Lecture 13: Swapping + RAID

CS343 – Operating Systems Branden Ghena – Spring 2022

Some slides borrowed from:

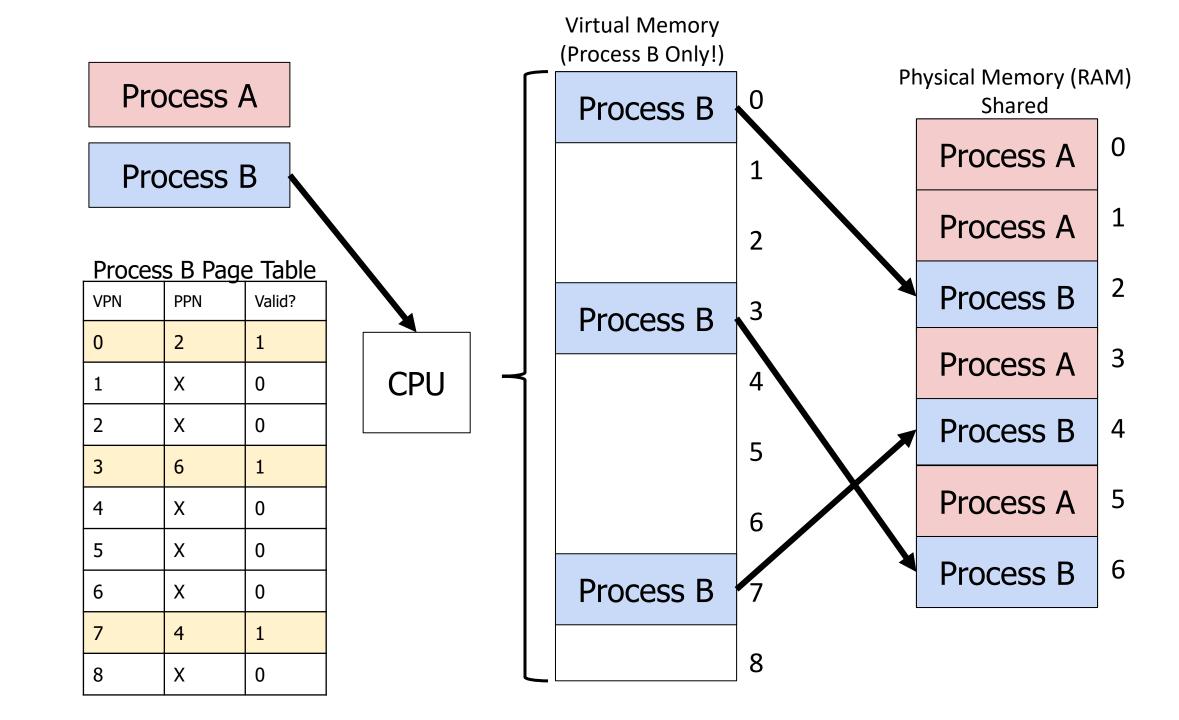
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Today's Goals

 Introduce swapping as a mechanism for enabling more virtual memory than physical memory.

 Understand several page replacement policies that control swapping.

Explore topic of RAID – redundancy in disks.



The OS view on memory

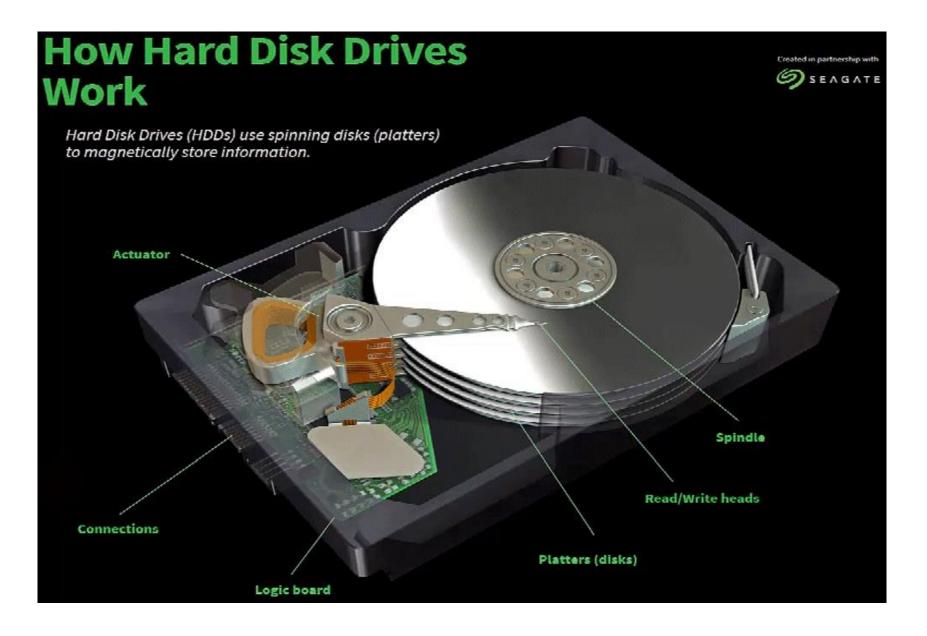
- Managed through virtual memory translation
 - Paging (or Segmentation) that we talked about last time

- OS chooses which portions of processes go in RAM
 - Lazy loading: don't put stuff in RAM until it's needed
 - If memory overfills, some portions of memory get "swapped" to disk
 - Writeable memory (stack, heap, global data) must be preserved
 - Read-only memory (code) can be reloaded from original location

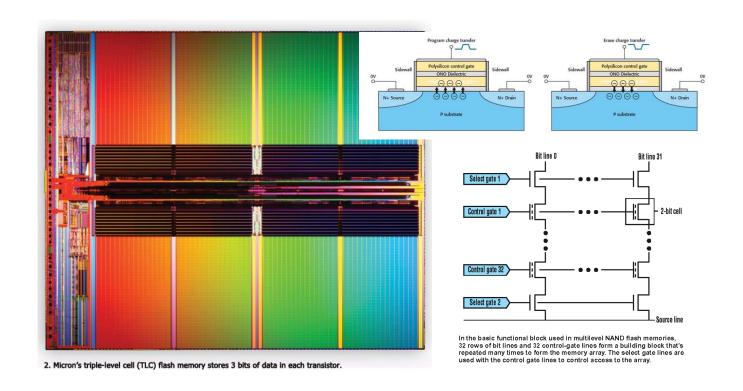
The OS view on disk

- Non-volatile memory store
 - Everything else on the system disappears when power is removed (and cannot be trusted across reboots)
- Backing store for lots of information
 - Boot information: via "Master Boot Record" on disk
 - Filesystem, which the OS manages access to through system calls
 - Swap space, which the OS moves extra pages in and out of
 - Disk is significantly bigger than RAM, so this will work
- Disk is a device that the OS manages and reads in "blocks"
 - Compare to memory, which is directly addressed by processes

Traditional hard disk drives (HDDs) use magnetic regions



Solid state drives (SSDs) use flash memory



NMOS transistor with an additional conductor between gate and source/drain which "traps" electrons. The presence/absence is a 1 or 0

