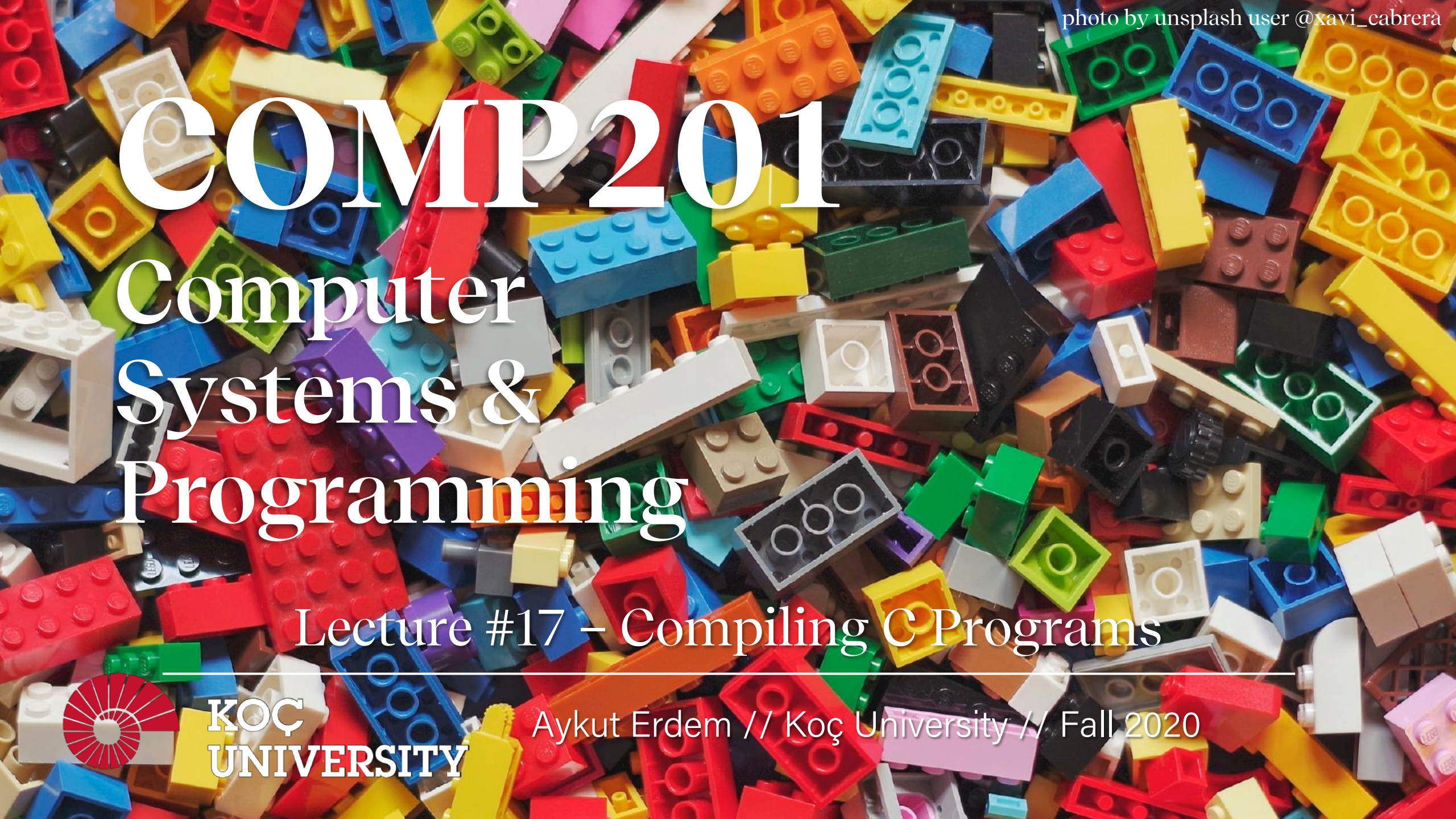


COMP201

Computer Systems & Programming

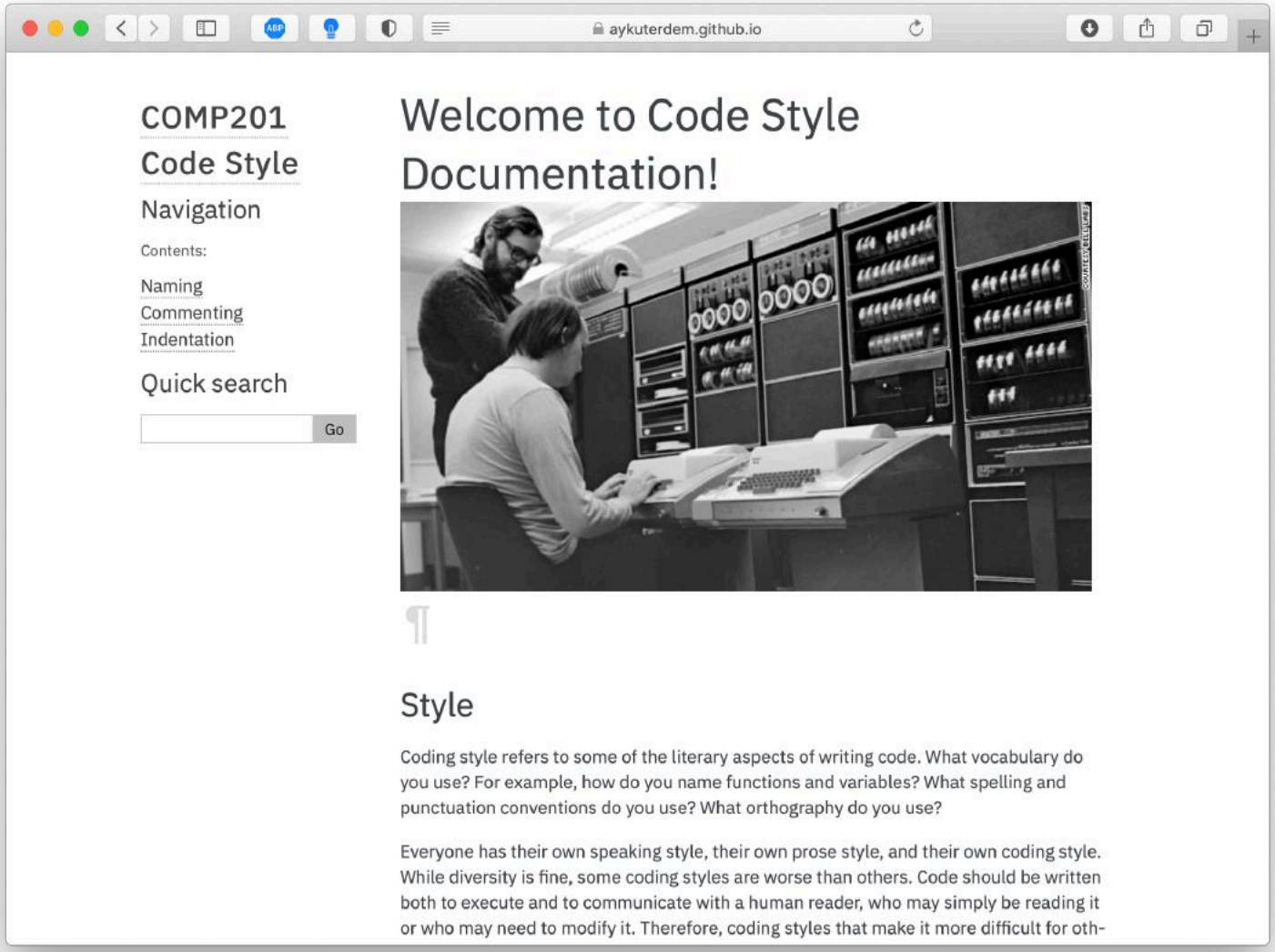
Lecture #17 – Compiling C Programs

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

Aykut Erdem // Koç University // Fall 2020

COMP201 Coding Style Guide for C Programming

- Our guide serves as a brief introduction to C coding style.
- Following an formal style is very important to write a clean and easy to read code.
- There are many standards out there!



