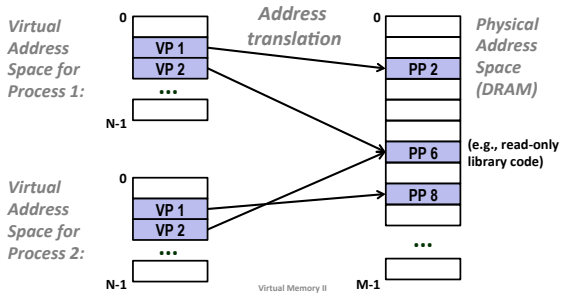
The Hardware/Software Interface

CSE351 Winter 2013

Virtual Memory II

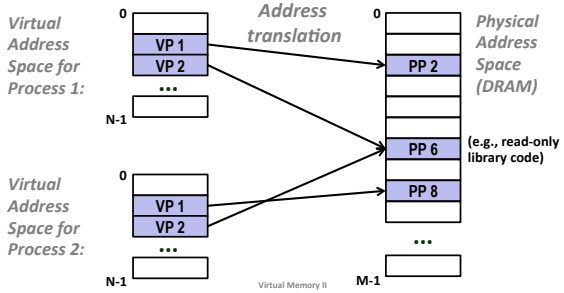
VM for Managing Multiple Processes

- **Key abstraction: each process has its own virtual address space**
  - It can view memory as *a simple linear array*
- **With virtual memory, this simple linear virtual address space need not be contiguous in physical memory**
  - Process needs to store data in another VP? Just map it to *any* PP!



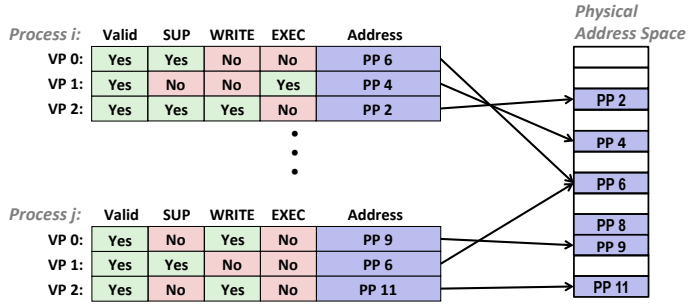
VM for Protection and Sharing

- **The mapping of VPs to PPs provides a simple mechanism for *protecting* memory and for *sharing* memory btw. processes**
  - Sharing: just map virtual pages in separate address spaces to the same physical page (here: PP 6)
  - Protection: process simply can't access physical pages it doesn't have a mapping for (here: Process 2 can't access PP 2)

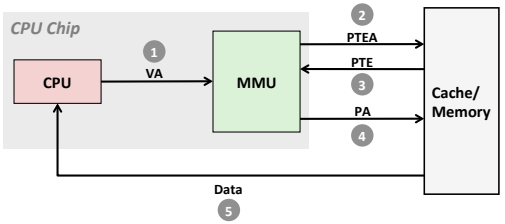


Memory Protection Within a Single Process

- **Extend PTEs with permission bits**
- **MMU checks these permission bits on every memory access**
  - If violated, raises exception and OS sends SIGSEGV signal to process



Address Translation: Page Hit



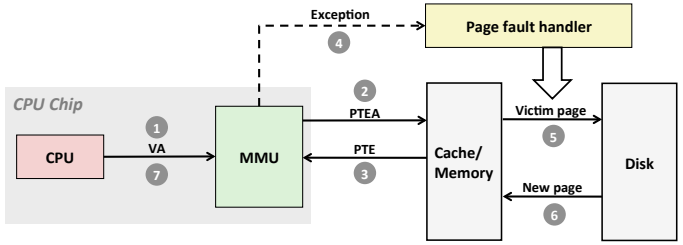
1) Processor sends virtual address to MMU (*memory management unit*)

2-3) MMU fetches PTE from page table in cache/memory

4) MMU sends physical address to cache/memory

5) Cache/memory sends data word to processor

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

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

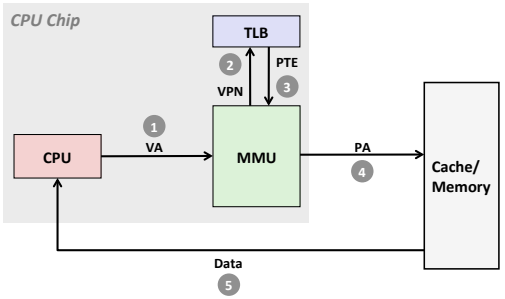
Hmm… Translation Sounds Slow!

