

# ECE 6504

## Embedded and Controls Systems Security: Stack Smashing IV

Reading:

T: *Code Injection Attacks on Harvard-Architecture Devices and Can DREs Provide Long-Lasting Security?*

N: *kBouncer, ROPGuard, ROPecker, and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Current Anti-ROP Defenses*

“I intend to live forever, or die trying.”

–Groucho Marx

return-oriented programming (ROP)

setup stack to point to instructions that end in return

# return-oriented programming (ROP)

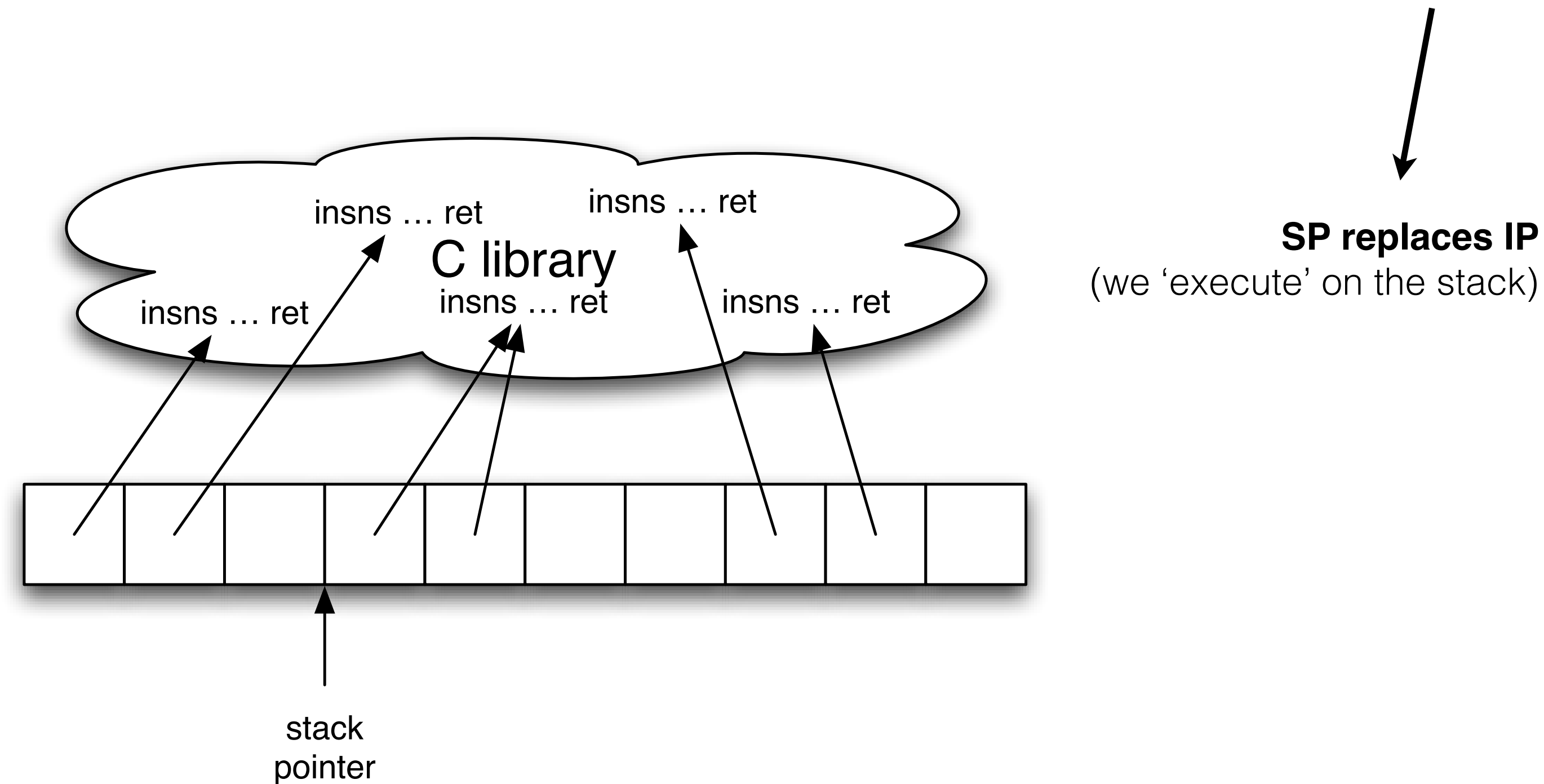
setup stack to point to instructions that end in return



**SP replaces IP**  
(we 'execute' on the stack)

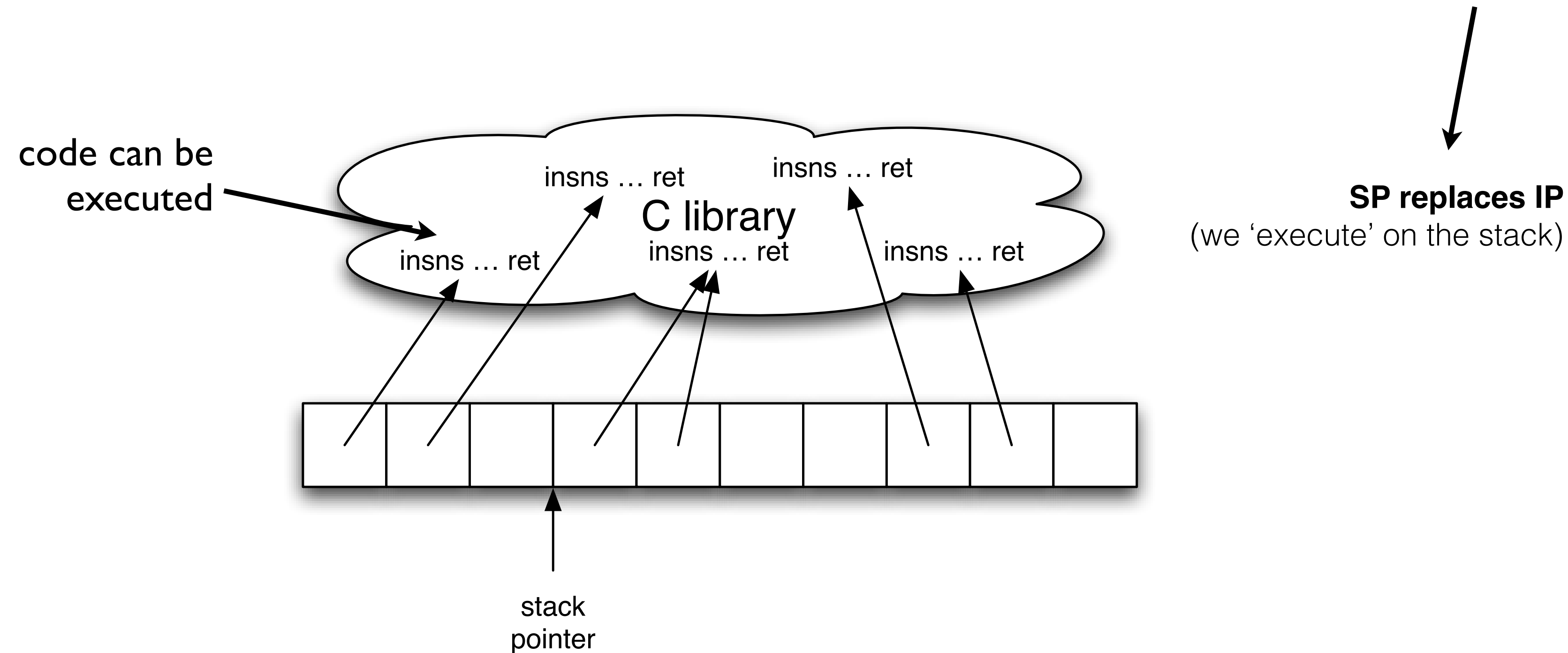
# return-oriented programming (ROP)

setup stack to point to instructions that end in return



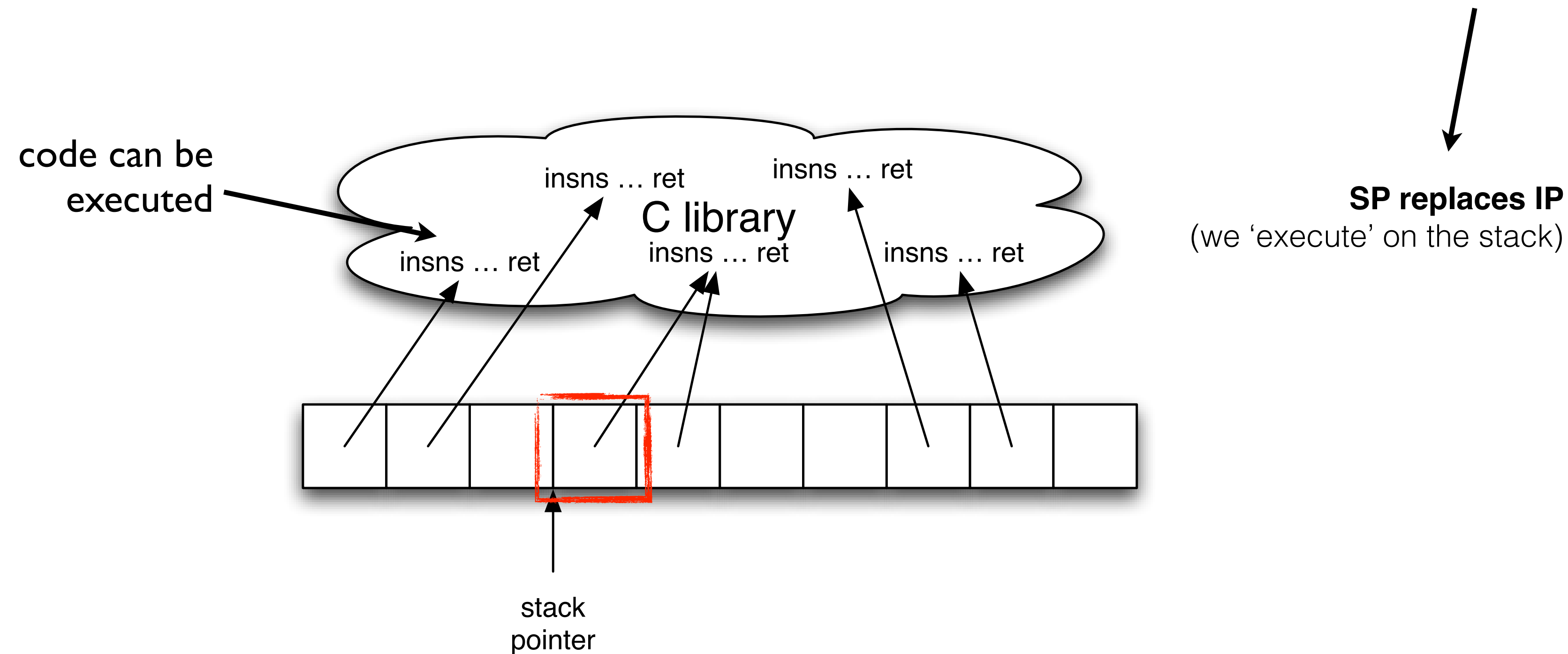
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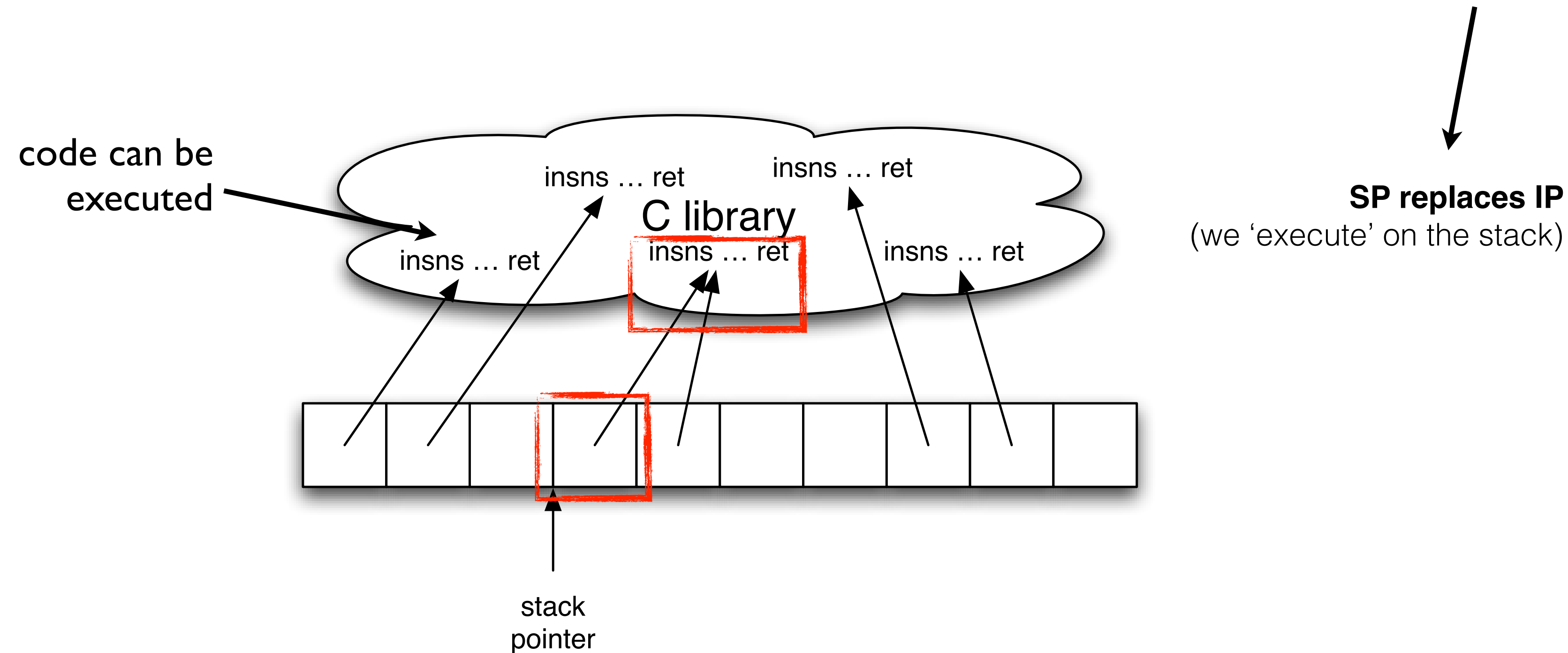
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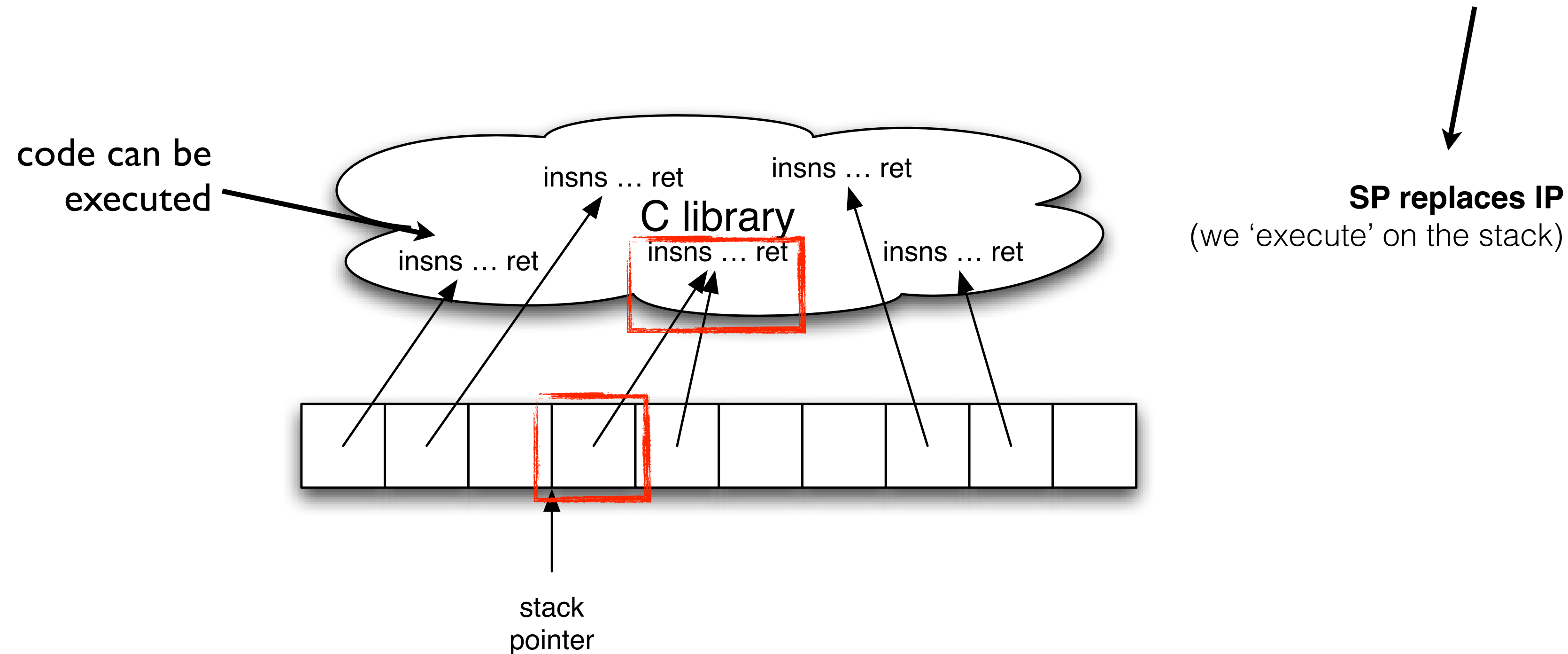
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# return-oriented programming (ROP)

setup stack to point to instructions that end in return



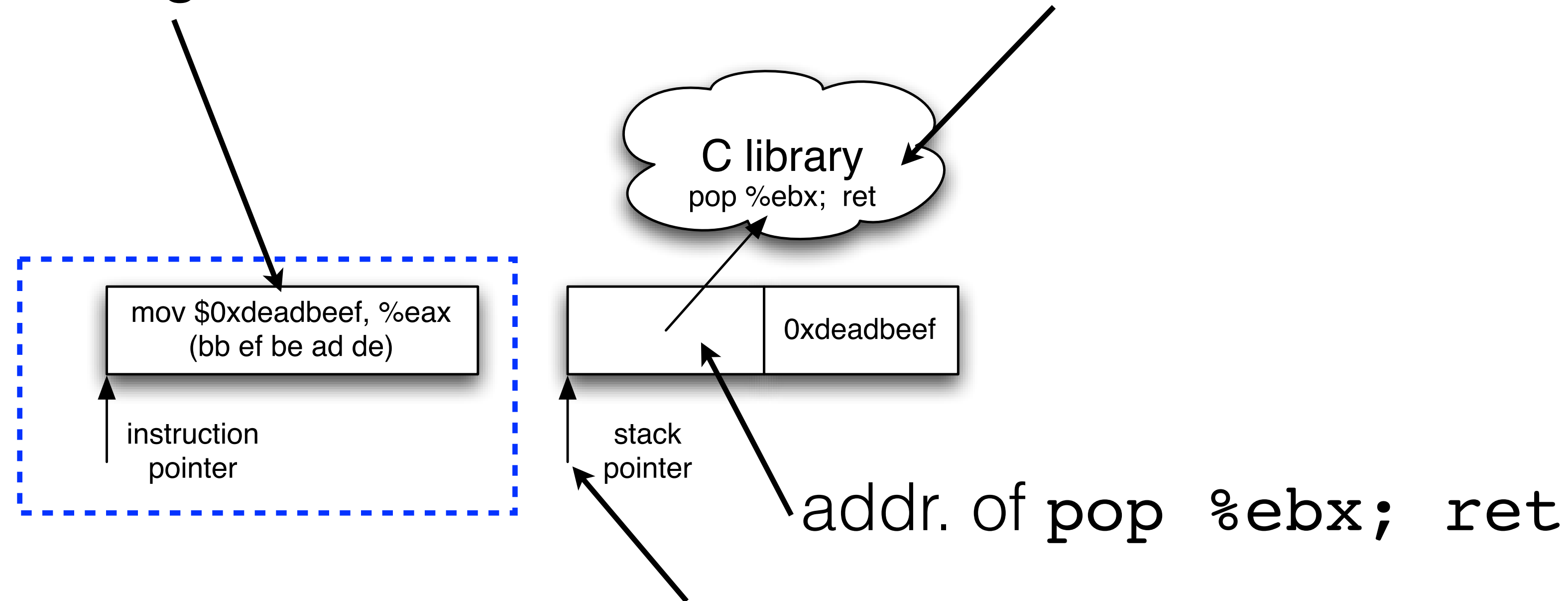
procedure:

1. setup stack via buffer overflow
2. issue return
3. pop addr from stack
4. IP executes instruction at addr

# ROP immediate load

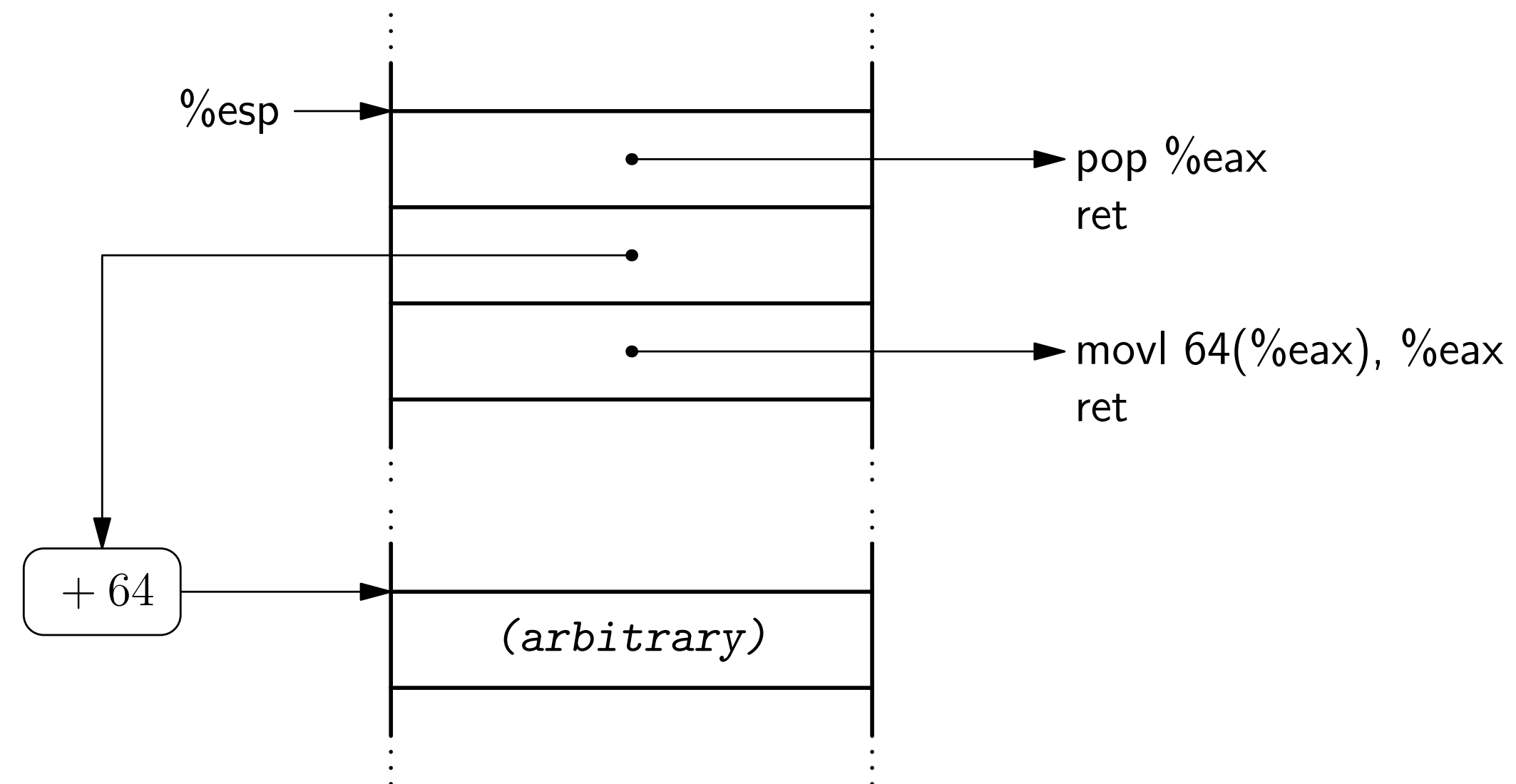
value to load into register

assume we know addr of this instruction sequence in libc



1. `ret` issued with SP here
2. IP pointed at addr of `pop...`
3. SP moved right one word
4. `pop` puts `0xdeadbeef` into `ebx`
5. SP moved right one word

