Virtual Memory: Systems

Introduction to Computer Systems
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Today

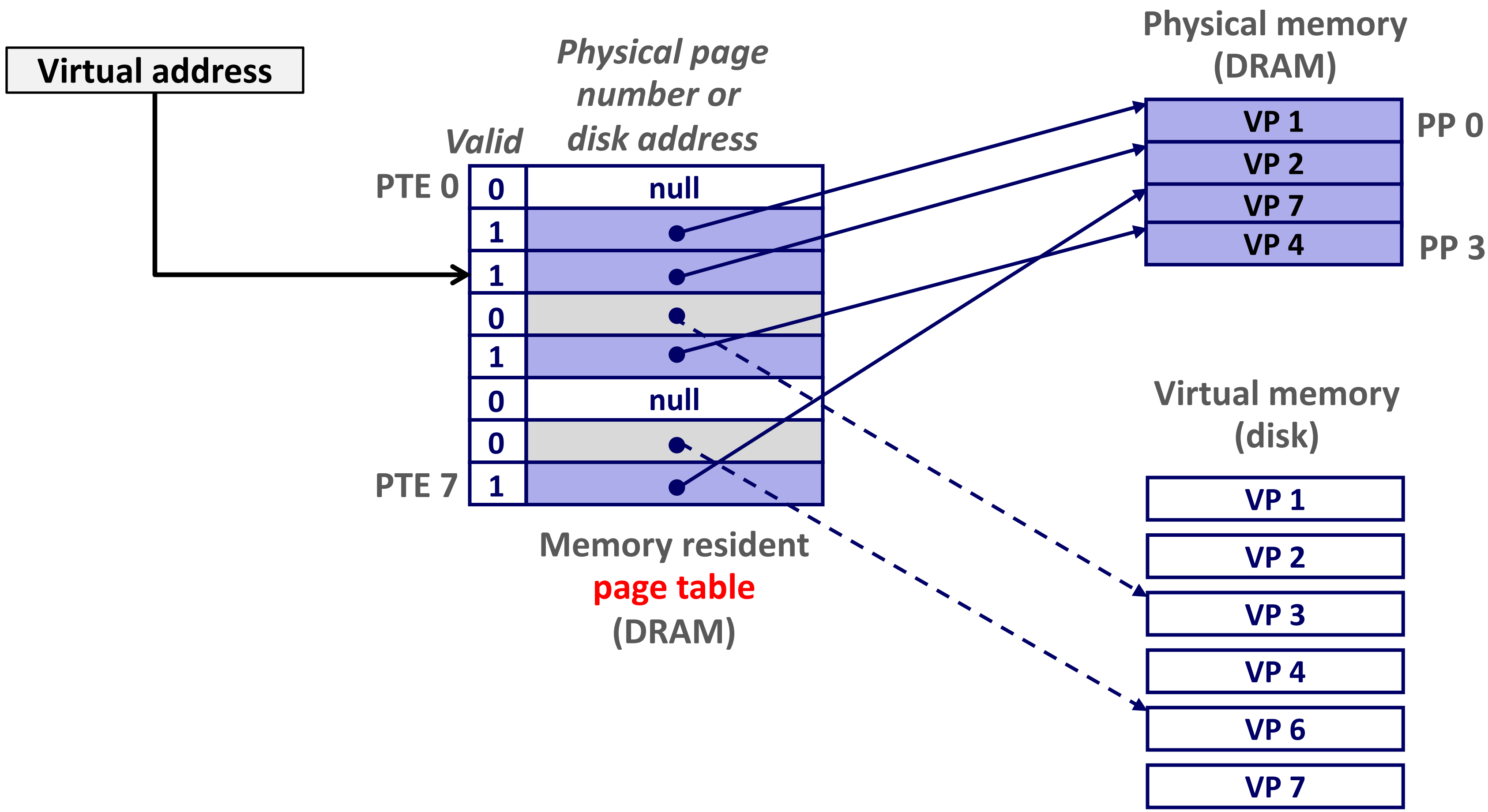
- **Virtual memory questions and answers**
- Simple memory system example
- Case study: Core i7/Linux memory system
- Memory mapping

Virtual memory reminder/review

- **Programmer's view of virtual memory**
  - Each process has its own private linear address space
  - Cannot be corrupted by other processes

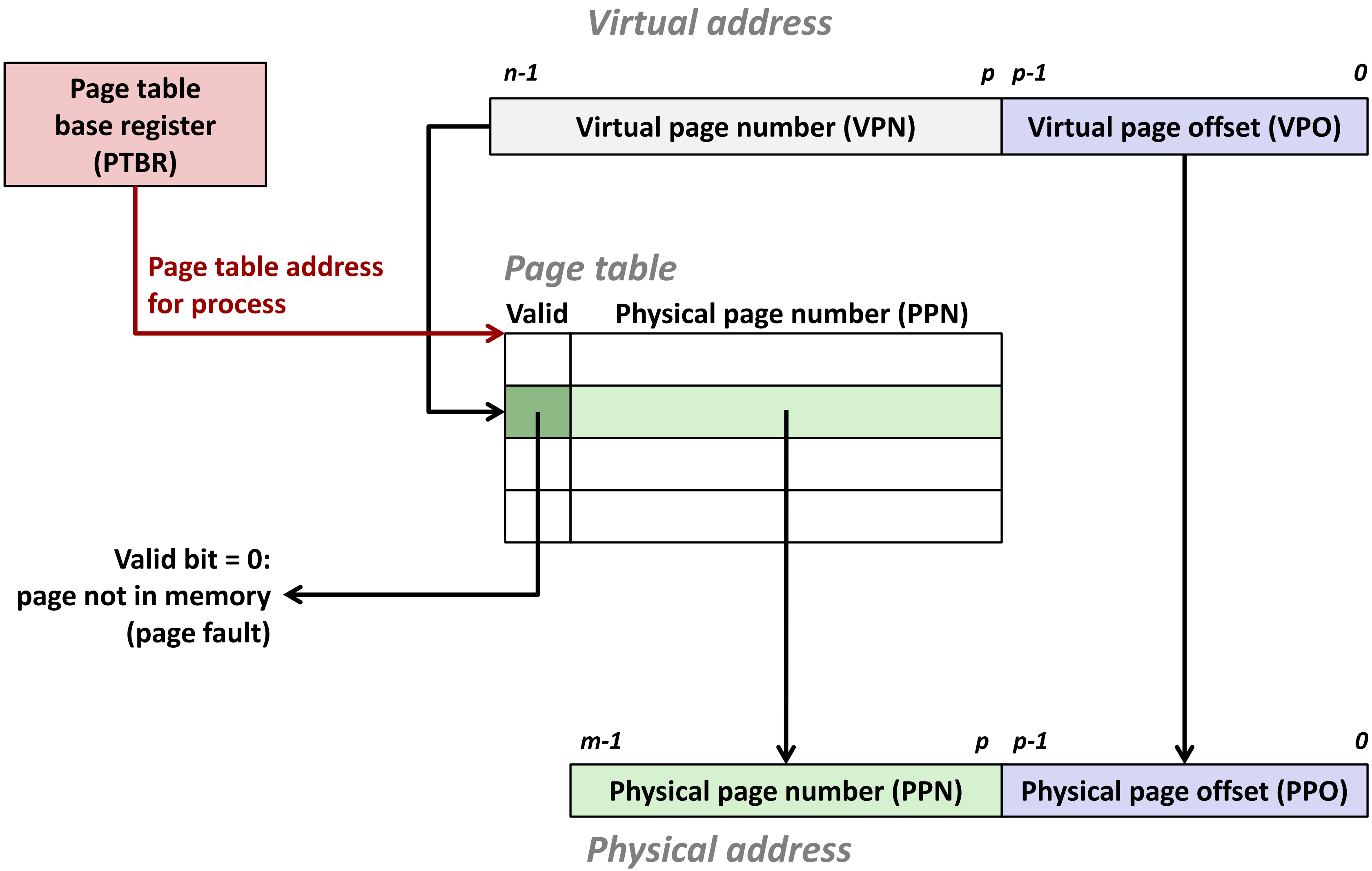
- **System view of virtual memory**
  - Uses memory efficiently by caching virtual memory pages
    - Efficient only because of locality
  - Simplifies memory management and programming
  - Simplifies protection by providing a convenient interpositioning point to check permissions

Recall: Virtual Memory & Physical Memory

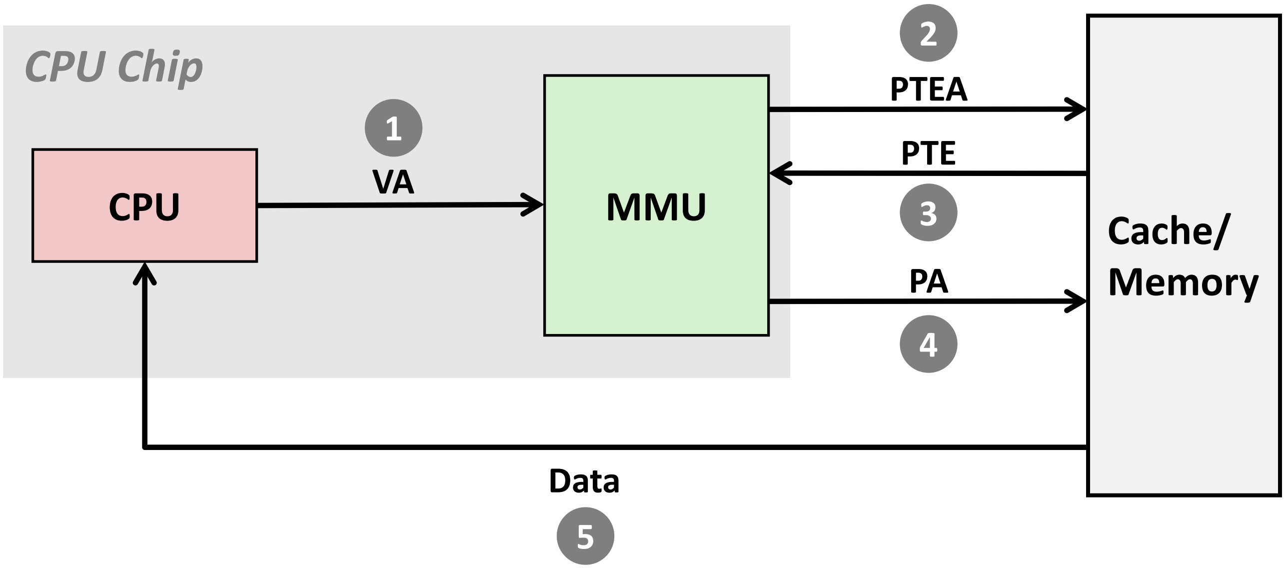


- A *page table* contains page table entries (PTEs) that map virtual pages to physical pages.

Recall: Address Translation With a Page Table



Recall: Address Translation: Page Hit



1) Processor sends virtual address to MMU

2-3) MMU fetches PTE from page table in memory

4) MMU sends physical address to cache/memory

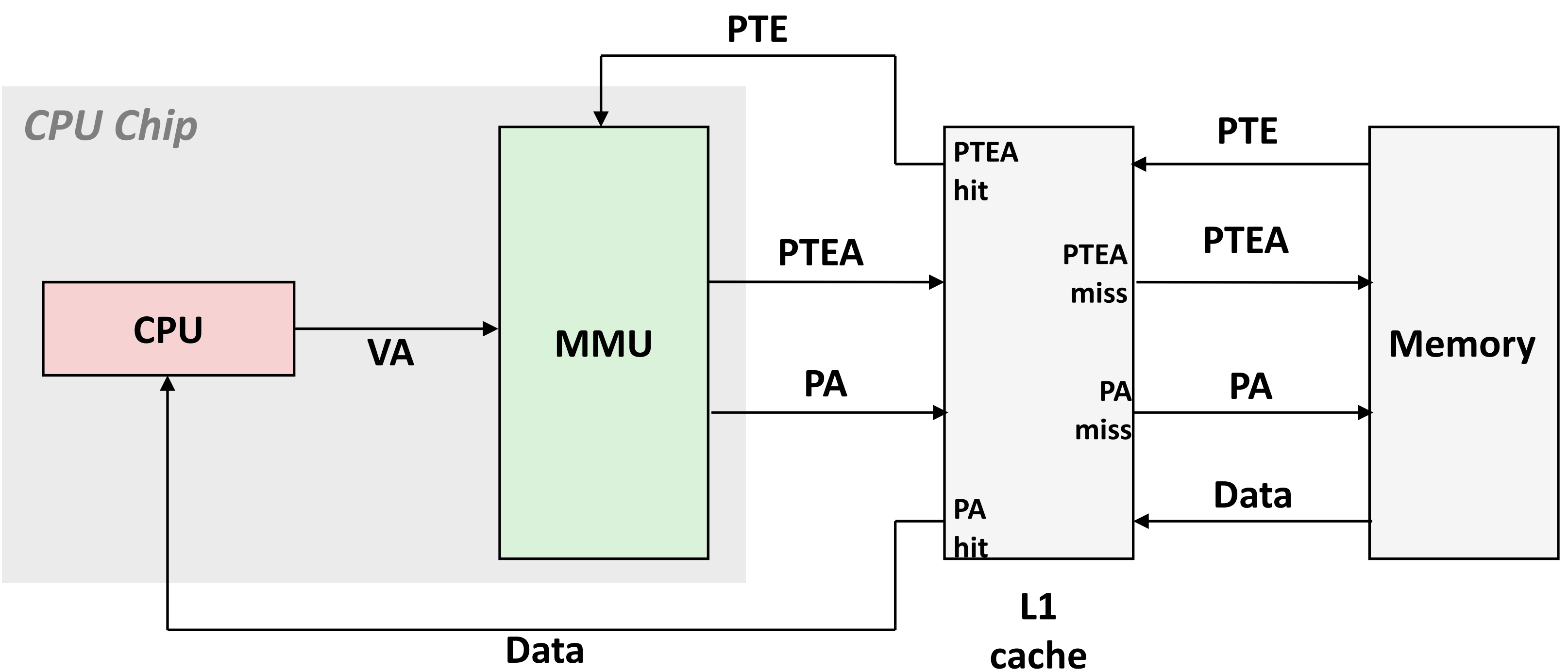
5) Cache/memory sends data word to processor

Question #1

- **Are the PTEs cached like other memory accesses?**

- **Yes (and no: see next question)**

Page tables in memory, like other data



VA: virtual address, PA: physical address, PTE: page table entry, PTEA = PTE address

Question #2

- Isn’t it slow to have to go to memory twice every time?

