Chapter 3 Loaders and Linkers -- Machine-Independent Loader Feature



- Automatic library search for handling external references
 - Allows a programmer to use <u>standard subroutines</u> which are automatically retrieved from a library as they are needed during linking
- Solution
 - A flag for each symbol in ESTAB (defined/undefined)
 - When add a symbol on R record to ESTAB, set it as undefined
 - If a symbol on D record is found, set is as defined
 - At the end of Pass 1, search the library for undefined symbol
 - If all libraries are searched and some undefined symbol still remains, output error a message

Discussions of Automatic Library Search

- The presented linking loader allows the programmer to <u>override</u> the standard subroutines by supplying his own routines.
- Directory
 - The loader searches for the subroutines by scanning the Define records for all of the object programs. (*inefficient*)
 - It can be more efficient by searching a directory that gives the name and address of each routine.
- The same techniques applies equally well to the resolution of external references to data items.



- Users can specify options that modify the standard processing of the loader.
- Many loaders have a special command language that is used to specify options
 - 1. Written in a separate input file
 - 2. Embedded in the primary input stream between object programs
 - 3. Included in source program
 - 4. Specified in job control language

Loader Options -- Command language

Selection of alternative sources of input

- INCLUDE program-name(library-name)
 - Direct the loader to read the designated object program from a library

Deletion of external symbols

- DELETE csect-name
 - Instruct the loader to delete the named control sections from the set of programs being loaded

Change the external symbols

- CHANGE name1, name2
 - Cause the external symbol name1 to be changed to name2 wherever it appears in the program

Loader Options -- Command language (Cond.)

- Automatic inclusion of library routines
 - LIBRARY MYLIB
 - Specify alternative libraries to be searched
 - User-specified libraries are normally searched before the standard system libraries.
 - NOCALL name
 - Specify the external reference name are to remain unresolved.
 - If it is know that some external reference is not to be performed in an execution

NOCALL STDDEV, PLOT, CORREL

System Programming



Consider the example in Fig. 2.17. If we would like to evaluate the use of READ and WRITE instead of RDREC and WRREC, for a temporary measure, we use the following loader commands

INCLUDE	READ(UTLIB)
INCLUDE	WRITE(UTILB)
DELETE	RDREC, WRREC
CHANGE	RDREC, READ
CHANGE	WRREC, WRITE

System Programming