Sistemi Operativi

Corso di Laurea in Informatica

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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

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  - Hard to grow or shrink process memory
- Fragmentation
  - Frequent compaction needed
- Process entirely loaded
  - Swapping helps but it may be too inefficient

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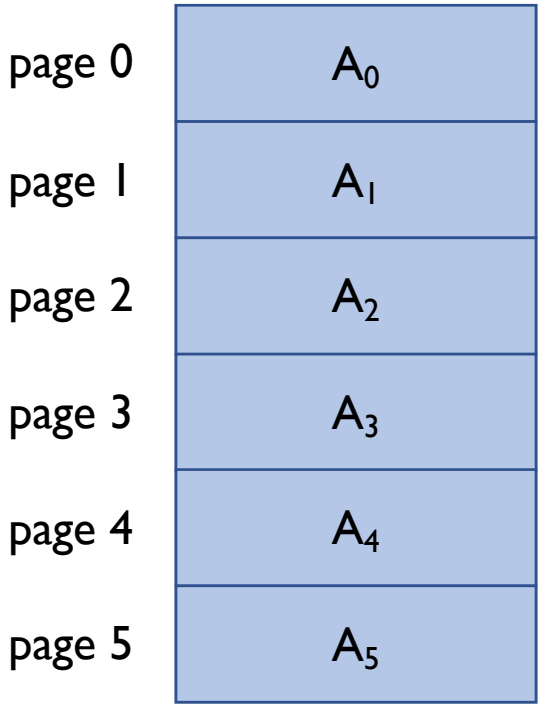
- External fragmentation is eliminated because pages have fixed size
  - Internal fragmentation may still occur though
- Keep only those frames that are actually being used by a process

90/10 Rule

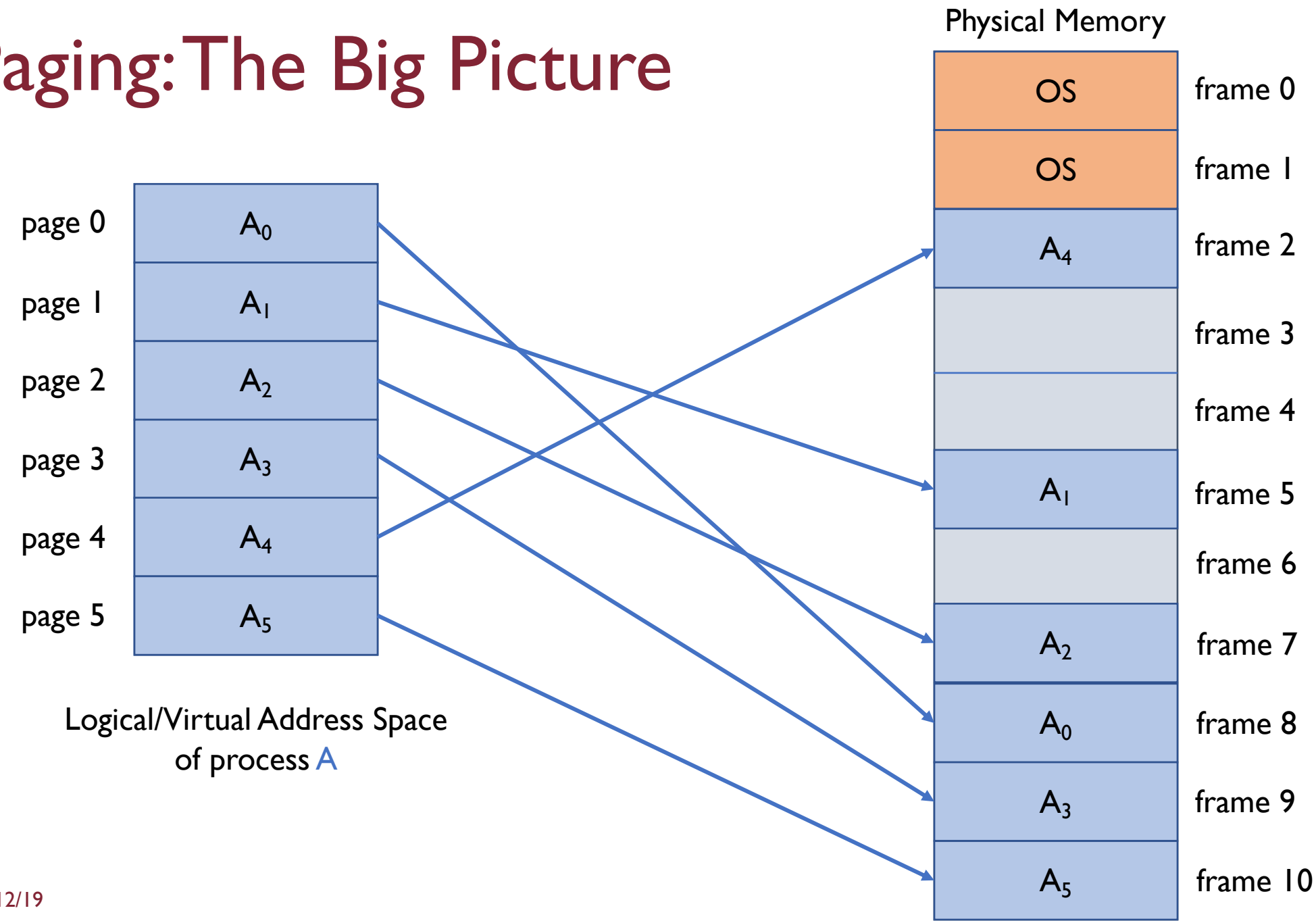
Processes spend 90% of their time accessing only 10% of their allocated memory space

Paging: The Big Picture



Logical/Virtual Address Space
of process A

Paging: The Big Picture



Basic OS Responsibilities for Paging

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  - mapping between logical pages and physical frames
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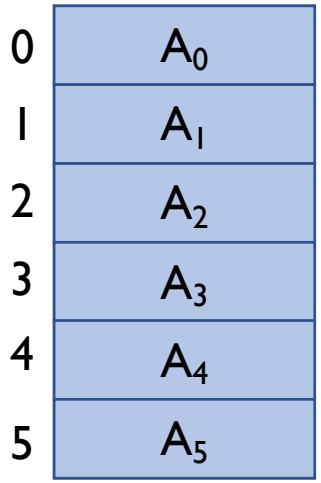
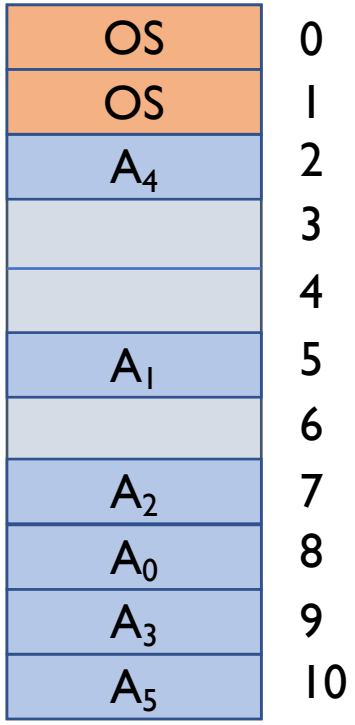
- All of this must be done efficiently!
  - Remember, memory addresses are referenced all the time
- OS needs dedicated support for doing it → **Page Table**

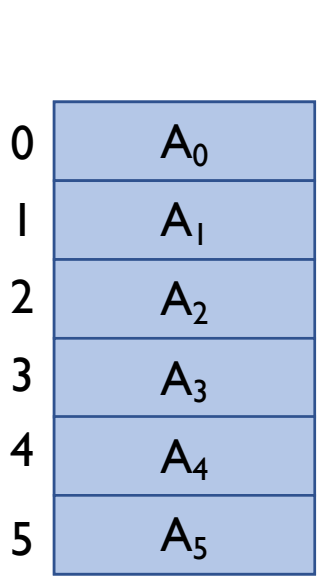
Page Table: Mapping Pages to Frames



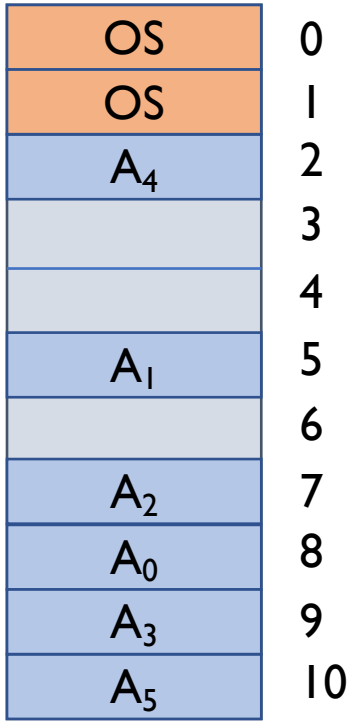


Page Table: Mapping Pages to Frames

Lookup table to efficiently retrieve what frame a page is stored in



Page	Frame
0	8
1	5
2	7
3	9
4	2
5	10



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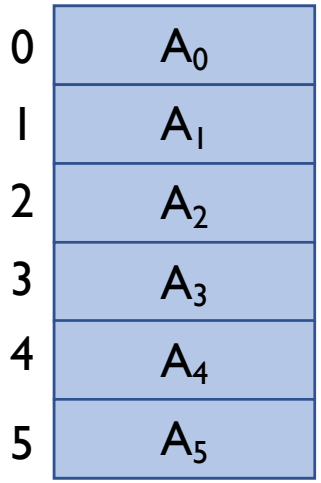

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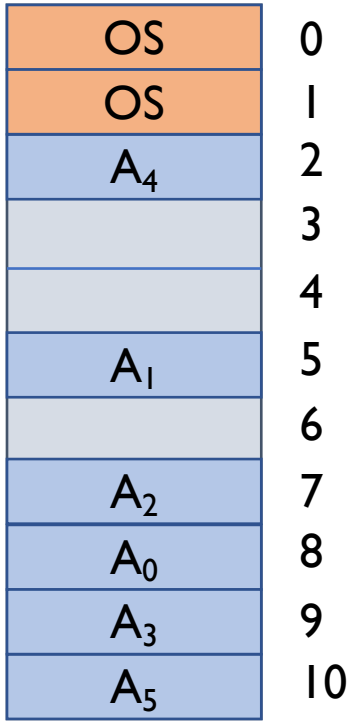

So far, we have simply assumed **all** pages of a process is mapped to physical frames, but we will see this is not always the case

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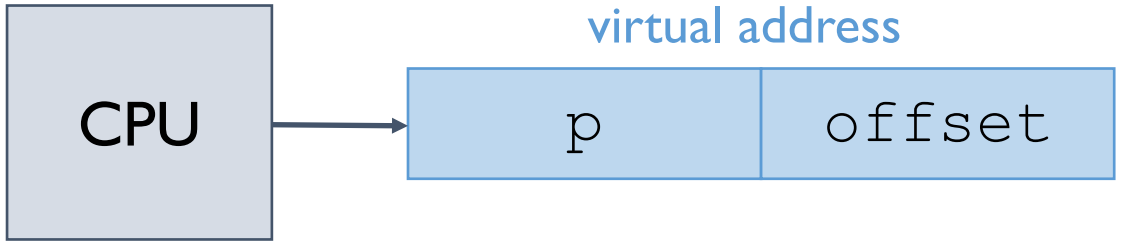
- Virtual (logical) address space is still contiguous starting from 0
- Page table must ultimately translate virtual address to physical address

Page Table: Virtual to Physical Address

virtual address consists of 2 parts:
- `p`: page number where the address resides
- `offset`: relative from the beginning of the page



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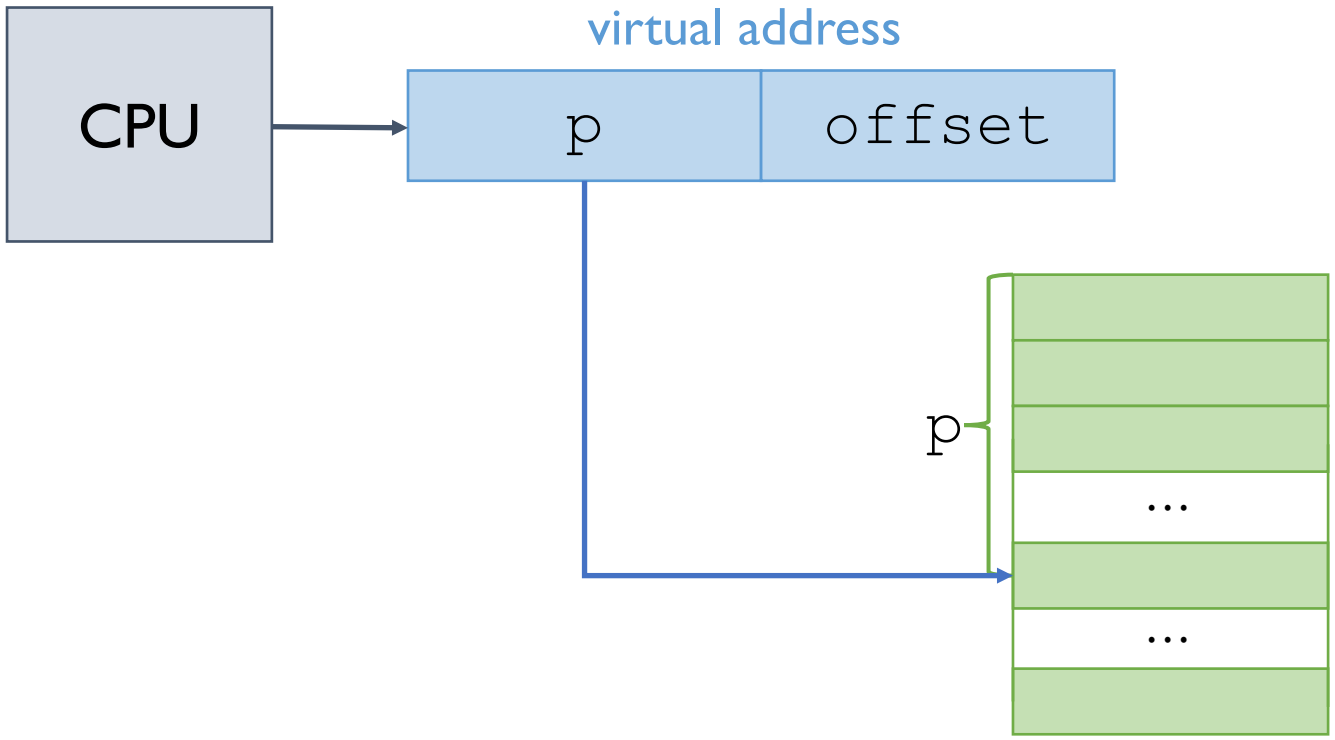

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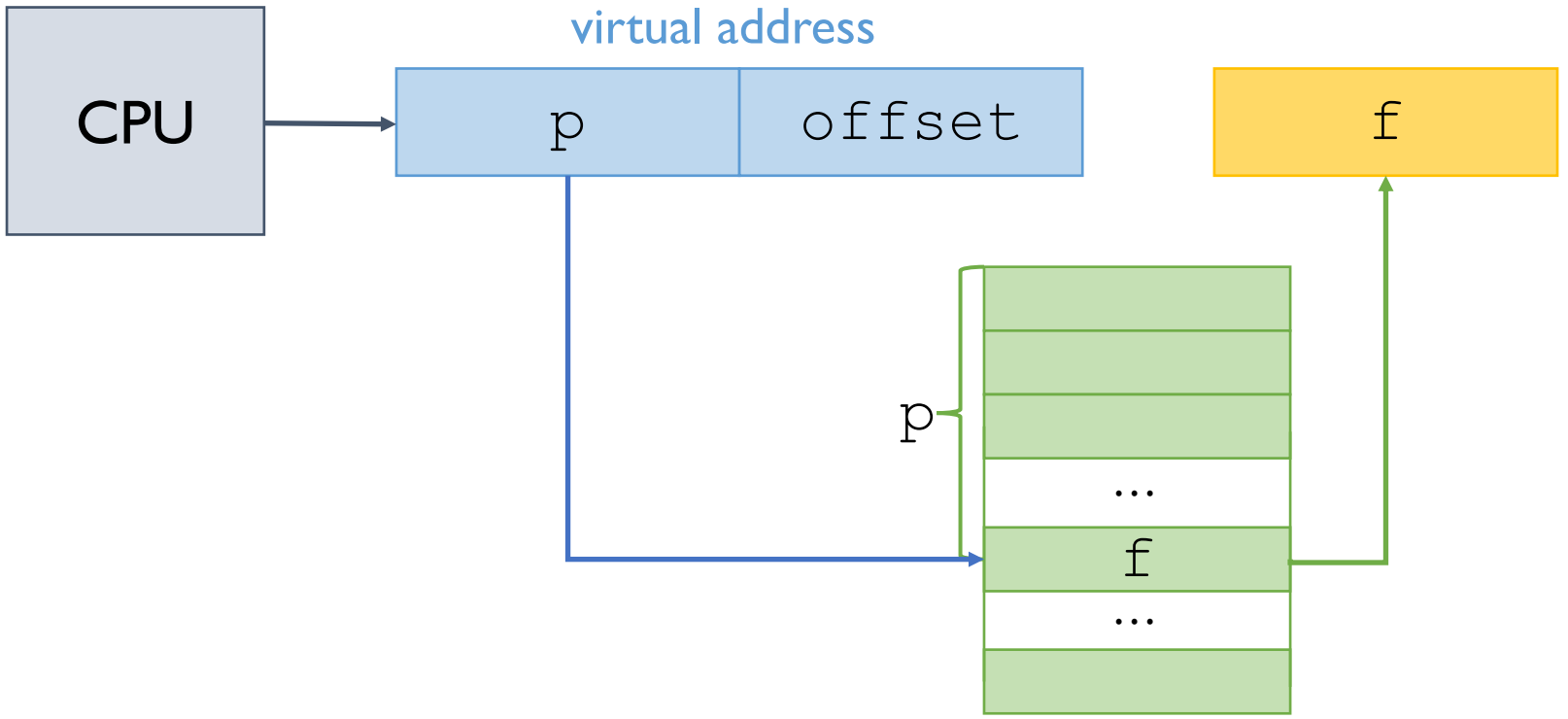

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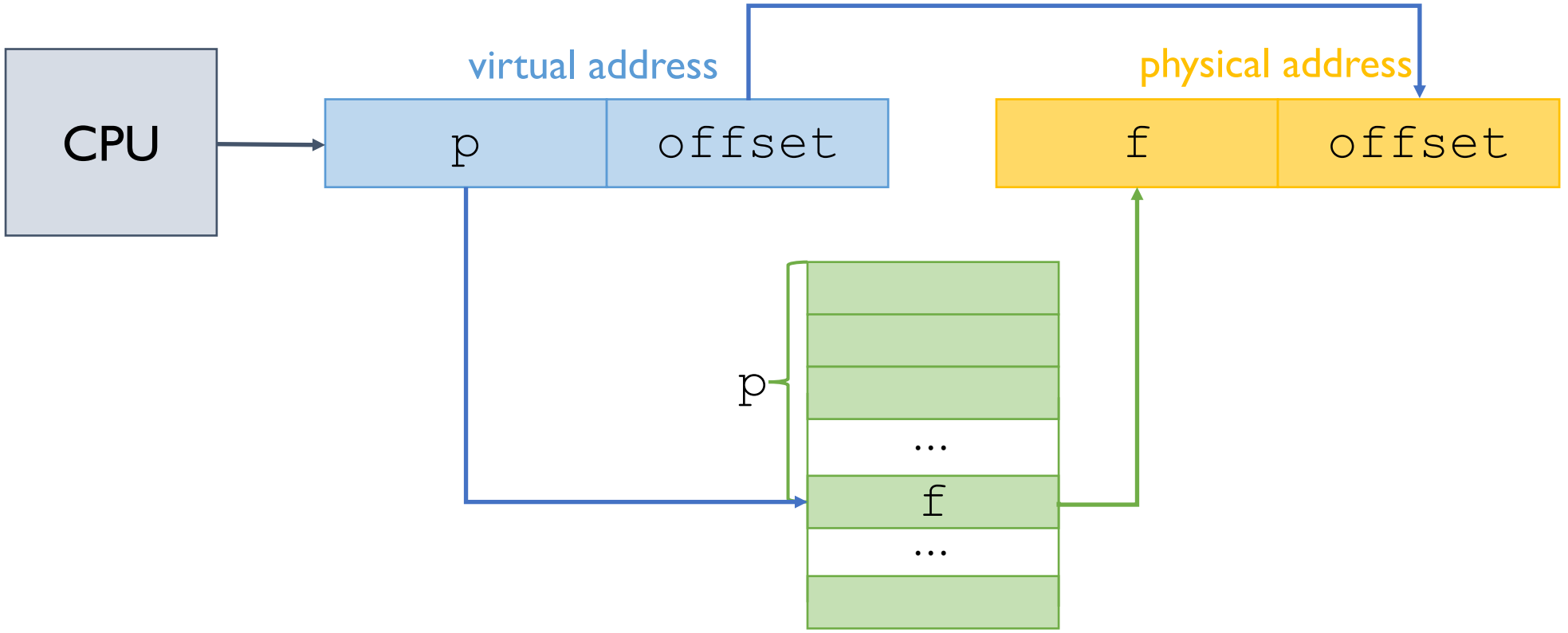

