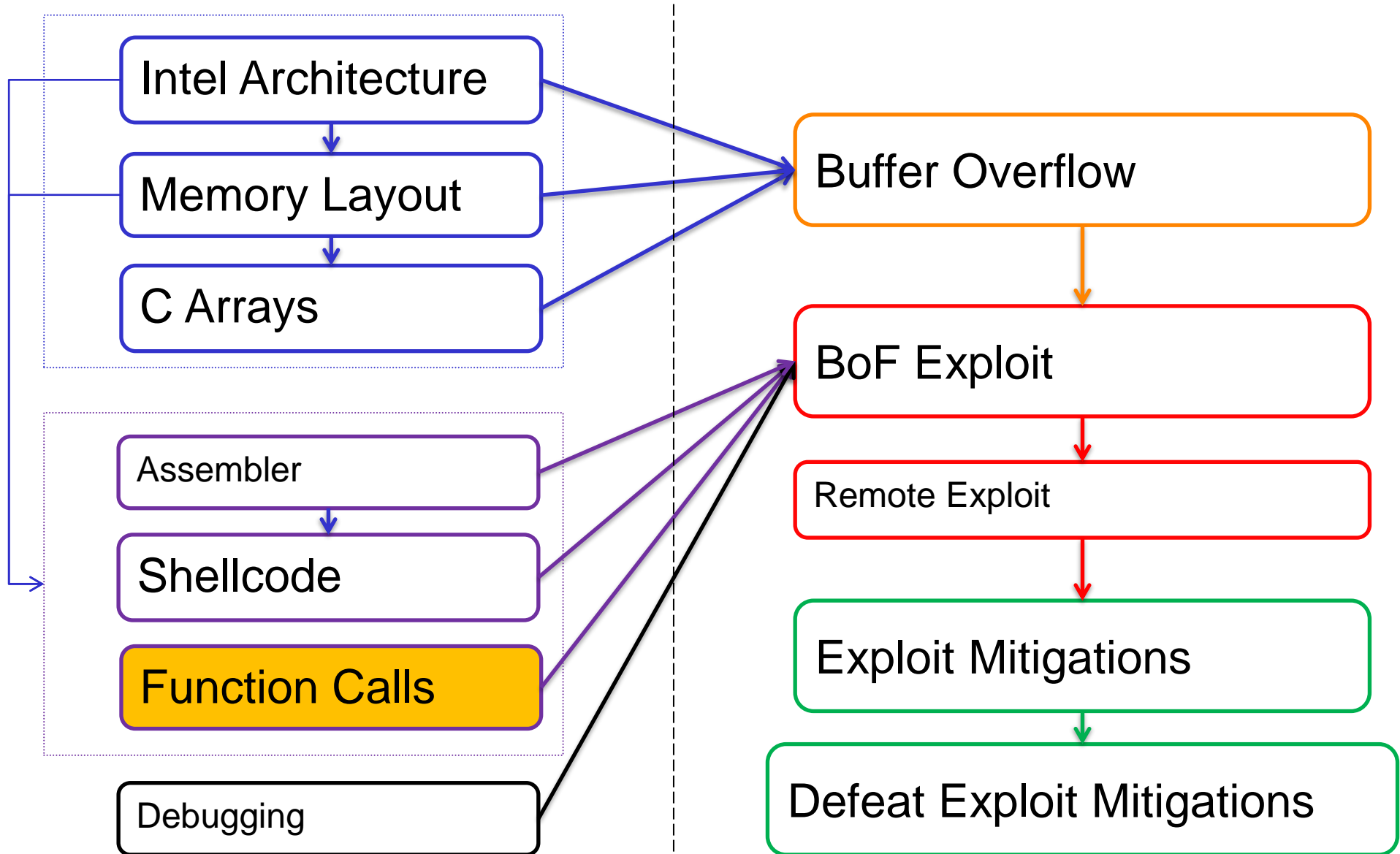

Function Call Convention

Content

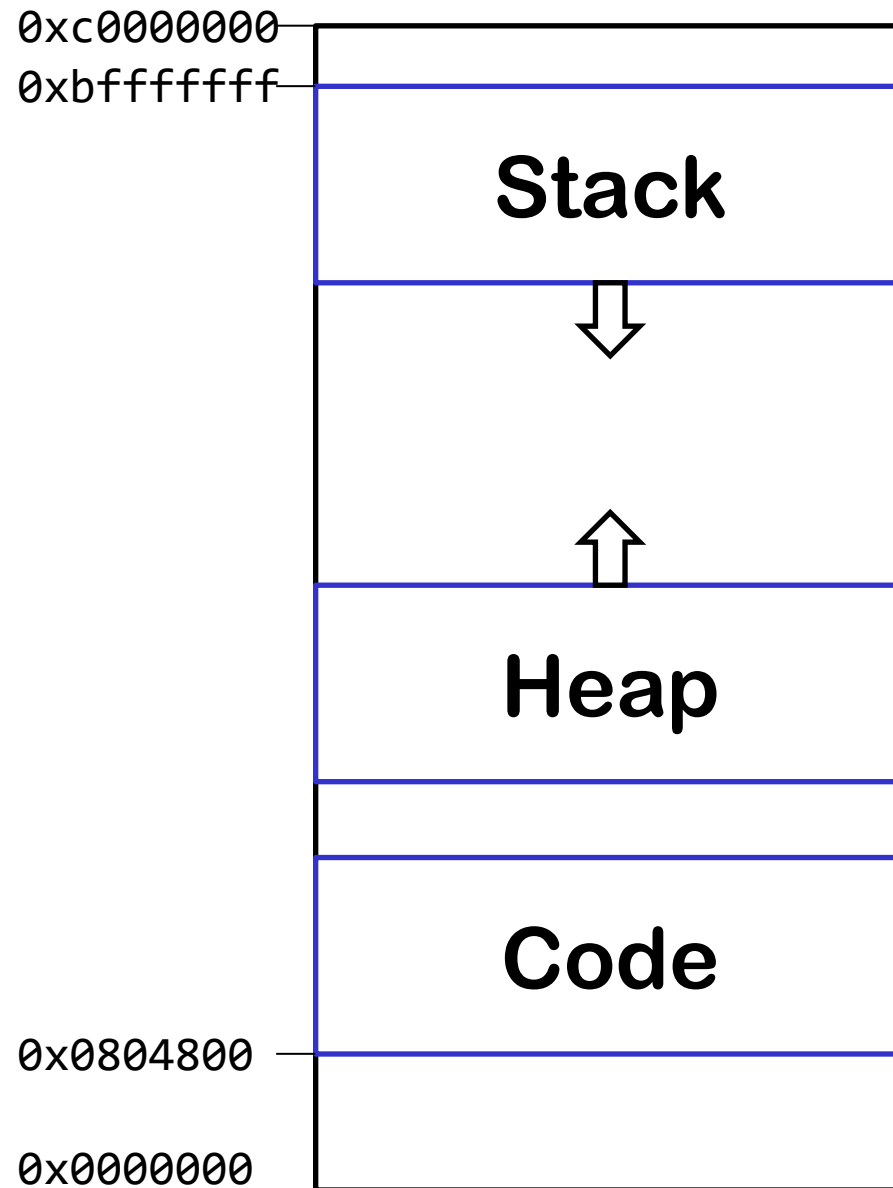


Function Call Convention

Function call convention:

- ✦ How functions work
- ✦ Program-metadata on the stack

x32 Memory Layout

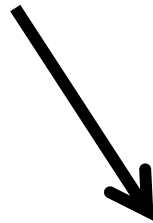


Stacks

How do they work?

Stack

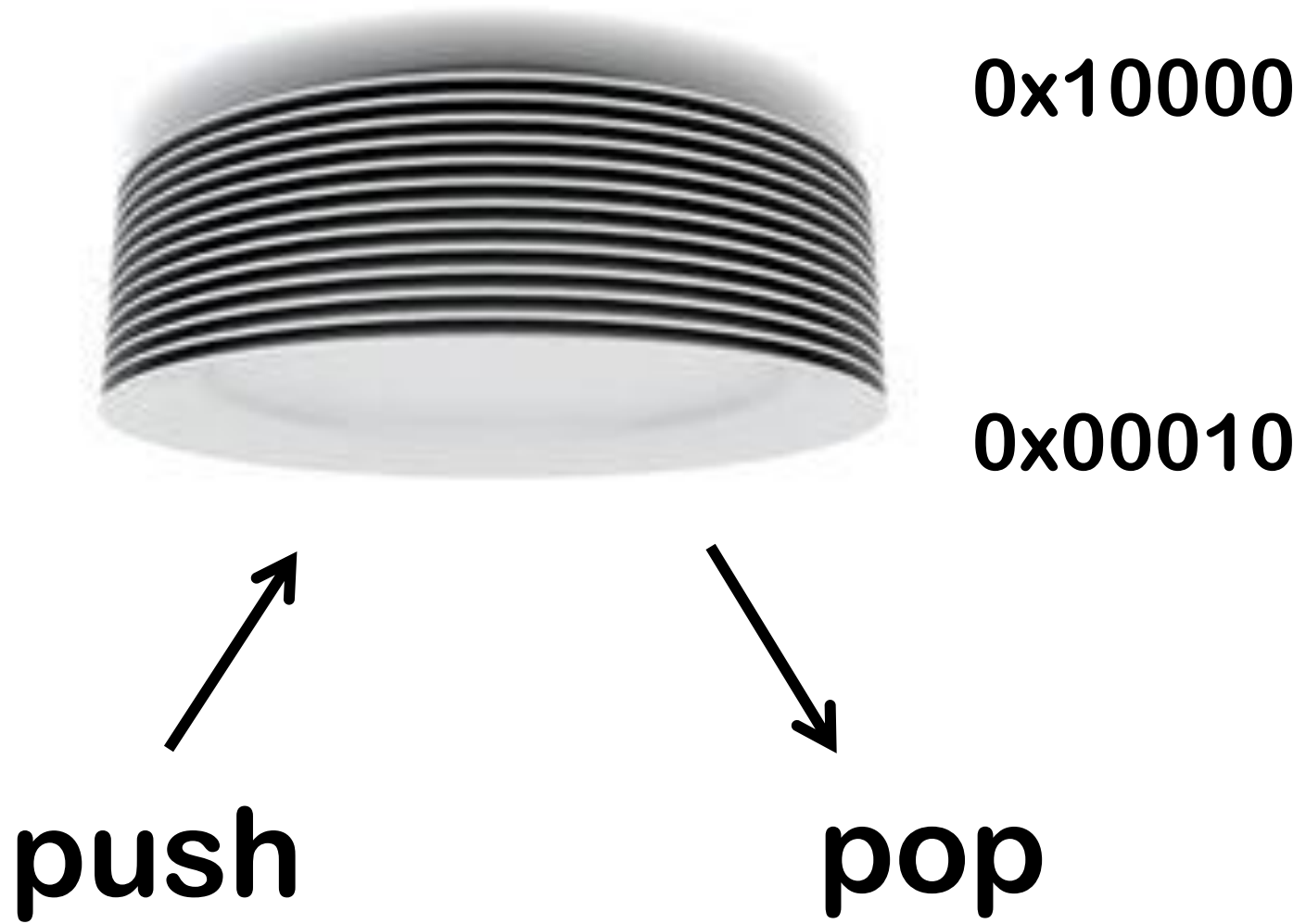
push



pop



Stack



Stack

push 0x1

push 0x2

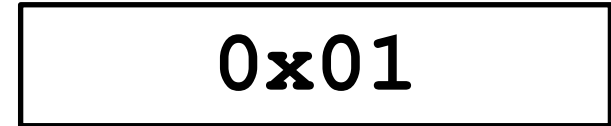
push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

