Memory Management

Chapter 7

Memory Management

- Subdividing memory to accommodate multiple processes
- Memory needs to be allocated efficiently to pack as many processes into memory as possible

Memory Management Requirements

- Relocation
  - Programmer does not know where the program will be placed in memory when it is executed
  - While the program is executing, it may be swapped to disk and returned to main memory at a different location (relocated)
  - Memory references must be translated in the code to actual physical memory address

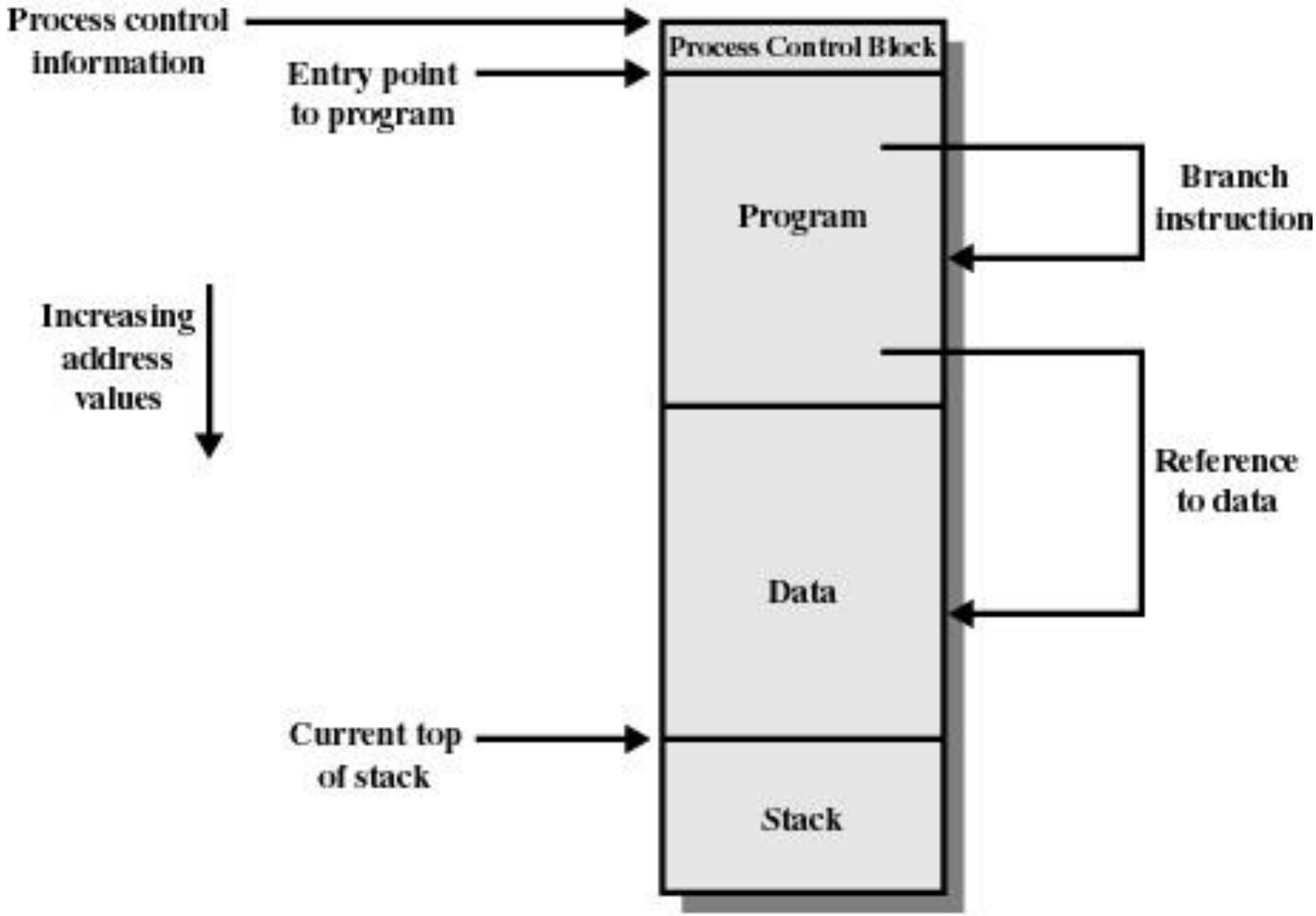


Figure 7.1 Addressing Requirements for a Process

Memory Management Requirements

- Protection
  - Processes should not be able to reference memory locations in another process without permission
  - Impossible to check absolute addresses in programs since the program could be relocated
  - Must be checked during execution
    - Operating system cannot anticipate all of the memory references a program will make

Memory Management Requirements

- Sharing
  - Allow several processes to access the same portion of memory
  - Better to allow each process (person) access to the same copy of the program rather than have their own separate copy

Memory Management Requirements

- Logical Organization
  - Programs are written in modules
  - Modules can be written and compiled independently
  - Different degrees of protection given to modules (read-only, execute-only)
  - Share modules

Memory Management Requirements

- Physical Organization
  - Memory available for a program plus its data may be insufficient
    - Overlaying allows various modules to be assigned the same region of memory
  - Programmer does not know how much space will be available

Fixed Partitioning

- Equal-size partitions
  - any process whose size is less than or equal to the partition size can be loaded into an available partition
  - if all partitions are full, the operating system can swap a process out of a partition
  - a program may not fit in a partition. The programmer must design the program with overlays

Fixed Partitioning

- Main memory use is inefficient. Any program, no matter how small, occupies an entire partition. This is called internal fragmentation.

