

CS420: Operating Systems

Main Memory

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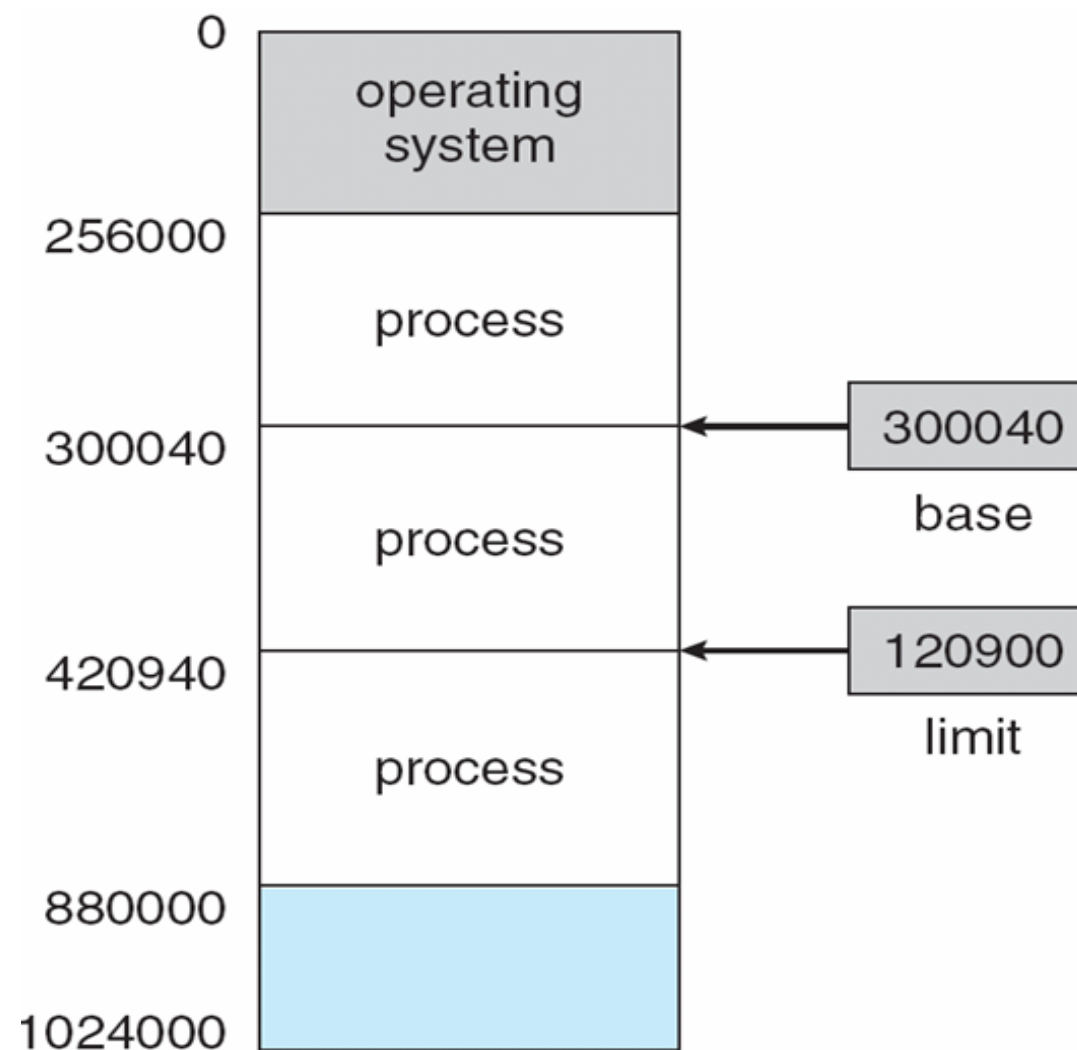


Background

- **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**
 - Register access in one CPU clock (or less)
 - Main memory can take many cycles
 - Cache sits between main memory and CPU registers
- **Memory unit only sees a stream of addresses, doesn't know if instructions or data**
- **Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation**

