# Virtual Memory

EEL 3713C: Digital Computer Architecture

**Quincy Flint** 

[Ionospheric Radio Lab in NEB]

#### Outline

#### 1. Memory Problems

- Not enough memory
- Holes in address space
- Programs overwriting

#### 2. What is Virtual Memory?

- Layer of indirection
- How does indirection solve above
- Page tables and translation

#### 3. How do we implement VM?

- Create and store page tables
- Fast address translation

#### 4. Virtual Memory and Caches

 Prevent cache performance degradation when using VM

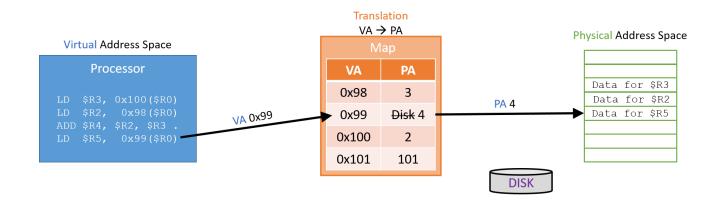
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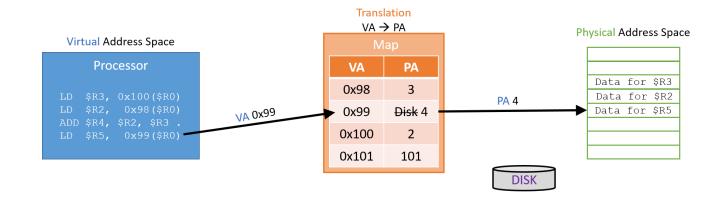


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**Q:** Given 1 Page Table Entry per Virtual Address, how many entries do we need in our Page Table?

- 1 for each Byte... 2<sup>32</sup> [4 billion]
- 1 for each Word... 2<sup>30</sup> [1 billion]
- 1 for each Register... 32
- Undetermined



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Translation  $VA \rightarrow PA$ **Physical Address Space** Virtual Address Space Processor VA PA Data for \$R3 3 0x98 Data for \$R2 PA 4 Disk 4 Data for \$R5 VA 0x99 0x99 0x100 0x101 101 DISK

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A: 1 for each Word... 2<sup>30</sup> [1 billion entries]

Memory is word-aligned and we need to access every word. That's a total of 1GB just for this table!

#### Illustration from the textbook

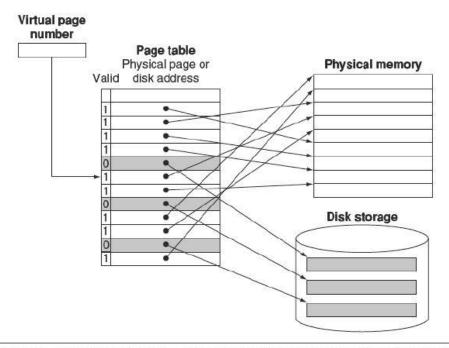


FIGURE 5.28 The page table maps each page in virtual memory to either a page in main memory or a page stored on disk, which is the next level in the hierarchy. The virtual page number is used to index the page table. If the valid bit is on, the page table supplies the physical page number (i.e., the starting address of the page in memory) corresponding to the virtual page. If the valid bit is off, the page currently resides only on disk, at a specified disk address. In many systems, the table of physical page addresses and disk page addresses, while logically one table, is stored in two separate data structures. Dual tables are justified in part because we must keep the disk addresses of all the pages, even if they are currently in main memory. Remember that the pages in main memory and the pages on disk are the same size.

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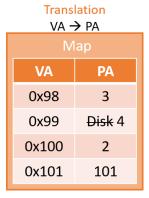
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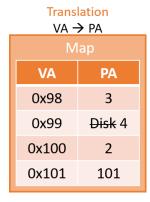
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**Fine-Grain Approach:** 1 address per entry



#### **Coarse-Grain Approach:**

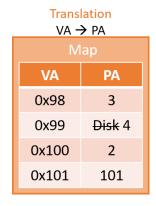
Many addresses per entry. Can map same number of addresses in smaller area.

Page Table

VA to PA Mapping	
VA	PA
0 – 4095	4096 - 8191

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**Q:** How many entries do we need in our **Page Table** with **4kB pages** on a **32-bit machine**?

- 2<sup>32</sup> [4 billion]
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- 2<sup>20</sup> [1 million]
- 2<sup>18</sup> [1/4 million]

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A: 2<sup>20</sup> [1 million]

We need to address  $2^{32}$  Bytes total but we partition pages into  $2^{12}$  (4 kB) chunks. By simple division we need  $2^{20}$ , or 1 million entries.

Page Table

VA to PA Mapping	
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Virtual Address Space

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Virtual Address Space

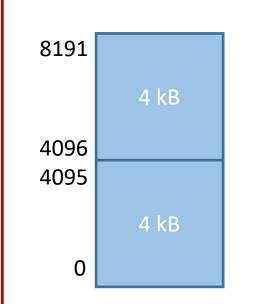
Physical Address Space

4095 4 kB 0

Page Table

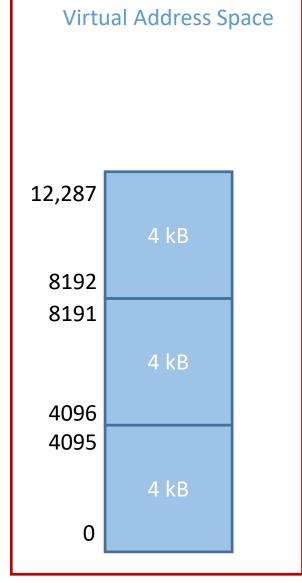
VA to PA Mapping	
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Virtual Address Space



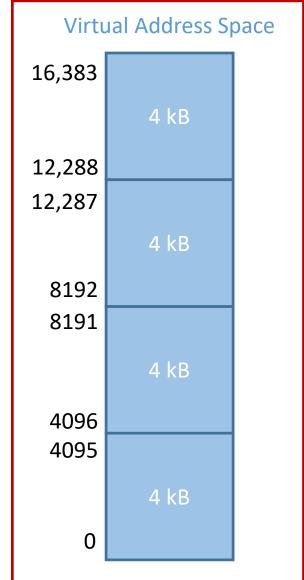
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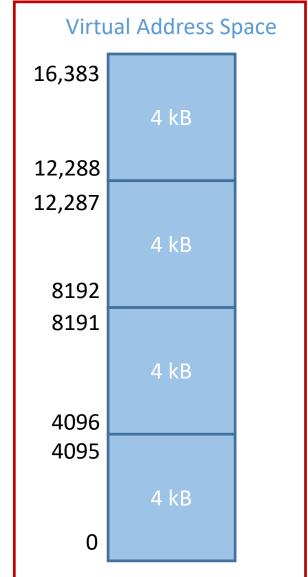


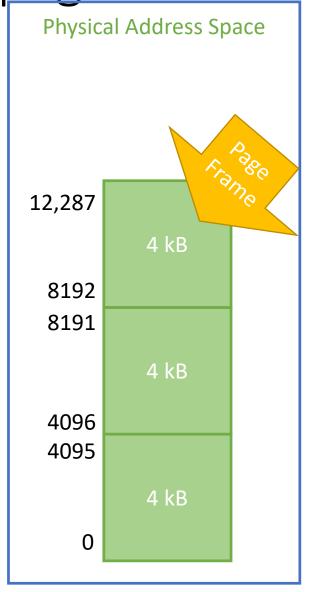
VA to PA Mapping		
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Page Table

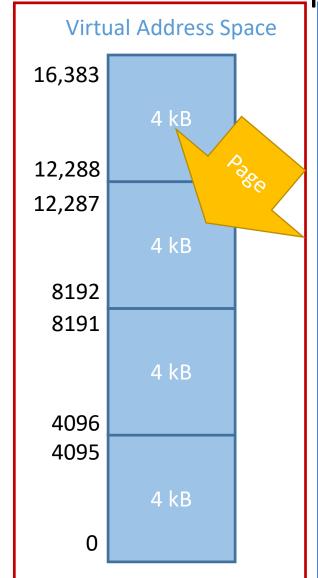
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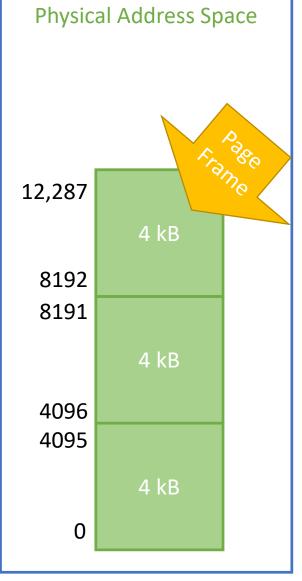




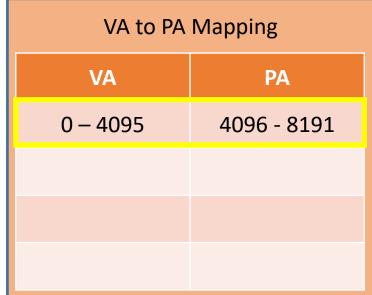
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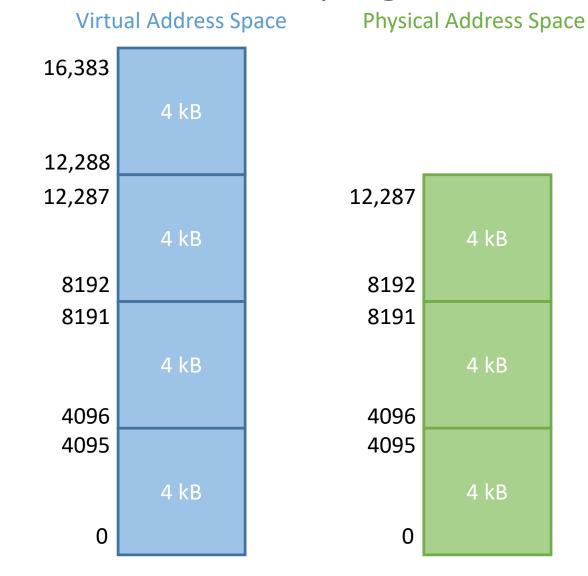




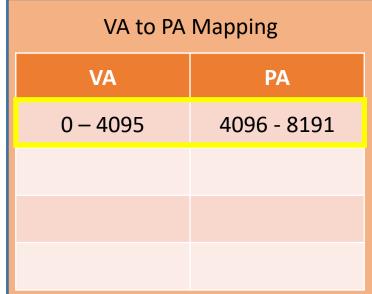




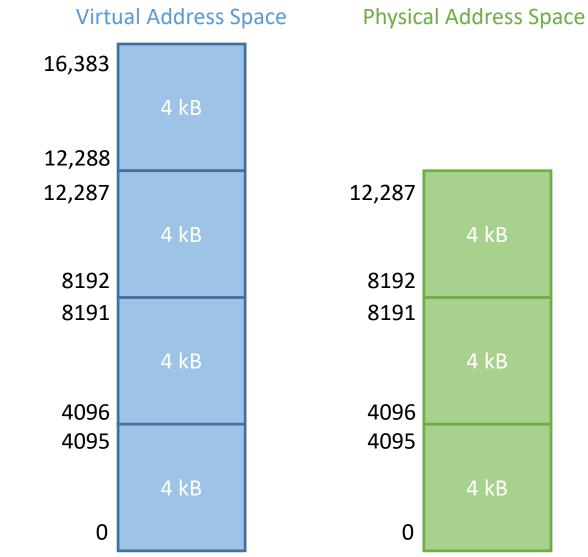
- 4
- 4096
- 4100
- I don't know...



