Virtual Memory

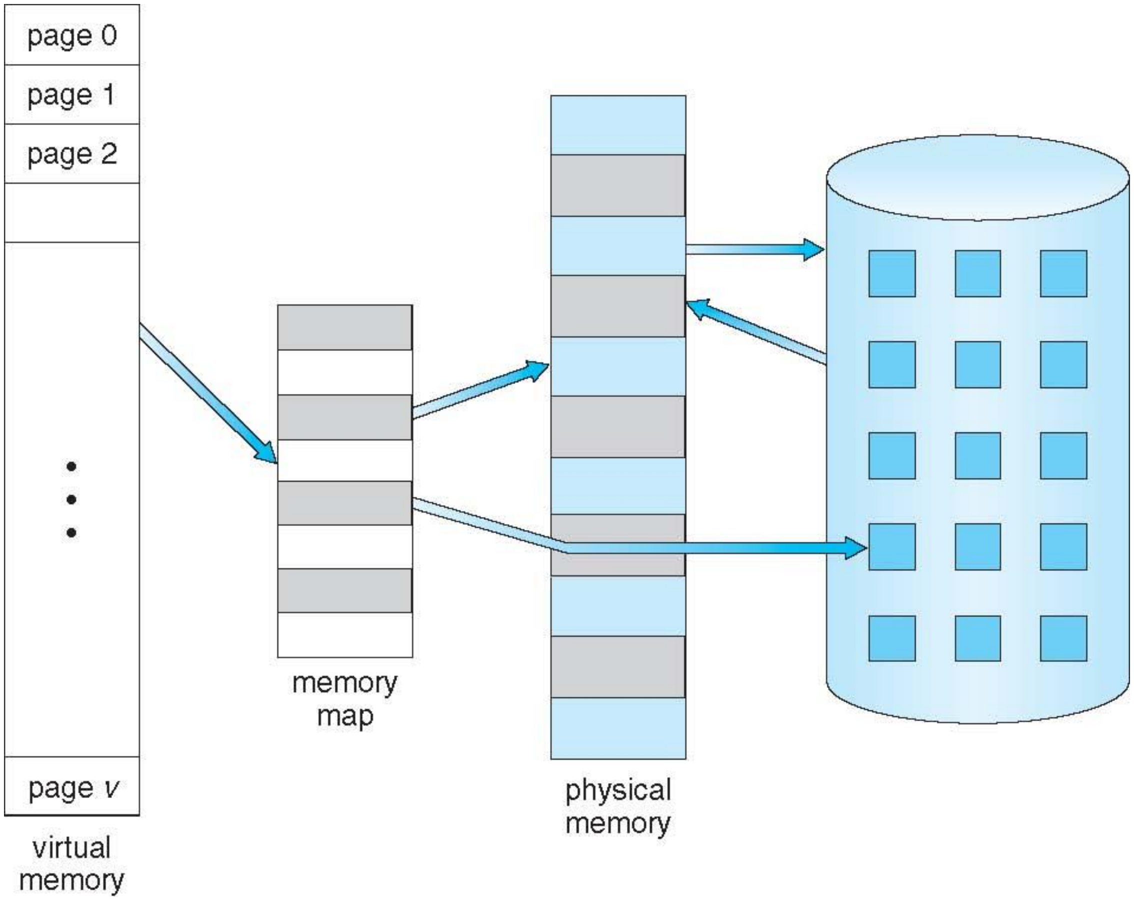
Background (Cont.)

- **Virtual memory** – separation of user logical memory from physical memory
  - Only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
  - Logical address space can therefore be much larger than physical address space
  - Allows address spaces to be shared by several processes
  - Allows for more efficient process creation
  - More programs running concurrently
  - Less I/O needed to load or swap processes

Background (Cont.)

