CSC 4320/6320: Operating Systems

Chapter 09: Main Memory-III

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Chapter 9: Memory Management

- Background
- Contiguous Memory Allocation
- Paging
- Structure of the Page Table
- Swapping
- Example: The Intel 32/64-bit Architectures
- ~~Example: ARMv8 Architecture~~

Objectives

- To provide a detailed description of various ways of organizing memory hardware
- To discuss various memory-management techniques,
- To provide a detailed description of the Intel Pentium, which supports both pure segmentation and segmentation with paging

Implementation of Page Table

- Page table is kept in main memory
  - **Page-table base register** (**PTBR**) points to the page table
  - **Page-table length register** (**PTLR**) indicates size of the page table (number of entries)
- In this scheme every data/instruction access requires two memory accesses
  - One for the page table and one for the data / instruction
- The two-memory access problem can be solved by the use of a special fast-lookup hardware cache called **translation look-aside buffers** (**TLBs**) (also called **associative memory**). The TLB contains only a few of the page-table entries.

Translation Look-Aside Buffer

- Some TLBs store **address-space identifiers** (**ASIDs**) in each TLB entry – uniquely identifies each process to provide address-space protection for that process
  - Need to flush at every context switch (if TLB does not support multiple ASIDs simultaneously)
- TLBs typically small (64 to 1,024 entries)
- On a TLB miss, value is loaded into the TLB for faster access next time
  - Replacement policies must be considered (When TLB is full). LRU, Round-robin, random, etc. may be used.
  - Some entries can be **wired down** for permanent fast access (cannot be removed from the TLB)

