# H2 III. Machine-Level Representation of Programs

- Computers execute machine code (sequences of bytes encoding the low-level operations that manipulate data, manage memory, read and write data on storage devices, and communicate over networks)
- Compiler generates machine code based on
  - 1. rules of the programming language
  - 2. instruction set of the target machine
  - 3. conventions followed by the OS
- **GCC** C compiler generates...
  - 1. C code -> assembly code
    - a textual representation of the machine code with the individual instructions in the program
  - 2. invokes **assembler** & **linker** to generate the **executable machine code** from the assembly code
- With modern optimizing compilers, the generated code is usually at least as efficient as what a skilled assembly-language programmer would write by hand
- But... Why do we have to learn **machine codes**? (read & understand)
  - 1. to understand the **optimization capabilities** of the compiler and analyze the underlying inefficiencies
  - 2. layer of abstraction hides information about the **run-time behavior** of a program that we need to understand
    - <u>concurrent programs</u> how program data are shared or kept private by the different threads
  - 3. to understand how vulnerabilities arise and how to guard against them
    - how malwares store their run-time control information

# H3 §3.1 A Historical Perspective

: Intel processors and their key features

```
K = 1,000 (10^3), M = 1,000,000 (10^6), G = 1,000,000,000 (10^9)
```

- 1. 8086 (1978, 29K transistors)
  - 16-bit microprocessors

- contracted Microsoft to develop the MS-DOS OS
- 32,768 bytes of memory + two floppy disks
- limited to a 655,360-byte address space
- introduced 8087 floating-point coprocessor (45K transistors)
  - executes the floating-point instructions
- 2. 80286 (1982, 134K transistors)
  - more addressing modes
  - formed the basis of the IBM PC-AT personal computer
    - original platform for MS Windows
- 3. i386 (1985, 275K transistors)
  - expanded the architecture to 32 bits
  - first machine that could fully support a Unix OS
- 4. i486 (1989, 1.2M transistors)
  - improved performance and integrated the floating-point unit onto the processor chip
- 5. Pentium (1993, 3.1M transistors)
  - improved performance with minor extensions to the instruction set
- 6. PentiumPro (1995, 5.5M transistors)
  - radically new processor design
  - **P6** microarchitecture
  - added a class of " conditional move " instructions to the instruction set
- 7. Pentium/MMX (1997, 4.5M transistors)
  - added a new class of instructions for manipulating vectors of integers
    - each datum can be 1, 2, or 4 bytes long
    - each vector totals 64 bits
- 8. Pentium II (1997, 7M transistors)
  - continuation of the P6 microarchitecture
- 9. Pentium III (1999, 8.2M transistors)
  - introduced SSE, a class of instructions for manipulating vectors of integer or floating-point data
    - vectors = 128 bits
  - later version went up to 24M transistors
    - due to the incorporation of the level-2 cache on chip
- 10. Pentium 4 (2000, 42M transistors)
  - extended SSE to SSE2, adding new data types (double-precision floating point),
     along with 144 new instructions for new data types

- compilers could usee SSE instructions to compile floating-point code
- 11. Pentium 4 (2004, 125M transistors)
  - added hyperthreading method to run two programs simultaneously on a single processor
  - EM64T (x86-64), a Intel's implementation of a 64-bit extension to IA32 was developed by AMD
- 12. Core 2 (2006, 291M transistors)
  - returned to a microarchitecture similar to P6
  - first **multi-core** Intel microprocessor
    - multiple processors are implemented on a single chip
  - did not support hyperthreading
- 13. Core i7, Nehalem (2008, 781M transistors)
  - incorporated both hyperthreading and multi-core
  - supported two executing programs on each core and up to four cores on each chip
- 14. Core i7, Sandy Bridge (2011, 1.17G transistors)
  - introduced AVX (extension of the SSE) to support 256-bit vectors
- 15. Core i7, Haswell (2013, 1.4G transistors)
  - extended AVX to AVX2 (more instructins and formats)
  - Each processor has been designed to be **backward compatible**
  - **IA32** Intel Architecture 32-bit
  - Intel64 = x86-64 --> "x86" reflects the processor naming conventions up through the i486

# H3 §3.2 Program Encodings

• Suppose we write a C programs p1.c and p2.c. To compile,

```
1 linux> gcc -Og -o p p1.c p2.c
```

- **gcc** indicates the GCC C compiler
- **-Og** indicates a level of optimization
  - · invoking higher levels of optimization generates code that is hevaily transformed
    - better in terms of program performance

- gcc command invokes an entire sequence of programs to turn the source code into executable code
  - 1. **C preprocessor** expands the source code to include any files specified with #include commands and to expand any macros, specified with #define declarations (.i)
  - 2. **compiler** generates assembly-code version of source file (.s)
  - 3. assembler converts the assembly code into binary object-code (.o)
    - binary representations of all of the instructions
  - 4. **linker** merges object code(s) along with code implementing **library functions** (e.g. prinf) and generates the final executable code file.

## H5 ¶3.2.1 Machine-Level Code

- Abstractions in machine-level programming
  - 1. **ISA** (instruction set architecture) defines format & behavior of a machine-level program
    - defines the processor state, the format of the instructions, and the effect of each of these instructions will have on the state
    - describe the behavior of a program as if each\*\* instruction is executed in sequence
      - actually executing many instructions concurrently
  - 2. Virtual addresses memory addresses used by a machine-level program
    - provides a memory model that appears to be a very large byte array
      - actually combination of multiple hardware memories and operating system software
- Machine code components (x86-64)
  - 1. program counter (PC) %rip
    - indicates the address in memory of the next instruction to be executed
  - 2. integer register file
    - contains 16 names locations storing 64-bit values
    - can hold addresses (≈ C pointers) or integer data
    - some registers are used to keep track of critical parts of the program state
    - others to hold temporary data (arguments & local variables of a procedure & value to be returned by a function)

#### 3. Condition code registers

- hold status information about the most recently executed arithmetic or logical instruction
- used to implement conditional changes in the control or data flow

• if and while statements

#### 4. Vector registers

- can each hold one or more integer or floating-point values
- Machine code views the memory as simply a large byte-addressable array
- OS translates virtual addresses into the physical addresses of values in the actual processor memory
- Single machine instruction performs only a very **elementary operations** 
  - adding two numbers stored in registers
  - transferring data between memory and a register
  - conditionally branching to a new instruction address
- Compiler must generate sequences of such instructions to implement program constructs
  - arithmetic expression evaluation, loops, procedure calls, returns, etc.

# H5 ¶3.2.2 Code Examples

Suppose we have a C code named mstore.c

```
long mult2(long, long);

void multstore(long x, long y, long *dest) {
 long t = mult2(x, y);
 *dest = t;
}
```

To see the assembly code generated by the C compiler,

```
1 linux> gcc -Og -S mstore.c
```

which causes GCC to run the compiler, generating an assembly file mstore.s

```
1 multstore:
2  pushq %rbx
3  movq %rdx, %rbx
4  call mult2
5  movq %rax, (%rbx)
6  popq %rbx
7  ret
```

- each indented line corresponds to a single machine instruction
  - pushq %rbx
    - indicates that the contents of register %rbx should be pushed onto the program stack

```
1 linux gcc -Og -c mstore.c
```

- will generate an object-code file mstore.o
  - binary format, cannot be viewed directly
  - simply a sequence of bytes encoding a series of instructions
- to inspect the contents of machine-code files, use disassemblers
  - generates a format similar to assembly code from the machine code
  - with Linux system, OBJDUMP

```
1 linux> objdump -d mstore.o
```

will return..

• each of these groups is a single instruction

- Several feastures of machine code
  - x86-64 can range from 1 to 15 bytes
    - commonly used instructions and instructions with fewer operands require a smaller number of bytes
  - from a given starting position, there is a **unique decoding** of the bytes into machine instructions
  - disassembler determines the assembly code based purely on the byte sequences in the machine-code file
    - **Does not** require access to the source or assembly-code versions of the program
  - uses a slightly different naming convention for the instructions than does the assembly code generated by GCC
    - ommitted 'q's' -- size designators (can be omitted)

Suppose we have main.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void multstore(long, long, long *);

int main() {
   long d;
   multstore(2, 3, %d);
   printf("2 * 3 --> %ld\n", d);
   return 0;
}
```

- To generate the actual executable code, needs to run a linker on the set of object-code
   files
  - MUST contain a function main
- Executable files generally have **bigger size** than object files because they contain code used to...
  - start and terminate the program
  - interact with the operating system

```
1 linux> gcc -Og -o prog main.c mstore.c
2 linux> objdump -d prog
```

• **Disassembler** will then **extract code sequences** such as...

- differences between the one that generated by the disassembly of mstore.c
  - addresses listed are different
    - linker has shifted the location
  - linker has filled in the **address that the callq instruction** should use in calling the function mult2 (Line 4)
    - linker matches function calls with the locations of the executable code for those functions
  - two additional lines of code at the end
    - no effect on the program
    - grow the code for the function to 16 bytes for better placement of the next block

## H5 ¶3.2.3 Notes on Formatting

• In the full content of the file (assembly code), it contains lines like

