Introduction to 8086 Assembly

Lecture 12

Interfacing Assembly with C



Reasons for

C



- Reasons for
 - Efficiency
 - Low-level programming (accessing hardware, etc.)
 - Using specific CPU instructions
- Reasons against

0



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 - Efficiency
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- Reasons against
 - Compilers are good (and will get better) at optimizing code

0



- Reasons for
 - Efficiency
 - Low-level programming (accessing hardware, etc.)
 - Using specific CPU instructions
- Reasons against
 - Compilers are good (and will get better) at optimizing code.
 - Portability

Interfacing with C

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- Inline assembly
 - Compiler-dependent; No standard syntax
- Calling assembly functions in C

Interfacing with C



- Inline assembly
 - Compiler-dependent; No standard syntax
- Calling assembly functions in C



```
callfunc.c
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int,int,int);
int main() {
 int c:
 c = sum(2,4,8,10);
return 0:
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
return a+b+c+d:
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"
                                callfunc.asm
    .intel syntax noprefix
    .globl main
    .type main, @function
main
    lea ecx, [esp+4]
    push DWORD PTR [ecx-4]
    push ecx
    sub esp, 20
    push
    push
    push
    push 2
            sum
    add
             esp, 16
         DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
    mov ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
    leave
```

```
lea esp, [ecx-4]
                      callfunc.asm (cont.)
   .size main, .-main
   .globl sum
   .type sum, @function
sum:
      push ebp
             ebp, esp
             edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
      add
             edx. eax
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
             edx. eax
      add
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
             eax, edx
      add
             ebp
      pop
     ret
      size sum. .-sum
     .ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
              .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```



```
callfunc.c
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int,int,int);
int main() {
 int c:
 c = sum(2,4,8,10);
return 0:
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
return a+b+c+d:
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"
                             callfunc.asm
   .intel syntax noprefix
   .globl main
   .type main, @function
main
   lea ecx, [esp+4]
       DWORD PTR [ecx-4]
   push ecx
   sub esp, 20
    push
                        parameters
    push
                        pushed in
    push
                        reverse order
    push 2
           sum
    add
            esp, 16
        DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
   mov ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
   leave
```

```
lea esp, [ecx-4]
                      callfunc.asm (cont.)
   .size main, .-main
    globl sum
   .type sum, @function
sum:
      push ebp
             ebp, esp
             edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
      add
             edx. eax
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
             edx. eax
      add
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
             eax, edx
      add
             ebp
      pop
      ret
      size sum. .-sum
     .ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
              .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

leave



```
callfunc.c
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int,int,int);
int main() {
 int c:
 c = sum(2,4,8,10);
return 0;
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
return a+b+c+d:
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"
                           callfunc.asm
   .intel syntax noprefix
   .globl main
   .type main, @function
main: — caller
   lea ecx, [esp+4]
   and esp, -16
   push DWORD PTR [ecx-4]
   push ecx
   sub esp, 20
   push
   push 8
                    Caller clears
   push 4
                    the parameters
   push 2
                    from stack
          sum
           esp, 16
   add
       DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
   mov
   mov ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
```

```
lea esp, [ecx-4]
                     callfunc.asm (cont.)
   .size main, .-main
   globl sum
   .type sum, @function
                 callee
sum:
     push ebp
            ebp, esp
             edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
            eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
     add
             edx. eax
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
     add
             edx. eax
             eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
             eax, edx
     add
             ebp
     pop
     ret
     size sum. .-sum
     .ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
              .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

ESP



```
callfunc.c
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int,int,int);
int main() {
 int c:
 c = sum(2,4,8,10);
return 0:
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
return a+b+c+d:
```

pushed EBP return address 8 10

```
esp, [ecx-4]
                     callfunc.asm (cont.)
   size main, .-main
   globl sum
   .type sum, @function
                     callee
sum:
     push ebp
     mov ebp, esp
            edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
            eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
     add
            edx. eax
            eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
            edx. eax
     add
            eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
            eax, edx
     add
             ebp
                                           n EAX
     ret
      .size sum. .-sum
     .ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
              .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

C calling conventions (32-bit)



- Parameters are push on stack in reverse order
- The caller removes parameters from stack
- Return value stored in EAX (not in all cases, see next page)
- C assumes the following registers are preserved
 - o EBX, ESI, EDI, EBP, CS, DS, SS, ES
- labels (putting an underscore before labels)
 - Not needed for linux gcc
- CALLING CONVENTIONS ARE DIFFERENT in 64-BIT programming
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86 calling conventions#x86-64 calling conventions
 - https://aaronbloomfield.github.io/pdr/book/x86-64bit-ccc-chapter.pdf

Return values (32-bit)



- void functions return nothing
- 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit integer values are stored in EAX
 - o bit extension depends on signed/unsigned
- 64 bit integers are stored in EDX: EAX
- Addresses (pointers) are stored in EAX
- Floating point values are stored in STO
- What else?

