Poll Everywhere

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Which concept has given you the most difficulty so far in the context of Homework 1?

A. Pointers
B. Output parameters
C. Dynamic memory allocation
D. Structs
E. GDB
F. Style considerations
G. Prefer not to say

Makefiles & C++ Preview

CSE 333 Spring 2021

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Administrivia

- Exercise 4 posted Monday, due next Monday
  - Implement lite versions of C std I/O functions using POSIX
  - Read a directory and open/copy text files found there
- Homework 1 due tomorrow night (4/15)
  - Watch for pointer to local (stack) variables
  - Use a debugger (*e.g.*, `gdb`) if you're getting segfaults
  - Clean up "to do" comments, but leave "STEP #" markers
  - Late days: don't tag `hw1-final` until you are really ready
- Homework 2 will be released on Friday (4/16)
  - Partners allowed – see Ed post #354 for sign-up & matching forms

System Calls Simplified Overview

- The operating system (OS) is a super complicated "program overseer" program for the computer
  - The only software that is directly trusted with hardware access

- If a user process wants to access an OS feature, they must invoke a system call
  - A system call involves context switching into the OS/kernel, which has some overhead
  - The OS will handle hardware/special functionality directly (in privileged mode) while user processes wait and don't touch anything themselves
  - OS will eventually finish, return result to user process, and context switch back

System Call Analogy #1

- The OS is a very wise and knowledgeable wizard
  - It has access to many dangerous and powerful artifacts, but it doesn't trust others to use them
- If a civilian/Muggle wants to have a magical task performed, they must request it from the wizard
  - Requests take time to setup and start – prep and safety
  - The wizard will handle/use the powerful artifacts; the civilian is NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH ANYTHING
  - The wizard will take a second to analyze results and clean up artifacts before giving results back to the civilian

System Call Analogy #2

- The OS is a bank manager overseeing safety deposit boxes in the vault
  - Is the only one allowed in the vault and has the keys to the safety deposit boxes

- If a client wants to access a deposit box (*i.e.*, add or remove items), they must request that the bank manager do it for them
  - Takes time to locate and travel to box and find the right key
  - Client must wait in the lobby while the bank manager accesses the box – prevents messing with requested box or other boxes
  - Takes time to put box away, return from vault, and let client know that request was fulfilled

strace

- A useful Linux utility that shows the sequence of system calls that a process makes:

```
bash$ strace ls 2>&1 | less
execve("/usr/bin/ls", ["ls"], [/* 41 vars */]) = 0
brk(NULL)                                       = 0x15aa000
mmap(NULL, 4096, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_ANONYMOUS, -1, 0) =
  0x7f03bb741000
access("/etc/ld.so.preload", R_OK)      = -1 ENOENT (No such file or directory)
open("/etc/ld.so.cache", O_RDONLY|O_CLOEXEC) = 3
fstat(3, {st_mode=S_IFREG|0644, st_size=126570, ...}) = 0
mmap(NULL, 126570, PROT_READ, MAP_PRIVATE, 3, 0) = 0x7f03bb722000
close(3)                                        = 0
open("/lib64/libselinux.so.1", O_RDONLY|O_CLOEXEC) = 3
read(3, "\177ELF\2\1\1\0\0\0\0\0\0\0\0\3\0>\0\1\0\0\0300j\0\0\0\0\0\0"...,
  832) = 832
fstat(3, {st_mode=S_IFREG|0755, st_size=155744, ...}) = 0
mmap(NULL, 2255216, PROT_READ|PROT_EXEC, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_DENYWRITE, 3, 0) =
  0x7f03bb2fa000
mprotect(0x7f03bb31e000, 2093056, PROT_NONE) = 0
mmap(0x7f03bb51d000, 8192, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE,
  MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_FIXED|MAP_DENYWRITE, 3, 0x23000) = 0x7f03bb51d000
... etc ...
```

If You're Curious

- Download the Linux kernel source code
  - Available from http://www.kernel.org/

man, section 1: user commands

- `man`, section 2: Linux system calls
  - `man 2 intro`
  - `man 2 syscalls`

- `man`, section 3: `glibc`/`libc` library functions
  - `man 3 intro`

- *The* book: *The Linux Programming Interface* by Michael Kerrisk (keeper of the Linux man pages)

Lecture Outline

- **Make and Build Tools**
- Makefile Basics
- C++ Preview

make

- `make` is a classic program for controlling what gets (re)compiled and how
  - Many other such programs exist (*e.g.*, `ant`, `maven`, IDE "projects")
- `make` has tons of fancy features, but only two basic ideas:
  1) Scripts for executing commands
  2) Dependencies for avoiding unnecessary work
- To avoid "just teaching `make` features" (boring and narrow), let's focus more on the concepts…

