



Allocating Space For Locals on the Stack

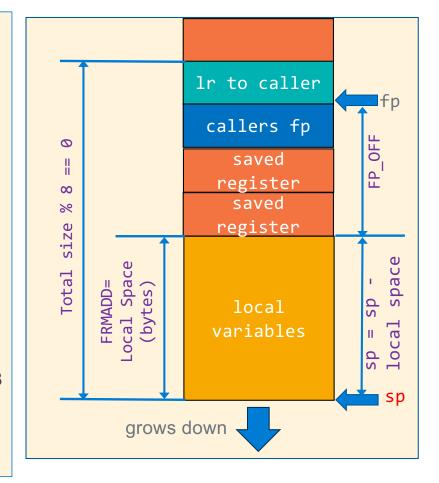
- Space for local variables is allocated on the stack right below the lowest pushed register
 - Move the sp towards low memory by the total size of all local variables in bytes plus padding

FRMADD = total local var space (bytes) + padding

Allocate the space after the register push by

Requirement: on function entry, sp is always 8-byte aligned
 sp % 8 == 0

- · Padding (as required):
 - 1. Additional space between variables on the stack to meet memory alignment requirements
 - 2. Additional space so the frame size is evenly divisible by 8
- fp (frame pointer) is used as a pointer (base register) to access all stack variables — later slides



Review Variables: Size

Integer types

- char (unspecified default)
- int (signed default)
- Floating Point
 - float, double
- · Optional Modifiers for each base type
 - short [int]
 - long [int, double]
 - signed [char, int]
 - unsigned [char, int]
 - const: variable read only

char type

- One byte in a byte addressable memory
- Be careful char is unsigned on arm and signed on other HW like intel

C Data Type	AArch-32 contiguous Bytes	printf specification
unsigned char	1	%с
signed char	1	%с
short int	2	%hd
unsigned short int	2	%hu
int	4	%d / %i
unsigned int	4	%u
long int	4	%ld
long long int	8	%11d
float	4	%f
double	8	%lf
long double	8	%Lf
pointer *	4	%р

Local Variables on the stack

```
after push {r4-r5,fp,lr}
                                 add fp, sp, FP OFF
int main(void)
                                     Ir to caller
                                     callers fp
    int c;
                                     saved r5
    int count = 0;
    // rest of code
                                     saved r4
                                                       sp after push
                          FRMADD
                          = 8
                                       count
                                                       sp after
                                                       allocating locals
```

```
.text
              main, %function
      .tvpe
      .global main
      .equ
              FP OFF,
                         12
              FRMADD,
                          8
      .equ
   main:
              {r4, r5, fp, lr}
       push
               fp, sp, FP OFF
       add
               sp, sp, -FRMADD
       add
   // but we are not done yet!
// when FRMADD values fail to assemble
        ldr r3, =-FRMADD
```

- In this example we are allocating two variables on the stack
- When writing assembly functions, in many situations you may choose allocate these to registers instead

- Add space on the stack for each local
 - we will allocate space in same order the locals are listed the C function shown from high to low stack address

add sp, sp, r3

- gcc compiler allocates from low to high stack addresses
- Order does not matter for our use

5

Accessing Stack Variables: Introduction

```
int main(void)
{
    int c;
    int count = 0;
    // rest of code
}
```

```
4 Ir to caller

24 bytes

8-bytes

8-byte aligned

callers fp

12 saved r5

saved r4

4 c

4 count

sp
```

low memory 4-byte words

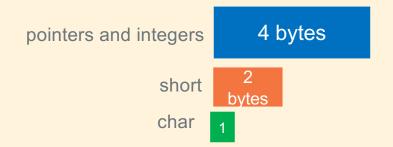
- To Access data stored in the stack
 - use the ldr/str instructions
- Use register fp with offset (distance in bytes)
 addressing (use either register offset or immediate offset)
- No matter what address the stack frame is at, fp always points at saved lr, so you can find a local stack variable by using an offset address from the contents of fp

Variable	distance from fp	Read variable	Write Variable
int c	-16	ldr r0, [fp, -16]	str r0, [fp, -16]
int count	-20	ldr r0, [fp, -20]	str r0, [fp, -20]

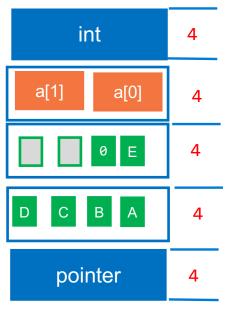
```
.text
    .type
            main, %function
    .global main
           FP OFF,
                      12
   .equ
           FRMADD,
                       8
   .equ
main:
            {r4, r5, fp, lr}
    push
            fp, sp, FP_OFF
    add
            sp, sp, -FRMADD
    add
// but we are not done vet!
```

