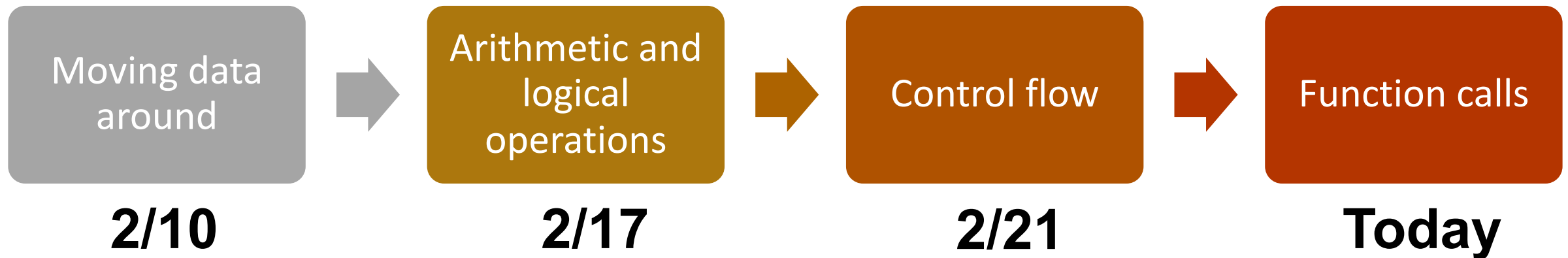


CS107: Lecture 14

Assembly: Function Call and Return

Reading: B&O 3.7

Learning Assembly



Reference Sheet: cs107.stanford.edu/resources/x86-64-reference.pdf
See more guides on Resources page of course website!

Learning Goals

- Review what %rip represents and how it is updated.
- Learn how assembly calls functions and manages stack frames.
- Learn the rules of register use when calling functions.

Plan For Today

- Recap: Control Flow
- Calling Functions
 - The Stack
 - Passing Control
 - **Break:** Announcements
 - Passing Data
 - Local Storage
- Register Restrictions
- Pulling it all together: recursion example

```
cp -r /afs/ir/class/cs107/samples/lectures/lect14 .
```

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Control

- In C, we have control flow statements like **if**, **else**, **while**, **for**, etc. to write programs that are more expressive than just one instruction following another.
- This is *conditional execution of statements*: executing statements if one condition is true, executing other statements if one condition is false, etc.
- How is this represented in assembly?
 - A way to store conditions that we will check later
 - Assembly instructions whose behavior is dependent on these conditions

Condition Codes

Alongside normal registers, the CPU also has single-bit *condition code* registers. They store information about the most recent arithmetic or logical operation.

Most common condition codes:

- **CF:** Carry flag. The most recent operation generated a carry out of the most significant bit. Used to detect overflow for unsigned operations.
- **ZF:** Zero flag. The most recent operation yielded zero.
- **SF:** Sign flag. The most recent operation yielded a negative value.
- **OF:** Overflow flag. The most recent operation caused a two's-complement overflow-either negative or positive.

Condition Code-Dependent Instructions

There are three common instruction types that rely on condition codes:

- **set** instructions that conditionally set a byte to 0 or 1
- new versions of **mov** instructions that conditionally move data
- **jmp** instructions that conditionally jump to a different instruction (there is also an unconditional jump that always jumps)

Register Responsibilities

Some registers take on special responsibilities during program execution.

- **%rax** stores the return value
- **%rdi** stores the first parameter to a function
- **%rsi** stores the second parameter to a function
- **%rdx** stores the third parameter to a function
- **%rip** stores the address of the next instruction to execute
- **%rsp** stores the address of the current top element on the stack

See the x86-64 Guide and Reference Sheet on the Resources webpage for more!

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How do we call functions in assembly?

Calling Functions In Assembly

To call a function in assembly, a few things need to happen:

- **Pass Control** – %rip must be adjusted to execute the callee's instructions, and then resume the caller's instructions afterwards as if never interrupted.
- **Pass Data** – we need to pass parameters and extract a return value.
- **Manage Memory** – we must extend the stack segment (or rather, the portion of the stack currently being used) to set aside space for local variables.

How does assembly
interact with the stack?

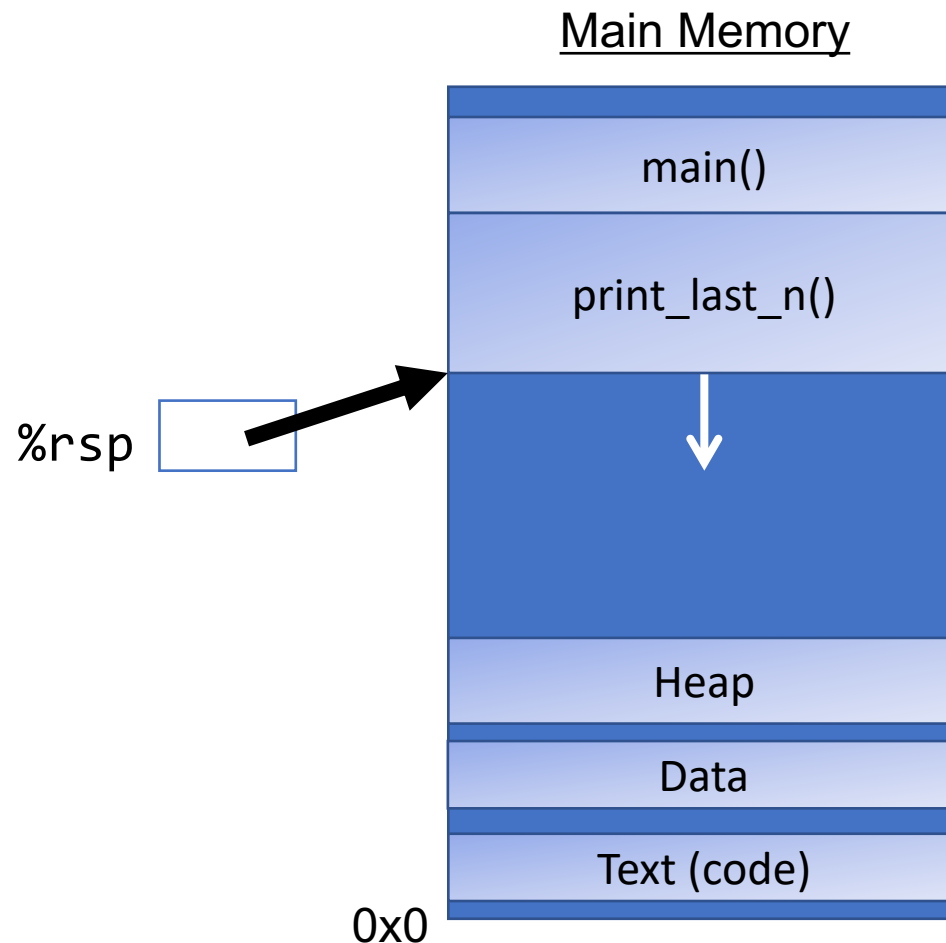
Terminology: **caller** function calls the **callee** function.

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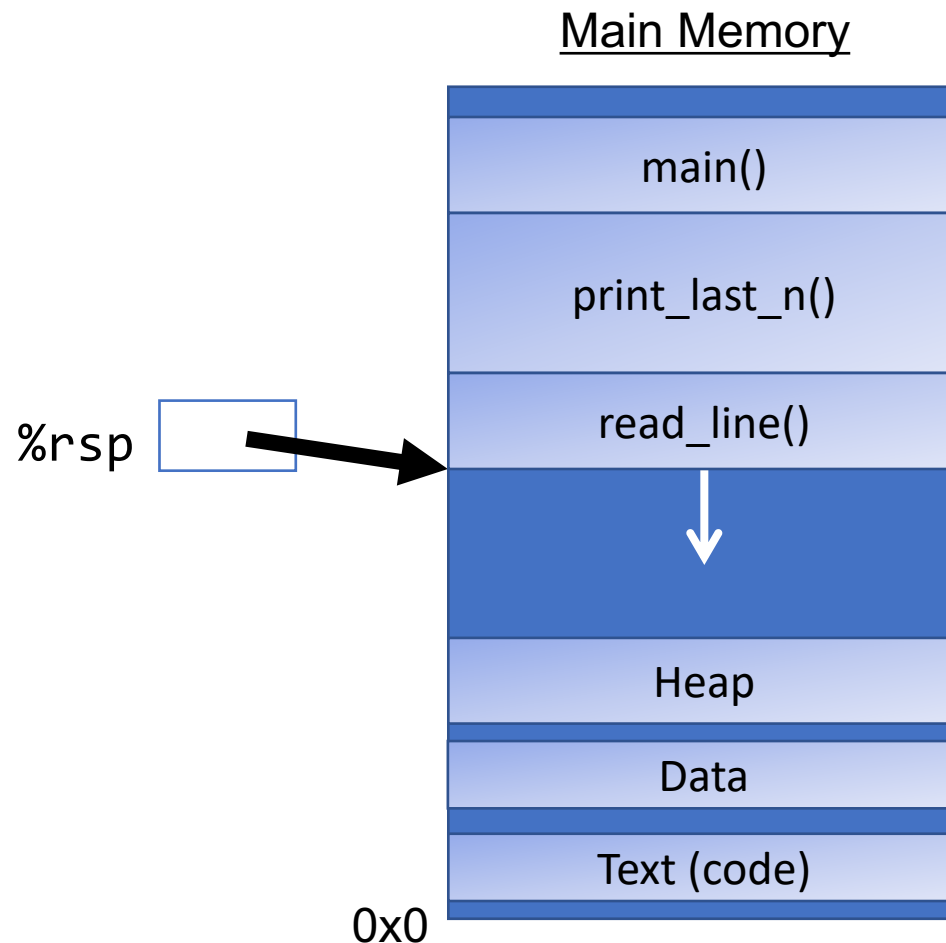
%rsp

- **%rsp** is a special register that stores the address of the current “top” of the stack (the bottom in our diagrams, since the stack grows downwards).



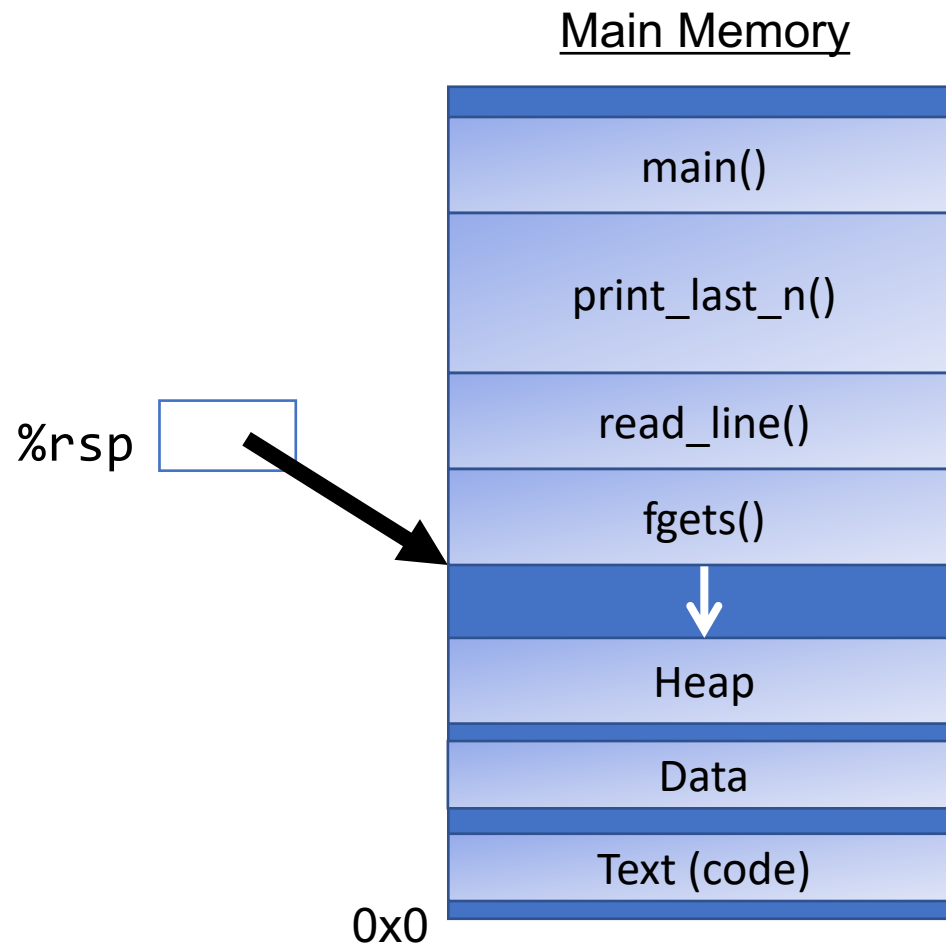
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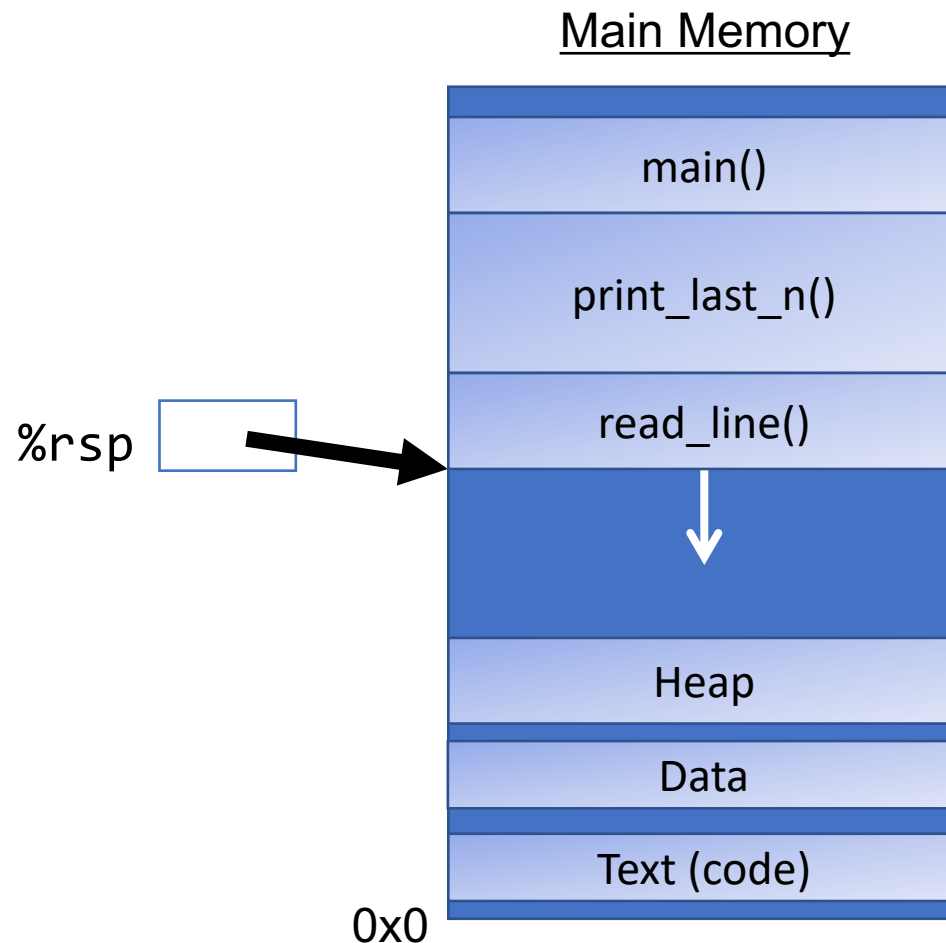
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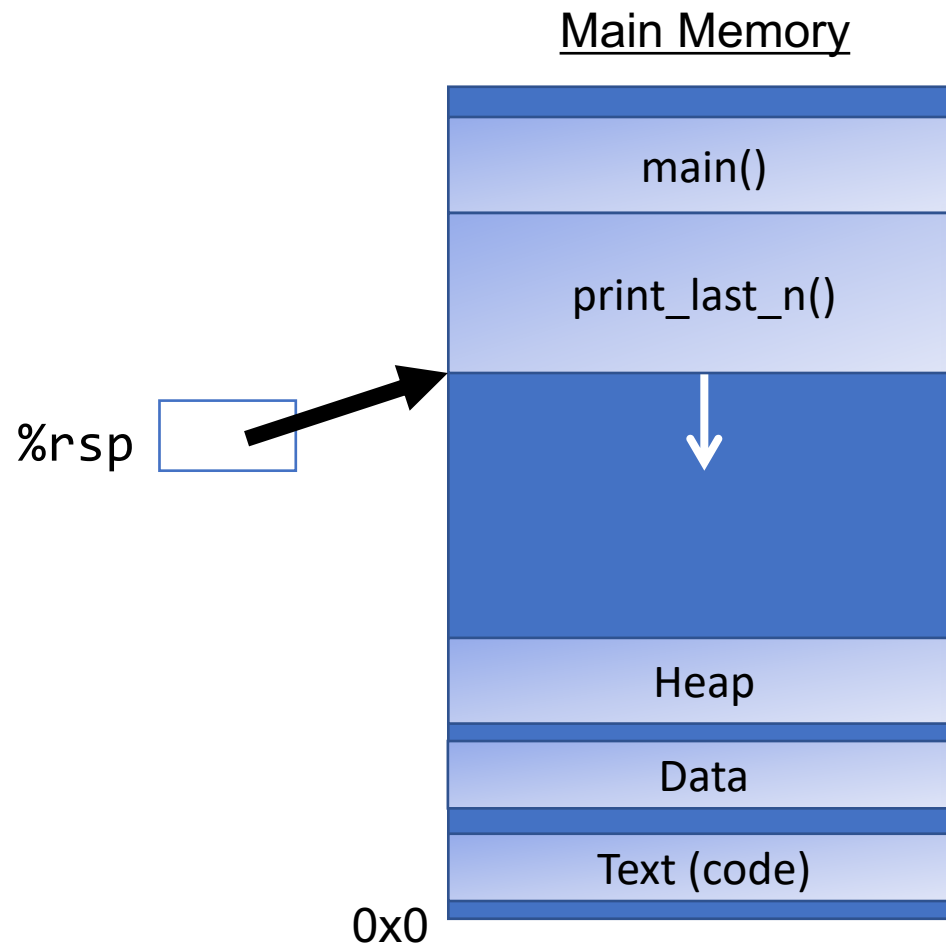
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%rsp