Page Table: Virtual to Physical Address

virtual address consists of 2 parts:
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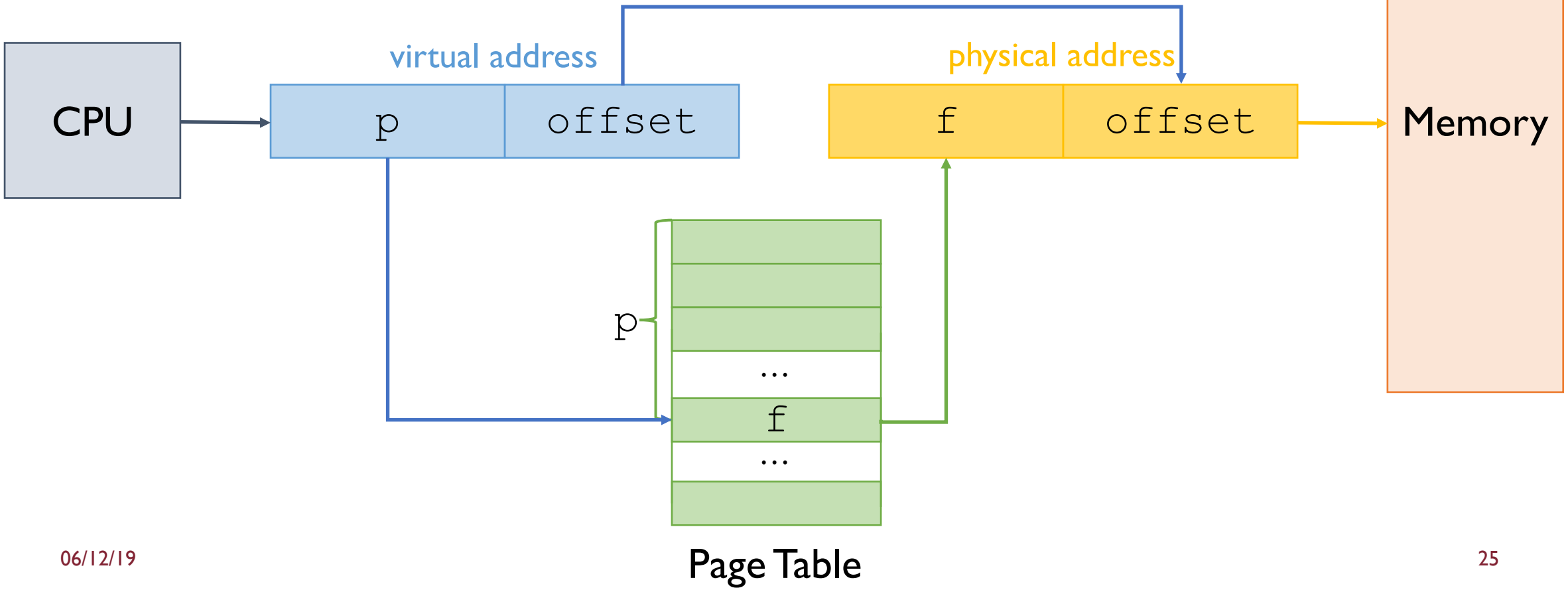
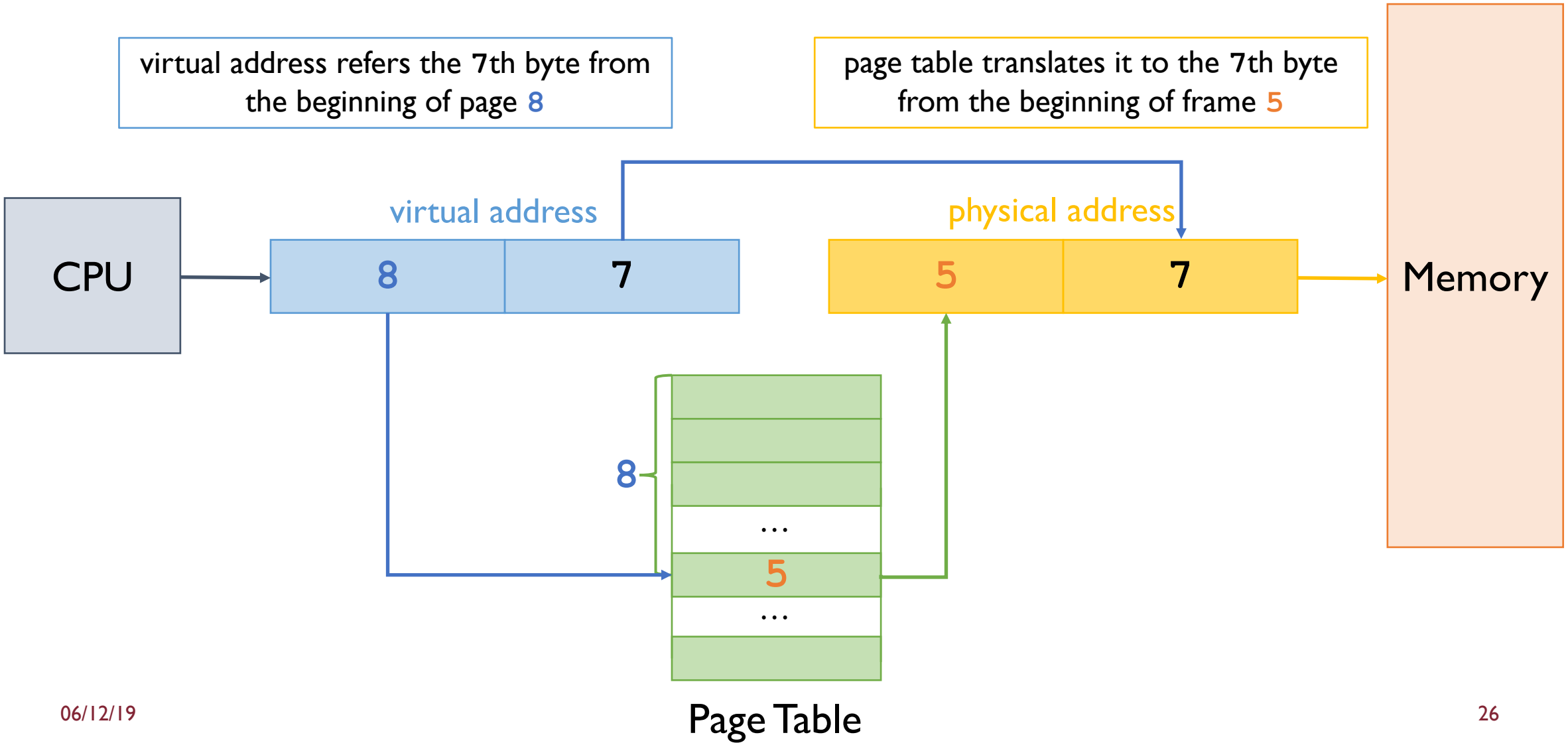
- `offset`: relative from the beginning of the page

physical address also consists of 2 parts:
- `f`: physical frame number
- `offset`: as above



Page Table: Example of Address Translation



Paging Hardware

- Paging can is a form of dynamic relocation
- Each virtual address is bound by the paging hardware (i.e., page table) to a physical address
- Page table can be seen just as a set of base (relocation) registers, one for each frame
- Mapping is invisible to the user process: the OS maintains the page table and translation happens in hardware
- Protection is provided similarly to dynamic relocation (limit register)

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3. Combine **`f`** with **`offset`** to obtain the physical address **`y`**

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Suppose we have **`50B`** of physical memory available for user processes

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Address translation requires a **div** and a **mod** operation

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- The low order n bits represent the offset

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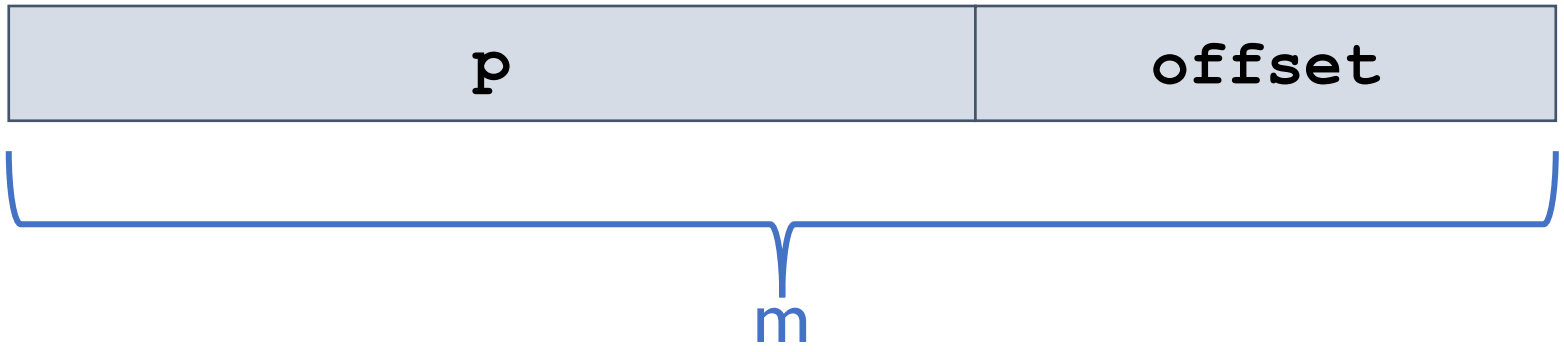

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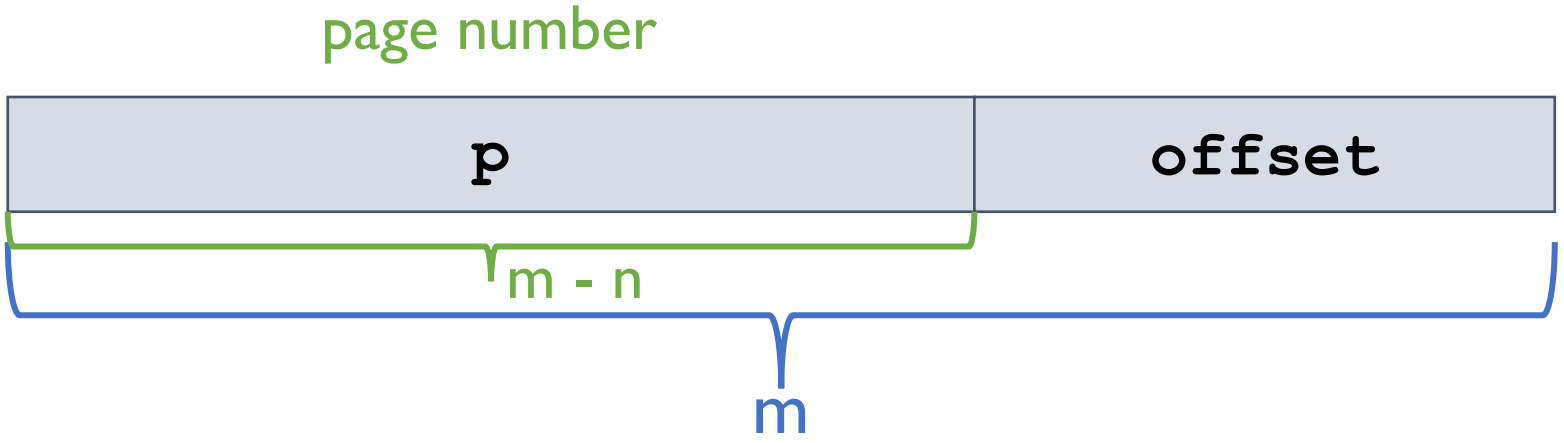

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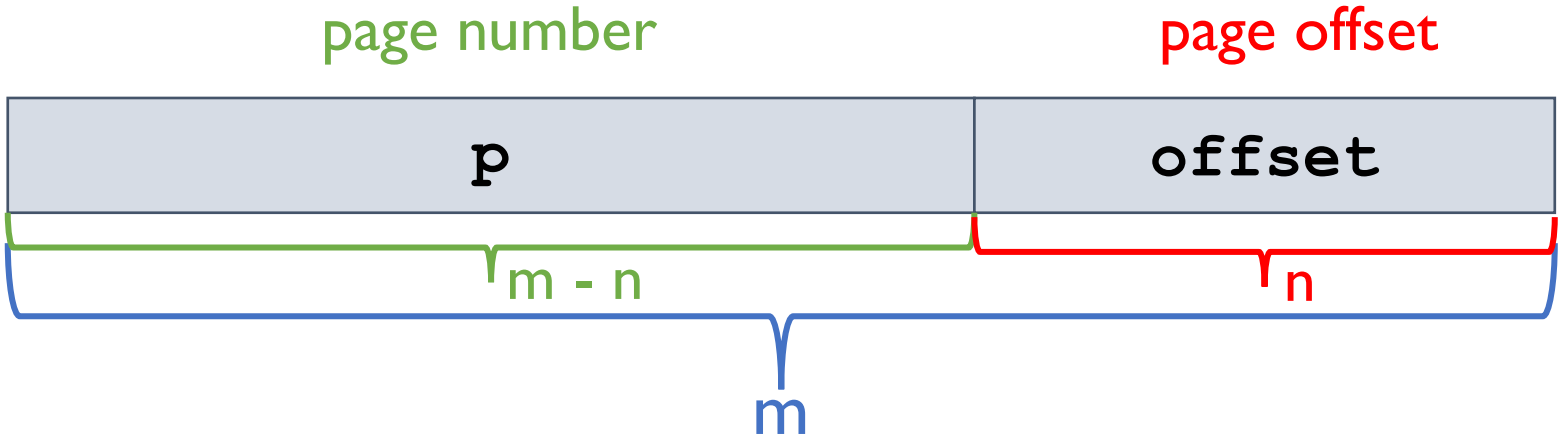

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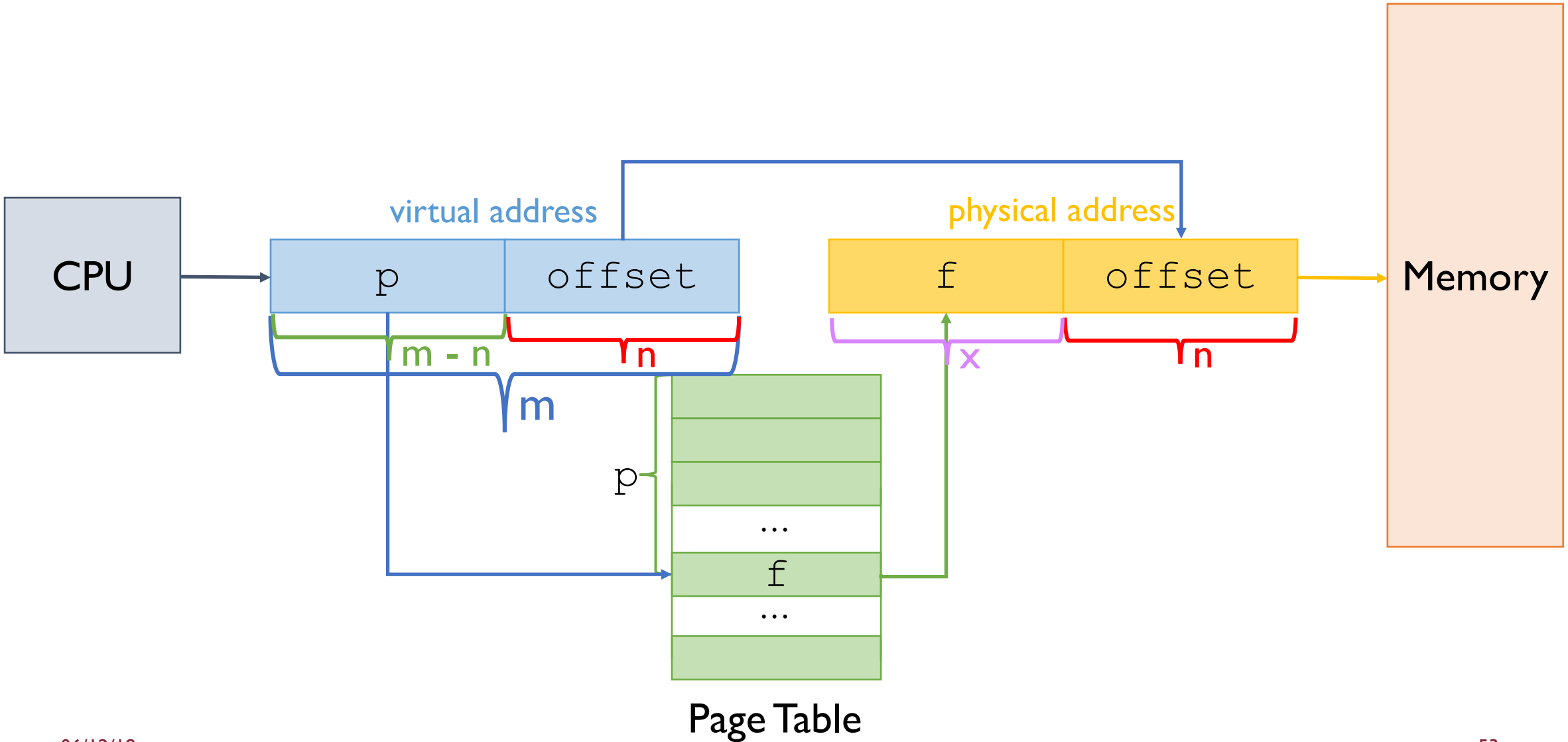
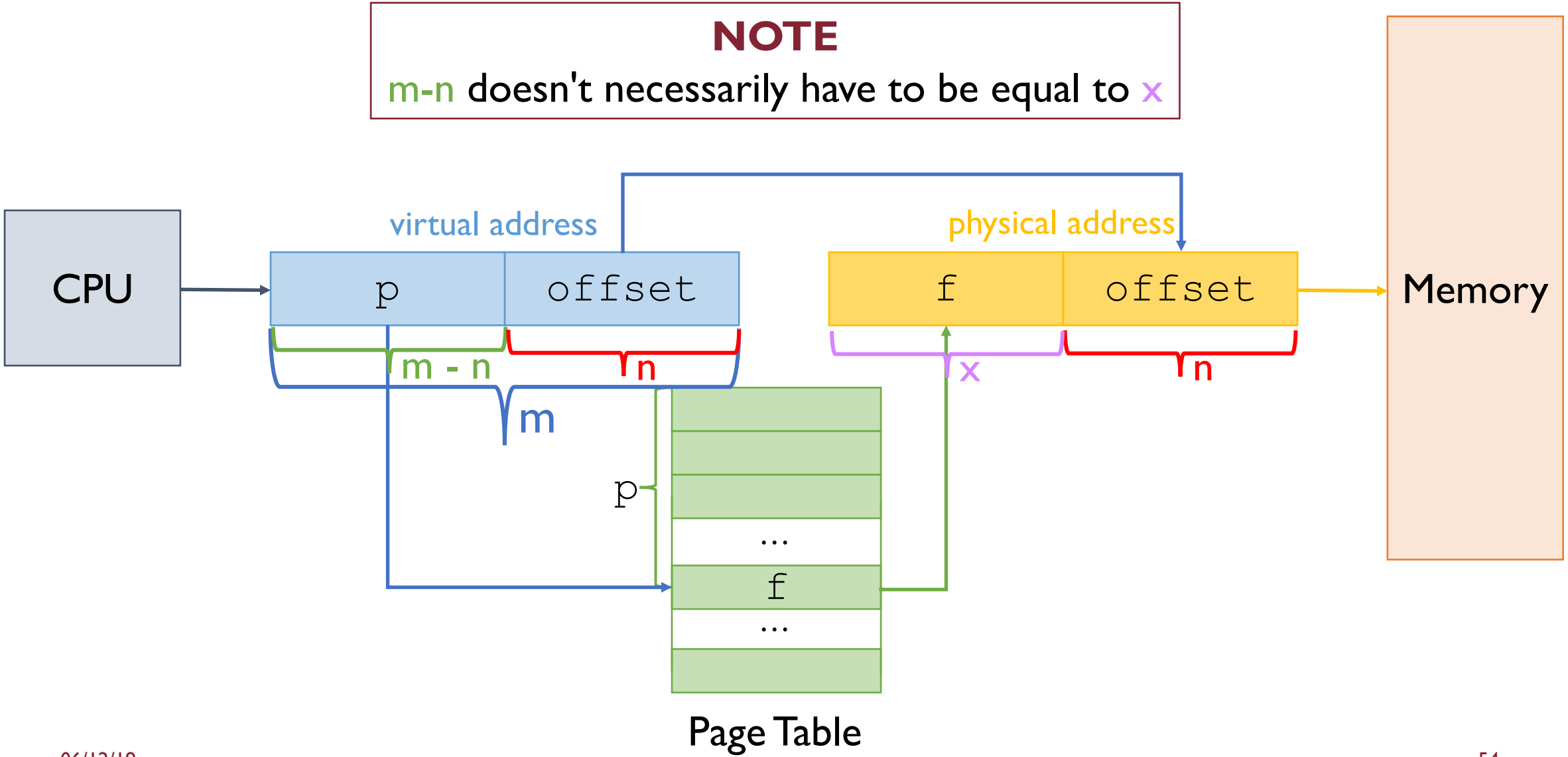


