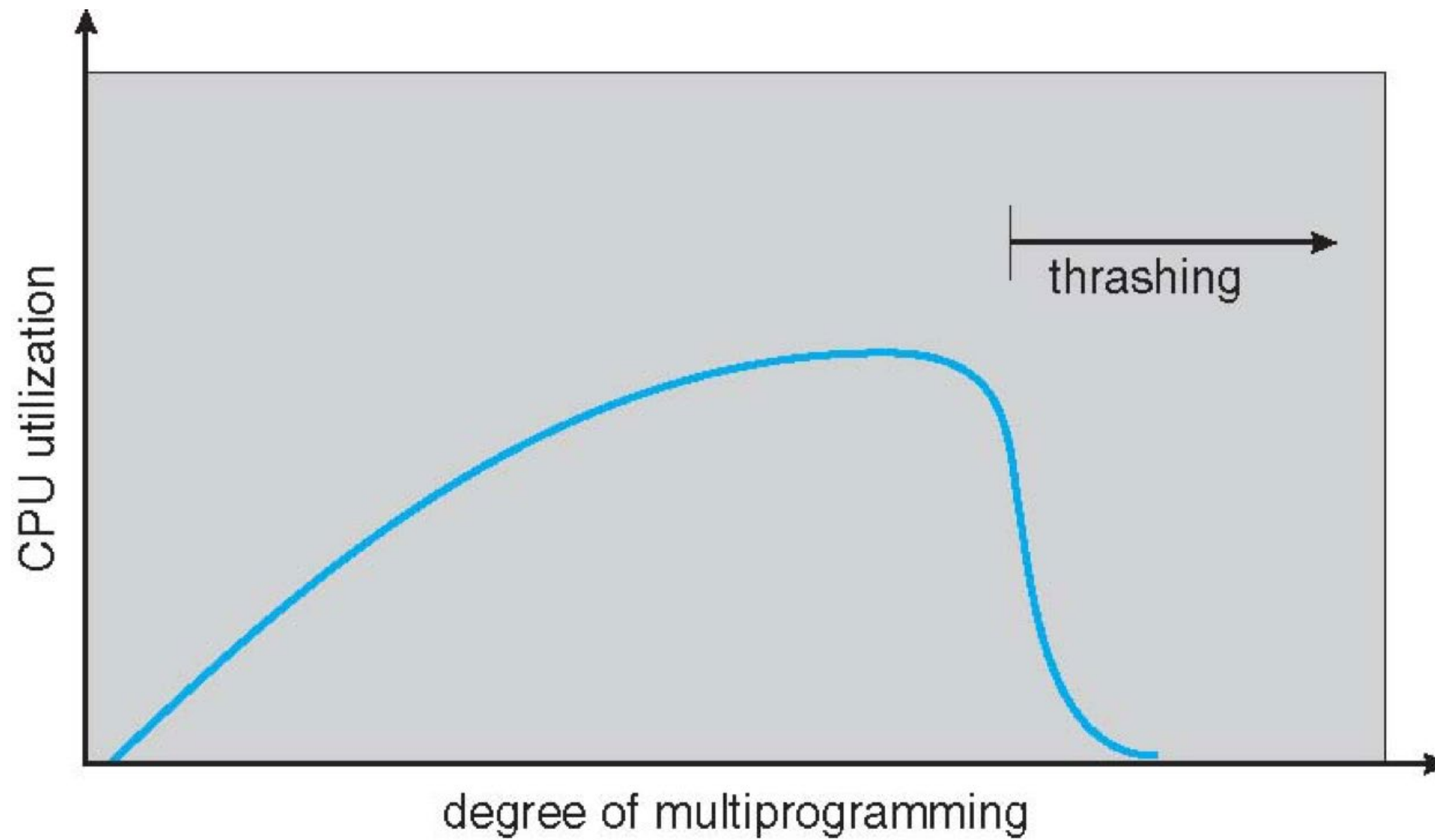


# Thrashing

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- If a process doesn't have “enough” pages, page-fault rate may be high
  - page fault to get page, replace some existing frame
  - but quickly need replaced frame back
  - this leads to:
    - low CPU utilization ➡
    - kernel thinks it needs to increase the degree of  
multiprogramming to maximize CPU utilization ➡
    - another process added to the system
- **Thrashing**: a process is busy swapping pages in and out

# Thrashing





# Demand Paging and Thrashing

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- Why does demand paging work?
  - process memory access has **high locality**
  - process migrates from one locality to another, localities may overlap
- Why does thrashing occur?
  - total size of locality  $>$  total memory size



