

# Sanitizers and linker tricks

Alexey Veselovsky

# A few words about me

# ~~A few words about me~~

## Authority bias

**Authority bias** is the tendency to attribute greater accuracy to the opinion of an authority figure (unrelated to its content) and be more influenced by that opinion.

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## Let's develop it!

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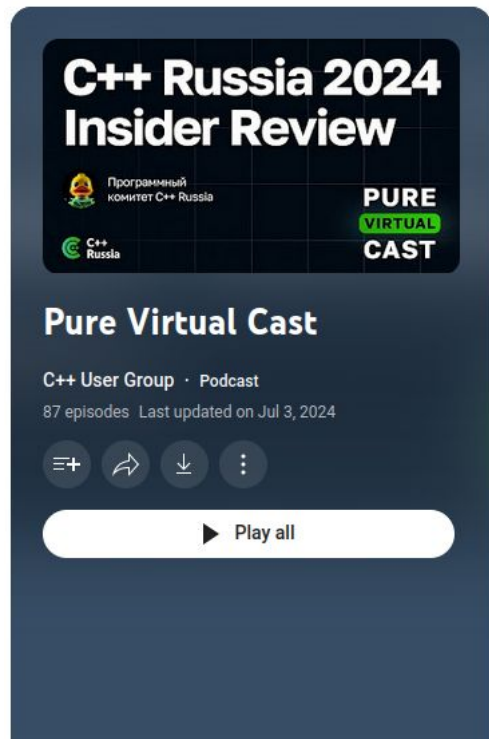
Sanitizers+proper testing are able to help you to catch the most dangerous errors early.

# Authority bias

Podcast:

# Authority bias

## Podcast: Pure Virtual Cast

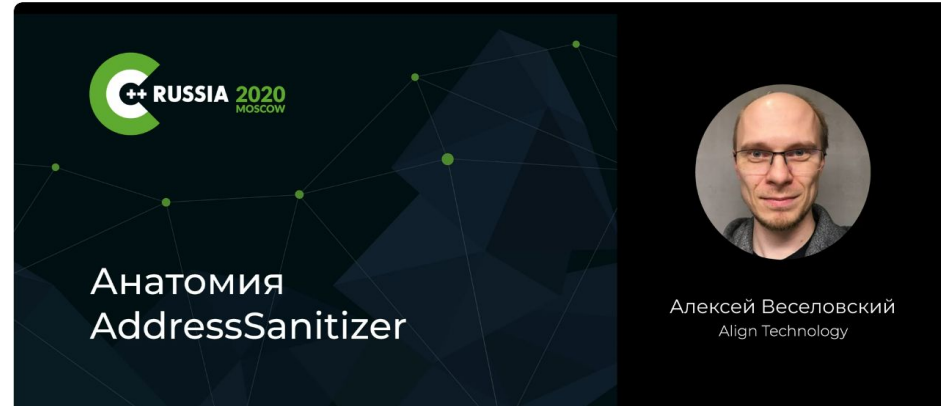


- 1 **C++ Russia 2024 Insider Review** Pure Virtual Cast / C++ Russia 2024 Insider Review / 14.06.2024  
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- 2 **Мои нулевые. GameDev глазами одного разработчика** Pure Virtual Cast / Мои нулевые. GameDev глазами одного разработчика / 26.04.2024  
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- 5 **Асинхронность, безопасность и web в мире C++** Pure Virtual Cast / Асинхронность, безопасность и web в мире C++ / 15.03.2024  
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# Authority bias

My talks:

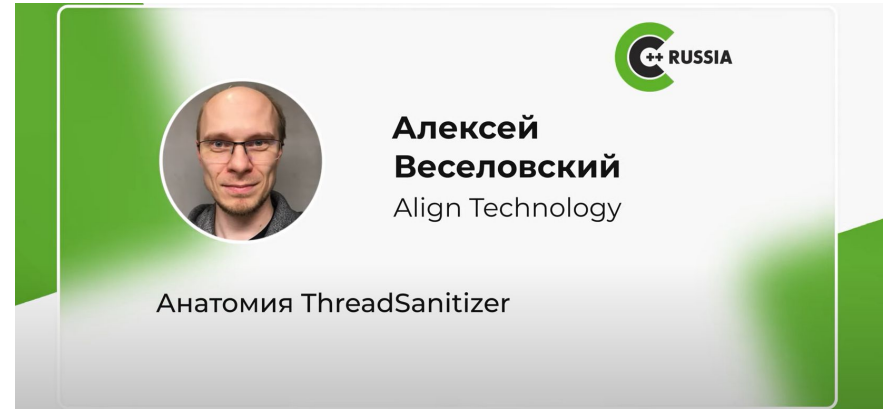
- Address Sanitizer Anatomy (2020)



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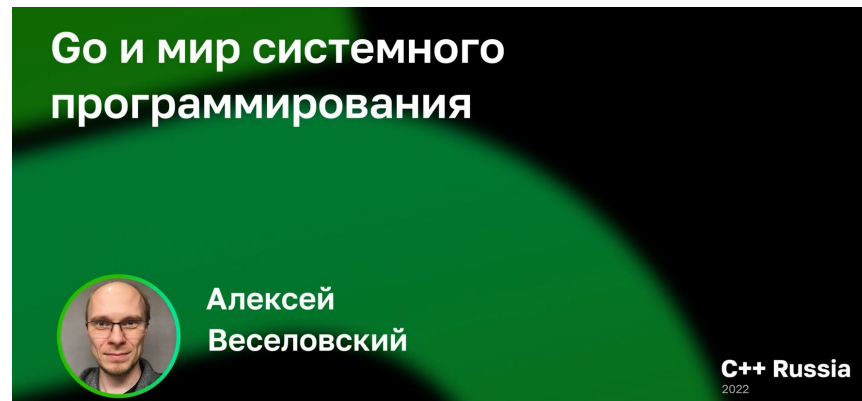
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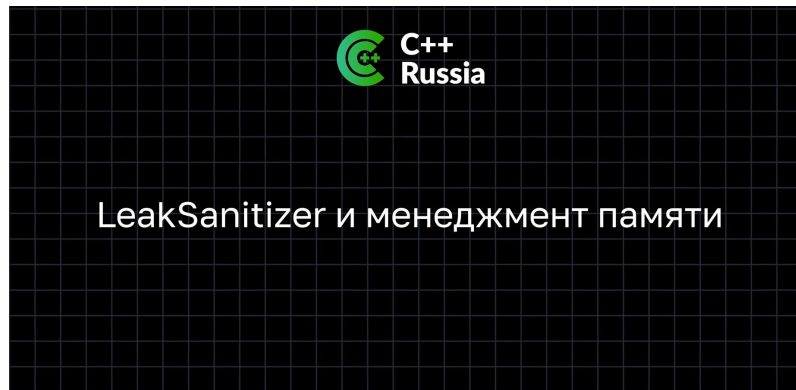
- Address Sanitizer Anatomy (2020)
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My talks:

- Address Sanitizer Anatomy (2020)
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- Leak Sanitizer & memory management  
(2024)

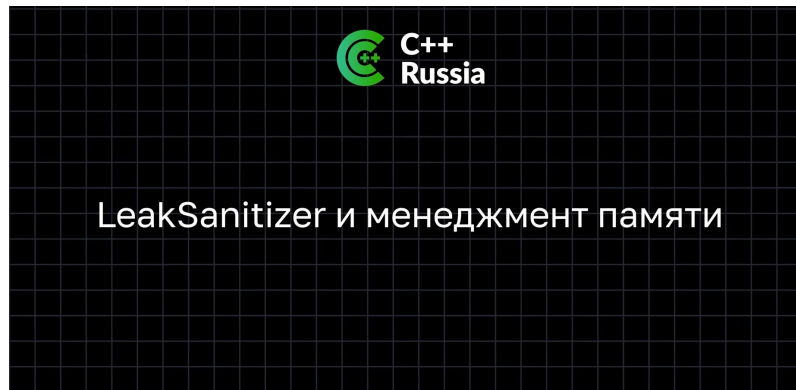




# Sanitizer bias

My talks:

- **Address Sanitizer** Anatomy (2020)
- **Thread Sanitizer** Anatomy (2021)
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# Sanitizers

- **Address Sanitizer**
- **Thread Sanitizer**
  
- **Leak Sanitizer**

# Sanitizers

- **Address Sanitizer**
- **Thread Sanitizer**
- **Leak Sanitizer**
  
- Memory Sanitizer
- Undefined Behavior Sanitizer
- Data Flow Sanitizer

# Interceptors

- **Address Sanitizer**
- **Thread Sanitizer**
- **Leak Sanitizer**

- **Memory Sanitizer**
- Undefined Behavior Sanitizer
- **Data Flow Sanitizer**

## Interceptors inside

# Interceptors. Why?

Let's start from example...

# Interceptors. Why?

Let's start from example... ASAN

# Interceptors. Why?

Let's start from example... ASAN

```
int main() {  
    char *arr = malloc(16);  
    arr[16] = 16;  
    free(arr);  
}
```

# Interceptors. Why?

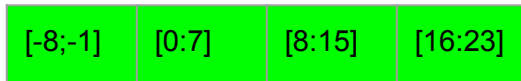
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## ASAN

1. Allocates >16 bytes

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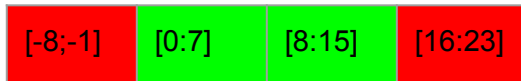


## ASAN

1. Allocates >16 bytes
2. Saves metadata (stacktrace...)

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```
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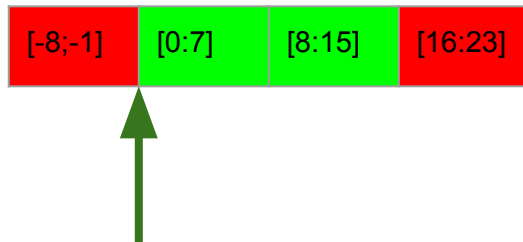


## ASAN

1. Allocates >16 bytes
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3. Adds redzones

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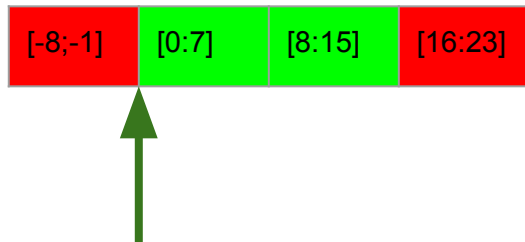


## ASAN

1. Allocates >16 bytes
2. Saves metadata (stacktrace...)
3. Adds redzones
4. Returns pointer to user memory

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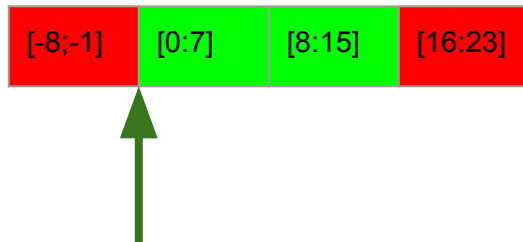
## ASAN

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2. Saves metadata (stacktrace...)
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Somehow it should replace malloc function

# Interceptors. Why?

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## ASAN

1. Allocates >16 bytes
2. Saves metadata (stacktrace...)
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Somehow it should replace malloc function

This technique called **Interceptor**

# Interceptors. Why?

Sanitizers intercepts not only functions which they are replacing...

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But also which they are wrapping (`pthread_create`, `strcpy...`).



# Interceptors. Why?

Sanitizers intercepts not only functions which they are replacing...

But also which they are wrapping (pthread\_create, strcpy...).

```
ReturnType interceptor_for_Func(ArgType arg) {  
    // do some sanitizer specific things  
    ...  
    return REAL(Func)(arg);  
}
```

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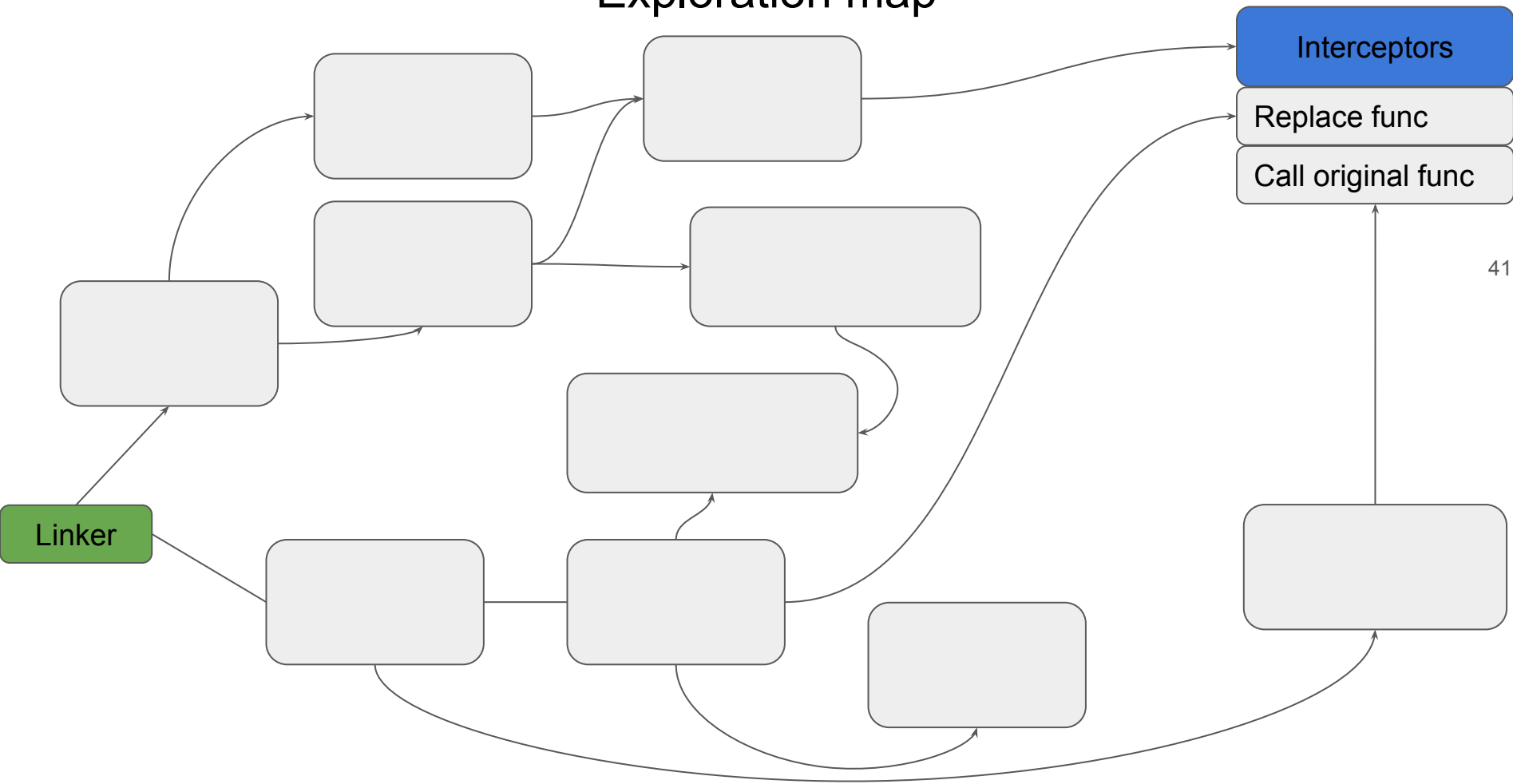
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5. **LINKER!**

**Linux x86\_64 only**



# Exploration map



# Linker... things

Linker knows not so much about functions. Mainly it works with symbols.

