Memory management

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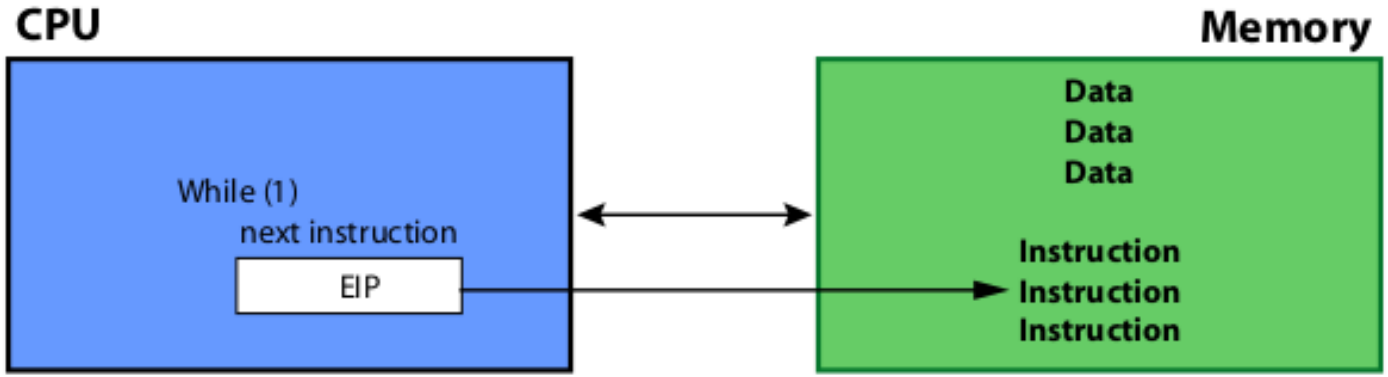
University of Edinburgh

From source code to execution

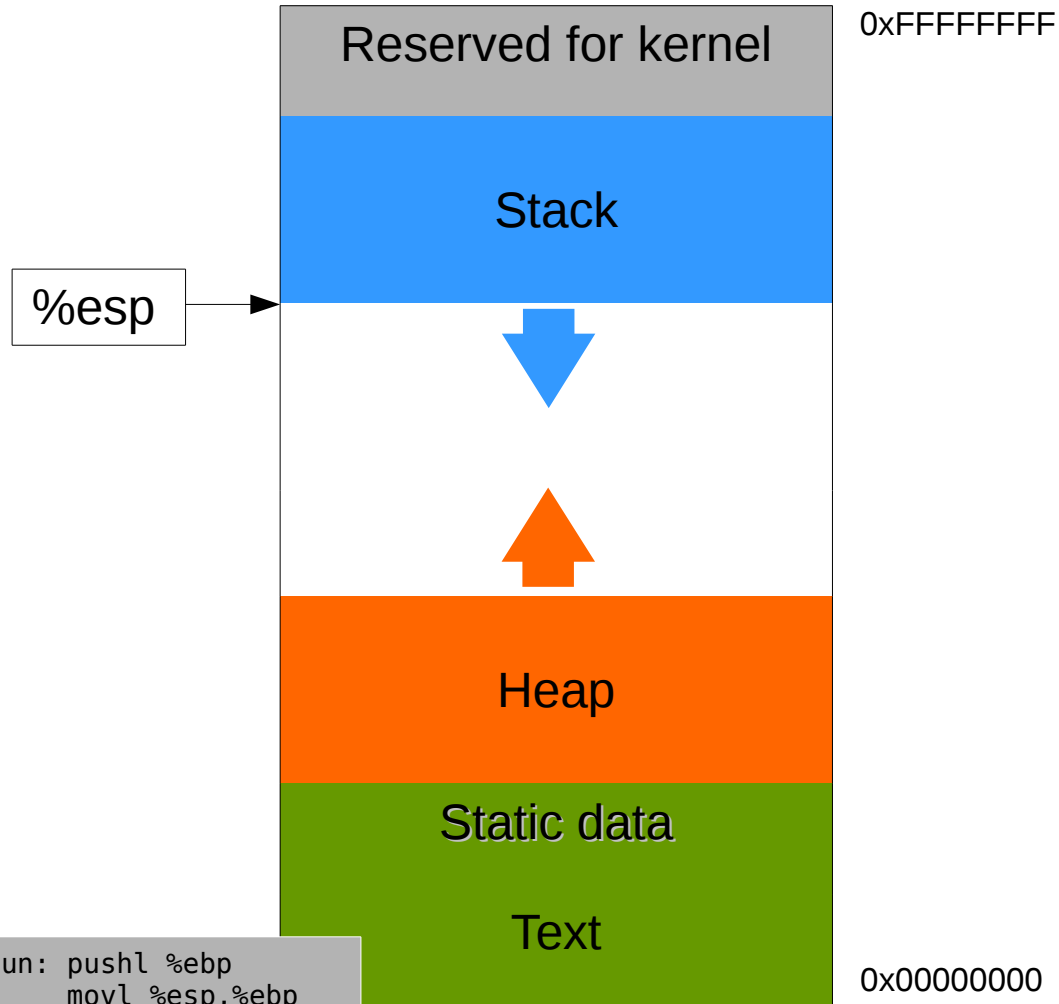


1. The compiler converts C code to assembly code
2. The assembler converts assembly code to machine code
3. The linker deals with dependencies and libraries
4. The loader sets up address space in memory and load machine code in memory, and jumps to the first instruction of the program
   - The address space contains both the code for running the program its input data, and it working memory
5. The CPU interprets instructions
   - `%eip` points to next instruction
   - `%eip` incremented after each instruction
   - `%eip` modified by `call`, `ret`, `jmp`, and conditional `jmp`

x86-32 registers

- Temporary registers: `%eax`, `%ebx`, `%ecx`, `%edx`, `%edi`, `%esi`
  - These registers are like variables built in the processor
  - Most of the instructions perform on these registers
- Extended stack pointer: `%esp`
  - Points at the top of the stack
- Extended base pointer: `%ebp`
  - Points to the base of the stack frame of the current function call

x86 process memory layout (simplified)

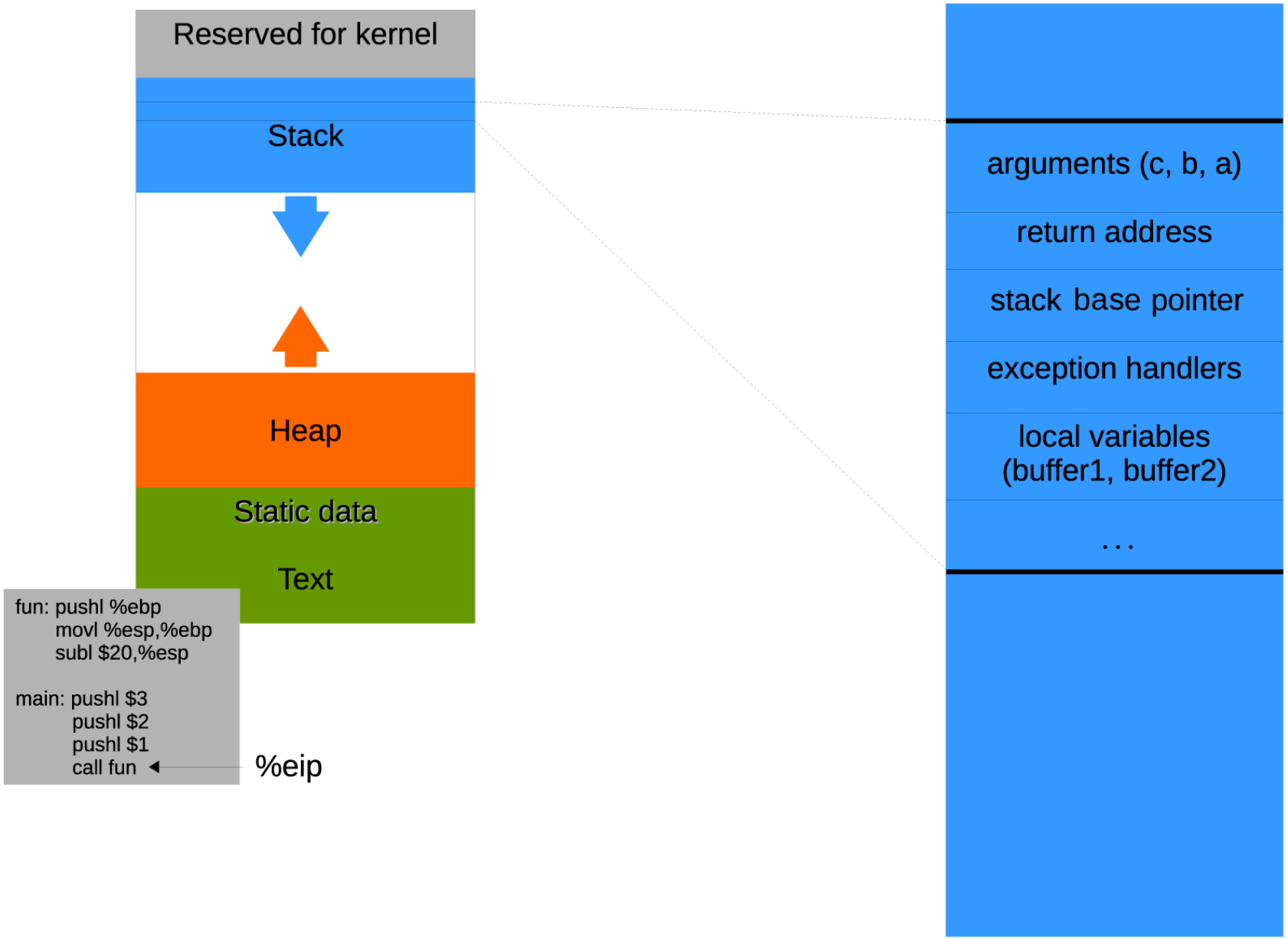



```
void function(int a, int b, int c) {
     char buffer1[5];
     char buffer2[10];
}
void main() {
     function(1,2,3);
}
```

```
fun: pushl %ebp
     movl %esp,%ebp
     subl $20,%esp

main: pushl $3
      pushl $2
      pushl $1
      call fun
```

Stack frame


Reserved for kernel
Stack
Heap
Static data
Text
fun: pushl %ebp
movl %esp,%ebp
subl $20,%esp
main: pushl $3
pushl $2
pushl $1
call fun
%eip
arguments (c, b, a)
return address
stack base pointer
exception handlers
local variables
(buffer1, buffer2)
...

x86 assembly - an example

emacs@myrto-thinkpad

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```
#include<stdio.h>

int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void){
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d\n", x);
  return 0;
}
```

-:--- fact.c All L1 (C/l Abbrev)

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```
fact:
        pushl   %ebp
        movl    %esp, %ebp
        subl    $40, %esp
        movl    $1, -12(%ebp)
        cmpl    $0, 8(%ebp)
        jne     .L2
        movl    -12(%ebp), %eax
        jmp     .L1
.L2:
        jle     .L1
        movl    8(%ebp), %eax
        subl    $1, %eax
        movl    %eax, (%esp)
        call    fact
        movl    %eax, -12(%ebp)
        movl    8(%ebp), %eax
        imull   -12(%ebp), %eax
        jmp     .L1
.L1:
        leave
        ret
.LC0:
        .string "Factorial 4 is %d\n"
main:
        pushl   %ebp
        movl    %esp, %ebp
        andl    $-16, %esp
        subl    $32, %esp
        movl    $0, 28(%esp)
        movl    $4, (%esp)
        call    fact
        movl    %eax, 28(%esp)
        movl    28(%esp), %eax
        movl    %eax, 4(%esp)
        movl    $.LC0, (%esp)
        call    printf
        movl    $0, %eax
        leave
        ret
```

-:--- fact.s All L26 (Assembler)

Wrote /home/marapini/Documents/Work/Teaching/INFR10067-ComputerSecurity/1819/Lectures/Lec18_OS_Intro/GDB_demo/fact.s

x86 runtime memory - an example

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int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
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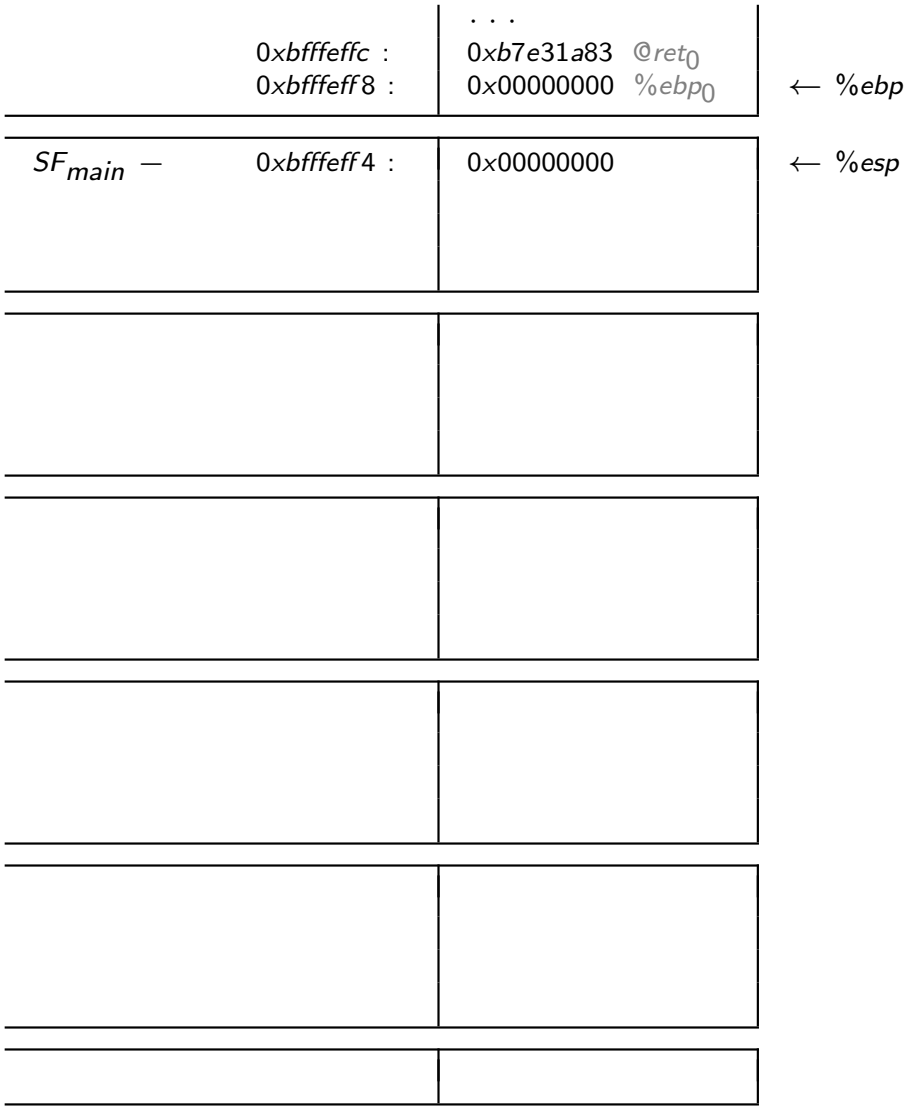

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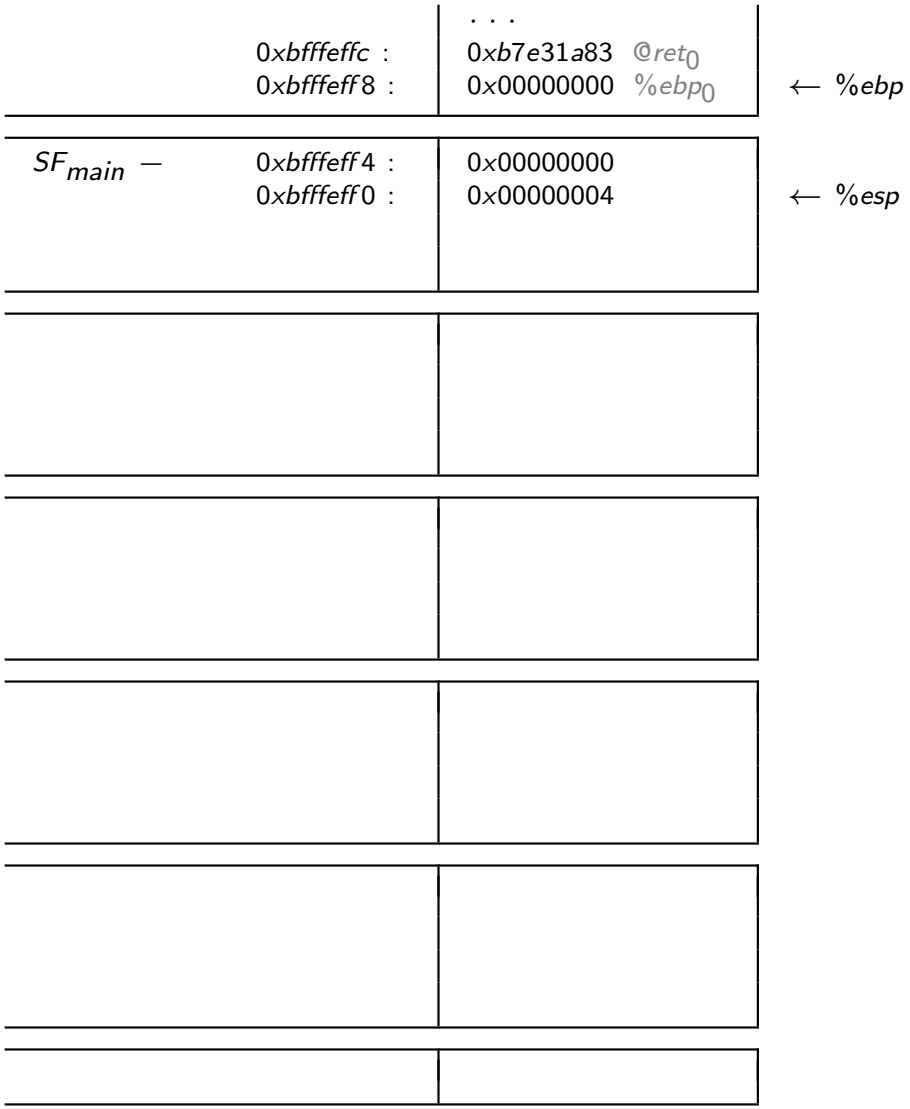

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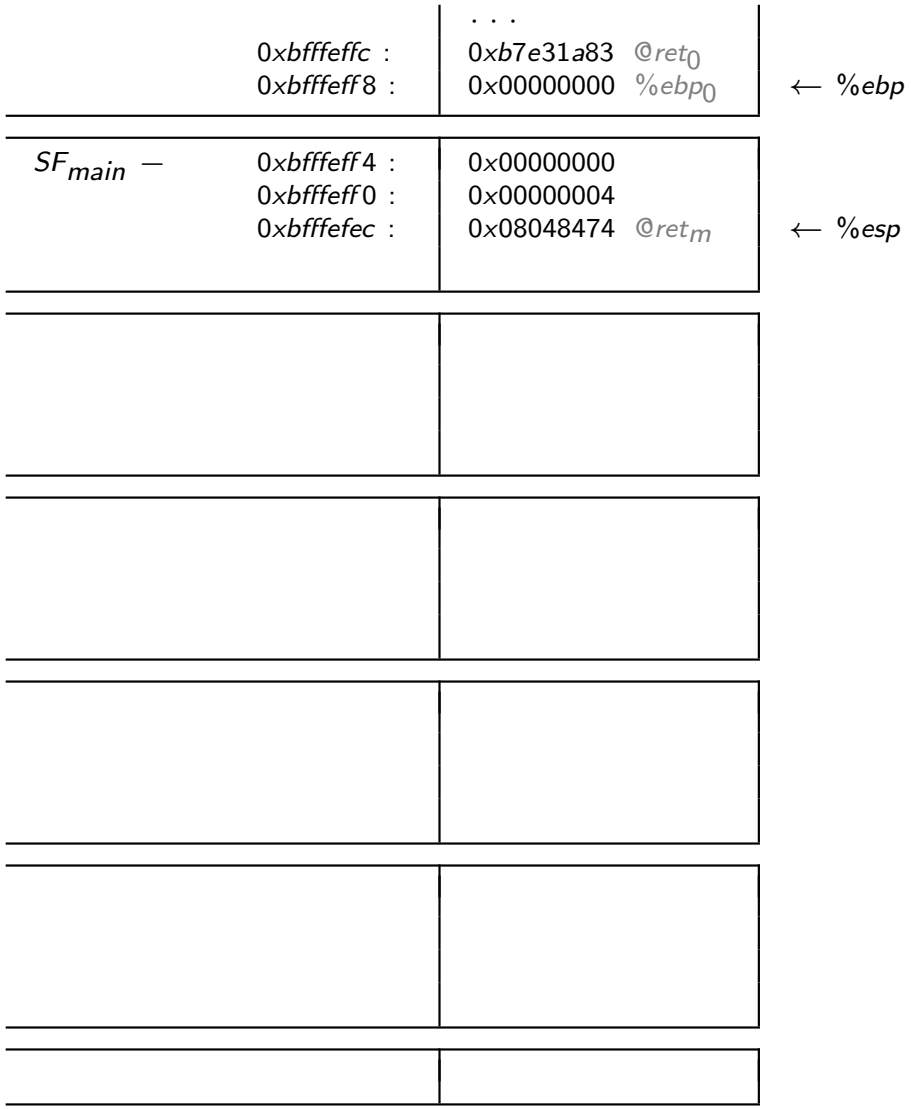

