Machine-Level Programming I: Basics

These slides adapted from materials provided by the textbook authors.

Machine Programming I: Basics

- **History of Intel processors and architectures**
- C, assembly, machine code
- Assembly Basics: Registers, operands, move
- Arithmetic & logical operations

Intel x86 Processors

- **Dominate laptop/desktop/server market**

- **Evolutionary design**
  - Backwards compatible up until 8086, introduced in 1978
  - Added more features as time goes on

- **Complex instruction set computer (CISC)**
  - Many different instructions with many different formats
    - But, only small subset encountered with Linux programs
  - Hard to match performance of Reduced Instruction Set Computers (RISC)
  - But, Intel has done just that!
    - In terms of speed. Less so for low power.

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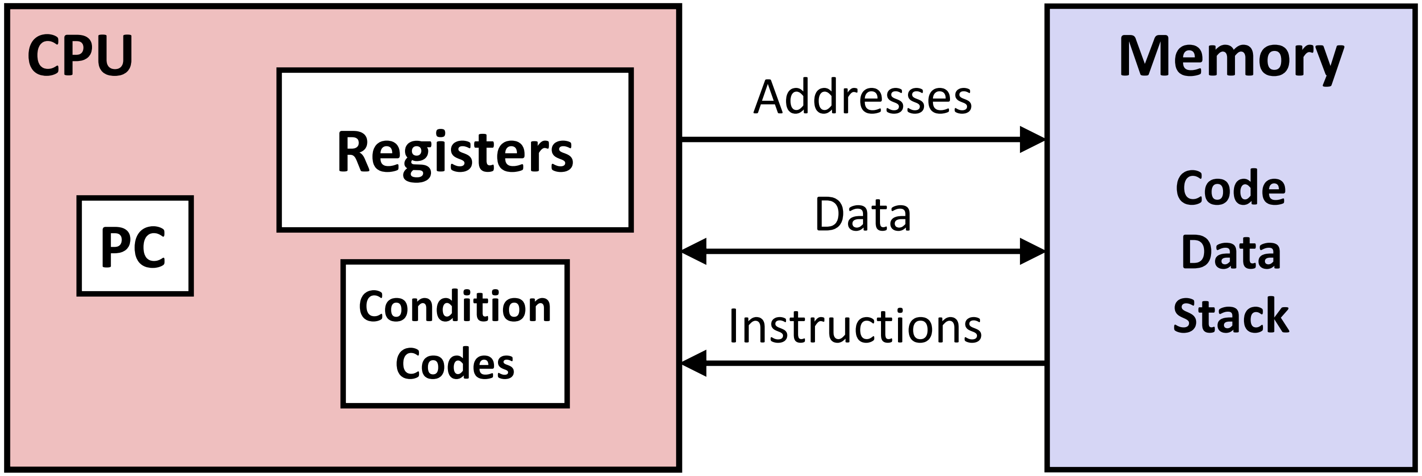
Definitions

- **Architecture: (also ISA: instruction set architecture) The parts of a processor design that one needs to understand or write assembly/machine code.**
  - Examples: instruction set specification, registers.
- **Microarchitecture: Implementation of the architecture.**
  - Examples: cache sizes and core frequency.
- **Code Forms:**
  - Machine Code: The byte-level programs that a processor executes
  - Assembly Code: A text representation of machine code

- **Example ISAs:**
  - Intel: x86, IA32, Itanium, x86-64
  - ARM: Used in almost all mobile phones

