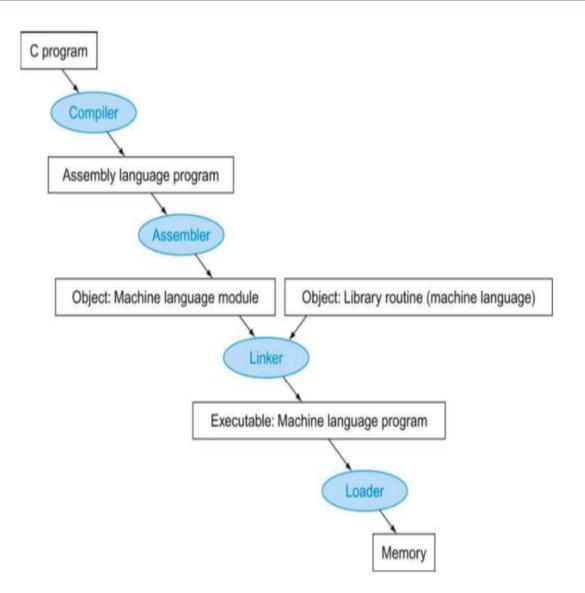
Chapter 2.12: Compilation, Assembling, Linking and Program Execution

ITSC 3181 Introduction to Computer Architecture https://passlab.github.io/ITSC3181/

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A Translation Hierarchy for C



Compilation Process in C

- Compilation process: gcc hello.c -o hello
 - Constructing an executable image for an application
 - Multiple stages
 - Command: gcc <options> <source_file.c>
- Compiler Tool
 - gcc (GNU Compiler)
 - man gcc (on Linux m/c)
 - icc (Intel C compiler)

4 Stages of Compilation Process

Preprocessing gcc -E hello.c -o hello.i hello.c \rightarrow hello.i

Compilation (after preprocessing)

gcc -S hello.i -o hello.s

Assembling (after compilation)

gcc -c hello.s -o hello.o

Linking object files

gcc hello.o -o hello

Output \rightarrow Executable (a.out) Run \rightarrow ./hello (Loader)

4 Stages of Compilation Process

- 1. Preprocessing (Those with # ...)
 - Expansion of Header files (#include ...)
 - Substitute macros and inline functions (#define ...)
- 2. Compilation
 - Generates assembly language, .s file
 - Verification of functions usage using prototypes
 - Header files: Prototypes declaration
- 3. Assembling
 - Generates re-locatable object file (contains m/c instructions), .o file
 - - U puts
 - nm or objdump tool used to view object files

4 Stages of Compilation Process (contd..)

- 4. Linking
 - Generates executable file (nm tool used to view exe file)
 - Binds appropriate libraries
 - Static Linking
 - Dynamic Linking (default)
- Loading and Execution (of an executable file)
 - Evaluate size of code and data segment
 - Allocates address space in the user mode and transfers them into memory
 - Load dependent libraries needed by program and links them
 - Invokes Process Manager \rightarrow Program registration

Compiling a C Program

- gcc <options> program_name.c
- Options:

Four stages into one

-Wall: Shows all warnings

-o output_file_name: By default a.out executable file is created when we compile our program with gcc. Instead, we can specify the output file name using "-o" option.
-g: Include debugging information in the binary.

• man gcc

Preprocessing

- Things with #
 - #include <stdio.h>
 - #define REAL float
 - Others
- Processes the C source files BEFORE handing it to compiler.
 - `Pre`-process
 - gcc –E
 - срр

File Inclusion

- Recall : #include <*filename*>
 - #include <foo.h>
 - System directories
 - #include ``foo.h"
 - Current directories
 - gcc -I/usr/include to specify where to search those
 header files
 - gcc -I/usr/include sum_full.c -o sum
- Preprocessing replaces the line "#include <foo.h>" with the content of the file foo.h

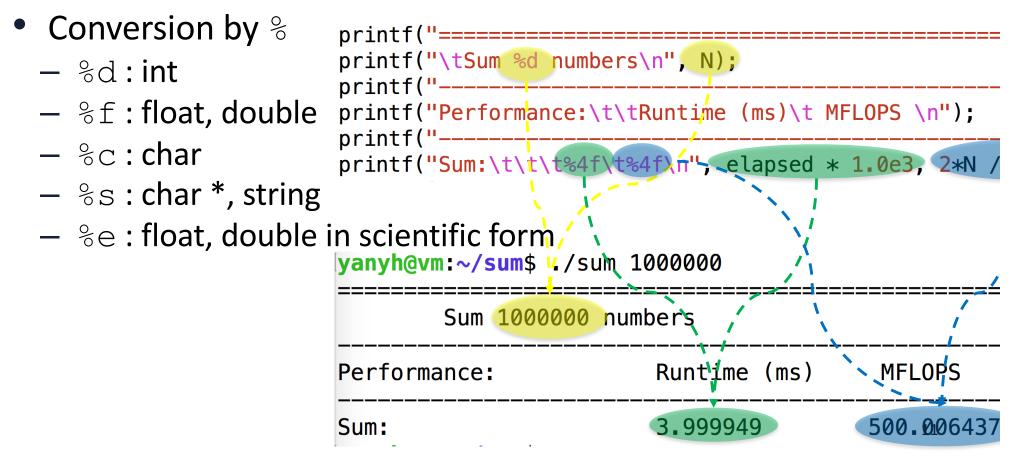
Macros

- Define and replaced by preprocessing
 - Every occurrence of **REAL** will be replaced with **float** before compilation.