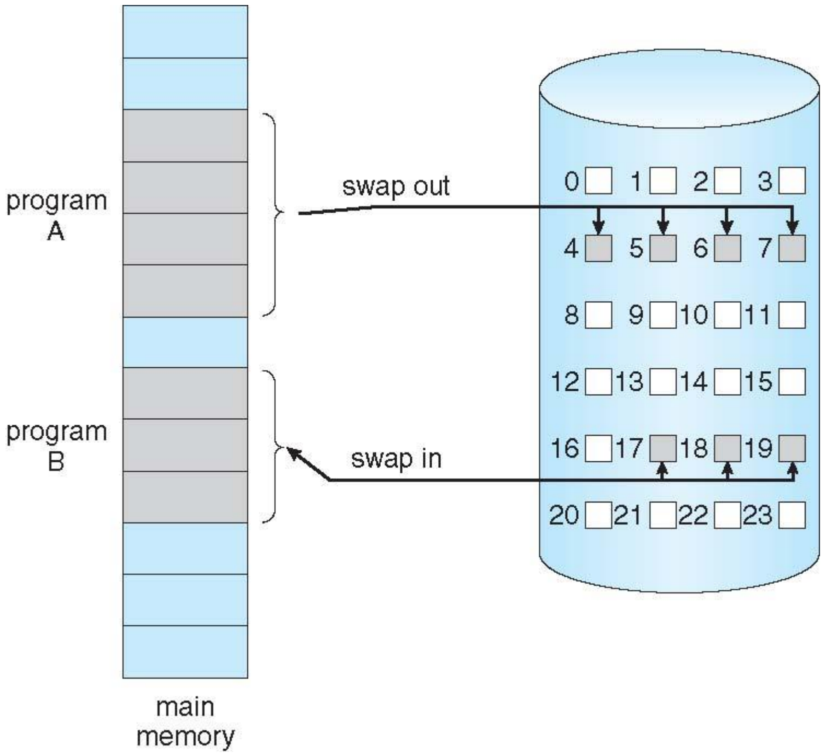
- **Virtual address space** – logical view of how process is stored in memory
  - Usually start at address 0, contiguous addresses until end of space
  - Meanwhile, physical memory organized in page frames
  - MMU must map logical to physical
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
  - Demand paging
  - Demand segmentation

Virtual Memory That is Larger Than Physical Memory



Demand Paging

- Could bring entire process into memory at load time
- Or bring a page into memory only when it is needed
  - Less I/O needed, no unnecessary I/O
  - Less memory needed
  - Faster response
  - More users
- Similar to paging system with swapping (diagram on right)
- Page is needed $\Rightarrow$ reference to it
  - invalid reference $\Rightarrow$ abort
  - not-in-memory $\Rightarrow$ bring to memory
- **Lazy swapper** – never swaps a page into memory unless page will be needed
  - Swapper that deals with pages is a **pager**

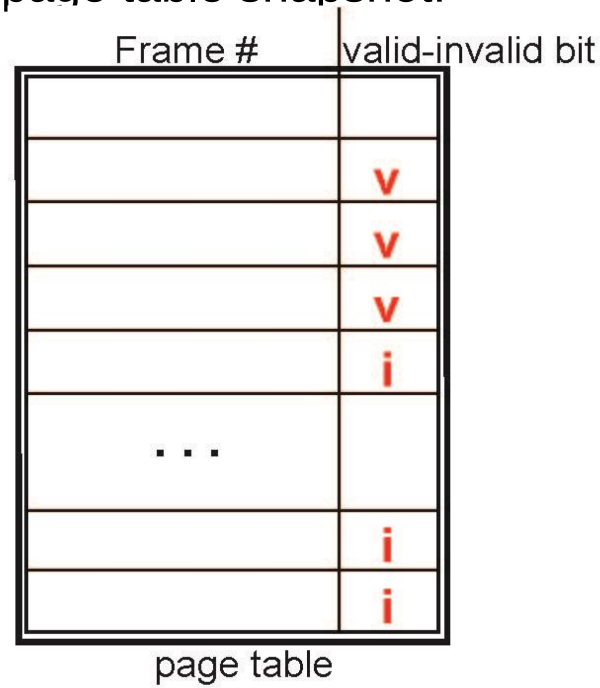


Basic Concepts

- With swapping, pager guesses which pages will be used before swapping out again
- Instead, pager brings in only those pages into memory
- How to determine that set of pages?
  - Need new MMU functionality to implement demand paging
- If pages needed are already **memory resident**
  - No difference from non demand-paging
- If page needed and not memory resident
  - Need to detect and load the page into memory from storage
    - Without changing program behavior
    - Without programmer needing to change code

