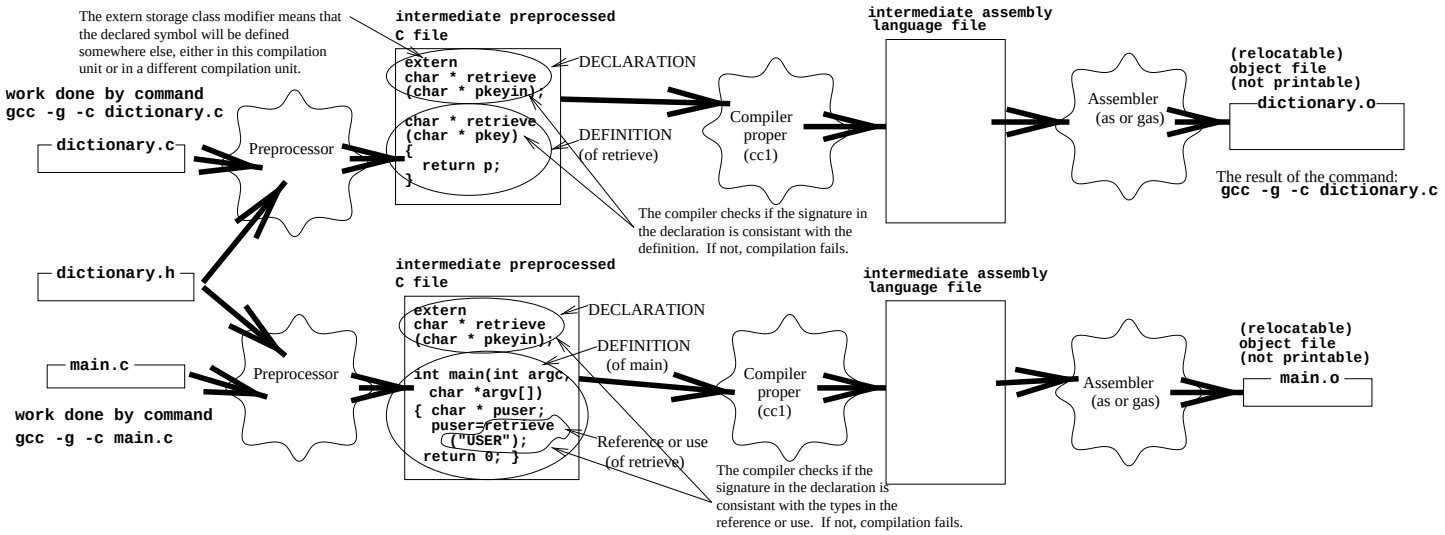
The extern storage class modifier means that the declared symbol will be defined somewhere else, either in this compilation unit or in a different compilation unit.
work done by command
gcc -g -c dictionary.c
dictionary.c
Preprocessor
intermediate preprocessed C file
extern
char * retrieve
(char * pkeyin);
char * retrieve
(char * pkey)
{
return p;
}
DECLARATION
DEFINITION
(of retrieve)
Compiler proper (cc1)
intermediate assembly language file
Assembler (as or gas)
(relocatable) object file (not printable)
dictionary.o
The result of the command:
gcc -g -c dictionary.c
The compiler checks if the signature in the declaration is consistant with the definition. If not, compilation fails.
dictionary.h
main.c
Preprocessor
work done by command
gcc -g -c main.c
intermediate preprocessed C file
extern
char * retrieve
(char * pkeyin);
int main(int argc,
char *argv[])
{ char * puser;
puser=retrieve
("USER");
return 0; }
DECLARATION
DEFINITION
(of main)
Reference or use
(of retrieve)
Compiler proper (cc1)
intermediate assembly language file
Assembler (as or gas)
(relocatable) object file (not printable)
main.o
The compiler checks if the signature in the declaration is consistant with the types in the reference or use. If not, compilation fails.