K22 – Operating Systems: Design Principles and Internals

Fall 2026 @dit (α.μ. mod 2 = 1)

Vaggelis Atlidakis et al.

Lecture 04

References: Similar OS courses @Columbia, @Stanford, @UC San Diego, @Brown, @di (previous years); and textbooks: Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces, Operating Systems: Principles and Practice, Operating System Concepts, Linux Kernel Development, Understanding the Linux Kernel

Overview

- We'll start from hardware and follow a question-oriented approach
  - ~~Intro [Q: What is an OS?]~~
  - ~~Events [Q: When does the OS run?]~~
  - Runtime [Q: How does a program look like in memory?]
  - Processes [Q: What is a process?]
  - IPC [Q: How do processes communicate?]
  - Threads [Q: What is a thread?]
  - Synchronization [Q: What goes wrong w/o synchronization?]
  - Time Management [Q: What is scheduling?]
  - Memory Management [Q: What is virtual memory?]
  - Files [Q: What is a file descriptor?]
  - Storage Management [Q: How do we allocate disk space to files?]

* Basic (H/W & S/W)
* **Abstractions**
* **Primitives**
* **Mechanisms**

Overview

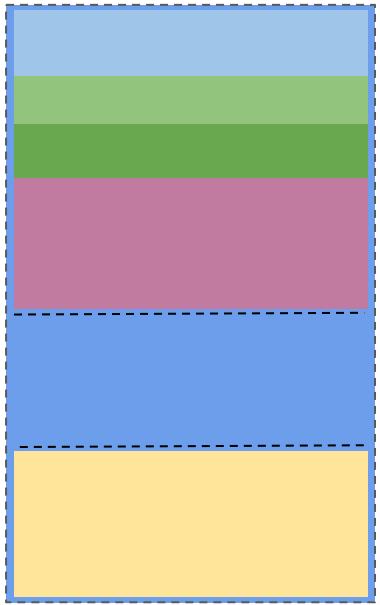
- **Runtime**
  - Q1: How does a program look in memory?
  - Q2: Who sets up a program in memory?
  - Q3: What is the interface between the loader and executable files?
  - Q4: What are the steps involved in translating a program written in a high-level language to an ELF file?
  - Q5:What are the differences between static and dynamic linking?

...

How does a program look like in memory?

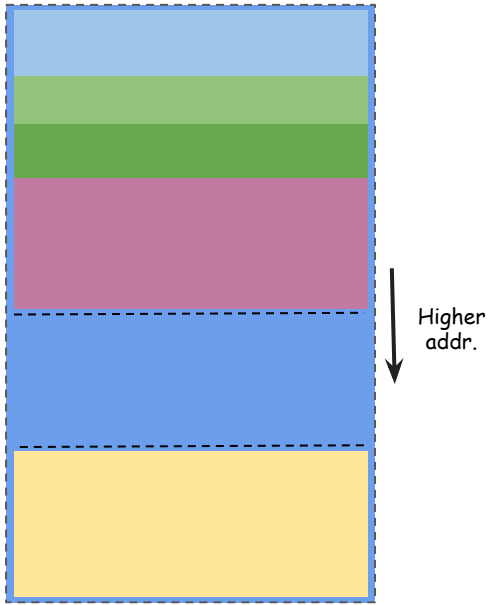
How does a program look like in memory?