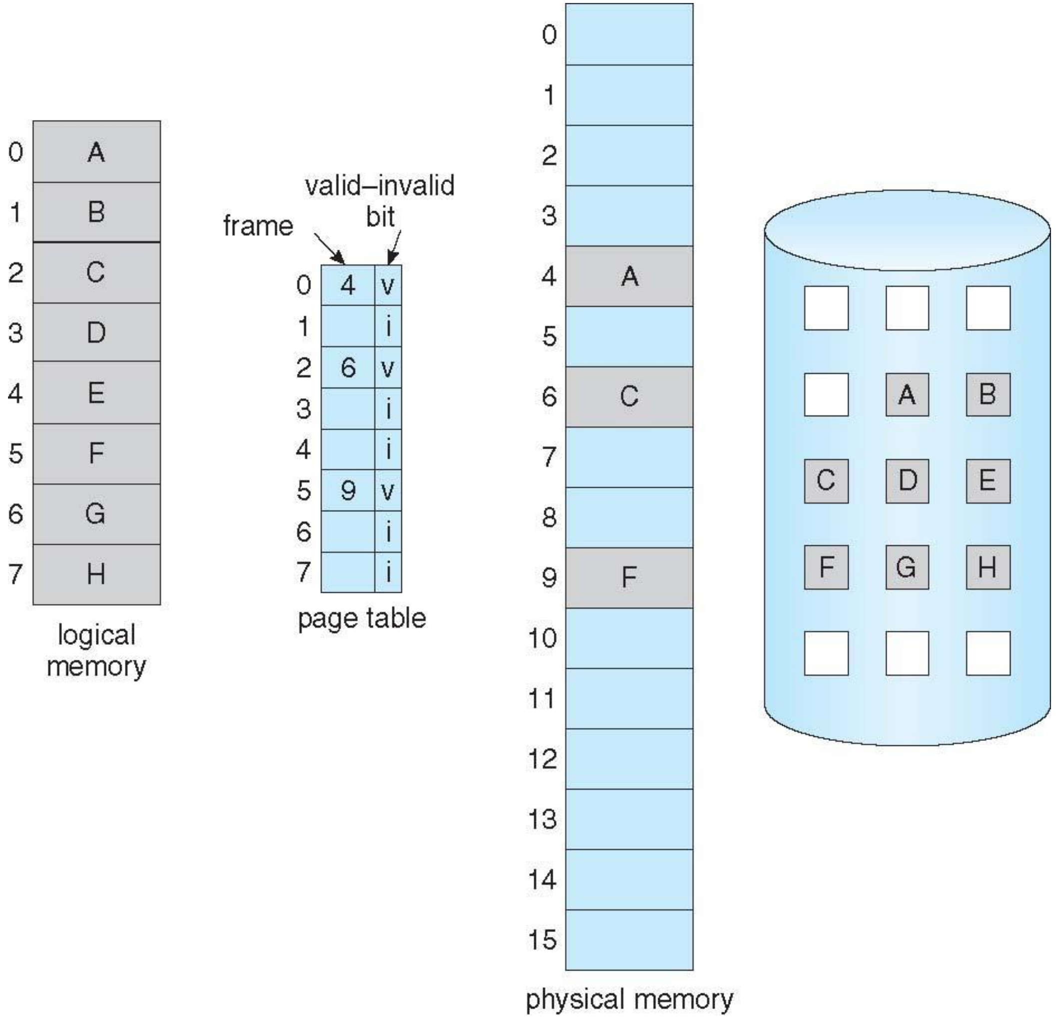
Valid-Invalid Bit

- With each page table entry a valid–invalid bit is associated (**v** ⇒ in-memory – **memory resident**, **i** ⇒ not-in-memory)
- Initially valid–invalid bit is set to **i** on all entries
- Example of a page table snapshot:



- During MMU address translation, if valid–invalid bit in page table entry is **i** ⇒ page fault