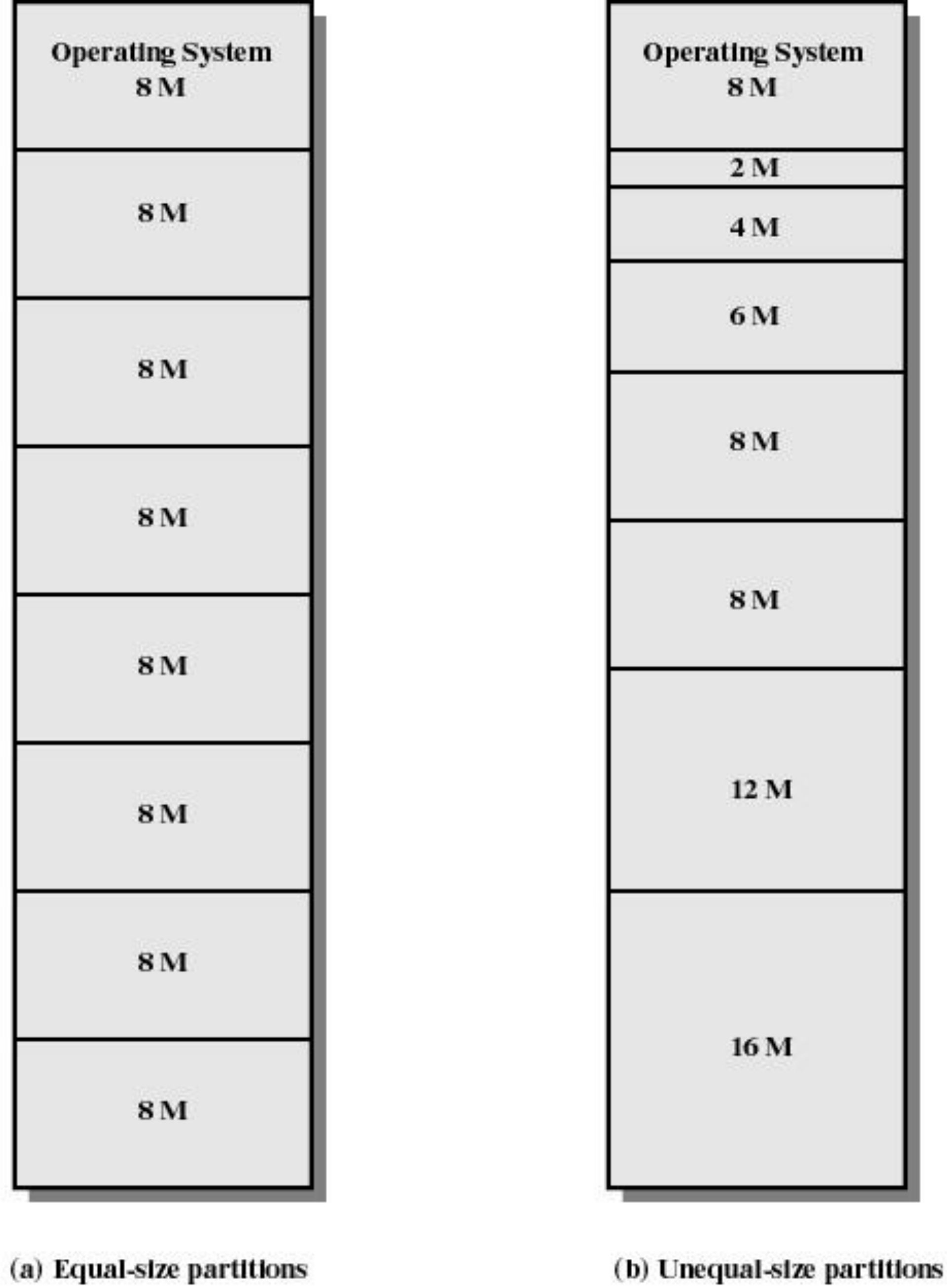
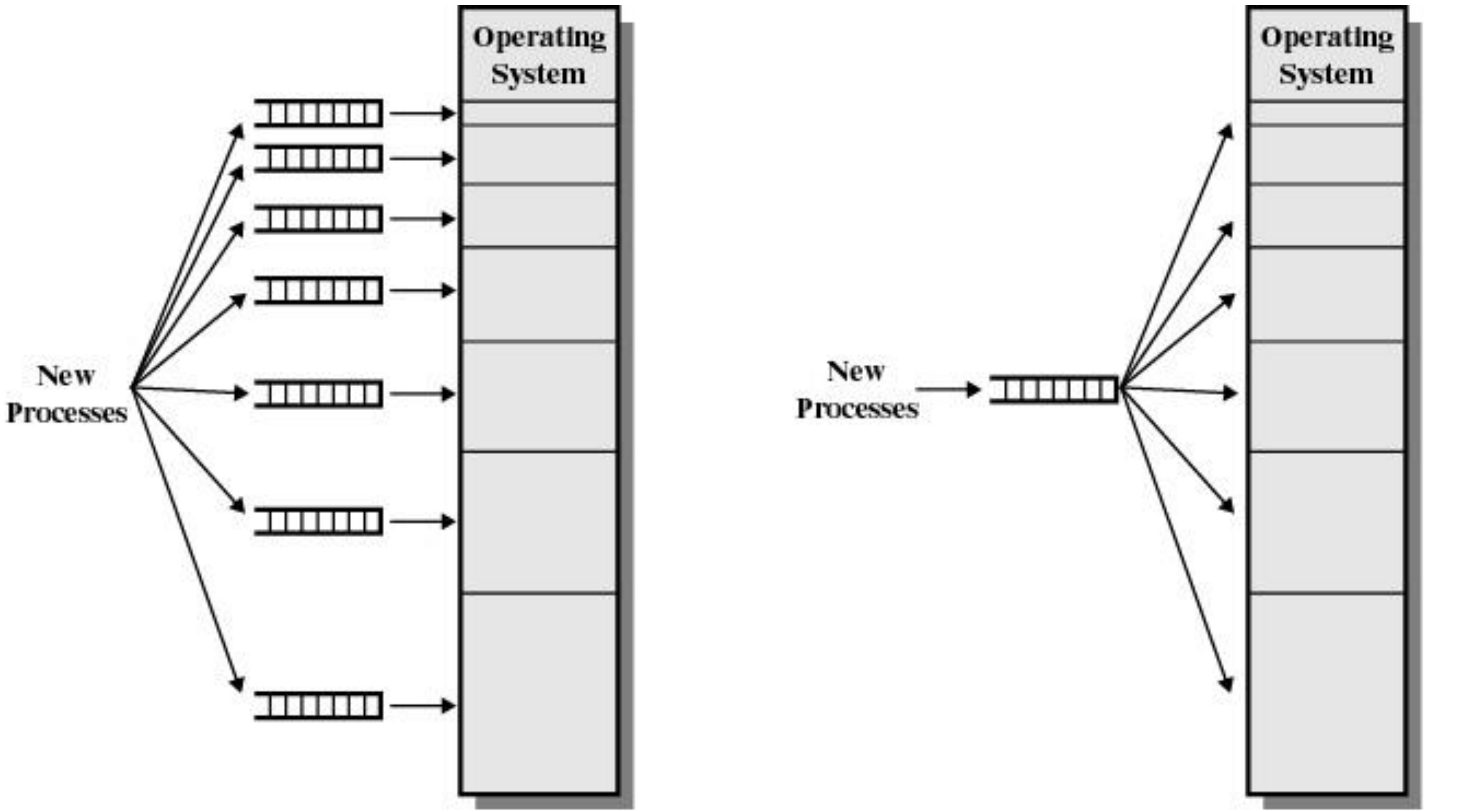


