238P: Operating Systems

Lecture 5: Address translation

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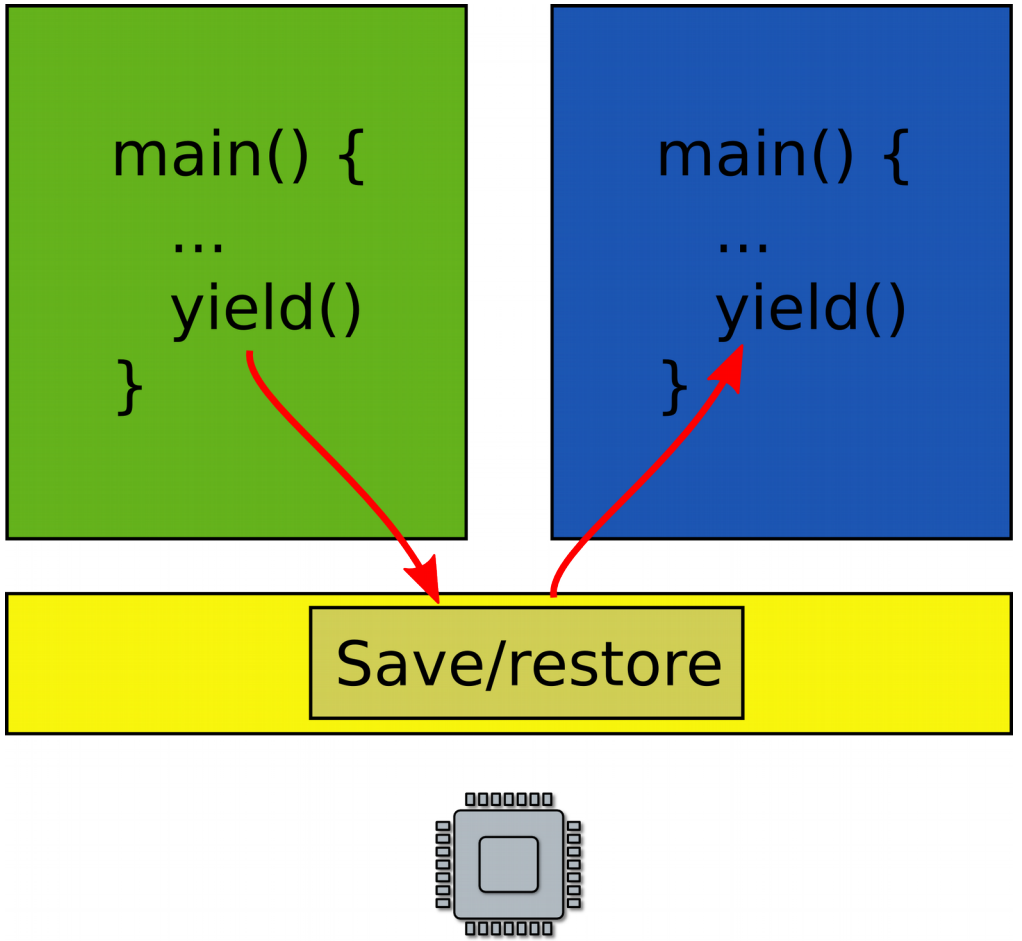
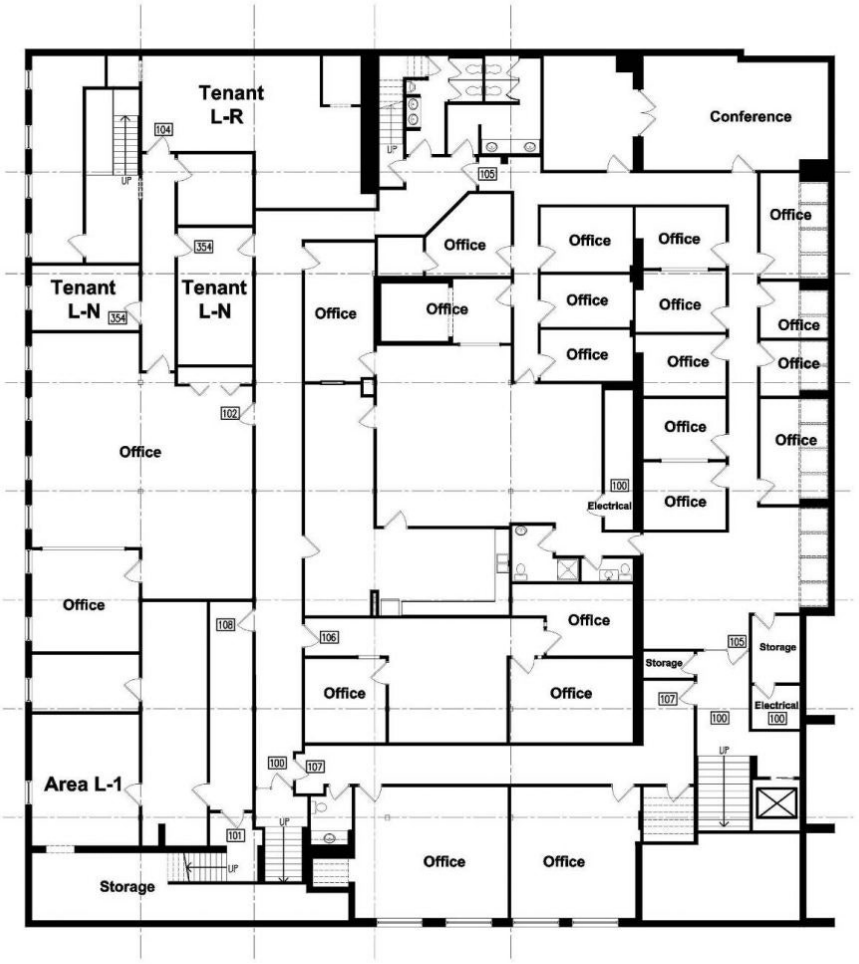
October, 2018

Two programs one memory



Or more like renting a set of rooms in an office building



13852 Sq.Ft.
Lower Level
1/16" = 1'-0"

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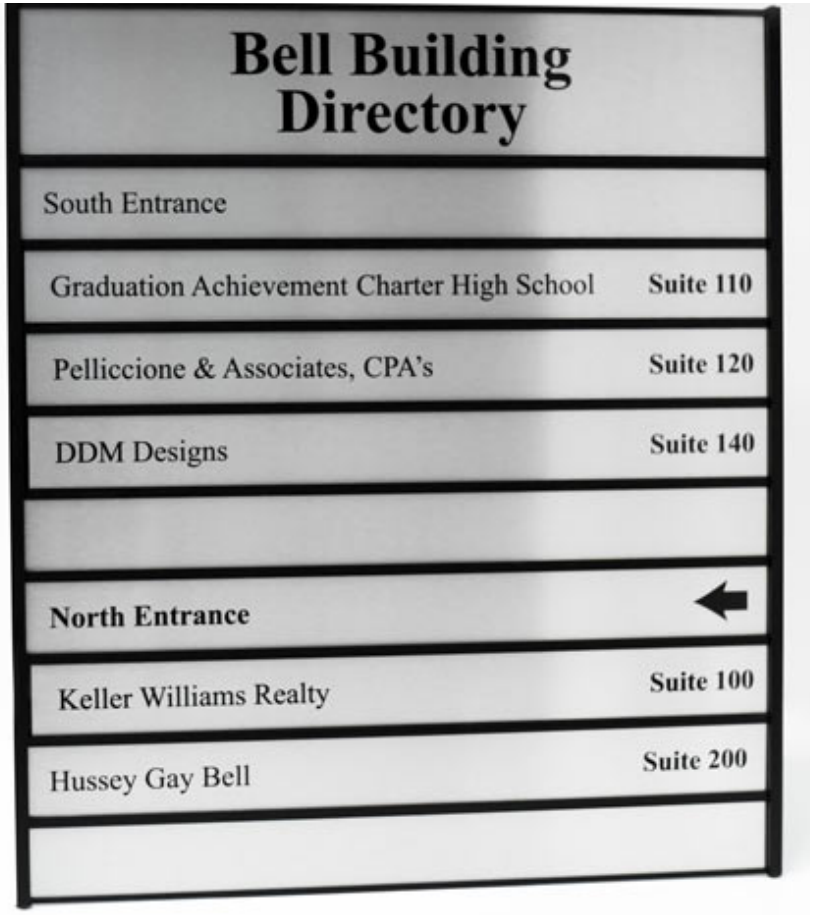
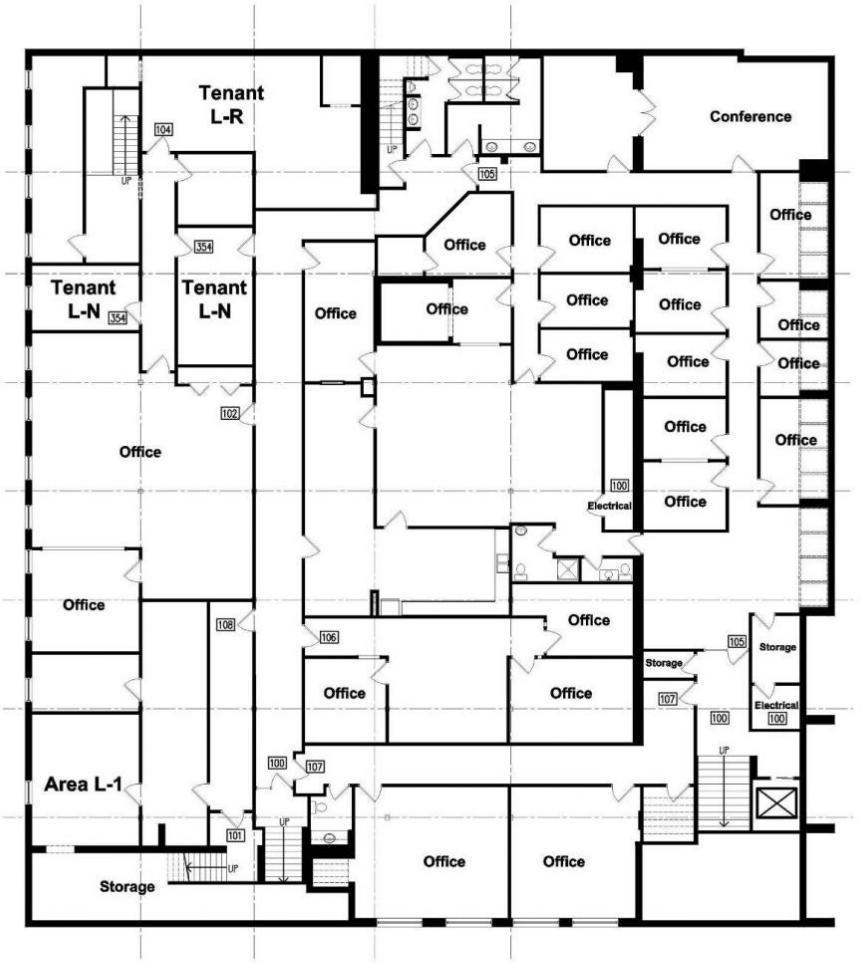
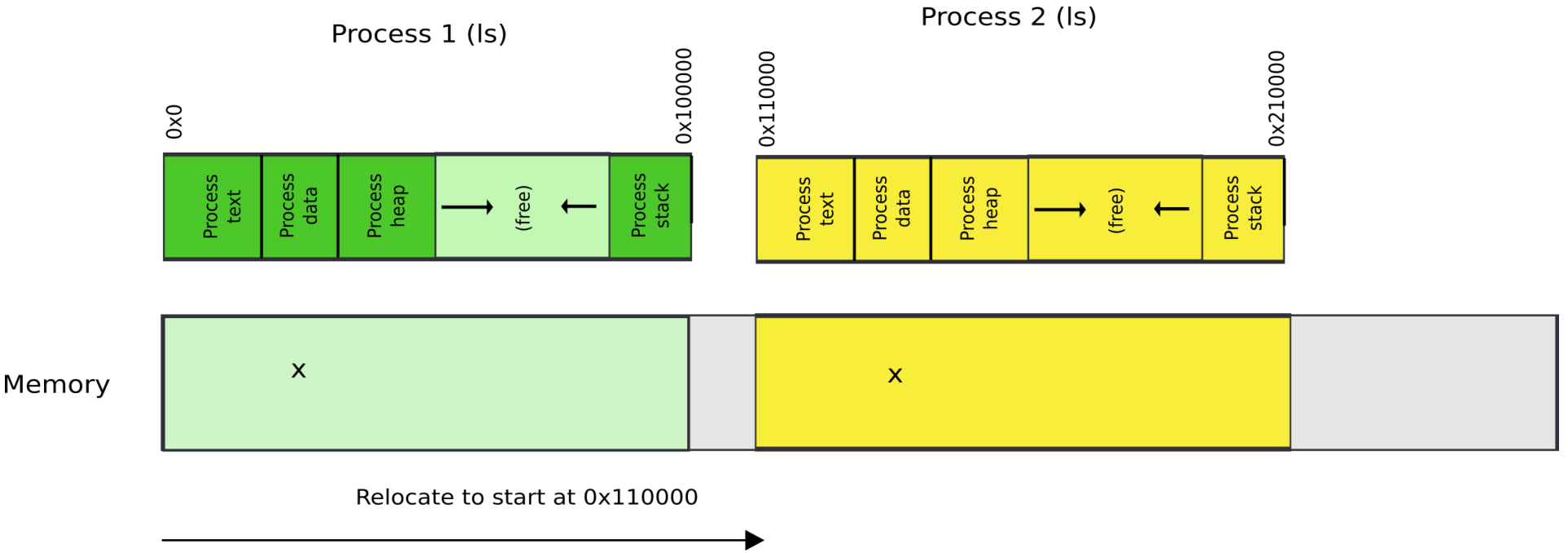




Relocation

- One way to achieve this is to relocate program at different addresses
  - Remember relocation (from linking and loading)

Relocate binaries to work at different addresses



- One way to achieve this is to relocate program at different addresses
- What is the problem?

- One way to achieve this is to relocate program at different addresses
- What is the problem?
  - No isolation

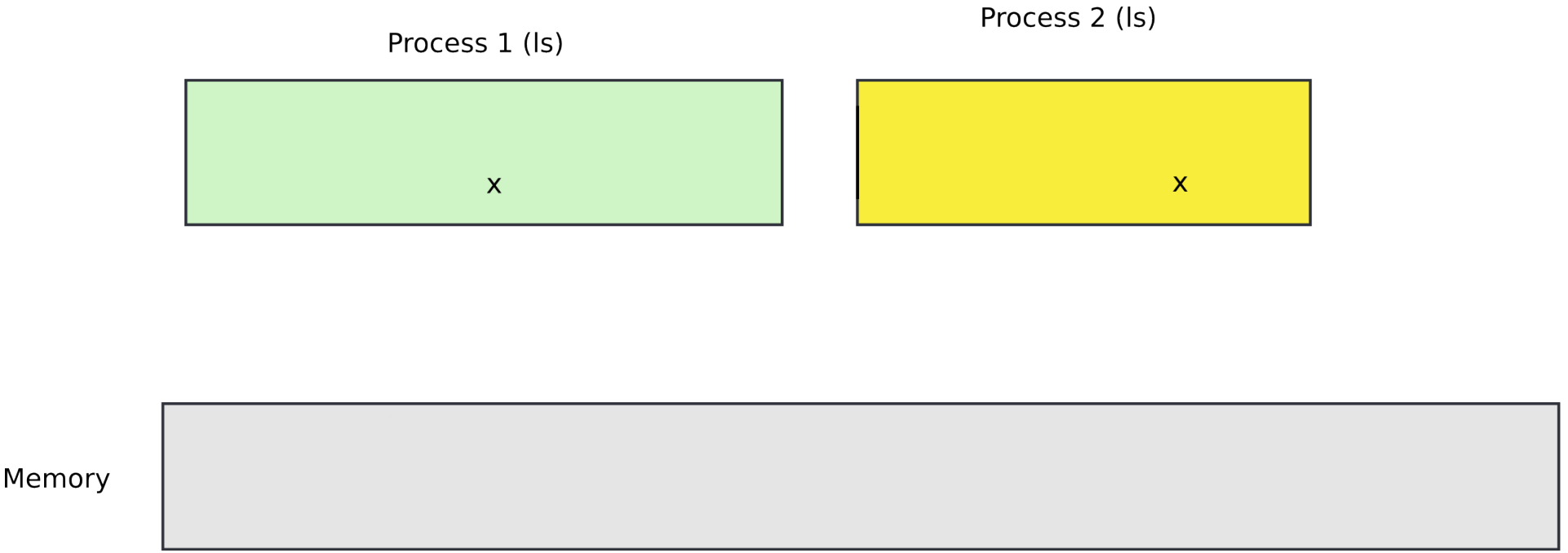
- Another way is to ask for hardware support

This is called segmentation

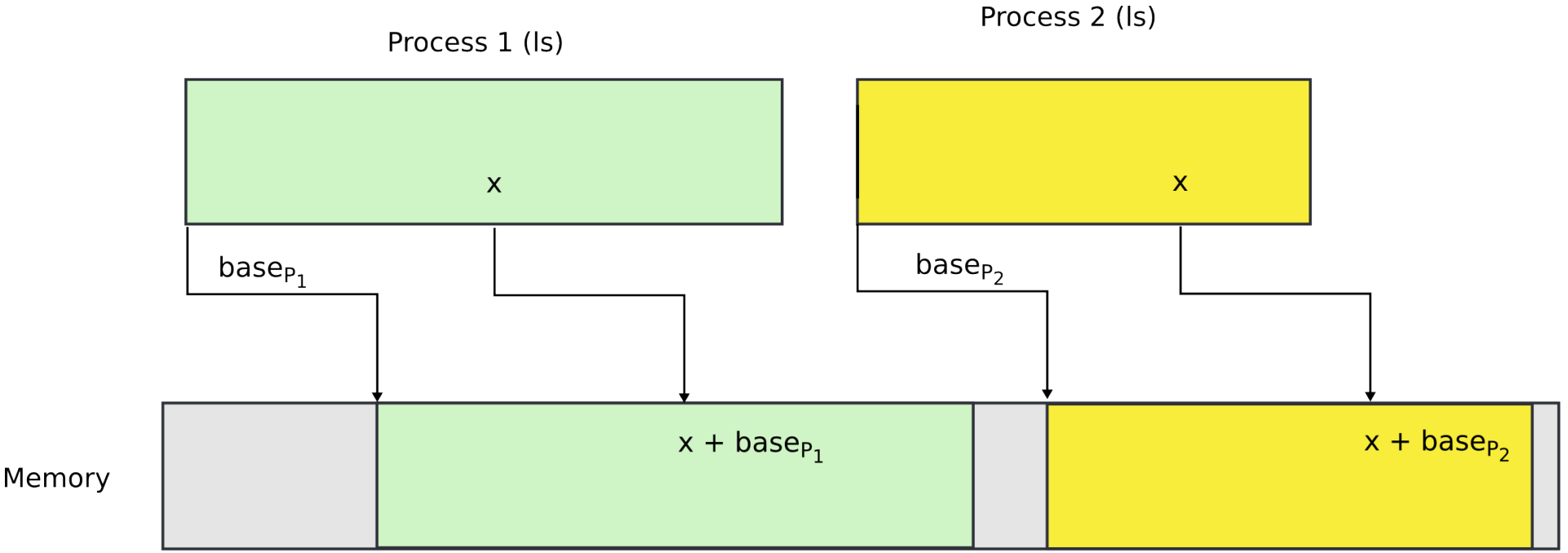
What are we aiming for?

- Illusion of a private address space
  - Identical copy of an address space in multiple programs
    - Remember `fork()`?
  - Simplifies software architecture
    - One program is not restricted by the memory layout of the others

Two processes, one memory?



Two processes, one memory?



- We want hardware to add base value to every address used in the program

Seems easy

- One problem
  - Where does this base address come from?

