#### **Assembly Language**

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### **Objectives**

# Be able to read simple x86-64 assembly language programs

### Why Learn Assembly Language?

# You'll probably never write a program in assembly

Compilers are much better and more patient than you are

# **But,** understanding assembly is key to understanding the machine-level execution model

- Behavior of programs in presence of bugs
  - High-level language model breaks down
- Tuning program performance
  - Understanding sources of program inefficiency
- Implementing system software
  - Compiler has machine code as target
  - Operating systems must manage process state

### **Assembly Language**

#### One assembly instruction

 Straightforward translation to a group of machine language bits that describe one instruction

#### What do these instructions do?

- Same kinds of things as high-level languages!
  - Arithmetic & logic
    - Core computation
  - Data transfer
    - Copying data between memory locations and/or registers
  - Control transfer
    - Changing which instruction is next

### **Assembly Language (cont.)**

## But, assembly language has additional features:

- Distinguishes instructions & data
- Labels = names for program control points
- Pseudo-instructions = special directives to the assembler
- Macros = user-definable abbreviations for code & constants

### **Example C Program**

#### main.c:

```
#include <stdio.h>
void
hello(char *name, int hour, int min)
{
    printf("Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d.",
        name, hour, min);
}
int
main(void)
{
    hello("Alan", 2, 55);
    return (0);
}
```

Run the command:

UNIX% clang -S main.c

Output a file named main.s containing the assembly code for main.c

### C Compiler's Output

```
.file "main.c"
       .section
                      .rodata
.LC0:
       .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
       .text
.globl hello
       .type hello, @function
hello:
. LFB2:
       pushq
             %rbp
.LCFIO:
             %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
       subq
             $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
             %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
       movl %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
       movl
             -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl $.LCO, %edi
              $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call
              printf
       leave
       ret
. LFE2:
       .size hello, .-hello
       .section
                .rodata
.LC1:
       .string "Alan"
       .text
.qlobl main
              main, @function
       . type
main:
.LFB3:
              %rbp
       pushq
.LCFI3:
               %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.TCFT4:
       movl $55, %edx
       movl $2, %esi
       movl
               $.LC1, %edi
       call hello
              $0, %eax
       movl
<...snip...>
```

### A Breakdown of the Output

```
.file
               "main.c"
        .section
                       .rodata
.LC0:
        .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
        .text
.globl hello
       .type hello, @function
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
               %rbp
.LCFI0:
              %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
       subq
              $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
               %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
       movl %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
              -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl
             $.LCO, %edi
               $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<..snip..>
```

Instructions,
Pseudo-Instructions,
& Label Definitions

### **Instructions: Opcodes**

```
.file
              "main.c"
       .section
                       .rodata
.LC0:
        .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
       .text
.globl hello
       .type hello, @function
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
               %rbp
.LCFIO:
              %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
       subq
               $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
               %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
             %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
       movl
              -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl
             $.LCO, %edi
               $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<..snip..>
```

Arithmetic, data transfer, & control transfer

### **Instructions: Operands**

```
.file
             "main.c"
                       .rodata
       .section
. T.CO:
       .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
       .text
.qlobl hello
       .type hello, @function
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
              %rbp
.LCFIO:
              %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
       subq
              $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
              %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
       movl %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
       movl
             -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl
             $.LCO, %edi
               $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<..snip..>
```

Registers, constants, & labels

#### **Instruction Set Architecture**

## **Contract between programmer and the hardware**

- Defines visible state of the system
- Defines how state changes in response to instructions

#### **Assembly Programmer (compiler)**

ISA is model of how a program will execute

#### **Hardware Designer**

 ISA is formal definition of the correct way to execute a program

### **Architecture vs. Implementation**

#### **Instruction Set Architecture**

- Defines what a computer system does in response to a program and a set of data
- Programmer visible elements of computer system

#### **Implementation**

- Defines how a computer does it
- Sequence of steps to complete operations
- Time to execute each operation
- Hidden "bookkeeping" functions

#### Often Many Implementations of an ISA

ISA	Implementations	
x86-64	Intel Core i7	
	AMD FX-83XX	
	VIA Nano	
ARMv7-A	Apple A6/A6X	
	Qualcomm Krait	

