

# CS 33

## Machine Programming (4)

# Conditional-Branch Example

```
int absdiff(int x, int y)
{
    int result;
    if (x > y) {
        result = x-y;
    } else {
        result = y-x;
    }
    return result;
}
```

**absdiff:**

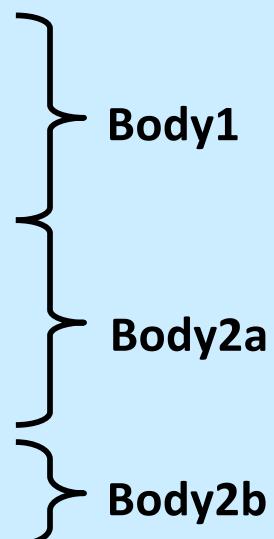
`movl %esi, %eax`  
    `cmpl %esi, %edi`  
    `jle .L6`  
    `subl %eax, %edi`  
    `movl %edi, %eax`  
    `jmp .L7`

**.L6:**

`subl %edi, %eax`

**.L7:**

`ret`



x in %edi

y in %esi

# Conditional-Branch Example (Cont.)

```
int goto_ad(int x, int y)
{
    int result;
    if (x <= y) goto Else;
    result = x-y;
    goto Exit;
Else:
    result = y-x;
Exit:
    return result;
}
```

- C allows “goto” as means of transferring control
  - closer to machine-level programming style
- Generally considered bad coding style

```
absdiff:
    movl    %esi, %eax
    cmpl    %esi, %edi
    jle     .L6
    subl    %eax, %edi
    movl    %edi, %eax
    jmp    .L7
.L6:
    subl    %edi, %eax
.L7:
    ret
```

The assembly code is annotated with curly braces on the right side to group specific sections:

- Body1** covers the first five lines of assembly, corresponding to the conditional branch logic in the C code.
- Body2a** covers the sixth line of assembly, corresponding to the "Else" block in the C code.
- Body2b** covers the seventh line of assembly, corresponding to the "Exit" label in the C code.

# General Conditional-Expression Translation

## C Code

```
val = Test ? Then_Expr : Else_Expr;
```

```
val = x>y ? x-y : y-x;
```

- Test is expression returning integer
  - == 0 interpreted as false
  - ≠ 0 interpreted as true
- Create separate code regions for then & else expressions
- Execute appropriate one

## Goto Version

```
nt = !Test;  
if (nt) goto Else;  
val = Then_Expr;  
goto Done;  
Else:  
    val = Else_Expr;  
Done:  
    . . .
```

# “Do-While” Loop Example

## C Code

```
int pcount_do(unsigned x)
{
    int result = 0;
    do {
        result += x & 0x1;
        x >>= 1;
    } while (x);
    return result;
}
```

## Goto Version

```
int pcount_do(unsigned x)
{
    int result = 0;
loop:
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
    if (x)
        goto loop;
    return result;
}
```

- Count number of 1's in argument x (“popcount”)
- Use conditional branch either to continue looping or to exit loop

# “Do-While” Loop Compilation

## Goto Version

```
int pcount_do(unsigned x) {  
    int result = 0;  
  
loop:  
    result += x & 0x1;  
    x >>= 1;  
    if (x)  
        goto loop;  
    return result;  
}
```

### Registers:

%edi	x
%eax	result

```
        movl $0, %eax      # result = 0  
.L2:    # loop:  
        movl %edi, %ecx  
        andl $1, %ecx      # t = x & 1  
        addl %ecx, %eax      # result += t  
        shr l %edi          # x >>= 1  
        jne .L2             # if !0, goto loop
```

# General “Do-While” Translation

## C Code

```
do  
    Body  
    while (Test);
```

- **Body:** {  
    Statement<sub>1</sub>;  
    Statement<sub>2</sub>;  
    ...  
    Statement<sub>n</sub>;  
}
- **Test returns integer**  
    = 0 interpreted as false  
    ≠ 0 interpreted as true

## Goto Version

```
loop:  
    Body  
    if (Test)  
        goto loop
```

# “While” Loop Example

## C Code

```
int pcount_while(unsigned x) {  
    int result = 0;  
    while (x) {  
        result += x & 0x1;  
        x >>= 1;  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

## Goto Version

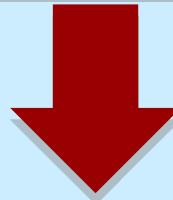
```
int pcount_do(unsigned x) {  
    int result = 0;  
    if (!x) goto done;  
loop:  
    result += x & 0x1;  
    x >>= 1;  
    if (x)  
        goto loop;  
done:  
    return result;  
}
```

- Is this code equivalent to the do-while version?
  - must jump out of loop if test fails

# General “While” Translation

While version

```
while (Test)
  Body
```



Do-While Version

```
if (!Test)
  goto done;
do
  Body
  while(Test);
done:
```



Goto Version

```
if (!Test)
  goto done;
loop:
  Body
  if (Test)
    goto loop;
done:
```

# “For” Loop Example

## C Code

```
#define WSIZE 8*sizeof(int)
int pcount_for(unsigned x) {
    int i;
    int result = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++) {
        unsigned mask = 1 << i;
        result += (x & mask) != 0;
    }
    return result;
}
```

- Is this code equivalent to other versions?

# “For” Loop Form

## General Form

```
for (Init; Test; Update)
```

### *Body*

```
for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++) {  
    unsigned mask = 1 << i;  
    result += (x & mask) != 0;  
}
```

### Init

```
i = 0
```

### Test

```
i < WSIZE
```

### Update

```
i++
```

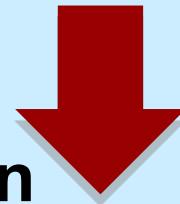
### Body

```
{  
    unsigned mask = 1 << i;  
    result += (x & mask) != 0;  
}
```

# “For” Loop → While Loop

## For Version

```
for (Init; Test; Update)  
    Body
```



## While Version

```
Init;  
  
while (Test) {  
    Body  
    Update;  
}
```

# “For” Loop → ... → Goto

## For Version

```
for (Init; Test; Update)  
    Body
```

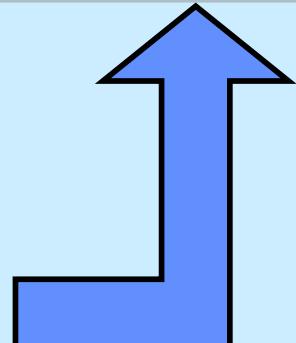


## While Version

```
Init;  
while (Test) {  
    Body  
    Update;  
}
```



```
Init;  
if (!Test)  
    goto done;  
do  
    Body  
    Update  
    while (Test);  
done:
```



# “For” Loop Conversion Example

## C Code

```
#define WSIZE 8*sizeof(int)
int pcount_for(unsigned x) {
    int i;
    int result = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++) {
        unsigned mask = 1 << i;
        result += (x & mask) != 0;
    }
    return result;
}
```

Initial test can be optimized away

## Goto Version

```
int pcount_for_gt(unsigned x) {
    int i;
    int result = 0; Init
    i = 0;
    if (!(i < WSIZE)) !Test
        goto done;
loop:
{
    unsigned mask = 1 << i;
    result += (x & mask) != 0;
}
Update
if (i < WSIZE) Test
    goto loop;
done:
return result;
}
```

```
long switch_eg
(long x, long y, long z) {
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
        case 1:
            w = y*z;
            break;
        case 2:
            w = y/z;
            /* Fall Through */
        case 3:
            w += z;
            break;
        case 5:
        case 6:
            w -= z;
            break;
        default:
            w = 2;
    }
    return w;
}
```

# Switch-Statement Example

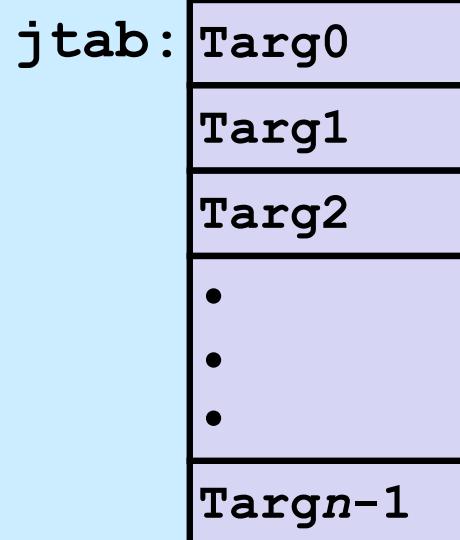
- **Multiple case labels**
  - here: 5 & 6
- **Fall-through cases**
  - here: 2
- **Missing cases**
  - here: 4

# Jump-Table Structure

## Switch Form

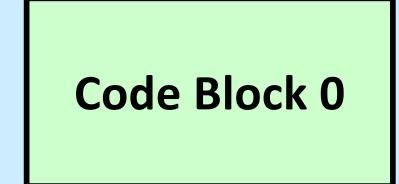
```
switch (x) {  
    case val_0:  
        Block 0  
    case val_1:  
        Block 1  
    . . .  
    case val_n-1:  
        Block n-1  
}
```

## Jump Table

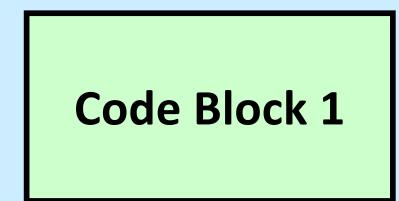


## Jump Targets

Targ0:



Targ1:



Targ2:



•

•

•

Targn-1:



## Approximate Translation

