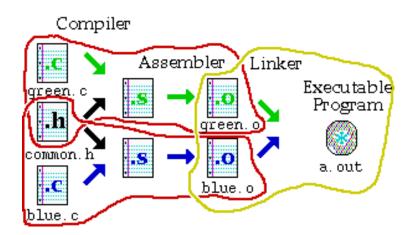
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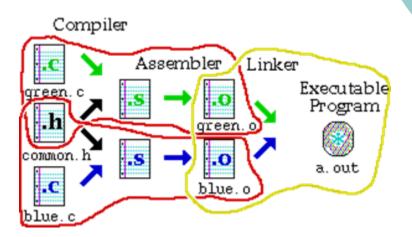
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Computer Structure & Machine Language

Chapter Six
Translating & Starting a

Program



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Parts (text & figures of this lecture are adopted from:

- © D. Patterson, J. Henessy, "Computer Organization & Design, The Hardware/Software Interface, MIPS Edition", 6th Ed., MK Publishing, 2020
- Tanenbaum, "Structured Computer Organization", 6th Ed., Pearson, 2013



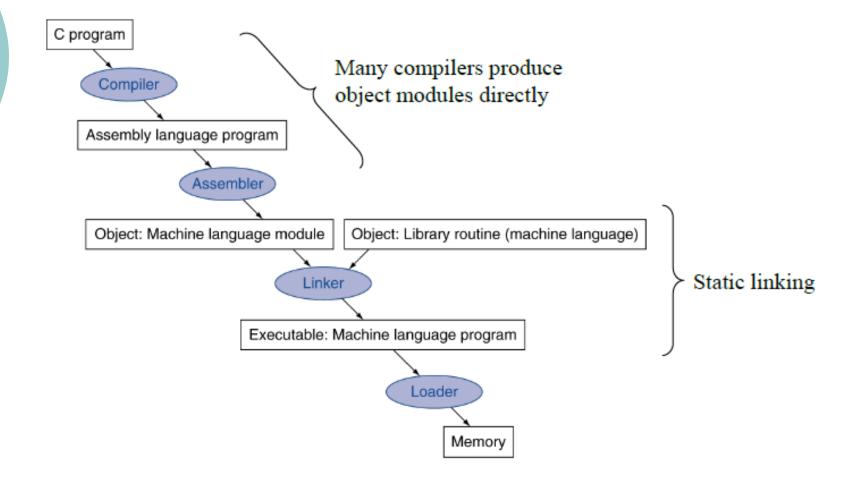
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A Translation Hierarchy for C





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UNIX / DOS-Win File Extensions

- Unix / DOS-Windows
 - C source files: x.c / x.c
 - Assembly files: x.s / x.asm
 - Object files: x.o / x.obj
 - Statically linked library routines: x.a / x.lib
 - Dynamically linked library routines: x.so / x.dll
 - Executable files: A.out / A.exe



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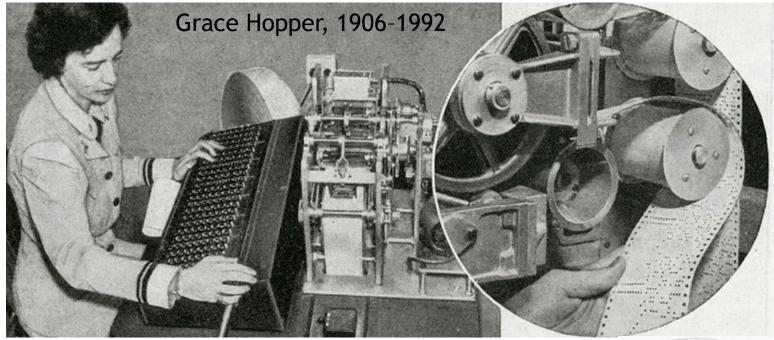
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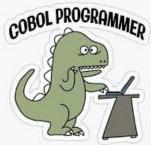
High-level Programming Language

- A portable language such as C, C++, Java, or Visual Basic that is composed of words and algebraic notation that can be translated by a compiler into assembly language
- Allow the programmer to think in a more natural language
- Result in improved programmer productivity
- Allow programs to be independent of the computer on which they were developed
- © Cannot be executed directly by the hardware

The First Compiler



Graduated from Yale University with a Ph.D. in mathematics. Developed the first compiler while working for the Remington Rand Corporation and was instrumental in developing the COBOL programming language.