Return values (32-bit)



- void functions return nothing
- 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit integer values are stored in EAX
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- 64 bit integers are stored in EDX: EAX
- Addresses (pointers) are stored in EAX
- Floating point values are stored in STO
- What else?
 - Structures,

Return values (32-bit)



- void functions return nothing
- 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit integer values are stored in EAX
 - o bit extension depends on signed/unsigned
- 64 bit integers are stored in EDX: EAX
- Addresses (pointers) are stored in EAX
- Floating point values are stored in STO
- What else?
 - Structures,
 - C++ Objects

C calling conventions (64-bit)



- First 6 parameters are (in order) put in
 - o Integer, pointer: RDI, RSI, RDX, RCX, R8, R9
 - Floating point: XMM0, XMM1, XMM2, XMM3, XMM4, XMM5
- Additional parameters are pushed on stack in reverse order
- Return value stored in
 - 8, 16, 32, 64 bit integers, pointers: RAX
 - 128 bit integers: RDX:RAX
 - floating points: XMMO (, XMM1)

C calling conventions (64-bit)



- C assumes the following registers are preserved
 - o RBX, RBP, R12, R13, R14, R15
- Microsoft uses a different convention
- Look at
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86 calling conventions#x86-64 calling conventions
 - https://aaronbloomfield.github.io/pdr/book/x86-64bit-ccc-chapter.pdf

Remember: Modular Programming



test.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
extern int fact(int);
extern int maxval;
int main() {
  int x = 8;
  printf("x!=%d\n", fact(x));
  return 0;
}
```

fact.c

```
int maxval = 2;
static int flag = 1;

int fact(int n) {
   return n==0 ? 1 : n*fact(n-1);
}

static int condmax(int a, int b) {
   return (a > b && flag) ? a : b;
}
```

Remember: Modular Programming



first.asm

```
extern fact, var1
segment .text

mov eax, [var1]

push 6
call fact
add esp, 4
```

second.asm

Example 1: Calling an assembly routine in C (32-bit)

oit)

printsum.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int);
int main() {
  int a,b,c;
  scanf("%d %d", &a, &b);
  c = sum(a,b);
 printf("%d\n",c);
  return 0;
```

```
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```

```
segment .text
        global sum
sum:
        push ebp
        mov ebp, esp
        push ebx
             eax, [ebp+8]
        mov
             ebx, [ebp+12]
        mov
        add
             eax, ebx
             ebx
        pop
             ebp
        pop
        ret
```

How to compile, link, and run (32-bit)



- 1. Compile the C file to object file
 - o gcc -c -m32 printsum.c
 - o creates printsum.o
- 2. Compile the assembly file to object file
 - o nasm -f elf calcsum.asm
 - o creates calcsum.o
- 3. Linking the object files (and C libraries)
 - o gcc -m32 printsum.o calcsum.o -o printsum
- 4. Running the executable
 - o ./printsum

How to compile, link, and run (32-bit)



- 1. Compile the C file to object file
 - o gcc -c -m32 printsum.c
 - o creates printsum.o
- 2. Compile the assembly file to object file
 - o nasm -f elf calcsum.asm
 - o creates calcsum.o
- 3. Linking the object files (and C libraries)
 - o gcc -m32 printsum.o cal
- 4. Running the executable
 - o ./printsum

```
gcc -c -m32 printsum.c
nasm -f elf calcsum.asm
gcc -m32 printsum.o calcsum.o -o printsum
```

./printsum

How to compile, link, and run (32-bit)



- 1. Compile the C file to object file
 - o gcc -c -m32 printsum.c
 - o creates printsum.o
- 2. Compile the assembly file to object file
 - o nasm -f elf calcsum.asm
 - o creates calcsum.o
- 3. Linking the object files (and C libraries)
 - o gcc -m32 printsum.o calcsum.o -o printsum
- 4. Running the executable

```
$ gcc -c -m32 printsum.c && nasm -f elf calcsum.asm && gcc -m32
printsum.o calcsum.o -o printsum && ./printsum
```

Using Makefile