```
1 .file "010-mstore.c"
2 .text
3 .globl multstore
4 .type multstore, @function
```

- these are **directives** to guide the assembler and linker
  - but we'll ignore these

# H3 §3.3 Data Formats

- Due to its origins as a 16-bit architecture,
  - "word" 16-bit data type
  - "double word" 32-bit data type
  - " quad word 64-bit data type

C declaration	Intel data type	Assembly-code suffix	Size(bytes)
char	Byte	b	1
short	Word	w	2
int	Double word	1	4
long	Quad word	q	8
char *	Quad word	q	8
float	Single precision	s	4
double	Double precision	1	8

- note that the suffix 'I' denotes a 4-byte integer and an 8-byte double-precision floatingpoint number
  - causes 0 ambiguity

• : Floating-point code uses entirely different set of instructions and registers

# H3 §3.4 Accessing Information

- x86-64 CPU contains **16 general purpose registers** storing 64-bit values
  - store integers & pointers
  - names all begin with %r
- Historical evolution of the instruction set
  - 8086 8x 16-bit registers (%ax ~ %bp)
    - each had a specific purpose (names reflected how they were to be used)
  - IA32 8x 32-bit registers (%eax ~ %ebp)
  - **x86-64** 16x 64-bit registers (8 original + 8 new registers)
    - (%rax ~ %rbp, %r8 ~ %r15)
- Instructions can operate on data of different sizes stored in the lower-order bytes of the 16 registers
  - Copying & generating 1-, 2-, 4- and 8-byte values
    - Remaining bytes in the register for instructions that generate < 8 bytes?
      - 1. 1-, 2- byte: leave the remaining bytes unchanged
      - 2. 4- bytes: set the upper 4 bytes to 0
- **%rsp**: stack pointer indicate the end position in the run-time stack

63	31	15	7 0	Usage
%rax	%eax	%ax	%al	Return value
%rbx	%ebx	%bx	%bl	Callee saved
%rcx	%ecx	%cx	%cl	4th argument
%rdx	%edx	%dx	%dl	3rd argument
%rsi	%esi	%si	%sil	2nd argument
%rdi	%edi	%di	%dil	1st argument
%rbp	%ebp	%bp	%bpl	Callee saved
%rsp	%esp	%sp	%spl	Stack Pointer
%r8	%r8d	%r8w	%r8b	5th argument
%r9	%r9d	%r9w	%r9b	6th argument
%r10	%r10d	%r10w	%r10b	Caller saved
%r11	%r11d	%r11w	%r11b	Caller saved
%r12	%r12d	%r12w	%r13b	Callee saved
%r13	%r13d	%r13w	%r13b	Callee saved
%r14	%r14d	%r14w	%r14b	Callee saved
%r15	%r15d	%r15w	%r15b	Callee saved

# H5 ¶3.4.1 Operand Specifiers

- Most instructions have one or more operands **source** values to use in performing an operation and the **destination** location
- **Source values** constants or read from registers or memory
- **Results** can be stored in either registers or memory
- Three types of operands
  - 1. **Immidiate** constant values

- '\$' followed by an integer
  - \$-577, \$0x1F
- 2. Register contents of a register
  - one of the 16x 8-, 4-, 2-, 1-byte lower-order portions of the registers for operands having 64, 32, 16, 8 bits
  - ullet  $r_a$  : arbitrary register a  $R[r_a]$  : value with the reference
- 3. **Memory** some meomory location according to a computed address (effective address)
  - $M_b[Addr]$  denotes a reference to the  $\,b$  -byte value stored in memory starting at address  $\,Addr\,$

## Operand forms

Туре	Form	Operand value	Name
Immediate	\$Imm	Imm	Immediate
Register	$r_a$	$R[r_a]$	Register
Memory	Imm	M[Imm]	Absolute
Memory	$(r_a)$	$M[R[r_a]]$	Indirect
Memory	$Imm(r_b)$	$M[Imm+R[r_b]]$	Base+displacement
Memory	$(r_b,r_i)$	$M[R[r_b]+R[r_i]]$	Indexed
Memory	$Imm(r_b,r_i)$	$M[Imm+R[r_b]+R[r_i]]$	Indexed
Memory	$(,r_i,s)$	$M[R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$Imm(,r_i,s)$	$M[Imm + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$(r_b,r_i,s)$	$M[R[r_b] + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$Imm(r_b,r_i,s)$	$M[Imm + R[r_b] + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed

Practice problem

3 0x100 0xFF %rax 0x100 4 0x104 0xAB %rcx 0x1	1 Address	Value	Register	Value
	3 0x100			
5 0x108 0x13 %rdx 0x3 6 0x10C 0x11			%rdx	0x3

1	Operand	Value	Comment
2			
	%rax	0x100	Register
	0x104	0xAB	Absolute address
5	\$0x108	0x108	Immediate
6	(%rax)	0xFF	Address 0x100
	4(%rax)	0xAB	Address 0x104
	9(%rax,%rdx)	0x11	Address 0x10C
	260(%rcx,%rdx)	0x13	Address 0x108
10	0xFC(,%rcx,4)	0xff	Address 0x100
	(%rax,%rdx,4)	0x11	Address 0x10C

# H5 ¶3.4.2 Data Movement Instructions

• copying data from one location to another

## MOV class

- movb, movw, movl, movq -->. 1, 2, 4, 8 bytes
- copy data from a source location to a destination location without any transformation

```
1 Instruction Effect Description
2 ------
3 MOV S, D D <- S Move
4 movb Move byte
5 movw Move word
6 movl Move double word
7 movq Move quad word
8 movabsq I, R R <- I Move absolute quad word
```

#### Source operand

• immediates, values stored in register / memory

#### Destination

- registers or memory addresses
- In x86-64, move instruction cannot have both operands refer to memory locations
  - 1. load the source value into a register
  - 2. write this register value to the destination
- **Register operands** can be any of the 16 registers, but **must match** the size designated by the last character of the instruction (**b**, **w**, **l**, **q**)
- For most cases, MOV instructions only update the specific register bytes / memory locations indicated by the destination operand
- Exception! when mov! has a register as the destination, it will also set the high-order
   4 bytes of the register to 0
  - Examples

```
1 movl $0x4050, %eax  #Immediate--Register, 4B
2 movw %bp, %sp  #Register--Register, 2B
3 movb (%rdi,%rcx),%al  #Memory-Register, 1B
4 movb $-17,(%esp)  #Immediate--Memory, 1B
5 movq %rax,-12(%rbp)  #Register--Memory, 8B
```

- Copying a smaller source value to a larger destination
  - MOVZ class
    - Zero-extending data movement instructions
    - fill out the remaining bytes of the destination with 0's

```
1 Instruction Effect
                                     Description
2 MOVZ S,R
              R <- ZeroExtend(S)</pre>
                                     Move with zero extension
                                     Move zero-extended byte
3 movzbw
   to word
   movzbl
                                     Move zero-extended byte
   to double word
   movzwl
                                     Move zero-extended word
   to double word
   movzbq
                                     Move zero-extended byte
   to quad word
   movzwq
                                     Move zero-extended word
   to quad word
```

- Note that there is **no** such instruction like **movzlq** which moves zero-extended double word to quad word
  - movl does the same thing when it has register as its destination

#### MOVS class

- **Sign-extending** data movement instructions
- fill out the remaining bytes by **sign extension** -- replicating copies of the **most significant bit** of the source operand

	Instruction	Effect	Description
2	MOVS S, R	R <- SignExtend(S)	Move with sign extension
	movsbw		Move sign-extended byte
	to word		
	movsbl		Move sign-extended byte
	to double wor	d	
5	movswl		Move sign-extended word
	to double wor	<sup>r</sup> d	
6	movsbq		Move sign-extended byte
	to quad word		
	movswq		Move sign-extended word
	to quad word		
	movslq		Move sign-extended
	double word t	o quad word	
	cltq %ra	x <- SignExtend(%eax)	Sign-extend %eax to %rax

## • cltq instruction

- no operands
- always uses **%eax** as its source and **%rax** as its destination for the **sign-extended result**
- each instruction name has size designators as its final two characters
  - 1st source size, 2nd destination size

# **H5** ¶3.4.3 Data Movement Example

• C code

```
long exchange(long *xp, long y) {
long x = *xp;
 *xp = y;
 return x;
}
```

Assembly code

```
1 # long exchange(long *xp, long y)
2 # xp in %rdi, y in %rsi
3 exchange:
4 movq (%rdi), %rax # Get x at xp, Set as return value
5 movq %rsi, (%rdi) # Store y at xp,
6 ret # Return.
```

- register **%rax** will be used **to return a value** from the function
- Two features to note
  - calling "pointers" with simple addresses / dereferencing pointers involve copying the pointer into a register, and then using this register in a memory reference
  - 2. local variabels (x and y) are often kept in **registers** than in memory locations ( $\cdot$ : register access is much faster than memory access)

## H5 ¶3.4.4 Pushing and Popping Stack Data

- Stack takes a vital role in the handling of procedure calls
  - values can be added or deleted according to a "a last-in, first-out" (LIFO) discipline
  - add data with push operation / remove data with pop operation
    - value popped will always be the value that was most recently pushed
  - can be implemented as an array
    - end of the array is called the top of the stack
- With x86-64, the program stack is stored in some region of memory
- Stack grows downward
  - top element of the stack has the <u>lowest address</u> of all stack elements
  - by convention, it is norm to draw stacks upside down (stack "top" shown at the bottom)

- pushq and popq take a single operand
  - **pushq** data source for pushing
    - first decrement the stack pointer by 8
    - write the value at the new top-of-stack address
    - pushq %rbp

```
1 subq $8,%rsp # Decrement stack pointer
2 movq %rbp,(%rsp) # Store %rbp on stack
```

• **popq** - data destination for popping

```
1 movq (%rsp),%rax # Read %rax from stack
2 addq $8,%rsp # Increment stack pointer
```

- even after 'pop' instruction, the value remains at memory location until it is overwritten
  - While **stack top** is always considered to be the address indicated by **%rsp**
- programs can access **arbitrary positions** within the stack

# H3 §3.5 Arithmetic and Logical Operations

- Most of the operations are given as instruction classes
  - ∃ different variants with different operand sizes (except leaq)

## H5 ¶3.5.1 Load Effective Address

```
1 Instruction Effect Description
2 ------
3 leaq S,D D <- &S Load effective address
```

- variant of the **movq** isntruction
  - reads from memory to a register **BUT**, it does **not reference memory** at all
  - copies the effective address to the destination
  - used to compactly describe **common arithmetic operations**

if %rdx contains value x,

then leaq 7(%rdx, %rdx, 4), %rax --> %rax = 5x + 7

destination operand must be a register

## H5 ¶3.5.2 Unary and Binary Operations

- <u>Unary operations</u> takes single operand serving as both source and destination
  - can be either a register or a memory location
     e.g. incq(%rsp) --> increments the 8-byte element on the top of the stack
- reminiscent of the C increment(++) and decrement(--) ops