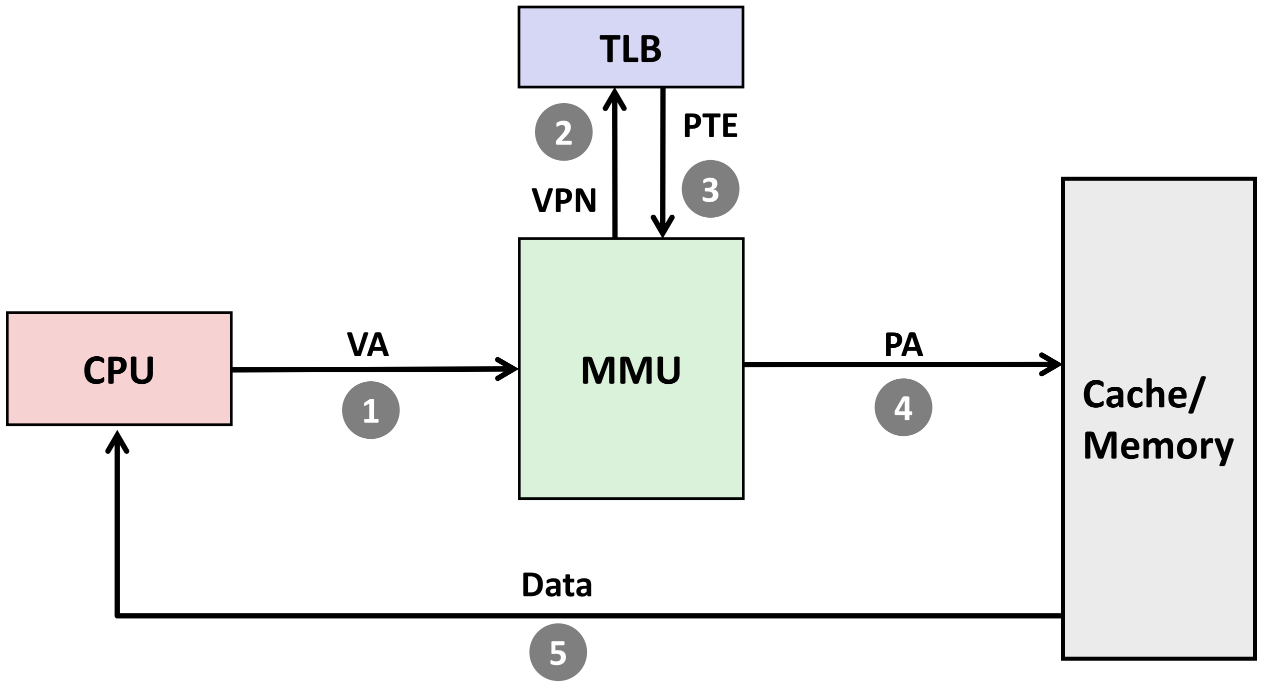
- Yes, it would be… so, real MMUs don’t

Speeding up Translation with a TLB

- **Page table entries (PTEs) are cached in L1 like any other memory word**
  - PTEs may be evicted by other data references
  - PTE hit still requires a small L1 delay
- **Solution: *Translation Lookaside Buffer* (TLB)**
  - Small, dedicated, super-fast hardware cache of PTEs in MMU
  - Contains complete page table entries for small number of pages

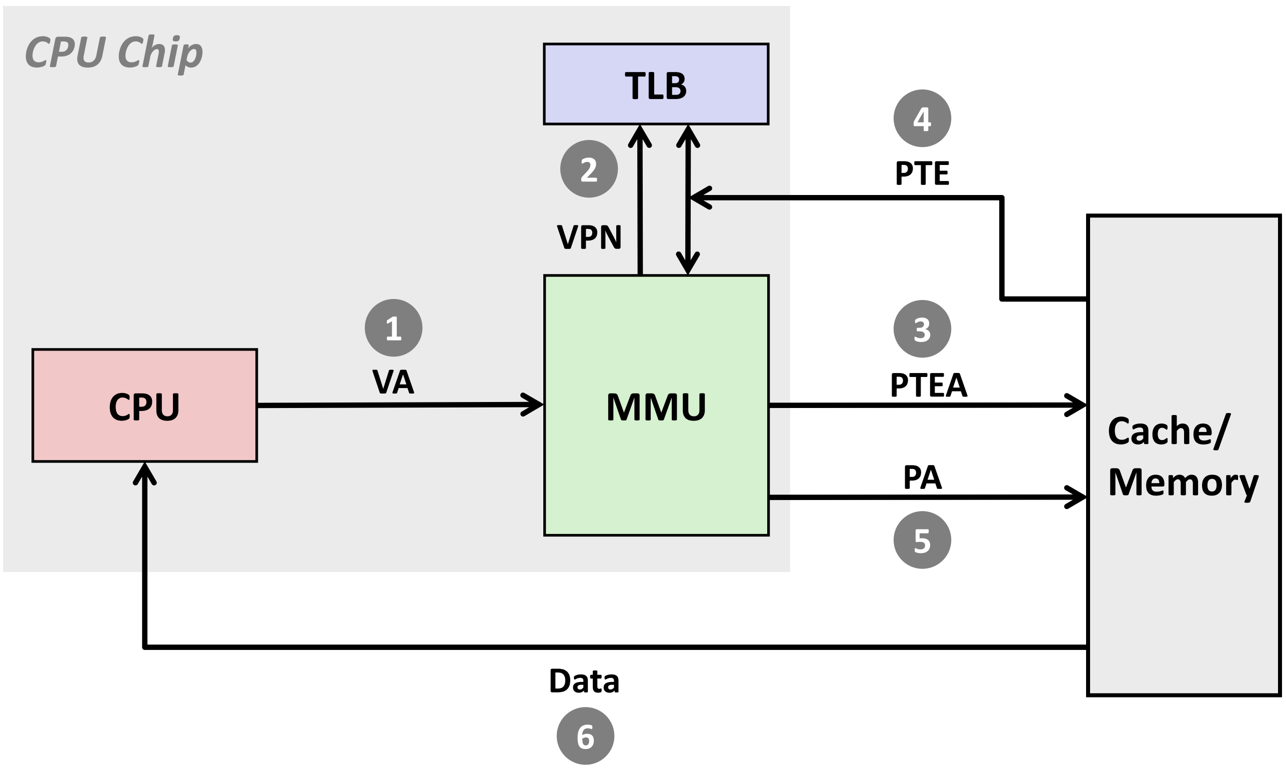
Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)

- A small cache of page table entries with fast access by MMU



Typically, a TLB hit eliminates the k memory accesses required to do a page table lookup.

TLB Miss



A TLB miss incurs an additional memory access (the PTE)

Fortunately, TLB misses are rare. Why?

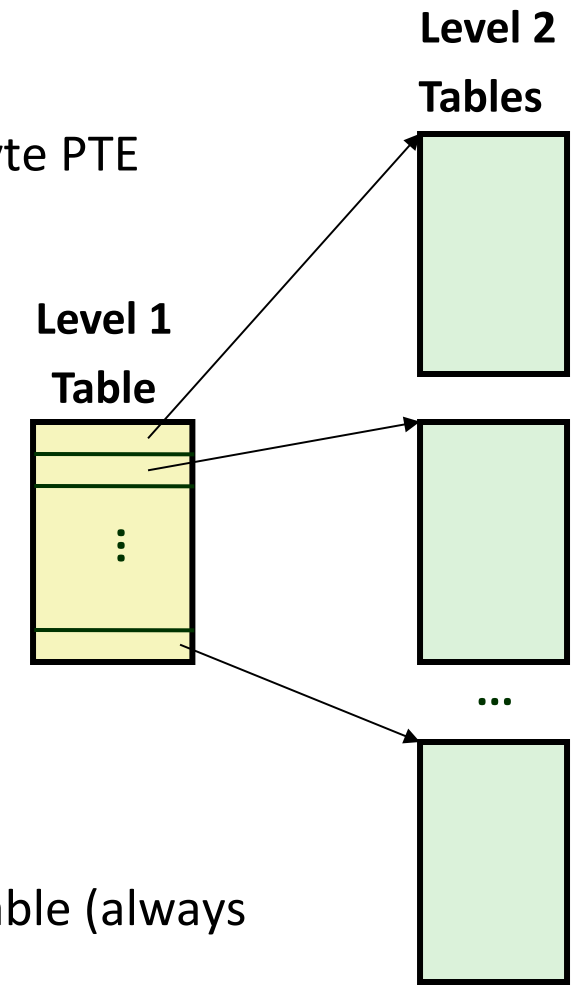
Question #3

- **Isn’t the page table huge? How can it be stored in RAM?**

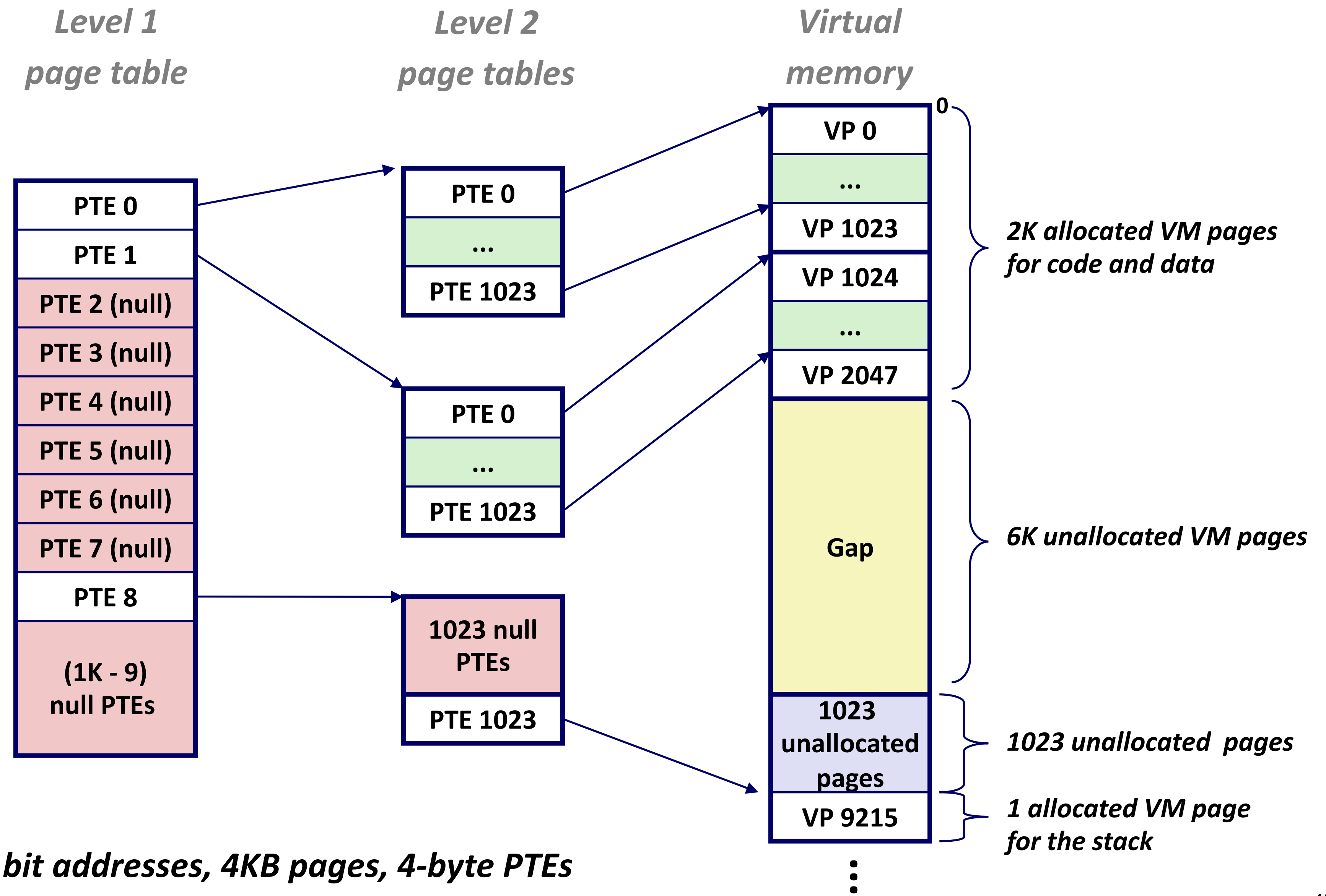
- **Yes, it would be… so, real page tables aren’t simple arrays**

Multi-Level Page Tables

- **Suppose:**
  - 4KB (2^{12}) page size, 64-bit address space, 8-byte PTE
- **Problem:**
  - Would need a 32,000 TB page table!
    - $2^{64} * 2^{-12} * 2^{3} = 2^{55}$ bytes
- **Common solution:**
  - Multi-level page tables
  - Example: 2-level page table
    - Level 1 table: each PTE points to a page table (always memory resident)
    - Level 2 table: each PTE points to a page (paged in and out like any other data)



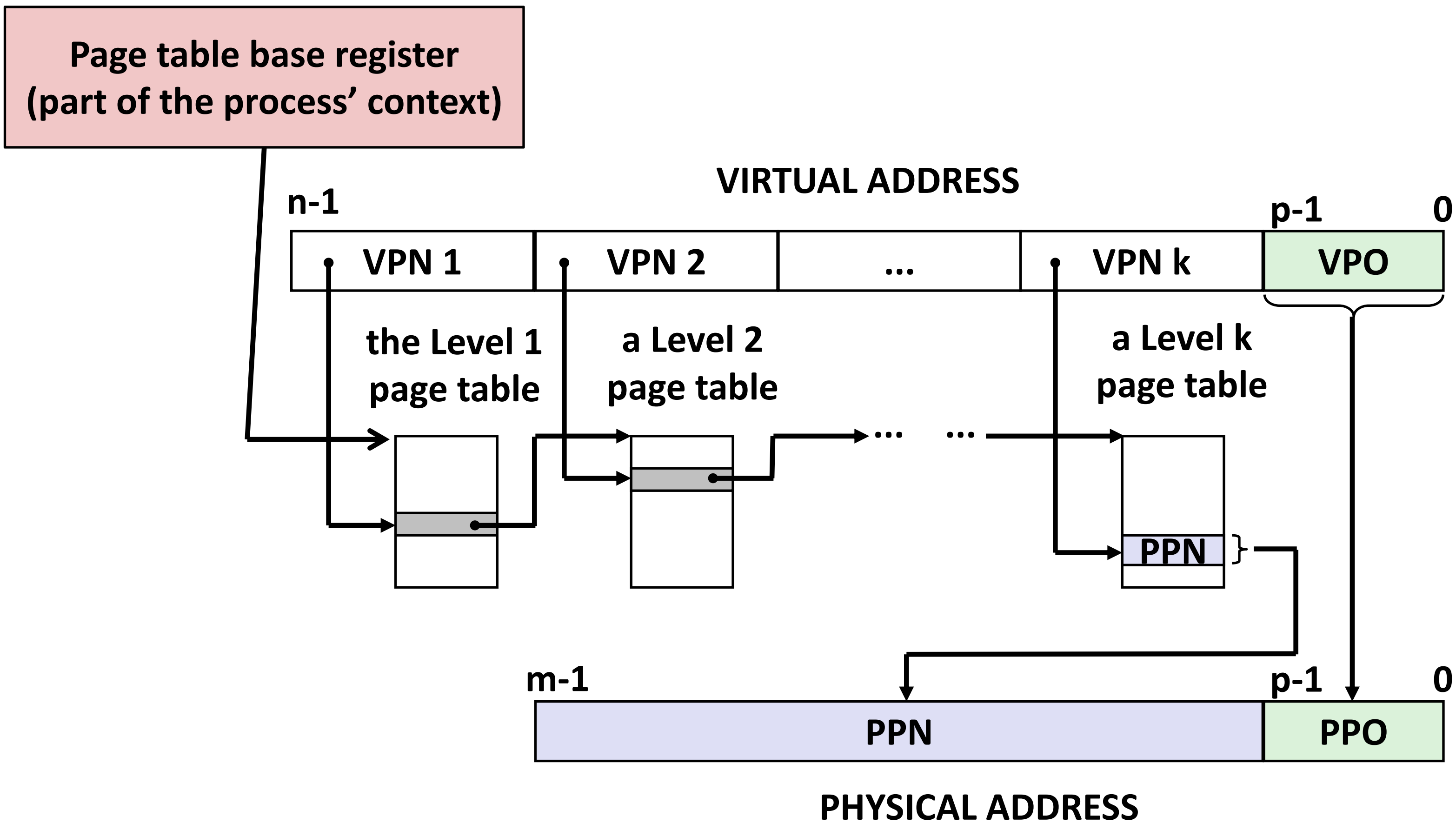
A Two-Level Page Table Hierarchy



32 bit addresses, 4KB pages, 4-byte PTEs

Translating with a k-level Page Table

- **Having multiple levels greatly reduces page table size**



Question #4

- **Aren't the TLB contents wrong after a context switch?**

- **Yes, they would be, so something must be done..**
  - Option 1: flush TLB on context switch
  - Option 2: associate a process ID with each TLB entry