Program's view of memory



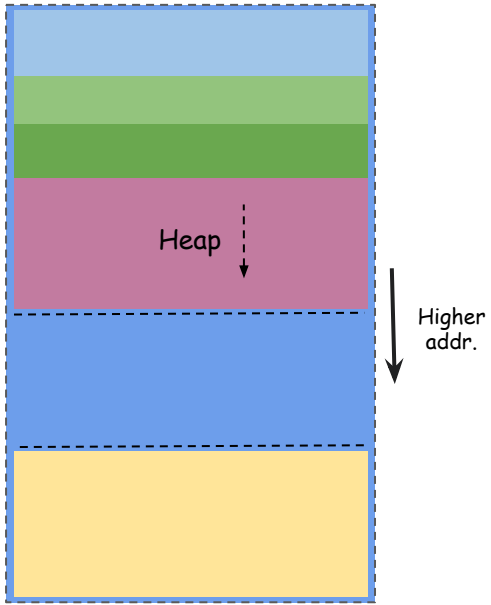
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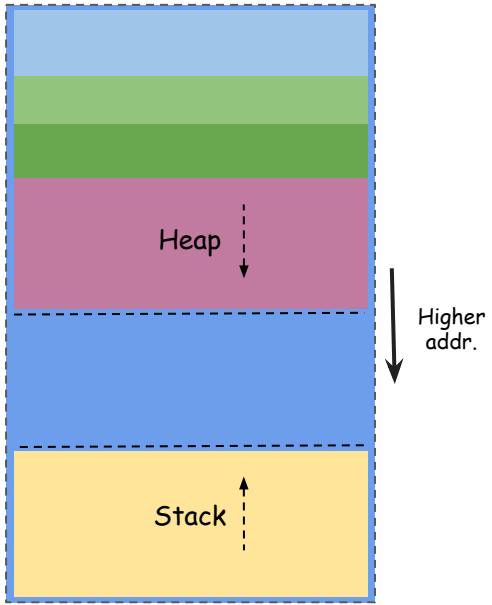
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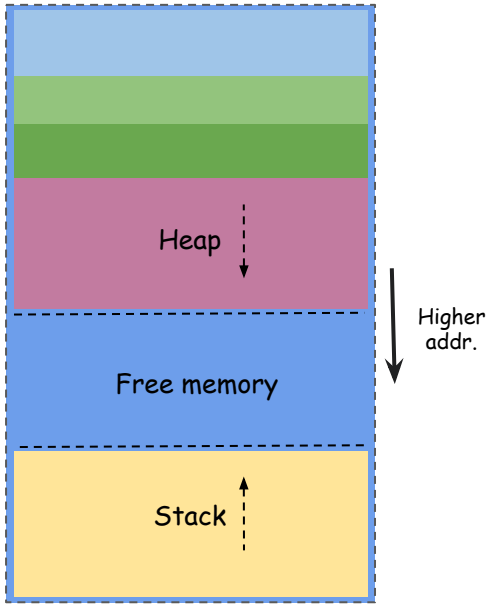
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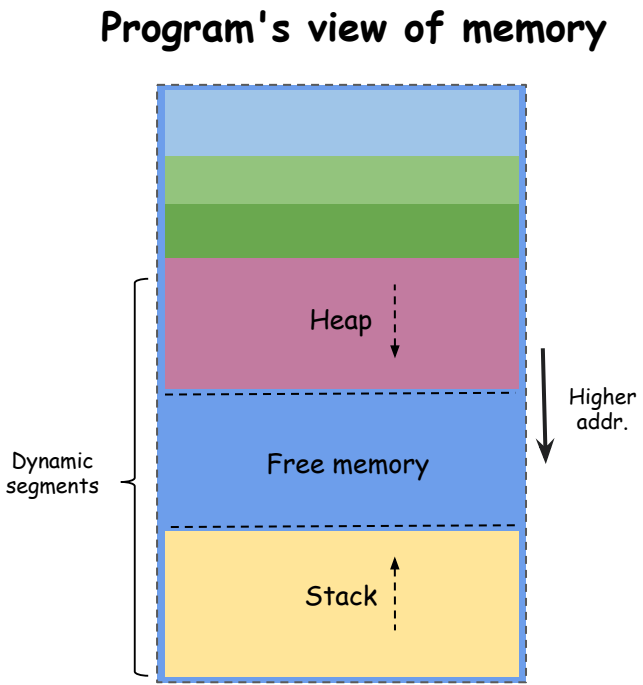


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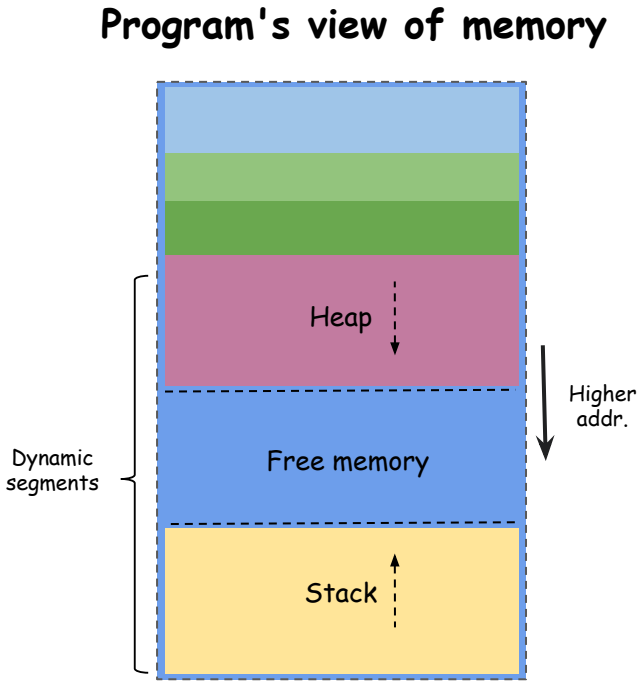
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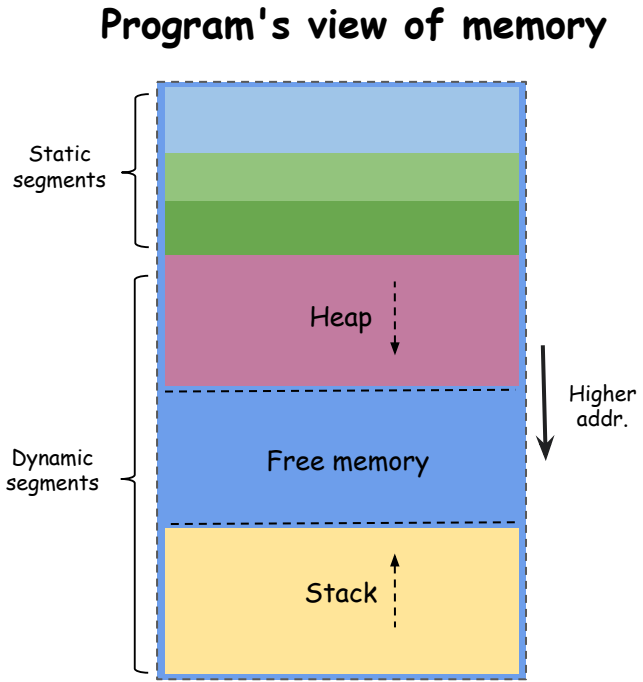


How does a program look like in memory?



