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## ***Common Object File Format***

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### **ABSTRACT**

The assembler and link step create object files in common object file format (COFF). COFF is an implementation of an object file format of the same name that was developed by AT&T for use on UNIX-based systems. This format encourages modular programming and provides powerful and flexible methods for managing code segments and target system memory.

This appendix contains technical details about the Texas Instruments COFF object file structure. Much of this information pertains to the symbolic debugging information that is produced by the C compiler. The purpose of this application note is to provide supplementary information on the internal format of COFF object files.

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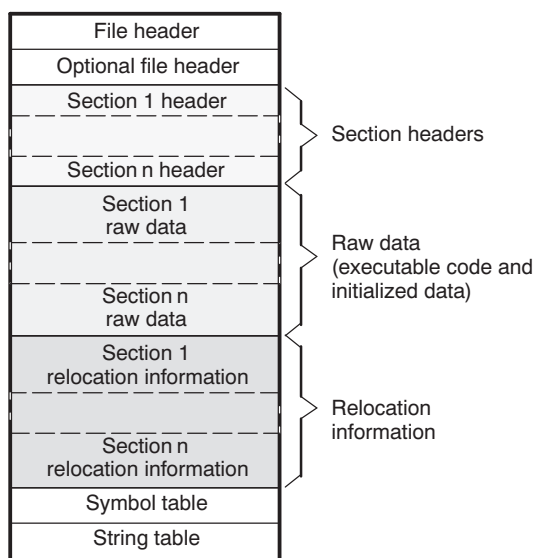
## 1 COFF File Structure

The elements of a COFF object file describe the file's sections and symbolic debugging information. These elements include:

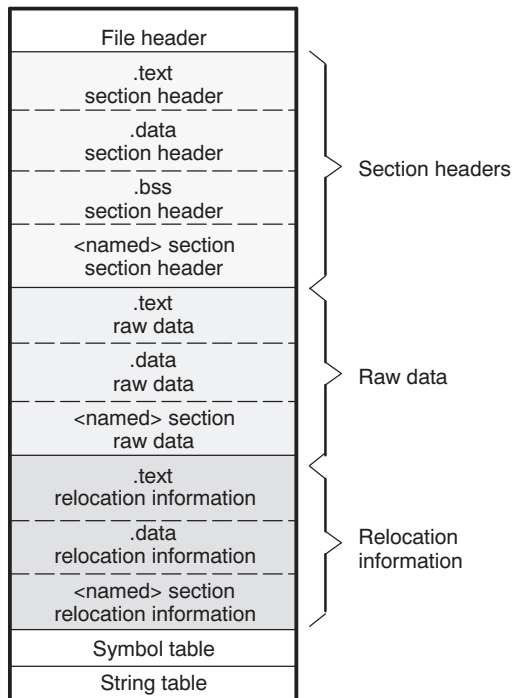
- A file header
- Optional header information
- A table of section headers
- Raw data for each initialized section
- Relocation information for each initialized section
- A symbol table
- A string table

The assembler and link step produce object files with the same COFF structure; however, a program that is linked for the final time does not usually contain relocation entries. [Figure 1](#) illustrates the object file structure.

**Figure 1. COFF File Structure**



[Figure 2](#) shows a typical example of a COFF object file that contains the three default sections, .text, .data, and .bss, and a named section (referred to as <named>). By default, the tools place sections into the object file in the following order: .text, .data, initialized named sections, .bss, and uninitialized named sections. Although uninitialized sections have section headers, notice that they have no raw data, relocation information, or line number entries. This is because the .bss and .usect directives simply reserve space for uninitialized data; uninitialized sections contain no actual code.

**Figure 2. Sample COFF Object File**


## 2 File Header Structure

The file header contains 22 bytes of information that describe the general format of an object file. [Table 1](#) shows the structure of the COFF file header.