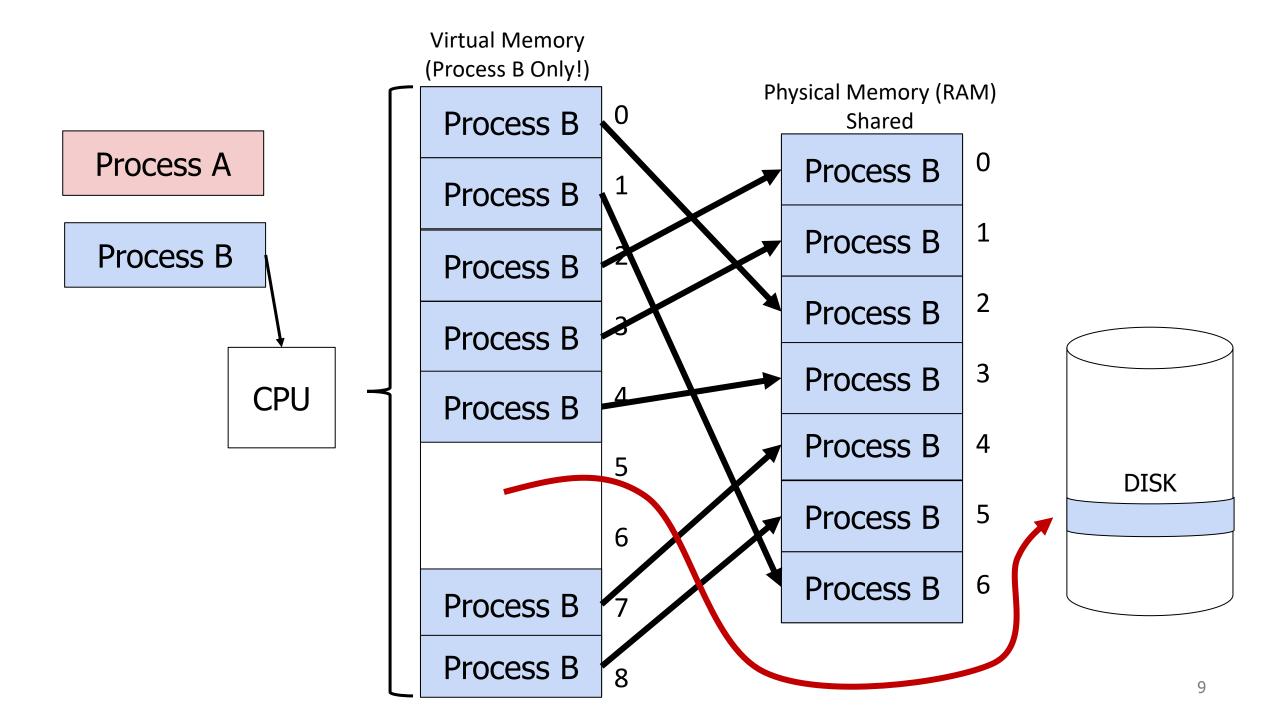
Still non-volatile

- Significantly faster
 - 0.1 ms to access (10 ms for disk)
- More limited lifetime than disk
 - Limited writes

Outline

- Swapping
 - Overview
 - When To Swap
 - Page Replacement Policies
 - Implementing LRU

RAID



Motivation for swapping

- Processes should be independent of the amount of physical memory
 - Should be correct, even if not performant
- OS goal: support processes when not enough physical memory
 - Multiple processes combining to more than physical memory
 - Single process with very large address space
 - Video games: Red Dead Redemption 2 − 150 GB
 - Large-scale data processing: Compiling Android 16 GB
- OS provides illusion of more physical memory by using disk

Locality of reference

- If disk is involved with memory, won't this be ridiculously slow?
- Leverage *locality of reference* within process
 - Spatial: memory addresses near referenced address likely to be next
 - **Temporal**: referenced addresses likely to be referenced again
 - Processes spend majority of time in a small portion of code
 - Estimate: 90% of time spent in 10% of code (loops)

- Implication
 - Process only uses small amount of address space at any moment
 - Only small amount of address space needs to be in physical memory
 - RAM acts as a sort of cache for program memory

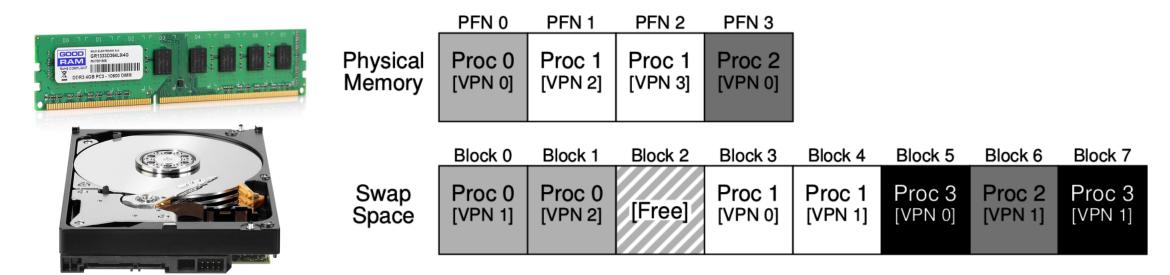
How swapping works

OS moves some pages from RAM to disk

- Processes can still run when not all pages are in physical memory
- OS and hardware cooperate to make memory available when needed
 - Same behavior as if all of address space always was in memory
 - Except in terms of time, but processes don't know about time...
- Requirements
 - OS needs mechanism to identify location of address space pages on disk and move them into RAM when necessary
 - OS needs **policy** to determine which pages go in RAM or disk

Combination of swapping and paging

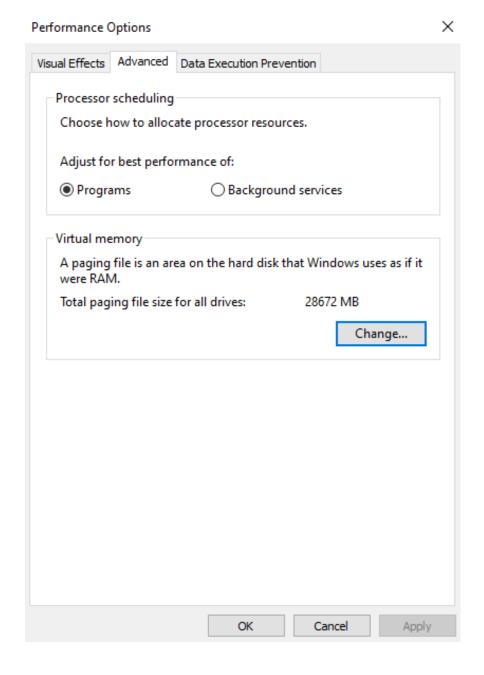
- Processes have memory pages, which are distributed among RAM and Disk
- Example:
 - Processes 0, 1, and 2 are partially in RAM
 - Process 3 is entirely in "swap space" on disk



Paging on Windows

 Windows lets you see and even set the size of swap space on disk

- This is only space for temporary storage of physical memory pages (from RAM)
- After it runs out, other processes can't be loaded!
- This is separate from leaving some parts of a process on disk on unloaded



Mechanisms to support swapping

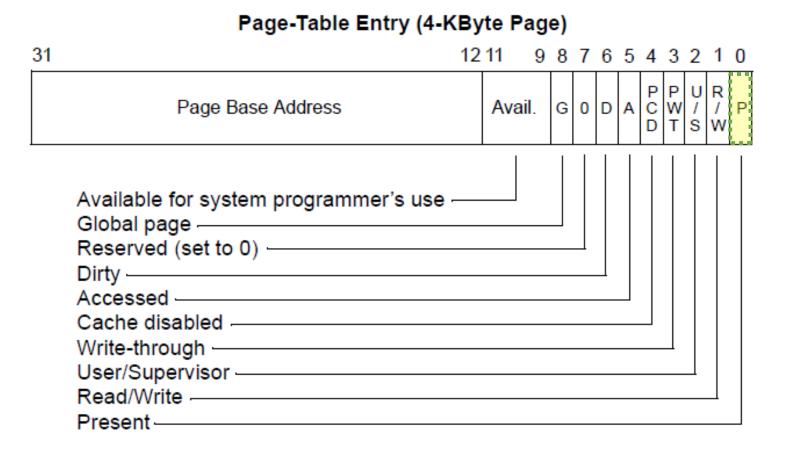
- Each page in virtual address space lives in a location
 - 1. Physical memory
 - 2. Disk
 - 3. Nowhere
- Extend page tables with an extra bit present
 - Physical Page Number, Permissions, Valid, Present
 - Page in memory, valid and present
 - Page on disk, valid but not present
 - Page Table Entry points to block on disk instead!
 - Trap to OS on reference
 - Maybe never loaded before, or maybe moved to swap space (works the same either way)
 - Invalid page, not valid and not present OR bad permissions
 - Trap to OS on reference

Other bits in a page table entry

 Page Base Address can be reused to hold disk block

Dirty bit

- Whether page has been modified
- If page needs to be swapped out, only preserve if modified



Short Break + Question

What are reasons for a Page Fault? (when the MMU calls the OS)

Short Break + Question

- What are reasons for a Page Fault? (when the MMU calls the OS)
 - 1. Invalid permissions
 - 2. Page actually on disk
 - Because the OS never actually loaded it! (lazy loading)
 - Because the OS swapped it to disk (when low on RAM)
 - 3. Page isn't valid at all

Types of page faults

- Minor/soft: Page is loaded in memory, but PTE is not configured:
 - Memory could be a shared library already in memory from another process.
 - OS could be tracking accesses to this page. (hardware without a dirty bit) Response: update the PTE.
- Major/hard: A disk access will be needed:
 - Anonymous page (process data) may have been swapped out.
 - Lazy-loading program executable.

Response: load the page from disk

- **Invalid**: User program misbehaved:
 - Dereference null or invalid pointer.
 - Write to page that is read-only.
 - Execute code on a page that is not executable (for security).

Response: terminate the process.

