



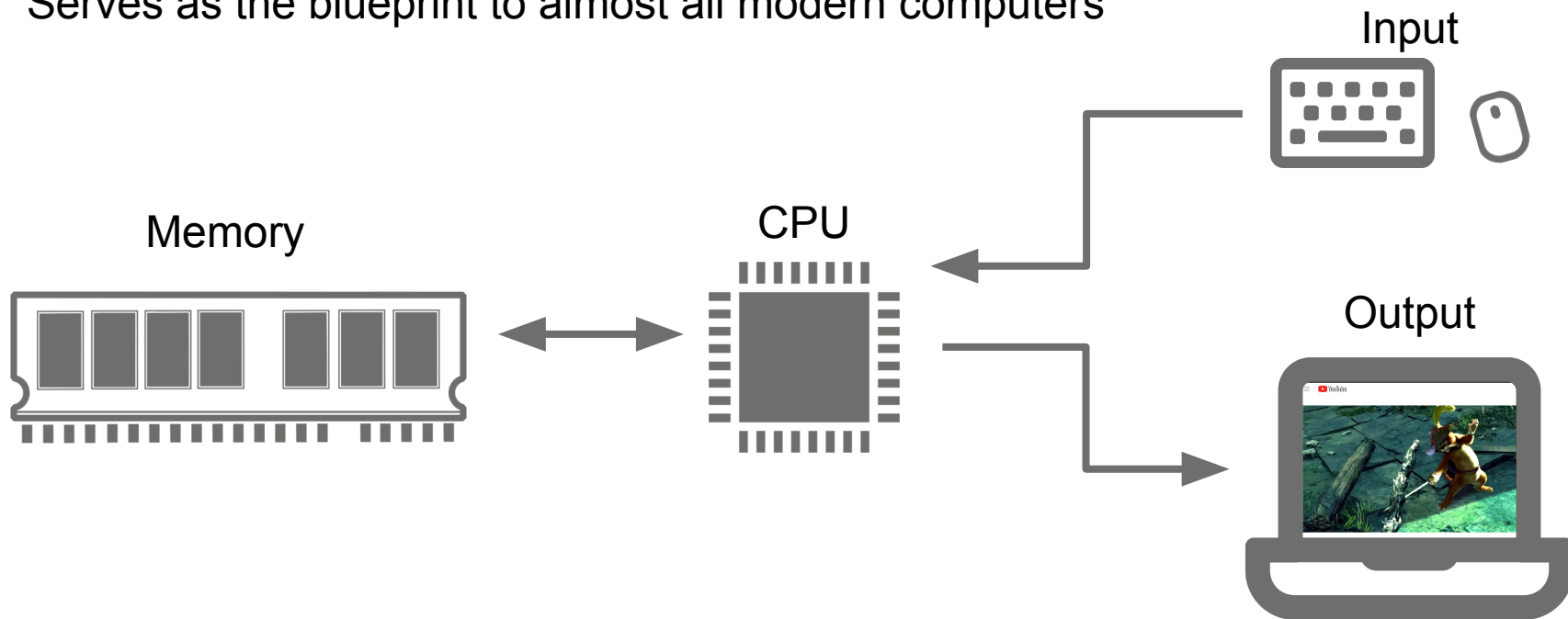
CSC 405 Assembly

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(Slides adapted from Dr. Kapravelos)

The von Neumann Architecture

Serves as the blueprint to almost all modern computers



The von Neumann Architecture

Memory holds two types of information:

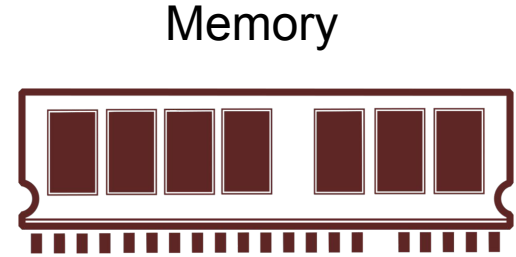
Data Items

- variables, objects, etc.
- Read **from** or written **to**

Program Instructions

- machine code
- Code, but converted into 'binary words'

Both are stored in memory as binary numbers in a continuous array of fixed width (also known as **words**) and have a unique **address**



Compiling Programs

Let's take a look at a simple C program

```
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4      // Create an integer with the initial value of 42
5      int num = 42;
6
7      // Add 31 to the integer
8      num += 31;
9
10     return 0;
11 }
```

Compiling Programs

We can compile C programs using `gcc` to generate a **binary** executable

```
1  #include <stdio.h>
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3  int main() {
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8      num += 31;
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```

```
gcc simple.c -o simple
```

Using `gcc`, compile `simple.c`
and output its binary as `simple`

Compiling Programs

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```
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9
10     return 0;
11 }
```

```
gcc simple.c -o simple
```

It will translate things into binary!

00001000	F3 0F 1E FA 48 83 EC 08 48 8B 05 D9 2F 00 00 48	00001010	85 C0 74 02 FF D0 48 83 C4 08 C3 00 00 00 00 00	00001020	FF 35 A2 2F 00 00 F2 FF 25 A3 2F 00 00 0F 1F 00	00001030	F3 0F 1E FA F2 FF 25 BD 2F 00 00 0F 1F 44 00 00	00001040	F3 0F 1E FA 31 ED 49 89 D1 5E 48 89 E2 48 83 E4	00001050	F0 50 54 45 31 C0 31 C9 48 8D 3D CA 00 00 00 FF	00001060	15 73 2F 00 00 F4 66 2E 0F 1F 84 00 00 00 00 00	00001070	48 8D 3D 99 2F 00 00 48 8D 05 92 2F 00 00 48 39	00001080	F8 74 15 48 8B 05 56 2F 00 00 48 85 C0 74 09 FF	00001090	E0 0F 1F 80 00 00 00 00 C3 0F 1F 80 00 00 00 00	000010A0	48 8D 3D 69 2F 00 00 48 8D 35 62 2F 00 00 48 29	000010B0	FE 48 89 F0 48 C1 EE 3F 48 C1 F8 03 48 01 C6 48	000010C0	D1 FE 74 14 48 8B 05 25 2F 00 00 48 85 C0 74 08	000010D0	FF E0 66 0F 1F 44 00 00 C3 0F 1F 80 00 00 00 00	000010E0	5 2B 55 48 83	000010F0	8 8B 3D 06 2F	00001100	F C6 05 FD 2E	00001110	0 00 00 00 00	00001120	F3 0F 1E FA E9 77 FF FF FF F3 0F 1E FA 55 48 89	00001130	E5 C7 45 FC 2A 00 00 00 83 45 FC 1F B8 00 00 00	00001140	C0 5D C3 00 F3 0F 1E FA 48 83 EC 08 48 83 C4 08	00001150	C3 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---------------	----------	---------------	----------	---------------	----------	---------------	----------	---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	--

Compiling Programs

We can compile C programs using `gcc` to generate a **binary** executable

```

1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4      // Create an integer with the initial value of 42
5      int num = 42;
6
7      // Add 31 to the integer
8      num += 31;
9
10     return 0;
11 }

```

`gcc -nostdlib simple.c -o simple`

We can also exclude the standard library with `-nostdlib` to reduce "the code"

00001000	F30F	1EFA	5548	89E5	C745	FC2A	0000	0083	ó..óUH.âÇEü*....
00001010	45FC	1FB8	0000	0000	5DC3	0000	0000	0000	Eü.,....]Ã.....

