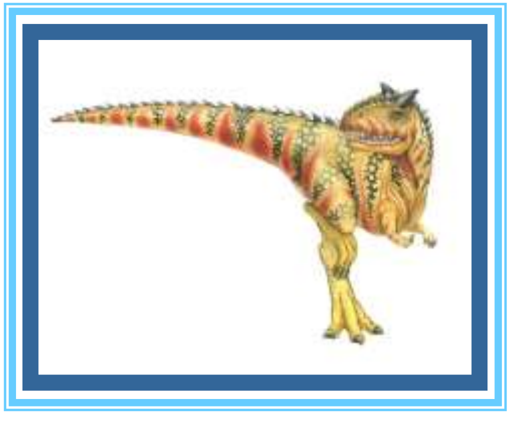
Chapter 9: Main Memory



Chapter 9: Memory Management

- Background
- Contiguous Memory Allocation
- Paging
- Structure of the Page Table
- Swapping
- Example: The Intel 32 and 64-bit Architectures
- Example: ARMv8 Architecture

Objectives

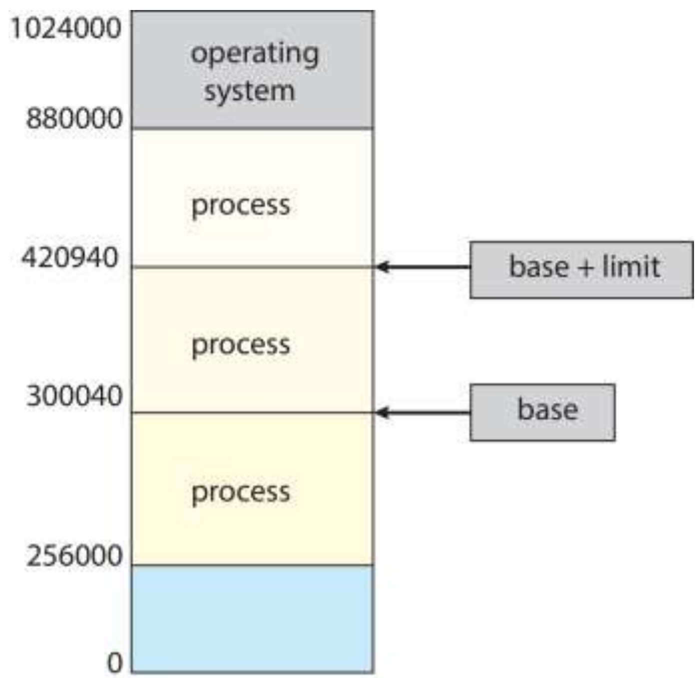
- To provide a detailed description of various ways of organizing memory hardware
- To discuss various memory-management techniques,
- To provide a detailed description of the Intel Pentium, which supports both pure segmentation and segmentation with paging

Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run
- Main memory and registers are the only storage CPU can access directly
- Memory unit only sees a stream of:
  - addresses + read requests, or
  - address + data and write requests
- Register access is done in one CPU clock (or less)
- Main memory can take many cycles, causing a **stall**
- **Cache** sits between main memory and CPU registers
- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation

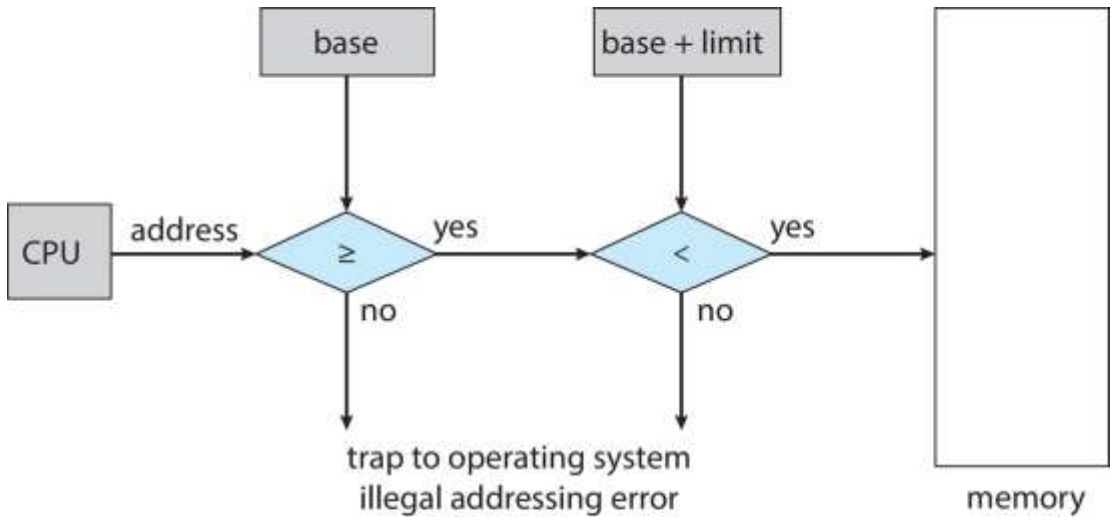
Protection

- Need to ensure that a process can access only those addresses in its address space.
- We can provide this protection by using a pair of **base** and **limit registers** to define the logical address space of a process



