Lecture 08 Procedures

CS213 – Intro to Computer Systems Branden Ghena – Winter 2023

Slides adapted from:

St-Amour, Hardavellas, Bustamente (Northwestern), Bryant, O'Hallaron (CMU), Garcia, Weaver (UC Berkeley)

Administrivia

- Homework 2 due today
 - Good practice for the exam
 - With slip days, not sure when I can post solutions ②
- Midterm Exam 1: Wednesday, during class time in class room
 - I have already contacted you if you're at a different time
 - Covers material including Tuesday (Control Flow in Assembly)
 - Not today's material
 - 80 minutes to complete (starts at 12:30pm sharp)
 - Bring a pencil!
 - Bring one 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper with notes on front and back

Today's Goals

Describe C memory layout

- Explore functions in assembly
 - How do we call them and return from them?
 - How do we create local variables?
- Understand how we manage register use between functions

Outline

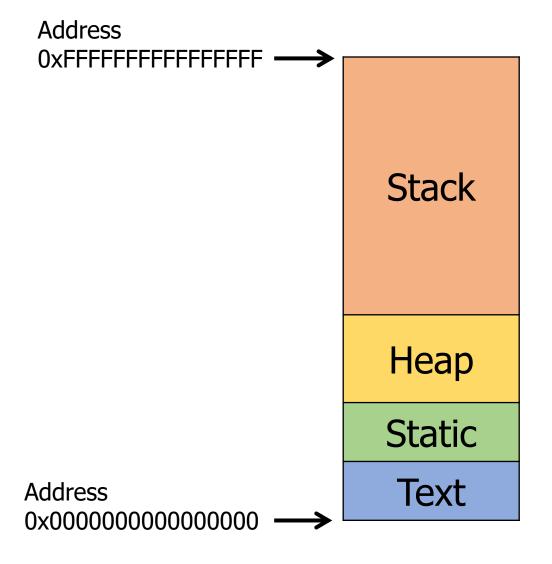
C Code Layout

• x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
 - Recursion Example

- Stack Section
 - Local variables
 - Function arguments
- Heap Section
 - Memory granted through malloc()
- Static Section (a.k.a. Data Section)
 - Global variables
 - Static function variables
- Text Section (a.k.a Code Section)
 - Program code



```
Address
char glob str[80] = \{0\};
                                     0xfffffffffff --->
void func(short b, int* f) {
     static int c = 3;
                                                          Stack
     char* d = "Test";
     int* e = malloc(sizeof(int));
                                                          Heap
                                                          Static
     printf("Hello CS213\n");
                                                          Text
                                     Address
                                     0x000000000000000
```

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```

Assembly code goes in the Text section

Interacting with data sections in assembly

Stack

- Stack pointer is saved in %rsp and can be moved as needed
- We'll discuss this today

Heap

- C library (malloc) handles this above the machine level
- i.e. from the machine point of view, there is no heap

Static

- Arbitrary pointers to memory can be created and used
 - With memory addressing instructions
- Assembly directive can place values into Static section

Text

- Assembly code is placed here automatically
- Labels are just addresses within the Text section

Outline

C Code Layout

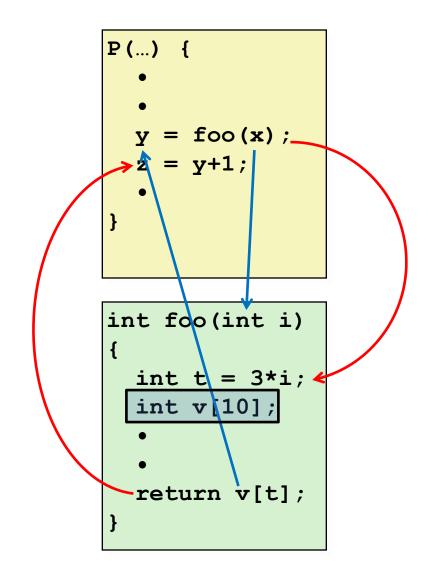
x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
 - Recursion Example

Mechanisms in Procedures

- Passing control
 - To beginning of procedure code
 - Back to return point
- Passing data
 - Procedure arguments
 - Return value
- Local memory management
 - Allocate during procedure execution
 - Deallocate upon return
- No one instruction does all that
 - Need instructions for each
- The stack is the key to all 3 of these!

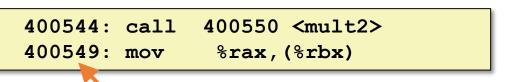


Procedure control flow

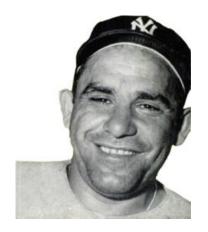
- Use stack to support procedure call and return!
- Procedure call callq *label*

Push return address on stack; jump to *labe1*

- Procedure return
 - retq Pop address from stack; jump there (stack should be as it was when the call began)
 - Return value is in %rax
- Return address value
 - Address of instruction immediately following callq
 - Example from disassembly



Return address: 0x400549



If you don't know where you're going, you may not get there.

— Yogi Berra

Just call and ret are fine, the q is assumed (there is no other option)

Code Examples

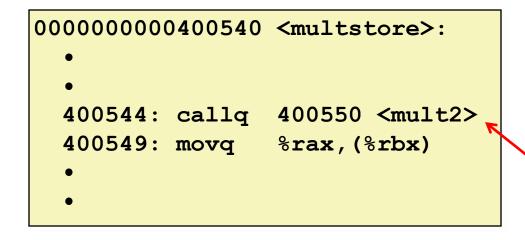
```
void multstore(long x, long y, long *dest) {
   long t = mult2(x, y);
   *dest = t;
}
```

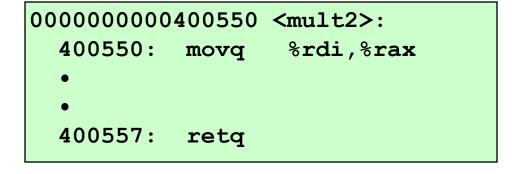
```
000000000400540 <multstore>:
... (we'll fill the start in soon)
400541: movq %rdx,%rbx # Save dest
400544: callq 400550 <mult2> # mult2(x,y)
400549: movq %rax,(%rbx) # Store at address dest
... (we'll fill the end in soon too)
40054d: retq # Return
```

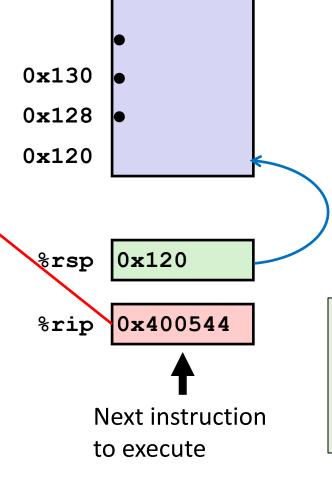
```
long mult2 (long a, long b) {
  long s = a * b;
  return s;
}
```

```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
   400550: movq %rdi,%rax # a
   400553: imulq %rsi,%rax # a * b
   400557: retq # Return
```

