

## Griffin Hurt

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow

[griffhurt@pitt.edu](mailto:griffhurt@pitt.edu)  
<https://griffinhurt.com>

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Friday 2 PM Recitation  
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Slides adapted from  
Shinwoo Kim, Martha Dixon, and Vinicius Petrucci

Department of Computer Science  
School of Computing & Information  
University of Pittsburgh

## Recitation 6: Assembly

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- Agenda
- Course News
- Assembly
- Quiz
- Malloc or Quiz 4, your call!

# Agenda

Course News!  
Assembly Overview  
Quiz  
Let's take a poll...  
Lab 4 or Malloc?

# Course News

Lab 4 (Assembly Lab) is out, due February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:59PM

Consider coming to my Monday or Tuesday office hours (The line gets long on Thursdays)

Malloc Project due Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:59PM

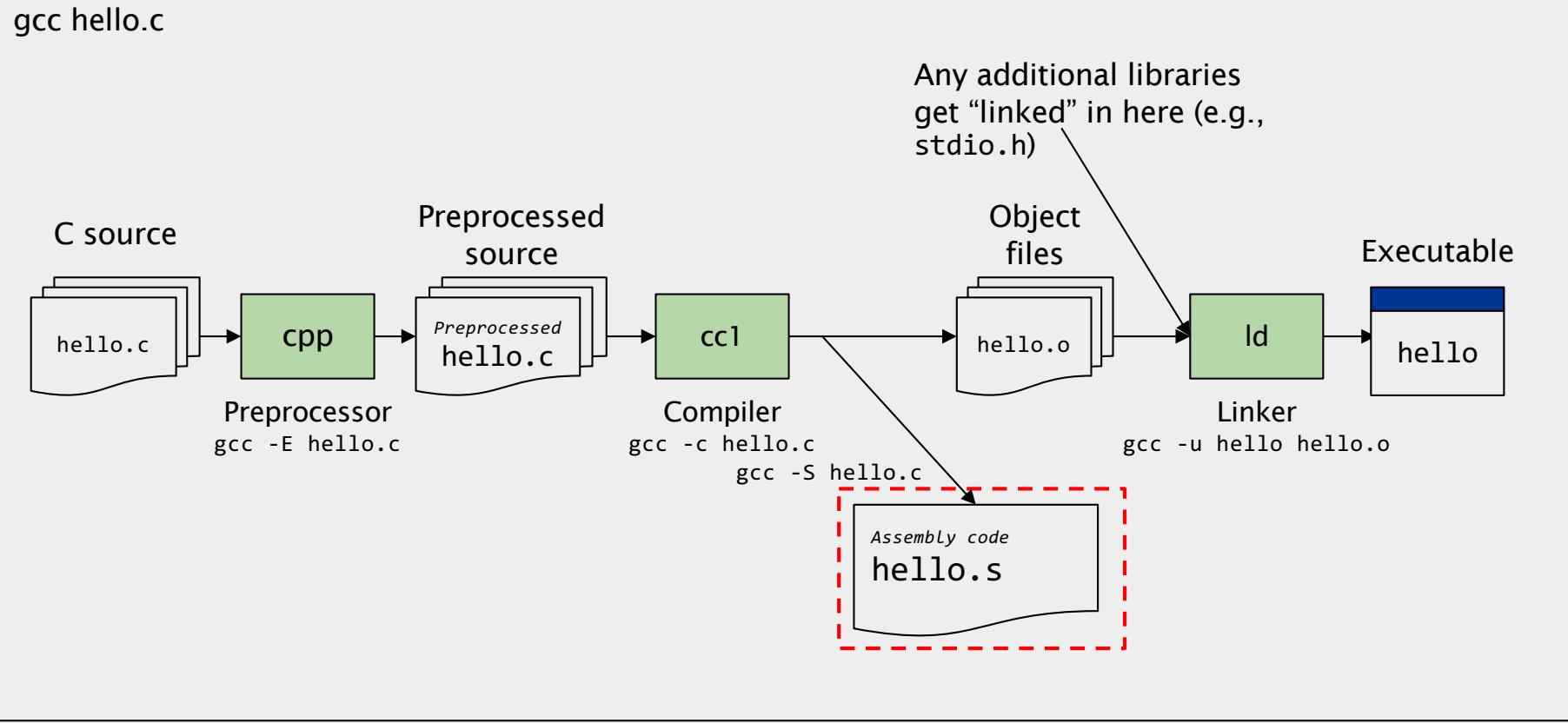
It's a doozy, start early please!

# Assembly Language

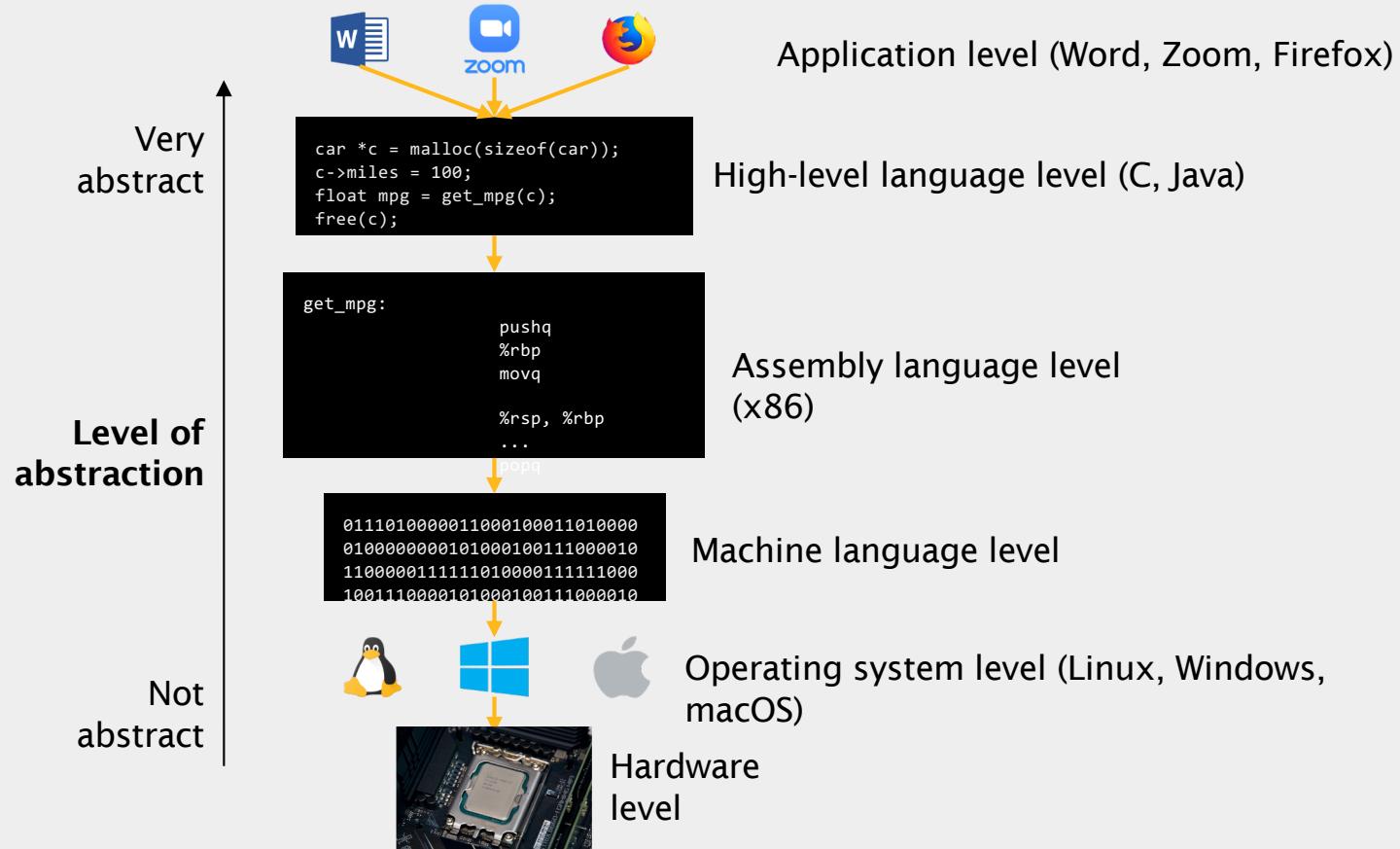
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*Because decoding 1s and 0s is hard*

# What we are building towards...



# Moving down the ladder of abstractions



# What is assembly?

→ **Assembly language** is a human-readable textual representation of machine language

High-level language  
(C, Java)

```
car *c = malloc(sizeof(car));  
c->miles = 100;  
c->gals = 17;  
float mpg = get_mpg(c);  
free(c);
```

Relatively Easy for us to understand

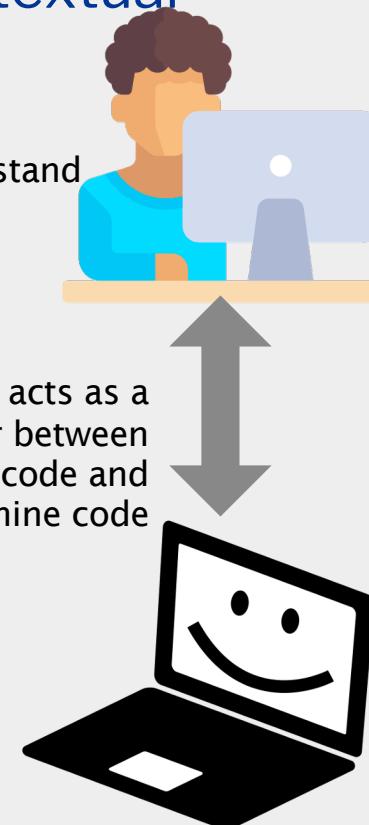
Machine language

```
011101000001100010001101000  
001000000001010001001110000  
101100000111111010000111111  
10000011111101000011111100
```