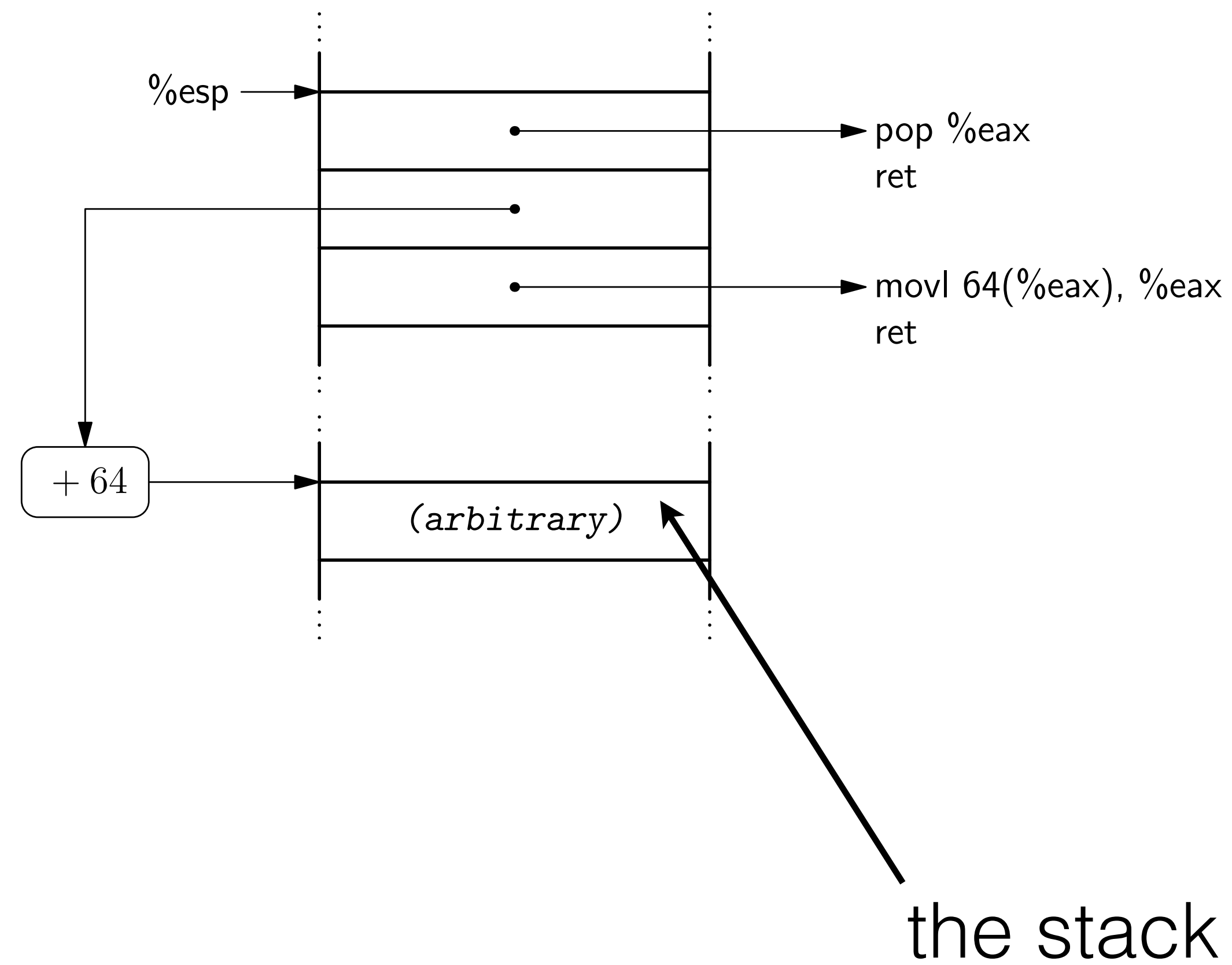
# ROP word load



dot represents constructed stack

ROP word load

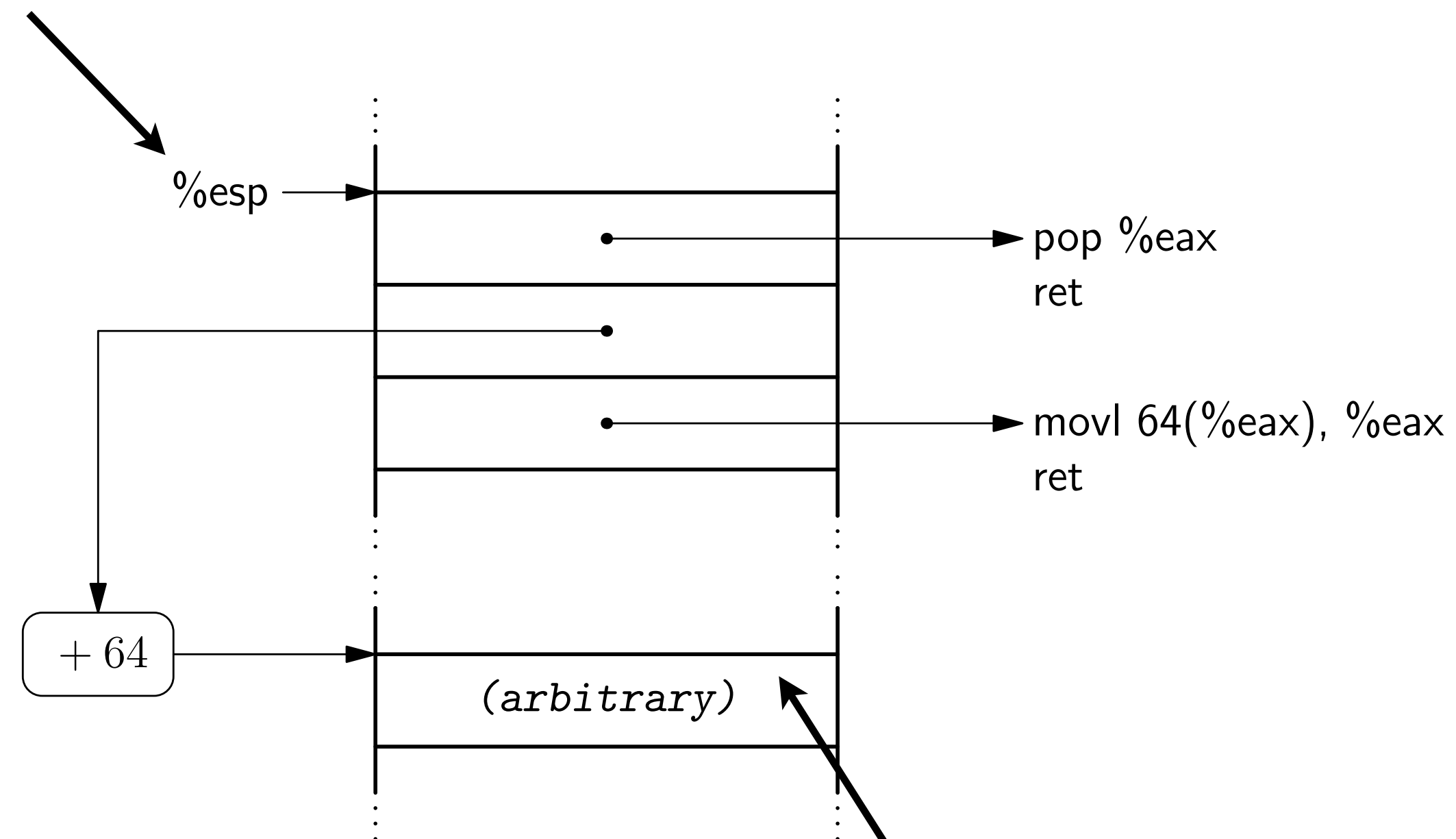
word into %eax



ROP word load

word into %eax

ret issued when SP here



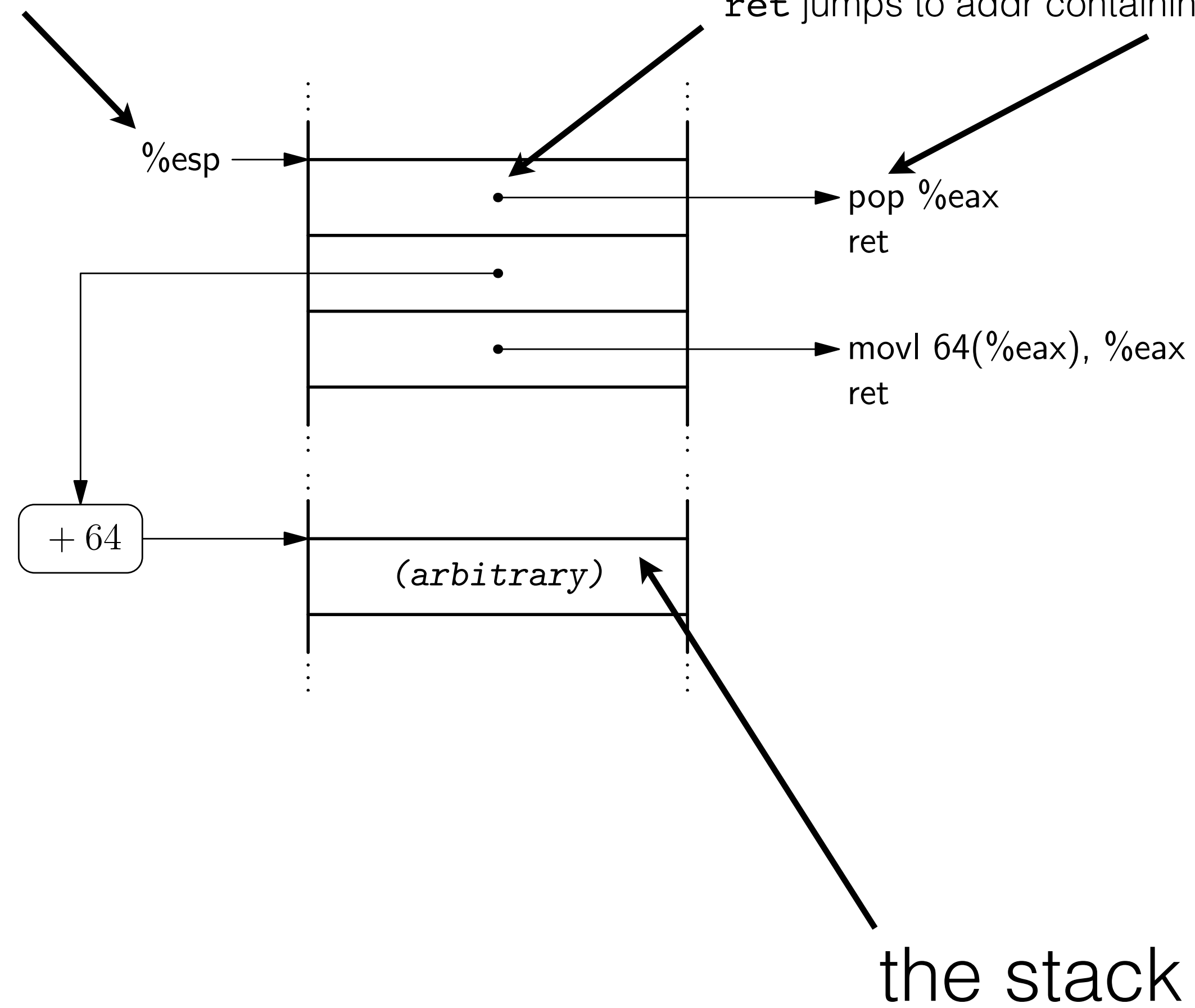
the stack

ROP word load

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ret jumps to addr containing



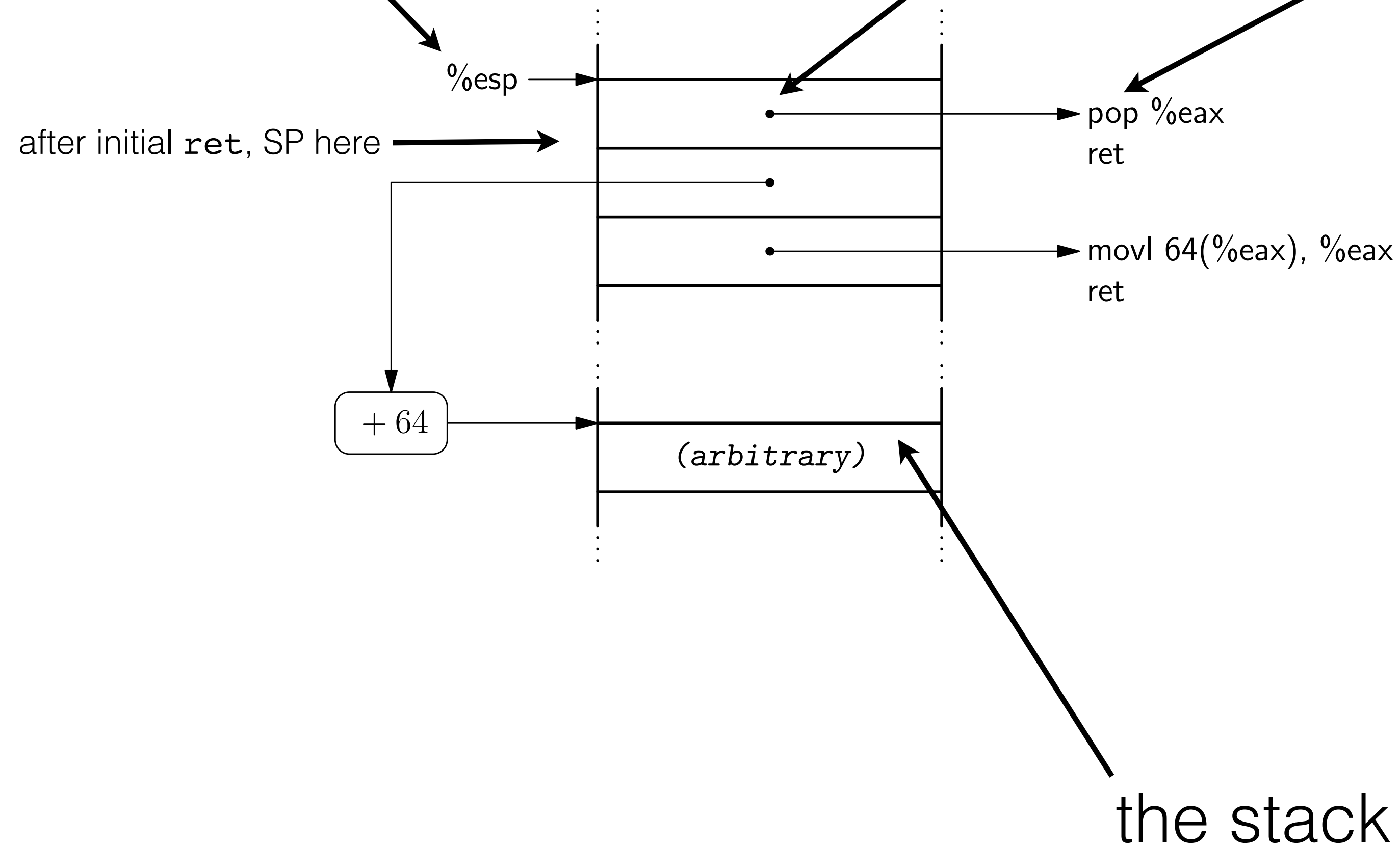
the stack

ROP word load

word into `%eax`

`ret` issued when SP here

`ret` jumps to addr containing



`pop %eax`  
`ret`

`movl 64(%eax), %eax`  
`ret`

(arbitrary)

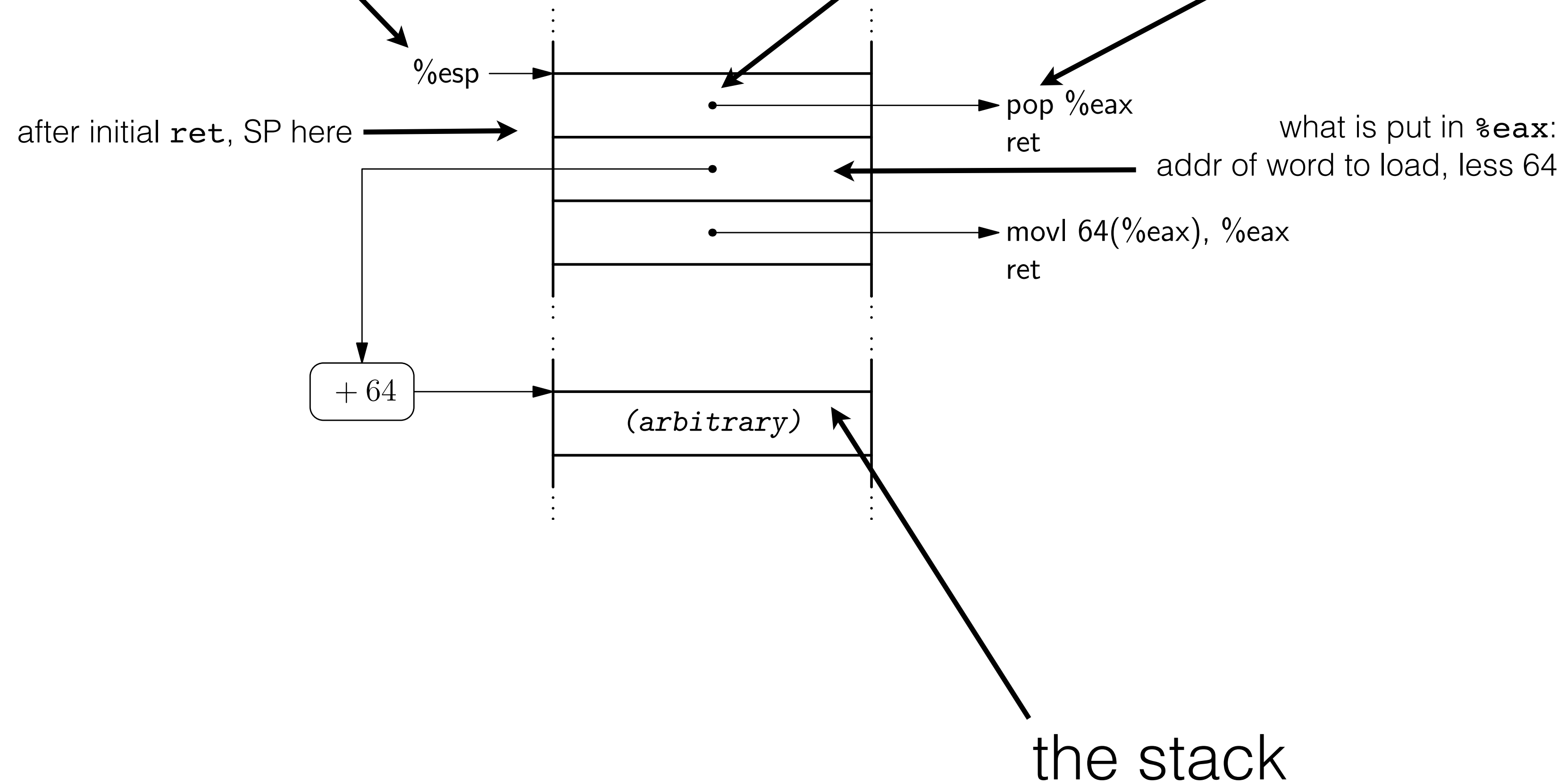
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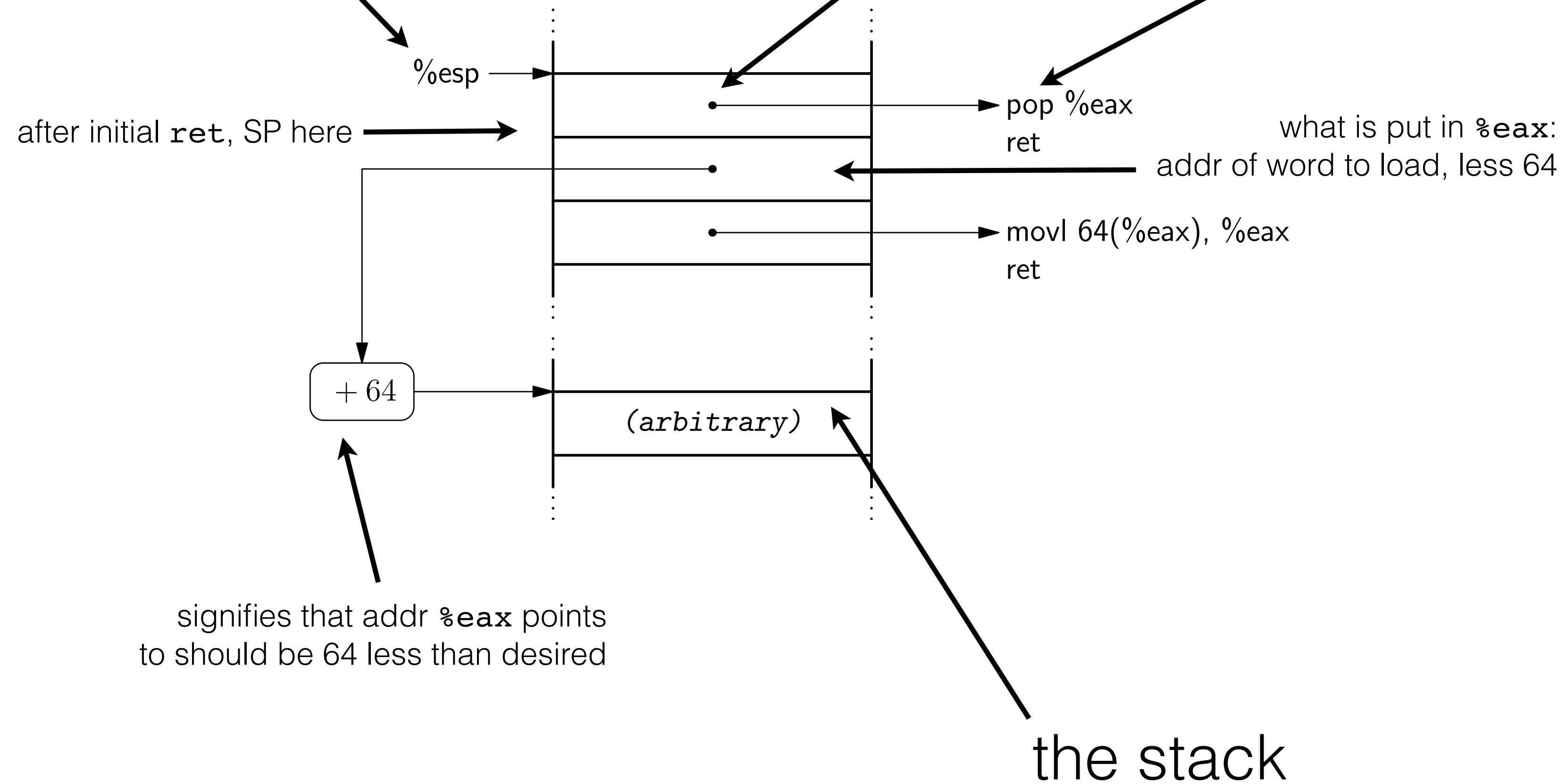


ROP word load

word into `%eax`

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`ret` jumps to addr containing



signifies that addr `%eax` points to should be 64 less than desired

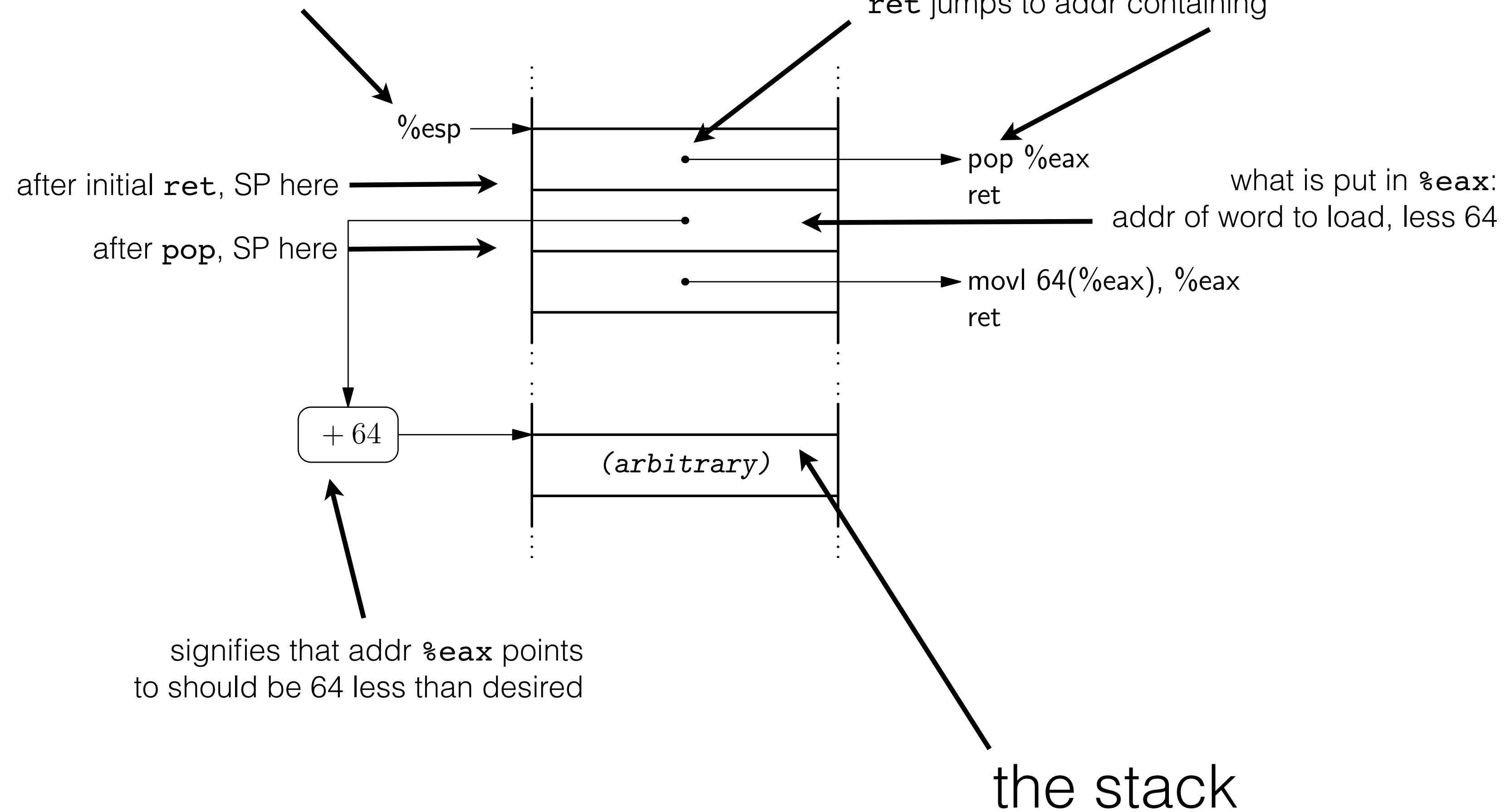
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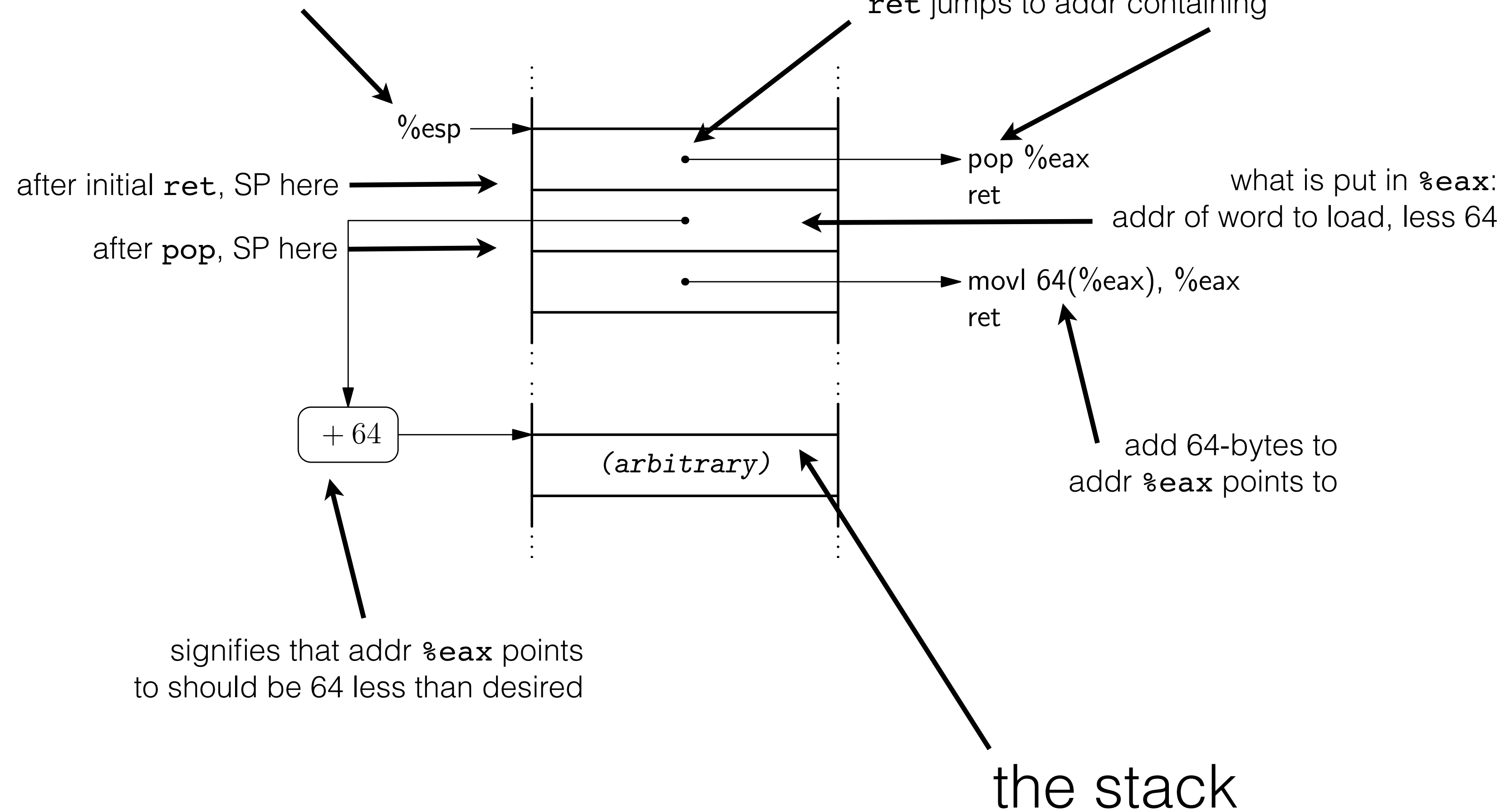
the stack