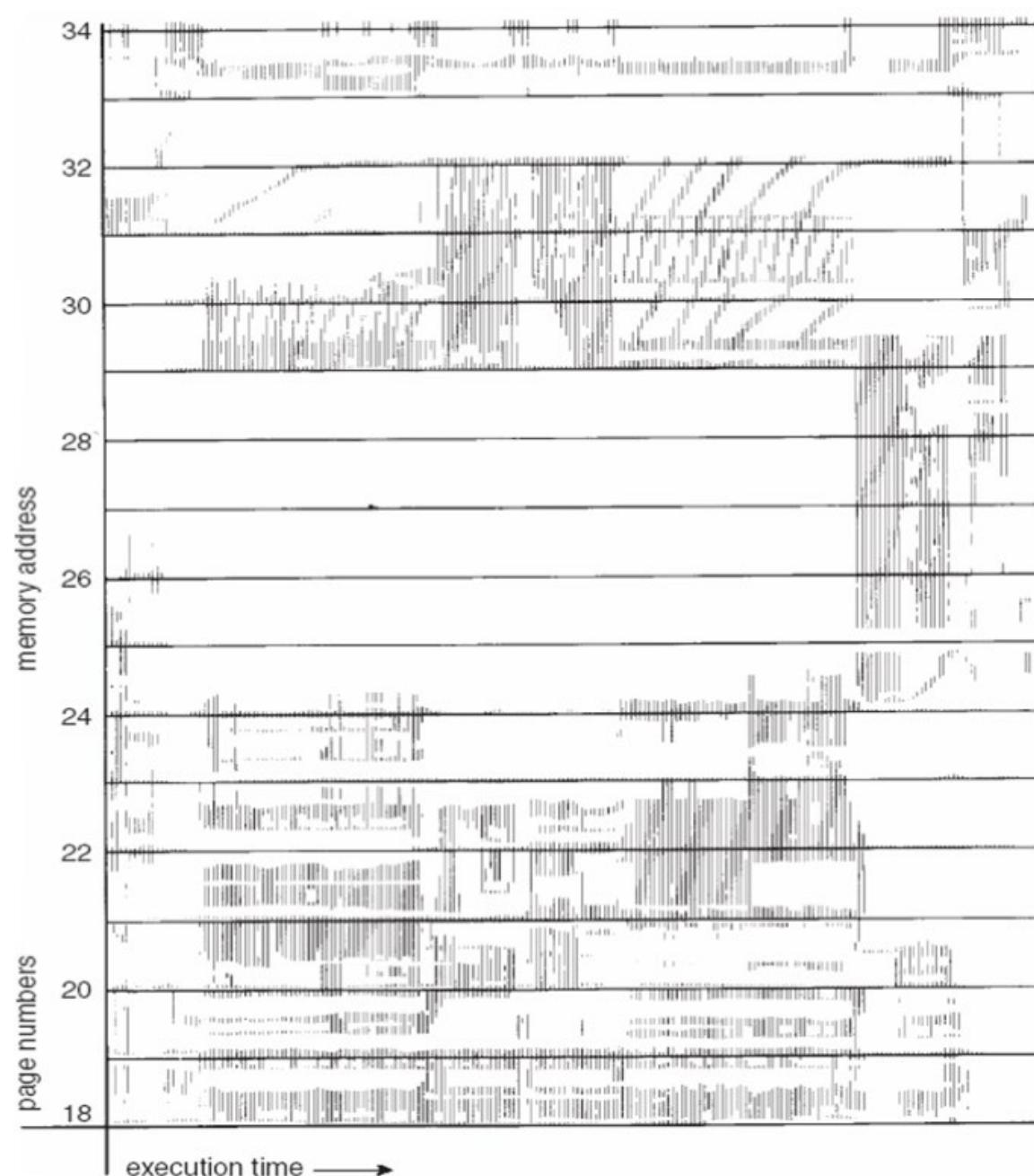
# Option I

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- Limit thrashing effects by **using local or priority page** replacement
- One process starts thrashing does not affect others -> it cannot cause other processes thrashing

# Option II

Provide a process with **as many frames as it needs**. How?





