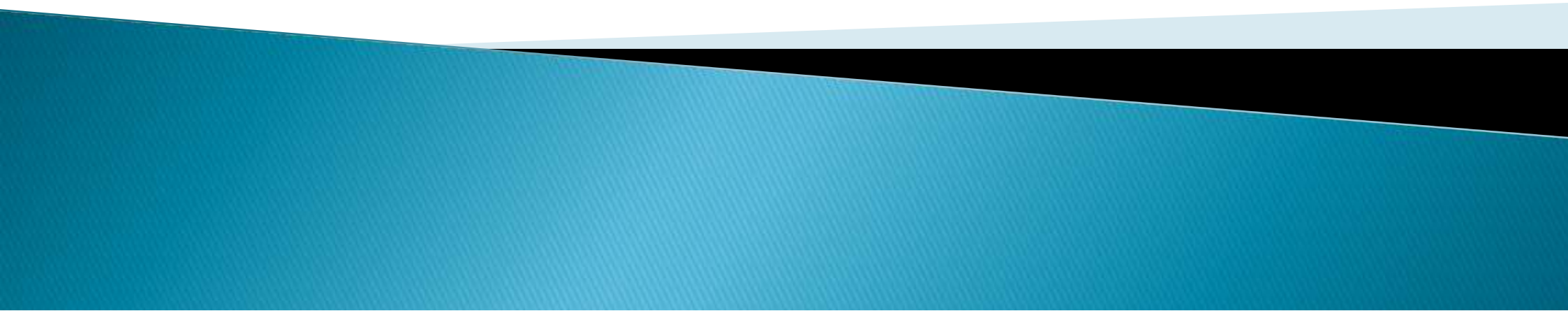# Memory Management Straetegies

Course Instructor: Nausheen Shoaib

Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run

- Main memory and registers are only storage, CPU can access directly

- Memory unit only sees a stream of addresses + read requests, or address + data and write requests

- Register access 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

Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base** and **limit registers** define the logical address space
- CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to be sure it is between base and limit for that user
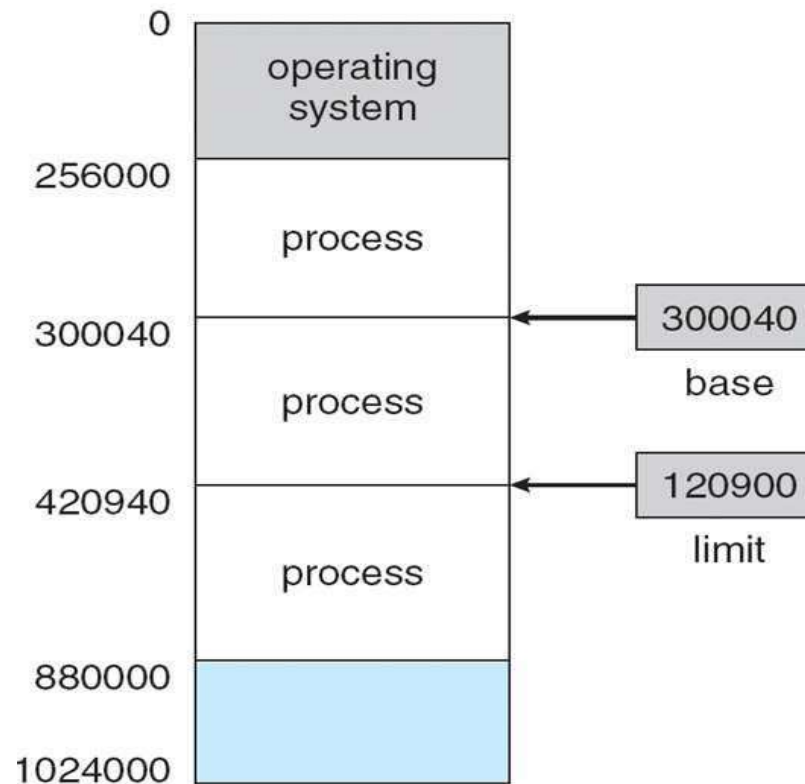
# Hardware Address Protection with Base and Limit Registers
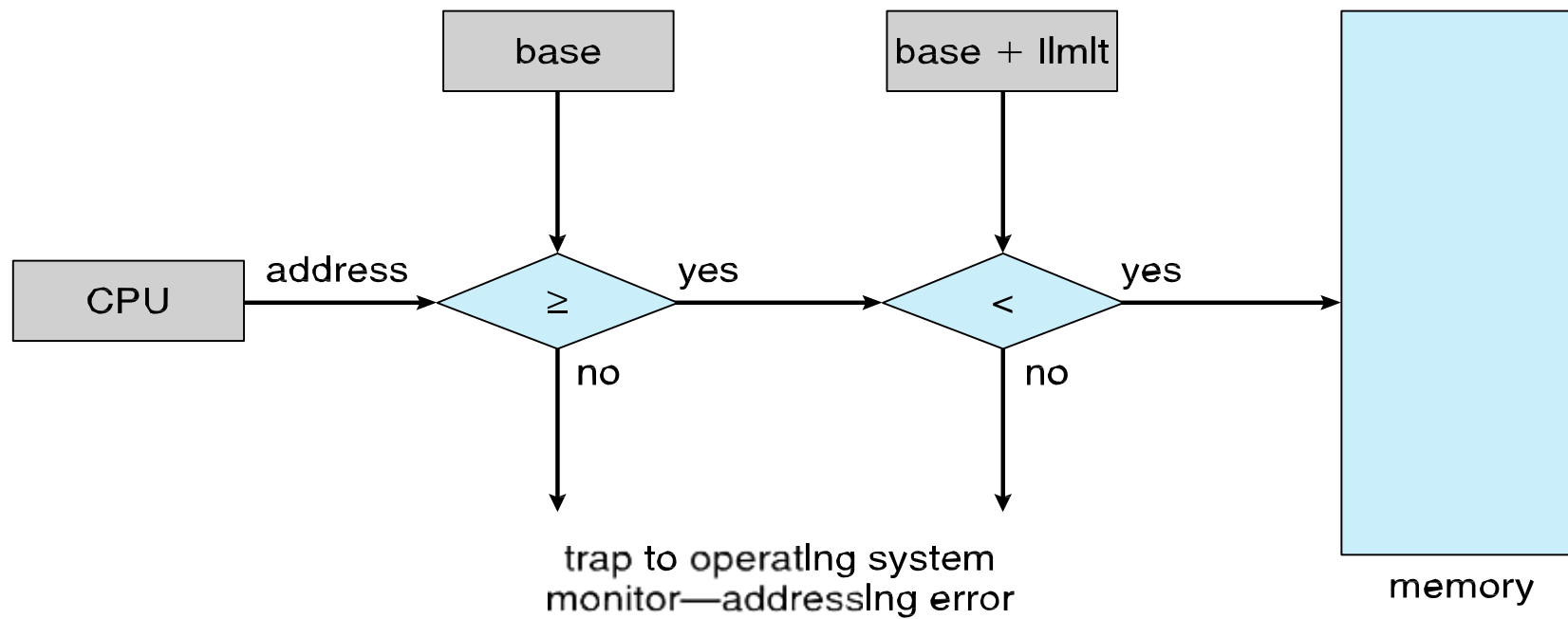
Address Binding