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Key idea: **%rsp** must point to the same place before a function is called and after that function returns, since stack frames go away when a function finishes.

push

- The **push** instruction pushes the data at the specified source onto the top of the stack, adjusting **%rsp** accordingly.

Instruction	Effect
pushq S	$R[\%rsp] \leftarrow R[\%rsp] - 8;$ $M[R[\%rsp]] \leftarrow S$

push

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Instruction	Effect
pushq S	$R[\%rsp] \leftarrow R[\%rsp] - 8;$ $M[R[\%rsp]] \leftarrow S$

- This behavior is equivalent to the following, but pushq is a shorter instruction:
 subq \$8, %rsp
 movq S, (%rsp)
- Sometimes, you'll see instructions just explicitly decrement the stack pointer to make room for future data.

pop

- The **pop** instruction pops the topmost data from the stack and stores it in the specified destination, adjusting **%rsp** accordingly.

Instruction	Effect
popq D	$D \leftarrow M[R[\%rsp]]$ $R[\%rsp] \leftarrow R[\%rsp] + 8;$

- Note:** this *does not* remove/clear out the data! It just increments **%rsp** to indicate the next push can overwrite that location.

pop

- The **pop** instruction pops the topmost data from the stack and stores it in the specified destination, adjusting **%rsp** accordingly.

Instruction	Effect
popq <i>D</i>	$D \leftarrow M[R[\%rsp]]$ $R[\%rsp] \leftarrow R[\%rsp] + 8;$

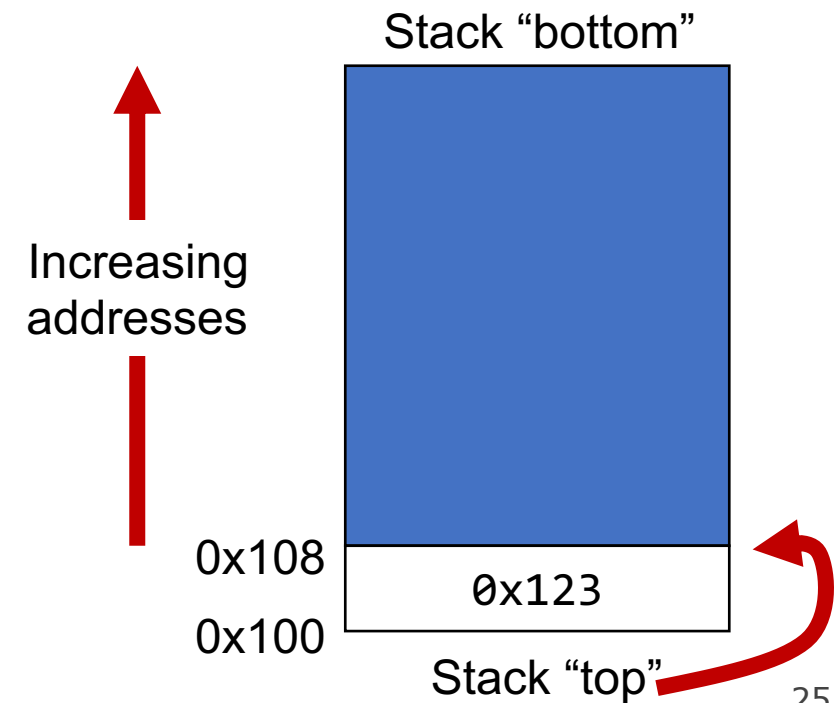
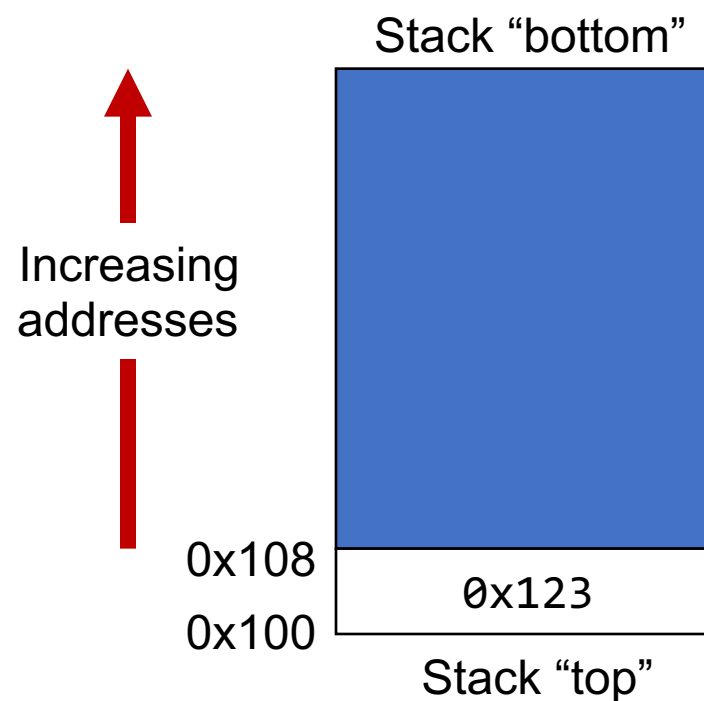
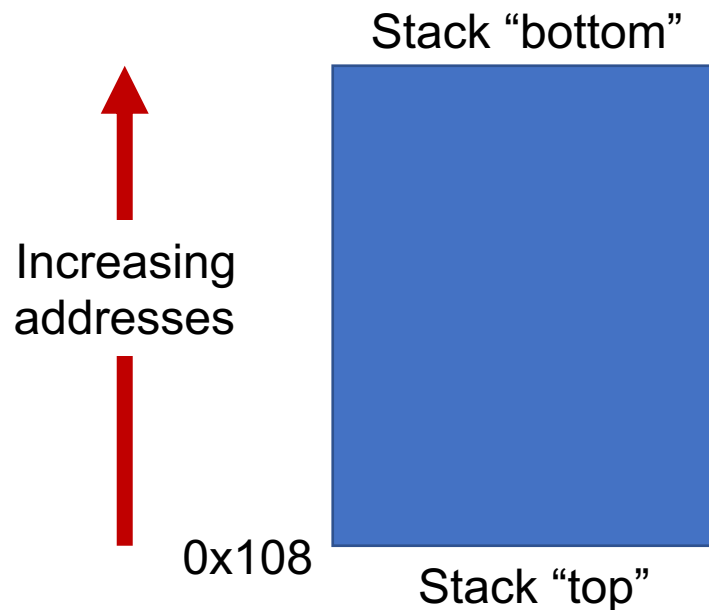
- This behavior is equivalent to the following, but **popq** is a shorter instruction:
movq (%rsp), *D*
addq \$8, %rsp
- Sometimes, you'll see instructions just explicitly increment the stack pointer to pop data.

Stack Example

Initially	
%rax	0x123
%rdx	0
%rsp	0x108

pushq %rax	
%rax	0x123
%rdx	0
%rsp	0x100

popq %rdx	
%rax	0x123
%rdx	0x123
%rsp	0x108



Calling Functions In Assembly

To call a function in assembly, a few things need to happen:

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- **Pass Data** – we need to pass parameters and extract a return value.
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Terminology: **caller** function calls the **callee** function.

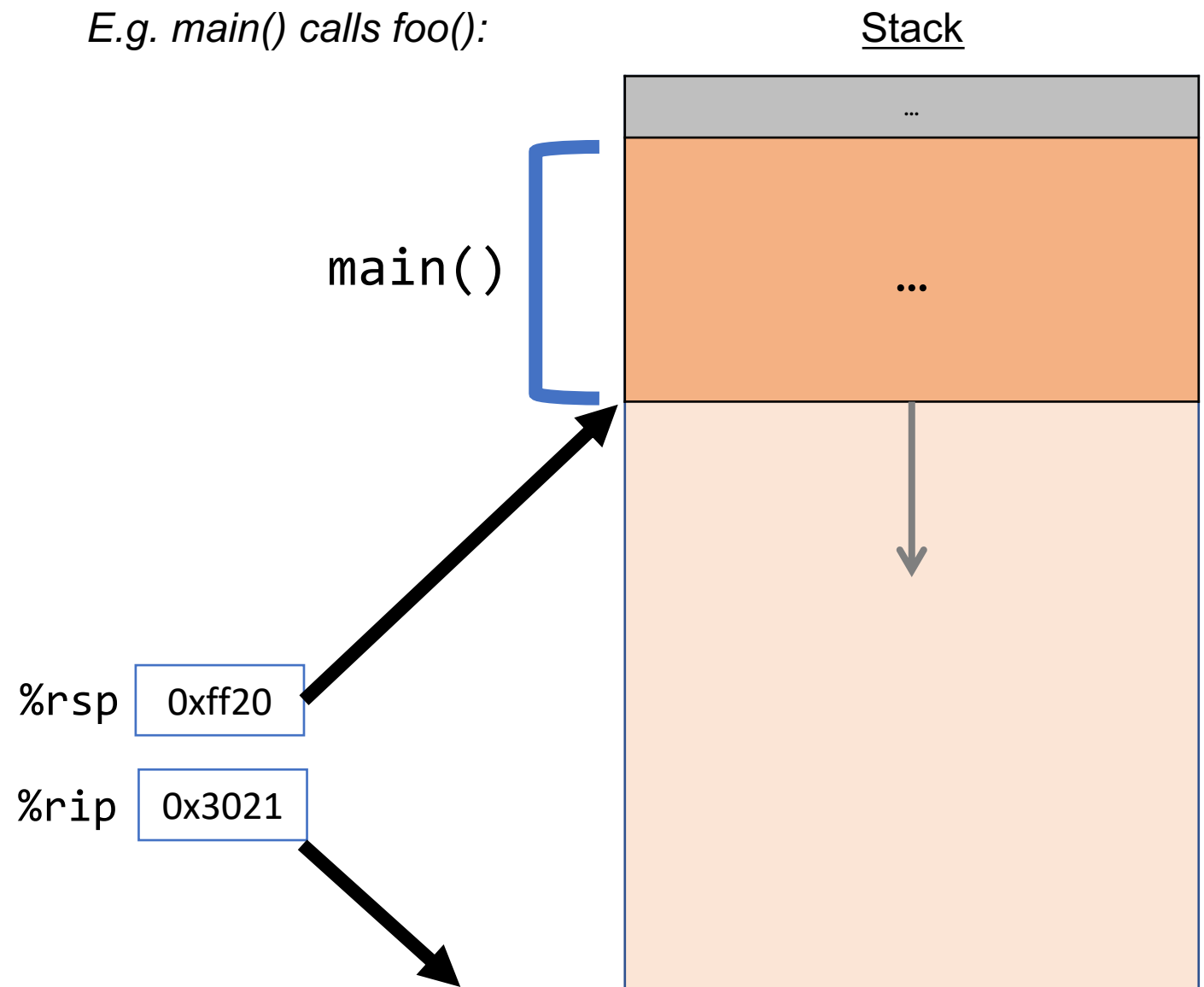
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Remembering Where We Left Off

Problem: %rip points to the next instruction to execute. To call a function, we must remember the *next* caller instruction to resume at after.