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```
/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/ccQVb21X.o: in function `foo()':  
bar.cpp:(.text+0x0): multiple definition of `foo()'; /tmp/ccVAAISu.o:m.cpp:(.text+0x0): first  
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```

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/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/ccQVb21X.o:(.bss+0x0): multiple definition of `someVar';  
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/tmp/ccVAAISu.o:(.bss+0x0): first defined here  
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

```
stderr: ld.lld: error: undefined symbol: foo
```

Linker things

Lin

```
/usr/bin  
bar.cpp:  
defined
```

```
/usr/bin,  
/tmp/ccV/  
collect2
```

```
stderr:
```

0): first



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Object file is list of headers and sections

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```
$ cat m.c
void foo() {}
$ clang -c m.c
$ ls
m.c m.o
```

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Object file is a list of headers and sections

Object file is...

compiled CU

linked shared object

```
$ cat m.c
void foo() {}
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m.c m.o

$ clang -shared m.c -o m.so
$ ls
m.so
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Object file is a list of headers and sections

Object file is...

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linked executable

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$ cat m.c
void foo() {}
$ clang -c m.c
$ ls
m.c m.o
```

```
$ clang -shared m.c -o m.so
$ ls
m.so
```

```
$ cat m.c
void main() {}
$ clang m.c
$ ls
a.out
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Object file is a list of headers and sections: let's look inside...

```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

There are a lot of sections here

```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

```
ELF Header:
```

```
...
```

```
Section Headers:
```

[Nr]	Name	Type	Address	Off	Size	ES	Flg	Lk	Inf	Al
[ 0]		NULL	0000000000000000	000000	000000	00		0	0	0
[ 1]	.text	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	000040	00000b	00	AX	0	0	1
[ 2]	.data	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	00004b	000000	00	WA	0	0	1
[ 3]	.bss	NOBITS	0000000000000000	00004b	000000	00	WA	0	0	1
[ 4]	.comment	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	00004b	000027	01	MS	0	0	1
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	000072	000000	00		0	0	1
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property	NOTE	0000000000000000	000078	000020	00	A	0	0	8
[ 7]	.eh_frame	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	000098	000038	00	A	0	0	8
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame	RELA	0000000000000000	000140	000018	18	I	9	7	8
[ 9]	.symtab	SYMTAB	0000000000000000	0000d0	000060	18		10	3	8
[10]	.strtab	STRTAB	0000000000000000	000130	000009	00		0	0	1
[11]	.shstrtab	STRTAB	0000000000000000	000158	000067	00		0	0	1

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But we'll consider only few of them: `.symtab`


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$ readelf -aW m.o
```

```
ELF Header:
```

```
...
```

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Section Headers:
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[11]	.shstrtab	STRTAB	0000000000000000	000158	000067	00		0	0	1



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But we'll consider only few of them: `.symtab`, `.text`


```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

```
ELF Header:
```

```
...
```

```
Section Headers:
```

[Nr]	Name	Type	Address	Off	Size	ES	Flg	Lk	Inf	Al
[ 0]		NULL	0000000000000000	000000	000000	00		0	0	0
[ 1]	<code>.text</code>	PROGBITS	0000000000000000	000040	00000b	00	AX	0	0	1
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[ 6]	<code>.note.gnu.property</code>	NOTE	0000000000000000	000078	000020	00	A	0	0	8
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# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But we'll consider only few of them: `.symtab`, `.text`, `.data`

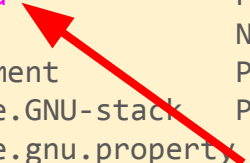
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```
...
```

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# Linker: Sections and Symbols

A simple example: 2 funcs, 2 vars

```
$ cat m.c
int global_var = 42;
static int static_var = 42;

void global_func() {}
static void static_func(){}

```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Compile...

```
$ cat m.c
int global_var = 42;
static int static_var = 42;

void global_func() {}
static void static_func(){}

$ clang -c m.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

## Explore

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Each symbol has a name

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
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# Linker: Sections and Symbols

And a value

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

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0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
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6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Two rows has the same value. Why?

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```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

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5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Two rows has the same value. Why? They are located in the different sections!

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Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

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2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
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```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	<b>.text</b>
[ 2]	<b>.data</b>
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	<b>.symtab</b>
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

## Function in a .text section

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

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0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

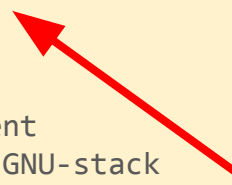
```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	<b>.text</b>
[ 2]	<b>.data</b>
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	<b>.symtab</b>
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab





# Linker: Sections and Symbols

## Variable in a .data section

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

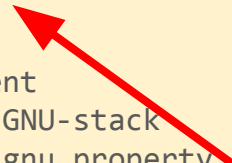
```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	<b>.text</b>
[ 2]	<b>.data</b>
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	<b>.symtab</b>
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

## Two functions

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	<b>static_func</b>
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	<b>global_func</b>

```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	<b>.text</b>
[ 2]	<b>.data</b>
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	<b>.symtab</b>
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

## Two functions with a different bindings

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	<b>LOCAL</b>	DEFAULT	1	<b>static_func</b>
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	<b>GLOBAL</b>	DEFAULT	1	<b>global_func</b>

```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	<b>.text</b>
[ 2]	<b>.data</b>
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	<b>.symtab</b>
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Values are the different

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

```
$ readelf -aW m.o
```

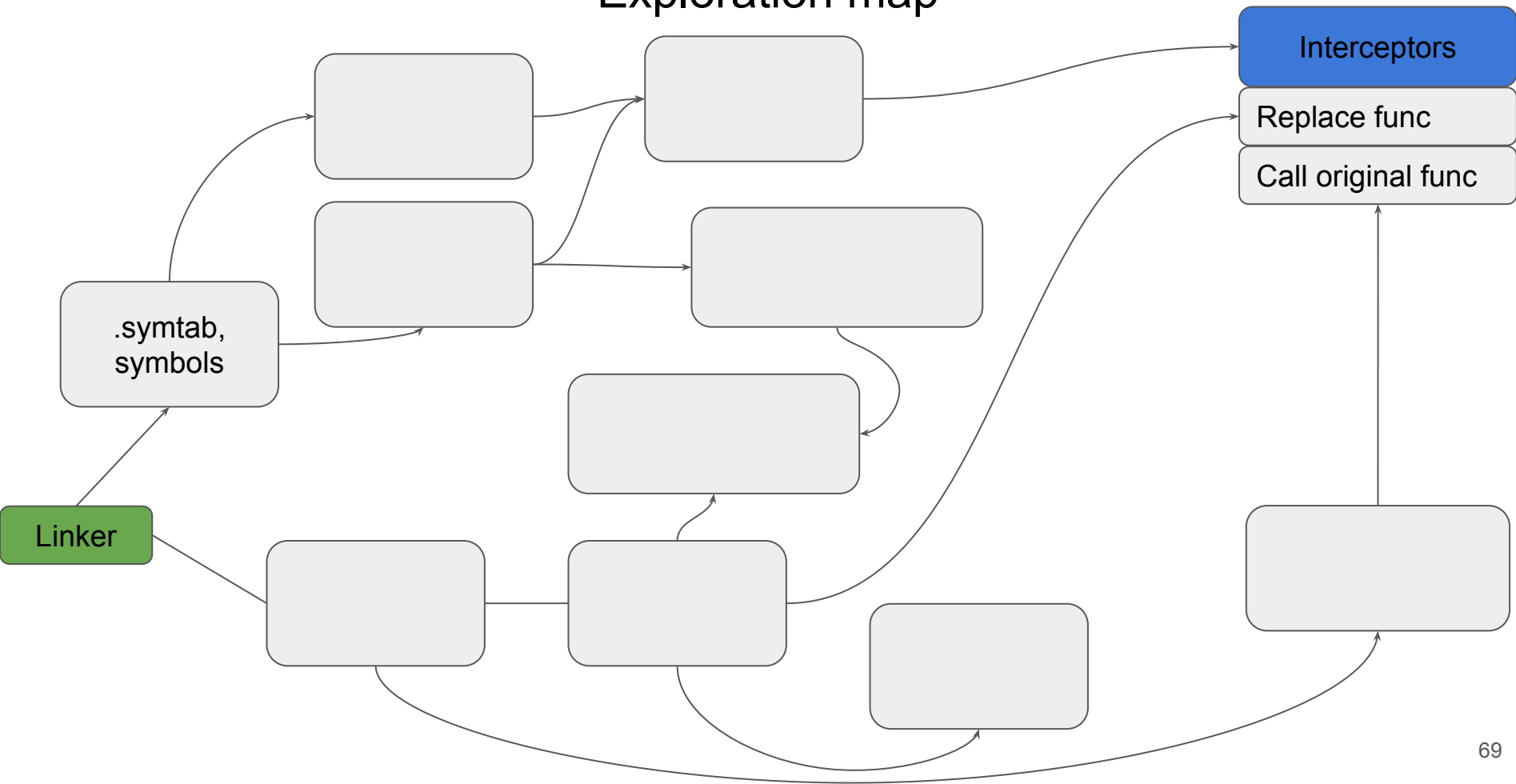
ELF Header:

...

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name
[ 0]	
[ 1]	.text
[ 2]	.data
[ 3]	.bss
[ 4]	.comment
[ 5]	.note.GNU-stack
[ 6]	.note.gnu.property
[ 7]	.eh_frame
[ 8]	.rela.eh_frame
[ 9]	.symtab
[10]	.strtab
[11]	.shstrtab

# Exploration map



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What we can do with this table?

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Two (or multiple) rows with same value but different names

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Two (or multiple) rows with same value but different names

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 7 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func
7:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func_2



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Let's do it in code

```
$
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Let's do it in code. It is not C or C++! It is **extension**.

```
$ cat m.c
int global_var = 42;
static int static_var = 42;

void global_func() {}
void __attribute__((alias("global_func"))) global_func_2();

static void static_func(){}

$ clang -c m.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

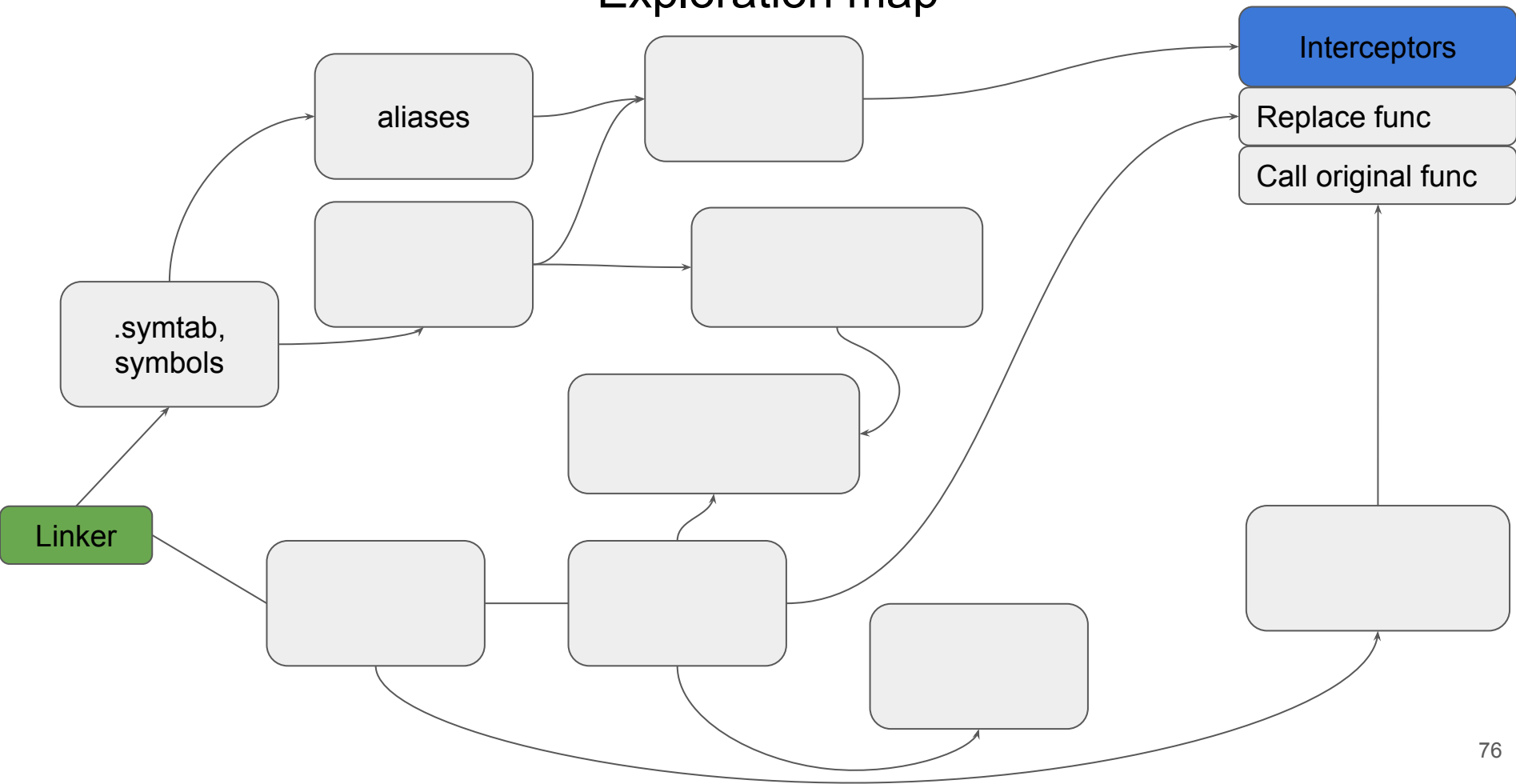
Result:

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 8 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000004	4	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	static_var
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	static_func
5:	0000000000000000	4	OBJECT	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	2	global_var
6:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func
<b>7:</b>	<b>0000000000000000</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>FUNC</b>	<b>GLOBAL</b>	<b>DEFAULT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>global_func_2</b>

## Exploration map



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What about two values one name?