- 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

- Further, 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
  - Linker or loader will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses

  - 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
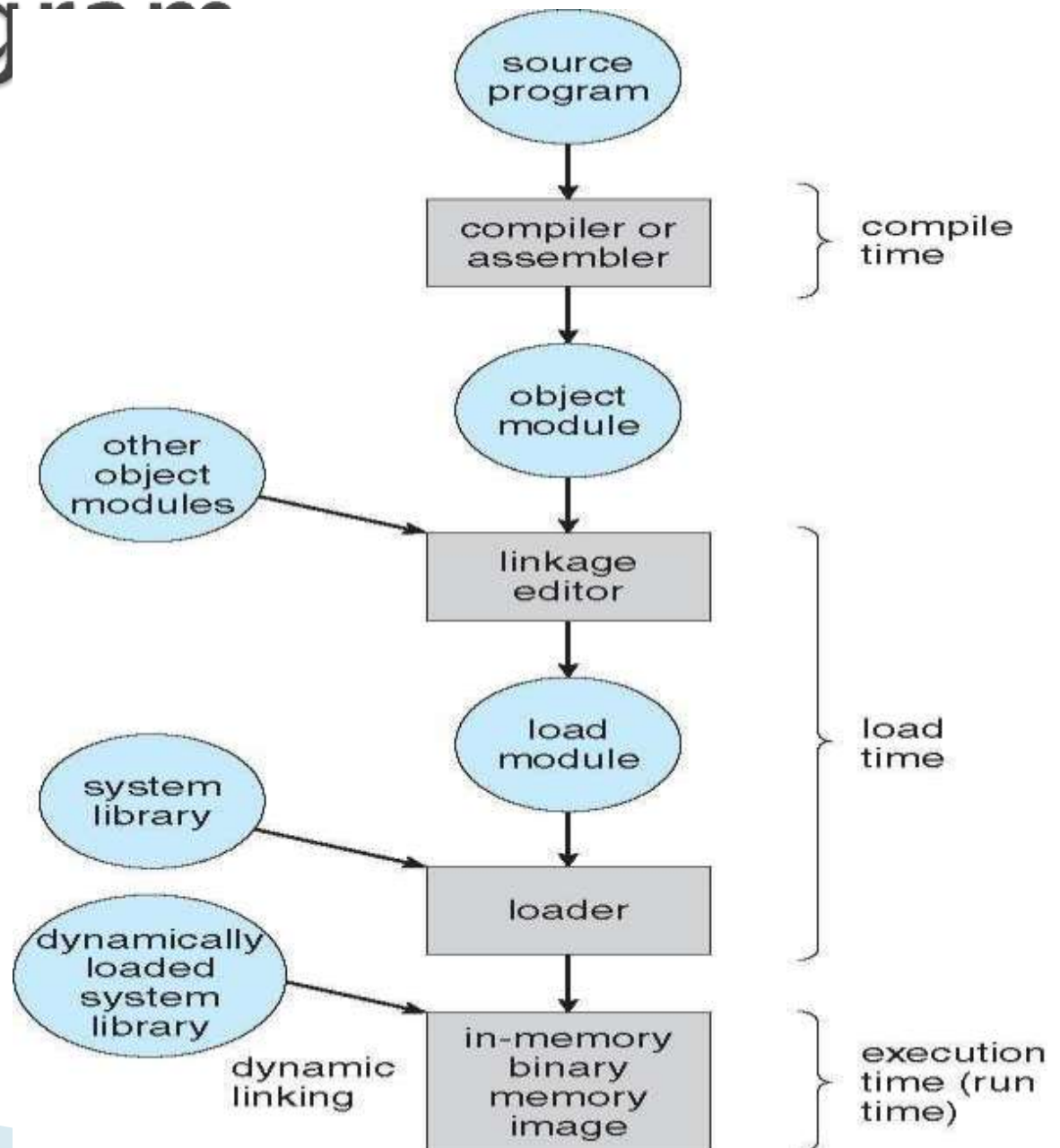
Logical vs. Physical Address Space

- The concept of a logical address space that is bound to a separate
  1)**Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
  2)**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)

- MMU is a hardware device that at run time maps virtual address to physical address

- To start, consider simple scheme where the value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory
  - Base register now called **relocation register**
  - MS-DOS on Intel 80x86 used 4 relocation registers

- The user program deals with *logical* addresses; it never sees the *real* physical addresses
  - Execution-time binding occurs when reference is made to location in memory