- ***Dynamic segments***: *Their size can grow during runtime*
  - **Heap**: Grows (commonly) towards higher addresses and contains variables dynamically allocated—read-write perms
  - **Stack**: Grows (commonly) towards lower addresses and is used for bookkeeping during function calls—read-write perms

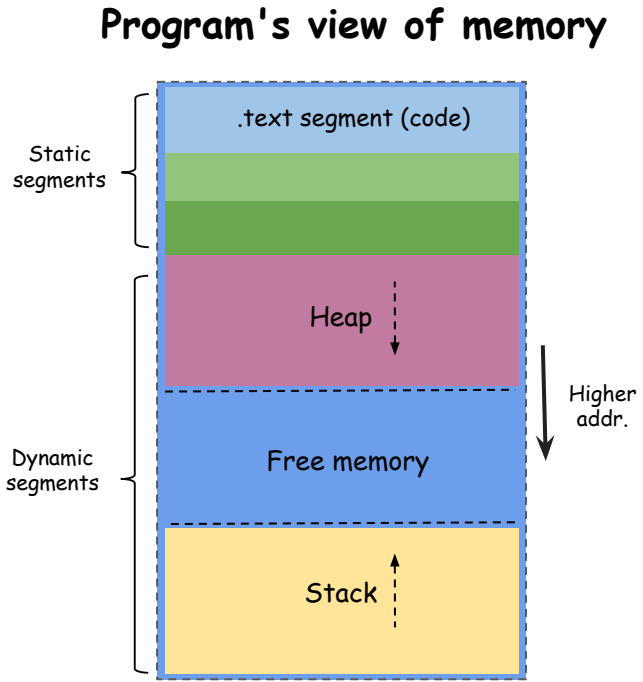
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- ***Static Segments***: *Their size is static during runtime*

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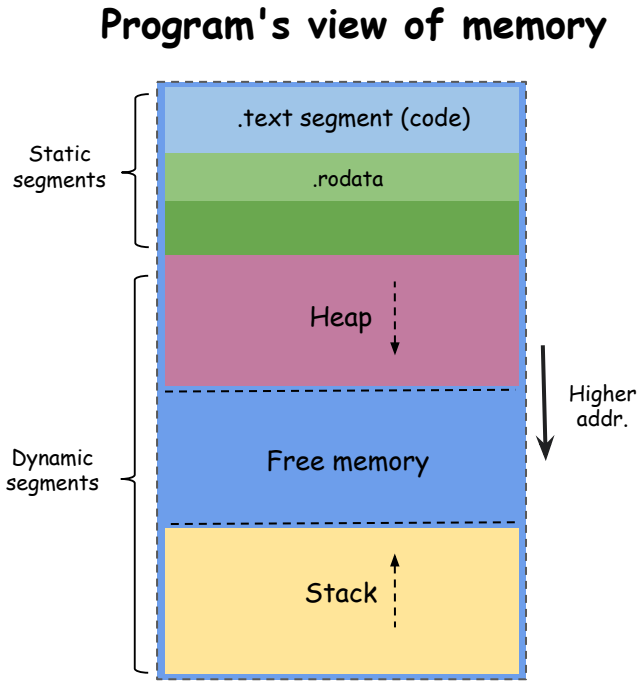
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- ***Static Segments***: *Their size is static during runtime*
  - .text: Executable instr. of the program—read-execute perms

- ***Dynamic segments***: *Their size can grow during runtime*
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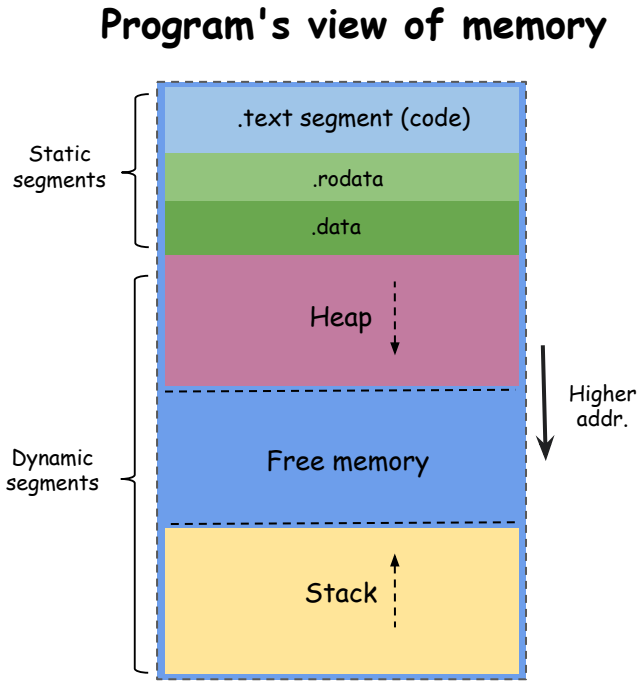
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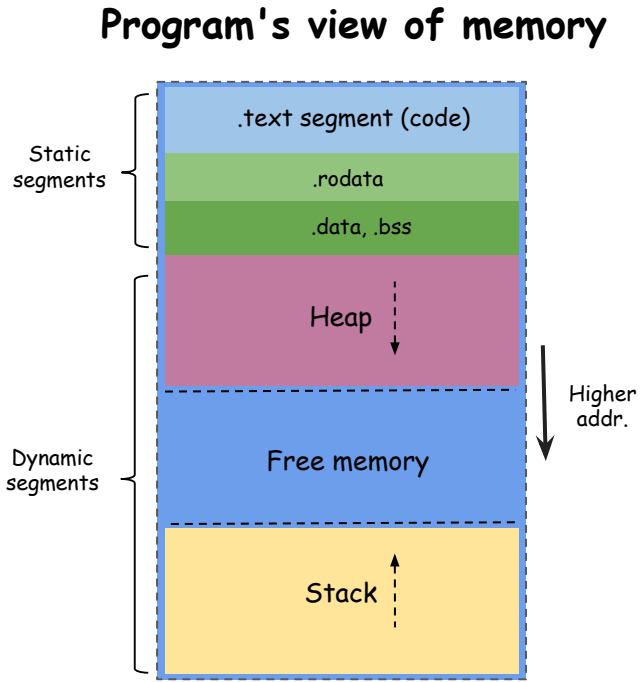
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- ***Static Segments***: *Their size is static during runtime*
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  - .rodata: Constant values—read-only perms
  - .data: Initialized global and static variables—read-write perms