Hardware

- Associative memory – parallel search

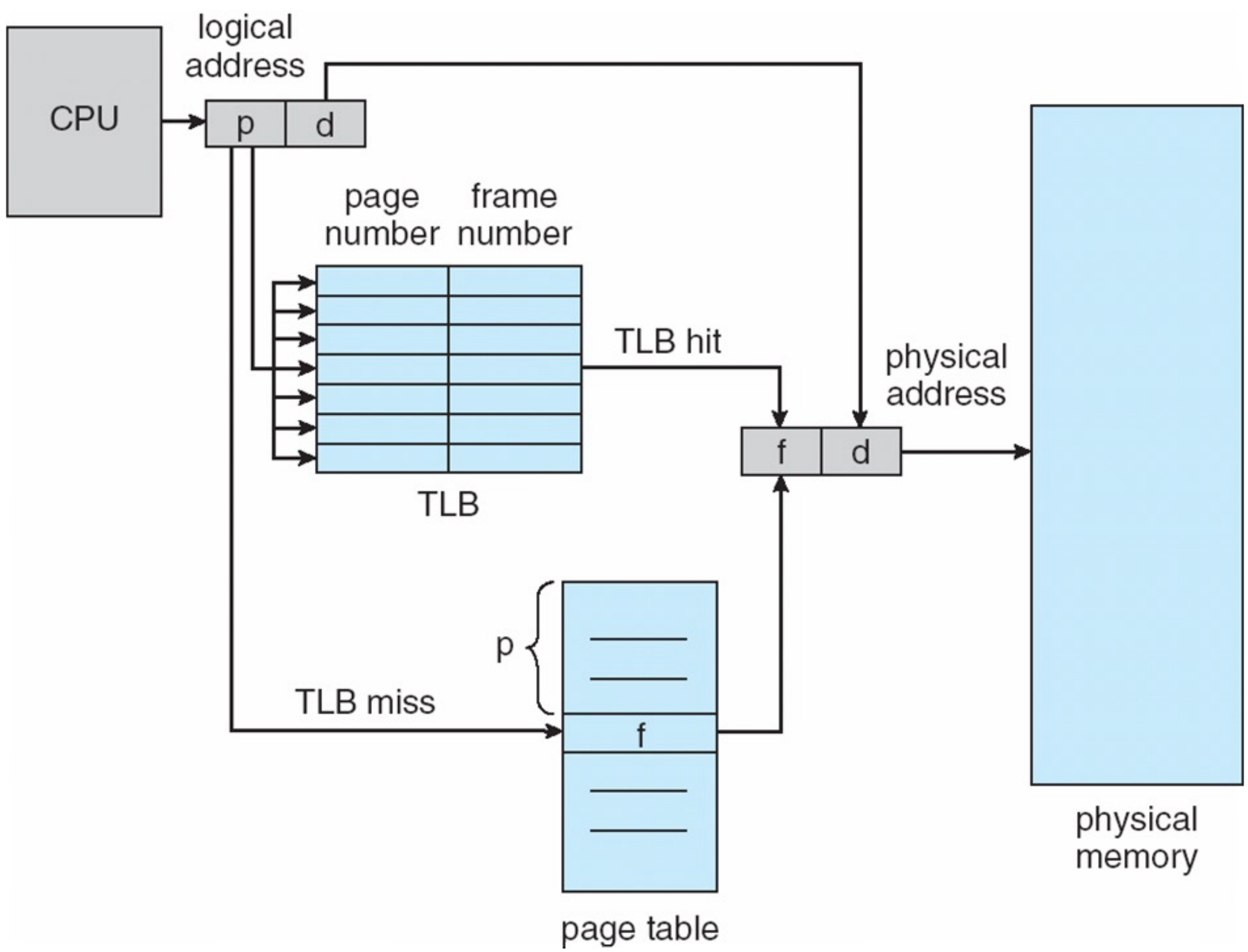
Page #	Frame #

Associative Memory:
Access by content

RAM:
Access by address

- Address translation (p, d)
  - If p is in associative register, get frame # out
  - Otherwise get frame # from page table in memory

Paging Hardware With TLB



Effective Access Time

- Hit ratio – percentage of times that a page number is found in the TLB
- An 80% hit ratio means that we find the desired page number in the TLB 80% of the time.
- Suppose that 10 nanoseconds to access memory.
  - If we find the desired page in TLB then a mapped-memory access take 10 ns
  - Otherwise, we need two memory access, so it is 20 ns
- **Effective Access Time** (**EAT**)

  EAT = 0.80 x 10 + 0.20 x 20 = 12 nanoseconds

  implying 20% slowdown in access time
- Consider a more realistic hit ratio of 99%,

  EAT = 0.99 x 10 + 0.01 x 20 = 10.1ns

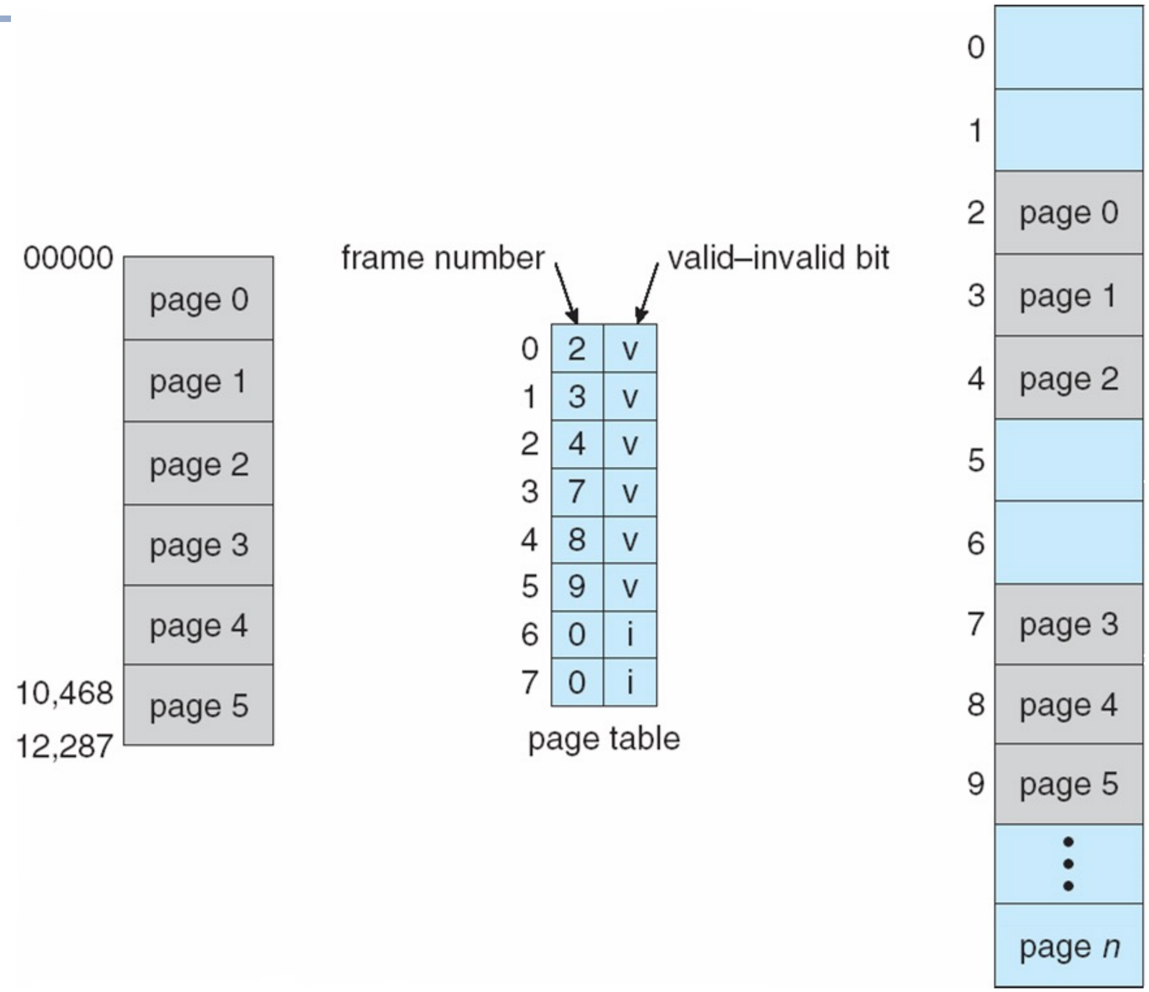
  implying only 1% slowdown in access time.

