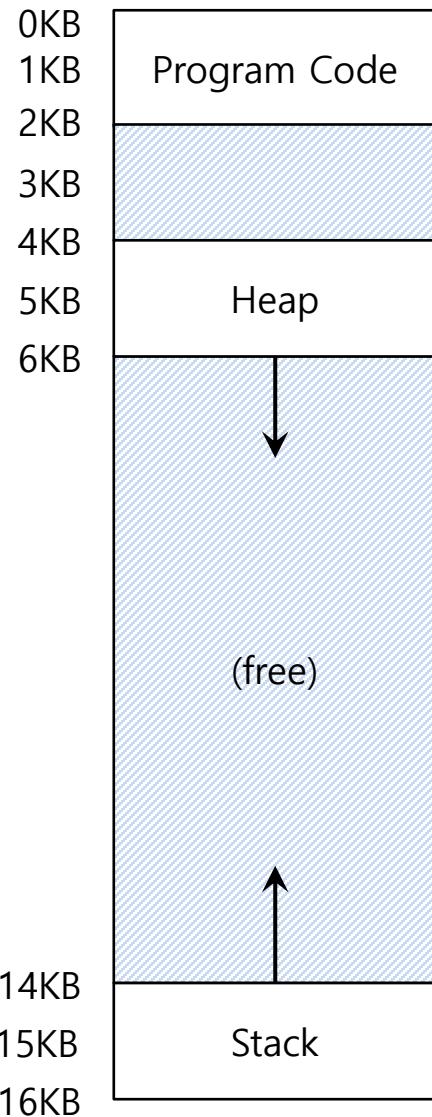


Operating Systems

Segmentation

Inefficiency of the Base and Bound Approach

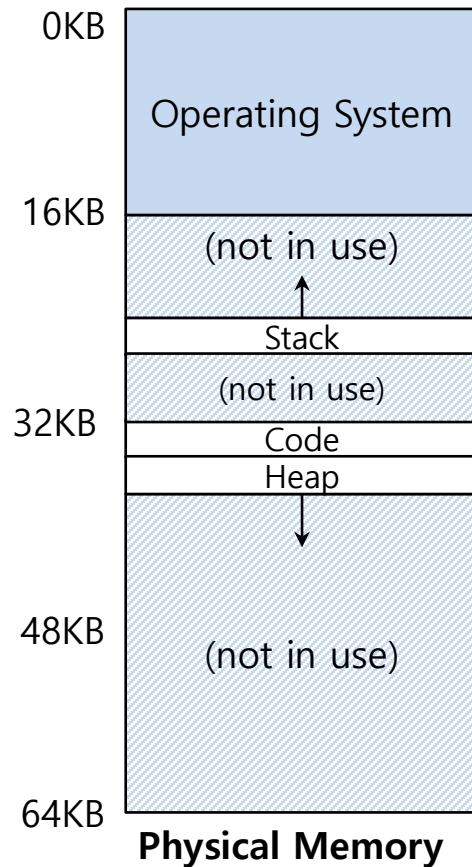


- **Big chunk of “free” space**
- “free” space **takes up** physical memory.
- Hard to run when an address space **does not fit** into physical memory

Segmentation

- ▣ Segment is just **a contiguous portion** of the address space of a particular length.
 - ◆ Logically-different segment: code, stack, heap
- ▣ Each segment can be **placed** in **different part of physical memory**.
 - ◆ **Base** and **bounds** exist **per each segment**.

