

Virtual Memory

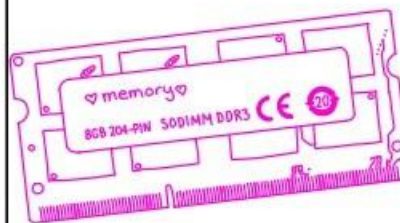
III

JULIA EVANS
@b0rk

virtual memory

17

your computer has
physical memory

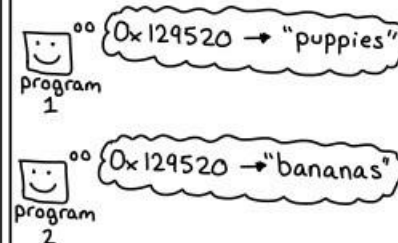


physical memory has
addresses, like

0-8GB

but when your program
references an address
like 0x5c69a2a2,
that's not a physical
memory address!
It's a **virtual** address.

every program has its
own virtual address space

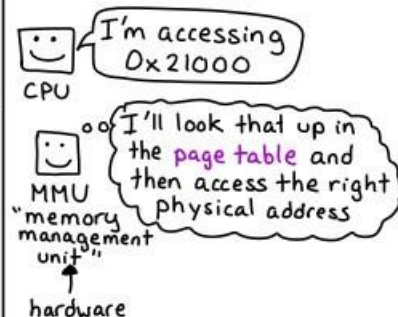


Linux keeps a mapping from
virtual memory pages to
physical memory pages called
the **page table**



PID	virtual addr	physical addr
1971	0x20000	0x192000
2310	0x20000	0x228000
2310	0x21000	0x9788000

when your program
accesses a virtual address



every time you switch
which process is running,
Linux needs to switch
the page table



But first, some history... (1966)



Systems Reference Library

IBM System/360 Model 67

Functional Characteristics

This publication contains detailed information on the organization, characteristics, features, and functions unique to the IBM System/360 Model 67 Time Sharing System. Major areas described include time-sharing philosophy, system structure, new units, generalized information flow, standard and special features, instruction timings, and the system control panel.

Descriptions of specific input/output devices used with the Model 67 appear in separate publications. See the *IBM System/360 Bibliography*, Form GA22-6822 for a listing and a brief description of these publications.

The material in this publication is presented with the assumption that the reader has knowledge of System/360 as defined in the *IBM System/360 Principles of Operation*, Form GA22-6821 and the *IBM System/360 System Summary*, Form GA22-6810. The *IBM System/360 Model 67 Configurator*, Form GA27-2713 also may be of interest to the reader.

But first, some history... (1966)

command system.

Paging

Every program using the system is treated as a sequence of 4096-byte units called “pages”. By dividing programs into pages, processor storage can be allocated in page (4096-byte) increments. Program pages, therefore, can be located randomly throughout core storage and swapped in and out of processor storage, as pages are needed, commensurate with available space. Random location of pages for a given program necessitates the construction of tables (page tables) that reflect the processor storage location of the pages. The swapping of pages between auxiliary storage and processor storage is defined as “page turning”. If a page of instructions refers to a program location not currently in processor storage, the system stops operating the program temporarily, makes arrangements to fetch the page from auxiliary storage (the disk and drum storage space reserved specifically for paging), and performs other operations in the interim.

System Description 7

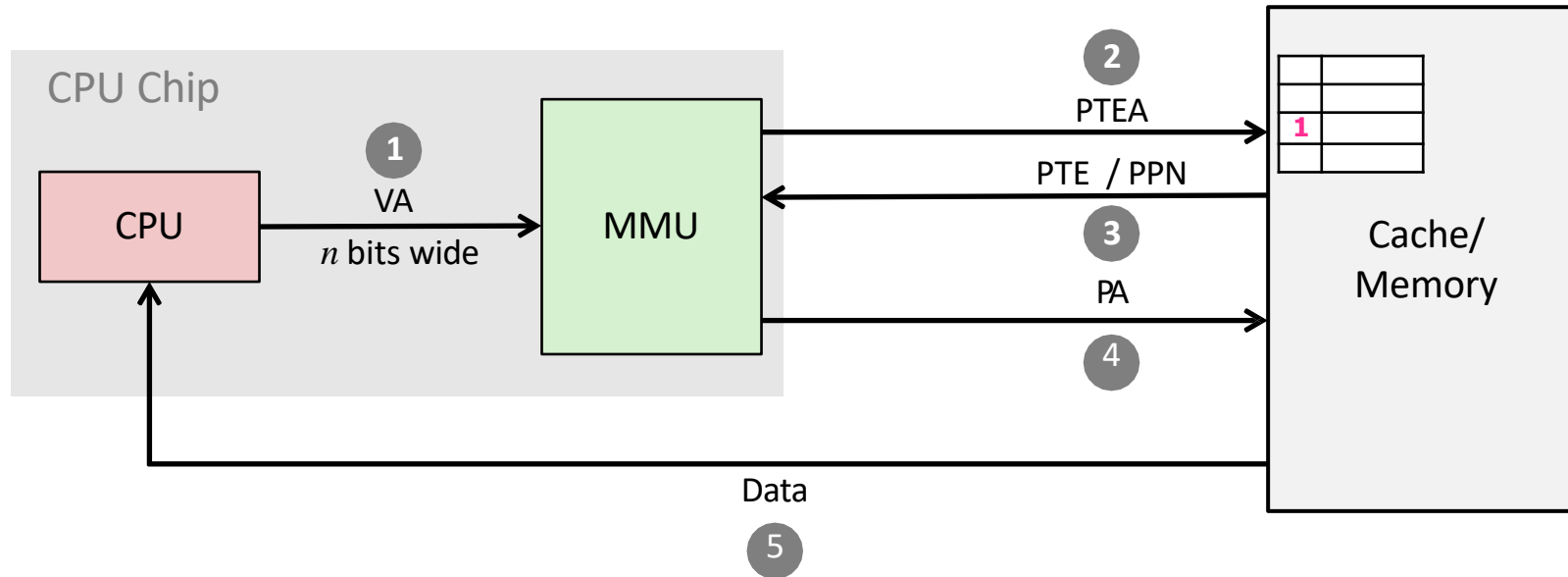
“Page turning” has the following advantages:

1. The entire program need not be in core storage to operate. Parts of many programs can be present, and several may be ready for processing. Thus, the system has many opportunities to do useful work while a page is being swapped.
2. Program “swap time” is reduced as an overhead factor since only active pages of a program require movement between core storage and auxiliary storage.
3. Although written and executed as a classical set of contiguous instructions and working space, a program can exist in the machine as scattered active pages.

The programmer’s concept of the program being executed is of a “virtual storage” rather than of an actual processor storage situation.