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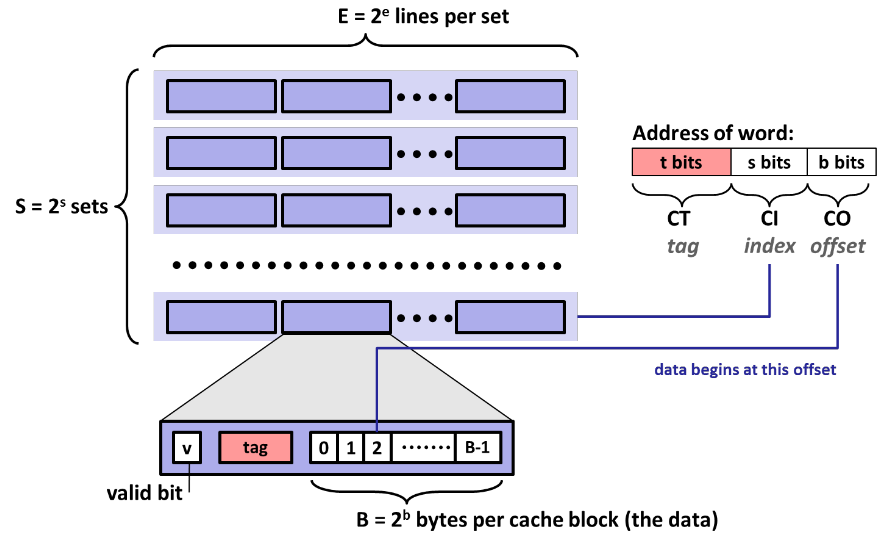
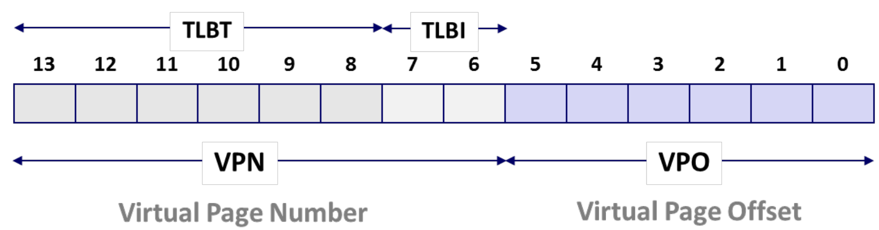
Review of Symbols



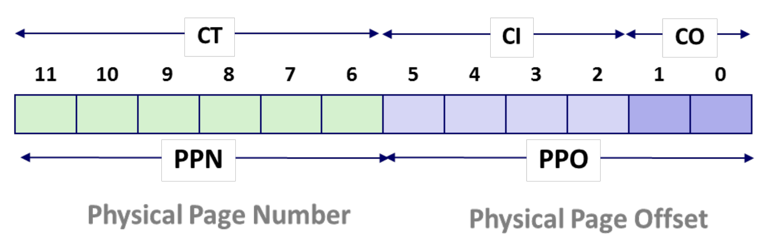
- **Basic Parameters**
  - **N = 2^n** : Number of addresses in virtual address space
  - **M = 2^m** : Number of addresses in physical address space
  - **P = 2^p** : Page size (bytes)

- **Components of the *virtual address* (VA)**
  - **TLBI**: TLB index
  - **TLBT**: TLB tag
  - **VPO**: Virtual page offset
  - **VPN**: Virtual page number



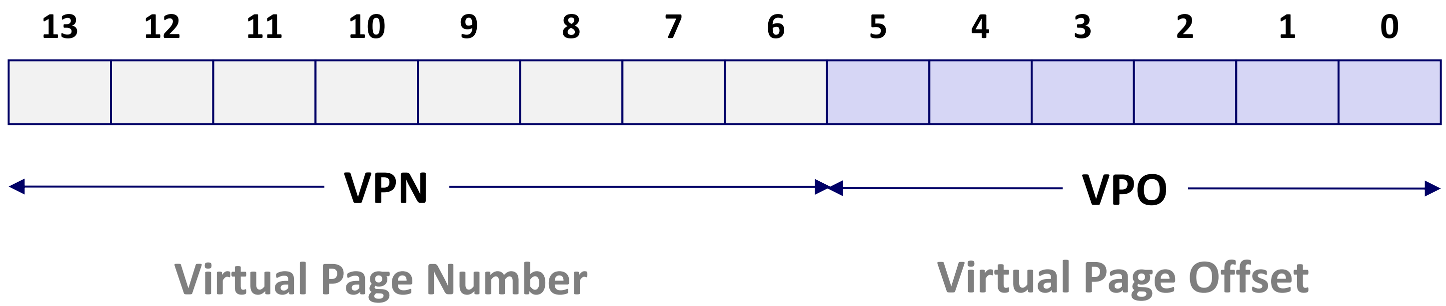
- **Components of the *physical address* (PA)**
  - **PPO**: Physical page offset (same as VPO)
  - **PPN:** Physical page number
  - **CO**: Byte offset within cache line
  - **CI:** Cache index
  - **CT**: Cache tag

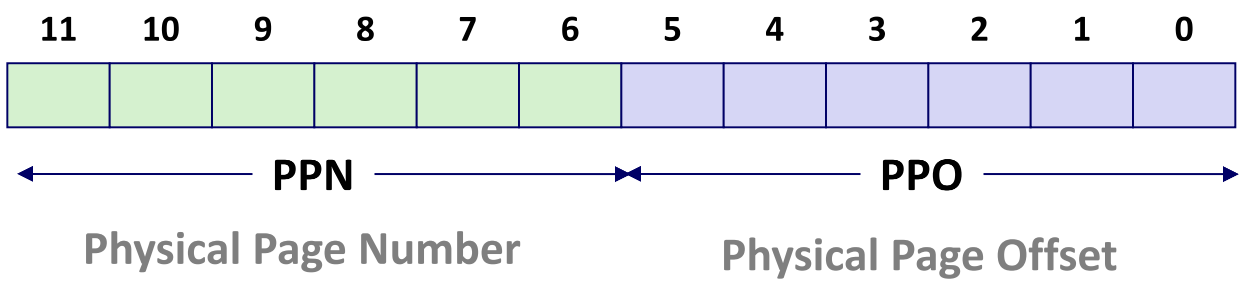
(bits per field for our simple example)



Simple Memory System Example

- **Addressing**
  - 14-bit virtual addresses
  - 12-bit physical address
  - Page size = 64 bytes





Simple Memory System TLB

- 16 entries
- 4-way associative

TLBT						TLBI							
13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1						
VPN								VPO					

VPN = 0b1101 = 0x0D

Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)

Set	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*
0	03	–	0	09	0D	1	00	–	0	07	02	1
1	03	2D	1	02	–	0	04	–	0	0A	–	0
2	02	–	0	08	–	0	06	–	0	03	–	0
3	07	–	0	03	0D	1	0A	34	1	02	–	0

Simple Memory System Page Table

Only showing the first 16 entries (out of 256)

VPN	PPN	Valid
00	28	1
01	–	0
02	33	1
03	02	1
04	–	0
05	16	1
06	–	0
07	–	0

VPN	PPN	Valid
08	13	1
09	17	1
0A	09	1
0B	–	0
0C	–	0
0D	2D	1
0E	11	1
0F	0D	1

0x0D → 0x2D

TLBT (bits 13–8) | TLBI (bits 7–6)

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1						

VPN (bits 13–6) | VPO (bits 5–0)

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	1						

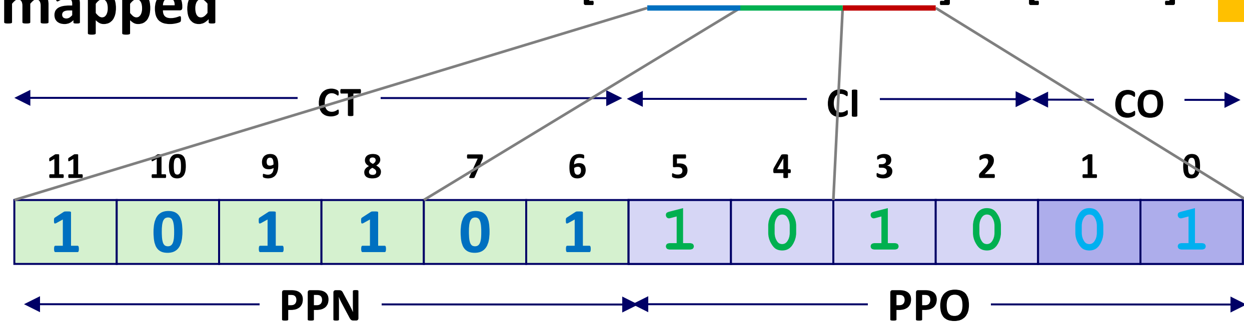
PPN (bits 11–6) | PPO (bits 5–0)

Simple Memory System Cache

- 16 lines, 4-byte block size
- Physically addressed
- Direct mapped

V[0b00001101101001] = V[0x369]

P[0b101101101001] = P[0xB69] = 0x15



Idx	*Tag*	*Valid*	*B0*	*B1*	*B2*	*B3*
0	19	1	99	11	23	11
1	15	0	–	–	–	–
2	1B	1	00	02	04	08
3	36	0	–	–	–	–
4	32	1	43	6D	8F	09
5	0D	1	36	72	F0	1D
6	31	0	–	–	–	–
7	16	1	11	C2	DF	03

Idx	*Tag*	*Valid*	*B0*	*B1*	*B2*	*B3*
8	24	1	3A	00	51	89
9	2D	0	–	–	–	–
A	2D	1	93	15	DA	3B
B	0B	0	–	–	–	–
C	12	0	–	–	–	–
D	16	1	04	96	34	15
E	13	1	83	77	1B	D3
F	14	0	–	–	–	–

Address Translation Example: TLB/Cache Hit

Virtual Address: 0x03D4

TLBT						TLBI							
13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
VPN								VPO					

VPN _0x0F_ TLBI _0x3_ TLBT _0x03_ TLB Hit? _Y_ Page Fault? _N_ PPN: _0x0D_

TLB

Set	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*	*Tag*	*PPN*	*Valid*
0	03	–	0	09	0D	1	00	–	0	07	02	1
1	03	2D	1	02	–	0	04	–	0	0A	–	0
2	02	–	0	08	–	0	06	–	0	03	–	0
3	07	–	0	03	0D	1	0A	34	1	02	–	0

Physical Address

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
PPN						PPO					

Address Translation Example: TLB/Cache Hit

Physical Address

CT | CI | CO

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0

PPN | PPO

CO 0 CI 0x5 CT 0x0D Hit? Y Byte: 0x36

Cache

Idx	Tag	Valid	B0	B1	B2	B3
0	19	1	99	11	23	11
1	15	0	–	–	–	–
2	1B	1	00	02	04	08
3	36	0	–	–	–	–
4	32	1	43	6D	8F	09
5	0D	1	36	72	F0	1D
6	31	0	–	–	–	–
7	16	1	11	C2	DF	03

Idx	Tag	Valid	B0	B1	B2	B3
8	24	1	3A	00	51	89
9	2D	0	–	–	–	–
A	2D	1	93	15	DA	3B
B	0B	0	–	–	–	–
C	12	0	–	–	–	–
D	16	1	04	96	34	15
E	13	1	83	77	1B	D3
F	14	0	–	–	–	–

Address Translation Example: TLB/Cache Miss

Virtual Address: 0x0020

TLBT: bits 13–8 | TLBI: bits 7–6

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

VPN: bits 13–6 | VPO: bits 5–0

VPN 0x00   TLBI 0   TLBT 0x00   TLB Hit? N   Page Fault? N   PPN: 0x28

Physical Address

CT: bits 11–6 | CI: bits 5–2 | CO: bits 1–0

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

PPN: bits 11–6 | PPO: bits 5–0

CO 0   CI 0x8   CT 0x28   Hit? __   Byte: _____

Page table

VPN	PPN	Valid
00	28	1
01	–	0
02	33	1
03	02	1
04	–	0
05	16	1
06	–	0
07	–	0

Address Translation Example: TLB/Cache Miss

Cache

Idx	Tag	Valid	B0	B1	B2	B3
0	19	1	99	11	23	11
1	15	0	–	–	–	–
2	1B	1	00	02	04	08
3	36	0	–	–	–	–
4	32	1	43	6D	8F	09
5	0D	1	36	72	F0	1D
6	31	0	–	–	–	–
7	16	1	11	C2	DF	03

Idx	Tag	Valid	B0	B1	B2	B3
8	24	1	3A	00	51	89
9	2D	0	–	–	–	–
A	2D	1	93	15	DA	3B
B	0B	0	–	–	–	–
C	12	0	–	–	–	–
D	16	1	04	96	34	15
E	13	1	83	77	1B	D3
F	14	0	–	–	–	–

Physical Address

CT						CI				CO	
11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PPN						PPO					

CO __0__ CI __0x8__ CT __0x28__ Hit? __N__ Byte: __Mem__

Address Translation Example: Page Fault

Virtual Address: `0x018F`

TLBT: bits 13–8; TLBI: bits 7–6

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

VPN: bits 13–6; VPO: bits 5–0

VPN 0x06　　TLBI 0x2　　TLBT 0x01　　TLB Hit? N　　Page Fault? Y　　PPN: TBD

Physical Address

CT: bits 11–6; CI: bits 5–2; CO: bits 1–0

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

PPN: bits 11–6; PPO: bits 5–0

CO___　　CI___　　CT ____　　Hit? __　　Byte: ____

Page table

VPN	PPN	Valid
00	28	1
01	–	0
02	33	1
03	02	1
04	–	0
05	16	1
06	–	0
07	–	0

Virtual Memory Exam Question

Problem 5. (10 points):

