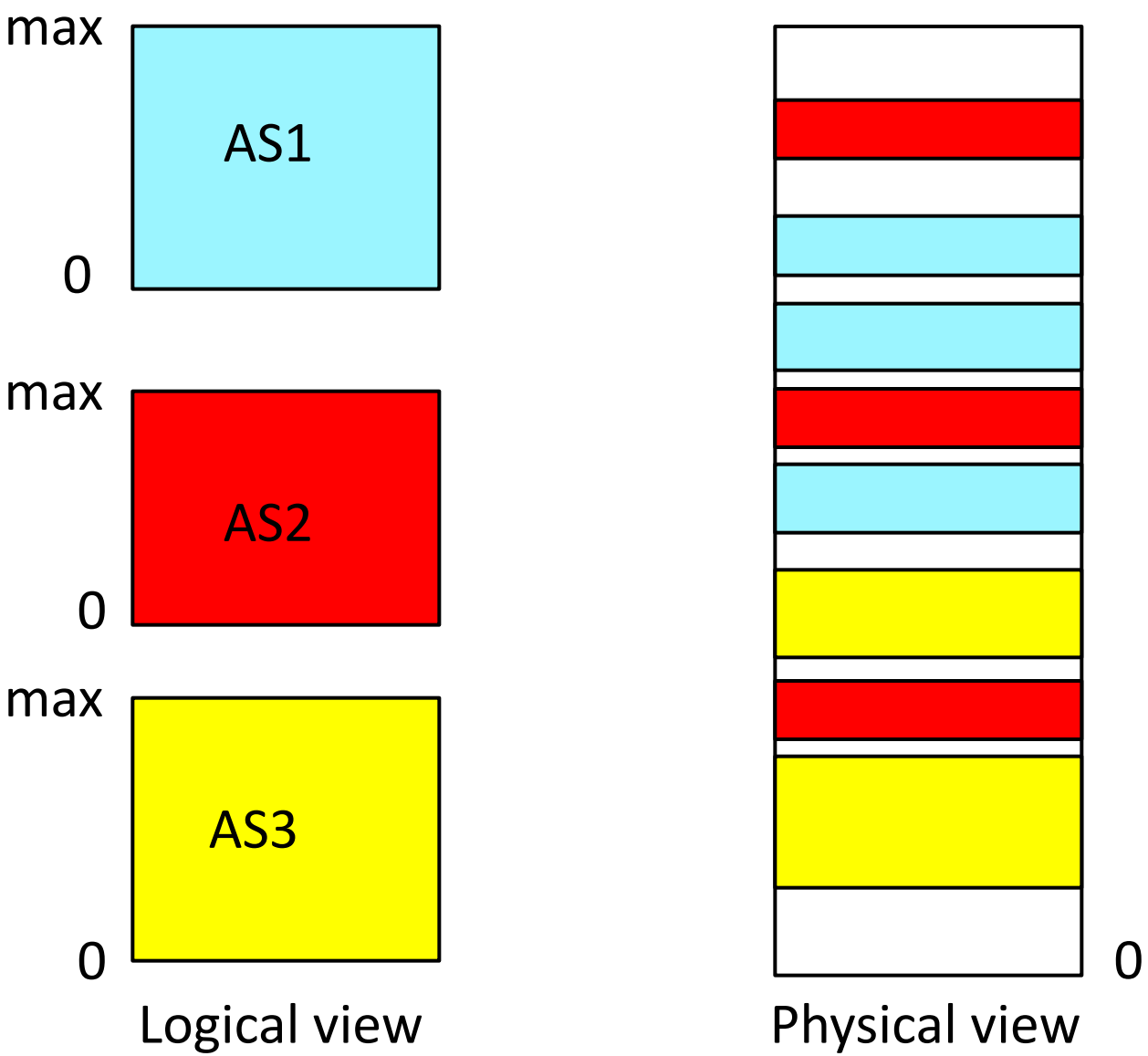
Introduction to Paging

COMS W4118

References: Operating Systems Concepts (9e), Linux Kernel Development, previous W4118s

