15-213

Introduction to Computer Systems

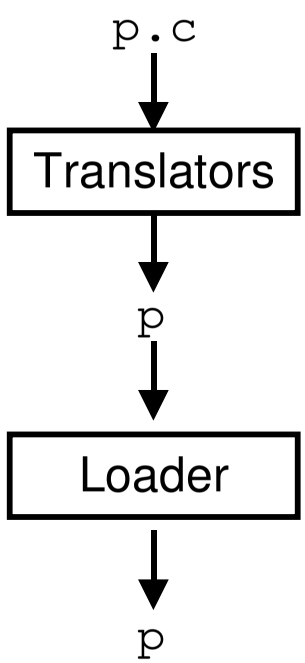
Program Translation and Execution I: Linking
Sept. 29, 1998

Topics

- object files
- linkers

`class11.ppt`

A simplistic program translation scheme



source file

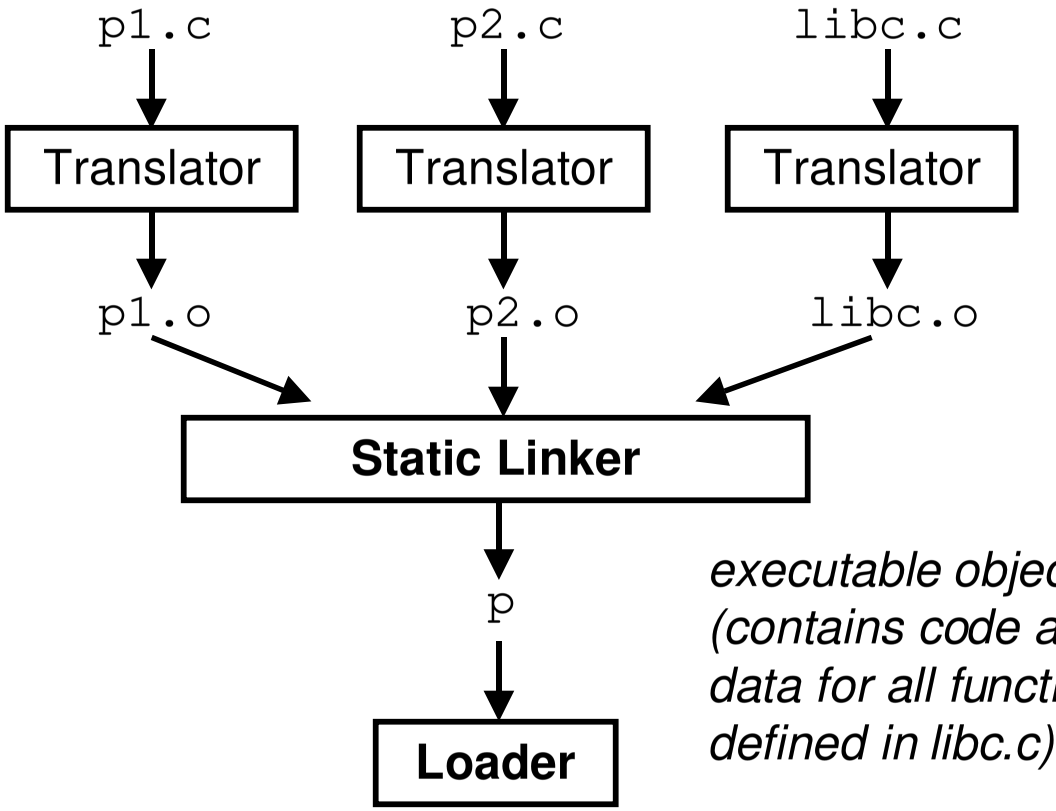
executable object file (memory image on disk)

executing program (memory image)

Problems:

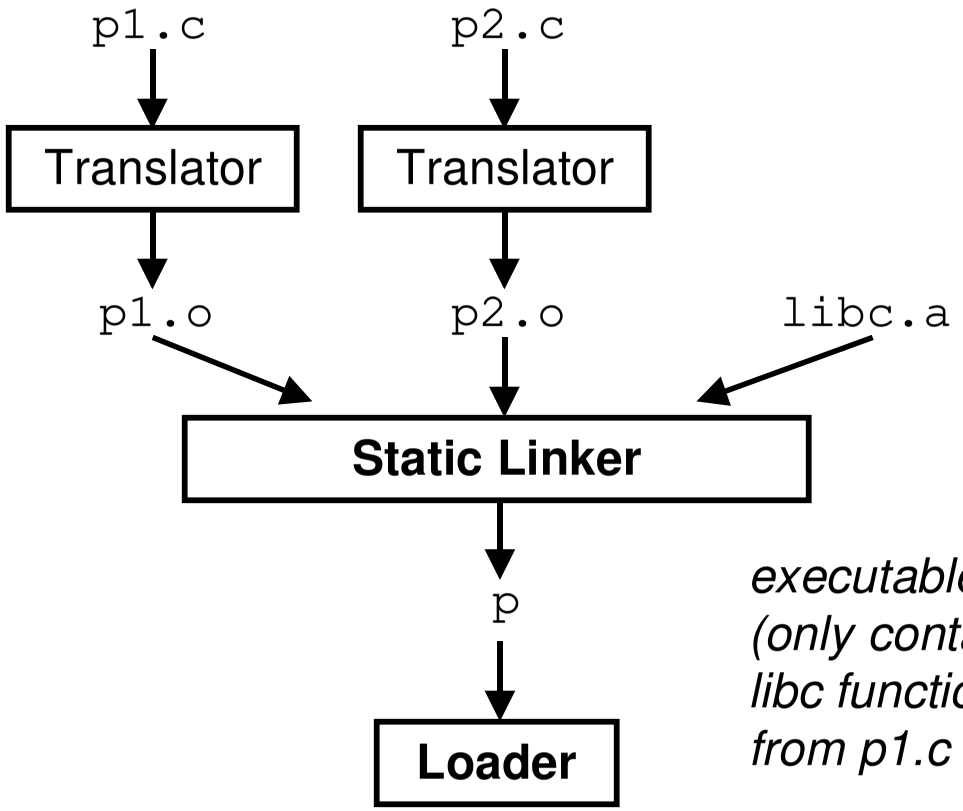
- efficiency: small change requires complete recompilation
- modularity: hard to share common functionality (e.g. printf)