# Why separate architecture and implementation?

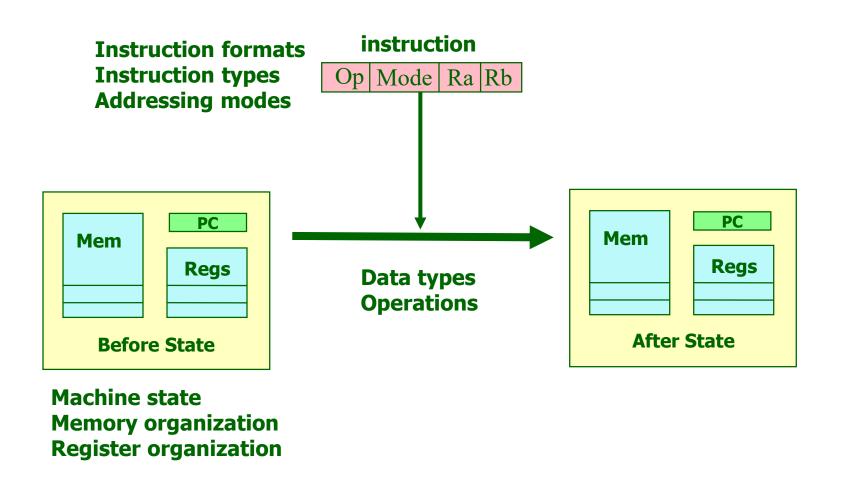
#### **Compatibility**

- VAX architecture: mainframe ⇒ single chip
- ARM: 20x performance range
  - high vs. low performance, power, price

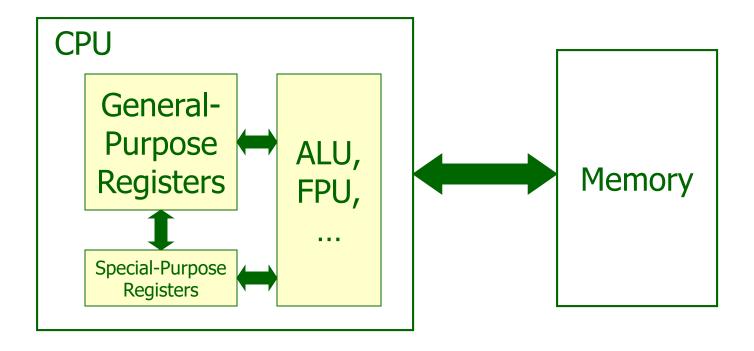
#### Longevity

- 20-30 years of ISA
- x86/x86-64 in 10th generation of implementations (architecture families)
- Retain software investment
- Amortize development costs over multiple markets

#### **Instruction Set Basics**

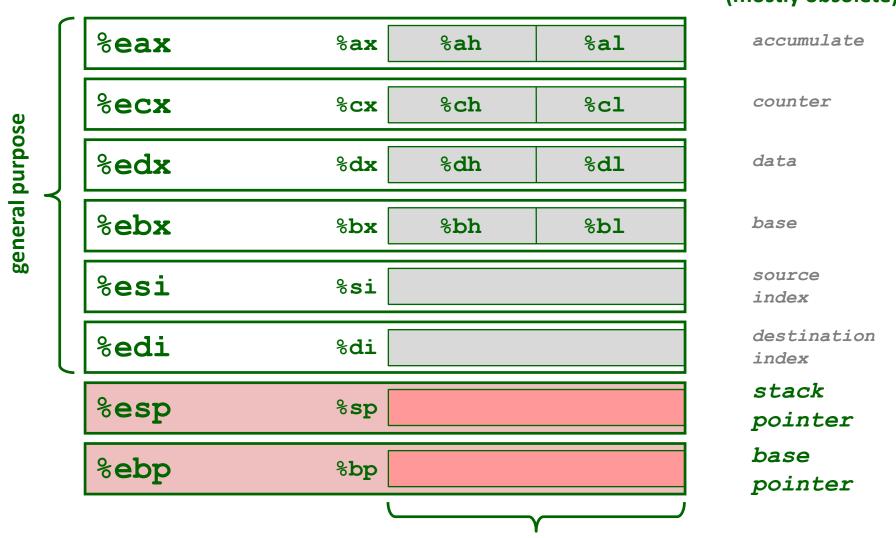


### **Typical Machine State**



### **Integer Registers (IA32)**

### Origin (mostly obsolete)



**Assembly** 

### **Moving Data: IA32**

%eax

#### **Moving Data**

Cox

%ecx

mov1 *Source, Dest*:

%edx

#### **Operand Types**

%ebx

• Immediate: Constant integer data

%esi

• **Example:** \$0x400, \$-533

%edi

Like C constant, but prefixed with '\$'

%esp

Encoded with 1, 2, or 4 bytes

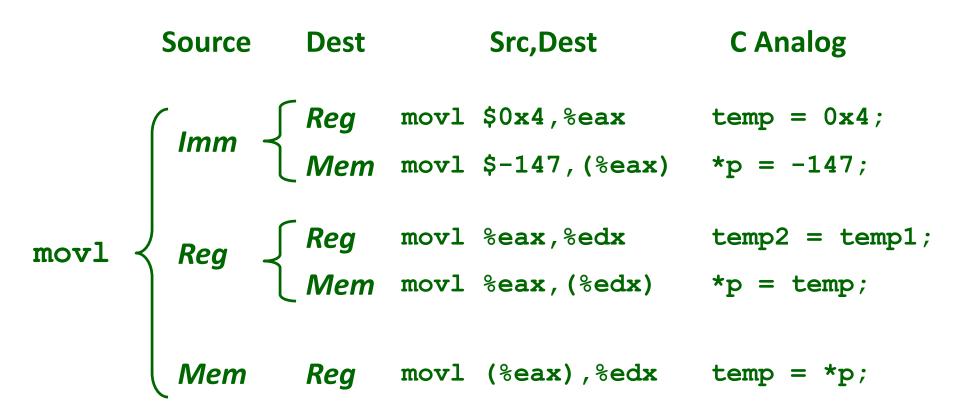
%ebp

- Register: One of 8 integer registers
  - Example: %eax, %edx
  - But %esp and %ebp reserved for special use
  - Others have special uses for particular instructions
- Memory: 4 consecutive bytes of memory at address given by register
  - Simplest example: (%eax)
  - Various other "address modes"