Dynamic relocation using a relocation register

- Routine is not loaded until it is called

- Better memory-space utilization; unused routine is never loaded

- All routines kept on disk in relocatable load format

- 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
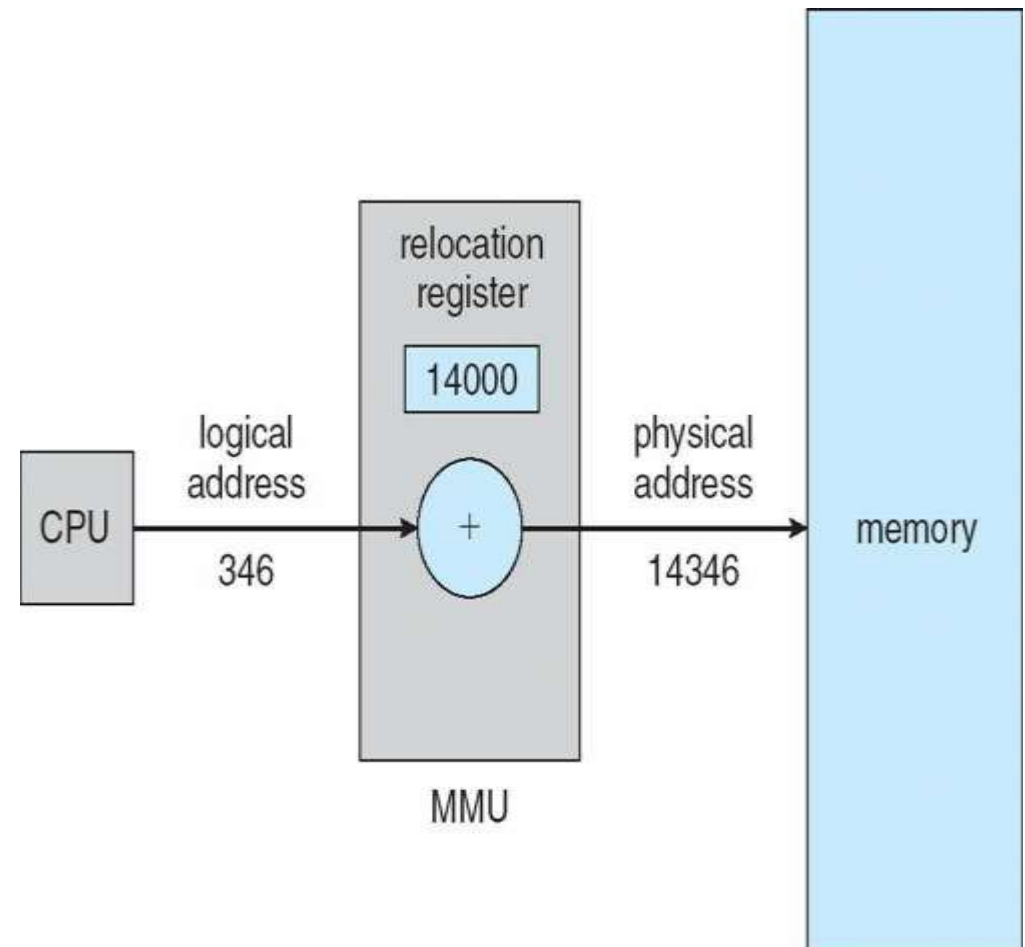
Static &Dynamic Linking

- **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
- Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries

A process can be **swapped** temporarily out of memory to a backing store, and then brought back into memory for continued execution

Backing store – fast disk large enough to accommodate copies of all memory images for all users; must provide direct access to these memory images
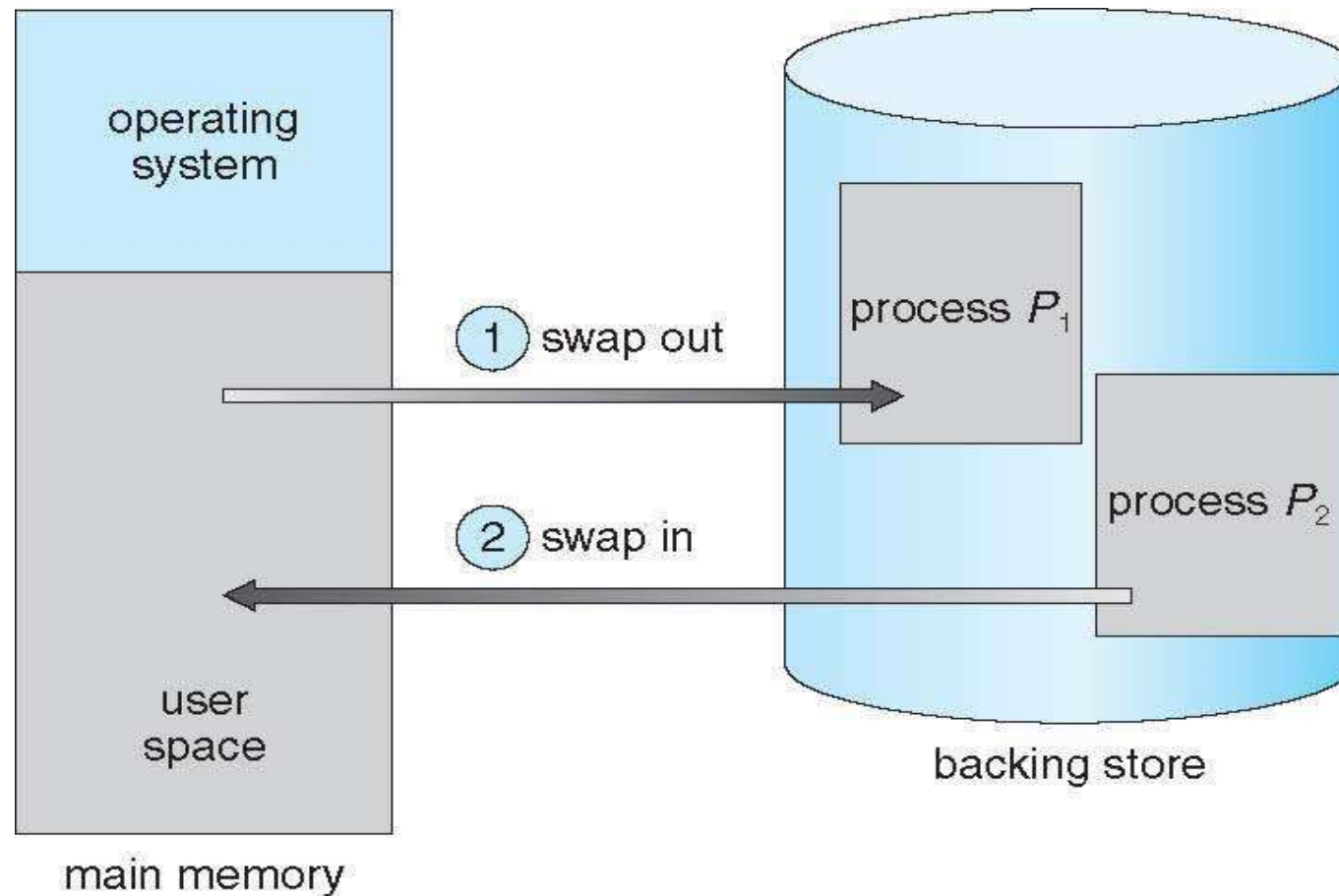
Roll out, roll in – swapping variant used for priority-based scheduling algorithms; lower-priority process is swapped out so higher-priority process can be loaded and executed

Major part of swap time is transfer time; total transfer time is directly proportional to the amount of memory swapped

Swapping [2/2]

- System maintains a **ready queue** of ready-to-run processes which have memory images on disk

- Does the swapped out process need to swap back in to same physical addresses?