https://aykuterdem.github.io/classes/comp201/code-style/html/index.html

Recap

- `struct`
- Generic stack

Plan for Today

- What really happens in GCC?
- Make and Makefiles

xkcd.com/303/

Disclaimer: Slides for this lecture were borrowed from
—Gabbi Fisher and Chris Chute's Stanford CS107 class

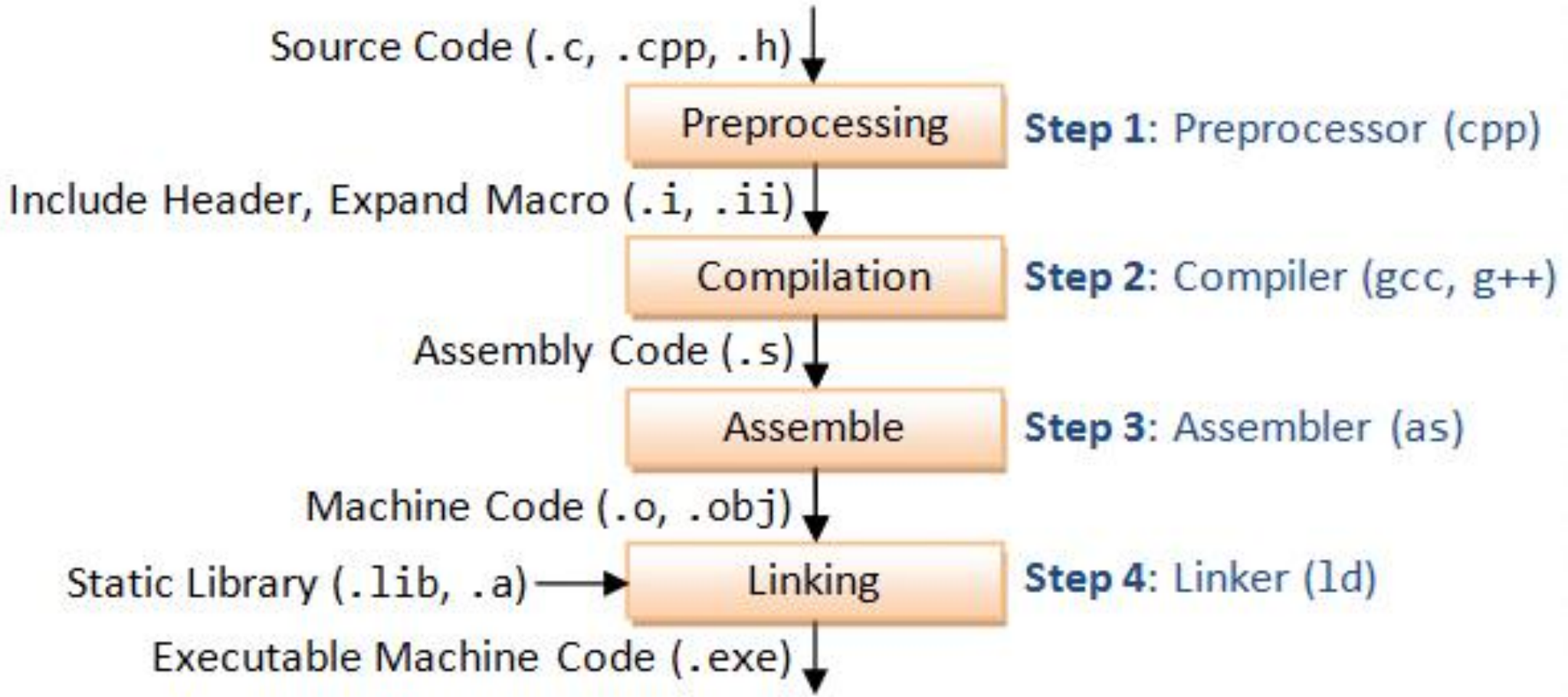
Lecture Plan

- What really happens in Gnu Compiler Collection (`gcc`)?
  - The Preprocessor
  - The Compiler
  - The Assembler
- Make and Makefiles

Compiling a C program with GCC

```
gcc -g -O0 hello.c -o hello
```

The GNU Compiler Collection (GCC)



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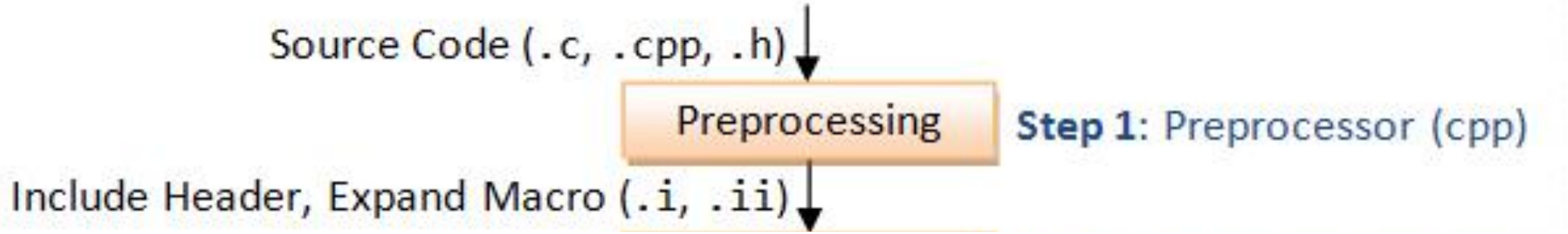


The Preprocessor

`#define`

`#include`

The Preprocessor – Object Macros

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 1024

foo = (char *) malloc (BUFFER_SIZE);
```

The `#define` directive can be used to set up symbolic replacements in the source.

The Preprocessor – Object Macros

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 1024

foo = (char *) malloc (BUFFER_SIZE);

=> foo = (char *) malloc (1024);
```

The Preprocessor – Function Macros

```
#define min(X, Y) ((X) < (Y) ? (X) : (Y))


y = min(1, 2);
```

The Preprocessor – Function Macros

```
#define min(X, Y) ((X) < (Y) ? (X) : (Y))

y = min(1, 2);

=> y = ((1) < (2) ? (1) : (2));
```

The Preprocessor – Imports

```
#include
```

The Preprocessor – Imports

header.h

```
char *test(void)
```

program.c

```
#include “header.h”

int x;

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  puts(test());
}
```

The `#include` directive just pastes in the text from the given file.

The Preprocessor – Imports

header.h

```
char *test(void)
```

program.c

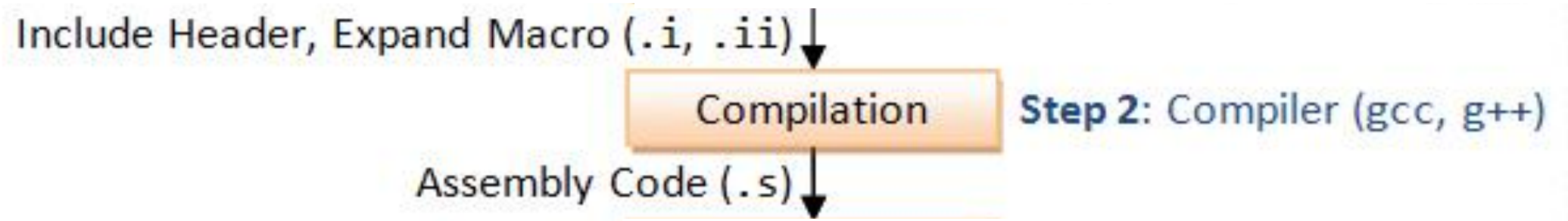
```
char *test(void);

int x;

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  puts(test());
}
```

The Preprocessor – Demo

```
gcc -E -o hello.i hello.c
```

Preprocess hello.c, store output in hello.i

The GNU Compiler Collection (GCC)



The Compiler

- They're too complicated to explain in 5 minutes.