Easy for computer  
to understand

```
get_mpg:  
    pushq    %rbp  
    movq    %rsp, %rbp  
    ...  
    popq    %rbp  
    ret
```

Assembly acts as a  
translator between  
high-level code and  
machine code



# Keeping track of the registers

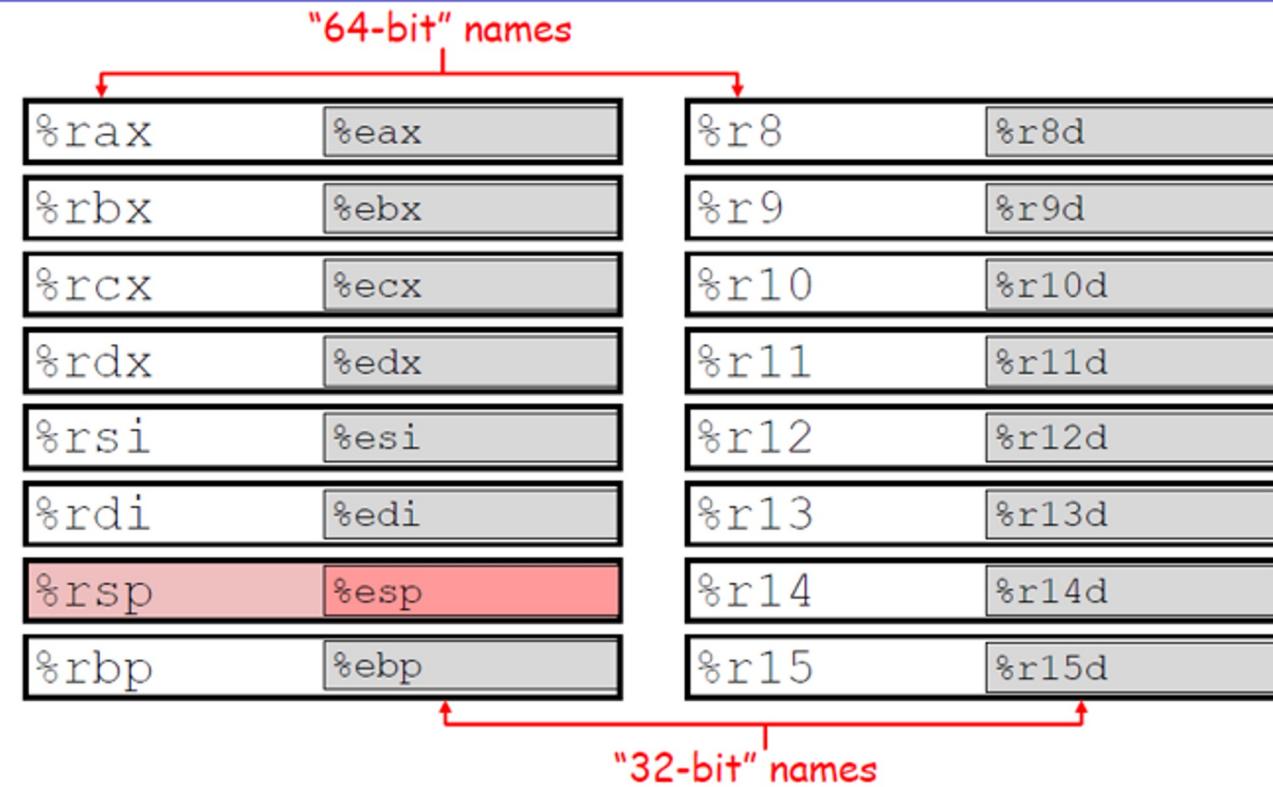
- Like in MIPS, x86 has calling conventions
  - The **C Application Binary Interface (ABI)**
  - Like MIPS, certain registers are typically used for returns values, args, etc
- The ABI is not defined by the language, but rather the OS
  - Windows and Linux (UNIX/System V) have a different C ABI
- In our x86-64 Linux C ABI,
  - `%rdi, %rsi, %rdx, %rcx, %r8, %r9` are used to pass arguments (like the `a` registers in MIPS)
    - Remaining arguments go on the stack
  - A function callee must preserve `%rbp, %rbx, %r12, %r13, %r14, %r15` (like the `s` registers in MIPS)
  - `%rax` (overflows into `%rdx` for 128-bits) stores the return value (like `v0, v1` in MIPS)
- Reference manual provides extra information

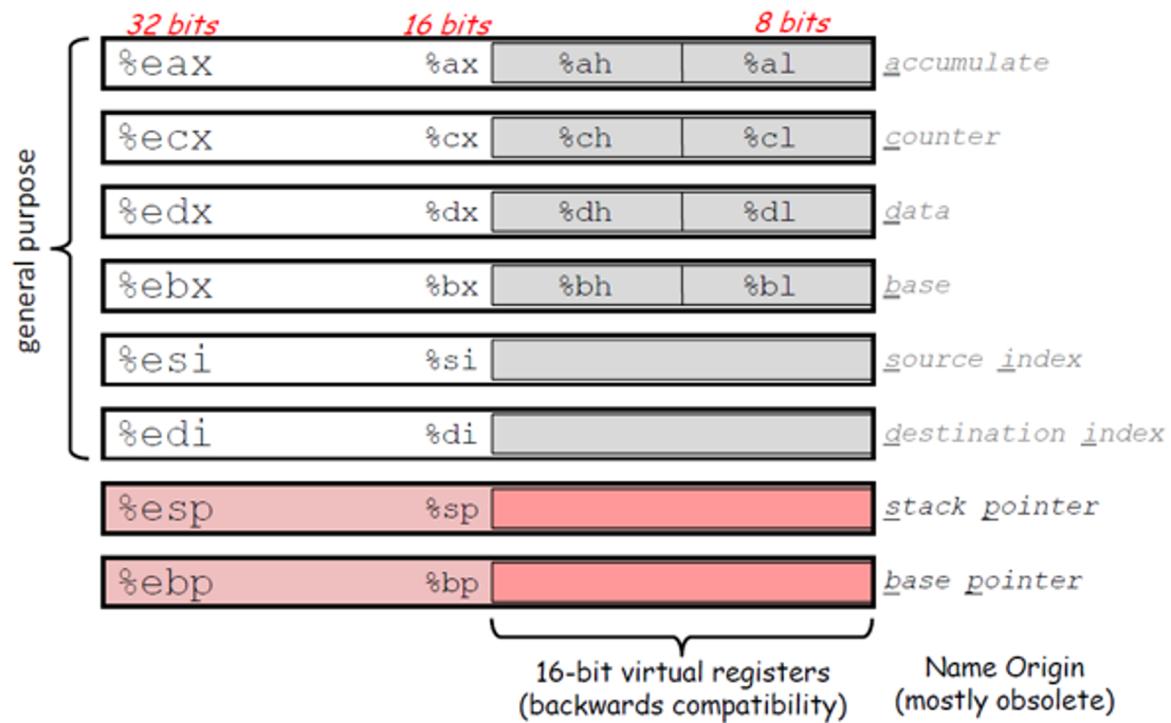
# Registers

- A register is a location within the processor that is able to store data
  - Names, not addresses
  - Much faster than DRAM
  - Can hold any value: addresses, values from operations, characters etc.
  - Usually, register
    - `%rip` stores the address of the next instruction
    - `%rsp` is used as a stack pointer
    - `%rax` holds the return value from a function
  - A register in x86-64 is 64 bits wide
    - ‘The lower 32-, 16- and 8-bit portions are selectable by a pseudo-register name’.

<https://ctf101.org/binary-exploitation/what-are-registers/>

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs107/cs107.1212/guide/x86-64.html>





**mov**

**General form:** mov\_ source, destination

- **mov**b** src, dst**  
**Move 1-byte "byte"**
- **mov**w** src, dst**  
**Move 2-byte "word"**
- **mov**l** src, dst**  
**Move 4-byte "long word"**
- **mov**q** src, dst**  
**Move 8-byte "quad word"**

- **movq src, dst** # general form of instruction dst = src
- **movl \$0, %eax** # %eax = 0
- **movq %rax, \$100** #Invalid!! destination cannot be an immediate value
- **movsbl %al, %edx** # copy 1-byte %al, sign-extend into 4-byte %edx
- **movzbl %al, %edx** # copy 1-byte %al, zero-extend into 4-byte %edx

## Operand Combinations

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	Source	Dest	Src, Dest	C Analog
movq	Imm	Reg	movq \$0x4, %rax	var_a = 0x4;
		Mem	movq \$-147, (%rax)	*p_a = -147;
	Reg	Reg	movq %rax, %rdx	var_d = var_a;
	Mem	Reg	movq (%rax), %rdx	*p_d = var_a;

# Addressing Modes - Example

- `movq %rdi, 0x568892` # direct (address is constant value)
- `movq %rdi, (%rax)` # indirect (address is in register %rax)
- `mov (%rsi), %rdi` # $%rdi = \text{Mem}[\%rsi]$
- `movq %rdi, -24(%rbp)` # indirect with displacement (address = %rbp -24)
- `movq %rsi, 8(%rsp, %rdi, 4)`  
# indirect with displacement and scaled-index (address = 8 + %rsp + %rdi\*4)
- `movq %rsi, 0x4(%rax, %rcx)` # $\text{Mem}[0x4 + \%rax + \%rcx * 1] = \%rsi$
- `movq %rsi, 0x8(%rdx, 4)` # $\text{Mem}(0x8 + \%rdx * 4) = \%rsi$