# Working-Set Model

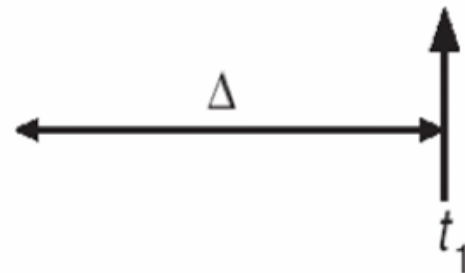
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- **Working-set window**( $\Delta$ ): a fixed number of page references
  - if  $\Delta$  too small  $\Rightarrow$  will not encompass entire locality
  - if  $\Delta$  too large  $\Rightarrow$  will encompass several localities
  - if  $\Delta = \infty \Rightarrow$  will encompass entire program
- **Working set** of process  $p_i$  ( $WSS_i$ ): total number of pages referenced in the most recent  $\Delta$  (varies in time)
- **Total working sets**:  $D = \sum WSS_i$ 
  - approximation of total locality
  - if  $D > m \Rightarrow$  possibility of thrashing
  - to avoid thrashing: if  $D > m$ , suspend or swap out some processes

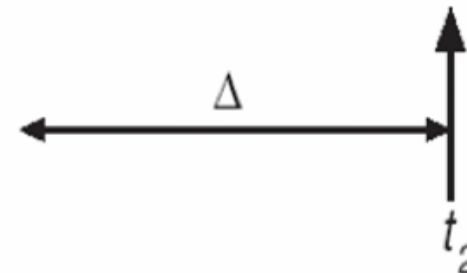
# Working-Set Model

page reference table

... 2 6 1 5 7 7 7 5 1 6 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 4 4 3 4 3 4 4 4 1 3 2 3 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 ...



$$WS(t_1) = \{1, 2, 5, 6, 7\}$$



$$WS(t_2) = \{3, 4\}$$





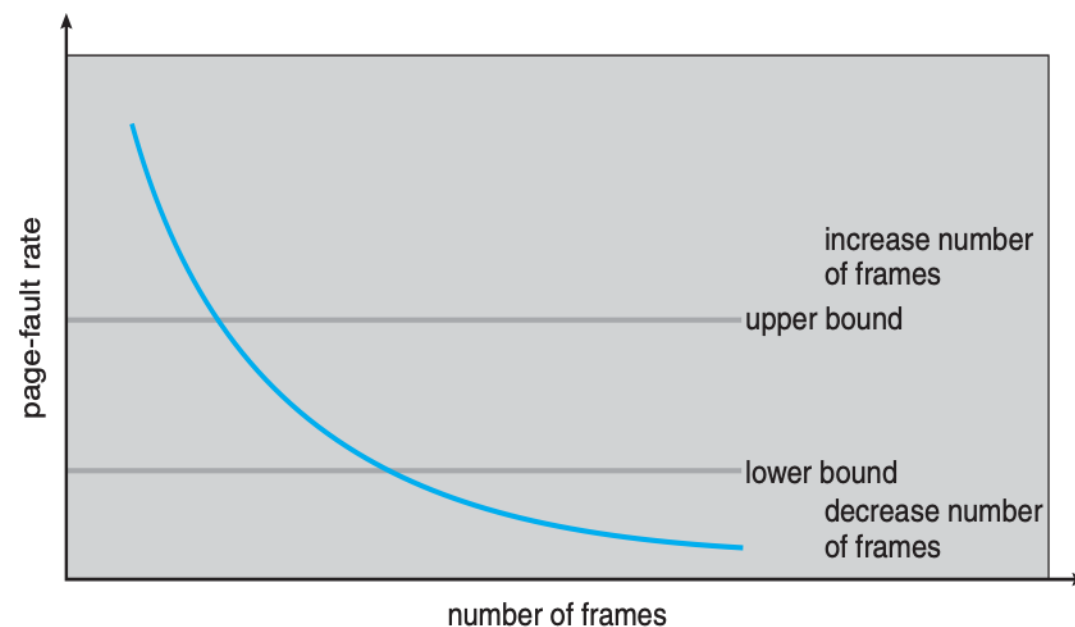
# Challenge: Keeping Track of the Working Set

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- Approximate with interval timer + a reference bit
- Example:  $\Delta = 10,000$ 
  - Timer interrupts after every 5000 time units
  - Keep in **memory 2 bits for each page**
  - Whenever a timer interrupts copy and sets the values of all reference bits to 0
  - If one of the bits in memory = 1  $\Rightarrow$  page in working set
- Why is this not completely accurate? - we can not tell **when (in 5000 time unites)** the access occurs
- Improvement = 10 bits and interrupt every **1000** time units