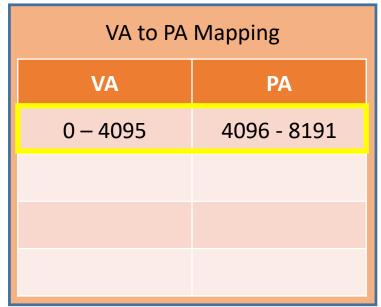




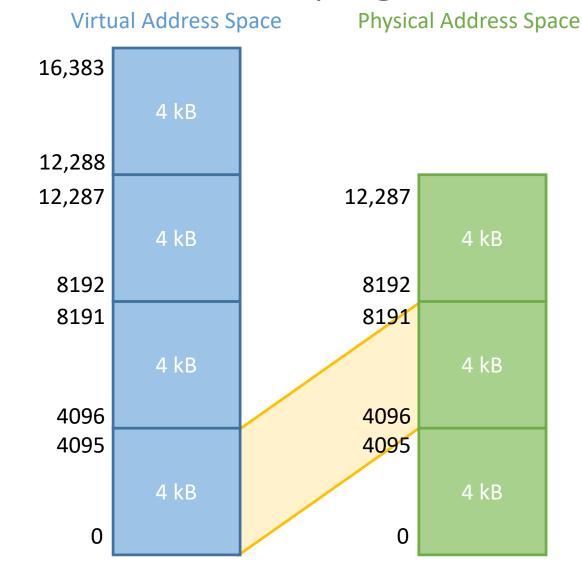
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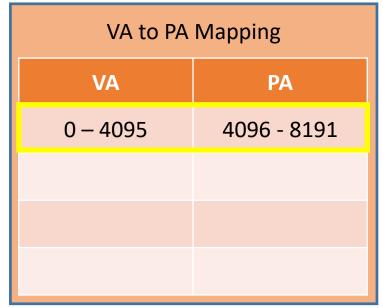




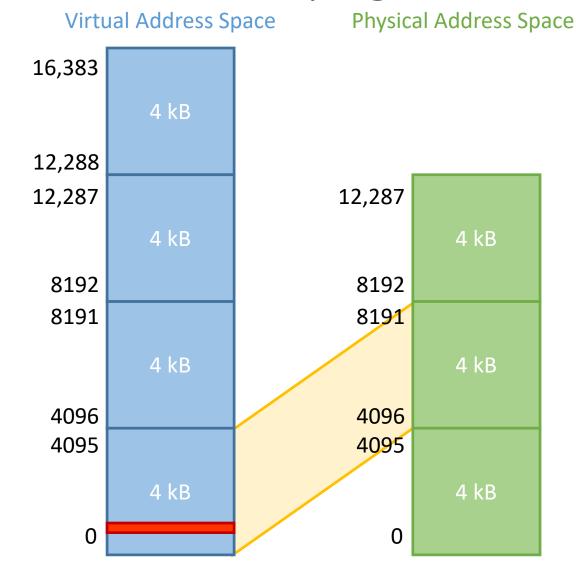
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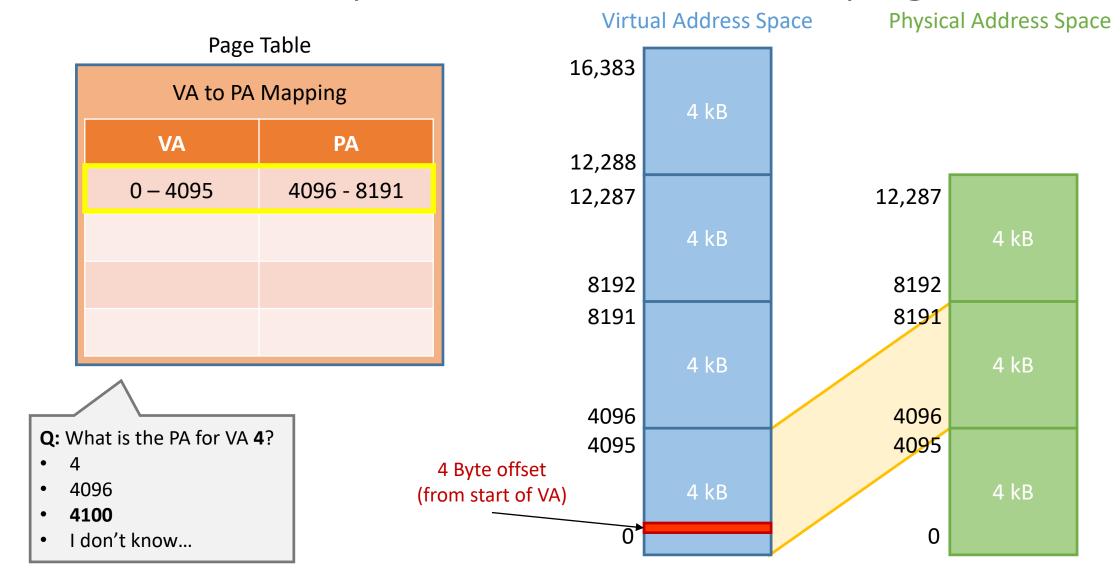




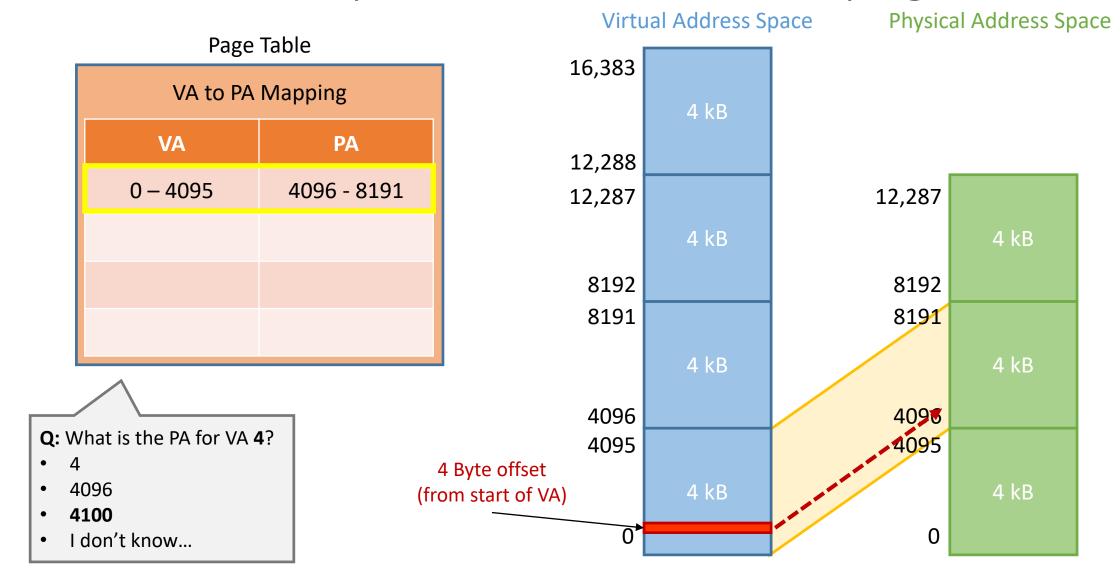


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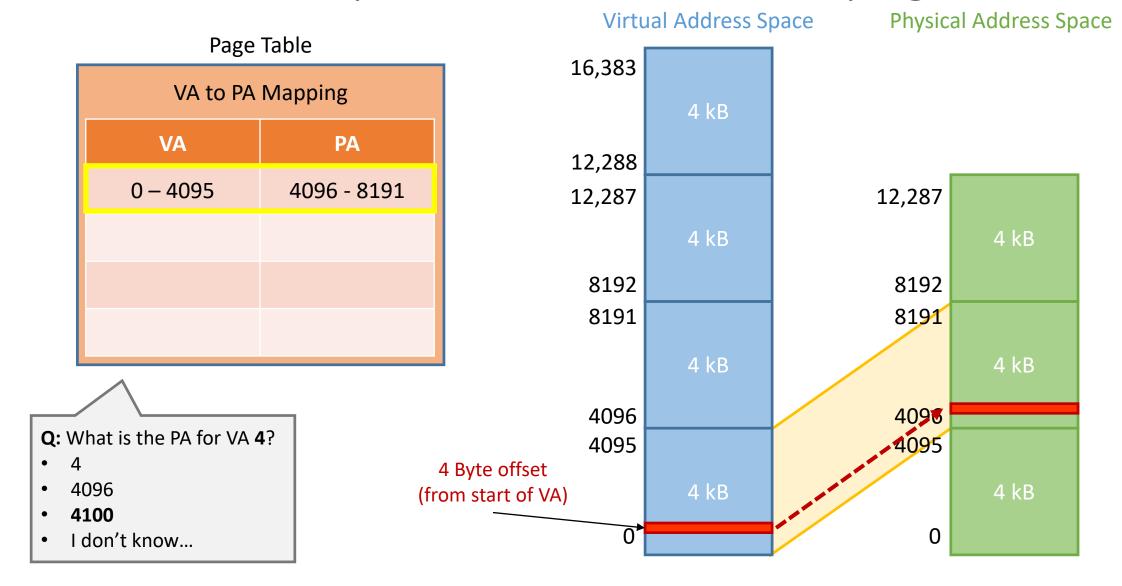




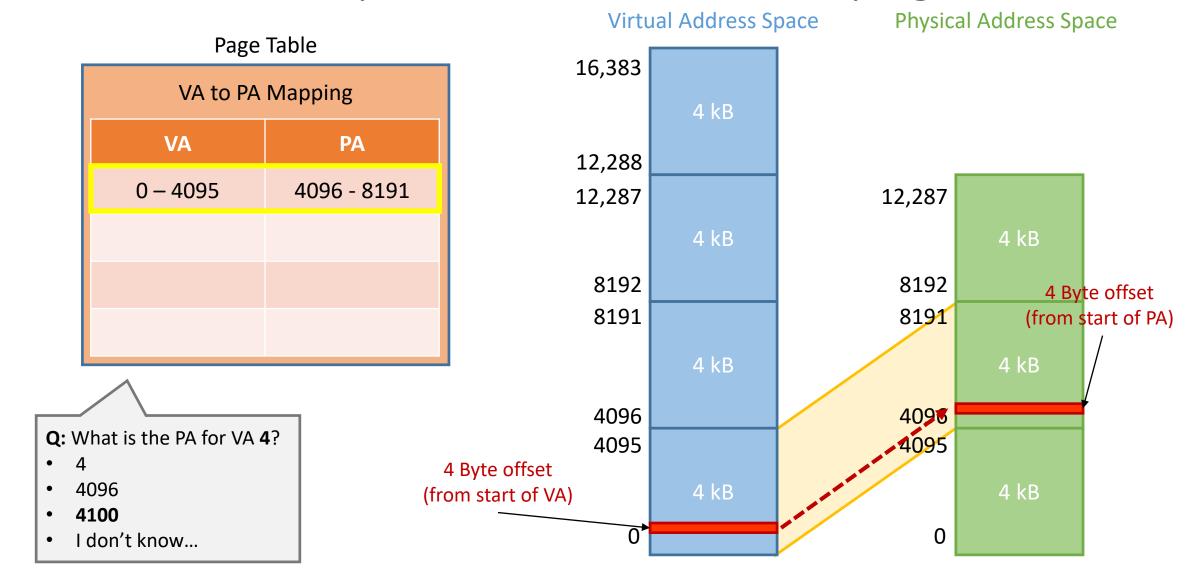
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32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address

