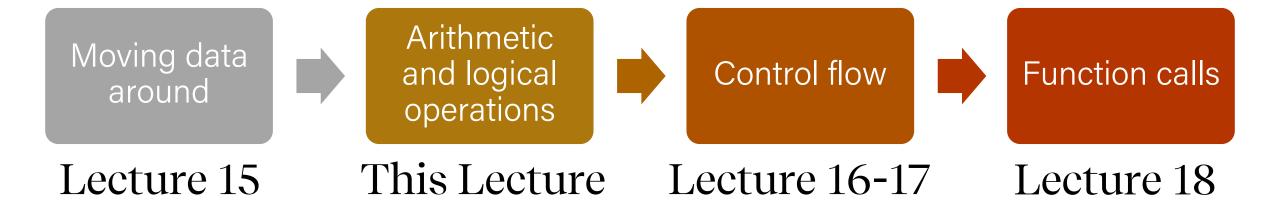
COMP201 Topic 6: How does a computer interpret and execute C programs?

Learning Assembly



Learning Goals

- Learn how to perform arithmetic and logical operations in assembly
- Begin to learn how to read assembly and understand the C code that generated it

Plan for Today

- Recap: mov so far
- Data and Register Sizes
- The lea Instruction
- Logical and Arithmetic Operations
- Practice: Reverse Engineering

Disclaimer: Slides for this lecture were borrowed from

—Nick Troccoli's Stanford CS107 class

Helpful Assembly Resources

Course textbook

Reminder: see relevant readings for each lecture on the Schedule section: https://aykuterdem.github.io/classes/comp201/index.html#div_schedule

Other resources

See the guides on the resources section of the course website: https://aykuterdem.github.io/classes/comp201/index.html#div_resources

- Stanford CS107 Assembly Reference Sheet
- Stanford CS107 Guide to x86-64
- CMU 15-213 x86-64 Machine-Level Programming

Lecture Plan

- Recap: mov so far
- Data and Register Sizes
- The lea Instruction
- Logical and Arithmetic Operations
- Practice: Reverse Engineering

mov

The **mov** instruction <u>copies</u> bytes from one place to another; it is similar to the assignment operator (=) in C.

mov src, dst

The **src** and **dst** can each be one of:

- Immediate (constant value, like a number) (only src)
- Register
- Memory Location
 (at most one of src, dst)

Memory Location Syntax

Syntax	Meaning	
0x104	Address 0x104 (no \$)	
(%rax)	What's in %rax	
4(%rax)	What's in %rax, plus 4	
(%rax, %rdx)	Sum of what's in %rax and %rdx	
4(%rax, %rdx)	Sum of values in %rax and %rdx, plus 4	
(, %rcx, 4)	What's in %rcx, times 4 (multiplier can be 1, 2, 4, 8)	
(%rax, %rcx, 2)	What's in %rax, plus 2 times what's in %rcx	
8(%rax, %rcx, 2)	What's in %rax, plus 2 times what's in %rcx, plus 8	

Operand Forms

Туре	Form	Operand Value	Name
Immediate	\$Imm	Imm	Immediate
D		D	
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

Figure 3.3 from the book: "Operand forms. Operands can denote immediate (constant) values, register values, or values from memory. The scaling factor s must be either. 1, 2, 4, or 8."

Lecture Plan

- Recap: mov so far
- Data and Register Sizes
- The lea Instruction
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Data Sizes

Data sizes in assembly have slightly different terminology to get used to:

- A **byte** is 1 byte.
- A word is 2 bytes.
- A double word is 4 bytes.
- A quad word is 8 bytes.

Assembly instructions can have suffixes to refer to these sizes:

- b means byte
- w means word
- 1 means double word
- q means quad word

Data Sizes

Data sizes in assembly have slightly different terminology to get used to:

- A **byte** is 1 byte.
- A word is 2 bytes.
- A double word is 4 bytes.
- A quad word is 8 bytes.