Page Table When Some Pages Are Not in Main Memory



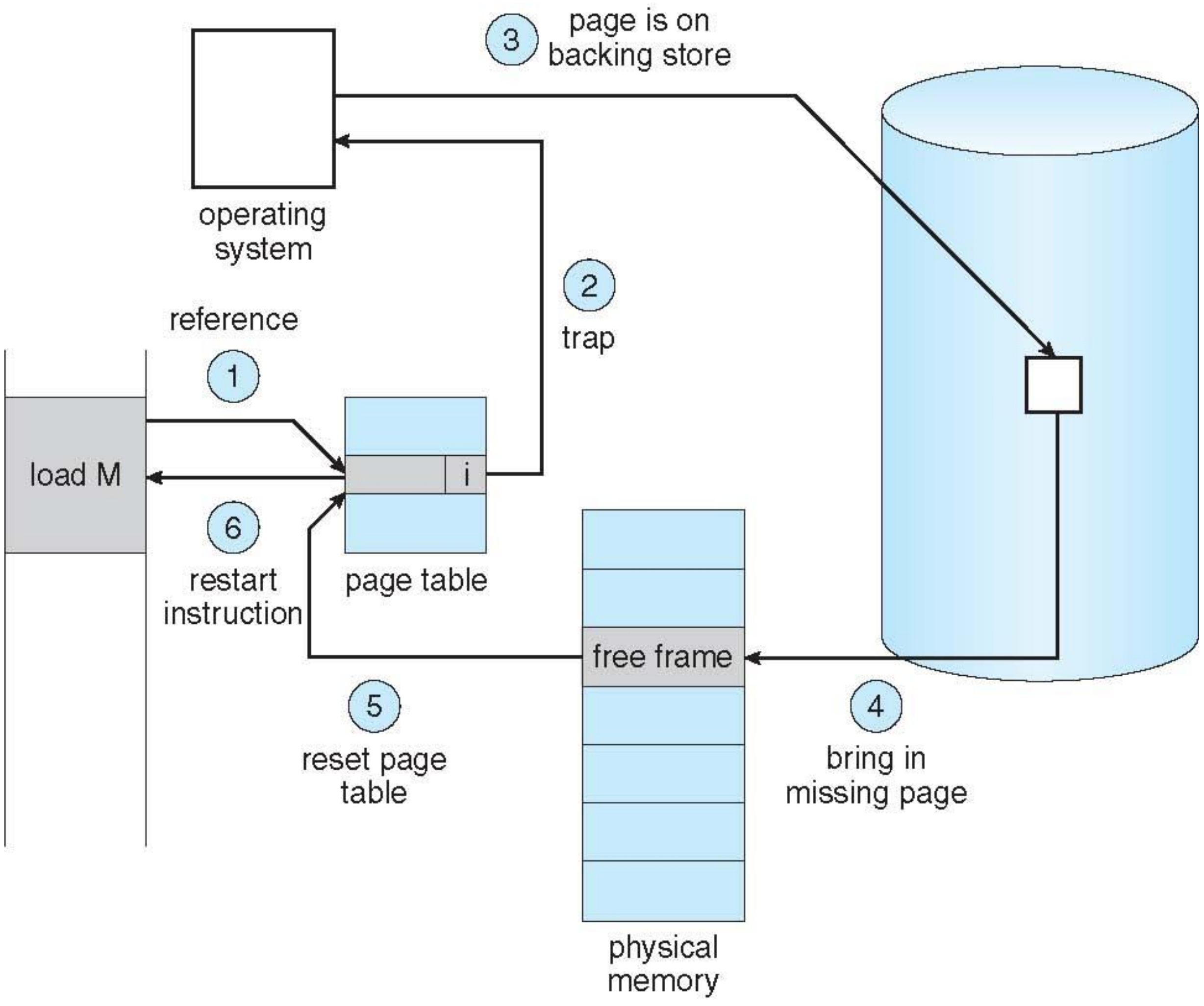
Page Fault

- If there is a reference to a page, first reference to that page will trap to operating system:

  page fault

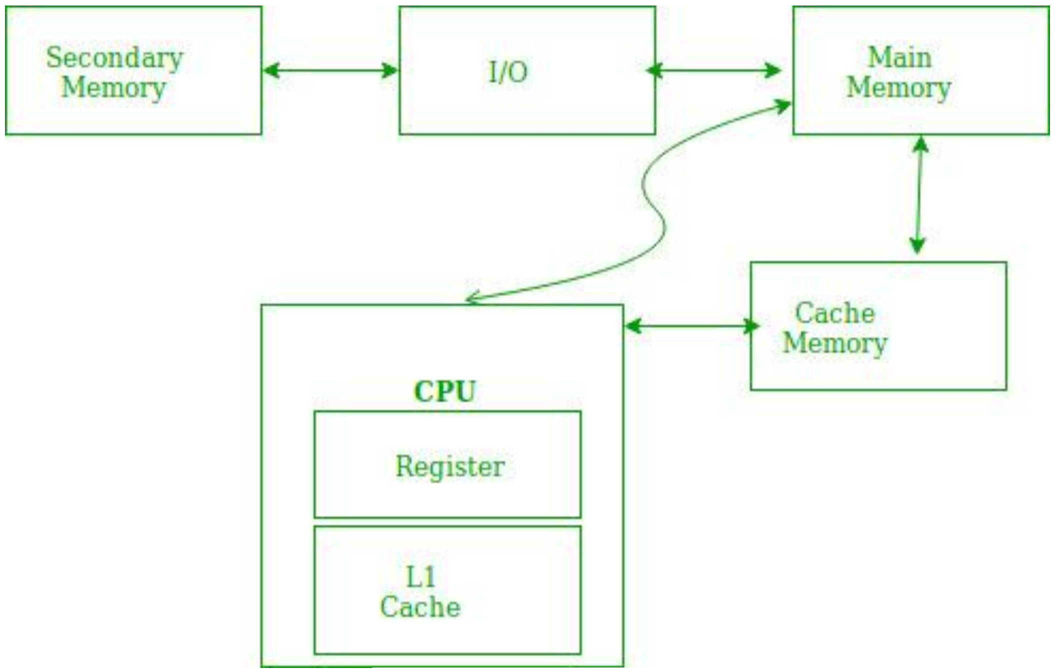
1. Operating system looks at another table to decide:
   - Invalid reference $\Rightarrow$ abort
   - Just not in memory
2. Find free frame
3. Swap page into frame via scheduled disk operation
4. Reset tables to indicate page now in memory
   Set validation bit = **v**
5. Restart the instruction that caused the page fault