Same code, but **only** `simple.c` and nothing else

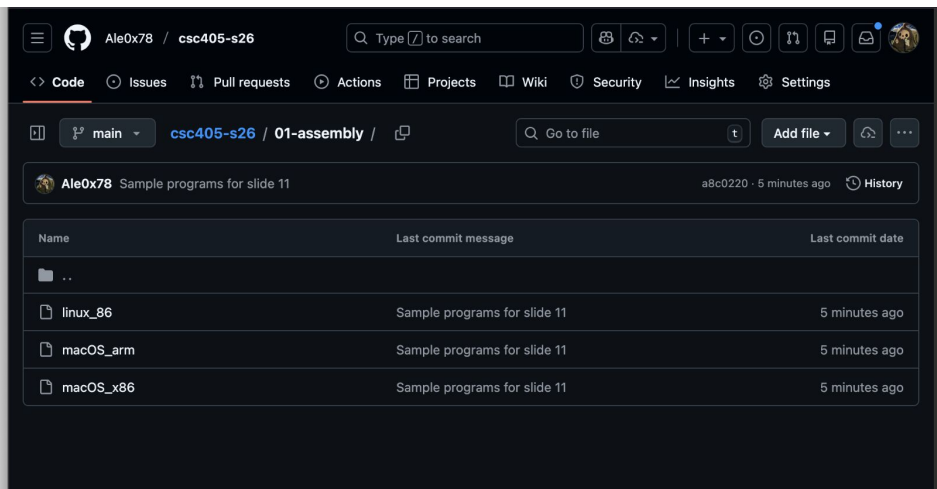
Tools to Become Familiar With

xxd/hexdump -C <filename> - Unix tool to viewing any binary file in hex format

```
alex@Marcille ~/A/c/01-assembly> hexdump -C ~/Downloads/00-intro.pdf | head
00000000  25 50 44 46 2d 31 2e 34  0a 25 20 e2 e3 cf d3 0a  |%PDF-1.4.% .....|
00000010  33 0a 30 0a 6f 62 6a 0a  3c 3c 0a 2f 54 79 70 65  |3.0.obj.<<./Type|
00000020  0a 2f 43 61 74 61 6c 6f  67 0a 2f 4e 61 6d 65 73  |./Catalog./Names|
00000030  0a 3c 3c 0a 3e 3e 0a 2f  50 61 67 65 4c 61 62 65  |.<<.>>./PageLabel|
00000040  6c 73 0a 3c 3c 0a 2f 4e  75 6d 73 0a 5b 0a 30 0a  |ls.<<./Nums.[.0.|
00000050  3c 3c 0a 2f 53 0a 2f 44  0a 2f 53 74 0a 31 0a 3e  |<<./S./D./St.1.>|
00000060  3e 0a 5d 0a 3e 3e 0a 2f  4f 75 74 6c 69 6e 65 73  |>.]>>./Outlines|
00000070  0a 32 0a 30 0a 52 0a 2f  50 61 67 65 73 0a 31 0a  |.2.0.R./Pages.1.|
00000080  30 0a 52 0a 3e 3e 0a 65  6e 64 6f 62 6a 0a 34 0a  |0.R.>>.endobj.4.|
00000090  30 0a 6f 62 6a 0a 3c 3c  0a 2f 43 72 65 61 74 6f  |0.obj.<<./Creato|
alex@Marcille ~/A/c/01-assembly> hexdump -C macOS_arm | head
00000000  cf fa ed fe 0c 00 00 01  00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00  |.....|
00000010  11 00 00 00 20 04 00 00  85 00 20 00 00 00 00 00  |.... ..|
00000020  19 00 00 00 48 00 00 00  5f 5f 50 41 47 45 5a 45  |....H...__PAGEZE|
00000030  52 4f 00 00 00 00 00 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  |RO.....|
00000040  00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  |.....|
00000050  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  |.....|
00000060  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  19 00 00 00 88 01 00 00  |.....|
00000070  5f 5f 54 45 58 54 00 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  |__TEXT.....|
00000080  00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00  00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00  |.....@.....|
00000090  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00  |.....@.....|
alex@Marcille ~/A/c/01-assembly> 
```

Try it yourself: find the password!

<https://go.ncsu.edu/86udx45>

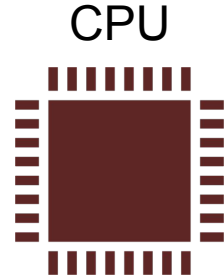


The von Neumann Architecture

The CPU is in charge of executing the currently load program's instructions

Executes three primary tasks:

- **Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)**
 - Make some calculation
 - Do some comparison
- **Registers**
 - Read/Write values from/to memory
 - Stores values on the CPU rather than pushing to memory for efficiency
- **Control Unit**
 - Conditionally **jump** to execute other instructions



Memory is Slow

When the CPU retrieves contents from memory address **i**

- **i** travels from the **CPU** to **RAM**
- **RAM's** logic selects the memory register whose address is **i**
- contents of **RAM[i]** travels back to the **CPU**

Level	Access Time	Typical Size	Technology	Managed By
Registers	1-3 ns	1 KB	CMOS	Compiler
L1 Cache	2-8 ns	8KB - 128KB	SRAM	Hardware
L2 Cache	5-12 ns	0.5MB - 8MB	SRAM	Hardware
Main Memory	10-60 ns	64MB - 1GB	DRAM	OS
Hard Disk	0.3-1 ms	20GB - 100GB	Magnetic	OS / User

Registers

Registers provide the same service but without travel and search expenses

This is because they reside inside the CPU and are much more limited in supply (allowing for shorter instructions)

