CPSC 213

Introduction to Computer Systems

Unit 2d

Virtual Memory

Readings for Next Two Lectures

- Text
  - Physical and Virtual Addressing - Address Spaces, Page Tables - Page Faults
  - 2nd edition: 9.1-9.2, 9.3.2-9.3.4
  - 1st edition: 10.1-10.2, 10.3.2-10.3.4

Multiple Concurrent Program Executions

- So far we have
  - a single program
  - multiple threads
- Allowing threads from different program executions
  - we often have more than one thing we *want* to do at once(ish)
  - threads spend a lot of time blocked, allowing other threads to run
  - but, often there aren't enough threads in one program to fill all the gaps
- What is a program execution
  - an instance of a program running with its own state stored in memory
  - compiler-assigned addresses for all static memory state (globals, code etc.)
  - security and failure semantics suggest memory isolation for each execution
- But, we have a problem
  - there is only one memory shared by all programs ...

Virtual Memory

- Virtual Address Space
  - an abstraction of the *physical* address space of main (i.e., *physical*) memory
  - programs access memory using virtual addresses
  - hardware translates virtual address to physical memory addresses
- Process
  - a program execution with a private virtual address space
  - associated with authenticated user for access control & resource accounting
  - running a program with 1 or more threads
- MMU
  - memory management unit
  - the hardware that translates virtual address to physical address
  - performs this translation on **every** memory access by program

Implementing the MMU

- Let's think of this in the simulator ...
  - introduce a class to simulate the MMU hardware

```
class MMU extends MainMemory {
  byte []      physicalMemory;
  AddressSpace currentAddressSpace;

  void setAddressSpace (AddressSpace* as);

  byte readByte (int va) {
    int pa = currentAddressSpace.translate (va);
    return physicalMemory.read (pa);
  }
}
```

  - currentAddressSpace is a hardware register
  - the address space performs virtual-to-physical address translation

Implementing Address Translation

```
class MMU extends MainMemory {
  byte []      physicalMemory;
  AddressSpace currentAddressSpace;

  void setAddressSpace (AddressSpace* as);

  byte readByte (int va) {
    int pa = currentAddressSpace.translate (va);
    return physicalMemory.read (pa);
  }
}
```

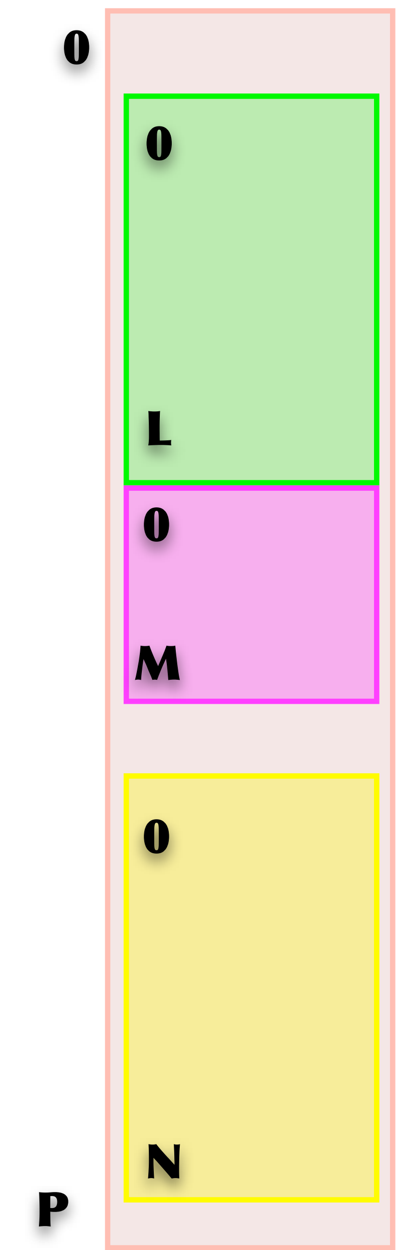
- Goal
  - translate any virtual address to a unique physical address (or none)
  - fast and efficient hardware implementation
- Let's look at a couple of alternatives ...