Separate compilation



Improves modularity and efficiency, but still hard to package common functions

Static libraries

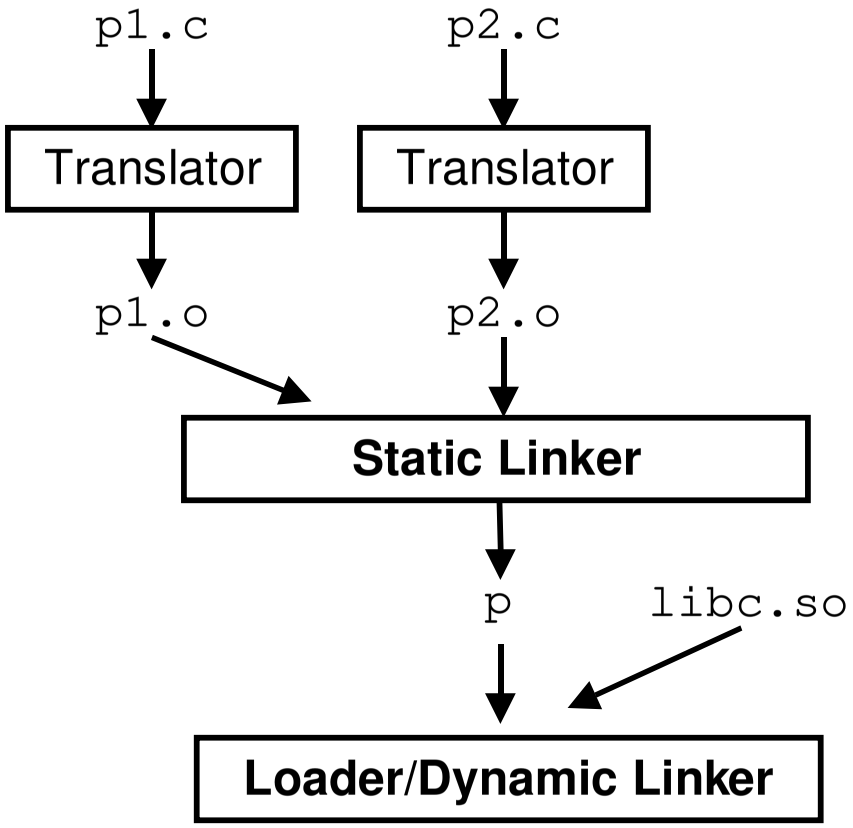


static library of relocatable object files

executable object file (only contains code and data for libc functions that are called from p1.c and p2.c)

Further improves modularity and efficiency, but duplicates common functions in different processes