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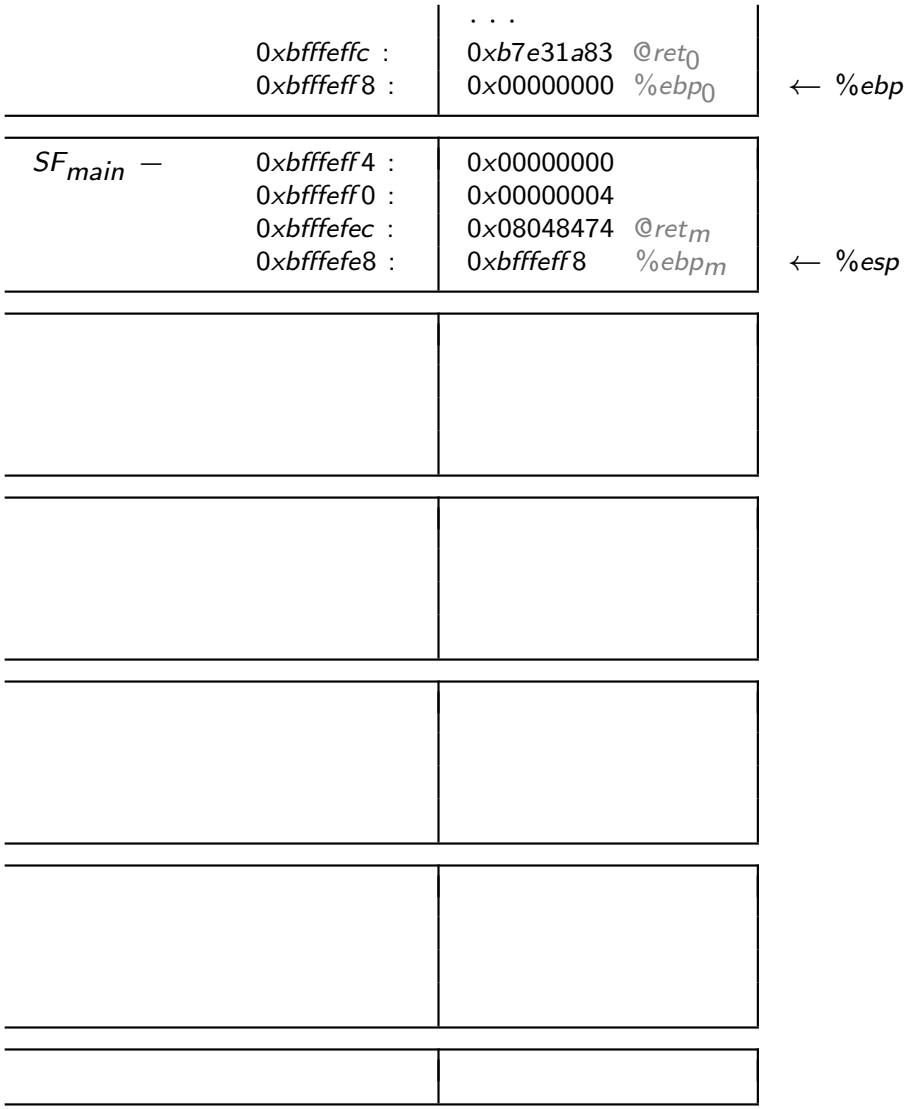

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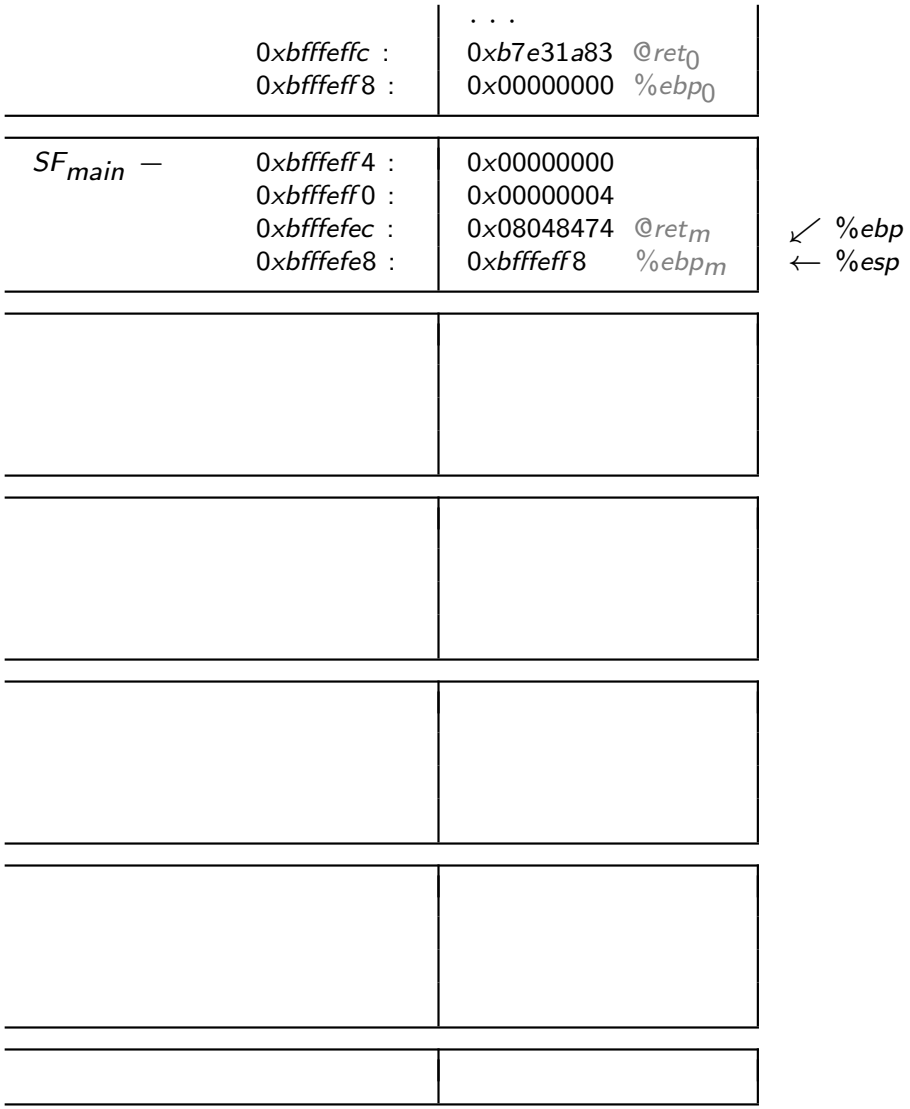

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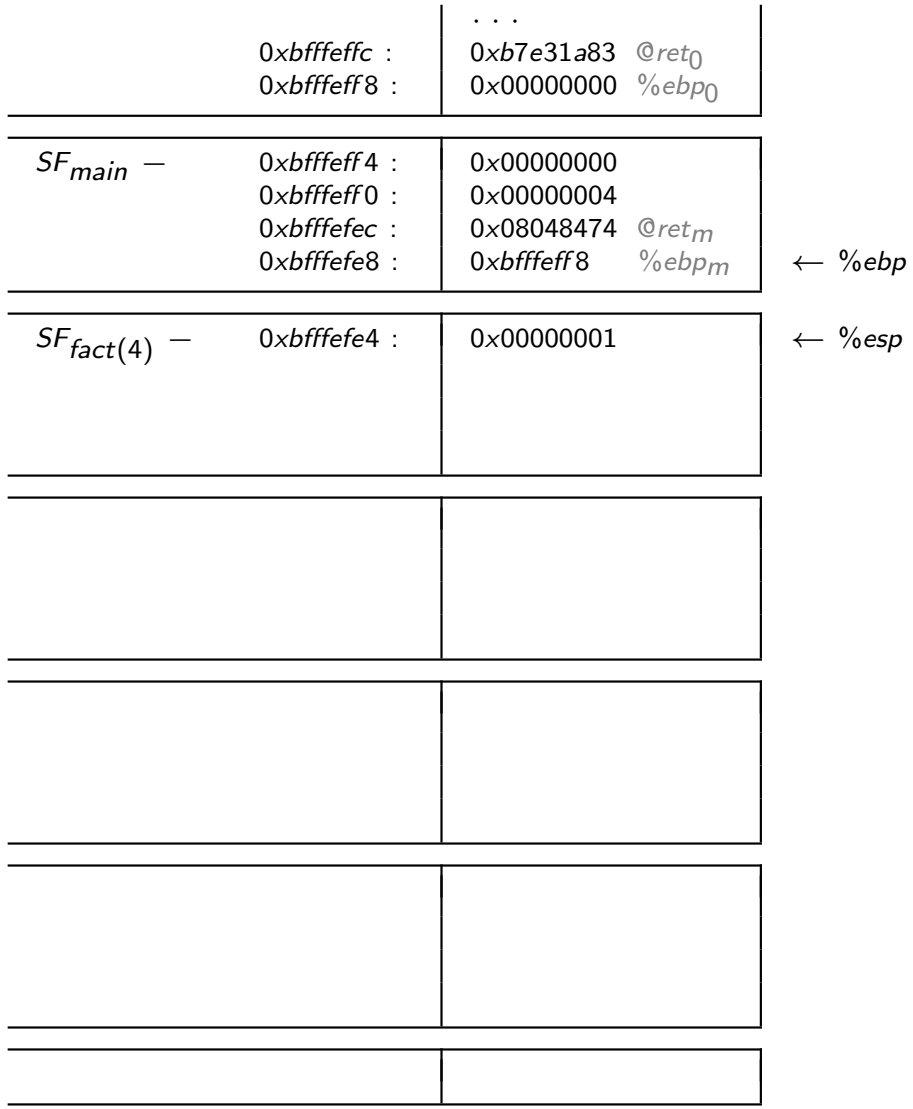

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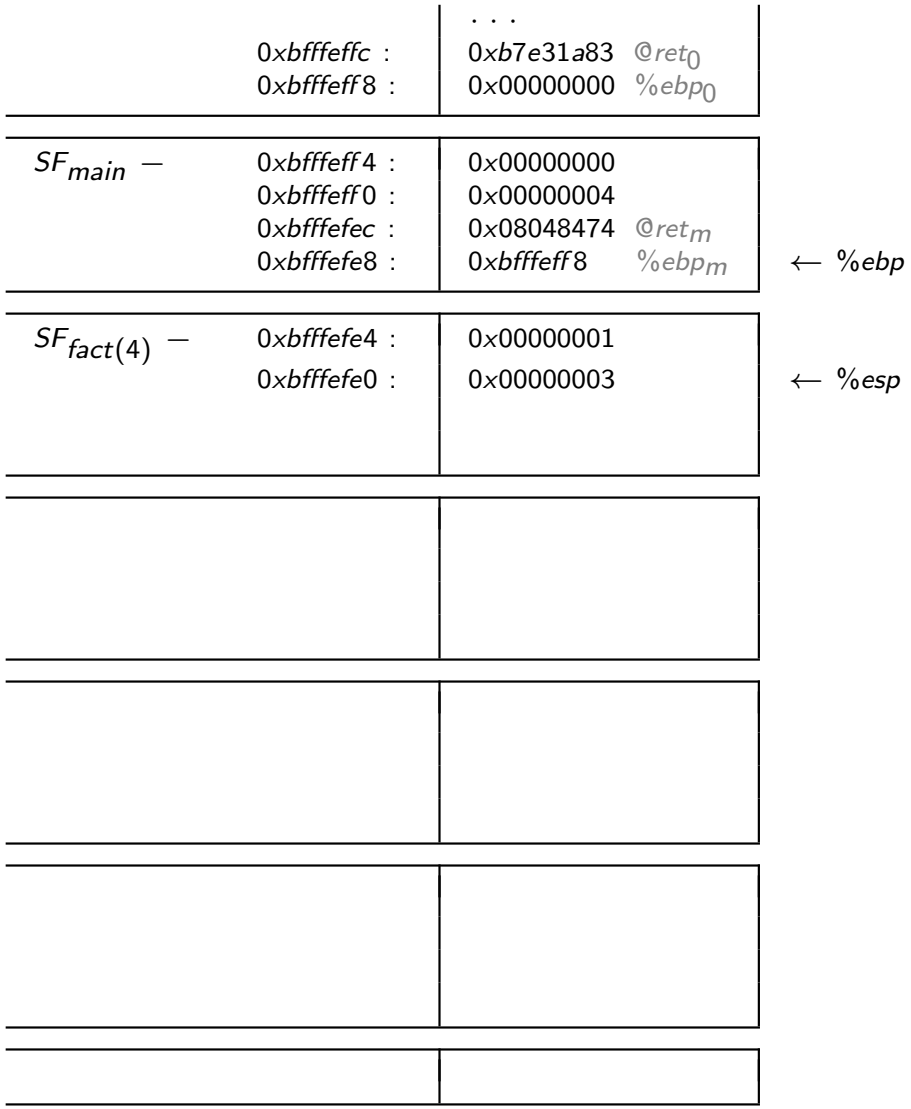

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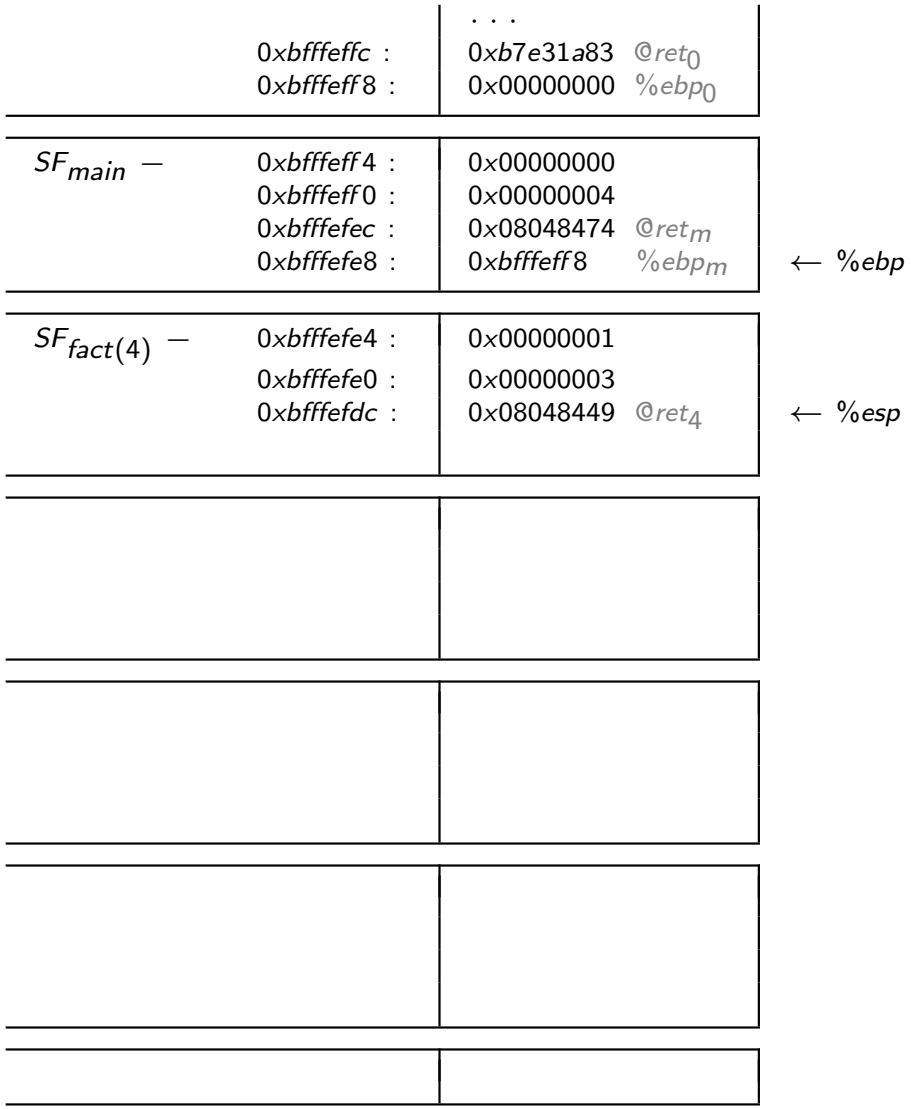

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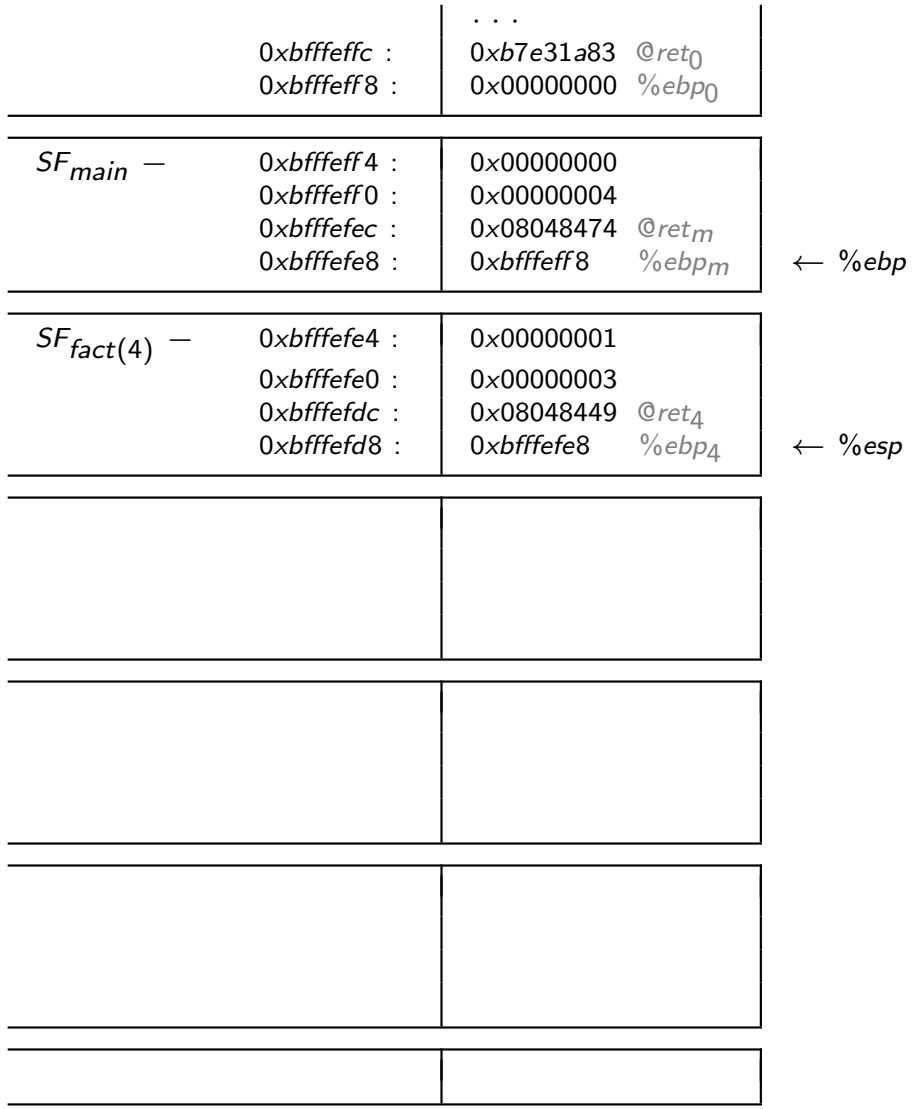