Paging Hardware: Practical Details

NOTE

m-n doesn't necessarily have to be equal to x



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- Typical values of page/frame sizes is n = 12 bits
  - That means each page/frame is 2^{12} = 4KiB
- Assuming m = 32 bits, there are 2^{m-n} = 2^{20} = 1MiB pages/frames
  - That means page table has 2^{20} entries (i.e., one for each page/frame)

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Suppose we have a virtual memory and a physical memory, both of size M = 1024B (1KiB)

Q1

How many bits are needed for a virtual/physical address (assuming single-byte addressing)

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R1

10 bits to address M = 1024 bytes (both for virtual and physical address)

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Now, assume we use paging with page/frame size S =16B

Q2

How big is the page table? (i.e., how many pages/entries does it have to index?)

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T = M / S = 1024 memory bytes / 16 bytes per page = 64 pages

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Q3

What is `p` and `offset` (i.e., how many bits for `p` and `offset`?)

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Q3

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R3

Our logical address is made of m = 10 bits

n = 4 bits are used to represent the `offset`, as each page/frame is S = 16 bytes

m-n = 6 bits are used to represent page number `p`, as there are T = 64 pages

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Q4

Translate the virtual address `x = 42`, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Q4

Translate the virtual address **`x = 42`**, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

R4

`p = x div S = 42 div 16 = 2`

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

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R4

p = x **div** S = 42 **div** 16 = **2**

offset = x **mod** S = 42 **mod** 16 = **10**

10th byte from the beginning of frame 37

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Suppose we still have a virtual memory and a physical memory, both of size M = 1024B

Q1

So far, we have assumed that computers work on single-byte (i.e, 8-bit architecture)
Modern computers however operate natively on multiple of bytes (i.e., **words**) rather than single-byte. Typical values of word length is: 16, 32 or 64 bits.
If we assume 32-bit architecture (i.e., word = 32 bits = 4 bytes), virtual addresses refer to words instead of bytes
How many bits are therefore needed to address the number of words available on M?

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R1

8 bits to address M = 1024/4 = 256 4-byte **words** (both for virtual and physical address)

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Now, assume we still use paging with page/frame size S =16B

Q2

How big is the page table? (i.e., how many pages/entries does it have to index?)

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Q2

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R2

T = M / S = 1024 memory bytes / 16 bytes per page = 64 pages

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Q3

What is `p` and `offset` (i.e., how many bits for `p` and `offset`?)

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Q3

What is `p` and `offset` (i.e., how many bits for `p` and `offset`?)

R3

Our logical address is now made of m = 8 bits

n = 2 bits are used to represent the `offset`, as each page/frame is:

S = 16 bytes = 4 * 4-byte **words**

m-n = 6 bits are used to represent page number `p`, as there are still T = 64 pages

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Q4

Translate the virtual address **x = 7**, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

Paging Hardware: Practical Example

Q4

Translate the virtual address **x = 7**, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

Remember: now virtual address refers to a 4-byte word!

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Q4

Translate the virtual address **x = 7**, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

`S` = `16` bytes = `4 * 4-byte` **words**

Must be expressed in terms of number of words

R4

`p = x` **`div`** `S = 7` **`div`** `4 = 1`

Paging Hardware: Practical Example 2

Q4

Translate the virtual address **x = 7**, assuming the following page table

page	frame
0	12
1	5
2	37
3	0
…	..
63	29

R4

p = x **div** S = 7 **div** 4 = **1**

offset = x **mod** S = 7 **mod** 4 = **3**

3rd **word** from the beginning of frame 5

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- Trade-off solution: **Translation Look-aside Buffer** (**TLB**)

Appendix: Registers and Main Memory

- All memory accesses are equivalent: the memory hardware doesn't know what a particular part of memory is being used for
- CPU can only access its registers and main memory (any access to other devices, e.g., hard drive, requires data to be moved into main memory first)
- Access to registers is very fast, generally one clock cycle
- Access to main memory is comparatively slow, and may take several clock cycles to complete

Appendix: Cache Memory

- Bridge the gap between fast registers and slower main memory
- Cache Memory: on-chip (thereby, fast!) intermediary memory built into most modern CPUs
- Several chunks of memory transferred from main memory to the cache
- Access individual memory locations one at a time from the cache rather than from memory directly

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- Typical TLB sizes range from 8 to 2048 entries

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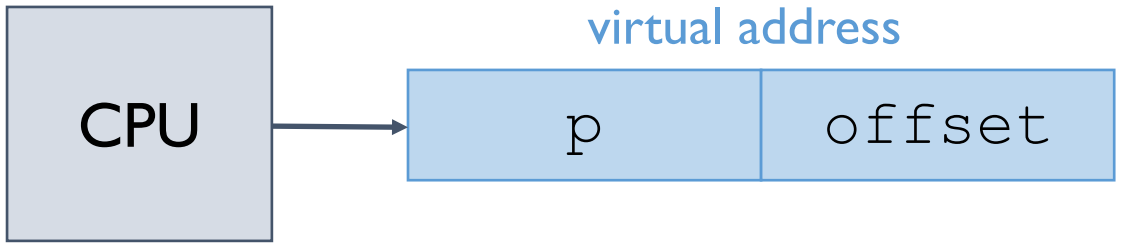

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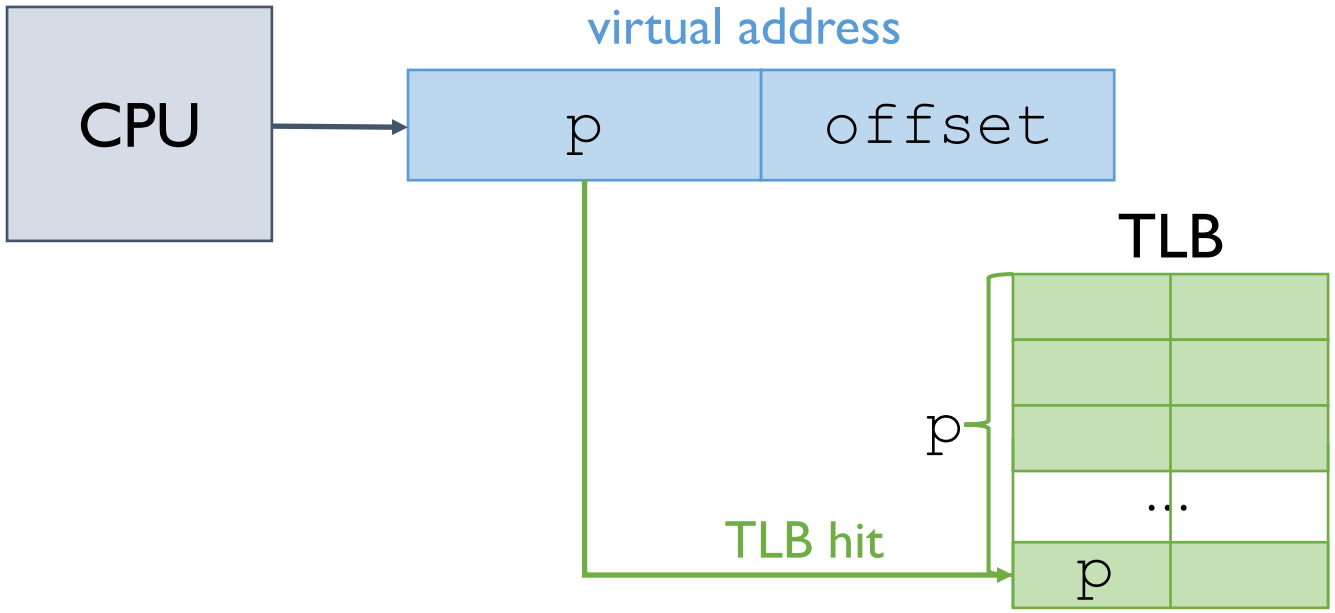

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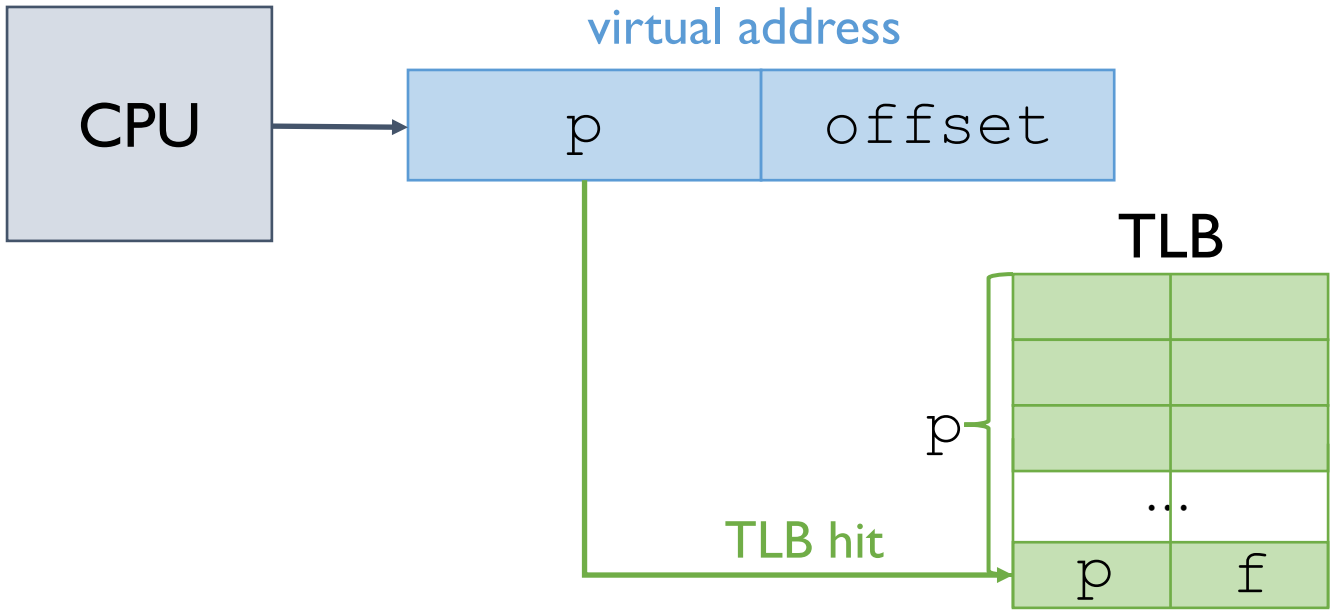

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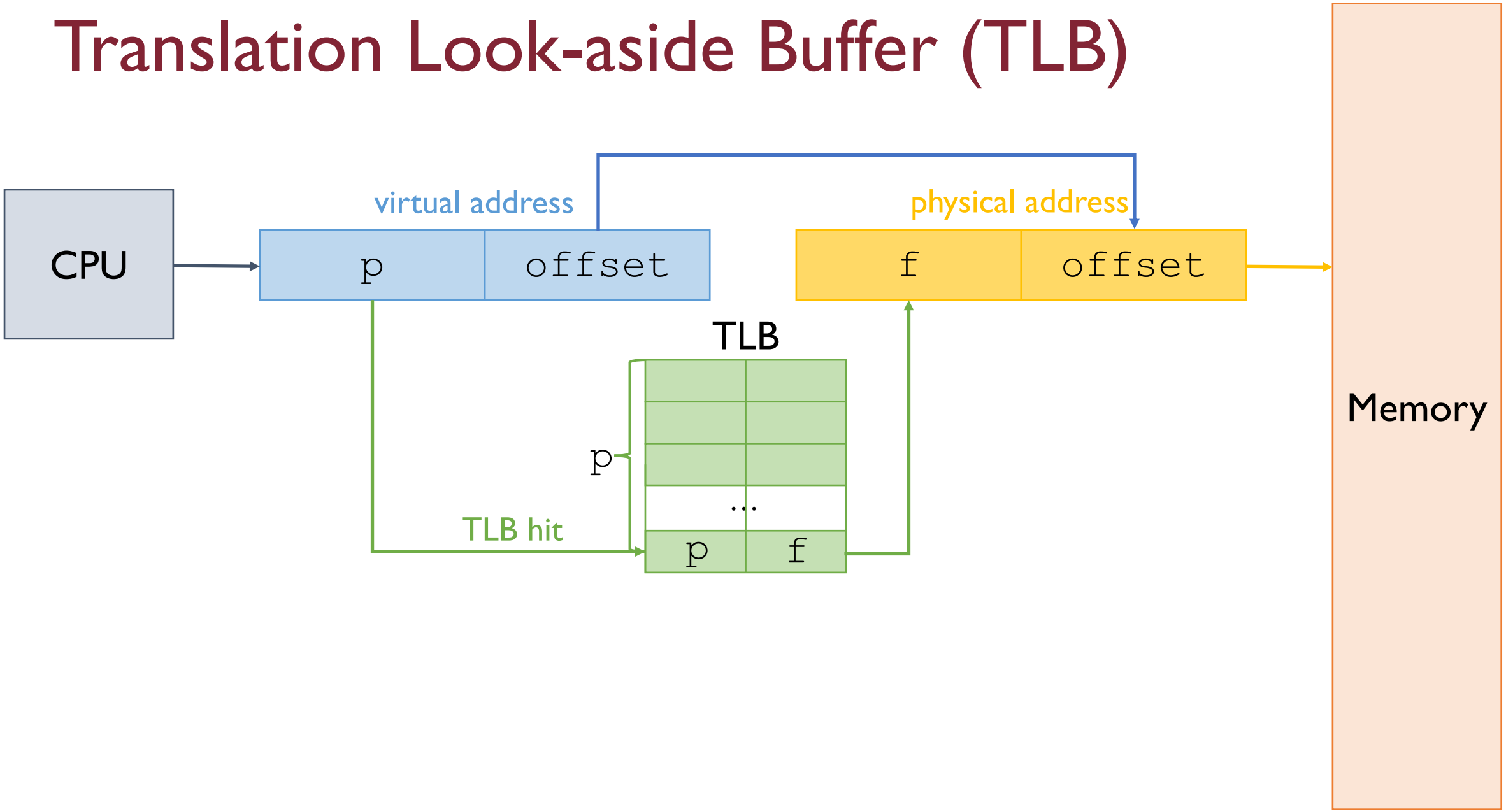

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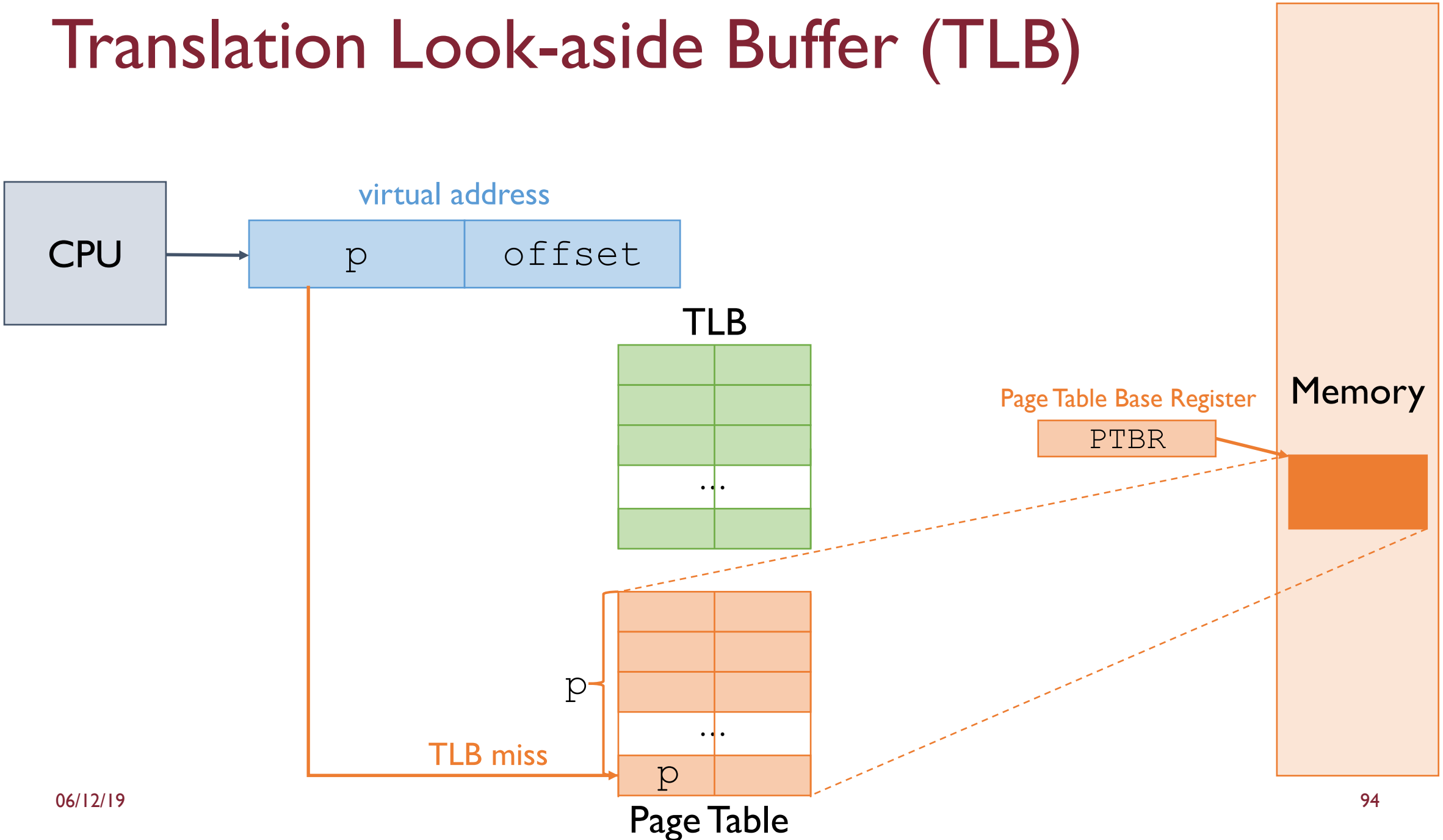