Base and Bounds

- An address space is
  - a single, variable-size, non-expandable chunk of physical memory
  - named by its base physical address and its length
- As a class in the simulator

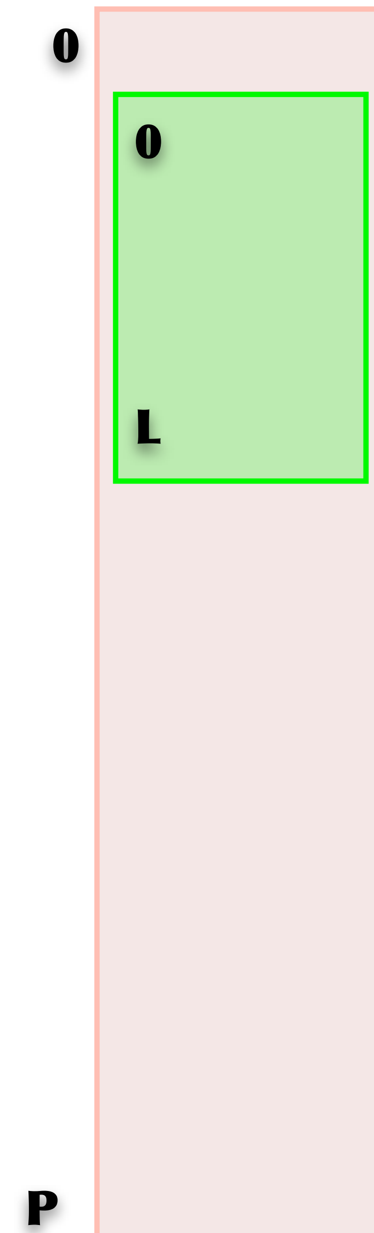
```
class AddressSpace {
  int baseVA, basePA, bounds;

  int translate (int va) {
    int offset = va - baseVA;
    if (offset < 0 || offset > bounds)
      throw new IllegalAddressException ();
    return basePA + offset;
  }
}
```

- Problems



But, Address Space Use May Be Sparse

- Issue
  - the address space of a program execution is divided into regions
  - for example: code, globals, heap, shared-libraries and stack
  - there are large gaps of unused address space between these regions



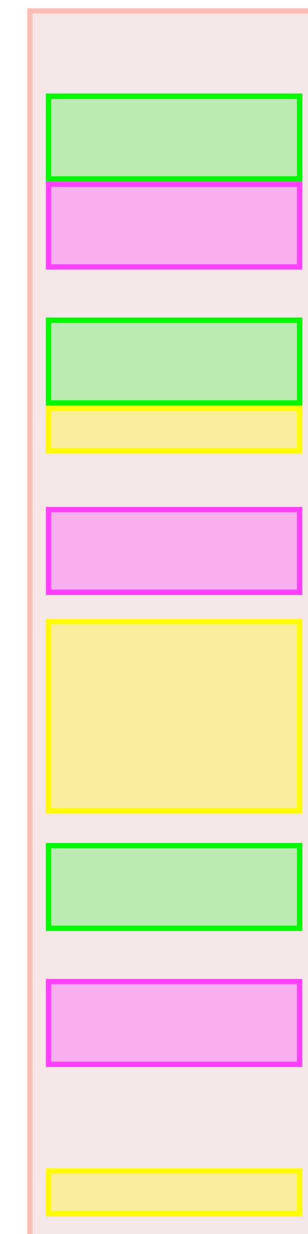
- Problem
  - a single base-and-bounds mapping from virtual to physical addresses
  - means that gaps in virtual address space will waste physical memory
  - this is the **Internal Fragmentation** problem

- Solution

Segmentation

- An address space is
  - a set of segments
- A segment is
  - a single, variable-size, non-expandable chunk of physical memory
  - named by its base virtual address, physical address and length
- Implementation in Simulator

