



# COS 318: Operating Systems

## Virtual Memory Paging

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(<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/cos318/>)



# Today's Topics

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- ◆ Paging mechanism
- ◆ Page replacement algorithms



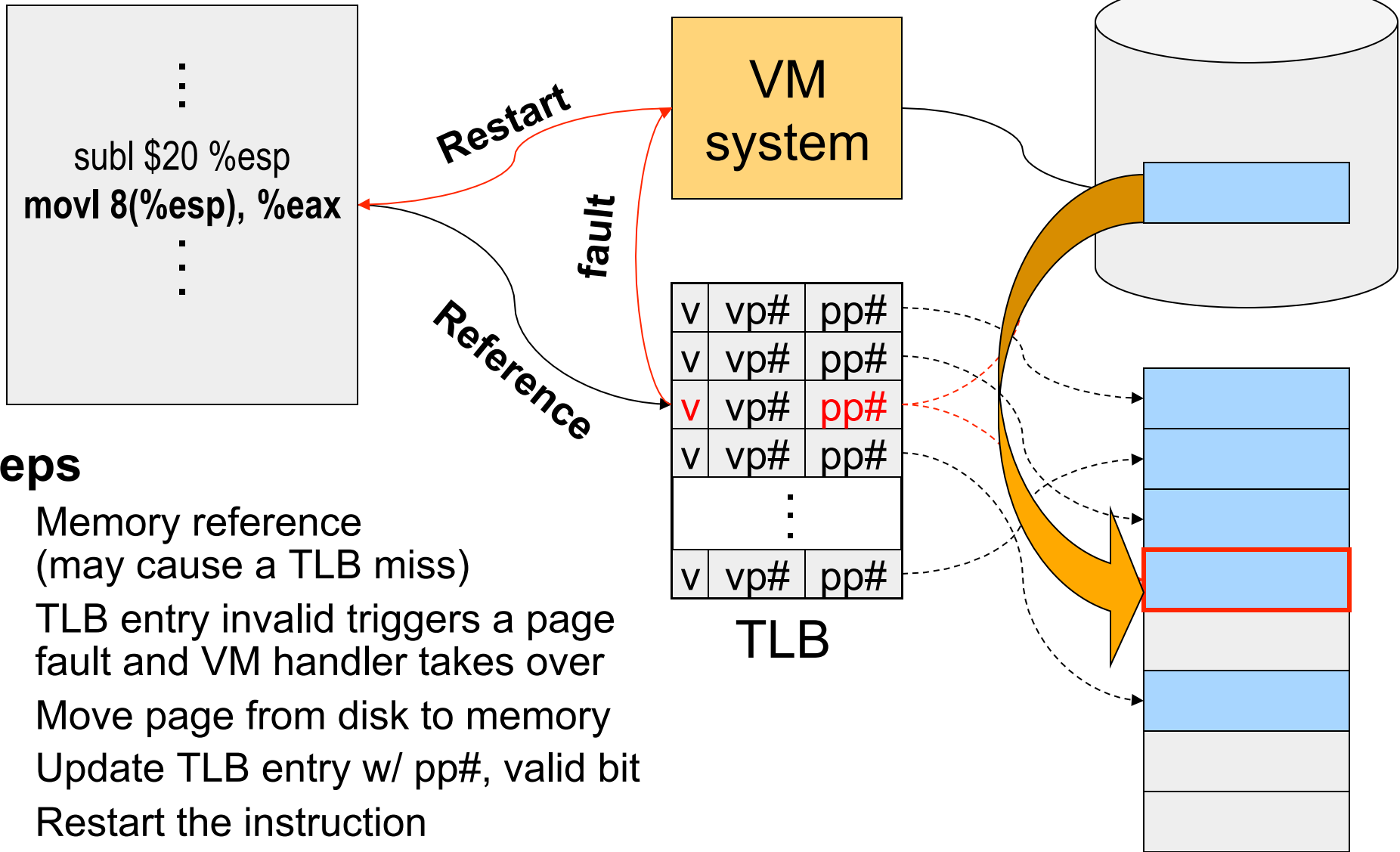
# Virtual Memory Paging

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- ◆ Simple world
  - Load entire process into memory. Run it. Exit.
- ◆ Problems
  - Slow (especially with big processes)
  - Wasteful of space (doesn't use all of its memory all the time)
- ◆ Solution
  - Demand paging: only bring in pages actually used
  - Paging: only keep frequently used pages in memory
- ◆ Mechanism:
  - Virtual memory maps some to physical pages, some to disk