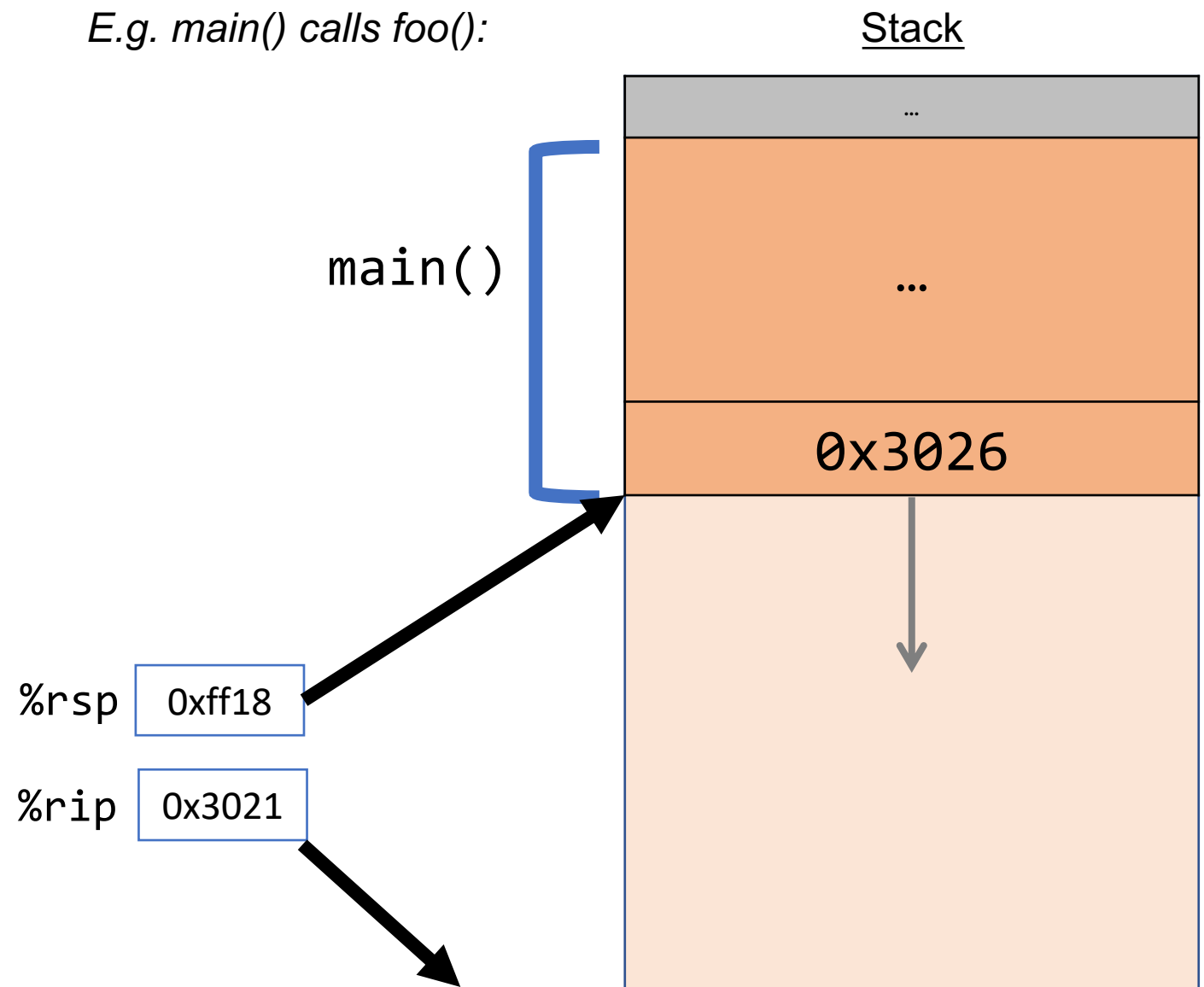
Solution: push the next value of %rip onto the stack. Then call the function. When it is finished, put this value back into %rip and continue executing.



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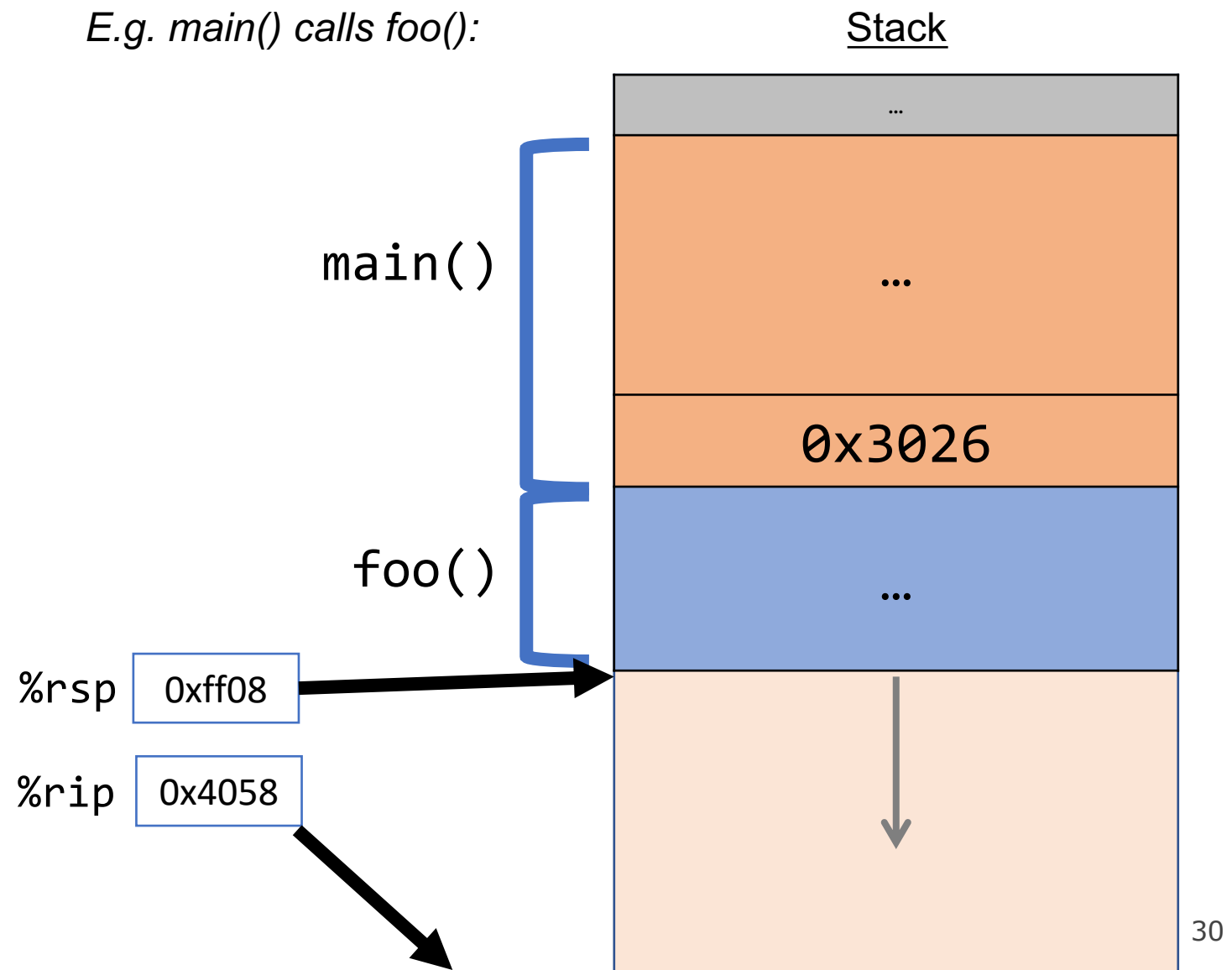
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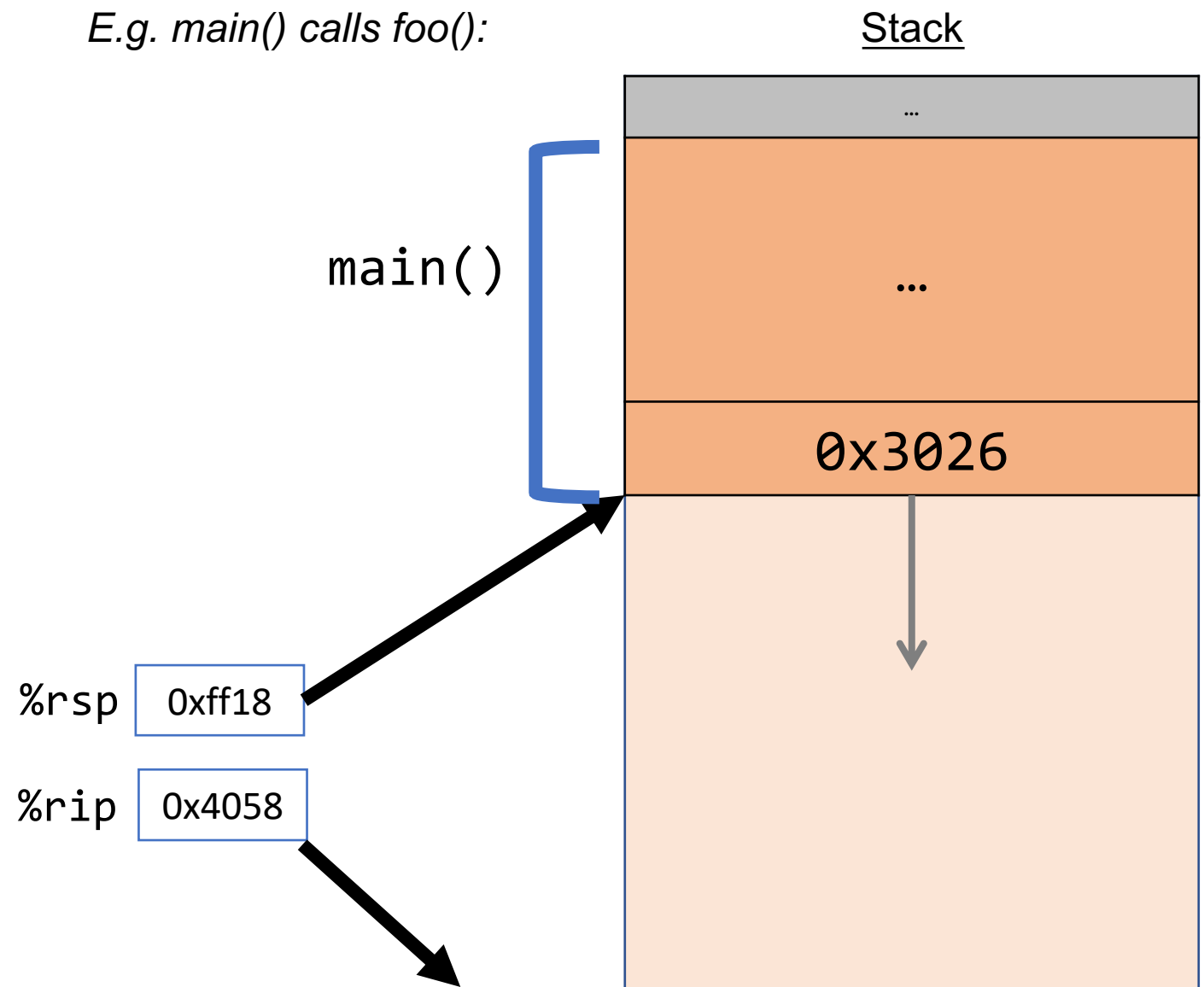
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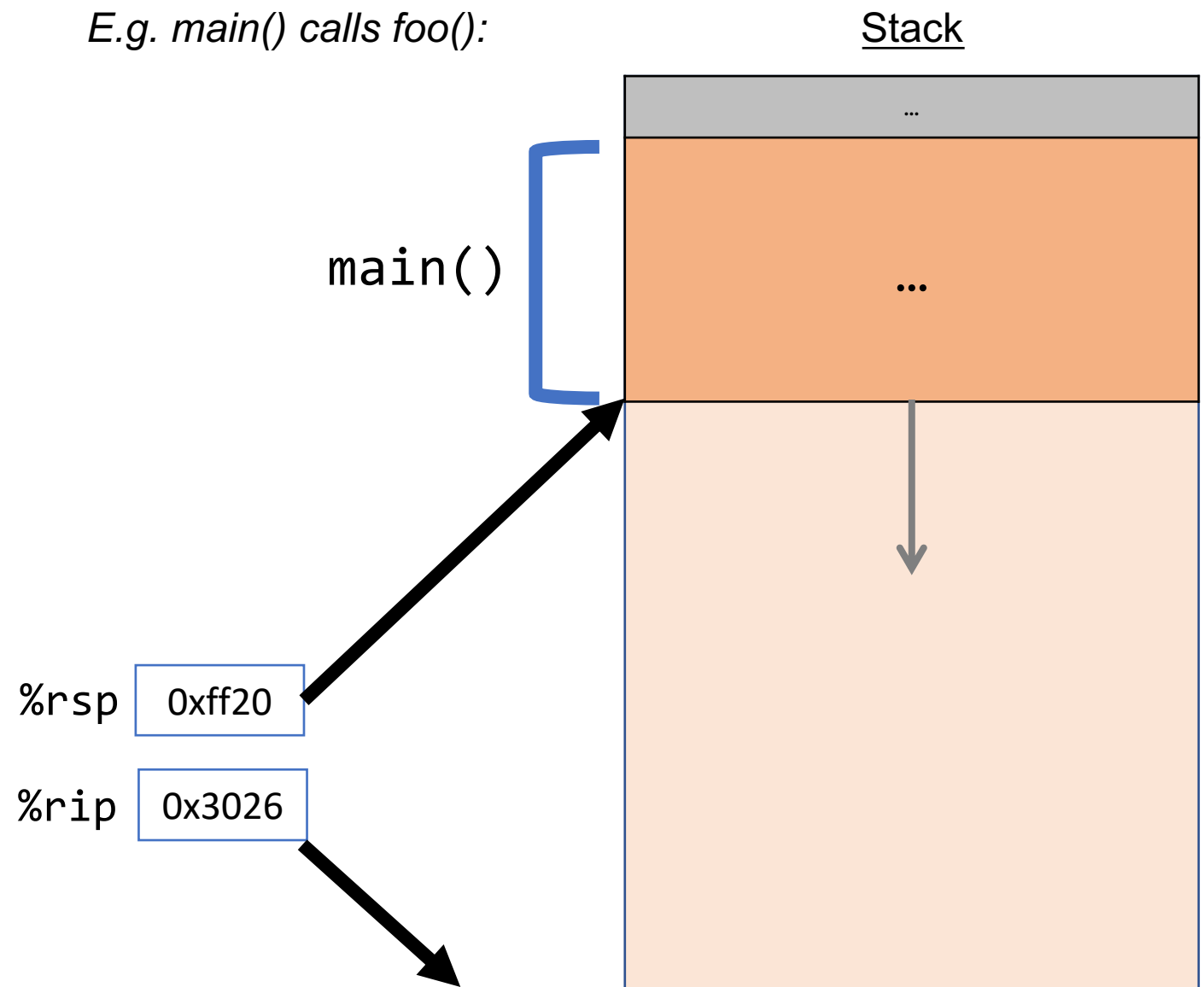
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Solution: push the next value of %rip onto the stack. Then call the function. When it is finished, put this value back into %rip and continue executing.



Call And Return

The **call** instruction pushes the address of the instruction immediately following the **call** instruction onto the stack and sets %rip to point to the beginning of the specified function's instructions.

call Label

call *Operand

The **ret** instruction pops this instruction address from the stack and stores it in %rip.

ret

The stored %rip value for a function is called its **return address**. It is the address of the instruction at which to resume the function's execution. (not to be confused with **return value**, which is the value returned from a function).