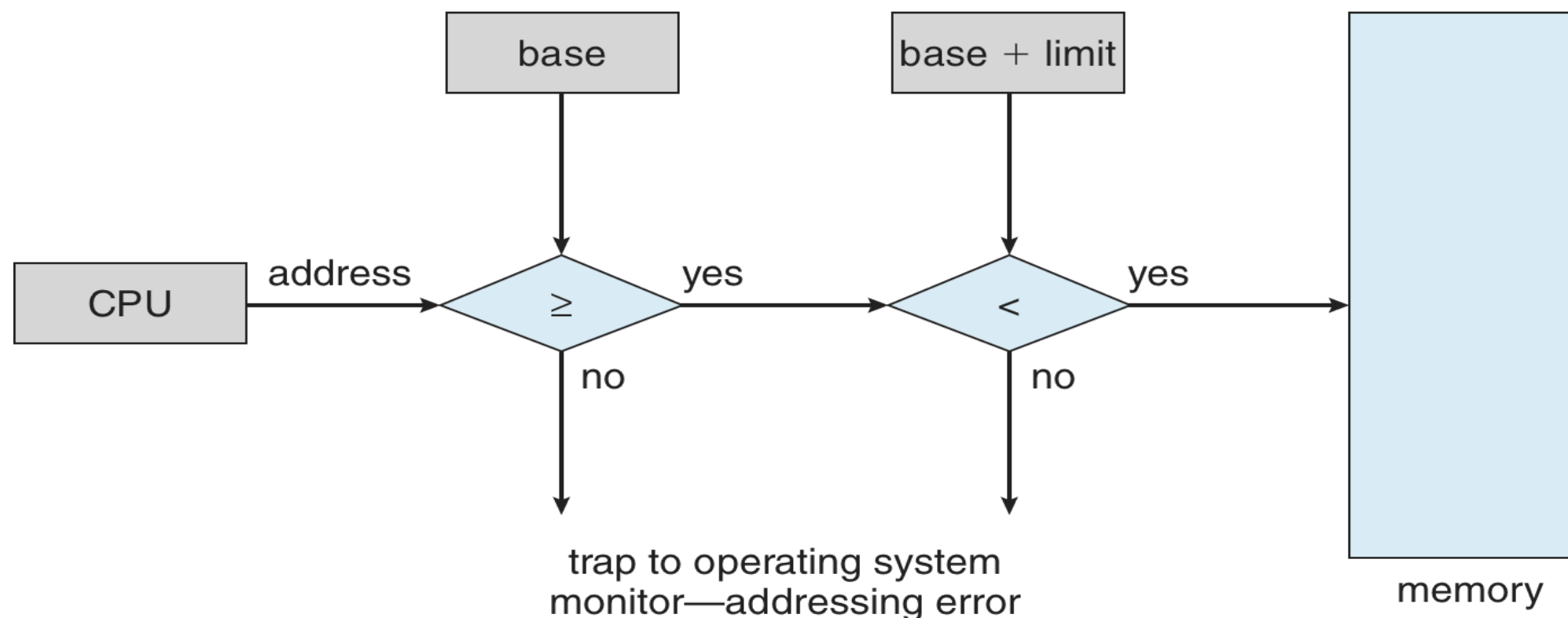
Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base and limit registers** define the logical address space for each process



Hardware Address Protection

- Base and limit registers provide memory protection
- Prevent a process from accessing memory outside of its own memory space
- Only the operating system can change the contents of the base and limit registers (must be done in kernel mode)