Stack Frame Design – Local Variables

- When writing an ARM equivalent for a C program, for CSE30 we will not re-arrange the order of the variables to optimize space (covered in the compiler course)
- Arrays start at a 4-byte boundary (even arrays with only 1 element)
 - Exception: double arrays [] start at an 8-byte boundary
 - struct arrays are aligned to the requirements of largest member
- Single chars (and shorts) can be grouped together in same 4-byte word (following the alignment for the short)
- Padding may be required (see next slide)



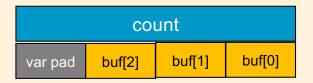
Rule: When the function is entered the stack is already 8-byte aligned



7

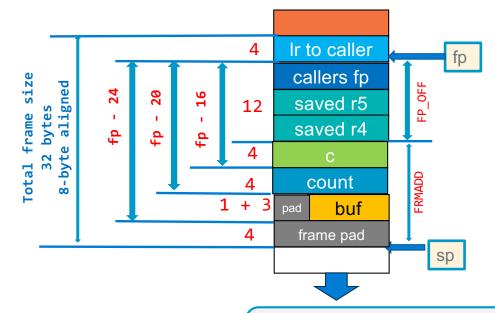
Stack Variables: Padding

 Variable padding – start arrays at 4byte boundary and leave unused space at end (high side address) before the variable higher on the stack



 Frame padding – add space below the last local variable to keep 8-byte alignment





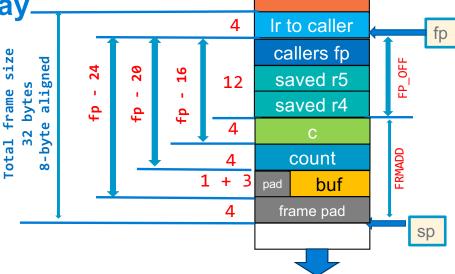
```
int main(void)
{
    int c;
    int count = 0;
    char buf[] = "hi";
    // rest of code
}
```

```
.text
    .type
            main, %function
    .global main
   .equ
           FP OFF,
                       12
           FRMADD,
                      16
   .equ
main:
            {r4, r5, fp, lr}
    push
            fp, sp, FP_OFF
    add
    add
            sp, sp, -FRMADD
// but we are not done yet!
```

Accessing Stack Variables, the hard way.

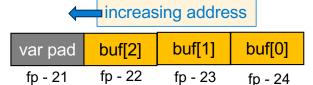
```
int main(void)
{
    int c;
    int count = 0;
    char buf[] = "hi";
    // rest of code
}
```

```
.text
            main, %function
    .type
    .global main
   .equ
           FP OFF,
                       12
           FRMADD,
                       16
   .equ
main:
            {r4, r5, fp, lr}
    push
            fp, sp, FP_OFF
    add
            sp, sp, -FRMADD
    add
// but we are not done yet!
```



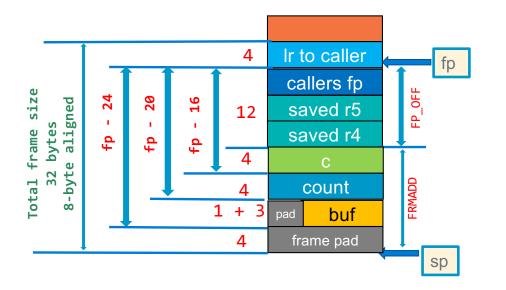
char buf[] by usage with ASCII chars we will use strb (or make it unsigned char)

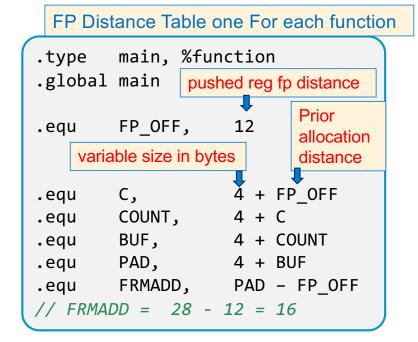
Variable	distance from fp	Read variable	Write Variable
int c	16	ldr r0, [fp, -16]	str r0, [fp, -16]
int count	20	ldr r0, [fp, -20]	str r0, [fp, -20]
char buf[0]	24	ldrb r0, [fp, -24]	strb r0, [fp, -24]
char buf[1]	23	ldrb r0, [fp, -23]	strb r0, [fp, -23]
char buf[2]	22	ldrb r0, [fp, -22]	strb r0, [fp, -22]