Serves three purposes:

- **Data** - stores values for short term calculations
- **Addressing** - stores memory addresses for various functions
- **Program Counter** - keeps track of the next instruction to be fetched

Registers

Registers provide the same service but without travel and search expenses

This is because they reside inside the CPU and are much more limited in supply (allowing for shorter instructions)

Serves three purposes:

- **Data** - stores values for short term calculations
- **Addressing** - stores memory addresses for various functions
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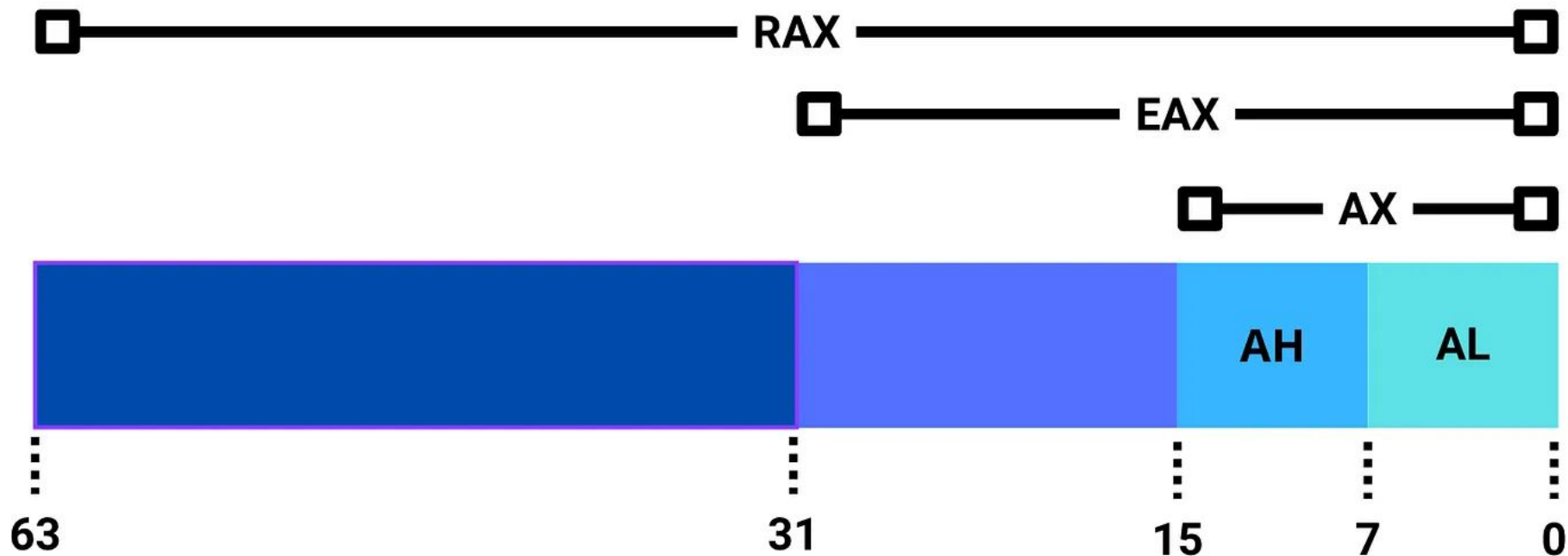
As we'll see next week, this is how we can cause some damage

Registers

Register	Conventional use	Low 32-bits	Low 16-bits	Low 8-bits
%rax	Return value, callee-owned	%eax	%ax	%al
%rdi	1st argument, callee-owned	%edi	%di	%dil
%rsi	2nd argument, callee-owned	%esi	%si	%sil
%rdx	3rd argument, callee-owned	%edx	%dx	%dl
%rcx	4th argument, callee-owned	%ecx	%cx	%cl
%r8	5th argument, callee-owned	%r8d	%r8w	%r8b
%r9	6th argument, callee-owned	%r9d	%r9w	%r9b
%r10	Scratch/temporary, callee-owned	%r10d	%r10w	%r10b
%r11	Scratch/temporary, callee-owned	%r11d	%r11w	%r11b
%rsp	Stack pointer, caller-owned	%esp	%sp	%spl
%rbx	Local variable, caller-owned	%ebx	%bx	%bl
%rbp	Local variable, caller-owned	%ebp	%bp	%bpl
%r12	Local variable, caller-owned	%r12d	%r12w	%r12b
%r13	Local variable, caller-owned	%r13d	%r13w	%r13b
%r14	Local variable, caller-owned	%r14d	%r14w	%r14b
%r15	Local variable, caller-owned	%r15d	%r15w	%r15b
%rip	Instruction pointer			
%eflags	Status/condition code bits			

[From the reading](#)

What's up with *RAX*, *EAX*, *AX*, *AL*?



[From: The Accumulator register in x86-64 assembly: understanding RAX, EAX, AX, AH, and AL](#)

Machine Code

Machine code can be broken down into two categories: **binary** and **symbolic**

C7 45 FC 2A 00 00 00

00001000	F30F	1EFA	5548	89E5	C745	FC2A	0000	0083	ó..úUH.âÇEü*....
00001010	45FC	1FB8	0000	0000	5DC3	0000	0000	0000	Eü.,....]Ã.....

Machine Code

Machine code can be broken down into two categories: **binary** and **symbolic**

C7 45 FC 2A 00 00 00

"binary"

00001000	F30F	1EFA	5548	89E5	C745	FC2A	0000	0083	ó..úUH.âÇEü*....
00001010	45FC	1FB8	0000	0000	5DC3	0000	0000	0000	Eü.,....]Ã.....

Machine Code

Machine code can be broken down into two categories:

C7 45 FC 2A 00 00 00

Instead of
 1100 0111 0100 0101 1111
 1100 0010 1010 0000 0000
 0000 0000 0000 0000,
 we commonly condense it down to
 hexadecimal for "easier reading"

00001000	F30F	1EFA	5548	89E5	C745	FC2A	0000	0083	ó..úUH.âÇEü*....
00001010	45FC	1FB8	0000	0000	5DC3	0000	0000	0000	Eü.,....]Ã.....