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  - Hardware can maintain a table of base addresses
    - One base for each process
  - Dedicate a special register to keep an index into that table

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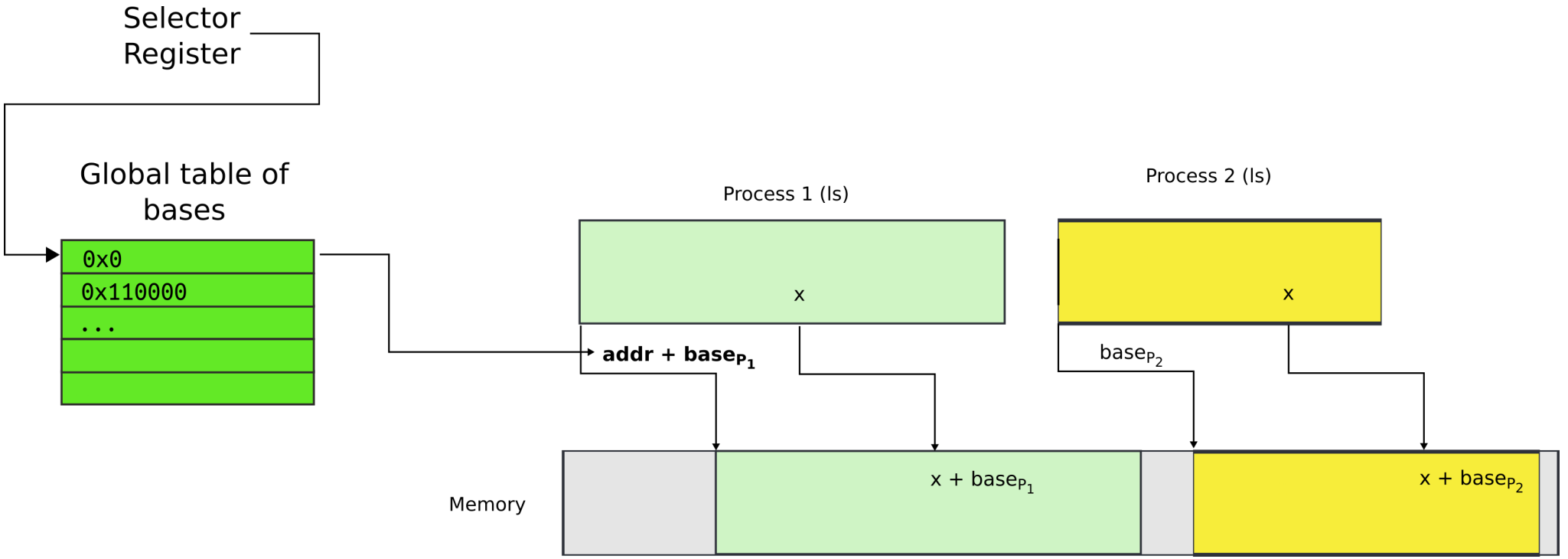
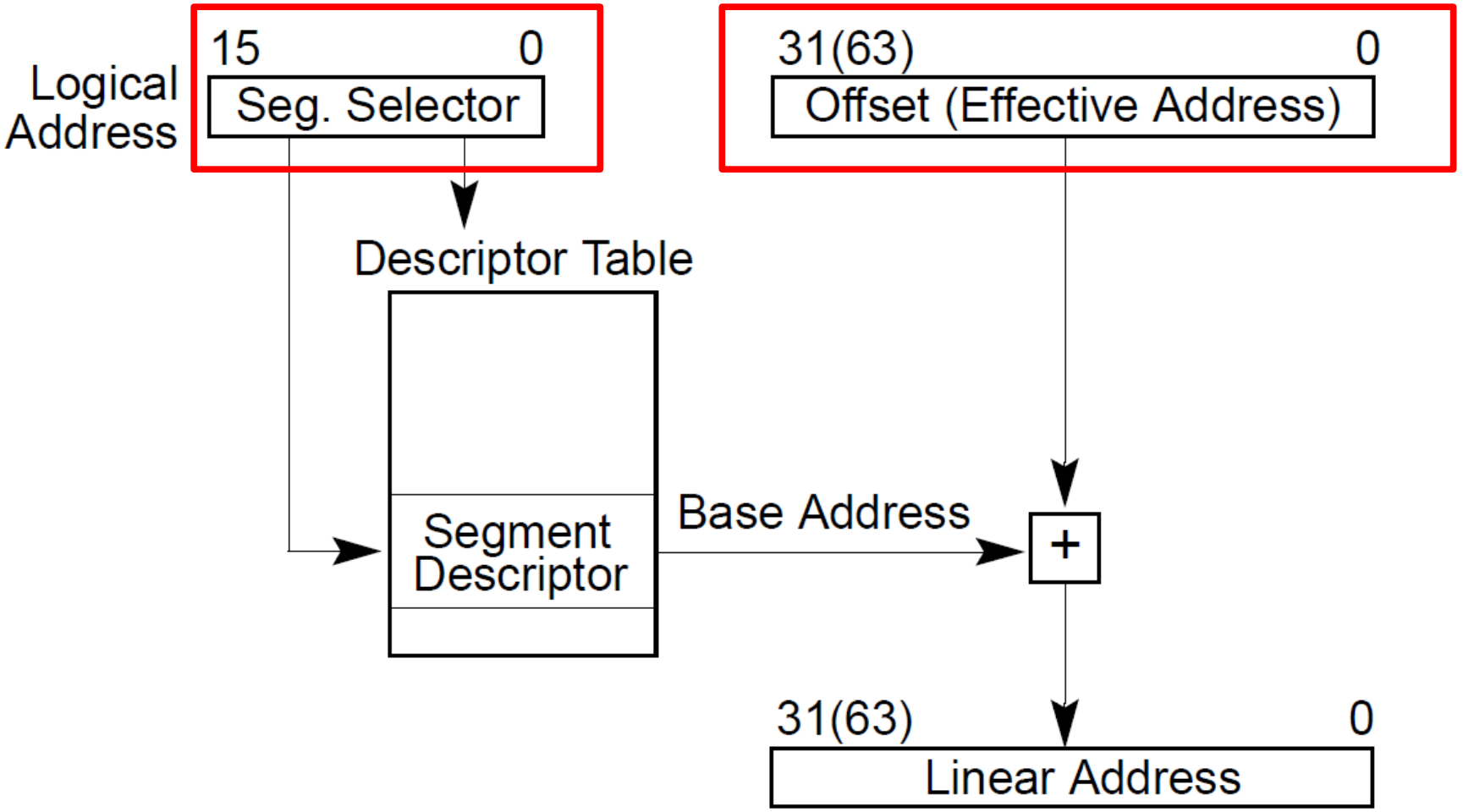


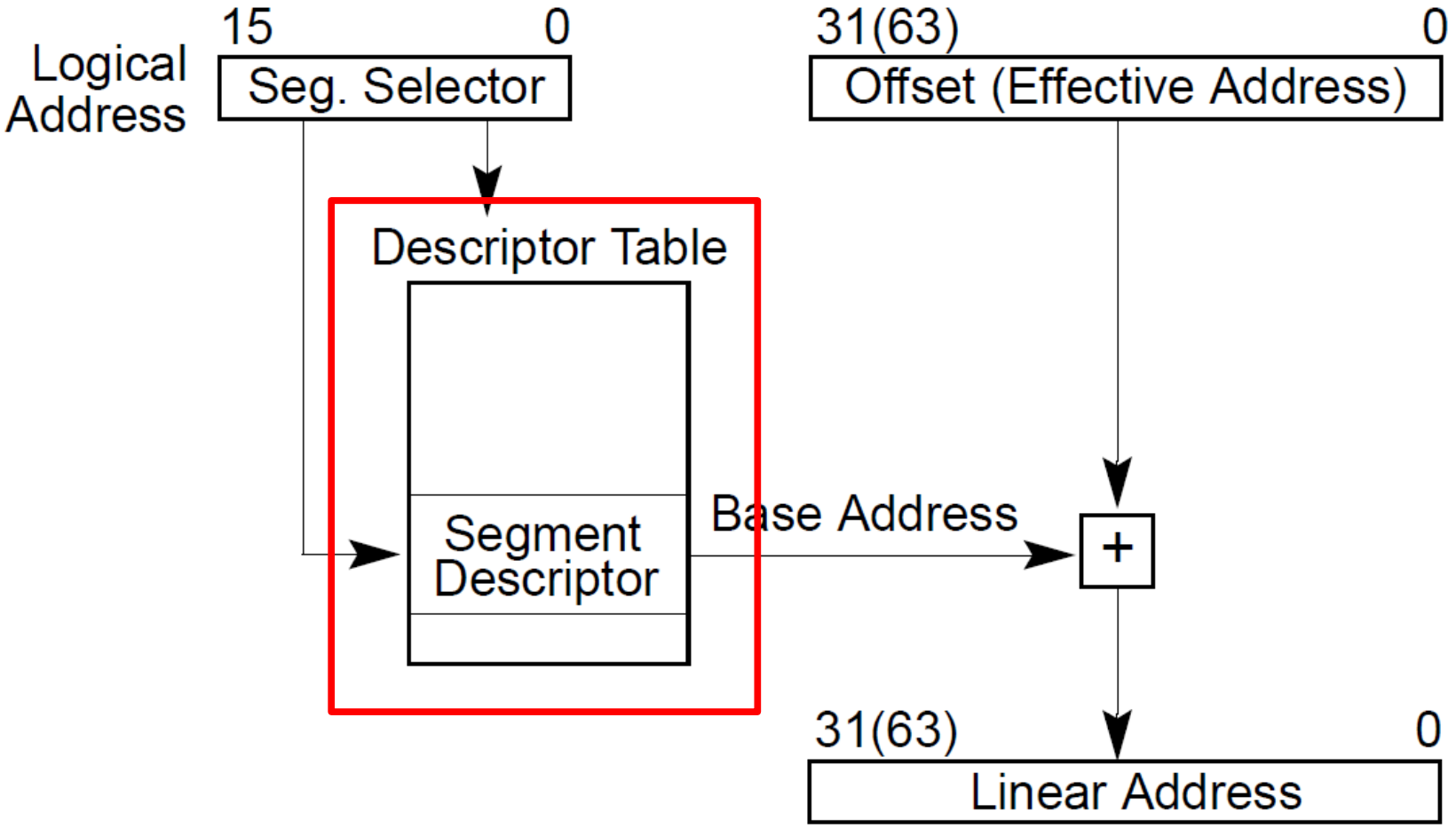
New addressing mode

All addresses are logical address

- They consist of two parts
  - Segment selector (16 bit) + offset (32 bi

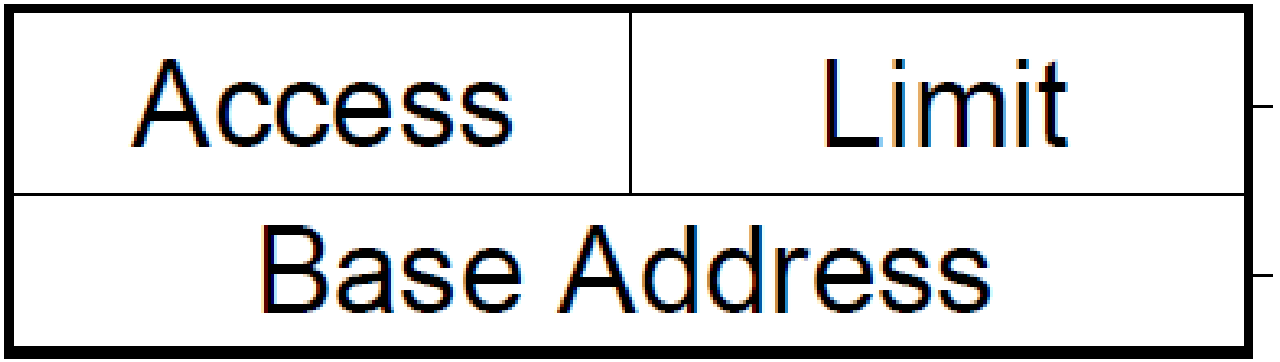


- Segment selector (16 bit)
  - Is simply an index into an array (Descriptor Table)
  - That holds segment descriptors
    - Base and limit (size) for each segment

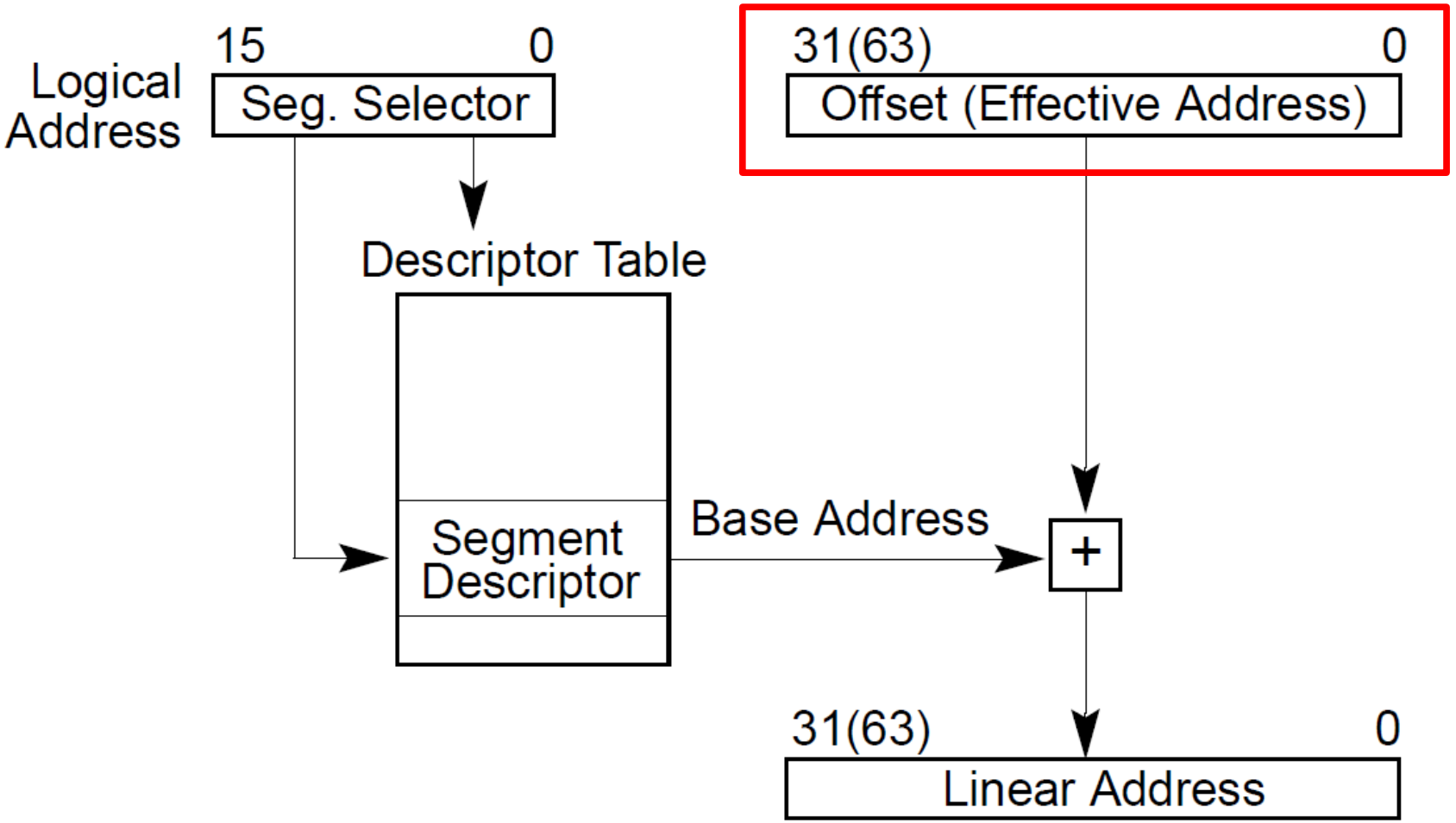


Elements of the descriptor table are **segment descriptors**

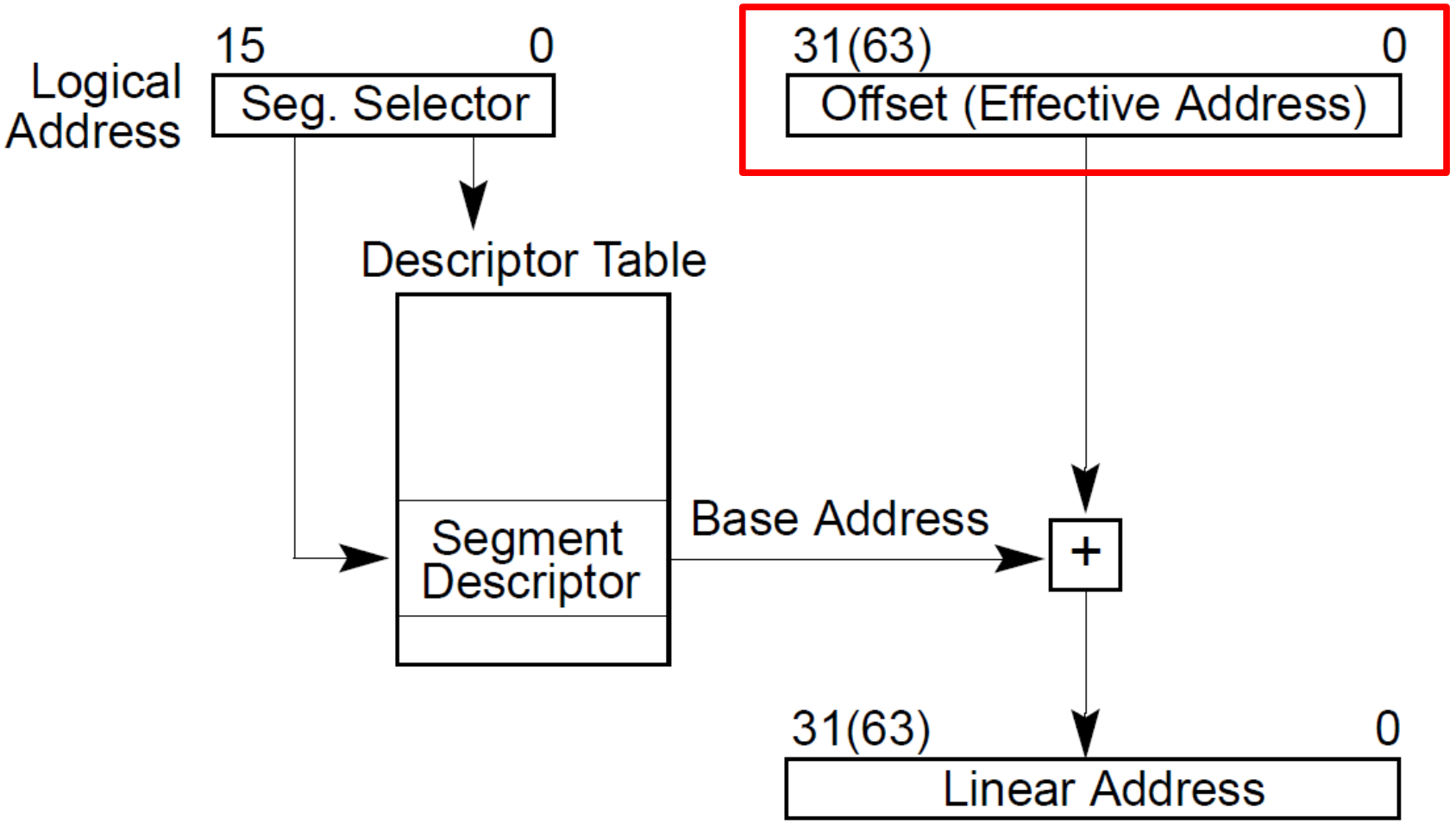
- Base address
  - 0 – 4 GB
- Limit (size)
  - 0 – 4 GB
- Access rights
  - Executable, readable, writable
  - Privilege level (0 - 3)



- Offsets into segments (x in our example) or “Effective addresses” are in registers



- Logical addresses are translated into physical
  - *Effective address + DescriptorTable[selector].Base*



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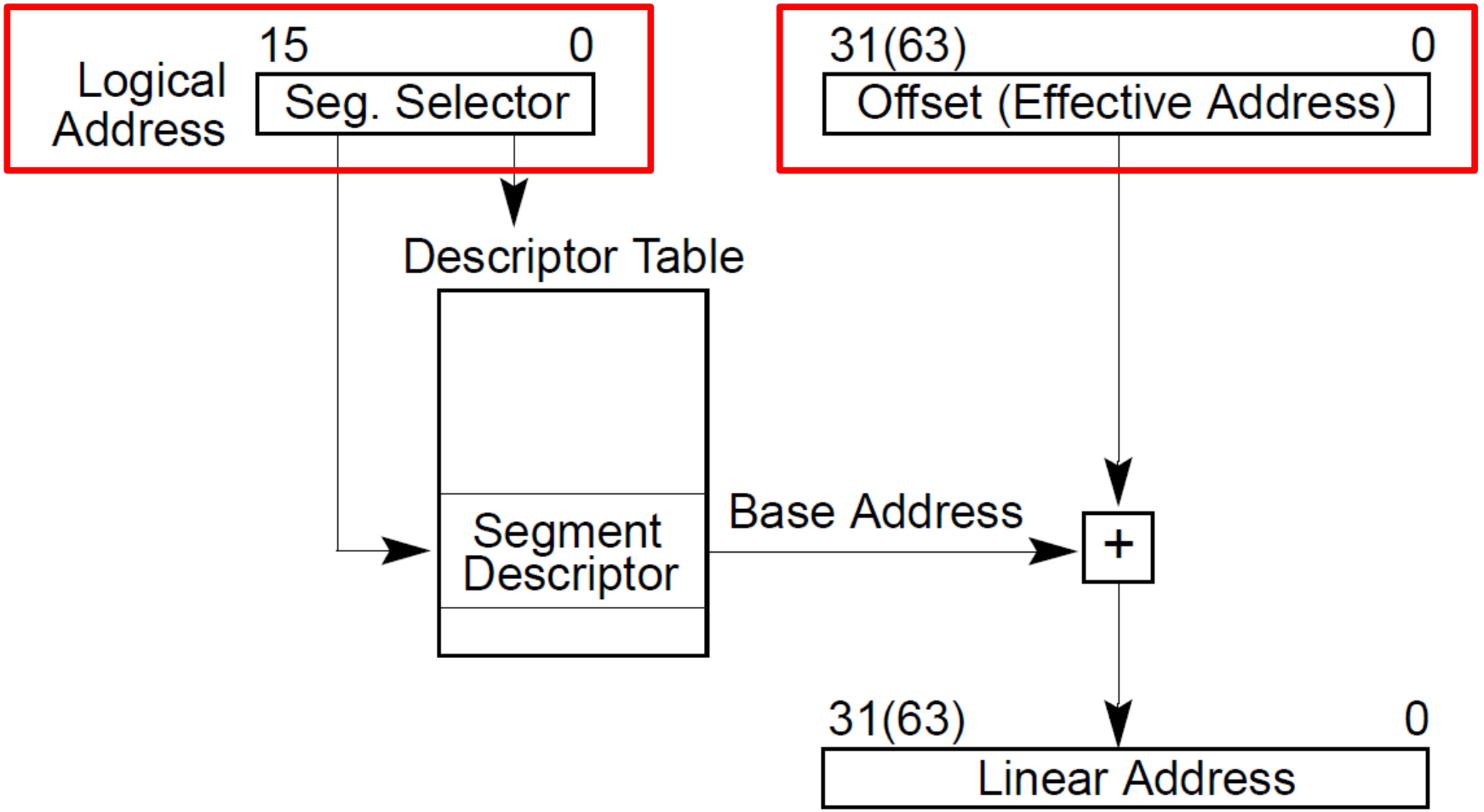