\$

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What about two values one name?

Compiler don't let us to define it in one compilation unit

\$

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What about two values one name?

Compiler don't let us to define it in one compilation unit

But in multiple...

\$

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.

\$



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.  
If there are two symbols with the same name generally it is an error:

```
$ cat m.c  
void global_func() {}  
$ clang -c m.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.  
If there are two symbols with the same name generally it is an error:

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c

$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.  
If there are two symbols with the same name generally it is an error:

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c

$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
```

```
$ clang m.o main.o
/usr/bin/ld: main.o: in function `global_func':
main.c:(.text+0x0): multiple definition of `global_func';
m.o:m.c:(.text+0x0): first defined here
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.

If there are two symbols with the same name generally it is an error:

```
main.c:(.text+0x0): multiple definition of `global_func';
```

```
m.o:m.c:(.text+0x0): first defined here
```

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
```

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

During linking linker merges .symtabs from multiple object files to one.

If there are two symbols with the same name generally it is an error:

```
main.c:(.text+0x0): multiple definition of `global_func';
```

```
m.o:m.c:(.text+0x0): first defined here
```

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
```

```
$ readelf -sw m.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func


```
$ readelf -sw main.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	main.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	main

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But if we'll define function with **weak** attribute...

```
$ cat m.c  
void __attribute__((weak))  
global_func() {}  
$ clang -c m.c
```



```
$ cat main.c  
void global_func() {}  
void main() {}  
$ clang -c main.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But if we'll define function with **weak** attribute...

Linking will be ok

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	<b>WEAK</b>	DEFAULT	1	global_func

```
$ readelf -sW main.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	main.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func
4:	000000000000000b	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	main

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

But if we'll define function with **weak** attribute...

Linking will be ok

Executable also contains .symtab

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$ readelf -sw a.out | grep global_func
36: 00000000000001134      11 FUNC      GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 global_func
```



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What if we'll remove `global_func` from `main.c`?

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c

$ cat main.c
//void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What if we'll remove `global_func` from `main.c`?

**Question to audience: will the result be the same?**

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
//void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$ readelf -sw a.out | grep global
...
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

What if we'll remove `global_func` from `main.c`?

**Question to audience: will the result be the same?**

No. Linker really copies symbols as is.

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
//void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$ readelf -sW a.out | grep global
...
36: 00000000000001129      11 FUNC      WEAK      DEFAULT  14 global_func
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

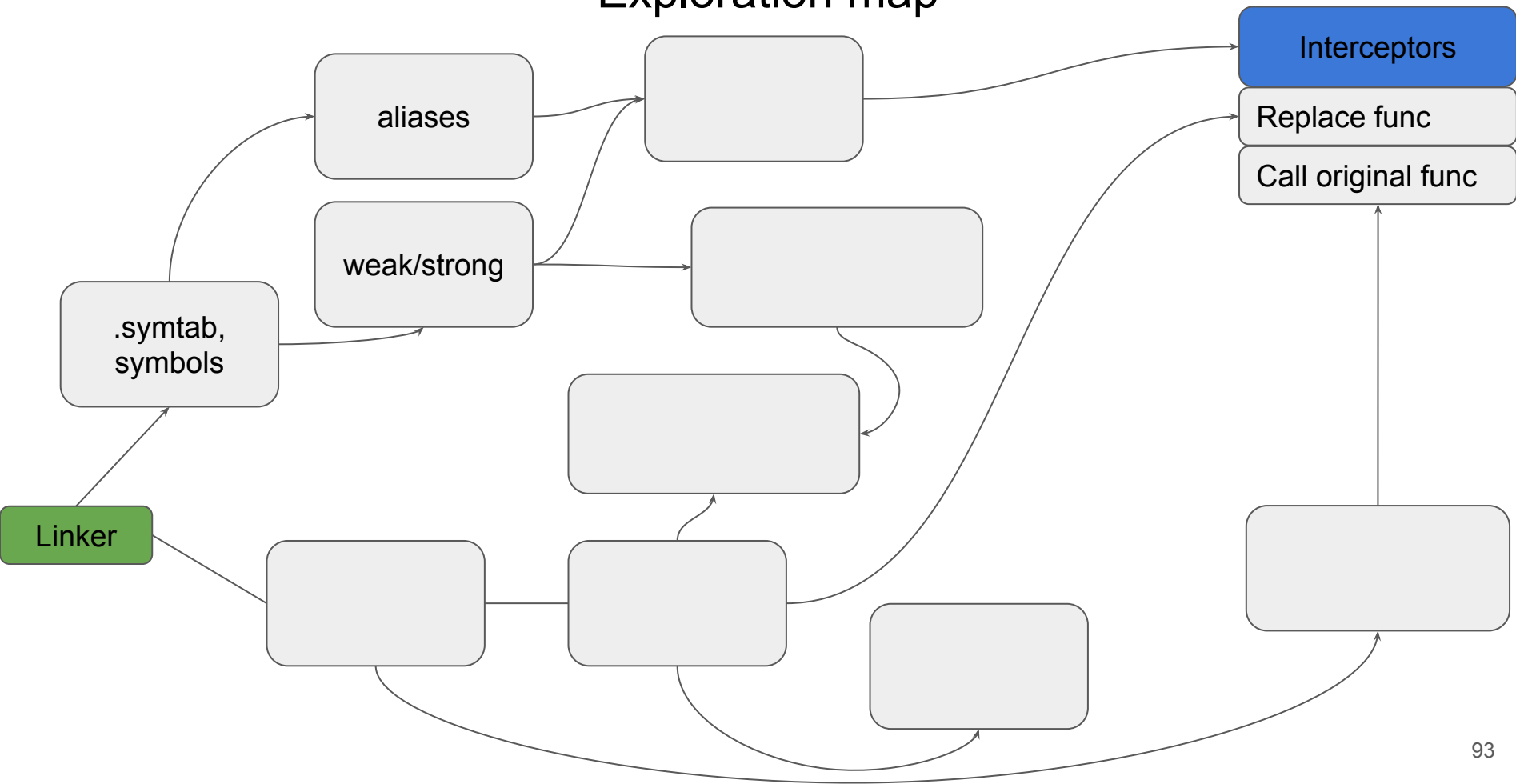
**STRONG** (global) symbols always prevail over **WEAK** symbols

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak))
global_func() {}
$ clang -c m.c
```

```
$ cat main.c
//void global_func() {}
void main() {}
$ clang -c main.c
$ clang m.o main.o
```

```
$ readelf -sW a.out | grep global
...
36: 00000000000001129      11 FUNC      WEAK      DEFAULT  14 global_func
```

# Exploration map



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Aliases and Weak symbols are independent. That's why we can combine them:  
Create weak alias to some function.

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
void __attribute__((weak ,alias("global_func")) global_func_2();
$ clang -c m.c
```

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Aliases and Weak symbols are independent. That's why we can combine them.  
Create weak alias to some function.

```
$ cat m.c
void global_func() {}
void __attribute__((weak, alias("global_func"))) global_func_2();
$ clang -c m.c
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func
4:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	WEAK	DEFAULT	1	global_func_2

# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Aliases and Weak symbols are independent. That's why we can combine them.

Question to the audience:

Can we create a **STRONG** alias to **WEAK** function?

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak)) global_func() {}
void __attribute__((alias("global_func")))) global_func_2();
?
```



# Linker: Sections and Symbols

Aliases and Weak symbols are independent. That's why we can combine them.

Question to the audience:

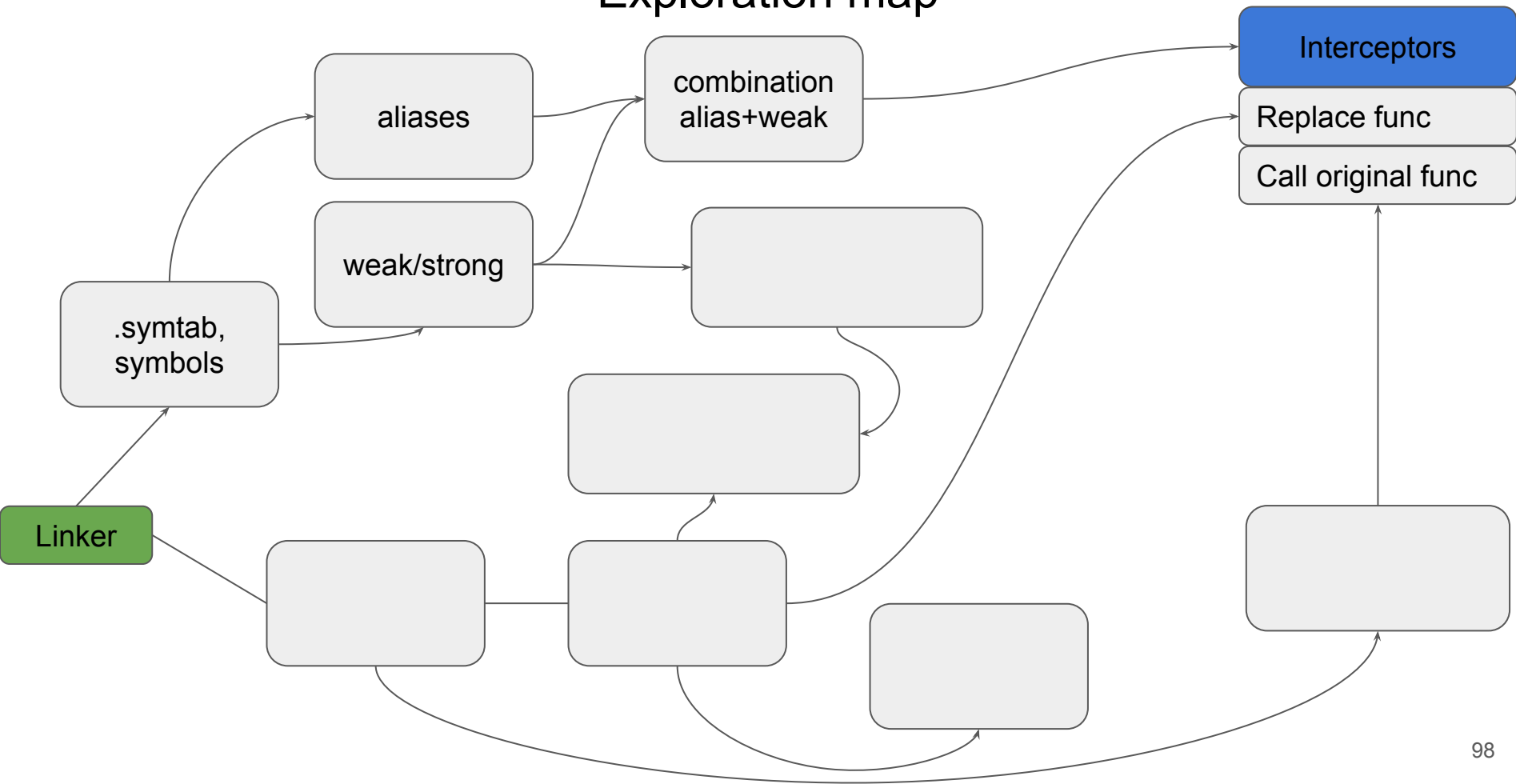
Can we create a **STRONG** alias to **WEAK** function?

Yep. We can! All records in `.symtab` are equal. There is no primary record.

```
$ cat m.c
void __attribute__((weak)) global_func() {}
void __attribute__((alias("global_func")))) global_func_2();
$ clang -c m.c
$ readelf -sW m.o
```

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS	m.c
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	WEAK	DEFAULT	1	global_func
4:	0000000000000000	11	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	global_func_2

# Exploration map



Let's use it!