Machine Code

Machine code can be broken down into two categories: **binary** and **symbolic**

C7 45 FC 2A 00 00 00

00001000	F30F	1EFA	5548	89E5	C745	FC2A	0000
00001010	45FC	1FB8	0000	0000	5DC3	0000	0000

We can also use a symbolic assembly language that converts these 1's and 0's into something actually readable

```
1  main:
2
3      pushq   %rbp
4      movq    %rsp, %rbp
5      movl    $42, -4(%rbp)
6      addl    $31, -4(%rbp)
7      movl    $0, %eax
8      popq    %rbp
      ret
```

Assembly Flavors

There are several Assembly languages, each written for a specific processor

In accordance with the processor's Instruction Set Architecture, or **ISA**

Three Primary Architectures

- **x86 ← We will be working with this one!**
- ARM
- MIPS
- plus **many** more...

x86 Syntax Branches - Intel and AT&T

Intel

- Windows and DOS programs
- Operations follow the format
mnemonic destination, source
- `mov ebx, 42`

AT&T

- Unix programs
- Operations follows the format
mnemonic source, destination
- `mov $42, %ebx`

Syntax Branches - Intel and AT&T

Intel

- Windows and DOS programs
- Operations follow the format
mnemonic destination, source
- `mov ebx, 42` ←

AT&T

- Unix programs
- Operations follows the format
mnemonic source, destination
- `mov $42, %ebx` ←

Move the
value 42 into
register ebx

* Slight variations between the two

x86 Assembly Syntax - Reserved Keywords

• lds	• sti	• bound	• fwait	• loopz	• lsl	• fucompp	• lock	• fisubrp	• fcomp	• fnop
• les	• cld	• and	• movs	• jmp	• clts	• lea	• nop	• fisubr	• fcompp	• fsave
• lfs	• std	• or	• cmps	• ljmp	• arpl	• mov	• hlt	• fmul	• ficom	• fnsave
• lgs	• add	• xor	• stos	• int	• bsf	• movw	• fld	• fmulp	• ficomp	• fstew
• lss	• adc	• imul	• lods	• into	• bsr	• movsx	• fst	• fimul	• ftst	• fnstew
• pop	• sub	• mul	• scas	• iret	• bt	• movzb	• fstp	• fdiv	• fxam	• fstenv
• push	• sbb	• div	• xlat	• sldt	• btc	• popa	• fxch	• fdivp	• fptan	• fnstenv
• in	• cmp	• idiv	• rep	• str	• btr	• pusha	• fild	• fdivr	• fpatan	• fstsw
• ins	• inc	• cbtw	• repnz	• lldt	• bts	• rcl	• fist	• fdivrp	• f2xm1	• fnstsw
• out	• dec	• cwtl	• repz	• ltr	• cmpxchg	• rcr	• fistp	• fidiv	• fyl2x	• frstor
• outs	• test	• cwtld	• lcall	• verr	• fsin	• rol	• fbld	• fidivr	• fyl2xp1	• fclex
• lahf	• sal	• cltd	• call	• verw	• fcos	• ror	• fbstp	• fsqrt	• fldl2e	• fnclex
• sahf	• shl	• daa	• ret	• sgdt	• fsincos	• setcc	• fadd	• fscale	• fldl2t	• fdecstp
• popf	• sar	• das	• lret	• sidt	• fld	• bswap	• faddp	• fprem	• fldlg2	• ffree
• pushf	• shr	• aaa	• enter	• lgdt	• fldcw	• xadd	• fiadd	• frndint	• fldln2	• fincstp
• cmc	• shld	• aas	• leave	• lidt	• fldenv	• xchg	• fsub	• fextract	• fldpi	
• clc	• shrd	• aam	• jcxz	• smsw	• fprem	• wbinvd	• fsubp	• fabs	• fldz	
• stc	• not	• aad	• loop	• lmsw	• fucom	• invd	• fsubr	• fchs	• finit	
• cli	• neg	• wait	• loopnz	• lar	• fucomp	• invlpg	• fsubrp	• fcom	• fnint	

x86 Assembly Syntax - Reserved Keywords

- lds
- les
- lfs
- lgs
- lss
- pop
- push
- in
- inb
- out
- outb
- lal
- sal
- pop
- push
- cld
- stc
- cli
- sti
- cld
- std
- bound
- and
- or
- fwait
- movs
- cmps
- loopz
- jmp
- ljmp
- isl
- clts
- arpl
- fucompp
- lock
- lea
- mov
- fisubrp
- nop
- hlt
- fisubr
- fcompp
- fmul
- fcomp
- fcom
- fnop
- fsave
- fnsave
- shrd
- aam
- jcxz
- smsw
- fprem
- wbinvd
- fsubp
- fabs
- fldz
- not
- aad
- loop
- lmsw
- fucom
- invd
- fsubr
- fchs
- finit
- neg
- wait
- loopnz
- lar
- fucomp
- invlpg
- fsubrp
- fcom
- fnint

You don't need to memorize them, but be aware they all exist, have corresponding hexadecimal values, and **some** of them will be needed for this class

Executing Programs

When a program is executed, various elements of the program are loaded into memory

Information from the program is then loaded from the address space in memory

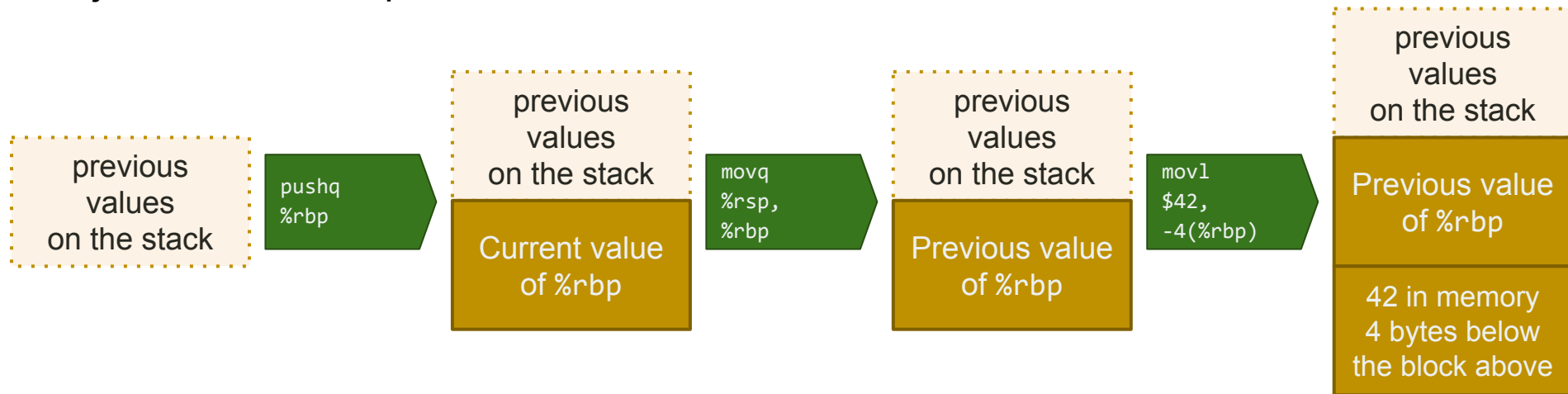
Three Segments:

- .text** - holds program instructions (read-only)
- .bss** - reserved for global variables, contains uninitialized data
- .data** - reserved for global variables, contains initialized data

Stack Machine Model

Arithmetic commands pop their operands from the top of the stack and push their results back to the stack

Since stacks are LIFO (last in first out), a stack pointer (sp) tracks the location just above the topmost element



Programs in Memory

↑ Lower Memory Addresses (0x08000000)

Shared Libraries

.text

.bss

Heap (grows ↓)

Stack (grows ↑)

env pointer

argc

↓ Higher Memory Addresses (0xbfffffff)

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 pushq %rbp

3 movq %rsp, %rbp

4 movl \$42, -4(%rbp)

5 addl \$31, -4(%rbp)

6 movl \$0, %eax

7 popq %rbp

8 ret

```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

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```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

These first two instructions serve as the "function prologue"

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 `pushq %rbp`

3 `movq %rsp, %rbp`

4 `movl $42, -4(%rbp)`

5 `addl $31, -4(%rbp)`

6 `movl $0, %eax`

7 `popq %rbp`

8 `ret`

```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

First, we **push** the **base pointer** (`%rbp`) onto the stack for later

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 **pushq** %rbp

3 **movq** %rsp, %rbp

4 **movl** \$42, -4(%rbp)

5 **addl** \$31, -4(%rbp)

6 **movl** \$0, %eax

7 **popq** %rbp

8 **ret**

```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Next, we **move** (really copy) the **stack pointer** (%rsp) to the **base pointer** (%rbp)

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2	pushq	%rbp
3	movq	%rsp, %rbp
4	movl	\$42, -4(%rbp)
5	addl	\$31, -4(%rbp)
6	movl	\$0, %eax
7	popq	%rbp
8	ret	

```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

These two instructions establish the **stack frame** of the program

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 pushq %rbp

3 movq %rsp, %rbp

4 movl \$42, -4(%rbp)

5 addl \$31, -4(%rbp)

6 movl \$0, %eax

7 popq %rbp

8 ret

```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Next, we're storing the constant 42 (\$42) into a memory location

-4(%rbp) is pointing to a memory address that is 4 bytes before %rbp

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

```
1 main:
2     pushq    %rbp
3     movq     %rsp, %rbp
4     movl     $42, -4(%rbp)
5     addl     $31, -4(%rbp)
6     movl     $0, %eax
7     popq     %rbp
8     ret
```

```
int main() {
    // Create an integer with
    int num = 42;

    // Add 31 to the integer
    num += 31;

    return 0;
}
```

Next, add the constant 31 (\$31) that same memory address

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 pushq %rbp

3 movq %rsp, %rbp

4 movl \$42, -4(%rbp)

5 addl \$31, -4(%rbp)

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int main() {  
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    return 0;  
}
```

C programs need to return a value, so here we are copying the return value (0) to a general purpose register (%eax)

Machine Code

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int main() {  
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    // Add 31 to the integer  
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    return 0;  
}
```

General purpose register (%eax)
Register relative to stack (%rbp)

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```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

We **pop** the **base pointer** (%rbp)
off the stack to return it to its
original value

Machine Code

Let's break down the machine code of simple.c

1 **main:**

2 pushq %rbp

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```
int main() {  
    // Create an integer with  
    int num = 42;  
  
    // Add 31 to the integer  
    num += 31;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

Finally, we **return** from the function, where the return value (0) is expected to be stored in %eax

Let's read some assembly

A dark-themed terminal window with three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) in the top-left corner. It contains assembly code for a function named 'main'.

```
main:  
    push $1  
    push $2  
    push $3  
    push $4  
    pop %rax
```

- *push: pushes the values onto the stack*
- *pop: pops the last value off of the stack into the given register*

What is RAX?

[Let's emulate it](#)

Let's read some assembly



```
.global main
.section      .text

main:
    movq %rsp, %rbp
    push $1
    push $2
    movq %rbp, %rax
    movq %rsp, %rcx
    sub   %rcx, %rax
    ret
```

- *push: pushes the values onto the stack*
- *pop: pops the last value off of the stack into the given register*
- *mov(q): copies the values from src→dest. The (q) means 64-bit values*
- *sub: dest = dest - src*

What is RAX?

Step-by-step

- Let's step through it with [ASM-Visualizer](#)
- What if this was a 32-bit system?
 - You can do this in GDB!

```
Breakpoint 2, 0x0804900c in _start ()
(gdb) info registers
eax            0x8                8
ecx            0xfffffa6f8        -22792
edx            0x0                0
ebx            0x0                0
esp            0xfffffa6f8        0xfffffa6f8
ebp            0xfffffa700        0xfffffa700
esi            0x0                0
edi            0x0                0
eip            0x0804900c        0x0804900c <_start+12>
eflags         0x212            [ AF IF ]
cs             0x23                35
ss             0x2b                43
ds             0x2b                43
es             0x2b                43
fs             0x0                0
gs             0x0                0
```


Breakpoint at
_start

Assemble the
file

There is our
code!

Run until the
ret
instruction

```
alex@mithrun ~/A/tmp> cc -m32 -static -nostdlib sample.s -o a.out
alex@mithrun ~/A/tmp> gdb -q a.out
Reading symbols from a.out...
(No debugging symbols found in a.out)
(gdb) b _start
Breakpoint 1 at 0x8049000
(gdb) r
Starting program: /home/alex/Ambrosia/tmp/a.out