```
target = JTab[x];  
goto *target;
```

# Switch-Statement Example (x86-64)

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x)  {
        . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

What range of values is covered by the default case?

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
...      # Setup
movq    %rdx, %rcx      # %rcx = z
cmpq    $6, %rdi         # Compare x:6
ja      .L8               # If unsigned > goto default
jmp     * .L7(,%rdi,8)   # Goto *JTab[x]
```

Note that w not initialized here

# Switch-Statement Example

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
        . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
    ...      # Setup
    movq    %rdx, %rcx      # %rcx = z
    cmpq    $6, %rdi        # Compare x:6
    ja      .L8              # If unsigned > goto default
    Indirect jump   jmp    * .L7(,%rdi,8) # Goto *JTab[x]
```

Jump table

```
.section      .rodata
.align 4
.L7:
.quad     .L8 # x = 0
.quad     .L3 # x = 1
.quad     .L4 # x = 2
.quad     .L9 # x = 3
.quad     .L8 # x = 4
.quad     .L6 # x = 5
.quad     .L6 # x = 6
```

# Assembly-Setup Explanation

- **Table structure**
  - each target requires 8 bytes
  - base address at .L7
- **Jumping**
  - direct:** `jmp .L8`
  - jump target is denoted by label .L8
- indirect:** `jmp * .L7(, %rdi, 8)`
  - start of jump table: .L7
  - must scale by factor of 8 (labels have 8 bytes on x86-64)
  - fetch target from effective address `.L7 + rdi * 8`
    - » only for  $0 \leq x \leq 6$

## Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
.align 4
.L7:
.quad     .L8 # x = 0
.quad     .L3 # x = 1
.quad     .L4 # x = 2
.quad     .L9 # x = 3
.quad     .L8 # x = 4
.quad     .L6 # x = 5
.quad     .L6 # x = 6
```

# Jump Table

## Jump table

```
.section .rodata
.align 4
.L7:
.quad .L8 # x = 0
.quad .L3 # x = 1
.quad .L4 # x = 2
.quad .L9 # x = 3
.quad .L8 # x = 4
.quad .L6 # x = 5
.quad .L6 # x = 6
```

```
switch(x) {
    case 1:          // .L3
        w = y*z;
        break;
    case 2:          // .L4
        w = y/z;
        /* Fall Through */
    case 3:          // .L9
        w += z;
        break;
    case 5:
    case 6:          // .L6
        w -= z;
        break;
    default:         // .L8
        w = 2;
}
```

# Code Blocks (Partial)

```
switch(x) {  
    case 1:          // .L3  
        w = y*z;  
        break;  
    . . .  
    case 5:          // .L6  
    case 6:          // .L6  
        w -= z;  
        break;  
    default:         // .L8  
        w = 2;  
}
```

```
.L3:    # x == 1  
    movl %rsi, %rax # y  
    imulq %rdx, %rax # w = y*z  
    ret  
.L6:    # x == 5, x == 6  
    movl $1, %eax # w = 1  
    subq %rdx, %rax # w -= z  
    ret  
.L8:    # Default  
    movl $2, %eax # w = 2  
    ret
```

# Handling Fall-Through

```
long w = 1;  
. . .  
switch(x) {  
    . . .  
case 2:  
    w = y/z;  
    /* Fall Through */  
case 3:  
    w += z;  
break;  
    . . .  
}
```

```
case 2:  
    w = y/z;  
goto merge;
```

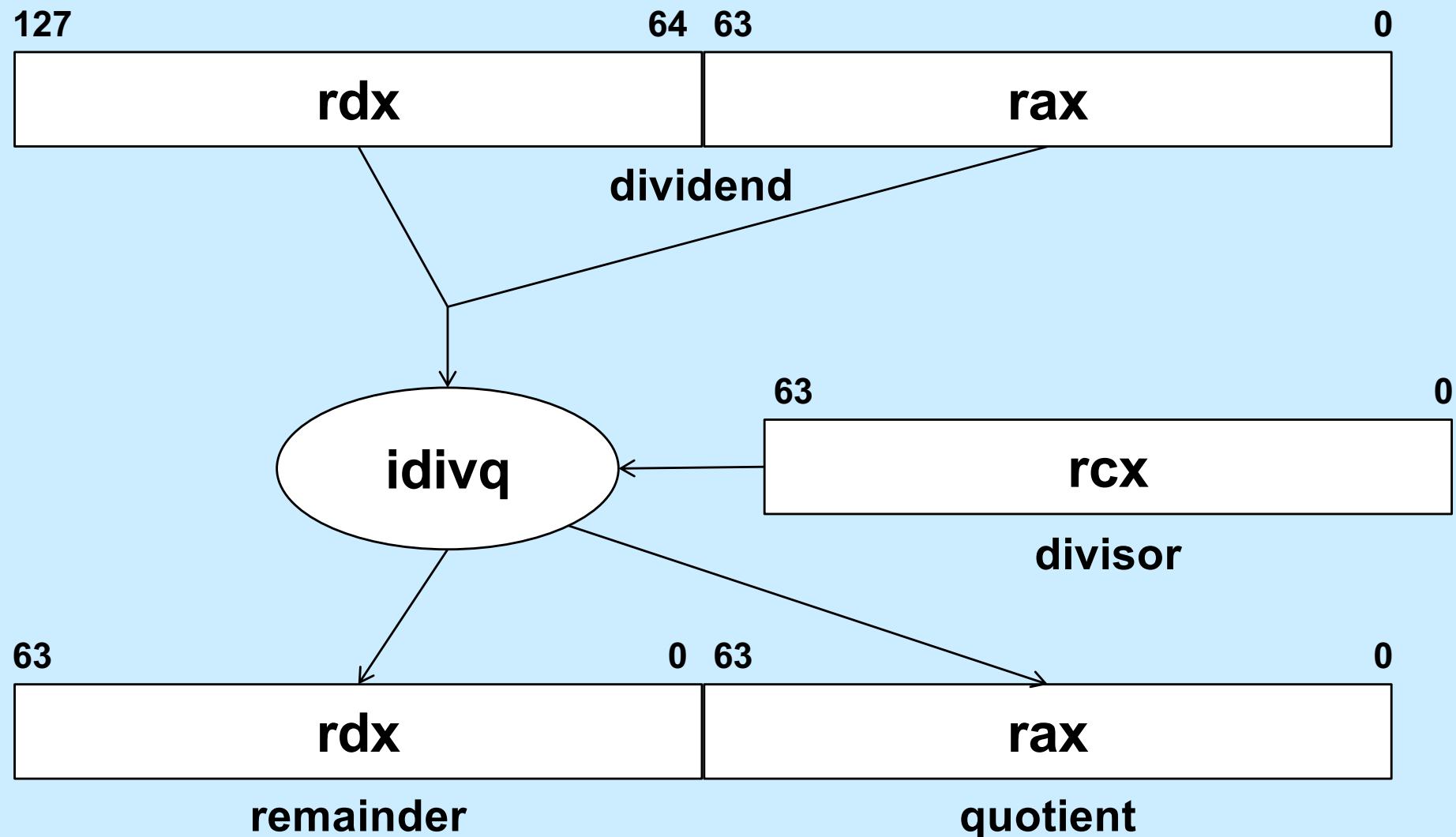
```
case 3:  
    w = 1;  
merge:  
    w += z;
```

# Code Blocks (Rest)

```
switch(x) {  
    . . .  
    case 2: // .L4  
        w = y/z;  
        /* Fall Through */  
    case 3: // .L9  
        w += z;  
        break;  
    . . .  
}
```

```
.L4:    # x == 2  
    movq  %rsi, %rax  
    movq  %rsi, %rdx  
    sarq  $63, %rdx  
    idivq %rcx      # w = y+z  
    jmp   .L5  
.L9:    # x == 3  
    movl  $1, %eax # w = 1  
.L5:    # merge:  
    addq  %rcx, %rax # w += z  
    ret
```

