OPERATING SYSTEM

Memory Management - Segmentation

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Segmentation

- Memory-management scheme that supports user view of memory
- A program is a collection of segments
  - A segment is a logical unit such as:

    main program
    procedure
    function
    method
    object
    local variables, global variables
    common block
    stack
    symbol table
    arrays

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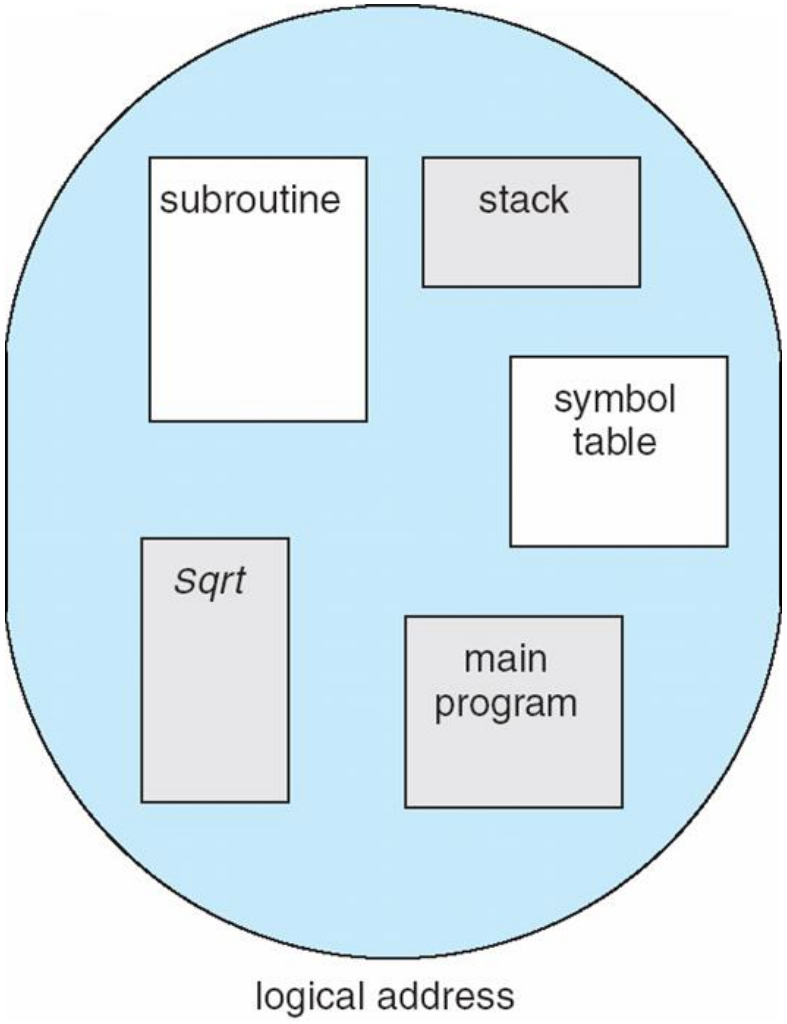
User View of Program



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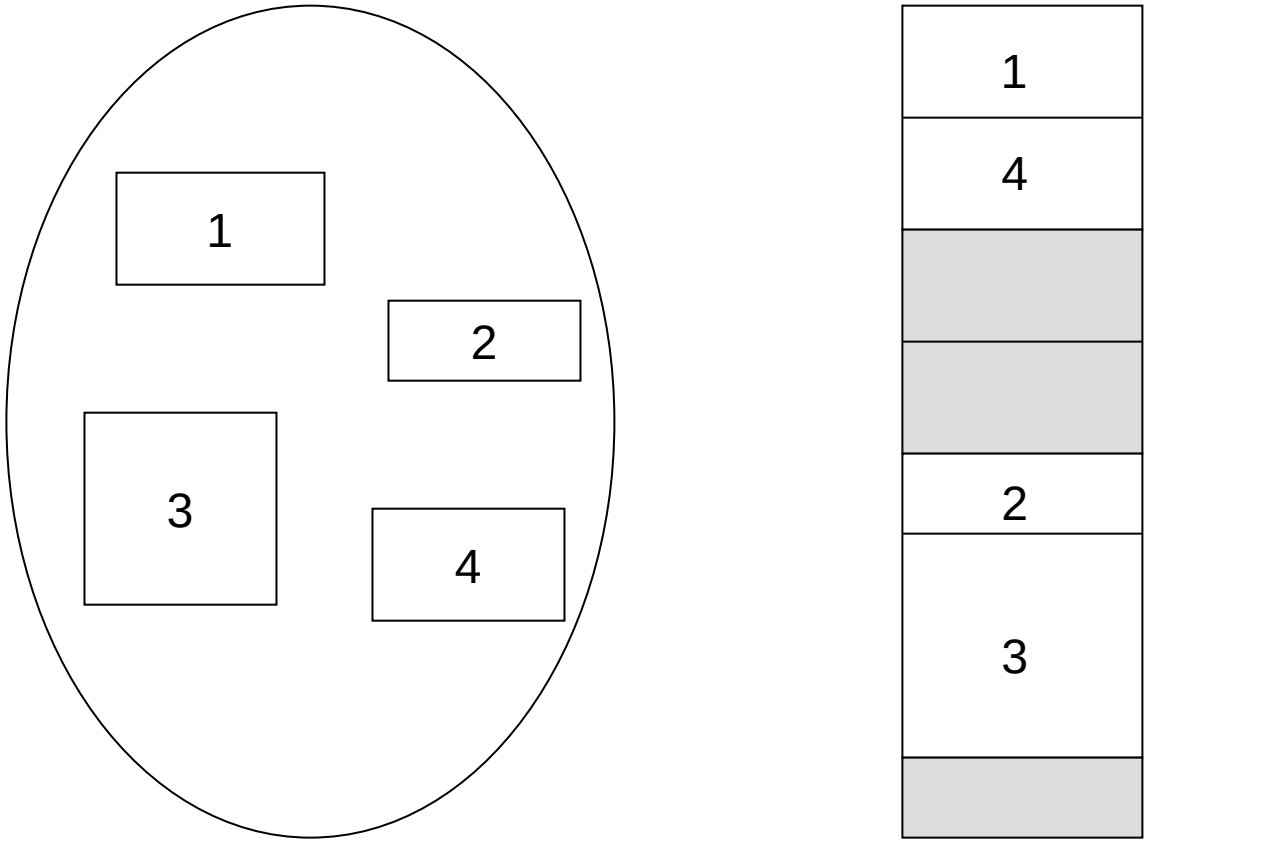
Logical View of Segmentation