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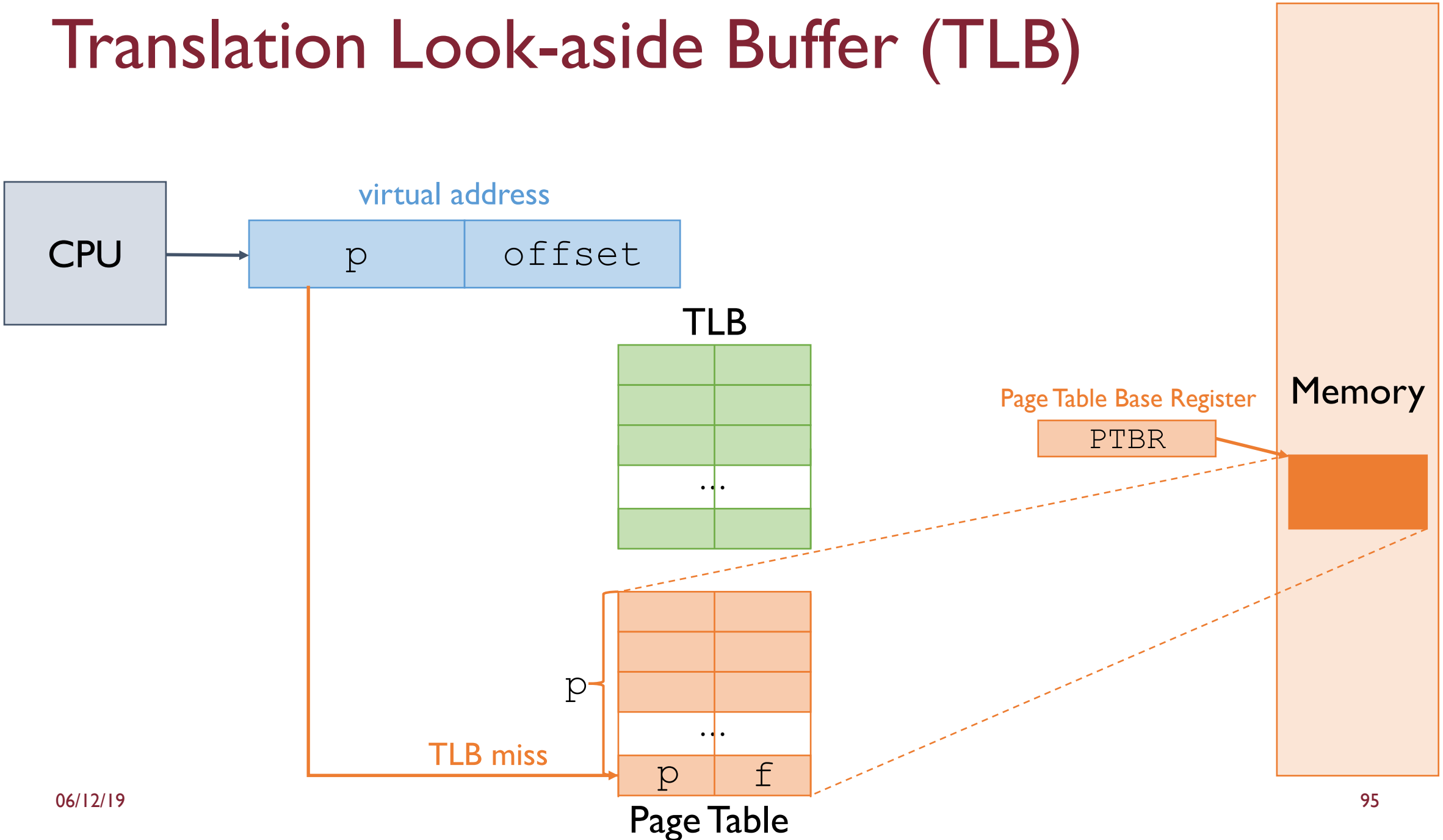

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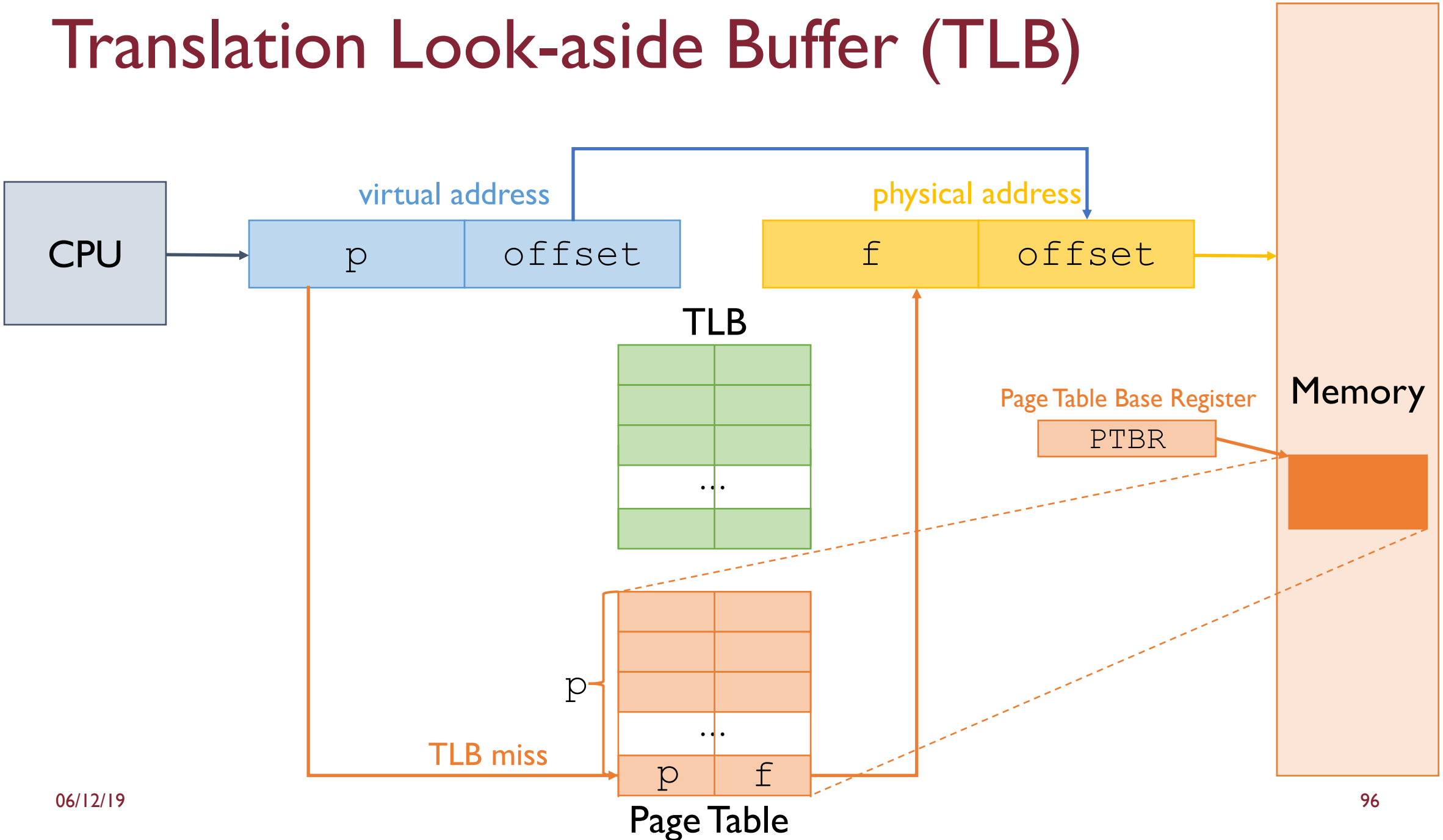

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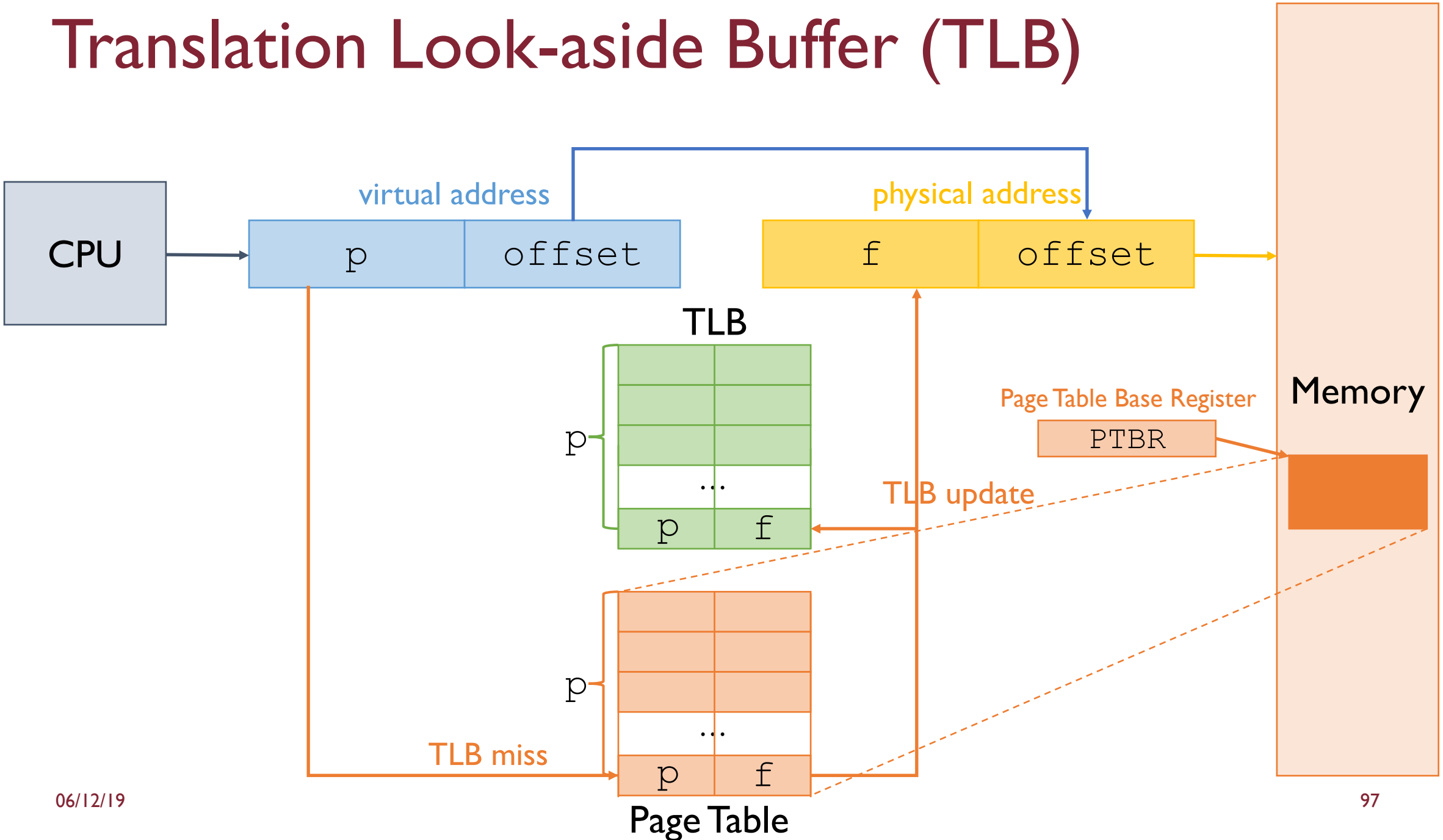

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  - **basic:** at each context switch the content of the TLB is fully flushed and cleaned (cold-start → the first accesses will generate all TLB misses)
  - **advanced:** TLB entries dumped and restored within the PCB or adding a so-called process context ID (PCID) to each entry (the CPU will use a TLB entry iff the PCID of that entry corresponds to the ID of the running process)

Memory Access Cost

t_{MA} = physical memory access time
t_{TLB} = lookup time on the TLB cache
(NOTE: $t_{TLB} \ll t_{MA}$)
p = probability of TLB cache hit (i.e., *hit ratio*)
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The larger the TLB the higher the probability p of hit ratio, thereby decreasing the average memory access cost

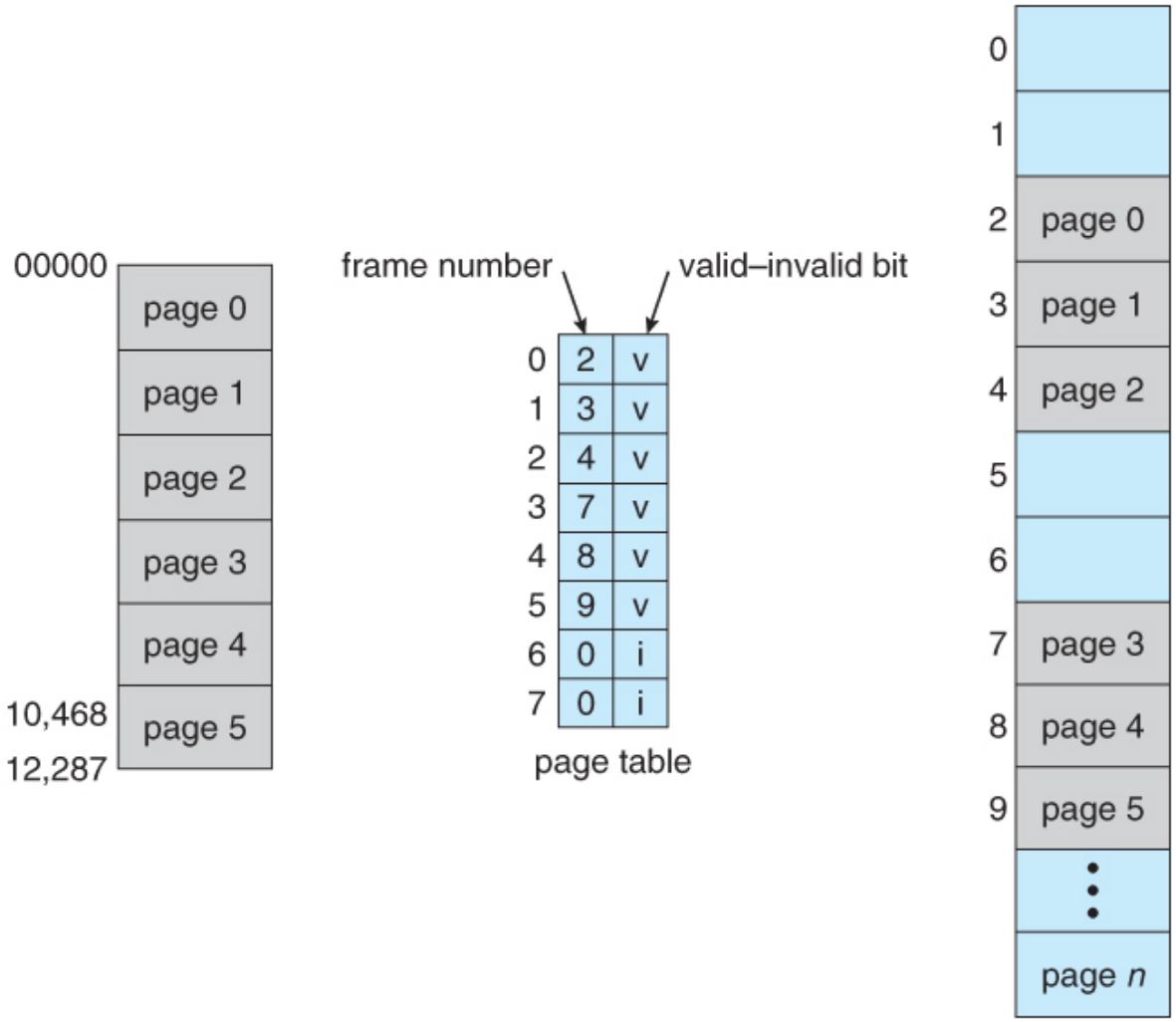
Additional Protection

- The page table can also help to protect processes from accessing memory they shouldn't, or their own memory in correct ways
- A bit or bits can be added to the page table to classify a page as read-write, read-only, read-write-execute, or combination of those
- Each memory reference can be checked to ensure it is accessing the memory in the appropriate mode
- Valid/invalid bits can be added to "mask off" entries in the page table that are not in use by the current process

Additional Protection

- valid/invalid bits cannot block all illegal memory accesses, due to the internal fragmentation
- Many processes do not use all of the page table entries available, particularly in modern systems with very large potential page tables
- Some systems use a page-table length register (`PTLR`) to specify the length of the page table

Additional Protection



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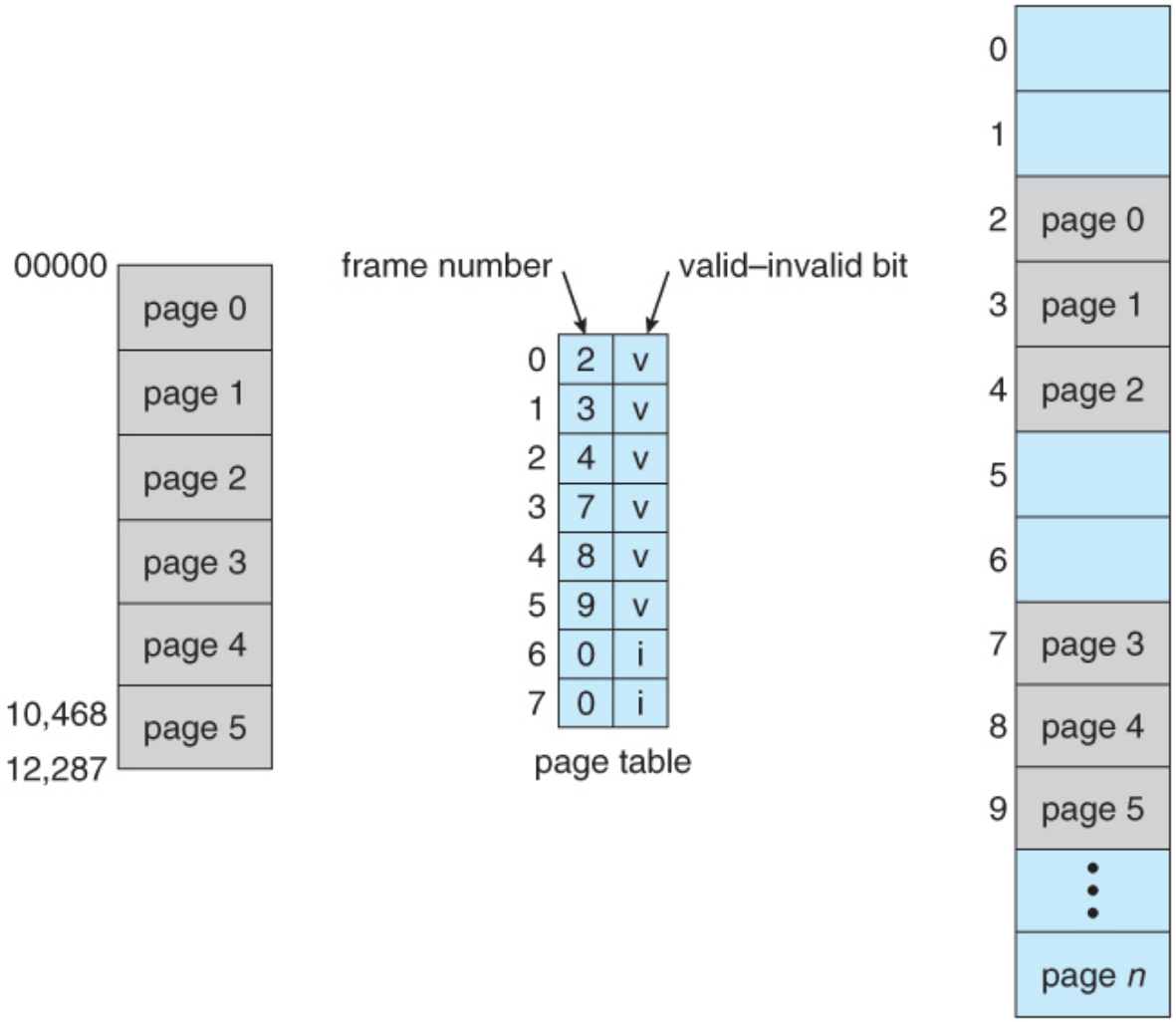