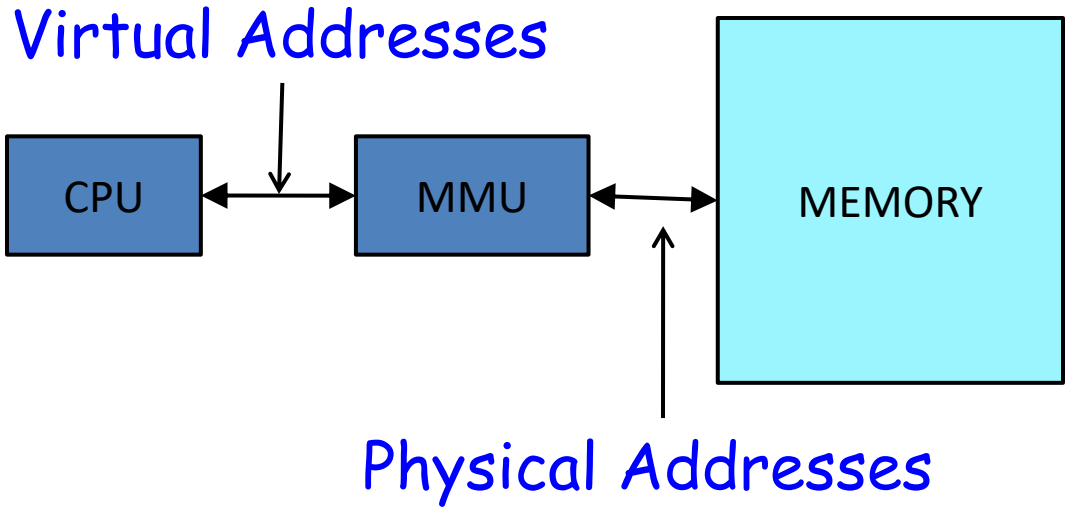
Multiple address spaces co-exist



Memory management wish-list

- Sharing
  - Multiple processes coexist in main memory
- Transparency
  - Processes are not aware that memory is shared
- Protection
  - Processes cannot access data of other processes or kernel
- Efficiency
  - Reasonable performance
  - Do not waste too much memory by fragmentation

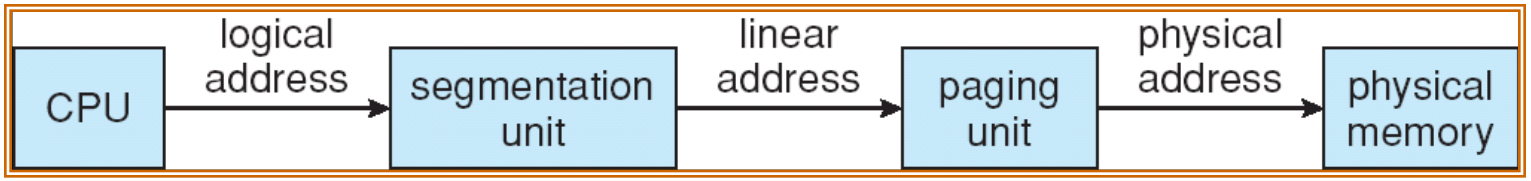
Memory Management Unit (MMU)



- Translate program-generated logical address (virtual address) to real RAM address (physical address) at every reference
- Also check range and permissions
- Programmed by OS, executed by hardware

