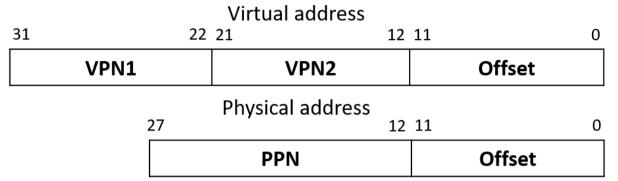
HW9.3. Address Translation and TLB (Randomized)

It's highly recommended that you finish and understand HW9.2 Page Table Walk before attempting this problem. That problem covers how to navigate the different page table hierarchies starting from the virtual address.

Consider a machine with a 2-level hierarchical page table that has 20 bits of VPN divided equally between L1 and L2 page tables. The page offset is 12 bits and the PPN is 16 bits. The 32-bit virtual and 28-bit physical addresses are partitioned as shown below:



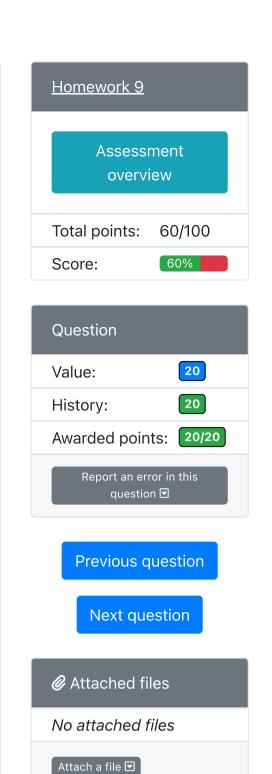
A single page table entry (PTE) is 4 bytes, with the corresponding data partitioning as shown below:



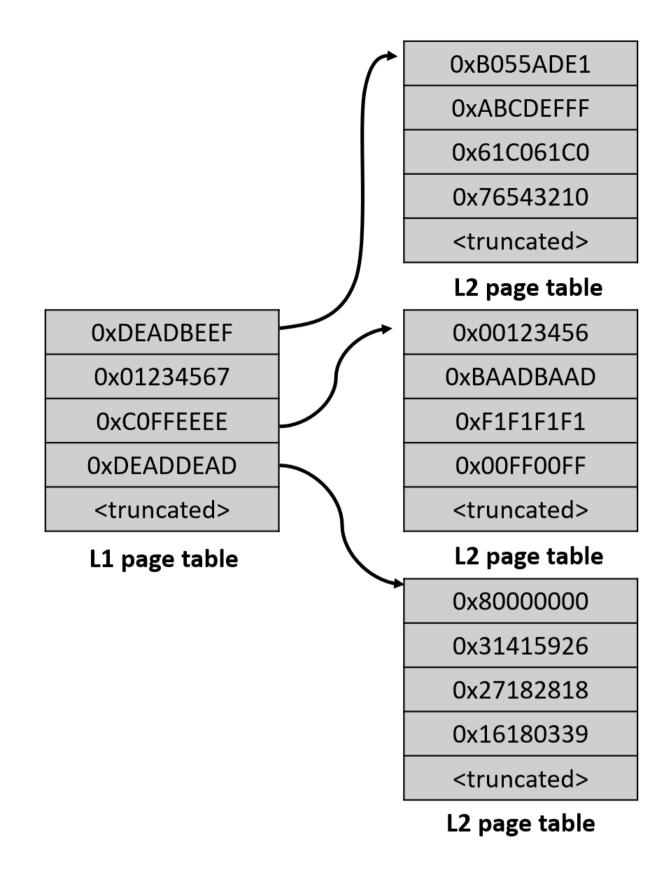
The most significant bit is 1 when the entry is valid and the last 16 bits correspond to the PPN pointing to either the next level page table or the data page. Extra metadata bits are included in the PTE but are not relevant for this problem.

Now, suppose the physical memory and the page table have this initial state. Each arrow indicates the location of the next-level page table being pointed to.