Building Software

- Programmers spend a lot of time "building"
  - Creating programs from source code
  - Both programs that they write and other people write

- Programmers like to automate repetitive tasks
  - Repetitive: gcc -Wall -g -std=c17 -o widget foo.c bar.c baz.c
    - Retype this every time: 
    - Use up-arrow or history:  (still retype after logout)
    - Have an alias or bash script: 
    - Have a Makefile:  (you're ahead of us)

"Real" Build Process

- On larger projects, you can't or don't want to have one big (set of) command(s) that are all run every time you change anything. To do things "smarter," consider:
  1) It could be worse: If `gcc` didn't combine steps for you, you'd need to preprocess, compile, and link on your own (along with anything you used to generate the C files)
  2) Source files could have multiple outputs (*e.g.*, `javadoc`). You may have to type out the source file name(s) multiple times
  3) You don't want to have to document the build logic when you distribute source code; make it relatively simple for others to build
  4) You don't want to recompile everything every time you change something (especially if you have 10^5-10^7 files of source code)

- A script can handle 1-3 (use a variable for filenames for 2), but 4 is trickier

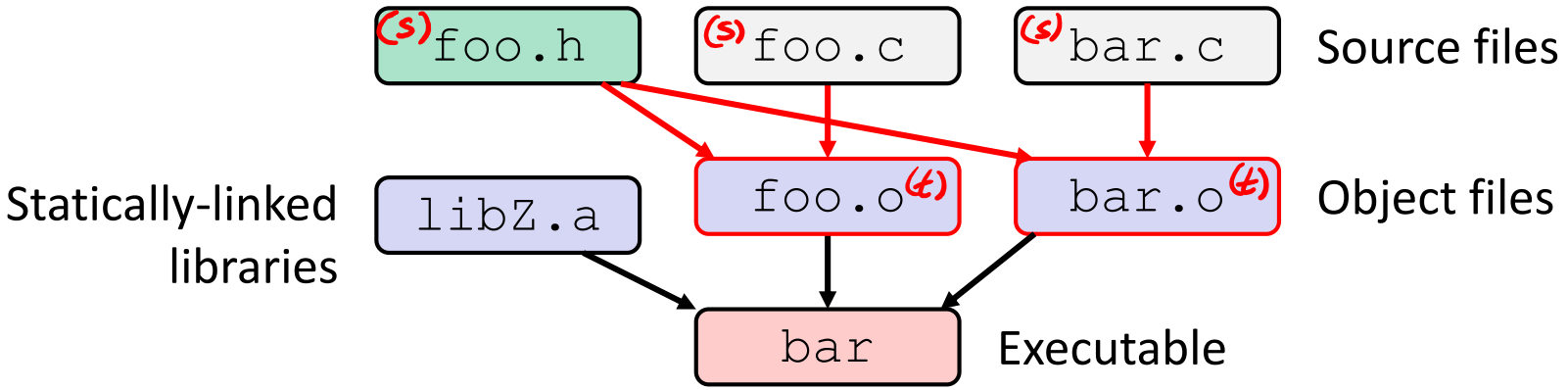
Recompilation Management

- The "theory" behind avoiding unnecessary compilation is a *dependency dag* (**d**irected, **a**cyclic **g**raph)

- To create a target t, you need sources $s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_n$ and a command c that directly or indirectly uses the sources
  - It t is newer than every source (file-modification times), assume there is no reason to rebuild it
  - Recursive building: if some source s_i is itself a target for some other sources, see if it needs to be rebuilt…
  - Cycles "make no sense"!

Theory Applied to C

(s) = source
(t) = target



- Compiling a `.c` creates a `.o` – the `.o` depends on the `.c` and all included files (`.h`, recursively/transitively)