The user’s virtual storage is the contiguous address space that would be needed to store the user’s program. This virtual storage is not limited by actual processor storage size but is limited only by the available auxiliary (disk and drum) space. Theoretically, the programmer has 16 million bytes (24-bit addressing) or up to 4 billion bytes (optional 32-bit addressing) of virtual storage at his disposal.

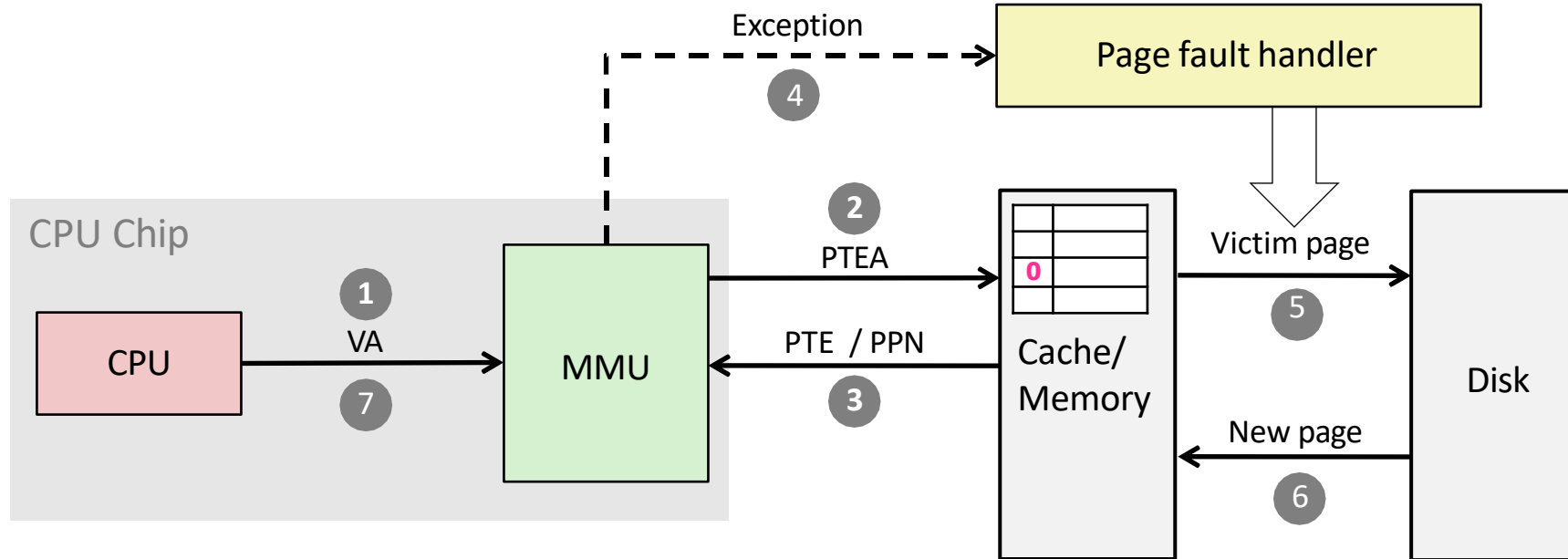
Taking A Step Back: Address Translation Page Hit



- 1) Processor sends virtual address to MMU (**memory management unit**)
- 2-3) MMU fetches PTE from page table in cache/memory; valid bit is one
(Uses PTBR to find beginning of page table for current process)
- 4) MMU sends physical address to cache/memory requesting data
- 5) Cache/memory sends data to processor

VA = Virtual Address PTEA = Page Table Entry Address PTE= Page Table Entry PA = Physical Address Data = Contents of memory stored at VA requested by CPU

Taking a Step Back: Address Translation Page Fault



- 1) Processor sends virtual address to MMU
- 2-3) MMU fetches PTE from page table in cache/memory
- 4) Valid bit is zero, so MMU triggers page fault exception & thus page fault handler
- 5) Handler identifies victim (and, if dirty, pages it out to disk)
- 6) Handler pages in new page and updates PTE in memory
- 7) Handler returns to original process, restarting faulting instruction

Hmm... Translation Sounds Slow...

- ❖ The MMU accesses memory **twice**: once to get the PTE for translation, and then again for the actual memory request
 - The PTEs may be cached in L1 like any other memory word
 - But they may be evicted by other data references
 - And a hit in the L1 cache still requires 1-3 cycles

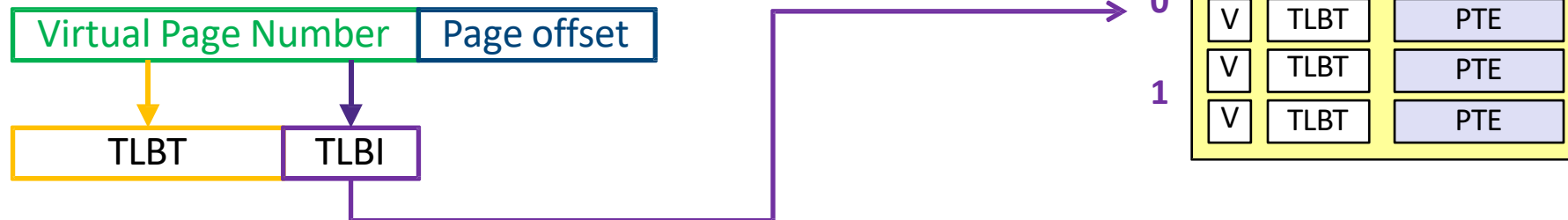
What can we do to make this faster?