Calling Functions In Assembly

To call a function in assembly, a few things need to happen:

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Mid-Lecture Check-In

We can now answer the following questions:

1. What does %rip store?
2. How does %rip update as we execute instructions?
3. When we call a function, where do we store the instruction to resume executing at in the caller after we return?
4. When the callee is finished, %rip must be updated to the instruction to resume at in the caller. What instruction does this?

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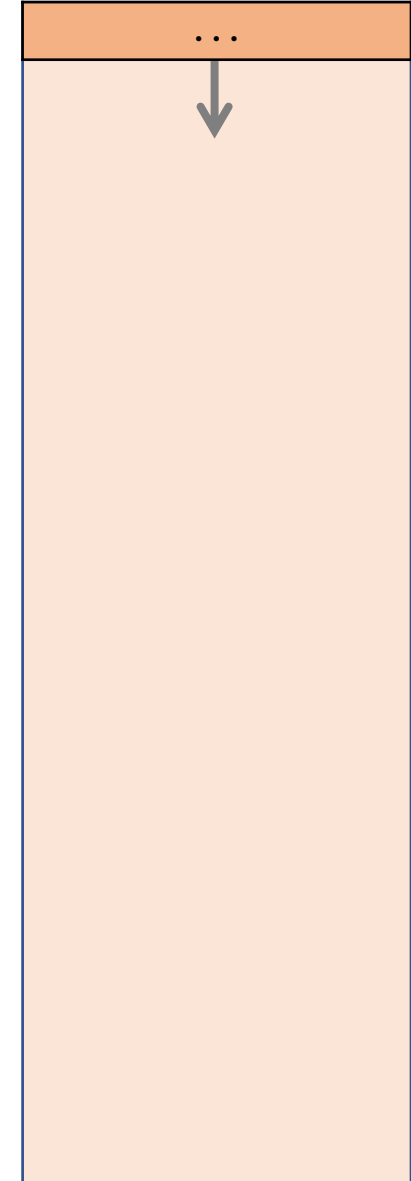
Parameters and Return

- There are special registers that store parameters and the return value.
- To call a function, we must put any parameters we are passing into the correct registers. (%rdi, %rsi, %rdx, %rcx, %r8, %r9, in that order)
- Parameters beyond the first 6 are put on the stack.
- If the caller expects a return value, it looks in %rax after the callee completes.

Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    int i1 = 1;  
    int i2 = 2;  
    int i3 = 3;  
    int i4 = 4;  
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,  
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);  
    ...  
}  
  
int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,  
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    ...  
}
```

main() 



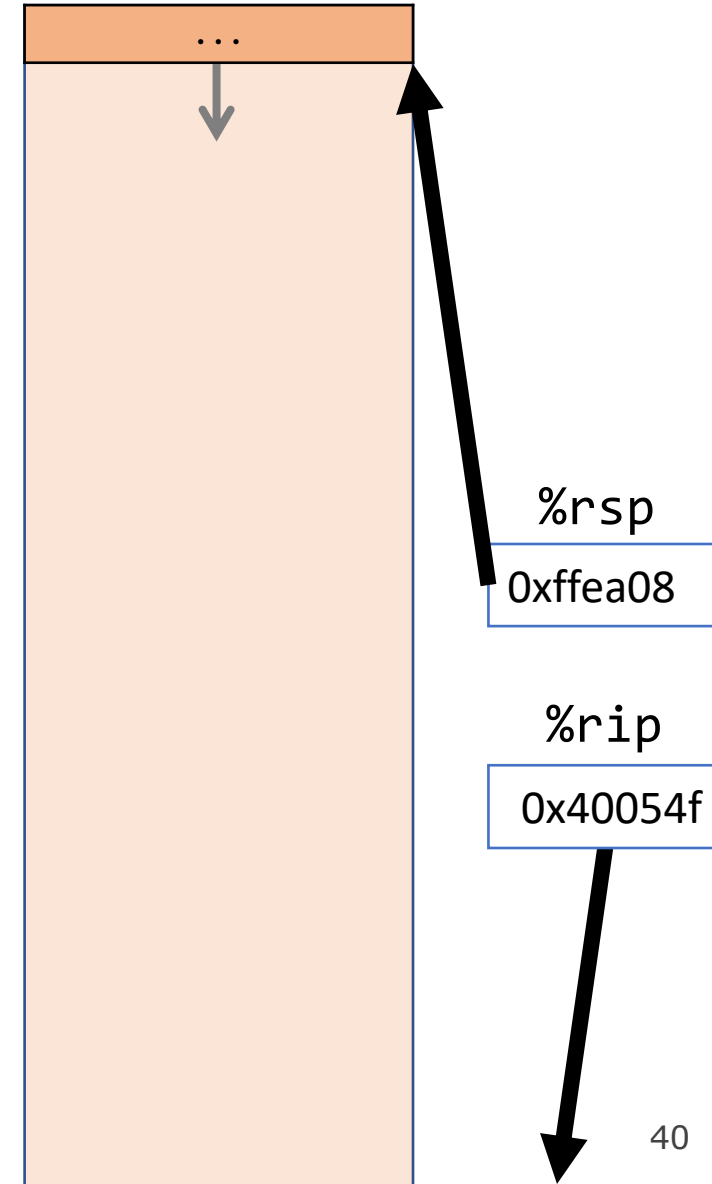
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main() 



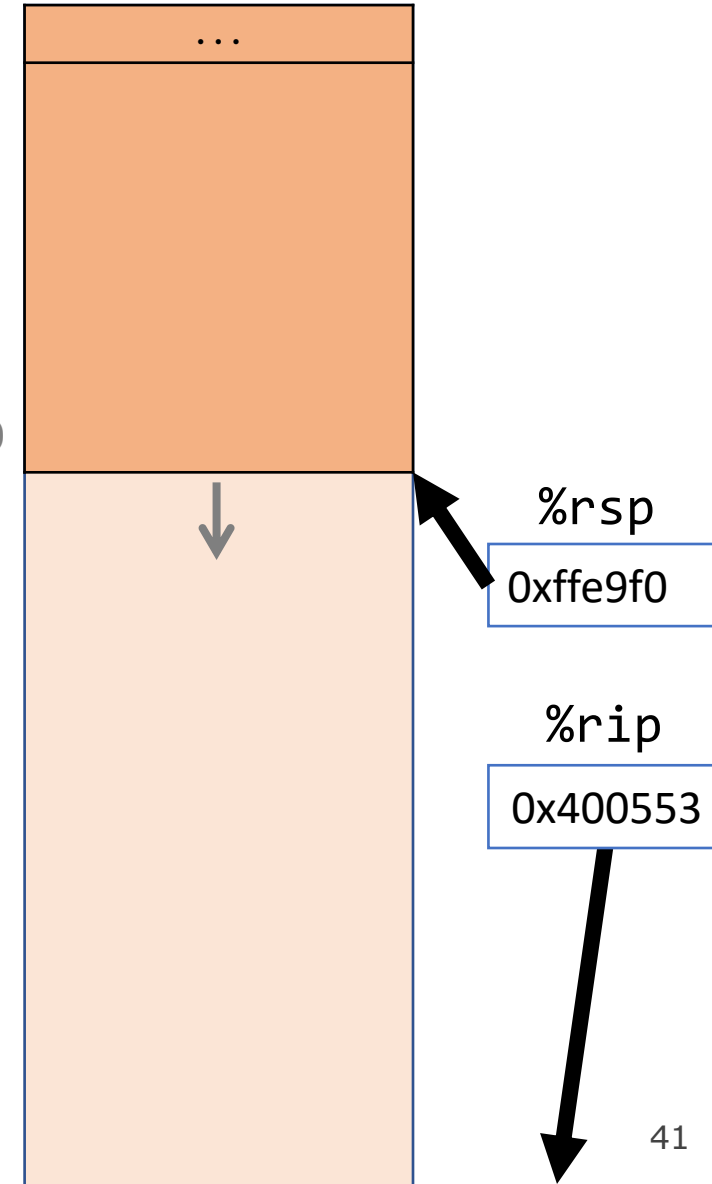
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main()

0xffe9f0

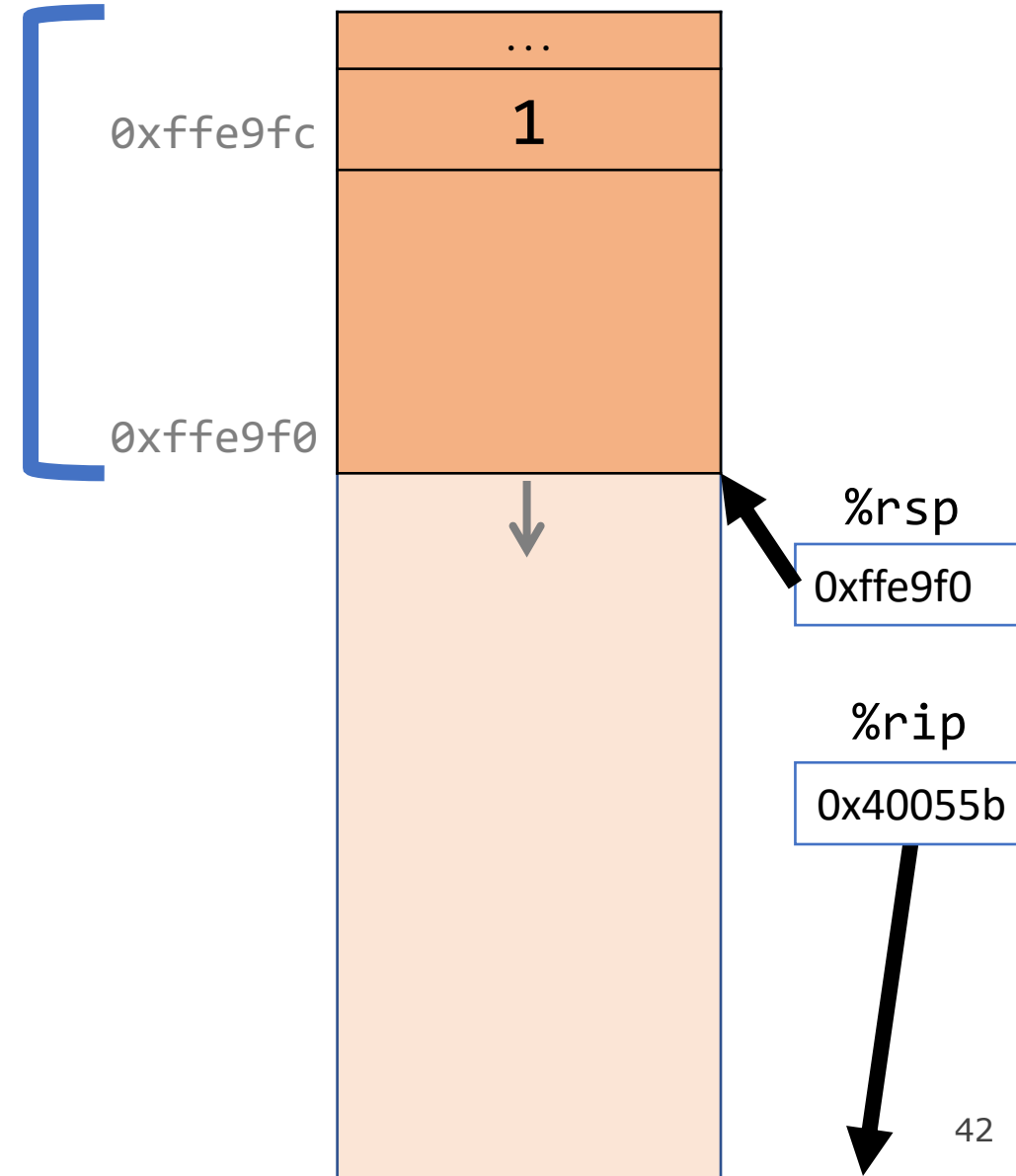


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main()

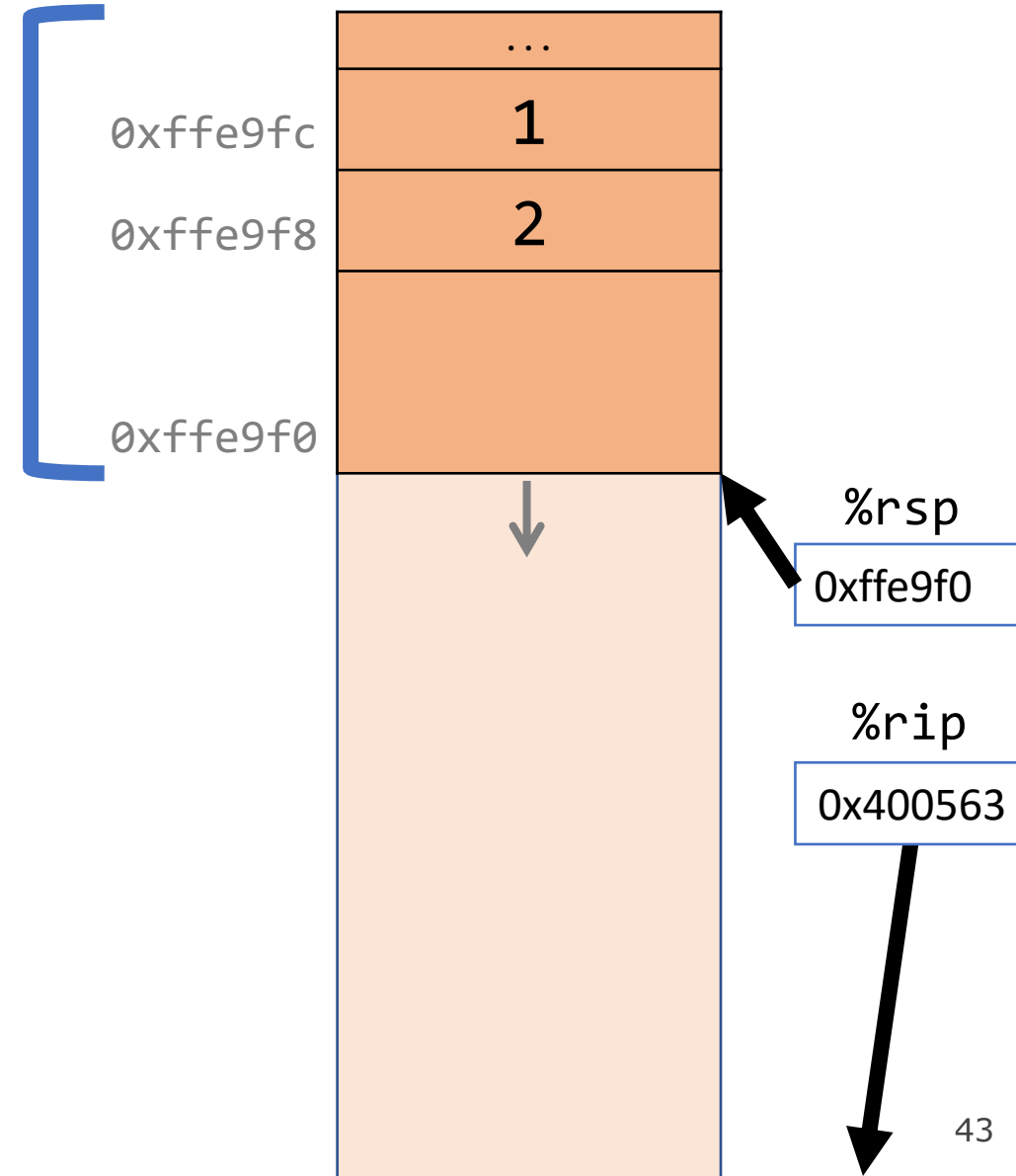


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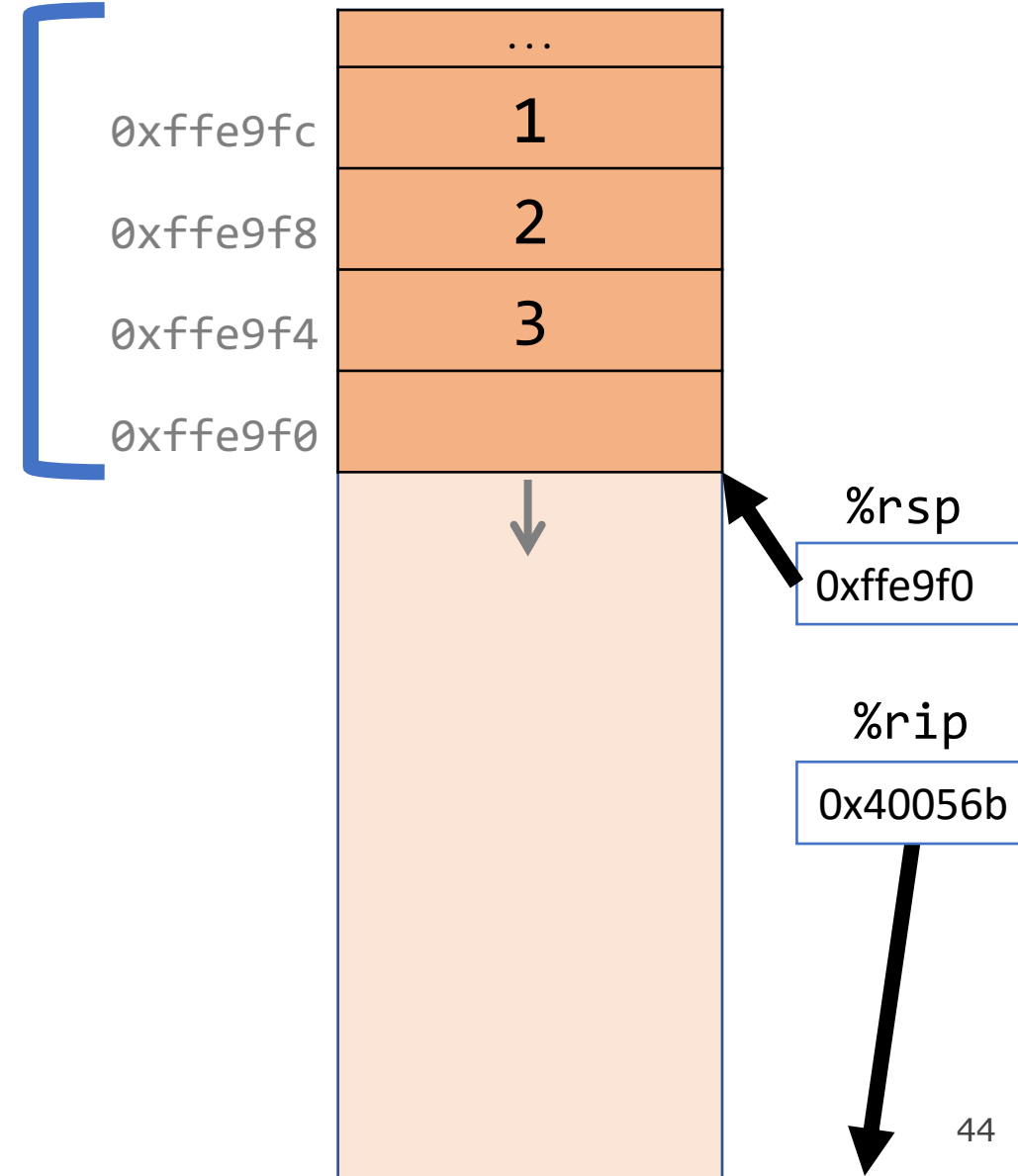


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0x400572 <+35>:   pusha   $0x4
```