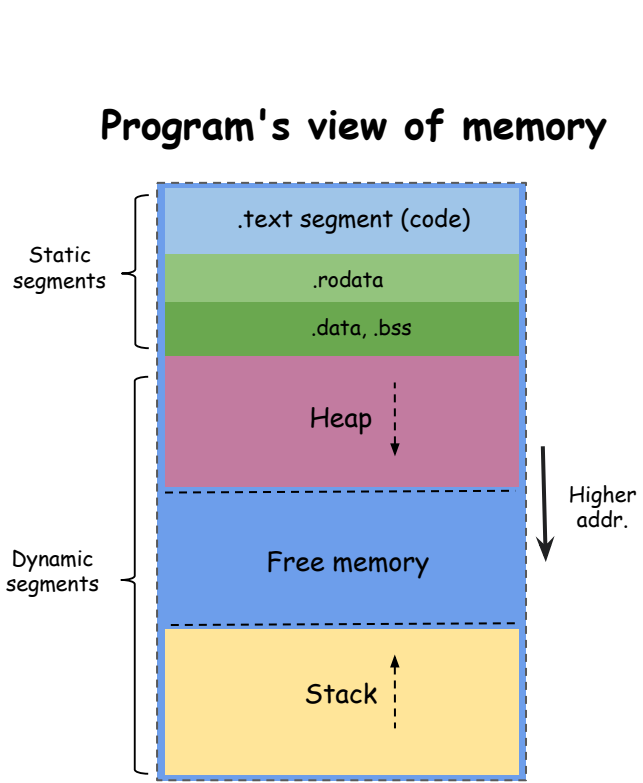
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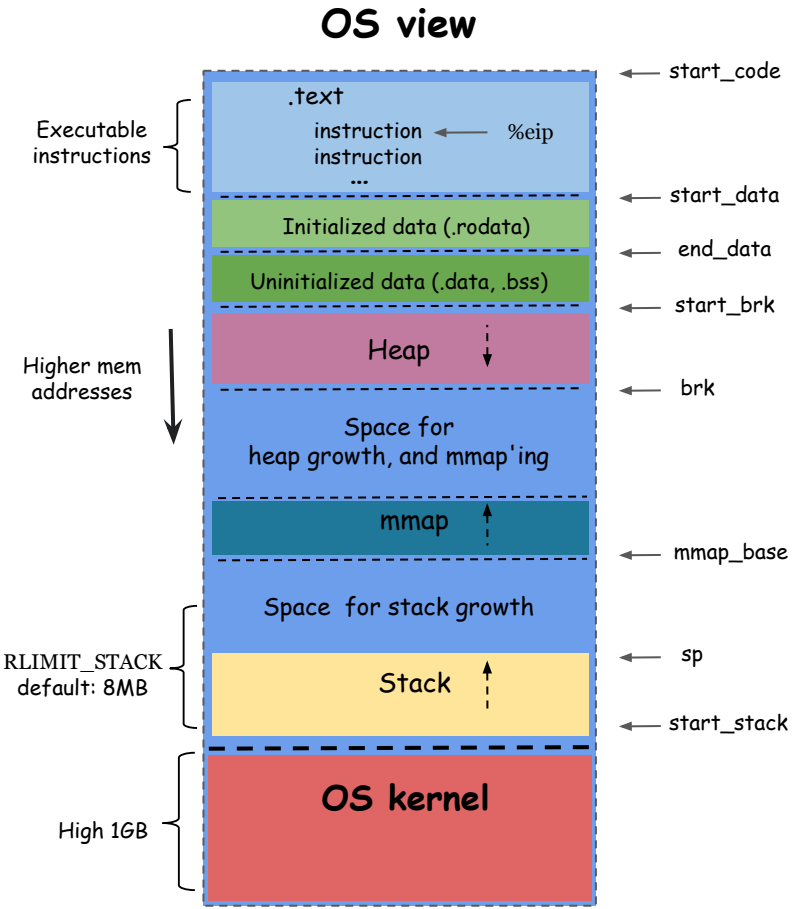
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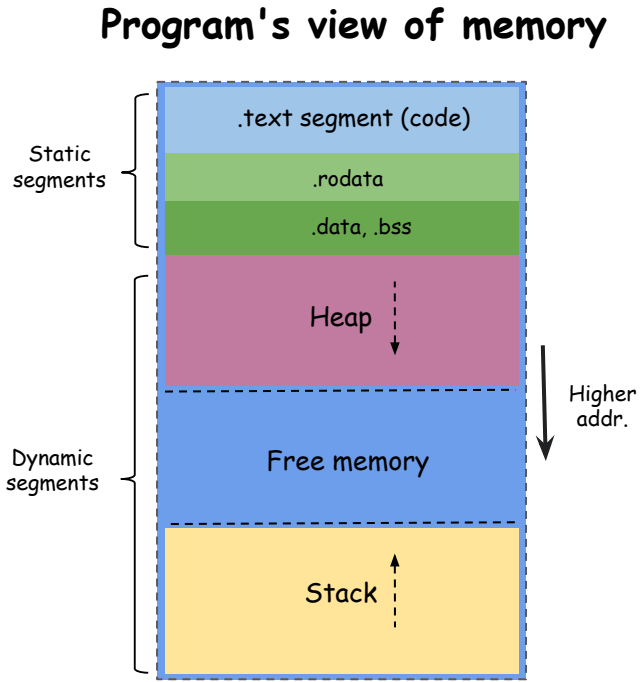
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  - .data: Initialized global and static variables—read-write perms
  - .bss: Uninitialized global and static variables—read-write perms
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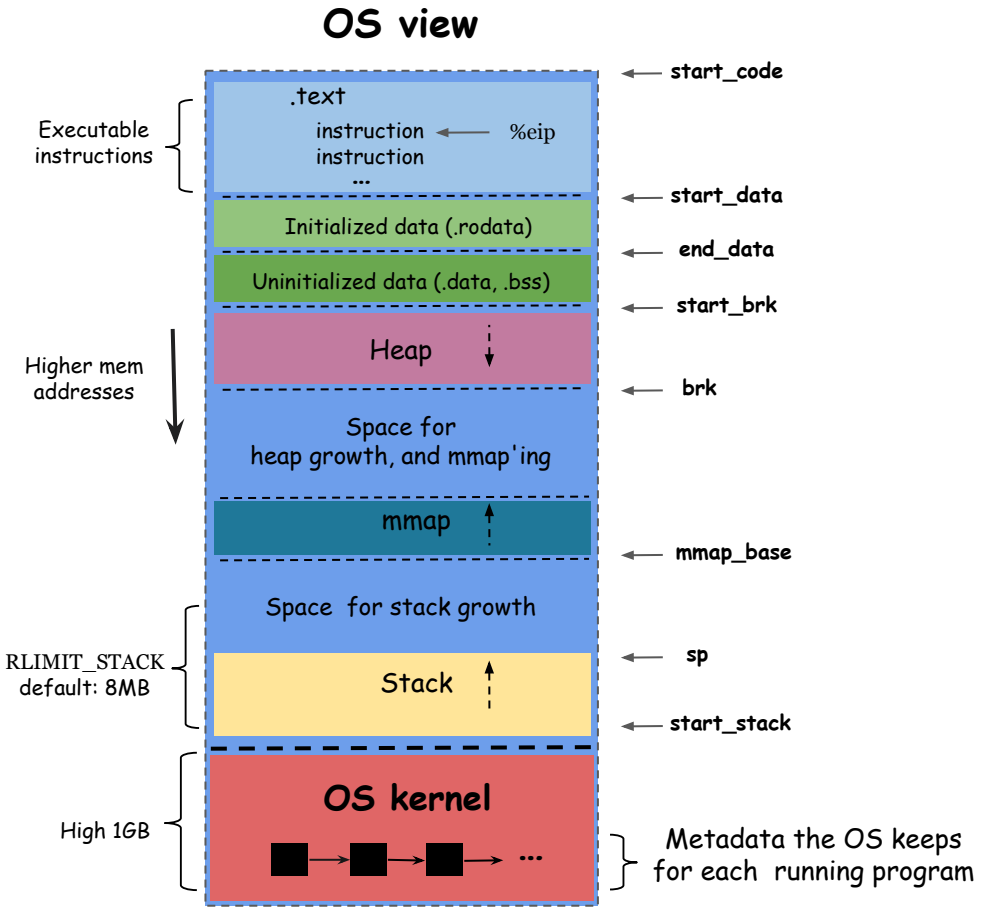
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How does a program look like in memory?