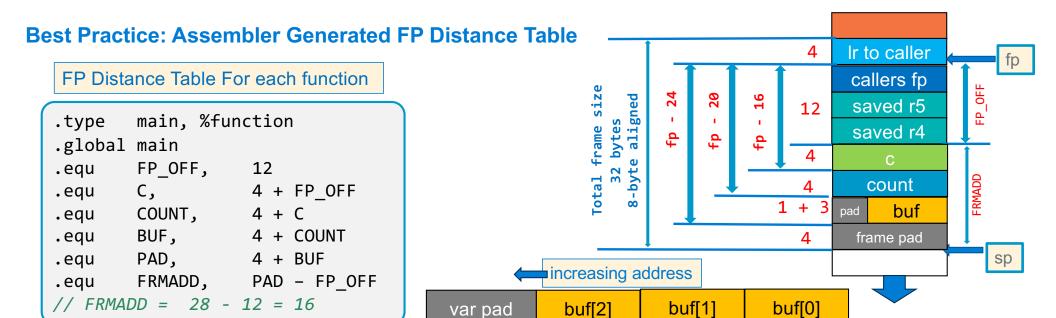
- Calculating offsets is a lot of work to get it correct
- It is also hard to debug
- There is a better way!

Best Practice: Assembler Generated FP Distance Table





- 1. For each stack variable create a .equ symbol whose value is the distance in bytes from the FP after the prologue
- 2. After the last variable add a name PAD for the size of the frame padding (if any). if no padding, PAD will be set to the same value as the variable above it
- 3. The value of the symbol is an expression that calculates the distance from the FP based on the distance of the variable above it on the stack. The first variable will use SP_OFF as the starting distance
 - **.equ VAR**, size_of var + variable_padding + previous_var_symbol // previous_var_symbol distance of the var above
- Calculate the size of the local variable area that needs to be added to the sp in bytes
 FRMADD = distance PAD minus distance of the SP to the FP (FP_OFF) after the prologue push



Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int c	С	add r0, fp, -C	ldr r0, [fp, -C]	str r0, [fp, -C]
int count	COUNT	add r0, fp, -COUNT	ldr r0, [fp, -COUNT]	str r0, [fp, -COUNT]
char buf[0]	BUF	add r0, fp, -BUF	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF]
char buf[1]	BUF-1	add r0, fp, -BUF+1	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF+1]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF+1]
char buf[2]	BUF-2	add r0, fp, -BUF+2	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF+2]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF+2]

fp -BUF+2

fp –BUF+3

fp –BUF+1

fp -BUF

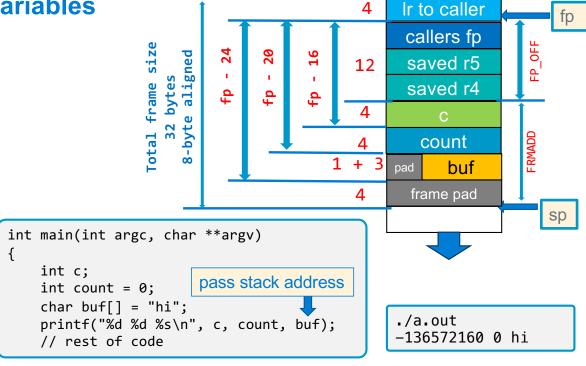
X

```
Initializing and Accessing Stack variables
```

```
.section .rodata
.Lmess: .string "%d %d %s\n"
    .extern printf
```

```
main:
    push
           {r4, r5, fp, lr}
                               passes
    add
           fp, sp, FP OFF
                               contents of
    add
           sp, sp, -FRMADD
                               stack var C
   // nothing to do for C
                               and
           r2, 0
   mov
                               COUNT
           r2, [fp, -COUNT]
    str
           r2, [fp, -BUF+2]
    strb
           r2, 'h'
   mov
           r2, [fp, -BUF]
    strb
            r2, 'i'
   mov
            r2, [fp, -BUF+1
   strb
           r0, =.Lmess
   ldr
                             // arg1
   ldr
           r1, [fp, -C]
                             // arg2
   ldr
           r2, [fp, -COUNT] // arg3
           r3, fp, -BUF // arg4
    add
    bl
            printf
```