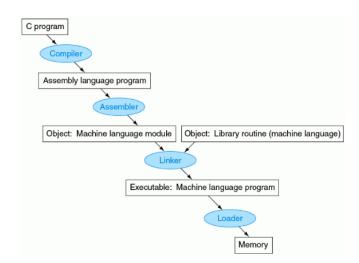




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Compilers

- Translates a high-level program into an assembly program
- Input
 - High-level language code
 - o e.g., C, Pascal, etc.
- Output
 - Assembly language code
 - o e.g., MIPS assembly code



- Still different from object code (machine language)
- Some compilers produce object code directly
 - A matter of compilation speed vs compiler simplicity

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Assembly vs. Machine Language

```
001001111011110111111111111100000
1010111110111111100000000000010100
101011111010010000000000000100000
101011111010010100000000000100100
101011111010000000000000000011000
101011111010000000000000000011100
100011111010111000000000000011100
100011111011100000000000000011000
00000001110011100000000000011001
001001011100100000000000000000001
00101001000000010000000001100101
101011111010100000000000000011100
00000000000000000111100000010010
00000011000011111100100000100001
0001010000100000111111111111111111
101011111011100100000000000011000
100011111010010100000000000011000
00001100000100000000000011101100
00100100100001000000010000110000
1000111110111111100000000000010100
001001111011110100000000000100000
0000000000000000000100000100001
```

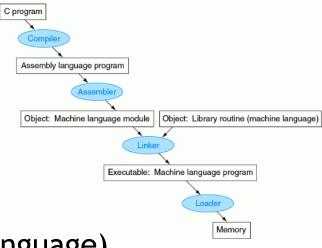
MIPS machine language

```
.text
                                MIPS assembly language
                   2
          .align
          .globl
                   main
  main:
                   $sp, $sp, 32
$ra, 20($sp)
          subu
          SW
                   $a0. 32($sp)
          sd
                        24($sp)
          SW
                        28($sp)
   loop:
          1 W
                   $t7, $t6, $t6
          mul
                   $t8, 24($sp)
          1 W
          addu
                   $t9. $t8. $t7
                   $t9, 24($sp)
          SW
                   $t0. $t6. 1
          addu
                   $t0. 28($sp)
                   $t0, 100, loop
          ble
          1a
                   $a0. str
                   $a1, 24($sp)
          1 W
          .jal
                   printf
                   $v0. $0
          move
                   $ra, 20($sp)
          ] W
                   $sp. $sp. 32
          addu
          .data
          .align
  str:
          .asciiz "The sum from 0 .. 100 is %d\n"
                                  Same routine in C
   #include <stdio.h>
main (int argc, char *argv[])
   int i;
   int sum = 0:
   for (i = 0: i \le 100: i = i + 1) sum = sum + i * i:
   printf ("The sum from 0 ... 100 is %d\n", sum);
```



Assembler

- Translates assembly program to binary code
- Input
 - Assembly language code
 - o e.g., foo.s for MIPS
- Output
 - Object code (machine language)
 - Produced machine language
 - o e.g., foo.o for MIPS
 - Information tables

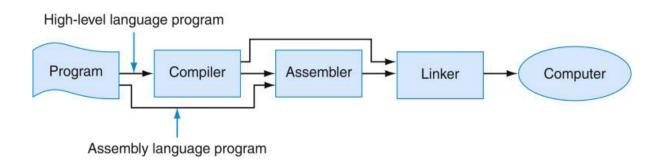


Assembly Language Drawbacks

- Programs written in assembly language are inherently machine-specific and must be totally rewritten to run on another computer architecture
- Assembly language programs are longer than the equivalent programs written in a high-level language
 - lessens programmers' productivity
 - contain more bugs
- Assembly programs are usually hard to read, because of their lack of structure (e.g. if-then statements & loops)

Why Assembly? (40 years ago)

- Although compilers were available 30 years ago, many programs were written in assembly language. Why?
 - RAM sizes were small
 - Code density was a big concern
 - Compilers were inefficient