How does a program look like in memory?

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char uninitialized_global[100];
const char *message = "Hello, World!\n";

void foo() {
  unsigned long sp;
  __asm__ (
    "mov %0, sp"
    : "=r" (sp)
  );
  printf("@foo / Current stack pointer (sp): %lx\n", sp);
}

void main() {
  unsigned long sp;
  printf("@.rodata variable: %p\n", message);
  printf("@.bss variable: %p\n", &uninitialized_global);
  __asm__ (
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  );
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  printf("@heap variable: %p\n", heap);
  printf("@main / Current sp: %lx\n", sp);

  foo();
}
```

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   printf("@main / Current sp: %lx\n", sp);

   foo();
}
```

```
➜  cat /proc/1245382/maps
```

aaaadcda0000-aaaadcda1000 r-xp … /os/sample [.text]
aaaadcdb0000-aaaadcdb1000 r--p … /os/sample [.rodata]
aaaadcdb1000-aaaadcdb2000 rw-p … /os/sample [.bss, .data]
aaaaed20d000-aaaaed22e000 rw-p … [heap]
ffffbe610000-ffffbe798000 r-xp … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000 **---p** … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7a7000-ffffbe7ab000 r--p … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ab000-ffffbe7ad000 rw-p … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
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fffff6461000-fffff6482000 rw-p … [stack]

