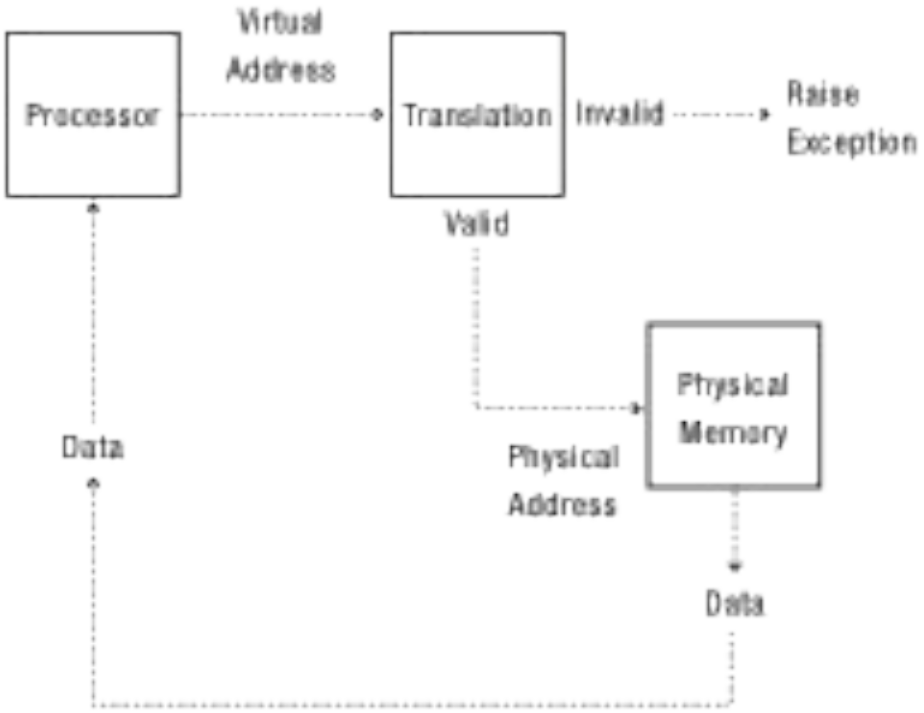
Address Translation

Main Points

- Address Translation Concept
  - How do we convert a virtual address to a physical address?
- Flexible Address Translation
  - Base and bound
  - Segmentation
  - Paging
  - Multilevel translation
- Efficient Address Translation
  - Translation Lookaside Buffers
  - Virtually and physically addressed caches

Address Translation Concept



Address Translation Goals

- Memory protection
- Memory sharing
  - Shared libraries, interprocess communication
- Sparse addresses
  - Multiple regions of dynamic allocation (heaps/stacks)
- Efficiency
  - Memory placement
  - Runtime lookup
  - Compact translation tables
- Portability

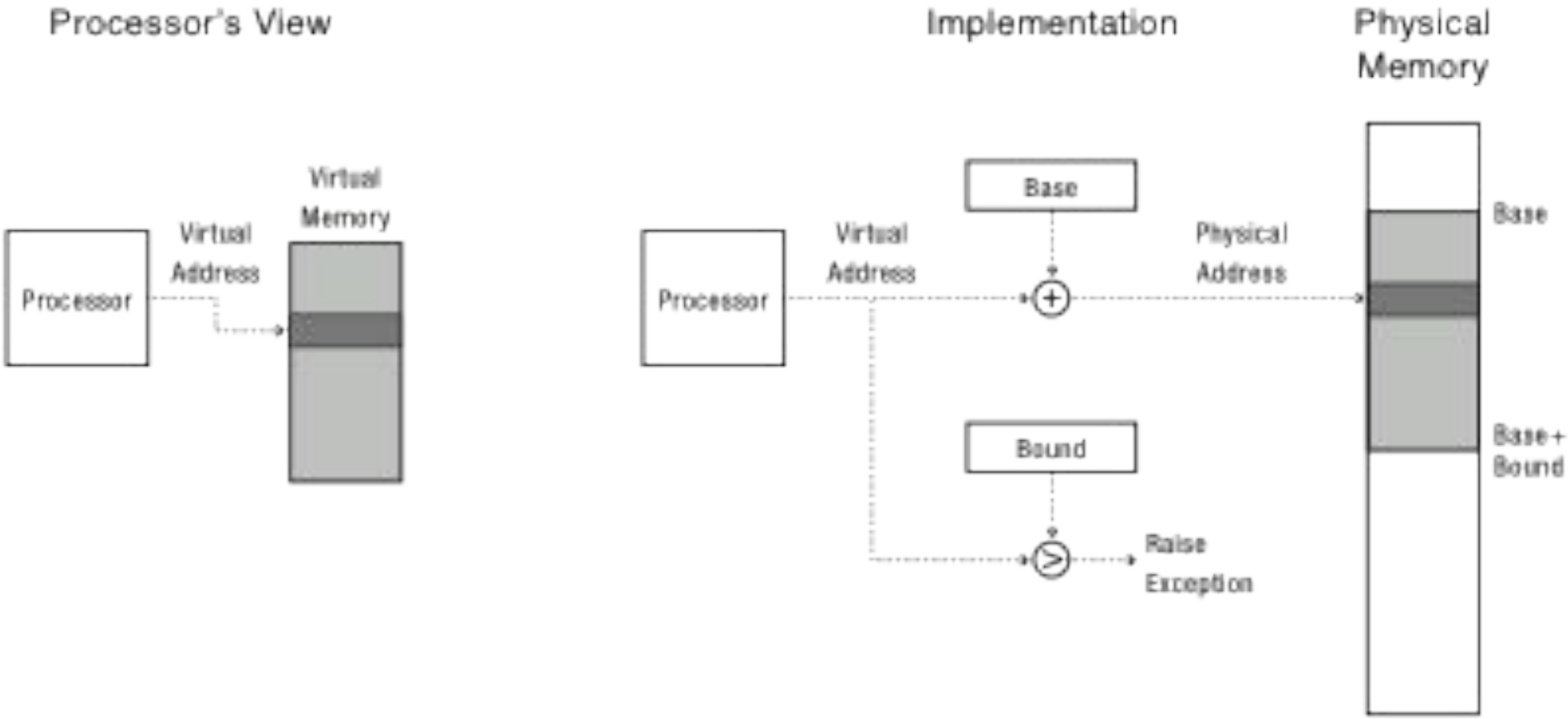
Bonus Feature

- What can you do if you can (selectively) gain control whenever a program reads or writes a particular virtual memory location?
- Examples:
  - Copy on write
  - Zero on reference
  - Fill on demand
  - Demand paging
  - Memory mapped files
  - …

A Preview: X86 Address Translation

- Translation lookaside buffer (TLB)
  - Cache of virtual page -> physical page translations
  - If TLB hit, physical address
  - If TLB miss
    - Hardware TLB: walk the page table
    - Software TLB: trap to kernel; fills TLB with translation and resumes execution
- Software TLB kernel can implement *any* page translation
  - Page tables
  - Multi-level page tables
  - Inverted page tables
  - …

Virtually Addressed Base and Bounds



Question

- With virtually addressed base and bounds, what is saved/restored on a process context switch?