# **idivq**



# x86-64 Object Code

- **Setup**
  - label .L8 becomes address 0x4004e5
  - label .L7 becomes address 0x4005c0

## Assembly code

```
switch_eg:  
    . . .  
    ja     .L8          # If unsigned > goto default  
    jmp    * .L7(,%rdi,8) # Goto *JTab[x]
```

## Disassembled object code

```
00000000004004ac <switch_eg>:  
    . . .  
4004b3: 77 30          ja     4004e5 <switch_eg+0x39>  
4004b5: ff 24 fd c0 05 40 00  jmpq   *0x4005c0(,%rdi,8)
```

# x86-64 Object Code (cont.)

- **Jump table**
  - doesn't show up in disassembled code
  - can inspect using gdb

`gdb switch`

`(gdb) x/7xg 0x4005c0`

- » examine 7 hexadecimal format “giant” words (8-bytes each)
- » use command “`help x`” to get format documentation

<code>0x4005c0:</code>	<code>0x00000000004004e5</code>	<code>0x00000000004004bc</code>
<code>0x4005d0:</code>	<code>0x00000000004004c4</code>	<code>0x00000000004004d3</code>
<code>0x4005e0:</code>	<code>0x00000000004004e5</code>	<code>0x00000000004004dc</code>
<code>0x4005f0:</code>	<code>0x00000000004004dc</code>	

# x86-64 Object Code (cont.)

- Deciphering jump table

0x4005c0:	0x00000000004004e5	0x00000000004004bc
0x4005d0:	0x00000000004004c4	0x00000000004004d3
0x4005e0:	0x00000000004004e5	0x00000000004004dc
0x4005f0:	0x00000000004004dc	

Address	Value	x
0x4005c0	0x4004e5	0
0x4005c8	0x4004bc	1
0x4005d0	0x4004c4	2
0x4005d8	0x4004d3	3
0x4005e0	0x4004e5	4
0x4005e8	0x4004dc	5
0x4005f0	0x4004dc	6

# Disassembled Targets

```
(gdb) disassemble 0x4004bc,0x4004eb
Dump of assembler code from 0x4004bc to 0x4004eb
0x00000000004004bc <switch_eg+16>:    mov    %rsi,%rax
0x00000000004004bf <switch_eg+19>:    imul   %rdx,%rax
0x00000000004004c3 <switch_eg+23>:    retq
0x00000000004004c4 <switch_eg+24>:    mov    %rsi,%rax
0x00000000004004c7 <switch_eg+27>:    mov    %rsi,%rdx
0x00000000004004ca <switch_eg+30>:    sar    $0x3f,%rdx
0x00000000004004ce <switch_eg+34>:    idiv   %rcx
0x00000000004004d1 <switch_eg+37>:    jmp    0x4004d8 <switch_eg+44>
0x00000000004004d3 <switch_eg+39>:    mov    $0x1,%eax
0x00000000004004d8 <switch_eg+44>:    add    %rcx,%rax
0x00000000004004db <switch_eg+47>:    retq
0x00000000004004dc <switch_eg+48>:    mov    $0x1,%eax
0x00000000004004e1 <switch_eg+53>:    sub    %rdx,%rax
0x00000000004004e4 <switch_eg+56>:    retq
0x00000000004004e5 <switch_eg+57>:    mov    $0x2,%eax
0x00000000004004ea <switch_eg+62>:    retq
```

# Matching Disassembled Targets

Value	x
0x4004e5	0
0x4004bc	1
0x4004c4	2
0x4004d3	3
0x4004e5	4
0x4004dc	5
0x4004dc	6

0x00000000004004bc:	mov	%rsi,%rax
0x00000000004004bf:	imul	%rdx,%rax
0x00000000004004c3:	retq	
0x00000000004004c4:	mov	%rsi,%rax
0x00000000004004c7:	mov	%rsi,%rdx
0x00000000004004ca:	sar	\$0x3f,%rdx
0x00000000004004ce:	idiv	%rcx
0x00000000004004d1:	jmp	0x4004d8
0x00000000004004d3:	mov	\$0x1,%eax
0x00000000004004d8:	add	%rcx,%rax
0x00000000004004db:	retq	
0x00000000004004dc:	mov	\$0x1,%eax
0x00000000004004e1:	sub	%rdx,%rax
0x00000000004004e4:	retq	
0x00000000004004e5:	mov	\$0x2,%eax
0x00000000004004ea:	retq	

# Quiz 1

What C code would you compile to get the following assembler code?

```
        movq    $0, %rax
.L2:
        movq    %rax, a(,%rax,8)
        addq    $1, %rax
        cmpq    $10, %rax
        jne     .L2
        ret
```

```
long a[10];
void func() {
    long i;
    for (i=0; i<10; i++)
        a[i]= 1;
}
```

**a**

```
long a[10];
void func() {
    long i=0;
    while (i<10)
        a[i]= i++;
}
```

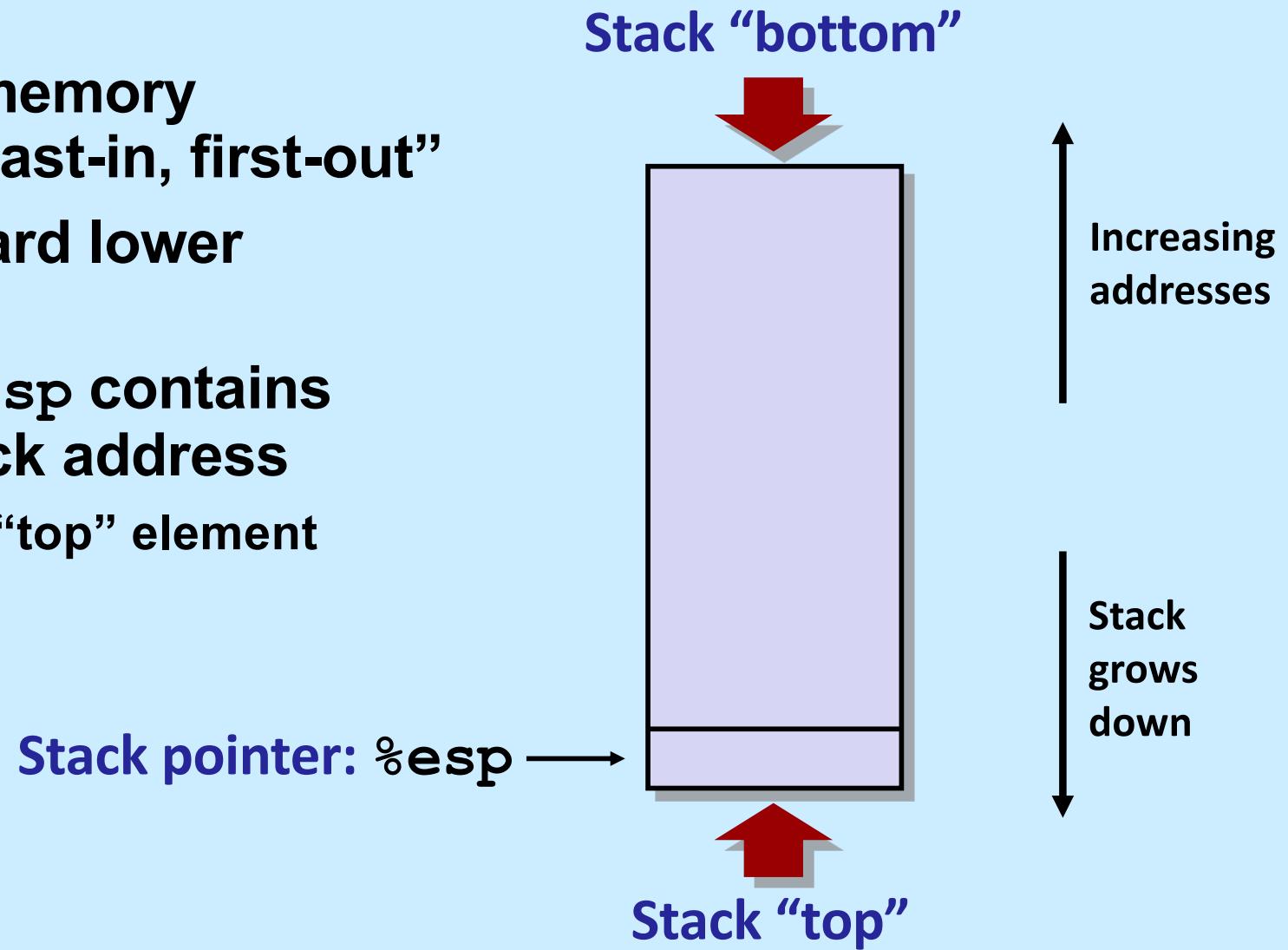
**b**

```
long a[10];
void func() {
    long i=0;
    switch (i) {
case 0:
    a[i] = 0;
    break;
default:
    a[i] = 10
    }
}
```