Why Assembly? (now)

- Assembly language is still important to write programs
 - where speed or size is critical
 - where there is no high-level language available
 - to exploit hardware features that have no analogues in high-level languages
 - to exploit specialized instructions (string copy, pattern matching...)
- Hybrid approach: Most of the program is written in a high-level language while time-critical sections are written in Assembly

Assembler Steps

- Read and use directives
- Replace pseudo-instructions
- Replace macros
- Produce machine language
- Creates object file



Assembler Directives

- Give directions to Assembler, but do not produce machine instructions
 - .text: Subsequent items put in user text segment (machine code)
 - .data: Subsequent items put in user data segment (binary representation of data in source file)
 - .glob1 sym: declares global symbol sym that can be referenced from other files
 - .asciiz str: Store string str in memory and nullterminate it

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Pseudo-instructions

- Instructions provided by an assembler but not implemented in hardware
 - Unlike most assembler instructions that represent machine instructions one-to-one
 - MIPS Examples:

```
move $t0,$t1 \rightarrow add $t0,$zero,$t1

blt $t0,$t1,L \rightarrow slt $at,$t0,$t1

bne $at,$zero,L

assembler temporary register
```



Macro

- A pattern-matching and replacement facility
- Provides a mechanism to name frequently used sequence of instructions
- The assembler replaces the macro call with a sequence of instructions
- After replacement the resulting assembly has no sign of the macro
- Permits a programmer to create and name a new abstraction for a common operation (like subroutines)
- Does not cause call and return (unlike subroutines)



Producing Machine Language

- Simple Case
 - Arithmetic, Logical, Shifts, and so on
 - All necessary info within instruction already
- Data/ Code Labels
 - Need to know the absolute addresses
- PC-relative branch
 - once pseudo-instructions are replaced, we know by how many instructions to branch



Forward Reference Problem

 Branch instructions can refer to labels that "forward" in program:

```
or $v0, $0, $0
L1: slt $t0, $0, $a1
beq $t0, $0, L2
addi $a1, $a1, -1
j L1
L2: add $t1, $a0, $a1
```

- Solved by taking 2 passes over program
 - 1st pass remembers position of labels
 - 2nd pass uses label positions to generate code



BackPatching



- Another solution to forward references:
- The assembler builds a (possibly incomplete) binary representation of every instruction in one pass over a program
- Records the undefined label and instruction in a table
- Corrects the binary representation of instructions that contain a forward reference, when the label is defined

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BackPatching (cont.)

- 20 2 0 0 0 0
- The assembler only reads its input once
 - → Speeds assembly
- Requires to hold the entire binary representation in memory
 - → limits the size of programs that can be assembled
- With several types of branches (various lengths)
 - Use the largest possible branch
 - Risk having to go back & readjust instructions to make room for a larger branch

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Absolute Addresses

- O What about unconditional jumps (j and jal)?
 - Jumps require absolute address
 - So, forward or not, still can't generate machine instruction without knowing position of instructions in memory
- What about references to data?
 - Requires full 32-bit address of data
- Can't be determined yet → Need tables

Relocation Table

- List of "items" this file needs their absolute addresses
- O What are they?
 - Any label jumped to
 - o internal
 - external (including lib files)
 - Any instruction depend on piece of data
 - such as load address instruction



Symbol Tables

- List of "items" in this asm/obj file that may be used by other asm/obj files
- O What are they?
 - Labels: function calling
 - Data Labels: anything in .data section
 - Variables which may be accessed across files

Producing an Object Module

Provides information for building a complete program from the pieces

Object file Text header segment	Data segment	Relocation information	Symbol table	Debugging information	
---------------------------------	--------------	------------------------	--------------	-----------------------	--

- Header: described contents of object module
- Text segment: translated instructions
- Static data segment: data allocated for the life of the program
- Relocation info: for contents that depend on absolute location of loaded program
- Symbol table: global definitions and external references
- Debug info: for associating with source code