¯_(ツ)_/¯

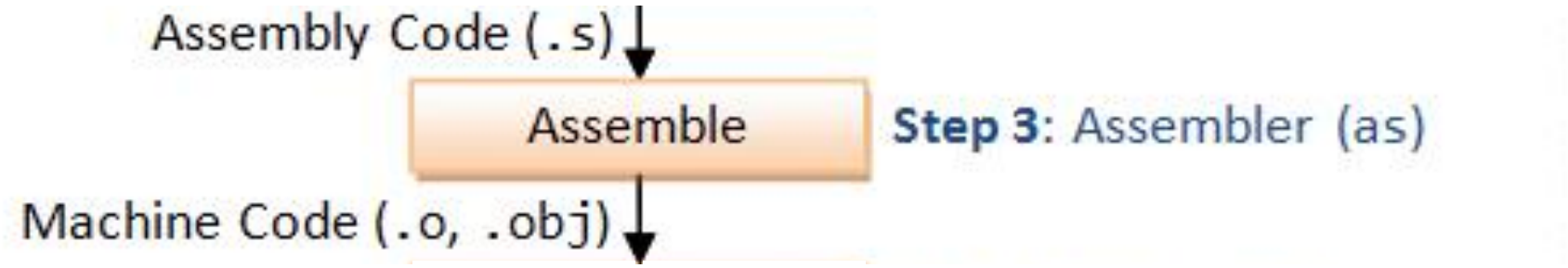
- **It's important to know that they parse source code and compile it into assembly code. You will learn more about assembly in the second part the course.**

The Compiler – Demo

```
gcc -S hello.i
```

Compile preprocessed .i code into assembly instructions

The GNU Compiler Collection (GCC)



The Assembler – Demo

```
as -o hello.o hello.s
```

Assemble object code from hello.s

The Assembler – ELF

a rare depiction of an Elf made by Tolkien

ELF: the Executable and Linkable Format

The Assembler – ELF

ELF: the Executable and Linkable Format

Cross-platform, used across multiple operating systems to represent components (object code) of a program. This comes in handy for linking and execution across different computers.

The Assembler – ELF

ELF: the Executable and Linkable Format

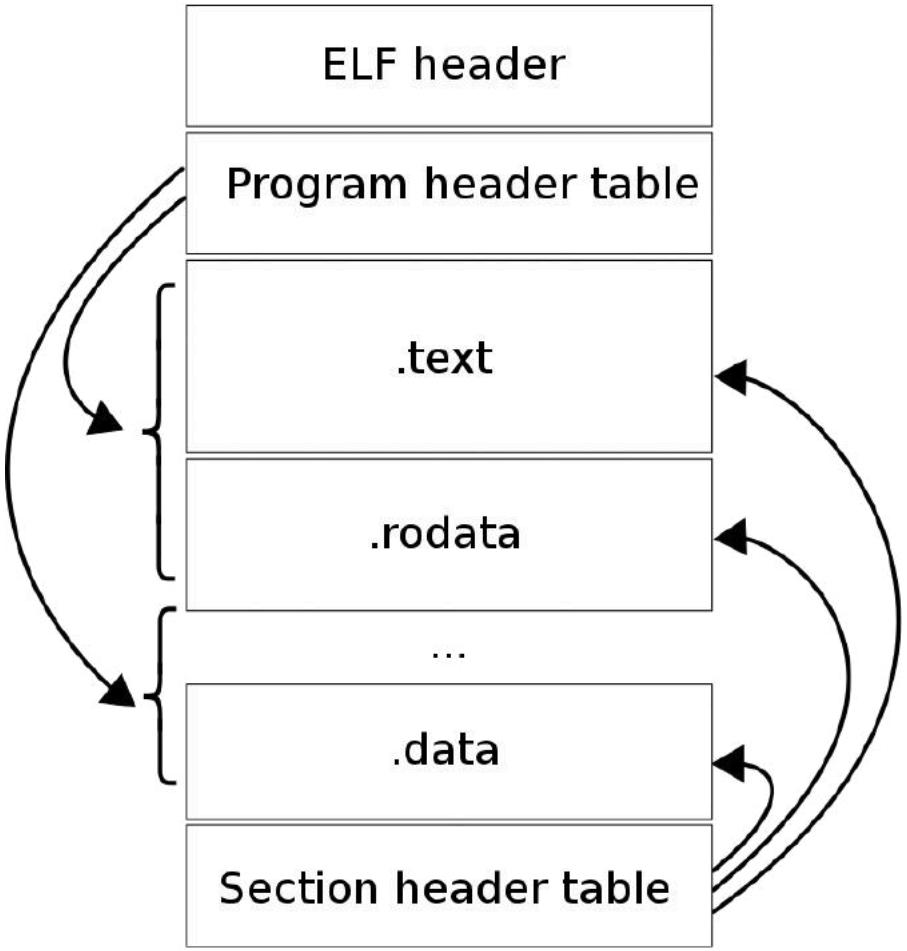
```
readelf -e hello.o
```

Actually read hello.o!
“-e” flag is for printing headers out only

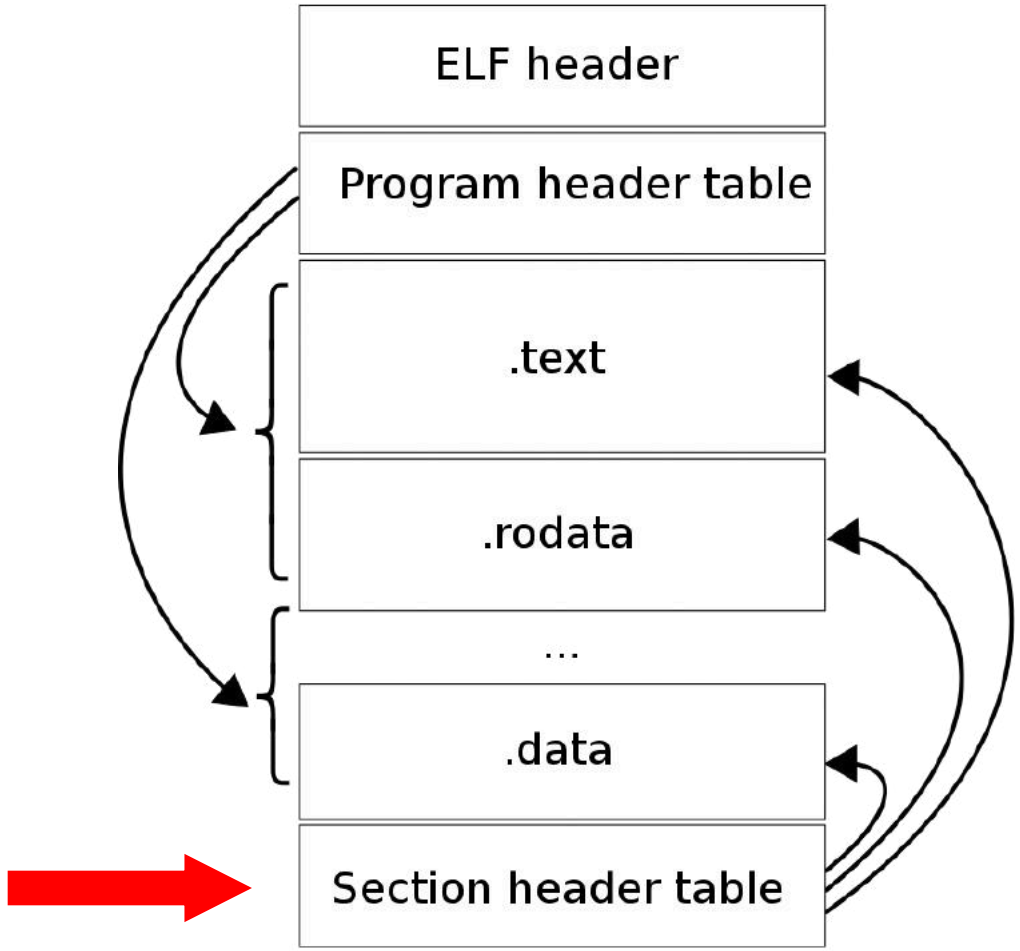
The Assembler – ELF

Section	Contents	Code Example
`.text`	Executable code (x86 assembly)	`mov -0x8(%rbp),%rax`
`.data`	Any global or static vars that have a pre-defined value and can be modified	`int val = 3` (as global var)
`.rodata`	Variables that are only read (never written)	`const int a = 0;`
`.bss`	All uninitialized data; global variables and static variables initialized to zero or or not explicitly `static int i;` initialized in source code	`static int i;`
`.comment`	Comments about the generated ELF (details such as compiler version and execution platform)	