```
Instruction
             Effect
                        Description
                       Add
ADD
      S,D
SUB
     S,D
            D <- D - S Subtract
     S,D
            D <- D * S Multiply
IMUL
                       Exclusive-or
     S,D
     S,D
AND
      S,D
            D <- D & S
                        And
```

- <u>Binary operations</u> takes the second operand which is used as both a source and a destination
- reminiscent of the C assignment operators (e.g x -= y;)
- First operand can be
  - Immediate value, register, memory location
- Second operand can be
  - register, memory location
- Two operands cannot both be memory locations
  - 1. processor must read the value from memory
  - 2. perform the operation
  - 3. write the result back to memory

## H5 ¶3.5.3 Shift Operations

- First operand = shift amount
  - specified as an immediate value or with the single-byte register %cl
    - possible to encode shift amounts up to  $2^8-1=255$
  - With x86-64, shift instruction operating on data values that are w bits long determines the shift amount from the lower-order m-bits of register **%cl**, where  $2^m=w$ 
    - higher-order bits are ignored

e.g. If %cl = 0xFF, salb would shift by 7, salw would shift by 15, salq would shift by 31

- Second operand = value to shift
  - can be **register** or **memory location**
- SAL & SHL have the **same effect** (filling from the right with **0**'s)
- SAR arithmetic shift (fill with copies of the sign bit (MSB))
- SHR logical shift (fill with **0**'s)

## H6 ¶3.5.4 Discussion

- most of the instructions can be used for either unsigned or two's-complement arithmetic
- Only Right Shifting needs to differentiate between signed vs. unsigned data
- Example [C code Assembly code] for Arithmetic functions

```
1 long arith(long x, long y, long z) {
2   long t1 = x ^ y;
3   long t2 = x * 48;
4   long t3 = t1 & 0x0F0F0F0F;
5   long t4 = t2 - t3;
6   retrun t4;
7 }
```

# H5 ¶3.5.5 Special Arithmetic Operations

```
Instruction Effect
                                                       Description
imulq S
           R[%rdx]:R[%rax]<-SxR[%rax]</pre>
                                                      Signed full
 multiply
 mulq S
            R[%rdx]:R[%rax]<-SxR[%rax]</pre>
                                                      Unsigned full
 multiply
cqto
              R[%rdx]:R[%rax]<-SignExtend(R[%rax]) Convert to oct</pre>
 word
             R[%rdx]<-R[%rdx]:R[%rax]mod S;</pre>
 idivq S
                                                      Signed divide
              R[%rax]<-R[%rdx]:R[%rax]/S</pre>
divq S
              R[%rdx]<-R[%rdx]:R[%rax]mod S;</pre>
                                                     Unsigned divide
              R[%rax]<-R[%rdx]:R[%rax]/S</pre>
```

- X86-64 instruction set provides limited support for operations involving 128-bit (16byte) numbers (oct word)
- imulg instruction has two different forms
  - 1. as a member of the **IMUL** instruction class (as mentioned before)
    - takes two operands and generates a 64-bit product
    - $*^{u}_{64}$  and  $*^{t}_{64}$  -- same bit-level behavior
      - truncates the product to 64 bits
  - 2. two different "One-operand" multiply instructions to compute the **full 128-bit** product of **64-bit values** 
    - 1. mulq used for unsigned 128-bit products
    - 2. **imulq** used for **two's-complement** 128-bit products
    - One argument must be in regisster %rax, and the other given as the instruction source operand
    - Product stored in %rdx (high -order 64 bits) and %rax (low -order 64 bits)

[Example C code]

```
#include <inttype.h>

typedef unsigned __int128 uint128_t;

void store_uprod(uint128_t *dest, uint64_t x, uint64_t y) {
   *dest = x * (uint128_t) y;
}
```

[Corresponding Assembly code]

```
# void store_uprod(uint128_t *dest, uint64_t x, uint64_t y)
# dest in %rdi, x in %rsi, y in %rdx
store_uprod:
movq %rsi, %rax # Copy x to multiplicand
mulq %rdx # Multiply by y
movq %rax, (%rdi) # Store lower 8 bytes at dest
movq %rdx, 8(%rdi) # Store upper 8 bytes at dest+8
ret
```

- storing the product requires **two movq** instructions
  - 1. for the low-order 8 bytes (L6)
  - 2. for the high-order 8 bytes (L7)
- Similarly, for divisions with 128-bit quantity
  - idivl
    - takes as its dividend the 128-bit quantity in registers %rdx (high-order 64 bits) and %rax (low-order 64 bits)
    - divisor is given as the instruction operand
    - stores quotient in %rax and remainder in %rdx
  - cqto
    - used for sign extension
    - reads the sign bit from %rax and copies it across all of %rdx

[Example C code]

```
void remdiv(long x, long y, long *qp, long *rp) {
long q = x/y;
long r = x%y;

*qp = q;

*rp = r;
}
```

[Corresponding Assembly code]

```
1 # void remdiv(long x, long y, long *qp, long *rp)
2 # x i %rdi, y in %rsi, qp in %rdx, rp in %rcx
3 remdiv:
4 movq %rdx, %r8 # Copy qp
5 movq %rdi, %rax # Move x to lower 8 bytes of dividend
6 cqto # Sign-extend to upper 8 bytes of dividend
7 idivq %rsi # Divide by y
8 movq %rax, (%r8) # Store quotient at qp
9 movq %rdx, (%rcx) # Store remainder at rp
10 ret
```

- **qp must** first be saved in a **different register** 
  - (: **%rdx** is required for the division operation)
- After the division, **quotient** in **%rax** gets stored at **qp** (L8), and the **remainder** in **%rdx** gets stored at **rp** (L9)
- Similarly, unsigned division uses divg instruction with %rdx filled with 0 beforehand.

## H3 §3.6 Control

- Conditionals, loops, switches -- require conditional execution
  - operations depend on the outcomes of tests
- Two basic low-level mechanisms
  - 1. altering control flow
  - 2. altering data flow

based on the results of tests

- Normally, statements and instructions are executed sequentially
- **jump** instructions are used to indicate that control should pass to some other part of the program

# H5 ¶3.6.1 Condition Codes

- CPU maintains a set of **single-bit condition code** registers
  - describes the **most recent arithmetic or logical** operation
  - can be tested to perfrom **conditional branches**
- Commonly used condition codes
  - **CF**: carry flag -- unsigned overflow
  - **ZF**: zero flag -- zero
  - SF: sign flag -- negative value
  - **OF**: overflow flag -- two's-complement overflow

Suppose we performed the C assignment t = a + b, condition codes would be set when

CF 
$$(unsigned)\ t < (unsigned)\ a$$
 Unsigned overflow ZF  $(t==0)$  Zero SF  $(t<0)$  Negative OF  $(a<0==b<0)\&\&(t<0\,!=a<0)$  Signed overflow

- leaq instruction does not alter any condition codes
  - it is intended to be used in address computation
- Otherwise, all of the aforementioned instructions casue the condition codes to be set

	Tnatrue	+ i on	Based on	Dogarintion
	Instruc	CIOH	Basea on	Description
2				
	CMP	S1,S2	S2 - S1	Compare
	cmpb			Compare byte
5	cmpw			Compare word
6	cmpl			Compare double word
	cmpq			Compare quad word
	TEST	S1,S2	S1 & S2	Test
10	testb			Test byte
	testw			Test word
12	testl			Test double word
13	testq			Test quad word

 CMP instructions and TEST instructions set condition codes without altering any other registers

- CMP sets condition codes according to the **differences** of its two operands
  - ≈ SUB instruction but **DOES NOT** update its destination
- TEST sets condition codes accroding to the result of AND operation applied to its two operands
  - ≈ AND instruction but **DOES NOT** update its destination
  - typically, the same operand is repeated (testq %rax,%rax)
    - to see whether %rax is negative, zero, or positive
  - or one of the operands is a mask indicating which bits should be tested

## **H5** ¶3.6.2 Accessing the Condition Codes

- ∃ 3 common ways of using the condition codes (rather than reading the condition codes directly)
  - 1. set a **single byte** to **0** or **1** depending on some combination of the condition codes
  - 2. conditionally jump to some other part of the program
  - 3. conditionally transfer data

## • **SET** instructions

	Instructi	on	Synonym	Effect	Set condition
2					
	sete	D	setz	D <- ZF	Equal/zero
	setne	D	setnz	D <- ~ZF	Not equal/not zero
5	sets	D		D <- SF	Negative
6	setns	D		D <- ~SF	Nonnegative
	setg	D	setnle	D <- ~(SF^OF)&~ZF	Greater (signed >)
	setge	D	setnl	D <- ~(SF^OF)	Greater or equal (signed
	>=)				
	setl	D	setnge	D <- SF^OF	Less (signed <)
10	setle	D	setng	D <- (SF^OF)   ZF	Less or equal (signed <=)
	seta	D	setnbe	D <- ~CF&~ZF	Above (unsigned >)
12	setae	D	setnb	D <- ~CF	Above or equal (unsigned
	>=)				
13	setb	D	setnae	D <- CF	Below (unsigned <)
14	setbe	D	setna	D <- CF   ZF	Below or equal (unsigned
	<=)				

Assembly code that computes a < b</li>

```
1  # int comp(data_t a, data_t b)
2  # a in %rdi, b in %rsi
3  comp:
4  cmpq  %rsi, %rdi  # Compare a:b
5  setl  %al  # Set low-order byte of %eax to 0 or 1
6  movzbl %al, %eax  # Clear rest of %eax (and rest of %rax)
7  ret
```

- Note that...
  - signed comparison tests are based on combinations of SF ^ OF and ZF
  - unsigned comparison tests are ased on combinations of CF and ZF

#### H5 ¶3.6.3 Jump Instructions

- 2. <u>conditionally jump to some other part of the program</u>
- causes the execution to switch to a completely new position in the program
- destinations are indicated in label

```
1 movq $0, %rax  # Set %rax to 0
2 jmp .L1  # Goto .L1
3 movq (%rax),%rdx  # Null pointer dereference (skipped)
4 .L1:
5 popq %rdx  # Jump target
```

```
Instruction
             Synonym
                       Jump condition
                                           Description
jmp
     Label
                                           Direct jump
jmp
    *Operand
                                           Indirect jump
    Label
                                           Equal/zero
                       ZF
jne Label jnz
                       \simZF
                                           Not equal/not zero
js
    Label
                       SF
                                           Negative
jns Label
                       ~SF
                                           Nonnegative
                                           Greater (signed >)
    Label jnle
                       ~(SF^OF)&~ZF
jg
                   Greater or equal (signed >=)
~(SF^OF)
                                           Less (signed <)</pre>
     Label
             jnge
                       SF^OF
                       (SF^OF) | ZF
                                           Less or equal (signed
jle
    Label
             jng
                                           Above (unsigned >)
    Label
             jnbe
                       ~CF&~ZF
```

```
13 jae Label jnb ~CF Above or equal (unsigned >=)

14 jb Label jnae CF Below (unsigned <)