**Table 1. File Header Contents**

| Byte Number | Type           | Description   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 0-1         | Unsigned short | Version ID; indicates version of COFF file structure  |
| 2-3         | Unsigned short | Number of section headers   |
| 4-7         | Integer        | Time and date stamp; indicates when the file was created  |
| 8-11        | Integer        | File pointer; contains the symbol table's starting address  |
| 12-15       | Integer        | Number of entries in the symbol table   |
| 16-17       | Unsigned short | Number of bytes in the optional header. This field is either 0 or 28; if it is 0, there is no optional file header. |
| 18-19       | Unsigned short | Flags (see <a href="#">Table 2</a> )  |
| 20-21       | Unsigned short | Target ID; magic number (see <a href="#">Table 3</a> ) indicates the file can be executed in a specific TI system   |

[Table 2](#) lists the flags that can appear in bytes 18 and 19 of the file header. Any number and combination of these flags can be set at the same time.

**Table 2. File Header Flags (Bytes 18 and 19)**

| Mnemonic                  | Flag  | Description  |
|---------------------------|-------|--|
| F_RELFLG                  | 0001h | Relocation information was stripped from the file  |
| F_EXEC                    | 0002h | The file is relocatable (it contains no unresolved external references)                            |
| F_LNNO <sup>(1)</sup>     | 0004h | For TMS430 and TMS470 only: Line numbers were stripped from the file. For other targets: Reserved  |
| F_LSYMS                   | 0008h | Local symbols were stripped from the file  |
| F_LITTLE                  | 0100h | The target is a little-endian device   |
| F_BIG <sup>(1)</sup>      | 0200h | For C6000, MSP430, and TMS470 only: The target is a big-endian device. For other targets: Reserved |
| F_SYMMERGE <sup>(1)</sup> | 1000h | For C2800, MSP430, and TMS470: Duplicate symbols were removed. For C6000: Reserved                 |

<sup>(1)</sup> No mnemonic is defined when the flag value is reserved.

[Table 3](#) lists the magic number for each Texas Instruments device family.

**Table 3. Magic Number**

| Magic Number | Device Family |
|--------------|---------------|
| 0097h        | TMS470        |
| 0098h        | TMS320C5400   |
| 0099h        | TMS320C6000   |
| 009Ch        | TMS320C5500   |
| 009Dh        | TMS320C2800   |
| 00A0h        | MSP430        |
| 00A1h        | TMS320C5500+  |

### 3 Optional File Header Format

The link step creates the optional file header and uses it to perform relocation at download time. Partially linked files do not contain optional file headers. [Table 4](#) illustrates the optional file header format.

**Table 4. Optional File Header Contents**

| Byte Number | Type                | Description                               |
|-------------|---------------------|---|
| 0-1         | Short               | Optional file header magic number (0108h) |
| 2-3         | Short               | Version stamp                             |
| 4-7         | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Size (in bytes) of executable code        |
| 8-11        | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Size (in bytes) of initialized data       |
| 12-15       | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Size (in bytes) of uninitialized data     |
| 16-19       | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Entry point                               |
| 20-23       | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Beginning address of executable code      |
| 24-27       | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Beginning address of initialized data     |

<sup>(1)</sup> For C6000 the type is integer.

### 4 Section Header Structure

COFF object files contain a table of section headers that define where each section begins in the object file. Each section has its own section header. [Table 5](#) shows the structure of each section header.

**Table 5. Section Header Contents**

| Byte Number | Type                         | Description  |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| 0-7         | Character                    | This field contains one of the following: 1) An 8-character section name padded with nulls. 2) A pointer into the string table if the symbol name is longer than eight characters. |
| 8-11        | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | Section's physical address   |
| 12-15       | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | Section's virtual address  |
| 16-19       | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | Section size in bytes (C6000, C55x, TMS470 and TMS430) or words (C2800, C5400)   |
| 20-23       | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | File pointer to raw data   |
| 24-27       | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | File pointer to relocation entries   |
| 28-31       | Long <sup>(1)</sup>          | Reserved   |
| 32-35       | Unsigned long <sup>(2)</sup> | Number of relocation entries   |
| 36-39       | Unsigned long <sup>(2)</sup> | For TMS470 and TMS430 only: Number of line number entries. For other devices: Reserved   |
| 40-43       | Unsigned long <sup>(2)</sup> | Flags (see <a href="#">Table 7</a> )   |
| 44-45       | Unsigned short               | Reserved   |
| 46-47       | Unsigned short               | Memory page number   |

<sup>(1)</sup> For C6000 the type is integer.

<sup>(2)</sup> For C6000 the type is unsigned integer.

