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Great Ideas in Computer Architecture (a.k.a. Machine Structures)



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RISC-V Assembly Language

RISC-V Function Call Example

Review: Six Basic Steps in Calling a Function

1. Put **arguments** in a place (registers) where function can access them
2. Transfer control to function (**jal**)
3. Acquire (local) storage resources needed for function
4. Perform desired task of the function
5. Put **return value** in a place where calling code can access it and restore any registers you used; release local storage
6. Return control to point of origin, since a function can be called from several points in a program (**ret**)

Function Call Example

```
int Leaf
(int g, int h, int i, int j)
{
    int f;
    f = (g + h) - (i + j);
    return f;
}
```

- Parameter variables `g`, `h`, `i`, and `j` in argument registers `a0`, `a1`, `a2`, and `a3`, and `f` in `s0`
- Assume need one temporary register `s1`

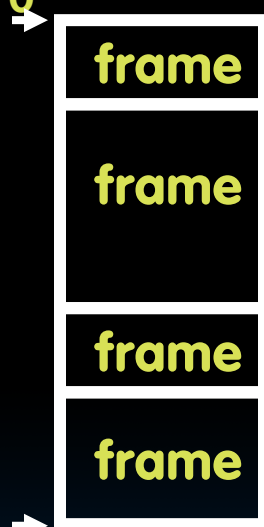


Where Are Old Register Values Saved to Restore Them After Function Call?

- Need a place to save old values before calling function, restore them when return, and delete
- Ideal is *stack*: last-in-first-out (LIFO) queue (e.g., stack of plates)
 - Push: placing data onto stack
 - Pop: removing data from stack
- Stack in memory, so need register to point to it
- **sp** is the *stack pointer* in RISC-V (**x2**)
- Convention is grow stack down from high to low addresses
 - *Push* decrements **sp**, *Pop* increments **sp**

- Stack frame includes:
 - Return "instruction" address
 - Parameters (arguments)
 - Space for other local variables
- Stack frames contiguous blocks of memory; stack pointer tells where bottom of stack frame is
- When procedure ends, stack frame is tossed off the stack; frees memory for future stack frames

0xFFFFFFFF0



\$sp

Reminder: Leaf

```
int Leaf
(int g, int h, int i, int j)
{
    int f;
    f = (g + h) - (i + j);
    return f;
}
```

- Parameter variables `g`, `h`, `i`, and `j` in argument registers `a0`, `a1`, `a2`, and `a3`, and `f` in `s0`
- Assume need one temporary register `s1`

RISC-V Code for Leaf()

```

Leaf:      addi sp,sp,-8 # adjust stack for 2 items
           sw  s1, 4(sp) # save s1 for use afterwards
           sw  s0, 0(sp) # save s0 for use afterwards

           add s0,a0,a1 # f = g + h
           add s1,a2,a3 # s1 = i + j
           sub a0,s0,s1 # return value (g + h) - (i + j)

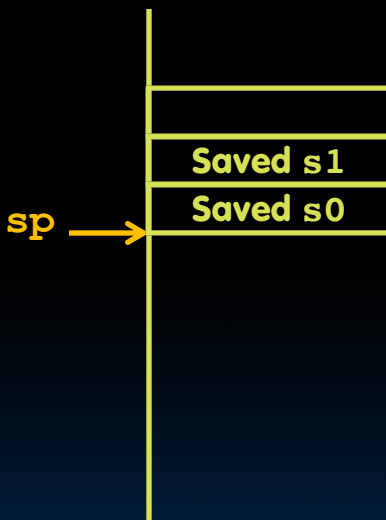
           lw  s0, 0(sp) # restore register s0 for caller
           lw  s1, 4(sp) # restore register s1 for caller
           addi sp,sp,8 # adjust stack to delete 2 items
           jr  ra      # jump back to calling routine
    
```

Stack Before, During, After Function

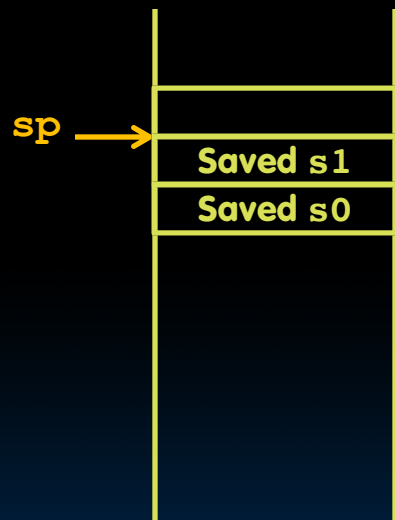
- Need to save old values of `s0` and `s1`



Before call



During call



After call

Nested Calls and Register Conventions



What If a Function Calls a Function? Recursive Function Calls?

- Would clobber values in `a0-a7` and `ra`
- What is the solution?

