

# Introduction to 8086 Assembly

## Lecture 10

Passing Arguments, Calling Conventions, Local Variables



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$



# Passing parameters

## 1. Use registers



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

powfunc.c

```
int pow(int m, int n) {  
    int p = 1;  
    while (n > 0) {  
        p *= m;  
        n--;  
    }  
  
    return p;  
}
```



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {          powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
mov ebx, 3           powfunc1.asm
mov eax, 4
call pow

call print_int
call print_nl

::

pow:
    mov ecx, eax
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul ebx

loop loop1

ret
```



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

mov ebx, 3

mov eax, 4

call pow

call print\_int

call print\_nl

:

pow:

mov ecx, eax

mov eax, 1

loop1:

imul ebx

loop loop1

ret

powfunc1.asm

return value in eax

return value in eax



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
mov ebx, 3
mov eax, 4
call pow
call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:
    mov ecx, eax
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul ebx
    loop loop1
ret
```

powfunc1.asm



return value in eax

what registers  
get changed?



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
mov ebx, 3
mov eax, 4
call pow
call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:
    mov ecx, eax
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul ebx
loop loop1
ret
```

powfunc1.asm

return value in eax

what registers  
get changed?

EAX, ECX, EDX



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
mov ebx, 3
mov eax, 4
call pow
call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:
    mov ecx, eax
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul ebx
loop loop1
ret
```

powfunc1.asm

return value in eax

what registers  
get changed?

EAX, ECX, EDX



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {          powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

mov ebx, 3  
mov eax, 4

powfunc2.asm

call pow

call print\_int  
call print\_nl  
:

pow:

push ecx  
push edx

mov ecx, eax  
mov eax, 1

loop1:

imul ebx  
loop loop1

pop edx  
pop ecx

ret



# Passing parameters

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

mov ebx, 3  
mov eax, 4

powfunc2.asm

call pow

call print\_int

call print\_nl  
:

pow:

push ecx

push edx

mov ecx, eax

mov eax, 1

loop1:

imul ebx

loop loop1

pop edx

pop ecx

ret

Is this really  
necessary?



# passing parameters

1. User registers
2. Use Stack



# Passing parameters on stack

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc2.asm
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m

call  pow
add  esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
    :

pow:
    mov ecx, [esp+8]
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul dword [esp+4]

loop loop1
ret
```



# Passing parameters on stack

Write a subprogram taking  $m, n$  as arguments, returning  $m^n$

```
int caller_func() {           powfunc.c
    pow(3,4);
}

int pow(int m, int n) {
    int p = 1;
    while (n > 0) {
        p *= m;
        n--;
    }
    return p;
}
```

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc2.asm
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m
```

```
call pow
add esp, 8
```

```
call print_int
call print_nl
:
```

```
pow:
    mov ecx, [esp+8]
    mov eax, 1
loop1:
    imul dword [esp+4]
loop loop1
ret
```

accessing  
parameters via  
ESP



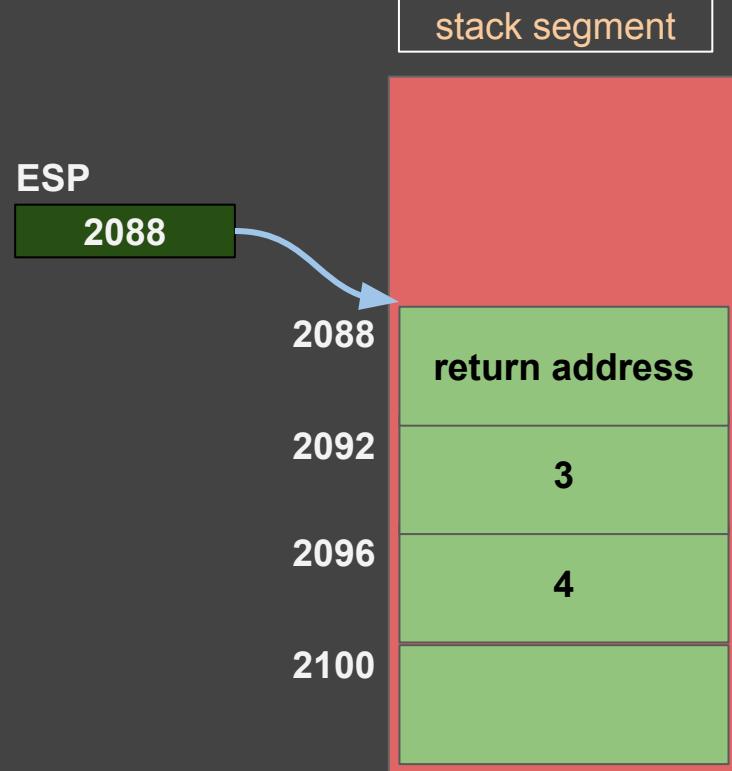
```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc3.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add  esp, 8

call print_int
call print_nl
:

pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      mov ecx, [esp+8]  ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4]  ;; eax *= m

loop loop1
ret
```





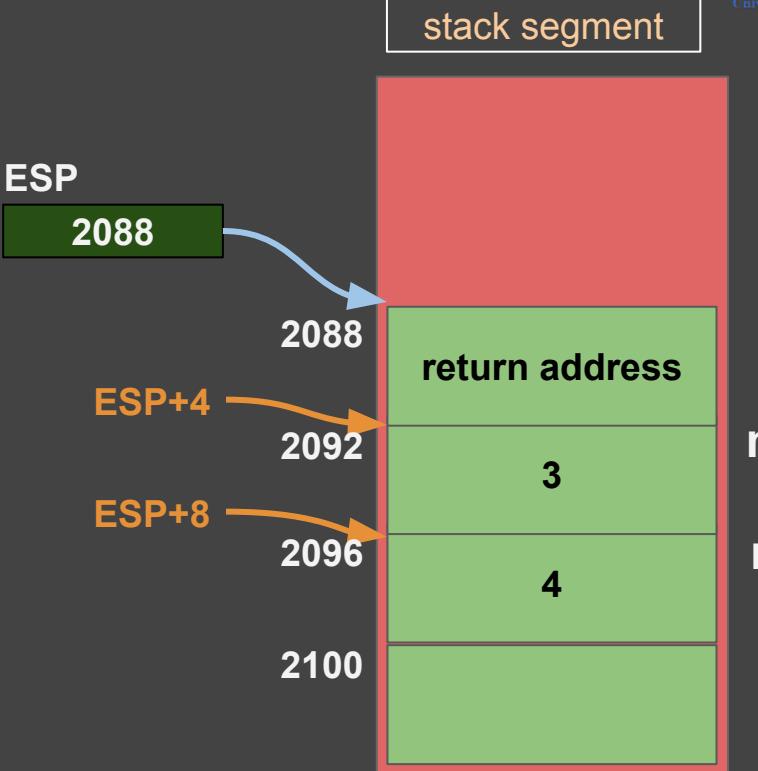
```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc3.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add  esp, 8

call print_int
call print_nl
:

pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      mov ecx, [esp+8]  ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4]  ;; eax *= m

loop loop1
ret
```





```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc3.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add  esp, 8

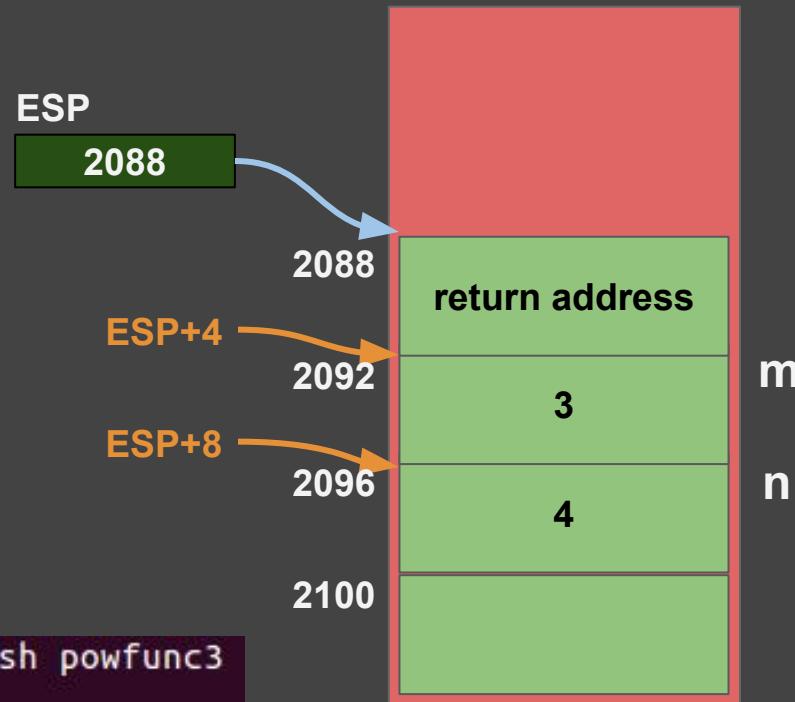
call print_int
call print_nl
:

pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      mov ecx, [esp+8]  ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4]  ;; eax *= m

loop loop1
ret
```

```
b.nasihatkon@kntu:lecture10$ ./run.sh powfunc3
81
```

stack segment





# Accessing parameters via ESP

;; pow(3,4)

powfunc3.asm

```
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m
```

```
call pow
```

```
add esp, 8
```

```
call print_int
```

```
call print_nl
```

```
:
```

pow: ;; pow(m,n)

```
mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
```

```
mov eax, 1
```

loop1:

```
imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
```

```
loop loop1
```

```
ret
```

;; pow(3,4)

powfunc4.asm

```
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m
```

```
call pow
```

```
add esp, 8
```

```
call print_int
```

```
call print_nl
```

```
:
```

pow: ;; pow(m,n)

```
push ecx
```

```
push edx
```

```
mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
```

```
mov eax, 1
```

loop1:

```
imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
```

```
loop loop1
```

```
pop edx
```

```
pop ecx
```

```
ret
```



# Accessing parameters via ESP

;; pow(3,4)

powfunc3.asm

```
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m
```

```
call pow
```

```
add esp, 8
```

```
call print_int
```

```
call print_nl
```

```
:
```

pow: ;; pow(m,n)

```
mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
```

```
mov eax, 1
```

loop1:

```
imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
```

```
loop loop1
```

```
ret
```

;; pow(3,4)

powfunc4.asm

```
push 4      ; push n
push 3      ; push m
```

```
call pow
```

```
add esp, 8
```

```
call print_int
```

```
call print_nl
```

```
:
```

pow: ;; pow(m,n)

```
push ecx
```

```
push edx
```

```
mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
```

```
mov eax, 1
```

loop1:

```
imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
```

```
loop loop1
```

```
pop edx
```

```
pop ecx
```

```
ret b.nasihatkon@kntu:lecture10$ ./run.sh powfunc4
```

```
0
```



# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc3.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add  esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)

    mov ecx,[esp+8]   ;; ecx = n
    mov eax,1

loop1:
    imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
loop loop1

ret
```

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc4.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add  esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
    push ecx
    push edx
    mov ecx,[esp+8]   ;; ecx = n
    mov eax,1

loop1:
    imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
loop loop1
pop edx
pop ecx
ret b.nasihatkon@kntu:lecture10$ ./run.sh powfunc4
0
```

what's wrong?