# lea

- `leaq src, dst`
  - "lea" stands for *load effective address*
  - `src` is address expression (any of the formats we've seen)
  - `dst` is a register
  - Sets `dst` to the *address* computed by the `src` expression (**does not go to memory! - it just does math**)
  - Example: `leaq (%rdx,%rcx,4), %rax`

# lea

- lea or Load effective address
  - Does not dereference the source address, it simply calculates its location.
  - `leaq 0x20(%rsp), %rdi # %rdi = %rsp + 0x20 (no dereference!)`
  - `leaq (%rdi,%rdx,1), %rax # %rax = %rdi + %rdx * 1`

# Will I have to write assembly code for this course?

- **No!** No matter how good you are at programming, you are no match for a modern compiler
  - Modern Compilers are just too good at optimization
    - There was a time when humans outperformed compilers
      - Those days are long gone now...
- However, you should be able to **read** assembly code
  - To figure out what your machine is doing
  - To guess the C code
- By the end of this lab, you should be able to freely translate assembly and C

# Quiz time!

---

Password is \_\_\_\_\_

# Diving into the Code!

---

See code: <https://github.com/shinwookim/asm-demo>

# Hello World! x86 edition

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
{
    puts("Hello World!");
    return 0;
}
```

text (code) segment:

```
55 48 89 E5 BF 00 00 00 00 E8 00 00 00  
00 B8 00 00 00 00 5D C3
```

data segment:

```
48 65 6C 6C 6F 2C 20 57 6F 72 6C
```

// Symbol table and other info omitted

```
.LC0:
    .string "Hello World!"

main:
    pushq %rbp
    movq %rsp, %rbp # rsp = stack pointer
    movl $.LC0, %edi # push func args
    call puts # call a function
    movl $0, %eax # eax = return register
    popq %rbp # prepare to return
    ret # return
```

Linker

Executable

# Debugging Assembly

- Recall that **GDB** worked on executables
  - You ran `gdb mdriver` and not `gdb mdriver.c`
- Having the source was nice
  - We used the `-g` flag when compiling
  - which allowed us to use `layout src` to view the code during execution
- ...but not necessary
- What if we don't have a source file ? (or the program was compiled without `-g` flag)
  - We can still run GDB!
  - Won't be able to see the source code ⇒ We need to inspect assembly code

Reading symbols from a.out...  
(No debugging symbols found in a.out)

# Displaying the assembly with `disas`

- Suppose we are in paused in a breakpoint
- We can view the assembly code around our current memory address using `disas`
  - Memory address that is held by the program counter
- But how do we set a breakpoint
  - if we don't have the code?
- Surely, we need a way to view ASM
  - Without first setting a breakpoint right?

```
Dump of assembler code for function __GI__IO_puts:  
Address range 0x7ffff7e09ed0 to 0x7ffff7e0a069:  
=> 0x00007ffff7e09ed0 <+0>:    endbr64  
 0x00007ffff7e09ed4 <+4>:    push  %r14  
 0x00007ffff7e09ed6 <+6>:    push  %r13  
 0x00007ffff7e09ed8 <+8>:    push  %r12  
 0x00007ffff7e09edc <+10>:   mov   %rdi,%r12  
 0x00007ffff7e09edd <+13>:   push  %rbp  
 0x00007ffff7e09ede <+14>:   push  %rbx  
 0x00007ffff7e09edf <+15>:   sub   $0x10,%rsp  
 0x00007ffff7e09ee3 <+19>:   call  0x7ffff7db1490 <*ABS*+0xa8720@plt>  
 0x00007ffff7e09ee8 <+24>:   mov   0x197f49(%rip),%r13      # 0x7ffff7fa1e38  
 0x00007ffff7e09eff <+31>:   mov   %rax,%rbx  
 0x00007ffff7e09ef2 <+34>:   mov   0x0(%r13),%rbp  
 0x00007ffff7e09ef6 <+38>:   mov   0x0(%rbp),%eax  
 0x00007ffff7e09ef9 <+41>:   and  $0x8000,%eax  
 0x00007ffff7e09efe <+46>:   jne   0x7ffff7e09f58 <__GI__IO_puts+136>  
 0x00007ffff7e09f00 <+48>:   mov   %fs:0x10,%r14  
 0x00007ffff7e09f09 <+57>:   mov   0x88(%rbp),%r8  
 0x00007ffff7e09f10 <+64>:   cmp   %r14,0x8(%r8)  
 0x00007ffff7e09f14 <+68>:   je    0x7ffff7e0a008 <__GI__IO_puts+312>  
 0x00007ffff7e09f1a <+74>:   mov   $0x1,%edx  
 0x00007ffff7e09f1f <+79>:   lock  cmpxchq %edx,(%r8)  
 0x00007ffff7e09f24 <+84>:   jne   0x7ffff7e0a050 <__GI__IO_puts+384>  
 0x00007ffff7e09f2a <+90>:   mov   0x88(%rbp),%r8  
 0x00007ffff7e09f31 <+97>:   mov   0x0(%r13),%rdi  
 0x00007ffff7e09f35 <+101>:  mov   %r14,0x8(%r8)  
 0x00007ffff7e09f39 <+105>:  mov   0xc0(%rdi),%eax  
--Type <RET> for more, q to quit, c to continue without paging--
```

# Displaying the assembly with `layout asm`

- The `layout asm` command displays the assembly of the entire program
  - You can scroll through the code and identify the memory addresses to set breakpoints
- But what if your program is *Huuuuge*?
  - That's gonna be a lot of scrolling

```
0x1119 <__do_global_dtors_aux+25>      je    0x1127 <__do_global_dtors_aux+39>
0x111b <__do_global_dtors_aux+27>      mov   0x2ee6(%rip),%rdi      # 0x4008
0x1122 <__do_global_dtors_aux+34>      call  0x1040 <_cxa_finalize@plt>
0x1127 <__do_global_dtors_aux+39>      call  0x1090 <deregister_tm_clones>
0x112c <__do_global_dtors_aux+44>      movb $0x1,0x2edd(%rip)     # 0x4010 <completed.0>
0x1133 <__do_global_dtors_aux+51>      pop   %rbp
0x1134 <__do_global_dtors_aux+52>      ret
0x1135 <__do_global_dtors_aux+53>      nopl  (%rax)
0x1138 <__do_global_dtors_aux+56>      ret
0x1139 <__do_global_dtors_aux+57>      nopl  0x0(%rax)
0x1140 <frame_dummy>                  endbr64
0x1144 <frame_dummy+4>                jmp   0x10c0 <register_tm_clones>
0x1149 <main>                         endbr64
0x114d <main+4>                      push  %rbp
0x114e <main+5>                      mov   %rsp,%rbp
0x1151 <main+8>                      lea   0xeac(%rip),%rax      # 0x2004
```

exec No process In:  
(gdb)

# Let's put the asm in a file ⇒ Now we can **ctrl+f**

`objdump -d program > program.s`

- GNU provides a tool called object dump for unix-like systems
  - Let's you inspect information from object files
  - The **-d** flag disassembles the program and displays the **.code** section
  - The **>** flag redirects your standard I/O output to a file

```
USER@thoth:$ objdump -d a.out
a.out:      file format elf64-x86-64
Disassembly of section .init:
0000000000001000 <_init>:
 1000:   f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
 1004:   48 83 ec 08          sub    $0x8,%rsp
 1008:   48 8b 05 d9 2f 00 00  mov    0x2fd9(%rip),%rax      # 3fe8
 100f:   48 85 c0          test   %rax,%rax
 1012:   74 02          je     1016 <_init+0x16>
 1014:   ff d0          call   *%rax
 1016:   48 83 c4 08          add    $0x8,%rsp
 101a:   c3          ret

...
```

# GDB Assembly Edition

- Back to GDB...
- You can still set **breakpoints**
  - Not at specific lines of code...but at specific instructions (which are stored in memory)
  - `break *0x00005555555515b`
  - Why the `*`?
  - `*main+24`
    - You can set breakpoints at function offsets
    - Get this from GDB's `layout asm`
- You can still step through your code
  - Again, not stepping through lines of code, but through CPU instructions
  - Using `stepi` instead of `step`
    - `nexti` instead of `next`
    - `Continue`

# GDB Assembly Edition

- Examining Memory
  - We can print values stored at memory address or at registers
  - `print/format expr`
    - Indicate registers with `$` (NOT `%`)
    - To print a value stored in a memory address use `*`
    - `format` tells us how to interpret values at that memory location
      - `d`: decimal
      - `x`: hex
      - `t`: binary
      - `f`: floating point
      - `i`: instruction
      - `c`: character
    - `p $rdi` displays the content at `%rdi` in a decimal format
  - `x MEM_ADDR` prints memory content
    - Just because you print it as decimal does not mean that the value is a decimal
    - Interpretation of values depends on the context (which you need to provide)
  - `info registers` lets you see all registers at once

# *Need help with GDB?*

---

Come to office hours!

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

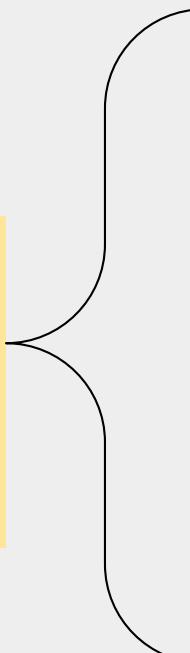
int main(void)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    {
        printf("%d", i);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