Assembly/Machine Code View

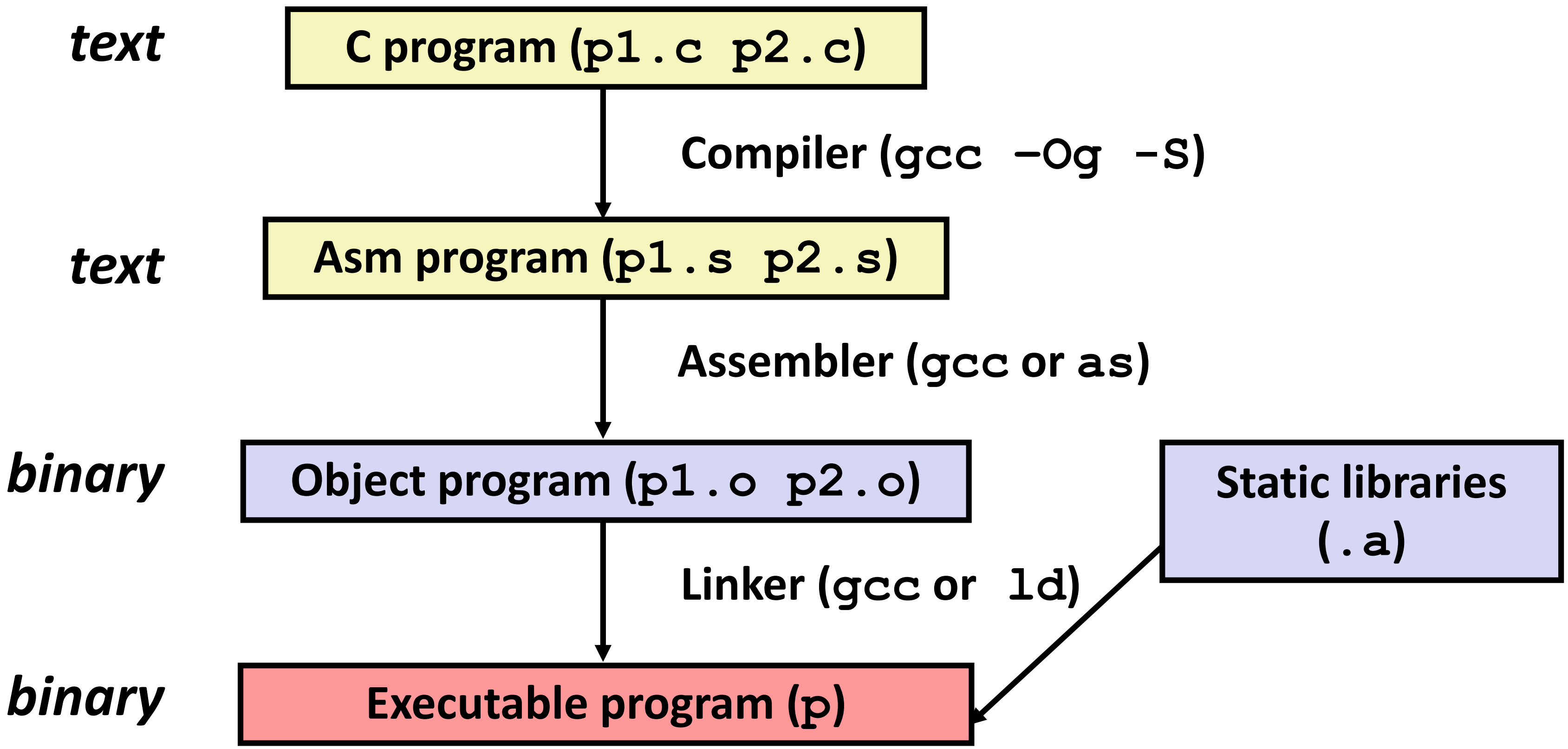


Programmer-Visible State

- **PC: Program counter**
  - Address of next instruction
  - Called “RIP” (x86-64)
- **Register file**
  - Heavily used program data
- **Condition codes**
  - Store status information about most recent arithmetic or logical operation
  - Used for conditional branching
- **Memory**
  - Byte addressable array
  - Code and user data
  - Stack to support procedures

Turning C into Object Code

- Code in files `p1.c p2.c`
- Compile with command: `gcc –Og p1.c p2.c -o p`
  - Use basic optimizations (`–Og`) [New to recent versions of GCC]
  - Put resulting binary in file `p`



Compiling Into Assembly

C Code (sum.c)

```
long plus(long x, long y);

void sumstore(long x, long y,
              long *dest)
{
    long t = plus(x, y);
    *dest = t;
}
```

Generated x86-64 Assembly

```
sumstore:
   pushq   %rbx
   movq    %rdx, %rbx
   call    plus
   movq    %rax, (%rbx)
   popq    %rbx
   ret
```

Obtain (on VM) with command

```
gcc –Og –S sum.c
```

Produces file `sum.s`

***Warning*: May get very different results on other machines, even other Linux machines, due to different versions of gcc and different compiler settings.**

Aside: Assembly 'Syntax'

- **Different ways to write down assembly.**
- **AT&T / GAS Syntax**
  - **Used by gcc.**
  - **Used in this course.**

```
mnemonic source, destination
```

- **Intel / MASM Syntax**
  - **Might get if you google (try your Textbook instead)**
  - **Doesn't use size suffixes (ie, 'q')**

```
mnemonic destination, source
```

One more time, just to be clear

In this course:

```
mnemonic source, destination
```

So:

```
addq %rax, %rbx
```

Is equivalent to:

```
%rbx = %rbx+%rax
```

Assembly Characteristics: Data Types

- **"Integer" data of 1, 2, 4, or 8 bytes**
  - Data values
  - Addresses (untyped pointers)