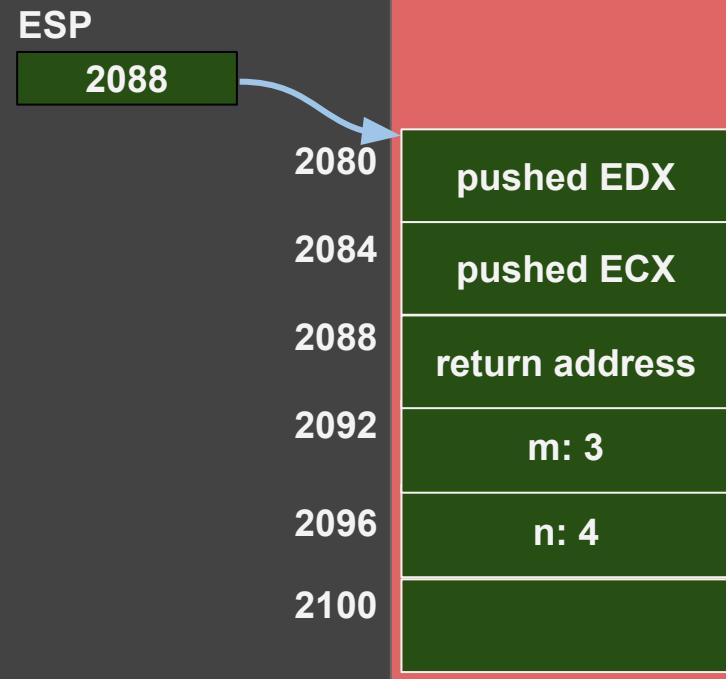
# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc4.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:   ;; pow(m,n)
      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx, [esp+8]  ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1

loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
      loop loop1
      pop edx
      pop ecx
      ret
```





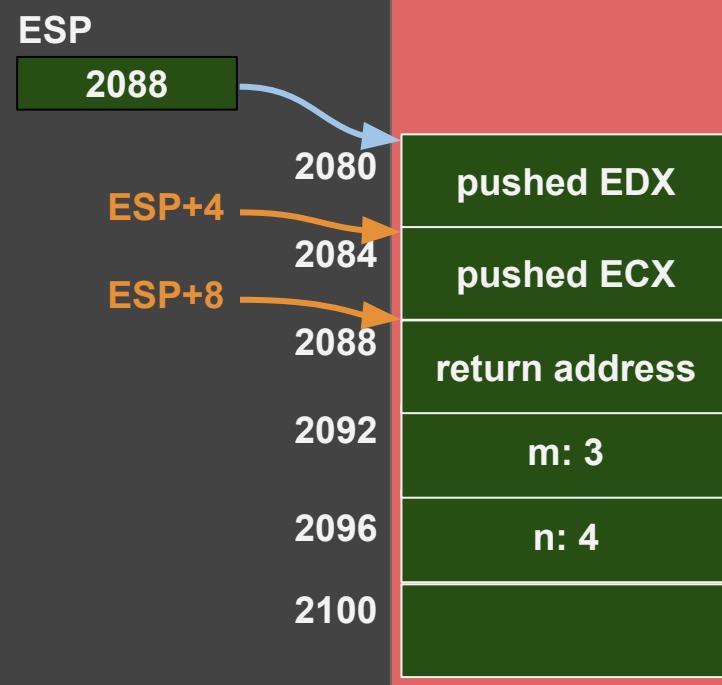
# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc4.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1

loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
      loop loop1
      pop edx
      pop ecx
      ret
```



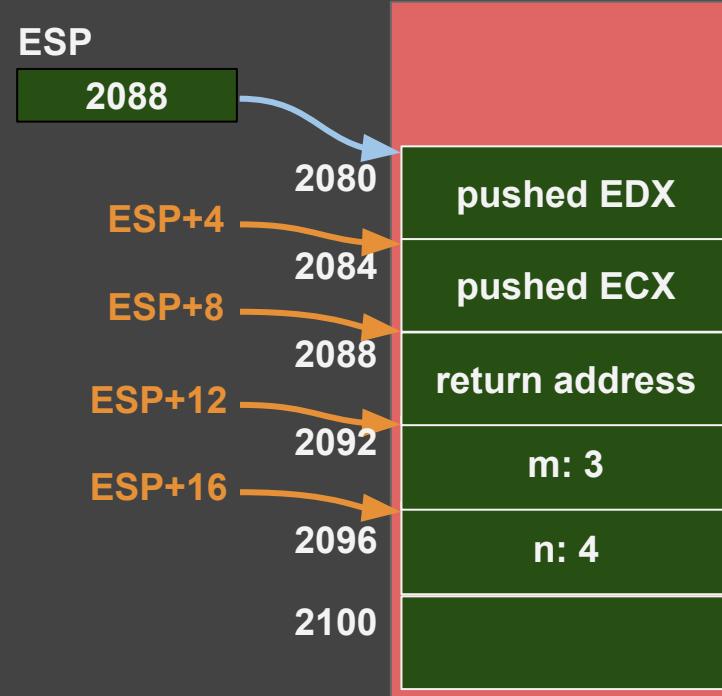


# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc4.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx, [esp+8]    ;; ecx = n
      mov eax, 1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+4] ;; eax *= m
loop loop1
      pop edx
      pop ecx
ret
```



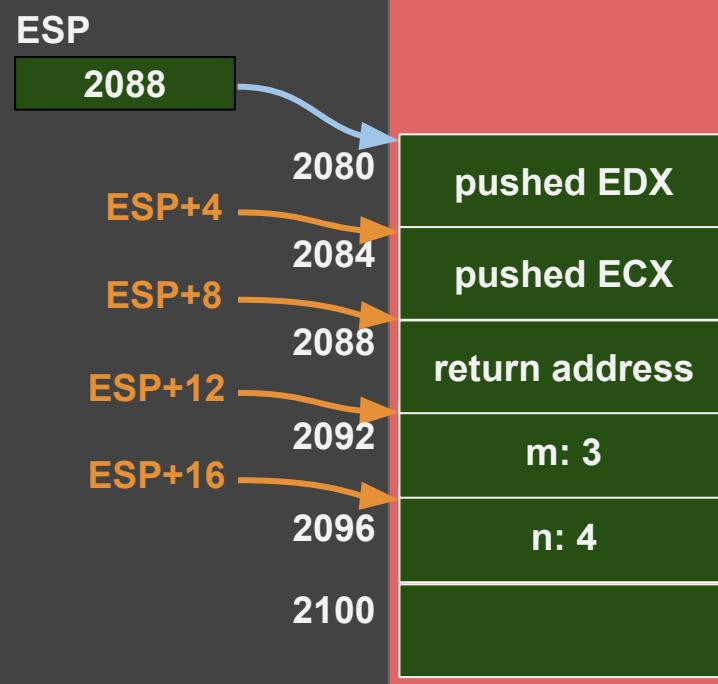


# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc6.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx,[esp+16]   ;; ecx = n
      mov eax,1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+12] ;; eax *= m
      loop loop1
      pop edx
      pop ecx
      ret
```





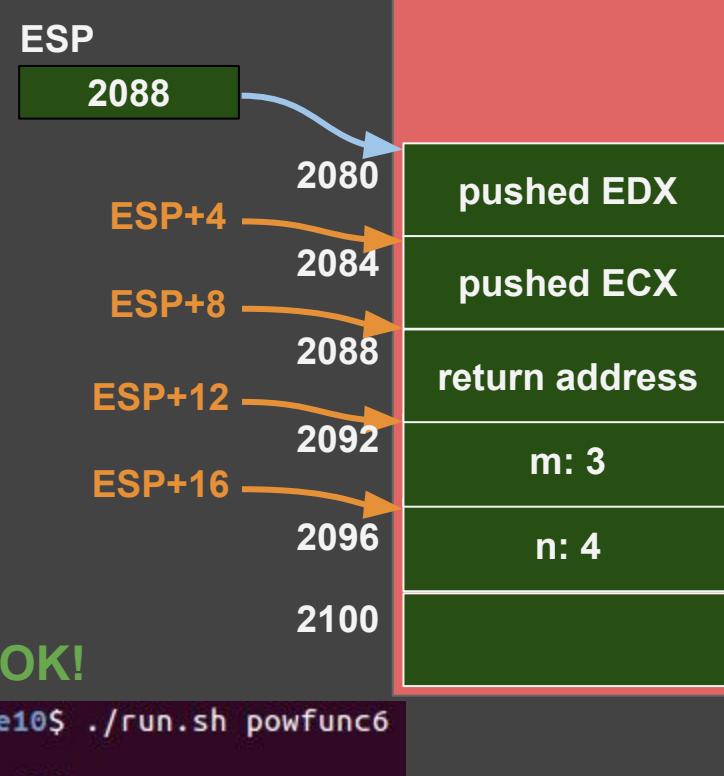
# Accessing parameters via ESP

```
;; pow(3,4)          powfunc6.asm
push 4    ; push n
push 3    ; push m

call  pow
add esp,8

call print_int
call print_nl
:
pow:  ;; pow(m,n)
      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx,[esp+16]   ;; ecx = n
      mov eax,1
loop1:
      imul dword [esp+12] ;; eax *= m
loop loop1
      pop edx
      pop ecx
      ret
```

b.nasihatkon@kntu:lecture10\$ ./run.sh powfunc6  
81





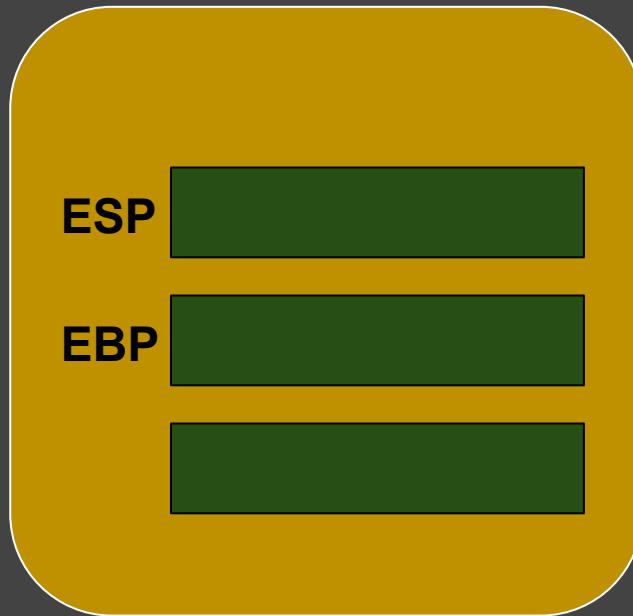
# Accessing parameters via ESP

- ESP may change several times inside a function due to stack operations
- Relative address of a parameter w.r.t. ESP is not constant