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word into %eax

ret issued when SP here

**ret** jumps to addr containing



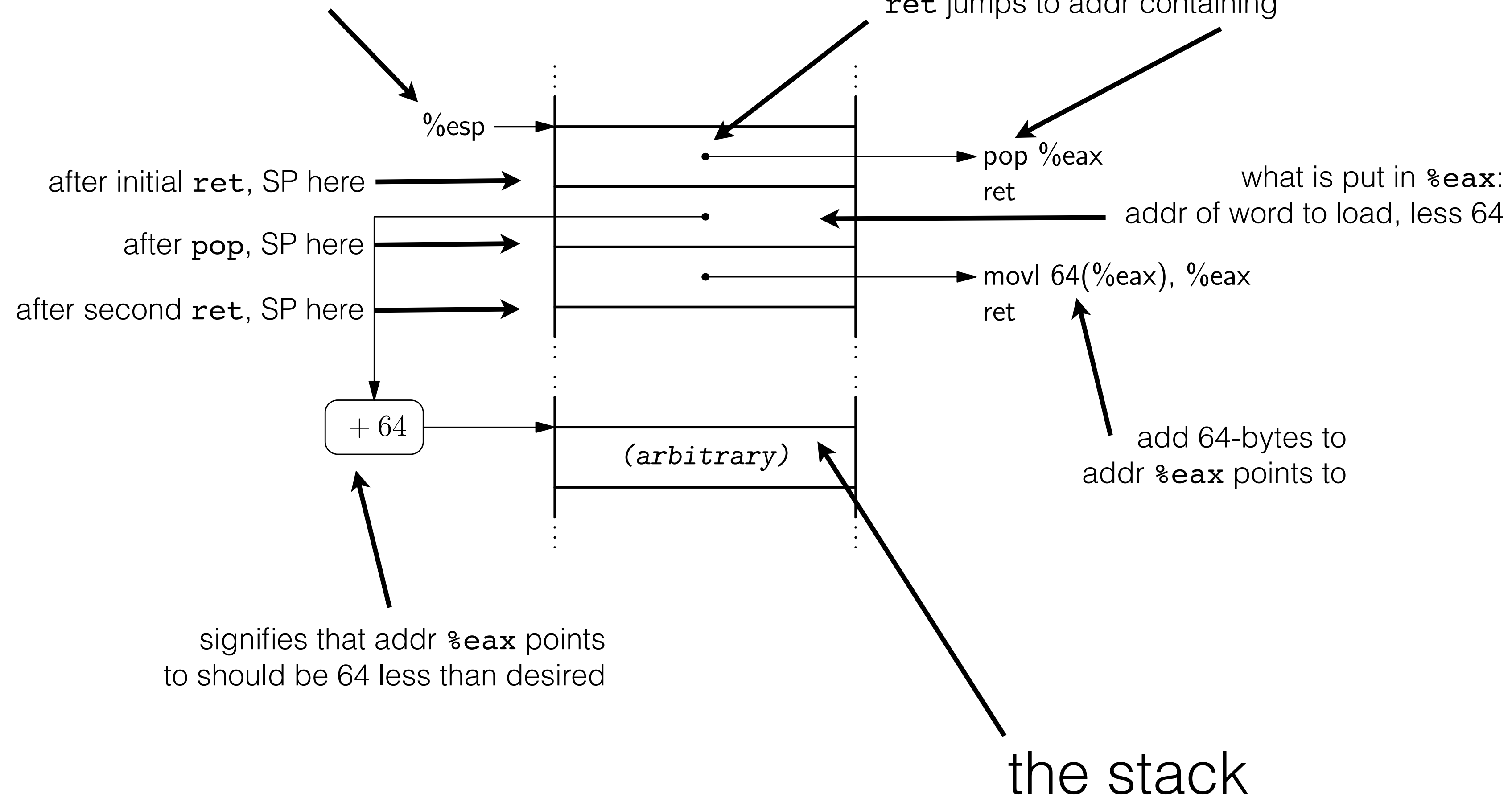
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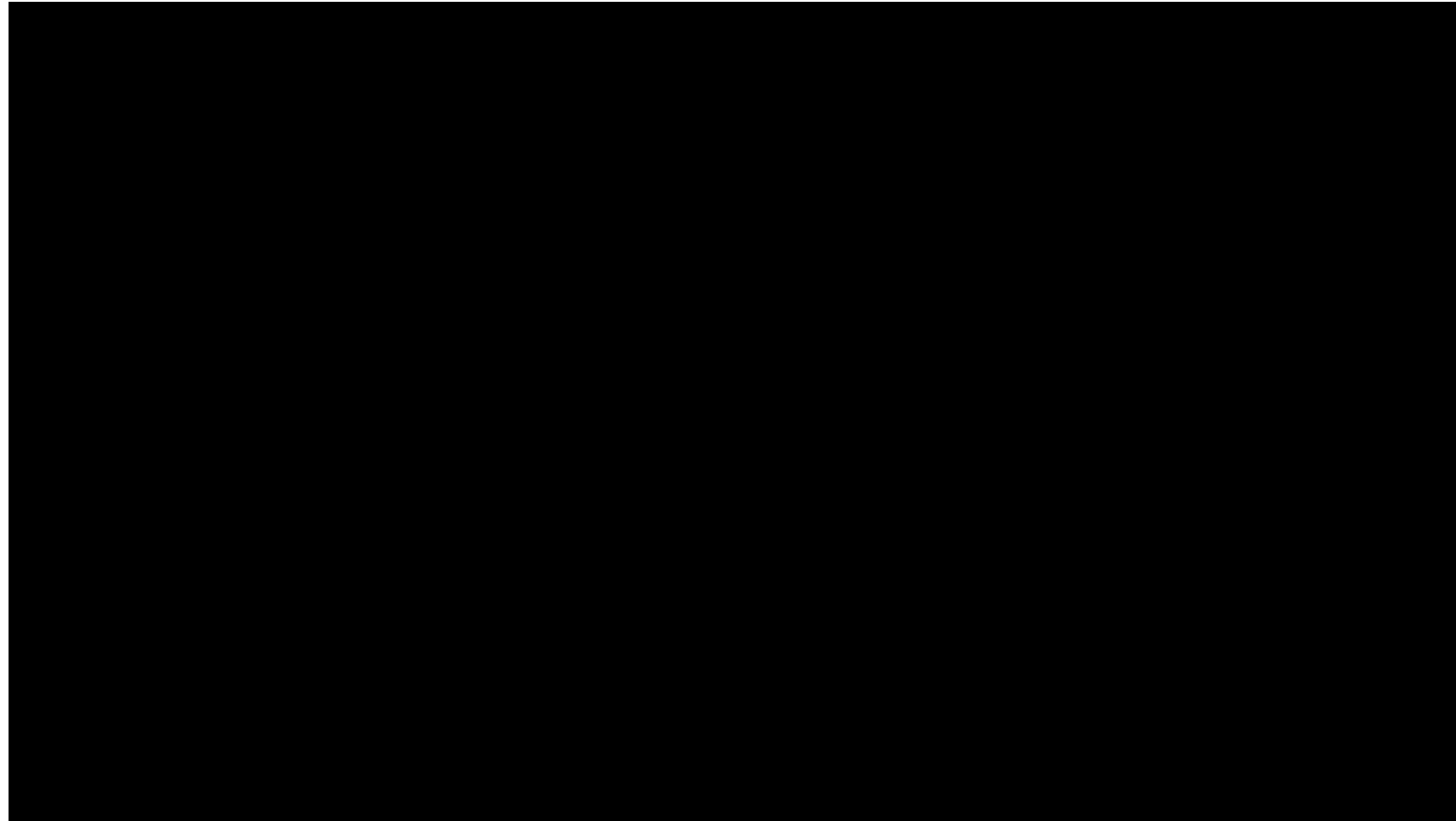
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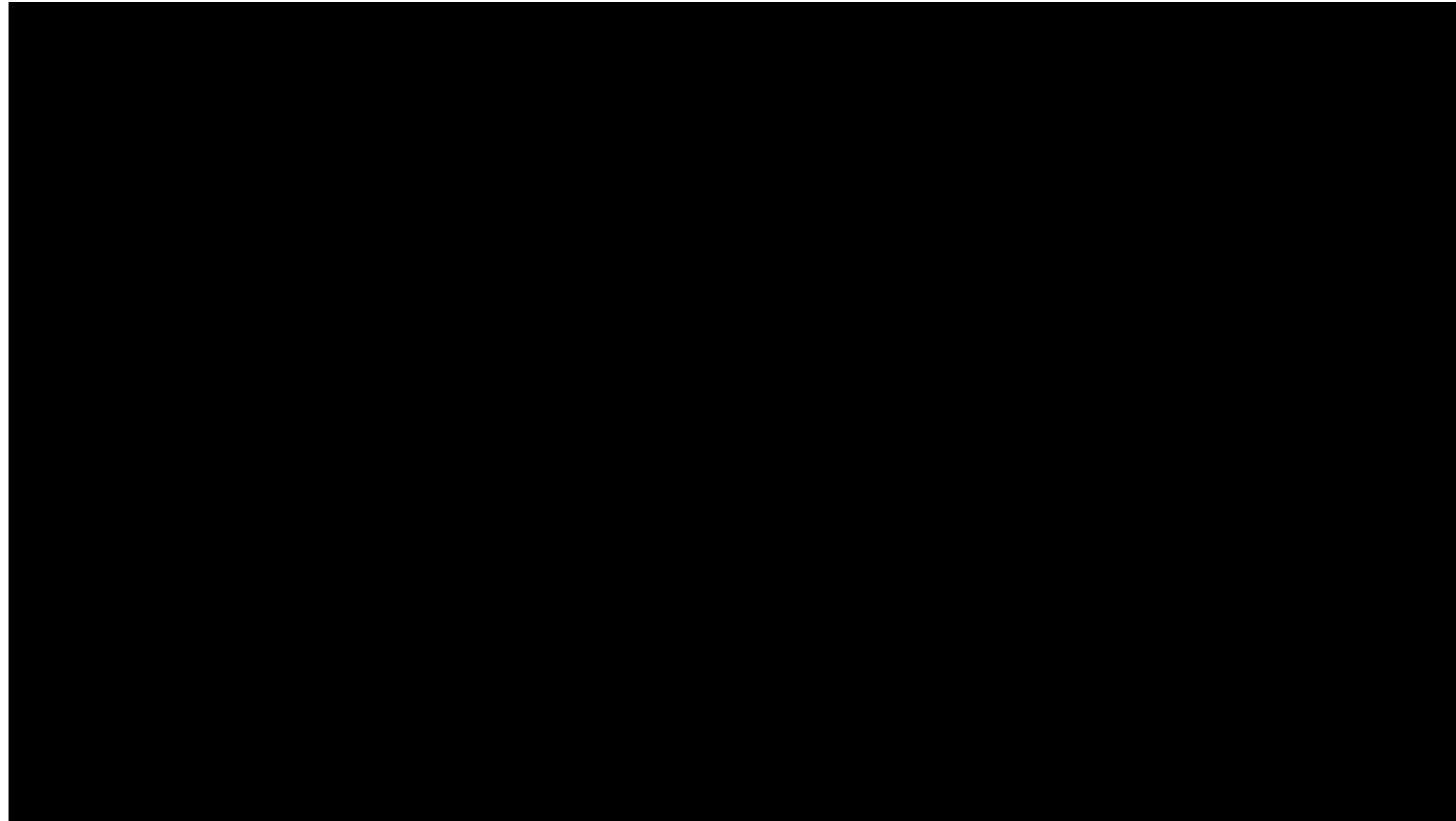
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Q: is this necessary for exploitation in all instances?

A: no, let's build gadgets for what we need (shellcode)

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# system calls

umask system call:

89 da	mov %ebx, %edx
8b 5c 24 04	movl 4(%esp), %ebx
b8 3c 00 00 00	mov \$0x0000003C, %eax
65 ff 15 10 00 00 00	lcall %gs:0x10(,0)
89 d3	mov %edx, %ebx
c3	ret

system call wrappers in `libc`

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arguments

(passed via register)



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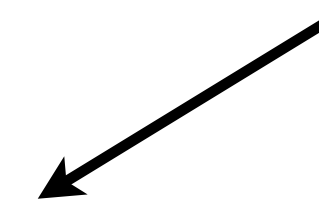
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(60)



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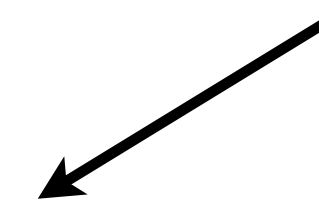
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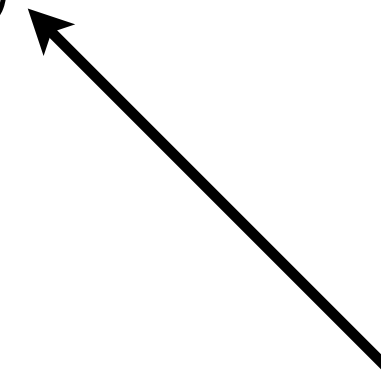
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kernel trap



system call wrappers in `libc`

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system call #

(60)

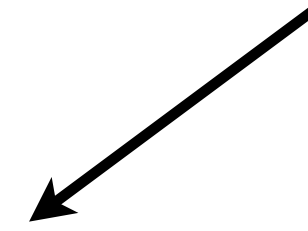
kernel trap

clean-up

system call wrappers in `libc`

# constructing ROP shellcode

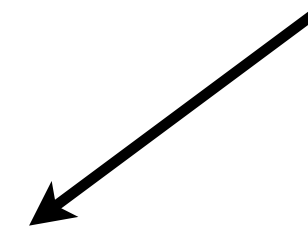
system call number 11



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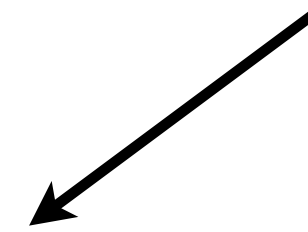
NOTE: `int execve(const char *path, char *const argv[], char *const envp[])`

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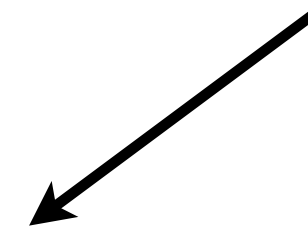
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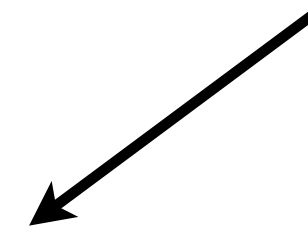


args for program

procedure:

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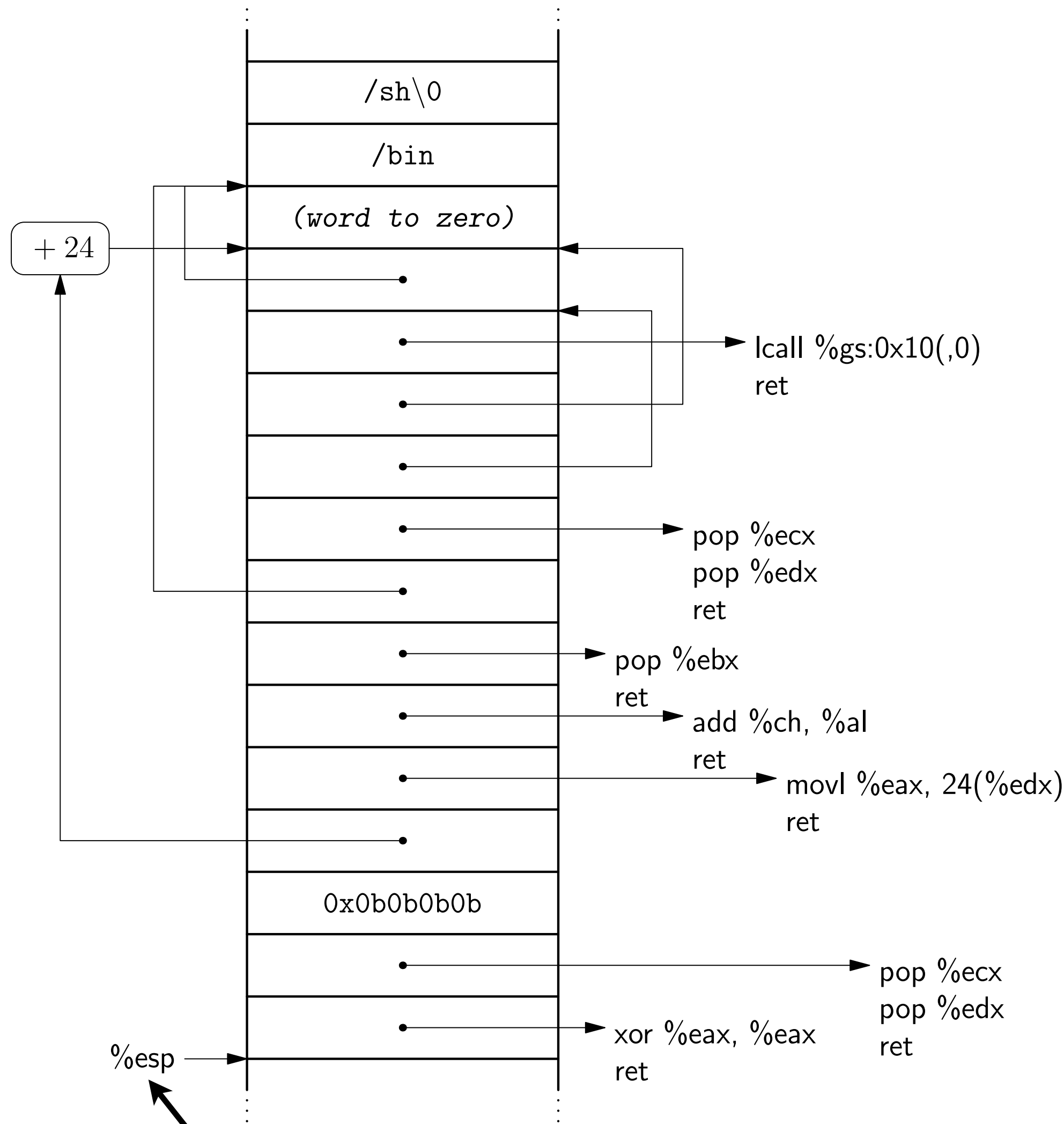
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# stack via buffer overflow

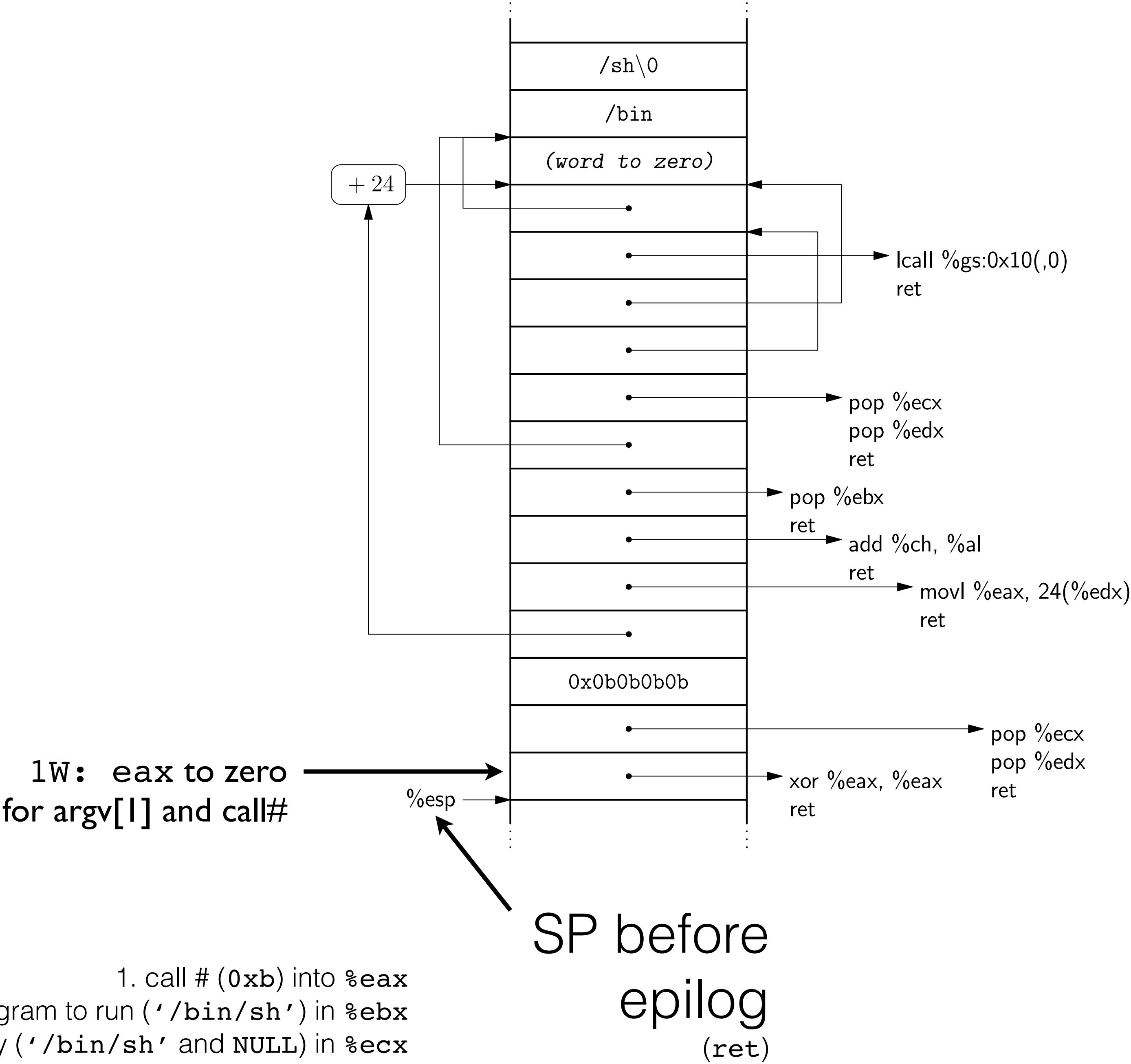


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SP before  
epilog  
(ret)