- **Floating point data of 4 or 8 bytes**

- **Code: Byte sequences encoding series of instructions**

- **No aggregate types such as arrays or structures**
  - Just contiguously allocated bytes in memory

Assembly Characteristics: Operations

- **Perform arithmetic function on register or memory data**

- **Transfer data between memory and register**
  - Load data from memory into register
  - Store register data into memory

- **Transfer control**
  - Unconditional jumps to/from procedures
  - Conditional branches

Object Code

Code for `sumstore`

```
0x0400595:
    0x53
    0x48
    0x89
    0xd3
    0xe8
    0xf2
    0xff
    0xff
    0xff
    0x48
    0x89
    0x03
    0x5b
    0xc3
```

- **Total of 14 bytes**
- **Each instruction 1, 3, or 5 bytes**
- **Starts at address `0x0400595`**

- **Assembler**
  - Translates `.s` into `.o`
  - Binary encoding of each instruction
  - Nearly-complete image of executable code
  - Missing linkages between code in different files
- **Linker**
  - Resolves references between files
  - Combines with static run-time libraries
    - E.g., code for **`malloc`**, **`printf`**
  - Some libraries are *dynamically linked*
    - Linking occurs when program begins execution

Machine Instruction Example

```
*dest = t;
```

```
movq %rax, (%rbx)
```

```
0x40059e:   48 89 03
```

- **C Code**
  - Store value `t` where designated by `dest`
- **Assembly**
  - Move 8-byte value to memory
    - Quad words in x86-64 parlance
  - Operands:
    - `t:` Register `%rax`
    - `dest:` Register `%rbx`
    - `*dest:` Memory `M[%rbx]`
- **Object Code**
  - 3-byte instruction
  - Stored at address `0x40059e`

Disassembling Object Code

Disassembled

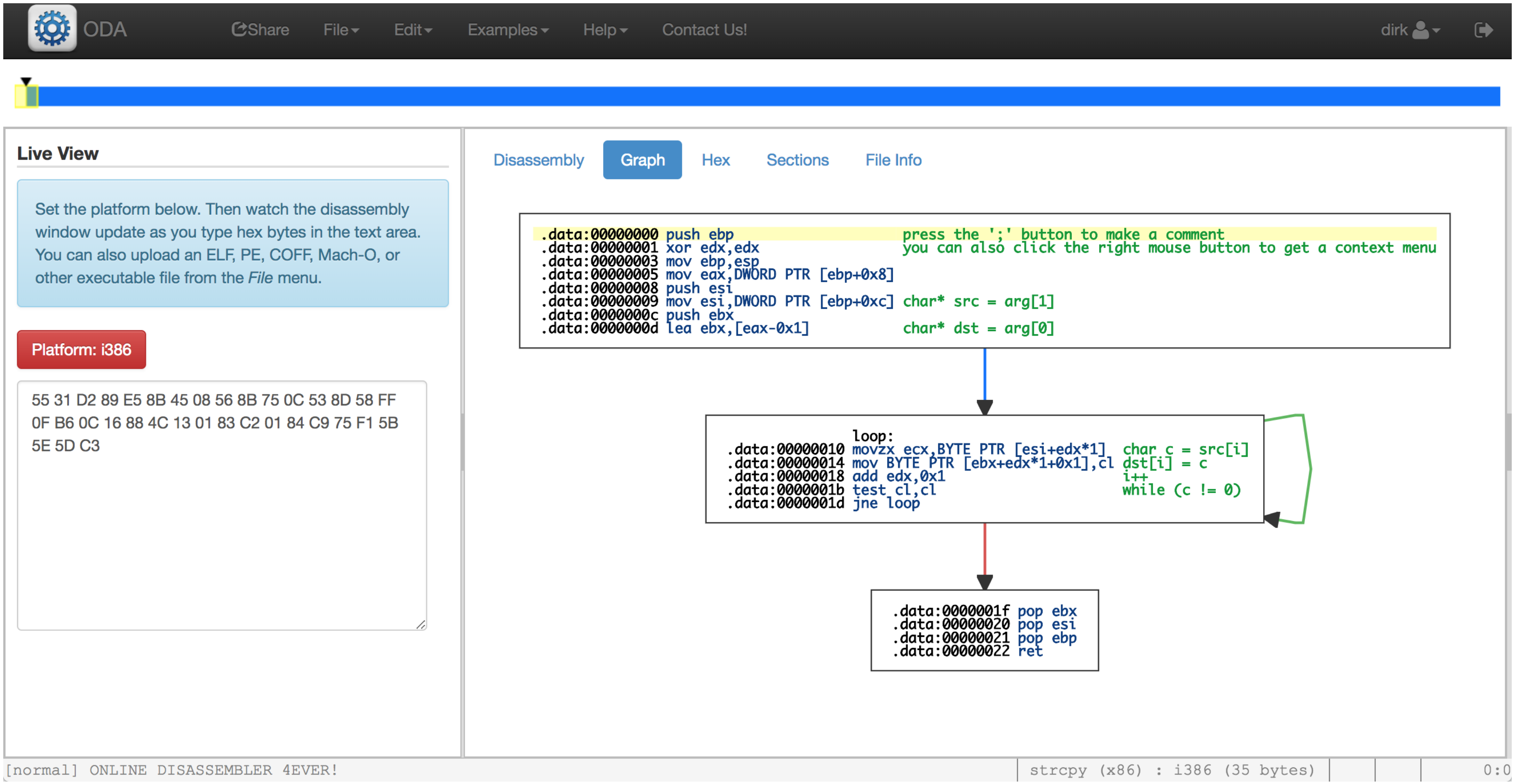
```
0000000000400595 <sumstore>:
  400595:  53                 push   %rbx
  400596:  48 89 d3           mov    %rdx,%rbx
  400599:  e8 f2 ff ff ff     callq  400590 <plus>
  40059e:  48 89 03           mov    %rax,(%rbx)
  4005a1:  5b                 pop    %rbx
  4005a2:  c3                 retq
```