x86 address translation

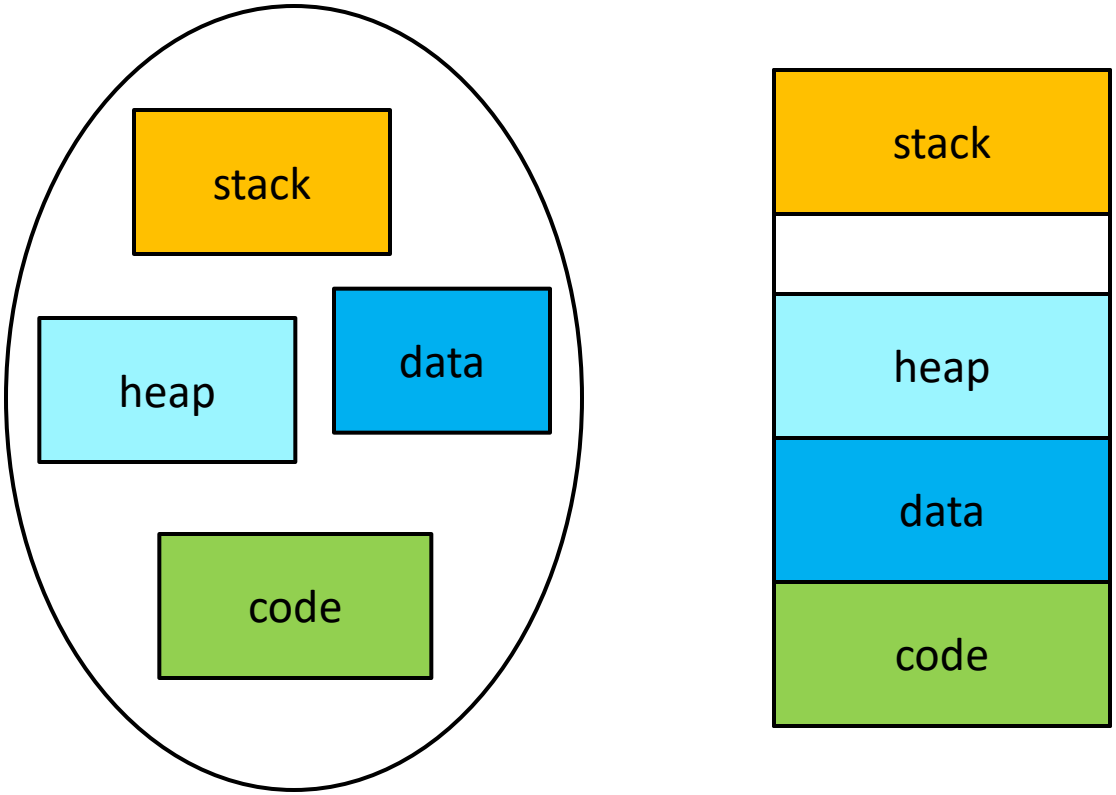
1. Segmentation unit
   - Segment & offset → linear address
2. Paging unit
   - Linear address → physical address



