CS107, Lecture 20
Assembly: Function Call, Take II

Reading: B&O 3.7

Ed Discussion: https://edstem.org/us/courses/65949/discussion/5649061

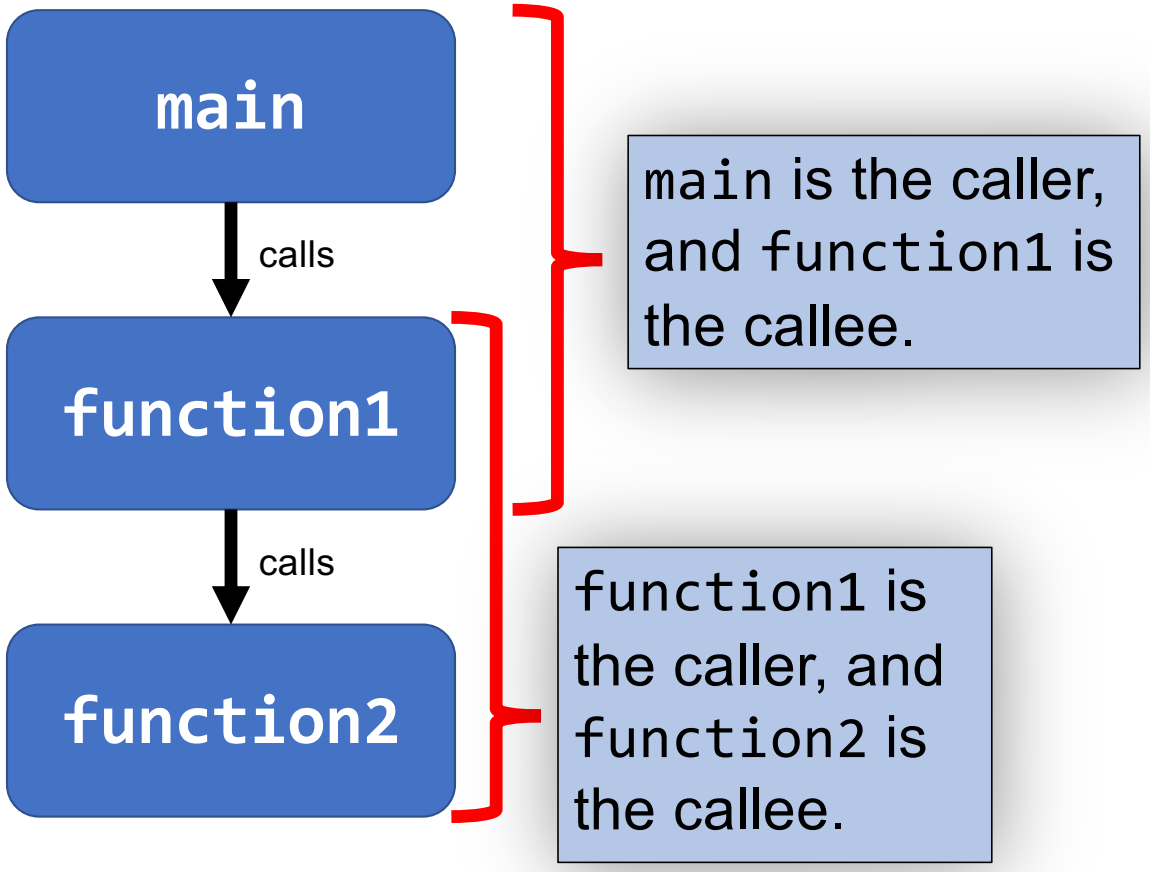
Register Restrictions

There is only one copy of registers for all programs and functions.

- **Problem:** what if ***funcA*** is building up a value in register %r10, and calls ***funcB*** in the middle, which also has instructions that modify %r10? ***funcA***'s value will be destroyed!
- **Solution:** lay down some "rules of the road" that callers and callees must follow when using registers so they do not interfere with one another.
- These rules define 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

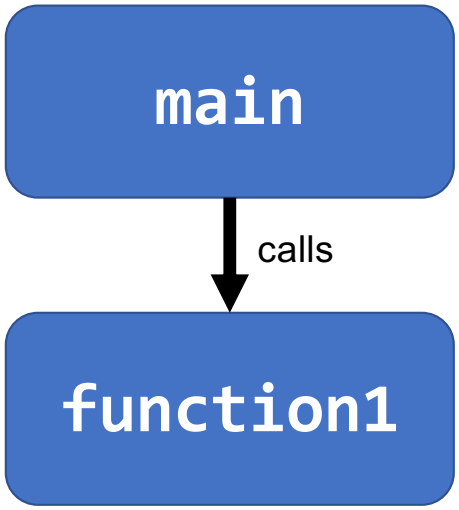
Caller-Owned

- Callee must *save* the existing value and *restore* it when done.
- Caller can store values in them and assume they'll 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.