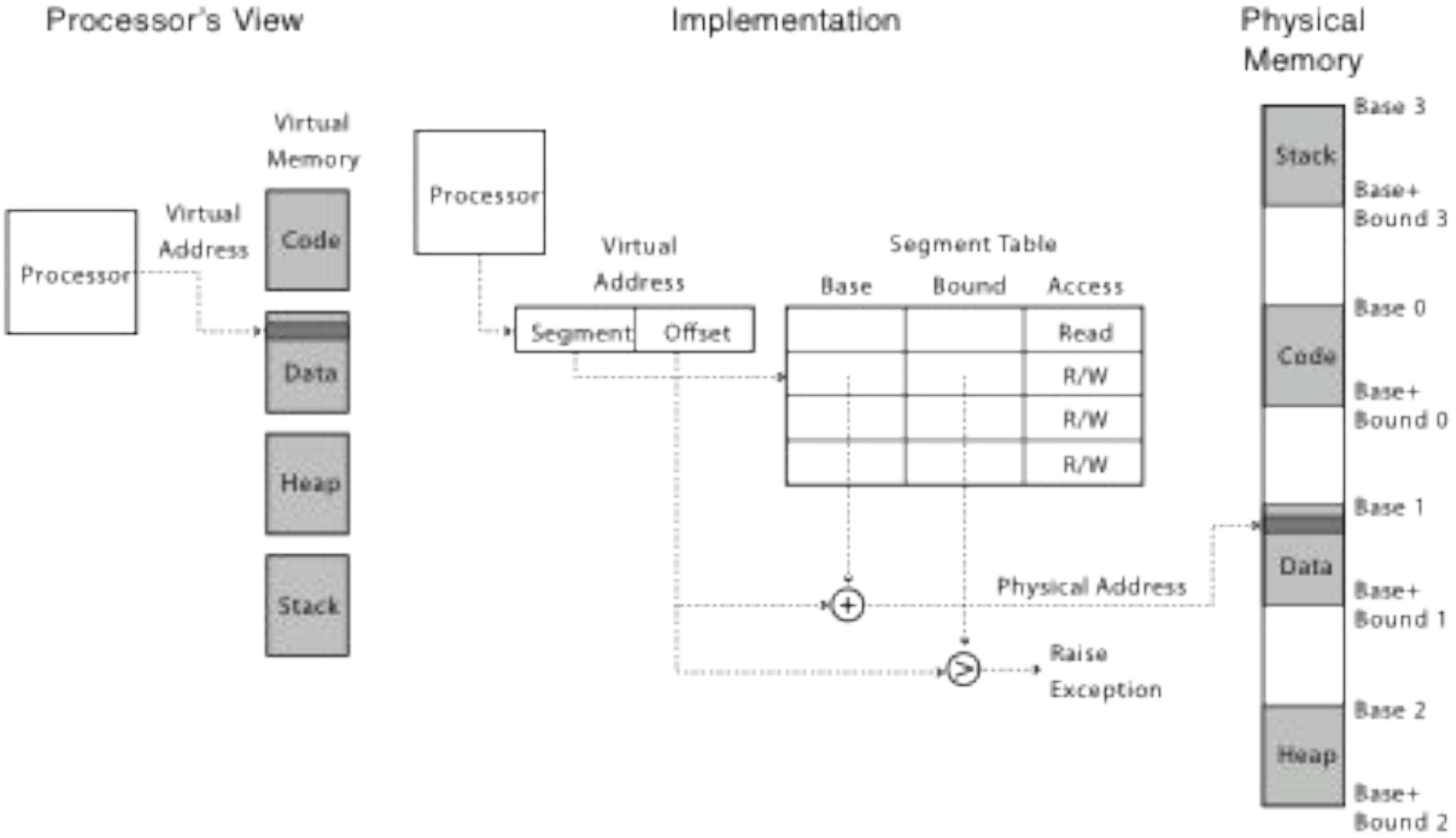
Virtually Addressed Base and Bounds

- Pros?
  - Simple
  - Fast (2 registers, adder, comparator)
  - Safe
  - Can relocate in physical memory without changing process
- Cons?
  - Can’t keep program from accidentally overwriting its own code
  - Can’t share code/data with other processes
  - Can’t grow stack/heap as needed

Segmentation

- Segment is a contiguous region of *virtual* memory
- Each process has a segment table (in hardware)
  - Entry in table = segment
- Segment can be located anywhere in physical memory
  - Each segment has: start, length, access permission
- Processes can share segments
  - Same start, length, same/different access permissions

Segmentation



2 bit segment #
12 bit offset

	Segment start	length
code	0x4000	0x700
data	0	0x500
heap	-	-
stack	0x2000	0x1000

Virtual Memory

main: 240	store #1108, r2
244	store pc+8, r31
248	jump 360
24c	
…	
strlen: 360	loadbyte (r2), r3
…	…
420	jump (r31)
…	
x: 1108	a b c \0
…	

Physical Memory

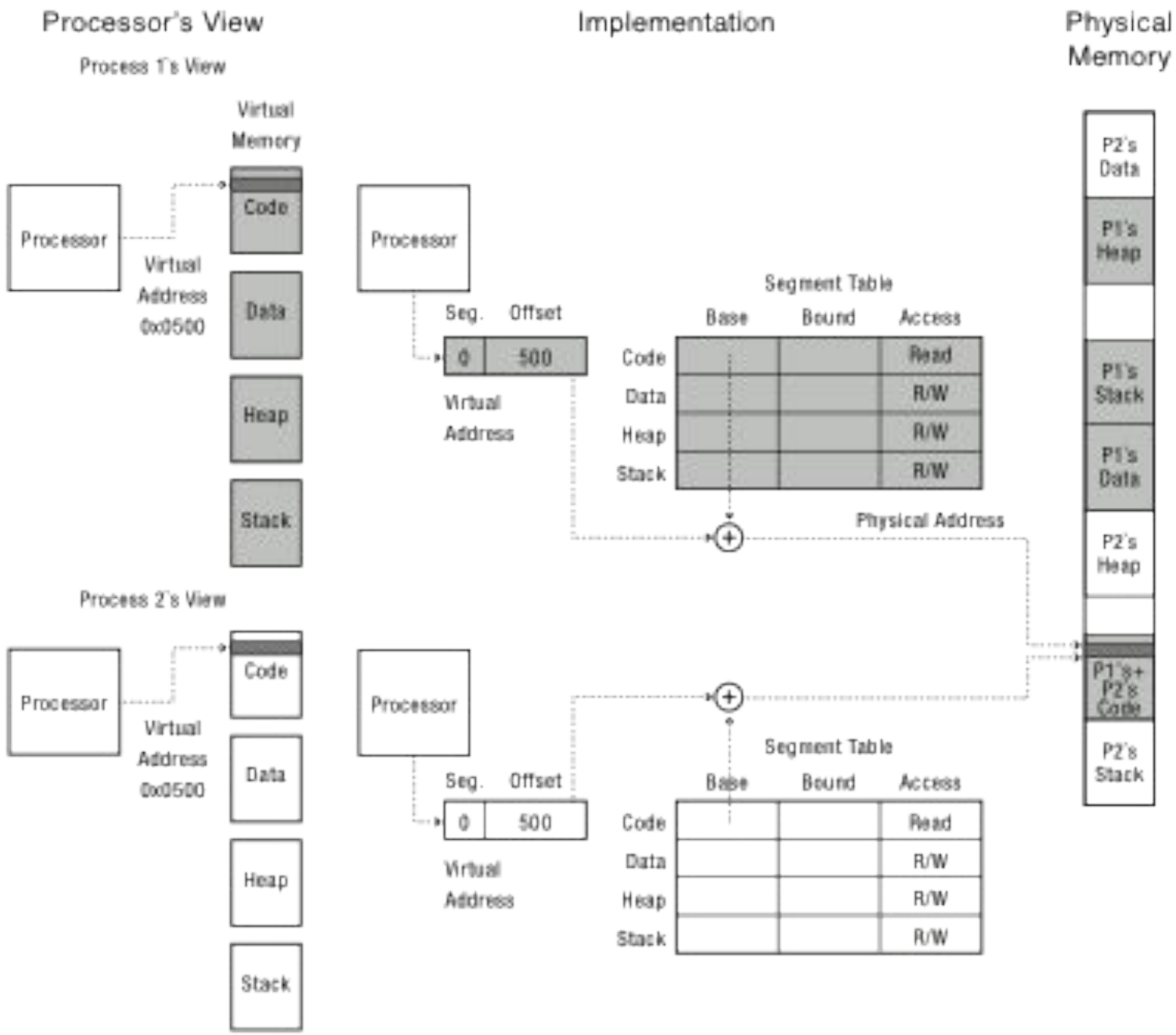
x: 108	a b c \0
…	
main: 4240	store #1108, r2
4244	store pc+8, r31
4248	jump 360
424c	
…	…
strlen: 4360	loadbyte (r2),r3
…	
4420	jump (r31)
…	

Question

- With segmentation, what is saved/restored on a process context switch?

UNIX fork and Copy on Write

- UNIX fork
  - Makes a complete copy of a process
- Segments allow a more efficient implementation
  - Copy segment table into child
  - Mark parent and child segments read-only
  - Start child process; return to parent
  - If child or parent writes to a segment (ex: stack, heap)
    - trap into kernel
    - make a copy of the segment and resume


Processor's View
Implementation
Physical Memory
Process 1's View
Virtual Memory
Processor
Virtual Address 0x0500
Code
Data
Heap
Stack
Process 2's View
Processor
Virtual Address 0x0500
Code
Data
Heap
Stack
Processor
Seg.
Offset
0
500
Virtual Address
Segment Table
Base
Bound
Access
Code
Data
Heap
Stack
Read
R/W
R/W
R/W
Physical Address
Processor
Seg.
Offset
0
500
Virtual Address
Segment Table
Base
Bound
Access
Code
Data
Heap
Stack
Read
R/W
R/W
R/W
P2's Data
P1's Heap
P1's Stack
P1's Data
P2's Heap
P1's+ P2's Code
P2's Stack

Zero-on-Reference

- How much physical memory is needed for the stack or heap?
  - Only what is currently in use
- When program uses memory beyond end of stack
  - Segmentation fault into OS kernel
  - Kernel allocates some memory
    - How much?
  - Zeros the memory
    - avoid accidentally leaking information!
  - Modify segment table
  - Resume process