Figure 7.2 Example of Fixed Partitioning of a 64-Mbyte Memory

Placement Algorithm with Partitions

- Equal-size partitions
  - because all partitions are of equal size, it does not matter which partition is used
- Unequal-size partitions
  - can assign each process to the smallest partition within which it will fit
  - queue for each partition
  - processes are assigned in such a way as to minimize wasted memory within a partition



(a) One process queue per partition

(b) Single process queue

Figure 7.3 Memory Assignment for Fixed Partitioning

Dynamic Partitioning

- Partitions are of variable length and number
- Process is allocated exactly as much memory as required
- Eventually get holes in the memory. This is called external fragmentation
- Must use compaction to shift processes so they are contiguous and all free memory is in one block

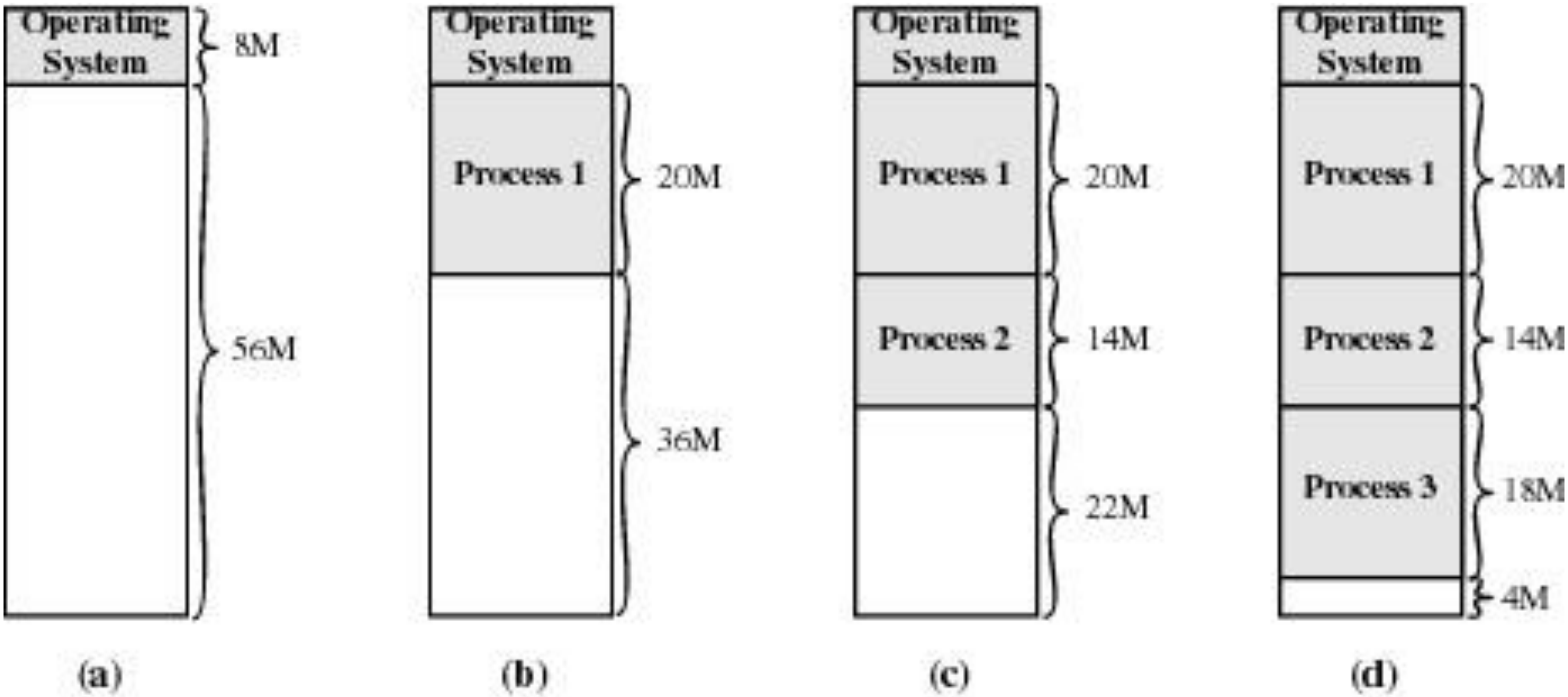


Figure 7.4 The Effect of Dynamic Partitioning

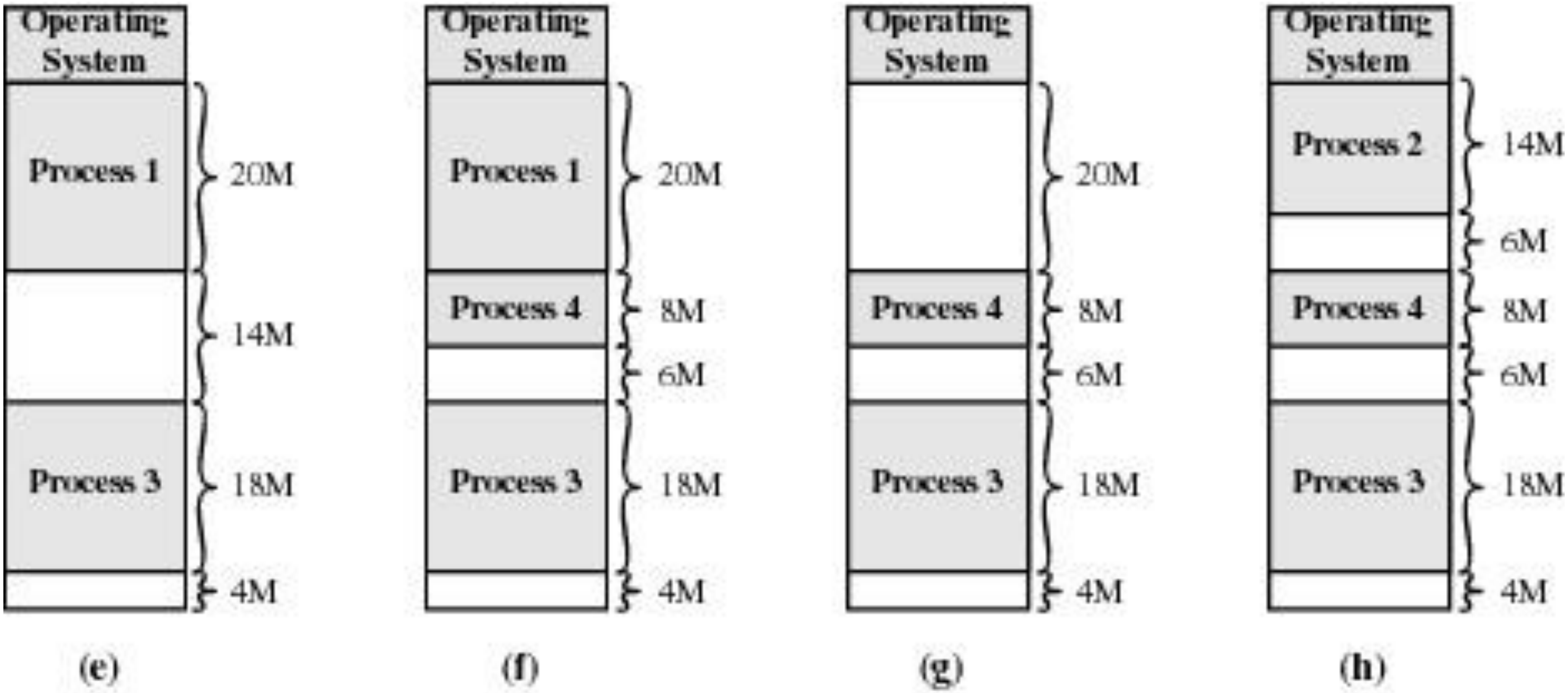


Figure 7.4 The Effect of Dynamic Partitioning

Dynamic Partitioning Placement Algorithm

- Operating system must decide which free block to allocate to a process
- Best-fit algorithm
  - Chooses the block that is closest in size to the request
  - Worst performer overall
  - Since smallest block is found for process, the smallest amount of fragmentation is left memory compaction must be done more often

Dynamic Partitioning Placement Algorithm

- First-fit algorithm
  - Fastest
  - May have many process loaded in the front end of memory that must be searched over when trying to find a free block

Dynamic Partitioning Placement Algorithm

- Next-fit
  - More often allocate a block of memory at the end of memory where the largest block is found
  - The largest block of memory is broken up into smaller blocks
  - Compaction is required to obtain a large block at the end of memory