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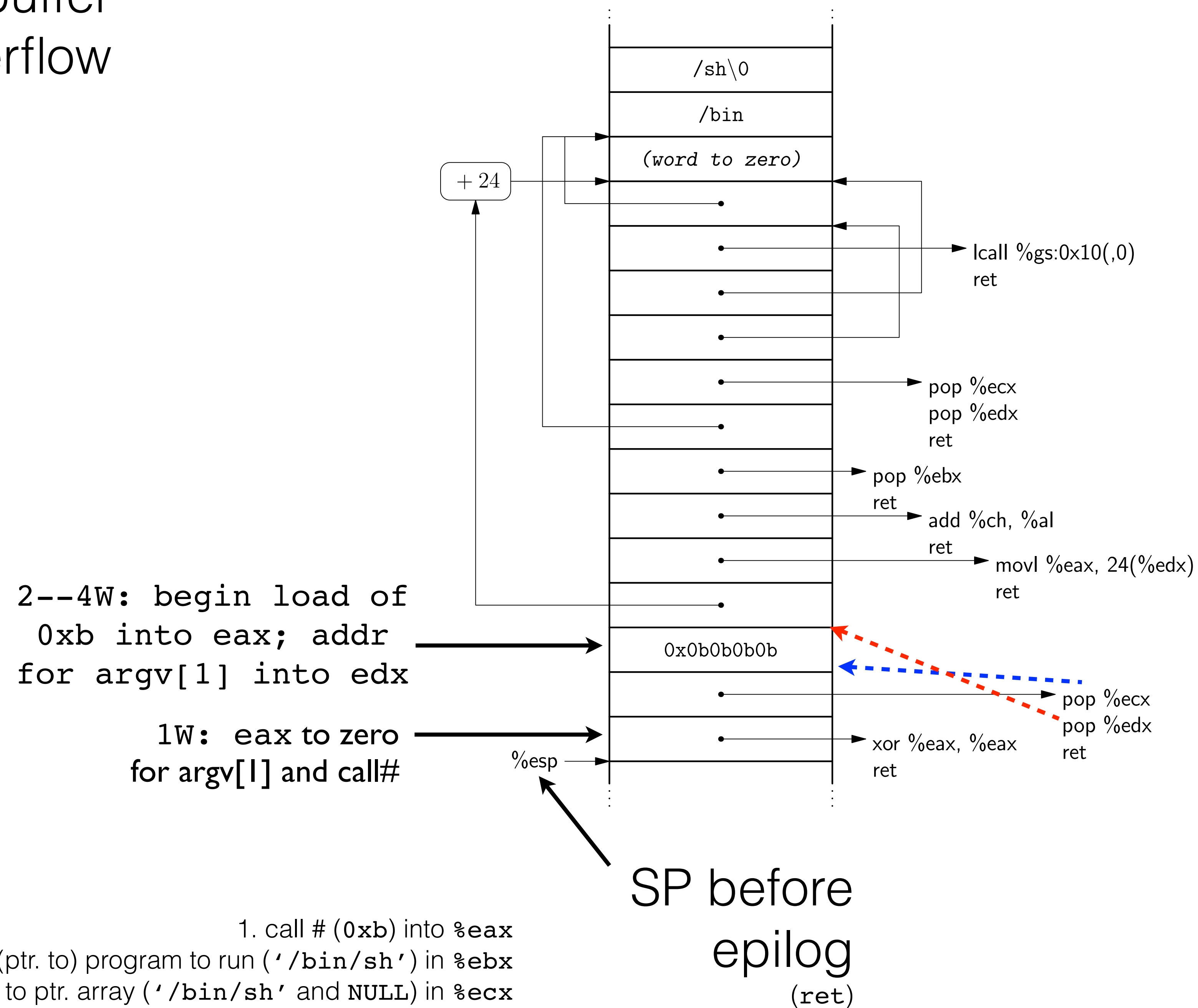


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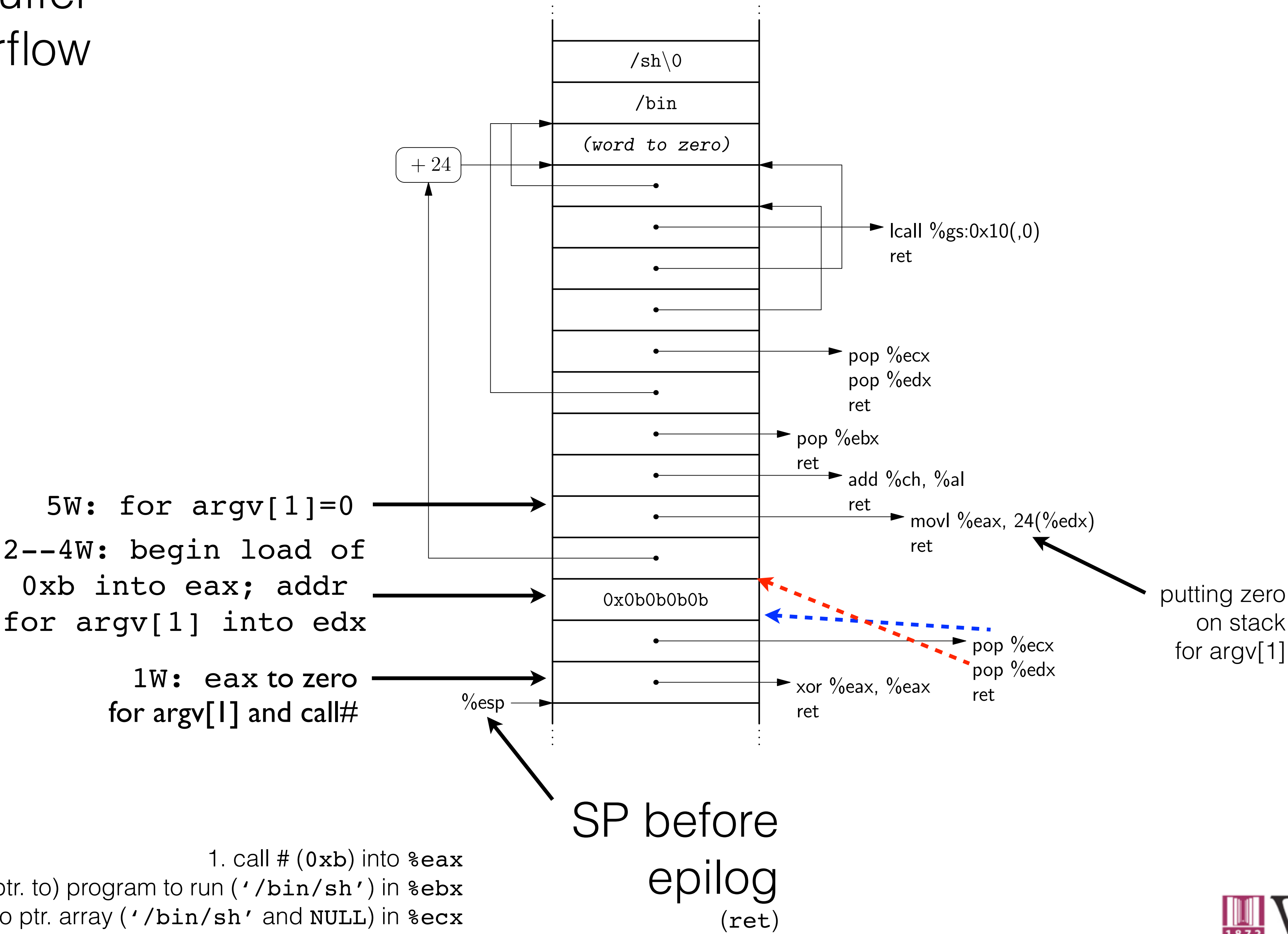


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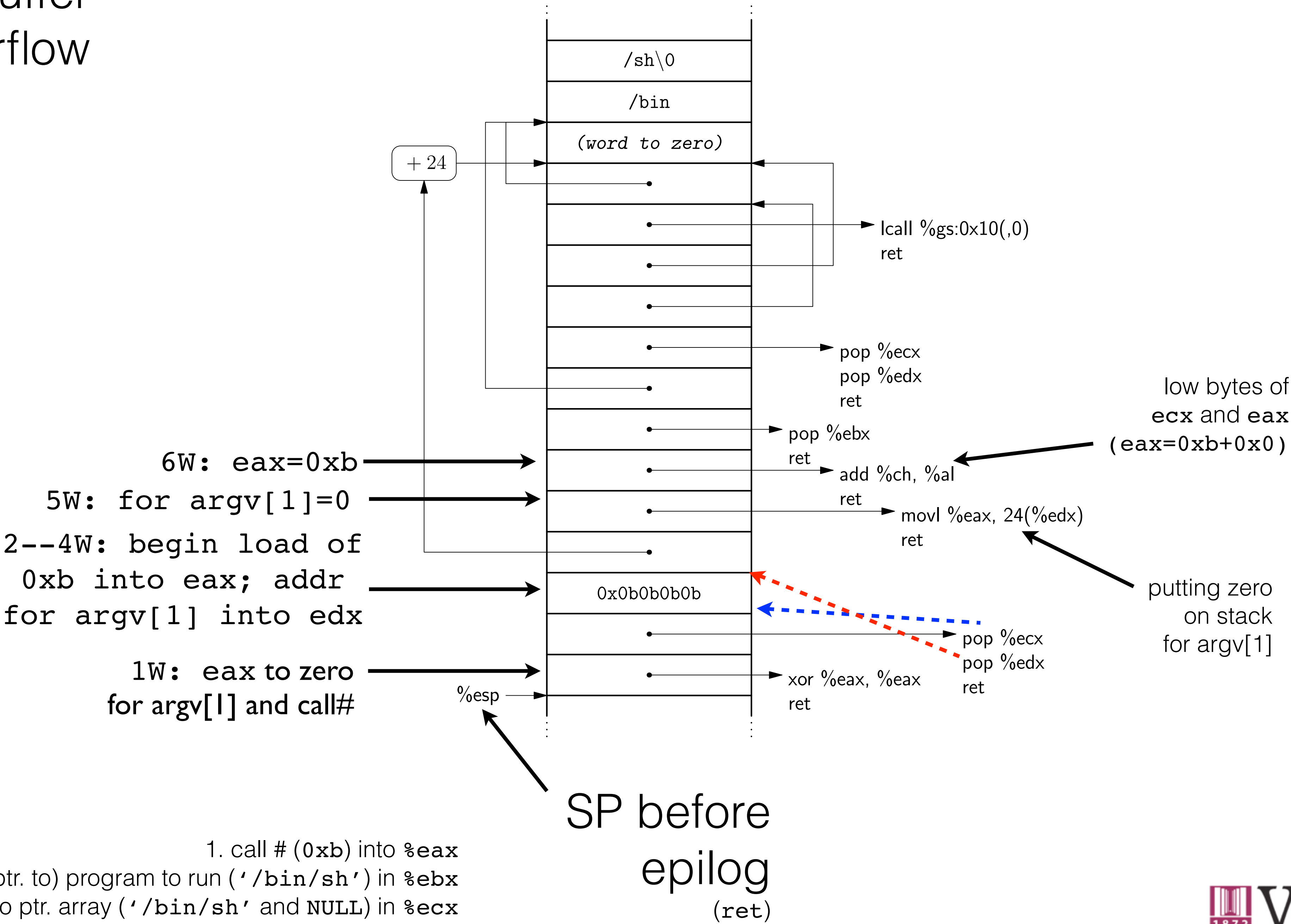
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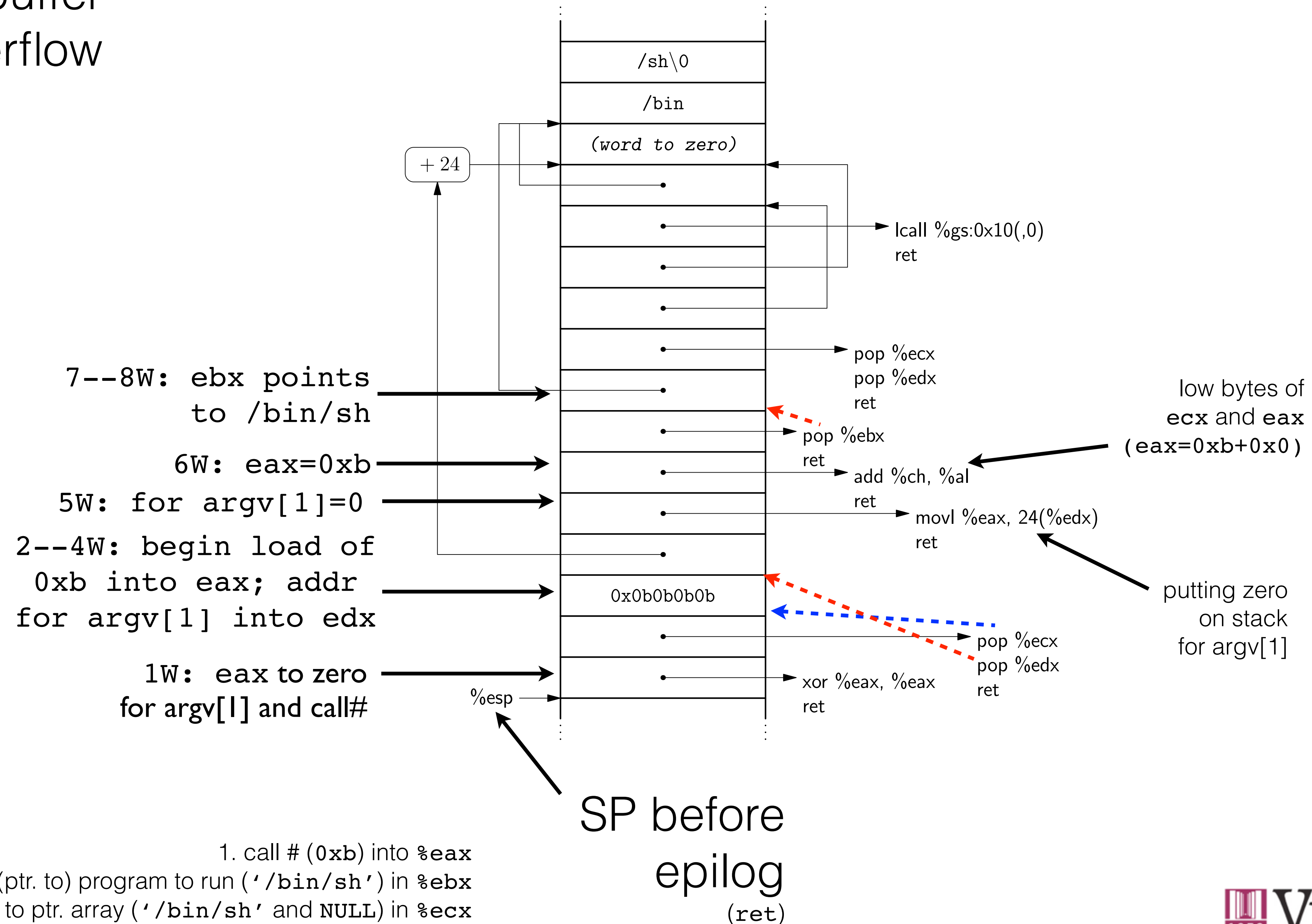
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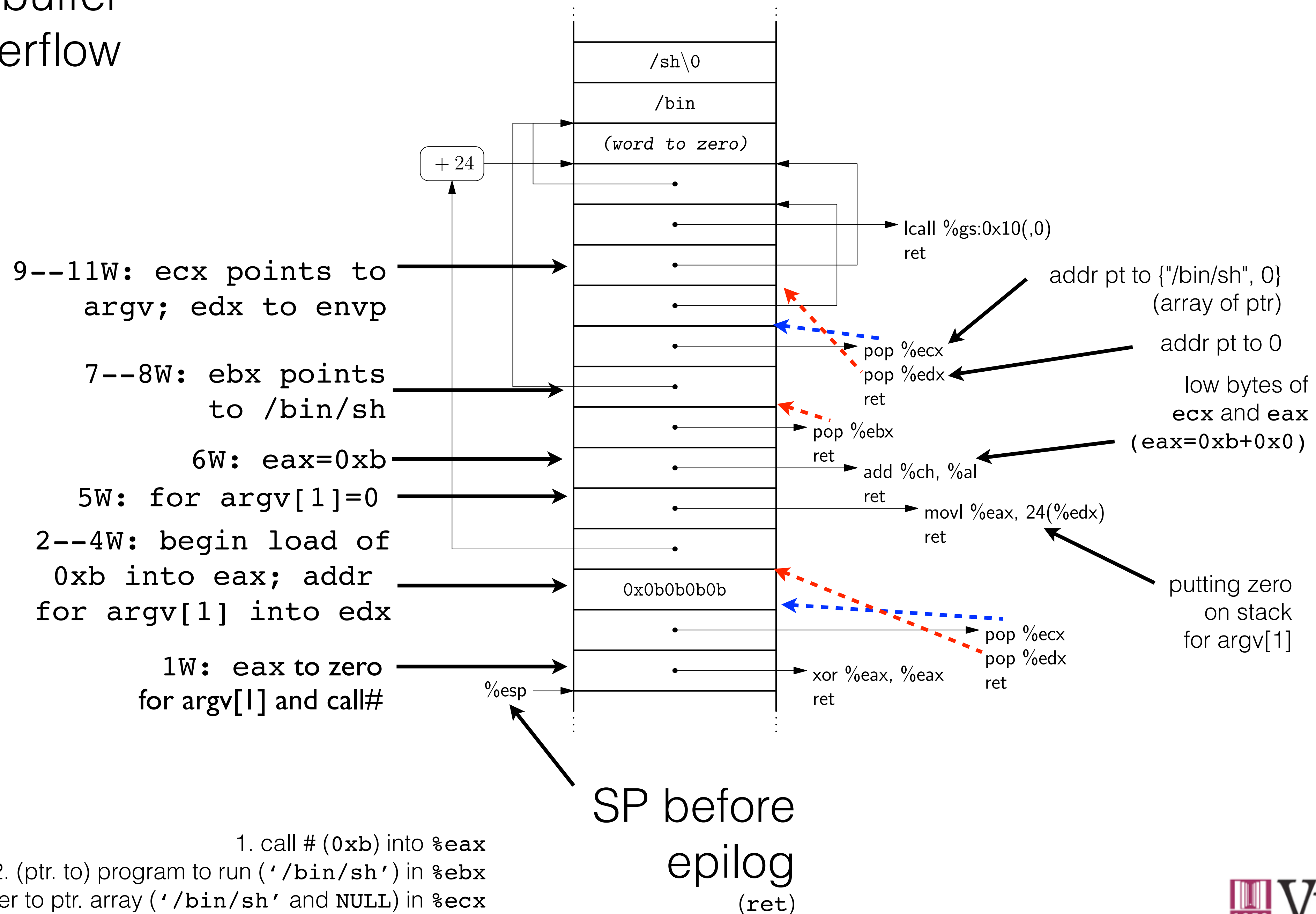
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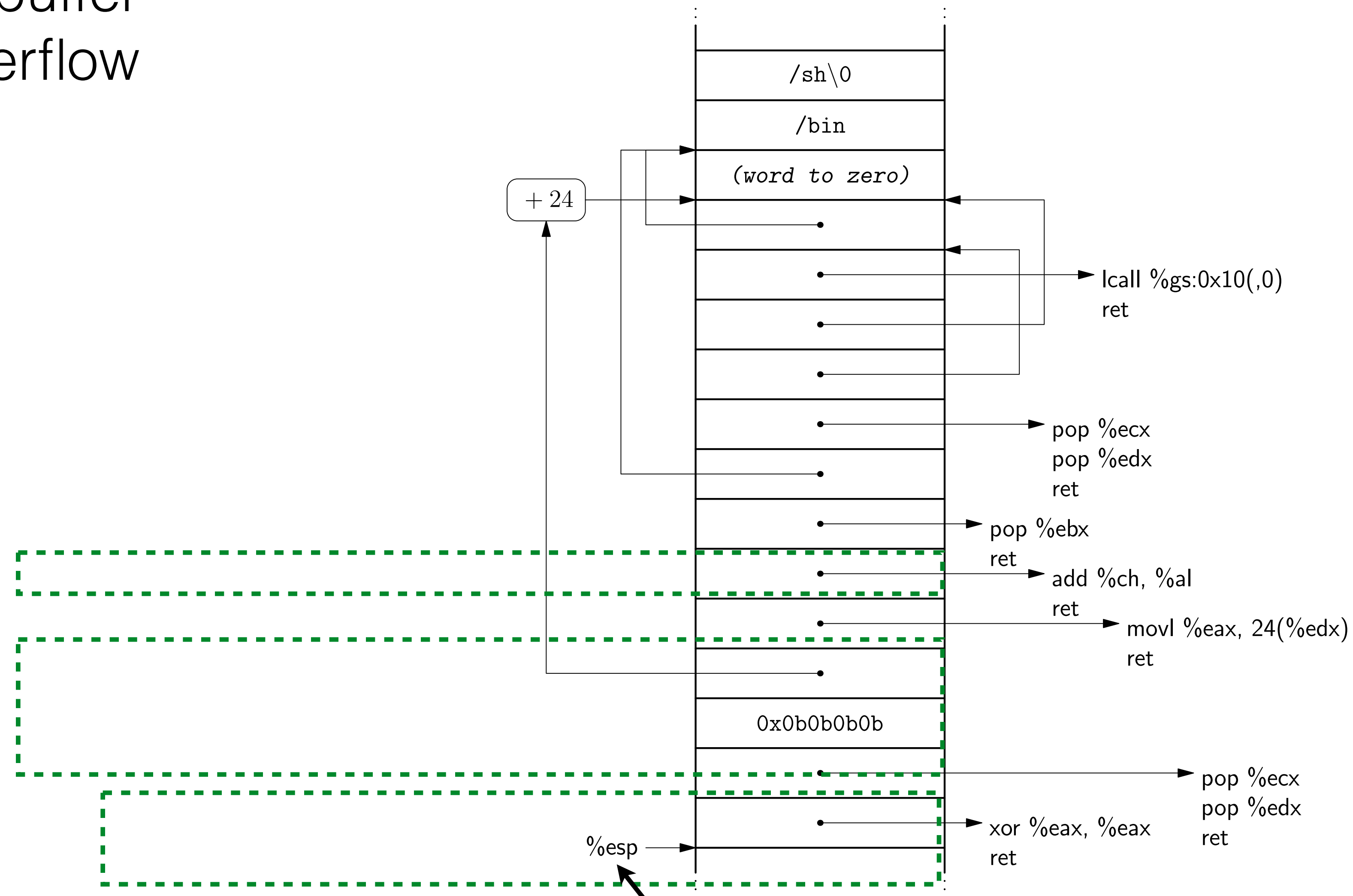
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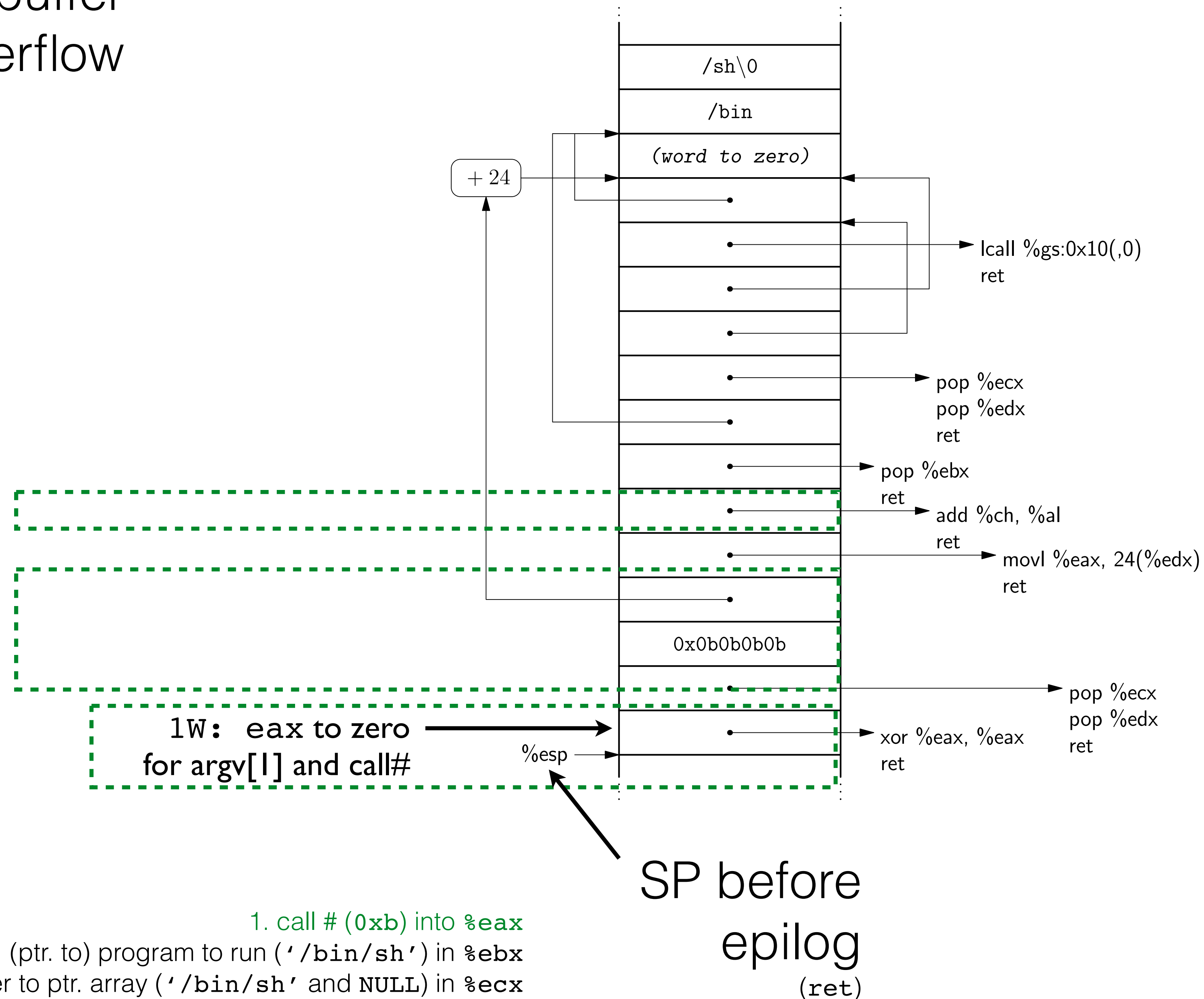