Stack

push 0x1



push 0x2

push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

Stack

push 0x1

push 0x2

push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

0x01
0x02

Stack

push 0x1

push 0x2

push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

0x01
0x02
0x03

Stack

push 0x1

push 0x2

push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

0x01
0x02

Stack

push 0x1

push 0x2

push 0x3

pop

push 0x4

0x01
0x02
0x04

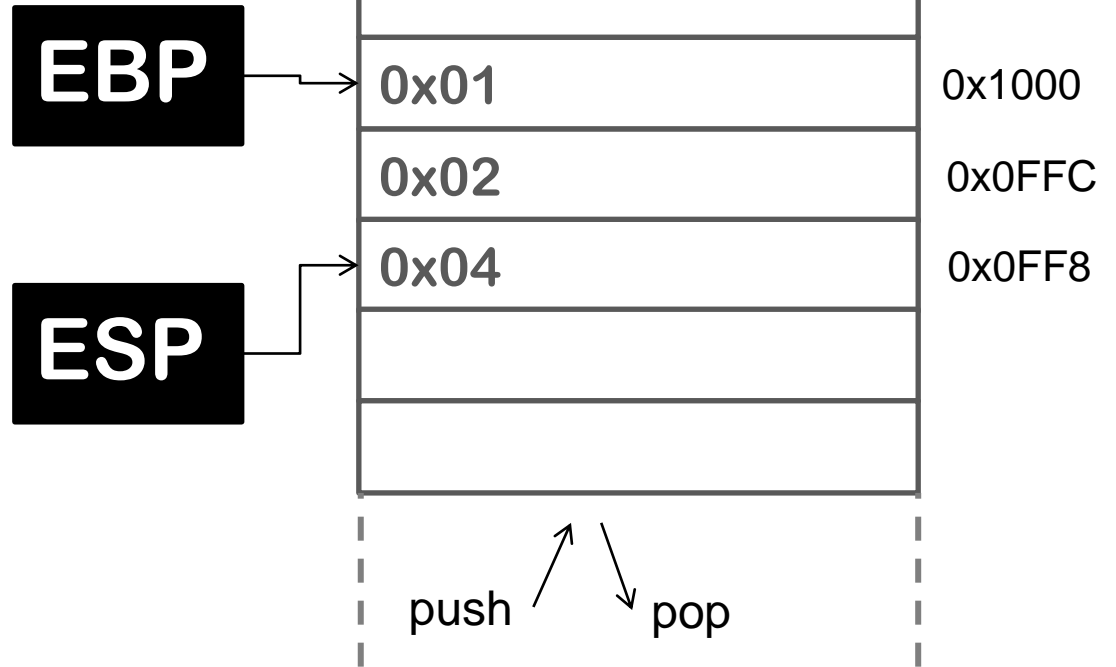


Stack on intel

Intel stack registers:

- ✦ **ESP**: Stack **P**ointer
- ✦ **EBP**: (Stack-) **B**ase **P**ointer

EBP = 0x1000
ESP = 0x0FF8





Stack in computers

Stack is using process memory as basis

CPU instruction support (because stack is so useful)

Note:

- ✦ CPU instructions like push/pop are just for ease of use
- ✦ The “stack values” can be accessed (read, write) like every other memory address
- ✦ You can point the stack (ebp, esp) to wherever in the memory you want
- ✦ There’s usually just ONE stack per process (thread)

x32 Call Convention

Functions and the Stack



What is a function?

- ★ Self contained subroutine
- ★ Re-usable
- ★ Can be called from anywhere
- ★ After function is finished: Jump to the calling function (callee)

x32 Call Convention

```
void main(void) {  
    int blubb = 0;  
    foobar(blubb);  
    return;  
}
```

```
void foobar (int arg1) {  
    char compass1[];  
    char compass2[];  
}
```



What does the function foobar() need?

- ★ Function Argument:
 - ★ blubb
- ★ Local variables
 - ★ Compass1
 - ★ Compass2
- ★ And: Address of next instruction in main()
 - ★ &return

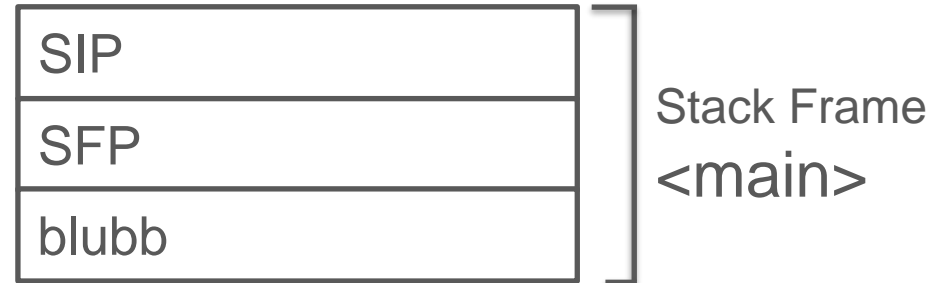


x32 Call Convention

Saved IP (&__libc_start)

Saved Frame Pointer

Local Variables <main>

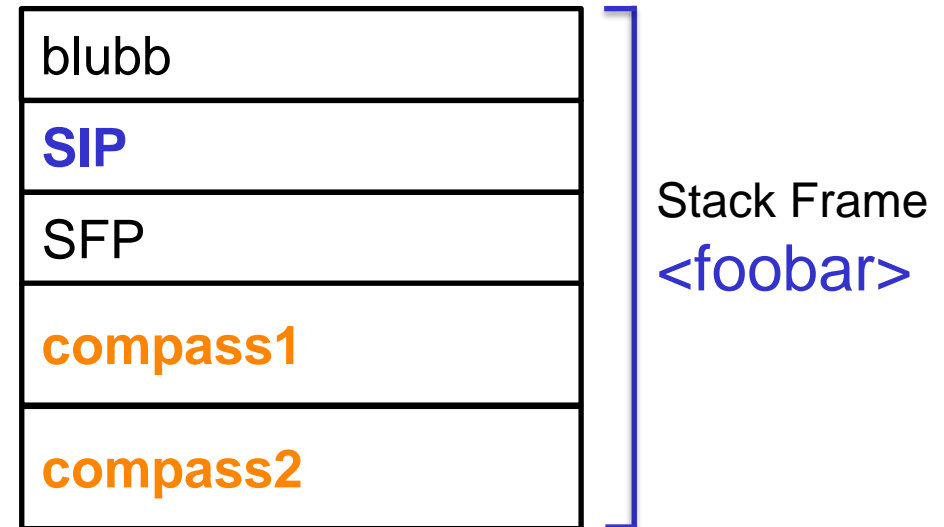


Argument for <foobar>

Saved IP (&return)

Saved Frame Pointer

Local Variables <foobar>



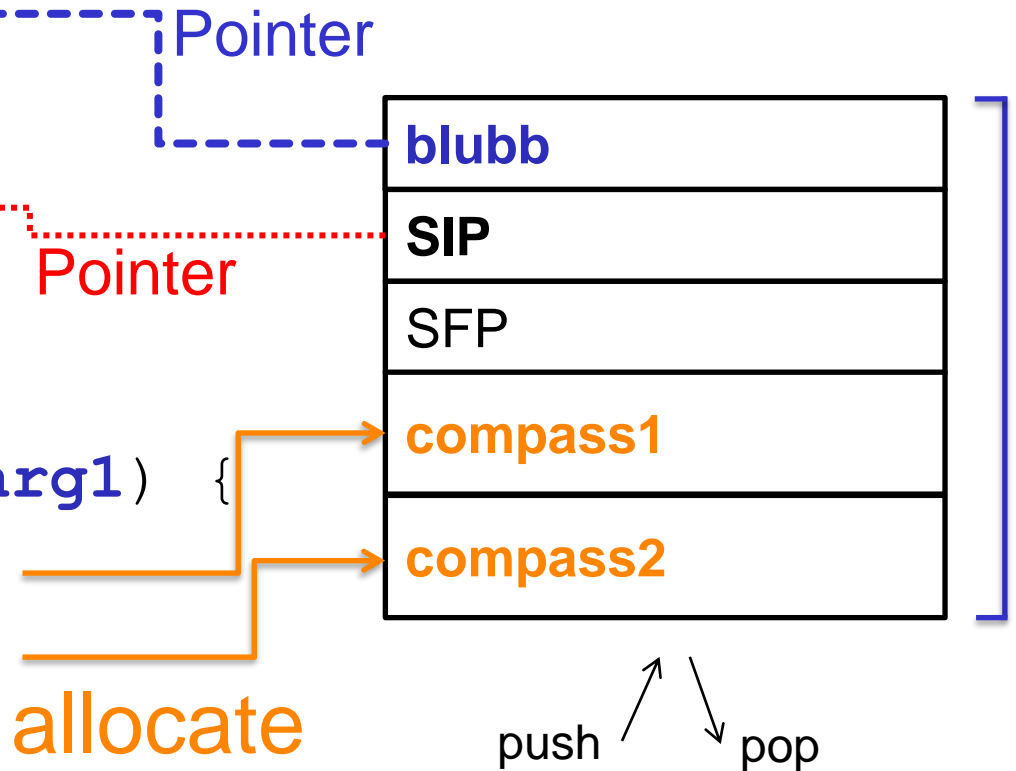
push ↗ ↘ pop



x32 Call Convention

```
void main(void) {  
    int blubb = 0;  
    foobar(&blubb);  
    return;  
}
```

```
void foobar(int *arg1) {  
    char compass1[];  
    char compass2[];  
}
```



x32 Call Convention

Saved IP (&__libc_start)

Saved Frame Pointer

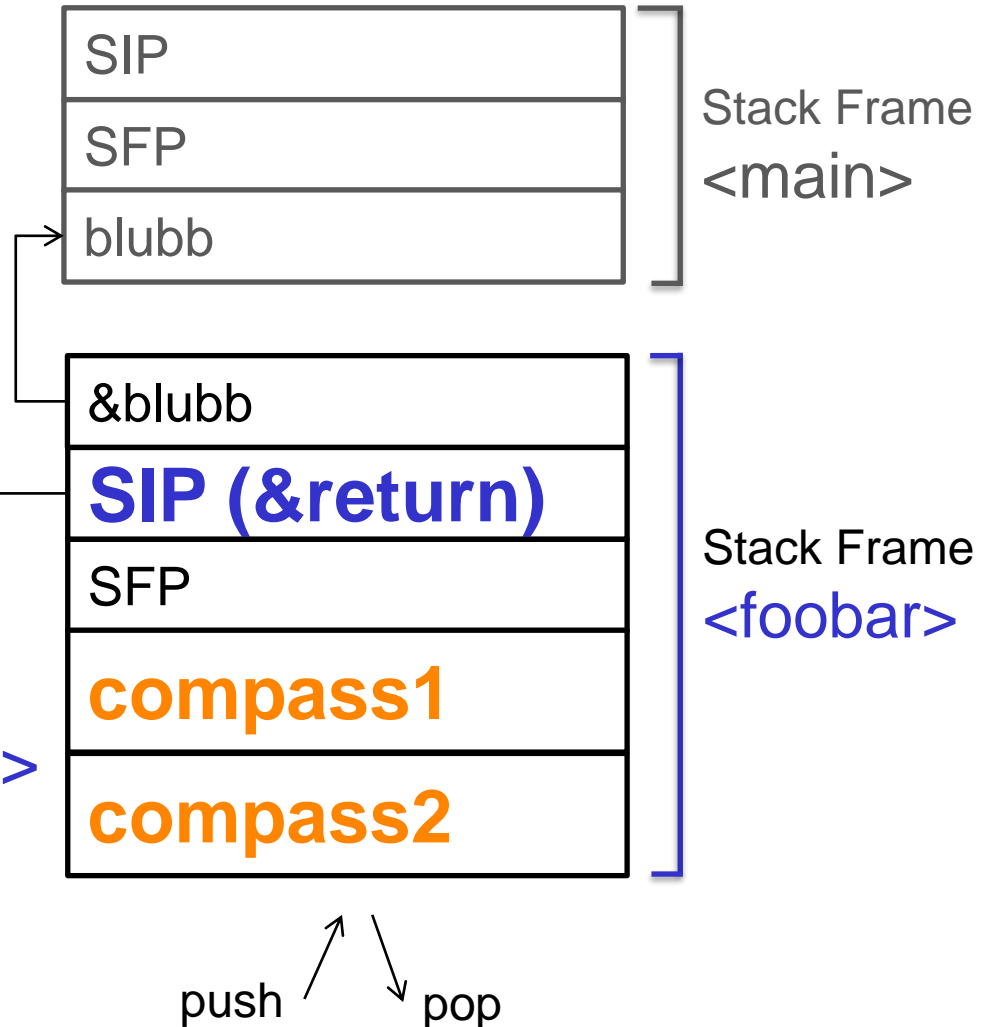
Local Variables <main>

Argument for <foobar>

Saved IP (&return)

Saved Frame Pointer

Local Variables <foobar>





SIP: Stored Instruction Pointer

- ★ Copy of EIP
- ★ Points to the address where control flow continues after end of function
 - ★ (return, ret)
- ★ Usually points into the code section
- ★ Return address / Rücksprungadresse



SBP: Stored Base Pointer

- ★ Copy of EBP
- ★ Every function has its own little stack frame
- ★ Stack frame is where local variables, function arguments etc. are
- ★ A function should only access its own stack frame
- ★ Most of the function epilogue and prologue handle setting up and removing the stack frame
- ★ Note: It is not 100% necessary to completely understand it - but you will see it in the disassembly of every function
- ★ Note: You can compile programs without using SBP (ASM will be a bit harder to read)



x32 Call Convention

Attention! Assembler ahead!

