CS370 Operating Systems

Colorado State University

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Virtual Memory

Slides based on

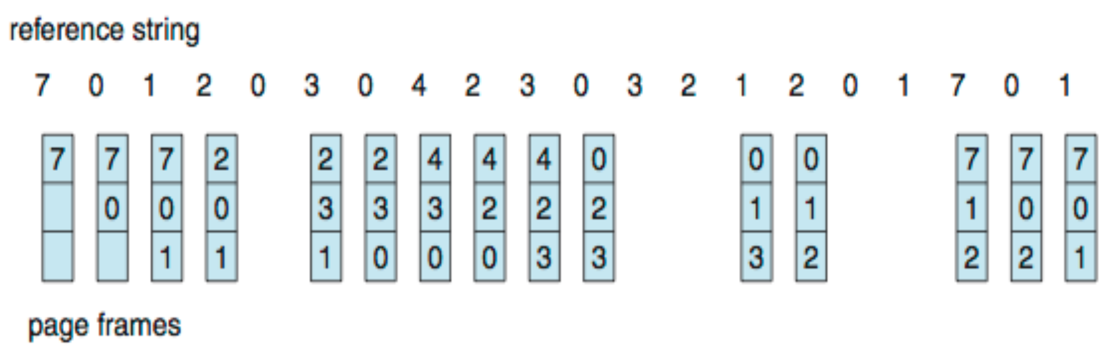
- Text by Silberschatz, Galvin, Gagne
- Various sources

Please be considerate

- Allow other students to focus
  - No talking (except for iClicker sessions), humming, etc.
  - No cell phone use (except for iClicker)
  - No laptop/handheld use, unless pledge submitted, and rules followed.
  - No leaving in the middle of the class or just after an iClicker session.

First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

- Reference string:
  7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1
- 3 frames (3 pages can be in memory at a time per process)

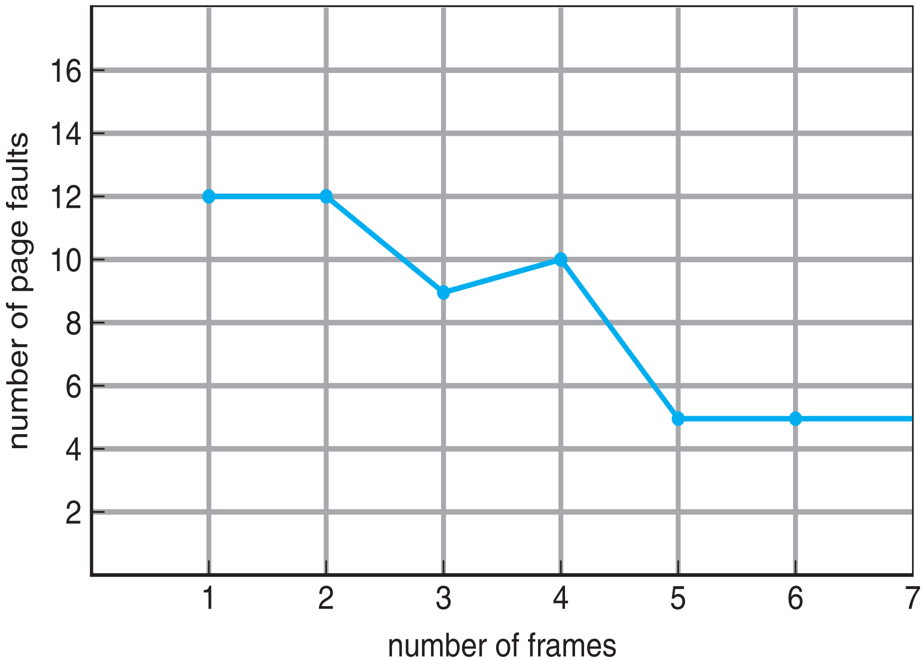


- 15 page faults (out of 20 accesses)
- Sometimes a page is needed soon after replacement 7,0,1,2,0,3 (0 out),0, ..

Belady's Anomaly

- Consider Page reference string 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4,5
  - 3 frames, 9 faults, 4 frames 10 faults! Try yourself.
  - Sometimes adding more frames can cause more page faults!
    - **Belady's Anomaly**

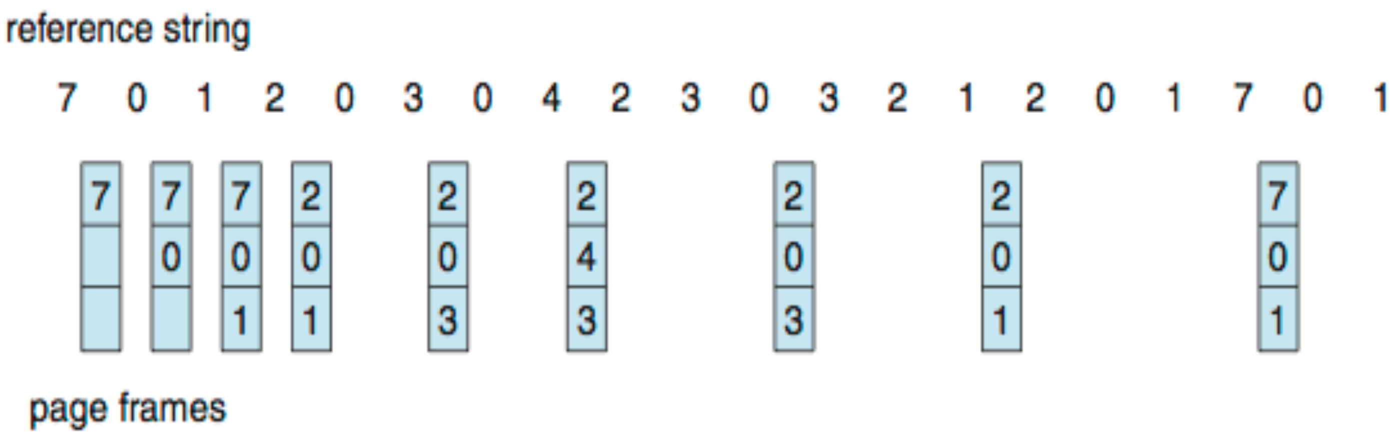
Lazlo Belady was here at CSU. Guest in my CS530!