Control Flow Example about to execute callq



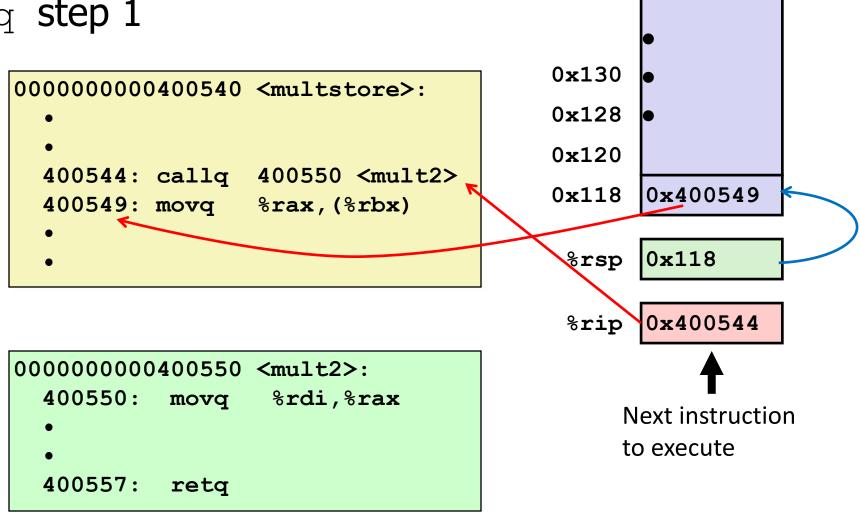




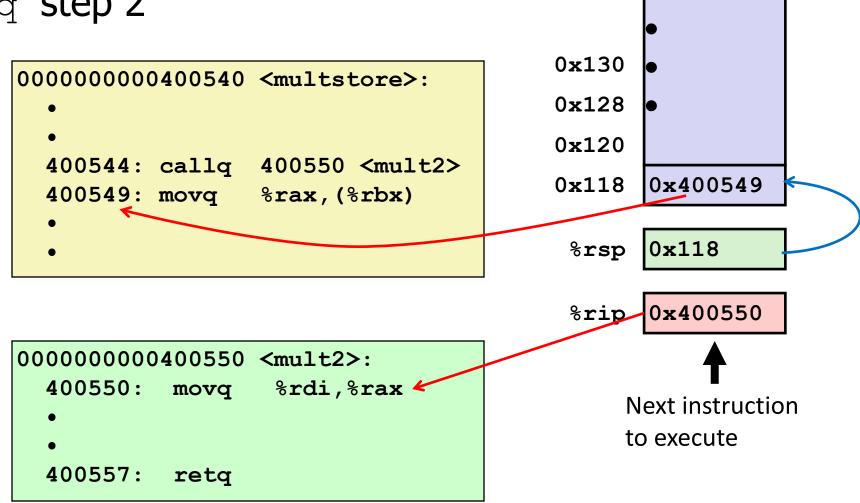
%rip: instruction pointer

Can't be directly modified

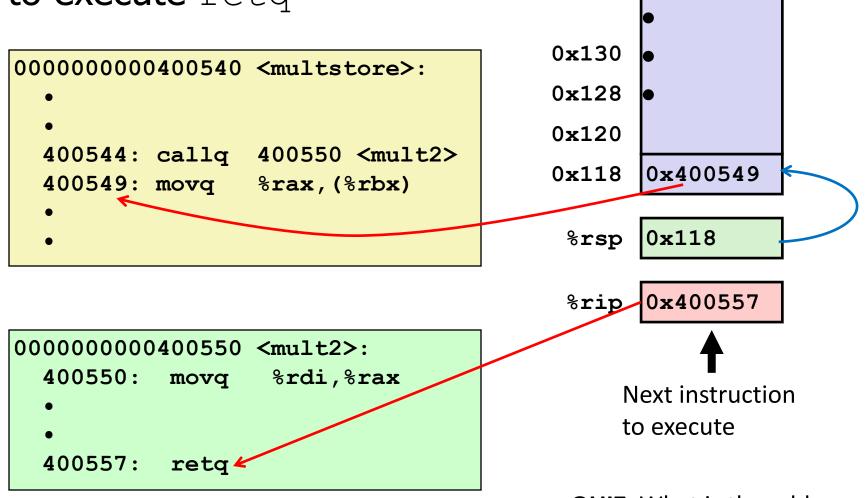
Control Flow Example callq step 1



Control Flow Example callq step 2

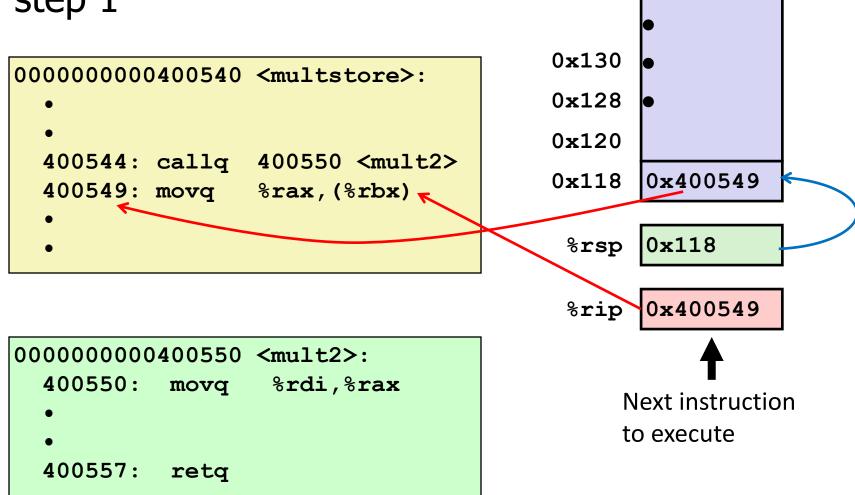


Control Flow Example about to execute retq

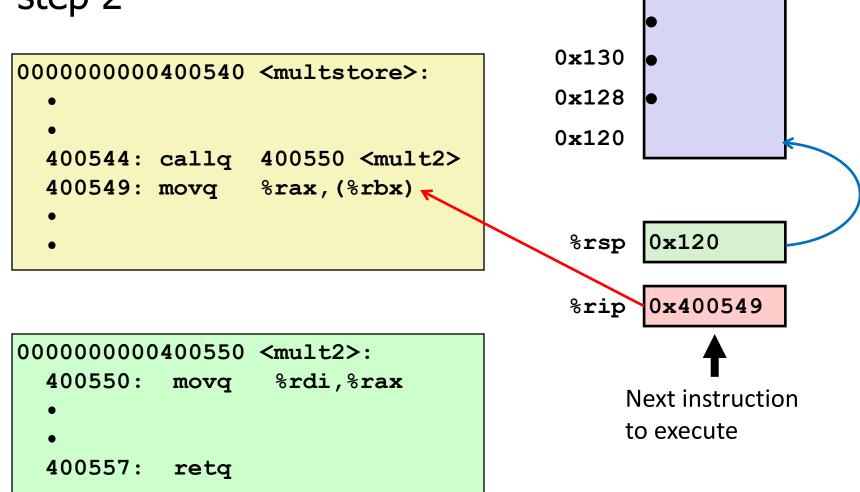


QUIZ: What is the address of the instruction we execute after **retq**?

