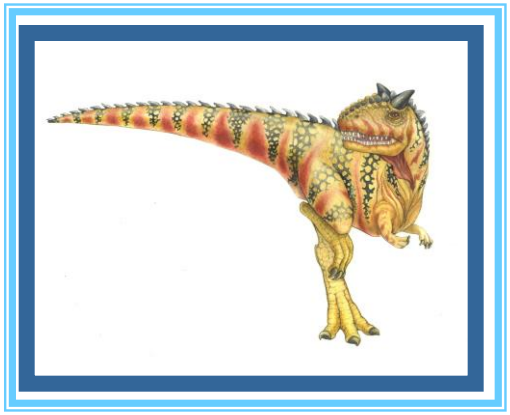
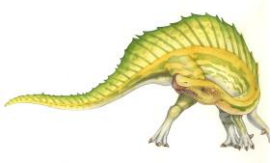
Chapter 9: Virtual Memory



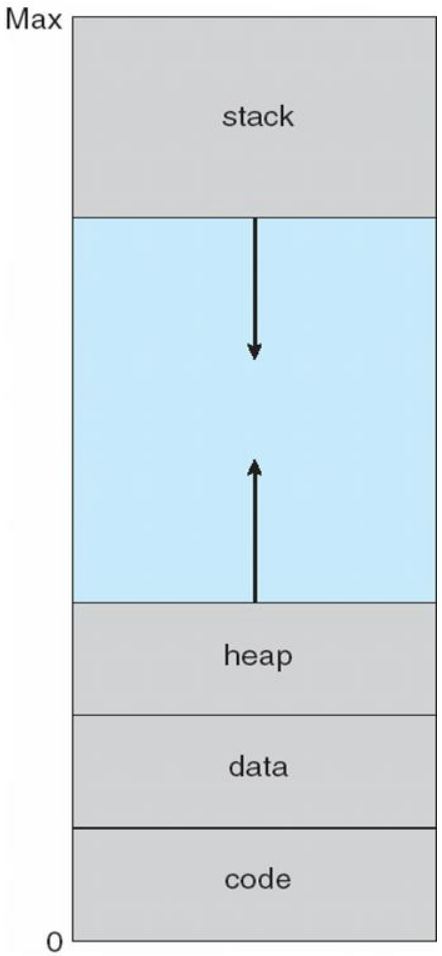
Background

- **Virtual memory** – separation of user logical memory from physical memory.
  - Only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
  - Logical address space can therefore be much larger than physical address space
  - Allows address spaces to be shared by several processes
  - Allows for more efficient process creation

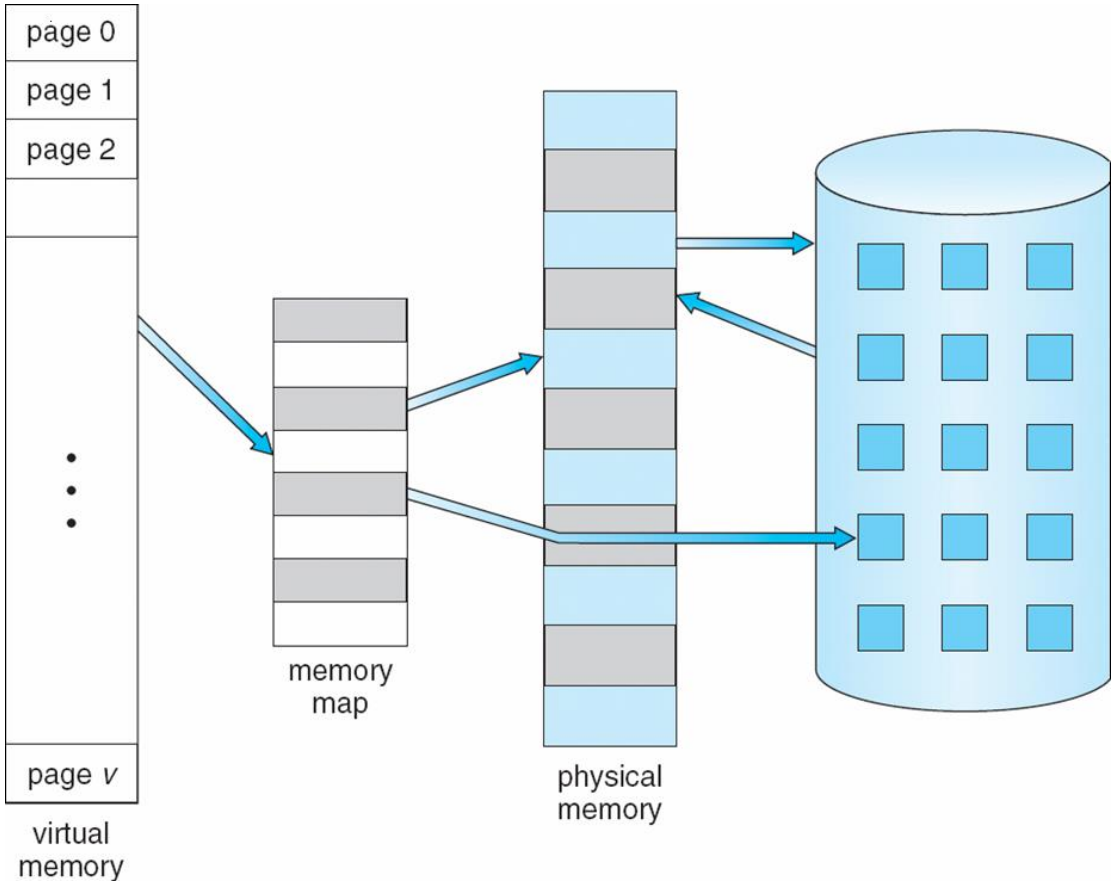
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
  - Demand paging
  - Demand segmentation