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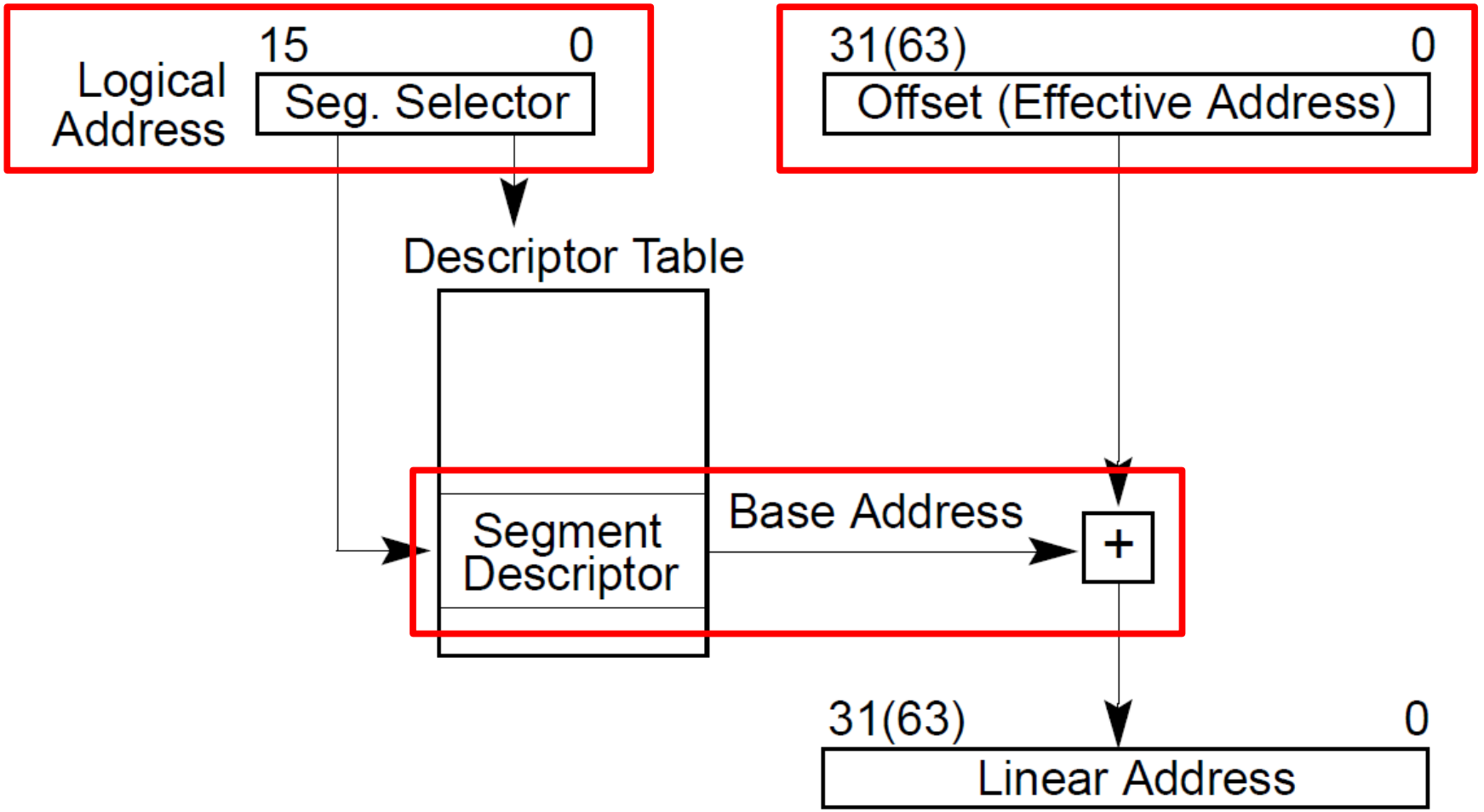

- Logical addresses are translated into physical
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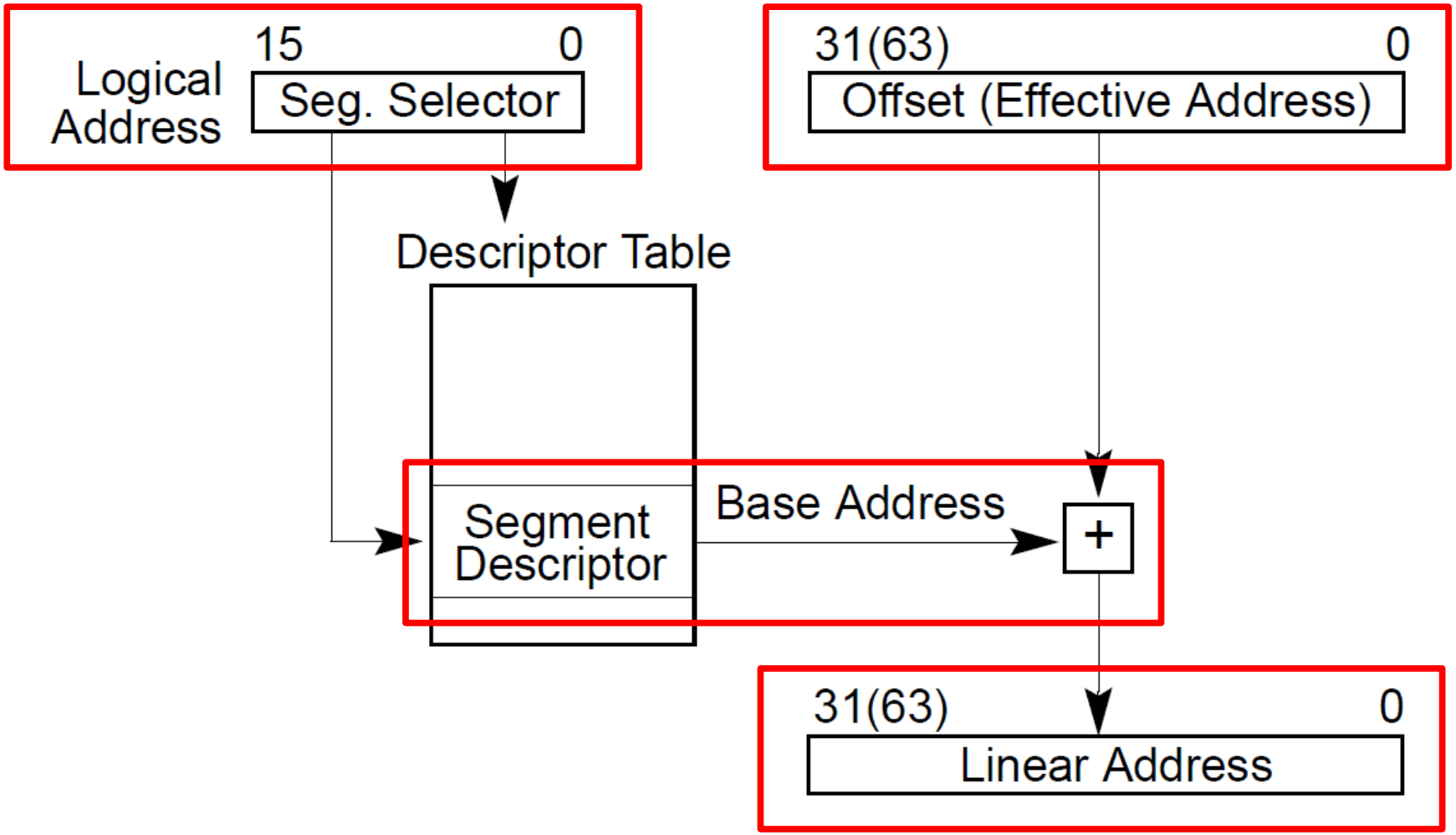
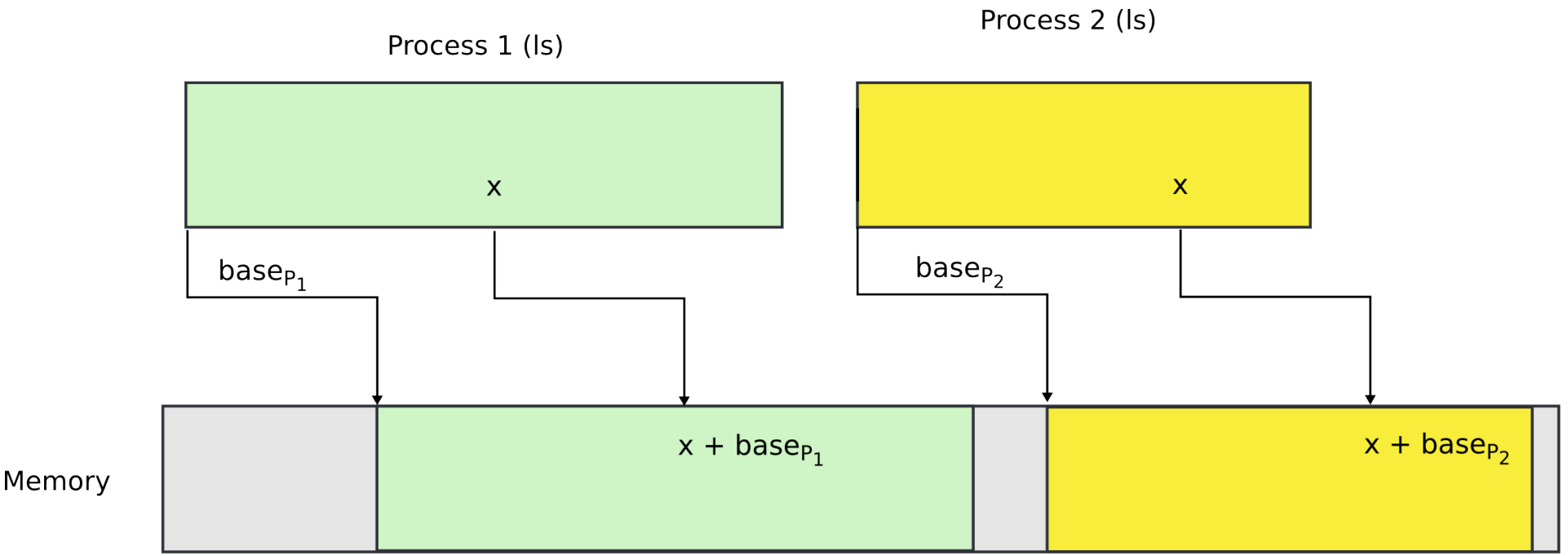


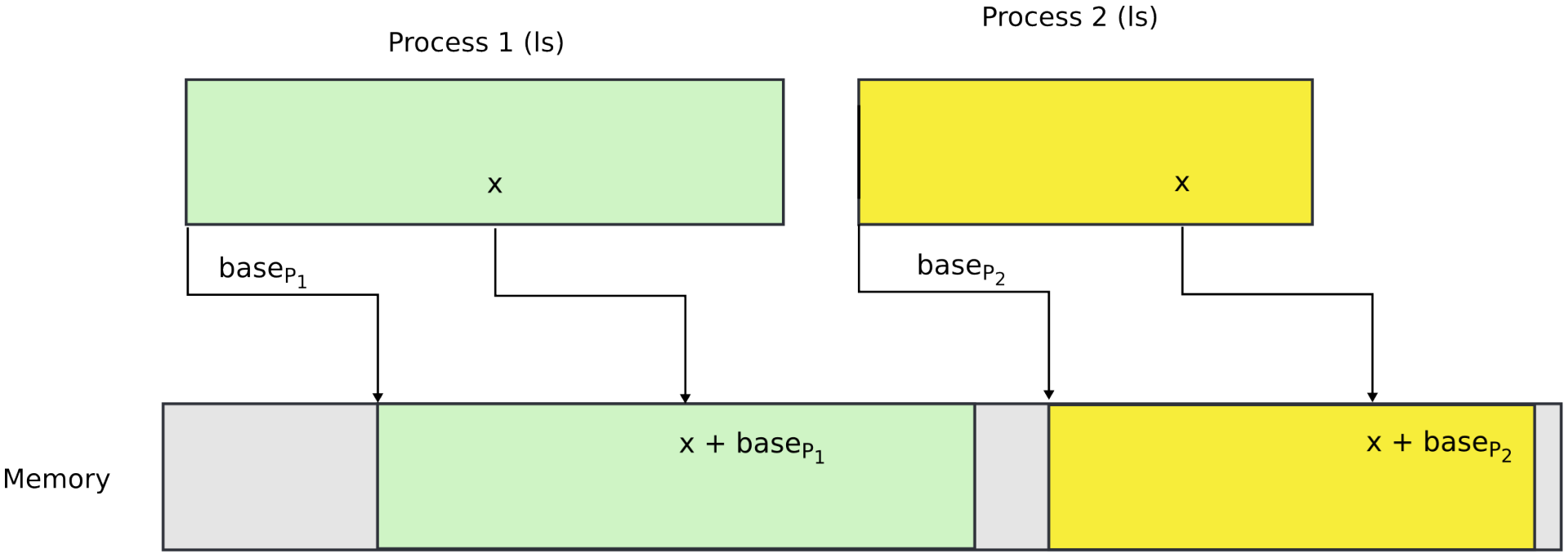
- *Physical address =*

  Effective address + DescriptorTable[selector].Base

  - Effective addresses (or offsets) are in registers
  - **Selector is in a special register**



- Offsets (effective addresses) are in registers
  - *Effective address + DescriptorTable[selector].Base*
  - **But where is the selector?**



Segment registers

- Hold 16 bit segment selectors
  - Pointers into a special table
  - Global or local descriptor table
- Segments are associated with one of three types of storage
  - Code
  - Data
  - Stack

Segmented programming (not real)

```
static int x = 1;
int y; // stack
if (x) {
    y = 1;
    printf (“Boo”);
} else
    y = 0;
```

```
ds:x = 1; // data
ss:y;     // stack
if (ds:x) {
   ss:y = 1;
   cs:printf(ds:“Boo”);
} else
   ss:y = 0;
```

Programming model

- Segments for: code, data, stack, “extra”
  - A program can have up to 6 total segments
  - Segments identified by registers: cs, ds, ss, es, fs, gs

- Prefix all memory accesses with desired segment:
  - `mov eax, ds:0x80` (load offset 0x80 from data into eax)
  - `jmp cs:0xab8` (jump execution to code offset 0xab8)
  - `mov ss:0x40, ecx` (move ecx to stack offset 0x40)

Programming model, cont.

- This is cumbersome,
- Instead the idea is: infer code, data and stack segments from the instruction type:
  - Control-flow instructions use code segment (jump, call)
  - Stack management (push/pop) uses stack
  - Most loads/stores use data segment
- Extra segments (es, fs, gs) must be used explicitly

Code segment

- Code
  - CS register
  - EIP is an offset inside the segment stored in CS
- Can only be changed with
  - procedure calls,
  - interrupt handling, or
  - task switching

Data segment

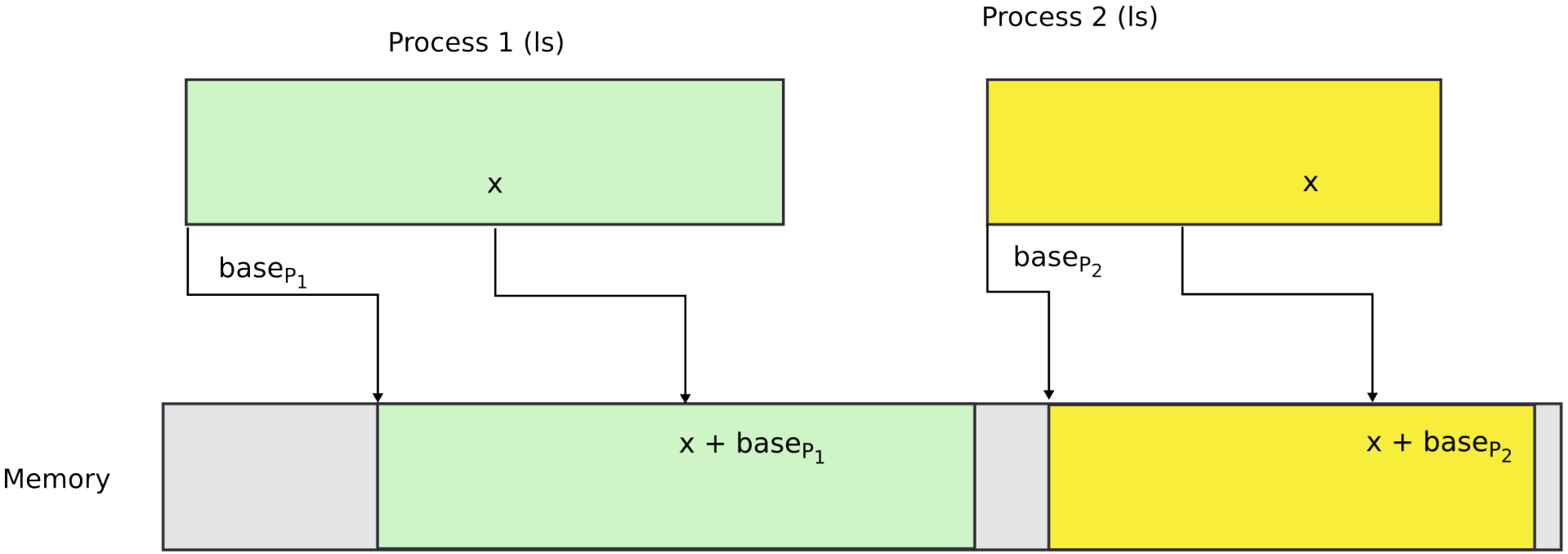
- Data
  - DS, ES, FS, GS
  - 4 possible data segments can be used at the same time

Stack segment

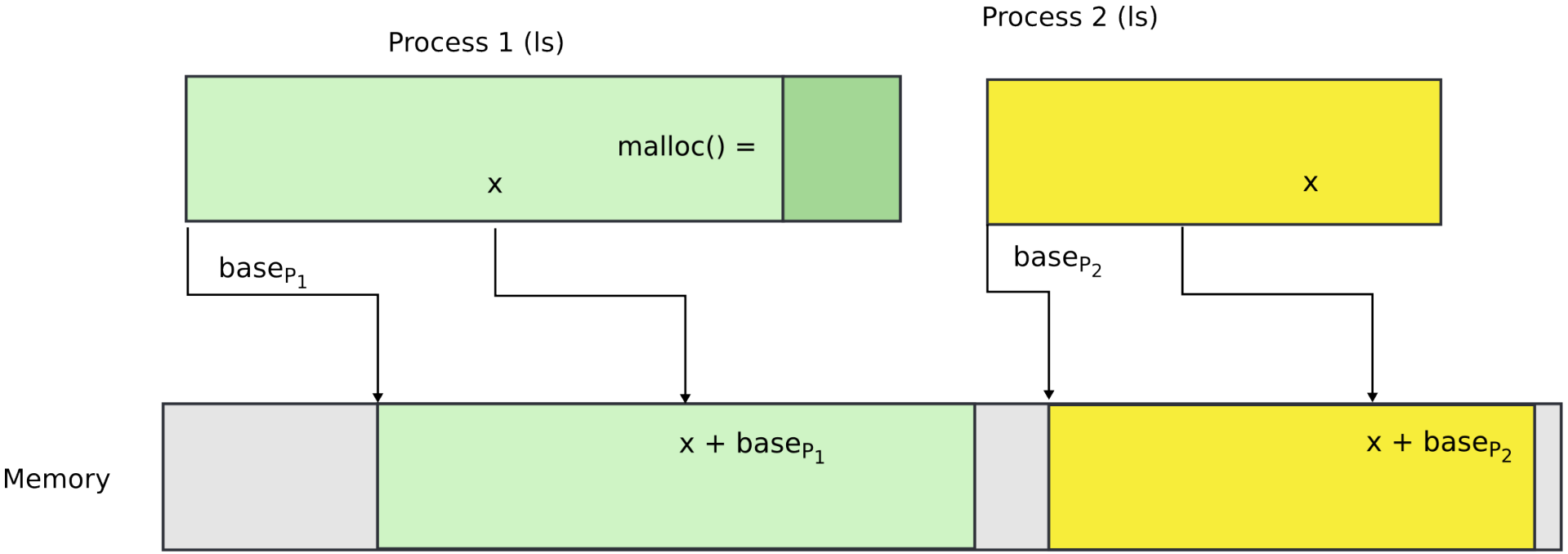
- Stack
  - SS
- Can be loaded explicitly
  - OS can set up multiple stacks
  - Of course, only one is accessible at a time

Segmentation works for isolation, i.e., it does provide programs with illusion of private memory

Segmentation is ok... but



What if process needs more memory?