# VM Paging Steps



## Steps

- ◆ Memory reference (may cause a TLB miss)
- ◆ TLB entry invalid triggers a page fault and VM handler takes over
- ◆ Move page from disk to memory
- ◆ Update TLB entry w/ pp#, valid bit
- ◆ Restart the instruction
- ◆ Memory reference again



# Virtual Memory Issues

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- ◆ How to switch a process after a fault?
  - Need to save state and resume
  - Is it the same as an interrupt?
- ◆ What to page in?
  - Just the faulting page or more?
  - Want to know the future...
- ◆ What to replace?
  - Cache always too small, which page to replace?
  - Want to know the future...



# How Does Page Fault Work?



```
·  
·  
·  
subl $20 %esp  
movl 8(%esp), %eax  
·  
·  
·
```

```
VM fault handler()  
{  
    Save states  
    ·  
    ·  
    iret  
}
```



- ◆ User program should not be aware of the page fault
- ◆ Fault may have happened in the middle of the instruction!
- ◆ Can we skip the faulting instruction?
- ◆ Is a faulting instruction always restartable?



# What to Page In?

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- ◆ Page in the faulting page
  - Simplest, but each “page in” has substantial overhead
- ◆ Page in more pages each time
  - May reduce page faults if the additional pages are used
  - Waste space and time if they are not used
  - Real systems do some kind of prefetching
- ◆ Applications control what to page in
  - Some systems support for user-controlled prefetching
  - But, many applications do not always know



# VM Page Replacement

- ◆ Things are not always available when you want them

- It is possible that no unused page frame is available
- VM needs to do page replacement

- ◆ On a page fault

- If there is an unused frame, get it
- **If no unused page frame available,**
  - **Find a used page frame**
  - **If it has been modified, write it to disk**
  - **Invalidate its current PTE and TLB entry**
- Load the new page from disk
- Update the faulting PTE and remove its TLB entry
- Restart the faulting instruction

**Page  
Replacement**

- ◆ General data structures

- A list of unused page frames
- A table to map page frames to PID and virtual pages, why?





# Which “Used” Page Frame To Replace?

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- ◆ Random
- ◆ Optimal or MIN algorithm
- ◆ NRU (Not Recently Used)
- ◆ FIFO (First-In-First-Out)
- ◆ FIFO with second chance
- ◆ Clock
- ◆ LRU (Least Recently Used)
- ◆ NFU (Not Frequently Used)
- ◆ Aging (approximate LRU)
- ◆ Working Set
- ◆ WSClock



# Optimal or MIN

## ◆ Algorithm:

- Replace the page that won't be used for the longest time  
(Know all references in the future)

## ◆ Example

- Reference string: 1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5
- 4 page frames
- 6 faults