Note that the Page Table Base Register (PTBR) is not included in the diagram anymore for simplicity. It is not relevant for this problem. The L1 page table that the PTBR is pointing to is already given in the diagram.



Attach text 🔽



The following virtual memory addresses are accessed in sequence, with the initial state in the above diagram. **The system uses a 2-entry fully-associative LRU TLB and starts out empty.** As a recap, the TLB is just the cache of the address translations. One entry of the TLB contains a translation of VPN to PPN. Given the presence of the TLB, mark the outcome of each access.

Moreover, translate each virtual address into the corresponding physical address that it maps to. Write your answer in hexadecimal, without the leading 0x. Since the physical address is 28 bits, the answer should be in written in 7 digit hex. If a valid physical address does not exist, write N/A instead.

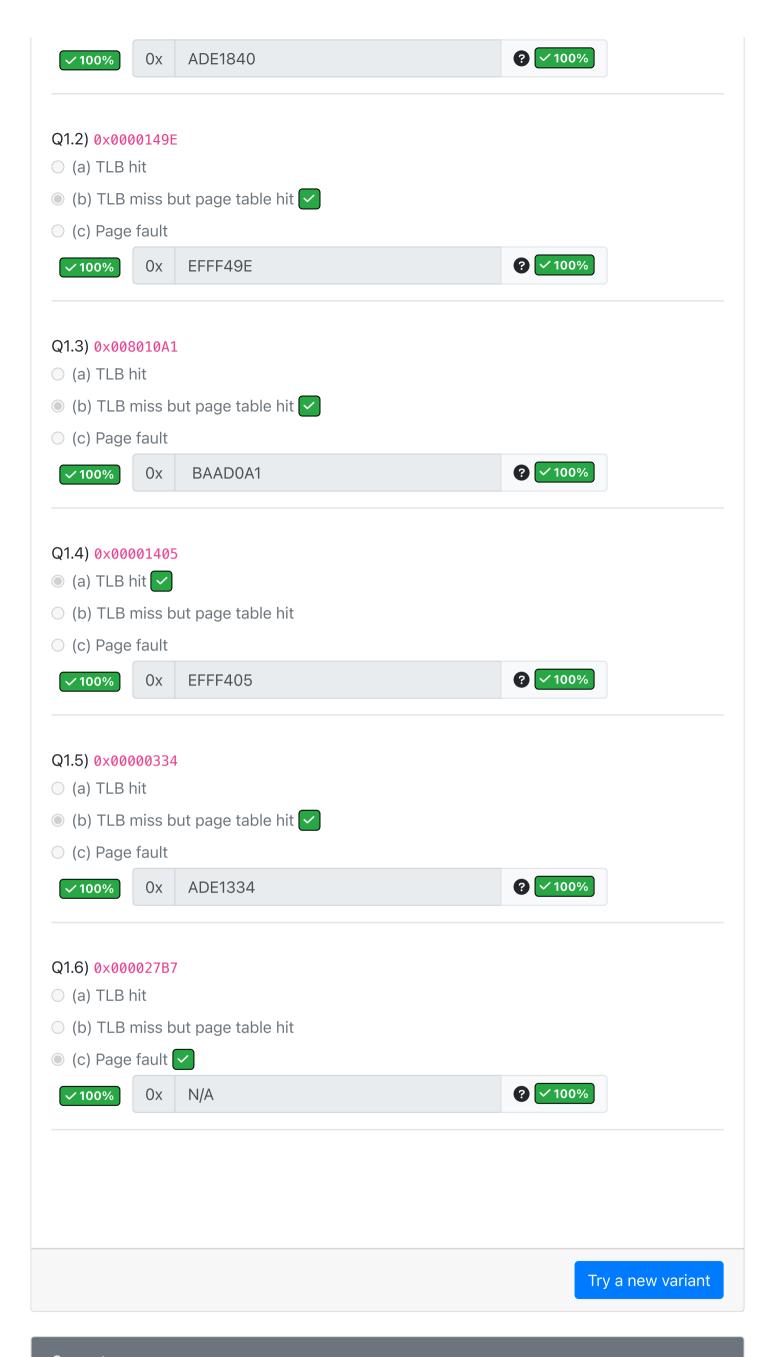
Tip: When doing the translation, make sure you are properly extracting the VPN1 and VPN2 bits from the virtual address. It might help writing the virtual address out in binary first, then count the number of bits needed for each VPN.