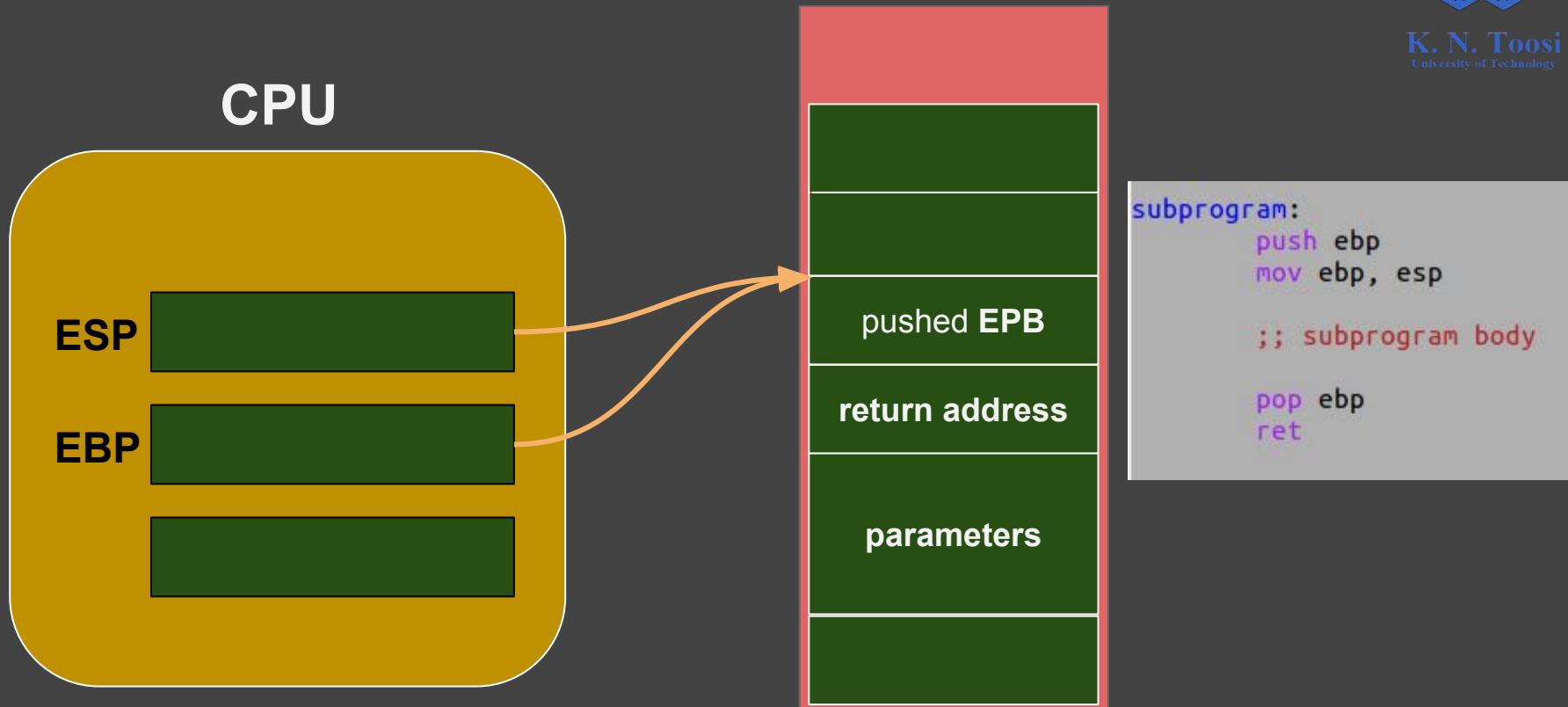
# the Base Pointer Register: EBP

x86 32-bit CPU



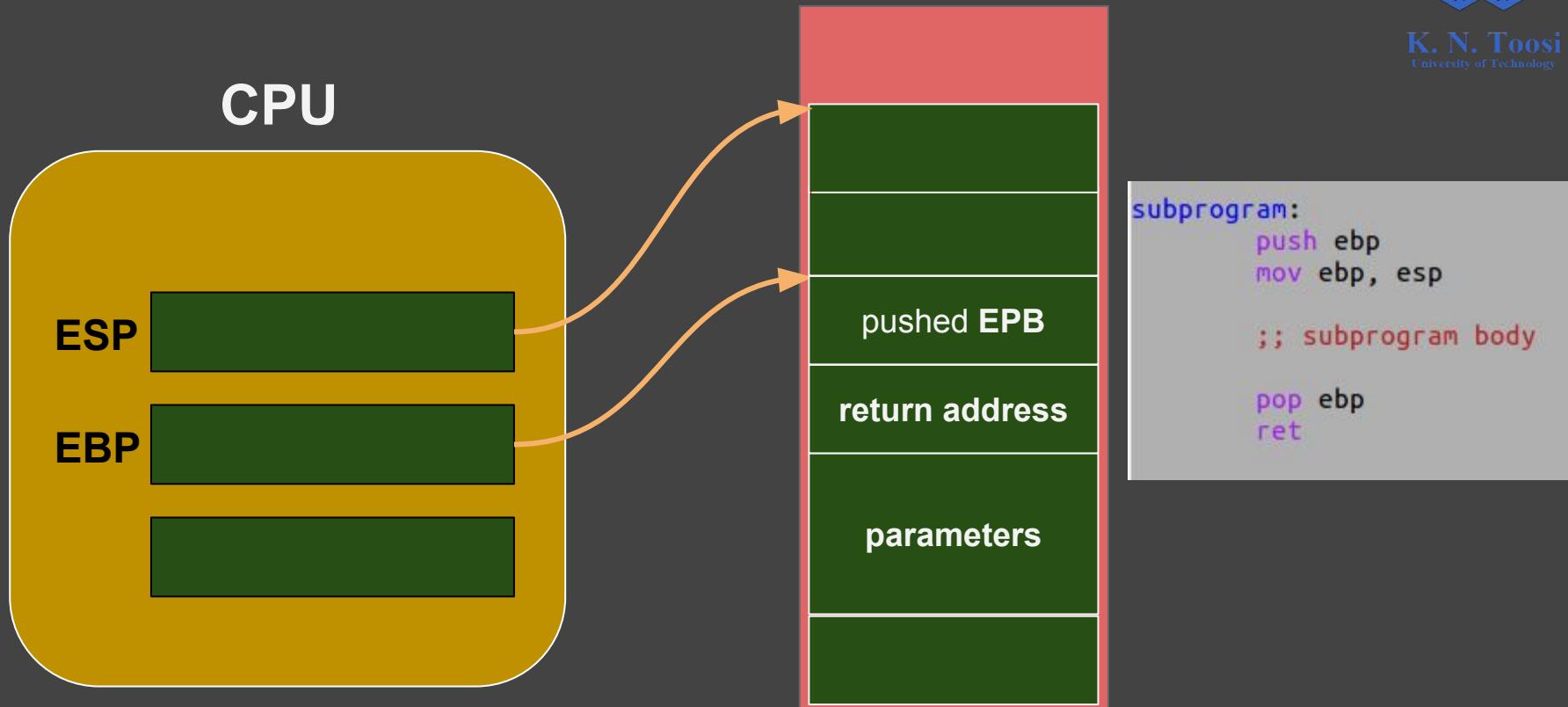


# the Base Pointer Register: EBP



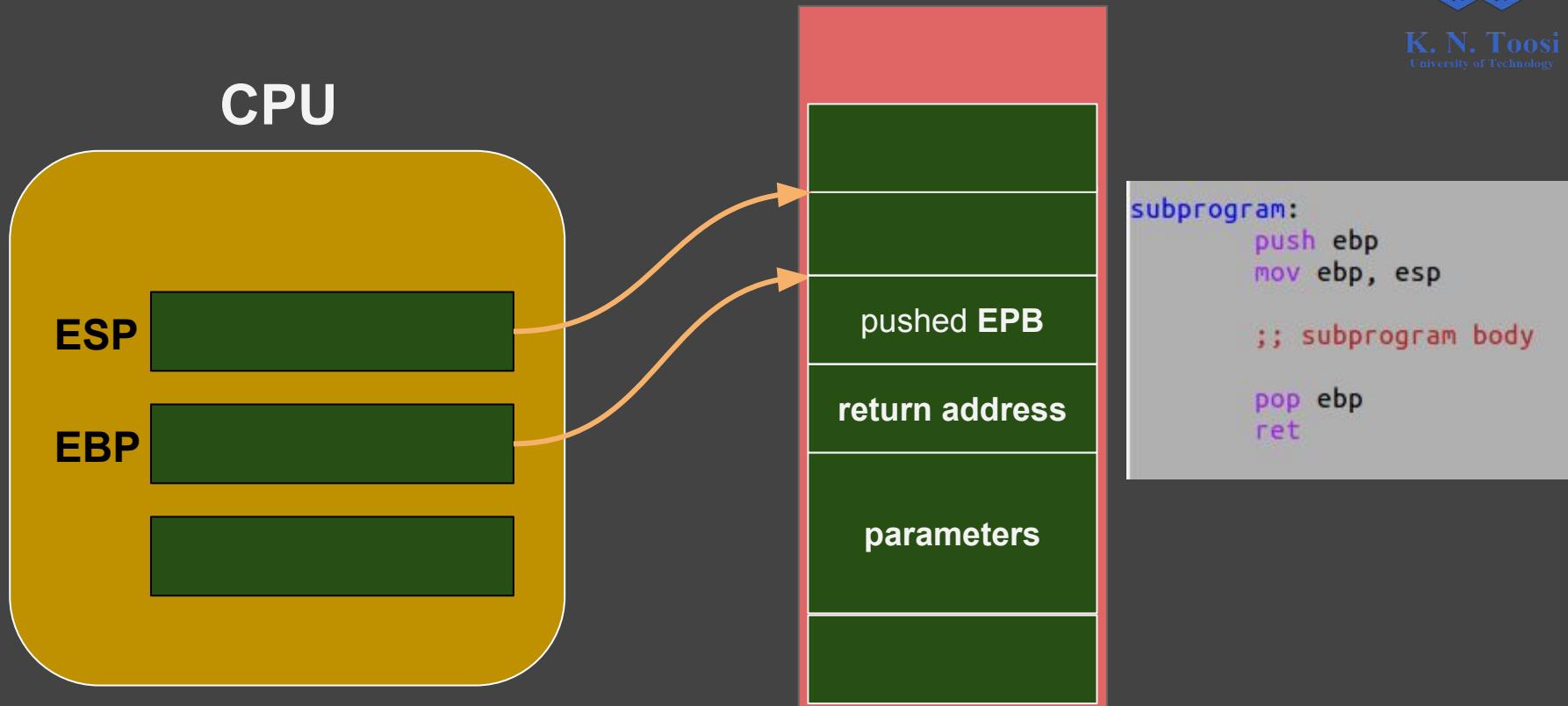


# the Base Pointer Register: EBP



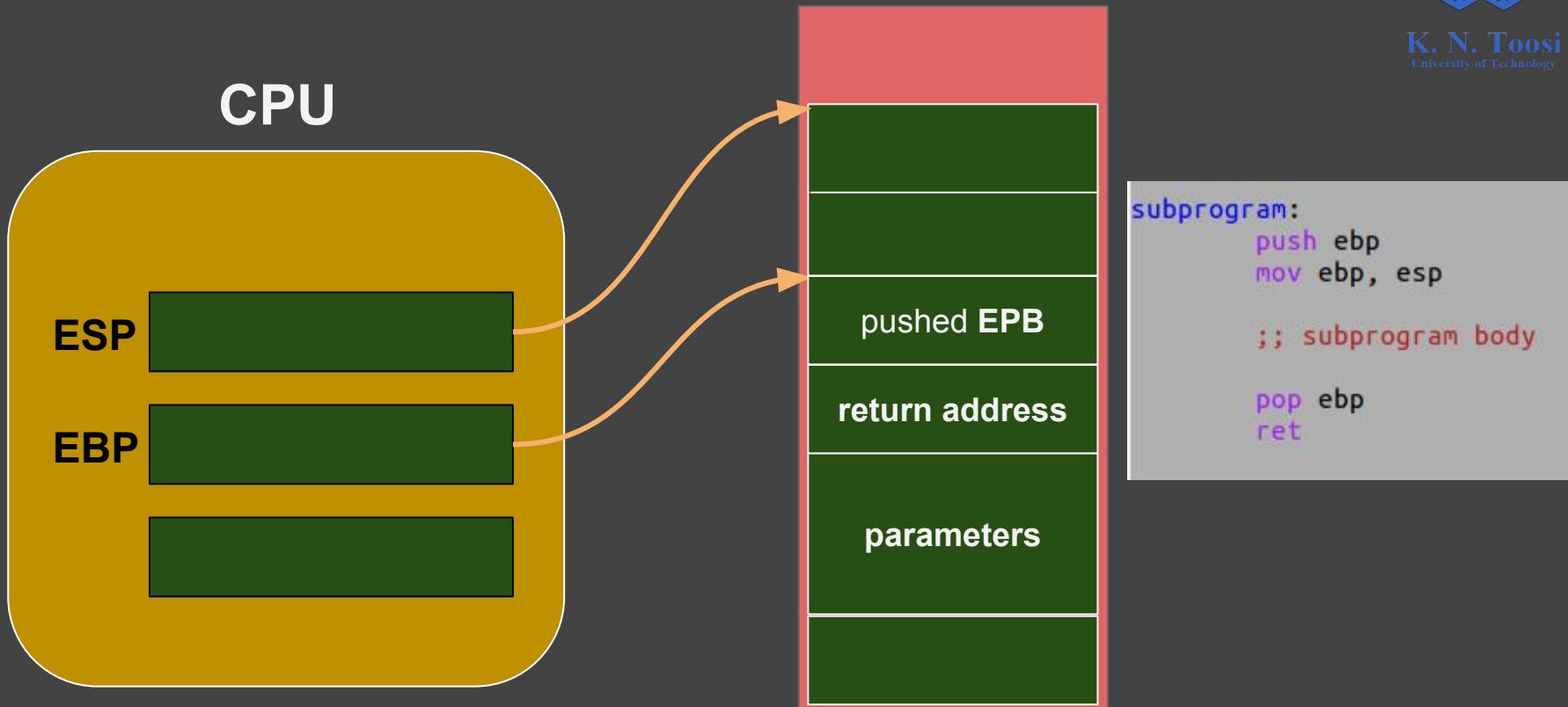


# the Base Pointer Register: EBP



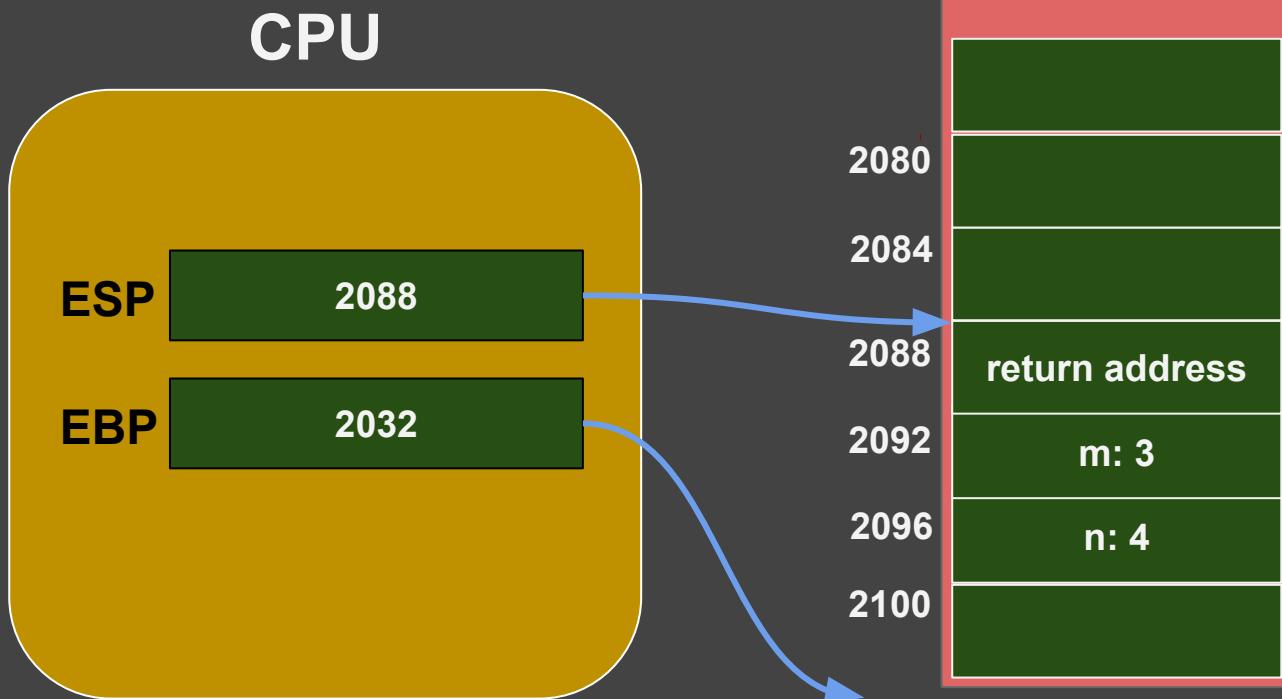


# the Base Pointer Register: EBP





# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
              push ebp
              mov  ebp, esp