Control Flow Example retq step 1



Control Flow Example retq step 2



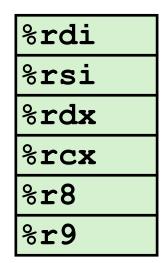
Function data flow

- First 6 arguments are in registers
 - %rdi is first argument

- Next n arguments are on the stack
 - This means more arguments is slower

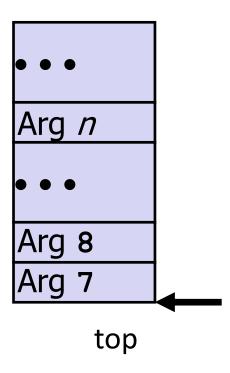
• Return value is in %rax

Registers



%rax

Stack



(Only allocate stack space when needed)

Data Flow Examples

```
void multstore (long x, long y, long *dest) {
    long t = mult2(x, y);
   *dest = t;
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
# x in %rdi, y in %rsi, dest in %rdx
  400541: movq %rdx, %rbx # Save dest
  400544: callq 400550 <mult2> # mult2(x,y)
 # t in %rax
  400549: movq %rax,(%rbx) # *dest = t
```

```
long mult2(long a, long b) {
  long s = a * b;
  return s;
}
```

```
00000000000400550 <mult2>:
    # a in %rdi, b in %rsi ←

400550: movq %rdi,%rax # a

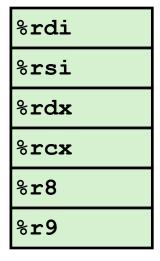
400553: imulq %rsi,%rax # a * b

# s in %rax ←

400557: retq # Return
```

Break + Open Question

 How did we decide how many registers to use for arguments and return values?

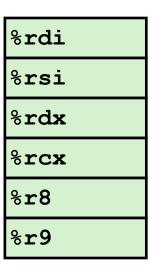


Do all functions have to use this same convention?

%rax

Break + Open Question

- How did we decide how many registers to use for arguments and return values?
 - Testing lots of real-world programs
 - Many style guides suggest you use four or less arguments
 - x86 (32-bit) only had four arguments
 - x86-64 added two more
 - C only has one return result, so one register is fine
- Do all functions have to use this same convention?
 - All functions within a program must, or they won't work
 - Different programs, or different OSes, could choose different



%rax

Outline

C Code Layout

x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
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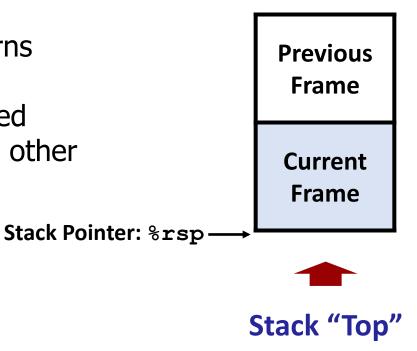
Call-Local State

- Need some place to store state for each call
 - Return address
 - Arguments
 - Local variables
 - Temporary space (if needed)
- Note: these are separate for each call, not each function
 - Function could be called recursively, but each call needs its own local variables
- State only needs to exist until the function returns

Using the Stack for Call-Local State

Place local state on the stack

- Stack discipline
 - That state is only needed for limited time
 - Starts when function is called; ends when it returns
 - Callee returns before caller does
 - Callee: for a specific call, the function being called
 - Caller: for a specific call, the function calling the other
- Stack allocated in Frames
 - Frame = State for a single procedure invocation
 - Allocated by "setup" code at the start of function
 - Deallocated by "teardown" code before returning

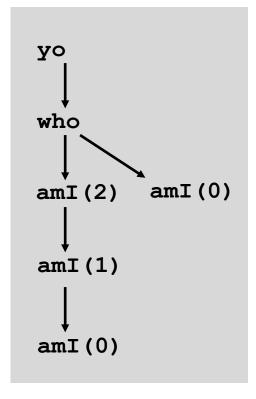


Call Chain Example

```
{
    amI(2);
    amI(0);
    amI(0);
}
```

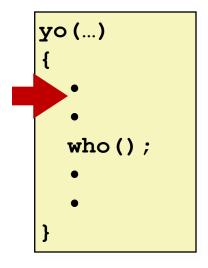
who (...)