main()

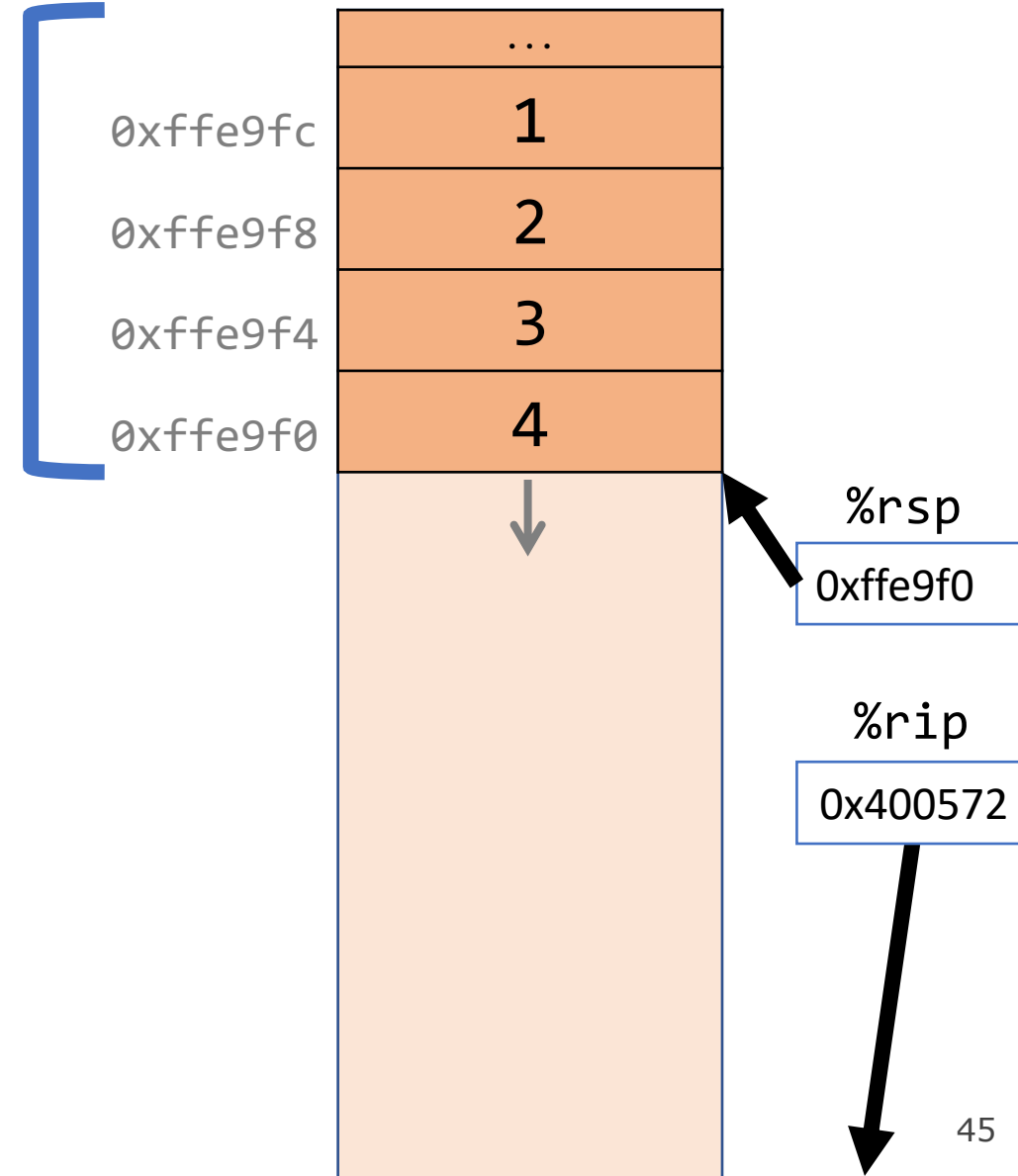


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0x400574 <+37>:    pushq   $0x2
```

main()



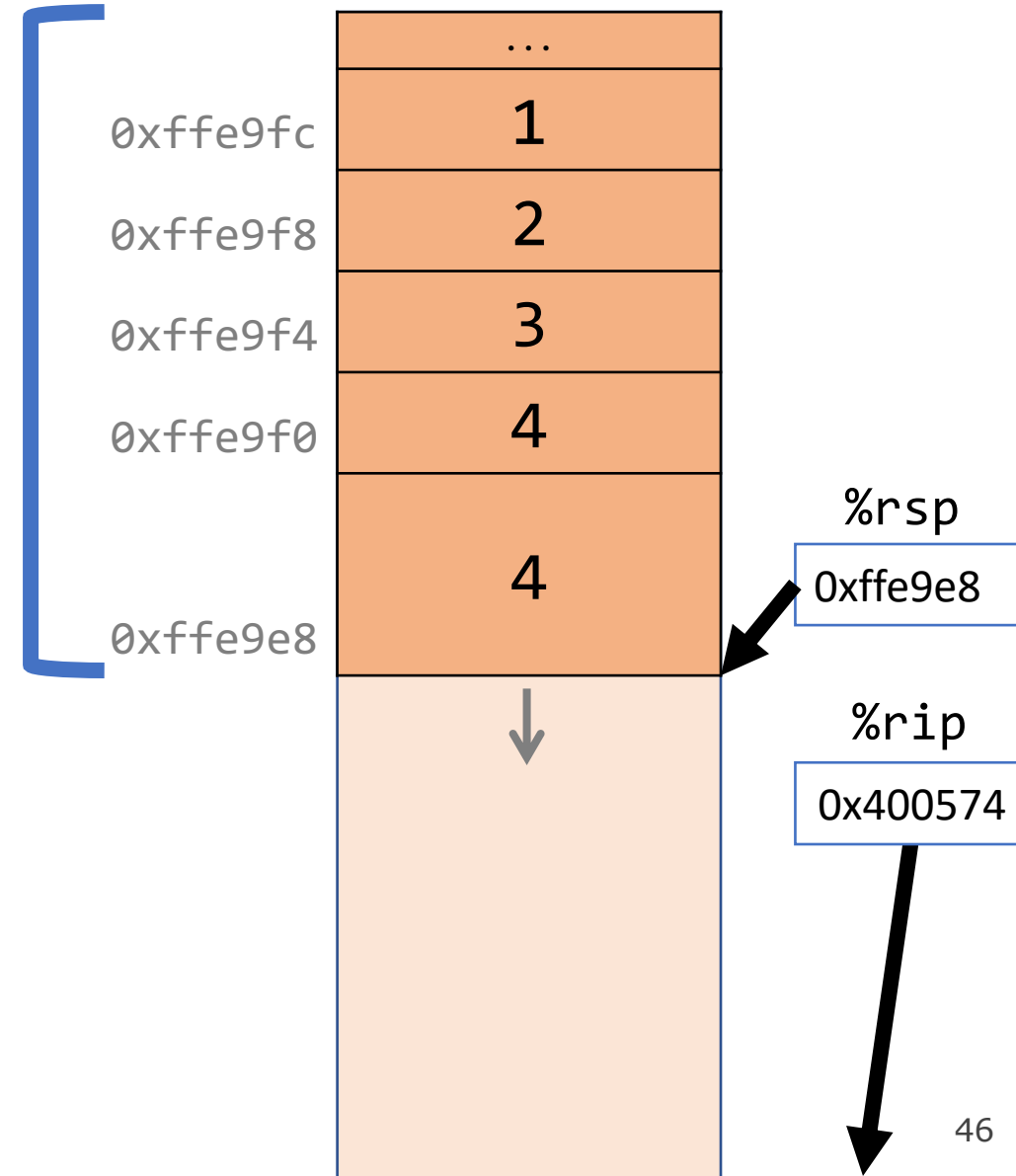
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0x400576 <+39>:    mov     $0x2,%rax
```

main()

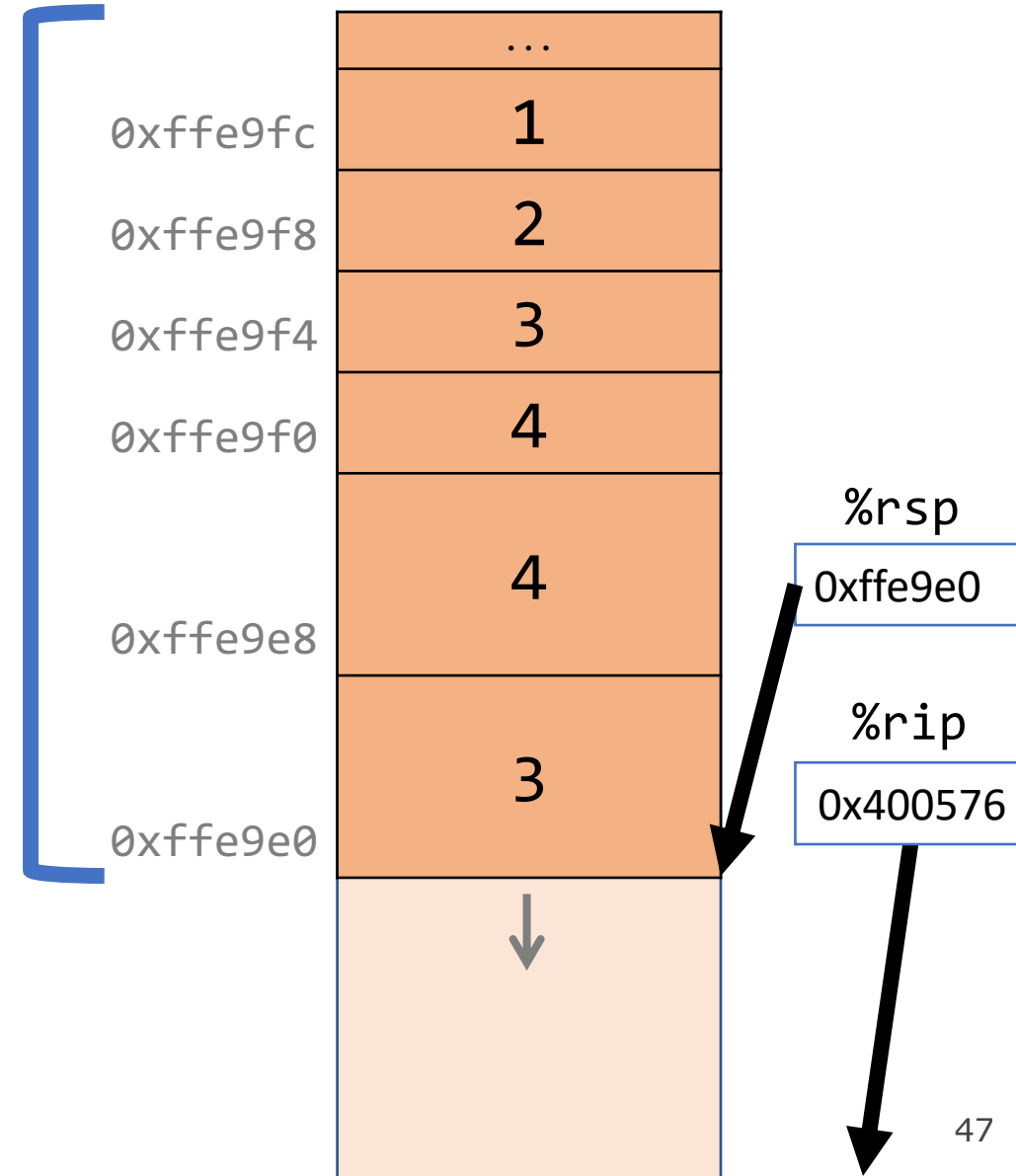


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main()