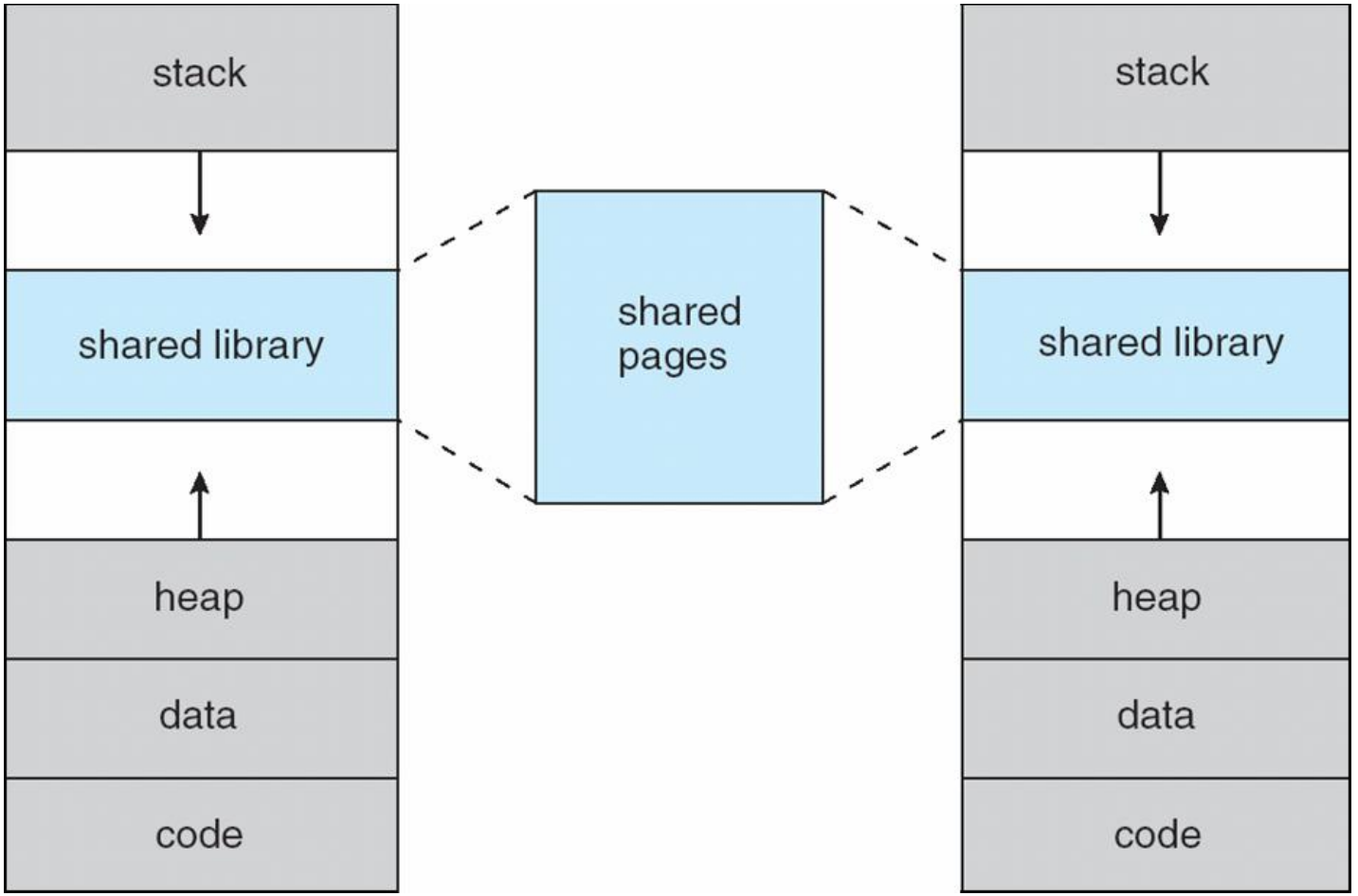
Virtual-address Space



Virtual Memory That is Larger Than Physical Memory



Shared Library Using Virtual Memory