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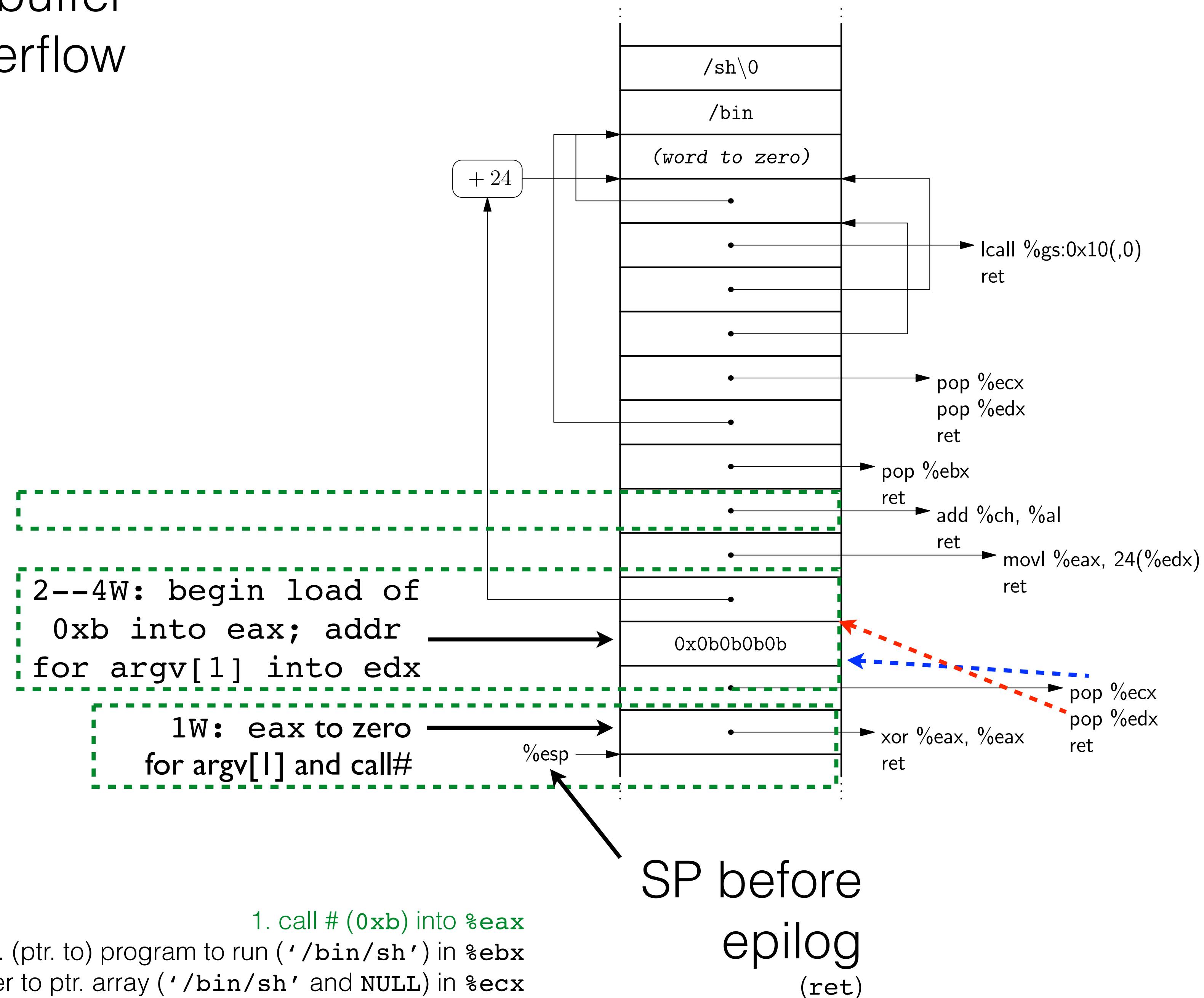


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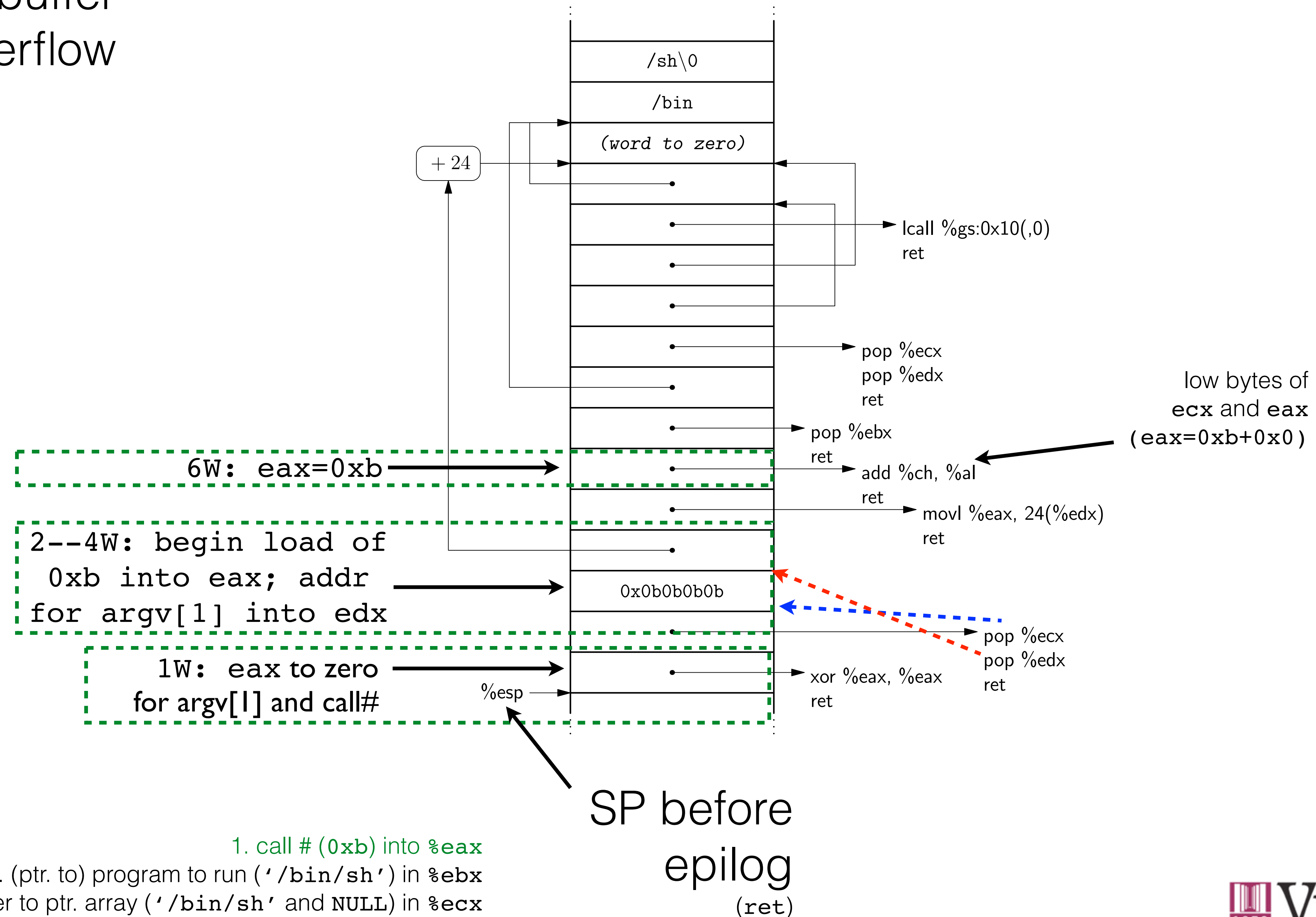
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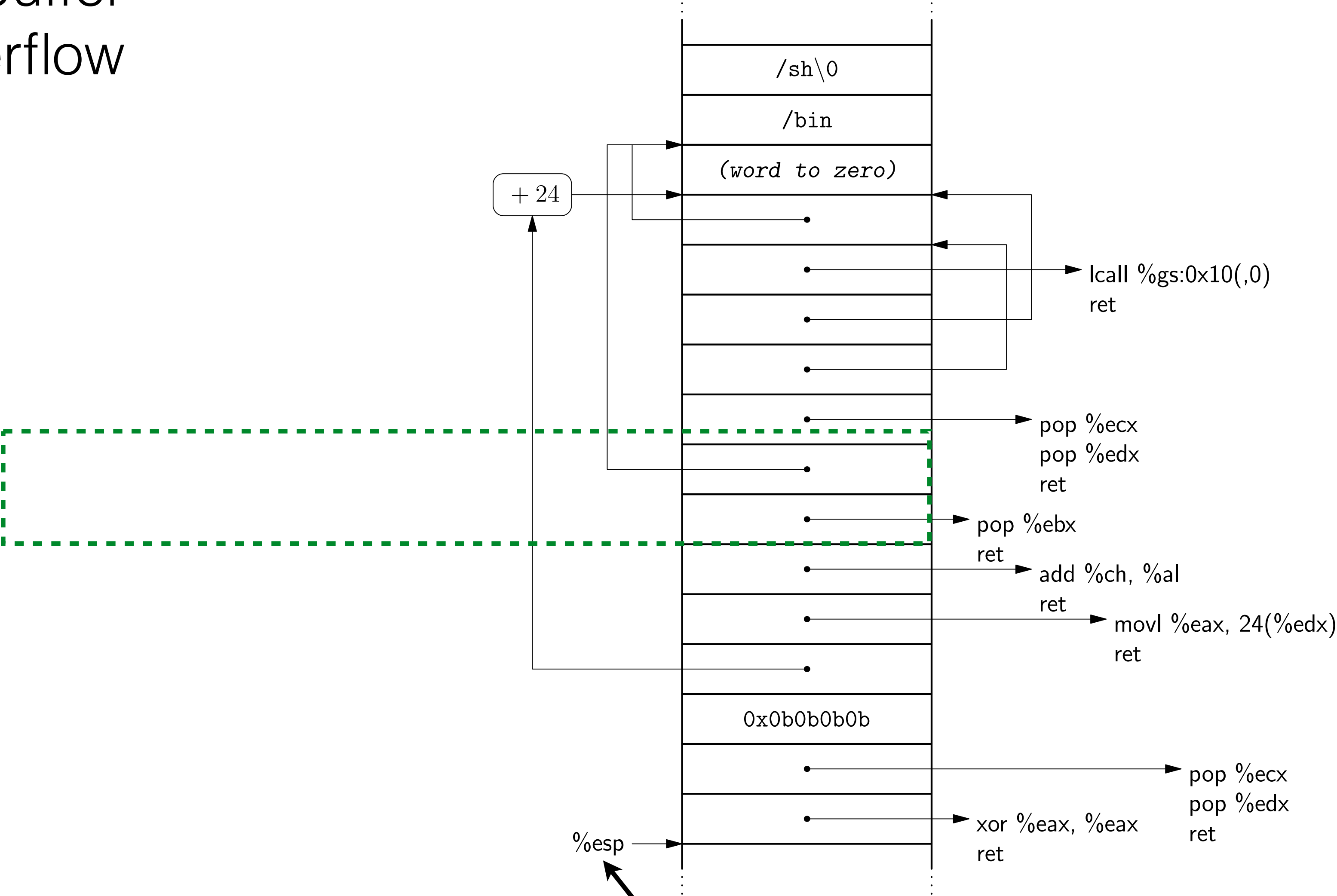
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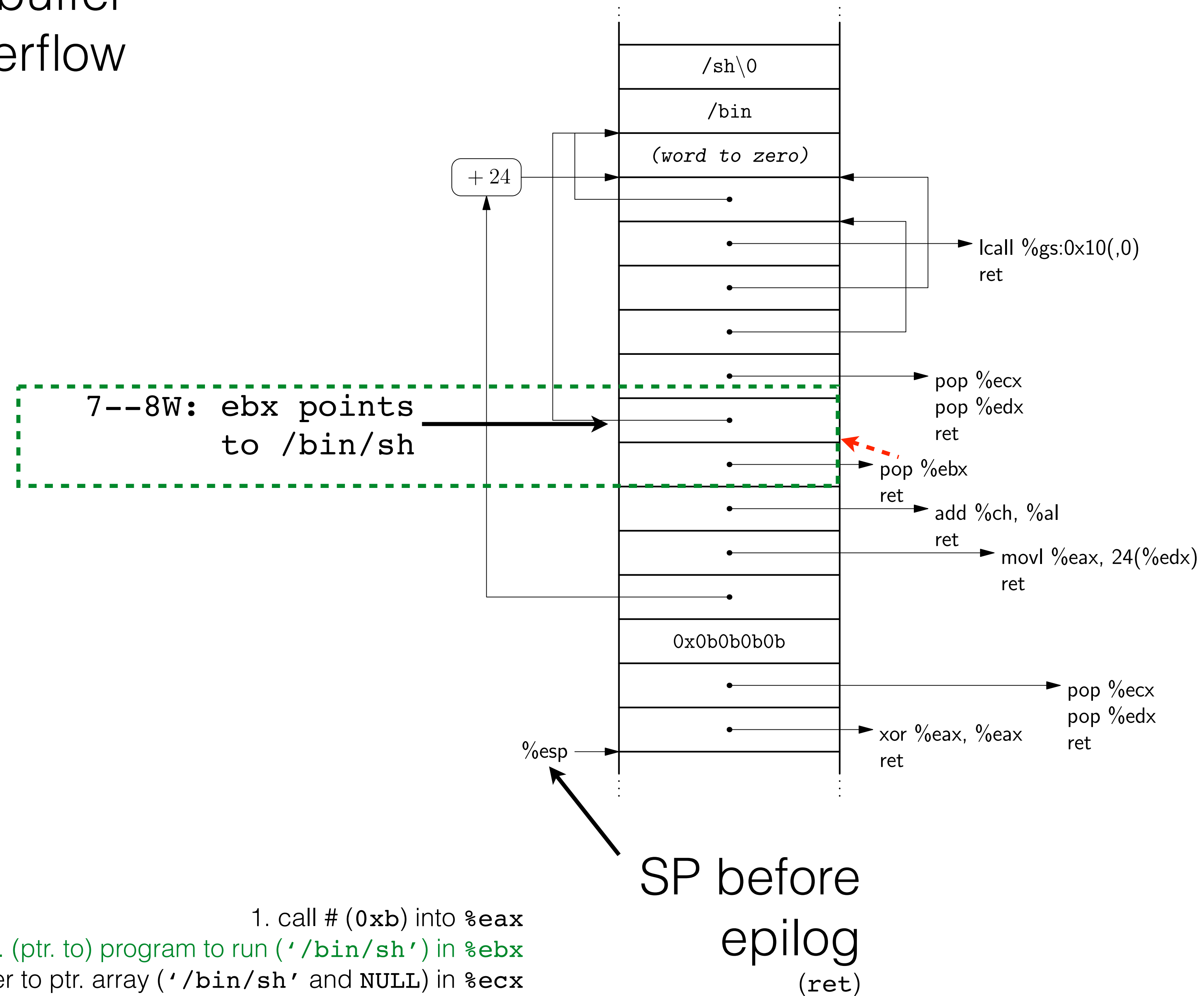


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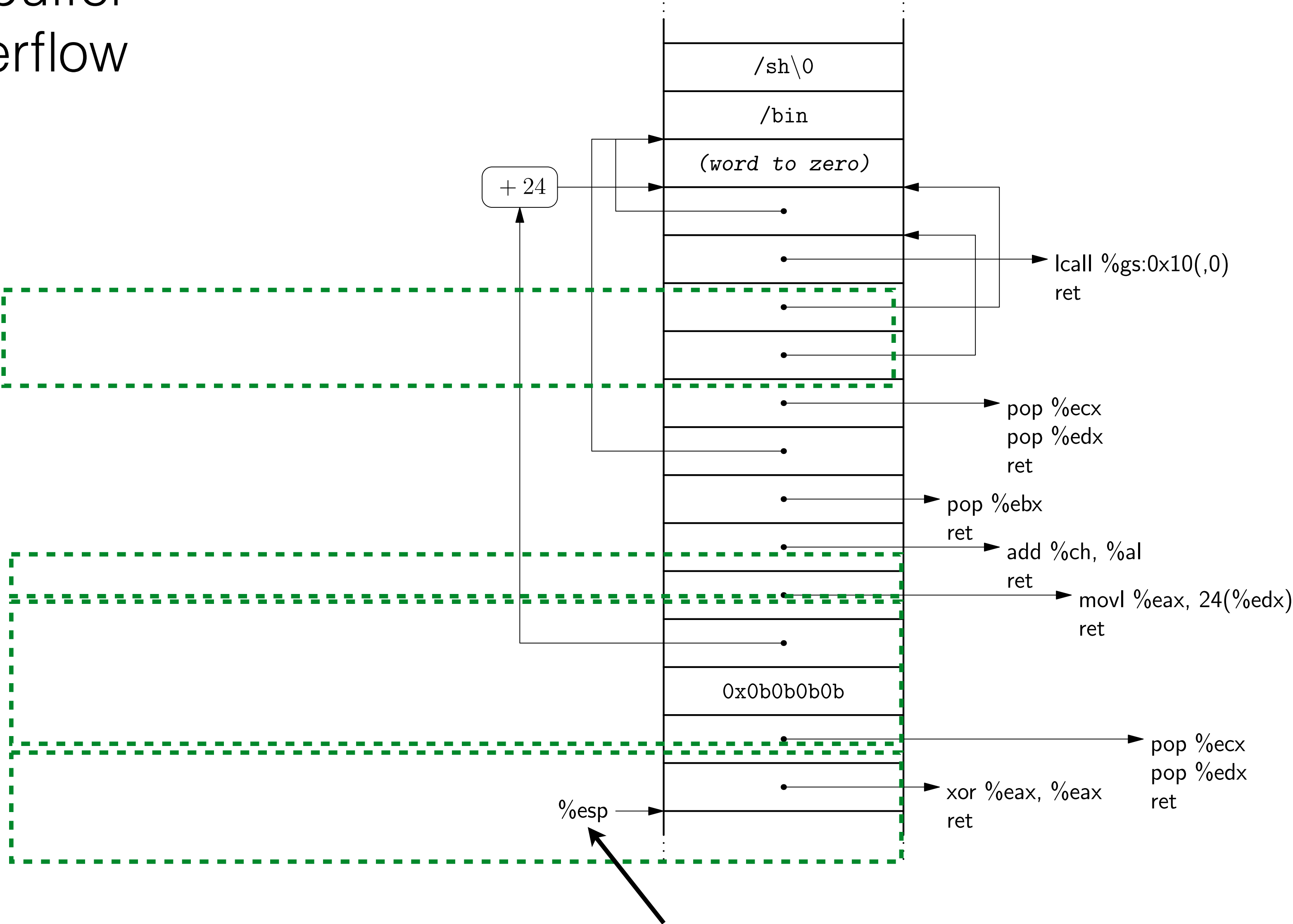
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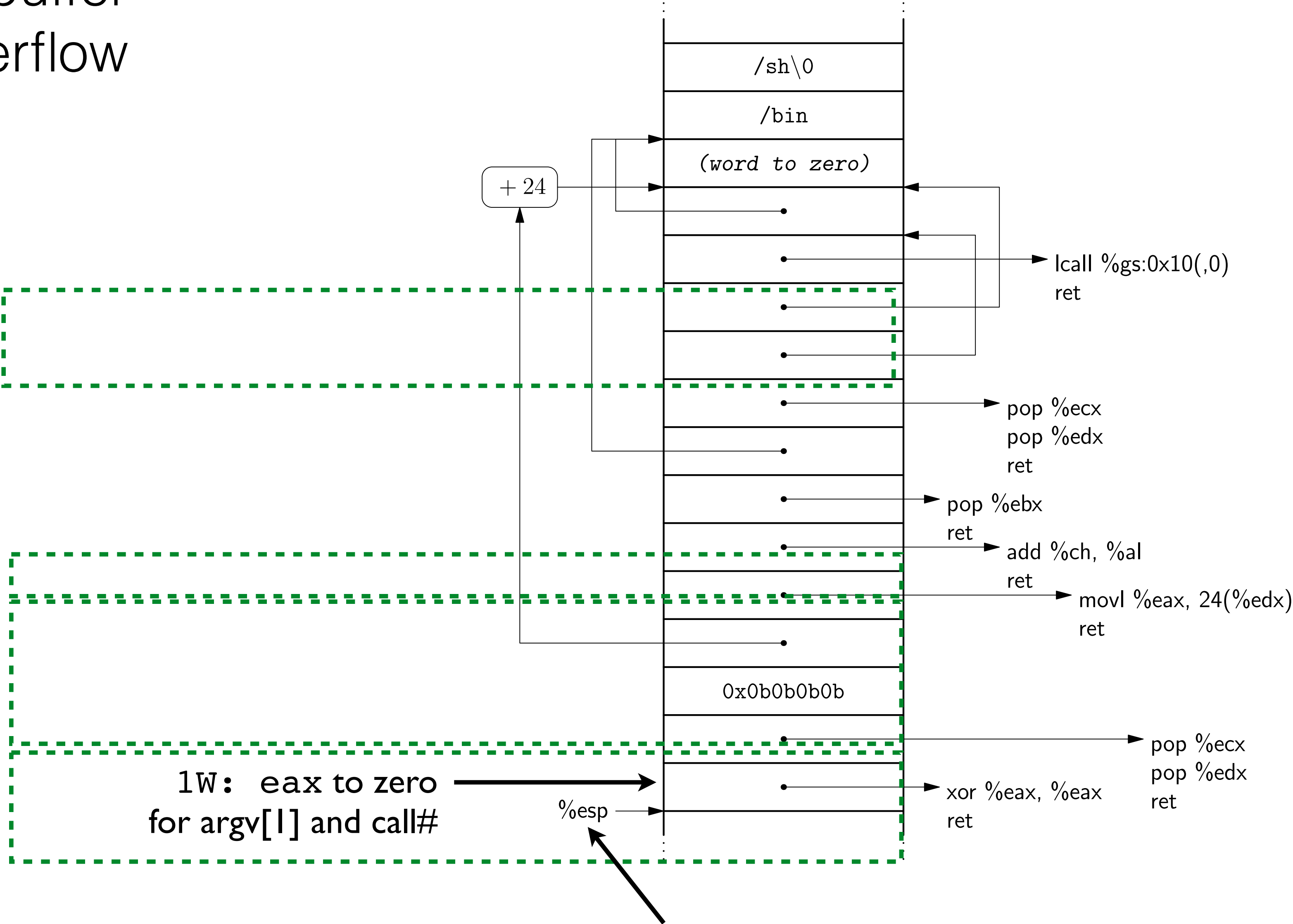


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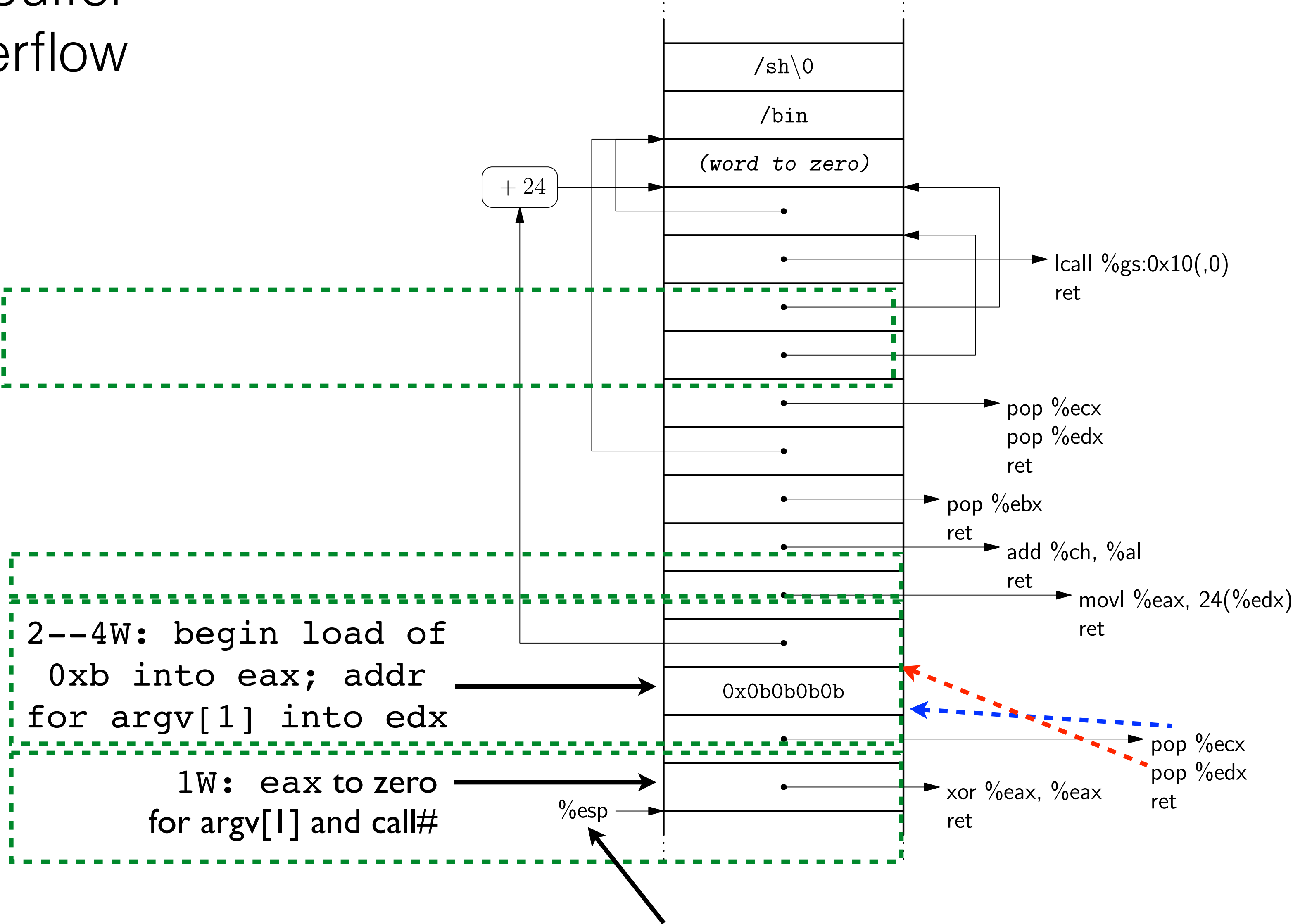
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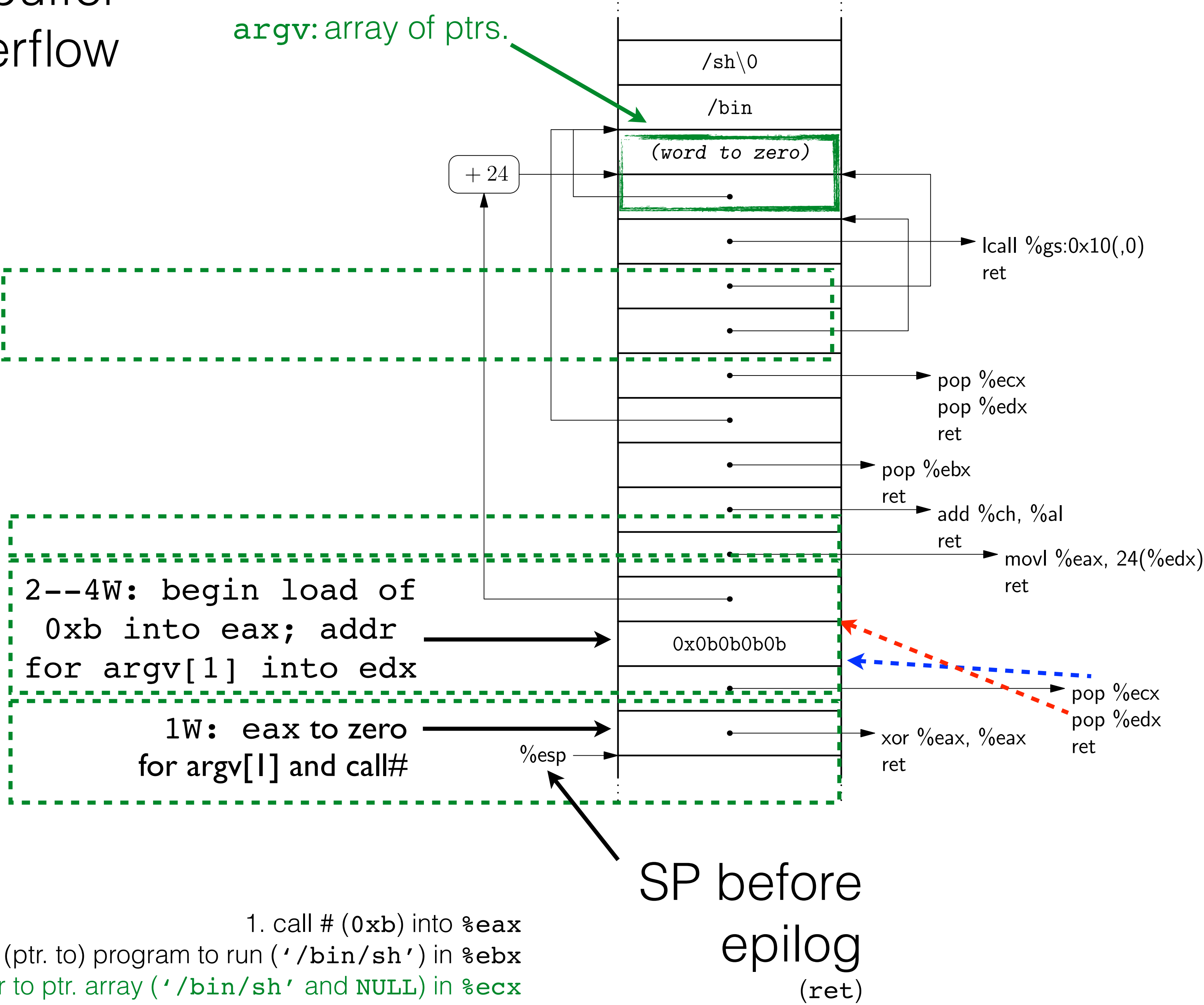