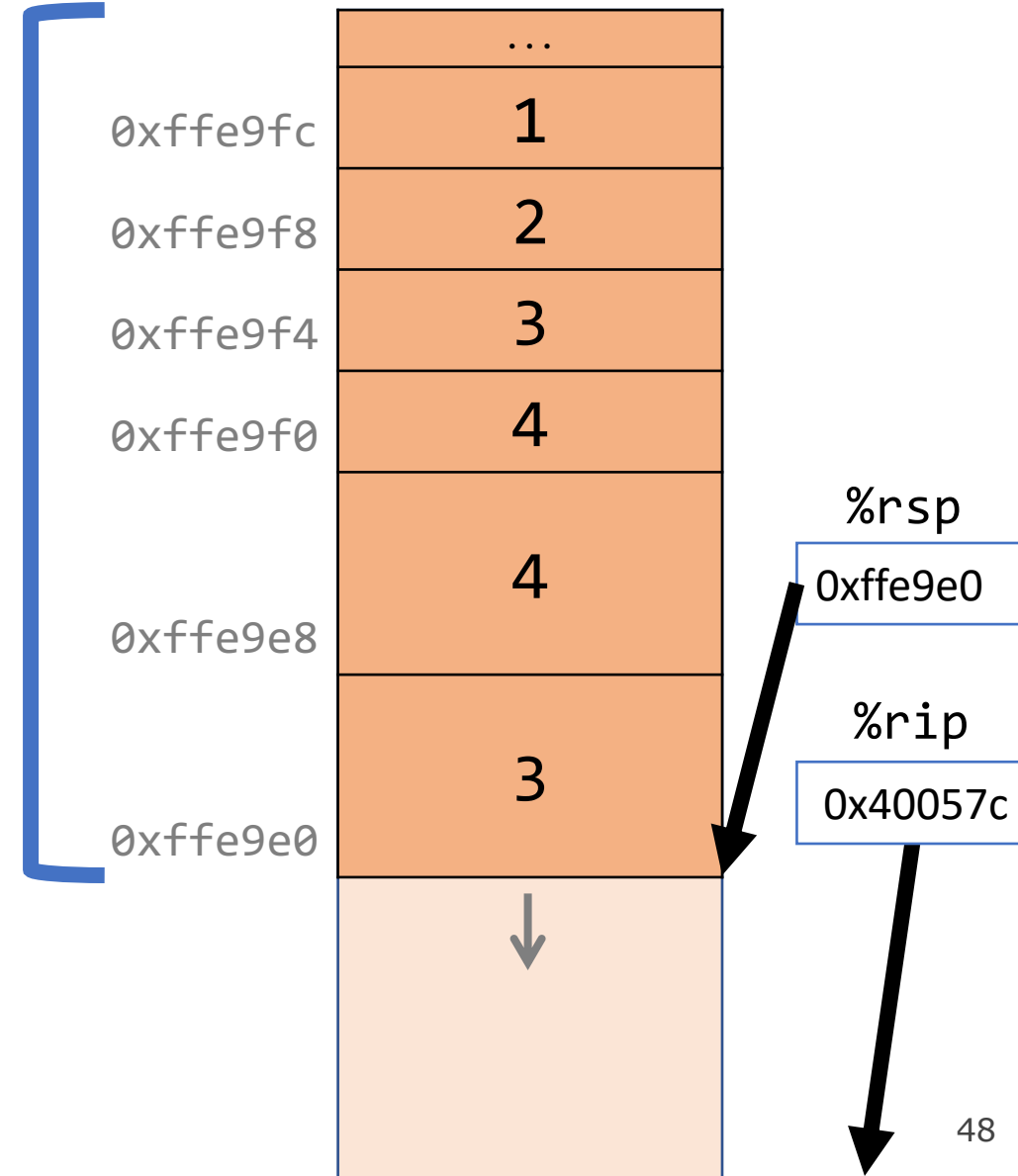


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0x40057c <+45>:    mov      $0x1,%r8d  
0x400582 <+51>:    leaq     0x10(%rsp),%rcx
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main()



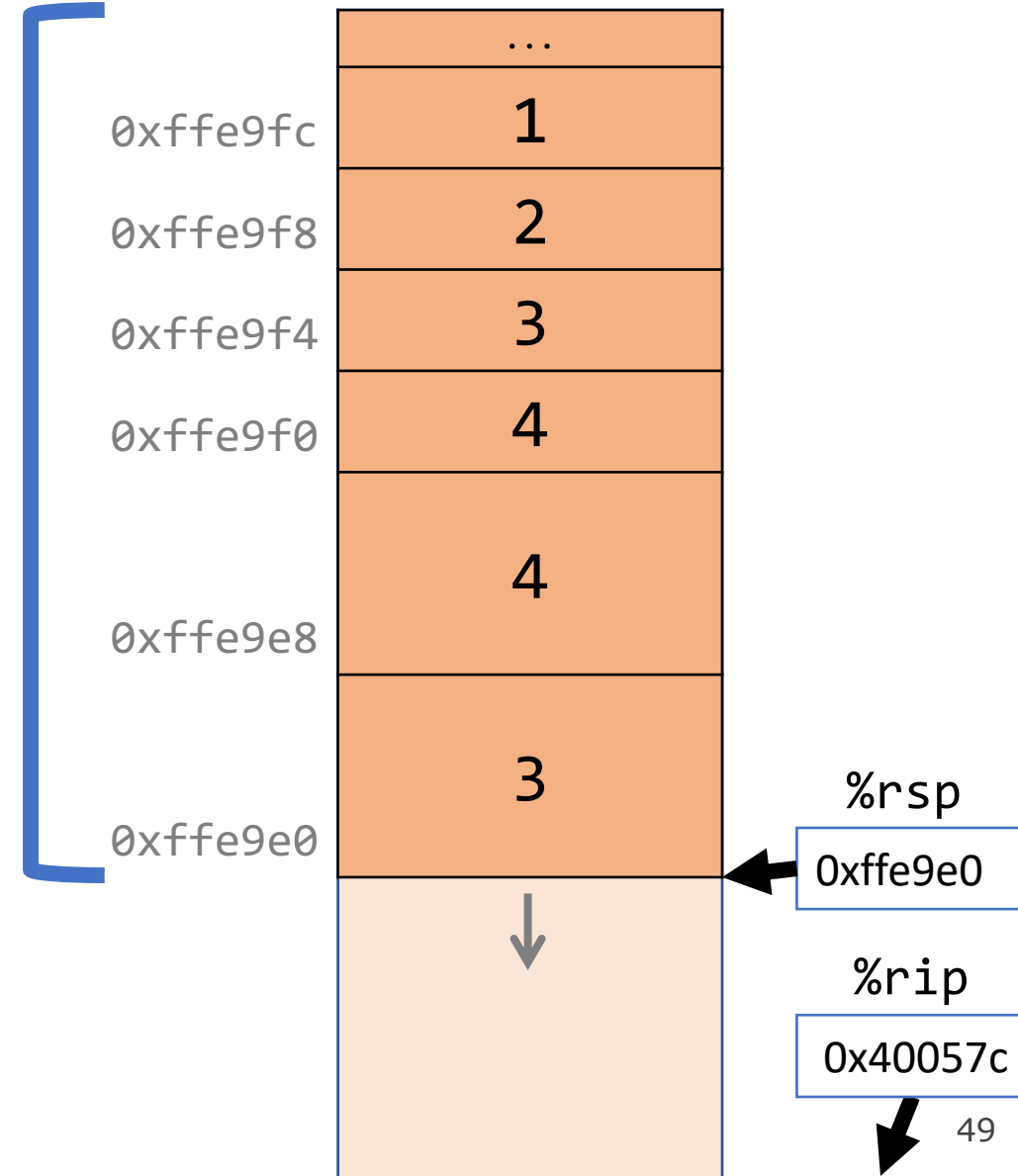
Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x400572 <+35>:    pushq    $0x4
0x400574 <+37>:    pushq    $0x3
0x400576 <+39>:    mov     $0x2,%r9d
0x40057c <+45>:    mov     $0x1,%r8d
0x400582 <+51>:    lea     0x10(%rsp),%rcx
```

main()



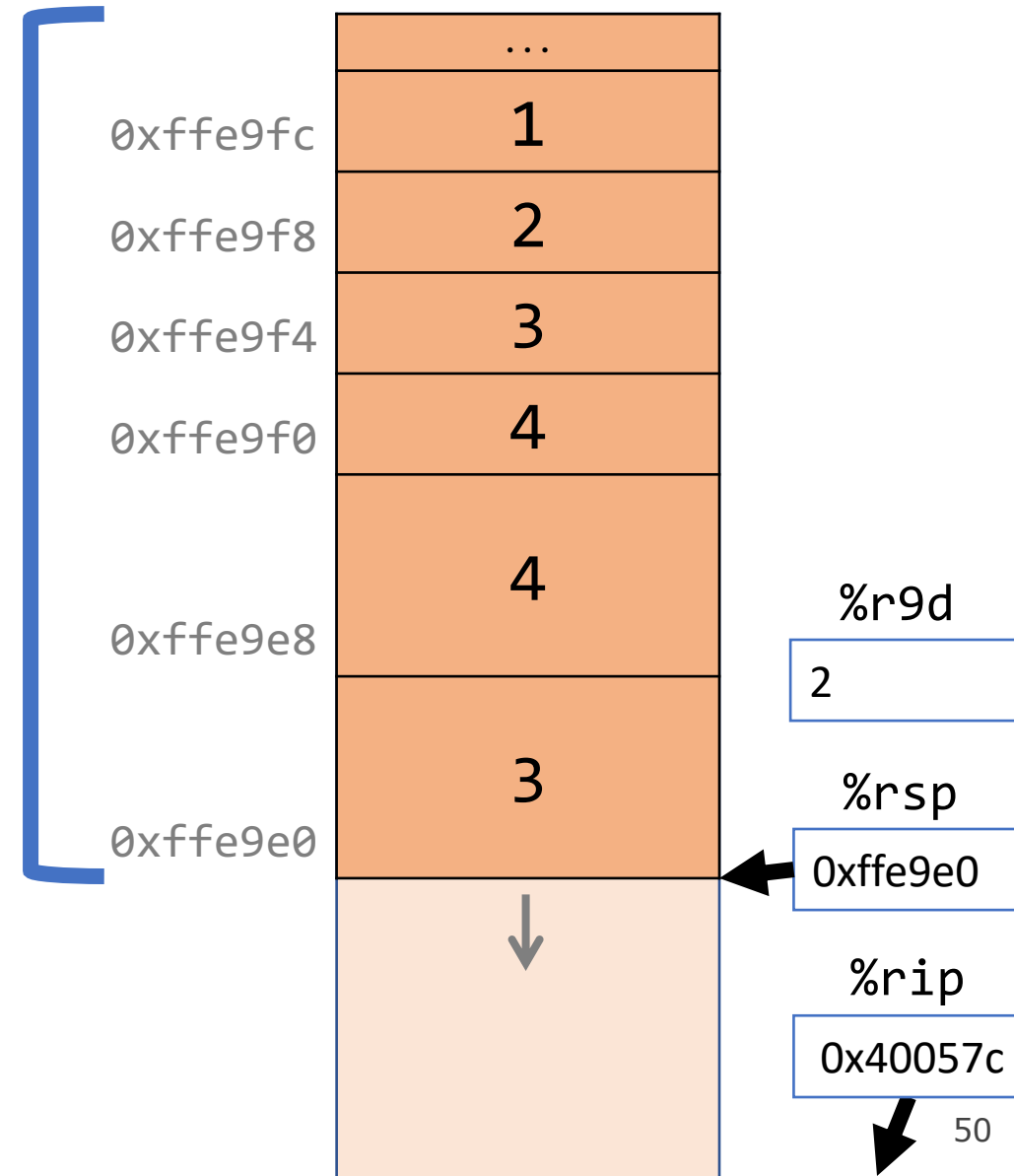
Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
        int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x400572 <+35>:    pushq    $0x4
0x400574 <+37>:    pushq    $0x3
0x400576 <+39>:    mov     $0x2,%r9d
0x40057c <+45>:    mov     $0x1,%r8d
0x400582 <+51>:    leaq    0x10(%rsp),%rcx
```

main()