For C5400 only, object files can be produced in either of two formats: COFF1 or COFF2. For all other device families all COFF object files are in the COFF2 format. The COFF1 and COFF2 file types contain different section header information. [Table 6](#) shows the section header contents for COFF1 files. [Table 5](#) shows the section header contents for COFF2 files.

**Table 6. Section Header Contents for COFF1**

| Byte Number | Type           | Description                                    |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 0-7         | Character      | An 8-character section name padded with nulls. |
| 8-11        | Long           | Section's physical address                     |
| 12-15       | Long           | Section's virtual address                      |
| 16-19       | Long           | Section size in words                          |
| 20-23       | Long           | File pointer to raw data                       |
| 24-27       | Long           | File pointer to relocation entries             |
| 28-31       | Long           | Reserved                                       |
| 32-33       | Unsigned short | Number of relocation entries                   |
| 34-35       | Unsigned short | Reserved                                       |
| 36-37       | Unsigned short | Flags (see <a href="#">Table 7</a> )           |
| 38          | Char           | Reserved                                       |
| 39          | Char           | Memory page number                             |

[Table 7](#) lists the flags that can appear in bytes 40 through 43 (36-37 for COFF1) of the section header.

**Table 7. Section Header Flags**

| Mnemonic                   | Flag      | Description <sup>(1)</sup>   |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| STYP_REG                   | 00000000h | Regular section (allocated, relocated, loaded)   |
| STYP_DSECT                 | 00000001h | Dummy section (relocated, not allocated, not loaded)   |
| STYP_NOLOAD                | 00000002h | Noload section (allocated, relocated, not loaded)  |
| STYP_GROUP <sup>(2)</sup>  | 00000004h | Grouped section (formed from several input sections). Other devices: Reserved                  |
| STYP_PAD <sup>(2)</sup>    | 00000008h | Padding section (loaded, not allocated, not relocated). Other devices: Reserved                |
| STYP_COPY                  | 00000010h | Copy section (relocated, loaded, but not allocated; relocation entries are processed normally) |
| STYP_TEXT                  | 00000020h | Section contains executable code   |
| STYP_DATA                  | 00000040h | Section contains initialized data  |
| STYP_BSS                   | 00000080h | Section contains uninitialized data  |
| STYP_BLOCK <sup>(3)</sup>  | 00001000h | Alignment used as a blocking factor.   |
| STYP_PASS <sup>(3)</sup>   | 00002000h | Section should pass through unchanged.   |
| STYP_CLINK                 | 00004000h | Section requires conditional linking   |
| STYP_VECTOR <sup>(4)</sup> | 00008000h | Section contains vector table.   |
| STYP_PADDED <sup>(4)</sup> | 00010000h | section has been padded.   |

<sup>(1)</sup> The term *loaded* means that the raw data for this section appears in the object file. Only allocated sections are written to target memory.

<sup>(2)</sup> Applies to C2800, C5400, and C5500 only.

<sup>(3)</sup> Reserved for C2800, C5400, and C5500.

<sup>(4)</sup> Applies to C6000 only.

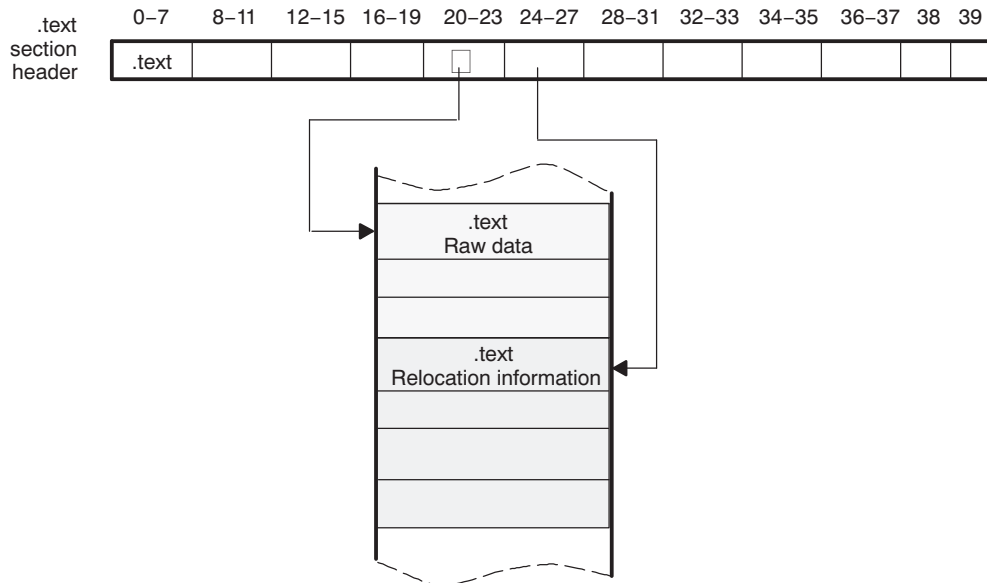
The flags listed in [Table 7](#) can be combined; for example, if the flag's word is set to 060h, both STYP\_DATA and STYP\_TEXT are set.

