Compilation and Linking

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Sources of Information



- Books
 - Running Linux: O'Reilly
 - Linux in a Nutshell: O'Reilly
 - Unix Power Tools
- WEB
 - www.google.com (search engine)
 - www.nlsearch.com
 - www.hotbot.com

Linux/Unix man pages



- Search for list of items related to compiling
 - man –k compile
- Get information about a particular command
 - man fort77 (Fortran compiler)
 - man ar (library archiver)
 - man gcc (GNU C++ compiler)

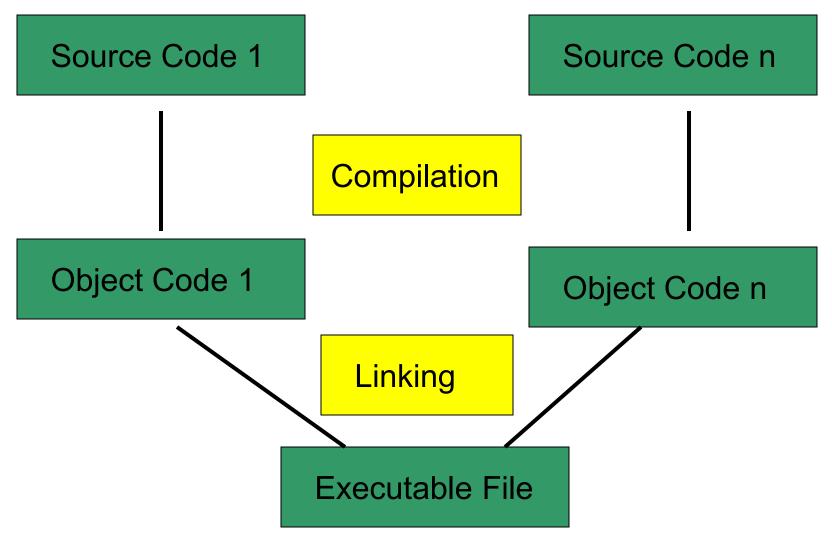
Commonalities across machines and Operating Systems



- Files are contained in directories
- Directories form a tree, files are the leaves of that tree
- Compiled Languages (C/C++, Fortran, Java)
- Scripting languages (Perl, Python)
- File extensions (.cc, .f77, .as, .o)

Compile/Link/Execute





Compilers

- Fortran (fort77, f90, g77)
- C/C++
 - cc, gcc, g++ (Linux)
 - CC (IRIX)



Source Code



- Users write source code
- Ascii file, created with text editor
- Source code files have extensions .cpp, .cxx, .cc, .CC, .f77, .f90, etc.

From source code to binary code



- Source code (readable asci text) --->
- Assembler code (human readable machine code) --->
- Object code (machine code, symbols) --->
- Machine code (binary executable)
 - contains ascii symbols if debug option on
 - pure machine code if debug option off

Directory paths



- Include file paths: -Idirs
- Example: g++ -c -l. -l/home/source/include main.c
- Example: f77 -c -l. -l/home/source/include main.c
- Library file paths: -Idirs
- Example: g++ -c -L/home/lib main.c timer.o
- Example: f77 -c -L/home/lib main.c timer.o

Include paths



- g++ -lpath1 –lpath2 source.cpp
 - Search for inlude files in succession of paths
 - System searches standard paths first
 - /usr/include
 - /usr/local/include
 - etc. (see manual for more information)

Include files

- #include <systemfile.h>
- #include "localfile.h"

- <...> : system include files
- "...": user include files

Preprocessor

- #include <file1.h>
- #include "file2.h"
- #ifdef VAR# define A 5#else# define A 10#endif



Include contents of files 1.h into source

Based on value of VAR, define A to be 5 or 10

Preprocessor



- Explicit call
 - /lib/cpp source.cpp [options] > new_source.cpp
- Automatically called by most compilers
- Options to preprocessor
 - -P (remove comment lines)
 - DdefineVar=value (set variable)



```
#ifdef TEST
# define A 3*3
#else
# define A = 4*4
#endif
main()
    float c = A;
    print("c = %d\n", c);
```

```
g++ testdef.cpp

TEST not defined

c=16

G++ -DTEST testdef.cpp

TEST is defined

c=9
```

Include File Directories



- /usr/include
- /usr/include/GL (OpenGL libraries)
- /usr/local/include
- user-specified include directories

Include file locations are based on convention. There are no strong conventions.

