

# Section 12

# x86 Basics

CS 107A, Autumn 2021  
Andrew Benson (adbenson@)





Don't forget to start recording



# Unix Tip Spotlight

- gdb conditional breakpoints
  - Breakpoints, but only if some condition about the code is true
  - `break myfile.c:46 if i == 35`



# Announcements

- Midterm???
- Midquarter Feedback Survey
  - <https://forms.gle/B6zwdF77aWa7LyubA>
  - Also on course homepage
- Section Feedback next Thursday
- More 1:1s soon



# You've come pretty far

- UNIX
- Using the terminal
- C integer types and 2's complement
- Bitwise operations
- Strings in C
- The C string library
- Pointers in C
- Weird C quirks with arrays
- Stack vs Heap vs data segment
- `malloc/free/calloc/realloc`
- `gdb/valgrind/make`
- Generic pointers
- Function Pointers



# There's not much left to cover

- x86 Assembly
  - Data movement
  - Control flow
  - Stack discipline
- Internals of heap management
- Compiler optimizations
- Profiling with `callgrind`



# There's not much left to cover...but there's projects

- x86 Assembly
  - Data movement
  - Control flow
  - Stack discipline
- Internals of heap management
- Compiler optimizations
- Profiling with `callgrind`
- `assign4`
- Binary Bomb
- Heap Allocator



# Bird's Eye View

Day	Week 6 Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Week 7 Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CS 107A		Section: x86 Basics			No Class - Democracy Day		Section: x86 Control Flow	
CS 107	Lab 5: Assembly		Lecture: x86-64 Control Flow	Lecture: x86 Runtime Stack		Lab: Runtime Stack		No Lecture
CS 107 assignments						assign4 due, assign5 released		





# Agenda

- C Compilation Process
- Inspecting x86 Assembly
- x86 Primitives
- Operand Forms
- `mov` and `lea`



# C Compilation Process

# C Compilation

```
#define MAGIC 7
```

```
int x = 5;  
x += MAGIC;
```

```
int x = 5;  
x += 7;
```

```
movl $5, %rax  
addl $7, %rax
```

```
010101010100101  
101000101001010  
010110101001101
```

+

```
010101010100101  
101000101001010  
010110101001101
```

```
./myuniq
```

C Source Code

Preprocessed C  
Code

Assembly  
(e.g. x86)

Binary Object  
File

Runnable  
Executable



Preprocessing

Compilation

Assembling

Linking



# Assembly

- Lots of different kinds, just like there's a lot of programming languages
- Tied to hardware
- x86 (Intel, AMD): Most laptops, most desktops, most servers, some game consoles
  - Specifically x86-64, the 64-bit version
- ARM (Qualcomm, Apple, Samsung, NVIDIA): iPhones, most Androids, the new MacBooks, Internet of Things, Nintendo Switch
- RISC-V (SiFive): the new hotness, maybe?



# Inspecting x86 Assembly



## Two Methods

- 1) `objdump -d <executable>`
- 2) `gdb <executable>`
  - `layout asm`

# x86 Example

```
int main()
{
    int n = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        n += i;
    }
    return n;
}
```

```
00000000004004d6 <main>:
4004d6: 55                push %rbp
4004d7: 48 89 e5         mov %rsp,%rbp
4004da: c7 45 f8 00 00 00 00 movl $0x0,-0x8(%rbp)
4004e1: c7 45 fc 00 00 00 00 movl $0x0,-0x4(%rbp)
4004e8: eb 0a           jmp 4004f4
<main+0x1e>
4004ea: 8b 45 fc         mov -0x4(%rbp),%eax
4004ed: 01 45 f8         add %eax,-0x8(%rbp)
4004f0: 83 45 fc 01     addl $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
4004f4: 83 7d fc 04     cmpl $0x4,-0x4(%rbp)
4004f8: 7e f0           jle 4004ea
<main+0x14>
4004fa: 8b 45 f8         mov -0x8(%rbp),%eax
4004fd: 5d             pop %rbp
4004fe: c3             retq
4004ff: 90             nop
```



# x86 Primitives



# Instructions and Arguments

```
int main()
{
    int n = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
        n += i;
    }
    return n;
}
```

```
00000000004004d6 <main>:
4004d6: 55                push %rbp
4004d7: 48 89 e5          mov  %rsp,%rbp
4004da: c7 45 f8 00 00 00 00  movl $0x0,-0x8(%rbp)
4004e1: c7 45 fc 00 00 00 00  movl $0x0,-0x4(%rbp)
4004e8: eb 0a            jmp  4004f4
<main+0x1e>
4004ea: 8b 45 fc          mov  -0x4(%rbp),%eax
4004ed: 01 45 f8          add  %eax,-0x8(%rbp)
4004f0: 83 45 fc 01      addl $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
4004f4: 83 7d fc 04      cmpl $0x4,-0x4(%rbp)
4004f8: 7e f0            jle  4004ea
<main+0x14>
4004fa: 8b 45 f8          mov  -0x8(%rbp),%eax
4004fd: 5d              pop  %rbp
4004fe: c3              retq
4004ff: 90              nop
```

2 arguments

1 argument

0 arguments



# Instruction Syntax

[INSTRUCTION] [optional SUFFIX] [OPERANDS]

ex) `addl $0x1, -0x4(%rbp)`

ex) `add %eax, -0x8(%rbp)`



# Instructions

- Use the CS 107 x86 Reference.