Steps to a memory access with swapping

- 1. Hardware checks TLB for virtual address
 - If Hit, address translation complete AND page in physical memory
- 2. Hardware (or OS) walks page tables
 - If valid and present, then page in physical memory
- 3. Trap into OS (a.k.a. Page Fault!)
 - If invalid or bad permissions, fault process (segmentation fault)
 - If valid but not present
 - If memory is full, select a victim page in memory to replace
 - If modified (dirty), write to disk
 - Invalidate TLB entry for that page
 - OS reads referenced page from disk into memory
 - Page table is updated, present bit is set
 - Resume process execution (could be complicated on CISC machines)

Outline

- Swapping
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 - Implementing LRU

RAID

Policies to determine swapping evictions

- Goal: minimize the number of page faults
 - Page faults need to read/write from disk and are very slow
 - So the OS can take plenty of time to make a good decision
- OS has two decisions
 - 1. Page Selection
 - When should a page be brought into memory?
 - 2. Page Replacement
 - When should a page be swapped into disk?
 - Which page should be swapped out of physical memory?

When do we load in pages? (page selection)

- Demand paging: Load page only when page fault occurs (lazy)
 - Intuition: Wait until page must absolutely be in memory
 - When process starts: No pages are loaded in memory
 - Problems: Pay cost of page fault for every newly accessed page
- Pre-paging (prefetching): Load page before referenced (eager)
 - OS predicts future accesses and brings pages into memory early
 - Works well for some access patterns (e.g., sequential)
- Hints: Combine above with user-supplied hints about page references
 - User specifies: may need page in future, don't need this page anymore, or sequential access pattern, ...
 - Example: madvise() in POSIX "give advice about use of memory"

When do we swap out pages? (page replacement)

- Demand swapping: whenever the page fault actually occurs
 - Simplest method
 - Swap actually occurs asynchronously
 - Start the disk I/O and block the process that faulted

- Background swapping: preemptively when RAM is getting full
 - Background service in kernel periodically runs (kswapd)
 - If number of free physical pages < "low water mark", evict a bunch
 - Writing many pages to disk in one operation is way more efficient

Thrashing

- Thrashing: when swapping happens frequently
 - Policy could be bad (working set keeps getting swapped to disk)
 - More likely RAM is too small
- Frequent swapping slows down the whole computer to a crawl
 - Constantly waiting on disk I/O!

- Solution for thrashing
 - Kill processes until it stops (relieves memory pressure)
 - Install more RAM in the computer

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Which page should be evicted?

Page replacement policy determines page to evict

- Very similar process as cache eviction or TLB eviction
 - Misses are expensive, so make sure you evict the right page
 - Page faults are extremely long, so a sophisticated policy is possible

Optimal page replacement policy

- Optimal page replacement
 - Evict page that will be accessed furthest in the future
- Advantages
 - Guaranteed to minimize the number of page faults
- Disadvantages
 - Requires the OS to predict the future



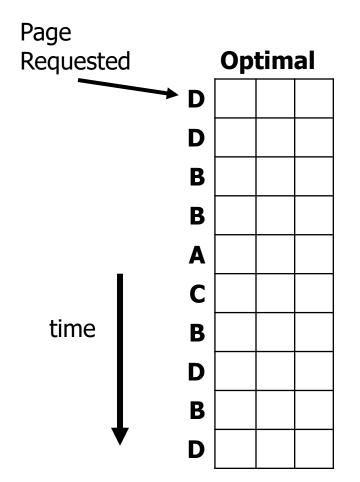
- Doesn't actually exist
- This is a performance "upper bound"
 - This is the best anything can do, so it is useful to compare against
 - Still has misses due to cold-start and capacity

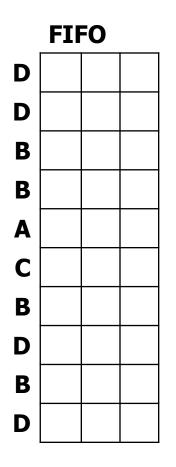
First-In-First-Out replacement policy

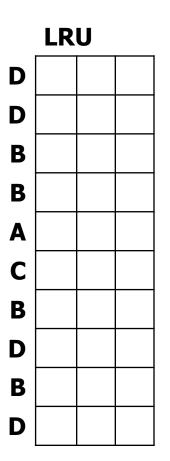
- FIFO replacement
 - Evict page that has been in memory the longest
- Advantages
 - Fair as all pages have equal residency
 - Easy to implement
- Disadvantages
 - Some pages of memory are always needed (stack)
 - Memory doesn't really need "fairness" like processes did

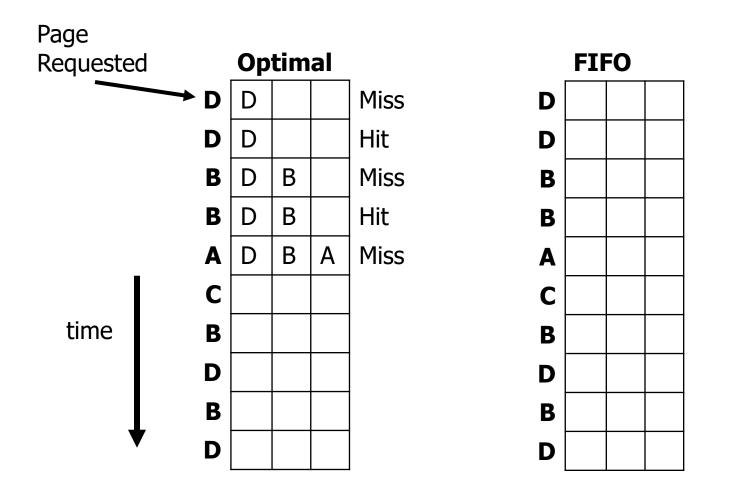
Least Recently Used replacement policy

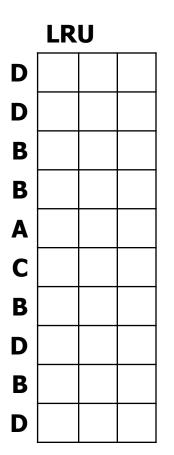
- LRU replacement
 - Replace page not accessed for longest time
 - Using the past to predict the future (temporal locality)
- Advantages
 - With locality, LRU approximates Optimal
- Disadvantages
 - Harder to implement as we need to track when pages are accessed
 - Cyclical patterns can make LRU fail (bigger concern for cache than RAM)