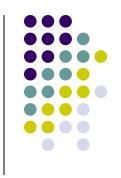
Compilation

- g++ [Options] -c file1.c file2.c ...
- Common options:
 - -c : keep object files
 - array bound checking
 - print out all warnings
 - -O2, -O3 (control optimization level)
 - -Dvar=value (define variable name)
 - -lincludePath (path to include files)
 - -g (enable debugging)
 - see man pages for many other options

Compilation Errors

- Easy to fix
- Pretty much described in English
- Search the web for the wording if you cannot find the source of the error
- Most common errors
 - Divide by zero
 - Type mismatch
 - Undefined variables

Object Files



- Source code is compiled into assembler code.
- Object files may or might not include variable names and other symbols (-g options for compilers) useful for debugging
- Multiple object code files are then combined to form an executable (linker)
- The executable is run by the user

What is in a library



- Convenient place to store object code
 - Obj1.o
 - Obj2.o
 - ...

Libraries

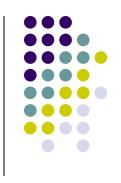
- Shared libraries
 - libm.so, libm.so.143, libGL.so.1523
- Static libraries
 - libm.a, libGL.a , libX11.a, etc ...

Static Libraries



- The assembler code for all library files is included with the executable
 - Size of executable is very large
 - Space usage is duplicated if multiple copies of executable are used
 - Large programs can take longer to load

Shared Libraries



- Objects in libraries are shared across applications
- Routines are only loaded when needed
- Changes can be made to the libraries without recompiling code

Library directories (Unix/Linux)



- /usr/lib
- /usr/local/lib
- /usr/X11R6/lib (specific to Linux version)
- /usr/lib32 (IRIX)
- user-defined library directories

Creating a static library



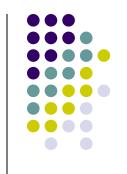
- Collect object files file1.o file2.o into library libstuff.a
 - ar r libstuff.a file1.o file2.o ...
- Create an index for the library (to help linker find files within the library)
 - ranlib libstuff.a
 - (not necessary on SGI's)
- Combine both steps
 - ar rs

Creating a shared library



- Generate position-independent code (might be different for different compilers)
 - g++ -c -fPIC file1.c file2.c
- Create the shared library
 - g++ –shared –o libstuff.so file1.o file2.o

Linking



- Use same name as the compiler (most of the time): compiler is usually a front end script:
 - g++ [options] -o executable obj1.o obj2.o [libraries]
 - Common options
 - -Ldir1 –Ldir2 (directory path to library files)
 - -o executable (name of final executable)
 - -g (debugging option)
 - see man pages for other options

Linking



- Place object code before libraries
 - This order is not always required, but is more portable across operating systems (OS) and compilers.
 - Usually, the libraries are searched in the order they are listed
 - Always strive to compile and link in a portable fashion

Undefined Externals



- Your code is using a user routine or system routine that cannot be found in the list of libraries
- Must find the library that references that routine and add it to the link command.
- How to find this library?