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ffffbe610000-ffffbe798000   r-xp      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
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fffff6461000-fffff6482000   rw-p     … [stack]
```

```
➜  ./sample
@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
```

How does a program look like in memory?

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char uninitialized_global[100];
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aaaaed20d000-aaaaed22e000 rw-p    …  [heap]
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ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000   ---p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7a7000-ffffbe7ab000   r--p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ab000-ffffbe7ad000   rw-p      … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ad000-ffffbe7b9000   rw-p      …
fffff6461000-fffff6482000   rw-p     … [stack]
```

```
➜  ./sample
@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020
```

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ffffff6461000-ffffff6482000 rw-p  … [stack]

➜  ./sample
@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020
@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
```

How does a program look like in memory?

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char uninitialized_global[100];
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void foo() {
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aaaaed20d000-aaaaed22e000 rw-p    …  [heap]
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ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000   ---p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
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ffffbe7ab000-ffffbe7ad000   rw-p     … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ad000-ffffbe7b9000   rw-p     …
ffffff6461000-ffffff6482000   rw-p    … [stack]
```

```
➜  ./sample
@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020
@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
@ main – Current sp: ffffff64810e0
```

How does a program look like in memory?

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aaaaed20d000-aaaaed22e000 rw-p    …  [heap]
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ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000   ---p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
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```

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@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020
@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
@ main – Current sp: ffffff64810e0
@ foo   – Current sp: ffffff64810c0
```

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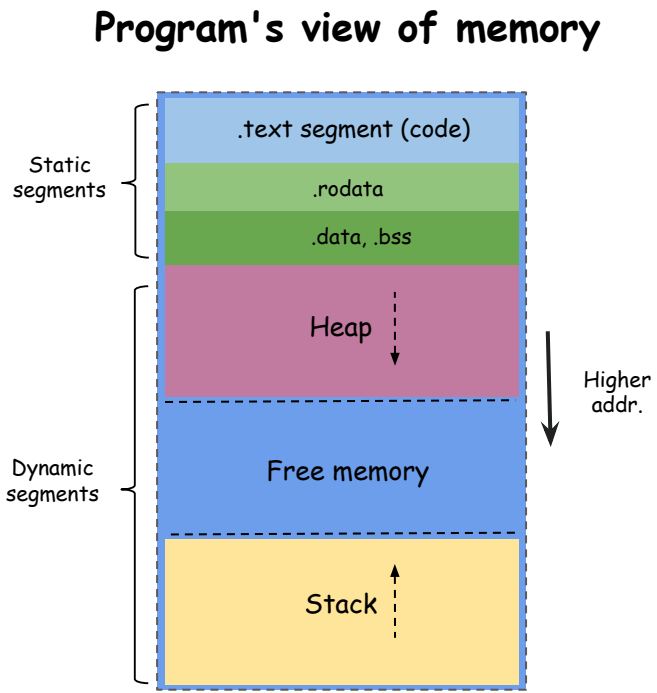
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ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000   ---p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
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@ main – Current sp: ffffff64810e0
@ foo   – Current sp: ffffff64810c0
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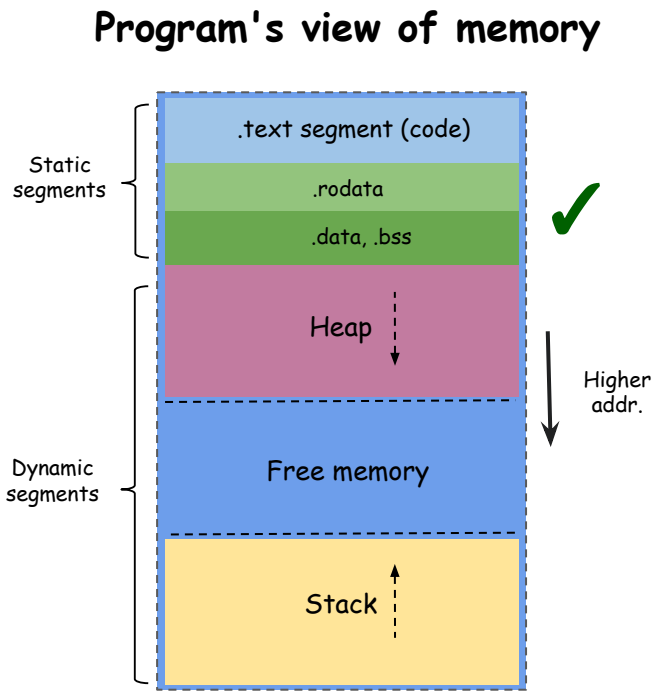
How does a program look like in memory?