Budapest, 1928

“Optimal” Algorithm Belady 66

- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time



  - 4th access: replace 7 because we will not use if got the longest time…
  - 9 page replacements is optimal for the example
- But how do we know the future pages needed?
  - Can’t read the future in reality.
- Used for *measuring* how well an algorithm performs.

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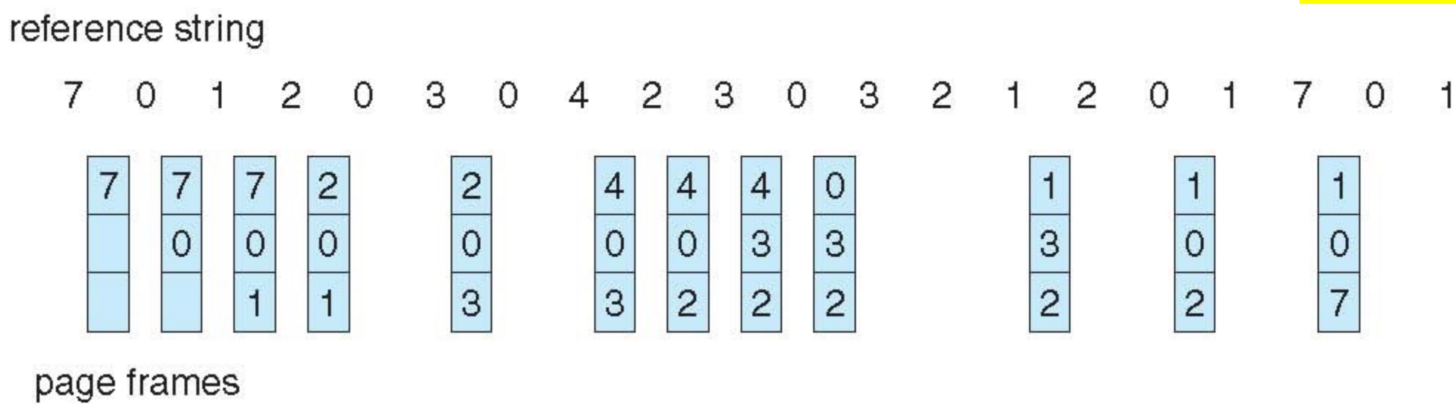
Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

- Use past knowledge rather than future
- Replace page that has not been used in the most amount of time (4th access – page 7 is least recently used …_)
- Associate time of last use with each page

Track usage carefully!



- 12 faults – better than FIFO (15) but worse than OPT (9)
- Generally good algorithm and frequently used
- But how to implement it by tracking the page usage?

LRU and OPT are cases of *stack algorithms* that don't have Belady's Anomaly

Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

* Use past knowledge rather than future

- 12 faults – better than FIFO (15) but worse than OPT (9)
- Tracking the page usage. One approach: mark least recently used page each time.

7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	7	0	1
7	7*	7*	2	2	2*	2*	4	4	4*	0	0	0*	1						
	0	0	0*	0	0	0	0	0*	3	3	3	3	3						
		1	1	1*	3	3	3*	2	2	2	2*	2	2						

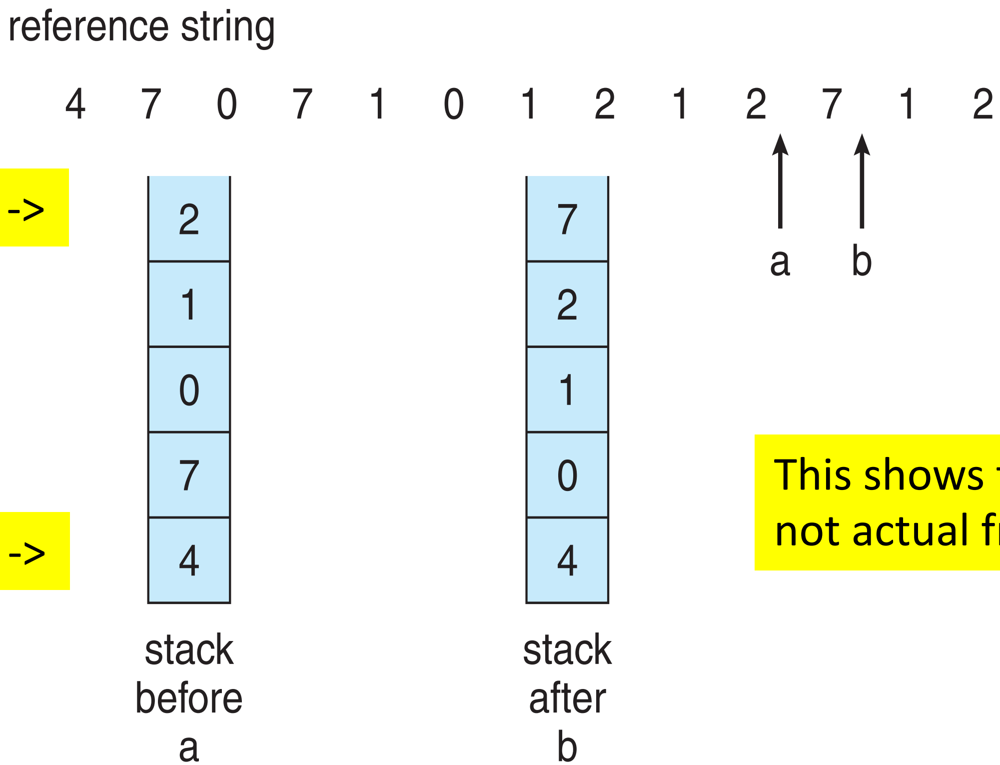
- Other approach: use stack for tracking (soon)