Example Call Chain

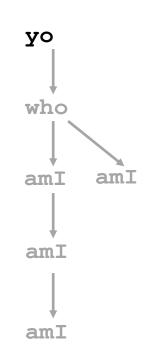


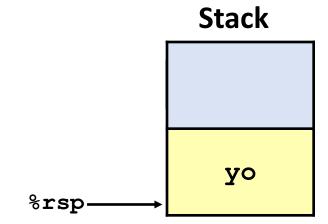
Procedure amI () is recursive

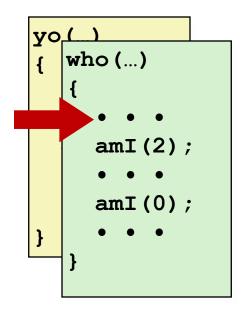
Example

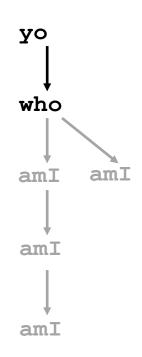


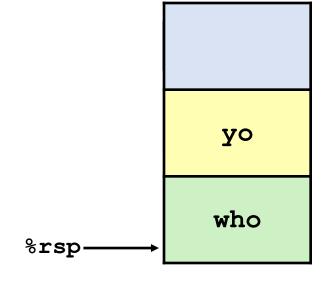
Call Chain



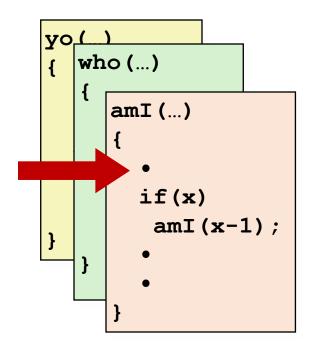


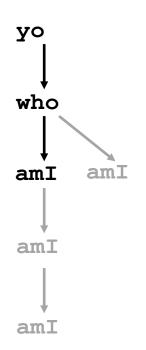


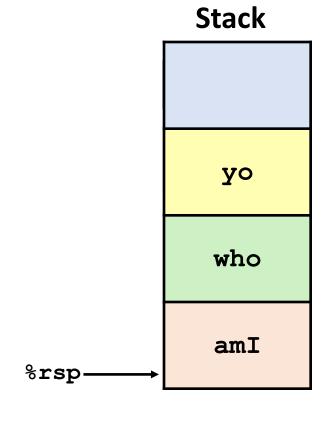


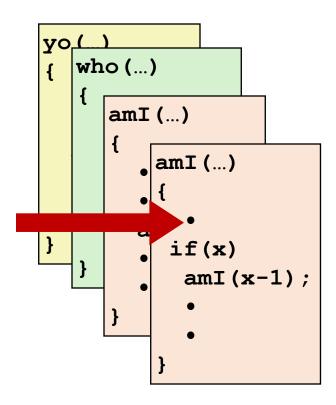


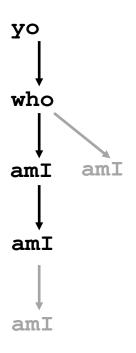
Stack

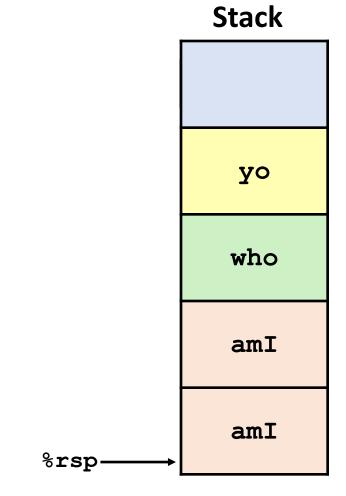


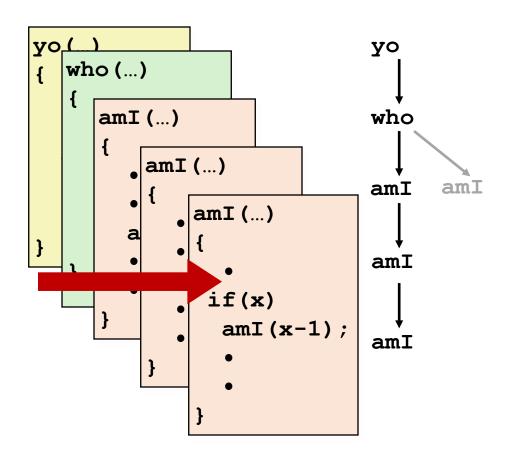


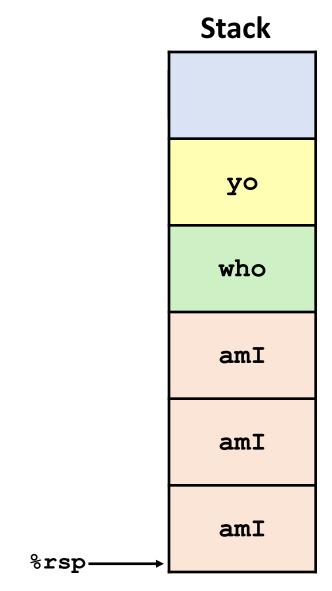


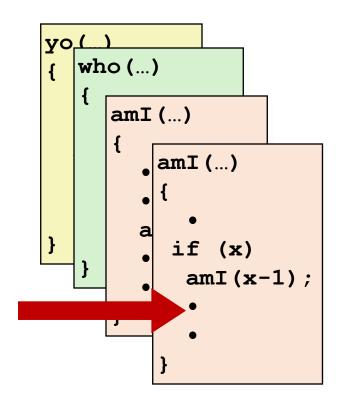


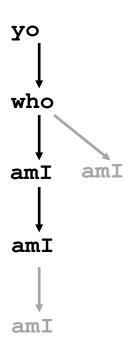


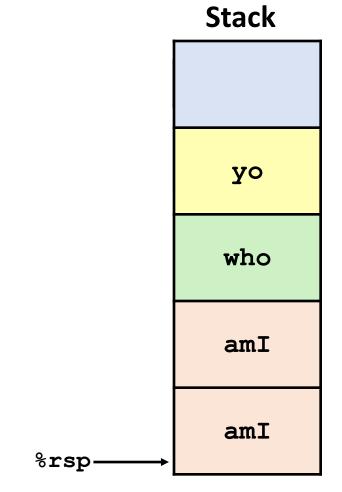


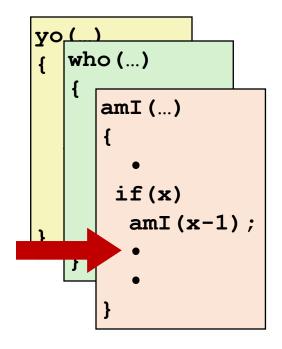




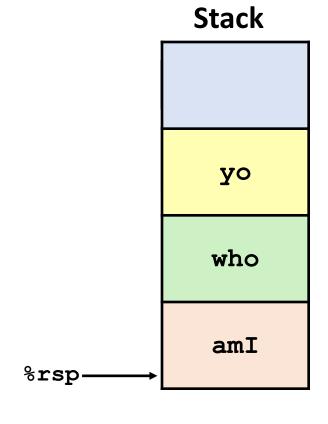


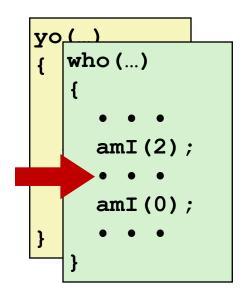


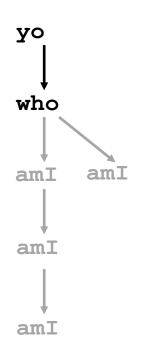


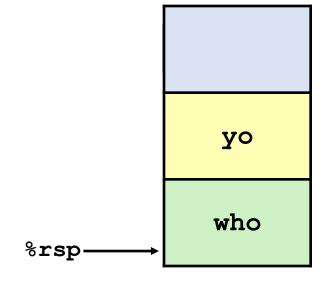




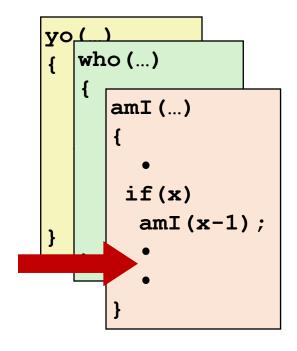


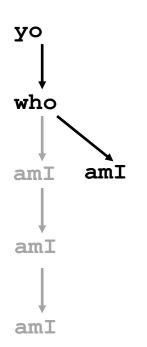


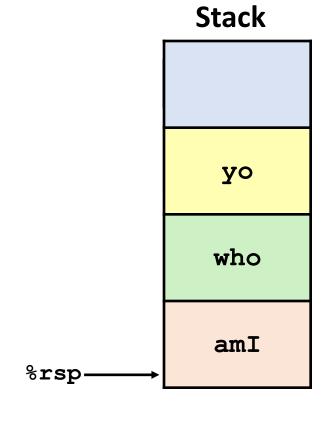


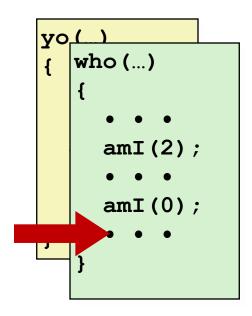


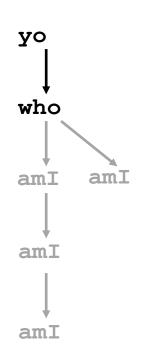
Stack

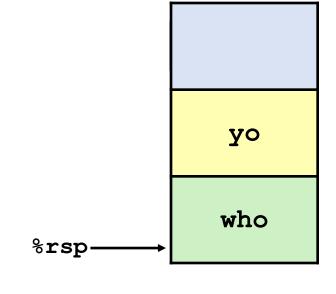




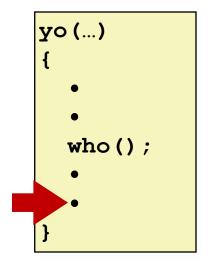




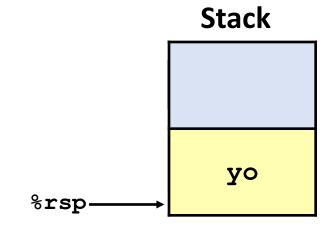




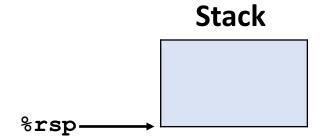
Stack







Returning to original stack

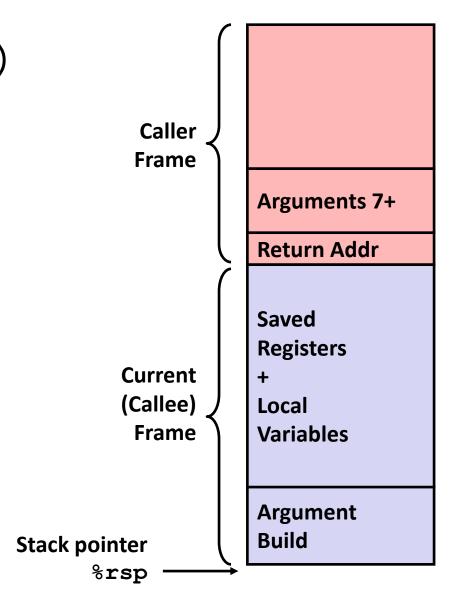


- Stack always eventually returns to its default state
 - Happens automatically in higher-level languages like C
 - Need to manage that ourselves if writing assembly