              push ecx
              push edx

              mov  ecx, [ebp+12]
              mov  eax, 1

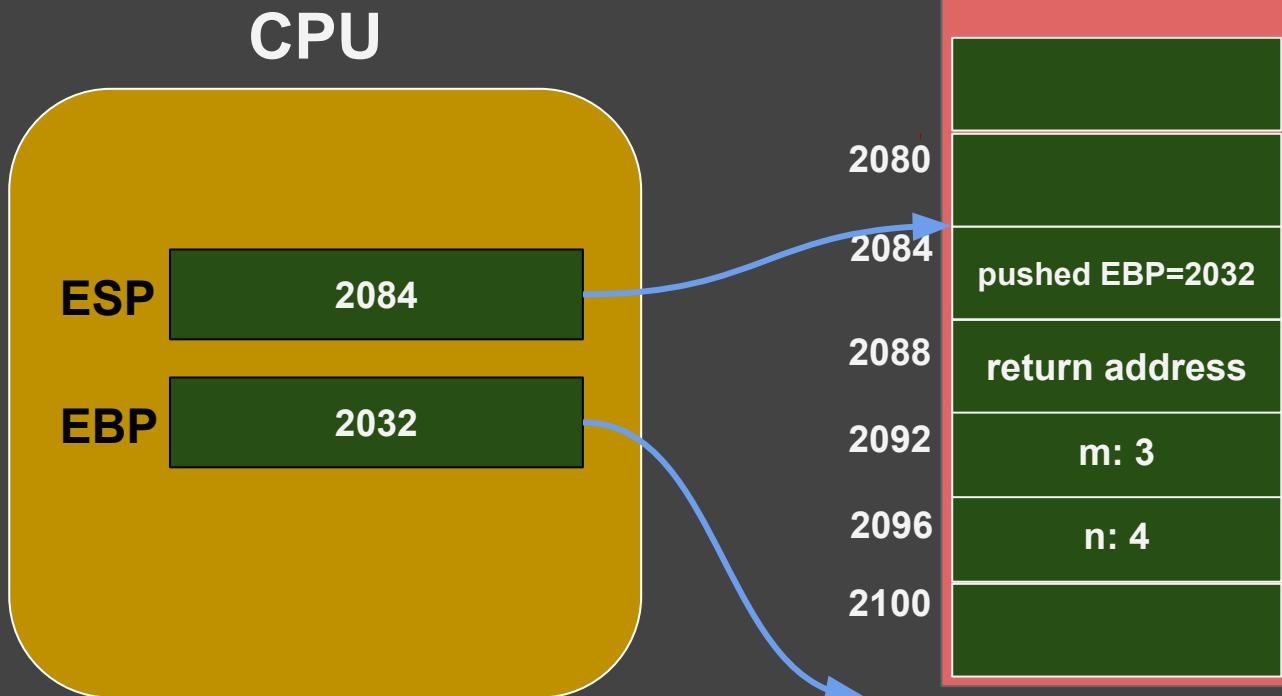
loop1:         imul dword [ebp+8]
              loop loop1