Copy-on-Write

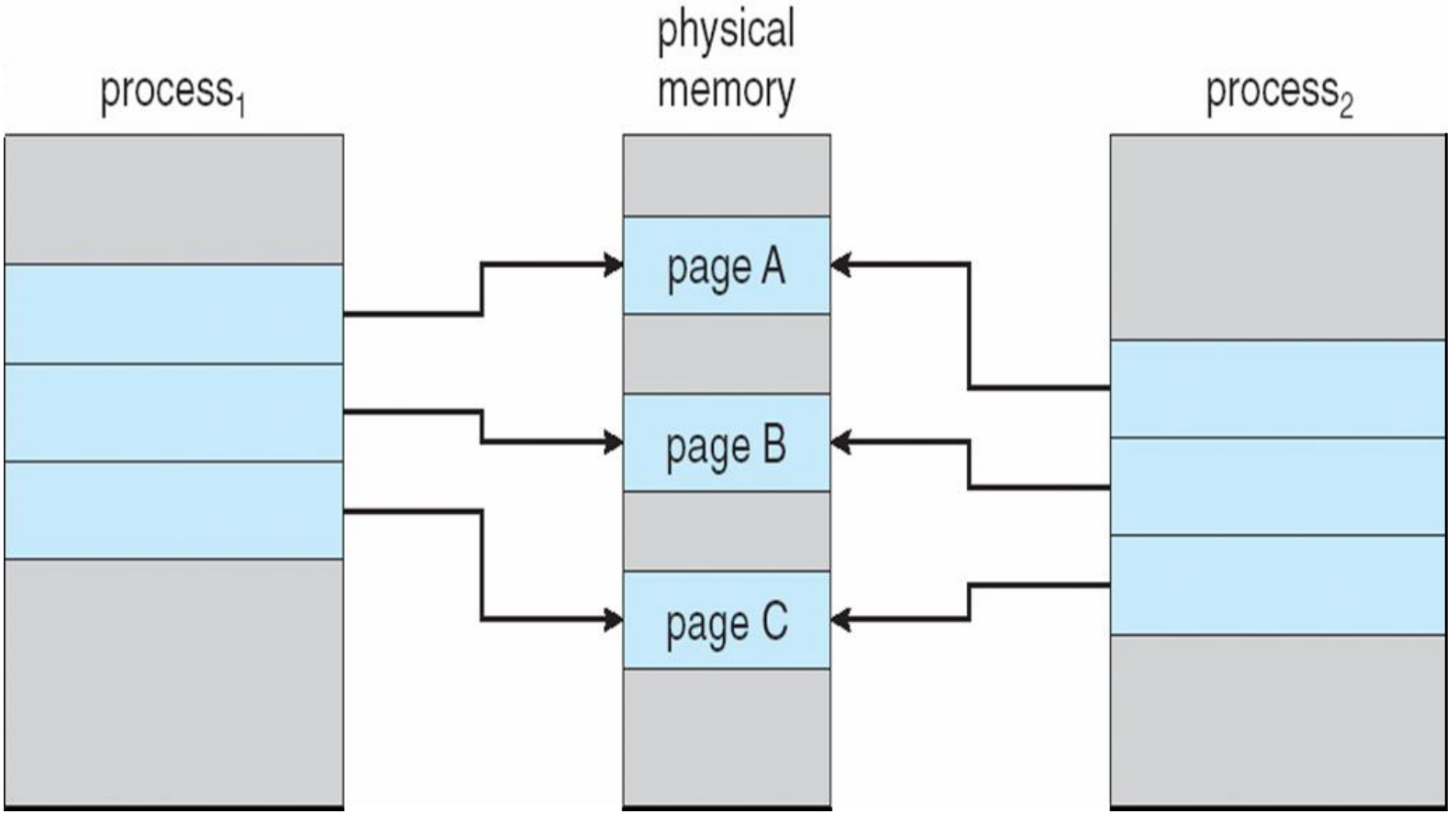
- Copy-on-Write (COW) allows both parent and child processes to initially *share* the same pages in memory

