

libasm sources

Sadettin Fidan

June 9, 2024

1 Introduction

I have implemented a library in assembly language. The resources I used will be mentioned and presented in this document.

2 Functions in the library:

- ft_strlen (man 3 strlen)
- ft_strcpy (man 3 strcpy)
- ft_strcmp (man 3 strcmp)
- ft_write (man 2 write)
- ft_read (man 2 read)
- ft_strdup (man 3 strdup, you can call to malloc)

3 Bonus Functions in the library

```
typedef struct s_list
{
    void *data;
    struct s_list *next;
} t_list;
```

Figure 1: Struct list

- ft_atoi_base (like the one in the piscine)
- ft_list_push_front (like the one in the piscine)
- ft_list_size (like the one in the piscine)
- ft_list_sort (like the one in the piscine)
- ft_list_remove_if (like the one in the piscine)

4 Resources

4.1 General purpose Registers for Intel

64-bit register	Lower 32 bits	Lower 16 bits	Lower 8 bits
rax	eax	ax	al
rbx	ebx	bx	bl
rcx	ecx	cx	cl
rdx	edx	dx	dl
rsi	esi	si	sil
rdi	edi	di	dil
rbp	ebp	bp	bpl
rsp	esp	sp	spl
r8	r8d	r8w	r8b (r8l)
r9	r9d	r9w	r9b (r9l)
r10	r10d	r10w	r10b (r10l)
r11	r11d	r11w	r11b (r11l)
r12	r12d	r12w	r12b (r12l)
r13	r13d	r13w	r13b (r13l)
r14	r14d	r14w	r14b (r14l)
r15	r15d	r15w	r15b (r15l)
<i>r16 (with APX)</i>	r16d	r16w	r16b (r16l)
<i>r17 (with APX)</i>	r17d	r17w	r17b (r17l)
...
<i>r31 (with APX)</i>	r31d	r31w	r31b (r31l)

Figure 2: General purpose Registers for Intel

You can find the image in 2 at: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20637569/assembly-registers-in-64-bit-architecture>

4.2 Virtual Memory

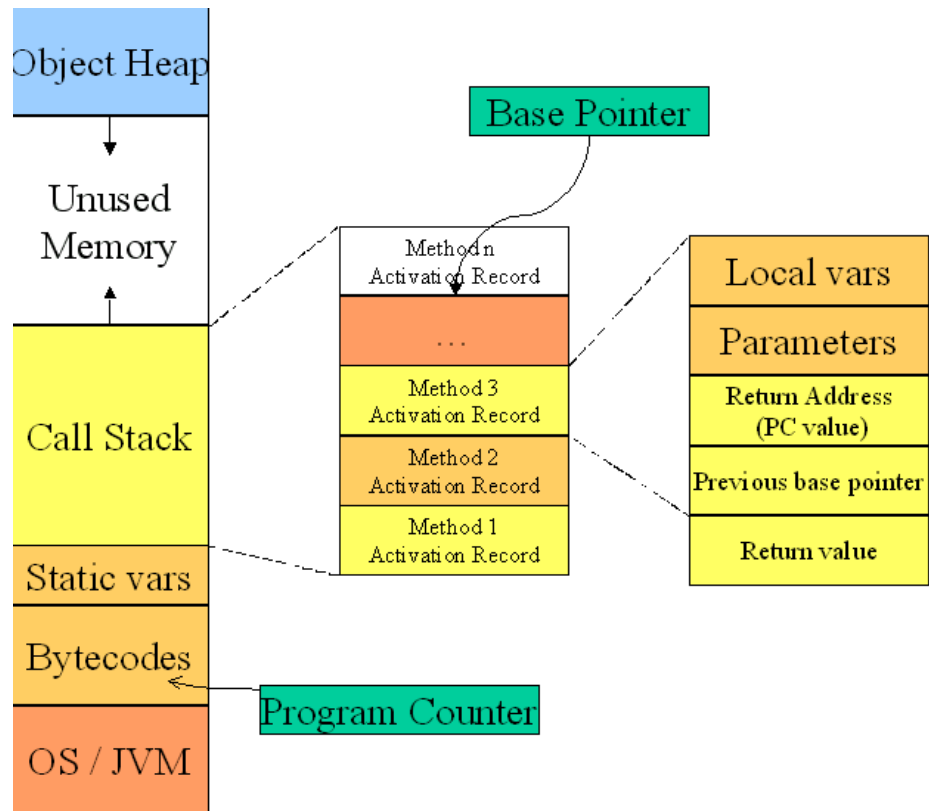


Figure 3: Virtual Memory

Using the figure 3 as a reference, I used local variables inside functions. I get it from <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/stack-usage?view=msvc-170>