15 jbe Label jna CF|ZF Below or equal (unsigned <=)
```

- while generating the object-code file, the assembler determines the address of all labeled instructions and encodes the **jump targets** (addresses of the destination instructions)
- jmp instruction jumps unconditionally
  - <u>direct jump</u>: jump target encoded as part of the instruction
     e.g. jmp .L1
  - **indirect jump**: jump target is read from a register or a memory location
    - e.g. jmp \*%rax --> uses the value in register %rax
    - jmp \*(%rax) --> reads the jump target from memory, using %rax as the read address
- Remaining jump instructions are conditional
  - either jump or continue executing at the next instruction in the code sequence,
     depending on some combination of the condition codes
  - Can only be direct

#### H5 ¶3.6.4 Jump Instruction Encodings

- important to understand how the targets of jump instructions are encoded --> CH7.
   Linking
- In assembly code, jump targets are written using symbolic labels
  - Assembler and linker generate the proper encodings of the jump target
- **Two** commonly used **encodings** for jump targets
  - PC relative
    - **difference** between the address of the **target instruction** and the address of the **instruction immediately following the jump**
    - offsets encoded using 1, 2, or 4 bytes

Example Assembly Code

```
1  movq %rdi, %rax
2  jmp   .L2
3  .L3:
4  sarq %rax
5  .L2:
6  testq %rax, %rax
7  jg   .L3
8  rep; ret
```

Corresponding .o generated by the assembler

```
1 0: 48 89 f8 mov %rdi,%rax
2 3: eb 03 jmp 8 <loop+0x8>
3 5: 48 d1 f8 sar %rax
4 8: 48 85 c0 test %rax,%rax
5 b: 7f f8 jg 5 <loop+0x5>
6 d: f3 c3 repz retq
```

- e.g. 03 in L2 + 05 in L3 = 0x08 (jump target address)
- value of the **PC** = instruction **following the jump**

Disassembled version after linking

```
1 4004d0: 48 89 f8 mov %rdi,%rax
2 4004d3: eb 03 jmp 8 <loop+0x8>
3 4004d5: 48 d1 f8 sar %rax
4 4004d8: 48 85 c0 test %rax,%rax
5 4004db: 7f f8 jg 5 <loop+0x5>
6 4004dd: f3 c3 repz retq
```

- instructions have been **relocated** to different addresses
  - encodings of the jump targets remain unchanged
- With **PC-relative** encoding, instructions can be **compactly encoded**, and object code can be shifted to different positions in memory **without alteration**

#### Absolute

• **4 bytes** to <u>directly</u> specify the target address

# H5 ¶3.6.5 Implementing Conditional Branches with Conditional Control

 most general way to translate conditional expressions and statements from C into machine code = conditional + unconditional jumps

[Example C code]

```
1 long lt_cnt = 0;
2 long ge_cnt = 0;
3
4 long absdiff_se(long x, long y) {
5 long result;
6 if (x < y) {
7 lt_cnt++;
8 result = y - x;
9 }
10 else {
11 ge_cnt++;
12 result = x - y;
13 }
14 return result;
15 }</pre>
```

[Equivalent goto version - C code]

```
long gotodiff_se(long x, long y) {
long result;
if(x >= y)
    goto x_ge_y;
lt_cnt++;
result = y - x;
return result;
    x_ge_y:
    ge_cnt++;
result = x - y;
return result;
}
```

[Generated assembly code]

```
1 # long absdiff_se(long x, long y)
```

As shown above, the assembly implementation typically adheres to the following form

```
1  t = test-expr;
2  if(!t)
3  goto false;
4  then-statement
5  goto done;
6  false:
7  else-statement
8  done:
```

compiler generates separate blocks of code for then-statement and else-statement

#### ¶3.6.6 Implementing Conditional Branches with Conditional Moves

- Conventional way to implement conditional operations is through a conditional transfer of control
  - program follows one execution path when a condition holds and another when it does not
  - can be very **inefficient** on modern processors
- Alternate strategy: --> through conditional transfer of data
  - computes **both outcomes of a conditional operation** and then selects one based on whether or not the condition holds

• can be implemented by a simple conditional move

## [Example C code]

```
long absdiff(long x, long y) {
long result;
if (x < y)
result = y - x;
else
result = x - y;
return result;
}</pre>
```

--> similar to the one used in **3.5.5**, however this does not have It\_cnt or ge\_cnt (side effects).

[Implementation using conditional assignment]

```
long cmovdiff(long x, long y) {
long rval = y - x;
long eval = x - y;
long ntest = x >= y;
/* Line below requires single instruction */
if (ntest) rval = eval;
return rval;
}
```

--> computes both y-x and x-y

[Generated Assembly code]

--> cmovge instruction implements the conditional assignment (L6) of cmovdiff

- Reason why conditional data transfers can outperform conditional control transfers
  - processors use **pipelining** to achieve high performance
    - instruction is processed via a **sequence of stages**, each performing **one small portion** of the required operations
    - high performance by overlapping the steps of the successive instructions
  - When the machine encounters a conditional jump ("branch"), cannot determine which way the branch will go until it has evaluated the branch condition
    - $\exists$  branch prediction logic to guess
      - misprediction can incur a serious penalty (≈15-30 clock cycles) --> degradation of program performance
        - **dominates** the performance of the function
- conditional move instructions

```
Instruction Synonym
                       Move condition Description
cmove S,R cmovz
                       ZF
                                      Equal/zero
                                      Not equal/not zero
cmovne S,R
             cmovnz
                       ~ZF
       S,R
                       SF
                                      Negative
cmovs
cmovns S,R
                       ~SF
                                      Nonnegative
cmovg
       S,R cmovnle
                       ~(SF^OF)&~ZF
                                      Greater (signed >)
                                      Greater or equal (signed >=)
cmovge S,R cmovnl
                       ~(SF^OF)
                       SF^OF
                                      Less (signed <)</pre>
cmovl S,R cmovnge
cmovle S,R cmovng
                       (SF^OF) ZF
                                      Less or equal (signed <=)</pre>
```

```
11 cmova S,R cmovnbe ~CF&~ZF Above (unsigned >)
12 cmovae S,R cmovnb ~CF Above or equal (unsigned >=)
13 cmovb S,R cmovnae CF Below (unsigned <)
14 cmovbe S,R cmovna CF|ZF Below or equal (unsigned <=)
```

- Not all conditional expressions can be compiled using conditional moves
  - if one of the two expressions could possibly generate an error condition or a side effect --> invalid behavior
  - put side effects to force GCC to implement the function using conditional transfers

#### [Example C code]

```
1 long cread(long *xp) {
2  return (xp ? *xp : 0);
3 }
```

[Corresponding assembly code with **Conditional move**]

```
1  # long cread(long *xp)
2  # Invalid implementation of function cread
3  # xp in register %rdi
4  cread:
5  movq (%rdi), %rax  # v = *xp
6  testq %rdi, %rdi  # Test x
7  movl $0, %edx  # Set ve = 0
8  cmove %rdx, %rax  # If x==0, v = ve
9  ret  # Return v
```

- **Invalid** implementation --> dereferencing of xp by the movq instruction (L5) occurs even when the test fails --> causing a null pointer dereferencing error
- Conditional moves **does not always** improve code efficiency
  - when either evaluation requires a significant computation
    - effort wasted when the corresponding condition does not hold

- GCC only uses conditional moves only when the two expressions can be computed very easily
  - e.g. single add instruction
  - uses **conditional control transfers** even where the cost of branch misprediction would **exceed** even more complex computations

## H5 ¶3.6.7 Loops

- C provides several looping constructs
  - do-while, while, for
- no corresponding instructions exist in machine code
  - --> implemented with combinations of conditional tests and jumps

```
1 do
2 body-statement
3 while (test-expr);
```

- repeatedly execute **body-statement**, evaluate **test-expr** and continue the loop if the **evaluation result is nonzero** (true)
  - body-statement is executed at least once

[Corresponding **goto** statements]

```
1 loop:
2 body-statement
3 t = test-expr;
4 if(t)
5 goto loop;
```

- program evaluates the body statement, then the test expression
  - if test succeeds, the program goes back for **another iteration**

[Example C code]

```
1 long fact_do(long n) {
2   long result = 1;
3   do {
4    result *= n;
5    n = n-1;
6   } while (n > 1);
7   return result;
8 }
```

• computes the **factorial** of its argument (n!)

[Equivalent **goto** version]

```
long fact_do_goto(long n) {
long result = 1;
loop:
result *= n;
n = n-1;
if (n > 1)
goto loop;
return result;
}
```

[Corresponding assembly-language code]

```
1  # long fact_do(long n)
2  # n in %rdi
3  fact_do:
4  movl  $1, %eax  # Set result = 1
5  .L2:  # loop:
6  imulq  %rdi, %rax  # Compute result *= n
7  subq  $1, %rdi  # Decrement n
8  cmpq  $1, %rdi  # Compare n:1
9  jg  .L2  # If >, goto loop
10  rep; ret  # Return
```

- jump instruction jg (L9) is the key instruction in implementing a loop
  - determines whether to continue iterating or to exit
- loop is potentially terminated before the first execution of body-statement

## 1. jump to middle method

• generated by **GCC** when optimization is specified as -Og.

