CS162 Operating Systems and Systems Programming Lecture 15

Page Allocation and Replacement

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Review: Demand Paging Mechanisms

- PTE helps us implement demand paging
  - Valid ⇒ Page in memory, PTE points at physical page
  - Not Valid ⇒ Page not in memory; use info in PTE to find it on disk when necessary
- Suppose user references page with invalid PTE?
  - Memory Management Unit (MMU) traps to OS
    - » Resulting trap is a "Page Fault"
  - What does OS do on a Page Fault?:
    - » Choose an old page to replace
    - » If old page modified ("D=1"), write contents back to disk
    - » Change its PTE and any cached TLB to be invalid
    - » Load new page into memory from disk
    - » Update page table entry, invalidate TLB for new entry
    - » Continue thread from original faulting location

Cache

  - TLB for new page will be loaded when thread continued!
  - While pulling pages off disk for one process, OS runs another process from ready queue
    - » Suspended process sits on wait queue

Goals for Today

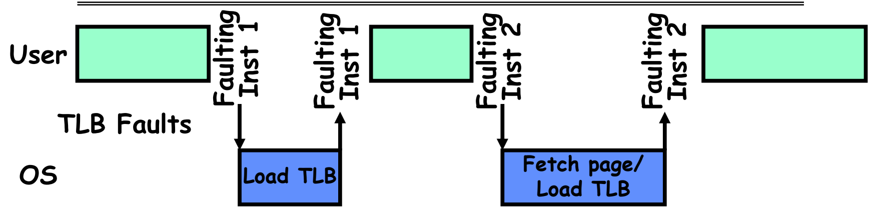
- Precise Exceptions
- Page Replacement Policies
  - Clock Algorithm
  - Nth chance algorithm
  - Second-Chance-List Algorithm
- Page Allocation Policies
- Working Set/Thrashing

Note: Some slides and/or pictures in the following are adapted from slides ©2005 Silberschatz, Galvin, and Gagne. Many slides generated from my lecture notes by Kubiatowicz.

Software-Loaded TLB

- MIPS/Nachos TLB is loaded by software
  - High TLB hit rate⇒ok to trap to software to fill the TLB, even if slower
  - Simpler hardware and added flexibility: software can maintain translation tables in whatever convenient format
- How can a process run without hardware TLB fill?
  - Fast path (TLB hit with valid=1):
    - » Translation to physical page done by hardware
  - Slow path (TLB hit with valid=0 or TLB miss)
    - » Hardware receives a TLB Fault
  - What does OS do on a TLB Fault?
    - » Traverse page table to find appropriate PTE
    - » If valid=1, load page table entry into TLB, continue thread
    - » If valid=0, perform "Page Fault" detailed previously
    - » Continue thread
- Everything is transparent to the user process:
  - It doesn't know about paging to/from disk
  - It doesn't even know about software TLB handling

Transparent Exceptions



- How to transparently restart faulting instructions?
  - Could we just skip it?
    - » No: need to perform load or store after reconnecting physical page
- Hardware must help out by saving:
  - Faulting instruction and partial state
    - » Need to know which instruction caused fault
    - » Is single PC sufficient to identify faulting position????
  - Processor State: sufficient to restart user thread
    - » Save/restore registers, stack, etc
- What if an instruction has side-effects?