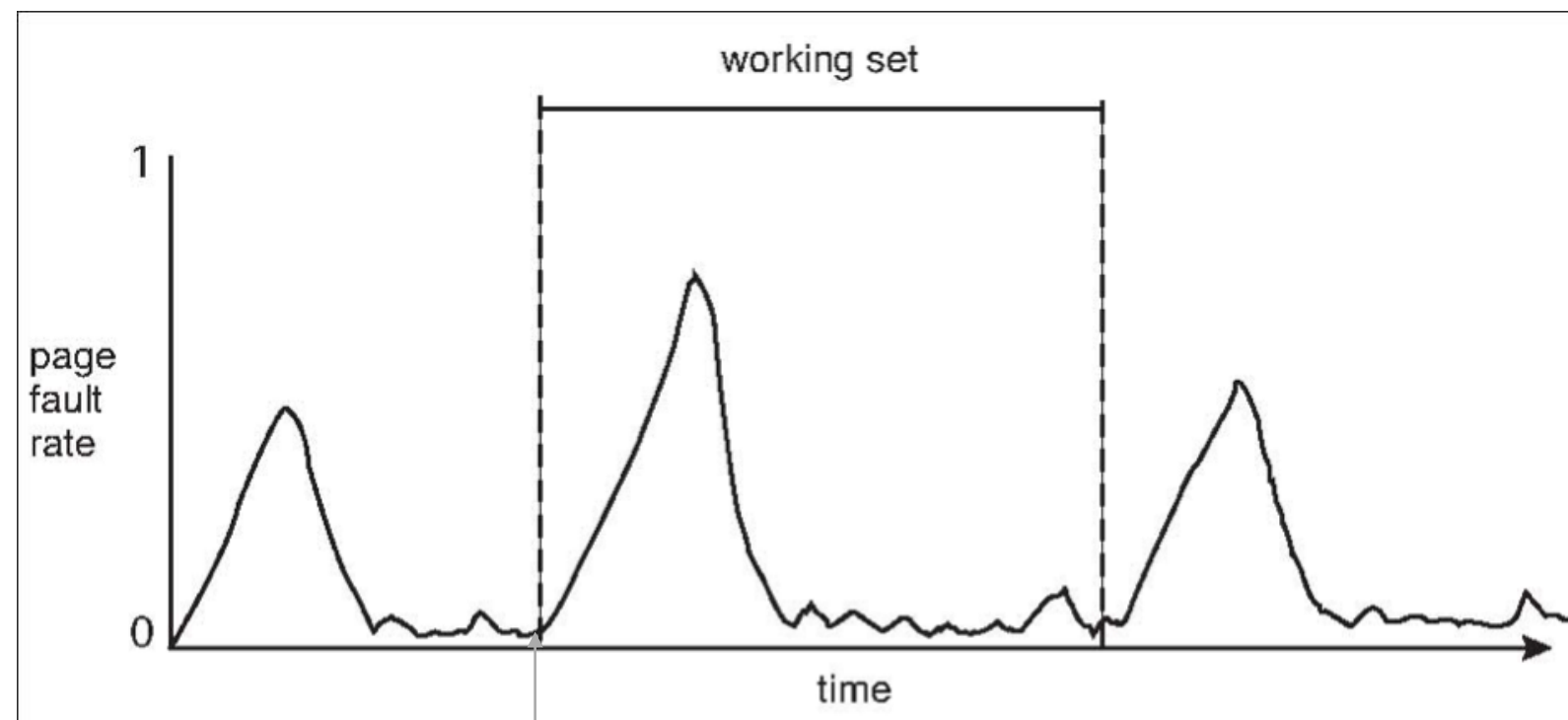
# Page-Fault Frequency

- More direct approach than WSS
- Establish “acceptable” page-fault frequency (PFF) rate
  - If actual rate too low, process loses frame
  - If actual rate too high, process gains frame
- Need to swap out a process if no free frames are available



# Working Sets and Page Fault Rates

- Assumes there is no thrashing
- Direct relationship between working set of a process and its page-fault rate
- Working set changes over time
- Peaks and valleys over time



Page fault increases due to new locality



# Kernel Memory Allocation

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- Kernel memory allocation is treated differently from user memory, it is often allocated from a free-memory pool
  - kernel requests memory for structures of varying sizes -  
> minimize waste due to fragmentation
- Some kernel memory needs to be **physically contiguous**
  - e.g., for device I/O