**c**

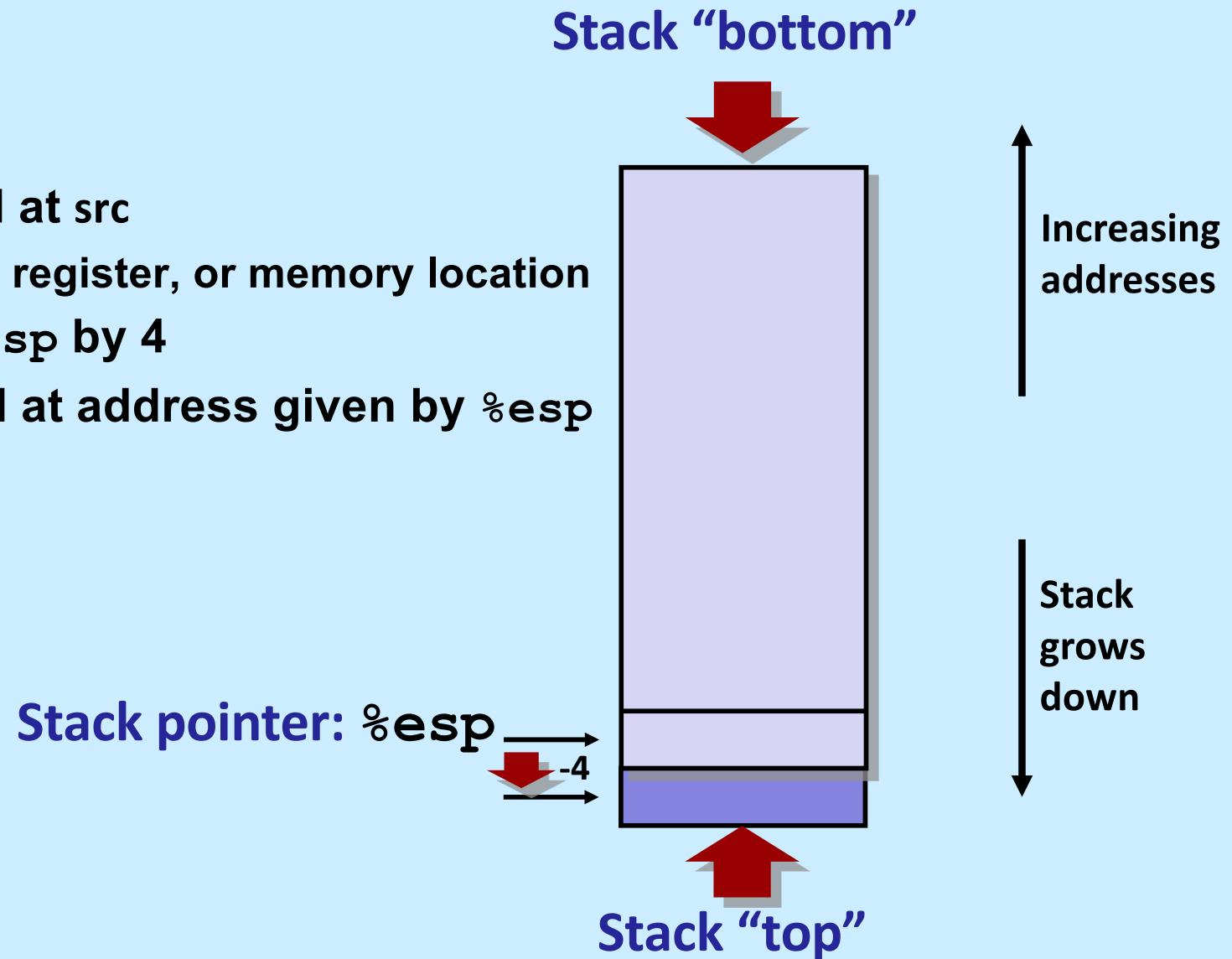
# IA32 Stack

- Region of memory managed “last-in, first-out”
- Grows toward lower addresses
- Register `%esp` contains lowest stack address
  - address of “top” element



# IA32 Stack: Push

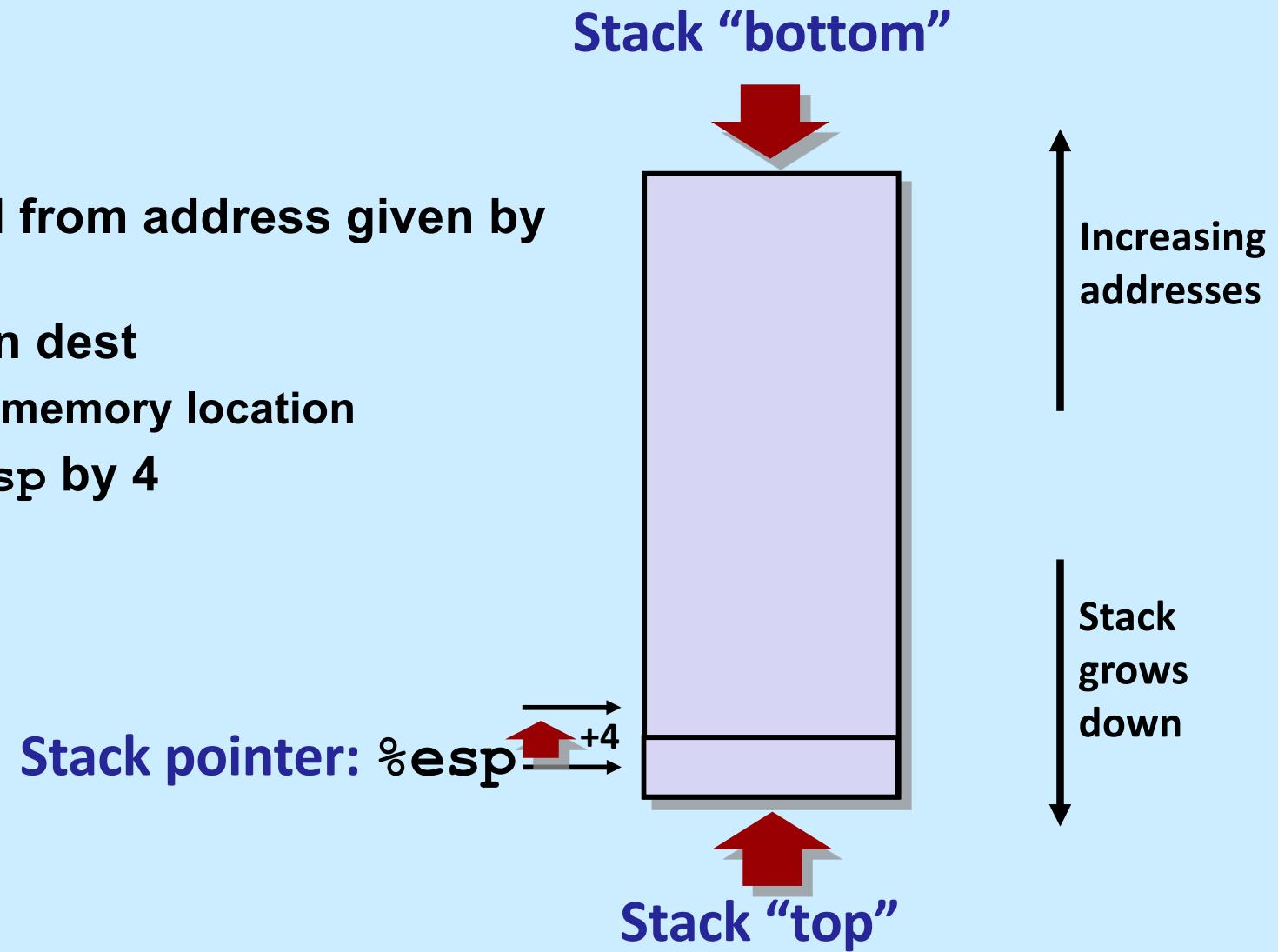
- **pushl src**
  - fetch operand at src
    - » immediate, register, or memory location
  - decrement  $\%esp$  by 4
  - store operand at address given by  $\%esp$