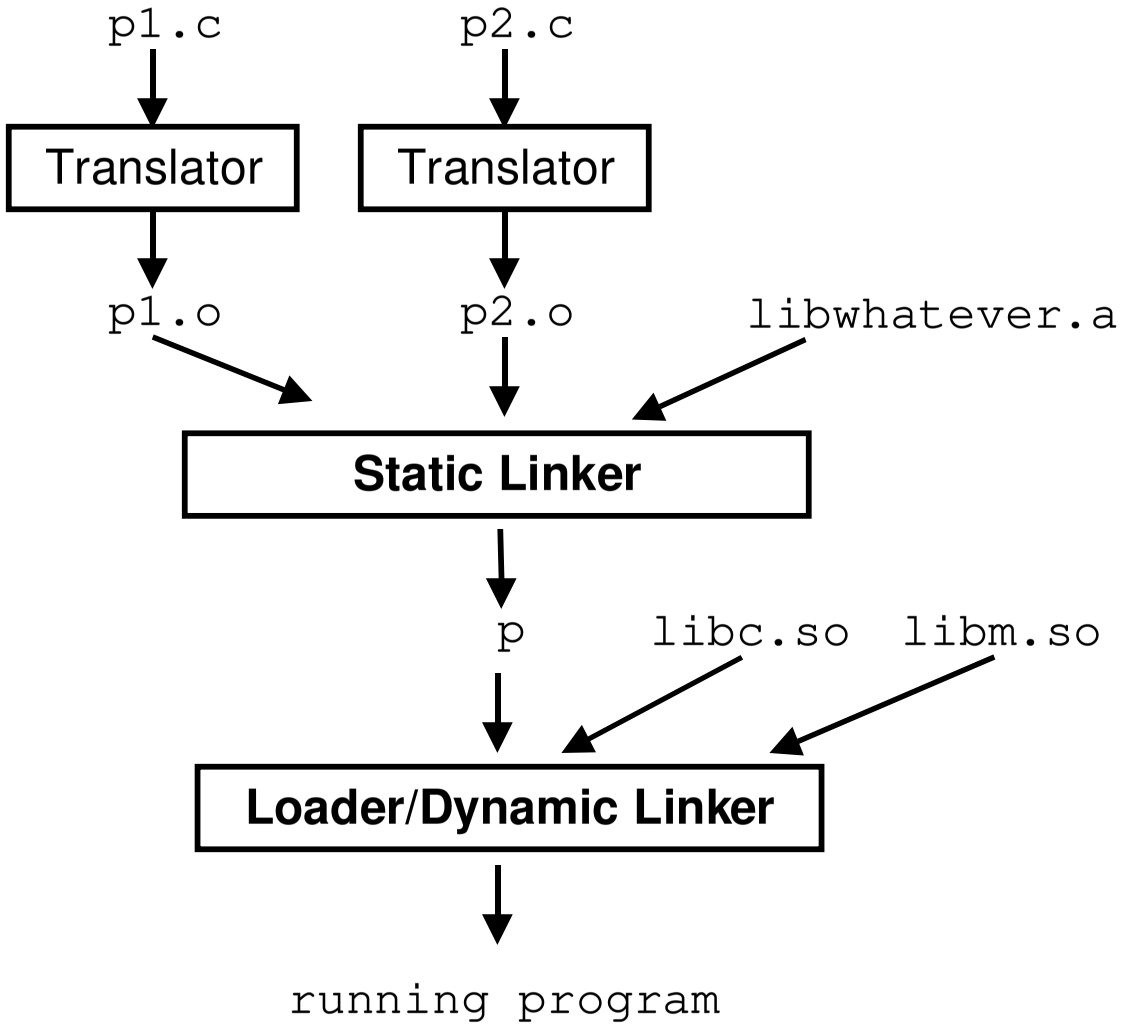
Shared libraries



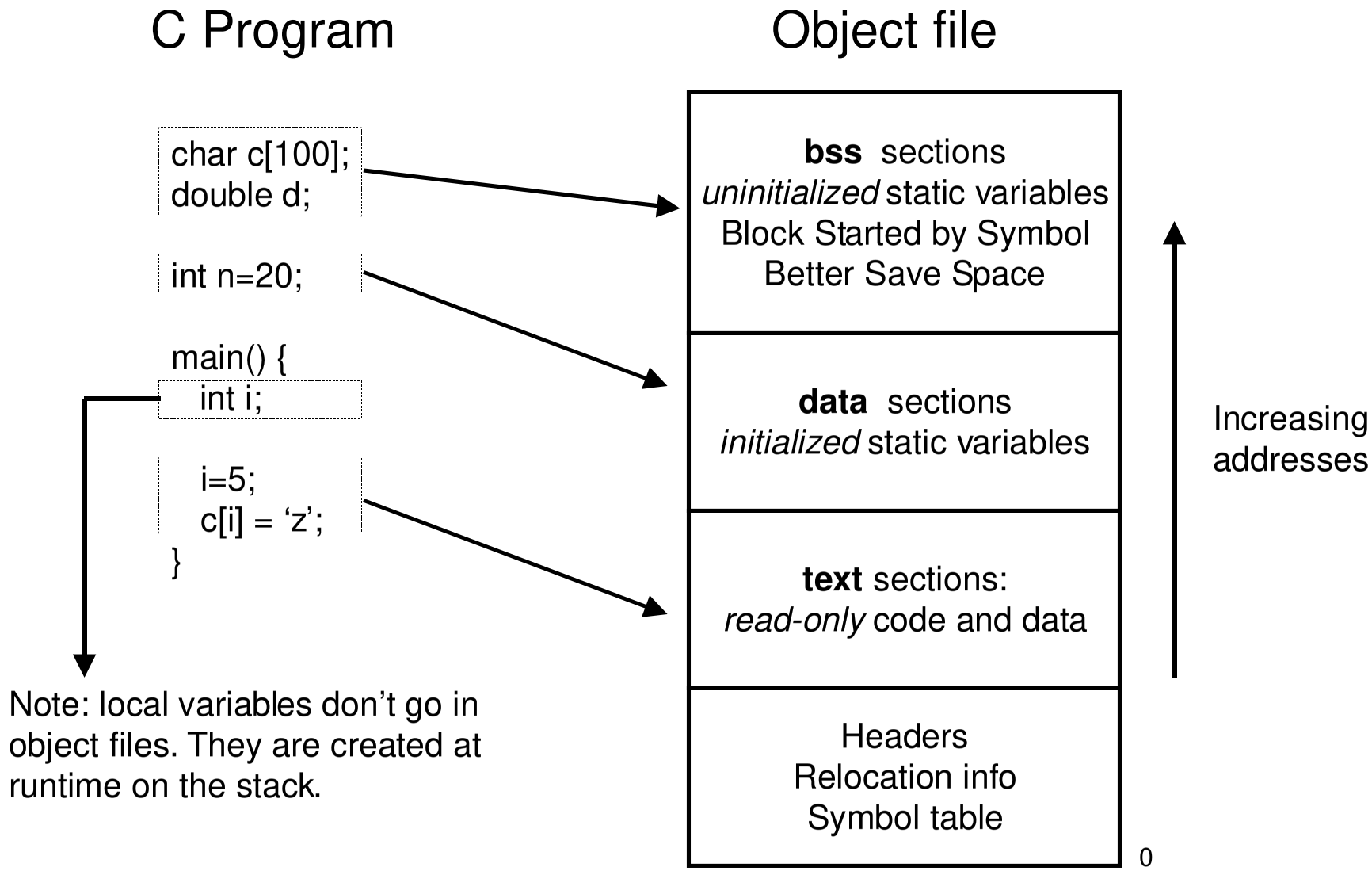
shared library of dynamically relocatable object files

libc functions called by p1.c and p2.c are loaded at run-time and shared among processes.