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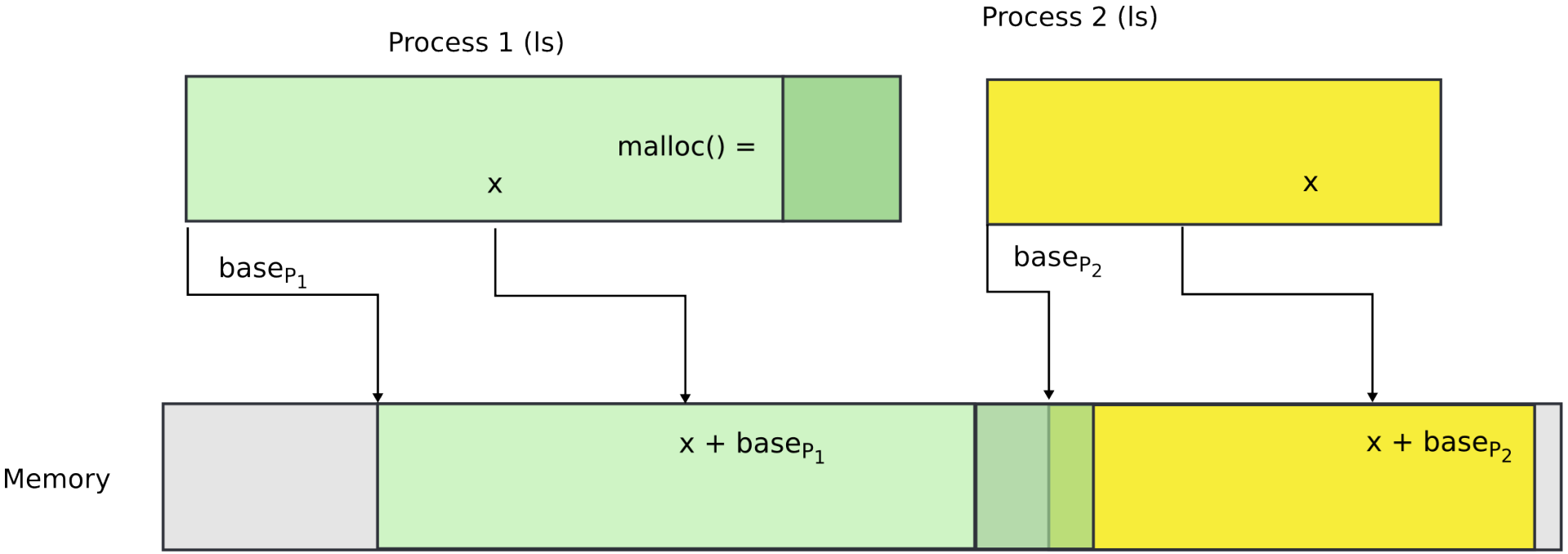
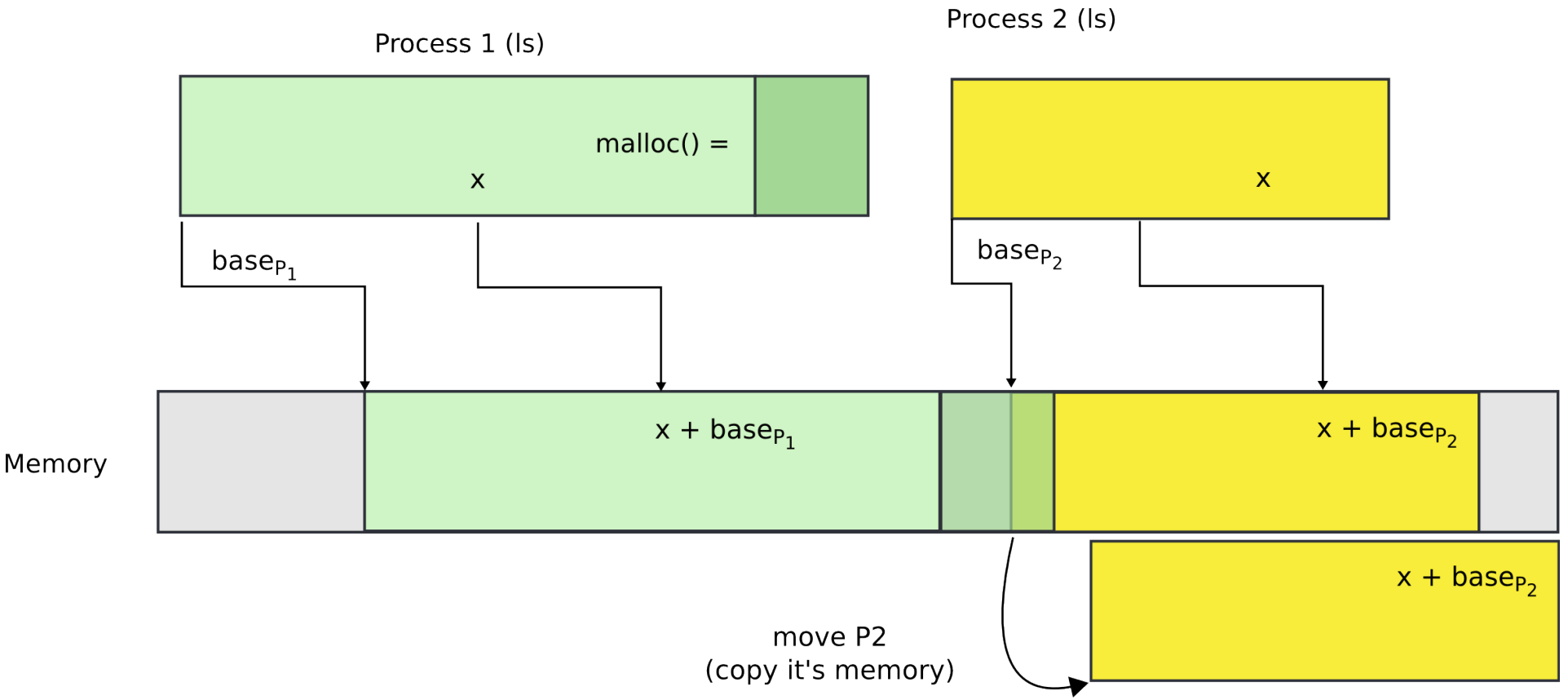
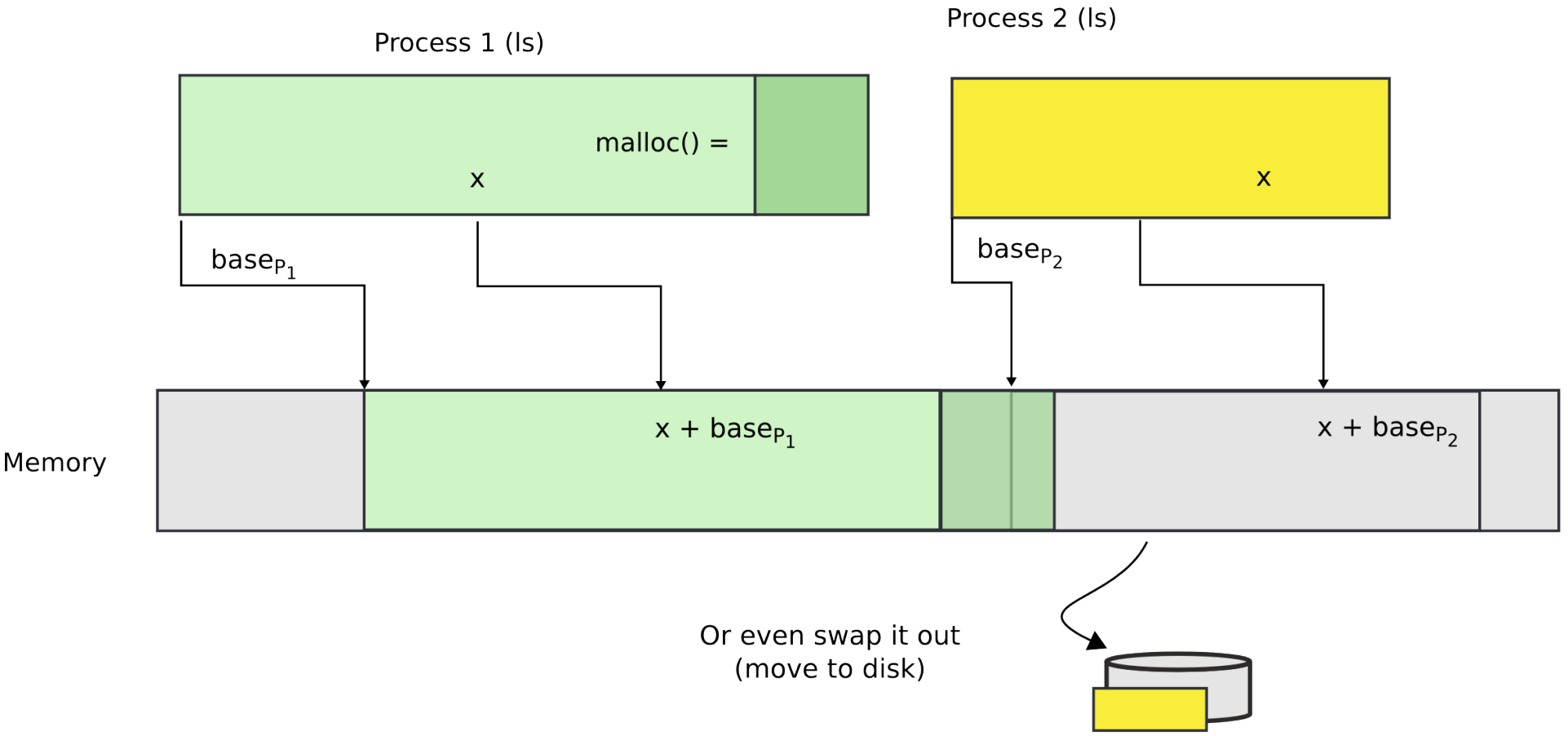


You can move P2 in memory



Or even swap it out to disk

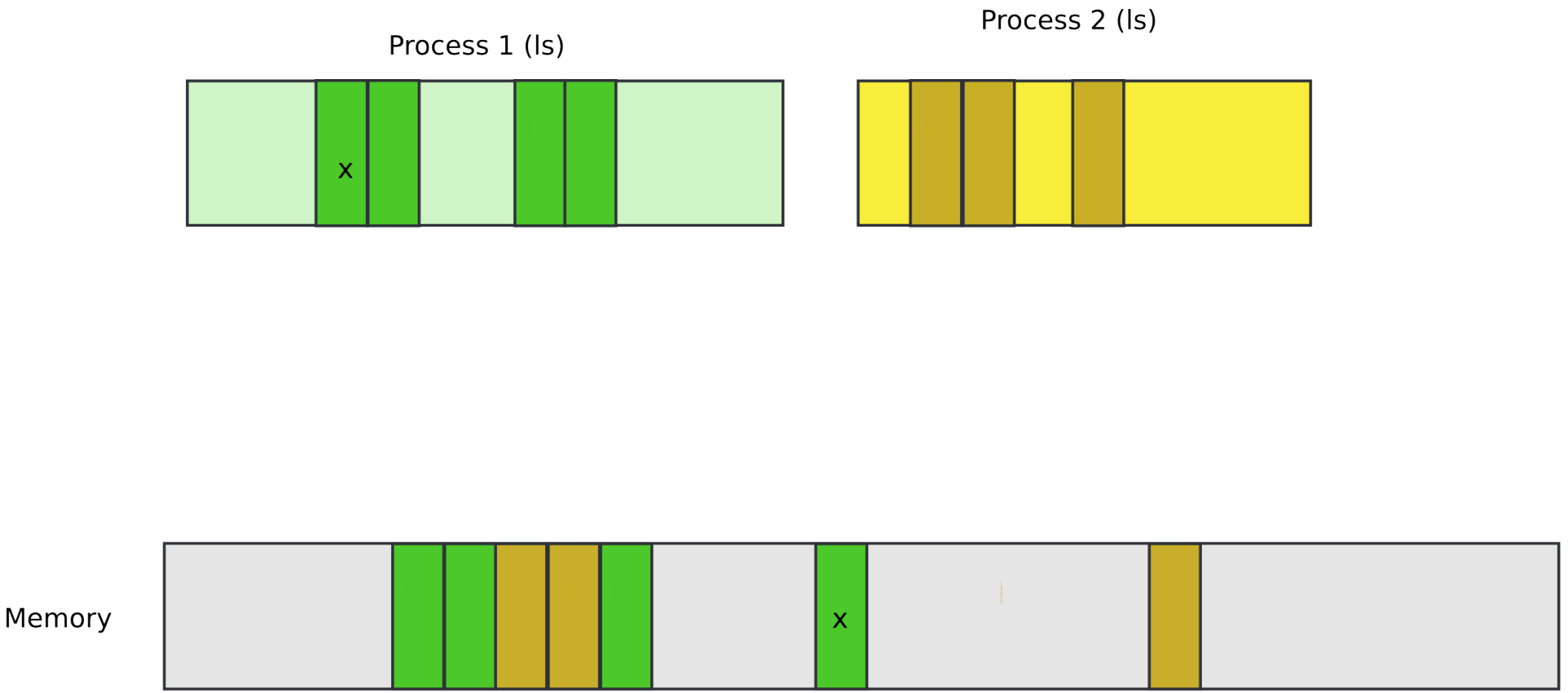


Problems with segments

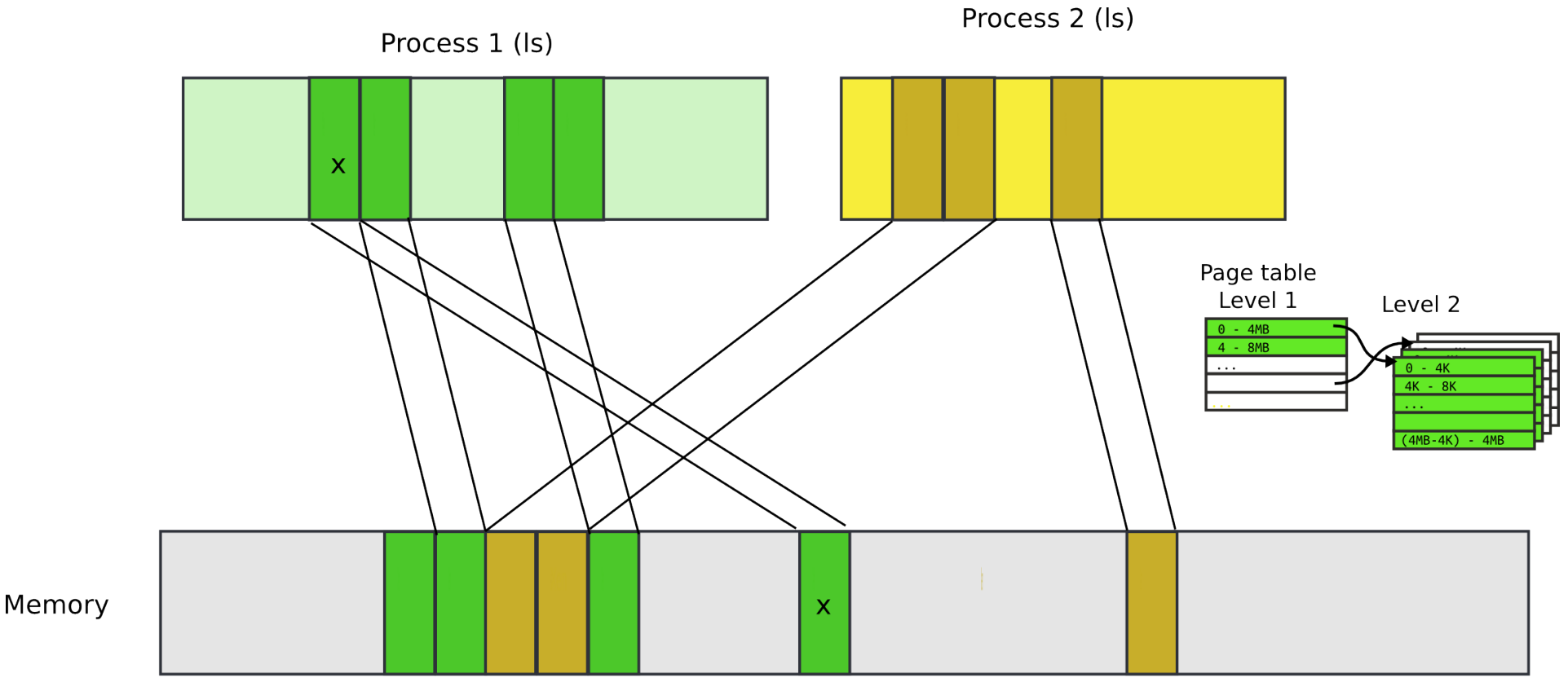
- But it's inefficient
  - Relocating or swapping the entire process takes time
- Memory gets fragmented
  - There might be no space (gap) for the swapped out process to come in
  - Will have to swap out other processes

Paging

Pages



Pages

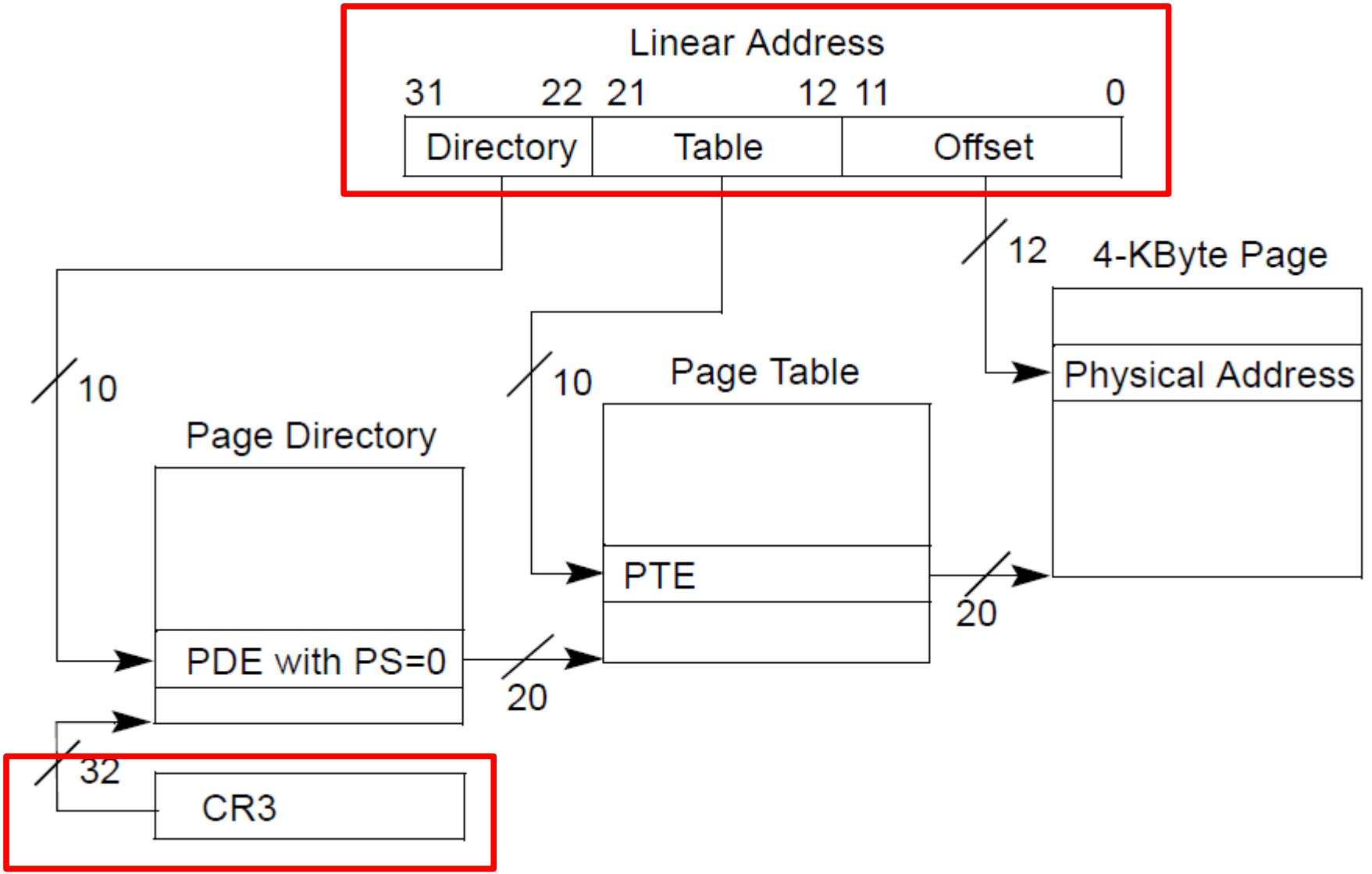

Process 1 (ls)
Process 2 (ls)
x
Page table
Level 1
Level 2
0 - 4MB
4 - 8MB
...
0 - 4K
4K - 8K
...
(4MB-4K) - 4MB
Memory
x