              pop  edx
              pop  ecx

              pop  ebp
              ret
```



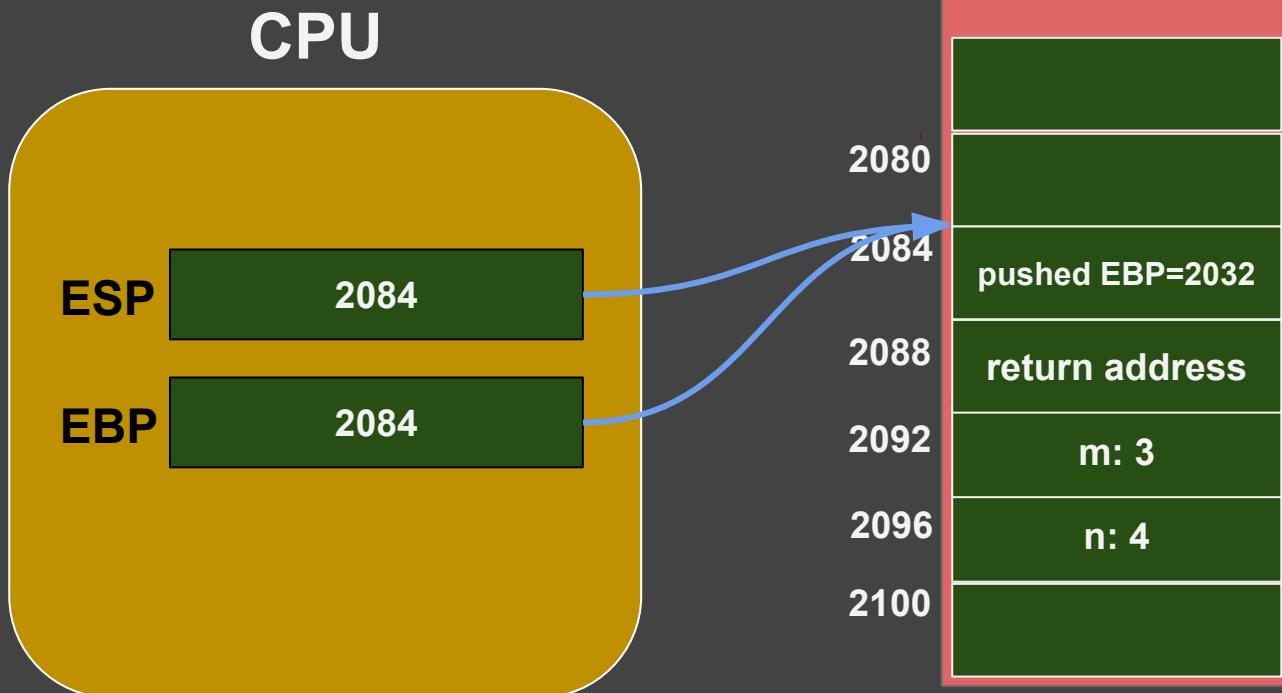
# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
              push ebp
              mov  ebp, esp
              push ecx
              push edx
              mov  ecx, [ebp+12]
              mov  eax, 1
loop1:
              imul dword [ebp+8]
              loop loop1
              pop edx
              pop ecx
              pop ebp
              ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
  push ebp
  mov  ebp, esp
  →
  push ecx
  push edx

  mov ecx, [ebp+12]
  mov eax, 1

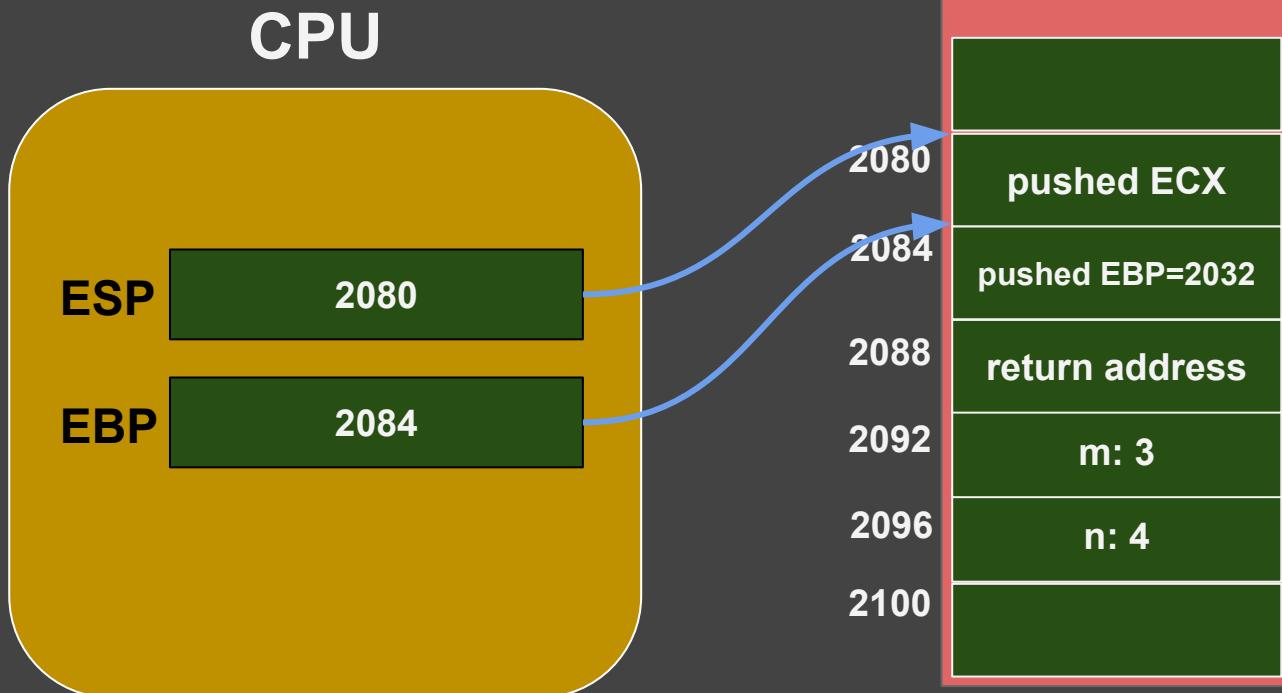
loop1:
  imul dword [ebp+8]
  loop loop1

  pop edx
  pop ecx

  pop ebp
  ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
  push ebp
  mov  ebp, esp

  push ecx
  → push edx

  mov ecx, [ebp+12]
  mov eax, 1

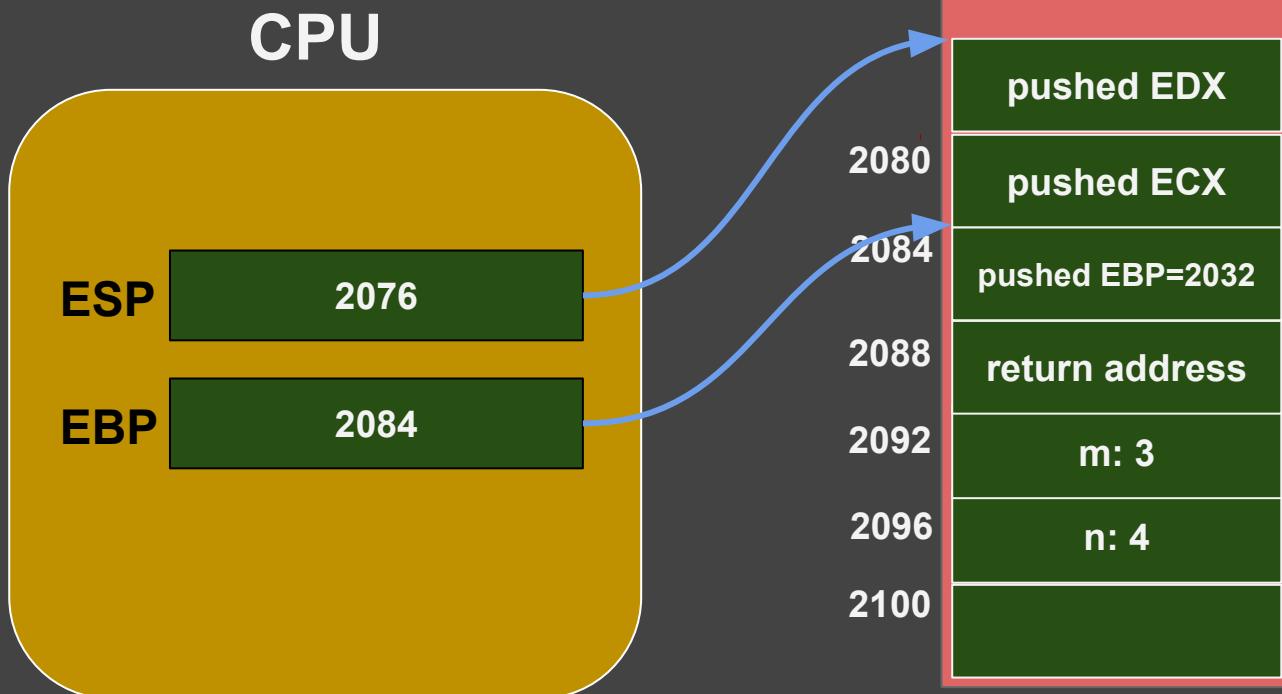
loop1:
  imul dword [ebp+8]
  loop loop1

  pop edx
  pop ecx

  pop ebp
  ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow: powfunc7.asm
      push ebp
      mov ebp, esp

      push ecx
      push edx
      mov ecx, [ebp+12]
      mov eax, 1

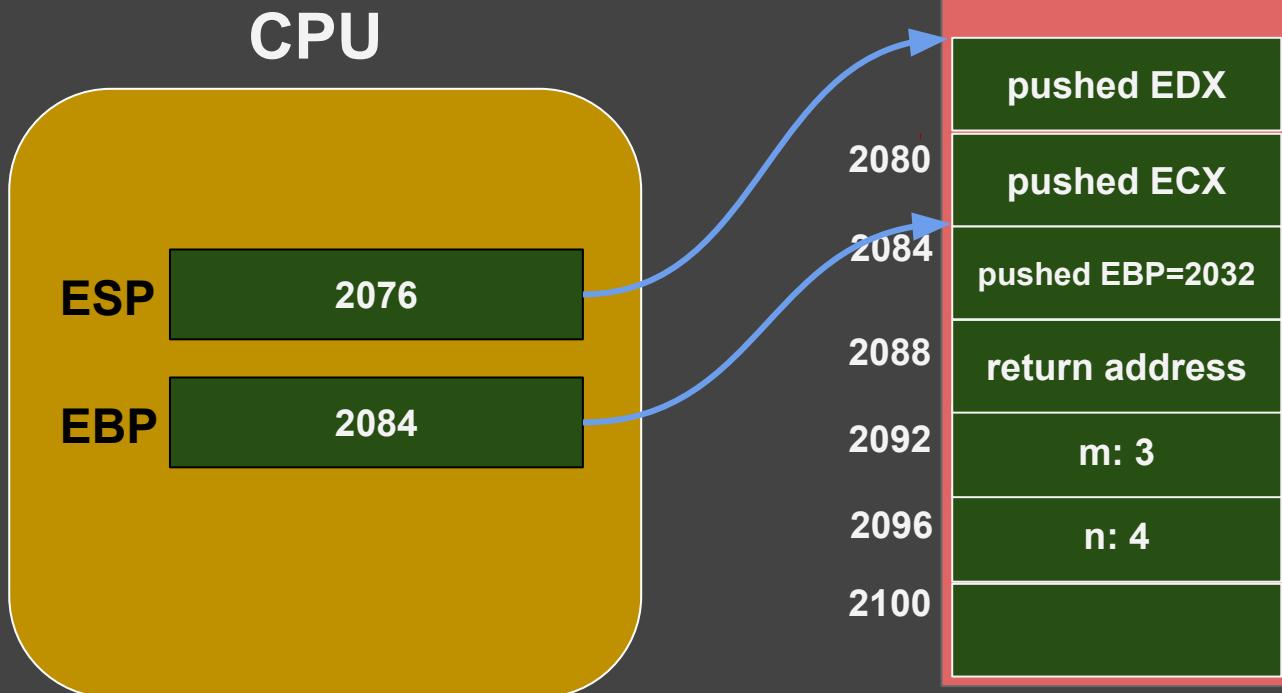
loop1:
      imul dword [ebp+8]
      loop loop1

      pop edx
      pop ecx

      pop ebp
      ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow: powfunc7.asm
      push ebp
      mov ebp, esp

      push ecx
      push edx

      mov ecx, [ebp+12]
      mov eax, 1

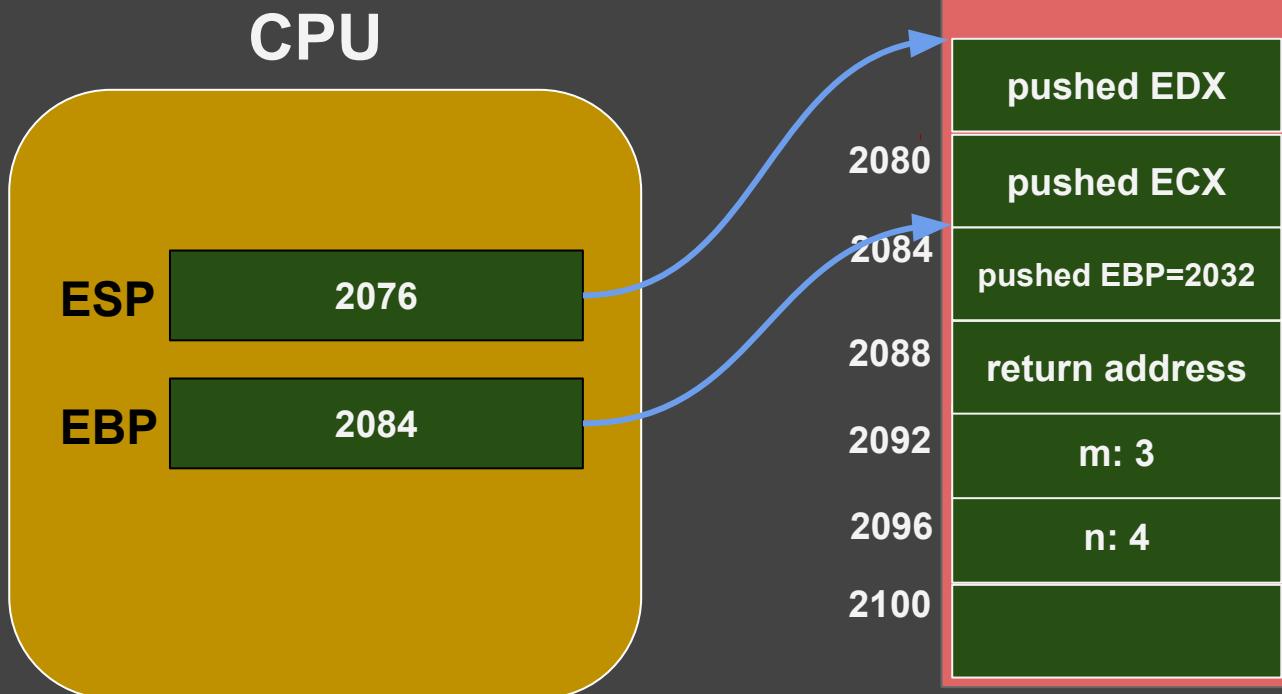
loop1:
      imul dword [ebp+8]
      loop loop1

      pop edx
      pop ecx

      pop ebp
      ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow: powfunc7.asm
      push ebp
      mov  ebp, esp

      push ecx
      push edx

      mov  ecx, [ebp+12]
      mov  eax, 1

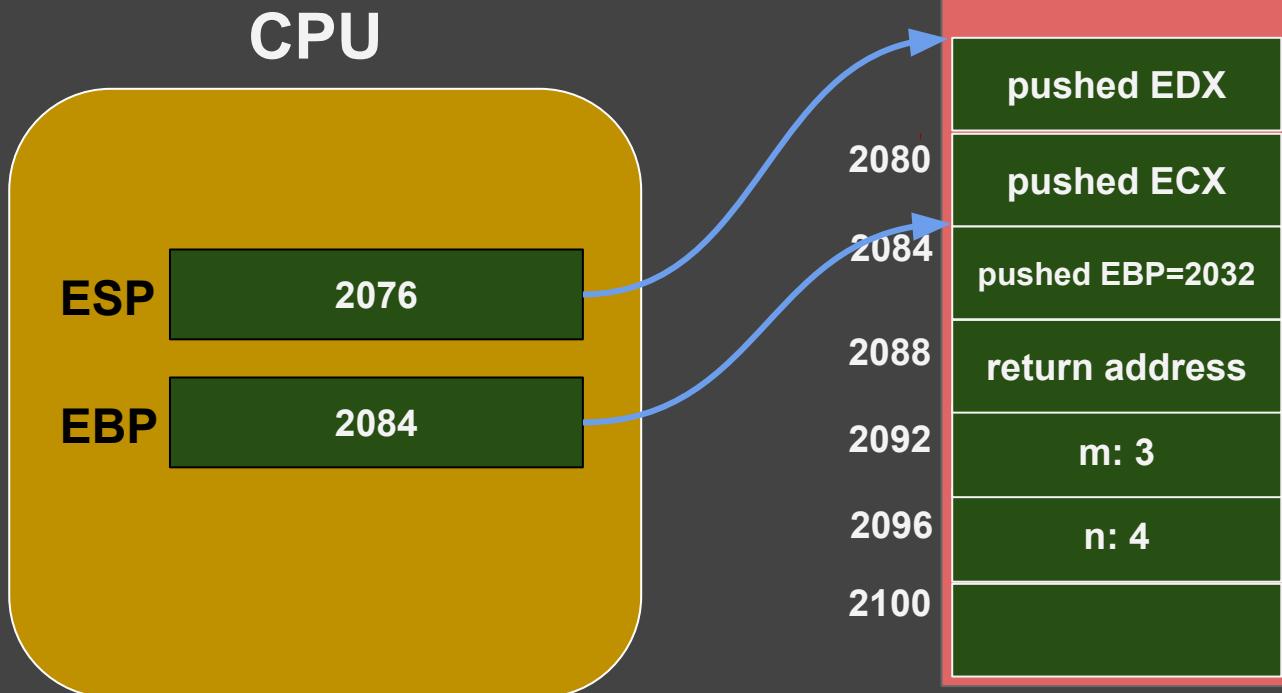
loop1:
      imul dword [ebp+8]
      loop loop1

      pop edx
      pop ecx

      pop ebp
      ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow: powfunc7.asm
      push ebp
      mov ebp, esp

      push ecx
      push edx

      mov ecx, [ebp+12]
      mov eax, 1

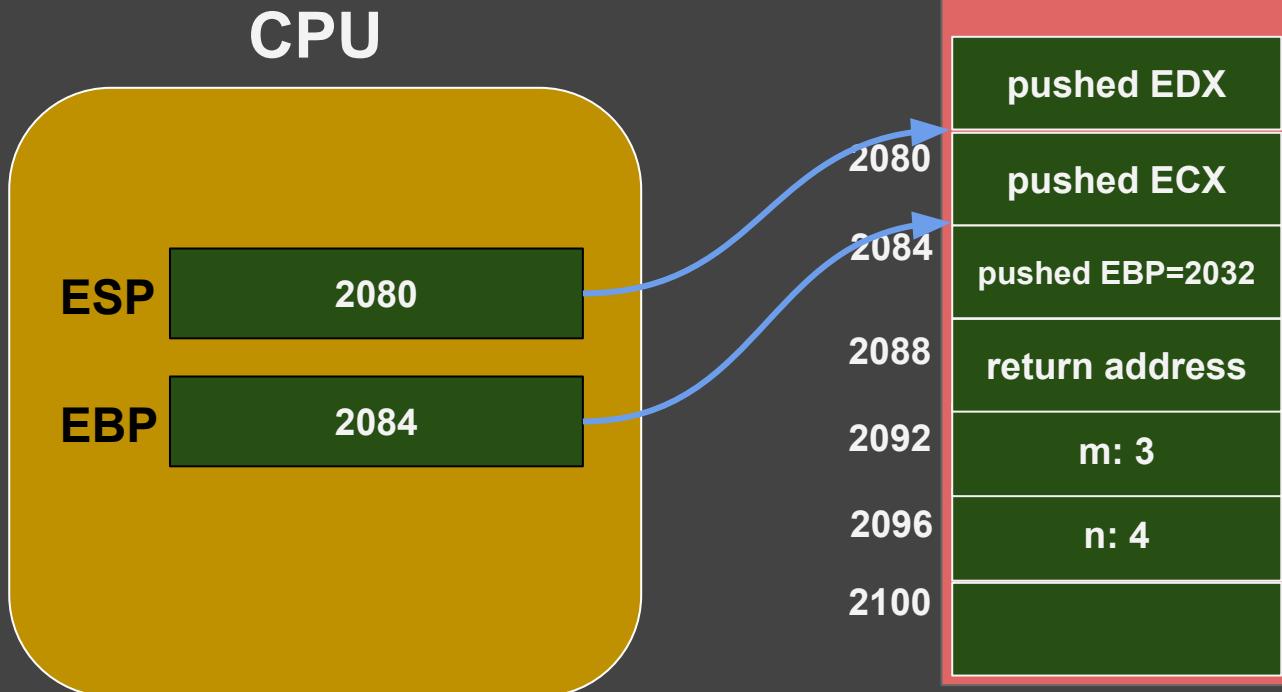
loop1:
      imul dword [ebp+8]
      loop loop1

      pop edx
      pop ecx

      pop ebp
      ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow: powfunc7.asm
      push ebp
      mov ebp, esp

      push ecx
      push edx

      mov ecx, [ebp+12]
      mov eax, 1

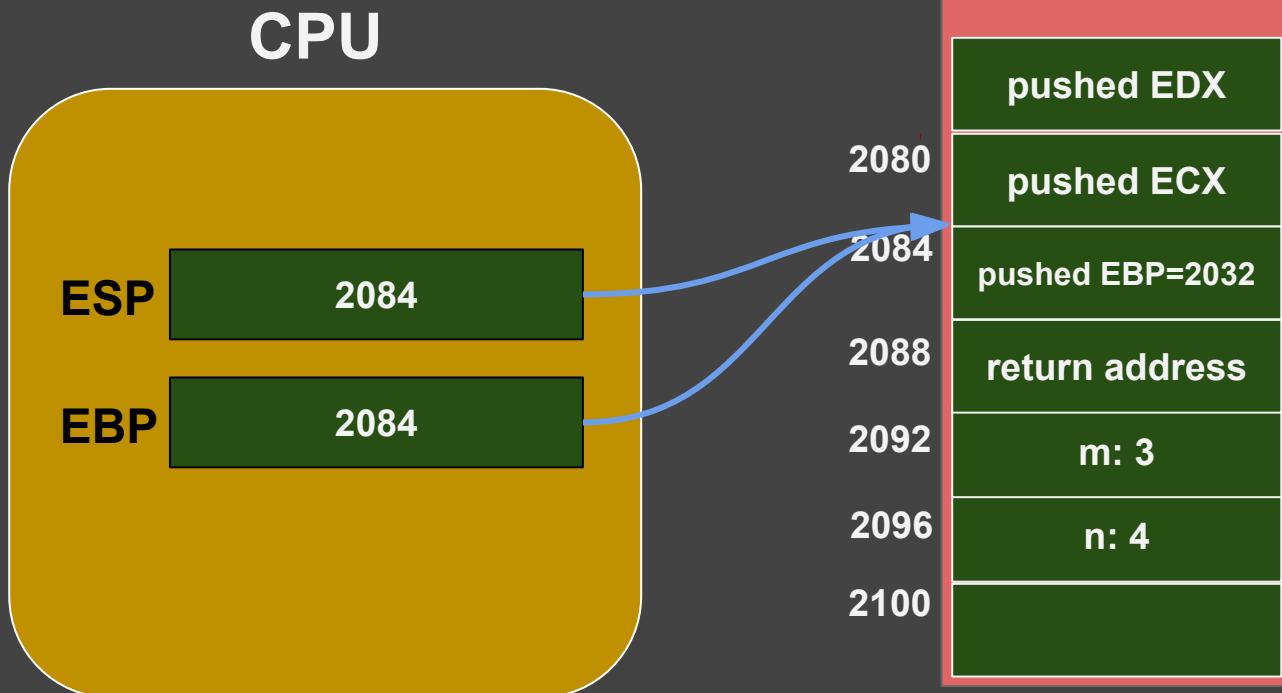
loop1:
      imul dword [ebp+8]
      loop loop1

      pop edx
      pop ecx

      pop ebp
      ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
              push ebp
              mov  ebp, esp

              push ecx
              push edx

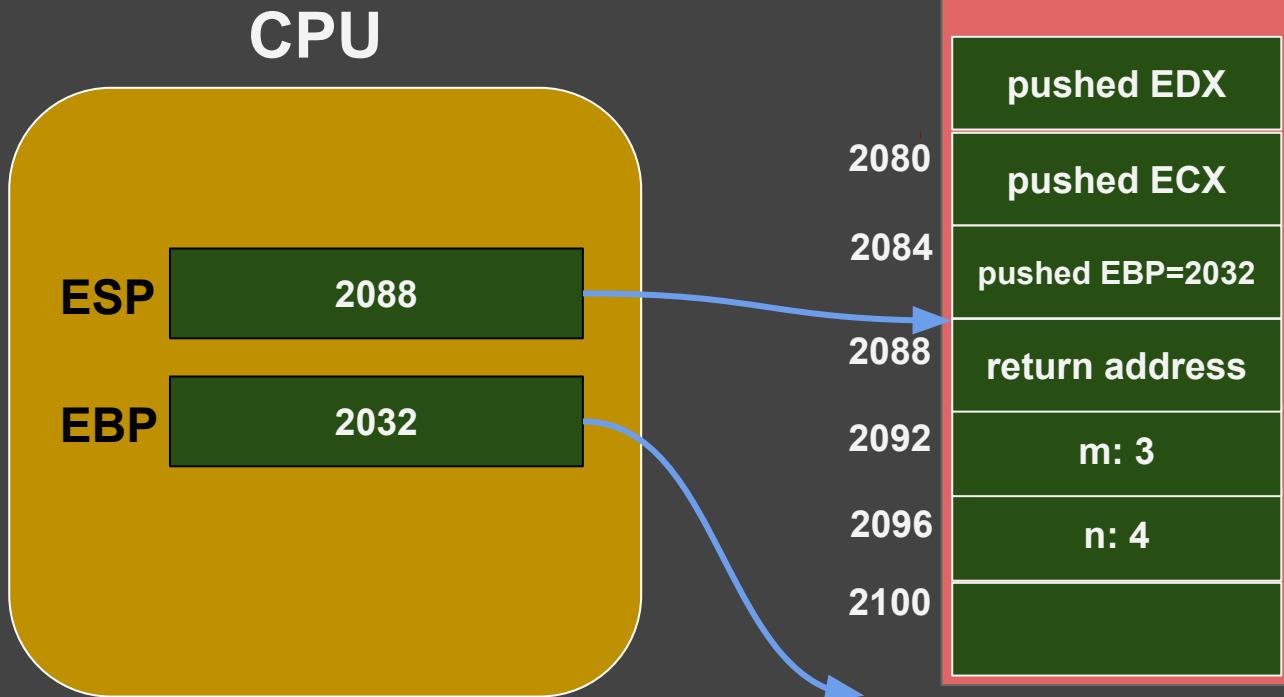
              mov  ecx, [ebp+12]
              mov  eax, 1

loop1:
              imul dword [ebp+8]
              loop loop1

              pop  edx
              pop  ecx
              →
              pop  ebp
              ret
```