LRU Algorithm: Implementations

Possible tracking implementations

- Counter implementation
  - Every page entry has a counter; every time page is referenced through this entry, copy the clock into the counter
  - When a page needs to be changed, look at the counters to find smallest value
    - Search through table needed
- Stack implementation
  - Keep a stack of page numbers in a double link form:
  - Page referenced:
    - move it to the top
    - requires 6 pointers to be changed
  - Each update expensive
  - No search for replacement needed (bottom is least recently used)

Use Of A Stack to Record Most Recent Page References



Most recently used ->

Least recently used ->

This shows tracking stack, not actual frames.

Too slow if done in software

Use Of A Stack to Record Most Recent Page References
Examine this at home.

	4	7	0	7	1	0	1	2	1	2	7	1	2
Most recently used ->	4	7	0	7	1	0	1	2	1	2	7	1	2
		4	7	0	7	1	0	1	2	1	2	7	1
			4	4	0	7	7	0	0	0	1	2	7
					4	4	4	7	7	7	0	0	0
Least recently used ->								4	4	4	4	4	4

Detailed version of previous slide.
This shows tracking stack, not actual frames.

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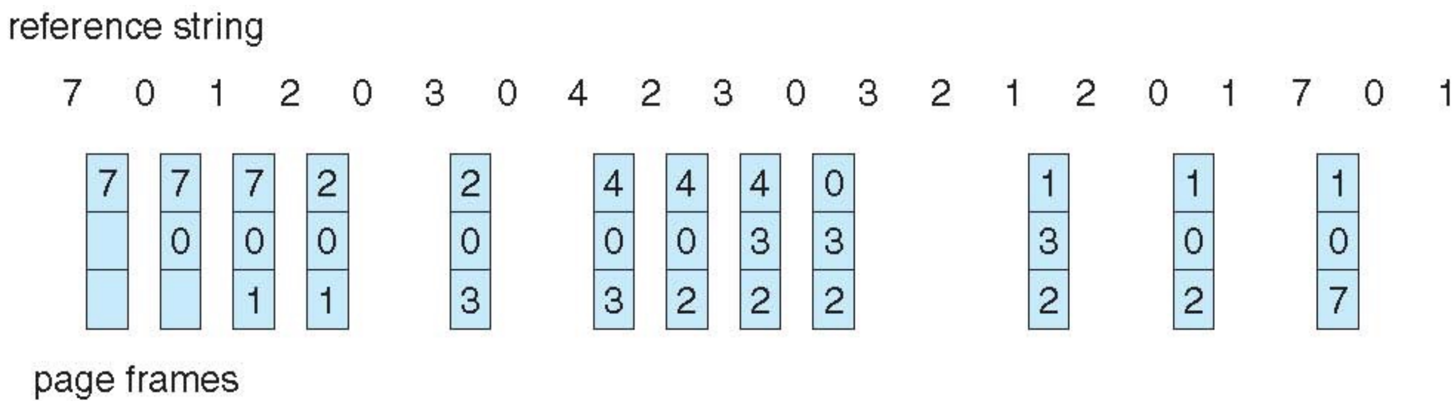
Use Of A Stack to Record Most Recent Page References



Earlier problem (upper) revisited.
This shows tracking stack, not actual frames.

	7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	7	0	1
MRU->	7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3								
		7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0								
LRU->			7	0	1	2	2	3	0	4	2	2								

LRU Approximation Algorithms

- LRU needs special hardware and still slow
- **Reference** **1 bit per frame to track history**
  - With each page associate a bit, initially = 0
  - When the page is referenced, bit set to 1
  - Replace any page with reference bit = 0 (if one exists)
    - 0 implies not used since initialization
    - We do not know the order, however.
- Advanced schemes using more bits: preserve more information about the order

Ref bit + history shift register

LRU approximation 9 bits per frame to track history

Ref bit: 1 indicates used, Shift register records history. Examples:

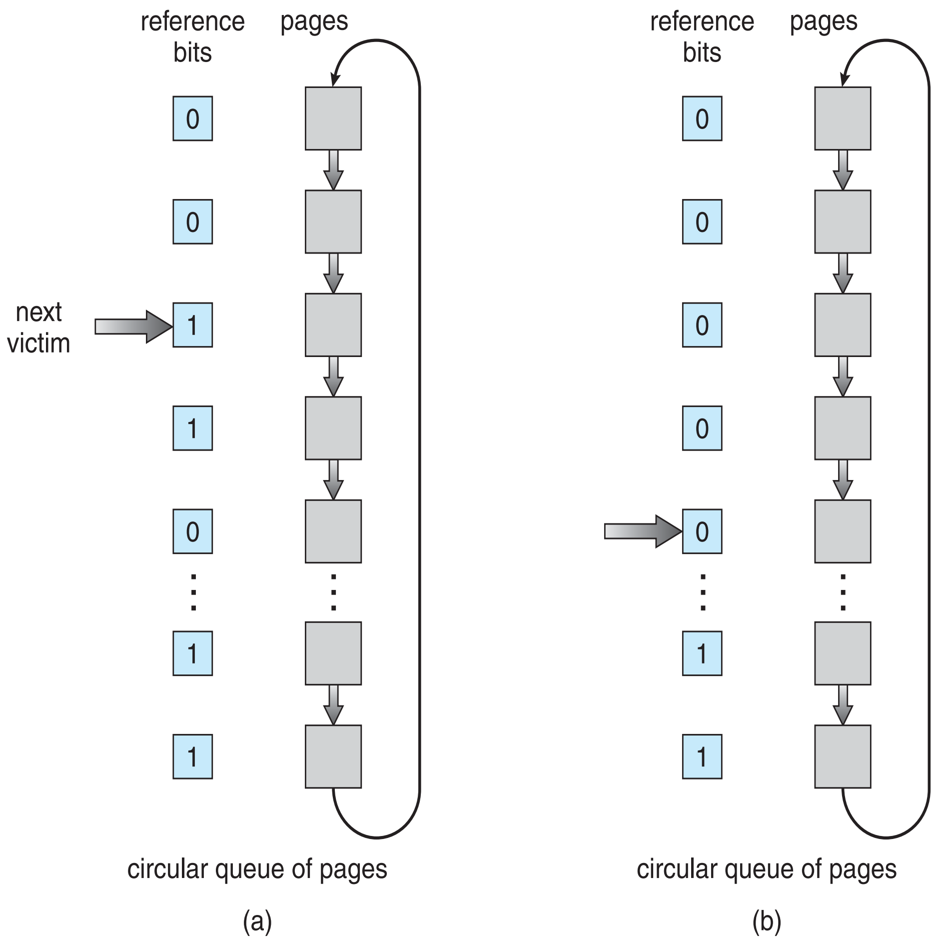
Ref Bit	Shift Register	Shift Register after OS timer interrupt
1	0000 0000	1000 0000
1	1001 0001	1100 1000
0	0110 0011	0011 0001

- Interpret 8-bit bytes as **unsigned integers**
- Page with the lowest number is the LRU page: replace.
  Examples:
  - 00000000 : Not used in last 8 periods
  - 01100101 : Used 4 times in the last 8 periods
  - 11000100 used more recently than 01110111

Second-chance algorithm

- **Second-chance algorithm**
  - Generally FIFO, plus hardware-provided reference bit
  - Avoid throwing out a heavily used page
  - **"Clock"** replacement (using circular queue): hand as a pointer
  - Consider next page
    - Reference bit = 0 -> replace it
    - reference bit = 1 then: give it another chance
      - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
      - consider next page, subject to same rules

Second-Chance (clock) Page-Replacement Algorithm



- **Clock** replacement: hand as a pointer
- Consider next page
  - Reference bit = 0 -> replace it
  - reference bit = 1 then:
    - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
    - consider next page, subject to same rules

Example:

(a) Change to 0, give it another chance

(b) Already 0. Replace page

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Enhanced Second-Chance Algorithm

Improve algorithm by using reference bit and modify bit (if available) in concert clean page: better replacement candidate

- Take ordered pair (reference, modify)

1. (0, 0) neither recently used not modified – best page to replace
2. (0, 1) not recently used but modified – not quite as good, must write out before replacement
3. (1, 0) recently used but clean – probably will be used again soon
4. (1, 1) recently used and modified – probably will be used again soon and need to write out before replacement

- When page replacement called for, use the clock scheme but use the four classes replace page in lowest non-empty class
  - Might need to search circular queue several times

Counting Algorithms

- Keep a counter of the number of references that have been made to each page
  - Not common
- **Least Frequently Used** (**LFU**) **Algorithm**: replaces page with smallest count
- **Most Frequently Used** (**MFU**) **Algorithm**: based on the argument that the page with the smallest count was probably just brought in and has yet to be used

Clever Techniques for enhancing Perf

- Keep a buffer (pool) of free frames, always
  - Then frame available when needed, not found at fault time
  - Read page into free frame and select victim to evict and add to free pool
  - When convenient, evict victim
- Keep list of modified pages
  - When backing store is otherwise idle, write pages there and set to non-dirty (being proactive!)
- Keep free frames' previous contents intact and note what is in them
  - If referenced again before reused, no need to load contents again from disk
  - Generally useful to reduce penalty if wrong victim frame selected

Buffering and applications

- Some applications (like databases) often understand their memory/disk usage better than the OS
  - Provide their own buffering schemes
  - If both the OS and the application were to buffer
    - Twice the I/O is being utilized for a given I/O
  - OS may provide "raw access" disk to special programs without file system services.

Allocation of Frames

How to allocate frames to processes?