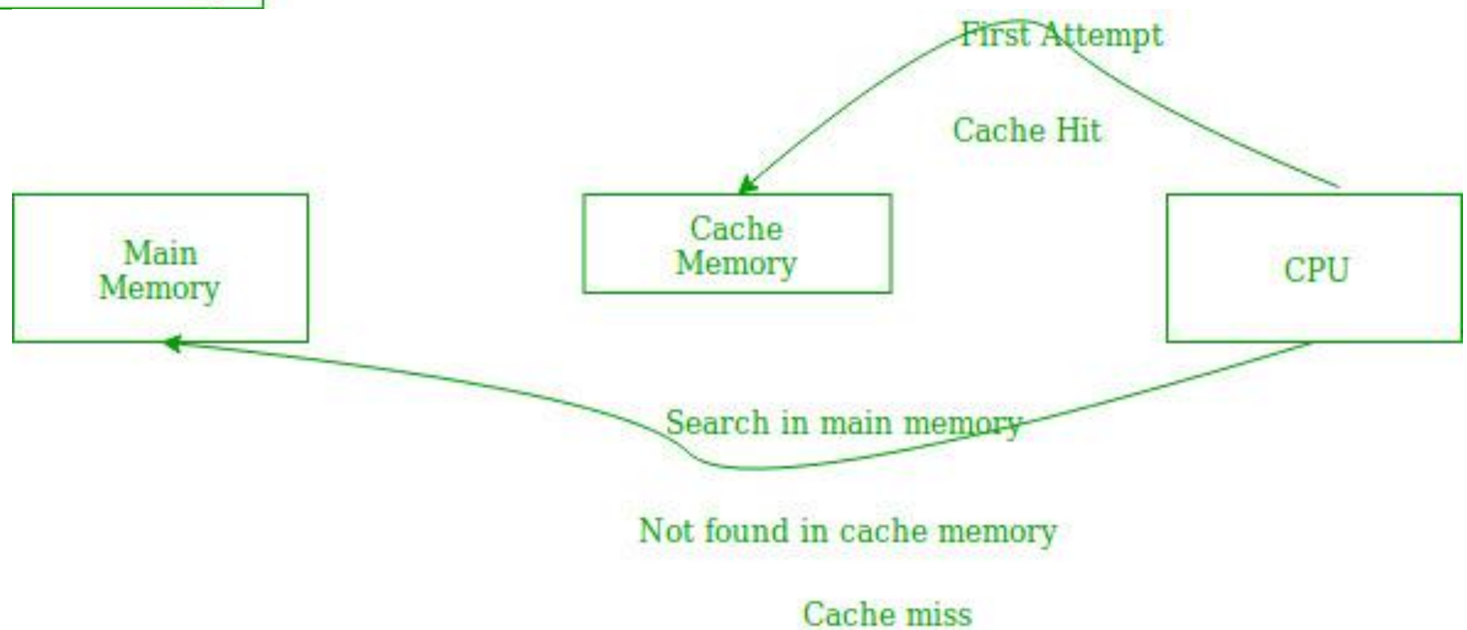
Steps in Handling a Page Fault



Aspects of Demand Paging

- Extreme case – start process with *no* pages in memory
  - OS sets instruction pointer to first instruction of process, non-memory-resident -> page fault
  - And for every other process pages on first access
  - **Pure demand paging**
- Actually, a given instruction could access multiple pages -> multiple page faults
  - Consider fetch and decode of instruction which adds 2 numbers from memory and stores result back to memory
  - Pain decreased because of **locality of reference**
- Hardware support needed for demand paging
  - Page table with valid / invalid bit
  - Secondary memory (swap device with **swap space**)
  - Instruction restart