Memory Protection

- Memory protection implemented by associating protection bit with each frame to indicate if read-only or read-write access is allowed
  - Can also add more bits to indicate page execute-only, and so on
- **Valid-invalid** bit attached to each entry in the page table:
  - "valid" indicates that the associated page is in the process' logical address space, and is thus a legal page
  - "invalid" indicates that the page is not in the process' logical address space
  - Or use **page-table length register** (**PTLR**)
- Any violations result in a trap to the kernel

Valid (v) or Invalid (i) Bit In A Page Table

Suppose, in a system with a 14-bit address space (0 to 16383). Assume we use only addresses 0 to 10468. Given a page size of 2 KB. Addresses in pages 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are mapped normally through the page table. Any attempt to generate an address in pages 6 or 7, however, will find that the valid–invalid bit is set to invalid.



Questions

1. Consider a logical address with a page size of 8 KB. How many bits must be used to represent the page offset in the logical address?
A) 10
B) 8
C) 13 ✓
D) 12

2. Assume a system has a TLB hit ratio of 90%. It requires 15 nanoseconds to access the TLB, and 85 nanoseconds to access main memory. What is the effective memory access time in nanoseconds for this system?
A) 108.5 ✓
B) 100
C) 22
D) 176.5

3. Given the logical address 0xAEF9 (in hexadecimal) with a page size of 256 bytes, what is the page offset?
A) 0xAE
B) 0xF9 ✓
C) 0xA
D) 0xF900

Quiz

Consider a logical address space of 256 pages with a 4-KB page size, mapped onto a physical memory of 64 frames.

a. How many bits are required in the logical address?

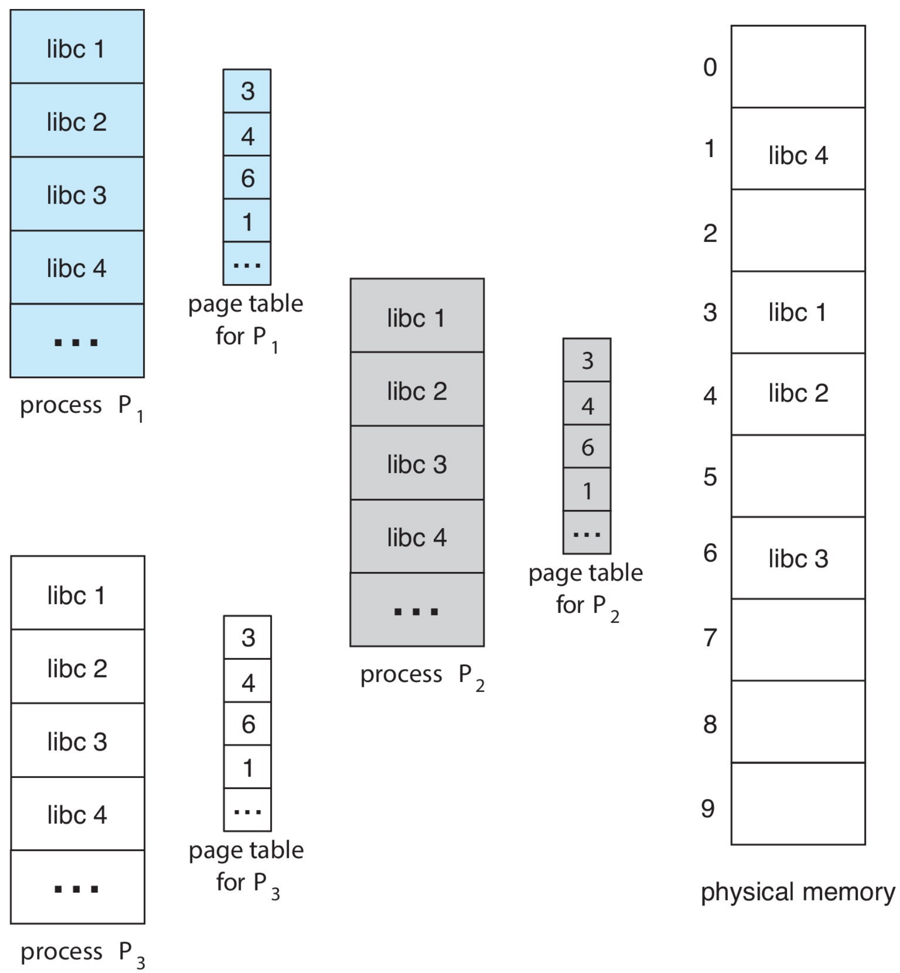
b. How many bits are required in the physical address?