Nested Procedures

```
int sumSquare(int x, int y) {
    return mult(x,x)+ y;
}
```

- Something called **sumSquare**, now **sumSquare** is calling **mult**
- So there's a value in **ra** that **sumSquare** wants to jump back to, but this will be overwritten by the call to **mult**

Need to save **sumSquare** return address before call to **mult** – again, use stack



Register Conventions (1/2)

- CalleR: the calling function
- CalleE: the function being called
- When callee returns from executing, the caller needs to know which registers may have changed and which are guaranteed to be unchanged.
- **Register Conventions**: A set of generally accepted rules as to which registers will be unchanged after a procedure call (**jal**) and which may be changed.

Register Conventions (2/2)

To reduce expensive loads and stores from spilling and restoring registers, RISC-V function-calling convention divides registers into two categories:

1. Preserved across function call
 - Caller can rely on values being unchanged
 - **sp, gp, tp,**
"saved registers" **s0- s11** (**s0** is also **fp**)
2. Not preserved across function call
 - Caller *cannot* rely on values being unchanged
 - Argument/return registers **a0-a7, ra,**
"temporary registers" **t0-t6**

RISC-V Symbolic Register Names

Numbers hardware understands

Register	ABI Name	Description	Saver
x0	zero	Hard-wired zero	-
x1	ra	Return address	Caller
x2	sp	Stack pointer	Callee
x3	gp	Global pointer	-
x4	tp	Thread pointer	-
x5	t0	Temporary/Alternate link register	Caller
x6-7	t1-2	Temporaries	Caller
x8	s0/fp	Saved register/Frame pointer	Callee
x9	s1	Saved register	Callee
x10-11	a0-1	Function arguments/Return values	Caller
x12-17	a2-7	Function arguments	Caller
x18-27	s2-11	Saved registers	Callee
x28-31	t3-6	Temporaries	Caller

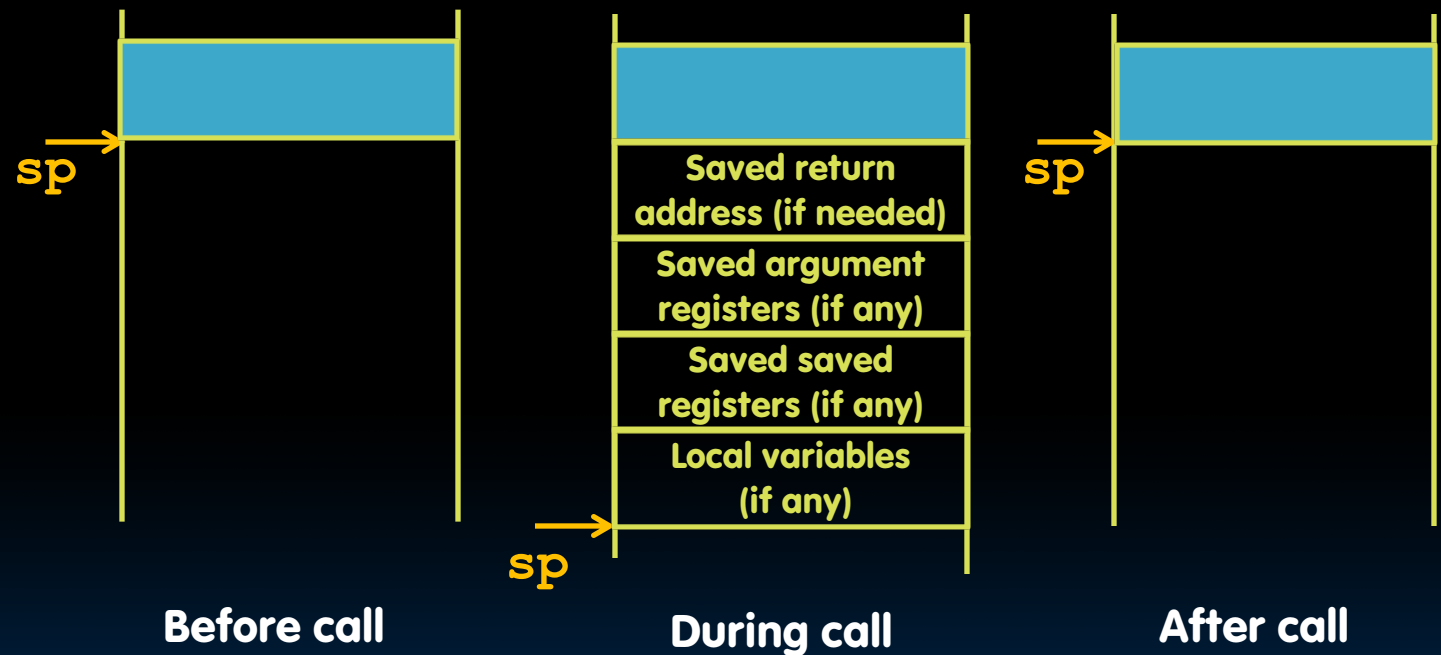
Human-friendly symbolic names in assembly code

Memory Allocation

Allocating Space on Stack

- C has two storage classes: automatic and static
 - *Automatic* variables are local to function and discarded when function exits
 - *Static* variables exist across exits from and entries to procedures
- Use stack for automatic (local) variables that don't fit in registers
- *Procedure frame* or *activation record*: segment of stack with saved registers and local variables