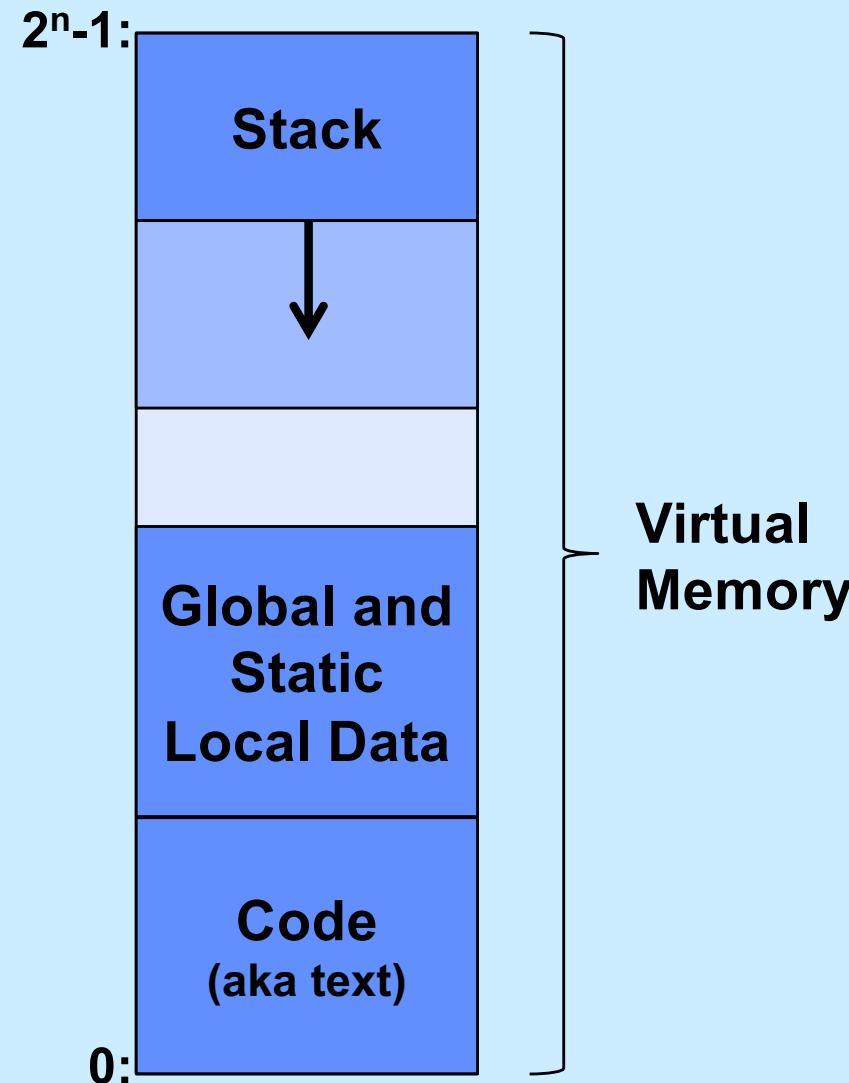
# IA32 Stack: Pop

- **popl dest**

- fetch operand from address given by `%esp`
- put operand in dest
  - » register or memory location
- increment `%esp` by 4



# Digression (Again): Where Stuff Is (Roughly)



# Function Control Flow

- Use stack to support function call and return
- **Function call:** `call sub`
  - push return address on stack
  - jump to sub
- **Return address:**
  - address of the next instruction after call
  - example from disassembly

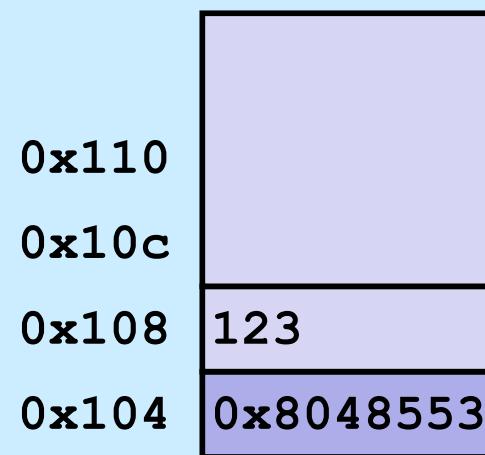
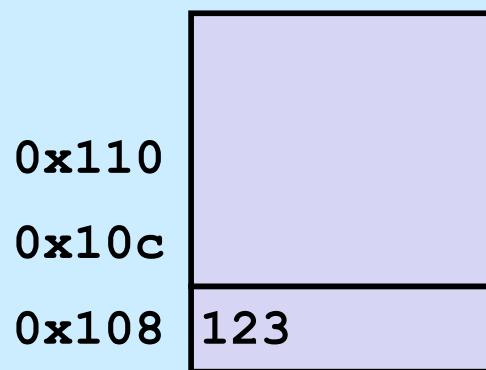
```
804854e: e8 3d 06 00 00      call    8048b90 <sub>
8048553: 50                  pushl   %eax
```

- return address = 0x8048553
- **Function return:** `ret`
  - pop address from stack
  - jump to address

# Function Call

```
804854e:    e8 3d 06 00 00      call    8048b90 <sub>
8048553:    50                  pushl   %eax
```

