UNIT III

MEMORY MANAGEMENT

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Memory management strategies

- Background
- Swapping
- Contiguous Memory Allocation
- Segmentation
- Paging
- Structure of Page Table

Virtual Memory Management

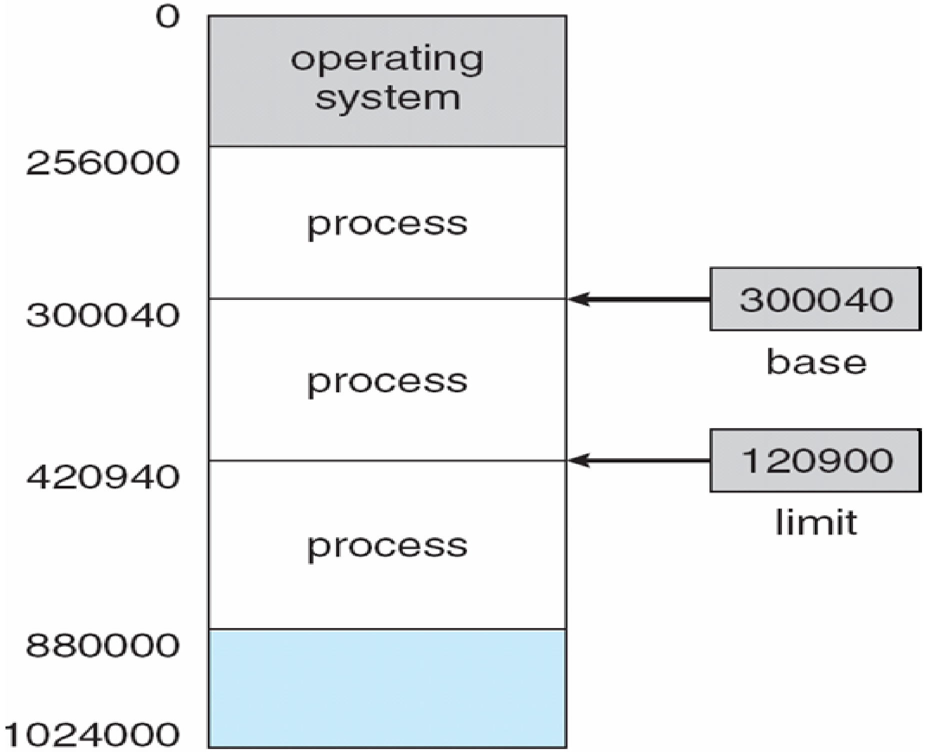
- Background
- Demand paging
- Copy on write
- Page replacement algorithms
- Allocation of frames
- Thrashing.

Background

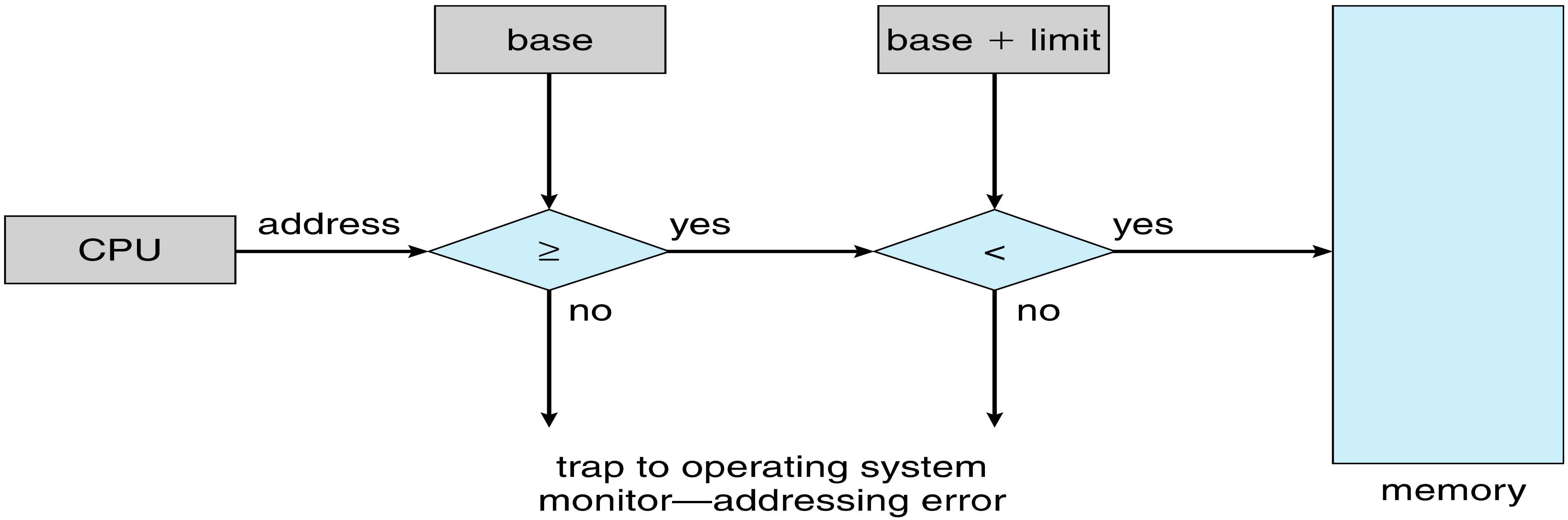
- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run
- Main memory and registers are only storage CPU can access directly
- Memory unit only sees a **stream of addresses + read requests, or address + data and write requests**
- Register access in one CPU clock (or less)
- Main memory can take many cycles, causing a **stall**
- **Cache** sits between main memory and CPU registers
- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation

Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base** and **limit registers** define the logical address space
- CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to be sure it is between base and limit for that user



Hardware Address Protection



Address Binding

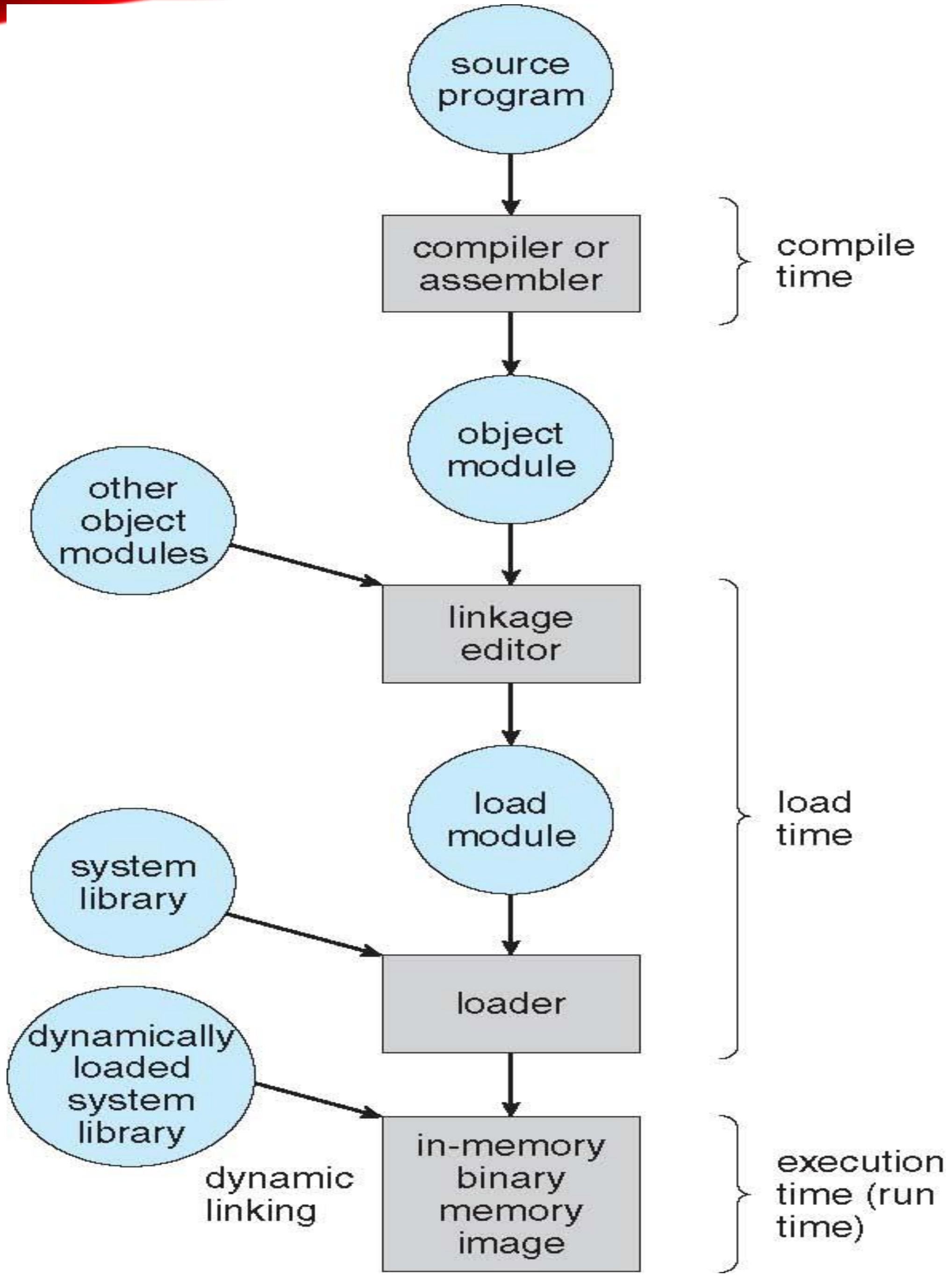
- Programs on disk, ready to be brought into memory to execute form an **input queue**
  - Without support, must be loaded into address 0000
- Inconvenient to have first user process physical address always at 0000
- Further, addresses represented in different ways at different stages of a program's life
  - **Source code** addresses usually symbolic
  - **Compiled code** addresses **bind** to relocatable addresses
    - i.e. "14 bytes from beginning of this module"
  - **Linker or loader** will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses i.e. 74014
  - Each binding **maps one address space** to another

Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

Address binding of 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)

Multistep Processing of a User Program



Logical vs. Physical Address Space

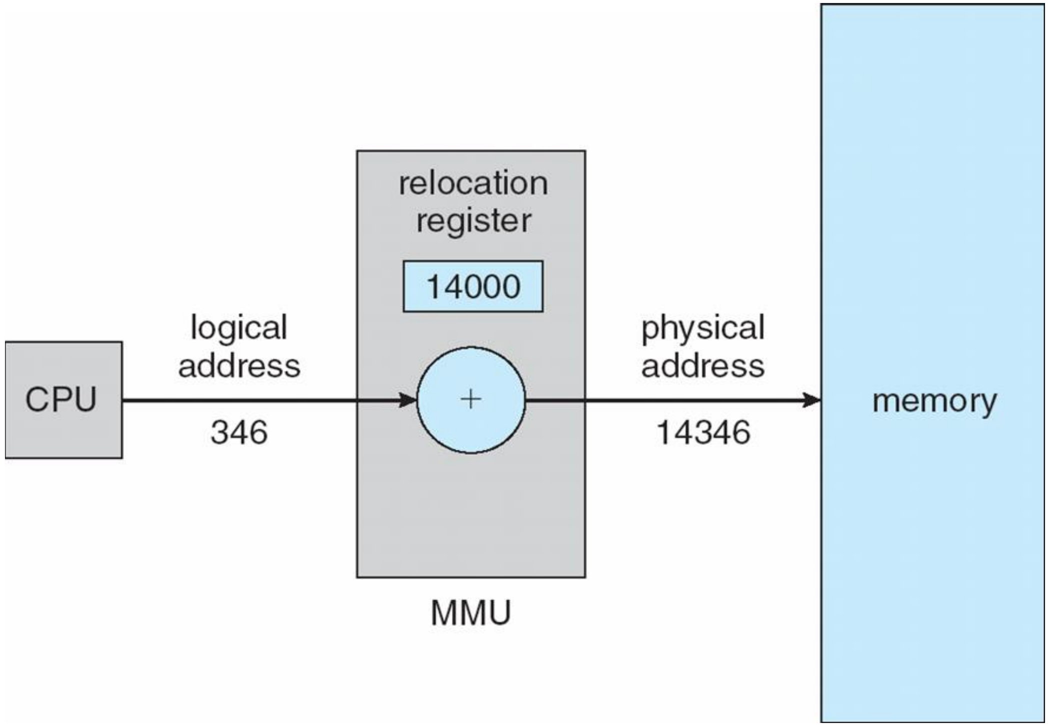
- The concept of a logical address space that is bound to a separate **physical address space** is central to proper memory management
  - **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
  - **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit
- Logical and physical 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 virtual to physical address
- To start, 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**
  - MS-DOS on Intel 80x86 used 4 relocation registers
- 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 relocation using a relocation register

