Machine-Level Programming III: Procedures

15-213/18-213/15-513: Introduction to Computer Systems
7th Lecture, February 6, 2017

Today's Instructor:
Franz Franchetti , Seth C. Goldstein and Brian Railing

Today

- **Procedures**
  - **Mechanisms**
  - **Stack Structure**
  - **Calling Conventions**
    - **Passing control**
    - **Passing data**
    - **Managing local data**
  - **Illustration of Recursion**

Mechanisms in Procedures

- **Passing control**
  - To beginning of procedure code
  - Back to return point
- **Passing data**
  - Procedure arguments
  - Return value
- **Memory management**
  - Allocate during procedure execution
  - Deallocate upon return
- **Mechanisms all implemented with machine instructions**
- **x86-64 implementation of a procedure uses only those mechanisms required**

```
P(…) {
  •
  •
  y = Q(x);
  print(y)
  •
}
```

```
int Q(int i)
{
  int t = 3*i;
  int v[10];
  •
  •
  return v[t];
}
```

Mechanisms in Procedures

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  - Procedure arguments
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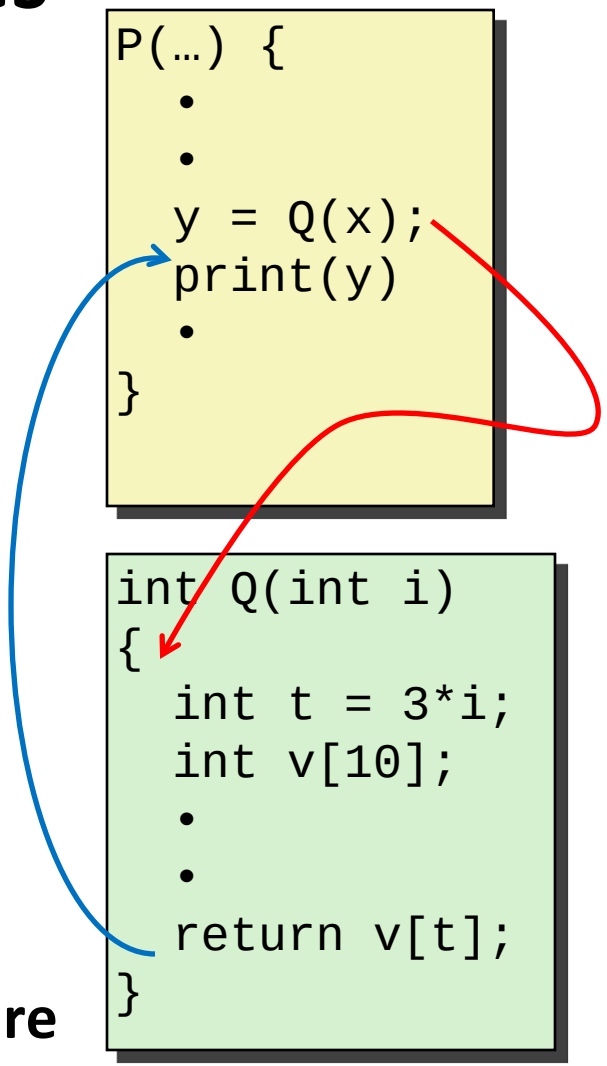

Mechanisms in Procedures

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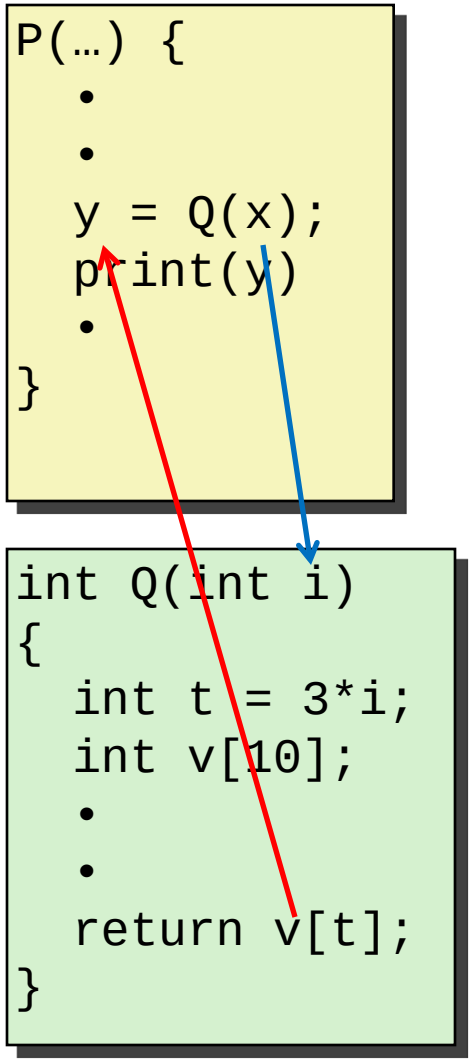

Mechanisms in Procedures

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```
int Q(int i)
{
  int t = 3*i;
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  •
  •
  return v[t];
}
```

Mechanisms in Procedures

Machine instructions implement the mechanisms, but the choices are determined by designers. These choices make up the **Application Binary Interface (ABI)**.

- Deallocate upon return

- **Mechanisms all implemented with machine instructions**
- **x86-64 implementation of a procedure uses only those mechanisms required**