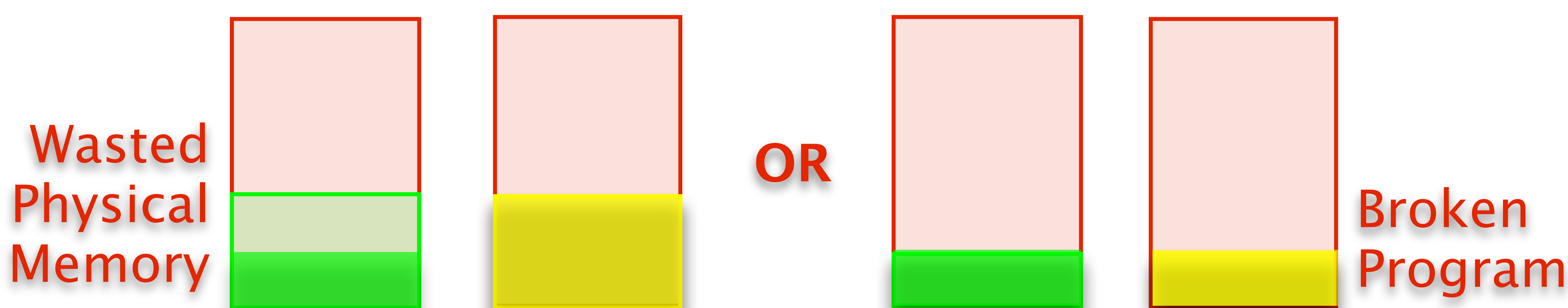
```
class AddressSpace {
  Segment segment[];

  int translate (int va) {
    for (int i=0; i<segments.length; i++) {
      int offset = va - segment[i].baseVA;
      if (offset >= 0 && offset < segment[i].bounds) {
        pa = segment[i].basePA + offset;
        return pa;
      }
    }
    throw new IllegalAddressException (va);
}}
```



- Problem

But, Memory Use Not Known Statically

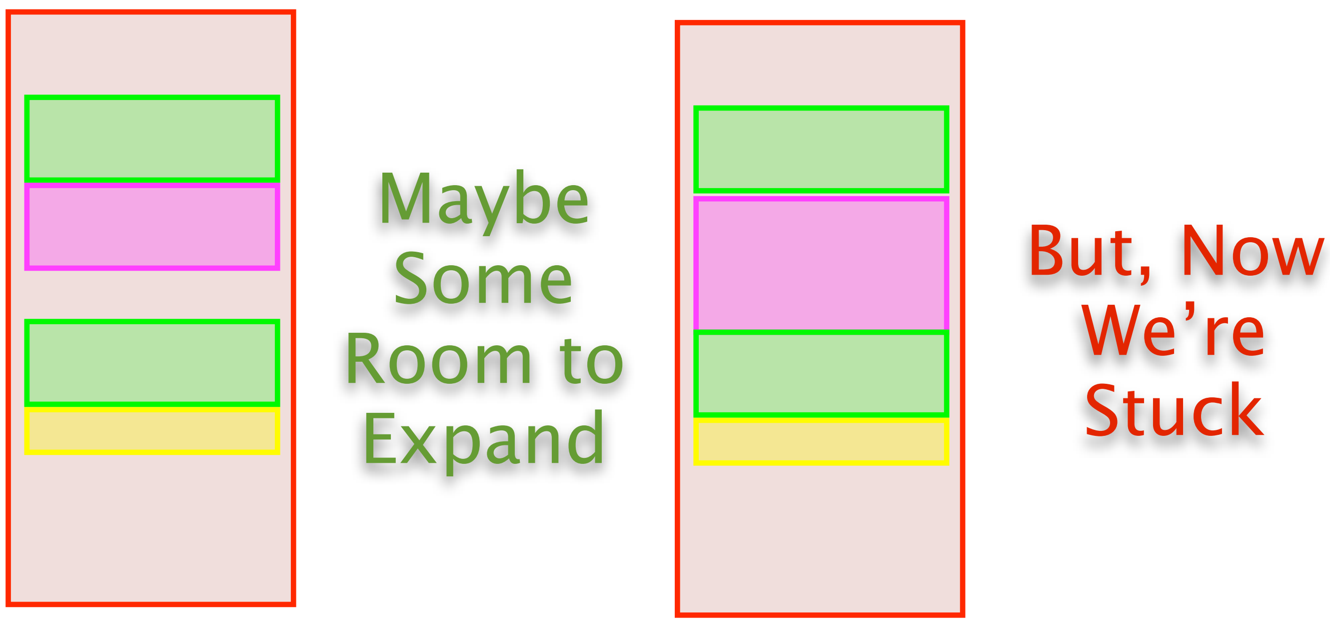
- Issue
  - segments are **not expandable**; their size is static
  - some segments such as stack and heap change size dynamically
- Problem
  - segment size is chosen when segment is created
  - too large and internal fragmentation wastes memory
  - too small and stack or heap restricted



- Solution
  - allow segments to expand?