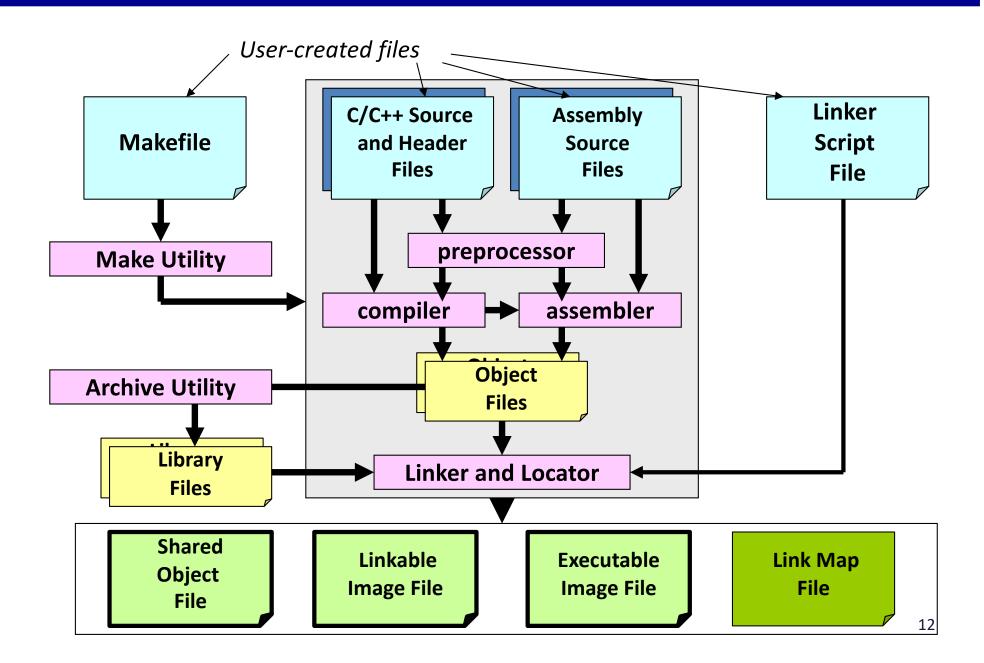
```
1 #define REAL float
2
 REAL sum(int N, REAL X[], REAL a) {
3
      int i;
4
5
      REAL result = 0.0;
6
      for (i = 0; i < N; ++i)</pre>
           result += a * X[i]:
7
8
       return result;
9
```

About printf in C

- printf("format string",vars);
- Format string?
 - "This year is d^n "
 - "Your score is %d\n"



Tools and Steps for Program Execution



Code Can be in Assembly Language

 Assembly language either is written by a programmer or is the output of a compiler.

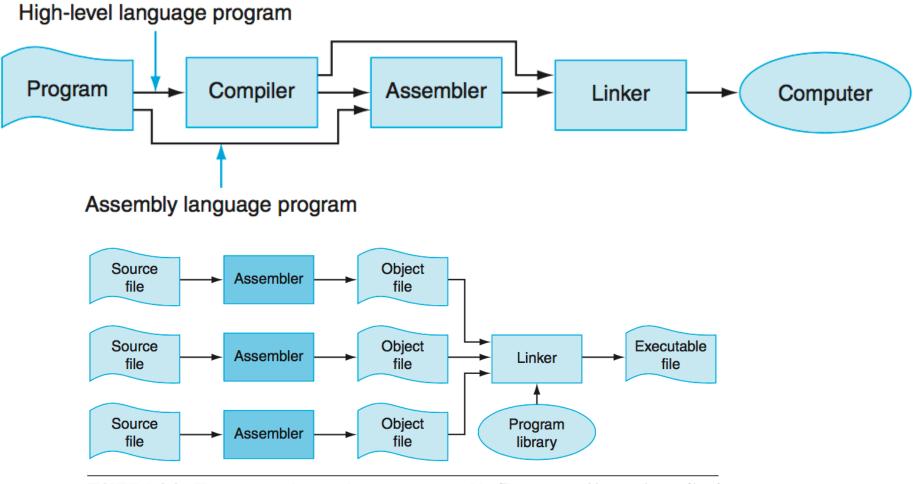
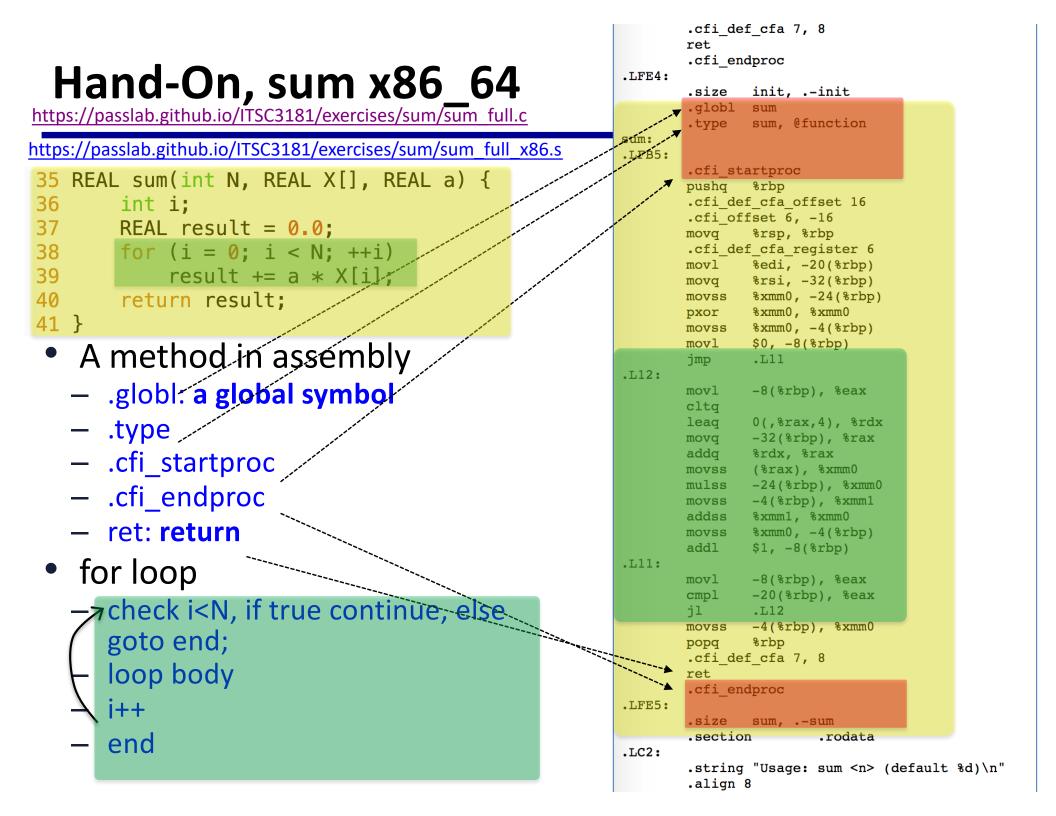