C Type	Suffix	Byte	Intel Data Type
char	b	1	Byte
short	W	2	Word
int	1	4	Double word
long	q	8	Quad word
char *	q	8	Quad word
float	S	4	Single precision
double	1	8	Double precision

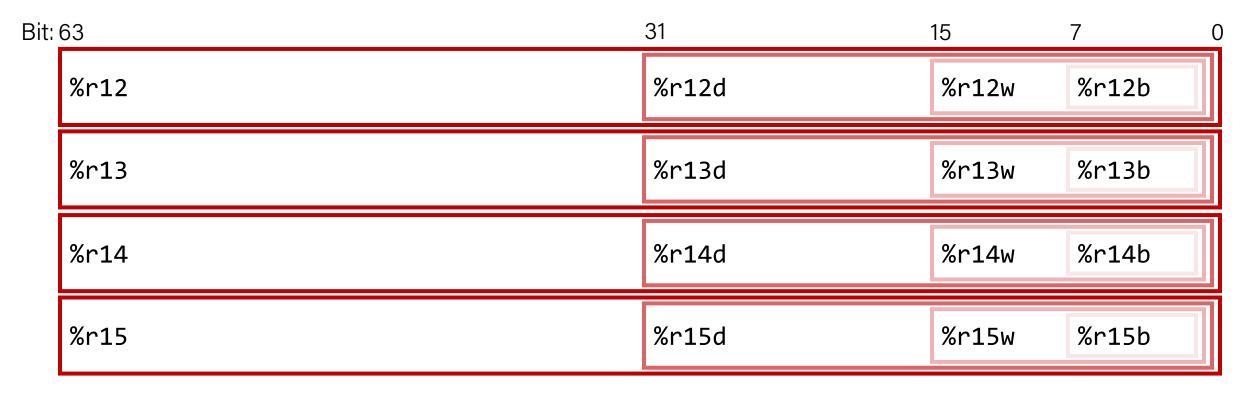
Register Sizes

Bit:	63	31	15	7 0
	%rax	%eax	%ax	%al
	%rbx	%ebx	%bx	%bl
	%rcx	%ecx	%сх	%c1
	%rdx	%edx	%dx	%dl
	%rsi	%esi	%si	%sil
	%rdi	%edi	%di	%dil

Register Sizes

Bit:	63	31	15	7 0
	%rbp	%ebp	%bp	%bpl
	%rsp	%esp	%sp	%spl
	%r8	%r8d	%r8w	%r8b
	%r9	%r9d	%r9w	%r9b
	%r10	%r10d	%r10w	%r10b
	%r11	%r11d	%r11w	%r11b

Register Sizes



Register Responsibilities

Some registers take on special responsibilities during program execution.

- **%rax** stores the return value
- **%rdi** stores the first parameter to a function
- **%rsi** stores the second parameter to a function
- %rdx stores the third parameter to a function
- **%rip** stores the address of the next instruction to execute
- **%rsp** stores the address of the current top of the stack

See **Stanford CS107 x86-64 Reference Sheet** on Resources page of the course website! https://aykuterdem.github.io/classes/comp201/index.html#div_resources

mov Variants

- mov can take an optional suffix (b,w,1,q) that specifies the size of data to move: movb, movw, movl, movq
- **mov** only updates the specific register bytes or memory locations indicated.
 - Exception: mov1 writing to a register will also set high order 4 bytes to 0.

Practice #1: mov And Data Sizes

For each of the following mov instructions, determine the appropriate suffix based on the operands (e.g. movb, movw, movl or movq).

```
1. mov__ %eax, (%rsp) movl %eax, (%rsp)

2. mov__ (%rax), %dx movw (%rax), %dx

3. mov__ $0xff, %bl movb $0xff, %bl

4. mov__ (%rsp,%rdx,4),%dl movb (%rsp,%rdx,4),%dl

5. mov__ (%rdx), %rax movq (%rdx), %rax

6. mov__ %dx, (%rax) movw %dx, (%rax)
```

mov

- The **movabsq** instruction is used to write a 64-bit Immediate (constant) value.
- The regular **movq** instruction can only take 32-bit immediates.
- 64-bit immediate as source, only register as destination.

movabsq \$0x0011223344556677, %rax

Practice #2: mov And Data Sizes

For each of the following mov instructions, determine how data movement instructions modify the upper bytes of a destination register.

movz and movs

- There are two mov instructions that can be used to copy a smaller source to a larger destination: movz and movs.
- movz fills the remaining bytes with zeros
- **movs** fills the remaining bytes by sign-extending the most significant bit in the source.
- The source must be from memory or a register, and the destination is a register.

movz and movs

MOVZ S,R

R ← ZeroExtend(S)