```
Makefile
GCC OPTIONS= -m32
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf
printsum: printsum.o calcsum.o
        gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o printsum printsum.o calcsum.o
printsum.o: printsum.c
        gcc -c $(GCC OPTIONS) printsum.c
calcsum.o: calcsum.asm
        nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) calcsum.asm
```

Using Makefile



printsum.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
                                         segment .text
                                                  global sum
int sum(int,int);
                                         sum:
                                                  push ebp
int main() {
                                                  mov ebp, esp
  int a,b,c;
                                                  push ebx
  scanf("%d %d", &a, &b);
                                                       eax, [ebp+8]
                                                  mov
  c = sum(a,b);
                                                        ebx, [ebp+12]
                                                  mov
               b.nasihatkon@kntu:example1$ make
  printf("%d\nqcc -c -m32 printsum.c
               nasm -f elf calcsum.asm
               gcc -m32 -o printsum printsum.o calcsum.o
  return 0;
               b.nasihatkon@kntu:example1$ ./printsum
                12
```

Optimizing the code

```
segment .text
        global sum
sum:
       push ebp
        mov ebp, esp
       push ebx
        mov eax, [ebp+8]
        mov ebx, [ebp+12]
        add eax, ebx
       pop
            ebx
            ebp
       pop
        ret
```



Optimizing the code



calcsum.asm

```
segment .text
        global sum
sum:
       push ebp
       mov ebp, esp
       push ebx
       mov eax, [ebp+8]
       mov ebx, [ebp+12]
        add eax, ebx
       pop
            ebx
            ebp
       pop
        ret
```

```
segment .text
        global sum
sum:
            eax, [esp+4]
        mov
        add
            eax, [esp+8]
        ret
```

Example1: 64-bit version



printsum.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int,int);
int main() {
  int a,b,c;
  scanf("%d %d", &a, &b);
  c = sum(a,b);
 printf("%d\n",c);
  return 0;
```

```
global sum
sum:

mov rax, rdi
add rax, rsi
ret
```

Makefile (64-bit)



```
Makefile
GCC OPTIONS= -m64
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf64
printsum: printsum.o calcsum.o
        gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o printsum printsum.o calcsum.o
printsum.o: printsum.c
        gcc -c $(GCC OPTIONS) printsum.c
calcsum.o: calcsum.asm
        nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) calcsum.asm
```



main.asm

mytools.c

```
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```

```
segment .text
   extern sum, print sint, print uint, print hex
   global main
main:
     push 1
    push -2
     call sum
     add esp, 8
     push eax
     call print sint
     call print uint
     call print hex
     add esp, 4
     mov ebx, 0
     mov eax, 1
     int 0x80
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int a, int b) {
  return a+b;
void print sint(int a) {
 printf("%d\n", a);
void print uint(int a) {
 printf("%u\n", a);
void print hex(int a) {
 printf("%x\n", a);
```



main.asm

mytools.c

```
segment .text
   extern sum, print sint, print uint, print hex
   global main
main: because we use GCC to link
    push 1
    push -2
     call sum
     add esp, 8
    push eax
     call print sint
     call print uint
     call print hex
     add esp, 4
    mov ebx, 0
                       Exit system call (32-bit, linux)
     mov eax, 1
```

int 0x80

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int a, int b) {
  return a+b;
void print sint(int a) {
 printf("%d\n", a);
void print uint(int a) {
 printf("%u\n", a);
void print hex(int a) {
 printf("%x\n", a);
```



main.asm

int 0x80

mytools.c

```
segment .text
                                                     #include <stdio.h>
  extern sum, print sint, print uint, print hex
  global main
                                                     int sum(int a, int b) {
                                                       return a+b;
main:
    push 1
    push -2
                                                          nnint sint(int a) {
    call sum
                   nasm -f elf main.asm
                                                              ("%d\n", a);
    add esp, 8
                   qcc -c -m32 mytools.c
    push eax
                                                              nt uint(int a) {
    call print sint
                                                              ("%u\n", a);
    call print uint gcc -m32 main.o mytools.o -o main
    call print hex
                                                              nt hex(int a) {
    add esp, 4
                    ./main
                                                              ("%x\n", a);
    mov ebx, 0
    mov eax, 1
```



main.asm

mytools.c