- Depends on address binding method
  - Plus consider pending I/O to / from process memory space

- Modified versions of swapping are found on many systems (i.e., UNIX, Linux, and Windows)
  - Swapping normally disabled
  - Started if more than threshold amount of memory allocated
  - Disabled again once memory demand reduced below threshold

Schematic View of Standard Swapping

operating system

① swap out

② swap in

user space

main memory

process P_1

process P_2

backing store

Context Switch Time including Swapping [1 /2]

- If next processes to be put on CPU is not in memory, need to swap out a process and swap in target process

- Context switch time can then be very high

- Swap in Time= size of (process) / transfer rate

- 100MB process swapping to hard disk with transfer rate of 50MB/sec = 2 sec or 2000msec.
  - Swap out time = 2000 ms
  - Plus swap in of same sized process
  - Total context switch swapping time (Swap In +out) =4000ms (4 seconds)

Context Switch Time including Swapping [2/2]

Constraints of Swapping:

- Swap time can be reduced if reduce size of memory swapped – by knowing how much memory really being used
  - System calls to inform OS of memory use via `request memory()` and `release memory()`
- Other constraints are:
  - Pending I/O – can't swap out as I/O would occur to wrong process
  - always transfer I/O to kernel space, then to I/O device
    - Known as **double buffering**, adds overhead
- Standard swapping not used in modern operating systems
    - Swap only when free memory extremely low

Swapping on Mobile Systems

- Not typically supported
  - Flash memory based
    - Small amount of space
    - Limited number of write cycles
    - Poor throughput between flash memory and CPU on mobile platform
- Instead use other methods to free memory if low
  - iOS *asks* apps to voluntarily relinquish allocated memory
    - Read-only data thrown out and reloaded from flash if needed
    - Failure to free can result in termination
 - Android terminates apps if low free memory, but first writes application state to flash for fast restartf

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
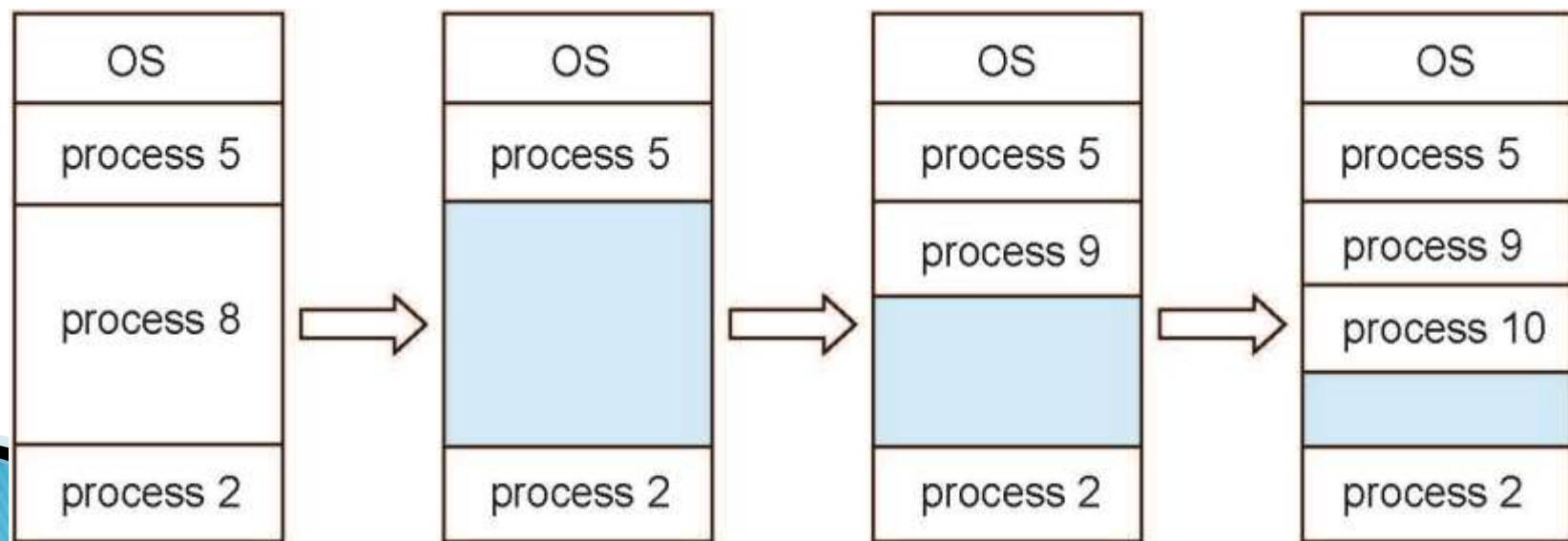
Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers
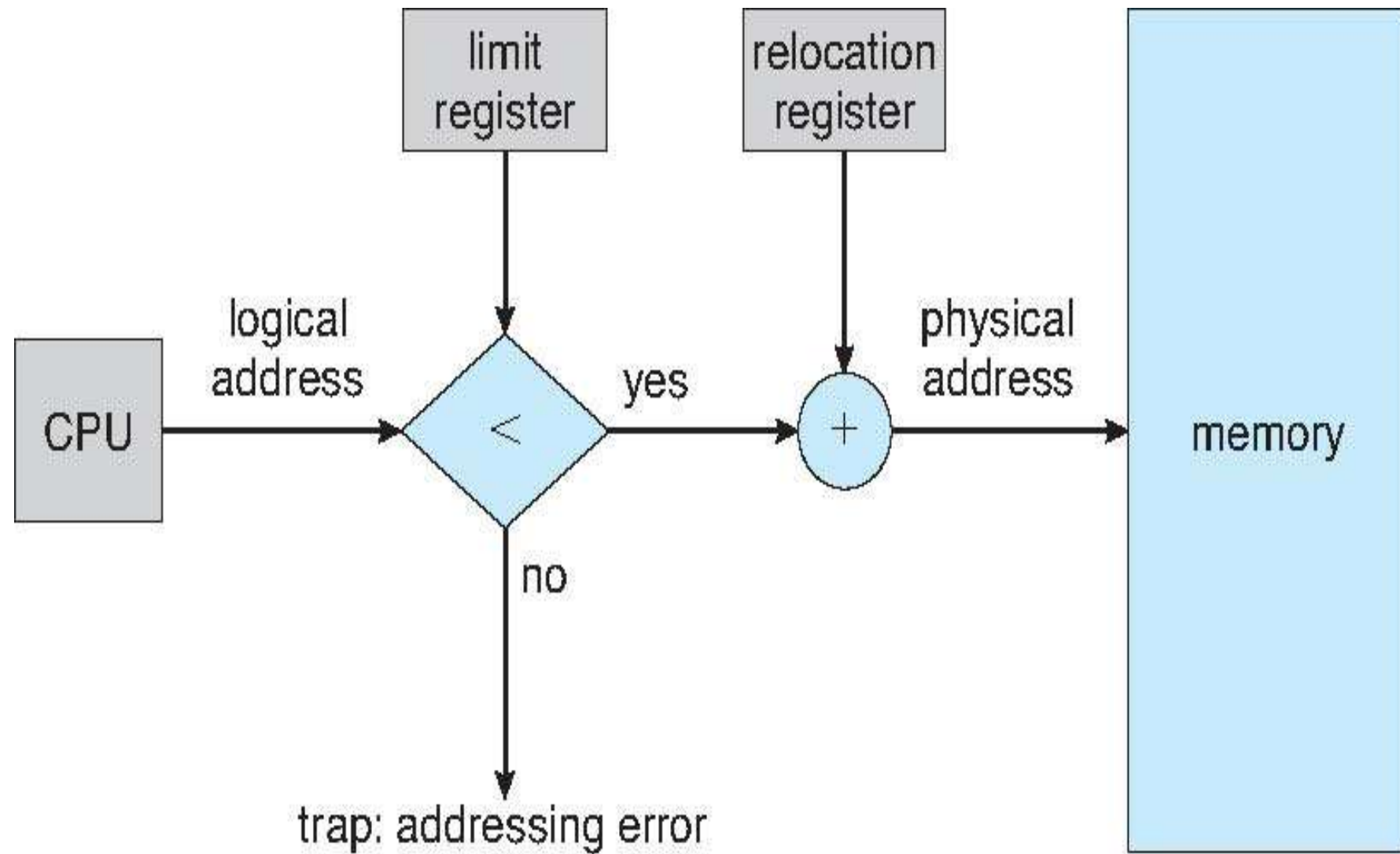
Multiple-partition allocation