Segmentation Architecture

- Logical address consists of a two tuple:

  <segment-number, offset>,

- **Segment table** – maps two-dimensional physical addresses; each table entry has:
  - **base** – contains the starting physical address where the segments reside in memory
  - **limit** – specifies the length of the segment
- **Segment-table base register (STBR)** points to the segment table's location in memory
- **Segment-table length register (STLR)** indicates number of segments used by a program;

  segment number ***s*** is legal if ***s*** < **STLR**

Segmentation Architecture (Contd.)

- Protection
  - With each entry in segment table associate:
    - validation bit = 0 $\Rightarrow$ illegal segment
    - read/write/execute privileges
- Protection bits associated with segments; code sharing occurs at segment level
- Since segments vary in length, memory allocation is a dynamic storage-allocation problem
- A segmentation example is shown in the following diagram

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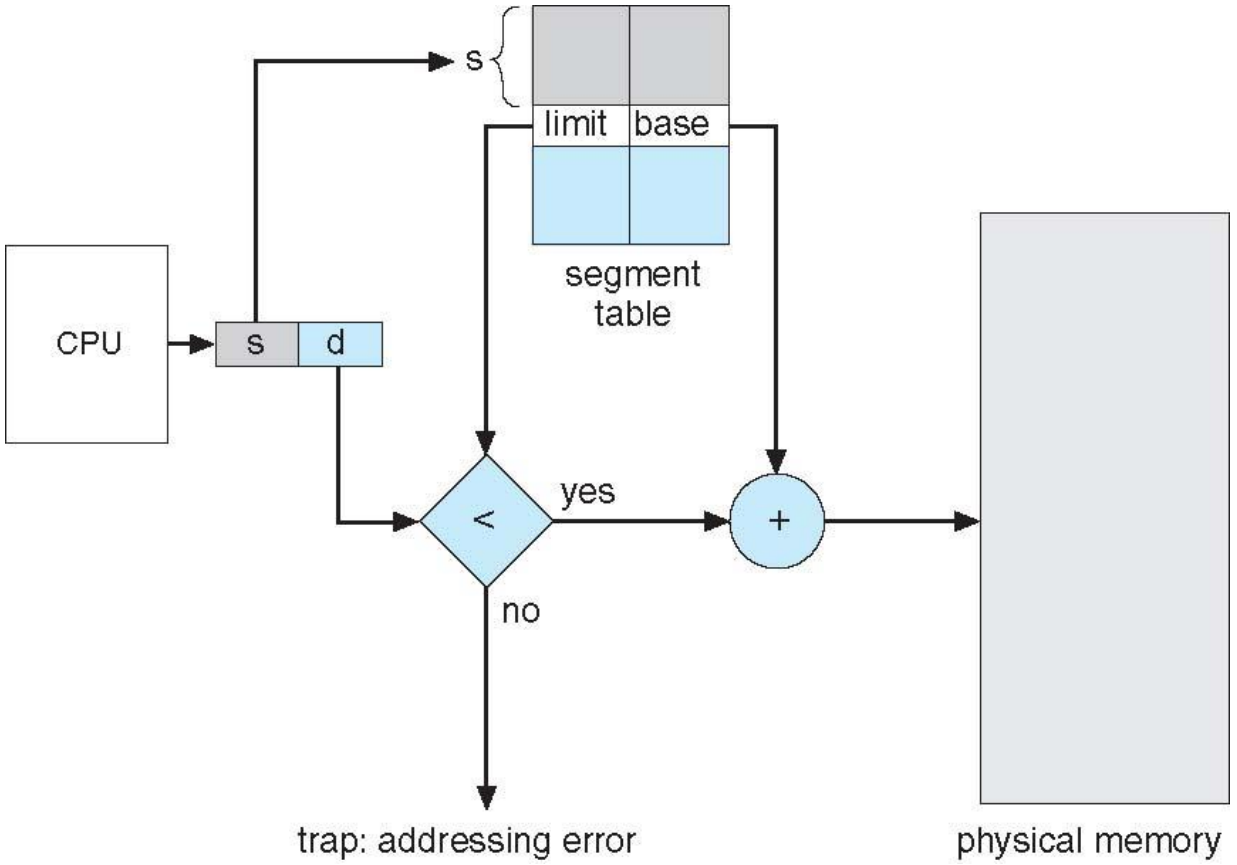
Segmentation H/W



THANK YOU

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