CLASSIC MEMORY ATKS & DEFS

CMSC 414 Jan 30 2018



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'smash the stack' [C programming] n. On many C implementations it is pessible to corrupt the execution stack by writing past the end of an array declared auto in a routine. Code that does this is said to smash the stack, and can cause return from the routine to jump to a random address. This can produce some of the most insidious data-dependent bugs known to mankind. Variants include trash the stack, scribble the stack, mangle the stack: the term mung the stack is not used, as this is never done intentionally. See spam; see also alias bug, fandango on core, memory leak, precedence lossage, overrun screw.

.oO Phrack 49 Oo.

Volume Seven, Issue Forty-Nine File 14 of 16

BugTraq, r00t, and Underground.Org

bring you

Smashing The Stack For Fun And Profit

Aleph One

aleph1@underground.org

Introduction

Over the last few months there has been a large increase of buffer overflow vulnerabilities being both discovered and exploited. Examples of these are syslog, splitvt, sendmail 8.7.5, Linux/FreeBSD mount, Xt library, at, etc. This paper attempts to explain what buffer overflows are, and how their exploits work. Basic knowledge of assembly is required. An understanding of virtual memory concepts, and experience with gdb are very helpful but not necessary. We also assume we are working with an Intel x86 CPU, and that the operating system is Linux. Some basic definitions before we begin: A buffer is simply a contiguous block of computer memory that holds multiple instances of the same data type. C programmers normally associate with the word buffer arrays. Most commonly, character arrays, Arrays, like all variables in C, can be declared either static or dynamic. Static variables are allocated at load time on the data segment. Dynamic variables are allocated atrun time on the stack. To overflow is to flow, or fill over the top, brims, or bounds. We will concern ourselves only with the overflow of dynamic buffers, otherwise known as stack-based buffer overflows.

Process Memory Organization

To understand what stack buffers are we must first understand how a process is organized in memory. Processes are divided into three regions: Text, Data, and Stack. We will concentrate on the stack region, but first a small overview of the other regions is in order. The text region is fixed by the program and includes code (instructions) and read-only data. This region corresponds to the text section of the executable file. This region

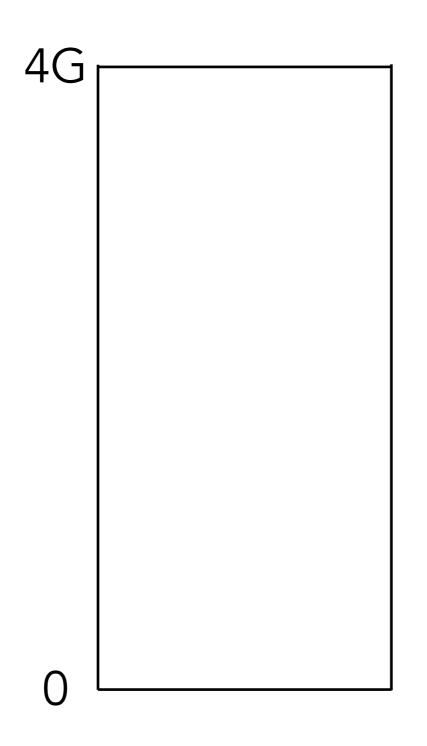
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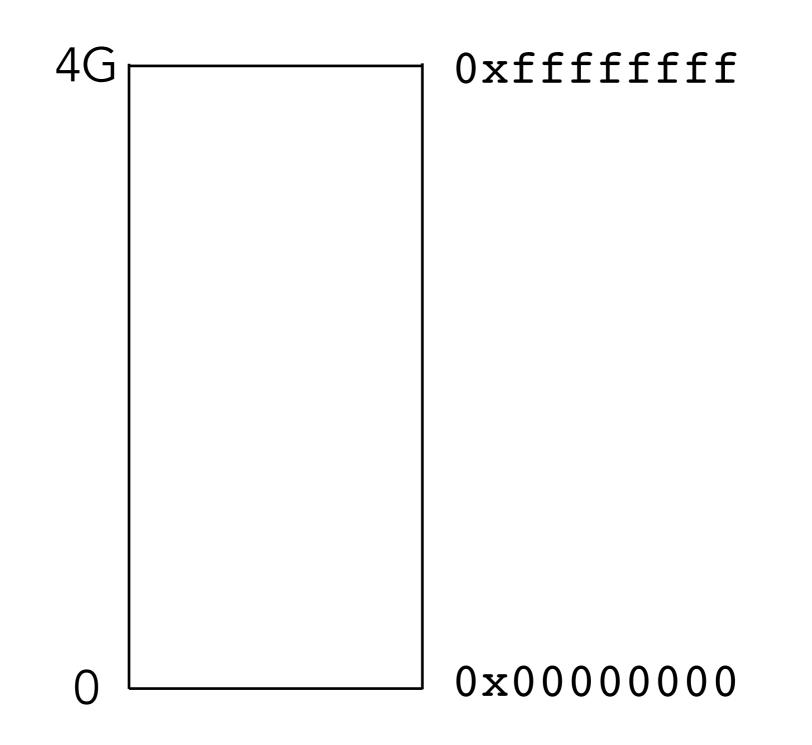
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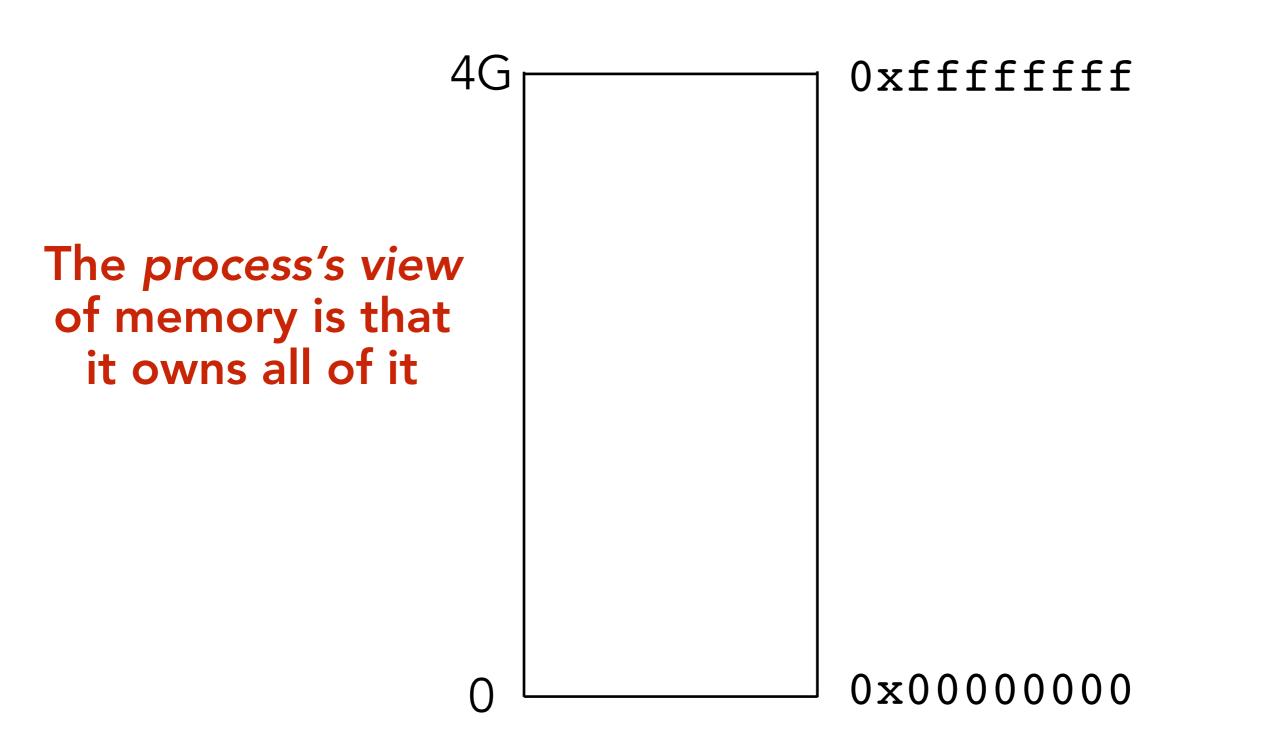
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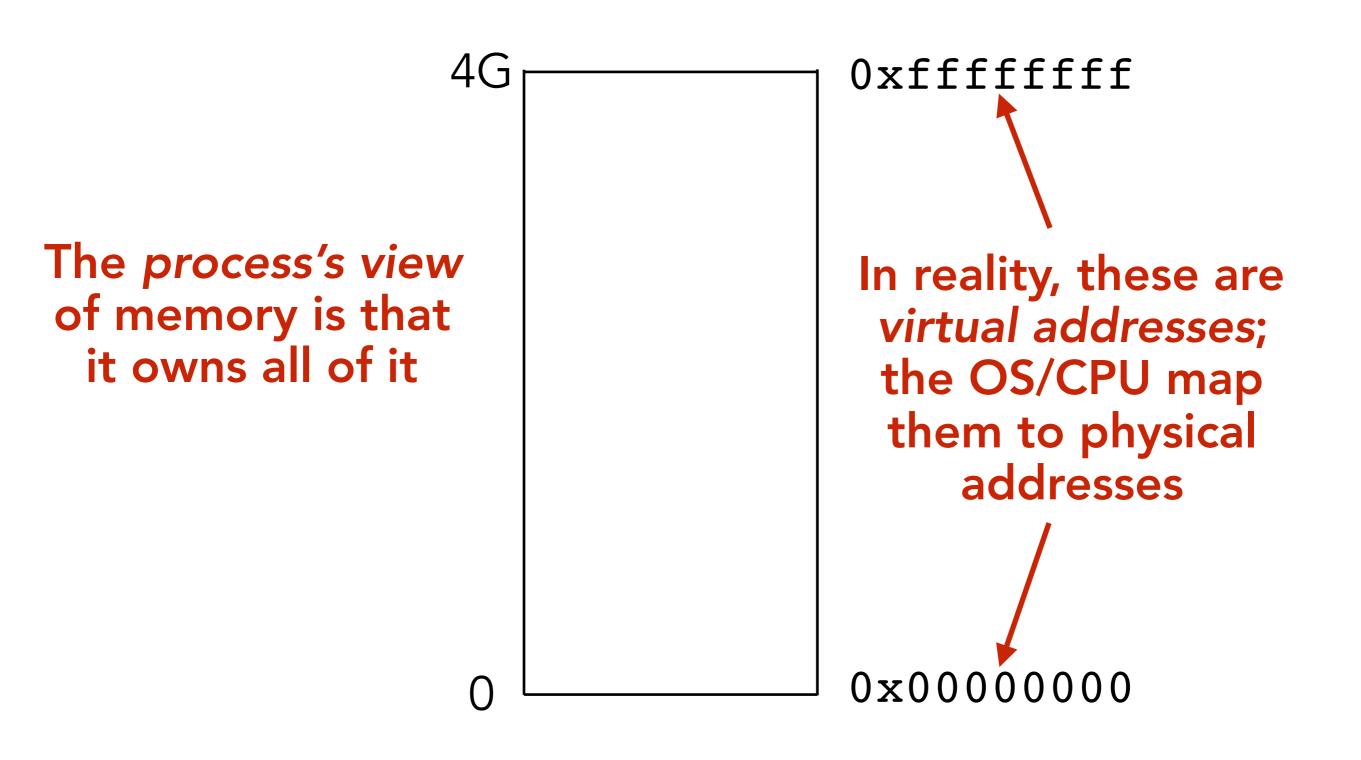
REFRESHER

- How is program data laid out in memory?
- What does the stack look like?
- What effect does calling (and returning from) a function have on memory?
- We are focusing on the Linux process model
 - Similar to other operating systems

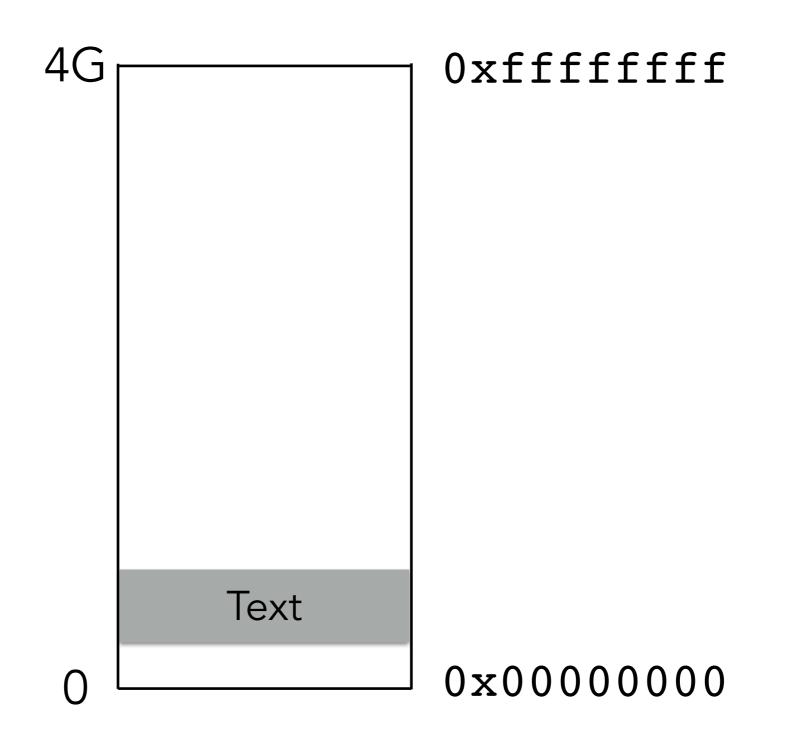




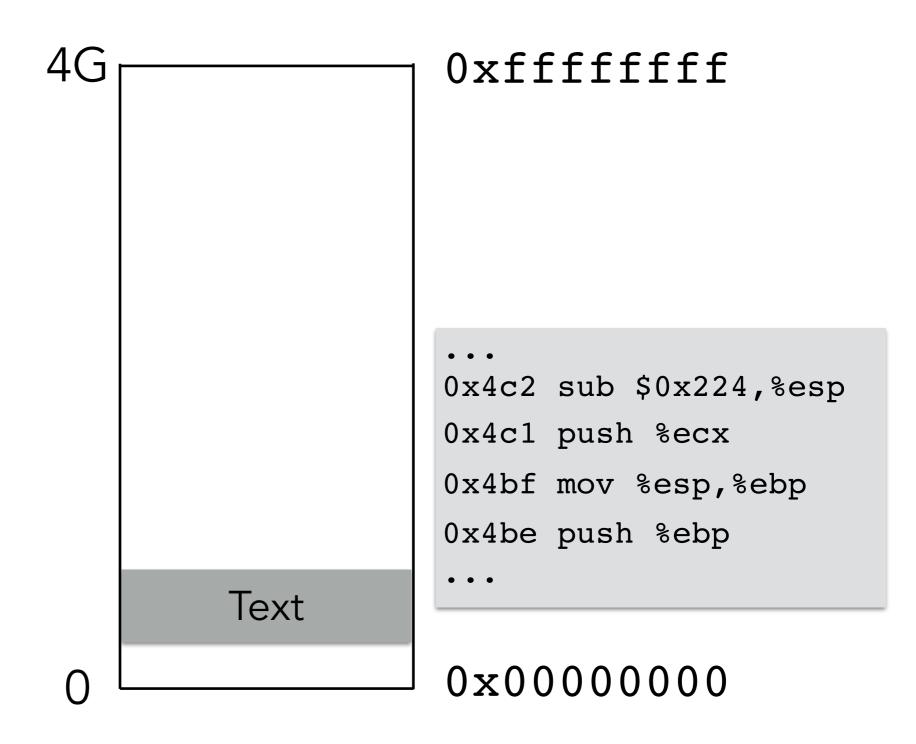


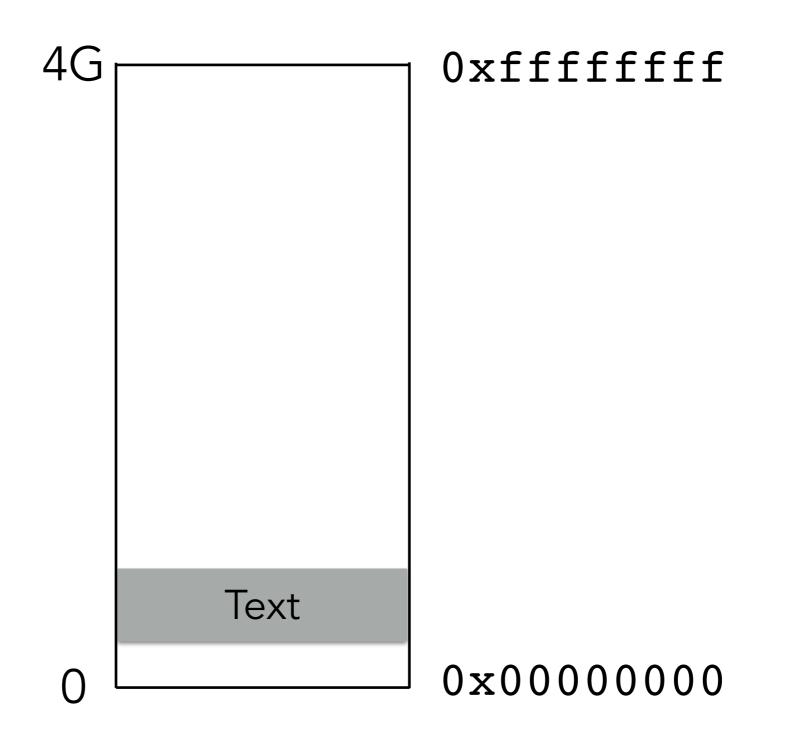


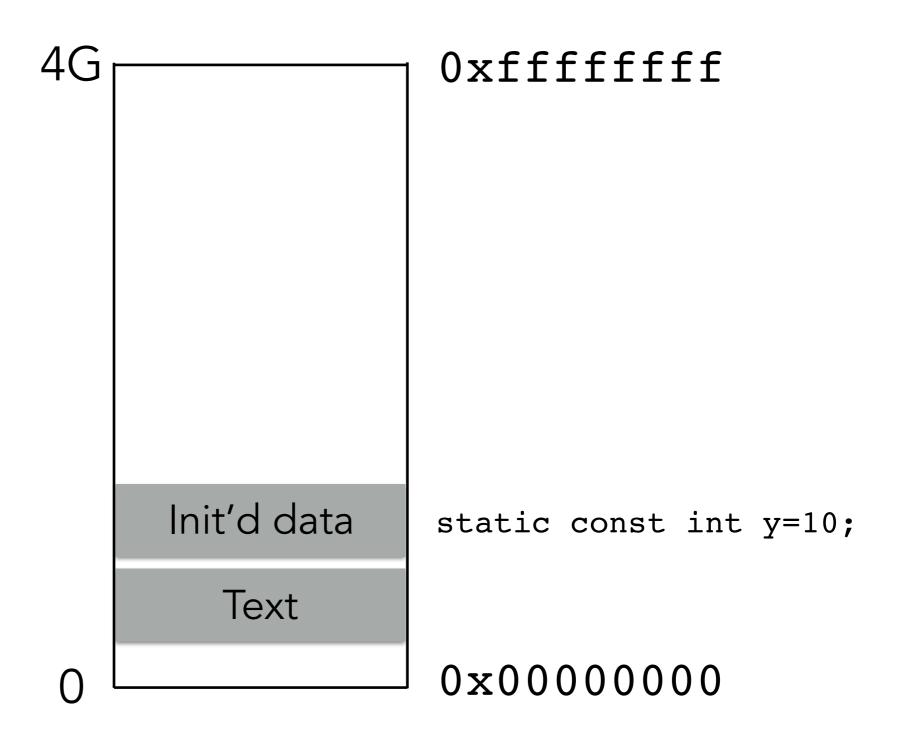
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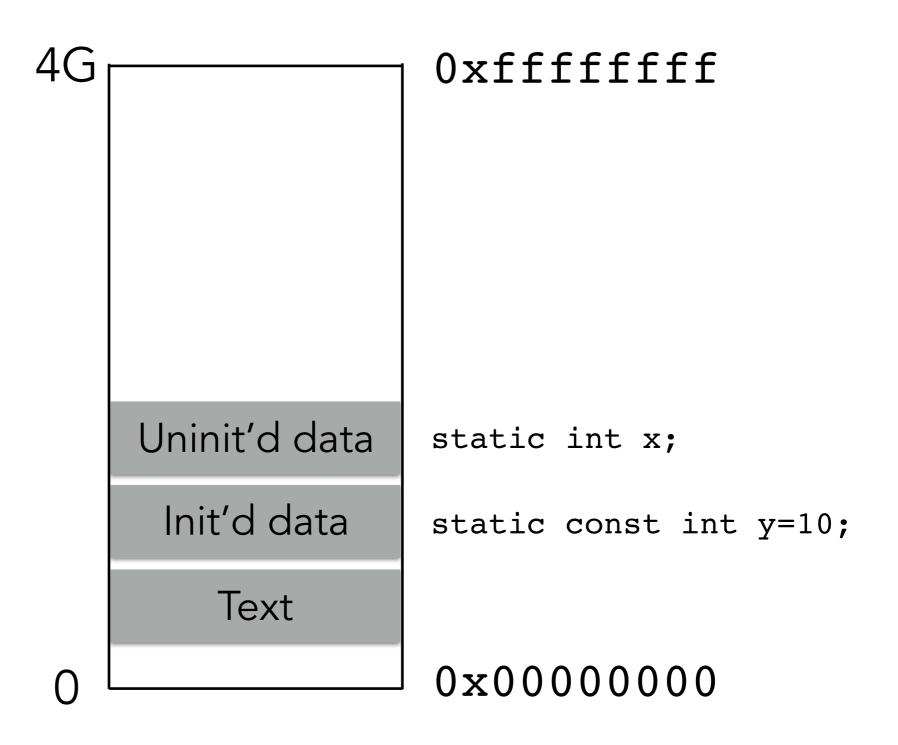


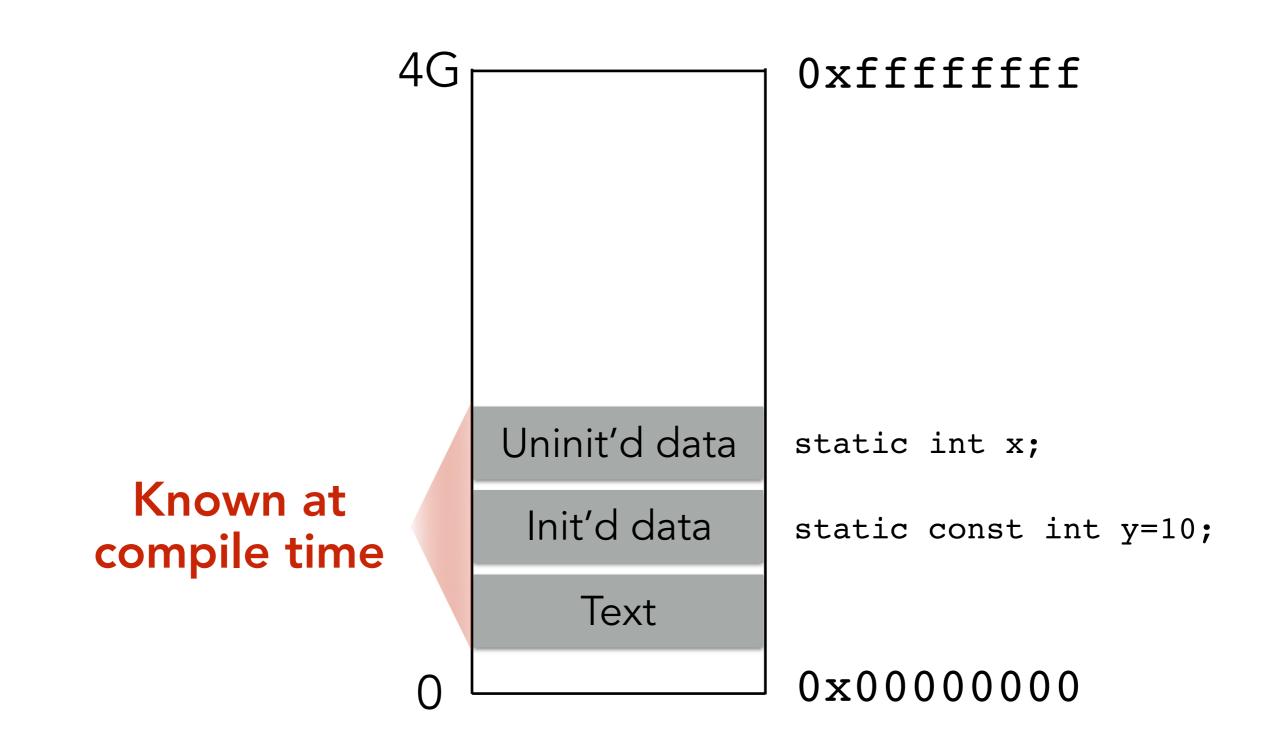
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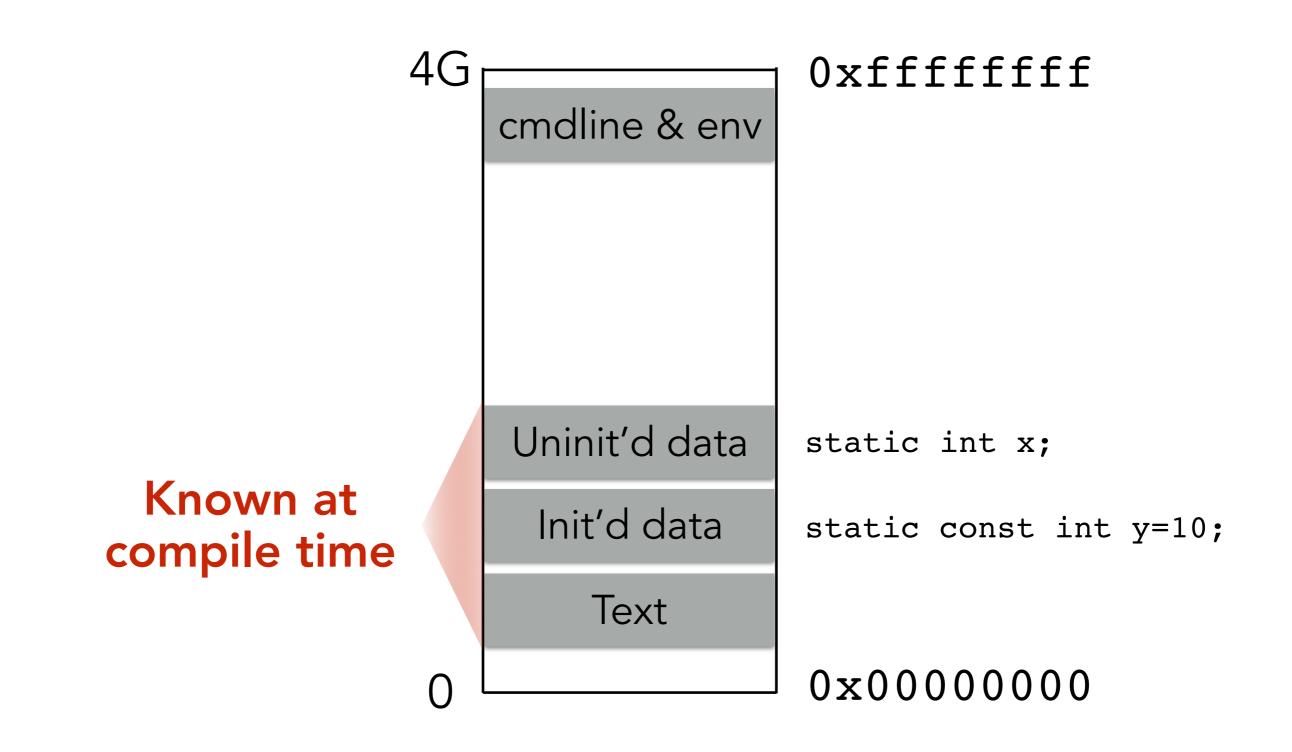