▶ 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:
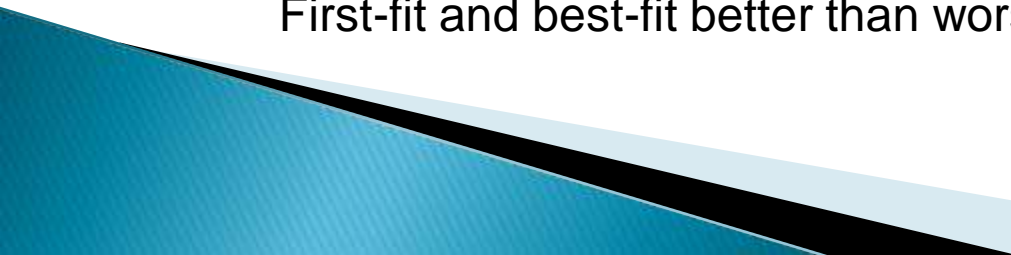 a) allocated partitions   b) free partitions (hole)

OS		OS		OS		OS
process 5		process 5		process 5		process 5
				process 9		process 9
process 8						process 10
process 2		process 2		process 2		process 2

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

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

Paging (Cont.)

- Calculating internal fragmentation

  Given:
  - Page size = 2,048 bytes
  - Process size = 72,766 bytes
  - 35 pages + 1,086 bytes

  Calculate:
  - Internal fragmentation of 2,048 − 1,086 = 962 bytes
  - Worst case fragmentation = 1 frame − 1 byte
  - On average fragmentation = 1 / 2 frame size

- Process view and physical memory now very different
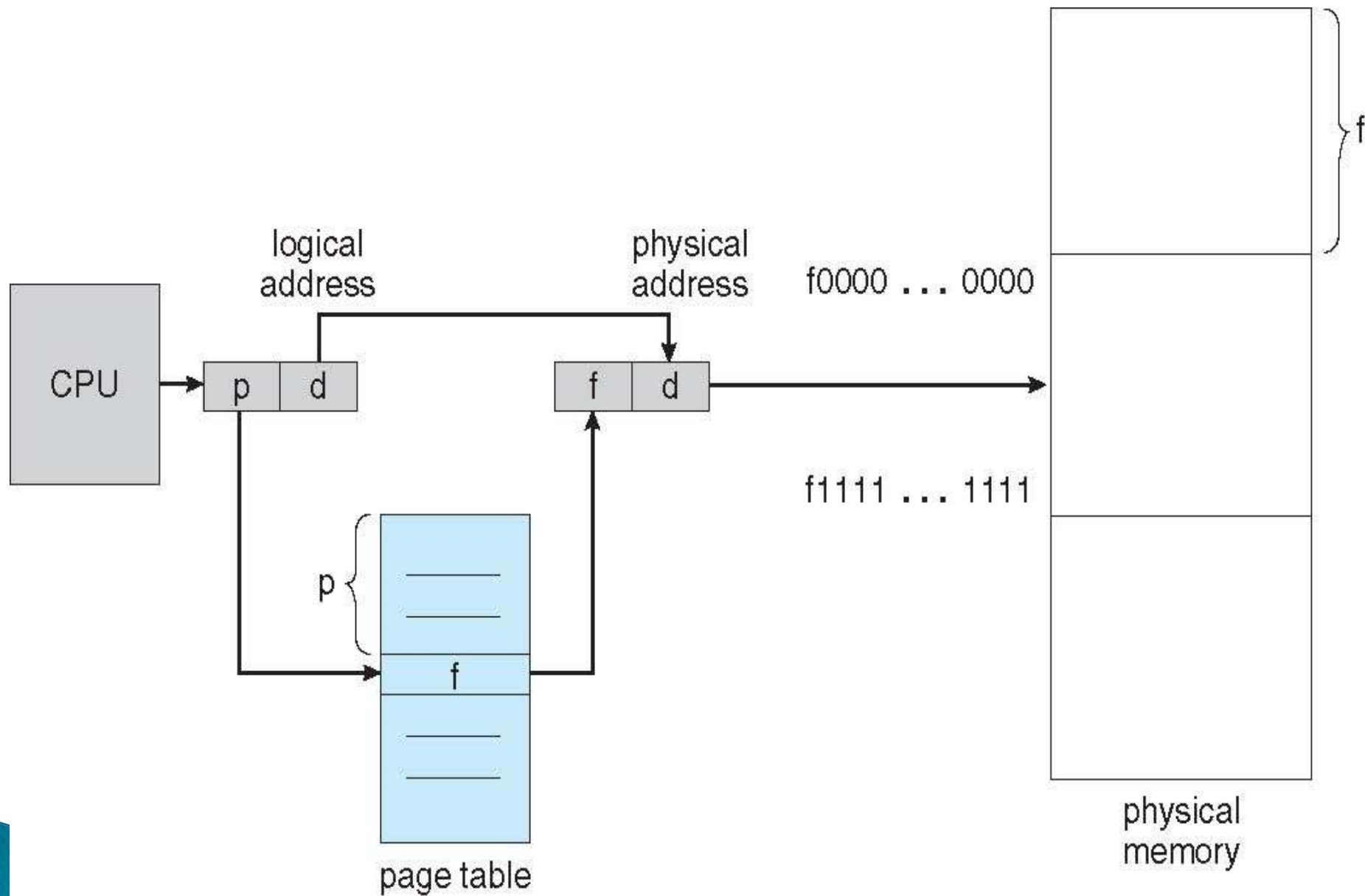- By implementation process can only access its own memory