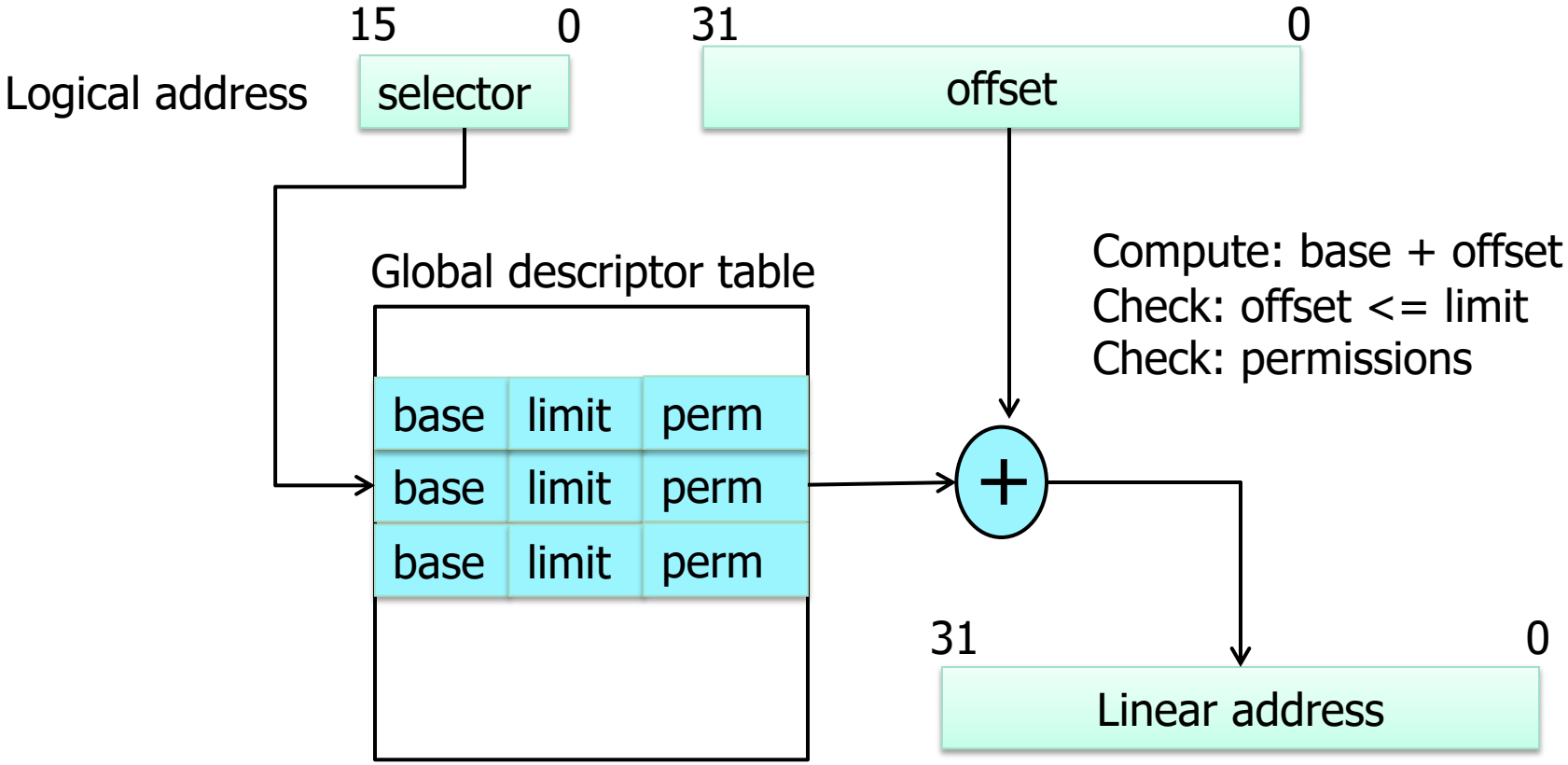
- Segmentation
  - Holdover from the olden days (16-bit x86 CPUs)
  - Used only minimally at this point

Segmentation

- Virtual address space divided into logical segments, each mapped to physical address region