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Virtual Address

32 bits

**Physical Address** 

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PAGE TABLE

**Physical Address** 

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12-bit Page Offset [Index]

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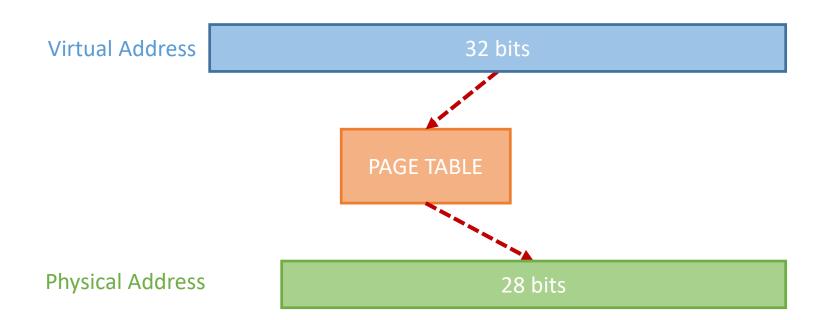
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Each Page Table Entry handles 4 kB of address space...

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PAGE TABLE

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Physical Address

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Virtual Address

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12 bits

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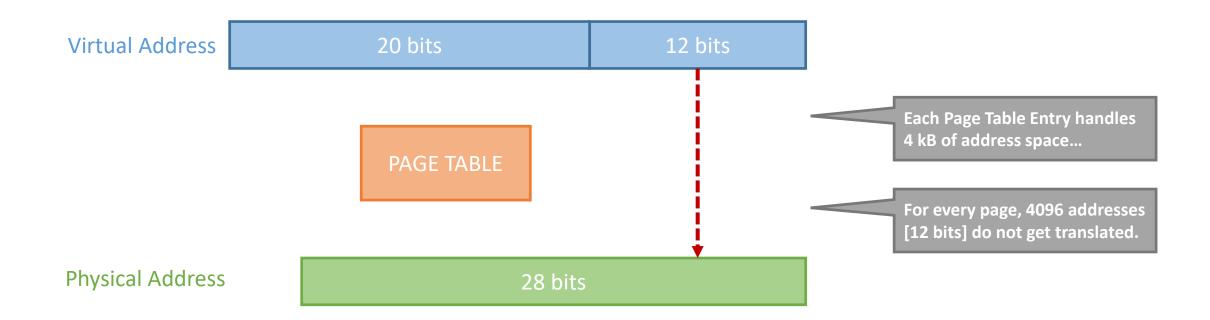
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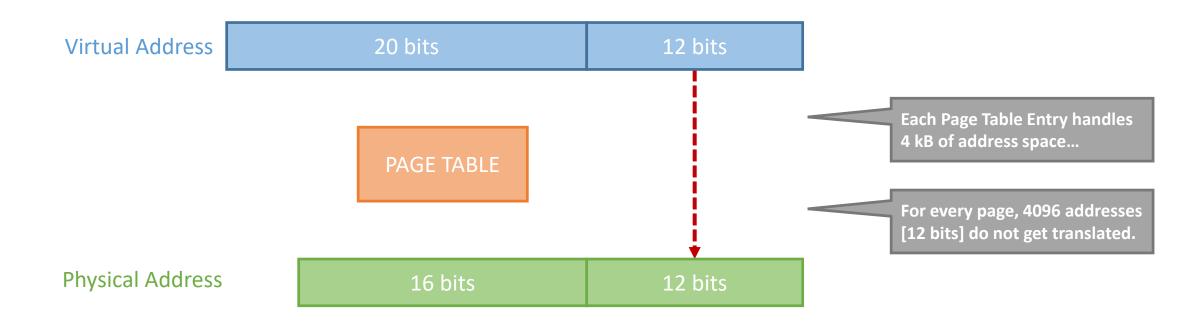
Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages





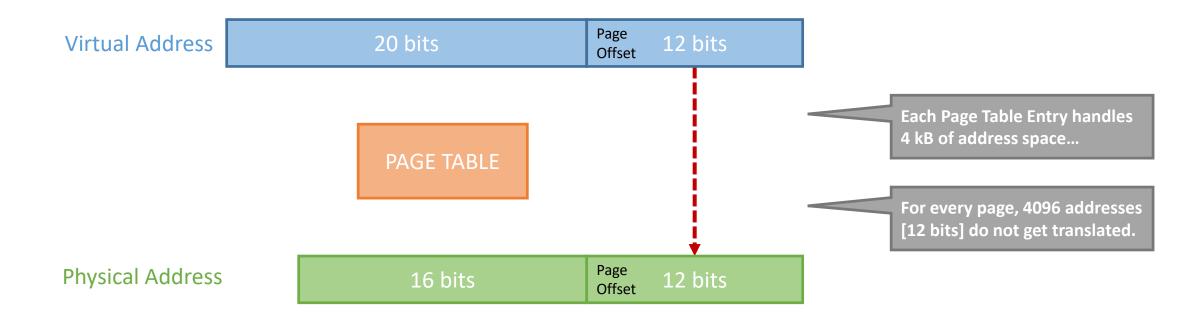
Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages





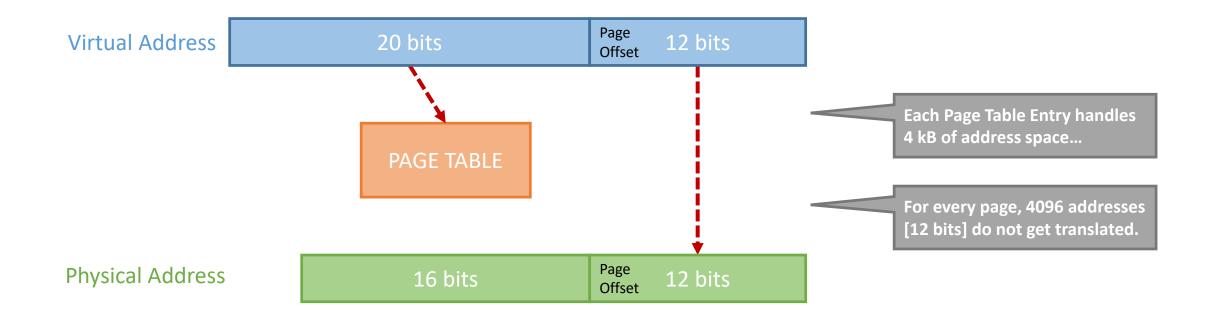
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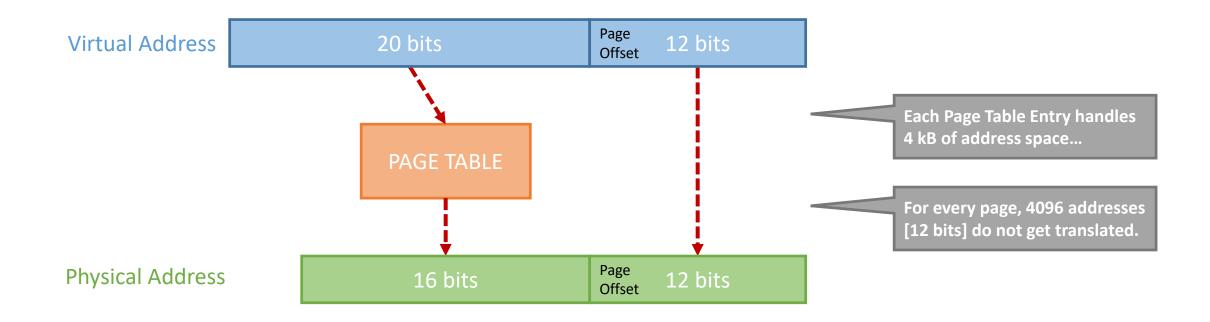




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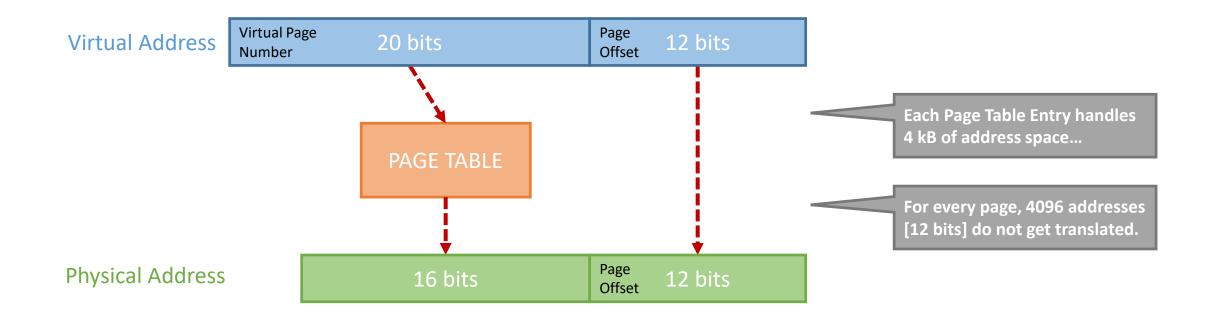
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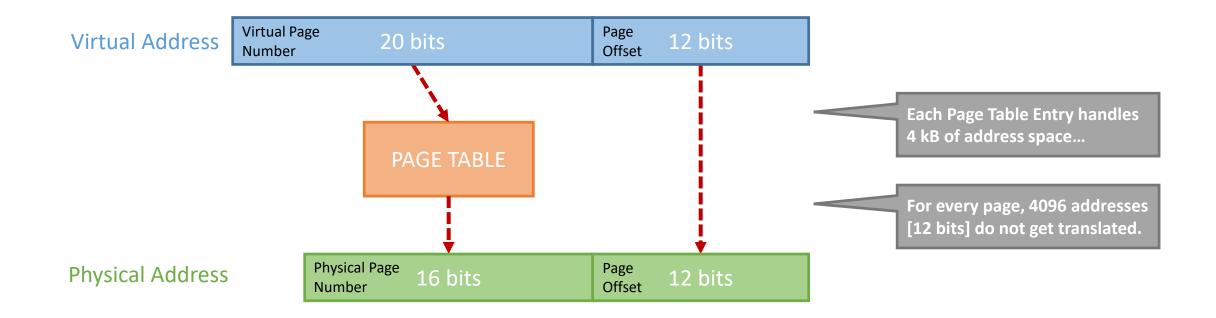
 $\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 32 \\ 28 \end{vmatrix}$ 

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address



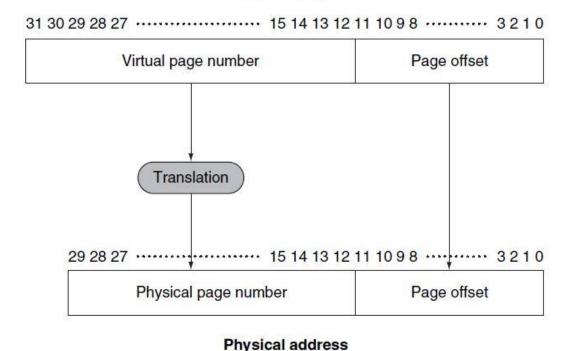
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# Illustration from the textbook

#### Virtual address



**FIGURE 5.26 Mapping from a virtual to a physical address.** The page size is  $2^{12} = 4$  KiB. The number of physical pages allowed in memory is  $2^{18}$ , since the physical page number has 18 bits in it. Thus, main memory can have at most 1 GiB, while the virtual address space is 4 GiB.