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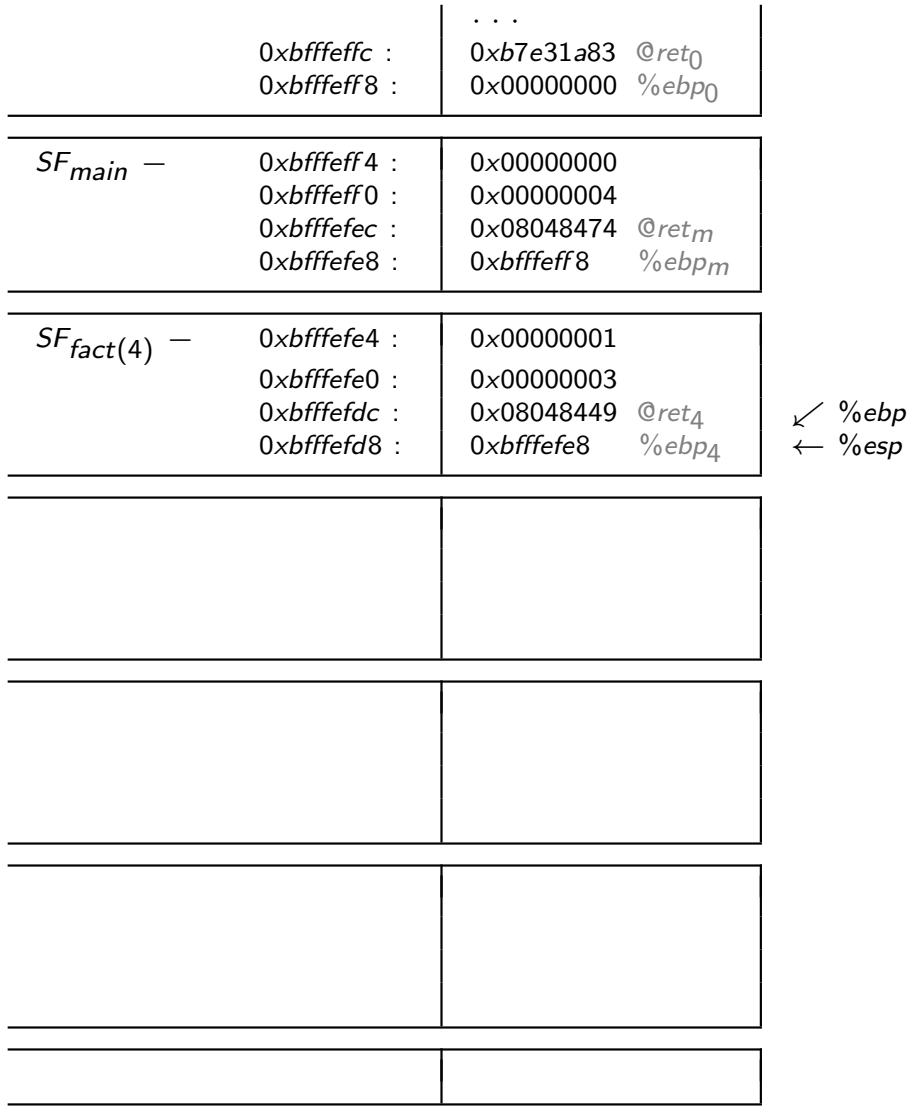

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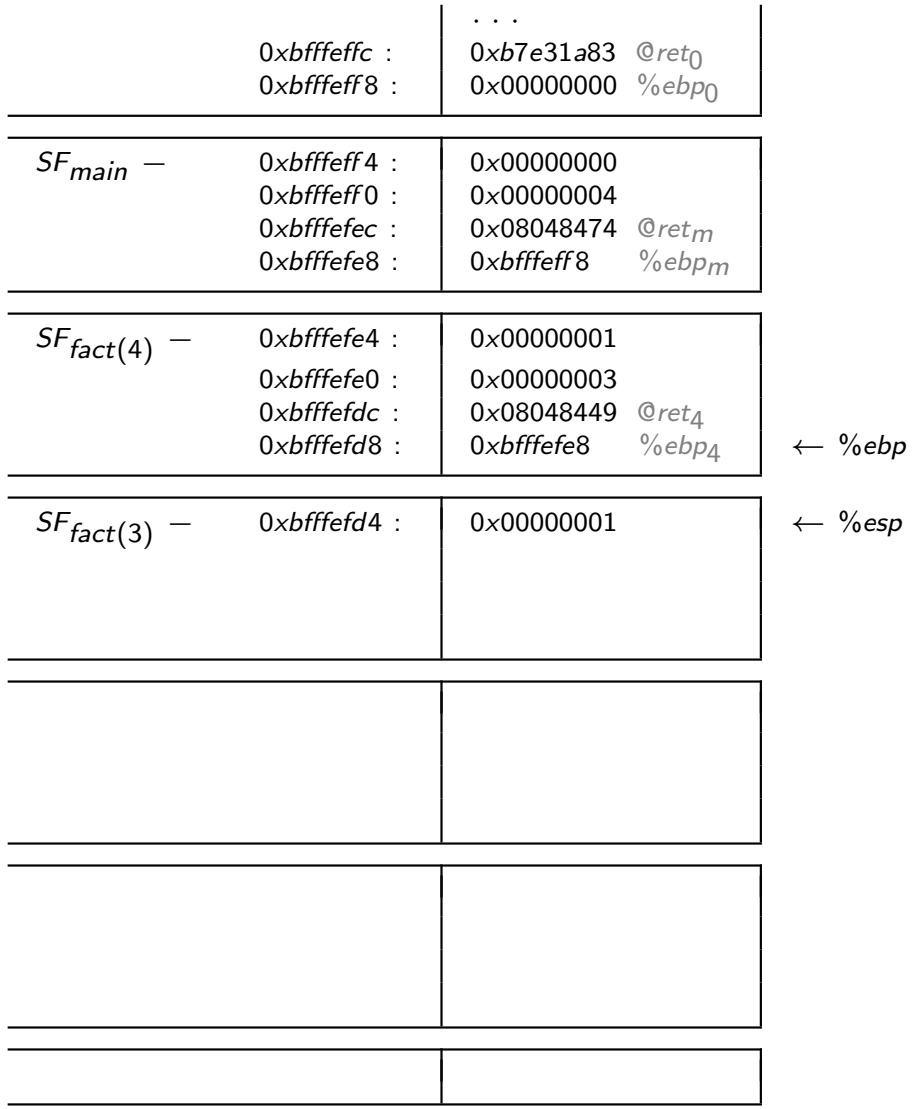

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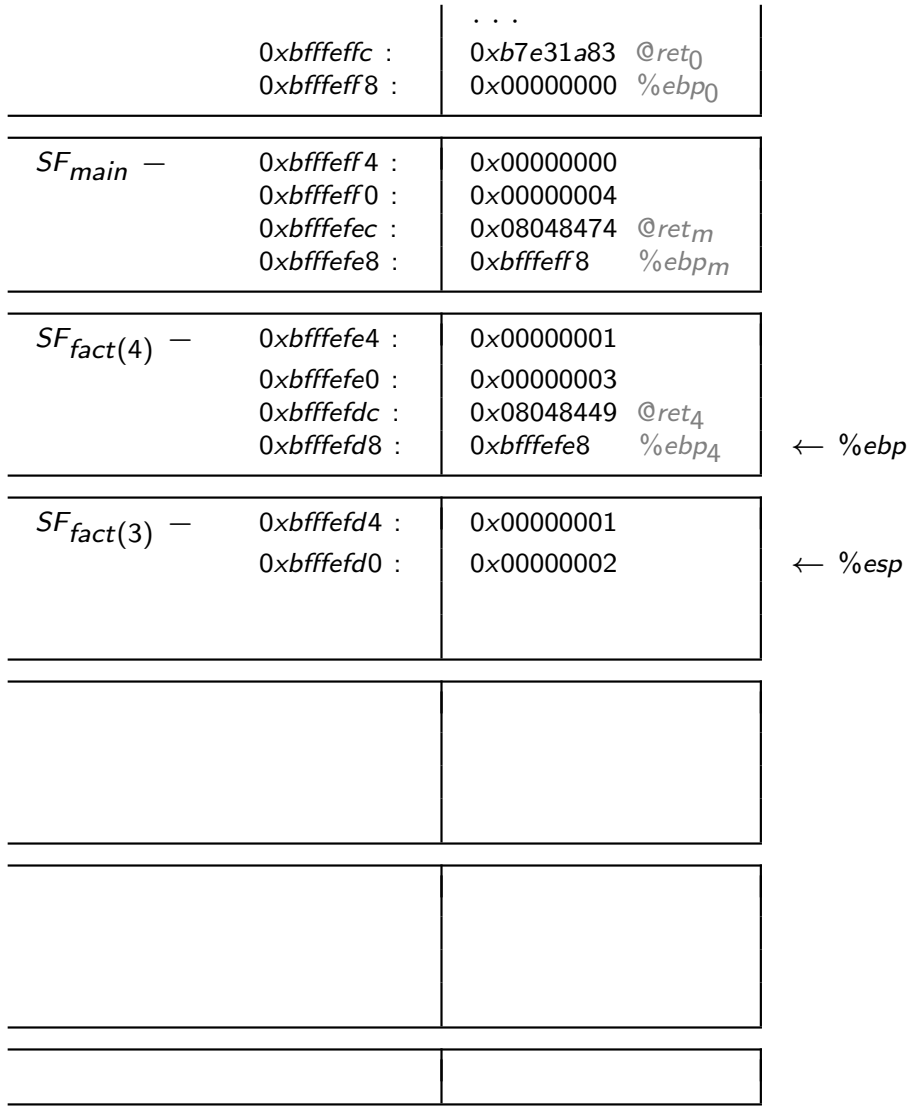

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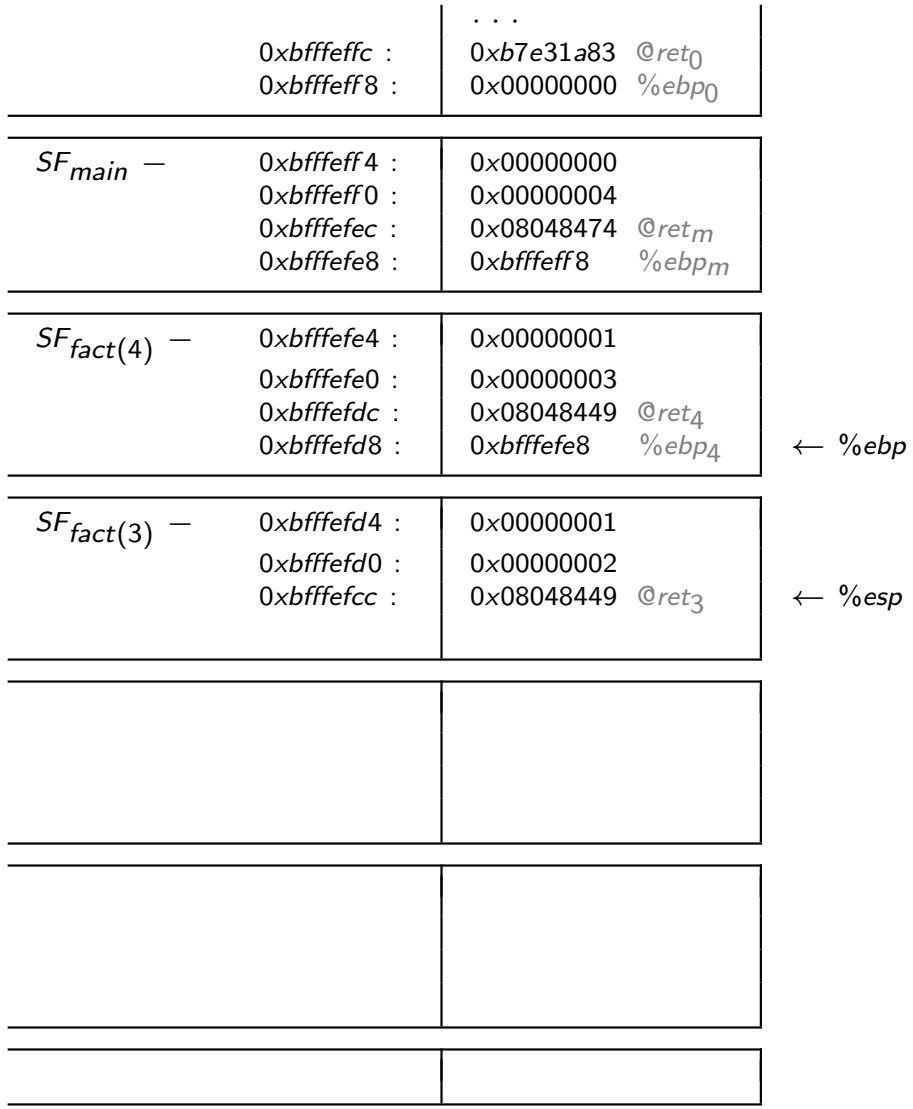

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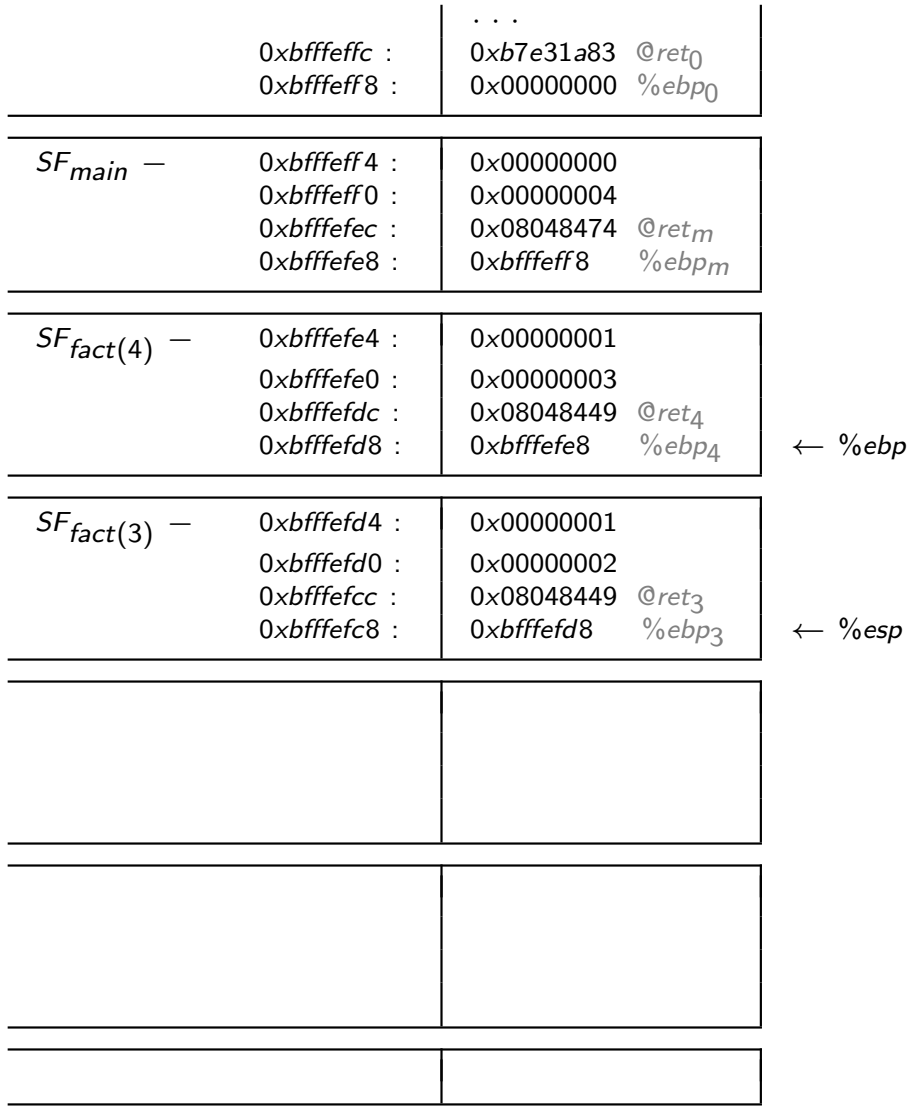

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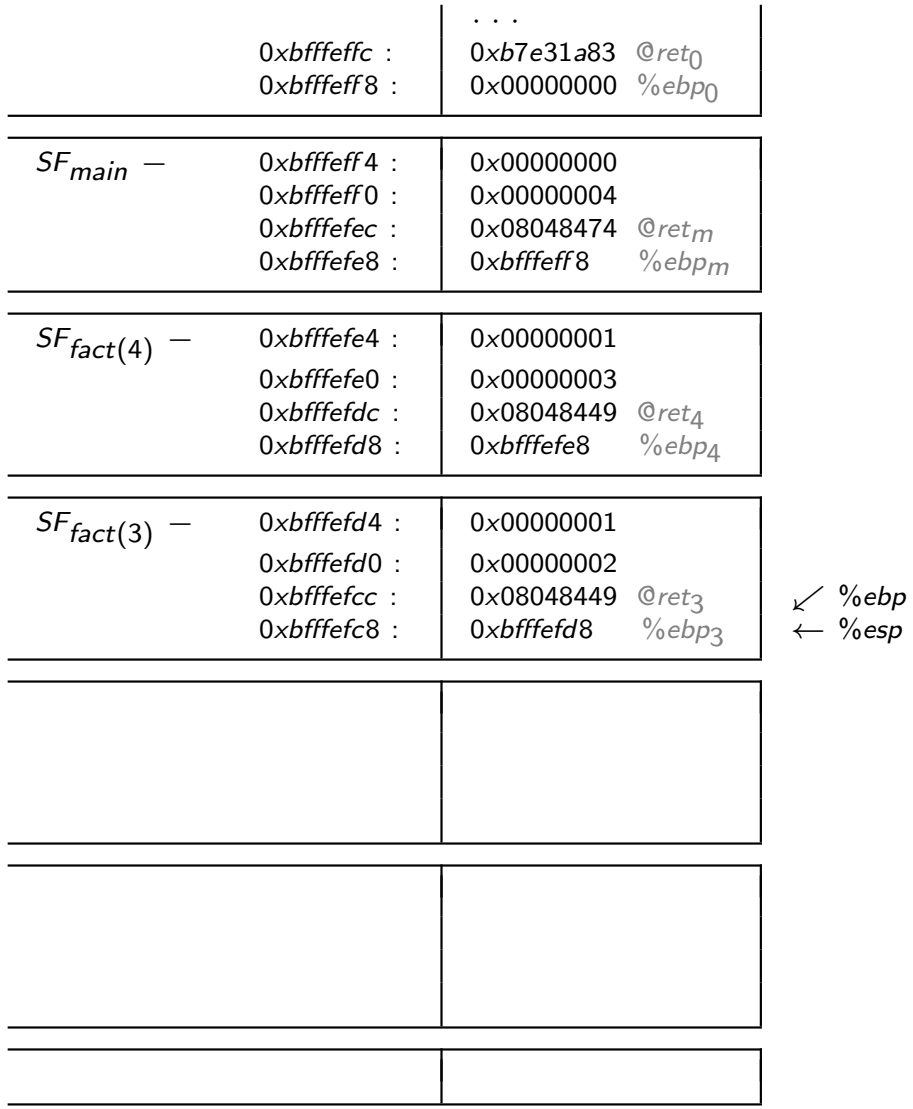