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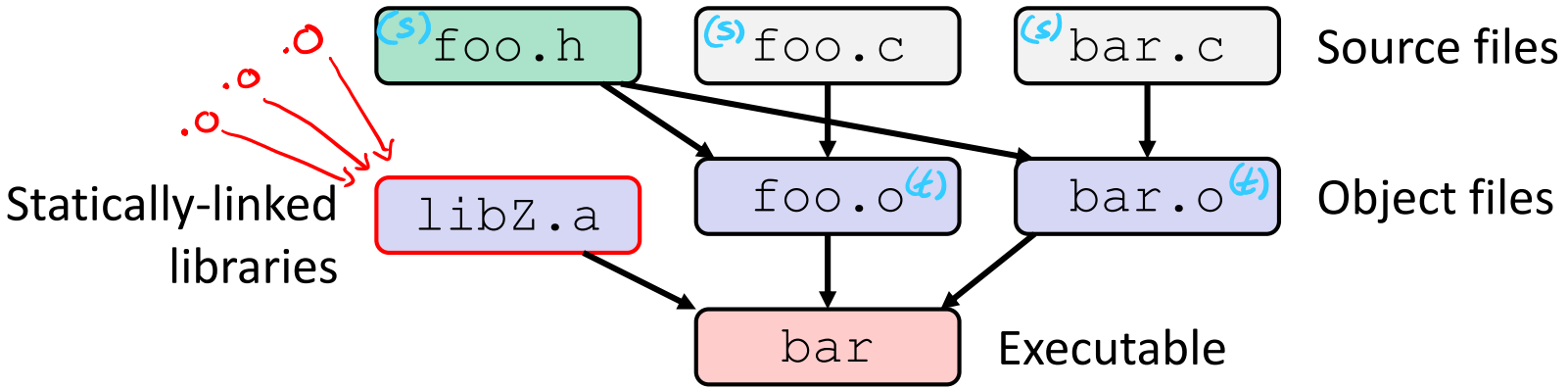

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- An archive (library, `.a`) depends on included `.o` files

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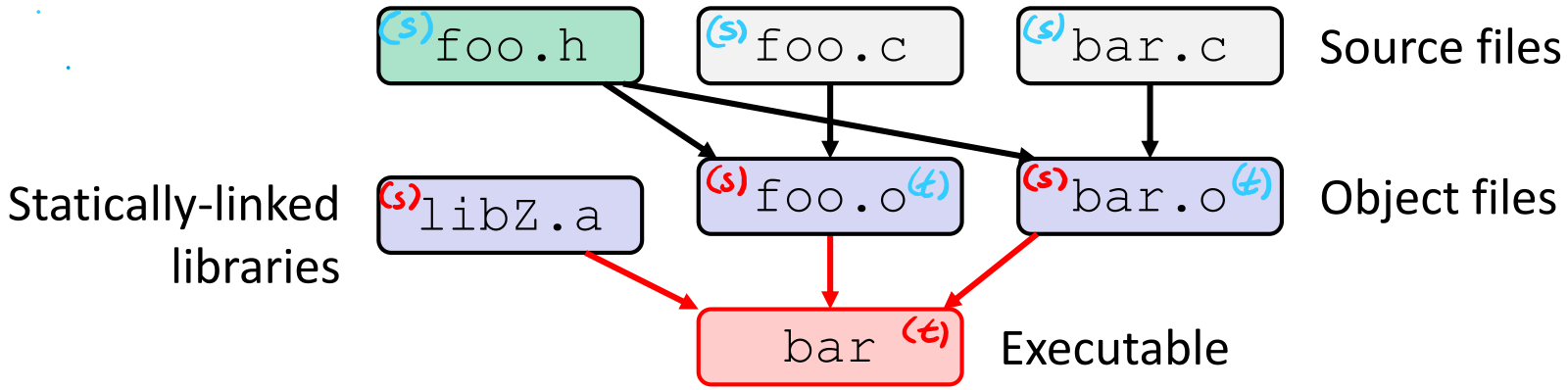
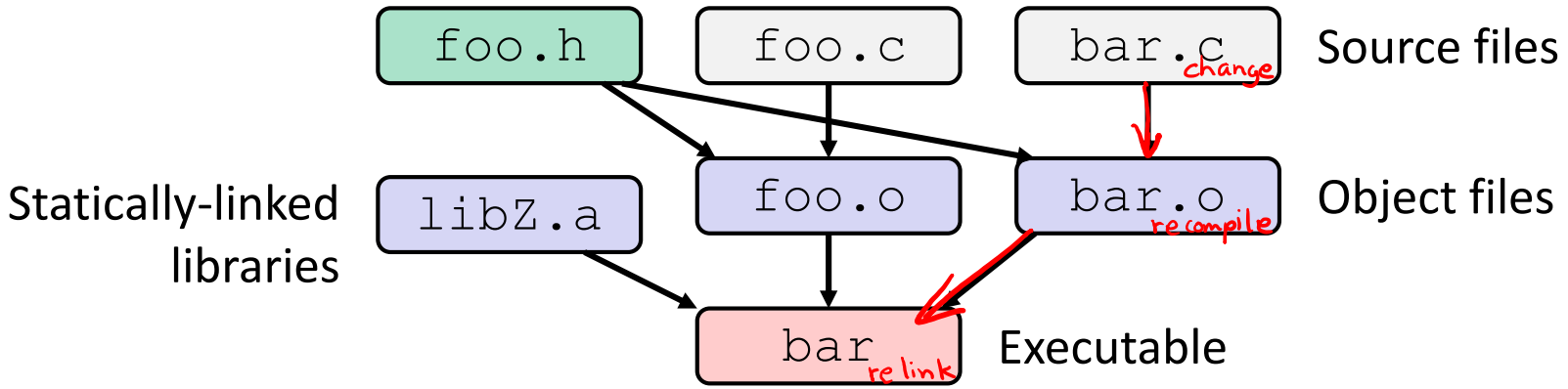