Stack Before, During, After Function



Using the Stack (1/2)

- Recall - **sp** always points to the last used space in the stack
- To use stack, we decrement this pointer by the amount of space we need and then fill it with info
- So, how do we compile this?

```
int sumSquare(int x, int y) {  
    return mult(x,x)+ y;  
}
```

Using the Stack (2/2)

```
int sumSquare(int x, int y) {
    return mult(x,x)+ y; }
```

sumSquare:

“push”	addi sp,sp,-8	<i># space on stack</i>
	sw ra, 4(sp)	<i># save ret addr</i>
	sw a1, 0(sp)	<i># save y</i>
	mv a1,a0	<i># mult(x,x)</i>
	jal mult	<i># call mult</i>
“pop”	lw a1, 0(sp)	<i># restore y</i>
	add a0,a0,a1	<i># mult()+y</i>
	lw ra, 4(sp)	<i># get ret addr</i>
	addi sp,sp,8	<i># restore stack</i>
	jr ra	

mult: ...


Memory Allocation

- When a C program is run, there are three important memory areas allocated:
 - **Static**: Variables declared once per program, cease to exist only after execution completes - e.g., C globals
 - **Heap**: Variables declared dynamically via `malloc`
 - **Stack**: Space to be used by procedure during execution; this is where we can save register values



Where is the Stack in Memory?

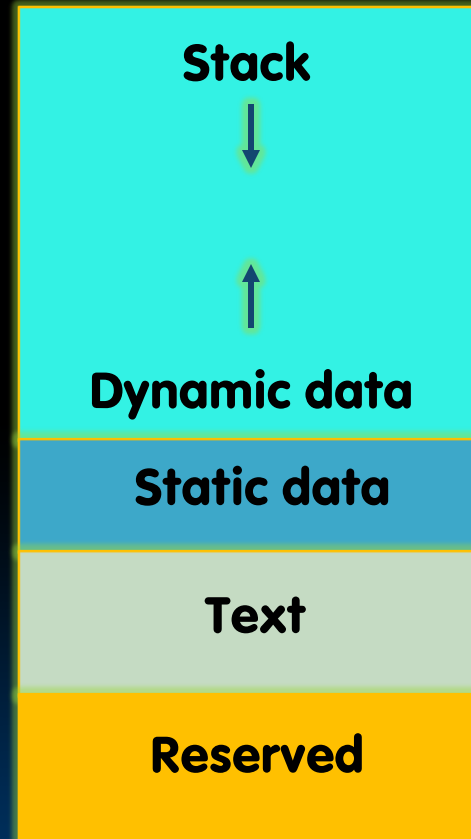
- RV32 convention (RV64/RV128 have different memory layouts)
- Stack starts in high memory and grows down
 - Hexadecimal: `0xffff_ffff_hex`
 - Stack must be aligned on 16-byte boundary
(not true in previous examples)
- RV32 programs (*text segment*) in low end
 - `0x0001_0000_hex`
- *static data segment* (constants and other static variables) above text for static variables
 - RISC-V convention *global pointer (gp)* points to static
 - RV32 `gp = 0x1000_0000_hex`
- *Heap* above static for data structures that grow and shrink ; grows up to high addresses

RV32 Memory Allocation

$Sp = bfff\ fff0_{hex}$

$1000\ 0000_{hex}$

$pc = 0001\ 0000_{hex}$



0

RISC-V (97)

**“And In
Conclusion...”**

RV32 So Far...

- Arithmetic/logic

```
add rd, rs1, rs2
sub rd, rs1, rs2
and rd, rs1, rs2
or  rd, rs1, rs2
xor rd, rs1, rs2
sll rd, rs1, rs2
srl rd, rs1, rs2
sra rd, rs1, rs2
```

- Immediate

```
addi rd, rs1, imm
subi rd, rs1, imm
andi rd, rs1, imm
ori  rd, rs1, imm
xori rd, rs1, imm
slli rd, rs1, imm
srli rd, rs1, imm
srai rd, rs1, imm
```

- Load/store

```
lw  rd, rs1, imm
lb  rd, rs1, imm
lbu rd, rs1, imm
sw  rs1, rs2, imm
sb  rs1, rs2, imm
```

- Branching/jumps

```
beq  rs1, rs2, Label
bne  rs1, rs2, Label
bge  rs1, rs2, Label
blt  rs1, rs2, Label
bgeu rs1, rs2, Label
bltu rs1, rs2, Label
jal  rd, Label
jalr rd, rs, imm
```

```
temp = v[k];  
v[k] = v[k+1];  
v[k+1] = temp;
```

```
lw      x3, 0(x10)
lw      x4, 4(x10)
sw      x4, 0(x10)
sw      x3, 4(x10)
```

**Anything can be represented
as a number,
i.e., data or instructions**

1000	1101	1110	0010	0000	0000	0000	0000
1000	1110	0001	0000	0000	0000	0000	0100
1010	1110	0001	0010	0000	0000	0000	0000
1010	1101	1110	0010	0000	0000	0000	0100

[illegible]