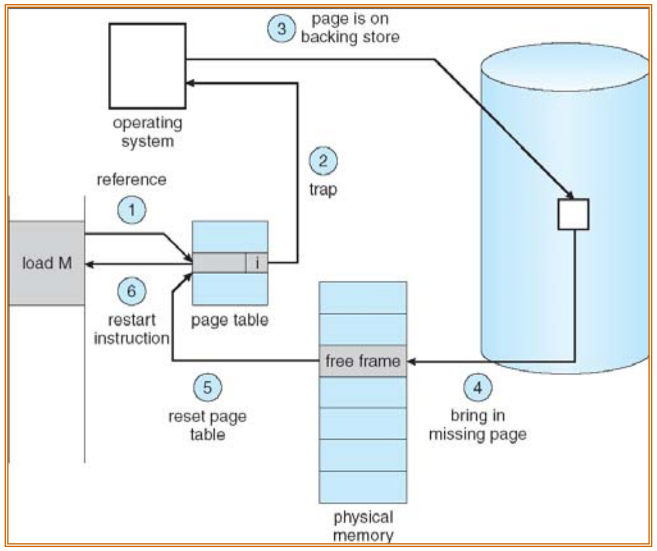
Consider weird things that can happen

- What if an instruction has side effects?
  - Options:
    - » Unwind side-effects (easy to restart)
    - » Finish off side-effects (messy!)
  - Example 1: `mov (sp)+,10`
    - » What if page fault occurs when write to stack pointer?
    - » Did sp get incremented before or after the page fault?
  - Example 2: `strcpy (r1), (r2)`
    - » Source and destination overlap: can't unwind in principle!
    - » IBM S/370 and VAX solution: execute twice – once read-only
- What about "RISC" processors?
  - For instance delayed branches?
    - » Example:
      ```
      bne somewhere
      ld r1,(sp)
      ```
    - » Precise exception state consists of two PCs: PC and nPC
  - Delayed exceptions:
    - » Example:
      ```
      div r1, r2, r3
      ld r1, (sp)
      ```
    - » What if takes many cycles to discover divide by zero, but load has already caused page fault?

Precise Exceptions

- Precise ⇒ state of the machine is preserved as if program executed up to the offending instruction
  - All previous instructions completed
  - Offending instruction and all following instructions act as if they have not even started
  - Same system code will work on different implementations
  - Difficult in the presence of pipelining, out-of-order execution, ...
  - MIPS takes this position
- Imprecise ⇒ system software has to figure out what is where and put it all back together
- Performance goals often lead designers to forsake precise interrupts
  - system software developers, user, markets etc. usually wish they had not done this
- Modern techniques for out-of-order execution and branch prediction help implement precise interrupts

Steps in Handling a Page Fault



Demand Paging Example

- Since Demand Paging like caching, can compute average access time! ("Effective Access Time")
  - EAT = Hit Rate x Hit Time + Miss Rate x Miss Time
- Example:
  - Memory access time = 200 nanoseconds
  - Average page-fault service time = 8 milliseconds
  - Suppose p = Probability of miss, 1-p = Probably of hit
  - Then, we can compute EAT as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} EAT &= (1 - p) \times 200ns + p \times 8\ ms \\ &= (1 - p) \times 200ns + p \times 8{,}000{,}000ns \\ &= 200ns + p \times 7{,}999{,}800ns \end{aligned}$$

- If one access out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then EAT = 8.2 μs:
  - This is a slowdown by a factor of 40!
- What if want slowdown by less than 10%?
  - $200ns \times 1.1 < EAT \Rightarrow p < 2.5 \times 10^{-6}$
  - This is about 1 page fault in 400000!

What Factors Lead to Misses?

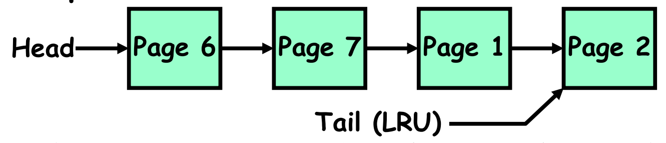
- **Compulsory Misses:**
  - Pages that have never been paged into memory before
  - How might we remove these misses?
    - » Prefetching: loading them into memory before needed
    - » Need to predict future somehow! More later.
- **Capacity Misses:**
  - Not enough memory. Must somehow increase size.
  - Can we do this?
    - » One option: Increase amount of DRAM (not quick fix!)
    - » Another option: If multiple processes in memory: adjust percentage of memory allocated to each one!
- **Conflict Misses:**
  - Technically, conflict misses don't exist in virtual memory, since it is a "fully-associative" cache
- **Policy Misses:**
  - Caused when pages were in memory, but kicked out prematurely because of the replacement policy
  - How to fix? Better replacement policy

Page Replacement Policies

- Why do we care about Replacement Policy?
  - Replacement is an issue with any cache
  - Particularly important with pages
    - » The cost of being wrong is high: must go to disk
    - » Must keep important pages in memory, not toss them out
- **FIFO (First In, First Out)**
  - Throw out oldest page. Be fair – let every page live in memory for same amount of time.
  - Bad, because throws out heavily used pages instead of infrequently used pages
- **MIN (Minimum):**
  - Replace page that won't be used for the longest time
  - Great, but can't really know future…
  - Makes good comparison case, however
- **RANDOM:**
  - Pick random page for every replacement
  - Typical solution for TLB's. Simple hardware
  - Pretty unpredictable – makes it hard to make real-time guarantees

Replacement Policies (Con't)

- **LRU (Least Recently Used):**
  - Replace page that hasn't been used for the longest time
  - Programs have locality, so if something not used for a while, unlikely to be used in the near future.
  - Seems like LRU should be a good approximation to MIN.
- How to implement LRU? Use a list!