    Assembly

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### movl Operand Combinations



# Cannot do memory-memory transfer with a single instruction

### **Simple Memory Addressing Modes**

Normal (R) Mem[Reg[R]]

Register R specifies memory address

```
movl (%ecx), %eax
```

#### Displacement D(R) Mem[Reg[R]+D]

- Register R specifies start of memory region
- Constant displacement D specifies offset

```
movl 8(%ebp), %edx
```

### **Using Simple Addressing Modes**

```
void
swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
   int t0 = *xp;
   int t1 = *yp;

   *xp = t1;
   *yp = t0;
}
```

```
swap:
 pushl %ebp
 movl %esp, %ebp
 pushl %ebx
 movl 8(%ebp), %edx
 movl 12(%ebp), %ecx
 movl (%edx), %ebx
                         Body
 movl (%ecx), %eax
 movl %eax, (%edx)
 movl %ebx, (%ecx)
 popl %ebx
 popl %ebp
 ret
```

### **Using Simple Addressing Modes**

```
void
swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
   int t0 = *xp;
   int t1 = *yp;

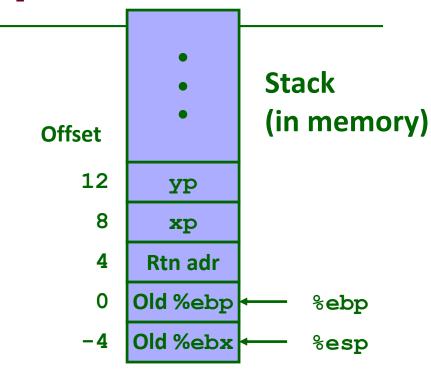
   *xp = t1;
   *yp = t0;
}
```

```
swap:
  pushl %ebp
  movl %esp, %ebp
  pushl %ebx
  mov1 8(%ebp), %edx
  movl 12(%ebp), %ecx
  movl (%edx), %ebx
                          Body
  movl (%ecx), %eax
  movl %eax, (%edx)
  movl %ebx, (%ecx)
  popl %ebx
  popl %ebp
  ret
```

### **Understanding Swap**

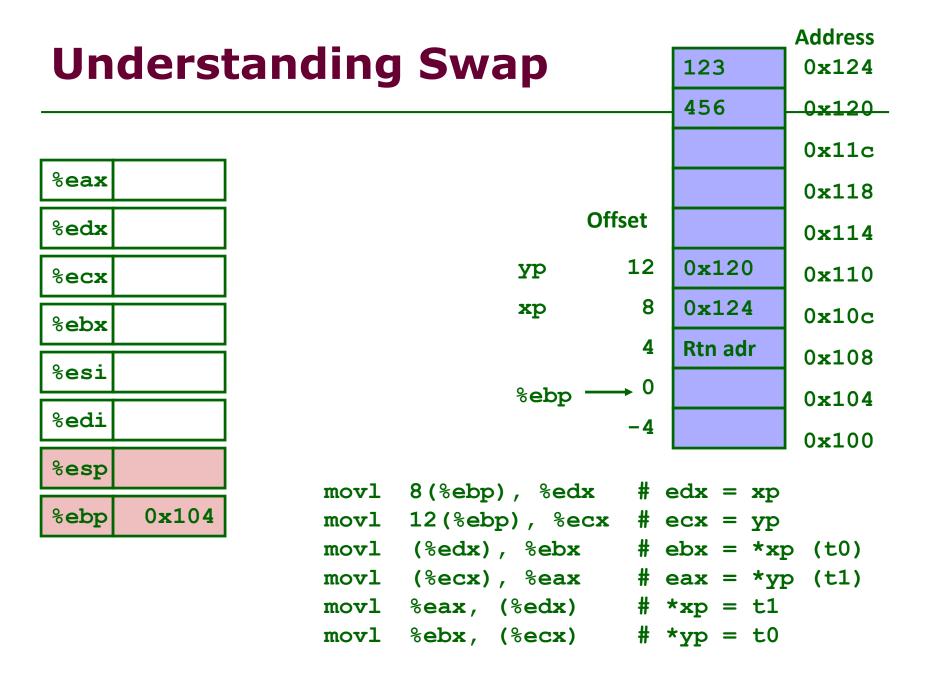
```
void
swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
   int t0 = *xp;
   int t1 = *yp;

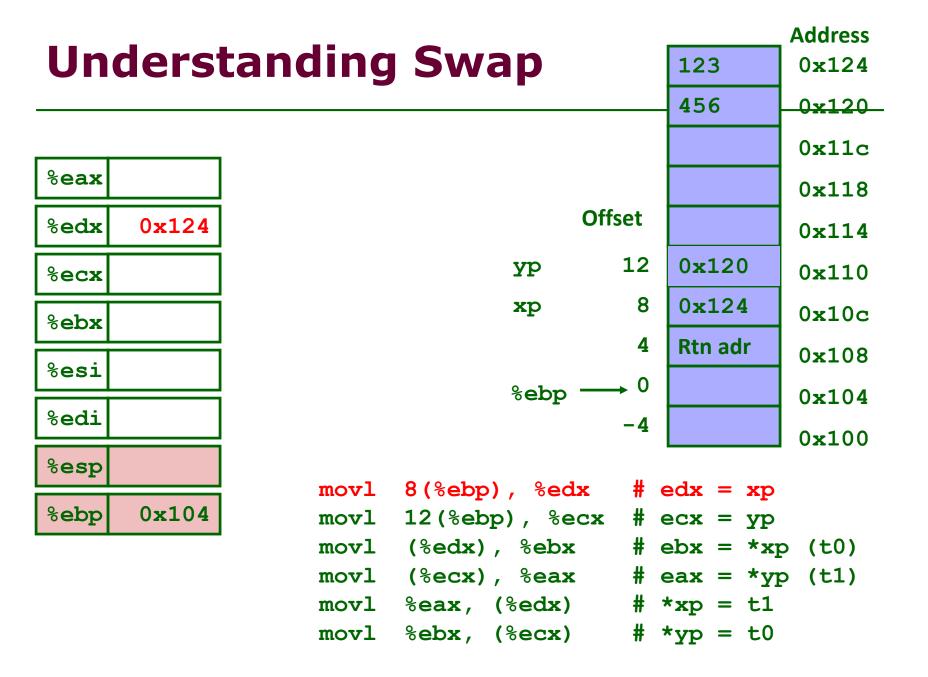
   *xp = t1;
   *yp = t0;
}
```