FIGURE A.1.1 The process that produces an executable file. An assembler translates a file of assembly language into an object file, which is linked with other files and libraries into an executable file.

High-Level Program, Assembly Code and Binary

<pre>3 { 4 int i; 5 int sum = 0; 6 for (i = 0; i</pre>	h> cgc, char * argv[]) <= 100; i = i + 1) sum = sum + : sum from 0 100 is %d\n", sum);	
addiu\$29, \$29, -32sw\$31, 20(\$29)sw\$4, 32(\$29)sw\$5, 36(\$29)sw\$0, 24(\$29)sw\$0, 28(\$29)lw\$14, 28(\$29)lw\$14, 28(\$29)lw\$14, 28(\$29)multu\$14, \$14addiu\$8, \$14, 1slti\$1, \$8, 101sw\$8, 28(\$29)mflo\$15addu\$25, \$24, \$15bne\$1, \$0, -9sw\$25, 24(\$29)lui\$4, 4096lw\$5, 24(\$29)jal1048812addiu\$4, \$4, 1072lw\$31, 20(\$29)addiu\$29, \$29, 32jr\$31move\$2, \$0	<pre>.text .align 2 .globl main main: subu \$sp, \$sp, 32 sw \$ra, 20(\$sp) sd \$a0, 32(\$sp) sw \$0, 24(\$sp) sw \$0, 28(\$sp) loop: lw \$t6, 28(\$sp) mul \$t7, \$t6, \$t6 lw \$t8, 24(\$sp) addu \$t9, \$t8, \$t7 sw \$t9, 24(\$sp) addu \$t0, \$t6, 1 sw \$t0, 28(\$sp) ble \$t0, 100, loop la \$a0, str lw \$a1, 24(\$sp) jal printf move \$v0, \$0 lw \$ra, 20(\$sp) addu \$sp, \$sp, 32 jr \$ra .asciiz "The sum from 0 100 is %d\n"</pre>	0010011110111101111111111100000 1010111101111010000000000000000000000



Sum, RISC-V and MIPS

• Mainly different instructions

```
REAL sum(int N, REAL X[], REAL a)
    int i;
    REAL result = 0.0;
    for (i = 0; i < N; ++i)
        result += a * X[i];
    return result;</pre>
```

- for loop
 - check i<N, if true,
 continue, else goto end;
 loop body
 i++
 - end

	.grobi .type	sum, @funct	ion		SW	\$6,32(\$fp)	
sum:		Version	TOU		SW	MIPS ¹ Version	
Duni	addi	sp, sp, -48			SW	\$0,8(\$fp)	
	sd	s0,40(sp)			b	\$L9	
	addi	s0,sp,48			nop		
	mv	a5,a0					
	sd	a1,-48(s0)		\$L10:			
	fsw	fa0,-40(s0)			lw	\$2,8(\$fp)	
	SW	a5, -36(s0)			nop		
	SW	zero, -24(s0)		sll	\$2,\$2,2	
	SW	zero, -20(s0	· ·		lw	\$3,28(\$fp)	
	j	.L9	'		nop		
.L10:	J	• 11 9			addu	\$2,\$3,\$2	
• 11 1 0 •	lw	a5,-20(s0)			lwc1	\$f2,0(\$2)	
	slli	a5,a5,2			lwc1	\$f0,32(\$fp)	
	ld	a4, -48(s0)			nop		
	add	a5,a4,a5			mul.s	\$f0,\$f2,\$f0	
	flw	fa4,0(a5)			lwc1	\$f2,12(\$fp)	
	flw	fa5,-40(s0)			nop		
	fmul.s	fa5, fa4, fa5			add.s	\$f0,\$f2,\$f0	
	flw	fa4, -24(s0)			swc1	\$f0,12(\$fp)	
	fadd.s	fa5,fa4,fa5			lw	\$2,8(\$fp)	
	fsw	fa5,-24(s0)			nop		
	lw	a5,-20(s0)			addiu	\$2,\$2,1	
	addiw	a5,a5,1			SW	\$2,8(\$fp)	
	SW	a5, -20(s0)		\$L9:			
.L9:					lw	\$3,8(\$fp)	
	lw	a4,-20(s0)			lw	\$2,24(\$fp)	
	lw	a5, -36(s0)			nop		
	sext.w	a4,a4			slt	\$2,\$3,\$2	
	sext.w	a5,a5			bne	\$2,\$0,\$L10	
	blt	a4,a5,.L10			nop		
	flw	fa5,-24(s0)					
	fmv.s	fa0,fa5			lwc1	\$f0,12(\$fp)	
	ld	s0,40(sp)			move	\$sp,\$fp	
	addi	sp, sp, 48			lw	\$fp,20(\$sp)	
	jr	ra			addiu		
	.size	sum,sum			j	\$31	
	.section		data		nop	,	
		3					