✦ AT&T vs Intel syntax

Intel syntax:

```
mov     eax, 1
mov     ebx, 0ffh
int     80h
```

AT&T syntax:

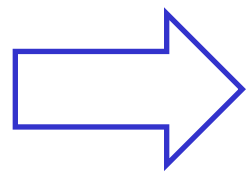
```
movl    $1, %eax
movl    $0xff, %ebx
int     $0x80
```

Don't hang me if I messed this up somewhere



In ASM:

```
call 0x11223344 <&foobar>
```

 `push EIP`
`jmp 0x11223344`

```
<function code> (0x11223344)
```

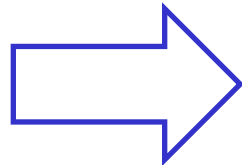
```
ret
```

 `pop eip`

x32 Call Convention

In ASM:

```
call 0x11223344 <&foobar>
```

 `push EIP`
`jmp 0x11223344`

```
mov ebp, esp  
<function code>
```

```
mov esp, ebp
```

```
ret
```

 `pop eip`



x32 Call Convention

In ASM:

```
call 0x11223344 <&foobar>
```

```
    push EIP
```

```
    jmp 0x11223344
```

```
mov ebp, esp
```

```
<function code>
```

```
mov esp, ebp
```

```
ret
```

```
    pop eip
```

Prolog

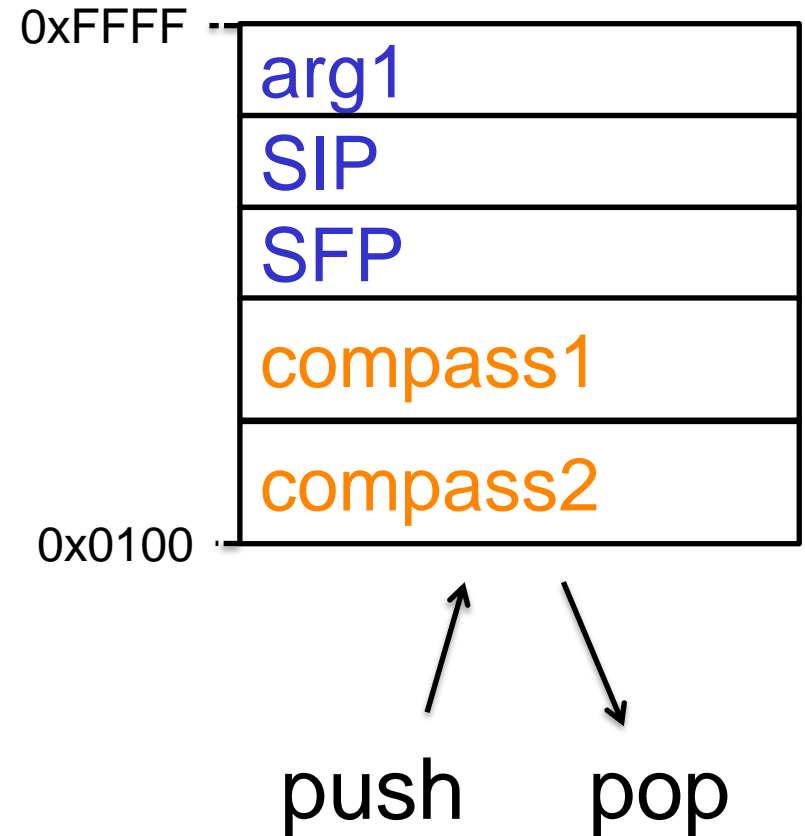
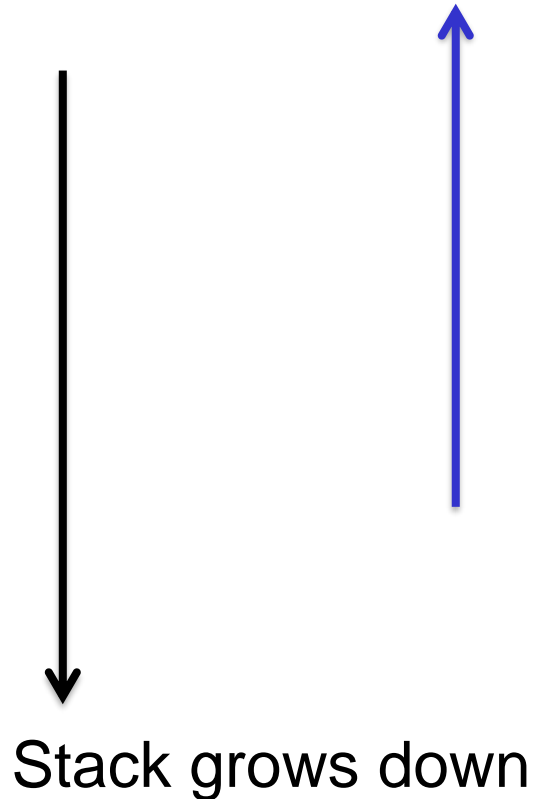
Function

Epilog



x32 Call Convention



Buffer writes go up





x32 Call Convention

Recap:

- ★ User data is on the stack
- ★ Also: important stuff is on the stack (Instruction Pointer, SIP)
- ★ Stack grows down 
- ★ Writes go up 

x32 Call Convention Details

x32 Call Convention Details

```
int add(int x, int y) {  
    int sum;  
    sum = x + y;  
    return sum;  
}
```

```
void main(void) {  
    int c;  
    c = add(3, 4)  
}
```


x32 Call Convention Details

```
c = add(3, 4)
```

C

```
push 4  
push 3  
call add
```

ASM

```
push 4  
push 3  
push EIP  
jmp add
```

ASM, detailed

x32 Call Convention Details

add():

```
push 4  
push 3  
push EIP  
jmp add
```

```
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp,  
sub esp, 0x10  
  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0xc]  
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0x8]  
add eax, edx  
mov DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04], eax  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04]  
  
leave  
ret
```

x32 Call Convention Details

add():

```
push 4  
push 3  
push EIP  
jmp add
```

```
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp,  
sub esp, 0x10  
  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0xc]  
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0x8]  
add eax, edx  
mov DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04], eax  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04]  
  
mov esp, ebp    ; leave  
pop ebp         ; leave  
ret
```

x32 Call Convention Details

add():

```
push 4  
push 3  
push EIP  
jmp add
```

```
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp,  
sub esp, 0x10  
  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0xc]  
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0x8]  
add eax, edx  
mov DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04], eax  
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04]  
  
mov esp, ebp    ; leave  
pop ebp         ; leave  
pop eip         ; ret
```



x32 Call Convention Details

add():

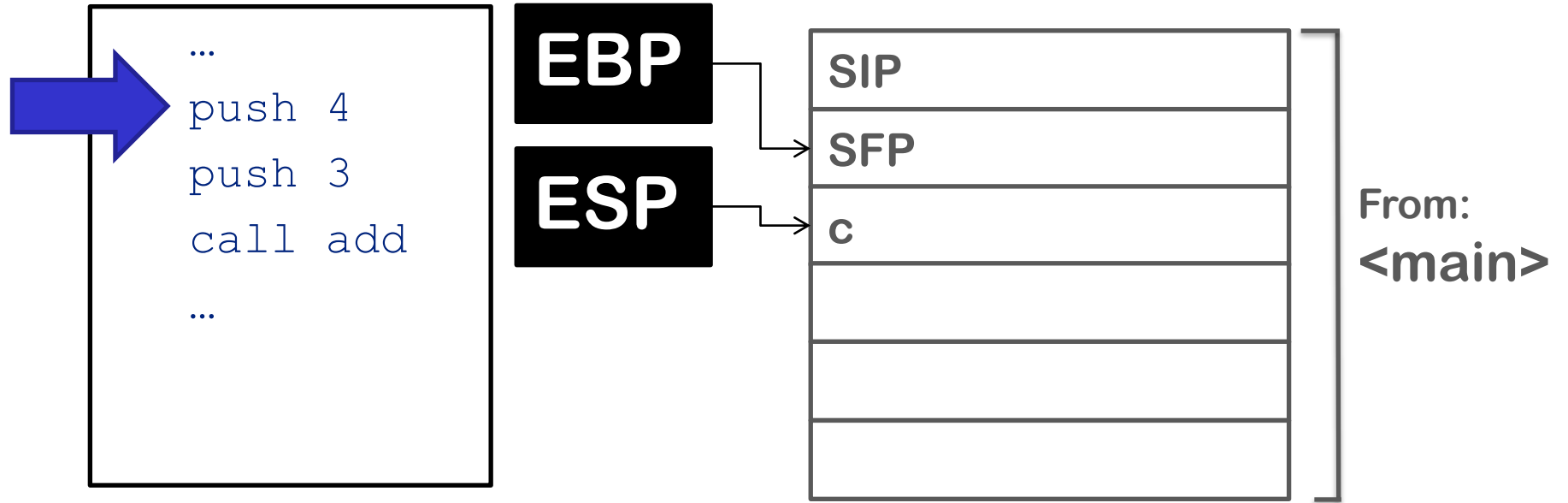
```
push 4  
push 3  
push EIP  
jmp add
```

```
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp,  
sub esp, 0x10
```

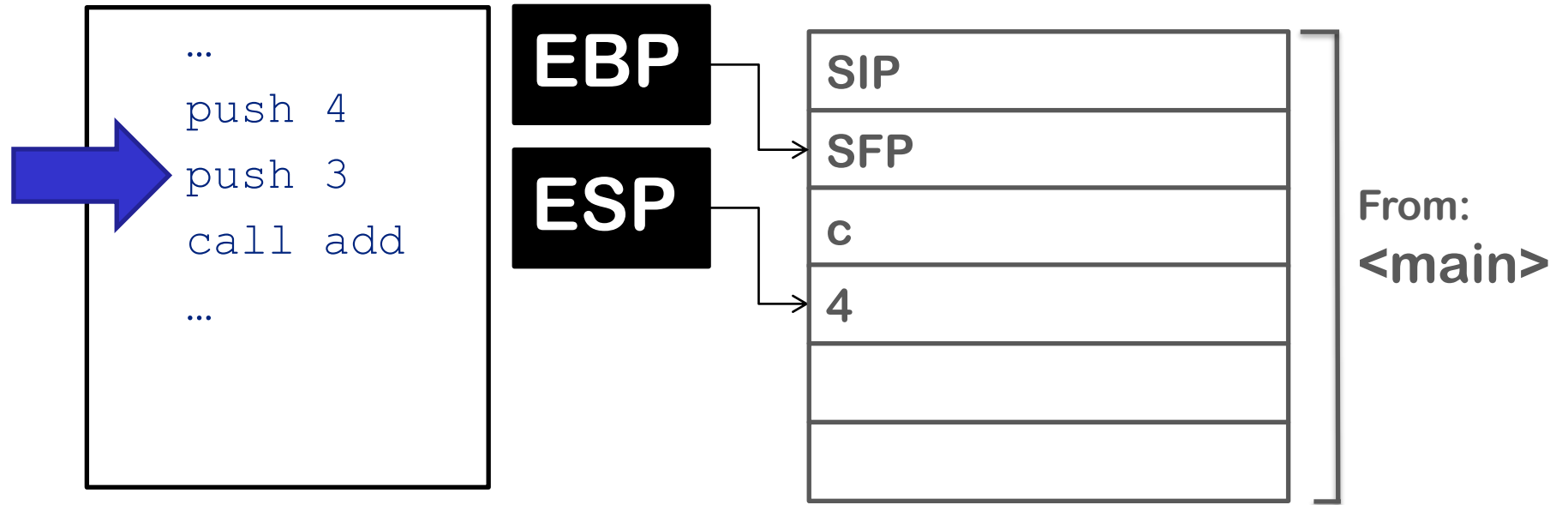
```
mov esp, ebp    ; leave  
pop ebp         ; leave  
pop eip         ; ret
```