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any entry whose invalid bit is set will be discarded (and updated)

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1. Process requests for *k* pages

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5. As process runs, OS loads TLB missed entries possibly replacing existing entries if TLB is full

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- On a context switch:
  - Copy the `PTBR` value to the PCB
  - Copy the TLB to the PCB (optional)
  - Flush the TLB (if TLB is not saved to/restored from the PCB)
  - Restore the `PTBR` (i.e., with the value of the new running process)
  - Restore the TLB (if it was previously saved)

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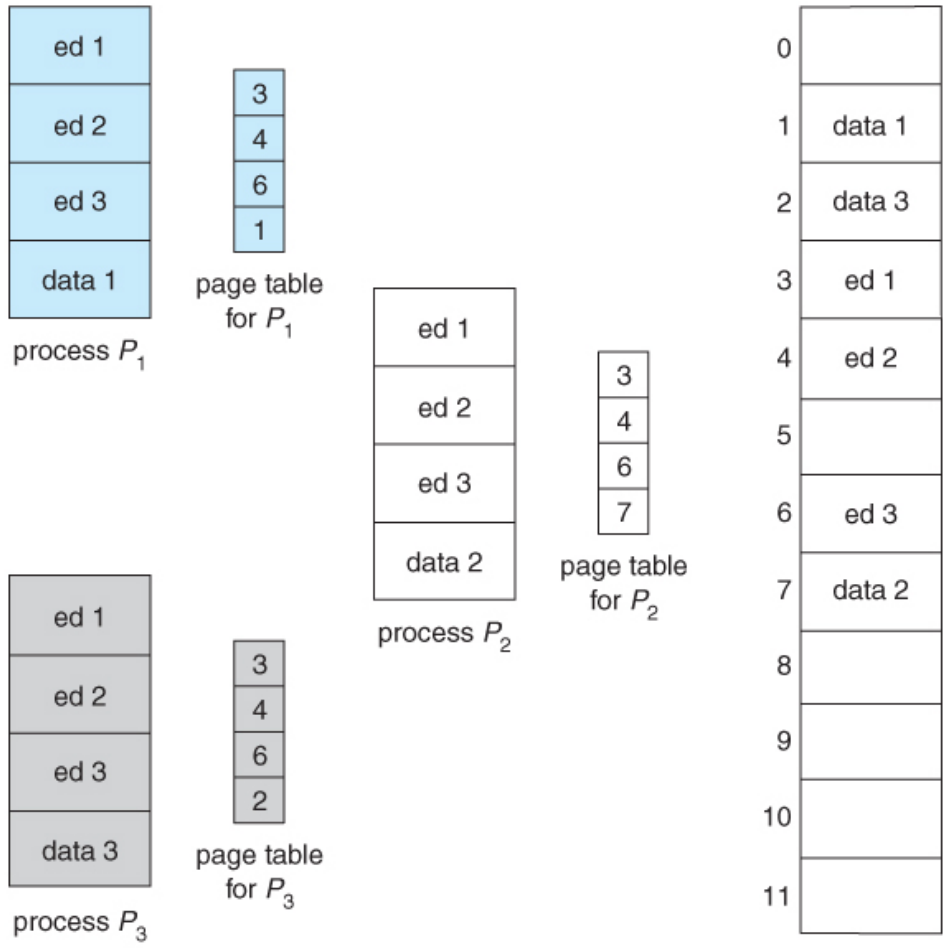
- This can be done by simply duplicating page entries of different processes to the same page frames (both for code and data)
- Only if code is **reentrant**:
  - it does not write to or change the code (i.e., it is non self-modifying)
  - the code can be shared by multiple processes, as long as each has their own copy of the data and registers, including the instruction register

Sharing Pages: Example



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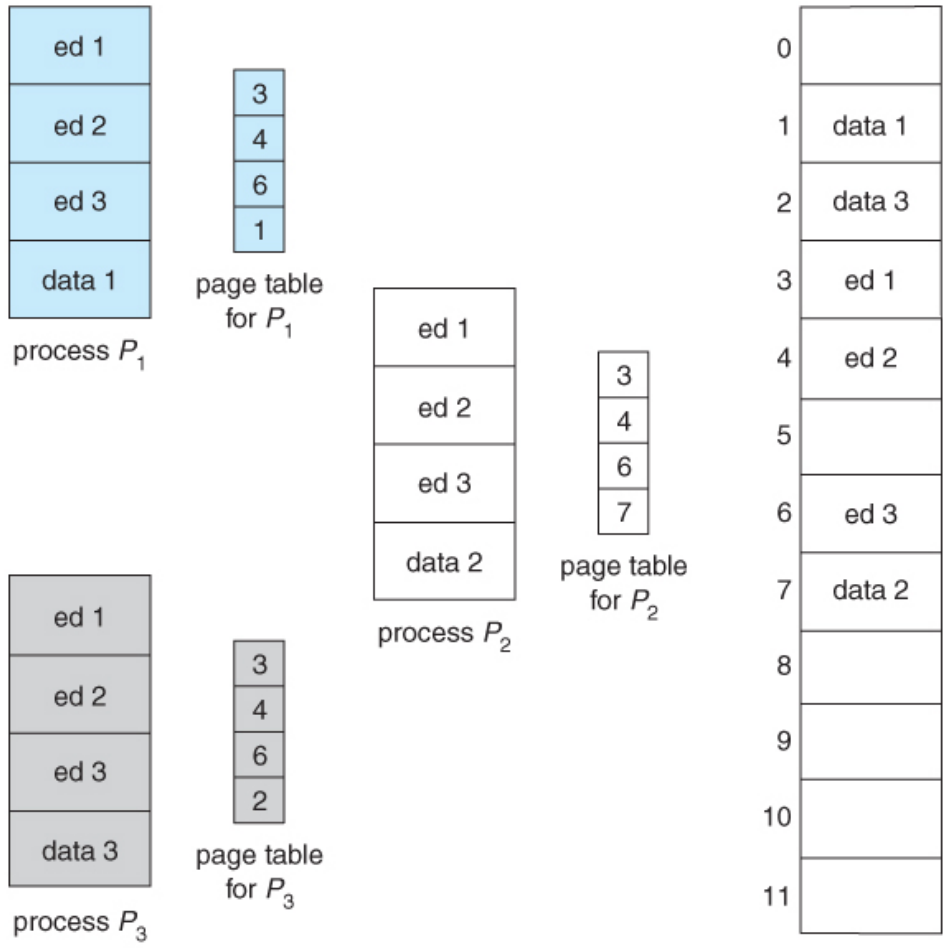

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Only a **single copy** of the code of `ed` is actually loaded in main memory

Paging: Summary

- A big improvement over **relocation**
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- A big improvement over **relocation**
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  - Allows code sharing among processes, reducing memory footprint
  - Enables processes to run when they are partially loaded
- However, paging comes with its costs:
  - Virtual/Physical address translation may be time consuming
  - Hardware support like TLB cache is needed to make it efficient enough
  - OS has to be inevitably more complex

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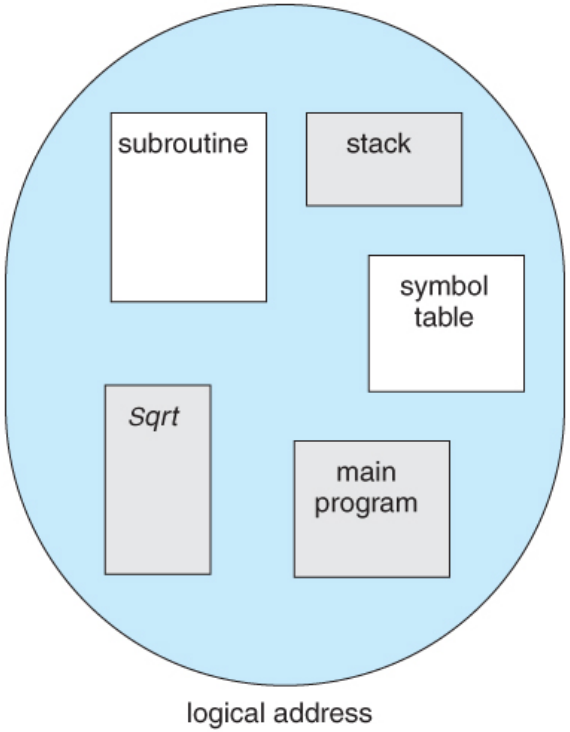
- Memory segmentation supports this view by providing addresses with a **segment number** (mapped to a segment base address) and an **offset** from the beginning of that segment

Segmentation: Example

A C compiler generating **5 segments** for the user code, library code, global (static) variables, the stack, and the heap



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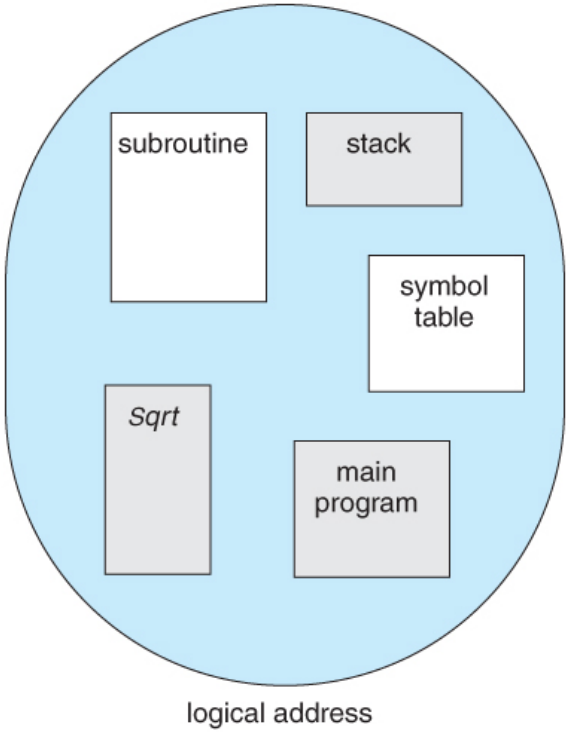
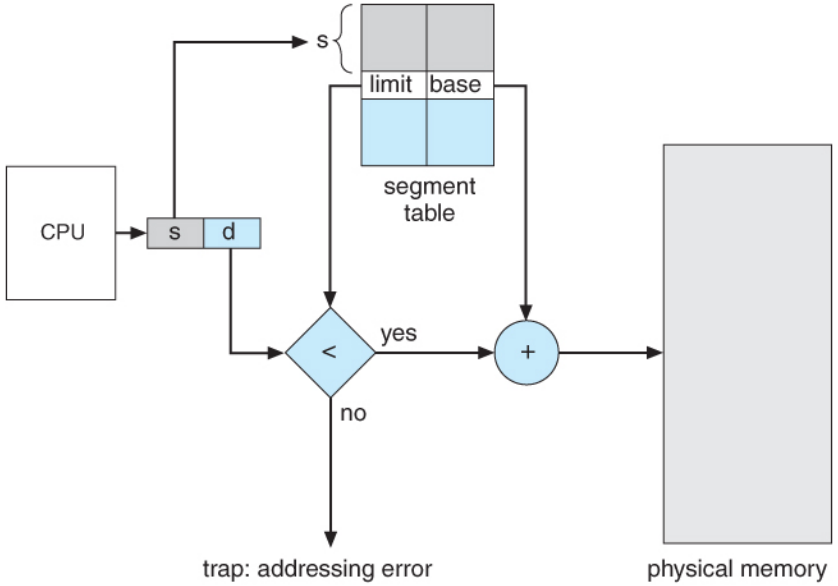


The compiler generates addresses identifying segments and offset in those

Segmentation Hardware

A **segment table** maps segment-offset addresses to physical addresses, and simultaneously checks for invalid addresses, using a system similar to the page tables and relocation base registers discussed previously



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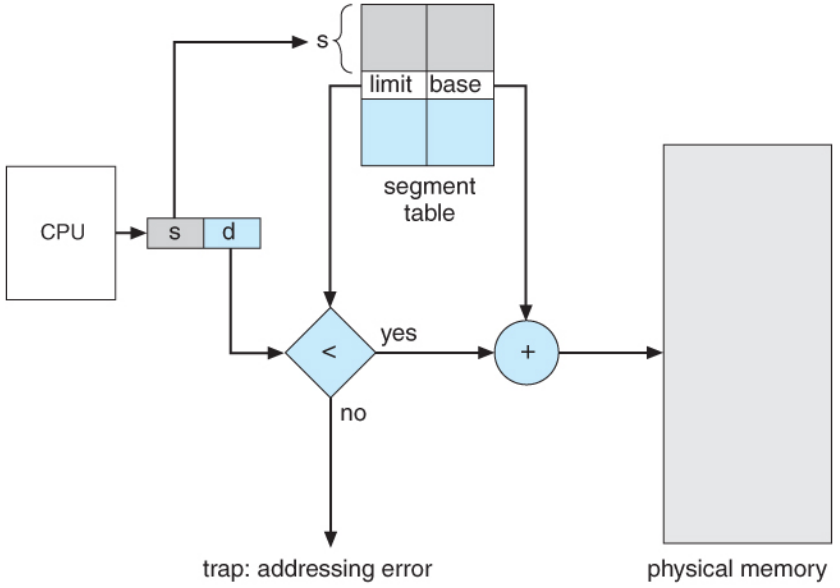
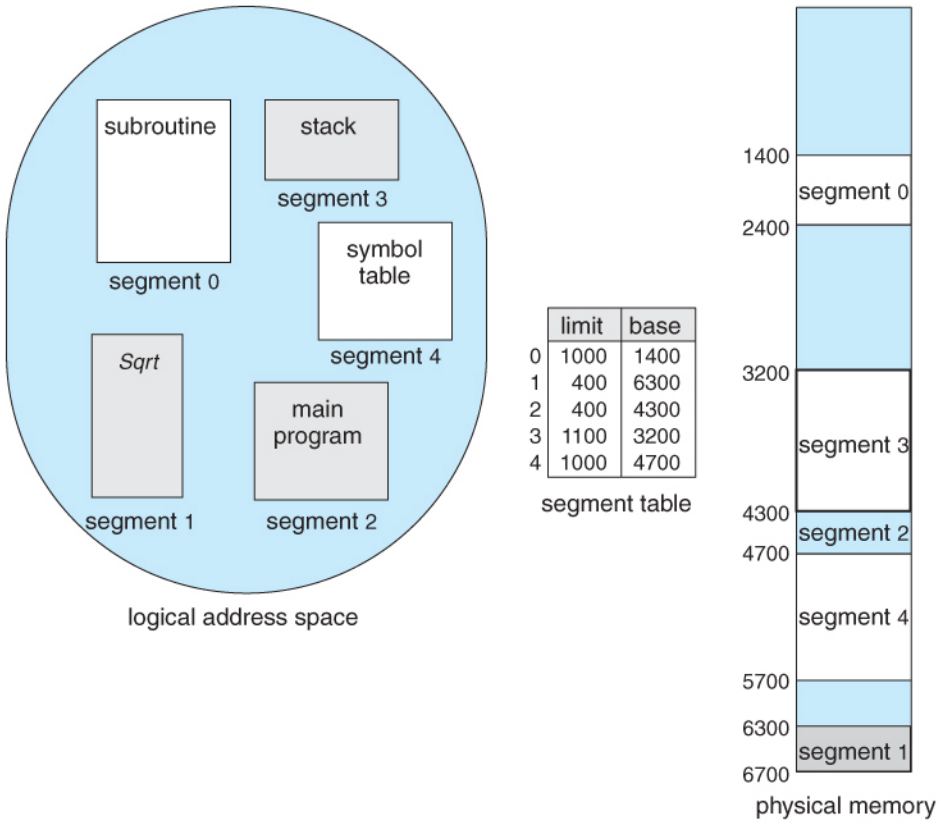


Note that we came back to the assumption that each segment is kept in **contiguous** memory and may be of different sizes…

Segment Table



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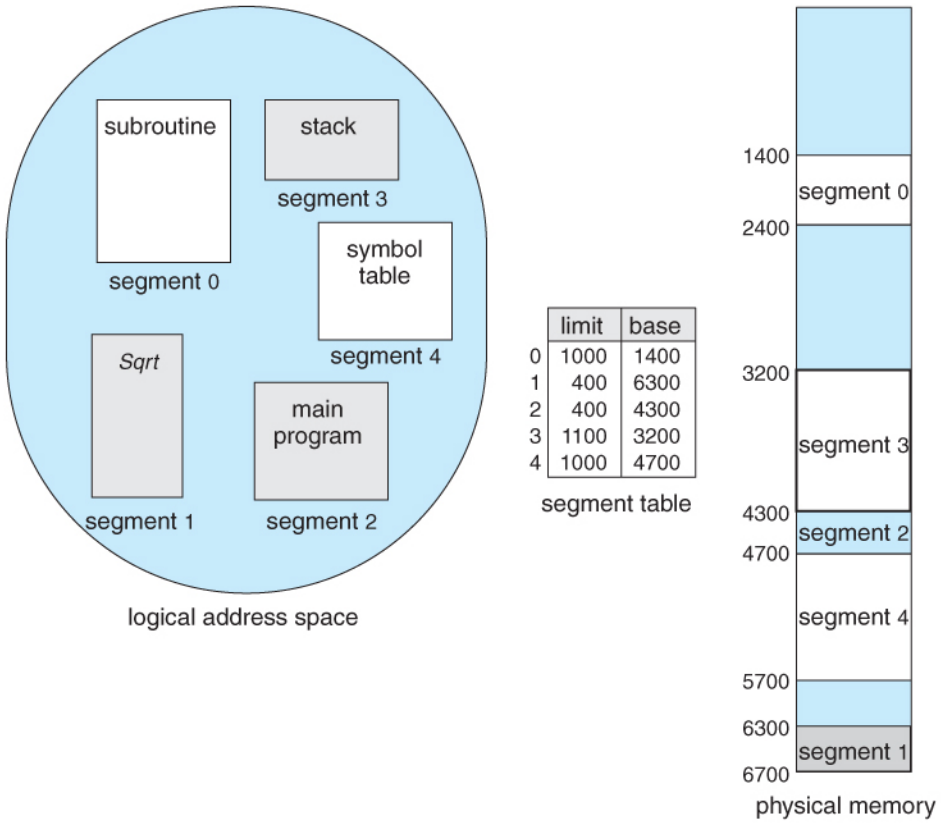