The Assembler – ELF



The Assembler – ELF

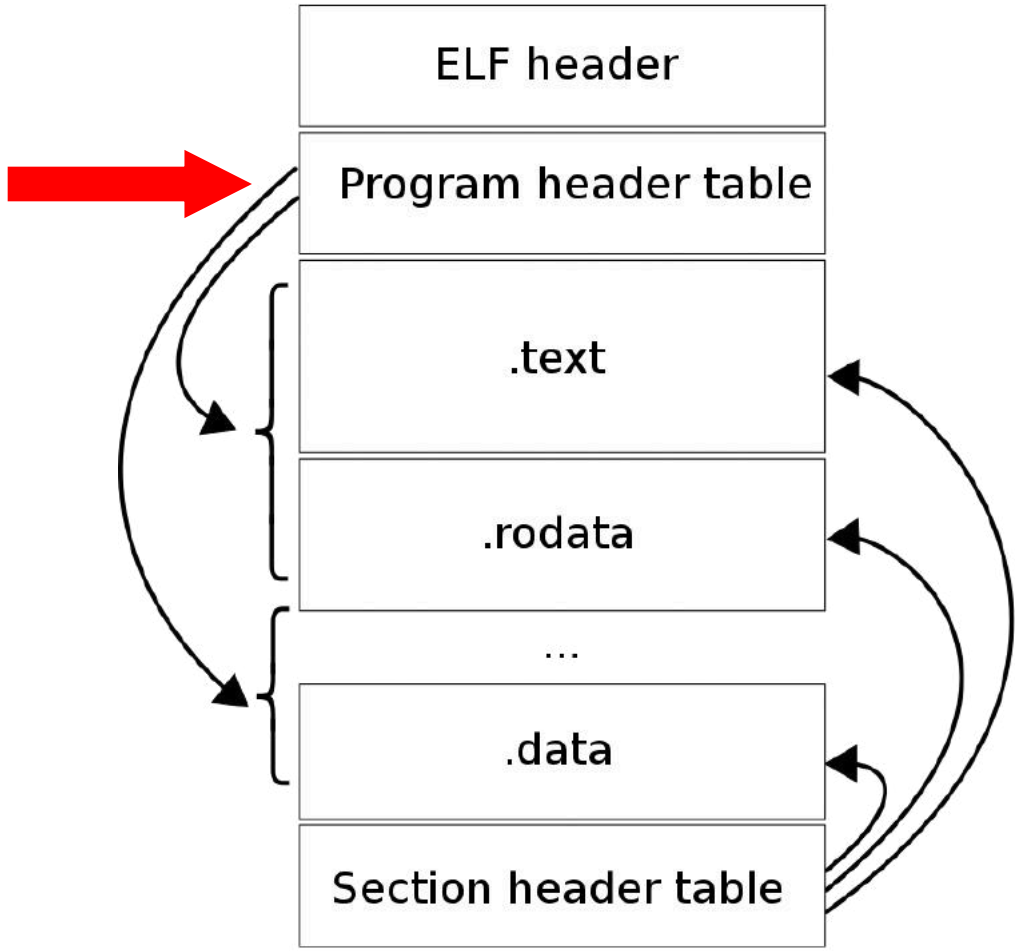


The Assembler

```
nm hello.o
```

Dump the variables and functions in hello and see what sections they belong to!

The Assembler – ELF



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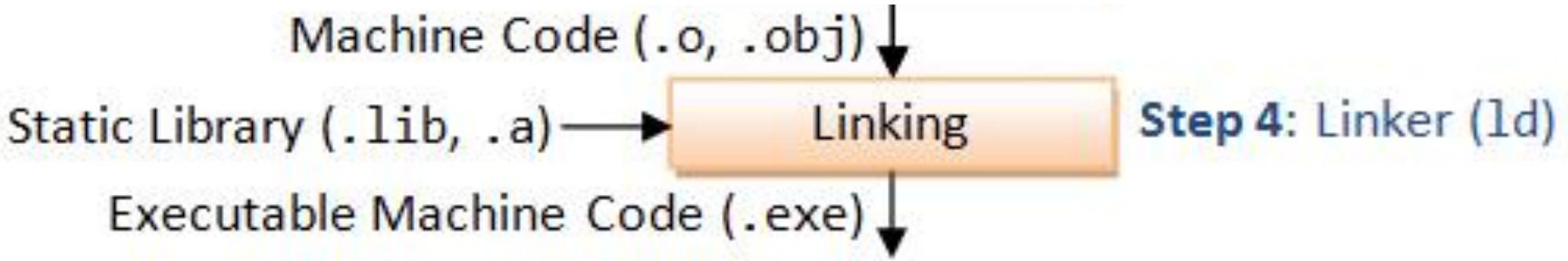


The Linker – Shared vs. Static Libraries

Static Linking

1. When your program uses static linking, the machine code of external functions used in your program is copied into the executable.
2. A static library has file extension of ".a" (archive file) in Unix.

Dynamic Linking

1. When your program is dynamically linked, only an offset table is created in the executable. The operating system loads the machine code needed for external functions during execution—a process known as dynamic linking.
2. A shared library has file extension of ".so" (shared objects) in Unix.

The Linker

```
ld --dynamic-linker /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 hello.o
   -o  hello -lc --entry main
```

1. **`--dynamic-linker`** is used to specify the linker we must use to load stdlib.
2. **`-lc`** tells the linker to link to the standard C library.
3. **`--entry main`** specifies the entry point of the program (the method “main”).

Note: You may not get this command working, because it will be slightly different on different Linux distributions

Finally…

```
./hello
```

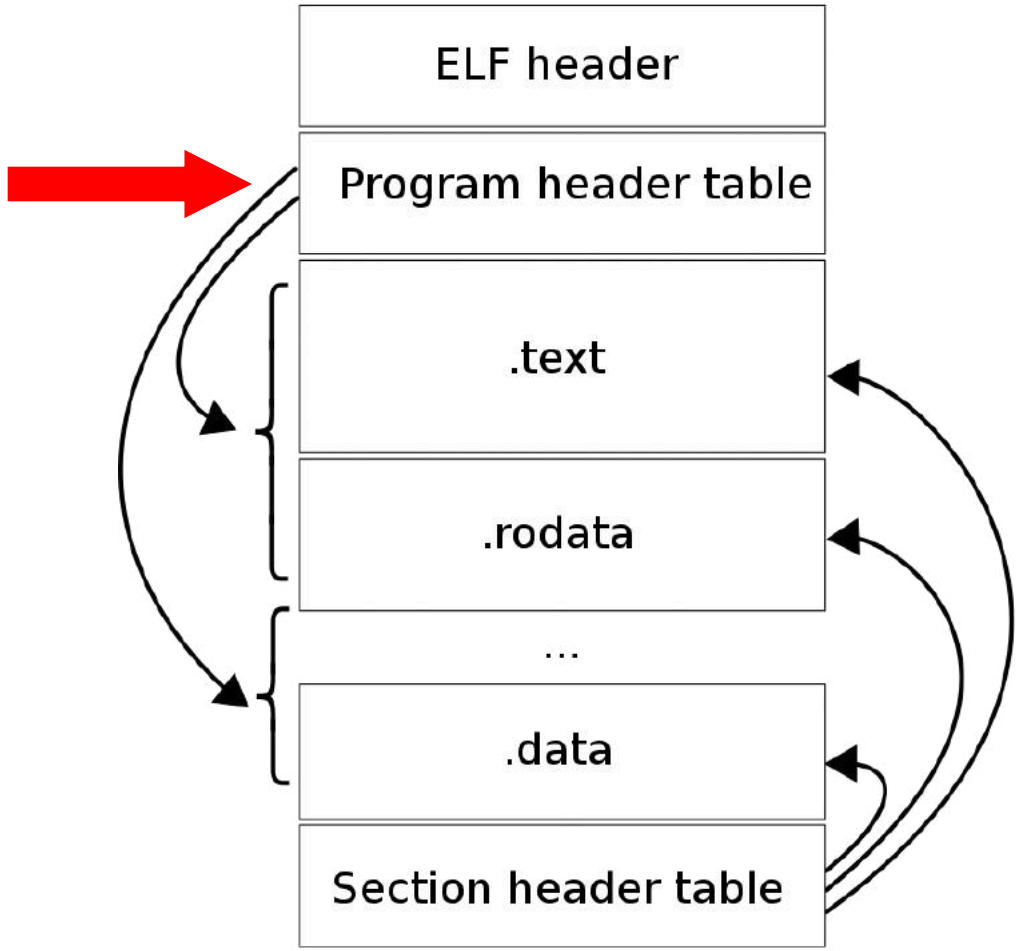
(Run your executable!)