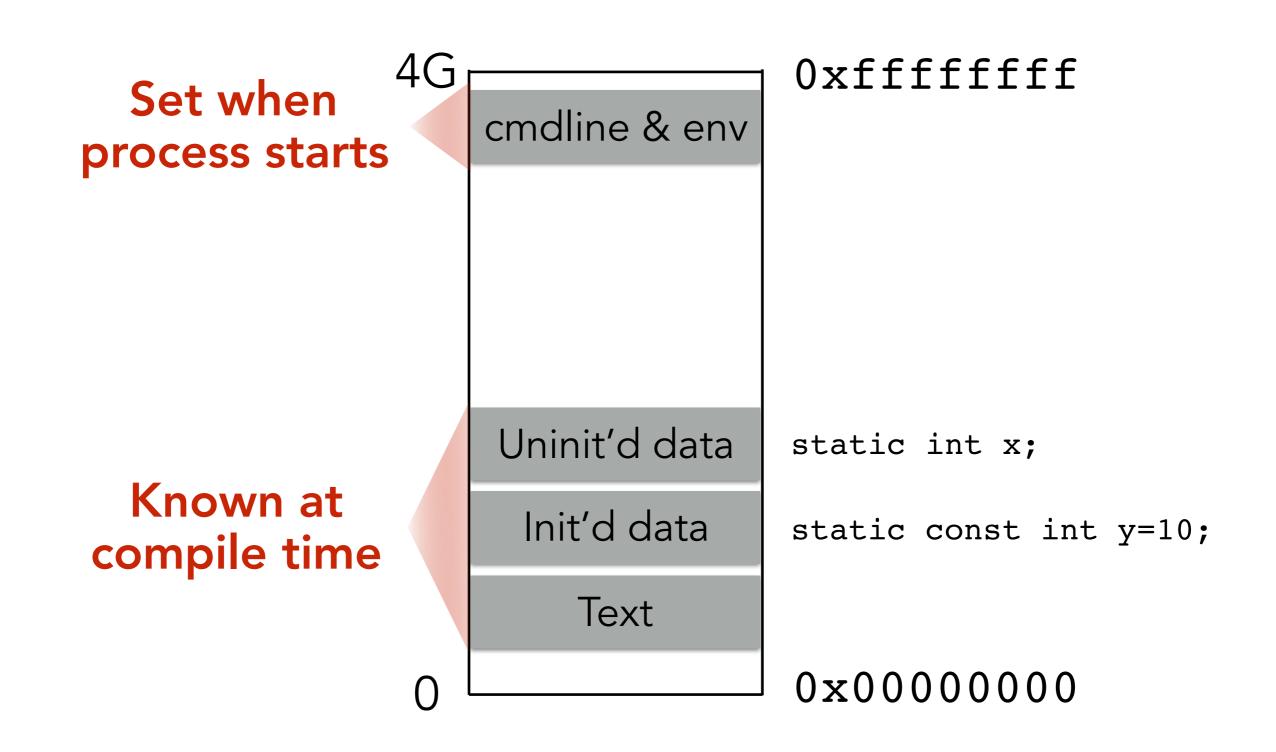


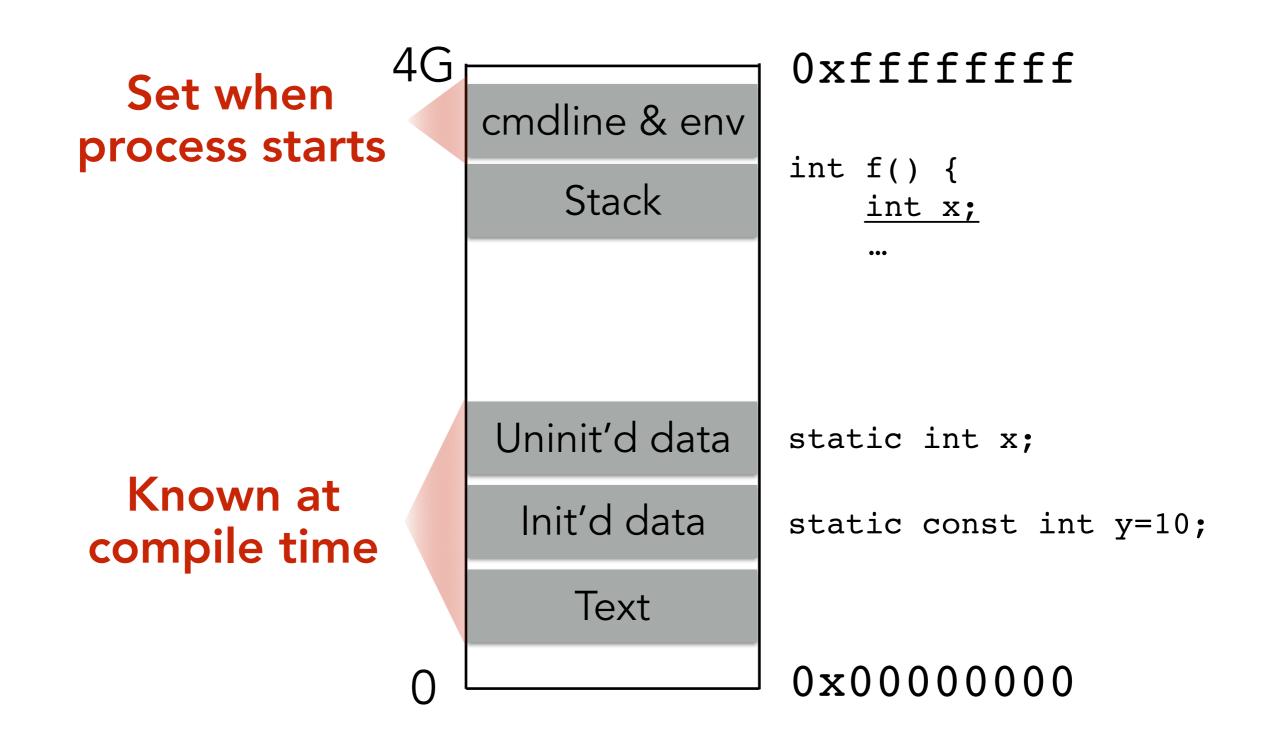


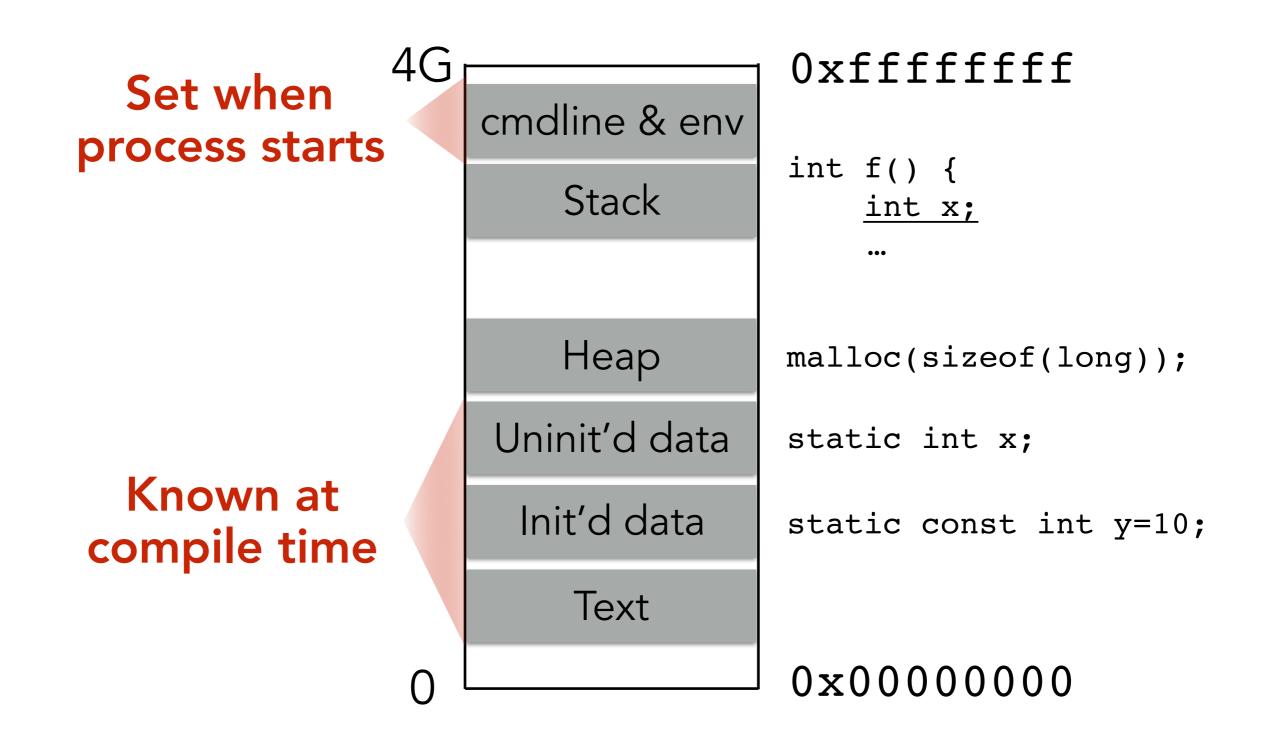


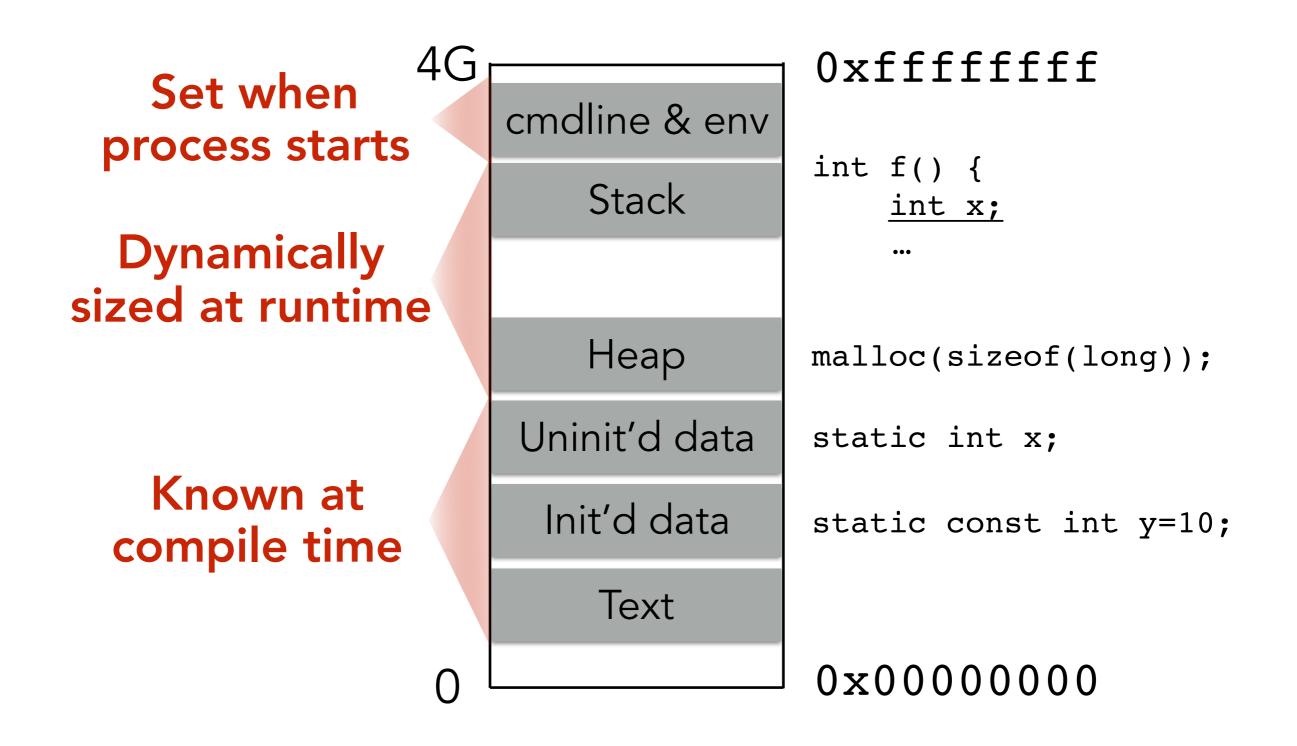


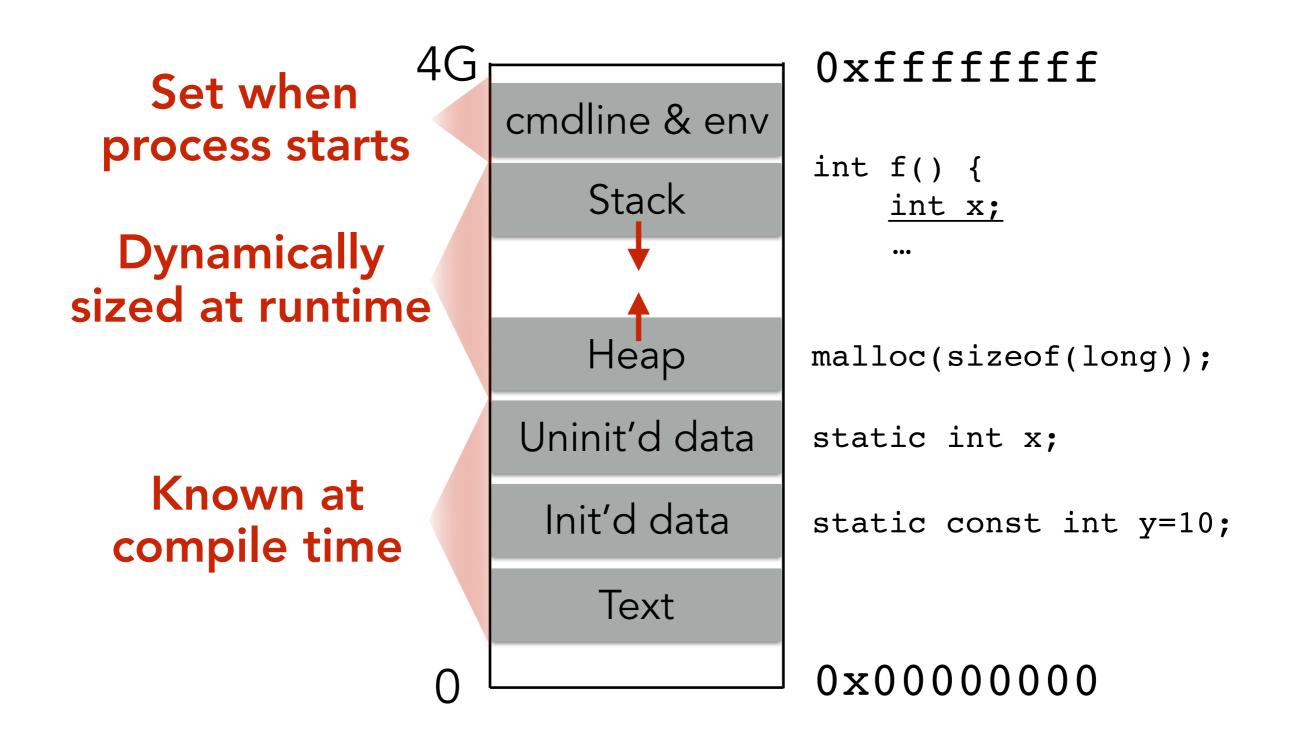




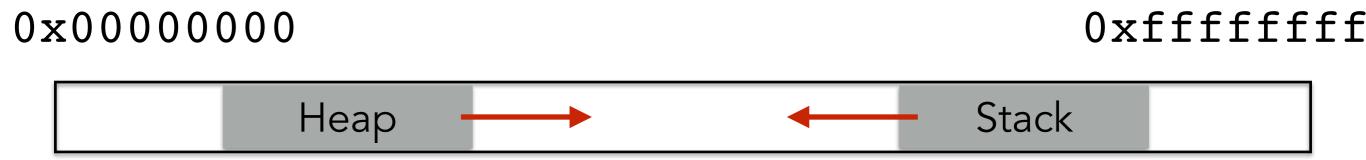








Stack and heap grow in opposite directions



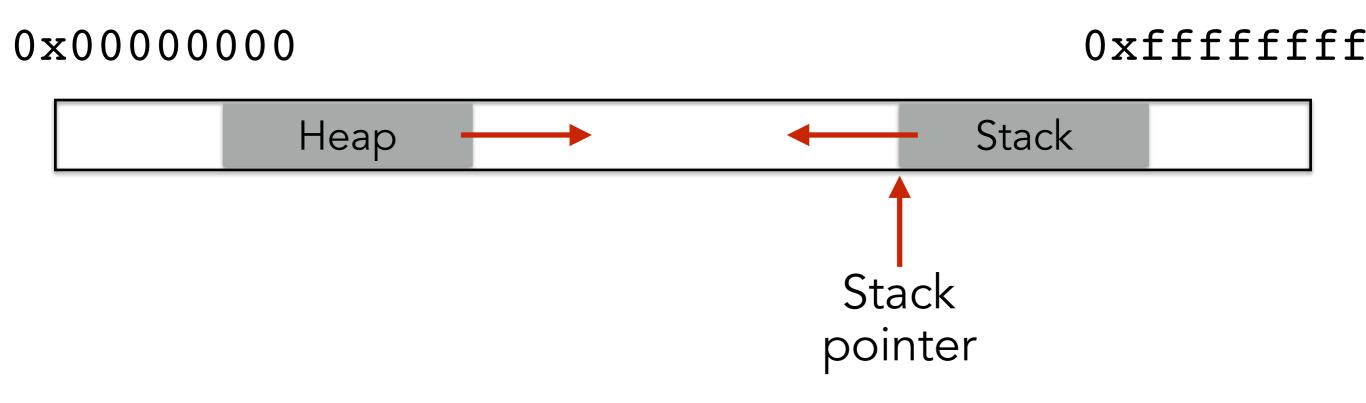
Stack and heap grow in opposite directions

Compiler provides instructions that adjusts the size of the stack at runtime



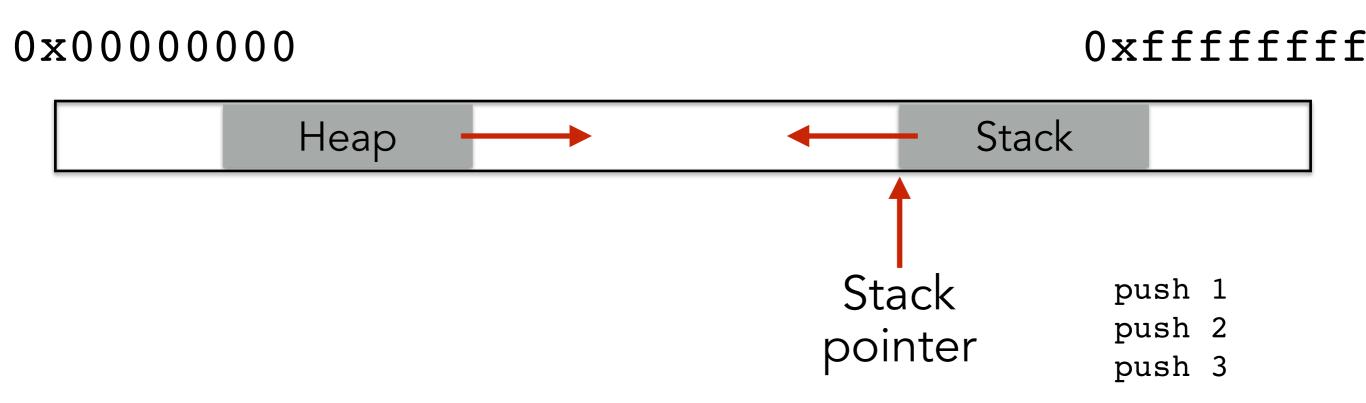
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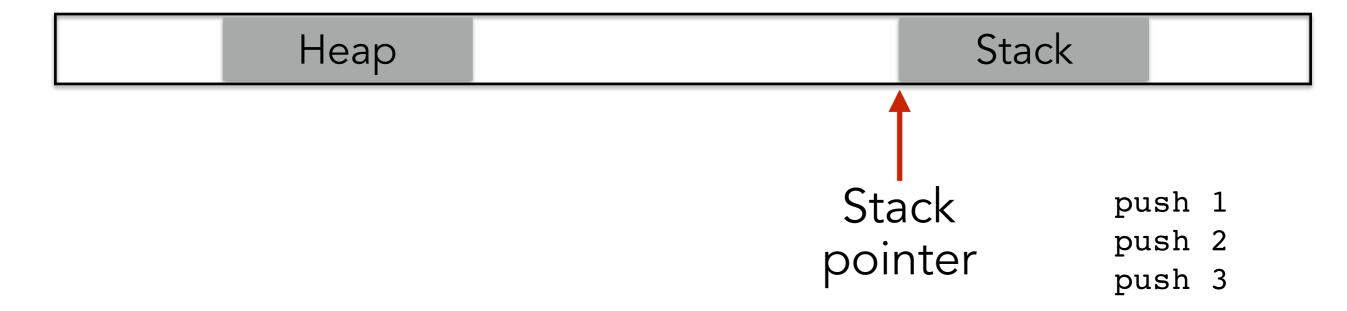
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Stack and heap grow in opposite directions

Compiler provides instructions that adjusts the size of the stack at runtime

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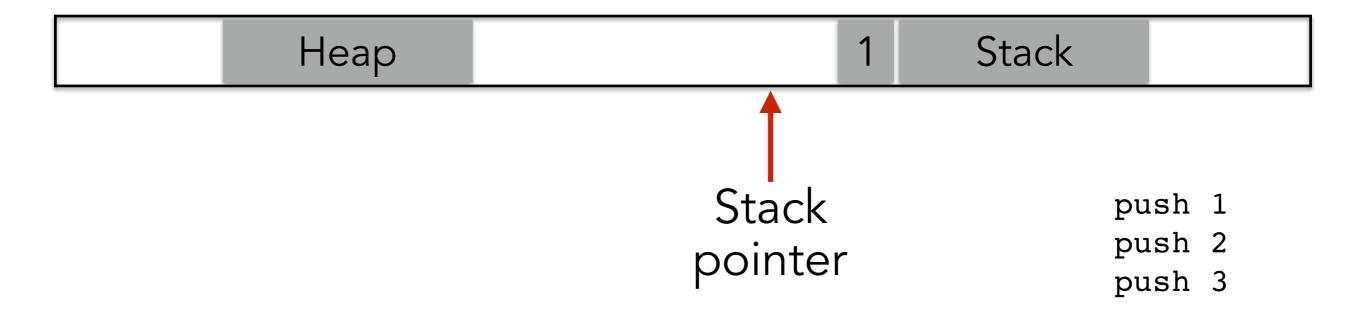
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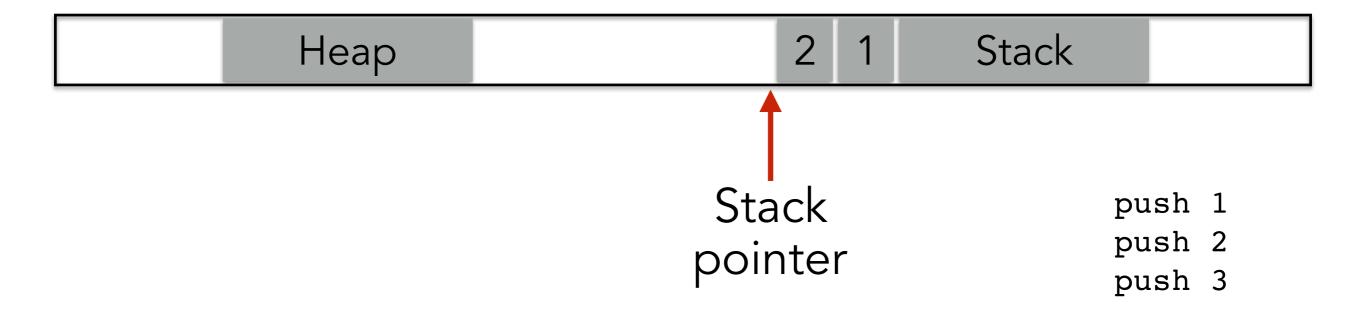
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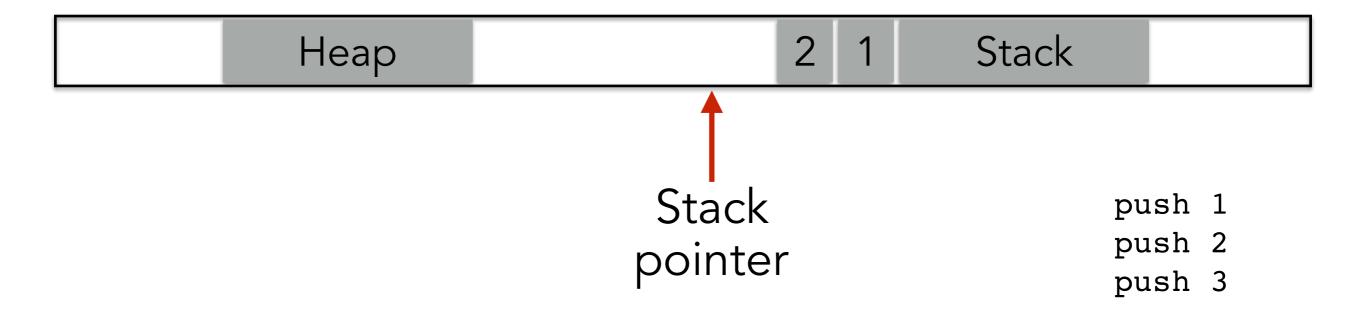
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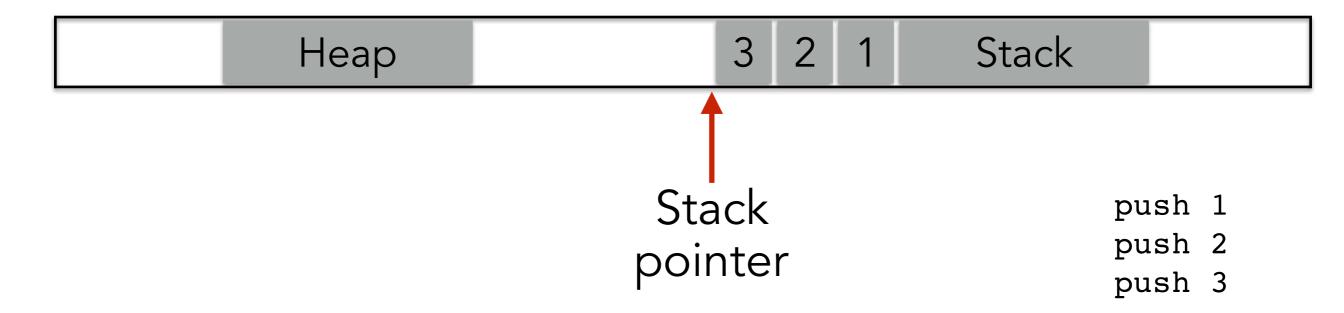
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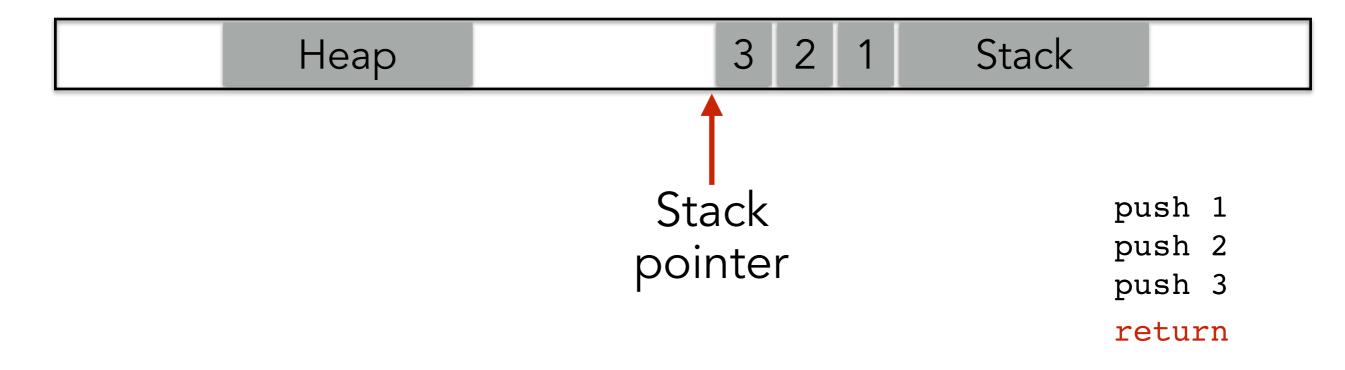
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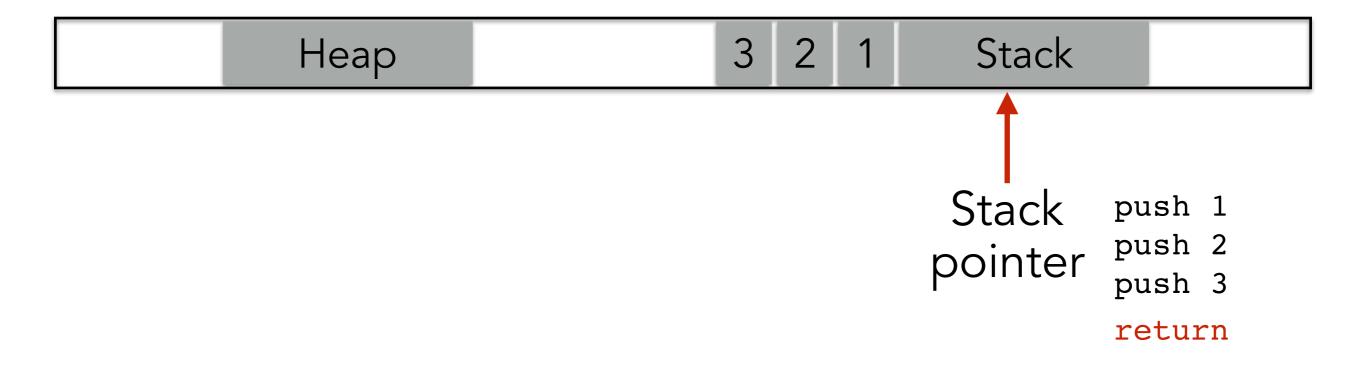
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Stack and heap grow in opposite directions

Compiler provides instructions that adjusts the size of the stack at runtime

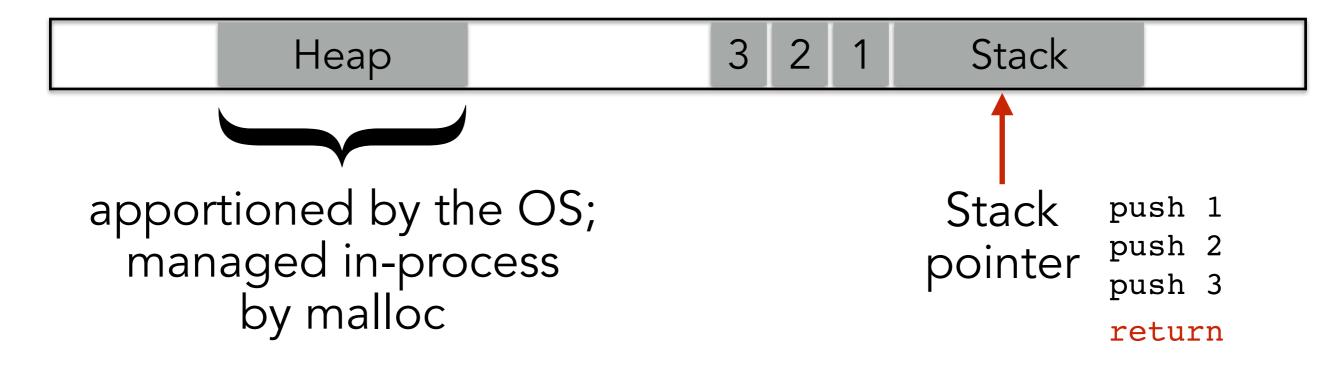
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Stack and heap grow in opposite directions

Compiler provides instructions that adjusts the size of the stack at runtime

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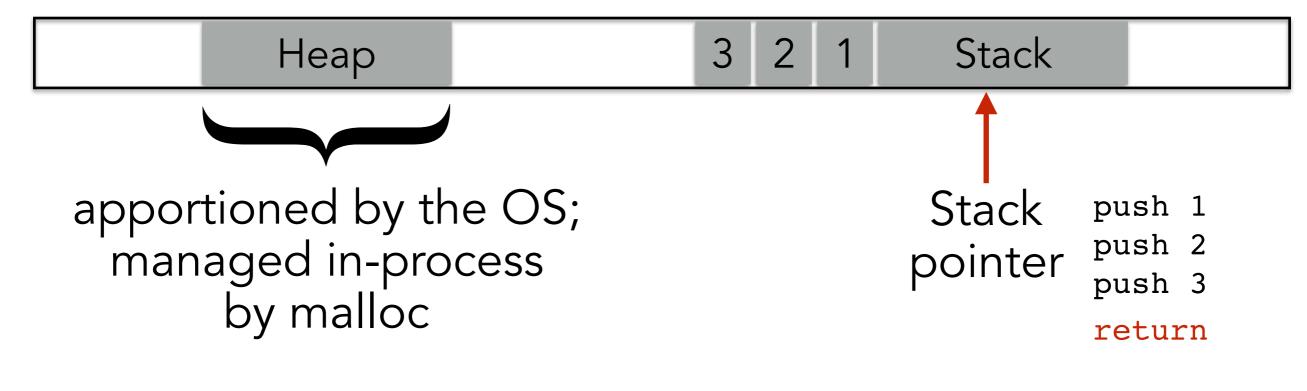


Stack and heap grow in opposite directions

Compiler provides instructions that adjusts the size of the stack at runtime

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Focusing on the stack for now

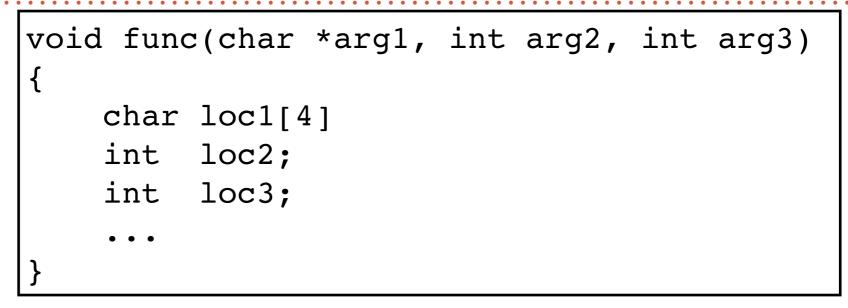
STACK LAYOUT WHEN CALLING FUNCTION

```
void func(char *arg1, int arg2, int arg3)
{
    char loc1[4]
    int loc2;
    int loc3;
    ...
}
```

Oxfffffff

caller's data

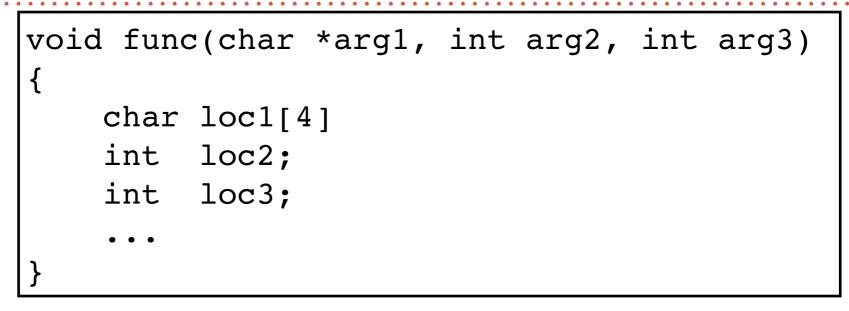
STACK LAYOUT WHEN CALLING FUNCTION



	arg1	arg2	arg3	caller's data		
Arguments pushed in reverse order of code						

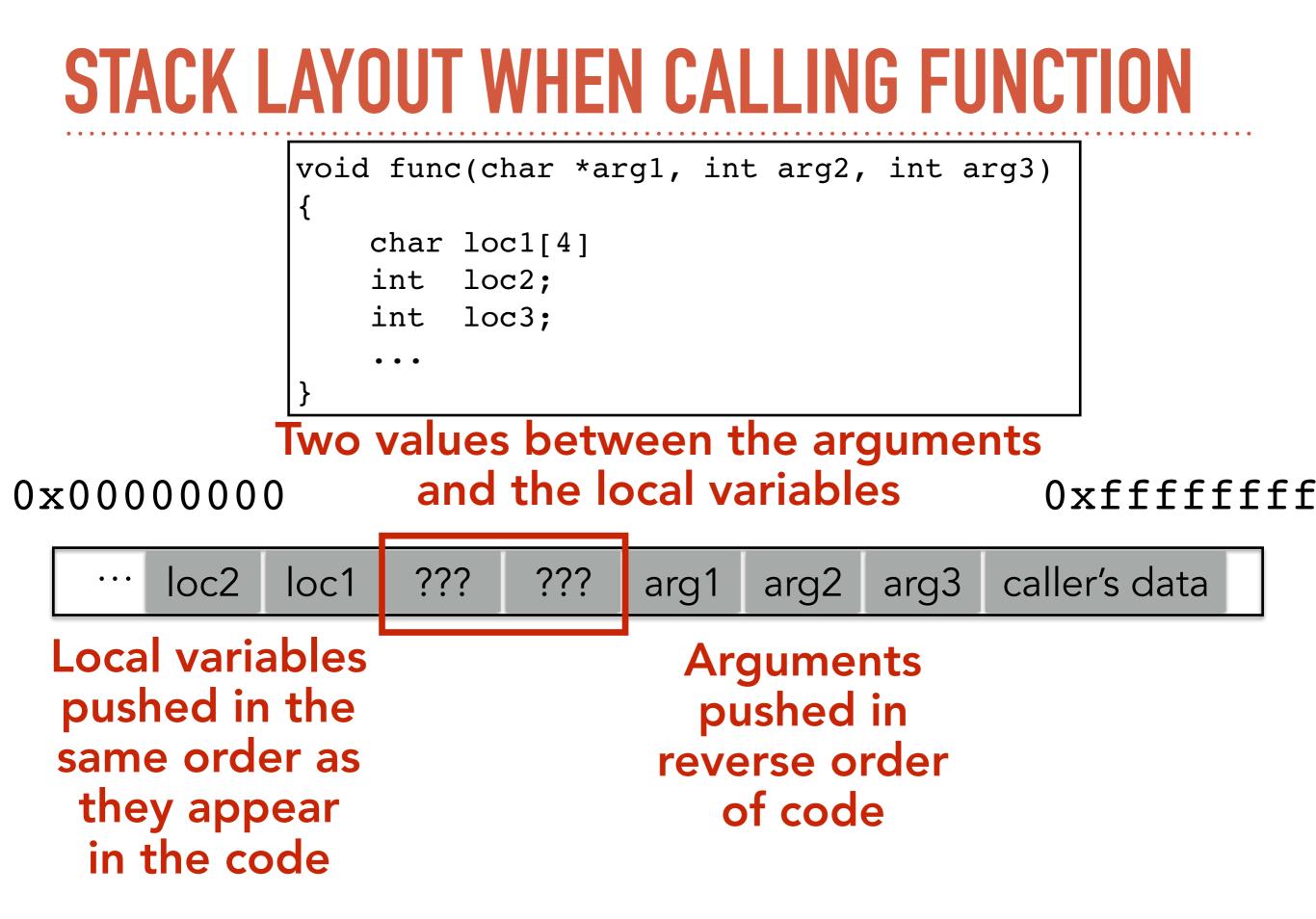
```
void func(char *arg1, int arg2, int arg3)
{
    char loc1[4]
    int loc2;
    int loc3;
    ...
}
```