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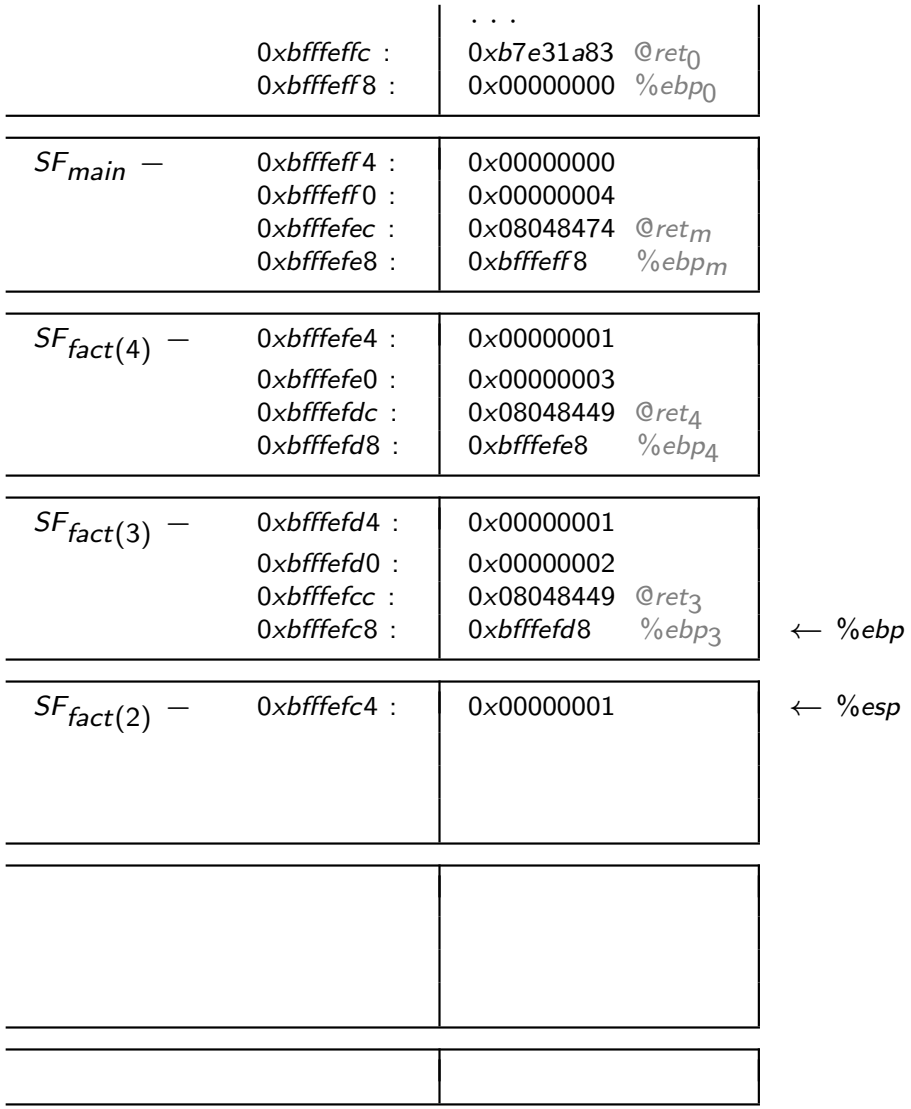

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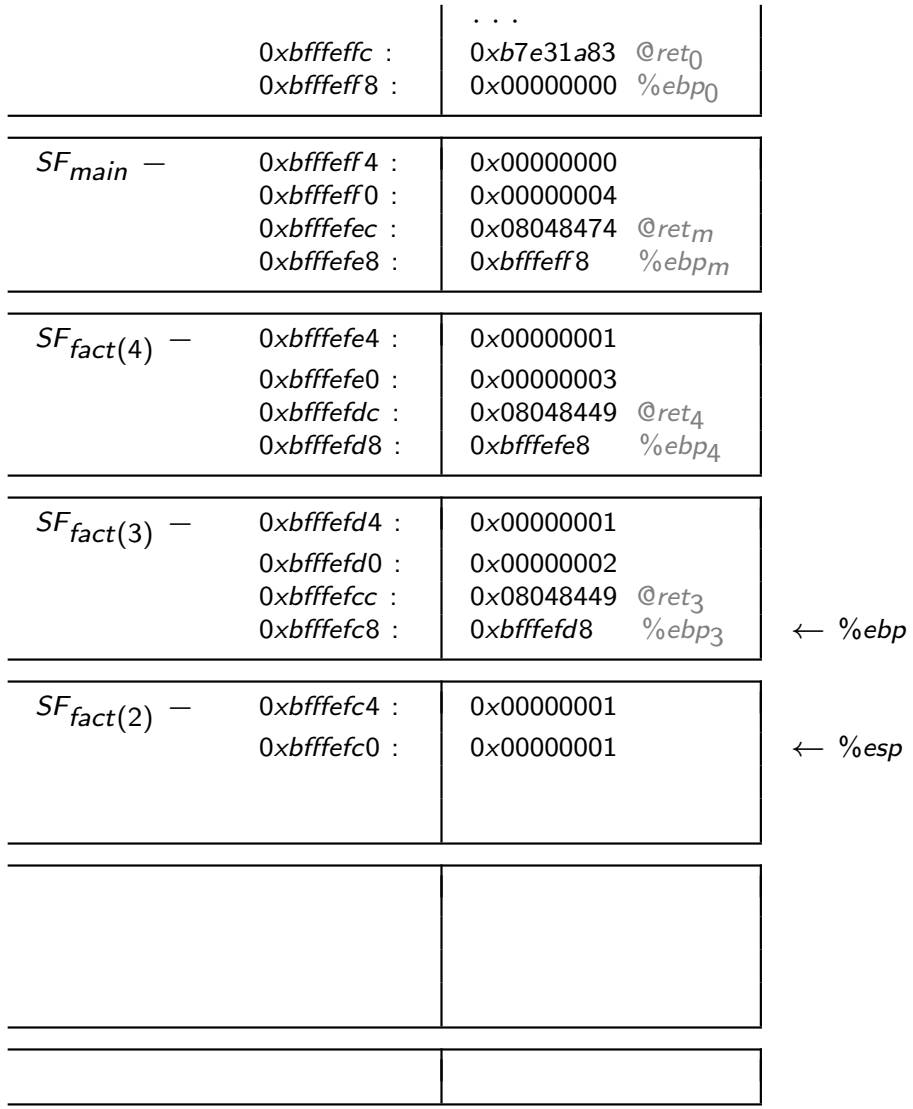

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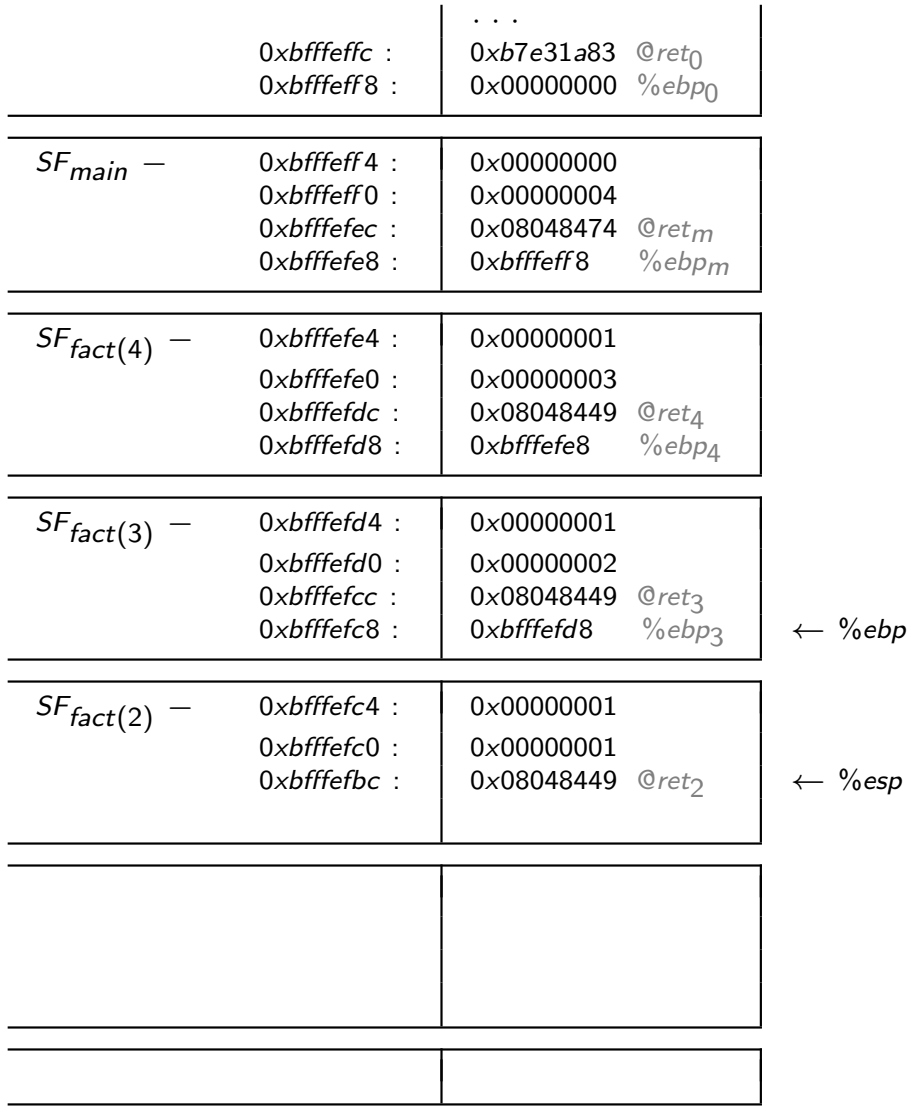

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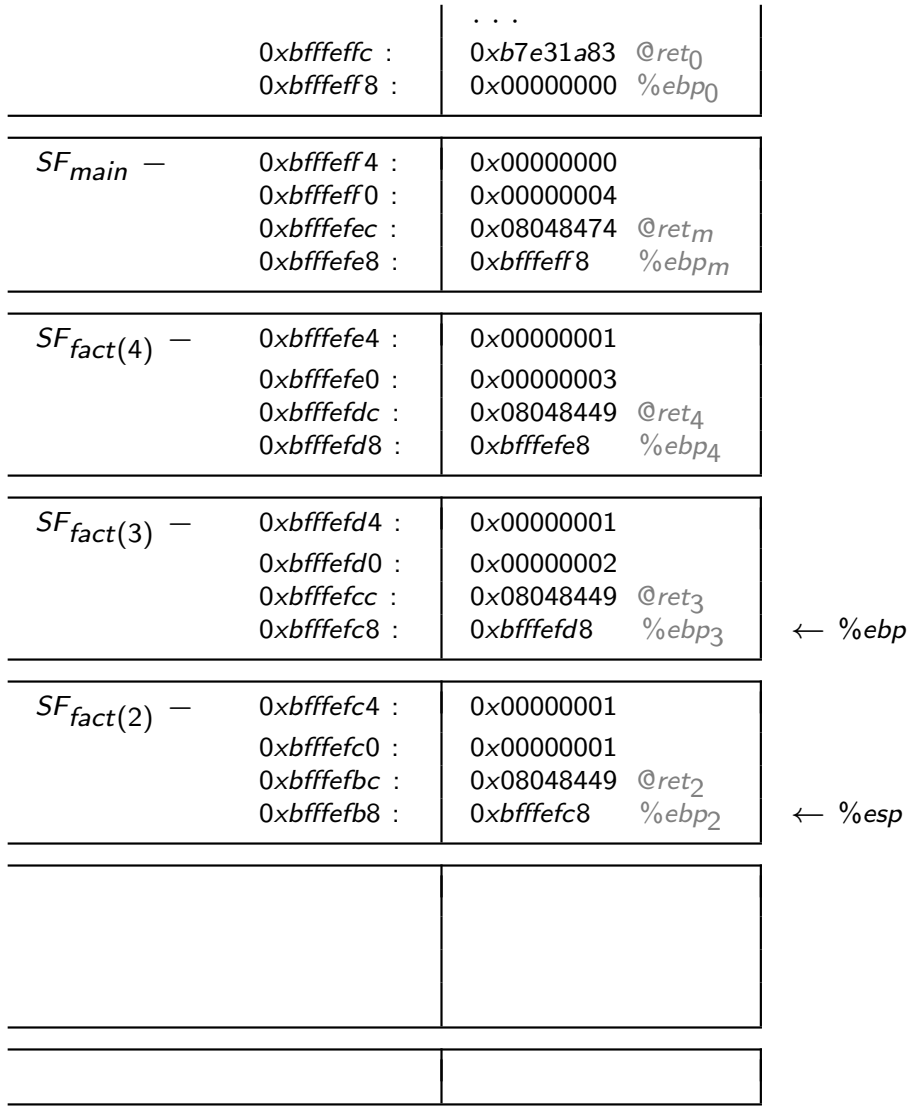

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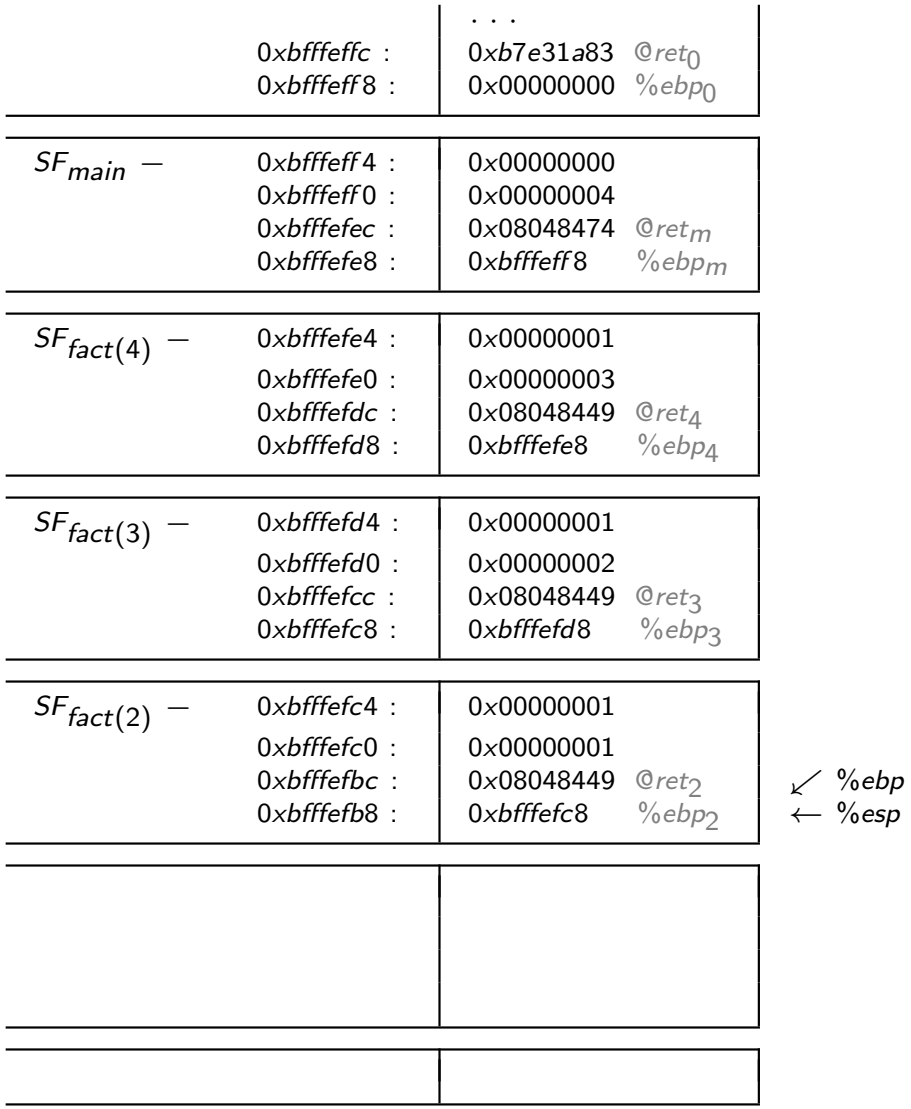

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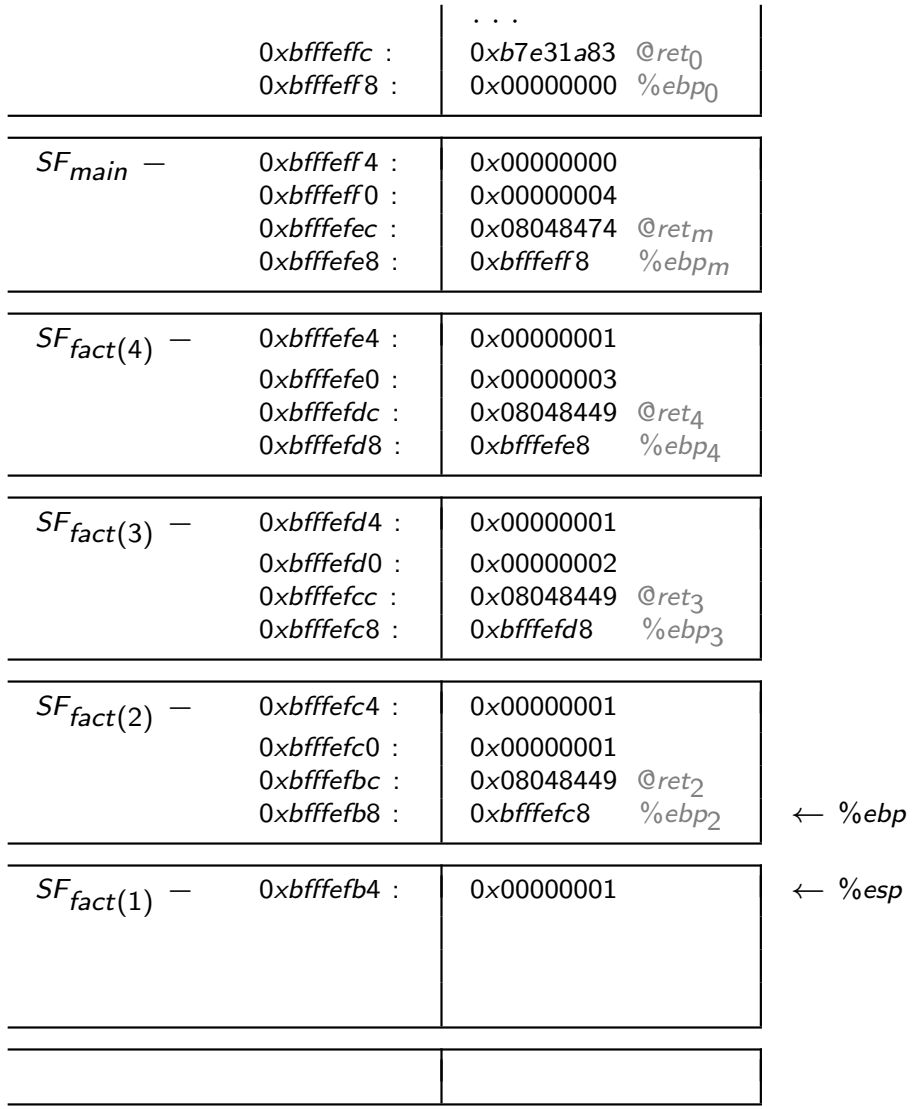