Paging idea

- Break up memory into 4096-byte chunks called pages
  - Modern hardware supports 2MB, 4MB, and 1GB pages
- Independently control mapping for each page of linear address space

- Compare with segmentation (single base + limit)
  - many more degrees of freedom

Page translation



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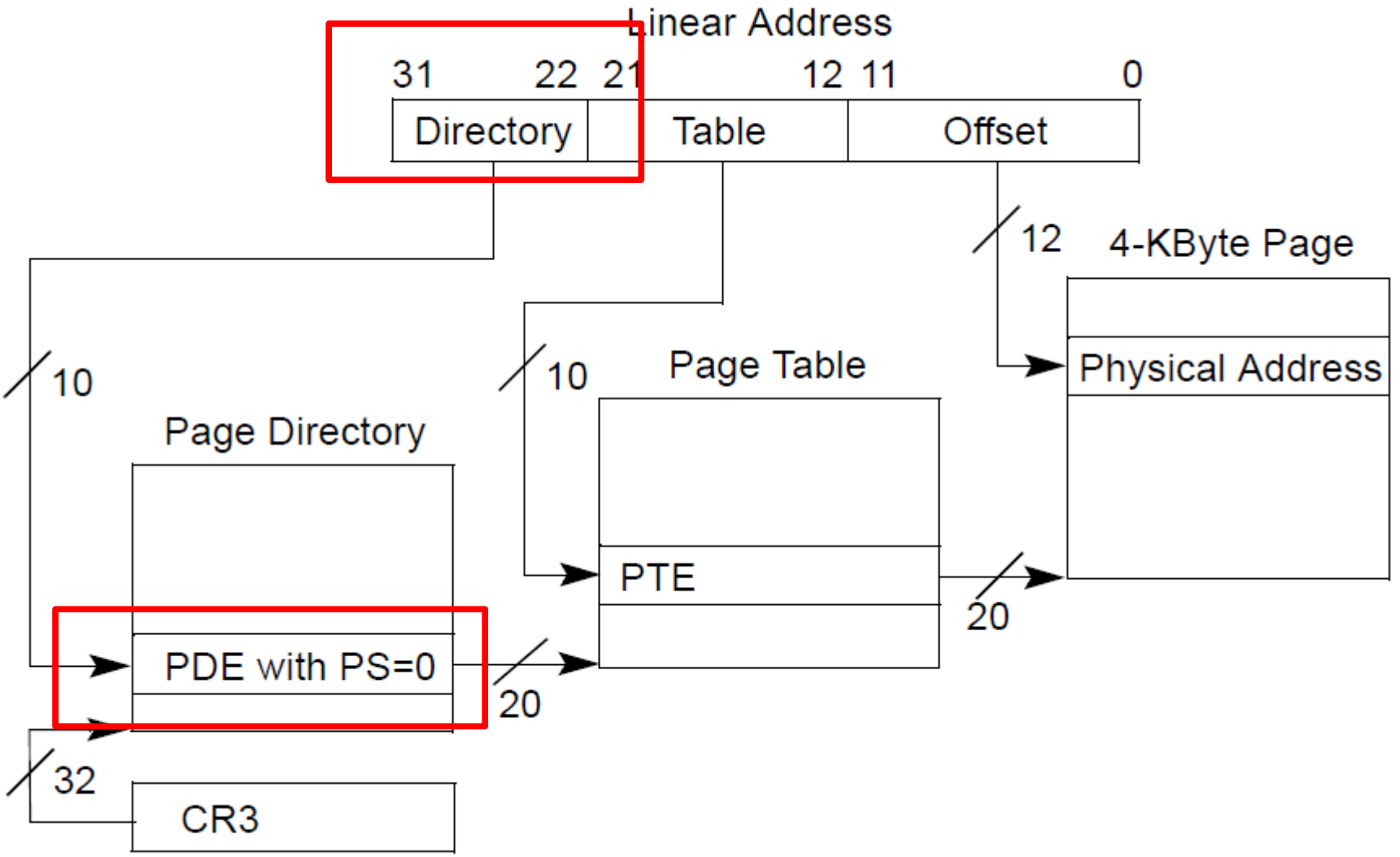
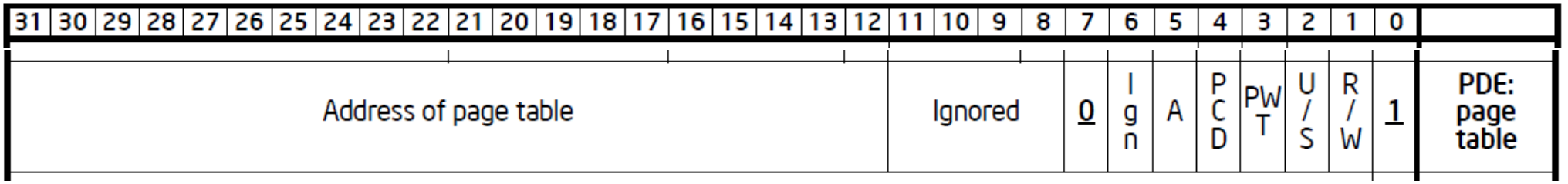
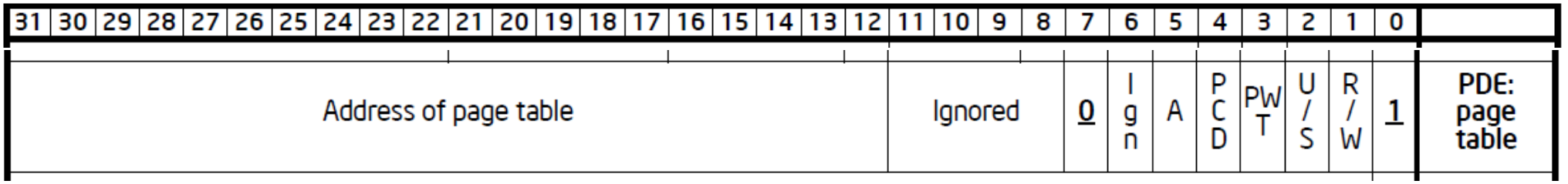


Page directory entry (PDE)



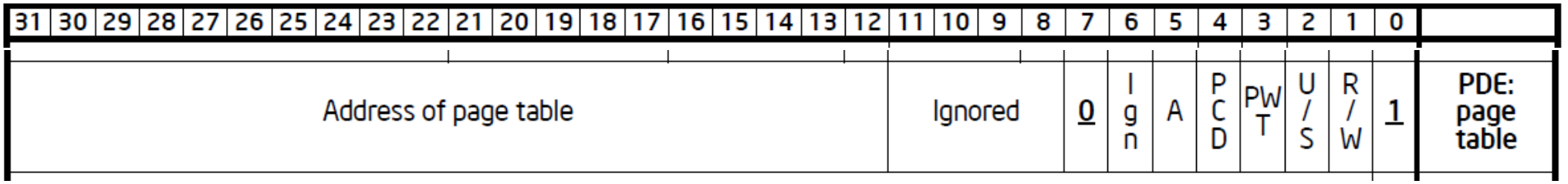
- 20 bit address of the page table

Page directory entry (PDE)



- 20 bit address of the page table
- Wait... 20 bit address, but we need 32 bits

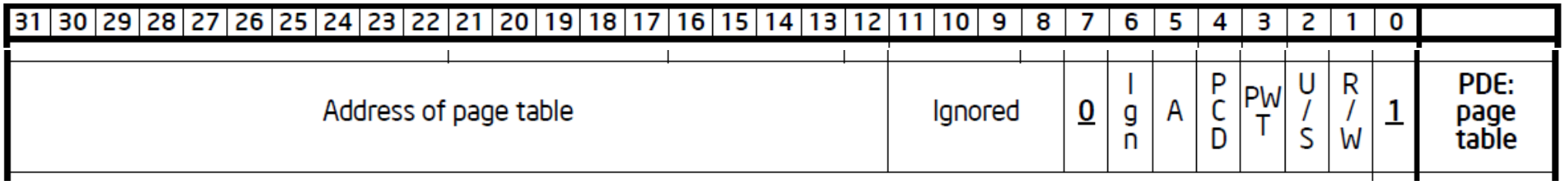
Page directory entry (PDE)



- 20 bit address of the page table
- Wait... 20 bit address, but we need 32 bits

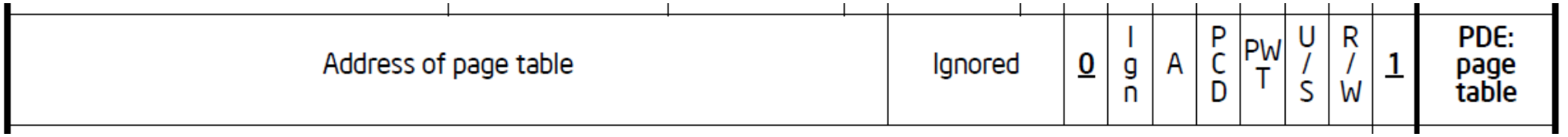
  - Pages 4KB each, we need 1M to cover 4GB
  - Pages start at 4KB (page aligned boundary)

Page directory entry (PDE)



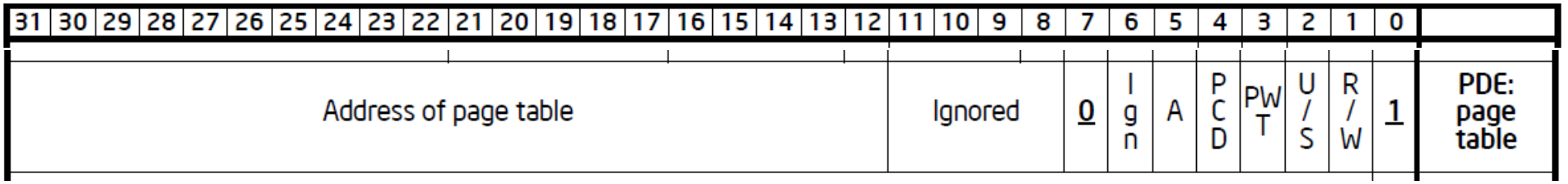
- Bit #1: R/W – writes allowed?
  - But allowed where?

Page directory entry (PDE)



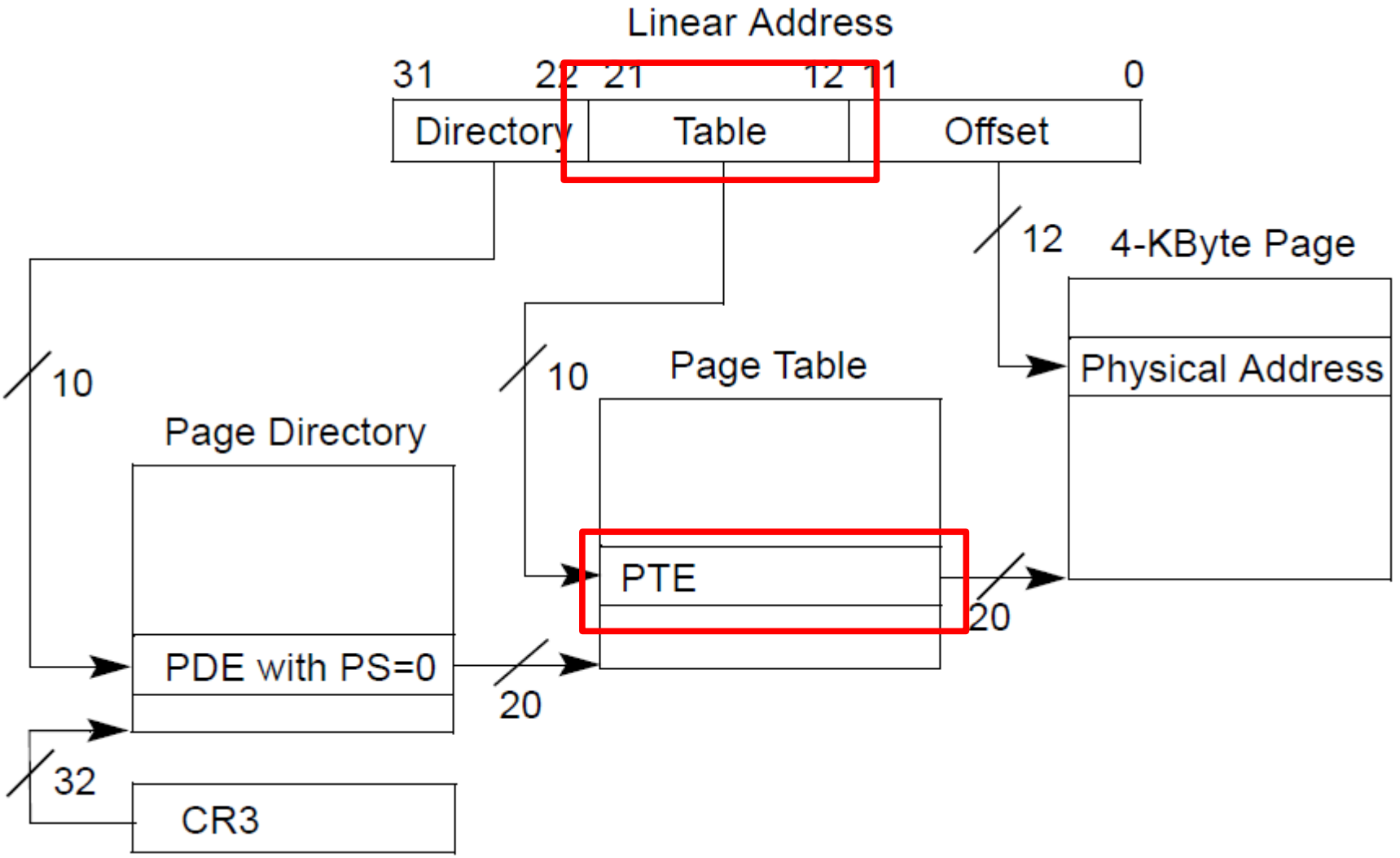
- Bit #1: R/W – writes allowed?
  - But allowed where?
  - One page directory entry controls 1024 Level 2 page tables
    - Each Level 2 maps 4KB page
  - So it's a region of 4KB x 1024 = 4MB

Page directory entry (PDE)

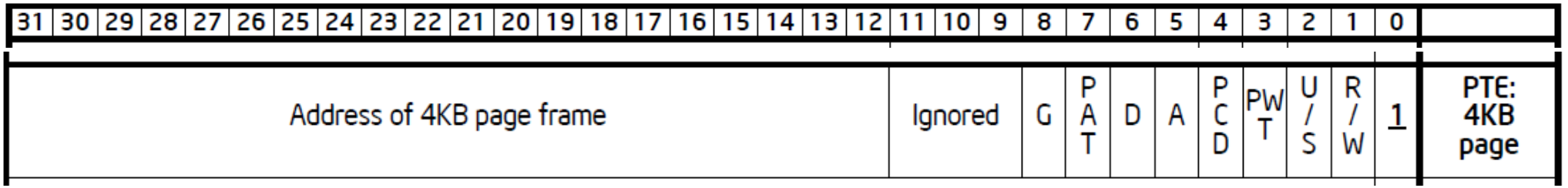


- Bit #2: U/S – user/supervisor
  - If 0 – user-mode access is not allowed
  - Allows protecting kernel memory from user-level applications

Page translation

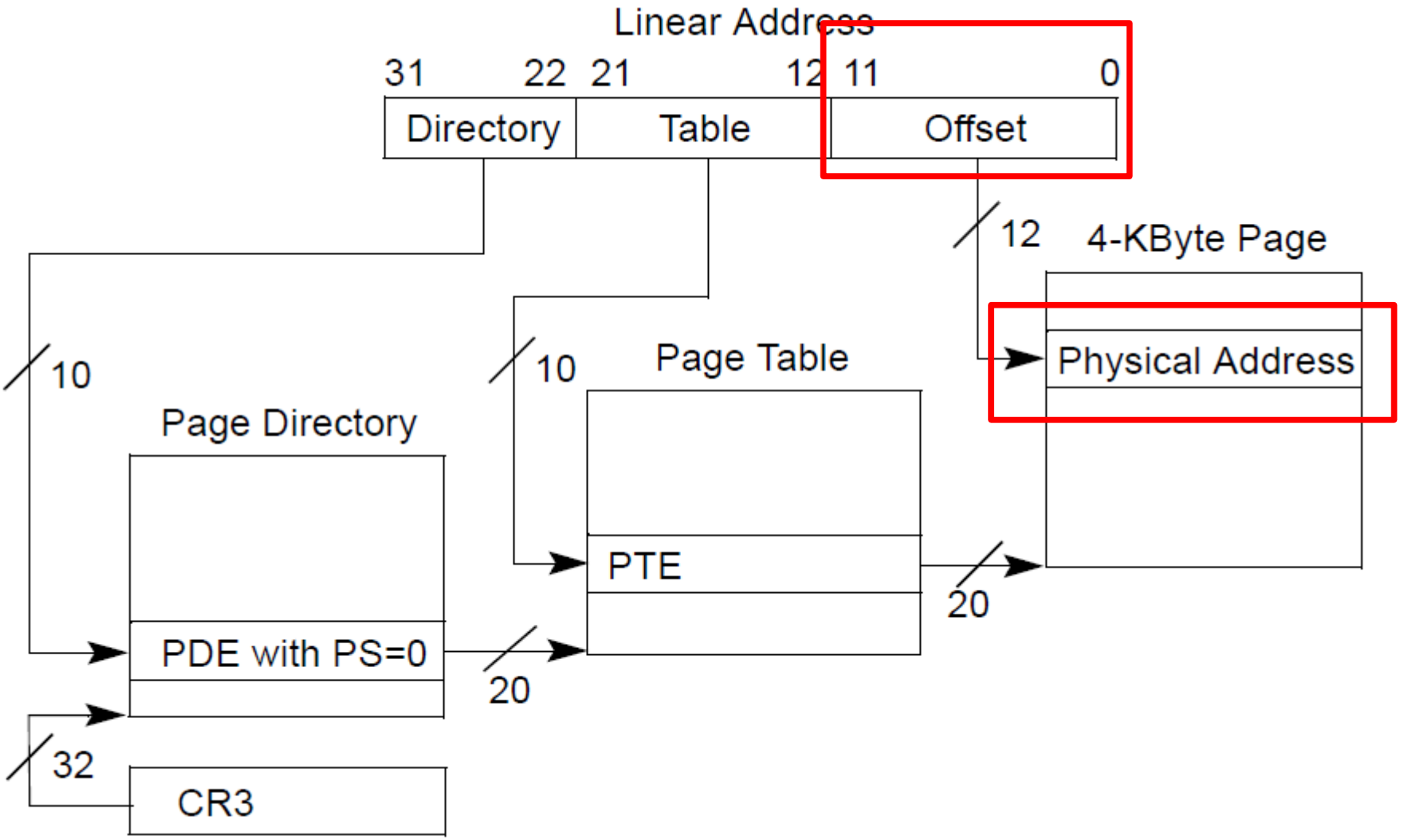


Page table entry (PTE)

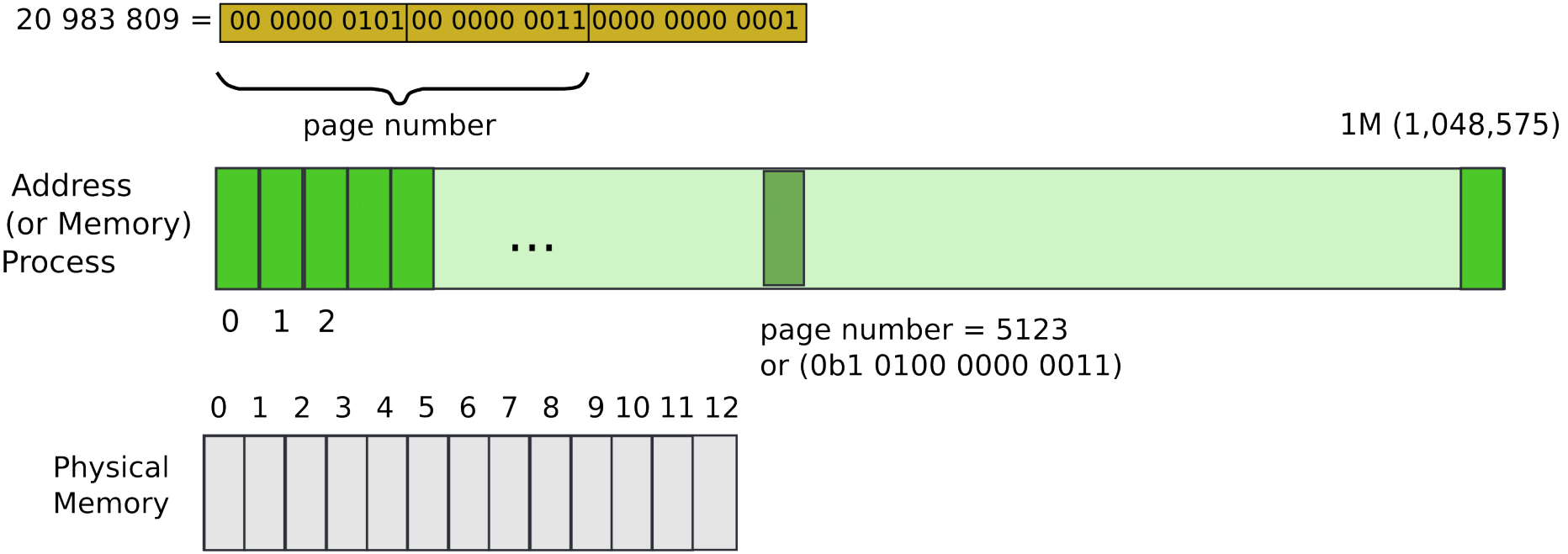


- 20 bit address of the 4KB page
  - Pages 4KB each, we need 1M to cover 4GB
- Bit #1: R/W – writes allowed?
  - To a 4KB page
- Bit #2: U/S – user/supervisor
  - If 0 user-mode access is not allowed
- Bit #5: A – accessed
- Bit #6: D – dirty – software has written to this page