Solution: add another cache! 🎉

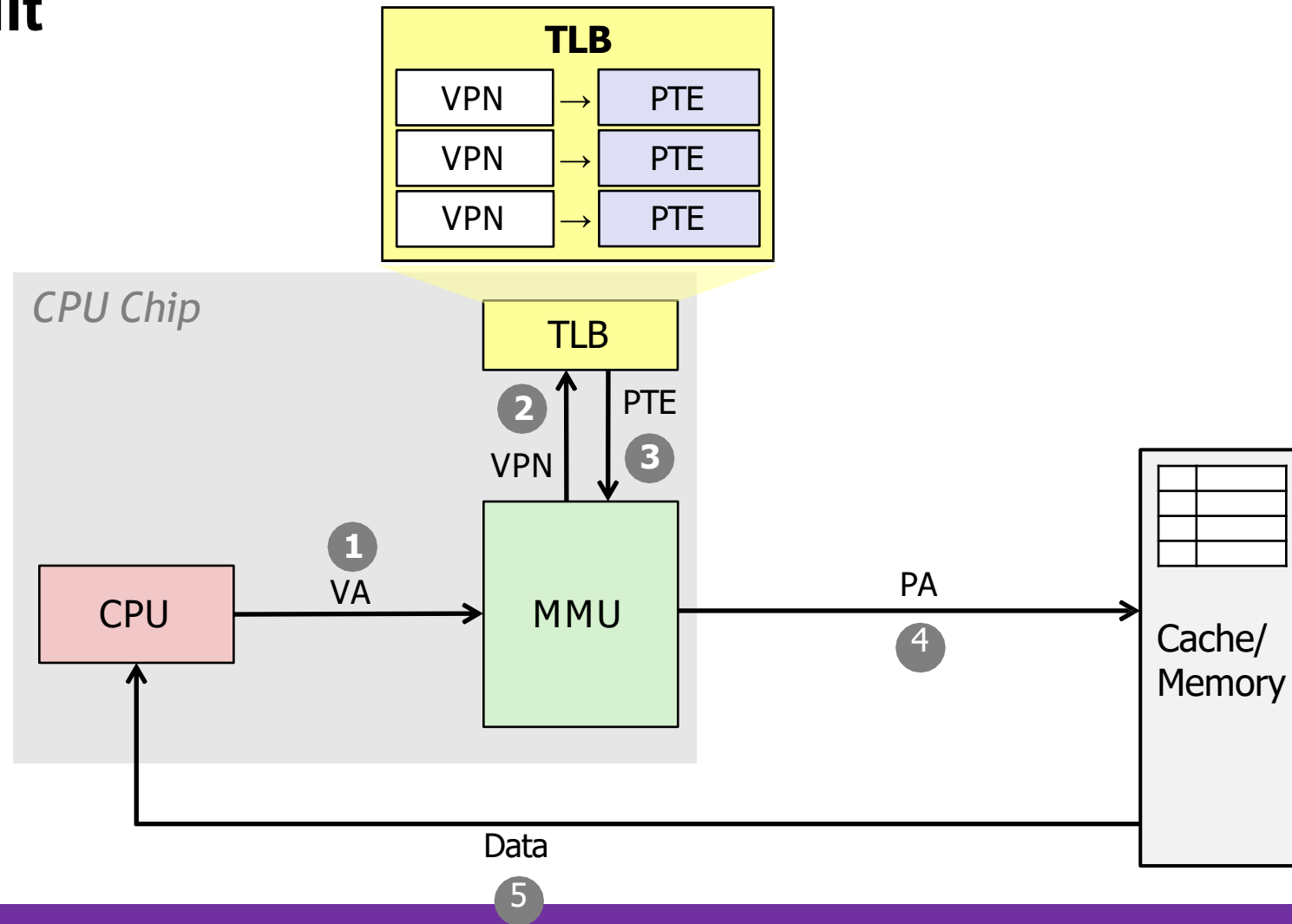
Speeding up Translation with a TLB

❖ Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB):

- Stores page table entries for a small number of pages
 - Modern Intel processors have 128 or 256 entries in TLB
- Small hardware cache in MMU
 - Split VPN into **TLB Tag** and **TLB Index** based on # of sets in TLB
- Maps virtual page numbers to physical page numbers
- Much faster than a page table lookup in cache/memory
- How to compute TLB index? Split the VPN!

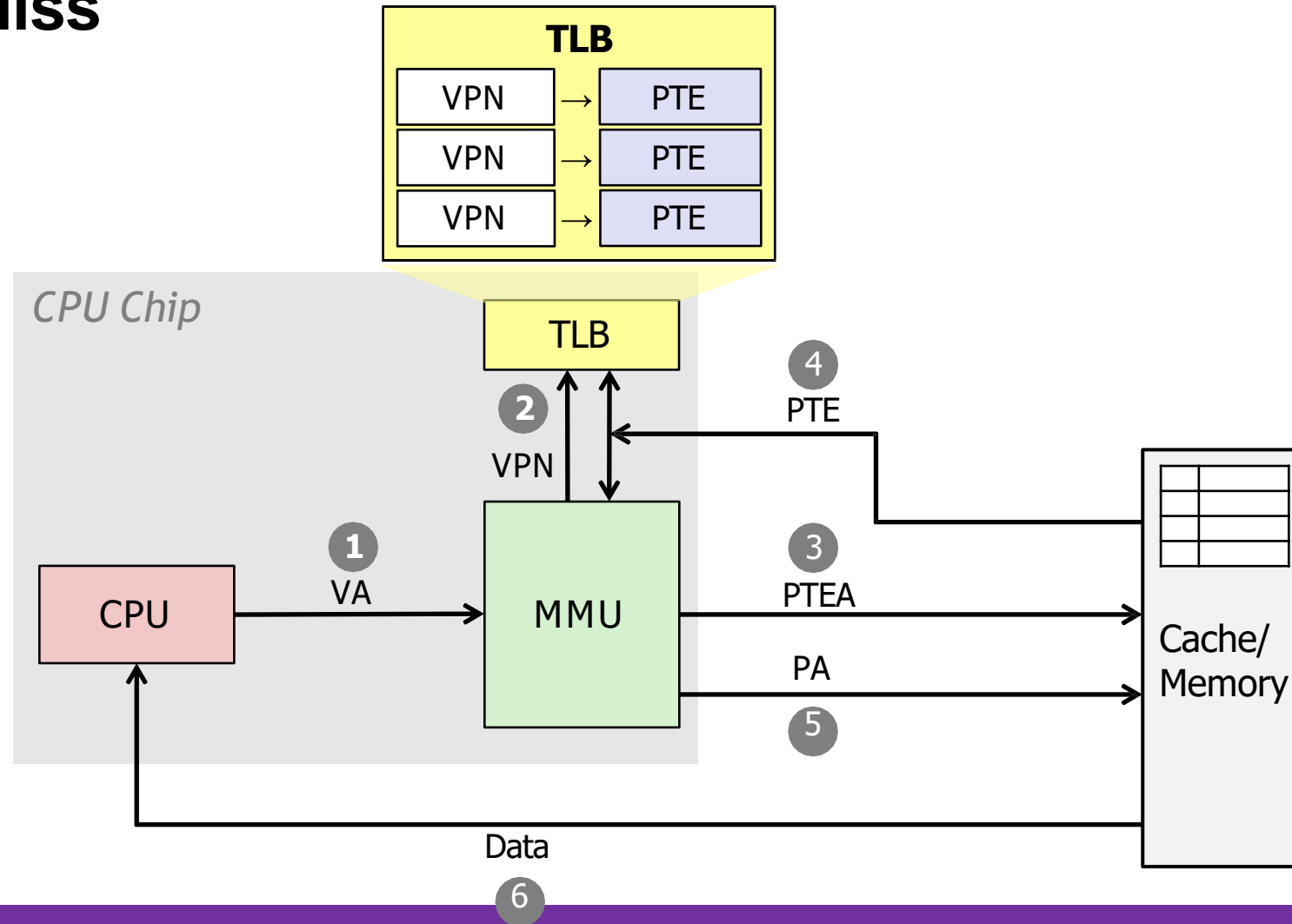


Visual: TLB Hit



- ❖ A TLB hit eliminates a memory access!