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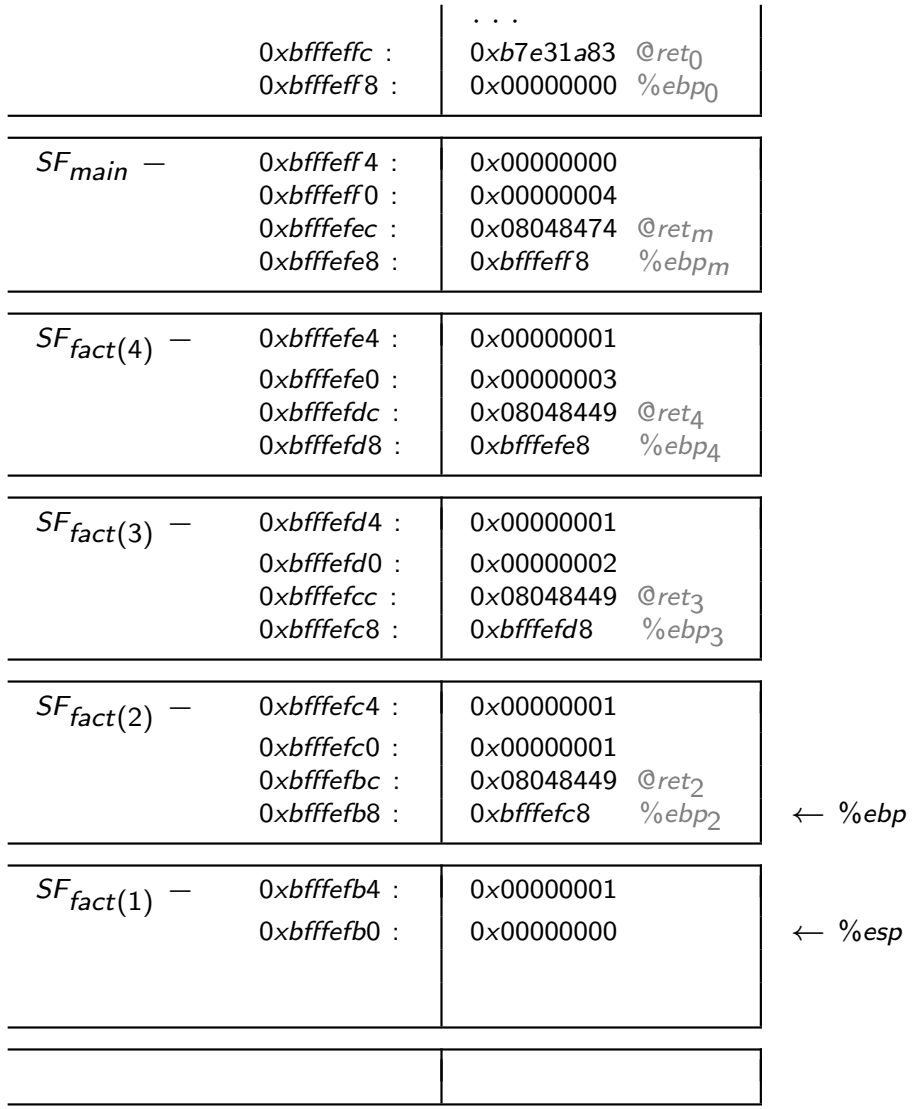

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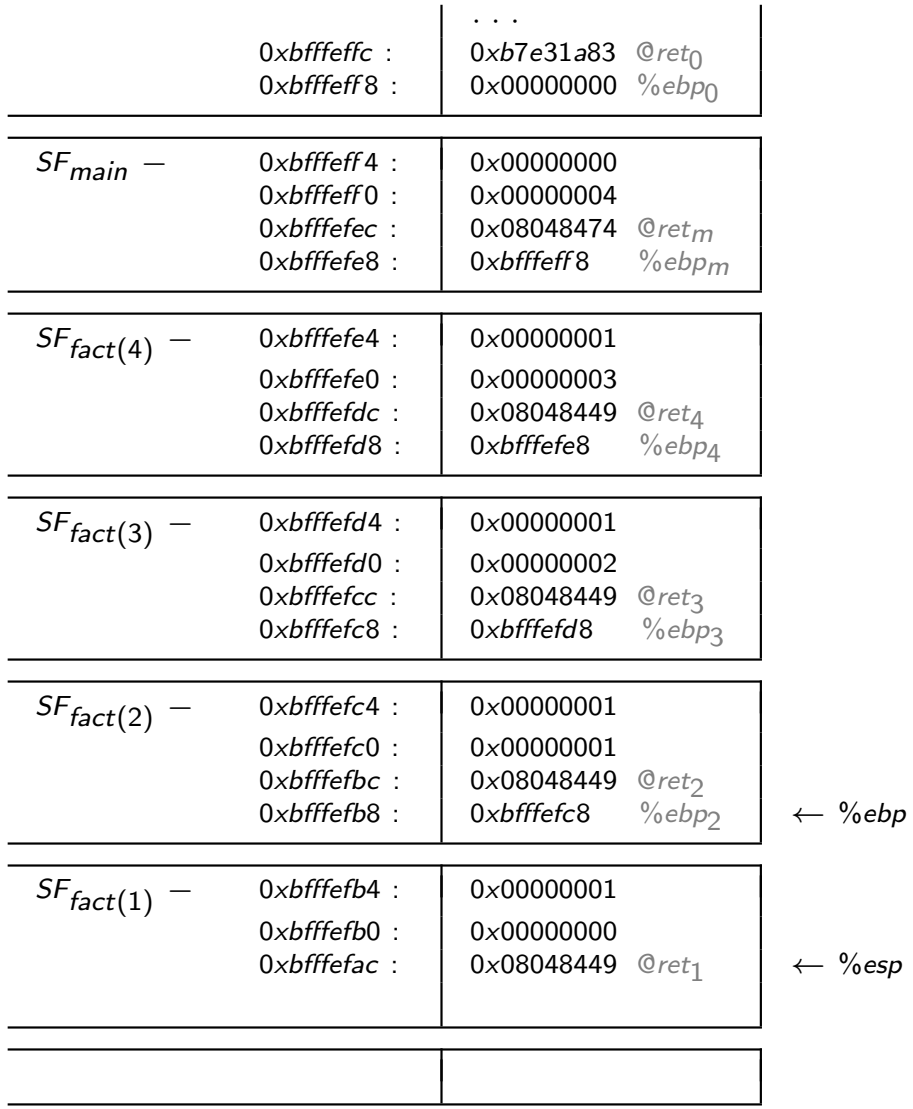

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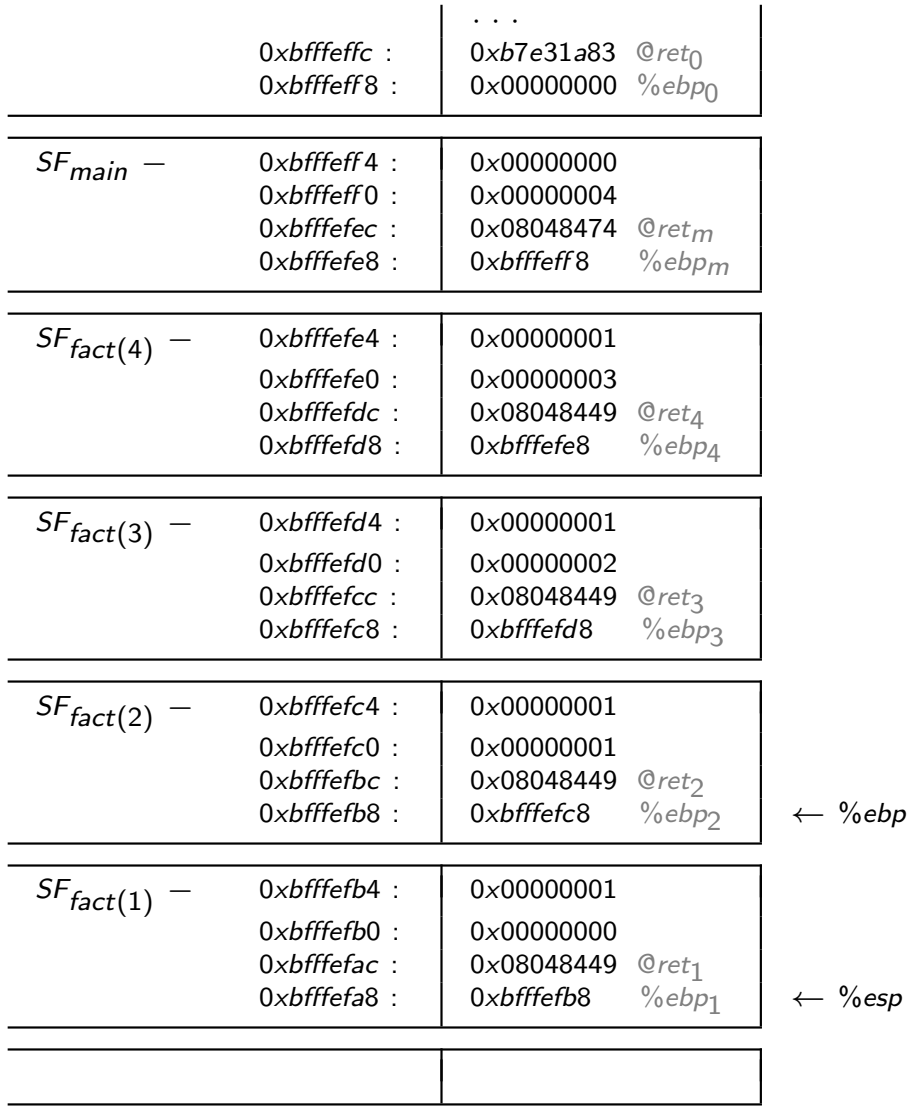

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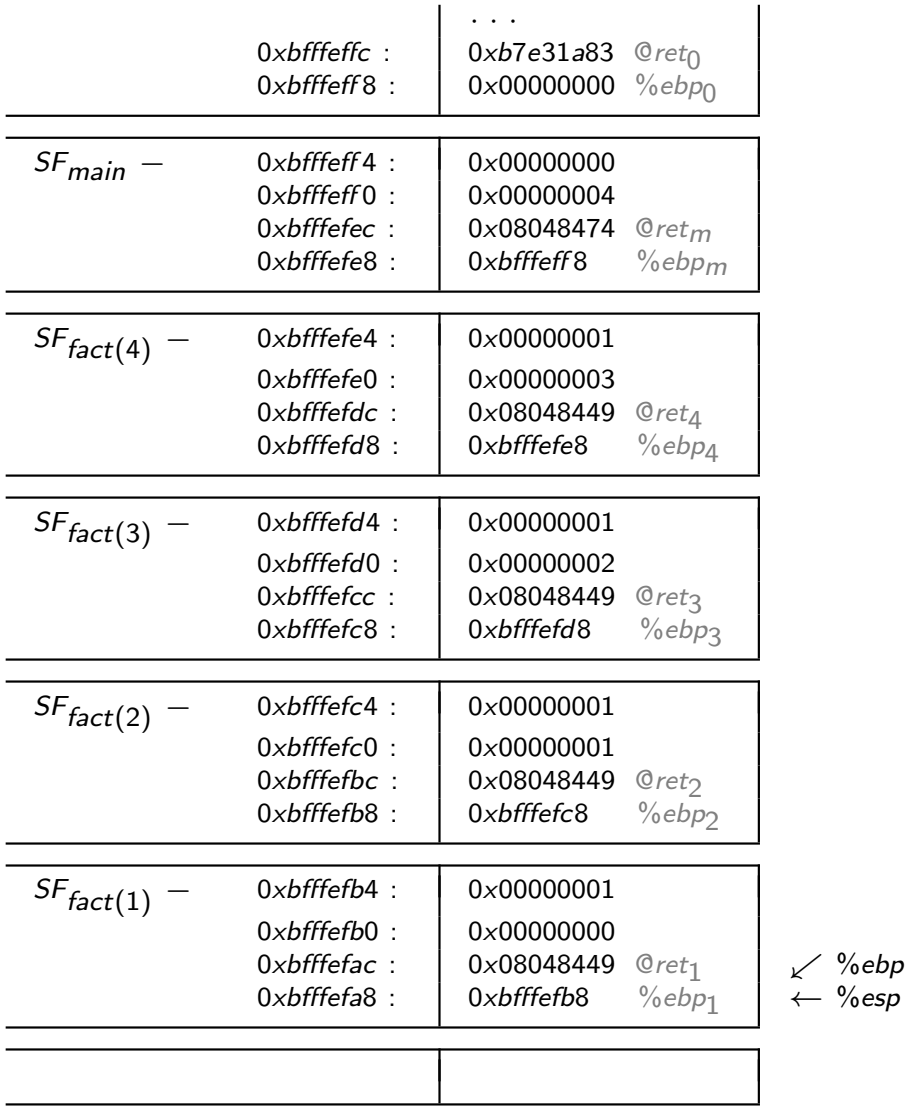
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