Bits 8-11 of the section header flags are used for defining the alignment. The alignment is defined to be  $2^{(\text{value of bits 8-11})}$ . For example if bits 8-11 are 0101b (decimal integer 5), then the alignment is  $32 (2^5)$ .

For MSP430 and TMS470, alignment is indicated by the bits masked by 0xF00. Alignment is the value in the bits raised to a power equal to the bit value. Alignment is 2 raised to the same power. For example, if the value in these 4 bits is 2, the alignment is 2 raised to the power 2 (or 4).

[Figure 3](#) illustrates how the pointers in a section header point to the elements in an object file that are associated with the .text section.

**Figure 3. Section Header Pointers for the .text Section**



As [Figure 2](#) shows, uninitialized sections (created with the .bss and .usect directives) vary from this format. Although uninitialized sections have section headers, they have no raw data or relocation information; or, for MSP430 and TMS470, line number information. They occupy no actual space in the object file. Therefore, the number of relocation entries, the number of line number entries, and the file pointers are 0 for an uninitialized section. The header of an uninitialized section simply tells the link step how much space for variables it should reserve in the memory map.

## 5 Structuring Relocation Information

A COFF object file has one relocation entry for each relocatable reference. The assembler automatically generates relocation entries. The link step reads the relocation entries as it reads each input section and performs relocation. The relocation entries determine how references within each input section are treated.

For C2800, C6000, MSP430, and TMS470, COFF file relocation information entries use the 10-byte format shown in [Table 8](#).

**Table 8. Relocation Entry Contents, 10-Byte Format**

| Byte Number | Type           | Description                                     |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 0-3         | Long           | Virtual address of the reference                |
| 4-5         | Short          | Symbol table index (0-65 535)                   |
| 6-7         | Unsigned short | Reserved  |
| 8-9         | Unsigned short | Relocation type (see <a href="#">Table 11</a> ) |

For C5400 and C5500, COFF file relocation information entries use the 12-byte format shown in [Table 8](#).

**Table 9. Relocation Entry Contents, 12-Byte Format**

| Byte Number | Type           | Description   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 0-3         | Long           | Virtual address of the reference  |
| 4-7         | Unsigned long  | Symbol table index (0-65 535)   |
| 8-9         | Unsigned short | For COFF1 files for C5400 only: Reserved<br>For COFF2 files: Additional byte used for extended address calculations |
| 10-11       | Unsigned short | Relocation type (see <a href="#">Table 11</a> )   |

The **virtual address** is the symbol's address in the current section *before* relocation; it specifies *where* a relocation must occur. (This is the address of the field in the object code that must be patched.)

Following is an example of C6000 code that generates a relocation entry:

```

2          .global X
3 00000000 :00000012 b X

```

In this example, the virtual address of the relocatable field is 0001.

The **symbol table index** is the index of the referenced symbol. In the preceding example, this field contains the index of X in the symbol table. The amount of the relocation is the difference between the symbol's current address in the section and its assembly-time address. The relocatable field must be relocated by the same amount as the referenced symbol. In the example, X has a value of 0 before relocation. Suppose X is relocated to address 2000h. This is the relocation amount (2000h - 0 = 2000h), so the relocation field at address 1 is patched by adding 2000h to it.

You can determine a symbol's relocated address if you know which section it is defined in. For example, if X is defined in .data and .data is relocated by 2000h, X is relocated by 2000h.

If the symbol table index in a relocation entry is -1 (0FFFFh), this is called an *internal relocation*. In this case, the relocation amount is simply the amount by which the current section is being relocated.