4.3 x64 Intel Stack

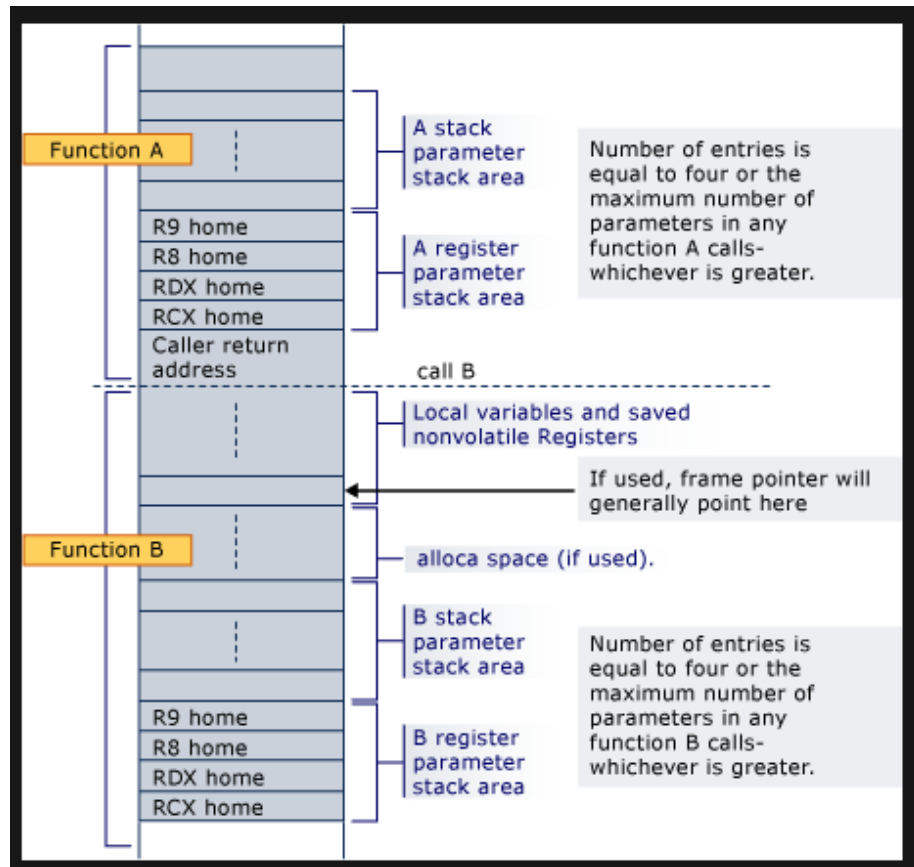
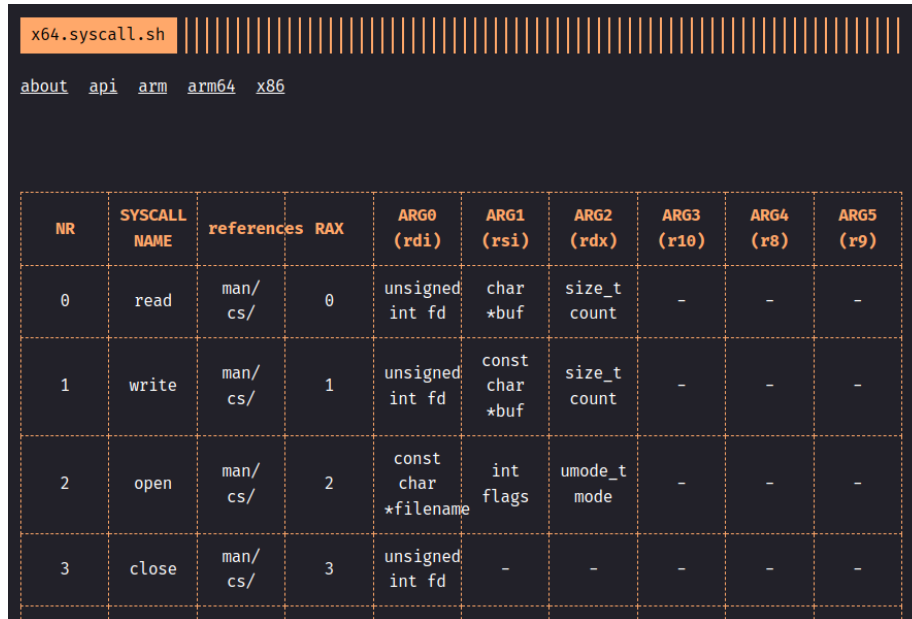


Figure 4: Stack in x64 Intel, as Function A and B

I used the figure 4 as a reference for the stack in x64 Intel. I get it from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_calling_conventions

4.4 System Calls



The image shows a screenshot of the `x64.syscall.sh` website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: `about`, `api`, `arm`, `arm64`, and `x86`. Below the navigation bar is a table of system calls. The table has 10 columns: `NR`, `SYSCALL NAME`, `references`, `RAX`, `ARG0 (rdi)`, `ARG1 (rsi)`, `ARG2 (rdx)`, `ARG3 (r10)`, `ARG4 (r8)`, and `ARG5 (r9)`. The table lists four system calls: `read` (NR 0), `write` (NR 1), `open` (NR 2), and `close` (NR 3).