Assume a System that has

1. A two way set associative TLB
2. A TLB with 8 total entries
3. 2^8 byte page size
4. 2^{16} bytes of virtual memory
5. one (or more) boats

Hex	Decimal	Binary
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
A	10	1010
B	11	1011
C	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110
F	15	1111

TLB

Index	Tag	PPN	Valid
0	0x13	0x30	1
	0x34	0x58	0
1	0x1F	0x80	0
	0x2A	0x72	1
2	0x1F	0x95	1
	0x20	0xAA	0
3	0x3F	0x20	1
	0x3E	0xFF	0

TLBT						TLBI									
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

A. Use the TLB to fill in the table. Strike out anything that you don't have enough information to fill in.

Virtual Address	Physical Address
0x7E85	0x9585
0xD301	-------
0x4C20	0x3020
0xD040	-------
-------	0x5830

0x7E85 = 0x0111111010000101

TLBI = 0x2

TLBT = 0x1F

0x7E85 → 0x9585

Exam: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~213/oldexams/exam2b-s11.pdf (solution)

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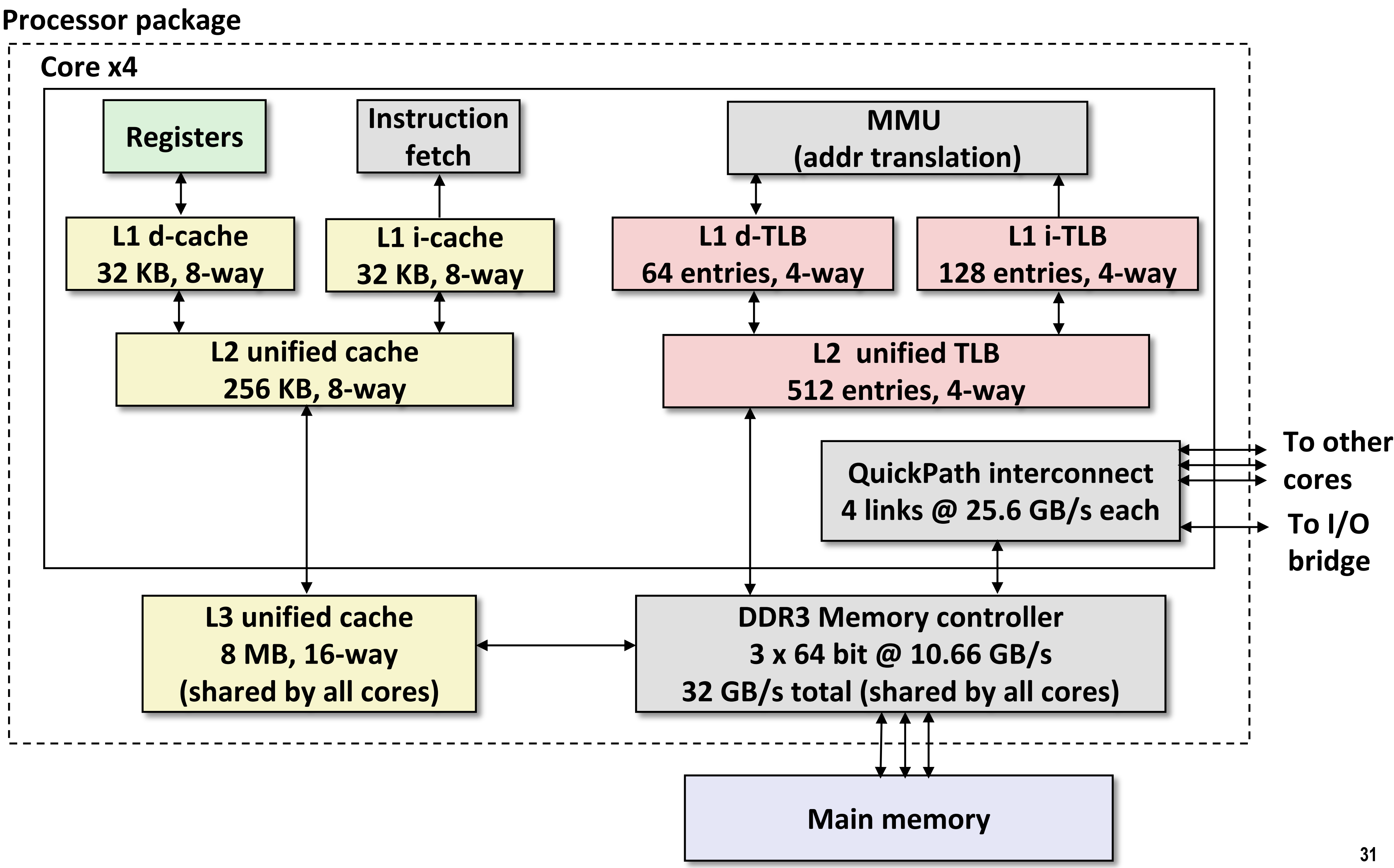
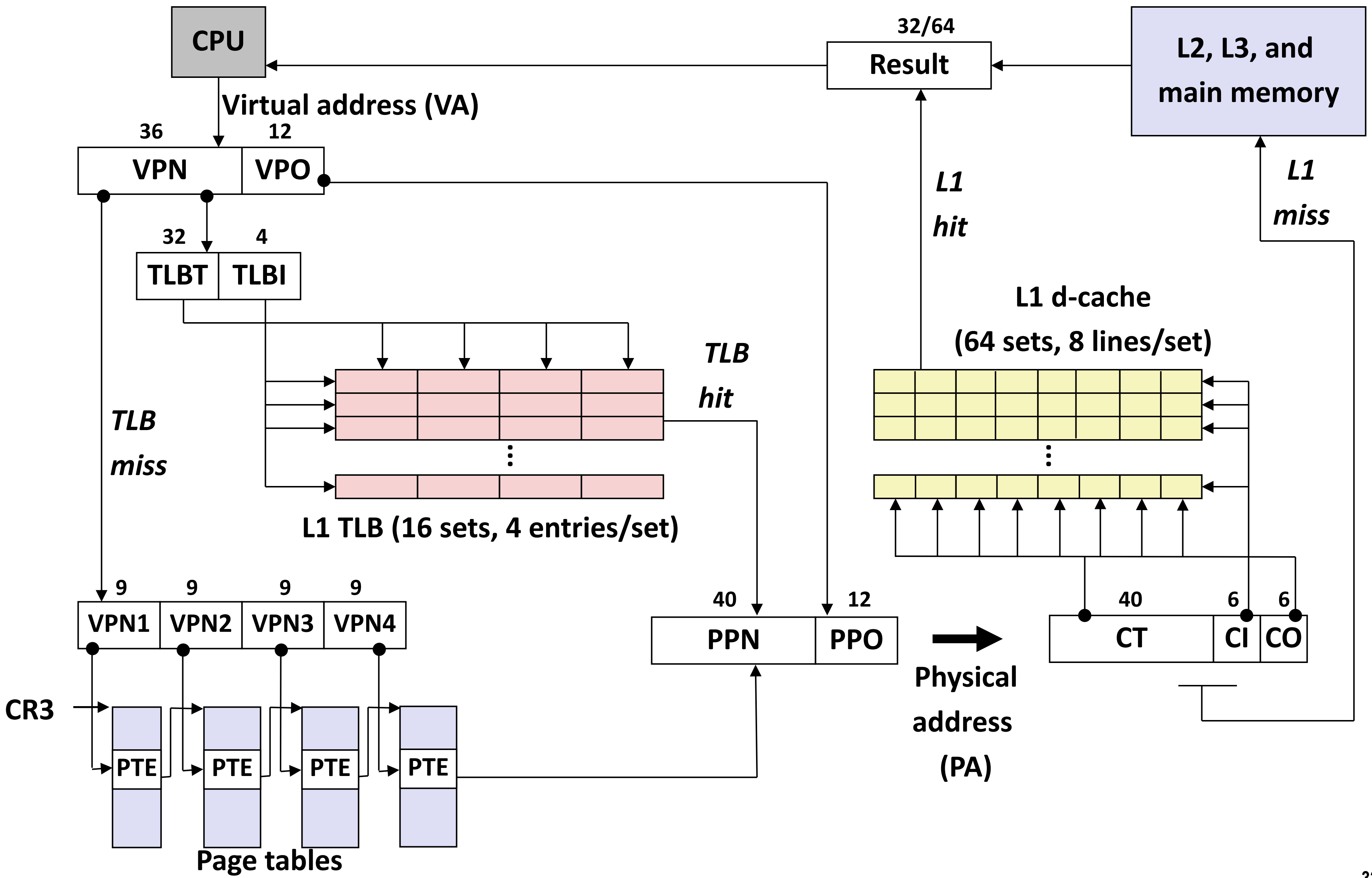
Intel Core i7 Memory System



End-to-end Core i7 Address Translation



Core i7 Level 1-3 Page Table Entries

63	62–52	51–12	11–9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
XD	Unused	Page table physical base address	Unused	G	PS		A	CD	WT	U/S	R/W	P=1

Available for OS (page table location on disk)	P=0

Each entry references a 4K child page table. Significant fields:

P: Child page table present in physical memory (1) or not (0).

R/W: Read-only or read-write access access permission for all reachable pages.

U/S: user or supervisor (kernel) mode access permission for all reachable pages.

WT: Write-through or write-back cache policy for the child page table.

A: Reference bit (set by MMU on reads and writes, cleared by software).

PS: Page size either 4 KB or 4 MB (defined for Level 3 PTEs only).

Page table physical base address: 40 most significant bits of physical page table address (forces page tables to be 4KB aligned)

XD: Disable or enable instruction fetches from all pages reachable from this PTE.

Core i7 Level 4 Page Table Entries

63	62 52	51 12	11 9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
XD	Unused	Page physical base address	Unused	G		D	A	CD	WT	U/S	R/W	P=1

Available for OS (page location on disk)	P=0

Each entry references a 4K child page. Significant fields:

P: Child page is present in memory (1) or not (0)

R/W: Read-only or read-write access permission for child page

U/S: User or supervisor mode access

WT: Write-through or write-back cache policy for this page

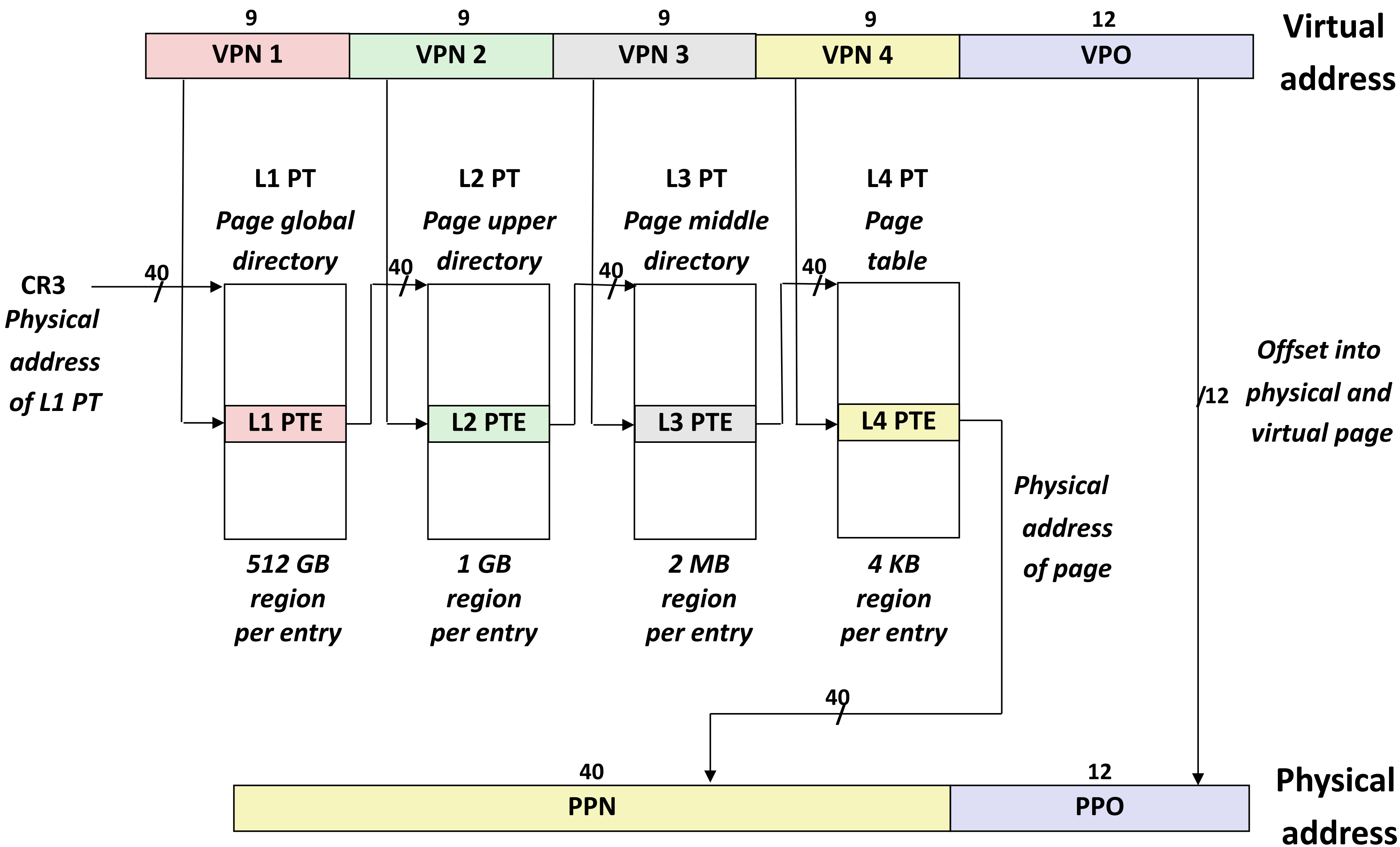
A: Reference bit (set by MMU on reads and writes, cleared by software)

D: Dirty bit (set by MMU on writes, cleared by software)

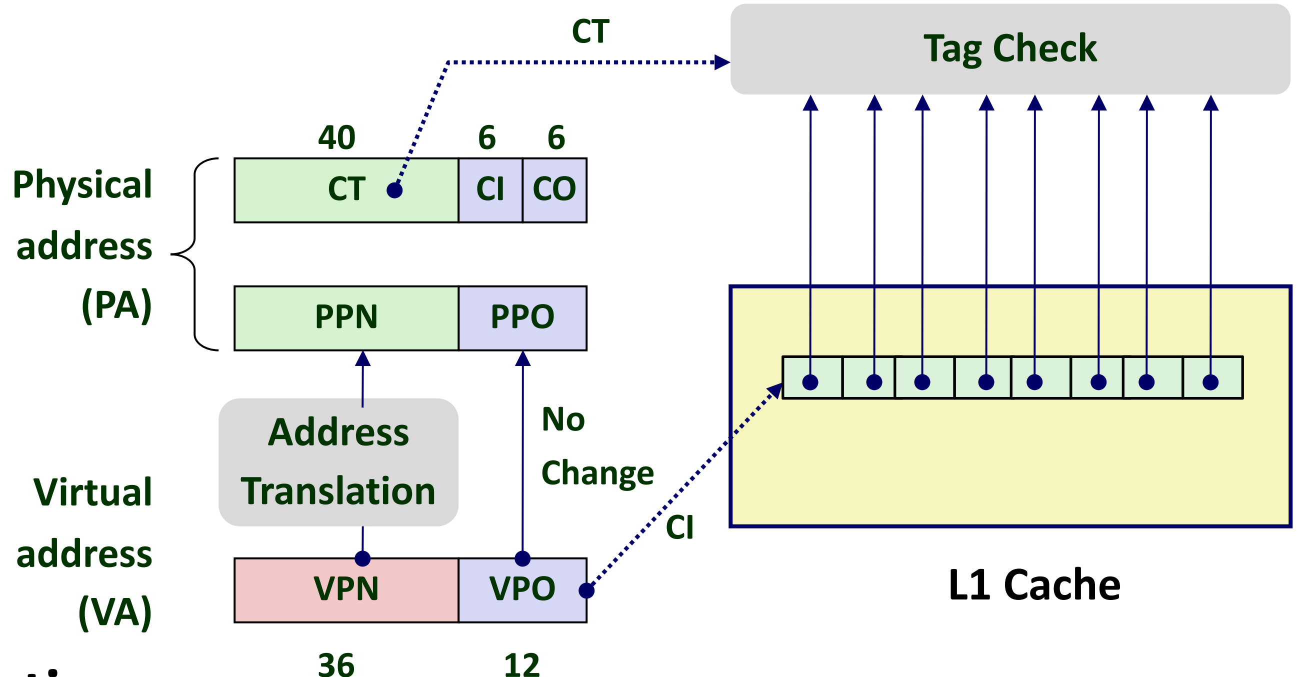
Page physical base address: 40 most significant bits of physical page address
(forces pages to be 4KB aligned)

XD: Disable or enable instruction fetches from this page.