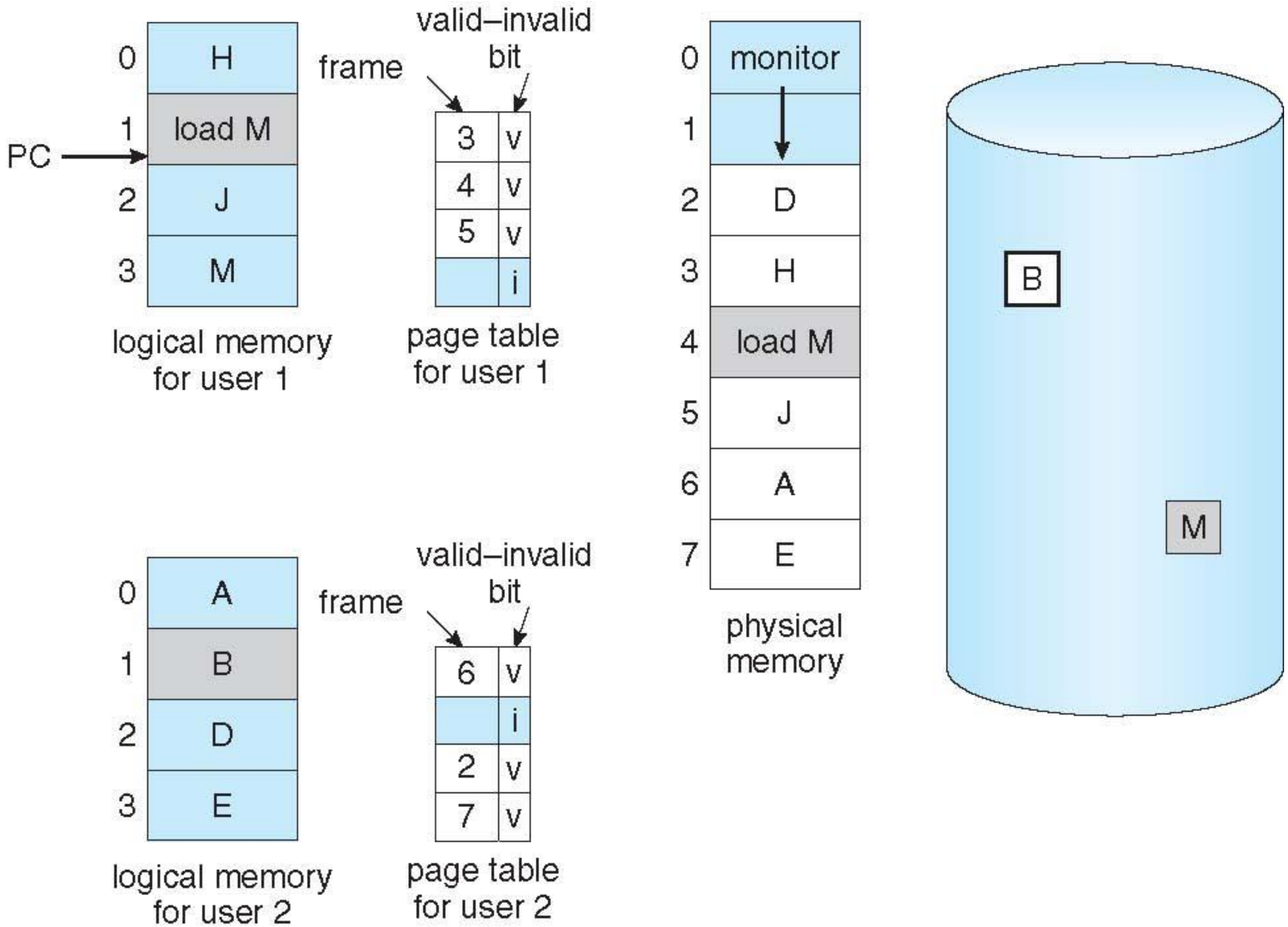

Secondary Memory
I/O
Main Memory
Cache Memory
CPU
Register
L1 Cache


First Attempt
Cache Hit
Main Memory
Cache Memory
CPU
Search in main memory
Not found in cache memory
Cache miss

Page Replacement

- Prevent **over-allocation** of memory by modifying page-fault service routine to include page replacement
- Use **modify** (**dirty**) **bit** to reduce overhead of page transfers – only modified pages are written to disk
- 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