# Illustration from the textbook

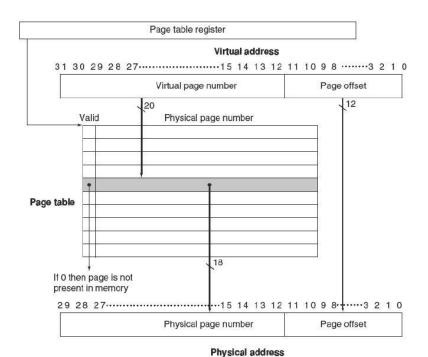
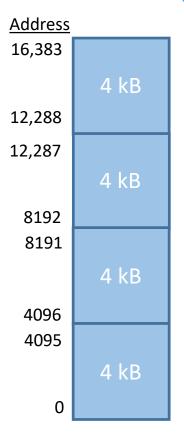


FIGURE 5.27 The page table is indexed with the virtual page number to obtain the corresponding portion of the physical address. We assume a 32-bit address. The page table pointer gives the starting address of the page table. In this figure, the page size is 2<sup>12</sup> bytes, or 4 KiB. The virtual address space is 2<sup>20</sup> bytes, or 4 KiB. The virtual address space is 2<sup>20</sup> bytes, or 4 KiB. The virtual address space is 2<sup>20</sup> bytes, which allows main memory of up to 1 GiB. The number of entries in the page table is 2<sup>20</sup>, or 1 million entries. The valid bit for each entry indicates whether the mapping is legal. If it is off, then the page is not present in memory. Although the page table entry shown here need only be 19 bits wide, it would typically be rounded up to 32 bits for ease of indexing. The extra bits would be used to store additional information that needs to be kept on a per-page basis, such as protection.

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

32-bit Virtual Address
28-bit Physical Address

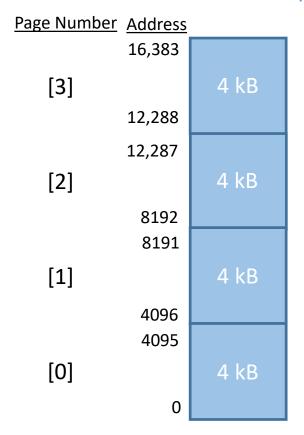
#### **Virtual Address Space**



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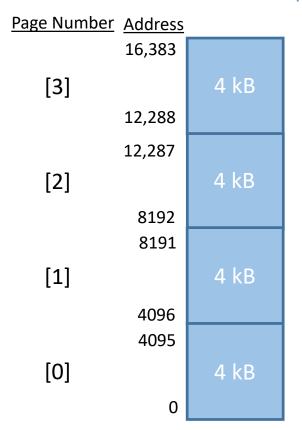
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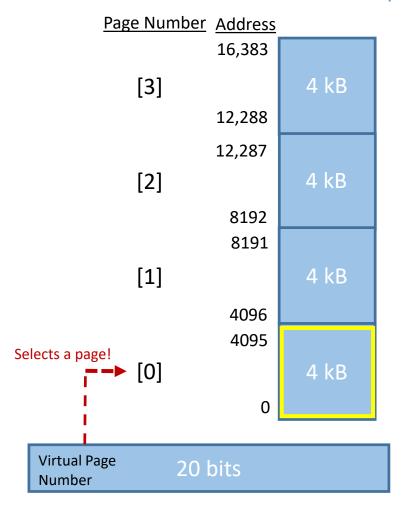


Virtual Page 20 bits

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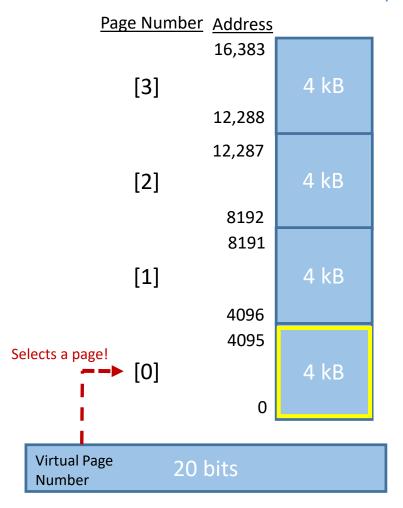
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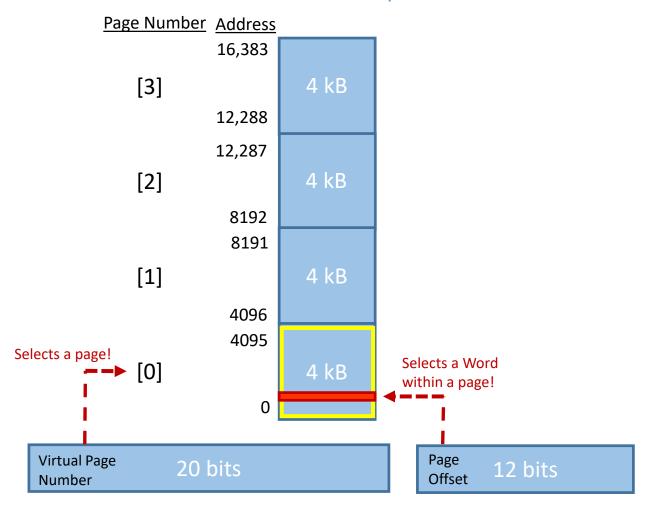


Page 12 bits

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

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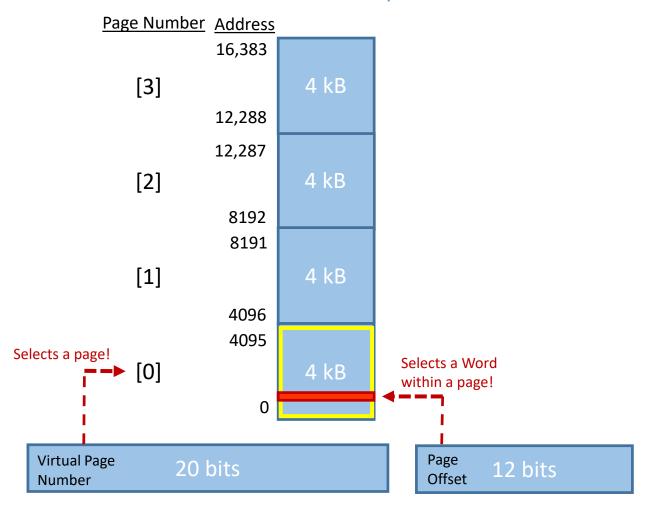
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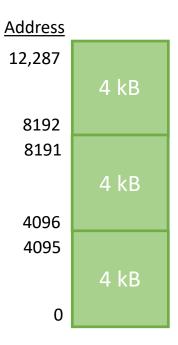


Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

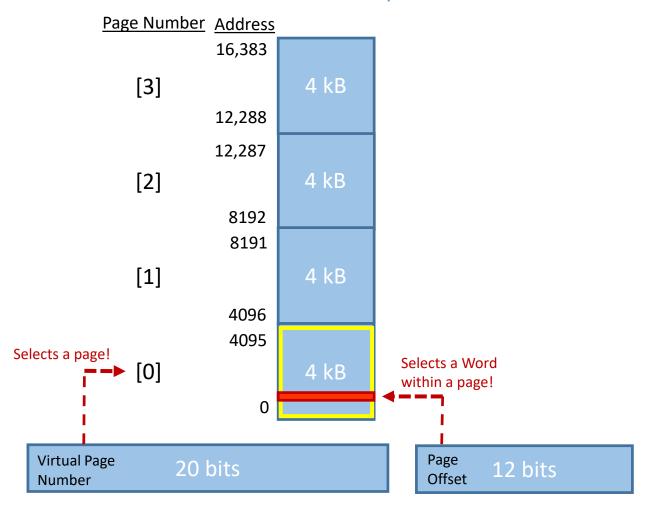
32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address

12-bit Page Offset [Index]

#### **Physical Address Space**



#### Virtual Address Space

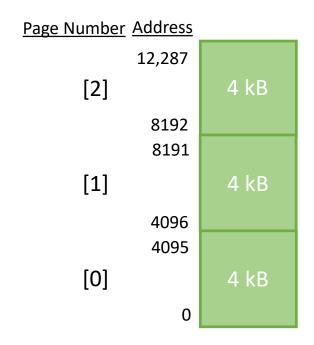


Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address

12-bit Page Offset [Index]

#### **Physical Address Space**

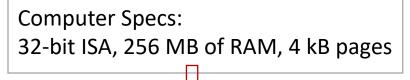


Virtual Address Space

Page Number Address

Number

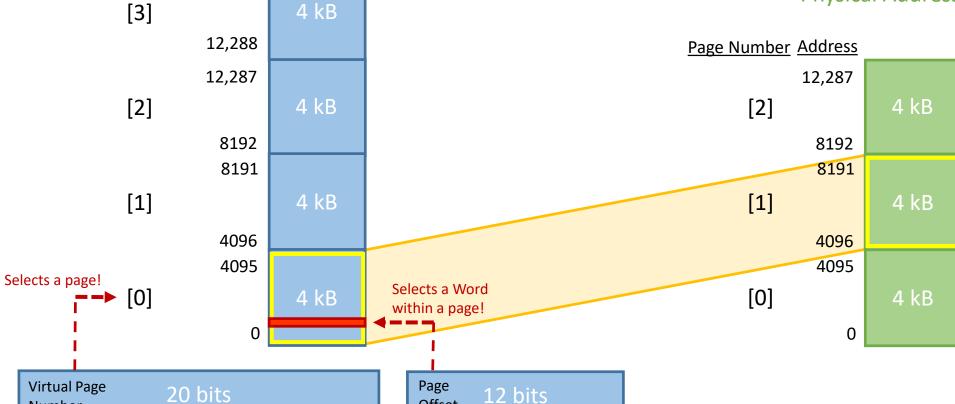
16,383



32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address

12-bit Page Offset [Index]