passes address of a stack variable buf

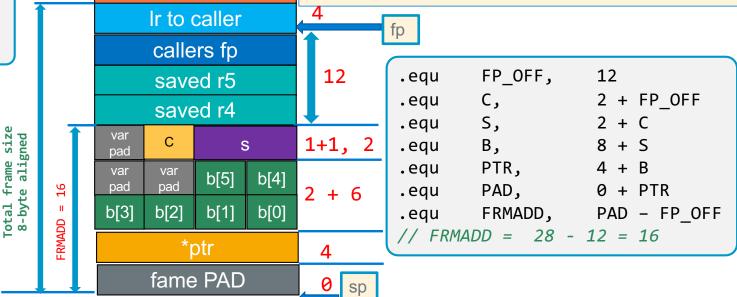


Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int c	С	add r0, fp, -C	ldr r0, [fp, -C]	str r0, [fp, -C]
int count	COUNT	add r0, fp, -COUNT	ldr r0, [fp, -COUNT]	str r0, [fp, -COUNT]
char buf[0]	BUF	add r0, fp, -BUF	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF]
char buf[1]	BUF-1	add r0, fp, -BUF+1	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF+1]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF+1]
char buf[2]	BUF-2	add r0, fp, -BUF+2	ldrb r0, [fp, -BUF+2]	strb r0, [fp, -BUF+2]

Stack Frame Design Practice

void func(void)
{
 signed char c;
 signed short s;
 unsigned char b[] = "Stack";
 unsigned char *ptr = &b;
 // rest of code
}

- 1. Write the variables in C
- 2. Draw a picture of the stack frame
- 3. Write the code to generate the offsets
- 4. create the distance table to the variables



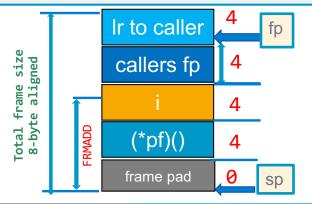
Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
signed char c	С	add r0, fp, -C	ldrsb r0, [fp, -C]	strsb r0, [fp, -C]
signed short s	S	add r0, fp, -S	ldrsh r0, [fp, -S]	strsh r0, [fp, -S]
unsigned char b[0]	В	add r0, fp, -B	ldrb r0, [fp, -B]	strb r0, [fp, -B]
unsigned char *ptr	PTR	add r0, fp, -PTR	ldr r0, [fp, -PTR]	str r0, [fp, -PTR]

```
int sum(int j, int k)
{
    return j + k;
void testp(int j, int k, int (*func)(int, int), int *i)
    *i = func(j,k);
    return;
}
int main()
{
    int i;
                            // NOTICE: i must be on stack as you pass the address!
    int (*pf)(int, int) = sum; // pf could be in a register
    testp(1, 2, pf, &i); Output Parameters (like i) you
    printf("%d\n", i);
                             pass a pointer to them, must be
    return EXIT SUCCESS;
                             on the stack!
}
```

14

```
int main()
{
   int i; // NOTICE: i must be on stack as you pass the address!
   int (*pf)(int, int) = Sum; // pf could be in a register

   testp(1, 2, pf, &i);
   printf("%d\n", i);
   return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```



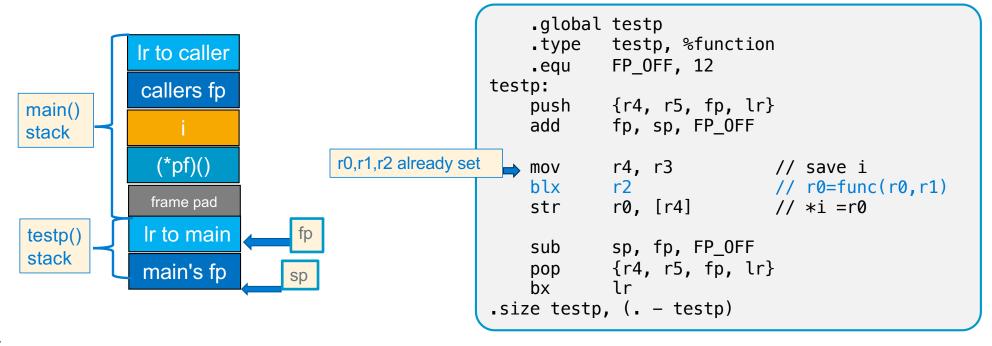
```
.section .rodata
.Lmess: .string "%d\n"
   .extern printf
   .text
   .global main
          main, %function
   .type
          FP_0FF, 4
   . equ
   .equ I,
                  4 + FP OFF
   equ PF, 4 + I
        PAD, 0 + PF
   •equ
          FRMADD, PAD-FP OFF
   •equ
// FRMADD = 12 - 4 = 8
```

Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int i	I	add r0, fp, -I	ldr r0, [fp, -I]	str r0, [fp, -I]
int (*pf)()	PF	add r0, fp, -PF	ldr r0, [fp, -PF]	str r0, [fp, -PF]