- Routine is not loaded until it is called
- **Better memory-space utilization**; 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
- 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

- **Static linking** – system libraries and program code combined by the loader into the binary program image
- Dynamic linking –linking postponed until execution time
- Small piece of code, **stub**, used to locate the appropriate memory-resident library routine
- Stub replaces itself with the address of the routine, and executes the routine
- Operating system checks if routine is in processes' memory address
- Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries
- System also known as **shared libraries**

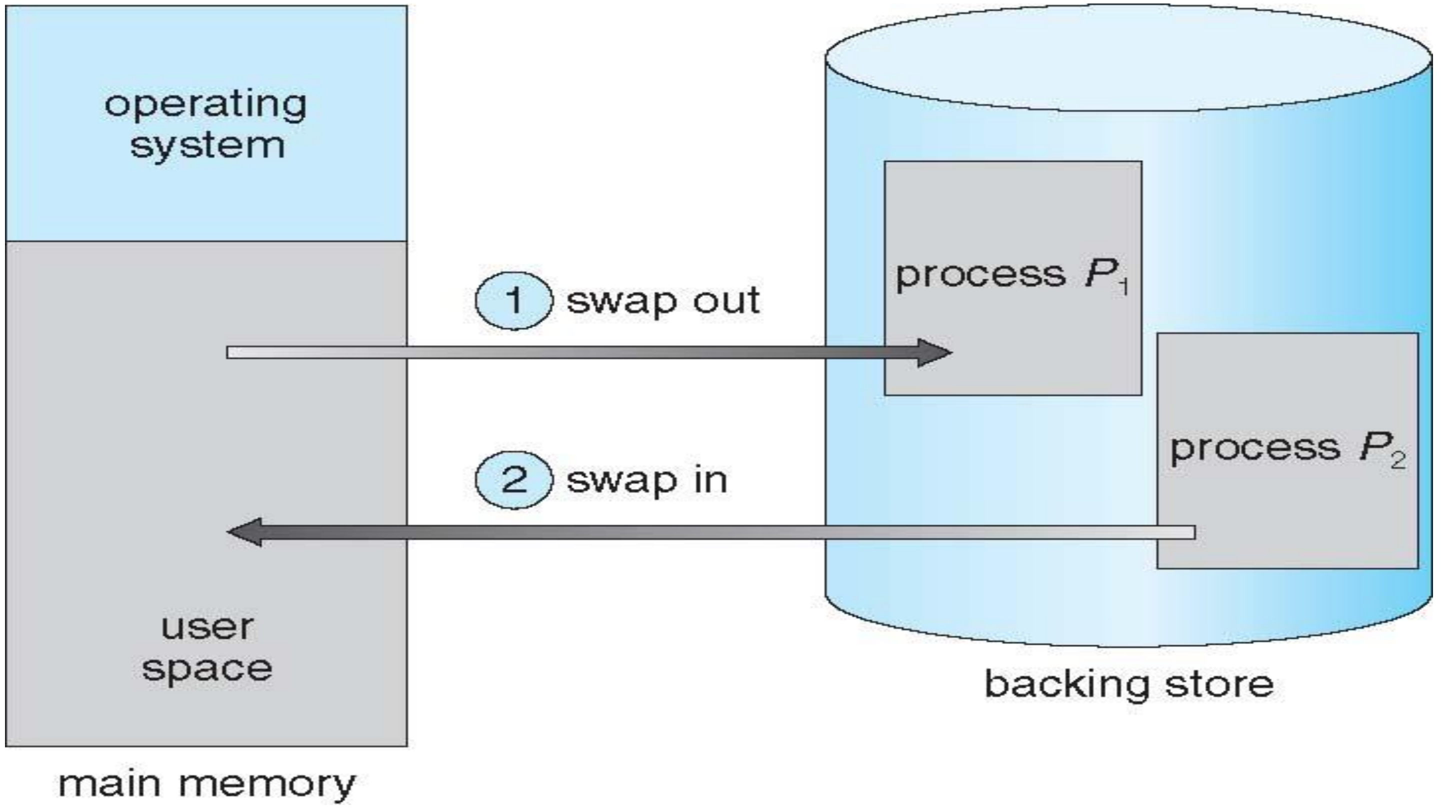
Swapping

- A process can be **swapped** temporarily out of memory to a backing store, and then brought back into memory for continued execution
- **Backing store** – fast disk large enough to accommodate copies of all memory images for all users; must provide direct access to these memory images
- **Roll out, roll in** – swapping variant used for priority-based scheduling algorithms; lower-priority process is swapped out so higher-priority process can be loaded and executed
- Major part of swap time is **transfer time**; total transfer time is **directly proportional** to the amount of memory swapped

Swapping (Cont.)