Hardware Address Protection

- CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to be sure it is between base and limit for that user



- the instructions to loading the base and limit registers are privileged

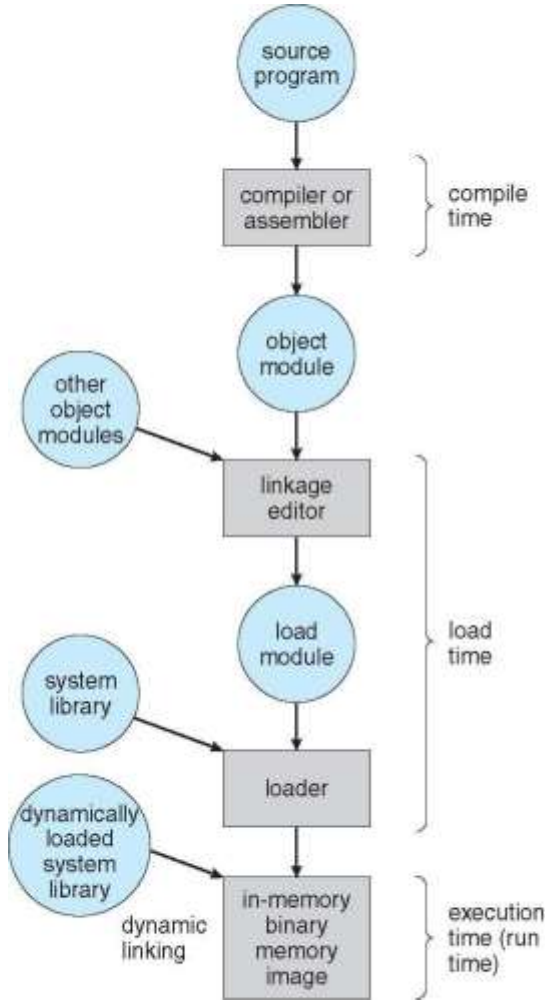
Address Binding

- Programs on disk, ready to be brought into memory to execute form an **input queue**
  - Without support, must be loaded into address 0000
- Inconvenient to have first user process physical address always at 0000
  - How can it not be?
- Addresses represented in different ways at different stages of a program's life
  - Source code addresses usually symbolic
  - Compiled code addresses **bind** to relocatable addresses
    - i.e., "14 bytes from beginning of this module"
  - Linker or loader will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses
    - i.e., 74014
  - Each binding maps one address space to another

Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

- Address binding of instructions and data to memory addresses can happen at three different stages
  - **Compile time**: If memory location known a priori, **absolute code** can be generated; must recompile code if starting location changes
  - **Load time**: Must generate **relocatable code** if memory location is not known at compile time
  - **Execution time**: Binding delayed until run time if the process can be moved during its execution from one memory segment to another
    - Need hardware support for address maps (e.g., base and limit registers)