```
segment .text
  extern sum, print_sint, print_uint, print_hex
  global main

main:
    push 1
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int a, int b) {
  return a+b;
}
```

nasm -f elf main.asm && gcc -c -m32 mytools.c && gcc -m32 main.o mytools.o -o main && ./main

```
push eax
call print_sint
call print_uint
call print_hex
add esp, 4

mov ebx, 0
mov eax, 1
int 0x80
```

```
void print_uint(int a) {
   printf("%u\n", a);
}

void print_hex(int a) {
   printf("%x\n", a);
}
```

Compile using Makefile



```
Makefile
GCC OPTIONS= -m32
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf
main: mytools.o main.o
   gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o main mytools.o main.o
mytools.o: mytools.c
   gcc -c $(GCC OPTIONS) mytools.c
main.o: main.asm
   nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) main.asm
```

Compile using Makefile

GCC OPTIONS= -m32



```
Makefile
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf
main: mytools.o main.o
   gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o main mytools.o main.o
mytools.o: mytools.c
                                             b.nasihatkon@kntu:example2$ ls
   gcc -c $(GCC OPTIONS) mytools.c
                                             main.asm Makefile mytools.c
                                             b.nasihatkon@kntu:example2$
                                             b.nasihatkon@kntu:example2$ make
main.o: main.asm
                                             gcc -c -m32 mytools.c
   nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) main.asm
                                             nasm -f elf main.asm
                                             qcc -m32 -o main mytools.o main.o
                                             b.nasihatkon@kntu:example2$
                                             b.nasihatkon@kntu:example2$ ./main
                                             4294967295
```

ffffffff

Example2: 64-bit version



main.asm

```
segment .text
   extern sum, print sint, print uint, print hex
   global main
main:
        mov rdi, 1
        mov rsi,-2
        call sum
        mov rbx, rax
        mov rdi, rbx
        call print sint
        mov rdi, rbx
        call print uint
        mov rdi, rbx
        call print hex
        mov rdi, 0
        mov rax, 60
        syscall
```

mytools.c

```
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```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int sum(int a, int b) {
  return a+b;
void print sint(int a) {
 printf("%d\n", a);
void print uint(int a) {
 printf("%u\n", a);
void print hex(int a) {
 printf("%x\n", a);
```

Makefile (64-bit)



```
Makefile
GCC OPTIONS= -m64
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf64
main: mytools.o main.o
   gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o main mytools.o main.o
mytools.o: mytools.c
   gcc -c $(GCC OPTIONS) mytools.c
main.o: main.asm
   nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) main.asm
```

Example3: Calling C Standard Library functions



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Write an assembly program equivalent to the following C program. Call functions scanf, abs and printf from the C standard library.

```
callstdlib.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int a;
int main() {
  scanf("%d", &a);
  printf("|%d| = %d\n", a, abs(a));
 return 0;
```

```
int scanf(const char *format, ...);
int printf(const char *format, ...);
int abs(int j);
```



```
callstdlib.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int a;
int main() {
 scanf("%d", &a);
 printf("|%d| = %d\n", a, abs(a));
return 0:
```

```
callstdlib.asm
segment .data
        dd 0
 format1: db "%d", 0
 format2: db "|\%d| = \%d", 10, 0
segment .text
       abs, scanf, printf
       main
main:
    push a
    push format1
    call scanf
    add esp. 8
    push dword [a]
    call $abs
    add esp. 4
```

```
callstdlib.asm (cont.)
push eax
push dword [a]
push format2
call printf
add esp, 12
mov eax, 1
int 0x80
```



```
callstdlib.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int a;
int main() {
 scanf("%d", &a);
 printf("|%d| = %d\n", a, abs(a));
return 0:
```

```
callstdlib.asm
        .data
        dd 0
 format1: db "%d", 0
 format2: db "|\%d| = \%d", 10, 0
segment .text
       abs, scanf, printf
       main
main:
    push a
    push format1
    call scanf
    add esp. 8
    push dword [a]
    call $abs
```

add esp. 4

```
callstdlib.asm (cont.)
                         push eax
                         push dword [a]
                         push format2
                         call printf
                         add esp, 12
                         mov eax, 1
                         int 0x80
"$" because "abs" is an NASM keyword
```



```
callstdlib.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int a:
int main() {
 scanf("%d", &a);
 printf("|%d| = %d\n", a, abs(a));
return 0:
```

```
callstdlib.asm
segment .data
        dd 0
 format1: db "%d", 0
 format2: db "|\%d| = \%d", 10, 0
segment .text
       abs, scanf, printf
       main
main:
    push a
    push format1
    call scanf
    add esp. 8
    push dword [a]
    call $abs
    add esp. 4
```