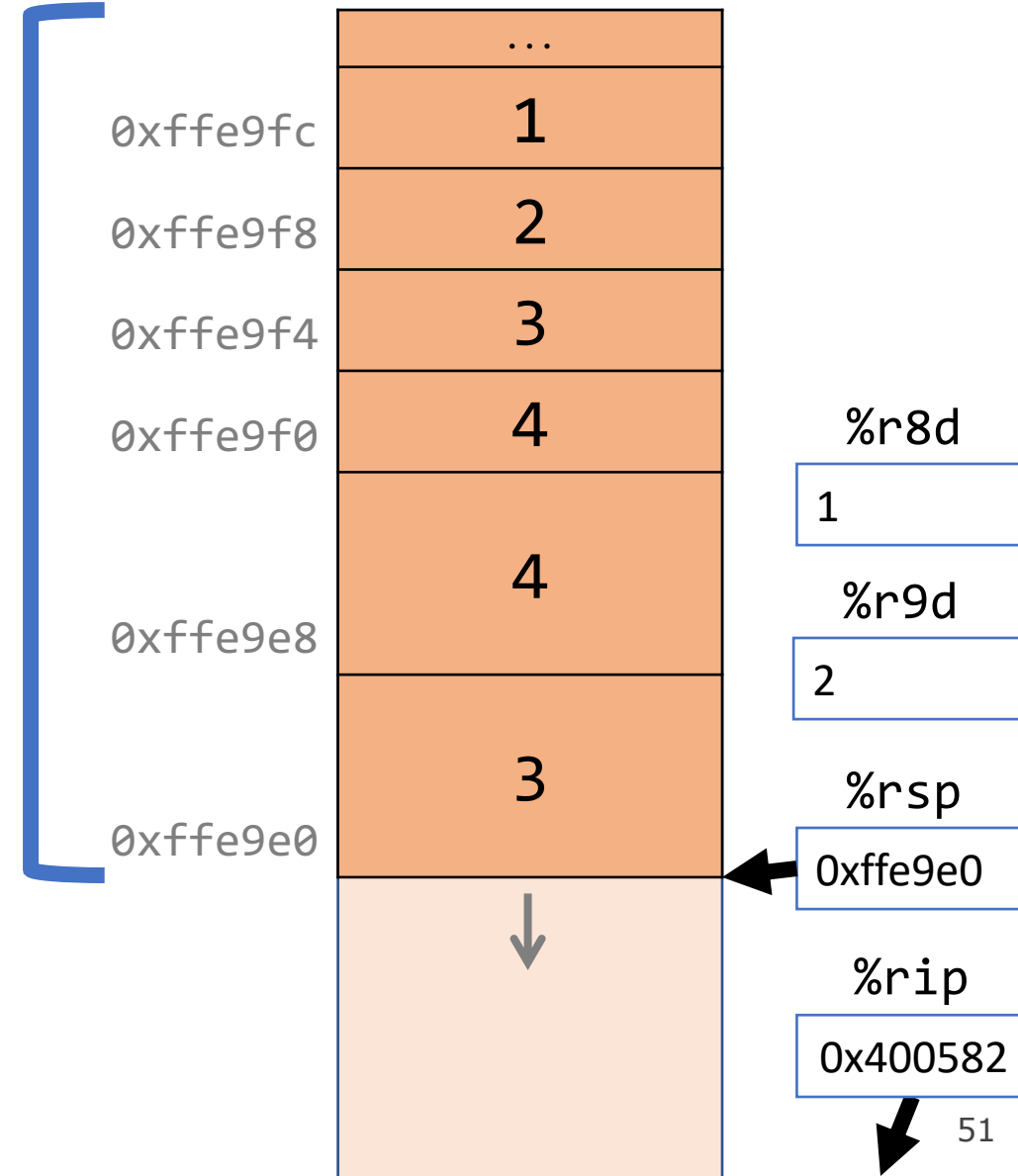


Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    int i1 = 1;  
    int i2 = 2;  
    int i3 = 3;  
    int i4 = 4;  
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,  
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);  
    ...  
}  
  
int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,  
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {  
    ...  
}
```

```
0x400574 <+37>: pushq $0x3  
0x400576 <+39>: mov $0x2,%r9d  
0x40057c <+45>: mov $0x1,%r8d  
0x400582 <+51>: lea 0x10(%rsp),%rcx  
0x400587 <+56>: lea 0x14(%rsp),%rdx
```

main()



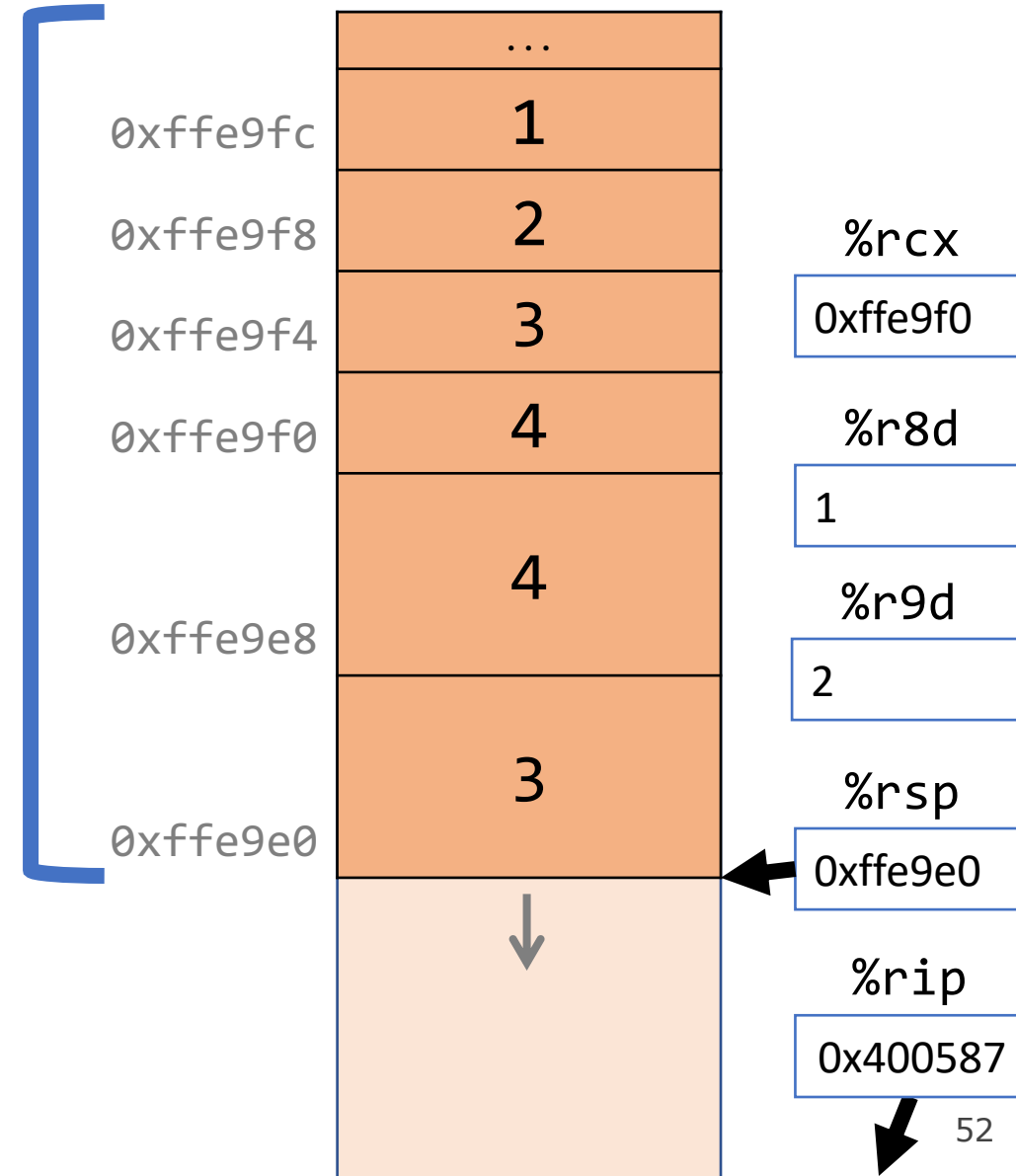
Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x400576 <+39>:  mov    $0x2,%r9d
0x40057c <+45>:  mov    $0x1,%r8d
0x400582 <+51>:  lea    0x10(%rsp),%rcx
0x400587 <+56>:  lea    0x14(%rsp),%rdx
0x40058c <+61>:  lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi
```

main()



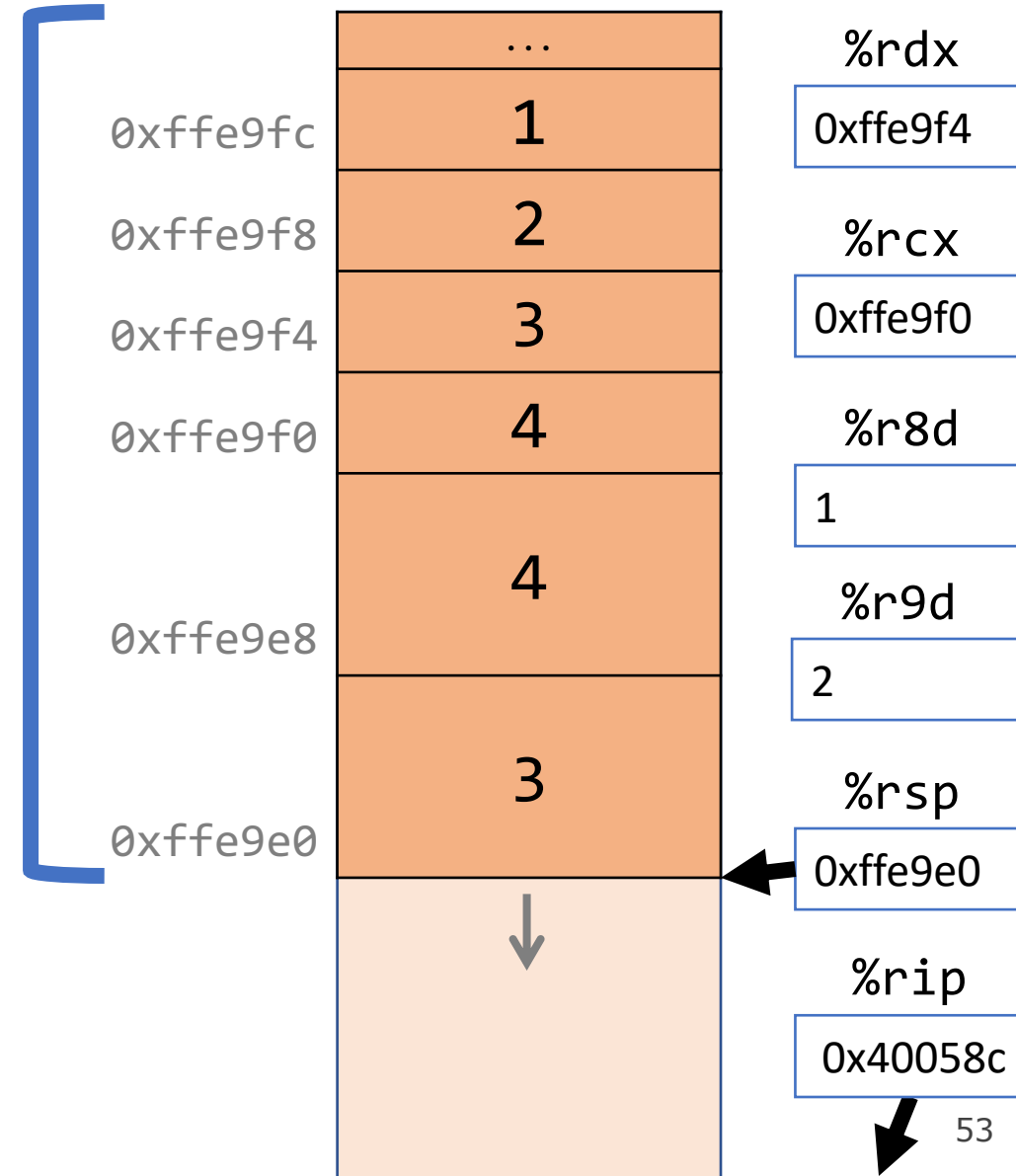
Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
        int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x40057c <+45>: mov    $0x1,%r8d
0x400582 <+51>: lea    0x10(%rsp),%rcx
0x400587 <+56>: lea    0x14(%rsp),%rdx
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi
```

main()



Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x400582 <+51>: lea    0x10(%rsp),%rcx
0x400587 <+56>: lea    0x14(%rsp),%rdx
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi
0x400596 <+71>: callq  0x400546 <func>
```

main()

%rsi

0xffe9f8

0xffe9fc

0xffe9f8

0xffe9f4

0xffe9f0

0xffe9e8

0xffe9e0

...

1

2

3

4

4

3



%rdx

0xffe9f4

%rcx

0xffe9f0

%r8d

1

%r9d

2

%rsp

0xffe9e0

%rip

0x400591

54

Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    int i1 = 1;  
    int i2 = 2;  
    int i3 = 3;  
    int i4 = 4;  
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,  
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);  
    ...  
}  
  
int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,  
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {  
    ...  
}
```

```
0x400587 <+56>: lea    0x14(%rsp),%rdx  
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi  
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi  
0x400596 <+71>: callq  0x400546 <func>  
0x40059b <+76>: add     $0x10,%rsp
```

main()

%rsi
0xffe9f8

%rdi
0xffe9fc

0xffe9fc
0xffe9f8
0xffe9f4
0xffe9f0
0xffe9e8
0xffe9e0

...

1

2

3

4

4

3



%rdx

0xffe9f4

%rcx

0xffe9f0

%r8d

1

%r9d

2

%rsp

0xffe9e0

%rip

0x400596

55

Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi
0x400596 <+71>: callq  0x400546 <func>
0x40059b <+76>: add    $0x10,%rsp
...
```

main()

%rsi
0xffe9f8

%rdi
0xffe9fc

0xffe9fc

0xffe9f8

0xffe9f4

0xffe9f0

0xffe9e8

0xffe9e0

...

1

2

3

4

4

3



%rdx

0xffe9f4

%rcx

0xffe9f0

%r8d

1

%r9d

2

%rsp

0xffe9e0

%rip

0x40059b

56

Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int i1 = 1;
    int i2 = 2;
    int i3 = 3;
    int i4 = 4;
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);
    ...
}

int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,
        int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {
    ...
}
```

```
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi
0x400596 <+71>: callq  0x400546 <func>
0x40059b <+76>: add    $0x10,%rsp
...
```

main()

%rsi
0xffe9f8

%rdi
0xffe9fc

0xffe9fc

0xffe9f8

0xffe9f4

0xffe9f0

0xffe9e8

0xffe9e0

...

1

2

3

4

4

3

0x40059b

%rdx

0xffe9f4

%rcx

0xffe9f0

%r8d

1

%r9d

2

%rsp

0xffe9d8

%rip

0x40059b

Parameters and Return

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    int i1 = 1;  
    int i2 = 2;  
    int i3 = 3;  
    int i4 = 4;  
    int result = func(&i1, &i2, &i3, &i4,  
                     i1, i2, i3, i4);  
    ...  
}  
  
int func(int *p1, int *p2, int *p3, int *p4,  
         int v1, int v2, int v3, int v4) {  
    ...  
}
```

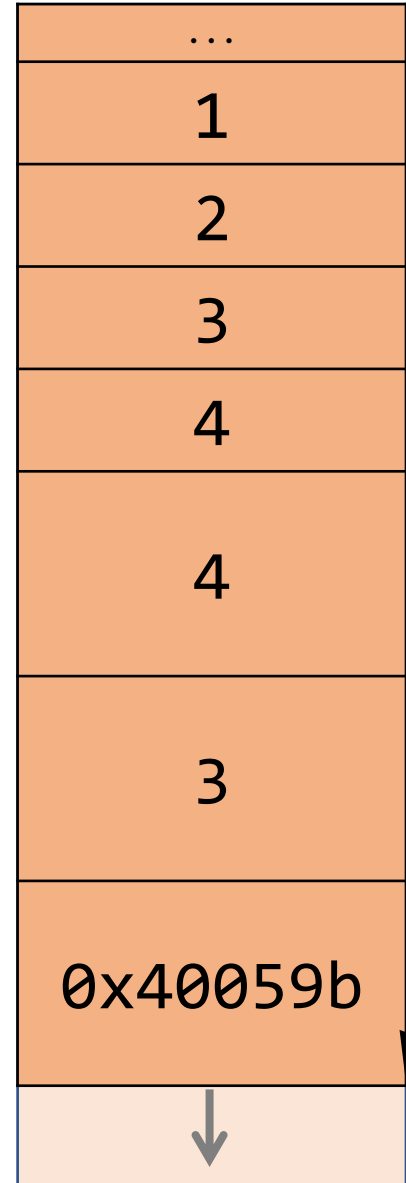
```
0x40058c <+61>: lea    0x18(%rsp),%rsi  
0x400591 <+66>: lea    0x1c(%rsp),%rdi  
0x400596 <+71>: callq  0x400546 <func>  
0x40059b <+76>: add    $0x10,%rsp  
...
```

main()

%rsi
0xffe9f8

%rdi
0xffe9fc

0xffe9fc
0xffe9f8
0xffe9f4
0xffe9f0
0xffe9e8
0xffe9e0



%rdx
0xffe9f4
%rcx
0xffe9f0
%r8d
1
%r9d
2
%rsp
0xffe9d8
%rip
0x40059b
58

Plan For Today

- Recap: Control Flow
- **Calling Functions**
 - The Stack
 - Passing Control
 - **Break**: Announcements
 - Passing Data
 - **Local Storage**
- Register Restrictions
- Pulling it all together: recursion example

Calling Functions In Assembly

To call a function in assembly, a few things need to happen:

- **Pass Control** – %rip must be adjusted to execute the callee's instructions, and then resume the caller's instructions afterwards as if never interrupted.
- **Pass Data** – we need to pass parameters and extract a return value.
- **Manage Memory** – we must extend the stack segment (or rather, the portion of the stack currently being used) to set aside space for local variables.