- Each process needs ***minimum*** number of frames

  Depending on specific needs of the process

- ***Maximum*** of course is total frames in the system

- Two major allocation schemes
  - fixed allocation
  - priority allocation
- Many variations

Fixed Allocation

- **Equal allocation** – For example, if there are 100 frames (after allocating frames for the OS) and 5 processes, give each process 20 frames
  – Keep some as free frame buffer pool
- **Proportional allocation** – Allocate according to the size of process (need based)
  – Dynamic as degree of multiprogramming, process sizes change

s_j= size of process p_j

$S = \sum s_j$

m = total number of frames

$a_j = allocation\ for\ p_j = \frac{s_j}{S} \times m$

Example:
Processes P1,P2

m = 62

s_1 =10

s_2 =127

$a_1 = \frac{10}{137} \times 62 \approx 4$

$a_2 = \frac{127}{137} \times 62 \approx 57$

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Priority Allocation

- Use a proportional allocation scheme using priorities rather than size

- If process $\boldsymbol{P_i}$ generates a page fault,
  - select for replacement one of its frames or
  - select for replacement a frame from a process with lower priority number

Global vs. Local Allocation

- **Global replacement** – process selects a replacement frame from the set of all frames; one process can take a frame from another
  - But then process execution time can vary greatly
  - But greater throughput, so more common

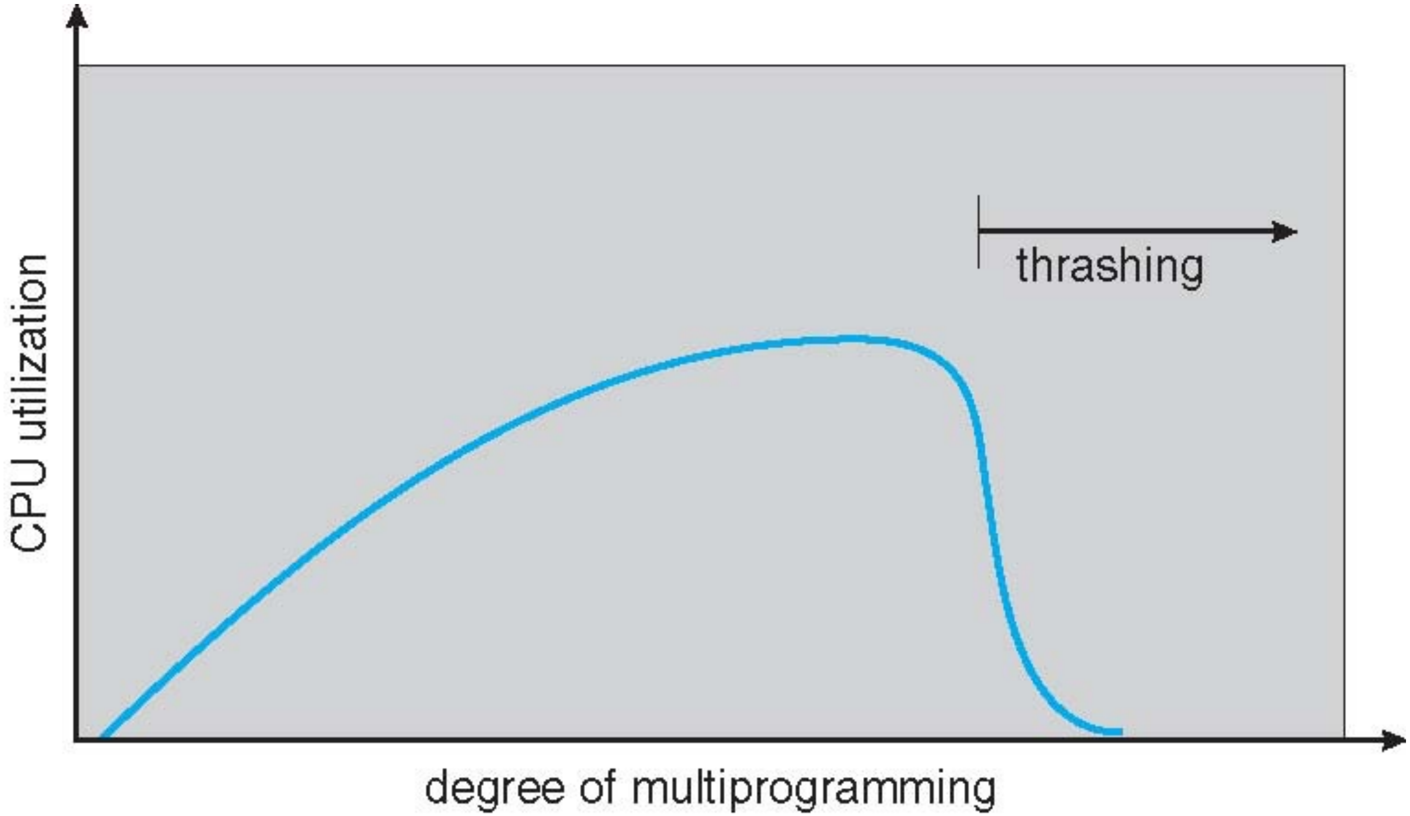
- **Local replacement** – each process selects from only its own set of allocated frames
  - More consistent per-process performance
  - But possibly underutilized memory

Problem: Thrashing

- 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, leading to
    - Operating system thinking that it needs to increase the degree of multiprogramming leading to
    - Another process added to the system

- **Thrashing** ≡ a process is busy swapping pages in and out

Thrashing (Cont.)