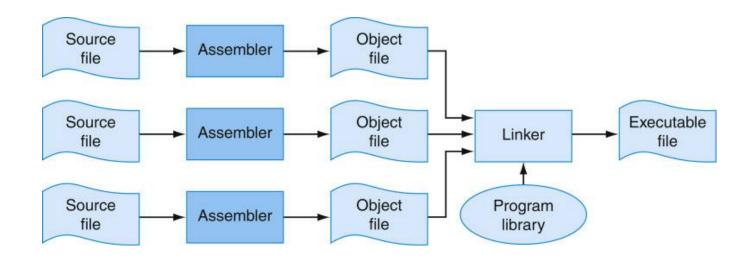


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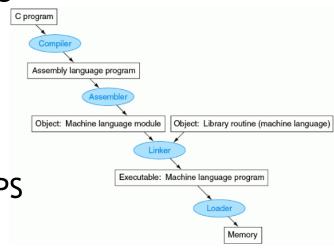
Assembler & Linker



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.

Linker

- Combines object files together in order to produce an executable program
- Input
 - Object codes
 - Information tables
 - e.g. foo.o, libc.o for MIPS
- Output
 - Executable Code
 - o e.g. a.out for MIPS



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Why need Linkers?

- Enable separate compilation of files
- Let's assume exe file directly generated by compiling and assembling a single code:
 - A single change to one line of a procedure
 - → compiling and assembling whole program

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→ Compiling library files each time



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Linker Primary Tasks

- Place all code and data modules together
- Search libraries to find library routines used by the program
- Determine memory locations for each module and relocate its instructions by adjusting absolute references
- Resolve any unresolved references among files including libraries

Resolving References

- Search for reference (data or label) in all "user" symbol tables
- If not found, search library files
 - (for example, for printf)
- Once absolute address is determined, fill in machine code appropriately

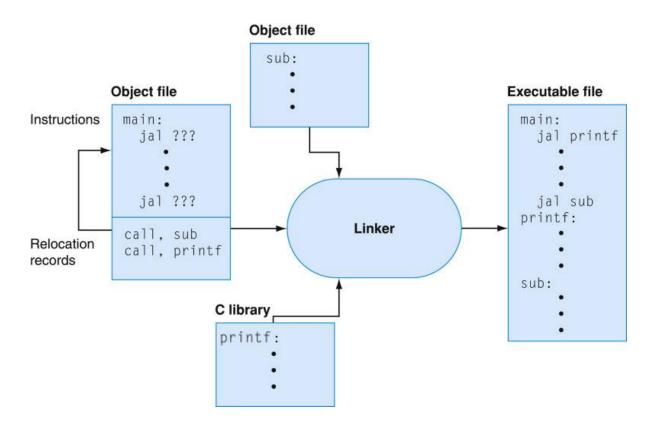


Linker Output

- Executable File similar to an Object File
 - containing text and data (plus header)
 - No unresolved references
 - No relocation information
 - Linker assumes first word of first text segment is at address 0x0000000
 - No symbol tables
 - No debugging information



Example: Static link of a C Program



The linker 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.



Static vs. Dynamic Link

- Statically Linked Library
 - Libraries included by linker



- Dynamically Linked Library (DLL)
 - Library routines not linked (and loaded)
 until program is run



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Statically Linked Library





- Still keeps using old lib version, even if a new version of lib is released,
 - New version to fix bugs or support new HW devices
- Loads routines of lib files used in exe code all together
 - Even though those routines not executed
 - Library files can be very large

Dynamically Linked Library (DLL)

Pros

- Storing a program requires less disk space
- Sending a program requires less time



- Executing two programs requires less memory (if they share a library)
- Replacing one file (libXYZ.so) upgrades every program that uses library "XYZ"

Cons

- Time overhead to do link at runtime
- Unnecessary libraries are still linked (not in lazy DLL)



DLL Linking

- Original DLL
 - Libraries linked once program is loaded
- Lazy DLL
 - Libraries linked during program execution and upon library call
- Advantages of Lazy DLL
 - Only links routines that are called during the running of the program not all library routines



Summary of Linker Tasks

- Produces an executable image
 - 1. Merge segments
 - 2. Resolve labels (determine their addresses)
 - 3. Patch location-dependent and external references
- Could leave location dependencies for fixing by a relocating loader
 - But with virtual memory, no need to do this
 - Program can be loaded into absolute location in virtual memory space