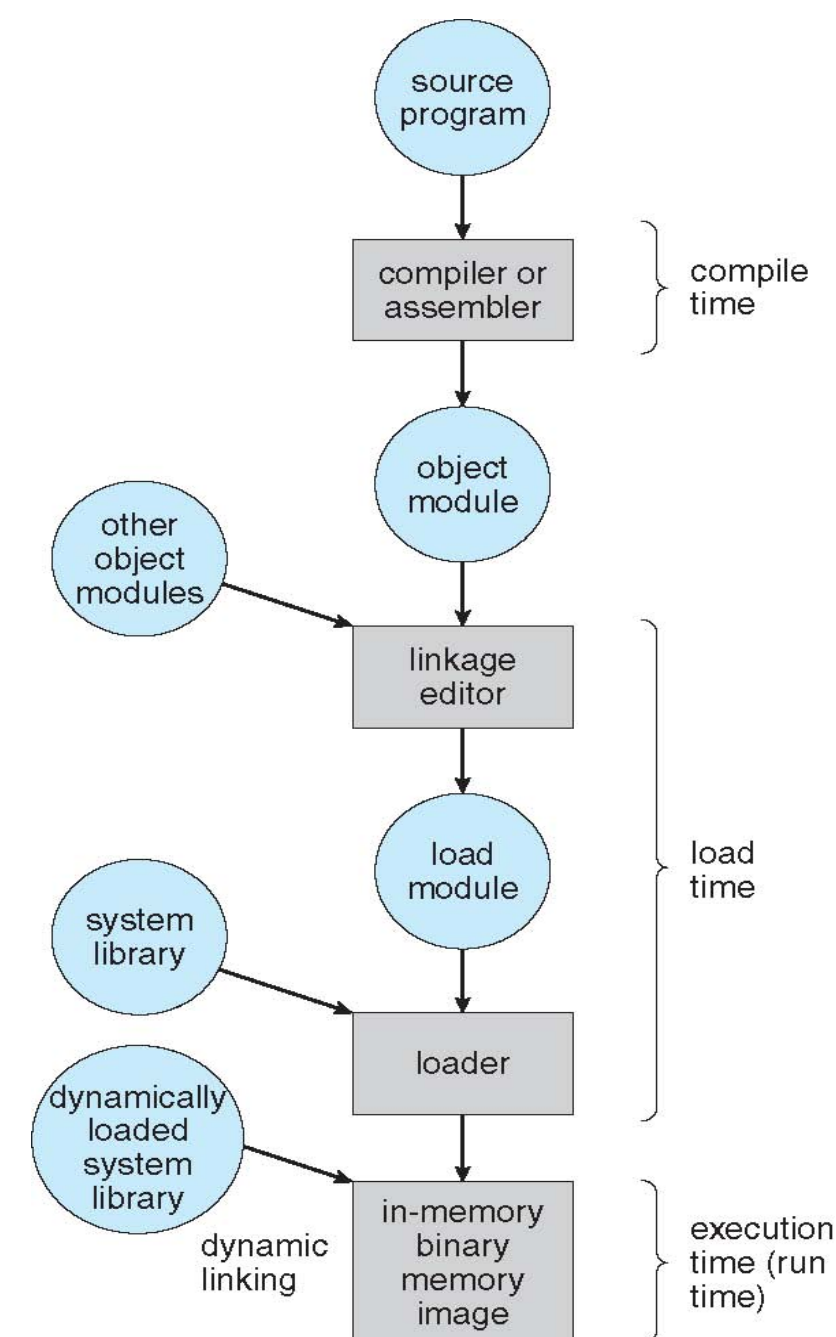
Address Binding

- **Not very convenient to have first user process physical address always at memory address 0x0000 (and subsequent processes following that)**
- **Addresses are represented differently at different stages of a program's life**
 - In source code addresses are usually symbolic (e.g. variables, function names)
 - In compiled code addresses bind to relocatable addresses (a relative address)
 - i.e. “8 bytes from beginning of this program module”
 - Linker or loader will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses when program is executed
 - i.e. $\text{address} = 0x74000 + 0x00008 = 0x74008$
 - program module starts at 0x74000
 - the 8th byte of the program is at 0x74008

Binding of Program Instructions and Data to Memory

- **Address binding of program 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)