```
0x0000000000001155 <+12>:    movl  $0x0,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000115c <+19>:    jmp   0x117b <main+50>
0x000000000000115e <+21>:    mov   -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x0000000000001161 <+24>:    mov   %eax,%esi
0x0000000000001163 <+26>:    lea   0xe9a(%rip),%rax
0x000000000000116a <+33>:    mov   %rax,%rdi
0x000000000000116d <+36>:    mov   $0x0,%eax
0x0000000000001172 <+41>:    call  0x1050 <printf@plt>
0x0000000000001177 <+46>:    addl $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117b <+50>:    cmpl $0x9,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117f <+54>:    jle   0x115e <main+21>
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    int i = 0;
    while (i < 10)
    {
        printf("%d", i);
        i++;
    }
    return 0;
}
```



```
0x0000000000001155 <+12>:    movl  $0x0,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000115c <+19>:    jmp   0x117b <main+50>
0x000000000000115e <+21>:    mov   -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x0000000000001161 <+24>:    mov   %eax,%esi
0x0000000000001163 <+26>:    lea   0xe9a(%rip),%rax
0x000000000000116a <+33>:    mov   %rax,%rdi
0x000000000000116d <+36>:    mov   $0x0,%eax
0x0000000000001172 <+41>:    call  0x1050 <printf@plt>
0x0000000000001177 <+46>:    addl  $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117b <+50>:    cmpl  $0x9,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117f <+54>:    jle   0x115e <main+21>
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    {
        printf("%d", i);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

```
0x0000000000001155 <+12>:    movl  $0x0,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000115c <+19>:    jmp   0x117b <main+50>
0x000000000000115e <+21>:    mov   -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x0000000000001161 <+24>:    mov   %eax,%esi
0x0000000000001163 <+26>:    lea   0xe9a(%rip),%rax
0x000000000000116a <+33>:    mov   %rax,%rdi
0x000000000000116d <+36>:    mov   $0x0,%eax
0x0000000000001172 <+41>:    call  0x1050 <printf@plt>
0x0000000000001177 <+46>:    addl  $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117b <+50>:    cmpl  $0x9,-0x4(%rbp)
0x000000000000117f <+54>:    jle   0x115e <main+21>
```

Wait...why is the assembly code the same?

# **for loops == while loops!**

---

Your CPU treats them the same way!

\* do-while loops also work the same way (Write a short program and inspect the assembly!)

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
{
    int input;
    scanf("%d", &input);
    if (input > 10)
        printf("Big");
    else printf("Not Big");
    return 0;
}
```

```
11bf: 8b 45 f4          mov -0xc(%rbp),%eax
11c2: 83 f8 0a          cmp $0xa,%eax
11c5: 7e 16              jle 11dd <main+0x54>
11c7: 48 8d 05 39 0e 00 00  lea 0xe39(%rip),%rax
11ce: 48 89 c7          mov %rax,%rdi
11d1: b8 00 00 00 00 00  mov $0x0,%eax
11d6: e8 a5 fe ff ff   call 1080
<printf@plt>
11db: eb 14              jmp 11f1 <main+0x68>
11dd: 48 8d 05 27 0e 00 00  lea 0xe27(%rip),%rax
11e4: 48 89 c7          mov %rax,%rdi
11e7: b8 00 00 00 00 00  mov $0x0,%eax
11ec: e8 8f fe ff ff   call 1080
<printf@plt>
```

# Conditional statements works as expected

---

Who knew that `if-else` executed different based on  
*conditions*?

# Condition Codes

- `cmpq op2, op1` # computes result = op1 - op2, discards result, sets condition codes
- `testq op2, op1` # computes result = op1 & op2, discards result, sets condition codes
- Condition Codes - **ZF** (zero flag), **SF** (sign flag), **OF** (overflow flag, signed), and **CF** (carry flag, unsigned)

# Our *real* first assembly code analysis

---

Looking through a real program!

Special thanks to Jake Kasper for providing slides & code

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}
```

```
int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

**Prefix increment**

Increments first, then returns

```
0000000000001149 <main>:
1149:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
114d:    55                  push   %rbp
114e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
1151:    48 83 ec 20          sub    $0x20,%rsp
1155:    89 7d ec            mov    %edi,-0x14(%rbp)
1158:    48 89 75 e0          mov    %rsi,-0x20(%rbp)
115c:    bf 05 00 00 00        mov    %0,0(%rbp)
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}
```

```
int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
%rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
$0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

%rbp needs maintains the current stack frame

- To preserve the previous stack frame
- it gets pushed onto the stack

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5          mov    %rsp,%rbp
                                %rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc          mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01        addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
                                $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc          mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
                                0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
```

%edi is our first argument register, so we're moving the value of our argument (num) into the current stack frame

Why -0x4?

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

Increment the value of the argument we just stored in the stack

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
%rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
$0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

Move our data we've been editing in the stack, to our return register

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

Pop the stack frame from the stack, as we're about to return from the current function scope, and this will load the previous stack frame back to `%rbp`

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov
%rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov
%edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl
$0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov
0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop %rbp42
```

# C Control Structures → Assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int myNum = increment(5);
    printf("My num is %d\n", myNum);
    return 0;
}

int increment(int num)
{
    return ++num;
}
```

Return to caller

What about the return value?  
It's already in the return  
register(%eax)

```
0000000000001189 <increment>:
1189:    f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
118d:    55                  push %rbp
118e:    48 89 e5            mov    %rsp,%rbp
%rsp,%rbp
1191:    89 7d fc            mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1194:    83 45 fc 01          addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
1198:    8b 45 fc            mov    0x4(%rbp),%eax
119b:    5d                  pop    %rbp
```

# Let's inspect `increment()` with GDB

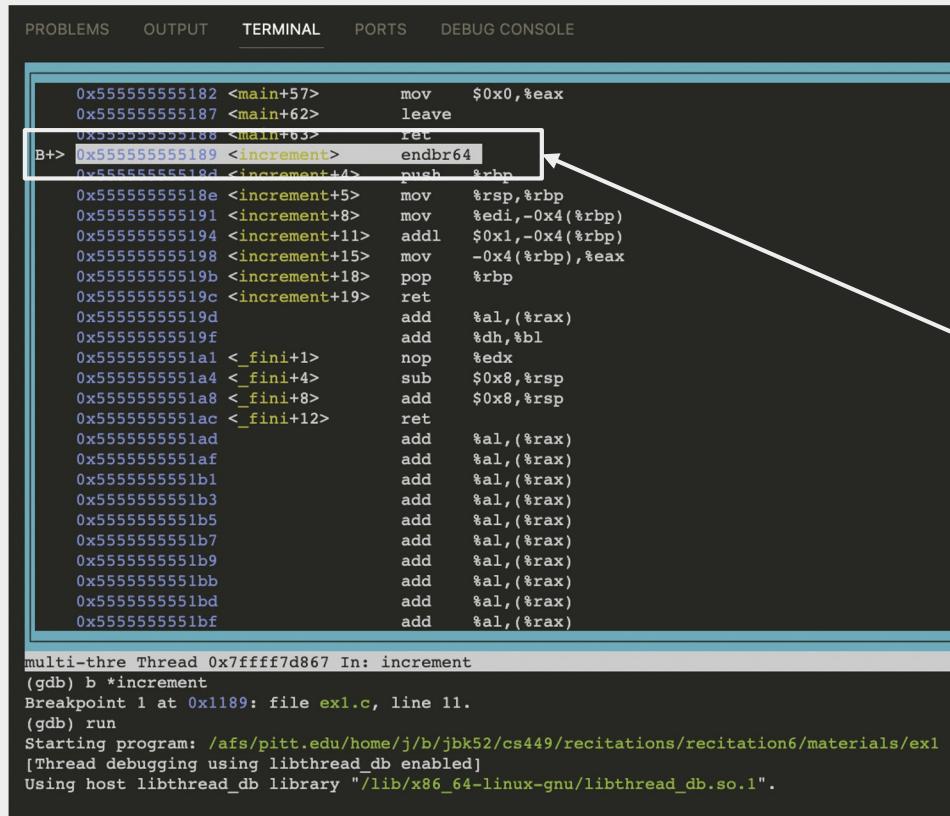
The screenshot shows the assembly dump from GDB. The assembly code for the `increment` function is highlighted with a yellow box. The instruction at address 0x1189, which is the start of the `increment` function, has a blue arrow pointing to it from the text in the callout box below. The assembly code for `main` is also visible above the `increment` function.