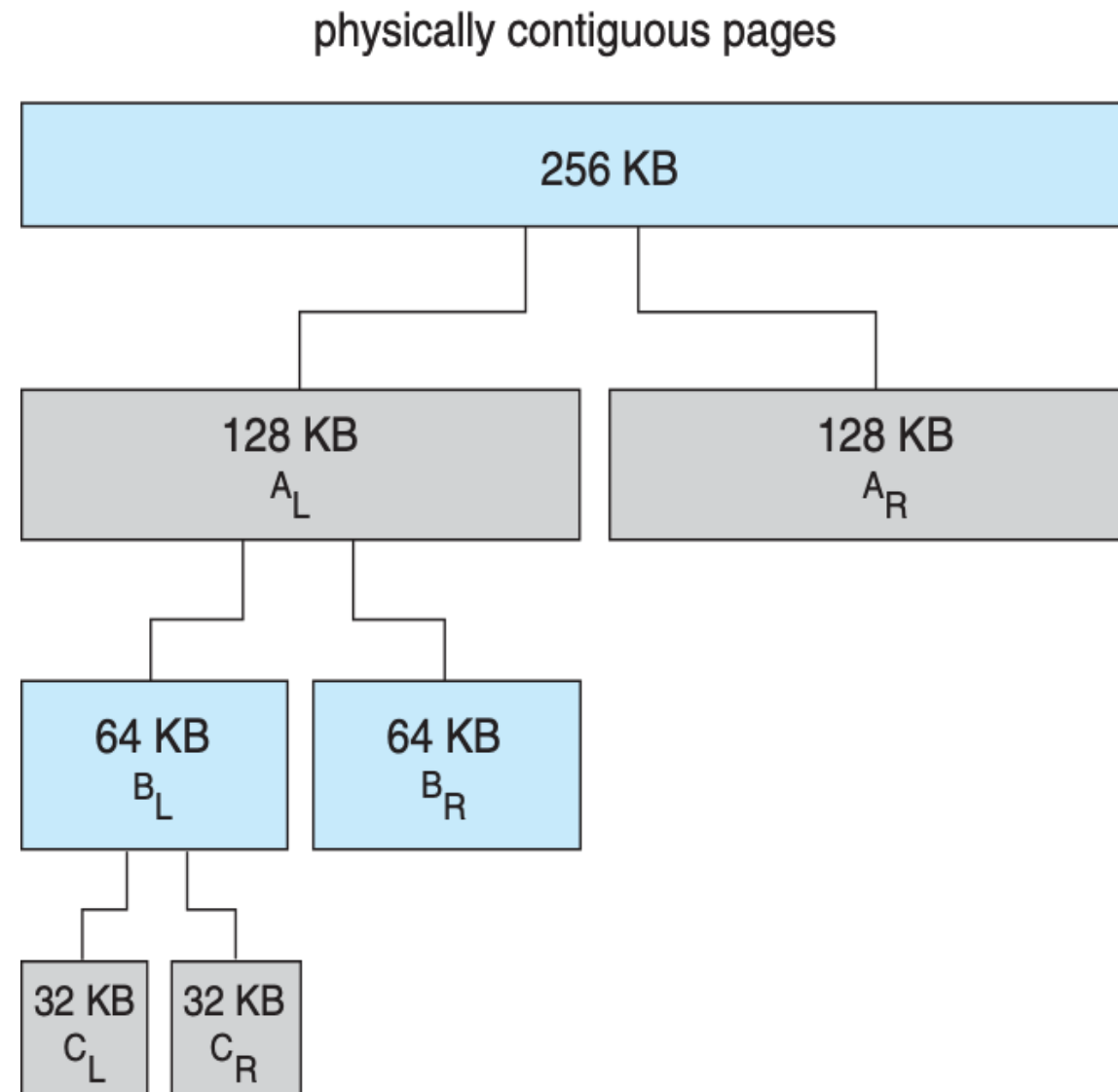


# Buddy System

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- Memory allocated using power-of-2 allocator
  - memory is allocated in units of the size of **power of 2**
    - round up a request to the closest allocation unit
    - split the unit into two “**buddies**” until a proper sized chunk is available
  - e.g., assume only 256KB chunk is available, kernel requests 21KB
    - split it into  $A_l$  and  $A_r$  of 128KB each
    - further split an 128KB chunk into  $B_l$  and  $B_r$  of 64KB
    - again, split a 64KB chunk into  $C_l$  and  $C_r$  of 32KB each
    - give one chunk for the request
- advantage: it can quickly coalesce unused chunks into larger chunk
- disadvantage: **internal fragmentation**
  - 33k request -> 64k segment