The complete picture



Object files



Example C program

main.c:

```
main() {
   zip();
}
```

zip.c:

```
extern int x;

int *p = &x;

zip() {
   code(p);
}
```

code.c:

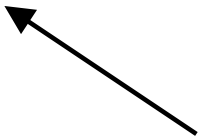
```
int x=0xfe;

code(int *p) {
   srand(*p);
}
```

Compiling and linking the example program

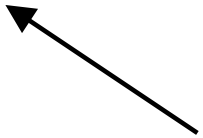
% cc -v -c main.c
cfe main.c > /tmp/ctmfaacgja
ugen -O1 /tmp/ctmfaacgja -o /tmp/ctmcaacgja
as1 -O1 /tmp/ctmcaacgja -o main.o

% cc -c zip.c
% cc -c code.c

% cc -v -Wl,-O0 -o main main.o zip.o code.o
ld -o main -O0 -call_shared /usr/lib/cmplrs/cc/crt0.o main.o zip.o code.o -lc



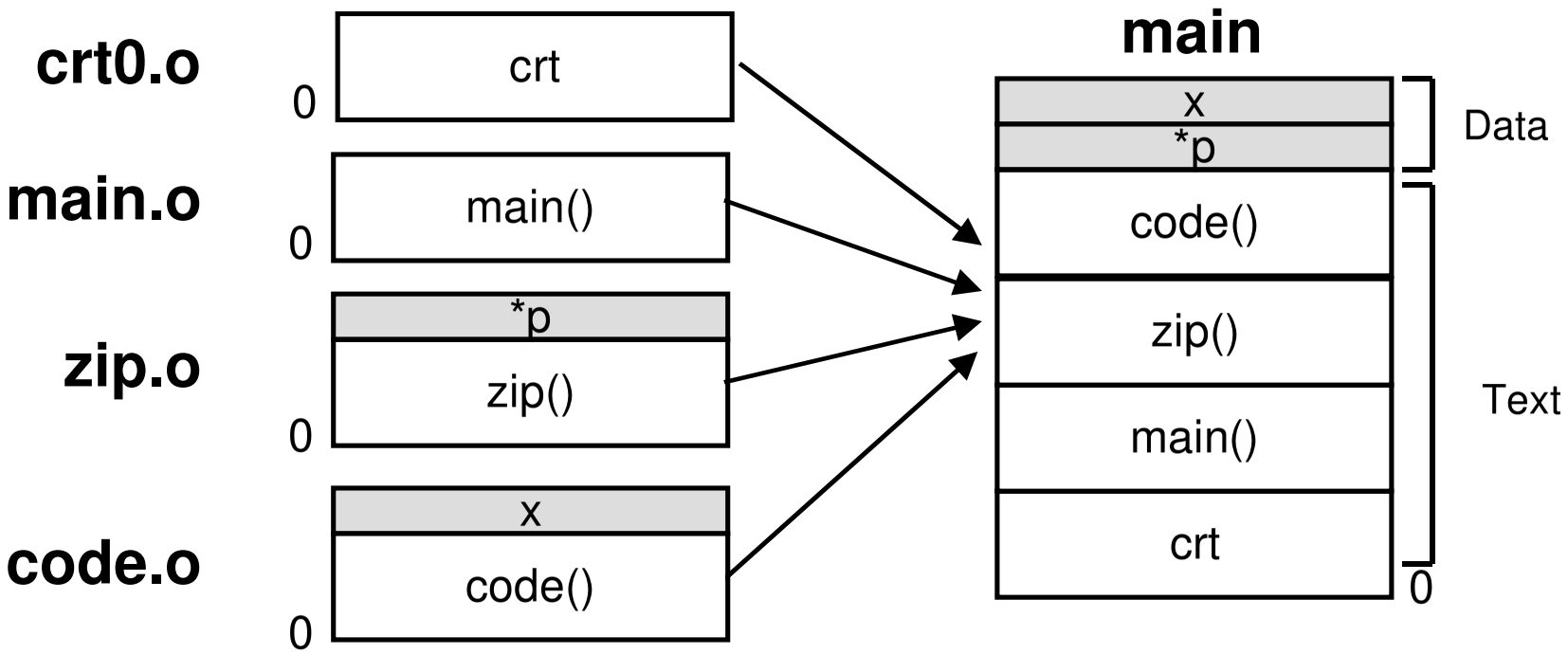
Unix linker



C runtime system

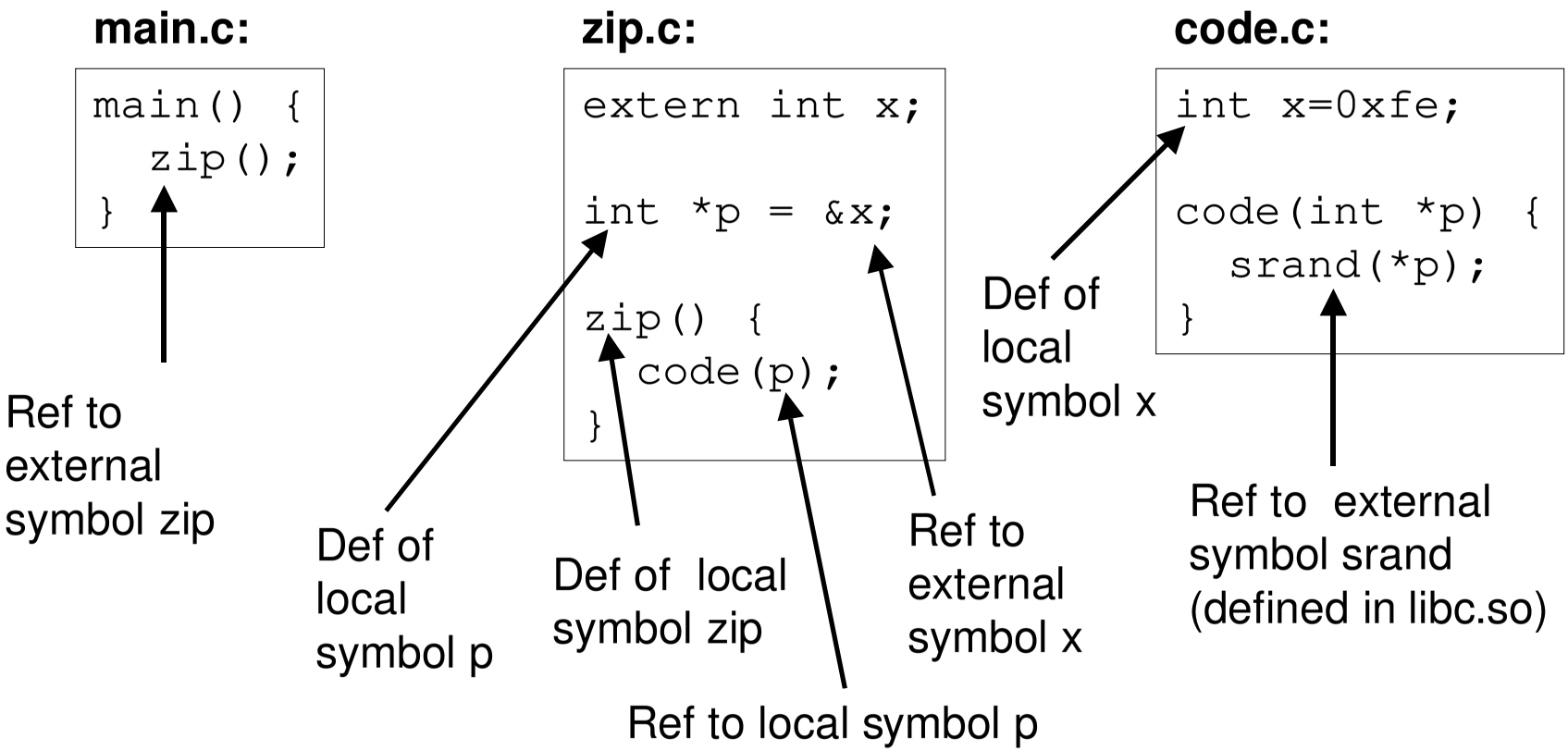
Linker functions