x86 segmentation hardware

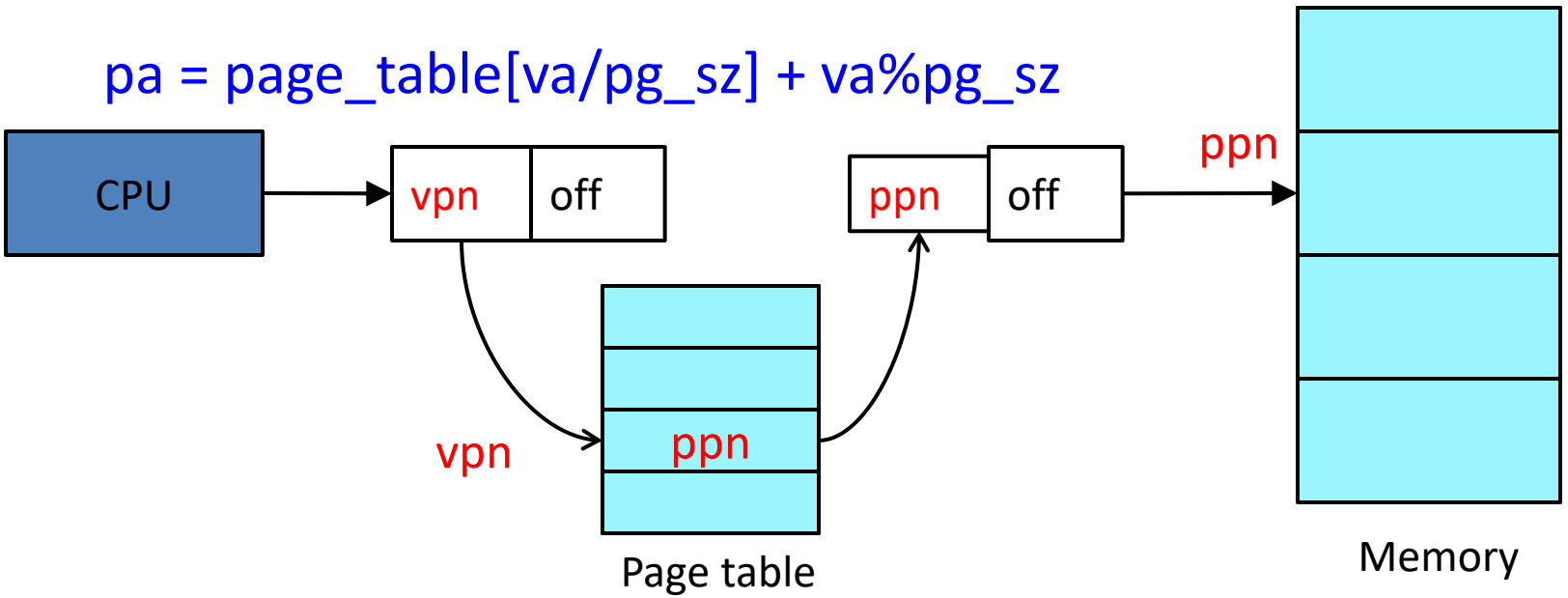


Paging overview

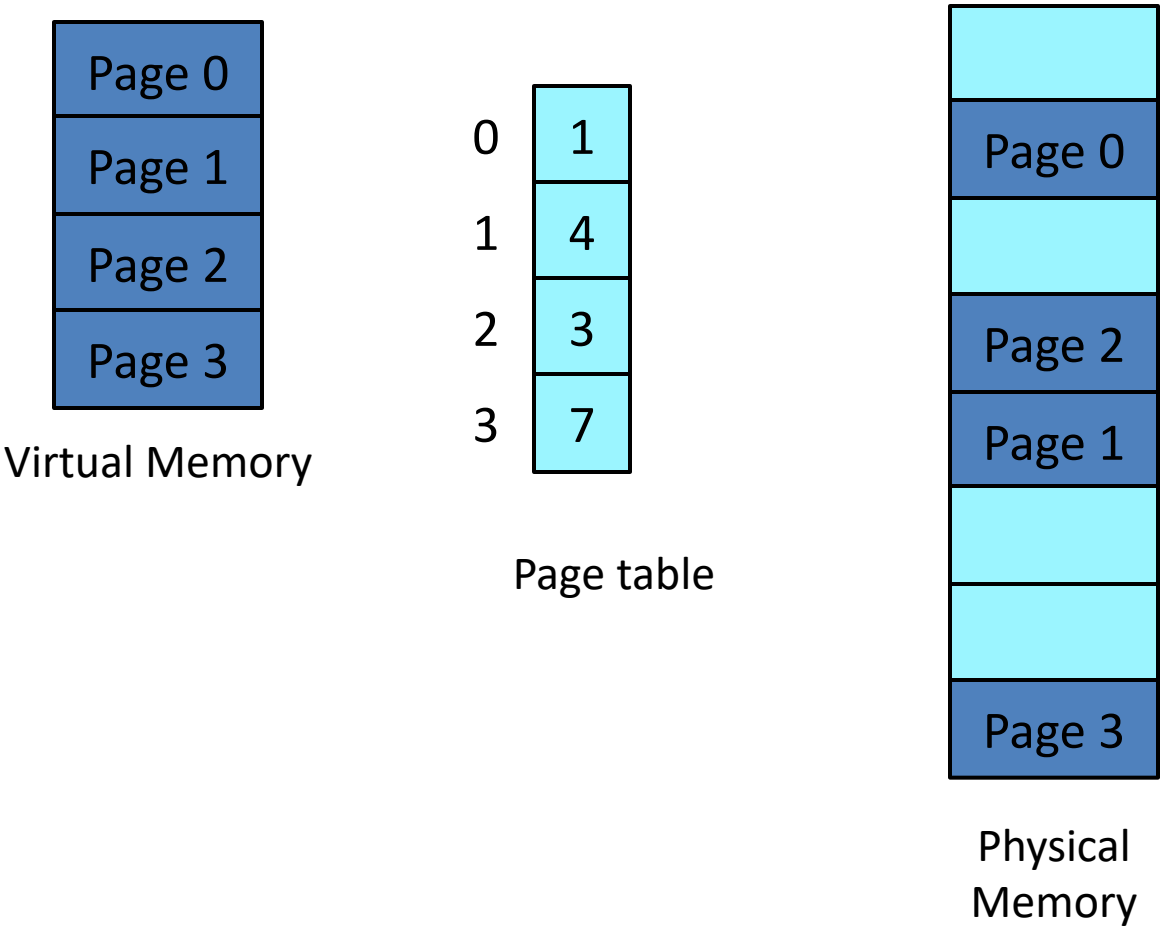
- Goal
  - Eliminate fragmentation due to large segments
  - Don't allocate memory that will not be used
  - Enable fine-grained sharing
- Paging: divide memory into fixed-sized pages
  - For both virtual and physical memory
- Another terminology
  - A virtual page: page
  - A physical page: frame