# Buddy System Allocator



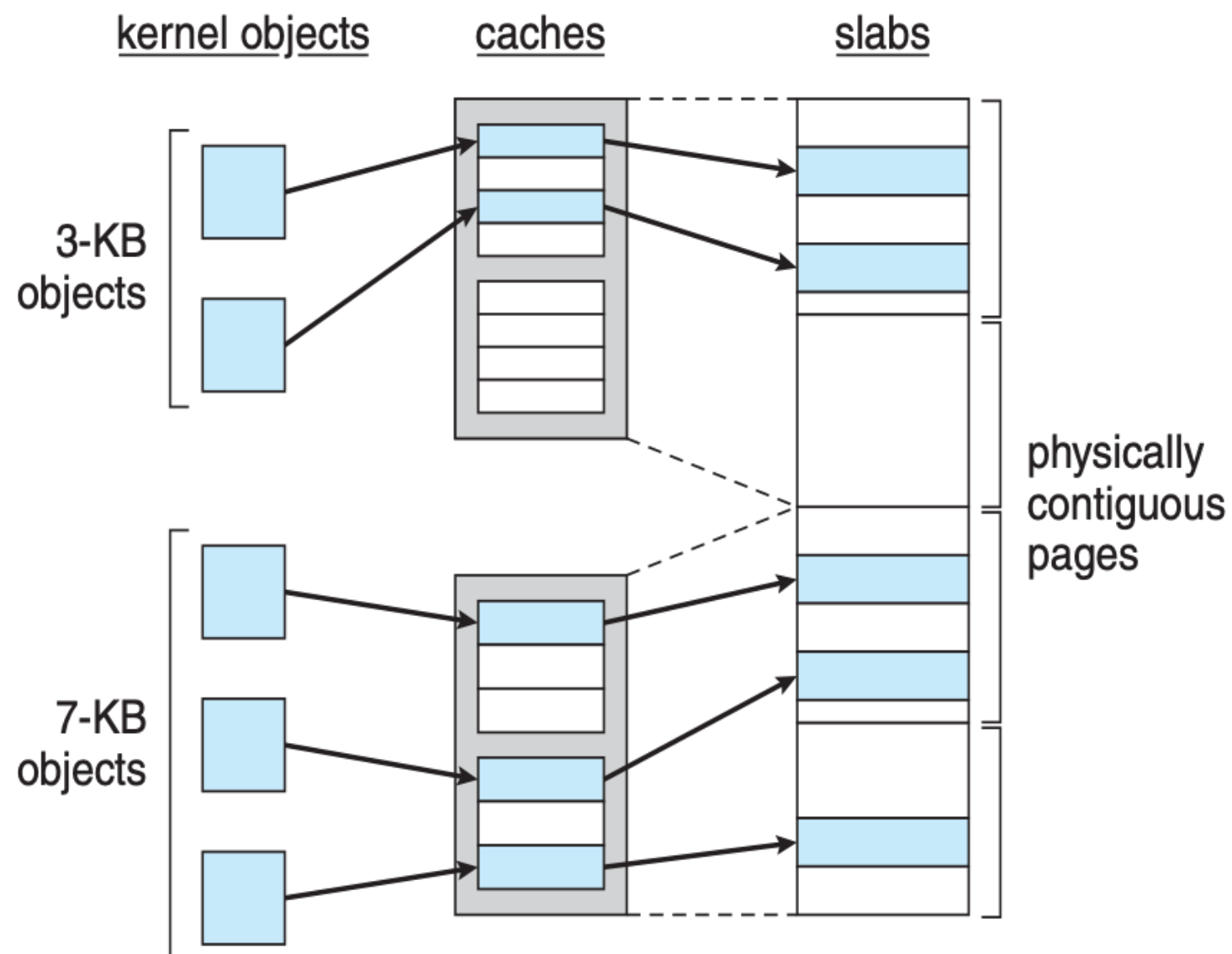


# Slab Allocator

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- Slab allocator is a **cache of objects**
  - a **cache** in a slab allocator consists of one or more slabs
  - a Slab contains **one or more pages**, divided into **equal-sized objects**
  - kernel uses one cache for each unique kernel data structure
    - when cache created, allocate a slab, divided the slab into free objects
    - objects for the data structure is allocated from free objects in the slab
    - if a slab is full of used objects, next object comes from an empty/new slab
- Benefits: **no fragmentation** and fast memory allocation
  - some of the object fields may be reusable; no need to initialize again

# Slab Allocation



A 12k slab (4 pages) can store four 3k objects.