```
callstdlib.asm (cont.)
    push eax
    push dword [a]
    push format2
    call printf
    add esp, 12
    mov eax, 1
    int 0x80
why not include stdio, stdlib?
```



```
segment .data
a: dd 0
format1: db "%d", 0
format2: db "|%d| = %d", 10, 0

segment .text
extern abs, scanf, printf
global main

main:
push a
```

```
push eax
push dword [a]
push format2
call printf
add esp, 12

mov eax, 1
int 0x80
```

```
nasm -f elf callstdlib.asm # compile assembly -> callstdlib.o

gcc -m32 callstdlib.o -o callstdlib # link (with C libraries) -> callstdlib
./callstdlib # execute
```

Example 3: Compile using Makefile



```
Makefile
GCC OPTIONS= -m32
NASM OPTIONS= -f elf
callstdlib: callstdlib.o
        gcc $(GCC OPTIONS) -o callstdlib callstdlib.o
callstdlib.o: callstdlib.asm
        nasm $(NASM OPTIONS) callstdlib.asm
```

Look at asm_io.asm



```
int_format: db "%i", 0
string_format: db "%s", 0
```

```
read int:
    enter 4.0
    pusha
    pushf
         eax, [ebp-4]
    push eax
    push dword int_format
    call _scanf
          ecx
    pop
    pop
          ecx
    popf
    popa
           eax, [ebp-4]
    mov
    leave
    ret
```

```
global read_int, print_int, print_uint, print_string, read_char
global print_char, print_nl, sub_dump_regs, sub_dump_mem
global sub_dump_math, sub_dump_stack
extern _scanf, _printf, _getchar, _putchar
```

```
print_int
    enter 0.0
    pusha
    pushf
    push eax
    push dword int_format
    call _printf
    pop
          ecx
          ecx
    pop
    popf
    popa
    leave
    ret
```

```
print_string:
    enter 0.0
    pusha
    pushf
    push eax
    push dword string_format
    call printf
    pop
          ecx
          ecx
    pop
    popf
    popa
    leave
    ret
```

Look at asm_io.asm

leave

ret



asm io.asm

```
int_format:
               db "%i", 0
                                             read_int, print_int, print_uint, print_string, read_char
                                             print char, print_nl, sub_dump_regs, sub_dump_mem
string format:
               db "%s". 0
                                                                         ack
                                                                         nar
read int:
                             why the underscores?
    enter 4.0
                                                                             print_string:
    pusha
    pushf
                                           pusha
                                                                                 pusha
         eax. [ebp-4]
                                           pushf
                                                                                 pushf
    push eax
                                           push
                                                 eax
                                                                                 push
    push dword int_format
                                                 dword int_format
        _scanf
                                           push
                                               printf -
          ecx
    pop
                                                ecx
                                                                                 pop
                                           pop
    pop
          ecx
                                                ecx
                                           pop
                                                                                 pop
    popf
                                           popf
                                                                                 popf
    popa
          eax, [ebp-4]
                                           popa
                                                                                 popa
    mov
```

leave

ret

```
enter 0.0
     eax
push dword string_format
    printf -
     ecx
     ecx
leave
ret
```

Look at asm_io.asm



```
asm io.asm
int_format: db "%i", 0
                                         read int, print int, print uint, print string, read char
string format:
             db "%s". 0
                                         print char, print nl, sub dump regs, sub dump mem
                             %ifdef ELF TYPE
                               %define scanf
read int:
                                                      scanf
    enter 4.0
                               %define printf printf
                                                                       print_string:
    pusha
                               %define getchar getchar
                                                                           enter 0.0
    pushf
                               %define putchar putchar
                                                                           pusha
                             %endif
        eax, [ebp-4]
                                                                           pushf
    push eax
                                       push eax
                                                                           push eax
    push dword int_format
       _scanf
                                       push dword int_format
                                                                           push dword string_format
                                       call printf
                                                                           call printf
         ecx
    pop
                                             ecx
                                                                           pop
                                                                                ecx
                                       pop
    pop
         ecx
                                             ecx
                                                                                ecx
                                       pop
                                                                           pop
    popf
                                       popf
                                                                           popf
    popa
         eax, [ebp-4]
                                       popa
                                                                           popa
    mov
                                                                           leave
                                       leave
    leave
                                       ret
                                                                           ret
    ret
```