Core i7 Page Table Translation

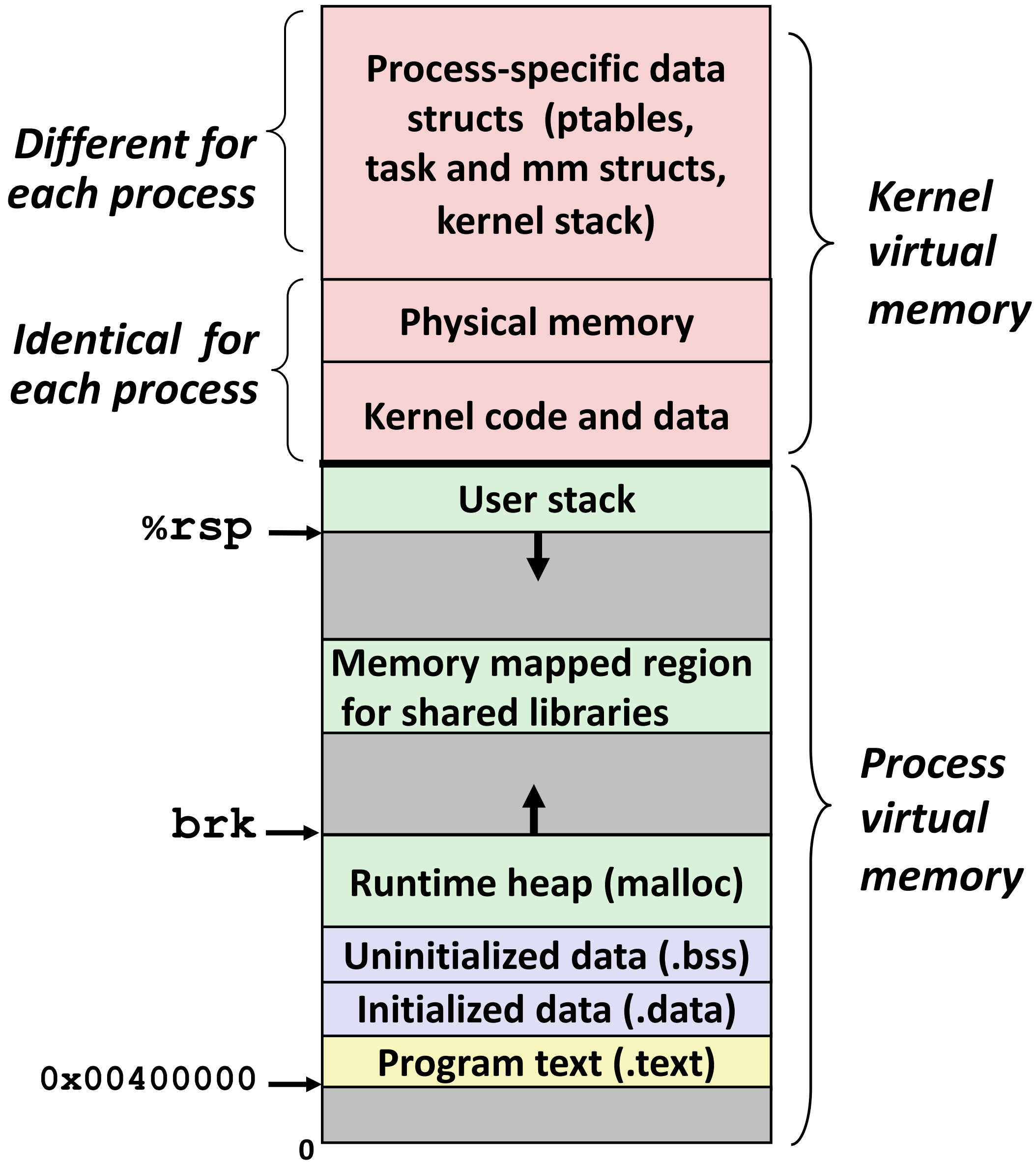


Cute Trick for Speeding Up L1 Access

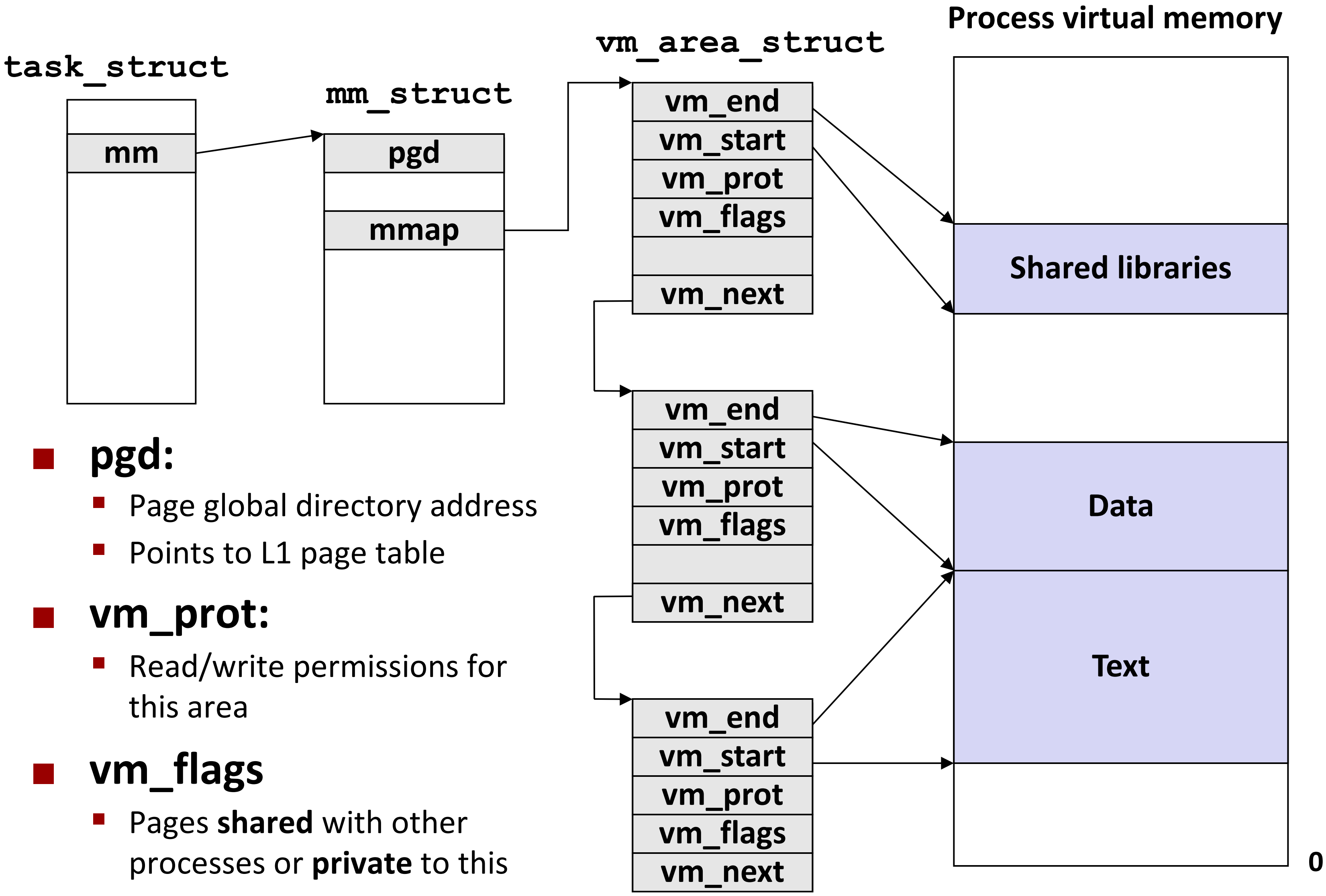


- **Observation**
  - Bits that determine CI identical in virtual and physical address
  - Can index into cache while address translation taking place
  - Generally we hit in TLB, so PPN bits (CT bits) available next
  - *"Virtually indexed, physically tagged"*
  - Cache carefully sized to make this possible

Virtual Address Space of a Linux Process



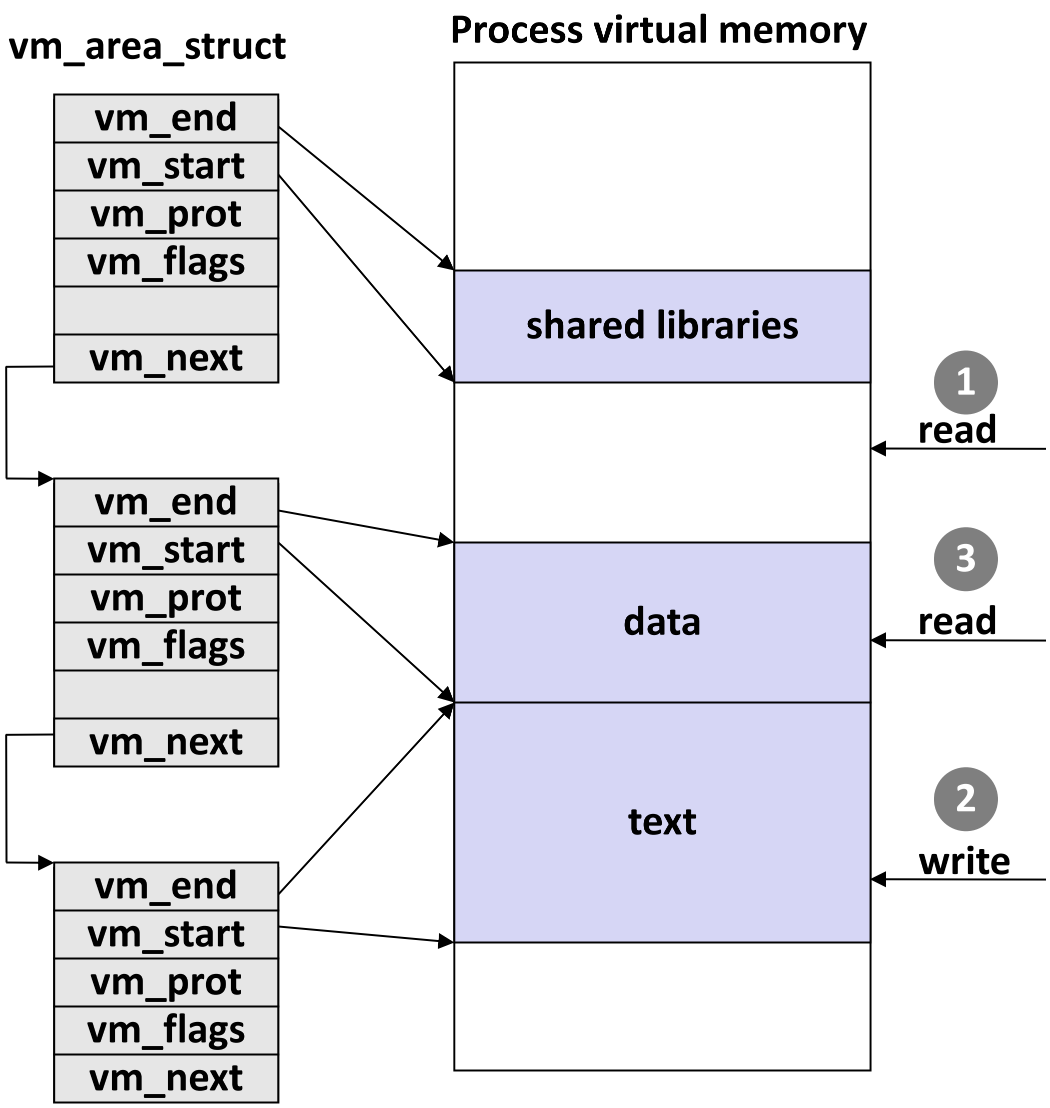
Linux Organizes VM as Collection of “Areas”



- **pgd:**
  - Page global directory address
  - Points to L1 page table
- **vm_prot:**
  - Read/write permissions for this area
- **vm_flags**
  - Pages **shared** with other processes or **private** to this process

Each process has own **`task_struct`**, etc

Linux Page Fault Handling



Segmentation fault:
accessing a non-existing page

Normal page fault

Protection exception:
e.g., violating permission by writing to a read-only page (Linux reports as Segmentation fault)