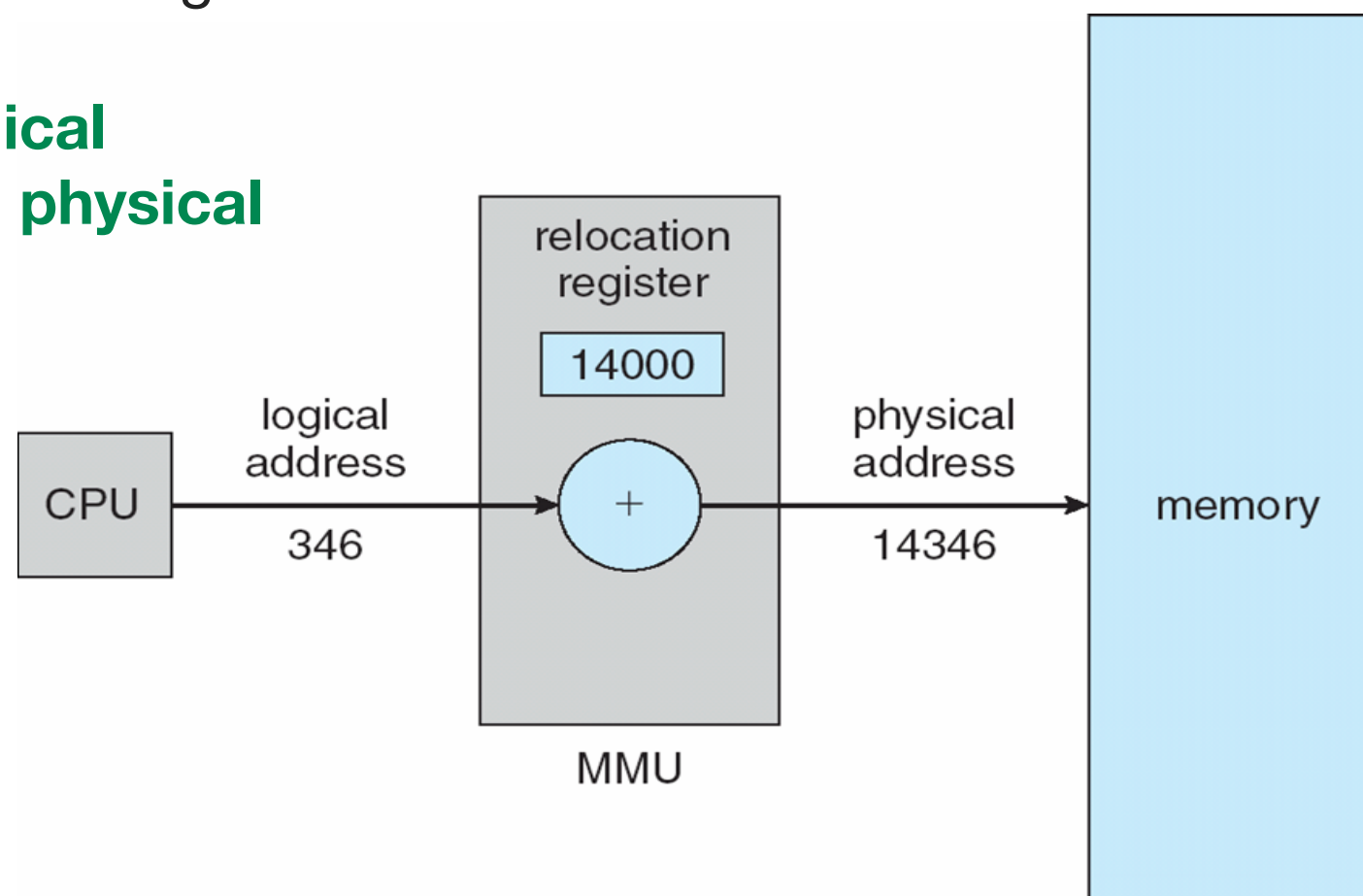


Logical vs. Physical Address Space

- The concept of a **logical address space** that is bound to a separate **physical address space** is central to proper memory management
 - **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as virtual address
 - **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit (refers to physical memory in the machine)
- 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)

- Hardware device that at run time maps logical address to physical address (for execution-time binding)
- 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
- 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
 - Logical address bound to physical addresses



Dynamic Loading

- **To make better utilization of available memory dynamic loading can be used**
 - Routine is not loaded until it is called
 - 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 (e.g. error routines)**
- **No special support from the operating system is required**
 - Implemented through program design
 - OS can help by providing libraries to implement dynamic loading