# Let's use it!

ASAN public API has useful function

# Let's use it!

ASAN public API has useful function

```
// Prints stack traces for all live heap allocations ordered by total
// allocation size until top_percent of total live heap is shown. top_percent
// should be between 1 and 100. At most max_number_of_contexts contexts
// (stack traces) are printed.
// Experimental feature currently available only with ASan on Linux/x86_64.
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts);
```

# Let's use it!

## ASAN public API has useful function

```
// Prints stack traces for all live heap allocations ordered by total
// allocation size until top_percent of total live heap is shown. top_percent
// should be between 1 and 100. At most max_number_of_contexts contexts
// (stack traces) are printed.
// Experimental feature currently available only with ASan on Linux/x86_64.
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts);
```

Live Heap Allocations: 475809 bytes in 6 chunks; quarantined: 0 bytes in 0 chunks; 17747 other chunks; total chunks: 17753; showing top 100% (at most 1000 unique contexts)

```
402000 byte(s) (84%) in 1 allocation(s)
  #0 0x6508136538d1 in operator new[](unsigned long) (/tmp/test/a.out+0x1058d1)
  #1 0x650813655b48 in main (/tmp/test/a.out+0x107b48)
  #2 0x7241ba62a1c9 in __libc_start_call_main csu/../sysdeps/nptl/libc_start_call_main.h:58:16
  #3 0x7241ba62a28a in __libc_start_main csu/../csu/libc-start.c:360:3
  #4 0x65081357a344 in _start (/tmp/test/a.out+0x2c344)

73728 byte(s) (15%) in 1 allocation(s)
  #0 0x650813615193 in malloc (/tmp/test/a.out+0xc7193)
...
```

# Let's use it!

ASAN public API has useful function

```
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts);
```

We want call this function if ASAN runtime is available

# Let's use it!

ASAN public API has useful function

```
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts);
```

We want call this function if ASAN runtime is available

We want to avoid recompilation. That's why we can't use conditional compilation.



# Let's use it!

Let's just call it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
```

# Let's use it!

Let's just call it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
```

# Let's use it!

## Compiles!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
```

# Let's use it!

Ooops... Linkage error.

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$ clang main.c
/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/main-04dc2e.o: in function `main':
main.c:(.text+0xf): undefined reference to `__sanitizer_print_memory_profile'
clang: error: linker command failed with exit code 1 (use -v to see invocation)
```

# Let's use it!

Let's define undefined!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$ clang main.c
/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/main-04dc2e.o: in function `main':
main.c:(.text+0xf): undefined reference to `__sanitizer_print_memory_profile'
clang: error: linker command failed with exit code 1 (use -v to see invocation)
```

# Let's use it!

Let's define undefined!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
$
```

# Let's use it!

Let's define undefined!

Compiles!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
$ clang main.c
$
```

# Let's use it!

Ooops... Multiple definitions. As expected.

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
$ clang main.c
$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
/usr/bin/ld: /tmp/main-acadb5.o: in function `__sanitizer_print_memory_profile':
main.c:(.text+0x0): multiple definition of `__sanitizer_print_memory_profile';
/usr/lib/llvm-18/lib/clang/18/lib/linux/libclang_rt.asan-x86_64.a(asan_memory_profile.cpp.o):(.text.__sanitizer_print_memory_profile+0x0): first defined here
clang: error: linker command failed with exit code 1 (use -v to see invocation)
```



# Let's use it!

Let's define undefined as weak symbol.

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang main.c
```

# Let's use it!

Let's define undefined as weak symbol.

Links successfully with or without ASAN runtime

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang main.c
$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$
```

# Let's use it!

Links successfully with or without ASAN runtime

Let's run it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang main.c
$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
```

# Let's use it!

Links successfully with or without ASAN runtime

Let's run it! Works!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ clang main.c
$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
Live Heap Allocations: 65 bytes in 2 chunks; quarantined: 0 bytes in 0 chunks; 9555 other chunks; total chunks: 9557;
showing top 100% (at most 1000 unique contexts)
41 byte(s) (63%) in 1 allocation(s)
    #0 0x5c7fa0f49193 in malloc (/tmp/test/a.out+0xc6193) (BuildId: 0089915e746c65b3f9e8c42abdd6dc6e56614062)
...
```

# Let's use it!

Links successfully with or without ASAN runtime

Let's run it! Works!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
```

# SUCCESS!

```
$ clang main.c
$ clang -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
```

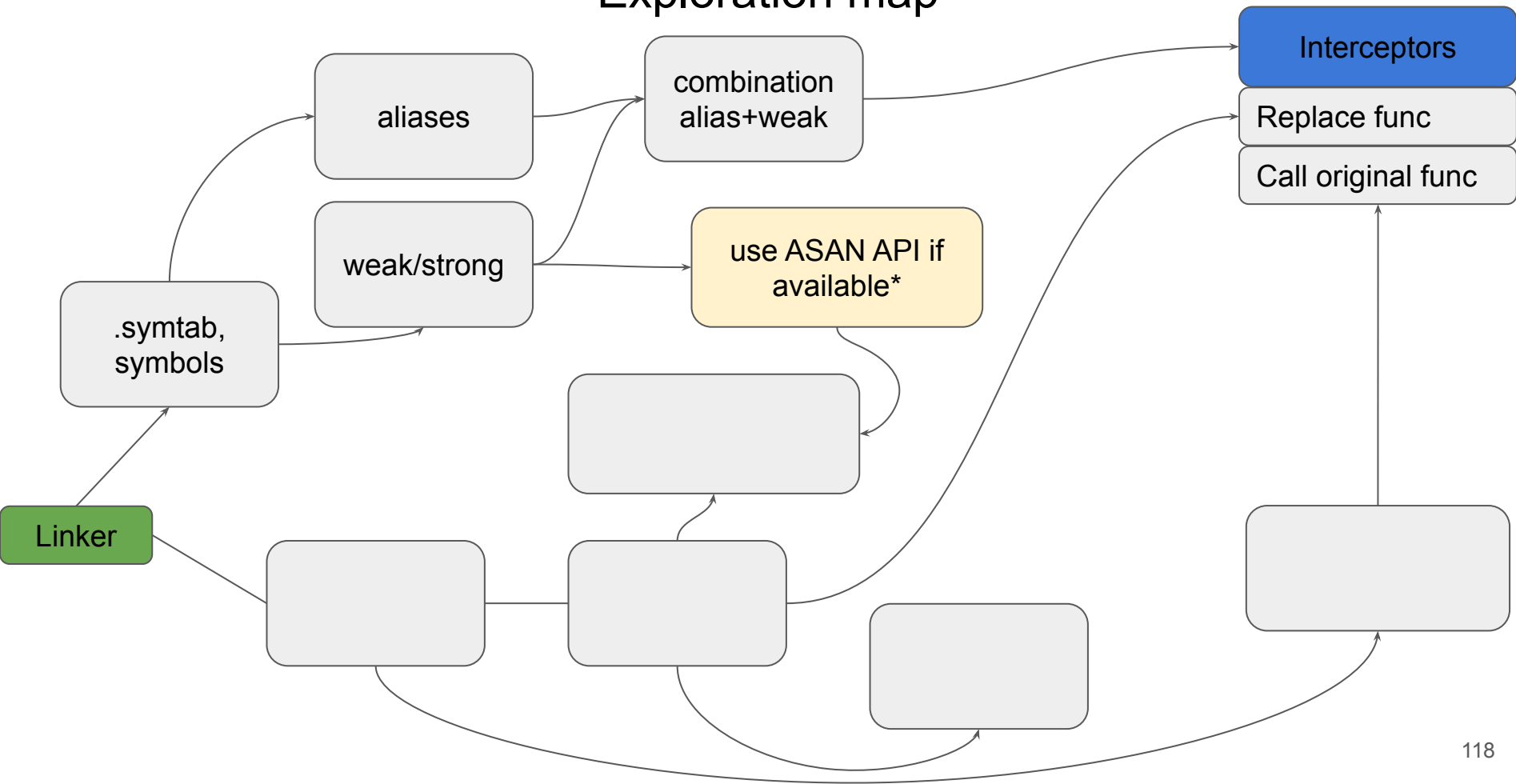
```
Live Heap Allocations: 65 bytes in 2 chunks; quarantined: 0 bytes in 0 chunks; 9555 other chunks; total chunks: 9557;
showing top 100% (at most 1000 unique contexts)
```

```
41 byte(s) (63%) in 1 allocation(s)
```

```
#0 0x5c7fa0f49193 in malloc (/tmp/test/a.out+0xc6193) (BuildId: 0089915e746c65b3f9e8c42abdd6dc6e56614062)
```

```
...
```

# Exploration map



# Let's use it!

Let's test it with gcc

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ gcc main.c
$
```

# Let's use it!

Let's test it with gcc

Compiles and links with or without ASAN

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ gcc main.c
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$
```



# Let's use it!

Compiles and links with or without ASAN

Let's run it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ gcc main.c
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
```

# Let's use it!

Compiles and links with or without ASAN

Let's run it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ gcc main.c
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
$
```

Compiles and links with  
Let's run it!

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interf
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profil

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_pro
}
```

```
$ gcc main.c
$ gcc -fsanitize=address m
$ ./a.out
$
```



# Let's use it!

clang uses **static** ASAN runtime (by default)

gcc uses **dynamic** ASAN runtime (by default)