The Executable

```
nm hello
```

Let’s prove to ourselves linking did something…

The Assembler – ELF



Finally… (Really!)

```
./hello
```

(Run your executable!)

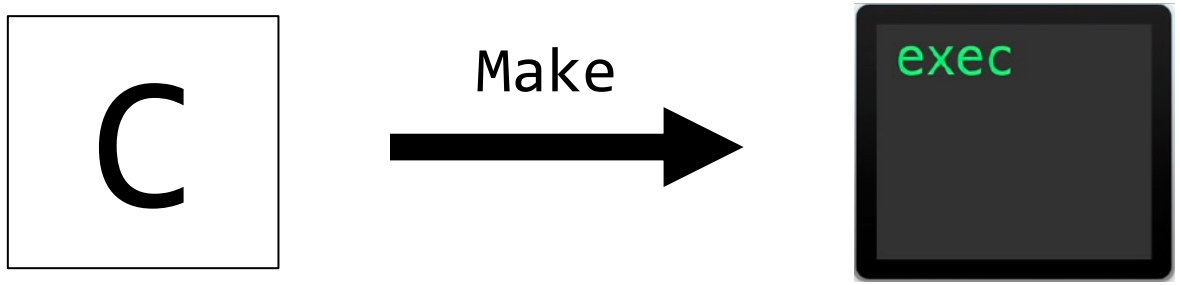
Lecture Plan

- What really happens in GCC?
- Make and Makefiles
  - Overview of Make
  - Makefiles from scratch
  - Template for your Makefiles

What is Make?

Main Idea

- You write the “recipe”
- Make builds target



What is Make?

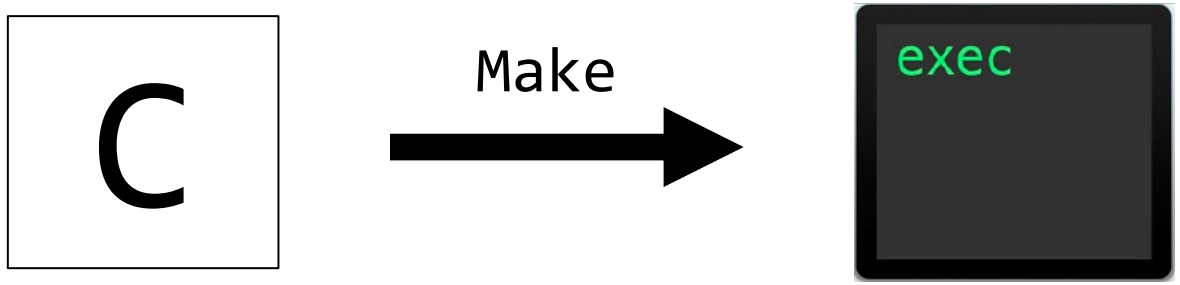
Main Idea

- You write the “recipe”
- Make builds target

Definition

- “GNU Make is a tool which *controls the generation of executables*... from the program's source files.”

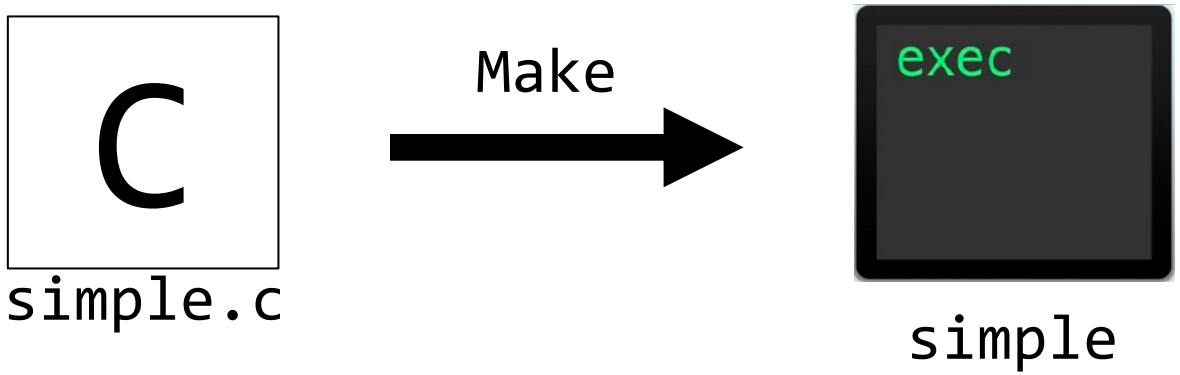
  - GNU Make Docs



What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `simple`
- *Ingredients:* `simple.c`
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o simple simple.c`



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Example

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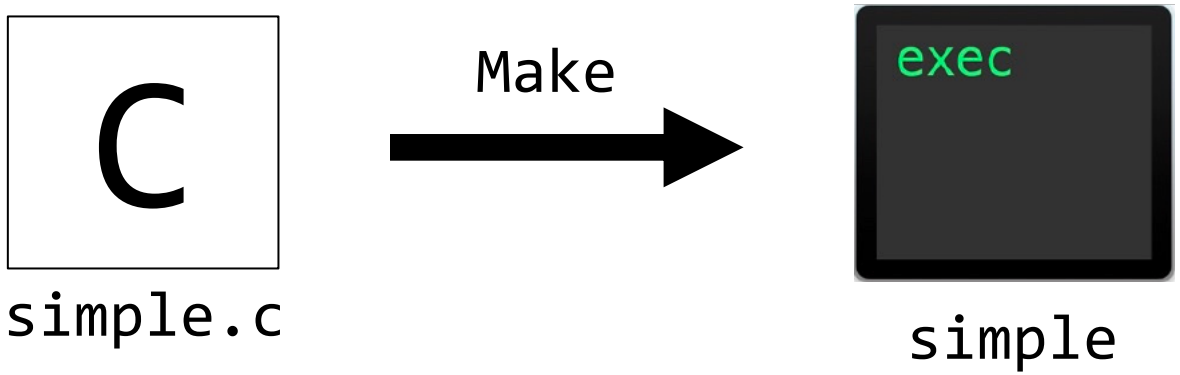
Makefile Demo



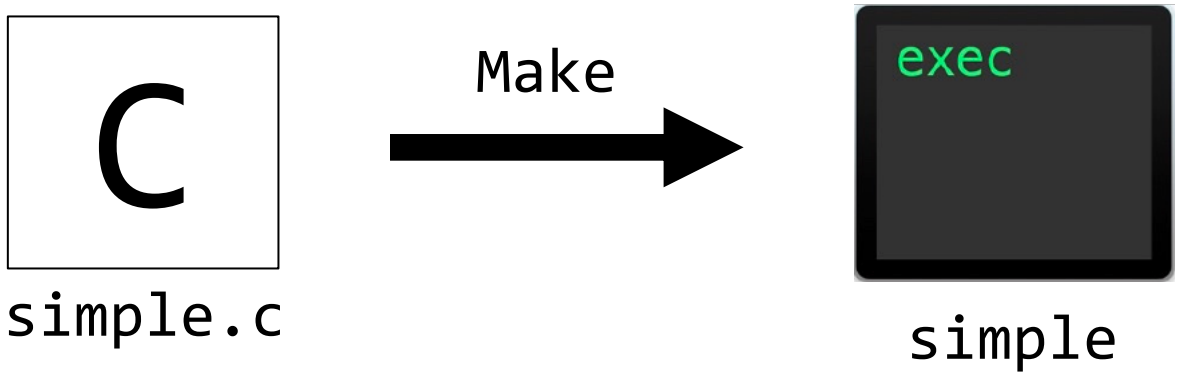
What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `simple`
- *Ingredients:* `simple.c`
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o simple simple.c`

Makefile Demo

```
simple: simple.c
    gcc -o simple simple.c
```



So is Make just a shorter GCC?