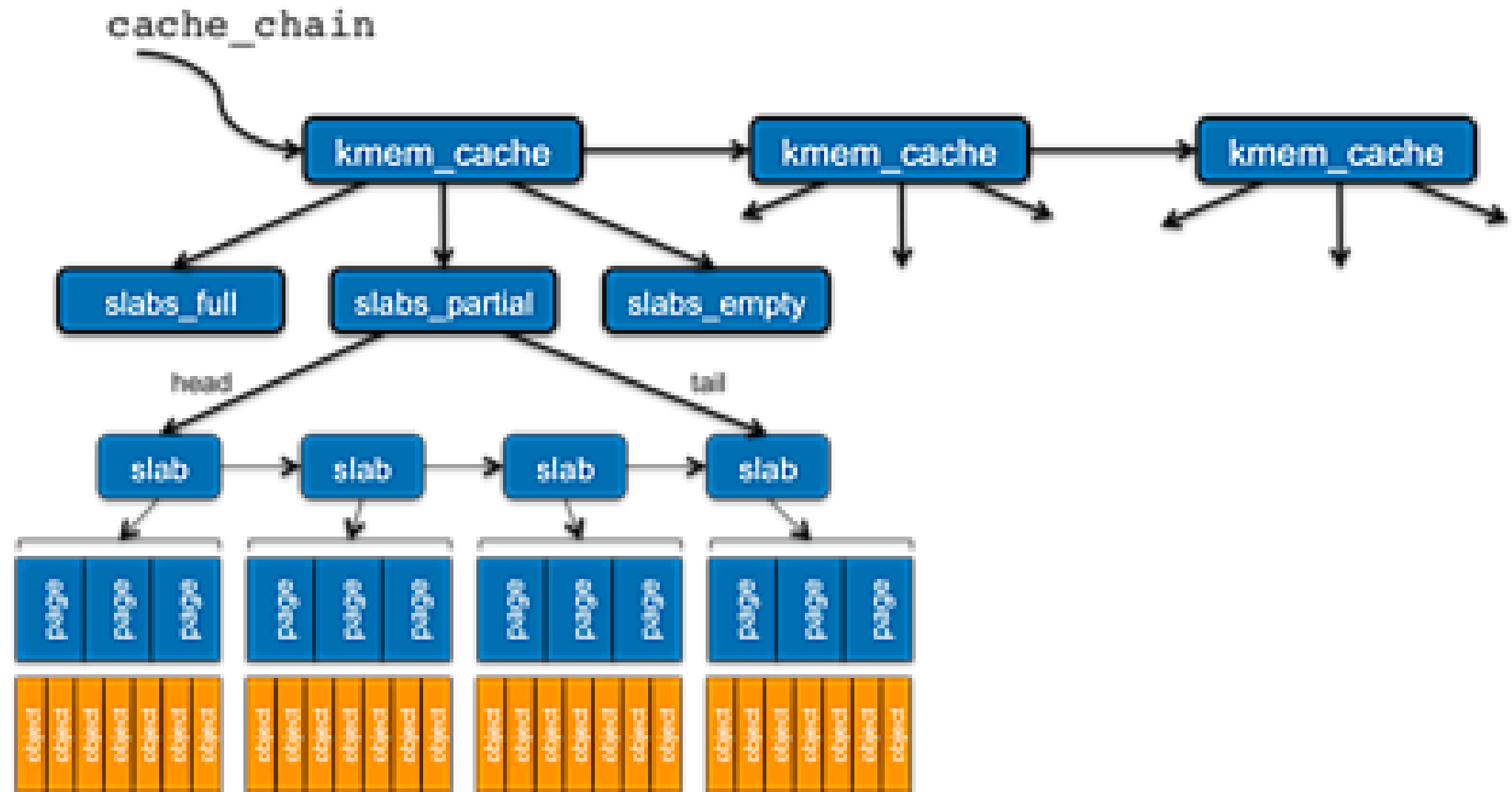


# Slab Allocator in Linux

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- For example process descriptor is of type *struct task\_struct*
- Approx 1.7KB of memory
- New task -> allocate new struct from cache
  - Will use existing free *struct task\_struct*
- A Slab can be in three possible states
  - **Full** – all used
  - **Empty** – all free
  - **Partial** – mix of free and used
- Upon request, slab allocator
  - Uses free struct in **partial** slab
  - If none, takes one from **empty** slab
  - If no empty slab, create new empty