- System maintains a **ready queue** of ready-to-run processes which have memory images on disk
- Does the swapped out process need to swap back in to same physical addresses?
- Depends on address binding method
  - Plus consider pending I/O to / from process memory space
- Modified versions of swapping are found on many systems (i.e., UNIX, Linux, and Windows)
  - Swapping normally disabled
  - Started if more than threshold amount of memory allocated
  - 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
- 100MB process swapping to hard disk with transfer rate of 50MB/sec
  - Swap out time of 2000 ms
  - Plus swap in of same sized process
  - Total context switch swapping component time of 4000ms (4 seconds)
- Can reduce if reduce size of memory swapped – by knowing how much memory really being used
  - System calls to inform OS of memory use via request_memory( ) and release_memory( )

Context Switch Time and Swapping (Cont.)

- Other constraints as well on swapping
  - Pending I/O – can't swap out as I/O would occur to wrong process
  - Or always transfer I/O to kernel space, then to I/O device
    - Known as **double buffering**, adds overhead
- Standard swapping not used in modern operating systems
  - But modified version common
    - Swap only when free memory extremely low

Swapping on Mobile Systems

- Not typically supported
  - **Flash memory based**
    - Small amount of space
    - Limited number of write cycles
    - Poor throughput between flash memory and CPU on mobile platform
- Instead use other methods to free memory if low
  - iOS ***asks*** apps to voluntarily relinquish allocated memory
    - Read-only data thrown out and reloaded from flash if needed
    - Failure to free can result in termination
  - Android terminates apps if low free memory, but first writes **application state** to flash for fast restart