NR	SYSCALL NAME	references	RAX	ARG0 (rdi)	ARG1 (rsi)	ARG2 (rdx)	ARG3 (r10)	ARG4 (r8)	ARG5 (r9)
0	read	man/ cs/	0	unsigned int fd	char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
1	write	man/ cs/	1	unsigned int fd	const char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
2	open	man/ cs/	2	const char *filename	int flags	umode_t mode	-	-	-
3	close	man/ cs/	3	unsigned int fd	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 5: System Calls

I used the figure 5 as a reference for system calls. I get it from <https://x64.syscall.sh/>

4.5 Calling Convention

Parameter type	fifth and higher	fourth	third	second	leftmost
floating-point	stack	XMM3	XMM2	XMM1	XMM0
integer	stack	R9	R8	RDX	RCX
Aggregates (8, 16, 32, or 64 bits) and <code>m64</code>	stack	R9	R8	RDX	RCX
Other aggregates, as pointers	stack	R9	R8	RDX	RCX
<code>m128</code> , as a pointer	stack	R9	R8	RDX	RCX

Example of argument passing 1 - all integers

```
C++  
func1(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f);  
// a in RCX, b in RDX, c in R8, d in R9, f then e pushed on stack
```

Example of argument passing 2 - all floats

```
C++  
func2(float a, double b, float c, double d, float e, float f);  
// a in XMM0, b in XMM1, c in XMM2, d in XMM3, f then e pushed on
```

Example of argument passing 3 - mixed ints and floats

```
C++  
func3(int a, double b, int c, float d, int e, float f);  
// a in RCX, b in XMM1, c in R8, d in XMM3, f then e pushed on sta
```

Figure 6: x64 Intel calling convention

I used the figure 6 as a reference for calling convention. I get it from <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/x64-calling-convention?view=msvc-170>

4.6 Assembly Code

"Hello world!" program for 64-bit mode Linux in NASM style assembly [\[edit\]](#)

This example is in modern 64-bit mode.

```
; build: nasm -f elf64 -F dwarf hello.asm
; link: ld -o hello hello.o

DEFAULT REL          ; use RIP-relative addressing modes by default, so [foo] = [rel foo]

SECTION .rodata      ; read-only data should go in the .rodata section on GNU/Linux, like .rodata on
Windows
Hello: db "Hello world!", 10 ; Ending with a byte 10 = newline (ASCII LF)
len_Hello: equ $-Hello      ; Get NASM to calculate the length as an assembly-time constant
                           ; the '$' symbol means 'here'. write() takes a length so that
                           ; a zero-terminated C-style string isn't needed.
                           ; It would be for C puts()

SECTION .rodata      ; read-only data can go in the .rodata section on GNU/Linux, like .rodata on Windows
Hello: db "Hello world!",10 ; 10 = '\n'.
len_Hello: equ $-Hello      ; get NASM to calculate the length as an assembly-time constant
;; write() takes a length so a 0-terminated C-style string isn't needed. It would be for puts

SECTION .text

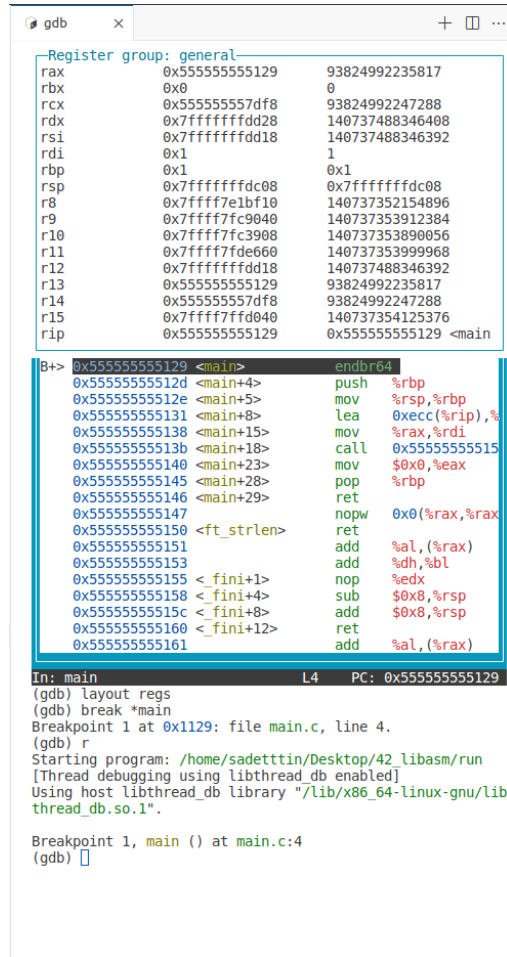
global _start
_start:
    mov eax, 1          ; _NR write syscall number from Linux asm/unistd_64.h (x86_64)
    mov edi, 1          ; int fd = STDOUT_FILENO
    lea rsi, [rel Hello] ; x86-64 uses RIP-relative LEA to put static addresses into regs
    mov rdx, len_Hello  ; size_t count = len_Hello
    syscall             ; write(1, Hello, len_Hello); call into the kernel to actually do the system
call
    ; return value in RAX. RCX and R11 are also overwritten by syscall

    mov eax, 60         ; _NR_exit call number (x86_64) is stored in register eax.
    xor edi, edi        ; This zeros edi and also rdi.
    ; This xor-self trick is the preferred common idiom for zeroing
    ; a register, and is always by far the fastest method.
    ; When a 32-bit value is stored into eg edx, the high bits 63:32 are
    ; automatically zeroed too in every case. This saves you having to set
    ; the bits with an extra instruction, as this is a case very commonly
    ; needed, for an entire 64-bit register to be filled with a 32-bit value.
    ; This sets our routine's exit status = 0 (exit normally)
    syscall             ; _exit(0)
```