No!

- More general
- Any target, any shell command

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No!

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- Any target, any shell command

Makefile Demo

So is Make just a shorter GCC?

No!

- More general
- Any target, any shell command

Makefile Demo

```
clean:
    rm -rf simple
```

Usage:

```
make clean
```

So is Make just a shorter GCC?

Advantages of Make

- *General:* Not just for compiling C source files
- *Fast:* Only rebuilds what's necessary
- *Shareable:* End users just call "make"

Makefiles

Makefile

- *Makefile:* A list of *rules*.
- *Rule:* Tells Make the ***commands*** to build a ***target*** from 0 or more ***dependencies***

```
target: dependencies...
    commands
    …
```

Makefiles

Makefile

- *Makefile:* A list of *rules*.
- *Rule:* Tells Make the ***commands*** to build a ***target*** from 0 or more ***dependencies***

```
target: dependencies...
    commands
    …
```

Must indent with '\t', not spaces

Makefiles

Makefile = List of Rules

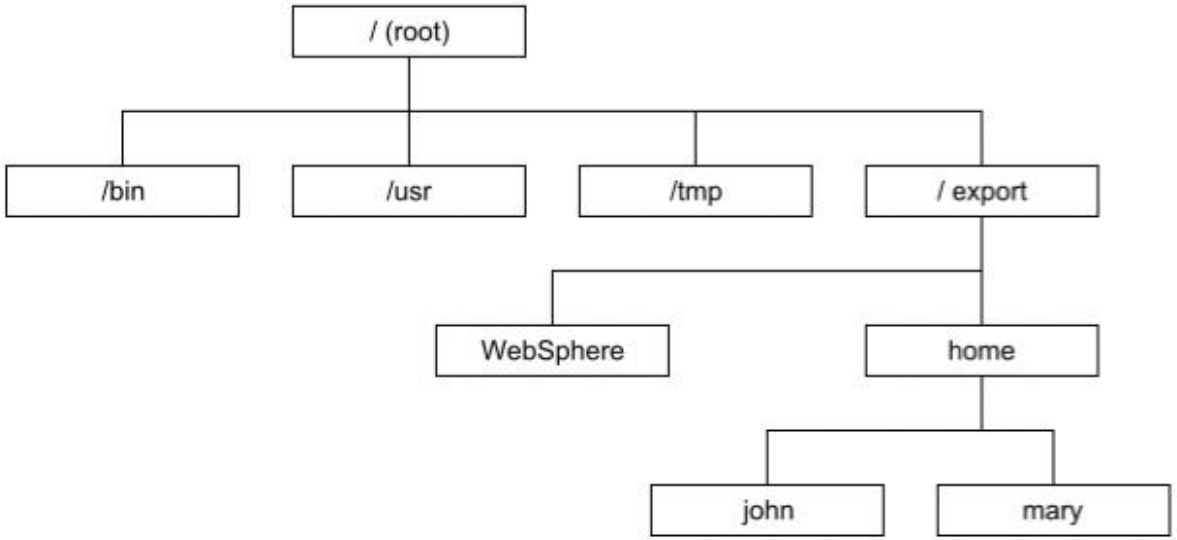
- *Rule:* Tells Make how to get to a ***target*** from ***source files***

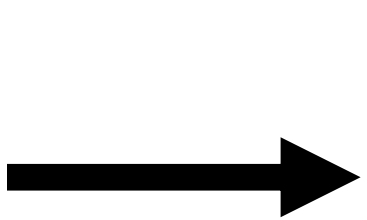
```
target: dependencies...
	commands
	...
```

"If dependencies have changed or don't exist, rebuild them...
Then execute these commands."

Realistic Example

- Like Zip
- Traverses FS tree, builds a list of files
- Don’t know length ahead of time? Need growable data structure



