1.For timing, you'll need to use a timer (e.g., gettimeofday()). How precise is such a timer? How long does an operation have to take in order for you to time it precisely? (this will help determine how many times, in a loop, you'll have to repeat a page access in order to time it successfully)

Gettimeofday() precise to microsecond. In average the it take 5-10 nano second to be precise.

- 2. Write the program, called tlb.c, that can roughly measure the cost of accessing each page. Inputs to the program should be: the number of pages to touch and the number of trials.
- 3. Now write a script in your favorite scripting language (bash?) to run this program, while varying the number of pages accessed from 1 up to a few thousand, perhaps incrementing by a factor of two per iteration. Run the script on different machines and gather some data. How many trials are needed to get reliable measurements?

It takes 1,000,000 trails to be precise.

4. Next, graph the results, making a graph that looks similar to the one above. Use a good tool like ploticus or even zplot. Visualization usually makes the data much easier to digest; why do you think that is?

Because graph can easily find jump between different level of BLT.

5. One thing to watch out for is compiler optimization. Compilers do all sorts of clever things, including removing loops which increment values that no other part of the program subsequently uses. How can you ensure the compiler does not remove the main loop above from your TLB size estimator?

Use -O0 flag to disable complier optimization.

7. Another issue that might arise relates to initialization. If you don't initialize the array a above before accessing it, the first time you access it will be very expensive, due to initial access costs such as demand zeroing. Will this affect your code and its timing? What can you do to counterbalance these potential costs?

Use calloc to populate initial array with 0, then start the timer. We only use timer between the loops.