```
P(…) {
  int v[10];
  •
  •
  return v[t];
}
```

Today

- **Procedures**
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  - **Stack Structure**
  - Calling Conventions
    - Passing control
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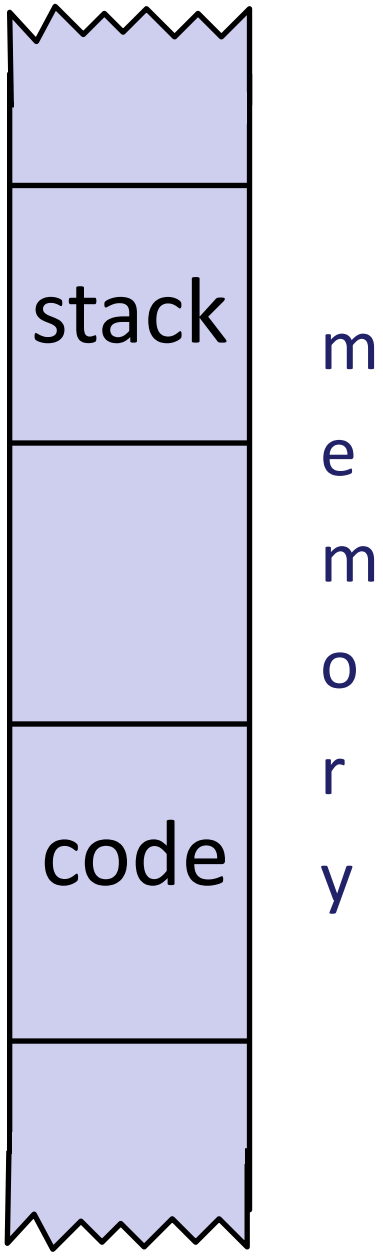
  - Illustration of Recursion

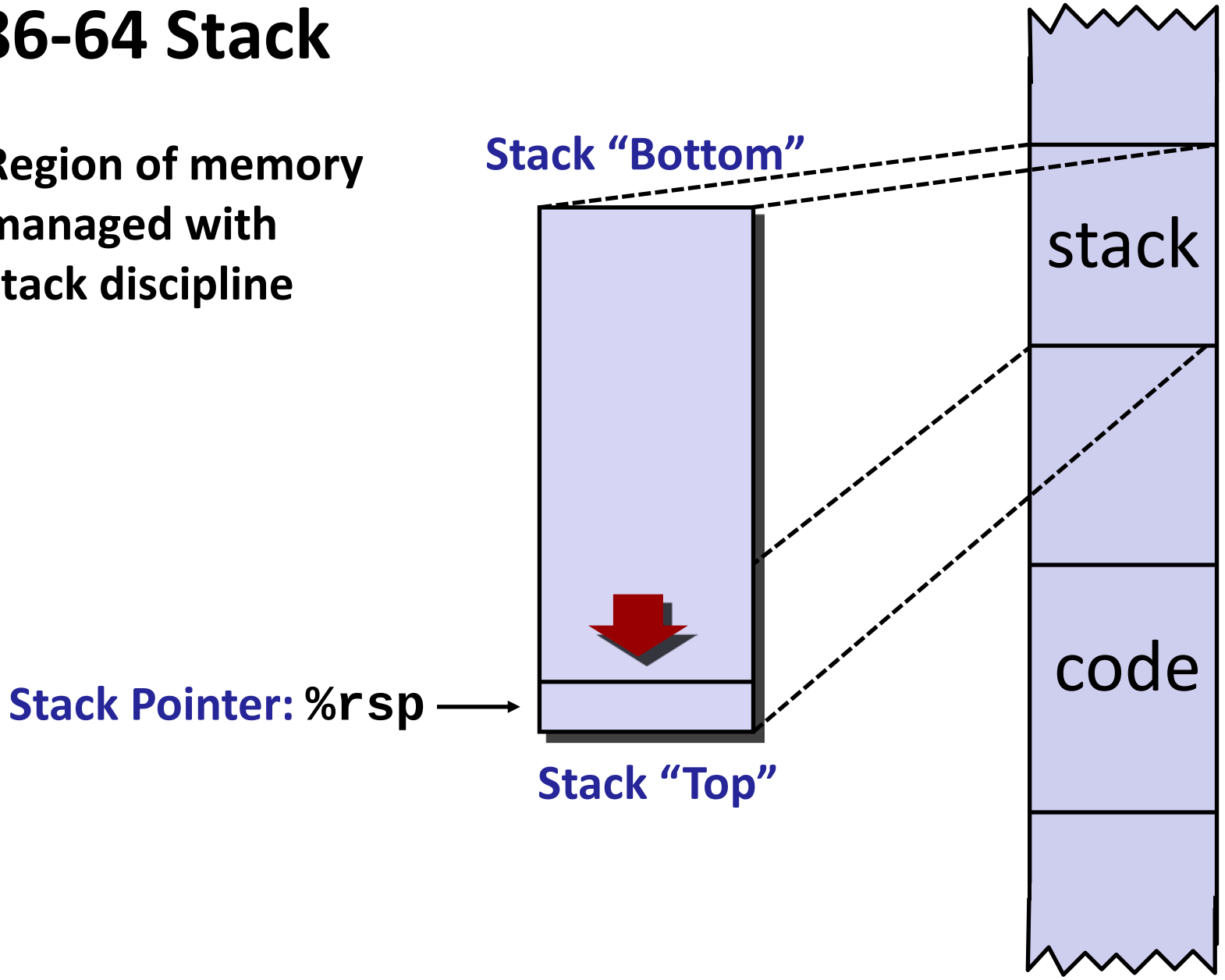
x86-64 Stack

- **Region of memory managed with stack discipline**
  - Memory viewed as array of bytes.
  - Different regions have different purposes.
  - (Like ABI, a policy decision)



x86-64 Stack

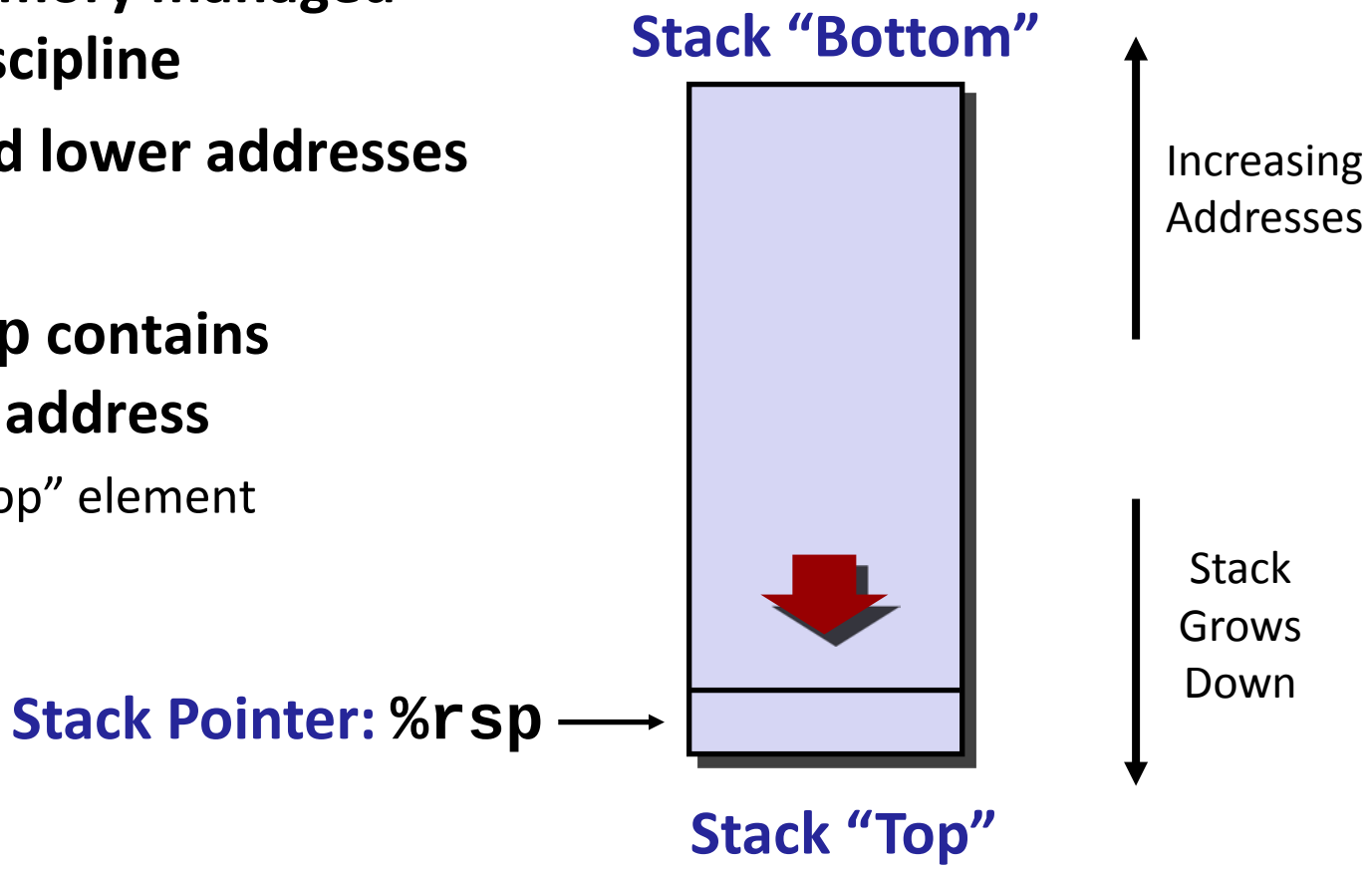
- Region of memory managed with stack discipline



x86-64 Stack

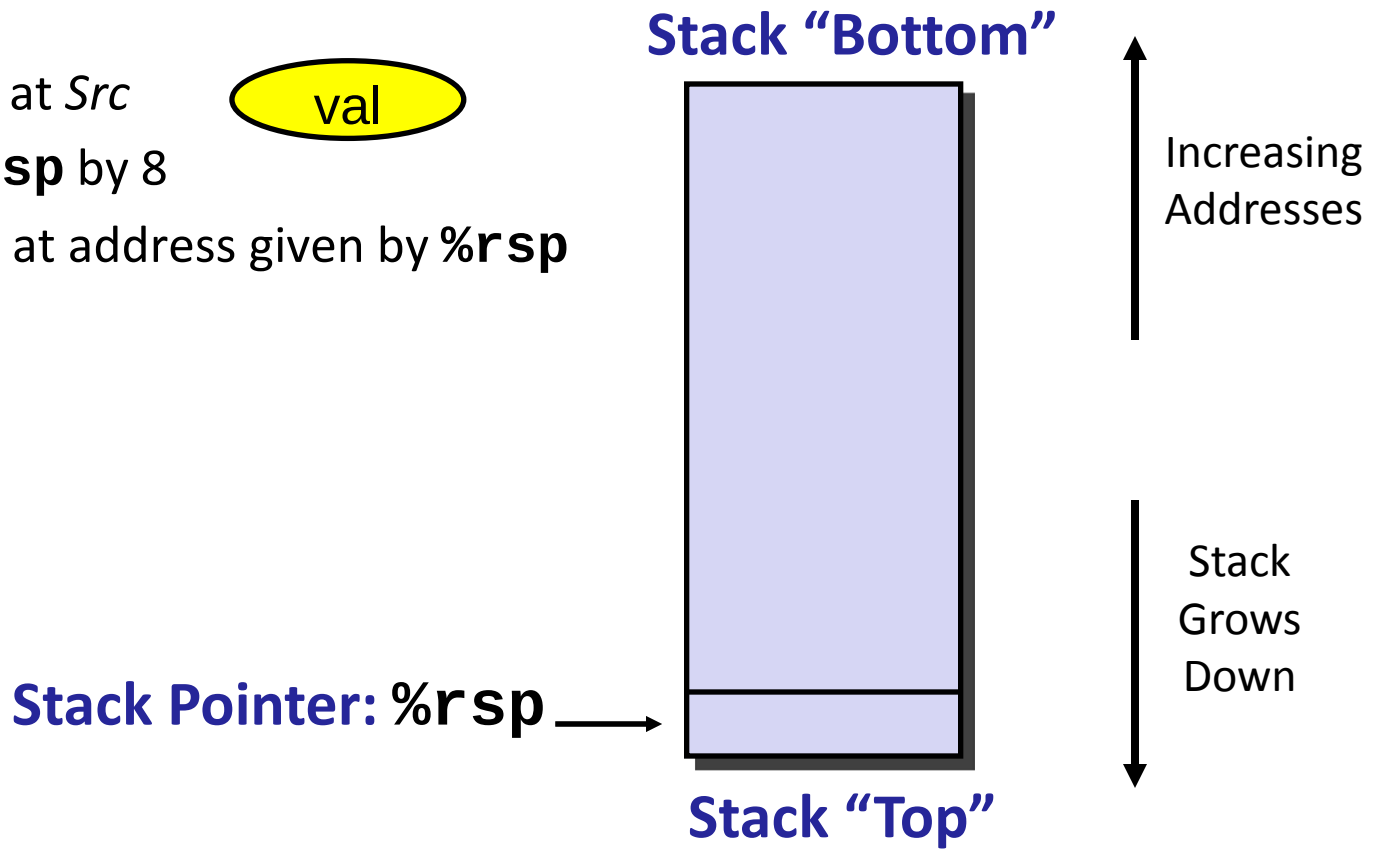
- Region of memory managed with stack discipline
- Grows toward lower addresses

- Register `%rsp` contains lowest stack address
  - address of "top" element



x86-64 Stack: Push

- **pushq** *Src*
  - Fetch operand at *Src*
  - Decrement **%rsp** by 8
  - Write operand at address given by **%rsp**



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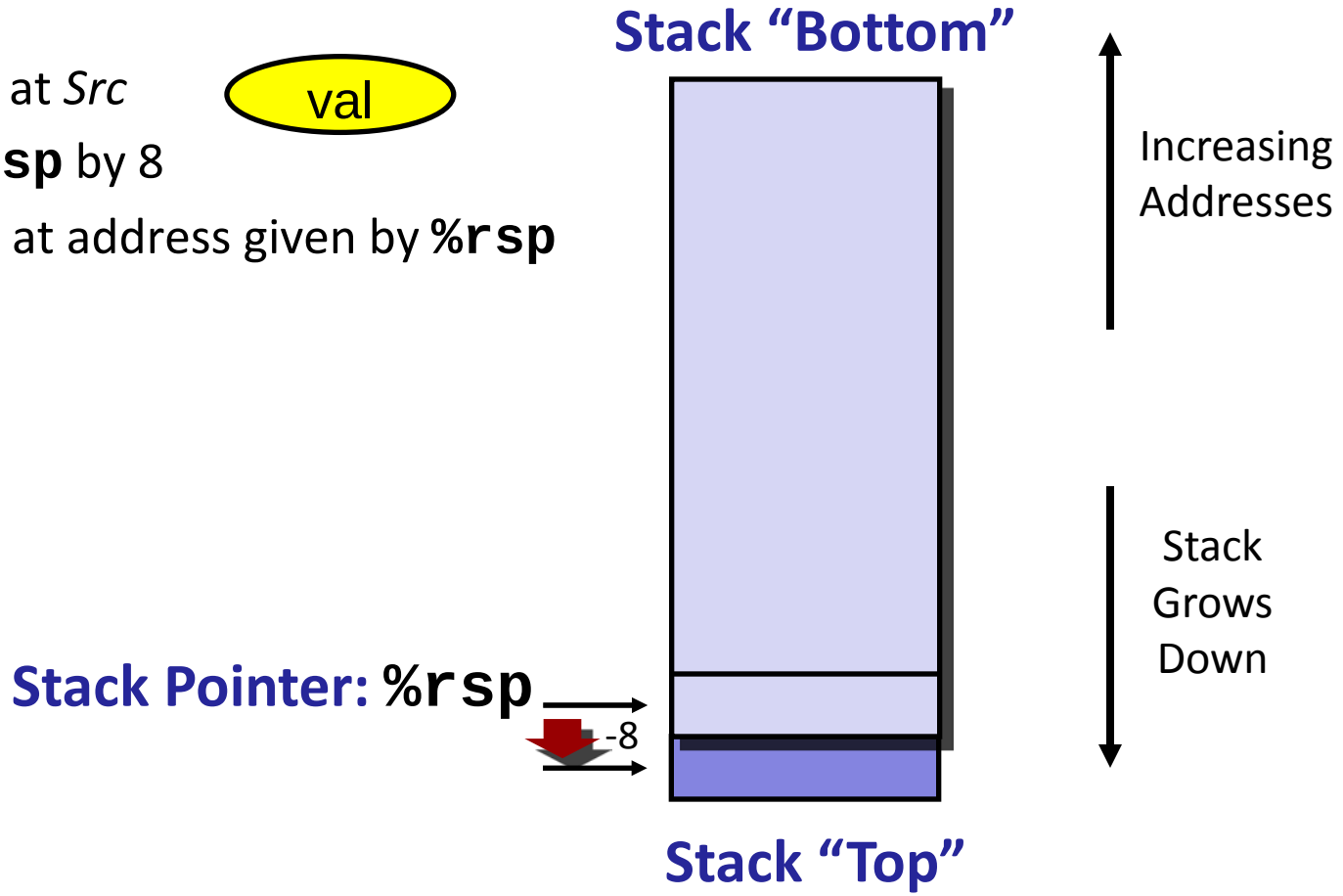
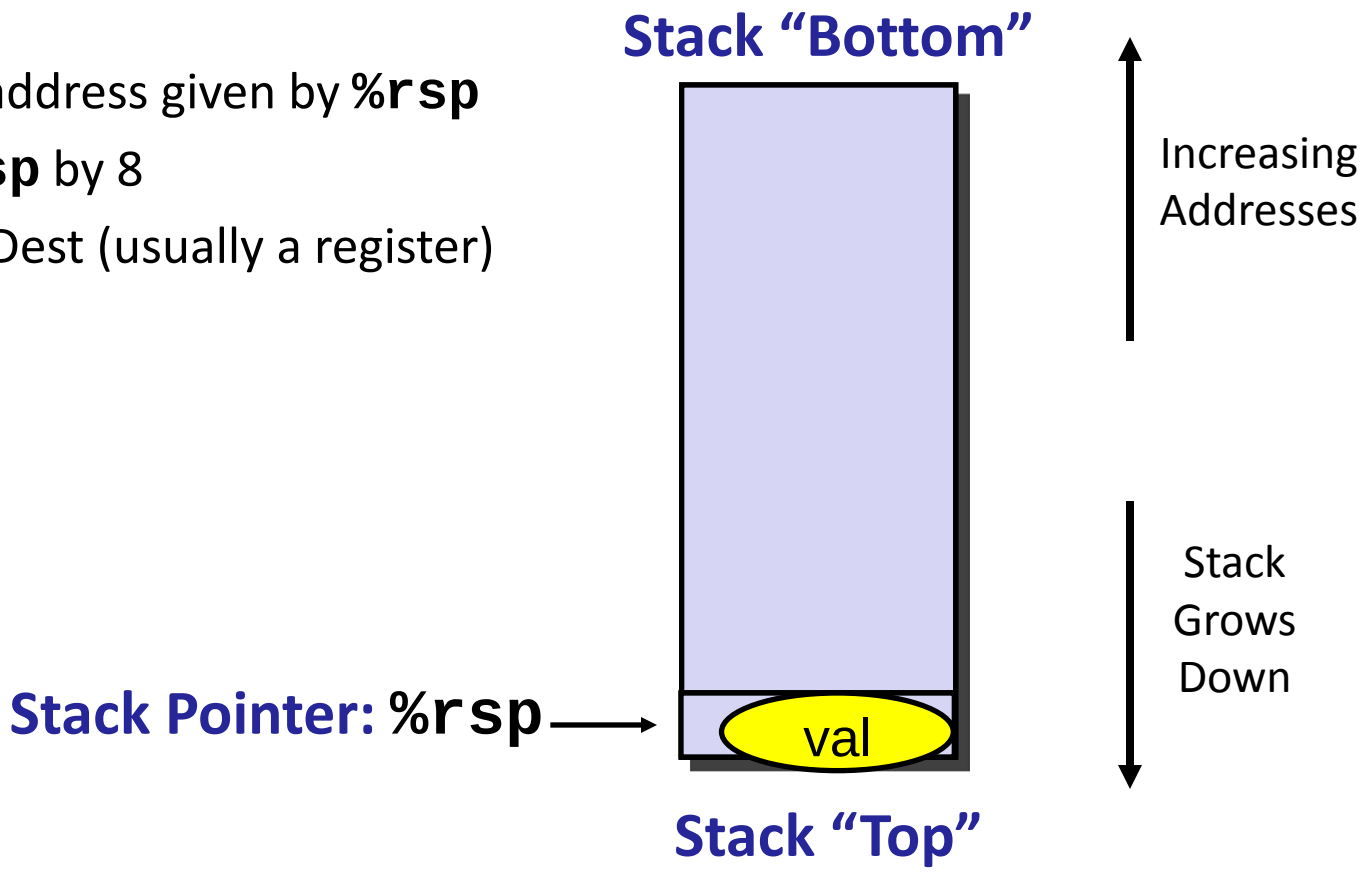


x86-64 Stack: Pop

- **popq** ***Dest***
  - Read value at address given by **%rsp**
  - Increment **%rsp** by 8
  - Store value at Dest (usually a register)



x86-64 Stack: Pop

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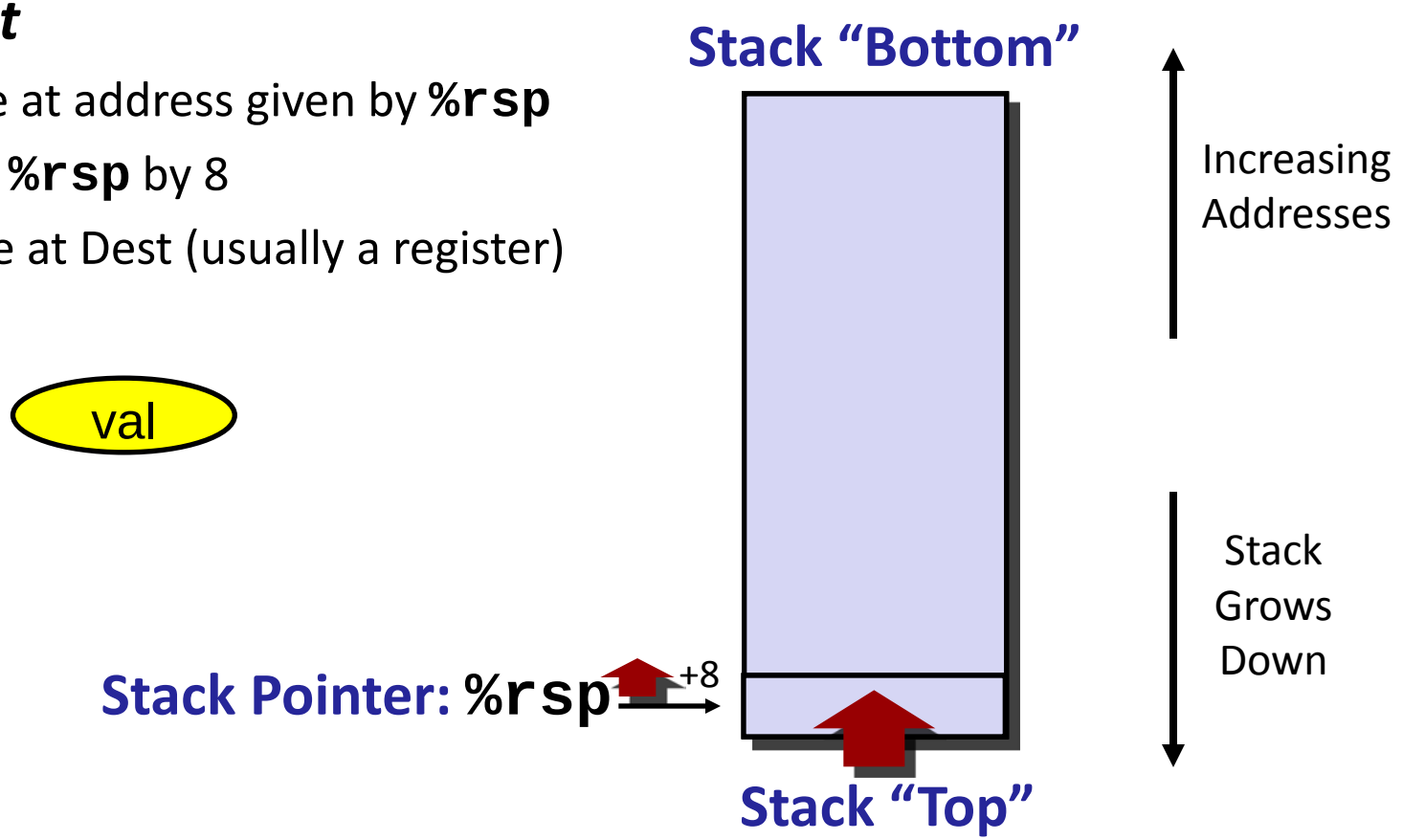

x86-64 Stack: Pop

- **popq** ***Dest***
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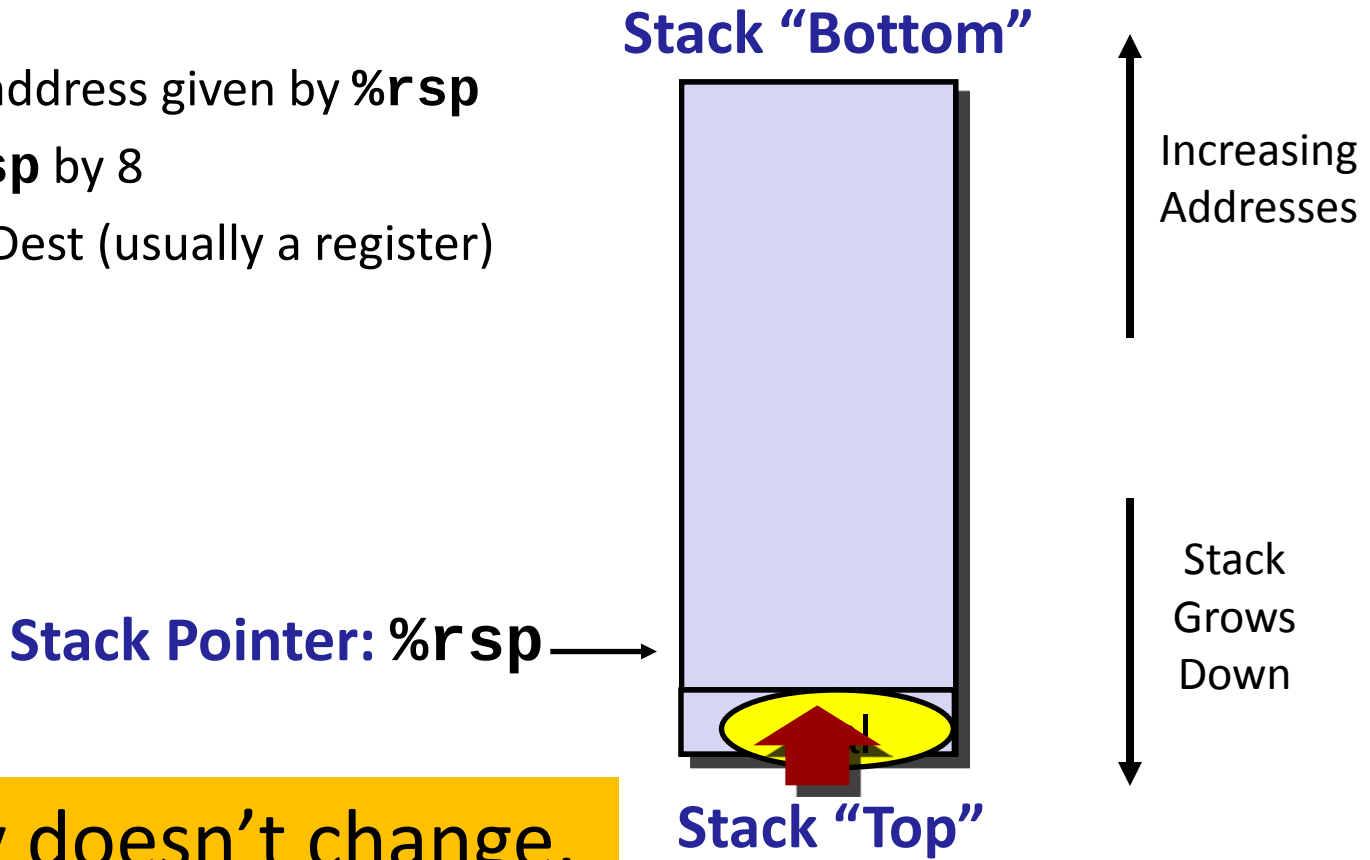

(The memory doesn't change, only the value of **%rsp**)

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  - Illustration of Recursion

Code Examples

