Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run
- Main memory and registers are only storage CPU can access directly
- Register access in one CPU clock (or less)
- Main memory can take many cycles
- Cache sits between main memory and CPU registers
- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation

Base and Limit Registers

 A pair of base and limit registers define the logical address space



Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

- Address binding of instructions and data to memory addresses can happen at three different stages
 - **Compile time**: If memory location known a priori, **absolute code** can be generated; must recompile code if starting location changes
 - Load time: Must generate relocatable code if memory location is not known at compile time
 - Execution time: Binding delayed until run time if the process can be moved during its execution from one memory segment to another. Need hardware support for address maps (e.g., base and limit registers)

Multistep Processing of a User Program