Page translation



mov (%EBX), EAX # mov value from the location pointed by EBX into EAX
EAX = 0
EBX = 20 983 809



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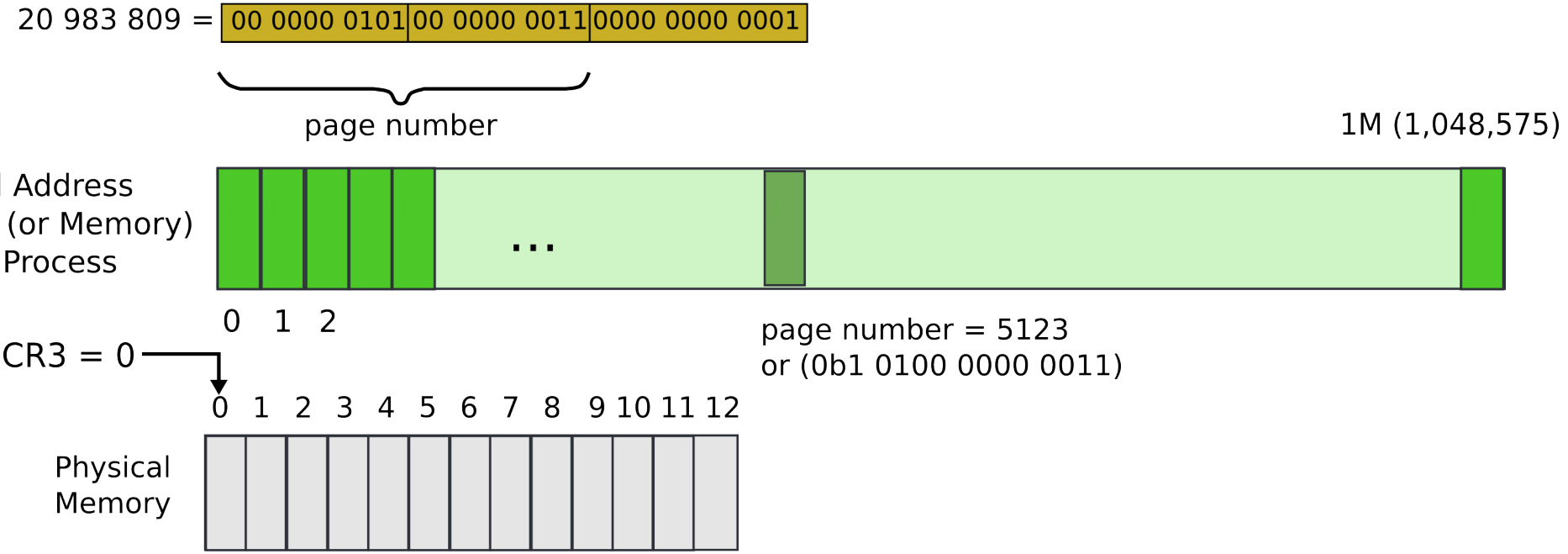

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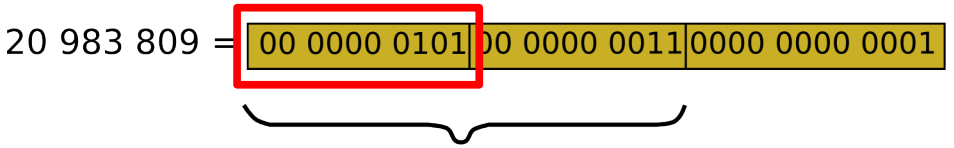
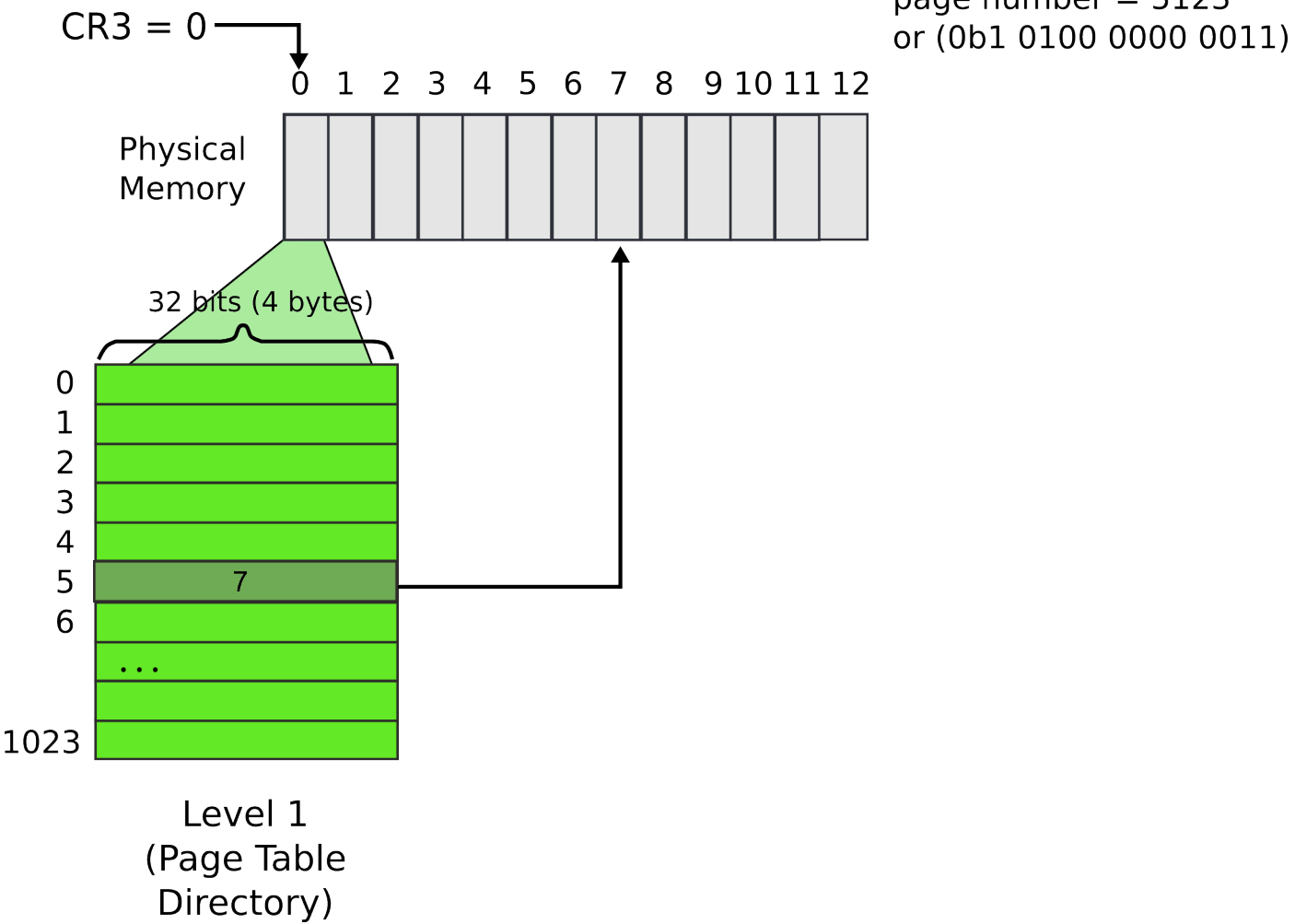


1M (1,048,575)

page number = 5123
or (0b1 0100 0000 0011)



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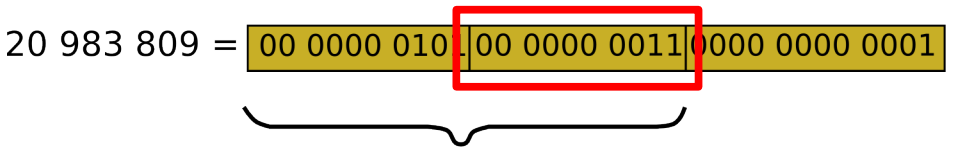

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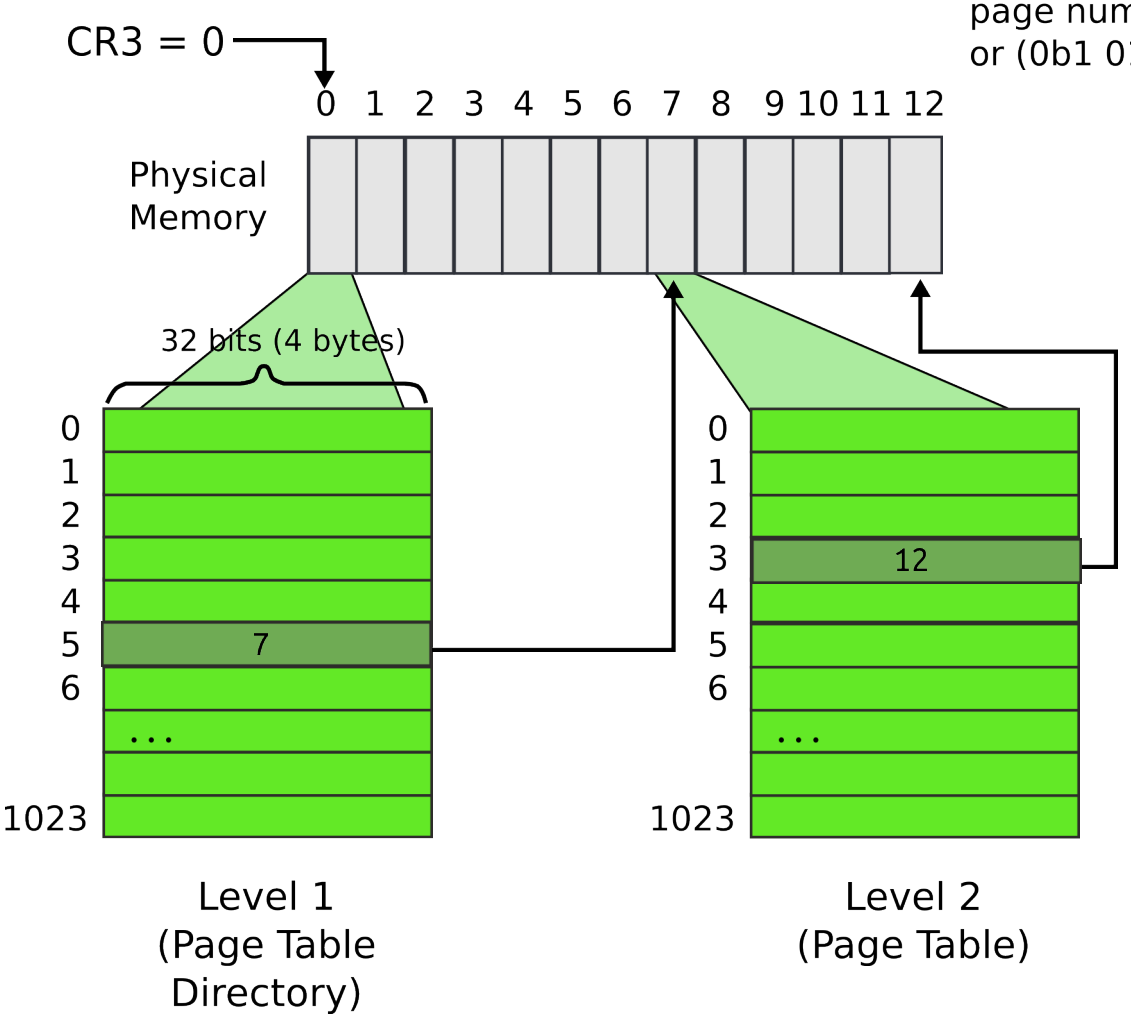
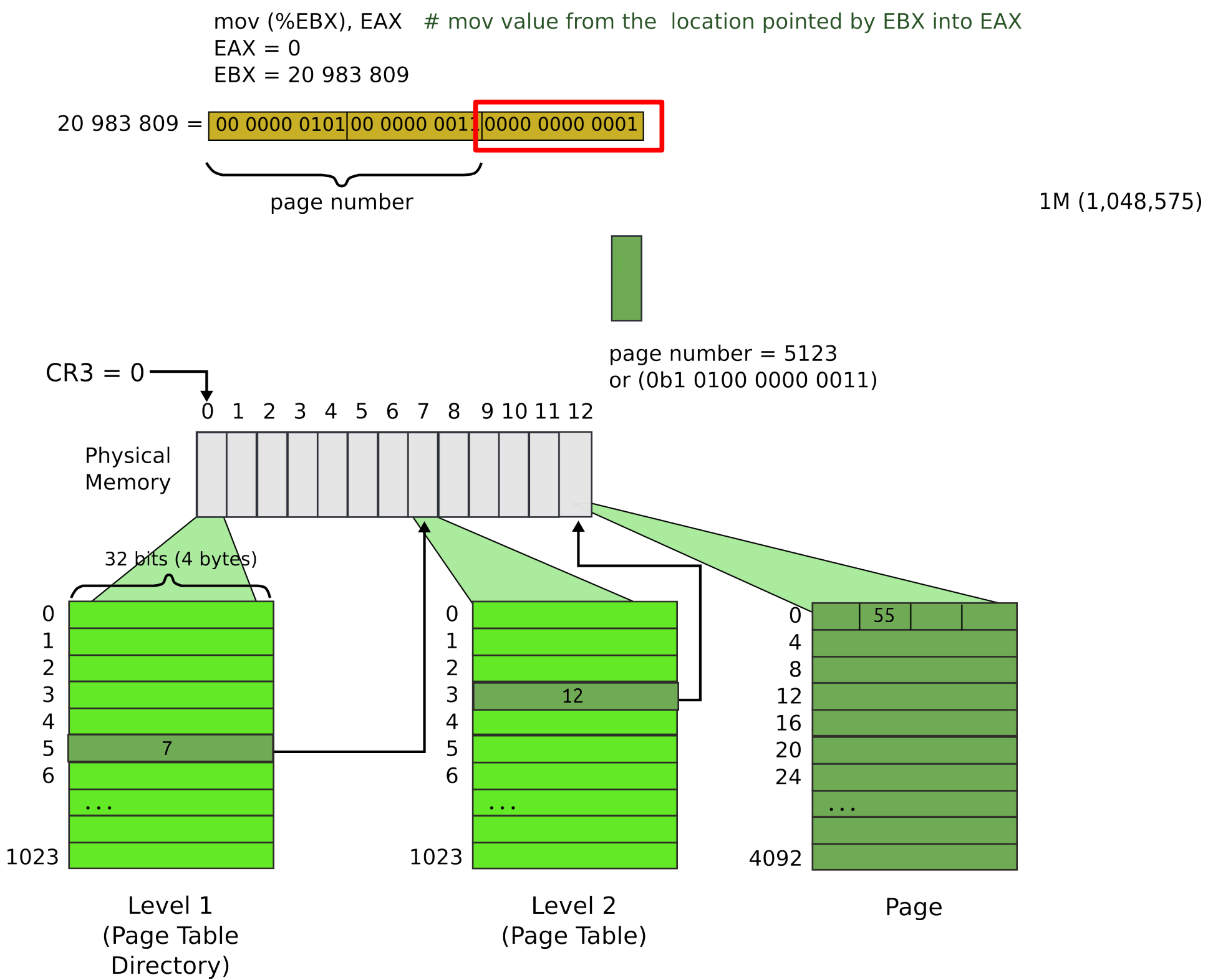



mov (%EBX), EAX # mov value from the location pointed by EBX into EAX
EAX = 0
EBX = 20 983 809
20 983 809 =
00 0000 0101
00 0000 0011
0000 0000 0001
page number
1M (1,048,575)
page number = 5123
or (0b1 0100 0000 0011)
CR3 = 0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Physical Memory
32 bits (4 bytes)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
...
1023
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
12
...
1023
0
4
8
12
16
20
24
55
...
4092
Level 1 (Page Table Directory)
Level 2 (Page Table)
Page

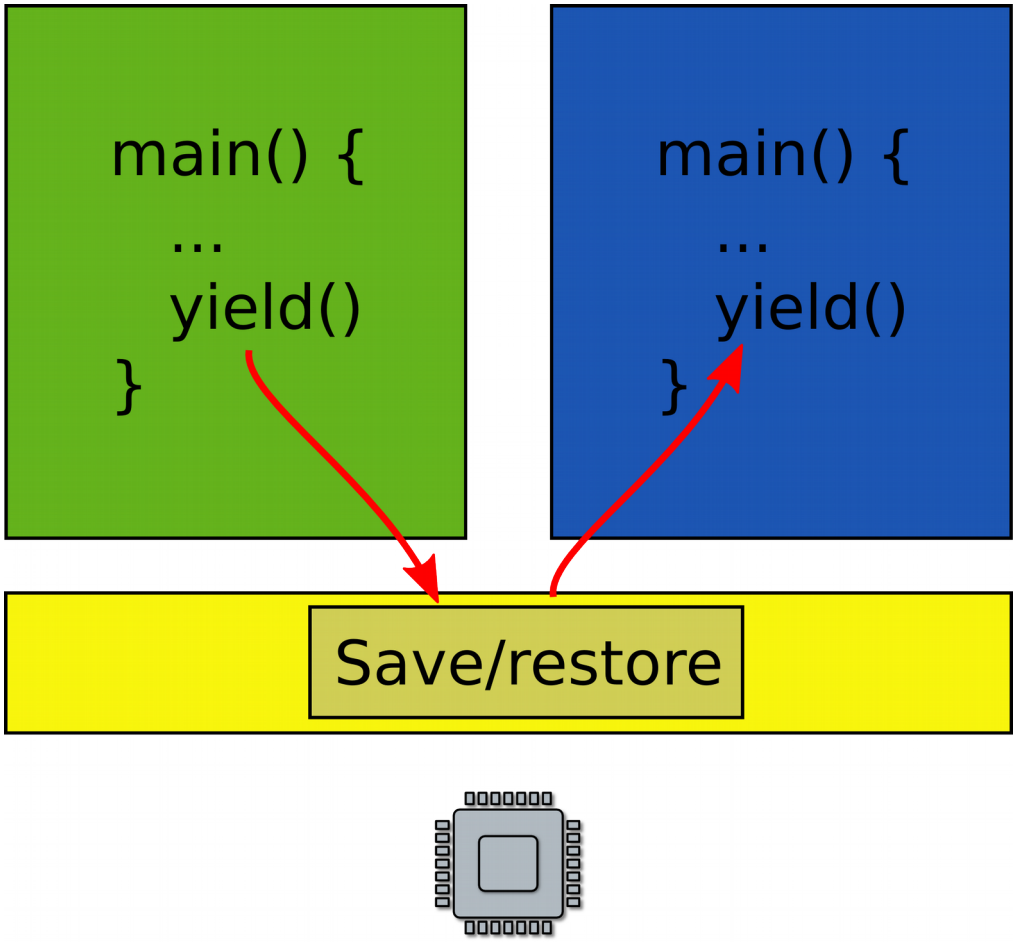
- Result:
  - EAX = 55

But why do we need page tables

… Instead of arrays?

