

# Memory Safety: Attacks and Defense (Demos)

- Show vulnerable program
- Dissect program, objdump
- Load program using GDB
  - Basic use of GDB
- Three tasks in GDB:
  - Break program / Control-flow Hijacking / Shellcode injection
- Two defenses:
  - ASLR, Stack Canaries

Group question: find the vulnerable piece in this program

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>

void foo(char *str) {
    char buffer[100];
    strcpy(buffer, str);
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    foo(argv[1]);
}
```

**Exercise: how does this program get compiled?**

Once we have the binary, what does it look like?

Enter `objdump / readelf`

`objdump -D cpyarg`



**Disassemble**

`readelf -a cpyarg`

Written in ELF

(Executable Linking Format)

Purpose of this format is to tell computer how to **set up** a binary

File composed of many **sections**

## Binary File

.text

.rodata

.plt

.symtab

.debug

...

Written in ELF

(Executable Linking Format)

Purpose of this format is to tell computer how to **set up** a binary

File composed of many **sections**

Kernel then **loads** these into memory

(Other things: dynamic linking, won't discuss here)

## Binary File

.text

.rodata

.plt

.symtab

.debug

...

# Binary File

`.text`

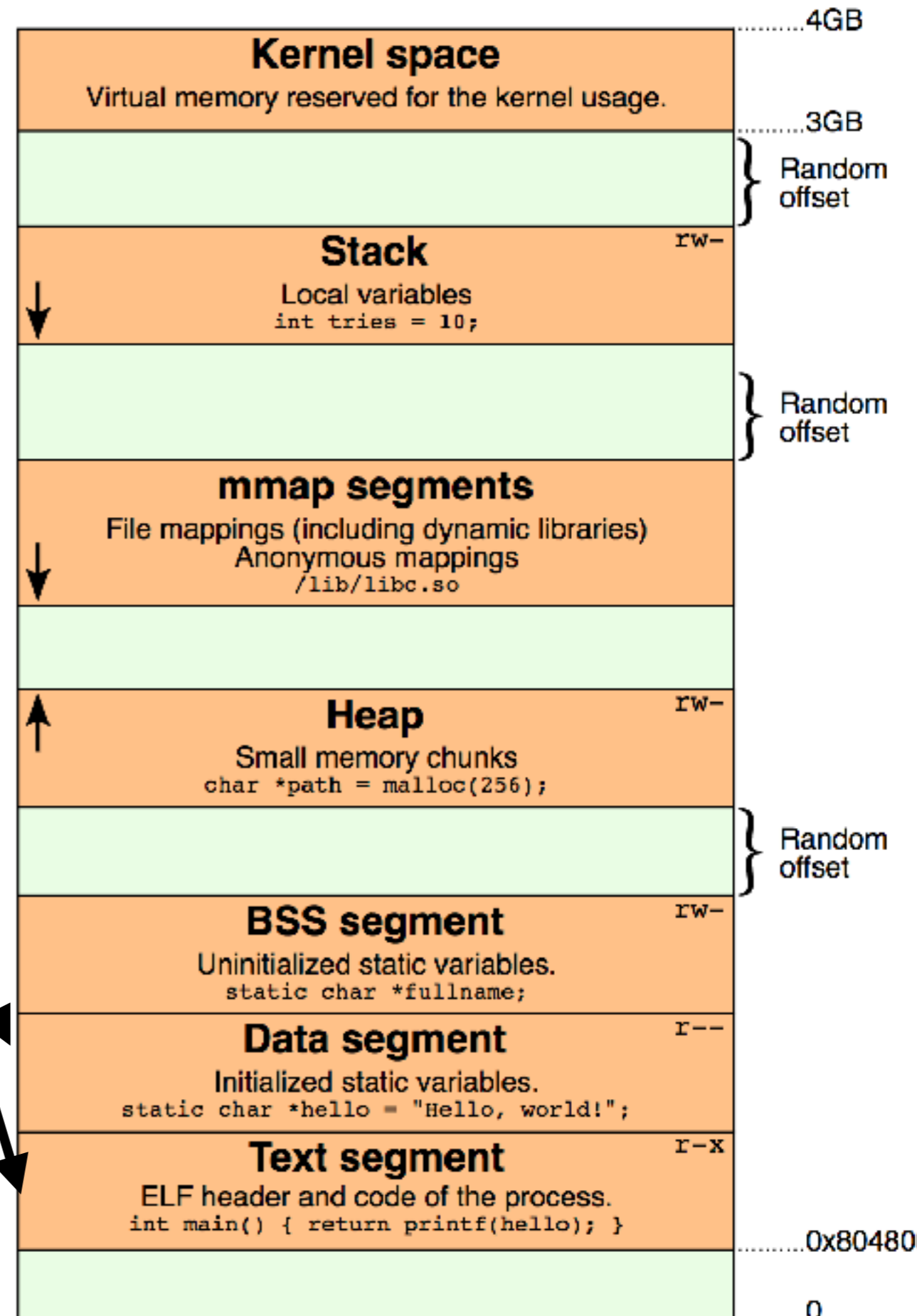
`.rodata`

`.plt`

`.symtab`

`.debug`

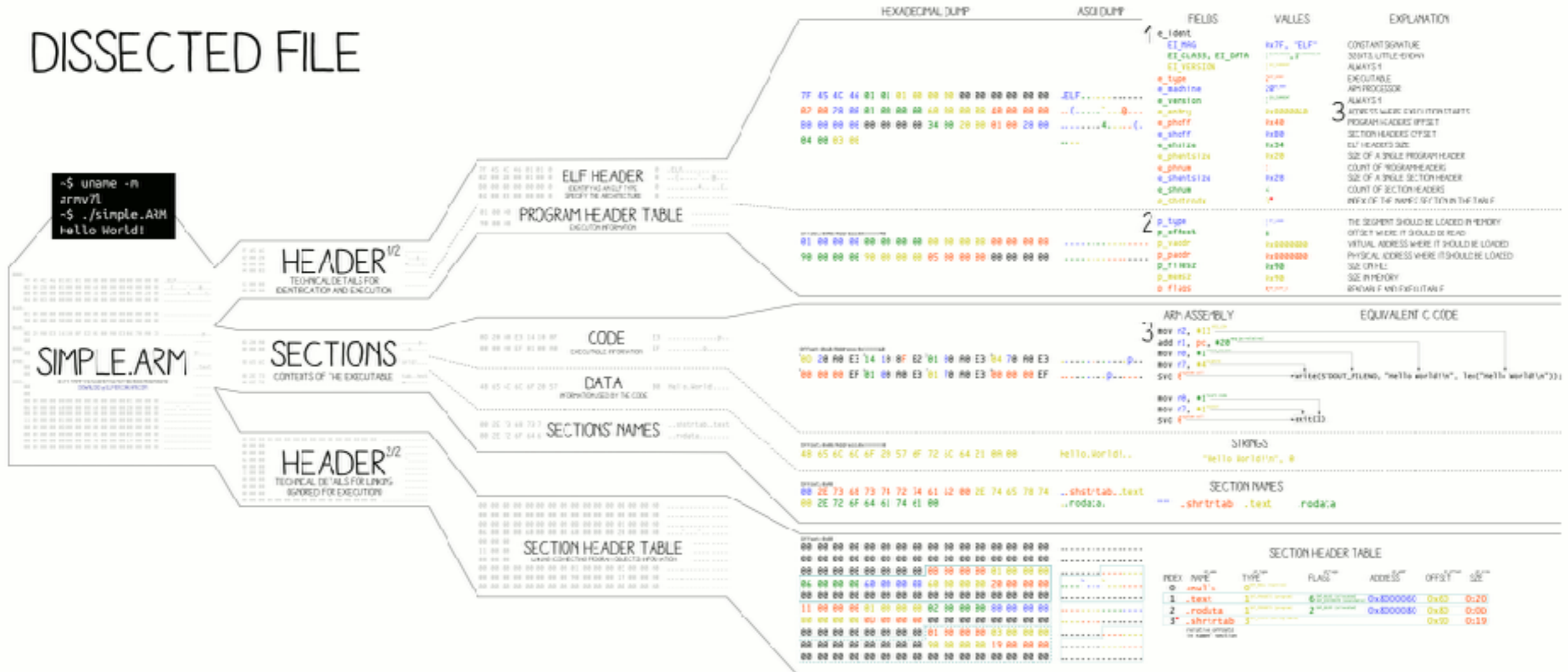
...





<http://www.cirosantilli.com/elf-hello-world/>

## DISSECTED FILE



## LOADING PROCESS

### 1 HEADER

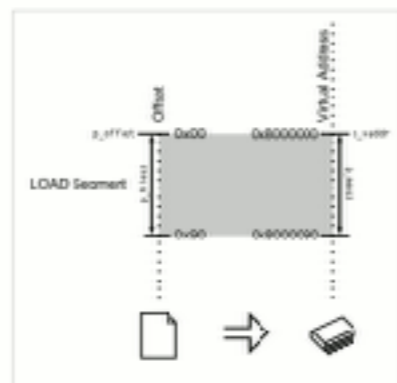
THE ELF HEADER IS PARSED  
THE PROGRAM HEADER IS PARSED  
(SECTIONS ARE NOT USED)

### 2 MAPPING

THE FILE IS MAPPED IN MEMORY  
ACCORDING TO ITS SEGMENT(S)

### 3 EXECUTION

ENTRY IS CALLED  
SYSCALLS ARE ACCESSED VIA:  
- SYSCALL NUMBER IN THE R7 REGISTER  
- CALLING INSTRUCTION SVC