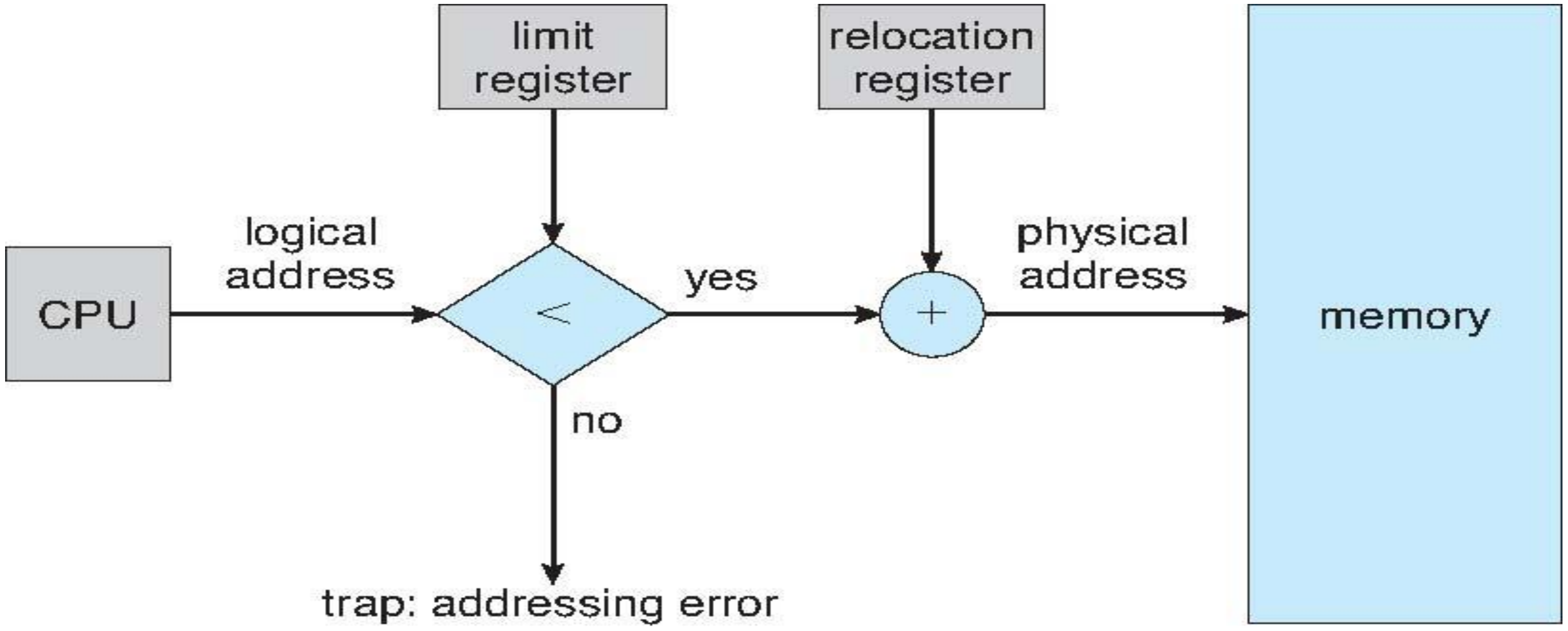
Contiguous Allocation

- Main memory must support both OS and user processes
- Limited resource, must allocate efficiently
- Contiguous allocation is one early method
- Main memory usually into two **partitions**:
  - Resident operating system, usually held in low memory with interrupt vector
  - User processes then held in high memory
  - Each process contained in single contiguous section of memory

Contiguous Allocation (Cont.)

- Relocation registers used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data
  - Base 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*
  - Can then allow actions such as kernel code being **transient** and kernel changing size

Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers



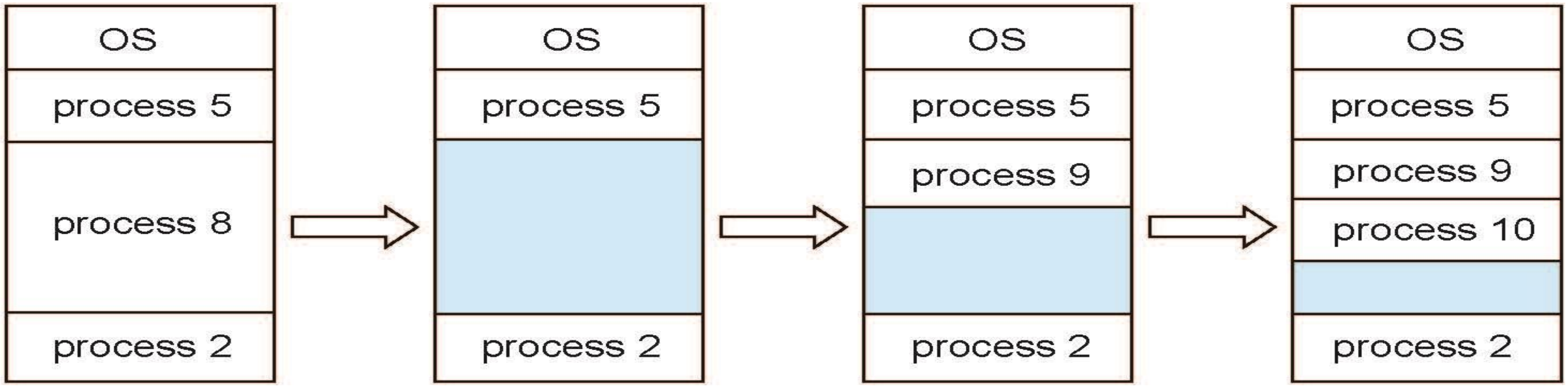
Multiple-partition allocation

- Degree of multiprogramming limited by number of partitions
- **Variable-partition** sizes for efficiency (sized to a given process' needs)
- **Hole** – 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
- Process exiting frees its partition, adjacent free partitions combined

Multiple-partition allocation

- Operating system maintains information about:

  a) allocated partitions   b) free partitions (hole)



Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

How to satisfy a request of size ***n*** from a list of free holes?

- **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

Fragmentation

- **External Fragmentation** – total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous
- **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used
- First fit analysis reveals that given N blocks allocated, 0.5 N blocks lost to fragmentation
  - 1/3 may be unusable -> **50-percent rule**

Fragmentation (Cont.)

- 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
  - **I/O problem**
    - Latch job in memory while it is involved in I/O
    - Do I/O only into OS buffers
- Now consider that backing store has same fragmentation problems