Multistep Processing of a User Program

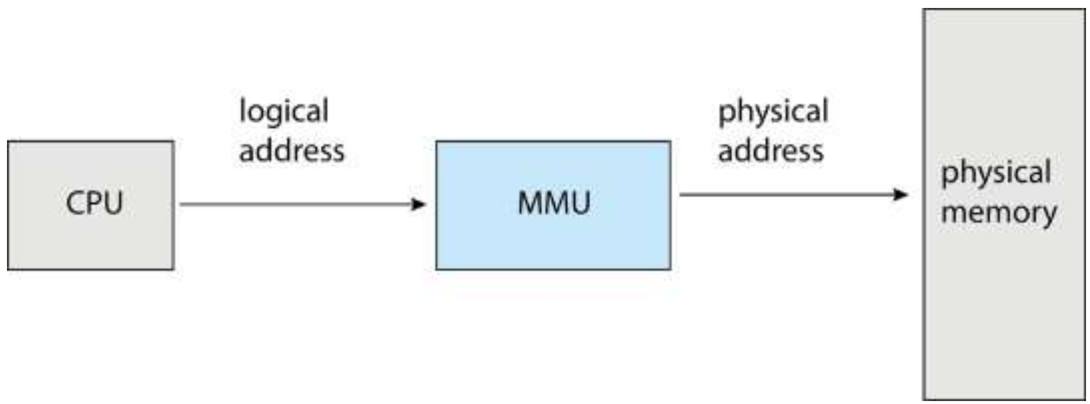


Logical vs. Physical Address Space

- The concept of a logical address space that is bound to a separate **physical address space** is central to proper memory management
  - **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
  - **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit
- Logical and physical addresses are the same in compile-time and load-time address-binding schemes; logical (virtual) and physical addresses **differ in execution-time address-binding scheme**
- **Logical address space** is the set of all logical addresses generated by a program
- **Physical address space** is the set of all physical addresses generated by a program

Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

- Hardware device that at run time maps virtual to physical address



- Many methods possible, covered in the rest of this chapter

Memory-Management Unit (Cont.)

- Consider a simple scheme. Which is a generalization of the base-register scheme.
- The base register, now called the **relocation register**
- The value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory
- The user program deals with ***logical* addresses**; it never sees the ***real* physical addresses**
  - Execution-time binding occurs when reference is made to a location in memory
  - Logical address bound to physical addresses in **Execution time**

Memory-Management Unit (Cont.)

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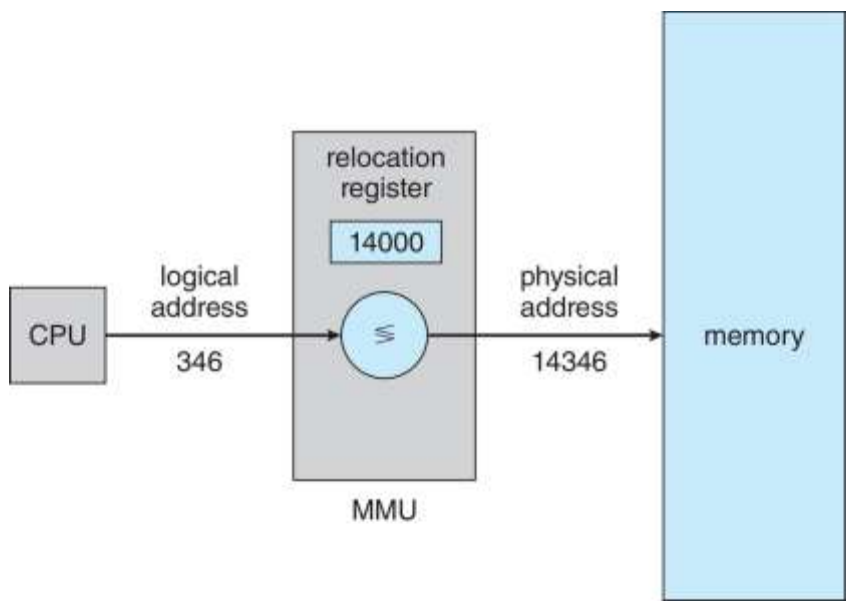

Dynamic Loading

- The entire program does need to be in memory to execute
- Routine is not loaded until it is called
- Better memory-space utilization; unused routine is never loaded
- **<u>All routines kept on disk in relocatable load format</u>**

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Relocatable Code: This code is not bound to a specific memory address. When a program is compiled, the compiler generates **object code** with addresses **starting at some base location**, often zero. This object code is considered relocatable because it can be placed at any point in memory.

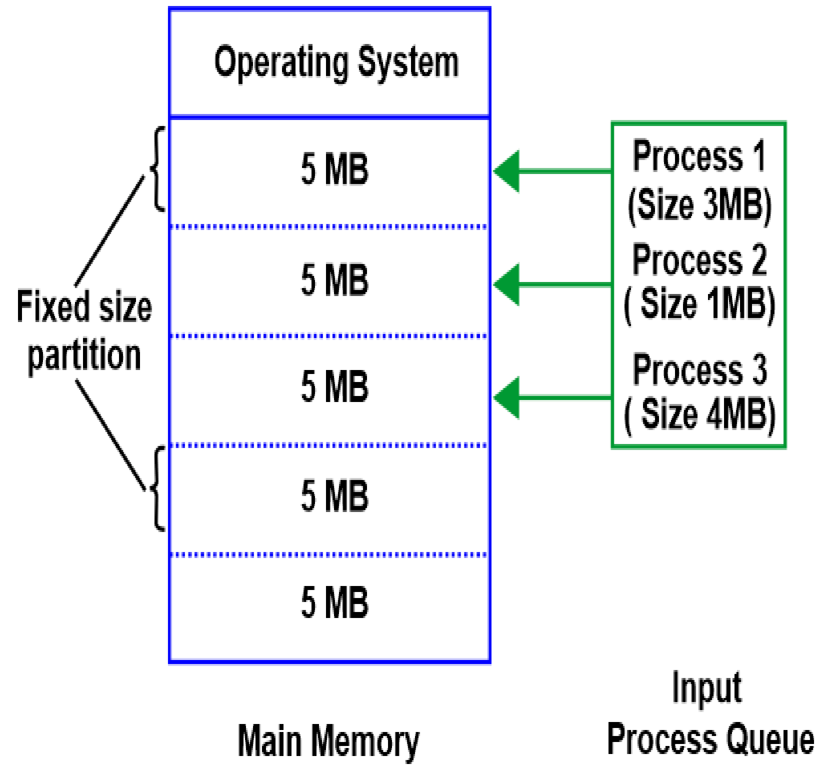
- Useful when large amounts of code are needed to handle infrequently occurring cases
- No special support from the operating system is required
  - Implemented through program design
  - OS can help by providing libraries to implement dynamic loading