- Or the program can exit early from anywhere
 - Entire stack is deallocated when the program ends

x86-64/Linux Stack Frame

- Current Stack Frame ("Top" to Bottom)
 - "Argument build": Arguments for function we're about to call
 - Local variables
 If we can't keep them in registers
 (too many, or if must be in memory)
 - Saved register context (we'll get to that soon)
- Caller Stack Frame
 - Return address
 - Pushed by call instruction
 - Arguments for this call

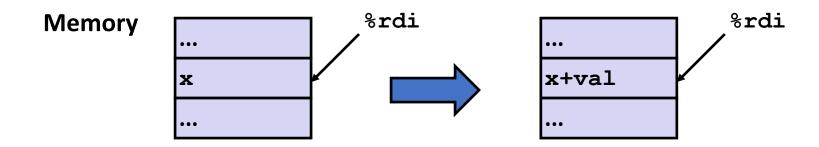


Example: incr

```
long incr(long* p, long val) {
   long x = *p;
   long y = x + val;
   *p = y;
   return x;
}
```

```
incr:
  movq          (%rdi), %rax # x = *p
  addq      %rax, %rsi # y = x+val
  movq      %rsi, (%rdi) # *p = y
  ret
```

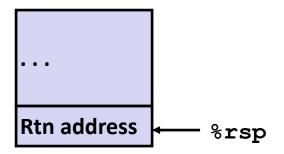
Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument p
%rsi	Argument val , also y
%rax	x, Return value



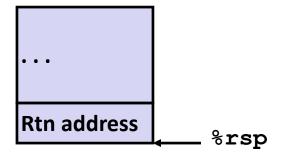
Example: Calling incr #1 (local variables)

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Initial Stack Structure



Resulting Stack Structure

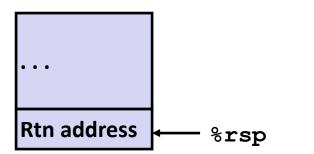


Example: Calling incr #1 (local variables)

We take **v1**'s address, so must be in memory

```
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    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

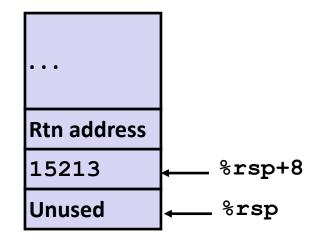
Initial Stack Structure



Stack pointer must be multiple of 16

```
call_incr:
    subq $16, %rsp
    movq $15213, 8(%rsp)
    movq $3000, %rsi
    leaq 8(%rsp), %rdi
    call incr
    addq 8(%rsp), %rax
    addq $16, %rsp
    ret
```

Resulting Stack Structure

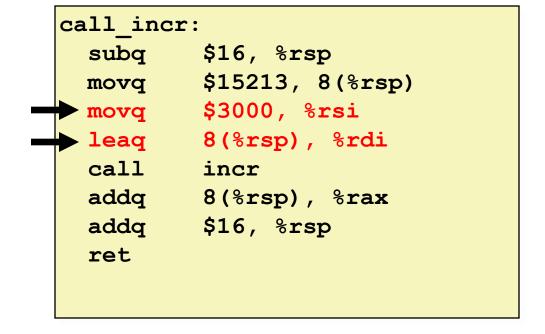


Example: Calling incr #2 (argument build)

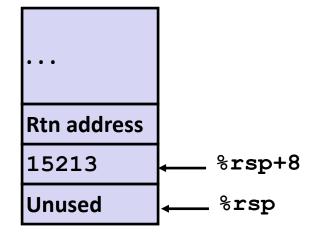
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    long v1 = 15213;

long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000



Stack Structure

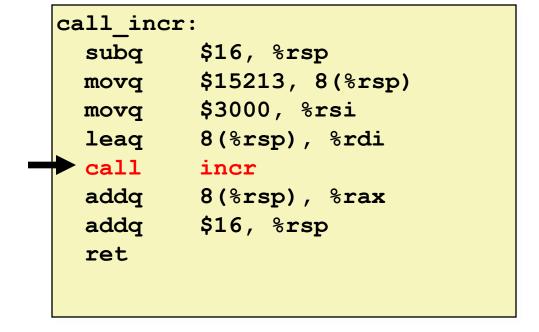


Example: Calling incr #3 (control transfer)

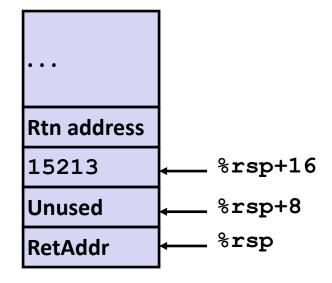
```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;

long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000



Stack Structure

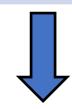


Example: executing incr

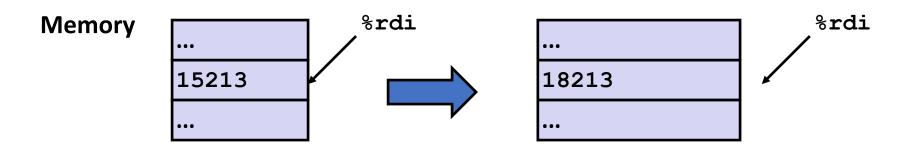
```
long incr(long *p, long val) {
   long x = *p;
   long y = x + val;
   *p = y;
   return x;
}
```

```
incr:
  movq (%rdi), %rax
  addq %rax, %rsi
  movq %rsi, (%rdi)
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument p
%rsi	Argument val (3000)
%rax	• • •



Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument p
%rsi	18213
%rax	15213 (return value)

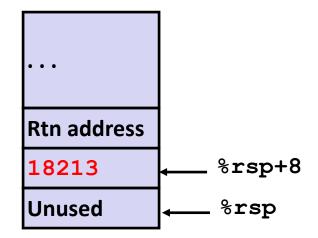


Example: right after executing incr

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr:
    subq $16, %rsp
    movq $15213, 8(%rsp)
    movq $3000, %rsi
    leaq 8(%rsp), %rdi
    call incr
    addq 8(%rsp), %rax
    addq $16, %rsp
    ret
```

Stack Structure



Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	18213
%rax	15213

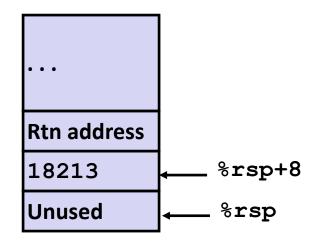
QUIZ: where do we find the return value of incr?