Multiple definitions



- If a routine is listed multiple times in linker output,
 - the routine was found in multiple libraries
 - usually, the last routine found is used
 - this is a warning from the linker, usually not fatal
 - BUT: you must be aware. Sometimes the linker chooses the wrong routine

Using Libraries



- gcc –LPath1 –Lpath2 –o main.x main.o
 –lstuff –lm
 - shared libraries are used if possible
 - static libraries are used if shared library does not exist
 - -Istuff links in libstuff.a searching in directories path1 and path2
 - link in the math library libmath.a





 sh shell script to search a list of libraries for a specified module (could use perl, python):

```
    for $i in lib*.a
    do
    echo $i
    ar t $i | grep -i $1
    done
```

How to debug linking problems



- Read error messages carefully
- Undefined function
 -
- Undefined external
 -

Tools to Search Libraries



- On Linux
 - ar (library archiver)
 - ar t libname.a
 - strings libname.a
 - Lists all ascii strings in the library
 - nm –a libname.a

Use of nm



```
nm /usr/libc.a > output_file
```

Section of output file:

printf.o:

00000000 T _IO_printf

w __pthread_initialize

w __pthread_initialize_minimal

00000000 T printf

U stdout

U vfprintf

Conclusion: printf is defined.

stdout and vfprintf are undefined.

Use of nm (cont.)

In the same file:

```
vfprintf.o:
```

U_IO_default_doallocate

U_IO_default_finish

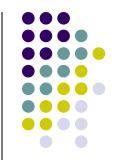
U IO default pbackfail

U_IO_default_read

• • • •







Searching for "stdout" at the beginning of the line produces no results. However, searching for "D stdout" produces

stdio.o:

U_IO_2_1_stderr_

U _IO_2_1_stdin_

U_IO_2_1_stdout_

00000008 D _IO_stderr

00000000 D _IO_stdin

00000004 D _IO_stdout

w __pthread_atfork

w __pthread_getspecific

Stdout is *defined* in the routine stdio.o

Searching for string in libraries



```
#!/bin/bash
for i in /usr/lib/lib*a
  do
    echo $i
    nm $i | grep -i routine_to_find
  done
```

Environment variables



- PATH
 - List of directory searched by the OS to find a command
 - Defined in .cshrc or .bashrc file
- LD_LIBRARY_PATH
 - List of directories searched when shared libraries are used
 - Placed in .cshrc or .bashrc file.

Makefiles

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Home page

http://www.gnu.org/software/make/make.html

Documentation

http://www.gnu.org/software/make/manual/

Compilation and Linking

- Many source files
- Many object files
- Many libraries
- Various types of preprocessing
 - /lib/cpp
 - Lex/yacc (not often used)
 - Python/perl/ranlib/etc.

Three Source files



gcc –c file1.c
 gcc –c file2.c
 gcc –c file3.c

only to do the compiling

gcc –o executable file1.o file2.o file3.o
 -IGLU –IGL –lext –IX11

Change file1.c

- What to do?
- Obvious solution: create a script in file compile.x:

```
gcc –c file1.c
gcc –c file2.c
gcc –c file3.c
gcc –o executable file1.o file2.o file3.o
-IGLU –IGL –lext –IX11
```

First alternative



Manually recompile file1.c and link:

```
gcc –c file1.c
gcc –o executable file1.o file2.o file3.o
-IGLU –IGL –lext –IX11
```

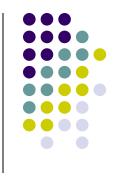
This approach is faster, but more prone to error

What if ...

- 150 source files
- 7 source files are changed
- Compiling 150 source files: 20 min.
- Compiling 7 source files: 1 min
- Linking 150 object files: 3 min

What to do?

Problems ...



- Hard to keep track of which files are changed
- Recompiling all files is inefficient: 143 files are compiled needlessly

Solution: Makefiles

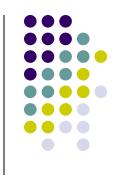


- Each file keeps track of creation time and last modification time
 - To see this:
 - Is –I
- The executable file has a last modification time
- If any source file has been modified after the creation of the executable files, it must obviously be compiled

Why Makefiles?