Terminology: **caller** function calls the **callee** function.

Local Storage

- So far, we've often seen local variables stored directly in registers, rather than on the stack as we'd expect. This is for optimization reasons.
- There are **three** common reasons that local data must be in memory:
 - We've run out of registers
 - The '&' operator is used on it, so we must generate an address for it
 - They are arrays or structs (need to use address arithmetic)

Local Storage

```
long caller() {  
    long arg1 = 534;  
    long arg2 = 1057;  
    long sum = swap_add(&arg1, &arg2);  
    ...  
}
```

caller:

```
    subq $16, %rsp        // 16 bytes for stack frame  
    movq $534, (%rsp)     // store 534 in arg1  
    movq $1057, 8(%rsp)   // store 1057 in arg2  
    leaq 8(%rsp), %rsi    // compute &arg2 as second arg  
    movq %rsp, %rdi       // compute &arg1 as first arg  
    call swap_add         // call swap_add(&arg1, &arg2)
```

Plan For Today

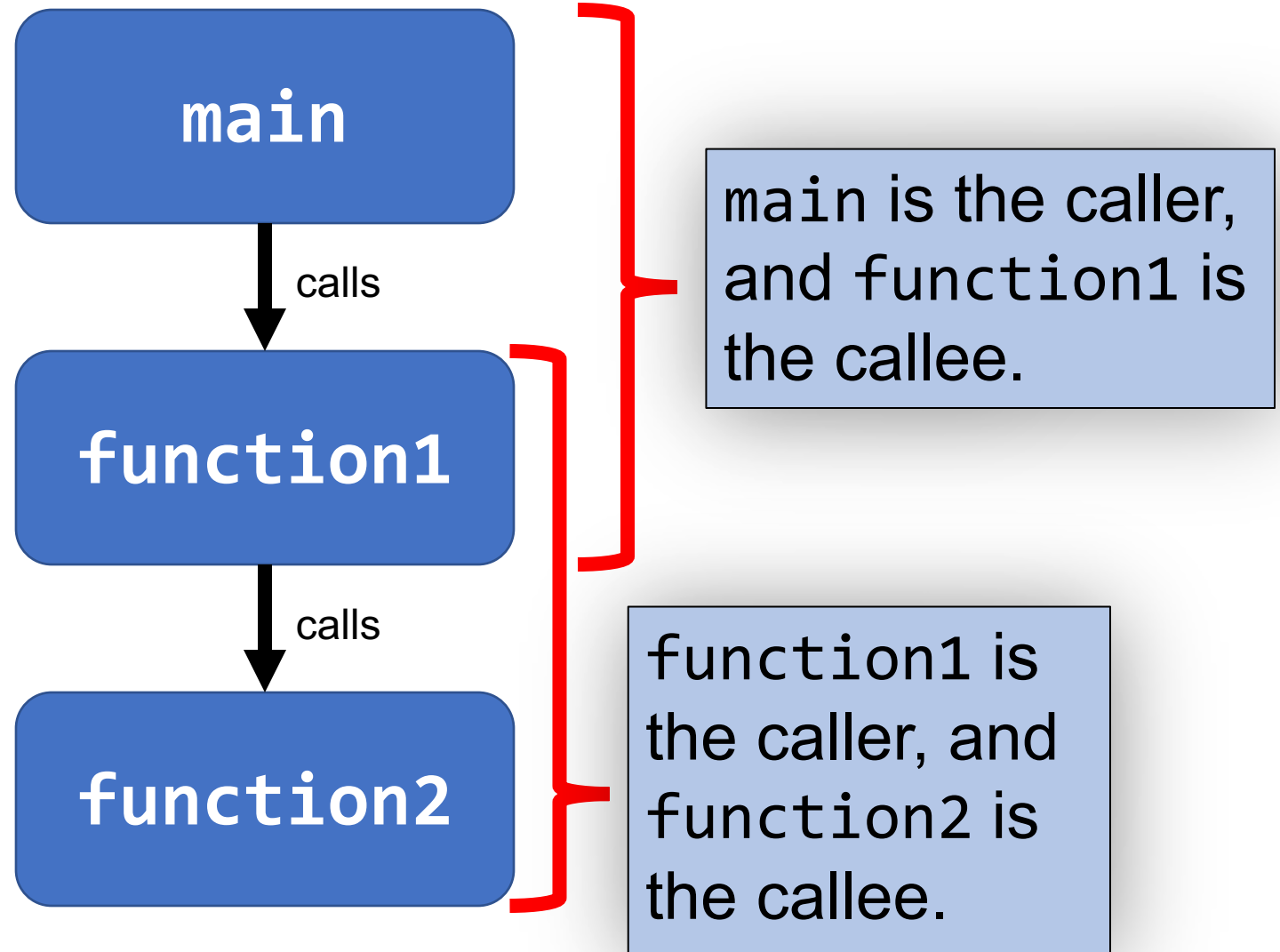
- Recap: Control Flow
- The Instruction Pointer (%rip)
- Calling Functions
 - The Stack
 - Passing Control
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 - Passing Data
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- **Register Restrictions**
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Register Restrictions

- There is only one copy of registers for all programs and instructions.
- Therefore, there are some rules that callers and callees must follow when using registers so they do not interfere with one another.
- There are two types of registers: **caller-owned** and **callee-owned**

Caller/Callee

Caller/callee is terminology that refers to a pair of functions. A single function may be both a caller and callee simultaneously (e.g. function1 at right).



Register Restrictions

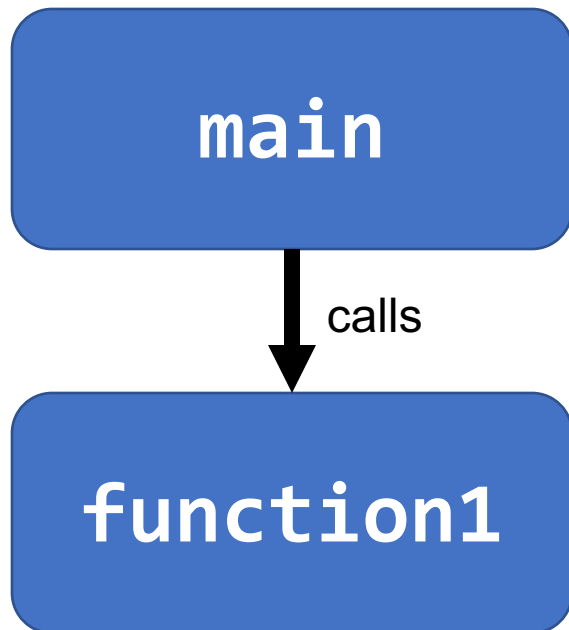
Caller-Owned

- Callee must *save* the existing value and *restore* it when done.
- Caller can store values and assume they will be preserved across function calls.

Callee-Owned

- Callee does not need to save the existing value.
- Caller's values could be overwritten by a callee! The caller may consider saving values elsewhere before calling functions.

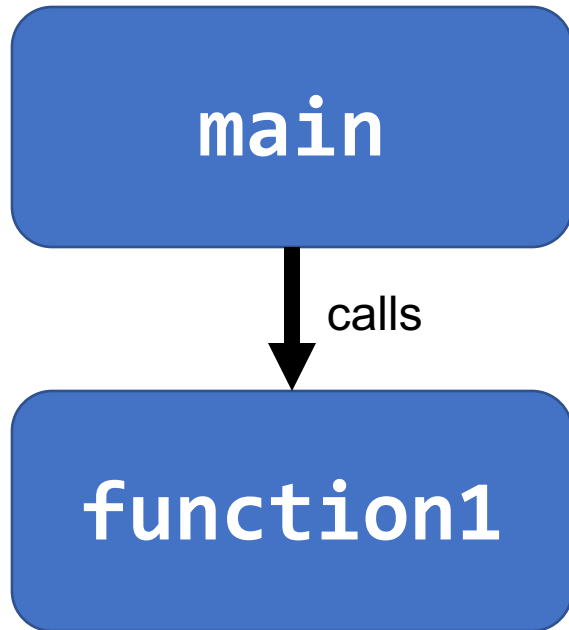
Caller-Owned Registers



main can use caller-owned registers and know that **function1** will not permanently modify their values.

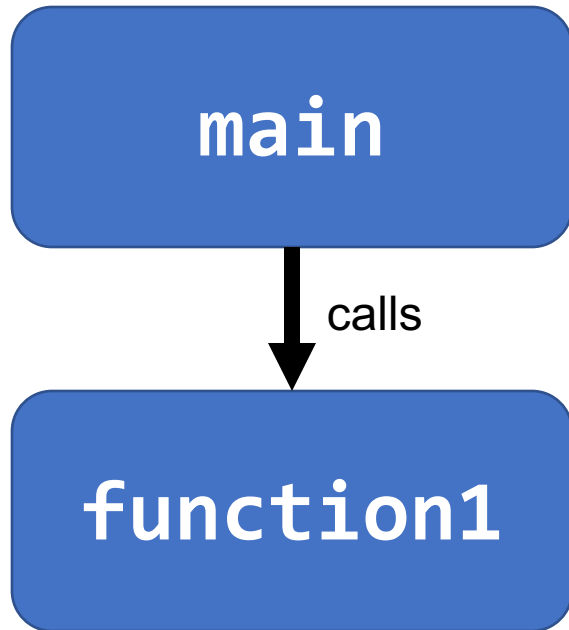
If **function1** wants to use any caller-owned registers, it must save the existing values and restore them before returning.

Caller-Owned Registers



```
function1:  
    push %rbp  
    push %rbx  
    ...  
    pop %rbx  
    pop %rbp  
    retq
```

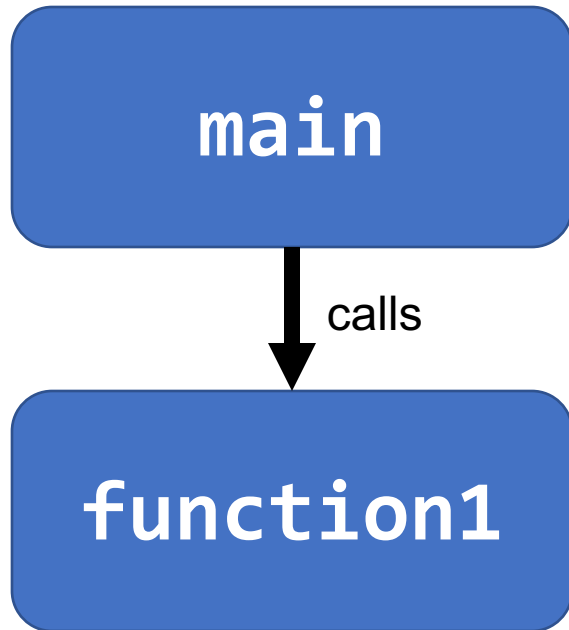
Callee-Owned Registers



main can use callee-owned registers but calling `function1` may permanently modify their values.

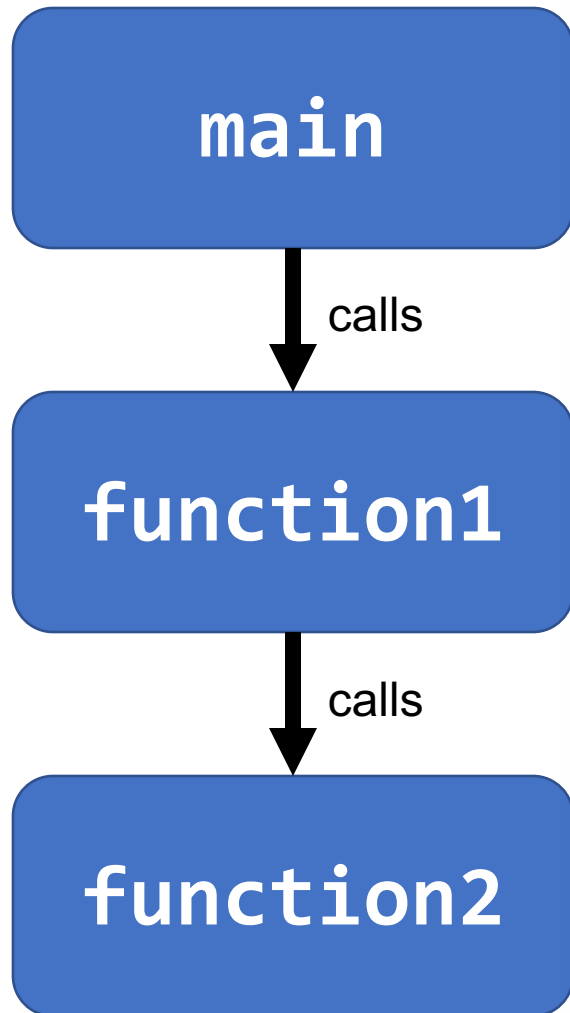
If `function1` wants to use any callee-owned registers, it can do so without saving the existing values.

Callee-Owned Registers



```
main:
    ...
    push %r10
    push %r11
    callq function1
    pop %r11
    pop %r10
    ...
```

A Day In the Life of `function1`



Caller-owned registers:

- `function1` must save/restore existing values of any that are used by `main`.
- `function1` can assume that calling `function2` will not permanently change their values.

Callee-owned registers:

- `function1` does not need to save/restore existing values of any that are used by `main`.
- calling `function2` may permanently change their values.

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Example: Recursion

- Let's look at an example of recursion at the assembly level.
- We'll use everything we've learned about registers, the stack, function calls, parameters, and assembly instructions!
- We'll also see how helpful GDB can be when tracing through assembly.



factorial.c and factorial

Plan For Today

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That's it for assembly! **Next time:** managing the heap