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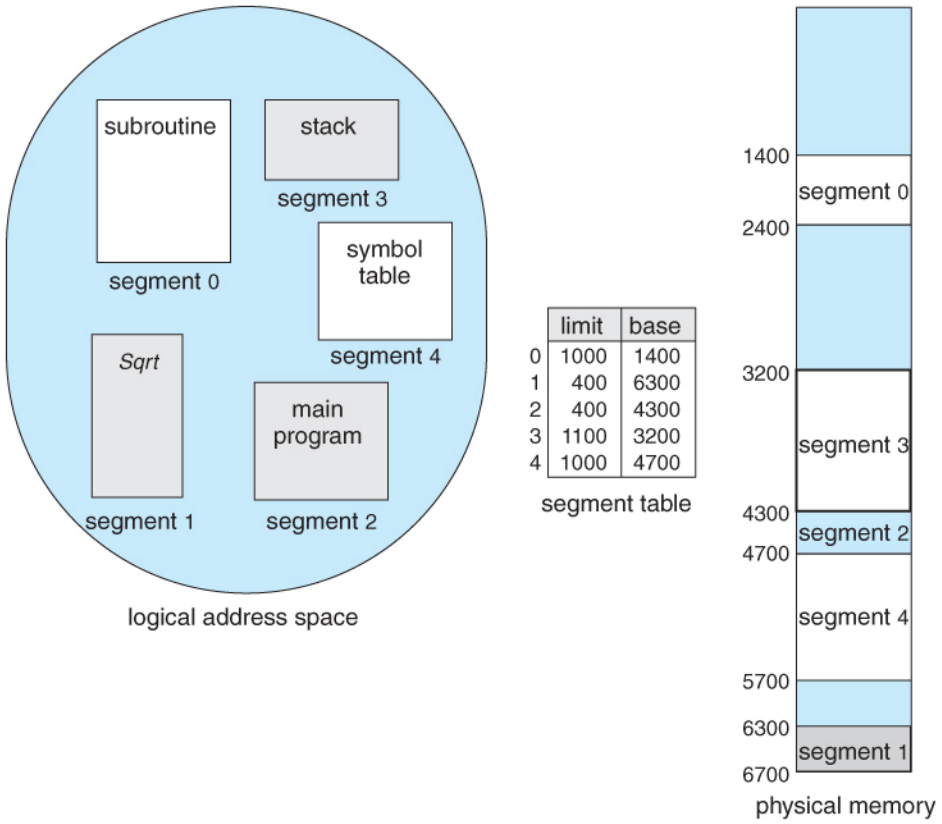

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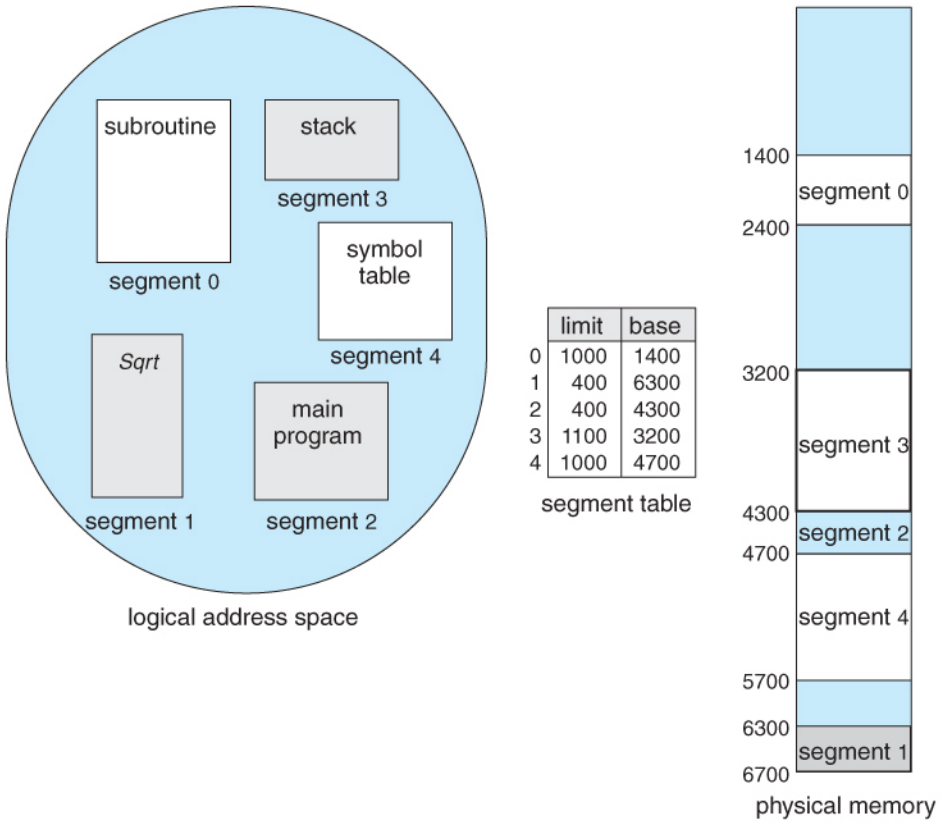

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Segment Table, instead, must store a very limited amount of segments per process (3÷5)

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- Additional HW (like TLB cache) might be needed if programs use many logical segments

Combine Segmentation with Paging

Try to get the best of both world

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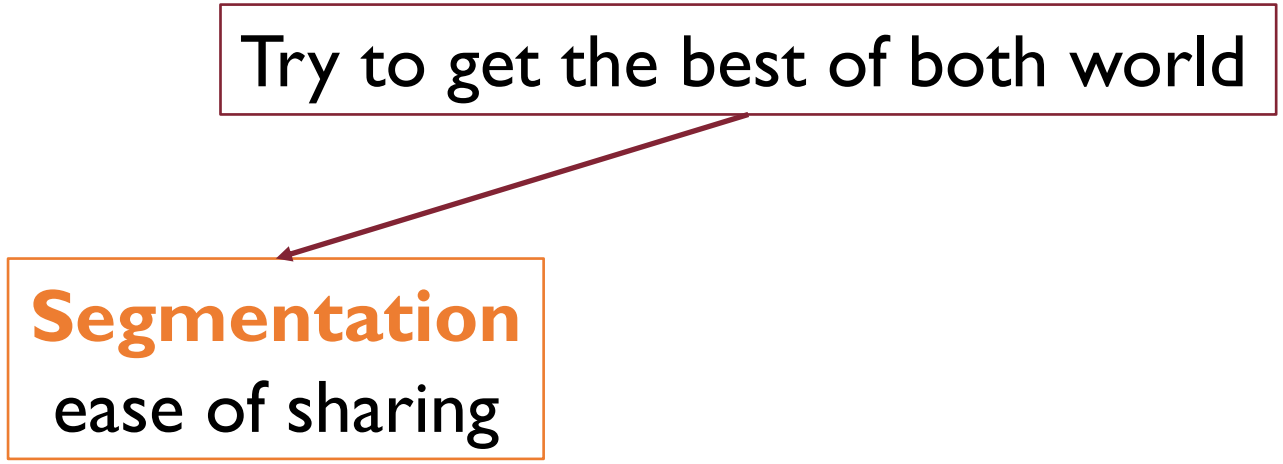

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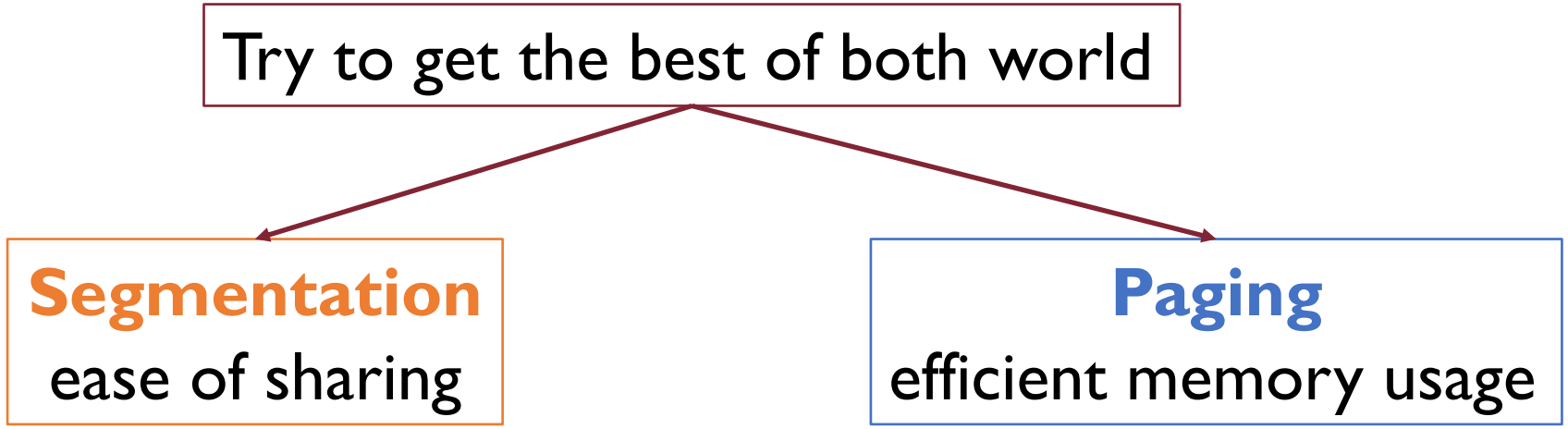

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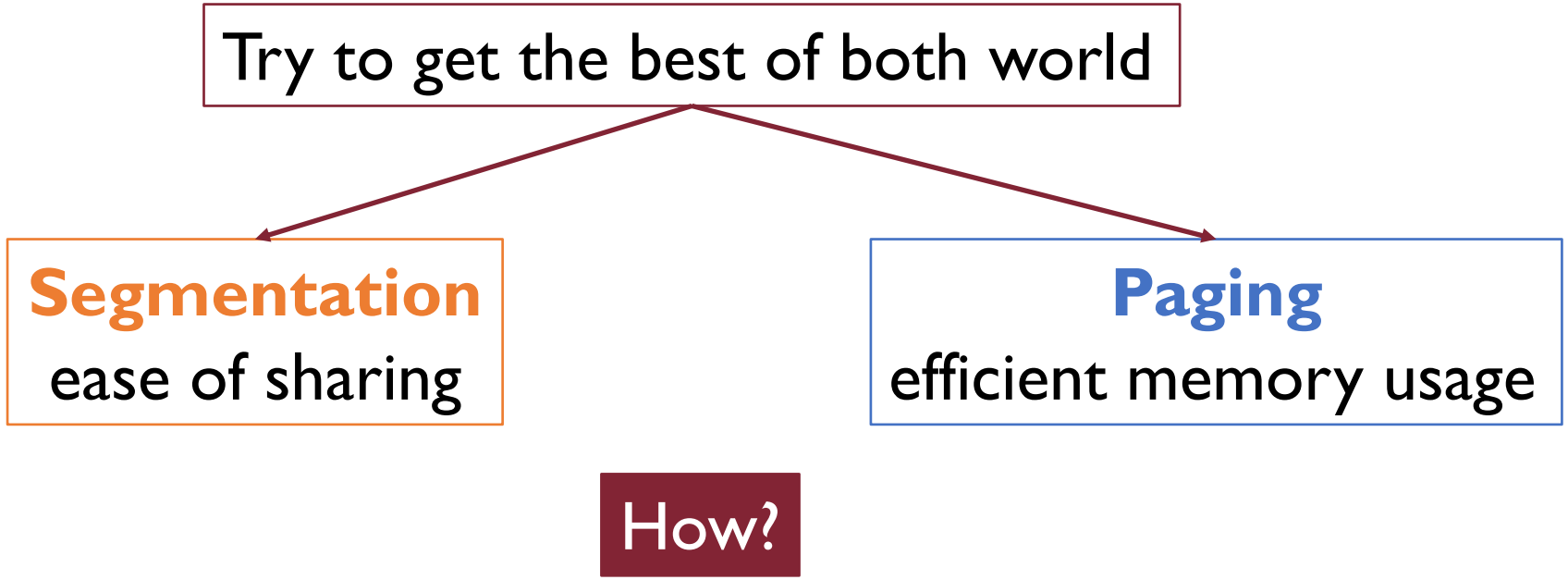

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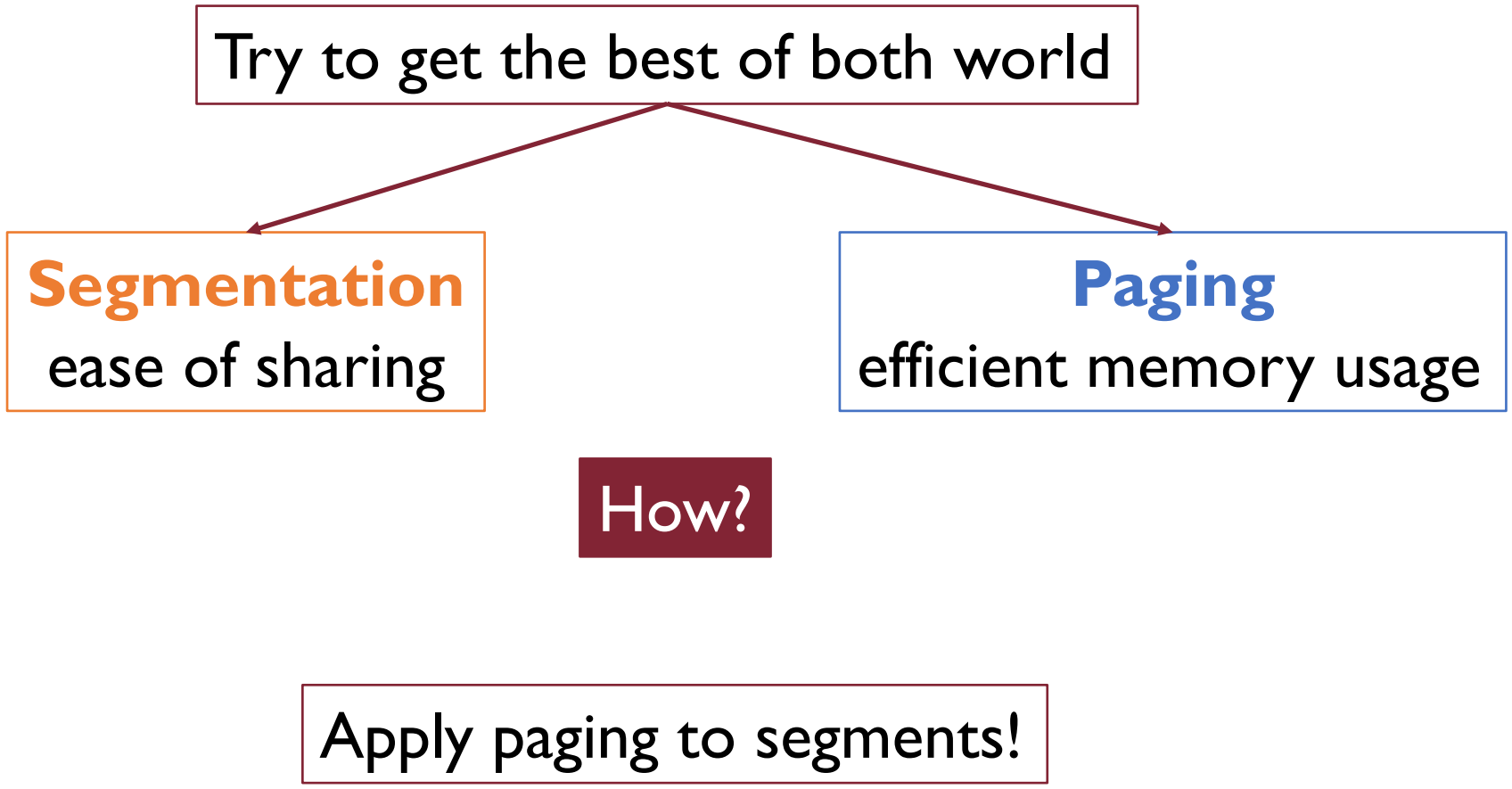

Combine Segmentation with Paging

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Map a logical segment onto multiple page frames

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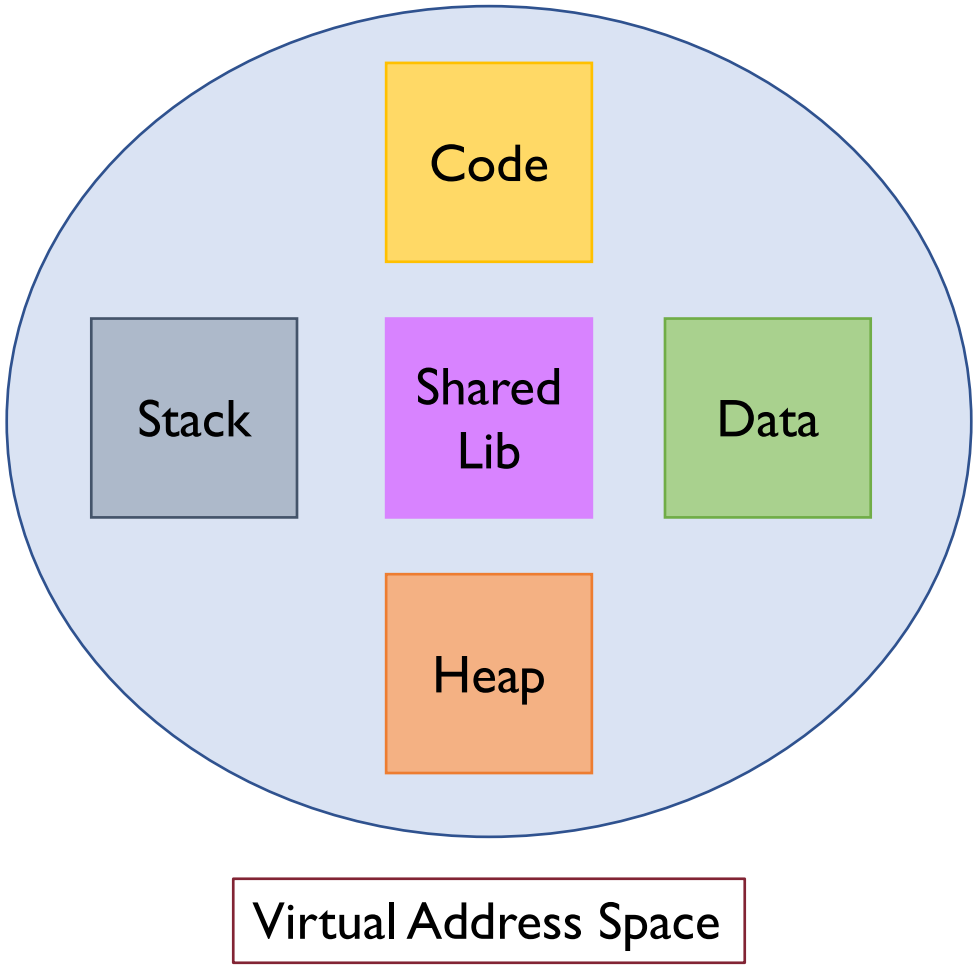