Example: Calling incr #4 (cleanup)

long call_incr() { long v1 = 15213; long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000); return v1+v2; }

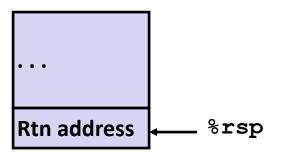
```
call_incr:
   subq $16, %rsp
   movq $15213, 8(%rsp)
   movq $3000, %rsi
   leaq 8(%rsp), %rdi
   call incr
   addq 8(%rsp), %rax
   addq $16, %rsp
   ret
```

Previous stack Structure



Register	Use(s)
%rax	Return value

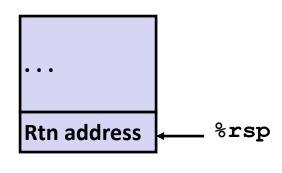
Updated Stack Structure

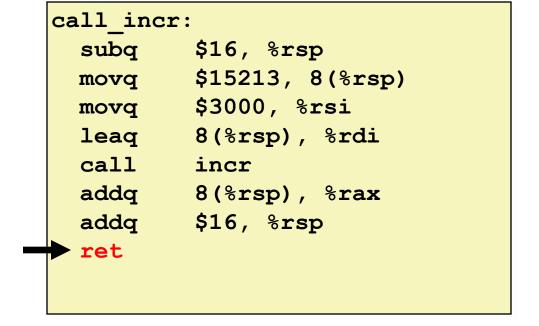


Example: Calling incr #5

long call_incr() { long v1 = 15213; long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000); return v1+v2; }

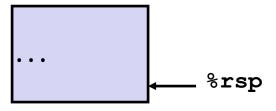
Updated Stack Structure





Register	Use(s)
%rax	Return value

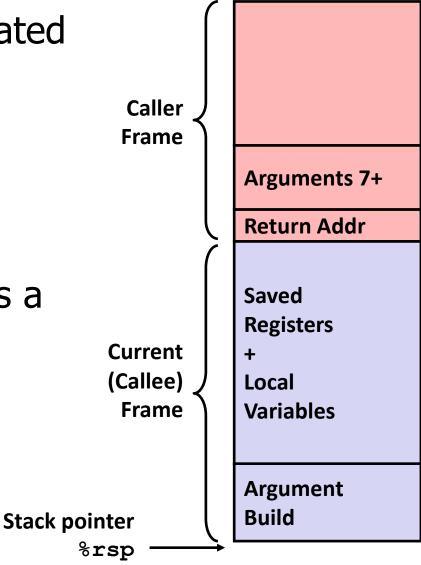
Final Stack Structure



Break + Open Questions

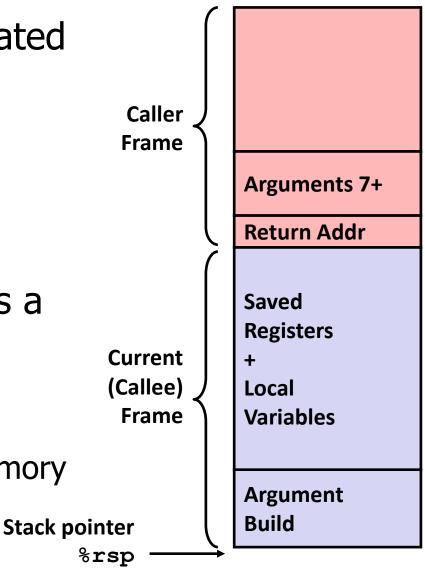
• What are the initial values of variables created on the stack?

• Is there a limit to how many local variables a function can have?



Break + Open Questions

- What are the initial values of variables created on the stack?
 - Undefined behavior in C (compiler chooses)
 - Machine just creates a variable in the stack
 - Initial value is whatever was there before
- Is there a limit to how many local variables a function can have?
 - Based on memory limit of the process
 - Stack keeps growing until it runs out of space
 - OS can do lots of tricks to give it more memory



Outline

C Code Layout

x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
 - Recursion Example

Register Saving

• Can a function use %rdx for temporary storage?

Caller

```
yo:

movq $15213, %rdx

call who
addq %rdx, %rax

ret
```

Callee

```
who:

subq $18213, %rdx

ret
```

- Contents of register %rdx overwritten by who!
- This could be trouble → something should be done!
 - Need some coordination

Reusing registers

- Problem: registers are shared between functions
 - Callee could overwrite caller's registers by accident
- How does each function know which registers are safe to use?

- Solution:
 - Save original register value to stack
 - Use register as needed
 - Restore original register value from stack
 - New question: when should the saving happen? In advance or on demand?

Saving registers in advance

New question: who should save the registers, Caller or Callee?

- Attempt 1: Save everything in advance
 - Caller knows which registers it is using
 - Before calling a function, save all registers it is going to need after the call

- Downside: Caller doesn't know what Callee needs
 - Wasted stores to memory if Callee doesn't need those registers

Saving registers on demand

New question: who should save the registers, Caller or Callee?

- Attempt 2: Save everything on demand
 - Callee knows which registers it is using
 - At the start of a function, save all registers it is going to use

- Downside: Callee doesn't know what Caller was using
 - Wasted stores to memory if Caller wasn't using those registers

Compromise: some registers in advance, some on demand

 Neither the Caller nor the Callee has perfect knowledge of register availability

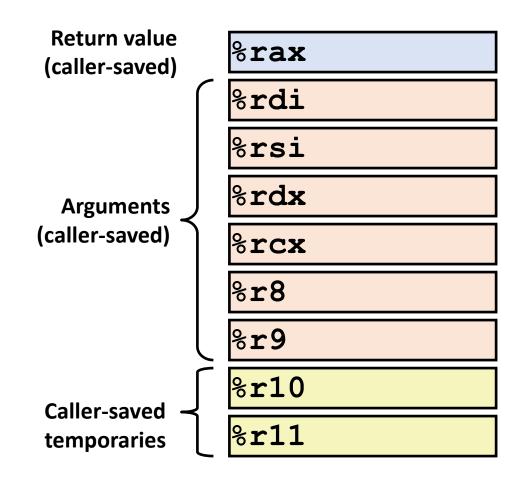
- Designate certain registers are saved in certain way
 - Some are saved in advance: Caller saved
 - Some are saved on demand: Callee saved

- Remember: Caller and Callee are just designations for one call event
 - Functions can and do act as both at different times

x86-64 Linux Register Usage #1 (caller-saved, in advance)

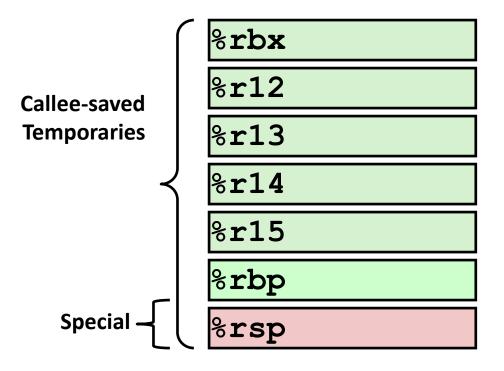
• %rax

- Return value
- Caller-saved
- Will be modified by function we're about to call
- %rdi, ..., %r9
 - Arguments
 - Caller-saved
 - Can be modified by function we're about to call
- %r10, %r11
 - Caller-saved
 - Can be modified by function we're about to call



x86-64 Linux Register Usage #2 (callee-saved, on demand)