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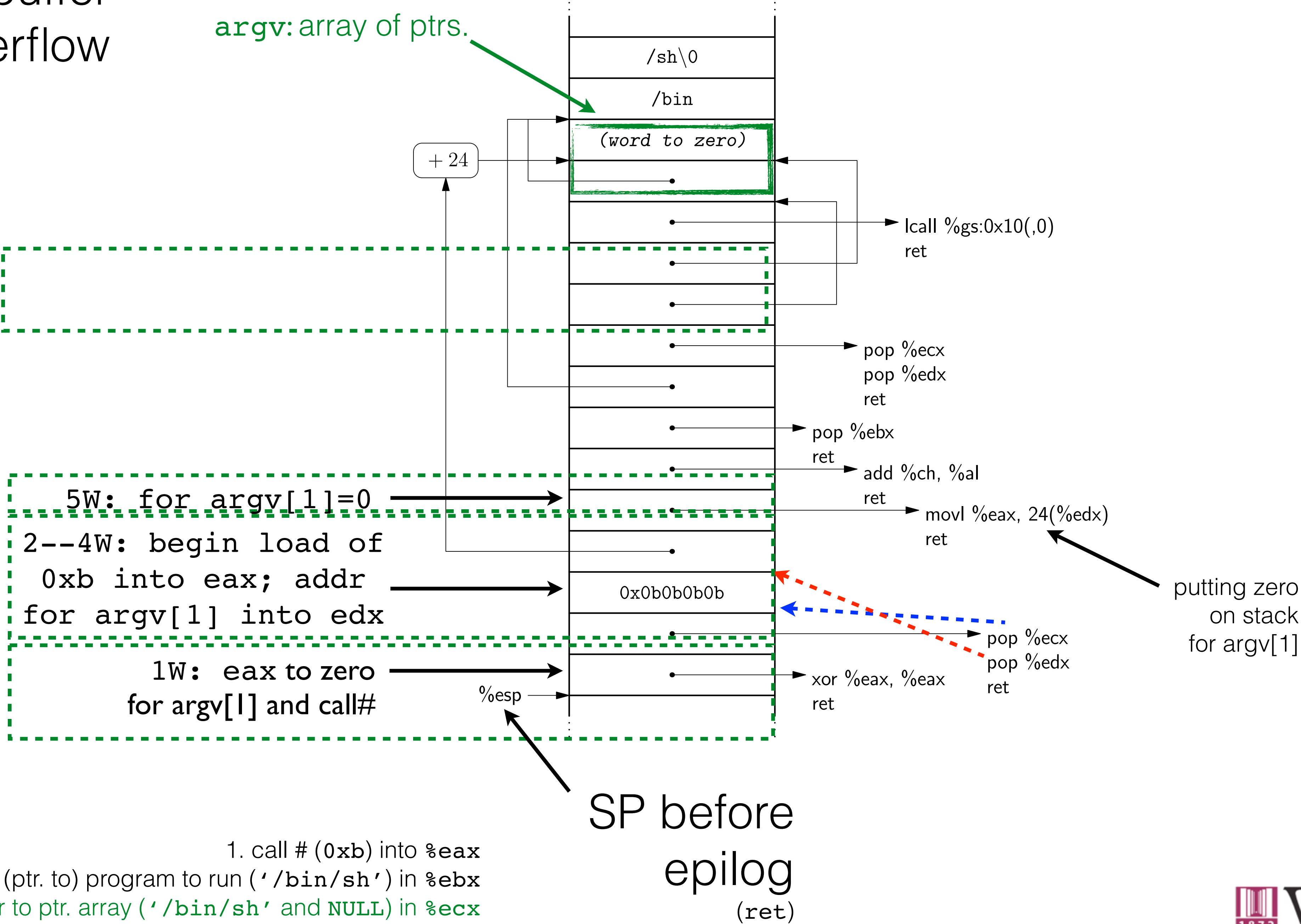


stack via buffer overflow

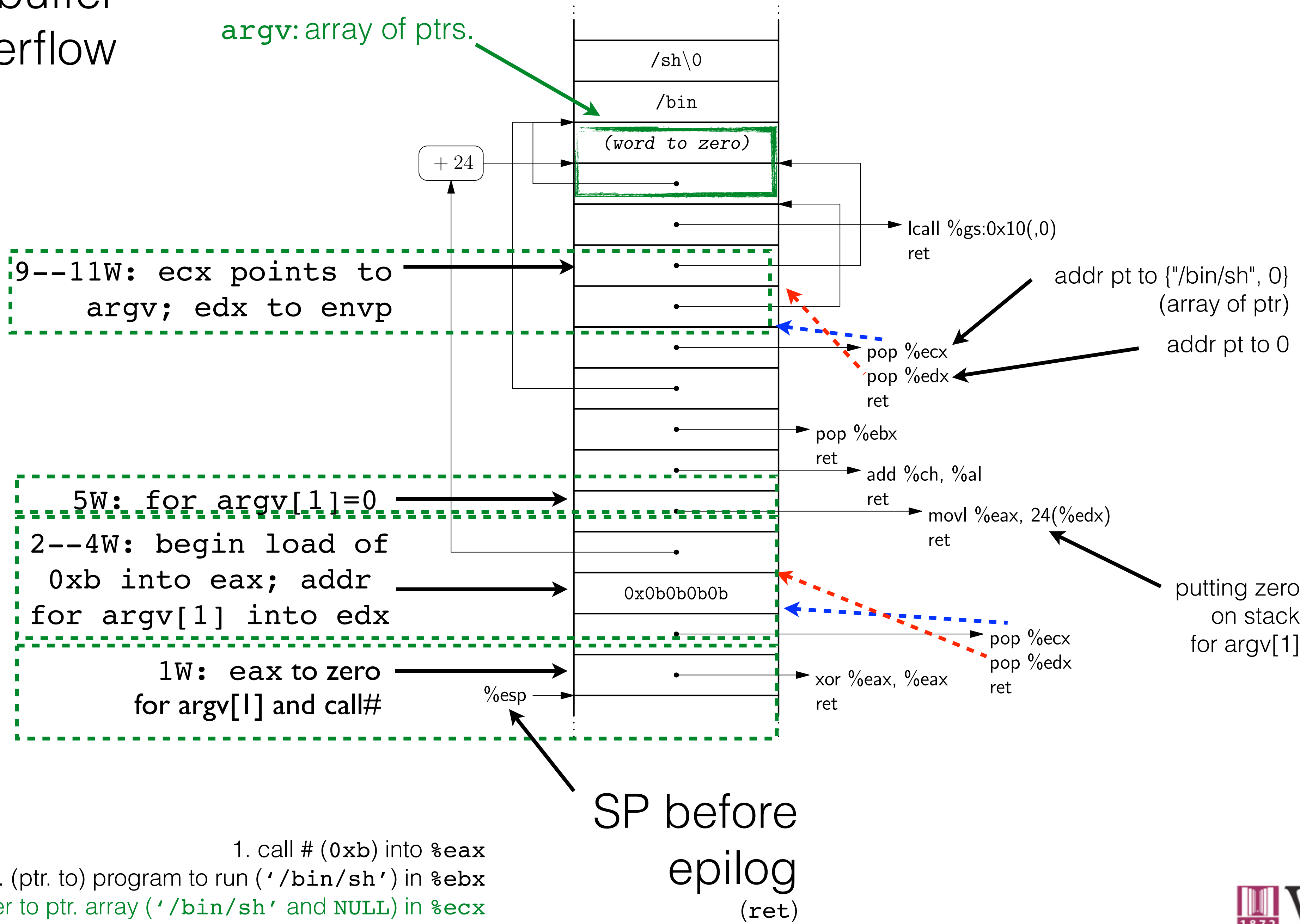




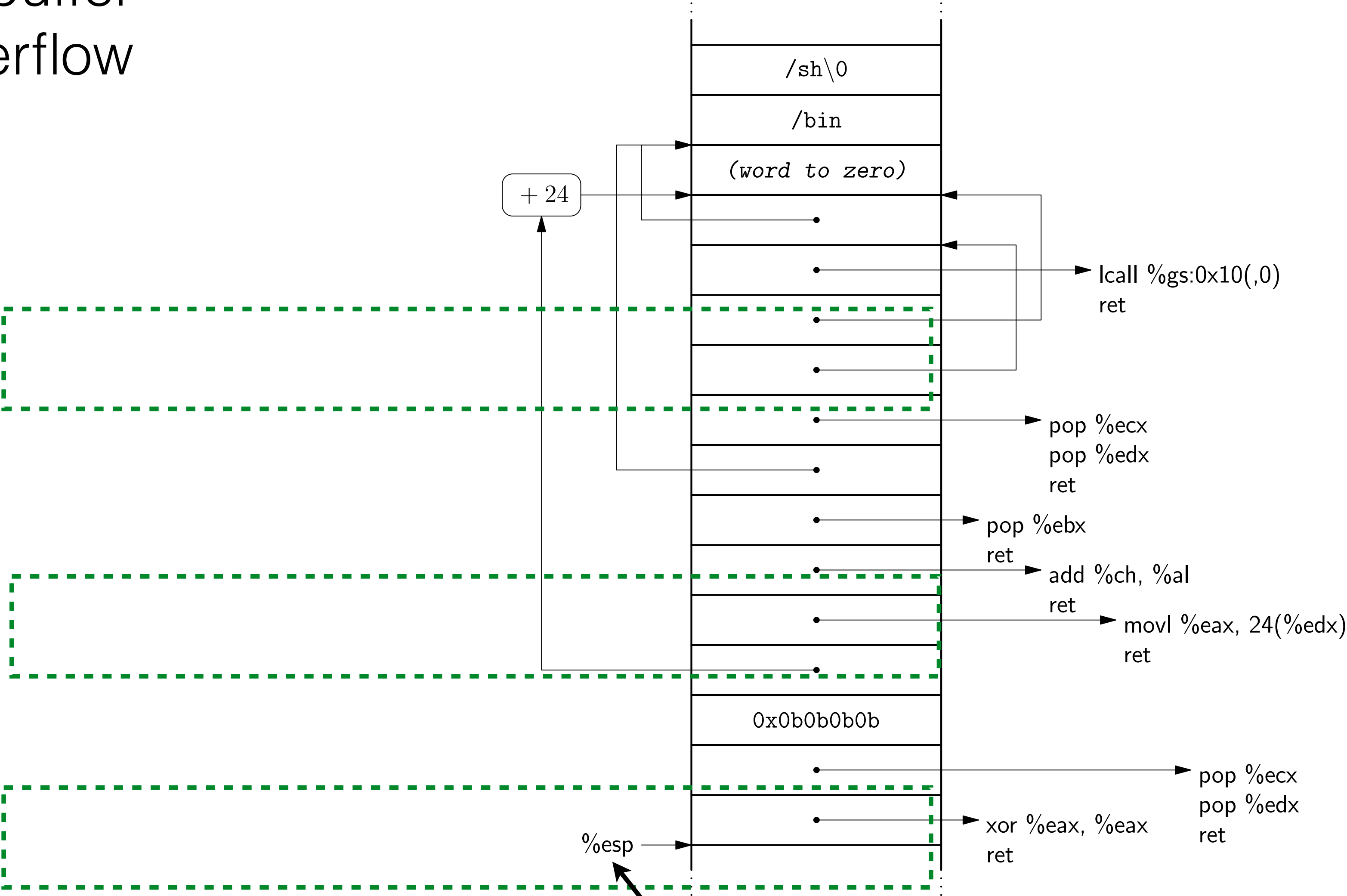
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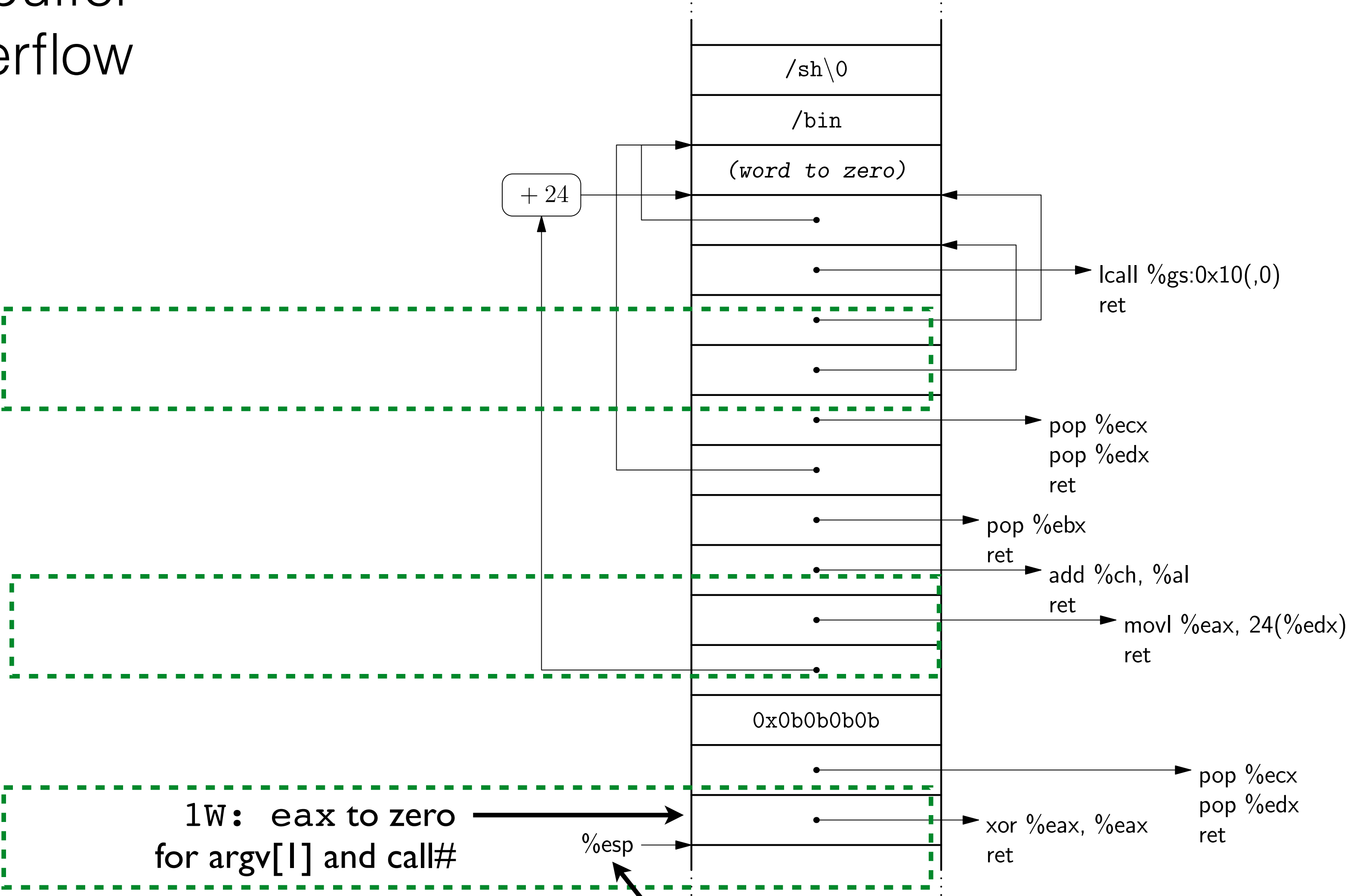
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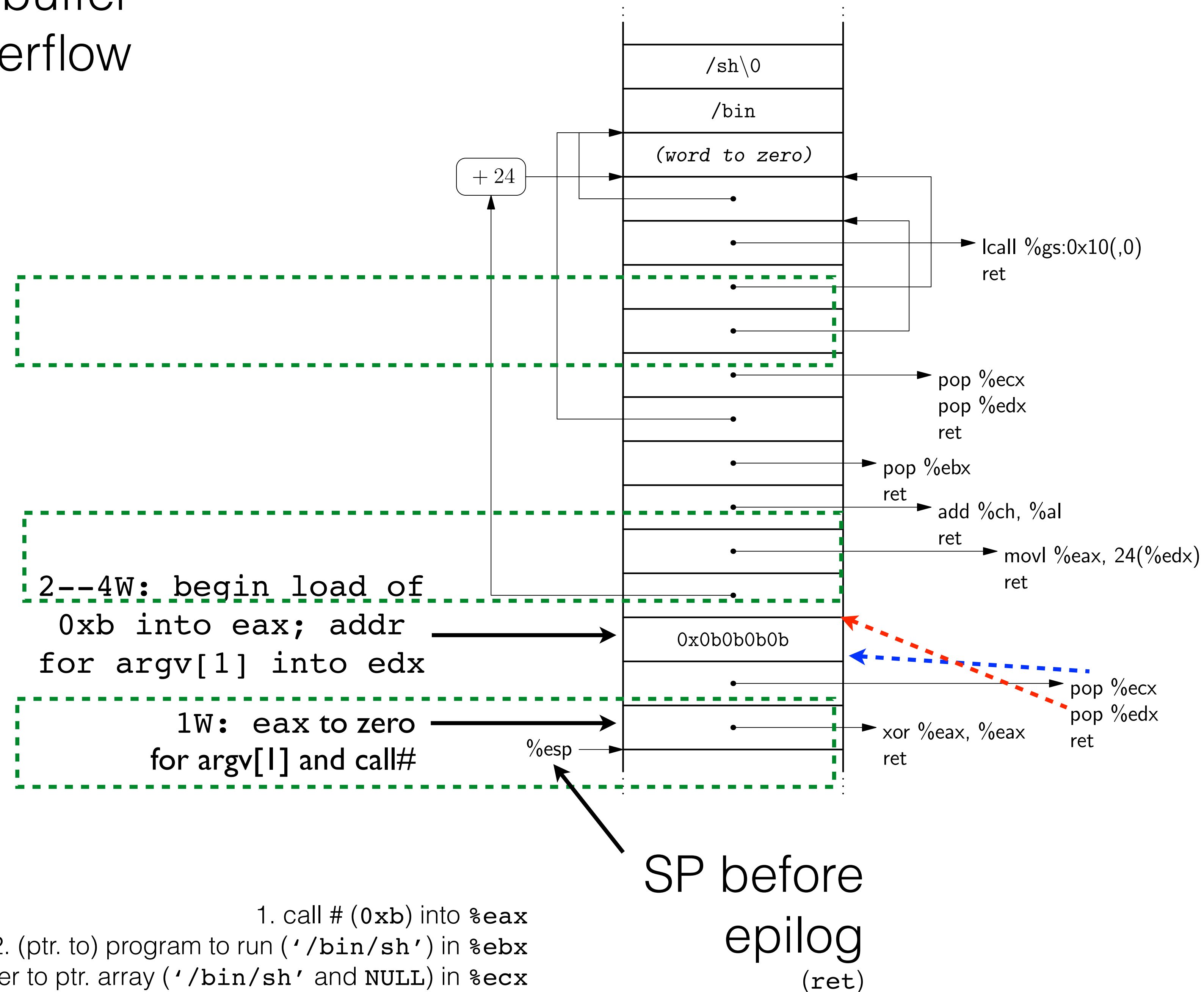
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2. (ptr. to) program to run (' /bin/sh' ) in `%ebx`
3. set argv: pointer to ptr. array (' /bin/sh' and NULL) in `%ecx`
4. envp: pointer to NULL in `%edx`