## TRIVIA

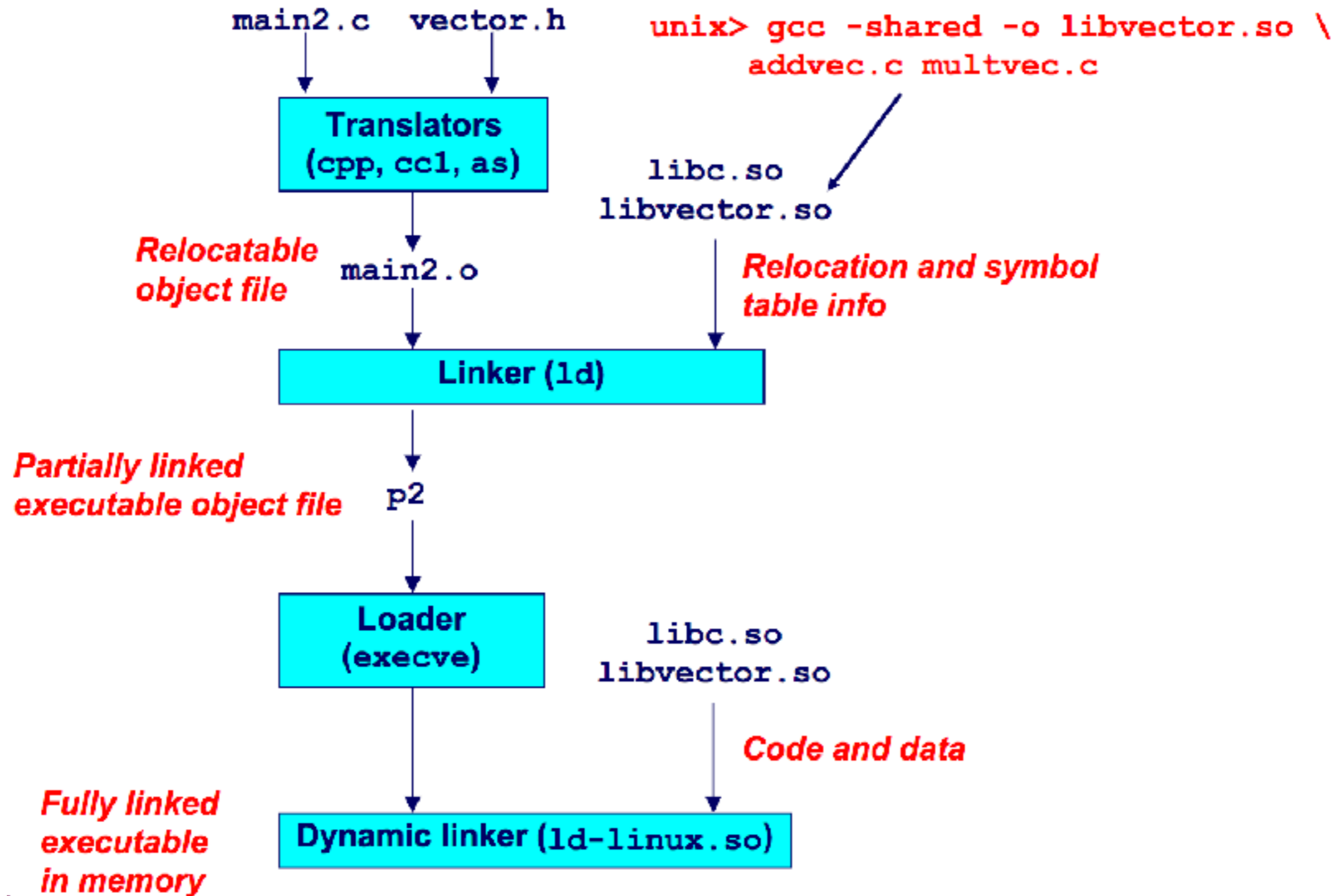
THE ELF WAS FIRST SPECIFIED BY U.S.L. AND U.I.  
FOR UNIX SYSTEM V, IN 1989

THE ELF IS USED, AMONG OTHERS, IN:  
- LINUX, ANDROID, \*BSD, SOLARIS, BEOS  
- PSP, PLAYSTATION 2-4, DREAMCAST, GAMECUBE, WII  
- VARIOUS OSes MADE BY SAMSUNG, ERICSSON, NOKIA,  
- MICROCONTROLLERS FROM ATMEL, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Why no code for functions from libc?

Answer: **dynamically** linked into the file

Upshot: dynamic linker “moves around” program to work



# Poking around the program: GDB

```
i f
```

Show **info** about the current **frame**  
(prev. frame, locals/args, %rbp/%rip)

```
i r
```

Show **info** about **registers**  
(%rip, %rbp, %rsp, etc.)

```
x/<n> <addr>
```

**Examine** <n> bytes of memory  
starting at address <addr>

```
b <function>  
s
```

Set a **breakpoint** at <function>  
**step through** execution (into calls)