## ◆ Pros

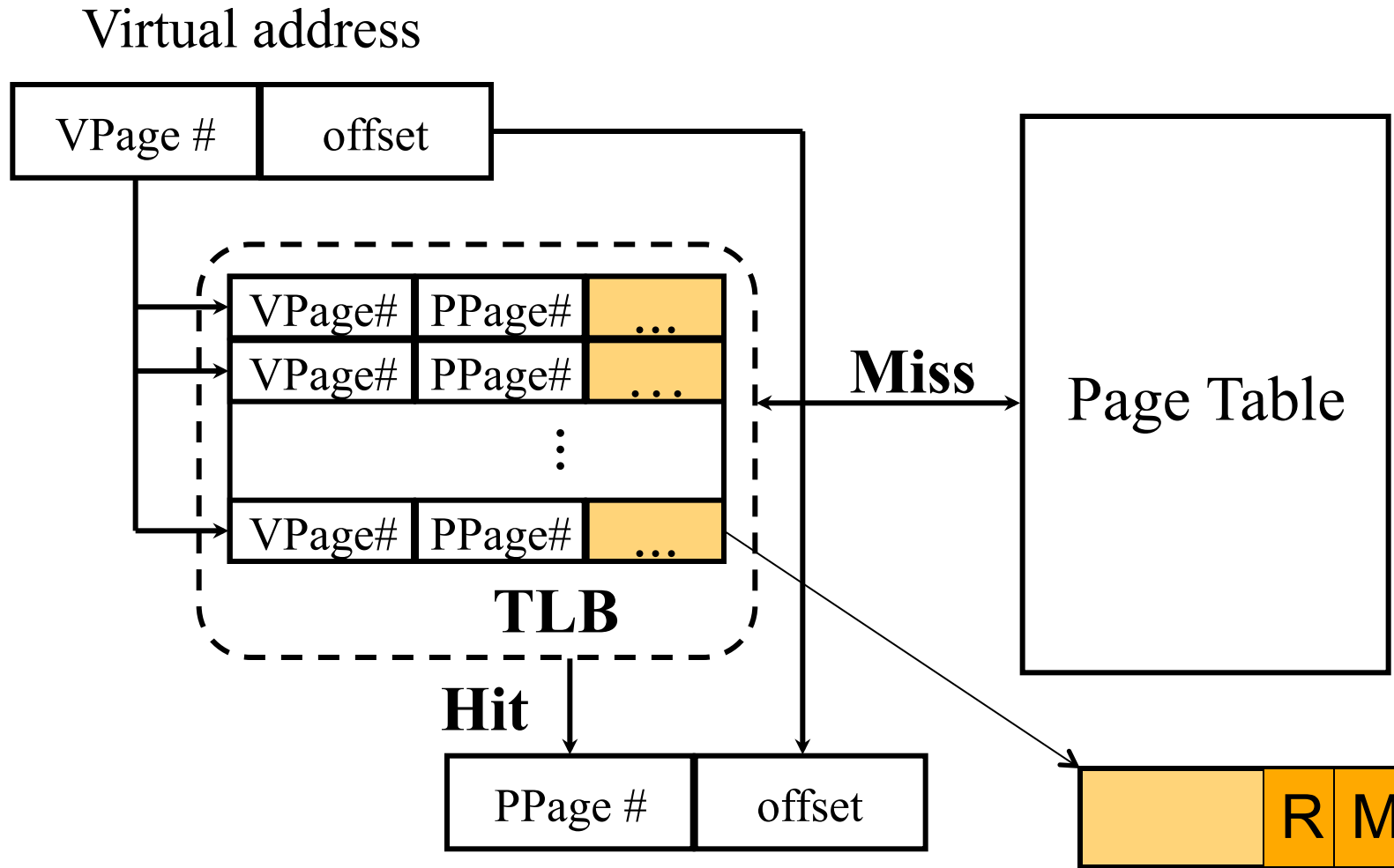
- Optimal solution and can be used as an off-line analysis method

## ◆ Cons

- No on-line implementation



# Revisit TLB and Page Table



## ◆ Important bits for paging

- **Reference:** Set when referencing a location in the page
- **Modify:** Set when writing to a location in the page



# Not Recently Used (NRU)

## ◆ Algorithm

- Randomly pick a page from the following (in this order)
  - Not referenced and not modified
  - Not referenced and modified
  - Referenced and not modified
  - Referenced and modified
- Clear reference bits