```
main:
Working with Pointers on the stack
                                                                       {fp, lr}
                                                              push
                                                              add
                                                                       fp, sp, FP_OFF
int main()
                                                              add
                                                                       sp, sp,-FRMADD
   int i;
                                                              ldr
                                                                       r2, =sum // func address
   int (*pf)(int, int) = sum;
                                                                       r1, fp, -PF // PF address
                                                              add
                                                              str
                                                                       r2, [r1]
                                                                                         // store in pf
   testp(1, 2, pf, &i);
                                       Ir to caller
                          I is Output
   printf("%d\n", i);
                           Parameter
                                                                       r0, 1  // arg 1: 1
r1, 2  // arg 2: 2
r2, [fp, -PF]  // arg 3: (*pf)()
   return EXIT SUCCESS;
                                                              mov
                                        callers fp
                                                    4
                                                              mov
     .section .rodata
                                                              ldr
                                                    4
 .Lmess: .string "%d\n"
                                                                       r3, fp, -I // arg 4: &I
                                                              add
     .extern printf
                                                              bl
                                          (*pf)()
                                                                       testp
                                                    4
     .text
     .global main
                                         frame pad
                                                                       r0, =.Lmess // arg 1: "%d\n" r1, [fp, -I] // arg 2: I
                                                              ldr
            main, %function
     .type
                                                              ldr
            FP_OFF, 4
     ∙equ
                                                              bl
            I, 4 + FP_0FF
                                                                       printf
     •equ
            PF, 4 + I
     .equ
                  0 + PF
            PAD,
     .equ
                                                              sub
                                                                       sp, fp, FP_OFF
            FRMADD, PAD-FP_OFF
     • equ
                                                                       {fp, lr}
                                                              qoq
 // FRMADD = 12 - 4 = 8
                                                                       lr
                                                              bx
```

Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int i	I	add r0, fp, -I	ldr r0, [fp, -I]	str r0, [fp, -I]
int (*pf)()	PF	add r0, fp, -PF	ldr r0, [fp, -PF]	str r0, [fp, -PF]

```
void
testp(int j, int k, int (*func)(int, int), int *i)
{
    *i = func(j, k);
    return;
}
```

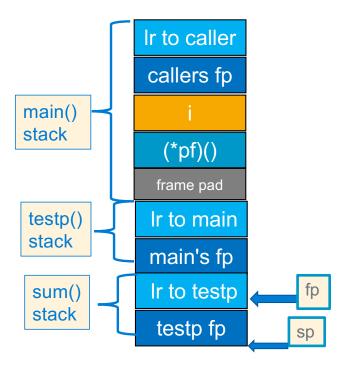


17

```
int
sum(int j, int k)
{
    return j + k;
}
```

```
.global sum
.type sum, %function
.equ FP_OFF, 4
sum:
   push {fp, lr}
   add fp, sp, FP_OFF
   add r0, r0, r1

   sub sp, fp, FP_OFF
   pop {fp, lr}
   bx lr
.size sum, (. - sum)
```

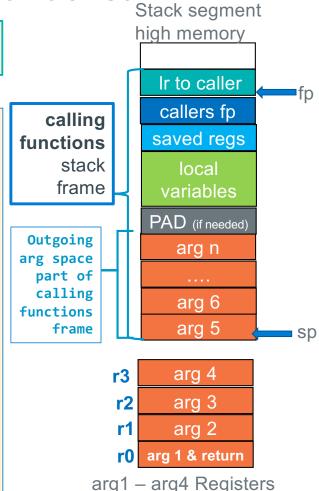


Passing More Than Four Arguments – At the point of Call