```
0x1149 <main>          endbr64
0x114d <main+4>         push    %rbp
0x114e <main+5>         mov     %rsp,%rbp
0x1151 <main+8>         sub    $0x20,%rsp
0x1155 <main+12>        mov     %edi,-0x14(%rbp)
0x1158 <main+15>        mov     %rsi,-0x20(%rbp)
0x115c <main+19>        mov     $0x5,%edi
0x1161 <main+24>        call    0x1189 <increment>
0x1166 <main+29>        mov     %eax,-0x4(%rbp)
0x1169 <main+32>        mov     -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x116c <main+35>        mov     %eax,%esi
0x116e <main+37>        lea    0xe8f(%rip),%rax      # 0x2004
0x1175 <main+44>        mov     %rax,%rdi
0x1178 <main+47>        mov     $0x0,%eax
0x117d <main+52>        call    0x1050 <printf@plt>
0x1182 <main+57>        mov     $0x0,%eax
0x1187 <main+62>        leave
0x1188 <main+63>        ret
b+ 0x1189 <increment>   endbr64
0x118d <increment+4>    push    %rbp
0x118e <increment+5>    mov     %rsp,%rbp
0x1191 <increment+8>    mov     %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
0x1194 <increment+11>   addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x1198 <increment+15>   mov     -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x119b <increment+18>   pop    %rbp
0x119c <increment+19>   ret

exec No process In:
(gdb) b *increment
Breakpoint 1 at 0x1189: file ex1.c, line 11.
(gdb)
```

Set a breakpoint at the start of the **assembly** for increment using the \*

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB



The screenshot shows a debugger interface with several tabs: PROBLEMS, OUTPUT, TERMINAL, PORTS, and DEBUG CONSOLE. The DEBUG CONSOLE tab is active, displaying assembly code and command-line interactions.

**Assembly Output:**

```
0x55555555182 <main+57>    mov    $0x0,%eax
0x55555555187 <main+62>    leave
B+> 0x55555555188 <main+63>    ret
0x55555555189 <increment>    endbr64
0x5555555518d <increment+4>  push   %rbp
0x5555555518e <increment+5>  mov    %rsp,%rbp
0x55555555191 <increment+8>  mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
0x55555555194 <increment+11> addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x55555555198 <increment+15> mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x5555555519b <increment+18> pop    %rbp
0x5555555519c <increment+19> ret
0x5555555519d           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555519f           add    %dh,%bl
0x555555551a1 <_fini+1>    nop
0x555555551a4 <_fini+4>    sub    $0x8,%rsp
0x555555551a8 <_fini+8>    add    $0x8,%rsp
0x555555551ac <_fini+12>   ret
0x555555551ad           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551af           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b1           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b3           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b5           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b7           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b9           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bb           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bd           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bf           add    %al,(%rax)

multi-thread Thread 0x7ffff7d867 In: increment
(gdb) b *increment
Breakpoint 1 at 0x1189: file ex1.c, line 11.
(gdb) run
Starting program: /afs/pitt.edu/home/j/b/jbk52/cs449/recitations/recitation6/materials/ex1
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".
```

After running, we've hit the breakpoint at increment

Let's read the assembly line by line using **ni** (next instruction), though we can skip ahead a few lines until we get to the more important function details

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB

```
B+ 0x555555555182 <main+57>      mov    $0x0,%eax
B+ 0x555555555187 <main+62>      leave
B+ 0x555555555188 <main+63>      ret
B+ 0x555555555189 <increment>     endbr64
B+ 0x55555555519d <increment+4>   push   %rbp
> 0x55555555518e <increment+5>   mov    %rsp,%rbp
B+ 0x555555555191 <increment+8>   mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
B+ 0x555555555194 <increment+11>  addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
B+ 0x555555555198 <increment+15>  mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax
B+ 0x55555555519b <increment+18>  pop    %rbp
B+ 0x55555555519c <increment+19>  ret
B+ 0x55555555519d                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x55555555519f                   add    %dh,%bl
B+ 0x5555555551a1 <_fini+1>      nop
B+ 0x5555555551a4 <_fini+4>      sub    $0x8,%rsp
B+ 0x5555555551a8 <_fini+8>      add    $0x8,%rsp
B+ 0x5555555551ac <_fini+12>    ret
B+ 0x5555555551ad                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551af                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551b1                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551b3                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551b5                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551b7                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551b9                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551bb                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551bd                   add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555551bf                   add    %al,(%rax)
```

This is the line in which our stack frame pointer, `%rbp`, is being updated to contain the current stack address

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB

```
B+ 0x555555555182 <main+57>      mov    $0x0,%eax
B+ 0x555555555187 <main+62>      leave
B+ 0x555555555188 <main+63>      ret
B+ 0x555555555189 <increment>     endbr64
B+ 0x55555555518d <increment+4>   push   %rbp
B+ 0x55555555518e <increment+5>   mov    %rsp,%rbp
> 0x555555555191 <increment+8>   mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
0x555555555194 <increment+11>   addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
0x555555555198 <increment+15>   mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x55555555519b <increment+18>   pop    %rbp
0x55555555519c <increment+19>   ret
0x55555555519d           add    %al,(%rax)
0x55555555519f           add    %dh,%bl
0x5555555551a1 <_fini+1>    nop
0x5555555551a4 <_fini+4>    sub    $0x8,%rsp
0x5555555551a8 <_fini+8>    add    $0x8,%rsp
0x5555555551ac <_fini+12>   ret
0x5555555551ad           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551af           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551b1           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551b3           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551b5           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551b7           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551b9           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551bb           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551bd           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555551bf           add    %al,(%rax)
```

We've now executed the instruction to add the current stack pointer to %rbp

We are also about to execute the line to put the argument register's contents into the stack frame, so let's check the value of the argument register:

```
p $rdi → (gdb) p $rdi
$1 = 5
```

This makes sense, as we passed 5 into our function in our C code

```
increment(5);
```

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB

```
B+ 0x555555555189 <increment>    endbr64  
0x55555555518d <increment+4>    push   %rbp  
0x55555555518e <increment+5>    mov    %rsp,%rbp  
0x555555555191 <increment+8>    mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)  
> 0x555555555194 <increment+11> addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)  
0x555555555198 <increment+15>    mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax  
0x55555555519b <increment+18>    pop    %rbp  
0x55555555519c <increment+19>    ret  
0x55555555519d                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x55555555519f                add    %dh,%bl  
0x5555555551a1 <_fini+1>      nop  
0x5555555551a4 <_fini+4>      sub    $0x8,%rsp  
0x5555555551a8 <_fini+8>      add    $0x8,%rsp  
0x5555555551ac <_fini+12>    ret  
0x5555555551ad                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551af                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551b1                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551b3                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551b5                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551b7                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551b9                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551bb                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551bd                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551bf                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551c1                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551c3                add    %al,(%rax)  
0x5555555551c5                add    %al,(%rax)
```

Now we stored the argument register value into our stack frame. To check that this update actually changed our stack frame, let's print the integer that lies below the stack pointer:

**x/-4bx \$rbp** → Read the previous 4 bytes

```
(gdb) x/-4bx $rbp  
0x7fffffff18c: 0x05 0x00 0x00 0x00
```

**x/-1w \$rbp** → Read the previous word (word is the size of an integer)

```
(gdb) x/-1w $rbp  
0x7fffffff18c: 5
```

We can see both of these led us to the value 5 being stored in the stack frame

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB

```
B+ 0x55555555182 <main+57>      mov    $0x0,%eax
0x55555555187 <main+62>      leave
0x55555555188 <main+63>      ret
0x55555555189 <increment>      endbr64
0x5555555518d <increment+4>    push   %rbp
0x5555555518e <increment+5>    mov    %rsp,%rbp
0x55555555191 <increment+8>    mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
0x55555555194 <increment+11>   addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
> 0x55555555198 <increment+15>  mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax
0x5555555519b <increment+18>   pop    %rbp
0x5555555519c <increment+19>   ret
0x5555555519d           add    %al,(%rax)
0x5555555519f           add    %dh,%bl
0x555555551a1 <_fini+1>     nop
0x555555551a4 <_fini+4>     sub    $0x8,%rsp
0x555555551a8 <_fini+8>     add    $0x8,%rsp
0x555555551ac <_fini+12>   ret
0x555555551ad           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551af           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b1           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b3           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b5           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b7           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551b9           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bb           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bd           add    %al,(%rax)
0x555555551bf           add    %al,(%rax)
```

At this point, we've run the line to increment the value in the stack frame, and are waiting to execute this line.

To see if this change was made, let's again print out the values:

**x/-4bx \$rbp** → Read the previous 4 bytes as hex

```
(gdb) x/-4bx $rbp
0x7fffffff18c: 0x06 0x00 0x00 0x00
```

**x/-1wx \$rbp** → Read the previous word (word is the size of an integer) as hex

```
(gdb) x/-1wx $rbp
0x7fffffff18c: 0x00000006
```

Since the value changed to 6, the increment was successful, and we can see where that change occurred.

# Tracing through the code w/ GDB

```
B+ 0x55555555182 <main+57>      mov    $0x0,%eax
B+ 0x55555555187 <main+62>      leave
B+ 0x55555555188 <main+63>      ret
B+ 0x55555555189 <increment>     endbr64
B+ 0x5555555518d <increment+4>   push   %rbp
B+ 0x5555555518e <increment+5>   mov    %rsp,%rbp
B+ 0x55555555191 <increment+8>   mov    %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
B+ 0x55555555194 <increment+11>  addl   $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
B+ 0x55555555198 <increment+15>  mov    -0x4(%rbp),%eax
> 0x5555555519b <increment+18>  pop    %rbp
B+ 0x5555555519c <increment+19>  ret
B+ 0x5555555519d                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x5555555519f                 add    %dh,%bl
B+ 0x555555551a1 <_fini+1>     nop
B+ 0x555555551a4 <_fini+4>     sub    $0x8,%rsp
B+ 0x555555551a8 <_fini+8>     add    $0x8,%rsp
B+ 0x555555551ac <_fini+12>    ret
B+ 0x555555551ad                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551af                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551b1                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551b3                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551b5                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551b7                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551b9                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551bb                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551bd                 add    %al,(%rax)
B+ 0x555555551bf                 add    %al,(%rax)
```

%eax, the return register, should contain the value 6 that we want to return to the user. Let's see:

```
p $rax → (gdb) p $rax
$3 = 6
```

%eax now contains the accurate return value from our function, so we can return to the previous caller after adjusting the stack.

# Lab 4

---

Assembly Lab: ASM!

# Now, it's your turn!

- In lab 4, you will practice:
  - Reading assembly
  - Recognizing common patterns
  - Using **gdb** to debug assembly code + inspect memory!
- Part A: Investigating the code!
  - Reading simple functions
    - Similar to what we just did
  - Deep dive into control flow, raise operations, hidden arguments
  - **The Test.**
    - Can you read assembly code tell me what it does?
      - **Gradescope submission**
- Part B: Inspecting memory
  - Can you debug an executable by looking at assembly code and using gdb?
    - **Gradescope submission**

# Malloc Tutorial

## **CS 0449: Introduction to System Software**

Slides from Shinwoo Kim



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

School of Computing  
and Information

# Malloc Implementation

Consider an allocator implementation with the following characteristics:

The first-fit free algorithm is used to allocate data.

All blocks have a header with a size and a pointer to the previous block.

The header is 16B (2\*8bytes) in size.

Positive sizes indicate the block is allocated, and negative sizes indicate it is free.

All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.

When a block is split, the lower (first) part of the block becomes the allocated part and the upper (second) part becomes the new free block.

If the heap doesn't have enough space to hold the data, it grows by the minimum amount needed to fit the data. Always successfully.

# Malloc Implementation

Consider an allocator implementation with the following characteristics:

The first-fit free algorithm is used to allocate data.

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**The header is 16B (2\*8bytes) in size.**

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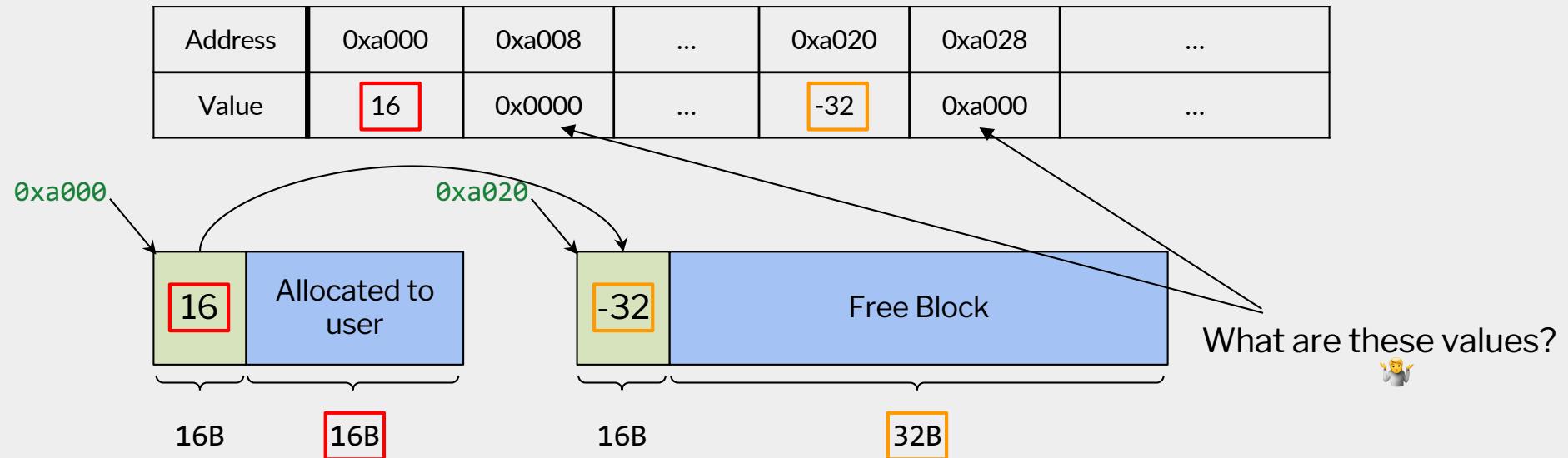
**All freed blocks are immediately coalesced** if possible.

When a block is split, the lower (first) part of the block becomes the allocated part and the upper (second) part becomes the new free block.