call 8048b90

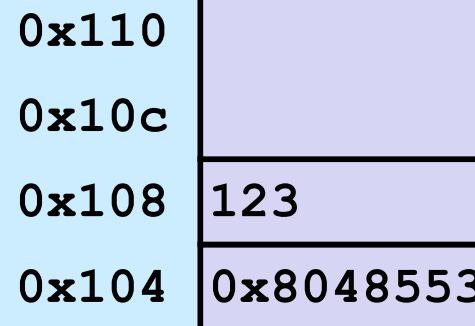


%eip: program counter

# Function Return

8048591: c3

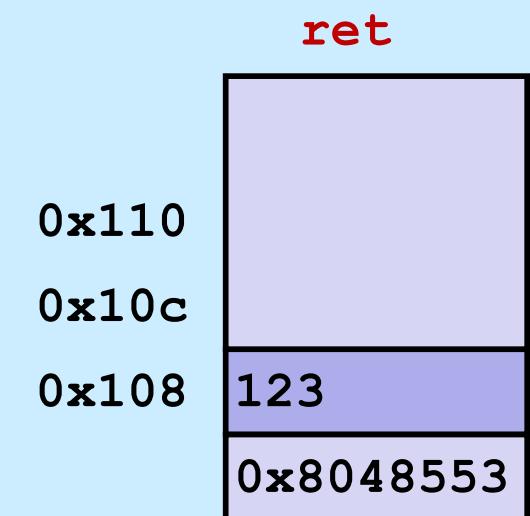
ret



%esp 0x104

%eip 0x8048591

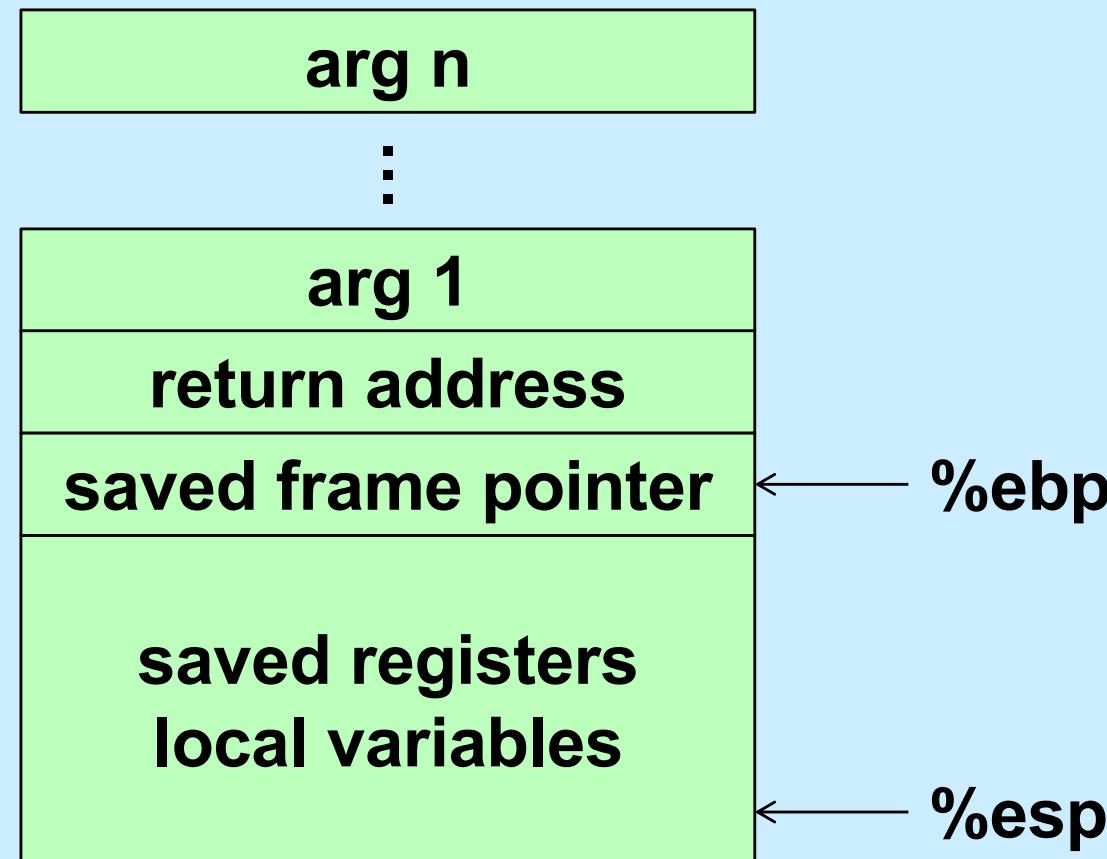
%eip: program counter



%esp 0x108

%eip 0x8048553

# The IA32 Stack Frame



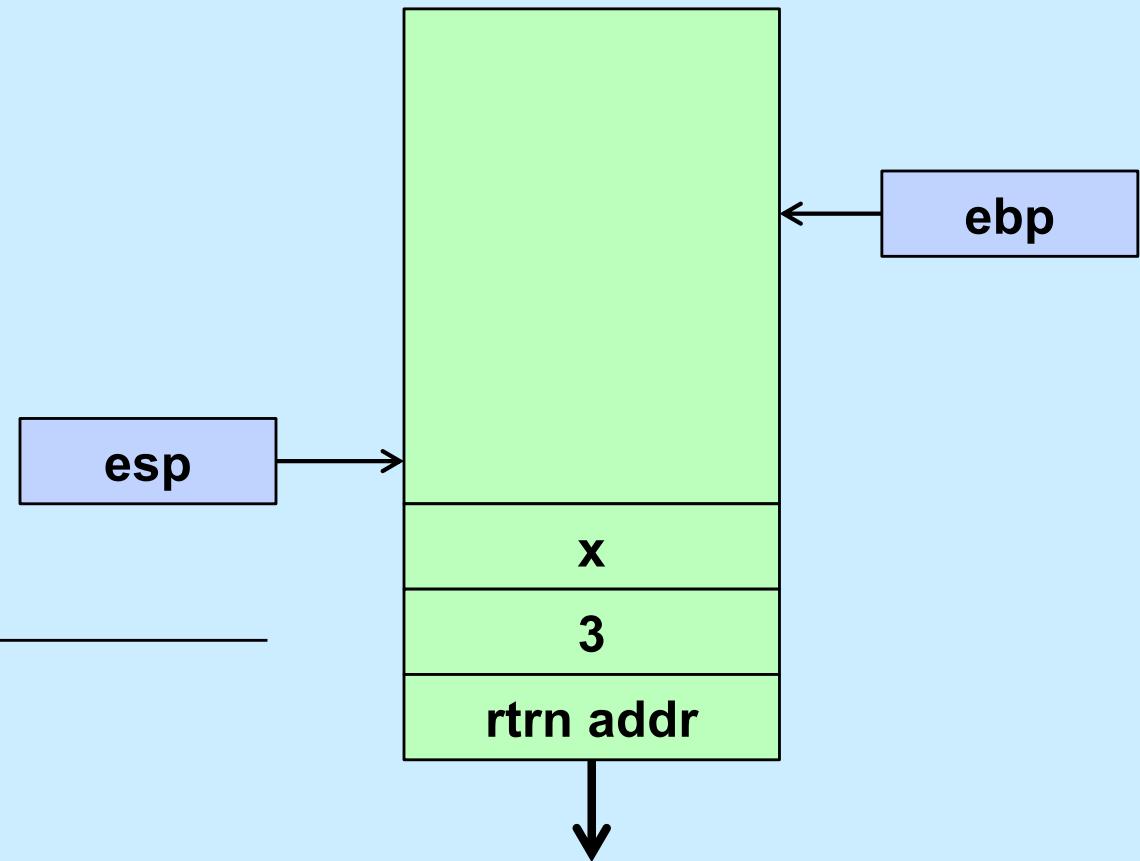
# Passing Arguments

```
int x;  
int res;  
int main() {  
    ...  
    res = subr(3, x);  
    ...  
}
```

---

```
main:  
    ...  
    pushl x  
    pushl $3  
    call subr  
    movl %eax, res  
    ...
```