#### **Physical Address Space**



Offset

Virtual Address Space

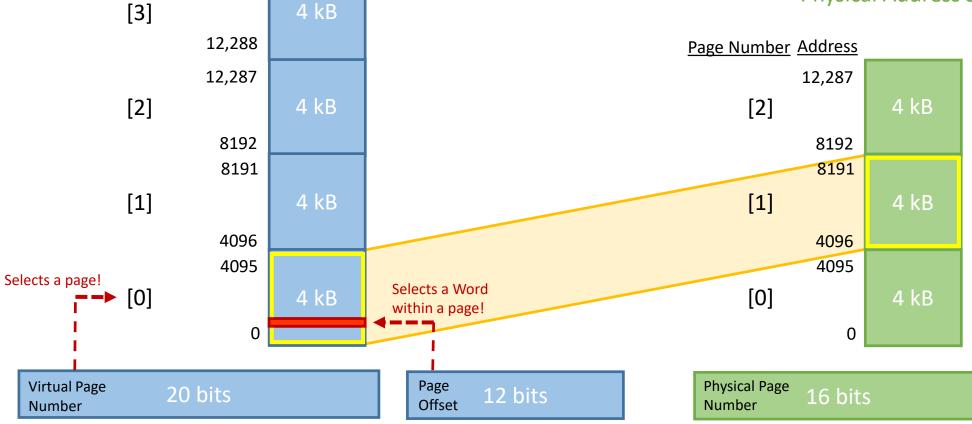
Page Number Address

16,383

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address





Virtual Address Space

Page Number Address

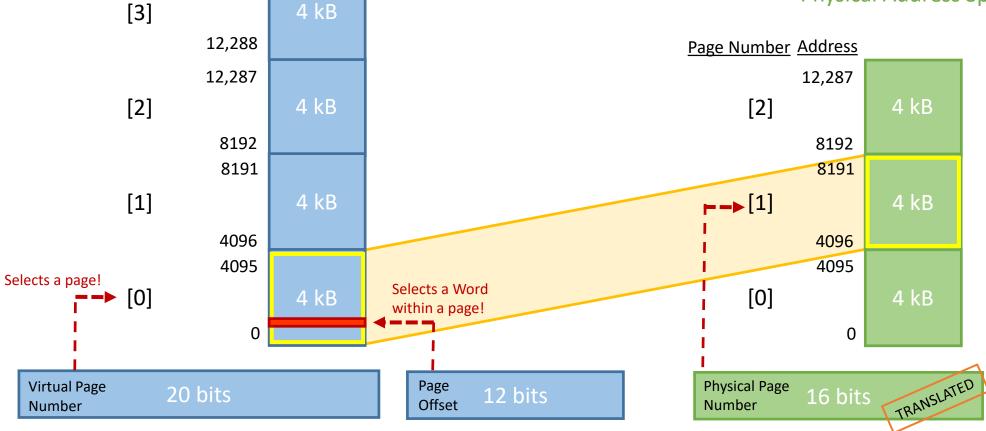
16,383

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address

12-bit Page Offset [Index]

#### **Physical Address Space**



Virtual Address Space

4 kB

4 kB

4 kB

4 kB

Page

Offset

Page Number Address

[3]

[2]

[1]

[0]

Selects a page!

Virtual Page

Number

16,383

12,288

12,287

8192

8191

4096

4095

20 bits

0

**Computer Specs:** 32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address

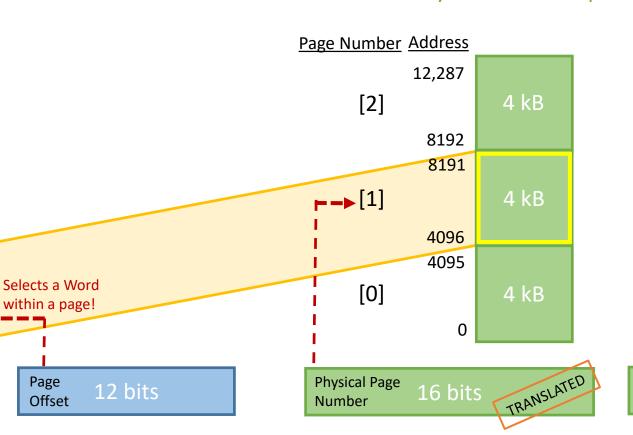
12-bit Page Offset [Index]

Page

Offset

12 bits

#### Physical Address Space



Virtual Page

Number

20 bits

32-bit Virtual Address 12-bit Page Offset [Index] Virtual Address Space 28-bit Physical Address Page Number Address 16,383 Physical Address Space 4 kB [3] 12,288 Page Number Address 12,287 12,287 [2] 4 kB [2] 4 kB 8192 8192 8191 8191 [1] 4 kB **--**▶[1] 4 kB 4096 4096 4095 4095 Selects a page! Selects a Word [0] [0] 4 kB 4 kB within a page! 0 0

Page

Offset

12 bits

**Computer Specs:** 

**Physical Page** 

Number

32-bit ISA, 256 MB of RAM, 4 kB pages

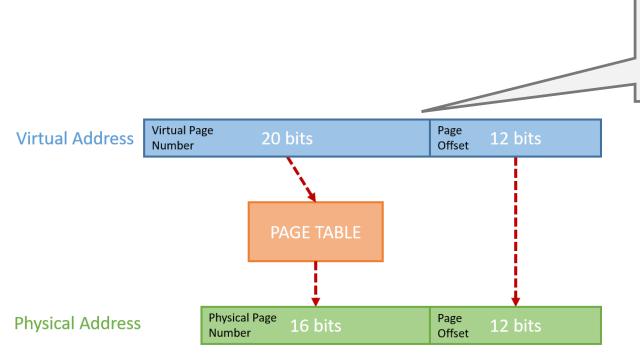
TRANSLATED

16 bits

Page

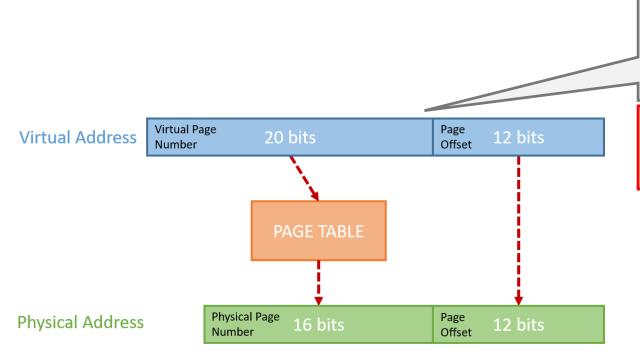
Offset

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, **256 MB of RAM**, 4 kB pages



**Q:** Why do we have more Virtual Page Number bits than Physical Page Number bits in this example?

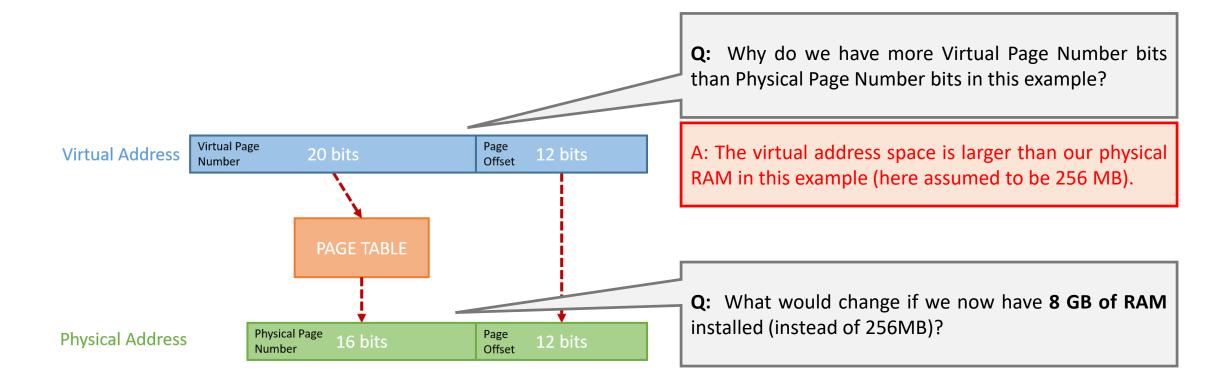
Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, **256 MB of RAM**, 4 kB pages



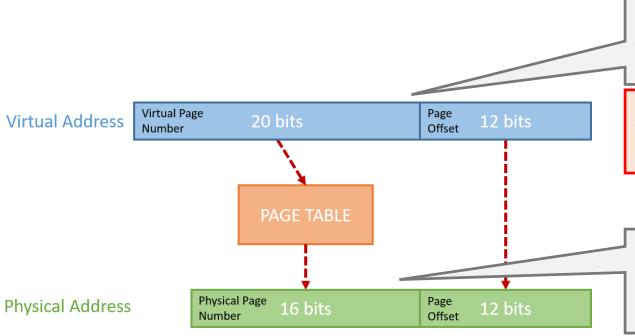
**Q:** Why do we have more Virtual Page Number bits than Physical Page Number bits in this example?

A: The virtual address space is larger than our physical RAM in this example (here assumed to be 256 MB).

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, **256 MB of RAM**, 4 kB pages



Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, **256 MB of RAM**, 4 kB pages



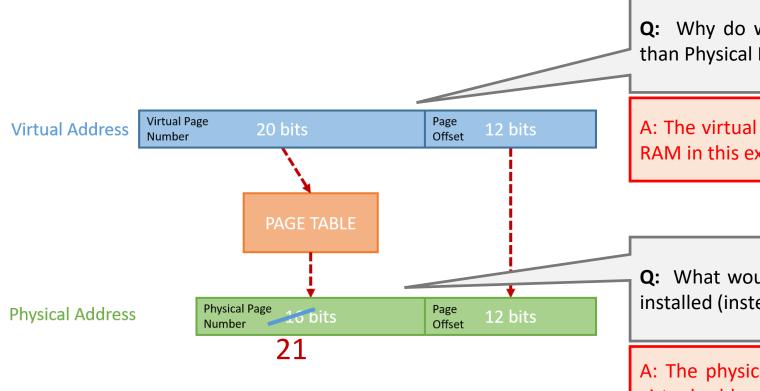
**Q:** Why do we have more Virtual Page Number bits than Physical Page Number bits in this example?

A: The virtual address space is larger than our physical RAM in this example (here assumed to be 256 MB).

**Q:** What would change if we now have **8 GB of RAM** installed (instead of 256MB)?

A: The physical address space is now larger than our virtual address space. We need 33 bits to address all Words in memory. Our Physical Page is now 21 bits.

Computer Specs: 32-bit ISA, **256 MB of RAM**, 4 kB pages



**Q:** Why do we have more Virtual Page Number bits than Physical Page Number bits in this example?

A: The virtual address space is larger than our physical RAM in this example (here assumed to be 256 MB).

**Q:** What would change if we now have **8 GB of RAM** installed (instead of 256MB)?

A: The physical address space is now larger than our virtual address space. We need 33 bits to address all Words in memory. Our Physical Page is now 21 bits.