Shared Pages

- **Shared code**
  - One copy of read-only (**reentrant**) code shared among processes (i.e., text editors, compilers, window systems)
  - Similar to multiple threads sharing the same process space
  - Also useful for interprocess communication if sharing of read-write pages is allowed
- **Private code and data**
  - Each process keeps a separate copy of the code and data
  - The pages for the private code and data can appear anywhere in the logical address space

Shared Pages Example

Let's say: libc library occupy four pages



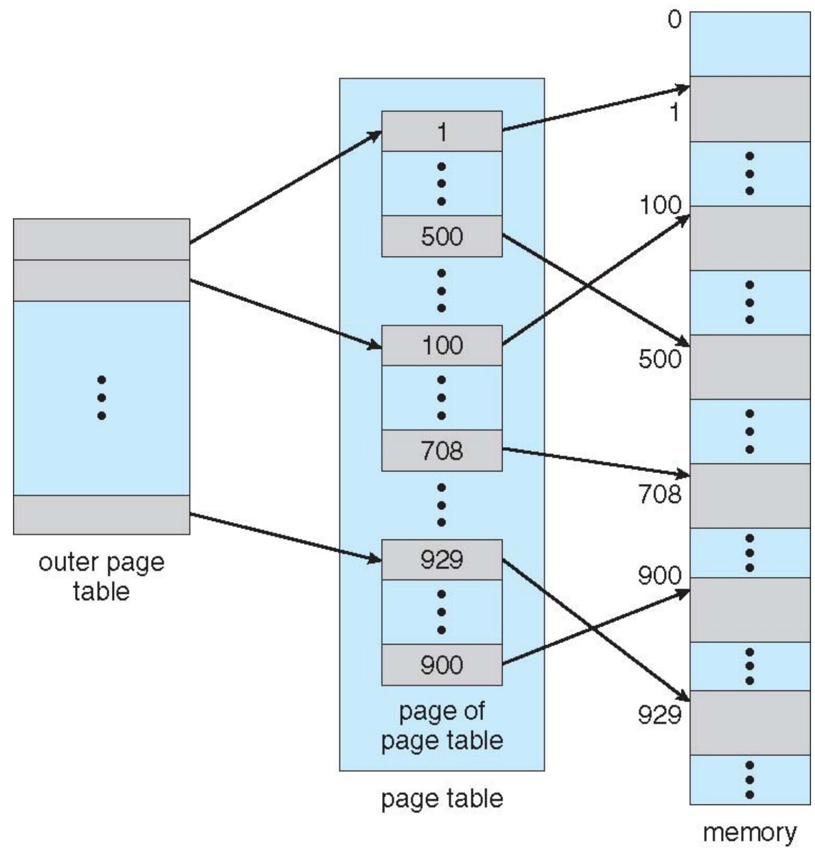
Structure of the Page Table

- Memory structures for paging can get huge using straight-forward methods
  - Consider a 32-bit logical address space as on modern computers
  - Page size of 4 KB (2^{12})
  - Page table would have 1 million entries (2^{32} / 2^{12})
  - If each entry is 4 bytes ➔ each process 4 MB of physical address space for the page table alone
    - Don't want to allocate that contiguously in main memory
  - One simple solution is to divide the page table into smaller units
    - Hierarchical Paging
    - Hashed Page Tables
    - Inverted Page Tables