Function Prolog

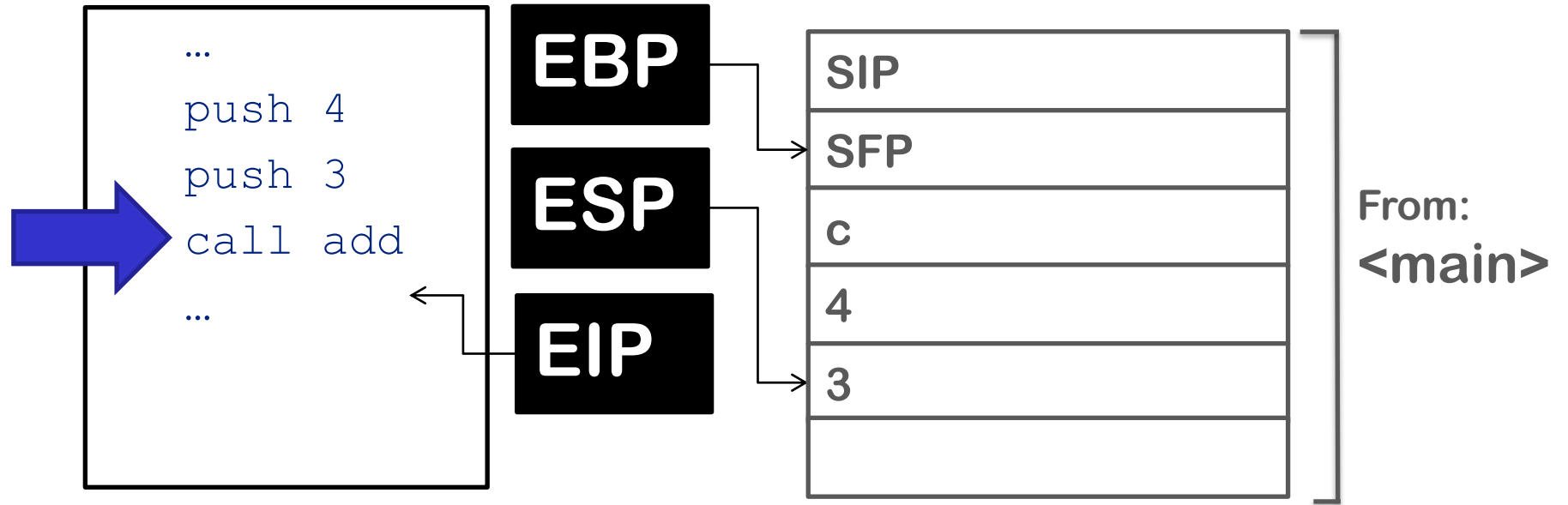
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



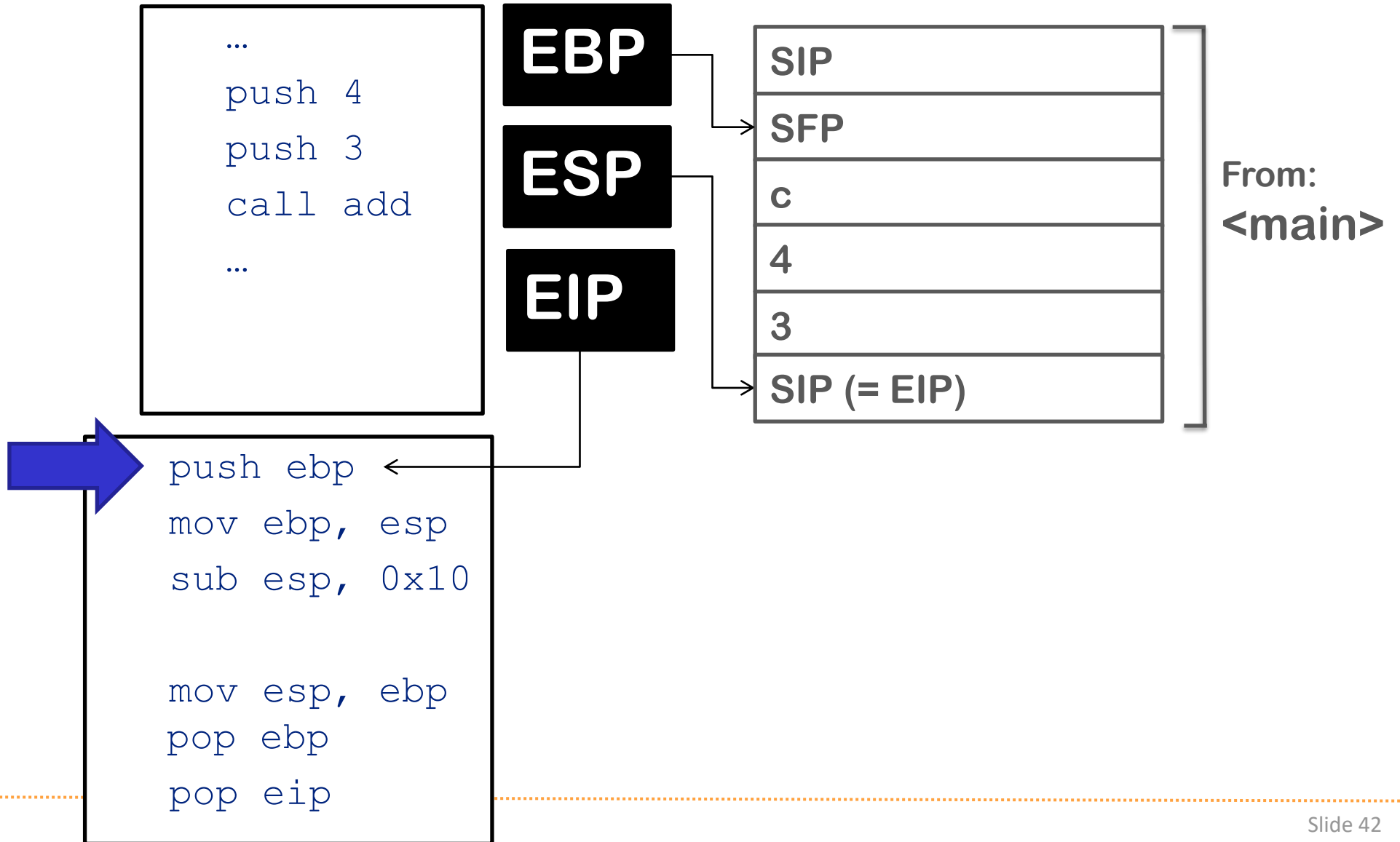
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



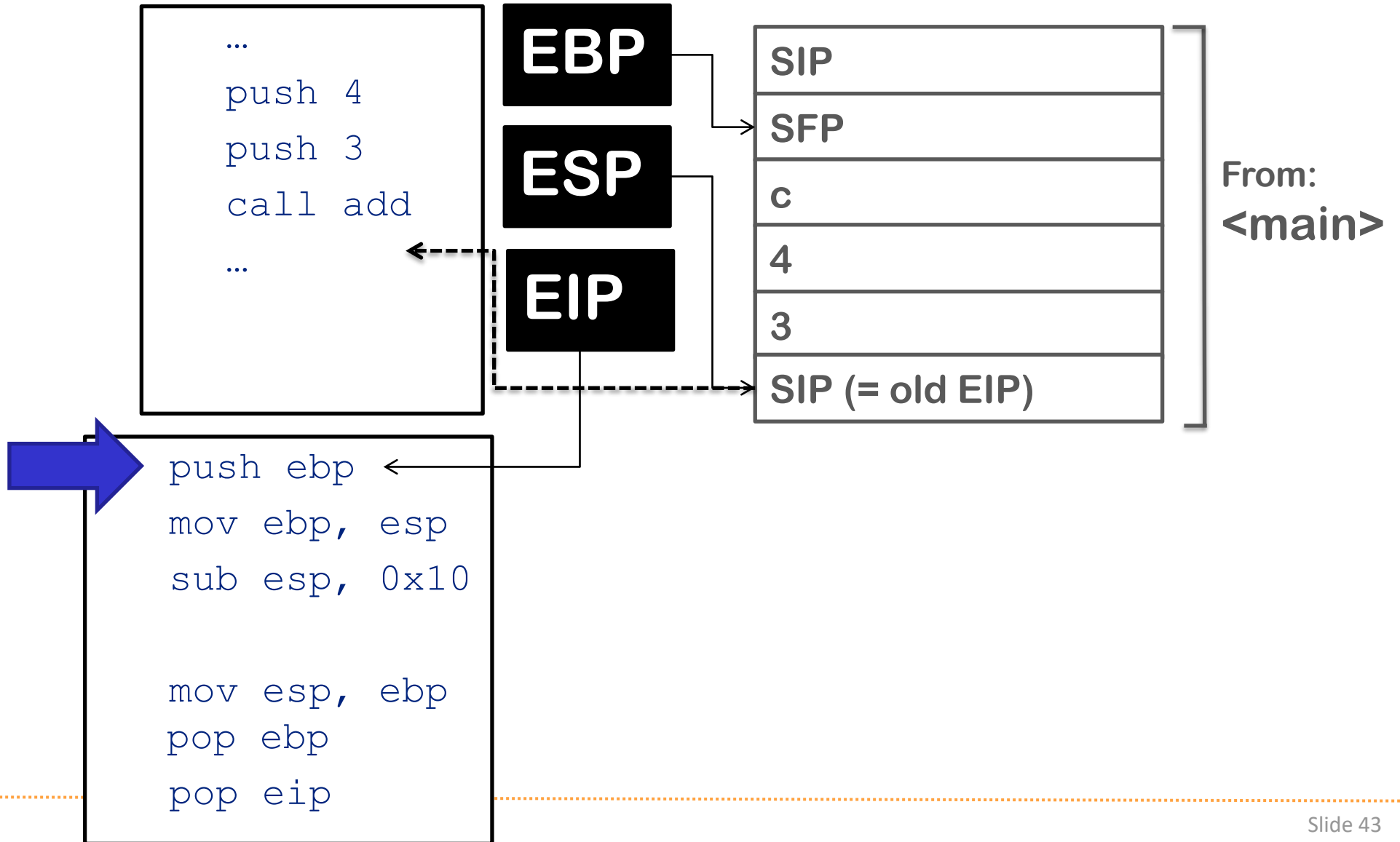
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



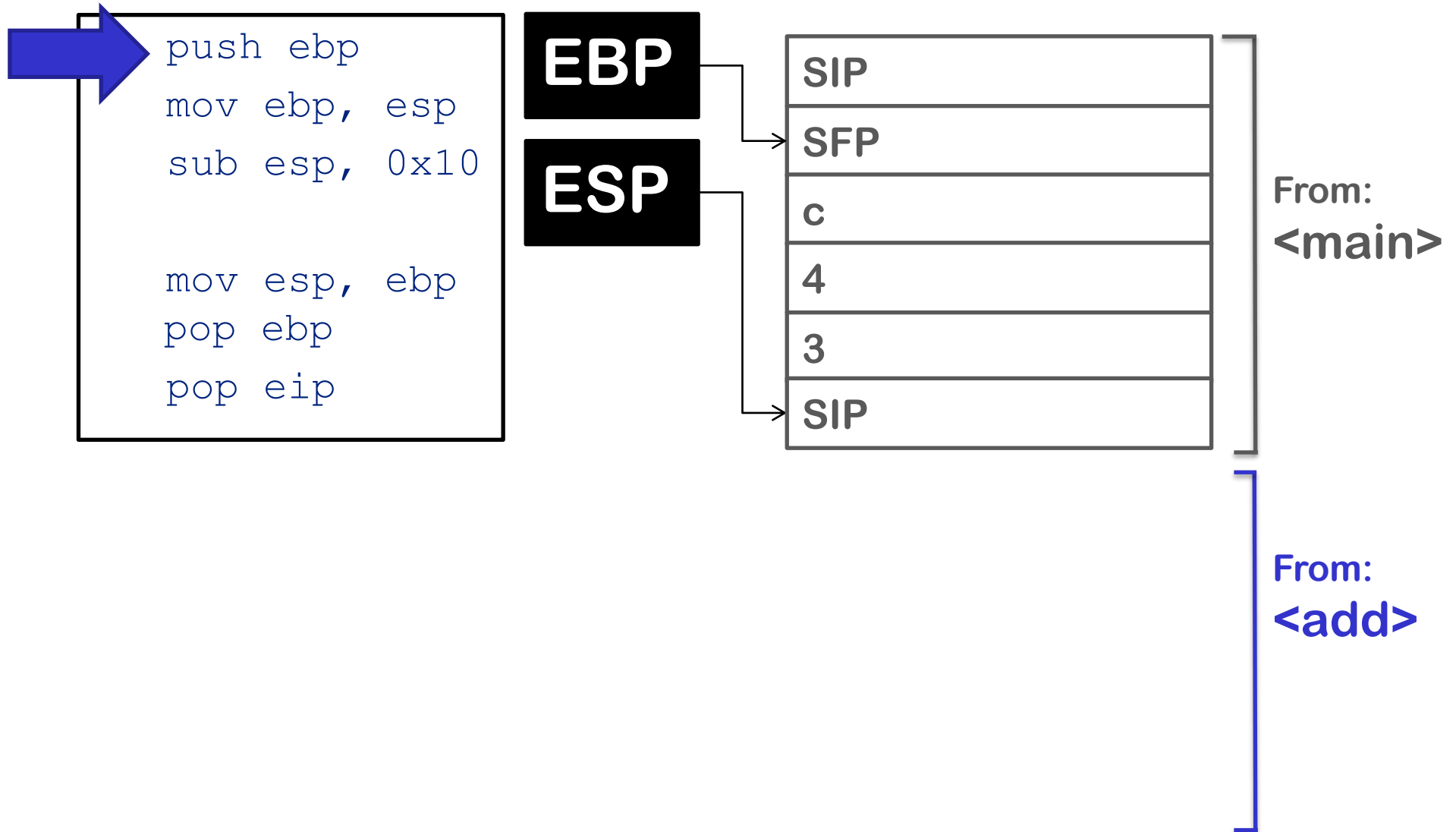
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