```
void multstore(long x, long y, long *dest)
{
    long t = mult2(x, y);
    *dest = t;
}
```

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  400540: push   %rbx                  # Save %rbx
  400541: mov    %rdx,%rbx             # Save dest
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>        # mult2(x,y)
  400549: mov    %rax,(%rbx)           # Save at dest
  40054c: pop    %rbx                  # Restore %rbx
  40054d: retq                         # Return
```

```
long mult2(long a, long b)
{
  long s = a * b;
  return s;
}
```

```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
  400550:  mov    %rdi,%rax            # a
  400553:  imul   %rsi,%rax            # a * b
  400557:  retq                        # Return
```

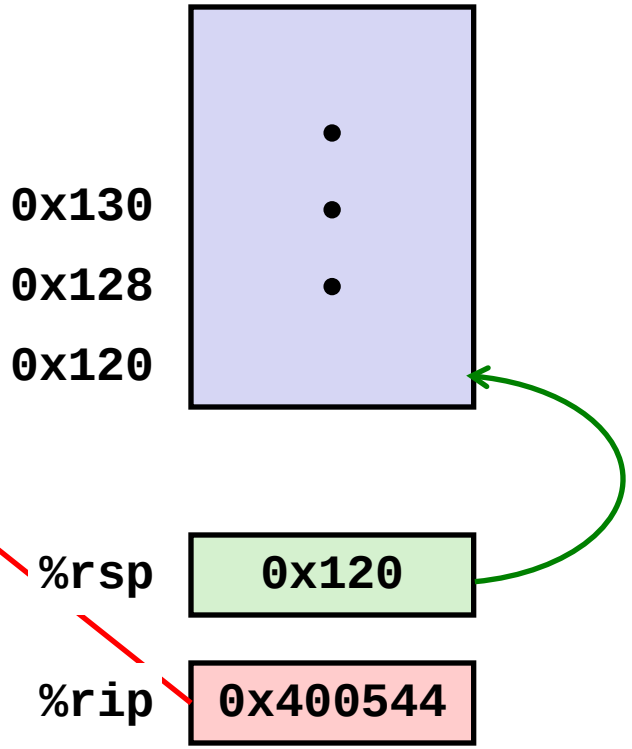
Procedure Control Flow

- **Use stack to support procedure call and return**
- **Procedure call: `call label`**
  - Push return address on stack
  - Jump to ***label***
- **Return address:**
  - Address of the next instruction right after call
  - Example from disassembly
- **Procedure return: `ret`**
  - Pop address from stack
  - Jump to address

Control Flow Example #1

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  •
  •
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>
  400549: mov    %rax,(%rbx)
  •
  •
```

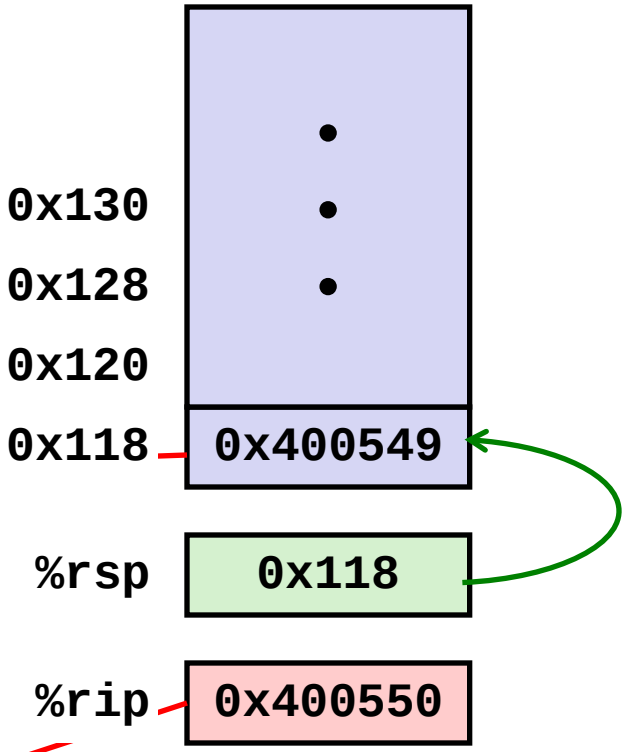
```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
  400550:  mov    %rdi,%rax
  •
  •
  400557:  retq
```



Control Flow Example #2

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  •
  •
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>
  400549: mov    %rax,(%rbx)
  •
  •
```

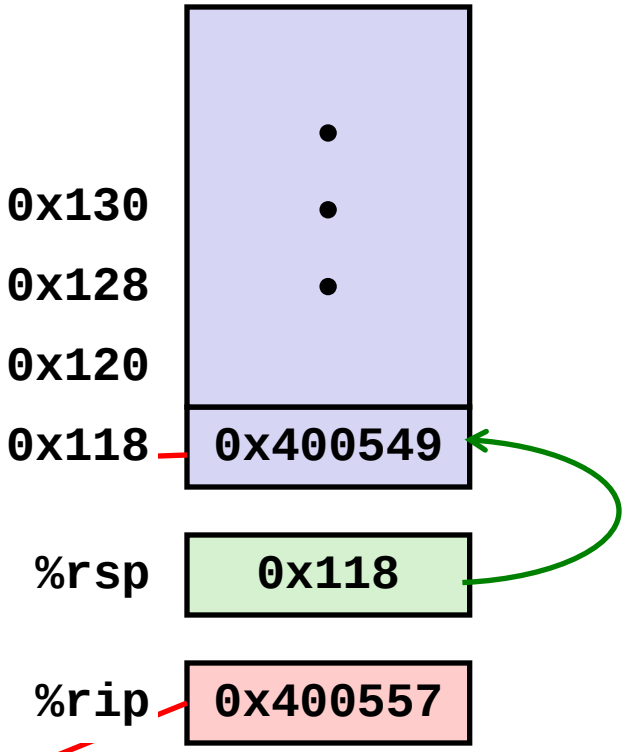
```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
  400550:  mov    %rdi,%rax
  •
  •
  400557:  retq
```



Control Flow Example #3

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  •
  •
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>
  400549: mov    %rax,(%rbx)
  •
  •
```

```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
  400550:  mov    %rdi,%rax
  •
  •
  400557:  retq
```



Control Flow Example #4

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  •
  •
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>
  400549: mov    %rax,(%rbx)
  •
  •
```

```
0000000000400550 <mult2>:
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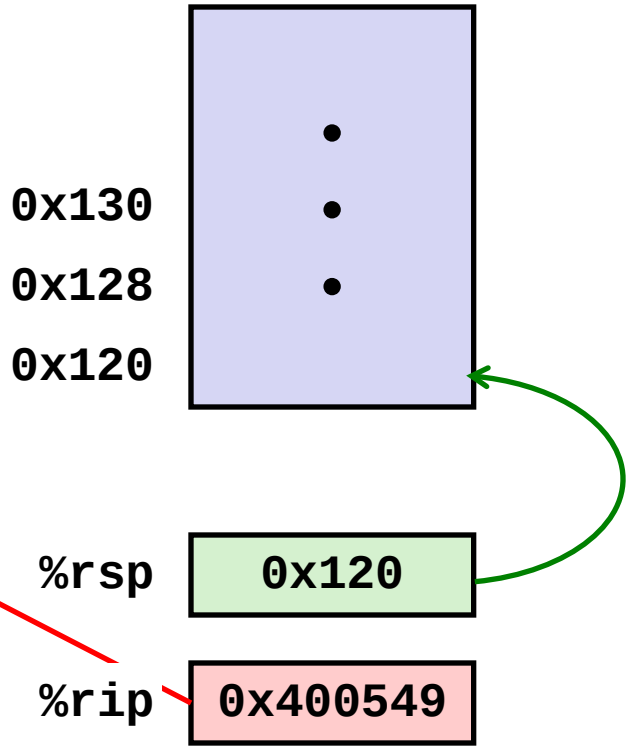
  •
  •
  400557:  retq
```



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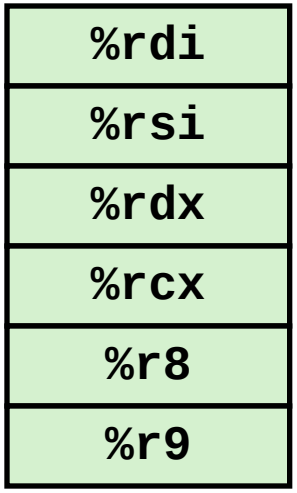
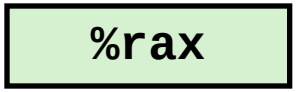
Procedure Data Flow

Registers

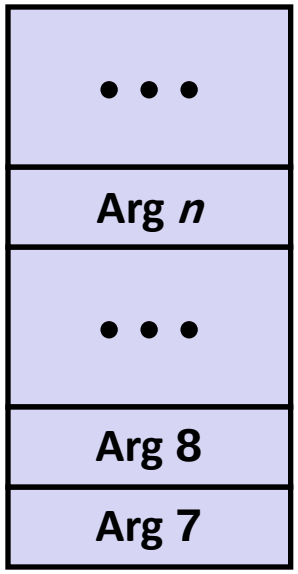
- First 6 arguments



- Return value



Stack



- Only allocate stack space when needed

Data Flow Examples

```
void multstore
 (long x, long y, long *dest)
{
    long t = mult2(x, y);
    *dest = t;
}
```

```
0000000000400540 <multstore>:
  # x in %rdi, y in %rsi, dest in %rdx
  ...
  400541: mov    %rdx,%rbx          # Save dest
  400544: callq  400550 <mult2>     # mult2(x,y)
  # t in %rax
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  ...
```

```
long mult2
  (long a, long b)
{
  long s = a * b;
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0000000000400550 <mult2>:
  # a in %rdi, b in %rsi
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Stack-Based Languages

- **Languages that support recursion**
  - e.g., C, Pascal, Java
  - Code must be "*Reentrant*"
    - Multiple simultaneous instantiations of single procedure
  - Need some place to store state of each instantiation
    - Arguments
    - Local variables
    - Return pointer
- **Stack discipline**
  - State for given procedure needed for limited time
    - From when called to when return
  - Callee returns before caller does
- **Stack allocated in *Frames***
  - state for single procedure instantiation

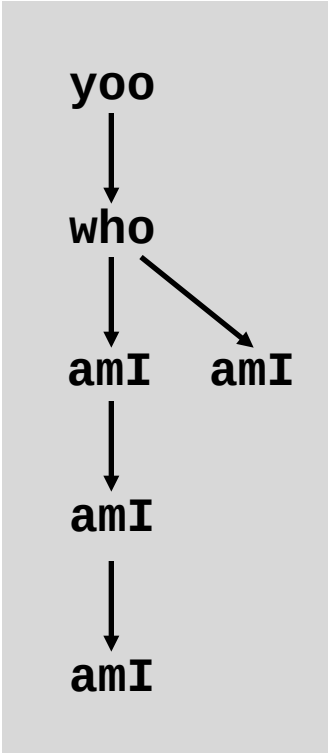
Call Chain Example