Dynamic Linking

- **Static linking** – system libraries and program code combined by the loader into the binary program image
- **Dynamic linking** –linking postponed until execution time
- Small piece of code, **stub**, used to locate the appropriate memory-resident library routine
- Stub replaces itself with the address of the routine and executes the routine
- The operating system checks if the routine is in the processes' memory address
  - If not in address space, add to address space
- Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries
- System also known as **shared libraries**
- Consider applicability to patching system libraries
  - Versioning may be needed

Contiguous Allocation

- Main memory must support both OS and user processes
- Limited resource, must allocate efficiently
- Contiguous allocation is one early method
- Main memory usually into two **partitions**:
  - Resident operating system, usually held in low memory with interrupt vector
  - User processes then held in high memory
  - Each process contained in single contiguous section of memory

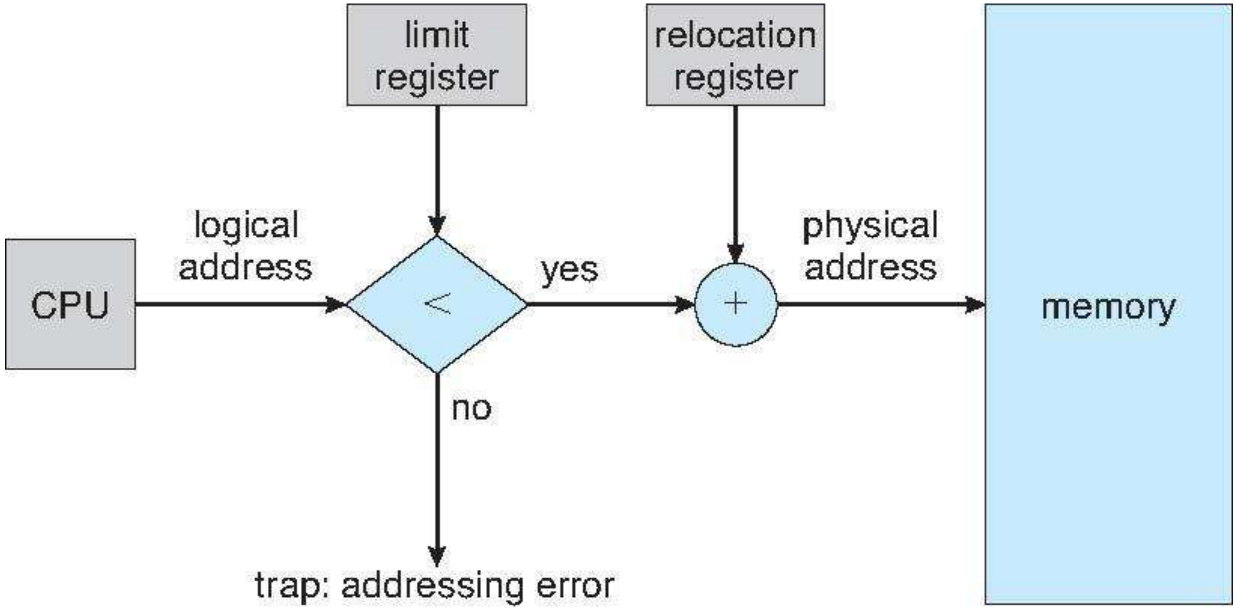


Contiguous Allocation (Cont.)