1. ***Resolving*** **external references**
2. ***Relocating*** **symbol definitions and references**

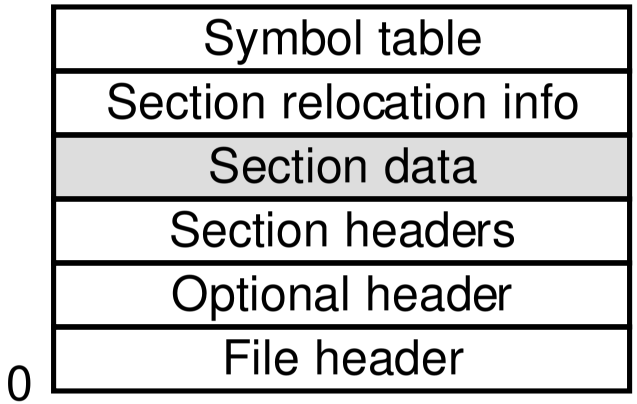


Symbols

- **Lexical entities that correspond to functions and global variables**
- **Each symbol has a *value* (address)**
- **Code consists of symbol *definitions* and *references***
- **References can be either *local* or *external***



Alpha ECOFF object files



File and optional headers

- **magic number, size and number of sections, flags**
  - byte ordering, executable or relocatable?, shared?, calls shared library functions?
- **entry point, gp value, start and sizes of text, data, and bss segments**

Section headers

- **for each section in "Section data": address, size, number of relocation entries**

