



# OPERATING SYSTEM

## Virtual Memory - Thrashing

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# OPERATING SYSTEM

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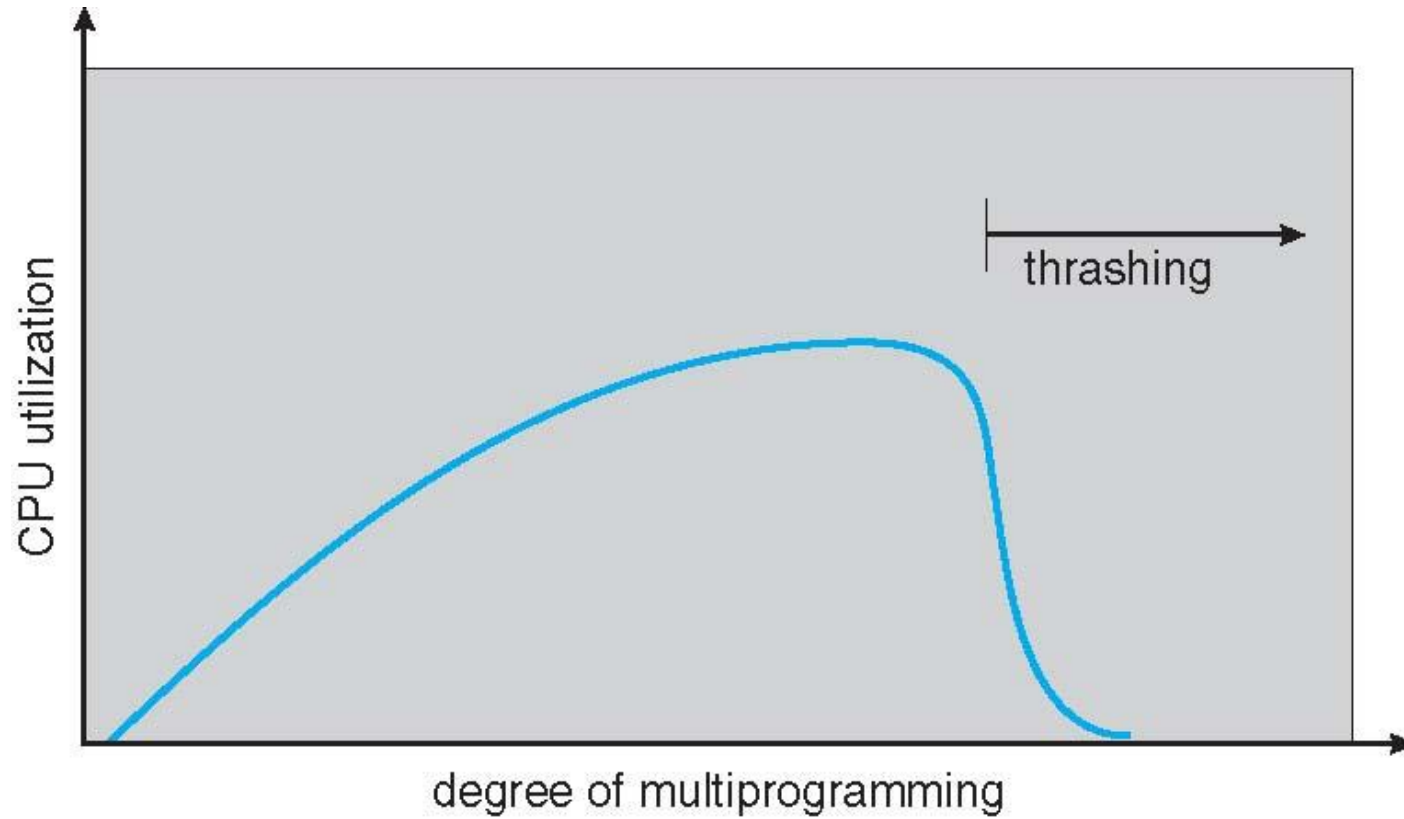
## Virtual Memory – Thrashing

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- 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

# OPERATING SYSTEMS

## Thrashing (Cont.)



- Why does demand paging work?