Instruction	Description
movzbw	Move zero-extended byte 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

movz and movs

MOVS S,R

 $R \leftarrow SignExtend(S)$

Instruction	Description	
movsbw	Move sign-extended byte to word	
movsbl	Move sign-extended byte to double word	
movswl	Move sign-extended word to double word	
movsbq	Move sign-extended byte to quad word	
movswq	Move sign-extended word to quad word	
movslq	Move sign-extended double word to quad word	
cltq	Sign-extend %eax to %rax	
	%rax ← SignExtend(%eax)	

Lecture Plan

- Recap: mov so far
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lea

The **lea** instruction <u>copies</u> an "effective address" from one place to another.

lea src,dst

Unlike **mov**, which copies data <u>at</u> the address src to the destination, **lea** copies the value of src *itself* to the destination.

The syntax for the destinations is the same as **mov**. The difference is how it handles the **src**.

Operands	mov Interpretation	lea Interpretation
6(%rax), %rdx	Go to the address (6 + what's in %rax), and copy data there into %rdx	Copy 6 + what's in %rax into %rdx.

Operands	mov Interpretation	lea Interpretation
6(%rax), %rdx	Go to the address (6 + what's in %rax), and copy data there into %rdx	Copy 6 + what's in %rax into %rdx.
(%rax, %rcx), %rdx	Go to the address (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) and copy data there into %rdx	Copy (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) into %rdx.

Operands	mov Interpretation	lea Interpretation
6(%rax), %rdx	Go to the address (6 + what's in %rax), and copy data there into %rdx	Copy 6 + what's in %rax into %rdx.
(%rax, %rcx), %rdx	Go to the address (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) and copy data there into %rdx	Copy (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) into %rdx.
(%rax, %rcx, 4), %rdx	Go to the address ($%$ rax + 4 * $%$ rcx) and copy data there into $%$ rdx.	Copy (%rax + 4 * %rcx) into %rdx.

Operands	mov Interpretation	lea Interpretation
6(%rax), %rdx	Go to the address (6 + what's in %rax), and copy data there into %rdx	Copy 6 + what's in %rax into %rdx.
(%rax, %rcx), %rdx	Go to the address (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) and copy data there into %rdx	Copy (what's in %rax + what's in %rcx) into %rdx.
(%rax, %rcx, 4), %rdx	Go to the address (%rax + 4 * %rcx) and copy data there into %rdx.	Copy (%rax + 4 * %rcx) into %rdx.
7(%rax, %rax, 8), %rdx	Go to the address $(7 + %rax + 8 * %rax)$ and copy data there into $%rdx$.	Copy (7 + %rax + 8 * %rax) into %rdx.

Unlike **mov**, which copies data <u>at</u> the address src to the destination, **lea** copies the value of src itself to the destination.

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Unary Instructions

The following instructions operate on a single operand (register or memory):

Instruction	Effect	Description
inc D	D ← D + 1	Increment
dec D	D ← D - 1	Decrement
neg D	D ← -D	Negate
not D	D ← ~D	Complement

Examples: incq 16(%rax) dec %rdx

not %rcx

Binary Instructions

The following instructions operate on two operands (both can be register or memory, source can also be immediate). Both cannot be memory locations. Read it as, e.g. "Subtract S from D":

Instruction	Effect	Description
add S, D	$D \leftarrow D + S$	Add
sub S, D	D ← D - S	Subtract
imul S, D	D ← D * S	Multiply
xor S, D	D ← D ^ S	Exclusive-or
or S, D	D ← D S	Or
and S, D	D ← D & S	And

```
Examples: addq %rcx,(%rax)
xorq $16,(%rax, %rdx, 8)
subq %rdx,8(%rax)
```

Large Multiplication

- Multiplying 64-bit numbers can produce a 128-bit result. How does x86-64 support this with only 64-bit registers?
- If you specify two operands to **imul**, it multiplies them together and truncates until it fits in a 64-bit register.

imul S, D D
$$\leftarrow$$
 D * S

• <u>If you specify one operand</u>, it multiplies that by **%rax**, and splits the product across **2** registers. It puts the high-order 64 bits in **%rdx** and the low-order 64 bits in **%rax**.