Demand Paging and Thrashing

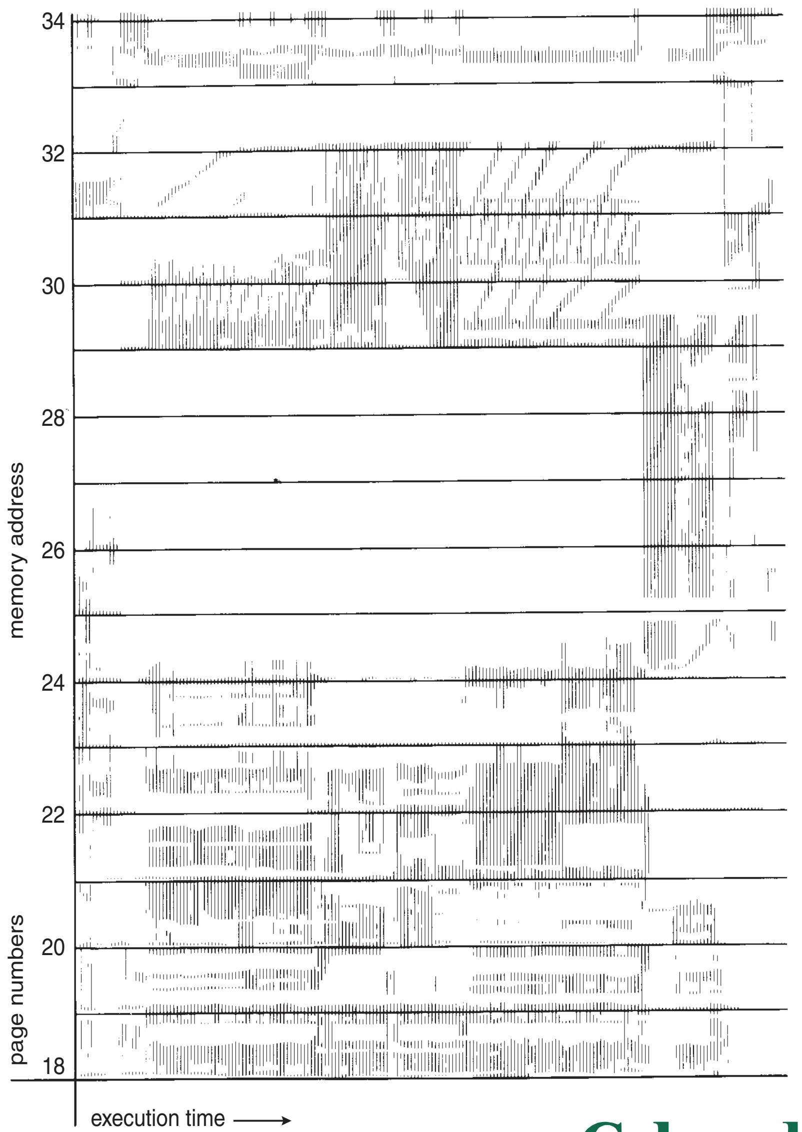
- Why does demand paging work?
  Locality model
  - Process migrates from one locality to another
  - Localities may overlap

- Why does thrashing occur in a process?

  size of locality > total memory size allocated

  - Limit effects by using local or priority page replacement

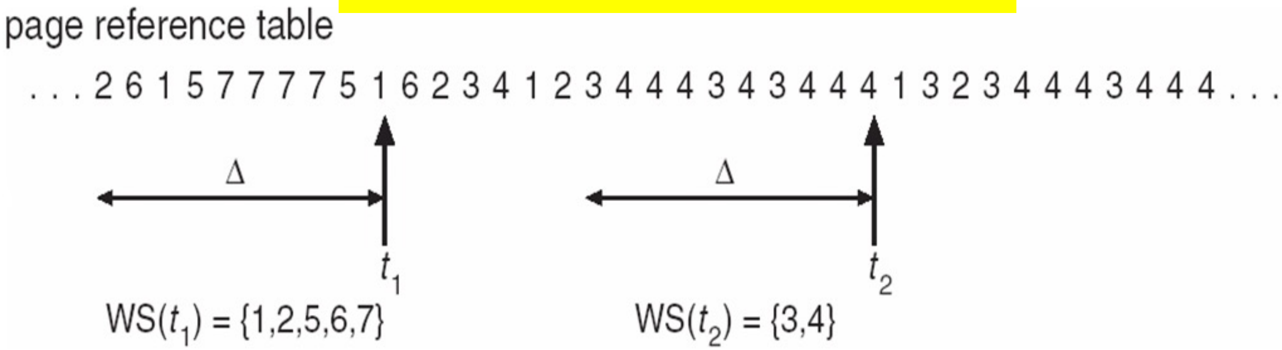
Locality In A Memory-Reference Pattern



Working-Set Model

- $\Delta \equiv$ **working-set window** $\equiv$ a fixed number of page references

Example: Δ = 10 page references



- ***WSS**$_i$* **(working set of Process *P*$_i$)** =
  total number of pages referenced in the most recent Δ (varies in time)
  - if Δ too small, working set will not encompass entire locality
  - if Δ too large, working set will encompass several localities
  - ws is an approximation of locality

- $D = \Sigma\, WSS_i \equiv$ **total demand for frames** for all processes
  - **if $D > m \Rightarrow$ Thrashing**
  - **Policy** if D > m, then suspend or swap out one of the processes