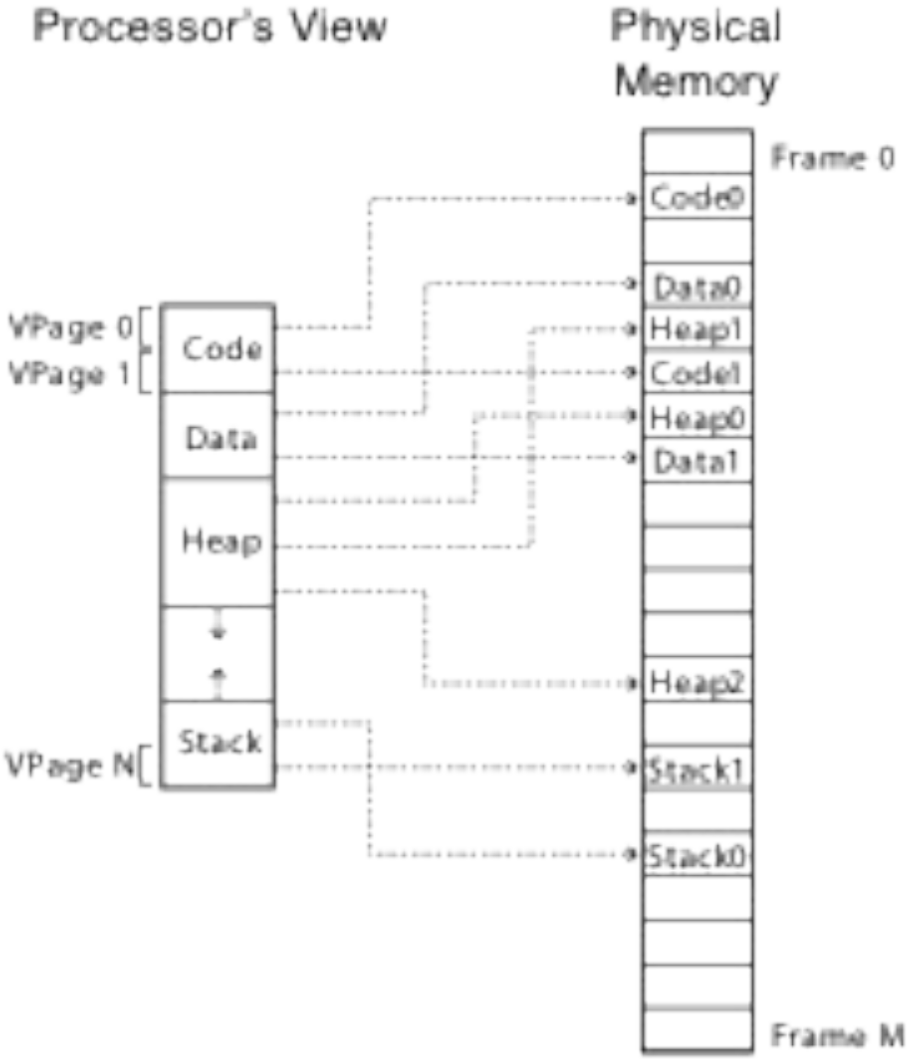
Segmentation

- Pros?
  - Can share code/data segments between processes
  - Can protect code segment from being overwritten
  - Can transparently grow stack/heap as needed
  - Can detect if need to copy-on-write
- Cons?
  - Complex memory management
    - Need to find chunk of a particular size
  - May need to rearrange memory from time to time to make room for new segment or growing segment
    - External fragmentation: wasted space between chunks

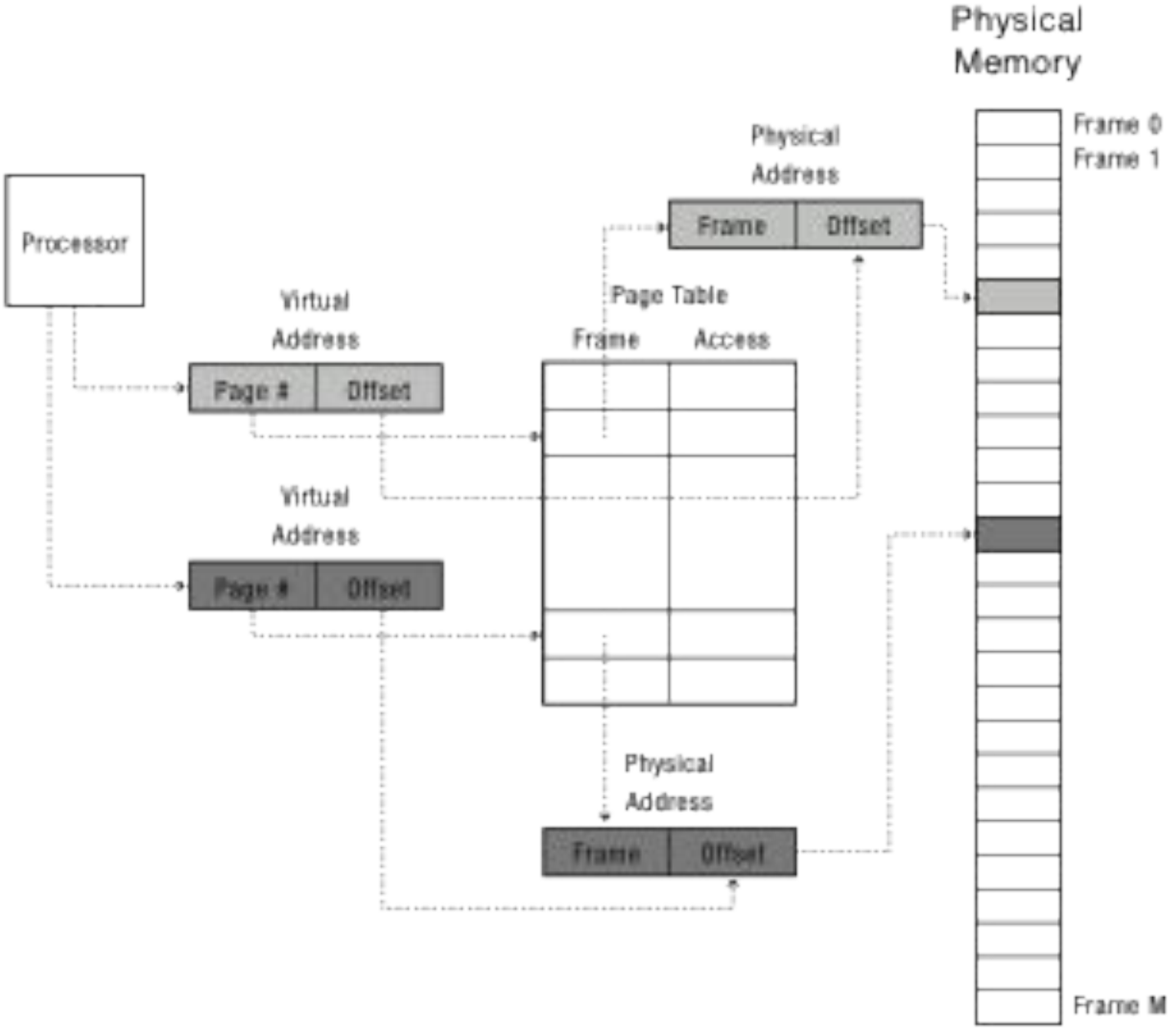
Paged Translation

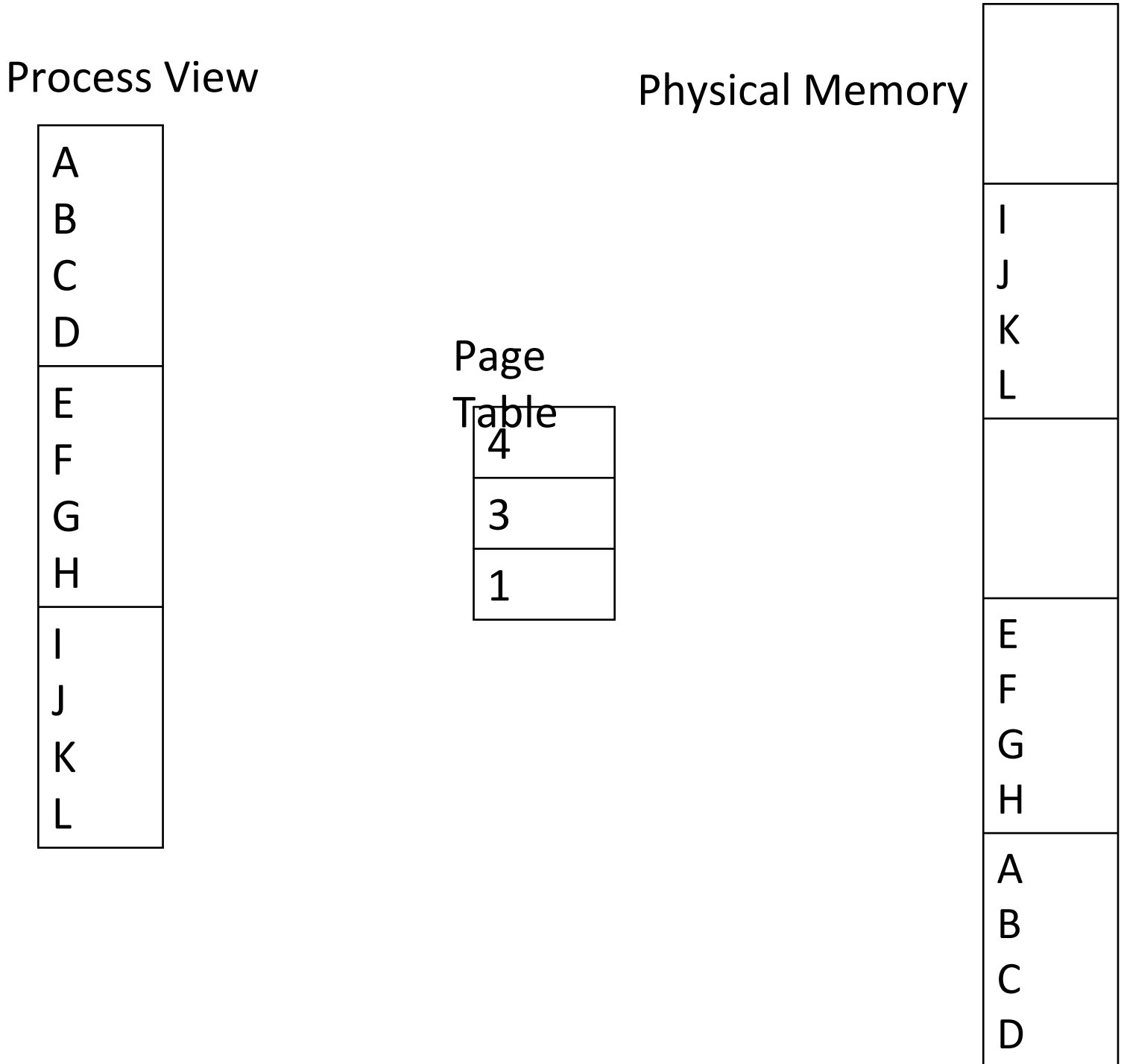
- Manage physical memory in fixed size units, or pages
- Finding a free page is easy
  - Bitmap allocation: 0011111100000001100
  - Each bit represents one physical page frame
- Each process has its own page table
  - Stored in physical memory
  - Hardware registers
    - pointer to page table start
    - page table length