```
➜  cat /proc/1245382/maps
aaaadcda0000-aaaadcda1000 r-xp    …   /os/sample  [.text]
aaaadcdb0000-aaaadcdb1000 r--p    …  /os/sample  [.rodata]
aaaadcdb1000-aaaadcdb2000 rw-p    …  /os/sample  [.bss, .data]
aaaaed20d000-aaaaed22e000 rw-p    …  [heap]
ffffbe610000-ffffbe798000  r-xp      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe798000-ffffbe7a7000  ---p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7a7000-ffffbe7ab000  r--p      …  /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ab000-ffffbe7ad000  rw-p     … /usr/lib/libc.so.6
ffffbe7ad000-ffffbe7b9000  rw-p     …
fffff6461000-fffff6482000  rw-p     … [stack]
```

```
➜  ./sample
@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020
@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
@ main – Current sp: fffff64810e0
@ foo   – Current sp: fffff64810c0
```

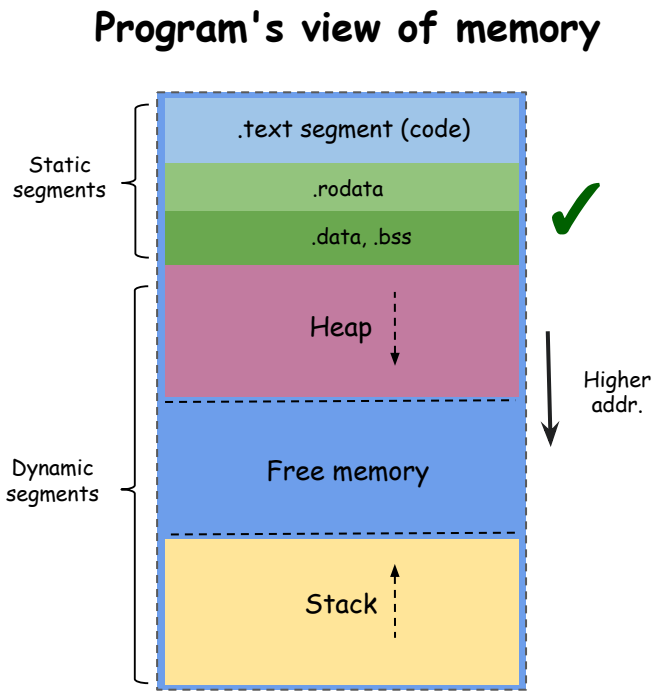
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@ .rodata variable: 0xaaaadcdb0100
@ .bss  variable: 0xaaaadcdb1020 > 0xaaaadcdb0010
@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
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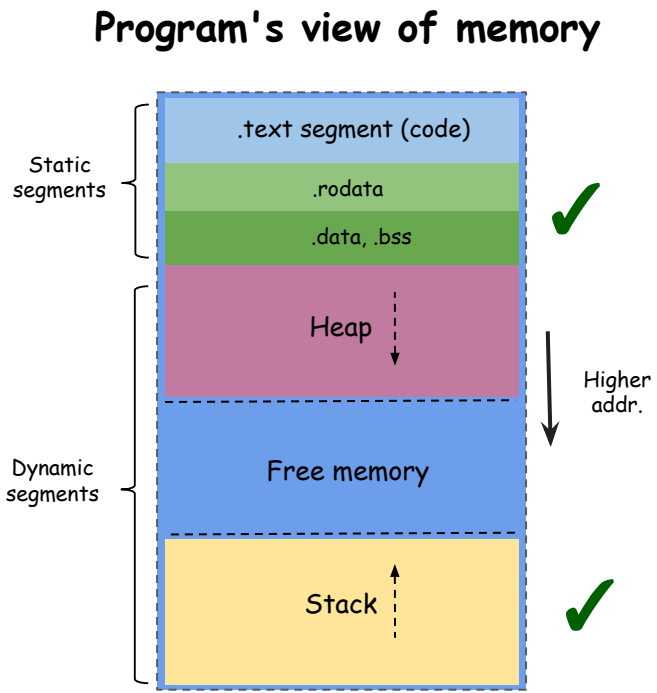
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@ heap variable: 0xaaaaed20d6b0
@ main – Current sp: fffff64810e0
@ foo   – Current sp: fffff64810c0 < fffff64810e0 (main's sp)
```

Who sets up the program in memory?

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The loader is responsible for loading a program into memory (code here)

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  - We need a specification
  - A contract (interface) between executables and the loader

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  - The loader transfers control to the ELF's entry point (e.g., _start)
    * If the executable is ***statically linked***, the loader's job is complete

Static linking

hello.c

```
extern void foo(int);

int bar(int a){
   a += 1;
   return a;
}

void main(void){
   foo(1);
   bar(2);
}
```

➜ gcc -S hello.c ⇒ gcc -c hello.s ⇒ hello.o
➜ readelf -s hello.o

```
# Table of all global, exported symbols with offset and  section number
Num:    Value              Size Type    Bind   Vis      Ndx Name
  2: 0000000000000000     0    SECTION LOCAL  DEFAULT    1 .text
  3: 0000000000000000     0    SECTION LOCAL  DEFAULT    3 .data
  4: 0000000000000000     0    SECTION LOCAL  DEFAULT    4 .bss
  …
 10: 0000000000000000    32    FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT    1 bar
 11: 0000000000000020    36    FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT    1 main
 12: 0000000000000000     0    NOTYPE  GLOBAL DEFAULT  UND foo
```