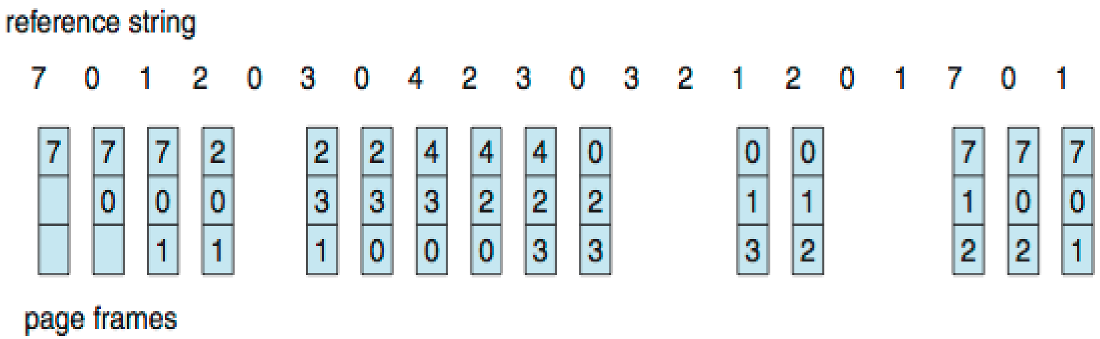
Page and Frame Replacement Algorithms

- **Frame-allocation algorithm** determines
  - How many frames to give each process
  - Which frames to replace
- **Page-replacement algorithm**
  - Want lowest page-fault rate on both first access and re-access
- Evaluate algorithm by running it on a particular string of memory references (reference string) and computing the number of page faults on that string
  - String is just page numbers, not full addresses
  - Repeated access to the same page does not cause a page fault
  - Results depend on number of frames available
- In all our examples, the **reference string** of referenced page numbers is

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

First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

- Reference string: **7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1**
- 3 frames (3 pages can be in memory at a time per process)

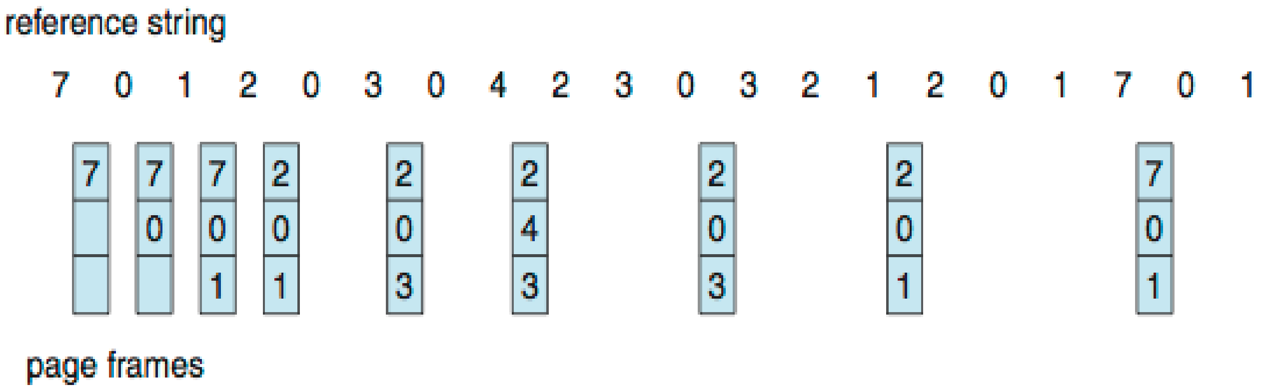


15 page faults

- Can vary by reference string: consider 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4,5
  - Adding more frames can cause more page faults!
    - **Belady's Anomaly**
- How to track ages of pages?
  - Just use a FIFO queue