But, There May Be No Room to Expand

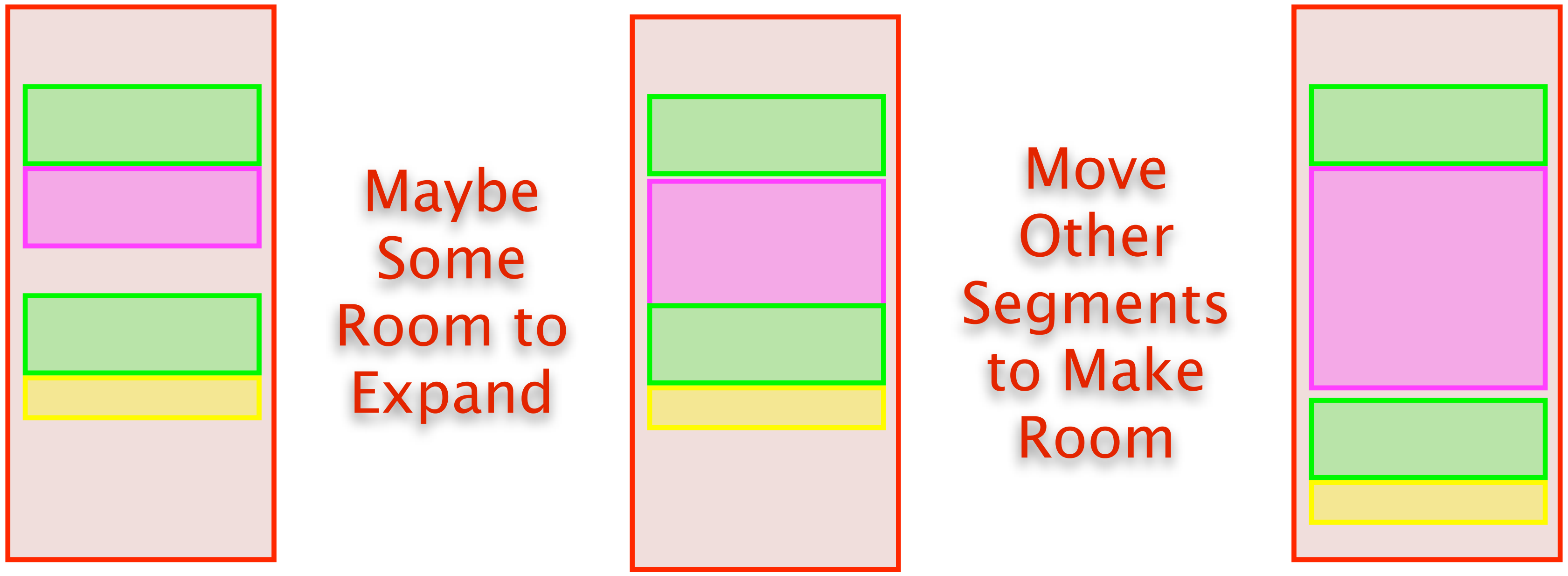
- Issue
  - segments are contiguous chunks of physical memory
  - a segment can only expand to fill space between it and the next segment
- Problem
  - there is no guarantee there will be room to expand a segment
  - the available memory space is not where we want it (i.e., adjacent to segment)
  - this is the **External Fragmentation** problem