··· loc2 loc1	arg1 arg2 arg3 caller's data
Local variables pushed in the same order as they appear in the code	Arguments pushed in reverse order of code



0x00000000

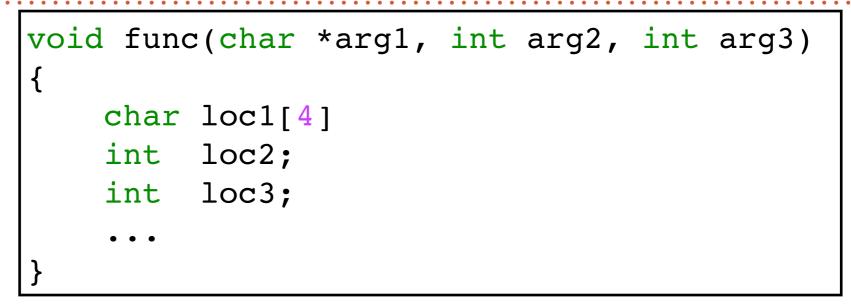
··· loc2	loc1	???	???	arg1	arg2	arg3	caller's data
Local vari pushed in same ord they app in the co	n the er as bear			pı reve	gume ushed erse o of cod	in rder	



```
void func(char *arg1, int arg2, int arg3)
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    char loc1[4]
    int loc2;
    int loc3;
    ...
}
```

Oxfffffff

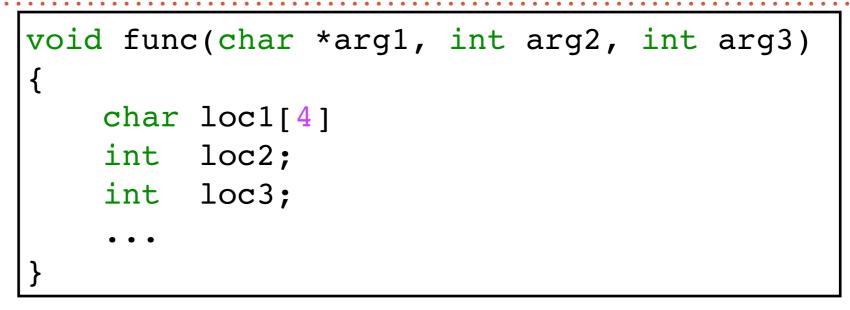
caller's data



arg1	arg2	arg3	caller's data	
pı reve	gume ushed erse of of code	in rder		

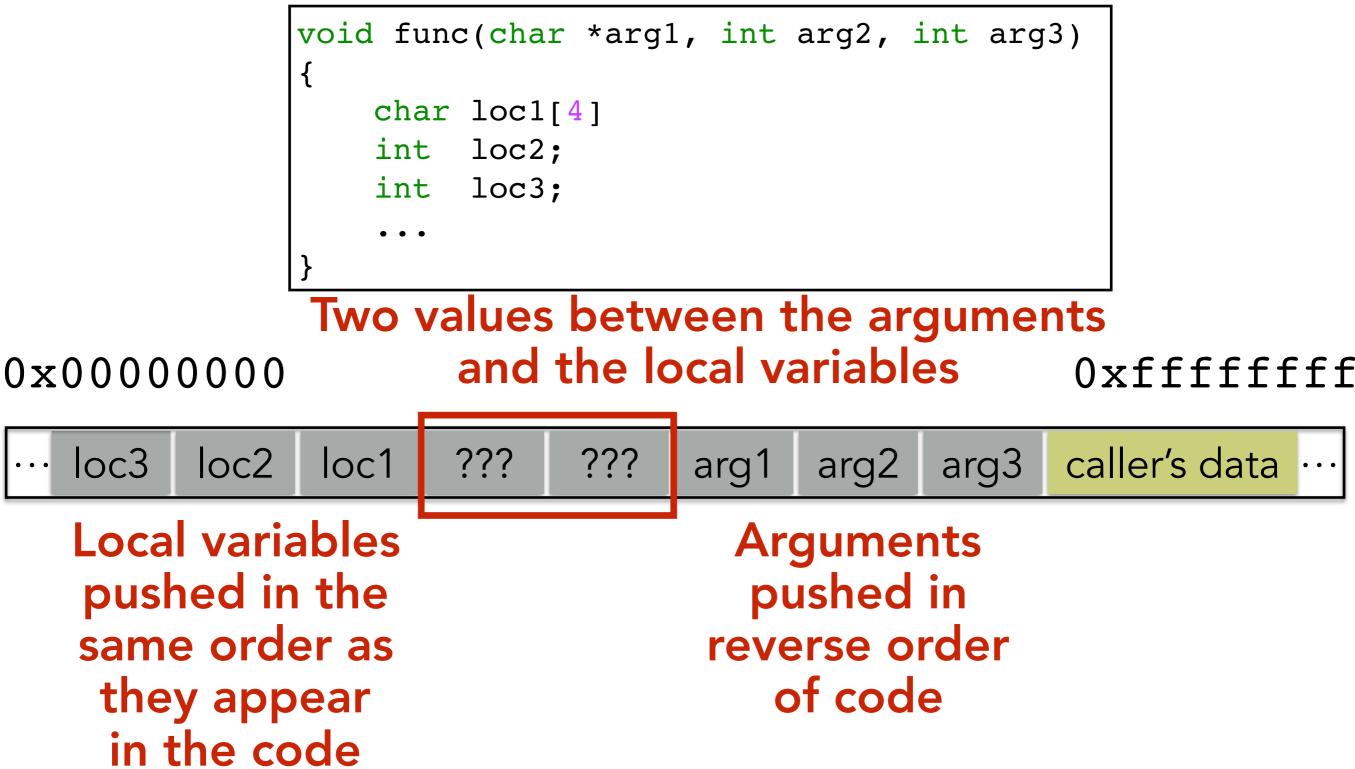
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    char loc1[4]
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    ...
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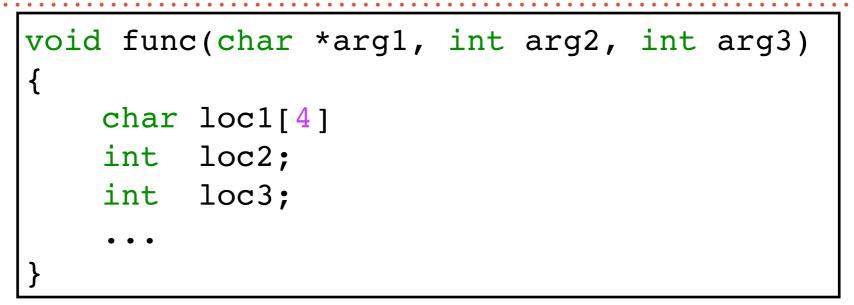
loc2 loc1	arg1 arg2 arg3 caller's data
Local variables pushed in the same order as they appear in the code	Arguments pushed in reverse order of code



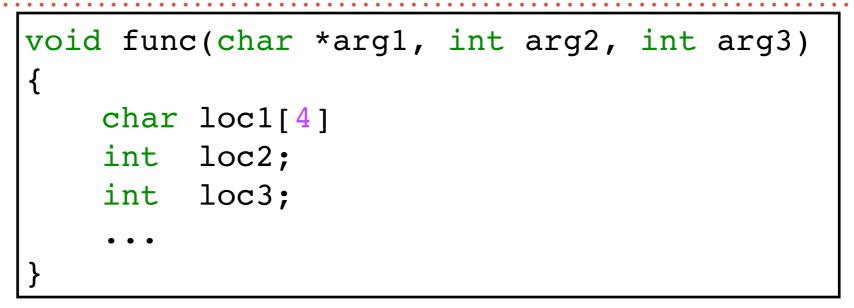
loc2	2 loc1	???	???	arg1	arg2	arg3	caller's data
Local var pushed same or they ap in the c	in the der as pear			pı reve	gume ushed erse o of cod	in rder	

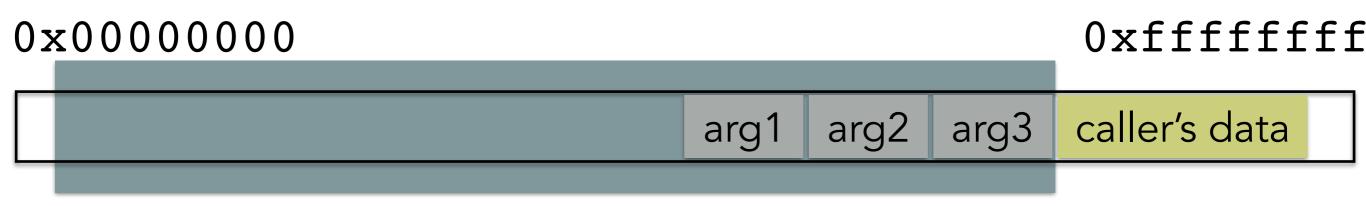


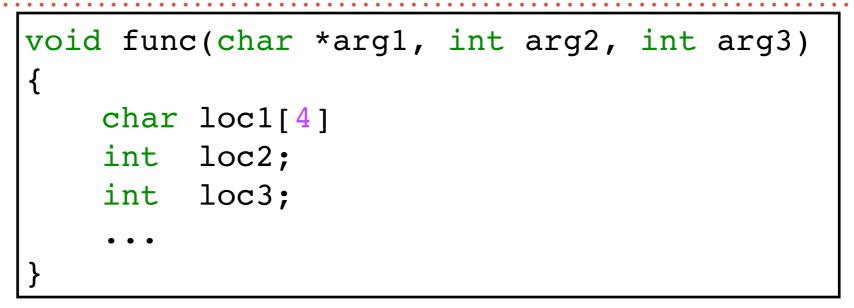


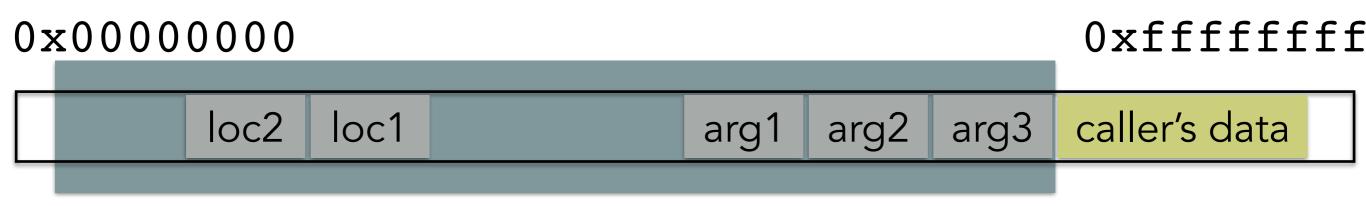


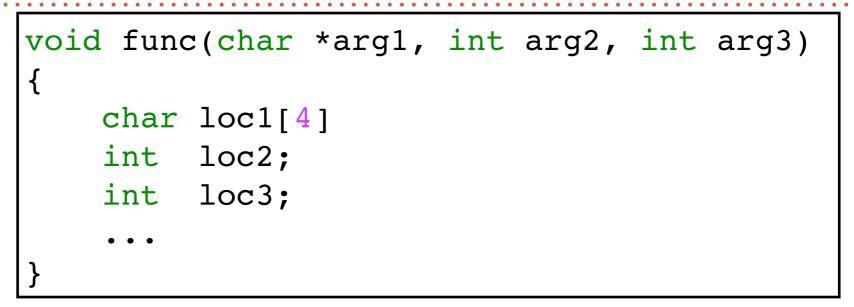














The part of the stack corresponding to this particular invocation of this particular function

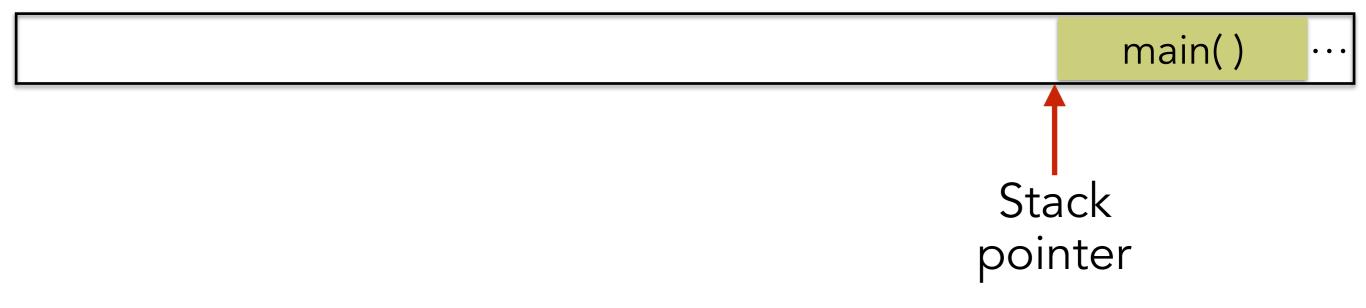
```
void main() { countUp(3); }
void countUp(int n) {
    if(n > 1)
        countUp(n-1);
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```


0xfffffff

main() ···

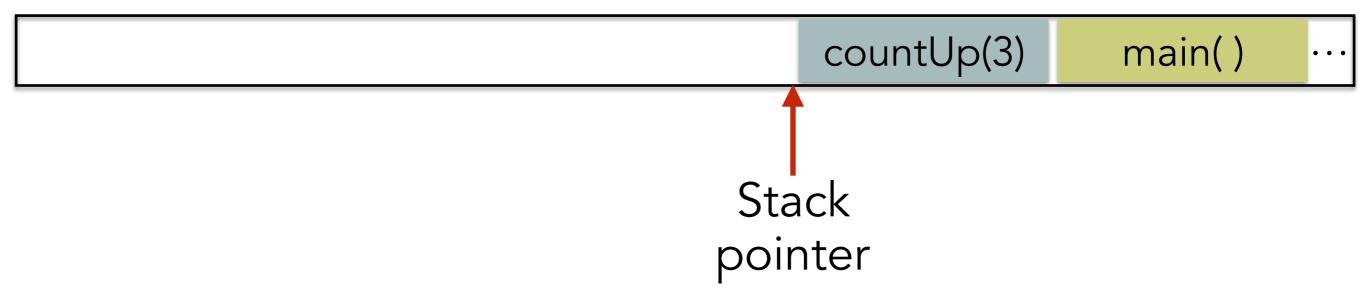
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```

$0 \times 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0$



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$0 \times 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0$

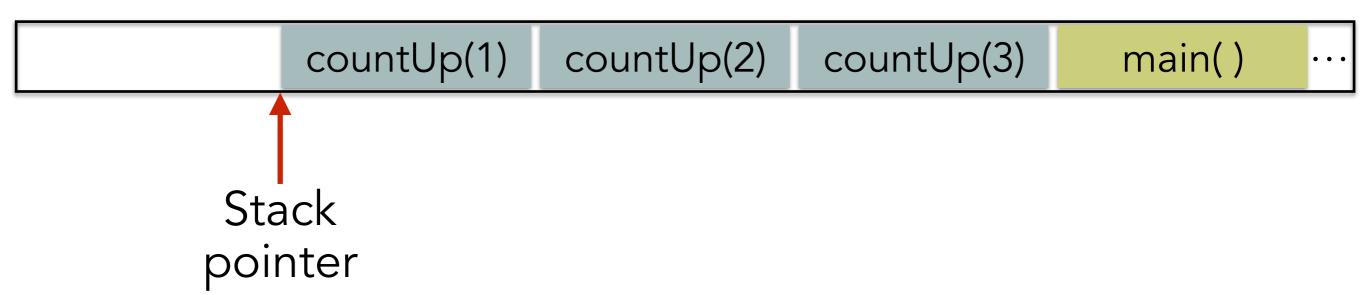


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    if(n > 1)
        countUp(n-1);
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```

$0 \times 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0$

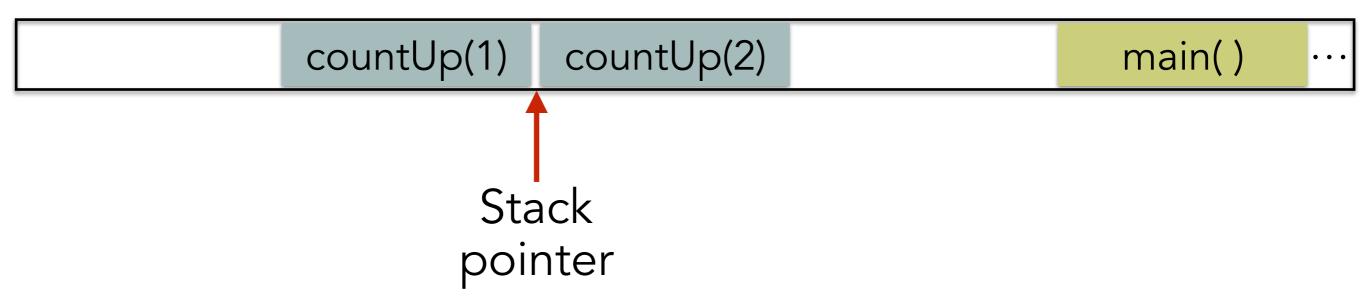
	countUp(2)	countUp(3)	main()	
Sta				
poir	nter			

```
void main() { countUp(3); }
void countUp(int n) {
    if(n > 1)
        countUp(n-1);
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```



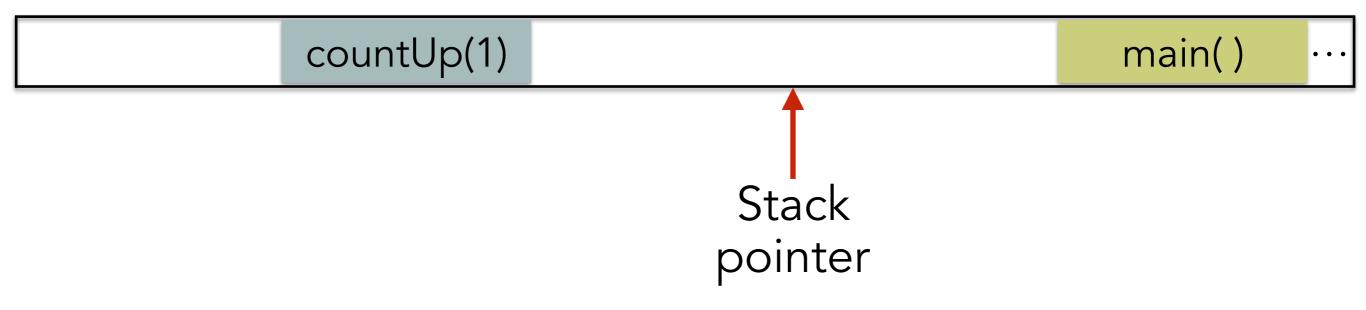
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        countUp(n-1);
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```