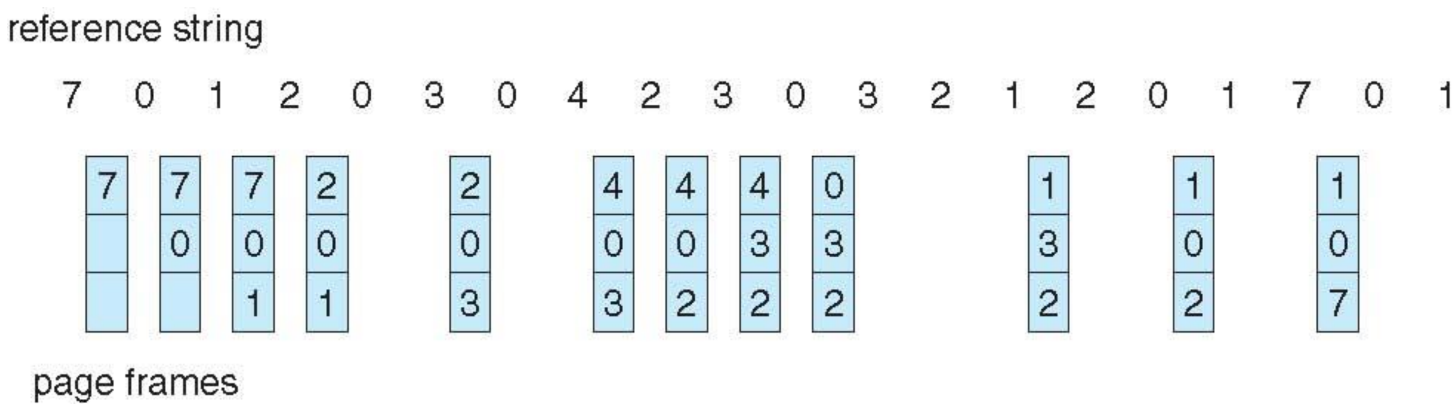
Optimal Algorithm

- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time
  - 9 is optimal for the example
- How do you know this?
  - Can’t read the future
- Used for measuring how well your algorithm performs



Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

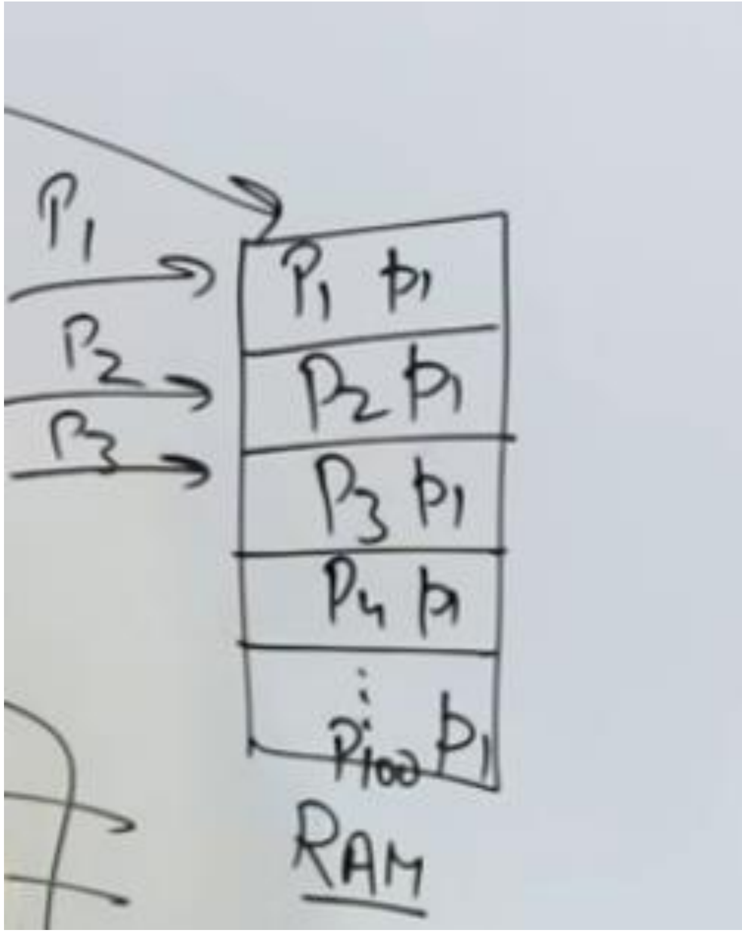
- Use past knowledge rather than future
- Replace page that has not been used in the most amount of time
- Associate time of last use with each page



- 12 faults – better than FIFO but worse than OPT
- Generally good algorithm and frequently used
- But how to implement?

Thrashing

- If a process does not have "enough" pages, the page-fault rate is very high
  - Page fault to get page
  - Replace existing frame
  - But quickly need replaced frame back
  - This leads to:
    - Low CPU utilization
    - Operating system thinking that it needs to increase the degree of multiprogramming
    - Another process added to the system
- **Thrashing** $\equiv$ a process is busy swapping pages in and out



- What happens, if CPU want to access “Page 2” of each process
  - Increase in Page fault rate and most of the time will spent in bringing pages in and out of the RAM.
  - This process is referred to THRASHING

Thrashing (Cont.)