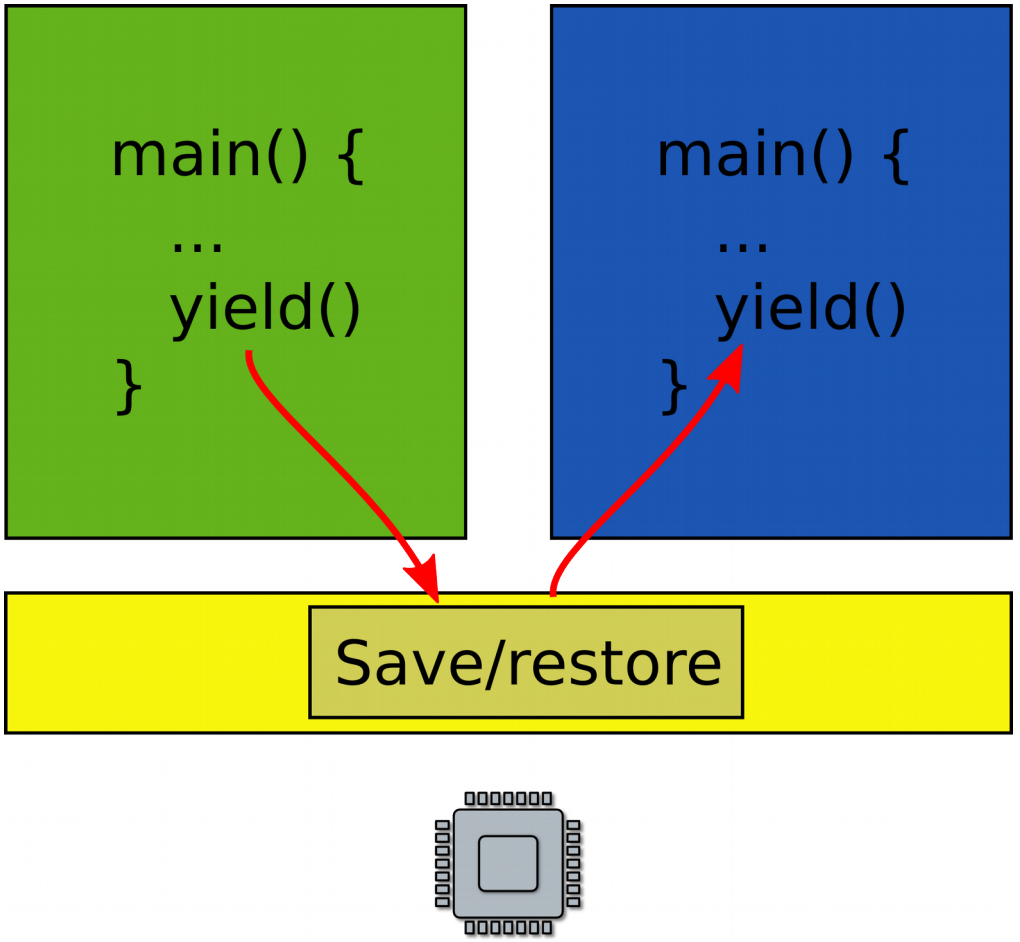
- Page tables represent sparse address space more efficiently
  - An entire array has to be allocated upfront
  - But if the address space uses a handful of pages
  - Only page tables (Level 1 and 2 need to be allocated to describe translation)
- On a dense address space this benefit goes away
  - I'll assign a homework!

What about isolation?

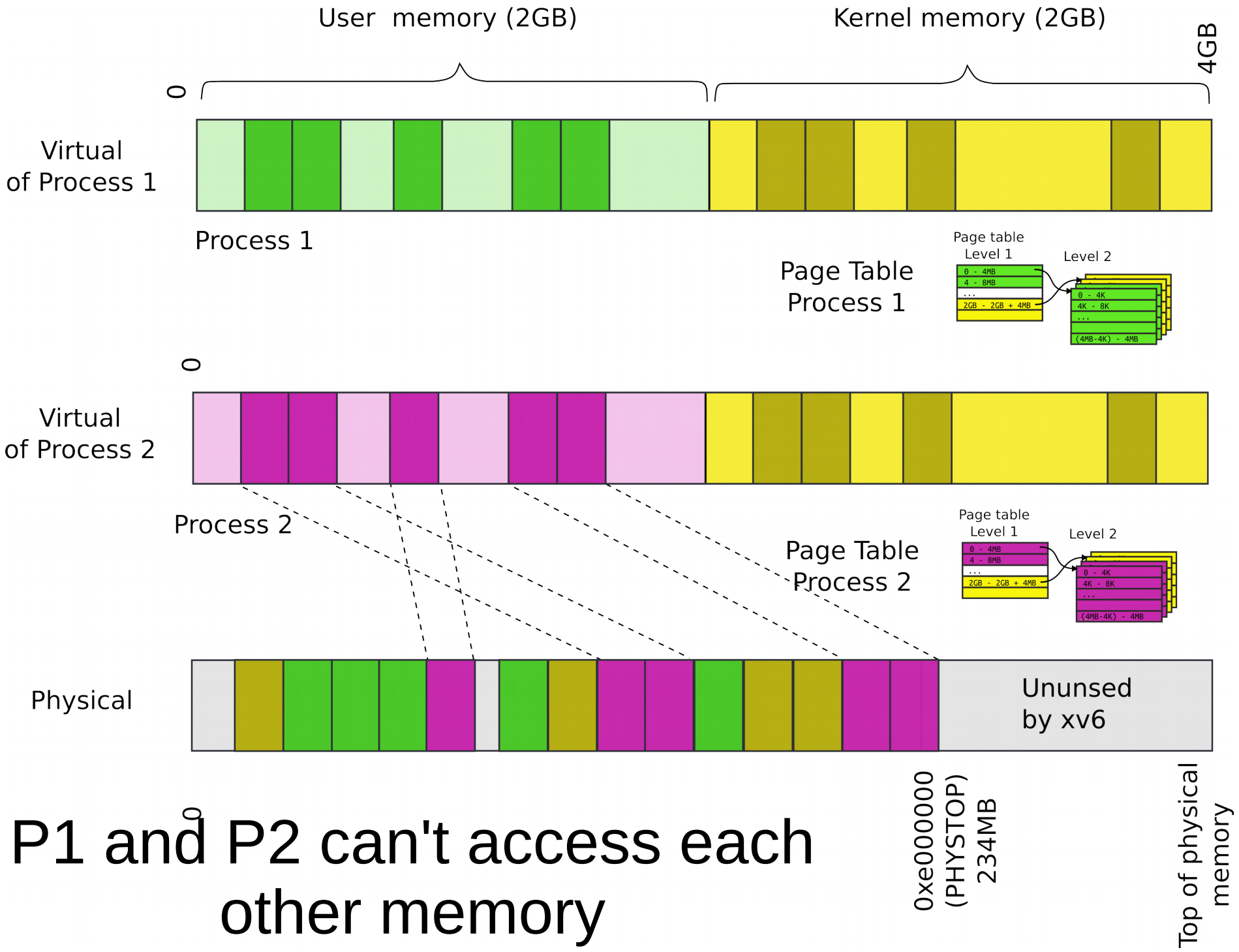


- Two programs, one memory?

What about isolation?



- Two programs, one memory?
- Each process has its own page table
  - OS switches between them



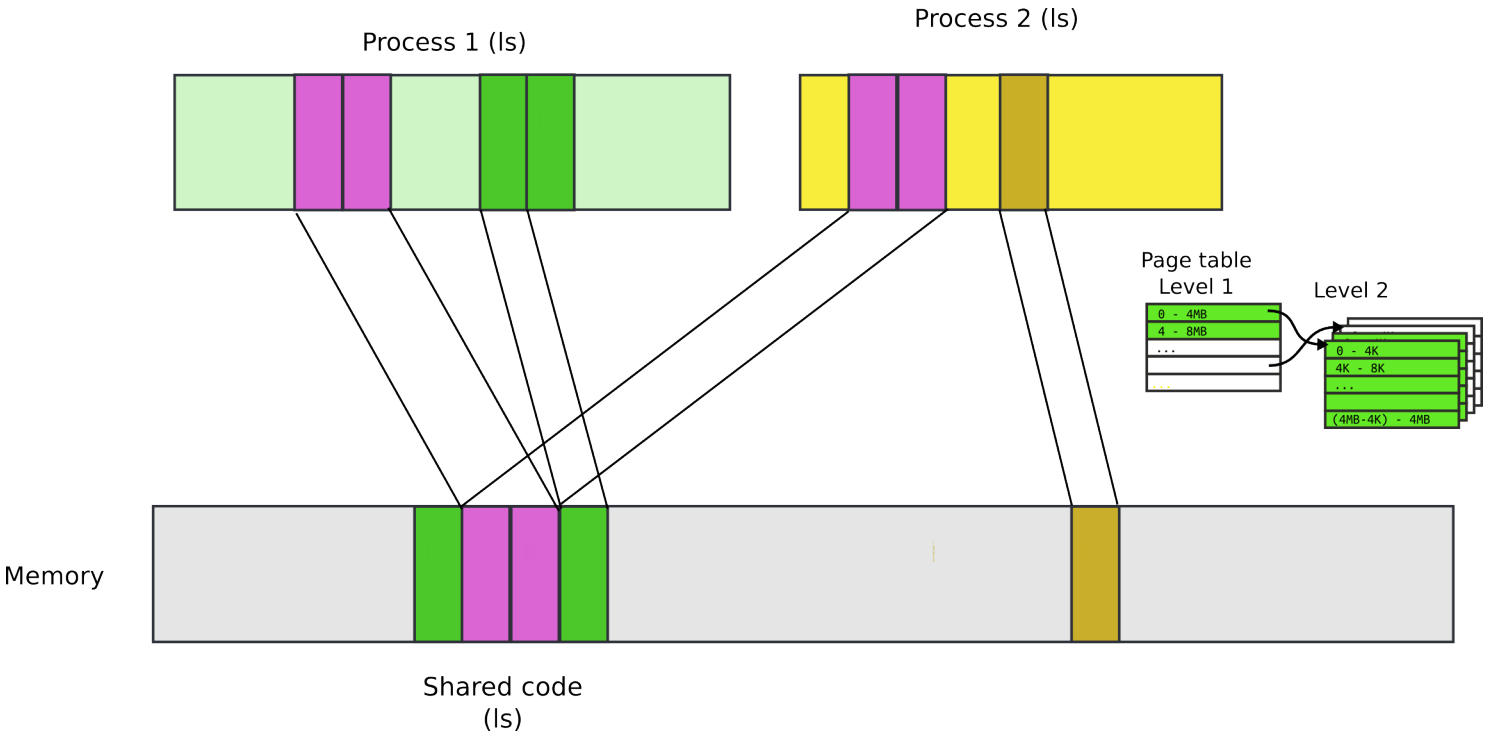
P1 and P2 can't access each other memory

Compared to segments pages allow ...

- Emulate large virtual address space on a smaller physical memory
  - In our example we had only 12 physical pages
  - But the program can access all 1M pages in its 4GB address space
  - The OS will move other pages to disk

Compared to segments pages allow ...

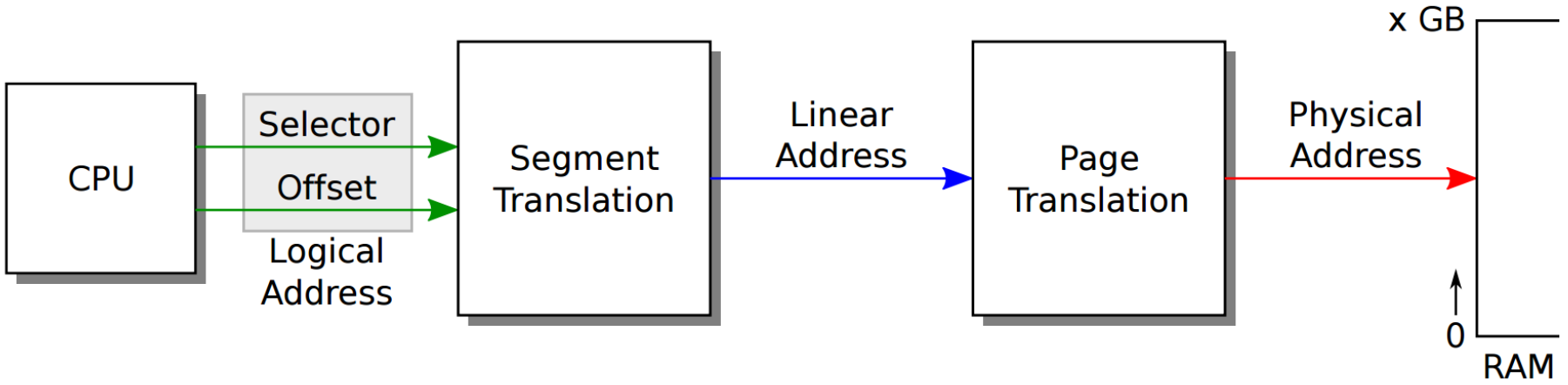
- Share a region of memory across multiple programs
  - Communication (shared buffer of messages)
  - Shared libraries

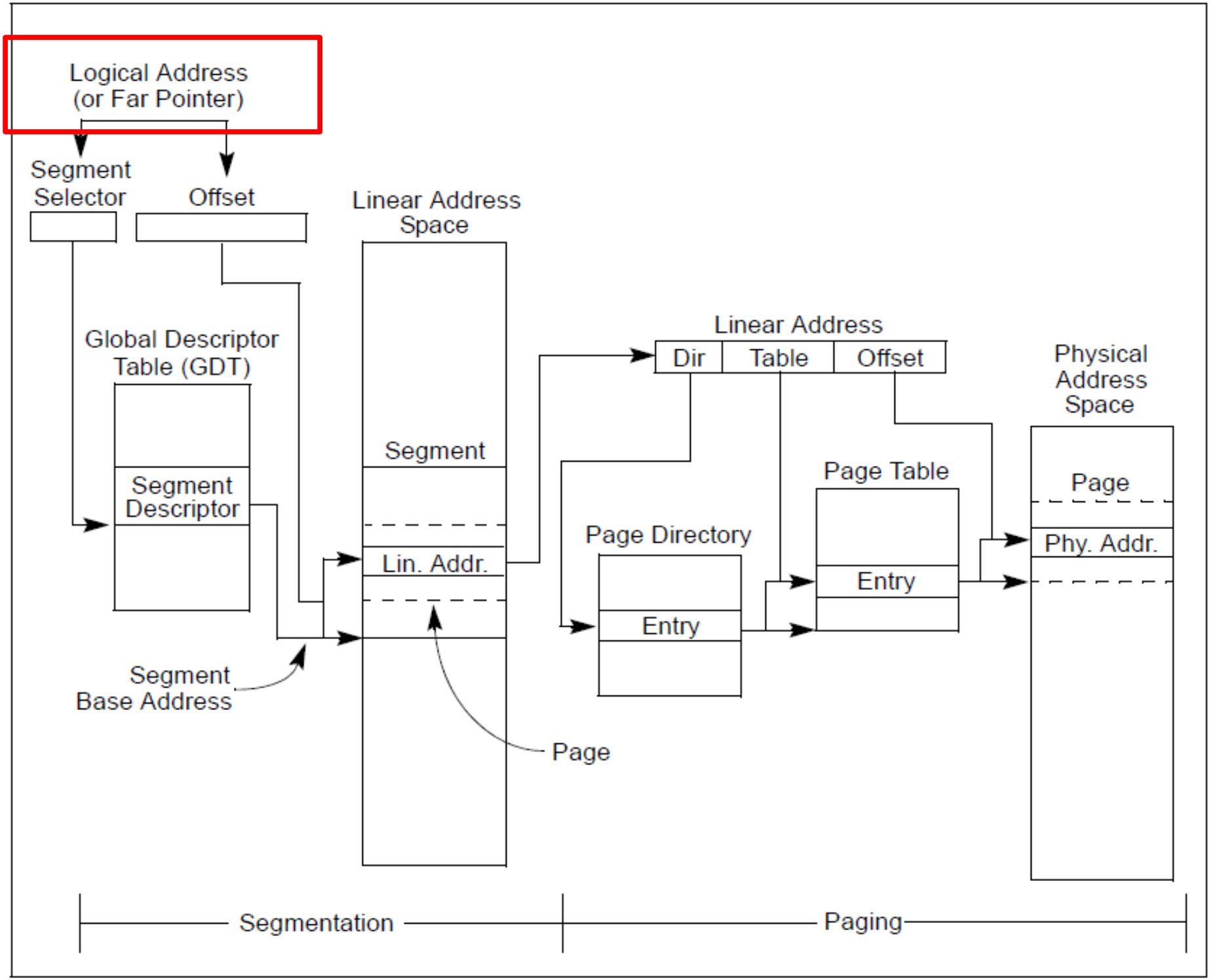


More paging tricks

- Protect parts of the program
  - E.g., map code as read-only
    - Disable code modification attacks
    - Remember R/W bit in PTD/PTE entries!
  - E.g., map stack as non-executable
    - Protects from stack smashing attacks
    - Non-executable bit