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

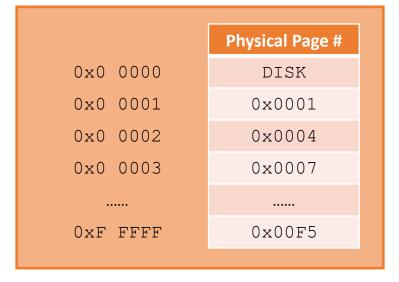
### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address [32 bit]

32 bits

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

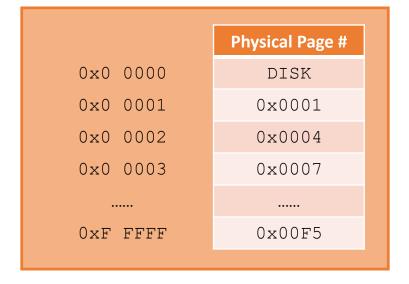
Virtual Address [32 bit]

20 bits

Page Offset

12 bits

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

16 bits

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

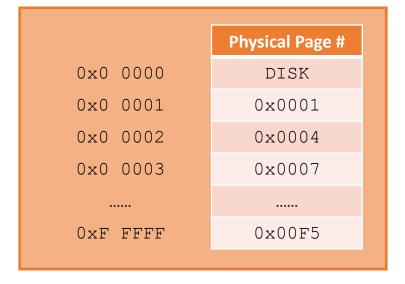
#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address [32 bit]

Virtual Page Number 20 bits Page Offset 12 bits

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

16 bits

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

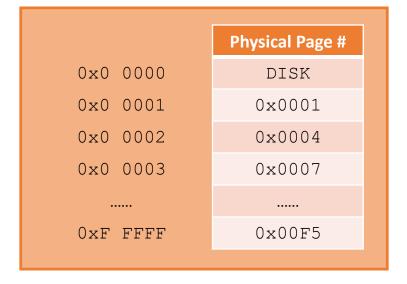
#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address [32 bit]

Virtual Page Number 20 bits Page Offset 12 bits

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

16 bits

Page Offset

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

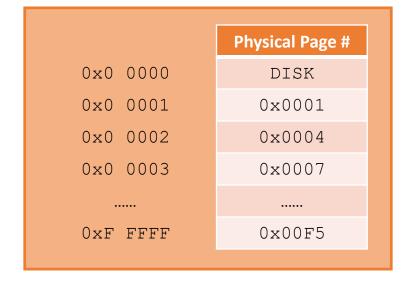
### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address
[32 bit]

Virtual Page	20 hite	Page 12 bits
Number	20 bits	Offset 12 bits

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number 16 bits Page Offset 12 bits

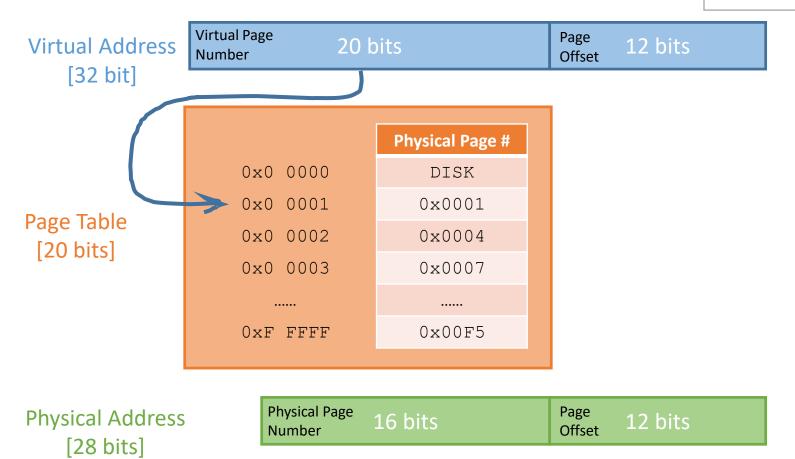
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



### In our terms:



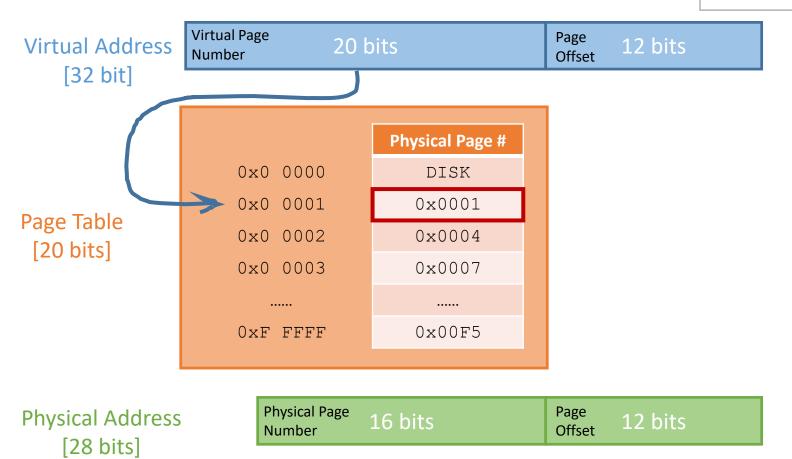
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



### In our terms:



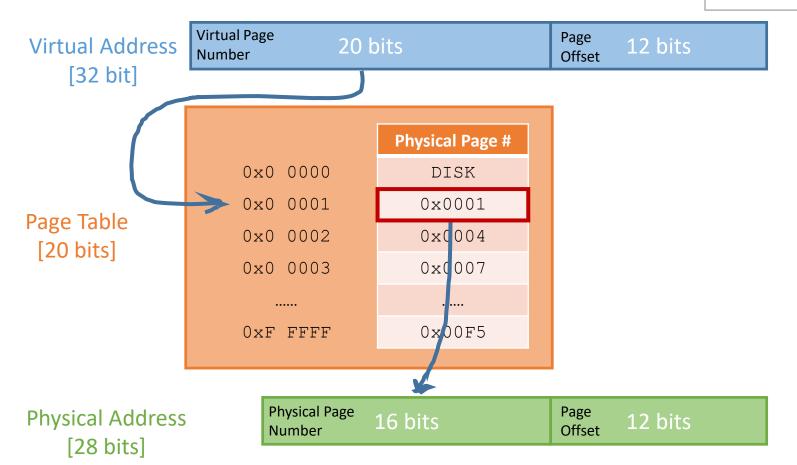
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



### In our terms:



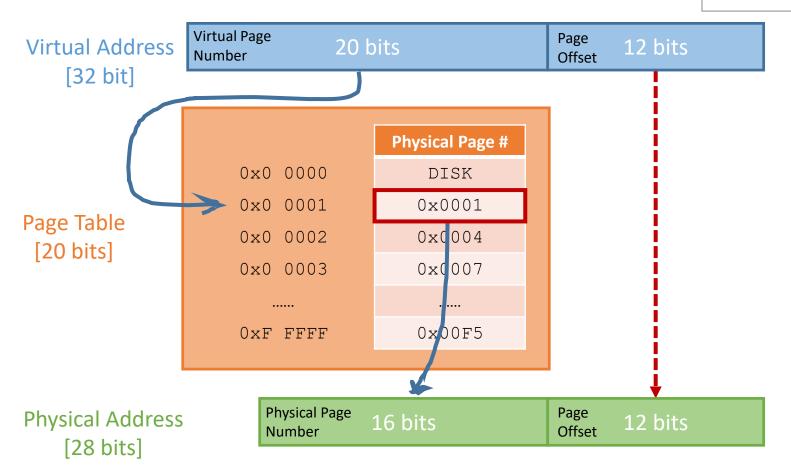
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



### In our terms:



1

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

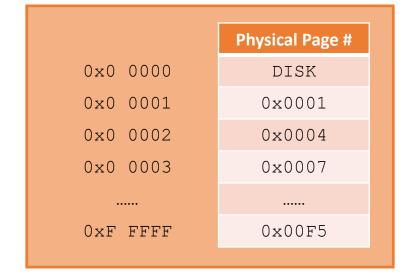
#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address [32 bit]

Virtual Page Number		Page Offset	
31	12	11	0

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number	Page Offset	
27	12 11	0

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

**H1** 

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

0

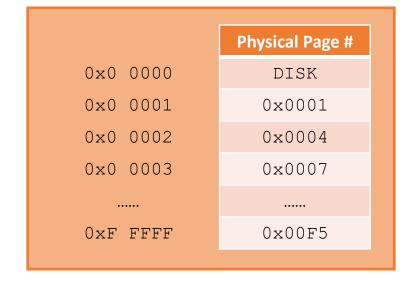
#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address
[32 bit]

Virtual Page Number		Page Offset	
31	12	11	0

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Page
Number
Page
Offset

27
12
11

**EXAMPLE:** 

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

VA: 0x00003 103

Physical Address [28 bits]

1

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

0

#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

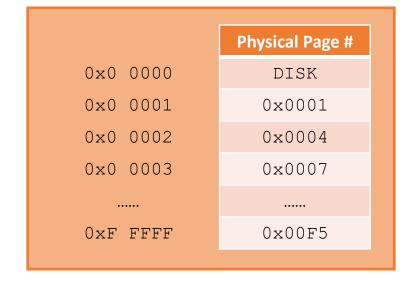
Virtual Address [32 bit]

Virtual Page Number	Page Offset	
31	12 11	0

Page Table [20 bits]

**Physical Address** 

[28 bits]



Physical Page Page Offset

27 12 11

**EXAMPLE:** 

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

\_\

#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

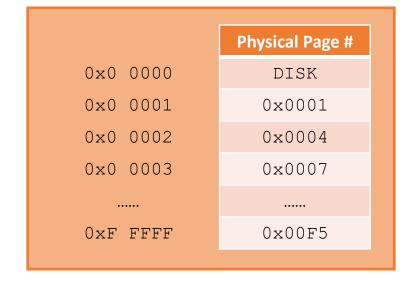
Virtual Address
[32 bit]

Virtual Page Number		Page Offset	103	
31	12 :	11		0

Page Table [20 bits]

**Physical Address** 

[28 bits]



Physical Page Page Offset

27 12 11 0

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

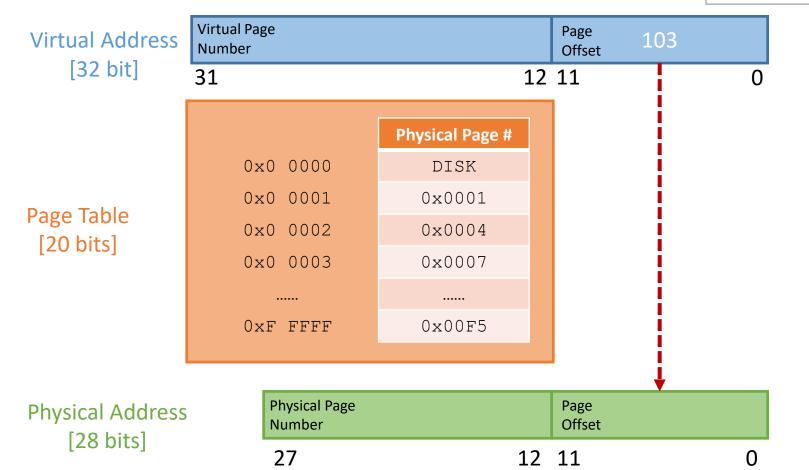
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