Paged Translation (Abstract)



Paged Translation (Implementation)




Process View
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
Page Table
4
3
1
Physical Memory
I
J
K
L
E
F
G
H
A
B
C
D

Paging Questions

- With paging, what is saved/restored on a process context switch?
  - Pointer to page table, size of page table
  - Page table itself is in main memory
- What if page size is very small?
- What if page size is very large?
  - Internal fragmentation: if we don’t need all of the space inside a fixed size chunk

Paging and Copy on Write

- Can we share memory between processes?
  - Set entries in both page tables to point to same page frames
  - Need *core map* of page frames to track which processes are pointing to which page frames (e.g., reference count)
- UNIX fork with copy on write
  - Copy page table of parent into child process
  - Mark all pages (in new and old page tables) as read-only
  - Trap into kernel on write (in child or parent)
  - Copy page
  - Mark both as writeable
  - Resume execution

Demand Paging

- Can I start running a program before its code is in physical memory?
  - Set all page table entries to invalid
  - When a page is referenced for first time, kernel trap
  - Kernel brings page in from disk
  - Resume execution
  - Remaining pages can be transferred in the background while program is running

Sparse Address Spaces

- Might want many separate dynamic segments
  - Per-processor heaps
  - Per-thread stacks
  - Memory-mapped files
  - Dynamically linked libraries
- What if virtual address space is large?
  - 32-bits, 4KB pages => 500K page table entries
  - 64-bits => 4 quadrillion page table entries

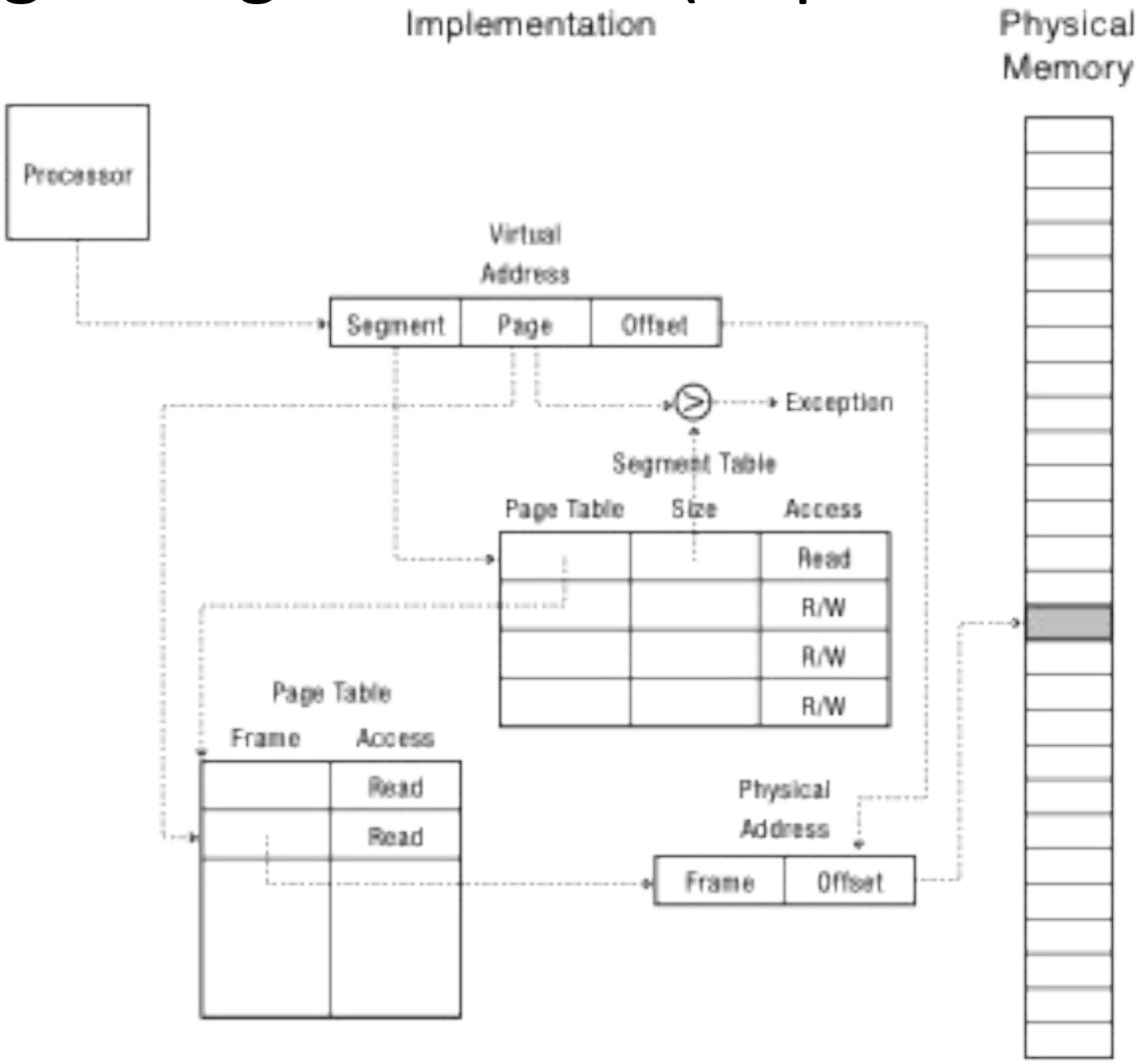
Multi-level Translation

- Tree of translation tables
  - Paged segmentation
  - Multi-level page tables
  - Multi-level paged segmentation
- Fixed-size page as lowest level unit of allocation
  - Efficient memory allocation (compared to segments)
  - Efficient for sparse addresses (compared to paging)
  - Efficient disk transfers (fixed size units)
  - Easier to build translation lookaside buffers
  - Efficient reverse lookup (from physical -> virtual)
  - Variable granularity for protection/sharing

Paged Segmentation

- Process memory is segmented
- Segment table entry:
  - Pointer to page table
  - Page table length (# of pages in segment)
  - Access permissions
- Page table entry:
  - Page frame
  - Access permissions
- Share/protection at either page or segment-level

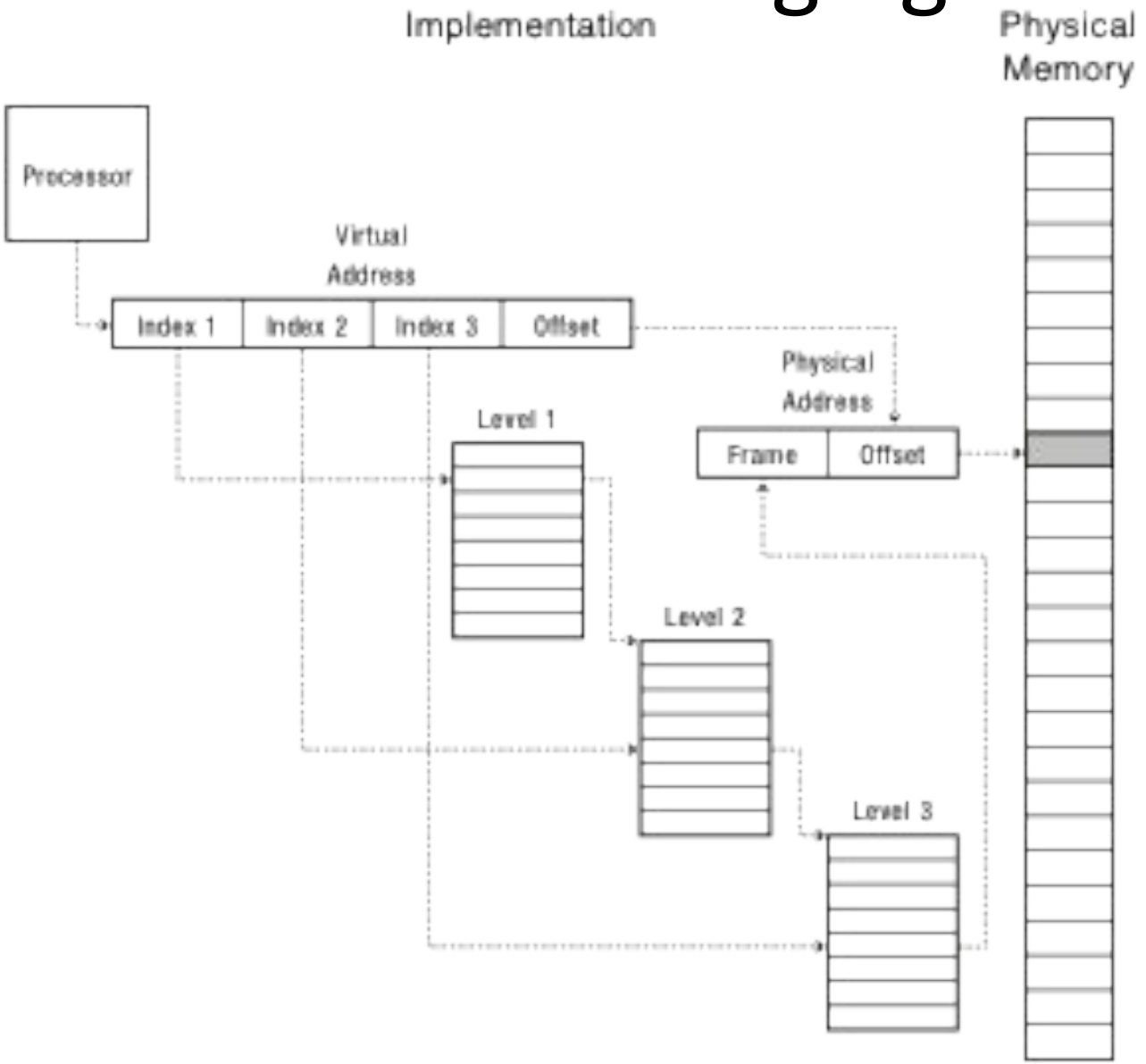
Paged Segmentation (Implementation)



Question

- With paged segmentation, what must be saved/restored across a process context switch?