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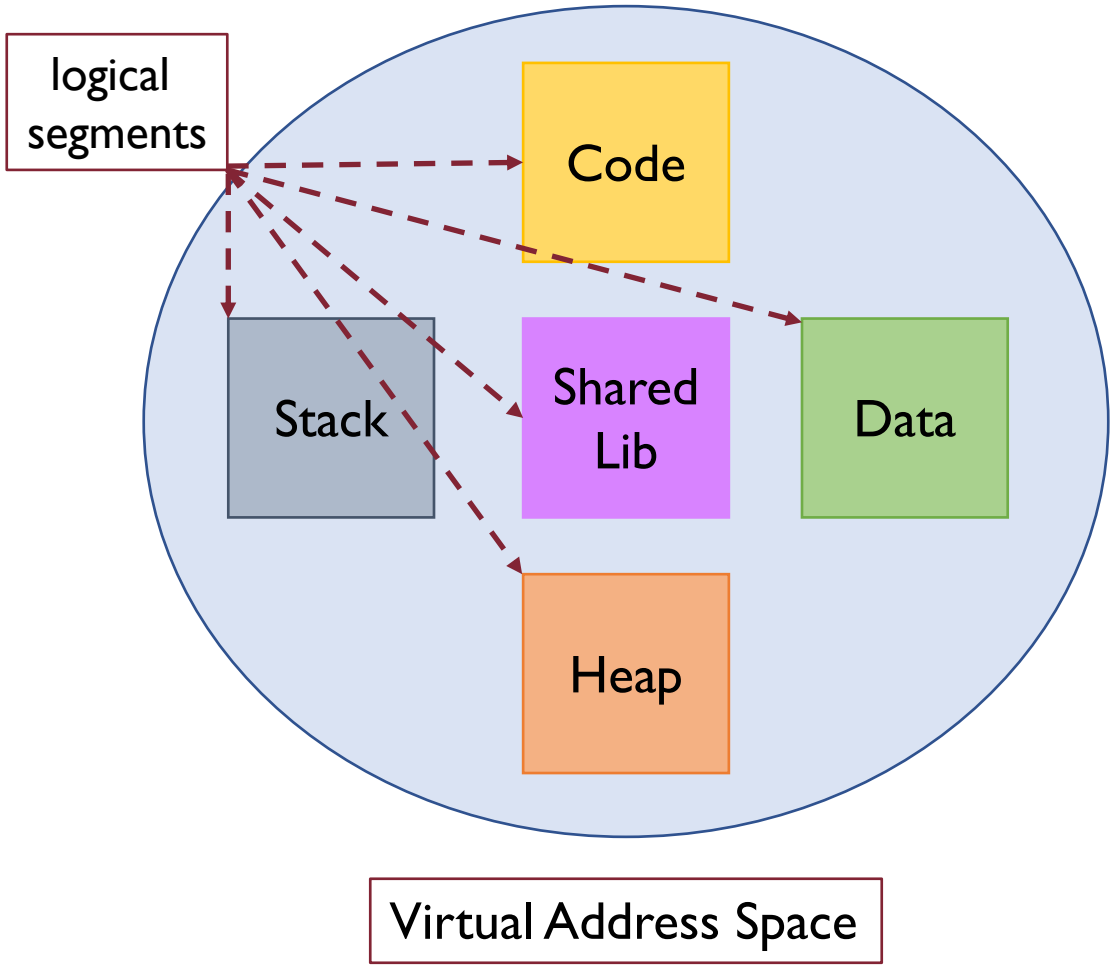

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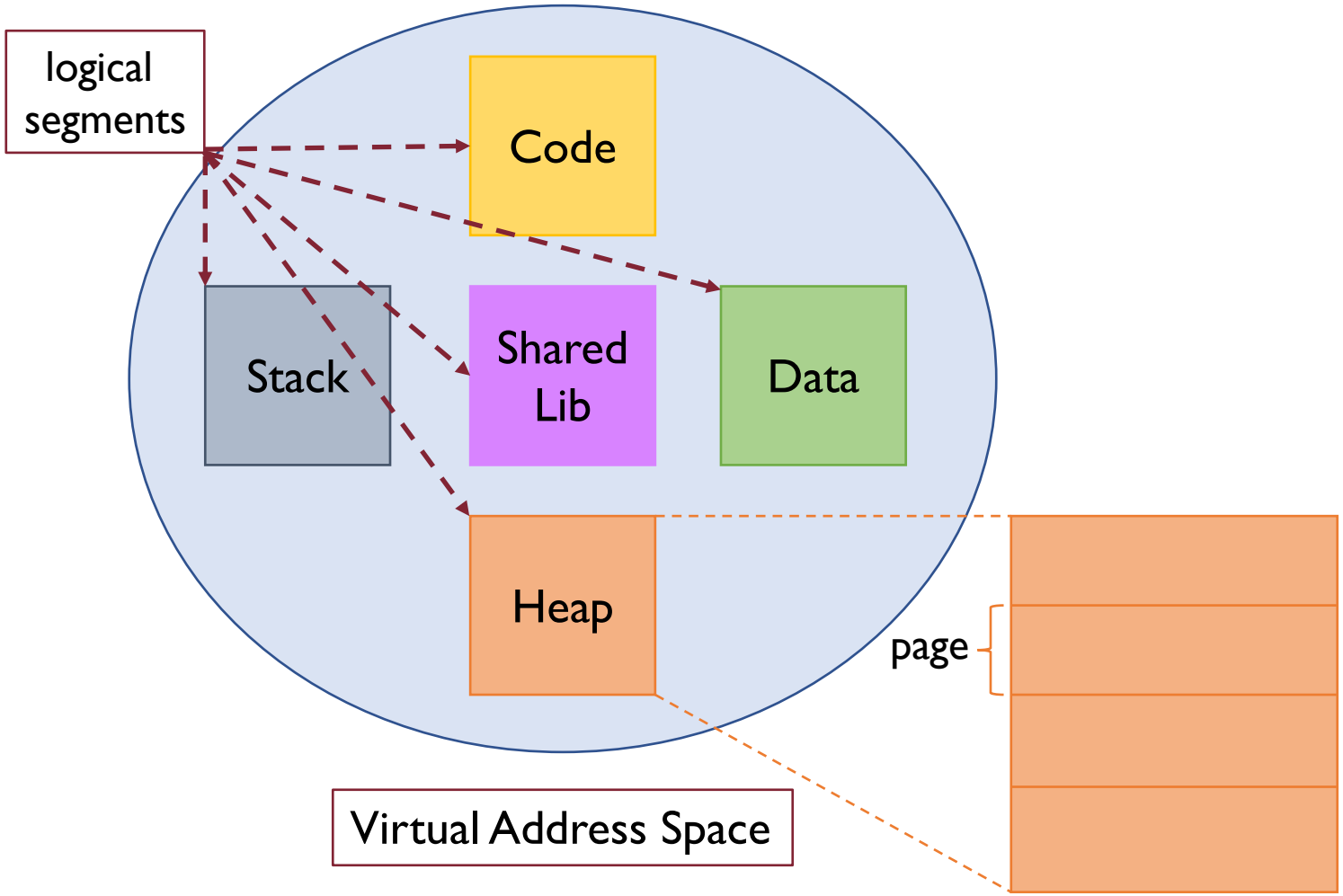

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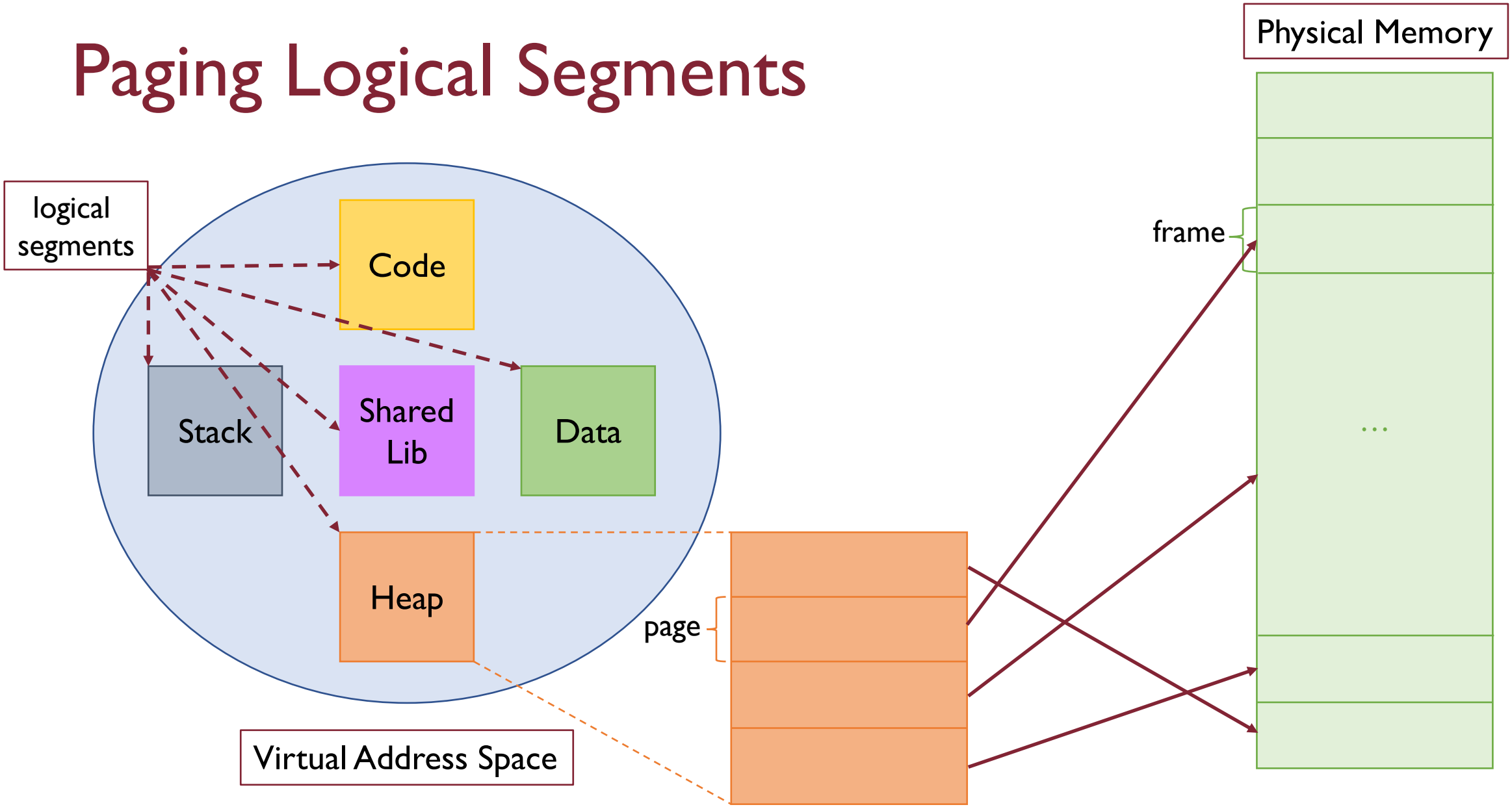

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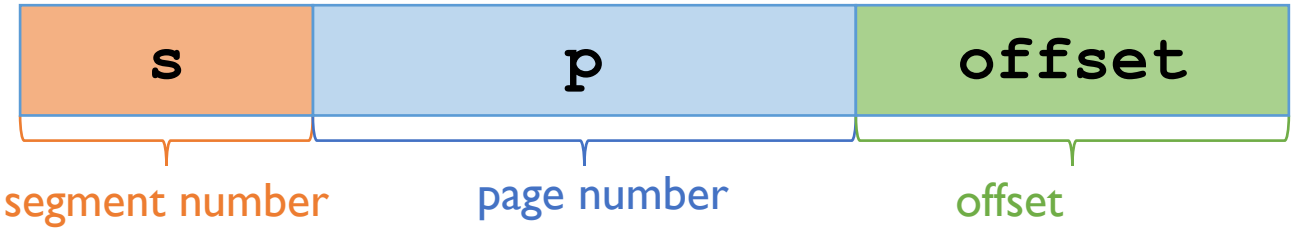

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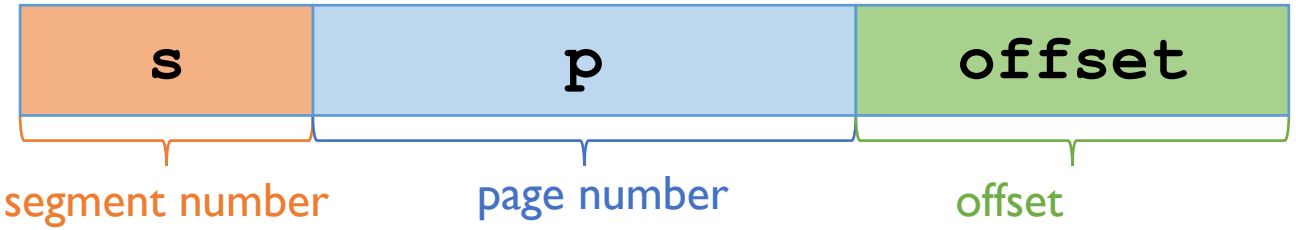

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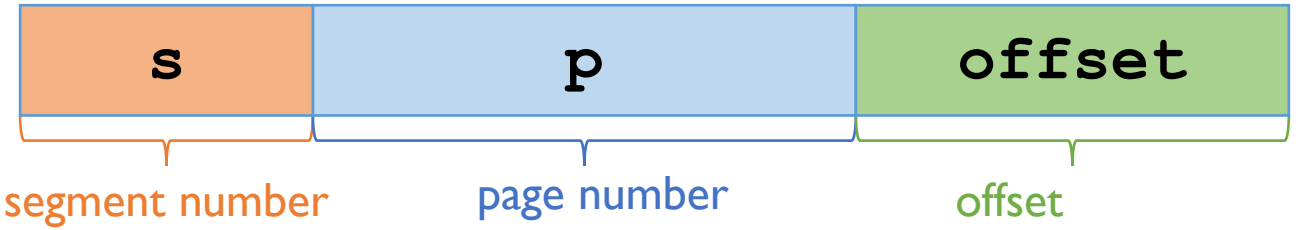

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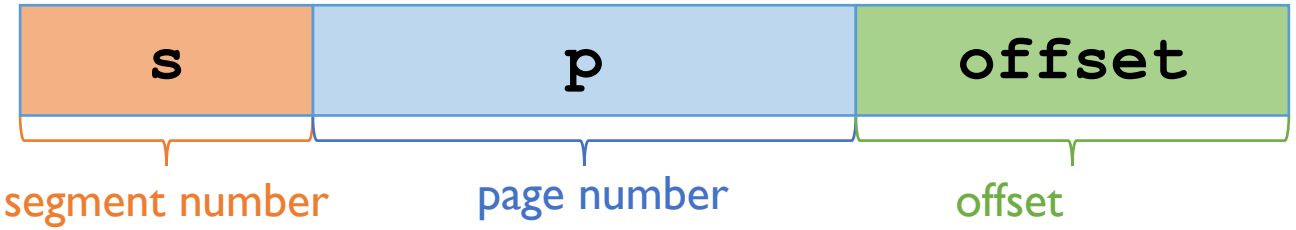

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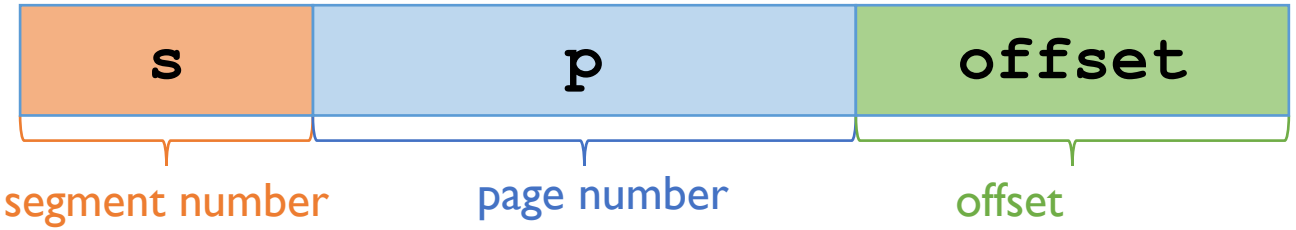

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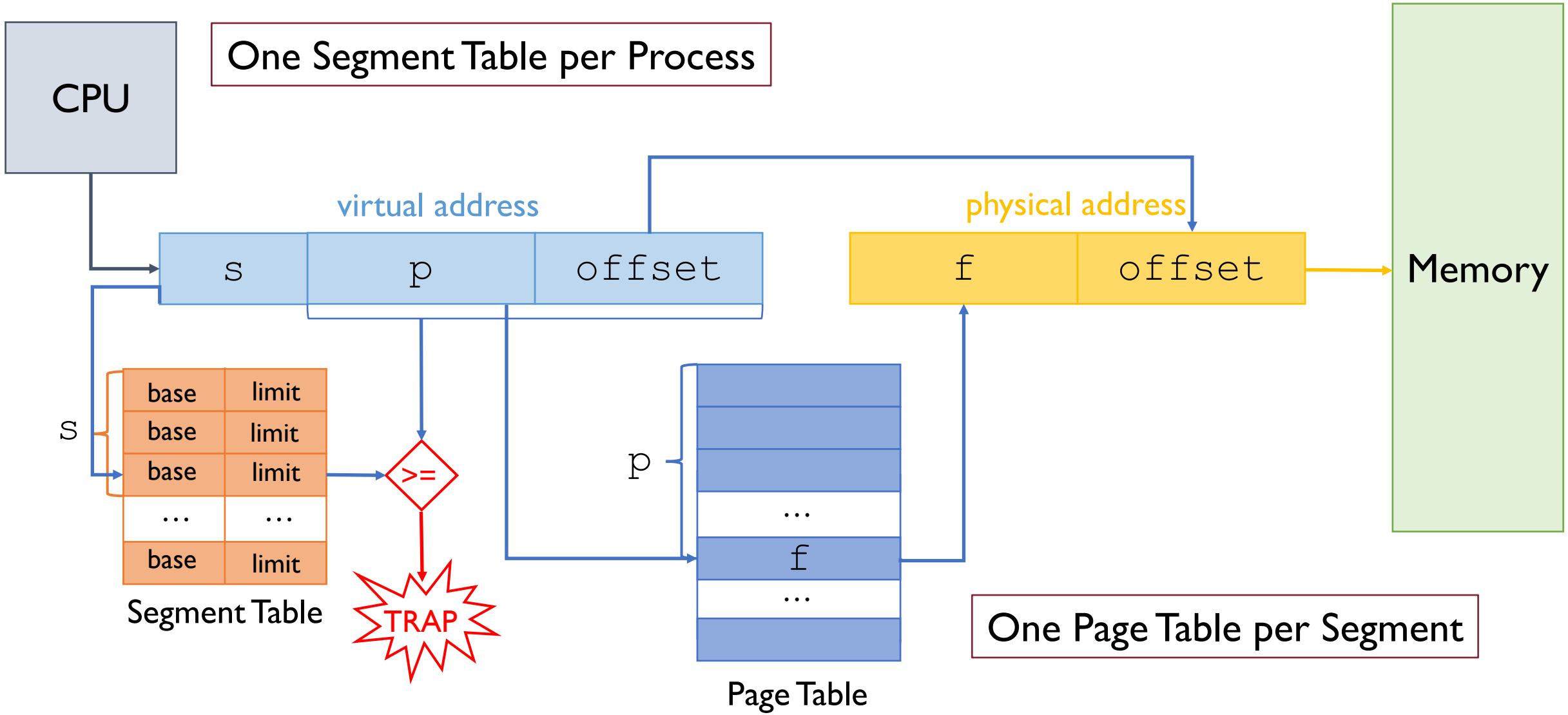

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Slower but more flexible

Segmented Paging Hardware: Practical Example 3

Suppose a physical memory of 1024 addressable words (assuming 1 word = 1 byte)

Frame size is 64 words (i.e., 64 bytes)

Page table size (i.e., number of entries) is thus 1024 bytes/64 bytes per frame = 16

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10 bits to address M = 1024/1 = 1024 1-byte **words**

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Q2

How many bits are therefore needed for the virtual address?