```
r0 = function(r0, r1, r2, r3, arg5, arg6, ... argn)

arg1, arg2, arg3, arg4, ...
```

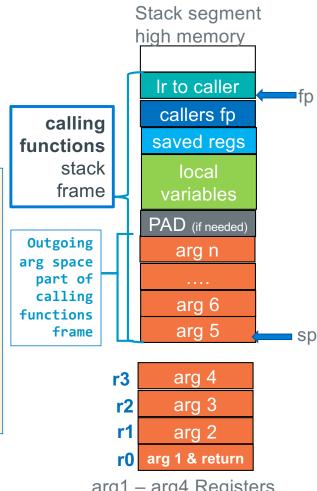
- Approach: Increase stack frame size to include space for args# > 4
 - Arg5 and above are in <u>caller's stack frame</u> at the bottom of the stack
- Arg5 is always at the bottom (at sp), arg6 and greater are above it
- One arg value per slot! NO arrays across multiple slots
 - chars, shorts and ints are directly stored
 - Structs (not always), and arrays (always) are passed via a pointer
- Output parameters contain an address that points at the stack, BSS, data, or heap
- Prior to any function call (and obviously at the start of the called function):
 - 1. sp must point at arg5
 - 2. sp and therefore arg5 must be at an 8-byte boundary,
 - 3. Add padding to force arg5 alignment if needed is placed above the last argument the called function is expecting



Passing More Than Four Arguments – At the point of Call

```
r0 = function(r0, r1, r2, r3, arg5, arg6, ... argn)
               arg1, arg2, arg3, arg4, ...
```

- Called functions have the right to change stack args just like they can change the register args!
 - Caller must always assume all args including ones on the stack are changed by the caller
- Calling function prior to making the call you must
 - 1. Evaluate first four args: place the resulting values in r0-r3
 - 2. Evaluate Arg 5 and greater and place the resulting values on the stack

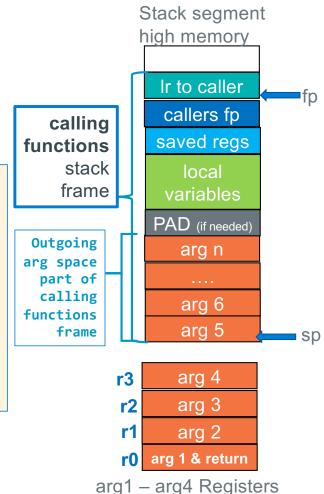


arg1 – arg4 Registers

Passing More Than Four Arguments – At the point of Call

```
r0 = function(r0, r1, r2, r3, arg5, arg6, ... argn)
               arg1, arg2, arg3, arg4, ...
```

- Approach: Extend the stack frame to include enough space for stack arguments for the called function that has the greatest number of args
 - 1. Examine every function call in the body of a function
 - Find the function call with greatest arg count, this determines space needed for outgoing args
 - 3. Add the greatest arg count space as needed to the frame layout
 - 4. Adjust PAD as required to keep the sp 8-byte aligned



Determining Size of the Passed Parameter Area on The Stack

- Find the function called by main with the largest number of parameters
- That function determines the size of the Passed Parameter allocation on the stack

```
int main(void)
   /* code not shown */
    a(g, h);
   /* code not shown */
    sixsum(a1, a2, a3, a4, a5, a6); | largest arg count is 6
   /* code not shown */
  b(q, w, e, r);
   /* code not shown */
```

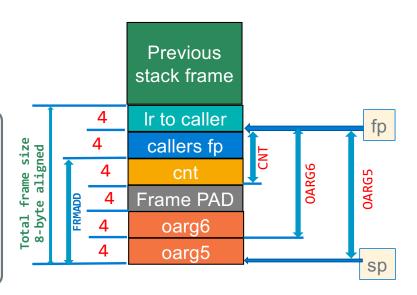
allocate space for 6 - 4 = 2 arg slots

Calling Function Stack Frame: Pass ARG 5 and higher

Rules: At point of call

- 1. OARG5 must be pointed at by sp
- 2. SP must be 8-byte aligned at function call