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
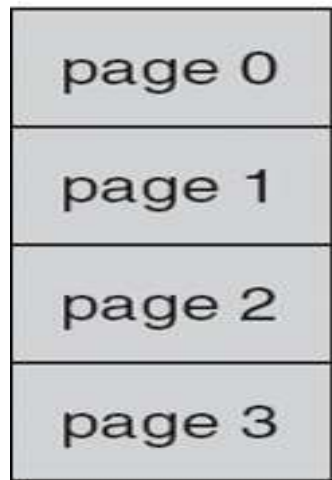
page number	page offset
p	d
m -n	n
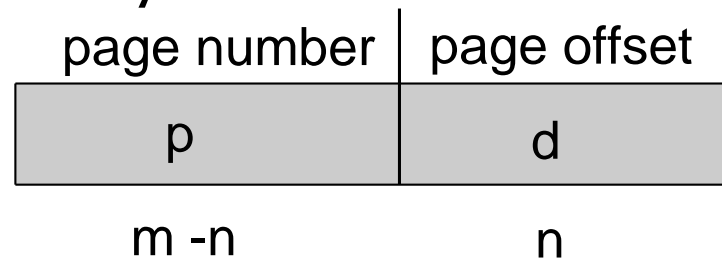
  - For given logical address space 2^m and page size 2^n

Paging Hardware

Paging Model of Logical and Physical Memory

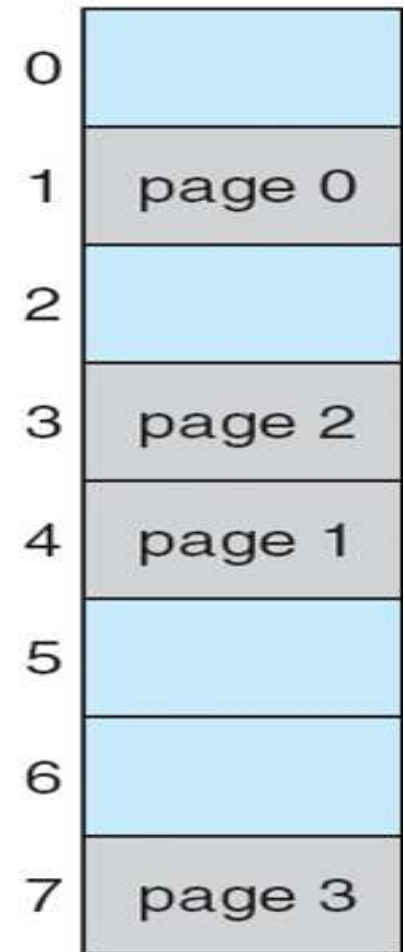# Free Frames

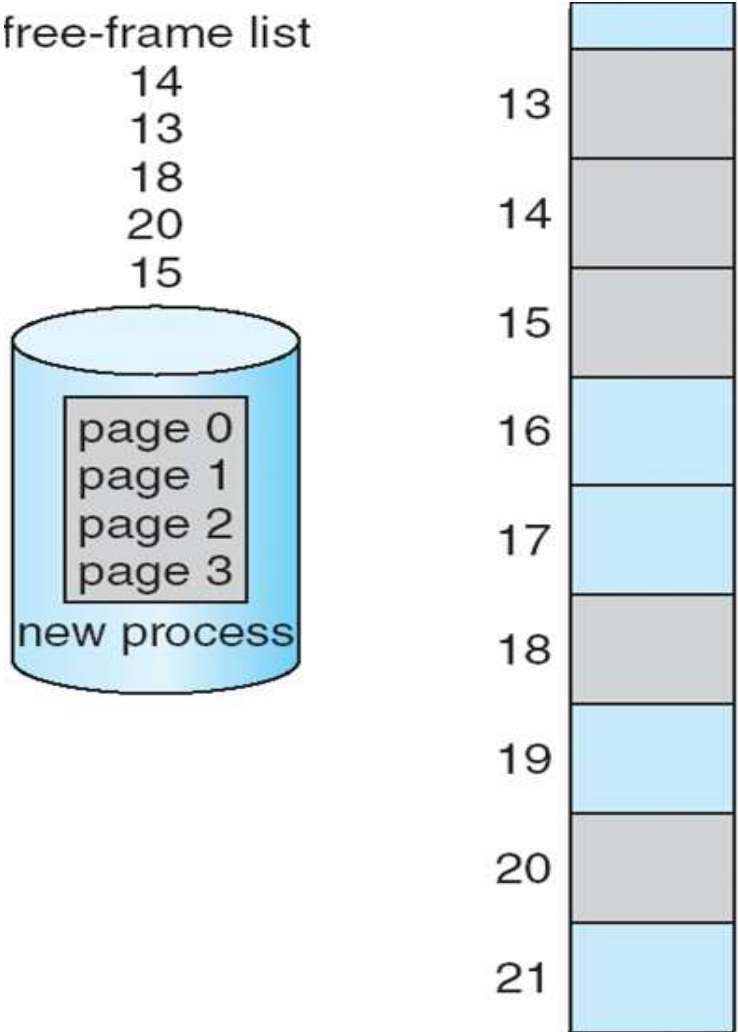free-frame list
14
13
18
20
15

page 0
page 1
page 2
page 3
new process

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

(a)