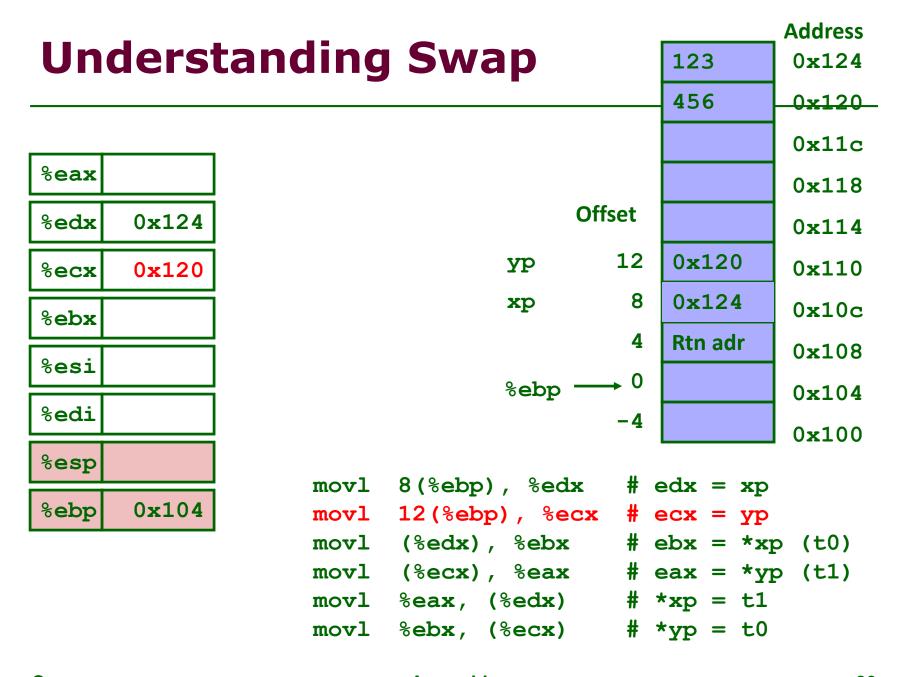


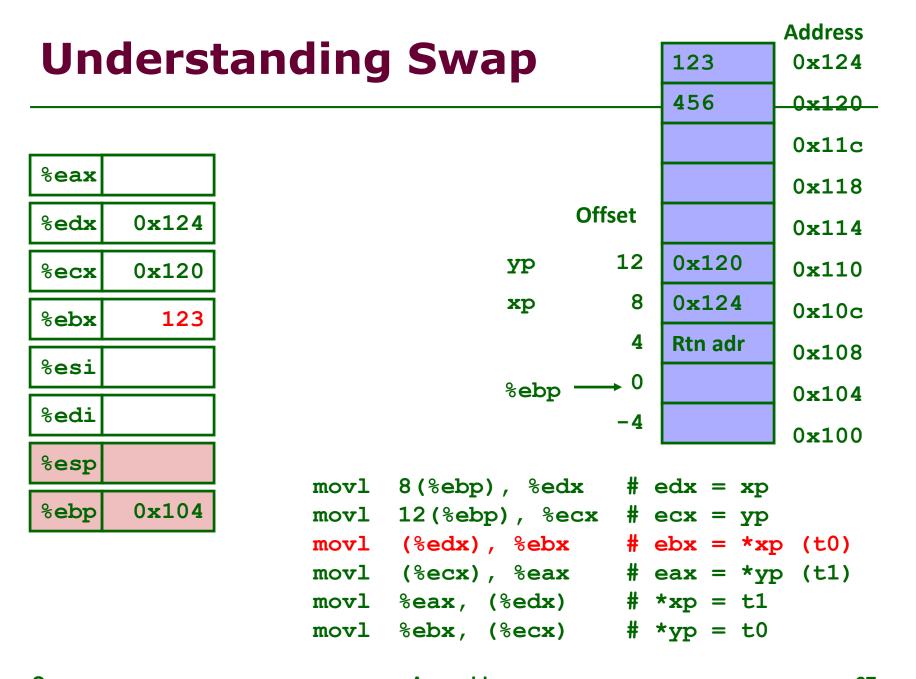
Register	Value
%edx	хр
%ecx	ур
%ebx	t0
%eax	t1

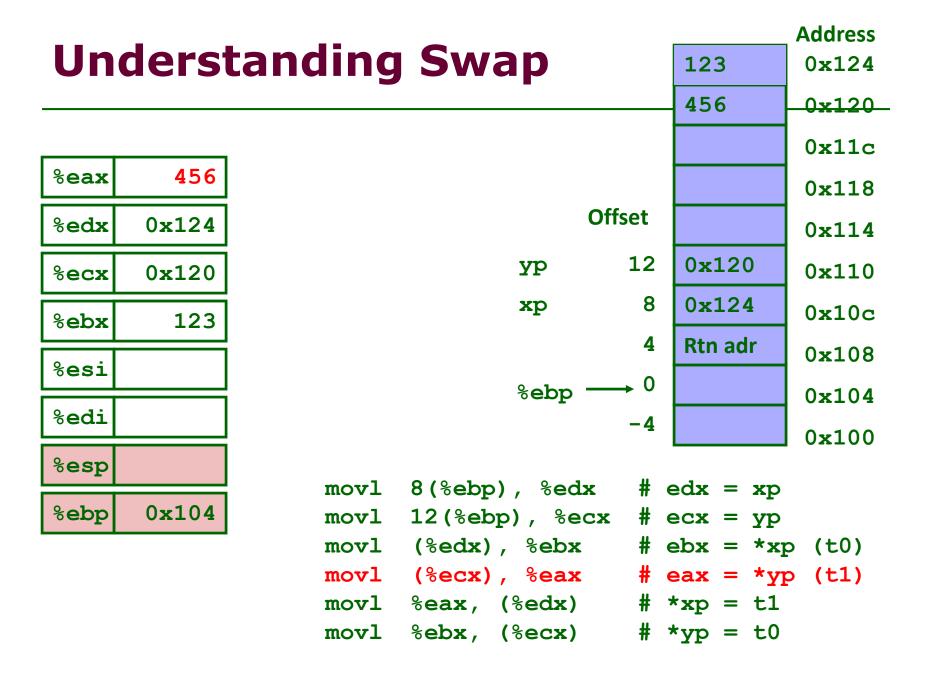
```
movl 8(%ebp), %edx # edx = xp
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx # ecx = yp
movl (%edx), %ebx # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl (%ecx), %eax # eax = *yp (t1)
movl %eax, (%edx) # *xp = t1
movl %ebx, (%ecx) # *yp = t0
```