- Solution

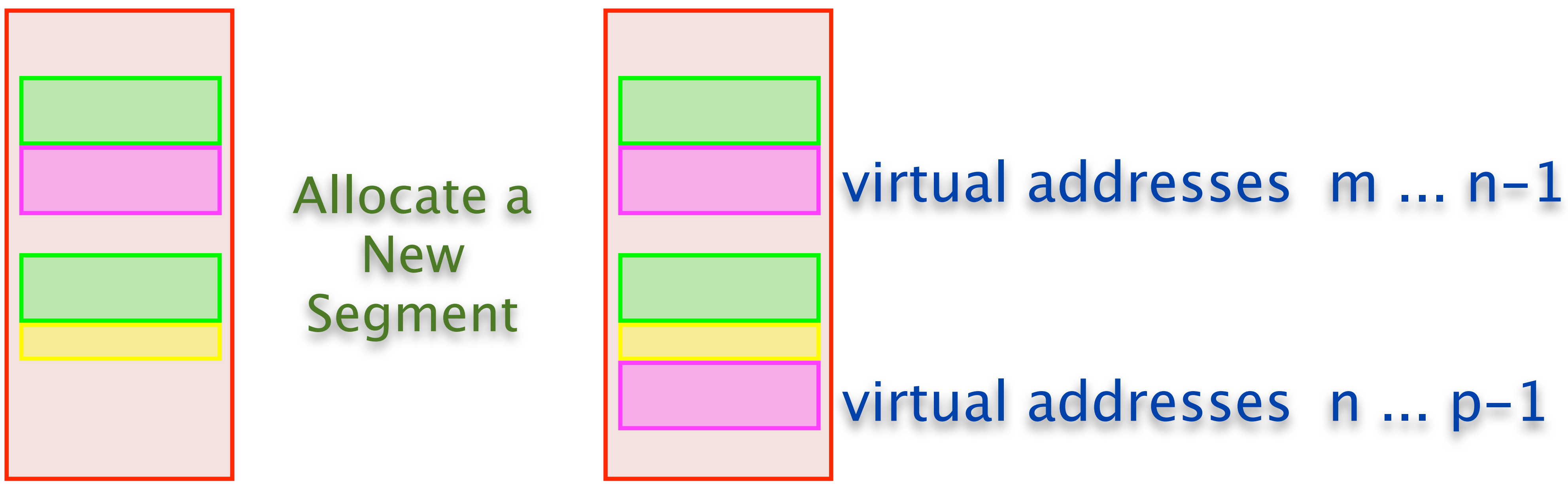
But, Moving Segments is Expensive

- Issue
  - if there is space in memory to store expanding segment, but not where it is
  - could move expanding segment or other segments to make room
  - external fragmentation is resolved by moving things to consolidate free space
- Problem
  - moving is possible, but expensive
  - to move a segment, all of its data must be copied
  - segments are large and memory copying is expensive



Expand Segments by Adding Segments

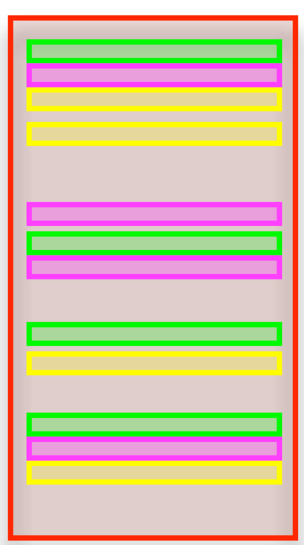
- What we know
  - segments should be non-expandable
  - size can not be effectively determined statically
- Idea
  - instead of expanding a segment
  - make a new one that is adjacent virtually, but not physically



- Problem
  - oh no! another problem! what is it? why does it occur?

Eliminating External Fragmentation

- The problem with what we are doing is
  - allocating variable size segments leads to external fragmentation of memory
  - this is an inherent problem with variable-size allocation
- What about **fixed sized allocation**
  - could we make every segment the same size?
  - this eliminates external fragmentation
  - but, if we make segments too big, we'll get internal fragmentation
  - so, they need to be fairly small and so we'll have lots of them



- Problem

Translation with Many Segments

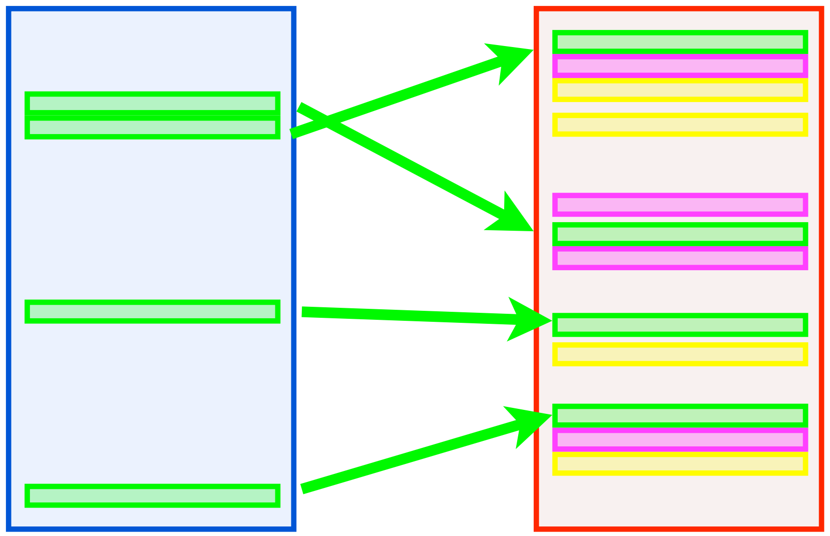
- What is wrong with this approach if there are many segments?

```
class AddressSpace {
  Segment segment[];

  int translate (int va) {
    for (int i=0; i<segments.length; i++) {
      int offset = va - segment[i].baseVA;
      if (offset > 0 && offset < segment[i].bounds) {
        pa = segment[i].basePA + offset;
        return pa;
      }
    }
    throw new IllegalAddressException (va);
}}
```

- Now what?
  - is there another way to locate the segment, when segments are fixed size?