  - On each use, remove page from list and place at head
  - LRU page is at tail
- Problems with this scheme for paging?
  - Need to know immediately when each page used so that can change position in list…
  - Many instructions for each hardware access
- In practice, people **approximate** LRU (more later)

Administrivia

- Exam is graded: Sorry: this took too long
  - grades should be in glookup soon (probably tomorrow)
  - TAs will have exams tomorrow
- If you are 2 or more standard-deviations below the mean, you need to do better:
  - You are in danger of getting a D or F
  - Feel free to come to talk with me
- Solutions to the Midterm will be up tomorrow
- Project 1 reports almost graded
  - Hoping to get them to you soon
- Project 2: We did move the deadline to Friday
  - Sorry again about the SVN problem

Example: FIFO

- Suppose we have 3 page frames, 4 virtual pages, and following reference stream:
  - A B C A B D A D B C B
- Consider FIFO Page replacement:

Ref: Page:	A	B	C	A	B	D	A	D	B	C	B
1	A					D				C	
2		B					A				
3			C						B		

- FIFO: 7 faults.
- When referencing D, replacing A is bad choice, since need A again right away

Example: MIN

- Suppose we have the same reference stream:
  - A B C A B D A D B C B
- Consider MIN Page replacement:

Ref: Page:	A	B	C	A	B	D	A	D	B	C	B
1	A									C	
2		B									
3			C			D					

- MIN: 5 faults
- Where will D be brought in? Look for page not referenced farthest in future.
- What will LRU do?
  - Same decisions as MIN here, but won't always be true!

When will LRU perform badly?

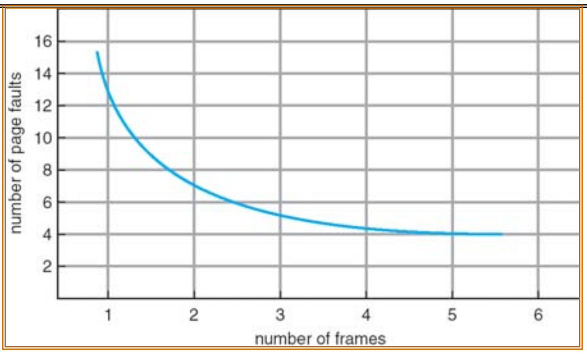
- Consider the following: A B C D A B C D A B C D
- LRU Performs as follows (same as FIFO here):

Ref: Page:	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1	A			D			C			B		
2		B			A			D			C	
3			C			B			A			D

- Every reference is a page fault!
- MIN Does much better:

Ref: Page:	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1	A									B		
2		B					C					
3			C	D								

Graph of Page Faults Versus The Number of Frames



- One desirable property: When you add memory the miss rate goes down
  - Does this always happen?
  - Seems like it should, right?
- No: BeLady's anomaly
  - Certain replacement algorithms (FIFO) don't have this obvious property!

Adding Memory Doesn't Always Help Fault Rate

- Does adding memory reduce number of page faults?
  - Yes for LRU and MIN
  - Not necessarily for FIFO! (Called Belady's anomaly)

Ref: Page:	A	B	C	D	A	B	E	A	B	C	D	E
1	A			D			E					
2		B			A					C		
3			C			B					D	

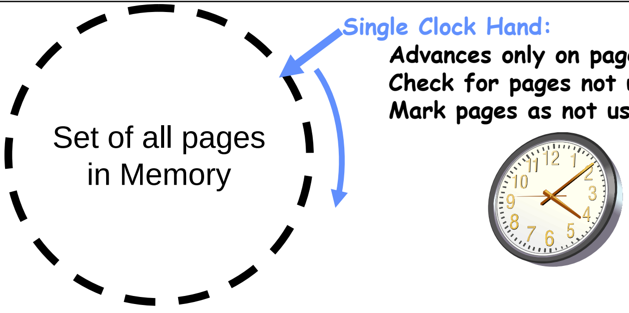
Ref: Page:	A	B	C	D	A	B	E	A	B	C	D	E
1	A						E				D	
2		B						A				E
3			C						B			
4				D						C		