M is number of frames

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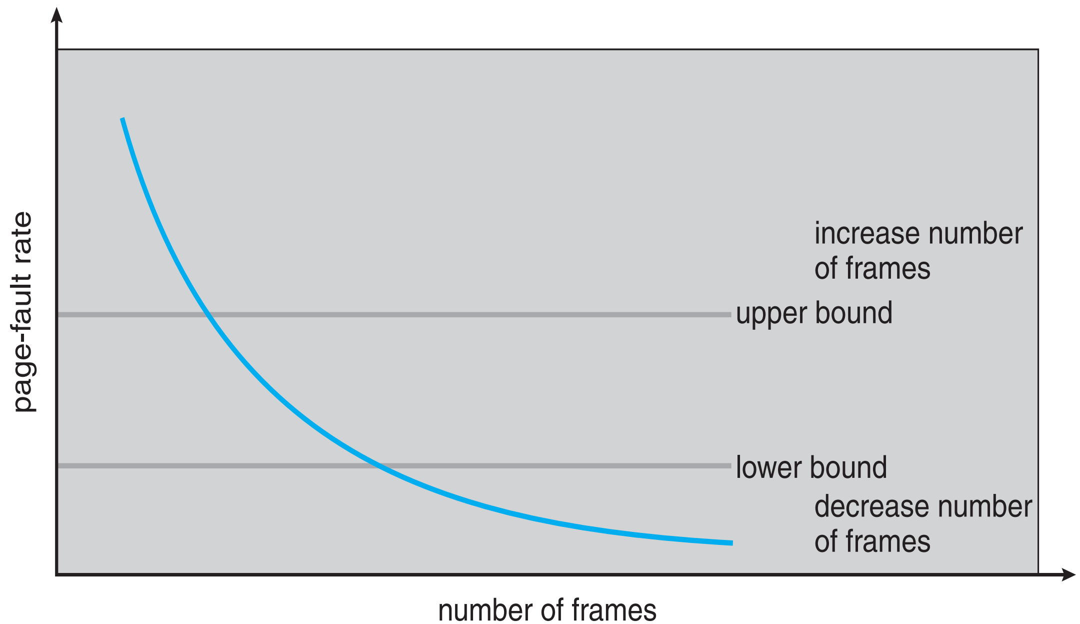
Page-Fault Frequency Approach

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



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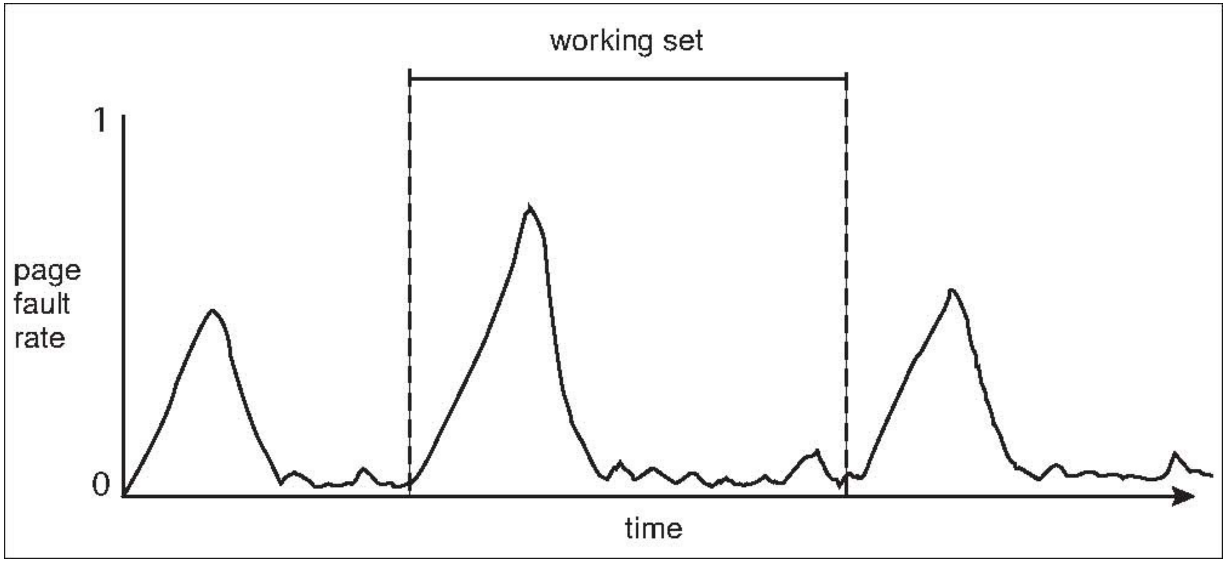
Working Sets and Page Fault Rates

- Direct relationship between working set of a process and its page-fault rate
- Working set changes over time
- Peaks and valleys over time