Placing Segment In Physical Memory

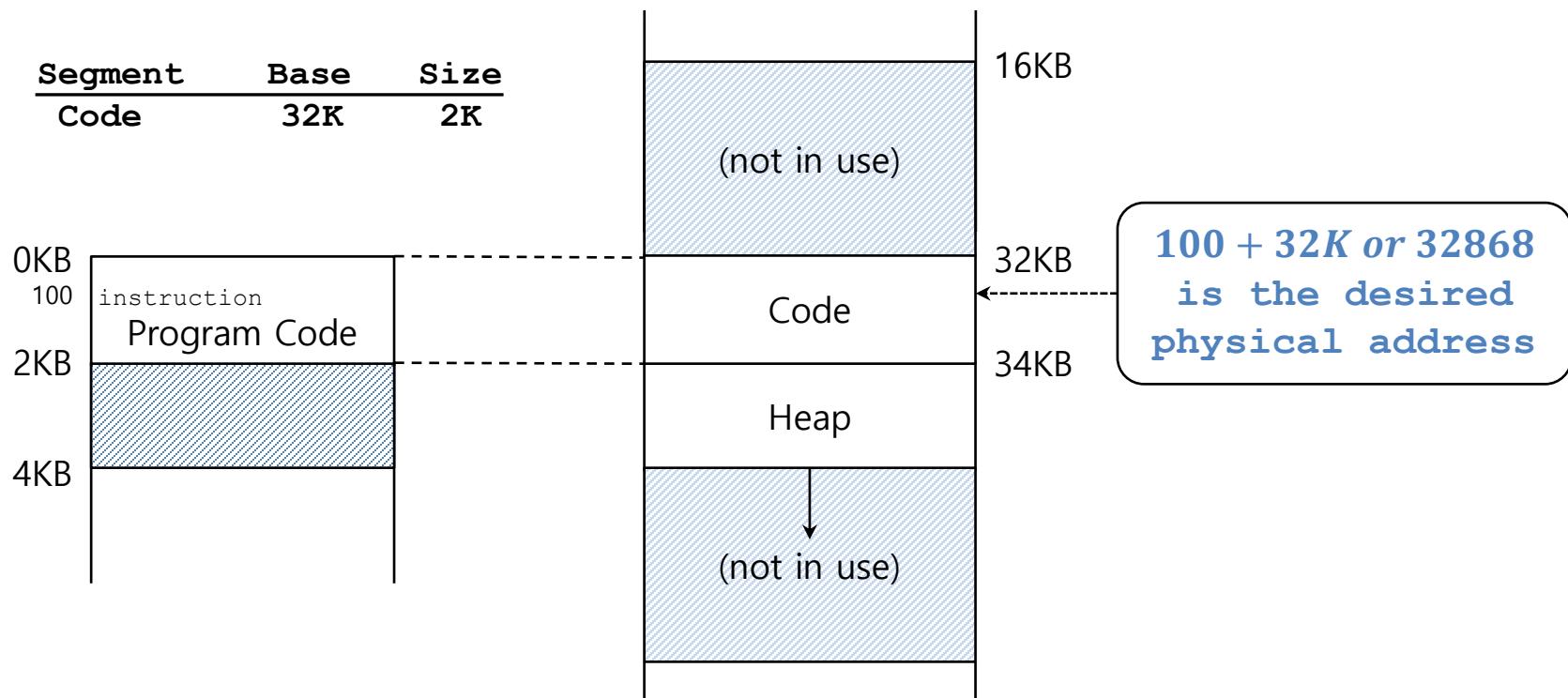


Segment	Base	Size
Code	32K	2K
Heap	34K	2K
Stack	28K	2K

Address Translation on Segmentation

$$\text{physical address} = \text{offset} + \text{base}$$

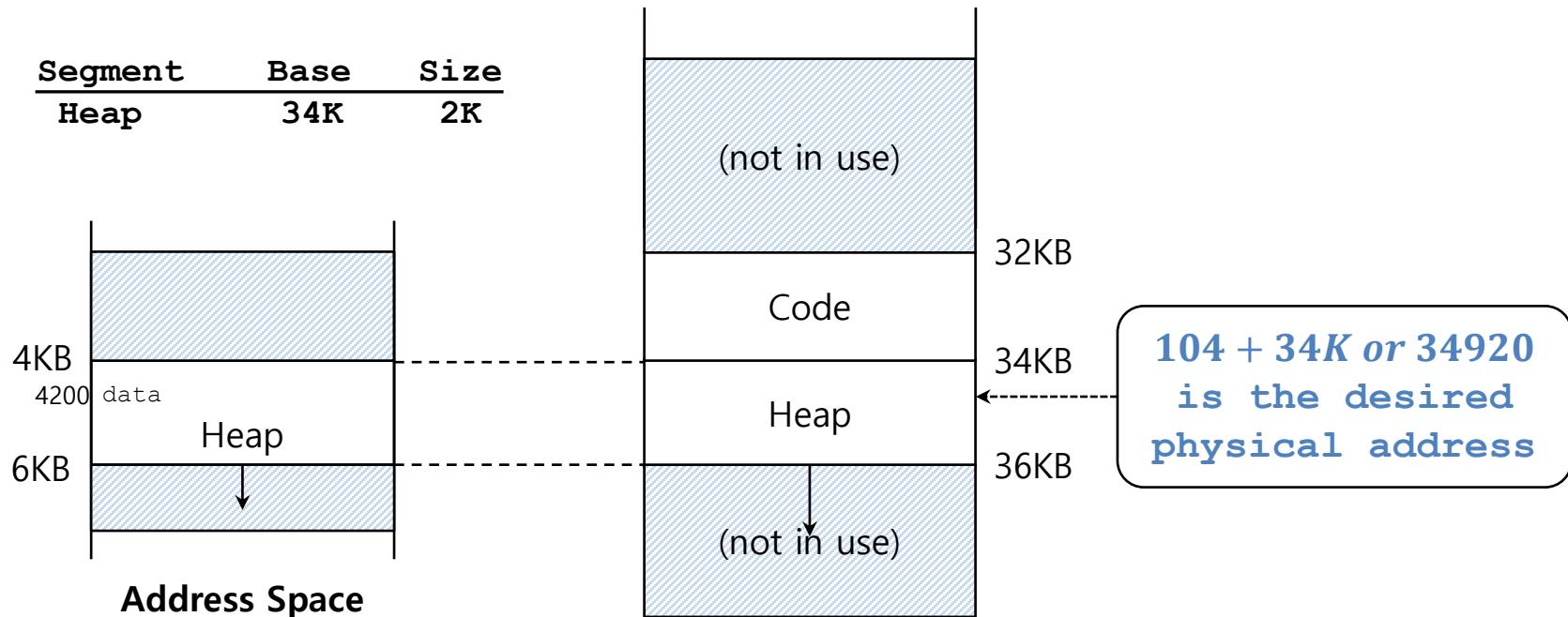
- The offset of virtual address 100 is 100.
 - The code segment **starts at virtual address 0** in address space.