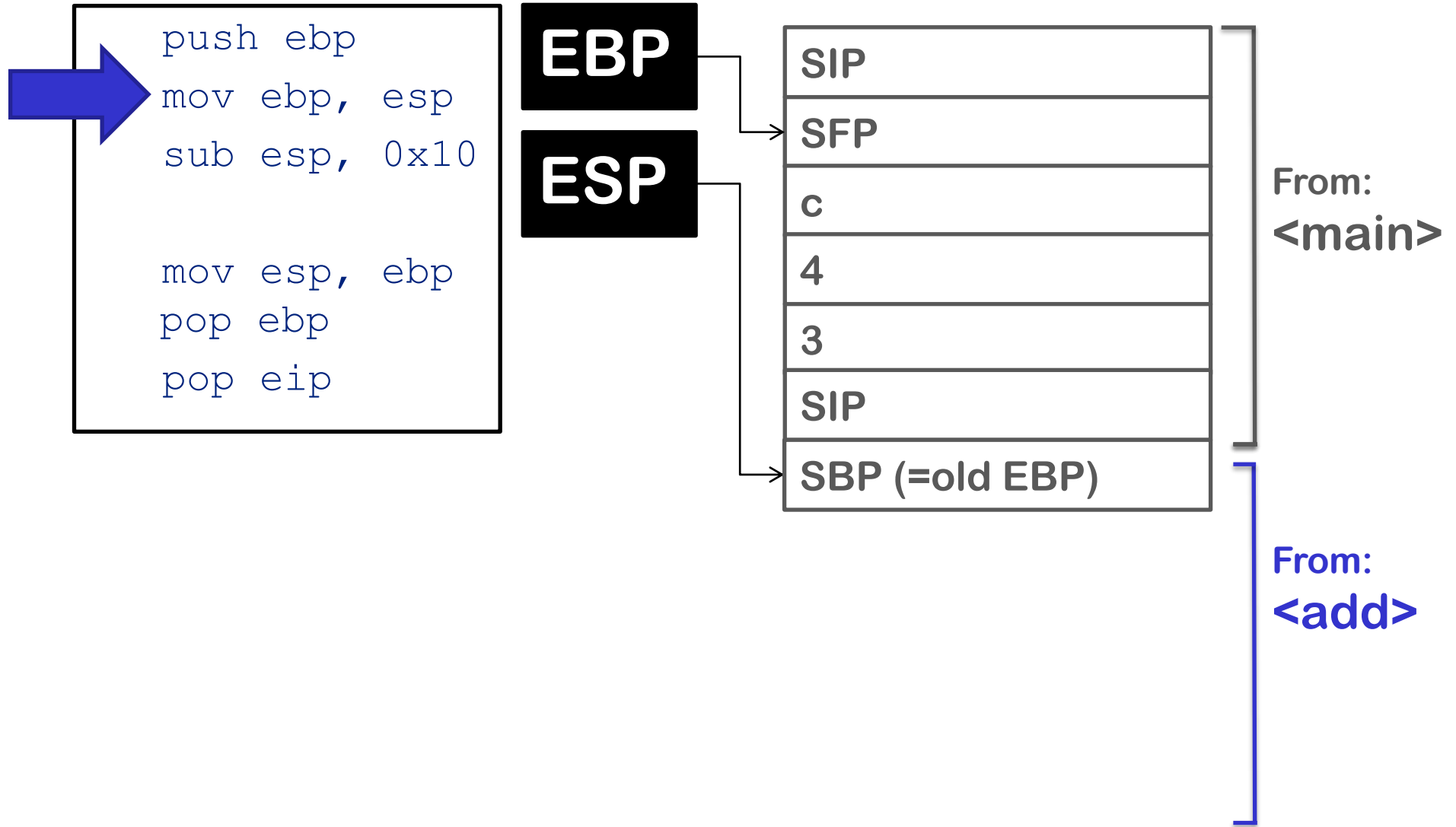
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



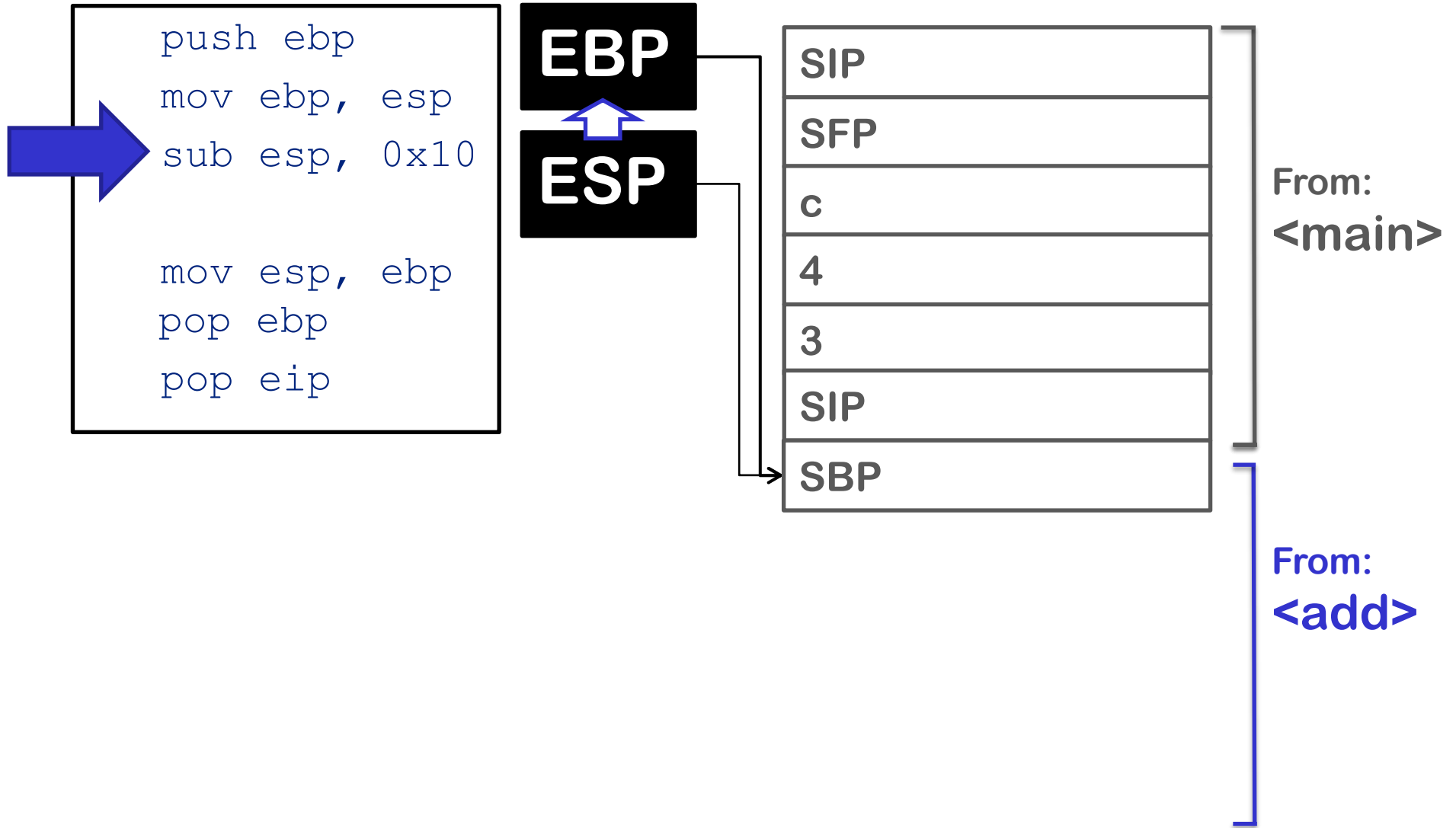
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



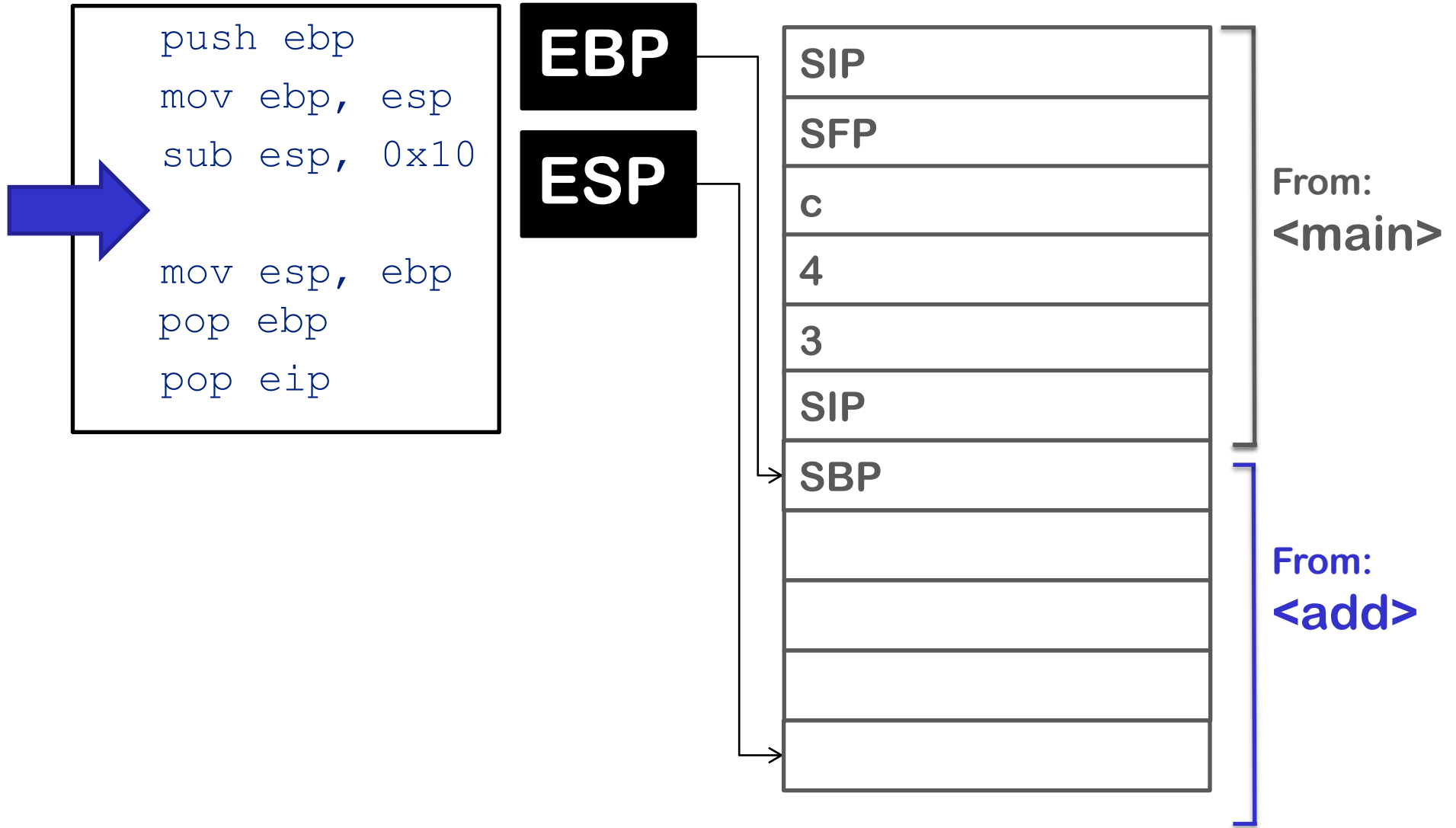
x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog



x32 Call Convention - Function Prolog

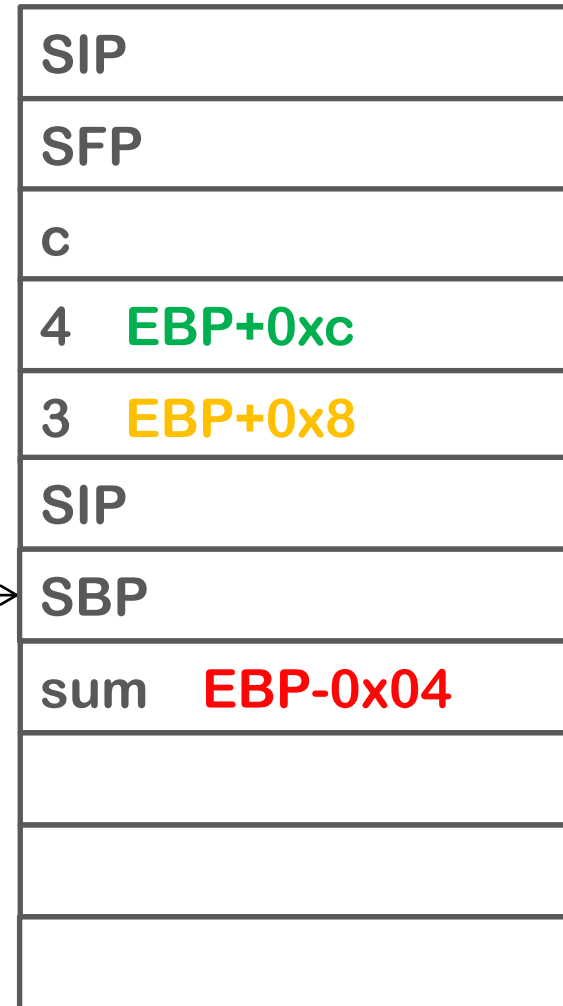


Execute Function

x32 Call Convention - Execute Function <add>

EBP

```
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0xc]
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp + 0x8]
add eax, edx
mov DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04], eax
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp - 0x04]
```