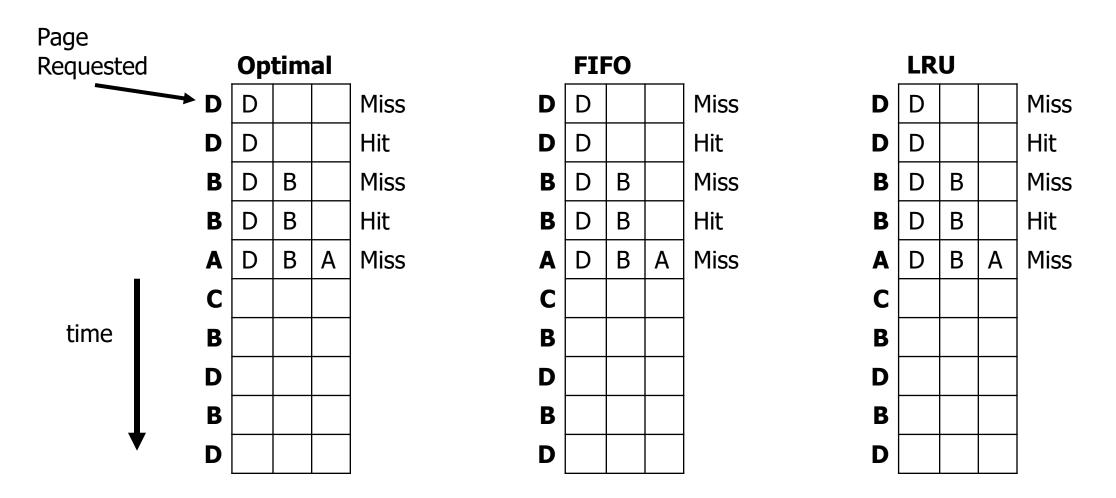




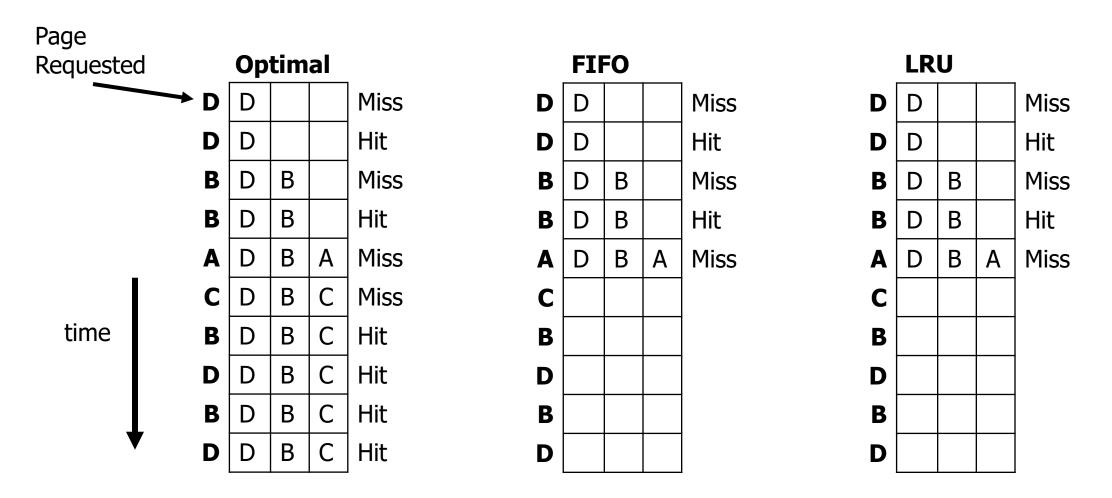




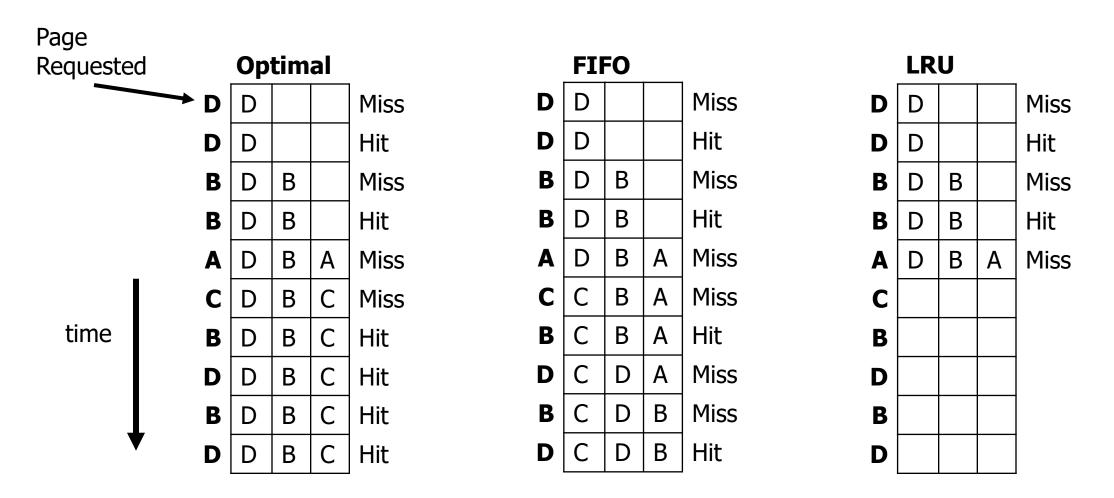




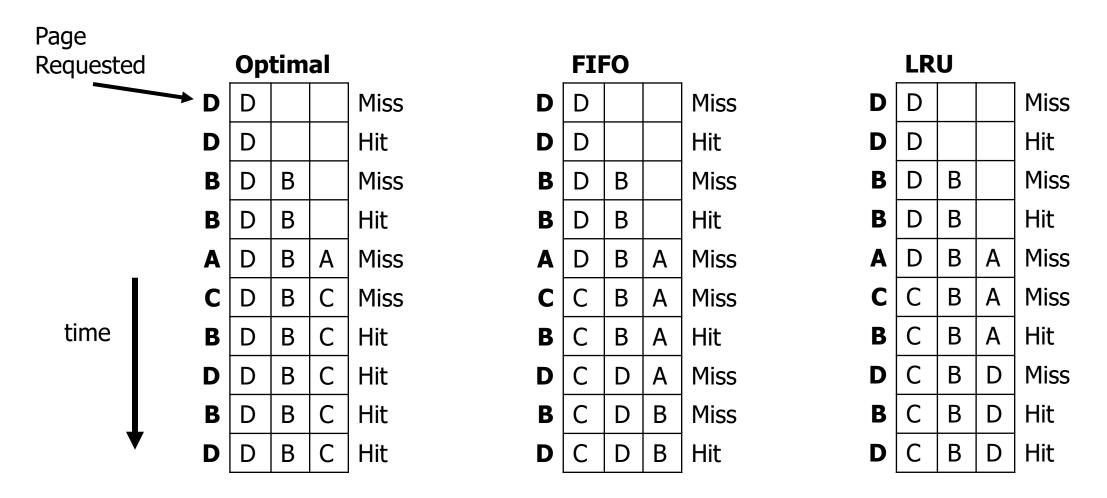
These are only **replacement** policies. So they don't matter until RAM is full!



For Optimal, which page do we replace?

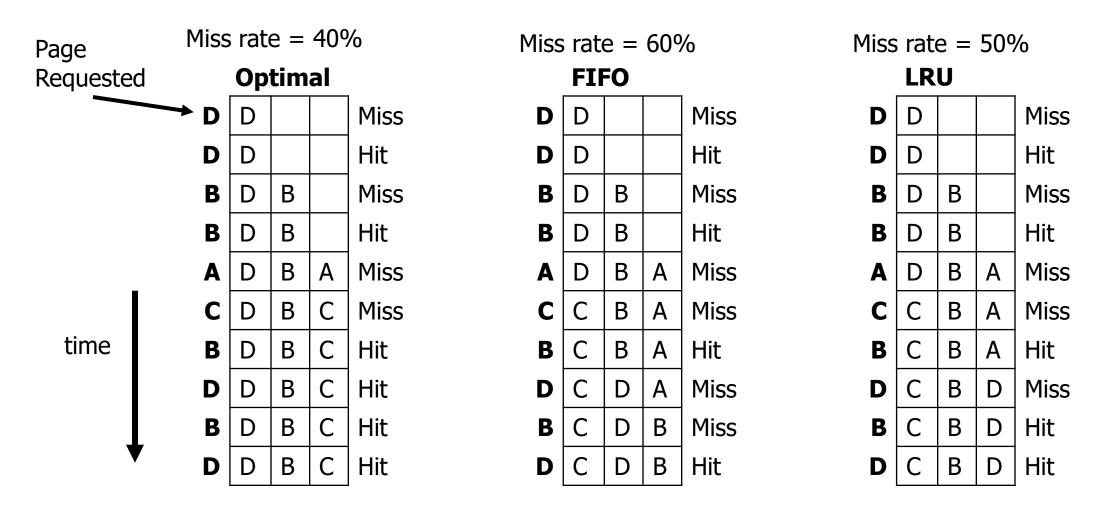


For FIFO, which pages do we replace?



For LRU, which pages do we replace?

Check your understanding – simple replacement policies



For each, what are the final miss rates?

Break + Thinking

- How would you track the least recently used page?
 - Consider hardware and software

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RAID

Implementing LRU

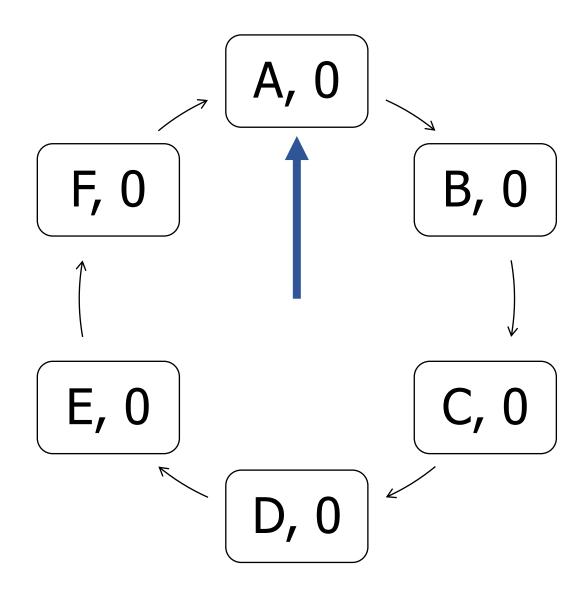
• Implementing *perfect* LRU is difficult in practice

- Software perfect LRU
 - OS maintains an ordered list of physical pages by reference time
 - When page is referenced: move to end of list
 - When swap is needed: evict front of list
 - Tradeoff: slow on memory reference, fast on replacement (unacceptable)
- Hardware perfect LRU
 - Associate a timestamp with each physical page
 - When page is referenced: hardware updates timestamp for page
 - When swap is needed: OS searches through all pages for oldest
 - Tradeoff: fast on memory reference, extremely slow on replacement and needs special hardware