R2

3 bits to address 8 logical segments (s)

4 bits to address 16 entries of the page table

6 bits to address 64 individual words (i.e., bytes) within each page

13 bits (virtual address) vs. 10 bits (physical address)

Sharing Pages and Segments

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  - Slower context switches (why?)
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- The larger the page size the higher the chance of internal fragmentation

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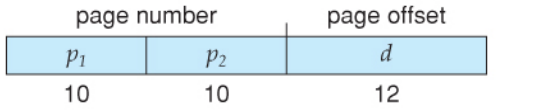
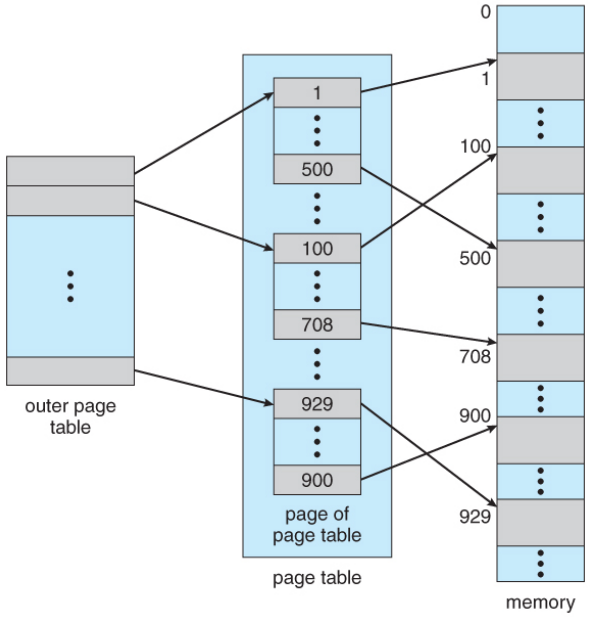
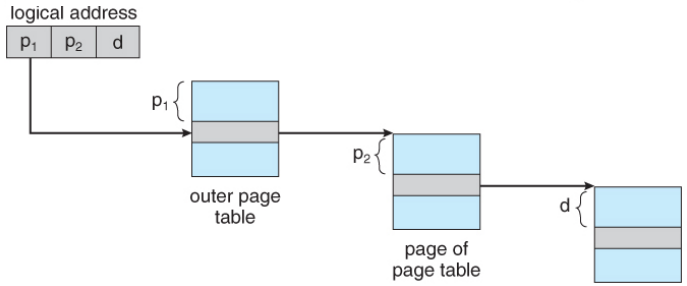
More advanced paging structures are needed!

Advanced Paging: Two-Tier Page Table







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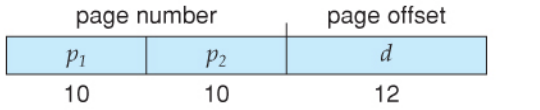

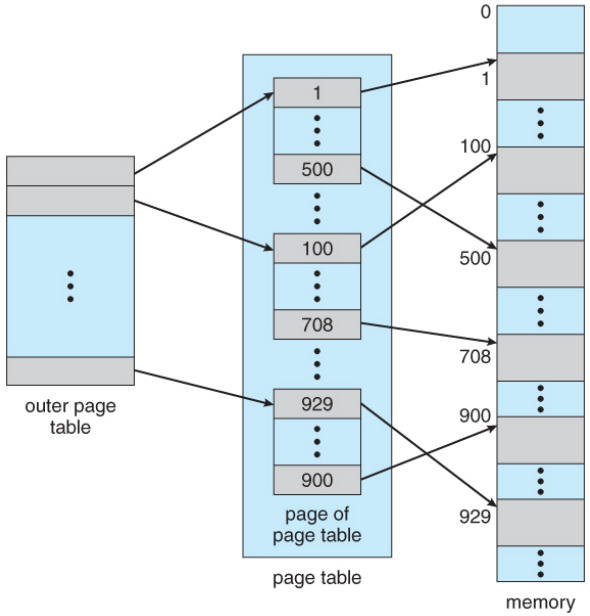

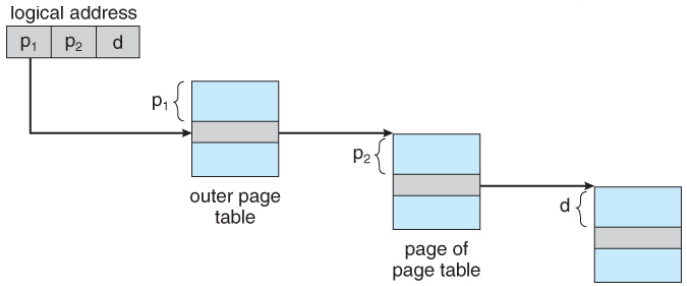

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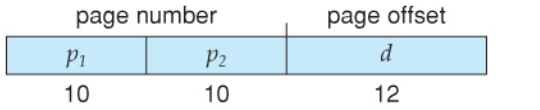

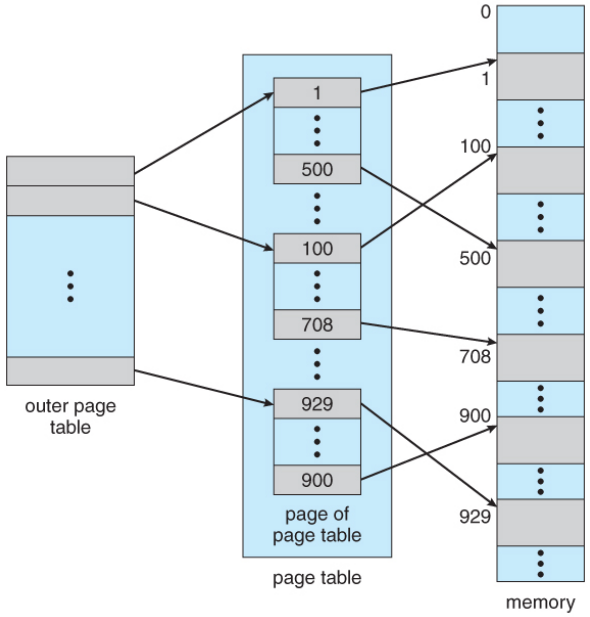

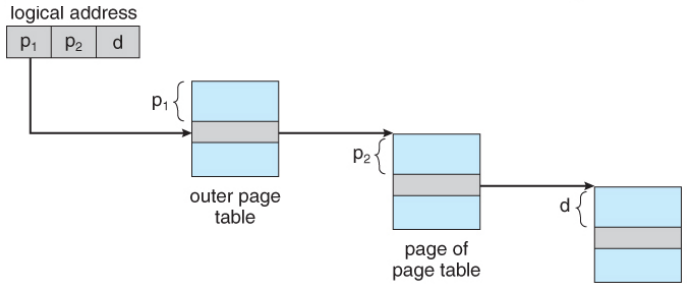

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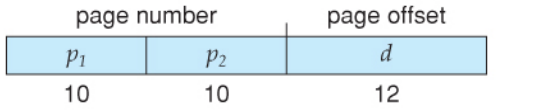

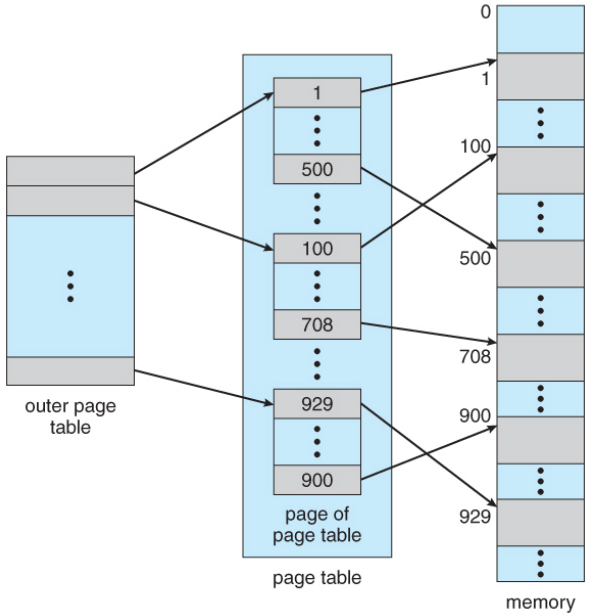

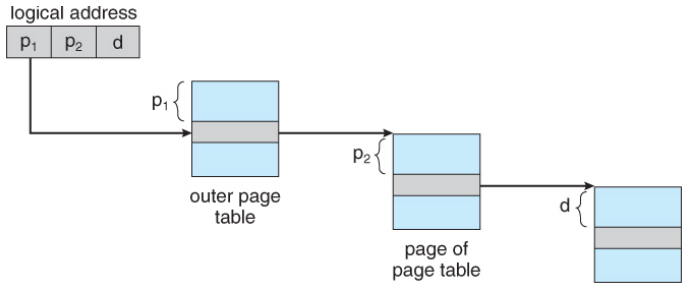

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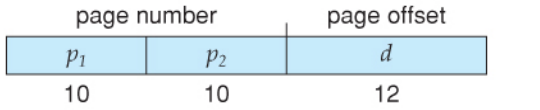

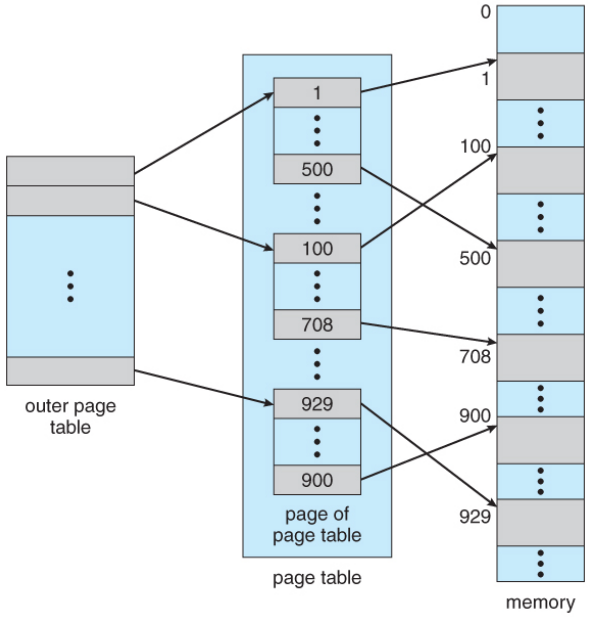

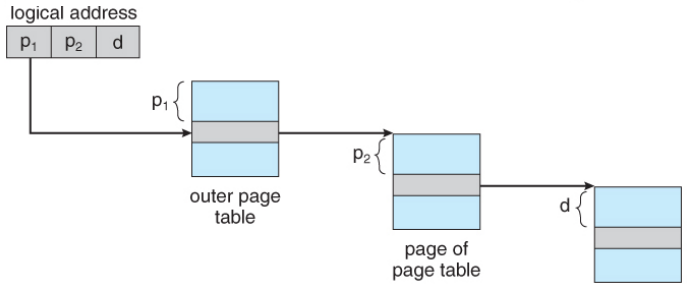

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The remaining 12 bits of the 32-bit logical address are still the offset within the 4KiB frame

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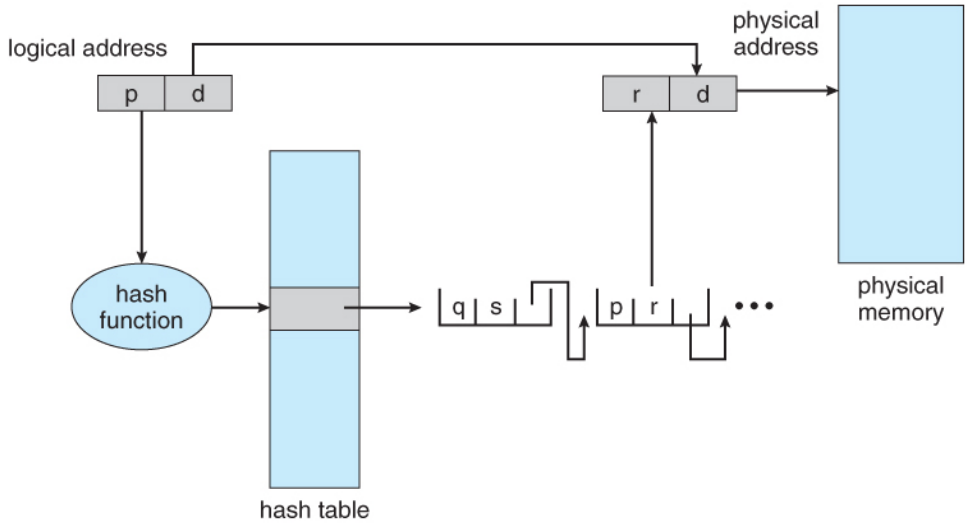

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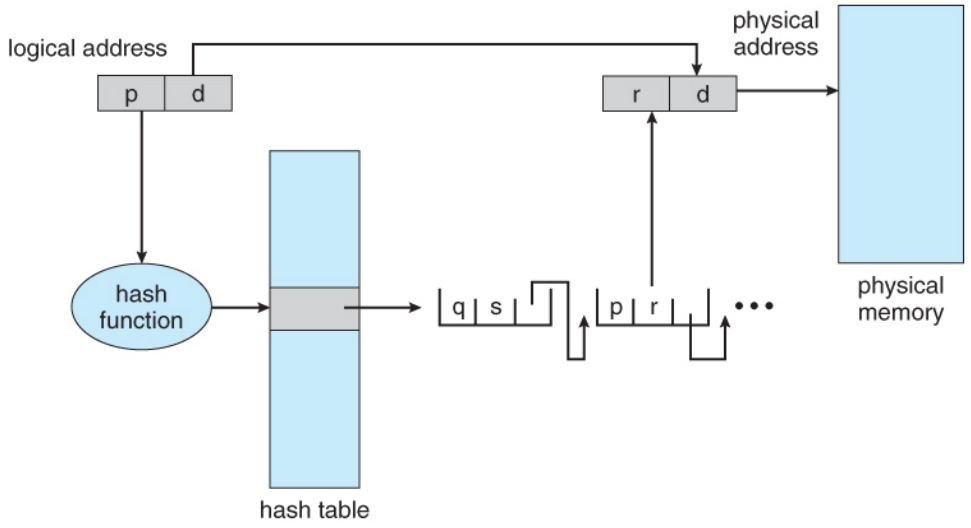

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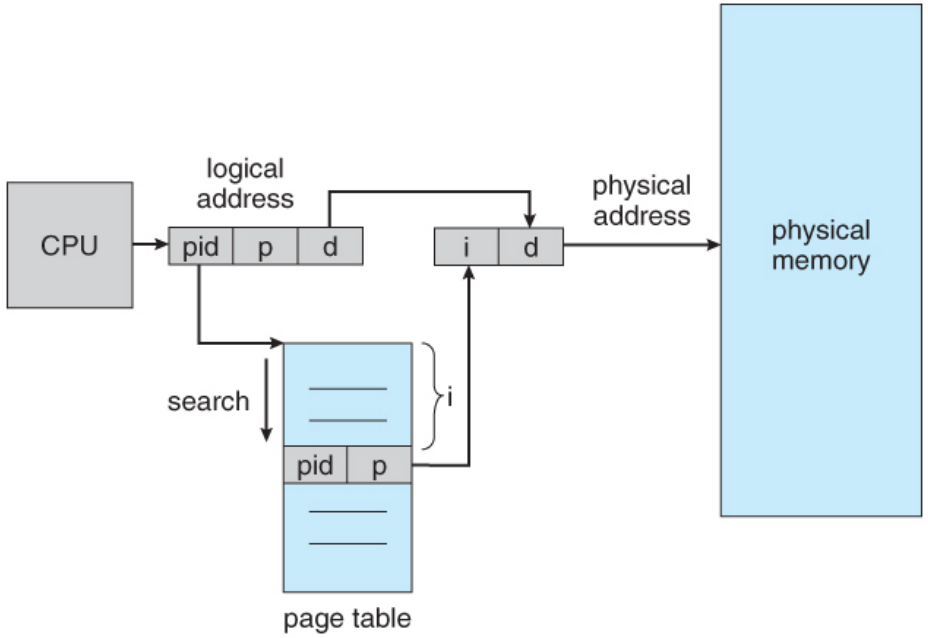
Indexing via hash function rather than integers

Advanced Paging: Inverted Page Table



An inverted page table lists all of the pages currently loaded in memory, for all processes

Instead of a table listing all of the pages for a particular process

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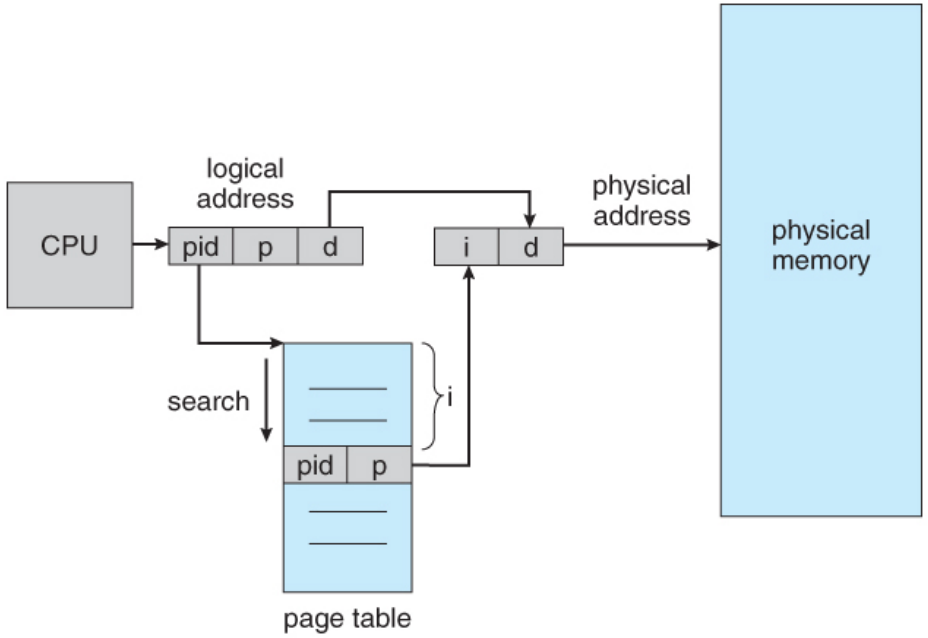

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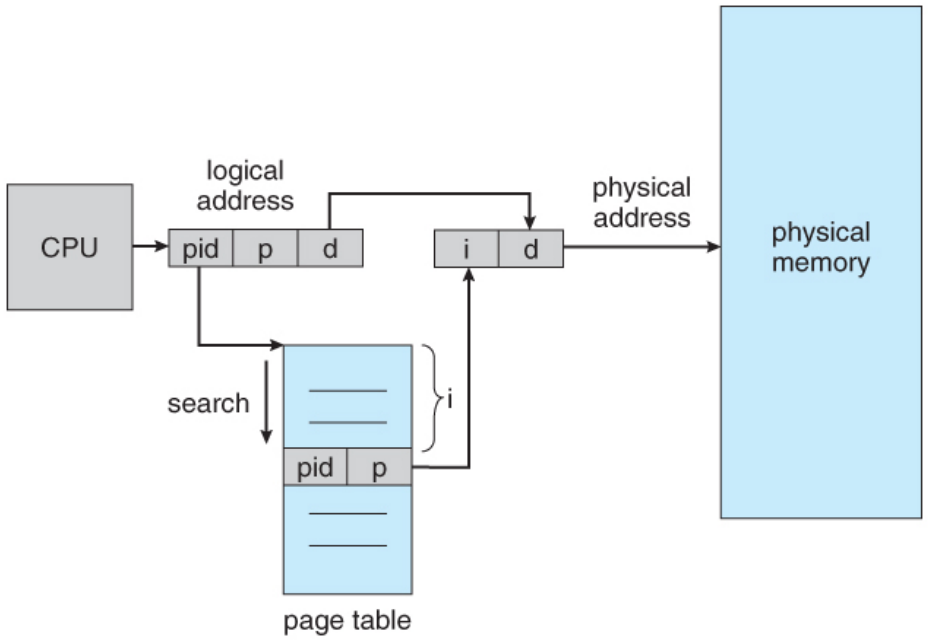

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Inverted page tables do not easily allow mapping multiple logical pages to a common physical frame (page sharing)

Each frame is mapped to *exactly* one process

Summary

- **Relocation** using base and limit registers
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- **Segmentation**
  - Compiler's logical view of memory presented to the OS
  - Segment tables tend to be small enough to be stored in registers
  - Contiguous memory allocation is expensive and complicated (first-fit, best-fit, or worst-fit)
  - Compaction is needed to solve external fragmentation

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- **Segmentation + Paging**
  - Only need to allocate as many page table entries an needed
  - Sharing either at the segment or at the page level
  - Might increase internal fragmentation over pure paging
  - 2 lookups per memory reference are needed