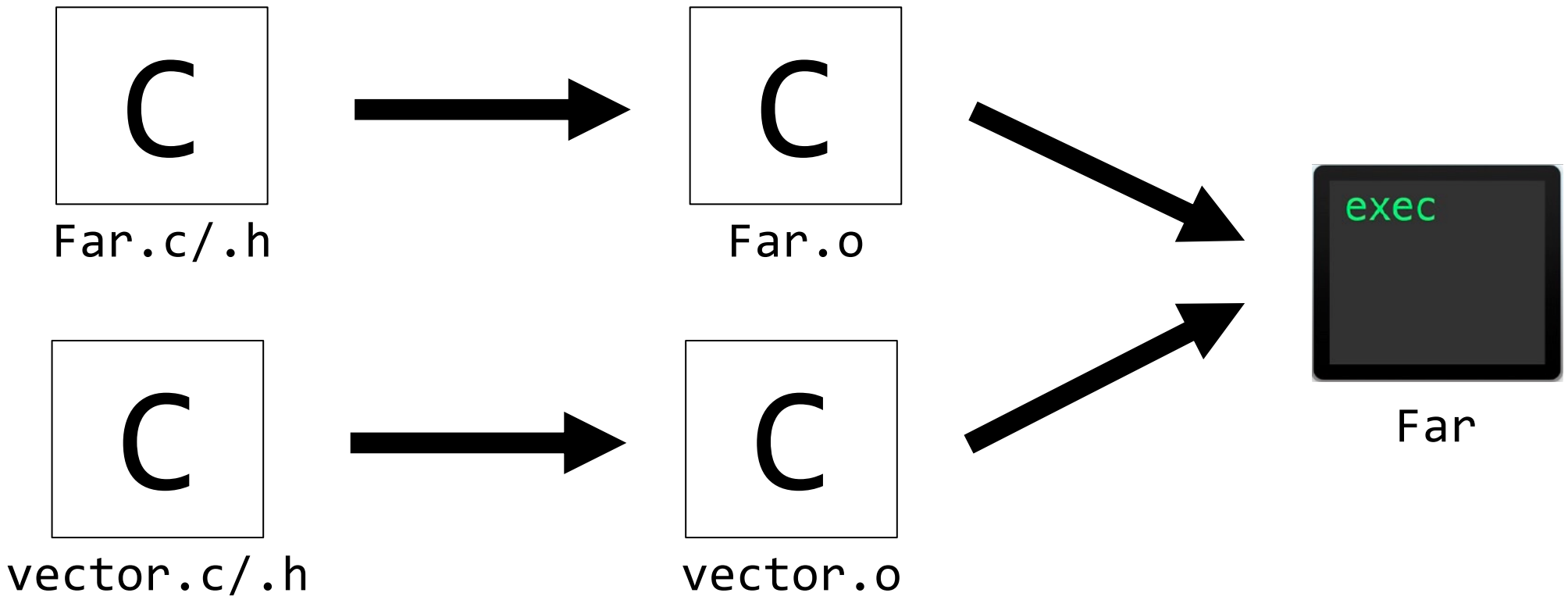


all_files.ark

Realistic Example

File Archiver

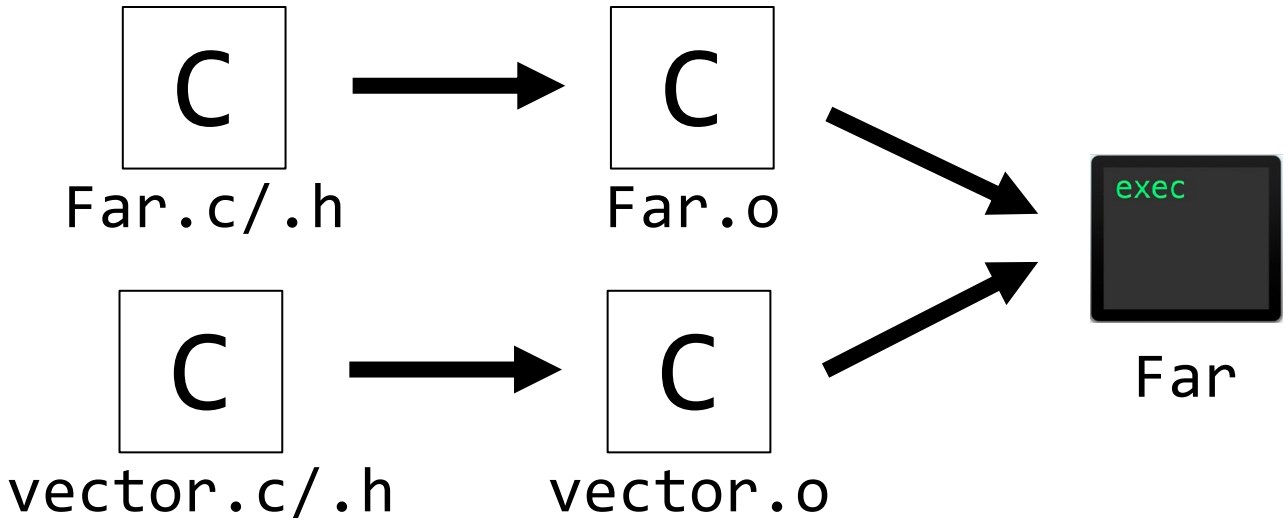
- Target file: `Far` (an executable)
- Source files: `Far.c Far.h vector.c vector.h`



What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `Far`
- *Ingredients:* *`Far.o, vector.o`*
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o Far Far.o vector.o`



What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `Far`
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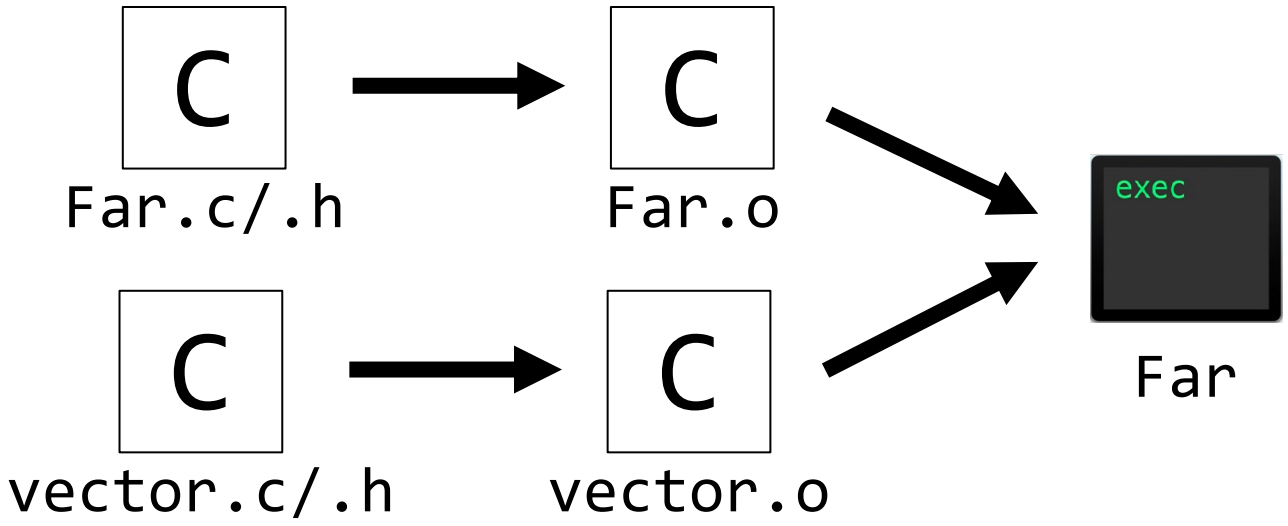
Makefile Demo



What is Make?

Example

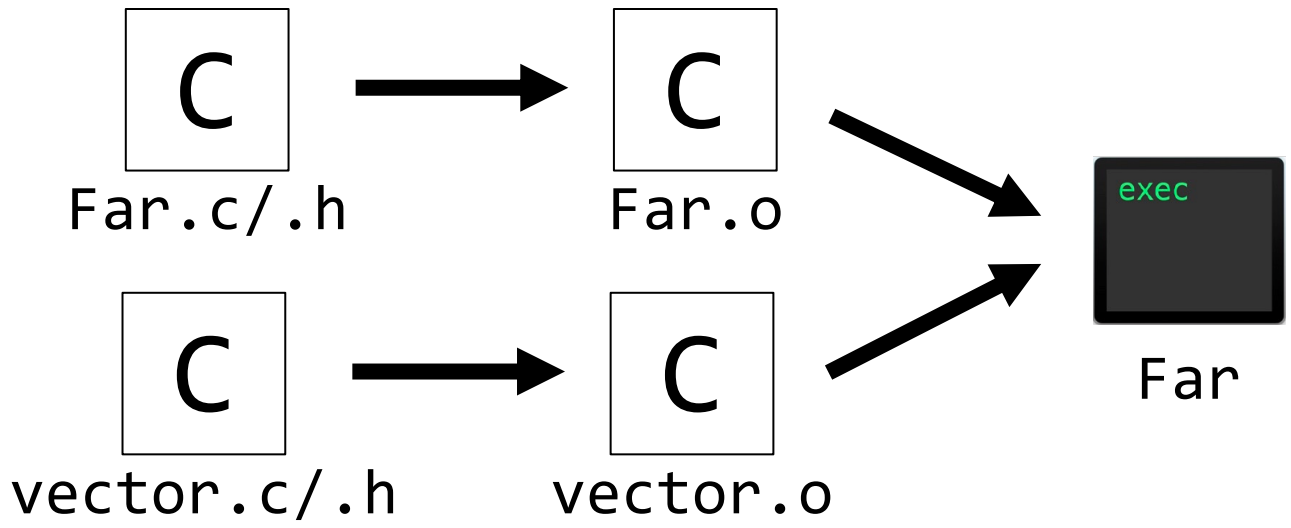
- *Target:* `Far`
- *Ingredients:* `Far.o, vector.o`
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o Far Far.o vector.o`

Makefile Demo

```
CC=gcc
CFLAGS=-g -std=c99 -pedantic –Wall

all: Far

Far: Far.o vector.o
     ${CC} ${CFLAGS} $^ -o $@
Far.o: Far.c Far.h vector.h
     ${CC} ${CFLAGS} -c Far.c
vector.o: vector.c vector.h
     ${CC} ${CFLAGS} -c vector.c
clean:
     ${RM} Far.o vector.o Far
```



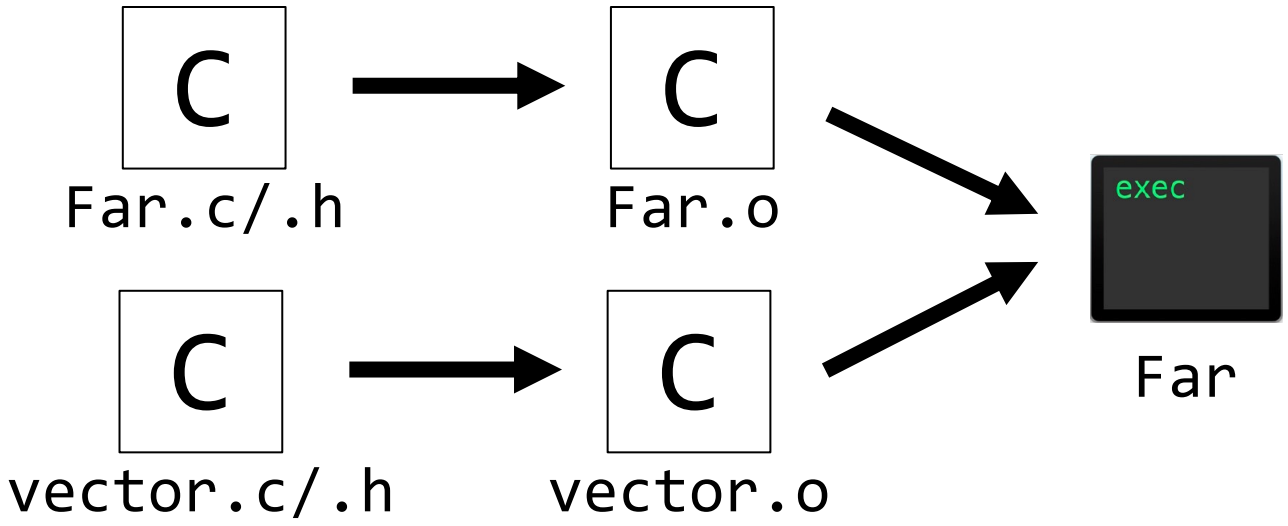
What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `Far`
- *Ingredients:* *`Far.o, vector.o`*
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o Far Far.o vector.o`

Good Test Problem!