- **Disassembler**

  `objdump -d sum`

  - Useful tool for examining object code
  - Analyzes bit pattern of series of instructions
  - Produces approximate rendition of assembly code
  - Can be run on either `a.out` (complete executable) or `.o` file

Web-Based
https://onlinedisassembler.com



Alternate Disassembly

Object

```
0x0400595:
    0x53
    0x48
    0x89
    0xd3
    0xe8
    0xf2
    0xff
    0xff
    0xff
    0x48
    0x89
    0x03
    0x5b
    0xc3
```

Disassembled

```
Dump of assembler code for function sumstore:
 0x0000000000400595 <+0>: push   %rbx
 0x0000000000400596 <+1>: mov    %rdx,%rbx
 0x0000000000400599 <+4>: callq  0x400590 <plus>
 0x000000000040059e <+9>: mov    %rax,(%rbx)
 0x00000000004005a1 <+12>:pop    %rbx
 0x00000000004005a2 <+13>:retq
```

- **Within gdb Debugger**

  `gdb sum`

  `disassemble sumstore`
  - Disassemble procedure

  `x/14xb sumstore`
  - Examine the 14 bytes starting at `sumstore`

What Can be Disassembled?

```
% objdump -d WINWORD.EXE

WINWORD.EXE:   file format pei-i386

No symbols in "WINWORD.EXE".
Disassembly of section .text:

30001000 <.text>:
30001000:
30001001:
30001003:
30001005:
3000100a:
```

Reverse engineering forbidden by Microsoft End User License Agreement

- **Anything that can be interpreted as executable code**
- **Disassembler examines bytes and reconstructs assembly source**

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x86-64 Integer Registers

%rax	%eax	%r8	%r8d
%rbx	%ebx	%r9	%r9d
%rcx	%ecx	%r10	%r10d
%rdx	%edx	%r11	%r11d
%rsi	%esi	%r12	%r12d
%rdi	%edi	%r13	%r13d
%rsp	%esp	%r14	%r14d
%rbp	%ebp	%r15	%r15d

- Can reference low-order 4 bytes (also low-order 1 & 2 bytes)

Some History: IA32 Registers

				Origin (mostly obsolete)
%eax	%ax	%ah	%al	*accumulate*
%ecx	%cx	%ch	%cl	*counter*
%edx	%dx	%dh	%dl	*data*
%ebx	%bx	%bh	%bl	*base*
%esi	%si			*source index*
%edi	%di			*destination index*
%esp	%sp			***stack pointer***
%ebp	%bp			***base pointer***

general purpose

16-bit virtual registers (backwards compatibility)

Moving Data

- **Moving Data**

  `movq` ***Source*, *Dest*:**

- **Operand Types**
  - ***Immediate:*** Constant integer data
    - Example: **`$0x400, $-533`**
    - Like C constant, but prefixed with **`'$'`**
    - Encoded with 1, 2, or 4 bytes
  - ***Register:*** One of 16 integer registers
    - Example: **`%rax, %r13`**
    - But **`%rsp`** reserved for special use
    - Others have special uses for particular instructions
  - ***Memory:*** 8 consecutive bytes of memory at address given by register
    - Simplest example: **`(%rax)`**
    - Various other "address modes"