Section data

- **program code and data**

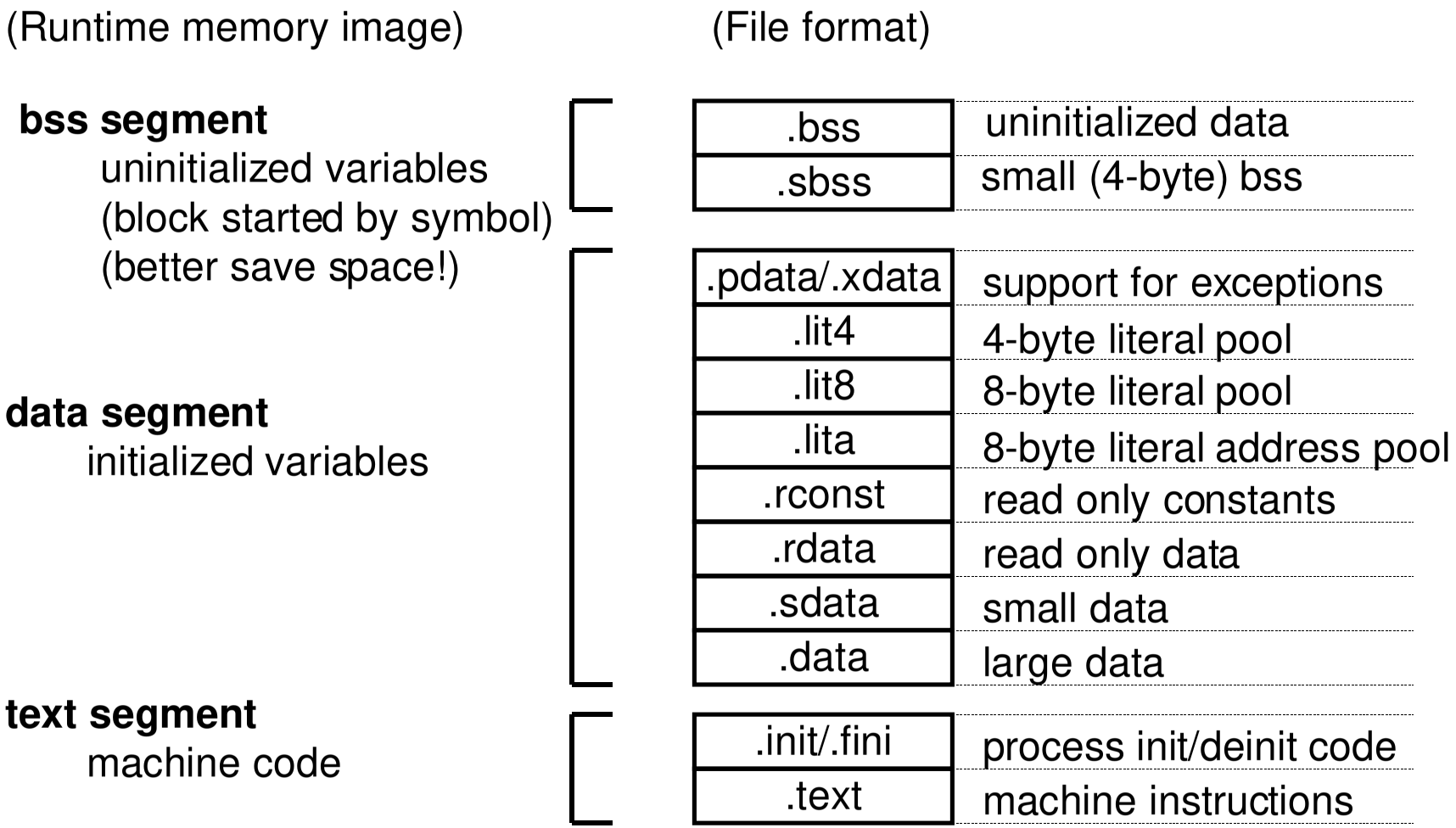
Section relocation info

- **which instructions and data items will need to be relocated?**

Symbol table

- **type and value of relevant symbols**

Section data (relocatable object files)



.text section (main.o)

```
main() {
   zip();
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x30 (48)
.lita	0x50 (80)	0x10 (16)

```
      main:
 0x0:  lda   sp, -16(sp)
 0x4:  ldah  gp, 1(t12)
 0x8:  lda   gp, -32704(gp)
 0xc:  stq   ra, 0(sp)
0x10:  ldq   t12, -32752(gp)
0x14:  jsr   ra, (t12), zip
0x18:  ldah  gp, 1(ra)
0x1c:  ldq   ra, 0(sp)
0x20:  bis   zero, zero, v0
0x24:  lda   gp, -32728(gp)
0x28:  lda   sp, 16(sp)
0x2c:  ret   zero, (ra), 1
```

Assembler assumes that gp=32,832=(64K+128)/2 (Note that t12 = pc-4)

t12 = address stored at .lita+0

resets gp to 32,832 (Note: ra = pc)

Question: Why use gp-relative referencing of data and functions?

Symbol table (main.o)

```
main() {
   zip();
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x30 (48)
.lita	0x50 (80)	0x10 (16)

[Index]	Name	Value	Sclass	Symtype
[0]	main	0x0	Text	Proc
[1]	zip	0x0	Undefined	Proc

Relocation entries (main.o)

```
main() {
   zip();
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x30 (48)
.lita	0x50 (80)	0x10 (16)

Vaddr	Symndx	Type	Extern	Name
.text:				
0x04	4	GPDISP	local	
0x10	13	LITERAL	local	.lita
0x14	3	LITUSE	local	R_LU_JSR
0x14	1	HINT	extern	zip
0x18	12	GPDISP	local	
.lita:				
0x50	1	REFQUAD	extern	zip

GPDISP : instruction pair that sets gp value

LITERAL: gp-relative reference to literal in .lita

LITUSE: identifies instance of a literal address previously loaded into a register

HINT: 14 bit jsr hint reference

REFQUAD: 64-bit reference to the symbol's virtual address

Relocations (main.o)