Suppose I update `Far.c`,
Then call `make Far`.



What is Make?

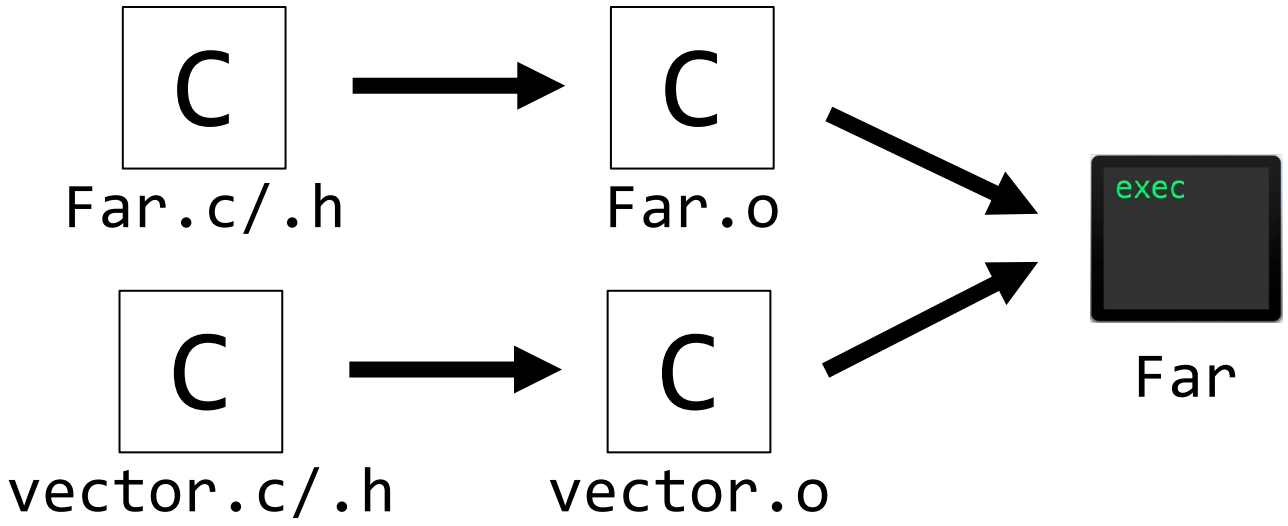
Example

- *Target:* `Far`
- *Ingredients:* `Far.o, vector.o`
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o Far Far.o vector.o`

Good Test Problem!

Suppose I update `Far.c`,
Then call `make Far`.

Which commands does Make run?



What is Make?

Example

- *Target:* `Far`
- *Ingredients:* `Far.o, vector.o`
- *Recipe:* `gcc -o Far Far.o vector.o`

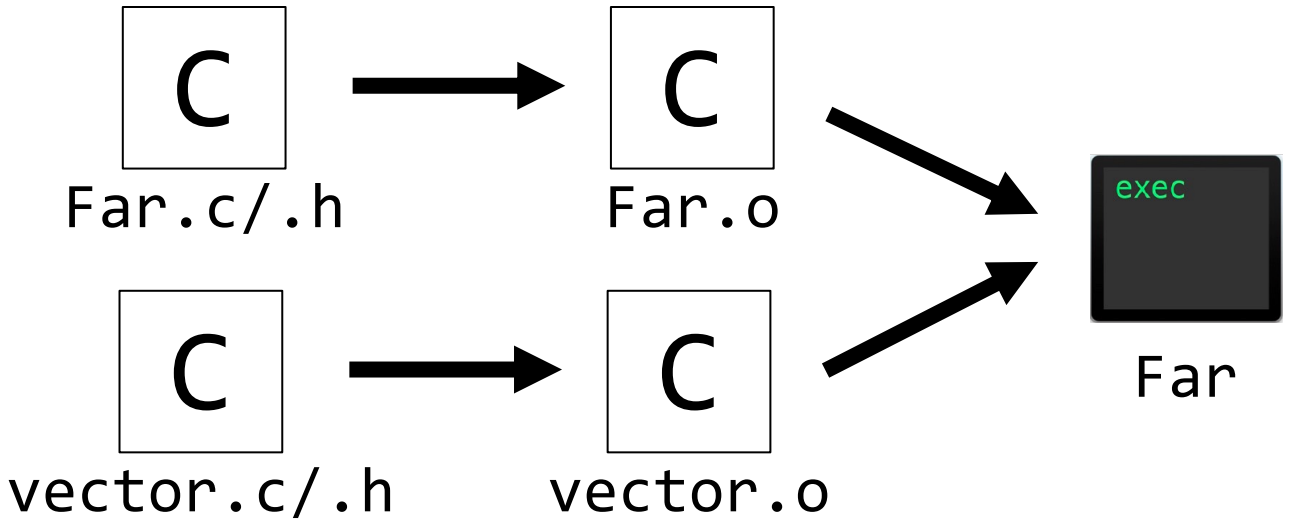
Good Test Problem!

Suppose I update `Far.c`,
Then call `make Far`.

Which commands does Make run?

Answer:

gcc -g -std=c99 -pedantic -Wall -c Far.c
gcc -g -std=c99 -pedantic -Wall Far.o vector.o -o Far



Takeaways

Takeaways from File Archiver Example

- Recursive rules
- Bigger projects practically *need* Make (or another build system) ▪
- Makefile variables (*e.g.,* `CC` and `CFLAGS`)
- Target need not be a file! (*e.g.,* `clean`)

Generic Makefile

Reusable Makefile

- Any simple project
- Main program and its header
- Can be easily extended to include libraries
- Feel free to copy-paste

Generic Makefile

```
# A simple makefile for building a program composed of C source files.
#
PROGRAMS = hello

all:: $(PROGRAMS)

# It is likely that default C compiler is already gcc, but explicitly
# set, just to be sure
CC = gcc

# The CFLAGS variable sets compile flags for gcc:
#  -g          compile with debug information
#  -Wall       give verbose compiler warnings
#  -O0         do not optimize generated code
#  -std=gnu99  use the GNU99 standard language definition
CFLAGS = -g -Wall -O0 -std=gnu99

# The LDFLAGS variable sets flags for linker
#  -lm   says to link in libm (the math library)
LDFLAGS = -lm

$(PROGRAMS): %:%.c
	$(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o $@ $^ $(LDFLAGS)

.PHONY: clean all

clean::
	rm -f $(PROGRAMS) *.o
```

Make Takeaways

In The Wild

- Will see very complex makefiles — Don't be intimidated
- Will see other build systems (*e.g.,* CMake) — Same idea as Make
- Will see Make for other languages — Same source -> executable mapping

References

- https://www.gnu.org/software/make/
- https://www.cs.swarthmore.edu/~newhall/unixhelp/howto_makefiles.html
  Good Makefile examples/templates.

Recap

- What really happens in GCC?
  - The Preprocessor
  - The Compiler
  - The Assembler
- Make and Makefiles
  - Overview of Make
  - Makefiles from scratch
  - Template for your Makefiles

xkcd.com/303/

Next Time: Assembly language