```
int cnt;
r0 = func(r0, r1, r2, r3, OARG5, OARG6);
```



Variable	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int cnt	CNT	add r0, fp, -CNT	ldr r0, [fp, -CNT]	str r0, [fp, -CNT]
int oarg6	OARG6	add r0, fp, -OARG6	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG6]	str r0, [fp, -OARG6]
int oarg5	OARG5	add r0, fp, -OARG5	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG5]	str r0, [fp, -OARG5]

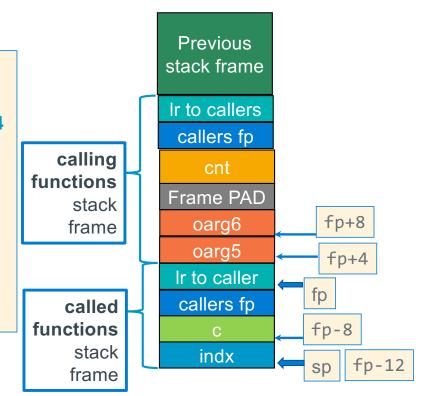
Called Function: Retrieving Args From the Stack

r0 = func(r0, r1, r2, r3, r4, ARG5, ARG6);

- At function start and before the push{} the sp is at an 8-byte boundary
- Args > 4 in <u>caller's stack frame</u> and arg 5 always starts at fp+4
 - Additional args are higher up the stack, with one "slot" every 4bytes

.equ ARGN,
$$(N-4)*4$$
 // where n must be > 4

- This "algorithm" for finding args was designed to enable variable arg count functions like printf("conversion list", arg0, ... argn);
- No limit to the number of args (except running out of stack space)



Rule:

Called functions always access stack args using a positive offset to the fp

24

Called Function: Retrieving Args From the Stack

```
FP OFF,
.equ
      C, 4 + FP_OFF
.equ
     INDX, 4 + C
.equ
             0 + INDX
     PAD,
.equ
     FRMADD, PAD - FP_OFF
.equ
// below are distances into the caller's stack frame
.equ
      ARG6,
.equ
      ARG5,
                4
```

r0 = func(r0, r1, r2, r3, r4, ARG5, ARG6);

Rule:

Called functions always access stack args using a positive offset to the fp

using a pos i	tive offse	t to the tp			sp
Variable or Argument	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable	
int arg6	ARG6	add r0, fp, ARG6	ldr r0, [fp, ARG6]	str r0, [fp, ARG6]	Observe the positive
int arg5	ARG5	add r0, fp, ARG5	ldr r0, [fp, ARG5]	str r0, [fp, ARG5] 💠	offsets
int c	С	add r0, fp, -C	ldr r0, [fp, -C]	str r0, [fp, -C]	
int count	INDX	add r0, fp, -INDX	ldr r0, [fp, -INDX]	str r0, [fp, -INDX]	_

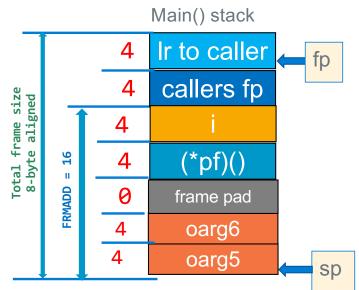
		Ir to caller			
		callers fp			
calling	Į	cnt			
functions					
stack		Frame PAD			
frame		oarg6			
	L	oarg5		ARG6	
		Ir to callers	ARG5		fp
called		callers fp			- 19
functions	1	С	C	INDX	
stack		indx			
frame		Frame PAD			sp

Example: Passing Stack Args, Calling Function

```
int sum(int j, int k)
    return j + k;
}
              arg2
                      arg3
                             arg4
                                         arg5
                                                           arg6
      arg1
void
testp(int j, int k, int l, int m, int (*func)(int, int), int *i)
{
    *i = func(j,k) + func(l, m); // notice two func() calls
    return;
}
int main()
    int i; // NOTICE: i must be on stack as you pass the address!
    int (*pf)(int, int) = sum; // pf could be in a register
    testp(1, 2, 3, 4, pf, &i);
    printf("%d\n", i);
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
```

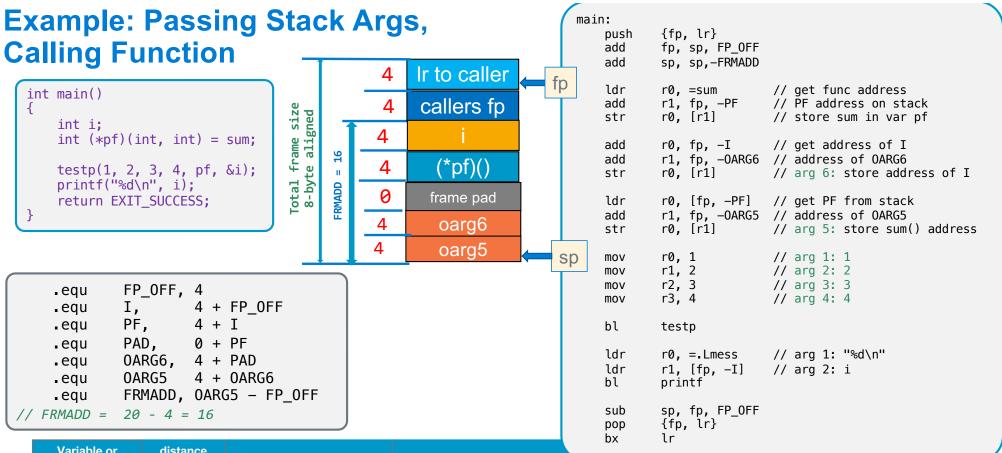
Example: Passing Stack Args, Calling Function