Sum, x86_64

- Number of instructions per loop iteration
 - Count it

```
35 REAL sum(int N, REAL X[], REAL a) {
36    int i;
37    REAL result = 0.0;
38    for (i = 0; i < N; ++i)
39        result += a * X[i];
40    return result;
41 }</pre>
```

 $= \frac{\# \text{Instructions}}{\text{Program}} \times \frac{\# \text{Clock cycles}}{\text{Instruction}} \times \frac{\text{Seconds}}{\text{Clock cycle}}$

```
.cfi def cfa 7, 8
        ret
        .cfi endproc
.LFE4:
                init, .-init
        .size
        .qlobl
                sum
                sum, @function
        .type
sum:
.LFB5:
        .cfi startproc
        pushq
                %rbp
        .cfi def cfa offset 16
        .cfi offset 6, -16
        movq
                %rsp, %rbp
        .cfi def cfa register 6
                %edi, -20(%rbp)
        movl
                %rsi, -32(%rbp)
        movq
                %xmm0, -24(%rbp)
        movss
                %xmm0, %xmm0
        pxor
                %xmm0, -4(%rbp)
        movss
        movl
                $0, -8(%rbp)
        jmp
                 .L11
.L12:
        movl
                -8(%rbp), %eax
        cltq
        leaq
                0(,%rax,4), %rdx
                -32(%rbp), %rax
        movq
        addq
                %rdx, %rax
                (%rax), %xmm0
        movss
        mulss
                -24(%rbp), %xmm0
                -4(%rbp), %xmm1
        movss
                 %xmm1, %xmm0
        addss
        movss
                % xmm0, -4(% rbp)
        addl
                $1, -8(%rbp)
.L11:
                 -8( % rbp), % eax
        movl
        cmpl
                -20(%rbp), %eax
        jl
                 .L12
                 -4(%rbp), %xmm0
        movss
                 %rbp
        popq
        .cfi def cfa 7, 8
        ret
        .cfi endproc
.LFE5:
        .size
                sum, .-sum
        .section
                         .rodata
.LC2:
        .string "Usage: sum <n> (default %d)\n"
        .align 8
```

When to Use Assembly Language

- Advantage: Speed, size and predictable
 - No compiler middle-man
 - Fit for mission-critical, embedded domain, e.g. space shuttle or car control
- Hybrid approach
 - Non-critical part in high-level language
 - Critical part in assembly language
- Explore special instructions
 - E.g. those special-purpose instructions that can do more than one thing

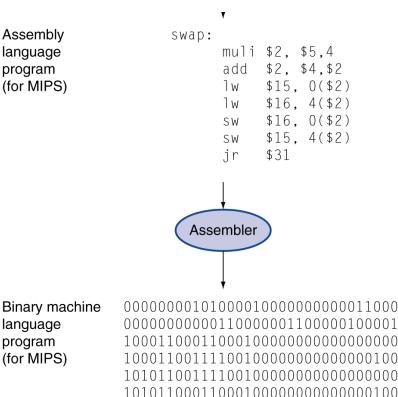
Drawbacks of Assembly Language

Assembly language has many (and more) disadvantages that strongly argue against its wide-spread use.

- Machine-specific code, i.e. assembly code are not portable
 - Rewrite for new or different architectures
- Harder than high level language to write large code or software
 - Harder to keep a high-level software structure
 - Harder to read and debug
- Most compilers are good enough to convince that you do not need to write assembly code for general-purpose applications
 - Except embedded or IoT domain

Assembler

- Translates file of assembly language statements into a file of binary machine instructions and binary data.
- Two main steps:
 - Find memory address for symbols (e.g. functions).
 - Translate each assembly statement by combining the numeric equivalents of opcodes, register specifiers, and labels into a legal instruction
 - Binary
- Produce object files



Object File

ELF Format: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executable_and_Linkable_Format</u>

Object f		Data segment	Relocation information	Symbol table	Debugging information
----------	--	-----------------	------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------