$0 \times 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0$

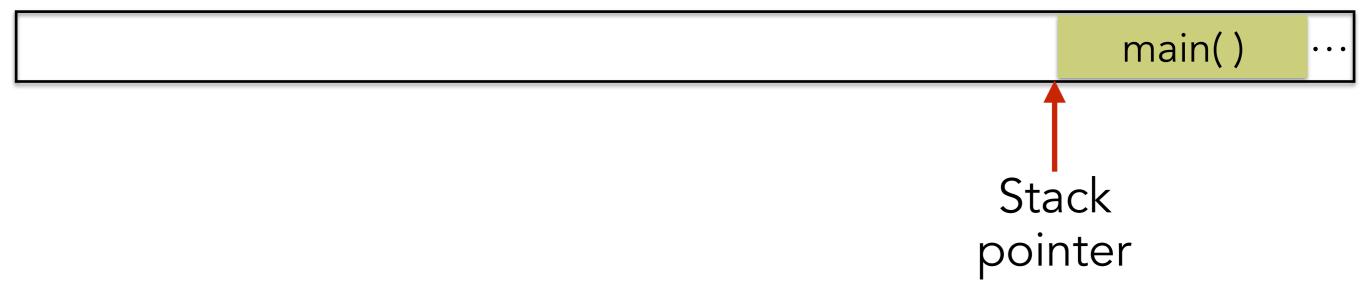


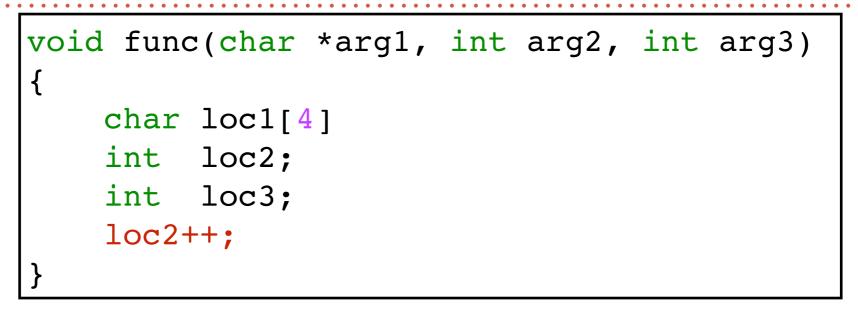
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    if(n > 1)
        countUp(n-1);
    printf("%d\n", n);
}
```

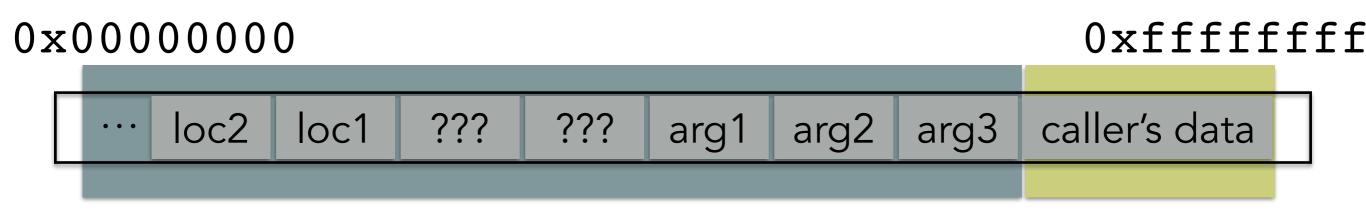
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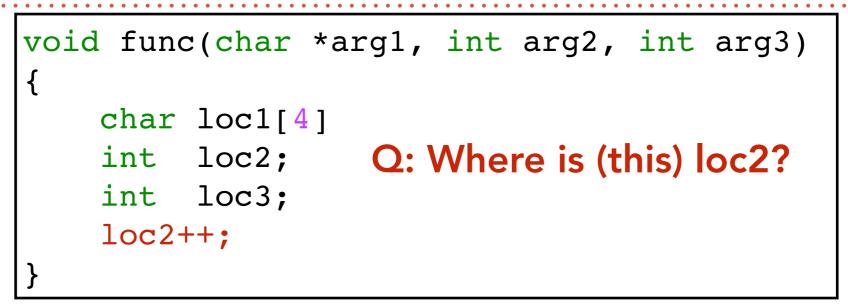


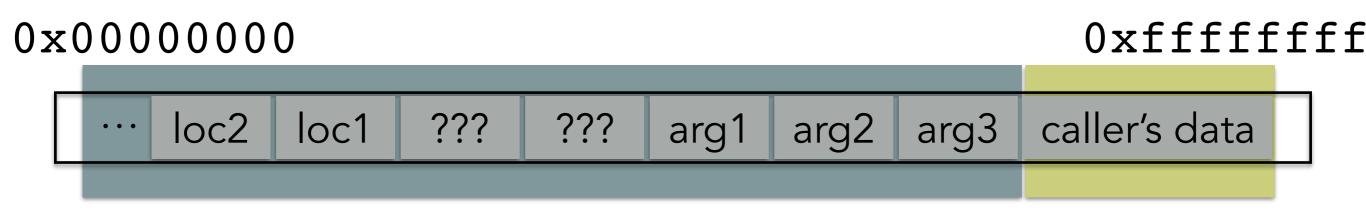
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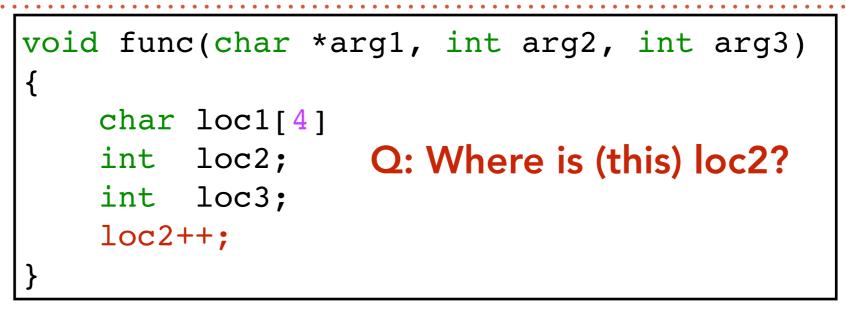



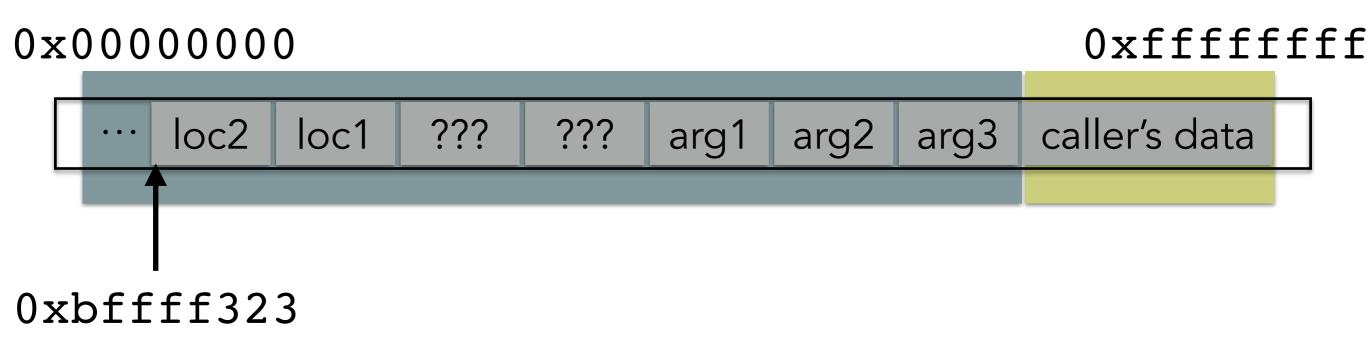


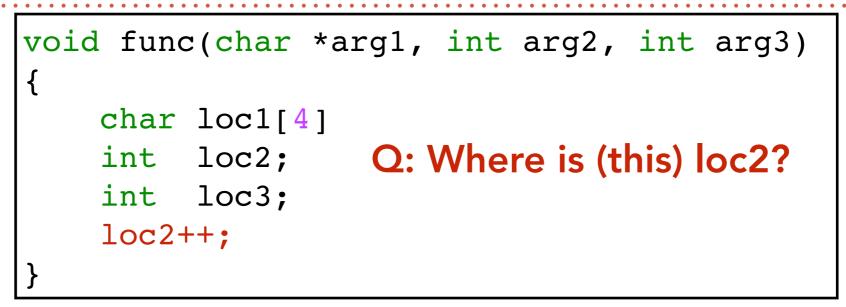


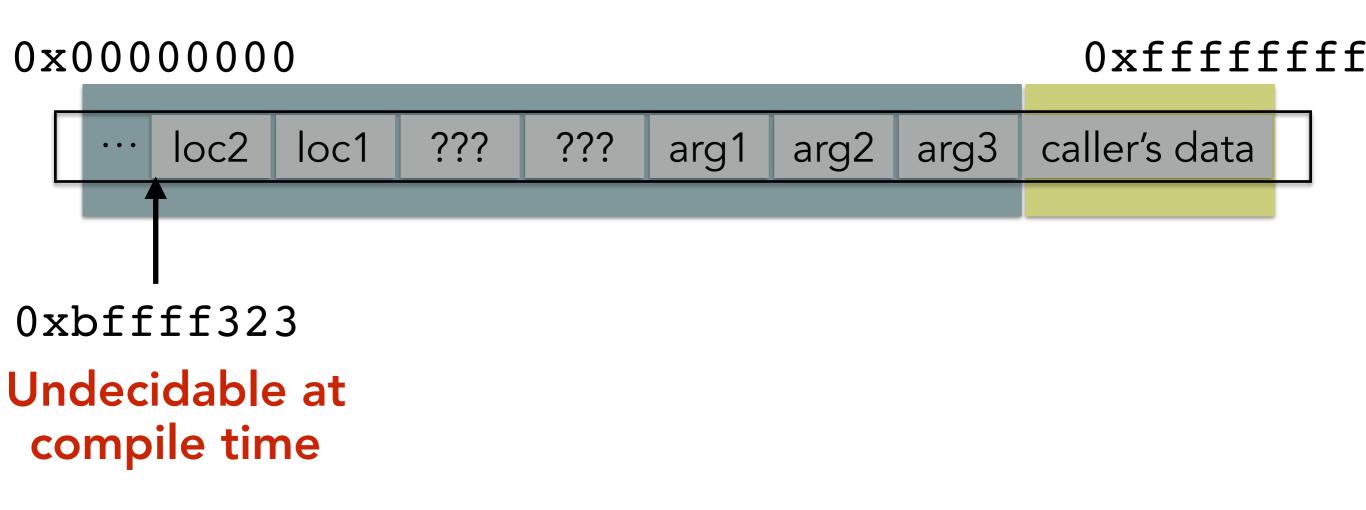


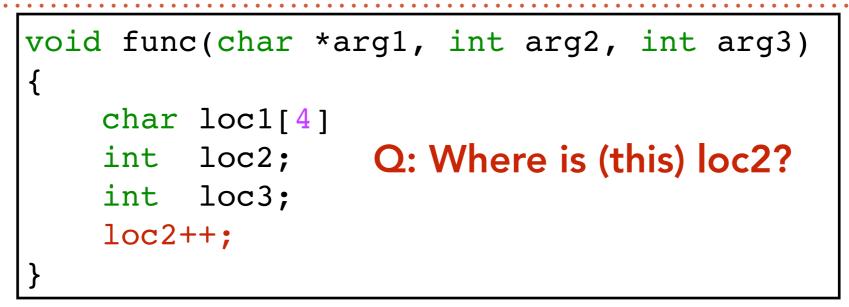


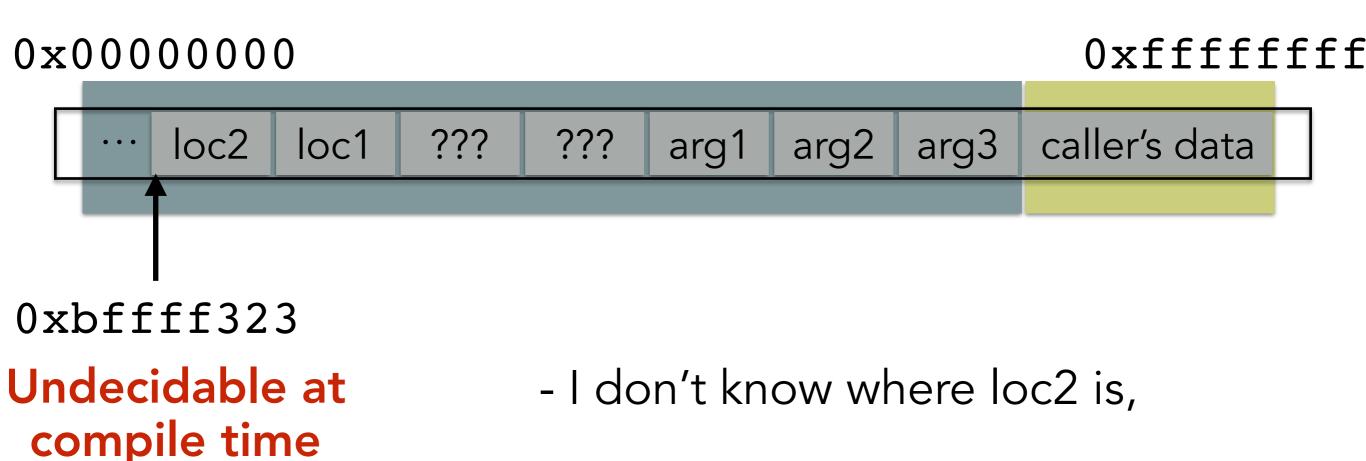


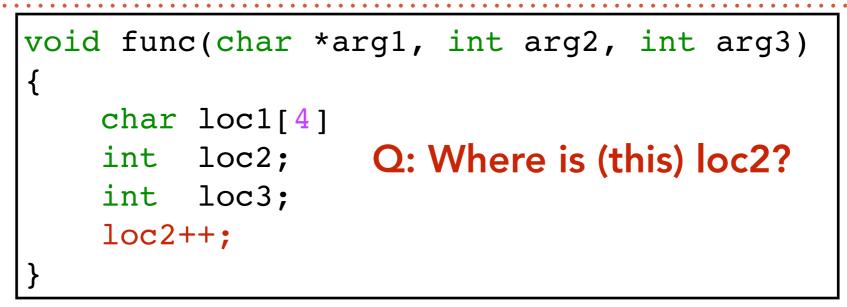


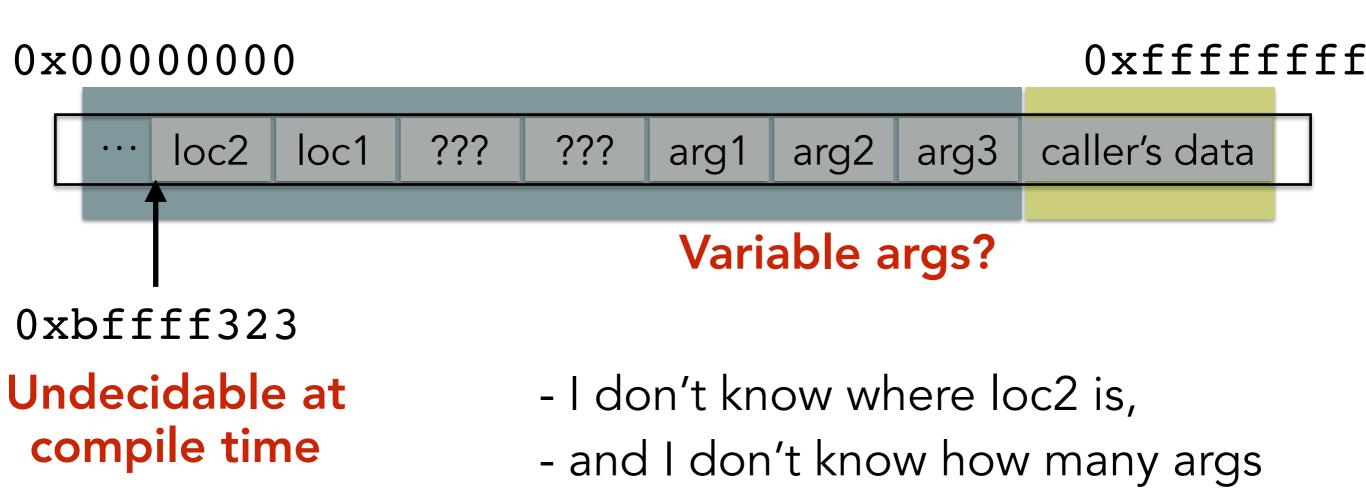


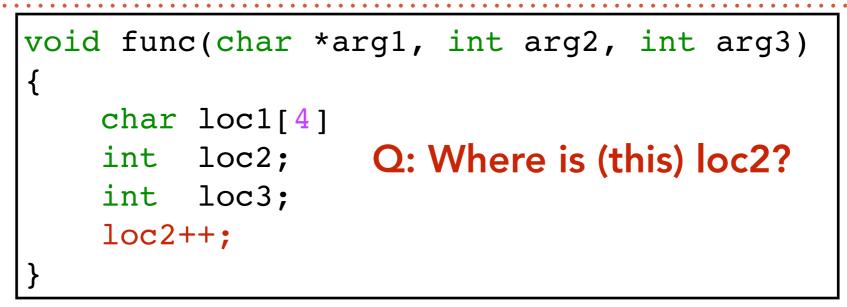


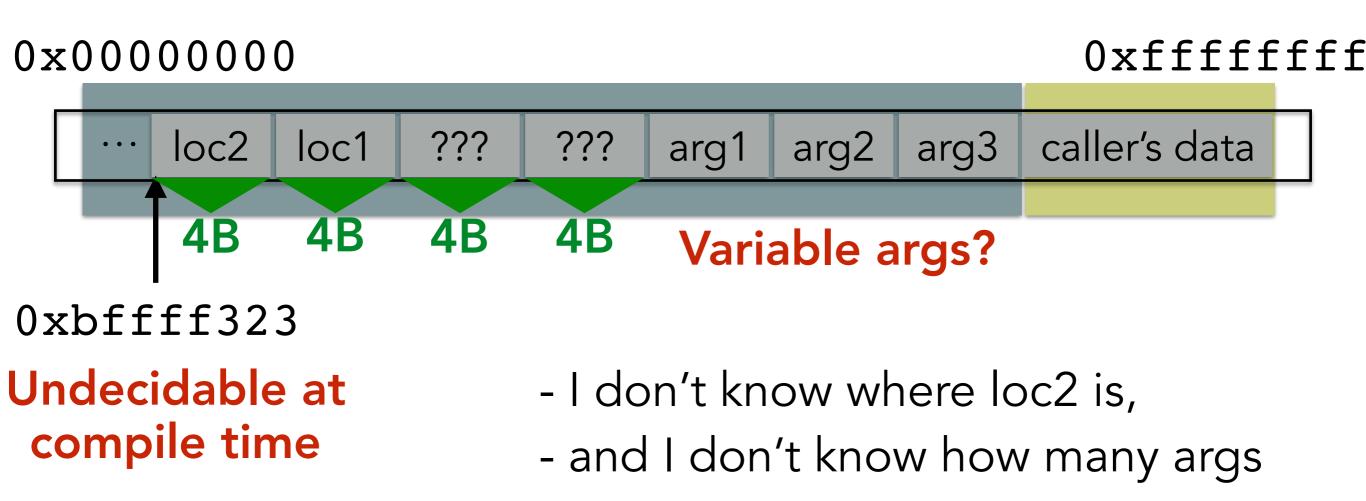


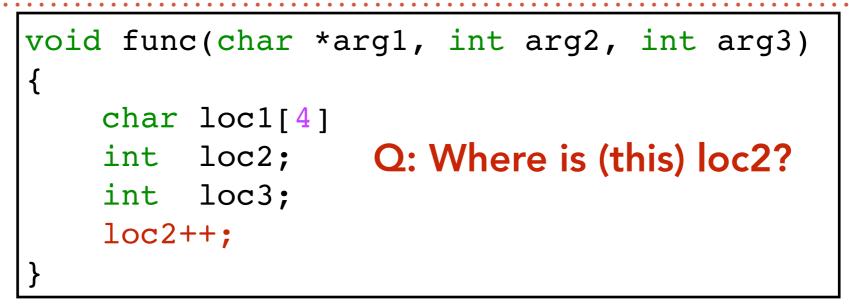


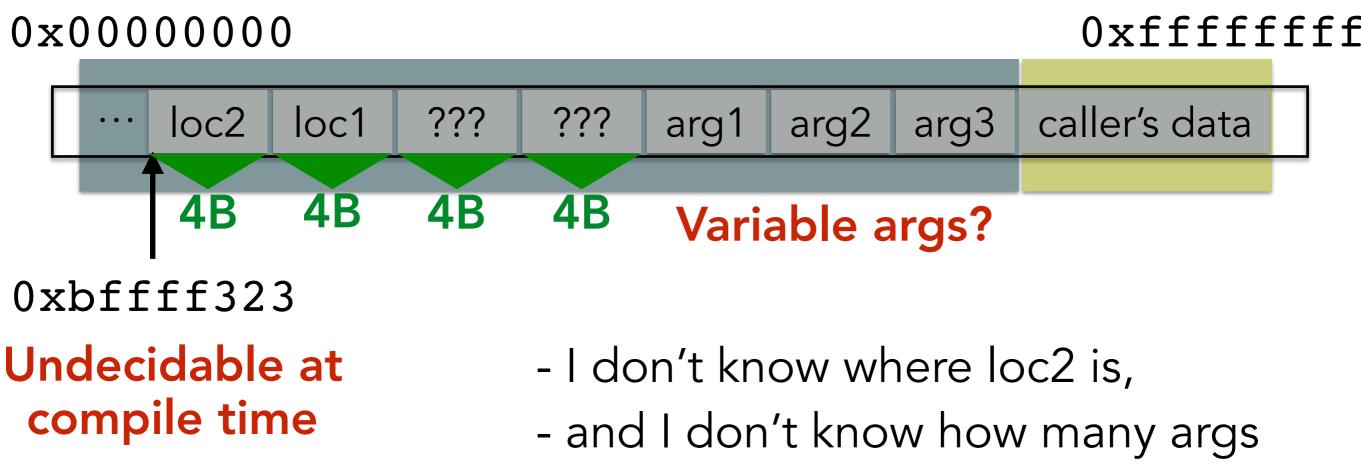




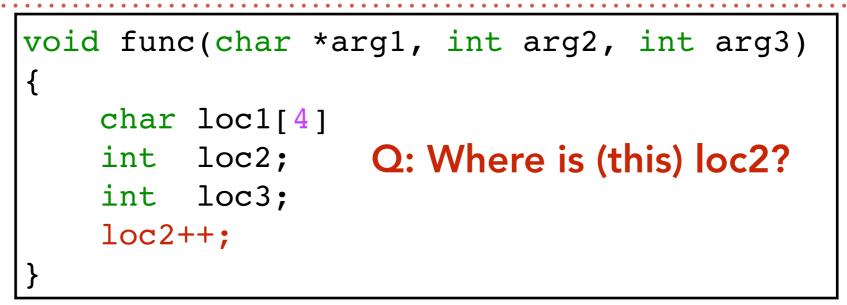


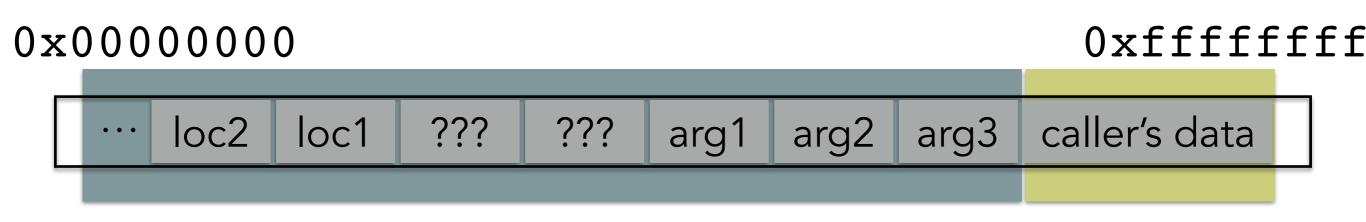




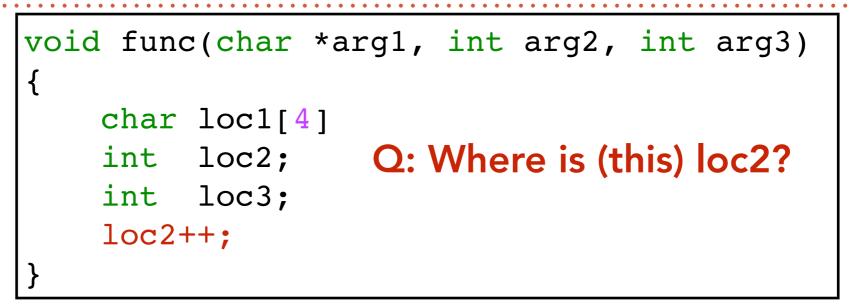


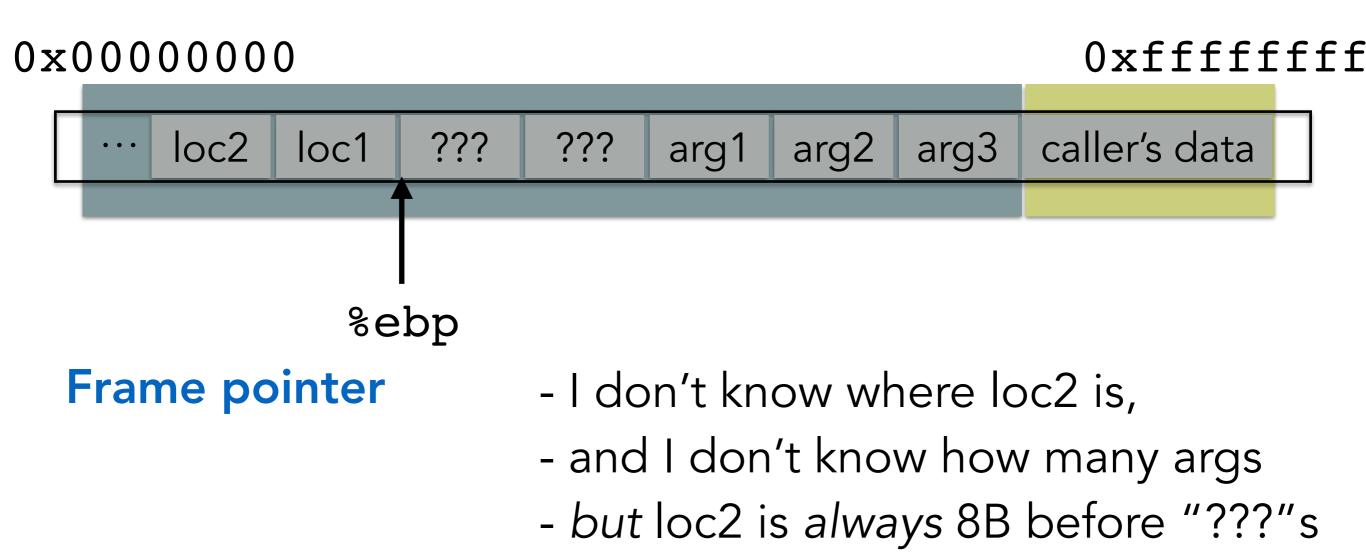
- but loc2 is always 8B before "???"s

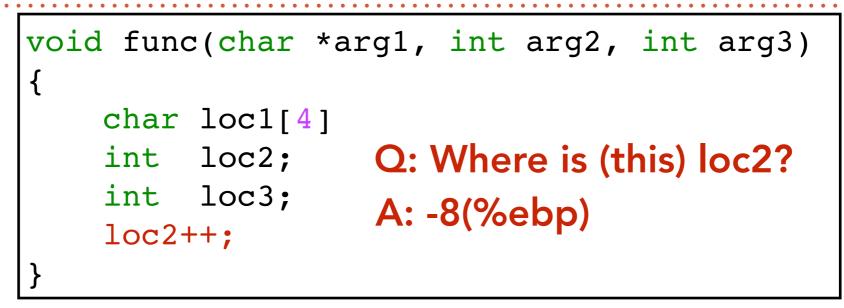


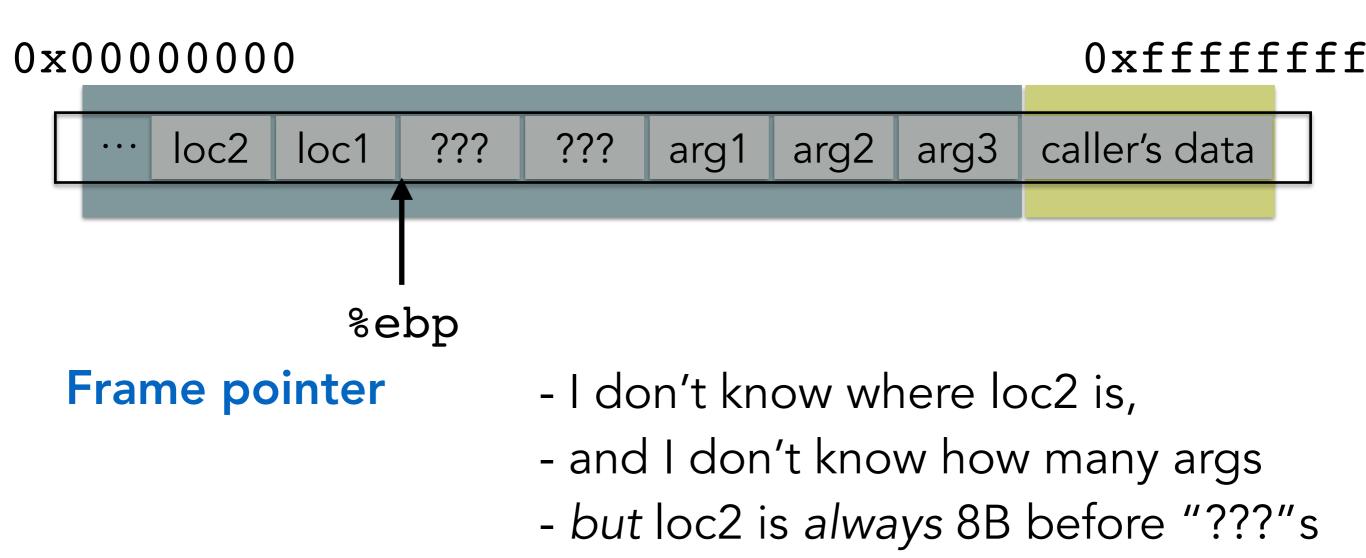


- I don't know where loc2 is,
- and I don't know how many args
- but loc2 is always 8B before "???"s









%ebp A memory address

(%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

%ebp A memory address

(%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

 0×000000000

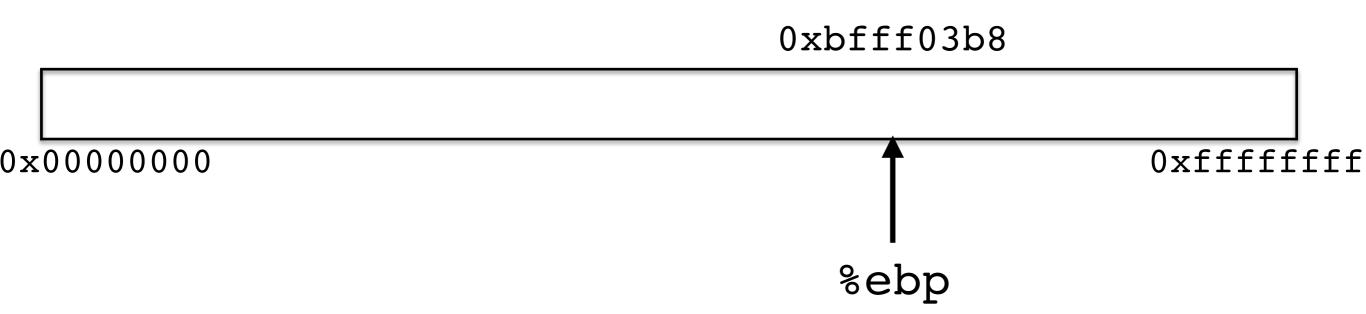
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

(%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

 0×000000000

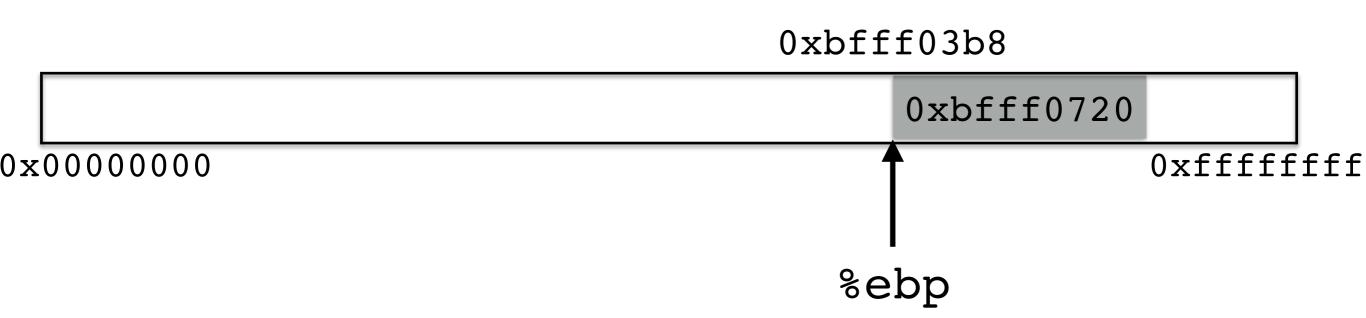
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

(%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)



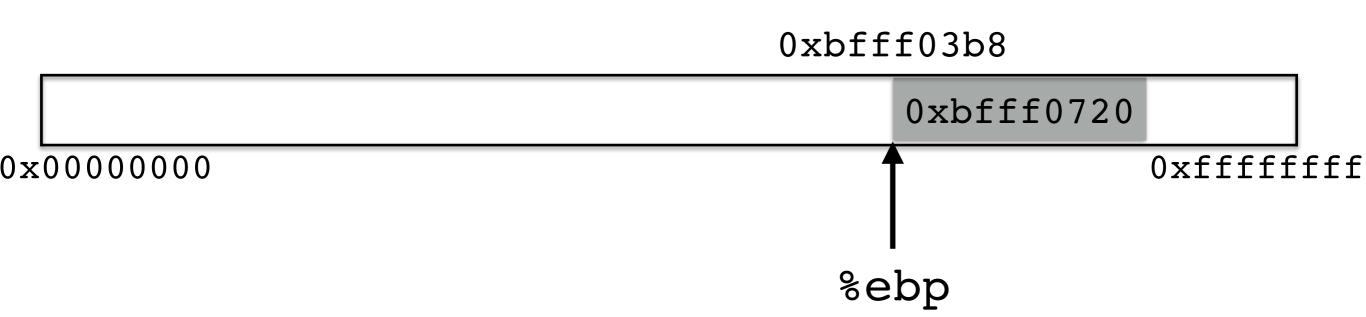
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)



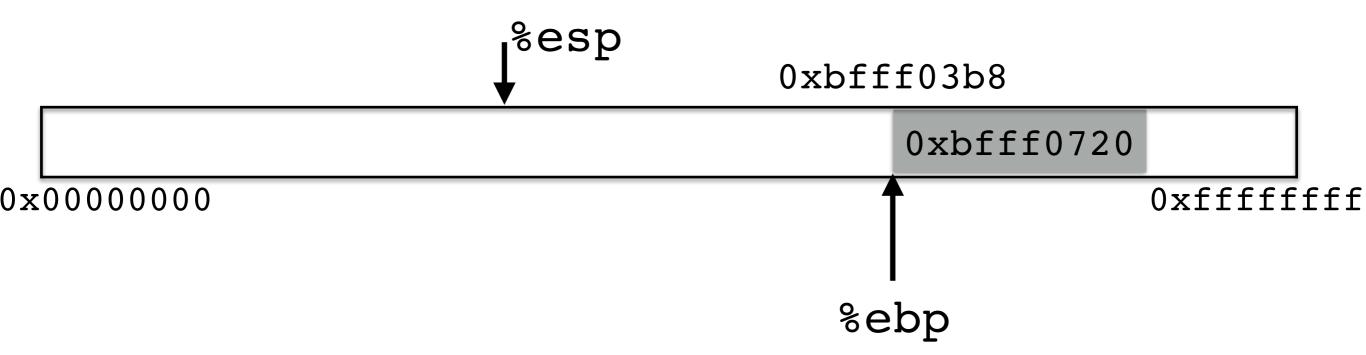
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)



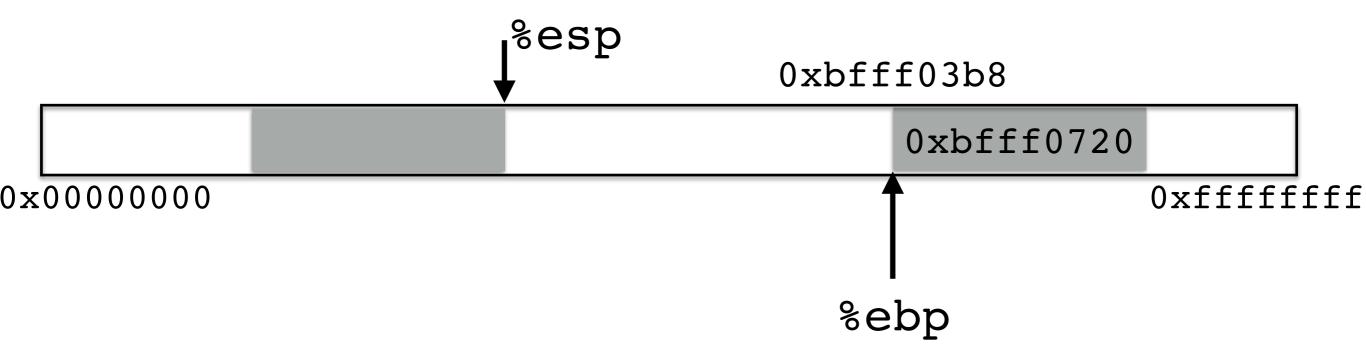
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)



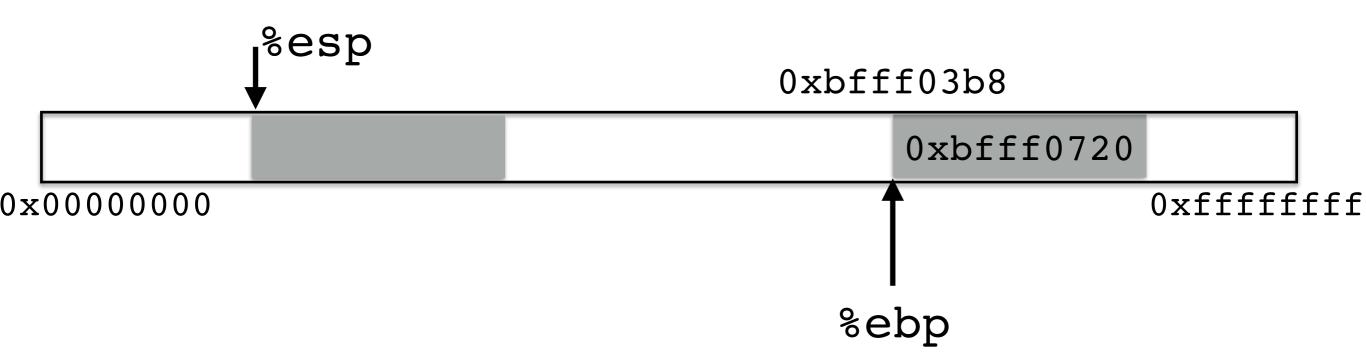
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)



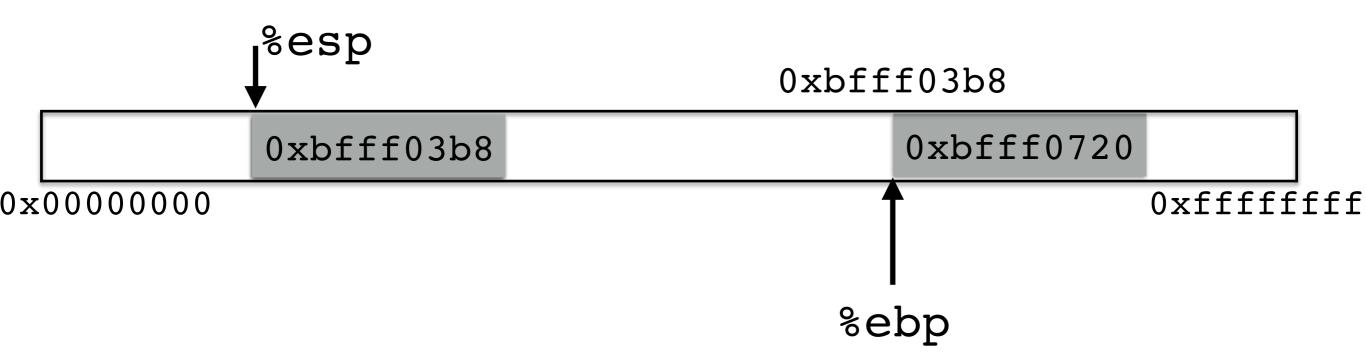
0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

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0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

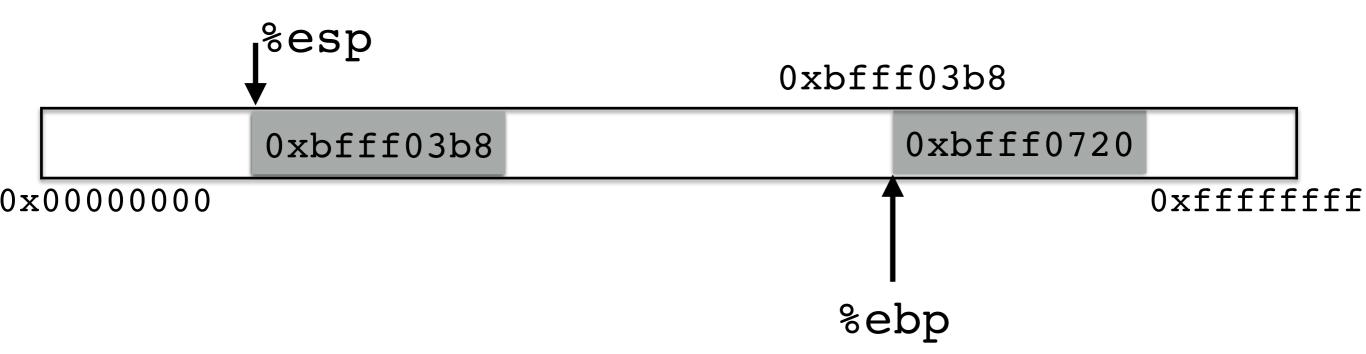


0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

pushl %ebp

movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */

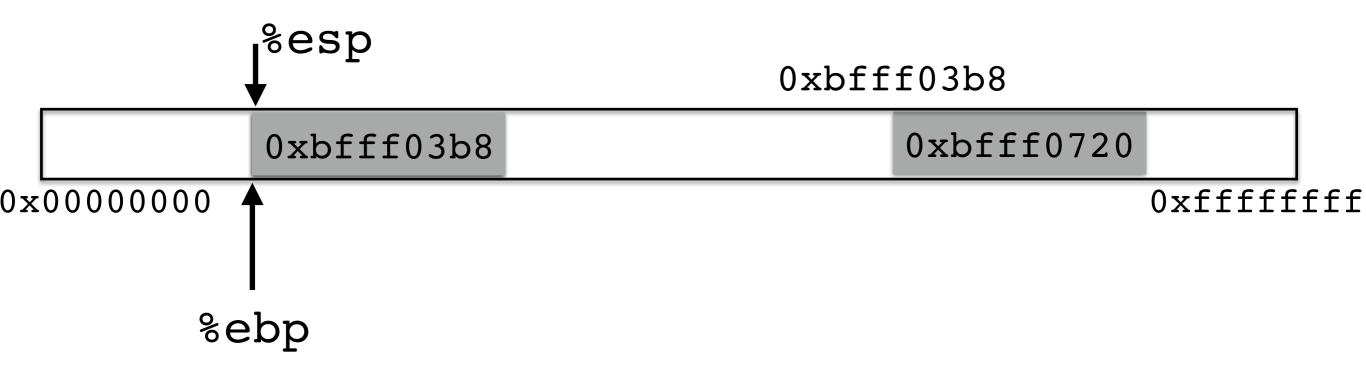


0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