```
main() {
  zip();
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x30 (48)
.lita	0x50 (80)	0x10 (16)

```
      main:
0x0:   lda    sp, -16(sp)
0x4:   ldah   gp, 1(t12)
0x8:   lda    gp, -32704(gp)
0xc:   stq    ra, 0(sp)
0x10: ldq     t12, -32752(gp)
0x14: jsr     ra, (t12), zip
0x18: ldah    gp, 1(ra)
0x1c: ldq     ra, 0(sp)
0x20: bis     zero, zero, v0
0x24: lda     gp, -32728(gp)
0x28: lda     sp, 16(sp)
0x2c: ret     zero, (ra), 1
```

Vaddr	Symndx	Type	Extern	Name
.text:				
0x04	4	GPDISP	local	
0x10	13	LITERAL	local	.lita
0x14	3	LITUSE	local	R_LU_JSR
0x14	1	HINT	extern	zip
0x18	12	GPDISP	local	
.lita:				
0x50	1	REFQUAD	extern	zip

Notes:

1. LITUSE at 0x14 allows jsr to be replaced by bsr

.text section (zip.o)

```
extern int x;
int *p = &x;

zip() {
  code(p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

```
0x0:   lda    sp, -16(sp)
0x4:   ldah   gp, 1(t12)
0x8:   lda    gp, -32688(gp)
0xc:   stq    ra, 0(sp)
0x10:  ldq    t12, -32744(gp)
0x14:  ldq    a0, -32752(gp)
0x18:  ldq    a0, 0(a0)
0x1c:  jsr    ra, (t12), code
0x20:  ldah   gp, 1(ra)
0x24:  ldq    ra, 0(sp)
0x28:  lda    gp, -32720(gp)
0x2c:  lda    sp, 16(sp)
0x30:  ret    zero, (ra), 1
```

Assembler assumes that gp=32,848

t12 = addr(code) = cont(.lita+8)

a0 = addr(p) = cont(.lita+0)

a0 = p

Symbol table (zip.o)

```
extern int x;
int *p = &x;

zip() {
  code(p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

[Index]	Name	Value	Sclass	Symtype
[0]	p	0x70	SData	Global
[1]	x	0x04	SUndefined	Global
[2]	zip	0x00	Text	Proc
[3]	code	0x00	Undefined	Proc

Relocation entries (zip.o)

```
extern int x;
int *p = &x;

zip() {
  code(p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

```
 0x0:  lda     sp, -16(sp)
 0x4:  ldah    gp, 1(t12)
 0x8:  lda     gp, -32688(gp)
 0xc:  stq     ra, 0(sp)
 0x10: ldq     t12, -32744(gp)
 0x14: ldq     a0, -32752(gp)
 0x18: ldq     a0, 0(a0)
 0x1c: jsr     ra, (t12), code
 0x20: ldah    gp, 1(ra)
 0x24: ldq     ra, 0(sp)
 0x28: lda     gp, -32720(gp)
 0x2c: lda     sp, 16(sp)
 0x30: ret     zero, (ra), 1
```

Vaddr	Symndx	Type	Extern	Name
.text:				
0x04	4	GPDISP	local	
0x14	13	LITERAL	local	.lita
0x18	1	LITUSE	local	R_LU_BASE
0x10	13	LITERAL	local	.lita
0x1c	3	LITUSE	local	R_LU_JSR
0x1c	3	HINT	extern	code
0x20	8	GPDISP	local	
.lita:				
0x60	0	REFQUAD	extern	p
0x68	3	REFQUAD	extern	code
.sdata:				
0x70	1	REFQUAD	extern	x

.text section (code.o)

```
int  x=0xfe;
code(int  *p) {
  srand(*p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

```
0x0:  lda   sp, -64(sp)
0x4:  ldah  gp, 1(t12)
0x8:  lda   gp, -32688(gp)
0xc:  stq   ra, 0(sp)
0x10: stq   a0, 16(sp)
0x14: ldq   t12, -32752(gp)
0x18: bis   a0, a0, t0
0x1c: ldl   a0, 0(t0)
0x20: jsr   ra, (t12), srand
0x24: ldah  gp, 1(ra)
0x28: ldq   ra, 0(sp)
0x2c: lda   gp, -32724(gp)
0x30: lda   sp, 64(sp)
0x34: ret   zero, (ra), 1
```

Assembler assumes that gp=32,848

t12 = addr(srand) = cont(.lita+0)

srand is unresolved

Symbol table (code.o)

```
int  x=0xfe;
code(int  *p)  {
  srand(*p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

[Index]	Name	Value	Sclass	Symtype
[0]	x	0x70	SData	Global
[1]	code	0x00	Text	Proc
[2]	srand	0x00	Undefined	Proc

Relocation entries (code.o)

```
int  x=0xfe;
code(int  *p) {
  srand(*p);
}
```

	start	size
.text	0x00 (0)	0x40 (64)
.lita	0x60 (96)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x70 (112)	0x10 (16)

