CSCE 451/851
Operating Systems Principles

Segmentation & Shared Memory

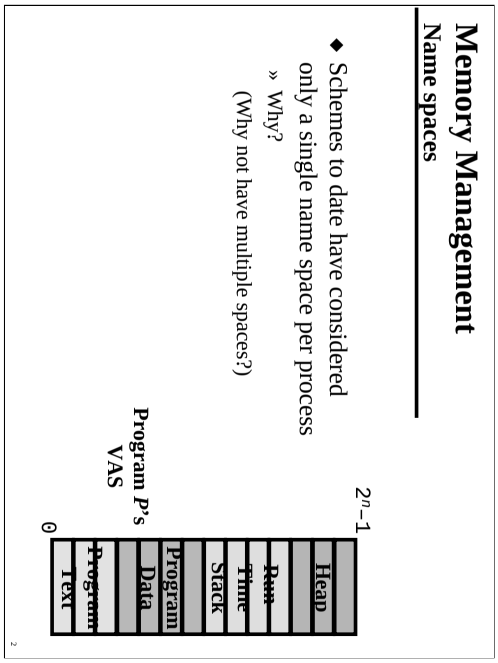
Steve Goddard
goddard@cse.unl.edu

http://www.cse.unl.edu/~goddard/Courses/CSCE451

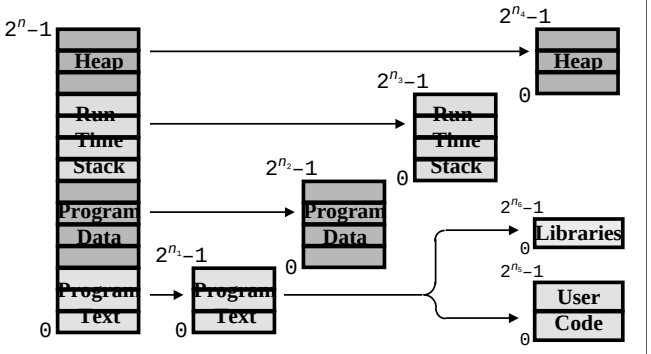
Memory Management

Name spaces

- Schemes to date have considered only a single name space per process
  - » Why?
    (Why not have multiple spaces?)

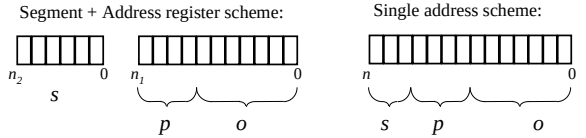


Multiple Name Spaces
Example — Protection/Fault isolation & sharing



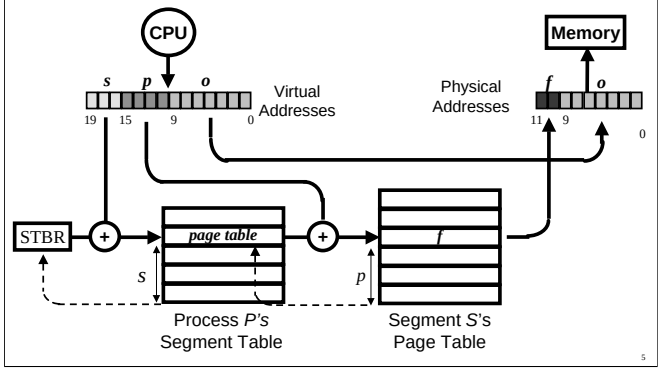
Supporting Multiple Name Spaces
Segmentation

- Segment — a memory "object"
  - » A virtual address space
- A process now addresses objects —a pair (*s*, *addr*)
  - » *s* — segment number
  - » *addr* — a virtual address within an object offset
    - virtual address as before: (*p*, *o*)
- A virtual address is now a triple (*s*, *p*, *o*)