`%rax`
`%rcx`
`%rdx`
`%rbx`
`%rsi`
`%rdi`
`%rsp`
`%rbp`
`%rN`

`movq` Operand Combinations

	Source	Dest	Src,Dest	C Analog
`movq`	*Imm*	*Reg*	`movq $0x4,%rax`	`temp = 0x4;`
		Mem	`movq $-147,(%rax)`	`*p = -147;`
	Reg	*Reg*	`movq %rax,%rdx`	`temp2 = temp1;`
		Mem	`movq %rax,(%rdx)`	`*p = temp;`
	Mem	*Reg*	`movq (%rax),%rdx`	`temp = *p;`

Cannot do memory-memory transfer with a single instruction

Simple Memory Addressing Modes

- **Normal (R) Mem[Reg[R]]**
  - Register R specifies memory address
  - Aha! Pointer dereferencing in C

```
movq (%rcx),%rax
```

- **Displacement D(R) Mem[Reg[R]+D]**
  - Register R specifies start of memory region
  - Constant displacement D specifies offset

```
movq 8(%rbp),%rdx
```

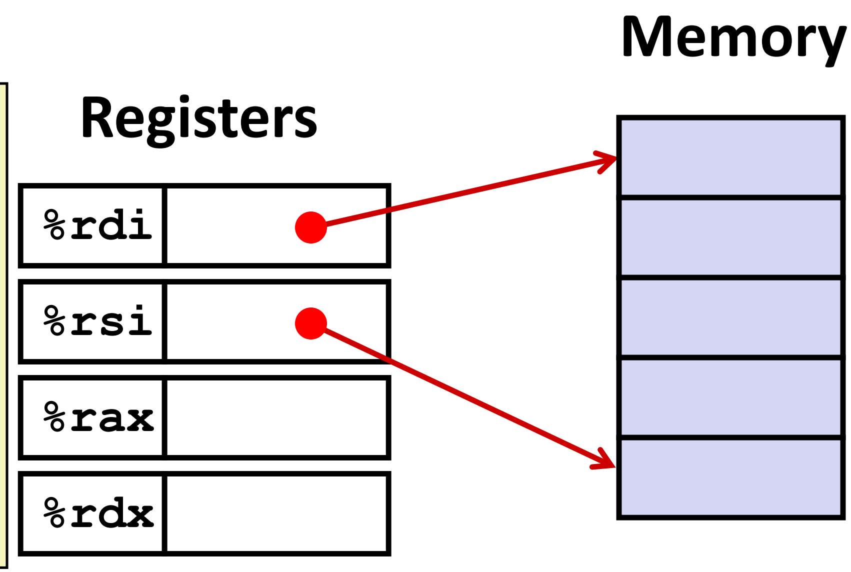
Example of Simple Addressing Modes

```
void swap
   (long *xp, long *yp)
{
  long t0 = *xp;
  long t1 = *yp;
  *xp = t1;
  *yp = t0;
}
```

```
swap:
   movq    (%rdi), %rax
   movq    (%rsi), %rdx
   movq    %rdx, (%rdi)
   movq    %rax, (%rsi)
   ret
```

Understanding Swap()

```
void swap
   (long *xp, long *yp)
{
  long t0 = *xp;
  long t1 = *yp;
  *xp = t1;
  *yp = t0;
}
```



Register	Value
%rdi	xp
%rsi	yp
%rax	t0
%rdx	t1

```
swap:
   movq    (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
   movq    (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
   movq    %rdx, (%rdi)   # *xp = t1
   movq    %rax, (%rsi)   # *yp = t0
   ret
```

Understanding Swap()