The **relocation type** specifies the size of the field to be patched and describes how the patched value is calculated. The type field depends on the addressing mode that was used to generate the relocatable reference. In the preceding example for C6000, the actual address of the referenced symbol X is placed in an 8-bit field in the object code. This is an 8-bit address, so the relocation type is R\_RELBYTE. The following tables list the relocation types by device family.

**Table 10. Generic Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9)**

| Mnemonic  | Flag  | Relocation Type                    |
|-----------|-------|------------------------------------|
| RE_ADD    | 4000h | Addition (+)                       |
| RE_SUB    | 4001h | Subtraction (-)                    |
| RE_NEG    | 4002h | Negate (-)                         |
| RE_MPY    | 4003h | Multiplication (*)                 |
| RE_DIV    | 4004h | Division (/)                       |
| RE_MOD    | 4005h | Modulus (%)                        |
| RE_SR     | 4006h | Logical shift right (unsigned >>)  |
| RE_ASR    | 4007h | Arithmetic shift right (signed >>) |
| RE_SL     | 4008h | Shift left (<<)                    |
| RE_AND    | 4009h | And (&)                            |
| RE_OR     | 400Ah | Or ( )                             |
| RE_XOR    | 400Bh | Exclusive Or (^)                   |
| RE_NOTB   | 400Ch | Not (~)                            |
| RE_ULDFLD | 400Dh | Unsigned relocation field load     |
| RE_SLDFLD | 400Eh | Signed relocation field load       |



**Table 10. Generic Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9) (continued)**

| Mnemonic  | Flag  | Relocation Type                                  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| RE_USTFLD | 400Fh | Unsigned relocation field store                  |
| RE_SSTFLD | 4010h | Signed relocation field store                    |
| RE_PUSH   | 4011h | Push symbol on the stack                         |
| RE_PUSHSK | 4012h | Push signed constant on the stack                |
| RE_PUSHUK | 4013h | Push unsigned constant on the stack              |
| RE_PUSHPC | 4014h | Push current section PC on the stack             |
| RE_DUP    | 4015h | Duplicate top-of-stack and push a copy           |
| RE_XSTFLD | 4016h | Relocation field store, signedness is irrelevant |
| RE_PUSHSV | C011h | Push symbol: SEGVALUE flag is set                |

**Table 11. C6000 Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9)**

| Mnemonic   | Flag  | Relocation Type                             |
|------------|-------|---|
| R_ABS      | 0000h | No relocation                               |
| R_RELBYTE  | 000Fh | 8-bit direct reference to symbol's address  |
| R_RELWORD  | 0010h | 16-bit direct reference to symbol's address |
| R_RELLONG  | 0011h | 32-bit direct reference to symbol's address |
| R_C60BASE  | 0050h | Data page pointer-based offset              |
| R_C60DIR15 | 0051h | Load or store long displacement             |
| R_C60PCR21 | 0052h | 21-bit packet, PC relative                  |
| R_C60PCR10 | 0053h | 10-bit Packet PC Relative (BDEC, BPOS)      |
| R_C60LO16  | 0054h | MVK instruction low half register           |
| R_C60HI16  | 0055h | MVKH or MVKLH high half register            |
| R_C60SECT  | 0056h | Section-based offset                        |
| R_C60S16   | 0057h | Signed 16-bit offset for MVK                |
| R_C60PCR7  | 0070h | 7-bit Packet PC Relative (ADDKPC)           |
| R_C60PCR12 | 0071h | 12-bit Packet PC Relative (BNOP)            |

**Table 12. C2800 Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9)**

| Mnemonic    | Flag  | Relocation Type                               |
|-------------|-------|---|
| R_ABS       | 0000h | No relocation                                 |
| R_RELBYTE   | 000Fh | 8-bit direct reference to symbol's address    |
| R_RELWORD   | 0010h | 16-bit direct reference to symbol's address   |
| R_RELLONG   | 0011h | 32-bit direct reference to symbol's address   |
| R_PARTLS7   | 0028h | 7-bit offset of a 22-bit address              |
| R_PARTLS6   | 005Dh | 6-bit offset of a 22-bit address              |
| R_PARTMID10 | 005Eh | Middle 10 bits of a 22-bit address            |
| R_REL22     | 005Fh | 22-bit direct reference to a symbol's address |
| R_PARTMS6   | 0060h | Upper 6 bits of an 22-bit address             |
| R_PARTS16   | 0061h | Upper 16 bits of an 22-bit address            |
| R_C28PCR16  | 0062h | PC relative 16-bit address                    |
| R_C28PCR8   | 0063h | PC relative 8-bit address                     |
| R_C28PTR    | 0064h | 22-bit pointer                                |
| R_C28HI16   | 0065h | High 16 bits of address data                  |
| R_C28LOPTR  | 0066h | Pointer to low 64K                            |
| R_C28NWORD  | 0067h | 16-bit negated relocation                     |
| R_C28NBYTE  | 0068h | 8-bit negated relocation                      |