## ◆ Example

- 4 page frames
- Reference string
- 8 page faults

1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5

## ◆ Pros

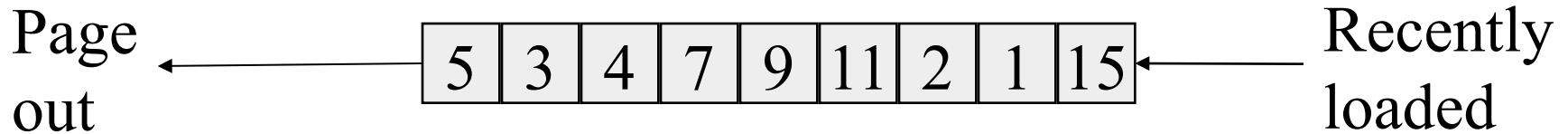
- Implementable

## ◆ Cons

- Require scanning through reference bits and modified bits



# First-In-First-Out (FIFO)



## ◆ Algorithm

- Throw out the oldest page

## ◆ Example

- 4 page frames
- Reference string
- 10 page faults



## ◆ Pros

- Low-overhead implementation

## ◆ Cons

- May replace the heavily used pages



# More Frames → Fewer Page Faults?

- ◆ Consider the following with 4 page frames

- Algorithm: FIFO replacement

- Reference string: 

1	2	3	4	1	2	5	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- 10 page faults

- ◆ Same string with 3 page frames

- Algorithm: FIFO replacement

- Reference string: 

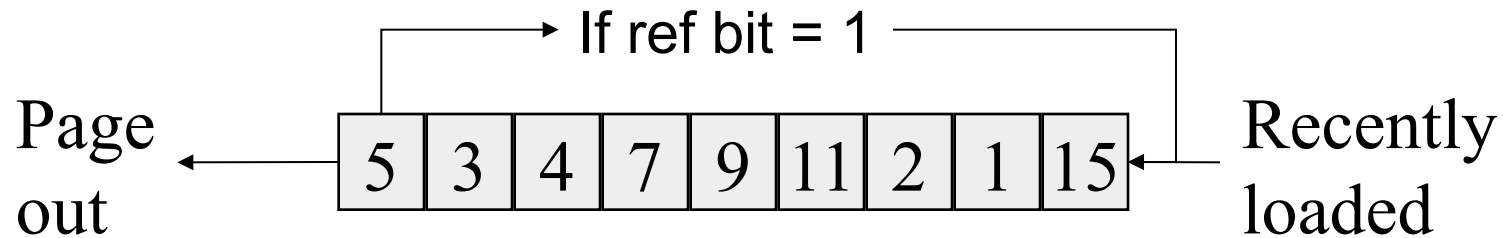
1	2	3	4	1	2	5	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- **9 page faults!**

- ◆ This is so called “Belady’s anomaly” (Belady, Nelson, Shedler 1969)



# FIFO with 2nd Chance



## ◆ Algorithm

- Check the reference-bit of the oldest page
- If it is 0, then replace it
- If it is 1, clear the referent-bit, put it to the end of the list, and continue searching