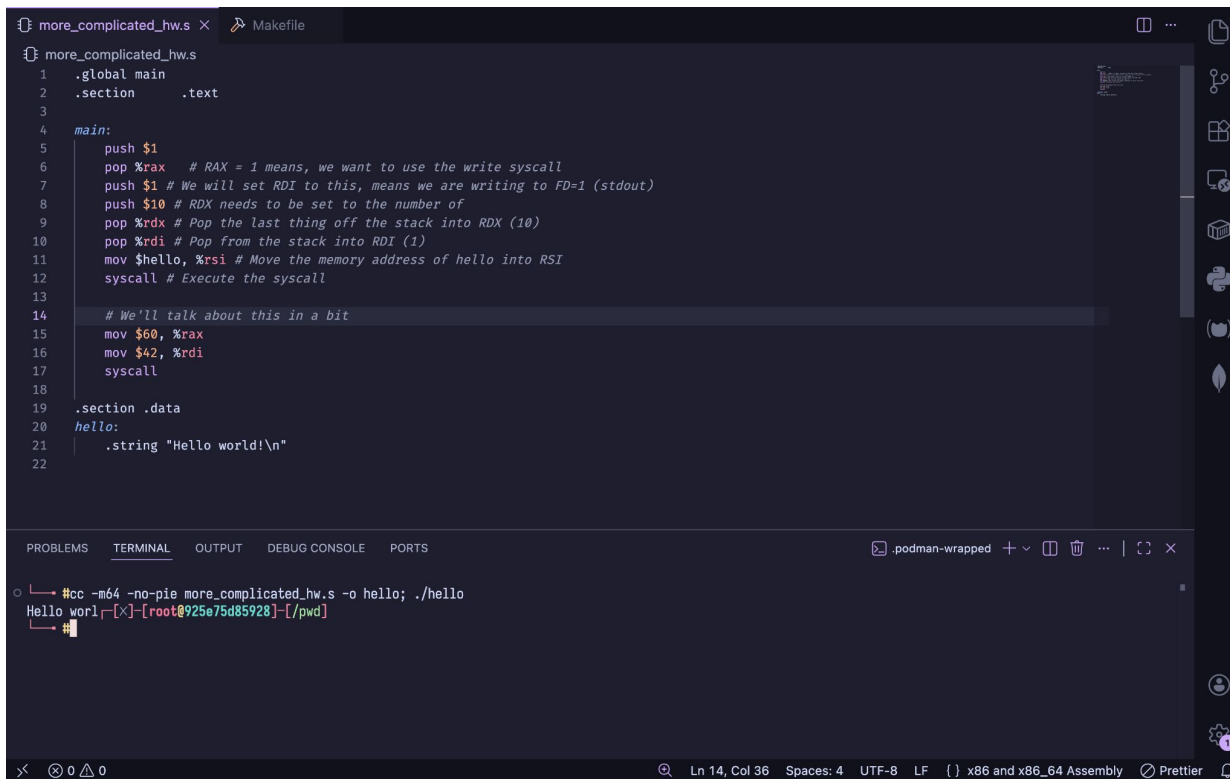
Breakpoint 1, 0x8049000 in _start ()
(gdb) disassemble
Dump of assembler code for function _start:
=> 0x8049000 <+0>:    mov     %esp,%ebp
    0x8049002 <+2>:    push   $0x1
    0x8049004 <+4>:    push   $0x2
    0x8049006 <+6>:    mov     %ebp,%eax
    0x8049008 <+8>:    mov     %esp,%ecx
    0x804900a <+10>:   sub     %ecx,%eax
    0x804900c <+12>:   ret
End of assembler dump.
(gdb) b *0x804900c
Breakpoint 2 at 0x804900c
(gdb) c
Continuing.

Breakpoint 2, 0x804900c in _start ()
(gdb) info registers
eax            0x8                8
ecx            0xfffffa6f8        -22792
edx            0x0                0
ebx            0x0                0
esp            0xfffffa6f8        0xfffffa6f8
ebp            0xfffffa700        0xfffffa700
esi            0x0                0
edi            0x0                0
eip            0x804900c        0x804900c <_start+12>
eflags        0x212            [ AF IF ]
cs             0x23            35
ss             0x2b            43
ds             0x2b            43
es             0x2b            43
fs             0x0                0
gs             0x0                0
```

A more complicated than needed Hello World

```
more_complicated_hw.s × Makefile
more_complicated_hw.s
1  .global main
2  .section      .text
3
4  main:
5      push $1
6      pop %rax  # RAX = 1 means, we want to use the write syscall
7      push $1 # We will set RDI to this, means we are writing to FD=1 (stdout)
8      push $10 # RDX needs to be set to the number of
9      pop %rdx # Pop the last thing off the stack into RDX (10)
10     pop %rdi # Pop from the stack into RDI (1)
11     mov $hello, %rsi # Move the memory address of hello into RSI
12     syscall # Execute the syscall
13
14     # We'll talk about this in a bit
15     mov $60, %rax
16     mov $42, %rdi
17     syscall
18
19 .section .data
20 hello:
21     .string "Hello world!\n"
```

Did you spot the bug?



The screenshot shows a code editor with a file named `more_complicated_hw.s` and a `Makefile`. The assembly code is as follows:

```
1  .global main
2  .section      .text
3
4  main:
5      push $1
6      pop %rax   # RAX = 1 means, we want to use the write syscall
7      push $1   # We will set RDI to this, means we are writing to FD=1 (stdout)
8      push $10  # RDX needs to be set to the number of
9      pop %rdx  # Pop the last thing off the stack into RDX (10)
10     pop %rdi  # Pop from the stack into RDI (1)
11     mov $hello, %rsi # Move the memory address of hello into RSI
12     syscall # Execute the syscall
13
14     # We'll talk about this in a bit
15     mov $60, %rax
16     mov $42, %rdi
17     syscall
18
19 .section .data
20 hello:
21     .string "Hello world!\n"
22
```

The terminal output shows the command `gcc -m64 -no-pie more_complicated_hw.s -o hello; ./hello` being executed, resulting in the output `Hello world!`. The terminal prompt is `[X]-[root@925e75d85928]-[/pwd]`.

At the bottom of the editor, the status bar indicates: `Ln 14, Col 36`, `Spaces: 4`, `UTF-8`, `LF`, `{ } x86 and x86_64 Assembly`, and `Prettier`.

Let's step through it

- [ASM Visualizer](#)
- How you know how to set the registers? Use a [syscall table](#)

```
# What does this do?
mov $60, %rax
mov $42, %rdi
syscall
```

x86_64 (64-bit)

Compiled from [Linux 4.14.0 headers](#).

NR	syscall name	references	%rax	arg0 (%rdi)	arg1 (%rsi)	arg2 (%rdx)	arg3 (%r10)	arg4 (%r8)	arg5 (%r9)
0	read	man/ cs/	0x00	unsigned int fd	char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
1	write	man/ cs/	0x01	unsigned int fd	const char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
59	execve	man/ cs/	0x3b	const char *filename	const char *const *argv	const char *const *envp	-	-	-
60	exit	man/ cs/	0x3c	int error_code	-	-	-	-	-
61	wait4	man/ cs/	0x3d	pid_t pid	int *stat_addr	int options	struct rusage *ru	-	-
62	kill	man/ cs/	0x3e	pid_t pid	int sig	-	-	-	-
63	uname	man/ cs/	0x3f	struct old_utsname *	-	-	-	-	-
64	semget	man/ cs/	0x40	key_t key	int nsems	int semflg	-	-	-

Let's put this all together!

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    printf("hello, world\n");
    return 0;
}
```