Registers

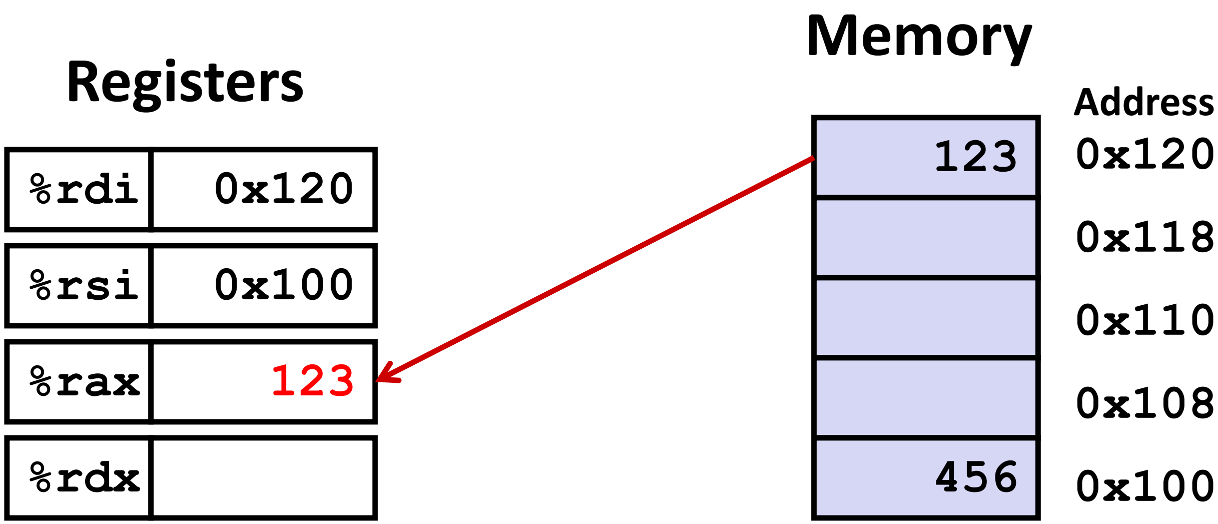
%rdi	0x120
%rsi	0x100
%rax	
%rdx	

Memory

	Address
123	0x120
	0x118
	0x110
	0x108
456	0x100

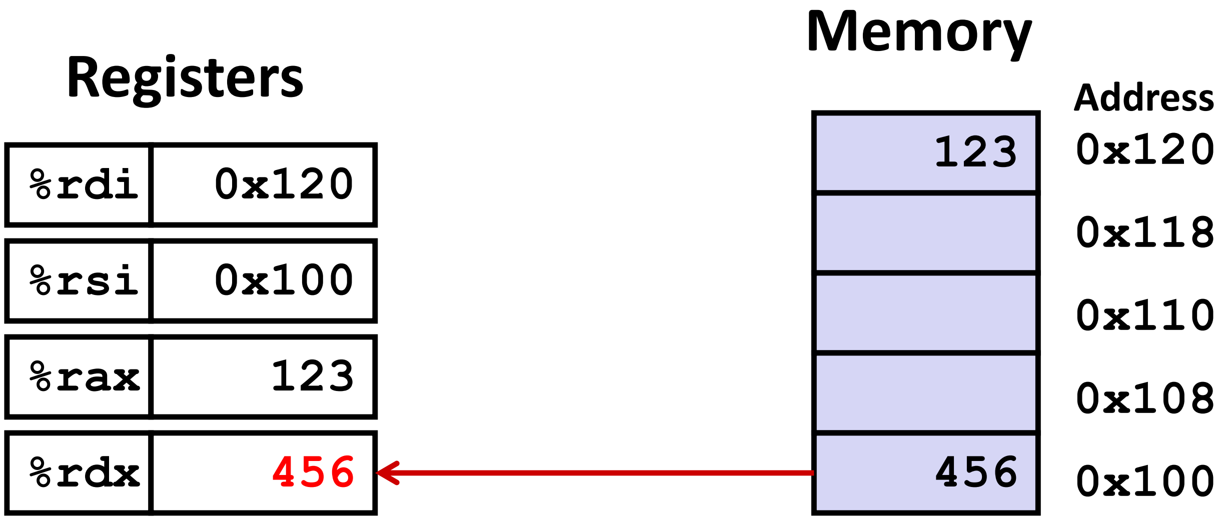
```
swap:
   movq    (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
   movq    (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
   movq    %rdx, (%rdi)   # *xp = t1
   movq    %rax, (%rsi)   # *yp = t0
   ret
```

Understanding Swap()




```
swap:
   movq     (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
   movq     (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
   movq     %rdx, (%rdi)   # *xp = t1
   movq     %rax, (%rsi)   # *yp = t0
   ret
```

Understanding Swap()