Hierarchical Page Tables

- Break up the logical address space into multiple page tables
- A simple technique is a two-level page table
- We then page the page table

- Entries of outer page table give the starting address (index) of the page of the page table.
- Entries of the inner page table (page of the page table) gives actual frame addresses



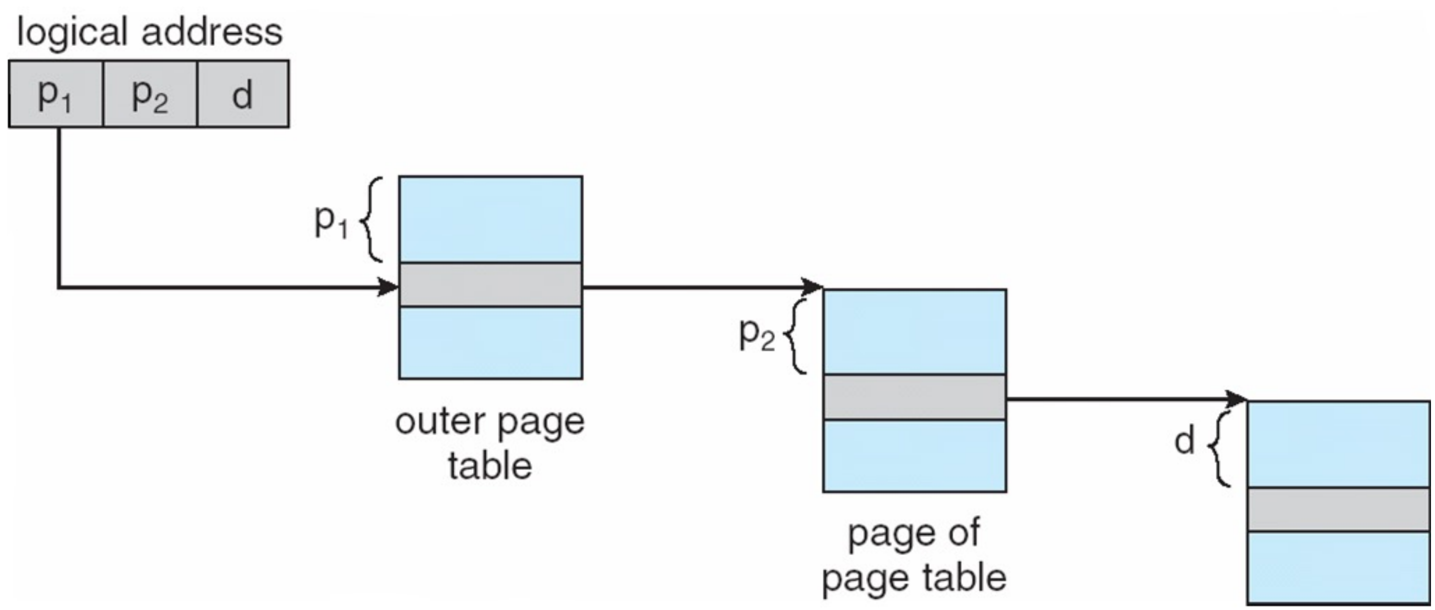
Two-Level Paging Example

- A logical address (on 32-bit machine with 4K page size) is divided into:
  - a page number consisting of 20 bits
  - a page offset consisting of 12 bits
- Since the page table is paged, the page number is further divided into:
  - a 10-bit page number
  - a 10-bit page offset
- Thus, a logical address is as follows:

page number		page offset
p_1	p_2	d
10	10	12

- where p_1 is an index into the outer page table, and p_2 is the displacement within the page of the inner page table
- Known as **forward-mapped page table**

Address-Translation Scheme



With two-level paging, only the outer page table is fully created, and the inner page tables are created only for active pages and thus reduces memory overhead.

64-bit Logical Address Space

- Even two-level paging scheme not sufficient
- If page size is 4 KB (2^{12})
  - Then page table has 2^{52} entries
  - If two level scheme, inner page tables could be 2^{10} 4-byte entries
  - Address would look like

outer page	inner page	offset
p_1	p_2	d
42	10	12

  - Outer page table has 2^{42} entries or 2^{44} bytes
  - One solution is to add a 2^{nd} outer page table
  - But in the following example the 2^{nd} outer page table is still 2^{34} bytes in size
    - And possibly 4 memory access to get to one physical memory location

Three-level Paging Scheme

outer page	inner page	offset
p_1	p_2	d
42	10	12

2nd outer page	outer page	inner page	offset
p_1	p_2	p_3	d
32	10	10	12