pushl %ebp

movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */

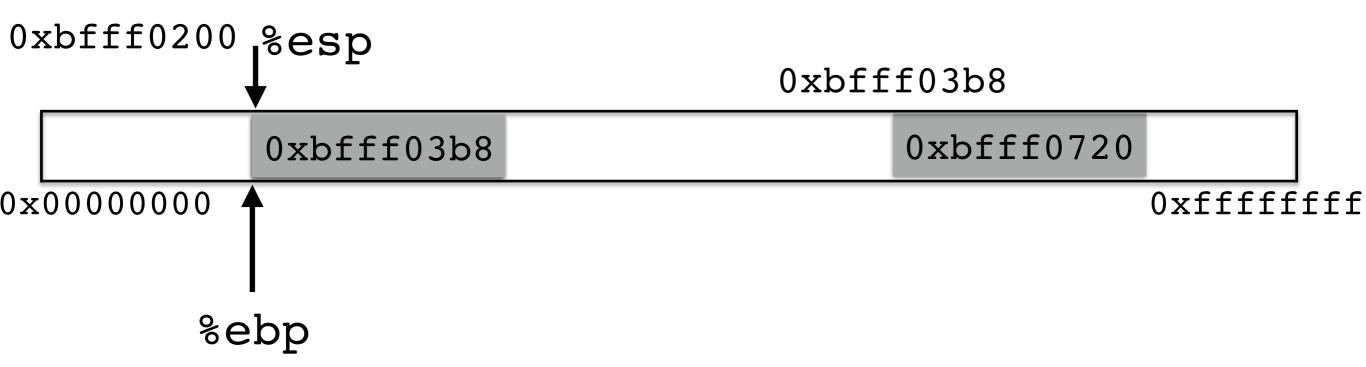


0xbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

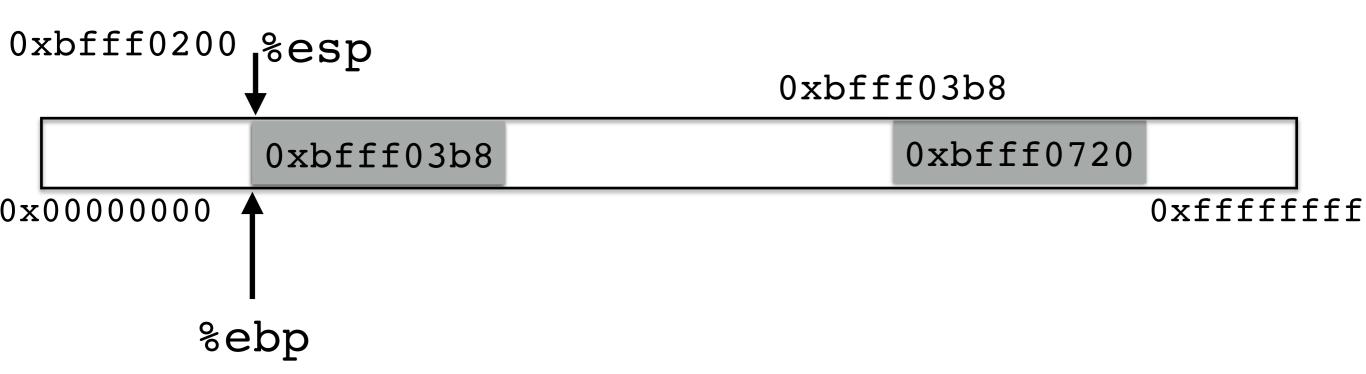
0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)

pushl %ebp

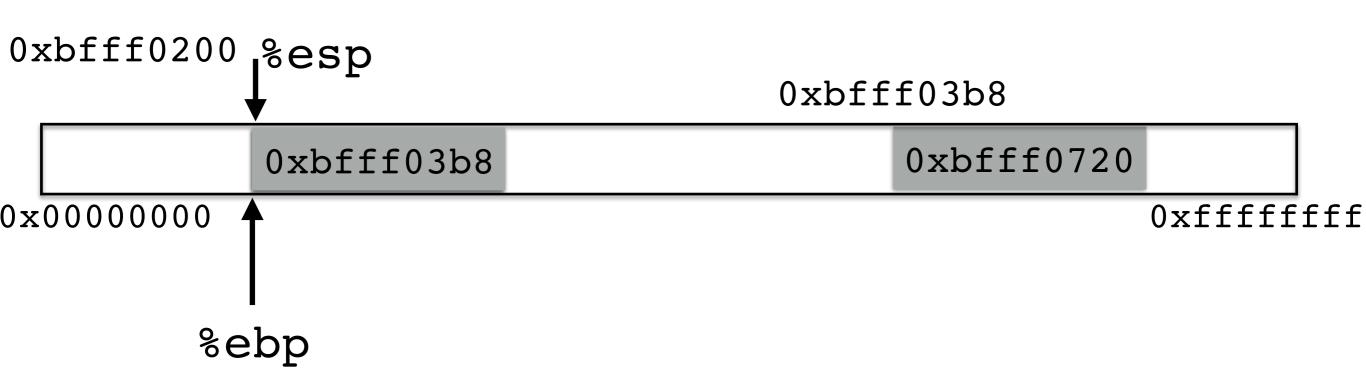
movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */



- 0xbfff03b8%ebpA memory address0xbfff0200
- 0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp (like dereferencing a pointer)
 - pushl %ebp
 - movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */



- 0xbfff03b8%ebpA memory address0xbfff0200
- 0xbfff0720 (%ebp) The value at memory address %ebp
 0xbfff03b8 (like dereferencing a pointer)
 - pushl %ebp
 - movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */

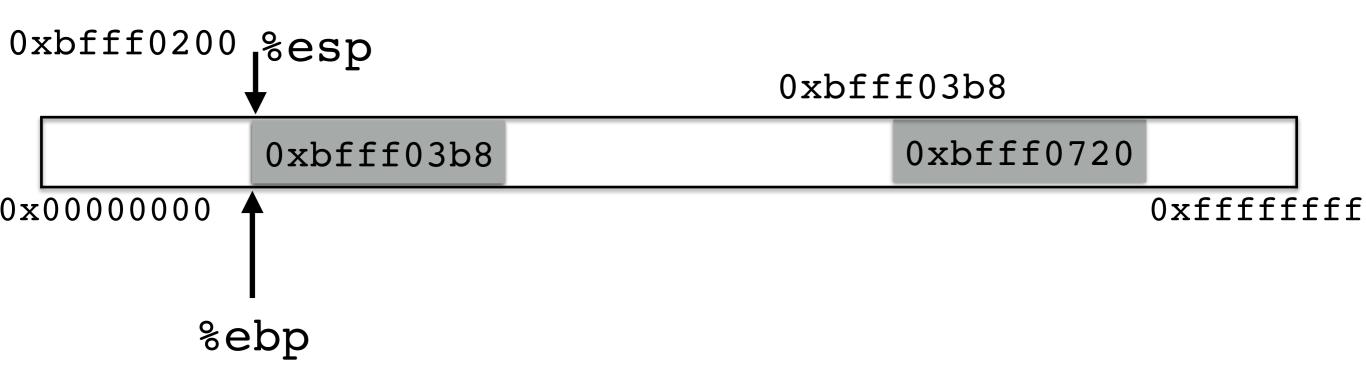


Oxbfff03b8 %ebp A memory address

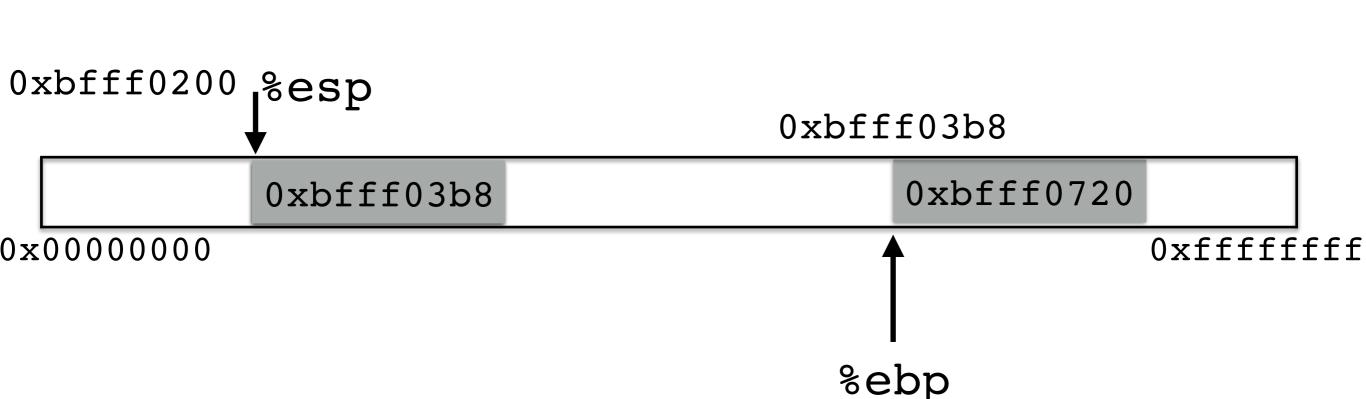
0xbfff0720(%ebp)The value at memory address %ebp0xbfff03b8(like dereferencing a pointer)

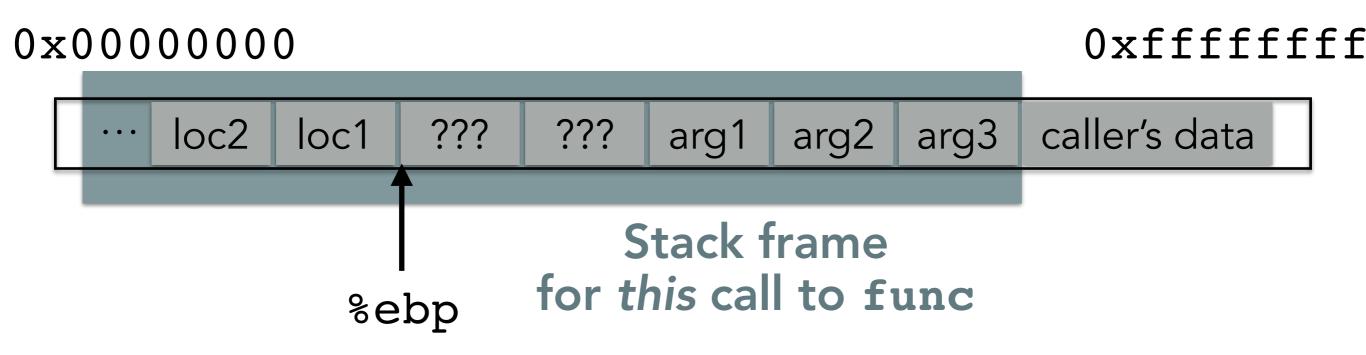
pushl %ebp
movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */

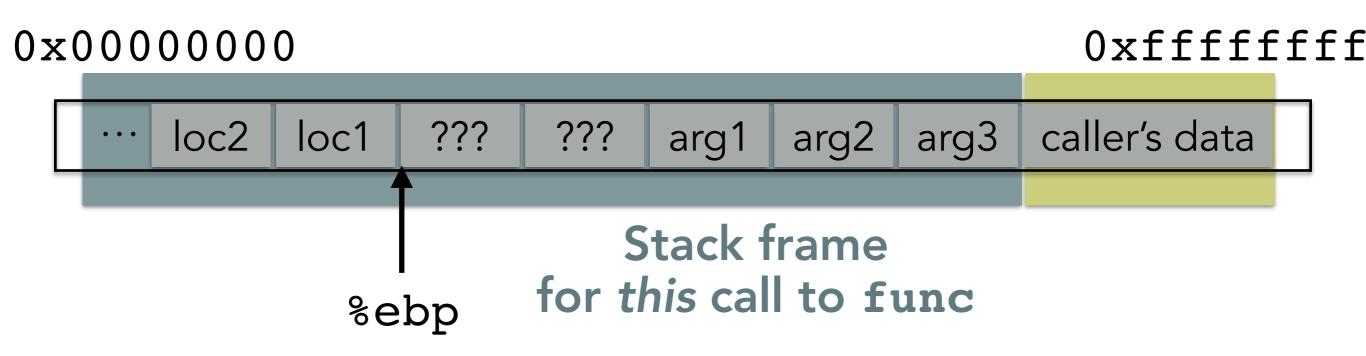
movl (%ebp) %ebp /* %ebp = (%ebp) */

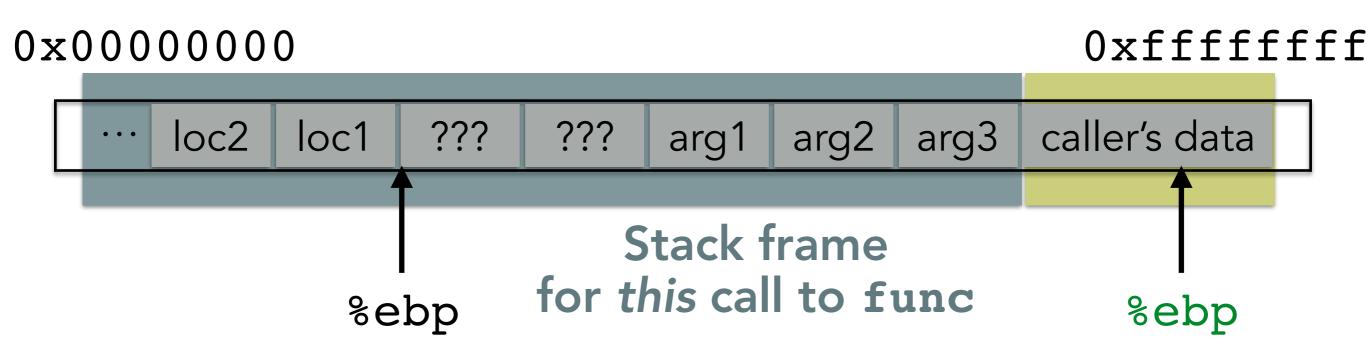


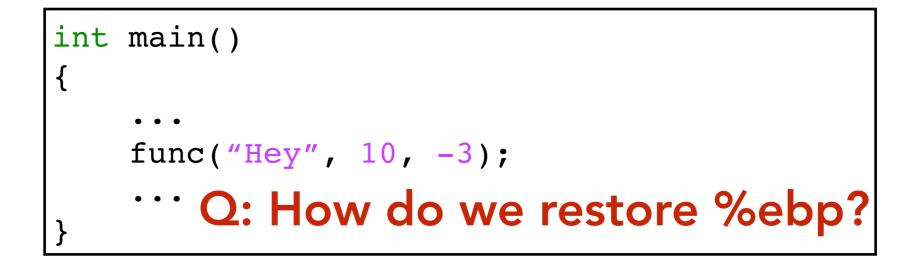
- 0xbfff03b8%ebpA memory address0xbfff0200
- 0xbfff0720(%ebp)The value at memory address %ebp0xbfff03b8(like dereferencing a pointer)
 - pushl %ebp movl %esp %ebp /* %ebp = %esp */ movl (%ebp) %ebp /* %ebp = (%ebp) */

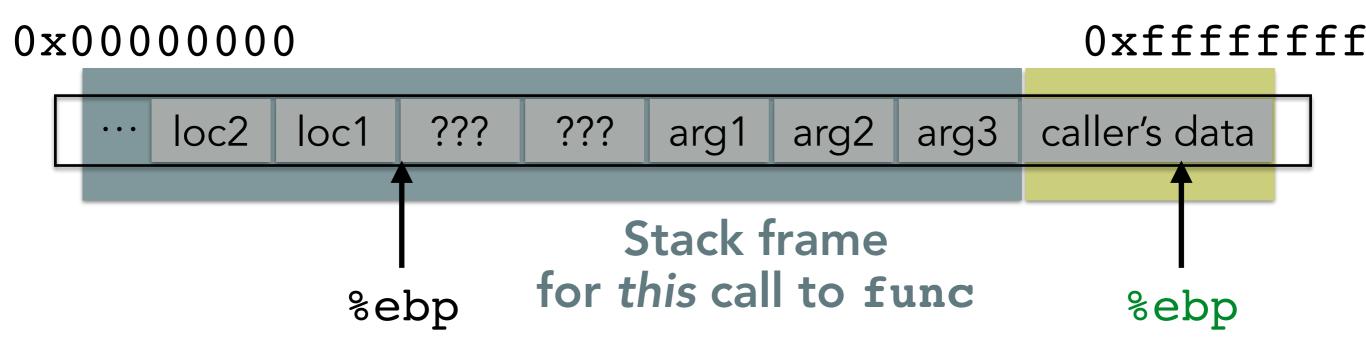


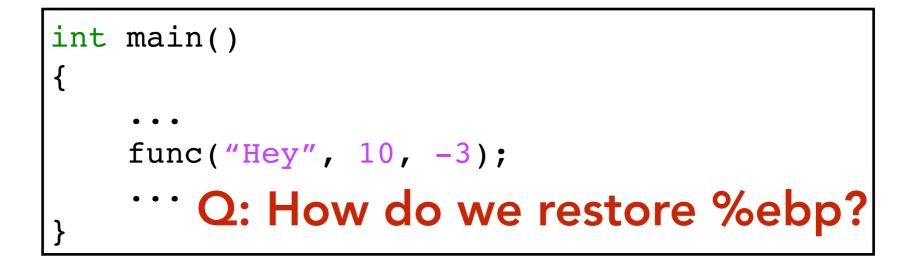


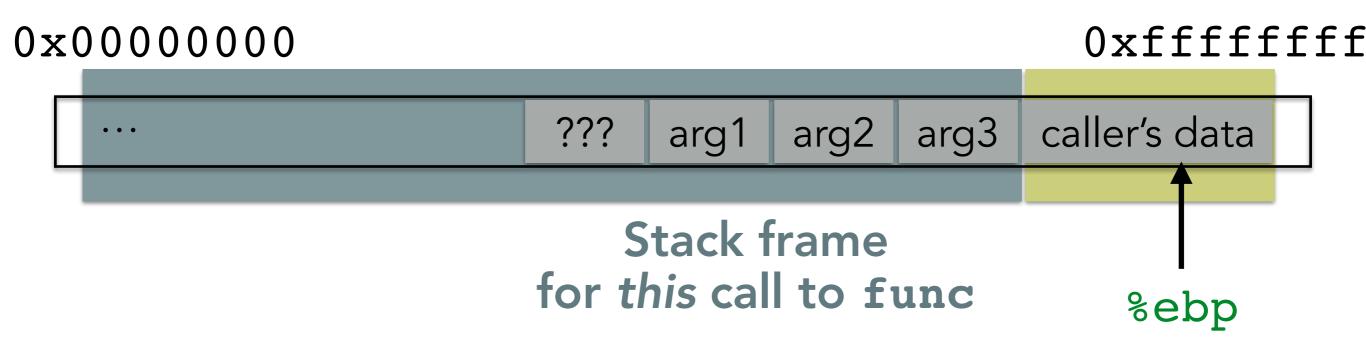




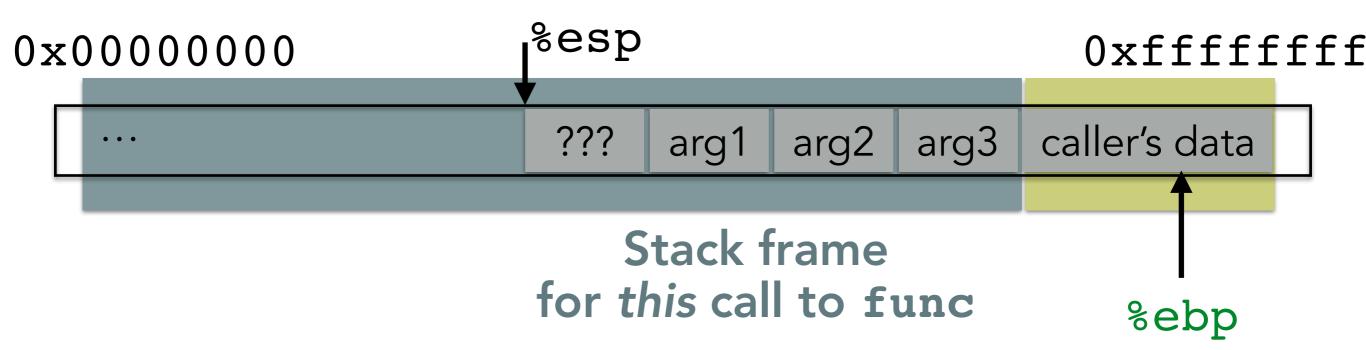






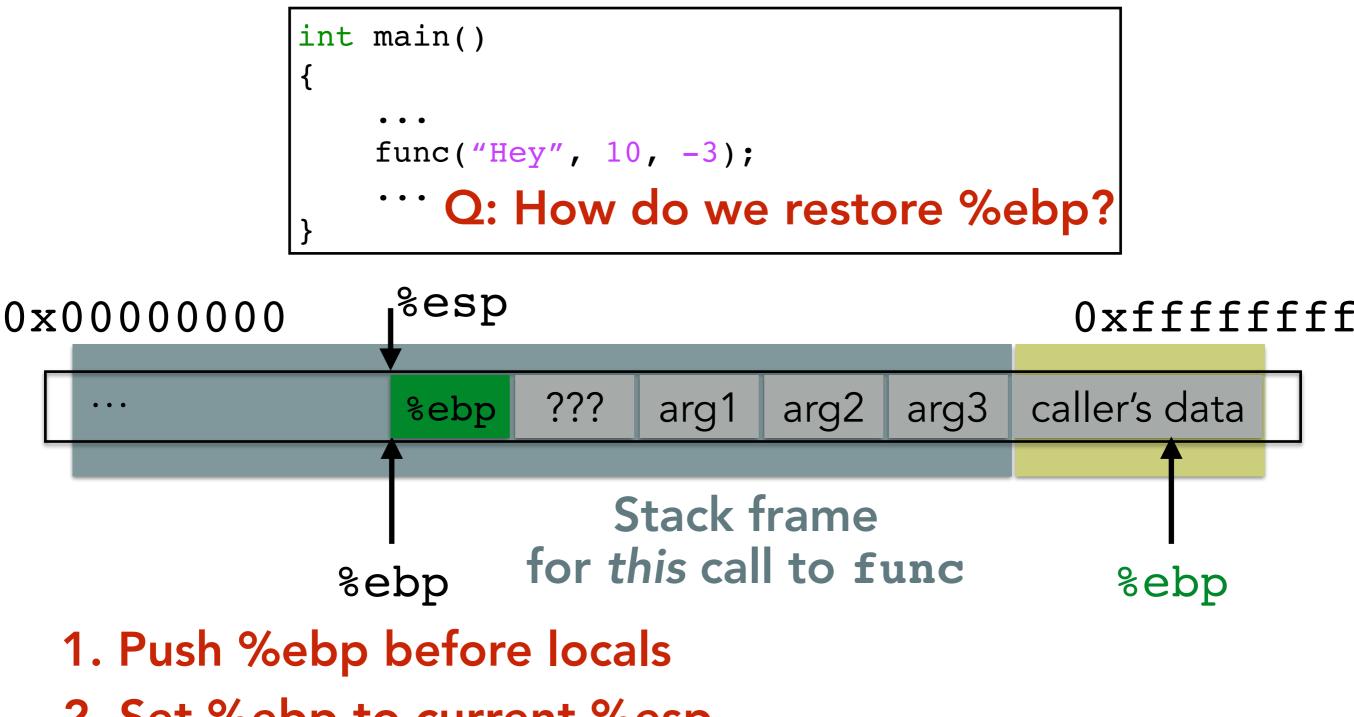


int main()
{
 ...
 func("Hey", 10, -3);
 ... O: How do we restore %ebp?

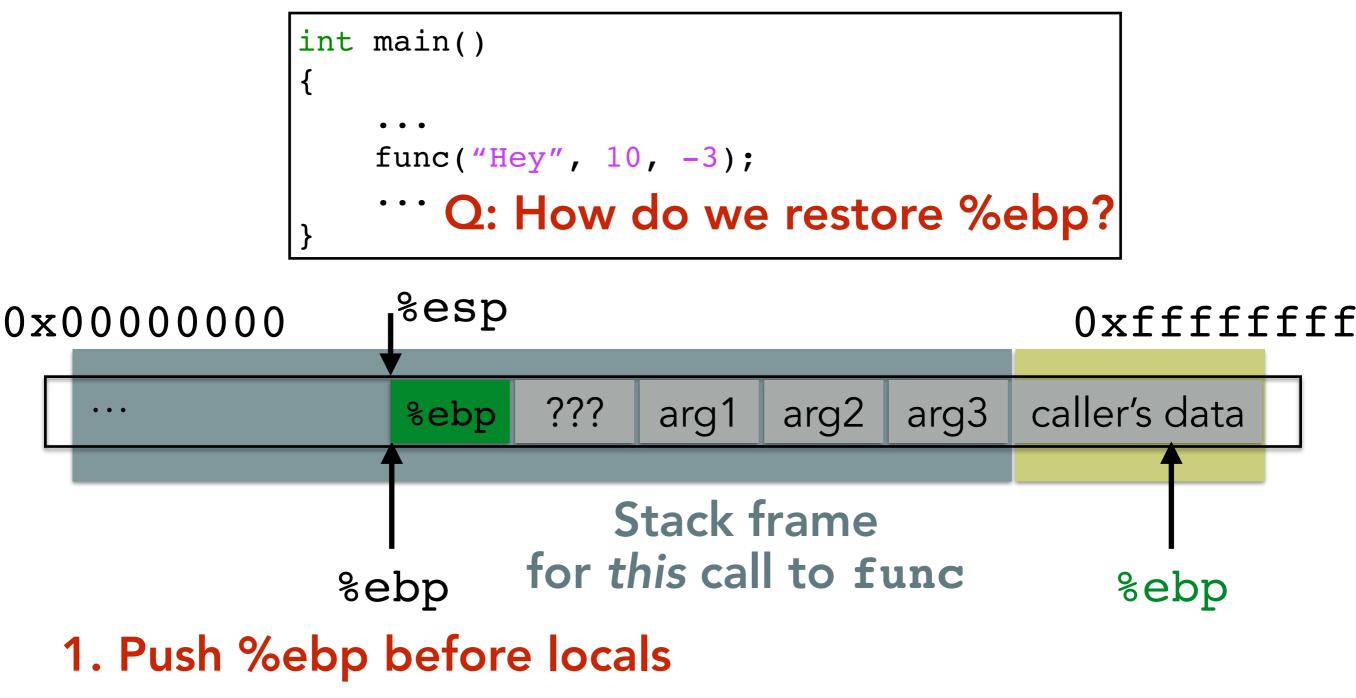




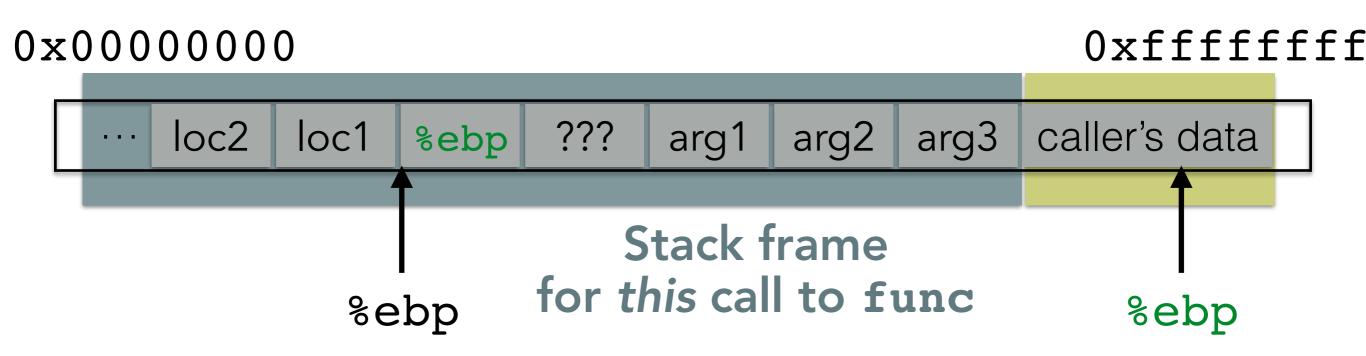
1. Push %ebp before locals

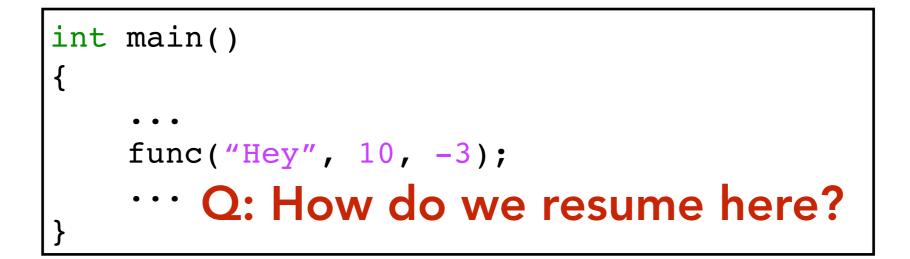


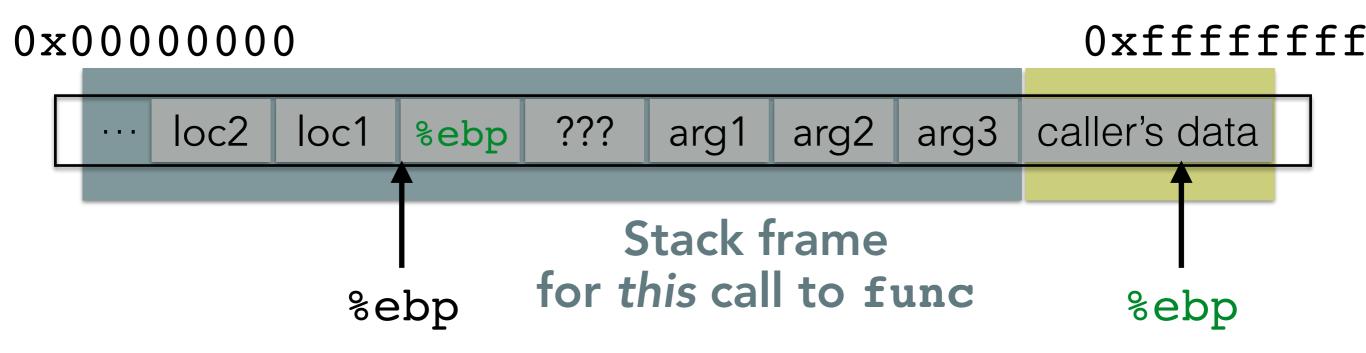
2. Set %ebp to current %esp

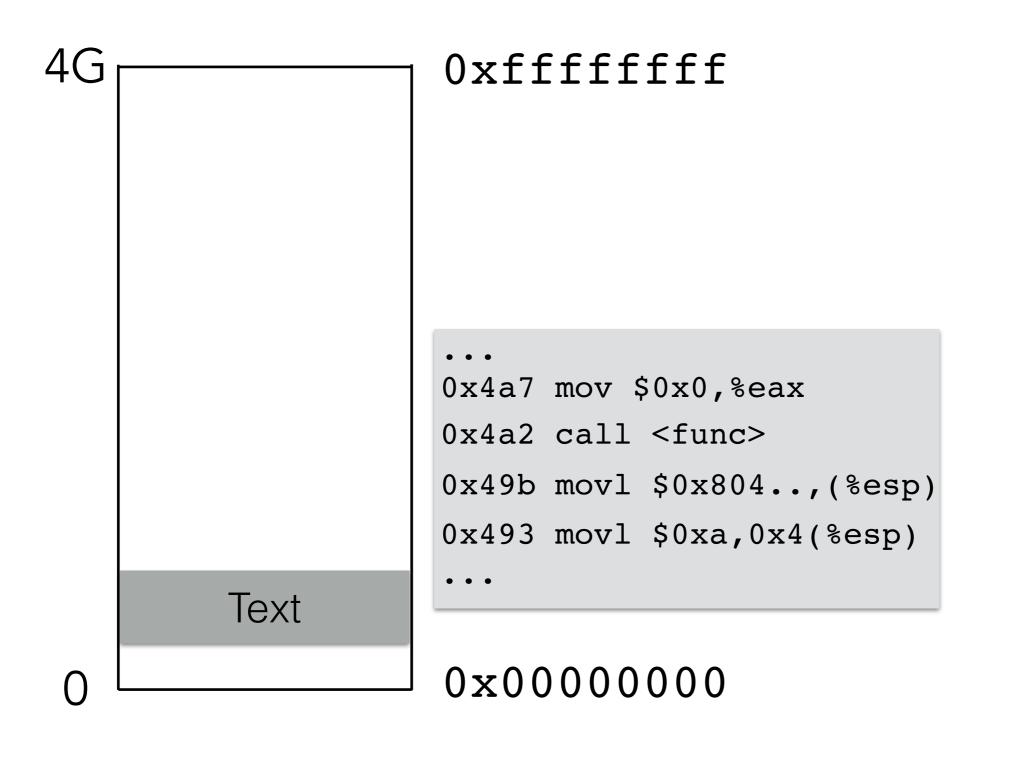


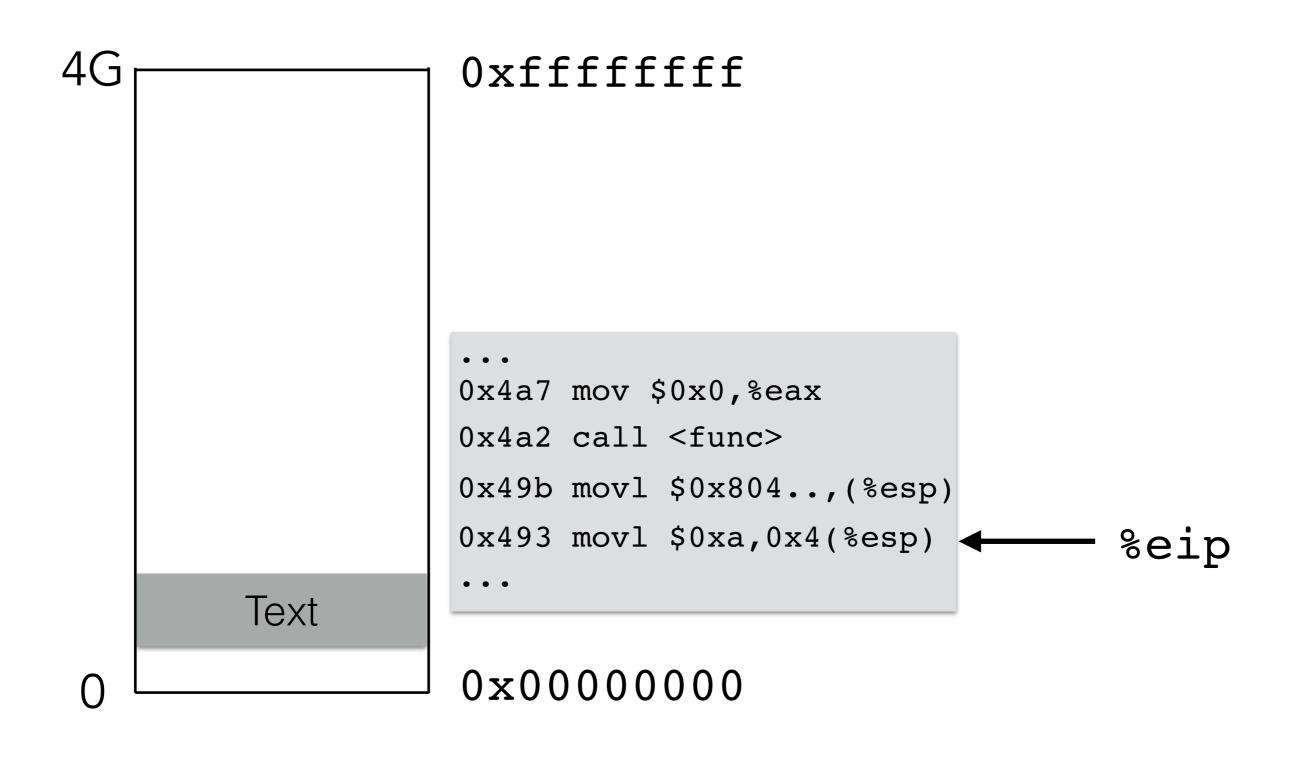
- 2. Set %ebp to current %esp
- 3. Set %ebp to(%ebp) at return

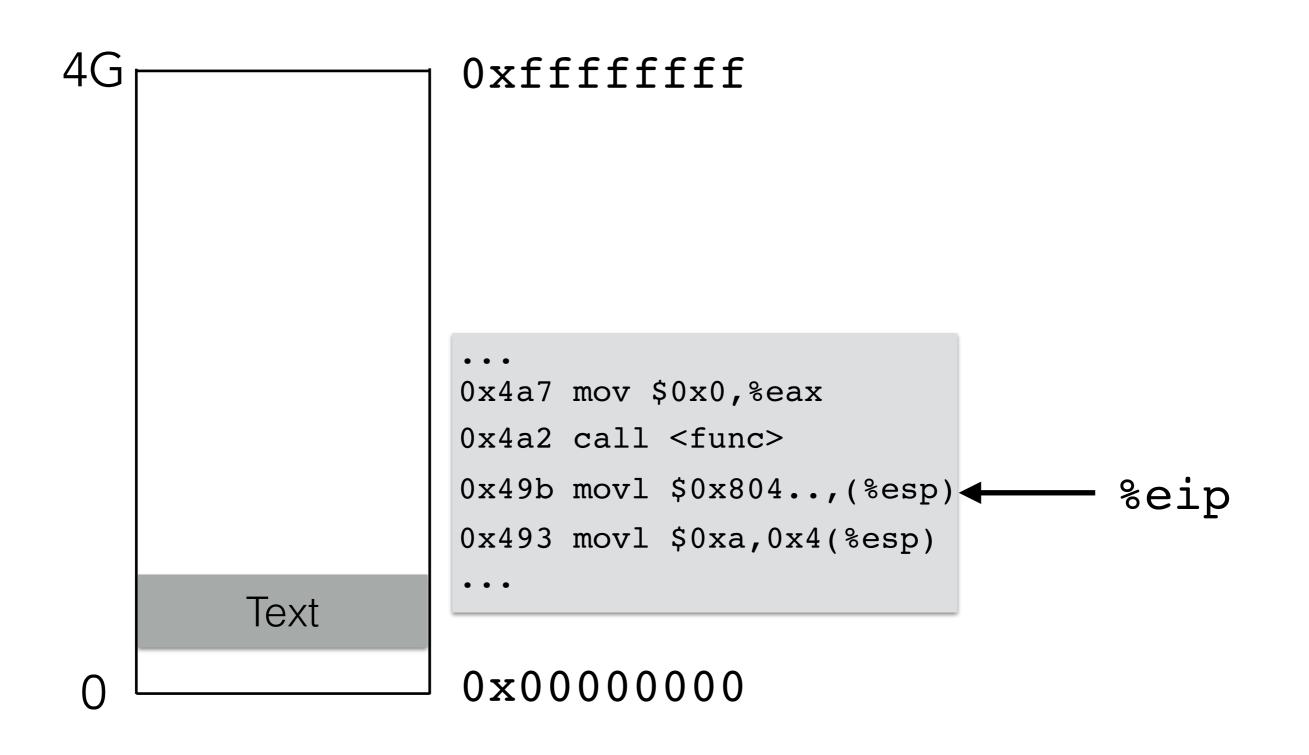


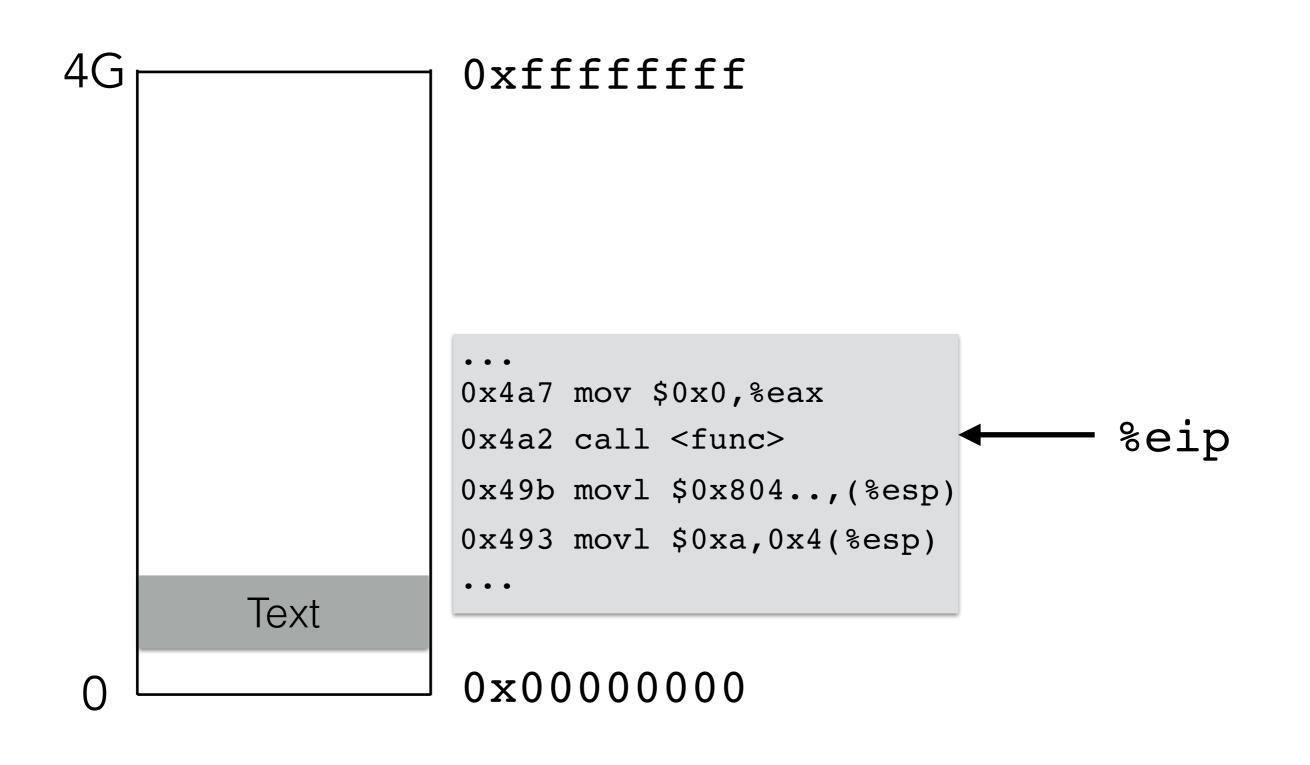


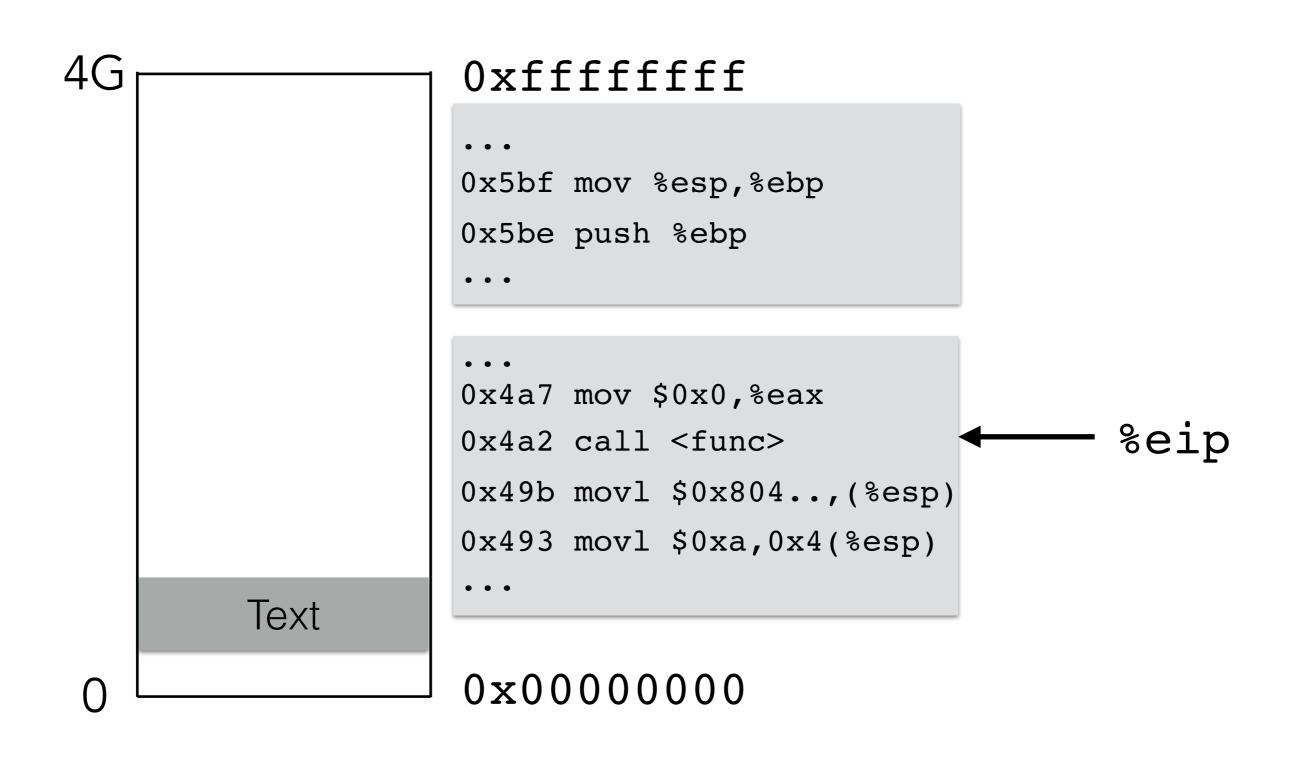


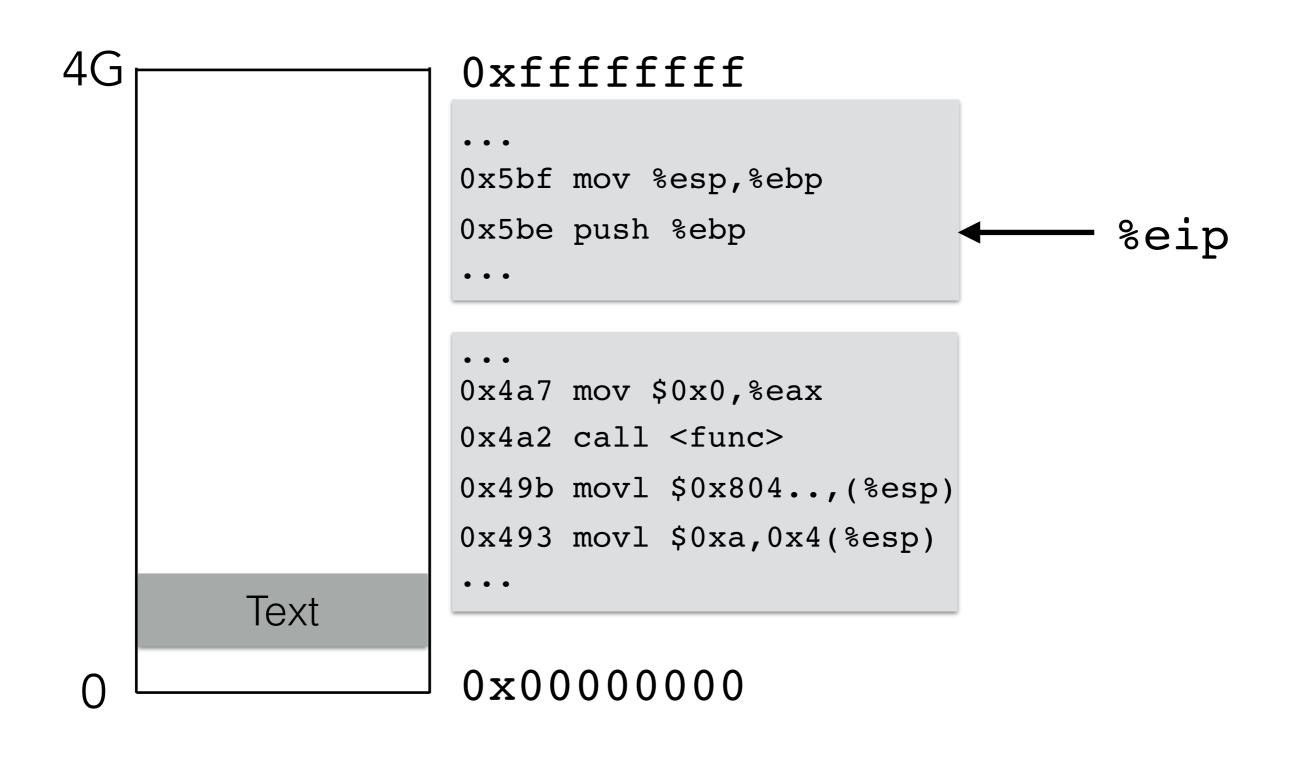


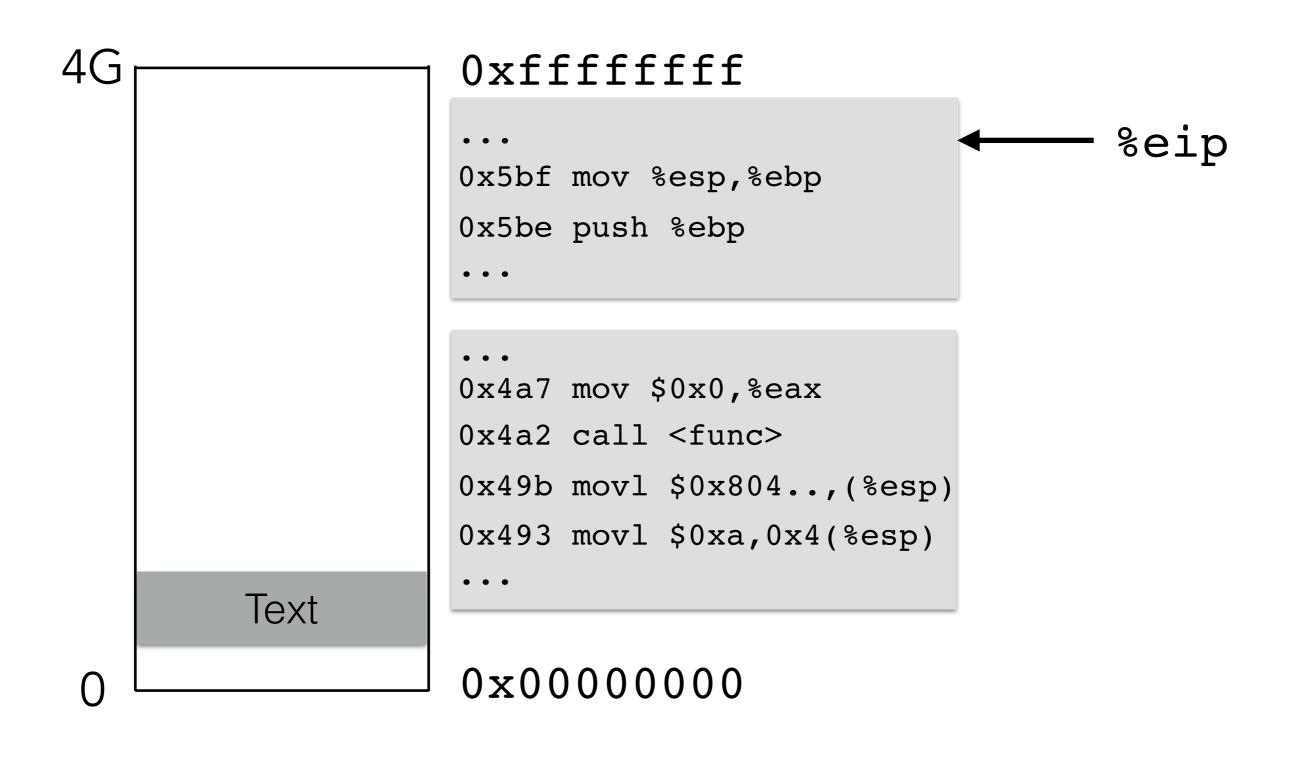


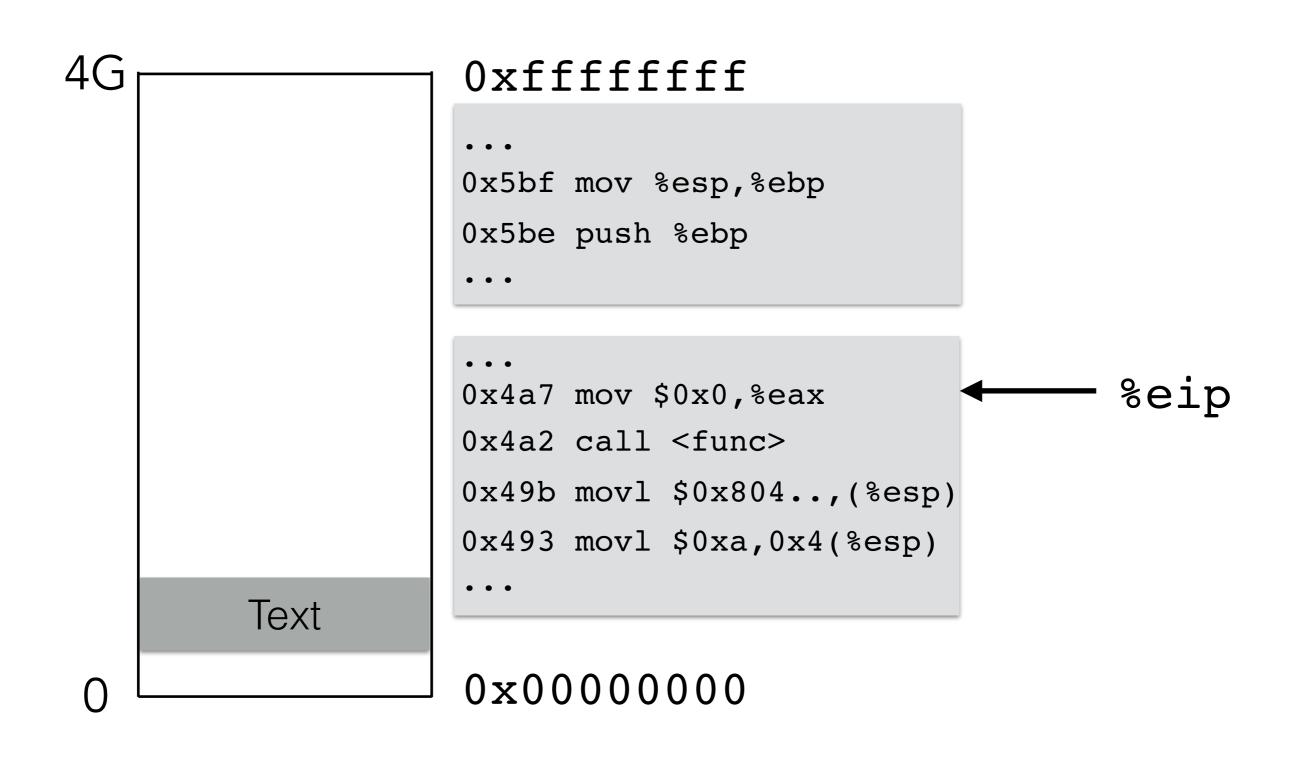


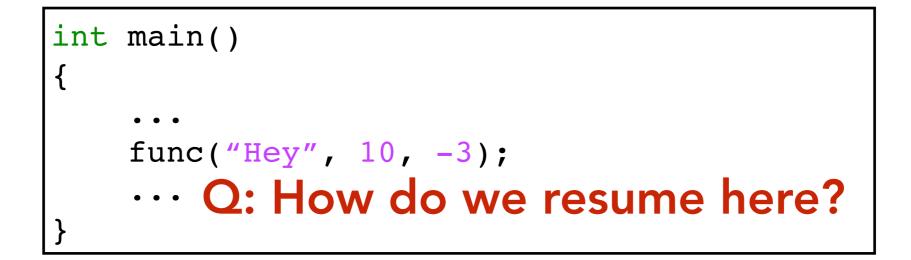


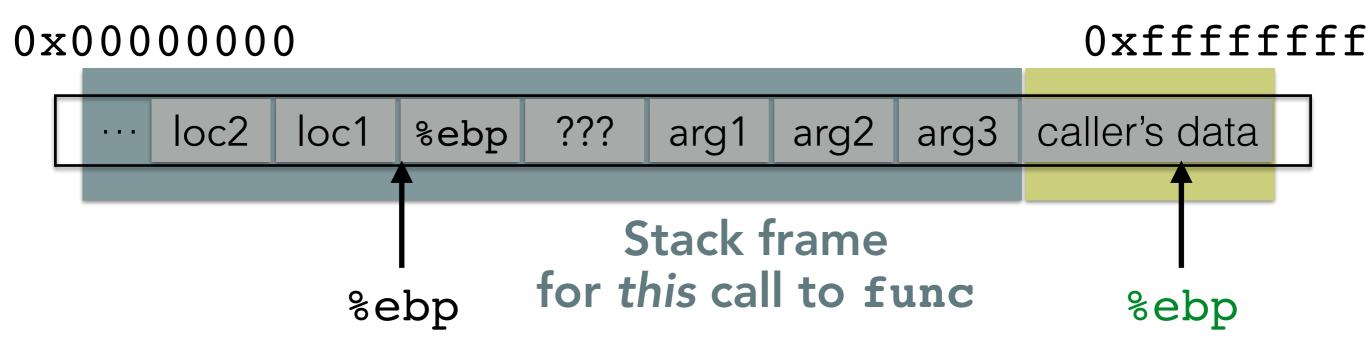


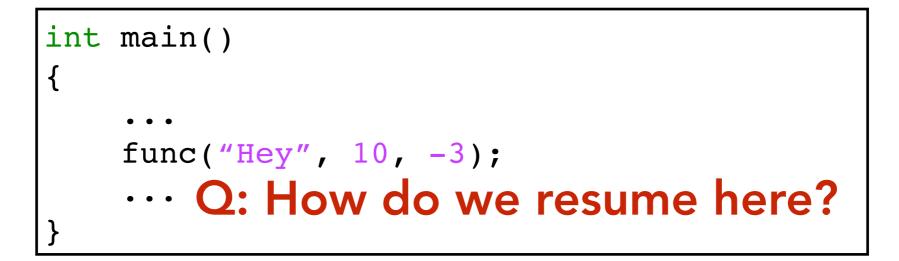


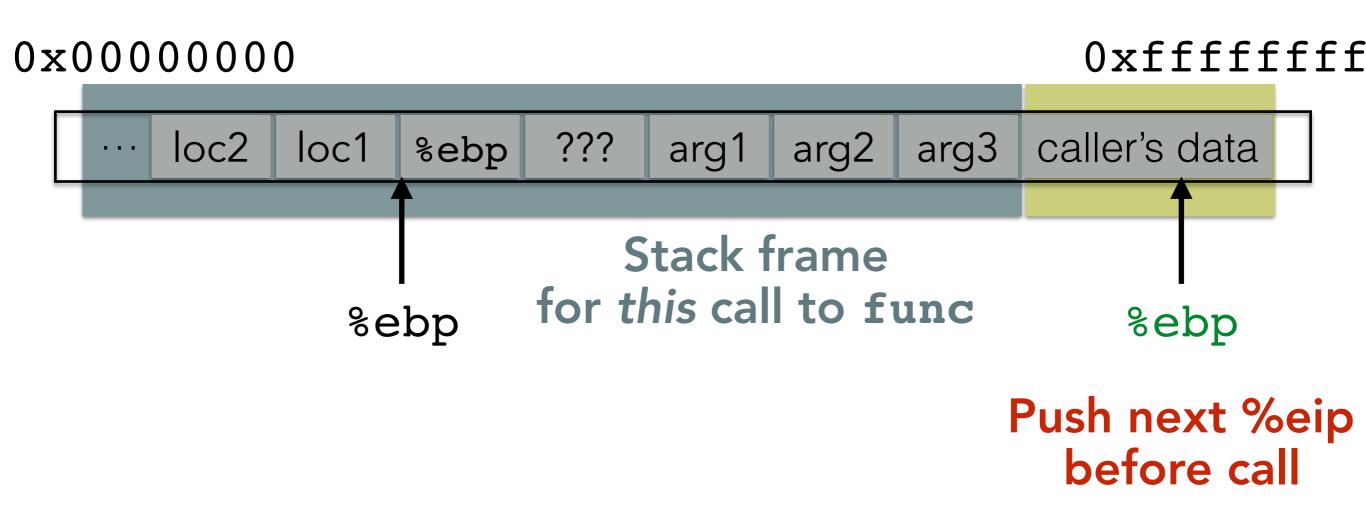


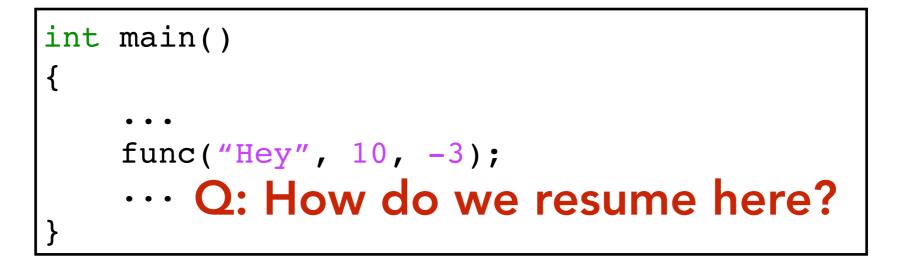


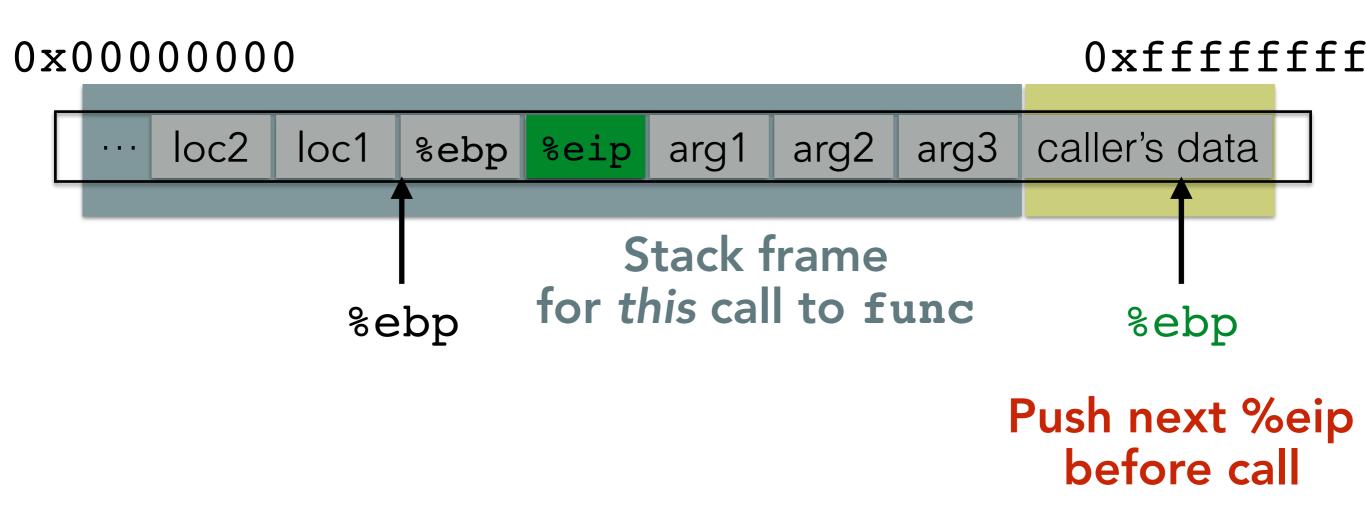


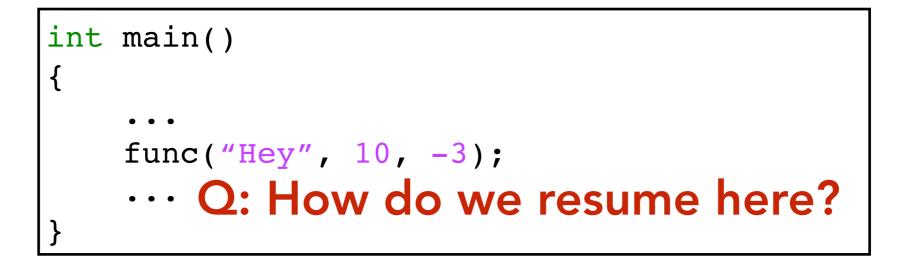


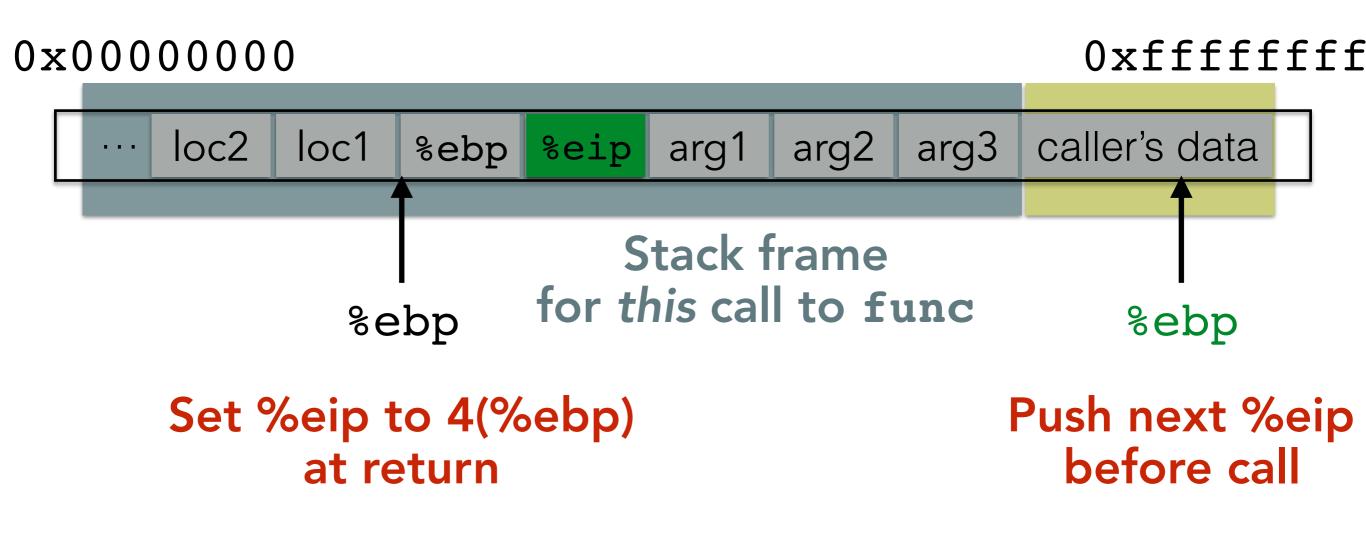