- Relocation registers used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data
  - **Base register** contains value of smallest physical address
  - Limit register contains range of logical addresses – each logical address must be less than the limit register
  - MMU maps logical address *dynamically*
  - Can then allow actions such as kernel code being **transient** and kernel changing size

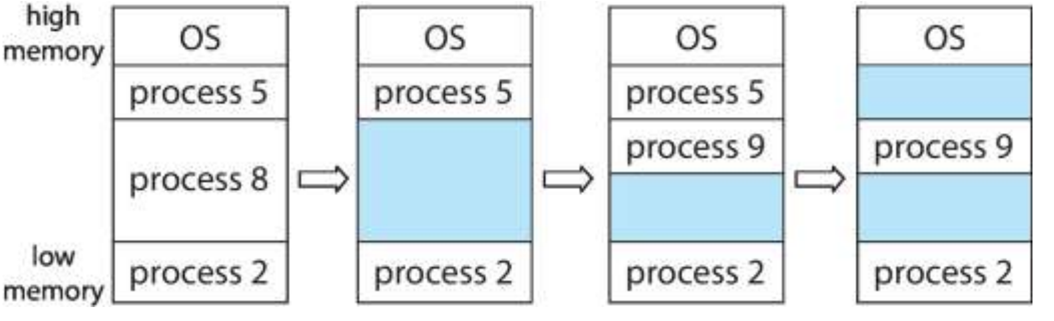
The concept of transient kernel code allows an operating system's kernel to load and unload code dynamically, enabling it to change size and adapt to the system's needs without requiring a full reboot.

Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers



Variable Partition

- Multiple-partition allocation
  - Degree of multiprogramming limited by number of partitions
  - **Variable-partition** sizes for efficiency (sized to a given process' needs)
  - **Hole** – block of available memory; holes of various size are scattered throughout memory
  - When a process arrives, it is allocated memory from a hole large enough to accommodate it
  - Process exiting frees its partition, adjacent free partitions combined
  - Operating system maintains information about:
    a) allocated partitions b) free partitions (hole)



Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

How to satisfy a request of size ***n*** from a list of free holes?

- **First-fit**: Allocate the ***first*** hole that is big enough
- **Best-fit**: Allocate the ***smallest*** hole that is big enough; must search entire list, unless ordered by size
  - Produces the smallest leftover hole
- **Worst-fit**: Allocate the ***largest*** hole; must also search entire list
  - Produces the largest leftover hole

First-fit and best-fit better than worst-fit in terms of speed and storage utilization

Fragmentation

- **What is Fragmentation?**

Small non utilized fragmented memory spaces that are so small due to which normal processes can not fit into them.

- **External Fragmentation** – total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous

  When the memory space in the system can easily satisfy the requirement of the processes, but this available memory space is non-contiguous, So it can't be utilized further. Then this problem is referred to as External Fragmentation.

- **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used
- First fit analysis reveals that given *N* blocks allocated, 0.5 *N* blocks lost to fragmentation
  - 1/3 may be unusable -> **50-percent rule**

Fragmentation (Cont.)

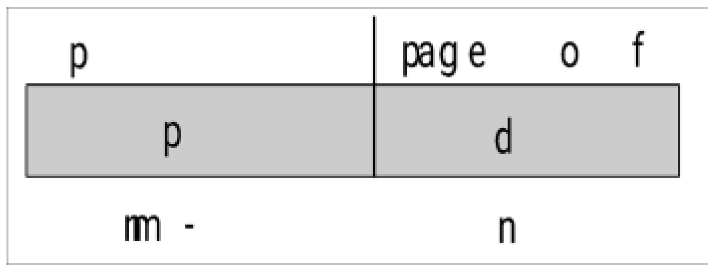
- Reduce external fragmentation by **compaction**
  - Shuffle memory contents to place all free memory together in one large block
  - **Compaction** is possible *only* if relocation is dynamic, and is done at execution time
  - I/O problem
    - Latch job in memory while it is involved in I/O
    - Do I/O only into OS buffers
- Now consider that backing store has same fragmentation problems

Paging

- Physical address space of a process can be noncontiguous; process is allocated physical memory whenever the latter is available
  - Avoids external fragmentation
  - Avoids problem of varying sized memory chunks
- **Divide physical memory** into fixed-sized blocks called **frames**
  - Size is power of 2, between 512 bytes and 16 Mbytes
- Divide logical memory into blocks of same size called **pages**
- Keep track of all free frames
- To run a program of size ***N*** pages, need to find ***N*** free frames and load program
- Set up a **page table** to translate logical to physical addresses
- Backing store likewise split into pages
- Still have Internal fragmentation