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Memory Mapping

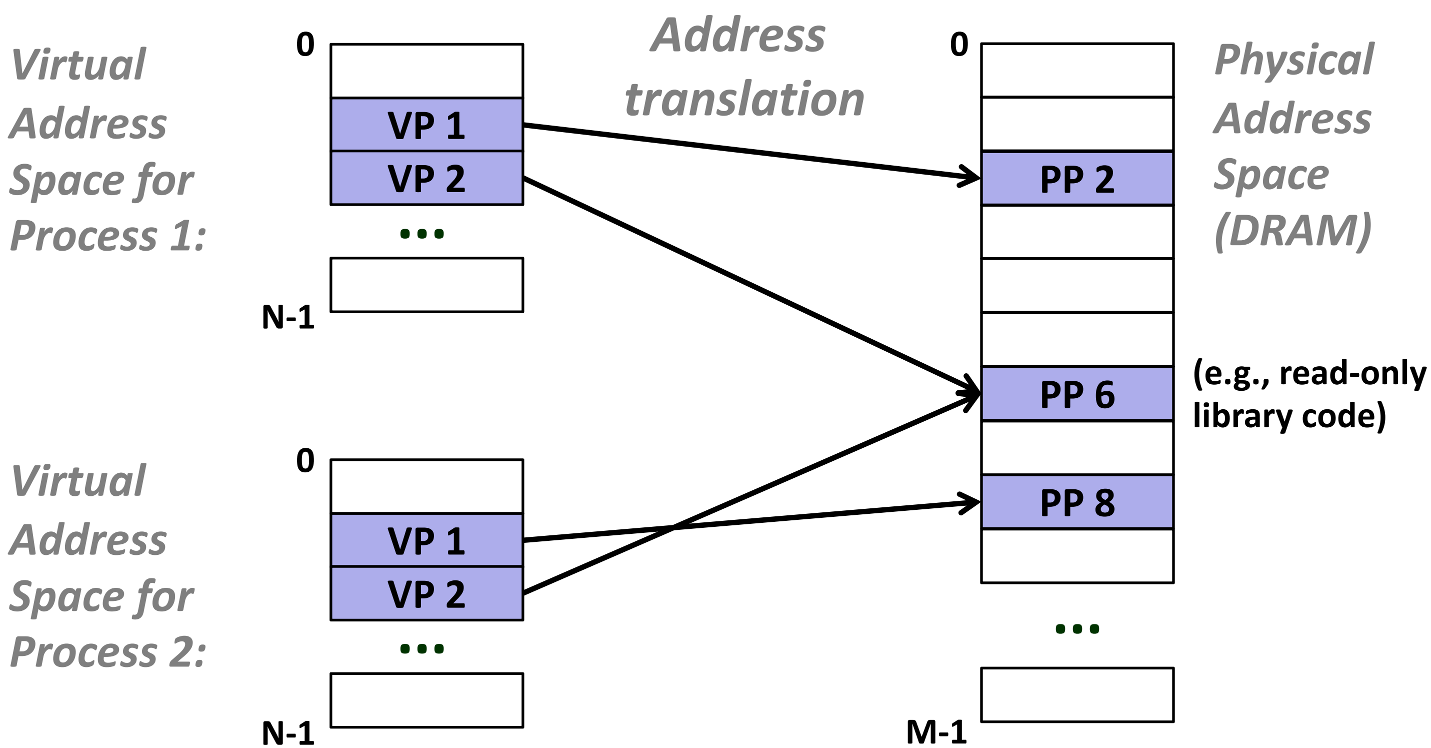
- **VM areas initialized by associating them with disk objects.**
  - Process is known as ***memory mapping***.

- **Area can be *backed by* (i.e., get its initial values from) :**
  - ***Regular file*** on disk (e.g., an executable object file)
    - Initial page bytes come from a section of a file
  - ***Anonymous file*** (e.g., nothing)
    - First fault will allocate a physical page full of 0's (***demand-zero page***)
    - Once the page is written to (***dirtied***), it is like any other page

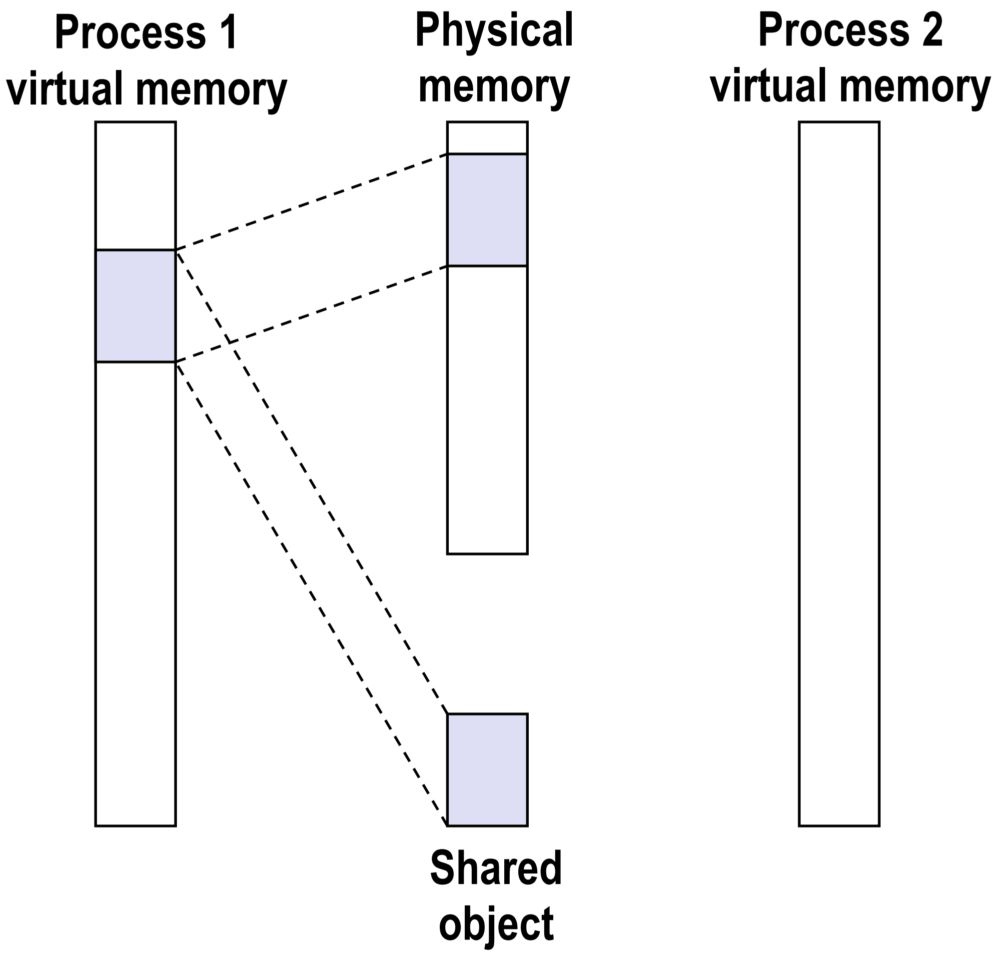
- **Dirty pages are copied back and forth between memory and a special *swap file*.**

Review: Memory Management & Protection

- Code and data can be isolated or shared among processes

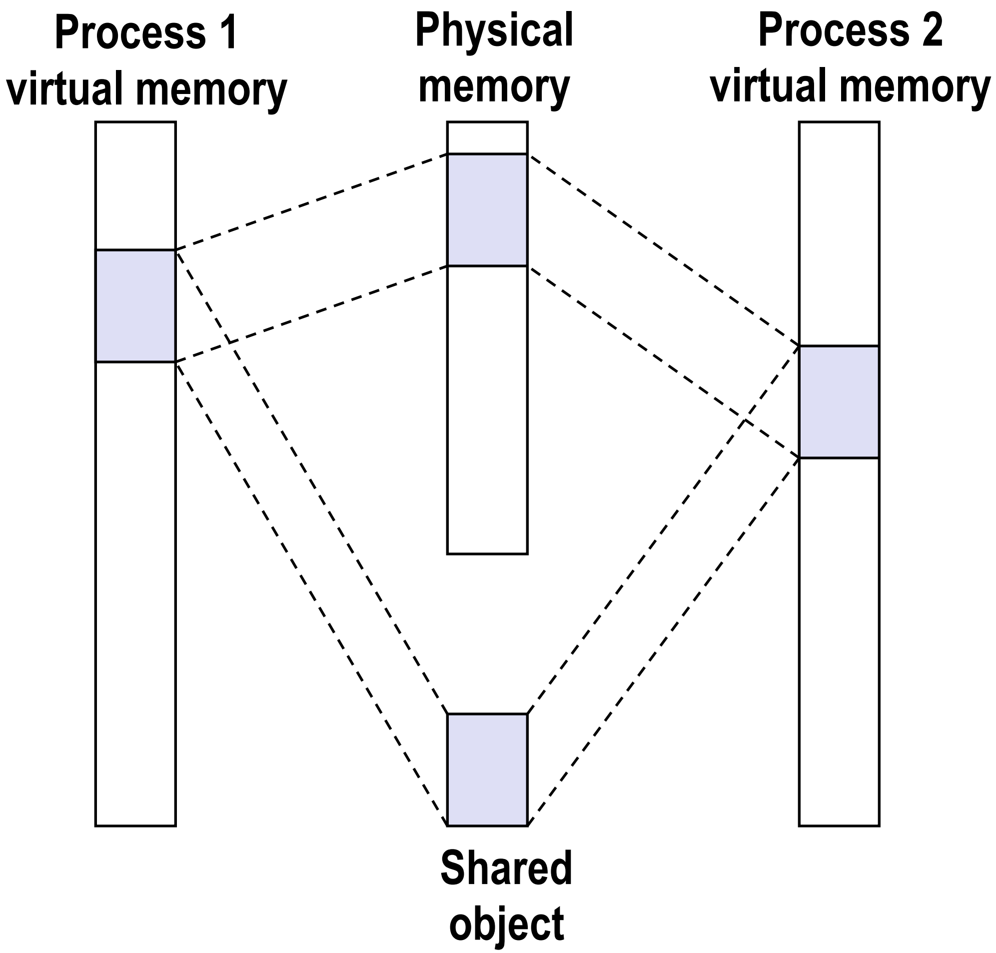


Sharing Revisited: Shared Objects



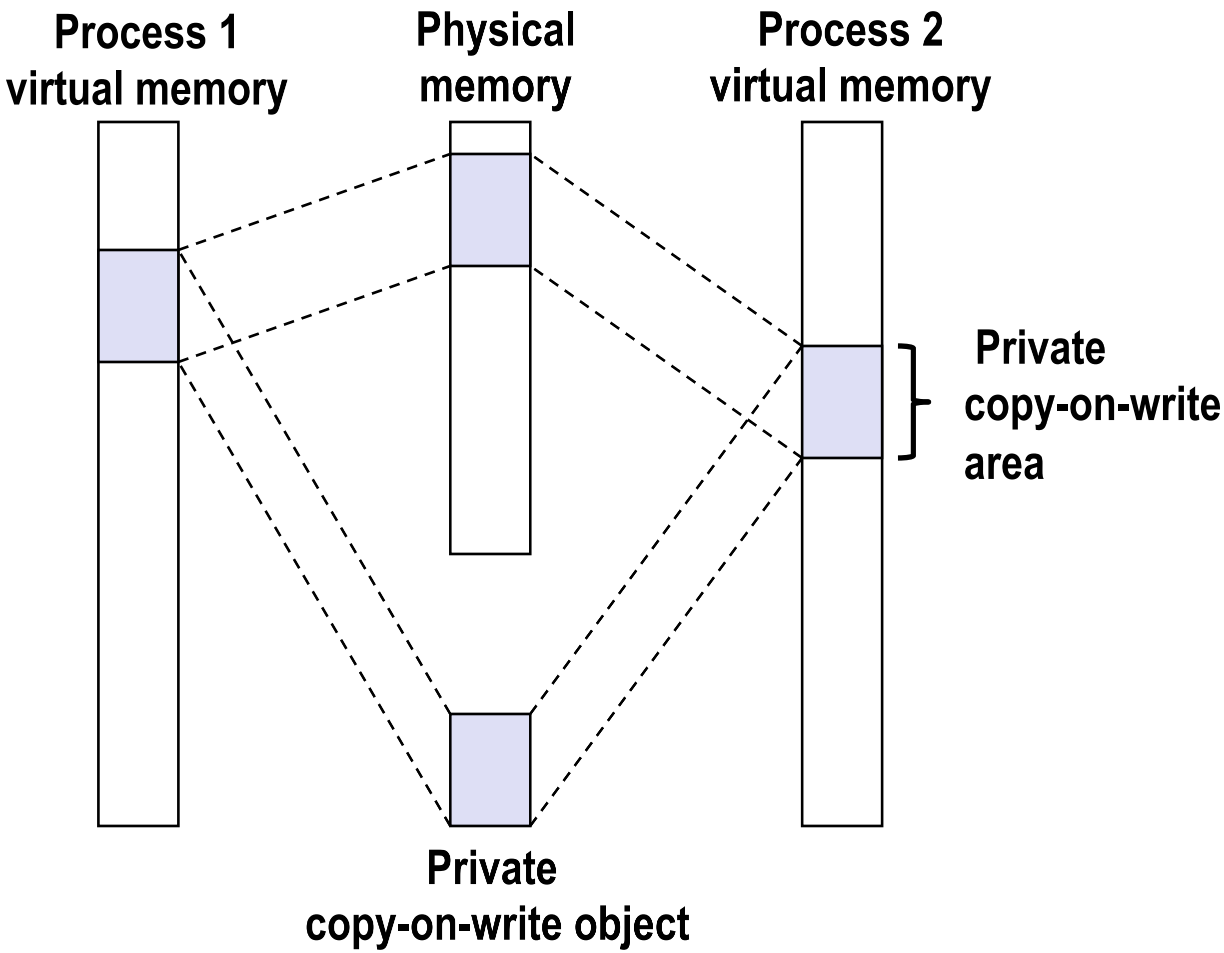
- Process 1 maps the shared object (on disk).