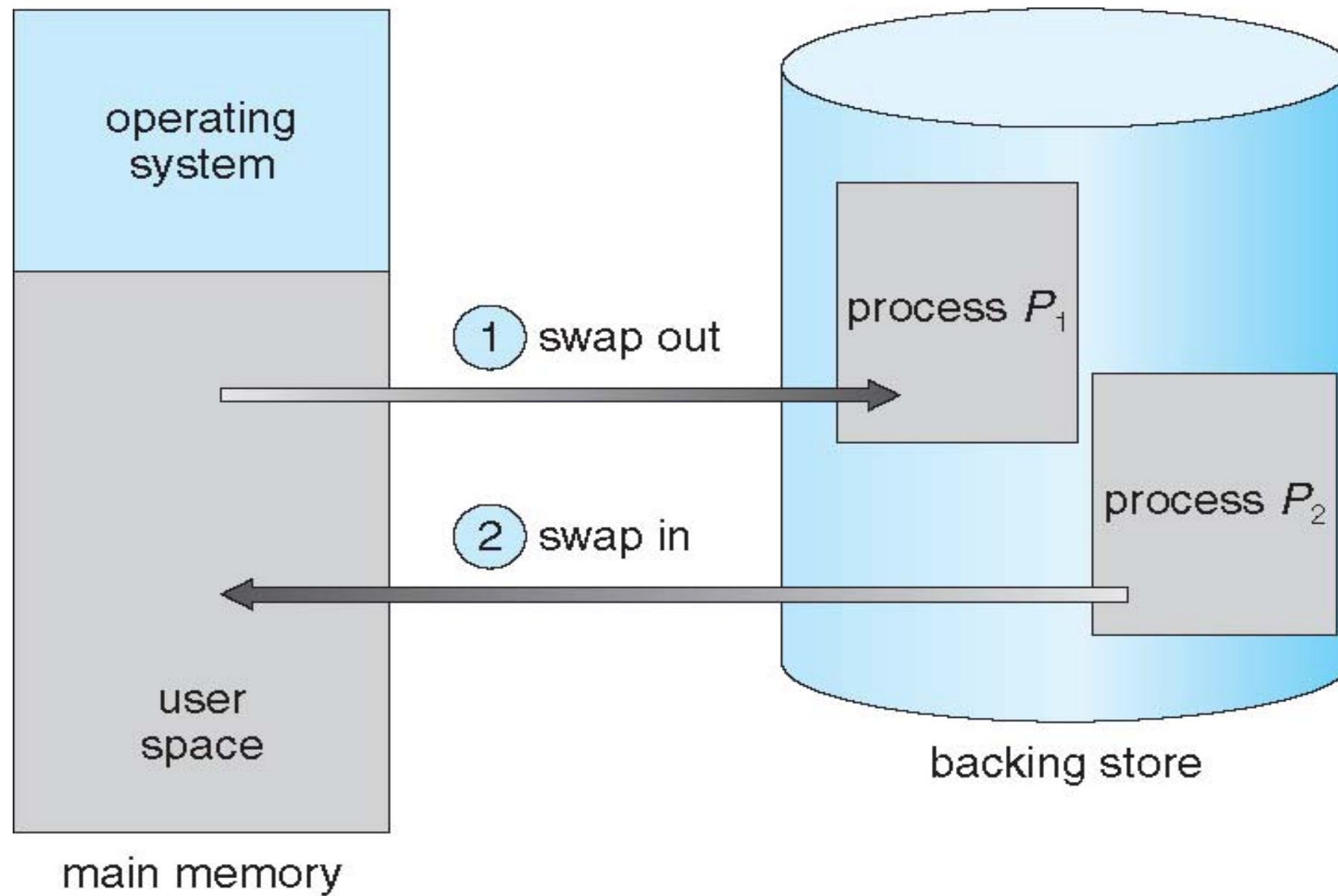
Dynamic Linking

- **To reduce the size of programs, and thus the disk space required for storage and the memory required for execution, use dynamic linking**
 - **Static linking** – system libraries and program code combined by the loader into the binary program image (i.e. large executable files)
 - **Dynamic linking** – linking postponed until execution time; smaller executable files that make use of dynamically linked libraries (e.g. .dll files)
- **A stub is included in the binary image of a program for each reference to a library routine**
 - Used to locate the appropriate library routine and load it into memory (if it hasn't already been loaded)
 - Stub replaces itself with the address of the routine, and executes the routine
 - Subsequent calls to the linked library do not incur a loading penalty
- **Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries that are shared amongst many processes**