```
1    goto test;
2    loop:
3    body-statement
4    test:
5    t = test-expr;
6    if(t)
7    goto loop;
```

[Example C code]

```
long fact_while(long n) {
long result = 1;
while (n > 1) {
   result *= n;
   n = n-1;
}
return result;
}
```

[Equivalent **goto** version]

```
long fact_while_jm_goto(long n) {
long result = 1;
goto test;
loop:
    result *= n;
    n = n-1;
test:
    if (n > 1)
    goto loop;
return result;
}
```

[Corresponding Assembly-language code]

```
1  # long fact_while(long n)
2  # n in %rdi
3  fact_while:
4  movl  $1, %eax  # Set result = 1
5  jmp  .L5  # Goto test
6  .L6:  # loop:
7  imulq %rdi, %rax  # Compute result *= n
8  subq  $1, %rdi  # Decrement n
9  .L5:  # test:
10  cmpq  $1, %rdi  # Compare n:1
11  jg  .L6  # If >, goto loop
12  rep; ret  # Return
```

#### 2. guarded do method

```
1  t = test-expr;
2  if(!t)
3   goto done;
4  loop:
5   body-statement
6  t = test-expr;
7  if (t)
8   goto loop;
```

- transforms the code into a **do-while** loop by using a conditional branch to skip over the loop if the initial test fails
- GCC uses this when compiling with higher levels of optimization (-O1)
- compiler can optimize the initial test to always hold

[C code]

```
1 long fact_while (long n) {
2  long result = 1;
3  while (n > 1) {
4   result *= n;
5   n = n-1;
6  }
7  return result;
8 }
```

[Equivalent goto version]

```
1 long fact_While_gd_goto(long n) {
2    long result = 1;
3    if (n <= 1)
4        goto done;
5    loop:
6        result *= n;
7        n = n-1;
8        if (n != 1)
9             goto loop;
10    done:
11        return result;
12    }</pre>
```

[Corresponding **assembly**-language code (**-O1**)]

```
1  # long fact_while(long n)
2  # n in %rdi
3  fact_while:
4  cmpq  $1, %rdi  # Compare n:1
5  jle    .L7  # If <=, goto done
6  movl  $1, %eax  # Set result = 1
7    .L6:  # loop:
8  imulq %rdi, %rax  # Compute result *= n
9  subq  $1, %rdi  # Decrement n
10  cmpq  $1, %rdi  # Compare n:1
11  jne    .L6  # If !=, goto loop
12  rep; ret  # Return
13    .L7:  # Done:
14  movl  $1, %eax  # Compute result = 1
15  ret  # Return</pre>
```

• jle instruction on L5 skips over the loop code when the initial test fails

```
for (init-expr; test-expr; update-expr)
body-statement
```

- code generated by GCC for a for loop then follows one of the two translation strategies
  - 1. jump-to-middle

```
init-expr;
goto test;
loop:
body-statement
update-expr;
test:
t = test-expr;
if (t)
goto loop;
```

# 2. guarded-do

```
1    init-expr;
2    t = test-expr;
3    if(!t)
4       goto done;
5    loop:
6    body-statement
7    update-expr;
8    t = test-expr;
9    if(t)
10       goto loop;
11    done:
```

[Example C code - for loop]

```
1 long fact_for(long n) {
2   long i;
3   long result = 1;
4   for (i = 2; i <= n; i++)
5     result *= i;
6   return result;
7 }</pre>
```

[Corresponding jump-to-middle transformation]

[Assembly code with -Og optimization level]

```
1  # long fact_for(long n)
2  # n in %rdi
3  fact_for:
4  movl  $1, %eax  # Set result = 1
5  movl  $2, %edx  # Set i = 2
6  jmp   .L8  # Goto test
7  .L9:  # loop:
8  imulq %rdx, %rax  # Compute result *= i
9  addq $1, %rdx  # Increment i
10  .L8:  # test:
11  cmpq %rdi, %rdx  # Compare i:n
12  jle  .L9  # If <=, goto loop
13  rep; ret  # Return</pre>
```

# **H5** ¶3.6.8 Switch Statements

- switch statement -> provides a multiway branching capability based on the value of an integer index
- useful when dealing with tests where there can be a large number of possible outcomes
- allow an efficient implementation using a data structure called a <u>jump table</u>
  - array where entry **i** is the **address** of a code segment implementing the action the program should take when the **switch index equals i**
  - code performs an array reference into the jump table using the switch index to determine the target for a jump instruction

- ADVANTAGE
  - time taken to perform the switch is independent of the number of switch cases
- GCC selects the method of translating switch statement based on
  - 1. number of cases (4 or more)
  - 2. span a small range of values

[Example C code]

```
void switch_eg (long x, long n, long *dest) {
  long val = x;
   case 100:
     val *= 13;
     break;
   case 102:
     val == 10;
   case 103:
    val += 11;
     break;
   case 104:
   case 105:
    break;
   default:
      val = 0;
  *dest = val;
```

- Features to note
  - 1. range **NOT contiguous**
  - 2.  $\exists$  cases that **fall through** to other cases

(∵ ∄ break statement)

```
void switch_eg_impl (long x, long n, long *dest) {
 static void *jt[7] = {
     &&loc A, &&loc def, &&loc B,
     &&loc_C, &&loc_D, &&loc_def, &&loc_D
 unsigned long index = n - 100;
 long val;
 if (index > 6)
   goto loc def;
 goto *jt[index];
   val = x * 13;
  goto done;
 loc B: // Case 102
  x = x + 10;
 loc C: // Case 103
  val = x + 11;
  goto done;
 loc_D: // Case 104, 106
   val = x * X;
  goto done;
 loc def: // Default case
  val = 0;
 done:
   *dest = val;
```

- makes use of support provided by GCC for jump table
- array jt contains 7 entries, each of which is the address of a block of code
  - **locations** are defined by labels in the code & indicated in the entries in **jt** by code pointers (&&: pointer for a code location)
- **computed goto** is supported by **GCC** as an extension to the C language

#### [Assembly code]

```
switch eg:
          $100, %rsi
 subq
         $6, %rsi
 cmpq
          .L8
  jmp
          *.L4(,%rsi,8)
.L3:
         (%rdi,%rdi,2), %rax
 leaq
         (%rdi,%rax,4), %rdi
          .L2
  jmp
.L5:
         $10, %rdi
  addq
.L6:
          $11, %rdi
 addq
          .L2
 jmp
.L7:
          %rdi, %rdi
 imulq
          .L2
 jmp
.L8:
         $0, %edi
 movl
.L2:
         $rdi, (%rdx)
 movq
```

- jmp instruction has an operand prefixed with \*
  - ≈ computed goto in extended C

#### [Jump table]

```
.rodata
 .section
 .align 8
.L4:
        .L3
 .quad
        .L8
 .quad
       .L5
 .quad
        .L6
 .quad
 .quad
        .L8
 .quad
        .L7
 .quad
```

- .rodata: "read-only data"
- sequence of seven "quad" (8-byte) words

- value of each word is given by the instruction address associated with the indicated assembly-code labels
- .L4 marks the start of the allocation
  - associated address serves as the base for the indirect jump
- Use of a jump table allows a very efficient way to implement a multiway branch
  - even with 100+ cases, can be handled by a signle jump table access

# H3 §3.7 Procedures

- **Procedures**: key abstraction in software
  - package code that implements some functionality with a designed set of arguments and an optional return value
  - function can be invoked from different points in a program
  - hides detailed implementation + provide a clear & concise interface definition

Suppose procedure **P** calls procedure **Q**, and **Q** returns back to **P** after execution.

One or more of the following mechanisms need to be involved

#### 1. Passing control

PC must be set to the starting address of the code for Q upon entry --> set to
the instruction in P following the call to Q upon return

#### 2. Passing data

 P must be able to provide one or more parameters to Q, and Q must be able to return a value back to P

#### 3. Allocating and deallocating memory

• Q may need to allocate space for local variables when it begins, and then free that storage before it returns

# x86-64 implementation has tried to minimize the overhead involved in invoking a procedure

 implements only as much of the above set of mechanisms as is required for each particular procedure

### H5 ¶3.7.1. The Run-Time Stack

 key feature of the procedure-calling mechanism is LIFO (last-in, first-out) memory management discipline provided by a stack data structure

#### Suppose P is calling Q

- while Q is executing, P and any of the procedures in the chain of calls up to P is temporarily suspended
  - only Q will need the ability to allocate new storage for its local variables or to set up a call to another procedure
    - when **Q** returns, local storage can be freed
- Hence, program can manage the storage required by its procedures using a <u>Stack</u>
  - As P calls Q, control & data information are added to the end of the stack
    - gets deallocated when Q returns
- Stack grows toward lower addresses, and the stack pointer %rsp points to the top element of the stack (lowest address)
- **pushq**: Store data on stack
- **popq**: retrieve data from stack
- can allocate space for data with no specific initial value by decrementing the stack
   pointer
  - deallocate by incrementing the stack pointer
- When procedure requries storage beyond what it can hold in registers, it allocates <u>space</u>
   <u>on the stack</u> (Stack frame)
  - frame for the currently executing procedure is always at the top of the stack
    - When P calls Q, it will push the return address onto the stack (where within P the program should resume execution once Q returns)
- Stack frames for most procedures are of fixed size, allocated at the beginning of the procedure
- Some require variable-size frames (¶3.10.5)
- P can pass up to six integral values on the registers, but if Q requires more
  arguments, these values can be stored by P within its stack fram before the call

- Due to **space & time efficiency**, x86-64 procedures allocate **only the portions of the stack frames they require** 
  - many procedures have six or fewer arguments (can be passed in registers)
  - Majority of functions do not require a stack frame
    - local variables can be held in registers
    - function does not call any other functions (leaf procedure)

## H5 ¶3.7.2 Control Transfer

- passing control from P to Q by setting PC (%rip) to the starting address of Q
- when Q returns, the processor must have some record of the code location where it should resume the execution of P
  - recorded in x86-64 by invoking procedure Q with the instruction call Q
    - pushes an address A (return address) onto the stack and sets PC to the beginning of Q
      - <u>return address</u> is computed as the address of the instruction <u>immediately</u>
         following the call instruction
  - ret instruction pops an address A off the stack, and sets PC to A
- call instruction has a target indicating the address of the instruction where the called procedure starts
  - can be **direct** or **indirect** 
    - direct target given as a label
       e.g. callq 400540
    - indirect target given by '\*' followed by an operand specifier

# H5 ¶3.7.3 Data Transfer

- procedure calls may involve passing data as arguments + returning from a procedure may also involve returning a value
  - with x86-64, most of data passing take place via registers
    - arguments passed in registers %rdi, %rsi, and others
    - values returned in register %rax
- when P calls Q, code for P must first copy the arguments into the proper registers
- when Q returns back to P, code for P can access the returned value in %rax
- with x86-64, six integral arguments (integer, pointer) can be passed via registers
  - used in a **specified order**

	Operand	Argument number					
2 3	size(bits)	1	2	3	4	5	6
	64	 %rdi	 %rsi	 %rdx	 %rcx	 %r8	 %r9
5	32	%edi	%esi	%edx	%ecx	%r8d	%r9d
6	16	%di	%si	%dx	%CX	%r8w	%r9w
	8	%dil	%sil	%dl	%cl	%r8b	%r9b

- arguments are allocated to these registers according to their ordering in the argument list
- arguments smaller than 64 bits can be accessed using the **appropriate subsection** of the 64-bit register
- if a function has more than six integral arguments, the other ones are passed on the stack
  - suppose P calls Q with n integrals, s.t. n>6, then P must allocate a stack frame with enough storage for arguments 7 ~ n
    - argument **7 at the top of the stack**
- when passing parameters on the stack, all data sizes are rounded up to be multiples of eight
- program executes a call instruction with the arguments in place
  - **Q** can access its arguments via **registers & stack**

• If, Q also calls another function with 6+ arguments, **Q allocates space within its stack** frame

[Example C code]