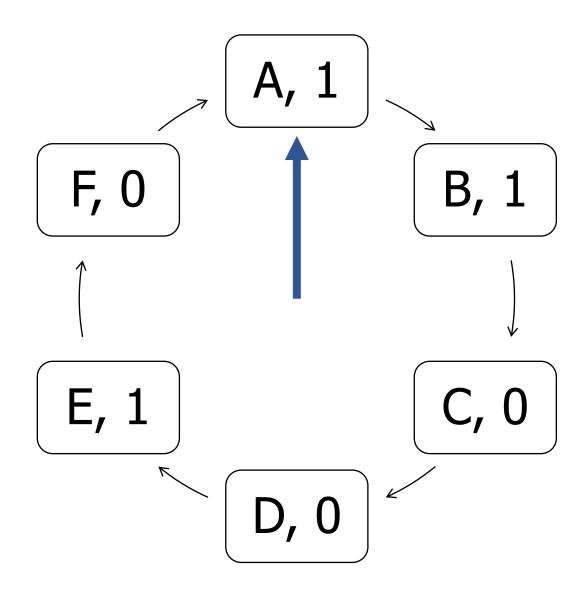
Clock algorithm

- LRU approximates Optimal anyways, so approximate a little more
 - Goal: find an old page, not necessarily the oldest page
- Clock algorithm
 - One "accessed" bit added to each page
 - When page is referenced: accessed bit is set to one (hardware)
 - When swap is needed:
 - Cycle through pages looking for one with accessed bit zero
 - Update accessed bit to zero after checking a page
 - Continue from where you left off when next swap is needed
 - Essentially looks for page that hasn't been referenced this "cycle"

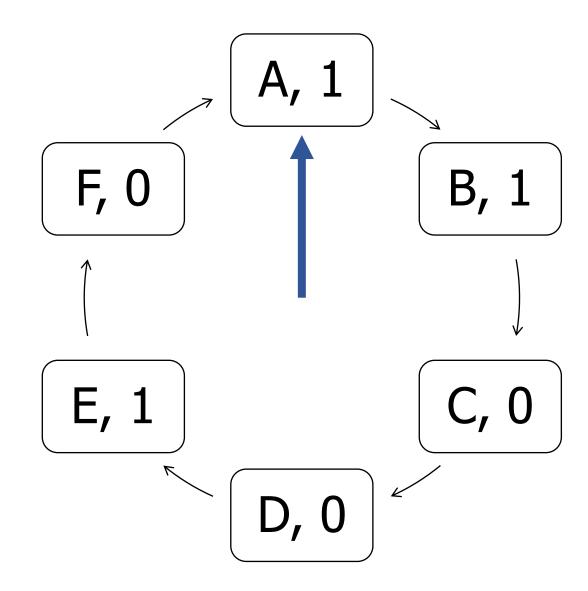
- Initial setup
 - 6 pages total fit in memory
 - Accessed starts as zero
 - "clock hand" points at first page



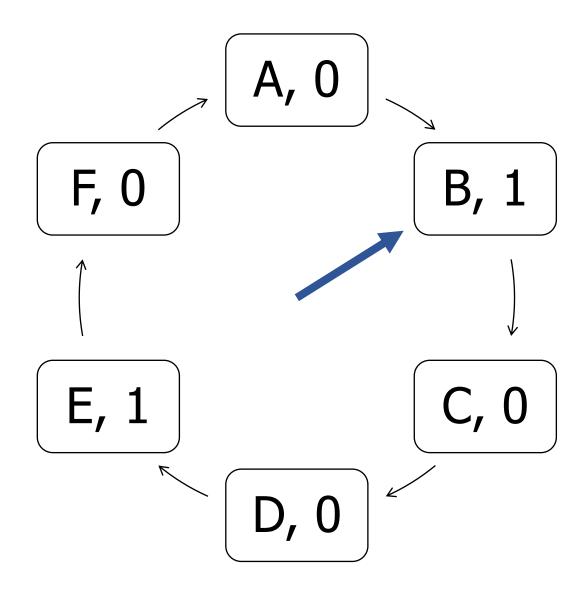
- After running a little while
 - Pages A, B, E are accessed



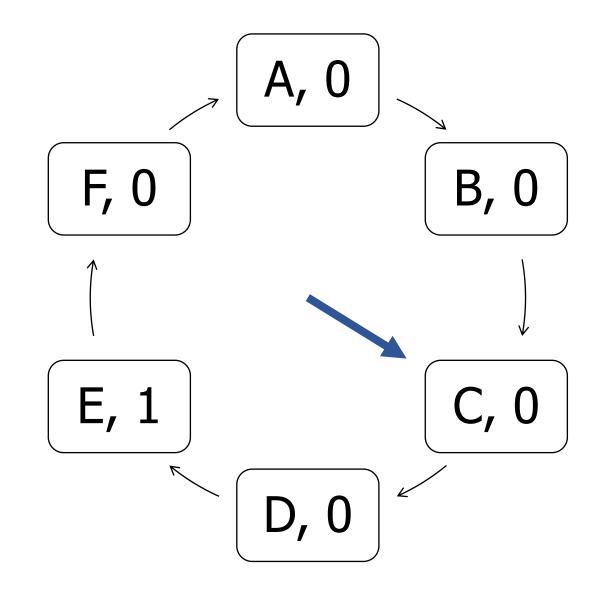
- OS needs to swap pages
 - Algorithm starts
- A is recently accessed



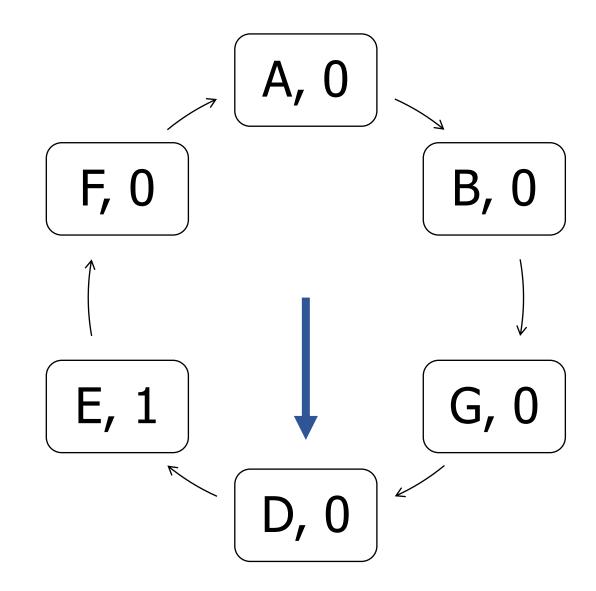
- OS needs to swap pages
 - Algorithm starts
- A is recently accessed
- B is recently accessed



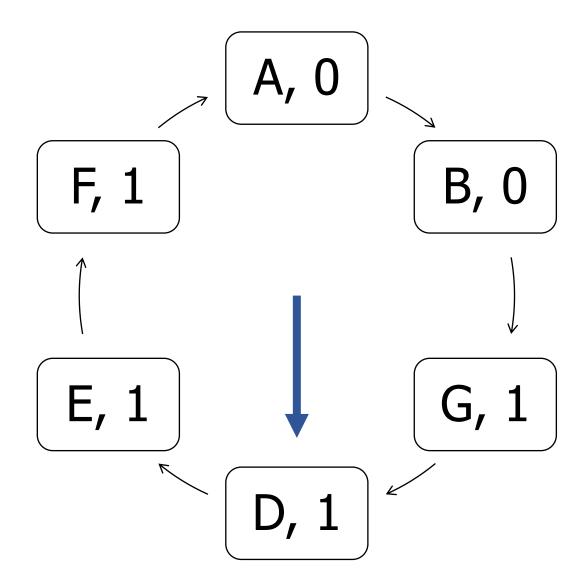
- OS needs to swap pages
 - Algorithm starts
- A is recently accessed
- B is recently accessed
- C has not been recently accessed



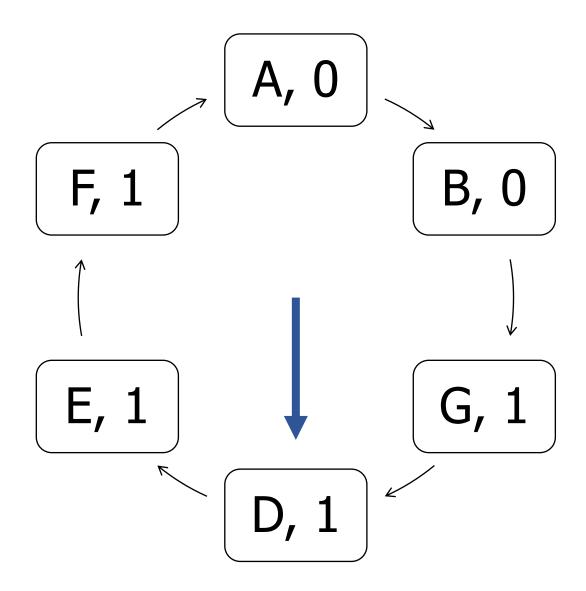
- OS needs to swap pages
 - Algorithm starts
- A is recently accessed
- B is recently accessed
- C has not been recently accessed
 - So swap it
 - And advance hand once more