# Slab in Linux





# Slab Allocator in Linux (Cont.)

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- Slab started in Solaris, now wide-spread for both kernel mode and user memory in various OSes
- Linux 2.2 had SLAB, now has both SLOB and SLUB allocators
  - SLOB for systems with limited memory
    - Simple List of Blocks – maintains 3 list objects for small, medium, large objects
- SLUB is performance-optimized SLAB removes per-CPU queues, metadata stored in page structure



# Other Considerations

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- Prepaging
- Page size
- TLB reach
- Inverted page table
- Program structure
- I/O interlock and page locking



# Prepaging

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- To reduce the large number of page faults that occurs at process startup
  - Prepage all or some of the pages a process will need, before they are referenced
  - But if prepaged pages are unused, I/O and memory was wasted
- Assume  $s$  pages are prepaged and a fraction  $\alpha$  of these pages is used
  - Is cost of  $s * \alpha$  save pages faults  $>$  or  $<$  than the cost of prepaging
  - $s * (1 - \alpha)$  unnecessary pages?
  - $\alpha$  near zero  $\rightarrow$  prepaging loses



# Page Size

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- Sometimes OS designers have a choice
  - Especially if running on custom-built CPU
- Page size selection must take into consideration:
  - Fragmentation -> small page size
  - Page table size -> large page size
  - Resolution -> small page size
  - I/O overhead -> large page size
  - Number of page faults -> large page size
  - Locality -> small page size
  - TLB size and effectiveness -> large page size
- Always power of 2, usually in the range  $2^{12}$  (4,096 bytes) to  $2^{22}$  (4,194,304 bytes)
- On average, **growing over time**



# TLB Reach

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- **TLB reach**: the amount of memory accessible from the TLB
  - $\text{TLB reach} = (\text{TLB size}) \times (\text{page size})$
- Ideally, the working set of each process is stored in the TLB
  - otherwise there is a high degree of page faults
- **Increase the page size** to reduce **TLB pressure**
  - it may increase fragmentation as not all applications require large page sizes
  - multiple page sizes allow applications that require larger page sizes to use them without an increase in fragmentation



# Other Issues: Program Structure

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- Program structure can affect page faults
  - `int[128,128] data;` each row is stored in one page
  - Program 1:

```
for (j = 0; j < 128; j++)  
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)  
    data[i,j] = 0;
```

128 x 128 = 16,384 page faults (assume TLB only has one entry)
  - Program 2:

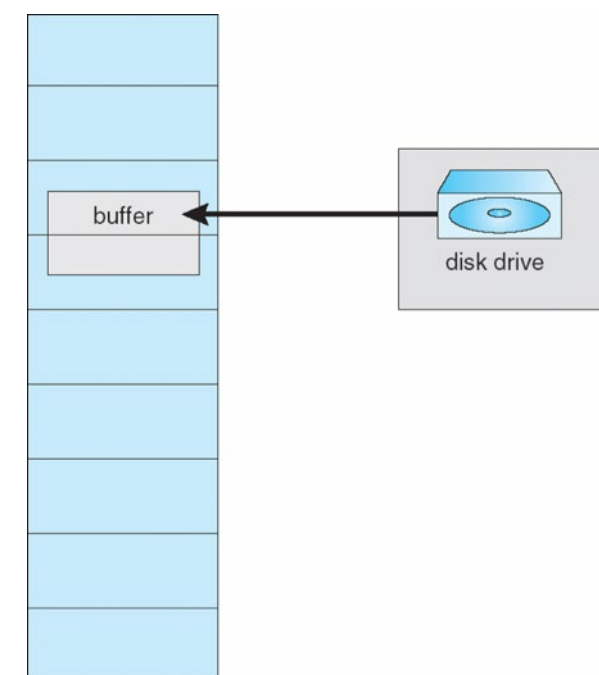
```
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)  
for (j = 0; j < 128; j++)  
    data[i,j] = 0;
```

128 page faults



# I/O interlock

- I/O Interlock – Pages must sometimes be locked into memory
- Consider I/O - Pages that are used for copying a file from a device must be **locked from being selected for eviction by a page replacement algorithm**





# Operating System Examples

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- Windows XP
- Linux



# Windows XP

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- Uses demand paging with clustering
  - clustering brings in **pages surrounding the faulting page**: locality
- Processes are assigned **working set** minimum and set maximum
  - *wsmin*: minimum number of pages the process is guaranteed to have
  - *wsmax*: a process may be assigned as many pages up to its *wsmax*
- When the amount of free memory in the system falls below a threshold:
  - automatic working set trimming to restore the amount of free memory
  - it removes pages from processes that have more pages than the *wsmin*

HW 10 is out.