```
yoo(…)
{
   •
   •
   who();
   •
   •
}
```

```
who(…)
{
   • • •
   amI();
   • • •
   amI();
   • • •
}
```

```
amI(…)
{
   •
   •
   amI();
   •
   •
}
```

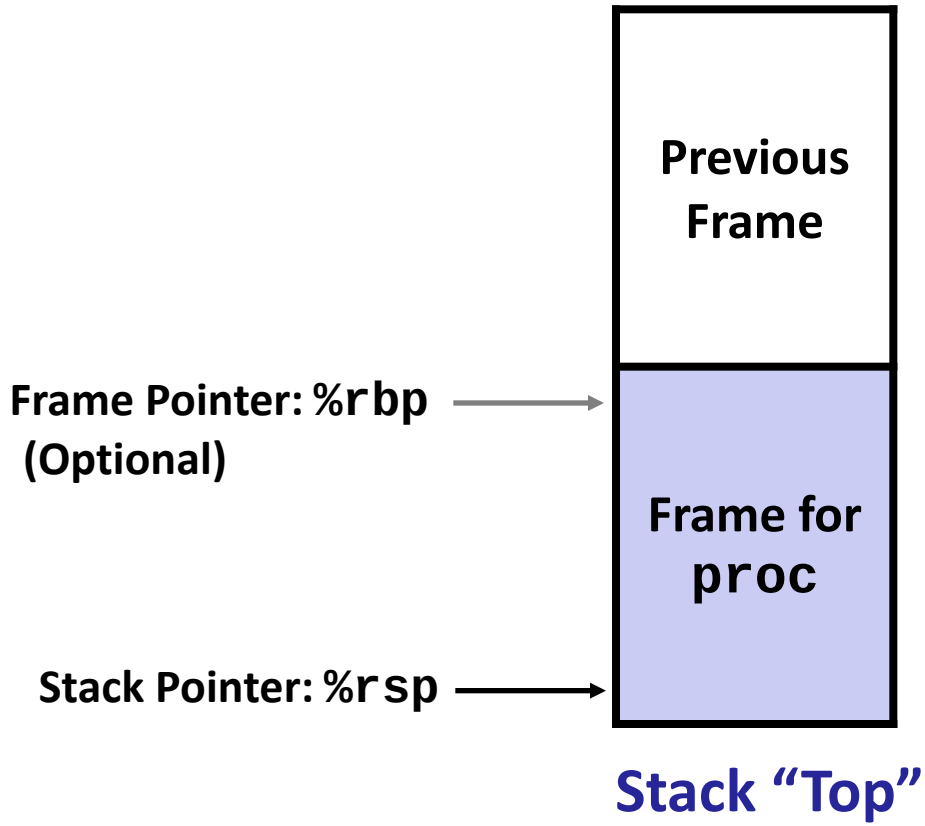
Example Call Chain



Procedure `amI()` is recursive

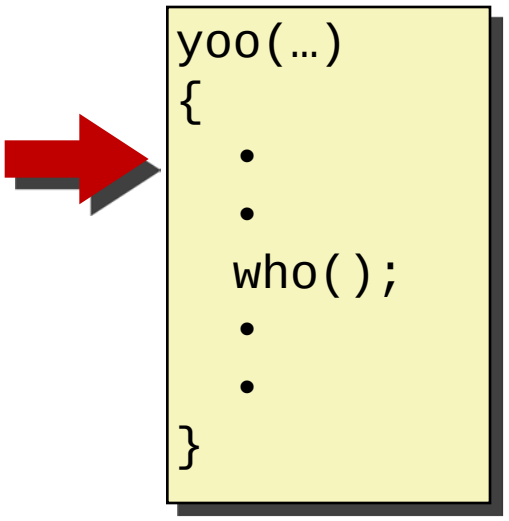
Stack Frames

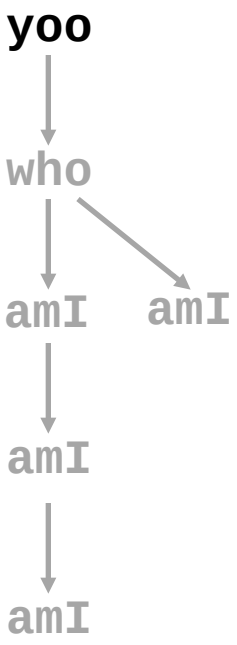
- **Contents**
  - Return information
  - Local storage (if needed)
  - Temporary space (if needed)

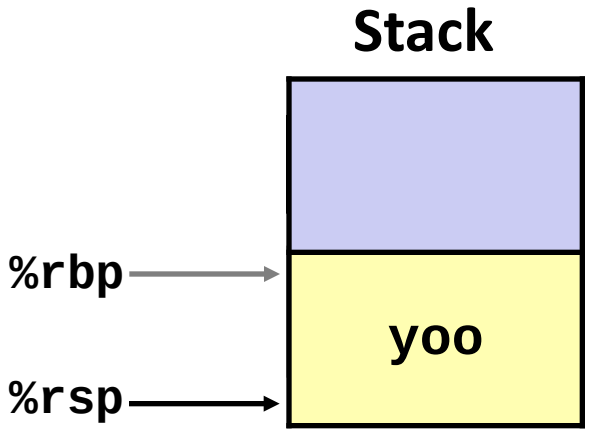


- **Management**
  - Space allocated when enter procedure
    - "Set-up" code
    - Includes push by **`call`** instruction
  - Deallocated when return
    - "Finish" code
    - Includes pop by **`ret`** instruction

Example







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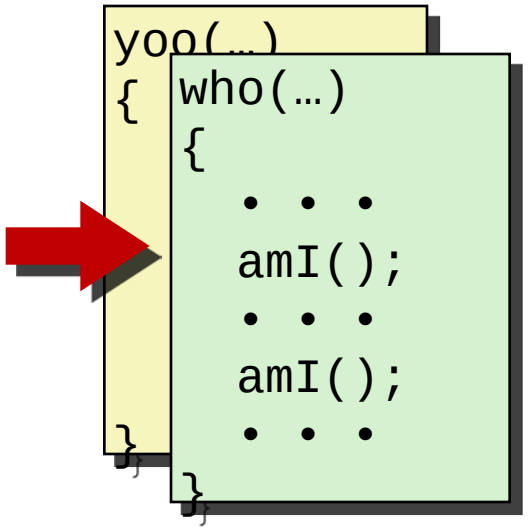

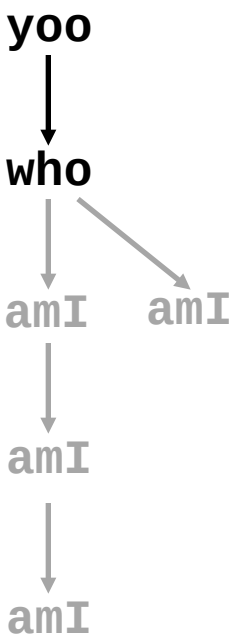

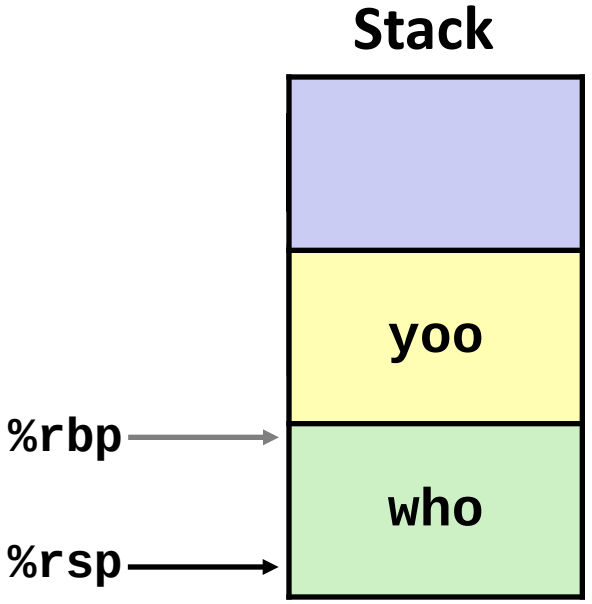

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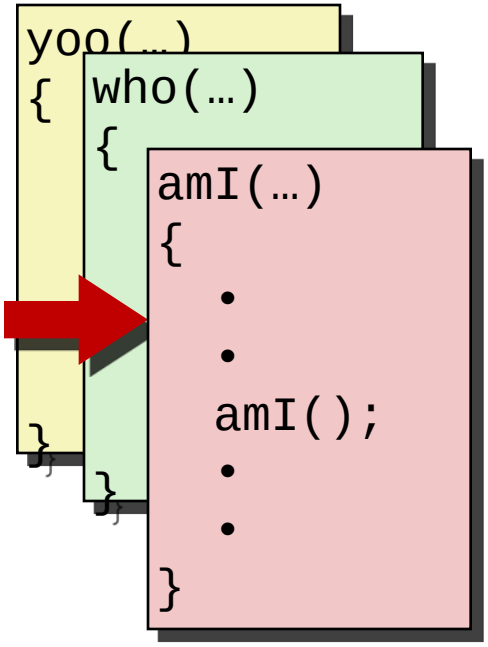
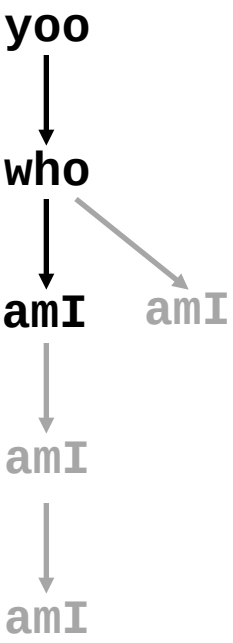

yoo(…)
{
who(…)
{
amI(…)
{
•
•
amI();
•
•
}
}
}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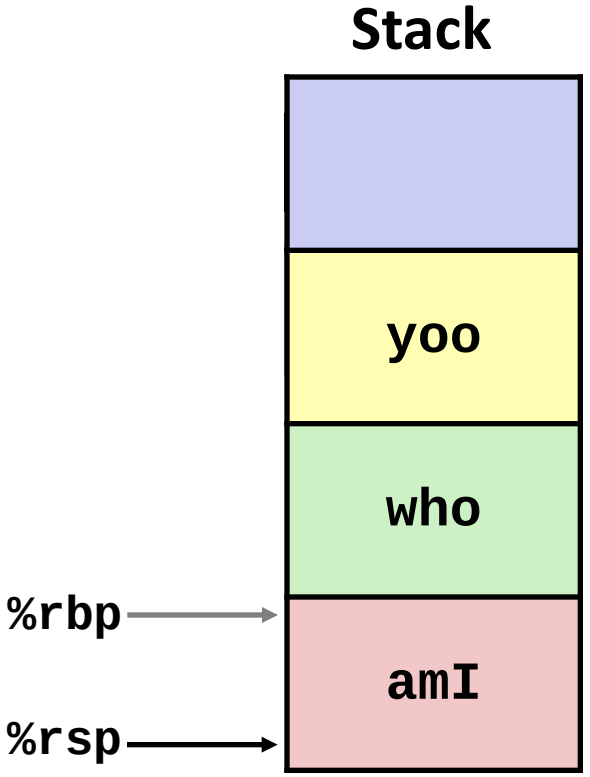
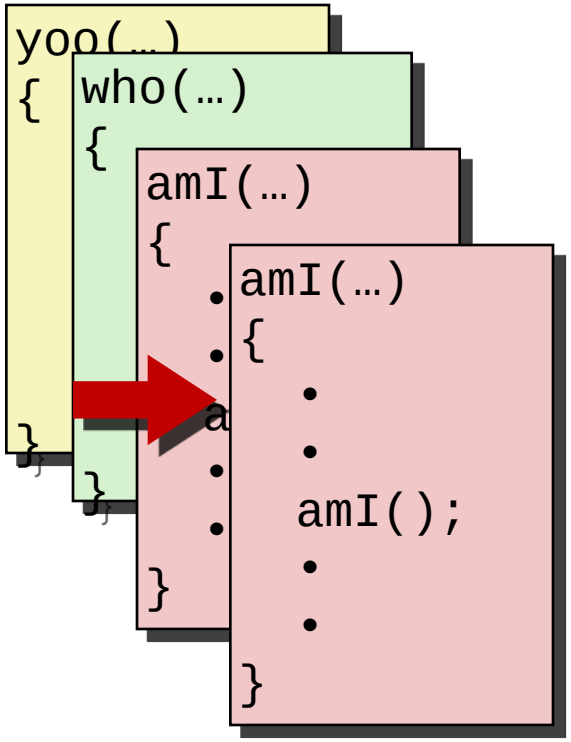

Stack
yoo
who
amI
%rbp
%rsp

Example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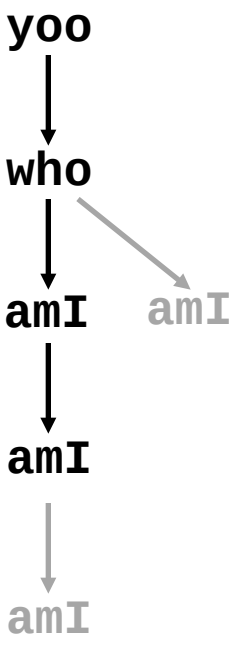
{
who(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI();
}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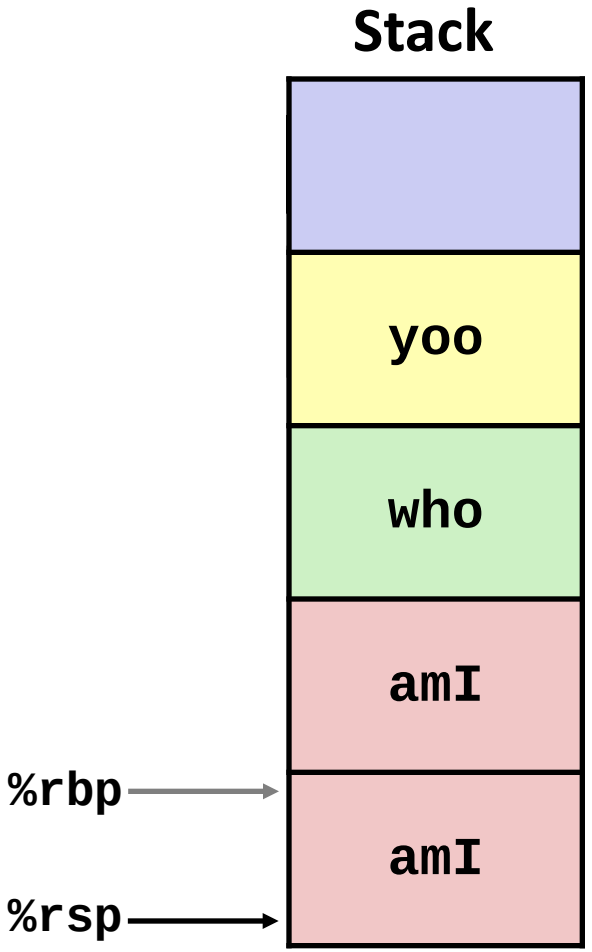
Stack
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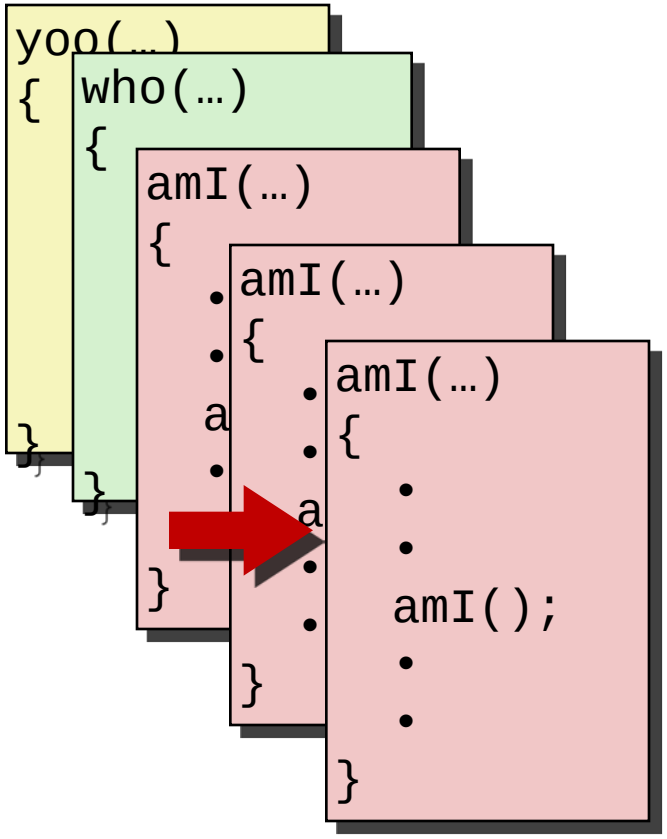
Example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{
who(…)
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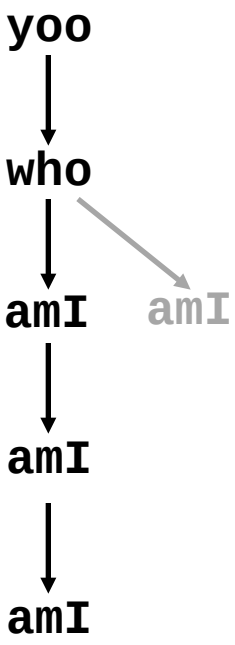
amI(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI();
}


yoo
who
amI