Address Translation on Segmentation(Cont.)

Virtual address + base is not the correct physical address.

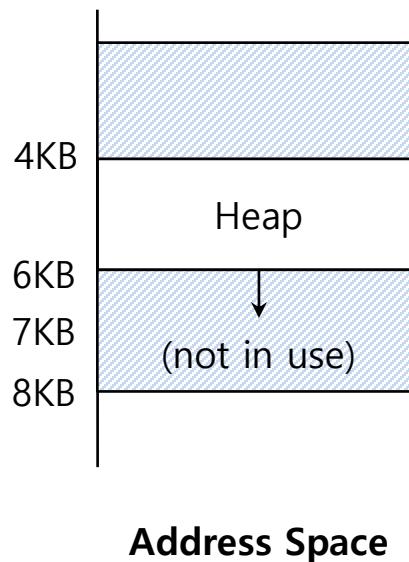
- The offset of virtual address 4200 is 104 (i.e., $4200 - 4096$).
 - ◆ The heap segment **starts at virtual address 4096** in address space.



- Offset: which byte(s) in this segment the address refers to.

Segmentation Fault or Violation

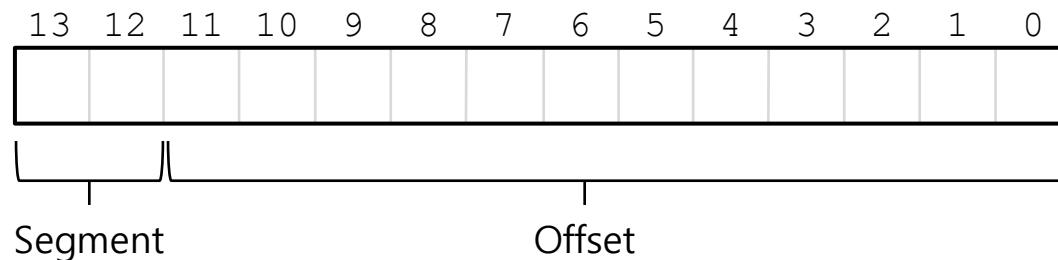
- If an **illegal address** such as 7KB which is beyond the end of heap is referenced, the OS occurs **segmentation fault**.
 - ◆ The hardware detects that address is **out of bounds**.



Referring to Segment

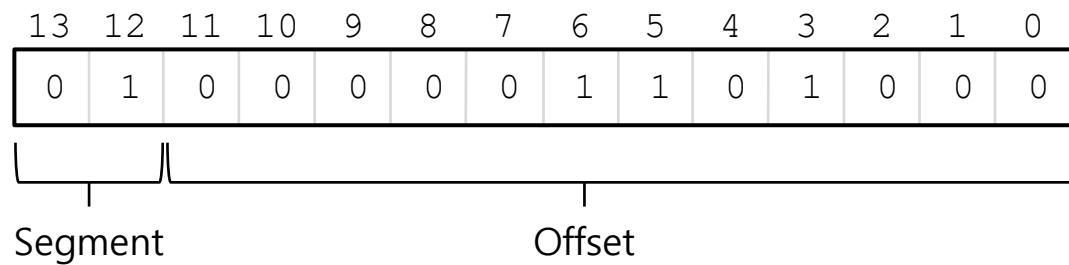
❑ Explicit approach

- ◆ Chop up the address space into segments based on the **top few bits** of virtual address.