## ◆ Example

- 4 page frames
- Reference string:
- 8 page faults

1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5

## ◆ Pros

- Simple to implement

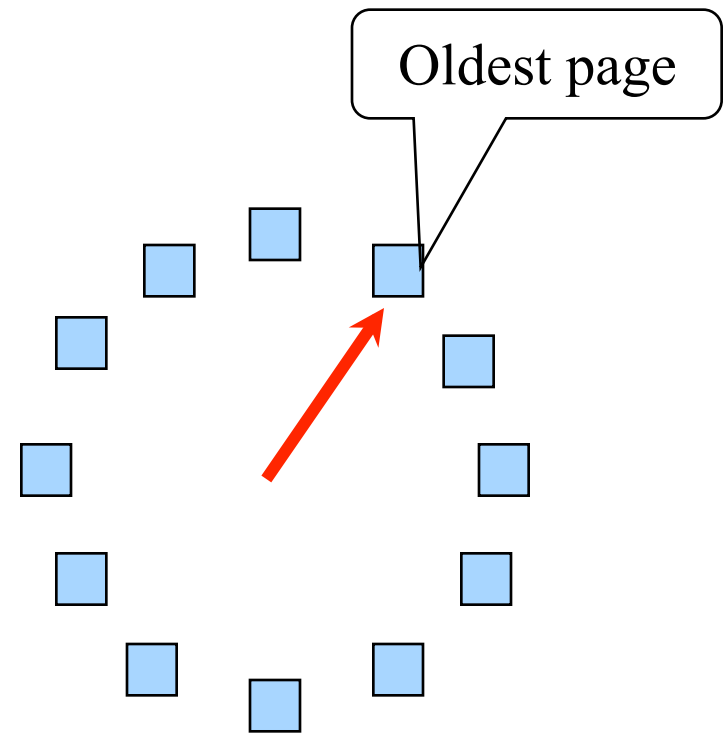
## ◆ Cons

- The worst case may take a long time



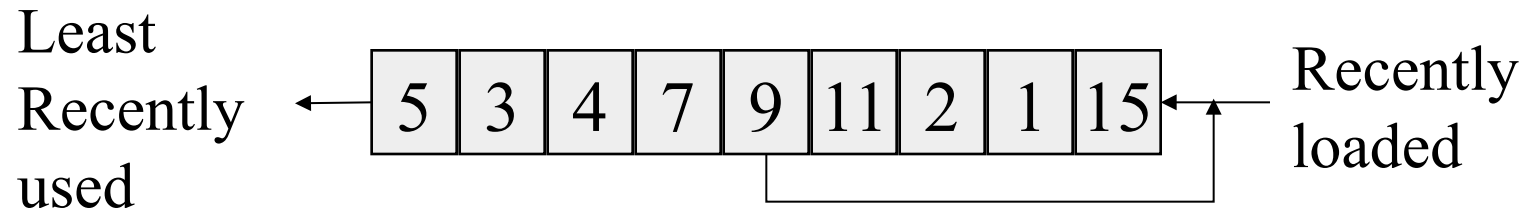
# Clock

- ◆ FIFO clock algorithm
  - Hand points to the oldest page
  - On a page fault, follow the hand to inspect pages
- ◆ Second chance
  - If the reference bit is 1, set it to 0 and advance the hand
  - If the reference bit is 0, use it for replacement
- ◆ Compare with the FIFO with 2nd chance
  - What's the difference?
- ◆ What if memory is very large
  - Take a long time to go around?





# Least Recently Used



## ◆ Algorithm

- Replace page that hasn't been used for the longest time
  - Order the pages by time of reference
  - Timestamp for each referenced page

## ◆ Example

- 4 page frames
- Reference string:
- 8 page faults

1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5

## ◆ Pros

- Good to approximate MIN

## ◆ Cons

- Difficult to implement

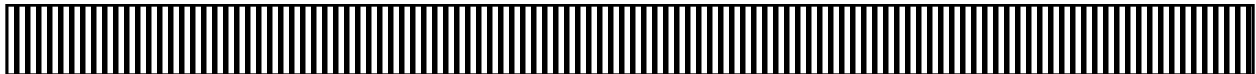


# Approximation of LRU

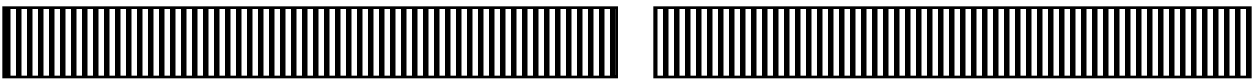
- ◆ Use CPU ticks
  - For each memory reference, store the ticks in its PTE
  - Find the page with minimal ticks value to replace
- ◆ Use a smaller counter

Most recently used

Least recently used


LRU  N categories

Pages in order of last reference

Crude LRU  2 categories

Pages referenced since  
the last page fault

Pages not referenced  
since the last page fault

8-bit count  256 categories



# Aging: Not Frequently Used (NFU)

## ◆ Algorithm

- Shift reference bits into counters
- Pick the page with the smallest counter to replace