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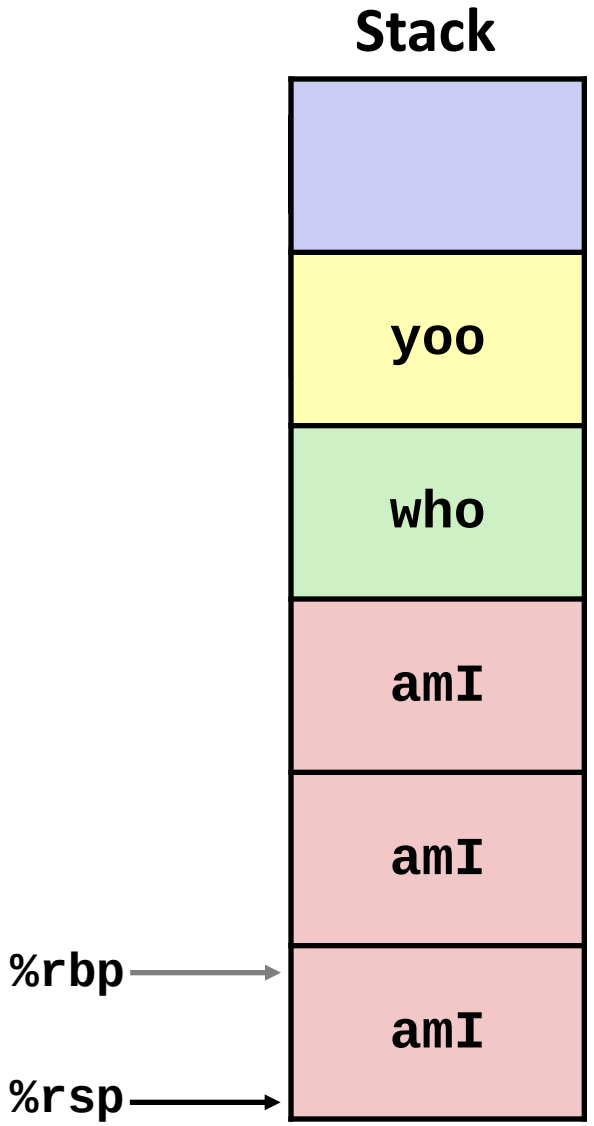
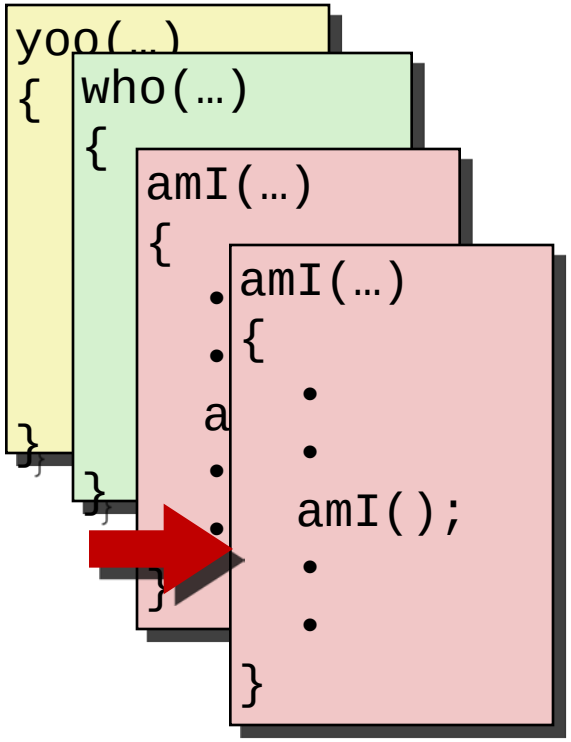
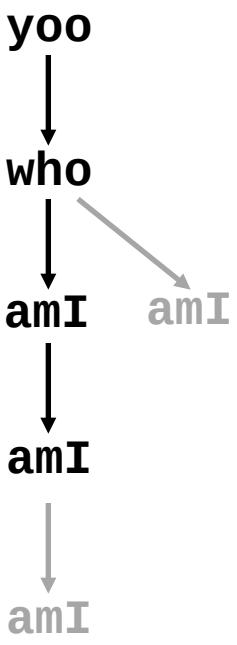
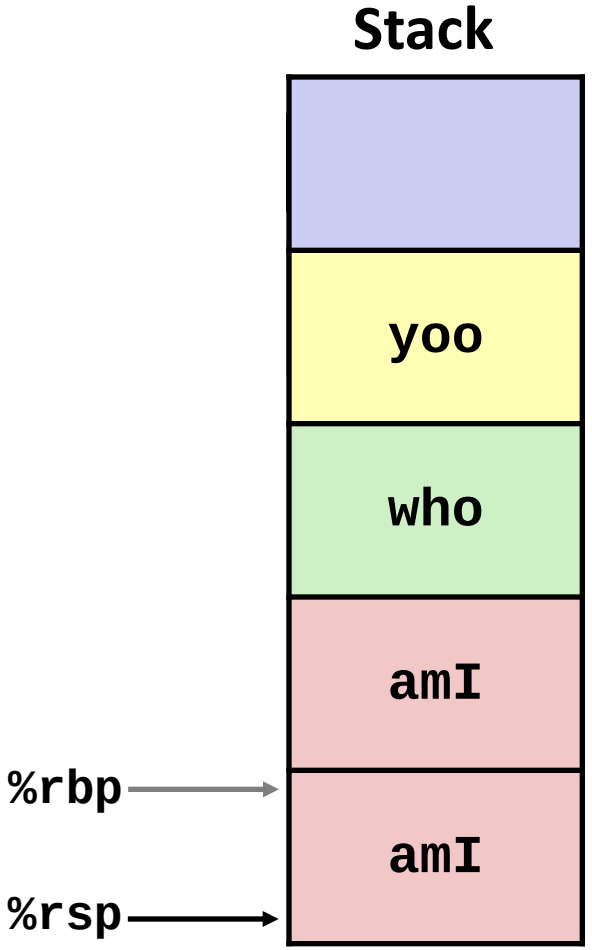
amI
amI


Stack
yoo
who
amI
amI
amI
%rbp
%rsp

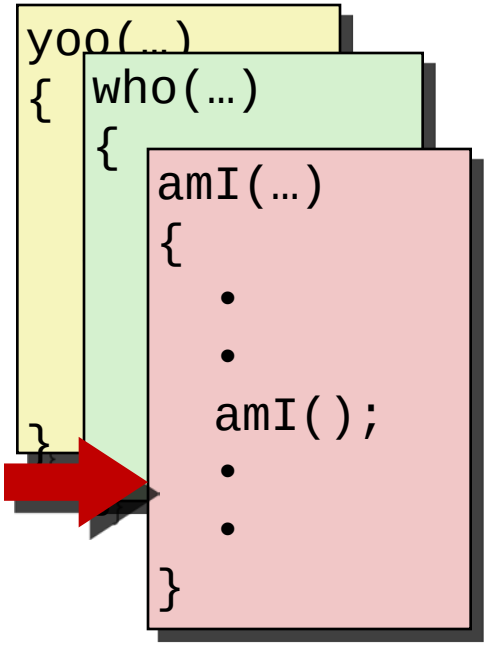
Example

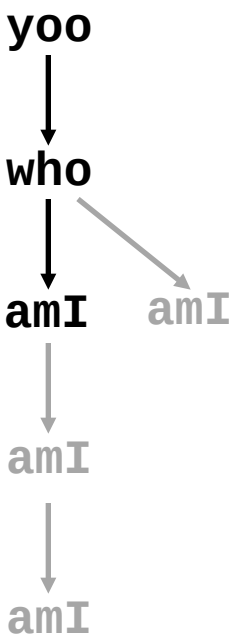

yoo(…)
{
who(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI(…)
{
amI();
}

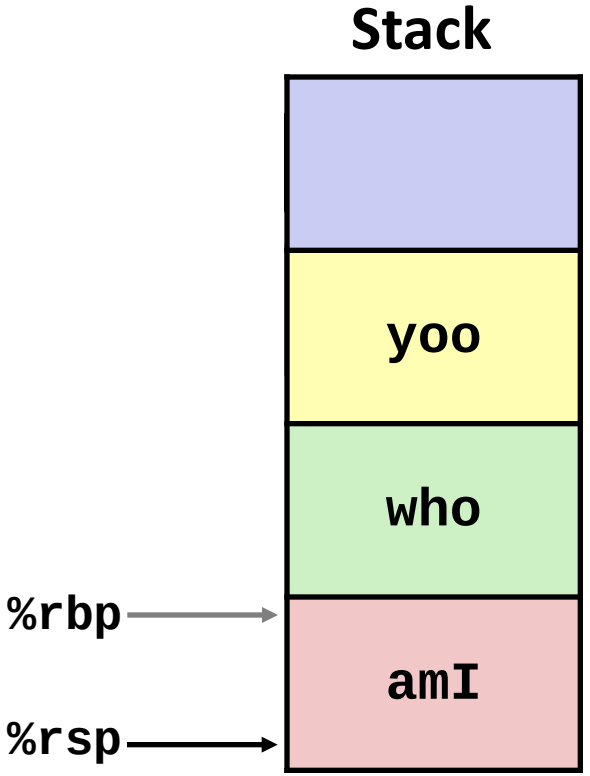

yoo
who
amI
amI
amI
amI


Stack
yoo
who
amI
amI
%rbp
%rsp

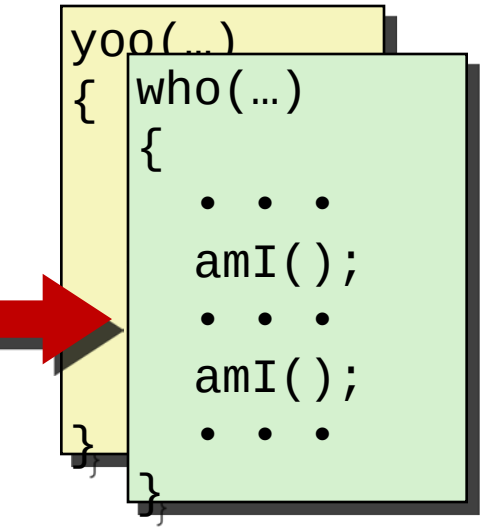
Example

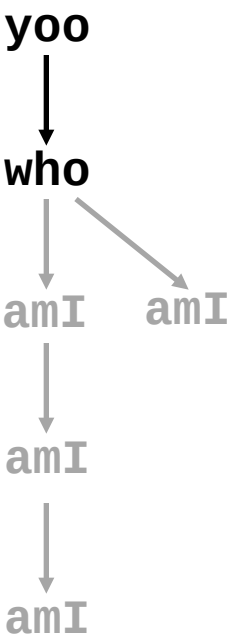

yoo(…)
{
who(…)
{
amI(…)
{
•
•
amI();
•
•
}

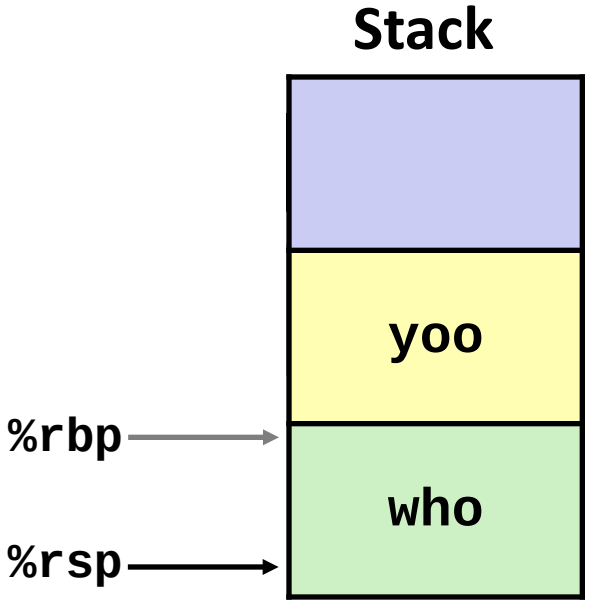

yoo
who
amI
amI
amI
amI


Stack
yoo
who
amI
%rbp
%rsp

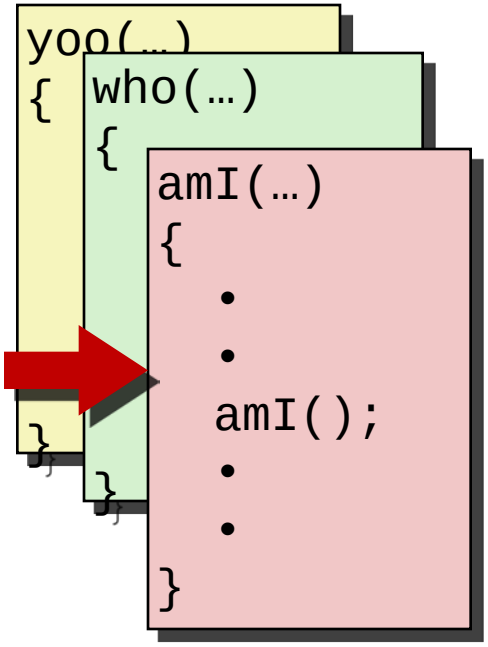
Example

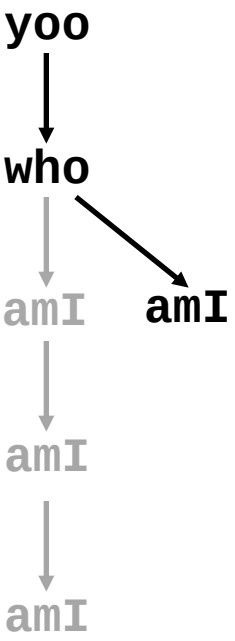


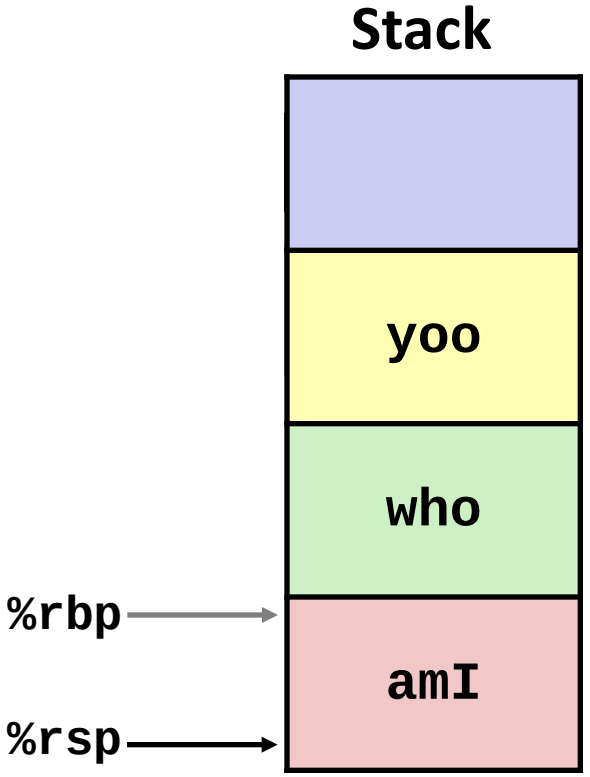




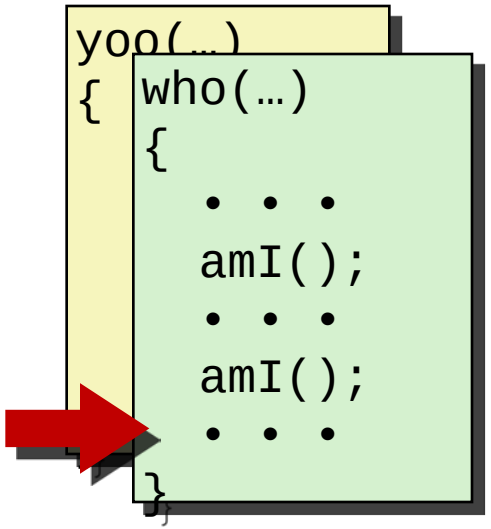
Example

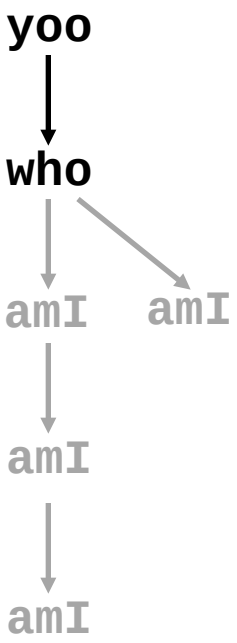

yoo(…)
{
who(…)
{
amI(…)
{
•
•
amI();
•
•
}
}
}

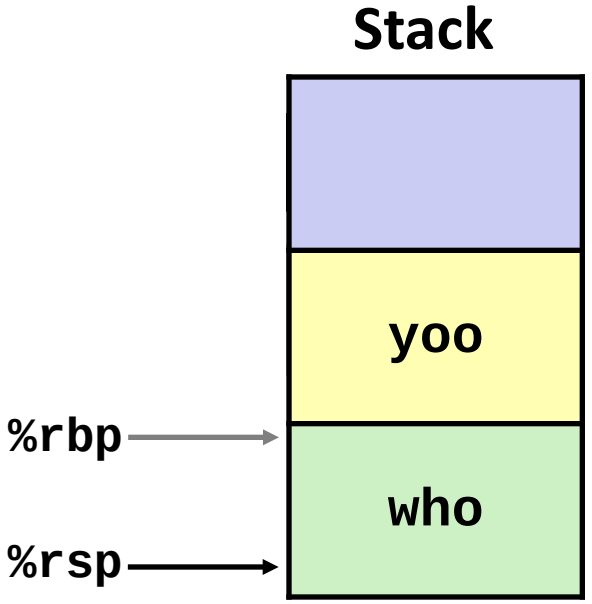

yoo
who
amI
amI
amI
amI


Stack
yoo
who
amI
%rbp
%rsp

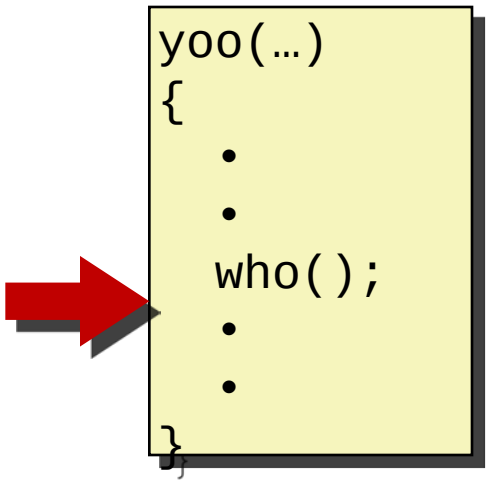
Example

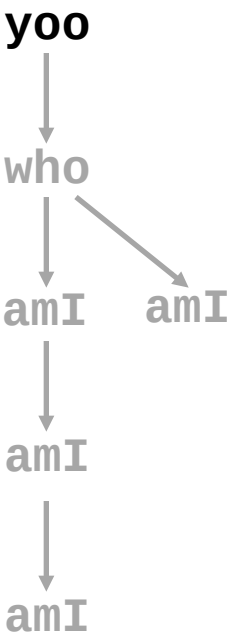


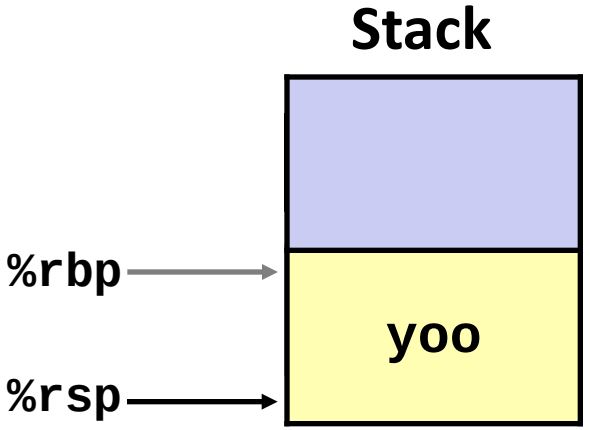




Example



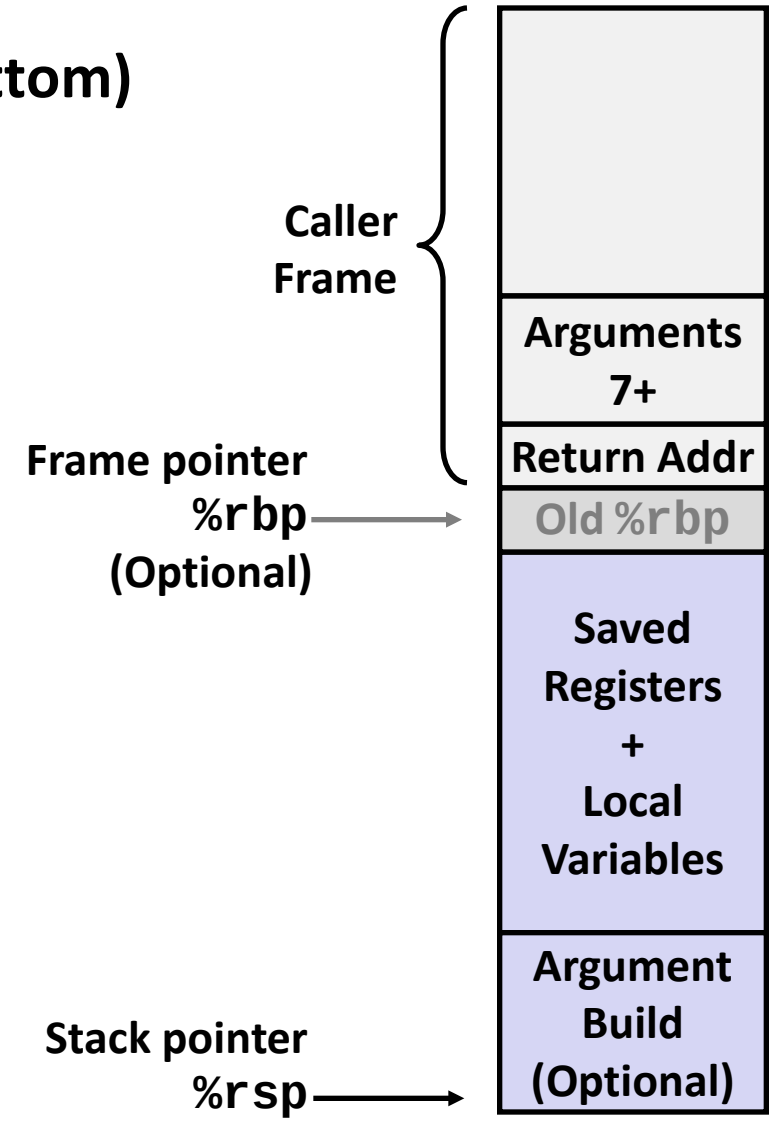




x86-64/Linux Stack Frame

- **Current Stack Frame ("Top" to Bottom)**
  - "Argument build:"
    Parameters for function about to call
  - Local variables
    If can't keep in registers
  - Saved register context
  - Old frame pointer (optional)

- **Caller Stack Frame**
  - Return address
    - Pushed by **`call`** instruction
  - Arguments for this call



Break Time!

Gubbins: "any bits and pieces"

Check out:

Quiz: day 7: Floating Point

https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/3822

Example: `incr`