# Accessing Parameters via EBP



```
pow:           powfunc7.asm
              push ebp
              mov  ebp, esp

              push ecx
              push edx

              mov  ecx, [ebp+12]
              mov  eax, 1

loop1:
              imul dword [ebp+8]
              loop loop1

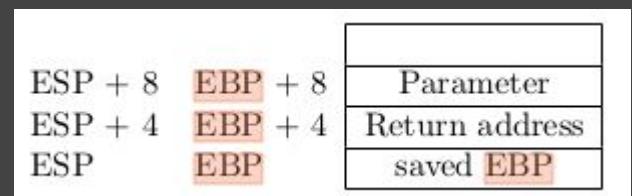
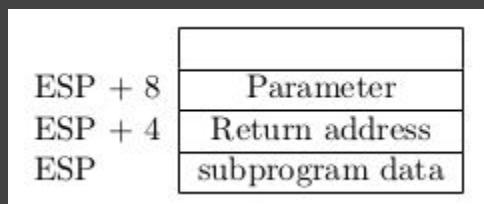
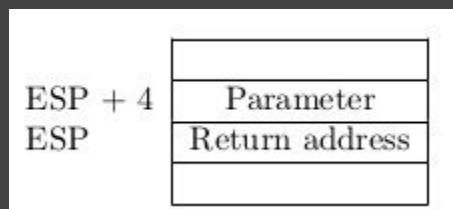
              pop  edx
              pop  ecx

              pop  ebp
              ret
```



# Figures from the book

memory drawn in reverse order:

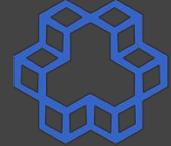


Carter, *PC Assembly Language*, 2007.



# Calling Conventions

- Parameters/return value can get passed in different ways
- A Calling Convention specifies standards about how a subprogram is implemented, such as
  - how the subprogram receive parameters,
  - how it returns a value (or multiple values),
  - what registers need to be unaltered,
  - etc.
- Varies among different programming languages (sometimes even different compilers)
- Here, we mainly discuss calling convention of the C programming language



# C Calling Conventions

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

int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```



# C Calling Conventions

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

int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```

create 32-bit  
assembly

intel assembly  
syntax

compile to  
assembly

```
gcc -m32 -S -masm=intel -o callfunc.asm callfunc.c
```



# C Calling Conventions

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

int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

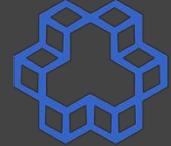
    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"          callfunc.asm
.intel_syntax noprefix
.text
.globl main
.type main, @function
main:
.LFB0:
.cfi_startproc
    lea    ecx, [esp+4]
    .cfi_def_cfa 1, 0
    and   esp, -16
    push  DWORD PTR [ecx-4]
    push  ebp
    .cfi_escape 0x10,0x5,0x2,0x75,0
    mov   ebp, esp
    push  ecx
    .cfi_escape 0xf,0x3,0x75,0x7c,0x6
    sub   esp, 20
```

```
push  10    callfunc.asm (cont.)
push  8
push  4
push  2
call  sum
add   esp, 16
mov   DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
mov   eax, 0
mov   ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
.cfi_def_cfa 1, 0
leave
.cfi_restore 5
lea   esp, [ecx-4]
.cfi_def_cfa 4, 4
ret
.cfi_endproc
:
:
```

```
gcc -m32 -S -masm=intel -o callfunc.asm callfunc.c
```



# C Calling Conventions

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

int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```

no cfi directives  
(to get rid of the clutter)



```
gcc -m32 -S -masm=intel -fno-asynchronous-unwind-tables -o callfunc.asm callfunc.c
```



# C Calling Conventions

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

int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"
.intel_syntax noprefix
.text
.globl main
.type main, @function
main:
    lea    ecx, [esp+4]
    and    esp, -16
    push   DWORD PTR [ecx-4]
    push   ebp
    mov    ebp, esp
    push   ecx
    sub    esp, 20
    push   10
    push   8
    push   4
    push   2
    call   sum
    add    esp, 16
    mov    DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
```

callfunc.asm

```
mov    eax, 0           callfunc.asm (cont.)
mov    ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
leave
lea    esp, [ecx-4]
ret
.size main, .-main
.globl sum
.type sum, @function
sum:
    push  ebp
    mov   ebp, esp
    mov   edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
    mov   eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
    add   edx, eax
    mov   eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
    add   edx, eax
    mov   eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
    add   eax, edx
    pop   ebp
ret
```

```
gcc -m32 -S -masm=intel -fno-asynchronous-unwind-tables -o callfunc.asm callfunc.c
```

# C Calling Conventions



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#include <stdio.h>

callfunc.c

```
int sum(int,int,int,int);
```

```
int main()
```

```
{ int c;
```

```
c = sum(2,4,8,10);
```

```
return 0;
```

```
}
```

```
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
```

```
return a+b+c+d;
```

```
}
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"  
.intel_syntax noprefix  
.text  
.globl main  
.type main, @function
```

main:

```
lea ecx, [esp+4]  
and esp, -16  
push DWORD PTR [ecx-4]  
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp  
push ecx  
sub esp, 20
```

```
push 10
```

```
push 8
```

```
push 4
```

```
push 2
```

```
call sum
```

```
add esp, 16
```

```
mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
```

```
mov eax, 0
```

```
mov ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
```

```
leave
```

callfunc.asm

```
lea esp, [ecx-4]  
ret  
.size main, .-main  
.globl sum  
.type sum, @function
```

sum:

```
push ebp
```

```
mov ebp, esp
```

```
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
```

```
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
```

```
add edx, eax
```

```
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
```

```
add edx, eax
```

```
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
```

```
add eax, edx
```

```
pop ebp
```

```
ret
```

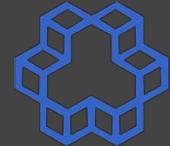
```
.size sum, .-sum
```

```
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
```

```
20160609"
```

```
.section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

# C Calling Conventions



Toosi  
Technology

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

callfunc.c

```
int sum(int,int,int,int);
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    int c;
```

```
    c = sum(2,4,8,10);
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

```
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
```

```
    return a+b+c+d;
```

```
}
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"  
.intel_syntax noprefix  
.text  
.globl main  
.type main, @function
```

main:

```
lea  ecx, [esp+4]  
and esp, -16  
push DWORD PTR [ecx-4]  
push ebp  
mov  ebp, esp  
push ecx  
sub  esp, 20
```

```
push 10  
push 8  
push 4  
push 2  
call sum  
add esp, 16
```

last parameter pushed first

```
mov  DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
mov  eax, 0  
mov  ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]  
leave
```

callfunc.asm

```
lea  esp, [ecx-4]  
ret  
.size main, .-main  
.globl sum  
.type sum, @function
```

sum:

```
push ebp  
mov  ebp, esp  
mov  edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
add  edx, eax  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
add  edx, eax  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
add  eax, edx  
pop  ebp  
ret
```

```
.size sum, .-sum  
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0  
20160609"  
.section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)

# C Calling Conventions



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

callfunc.c

```
int sum(int,int,int,int);
```

```
int main() {  
    int c;
```

```
    c = sum(2,4,8,10);
```

```
    return 0;  
}
```

```
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {  
    return a+b+c+d;  
}
```

```
.file "callfunc.c"  
.intel_syntax noprefix  
.text  
.globl main  
.type main, @function
```

main: → caller

```
lea  ecx, [esp+4]  
and esp, -16  
push DWORD PTR [ecx-4]  
push ebp  
mov  ebp, esp  
push ecx  
sub  esp, 20
```

```
push 10  
push 8  
push 4  
push 2  
call sum  
add esp, 16
```

Caller clears  
the parameters  
from stack

```
mov  DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
mov  eax, 0  
mov  ecx, DWORD PTR [ebp-4]  
leave
```

callfunc.asm

```
lea  esp, [ecx-4]  
ret  
.size main, .-main  
.globl sum  
.type sum, @function
```

sum: → callee

```
push ebp  
mov  ebp, esp  
mov  edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
add  edx, eax  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
add  edx, eax  
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
add  eax, edx  
pop  ebp  
ret
```

```
.size sum, .-sum  
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0  
20160609"  
.section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)