- **The MMU accesses memory *twice*: once to first get the PTE for translation, and then again for the actual memory request from the CPU**
  - 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?*

Speeding up Translation with a TLB

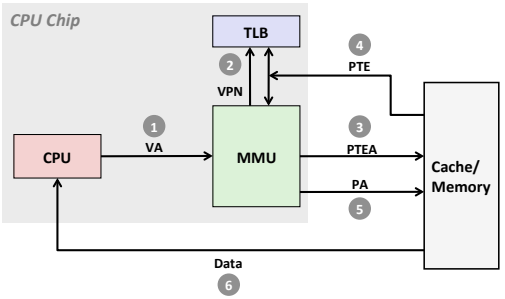
- **Solution: add another cache!**
- ***Translation Lookaside Buffer* (TLB):**
  - Small hardware cache in MMU
  - Maps virtual page numbers to physical page numbers
  - Contains complete *page table entries* for small number of pages
    - Modern Intel processors: 128 or 256 entries in TLB

TLB Hit



A TLB hit eliminates a memory access

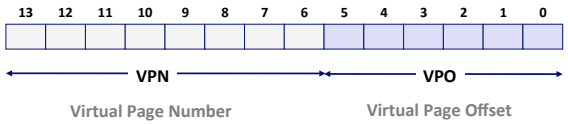
TLB Miss

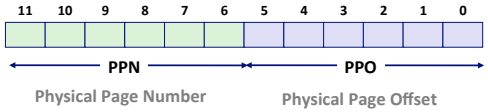


A TLB miss incurs an additional memory access (the PTE)
Fortunately, TLB misses are rare

Simple Memory System Example

- **Addressing**
  - 14-bit virtual addresses
  - 12-bit physical address
  - Page size = 64 bytes





Simple Memory System Page Table

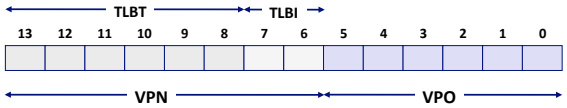
- **Only showing first 16 entries (out of 256)**

VPN	PPN	Valid
00	28	1
01	–	0
02	33	1
03	02	1
04	–	0
05	16	1
06	–	0
07	–	0

VPN	PPN	Valid
08	13	1
09	17	1
0A	09	1
0B	–	0
0C	–	0
0D	2D	1
0E	11	1
0F	0D	1

Simple Memory System TLB

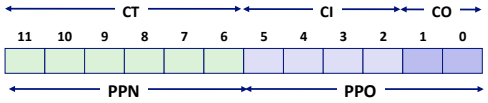
- 16 entries
- 4-way associative



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

- 16 lines, 4-byte block size
- Physically addressed
- Direct mapped



Idx	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

Idx	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 caches/tables

page size = 64 bytes

TLB

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

VPN	PPN	Valid
00	28	1
01	–	0
02	33	1
03	02	1
04	–	0
05	16	1
06	–	0
07	–	0

VPN	PPN	Valid
08	13	1
09	17	1
0A	09	1
0B	–	0
0C	–	0
0D	2D	1
0E	11	1
0F	0D	1

Page table

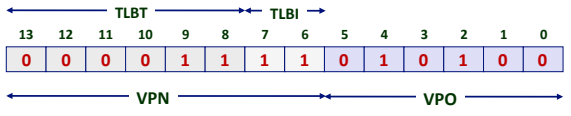
Cache

Idx	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

Idx	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	–	–	–	–

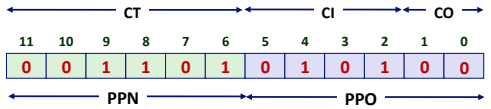
Address Translation Example #1

Virtual Address: 0x03D4



VPN 0x0F TLBI 3 TLBT 0x03 TLB Hit? Y Page Fault? N PPN: 0x0D

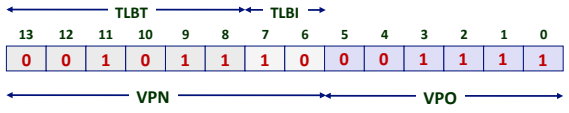
Physical Address



CO 0 CI 0x5 CT 0x0D Hit? Y Byte: 0x36

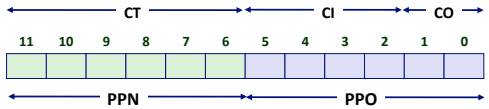
Address Translation Example #2

Virtual Address: 0x0B8F



VPN 0x2E TLBI 2 TLBT 0x0B TLB Hit? N Page Fault? ? PPN: TBD

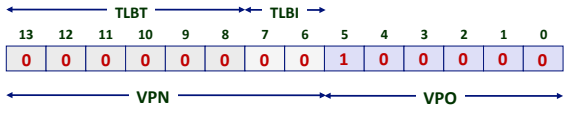
Physical Address



CO ___ CI___ CT ____ Hit? __ Byte: ____

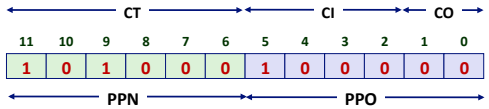
Address Translation Example #3

Virtual Address: 0x0020



VPN 0x00 TLBI 0 TLBT 0x00 TLB Hit? N Page Fault? N PPN: 0x28

Physical Address



CO 0 CI 0x8 CT 0x28 Hit? N Byte: Mem

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 a convenient interpositioning point to check permissions

Memory System Summary

- **L1/L2 Memory Cache**
  - Purely a speed-up technique
  - Behavior invisible to application programmer and (mostly) OS
  - Implemented totally in hardware
- **Virtual Memory**
  - Supports many OS-related functions
    - Process creation, task switching, protection
  - Software
    - Allocates/shares physical memory among processes
    - Maintains high-level tables tracking memory type, source, sharing
    - Handles exceptions, fills in hardware-defined mapping tables
  - Hardware
    - Translates virtual addresses via mapping tables, enforcing permissions
    - Accelerates mapping via translation cache (TLB)