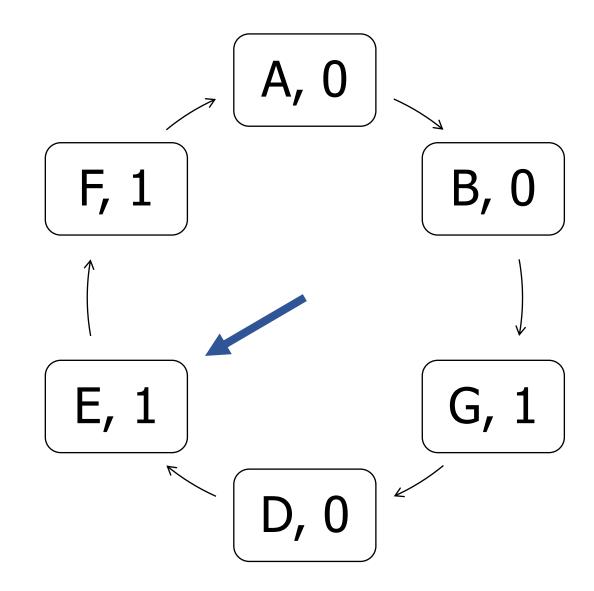
- Programs continue running for a while
 - Pages G, D, F are accessed



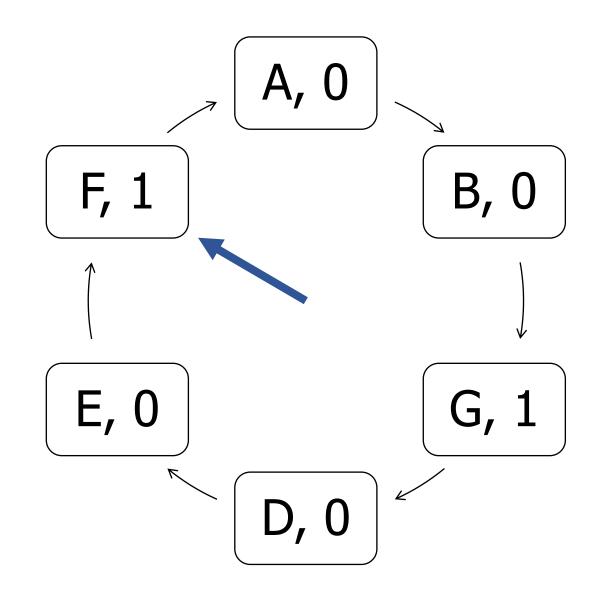
- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new



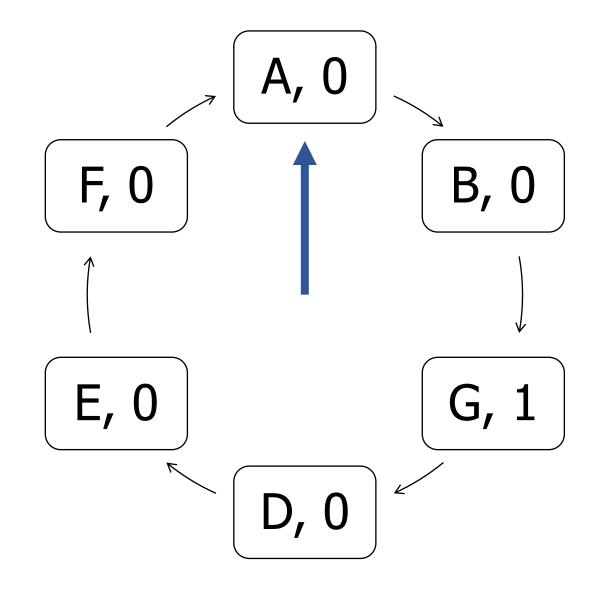
- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new
- D recently accessed



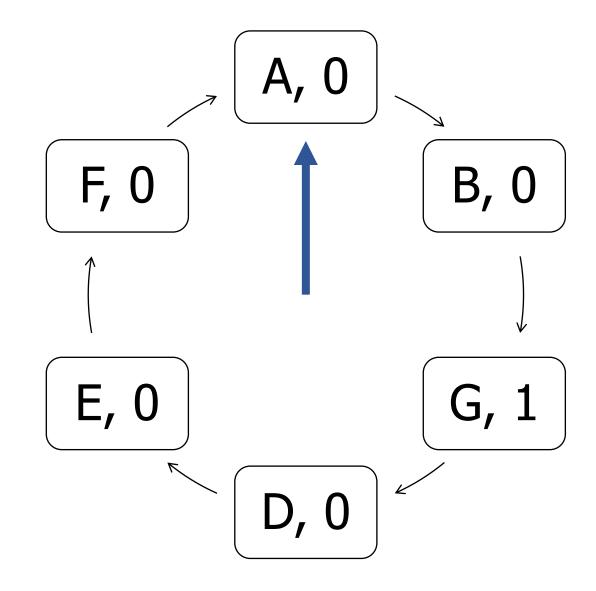
- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new
- D recently accessed
- E recently accessed



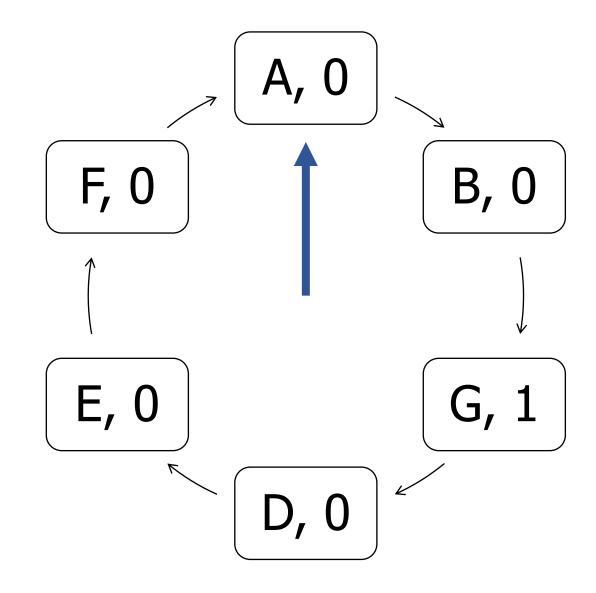
- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new
- D recently accessed
- E recently accessed
- F recently accessed



- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new
- D recently accessed
- E recently accessed
- F recently accessed
- A gets swapped!



- OS needs to swap again
 - Algorithm begins again
 - But with hand starting somewhere new
- D recently accessed
- E recently accessed
- F recently accessed
- A gets swapped
 - Was A or B the actual LRU?
 - Probably doesn't matter



Clock algorithm is actually used in real computers

Modern OSes often use some variation on Clock Algorithm

x86 hardware supports an accessed bit in page table entries

- Clock algorithm could be built without hardware support too
 - Mark all pages as valid but not present initially (soft page fault)
 - On OS fault, update accessed bit for page, mark as present
 - Only fault on first access per clock-hand-cycle
 - Reset page to not present whenever accessed is reset to zero

Improving clock algorithm access notion

- Add multiple "accessed" bits to create accessed counter
 - Increment or decrement bits on use or clock-hand-pass respectively
 - Only remove pages with 0 accessed (or less than some minimum)
- Combine with timestamp notion to ensure page is "old" (WSClock)
 - Keep a timestamp in addition to accessed bit
 - Only remove pages with 0 accessed and older than some amount
 - Still not necessarily oldest, but definitely old

Improving clock algorithm evictions

- Keep track of number of times a page re-enters memory (Clock-PRO)
 - Give eviction preference to pages that haven't been brought back a bunch
 - Bringing it back implies it was important, even if it was old
- Keep track of which pages are dirty
 - Give eviction preference to clean pages (also to read-only pages)
 - Means no write to disk is necessary!
- Evict several pages at once each time it is required
 - Find first N with accessed bit of zero
 - Takes advantage of disk I/O properties

Break + Administrivia

- Device Driver Lab due Thursday
 - Remember that you do have three slip days across the quarter

- Last lab is implementing Paging Virtual Memory for Nautilus
 - Should be released on Thursday