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}

$ gcc main.c
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ./a.out
$
```

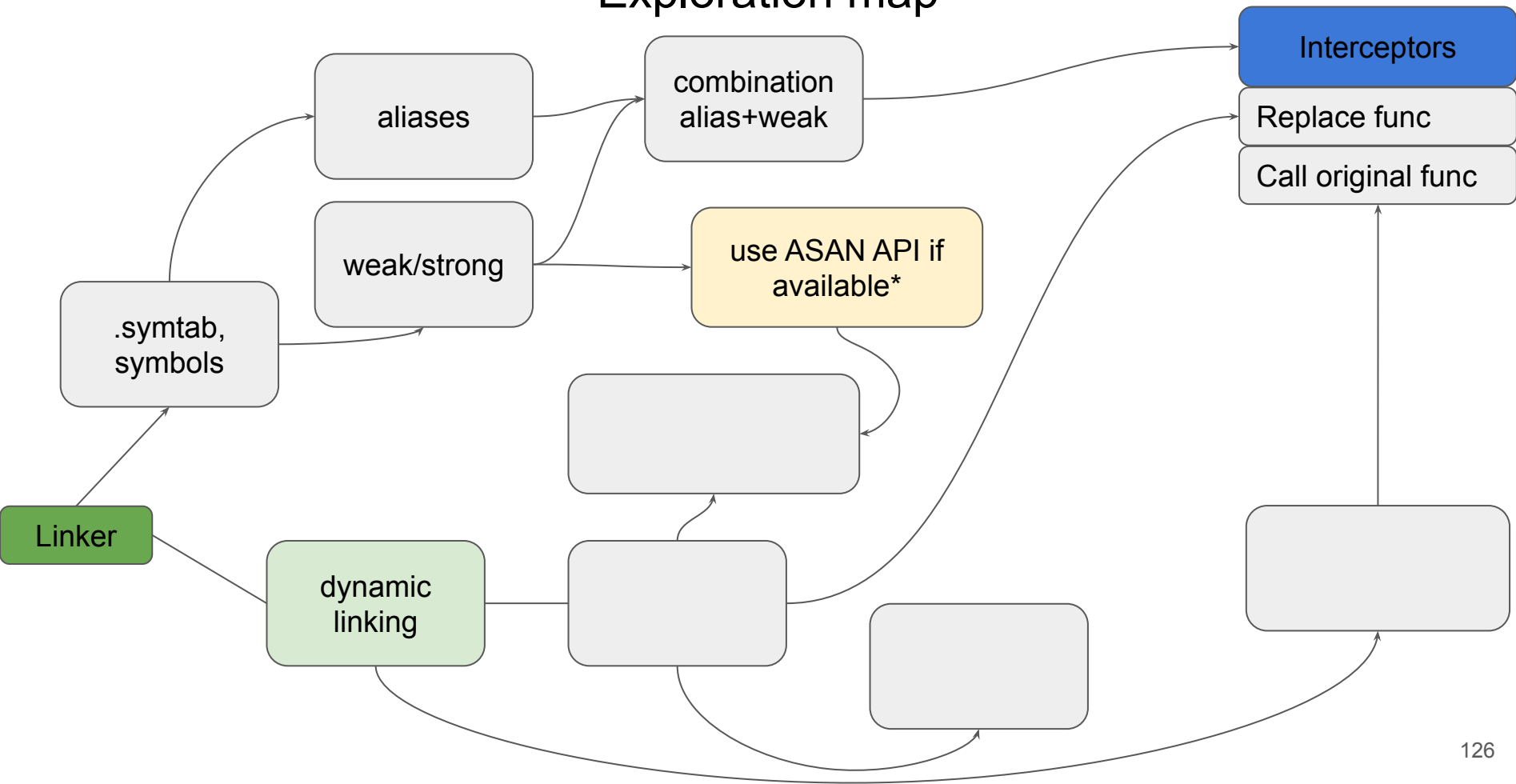
# Dynamic linking

clang uses **static** ASAN runtime (by default)

gcc uses **dynamic** ASAN runtime (by default)

Seems like dynamic linker works differently

# Exploration map



# Dynamic linking

Seems like dynamic linker works differently

Dynamic linker much more lazier than static one.

# Dynamic linking

Seems like dynamic linker works differently

Dynamic linker much more lazier than static one.

Static linker checks all symbols with the same name.



# Dynamic linking

Seems like dynamic linker works differently

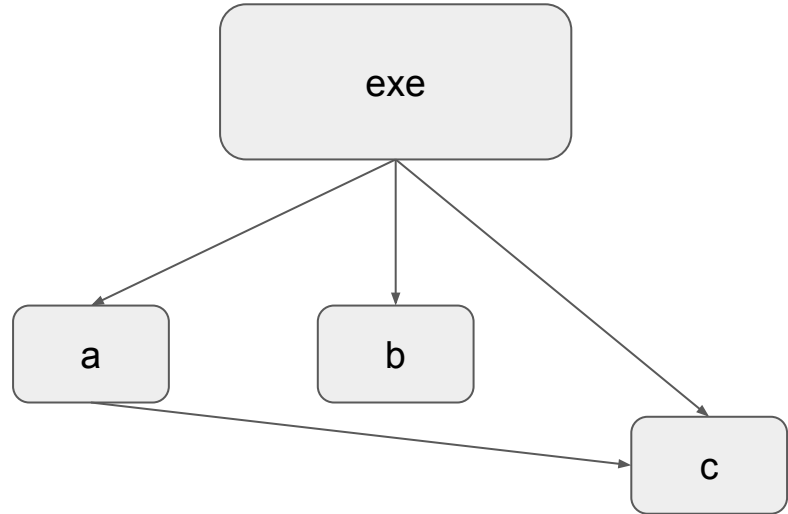
Dynamic linker much more lazier than static one.

Static linker checks all symbols with the same name.

Dynamic linker just uses first found symbol

# Dynamic linking

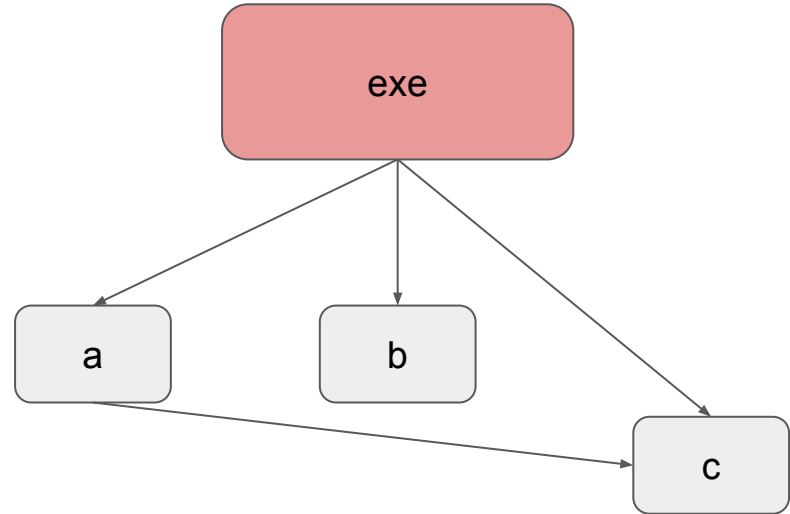
We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

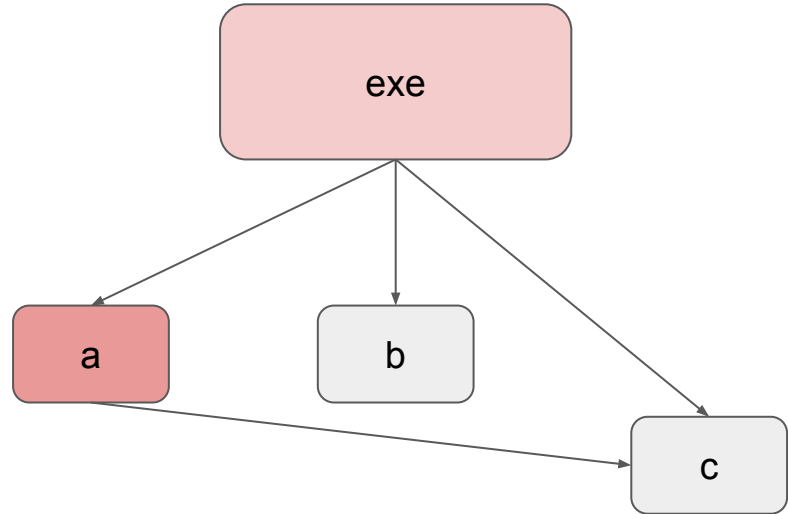
## 1. executable



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

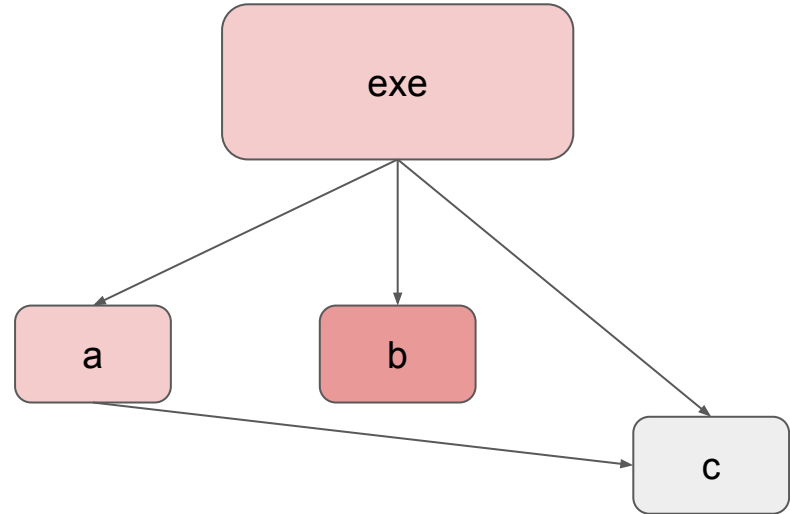
1. executable
2. a



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

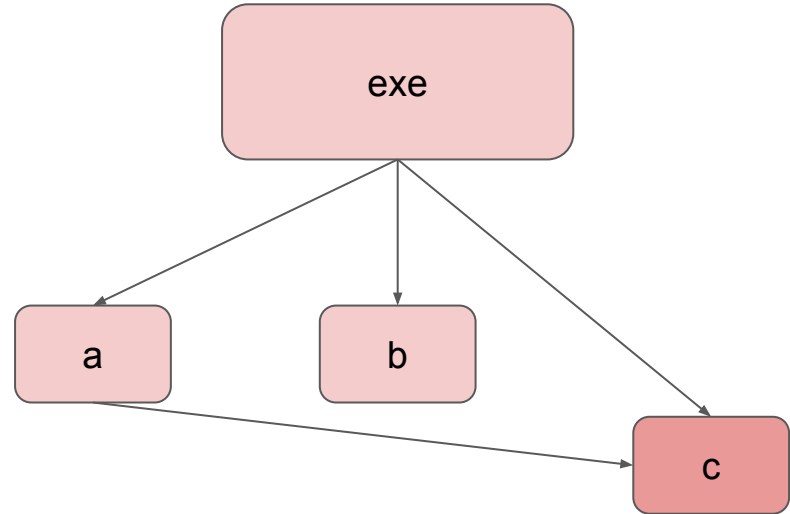
1. executable
2. a
3. b



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

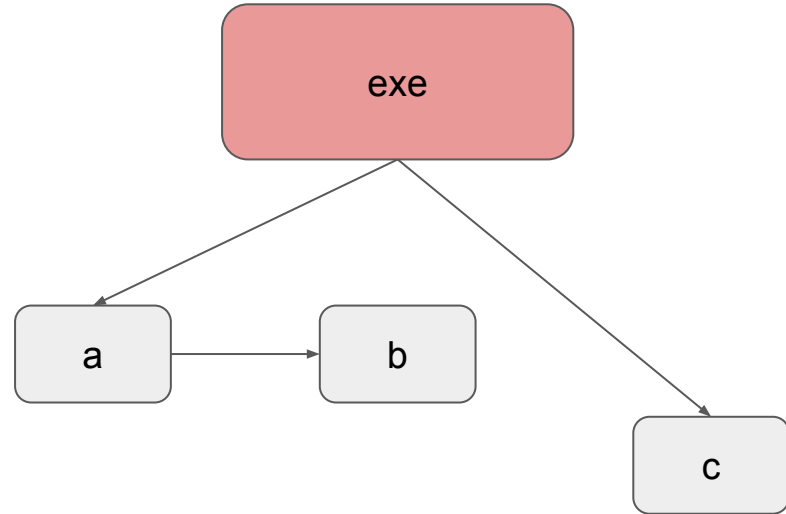
1. executable
2. a
3. b
4. c



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

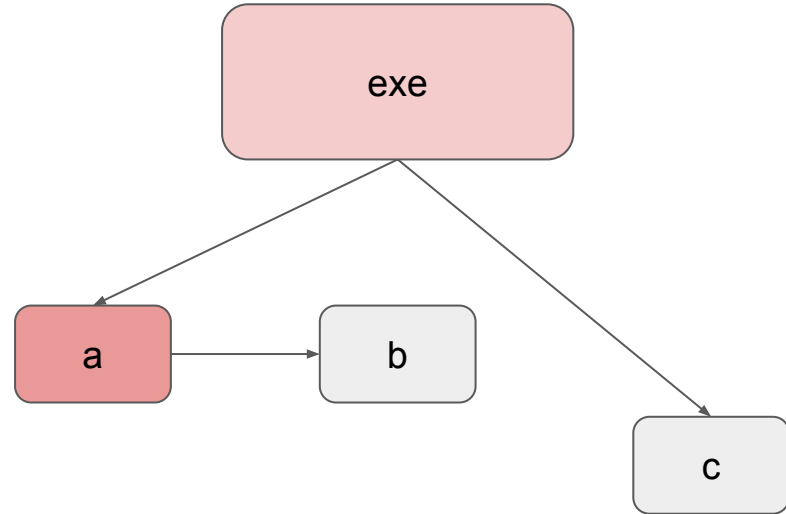
## 1. executable



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

1. executable
2. a

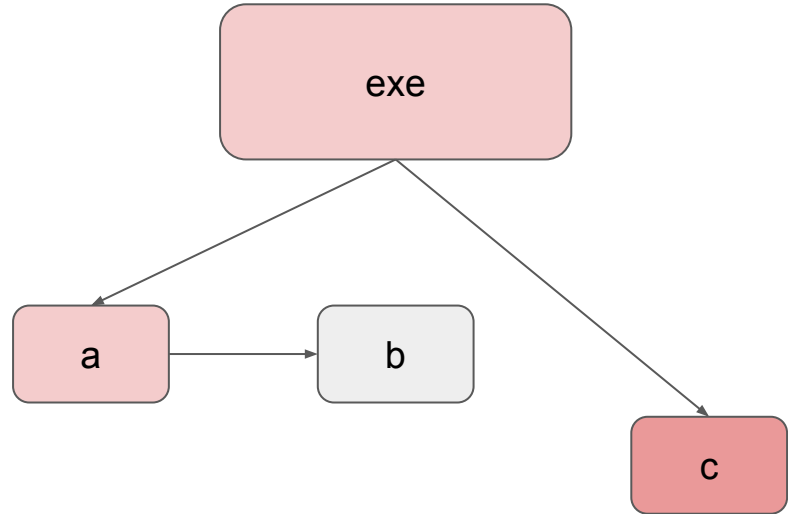




# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

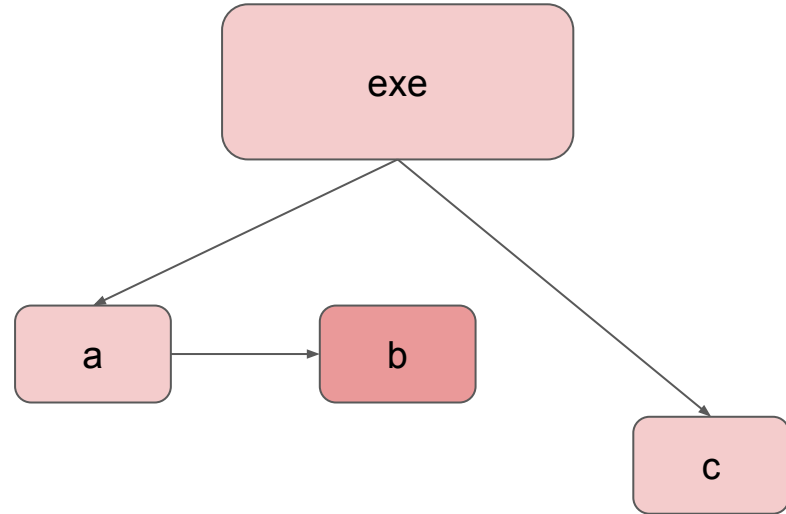
1. executable
2. a
3. c



# Dynamic linking

We have some executable with some dynamic dependencies. And dependencies have their own dependencies. The symbol search will be the following:

1. executable
2. a
3. c
4. b



# Dynamic linking

Let's check how dynamic linker works with a simple app. What dependencies etc...