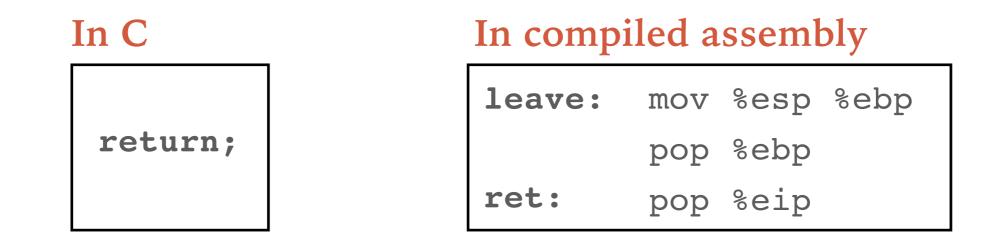




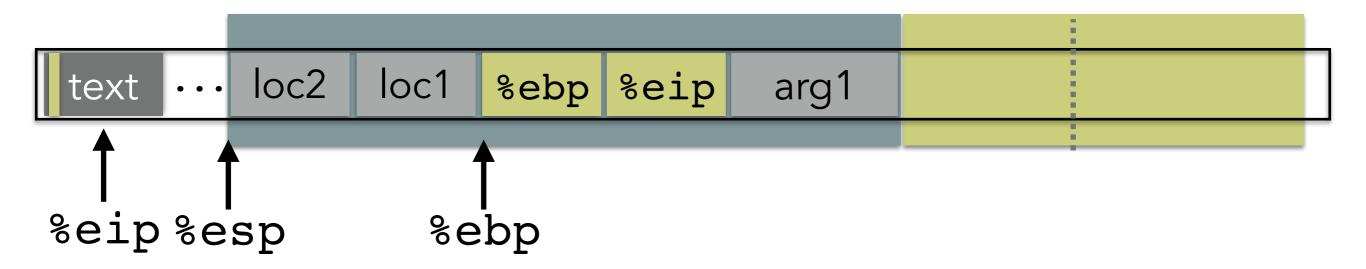


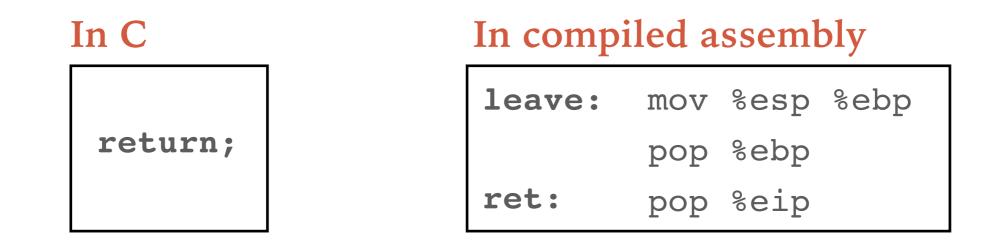


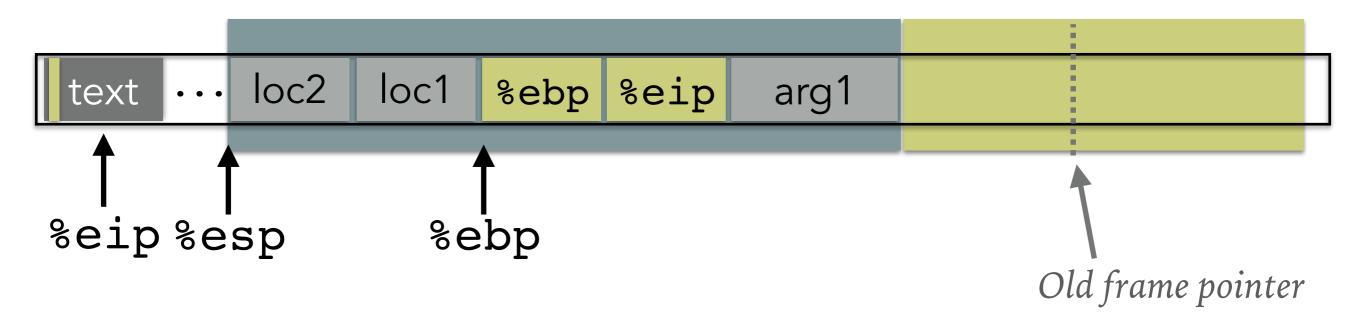


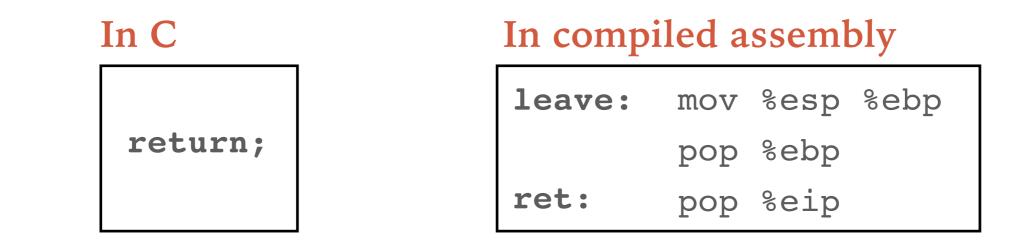


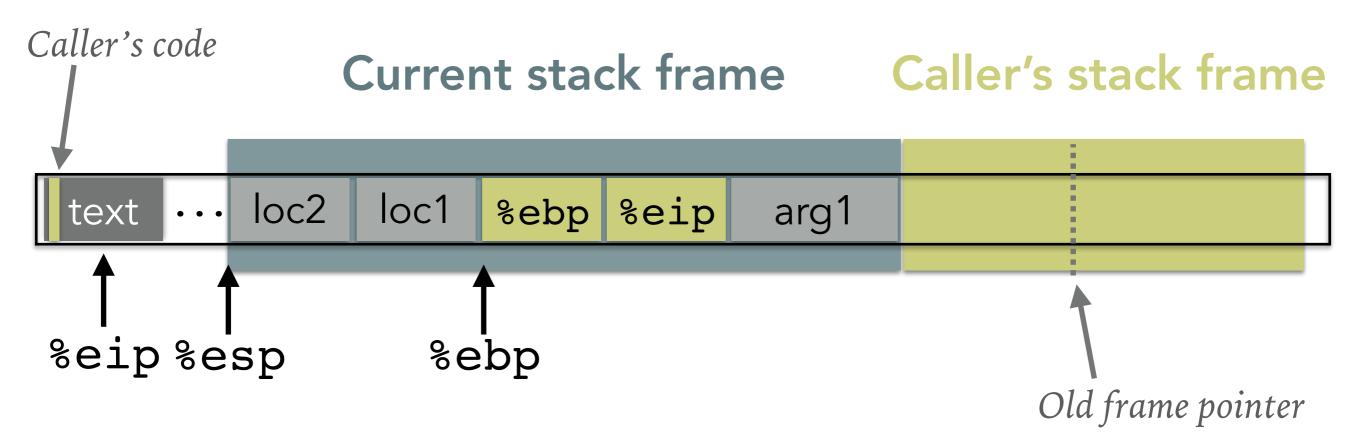
Current stack frame Caller's stack frame

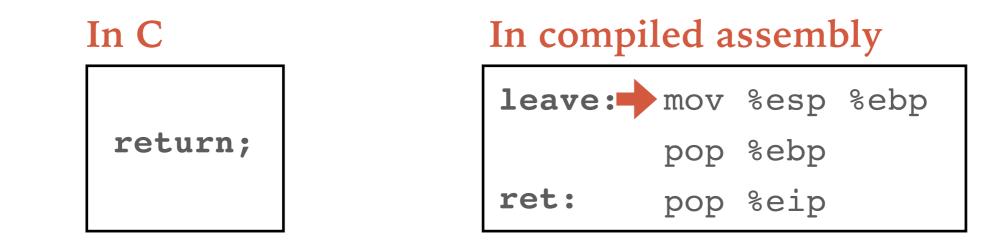


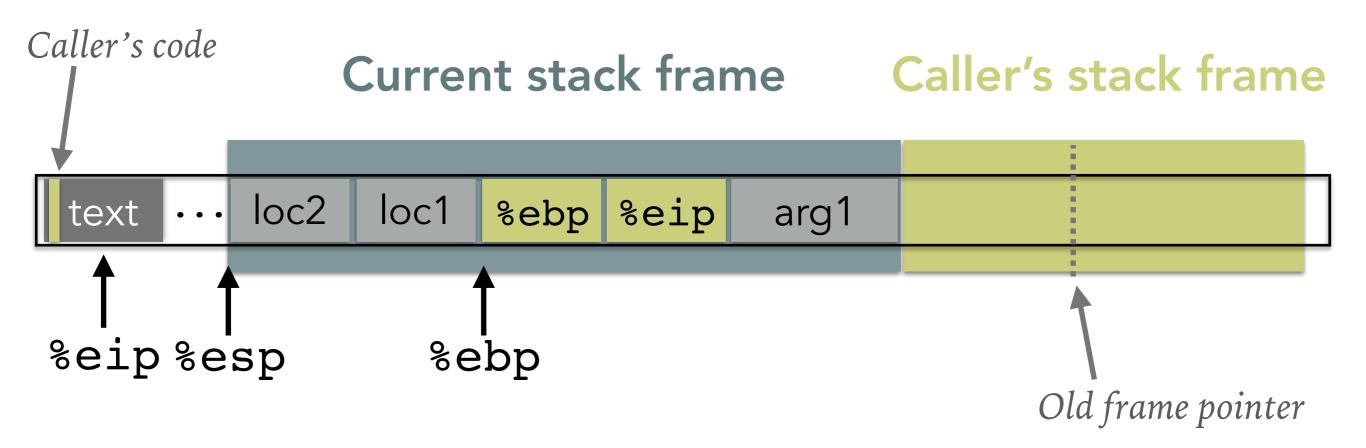


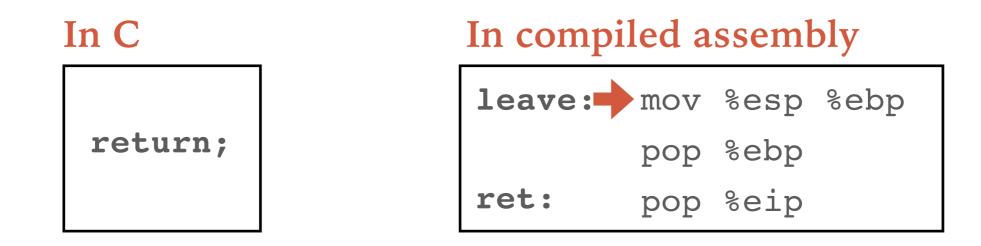


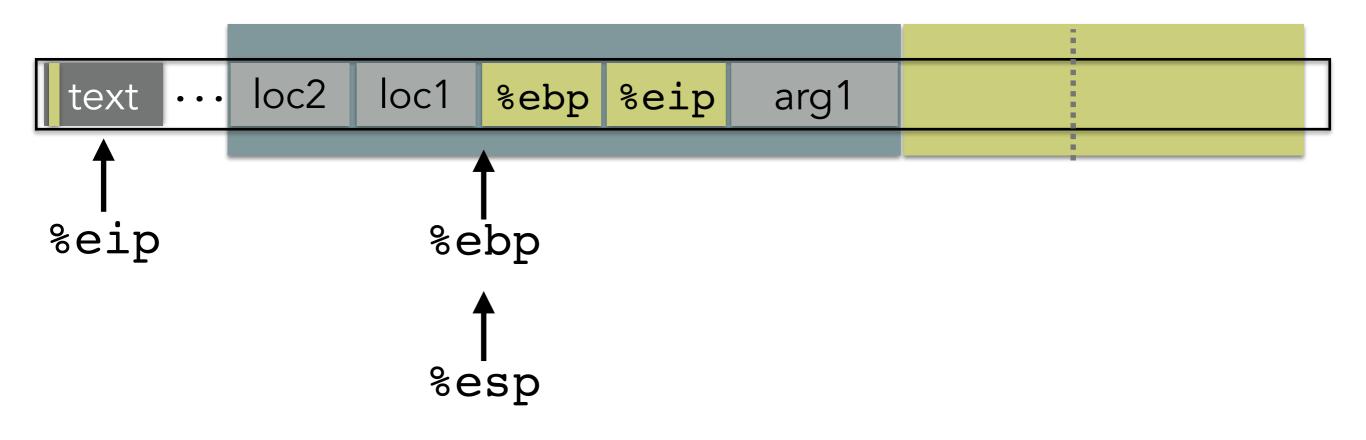


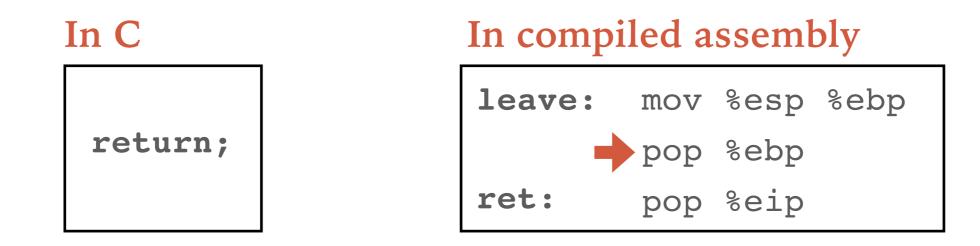


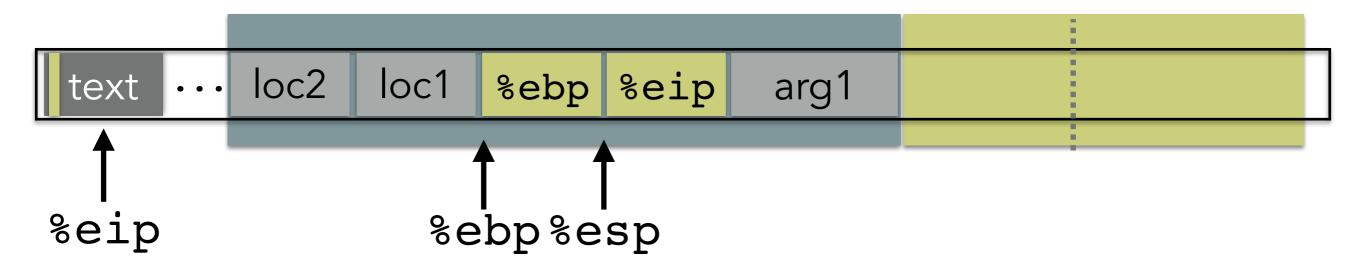


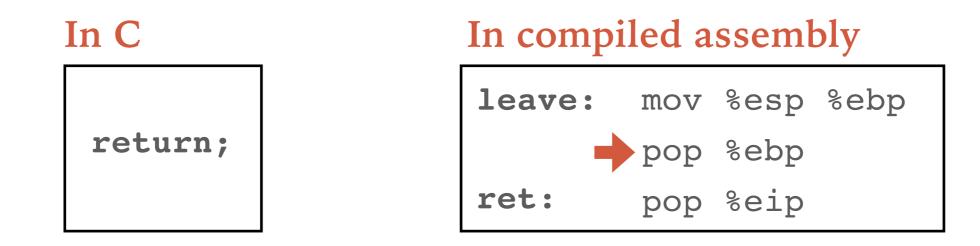


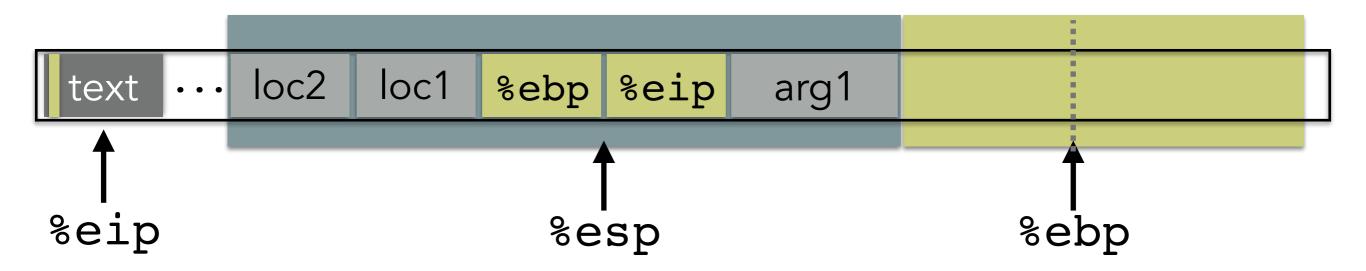


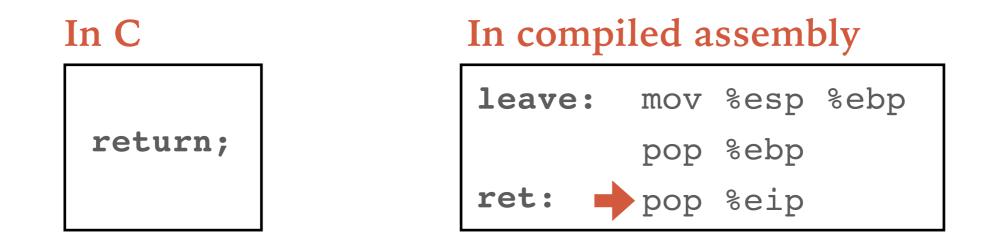


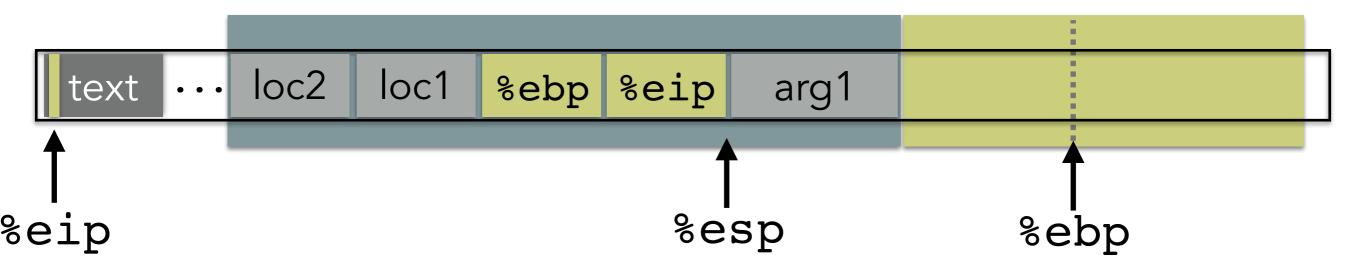


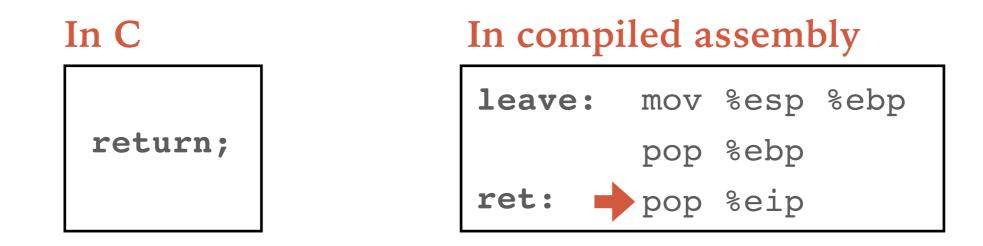


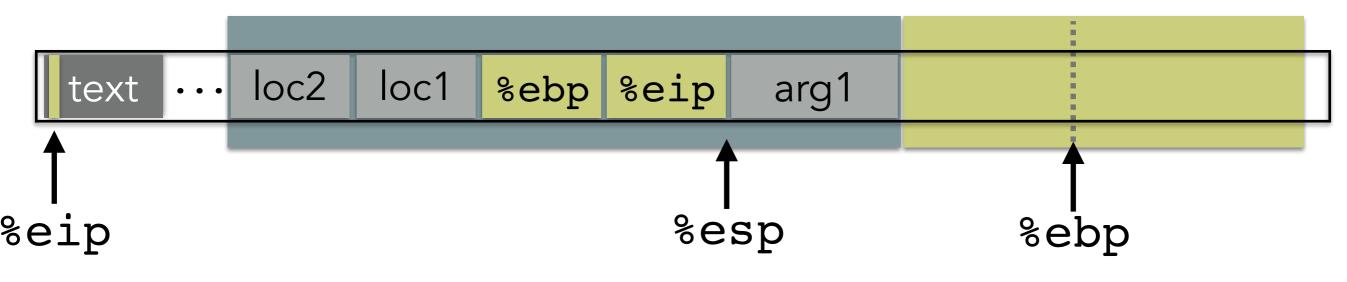




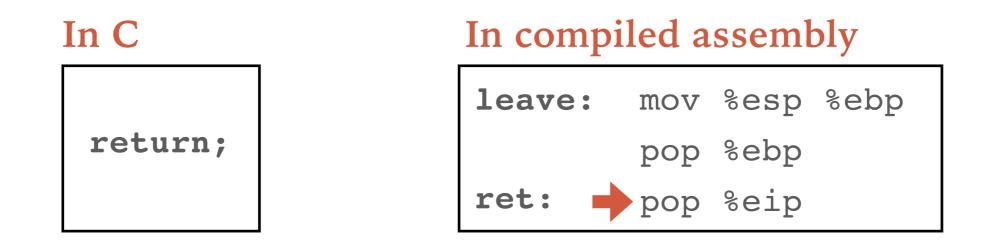


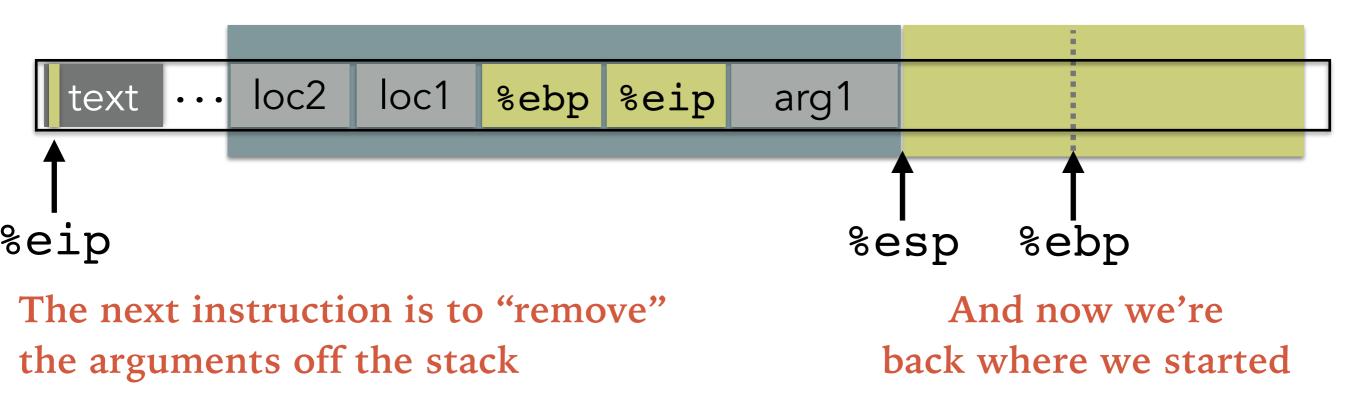






- The next instruction is to "remove"
- the arguments off the stack





Calling function (before calling):

- 1. Push arguments onto the stack (in reverse)
- 2.**Push the return address**, i.e., the address of the instruction you want run after control returns to you: e.g., %eip + 2
- 3. Jump to the function's address

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Called function (when called):

4. Push the old frame pointer onto the stack: push %ebp

5.**Set frame pointer** %ebp to where the end of the stack is right now: %ebp=%esp

6. Push local variables onto the stack; access them as offsets from %ebp

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Called function (when returning):

7.**Reset the previous stack frame**: %esp = %ebp; pop %ebp 8.**Jump back to return address**: pop %eip

Calling function (before calling):

- 1. Push arguments onto the stack (in reverse)
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- 3. Jump to the function's address

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6.Push local variables onto the stack; access them as offsets from %ebp

Called function (when returning):

7.Reset the previous stack frame: %esp = %ebp; pop %ebp8.Jump back to return address: pop %eip

Calling function (after return):

9. **Remove the arguments** off of the stack: %esp = %esp + number of bytes of args

BUFFER OVERFLOW ATTACKS

BUFFER OVERFLOWS: HIGH LEVEL

- Buffer =
 - Contiguous set of a given data type
 - Common in C
 - All strings are buffers of char's
- Overflow =
 - Put more into the buffer than it can hold
- Where does the extra data go?
- Well now that you're experts in memory layouts...

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    ...
}
```

```
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    ...
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```

&arg1