```
int i; // NOTICE: i must be on stack as you pass the address!
int (*pf)(int, int) = sum; // pf could be in a register
testp(1, 2, 3, 4, pf, &i);
printf("%d\n", i);
return EXIT_SUCCESS;
                                 FP OFF, 4
                         . equ
                                          4 + FP OFF
                                 Ι,
                         •equ
                                 PF,
                                          4 + I
                         • equ
                                          0 + PF
                                 PAD,
                         •equ
                                 0ARG6, 4 + PAD
                         •equ
                                         4 + 0ARG6
                                0ARG5
                         . equ
                                 FRMADD, OARG5 - FP_OFF
                         . equ
                    // FRMADD = 20 - 4 = 16
```



Variable or Argument	distance from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int i	I	add r0, fp, -I	ldr r0, [fp, -I]	str r0, [fp, -I]
int (*pf)()	PF	add r0, fp, -PF	ldr r0, [fp, -PF]	str r0, [fp, -PF]
int oarg6	OARG6	add r0, fp, -OARG6	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG6]	str r0, [fp, -OARG6]
int oarg5	OARG5	add r0, fp, -OARG5	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG5]	str r0, [fp, -OARG5]

int main()



variable or	distance			
Argument	from fp	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
int i	I	add r0, fp, -I	ldr r0, [fp, -I]	str r0, [fp, -I]
int (*pf)()	PF	add r0, fp, -PF	ldr r0, [fp, -PF]	str r0, [fp, -PF]
int oarg6	OARG6	add r0, fp, -OARG6	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG6]	str r0, [fp, -OARG6]
int oarg5	OARG5	add r0, fp, -OARG5	ldr r0, [fp, -OARG5]	str r0, [fp, -OARG5]

```
Example: Passing Stack Args, Called Function
                                                                 . equ
                                                                         FP OFF, 20
            arg2 arg3
                          arg4
     arg1
                                    arg5
                                                    arg6
                                                                         ARG6,
                                                                 . equ
void
                                                                 . equ
                                                                         ARG5,
testp(int j, int k, int l, int m, int (*func)(int, int), int *i)
                                                             testp:
                                                                         {r4-r7, fp, lr}
                                                                 push
   *i = func(j, k) + func(l, m);
                                                                         fp, sp, FP_OFF
                                                                 add
   return;
            short circuit: make this call first
                                                                          r4, r2
                                                                                          // save l
                                                                 mov
                                                                          r5, r3
                                                                                          // save m
                                                                 mov
                       Ir to caller
                                                                 ldr
                                                                          r6, [fp, ARG5]
                                                                                         // load func
                                                                          r7, [fp, ARG6]
                                                                                         // load i
                                                                 ldr
                        callers fp
                                                                                          // r0 = func(j, k)
                                                                 blx
                                                                          r6
                                                                          r1, r5
                                                                                          // arg 2 saved m
                                                                 mov
     main()
                          (*pf)()
                                                                          r5, r0
                                                                                          // save func return value
                                                                 mov
     stack
                                                                         r0, r4
                                                                                          // arg 1 saved l
                                                                 mov
                         frame pad
                                                                          r6
                                                                                          // r0 = func(l, m)
                                                                 blx
                                                                          r0, r0, r5
                                                                                          // func(l,m) + func(j,k)
                                                                 add
                          oarg6
                                                                          r0, [r7]
                                                                                          // store sum to *i
                                                                 str
                          oarg5
                                                                         sp, fp, FP_OFF
                        Ir to main
                                                                 sub
     testp()
                                        fp
                                                                         {r4-r7, fp, lr}
                                                                 pop
     stack
                        main's fp
                                                                 bx
                                                                         lr
```

	Argument	distance	Address on Stack	Read variable	Write Variable
	int *i	ARG6	add r0, fp, ARG6	ldr r0, [fp, ARG6]	str r0, [fp, ARG6]
29	int (*fp)()	ARG5	add r0, fp, ARG5	ldr r0, [fp, ARG5]	str r0, [fp, ARG5]

sp

Extra Slides

By following the saved fp, you can find each stack frame