```
long incr(long *p, long val) {
    long x = *p;
    long y = x + val;
    *p = y;
    return x;
}
```

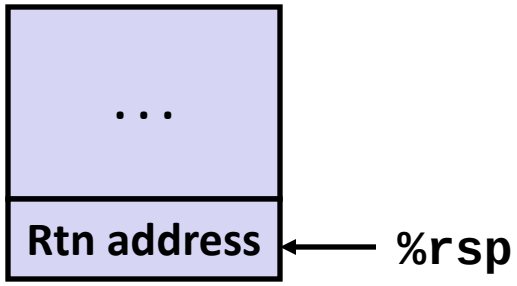
```
incr:
  movq    (%rdi), %rax
  addq    %rax, %rsi
  movq    %rsi, (%rdi)
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument **`p`**
`%rsi`	Argument **`val`**, **`y`**
`%rax`	**`x`**, Return value

Example: Calling `incr` #1

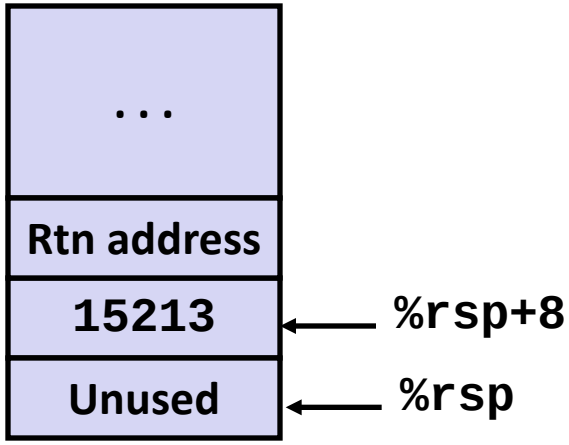
```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Initial Stack Structure




```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Resulting Stack Structure

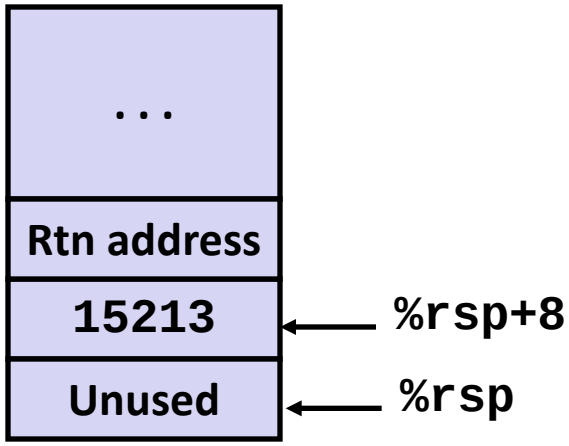


Example: Calling `incr` #2

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Stack Structure

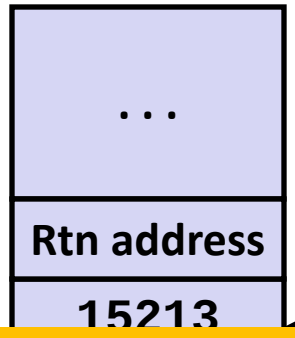


Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000

Example: Calling `incr` #2

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Stack Structure



Aside 1: **`movl $3000, %esi`**

- Remember, movl -> %exx zeros out high order 32 bits.
- Why use movl instead of movq? 1 byte shorter.