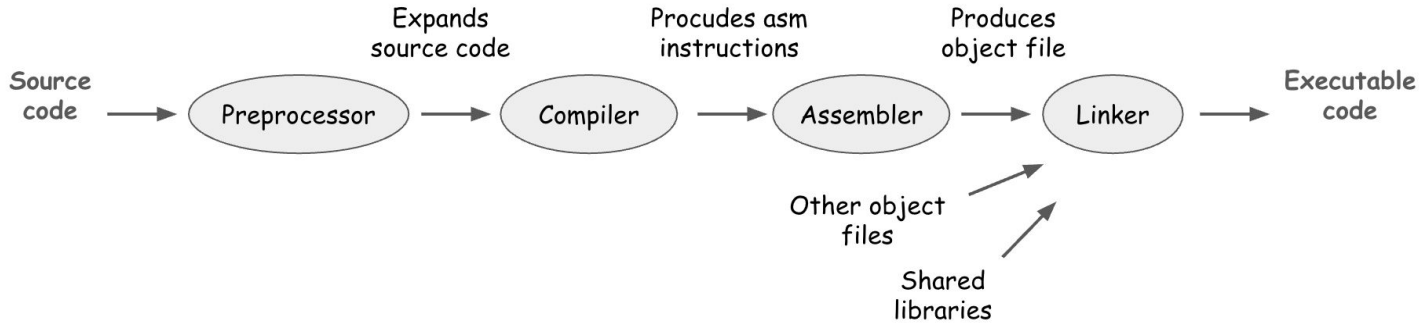
➜ nm hello.o

```
# If don't need full functionality of readelf, use nm
                 U foo
0000000000000000 T bar
0000000000000020 T main
```

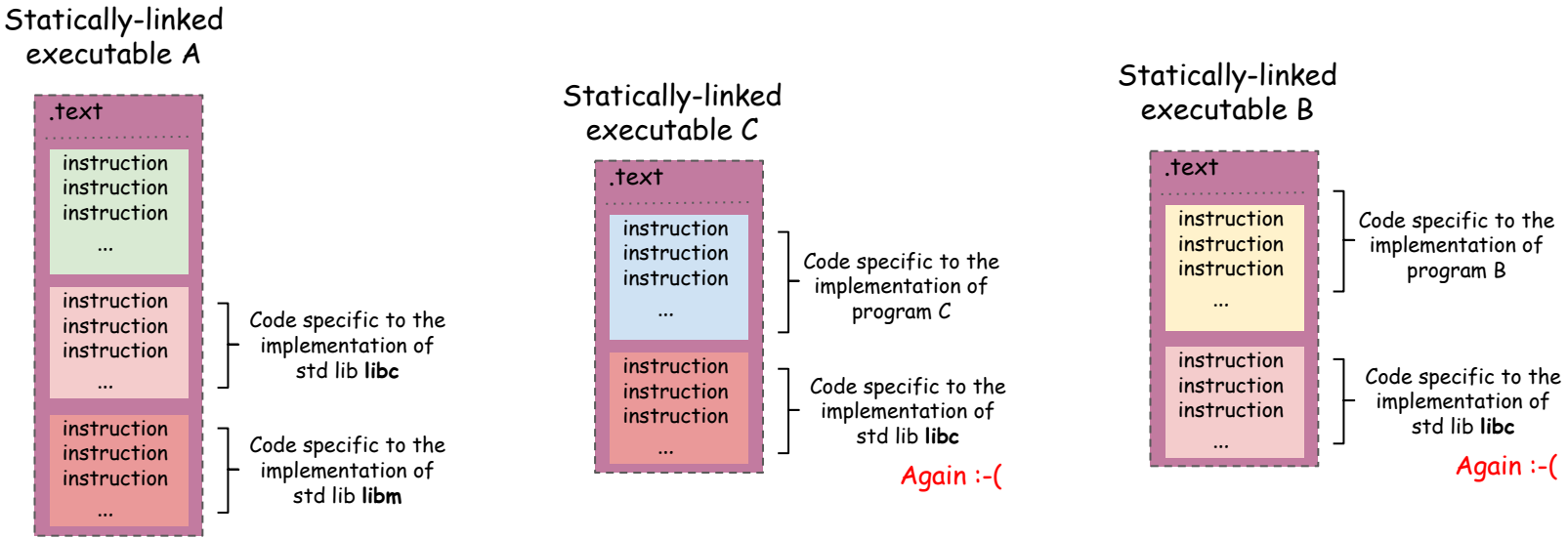
➜ gcc -o exe foo.o hello.o
➜ nm exe

```
# All relocations from statically-linked objects are resolved
…
0000000000000758 T foo
0000000000000714 T bar
0000000000000734 T main
```

Static linking



Static linking: The problem



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  - Dynamic segments are laid out and the OS intervenes to manage them
  - The loader transfers control to the ELF's entry point (e.g., _start)
    * If the executable is ***dynamically*** *linked*, we need more…

Dynamic linking

➜ gcc -S hello.c ⇒ gcc -c hello.s ⇒ hello.o
➜ readelf -s hello.o

 # Table of all global, exported symbols with offset and section number

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
2:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	.text
3:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	3	.data
4:	0000000000000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	4	.bss
…							
10:	0000000000000000	32	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	1	bar
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➜ nm hello.o

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U foo
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 # All relocations from statically-linked objects are resolved

…
0000000000000758 **T foo**
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Dynamic linking

- What if we don't know how to find this at compile time?

```
➜ gcc -S hello.c ⇒ gcc -c hello.s ⇒ hello.o
➜ readelf -s hello.o

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 2: 0000000000000000     0    SECTION LOCAL  DEFAULT    1 .text
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Dynamic linking

- What if we don't know how to find this at compile time?
- Another drama starts…

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    * **Dynamic linker:** specified at .interp section of ELF (e.g., ld-linux.so)

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    * If the executable is ***dynamically*** *linked*, we need more…
    * **Dynamic linker:** specified at .interp section of ELF (e.g., ld-linux.so) resolves symbols at runtime

Dynamic Linking / Loading