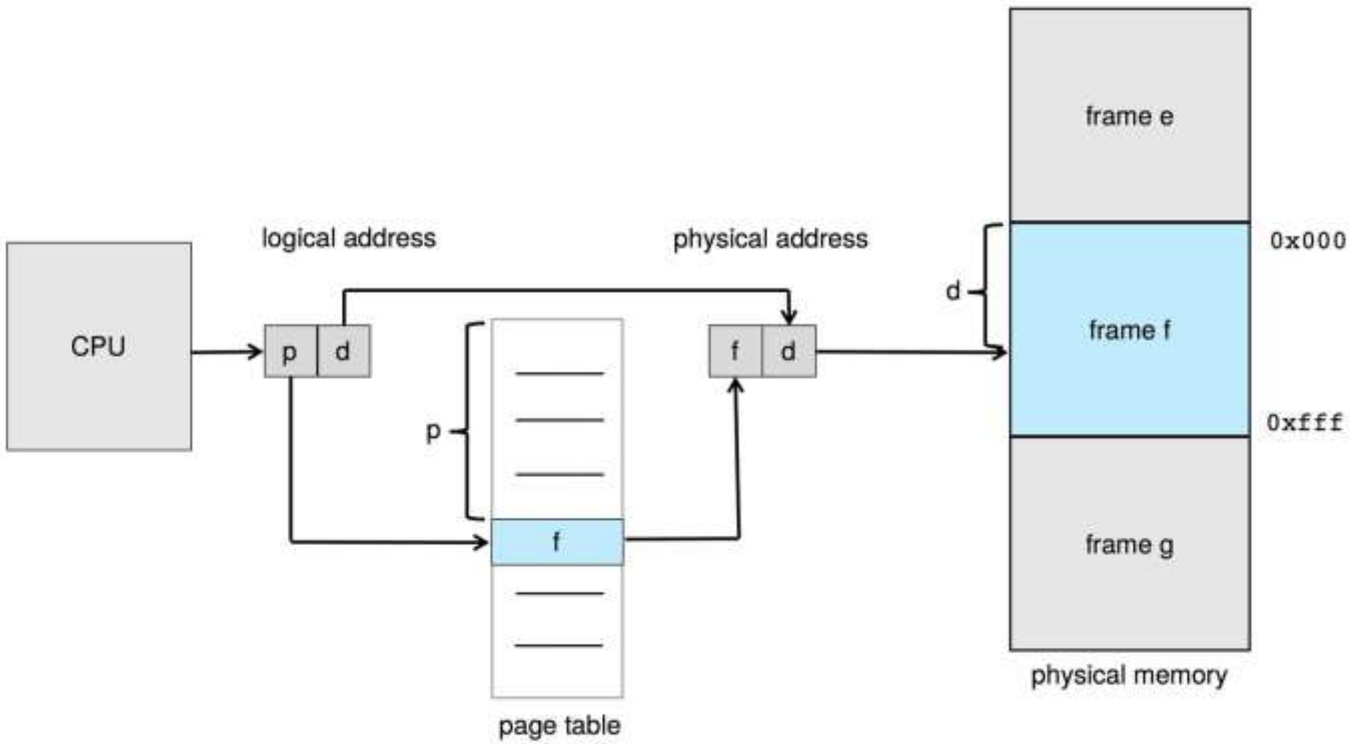
Address Translation Scheme

- Address generated by CPU is divided into:
  - **Page number** (***p***) – used as an index into a **page table** which contains base address of each page in physical memory
  - **Page offset** (***d***) – combined with base address to define the physical memory address that is sent to the memory unit