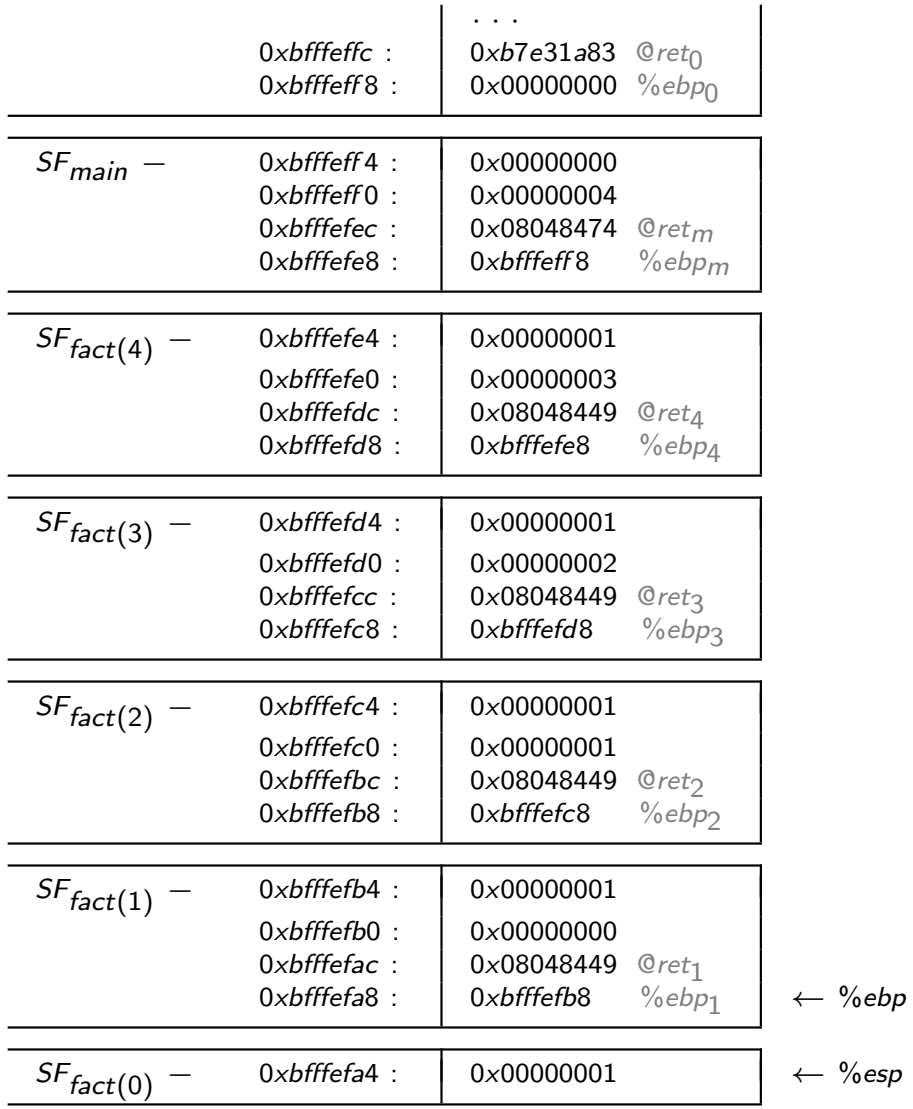


%eax

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

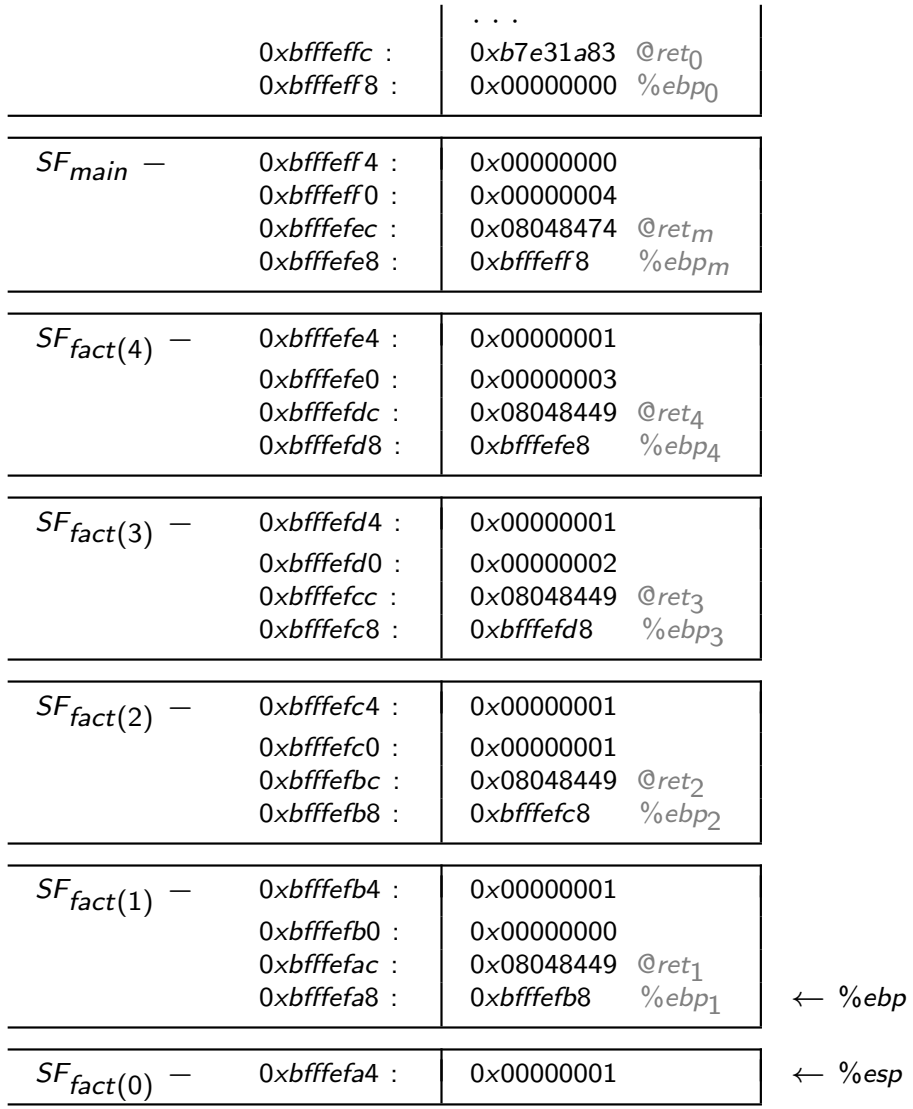


%eax

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

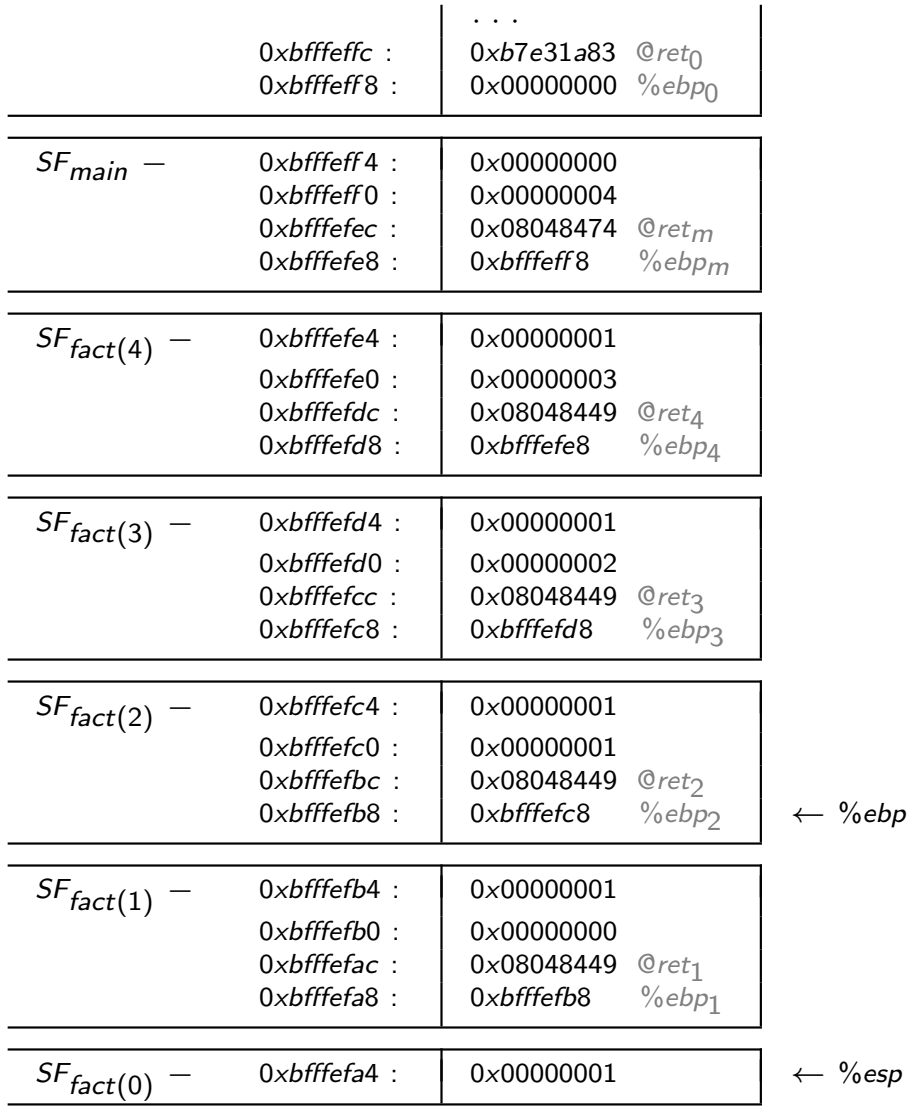


%eax | 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

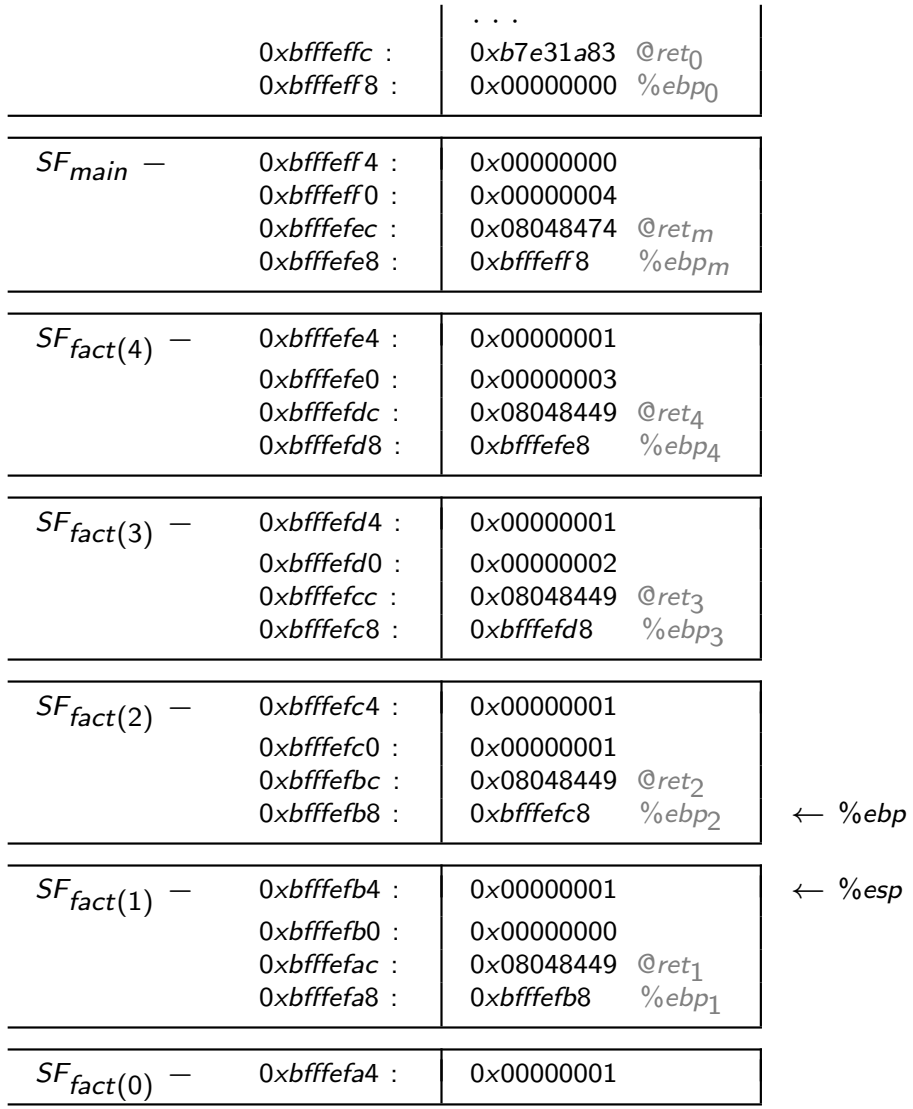


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

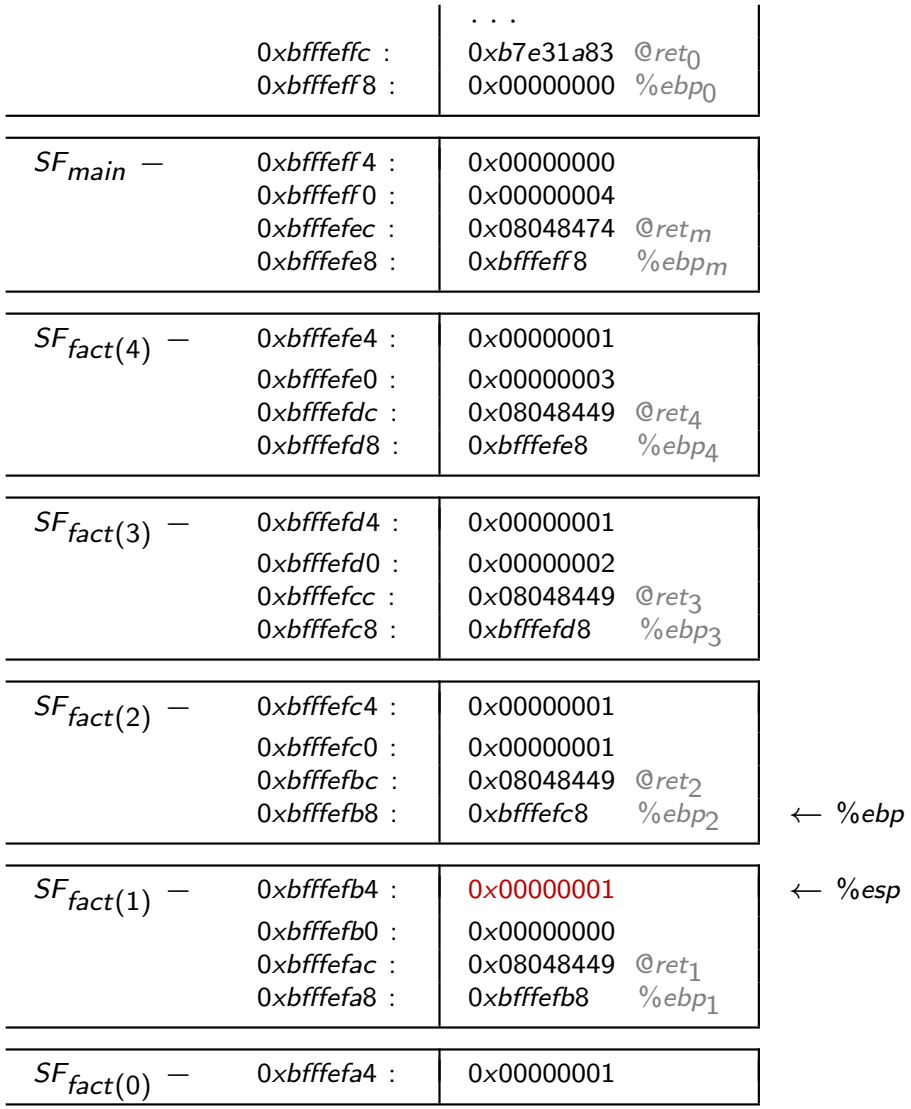


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

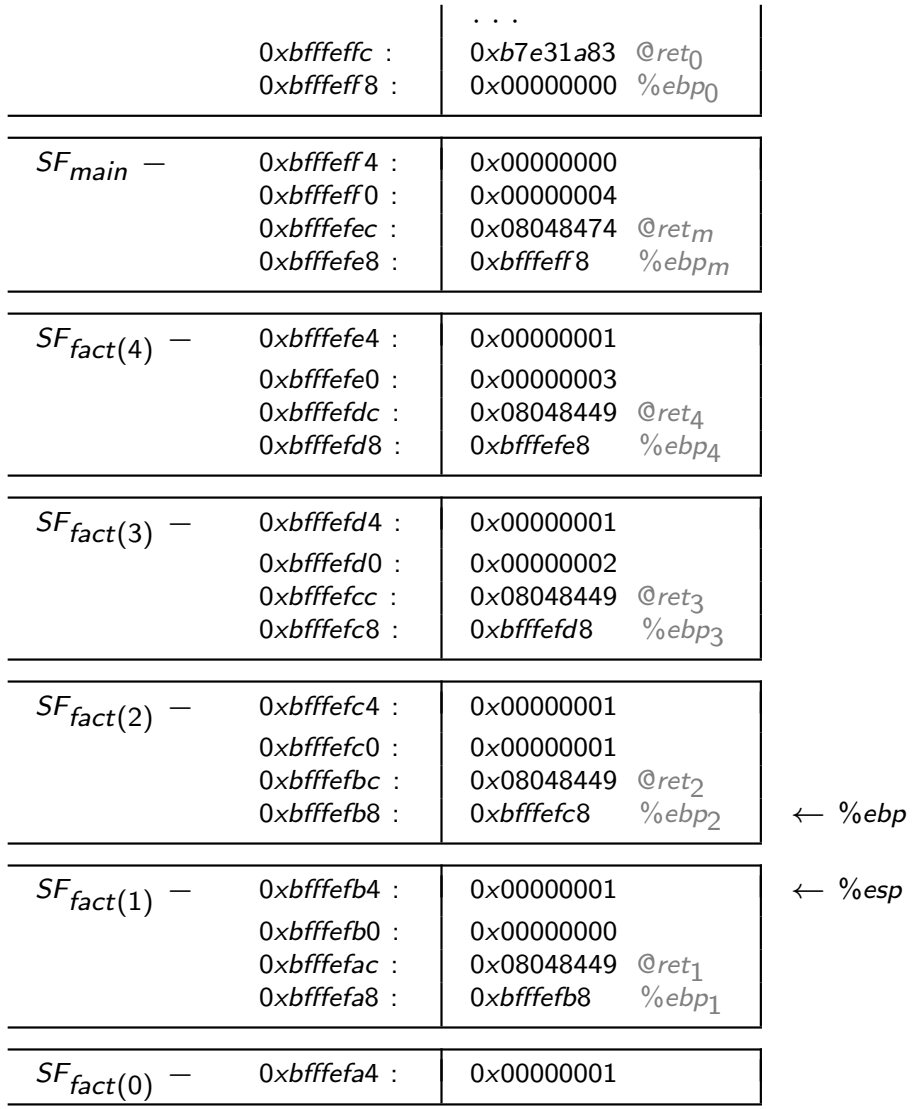


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

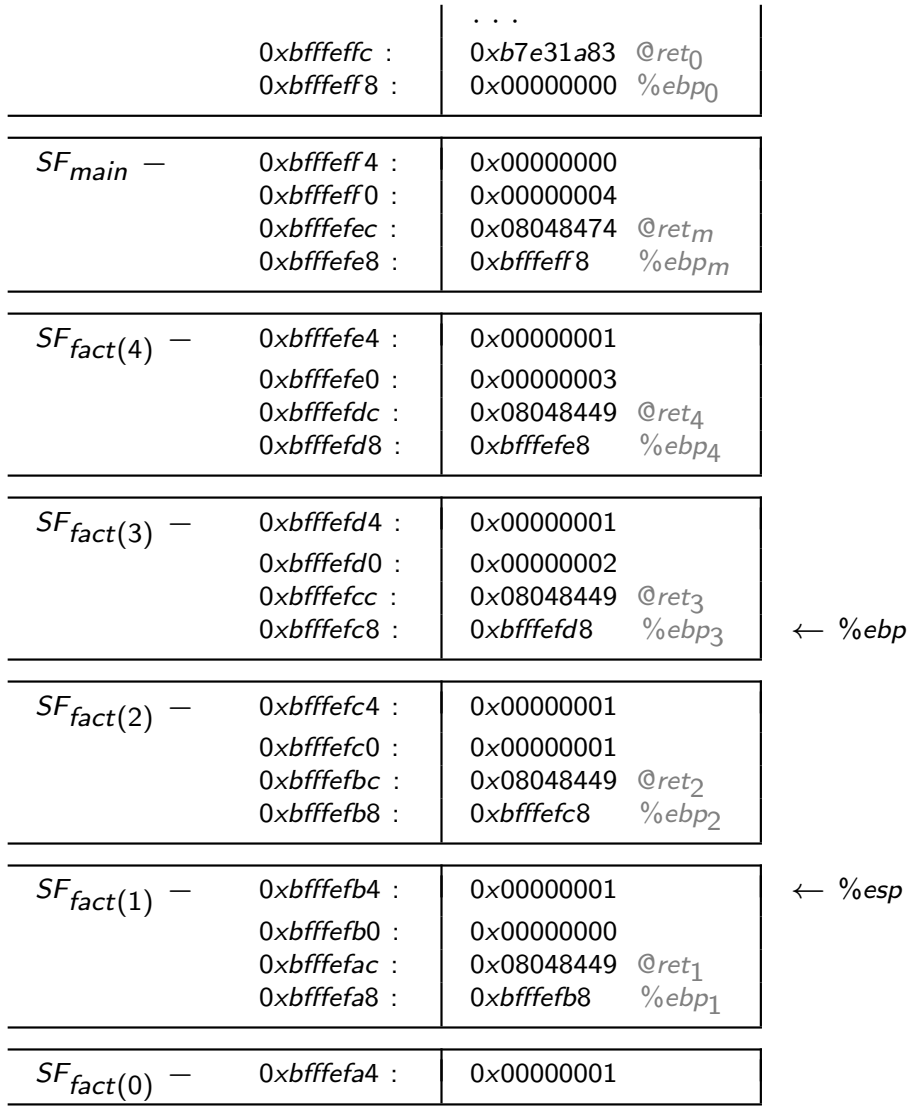


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

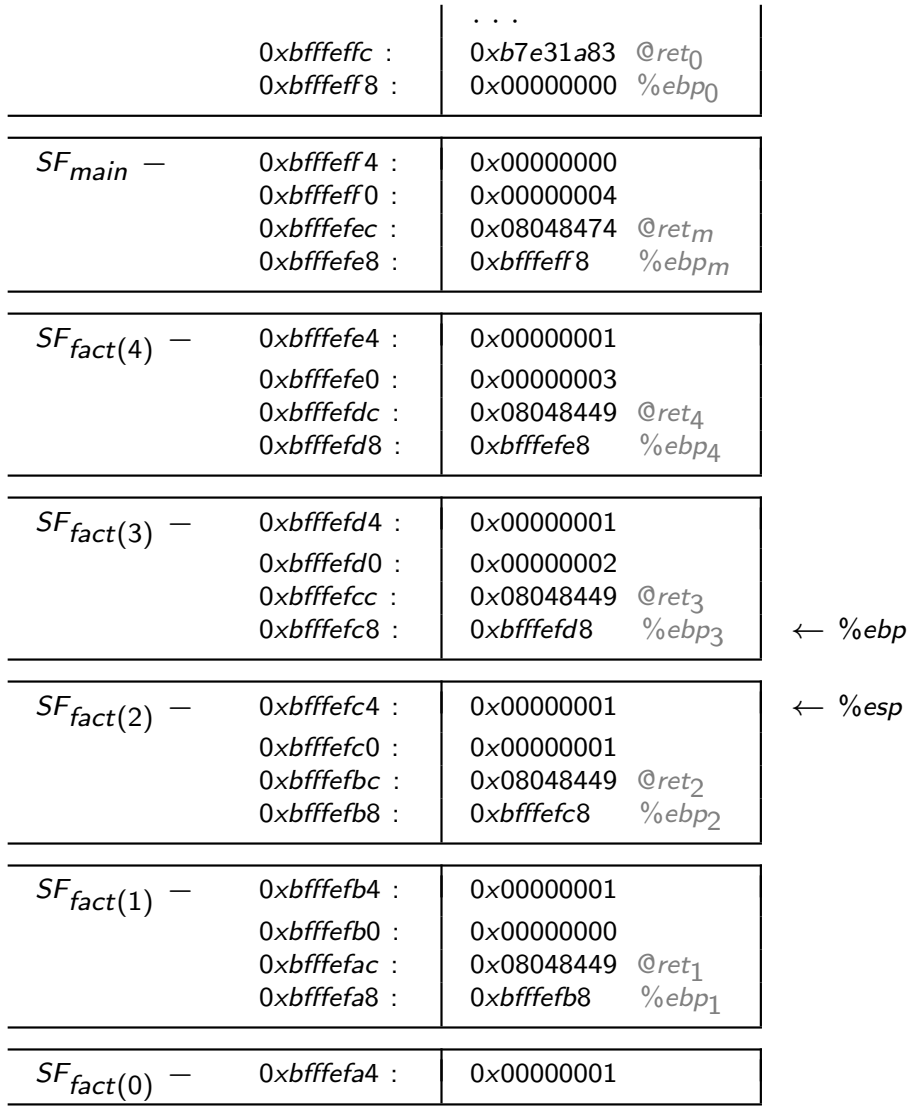


%eax | 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

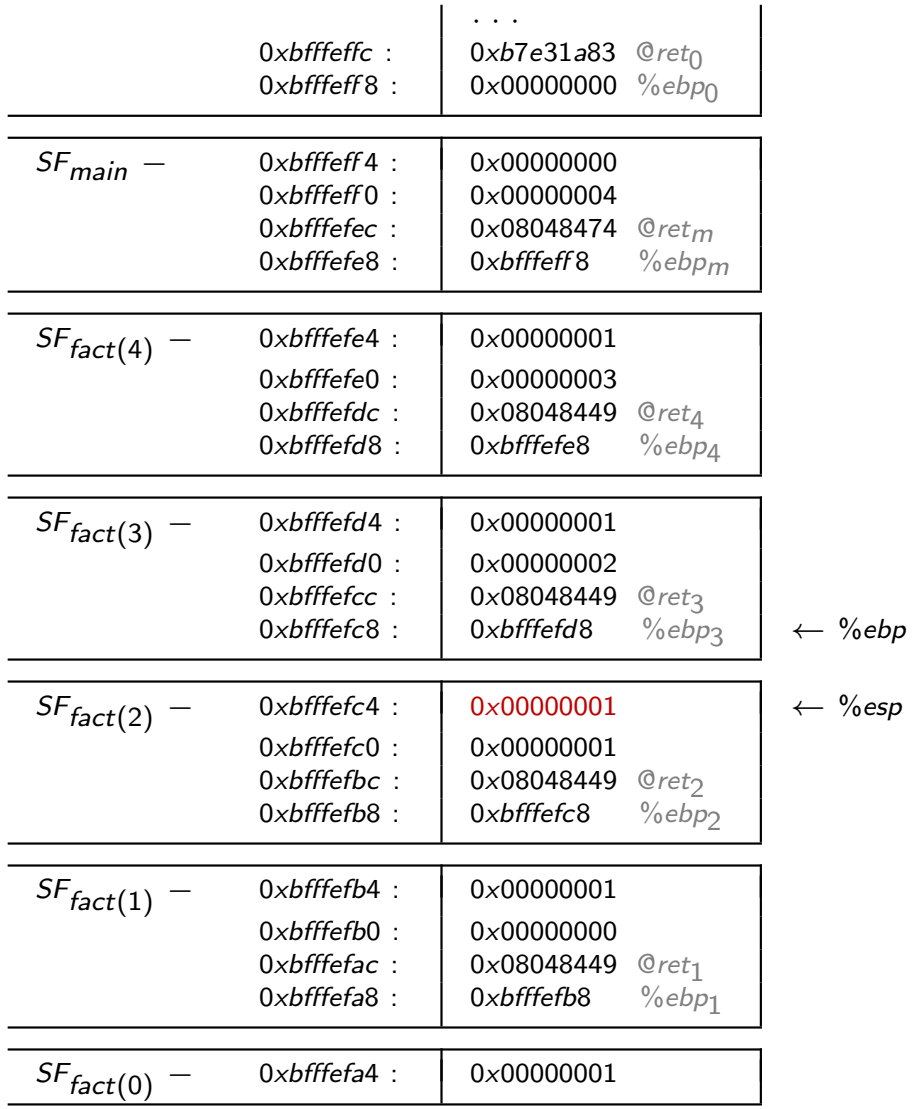


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

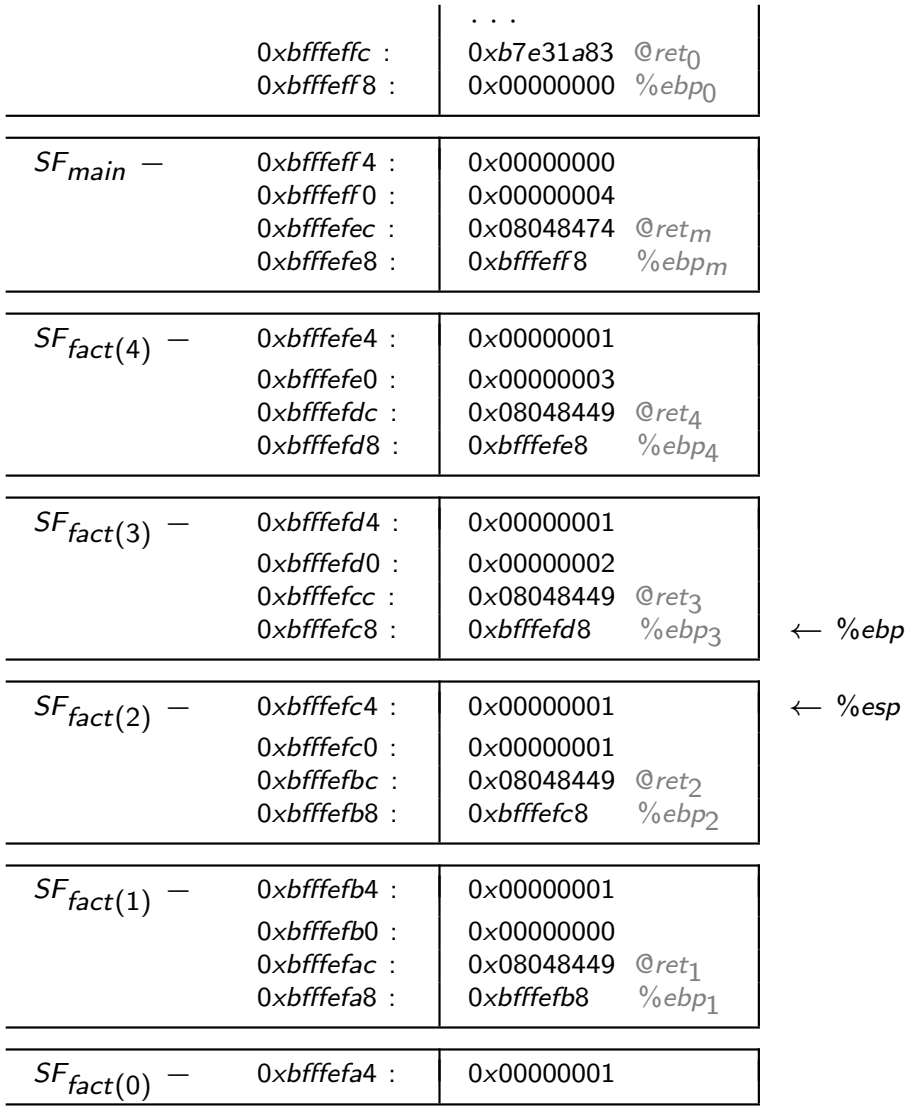


%eax 0x00000001

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

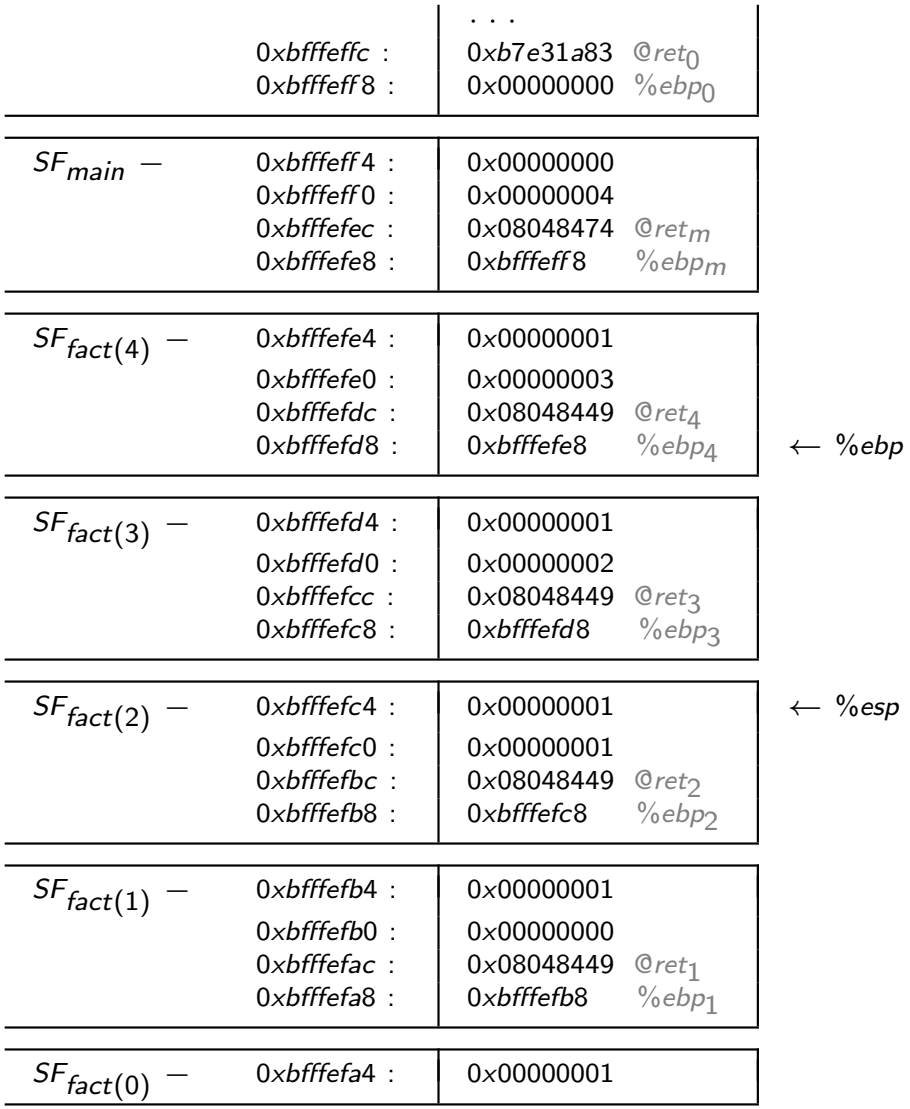


%eax 0x00000002