- Compiling a `.c` creates a `.o` – the `.o` depends on the `.c` and all included files (`.h`, recursively/transitively)
- An archive (library, `.a`) depends on included `.o` files
- Creating an executable ("linking") depends on `.o` files and archives
  - Archives linked by `-L<path> -l<name>`
    (*e.g.*, `-L. -lfoo` to get `libfoo.a` from current directory)

Theory Applied to C



- If one `.c` file changes, just need to recreate one `.o` file, maybe a library, and re-link
- If a `.h` file changes, may need to rebuild more
- Many more possibilities!

Lecture Outline

- Make and Build Tools
- **Makefile Basics**
- C++ Preview

make Basics

- A makefile contains a bunch of triples:

```
target: sources
← Tab → command
```

  - Colon after target is *required*
  - Command lines must start with a **TAB**, NOT SPACES
  - Multiple commands for same target are executed *in order*
    - Can split commands over multiple lines by ending lines with '\'

- Example:

```
foo.o: foo.c foo.h bar.h
	gcc -Wall -o foo.o -c foo.c
```

Using make

```
bash$ make -f <makefileName> target
```

- Defaults: $ make
  - If no `-f` specified, use a file named `Makefile` in current dir
  - If no `target` specified, will use the first one in the file
  - Will interpret commands in your default shell
    - Set `SHELL` variable in makefile to ensure
- Target execution:
  - Check each source in the source list:
    - If the source is a target in the makefile, then process it recursively
    - If some source does not exist, then error
    - If any source is newer than the target (or target does not exist), run `command` (presumably to update the target)

"Phony" Targets

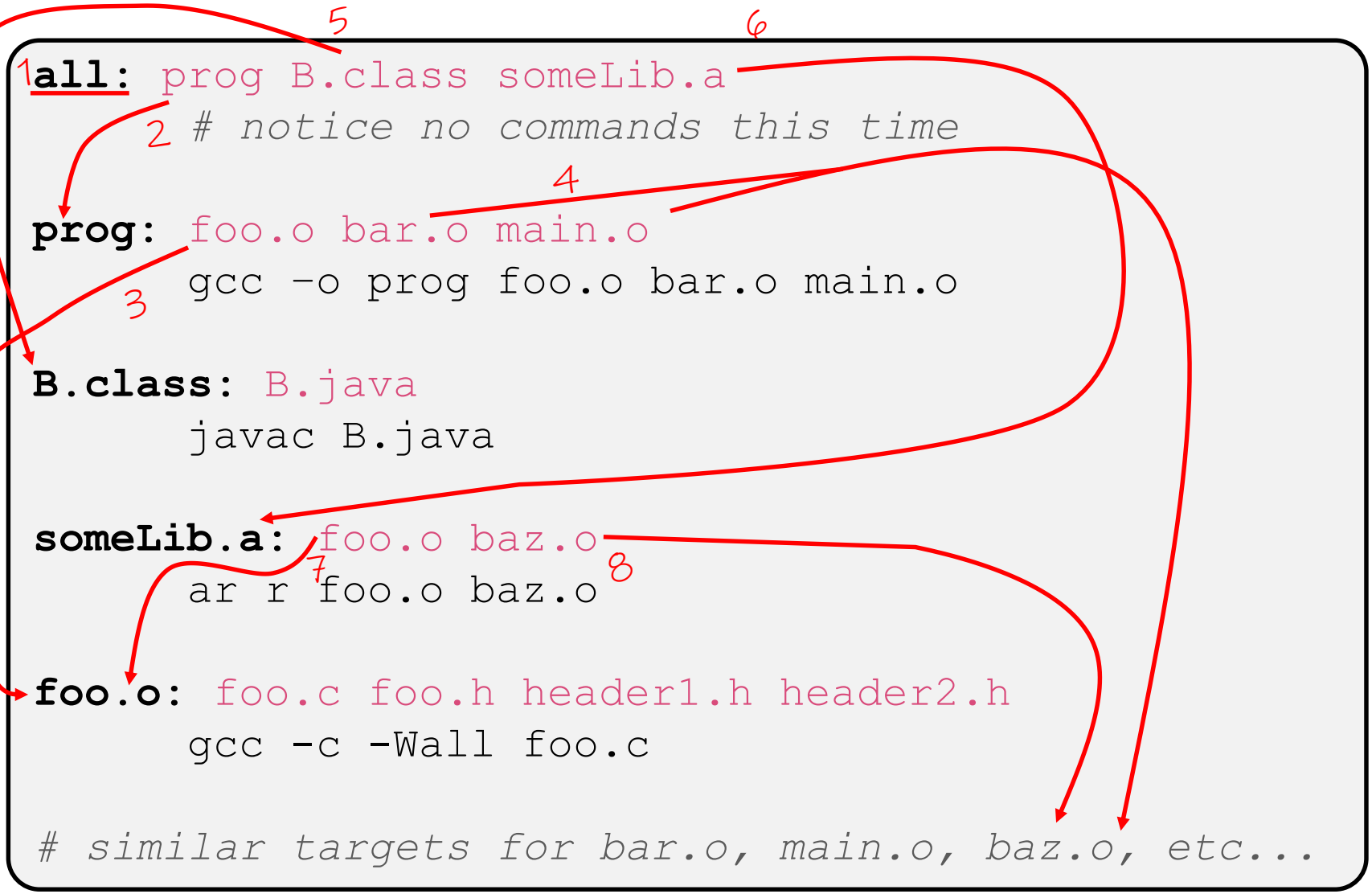
- A make target whose command does not create a file of the target's name (*i.e.*, a "recipe")
  - As long as target file doesn't exist, the command(s) will be executed because the target must be "remade"