Multilevel Paging



Question

- Write pseudo-code for translating a virtual address to a physical address for a system using 3-level paging.

x86 Multilevel Paged Segmentation

- Global Descriptor Table (segment table)
  - Segment virtual address
  - Segment length
  - Segment access permissions
  - Context switch: change global descriptor table register (GDTR, pointer to global descriptor table)
- Multilevel page table
  - 4KB pages; each level of page table fits in one page
  - 32-bit: two level page table (per segment)
  - 64-bit: four level page table (per segment)
  - Omit sub-tree if no valid addresses

Multilevel Translation

- Pros:
  - Allocate/fill only page table entries that are in use
  - Simple memory allocation
  - Share at segment or page level
- Cons:
  - Space overhead: one pointer per virtual page
  - Two (or more) lookups per memory reference

Portability

- Many operating systems keep their own memory translation data structures
  - List of memory objects (segments)
  - Virtual page -> physical page frame
  - Physical page frame -> set of virtual pages
- One approach: Inverted page table
  - Hash from virtual page -> physical page
  - Space proportional to # of physical pages

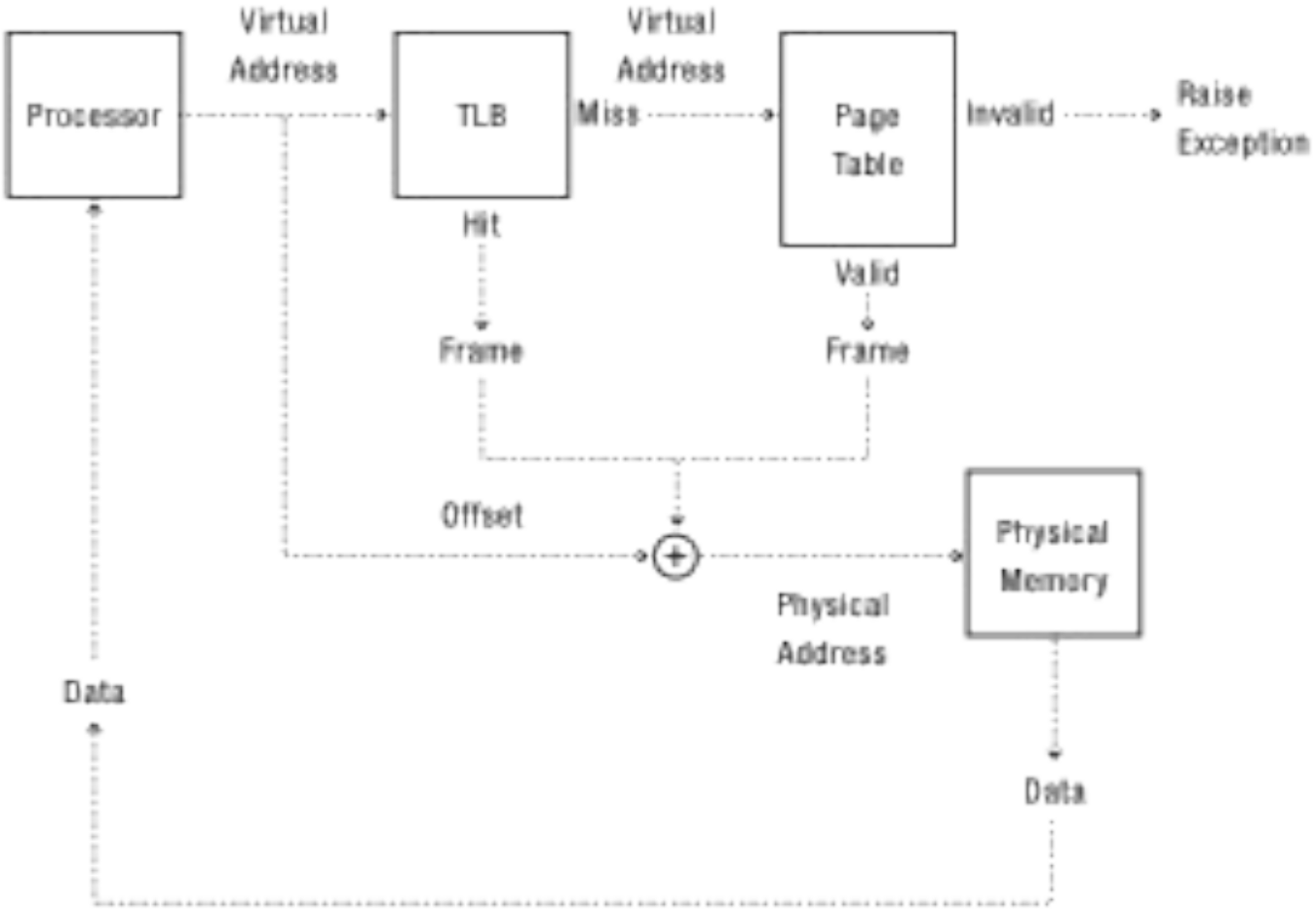
Efficient Address Translation

- Translation lookaside buffer (TLB)
  - Cache of recent virtual page -> physical page translations
  - If cache hit, use translation
  - If cache miss, walk multi-level page table (or trap to kernel)
- Cost of translation =

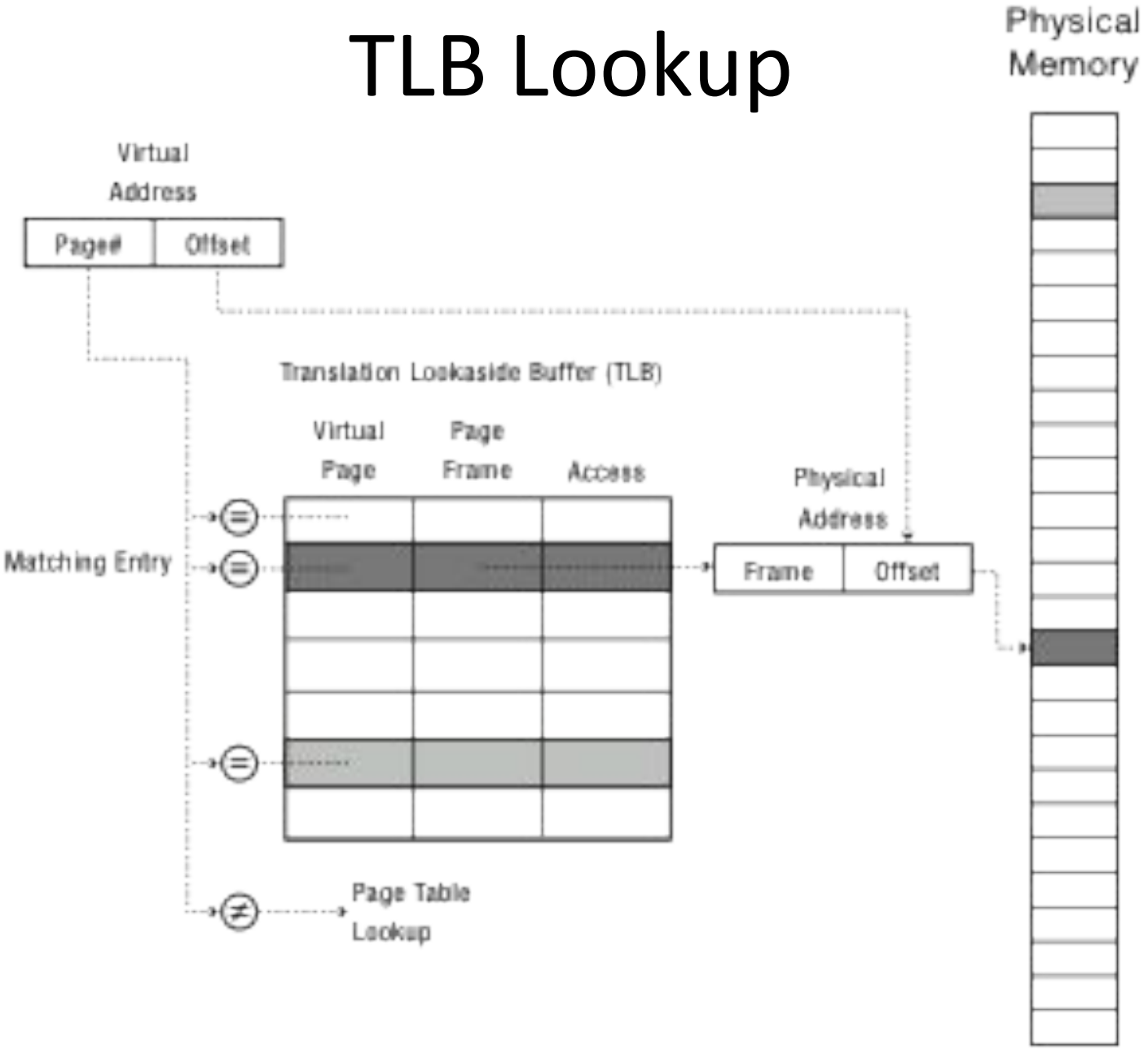
  Cost of TLB lookup +

  Prob(TLB miss) * cost of page table lookup

TLB and Page Table Translation



TLB Lookup


Physical Memory
Virtual Address
Page#
Offset
Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)
Virtual Page
Page Frame
Access
Physical Address
Matching Entry
Frame
Offset
Page Table Lookup

MIPS Software Loaded TLB

- Software defined translation tables
  - If translation is in TLB, ok
  - If translation is not in TLB, trap to kernel
  - Kernel computes translation and loads TLB
  - Kernel can use whatever data structures it wants
- Pros/cons?