---

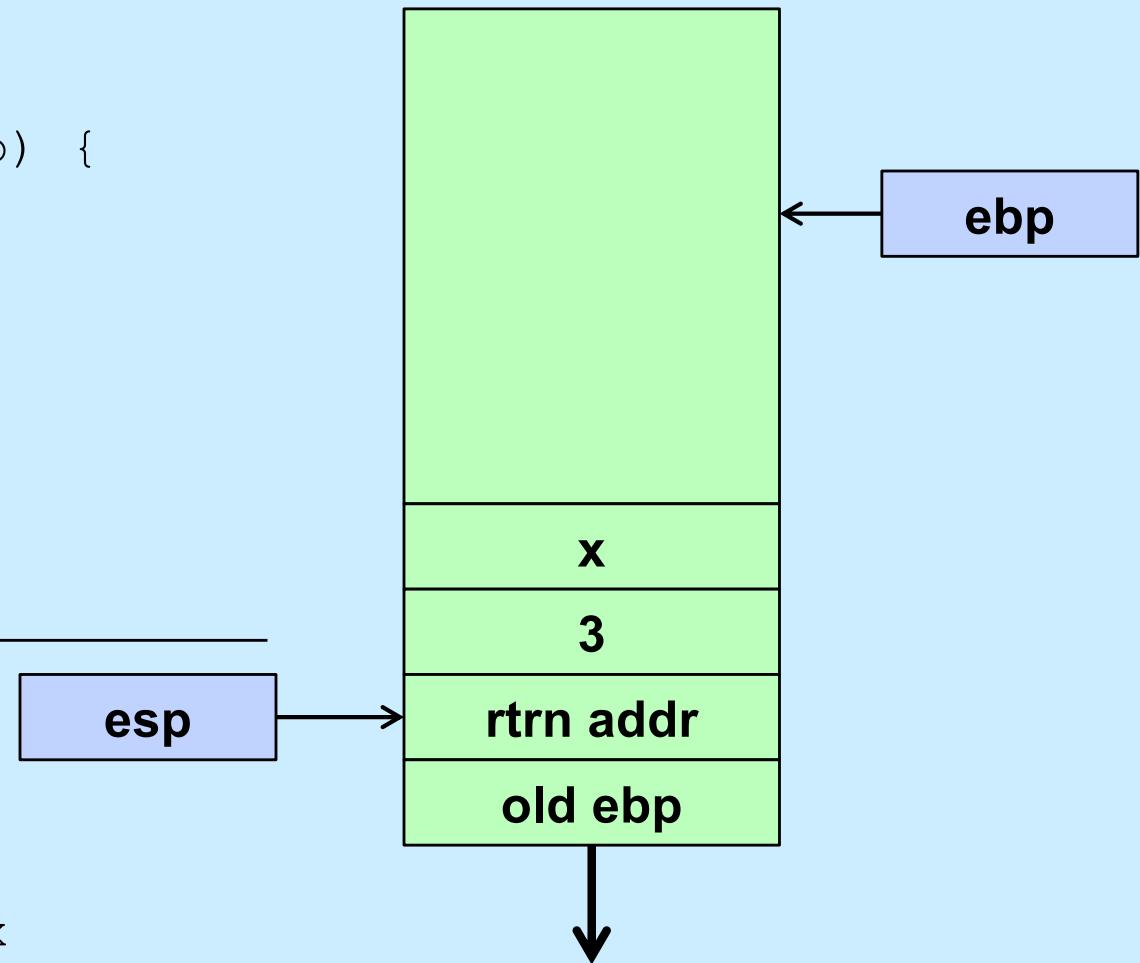


# Retrieving Arguments

```
int subr(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

---

```
subr:  
    pushl %ebp  
    movl %esp, %ebp  
    movl 12(%ebp), %eax  
    addl 8(%ebp), %eax  
    popl %ebp  
    ret
```

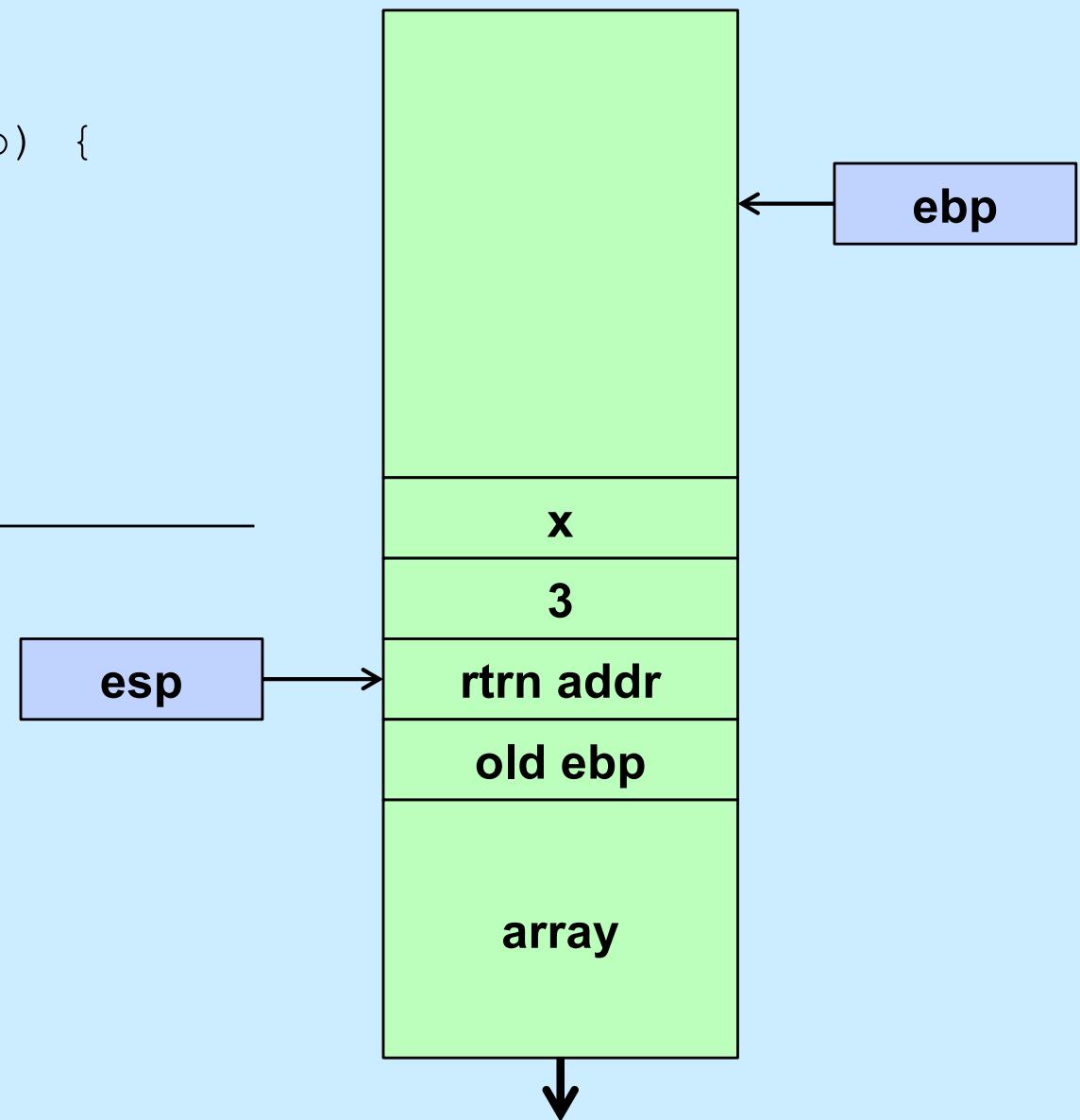


# Space for Local Variables

```
int subr(int a, int b) {  
    int array[20];  
    ...  
}
```

---

```
subr:  
    pushl %ebp  
    movl %esp, %ebp  
    subl $80, %esp  
    ...  
    addl $80, %esp  
    popl %ebp  
    ret
```



# Register-Saving Conventions

- When function `yoo` calls `who`:
  - `yoo` is the **caller**
  - `who` is the **callee**
- Can registers be used for temporary storage?

`yoo:`

```
• • •  
    movl $33, %edx  
    call who  
    addl %edx, %eax  
• • •  
    ret
```

`who:`

```
• • •  
    movl 8(%ebp), %edx  
    addl $32, %edx  
• • •  
    ret
```

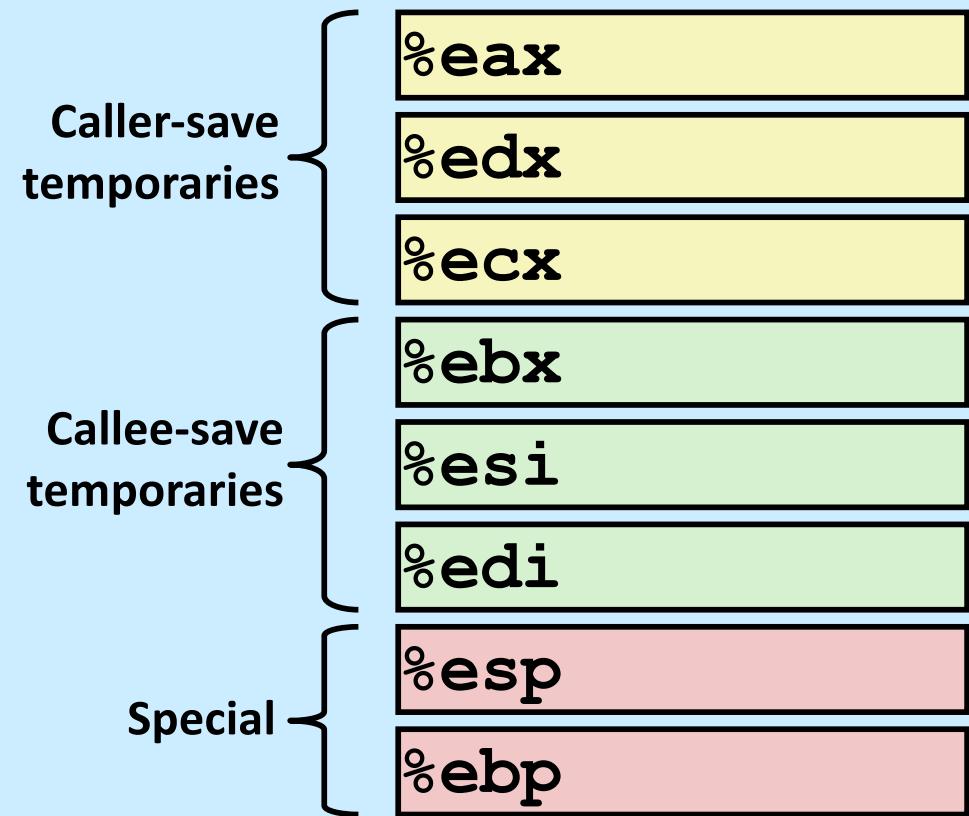
- contents of register `%edx` overwritten by `who`
- this could be trouble: something should be done!
  - » need some coordination

# Register-Saving Conventions

- When function **yoo** calls **who**:
  - **yoo** is the **caller**
  - **who** is the **callee**
- Can registers be used for temporary storage?
- Conventions
  - “**caller save**”
    - » caller saves registers containing temporary values on stack before the call
    - » restores them after call
  - “**callee save**”
    - » callee saves registers on stack before using
    - » restores them before returning

# IA32/Linux+Windows Register Usage

- **%eax, %edx, %ecx**
  - caller saves prior to call if values are used later
- **%eax**
  - also used to return integer value
- **%ebx, %esi, %edi**
  - callee saves if wants to use them
- **%esp, %ebp**
  - special form of callee-save
  - restored to original values upon exit from function



# Register-Saving Example

```
yoo:
```

```
...
    movl $33, %edx
    pushl %edx
    call who
    popl %edx
    addl %edx, %eax
...
    ret
```

```
who:
```

```
...
    pushl %ebx
...
    movl 4(%ebp), %ebx
    addl %53, %ebx
    movl 8(%ebp), %edx
    addl $32, %edx
...
    popl %ebx
...
    ret
```

# Recursive Function

```
/* Recursive popcount */
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {
    if (x == 0)
        return 0;
    else return
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

- Registers

- **%eax, %edx** used without first saving
- **%ebx** used, but saved at beginning & restored at end

pcount\_r:

```
    pushl %ebp
    movl %esp, %ebp
    pushl %ebx
    subl $4, %esp
    movl 8(%ebp), %ebx
    movl $0, %eax
    testl %ebx, %ebx
    je .L3
    movl %ebx, %eax
    shr1 $1, %eax
    movl %eax, (%esp)
    call pcount_r
    movl %ebx, %edx
    andl $1, %edx
    leal (%edx,%eax), %eax
.L3:
    addl $4, %esp
    popl %ebx
    popl %ebp
    ret
```