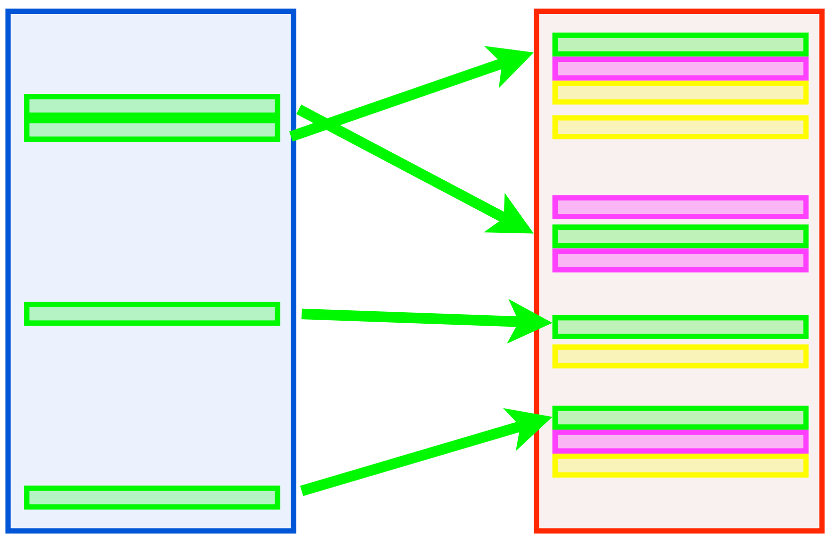
Paging

- Key Idea
  - Address Space is divided into set of fixed-size segments called pages
  - number pages in virtual address order
  - page number = virtual address / page size
- Page Table
  - indexed by virtual page number (vpn)
  - stores **base physical address** (actually address / page size (pfn) to save space)
  - stores **valid flag**, because some segment numbers may be unused



New terminology

- **page** a small, fixed-sized (4-KB) segment
- **page table** virtual-to-physical translation table
- **pte** page table entry
- **vpn** virtual page number
- **pfn** physical page frame number
- **offset** byte offset of address from beginning of page



Translation using a Page Table

```
class PageTableEntry {
  boolean isValid;
  int     pfn;
}
```

```
class AddressSpace {
  PageTableEntry pte[];

  int translate (int va) {
    int vpn    = va / PAGE_SIZE;
    int offset = va % PAGE_SIZE;
    if (pte[vpn].isValid)
      return pte[vpn].pfn * PAGE_SIZE + offset;
    else
      throw new IllegalAddressException (va);
}}
```

The bit-shifty version

- assume that page size is 4-KB = 4096 = 2^{12}
- assume addresses are 32 bits
- then, vpn and pfn are 20 bits and offset is 12 bits
- pte is pfn plus valid bit, so 21 bits or so, say 4 bytes
- page table has 2^{20} pte's and so is 4-MB in size

The simulator code

```
class PageTableEntry {
  boolean isValid;
  int     pfn;
}
```

```
class AddressSpace {
  PageTableEntry pte[];

  int translate (int va) {
    int vpn    = va >>> 12;
    int offset = va & 0xfff;
    if (pte[vpn].isValid)
      return pte[vpn].pfn << 12 | offset;
    else
      throw new IllegalAddressException (va);
}}
```