Visual: TLB Miss



- ❖ A TLB miss incurs an additional memory access (the PTE)
 - Fortunately, TLB misses are rare

Textual Equivalent: Fetching Data on a Memory Read

1) Address Translation (check TLB)

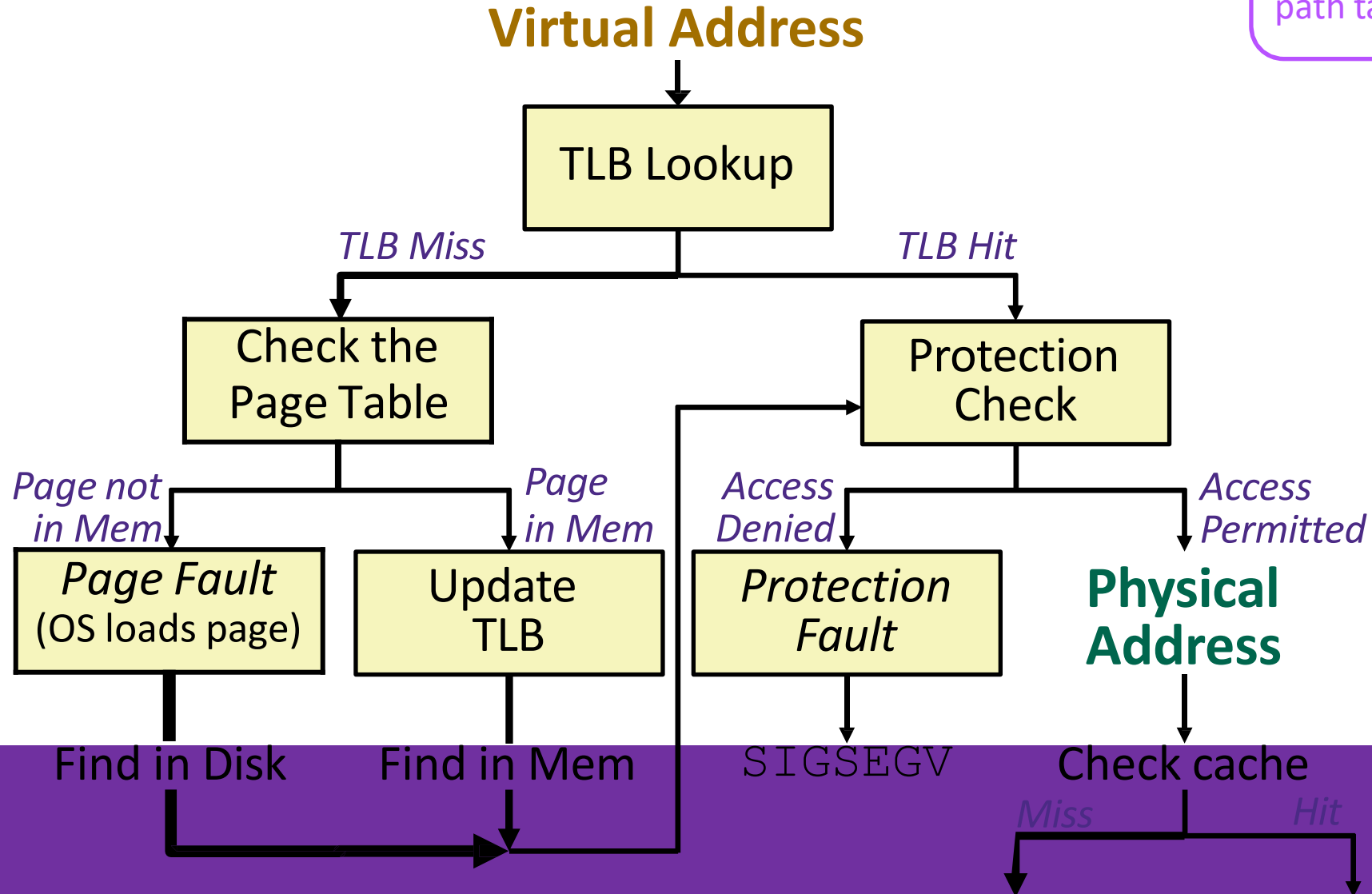
- Input: VPN from Virtual Address (VA), Output: PPN for Physical Address (PA)
- **TLB Hit**: Fetch translation, return PPN, **DONE!**
- **TLB Miss**: Check page table (in memory)
 - **Page Table Hit**: Load page table entry into TLB, return PPN, **DONE!**
 - **Page Fault**: Fetch page from disk to memory, update corresponding page table entry, then load entry into TLB, then return PPN, **DONE!**

2) Now with PA... Fetch Data (check cache)