If the heap doesn't have enough space to hold the data, it grows by the minimum amount needed to fit the data. Always successfully.

# Memory Diagram

E.g., the following heap contains an allocated block of size 16, followed by a free block of size 32. The top row contains memory addresses, and the bottom row contains the values stored at those memory addresses.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

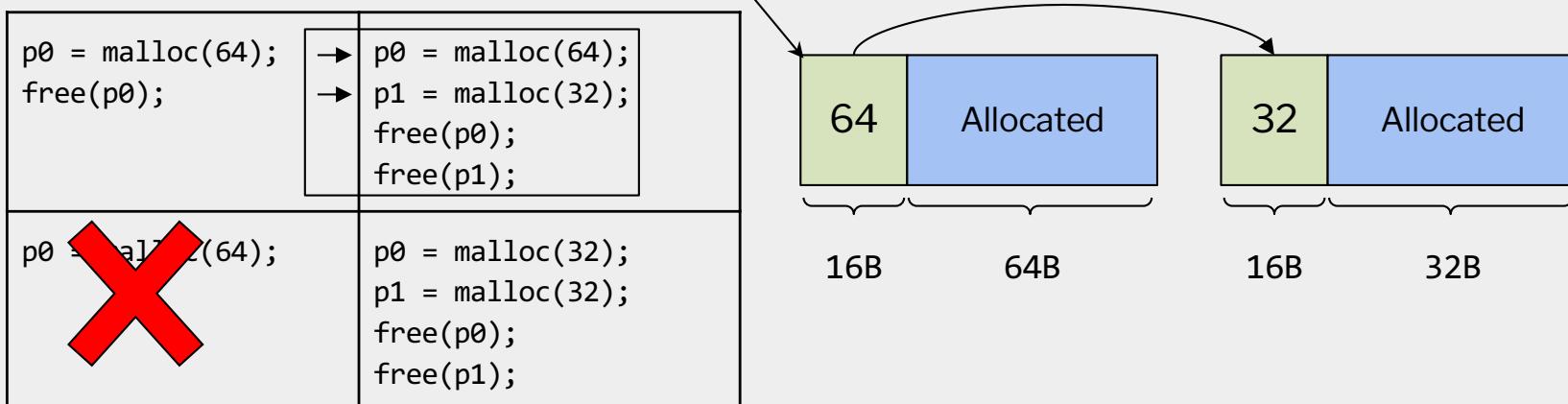
Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

1. The only block in the heap is a **free block** of size 64B
  - For there to be a free block, a block must first have been allocated, then freed
  - Look for `malloc()` and `free()` sequence (in that order!)

<code>p0 = malloc(64);</code> <code>free(p0);</code>	<code>p0 = malloc(64);</code> <code>p1 = malloc(32);</code> <code>free(p0);</code> <code>free(p1);</code>
<del><code>p0 = malloc(64);</code></del> 	<code>p0 = malloc(32);</code> <code>p1 = malloc(32);</code> <code>free(p0);</code> <code>free(p1);</code>

**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

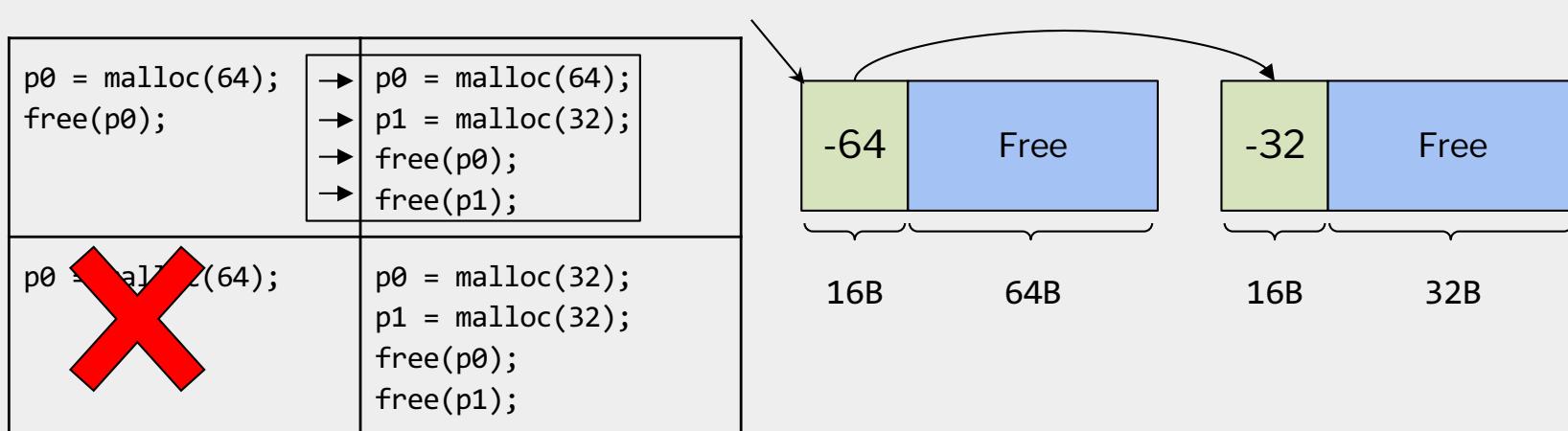
Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

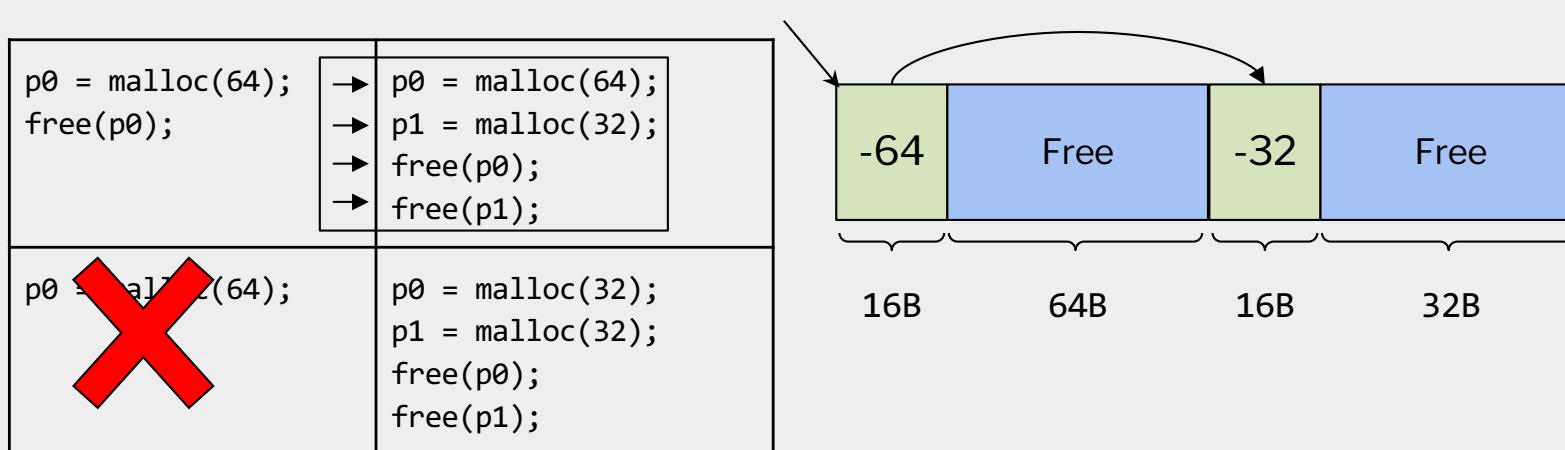
1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

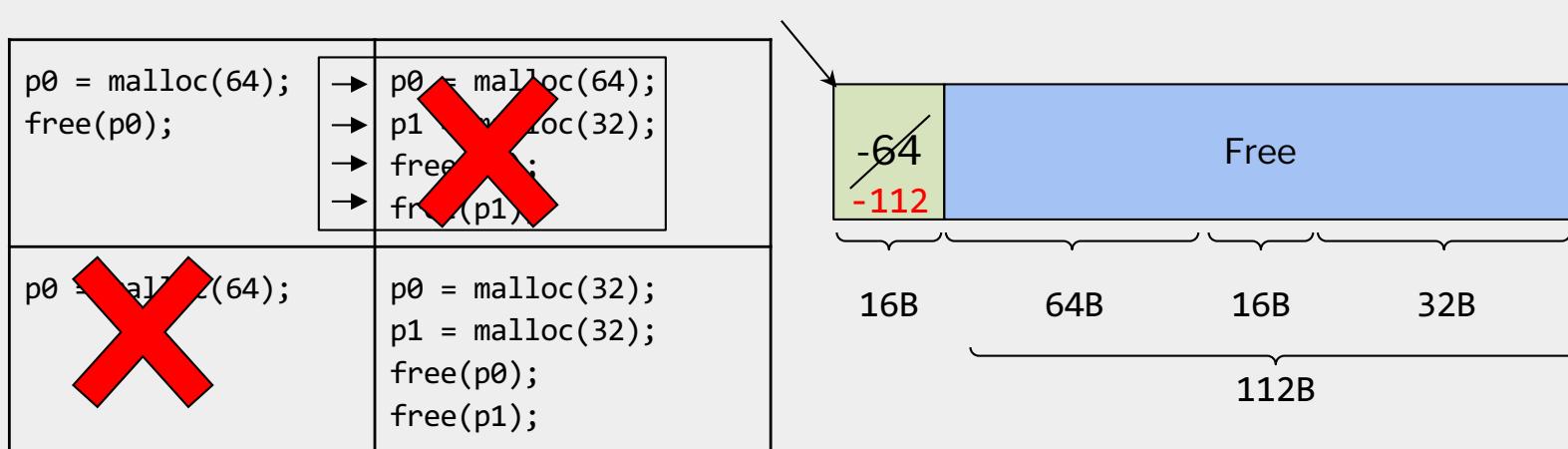
1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

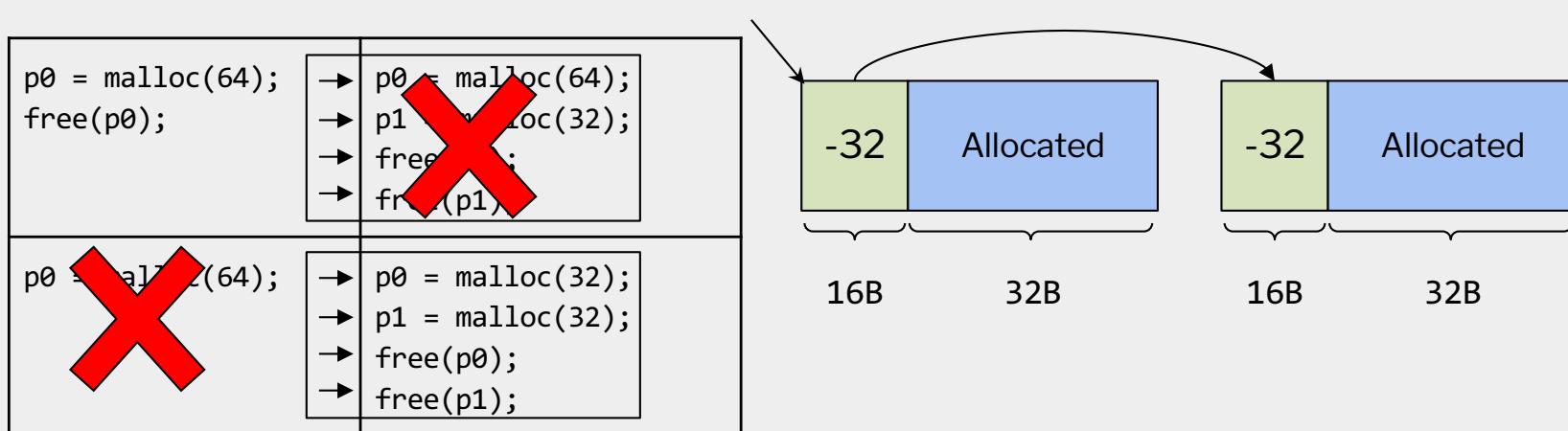
1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

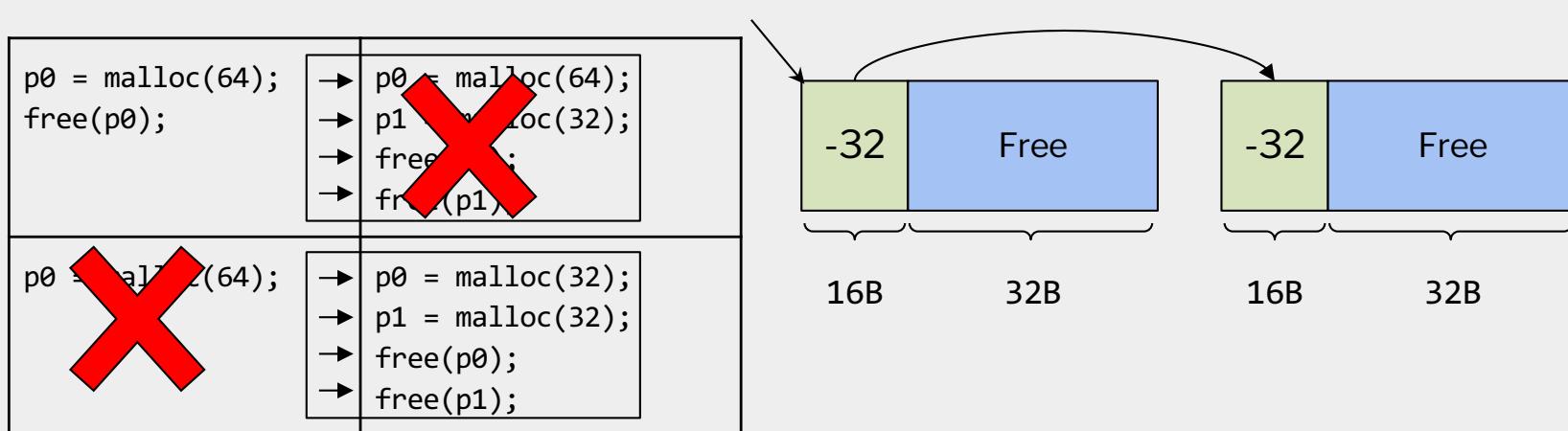
1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



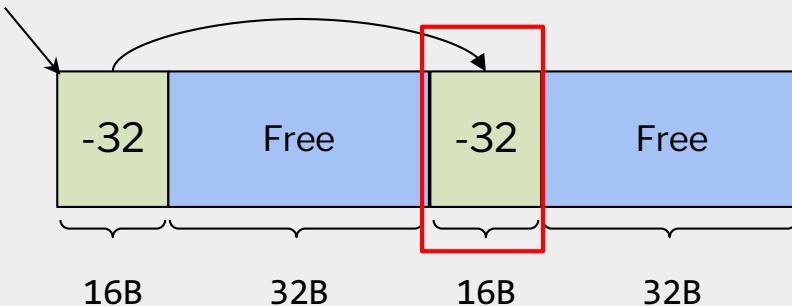
**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.

When coalescing, the “header” of the second block is merged into the payload region

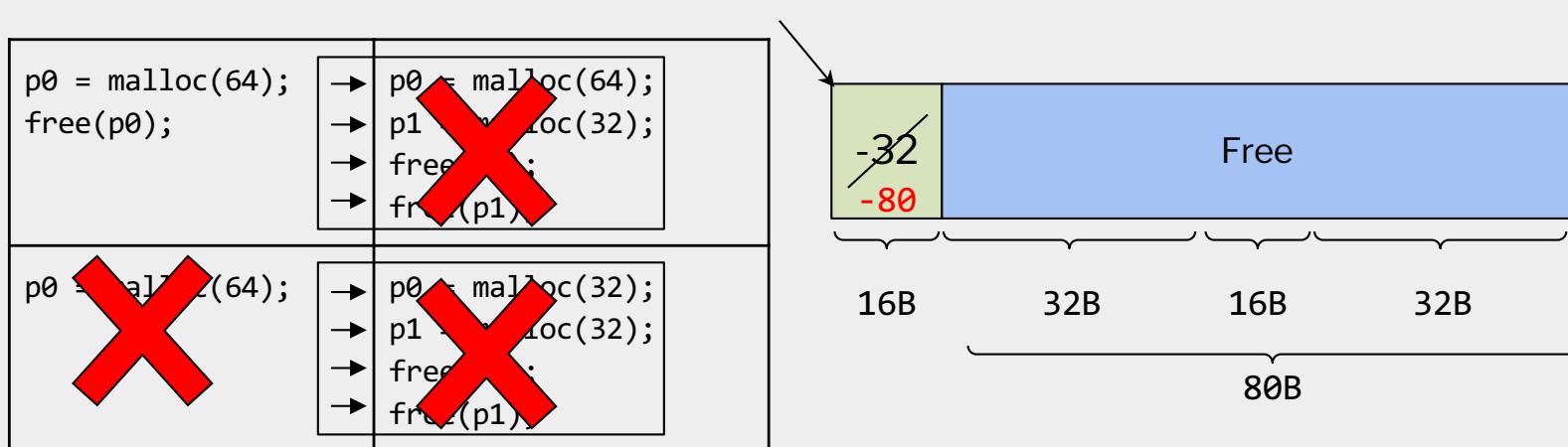
<pre>p0 = malloc(64); free(p0);</pre>	<pre>→ p0 = malloc(64); → p1 = malloc(32); → free(p0); → free(p1);</pre>
<p style="text-align: center;"><big>X</big></p>	<pre>p0 = malloc(64); p0 = malloc(32); p1 = malloc(32); free(p0); free(p1);</pre>