```
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{
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    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    ...
}
```

A u t h 4d 65 21 00	%eip	&arg1
---------------------	------	-------

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    ...
}
```

Upon return, sets %ebp to 0x0021654d

A	u	t	h	4d	65	21	00	%eip	&arg1	
---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	------	-------	--

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    ...
}
```

Upon return, sets %ebp to 0x0021654d

A	u	t	h	4d	65	21	00	%eip	&arg1	
 buffer SEGFAULT (0x00216551)										

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    • • •
```

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    . . .
```



```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    • • •
```

&arg1

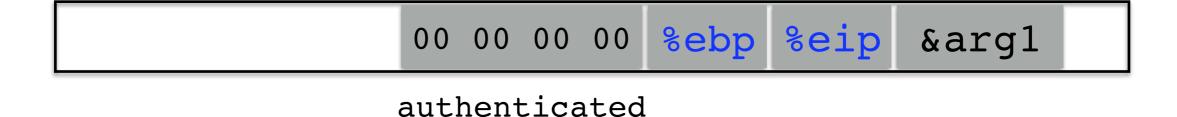
```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    . . .
```



```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
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int main()
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```
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    int authenticated = 0;
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```



```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    . . .
```

00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 **%ebp %eip &arg1** buffer authenticated

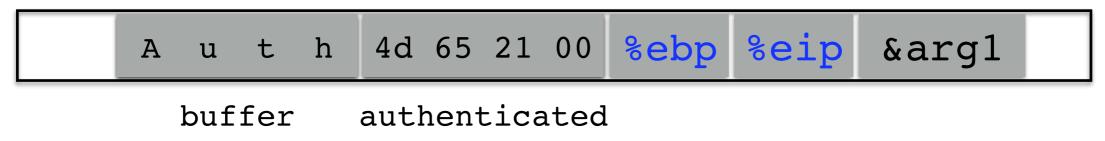
```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    . . .
```

 A
 u
 t
 h
 00
 00
 00
 %eip
 &arg1

 buffer
 authenticated

 </td

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
    . . .
```



```
void func(char *arg1)
ł
    int authenticated = 0;
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    if(authenticated) { ...
}
int main()
{
    char *mystr = "AuthMe!";
    func(mystr);
```

Code still runs; user now 'authenticated'

	A	u	t	h	4d	65	21	00	%ebp	%eip	&arg1
buffer authenticated											

}

```
char buf[80];
gets(buf);
```

```
void vulnerable()
{
    char buf[80];
    gets(buf);
}
```

```
void still_vulnerable()
{
    char *buf = malloc(80);
    gets(buf);
}
```

```
void safe()
{
```

}

```
char buf[80];
fgets(buf, 64, stdin);
```

```
void safe()
{
    char buf[80];
    fgets(buf, 64, stdin);
}
```

```
void safer()
{
    char buf[80];
    fgets(buf, sizeof(buf), stdin);
}
```

IE's Role in the Google-China War



By Richard Adhikari TechNewsWorld 01/15/10 12:25 PM PT AA Text Size Print Version E-Mail Article

The hack attack on Google that set off the company's ongoing standoff with China appears to have come through a zero-day flaw in Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. Microsoft has released a security advisory, and researchers are hard at work studying the

exploit. The attack appears to consist of several files, each a different piece of malware.

Computer security companies are scurrying to cope with the fallout from the Internet Explorer (IE) flaw that led to cyberattacks on Google and its corporate and individual customers.

The zero-day attack that exploited IE is part of a lethal cocktail of malware that is keeping researchers very busy.

"We're discovering things on an up-to-the-minute basis, and we've seen about a dozen files dropped on infected PCs so far," Dmitri Alperovitch, vice president of research at McAfee Labs, told TechNewsWorld.

The attacks on Google, which appeared to originate in China, have sparked a feud between the Internet giant and the nation's government over censorship, and it could result in Google pulling away from its business dealings in the country.

Pointing to the Flaw

The vulnerability in IE is an invalid pointer reference, Microsoft said in security advisory 979352, which it issued on Thursday. Under certain conditions, the invalid pointer can be accessed after an object is deleted, the advisory states. In specially crafted attacks, like the ones launched against Google and its customers, IE can allow remote execution of code when the flaw is exploited.

USER-SUPPLIED STRINGS

- In these examples, we were providing our own strings
- But they come from users in myriad aways
 - Text input
 - Network packets
 - Environment variables
 - File input...

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
```

	&mystr	%eip	%ebp	00	00	00	00	Γ
--	--------	------	------	----	----	----	----	---

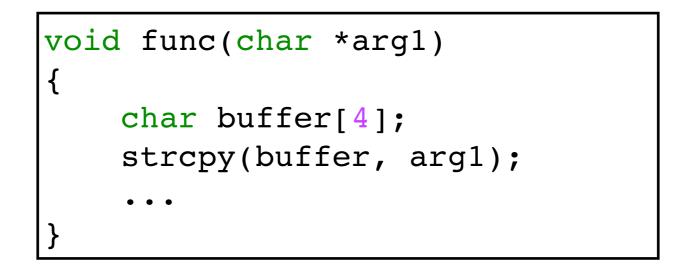
buffer

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    strcpy(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
```

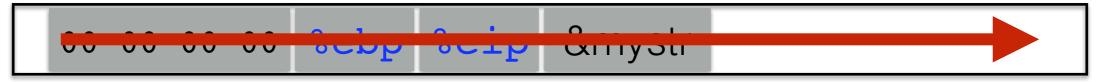
	&mystr	%eip	%ebp	00	00	00	00	
--	--------	------	------	----	----	----	----	--

buffer

strcpy will let you write as much as you want (til a '\0')

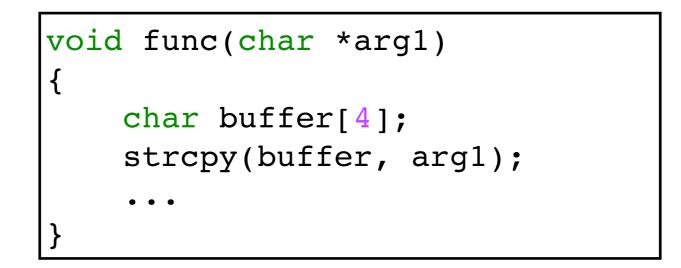


All ours!

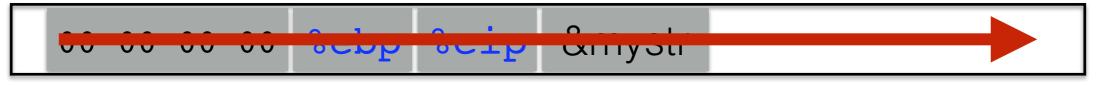


buffer

strcpy will let you write as much as you want (til a '\0')



All ours!



buffer

strcpy will let you write as much as you want (til a '\0')

What could you write to memory to wreak havoc?

FIRST A RECAP: ARGS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
void func(char *arg1, int arg2, int arg3)
{
    printf("arg1 is at %p\n", &arg1);
    printf("arg2 is at p\n", &arg2);
    printf("arg3 is at p\n", &arg3);
}
int main()
{
    func("Hello", 10, -3);
    return 0;
```

FIRST A RECAP: ARGS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
void func(char *arg1, int arg2, int arg3)
{
    printf("arg1 is at p\n", &arg1);
    printf("arg2 is at p\n", &arg2);
    printf("arg3 is at p\n", &arg3);
}
int main()
{
    func("Hello", 10, -3);
    return 0;
```

What will happen?

&arg1 < &arg2 < &arg3? & &arg1 > &arg2 > &arg3?

FIRST A RECAP: LOCALS

```
#include <stdio.h>
void func()
{
    char loc1[4];
    int loc2;
    int loc3;
    printf("loc1 is at %p\n", &loc1);
    printf("loc2 is at %p\n", &loc2);
    printf("loc3 is at %p\n", &loc3);
}
int main()
{
    func();
    return 0;
}
```

FIRST A RECAP: LOCALS