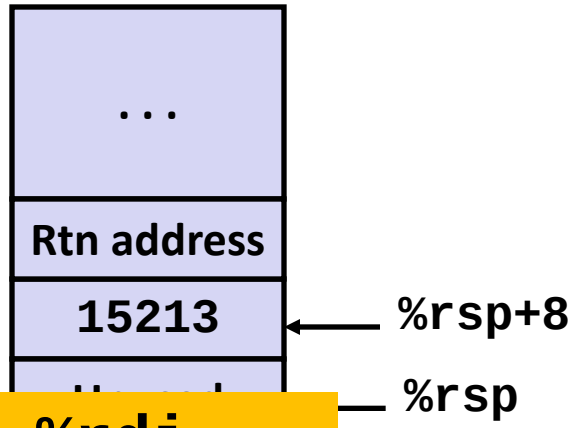
```
ca
    movl    $3000, %esi
    leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
    call    incr
    addq    8(%rsp), %rax
    addq    $16, %rsp
    ret
```

%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000

Example: Calling `incr` #2

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Stack Structure




```
ca
  $
  r
  r
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Aside 2: `leaq 8(%rsp), %rdi`

- Computes %rsp+8
- Actually, used for what it is meant!

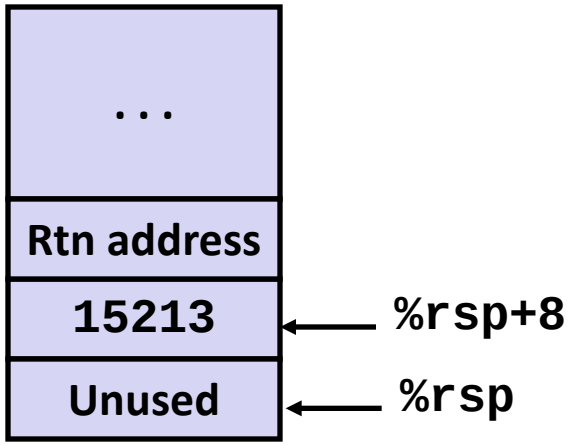
se(s)	
	v1
%rsi	3000

Example: Calling `incr` #2

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Stack Structure



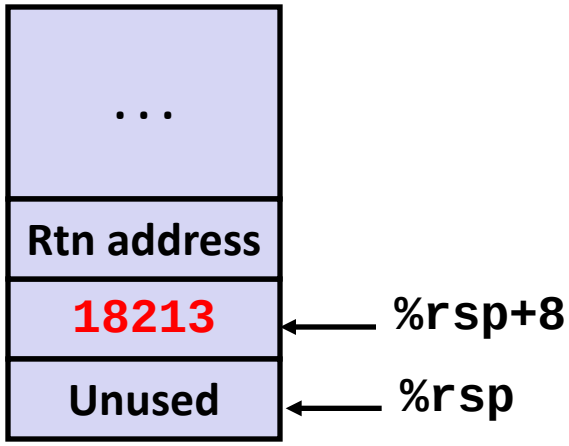
Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000

Example: Calling `incr` #3

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Stack Structure

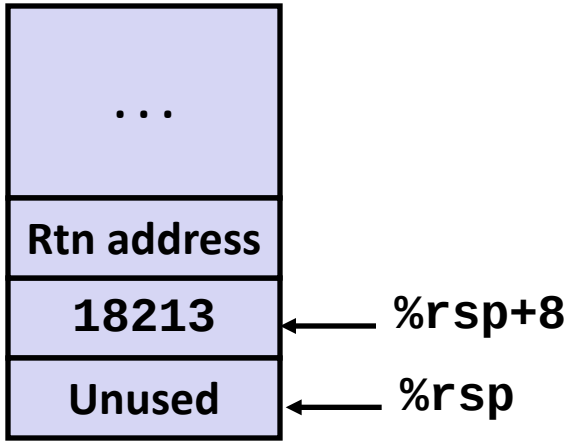


Register	Use(s)
%rdi	&v1
%rsi	3000

Example: Calling `incr` #4

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

Stack Structure



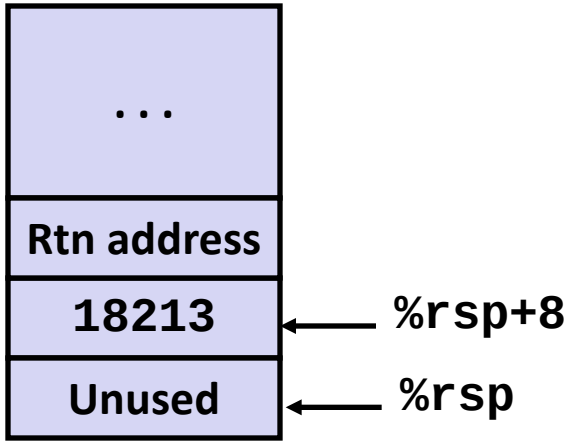

```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rax	Return value

Example: Calling `incr` #5a

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

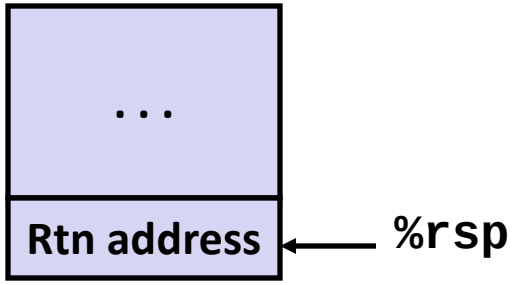
Stack Structure




```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rax	Return value

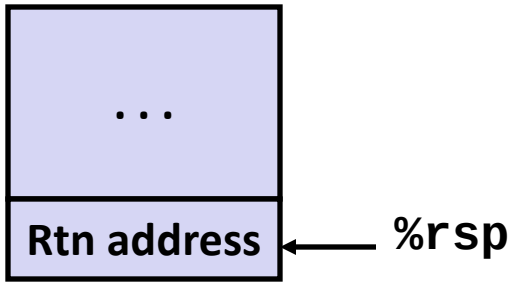
Updated Stack Structure



Example: Calling `incr` #5b

```
long call_incr() {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return v1+v2;
}
```

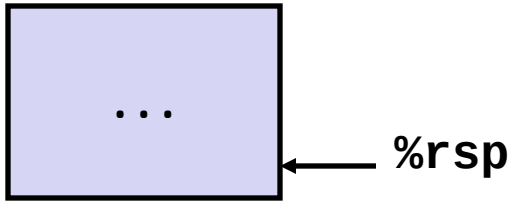
Updated Stack Structure




```
call_incr:
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    8(%rsp), %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rax	Return value

Final Stack Structure



Register Saving Conventions

- **When procedure `yoo` calls `who`:**
  - **`yoo`** is the ***caller***
  - **`who`** is the ***callee***
- **Can register be used for temporary storage?**

```
yoo:
    • • •
    movq $15213, %rdx
    call who
    addq %rdx, %rax
    • • •
    ret
```

```
who:
    • • •
    subq $18213, %rdx
    • • •
    ret
```

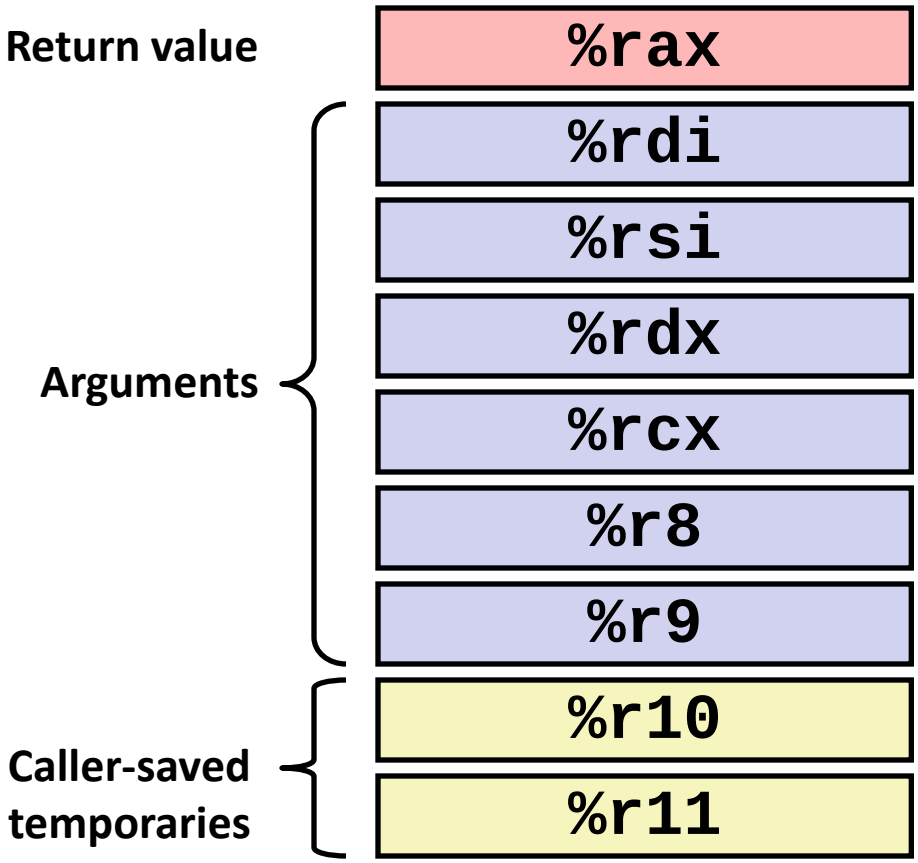
  - Contents of register **`%rdx`** overwritten by **`who`**
  - This could be trouble → something should be done!
    - Need some coordination

Register Saving Conventions

- **When procedure yoo calls who:**
  - **yoo** is the ***caller***
  - **who** is the ***callee***
- **Can register be used for temporary storage?**
- **Conventions**
  - ***"Caller Saved"***
    - Caller saves temporary values in its frame before the call
  - ***"Callee Saved"***
    - Callee saves temporary values in its frame before using
    - Callee restores them before returning to caller

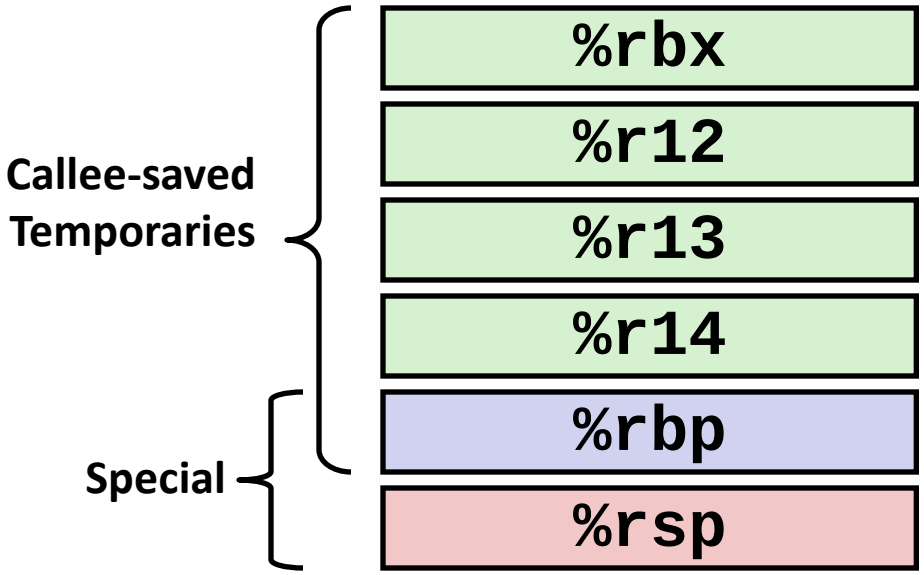
x86-64 Linux Register Usage #1

- `%rax`
  - Return value
  - Also caller-saved
  - Can be modified by procedure
- `%rdi`, …, `%r9`
  - Arguments
  - Also caller-saved
  - Can be modified by procedure
- `%r10`, `%r11`
  - Caller-saved
  - Can be modified by procedure



x86-64 Linux Register Usage #2

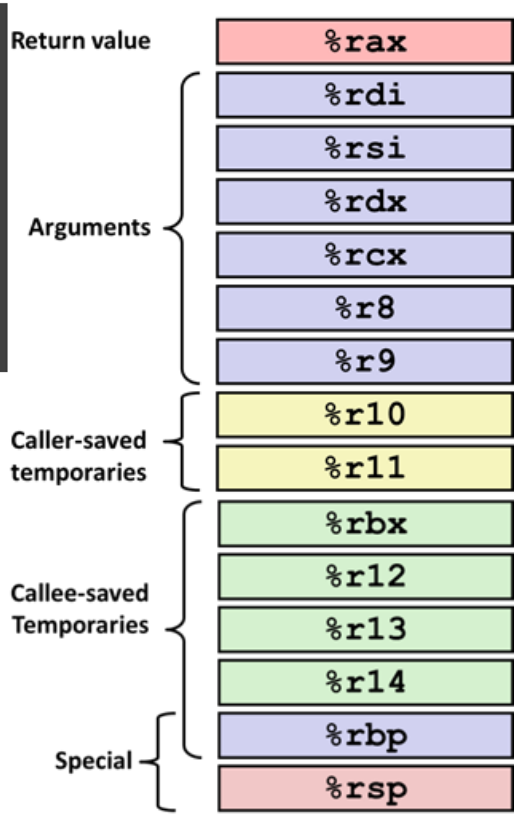
- `%rbx`, `%r12`, `%r13`, `%r14`
  - Callee-saved
  - Callee must save & restore
- `%rbp`
  - Callee-saved
  - Callee must save & restore
  - May be used as frame pointer
  - Can mix & match
- `%rsp`
  - Special form of callee save
  - Restored to original value upon exit from procedure



Small Exercise

```
long add5(long b0, long b1, long b2, long b3, long b4) {
    return b0+b1+b2+b3+b4;
}

long add10(long a0, long a1, long a2, long a3, long a4, long a5,
    long a6, long a7, long a8, long a9) {
    return add5(a0, a1, a2, a3, a4)+
        add5(a5, a6, a7, a8, a9);
}
```

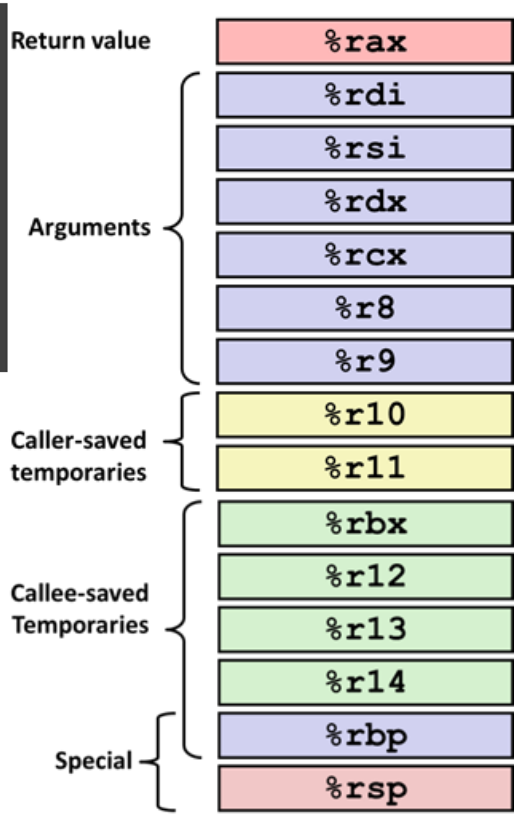


- Where are `a0`,…, `a9` passed?
  `rdi`, `rsi`, `rdx`, `rcx`, `r8`, `r9`, stack
- Where are `b0`,…, `b4` passed?
  `rdi`, `rsi`, `rdx`, `rcx`, `r8`
- Which registers do we need to save?
  Ill-posed question. Need assembly.
  `rbx`, `rbp`, `r9` (during first call to `add5`)

Small Exercise

```
long add5(long b0, long b1, long b2, long b3, long b4) {
    return b0+b1+b2+b3+b4;
}

long add10(long a0, long a1, long a2, long a3, long a4, long a5,
    long a6, long a7, long a8, long a9) {
    return add5(a0, a1, a2, a3, a4)+
        add5(a5, a6, a7, a8, a9);
}
```



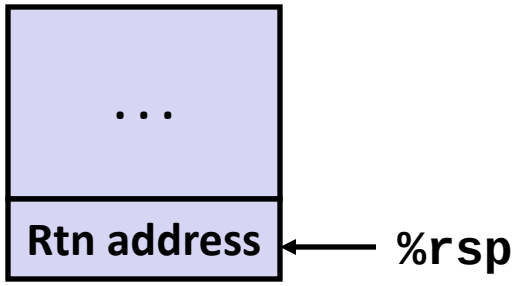

```
add10:
        pushq   %rbp
        pushq   %rbx
        movq    %r9, %rbp
        call    add5
        movq    %rax, %rbx
        movq    48(%rsp), %r8
        movq    40(%rsp), %rcx
        movq    32(%rsp), %rdx
        movq    24(%rsp), %rsi
        movq    %rbp, %rdi
        call    add5
        addq    %rbx, %rax
        popq    %rbx
        popq    %rbp
        ret
```

```
add5:
        addq    %rsi, %rdi
        addq    %rdi, %rdx
        addq    %rdx, %rcx
        leaq    (%rcx,%r8), %rax
        ret
```

Callee-Saved Example #1

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

Initial Stack Structure



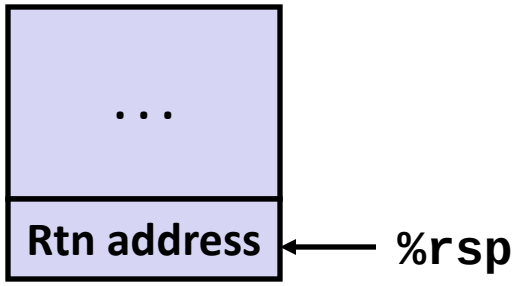
- X comes in register **`%rdi`**.
- We need **`%rdi`** for the call to incr.
- Where should we put x, so we can use it after the call to incr?