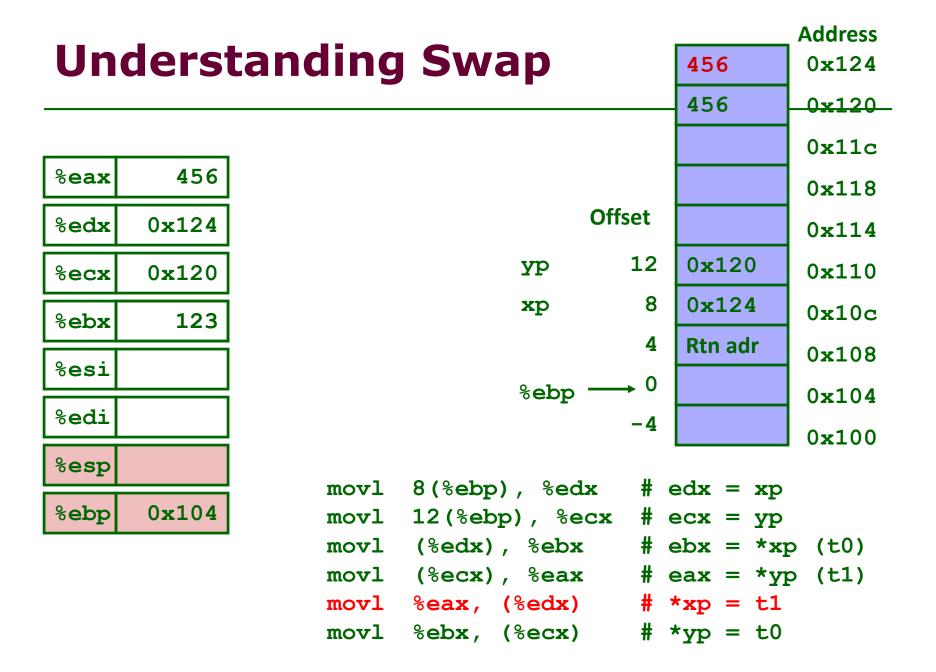


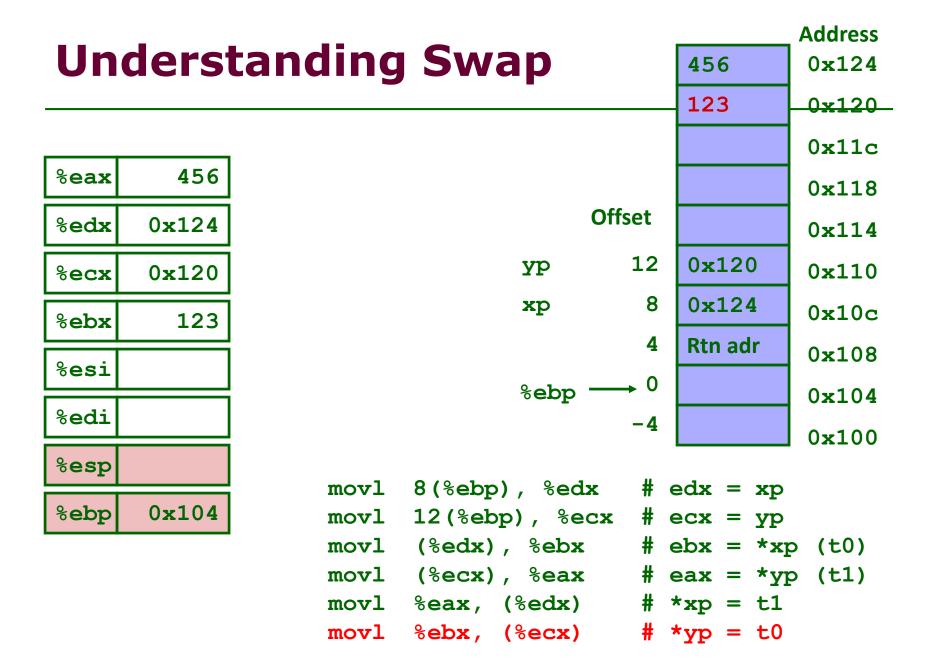












### **Complete Memory Addressing Modes**

#### **Most General Form**

```
D(Rb,Ri,S) Mem[Reg[Rb]+S*Reg[Ri]+D]
```

- D: Constant "displacement" 1, 2, or 4 bytes
- Rb: Base register: Any of 8 integer registers
- Ri: Index register: Any, except for %esp
  - Unlikely you'd use %ebp, either
- S: Scale: 1, 2, 4, or 8 (*why these numbers?*)

#### **Special Cases**

```
(Rb,Ri) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]]
D(Rb,Ri) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]+D]
(Rb,Ri,S) Mem[Reg[Rb]+S*Reg[Ri]]
```

### x86-64 Integer Registers

%rax	%eax	% <b>r8</b>	%r8d
%rbx	%ebx	% <b>r9</b>	%r9d
%rcx	%ecx	%r10	%r10d
%rdx	%edx	% <b>r11</b>	%r11d
%rsi	%esi	%r12	%r12d
%rdi	%edi	% <b>r13</b>	%r13d
%rsp	%esp	% <b>r14</b>	%r14d
%rbp	%ebp	% <b>r15</b>	%r15d

- Extend existing registers. Add 8 new ones.
- Make %ebp/%rbpAgeneral purpose

#### **Instructions**

# Long word 1 (4 Bytes) ↔ Quad word q (8 Bytes)

#### **New instructions:**

- mov1 → movq
- addl → addq
- sall → salq
- etc.