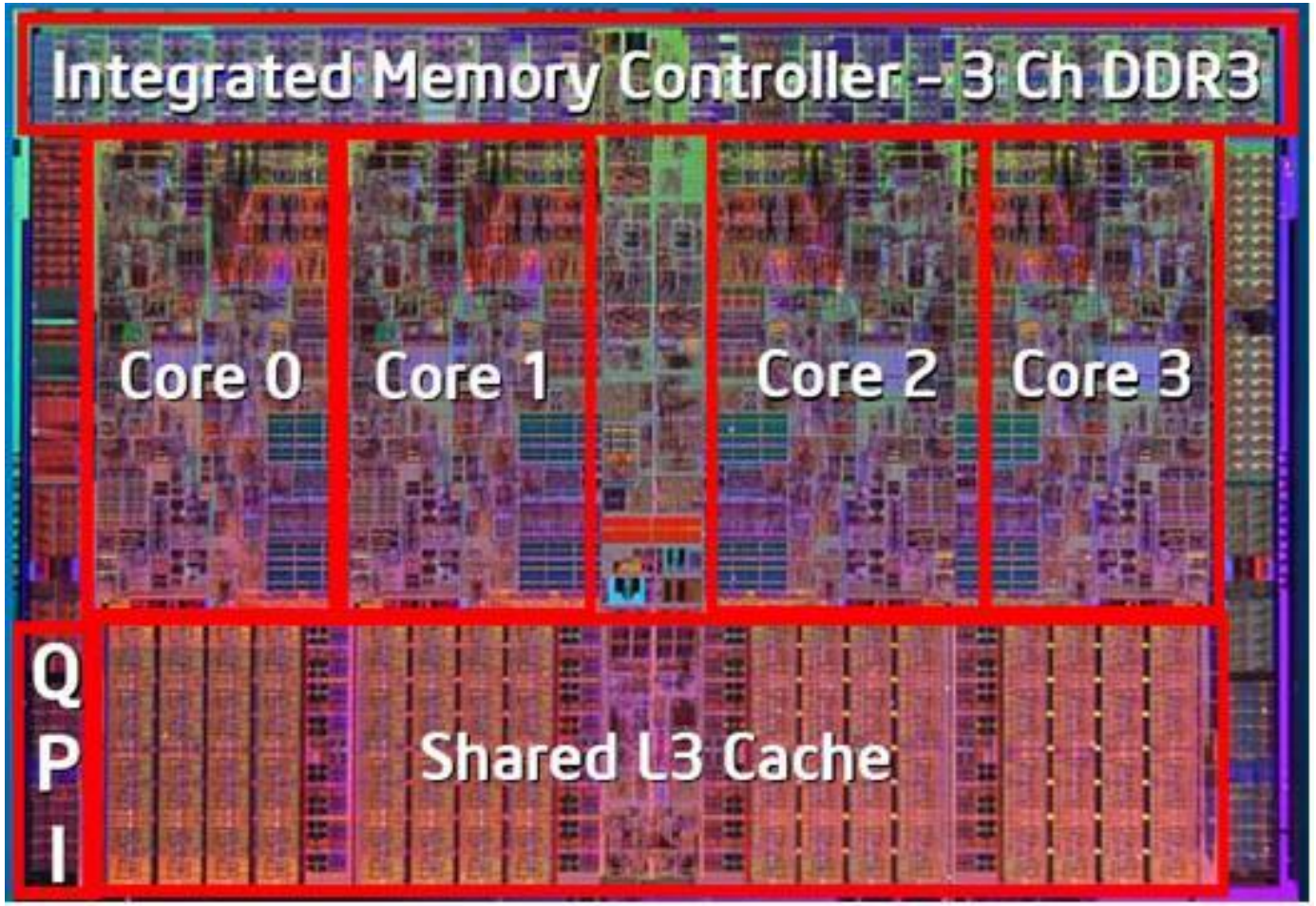
Question

- What is the cost of a TLB miss on a modern processor?
  - Cost of multi-level page table walk
  - MIPS: plus cost of trap handler entry/exit

Hardware Design Principle

The bigger the memory, the slower the memory

Intel i7


Integrated Memory Controller – 3 Ch DDR3
Core 0
Core 1
Core 2
Core 3
QPI
Shared L3 Cache

Memory Hierarchy

Cache	Hit Cost	Size
1st level cache/first level TLB	1 ns	64 KB
2nd level cache/second level TLB	4 ns	256 KB
3rd level cache	12 ns	2 MB
Memory (DRAM)	100 ns	10 GB
Data center memory (DRAM)	100 μs	100 TB
Local non-volatile memory	100 μs	100 GB
Local disk	10 ms	1 TB
Data center disk	10 ms	100 PB
Remote data center disk	200 ms	1 XB

i7 has 8MB as shared 3rd level cache; 2nd level cache is per-core

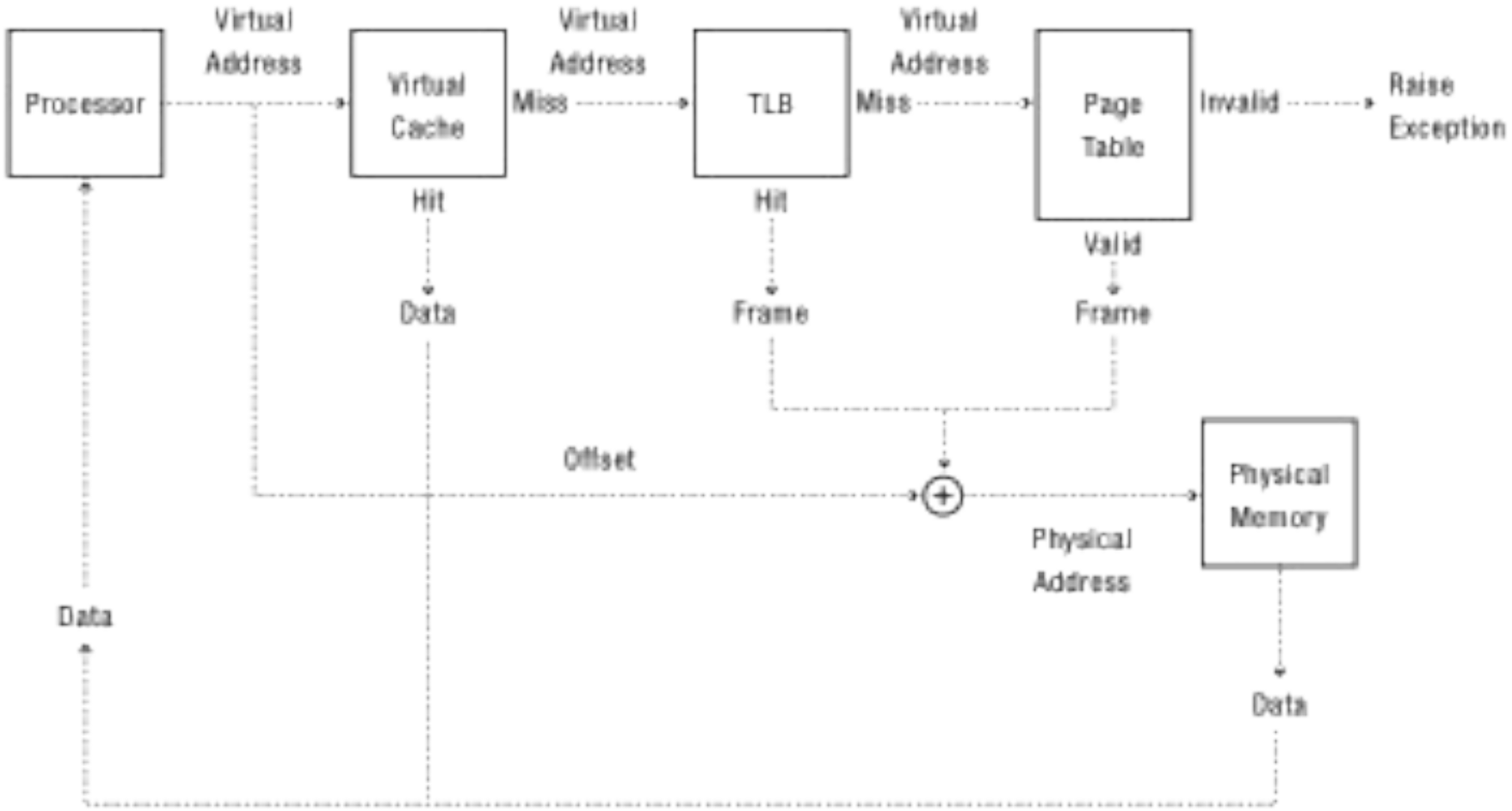
Question

- What is the cost of a first level TLB miss?
  - Second level TLB lookup
- What is the cost of a second level TLB miss?
  - x86: 2-4 level page table walk
- How expensive is a 4-level page table walk on a modern processor?