- *e.g.*, target `clean` is a convention to remove generated files to "start over" from just the source

```
clean:
	rm foo.o bar.o baz.o widget *~
```

- *e.g.*, target `all` is a convention to build all "final products" in the makefile
  - Lists all of the "final products" as sources

"all" Example


1
5
6
all: prog B.class someLib.a
2
notice no commands this time
4
prog: foo.o bar.o main.o
3
gcc -o prog foo.o bar.o main.o
B.class: B.java
javac B.java
someLib.a: foo.o baz.o
7
8
ar r foo.o baz.o
foo.o: foo.c foo.h header1.h header2.h
gcc -c -Wall foo.c
similar targets for bar.o, main.o, baz.o, etc...

make Variables

- You can define variables in a makefile:
  - All values are strings of text, no "types"
  - Variable names are case-sensitive and can't contain '**:**', '#', '=', or whitespace
- Example:

```
CC = gcc
CFLAGS = -Wall -std=c17
OBJFILES = foo.o bar.o baz.o
widget: $(OBJFILES)
        $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o widget $(OBJFILES)
```

- Advantages:
  - Easy to change things (especially in multiple commands)
    - It's common to use variables to hold lists of filenames
  - Can also specify/overwrite variables on the command line: (*e.g.*, `make CC=clang CFLAGS=-g`)

Makefile Writing Tips

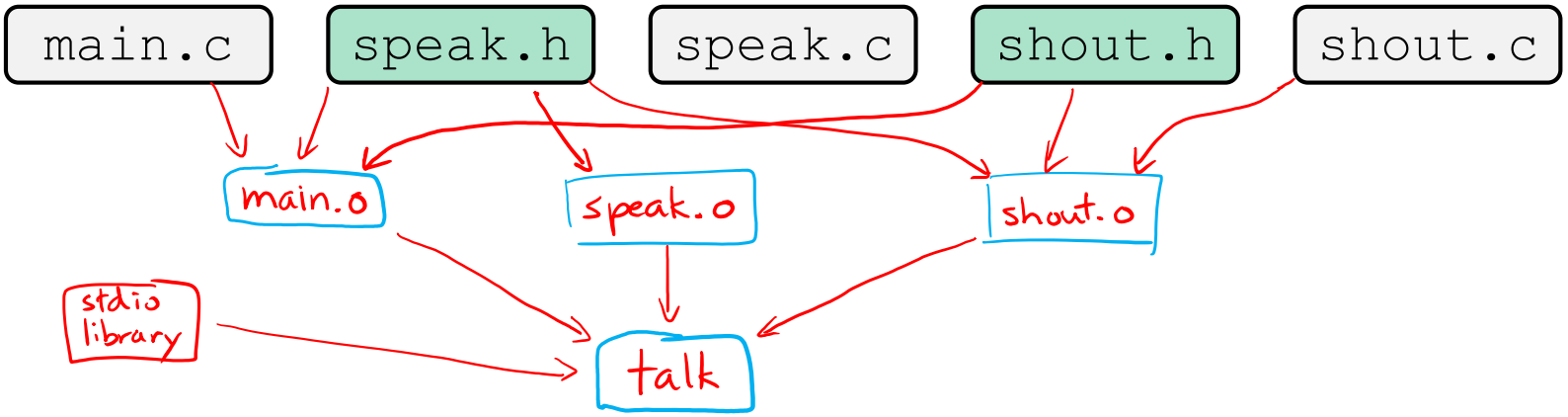
- *When creating a Makefile, first draw the dependencies!!!!*