#### 32-bit instructions that generate 32-bit results

- Set higher order bits of destination register to 0
- Example: addl

### 32-bit code for swap

```
void
swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
   int t0 = *xp;
   int t1 = *yp;

   *xp = t1;
   *yp = t0;
}
```

```
swap:
  pushl %ebp
                         Set
 movl %esp,%ebp
 pushl %ebx
 movl 8(%ebp), %edx
 movl
        12(%ebp), %ecx
 movl (%edx), %ebx
                         Body
 movl (%ecx), %eax
 movl
        %eax, (%edx)
 movl
        %ebx, (%ecx)
 popl %ebx
        %ebp
 popl
```

ret

### 64-bit code for swap

```
void
swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
  int t0 = *xp;
  int t1 = *yp;

  *xp = t1;
  *yp = t0;
}
```

#### Operands passed in registers (why useful?)

- First (xp) in %rdi, second (yp) in %rsi
- 64-bit pointers

#### No stack operations required

#### 32-bit data

Data held in registers %eax and %edx

### 64-bit code for long int swap

```
void
swap_l(long *xp, long *yp)
{
   long t0 = *xp;
   long t1 = *yp;

   *xp = t1;
   *yp = t0;
}
```

#### 64-bit data

- Data held in registers %rax and %rdx
- movq operation
  - "q" stands for quad-word

## **Application Binary Interface (ABI)**

# Standardizes the use of memory and registers by C compilers

- Enables interoperability of code compiled by different C compilers
  - E.g., a program compiled with Intel's optimizing C compiler can call a library function that was compiled by the GNU C compiler
- Sets the size of built-in data types
  - E.g., int, long, etc.
- Dictates the implementation of function calls
  - E.g., how parameters and return values are passed

## Register Usage

# The x86-64 ABI specifies that registers are used as follows

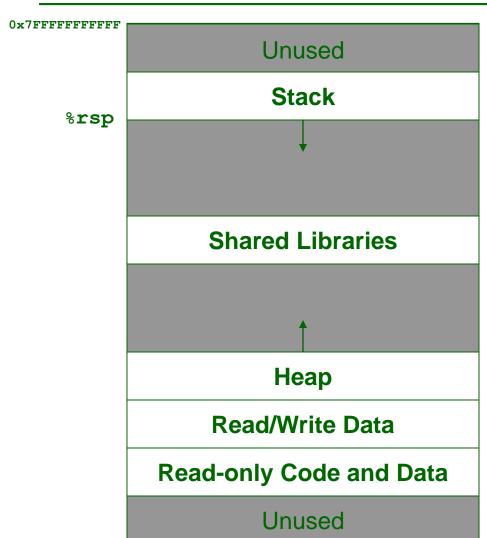
- Temporary (callee can change these)
   %rax, %r10, %r11
- Parameters to function calls
   %rdi, %rsi, %rdx, %rcx, %r8, %r9
- Callee saves (callee can only change these after saving their current value)

%rbx, %rbp, %r12-%r15

- %rbp is typically used as the "frame" pointer to the current function's local variables
- Return values

%rax, %rdx

#### **Procedure Calls and the Stack**



# Where are local variables stored?

- Registers (only 16)
- Stack

# Stack provides as much local storage as necessary

- Until memory exhausted
- Each procedure allocates its own space on the stack

#### **Referencing the stack**

• %rsp points to the bottom of the stack in x86-64

#### **Control Flow: Function Calls**

#### What must assembly/machine language do?

Caller		Callee	
1. 2.	Save function arguments Branch to function body		
		<ul><li>3.</li><li>4.</li><li>5.</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Execute body</li> <li>May allocate memory</li> <li>May call functions</li> <li>Save function result</li> <li>Branch to where called</li> </ul>

4. Use segisting to targates adverses the target and the control of the control o

# **Program Stack**

Figure 3.3: Stack Frame with Base Pointer

Position	Contents	Frame
8n+16(%rbp)	memory argument eightbyte $n$	
		Previous
16(%rbp)	memory argument eightbyte 0	
8(%rbp)	return address	
0(%rbp)	previous %rbp value	
-8(%rbp)	unspecified	Current
0(%rsp)	variable size	
-128(%rsp)	red zone	

Figure 3.3 is reproduced from the AMD64 ABI Draft 0.99.5 by Matz et al.

#### What are Pseudo-Instructions?

#### **Assembler directives, with various purposes**

#### Data & instruction encoding:

- Separate instructions & data into sections
- Reserve memory with initial data values
- Reserve memory w/o initial data values
- Align instructions & data

# Provide information useful to linker or debugger

Correlate source code with assembly/machine

**\*** ...

#### **Instructions & Pseudo-Instructions**

```
.file
                "main.c"
                        .rodata
         section
. T.CO:
        .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
        .text
.globl hello
                hello @function
        .type
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
                %rbp
.LCFI0:
               %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
        subq
                $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
                %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
               %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl
               %edx, -16(%rbp)
        movl
       movl
              -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
               -8(%rbp), %rsi
       mova
                $.LCO, %edi
       movl
                $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<..snip..>
```

Instructions,
Pseudo-Instructions,
& Label Definitions

Separate instructions & data

#### **Instructions & Pseudo-Instructions**

```
.file
                "main.c"
        .section
                        .rodata
.LC0:
        .string 'Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
        . text
.globl hello
                hello, @function
        .type
hello:
.LFB2:
                %rbp
       pushq
.LCFI0:
               %rsp, %rbp
       movq
. LCFT1:
        subq
                $16, %rsp
. LCFT2:
                %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
               %esi, -12(%rbp)
       mov1
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
              -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl
                $.LCO, %edi
                $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
    ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<...snip..>
```