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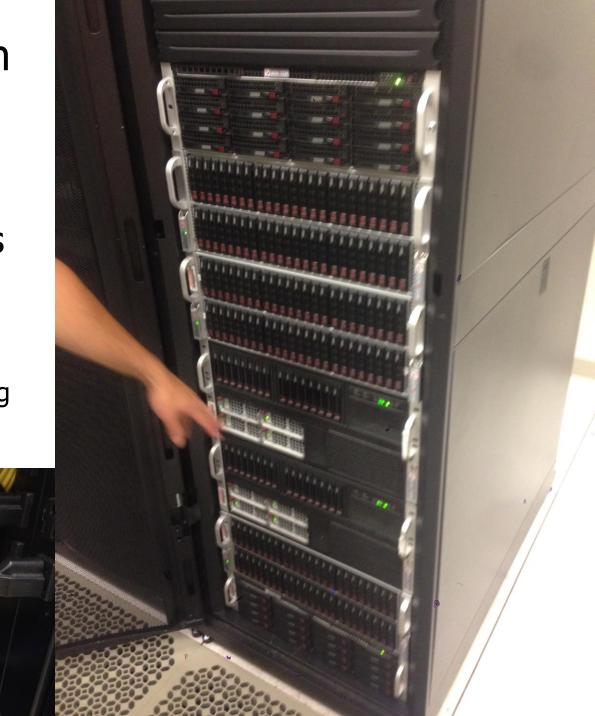
RAID

Failure rates for disks are a serious problem

- Problem: disks fail
 - HDDs have physical actuators that wear out
 - SSDs have limited numbers of writes
- Big problem: servers have many disks
 - Assume rate of failure per year of disk is 1%
 - And failures aren't correlated
 - And a server has 264 disks
 - What are the odds that a disk will fail this year?
 - $1 (1 0.1)^{264} = 93\%$ odds that at least one disk will fail

Database server at Northwestern

- 264 fast (10k RPM) magnetic disks (for production)
- 56 slow (7200 RPM) magnetic disks (for backup)
- ~150 TB storage capacity
- Comprised of 6 physical chassis (boxes) in one big cabinet, about the size of a coat closet.



Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID)

- Observation in 1988 (Patterson, Gibson, Katz)
 - Servers could use a high-quality mainframe disk drive

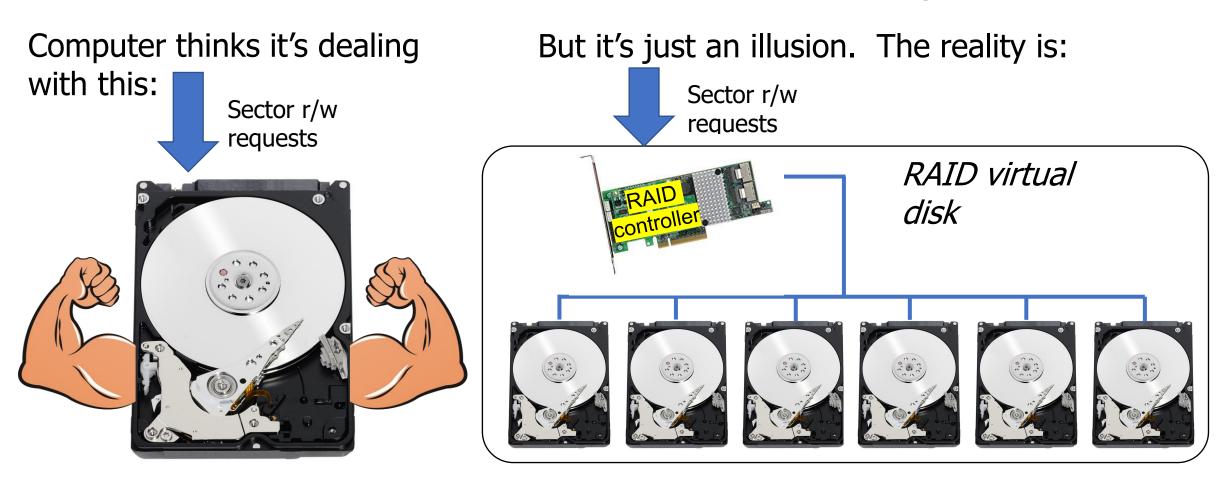
OR for the same cost

Servers could use several redundant low-quality consumer disk drives

- Furthermore using an array of disks improves multiple things
 - Reduce impact of a failure by storing data redundantly on multiple disks.
 - Increase capacity by making multiple disks available to store data.
 - Increase throughput by accessing data in parallel on multiple disks.

Basic idea of RAID

- Combine many disks to create one superior virtual disk.
- The RAID array provides the same interface as a single disk.



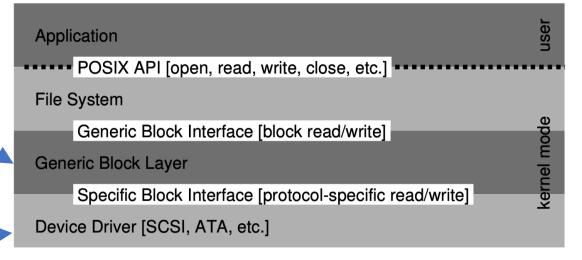
How does RAID fit into the OS?

RAID can be implemented in software or hardware

Software RAID means that the OS is responsible for assembling

multiple disks into a RAID.

• Implements a generic block device.

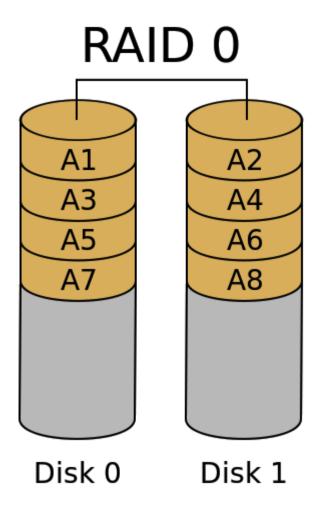


- *Hardware RAID* requires a specialized controller card that coordinates the multiple disks, presenting interface of one disk.
 - OS just needs a driver for the RAID controller, like any other disk controller.

RAID levels

- RAID 0 *Striping*:
 - Distribute data across 2 disks for twice the peak throughput.
- RAID 1 *Mirroring*:
 - Copy data onto 2 disks to tolerate failure of one.
- RAID 4/5/6 *Parity*:
 - Keep parity bits around for each block to check for errors and rebuild.
 - Typically involves 3+ disks.

RAID 0 – Striping (for throughput and capacity)



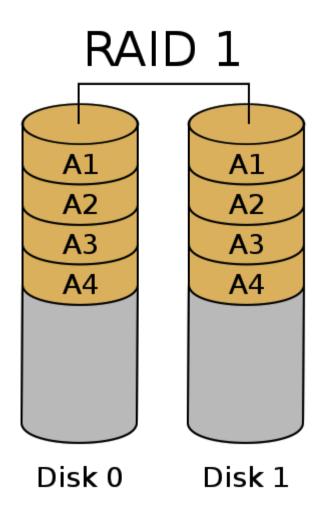
- Divide the logical disk into chunks (A1, A2, A3 ...) 1 or more blocks in size
- Distribute the chunks regularly over two or more (N) physical disks.
- (+) Throughput for both random and sequential access scales with N.

$$T_{RAID0} = N * T_{disk}$$

- (+) Capacity also scales by N.
- (+) Cost per byte is identical
- (—) But Mean Time To Failure is worse because failure of a single disk is catastrophic:

$$MTTF_{RAID0} = MTTF_{disk}/N$$

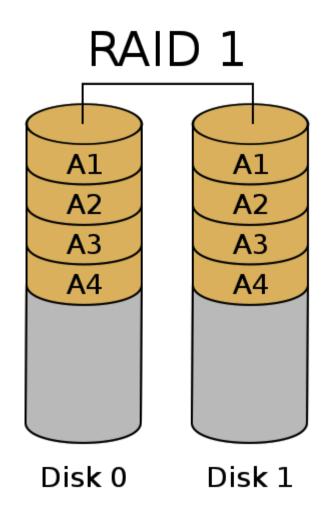
RAID 1 – Mirroring (for fault tolerance)



- Duplicate each chunk on each of N physical disks.
- (+) It is impossible to lose data unless all disks fail simultaneously.
 - i.e., failure window is reduced to the time it takes to replace a broken disk.
- (-) Write throughput is not improved
- (—) Capacity is the same as a single disk
- (-) Cost per byte is greater

$$\$_{RAID1} = N * \$_{disk}$$

Check your understanding – RAID 1

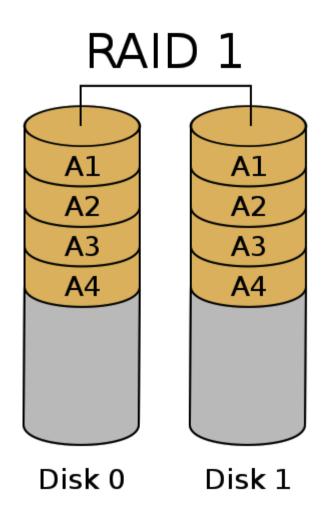


• (—) Write throughput is not improved

• Is write throughput reduced in RAID 1? Or is it the same as a single disk?