free-frame list
15

page 0
page 1
page 2
page 3
new process

0 14
1 13
2 18
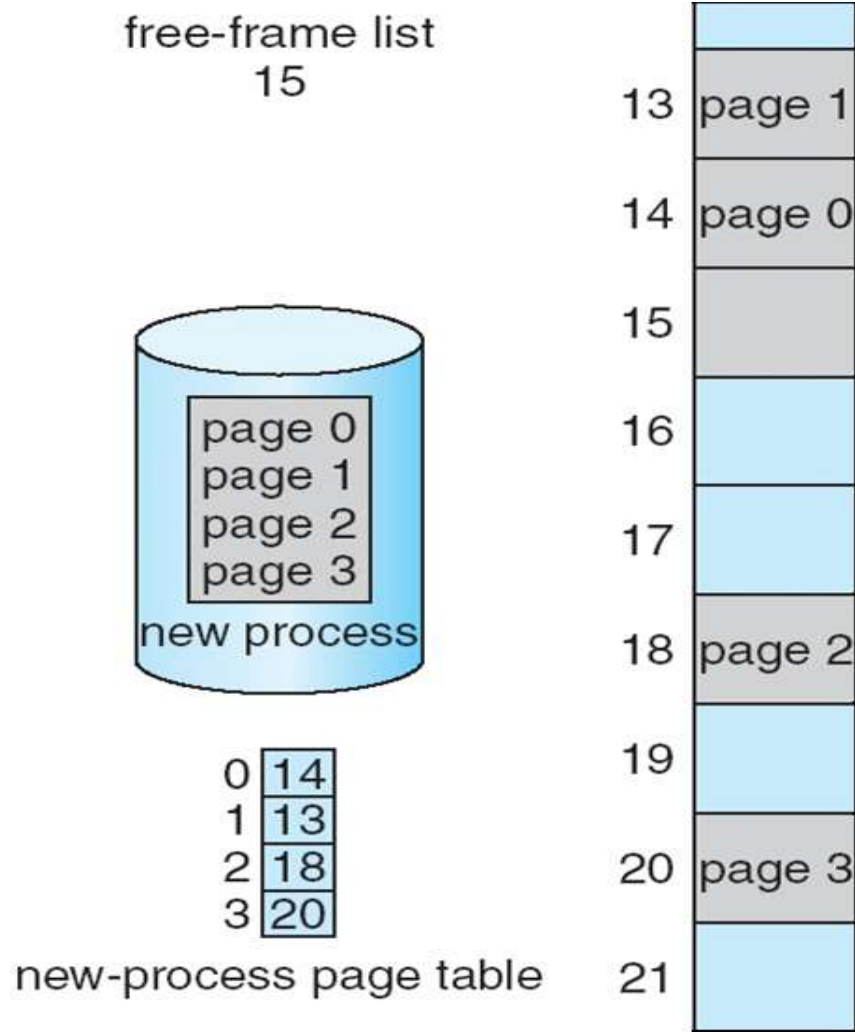3 20

new-process page table

13 page 1
14 page 0
15
16
17
18 page 2
19
20 page 3
21

(b)

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 **associative memory** or **translation look-aside buffers** (**TLBs**)

Implementation of Page Table (Cont.)

- Some TLBs store **address-space identifiers** (**ASIDs**) in each TLB entry – uniquely identifies each process to provide address-space protection for that process
  - Otherwise need to flush at every context switch
- TLBs typically small (64 to 1,024 entries)
- On a TLB miss, value is loaded into the TLB for faster access next time
  - Replacement policies must be considered
  - Some entries can be **wired down** for permanent fast access

Paging Hardware With TLB
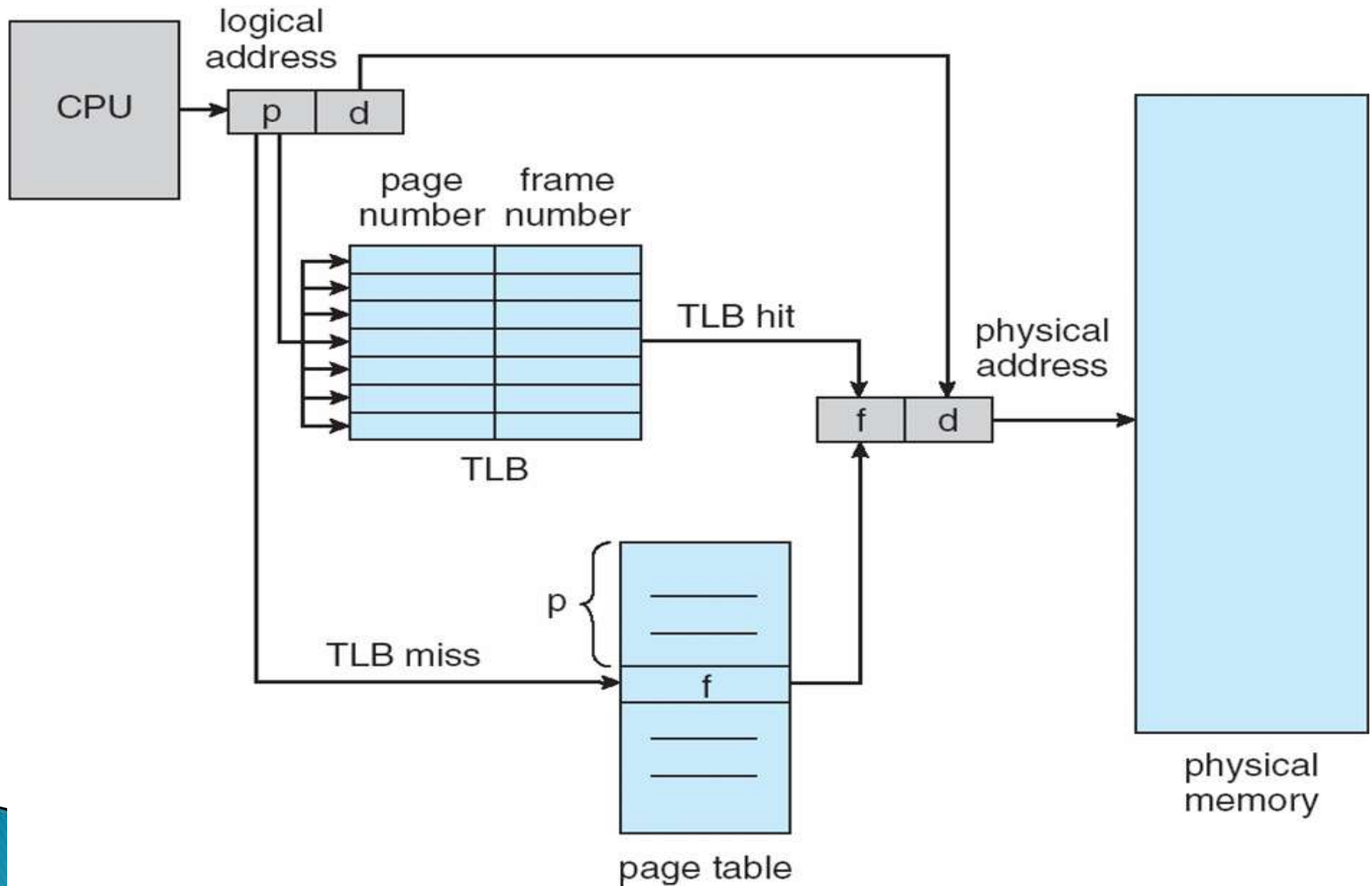
Effective Access Time [1/2]