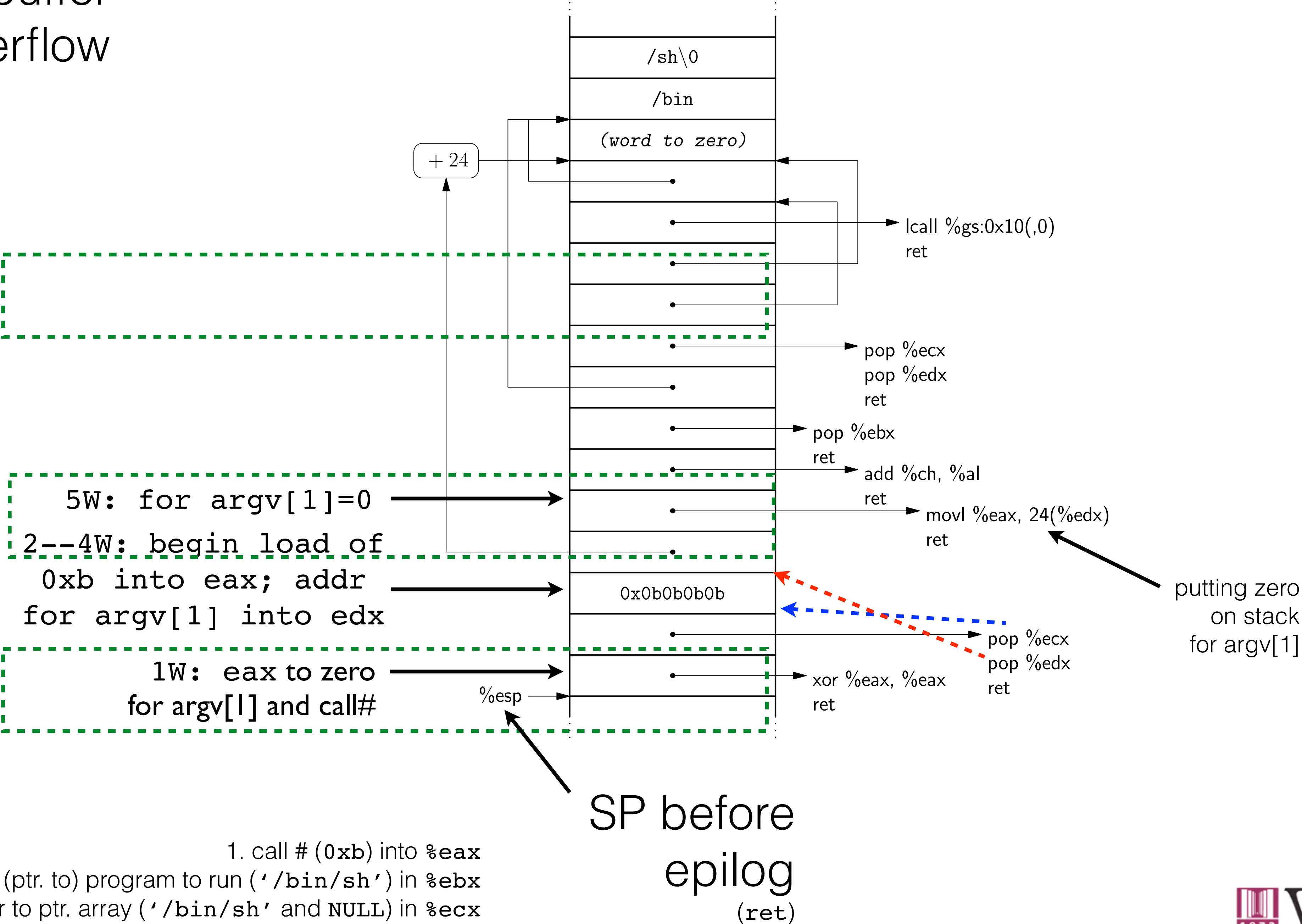
# stack via buffer overflow



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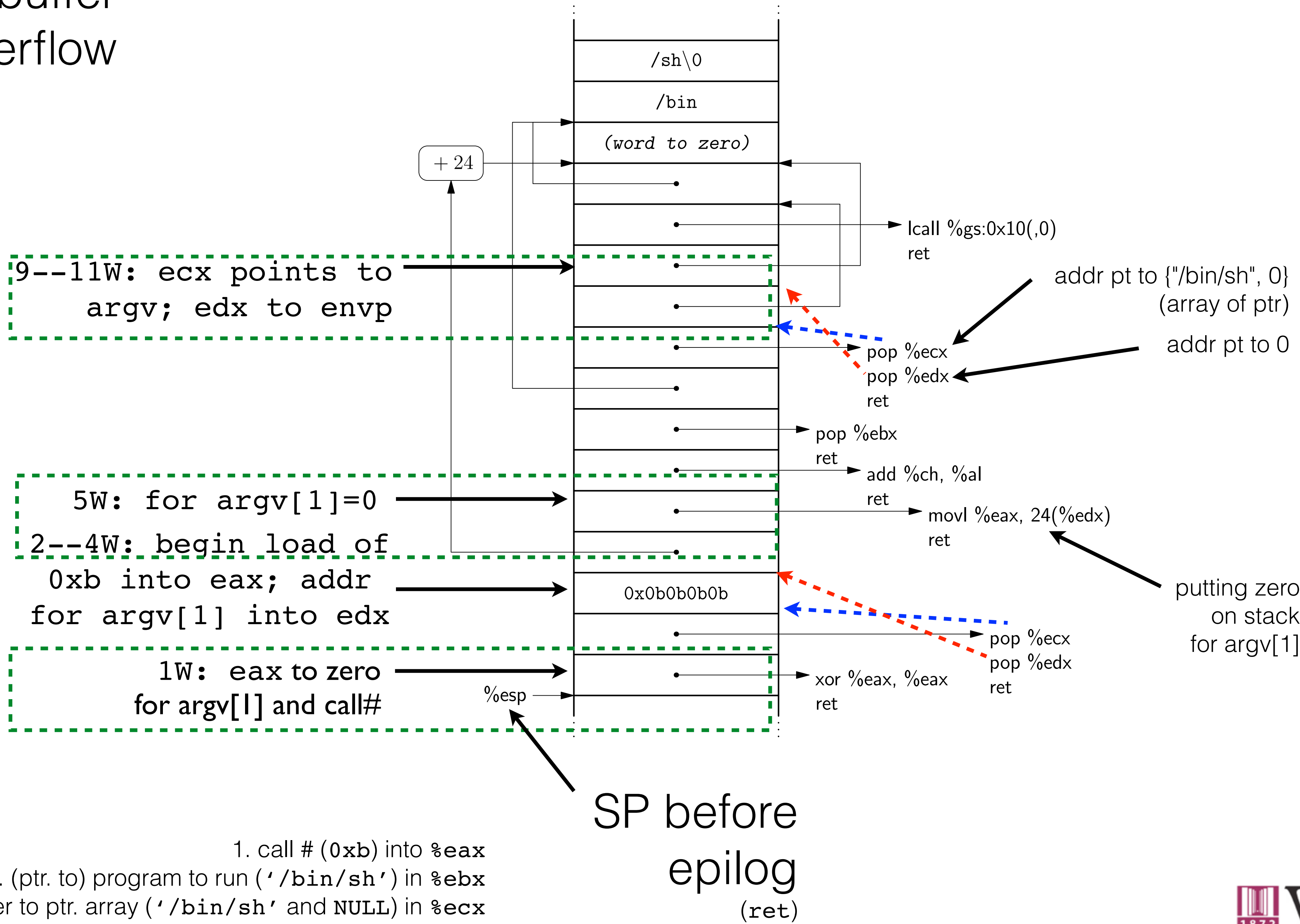


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stack protection methods:

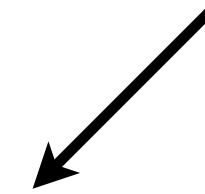
1. make the overflow difficult to exploit
2. make overflow noticeable
3. make it impossible



stack protection methods:

1. make the overflow difficult to exploit
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1. address space layout randomization
2. NX, W<sup>X</sup>



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1. shadow stack  
2. StackGuard

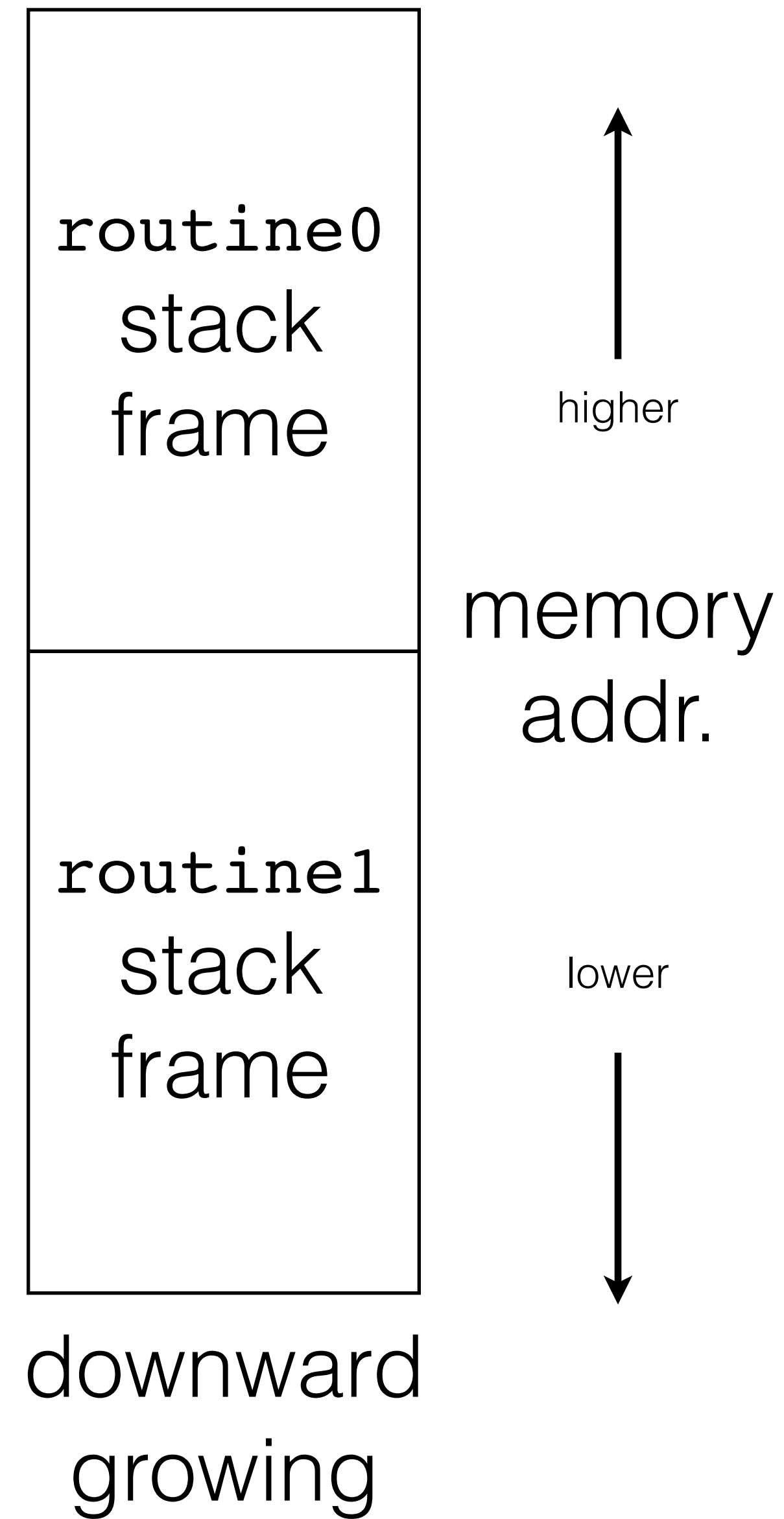
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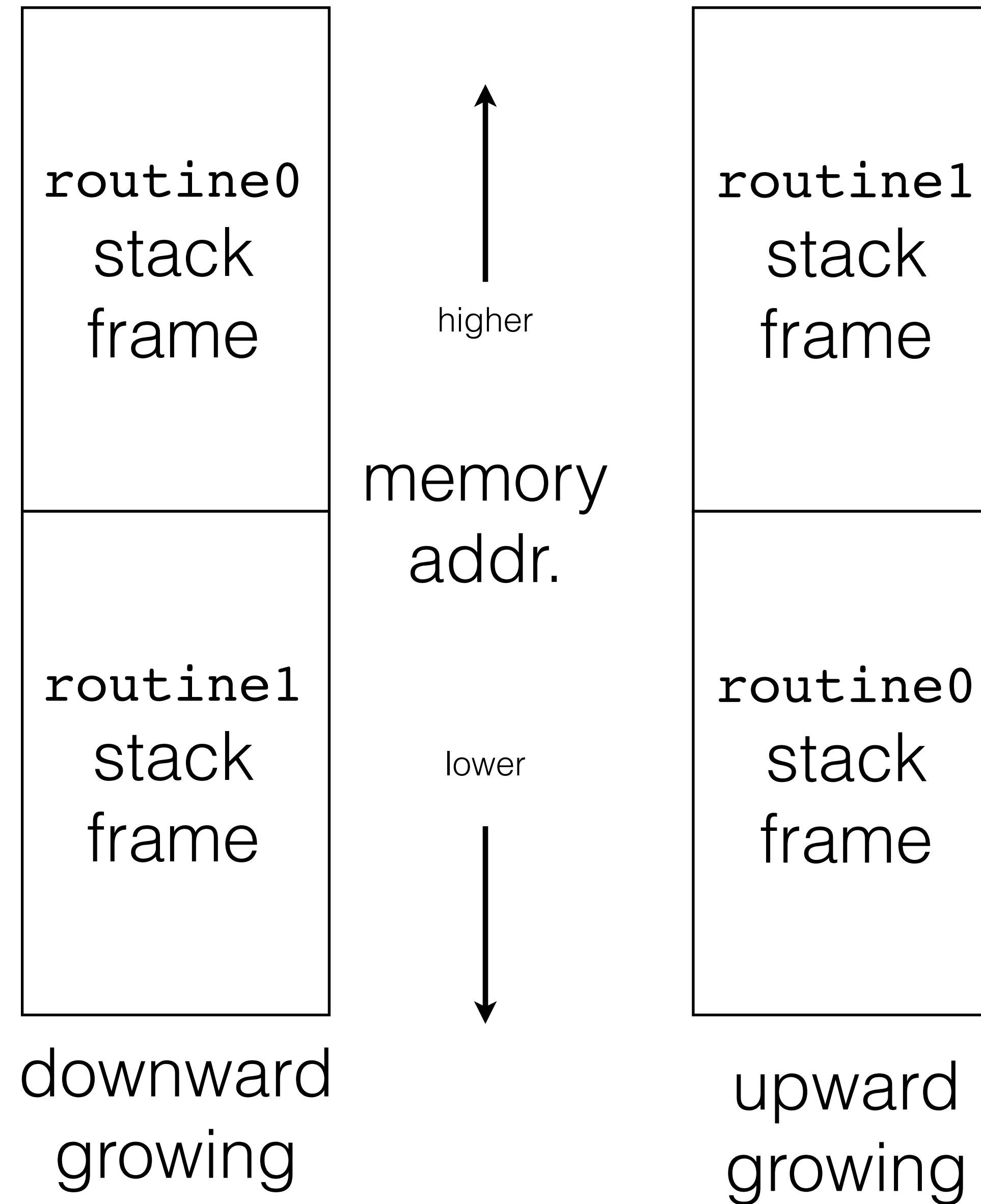
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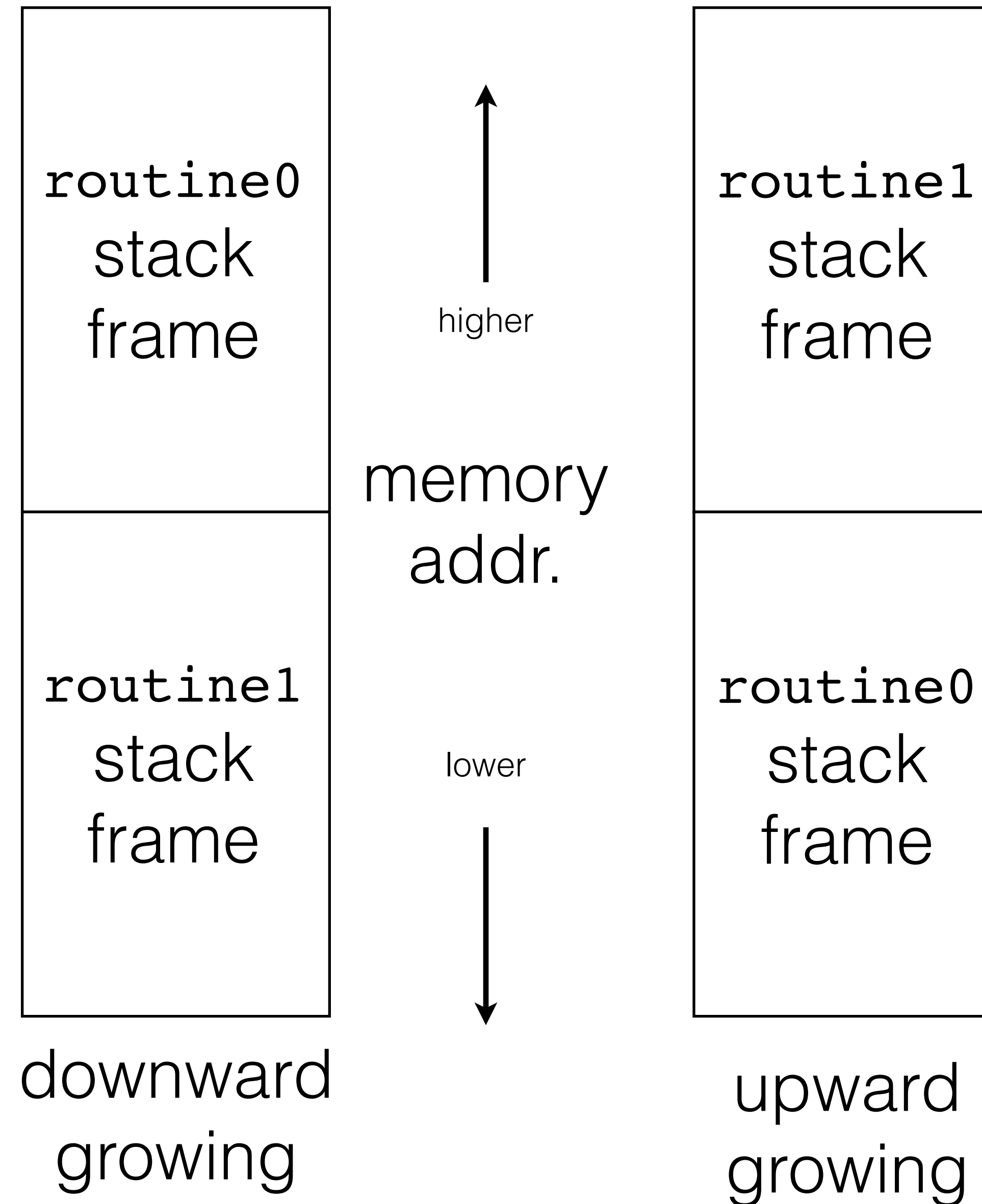
1. shadow stack  
2. StackGuard

1. separate control and data  
stack (SCADS)





Q: would an upward  
growing stack prevent  
exploit of buffer overflow?



# upward growing stack buffer overflow

```
void function(char *str) {  
    char buffer[16];  
  
    strcpy(buffer, str);  
}  
  
void main() {  
    char large_string[256];  
    int i;  
  
    for( i = 0; i < 255; i++)  
        large_string[i] = 'A';  
  
    function(large_string);  
}
```

# upward growing stack buffer overflow

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```

[ buffer ]  
[ sfp ]  
[ ret ]  
[ arg1 ]

points to str



# upward growing stack buffer overflow

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    for( i = 0; i < 255; i++)  
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```
    function(large_string);  
}
```

strcpy

[ ??? ]

[ sfp ]

[ ret ]

[ arg1 ]

[ arg2 ]

points to buffer

points to str

[ buffer ]

[ sfp ]

[ ret ]

[ arg1 ]

points to str

# upward growing stack buffer overflow

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**strcpy**

[ ??? ]

[ sfp ]

[ ret ]

[ arg1 ]

[ arg2 ]

[ buffer ]

[ sfp ]

[ ret ]

[ arg1 ]

points to buffer

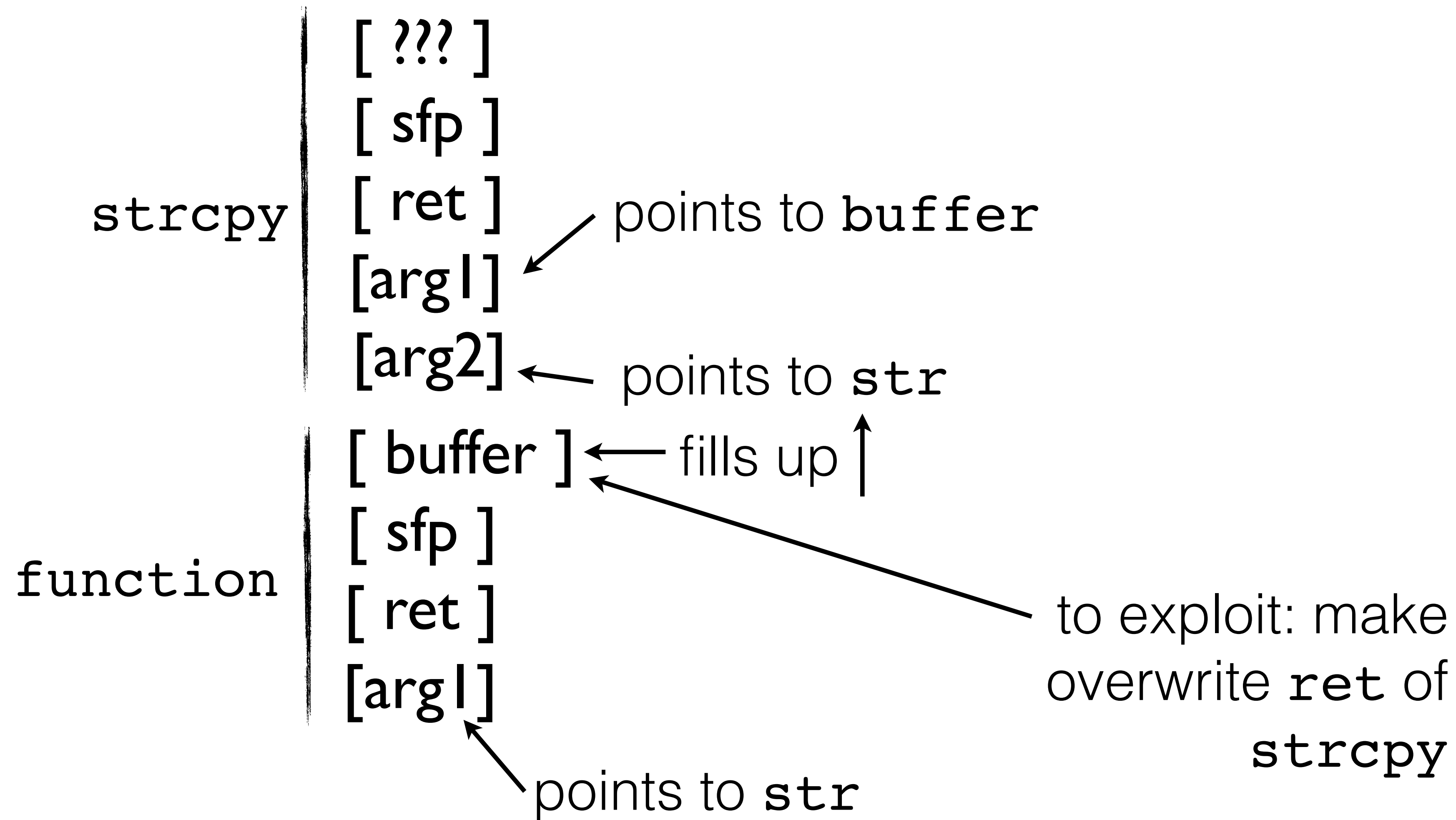
points to str

fills up ↑

points to str



# upward growing stack buffer overflow



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void function(char *str) {  
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}
```

# Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)



motivation: attacker must know  
address of libraries/instructions to  
return to

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PIE	Main Executable	Heap	Stack	Shared Libraries	Linker
No	Fixed	Randomized per execution	Fixed	Randomized per device boot	Fixed
Yes	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per device boot	Randomized per execution



# Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)



motivation: attacker must know  
address of libraries/instructions to  
return to

address of X,  randomised

PIE	Main Executable	Heap	Stack	Shared Libraries	Linker
No	Fixed	Randomized per execution	Fixed	Randomized per device boot	Fixed
Yes	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per device boot	Randomized per execution

# Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)

motivation: attacker must know  
address of libraries/instructions to  
return to

position  
independent  
executable/code

address of X,  
randomised

PIE	Main Executable	Heap	Stack	Shared Libraries	Linker
No	Fixed	Randomized per execution	Fixed	Randomized per device boot	Fixed
Yes	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per execution	Randomized per device boot	Randomized per execution

shadow stack



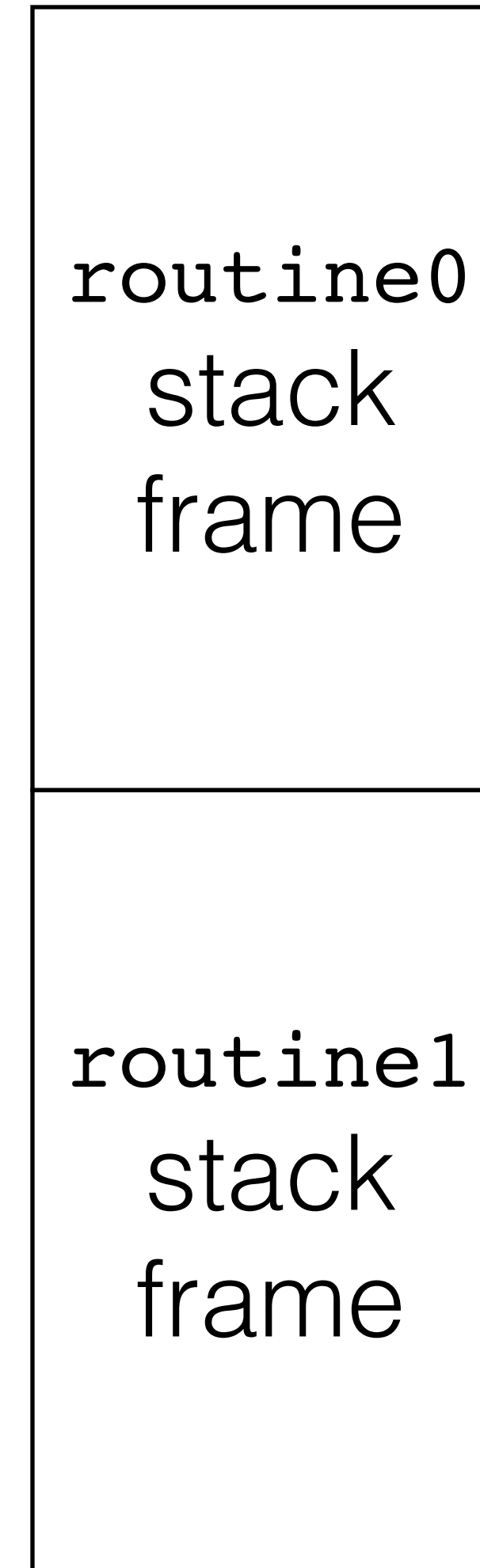
working stack  
(overflow occurs here)



# shadow stack



shadow stack  
(no process access)

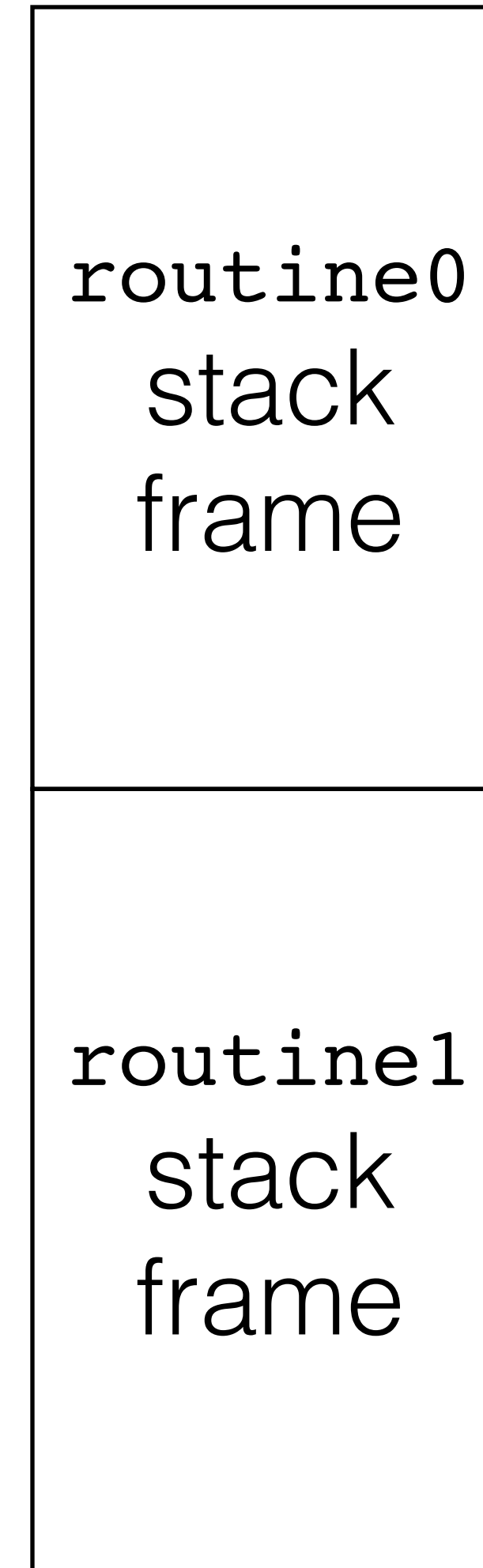


working stack  
(overflow occurs here)

shadow stack



shadow stack  
(no process access)



working stack  
(overflow occurs here)