- Manage complex projects
- Store project information in single place
- Reduce turnaround time for compile—link cycle
- Keeps track of file dependencies based on last modification time
 - Manual or automatic tracking

Project layouts



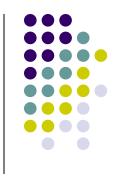
- Single operating system
 - Source and object files in single directory
- Multiple operating systems (Unix,Linux,Windows)
 - Source files in one directory
 - Object files in directory associated with particular OS

GNUmake

- Open source
- Very general
- Very flexible
- Easy to use (in simplest modes)
- Can generate extremely complex makefiles

Makefile names

- Default names (make)
 - Makefile
 - makefile
 - GNUmakefile
- User-specified name
 - make -f makeFileName
 - e.g., make –f make01



Targets



- Targets appear on left side of colon (:)
- Targets are created (e.g., all, pgm, tar)
 - make all
 - make pgm
 - make tar

Prerequisites



- Targets depend on prerequisites
- Targets are compared to prerequisites based on the last modification file date
- If a prerequisite file is newer than the target, make will try to recreate it. For example,
 - pgm.x depends on pgm.o
 - pgm.o depends on pgm.c
 - pgm.c depends on pgm.h

Variables

- OBJS = main.c class1.c class2.c
 - Recursively expanded variable.
- OBJS := main.c class1.c class2.c
 - Simply expanded variable
 - Substitution occurs immediately
 - This method is safer

Variables (example)

CFLAGS = \$(CFLAGS) -O It will cause an infinite loop

x := foo

y := \$(x) bar

x := later

is equivalent to

y := foo bar

x := later



Variables (example)



OBJS= *.o

The value of the variable OBJS is the string "*.o". However, if OBJS is used in a target or prerequisite, wildcard expansion will take place there.

pgm.x: \$(OBJS) gcc –o pgm.x \$(CFLAGS) \$(OBJS)

Variables (example)

```
SRC := $(wildcard *.c)
OBJ := $(patsubst %.c,%.o,$(wildcard *.c))
# OBJ := $(SRC :.c=.o)
```

- Use of := is often safer
- Source files are rarely deleted
- Object list can be constructed automatically, regardless of whether object files actually exist

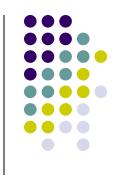
Example

- Source files
 - main.c
 - class1.c, class1.h
 - class2.c, class2.h



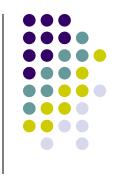
main.c

```
#include "class1.h"
#include "class2.h"
main()
{
    .....
}
```



class1.c

```
class Class1
{
    private:
    ...
    public:
    ....
}
```



Simple Makefile

- Variable definitions
- Target definitions
- Rules



Basic Structure



pgm.x: main.o class1.o class2.o

gcc –o pgm.x main.o class1.o class2.o

main.o: main.c class1.h

gcc -c main.c

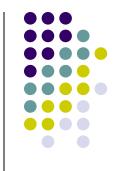
class1.o: class1.c class1.h

gcc –c class1.c

class2.o: class2.c class2.h

gcc –c class2.c

Problems with basic structure

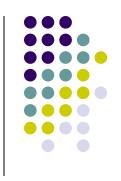


- What if I add one or more additional source file
- What if I add another include statement into main.c (e.g., #include "main.h")
- What if I change compilers?
- What if I work on multiple operating systems on a regular basis
- What if I have source files in multiple directories?
- What if I want to do more complicated functions
 - Installation, tar files, help messages, etc.