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

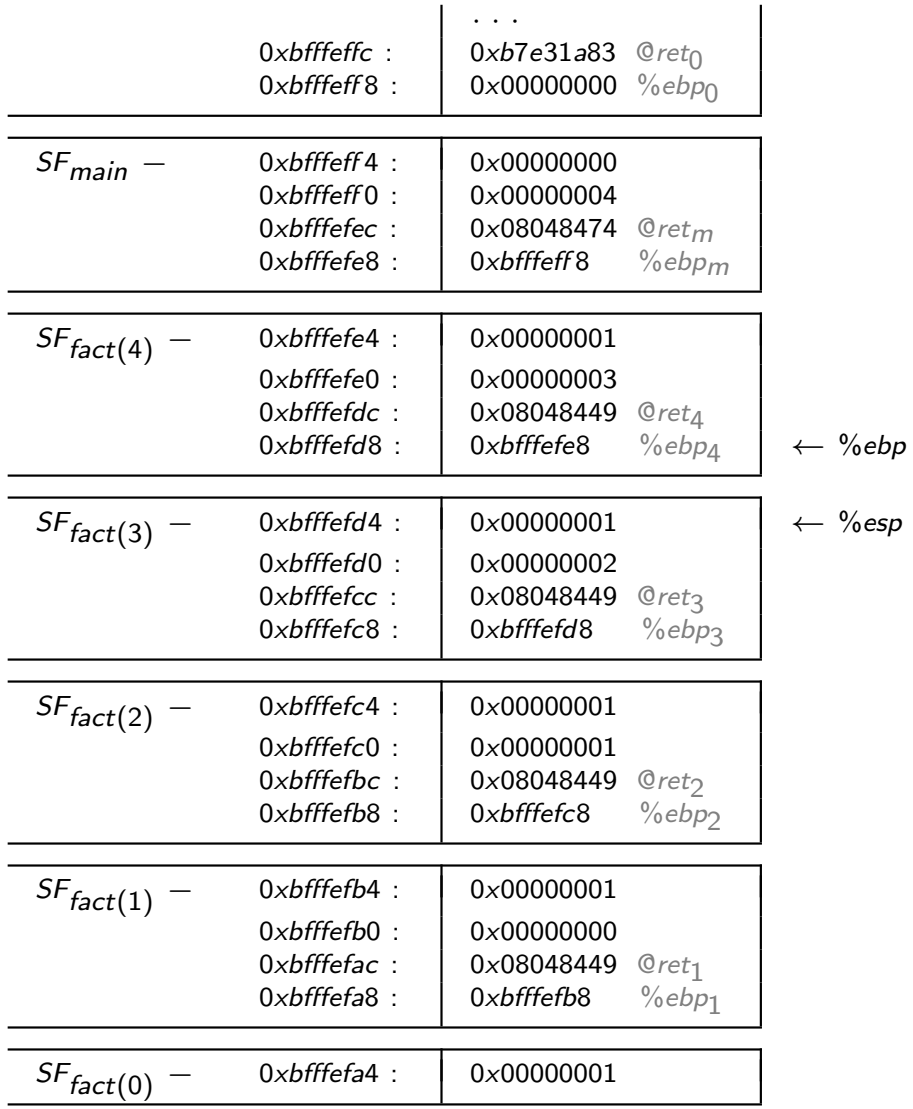


%eax | 0x00000002

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```



%eax 0x00000002

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
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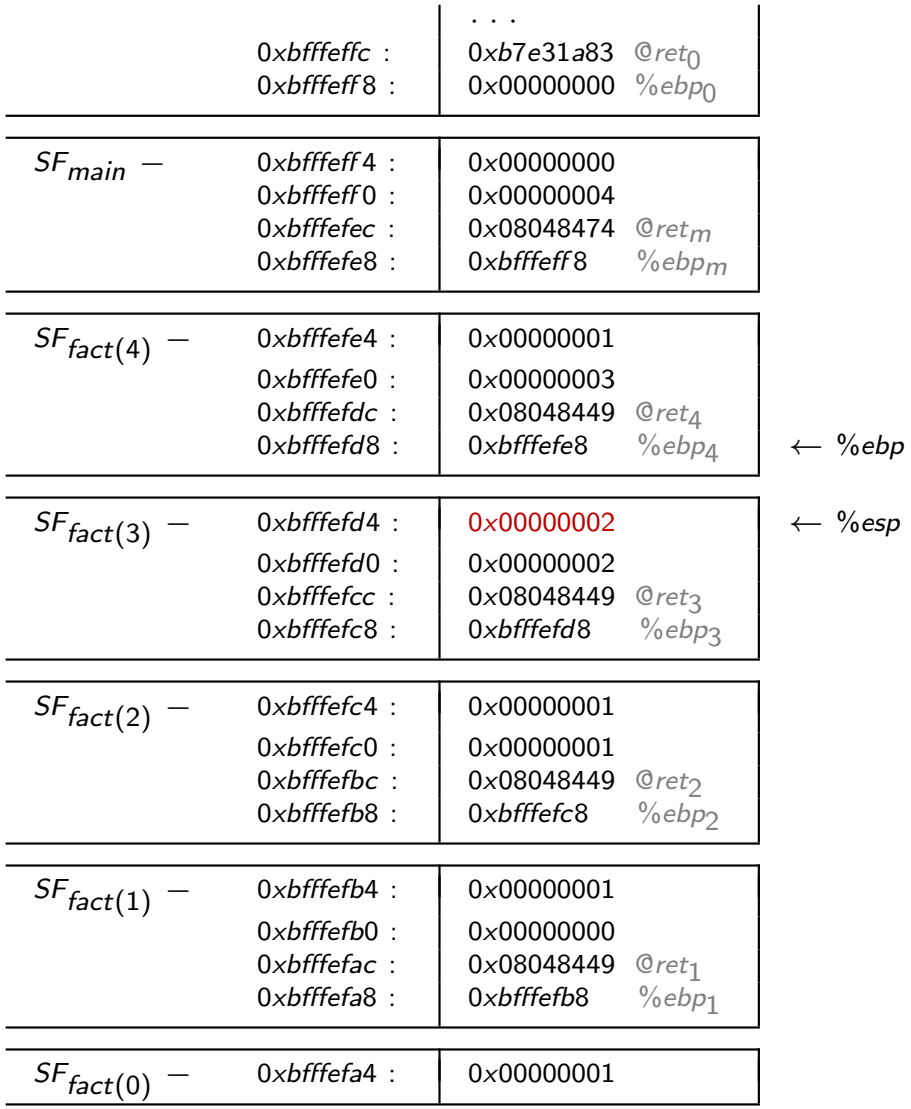
```

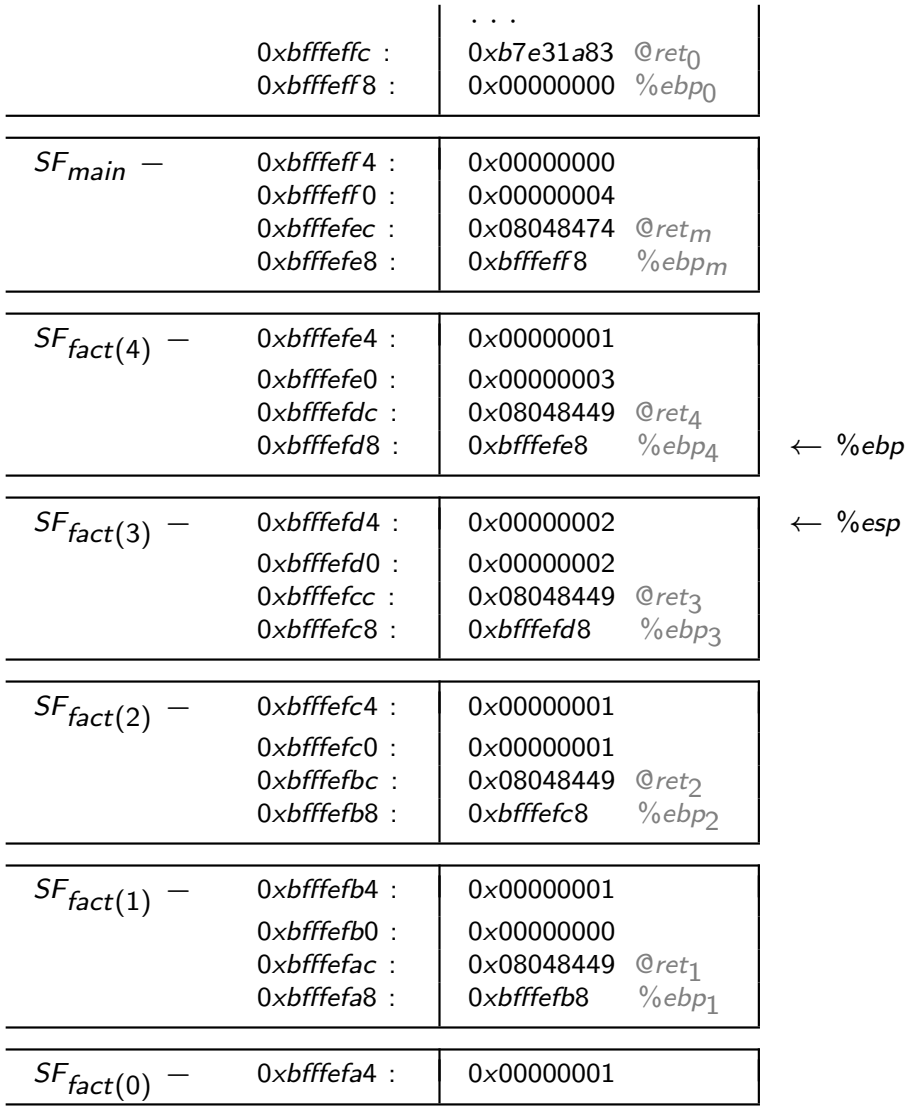


%eax 0x00000002

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

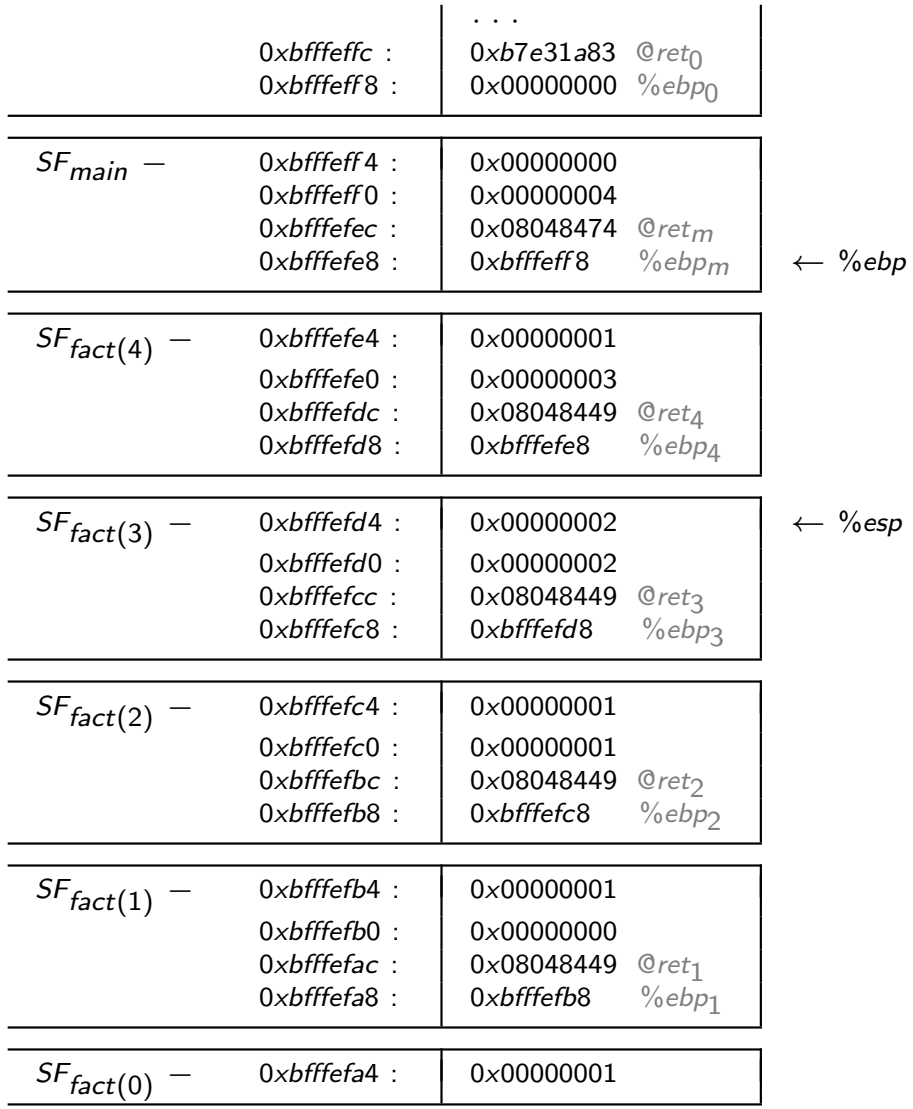


%eax 0x00000006

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```

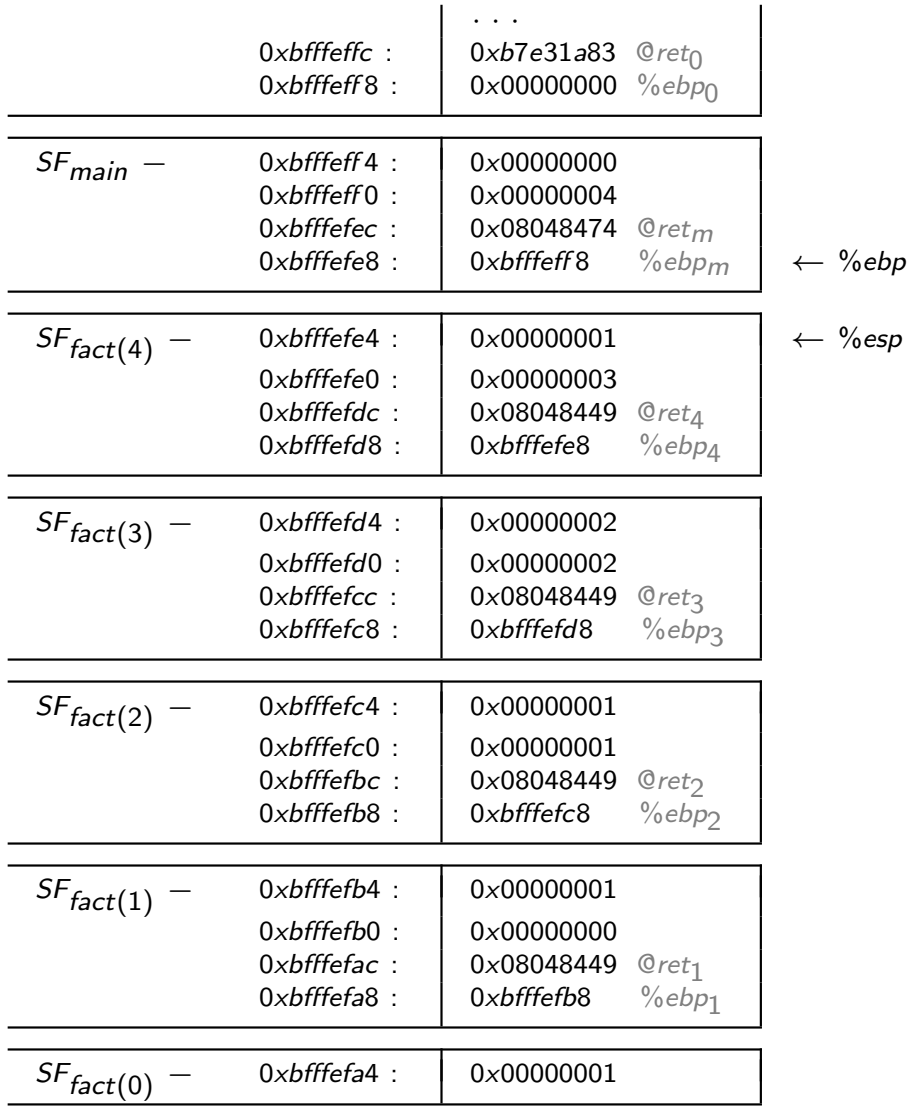


%eax 0x00000006

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```



%eax 0x00000006

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
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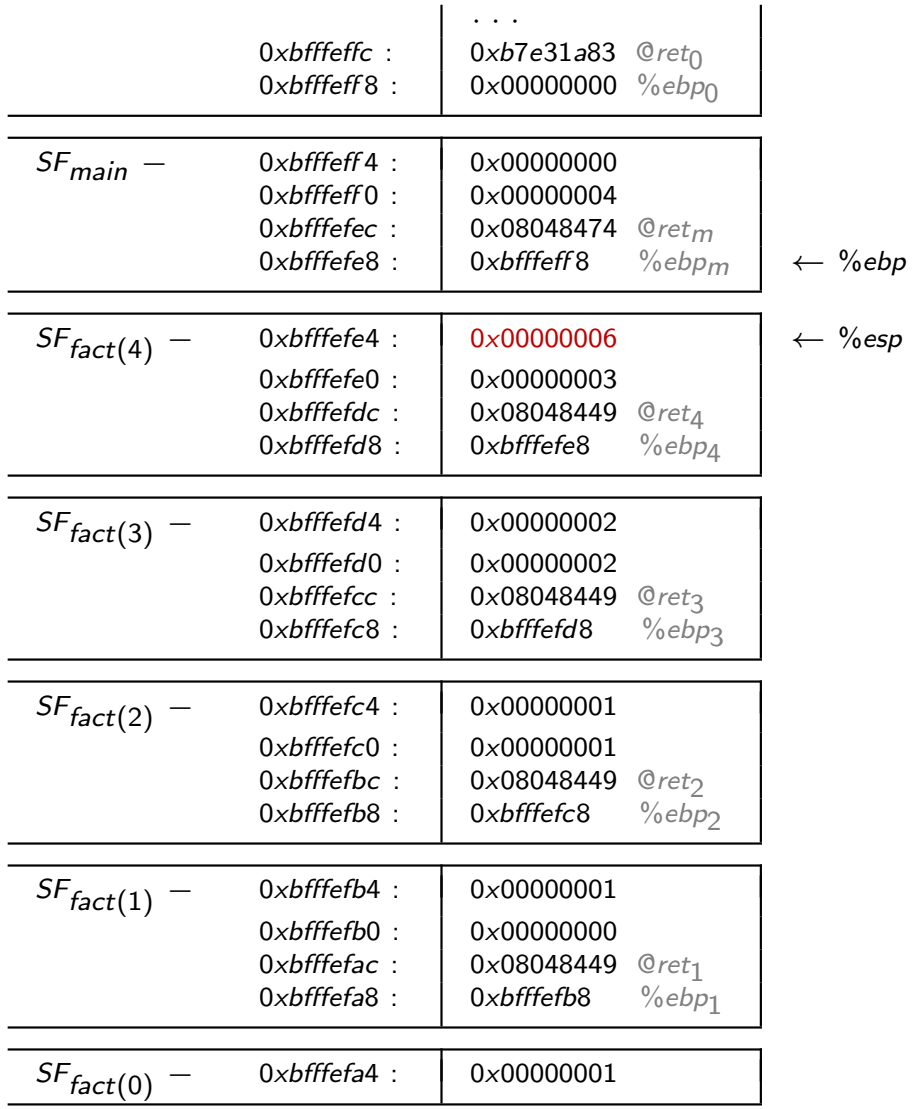

%eax 0x00000006

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
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```
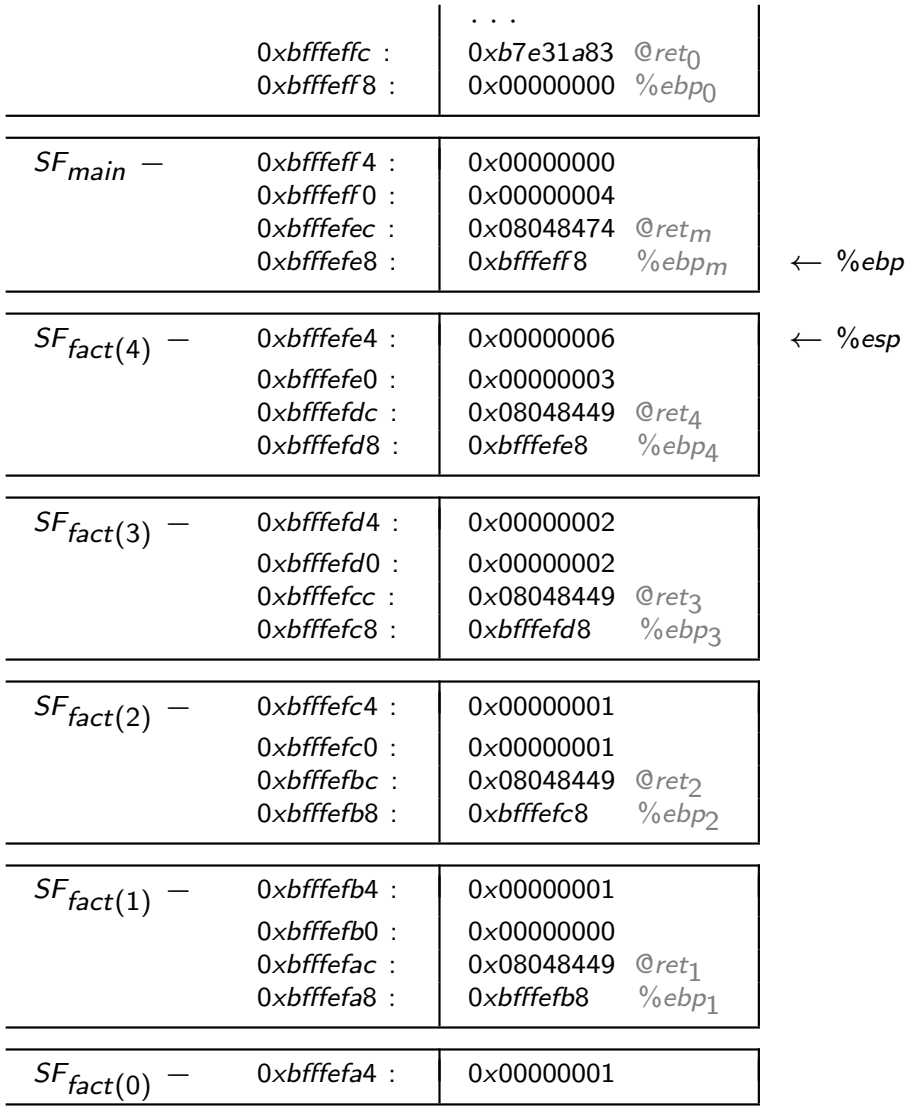
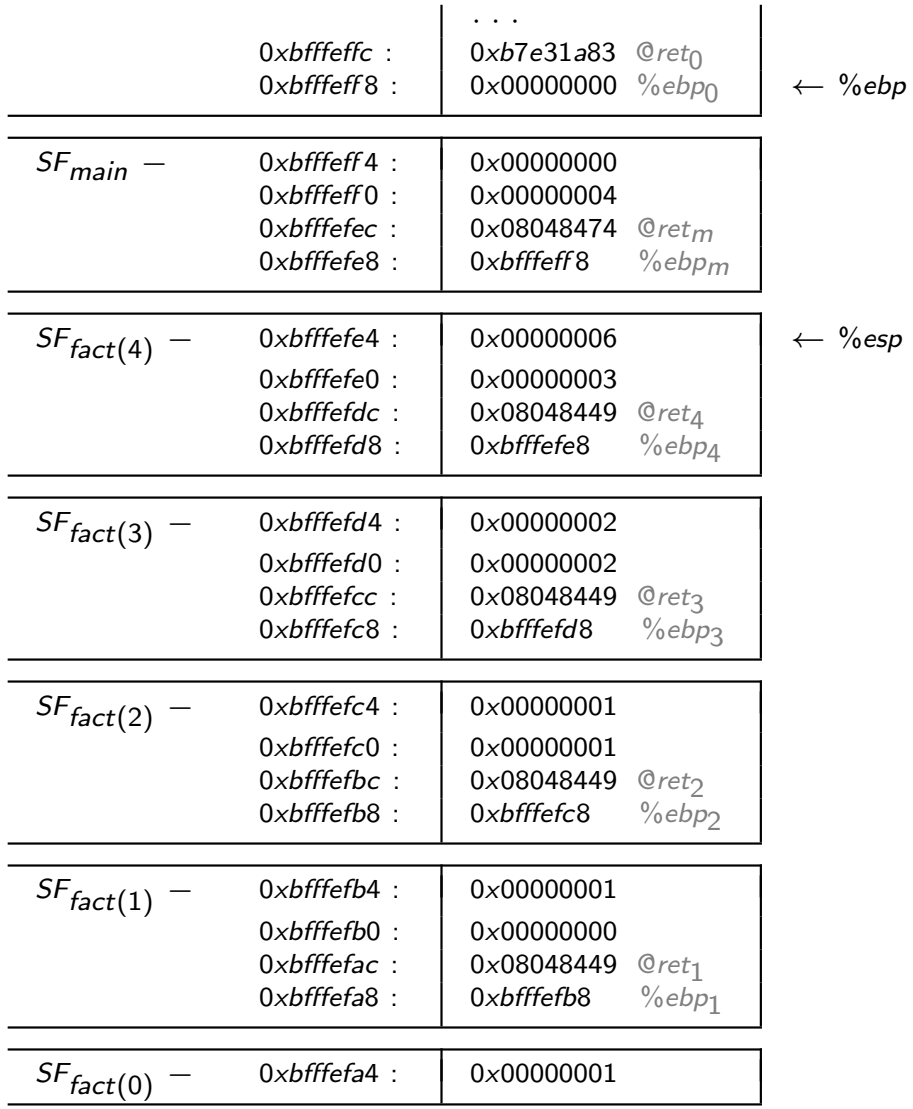



%eax 0x00000018

x86 runtime memory - an example