'C' Code

```
main      proc near
var_10    = dword ptr -10h

;
push     ebp
mov      ebp, esp
and      esp, 0FFFFFFF0h
sub      esp, 10h
mov      eax, offset aHelloWorld ; "hello, world\n"
mov      [esp+10h+var_10], eax
call     _printf
mov      eax, 0
leave
retn
main      endp
```

The Registers

EAX	
EBX	
ECX	
EDX	
EBP	
ESP	
ESI	
EDI	

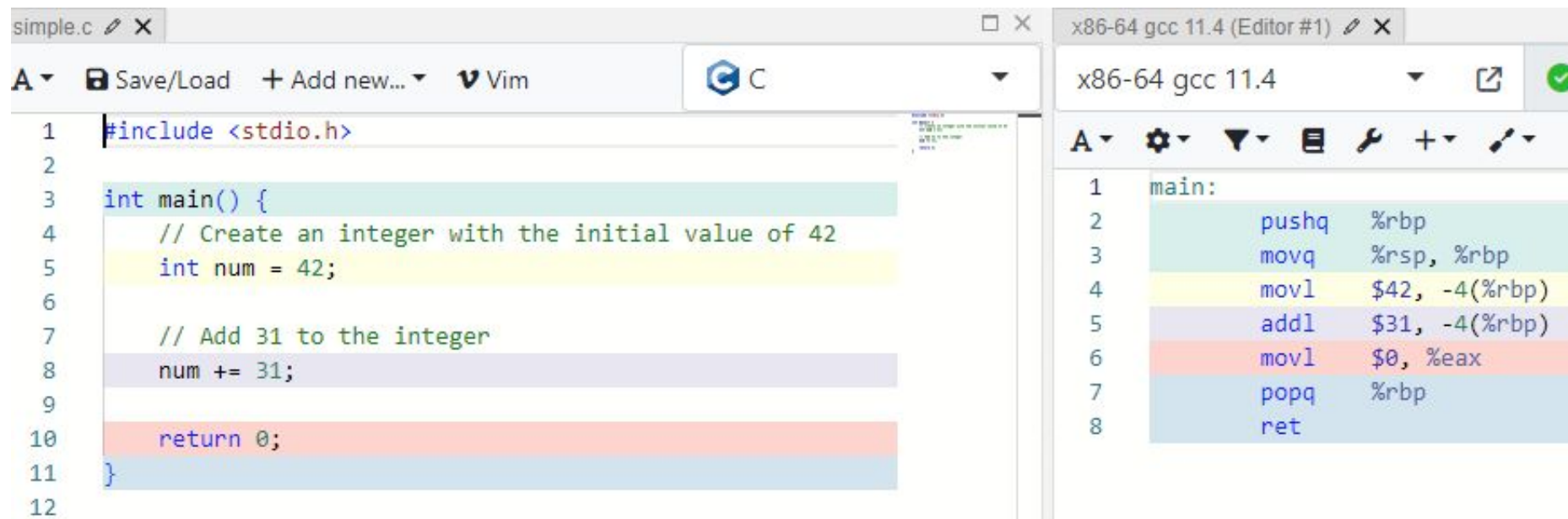
The Stack Frame

Local Variables	
Saved EBP	EBP + 0
Return Address	EBP + 4
Parameters	

Source: [MalwareUnicorn's Blog](#)

Tools to Become Familiar With

godbolt.org - You can use this site to browser the machine code for any program



The screenshot displays the Godbolt website interface. On the left, a C program named 'simple.c' is shown in a code editor. The program includes `<stdio.h>`, defines a `main` function, and contains the following logic: it creates an integer `num` with the value 42, adds 31 to it, and then returns 0. The code is color-coded: comments are green, variable declarations and assignments are yellow, arithmetic operations are purple, and the return statement is red. On the right, the x86-64 assembly code generated by GCC 11.4 is displayed. The assembly starts with `main:` and includes instructions for pushing the base pointer, moving the stack pointer to the base pointer, moving the value 42 to the memory location `-4(%rbp)`, adding 31 to it, moving the value 0 to the `%eax` register, popping the base pointer, and finally returning.

```
simple.c ✕
A Save/Load + Add new... Vim C
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int main() {
4     // Create an integer with the initial value of 42
5     int num = 42;
6
7     // Add 31 to the integer
8     num += 31;
9
10    return 0;
11 }
12
```

```
x86-64 gcc 11.4 (Editor #1) ✕
x86-64 gcc 11.4
A [Settings] [Filter] [List] [Tools] [Add] [Share]
1 main:
2     pushq    %rbp
3     movq     %rsp, %rbp
4     movl     $42, -4(%rbp)
5     addl     $31, -4(%rbp)
6     movl     $0, %eax
7     popq     %rbp
8     ret
```

Tools to Become Familiar With

`objdump -zd <binary>` - Linux tool for producing the same results locally

```
00000000000001000 <main>:
   1000:      f3 0f 1e fa                endbr64
   1004:      55                        push    %rbp
   1005:      48 89 e5                mov     %rsp,%rbp
   1008:      c7 45 fc 2a 00 00 00    movl    $0x2a,-0x4(%rbp)
   100f:      83 45 fc 1f                addl    $0x1f,-0x4(%rbp)
   1013:      b8 00 00 00 00          mov     $0x0,%eax
   1018:      5d                        pop     %rbp
   1019:      c3                        ret
```

Wait... where is the hello world?

- We are missing an important part for that, **syscalls**!

Setup the registers,
depending on what you
want to do

What does this do?

mov \$60, %rax

mov \$42, %rdi

syscall

Wait... where is the hello world?

- We are missing an important part for that, **syscalls**!

Say the
magic word!

What does this do?

mov \$60, %rax

mov \$42, %rdi

syscall

Wait... where is the hello world?

- We are missing an important part for that, **syscalls**!
- No need to memorize, just look at a [lookup table](#)

Syscall ID

What does this do?

```
mov $60, %rax
```

```
mov $42, %rdi
```

```
syscall
```

x86_64 (64-bit)

Compiled from [Linux 4.14.0 headers](#).