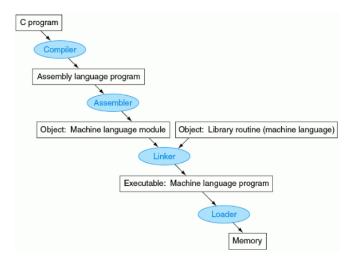
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Loader

- Loads an executable program in memory to be run
 - Executable files are stored on Disk
- Input
 - Executable Code
 - o (e.g., a.out for MIPS)
- Output
 - (program is run)
- In reality, loader is the operating system





Loading a Program

- Reads the executable file header
 - to determine size of the text and data segments
- Creates an address space large enough for the text and data
- Copies the instructions & data from the executable file into memory
- Copies the parameters (if any) to the main program onto the stack
- Initializes the machine registers (e.g. stack pointer)
- Jumps to a start-up routine
 - Copies the parameters into the argument registers
 - Calls the main routine of the program

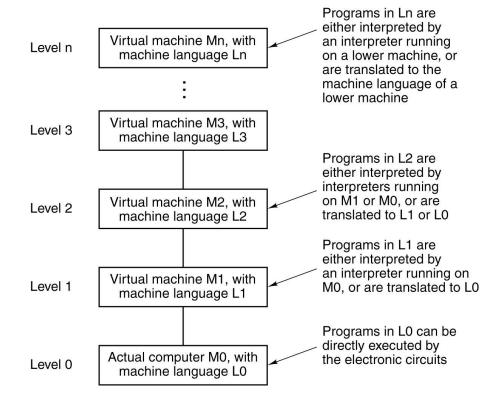


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Reminder



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Translator vs. Interpreter

Translator



- Converts a program from source language to an equivalent program in another language
 - o e.g. C compiler

o Interpreter



- A program that executes other programs
- A program that simulates an ISA
- Directly executes a program in source language
 - o e.g. MARS, Java Virtual Machine (JVM), Python interpreter



Translation

- It is done offline
 - Before program execution
- Translated/compiled code almost always more efficient → higher performance
 - Performance important for many applications, particularly operating systems
- Compiled code can be only run on target machine (ISA dependent)
- Helps hiding program source from users



Interpreting

- Performed online
 - during program execution
- Used when performance not critical
- Typically 10x slower
- Smaller code size (2x)
- Provides instruction set independence
 - Can be run on any machine



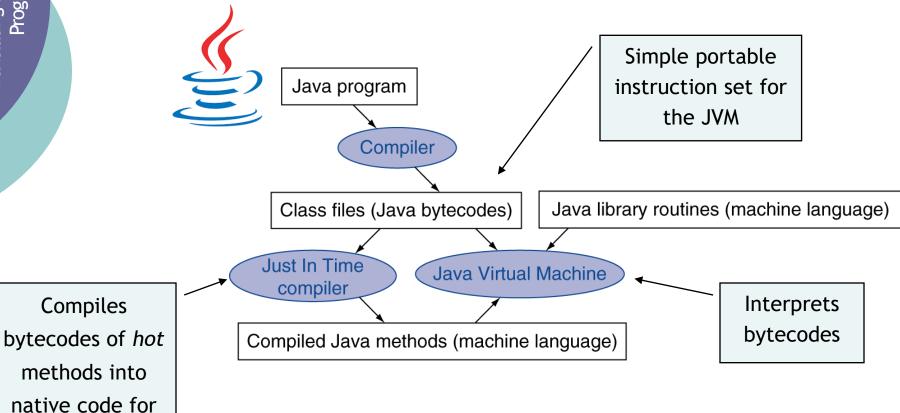


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Starting Java Applications





host machine

Java Compilation

- Java Uses Interpreter
 - Java converted into "Java bytecodes"
 - Java bytecodes is executed on JVM
 - Java Virtual Machine (JVM)
 - JVM translates Java bytecodes to machine language
- Advantage
 - Portability
- Disadvantage
 - B Low performance



Just-In-Time (JIT) Compiler

- Operates at runtime
 - Translates interpreter code segments into machine language at runtime
- Preserves portability and improves performance
 - Profile running program
 - Compiles hot methods
 - Save compiled portion for next run



All-in-One