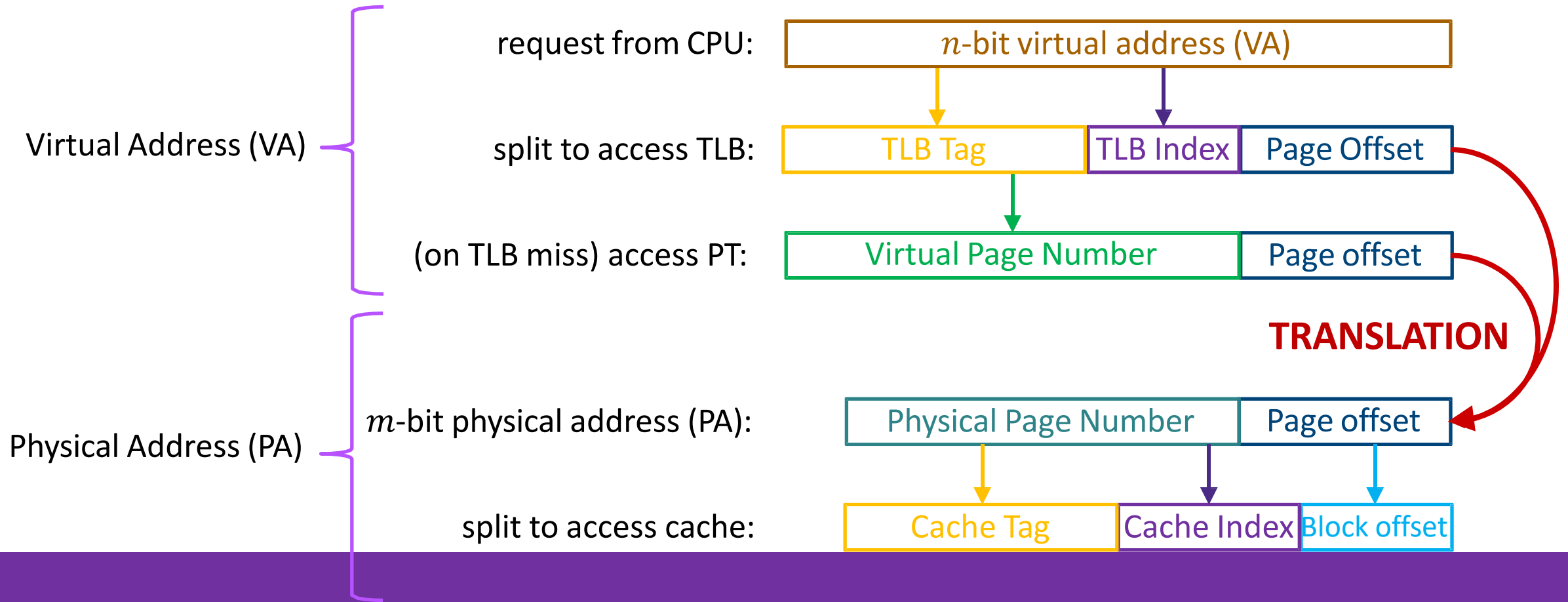
- Input: Physical Address (PA), Output: data
- **Cache Hit**: Return data value to processor, **DONE!**
- **Cache Miss**: Fetch data value from memory, store it in cache, return it to processor, **DONE!**

Flow Chart Equivalent: Address Translation

NOTE: If the line looks thicker, that means that path takes longer time...



Address Manipulation



Context Switching Revisited

❖ What needs to happen when the CPU switches processes?

■ Registers:

- Save state of old process, load state of new process
- Including the Page Table Base Register (PTBR)

■ Memory:

- Nothing to do! Pages for processes already exist in memory/disk and protected from each other

■ TLB:

-  Invalidate all entries in TLB—mapping is for old process' VAs! 
- Yep, have to start with a cold TLB 

■ Cache:

- Can leave alone because storing based on PAs—good for shared data

Summary of Address Translation 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)

- **VPO** Virtual page offset
- **VPN** Virtual page number
- **TLBI** TLB index
- **TLBT** TLB tag

❖ Components of the physical address (PA)

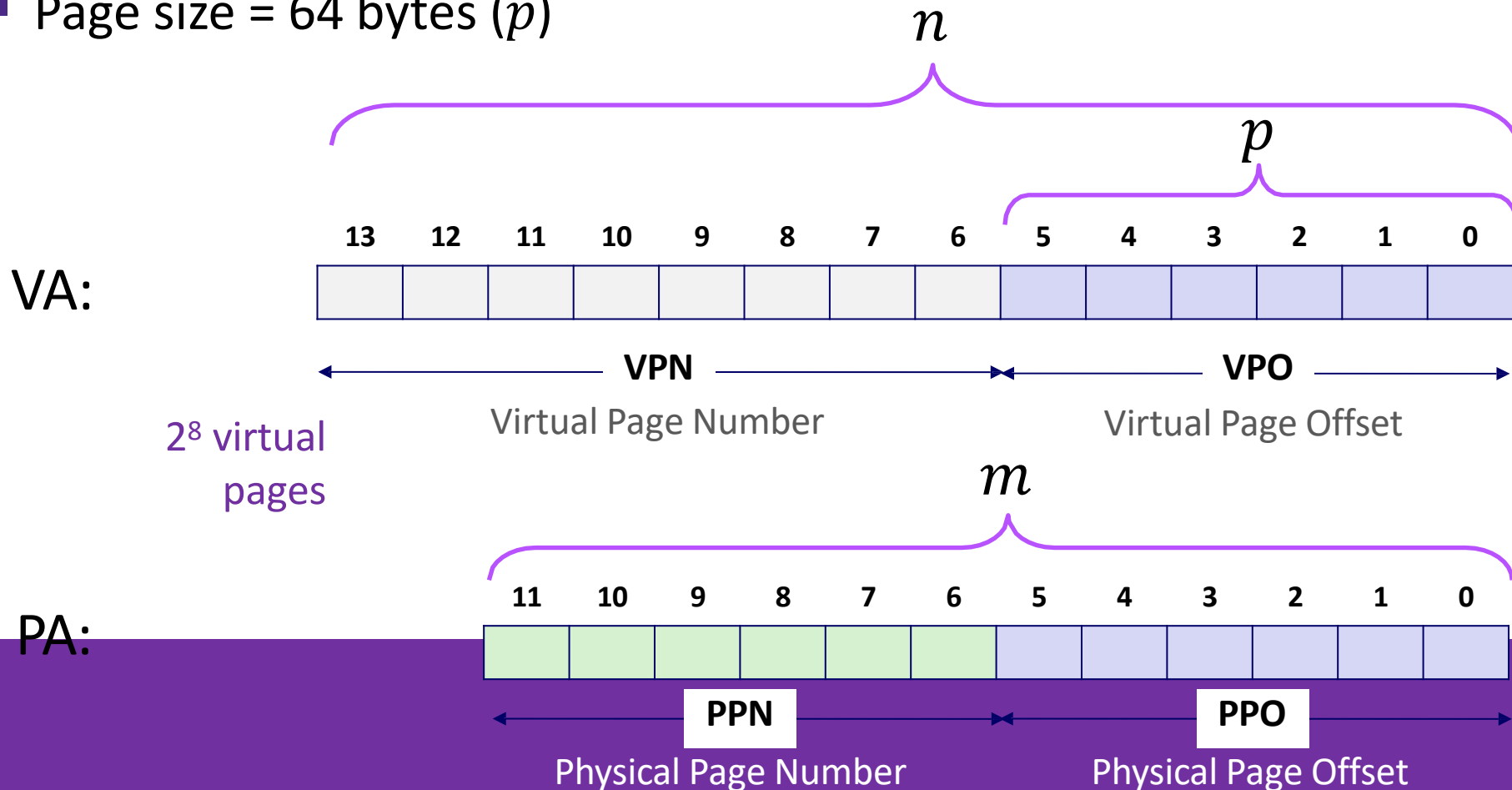
- **PPO** Physical page offset (same as VPO)
- **PPN** Physical page number

And now let's put it all together...