```
1 - Function with 8 arguments with different sizes & types
```

[Generated **Assembly code**]

- the first six arguments are passed in registers
- the last two are passed on the stack

#### [Generated Stack frame]

```
1 - Return address is pushed onto the stack as part of the **procedure
call**
2 - the two arguments, a4 and a4p are at positions 8 and 16 relative
to the **stack pointer (%rsp)**
```

# H5 ¶3.7.4 Local Storage on the Stack

- At times, **local data** must be stored in memory
  - 1. **not enough registers** to hold all of the local variables
  - 2. **address operator (&)** applied to a **local variable**, and we must be able to generate an address for it
  - 3. some local variables are **arrays** or **structures** and hence **must be accessed by array or structure references**
- procedure allocates space on the stack frame by decrementing the stack pointer
  - stack frame labeled "local variables"

[C code for swap\_add and calling function]

```
long swap_add(long *xp, long *yp) {
long x = *xp;
long y = *yp;

*xp = y;

*xp = x;

return x + y;

}

long caller() {
long arg1 = 534;
```

```
11    long arg2 = 1057;
12    long sum = swap_add(&arg1, &arg2);
13    long diff = arg1 - arg2;
14    return sum * diff;
15 }
```

 function caller creates pointers to local variables arg1 and arg2, then passes these to swap\_add

[Generated **Assembly code** for calling function]

```
caller:
 subq
        $16, %rsp
       $534, (%rsp)
 movq
  movq $1057, 8(%rsp)
  leaq
       8(%rsp), %rsi # Compute &arg2 as second argument
       %rsp, %rdi
  movq
  call swap_add
  movq
       (%rsp), %rdx
       8(%rsp), %rdx
  subq
 imulq %rdx, %rax
        $16, %rsp
  addq
  ret
```

- decrementing the stack pionter by 16 (L3) --> allocates 16 bytes on the stack
  - Let **S** be the value of the stack pointer
    - &arg2 = S+8, &arg1 = S
      - local variables arg1 and arg2 are stored within the stack frame at offsets
         0 and 8 relative to the stack pointer (%rsp)
- caller retrieves the two values from the stack (L9-10) by (%rsp), 8(%rsp)
- then the function deallocates its stack frame by incrementing the stack pointer by 16

[C code for calling function]

```
1 long call_proc() {
2  long x1 = 1; int x2 = 2;
3  short x3 = 3; char x4 = 4;
4  proc(x1, &x1, x2, &x2, x3, &x3, x4, &x4);
5  return (x1+x2) * (x3-x4);
6 }
```

## [Generated Assembly code]

```
call proc:
 subq
         $32, %rsp
 movq
        $1, 24(%rsp)
        $2, 20(%rsp)
 movl
        $3, 18(%rsp)
 movw
        $5, 17(%rsp)
 movb
 leag
        17(%rsp), %rax
 movq
        %rax, 8(%rsp)
        $4, (%rsp)
 movl
 leaq
        18(%rsp), %r9
 movl
        $3, %r8d
         20($rsp), %rcx
        $2, %edx
 movl
         24(%rsp), %rsi
 leaq
 movl
         $1, %edi
 call
         proc
 movslq 20(%rsp), %rdx # Get x2 and convert to long
 addq
         24(%rsp), %rdx
 movswl 18(%rsp), %eax
 movsbl 17(%rsp), %ecx
         %ecx, %eax
 cltq
 imulq %rdx, %rax
        $32, %rsp
 addq
```

#### [Stack frame for function]

# H5 ¶3.7.5 Local Storage in Registers

- set of program registers acts as a single resource shared by all of the procedures
- Thus, we must make sure that when one procedure (caller, P) calls another (callee, Q),
   the callee does not overwrite some register value that the caller planned to use later
  - uniform set of conventions for register usage that must be respected by all procedures
    - %rbx, %rbp, %r12-%r15 -- callee-saved registers
      - Q must preserve the values of these registers
        - ensure that they have the same values when Q returns to P as they did when Q was called
        - 1. by not changing values at all
        - 2. by **pushing the original value** on the **stack**, altering it, and then popping the **old value from the stack before returning** 
          - creates the portion labeled "Saved registers"
        - With this convention, P can safely store a value in a callee-saved register
    - all other registers (except for %rsp) are caller-saved registers
      - can be modified by any function
      - incumbent upon P to save the data

[Example calling function]

```
1 long P(long x, long y) {
2   long u = Q(y);
3   long v = Q(x);'
4   return u + v;
5 }
```

- P calls Q twice
  - during the first call, must retain x to use later
    - during the second call, must retain Q(y)

#### [Generated Assembly code]

```
P:
pushq %rbp
 pushq %rbx
       $8, %rsp
 subq
       %rdi, %rbp
 movq
       $rsi, %rdi
 movq
  call
       Q
 movq %rax, %rbx # Save result
 movq
       %rbp, %rdi
 call
 addq
       %rbx, %rax # Add saved Q(y) to Q(x)
 addq
       $8, %rsp
       %rbx
 popq
  popq
        %rbp
```

- uses two callee-saved registers
  - **%rbp** to hold x, **%rbx** to hold Q(y)
  - popped in the reverse order from how they were pushed at the very end of the function

# **H5** ¶3.7.6 Recursive Procedures

- the conventions we have covered allow x86-64 procedures to call them recursively
- each procedure call has its own private space on the stack

local variables of the multiple outstanding calls do not interfere with one another

#### [Example C code]

```
1 long rfact(long n) {
2   long result;
3   if (n <= 1)
4     result = 1;
5   else
6     result = n * rfact(n-1);
7   return result;
8 }</pre>
```

#### [Generated Assembly code]

- assembly code uses **%rbx** to hold n
  - saves the existing value on the stack (L4), (pushq %rbx)
  - restores the value before returning (L13), (popq %rbx)
- Due to the stack discipline & register-saving conventions, we can be assured when the recursive call to **rfact(n-1)** returns that...
  - 1. result of the call will be held in register %rax
  - 2. value of argument **n** will be held in register **%rbx**
  - Hence, multiplying 1. and 2. computes the desired result

- Stack discipline provides a mechanism where each invocation of a function has its own private storage for state information
  - saved values of the return location & callee-saved registers
- also provides storage for local variables

# H3 §3.8 Array Allocation and Access

- with C, we can generate **pointers** to **elements within arrays** and **perform arithmetic** with pointers
  - address computations in machine code
- Optimizing compilers simplify the address computations used by array indexing

# H5 ¶3.8.1 Basic Principles

- For data type T and integer constant N, consider a declaration T A[N];
  - Suppose it has a starting location of  $x_A$ . It has two effects
    - 1. allocates a contiguous region of  $L\cdot N$  bytes in memory, where L is the size (in bytes) of data type T
    - 2. introduces an identifier **A** that can be used as a **pointer to the beginning of the** array
      - value of this pointer will be  $x_A$
      - ullet array elements can be accessed using an integer index ranging  $\,0\,$  to  $\,N-1\,$
      - ullet array element i will be stored at address  $\,x_A + L \cdot i\,$
- For example, consider the following declarations

```
char A[12];
char *B[8];
int C[6];
double *D[5];
```

these declarations will generate arrays with the following parameters

3 A 1 12 x_A x_A+i 4 B 8 64 x_B x_B+8i 5 C 4 24 x_C x_C+4i 6 D 8 40 x_D x_D+8i	1	Array	Elem.size	Total.size	Start.address	Elem.i
5 C 4 24 x_C x_C+4i		A	1	12	x_A	x_A+i
		В	8	64	<b>x_</b> B	x_B+8i
6 D 8 40 x_D x_D+8i	5	С	4	24	x_C	x_C+4i
	6	D	8	40	x_D	x_D+8i

- note that B and D are arrays of pointers => array elements are 8 bytes each
- memory referencing example:

Suppose **E** is an array of values of type **int** and we wish to evaluate **E[i]**, where the **address of E** is stored in register **%rdx** and **i** is stored in register **%rcx** 

```
1 movl (%rdx,%rcx,4),%eax
```

which will perform  $x_E+4i$ 

 allowed scaling factors of 1, 2, 4, 8 cover the sizes of the common primitive data types

# H5 ¶3.8.2 Pointer Arithmetic

• C allows **arithmetic on pointers** -- computed value is scaled **according to the size of the data type** referenced by the pointer

if p is a pointer to data of type T,  $\;$  and the value of p is  $x_p$ ,

then the expression p+i has value  $x_p+L\cdot i$ , where L is the size of data type T

• '&' -- generates pointers, '\*' -- dereferences pointers

Suppose Expr denotes some object.

=> &Expr - pointer giving the address of the object

AExpr denotes an address,

=>\*AExpr - value at the address

Hence,

$$Expr = *\&Expr$$

• array subscripting operation can be applied to both arrays and pointers

$$A[i] = *(A+i)$$

## Suppose

%rdx -- starting address of integer array E

%rcx -- integer index i

```
Exp
                  Value
                              Assembly code
           Type
                            movl %rdx,%rax
                  x_E
                 M[x_E]
  E[0]
                             movl (%rdx),%eax
                 M[x_E+4i] movl (%rdx,%rcx,4),%eax
 E[i]
                             leaq 8(%rdx),%eax
6 &E[2]
          int*
                 x_E+8
                 x E+4i-4 leag -4(%rdx,%rcx,4),%rax
7 E+i-1 int*
                  M[x_E+4i-12] movl -12(%rdx,%rcx,4),%eax
9 &E[i]-E
          long
                              movq %rcx, %rax
```

- Note that data are stored in %eax and pointers are stored in %rax
- Return data types, operations, and registers match
  - pointers leaq, movq %rax
  - data movl %eax

# H5 ¶3.8.3 Nested Arrays

• general principles of array allocation and referencing hold

For instance, the delcaration