**Table 12. C2800 Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9) (continued)**

| Mnemonic    | Flag  | Relocation Type                                 |
|-------------|-------|---|
| R_C28HIBYTE | 0069h | High 8 bits of a 16-bit data                    |
| R_C28RELS13 | 006Ah | Signed 13-bit value relocated as a 16-bit value |

**Table 13. C5400 Relocation Types (Bytes 10 and 11)**

| Mnemonic  | Flag  | Relocation Type                             |
|-----------|-------|---|
| R_ABS     | 0000h | No relocation                               |
| R_REL24   | 0005h | 24-bit reference to symbol's address        |
| R_RELBYTE | 0017h | 8-bit direct reference to symbol's address  |
| R_RELWORD | 0020h | 16-bit direct reference to symbol's address |
| R_RELLONG | 0021h | 32-bit direct reference to symbol's address |
| R_PARTLS7 | 0028h | 7 LSBs of an address                        |
| R_PARTMS9 | 0029h | 9 MSBs of an address                        |
| R_REL13   | 002Ah | 13-bit direct reference to symbol's address |

**Table 14. C5500 Relocation Types (Bytes 10 and 11)**

| Mnemonic    | Flag  | Relocation Type   |
|-------------|-------|---|
| R_ABS       | 0000h | No relocation   |
| R_REL24     | 0005h | 24-bit direct reference to symbol's address                   |
| R_RELBYTE   | 0017h | 8-bit direct reference to symbol's address                    |
| R_RELWORD   | 0020h | 16-bit direct reference to symbol's address                   |
| R_RELLONG   | 0021h | 32-bit direct reference to symbol's address                   |
| R_LD3_DMA   | 0170h | 7 MSBs of a byte, unsigned; used in DMA address               |
| R_LD3_MDP   | 0172h | 7 bits spanning 2 bytes, unsigned; used as MDP register value |
| R_LD3_PDP   | 0173h | 9 bits spanning 2 bytes, unsigned; used as PDP register value |
| R_LD3_REL23 | 0174h | 23-bit unsigned value in 24-bit field                         |
| R_LD3_k8    | 0210h | 8-bit unsigned direct reference                               |
| R_LD3_k16   | 0211h | 16-bit unsigned direct reference                              |
| R_LD3_K8    | 0212h | 8-bit signed direct reference                                 |
| R_LD3_K16   | 0213h | 16-bit signed direct reference                                |
| R_LD3_I8    | 0214h | 8-bit unsigned PC-relative reference                          |
| R_LD3_I16   | 0215h | 16-bit unsigned PC-relative reference                         |
| R_LD3_L8    | 0216h | 8-bit signed PC-relative reference                            |
| R_LD3_L16   | 0217h | 16-bit signed PC-relative reference                           |
| R_LD3_k4    | 0220h | Unsigned 4-bit shift immediate                                |
| R_LD3_k5    | 0221h | Unsigned 5-bit shift immediate                                |
| R_LD3_K5    | 0222h | Signed 5-bit shift immediate                                  |
| R_LD3_k6    | 0223h | Unsigned 6-bit shift immediate                                |
| R_LD3_k12   | 0224h | Unsigned 12-bit shift immediate                               |

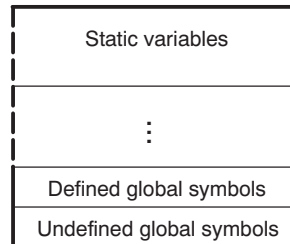
**Table 15. MSP430 and TMS470 Relocation Types (Bytes 8 and 9)**

| Mnemonic  | Flag  | Relocation Type   |
|-----------|-------|---|
| R_RELLONG | 0011h | 32-bit direct reference to symbol's address                                     |
| R_PCR23H  | 0016h | 23-bit PC-relative reference to a symbol's address, in halfwords (divided by 2) |
| R_PCR24W  | 0017h | 24-bit PC-relative reference to a symbol's address, in words (divided by 4)     |

## 6 Symbol Table Structure and Content

The order of symbols in the symbol table is very important; they appear in the sequence shown in [Figure 4](#).