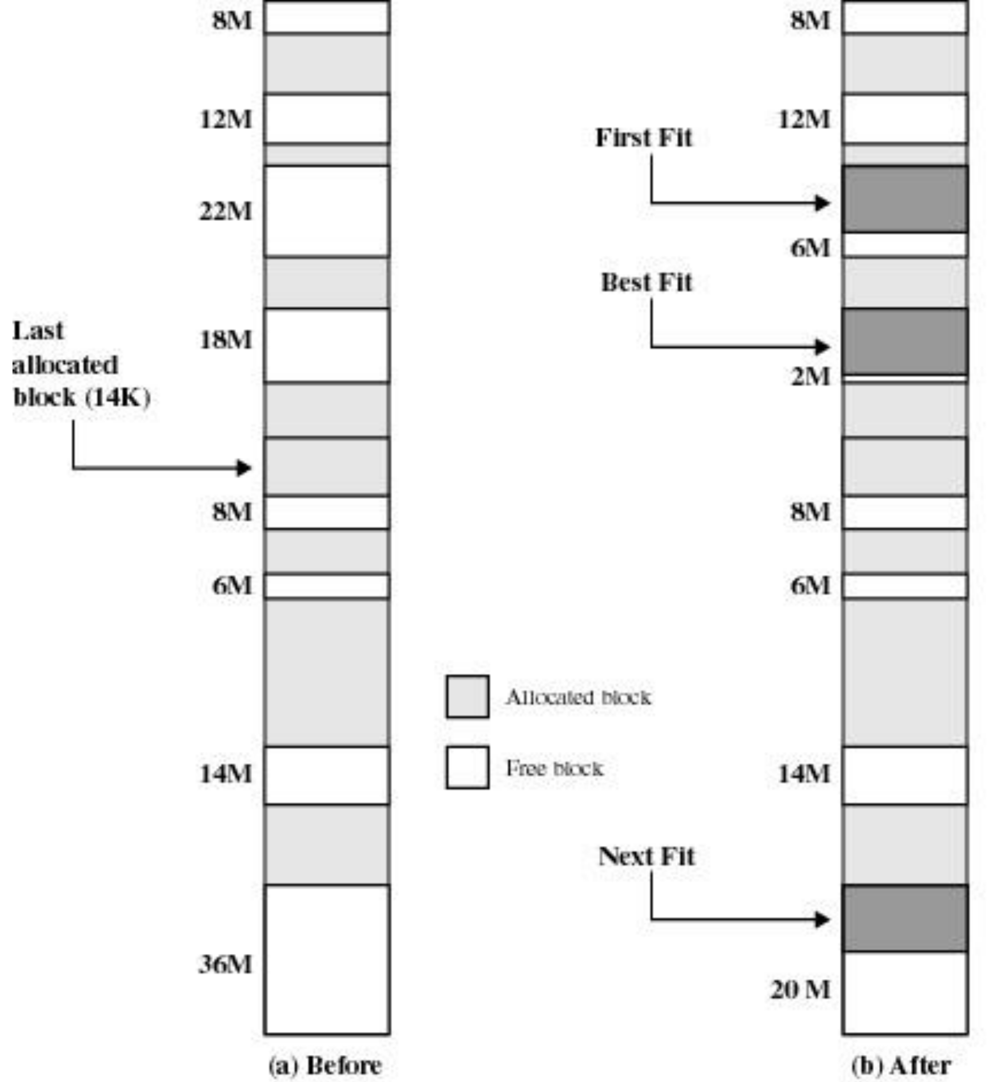


Figure 7.5 Example Memory Configuration Before and After Allocation of 16 Mbyte Block

Buddy System

- Entire space available is treated as a single block of 2^U
- If a request of size s such that $2^{U-1} < s <= 2^U$, entire block is allocated
  - Otherwise block is split into two equal buddies
  - Process continues until smallest block greater than or equal to s is generated