- C Dependency Rules:
  - `.c` and `.h` files are never targets, only sources.
  - Each `.c` file will be compiled into a corresponding `.o` file
    - Header files will be implicitly used via `#include`
  - Executables will typically be built from one or more `.o` file

- Good Conventions:
  - Include a `clean` rule
  - If you have more than one "final target," include an `all` rule
  - The first/top target should be your singular "final target" or `all`

Writing a Makefile Example

- "`talk`" program (find files on web with lecture slides)



main.c

```
#include "speak.h"
#include "shout.h"

int main(int argc, char** argv) {…
```

speak.c

```
#include "speak.h"
...
```

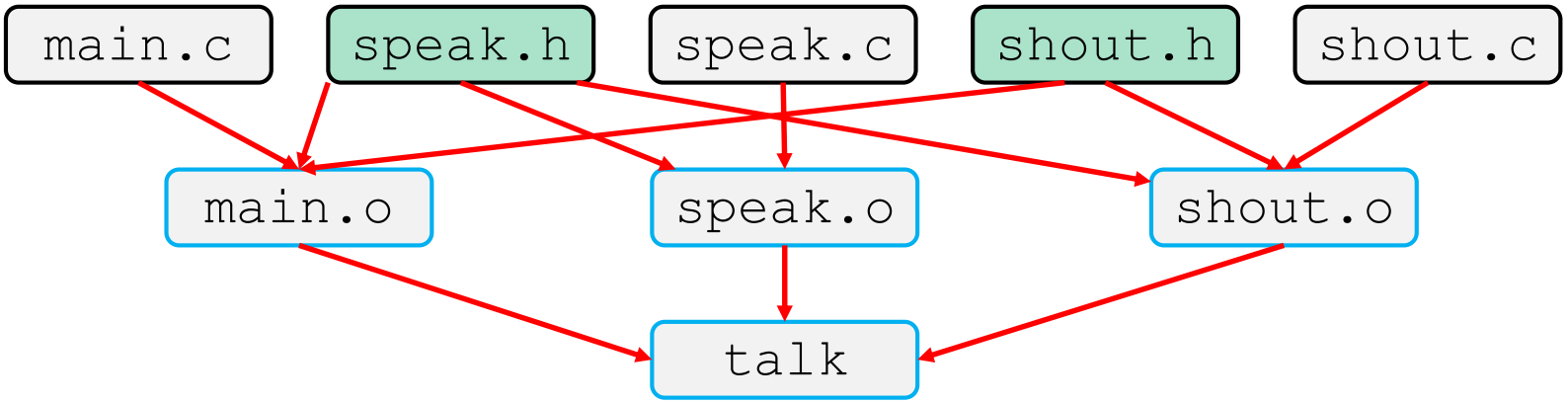
shout.c

```
#include "speak.h"
#include "shout.h"
...
```

Writing a Makefile Example

target: sources
command

- "`talk`" program (find files on web with lecture slides)




```
talk: main.o speak.o shout.o
    gcc $(CFLAGS) -o talk main.o speak.o shout.o

main.o: main.c speak.h shout.h
    gcc $(CFLAGS) -c main.c
speak.o: speak.c speak.h
    gcc $(CFLAGS) -c speak.c
shout.o: shout.c speak.h shout.h
    gcc $(CFLAGS) -c shout.c
clean:
    rm talk *.o
```

Revenge of the Funny Characters

- Special variables:
  - **$@** for target name
  - **$^** for all sources
  - **$<** for left-most source
  - Lots more! – see the documentation

- Examples:

```
# CC and CFLAGS defined above
widget: foo.o bar.o
        $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o $@ $^
foo.o: foo.c foo.h bar.h
        $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -c $<
```

And more…

- There are a lot of "built-in" rules – see documentation
- There are "suffix" rules and "pattern" rules
  - Example:

```
%.class: %.java
	javac $<  # we need the $< here
```