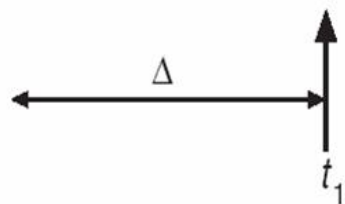
### Locality model

- Process migrates from one locality to another
  - Localities may overlap
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- Why does thrashing occur?  
 $\Sigma$  size of locality > total memory size
    - Limit effects by using local or priority page replacement

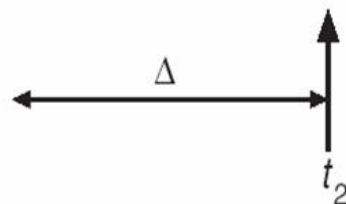
- $\Delta \equiv$  working-set window  $\equiv$  a fixed number of page references  
Example: 10,000 instructions
- $WSS_i$  (working set of Process  $P_i$ ) =  
total number of pages referenced in the most recent  $\Delta$  (varies in time)
  - if  $\Delta$  too small will not encompass entire locality
  - if  $\Delta$  too large will encompass several localities
  - if  $\Delta = \infty \Rightarrow$  will encompass entire program
- $D = \sum WSS_i \equiv$  total demand frames
  - Approximation of locality
- if  $D > m \Rightarrow$  Thrashing
- Policy if  $D > m$ , then suspend or swap out one of the processes

page reference table

... 2 6 1 5 7 7 7 7 5 1 6 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 4 4 3 4 3 4 4 4 1 3 2 3 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 ...



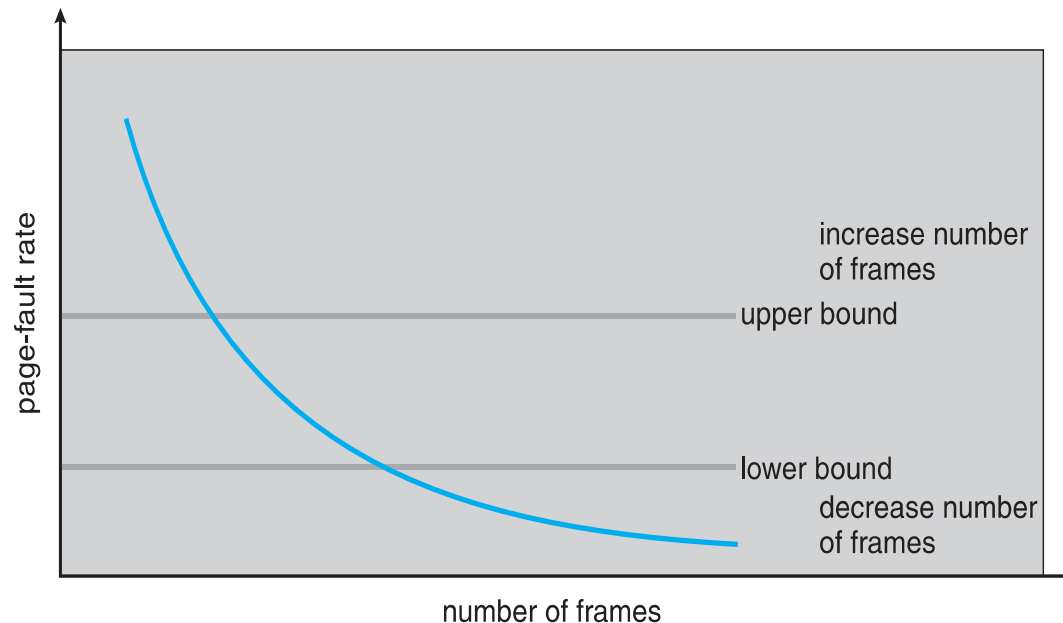
$WS(t_1) = \{1, 2, 5, 6, 7\}$



$WS(t_2) = \{3, 4\}$

- Approximate with interval timer + a reference bit
- Example:  $\Delta = 10,000$ 
  - Timer interrupts after every 5000 time units
  - Keep in memory 2 bits for each page
  - Whenever a timer interrupts copy and sets the values of all reference bits to 0
  - If one of the bits in memory = 1  $\Rightarrow$  page in working set
- Why is this not completely accurate?
- Improvement = 10 bits and interrupt every 1000 time units

- More direct approach than WSS
- Establish “acceptable” **page-fault frequency (PFF)** rate and use local replacement policy
  - If actual rate too low, process loses frame
  - If actual rate too high, process gains frame







# THANK YOU

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