FIGURE A.2.1 Object file. A UNIX assembler produces an object file with six distinct sections.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int a[10]={0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};
int b[10];
int main(int argc, char* argv[]){
   int i;
   static int k = 3;
   for(i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
      printf("%d\n",a[i]);
      b[i] = k*a[i];
   }
}
```

Contents of Object File for the Sample C program

Offset	Contents	Comment					
Header	Header section						
0	124	number of bytes of Machine code section					
4	44	number of bytes of initialized data section					
8	40	number of bytes of Uninitialized data section (array b[])					
		(not part of this object module)					
12	60	number of bytes of Symbol table section					
16	44	number of bytes of Relocation information section					
Machin	e code sect	tion (124 bytes)					
20	Х	code for the top of the for loop (36 bytes)					
56	Х	code for call to printf() (22 bytes)					
68	Х	code for the assignment statement (10 bytes)					
88	Х	code for the bottom of the for loop (4 bytes)					
92	Х	code for exiting main() (52 bytes)					
	ed data sec	tion (44 bytes)					
144	0	beginning of array a []					
148	1						
:							
176	8						
180	9	end of array a [] (40 bytes)					
184	3	variable k (4 bytes)					
Symbol table section (60 bytes)							
188	Х	array a []: offset 0 in Initialized data section (12 bytes)					
200	Х	variable k : offset 40 in Initialized data section (10 bytes)					
210	Х	array b[]: offset 0 in Uninitialized data section (12 bytes)					
222	Х	main: offset 0 in Machine code section (12 bytes)					
234	Х	printf: external, used at offset 56 of Machine code section (14 bytes)					
Relocation information section (44 bytes)							
248	Х	relocation information					

Some Terms

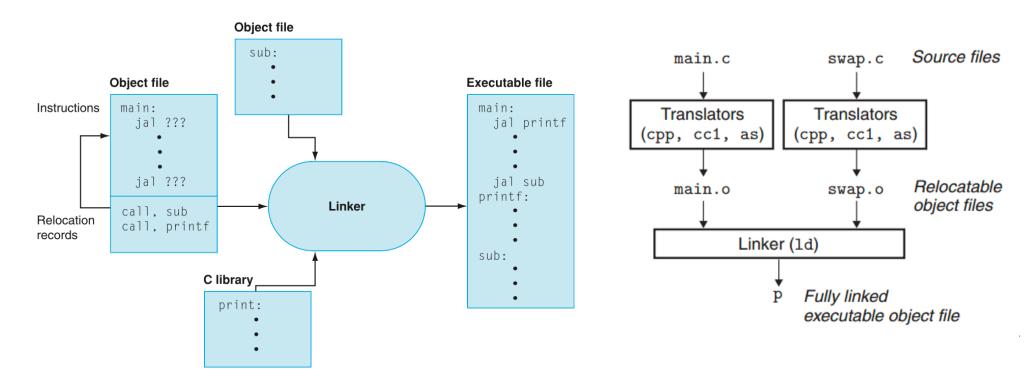
- Object file vs Executable
 - Object file is the file for binary format of machine instructions, not linked with others, nor positioned (in memory) for execution
 - Executable is binary format of object files that are linked and positioned ready for execution.
- Symbol
 - Names, e.g. global function name, variable name
- Library
 - Archive or package of multiple object files

Inspect an ELF Object File or Executable

- Executable and Linkable Format (ELF)
 - <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executable_and_Linkable_Format</u>
- readelf and objdump command in Linux to inspect object/executable file or disassembly
 - Only objdump can do disassembly
- nm command to display symbol information
- Try sum_full.o and sum example
 - sum_full.o is an object file
 - sum is an executable

Linking

 Linker (Id command) searches a collection of object files and program libraries to find nonlocal routines used in a program, combines them into a single executable file, and resolves references between routines in different files.



Linking Multiple files to make executable file

- Two programs, prog1.c and prog2.c for one single task
 - To make single executable file using following instructions

First, compile these two files with option "**-c**" gcc -c prog1.c gcc -c prog2.c

-c: Tells gcc to compile and assemble the code, but not link.

We get two files as output, prog1.o and prog2.o **Then**, we can link these object files into single executable file using below instruction.

```
gcc -o prog prog1.o prog2.o
```

Now, the output is prog executable file. We can run our program using ./prog

Linking with other libraries

- Normally, compiler will read/link libraries from /usr/lib directory to our program during compilation process.
 - Library are precompiled object files
- To link our programs with libraries like pthreads and realtime libraries (rt library).
 - gcc <options> program_name.c -lpthread -lrt

-Ipthread: Link with pthread library → libpthread.so file
 -Irt: Link with rt library → librt.so file
 Option here is "-I<library>"

Another option "-L<dir>" used to tell gcc compiler search for library file in given <dir> directory.

Compile Multiple Files and Link to One Executable

- Split the sum_full.c into two files
 - sum.c that only contains the definition of sum method
 - Also the "#define REAL float" line on top
 - Remove the sum definition from sum_full.c, but still keep sum method declaration (referred too as function signature)
 - Compile both together and generate sum executable
- Compile in one step: gcc sum_full.c sum.c -o sum
 - The command compiles each *.c file one by one into object files and then link the two object files into one executable
- Compile in multiple steps: compile each .c file one by one and link together

Compile in One Step

```
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ls
sum.c sum_full.c
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ gcc sum.c sum_full.c -o sum
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ls
sum sum.c sum_full.c
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ./sum 1000000
        Sum 1000000 numbers
Performance:
                        Runtime (ms)
                                         MFLOPS
Sum:
                        3.999949
                                        500.006437
```

Compile in Multiple Steps