Additionally, keep track of the translations that have been loaded into the TLB. That determines whether you'll end up with a TLB hit or miss. The valid bit on the page table entry then determines whether it is a page table hit or a page fault.

Hint: Following the given L1 and L2 page tables, the virtual address 0x00C0061C translates to the physical address 0x000061C. However, the virtual address 0x00C0161C does not have a valid translation and, therefore, corresponds to a page fault. Think about how to get this. Review the guided steps in HW9.2 if needed.

Q1.1) 0x00000840

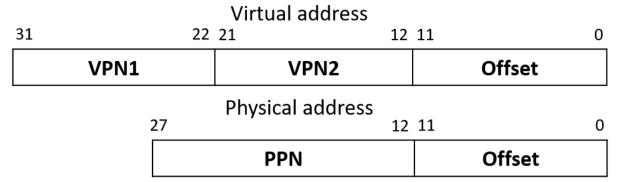
- (a) TLB hit
- (b) TLB miss but page table hit
- (c) Page fault



Correct answer

It's highly recommended that you finish and understand HW9.2 Page Table Walk before attempting this problem. That problem covers how to navigate the different page table hierarchies starting from the virtual address.

Consider a machine with a 2-level hierarchical page table that has 20 bits of VPN divided equally between L1 and L2 page tables. The page offset is 12 bits and the PPN is 16 bits. The 32-bit virtual and 28-bit physical addresses are partitioned as shown below:



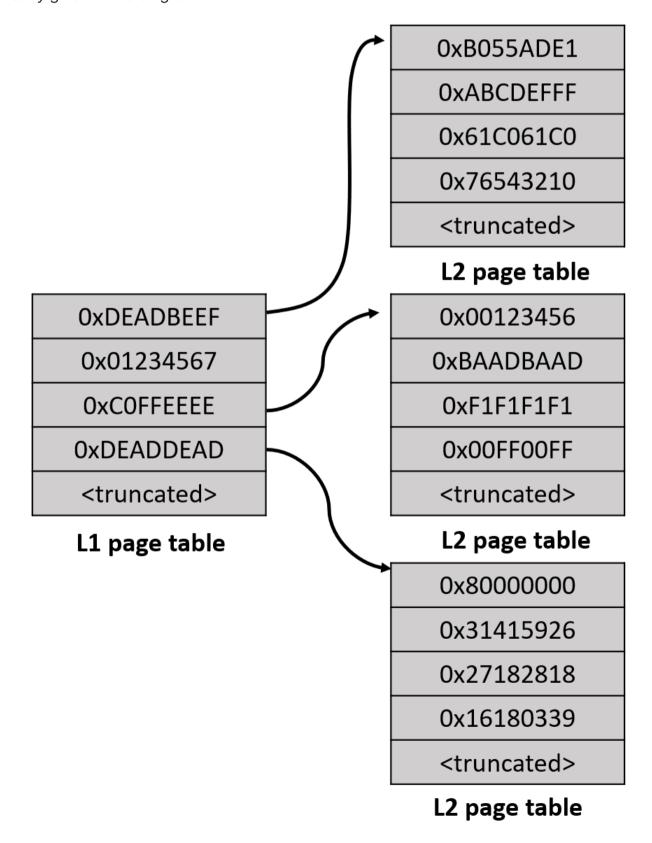
A single page table entry (PTE) is 4 bytes, with the corresponding data partitioning as shown below:

Valid		Other metadata	PPN]
31	30	16	15 0	
Page Table Entry				

The most significant bit is 1 when the entry is valid and the last 16 bits correspond to the PPN pointing to either the next level page table or the data page. Extra metadata bits are included in the PTE but are not relevant for this problem.