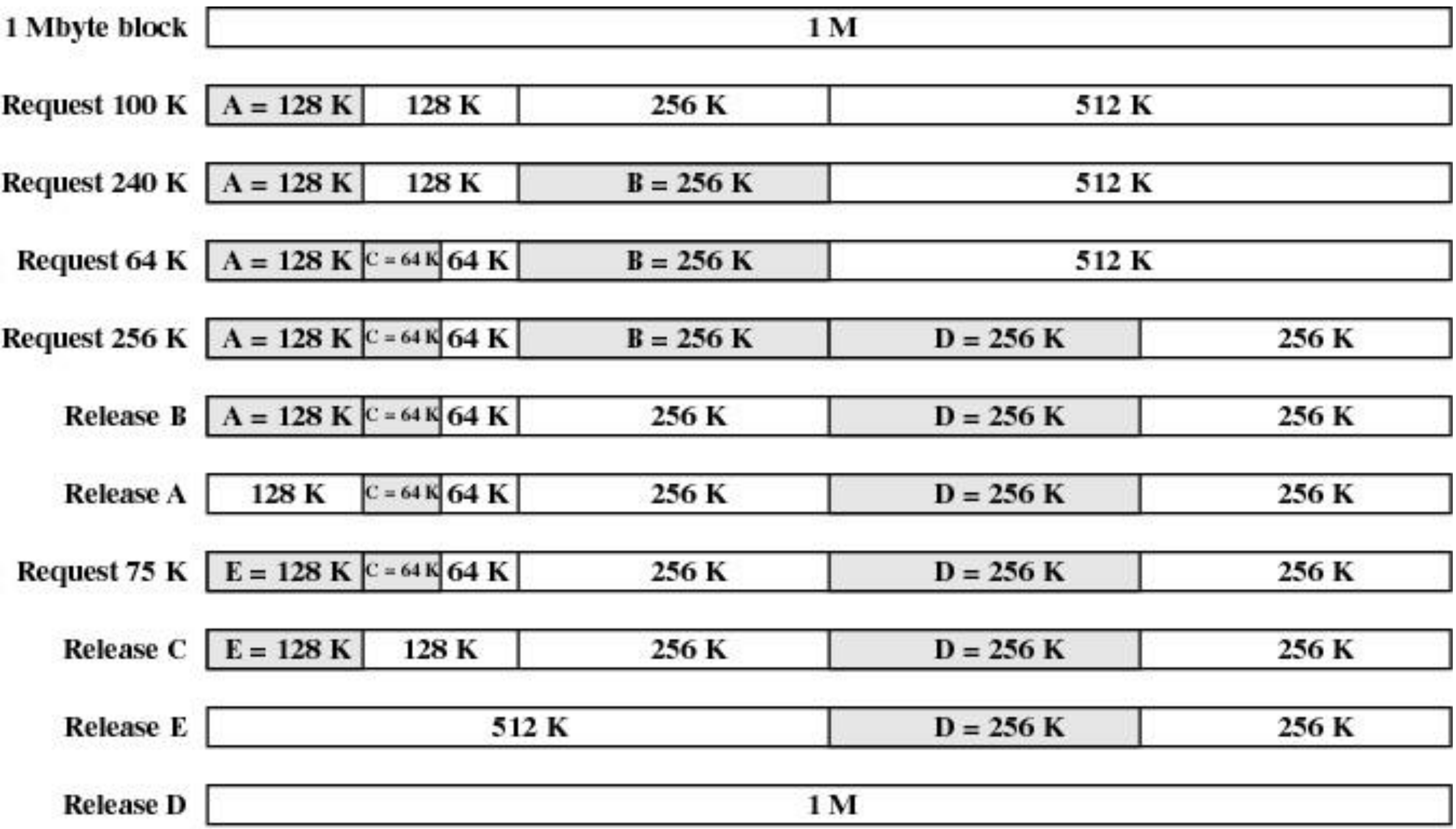


Figure 7.6 Example of Buddy System

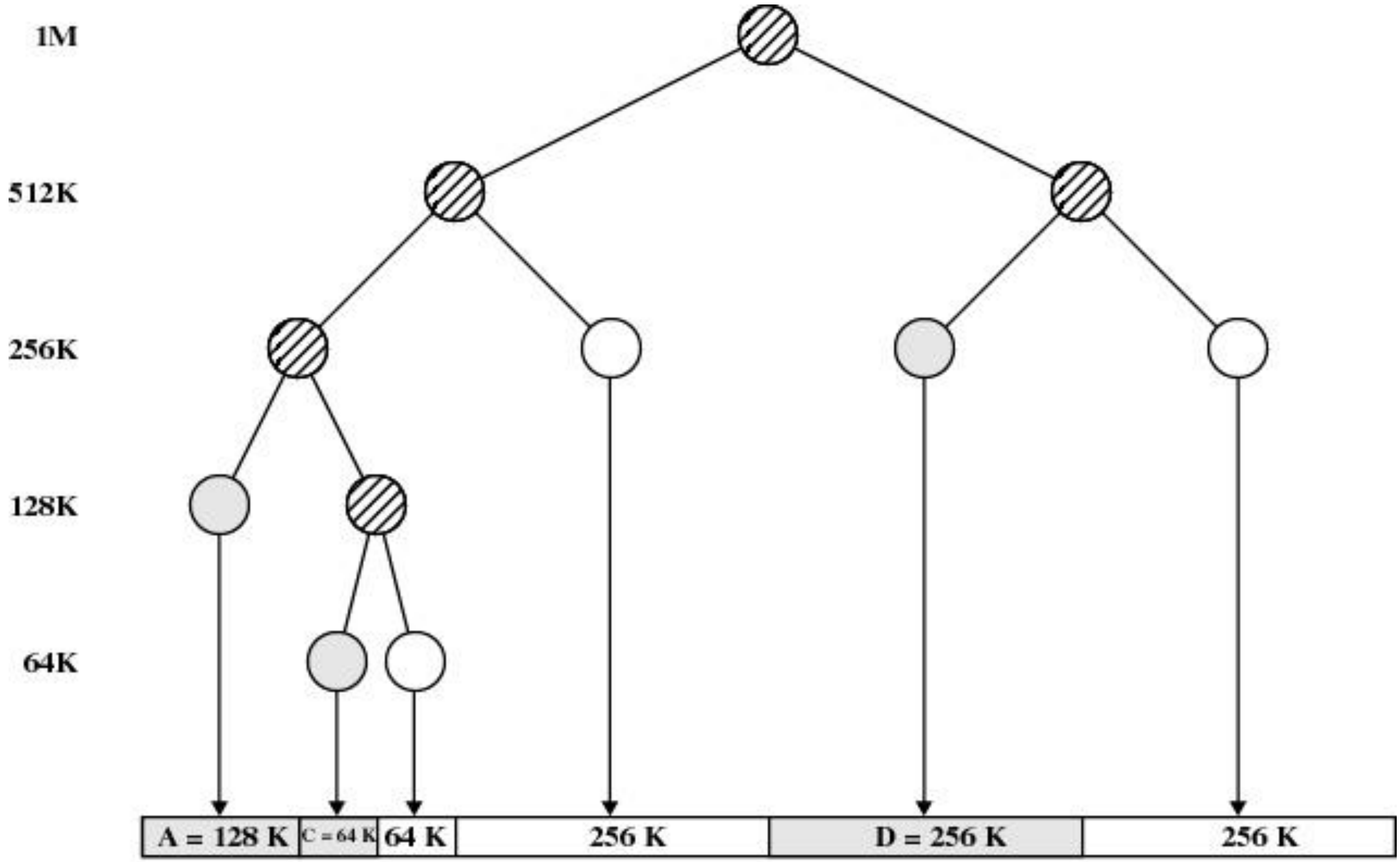


Figure 7.7 Tree Representation of Buddy System

Relocation

- When program loaded into memory the actual (absolute) memory locations are determined
- A process may occupy different partitions which means different absolute memory locations during execution (from swapping)
- Compaction will also cause a program to occupy a different partition which means different absolute memory locations

Addresses

- Logical
  - reference to a memory location independent of the current assignment of data to memory
  - translation must be made to the physical address
- Relative
  - address expressed as a location relative to some known point
- Physical
  - the absolute address or actual location in main memory