- After adding memory:
  - With FIFO, contents can be completely different
  - In contrast, with LRU or MIN, contents of memory with X pages are a subset of contents with X+1 Page

Implementing LRU

- Perfect:
  - Timestamp page on each reference
  - Keep list of pages ordered by time of reference
  - Too expensive to implement in reality for many reasons
- Clock Algorithm: Arrange physical pages in circle with single clock hand
  - Approximate LRU (approx to approx to MIN)
  - Replace an old page, not the oldest page
- Details:
  - Hardware "use" bit per physical page:
    - » Hardware sets use bit on each reference
    - » If use bit isn't set, means not referenced in a long time
    - » Nachos hardware sets use bit in the TLB; you have to copy this back to page table when TLB entry gets replaced
  - On page fault:
    - » Advance clock hand (not real time)
    - » Check use bit: 1→used recently; clear and leave alone
      0→selected candidate for replacement
  - Will always find a page or loop forever?
    - » Even if all use bits set, will eventually loop around⇒FIFO

Clock Algorithm: Not Recently Used



Single Clock Hand:
Advances only on page fault!
Check for pages not used recently
Mark pages as not used recently

- What if hand moving slowly?
  - Good sign or bad sign?
    - » Not many page faults and/or find page quickly
- What if hand is moving quickly?
  - Lots of page faults and/or lots of reference bits set
- One way to view clock algorithm:
  - Crude partitioning of pages into two groups: young and old
  - Why not partition into more than 2 groups?

Nth Chance version of Clock Algorithm

- Nth chance algorithm: Give page N chances
  - OS keeps counter per page: # sweeps
  - On page fault, OS checks use bit:
    - » 1⇒clear use and also clear counter (used in last sweep)
    - » 0⇒increment counter; if count=N, replace page
  - Means that clock hand has to sweep by N times without page being used before page is replaced
- How do we pick N?
  - Why pick large N? Better approx to LRU
    - » If N ~ 1K, really good approximation
  - Why pick small N? More efficient
    - » Otherwise might have to look a long way to find free page
- What about dirty pages?
  - Takes extra overhead to replace a dirty page, so give dirty pages an extra chance before replacing?
  - Common approach:
    - » Clean pages, use N=1
    - » Dirty pages, use N=2 (and write back to disk when N=1)

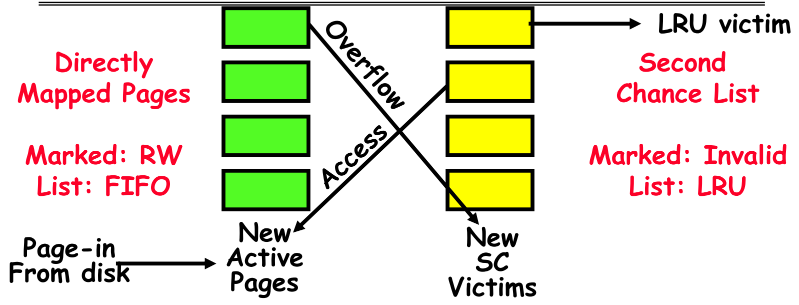
Clock Algorithms: Details

- Which bits of a PTE entry are useful to us?
  - Use: Set when page is referenced; cleared by clock algorithm
  - Modified: set when page is modified, cleared when page written to disk
  - Valid: ok for program to reference this page
  - Read-only: ok for program to read page, but not modify
    - » For example for catching modifications to code pages!
- Do we really need hardware-supported "modified" bit?
  - No. Can emulate it (BSD Unix) using read-only bit
    - » Initially, mark all pages as read-only, even data pages
    - » On write, trap to OS. OS sets software "modified" bit, and marks page as read-write.
    - » Whenever page comes back in from disk, mark read-only

Clock Algorithms Details (continued)