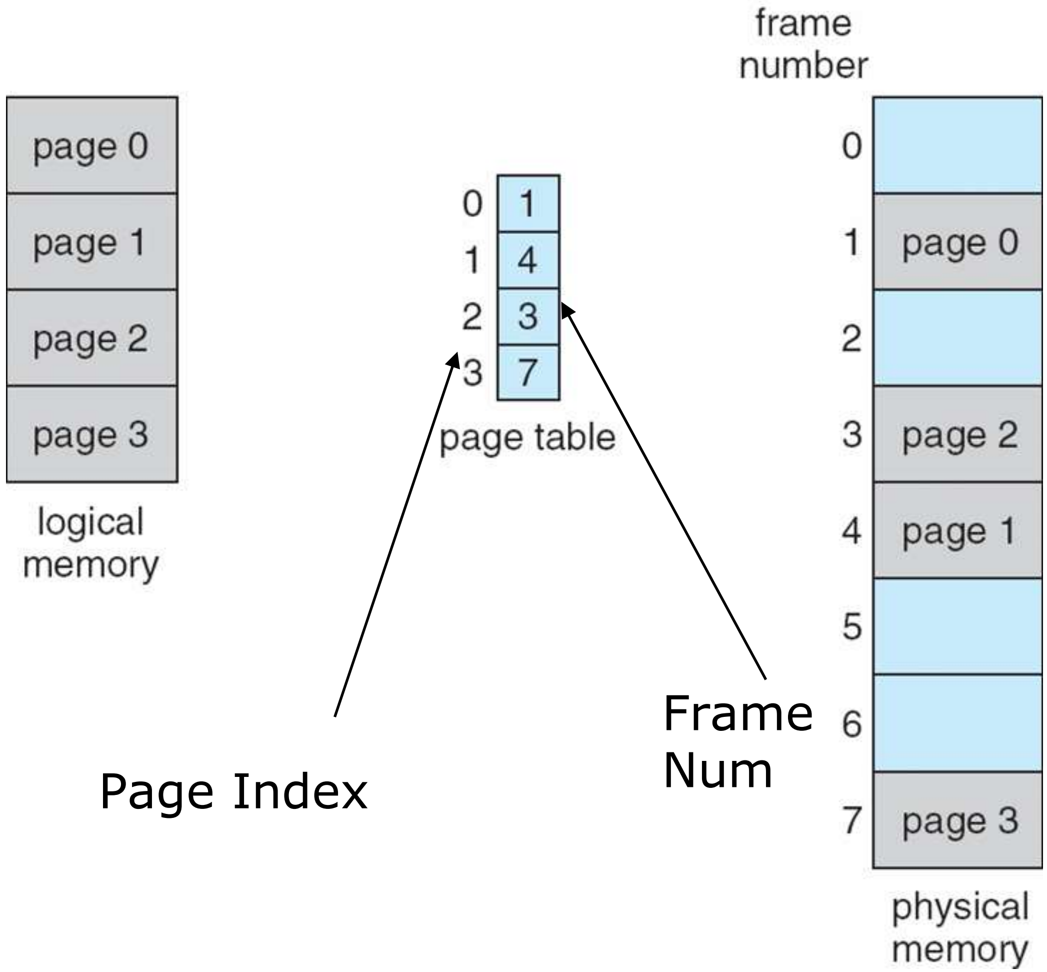


  - For given logical address space 2^m and page size 2^n

Paging Hardware

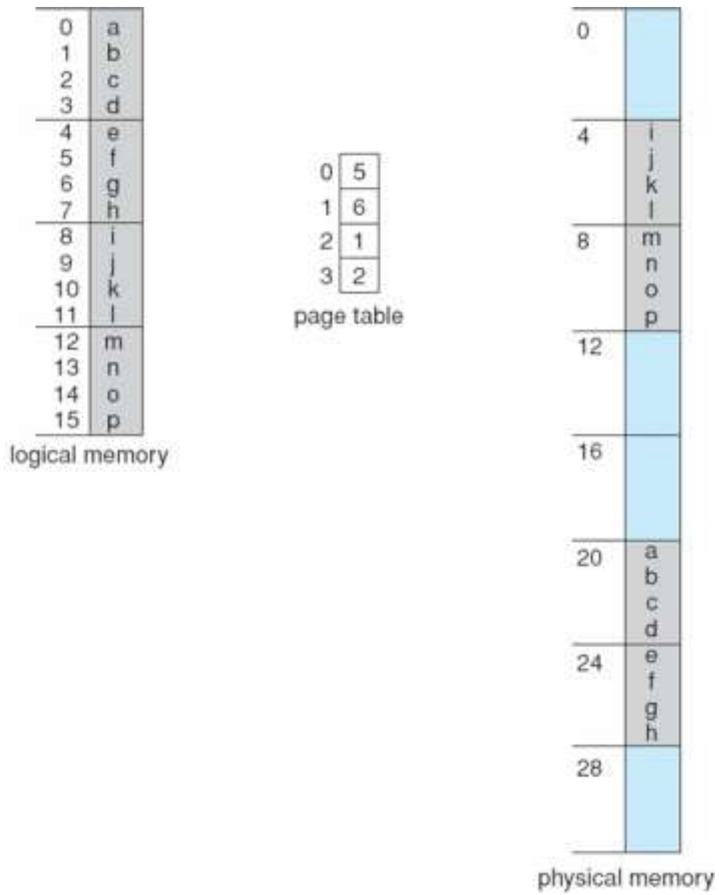


Paging Model of Logical and Physical Memory



Paging Example

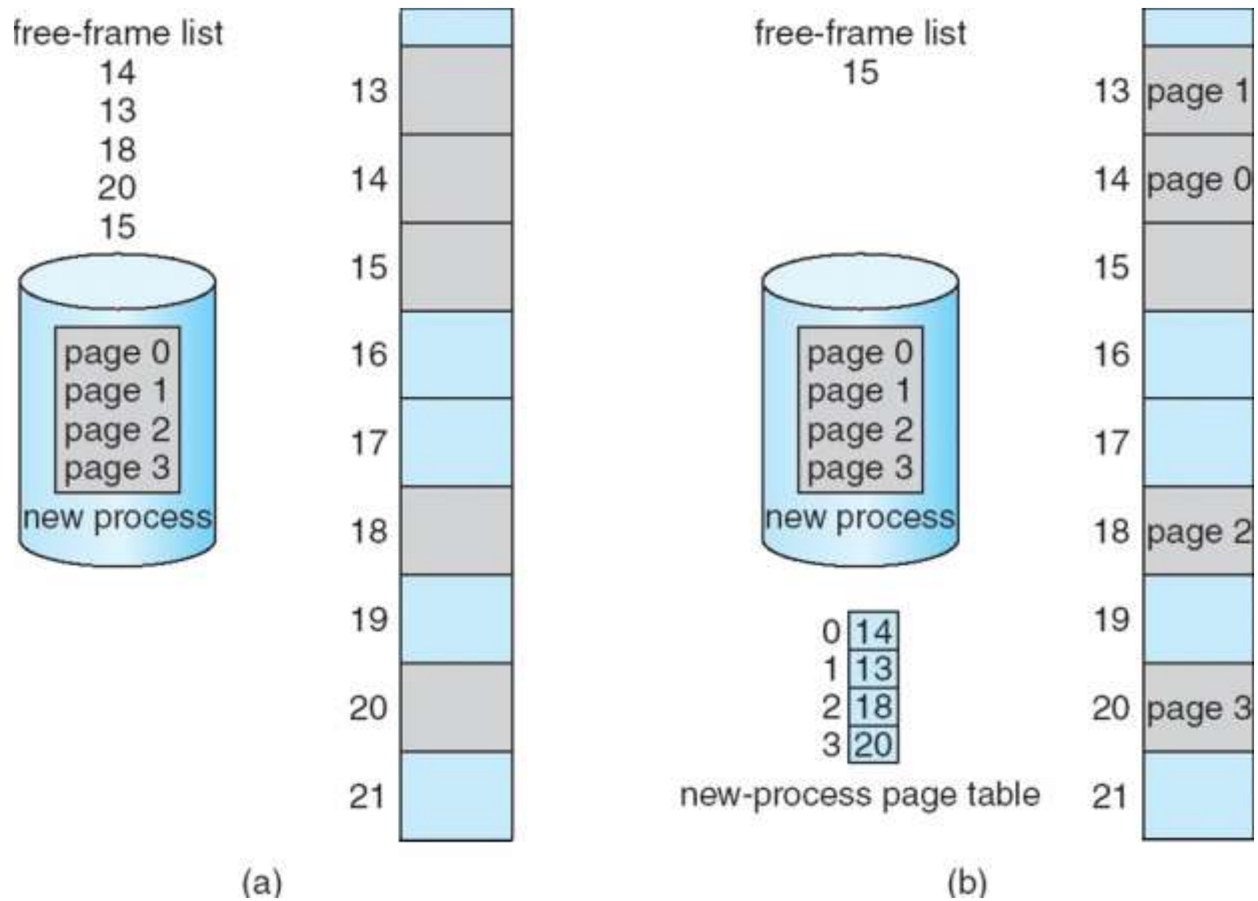
- Logical address: n = 2 and m = 4. Using a page size of 4 bytes and a physical memory of 32 bytes (8 pages)



Paging -- Calculating internal fragmentation

- Page size = 2,048 bytes
- Process size = 72,766 bytes
- 35 pages + 1,086 bytes
- Internal fragmentation of 2,048 - 1,086 = 962 bytes
- Worst case fragmentation = 1 frame – 1 byte
- On average, fragmentation = 1 / 2 frame size
- So small frame sizes desirable? Decrease fragmentation
- But each page table entry takes memory to track
- Page sizes growing over time
  - Solaris supports two-page sizes – 8 KB and 4 MB

Free Frames



Before allocation

After allocation

Implementation of Page Table

- Page table is kept in main memory
  - **Page-table base register** (**PTBR**) points to the page table
  - **Page-table length register** (**PTLR**) indicates size of the page table
- In this scheme every data/instruction access requires two memory accesses
  - One for the page table and one for the data / instruction
- The two-memory access problem can be solved by the use of a special fast-lookup hardware cache called **translation look-aside buffers** (**TLBs**) (also called **associative memory**).

End of Chapter 9