- Remember that you can put *any* shell command – even whole scripts!
- You can repeat target names to add more dependencies
- Often this stuff is more useful for reading makefiles than writing your own (until some day…)

Lecture Outline

- Make and Build Tools
- Makefile Basics
- **C++ Preview**

Programming Terminology Review

- **Encapsulation and Abstraction:** Hiding implementation details (restricting access) and associating behaviors (methods) with data
- **Polymorphism:** The provision of a single interface to entities of different types
- **Generics:** Algorithms written in terms of types *to-be-specified-later*

Encapsulation and Abstraction (C)

- Used header file conventions and the `static` specifier to separate "private" functions, definitions, and constants from "public"

- Used forward-declared `structs` and opaque pointers (*i.e.*, `void*`) to hide implementation-specific details

- Can't associate behaviors with encapsulated state
  - Functions that operate on a `LinkedList` not actually tied to the struct

Really difficult to mimic – implemented primarily via coding conventions

Encapsulation and Abstraction (C++)

- Support for classes and objects!
  - Public, private, and protected access specifiers
  - **Methods** and **instance variables** ("`this`")
  - (Multiple!) inheritance

- Polymorphism
  - *Static polymorphism:* multiple functions or methods with the same name, but different argument types (overloading)
    - Works for all functions, not just class members
  - *Dynamic (subtype) polymorphism:* derived classes can override methods of parents, and methods will be dispatched correctly

Generics (C)

- Generic linked list and hash table by using `void*` payload
- Function pointers to generalize different behavior for data structures
  - Comparisons, deallocation, pickling up state, etc.

Emulated generic data structures primarily by disabling type system

Generics (C++)

- Templates facilitate generic data types
  - *Parametric polymorphism:* same idea as Java generics, but different in details, particularly implementation
    - A vector of `int`s: `vector<int> x;`
    - A vector of `float`s: `vector<float> x;`
    - A vector of (vectors of `float`s): `vector<vector<float>> x;`

- Specialized casts to increase type safety

Namespaces (C)

- Names are global and visible everywhere
  - Can use `static` to prevent a name from being visible outside a source file (as close as C gets to "private")

- Naming conventions help avoid collisions in the global namespace
  - *e.g.*, `LinkedList_Allocate`, `HTIterator_Next`, etc.

Avoid collisions primarily via coding conventions

Namespaces (C++)

- Explicit namespaces!
  - The linked list module could define an "`LL`" namespace while the hash table module could define an "`HT`" namespace
  - Both modules could define an Iterator class
    - One would be globally named `LL::Iterator` and the other would be globally named `HT::Iterator`

- Classes also allow duplicate names without collisions
  - Classes can also define their own pseudo-namespace, very similar to Java static inner classes

Standard Library (C)

- C does not provide any standard data structures
  - We had to implement our own linked list and hash table
- Hopefully, you can use somebody else's libraries
  - But C's lack of abstraction, encapsulation, and generics means you'll probably end up tweak them or tweak your code to use them

YOU implement the data structures that you need

Standard Library (C++)

- **Generic containers:** bitset, queue, list, associative array (including hash table), deque, set, stack, and vector
  - And iterators for most of these
- **A `string` class:** hides the implementation of strings
- **Streams:** allows you to stream data to and from objects, consoles, files, strings, and so on
- **Generic algorithms:** sort, filter, remove duplicates, etc.

Error Handling (C)

- Error handling is a pain
- Define error codes and return them
  - Either directly return or via a "global" like `errno`
  - No type checking: does `1` mean `EXIT_FAILURE` or `true`?

- Customers and implementors need to constantly test return values
  - *e.g.*, if `a()` calls `b()`, which calls `c()`
    - `a` depends on `b` to propagate an error in `c` back to it

Error handling is a pain – mixture of coding conventions and discipline

Error Handling (C++)

- Supports exceptions!
  - `try` / `throw` / `catch`
  - If used with discipline, can simplify error processing
  - If used carelessly, can complicate memory management
    - Consider: `a()` calls `b()`, which calls `c()`
      - If `c()` throws an exception that `b()` doesn't catch, you might not get a chance to clean up resources allocated inside `b()`

- We will largely avoid in 333
  - You still benefit from having more interpretable errors!
  - But much C++ code still needs to work with C & old C++ libraries, so still uses return codes, **`exit`**`()`, etc.