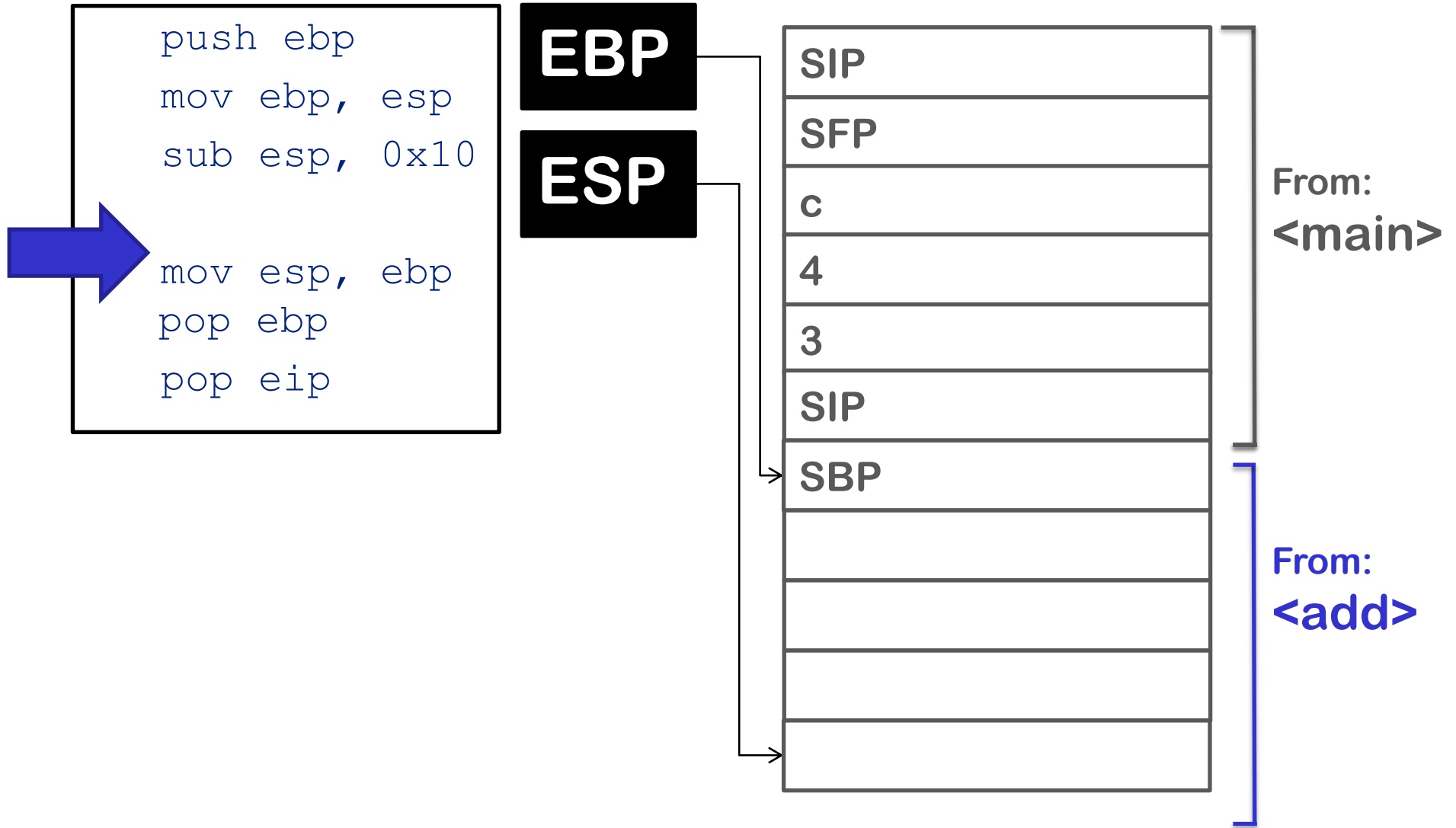


From:
<main>

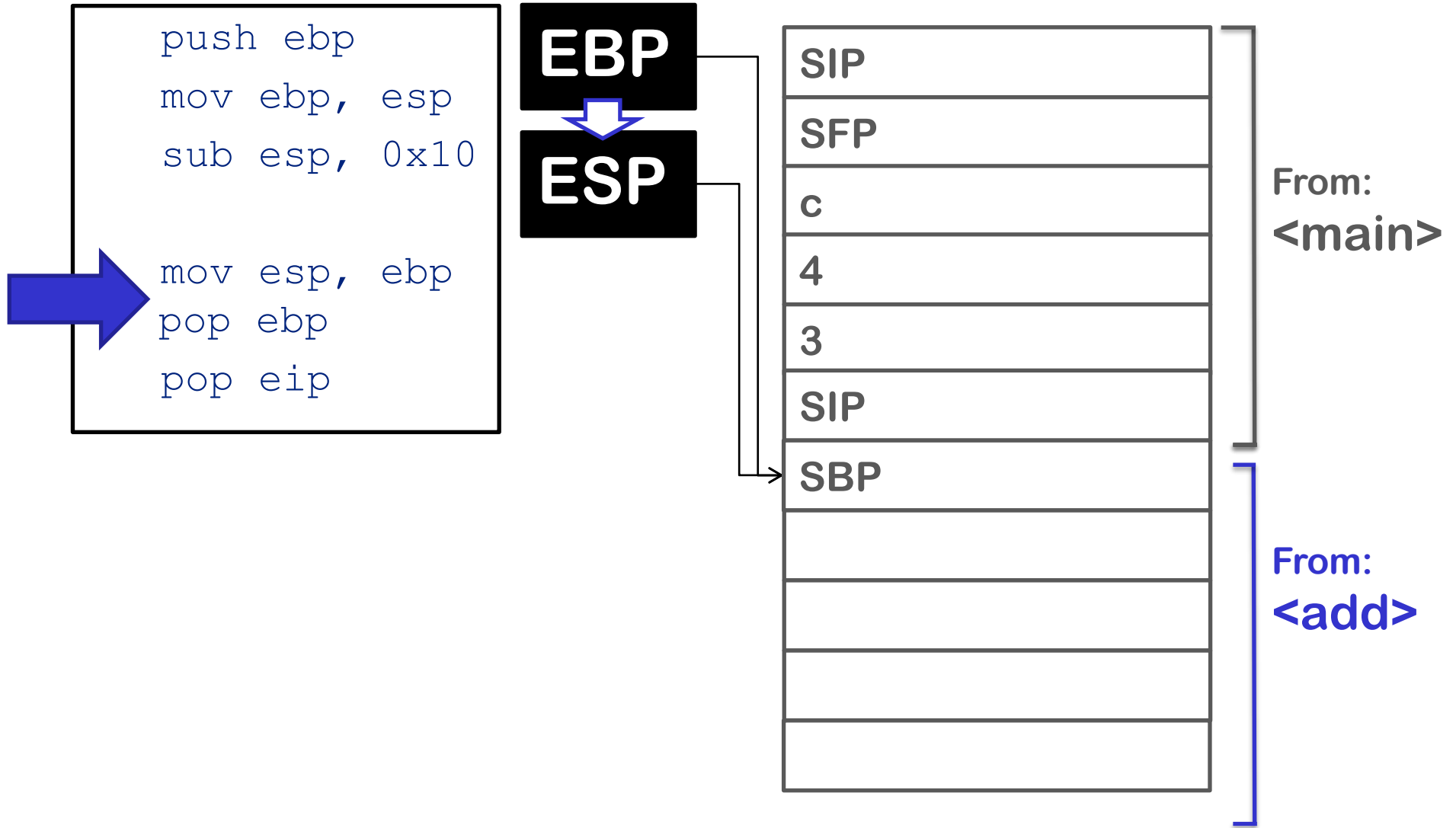
From:
<add>

Function Epilog

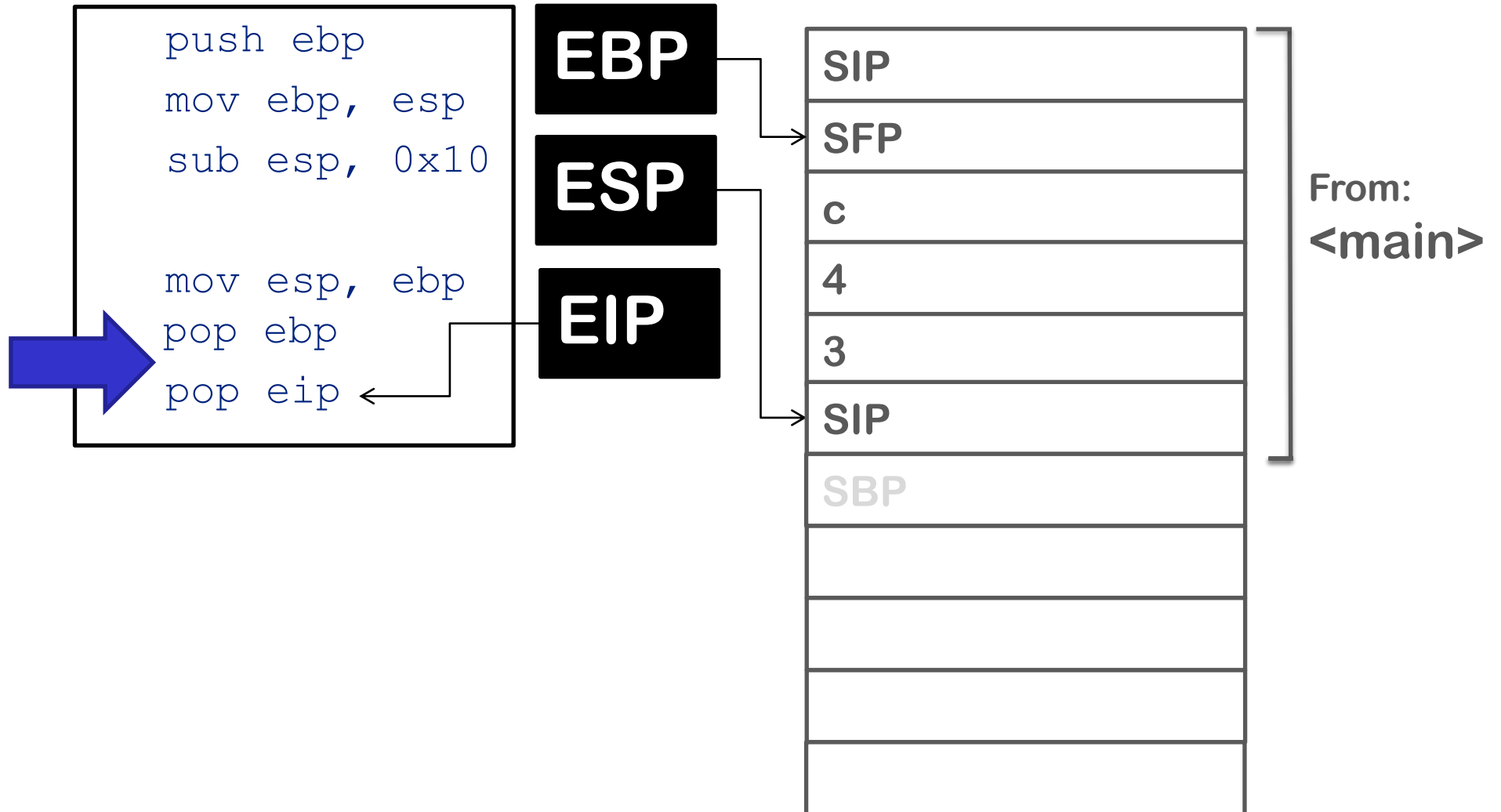
x32 Call Convention - Function Epilog



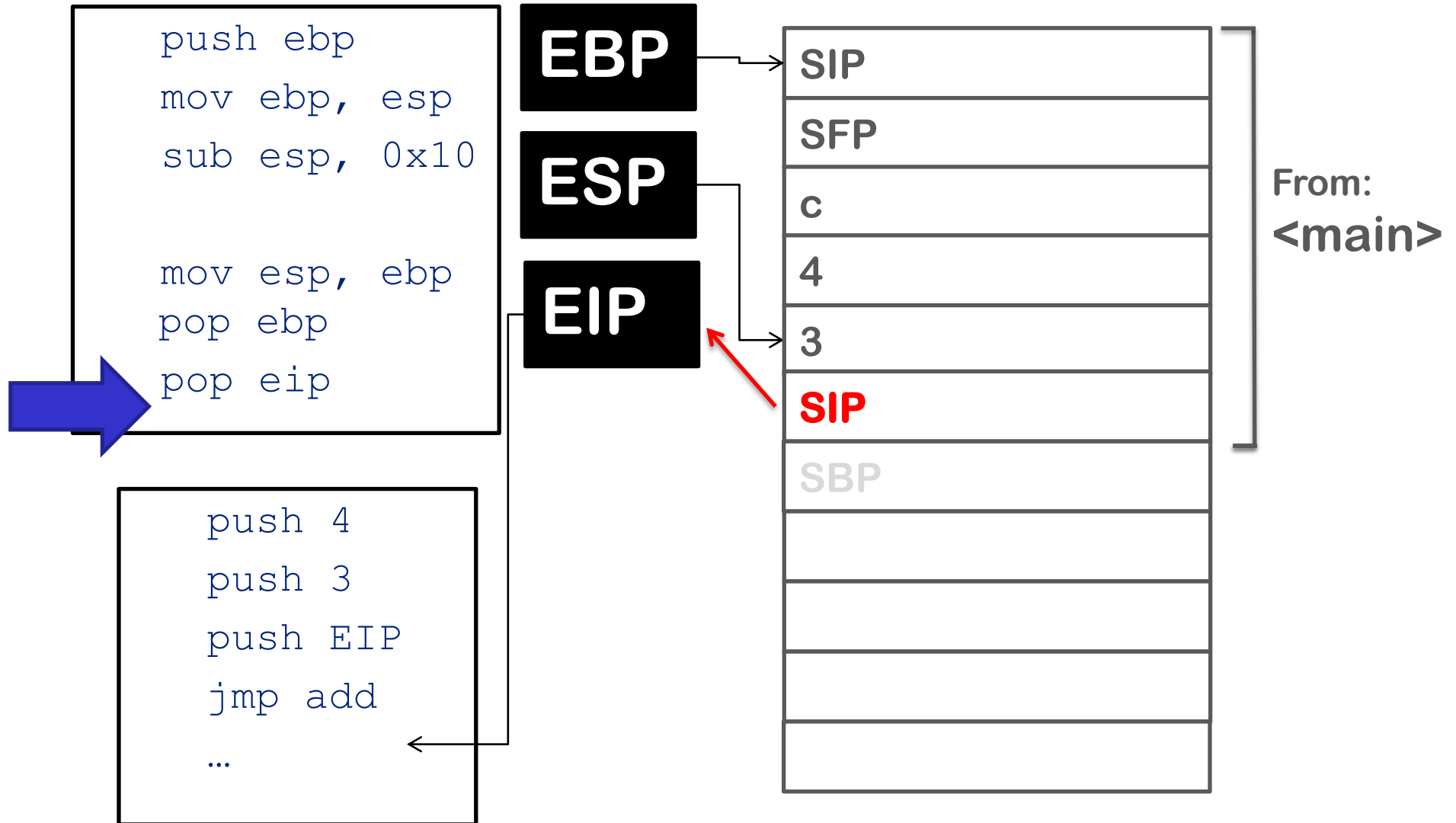
x32 Call Convention - Function Epilog



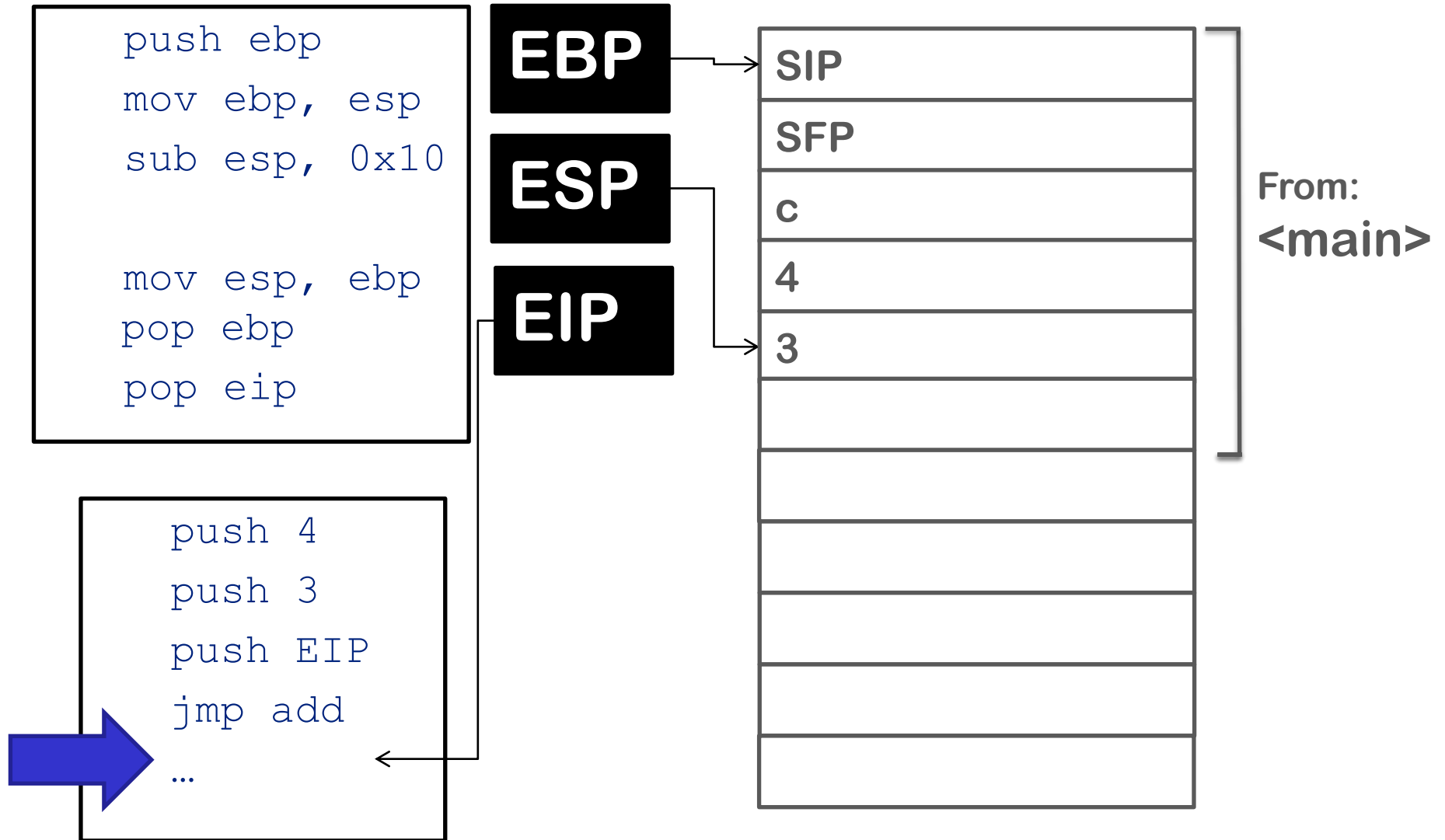
x32 Call Convention - Function Epilog



x32 Call Convention - Function Epilog



x32 Call Convention - Function Epilog





x32 Call Convention - Function Calling

```
call <addr> =  
    push EIP  
    jmp <addr>
```

```
leave =  
    mov esp, ebp  
    pop ebp
```

```
ret =  
    pop eip
```


x32 Call Convention - Function Calling

Why “leave”?

- ✦ Opposite of “enter”

“enter”:

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, imm
```

Why no “enter” used?

- ✦ enter:
 - ✦ 8 cycle latency
 - ✦ 10-20 micro ops
- ✦ call <addr>; mov ebp, esp; sub esp, imm:
 - ✦ 3 cycles latency
 - ✦ 4-6 micro ops



x32 Call Convention - Function Calling

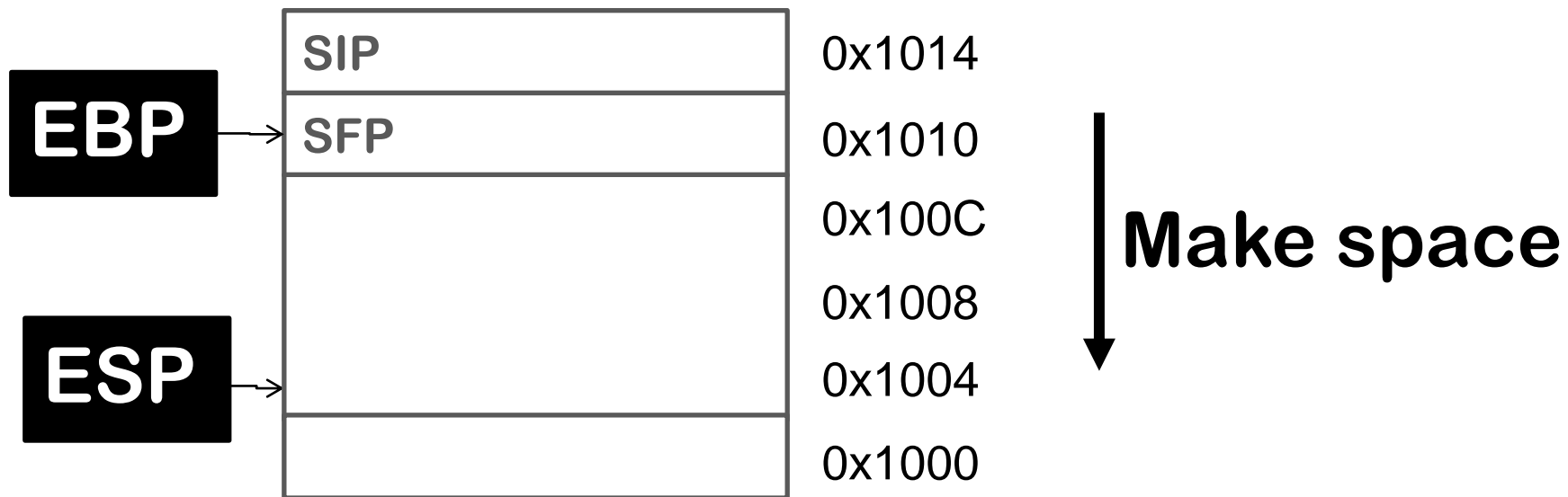
Recap:

- ★ When a function is called:
 - ★ EIP is pushed on the stack (=SIP) via call
- ★ At the end of the function:
 - ★ SIP is recovered into EIP (pop eip)

Accessing the Stack

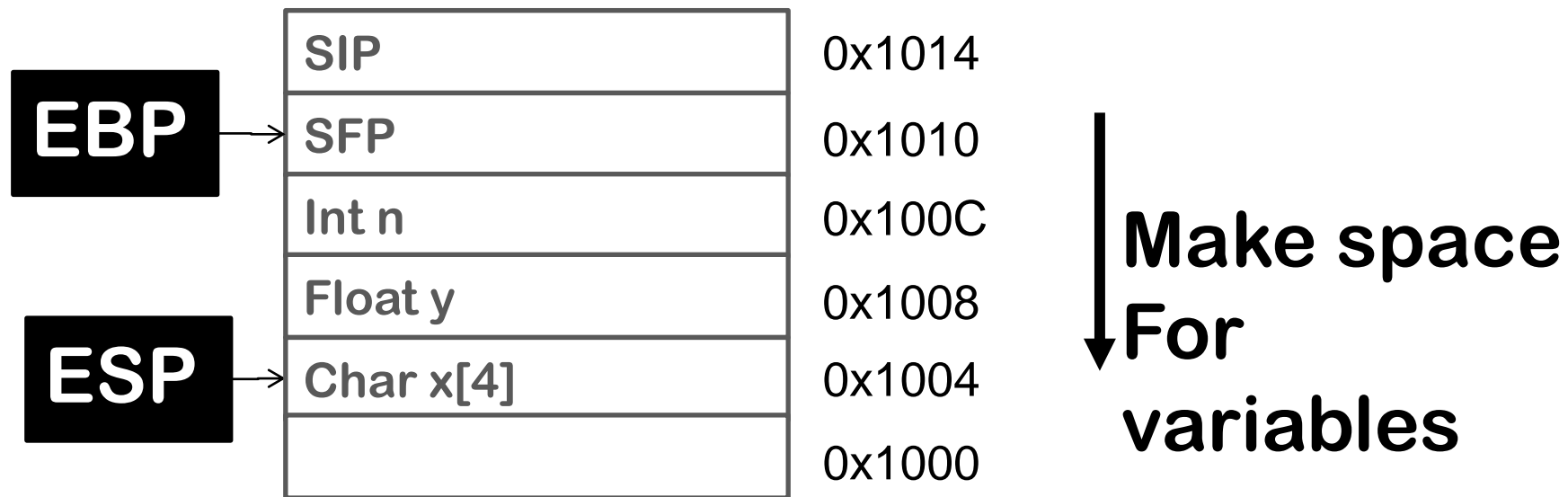
Accessing the stack

- Push/Pops are rarely used nowadays
- Each function makes some space in its stack frame for local variables



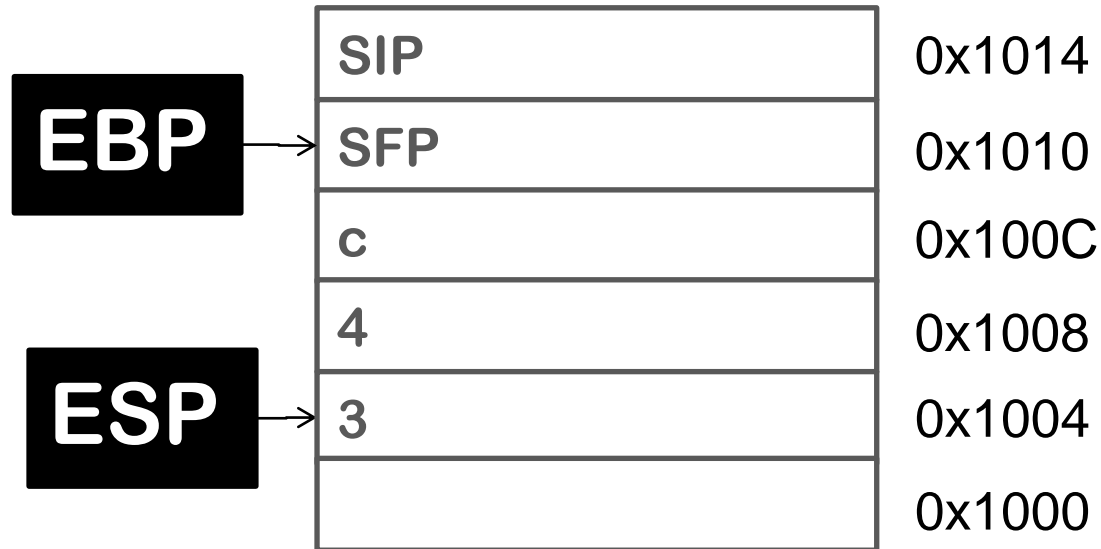
Accessing the stack

- Push/Pops are rarely used nowadays
- Each function makes some space in its stack frame for local variables





Accessing the stack: triple view



- A) `push 0x1`
- B) `mov [ebp-0x10], 0x1`
- C) `mov eax, 0x1000`
`mov [eax], 0x1`

Accessing the stack

```
0x0804840b <+0>:    lea    ecx,[esp+0x4]
0x0804840f <+4>:    and    esp,0xfffffffff0
0x08048412 <+7>:    push   DWORD PTR [ecx-0x4]
0x08048415 <+10>:   push   ebp
0x08048416 <+11>:   mov    ebp,esp
0x08048418 <+13>:   push   ecx
0x08048419 <+14>:   sub    esp,0x24
0x0804841c <+17>:   mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x1c],0x1
0x08048423 <+24>:   mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x18],0x2
0x0804842a <+31>:   mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x14],0x3
0x08048431 <+38>:   mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x10],0x4
0x08048438 <+45>:   mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc],0x5
0x0804843f <+52>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc]
0x08048442 <+55>:   sub    esp,0x8
0x08048445 <+58>:   push   eax
0x08048446 <+59>:   push   0x80484f0
0x0804844b <+64>:   call   0x80482e0 <printf@plt>
0x08048450 <+69>:   add    esp,0x10
0x08048453 <+72>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]
0x08048456 <+75>:   sub    esp,0x8
0x08048459 <+78>:   push   eax
0x0804845a <+79>:   push   0x8048509
0x0804845f <+84>:   call   0x80482e0 <printf@plt>
0x08048464 <+89>:   add    esp,0x10
0x08048467 <+92>:   nop
0x08048468 <+93>:   mov    ecx,DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
0x0804846b <+96>:   leave
0x0804846c <+97>:   lea    esp,[ecx-0x4]
0x0804846f <+100>:  ret
```

Function Calls in x64

x32 Call Convention - Function Call in x64

Differences between x32 and x64 function calls:

Arguments are in registers (not on stack)

RDI, RSI, RDX, R8, R9

x32 Call Convention - Function Call in x64

Differences between x32 and x64 function calls

Different ASM commands doing the same thing

`callq (call)`

`leaveq (leave)`

`retq (ret)`

x32 Call Convention - Function Call in x64

Some random x64 architecture facts:

The stack should stay **8-byte aligned** at all times

An n-byte item should start at an **address divisible by n**

- ✦ E.g. 64 bit number: 8 bytes, can be at 0x00, 0x08, 0x10, 0x18, ...

%rsp points to the highest **occupied** stack location

- ✦ not the next one to use!



Function Call Convention Cheat Sheet

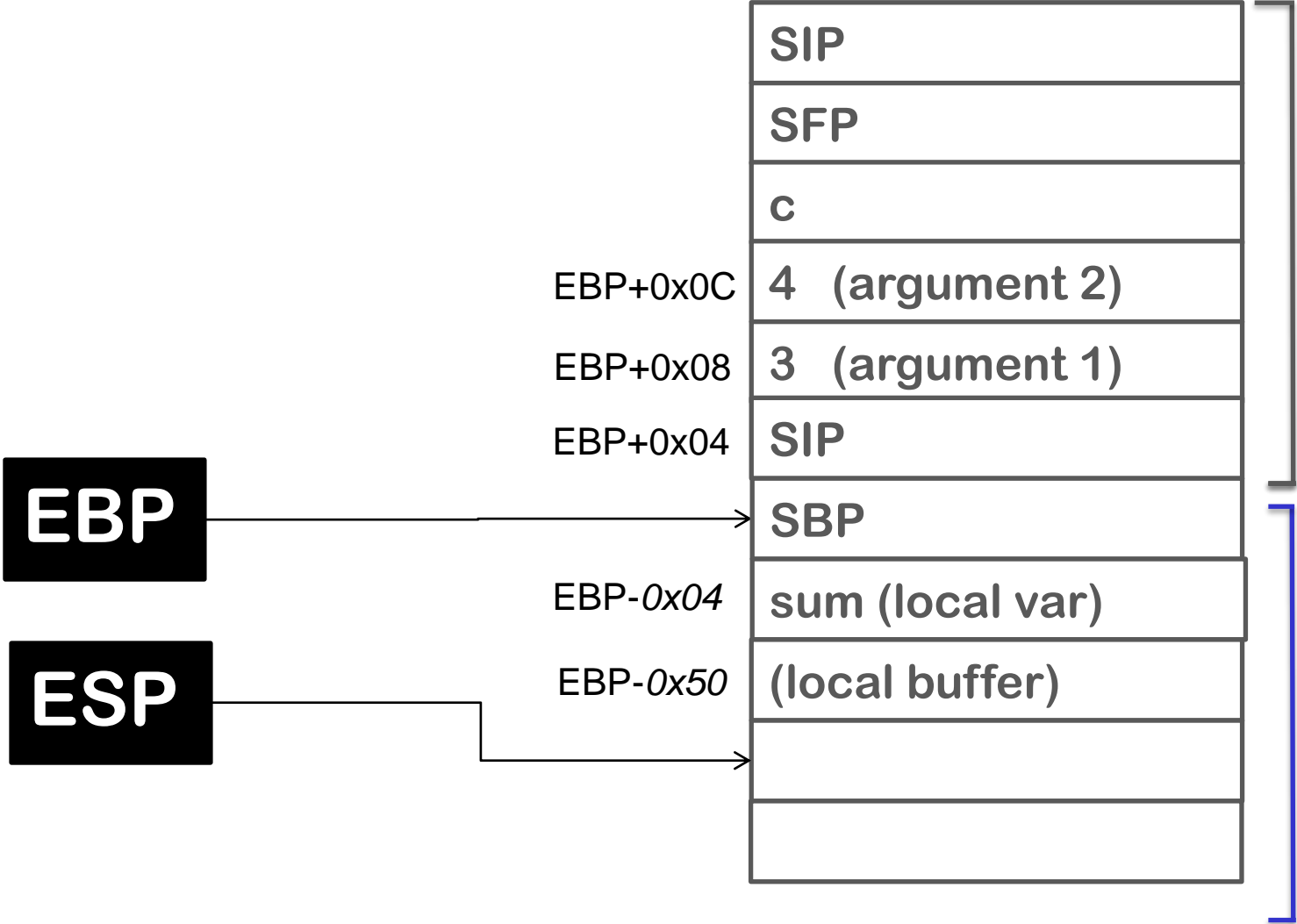
x32	Parameter	Syscall nr in
x32 userspace	stack	
x32 syscalls	ebx, ecx, edx, esi, edi, ebp	eax

x64	Parameter	Syscall nr in
x64 userspace	rdi, rsi, rdx, rcx, r8, r9	
x64 syscall	rdi, rsi, rdx, r10, r8, r9	rax

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/2535989/what-are-the-calling-conventions-for-unix-linux-system-calls-on-x86-64>



EBP Cheat Sheet



EBP Cheat Sheet

```
:      :  
|  2  | [ebp + 16] (3rd function argument)  
|  5  | [ebp + 12] (2nd argument)  
| 10  | [ebp + 8]  (1st argument)  
| RA  | [ebp + 4]  (return address)  
| FP  | [ebp]      (old ebp value)  
|     | [ebp - 4]  (1st local variable)  
:      :  
:      :  
|     | [ebp - X]   (esp - the current stack pointer. The use of push / pop is valid now)
```



Outro

Further questions

Can you implement push/pop in ASM? (without actually using push/pop)

Answers

Pseudocode:

EAX is the new ESP

push <data>:

sub eax, 4

mov (%eax), <data>

pop <register>:

mov <register>, (%eax)

add eax, 4