```
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ gcc -c sum.c
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ls
sum sum.c sum_full.c sum.o
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ gcc -c sum_full.c
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ls
sum sum.c sum_full.c sum_full.o sum.o
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ gcc sum.o sum_full.o -o sum
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ls
sum sum.c sum_full.c sum_full.o sum.o
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ ./sum 1000000
       Sum 1000000 numbers
Performance:
                       Runtime (ms) MFLOPS
Sum:
                       9.999990 200.000191
```

Try readelf

```
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ readelf -a sum
ELF Header:
  Magic: 7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  Class:
                                       ELF64
                                       2's complement, little endian
  Data:
                                       1 (current)
  Version:
                                       UNIX - System V
  OS/ABI:
  ABT Version:
                                       0
                                       EXEC (Executable file)
  Type:
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ readelf -a sum.o
ELF Header:
  Magic: 7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  Class:
                                        FI F64
  Data:
                                        2's complement, little endian
                                        1 (current)
  Version:
                                        UNIX - System V
  OS/ABI:
  ABI Version:
                                        0
  Type:
                                        REL (Relocatable file)
  Machine:
                                        Advanced Micro Devices X86-64
  Vorcion
                                        \Omega \sqrt{1}
```

Try objdump for both object file and executable

```
yanyh@vm:~/sum$ objdump -x sum.o
          file format elf64-x86-64
SUM.O:
SUM.O
architecture: i386:x86-64, flags 0x00000011:
HAS_RELOC, HAS_SYMS
start address 0x0000000000000000
Sections:
                                             LMA
Idx Name
                 Size
                           VMA
  0 .text
                 00000060 00000000000000000
                                            0000000000000000000
                 CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, READONLY, CODE
  1 .data
                 000000000000000000
                 CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, DATA