Callee-Saved Example #2

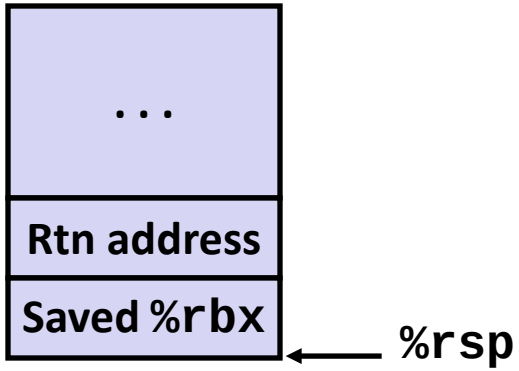
```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Initial Stack Structure



Resulting Stack Structure

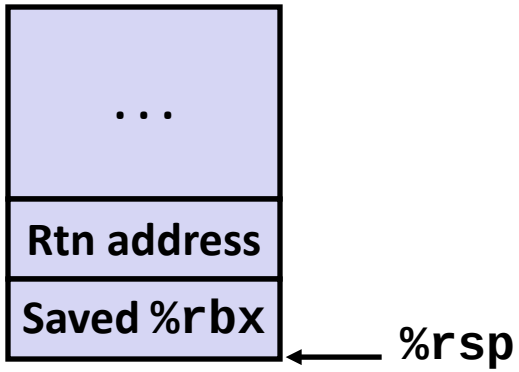


Callee-Saved Example #3

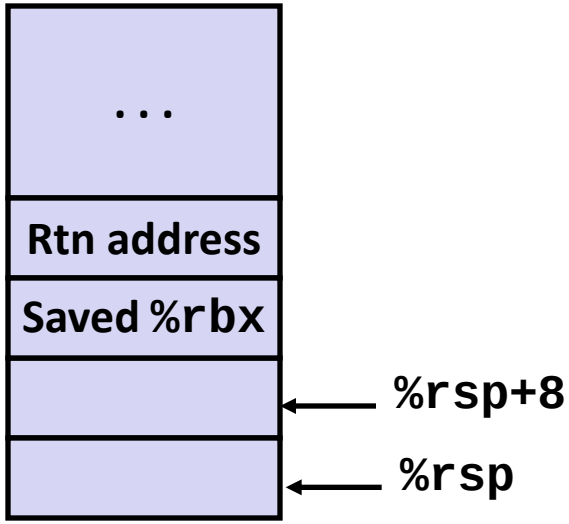
```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Initial Stack Structure



Resulting Stack Structure

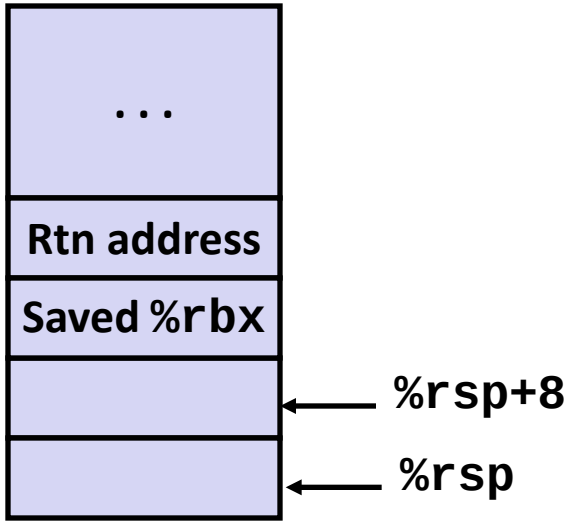


Callee-Saved Example #4

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Stack Structure



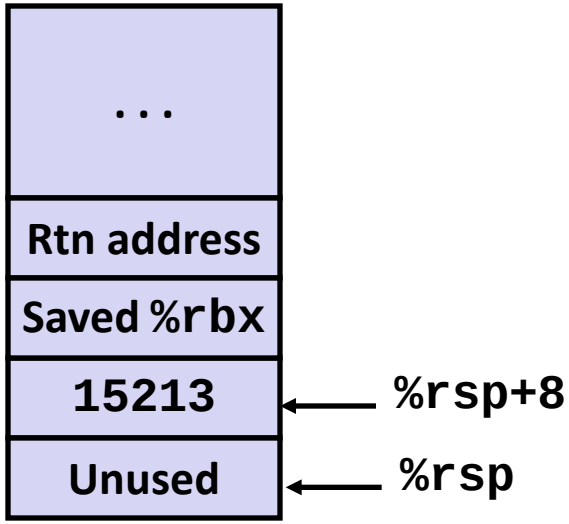
- X saved in **%rbx**.
- A callee saved register.

Callee-Saved Example #5

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Stack Structure



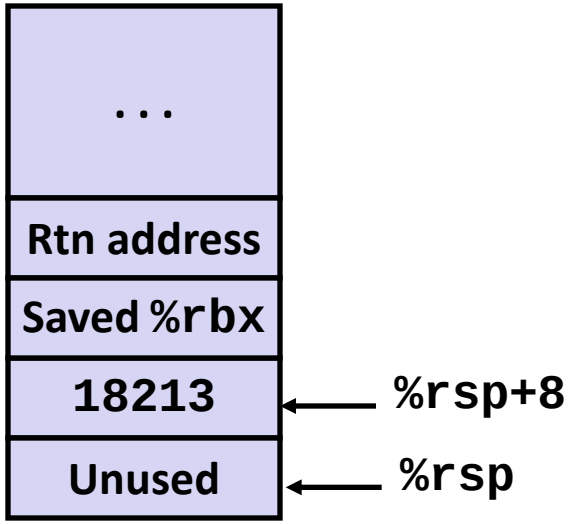
- X saved in **%rbx**.
- A callee saved register.

Callee-Saved Example #6

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Stack Structure



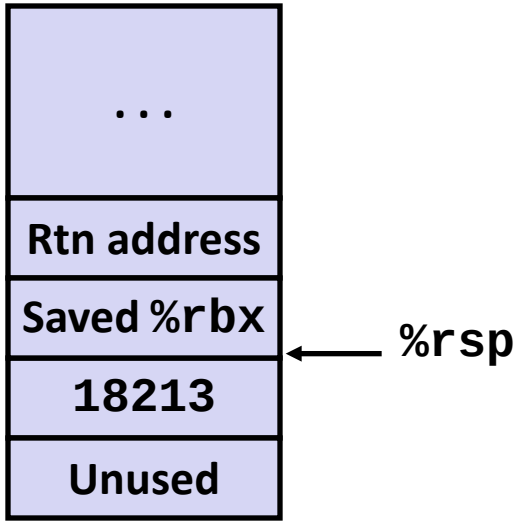
- X Is safe in **%rbx**
- Return result in **%rax**

Callee-Saved Example #7

```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Stack Structure



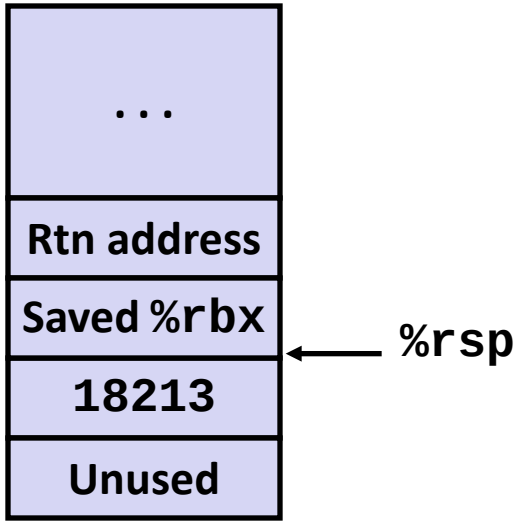
- Return result in **%rax**

Callee-Saved Example #8

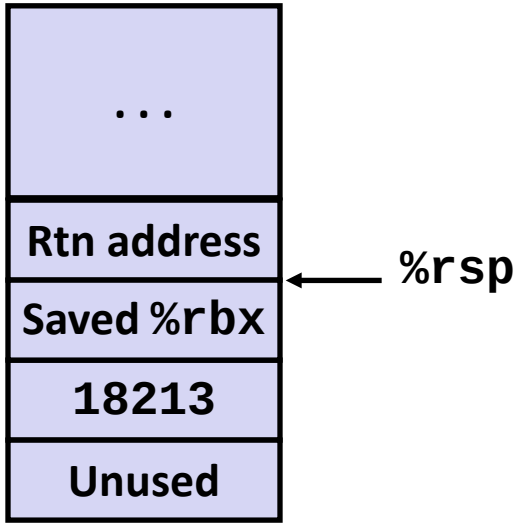
```
long call_incr2(long x) {
    long v1 = 15213;
    long v2 = incr(&v1, 3000);
    return x+v2;
}
```

```
call_incr2:
  pushq   %rbx
  subq    $16, %rsp
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  movq    $15213, 8(%rsp)
  movl    $3000, %esi
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rdi
  call    incr
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  addq    $16, %rsp
  popq    %rbx
  ret
```

Initial Stack Structure



final Stack Structure



Today

- **Procedures**
  - Mechanisms
  - Stack Structure
  - Calling Conventions
    - Passing control
    - Passing data
    - Managing local data
  - **Illustration of Recursion**

Recursive Function

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

Recursive Function Terminal Case

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

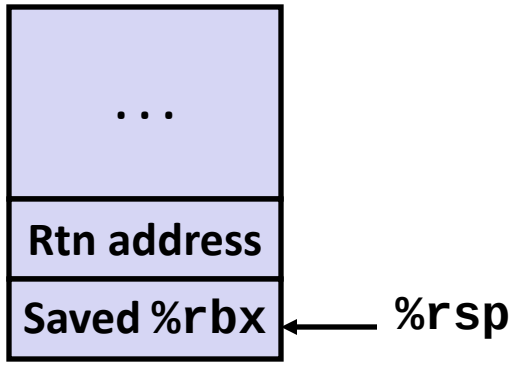
Register	Use(s)	Type
%rdi	x	Argument
%rax	Return value	Return value

Recursive Function Register Save

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

Register	Use(s)	Type
%rdi	x	Argument



Recursive Function Call Setup

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

Register	Use(s)	Type
%rdi	x >> 1	Rec. argument
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved

Recursive Function Call

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

Register	Use(s)	Type
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved
%rax	Recursive call return value	

Recursive Function Result

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

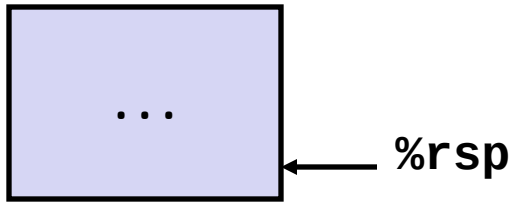
Register	Use(s)	Type
%rbx	x & 1	Callee-saved
%rax	Return value	

Recursive Function Completion

```
/* Recursive popcount */
long pcount_r(unsigned long x) {
  if (x == 0)
    return 0;
  else
    return (x & 1)
           + pcount_r(x >> 1);
}
```

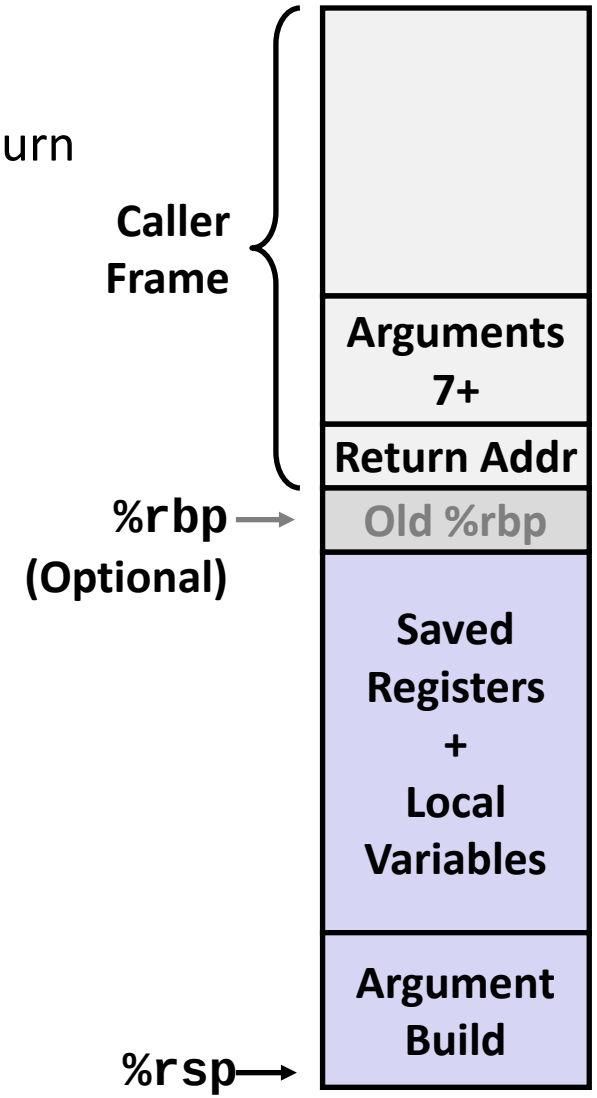
```
pcount_r:
  movl    $0, %eax
  testq   %rdi, %rdi
  je      .L6
  pushq   %rbx
  movq    %rdi, %rbx
  andl    $1, %ebx
  shrq    %rdi
  call    pcount_r
  addq    %rbx, %rax
  popq    %rbx
.L6:
  rep; ret
```

Register	Use(s)	Type
%rax	Return value	Return value



Observations About Recursion

- **Handled Without Special Consideration**
  - Stack frames mean that each function call has private storage
    - Saved registers & local variables
    - Saved return pointer
  - Register saving conventions prevent one function call from corrupting another's data
    - Unless the C code explicitly does so (e.g., buffer overflow in Lecture 9)
  - Stack discipline follows call / return pattern
    - If P calls Q, then Q returns before P
    - Last-In, First-Out
- **Also works for mutual recursion**
  - P calls Q; Q calls P

x86-64 Procedure Summary

- **Important Points**
  - Stack is the right data structure for procedure call/return
    - If P calls Q, then Q returns before P
- **Recursion (& mutual recursion) handled by normal calling conventions**
  - Can safely store values in local stack frame and in callee-saved registers
  - Put function arguments at top of stack
  - Result return in `%rax`
- **Pointers are addresses of values**
  - **On stack or global**