```
1 int A[5][3]
```

is equivalent to

```
1 typedef int row3_t[3];
2 row3_t A[5];
```

```
1 - row3_t : array of three integers
2 - A: five such elements --> each requiring **12 bytes** to store the
    three integers
```

- Hence, A has a size of  $4 \cdot 5 \cdot 3 = 60$  bytes (array of 15 integers)
- array A can be viewed as a two-dimensional array with 5 rows & 3 cols
- array elements are ordered in memory in row-major order
  - all elements of row 0 are followed by all elements of row 1 ...
  - Consequence of nested declaration
- To access elements of multidimensional arrays, the compiler generates code to compute the offset of the desired element and then uses one of the MOV instructions with the start of the array as the base address and the offset (scaled) as an index
  - For an array T D[R][C]; array element D[i][j] is at memory address  $\&D[i][j] = x_D + L(C \cdot i + j)$ , where L is the size of data type T in bytes
- Accessing A[i][j] in assembly code

```
1  # A in %rdi, i in %rsi, and j in %rdx
2  leaq (%rsi,%rsi,2), %rax # Compute 3i
3  leaq (%rdi,%rax,4), %rax # Compute x_A+12i
4  movl (%rax,%rdx,4), %eax # Read from M[x_A+12i+4j]
```

## H5 ¶3.8.4 Fixed-Size Arrays

 C compilier can make many optimizations for code operating on multi-dimensional arrays of <u>fixed size</u>

[Example C code]

```
#define N 16
typedef int fix_matrix[N][N];

/* Compute i,k of fixed matrix product */
int fix_prod_ele (fix_matrix A, fix_matrix B, long i, long k) {
   long j;
   int result = 0;

for(j = 0; j < N; j++)
   result += A[i][j] * B[j][k];

return result;
}</pre>
```

Whenever a program uses **some constant** as an **array dimension** or **buffer size**, set name with **#define** declaration

--> easy to change the value by modifying the #define declaration

#### [**Optimized** C code (with -O1 flag)]

- optimization accomplished by...
  - 1. removing integer index j
  - 2. converting array references -> pointer dereferences
    - 1. Aptr --> successive elements in row i of A
      - init value = &A[i][0]

- 2. Bptr --> successive elements in col k of B
  - init value = &B[0][k]
- 3. Bend --> value of **Bptr** when terminating the loop
  - &B[N][k] (  $\because$  terminates at (n+1) st elem of col j of B)

#### [Generated Assembly code]

```
fix_prod_ele:
        $6, %rdx
%rdx, %rdi
 addq
        (%rsi,%rcx,4), %rcx # compute Bptr = x B+4k = &B[0][k]
 leaq
        1024(%rcx), %rsi  # compute Bend = x B+4k+1024 = &B[N]
  movl $0, %eax
.L7:
 movl (%rdi), %edx
 imull (%rcx), %edx
 addl %edx, %eax
        $4, %rdi
 addq
        $64, %rcx
 addq
        %rsi, %rcx
cmpq
 jne .L7
  rep; ret
```

## H5 ¶3.8.5 Variable-Size Arrays

- Historically, C only <u>supported</u> multidimensional arrays where the sizes could be determined at compile time
  - had to allocate storage with malloc or calloc
  - needed to explicitly encode the mapping of multidimensional arrays into singledimension via row-major indexing
- ISO C99 introduced the capability of having array dimension expressions that are computed as the array is being allocateed
- ullet can declare an array intA[expr1][expr2]
  - either as a local variable or as an argument to a function

• dimensions are determined by **evaluating the expressions** at the time the declaration is encountered

## [Example C code]

```
int var_ele(long n, int A[n][n], long i, long j) {
  return A[i][j];
}
```

## [Generated Assebmly code]

- GCC computes the address of element i,j as  $x_A+4(n\cdot i)+4j=x_A+4(n\cdot i+j)$
- Address computation is similar to that of the fixed-size array except
  - 1. register usage changes (: parameter n added)
  - 2. multiply instruction is used (L4) to compute  $n \cdot i$  rather than an leag instruction
    - Can incur a significant performance penalty but it is <u>unavoidable</u> in variable-sized array
- when variable-sized arrays are referenced within a loop, compiler often optimizes the index computations by exploiting the regularity of the access patterns

[Example C code]

```
// Compute i, k of variable matrix product
int var_prod_ele(long n, int A[n][n], int B[n][n], long i, long k) {
  long j;
  int result = 0;

  for(j = 0; j < n; j++)
    result += A[i][j] * B[j][k];

  return result;
}</pre>
```

# [**Optimized** C code]

```
1  // Compute i, k of variable matrix product
2  int var_prod_ele_opt(long n, int A[n][n], int B[n][n], long i, long
    k) {
3    int *Arow = A[i];
4    int *Bptr = &B[0][k];
5    int result = 0;
6    long j;
7    for(j = 0; j < n; j++) {
8       result += Arow[j] * *Bptr;
9     Bptr += n;
10    }
11    return result;
12 }</pre>
```

- uses (array-based code) a different style from the optimized code for the **fixed-size** array
- retains loop variable j to
  - 1. detect when the loop has terminated
  - 2. index into an array consisting of the elements of row i of A

[Generated **Assembly code -O1 option**]

- program uses both a scaled value 4n (%r9) for incrementing Bptr (L8) and n to check the loop bounds
  - with **Optimizations enabled**, **GCC** recognizes **patterns** that arise when a program steps through **multidimensional arrays** 
    - then generates either the **pointer-based** or the **array-based** code that **significantly improve** program performance

# H3 §3.9 Heterogeneous Data Structures

- C provides two mechanisms for creating data types by combining objects of different types
  - 1. structures
    - declared using **struct**
    - aggregate multiple objects into a single unit

#### 2. unions

- declared using union
- allow an object to be referenced using several different types

# H5 ¶3.9.1 Structures

- C struct creates a data type that groups objects of possibly different types into a single object
- All of the components of a structure are stored in a contiguous region of memory, and
   a pointer to a structure is the address of its first byte
- compiler maintains byte offset of each filed, and generates referenes to structure
   elements using these offset as displacements in memory referencing instructions

```
1 struct rec {
2   int i;
3   int j;
4   int a[2];
5   int *p;
6  };
```

will have a total of 24 bytes of data

```
1 offset |0 |4 |8 | |16 24
2 ------3 Contents |i |j |a[0] |a[1] | p |
```

Suppose **r** of type struct **rec \*** is in **%rdi** 

• to access the fileds of a structure, the compiler generates code that **adds the** appropriate offset to the address of the structure

```
1  # Registers: r in %rdi
2 movl (%rdi), %eax  # Get r->i
3 movl $eax, 4(%rdi)  # Store in r->j
```

--> copies element r->i to element r->j

(See how the code adds offset 4 to the address of x (L3))

 to generate a pointer to an object within a structure, can simply add the field's offset to the structure address

```
1 # Registers: r in %rdi, i in %rsi
2 leaq 8(%rdi,%rsi,4), %rax # Set %rax to &r->a[i]
```

(generates the pointer value &(r o a[1]) by adding offset  $8+4\cdot 1$ )

ullet for complex statement such as  $\,r o p=\&r o a[r o i\,+r o j];\,$  ,

## **H5** ¶3.9.2 Unions

- Unions allows a single object to be referenced according to multiple types
- identical syntax (to that for structures), different semantics
  - all reference the same block

Consider ∃ S3, U3, s.t.

```
1 struct S3 {
2   char c;
3   int i[2];
4   double v;
5  };
6
7   union U3 {
8   char c;
9   int i[2];
10   double v;
11 };
```

when compiled on an x86-64 Linux machine, the offsets & total size are...

```
1 Type c i v Size
2 ------
3 S3 0 4 16 24
4 U3 0 0 0 8
```

• pointer p of type union U3 \* (p->c, p->i[0], p->i[1], p->v) would all reference the

#### beginning of the data structure

- overall size of a union = maximum size of any of its fields
- Unions can be useful in multiple contexts

```
(can also lead to bugs (∵ bypass the safety))
```

- 1. know in advance that the **use of two different fields** in a data structure will be **mutually exclusive** 
  - declaring two fields as part of a union will reduce the total space allocated

Suppose we are implementing a binary tree data structure

```
1 struct node_s {
2  struct node_s *left;
3  struct node_s *right;
4  double data[2];
5 };
```

--> with struct, every node requires **32 bytes**, with **16 bytes wasted** for each type of node

```
1 union node_u {
2  struct {
3   union node_u *left;
4   union node_u *right;
5  } internal;
6  double data[2];
7 };
```

--> with union, every node requires **16 bytes** 

However, with this encoding, cannot determine whether a given node is a leaf or an internal node

--> use **enumerated type**, defining the different possible choices for the union

```
typedef enum { N_LEAF, N_INTERNAL } nodetype_t;

struct node_t {
   nodetype_t type;
   union {
   struct {
      struct node_t *left;
      struct node_t *right;
   } internal;
   double data[2];
} info;

};
```

--> requires **24 bytes** (4 for type + 8 each for left, right or 16 for info.data + 4 bytes of padding between type and elements)

2. to access the bit patterns of different data types

```
unsigned long double2bits(double d) {
union {
    double d;
    unsigned long u;
} temp;
temp.d = d;
return temp.u;
};
```

- stored the argument in the union using one data type and access it using another
  - u will have the same bit representation as d
- when using unions to combine data types of different sizes, <u>byte-ordering</u> issues can become important

```
double uu2double(unsigned word0, unsigned word1) {
   union {
    double d;
   unsigned u[2];
   } temp;

temp.u[0] = word0;
   temp.u[1] = word1;
   return temp.d;
}
```

- on **Litte-endian machines**, **word0** will become the **low**-order 4 bytes of **d**, while **word1** will become the **high**-order 4 bytes of **d**
- on **Big-endian machines**, vice versa

# H5 ¶3.9.3 Data Alignment

- many computer systems place restrictions on the allowable addresses for the primitive data types
  - addresses for some objects must be a multiple of K (2, 4, 8)
- <u>alignment restrictions</u> simplify the design of the hardware forming the interface between the processor and the memory system
  - For instance, if a processor always fetches 8 bytes from memory with an address that must be a multiple of 8
    - --> guarantees any double will be aligned to have its address be multiple of 8
      - --> value can be read / written with a single memory operation
- Intel recommends that data be aligned to improve memory system performance
  - any primitive object of K bytes must have an address that is a multiple of K

- Compiler places directives in the assembly code indicating the desired alignment for global data
  - ullet e.g. .align~8 from jump table
    - --> ensures that the data following will start with an address that is a multiple of 8
- Compiler may need to insert gaps in the field allocation to ensure that each structure element satisfies its alignment requirement
  - For example,

```
1 struct S1 {
2  int i;
3  char c;
4  int j;
5 };
```

will be aligned as...