Now, suppose the physical memory and the page table have this initial state. Each arrow indicates the location of the next-level page table being pointed to.

Note that the Page Table Base Register (PTBR) is not included in the diagram anymore for simplicity. It is not relevant for this problem. The L1 page table that the PTBR is pointing to is already given in the diagram.



The following virtual memory addresses are accessed in sequence, with the initial state in the above diagram. **The system uses a 2-entry fully-associative LRU TLB and starts out empty.** As a recap, the TLB is just the cache of the address translations. One entry of the TLB contains a translation of VPN to PPN. Given the presence of the TLB, mark the outcome of each access.

Moreover, translate each virtual address into the corresponding physical address that it maps to. Write your answer in hexadecimal, without the leading 0x. Since the physical address is 28 bits, the answer should be in written in 7 digit hex. If a valid physical address does not exist, write N/A instead.

Tip: When doing the translation, make sure you are properly extracting the VPN1 and VPN2 bits from the virtual address. It might help writing the virtual address out in binary first, then count the number of bits needed for each VPN.

Additionally, keep track of the translations that have been loaded into the TLB. That determines whether you'll end up with a TLB hit or miss. The valid bit on the page table entry then determines whether it is a page table hit or a page fault.

Hint: Following the given L1 and L2 page tables, the virtual address 0x00C0061C translates to the physical address 0x000061C. However, the virtual address 0x00C0161C does not have a valid translation and, therefore, corresponds to a page fault. Think about how to get this. Review the guided steps in HW9.2 if needed.

Q1.1) 0x00000840

(b) TLB miss but page table hit

Ox ADE1840

Q1.2) 0x0000149E

(b) TLB miss but page table hit

Ox EFFF49E

Q1.3) 0x008010A1

(b) TLB miss but page table hit

Ox BAAD0A1

Q1.4) 0x00001405

(a) TLB hit

Ox EFFF405

Q1.5) 0x00000334

(b) TLB miss but page table hit

Ox ADE1334

Q1.6) 0x000027B7

(c) Page fault

Ox N/A

Since this question is randomized, here's an example translation from virtual address to physical address on a 2-level page table:

Say we want to translate the virtual address 0x0080261C to the corresponding physical address.

Since the offset is 12 bits, that corresponds to the 0x61C (least significant 12 bits of the virtual address).

For the remaining upper 20 bits of the virtual address, we can see that VPN1 = VPN2 = 2.

Then we look at the drawing of the initial state:

For the L1 page table, at index 2 (since VPN1 = 2), we see entry 0xC0FFEEEE. MSB is 1 so the entry is valid. 0xEEEE points to the topmost L2 page table.

For the L2 page table pointed to by 0xBEEF, at index 2 (since VPN2 = 2), we see entry 0xF1F1F1F1. MSB is 1 so the entry is also valid. 0xF1F1 corresponds to the PPN pointing to the data page.

We can now recombine the PPN and offset to get the full physical address. 0xF1F161C

Note that page tables are indexed by the page table entries. That is, even though the page table entry is 4 bytes, indexing using VPN is by 4 bytes (index 0 is 0, index 1 is +4, index 2 is +8, and so on)

Also note that when an entry is marked invalid (MSB of the page table entry is 0), this means that the page hasn't been loaded yet. This corresponds to a page fault.

For the TLB accesses, just remember that the TLB can only accommodate 2 entries. Also note that the TLB has an LRU eviction policy.

TLB is just a cache for the page table. The TLB contains the virtual address to physical address translation.

Whenever there is a valid mapping to physical memory, we either hit (if it was accessed before) or miss (either compulsory or capacity).