What about read throughput?

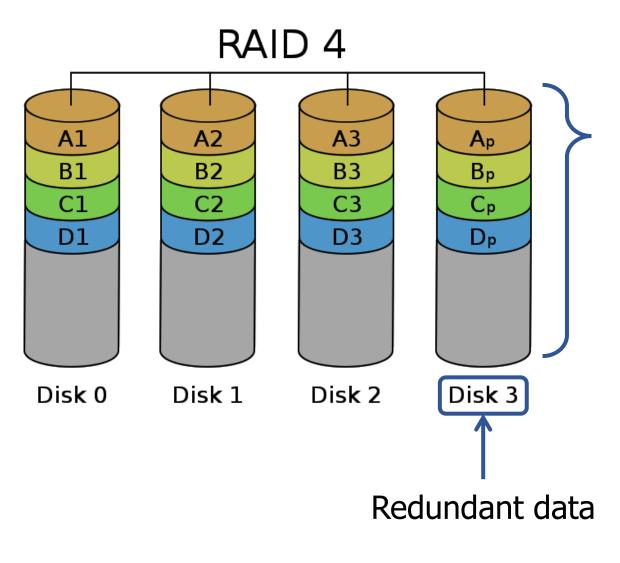
Check your understanding – RAID 1



• (—) Write throughput is not improved

- Is write throughput reduced in RAID 1? Or is it the same as a single disk?
 - Same as a single disk
 - Write can go to both disks in parallel
- What about read throughput?
 - Better than a single disk
 - Can read two different blocks at once!

RAID 4 – Parity (for fault tolerance, capacity & throughput)



- Distribute the chunks across the first (N-1) disks.
- On the Nth disk, store a corresponding *parity* chunk.
 - Parity block is redundant data about a set of chunk (a *stripe*)
- Can tolerate loss of any one disk

 Parity disk becomes bottleneck for writes limiting throughput

How does parity work?

- **Even parity** add a 0 or 1 such that the total number of 1's is even.
 - There also exists odd parity which makes the total number of 1's odd
- Examples (Even Parity):
 - 0b0000_0000 zero ones -> parity bit = 0
 - 0b1111_1111 eight ones -> parity bit = 0
 - 0b0110_1101 five ones -> parity bit = 1

 If a single bit is lost, the parity bit allows us to infer the value of the lost bit

Check your understanding – Parity Recovery

- What are the values of the missing bits?
 - Even Parity: make the total number of 1s even

• [0, 0, 1, 0, ?, 0, 1, 1] – Even Parity with value: 1

• [0, ?, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0] — Even Parity with value: 0

Check your understanding – Parity Recovery

- What are the values of the missing bits?
 - Even Parity: make the total number of 1s even

- [0, 0, 1, 0, ?, 0, 1, 1] Even Parity with value: 1
 - Value must be a 0
 - Because parity plus ones is already even

- [0, ?, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0] Even Parity with value: 0
 - Value must be a 1
 - Because parity plus ones is not currently even

Parity can only fix a single error

What if two bits are missing?

- [?, 0, 1, 0, ?, 0, 1, 1] Even Parity: 1
 - Could both be zeros
 - Could both be ones
 - Impossible to tell which
- More advanced "error correcting codes" are possible to detect/fix two or more errors
 - Hamming Code (single error correcting, double error detecting)

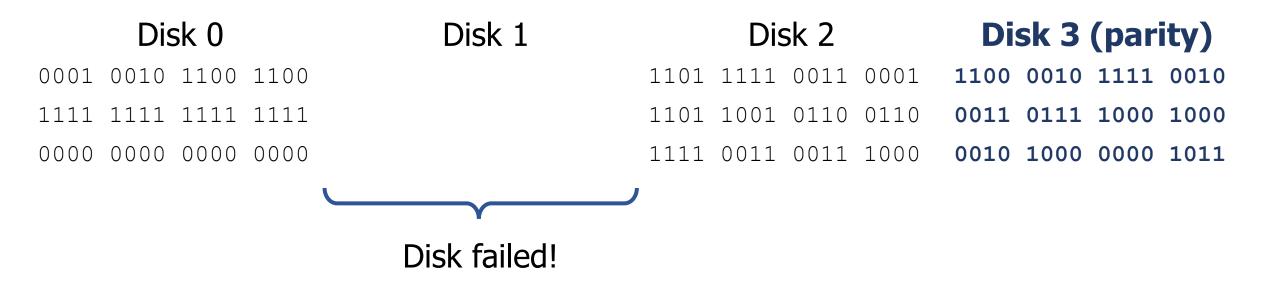
Parity chunk in RAID

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3 (parity)
0001 0010 1100 1100	0000 1111 0000 1111	1101 1111 0011 0001	1100 0010 1111 0010
1111 1111 1111 1111	0001 0001 0001 0001	1101 1001 0110 0110	0011 0111 1000 1000
0000 0000 0000 0000	1101 1011 0011 0011	1111 0011 0011 1000	0010 1000 0000 1011
			^
	Y	_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Useful storage capacity

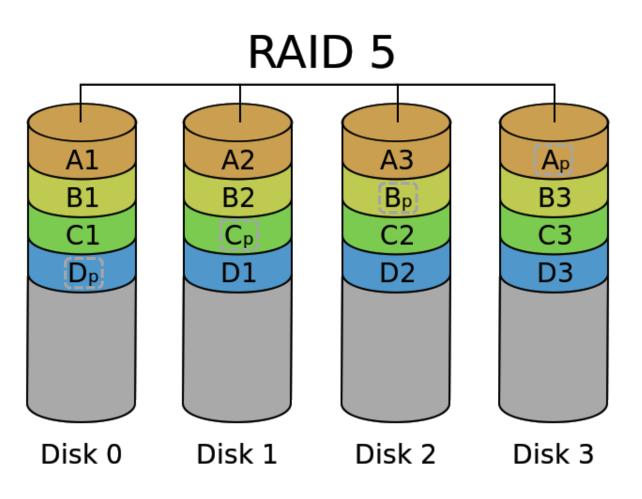
- Redundancy overhead
- Parity is computed bit-wise across corresponding chunks.
- Chunks are one or more blocks (multiple of 4 kB) in size
- Writing a small file will involve one disk plus the parity disk.
 - (parity disk can become a bottleneck)
- Writing a large file will involve all the disks.

Rebuilding an array after failure



- If a disk fails, then we remove it and replace it with a working disk.
- Then scan through the entire array to compute and write missing data.
 - This is called "rebuilding" the array
 - We cannot tolerate another disk failure until rebuild completes.
 - Reads/writes can continue while array is rebuilding!

RAID 5 – Distributed Parity (the winner in practice)



- Distribute parity chunks across the disks, to avoid a small-write bottleneck
- (+) Failure of one disk is OK
- (+) Throughput is good

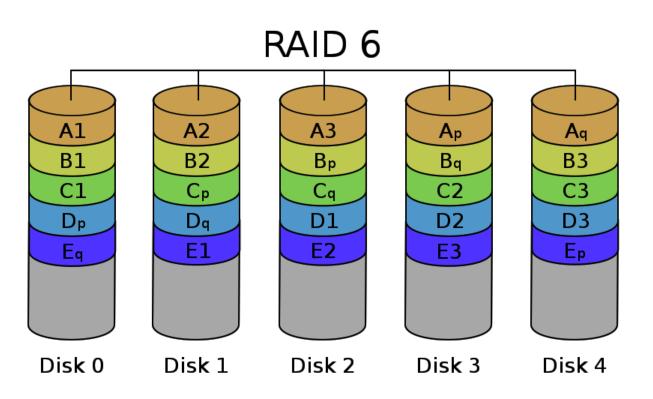
$$T_{RAID5} = (N-1) * T_{disk}$$

(+) Cost per byte is good

$$\$_{RAID1} = N/(N-1) * \$_{disk}$$

- (—) High overhead for small N
- (—) Failure risk is high for large N
- N is typically 3 to 8

RAID 6 – Double Parity (for large arrays)



- Add another disk and keep two parity chunks per stripe
 - 2nd parity is computed differently
- (+) Failure of *two* disks is OK
- (~) Throughput is less:

$$T_{RAID5} = (N-2) * T_{disk}$$

• (~) Cost per byte is higher:

$$\$_{RAID1} = N/(N-2) * \$_{disk}$$

Makes sense for larger N (>8)

Outline

- Swapping
 - Overview
 - When To Swap
 - Page Replacement Policies
 - Implementing LRU

RAID