Segmentation
Virtual address translation

- One additional level of indirection — The *segment table*



5

Shared Memory
Sharing of procedures and data

- Why share?
- Levels of sharing
  - » source code
  - » object code
  - » executable binaries

6

Shared Memory
Requirements for sharing

Sharing Code

- Programs cannot modify their own code
  - » "Pure procedures"
- Serially sharable code
  - » Programs that are self-initializing
  - » Programs that contain their own global data
- Concurrently sharable code
  - » Programs must be *reentrant*
    - ❖ Run-time stack cannot be shared

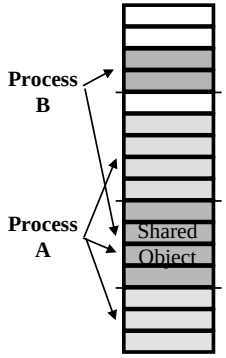
Sharing Data

- Data cannot (typically) contain pointers

7

Sharing in Non-Segmented/Paged Systems
Trading-off protection for sharing

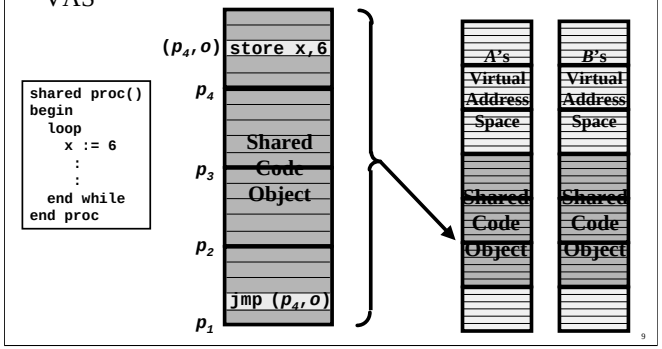
- Space can no longer be allocated contiguously
  - » Base + Limit register schemes not applicable
- Loaders must determine if copies of shared objects already exist in memory
  - » And if so where is it?
- Similar problems with garbage collection