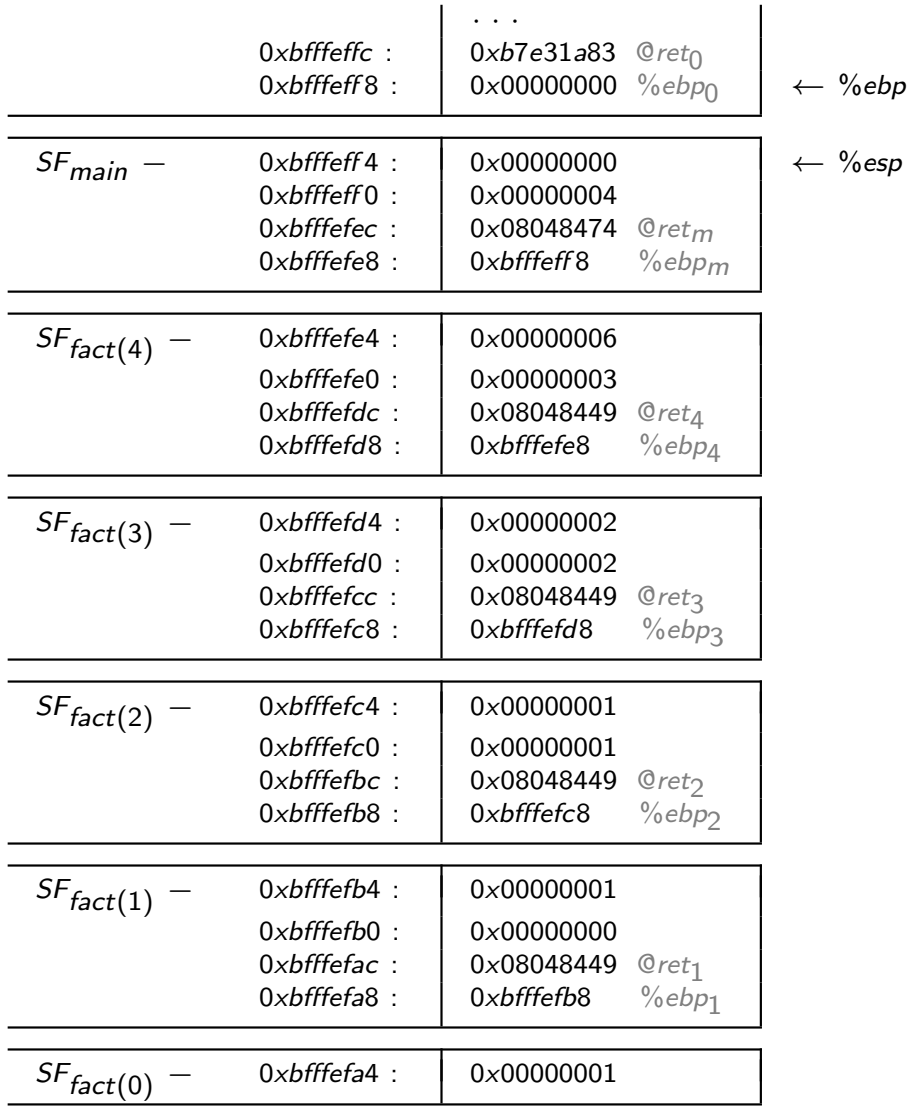
```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```



%eax 0x00000018

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
}
```



%eax 0x00000018

x86 runtime memory - an example

```
int fact(int x) {
  int y = 1;
  if (x == 0)
    return y;
  if (x > 0) {
    y = fact(x-1);
    return x*y;
  }
}

int main(void) {
  int x = 0;
  x = fact(4);
  printf("Factorial 4 is %d", x);
  return 0;
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```

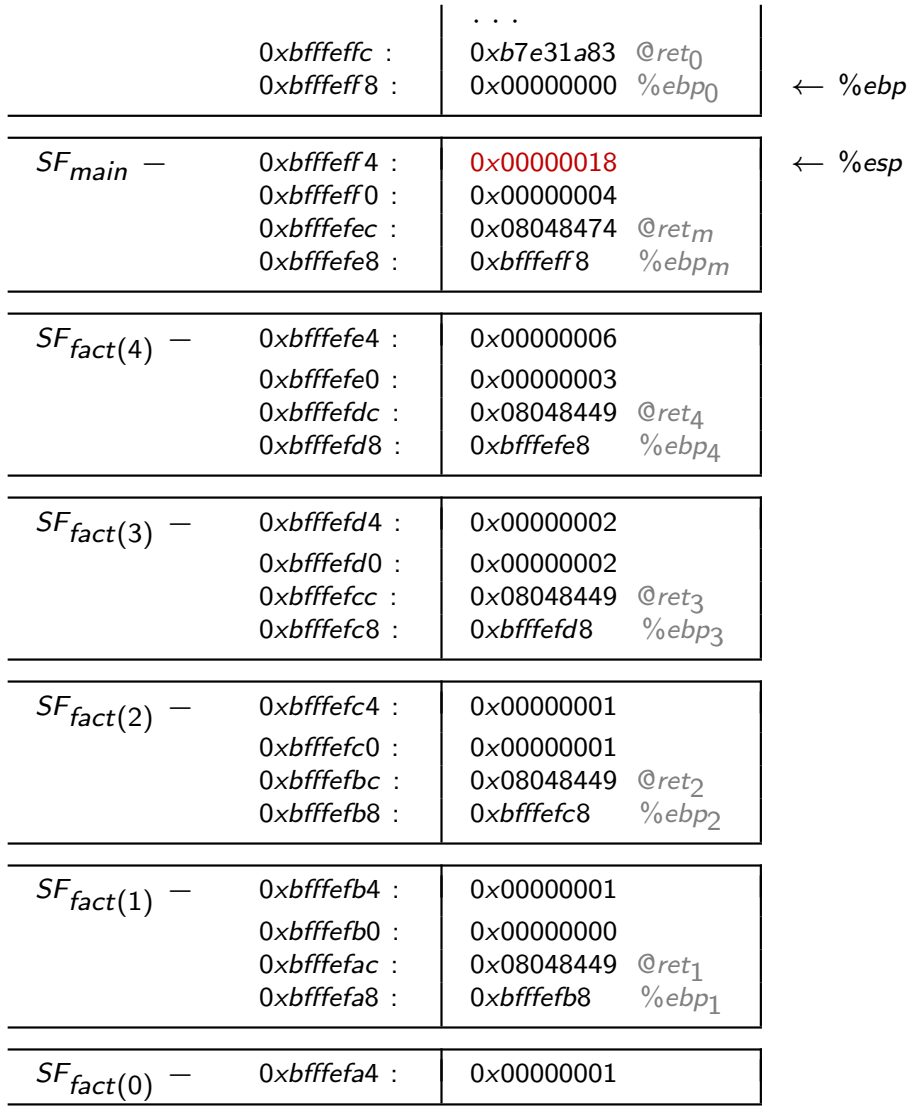

%eax | 0x00000018

Stack and functions: Summary

Calling function

1. Push arguments onto the stack (in reverse)
2. Push the return address, i.e., the address of the instruction to run after control returns
3. Jump to the function's address

Called function

4. Push the old frame pointer onto the stack (%ebp)
5. Set frame pointer (%ebp) to where the end of the stack is right now (%esp)
6. Push local variables onto the stack

Returning function

7. Reset the previous stack frame: %esp = %ebp, %ebp = (%ebp)
8. Jump back to return address: %eip = 4(%ebp)