Recap: complete address translation




Logical Address
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Segment
Selector
Offset
Linear Address
Space
Global Descriptor
Table (GDT)
Segment
Descriptor
Segment
Lin. Addr.
Linear Address
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Physical
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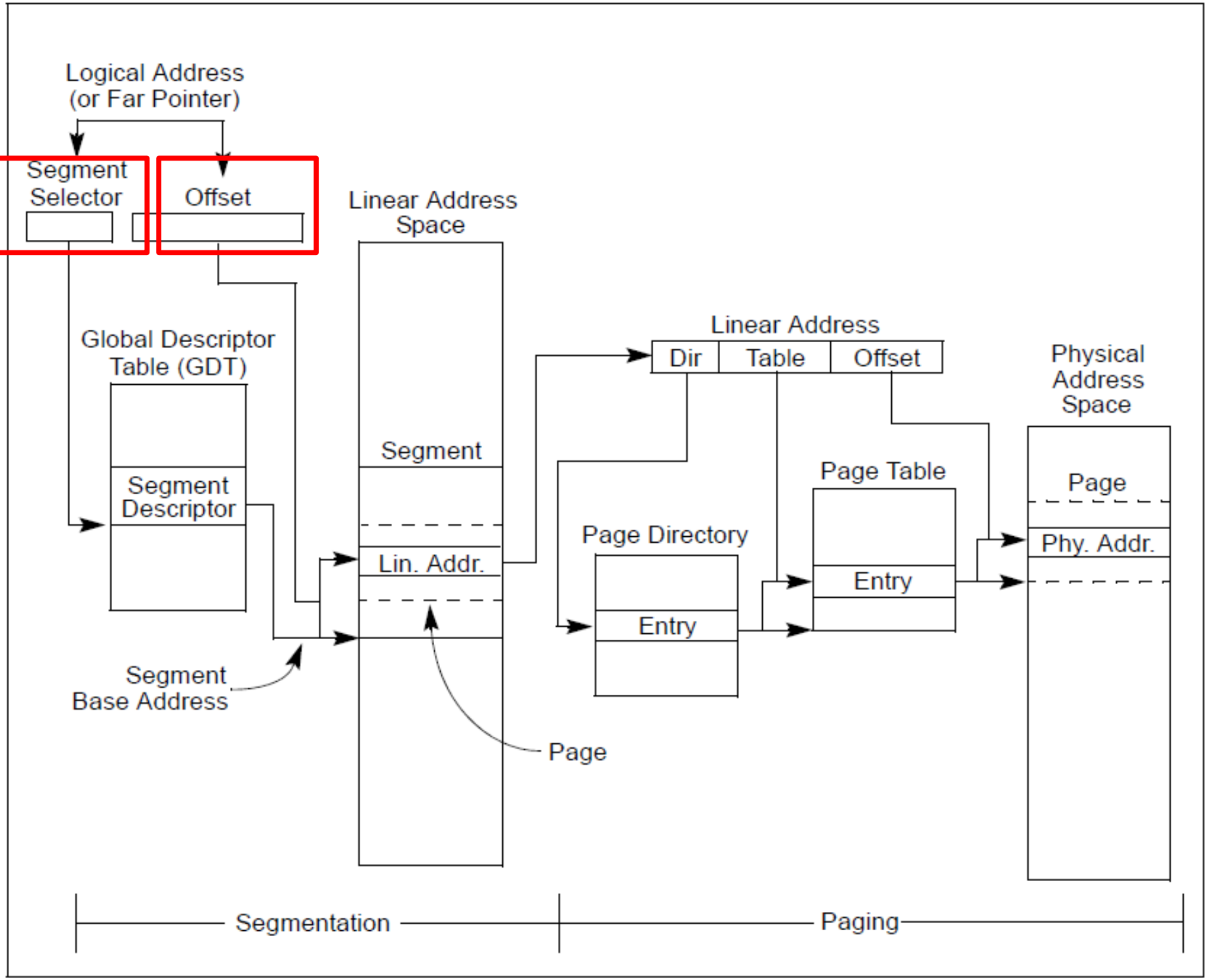
Page Table
Page
Phy. Addr.
Page Directory
Entry
Entry
Segment
Base Address
Page
Segmentation
Paging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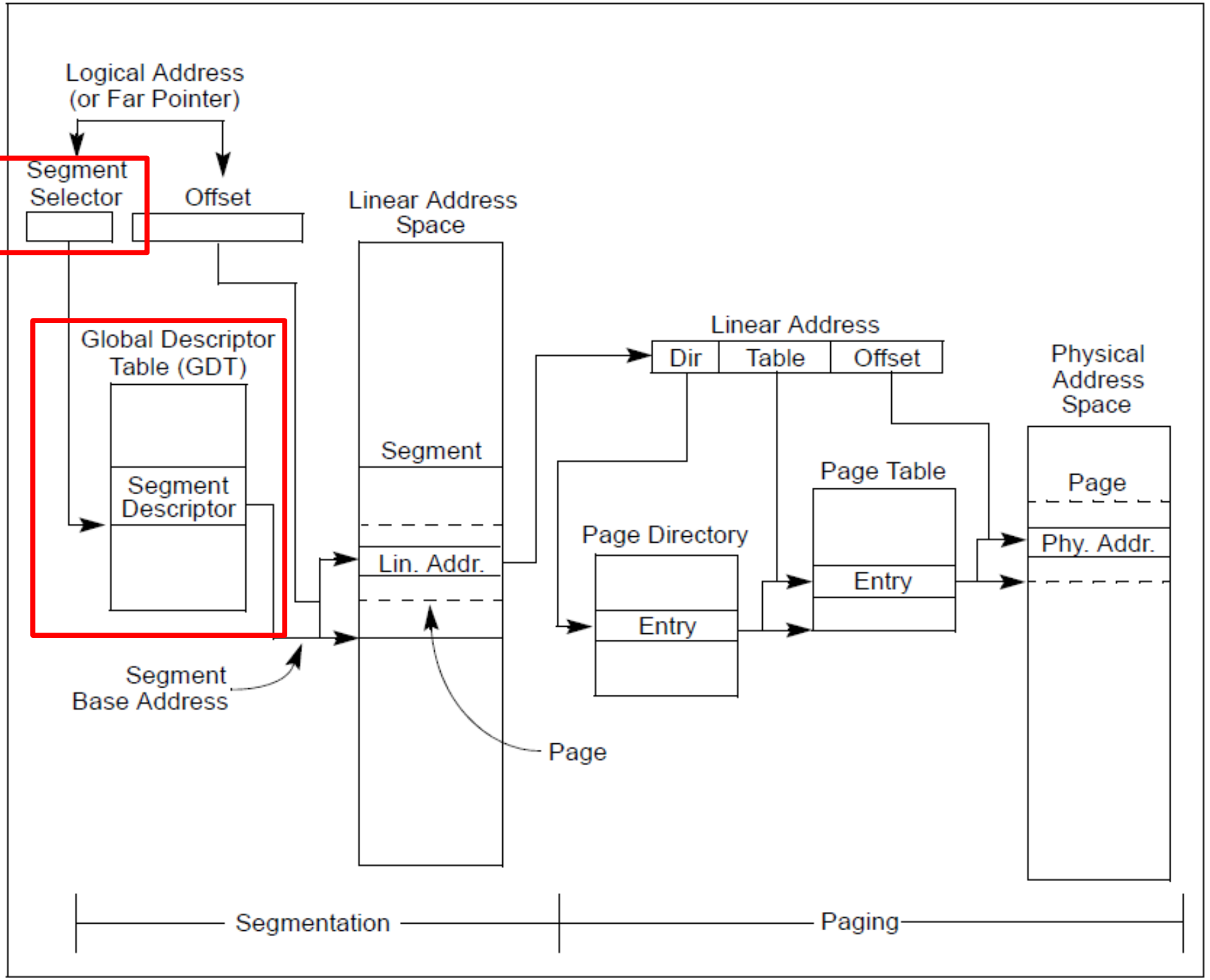
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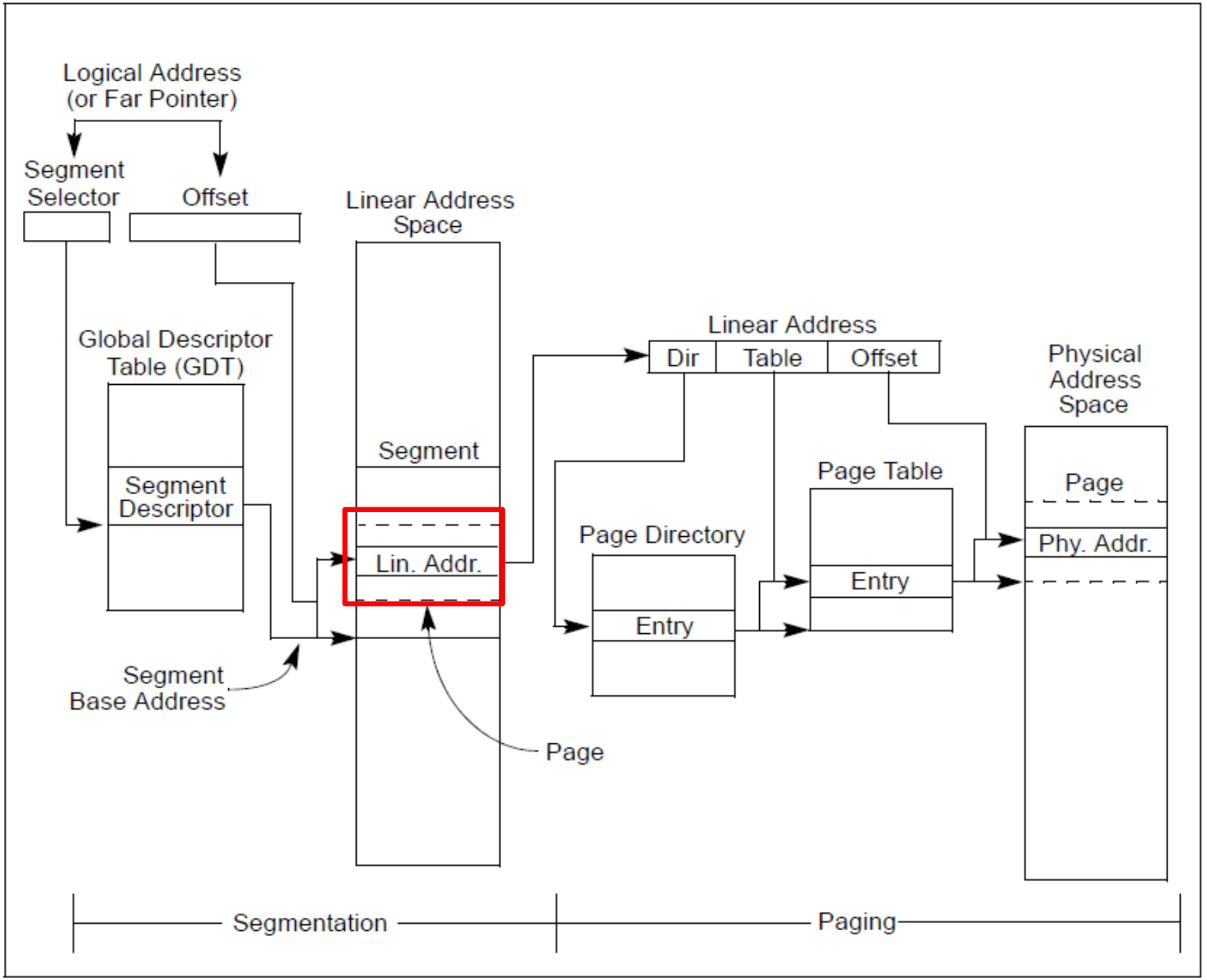
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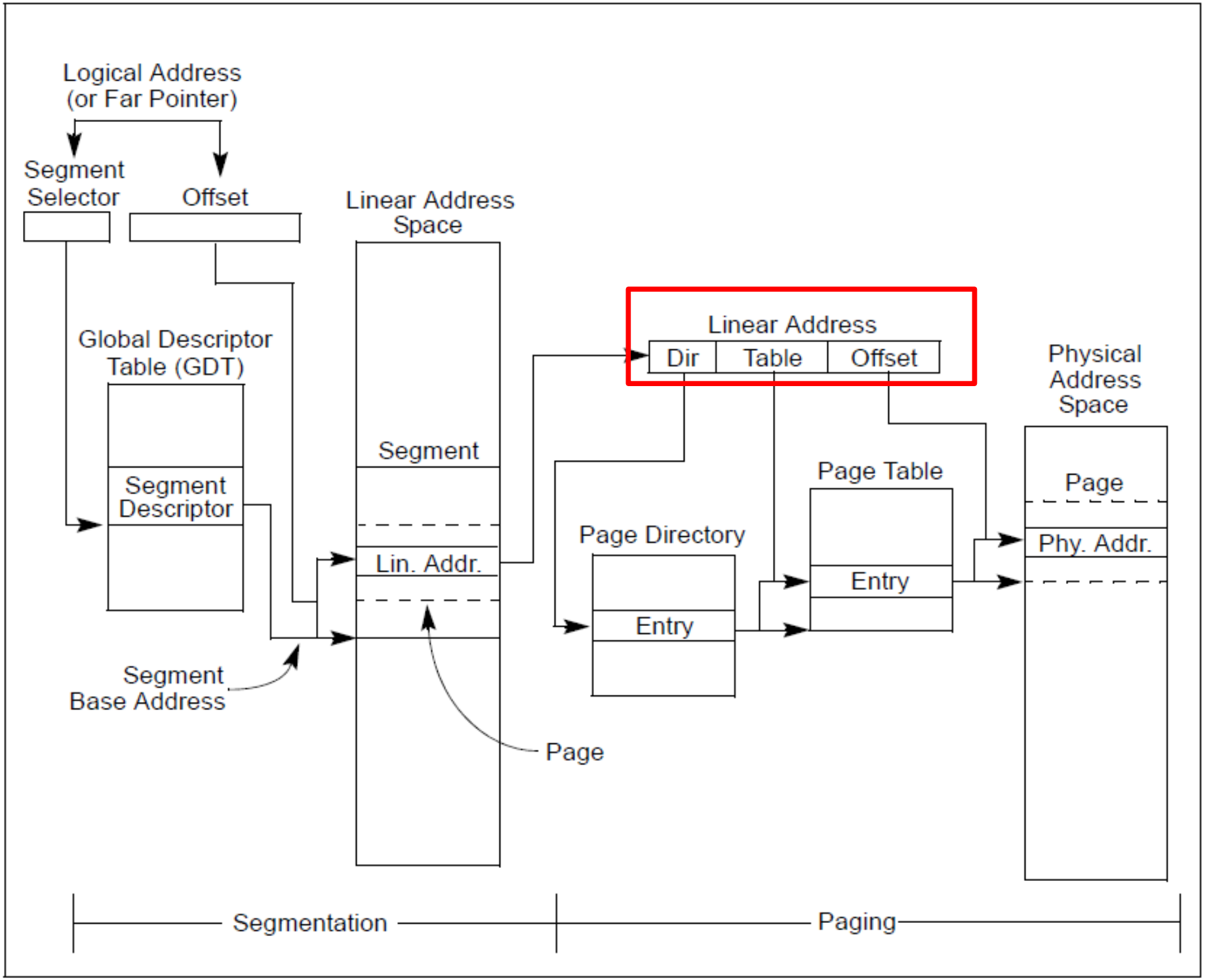
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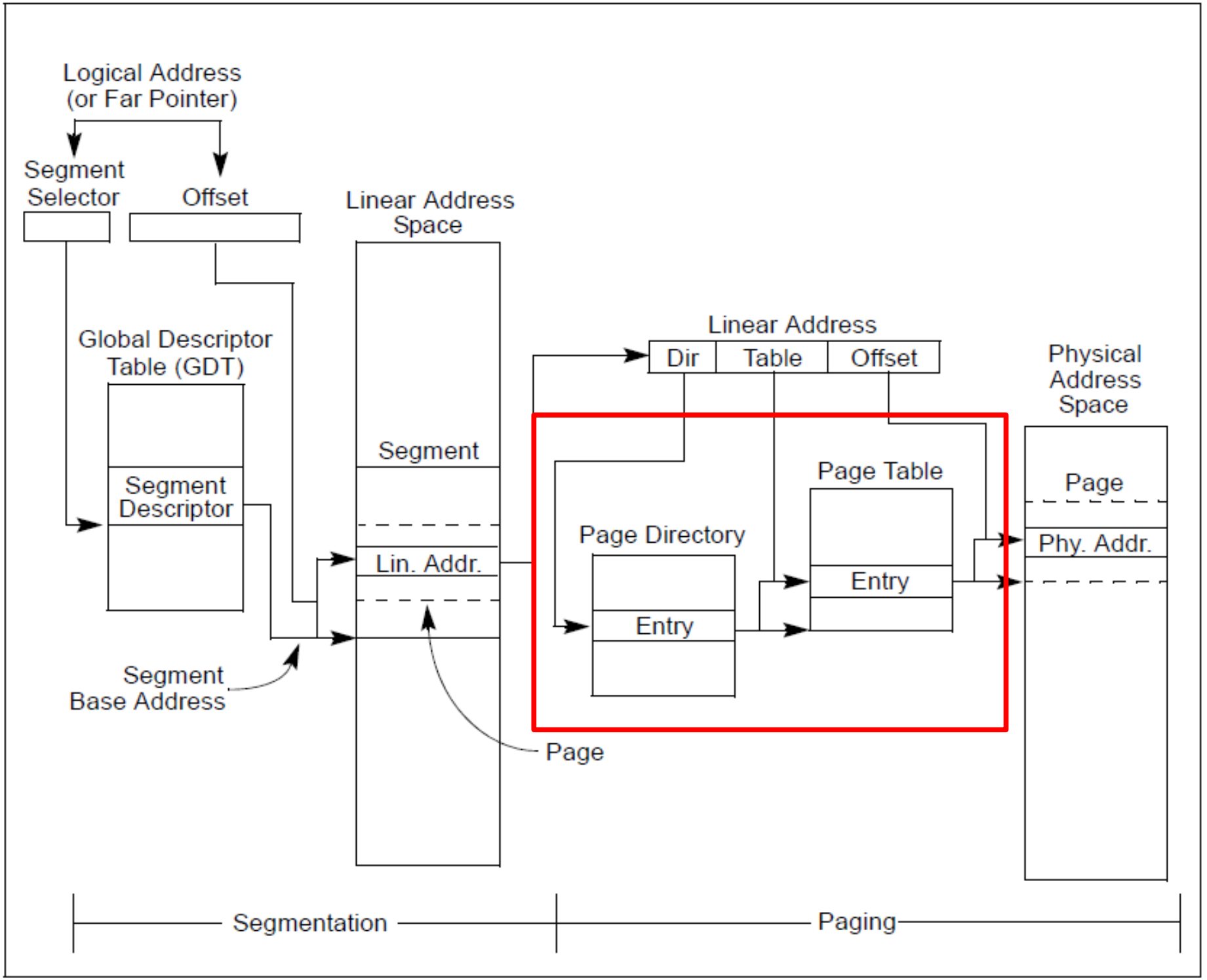
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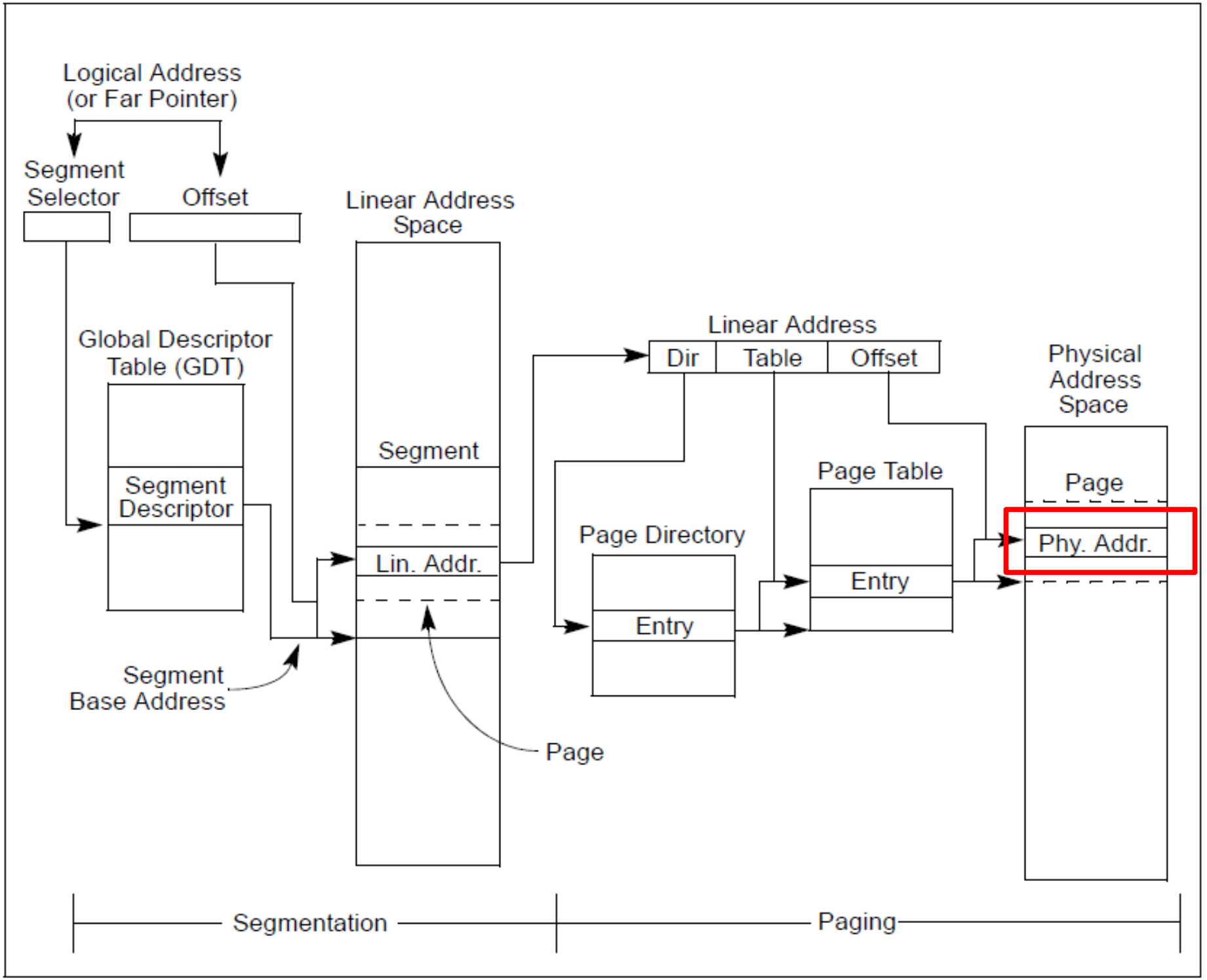
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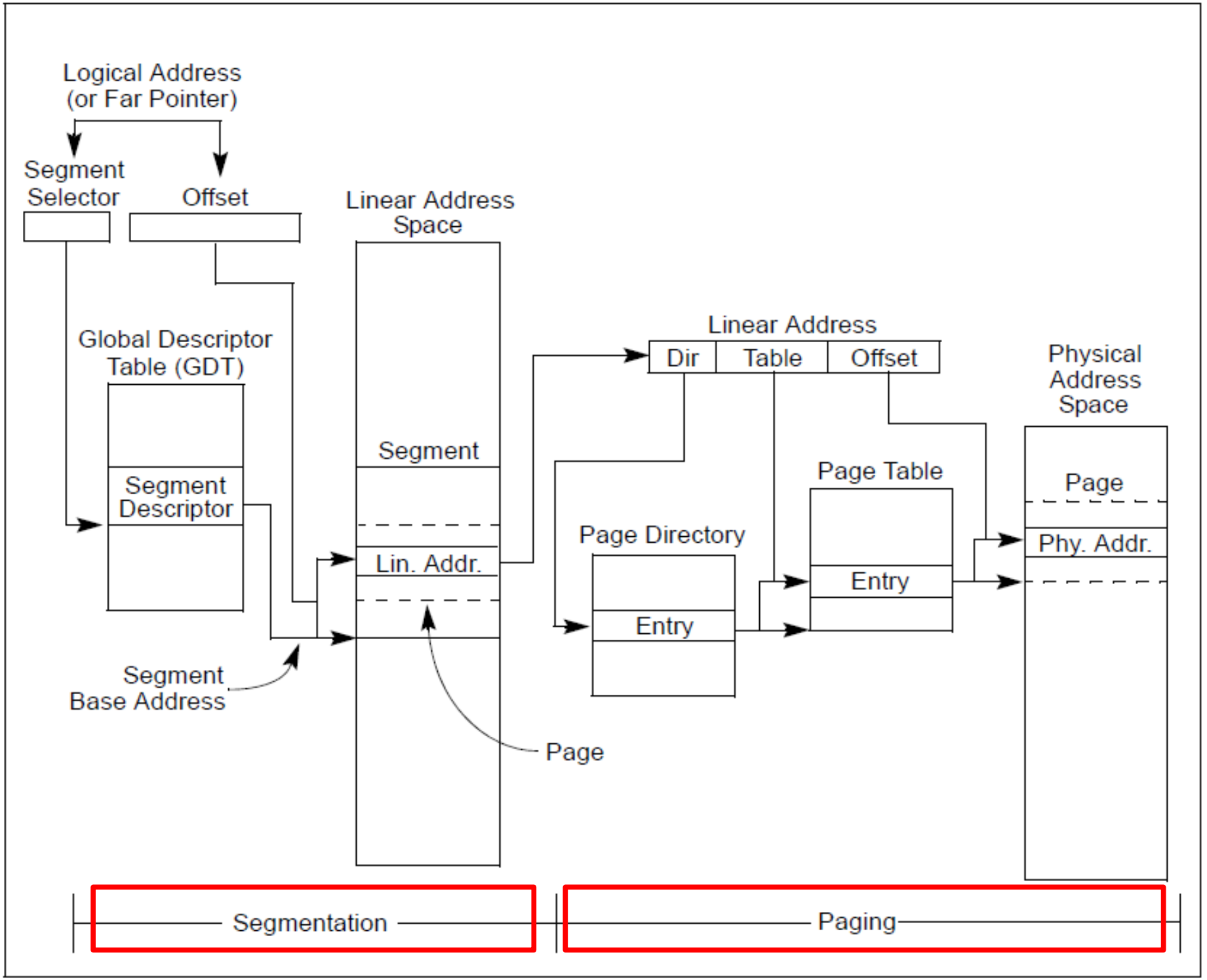
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Why do we need paging?

- Compared to segments pages provide fine-grained control over memory layout
  - No need to relocate/swap the entire segment
    - One page is enough
    -
- You're trading flexibility (granularity) for overhead of data structures required for translation

Questions?