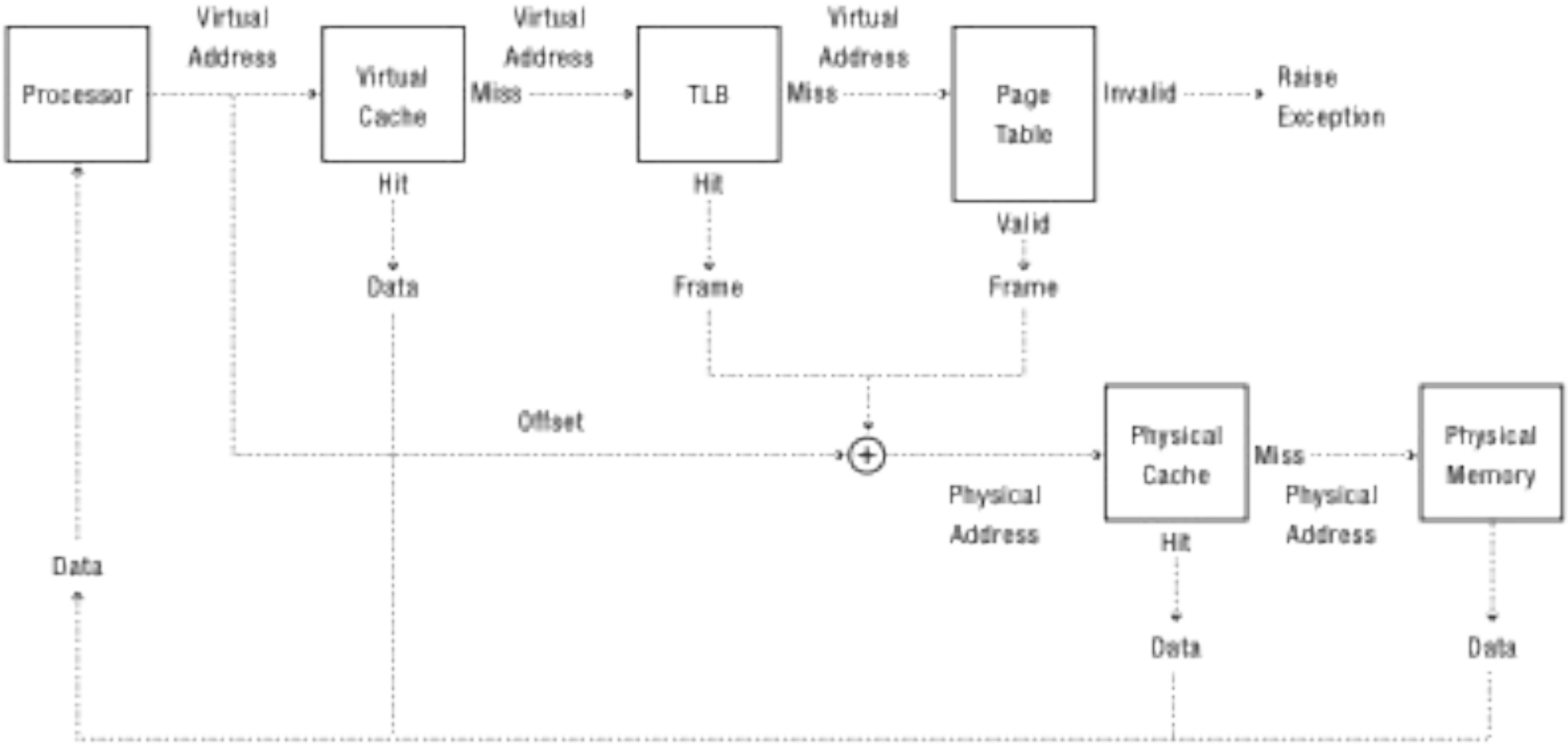
Virtually Addressed vs. Physically Addressed Caches

- Too slow to first access TLB to find physical address, then look up address in the cache
- Instead, first level cache is virtually addressed
- In parallel, access TLB to generate physical address in case of a cache miss

Virtually Addressed Caches



Physically Addressed Cache



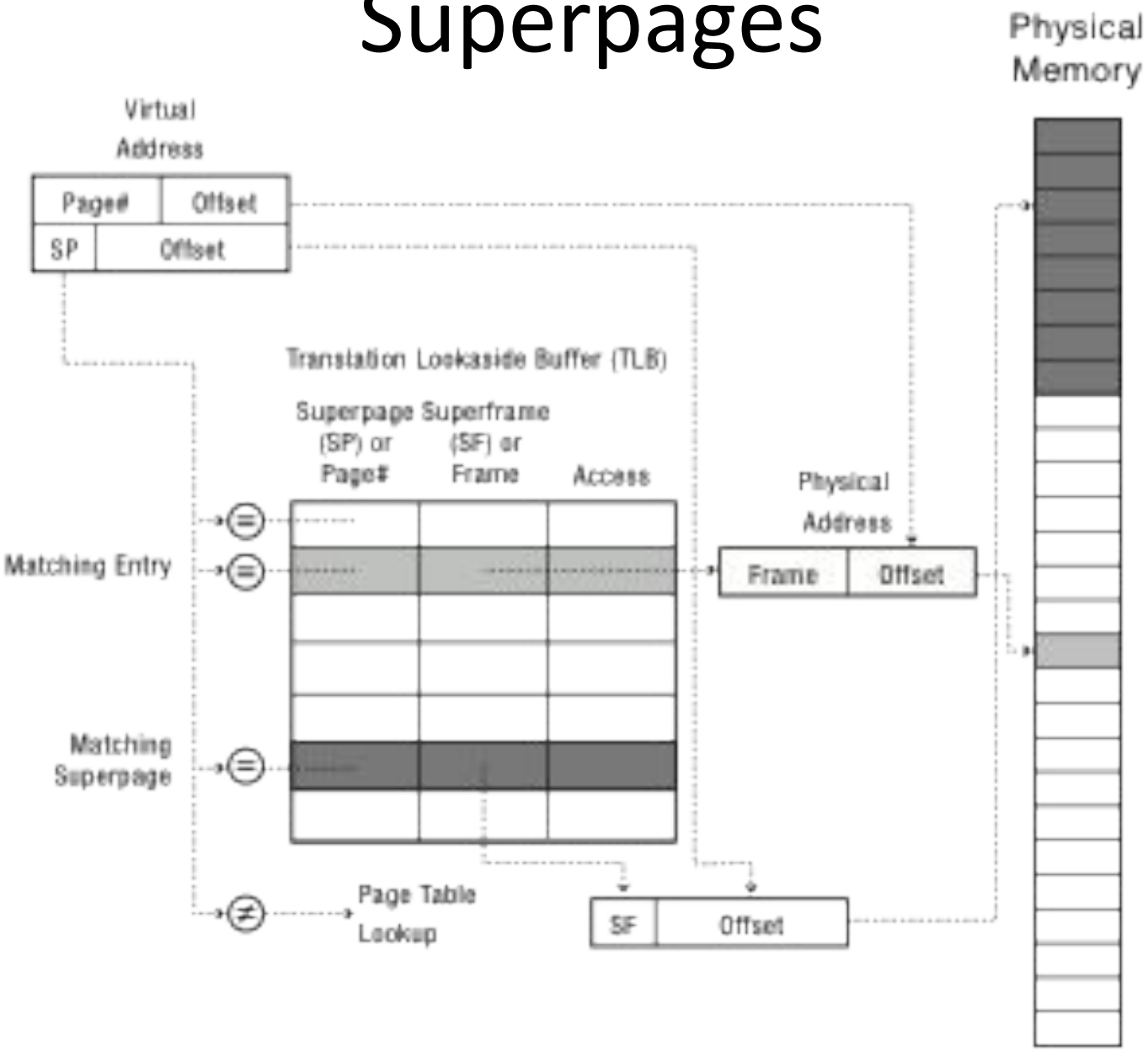
When Do TLBs Work/Not Work?