```
$ cat main.c
#include <stdlib.h>
int main() {
    int* a = malloc(sizeof(int));
}

$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
```

# Dynamic linking

Let's check dynamic dependencies.

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ldd ./a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffdd0bfd000)
libasan.so.8 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 (0x00007fc054e00000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007fc054a00000)
libm.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libm.so.6 (0x00007fc055545000)
libgcc_s.so.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgcc_s.so.1 (0x00007fc055518000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007fc055651000)
```

# Dynamic linking

We can see that ASAN runtime is the **first** dependency (**vdso** is virtual shared object, man vdso)

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ldd ./a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffdd0bfd000)
libasan.so.8 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 (0x00007fc054e00000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007fc054a00000)
libm.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libm.so.6 (0x00007fc055545000)
libgcc_s.so.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgcc_s.so.1 (0x00007fc055518000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007fc055651000)
```

# Dynamic linking

That's how it intercepts all necessary functions.

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ ldd ./a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffdd0bfd000)
libasan.so.8 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 (0x00007fc054e00000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007fc054a00000)
libm.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libm.so.6 (0x00007fc055545000)
libgcc_s.so.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgcc_s.so.1 (0x00007fc055518000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007fc055651000)
```

# Dynamic linking

Let's check how `malloc` is being searched

```
$ cat main.c
#include <stdlib.h>
int main() {
    int* a = malloc(sizeof(int));
}
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
```

# Dynamic linking

Firstly it is being searched in executable (without success)

Secondally in **libasan**. And it was been found in libasan.

```
$ cat main.c
#include <stdlib.h>
int main() {
    int* a = malloc(sizeof(int));
}
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main.c
$ LD_DEBUG=symbols 2>&1 ./a.out | grep malloc
319140: symbol=malloc; lookup in file=./a.out [0]
319140: symbol=malloc; lookup in file=/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 [0]
```



# Dynamic linking

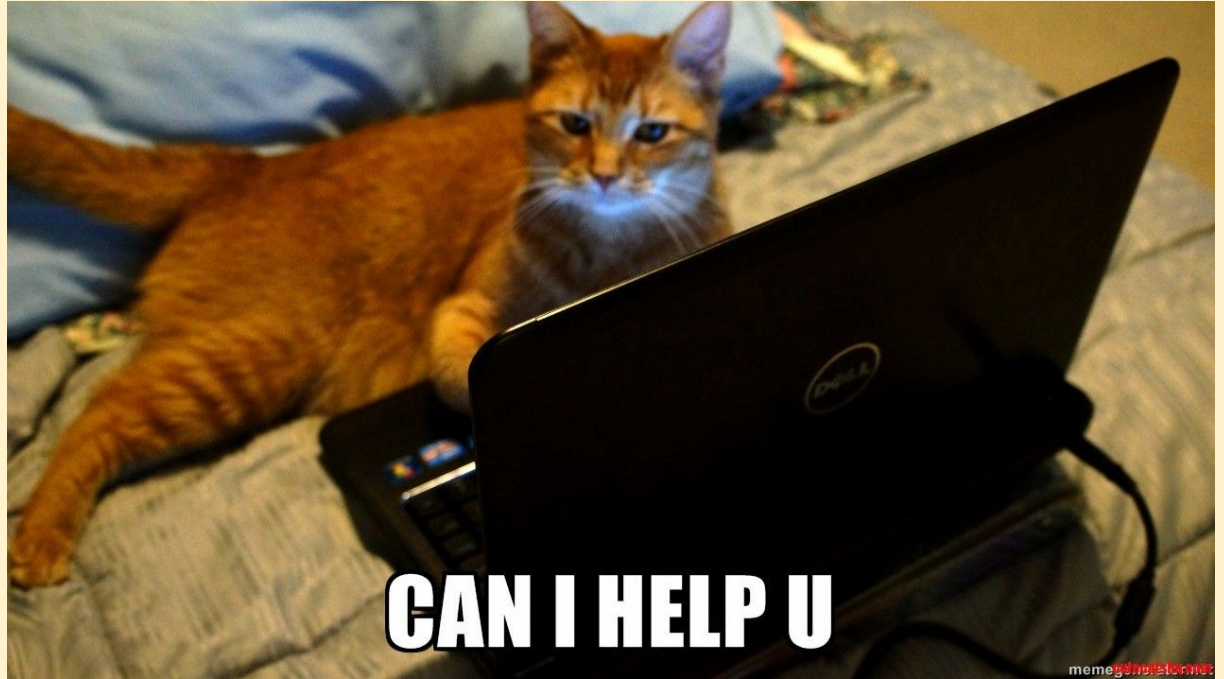
LD\_DEBUG – very useful tool

```
$ LD_DEBUG=help cat
```

# Dynamic linking

LD\_DEBUG – very useful tool

```
$ LD_DEBUG=help cat
```



# Dynamic linking

## LD\_DEBUG – very useful tool

```
$ LD_DEBUG=help cat
```

Valid options for the LD\_DEBUG environment variable are:

libs	display library search paths
reloc	display relocation processing
files	display progress for input file
symbols	display symbol table processing
bindings	display information about symbol binding
versions	display version dependencies
scopes	display scope information
all	all previous options combined
statistics	display relocation statistics
unused	determined unused DSOs
help	display this help message and exit

To direct the debugging output into a file instead of standard output a filename can be specified using the LD\_DEBUG\_OUTPUT environment variable.

# Dynamic linking

## LD\_DEBUG - why cat is able to talk?

```
$ LD_DEBUG=help cat
```

Valid options for the LD\_DEBUG environment variable are:

libs	display library search paths
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help	display this help message and exit

To direct the debugging output into a file instead of standard output a filename can be specified using the LD\_DEBUG\_OUTPUT environment variable.

# Dynamic linking

## LD\_DEBUG - why cat is able to talk?

```
$ man ld.so
```

NAME

ld.so, ld-linux.so - dynamic linker/loader

SYNOPSIS

The dynamic linker can be run either indirectly by running some dynamically linked program or shared object (in which case no command-line options to the dynamic linker can be passed and, in the ELF case, the dynamic linker which is stored in the .interp section of the program is executed) or directly by running:

```
/lib/ld-linux.so.* [OPTIONS] [PROGRAM [ARGUMENTS]]
```

DESCRIPTION

The programs ld.so and ld-linux.so\* find and load the shared objects (shared libraries) needed by a program, prepare the program to run, and then run it.

# Dynamic linking

LD\_DEBUG, LD\_PRELOAD, LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH, etc – are env var for **ld.so**

```
$ man ld.so
```

## NAME

ld.so, ld-linux.so - dynamic linker/loader

## SYNOPSIS

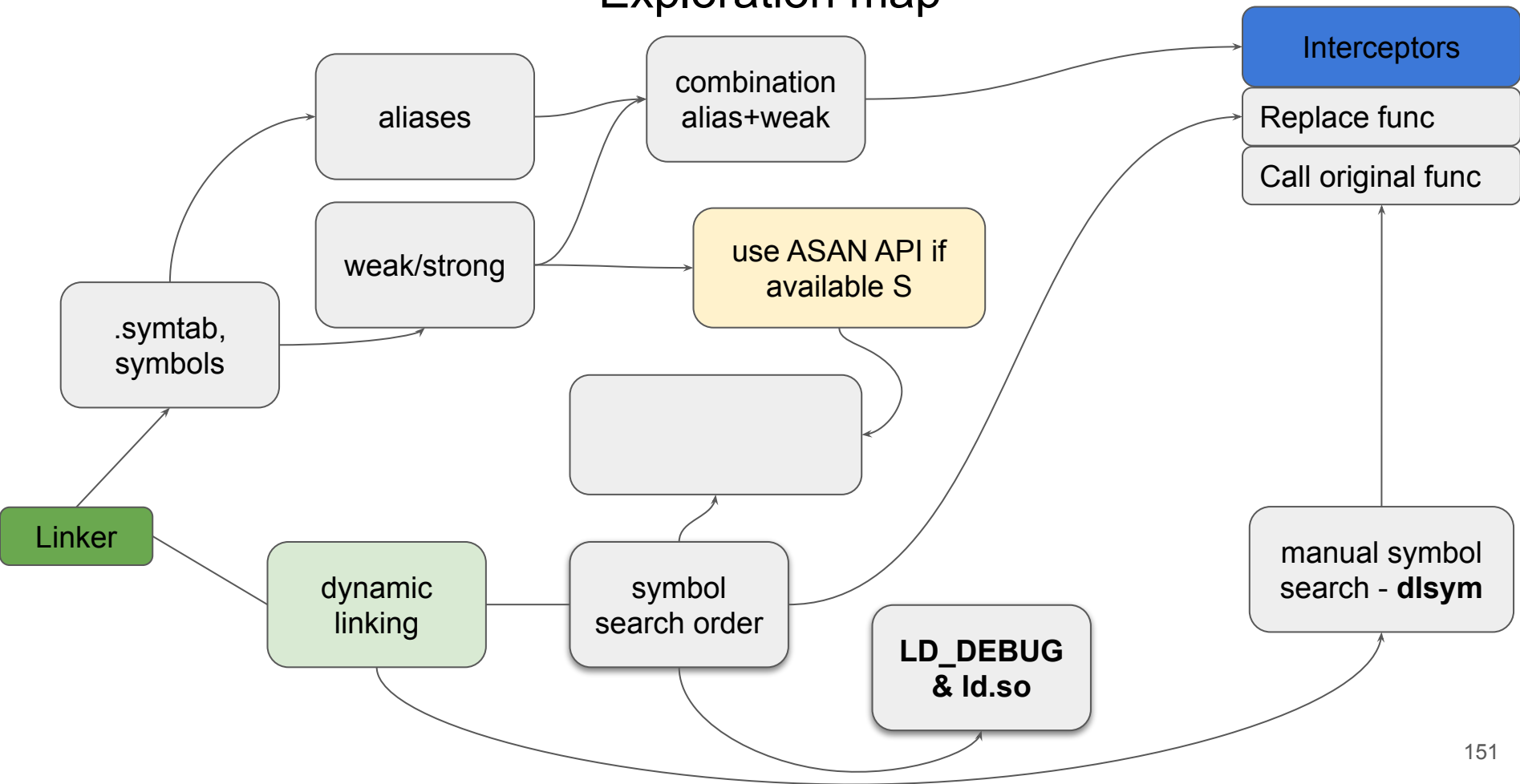
The dynamic linker can be run either indirectly by running some dynamically linked program or shared object (in which case no command-line options to the dynamic linker can be passed and, in the ELF case, the dynamic linker which is stored in the .interp section of the program is executed) or directly by running:

```
/lib/ld-linux.so.* [OPTIONS] [PROGRAM [ARGUMENTS]]
```

## DESCRIPTION

The programs ld.so and ld-linux.so\* find and load the shared objects (shared libraries) needed by a program, prepare the program to run, and then run it.

# Exploration map



# It's time to fix our application!

Do you see the problem?

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
```



# It's time to fix our application!

Do you see the problem?

Yes. Application will always use their own implementation (in case of dynamic ASAN)

```
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
void __attribute__((weak))
__sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}

int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

\$

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

```
$ cat fake_asan_profile.c
#include <stdlib.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

```
$ cat fake_asan_profile.c
#include <stdlib.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

```
$ cat fake_asan_profile.c
#include <stdlib.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
$ gcc -shared asan_profile.c -o libfake_asan_profile.so
$ gcc main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

```
$ cat fake_asan_profile.c
#include <stdlib.h>
void __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(size_t top_percent, size_t max_number_of_contexts) {}
$ cat main.c
#include <sanitizer/asan_interface.h>
int main() {
    __sanitizer_print_memory_profile(100, 1000);
}
$ gcc -shared asan_profile.c -o libfake_asan_profile.so
$ gcc main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ ./a.out
$
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

```
$ gcc main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ ./a.out
$
$ ldd a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffffc1953000)
libfake_asan_profile.so => ./libfake_asan_profile.so (0x00007c73c5d20000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007c73c5a00000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007c73c5d2c000)
```

# It's time to fix our application!

The solution is simple – move this function to a separate .so

Works as expected (without ASAN runtime)

```
$ gcc main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ ./a.out
$
$ ldd a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffffc1953000)
libfake_asan_profile.so => ./libfake_asan_profile.so (0x00007c73c5d20000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007c73c5a00000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007c73c5d2c000)
$ LD_DEBUG=symbols 2>&1 ./a.out | grep __sanitizer_print_memory_profile
323573:      symbol=__sanitizer_print_memory_profile;  lookup in file=./a.out [0]
323573:      symbol=__sanitizer_print_memory_profile;  lookup in file=./libfake_asan_profile.so [0]
```



# It's time to fix our application!

Let's check it with ASAN runtime

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile  
$ ./a.out
```

# It's time to fix our application!

Let's check it with ASAN runtime.

Works!

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ ./a.out
Live Heap Allocations: 92 bytes in 2 chunks; quarantined: 0 bytes in 0 chunks; 1948 other chunks;
total chunks: 1950; showing top 100% (at most 1000 unique contexts)
68 byte(s) (73%) in 1 allocation(s)
  #0 0x7dcf952fbb37 in malloc ../../../../src/libsanitizer/asan/asan_malloc_linux.cpp:69
  #1 0x7dcf95936db1 in malloc ../include/rtdl-malloc.h:56
  #2 0x7dcf95936db1 in __GI__dl_exception_create_format elf/dl-exception.c:157
  #3 0x7dcf9593e641 in _dl_lookup_symbol_x elf/dl-lookup.c:809
  #4 0x7dcf94f8521c in do_sym elf/dl-sym.c:146
...
```

# It's time to fix our application!

Let's check it with ASAN runtime.

libasan.so has higher priority. So we've created "default" implementation for this func.