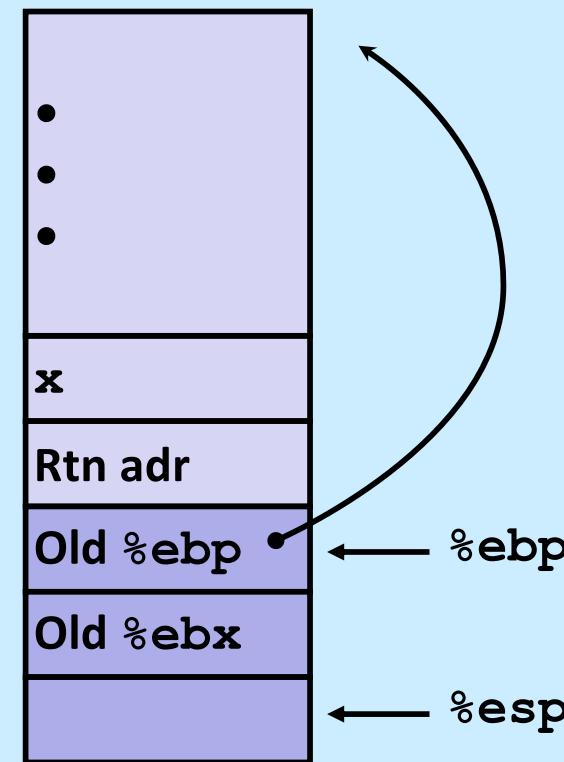
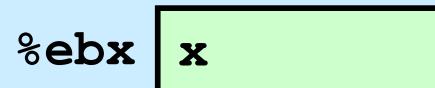
# Recursive Call #1

```
/* Recursive popcount */
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {
    if (x == 0)
        return 0;
    else return
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

pcount\_r:

```
pushl %ebp
movl %esp, %ebp
pushl %ebx
subl $4, %esp
movl 8(%ebp), %ebx
• • •
```

- Actions
  - save old value of %ebx on stack
  - allocate space for argument to recursive call
  - store x in %ebx



# Recursive Call #2

```
/* Recursive popcount */
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {
    if (x == 0)
        return 0;
    else return
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
...
movl $0, %eax
testl %ebx, %ebx
je .L3
    ...
.L3:
    ...
ret
```

- Actions
  - if  $x == 0$ , return
    - » with  $\%eax$  set to 0

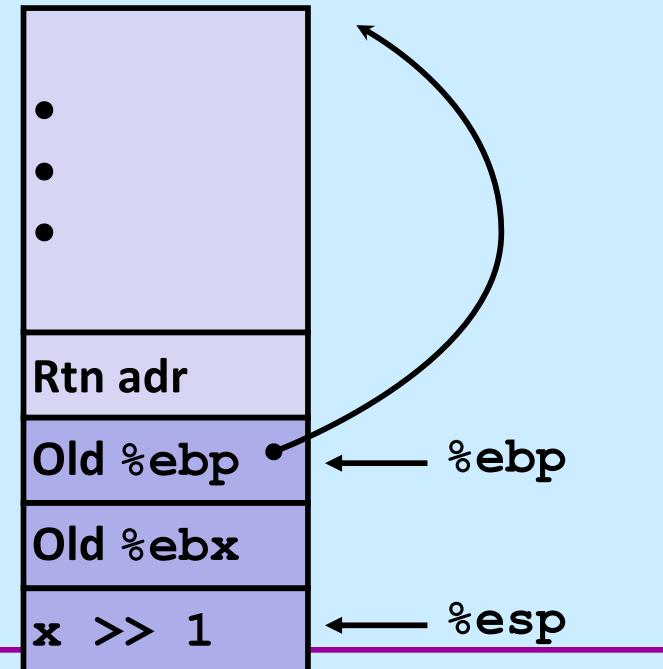
$\%ebx$  x

# Recursive Call #3

```
/* Recursive popcount */
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {
    if (x == 0)
        return 0;
    else return
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
...
movl %ebx, %eax
shrl $1, %eax
movl %eax, (%esp)
call pcount_r
...
```

- **Actions**
  - store  $x \gg 1$  on stack
  - make recursive call
- **Effect**
  - **%eax set to function result**
  - **%ebx still has value of x**



# Recursive Call #4

```
/* Recursive popcount */  
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {  
    if (x == 0)  
        return 0;  
    else return  
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);  
}
```

```
• • •  
movl %ebx, %edx  
andl $1, %edx  
leal (%edx,%eax), %eax  
• • •
```

- **Assume**
  - **%eax holds value from recursive call**
  - **%ebx holds x**
- **Actions**
  - compute  $(x \& 1) + \text{computed value}$
- **Effect**
  - **%eax set to function result**

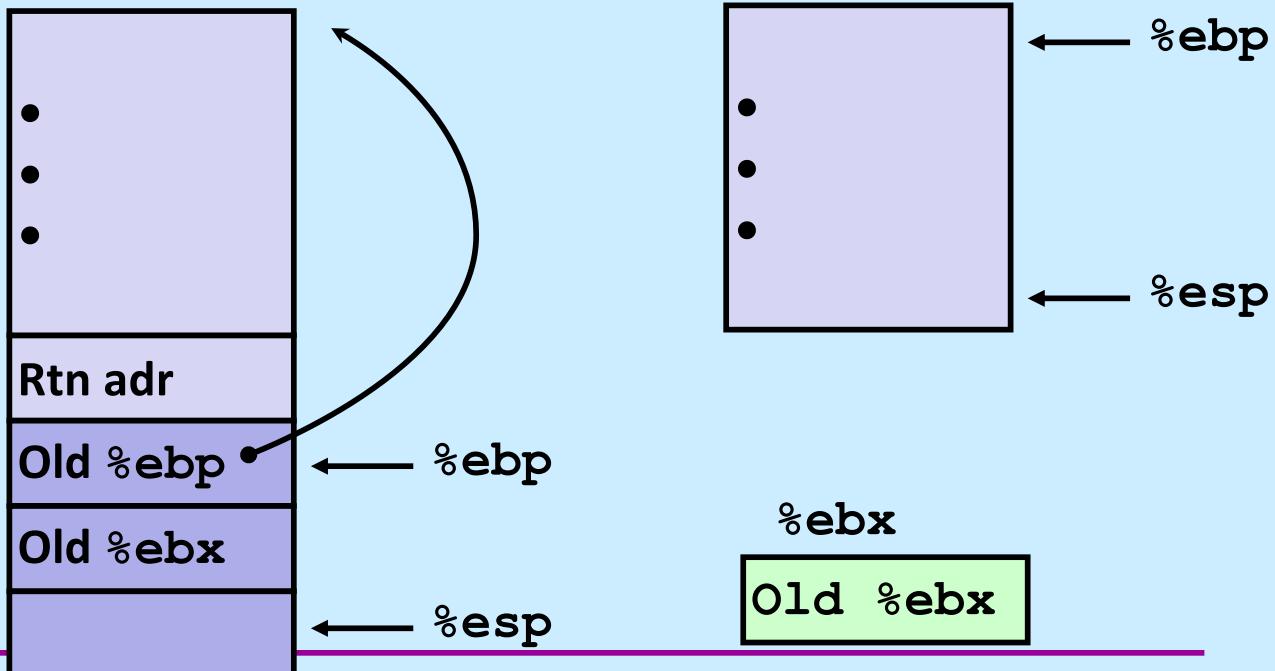
%ebx    x

# Recursive Call #5

```
/* Recursive popcount */  
int pcount_r(unsigned x) {  
    if (x == 0)  
        return 0;  
    else return  
        (x & 1) + pcount_r(x >> 1);  
}
```

• • •  
L3:  
 addl \$4, %esp  
 popl %ebx  
 popl %ebp  
 ret

- Actions
  - restore values of %ebx and %ebp
  - restore %esp



# Observations About Recursion

- Handled without special consideration
  - stack frames mean that each function call has private storage
    - » saved registers & local variables
    - » saved return pointer
  - register-saving conventions prevent one function call from corrupting another's data
  - stack discipline follows call / return pattern
    - » if P calls Q, then Q returns before P
    - » last-in, first-out
- Also works for mutual recursion
  - P calls Q; Q calls P

# Why Bother with a Frame Pointer?

- It (%rbp) points to the beginning of the stack frame
  - making it easy for people to figure out where things are in the frame
  - but people don't execute the code ...
- The stack pointer always points somewhere within the stack frame
  - it moves about, but the compiler knows where it is pointing
    - » a local variable might be at 8(%rsp) for one instruction, but at 16(%rsp) for a subsequent one
    - » tough for people, but easy for the compiler
- Thus the frame pointer is superfluous
  - it can be used as a general-purpose register

# x86-64 General-Purpose Registers: Usage Conventions

%rax	Return value	%r8	Argument #5
%rbx	Callee saved	%r9	Argument #6
%rcx	Argument #4	%r10	Caller saved
%rdx	Argument #3	%r11	Caller Saved
%rsi	Argument #2	%r12	Callee saved
%rdi	Argument #1	%r13	Callee saved
%rsp	Stack pointer	%r14	Callee saved
%rbp	Callee saved	%r15	Callee saved