  If either process modifies a shared page, only then is the page copied

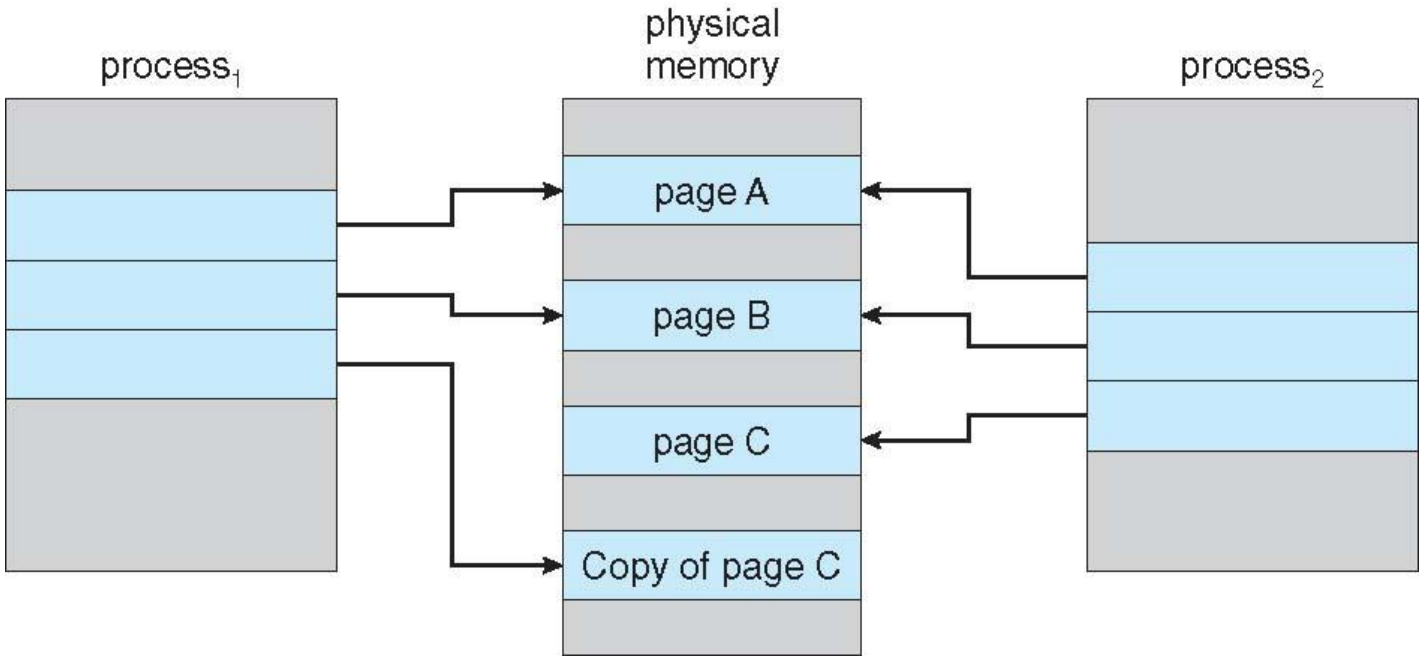
- COW allows more efficient process creation as only modified pages are copied

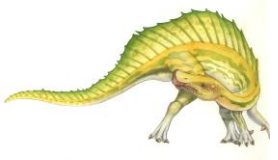
- Free pages are allocated from a **pool** of zeroed-out pages