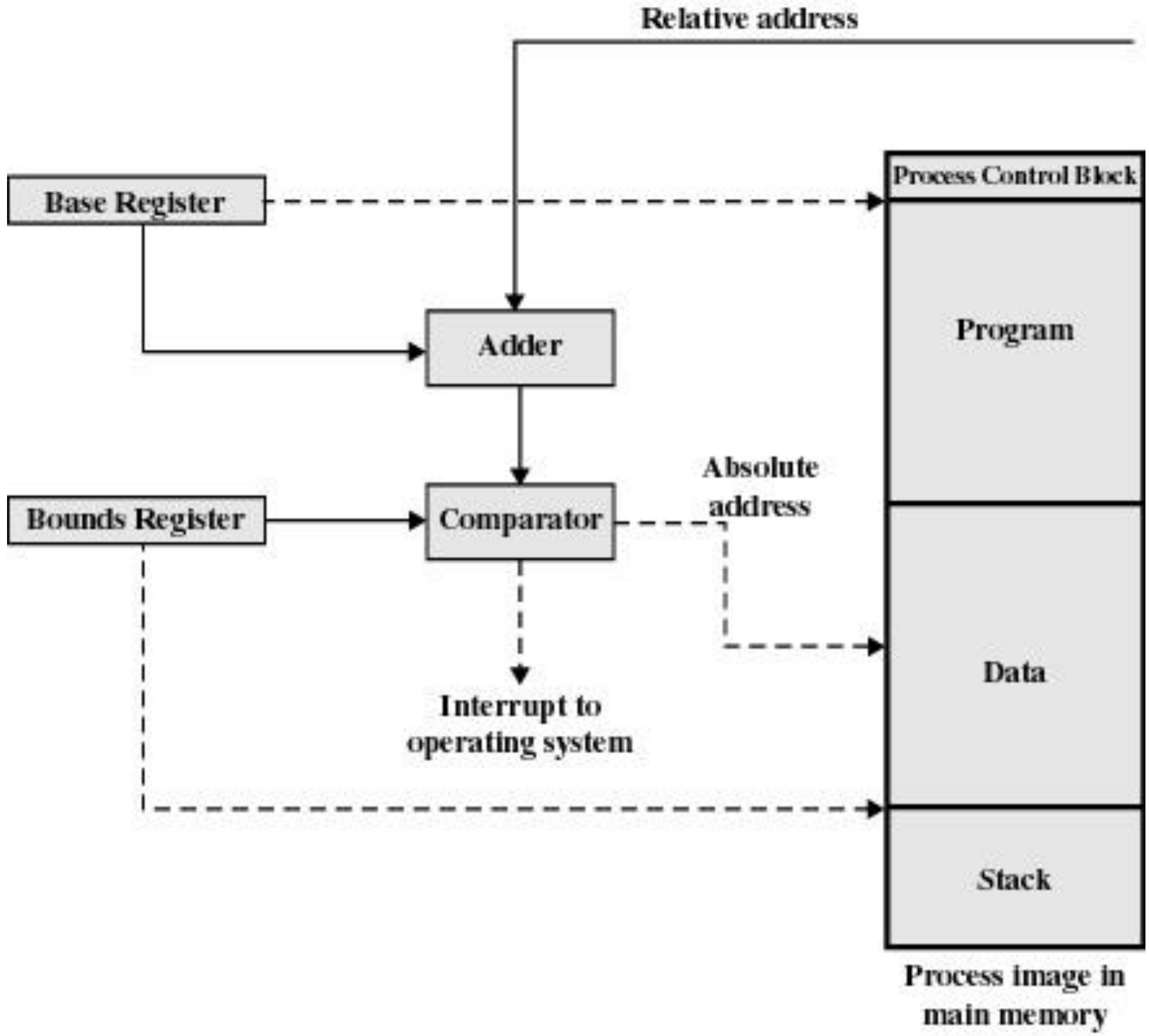


Figure 7.8   Hardware Support for Relocation

Registers Used during Execution

- Base register
  - starting address for the process
- Bounds register
  - ending location of the process
- These values are set when the process is loaded and when the process is swapped in

Registers Used during Execution

- The value of the base register is added to a relative address to produce an absolute address
- The resulting address is compared with the value in the bounds register
- If the address is not within bounds, an interrupt is generated to the operating system

Paging

- Partition memory into small equal-size chunks and divide each process into the same size chunks
- The chunks of a process are called pages and chunks of memory are called frames
- Operating system maintains a page table for each process
  - contains the frame location for each page in the process
  - memory address consist of a page number and offset within the page