# C Calling Conventions

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

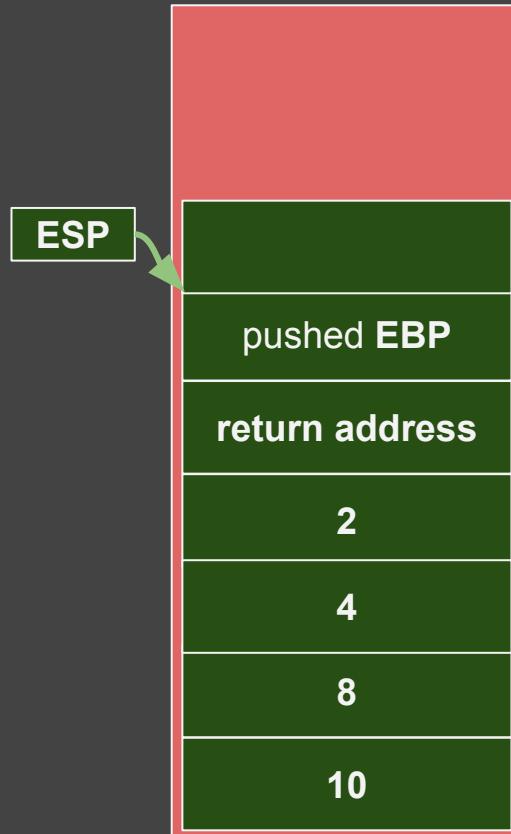
int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```



```
lea   esp, [ecx-4]
ret
.size main, .-main
.globl sum
.type sum, @function
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)

```
sum:          → callee
push ebp
mov  ebp, esp
mov  edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
add  edx, eax
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
add  edx, eax
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
add  eax, edx
pop  ebp
ret

.size  sum, .-sum
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
.section  .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

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# C Calling Conventions

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

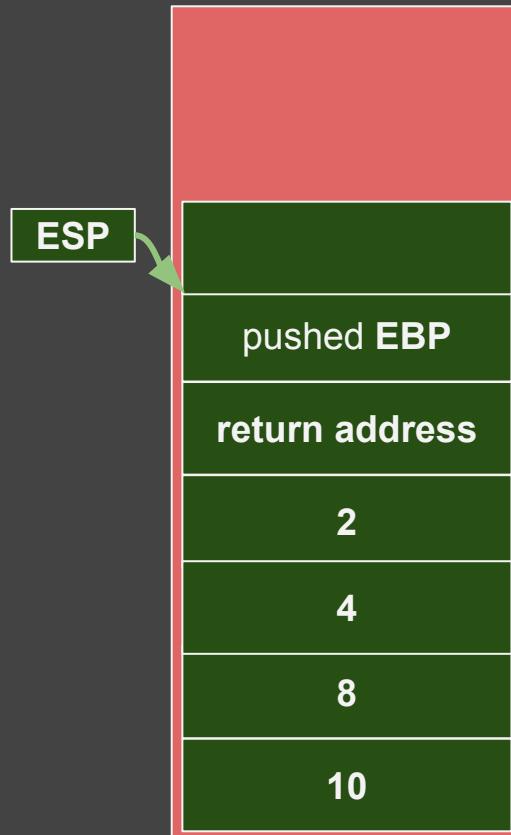
int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```



```
lea   esp, [ecx-4]
ret
.size main, .-main
.globl sum
.type sum, @function
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)

```
sum:          → callee
push ebp
mov  ebp, esp
mov  edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]
add  edx, eax
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]
add  edx, eax
mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]
add  eax, edx
pop  ebp
ret

.size sum, .-sum
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
.section  .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

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# C Calling Conventions

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

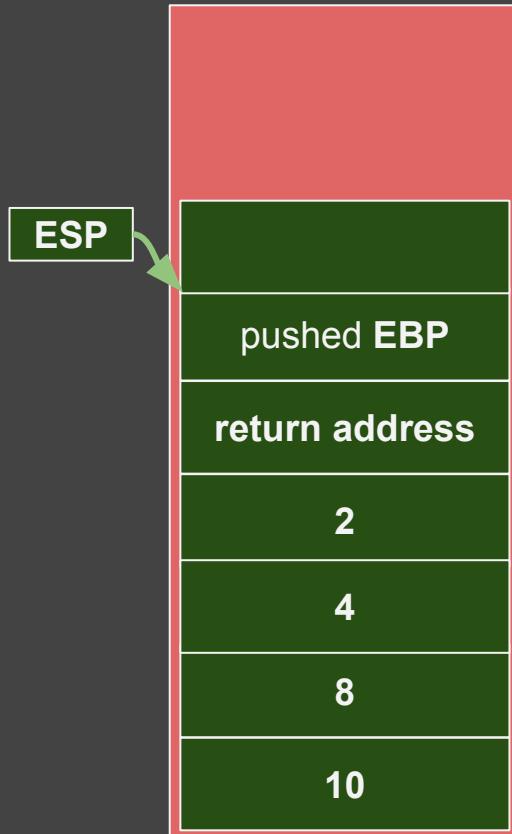
int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```



```
lea   esp, [ecx-4]
ret
.size main, .-main
.globl sum
.type sum, @function
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)

```
sum:          → callee
    push ebp
    mov  ebp, esp
    mov  edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8] → a
    mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12] → b
    add  edx, eax
    mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16] → c
    add  edx, eax
    mov  eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20] → d
    add  eax, edx
    pop  ebp
    ret

.size sum, .-sum
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
.section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```



# C Calling Conventions

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

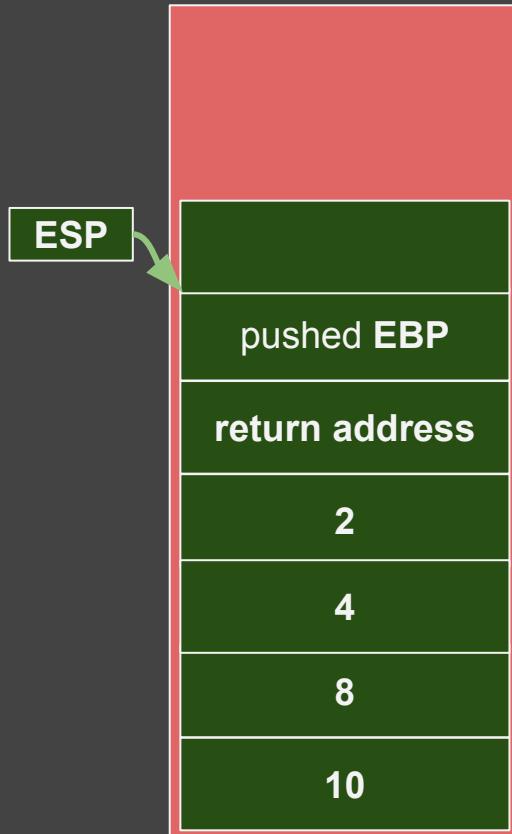
int sum(int,int,int,int);

int main() {
    int c;

    c = sum(2,4,8,10);

    return 0;
}

int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {
    return a+b+c+d;
}
```



```
lea esp, [ecx-4]
ret
.size main, .-main
.globl sum
.type sum, @function
```

callfunc.asm (cont.)

sum: → callee

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8] → a
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12] → b
add edx, eax
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16] → c
add edx, eax
mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20] → d
add eax, edx
pop ebp → return value stored in EAX
ret
```

.size sum, .-sum
.ident "GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0
20160609"
.section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits



# C Calling Conventions

- CDECL (C Declaration): default C convention
- STDCALL
- FASTCALL
- etc.
  
- For gcc-supported calling conventions look at
  - <https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc/x86-Function-Attributes.html>
- For x86 calling conventions look at
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86\\_calling\\_conventions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_calling_conventions)
  - [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86\\_Disassembly/Calling\\_Conventions](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86_Disassembly/Calling_Conventions)



# Second form of RET

`ret immed`

- returns to the caller and pops **immed** bytes off the stack.



# C Calling Conventions: Example

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

callfunc.c

```
int sum(int,int,int,int);
```

```
int main() {  
    int c;
```

```
    c = sum(2,4,8,10);
```

```
    return 0;  
}
```

```
int sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {  
    return a+b+c+d;  
}
```

cdecl (default C convention)

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

callfunc2.c

```
int __attribute__((stdcall)) sum(int,int,int,int);
```

```
int main() {  
    int c;
```

```
    c = sum(2,4,8,10);
```

```
    return 0;  
}
```

```
int __attribute__((stdcall)) sum(int a, int b, int c, int d) {  
    return a+b+c+d;  
}
```

stdcall convention



### callfunc.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum  
    add esp, 16  
  
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
    ...
```

```
sum:  
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp  
    ret
```

cdecl (default C convention)

### callfunc2.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum  
  
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
    ...
```

```
sum:  
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp  
    ret 16
```

stdcall convention



### callfunc.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum  
    add esp, 16
```

```
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
```

### sum:

```
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp
```

```
    ret
```

cdecl (default C convention)

### callfunc2.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum
```

```
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax
```

### sum:

```
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp
```

```
    ret 16
```

stdcall convention



### callfunc.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum  
    add esp, 16  
  
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
    ...  
  
sum:  
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp  
    ret
```

cdecl (default C convention)

### callfunc2.asm

```
main:  
    ...  
    push 10  
    push 8  
    push 4  
    push 2  
    call sum  
  
    mov DWORD PTR [ebp-12], eax  
    ...  
  
sum:  
    push ebp  
    mov ebp, esp  
    mov edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+8]  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+12]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+16]  
    add edx, eax  
    mov eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+20]  
    add eax, edx  
    pop ebp  
    ret 16
```

Callee clears  
the stack

stdcall convention

# **x86-64 C Calling Conventions**



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- Very different from 32-bit conventions
- Look at
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86\\_calling\\_conventions#x86-64\\_calling\\_conventions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_calling_conventions#x86-64_calling_conventions)
  - <https://aaronbloomfield.github.io/pdr/book/x86-64bit-ccc-chapter.pdf>



# Implementing Local Variables

- Use registers

```
void subprogram(int n, int p) {  
    int sum, i;  
    :  
    :  
}
```

subprogram:

C

Assembly

# Implementing Local Variables



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- Use registers
- Use data segment

```
void subprogram(int n, int p){  
    int sum, i;  
    :  
    :  
}
```

```
segment .data  
subprogram_sum: dd 0  
subprogram_i: dd 0
```

```
segment .text  
subprogram:
```

C

Assembly

# Implementing Local Variables



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- Use registers
- Use data segment
  - Global Variables

```
void subprogram(int n, int p){  
    int sum, i;  
    :  
    :  
}
```

C

```
segment .data  
subprogram_sum: dd 0  
subprogram_i: dd 0  
  
segment .text  
subprogram:
```

Assembly

# Implementing Local Variables



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- Use registers
- Use data segment
  - Global Variables
  - Static Variables

```
void subprogram(int n, int p){  
    int sum, i;  
    :  
    :  
}
```

C

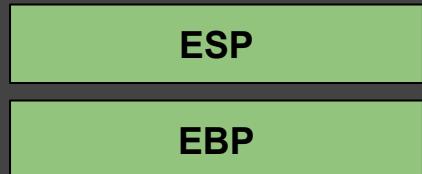
```
segment .data  
subprogram_sum: dd 0  
subprogram_i: dd 0  
  
segment .text  
subprogram:
```

Assembly



# Implementing Local Variables

- Use registers
- Use data segment
  - Global Variables
  - Static Variables
- Use stack



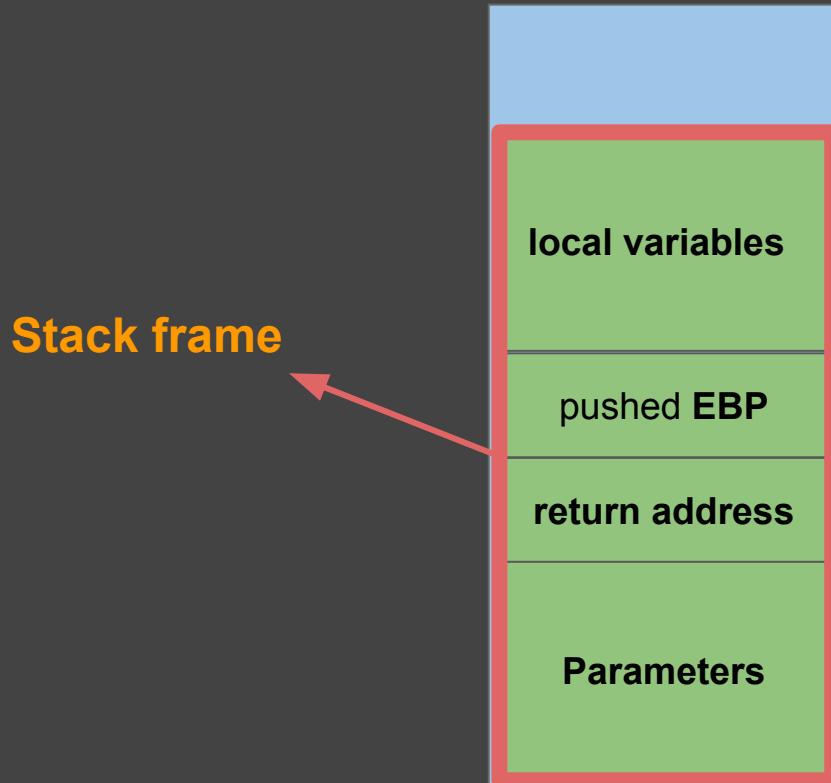
**subprogram:**  
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp  
sub esp, NO\_OF\_BYTES

→  
;; subprogram body

mov esp, ebp ; release locals  
pop ebp  
ret



# Implementing Local Variables



# Practice