Sharing Revisited: Shared Objects



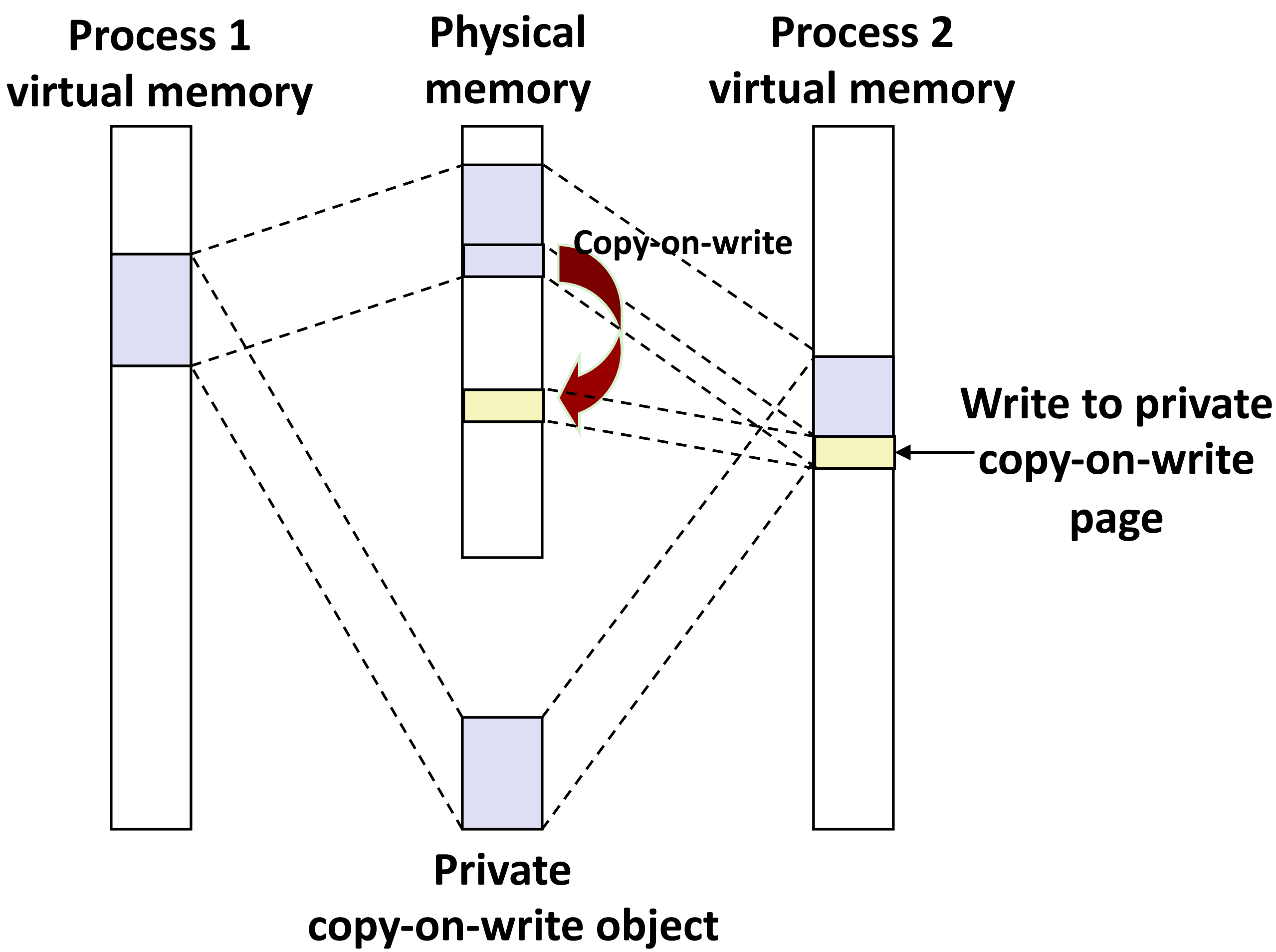
- Process 2 maps the same shared object.
- Notice how the virtual addresses can be different.
- But, difference must be multiple of page size

Sharing Revisited: Private Copy-on-write (COW) Objects



- Two processes mapping a ***private copy-on-write (COW)*** object.
- Area flagged as private copy-on-write
- PTEs in private areas are flagged as read-only

Sharing Revisited: Private Copy-on-write (COW) Objects



- Instruction writing to private page triggers protection fault.
- Handler creates new R/W page.
- Instruction restarts upon handler return.
- Copying deferred as long as possible!

The `fork` Function Revisited

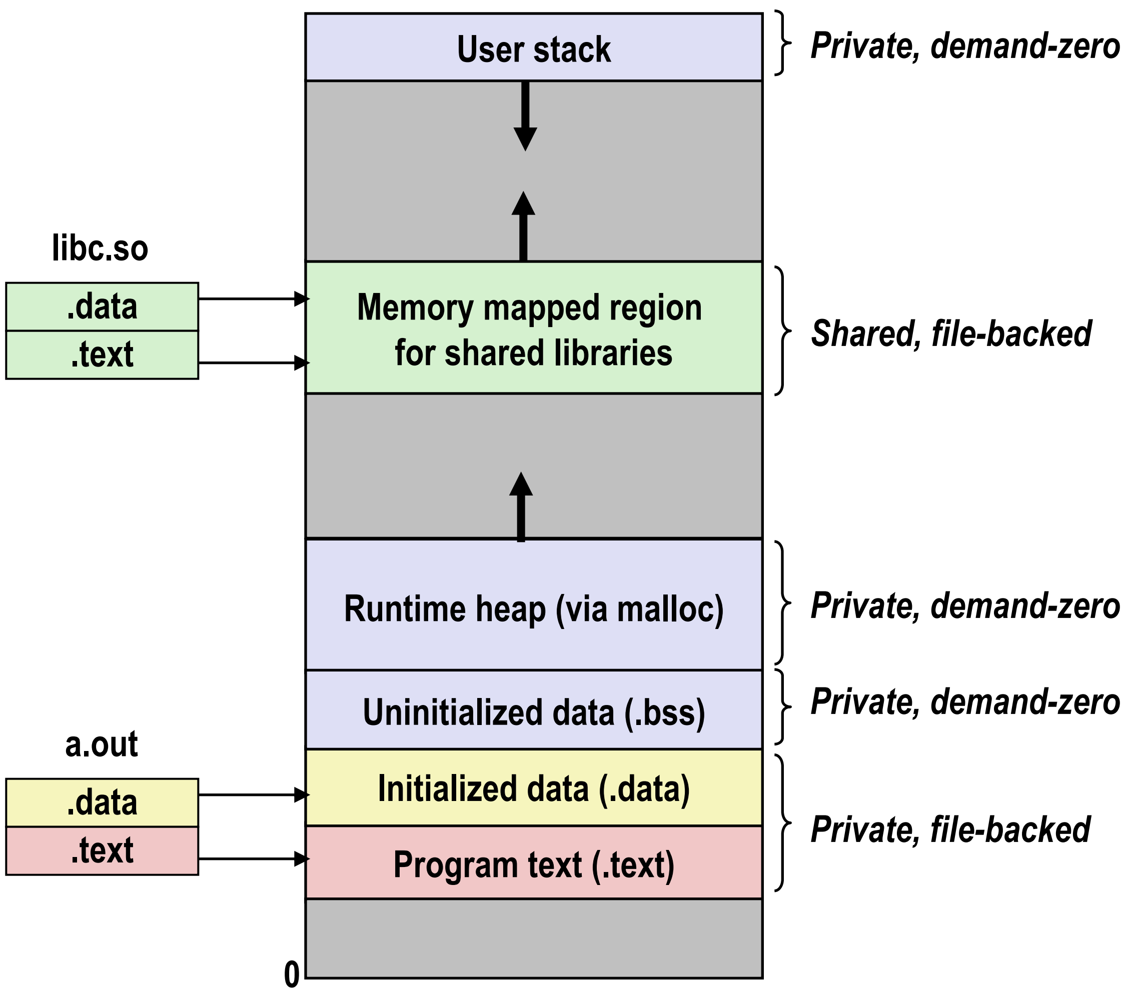
- **VM and memory mapping explain how `fork` provides private address space for each process.**
  - Perfect approach for common case of fork() followed by exec()

- **To create virtual address for new new process**
  - Create exact copies of current `mm_struct`, `vm_area_struct`, and page tables.
  - Flag each page in both processes as read-only
  - Flag each `vm_area_struct` in both processes as private COW

- **On return, each process has exact copy of virtual memory**

- **Subsequent writes create new pages using COW mechanism**

The `execve` Function Revisited



- **To load and run a new program `a.out` in the current process using `execve`:**
- **Free `vm_area_struct`'s and page tables for old areas**
- **Create `vm_area_struct`'s and page tables for new areas**
  - Programs and initialized data backed by object files.
  - `.bss` and stack backed by anonymous files .
- **Set PC to entry point in `.text`**
  - Linux will fault in code and data pages as needed.

Finding More Shareable Pages

- **Easy places to identify shareable pages**
  - Child create via `fork`
  - Processes loading the same binary file
    - E.g., bash or python interpreters, web browsers, ...
  - Processes loading the same library file
- **What about others?**
  - Kernel Same-Page Merging
  - OS scans through all of physical memory, looking for duplicate pages
  - When found, merge into single copy, marked as copy-on-write
  - Implemented in Linux kernel in 2009
  - Limited to pages marked as likely candidates
  - Especially useful when processor running many virtual machines

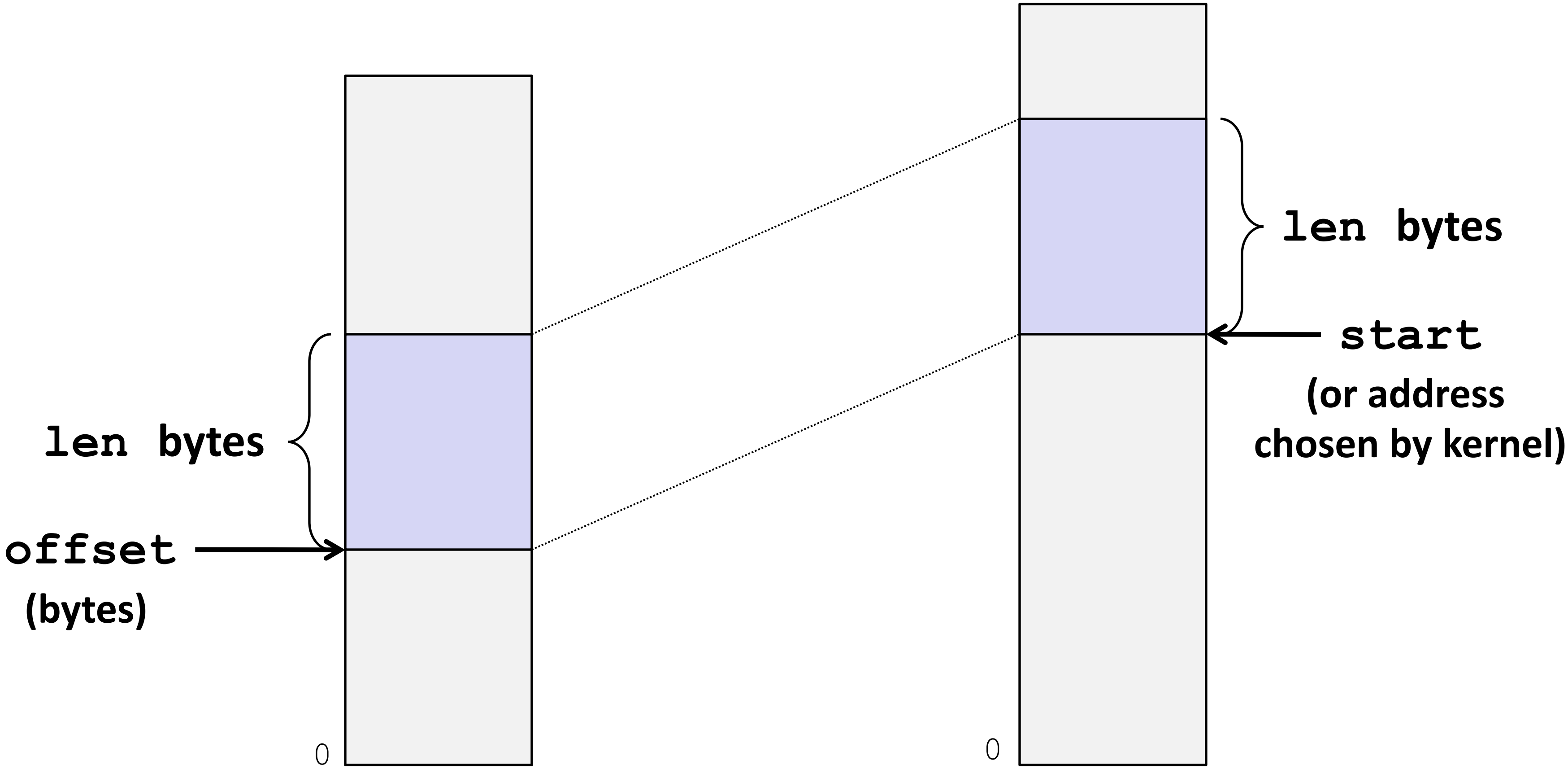
User-Level Memory Mapping

```
void *mmap(void *start, int len,
           int prot, int flags, int fd, int offset)
```

- **Map `len` bytes starting at offset `offset` of the file specified by file description `fd`, preferably at address `start`**
  - `start`: may be 0 for "pick an address"
  - `prot`: PROT_READ, PROT_WRITE, ...
  - `flags`: MAP_ANON, MAP_PRIVATE, MAP_SHARED, ...
- **Return a pointer to start of mapped area (may not be `start`)**

User-Level Memory Mapping

```
void *mmap(void *start, int len,
           int prot, int flags, int fd, int offset)
```



Disk file specified by file descriptor `fd`

Process virtual memory

Uses of mmap

- **Reading big files**
  - Uses paging mechanism to bring files into memory
- **Shared data structures**
  - When call with `MAP_SHARED` flag
    - Multiple processes have access to same region of memory
    - Risky!
- **File-based data structures**
  - E.g., database
  - Give `prot` argument `PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE`
  - When unmap region, file will be updated via write-back
  - Can implement load from file / update / write back to file

Example: Using `mmap` to Copy Files

- Copying a file to `stdout` without transferring data to user space

```
#include "csapp.h"

void mmapcopy(int fd, int size)
{

    /* Ptr to memory mapped area */
    char *bufp;

    bufp = Mmap(NULL, size,
                PROT_READ,
                MAP_PRIVATE,
                fd, 0);
    Write(1, bufp, size);
    return;
}
```

mmapcopy.c

```
/* mmapcopy driver */
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    struct stat stat;
    int fd;

    /* Check for required cmd line arg */
    if (argc != 2) {
        printf("usage: %s <filename>\n",
               argv[0]);
        exit(0);
    }

    /* Copy input file to stdout */
    fd = Open(argv[1], O_RDONLY, 0);
    Fstat(fd, &stat);
    mmapcopy(fd, stat.st_size);
    exit(0);
}
```