### 2

In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

**H1** 

**Computer Specs**:

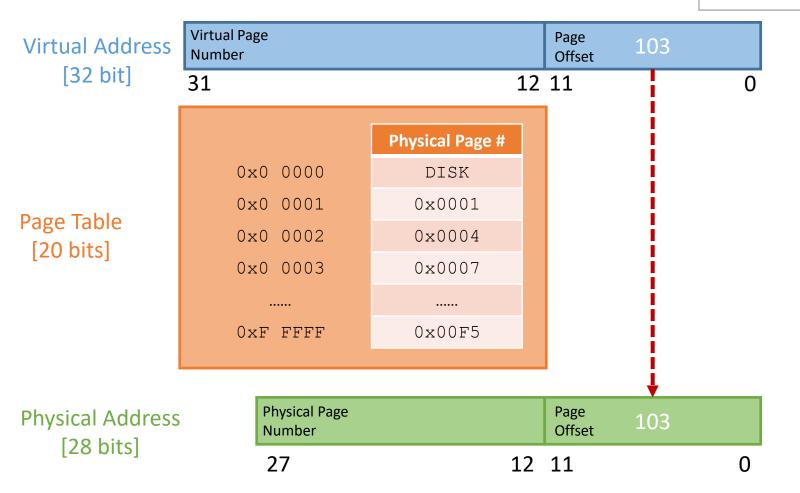
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

### 1 2

In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

**H1** 

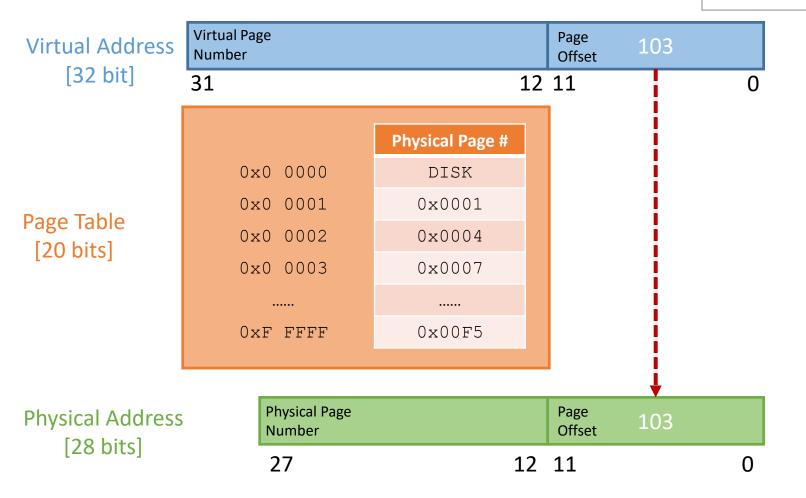
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

0xF FFFF

41

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

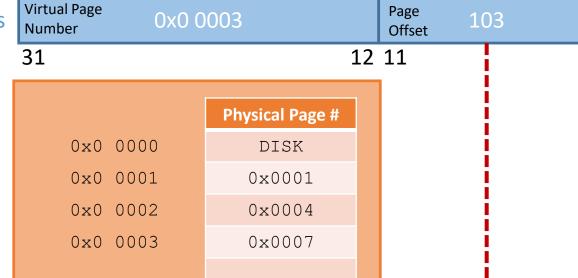
Page Size: 4 kB

### 111 (

<u>In our terms</u>:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

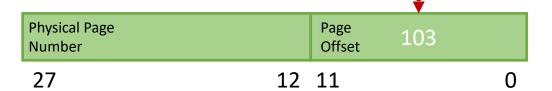
Virtual Address [32 bit]



0x00F5

Page Table [20 bits]

Physical Address [28 bits]



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

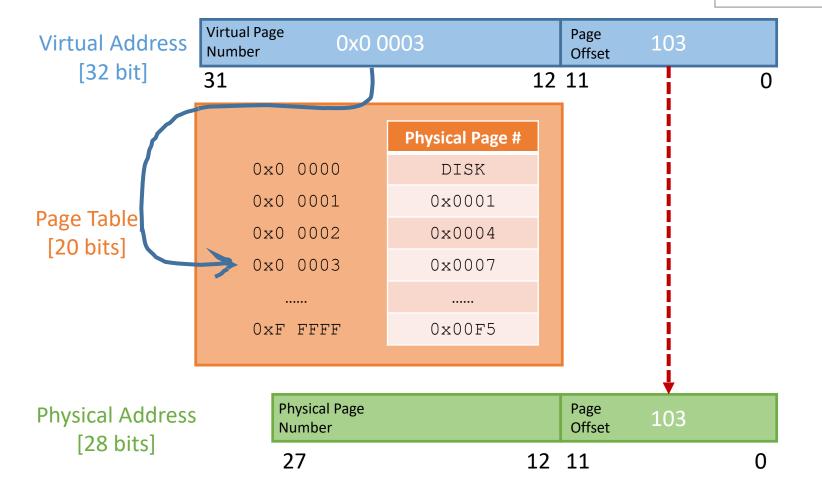
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

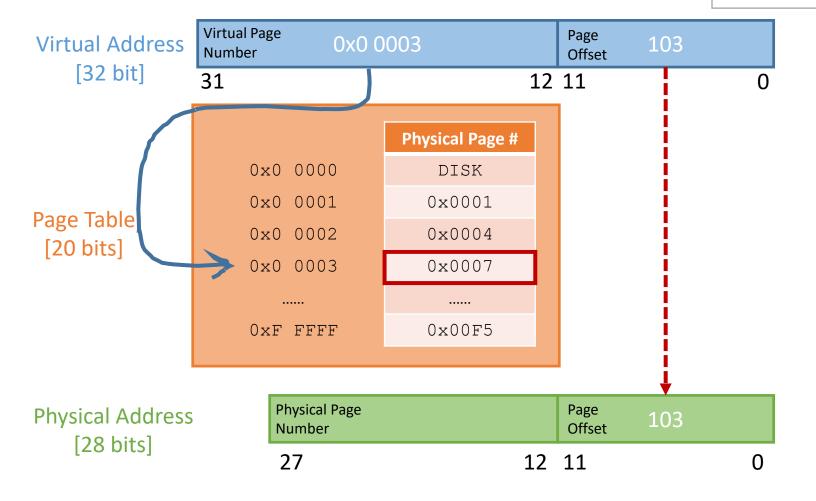
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

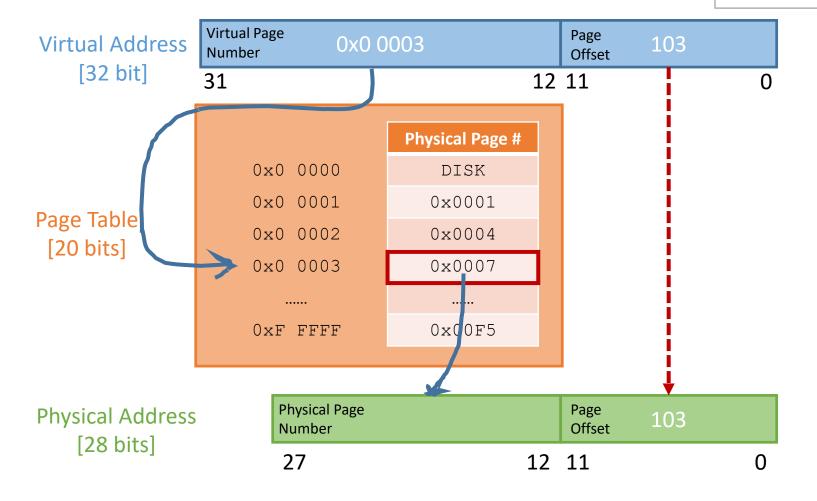
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

1

**Computer Specs**:

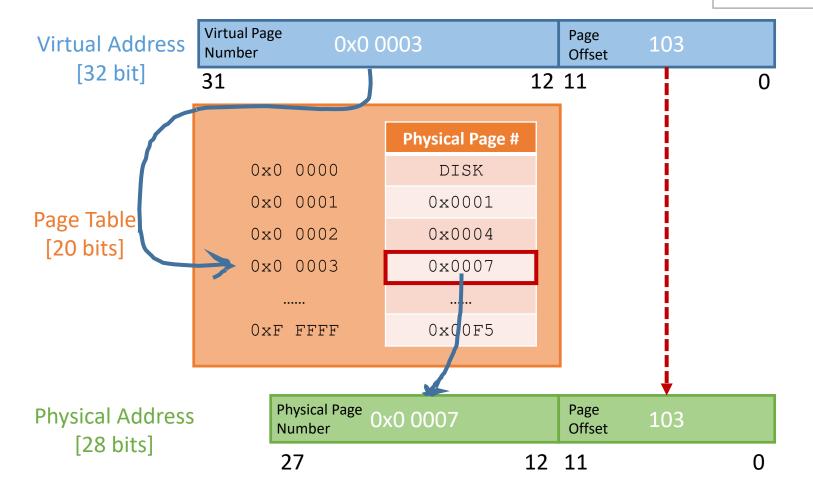
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

±1

**Computer Specs**:

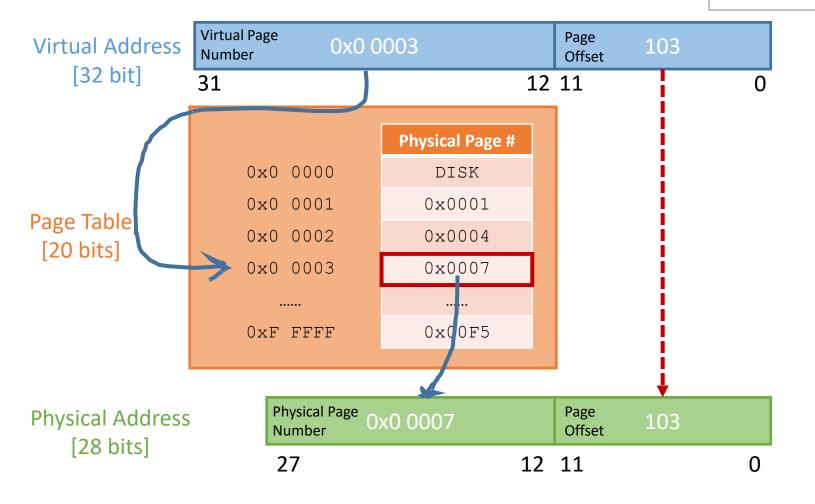
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB



#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset



#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00003103** 

VA: 0x00003 103



PA: 0x00007 103

47

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

\_

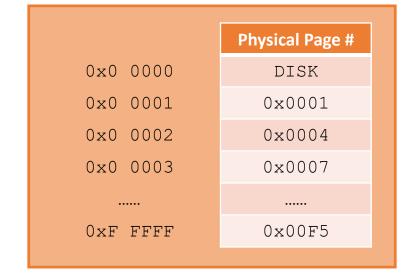
### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address
[32 bit]

Virtual Page Number		Page Offset	
31	12	11	0

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number	Page Offset	
27	12 11	0

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00000504** 

47

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 4 kB

-

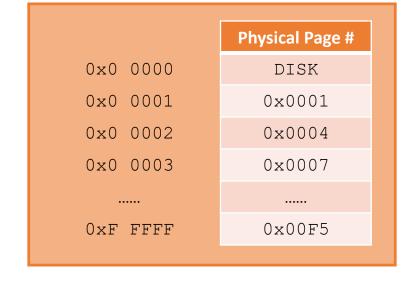
#### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address12-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address
[32 bit]

Virtual Page Number	Page Offset	
31	12 11	0

Page Table [20 bits]



Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number	Page Offset	
27	12 11	0

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the page table to the left, find the Physical Address associated with Virtual Address **0x00000504** 

Virtual Address 0x00000 points to the disk, we don't know from the given information.