- %rbx, %rbp, %r12-%r15
 - Callee-saved
 - Any function must save/restore the original values if it wants to use these registers



• %rsp

- Special form of callee-saved
- Restored to original value upon exit from procedure
 - Stack frame is removed

x86-64 Integer Registers: Usage Conventions

Caller Saved

In advance

Callee saved

On demand

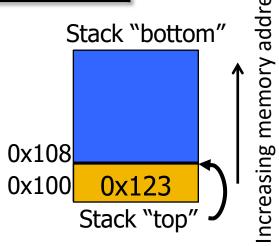
%rax	Return value	
%rbx	Callee saved	
%rcx	Argument #4	
%rdx	Argument #3	
%rsi	Argument #2	
%rdi	Argument #1	
%rsp	Stack pointer	
%rbp	Callee saved	

%r8	Argument #5	
%r9	Argument #6	
%r10	Caller saved	
%r11	Caller Saved	
%r12	Callee saved	
%r13	Callee saved	
%r14	Callee saved	
%r15	Callee saved	

Push and Pop instructions

Instruction	Effect	Description
pushq S	R [%rsp] ← R [%rsp] – 8; M [R[%rsp]] ← S	Store S onto the stack
popq D	D ← M [R[%rsp]] R [%rsp] ← R [%rsp] + 8;	Retrieve D from the stack

• Example:

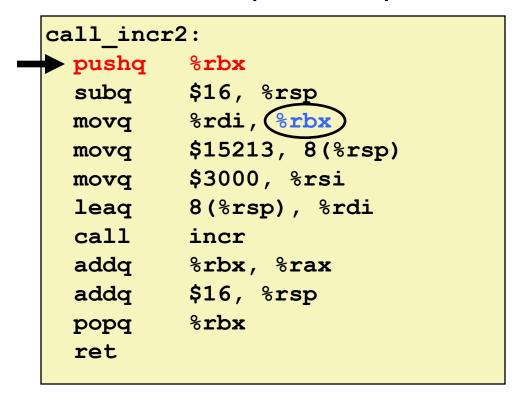


- Remember, stack is just memory
 - Can also use memory moves and modify %rsp manually!
 - Functions often mix the two, push some registers and allocate extra space

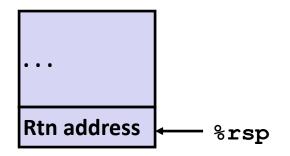
Saving a register to the stack

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
Still need x after the call!
```

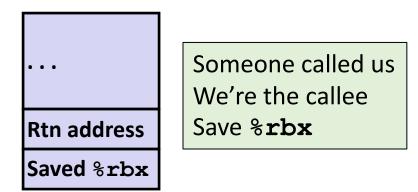
%rbx is callee-save (on demand)



Initial Stack Structure



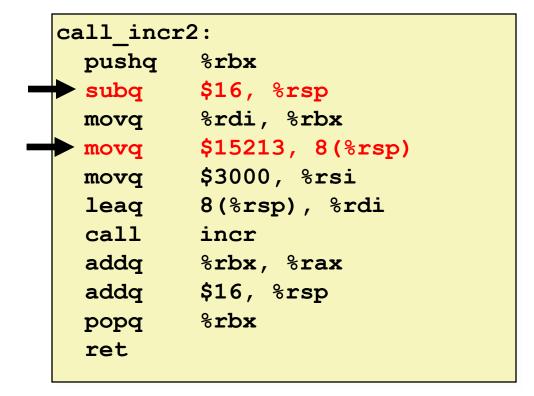
Resulting Stack Structure



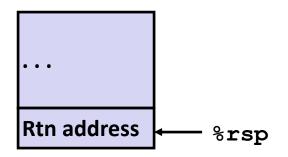
Manually allocating stack space

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

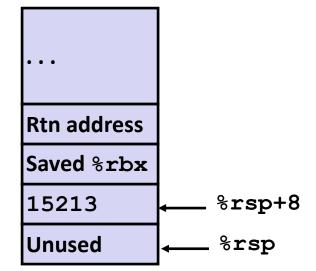
%rbx is callee-save (on demand)



Initial Stack Structure



Resulting Stack Structure



FYI: Stack moves in multiples of 16 whenever possible.

This accommodates alignment for any 128-byte values on the stack.

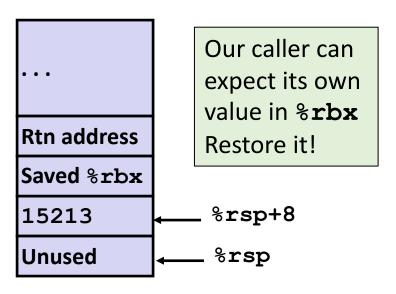
Restoring the stack and register before a return

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

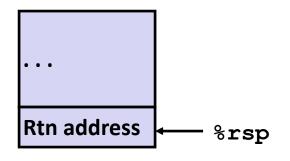
%rbx is callee-save (on demand)

```
call incr2:
 pushq
        %rbx
 subq
        $16, %rsp
 movq %rdi, %rbx
 movq $15213, 8(%rsp)
 movq $3000, %rsi
 leag
        8(%rsp), %rdi
 call
        incr
        %rbx, %rax
 addq
        $16, %rsp
 addq
        %rbx
 popq
 ret
```

Resulting Stack Structure



Pre-return Stack Structure



Outline

C Code Layout

x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
 - Recursion Example

Recursive Function

```
pcount r:
 movq $0, %rax
 testq
        %rdi, %rdi
         .L6
 jе
 pushq %rbx
 movq %rdi, %rbx
 andq $1, %rbx
 shrq %rdi # (by 1)
 callq pcount r
 addq %rbx, %rax
 popq %rbx
.L6:
 rep; ret
```

Note: rep instruction inserted as no-op. You can ignore it.

Recursive Function Base Case

Register	Use(s)	Туре
%rdi	x	Argument
%rax	Return value	Return value

```
pcount r:
         $0, %rax
 movq
 testq
         %rdi, %rdi
                        Checks if
         .L6
                        %rdi is zero
 je
         %rbx
 pushq
         %rdi, %rbx
 movq
 andq $1, %rbx
 shrq %rdi # (by 1)
 callq pcount r
         %rbx, %rax
 addq
         %rbx
 popq
.L6:
 rep; ret
```

Recursive Function Register Save

Register	Use(s)	Туре
%rdi	x	Argument

p	count_r:	
	movq	\$0, %rax
	testq	%rdi, %rdi
	je	.L6
	pushq	%rbx
	movq	%rdi, %rbx
	andq	\$1, %rbx
	shrq	%rdi # (by 1)
	callq	pcount_r
	addq	%rbx, %rax
	popq	%rbx
•	L6 :	
	rep; ret	t
		•••

Rtn address

Saved %rbx

Recursive Function Call Setup

Register	Use(s)	Туре
%rdi	x >> 1	Rec. argument
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved

```
pcount r:
        $0, %rax
 movq
        %rdi, %rdi
 testq
         .L6
 jе
 pushq %rbx
         %rdi, %rbx
 movq
        $1, %rbx
 andq
         %rdi # (by 1)
 shrq
 callq
        pcount r
        %rbx, %rax
 addq
        %rbx
 popq
.L6:
 rep; ret
```

Recursive Function Call

Register	Use(s)	Туре
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved
%rax	Recursive call return value	