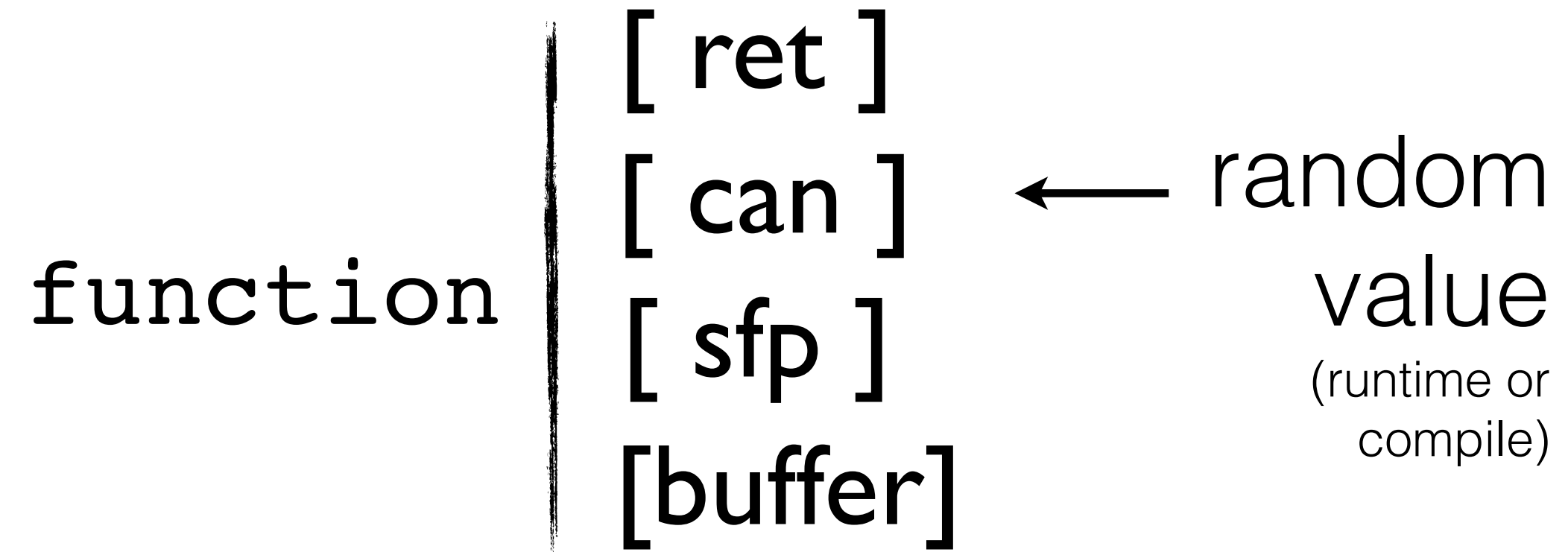
upon `ret` check if  
return addresses  
match



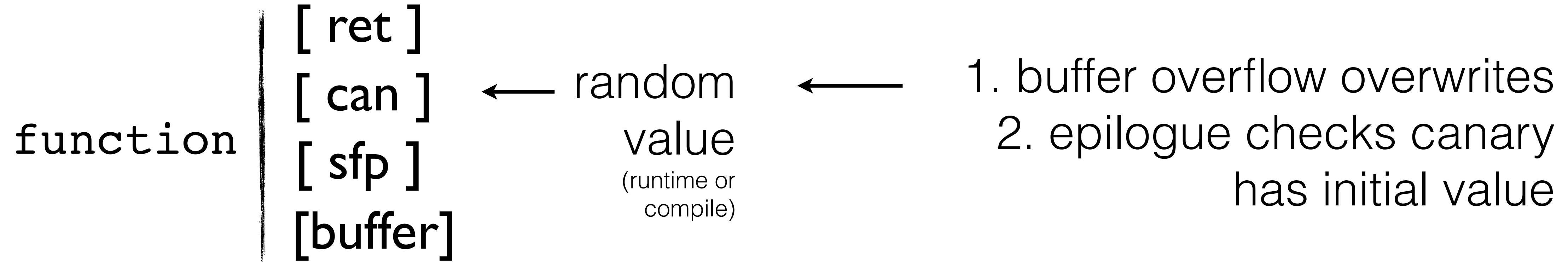
# StackGuard (canary)

function	[ ret ]
	[ can ]
	[ sfp ]
	[buffer]

# StackGuard (canary)

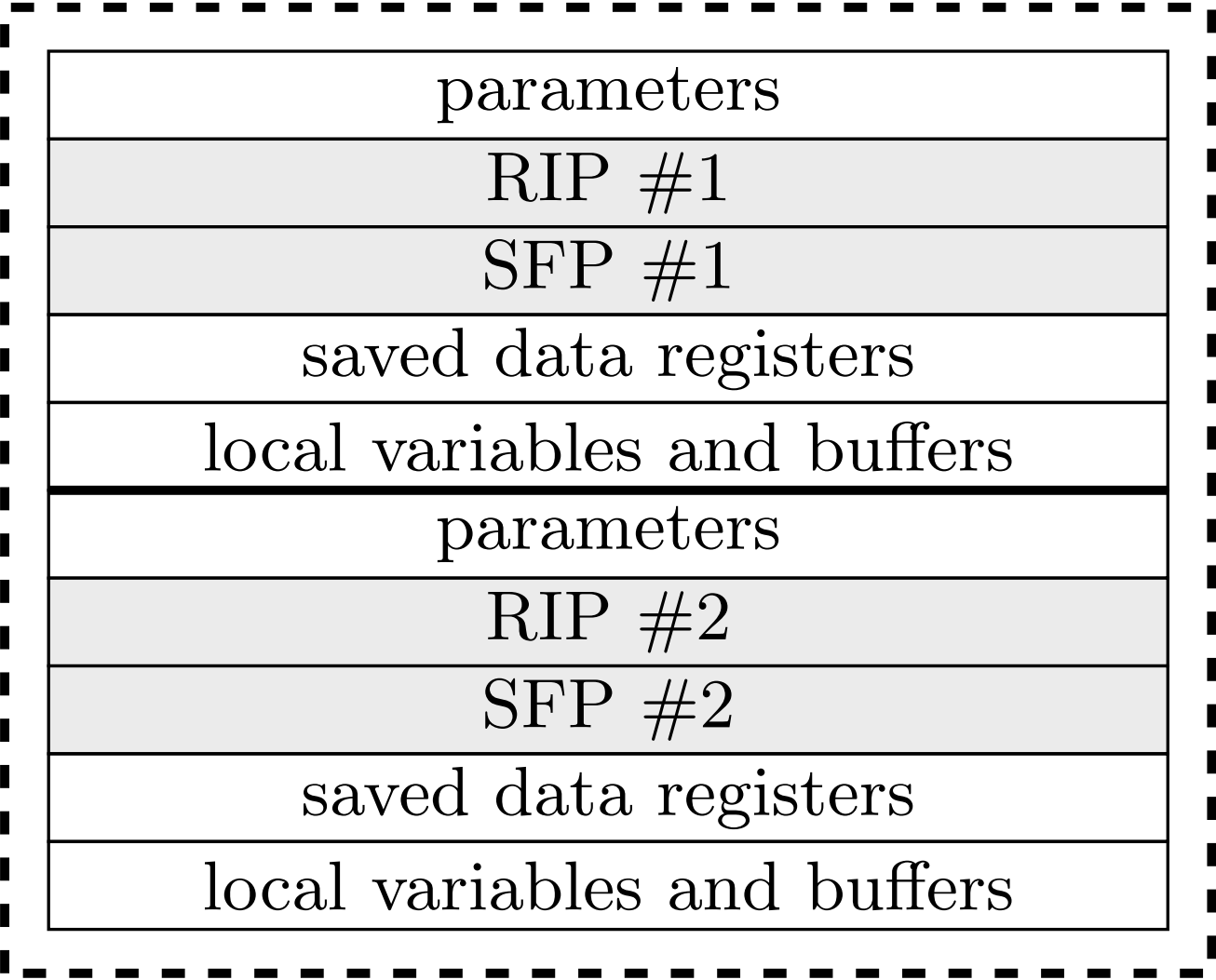


# StackGuard (canary)



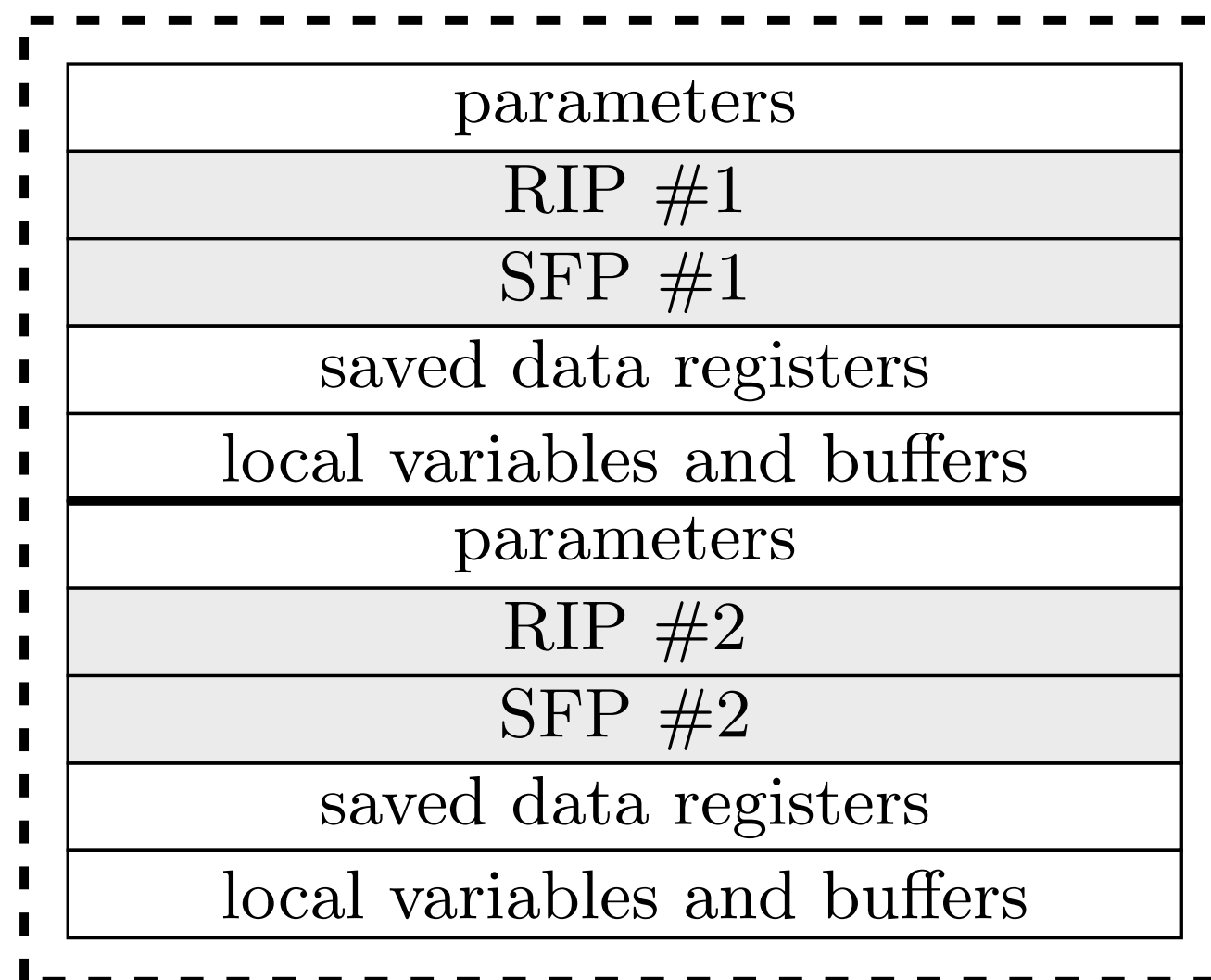
# SCADS

# SCADS

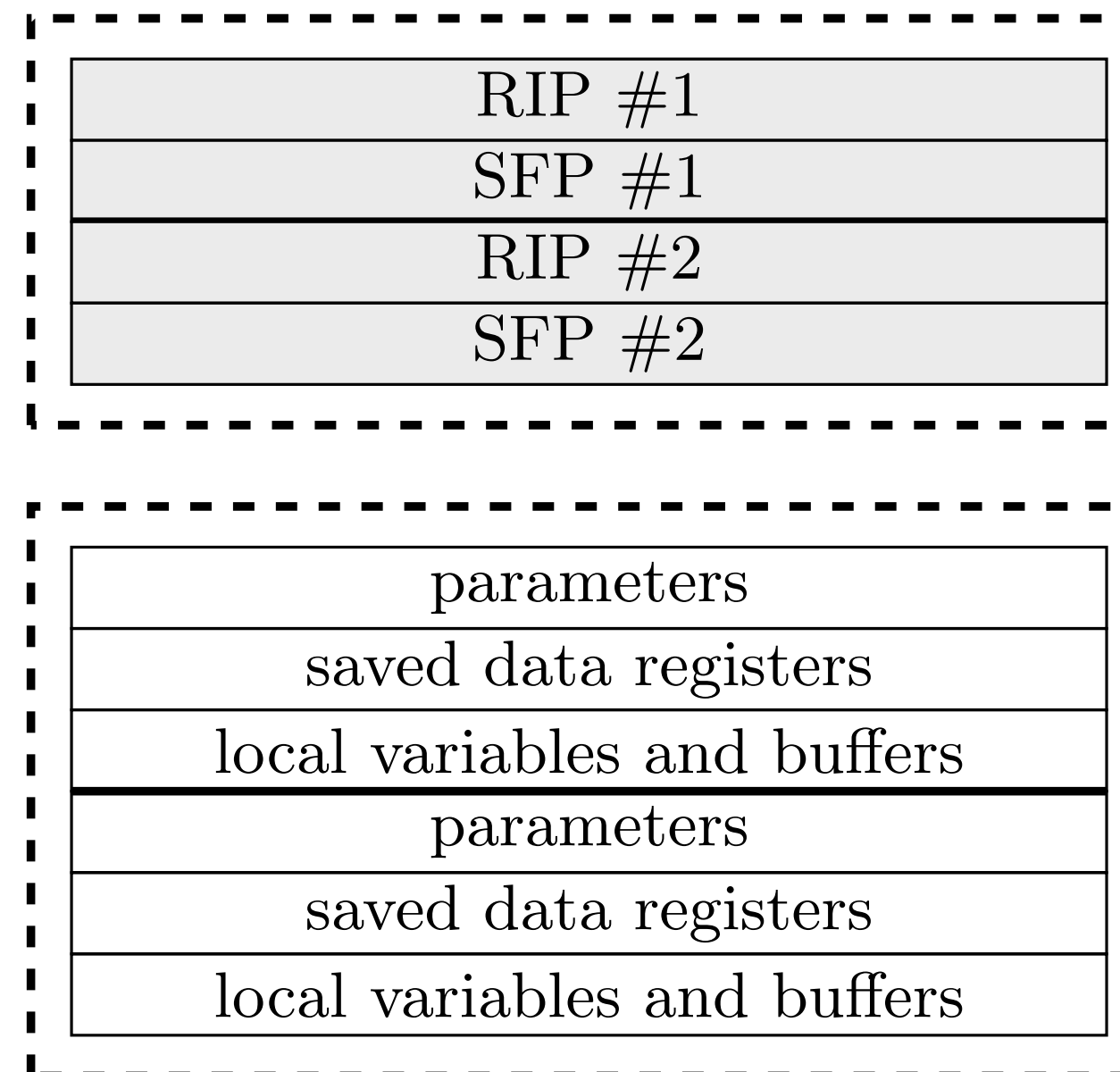


(a) Single call stack.

# SCADS



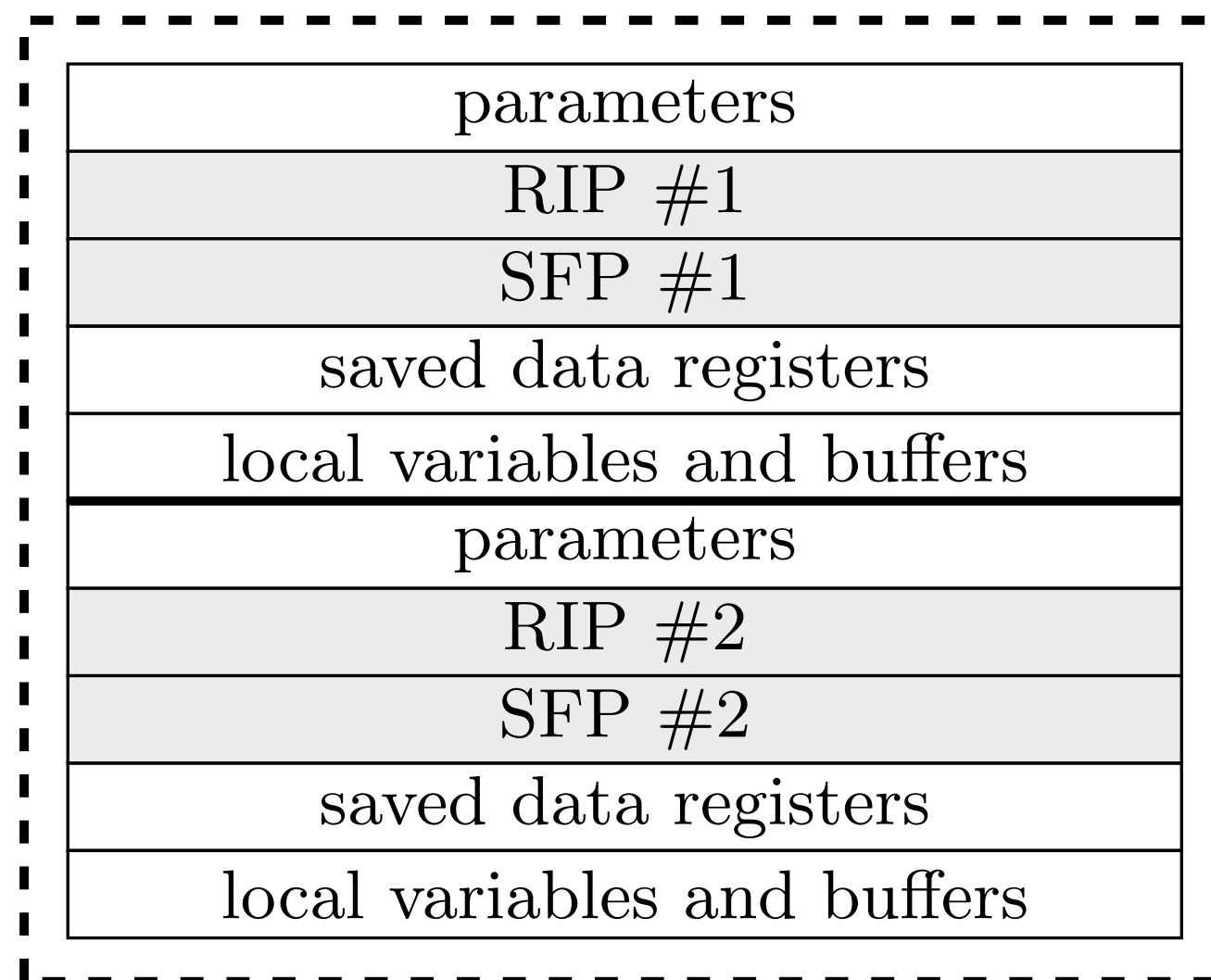
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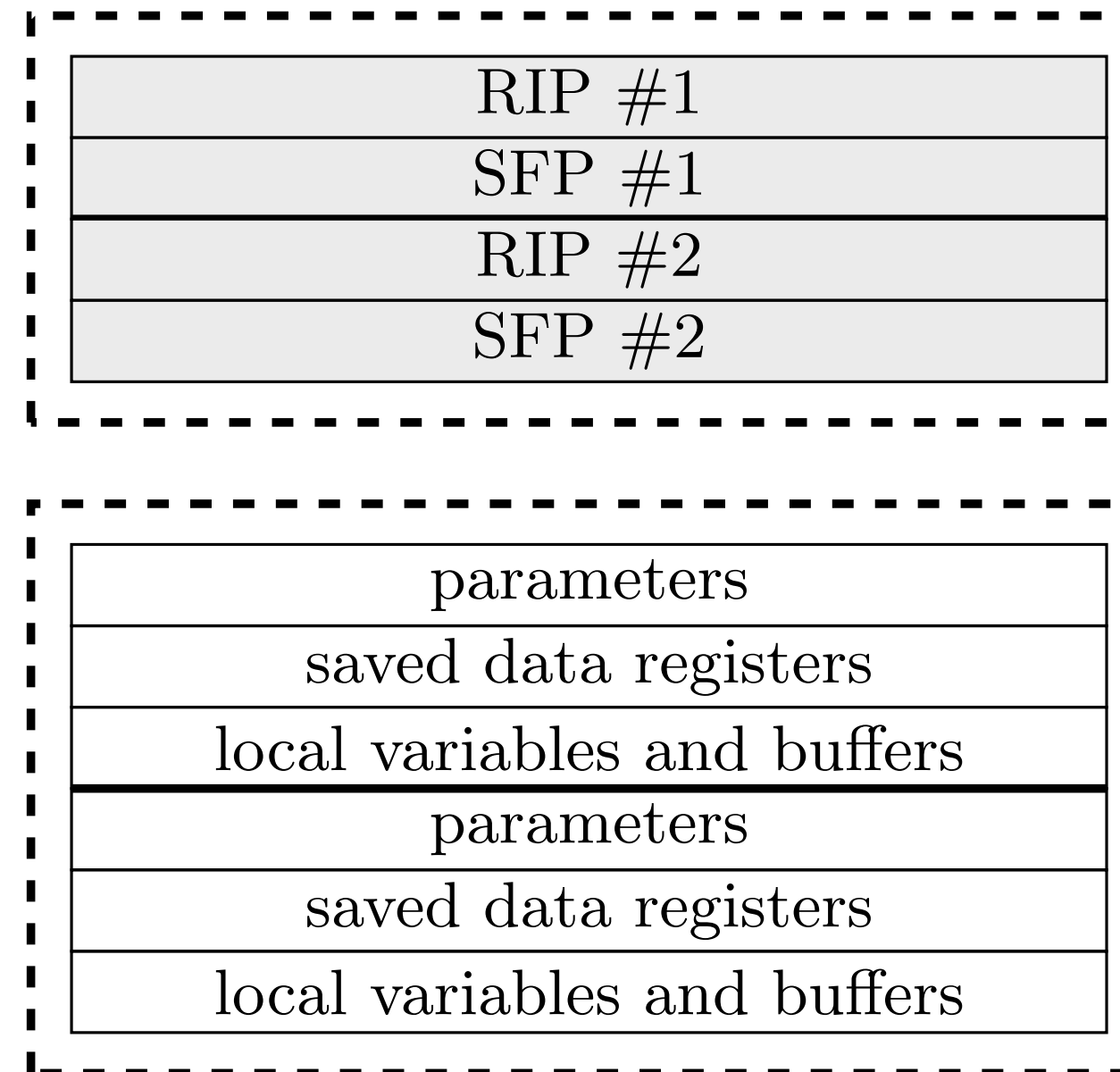
(b) Separated CS and DS.



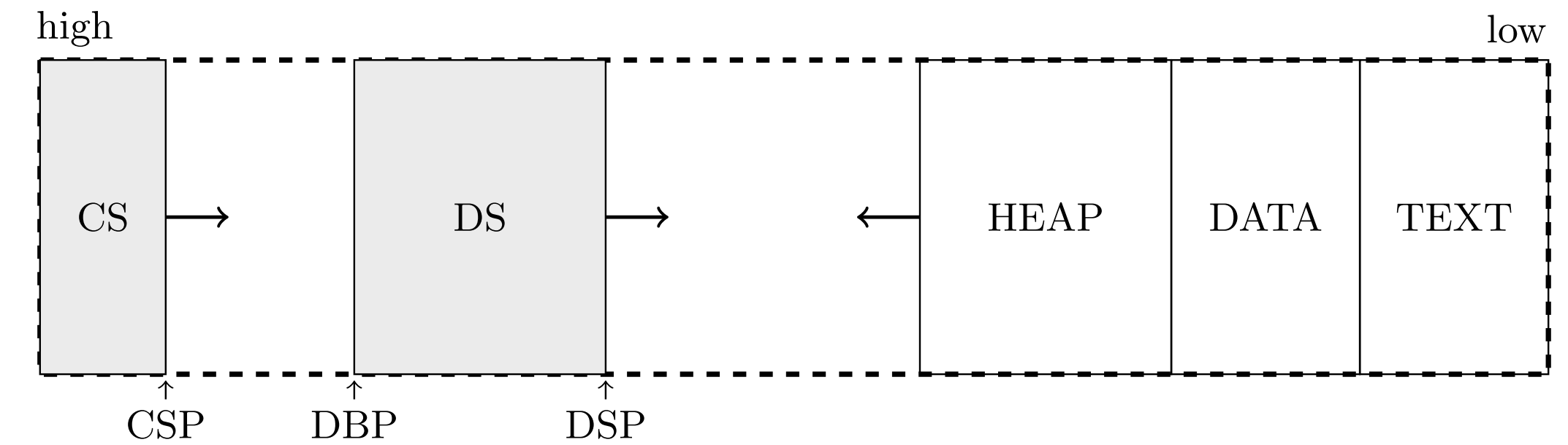
# SCADS



(a) Single call stack.



(b) Separated CS and DS.



**Fig. 2.** Virtual address space layout of a user mode process compiled with SCADS.