Instruction	Effect	Description
imulq S	$R[%rdx]:R[%rax] \leftarrow S \times R[%rax]$	Signed full multiply
mulq S	$R[%rdx]:R[%rax] \leftarrow S \times R[%rax]$	Unsigned full multiply

Division and Remainder

Instruction	Effect	Description
idivq S	R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ÷ S	Signed divide
divq S	R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ÷ S	Unsigned divide

- Terminology: dividend / divisor = quotient + remainder
- x86-64 supports dividing up to a 128-bit value by a 64-bit value.
- The high-order 64 bits of the dividend are in **%rdx**, and the low-order 64 bits are in **%rax**. The divisor is the operand to the instruction.
- The quotient is stored in %rax, and the remainder in %rdx.

Division and Remainder

Instruction	Effect	Description
idivq S	R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ÷ S	Signed divide
divq S	R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ÷ S	Unsigned divide
cqto	R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ← SignExtend(R[%rax])	Convert to oct word

- Terminology: dividend / divisor = quotient + remainder
- The high-order 64 bits of the dividend are in **%rdx**, and the low-order 64 bits are in **%rax**. The divisor is the operand to the instruction.
- Most division uses only 64-bit dividends. The **cqto** instruction sign-extends the 64-bit value in **%rax** into **%rdx** to fill both registers with the dividend, as the division instruction expects.

Shift Instructions

The following instructions have two operands: the shift amount **k** and the destination to shift, **D**. **k** can be either an immediate value, or the byte register **%c1** (and only that register!)

Instruction	Effect	Description
sal k, D	D ← D << k	Left shift
shl k, D	D ← D << k	Left shift (same as sal)
sar k, D	$D \leftarrow D >>_A k$	Arithmetic right shift
shr k, D	D ← D >> _L k	Logical right shift

Shift Amount

Instruction	Effect	Description
sal k, D	D ← D << k	Left shift
shl k, D	D ← D << k	Left shift (same as sal)
sar k, D	$D \leftarrow D >>_A k$	Arithmetic right shift
shr k, D	D ← D >> _L k	Logical right shift

- When using **%c1**, the width of what you are shifting determines what portion of **%c1** is used.
- For w bits of data, it looks at the low-order log2(w) bits of %cl to know how much to shift.
 - If **%c1** = 0xff (0b11111111), then: **shlb** shifts by 7 because it considers only the low-order log2(8) = 3 bits, which represent 7. **shlw** shifts by 15 because it considers only the low-order log2(16) = 4 bits, which represent 15.

Lecture Plan

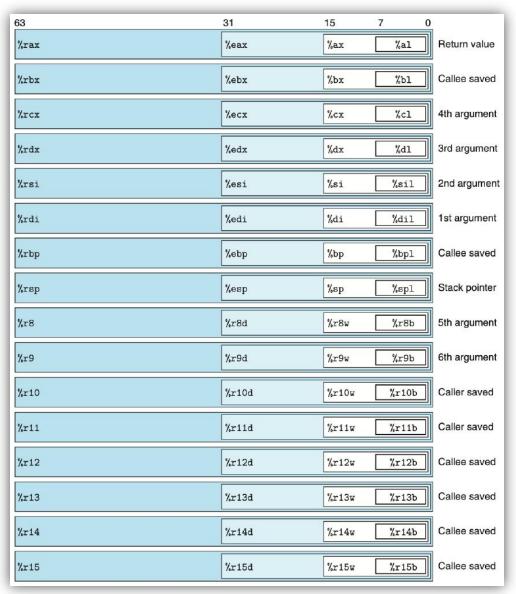
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Assembly Exploration

- Let's pull these commands together and see how some C code might be translated to assembly.
- Compiler Explorer is a handy website that lets you quickly write C code and see its assembly translation. Let's check it out!
- https://godbolt.org/z/NLYhVf

Code Reference: add_to_first

```
// Returns the sum of x and the first
// element in arr
int add to first(int x, int arr[]) {
    int sum = x;
    sum += arr[0];
    return sum;
add to first:
  movl %edi, %eax
  addl (%rsi), %eax
  ret
```