00000000	00000000	10000000	01000000	10100000
00000000	10000000	01000000	10100000	01010000
10000000	11000000	11100000	01110000	00111000
00000000	00000000	00000000	10000000	01000000

## ◆ Old example

- 4 page frames
- Reference string:
- 8 page faults

1 2 3 4 1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5

## ◆ Main difference between NFU and LRU?

- NFU has a short history (counter length)

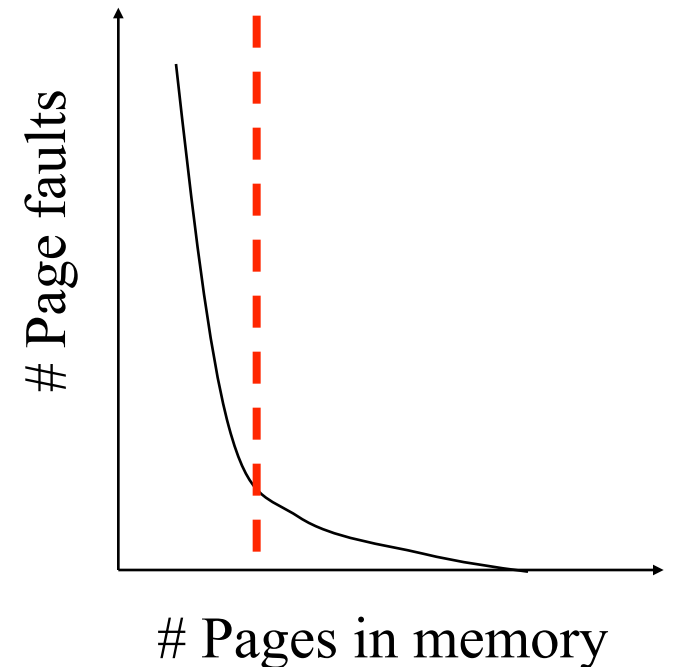
## ◆ How many bits are enough?

- In practice 8 bits are quite good



# Program Behavior (Denning 1968)

- ◆ 80/20 rule
  - > 80% memory references are within <20% of memory space
  - > 80% memory references are made by < 20% of code
- ◆ Spatial locality
  - Neighbors are likely to be accessed
- ◆ Temporal locality
  - The same page is likely to be accessed again in the near future



# Working Set

- ◆ Main idea (Denning 1968, 1970)
  - Define a working set as the set of pages in the most recent  $K$  page references
  - Keep the working set in memory will reduce page faults significantly
- ◆ Approximate working set
  - The set of pages of a process used in the last  $T$  seconds
- ◆ An algorithm
  - On a page fault, scan through all pages of the process
  - If the reference bit is 1, record the current time for the page
  - If the reference bit is 0, check the “time of last use,”
    - If the page has not been used within  $T$ , replace the page
    - Otherwise, go to the next
  - Add the faulting page to the working set



# WSClock

- ◆ Follow the clock hand
- ◆ If the reference bit is 1
  - Set reference bit to 0
  - Set the current time for the page
  - Advance the clock hand
- ◆ If the reference bit is 0, check “time of last use”
  - If the page has been used within  $\delta$ , go to the next
  - If the page has not been used within  $\delta$  and modify bit is 1
    - Schedule the page for page out and go to the next
  - If the page has not been used within  $\delta$  and modify bit is 0
    - Replace this page



# Replacement Algorithms

- ◆ The algorithms
  - Random
  - Optimal or MIN algorithm
  - NRU (Not Recently Used)
  - FIFO (First-In-First-Out)
  - FIFO with second chance
  - Clock
  - LRU (Least Recently Used)
  - NFU (Not Frequently Used)
  - Aging (approximate LRU)
  - Working Set
  - WSClock
- ◆ Which are your top two?



# Summary

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- ◆ VM paging
  - Page fault handler
  - What to page in
  - What to page out
- ◆ LRU is good but difficult to implement
- ◆ Clock (FIFO with 2<sup>nd</sup> hand) is considered a good practical solution
- ◆ Working set concept is important