```
pcount r:
 movq $0, %rax
 testq %rdi, %rdi
         .L6
 jе
 pushq %rbx
 movq %rdi, %rbx
 andq $1, %rbx
         %rdi # (by 1)
 shrq
 callq
        pcount r
         %rbx, %rax
 addq
         %rbx
 popq
.L6:
 rep; ret
```

Recursive Function Result

Register	Use(s)	Туре
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved
%rax	Return value	

```
pcount r:
 movq $0, %rax
 testq %rdi, %rdi
         .L6
 je
 pushq %rbx
 movq %rdi, %rbx
 andq $1, %rbx
 shrq %rdi # (by 1)
 callq pcount r
         %rbx, %rax
 addq
         %rbx
 popq
.L6:
 rep; ret
```

Recursive Function Completion

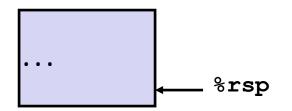
```
testq %rdi, %rdi
je .L6
pushq %rbx
movq %rdi, %rbx
andq $1, %rbx
shrq %rdi # (by 1)
callq pcount_r
addq %rbx, %rax

popq %rbx
.L6:
rep; ret
```

movq \$0, %rax

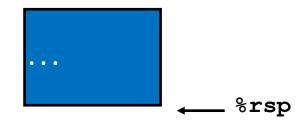
pcount r:

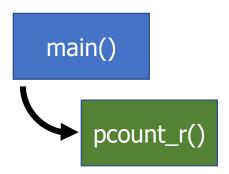
```
Register Use(s) Type
%rax Return value Return value
```



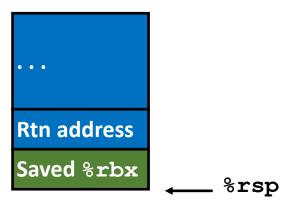
main()

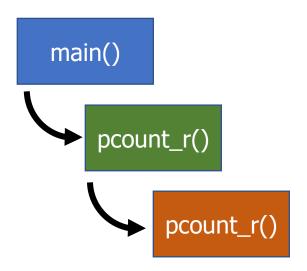
Stack Structure



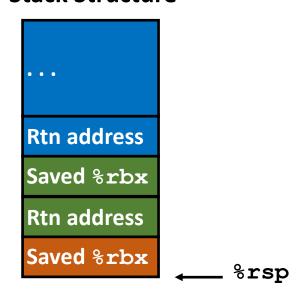


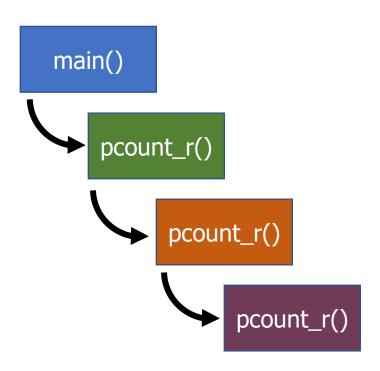






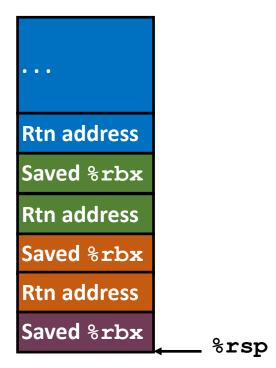
Stack Structure





Executing, but has not yet called pcount_r() again

Stack Structure



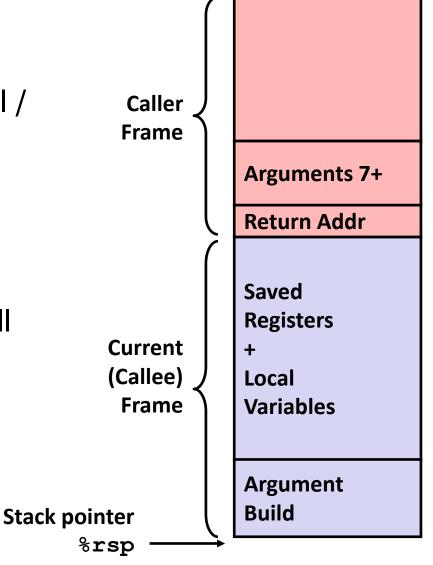
x86-64 Procedure Summary

Important Points

- A stack is the right data structure for procedure call / return
 - If P calls Q, then Q returns before P
- The stack makes recursion work

Calling convention

- Caller-saved registers saved **in advance** before call
- Put arguments in registers (1-6)
- Put further arguments on top of stack (7+)
- Put return address on top of stack
- Callee can safely store values in local stack frame and in callee-saved registers (after saving them)
- Result return in %rax and restore callee-saved registers before returning



Outline

C Code Layout

x86-64 Calling Convention

Managing Local Data

- Register Saving
 - Recursion Example

Outline

• Bonus: Stack Frame Example

x86-64 Stack Frame Example

```
long sum = 0;
/* Swap a[i] & a[i+1] */
void
swap_ele_su(long a[], int i)
{
    swap(&a[i], &a[i+1]);
    sum += (a[i]*a[i+1]);
}
```

- Keeps values of &a[i] and &a[i+1] in callee-save registers
- Must set up stack frame to save these registers

```
swap ele su:
          %rbx, -16(%rsp)
  movq
          %rbp, -8(%rsp)
  movq
   subq
         $16, %rsp
  movslq %esi,%rax
          8(%rdi,%rax,8), %rbx
   leaq
         (%rdi,%rax,8), %rbp
   leaq
         %rbx, %rsi
  movq
          %rbp, %rdi
  movq
   call
          swap
         (%rbx), %rax
  movq
   imulq (%rbp), %rax
   addq
          %rax, sum(%rip)
         (%rsp), %rbx
  movq
          8(%rsp), %rbp
  movq
          $16, %rsp
   addq
   ret
```

```
swap ele su:
           %rbx, -16(%rsp)
                                   # Save %rbx
   mova
          %rbp, -8(%rsp)
                                   # Save %rbp
   mova
   suba
           $16, %rsp
                                   # Allocate stack frame
                                   # Extend i
   movslq %esi,%rax
   leaq
           8(%rdi,%rax,8),
                                   # &a[i+1] (callee save)
                            %rbx
                           %rbp
          (%rdi,%rax,8),
                                   # &a[i] (callee save)
   leaq
                                   # 2<sup>nd</sup> argument
   mova
          %rbx, %rsi
                                     1<sup>st</sup> argument
   mova
          %rbp, %rdi
   call
           swap
          (%rbx), %rax
                                   # Get a[i+1]
   movq
   imulq (%rbp), %rax
                                   # Multiply by a[i]
                                   # Add to sum
   addq
           %rax, sum(%rip)
                                   # Restore %rbx
          (%rsp), %rbx
   movq
           8(%rsp), %rbp
                                   # Restore %rbp
   movq
   addq
           $16, %rsp
                                   # Deallocate frame
   ret
```

```
%rbx, -16(%rsp)
                            # Save %rbx
movq
                                       %rsp
                                               rtn addr
      %rbp, -8(%rsp)
                            # Save %rbp
movq
subq $16, %rsp
                            # Allocate stack frame
     (%rsp), %rbx
                           # Restore %rbx
movq
movq 8(%rsp), %rbp
                            # Restore %rbp
addq $16, %rsp
                            # Deallocate frame
```