Instructions,
Pseudo-Instructions,
& Label Definitions

Reserve memory with initial data values

#### **Instructions & Pseudo-Instructions**

```
.file
                "main.c"
        .section
                        .rodata
.LC0:
        .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
        .text
.globl hello
                hello, @function
        . type
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
                %rbp
.LCFI0:
                %rsp, %rbp
       movq
. LCFT1:
        subq
                $16, %rsp
. LCFT2:
                %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
              %esi, -12(%rbp)
       mov1
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
              -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl
                $.LCO, %edi
                $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2: hello, .-hello
```

Instructions,
Pseudo-Instructions,
& Label Definitions

Correlate source code with assembly/machine

## **Label Types**

```
.file
                "main.c"
        .section
                         .rodata
.LC0:
        string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
        .text
.globl hello
                hello, @function
        . type
hello:
.LFB2:
        pusha
                %rbp
.LCFI0:
                %rsp, %rbp
        movq
.LCFI1:
        subq
                $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
                %rdi, -8(%rbp)
        movq
                %esi, -12(%rbp)
        movl
                %edx, -16(%rbp)
        movl
        movl
               -16(%rbp), %ecx
              -12(%rbp), %edx
        movl
        movq
                -8(%rbp), %rsi
        movl
                $.LCO, %edi
                $0, %eax
        movl
```

```
call printf
leave
ret
.LFE2:
    .size hello, .-hello
<..snip..>
```

#### Definitions, internal references, & external references

The label's value is the address of the subsequent instruction or pseudo-instruction

# **Assembly/Machine Language – Semantics**

#### **Basic model of execution**

- Fetch instruction, from memory @ PC
- Increment PC
- Decode instruction
- Fetch operands, from registers or memory
- Execute operation
- Store result(s), in registers or memory

## **Simulate Program Execution**

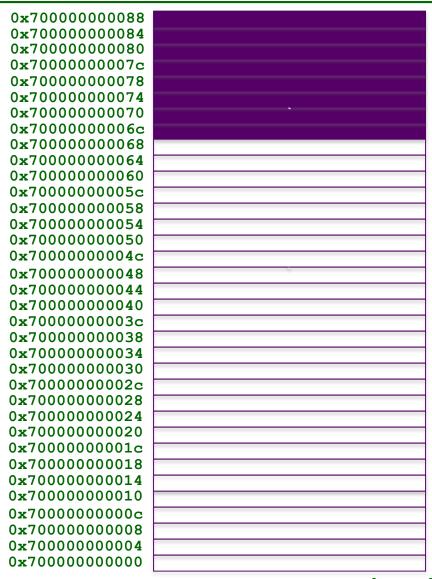
```
.file "main.c"
       .section
                      .rodata
.LC0:
       .string "Hello, %s, it's %d:%02d."
       .text
.globl hello
       .type hello, @function
hello:
.LFB2:
       pushq
             %rbp
.LCFIO:
             %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.LCFI1:
       subq
             $16, %rsp
.LCFI2:
              %rdi, -8(%rbp)
       movq
       movl %esi, -12(%rbp)
       movl %edx, -16(%rbp)
       movl
             -16(%rbp), %ecx
       movl -12(%rbp), %edx
       movq -8(%rbp), %rsi
       movl $.LCO, %edi
              $0, %eax
       movl
```

```
call
              printf
       leave
       ret
. LFE2:
       .size hello, .-hello
       .section
                .rodata
.LC1:
       .string "Alan"
       .text
.qlobl main
              main, @function
       . type
main:
.LFB3:
              %rbp
       pushq
.LCFI3:
               %rsp, %rbp
       movq
.TCFT4:
       movl $55, %edx
       movl $2, %esi
       movl $.LC1, %edi
       call hello
       movl $0, %eax
<..next slide..>
```

## Simulate Program ... (cont.)

```
movl $0, %eax
leave
ret
.LFE3:
    .size main, .-main
<..snip..>
```

#### **Exercise**



#### initial values:

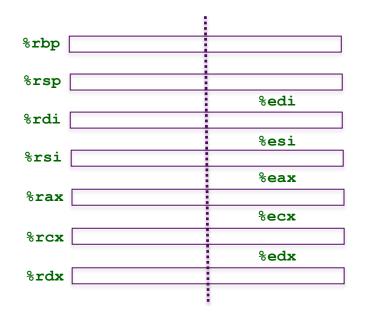
%rbp 0x70000000088

%rsp 0x7000000006c

.LC0 0x408280

.LC1 0x408400

&"movl \$0, %eax" in main() == 0x400220



## More x86-64 Assembly

# Chapter 3 of the textbook explains x86 and x86-64 assembly in greater detail

- More examples translated from C
- More detail than you're expected to know for this course

# Some code sequences generated by the compiler can still be confusing

Usually not important for this class (web is helpful if you are still curious)

### **Next Time**

#### **Program Linking**