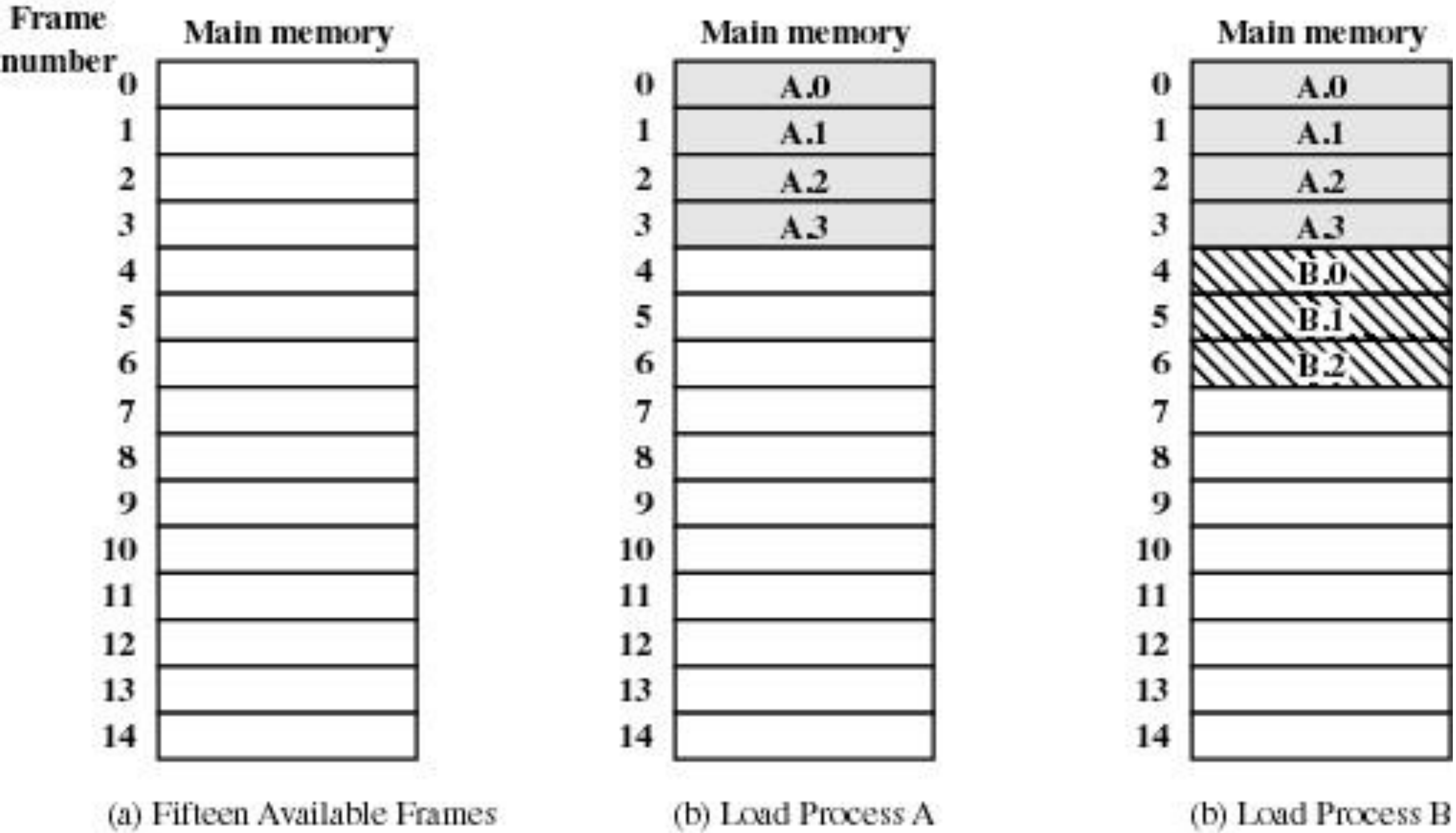


Figure 7.9 Assignment of Process Pages to Free Frames

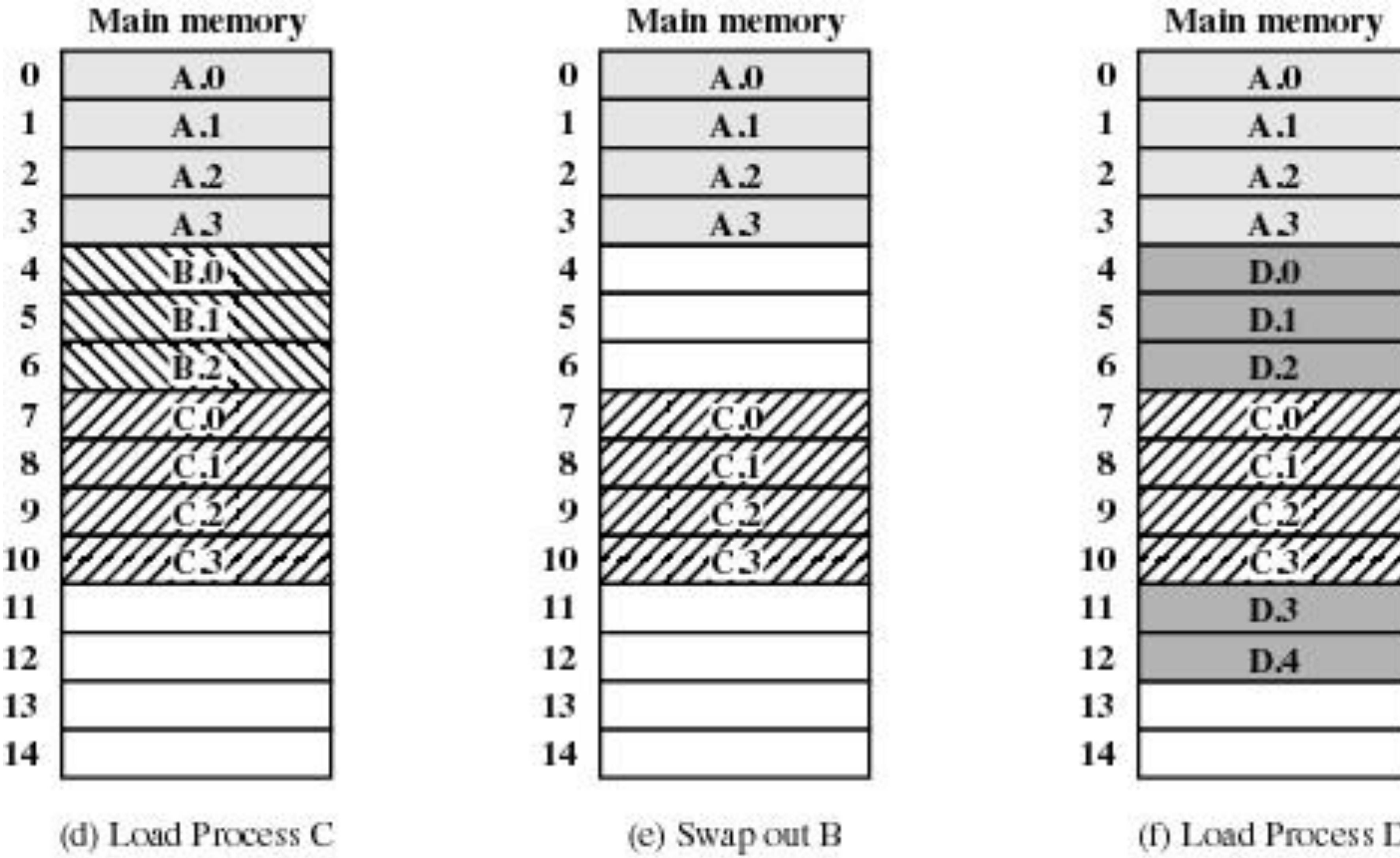


Figure 7.9 Assignment of Process Pages to Free Frames

Page Tables for Example

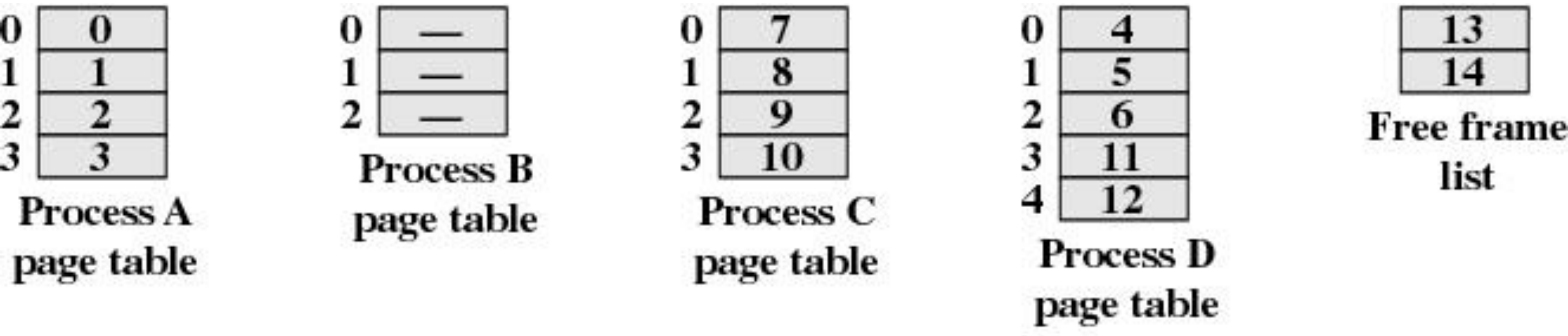


Figure 7.10 Data Structures for the Example of Figure 7.9 at Time Epoch (f)

Segmentation

- All segments of all programs do not have to be of the same length
- There is a maximum segment length
- Addressing consist of two parts - a segment number and an offset
- Since segments are not equal, segmentation is similar to dynamic partitioning