**Figure 4. Symbol Table Contents**



*Static* variables refer to symbols defined in C/C++ that have storage class static outside any function. If you have several modules that use symbols with the same name, making them static confines the scope of each symbol to the module that defines it (this eliminates multiple-definition conflicts).

The entry for each symbol in the symbol table contains the symbol's:

- Name (or an offset into the string table)
- Type
- Value
- Section it was defined in
- Storage class

For MSP430 and TMS470, the entry for each symbol in the symbol table also contains the symbol's:

- Basic type (integer, character, etc.)
- Derived type (array, structure, etc.)
- Dimensions
- Line number of the source code that defined the symbol

Section names are also defined in the symbol table.

All symbol entries, regardless of class and type, have the same format in the symbol table. Each symbol table entry contains the 18 bytes of information listed in [Table 16](#). Each symbol may also have an 18-byte auxiliary entry; the special symbols listed in [Table 17](#) always have an auxiliary entry. Some symbols may not have all the characteristics listed above; if a particular field is not set, it is set to null.

**Table 16. Symbol Table Entry Contents**

| Byte Number | Type                | Description  |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| 0-7         | Char                | This field contains one of the following: 1) An 8-character symbol name, padded with nulls. 2) A pointer into the string table if the symbol name is longer than eight characters. |
| 8-11        | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Symbol value; storage class dependent  |
| 12-13       | Short               | Section number of the symbol   |
| 14-15       | Unsigned short      | Reserved   |
| 16          | Char                | Storage class of the symbol  |
| 17          | Char                | Number of auxiliary entries (always 0 or 1)  |

<sup>(1)</sup> For C6000 the type is integer.

## 6.1 Special Symbols

The symbol table contains some special symbols that are generated by the compiler, assembler, and link step. Each special symbol contains ordinary symbol table information as well as an auxiliary entry. [Table 17](#) lists these symbols.

**Table 17. Special Symbols in the Symbol Table**

| Symbol | Description  |
|--------|--|
| .text  | Address of the .text section                                     |
| .data  | Address of the .data section                                     |
| .bss   | Address of the .bss section                                      |
| etext  | Next available address after the end of the .text output section |
| edata  | Next available address after the end of the .data output section |
| end    | Next available address after the end of the .bss output section  |

## 6.2 Symbol Name Format

The first eight bytes of a symbol table entry (bytes 0-7) indicate a symbol's name:

- If the symbol name is eight characters or less, this field has type *character*. The name is padded with nulls (if necessary) and stored in bytes 0-7.
- If the symbol name is greater than eight characters, this field is treated as two integers. The entire symbol name is stored in the string table. Bytes 0-3 contain 0, and bytes 4-7 are an offset into the string table.

## 6.3 String Table Structure

The string table stores symbols with names longer than eight characters. The field in the symbol table entry that would normally contain the symbol's name actually points to the symbol's name in the string table. The string table contiguously stores names, delimited by a null byte. The first four bytes of the table contain the table size in bytes; thus, offsets into the string table are greater than or equal to 4.

[Figure 5](#) is a string table that contains two symbol names, *Adaptive-Filter* and *Fourier-Transform*. The index in the string table is 4 for Adaptive-Filter and 20 for Fourier-Transform.

**Figure 5. String Table Entries for Sample Symbol Names**

38 bytes

| 4 bytes |      |     |      |
|---------|------|-----|------|
| 'A'     | 'd'  | 'a' | 'p'  |
| 't'     | 'i'  | 'v' | 'e'  |
| '_'     | 'F'  | 'i' | 'l'  |
| 't'     | 'e'  | 'r' | '\0' |
| 'F'     | 'o'  | 'u' | 'r'  |
| 'i'     | 'e'  | 'r' | '_'  |
| 'T'     | 'r'  | 'a' | 'n'  |
| 's'     | 'f'  | 'o' | 'r'  |
| 'm'     | '\0' |     |      |

## 6.4 Storage Classes

Byte 16 of the symbol table entry indicates the storage class of the symbol. Storage classes refer to the method in which the C/C++ compiler accesses a symbol. [Table 18](#) lists valid storage classes.