43

**Computer Specs**:

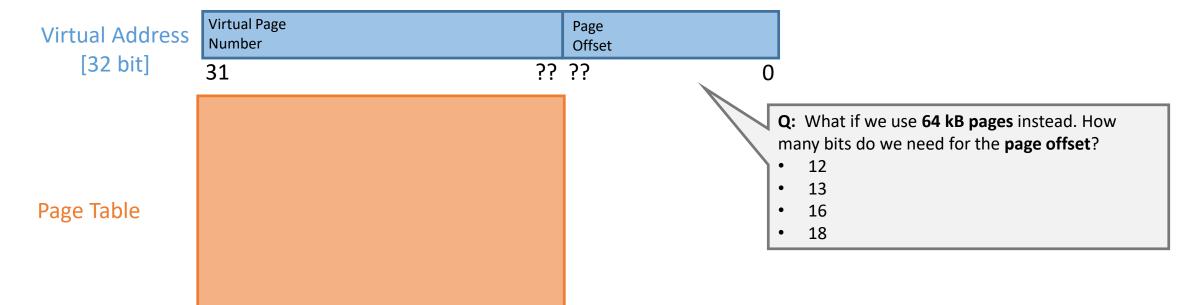
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 64 kB

 $\Box$ 

In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address
28-bit Physical Address
??-bit Page Offset



Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number	Page Offset	
27	?? ??	0

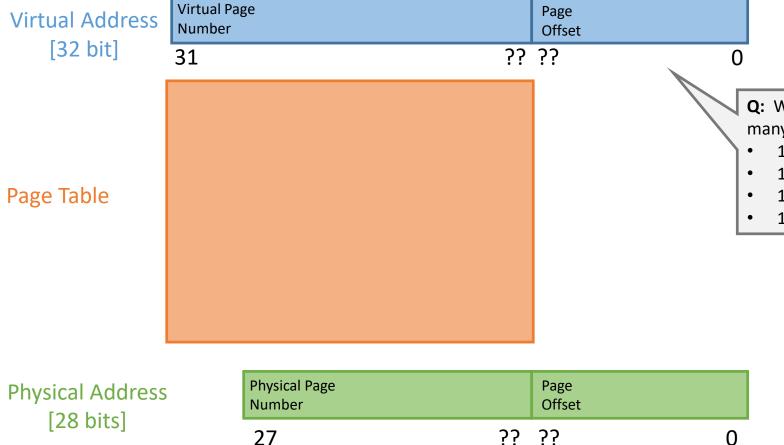
**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit 256 MB RAM:

Page Size: 64 kB

### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address ??-bit Page Offset



**Q:** What if we use **64 kB pages** instead. How many bits do we need for the page offset?

- 12
- 13
- 16
- 18

0

**A**: 16

We need 16 bits to index every Word in a Page. This means my Virtual Page Number is now 16 bits (32-16) and my Physical *Page Number* is 12 bits (28-16).

43

**Computer Specs**:

ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 64 kB

८>

### In our terms:

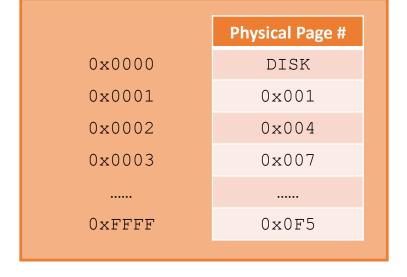
32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address16-bit Page Offset

Virtual Address [32 bit]

Virtual Page
Number
Page
Offset

16 15

Page Table



**Q:** What if we use **64 kB pages** instead. How many bits do we need for the **page offset**?

- 12
- 13
- 16
- 18

**A**: 16

We need 16 bits to index every Word in a Page. This means my *Virtual Page Number* is now 16 bits (32-16) and my *Physical Page Number* is 12 bits (28-16).

Physical Address [28 bits]

Physical Page Number	Page Offset	
27	16 15	0

#3

**Computer Specs**:

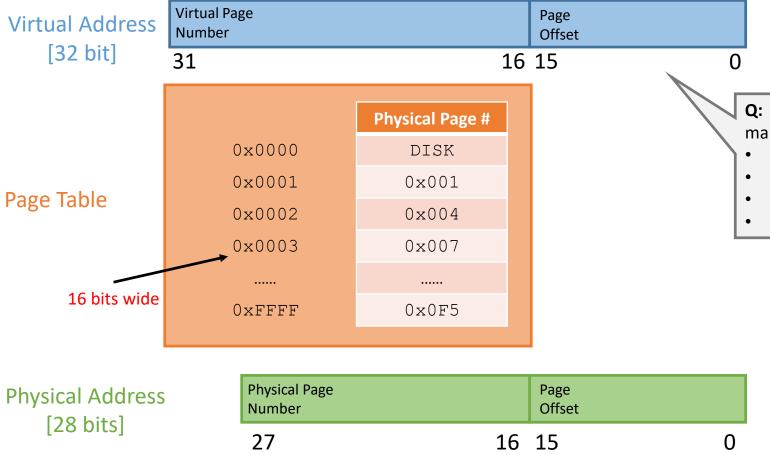
ISA: 32-bit RAM: 256 MB

Page Size: 64 kB



### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address28-bit Physical Address16-bit Page Offset



**Q:** What if we use **64 kB pages** instead. How many bits do we need for the **page offset**?

- 12
- 13
- 16
- 18

#### **A**: 16

We need 16 bits to index every Word in a Page. This means my *Virtual Page Number* is now 16 bits (32-16) and my *Physical Page Number* is 12 bits (28-16).

**Computer Specs**:

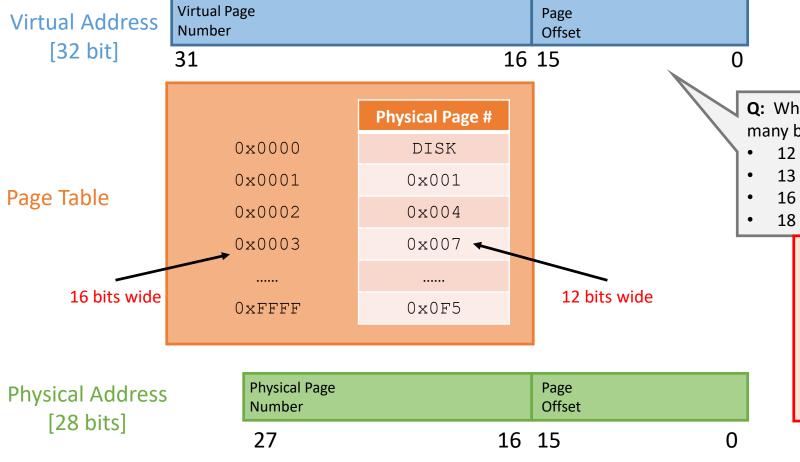
ISA: 32-bit 256 MB RAM:

Page Size: 64 kB



### In our terms:

32-bit Virtual Address 28-bit Physical Address 16-bit Page Offset

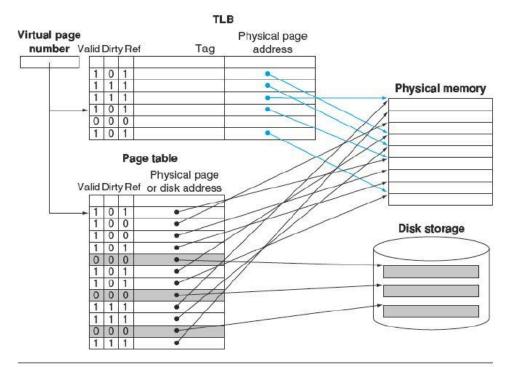


**Q:** What if we use **64 kB pages** instead. How many bits do we need for the page offset?

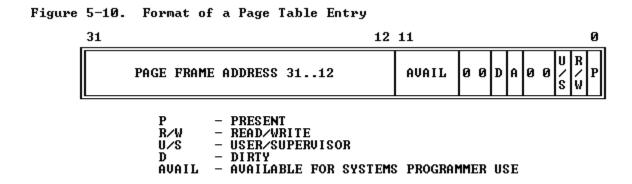
#### **A**: 16

We need 16 bits to index every Word in a Page. This means my Virtual Page Number is now 16 bits (32-16) and my Physical *Page Number* is 12 bits (28-16).

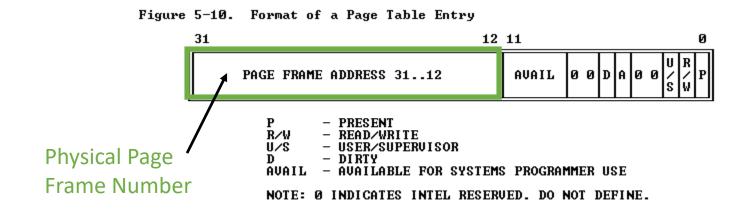
### Illustration from the textbook

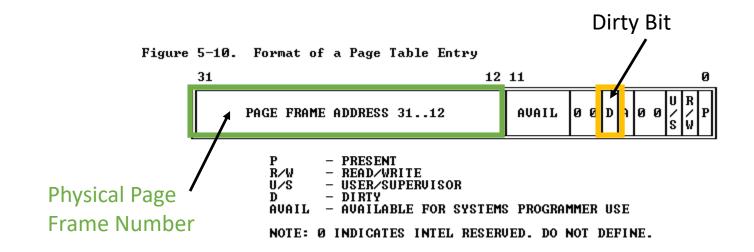


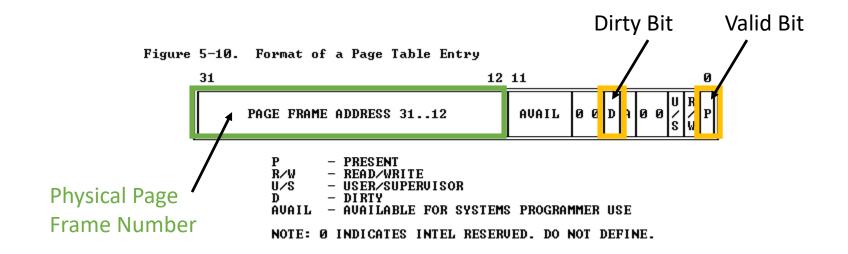
**FIGURE 5.29** The TLB acts as a cache of the page table for the entries that map to physical pages only. The TLB contains a subset of the virtual-to-physical page mappings that are in the page table. The TLB mappings are shown in color. Because the TLB is a cache, it must have a tag field. If there is no matching entry in the TLB for a page, the page table must be examined. The page table either supplies a physical page number for the page (which can then be used to build a TLB entry) or indicates that the page resides on disk, in which case a page fault occurs. Since the page table has an entry for every virtual page, no tag field is needed; in other words, unlike a TLB, a page table is *not* a cache.



NOTE: 0 INDICATES INTEL RESERVED. DO NOT DEFINE.







### References

- David Black-Schaffer: Lecture Series on Virtual Memory
- Patterson, Hennessy: Computer Organization and Design: the Hardware/Software Interface