Before Process 1 Modifies Page C



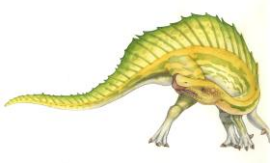
After Process 1 Modifies Page C





Demand Paging

- Bring a page into memory only when it is needed: swapper that deals with pages is a **pager**
  - Less I/O needed
  - Less memory needed
  - Faster response
  - More users



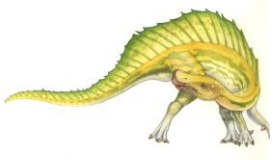
Valid-Invalid Bit

- With each page table entry a valid–invalid bit is associated (**v** ⇒ in-memory, **i** ⇒ not-in-memory)
- Initially valid–invalid bit is set to **i** on all entries
- Example of a page table snapshot:

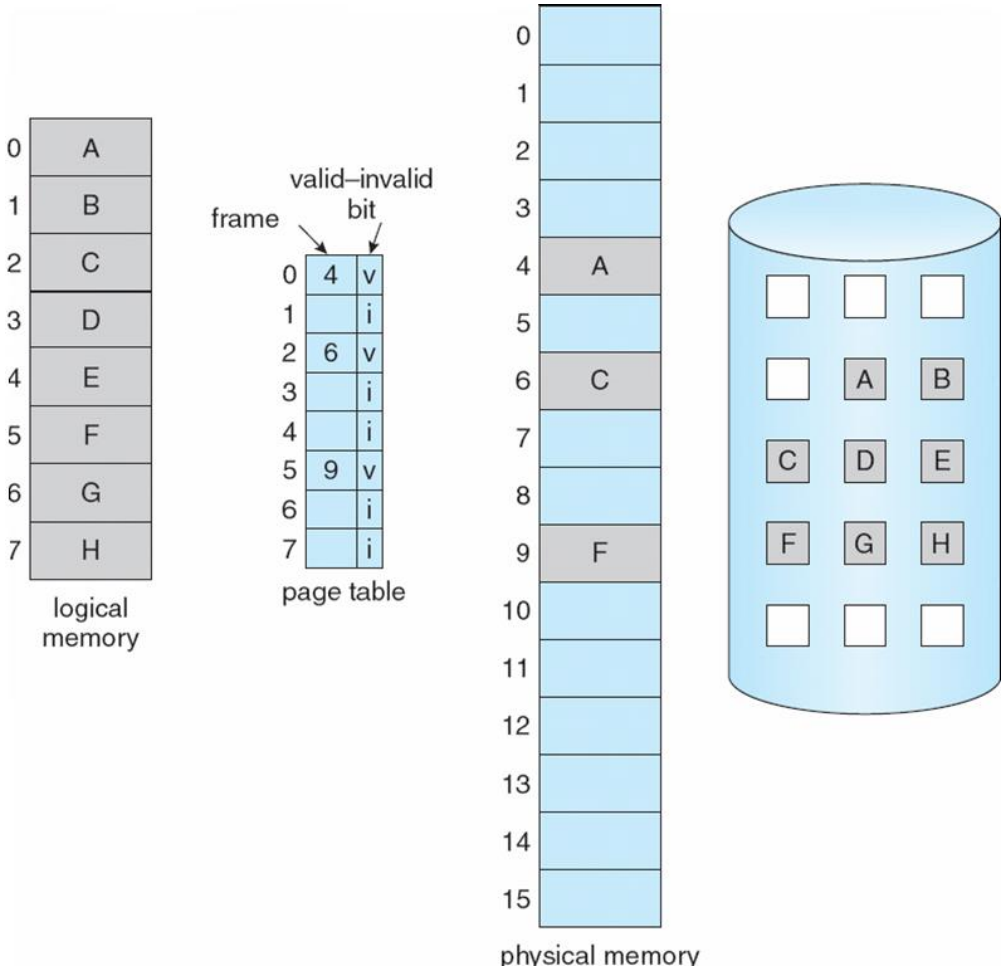
Frame #	valid-invalid bit
	v
	v
	v
	v
	i
….	
	i
	i

page table

- During address translation, if valid–invalid bit in page table entry is **I** ⇒ page fault