❑ Example: virtual address 4200 (01000001101000)

Segment	bits
Code	00
Heap	01
Stack	10
-	11



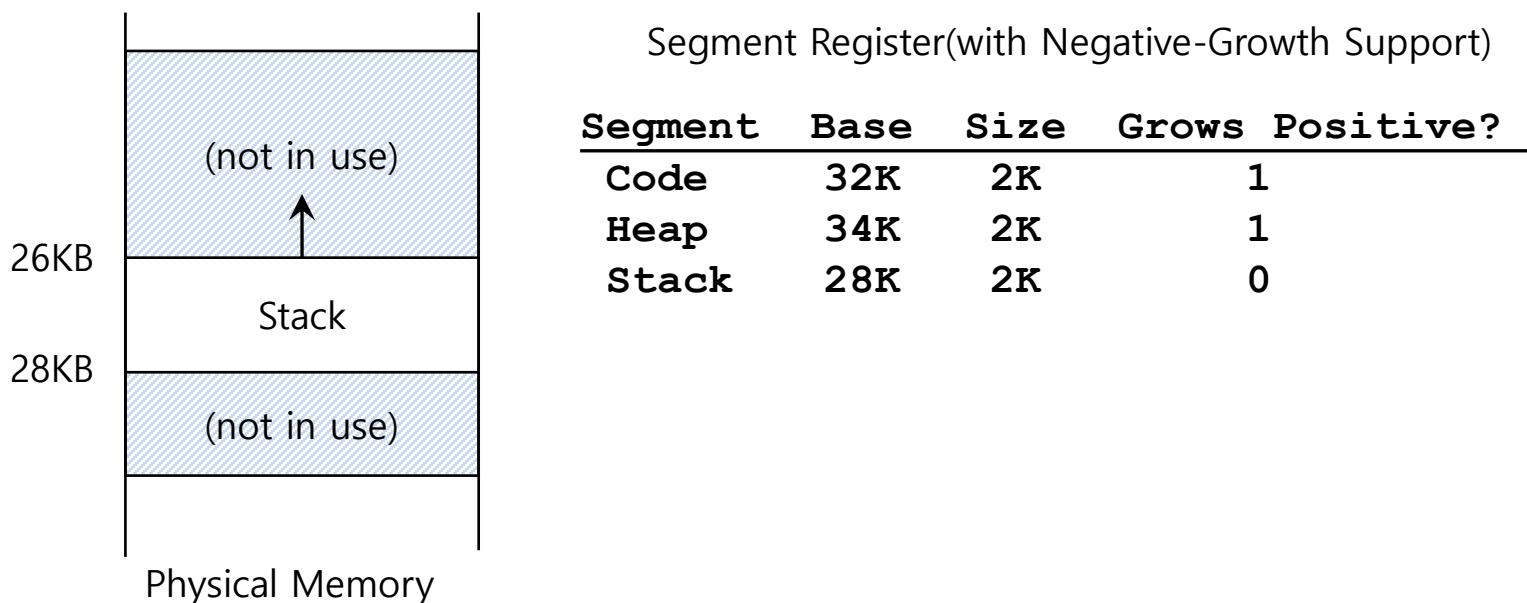
Referring to Segment(Cont.)

```
1 // get top 2 bits of 14-bit VA
2 Segment = (VirtualAddress & SEG_MASK) >> SEG_SHIFT
3 // now get offset
4 Offset = VirtualAddress & OFFSET_MASK
5 if (Offset >= Bounds[Segment])
6     RaiseException(PROTECTION_FAULT)
7 else
8     PhysAddr = Base[Segment] + Offset
9     Register = AccessMemory(PhysAddr)
```

- ◆ SEG_MASK = 0x3000 (11000000000000)
- ◆ SEG_SHIFT = 12
- ◆ OFFSET_MASK = 0xFFFF (00111111111111)

Referring to Stack Segment

- Stack grows **backward**.
- **Extra hardware support** is need.
 - ◆ The hardware checks which way the segment grows.
 - ◆ 1: positive direction, 0: negative direction



OS support: Fragmentation

- ▣ **External Fragmentation:** little holes of **free space** in physical memory that make difficulty to allocate new segments.
 - ◆ There is **24KB free**, but **not in one contiguous** segment.
 - ◆ The OS **cannot** satisfy the **20KB request**.
- ▣ **Compaction:** rearranging the exiting segments in physical memory.
 - ◆ Compaction is **costly**.
 - **Stop** running process.
 - **Copy** data to somewhere.
 - **Change** segment register value.

Memory Compaction