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   movq    (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
   movq    (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
   movq    %rdx, (%rdi)   # *xp = t1
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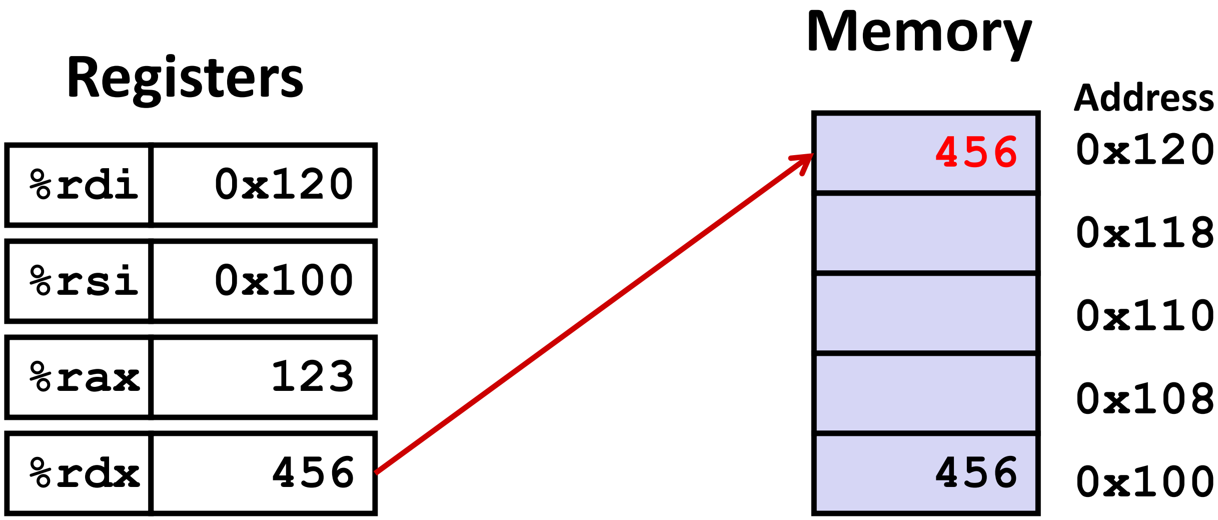
```

Understanding Swap()

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swap:
    movq     (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
    movq     (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
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    ret
```
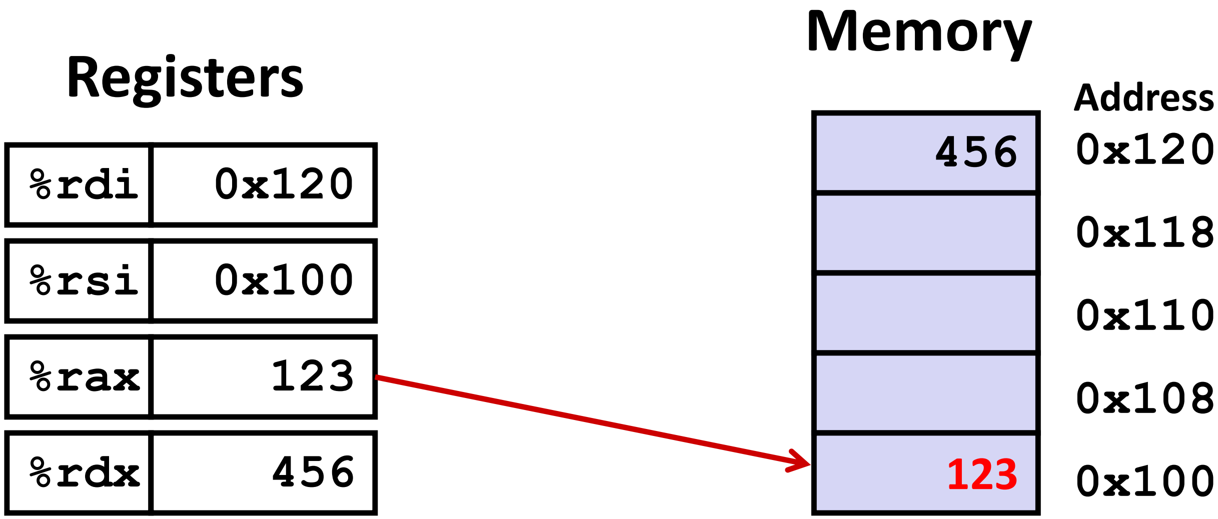

Understanding Swap()




```
swap:
    movq    (%rdi), %rax   # t0 = *xp
    movq    (%rsi), %rdx   # t1 = *yp
    movq    %rdx, (%rdi)   # *xp = t1
    movq    %rax, (%rsi)   # *yp = t0
    ret
```

Simple Memory Addressing Modes

- **Normal (R) Mem[Reg[R]]**
  - Register R specifies memory address
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```
movq (%rcx),%rax
```

- **Displacement D(R) Mem[Reg[R]+D]**
  - Register R specifies start of memory region
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```
movq 8(%rbp),%rdx
```