Swapping

- **A process can be swapped temporarily out of memory to a backing store (a disk), and then brought back into memory to continue execution**
 - Total physical memory space of processes can exceed physical memory
- **Major part of swap time is transfer time to and from backing store; total transfer time is directly proportional to the amount of memory swapped**
- **System maintains a ready-queue of ready-to-run processes which have memory images on disk**
- **If using execution-time binding, the process need not be swapped back into the same physical address from whence it came**
- **Versions of swapping are found on many systems (i.e., UNIX, Linux, and Windows)**
 - Swapping is normally disabled
 - Started if memory allocation exceeds some threshold
 - Disabled again once memory demand reduced below threshold

Schematic View of Swapping



Context Switch Time Including Swapping

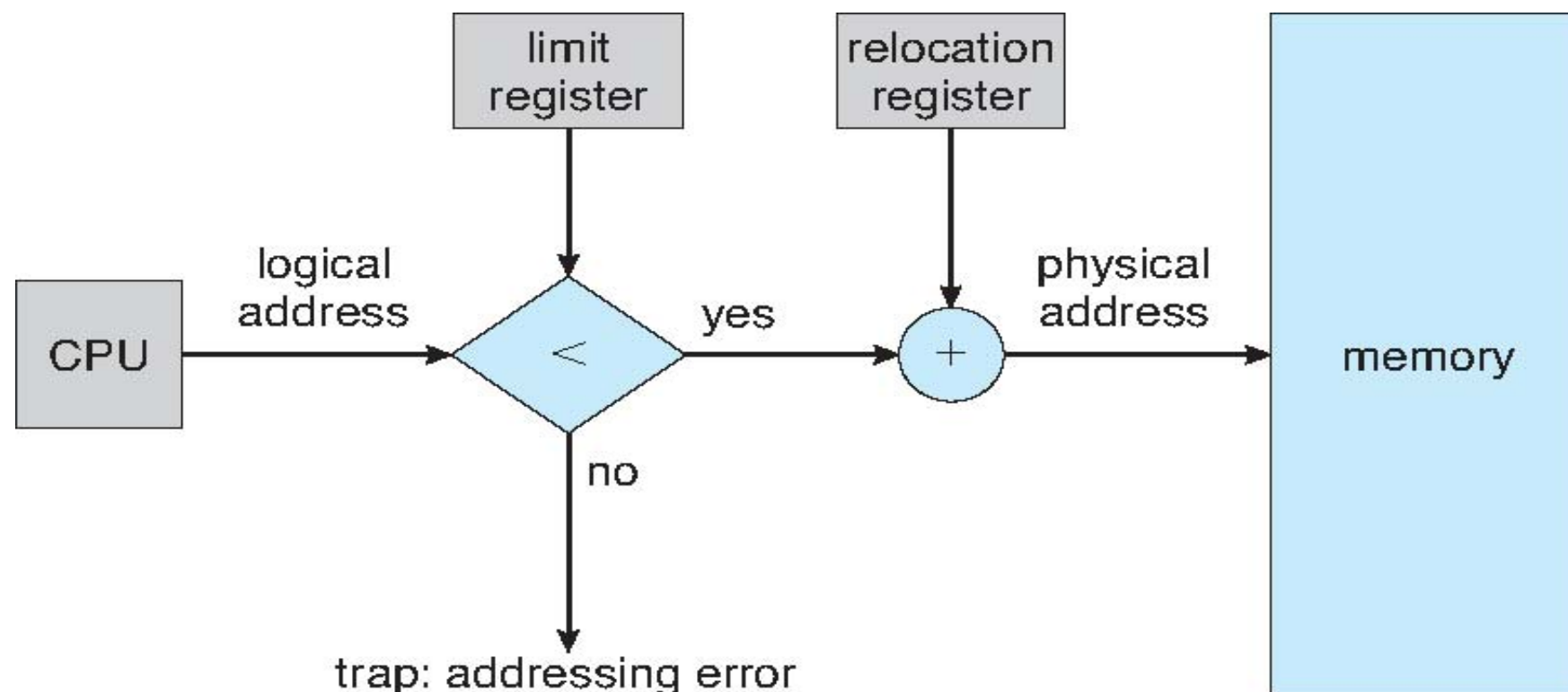
- **If next processes to be put on CPU is not in memory, need to swap out a process and swap in target process**
- **Context switch time can then be very high when swapping**
- **100 MB process swapping to hard disk with transfer rate of 50 MB/sec**
 - Plus disk latency of 8 ms
 - Swap out time of 2008 ms
 - Plus swap in of same sized process
 - Total context switch swapping component time of 4016ms (> 4 seconds)