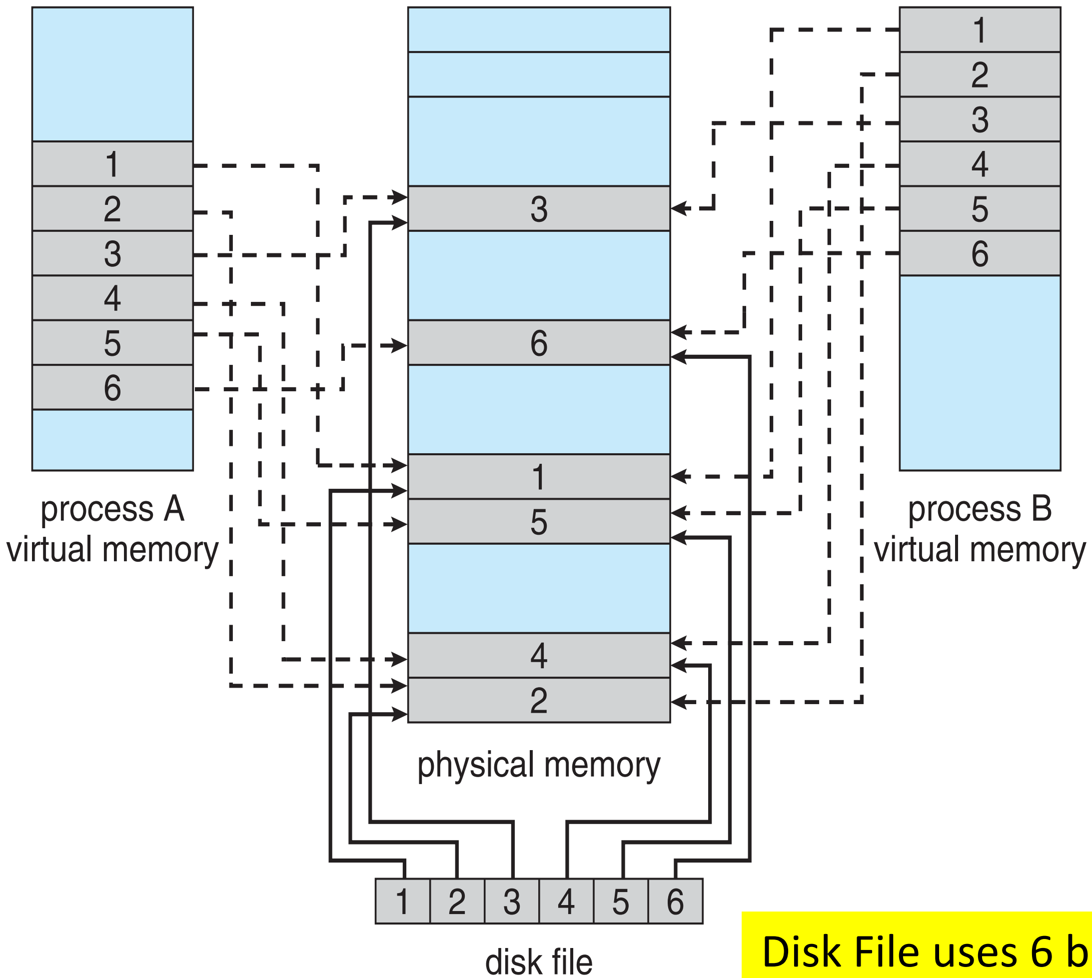


Peaks occur at locality changes: 3 working sets

Memory-Mapped Files

- Memory-mapped file I/O allows file I/O to be treated as routine memory access by **mapping** a disk block to a page in memory
- File is then in memory instead of disk
- A file is initially read using demand paging
  - A page-sized portion of the file is read from the file system into a physical page
  - Subsequent reads/writes to/from the file are treated as ordinary memory accesses
- Simplifies and speeds file access by driving file I/O through memory rather than `read()` and `write()` system calls
- Also allows several processes to map the same file allowing the pages in memory to be shared
- But when does written data make it to disk?
  - Periodically and / or at file `close()` time
  - For example, when the pager scans for dirty pages

Memory Mapped Files



Disk File uses 6 blocks
Page tables used for mapping

Allocating Kernel Memory

- Treated differently from user memory
- Often allocated from a free-memory pool
  - Kernel requests memory for structures of varying sizes
    - Process descriptors, semaphores, file objects etc.
    - Often much smaller than page size
  - Some kernel memory needs to be contiguous
    - e.g. for device I/O
  - approaches (skipped)

Other Considerations -- Prepaging

- Prepaging
  - To reduce the large number of page faults that occurs at process startup
  - Prepage all or some of the pages a process will need, before they are referenced
  - But if prepaged pages are unused, I/O and memory was wasted
  - Assume s pages are prepaged and fraction α of the pages is used
    - Is cost of $s * \alpha$ saved pages faults > or < than the cost of prepaging $s * (1- \alpha)$ unnecessary pages?
    - α near zero $\Rightarrow$ greater prepaging loses

Other Issues – Page Size

- Sometimes OS designers have a choice
  - Especially if running on custom-built CPU
- Page size selection must take into consideration:
  - Fragmentation
  - Page table size
  - I/O overhead
  - Number of page faults
  - Locality
  - TLB size and effectiveness
- Always power of 2, usually in the range 2^{12} (4,096 bytes) to 2^{22} (4,194,304 bytes)
- On average, growing over time

Page size issues – TLB Reach

- TLB Reach - The amount of memory accessible from the TLB
- TLB Reach = (TLB Size) X (Page Size)
- Ideally, the working set of each process is stored in the TLB
  - Otherwise there is a high degree of page faults

Other Issues – Program Structure

- Program structure
  - `int[128,128] data;` `i: row, j: column`
  - Each row is stored in one page
  - Program 1

```
for (j = 0; j <128; j++)
    for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)  multiple pages
                data[i,j] = 0;
```

    128 x 128 = 16,384 page faults

  - Program 2 inner loop = 1 row = 1 page

```
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)
      for (j = 0; j < 128; j++) same page
            data[i,j] = 0;
```

    128 page faults

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FAQ

- TLB vs Cache? Caches contains instructions and data, TLB contains only page-to-frame mapping
- Can the page table be accessed by the user programs? Kernel space
- Working set can mean
  - Pages accessed in a specified time window tools available
  - Pages currently allocated to a process
- Reference bit: set to one if frame accessed. Minimal info needed for LRU
- What page replacement algorithms are currently in use [variations of LRU/Clock]
- Second chance/Clock: combination of LRU approx. and sequential search

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