NR	syscall name	references	%rax	arg0 (%rdi)	arg1 (%rsi)	arg2 (%rdx)	arg3 (%r10)	arg4 (%r8)	arg5 (%r9)
0	read	man/ cs/	0x00	unsigned int fd	char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
1	write	man/ cs/	0x01	unsigned int fd	const char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
59	execve	man/ cs/	0x3b	const char *filename	const char *const *argv	const char *const *envp	-	-	-
60	exit	man/ cs/	0x3c	int error_code	-	-	-	-	-
61	wait4	man/ cs/	0x3d	pid_t pid	int *stat_addr	int options	struct rusage *ru	-	-
62	kill	man/ cs/	0x3e	pid_t pid	int sig	-	-	-	-
63	uname	man/ cs/	0x3f	struct old_utsname *	-	-	-	-	-
64	semget	man/ cs/	0x40	key_t key	int nsems	int semflg	-	-	-

Next week: Hello world!

```
.section .text
.global _start

_start:
    movq $0x0a6f6c6c6548, %rax # Hello\n → 48 65 6C 6C 6F A0
    pushq %rax # Push to the stack

    movq $1, %rax
    movq $1, %rdi
    movq %rsp, %rsi
    movq $6, %rdx
    syscall

    movq $60, %rax
    xorq %rdi, %rdi
    syscall
```

x86_64 (64-bit)

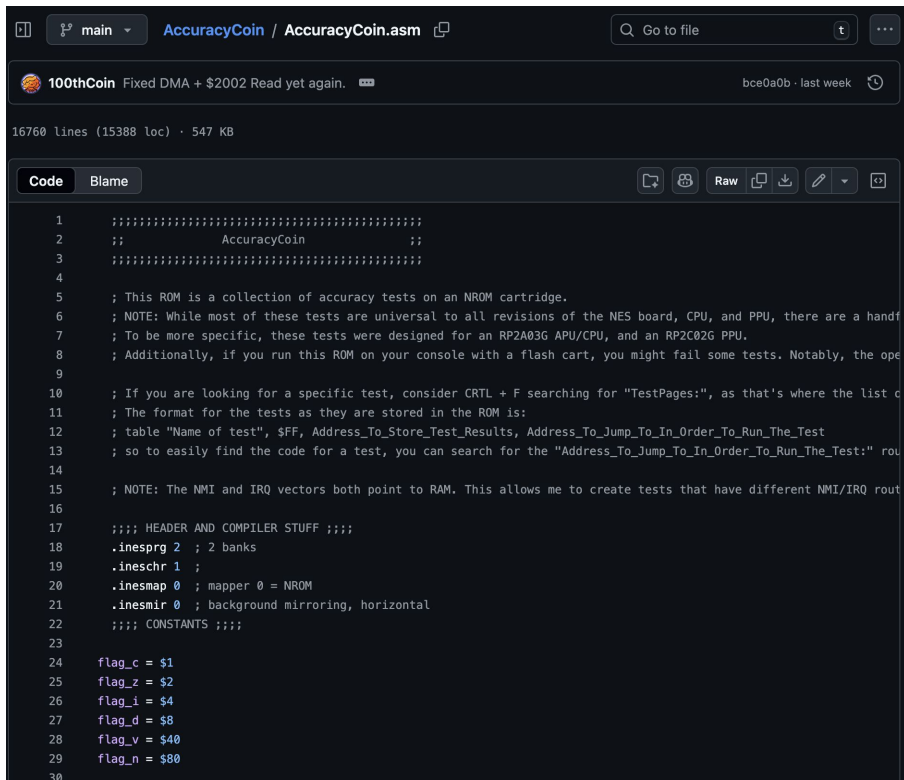
Compiled from [Linux 4.14.0 headers](#).

NR	syscall name	references	%rax	arg0 (%rdi)	arg1 (%rsi)	arg2 (%rdx)	arg3 (%r10)	arg4 (%r8)	arg5 (%r9)
0	read	man/ cs/	0x00	unsigned int fd	char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-
1	write	man/ cs/	0x01	unsigned int fd	const char *buf	size_t count	-	-	-

In-class practice

```
more_complicated_hw.s X Makefile
more_complicated_hw.s
1  .global main
2  .section      .text
3
4  main:
5      push $1
6      pop %rax  # RAX = 1 means, we want to use the write syscall
7      push $1 # We will set RDI to this, means we are writing to FD=1 (stdout)
8      push $10 # RDX needs to be set to the number of
9      pop %rdx # Pop the last thing off the stack into RDX (10)
10     pop %rdi # Pop from the stack into RDI (1)
11     mov $hello, %rsi # Move the memory address of hello into RSI
12     syscall # Execute the syscall
13
14     # We'll talk about this in a bit
15     mov $60, %rax
16     mov $42, %rdi
17     syscall
18
19 .section .data
20 hello:
21     .string "Hello world!\n"
```

How Inaccurate are Nintendo's Official Emulators?



```
1  ;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;
2  ;;      AccuracyCoin      ;;
3  ;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;
4
5  ; This ROM is a collection of accuracy tests on an NROM cartridge.
6  ; NOTE: While most of these tests are universal to all revisions of the NES board, CPU, and PPU, there are a handful
7  ; To be more specific, these tests were designed for an RP2A03G APU/CPU, and an RP2C02G PPU.
8  ; Additionally, if you run this ROM on your console with a flash cart, you might fail some tests. Notably, the open
9
10 ; If you are looking for a specific test, consider CTRL + F searching for "TestPages:", as that's where the list of
11 ; The format for the tests as they are stored in the ROM is:
12 ; table "Name of test", $FF, Address_To_Store_Test_Results, Address_To_Jump_To_In_Order_To_Run_The_Test
13 ; so to easily find the code for a test, you can search for the "Address_To_Jump_To_In_Order_To_Run_The_Test:" routine
14
15 ; NOTE: The NMI and IRQ vectors both point to RAM. This allows me to create tests that have different NMI/IRQ routines
16
17 ;;; HEADER AND COMPILER STUFF ;;;
18 .inesprg 2 ; 2 banks
19 .ineschr 1 ;
20 .inesmap 0 ; mapper 0 = NROM
21 .inesmir 0 ; background mirroring, horizontal
22 ;;; CONSTANTS ;;;
23
24 flag_c = $1
25 flag_z = $2
26 flag_i = $4
27 flag_d = $8
28 flag_v = $40
29 flag_n = $80
30
```