Code Reference: full_divide

```
// Returns x/y, stores remainder in location stored in remainder_ptr
long full_divide(long x, long y, long *remainder_ptr) {
     long quotient = x / y;
                                                                                            7
     long remainder = x % y;
                                                        %rax
                                                                                                  Return value
                                                                                              %al
                                                                             %eax
     *remainder ptr = remainder;
                                                                                       %bx
                                                                                              %bl
                                                                                                  Callee saved
                                                        %rbx
                                                                             %ebx
     return quotient;
                                                        %rcx
                                                                             %ecx
                                                                                              %cl
                                                                                                  4th argument
                                                        %rdx
                                                                             %edx
                                                                                       %dx
                                                                                              %d1
                                                                                                  3rd argument
                                                        %rsi
                                                                             %esi
                                                                                       %si
                                                                                              %sil
                                                                                                  2nd argument
                                                        %rdi
                                                                             %edi
                                                                                             %dil
                                                                                                  1st argument
full divida.
```

I UTT_U	rviae.	
movq	%rdx,	%rcx
movq	%rdi,	%rax
cqto		
idiv	7 %rsi	
movq	%rdx,	(%rcx)
ret		

Instruction	Effect	Description
idivq S	R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] 🖶 S	Signed divide
divq S	<pre>R[%rdx] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] mod S; R[%rax] ← R[%rdx]:R[%rax] + S</pre>	Unsigned divide
cqto	R[%rdx]:R[%rax] ← SignExtend(R[%rax])	Convert to oct word

Assembly Exercise 1



```
00000000004005ac <sum_example1>:
    4005bd:
            8b 45 e8
                           mov %esi,%eax
    4005c3: 01 d0
                           add %edi,%eax
    4005cc: c3
                           retq
```

Which of the following is most likely to have generated the ____ssembly?

```
// A)
void sum_example1() {
    int x;
    int y;
    int sum = x + y;
// C)
void sum_example1(int x, int y) {
    int sum = x + y;
```

```
B)
int sum_example1(int x, int y)
    return x + y;
```

Assembly Exercise 2



```
00000000000400578 <sum_example2>:
    400578: 8b 47 0c mov 0xc(%rdi),%eax
    40057b: 03 07 add (%rdi),%eax
    40057d: 2b 47 18 sub 0x18(%rdi),%eax
    400580: c3 retq
```

```
int sum_example2(int arr[]) {
    int sum = 0;
    sum += arr[0];
    sum += arr[3];
    sum -= arr[6];
    return sum;
}
```

What location or value in the assembly above represents the C code's **sum** variable?

%eax

Assembly Exercise 3



```
00000000000400578 <sum_example2>:
        400578: 8b 47 0c mov 0xc(%rdi),%eax
        40057b: 03 07 add (%rdi),%eax
        40057d: 2b 47 18 sub 0x18(%rdi),%eax
        400580: c3 retq
```

```
int sum_example2(int arr[]) {
    int sum = 0;
    sum += arr[0];
    sum += arr[3];
    sum -= arr[6];
    return sum;
}
```

What location or value in the assembly code above represents the C code's 6 (as in arr[6])?

0x18

Our First Assembly

```
int sum_array(int arr[], int nelems) {
  int sum = 0;
  for (int i = 0; i < nelems; i++) {
    sum += arr[i];
  }
  return sum;
}</pre>
We're 1/2 of the way to understanding assembly!
What looks understandable right now?
```

00000000004005b6 <sum_array>:

```
4005b6:
           ba 00 00 00 00
                                       $0x0,%edx
                                mov
                                       $0x0,%eax
4005bb:
       b8 00 00 00 00
                                mov
                                       4005cb <sum_array+0x15>
       eb 09
4005c0:
                                jmp
                                movslq %edx,%rcx
4005c2:
       48 63 ca
                                        (%rdi,%rcx,4),%eax
          03 04 8f
                                add
4005c5:
                                       $0x1,%edx
          83 c2 01
4005c8:
                                add
4005cb:
           39 f2
                                       %esi,%edx
                                \mathsf{cmp}
                                j1
                                       4005c2 <sum_array+0xc>
4005cd:
       7c f3
4005cf:
           f3 c3
                                repz retq
```



A Note About Operand Forms

- Many instructions share the same address operand forms that mov uses.
 - Eg. 7(%rax, %rcx, 2).
- These forms work the same way for other instructions, e.g. sub:
 - sub 8(%rax,%rdx),%rcx -> Go to 8 + %rax + %rdx, subtract what's there from %rcx
- The exception is **lea**:
 - It interprets this form as just the calculation, not the dereferencing
 - lea 8(%rax,%rdx),%rcx -> Calculate 8 + %rax + %rdx, put it in %rcx