**Table 18. Symbol Storage Classes**

| Mnemonic | Value | Storage Class       | Mnemonic                   | Value | Storage Class   |
|----------|-------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------|---|
| C_NULL   | 0     | No storage class    | C_USTATIC                  | 14    | Undefined static  |
| C_AUTO   | 1     | Reserved            | C_ENTAG                    | 15    | Reserved  |
| C_EXT    | 2     | External definition | C_MOE                      | 16    | Reserved  |
| C_STAT   | 3     | Static              | C_REGPARM                  | 17    | Reserved  |
| C_REG    | 4     | Reserved            | C_FIELD                    | 18    | Reserved  |
| C_EXTREF | 5     | External reference  | C_UEXT <sup>(1)</sup>      | 19    | Tentative external definition   |
| C_LABEL  | 6     | Label               | C_STATLAB <sup>(1)</sup>   | 20    | Static load time label  |
| C_ULABEL | 7     | Undefined label     | C_EXTLAB <sup>(1)</sup>    | 21    | External load time label  |
| C_MOS    | 8     | Reserved            | C_VARARG <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | 27    | Last declared parameter of a function with a variable number of arguments |
| C_ARG    | 9     | Reserved            | C_BLOCK                    | 100   | Reserved  |
| C_STRTAG | 10    | Reserved            | C_FCN                      | 101   | Reserved  |
| C_MOU    | 11    | Reserved            | C_EOS                      | 102   | Reserved  |
| C_UNTAG  | 12    | Reserved            | C_FILE                     | 103   | Reserved  |
| C_TPDEF  | 13    | Reserved            | C_LINE                     | 104   | Used only by utility programs   |

<sup>(1)</sup> Not applicable to C5400 or C5500

<sup>(2)</sup> Not applicable to C2800

The .text, .data, and .bss symbols are restricted to the C\_STAT storage class.

## 6.5 Symbol Values

Bytes 8-11 of a symbol table entry indicate a symbol's value. The C\_EXT, C\_STAT, and C\_LABEL storage classes hold relocatable addresses.

The value of a relocatable symbol is its virtual address. When the link step relocates a section, the value of a relocatable symbol changes accordingly.

## 6.6 Section Number

Bytes 12-13 of a symbol table entry contain a number that indicates in which section the symbol was defined. [Table 19](#) lists these numbers and the indicated sections.

**Table 19. Section Numbers**

| Mnemonic            | Section Number | Description   |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| None                | -2             | Reserved  |
| N_ABS               | -1             | Absolute symbol   |
| N_UNDEF             | 0              | Undefined external symbol   |
| None <sup>(1)</sup> | 1              | .text section (typical)   |
| None <sup>(1)</sup> | 2              | .data section (typical)   |
| None <sup>(1)</sup> | 3              | .bss section (typical)  |
| None <sup>(1)</sup> | 4-32 767       | Section number of a named section, in the order in which the named sections are encountered |

<sup>(1)</sup> For C5500 and C2800, the mnemonic is N\_SCNUM

If there were no .text, .data, or .bss sections, the numbering of named sections would begin with 1.

If a symbol has a section number of 0, -1, or -2, it is not defined in a section. A section number of -1 indicates that the symbol has a value but is not relocatable. A section number of 0 indicates a relocatable external symbol that is not defined in the current file.

## 6.7 Auxiliary Entries

Each symbol table entry can have *one* or *no* auxiliary entry. An auxiliary symbol table entry contains the same number of bytes as a symbol table entry (18). [Table 20](#) illustrates the format of auxiliary table entries.

**Table 20. Section Format for Auxiliary Table Entries**

| Byte Number | Type                | Description                   |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0-3         | Long <sup>(1)</sup> | Section length                |
| 4-5         | Unsigned short      | Number of relocation entries  |
| 6-7         | Unsigned short      | Number of line number entries |
| 8-17        |                     | Not used (zero filled)        |

<sup>(1)</sup> For C6000 the type is integer.

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