Page translation

- Address bits = page number + page offset
- Translate virtual page number (vpn) to physical page (frame) number (ppn/pfn) using page table



Page translation example



Page translation exercise

- 8-bit virtual address, 10-bit physical address, each page is 64 bytes

1. How many virtual pages?
   - 2^8 / 64 = 4 virtual pages
2. How many physical pages?
   - 2^10/64 = 16 physical pages
3. How many entries in page table?
   - Page table contains 4 entries
4. Given page table = [2, 5, 1, 8], what's the physical address for virtual address 241?
   - 241 = 11110001b
   - 241/64 = 3 = 11b
   - 241%64 = 49 = 110001b
   - page_table[3] = 8 = 1000b
   - Physical address = 8 * 64 + 49 = 561 = 1000110001b

Page translation exercise

m-bit virtual address, n-bit physical address, k-bit page size

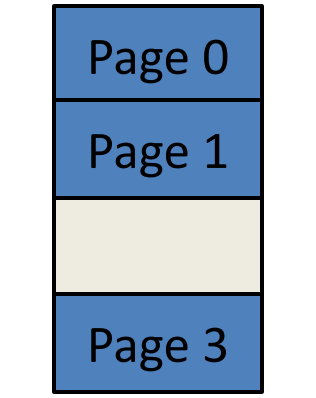
- # of virtual pages: $2^{(m-k)}$
- # of physical pages: $2^{(n-k)}$
- # of entries in page table: $2^{(m-k)}$
- vpn = va / 2^k
- offset = va % 2^k
- ppn = page_table[vpn]
- pa = ppn * 2^k + offset

Page protection

- Implemented by associating protection bits with each virtual page in page table
- Why do we need protection bits?
- Protection bits
  - present bit: map to a valid physical page?
  - read/write/execute bits: can read/write/execute?
  - user bit: can access in user mode?
  - x86: PTE_P, PTE_W, PTE_U
- Checked by MMU on each memory access

Page protection example

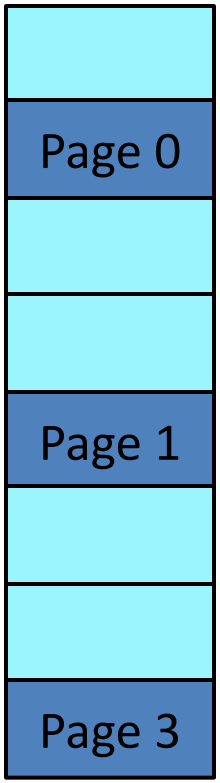
- What kind of pages?



Virtual Memory

		pwu
0	1	101
1	4	110
2	3	000
3	7	111

Page table



Physical Memory

Implementation of page table

- Page table is stored in memory
  - Page table base register (PTBR) points to the base of page table
    - x86: cr3
  - OS stores base in process control block (PCB)
  - OS switches PTBR on each context switch
- Problem: each data/instruction access requires two memory accesses
  - Extra memory access for page table

Page table size issues

- Given:
  - A 32 bit address space (4 GB)
  - 4 KB pages
  - A page table entry of 4 bytes
- Implication: page table is 4 MB per process!
- Observation: address space are often sparse
  - Few programs use all of 2^{32} bytes
- Change page table structures to save memory
  - Hierarchical page tables