```
1 offset |0 |4 |5 |8 |12
2 Contents -------
3 | i | c | xxx | j |
4 -------
```

--> compiler inserts a 3-byte gap to satisfy 4-byte alignment requirements

- Compiler may need to add padding to the end of the structure so that each element in an array of structures will satisfy its alignment requirement
  - For example,

```
1 struct S2 {
2   int i;
3   int j;
4   char c;
5 };
6
7 struct S2 d[4];
```

--> rather than packing each structure into **9 bytes** ( $\cdot$ : cannot satisfy the alignment requirement for each element of d),

compiler allocates **12 bytes** for each structure with the **final 3 bytes being** wasted space

```
1 offset |0 |4 |8 |9 |12
2 Contents ------
3 | i | j | c | xxx |
4 -------
```

--> then **elements of d** will have addresses  $x_d$ ,  $x_d + 12$ ,  $x_d + 24$ ,  $x_d + 36$ . --> as long as  $x_d$  is a multiple of 4, all of the **alignment restrictions will be satisfied** 

# H3 §3.10 Combining Control and Data in Machine-Level Programs

- how data and control interact with each other
  - 1. Pointers
  - 2. symbolic debugger GDB
  - 3. **buffer overflow** --> causing security vulnerability
  - 4. varing stack storage required by a function one execution to another

# H5 ¶3.10.1 Understanding Pointers

- Pointers uniform way to generate references to elements within different data structures
- some **key principles** of pointers
  - 1. Every pointer has an associated type
    - indicates what kind of object the pointer points to

```
1 int *ip;  // pointer to int
2 char **cpp;  // pointer to a pointer to char
```

- in general, if the object has type T, then the pointer has type \*T
- special case: void \* --> generic pointer
  - e.g.) malloc function returns a generic pointer
  - can be converted to a typed pointer by
    - 1. explicit cast
    - 2. implicit casting of the assignment operation
- pointer types are not part of machine code
  - abstraction provided by C to avoid addressing errors
- 2. Every pointer has a value
  - address of some object of the designated type
  - special case: NULL (0) indicates that the pointer does not point anywhere
- 3. Pointers are created with the '&' operator
  - can be applied to any C expression that is categorized as an Ivalue
    - expression that can appear on the left side of an assignment
    - variables, elems of structures, unions, arrays
  - in machine code, leaq instruction is used
    - to compute the address of a memory reference
- 4. Pointers are **dereferenced** with the \* operator
  - result: value having the type associated with the pointer
  - dereferencing is implemented by a memory reference
    - storing to or retrieving from the **specified address**
- 5. Arrays and pointers are closely related
  - name of an array can be referenced (but not updated) as if it were a pointer variable
  - array referencing has the exact same effect as a pointer arithmetic and dereferencing

```
a[3] is same as *(a+3)
```

 both array referencing and pointer arithmetic require scaling the foffsets by the object size

p+i for pointer p with value p will have the address of  $p+L\cdot i$ , where L is the size of the data type associated with p

- 6. Casting from one type of pointer to another changes its type but not its value
  - changes any scaling of pointer arithmetic

If p is a pointer of type char \* having value p,

```
(int *) p+7 ==> p + 28
(int *) (p+7) ==> p + 7
```

--> casting has higher precedence than addition

- 7. Pointers can also **point to functions** 
  - provides a powerful capability for **storing and passing references** to code
    - can be invoked in some other part of the program

```
int fun(int x, int *p);

int (*fp)(int, int *);

fp = fun;

int y = 1;

int result = fp(3, &y);
```

• value of a function pointer = address of the first instruction

# H5 ¶3.10.2 Life in the Real World: Using the GDB Debugger

- supports the run-time evaluation & analysis of machine-level programs
- possible to study to behavior by watching the program in action while having considerable control over its execution
- start GDB with

```
1 linux> gdb prog
```

- set breakpoints near points of interest
  - just after the entry of a function
  - at a program address
- when one of the breakpoints is hit during execution, the program will halt and return control to the user
  - examine different registers & memory locations in various formats
  - can single-step the program / few instructions at a time / proceed to the next breakpoint

# H5 ¶3.10.3 Out-of-Bounds Memory References and Buffer Overflow

- C does not perform bounds checking for array references, and + local variables on the stack + state information
  - --> can cause serious program errors
  - state stored on the stack gets corrupted by a write to an out-of-bounds array element
- particularly common source of state corruption is known as Buffer overflow
   e.g. some character array is allocated on the stack to hold a string, but the size of the string exceeds the space allocated for the array

- preceding code: implementation of the library function gets
  - reads a line from the standard input, stopping when either a terminating newline character or some error condition is encountered
  - copies the string to the location designated by argument s and terminates the string with a null character
  - No way to determine whether <u>sufficient space</u> has been allocated to hold the entire string

 with code above, any string longer than seven characters will cause an out-of-bound write

#### [Generated **Assembly code**]

- the prgram allocates **24 bytes** on the stack
- character **buf** is positioned at the **top of the stack** 
  - %rsp copied to %rdi to be used as the argument to the calls to both gets and
     put
- 16 bytes between **buf** and the stored **return pointer** are not used
  - No serious consequence occurs for strings of up to 23 characters, but beyond that.
    - the value of the return pointer + possibly additional saved state will be corrupted
      - --> ret (L9) will cause the program to jump to a totally unexpected location
- Commonly used library functions (strcpy, strcat, sprintf) can generate a byte sequence without being given any indication of the size of the destination buffer --> buffer overflow!
- **Buffer overflow** is used to get a program to perform a function that it would otherwise be unwilling to do
  - exploit code: byte encoding of some executable code + extra bytes to overwrite
    the return address (to make ret jump to the exploit code)

## **H5** ¶3.10.4 Thwarting Buffer Overflow Attacks

in order to insert exploit code into a system, the attacker needs to inject exploit code +
 pointer to this code as part of the attack string

- needs to know the stack address where the string will be located
- Historically, the stack addresses for a program were highly predictable --> easy for attackers to inject worms
- **Stack randomization** --> makes the position of the stack vary from one run of a program to another
  - even if many machines are running identical code, they would all be using different stack addresses
  - implemented by **allocating a random amount of space between 0 and n** bytes on the stack
    - allocation range n needs to be large enough to get sufficient variations in the stack address, yet small enough that it does not waste too much space in the program
- Address-space layout randomization (ASLR)
  - different parts of the program (program code, library code, stack, global variables, heap data) are loaded into different regions of memory each time a program is run
    - program running on one machine will have different address mappings than the same program running on other machines
- to detect when a stack has been corrupted
- stack protector
  - stores canary value (guard value) between any local buffer and rest of the stack
    - generated randomly each time the program runs --> hard to determine what it
  - before restoring the register state and returning from the function, the program checks **if the canary has been altered** 
    - if so, the program aborts with an error
- Recent versions of **GCC** inserts **stack protector** automatically
  - to prevent GCC from inserting it, use option -fno-stack-protector

[Generated Assembly code with stack protector enabled]

```
2 echo:
3 subq $24, %sp  # Allocate 24B on stack
4 movq %fs:40, %rax  # Retrieve canary
5 movq %rax, 8(%rsp)  # Store on stack
6 xorl %eax, %eax  # Zero out register
7 movq %rsp, %rdi  # Compute buf as %rsp
8 call gets  # Call gets
9 movq %rsp, %rdi  # Compute buf as %rsp
10 call puts  # Call puts
11 movq 8(%rsp), %rax  # Retrieve canary
12 xorq %fs:40, %rax  # Compare to stored val
13 je .L9  # If =, goto ok
14 call __stack_chk_fail  # Stack corrupted!!!!!
15 .L9  # ok:
16 addq $24, %rsp  # Deallocate stack space
17 ret
```

- retrieves a value from memory (L4) and stores it on the stack at offset 8 from
   %rsp (just beyond the region allocated for buf (L5)
  - %fs:40 canary value is read from memory using segmented addressing
    - marked as "read only"
- before returning, the function **compares the value stored at the stack location** with the canary value (xorq instruction on L12)
  - If the two are identical (0) --> function completes normally
  - non-zero value --> calls an error routine
- limit which memory regions hold executable code
  - only the portion of memory holding the code generated by the compiler need be executable
  - other portions restricted to read/write only
- Historically, x86 architecture merged the read and execute access controls into a single 1-bit flag
  - any page marked as readable = executable
  - various shcemes were implemented to be able to limit some pages to being readable but not executable, but led to significant inefficiencies
- More recently, AMD introduced an NX ("no-execute") bit
  - separating the read and execute access modes
  - stack can be marked as being readable and writable, but not executable
  - performed in hardware, with no penalty in efficiency

## **H5** ¶3.10.5 Supporting Variable-Size Stack Frames

• some functions require a variable amount of local storage

[Example C code]

```
long vframe(long n, long idx, long *q) {
long i;
long *p[n];
p[0] = &i;
for(i = 1; i < n; i++)
p[i] = q;
return *p[idx];
}</pre>
```

- declares local array p of n pointers --> requires 8n bytes on the stack
  - *n* may vary from one call of the function to another
    - compiler cannot determine how much space it must allocate for the function's stack frame

[Portions of generated **assembly code**]

```
# i in %rax and on stack, n in %rdi, p in %rcx, q in %rdx

18 .L3:  # loop:

19 movq %rdx, (%rcx,%rax,8)  # Set p[i] to q

20 addq $1, %rax  # Increment i

21 movq %rax, -8(%rbp)  # Store on stack

22 .L2:

23 movq -8(%rbp), %rax  # Retrieve i from stack

24 cmpq %rdi, %rax  # Compare i:n

25 jl .L3  # If <, goto loop

26 #...

27 # Code for function exit

28 leave  # Restore %rbp and %rsp

29 ret  # Return
```

- to manage a variable-size stack frame, x86-64 uses register **%rbp** to serve as a **frame pointer** (base pointer)
  - Must save the previous version of **%rbp** on the stack (: callee-saved register)
    - keeps %rbp pointing to fixed-length local variables (i), at offsets relative to
       %rbp
  - was used with every function call in earlier versions of x86 code
  - with x86-64, used only where **stack frame** may be of \*\*variable size