Simple Memory System Example

❖ Addressing: 14-bit virtual addresses (n) & 12-bit physical address (m)

- Page size = 64 bytes (p)



Simple Memory System: Page Table

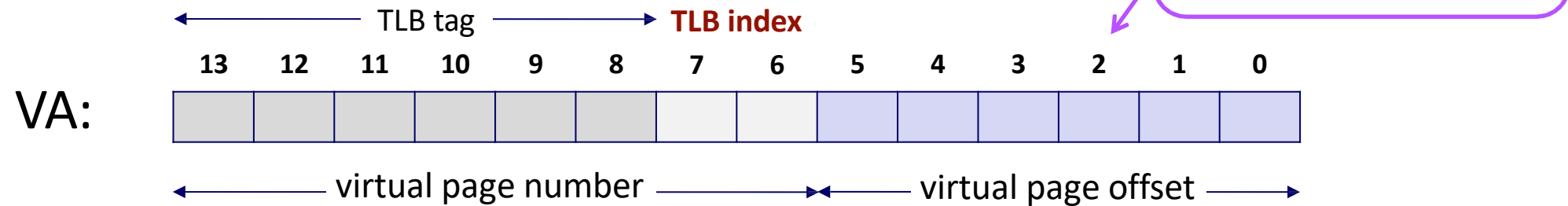
- ❖ Only showing first 16 entries (out of _____)
 - Size of page table is 2^{n-p} entries, remember!
 - **Note:** showing 2 hex digits for PPN even though only 6 bits
 - **Note:** other management bits not shown, but part of PTE

<i>VPN</i>	<i>PPN</i>	<i>Valid</i>
0	28	1
1	—	0
2	33	1
3	02	1
4	—	0
5	16	1
6	—	0
7	—	0

<i>VPN</i>	<i>PPN</i>	<i>Valid</i>
8	13	1
9	17	1
A	09	1
B	—	0
C	—	0
D	2D	1
E	—	0
F	0D	1

Simple Memory System: TLB

- ❖ 16 entries total
- ❖ 4-way set associative

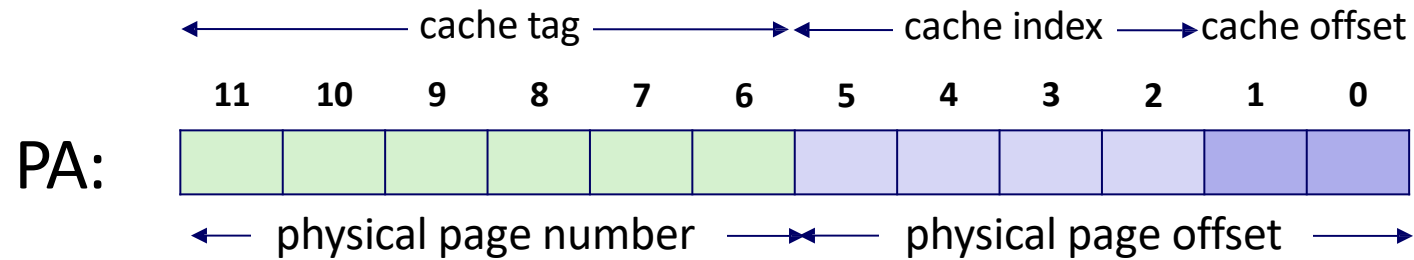


	Way 0			Way 1			Way 2			Way 3		
Set	Tag	PPN	Valid	Tag	PPN	Valid	Tag	PPN	Valid	Tag	PPN	Valid
0	03	—	0	09	0D	1	00	—	0	07	02	1
1	03	2D	1	02	—	0	04	—	0	0A	—	0
2	02	—	0	08	—	0	06	—	0	03	—	0
3	07	—	0	03	0D	1	0A	34	1	02	—	0

Simple Memory System: Cache

Note: It is just coincidence that the PPN is the same width as the cache Tag

- ❖ Direct-mapped, with $K = 4$ B, $C/K = 16$
- ❖ Physically addressed



Index	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

Index	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	—	—	—	—

Current State of Memory System

TLB:

Set	Tag	PPN	V	Tag	PPN	V	Tag	PPN	V	Tag	PPN	V
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

Page table (partial):

VPN	PPN	V	VPN	PPN	V
0	28	1	8	13	1
1	–	0	9	17	1
2	33	1	A	09	1
3	02	1	B	–	0
4	–	0	C	–	0
5	16	1	D	2D	1
6	–	0	E	–	0
7	–	0	F	0D	1

Cache:

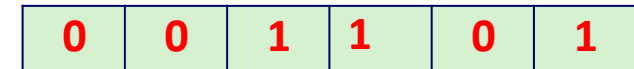
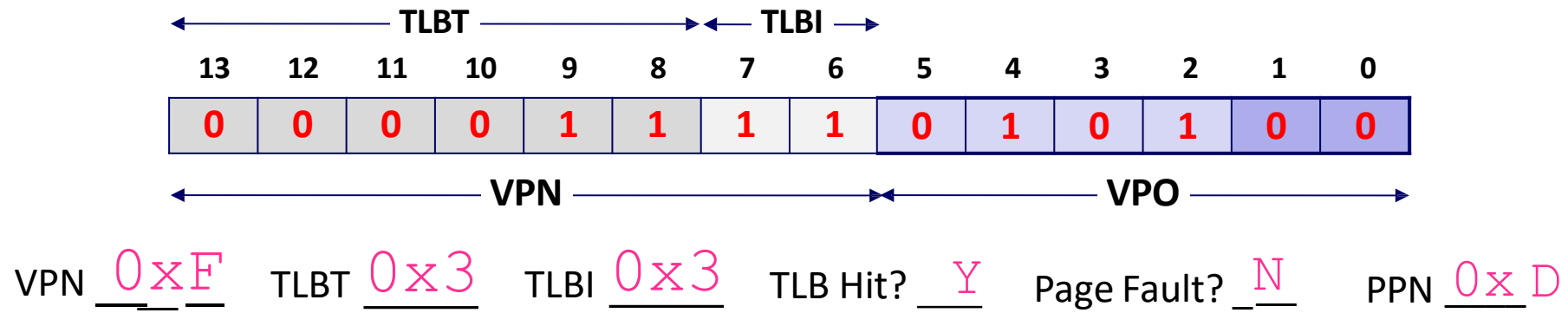
Index	Tag	V	B0	B1	B2	B3
0	19	1	99	11	23	11
1	15	0	–	–	–	–
2	1B	1	00	02	04	08
3	36	0	–	–	–	–
4	32	1	43	6D	8F	09
5	0D	1	36	72	F0	1D
6	31	0	–	–	–	–
7	16	1	11	C2	DF	03