Figure 7: Assembly Code

I used the figure 7 as a reference for assembly code. I get it from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_assembly_language

4.7 Debugging with GDB



The screenshot shows the GDB interface with the following content:

```
gdb x + [] ...

Register group: general
rax      0x55555555129  93824992235817
rbx      0x0           0
rcx      0x555555557df8 93824992247288
rdx      0x7fffffffdd28 140737488346408
rsi      0x7fffffffdd18 140737488346392
rdi      0x1           1
rbp      0x1           0x1
rsp      0x7fffffffddc08 0x7fffffffddc08
r8       0x7ffff7e1bf10 140737352154896
r9       0x7ffff7fc9040 140737353912384
r10      0x7ffff7fc3908 140737353890056
r11      0x7ffff7fde660 140737353999968
r12      0x7fffffffdd18 140737488346392
r13      0x55555555129  93824992235817
r14      0x555555557df8 93824992247288
r15      0x7ffff7ffd040 140737354125376
rip      0x55555555129  0x55555555129 <main>

(gdb)
(gdb) 0x55555555129 <main> endbr64
0x5555555512d <main+4> push %rbp
0x5555555512e <main+5> mov %rsp,%rbp
0x55555555131 <main+8> lea 0xccc(%rip),%
0x55555555138 <main+15> mov %rax,%rdi
0x5555555513b <main+18> call 0x5555555515
0x55555555140 <main+23> mov $0x0,%eax
0x55555555145 <main+28> pop %rbp
0x55555555146 <main+29> ret
0x55555555147 nopw 0x0(%rax,%rax
0x55555555150 <ft_strlen> ret
0x55555555151 add %al,(%rax)
0x55555555153 add %dh,%bl
0x55555555155 <_fini+1> nop
0x55555555158 <_fini+4> sub $0x8,%rsp
0x5555555515c <_fini+8> add $0x8,%rsp
0x55555555160 <_fini+12> ret
0x55555555161 add %al,(%rax)

In: main L4 PC: 0x55555555129
(gdb) layout regs
(gdb) break *main
Breakpoint 1 at 0x1129: file main.c, line 4.
(gdb) r
Starting program: /home/sadettin/Desktop/42_libasm/run
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/lib
thread_db.so.1".

Breakpoint 1, main () at main.c:4
(gdb) []
```

Figure 8: Debugging Assembly Code with GDB

I used the figure 8 as a reference for debugging assembly code with GDB.

I run the following commands to debug the assembly code:

```
make run
gdb ./run
(gdb) layout asm
(gdb) layout regs
(gdb) break *main
(gdb) run
```


5 Tricks

5.1 argument passing in x64 Intel

```
0x114b <main+34>    mov     -0x8(%rbp),%rdx
0x114f <main+38>    mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
0x1153 <main+42>    mov     %rdx,%rsi
0x1156 <main+45>    mov     %rax,%rdi
0x1159 <main+48>    call    0x1170 <ft_strcpy>
```

Figure 9: Argument passing for ft_strcpy

I noticed that when compiled with gcc (gcc main.c + libasm.a, libasm.a was compiled using nasm already) the first argument is passed in both rdx and rsi registers, and the second argument is passed in both rdi and rsi registers. I used the advantage this trick in my implementation by moving a register value and then subtraction with fixed valued register and ta da.