Extra Practice

https://godbolt.org/z/QQj77g

```
int add to(int x, int arr[], int i) {
   int sum = ____;
   sum += arr[ ? ];
   return ___?__;
add to ith:
 movslq %edx, %rdx
 movl %edi, %eax
 addl (%rsi,%rdx,4), %eax
 ret
```

```
int add to(int x, int arr[], int i) {
   int sum = ? ;
   sum += arr[ ? ];
   return ___?__;
// x in %edi, arr in %rsi, i in %edx
add to ith:
 movslq %edx, %rdx
                  // sign-extend i into full register
 movl %edi, %eax
                  // copy x into %eax
 addl (%rsi,%rdx,4), %eax // add arr[i] to %eax
 ret
```

```
int add to(int x, int arr[], int i) {
   int sum = x;
   sum += arr[i];
   return sum;
// x in %edi, arr in %rsi, i in %edx
add to ith:
 movslq %edx, %rdx
                            // sign-extend i into full register
 movl %edi, %eax
                    // copy x into %eax
 addl (%rsi,%rdx,4), %eax // add arr[i] to %eax
 ret
```

```
int elem arithmetic(int nums[], int y) {
   int z = nums[___?__] * ___?__;
   z >>= ____;
   return ? -:
elem arithmetic:
 movl %esi, %eax
 imull (%rdi), %eax
 subl 4(%rdi), %eax
 sarl $2, %eax
 addl $2, %eax
  ret
```

```
int elem arithmetic(int nums[], int y) {
   int z = nums[___?__] * ___?__;
   z >>= <u>?</u>;
   return ? -:
// nums in %rdi, y in %esi
elem arithmetic:
 movl %esi, %eax // copy y into %eax
 imull (%rdi), %eax  // multiply %eax by nums[0]
 subl 4(%rdi), %eax // subtract nums[1] from %eax
 sarl $2, %eax
              // shift %eax right by 2
 addl $2, %eax
              // add 2 to %eax
 ret
```

```
int elem_arithmetic(int nums[], int y) {
   int z = nums[0] * y;
   z \rightarrow nums[1];
   z >>= 2;
   return z + 2;
// nums in %rdi, y in %esi
elem arithmetic:
 movl %esi, %eax // copy y into %eax
 imull (%rdi), %eax  // multiply %eax by nums[0]
 subl 4(%rdi), %eax // subtract nums[1] from %eax
               // shift %eax right by 2
 sarl $2, %eax
 addl $2, %eax
               // add 2 to %eax
 ret
```

```
long func(long x, long *ptr) {
    *ptr = ___?___ + 1;
    long result = x % ____?___;
   return ___?__;
func:
  leaq 1(%rdi), %rcx
 movq %rcx, (%rsi)
 movq %rdi, %rax
  cqto
 idivq %rcx
  movq %rdx, %rax
  ret
```

```
long func(long x, long *ptr) {
   *ptr = ___?__ + 1;
   long result = x % ____?___;
   return ? ;
// x in %rdi, ptr in %rsi
func:
 leaq 1(%rdi), %rcx // put x + 1 into %rcx
 movq %rcx, (%rsi) // copy %rcx into *ptr
 movq %rdi, %rax
                 // copy x into %rax
                         // sign-extend x into %rdx
 cqto
 idivq %rcx
                        // calculate x / (x + 1)
                        // copy the remainder into %rax
 movq %rdx, %rax
 ret
```

```
long func(long x, long *ptr) {
   *ptr = x + 1;
   long result = x \% *ptr; // or x + 1
   return result;
// x in %rdi, ptr in %rsi
func:
 leaq 1(%rdi), %rcx // put x + 1 into %rcx
 movq %rcx, (%rsi) // copy %rcx into *ptr
                  // copy x into %rax
 movq %rdi, %rax
                         // sign-extend x into %rdx
 cqto
 idivq %rcx
                         // calculate x / (x + 1)
                         // copy the remainder into %rax
 movq %rdx, %rax
 ret
```

Recap

- Recap: mov so far
- Data and Register Sizes
- The lea Instruction
- Logical and Arithmetic Operations
- Practice: Reverse Engineering

Next Time: control flow in assembly (while loops, if statements, and more)