Index	Tag	V	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	–	–	–	–

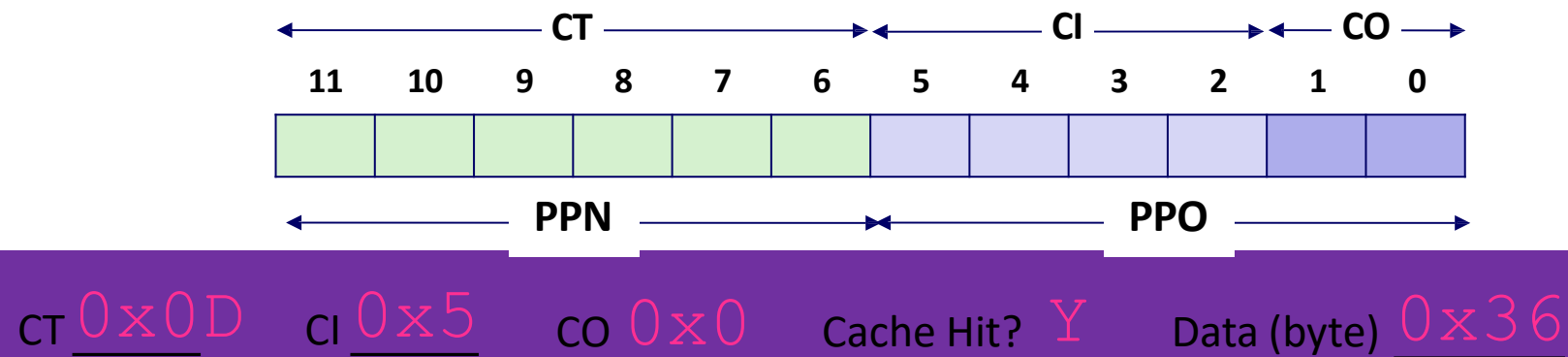
Memory Request Example #1

Note: It is just coincidence that the PPN is the same width as the cache Tag

❖ Virtual Address: 0x03D4



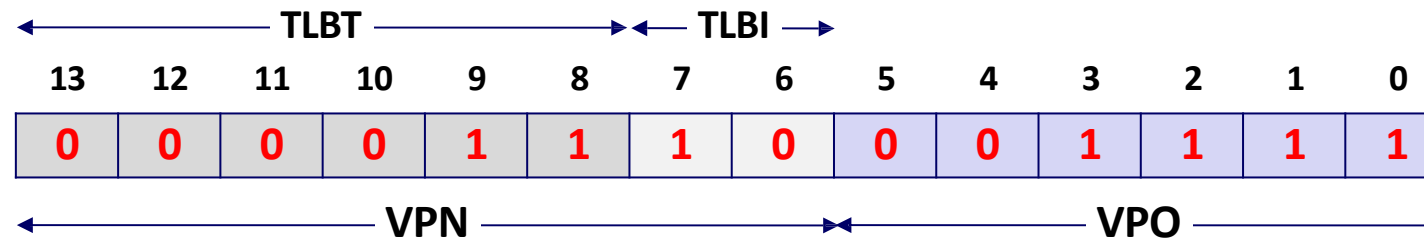
❖ Physical Address:



Memory Request Example #2

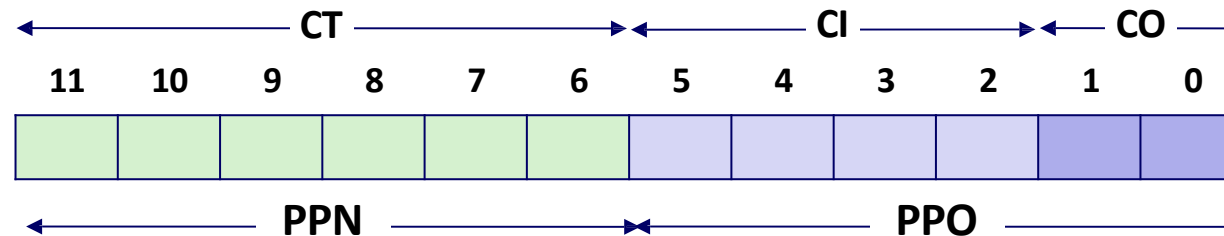
Note: It is just coincidence that the PPN is the same width as the cache Tag

❖ Virtual Address: 0x038F



VPN _____ TLBT _____ TLBI _____ TLB Hit? ____ Page Fault? ____ PPN _____

❖ Physical Address:

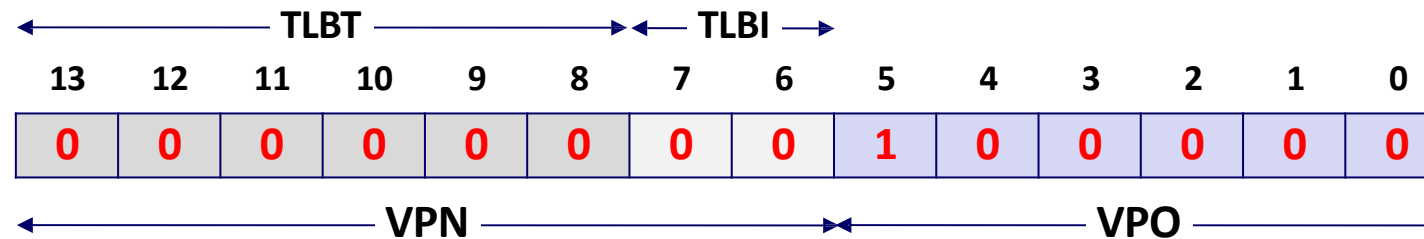


CT _____ CI _____ CO _____ Cache Hit? ____ Data (byte) _____

Memory Request Example #3

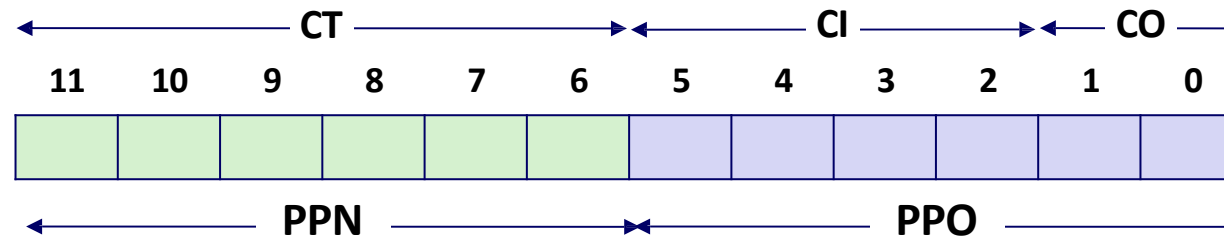
Note: It is just coincidence that the PPN is the same width as the cache Tag

❖ Virtual Address: 0x0020



VPN _____ TLBT _____ TLBI _____ TLB Hit? ____ Page Fault? ____ PPN _____

❖ Physical Address:

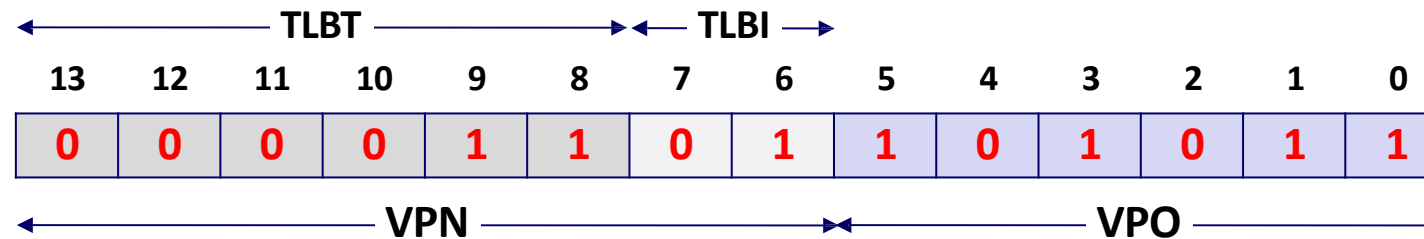


CT _____ CI _____ CO _____ Cache Hit? ____ Data (byte) _____

Memory Request Example #4

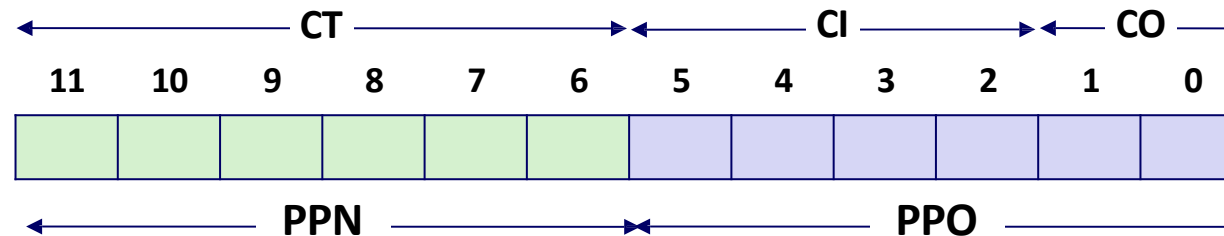
Note: It is just coincidence that the PPN is the same width as the cache Tag

❖ Virtual Address: 0x036B



VPN _____ TLBT _____ TLBI _____ TLB Hit? ____ Page Fault? ____ PPN _____

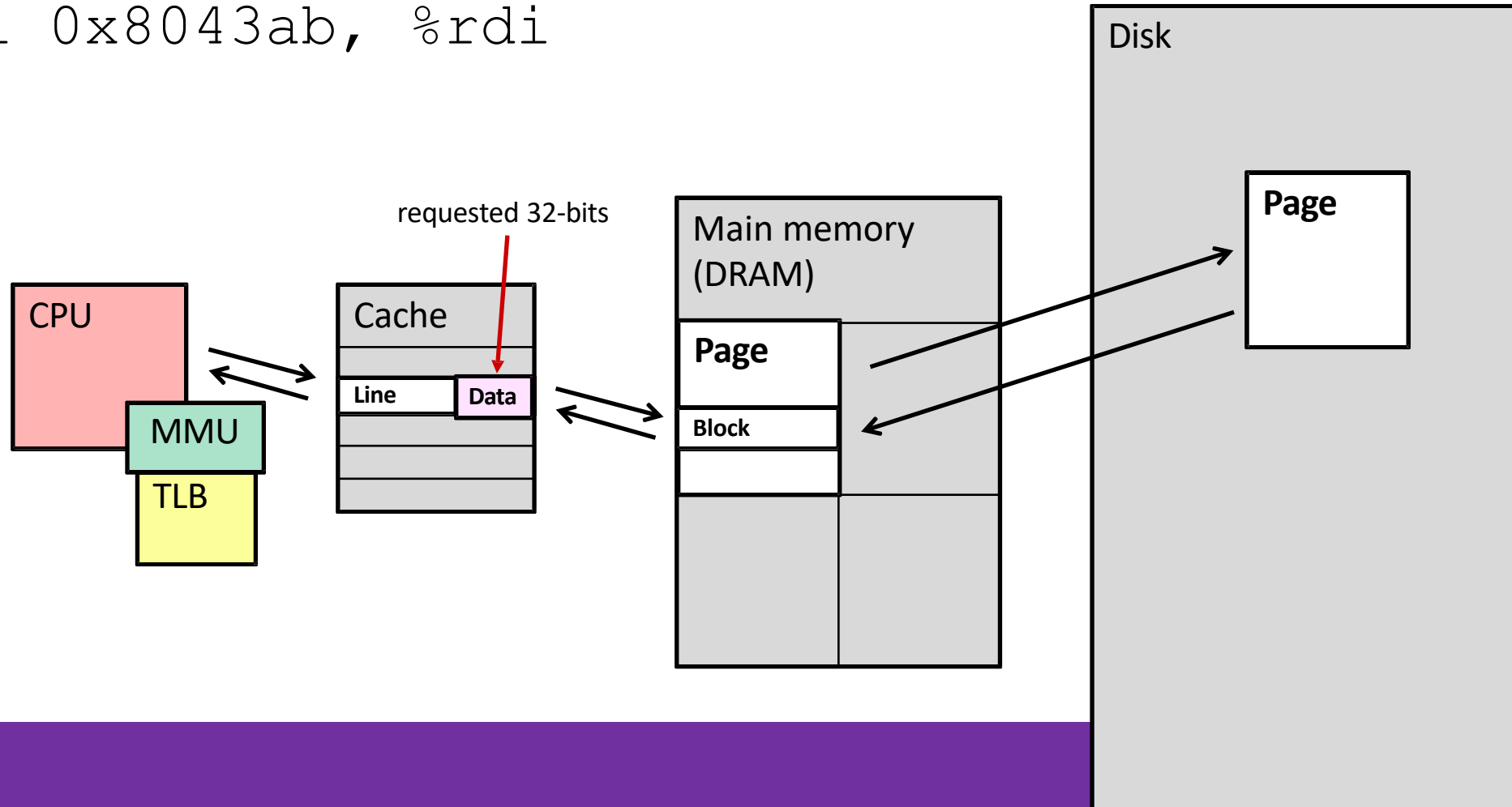
❖ Physical Address:



CT _____ CI _____ CO _____ Cache Hit? ____ Data (byte) _____

Memory Overview (Data Flow)

❖ `movl 0x8043ab, %rdi`



Virtual Memory Summary

- ❖ 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 sharing
 - Simplifies protection by providing permissions checking