- Do we really need a hardware-supported "use" bit?
  - No. Can emulate it similar to above:
    - » Mark all pages as invalid, even if in memory
    - » On read to invalid page, trap to OS
    - » OS sets use bit, and marks page read-only
  - Get modified bit in same way as previous:
    - » On write, trap to OS (either invalid or read-only)
    - » Set use and modified bits, mark page read-write
  - When clock hand passes by, reset use and modified bits and mark page as invalid again
- Remember, however, that clock is just an approximation of LRU
  - Can we do a better approximation, given that we have to take page faults on some reads and writes to collect use information?
  - Need to identify an old page, not oldest page!
  - Answer: second chance list

Second-Chance List Algorithm (VAX/VMS)

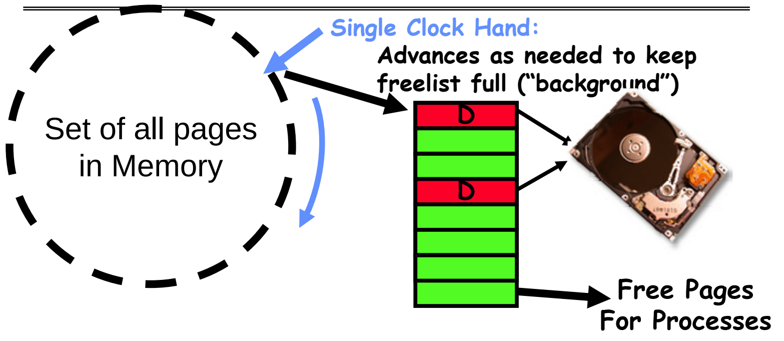


- Split memory in two: Active list (RW), SC list (Invalid)
- Access pages in Active list at full speed
- Otherwise, Page Fault
  - Always move overflow page from end of Active list to front of Second-chance list (SC) and mark invalid
  - Desired Page On SC List: move to front of Active list, mark RW
  - Not on SC list: page in to front of Active list, mark RW; page out LRU victim at end of SC list

Second-Chance List Algorithm (con't)

- How many pages for second chance list?
  - If 0 ⇒ FIFO
  - If all ⇒ LRU, but page fault on every page reference
- Pick intermediate value. Result is:
  - Pro: Few disk accesses (page only goes to disk if unused for a long time)
  - Con: Increased overhead trapping to OS (software / hardware tradeoff)
- With page translation, we can adapt to any kind of access the program makes
  - Later, we will show how to use page translation / protection to share memory between threads on widely separated machines
- Question: why didn't VAX include "use" bit?
  - Strecker (architect) asked OS people, they said they didn't need it, so didn't implement it
  - He later got blamed, but VAX did OK anyway

Free List


Single Clock Hand:
Advances as needed to keep freelist full ("background")
Set of all pages in Memory
D
D
Free Pages For Processes

- Keep set of free pages ready for use in demand paging
  - Freelist filled in background by Clock algorithm or other technique ("Pageout demon")
  - Dirty pages start copying back to disk when enter list
- Like VAX second-chance list
  - If page needed before reused, just return to active set
- Advantage: Faster for page fault
  - Can always use page (or pages) immediately on fault

Demand Paging (more details)

- Does software-loaded TLB need use bit? Two Options:
  - Hardware sets use bit in TLB; when TLB entry is replaced, software copies use bit back to page table
  - Software manages TLB entries as FIFO list; everything not in TLB is Second-Chance list, managed as strict LRU
- Core Map
  - Page tables map virtual page → physical page
  - Do we need a reverse mapping (i.e. physical page → virtual page)?
    » Yes. Clock algorithm runs through page frames. If sharing, then multiple virtual-pages per physical page
    » Can't push page out to disk without invalidating all PTEs

Summary

- Precise Exception specifies a single instruction for which:
  - All previous instructions have completed (committed state)
  - No following instructions nor actual instruction have started
- Replacement policies
  - FIFO: Place pages on queue, replace page at end
  - MIN: Replace page that will be used farthest in future
  - LRU: Replace page used farthest in past
- Clock Algorithm: Approximation to LRU
  - Arrange all pages in circular list
  - Sweep through them, marking as not "in use"
  - If page not "in use" for one pass, than can replace
- N^{th}-chance clock algorithm: Another approx LRU
  - Give pages multiple passes of clock hand before replacing
- Second-Chance List algorithm: Yet another approx LRU
  - Divide pages into two groups, one of which is truly LRU and managed on page faults.