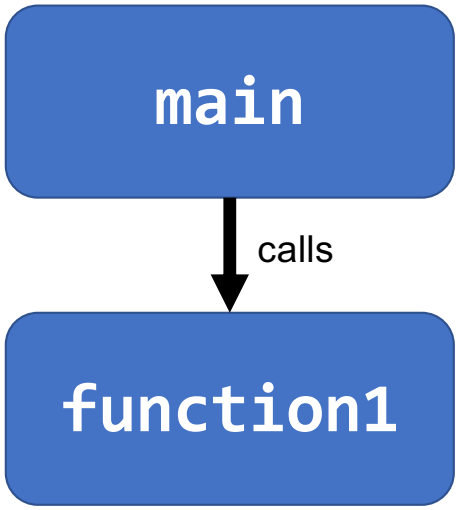
Caller-Owned Registers



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

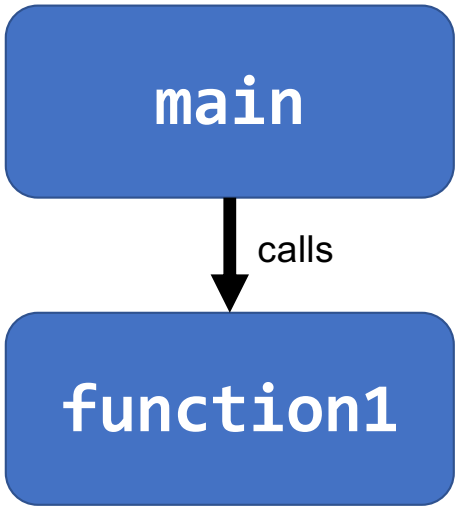
If function1 wants to use any caller-owned registers, it must save the existing values and restore them before returning.

Caller-Owned Registers




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

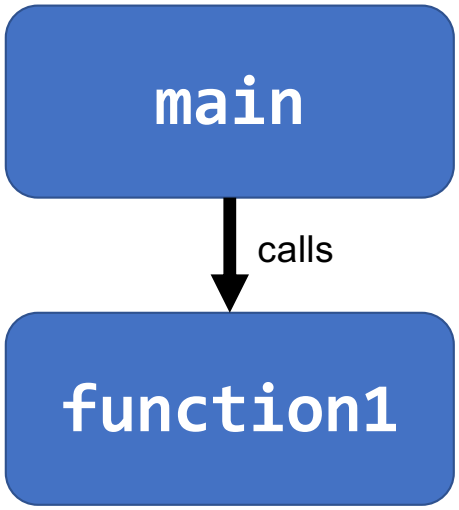
Callee-Owned Registers



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

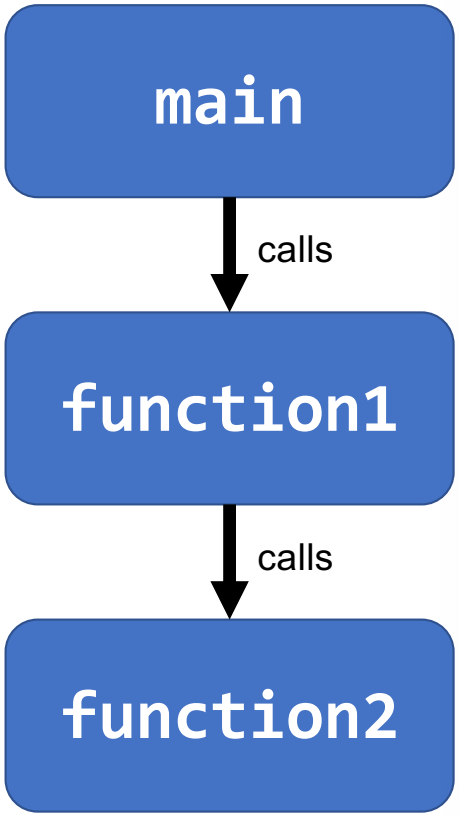
If function1 wants to use any callee-owned registers, it can do so without saving the existing values.

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 it wants to use.
- **`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 it wants to use.
- calling **`function2`** may permanently change their values.

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.

`rfact.c and rfact`

gdb tips

`layout split`	`(ctrl-x a: exit, ctrl-l: resize, refresh: refresh, layout reg/asm, focus next)`	View C, assembly, and gdb (lab5/6)
`info reg`		Print all registers
`p $eax`		Print register value
`p $eflags`		Print all condition codes currently set
`b *0x400546`		Set breakpoint at assembly instruction
`b *0x400550 if $eax > 98`		Set **conditional breakpoint**
`ni`		Next assembly instruction
`si`		Step into assembly instruction (will step into function calls)

gdb tips

`p/x $rdi`	Print register value in hex
`p/t $rsi`	Print register value in binary
`x $rdi`	Examine the byte stored at this address
`x/4bx $rdi`	Examine 4 bytes starting at this address
`x/4wx $rdi`	Examine 4 ints starting at this address
`finish`	Finish function, return to caller

Our First Assembly

```
int sum_array(int arr[], int nelems) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < nelems; i++) {
        sum += arr[i];
    }
    return sum;
}
```

We're done with all our assembly lectures! Now we can fully understand what's going on in the assembly below, including how someone would call **sum_array** in assembly and what the **ret** instruction does.

```
0000000000401136 <sum_array>:
  401136 <+0>:  mov    $0x0,%eax
  40113b <+5>:  mov    $0x0,%edx
  401140 <+10>: cmp    %esi,%eax
  401142 <+12>: jge    0x40114f <sum_array+25>
  401144 <+14>: movslq %eax,%rcx
  401147 <+17>: add    (%rdi,%rcx,4),%edx
  40114a <+20>: add    $0x1,%eax
  40114d <+23>: jmp    0x401140 <sum_array+10>
  40114f <+25>: mov    %edx,%eax
  401151 <+27>: retq
```