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

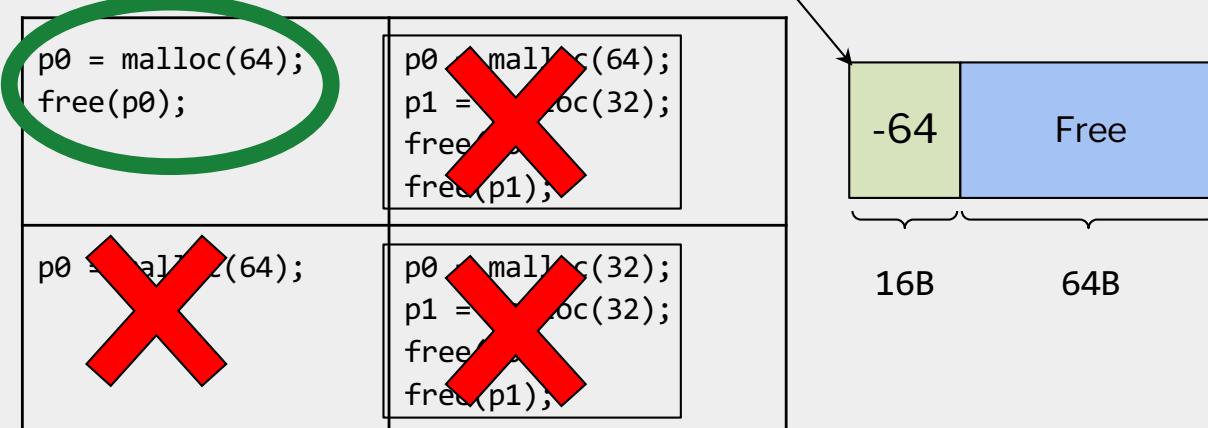
1. All freed blocks are immediately coalesced if possible.



**Assuming an initially empty heap, and given the current state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...

1. The only block in the heap is a **free block** of size 64B
  - For there to be a free block, a block must first have been allocated, then freed
  - Look for `malloc()` and `free()` sequence (in that order!)



**Assuming the heap starts as drawn in the previous question, and given the final state of the heap represented below, which of the malloc sequence was executed?**

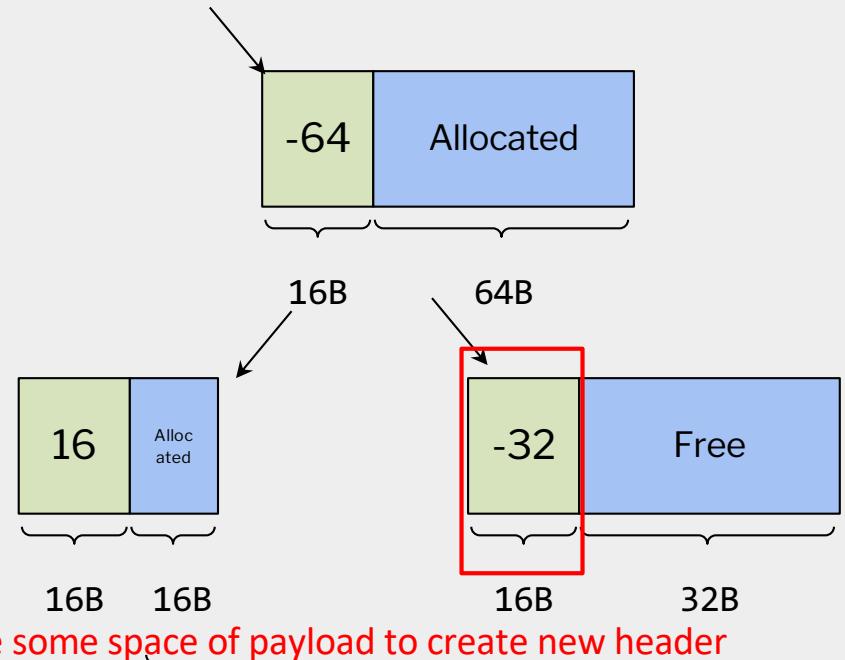
Address	0xa000	0xa008	...
Value	-64	0x0000	...



Address	0xa000	0xa008	...	0xa020	...
Value	16	0x0000	...	-32	...

Allocated block of size 16  $\Rightarrow$  `malloc(16)` called

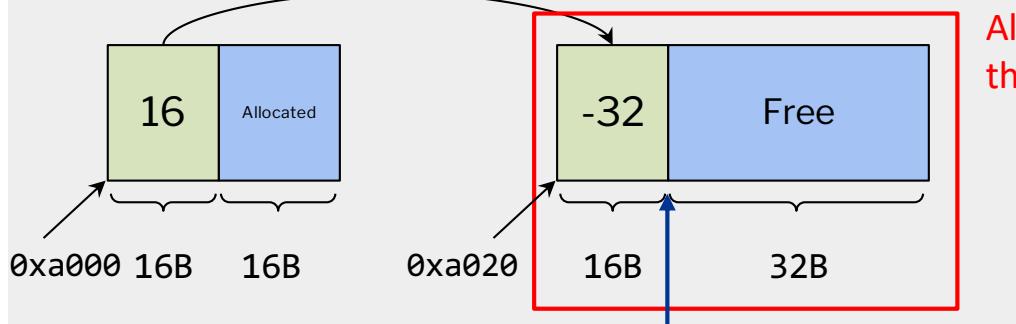
When splitting blocks, must use some space of payload to create new header



**Assuming the heap starts as drawn above (14 b.), if the following malloc executes, what is the value stored in p1?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...	0xa020	...
Value	16	0x0000	...	-32	...

`p1 = malloc(32)`



Allocate this block since it fits  
the size

We should return this point to the user, not the start of the block.

If we return the start of the block (0xa020), the user might  
overwrite the header

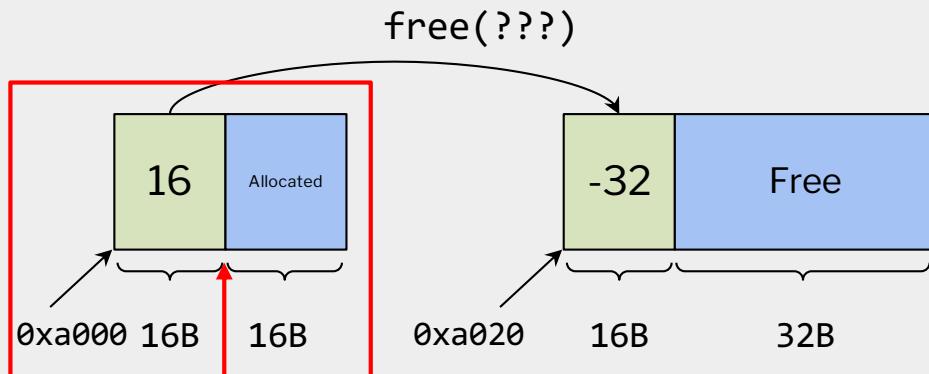
(breaking our pointers to the next block)

To calculate the memory address of this point:

$$0xa020 + \text{sizeof}(\text{Header}) = 0xa020 + 16B = 0xa030$$

**Assuming the heap starts as drawn above (14 b.), which value can fill the blank to successfully free the first block?**

Address	0xa000	0xa008	...	0xa020	...
Value	16	0x0000	...	-32	...



To free this block using free(), the user needs to pass the pointer (memory address) of the payload region (which is returned by malloc() ).

→ Call free with 0xa000 + sizeof(Header)  
= free(0xa010)

Why? The user does not know anything about blocks. They simply call free with the same pointer returned by malloc()