mmapcopy.c

Summary

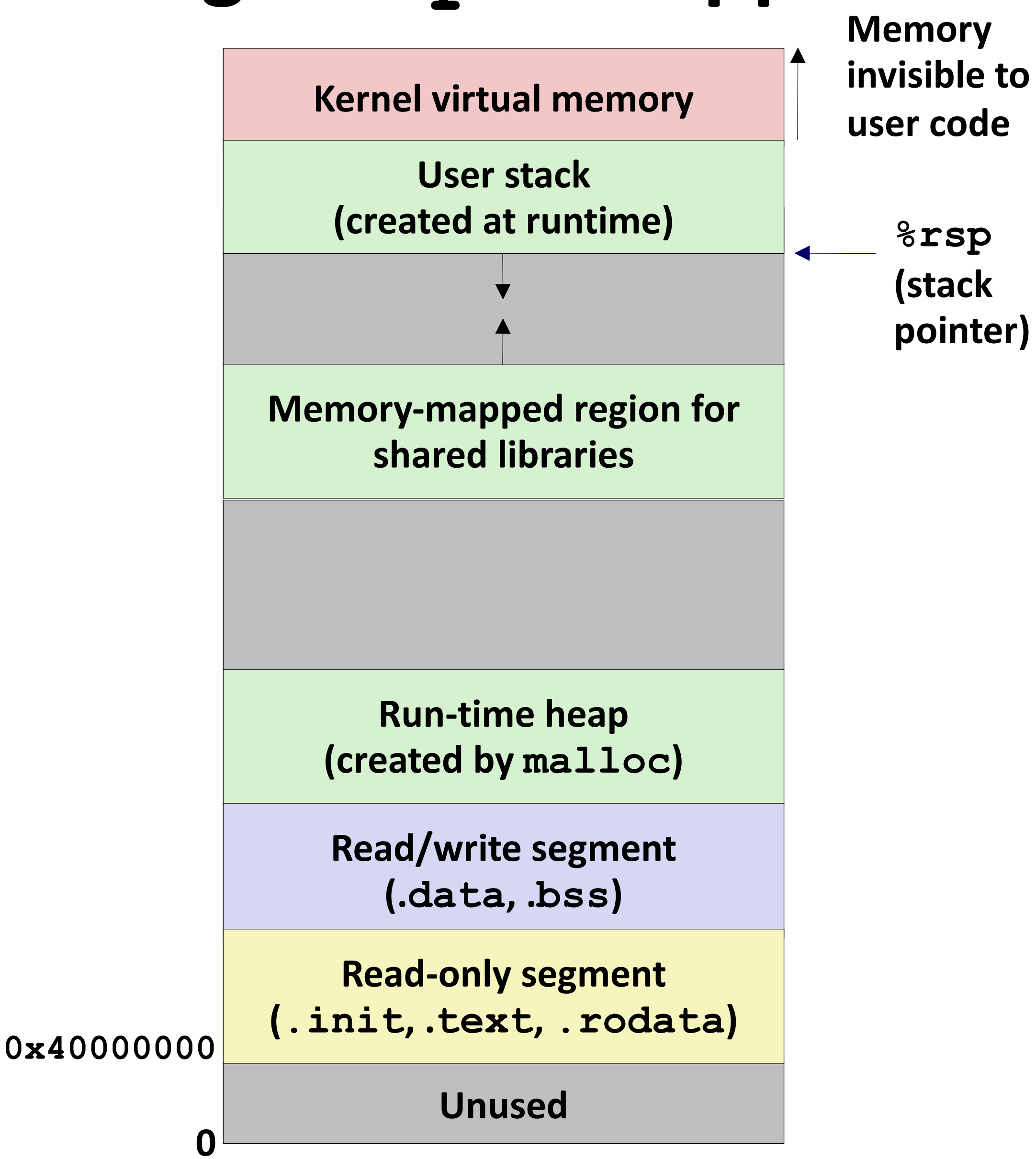
- **VM requires hardware support**
  - Exception handling mechanism
  - TLB
  - Various control registers
- **VM requires OS support**
  - Managing page tables
  - Implementing page replacement policies
  - Managing file system
- **VM enables many capabilities**
  - Loading programs from memory
  - Forking processes
  - Providing memory protection

Additional Slides

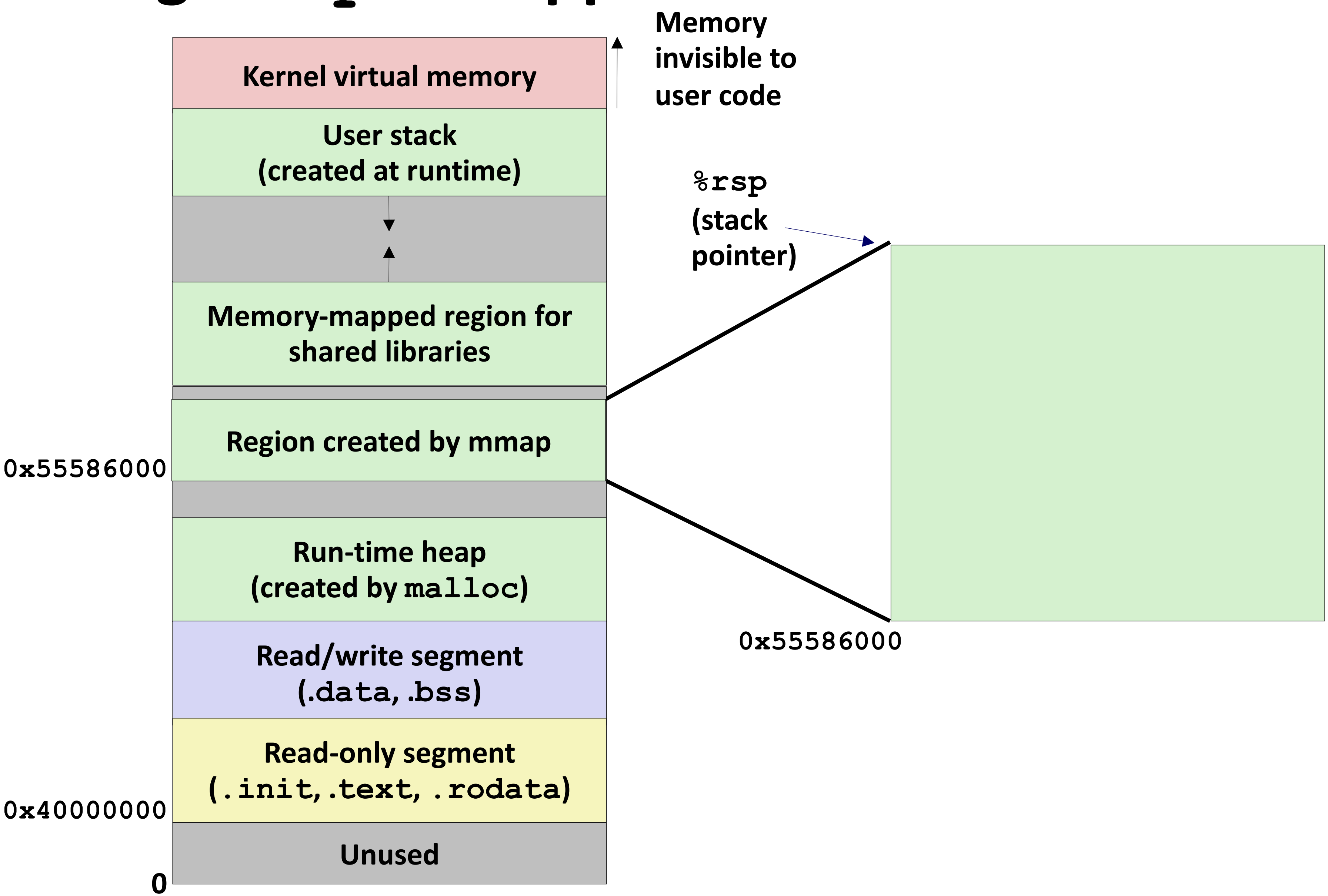
Example: Using `mmap` to Support Attack Lab

- Problem
  - Want students to be able to perform code injection attacks
  - Shark machine stacks are not executable
- Solution
  - Suggested by Sam King (now at UC Davis)
  - Use `mmap` to allocate region of memory marked executable
  - Divert stack to new region
  - Execute student attack code
  - Restore back to original stack
  - Remove mapped region

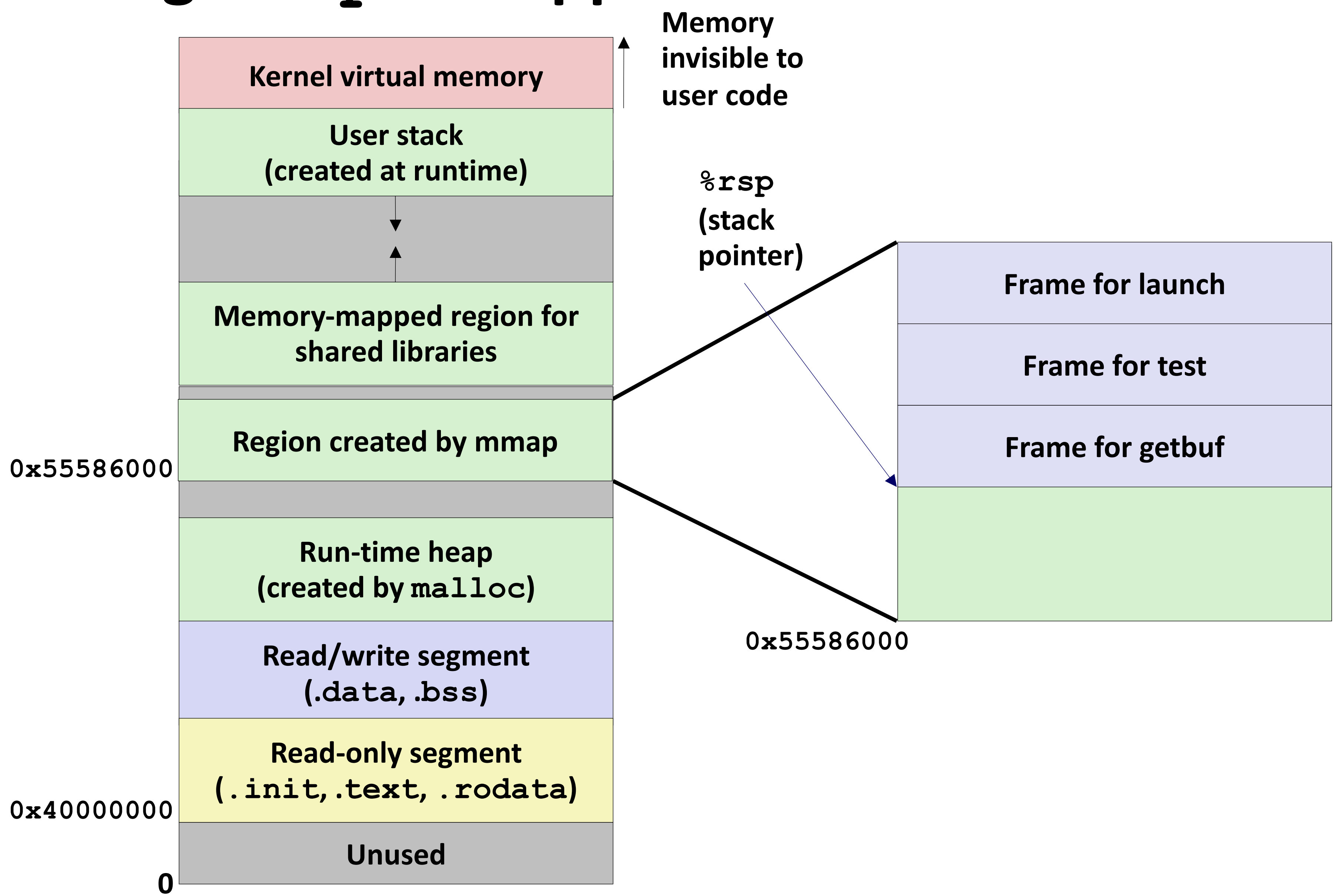
Using mmap to Support Attack Lab



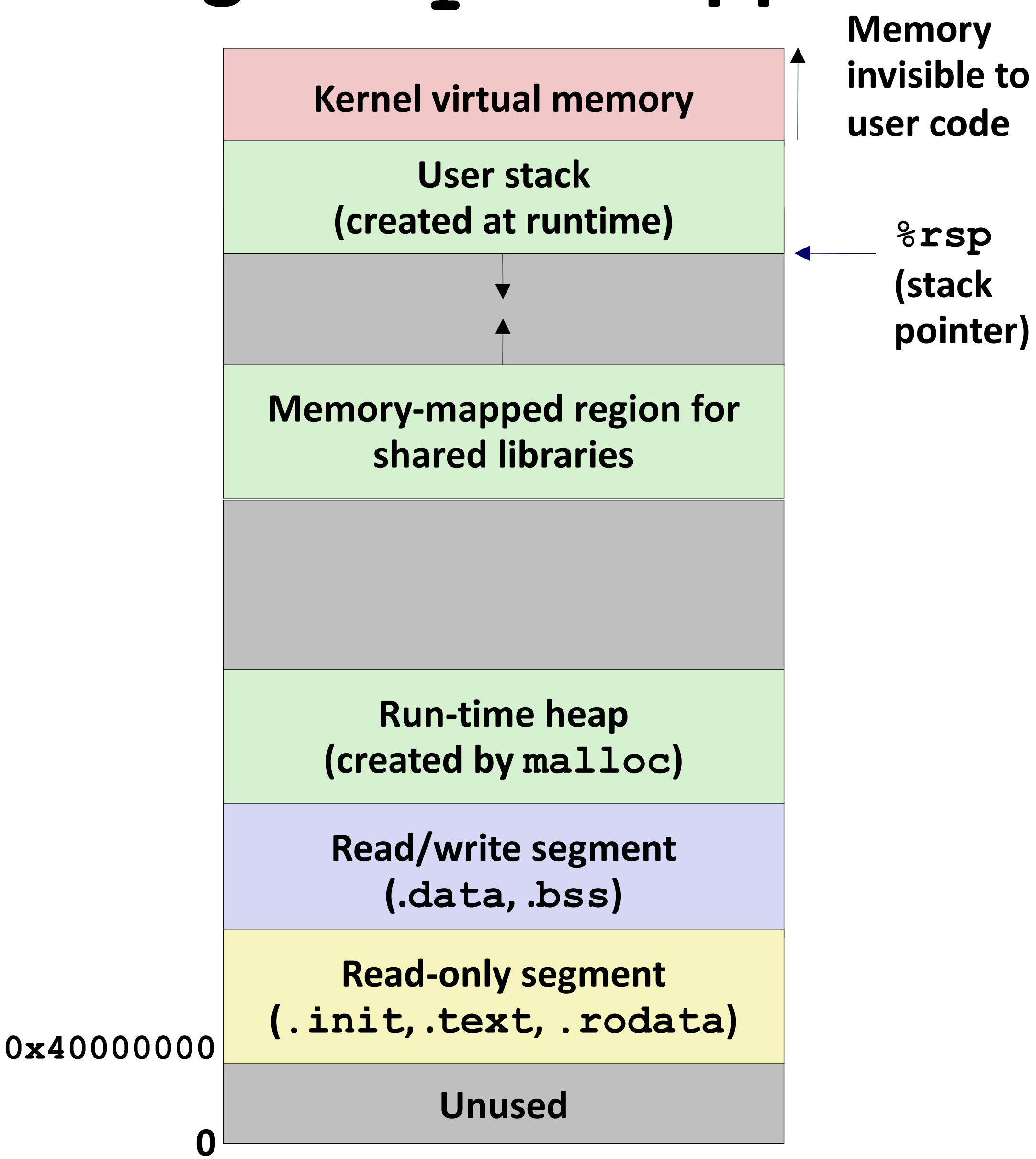
Using mmap to Support Attack Lab



Using mmap to Support Attack Lab



Using `mmap` to Support Attack Lab



Using mmap to Support Attack Lab

Allocate new region

```
void *new_stack = mmap(START_ADDR, STACK_SIZE, PROT_EXEC|PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE,
                MAP_PRIVATE | MAP_GROWSDOWN | MAP_ANONYMOUS | MAP_FIXED,
                0, 0);
if (new_stack != START_ADDR) {
    munmap(new_stack, STACK_SIZE);
    exit(1);
}
```

Divert stack to new region & execute attack code

```
stack_top = new_stack + STACK_SIZE - 8;
asm("movq %%rsp,%%rax ; movq %1,%%rsp ;
movq %%rax,%0"
    : "=r" (global_save_stack) // %0
    : "r"  (stack_top)         // %1
);

launch(global_offset);
```

Restore stack and remove region

```
asm("movq %0,%%rsp"
    :
    : "r" (global_save_stack) // %0
);

munmap(new_stack, STACK_SIZE);
```