8

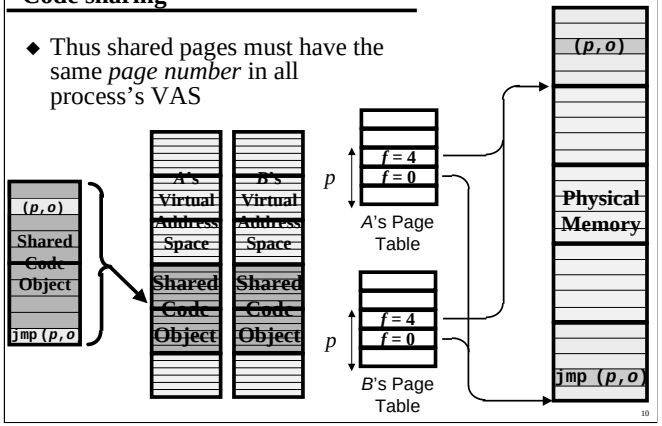
Sharing in Paged Systems
Code sharing

- Shared code must reside in the same place in all process's VAS



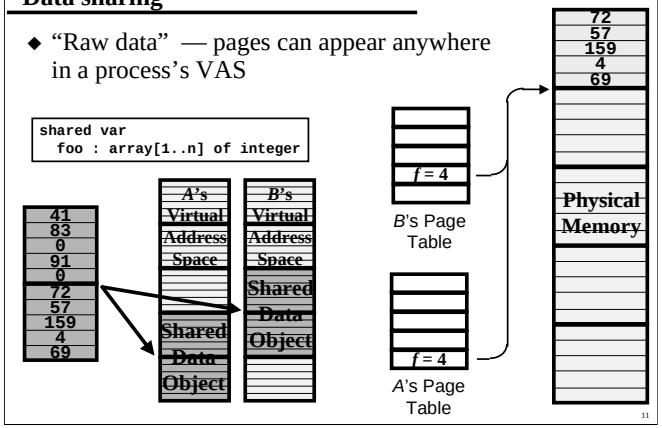
Sharing in Paged Systems
Code sharing

- Thus shared pages must have the same *page number* in all process's VAS



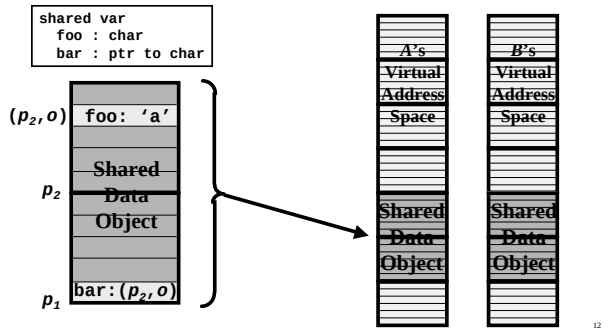
Sharing in Paged Systems
Data sharing

- "Raw data" — pages can appear anywhere in a process's VAS



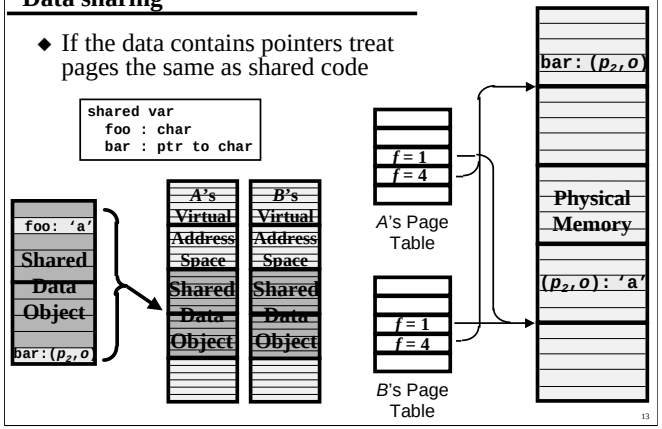
Sharing in Paged Systems
Data sharing

- Shared data containing pointers must also reside in the same place in all process's VAS



Sharing in Paged Systems
Data sharing

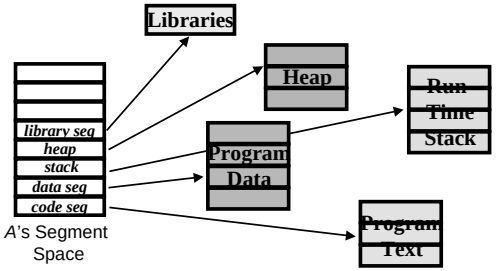
- If the data contains pointers treat pages the same as shared code



13

Sharing in Segmented Systems
The simplest form of sharing

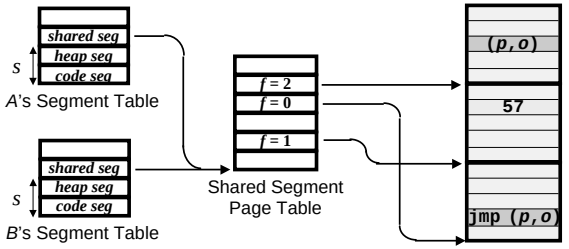
- Sharing portion of a process's "segment space"



14

Sharing in Segmented Systems
Sharing segments

- Unit of sharing a *segment* rather than *a set of pages*
  - » Processes need only agree on 1 number rather than a sequence of numbers
  - » If segments are paged then the page tables are automatically shared



15

Dynamic Linking & Sharing
A key technology for realizing shared memory

- Concept
  - » Dynamically bind to shared modules at run-time
- Advantages
  - » On demand linking ensures that only those modules that are actually used will be loaded
  - » Possibly allows modules to be replaced or upgraded at run-time
- Disadvantages
  - » Possible performance penalty at run-time for invoking new modules
  - » Overhead of indirect/interpretive access
  - » Complexity of the overall scheme

16