Contiguous Allocation

- **Need to allocate memory efficiently, a common approach is contiguous allocation**
- **Main memory usually divided into two partitions:**
 - Resident operating system, usually held in low memory
 - User processes held in high memory
 - Each process is contained in single contiguous section of memory
- **It is desirable to allow these contiguous memory segments to move around in physical memory**

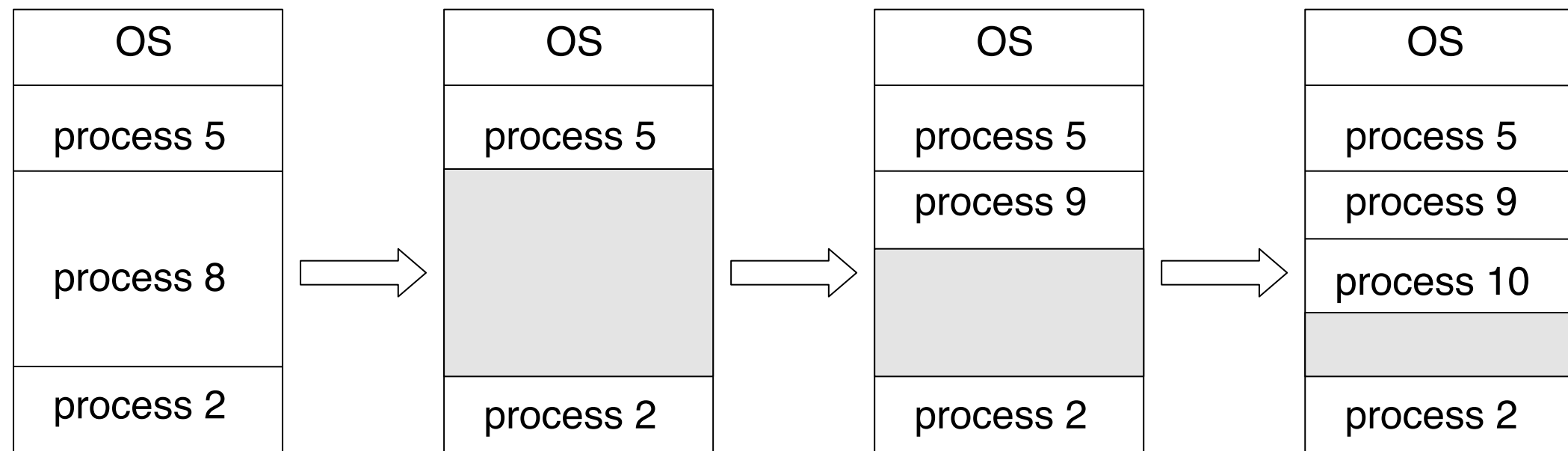
Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers

- **Relocation registers used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data**
 - Relocation 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



Memory Allocation

- **When allocating memory, the physical memory is divided into multiple, variable-sized, partitions**
 - Degree of multiprogramming is limited by number of partitions (how many process in memory)
 - A **hole** is a 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
 - When a process exits, it frees its partition, adjacent free partitions are combined
 - Operating system maintains information about:
 - a) allocated partitions b) free partitions (holes)



Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

- **How should a memory request of size n be satisfied from a list of free holes?**
- **Several approaches:**
 - **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**
- **First-fit is generally the fastest**

Fragmentation

- **Repeatedly allocating and deallocating memory can lead to fragmentation of available memory (fragmentation of holes)**
 - **External Fragmentation** – memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous; small holes are scattered throughout the physical address space
- **Analysis of first fit allocation reveals that given N blocks allocated, another $0.5 N$ blocks will be lost to fragmentation**
 - 1/3 of memory may be unusable -> **50-percent rule**
- **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

Fragmentation (Cont.)

- **In some instances, may allocate a larger memory block than required by process**
 - Extra space in memory block is unused by process
 - **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used