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ ldd a.out
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffff2018e000)
libasan.so.8 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 (0x0000746a29200000)
libfake_asan_profile.so => ./libfake_asan_profile.so (0x0000746a29a31000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x0000746a28e00000)
libm.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libm.so.6 (0x0000746a29948000)
libgcc_s.so.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libgcc_s.so.1 (0x0000746a2991b000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x0000746a29a59000)
```

# It's time to fix our application!

Let's check it with ASAN runtime.

Symbol search check via LD\_DEBUG:

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile
$ LD_DEBUG=symbols 2>&1 ./a.out | grep __sanitizer_print_memory_profile
324222:      symbol=__sanitizer_print_memory_profile;  lookup in file=./a.out [0]
324222:      symbol=__sanitizer_print_memory_profile;  lookup in
file=/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 [0]
```

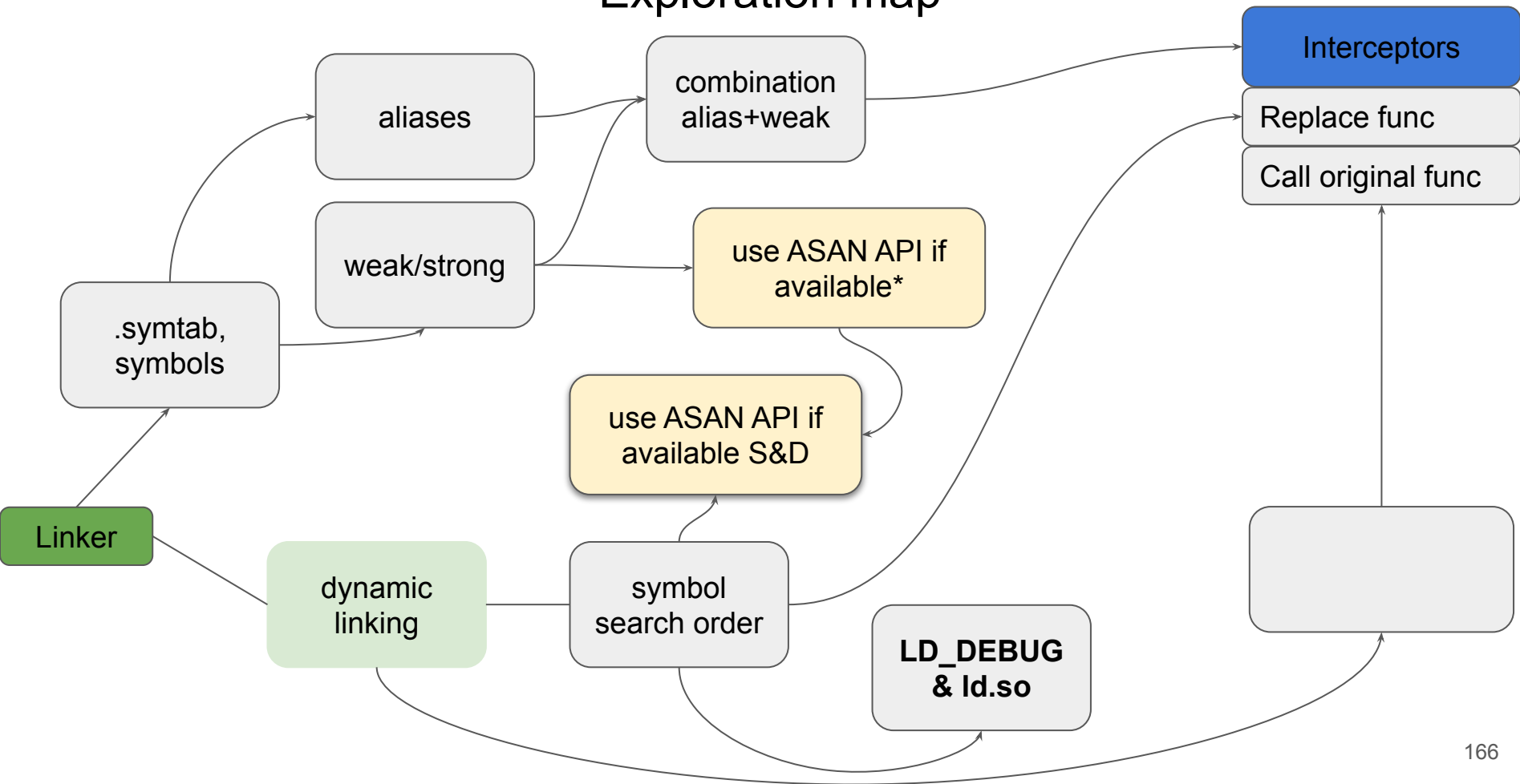
# It's time to fix our application!

With and without ASAN runtime

```
$ gcc -fsanitize=address main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile  
$ LD_DEBUG=symbols 2>&1 ./a.out | ...  
lookup in file=./a.out [0]  
lookup in file=/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 [0]
```

```
$ gcc main_old.c -L. -lfake_asan_profile  
$ LD_DEBUG=symbols 2>&1 ./a.out | ...  
lookup in file=./a.out [0]  
lookup in file=./libfake_asan_profile.so [0]
```

# Exploration map



# Sum up techniques

To create default implementation which could be replaced by some another one you can:

**For static linking:** create WEAK symbol

Executable	default weak <b>foo()</b>
Executable	Possible <b>strong</b> <b>overload</b> for <b>foo()</b>

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To create default implementation which could be replaced by some another one you can:

**For static linking:** create WEAK symbol

**For dynamic linking:** move your symbol to dynamic lib. Load it AFTER possible overload.

Executable	default weak <b>foo()</b>
Executable	Possible <b>strong overload</b> for <b>foo()</b>

.so	possible <b>overload</b> for <b>boo()</b>
-----	---

.so	default <b>boo()</b>
-----	----------------------



# Sum up techniques

To create default implementation which could be replaced by some another one you can:

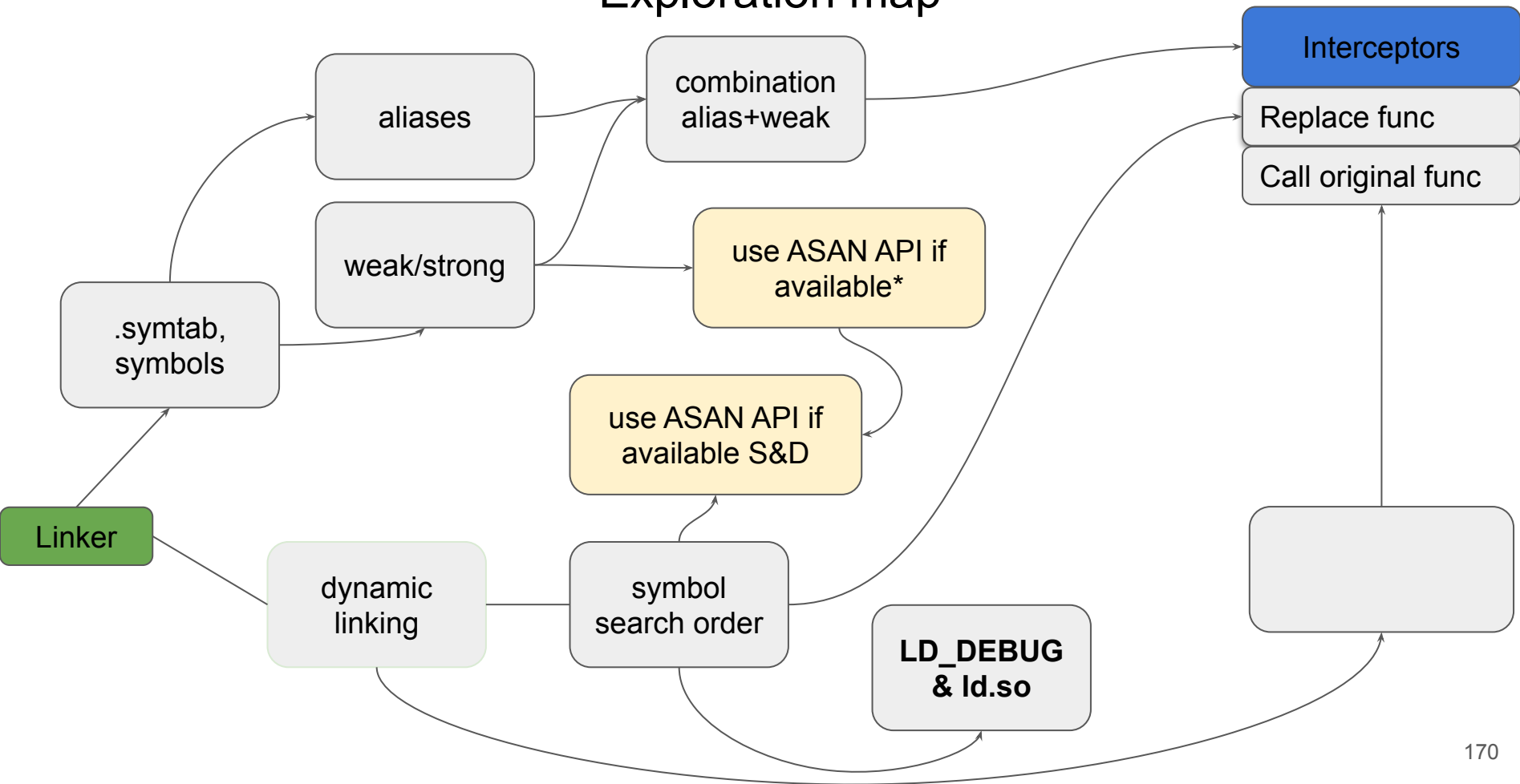
**For static linking:** create WEAK symbol

**For dynamic linking:** move your symbol to dynamic lib. Load it AFTER possible overload.

**To redefine symbol** define youth version in executable or in dynamic lib which will be loaded first.

Executable	default weak <b>foo()</b>
Executable	Possible <b>strong overload</b> for <b>foo()</b>
Executable	Possible <b>overload</b> for <b>boo()</b>
.so	possible <b>overload</b> for <b>boo()</b>
.so	default <b>boo()</b>

# Exploration map



# How to call redefined function?

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Just use **dlsym** call!

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```
$ cat my_malloc.c
#include <unistd.h>
#include <dlfcn.h>
typedef void*(*real_malloc)(size_t)
void* malloc(size_t size) {
    write(1, "my malloc\n", 11);
    void* func = dlsym(RTDL_NEXT, "malloc");
    real_malloc real_malloc = func;
    return real_malloc(size);
}
```

# How to call redefined function?

Just use **dlsym** call!

dlsym RTDL\_NEXT finds a **next** given symbol

```
$ cat my_malloc.c
#include <unistd.h>
#include <dlfcn.h>
typedef void*(*real_malloc)(size_t)
void* malloc(size_t size) {
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```

# How to call redefined function?

Let's try it!

```
$ cat my_malloc.c
#include <unistd.h>
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typedef void*(*real_malloc)(size_t)
void* malloc(size_t size) {
    write(1, "my malloc\n", 11);
    void* func = dlsym(RTDL_NEXT, "malloc");
    real_malloc real_malloc = func;
    return real_malloc(size);
}
$ clang -shared my_malloc.c -o my_malloc.so
$ cat main.c
int main() {
    printf("%p\n", malloc(10));
}
$ clang -L. -l:my_malloc.so main.c
```

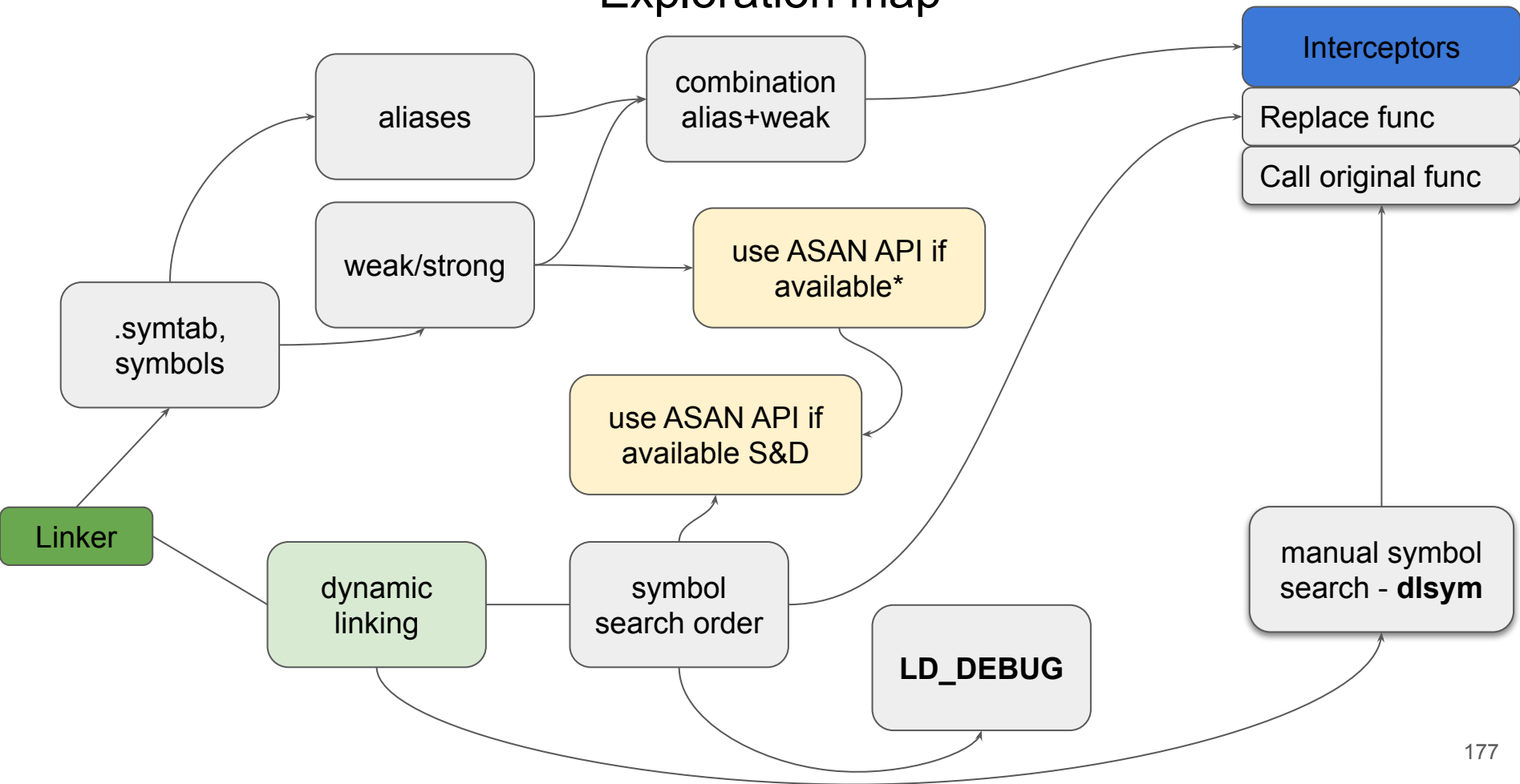
# How to call redefined function?

