

## Run time stack (AKA "call stack")

```
int f(int w, int z);  
  
int g(int y) {  
    int x;  
    // stuff happens...  
    f(x, y);  
    return 0;  
}
```

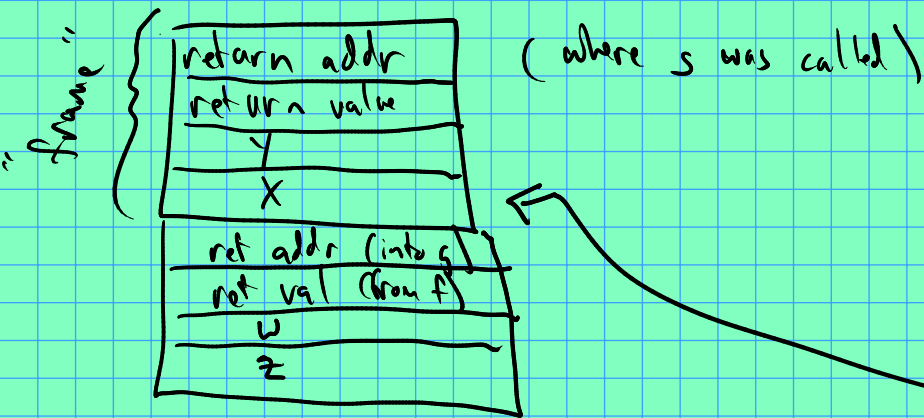
How to keep track of function calls??

Let's make a list of what info we would need to store when say  $g$  calls  $f$ :

- ① location of  $f$ 's ret. value.
- ② where to put inputs for  $f$ ?
- ③ "return address" (what to do when  $f$  is done)

All of ①, ②, ③ above (usually) stored on the "call stack". Also on the stack would be

④ local variables.



More reading: look up "calling conventions".

Question: who was responsible for allocating stack space for  $x$ ?

$g$  of course.

Similarly, if  $f$  has locals, they would

appear after  $z$  on the stack.

You would hope that these behind the scenes things would stay behind the scenes...

This design has many security implications!

consider an array on the stack (as a local variable)