  2 .bss
                 00000000
                           000000000000000000
                                             000000000000000000
```

"objdump -D" to disassembly: convert binary object code back to symbolic assembly code

yanyh@vm:~/sum\$ objdump -D sum

sum: file format elf64-x86-64

Disassembly of section .interp:

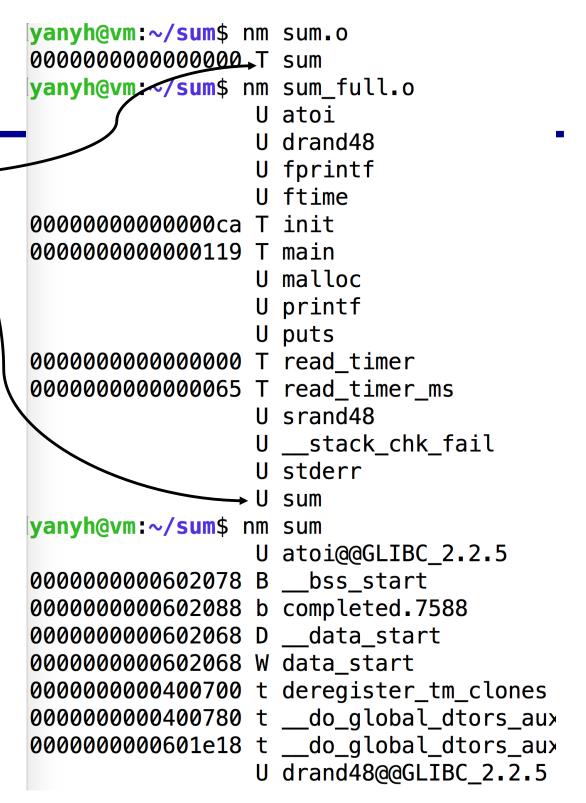
0000000000400238 <.interp>:

2f
6c
69 62 36 34 2f 6c 64
2d 6c 69 6e 75
78 2d
78 38
36 2d 36 34 2e 73
6f
2e 32 00

(bad)	
insb	(%dx),%es:(%rdi)
imul	\$0x646c2f34,0x36(%rdx),%esp
sub	\$0x756e696c,%eax
js	400275 <_init-0x37b>
js	400282 <_init-0x36e>
ss sub	\$0x732e3436,%eax
outsl	%ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
xor	%cs:(%rax),%al

nm: list symbols from object files

- T: define a symbol
- U: undefined symbol ~
 - Linker to link
- Address are relative

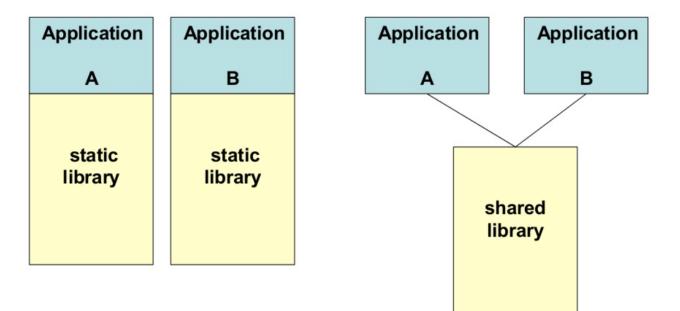


Static Linking

- If multiple program want to use read_timer functions
 - They all include the full definition in their source code
 - Duplicate: If the function changes, we need to change each file
 - Separate reader_timer in a new file, compile and statically linked with other object files to create executables
 - Duplicate the same object in multiple executables.
- Dynamic linking at the runtime
 - Create a dynamic library that provides reader_timer implementation
 - Tell Id to link the library at the runtime
 - Runtime load and link them on the fly and execute

Static Library vs Shared (Dynamic) Library

- Static library needs to be duplicated in every executable
 - Bigger code size, better optimized
- Shared library are loaded on the fly during the execution
 - Smaller code size, performance hits of loading shared memory

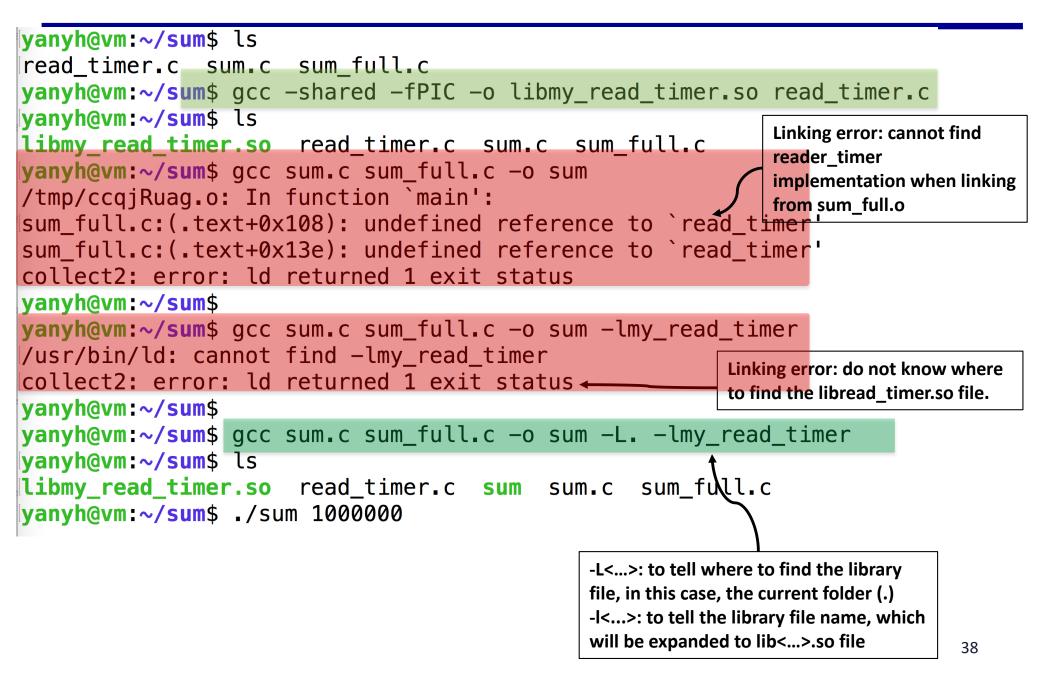


Combine both

Hands-On for dynamic linking

- Sum example for static and dynamic linking: from sum.c and sum_full.c created in the last exercise,
 - Create a new file read_timer.c that includes the read_timer and read_timer_ms definition in the file
 - Leave only the read_timer and read_timer_ms declaration in the sum_full.c
 - They are the interface of the two methods.
 - Compile read_timer.c into a dynamic library
 - The library name is my_read_timer, and the library file is libmy_read_timer.so. You can choose any name.
 - Compile sum.c and sum_full.c and link with lib my_read_timer
 - gcc sum_full.c sum.c -o sum -L. -lmy_read_timer
 - Use Idd command to list dependent libraries

Build Steps with Dynamic Library

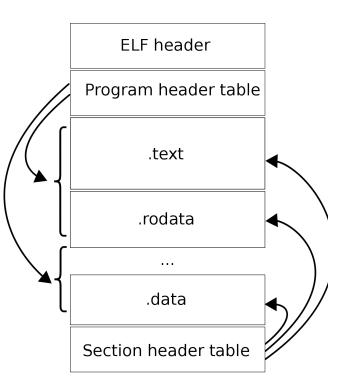


Idd command to list the dependent libraries