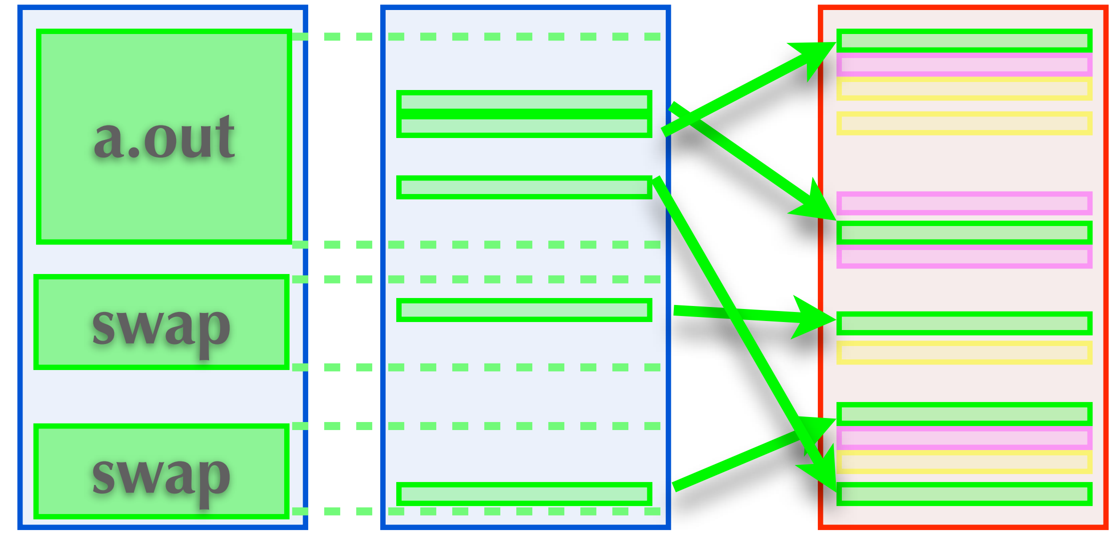
The MMU Hardware

- Translation performance
  - translation occurs on every memory reference
  - so it must be very fast most of the time
- TLB
  - translation lookaside buffer
  - a cache that is fast to access and where recent translations are stored
- TLB Miss
  - requires a page table lookup
  - page-table-base register (PTBR) stores address of page table
  - think of page table as being in physical memory
    - page table is actually paged, but in a different way than the address space
  - lookup could be done in hardware (IA32) or software (IA64 option)

Context Switch

- A context switch is
  - switching between threads from different processes
  - each process has a private address space and thus its own page table
- Implementing a context switch
  - change PTBR to point to new process's page table
  - invalidate stale TLB entries (may require flushing entire TLB)
  - switch threads (save regs, switch stacks, restore regs)
- Context Switch vs Thread Switch
  - changing page tables can be considerably slower than just changing threads
  - mainly because of TLB
  - new process has no valid TLB entries and thus suffers many TLB misses

Demand Paging



- Key Idea
  - some application data is not in memory
  - transfer from disk to memory, only when needed
- Page Table
  - only stores entries for pages that are in memory
  - pages that are only on disk are marked invalid
  - access to non-resident page- causes a page-fault interrupt
- Memory Map
  - a second data structure managed by the OS
  - divides virtual address space into regions, each *mapped* to a file
  - page-fault interrupt handler checks to see if faulted page is mapped
  - if so, gets page from disk, update Page Table and restart faulted instruction
- Page Replacement
  - pages can now be removed from memory, transparent to program
  - a replacement algorithm choose which pages should be resident and swaps out others

Summary

- Process
  - a program execution
  - a private virtual address space and a set of threads
  - private address space required for static address allocation and isolation
- Virtual Address Space
  - a mapping from virtual addresses to physical memory addresses
  - programs use virtual addresses
  - the MMU translates them to physical address used by the memory hardware
- Paging
  - a way to implement address space translation
  - divide virtual address space into small, fixed sized virtual page frames
  - page table stores base physical address of every virtual page frame
  - page table is indexed by virtual page frame number
  - some virtual page frames have no physical page mapping
  - some of these get data on demand from disk

Address Space Translation Tradeoffs

- Single, variable-size, non-expandable segment
  - internal fragmentation of segment due to sparse address use
- Multiple, variable-size, non-expandable segments
  - internal fragmentation of segments when size isn't know statically
  - external fragmentation of memory because segments are variable size
  - moving segments would resolve fragmentation, but moving is costly
- Expandable segments
  - expansion must by physically contiguous, but there may not be room
  - external fragmentation of memory requires moving segments to make room
- Multiple, fixed-size, non-expandable segments
  - called pages
  - need to be small to avoid internal fragmentation, so there are many of them
  - since there are many, need indexed lookup instead of search