- Hit ratio = α
  - Hit ratio – percentage of times that a page number is found in the associative registers; ratio related to number of associative registers
- **Effective Access Time** (**EAT**)

EAT= α x memory access time (hit) + fail x memory access time (failed)

Effective Access Time [2/2]

- Consider $\alpha = 80\%$, 100ns for memory access

  ◦ EAT = 0.80 x 100 + 0.20 x (100+100) = 120ns

- Consider more realistic hit ratio -> $\alpha = 99\%$, 100ns for memory access

  ◦ EAT = 0.99 x 100 + 0.01 x (100+100) = 101ns

Memory Protection

- Memory protection implemented by associating protection bit with each frame to indicate if read-only or read-write access is allowed

- **Valid-invalid** bit attached to each entry in the page table:
  - "valid" indicates that the associated page is in the process' logical address space, and is thus a legal page
  - "invalid" indicates that the page is not in the process' logical address space
  - Or use **page-table length register** (**PTLR**)
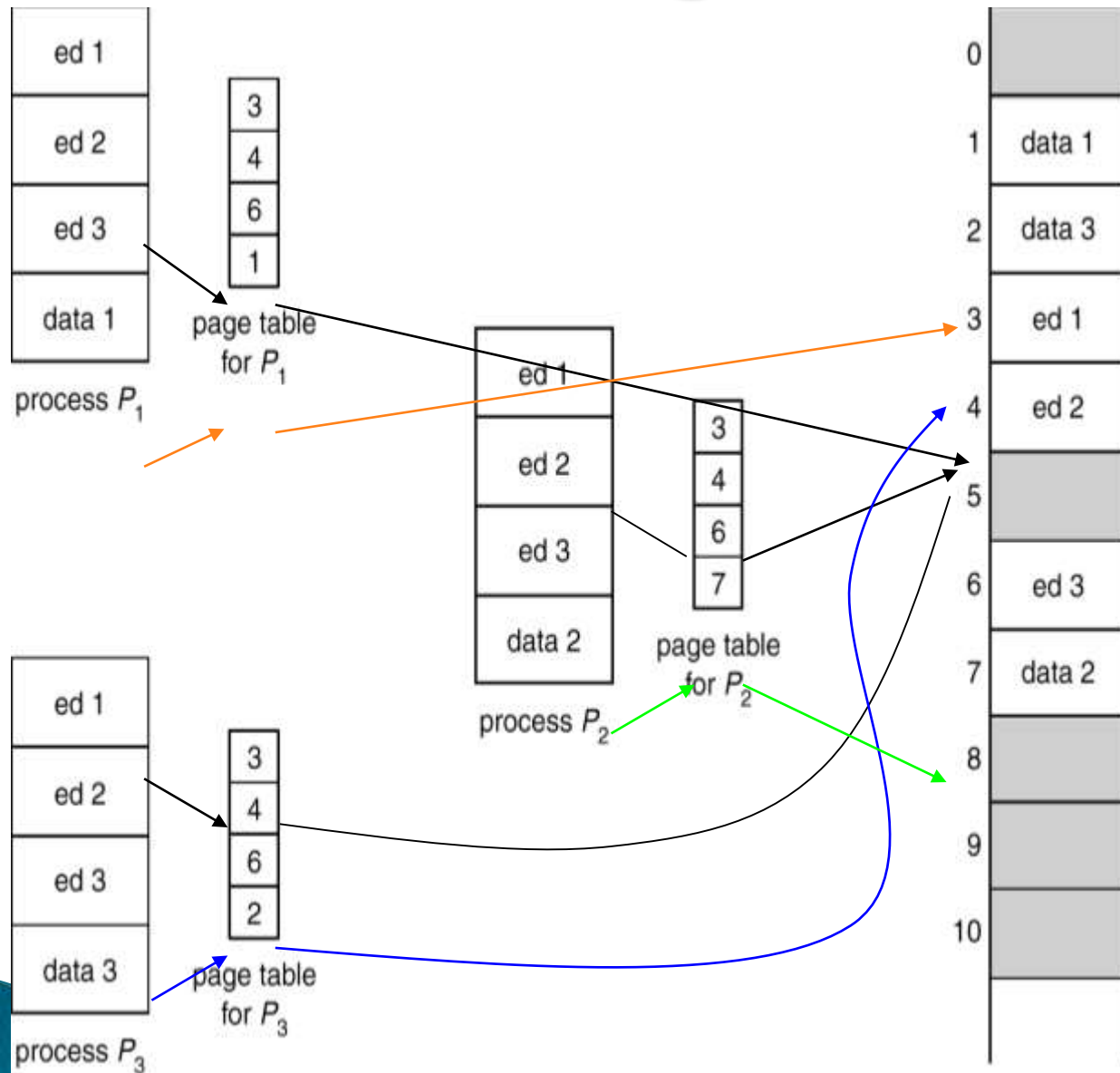
Valid (v) or Invalid (i) Bit In A Page Table

Shared Pages

- Shared code
  - Read-only (reentrant) code shared among processes
  - Shared code appeared in same location in the physical address space
- Private code and data
  - Each process keeps a separate copy of the code and data, (e.g., stack).
  - Private page can appear anywhere in the physical address space.
- Copy on write
  - Pages may be initially shared upon a fork
  - They will be duplicated upon a write