```
0x0:   lda    sp, -64(sp)
0x4:   ldah   gp, 1(t12)
0x8:   lda    gp, -32688(gp)
0xc:   stq    ra, 0(sp)
0x10:  stq    a0, 16(sp)
0x14:  ldq    t12, -32752(gp)
0x18:  bis    a0, a0, t0
0x1c:  ldl    a0, 0(t0)
0x20:  jsr    ra, (t12), srand
0x24:  ldah   gp, 1(ra)
0x28:  ldq    ra, 0(sp)
0x2c:  lda    gp, -32724(gp)
0x30:  lda    sp, 64(sp)
0x34:  ret    zero, (ra), 1
```

Vaddr	Symndx	Type	Extern	Name
.text:				
0x04	4	GPDISP	local	
0x14	13	LITERAL	local	.lita
0x20	3	LITUSE	local	R_LU_JSR
0x20	2	HINT	extern	srand
0x24	8	GPDISP	local	
.lita:				
0x60	2	REFQUAD	extern	srand

Why no relocation entry for x?

Executable object file (main)

.rconst	0x120001080 (4224)	0x60 (96)
.text	0x120001140 (4416)	0x450 (1104)
.data	0x140000000 (0)	0x10 (16)
.lit8	0x1400000a0 (160)	0x10 (16)
.sdata	0x140000b0 (176)	0x20 (32)
.got	0x140000d0 (208)	0x120 (288)
.sbss	0x1400001f0 (496)	0x40 (64)

```
        main:
0x120001320:  lda    sp, -16(sp)
0x120001324:  ldah   gp, 8192(t12)
0x120001328:  lda    gp, 28064(gp)
0x12000132c:  stq    ra, 0(sp)
0x120001330:  ldq    t12, -32672(gp)
0x120001334:  ldah   a0, -1(gp)
0x120001338:  ldq    a0, 32752(a0)
0x12000133c:  bsr    ra, code
0x120001340:  ldah   gp, 8192(ra)
0x120001344:  ldq    ra, 0(sp)
0x120001348:  lda    gp, 28032(gp)
0x12000134c:  lda    sp, 16(sp)
0x120001350:  ret    zero, (ra), 1
```

Linker sets gp at .data+32960

addr(code) at .data+288

changed by linker!

Symbol table (main)

```
[0] .rconst    0x120001080    scRConst    Local
[1] .pdata     0x1200010e0    PData       Local
[2] .text      0x120001140    Text        Local
[3] .init      0x120001590    Init        Local
[4] .fini      0x1200015d0    Fini        Local
[5] .data      0x140000000    Data        Local
[6] .xdata     0x140000010    XData       Local
[7] .rdata     0x140000010    RData       Local
[8] .lit8      0x1400000b0    SData       Local
[9] .lit4      0x1400000b0    SData       Local
[10] .sdata    0x1400000b0    SData       Local
[11 .sbss      0x1400001f0    SBss        Local
[12] .bss      0x140000230    Bss         Local
```

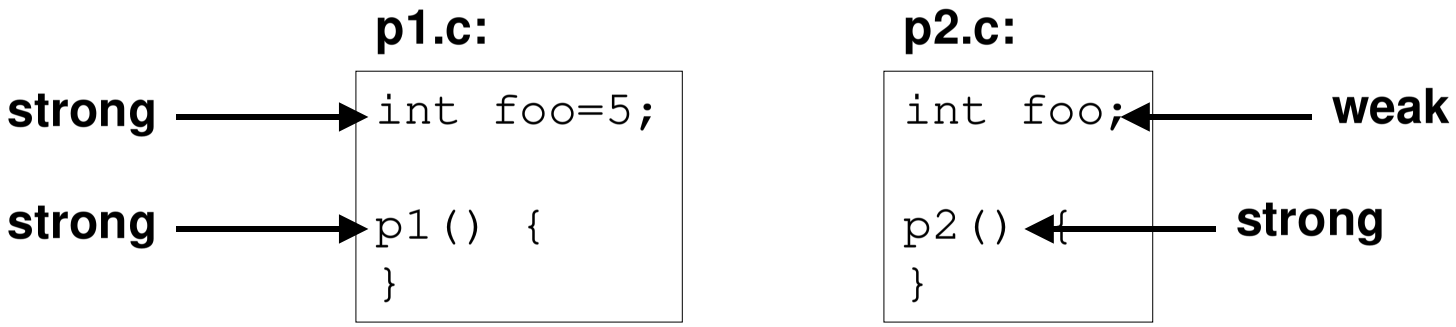
Symbol table (main)

[13]	__start	0x1200011a0	Text	Proc
[24]	x	0x1400000c0	SData	Global
[25]	__environ	0x000000000	Common	Global
[26]	errno	0x000000004	Common	Global
[29]	exit	0x120001140	Undefined	Proc
[31]	main	0x1200012f0	Text	Proc
[32]	zip	0x120001320	Text	Proc
[33]	code	0x120001360	Text	Proc
[42]	p	0x1400000b0	SData	Global
[43]	__Argc	0x1400001f0	SBss	Global
[44]	__Argv	0x1400001f8	SBss	Global
[56]	srand	0x000000000	Undefined	Proc

Strong and weak symbols

Program symbols are either *strong* or *weak*

- **strong: procedures and ininitialized globals**
- **weak: uninitialized globals**



Linker's symbol rules

1. A strong symbol can only appear once.

2. A weak symbol can be overridden by a strong symbol of the same name.

3. If multiple weak symbols, the linker can pick either one.

Linker puzzles

```
int foo;
p1() {}
```

```
p1() {}
```

```
int foo;
p1() {}
```

```
int foo;
p2() {}
```

```
int foo;
p1() {}
```

```
double  foo;
p2() {}
```

```
int foo=7;
p1() {}
```

```
double  foo;
p2() {}
```

```
int foo=7;
p1() {}
```

```
int  foo;
p2() {}
```