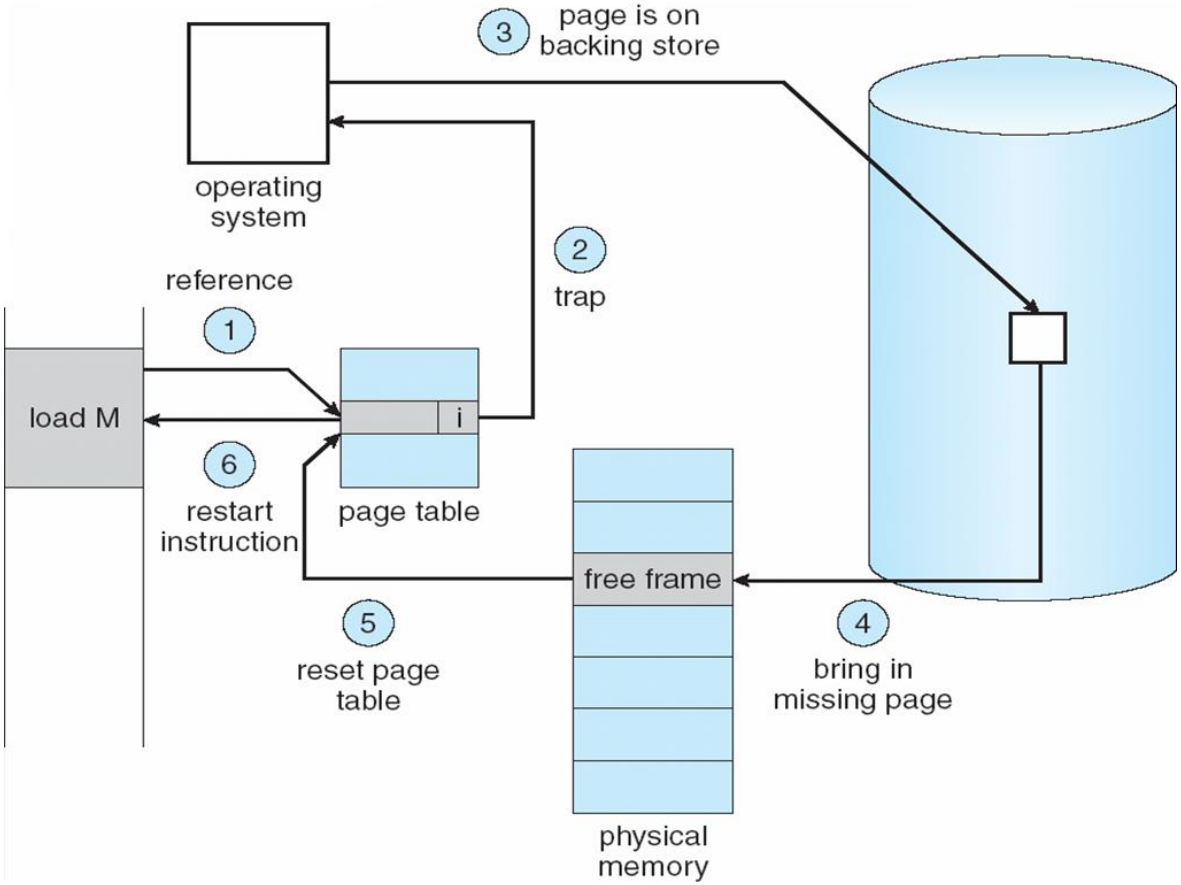


Page Table When Some Pages Are Not in Main Memory



Page Fault

1. Operating system looks at another table to decide:
   - Invalid reference ⇒ abort
   - Just not in memory
2. Get empty frame
3. Swap page into frame
4. Reset tables
5. Set validation bit = **v**
6. Restart the instruction that caused the page fault



Performance of Demand Paging

- Page Fault Rate $0 \le p \le 1.0$
  - if $p = 0$ no page faults
  - if $p = 1$, every reference is a fault

- Effective Access Time (EAT)

$$\begin{aligned} EAT = (1 - p) \times & \text{ memory access} \\ & + p \text{ (page fault overhead} \\ & \quad + \text{swap page out} \\ & \quad + \text{swap page in} \\ & \quad + \text{restart overhead} \\ & \text{)} \end{aligned}$$

Demand Paging Example

- Memory access time = 200 nanoseconds, Average page-fault service time = 8 milliseconds

- EAT = (1 – p) x 200 + p (8 milliseconds)

  = (1 – p x 200 + p x 8,000,000

  = 200 + p x 7,999,800

- If one access out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then

  EAT = 8.2 microseconds.

  This is a slowdown by a factor of 40!!