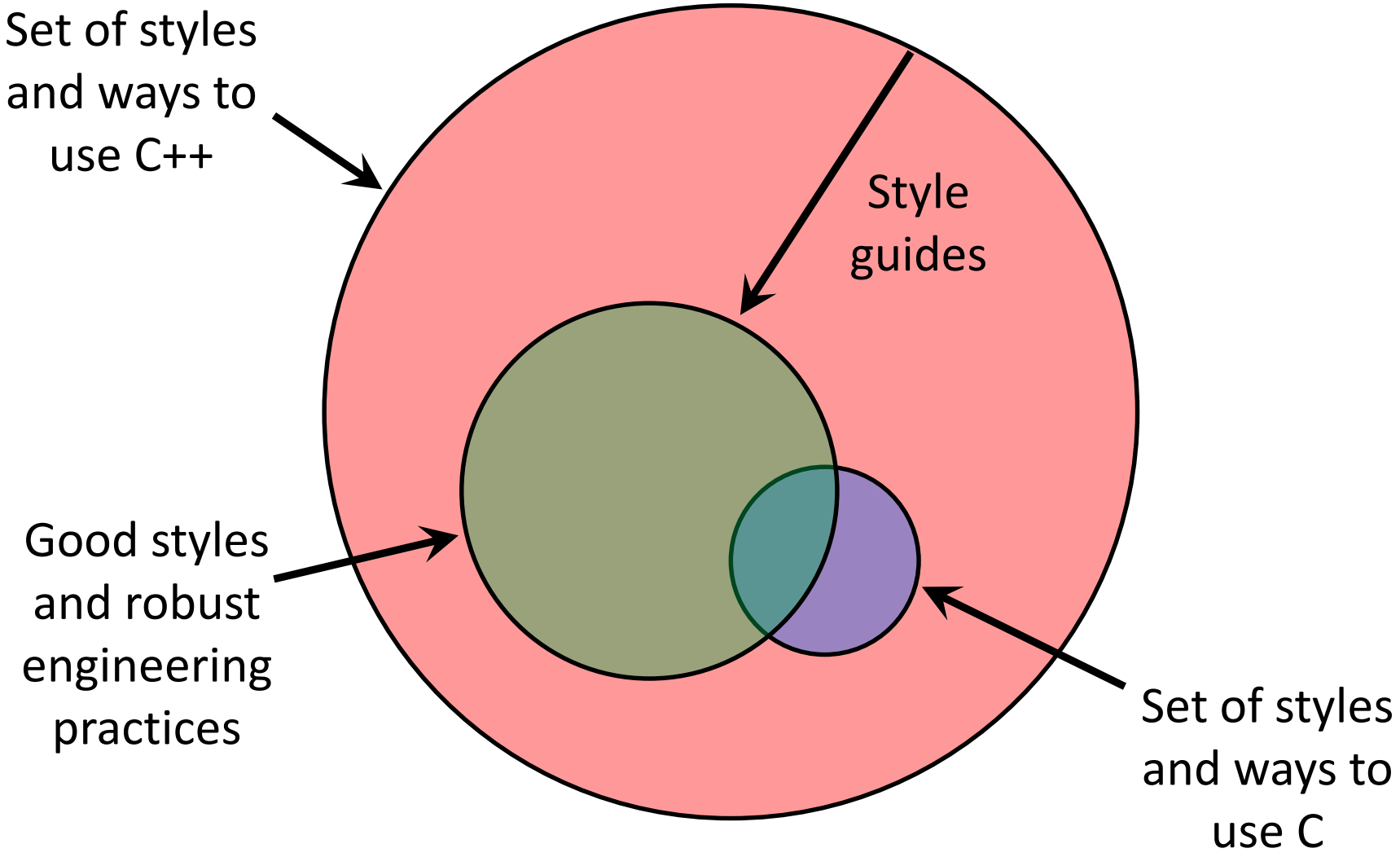
Some Tasks Still Hurt in C++

- Memory management
  - C++ has no garbage collector
    - You still have to manage memory allocation & deallocation and track
    - It's still possible to have leaks, double frees, and so on
  - But there are some things that help
    - "Smart pointers"
      - Classes that encapsulate pointers and track reference counts
      - Deallocate memory when the reference count goes to zero
    - C++'s constructors and destructors permit a pattern known as "Resource Allocation Is Initialization" (RAII)
      - Useful for releasing memory, locks, database transactions, etc.

Some Tasks Still Hurt in C++

- C++ doesn't guarantee type or memory safety
  - You can still:
    - Forcibly cast pointers between incompatible types
    - Walk off the end of an array and smash memory
    - Have dangling pointers
    - Conjure up a pointer to an arbitrary address of your choosing

How to Think About C++



Or…

In the hands of a disciplined programmer, C++ is a powerful tool

But if you're not so disciplined about how you use C++…