```
#include <stdio.h>           store_sum.c
void store_sum(int, int*);

int a;

int main() {
    store_sum(10, &a);
    printf("%d\n", a);
    return 0;
}

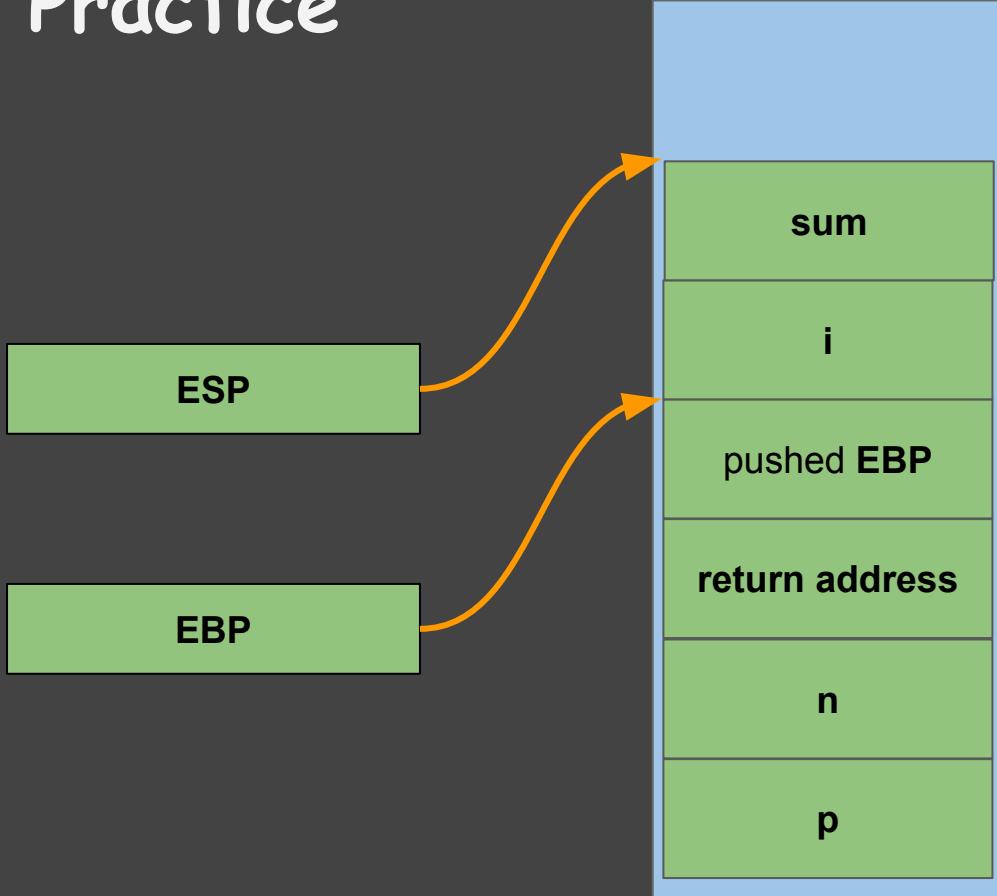
void store_sum(int n, int *p) {
    int sum, i;

    sum = 0;
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)
        sum += i;

    *p = sum;
}
```



# Practice



```
#include <stdio.h>           store_sum.c
void store_sum(int, int*);

int a;

int main() {
    store_sum(10, &a);
    printf("%d\n", a);
    return 0;
}

void store_sum(int n, int *p) {
    int sum, i;

    sum = 0;
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)
        sum += i;

    *p = sum;
}
```

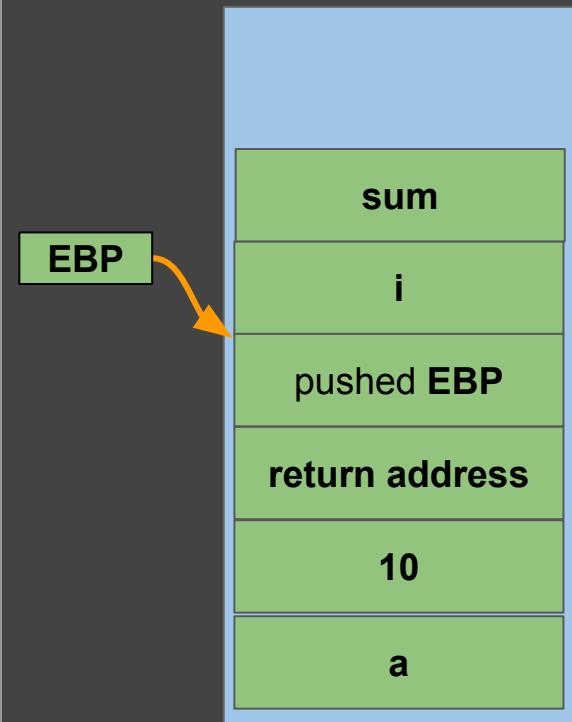




# Practice

```
#include <stdio.h>          store_sum.c
void store_sum(int, int*);  
  
int a;  
  
int main() {  
  
    store_sum(10, &a);  
  
    printf("%d\n", a);  
  
    return 0;  
}  
  
void store_sum(int n, int *p) {  
    int sum, i;  
  
    sum = 0;  
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)  
        sum += i;  
  
    *p = sum;  
}
```

```
segment .data          store_sum.asm
a:    resd   1  ; reserve a dword  
  
segment .text
global asm_main  
  
asm_main:  
    :  
    push a  ; push the address of a  
    push 10  
  
    call store_sum  
  
    add esp, 8  
  
    mov eax, [a]
    call print_int
    call print_nl
    :  
    :  
    :
```

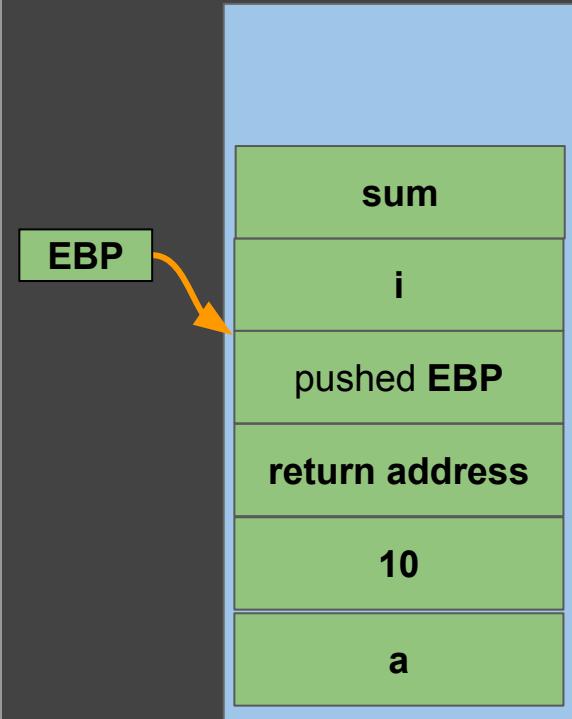




# Practice

```
#include <stdio.h>          store_sum.c
void store_sum(int, int*);  
  
int a;  
  
int main() {  
  
    store_sum(10, &a);  
  
    printf("%d\n", a);  
  
    return 0;  
}  
  
void store_sum(int n, int *p) {  
    int sum, i;  
  
    sum = 0;  
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)  
        sum += i;  
  
    *p = sum;  
}
```

```
segment .bss           store_sum.asm
a:    resd   1 ; reserve a dword  
  
segment .text
global asm_main  
  
asm_main:  
    :  
    push a ; push the address of a  
    push 10  
  
    call store_sum  
  
    add esp, 8  
  
    mov eax, [a]
    call print_int
    call print_nl
    :  
    :
```





```
#include <stdio.h>           store_sum.c
void store_sum(int, int*);

int a;

int main() {
    store_sum(10, &a);
    printf("%d\n", a);
    return 0;
}

void store_sum(int n, int *p) {
    int sum, i;

    sum = 0;
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)
        sum += i;
    *p = sum;
}
```

store\_sum: store\_sum.asm

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, 8      ; local variables

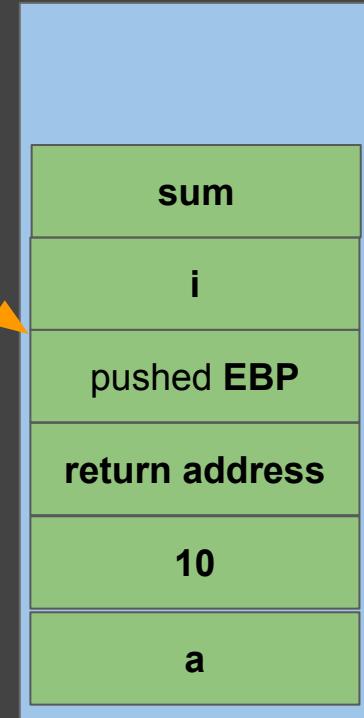
mov dword [ebp-8], 0      ; sum = 0
mov dword [ebp-4], 1      ; i = 1

forloop:
    ; if (i > n) goto endloop
    mov eax, [ebp-4]      ; eax = i
    cmp eax, [ebp+8]
    jg endloop

    ;;; sum = sum + i
    add [ebp-8], eax      ; NOTE: eax == i
    inc dword [ebp-4]      ; i++
    jmp forloop

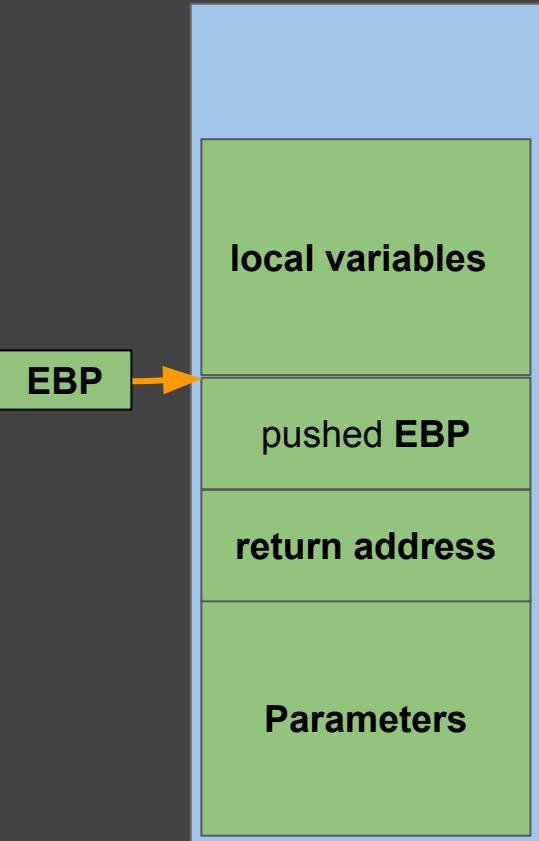
endloop:
    mov ecx, [ebp+12]
    mov eax, [ebp-8]
    mov [ecx], eax
    mov esp, ebp  ; release local vars
    pop ebp
    ret
```

EBP





# ENTER and LEAVE instructions



**subprogram:**

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, NO_OF_BYTES

;; subprogram body

mov esp, ebp
pop ebp
ret
```

**subprogram:**

```
enter NO_OF_BYTES, 0

;; subprogram body

leave
ret
```



store\_sum:

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, 8      ; local variables

mov dword [ebp-8], 0      ; sum = 0
mov dword [ebp-4], 1      ; i = 1

forloop:
; if (i > n) goto endloop
mov eax, [ebp-4]    ; eax = i
cmp eax, [ebp+8]
jg endloop

;; sum = sum + i
add [ebp-8], eax    ; NOTE: eax == i
inc dword [ebp-4]    ; i++
jmp forloop

endloop:
mov ecx, [ebp+12]
mov eax, [ebp-8]
mov [ecx], eax
mov esp, ebp  ; release local vars
pop ebp
ret
```

store\_sum:

```
enter 8,0

mov dword [ebp-8], 0      ; sum = 0
mov dword [ebp-4], 1      ; i = 1

forloop:
; if (i > n) goto endloop
mov eax, [ebp-4]    ; eax = i
cmp eax, [ebp+8]
jg endloop

;; sum = sum + i
add [ebp-8], eax    ; NOTE: eax == i
inc dword [ebp-4]    ; i++
jmp forloop

endloop:
mov ecx, [ebp+12]
mov eax, [ebp-8]
mov [ecx], eax
leave
ret
```

EBP