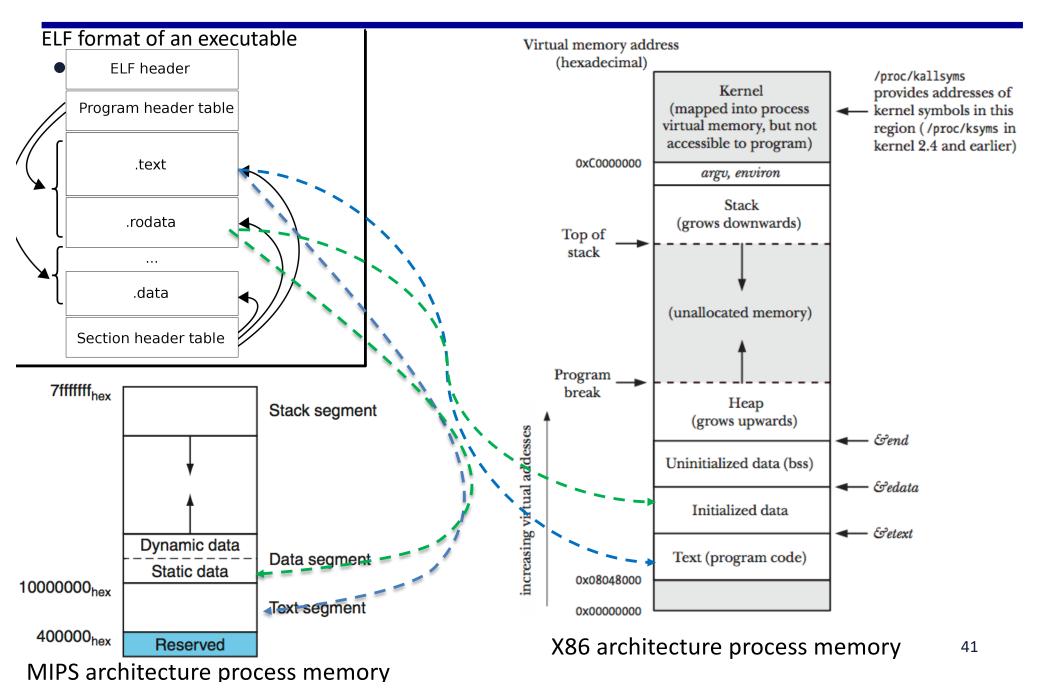
yanyh@vm:~/sum\$ ldd sum
 linux-vdso.so.1 => (0x00007fff8b382000)
 libmy_read_timer.so (0x00007f437c0ae000)
 libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007f437bce4000)
 /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007f437c2b0000)

Loading a File for Execution

- Steps:
 - It reads the executable's header to determine the size of the text and data segments.
 - It creates a new address space for the program. is address space is large enough to hold the text and data segments, along with a stack segment (see Section A.5).
 - It copies instructions and data from the executable into the new address space.
 - It copies arguments passed to the program onto the stack.
 - It initializes the machine registers. In general, most registers are cleared, but the stack pointer must be assigned the address of the rst free stack location (see Section A.5).
 - It jumps to a start-up routine that copies the program's arguments from the stack to registers and calls the program's **main** routine. If the **main** routine returns, the start-up routine terminates the program with the exit system call.

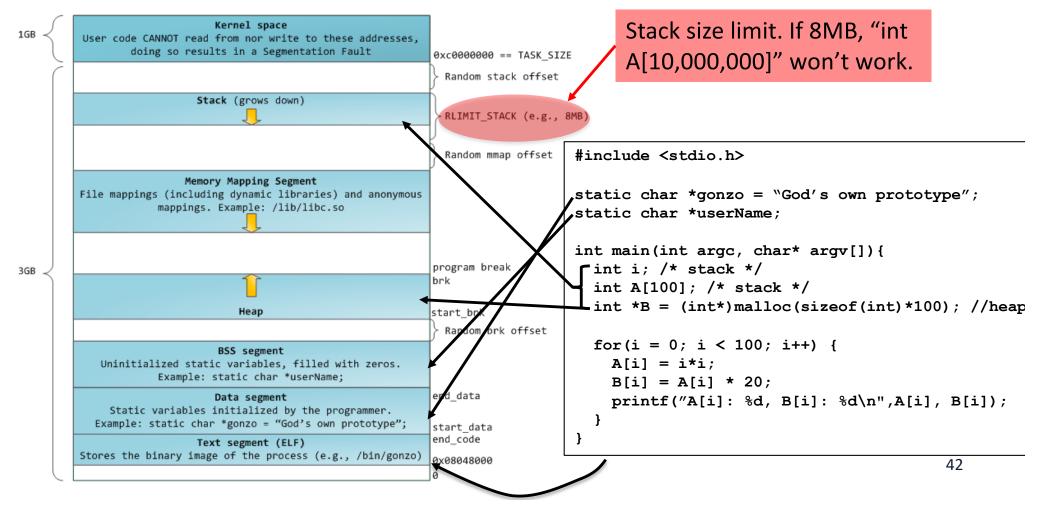


Memory Layout of A Process



Linux Process Memory in 32-bit System (4G space)

- Code (machine instructions) → Text segment
- Static variables → Data or BSS segment
- Function variables → stack (i, A[100] and B)
 - A is a variable that stores memory address, the memory for A's 100 int elements is in the stack
 - B is a memory address, it is stored in stack, but the memory B points to is in heap (100 int elements)
- Dynamic allocated memory using malloc or C++ "new" \rightarrow heap (B[100)



Check the Memory Map of a Process

 Given a process ID: pmap <pid></pid> cat /proc/<pid>/maps</pid> 	<pre>yanyh@vm:~\$ pmap 7153: -bash 00000000000400000 00000000006f3000 00000000006f4000 00000000006fd000 00007f03653f3000 00007f03653fe000 00007f03655fd000 00007f03655fe000</pre>	976K 4K 36K 24K 3224K 44K 2044K 4K 4K	<pre>r-x bash r bash rw bash rw [anon] rw [anon] r-x libnss_file r libnss_file rw libnss_file rw libnss_file</pre>
<pre>yanyh@vm:~\$ cat /proc/7153/maps 00400000-004f4000 r-xp 00000000 08:02 006f3000-006f4000 r-p 000f3000 08:02 006f4000-006fd000 rw-p 000f4000 08:02 006fd000-00703000 rw-p 0000000 00:00 01a31000-01d57000 rw-p 0000000 00:00 7f03653f3000-7f03653fe000 r-xp 0000000 -gnu/libnss_files-2.23.so 7f03653fe000-7f03655fd000p 0000b00 -gnu/libnss_files-2.23.so</pre>	794409 794409 794409 0 0 00 08:02 917692 00 08:02 917692		/bin/bash /bin/bash /bin/bash [heap] /lib/x86_(/lib/x86_(/lib/x86_(43