Let's run it!

```
$ cat my_malloc.c
#include <unistd.h>
#include <dlfcn.h>
typedef void*(*real_malloc)(size_t)
void* malloc(size_t size) {
    write(1, "my malloc\n", 11);
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$ cat main.c
int main() {
    printf("%p\n", malloc(10));
}
$ clang -L. -l:my_malloc.so main.c
$ ./a.out
my malloc
my malloc
0x5dbd8acb12a0
```



# Exploration map



# Sanitizer interceptors IRL

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```
$ readelf -sW /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 | grep malloc
2439: 000000000000fa57a      5 FUNC      WEAK      DEFAULT   14 malloc
  902: 000000000000fa57a      5 FUNC      GLOBAL    DEFAULT   14 __interceptor_trampoline_malloc
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```

It is so complex to allow several tools which have to intercept this functions work together

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First function: trampoline. A short one. Just calls `__interceptor_malloc`

Two symbols one function. WEAK and STRONG

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```

First function: trampoline. A short one. Just calls `__interceptor_malloc`

Two symbols one function. WEAK and STRONG

Second function: real ASAN malloc implementation.

Again: two symbols (WEAK and STRONG) one function.

# Sanitizer interceptors IRL

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2439: 00000000000fa57a      5 FUNC      WEAK      DEFAULT   14 malloc
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```

How does it work normally?

# Sanitizer interceptors IRL

```
$ readelf -sW /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libasan.so.8 | grep malloc ↓
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2439:	0000000000fa57a	5	FUNC	WEAK	DEFAULT	14	malloc
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How does it work normally?

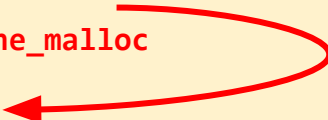
Code calls **malloc**. Linker finds **malloc** symbol in ASAN runtime. **malloc** is trampoline



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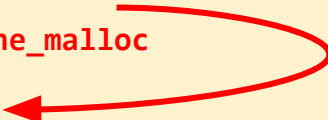
Code calls **malloc**. Linker finds **malloc** symbol in ASAN runtime. **malloc** is trampoline

Trampoline calls **\_\_interceptor\_malloc** symbol. **\_\_interceptor\_malloc** is actual malloc implementation in ASAN

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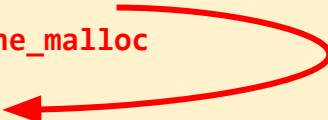


Extension points: all WEAK symbols here.

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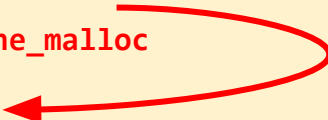


Extension points: all WEAK symbols here. Other tool can redefine **malloc** or **\_\_interceptor\_malloc**

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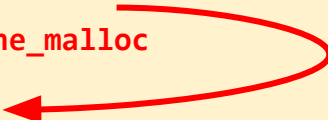
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In both cases redefinition should call a STRONG symbol from the same pair

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Extension points: all WEAK symbols here. Other tool can redefine **malloc** or **\_\_interceptor\_malloc**

In both cases redefinition should call a STRONG symbol from the same pair

```
malloc -> __interceptor_trampoline_malloc  
__interceptor_malloc -> __interceptor_malloc
```

# Sanitizer interceptors IRL

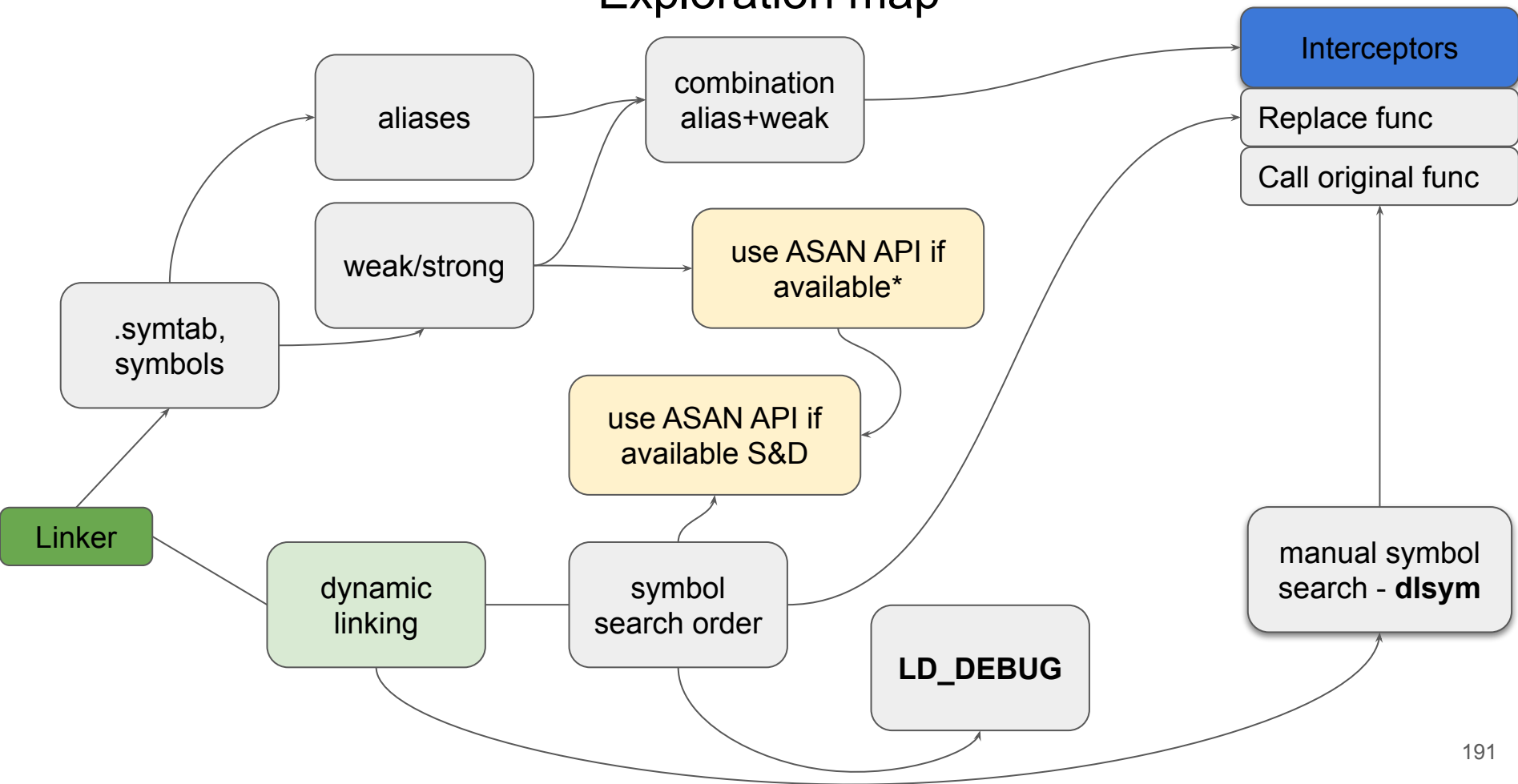
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```

If both are redefined we will have a chain of 3 interceptors (including sanitizer one):

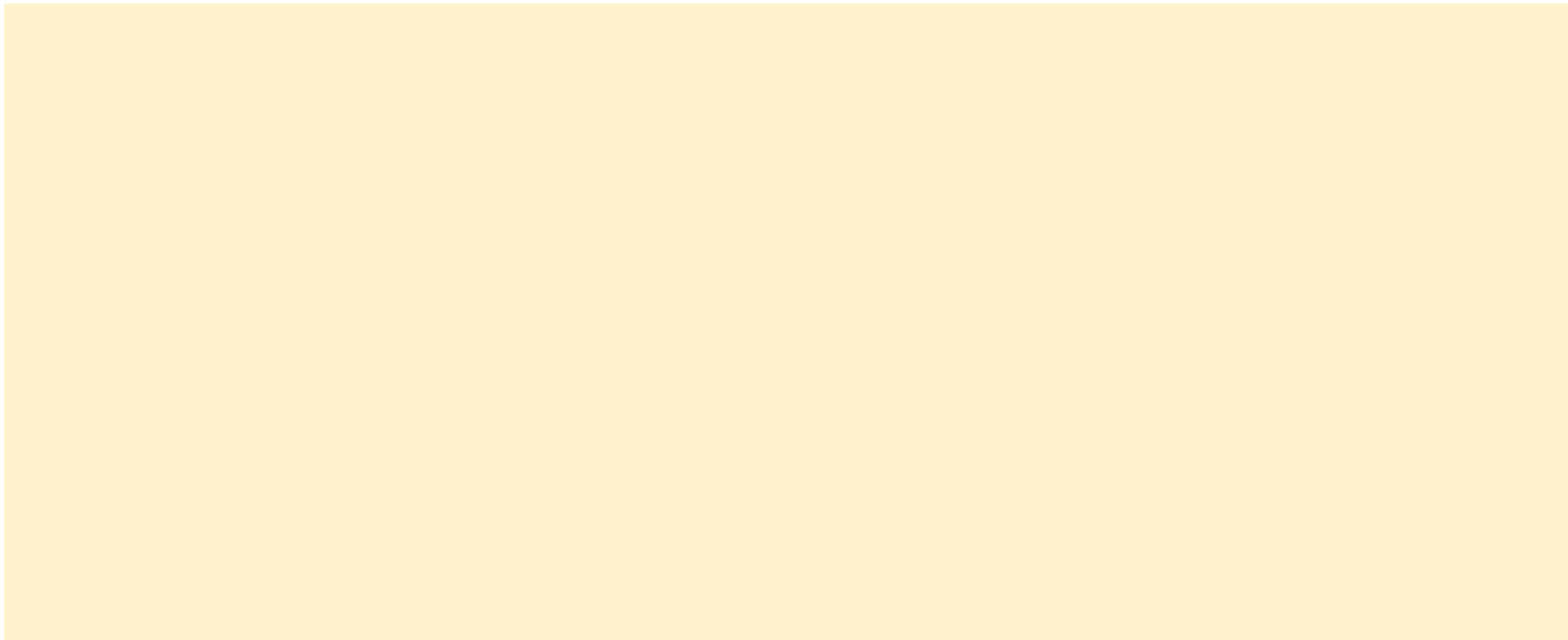
**malloc** -> **\_\_interceptor\_trampoline\_malloc** -> **\_\_interceptor\_malloc** -> **\_\_interceptor\_malloc**

Red - interceptors with custom logic

# Exploration map



## What we can do now? (bonus)





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We can create a library for pretty drawing a Leak Sanitizer report. Which will work automatically.



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We can create a library for pretty drawing a Leak Sanitizer report. Which will work automatically. Just like this:

```
$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
int main() {
    auto a = new N{};
    auto b = new N{};
    a->next = b;
    b->next = a;
    return 0;
}
```

# What we can do now? (bonus)

Compiling it WITHOUT Leak or Address sanitizer!

```
$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
int main() {
    auto a = new N{};
    auto b = new N{};
    a->next = b;
    b->next = a;
    return 0;
}
$ g++ main.c
```

# What we can do now? (bonus)

Run it!

```
$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
int main() {
    auto a = new N{};
    auto b = new N{};
    a->next = b;
    b->next = a;
    return 0;
}
$ g++ main.c
$ LD_PRELOAD="./my_secret_lib.so /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/liblsan.so.0" ./a.out
```

# What we can do now? (bonus)

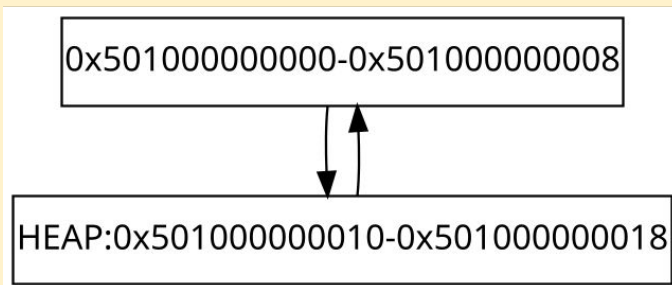
Draw leaked memory graph

```
$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
int main() {
    auto a = new N{};
    auto b = new N{};
    a->next = b;
    b->next = a;
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}
$ g++ main.c
$ LD_PRELOAD="./my_secret_lib.so /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/liblsan.so.0" ./a.out
$ dot -Tpng lsan_scan.dot > lsan_scan.png
```

# What we can do now? (bonus)

Show it

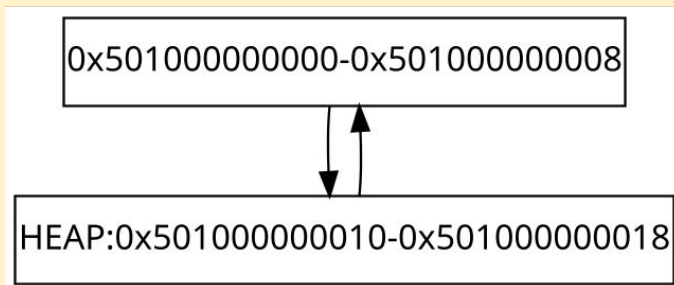
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$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
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$ g++ main.c
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$ dot -Tpng lsan_scan.dot > lsan_scan.png
$ cat lsan_scan.png
```



# What we can do now? (bonus)

How? I'll tell about it on the next talk :-)

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$ cat main.cxx
struct N {N* next;};
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$ dot -Tpng lsan_scan.dot > lsan_scan.png
$ cat lsan_scan.png
```



Explore your tools



Explore your tools

Go deeper

Explore your tools

Go deeper

Use it in unusual ways!

Explore your tools

Go deeper

Use it in unusual ways!

Explore, learn, give a talk!

```
$ man ld.so
$ LD_DEBUG=help cat
$ ldd ./a.out
$ man readelf
$ man nm
$ readelf -aW your.o
$ readelf -sW m.o
$ LD_PRELOAD=/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/liblsan.so.0 ./a.out
```

**Additional materials are here ⇒**



Questions for you:

- can sanitizer work if your application was linked statically with libc?
- how to load your shared library lately?
- where is dynamic dependencies are located?
- are exported symbols in shared libraries located in .symtab?
- is it possible to override strong symbol for static linking?
- how does C++ multiple definitions are working - linker&symbols level (inline functions in headers, templates the same instantiations...)