# Optional Instruction Suffixes

Name	Suffix	Width
byte	b	1 byte
word	w	2 bytes
double word	d	4 bytes
quad word	q	8 bytes

- movb
- movw
- movl
- movq
- addl
- subq
- shlw
- (If there's no suffix, one is inferred)




# Operands: 3 Options

- **Immediates**
  - Literally hardcoded hex numbers, prefixed with a \$
    - \$0x3
    - \$0x1cfd
- **Registers**
  - Prefixed with a %
- **Memory Addresses in “Operand Form”**



# General-Purpose Registers

64-bit	RAX	RBX	RCX	RDY	RSI	RDI	RBP	RSP	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15
32-bit	EAX	EBX	ECX	EDX	ESI	EDI	EBP	ESP	R8D	R9D	R10D	R11	R12D	R13D	R14D	R15D
16-bit	AX	BX	CX	DX	SI	DI	BP	SP	R8W	R9W	R10W	R11W	R12W	R13W	R14W	R15W
8-bit	AL	ZBL	CL	DL	SIL	DIL	BPL	SPL	R8B	R9B	R10B	R11B	R12B	R13B	R14B	R15B



## Some Registers with Special Meanings (memorize these)

<code>%rax</code>	Return value of a function
<code>%rdi</code>	First argument to a function
<code>%rsi</code>	Second argument to a function
<code>%rdx</code>	Third argument to a function
<code>%rip</code>	Address of next instruction to execute
<code>%rsp</code>	Address of the top of the current stack



# Operand Forms





# Operand Forms

- General form:
  - `b(reg1, reg2, a)` (where `a` is 1, 2, 4, or 8)
  - Calculated as: `reg1 + a * reg2 + b`
  - Convenient way to do a calculation without explicitly doing `iadd`, `imul`, etc (faster since supported by hardware)
  - Also often used to calculate a memory address within an array or struct
  - Some parts can be omitted – assume its value in the formula above is 0 (or 1 for `a`) – but you have to keep the parentheses, or else it's just a register, not an operand form
  - Example: `17(%rdx, %rcx, 4)`



# Calculate the value of the operand form expression

- For reference:  $b(\text{reg1}, \text{reg2}, a) \Rightarrow \text{reg1} + a * \text{reg2} + b$
- Assume the following:
  - `%rax` contains `0x10`
  - `%rcx` contains `0x2`

1) `(%rax)`

2) `4(%rax)`

3) `(%rax, %rcx)`

4) `4(%rax, %rcx)`



# Calculate the value of the operand form expression

- For reference:  $b(\text{reg1}, \text{reg2}, a) \Rightarrow \text{reg1} + a * \text{reg2} + b$
- Assume the following:
  - `%rax` contains `0x10`
  - `%rcx` contains `0x2`

5) `(, %rcx, 8)`

6) `(%rax, %rcx, 2)`

7) `0x0(%rax, %rcx, 2)`

8) `5(%rax, %rcx)`



mov and lea



# leaq

- ALWAYS of the form:
  - `leaq <operand form> <register>`  
which are source and destination respectively
- Calculates the value of the source operand form, then sticks it into the destination register
- No “dereferencing” occurs!
- Example: `leaq 5(%rax, %rcx), %rbx`
  - Calculates the value `%rax + %rcx + 5`
  - Puts it into `%rbx`



## mov

- Has many variants (move immediate to register, register to register, immediate to operand form, etc)
- In particular, **sometimes** of the form:
  - `mov <operand form> <register>`

which are source and destination respectively

- Calculates the value of the source operand form, **dereferences it to read a value**, then sticks it into the destination register
  - **So that operand form better calculate a memory address! (lea doesn't have to)**
- Example: `mov 5(%rax, %rcx), %rbx`
  - Calculates the value `%rax + %rcx + 5`
  - **Dereferences this value and reads the appropriate number of bytes (here, 8, since this is implied `movq`)**
  - Puts it into `%rbx`



## lea / mov exercises

- `mov $1, %rbx`
- `mov %rsp, %rbx`
- `movb $6, %al`
- `movs $6, %ax`
- `movl $6, %eax`
- `movq $6, %rax`
- `movsbl %al, %ebx`
- `movzbl %al, %ebx`



## lea / mov exercises

- `lea (%rax, %rcx), %rax`
- `mov (%rax, %rcx), %rax`
- `lea (, %rcx, 8), %rax`
- `mov (, %rcx, 8), %rax`





# Section 12 Extra Code Exercises

```
git clone /afs/ir/class/cs107a/WWW/git/section12
```