

* Segmentation / Non-Contiguous Memory Allocation

• What is Segmentation?

A memory technique where a program is divided into different parts (segments) based on logical meaning.

Example: - like a program is divided into

① Main function.

② Library function.

③ Stack.

④ Data section.

Each segment as a number and an offset (distance from start).

< Segment number, offset >

• Why we need this?

Paging divides the program into fixed-size without caring about what the program actually is.

Segmentation, on the other hand, follows user's logical view.

- Advantages

- ① No internal fragmentation (Since each segment has exact size needed).
- ② Easier for programmers (Keeps related things together).
- ③ Segment table is smaller than Page table.

- Disadvantages

- ① Causes external fragmentation.
- ② Segment sizes vary, so swapping becomes harder.