Use of Variables

```
CC=gcc
LD=gcc
OBJS= main.o class1.o class2.o
pgm.x: $(OBJS)
$(LD) -o pgm.x $(OBJS)
main.o: main.c class1.h
$(CC) –c main.c
class1.o: class1.c class1.h
$(CC) –c class1.c
class2.o: class2.c class2.h
```

\$(CC) -c class2.h



Use of patterns

```
CC=gcc
LD=gcc
CFLAGS=-c
EXEC=pgm.x
OBJS= main.o class1.o class2.o
$(EXEC): $(OBJS)
$(LD) -o $(EXEC) $(OBJS)
%.o: %.c
$(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o $@ $<
```

'\$@' is the target, '\$<' is the first prerequisite

Additional functions

```
EXEC=pgm.x
$(EXEC):
     $(CC) -o $(EXEC) main.c
.PHONY clean
clean:
     rm *.o $(EXEC)
tar:
     tar $(EXEC).tar *.c *.h Makefile
```

Additional features

- Recursive makes
- Conditionals
- Manipulation of environment variables
- Many shortcut variables
- Pattern manipulation via text functions
- Include files
- Many many more ...

Debuging

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Where do we stand



- You have written a code (C++/Fortran)
- The code compiles and links correctly
 - Warning messages have mostly been eliminated
 - If not eliminated, warning messages should be understood
- You execute the code and the unexpected happens:

What happened!



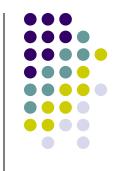
- The code crashes with a segmentation fault
- The computer produces the incorrect results
- You overran array bounds
- You divided by zero?
- You accessed an address outside the codes's address space (zero pointer syndrome)

What do you do?



- You must debug the code
 - Print statements
 - Assert statements
 - Debugging objects
 - Command line debuggers (more common)
 - (dbx on unix, gdb on linux)
 - Visual debuggers (more specialized)
 - Visual C++, SGI/IBM/Compaq visual debuggers



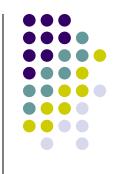


Create a specialize routines (C/Fortran)



```
class Shape {
private:
 float a,b;
 int c;
public:
 Shape(float a, float b, int c) {....}
 print(char* msg) {
   printf("%s, a,b,c= %f, %f, %d\n", a,b,c);
         printf("%s: %f\n", msg, var);
main() {
Shape sh(2.,3.,5);
sh.print("Object sh:");
```

Assert Statements

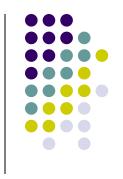


```
#include <assert.h>

fct(float* a, int i)
{ ....
    ASSERT(i < 5);
    a[i] = 3.;
}
```

- If condition is violated, the ASSERT macro prints out some statement and exits.
- ASSERT is only active when –g option is used to compile (debug mode).
- Users can write macros to do anything they want. Effective debugging tool.

Assert Statements



- Assert statements exist in some for or other in all compilers.
- They are usually defined as macros:

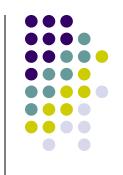
```
#define ASSERT(a)

if (!(a)) {\
    printf("error at line %d\n", __LINE__);

    exit(1);
} else {
}
```

• You can define your own. Use existing definitions as templates

Assert Statements



- Often used to check on consistency conditions upon entry to a subroutine/function
- Example, given a bank account object.
 - o When entering the object, the bank account must be positive.
 - o Upon exit, it must still be positive or zero.
 - o Check this with ASSERT statement since these conditions should not be violated if program were working correctly.

Debuggers



- Compile and link program with –g option:
 - g++ -g -c prog.c
 g++ -g -c sub1.c
 g++ -g -o prog.x prog.o sub.o
- The executable (prog.x) now contains symbols, routine names, etc. It is much larger in size with –g than without.

Debugger on Linux: gdb

- gdb prog.x
- Commands:
 - print (p) (print variables)
 - break (b) (set breakpoints)
 - step (s) (step one line, go into routines)
 - next (n) (step on line, step over routines)
 - display (disp) (display a variable)

gdb (Opensource)

- Conditional breakpoints
- print expressions
- Many many options that I do not use

Useful tools



- ddd
 - debugger with visual interface, works with gdb
 - (I have never used it)
- Vim
 - Advanced version of vi editor
 - Can interface with gdb to simplify debugging process
- Emacs (of course)