- Video Frame Buffer: 32 bits x 1K x 1K = 4MB

Superpages

- On many systems, TLB entry can be
  - A page
  - A superpage: a set of contiguous pages
- x86: superpage is set of pages in one page table
  - x86 TLB entries
    - 4KB
    - 2MB
    - 1GB

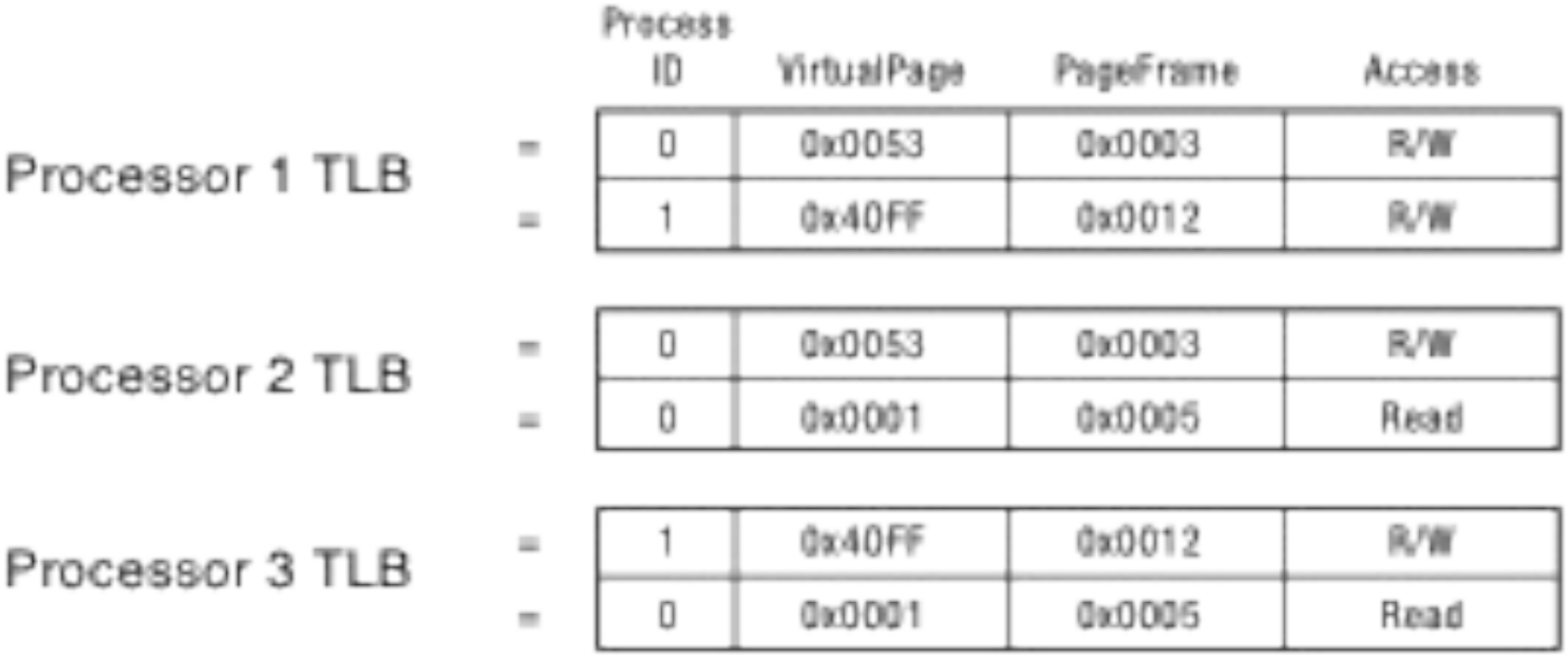
Superpages


Physical Memory
Virtual Address
Page#
Offset
SP
Offset
Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)
Superpage (SP) or Page#
Superframe (SF) or Frame
Access
Physical Address
Frame
Offset
Matching Entry
Matching Superpage
Page Table Lookup
SF
Offset

When Do TLBs Work/Not Work, part 2

- What happens when the OS changes the permissions on a page?
  - For demand paging, copy on write, zero on reference, …
- TLB may contain old translation
  - OS must ask hardware to purge TLB entry
- On a multicore: TLB shootdown
  - OS must ask each CPU to purge TLB entry

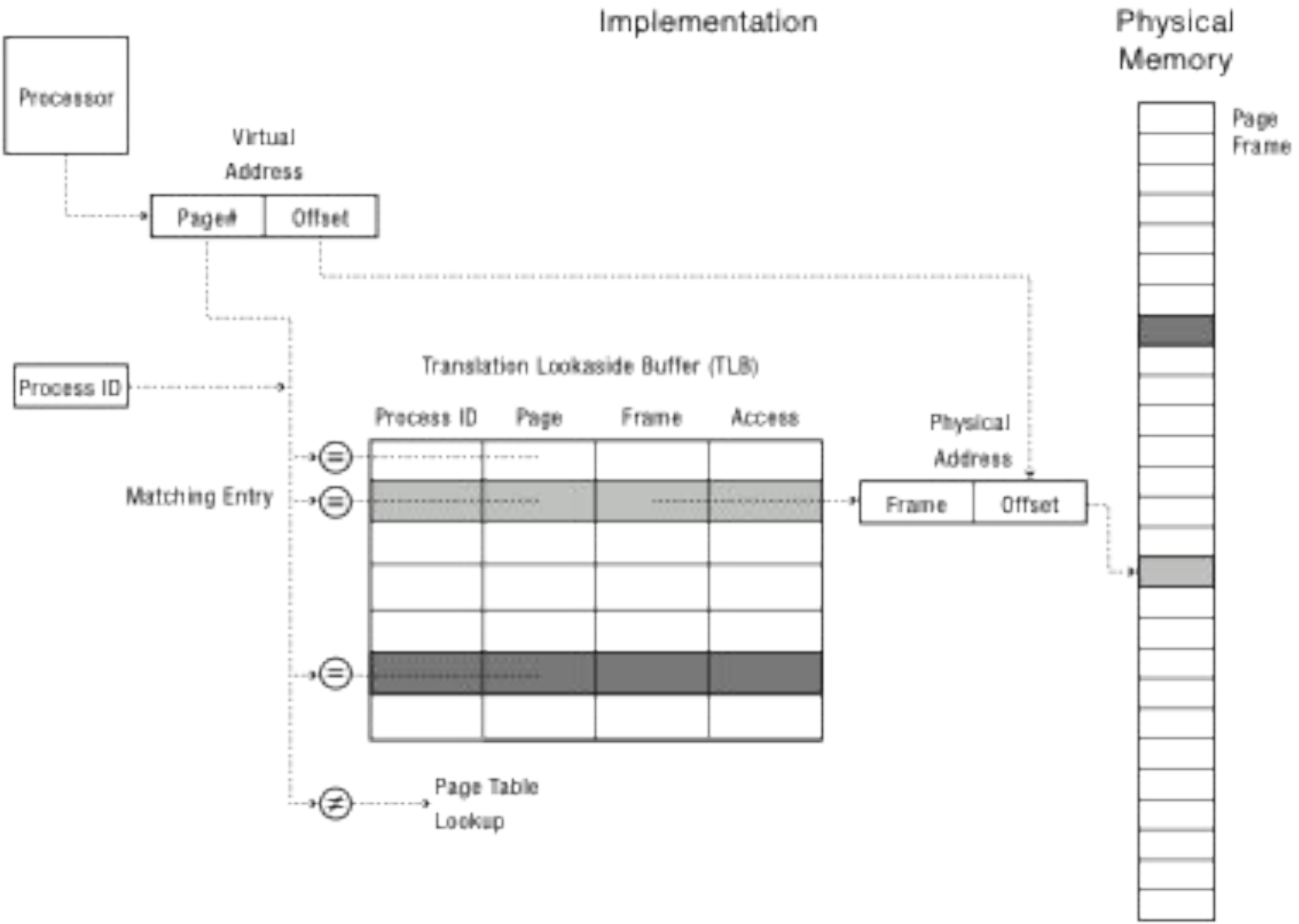
TLB Shootdown



When Do TLBs Work/Not Work, part 3

- What happens on a context switch?
  - Reuse TLB?
  - Discard TLB?

- Solution: Tagged TLB
  - Each TLB entry has process ID
  - TLB hit only if process ID matches current process


Implementation
Physical Memory
Processor
Virtual Address
Page#
Offset
Page Frame
Process ID
Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)
Process ID
Page
Frame
Access
Physical Address
Matching Entry
Frame
Offset
Page Table Lookup

Question

- With a virtual cache, what do we need to do on a context switch?

Aliasing

- Alias: two (or more) virtual cache entries that refer to the same physical memory
  - A consequence of a tagged virtually addressed cache!
  - A write to one copy needs to update all copies
- Typical solution
  - Keep both virtual and physical address for each entry in virtually addressed cache
  - Lookup virtually addressed cache and TLB in parallel
  - Check if physical address from TLB matches multiple entries, and update/invalidate other copies

Multicore and Hyperthreading

- Modern CPU has several functional units
  - Instruction decode
  - Arithmetic/branch
  - Floating point
  - Instruction/data cache
  - TLB
- Multicore: replicate functional units (i7: 4)
  - Share second/third level cache, second level TLB
- Hyperthreading: logical processors that share functional units (i7: 2)
  - Better functional unit utilization during memory stalls
- No difference from the OS/programmer perspective
  - Except for performance, affinity, …

Address Translation Uses

- Process isolation
  - Keep a process from touching anyone else's memory, or the kernel's
- Efficient interprocess communication
  - Shared regions of memory between processes
- Shared code segments
  - E.g., common libraries used by many different programs
- Program initialization
  - Start running a program before it is entirely in memory
- Dynamic memory allocation
  - Allocate and initialize stack/heap pages on demand

Address Translation (more)

- Cache management
  - Page coloring
- Program debugging
  - Data breakpoints when address is accessed
- Zero-copy I/O
  - Directly from I/O device into/out of user memory
- Memory mapped files
  - Access file data using load/store instructions
- Demand-paged virtual memory
  - Illusion of near-infinite memory, backed by disk or memory on other machines

Address Translation (even more)

- Checkpointing/restart
  - Transparently save a copy of a process, without stopping the program while the save happens
- Persistent data structures
  - Implement data structures that can survive system reboots
- Process migration
  - Transparently move processes between machines
- Information flow control
  - Track what data is being shared externally
- Distributed shared memory
  - Illusion of memory that is shared between machines

And If You Want More…

https://www.academia.edu/29585076/A_Survey_of_Techniques_for_Architecting_TLBs