Complete Memory Addressing Modes

- **Most General Form**

  D(Rb,Ri,S) **Mem[Reg[Rb]+S*Reg[Ri]+ D]**

  - D: Constant "displacement" 1, 2, or 4 bytes
  - Rb: Base register: Any of 16 integer registers
  - Ri: Index register: Any, except for `%rsp`
  - S: Scale: 1, 2, 4, or 8 (*why these numbers?*)

- **Special Cases**

  (Rb,Ri) **Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]]**

  D(Rb,Ri) **Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]+D]**

  (Rb,Ri,S) **Mem[Reg[Rb]+S*Reg[Ri]]**

Address Computation Examples

`%rdx`	`0xf000`
`%rcx`	`0x0100`

Expression	Address Computation	Address
`0x8(%rdx)`	`0xf000 + 0x8`	`0xf008`
`(%rdx,%rcx)`	`0xf000 + 0x100`	`0xf100`
`(%rdx,%rcx,4)`	`0xf000 + 4*0x100`	`0xf400`
`0x80(,%rdx,2)`	`2*0xf000 + 0x80`	`0x1e080`

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- **Arithmetic & logical operations**

Some Arithmetic Operations

- **Two Operand Instructions:**

Format		*Computation*	
`addq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest + Src	
`subq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest – Src	
`imulq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest * Src	
`salq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest << Src	*Also called shlq*
`sarq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest >> Src	*Arithmetic*
`shrq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest >> Src	*Logical*
`xorq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest ^ Src	
`andq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest & Src	
`orq`	*Src,Dest*	Dest = Dest | Src	

- **Watch out for argument order!**
- **No distinction between signed and unsigned int (why?)**

Some Arithmetic Operations

- **One Operand Instructions**

`incq`	*Dest*	*Dest = Dest + 1*
`decq`	*Dest*	*Dest = Dest – 1*
`negq`	*Dest*	*Dest = – Dest*
`notq`	*Dest*	*Dest = ~Dest*

- **See book for more instructions**

Address Computation Instruction

Dumbest Op Name Possible

- `leaq` ***Src*, *Dst***
  - *Src* is address mode expression
  - Set *Dst* to address denoted by expression
- **Uses**
  - Computing addresses without a memory reference
    - E.g., translation of `p = &x[i];`
  - Computing arithmetic expressions of the form x + k*y
    - k = 1, 2, 4, or 8
- **Example**

```
long m12(long x)
{
  return x*12;
}
```

Converted to ASM by compiler:

```
leaq (%rdi,%rdi,2), %rax # t <- x+x*2
salq $2, %rax            # return t<<2
```

Arithmetic Expression Example

```
long arith
(long x, long y, long z)
{
  long t1 = x+y;
  long t2 = z+t1;
  long t3 = x+4;
  long t4 = y * 48;
  long t5 = t3 + t4;
  long rval = t2 * t5;
  return rval;
}
```

```
arith:
  leaq    (%rdi,%rsi), %rax
  addq    %rdx, %rax
  leaq    (%rsi,%rsi,2), %rdx
  salq    $4, %rdx
  leaq    4(%rdi,%rdx), %rcx
  imulq   %rcx, %rax
  ret
```

Interesting Instructions

- **`leaq`**: address computation
- **`salq`**: shift
- **`imulq`**: multiplication
  - But, only used once

Understanding Arithmetic Expression Example

```
long arith
(long x, long y, long z)
{
  long t1 = x+y;
  long t2 = z+t1;
  long t3 = x+4;
  long t4 = y * 48;
  long t5 = t3 + t4;
  long rval = t2 * t5;
  return rval;
}
```

```
arith:
  leaq    (%rdi,%rsi), %rax    # t1
  addq    %rdx, %rax           # t2
  leaq    (%rsi,%rsi,2), %rdx
  salq    $4, %rdx             # t4
  leaq    4(%rdi,%rdx), %rcx   # t5
  imulq   %rcx, %rax           # rval
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument **`x`**
`%rsi`	Argument **`y`**
`%rdx`	Argument **`z`**
`%rax`	`t1`, `t2`, `rval`
`%rdx`	`t4`
`%rcx`	`t5`

Machine Programming I: Summary

- **History of Intel processors and architectures**
  - Evolutionary design leads to many quirks and artifacts
- **C, assembly, machine code**
  - New forms of visible state: program counter, registers, ...
  - Compiler must transform statements, expressions, procedures into low-level instruction sequences
- **Assembly Basics: Registers, operands, move**
  - The x86-64 move instructions cover wide range of data movement forms
- **Arithmetic**
  - C compiler will figure out different instruction combinations to carry out computation