```
#include <stdio.h>
void func()
{
    char loc1[4];
    int loc2;
    int loc3;
    printf("loc1 is at %p\n", &loc1);
    printf("loc2 is at %p\n", &loc2);
    printf("loc3 is at %p\n", &loc3);
}
int main()
{
    func();
    return 0;
}
```

What will happen?

& loc1 < & loc2 < & loc3?

&loc1 > &loc2 > &loc3?

Calling function (before calling):

1. Push arguments onto the stack (in reverse)

- 2.**Push the return address**, i.e., the address of the instruction you want run after control returns to you: e.g., %eip + 2
- 3. Jump to the function's address

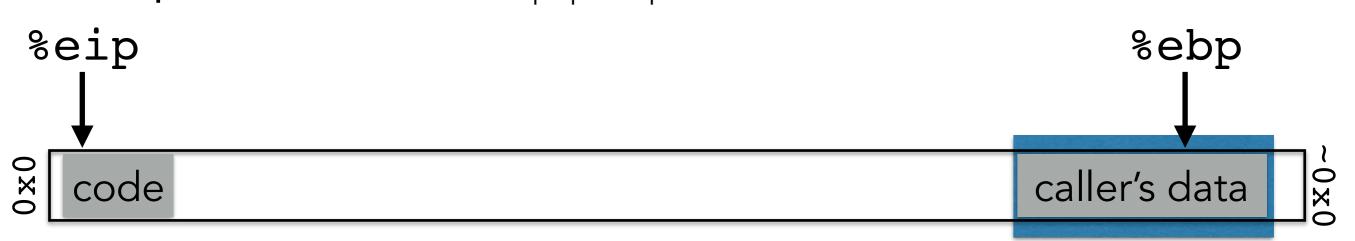
Called function (when called):

4. Push the old frame pointer onto the stack: push %ebp

5.**Set frame pointer** %ebp to where the end of the stack is right now: %ebp=%esp

6. Push local variables onto the stack; access them as offsets from %ebp

Called function (when returning):



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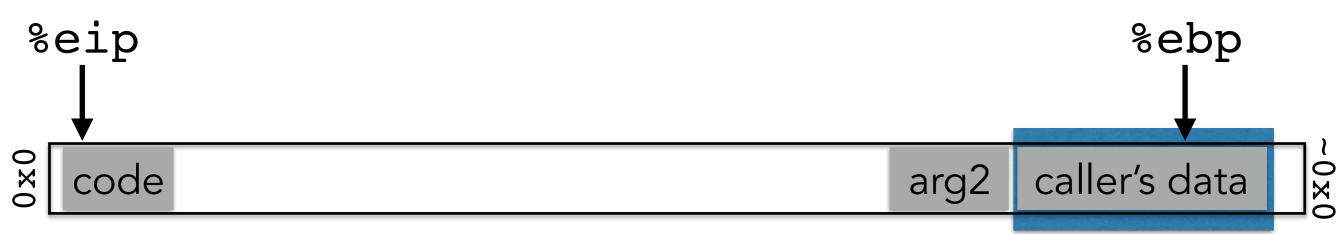
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Called function (when returning):

7.**Reset the previous stack frame**: %esp = %ebp; pop %ebp



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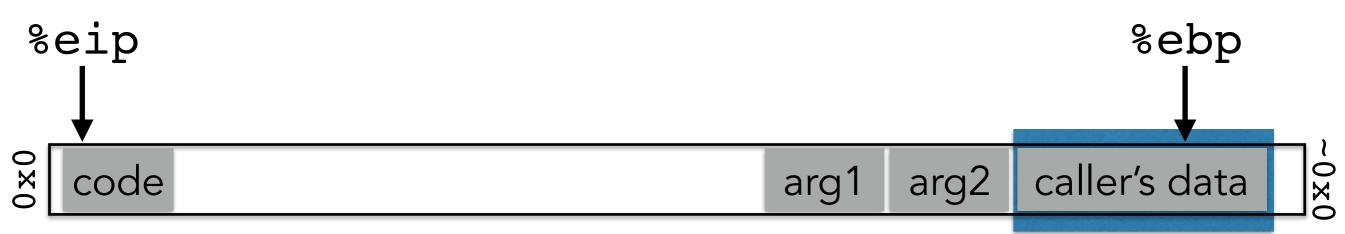
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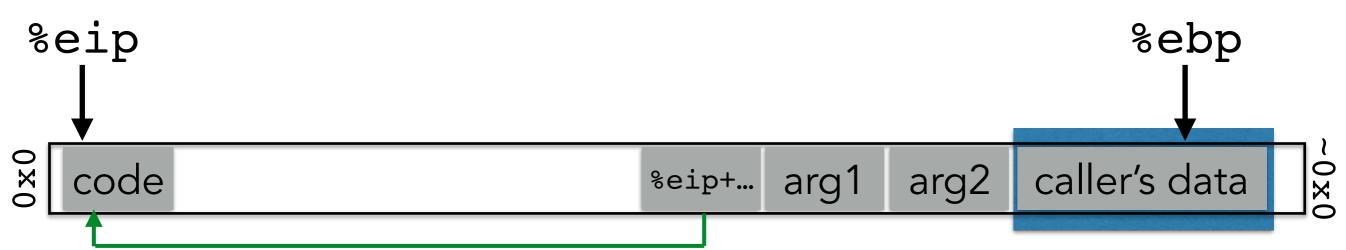
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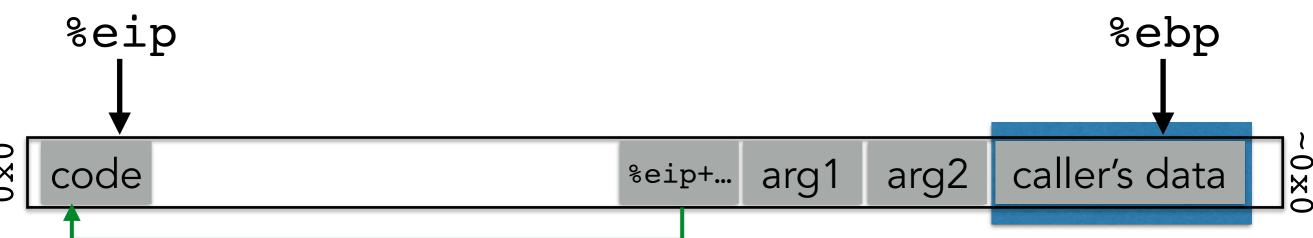
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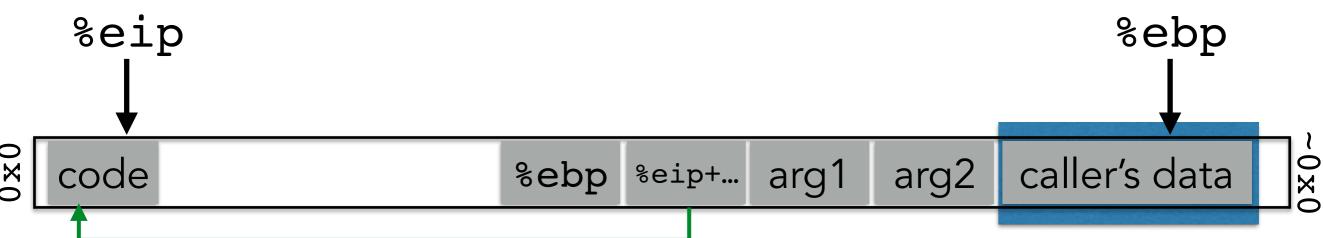
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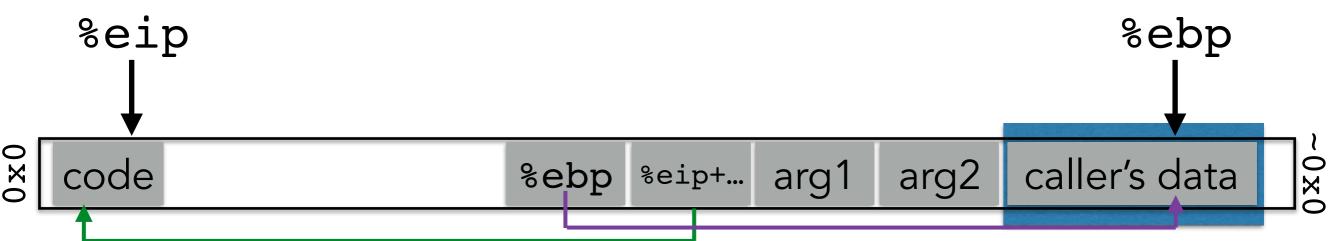
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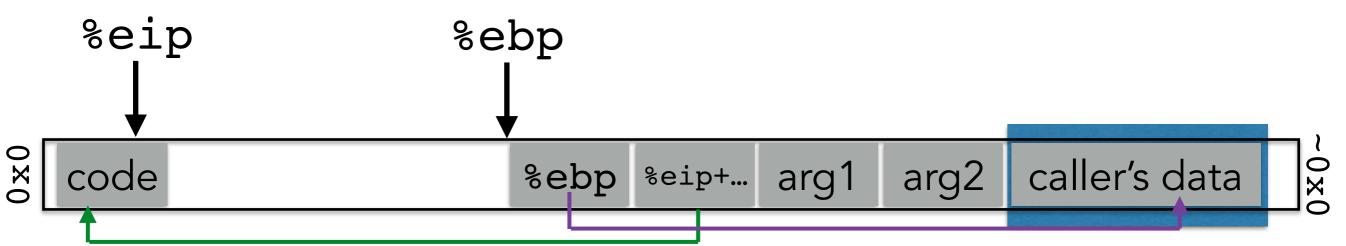
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- 3. Jump to the function's address

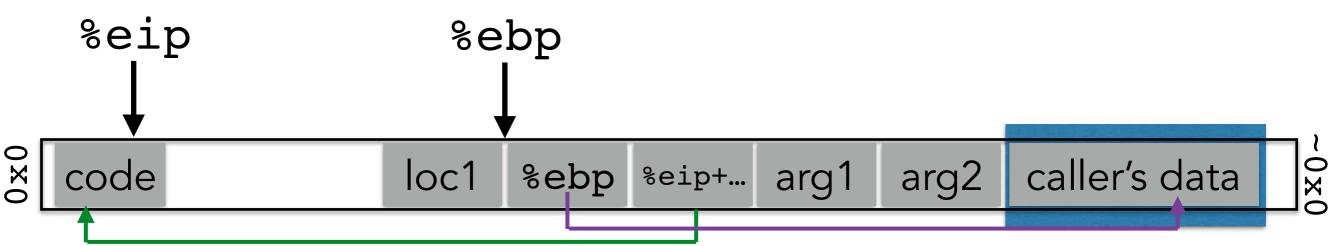
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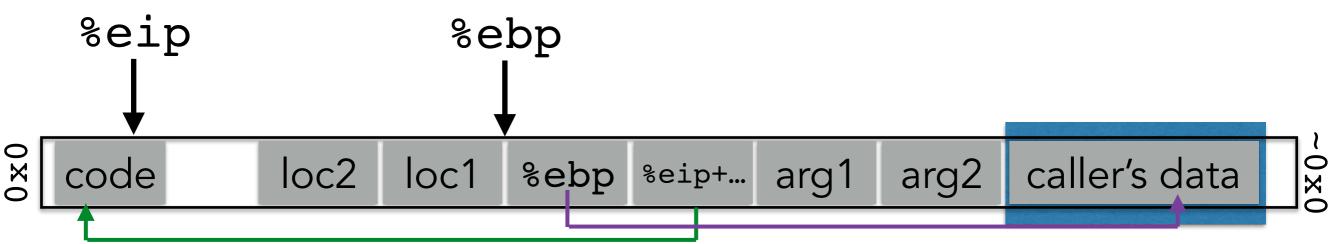
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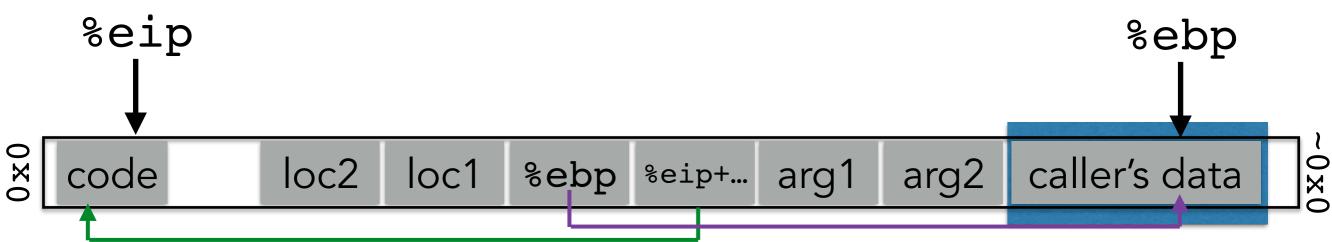
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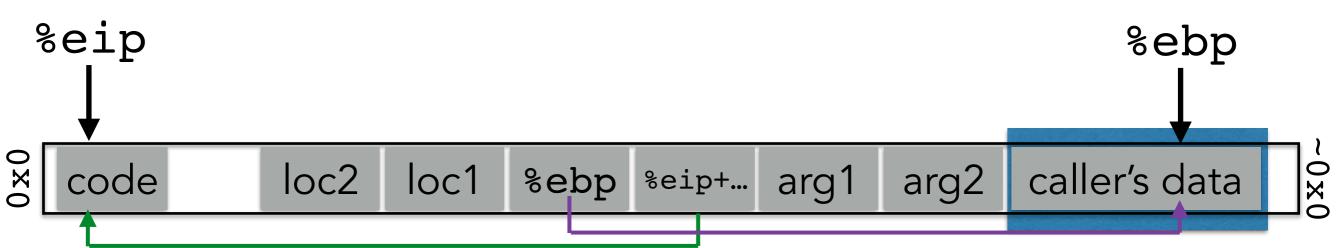
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Called function (when returning):

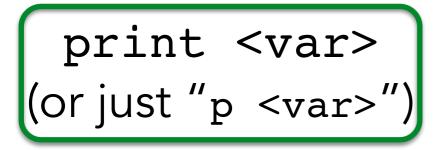
7. Reset the previous stack frame: %esp = %ebp; pop %ebp



GDB: YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

run <input>

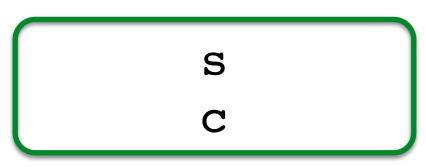
Run the program with input as the command-line arguments



Print the value of variable var (Can also do some operations: p &x)



Set a breakpoint at function



step through execution (into calls)
continue execution (no more stepping)

GDB: YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

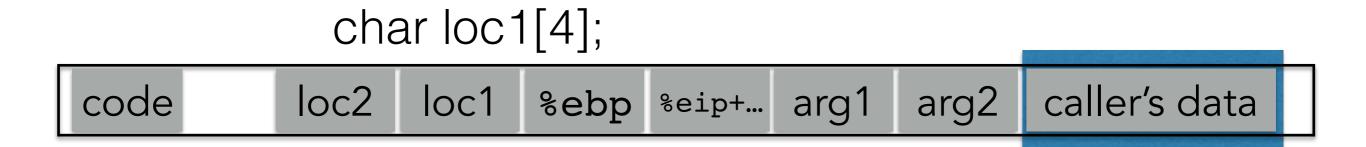
info frame (orjust"i f") Show **i**nfo about the current **f**rame (prev. frame, locals/args, %ebp/%eip)



Show **info** about **reg**isters (%ebp, %eip, %esp, etc.)

Examine <n> bytes of memory starting at address <addr>

code	loc2	loc1	%ebp	%eip+	arg1	arg2	caller's data	

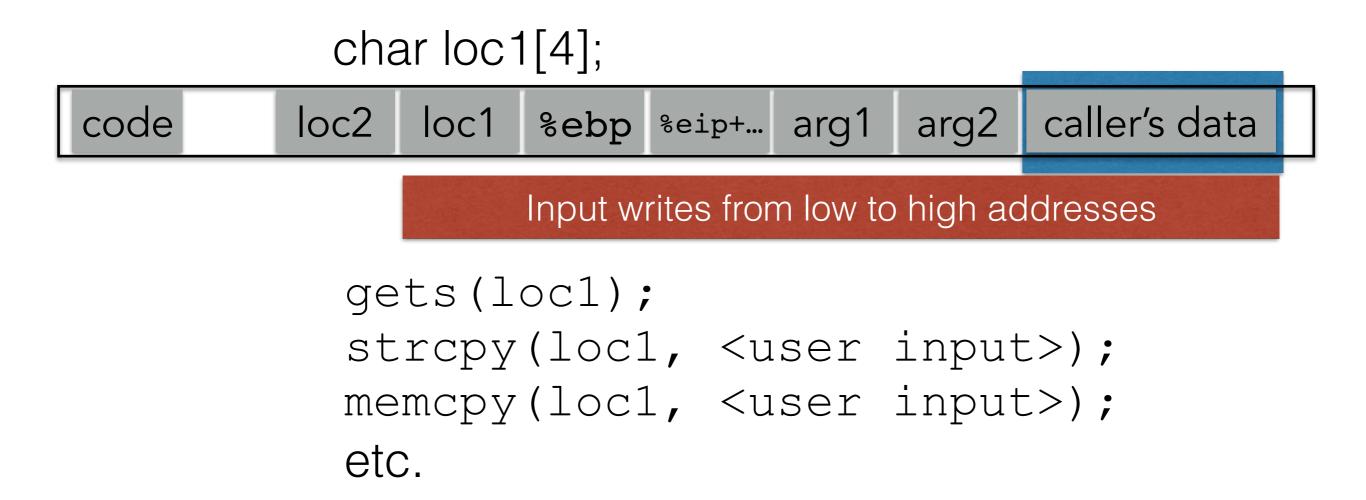


gets(loc1); strcpy(loc1, <user input>); memcpy(loc1, <user input>); etc.

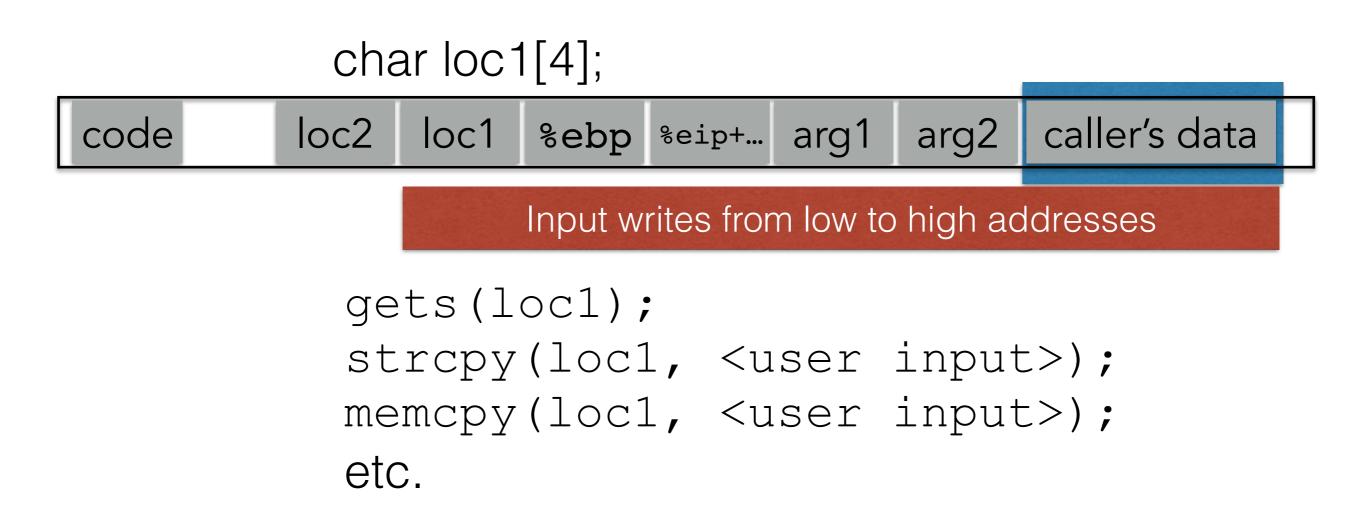


 code
 loc2
 Input writes from low to high addresses

gets(loc1); strcpy(loc1, <user input>); memcpy(loc1, <user input>); etc.

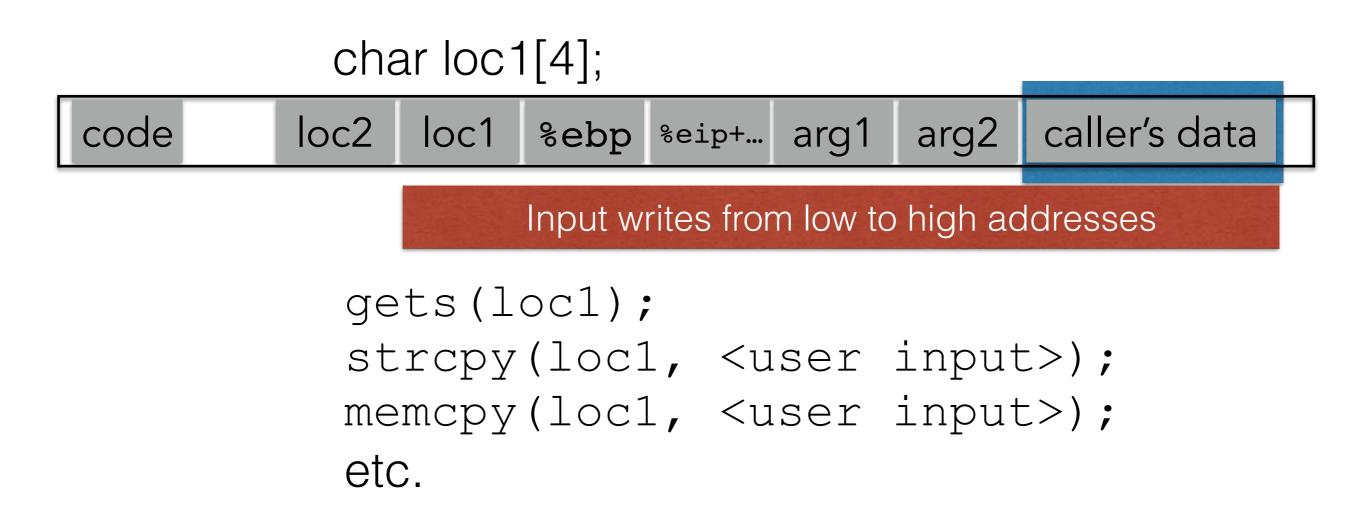


Can over-write other data ("AuthMe!")



Can over-write other data ("AuthMe!")

Can over-write the program's control flow (%eip)



CODE INJECTION

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    sprintf(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
```

|--|--|

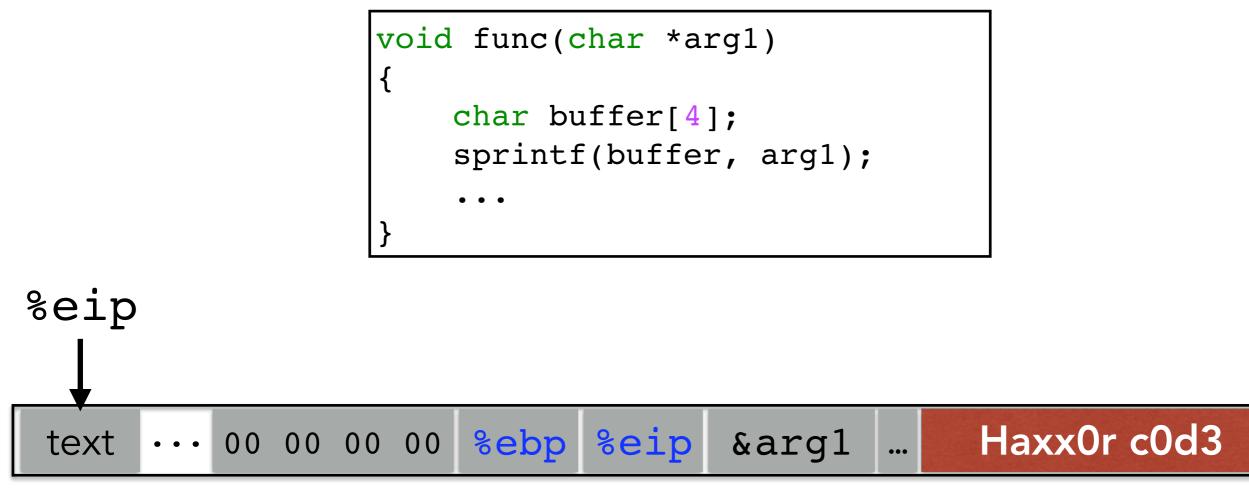
buffer

```
void func(char *arg1)
{
    char buffer[4];
    sprintf(buffer, arg1);
    ...
}
```



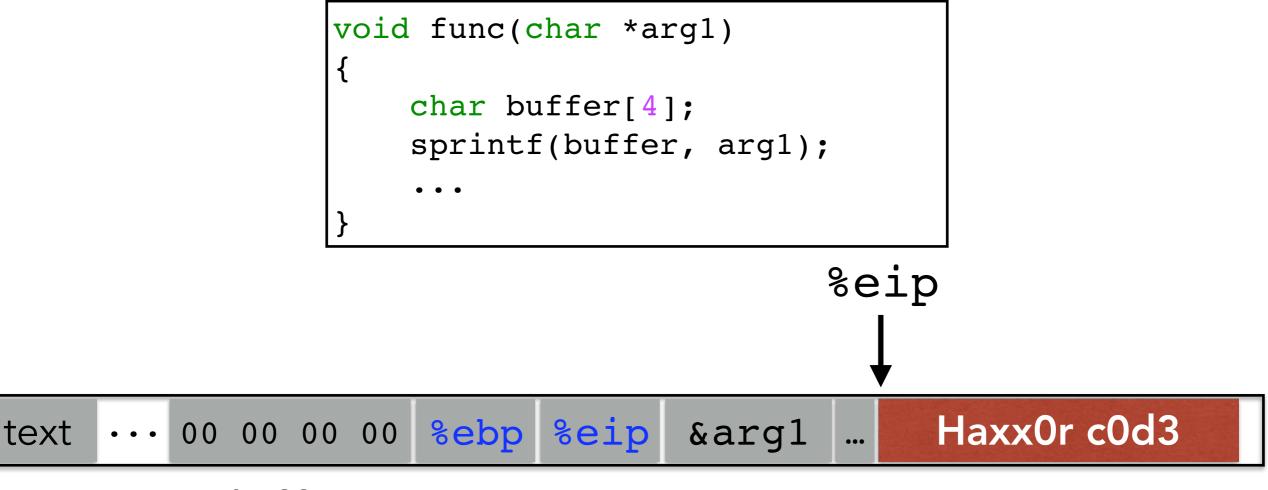
buffer

(1) Load our own code into memory



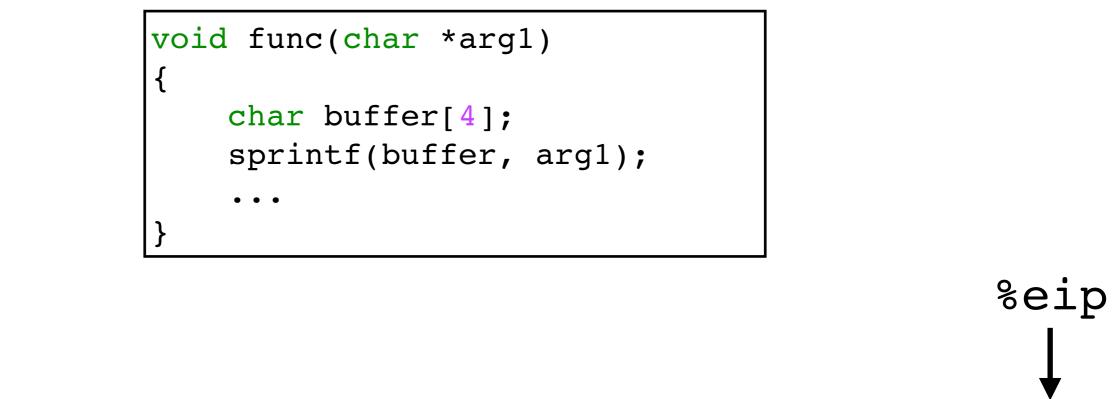
buffer

(1) Load our own code into memory(2) Somehow get %eip to point to it



buffer

(1) Load our own code into memory(2) Somehow get %eip to point to it



text	••••	00	00	00	00	%ebp	%eip	&arg1		Haxx0r c0d3
------	------	----	----	----	----	------	------	-------	--	-------------

buffer

(1) Load our own code into memory(2) Somehow get %eip to point to it

THIS IS NONTRIVIAL

- Pulling off this attack requires getting a few things really right (and some things sorta right)
- Think about what is tricky about the attack
 - The key to defending it will be to make the hard parts really hard

CHALLENGE 1: LOADING CODE INTO MEMORY

- It must be the machine code instructions (i.e., already compiled and ready to run)
- We have to be careful in how we construct it:
 - It can't contain any all-zero bytes
 - Otherwise, sprintf / gets / scanf / ... will stop copying
 - How could you write assembly to never contain a full zero byte?
 - It can't make use of the loader (we're injecting)
 - It can't use the stack (we're going to smash it)

WHAT KIND OF CODE WOULD WE WANT TO RUN?

- Goal: full-purpose shell
 - The code to launch a shell is called "shell code"
 - It is nontrivial to it in a way that works as injected code
 - No zeroes, can't use the stack, no loader dependence
 - There are many out there
 - And competitions to see who can write the smallest
- Goal: privilege escalation
 - Ideally, they go from guest (or non-user) to root

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    char *name[2];
    name[0] = "/bin/sh";
    name[1] = NULL;
    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    char *name[2];
    name[0] = "/bin/sh";
    name[1] = NULL;
    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
```

Korl %eax, %eax
pushl %eax
pushl \$0x68732f2f
pushl \$0x6e69622f
movl %esp,%ebx
pushl %eax

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    char *name[2];
    name[0] = "/bin/sh";
    name[1] = NULL;
    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
```

	xorl %eax, %eax	
<u>></u>	pushl %eax	
embl	pushl \$0x68732f2f	
en	pushl \$0x6e69622f	
Ass	movl %esp,%ebx	
4	pushl %eax	
	• • •	

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    char *name[2];
    name[0] = "/bin/sh";
    name[1] = NULL;
    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
```

	xorl %eax, %eax
<u>></u>	pushl %eax
q	pushl \$0x68732f2f
Assemb	pushl \$0x6e69622f
SS	movl %esp,%ebx
4	pushl %eax
	• • •

"\x31\xc0" "\x50" "\x68""//sh" "\x68""/bin" "\x89\xe3" "\x50"

Machine code

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main( ) {
   char *name[2];
   name[0] = "/bin/sh";
   name[1] = NULL;
   execve(name[0], name, NULL);
```

	xorl %eax, %eax
<u>></u>	pushl %eax
	pushl \$0x68732f2f
en	pushl \$0x6e69622f
Assemb	movl %esp,%ebx
4	pushl %eax
	•••

"\x31\xc0" "\x50" "\x68""//sh" "\x68""/bin" "\x89\xe3" "\x50"

Machine (Part o your input

(Part of) input

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

- More on Unix permissions later, but for now...
- Recall that each file has:
 - Permissions: read / write / execute
 - For each of: owner / group / everyone else
- Permissions are defined over userid's and groupid's
 - Every user has a userid
 - root's userid is 0
- Consider a service like passwd
 - Owned by root (and needs to do root-y things)
 - But you want any user to be able to execute it

REAL VS EFFECTIVE USERID

- (Real) Userid = the user who ran the process
- Effective userid = what is used to determine what permissions/access the process has
- Consider passwd: root owns it, but users can run it
 - getuid() will return who ran it (real userid)
 - seteuid(0) to set the effective userid to root
 - It's allowed to because root is the owner
- What is the potential attack?

REAL VS EFFECTIVE USERID

- (Real) Userid = the user who ran the process
- Effective userid = what is used to determine what permissions/access the process has
- Consider passwd: root owns it, but users can run it
 - getuid() will return who ran it (real userid)
 - seteuid(0) to set the effective userid to root
 - It's allowed to because root is the owner
- What is the potential attack?

If you can get a root-owned process to run setuid(0)/seteuid(0), then you get root permissions

• All we can do is write to memory from buffer onward

- With this alone we want to get it to jump to our code
- We have to use whatever code is already running



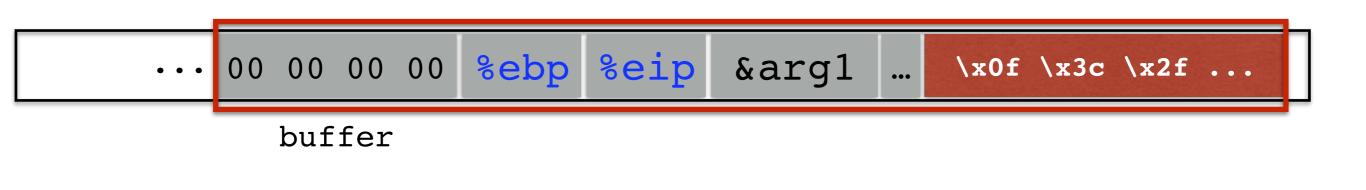
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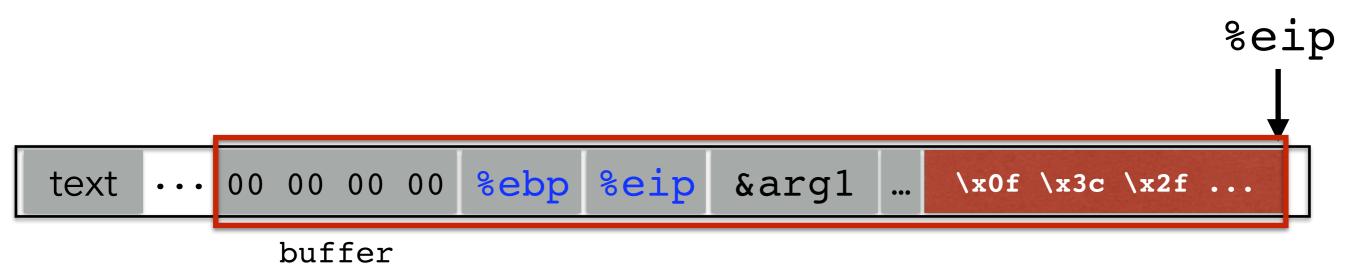
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STACK & FUNCTIONS: SUMMARY

Calling function (before calling):

1. Push arguments onto the stack (in reverse)

- 2.**Push the return address**, i.e., the address of the instruction you want run after control returns to you: e.g., %eip + 2
- 3.Jump to the function's address

Called function (when called):

4.Push the old frame pointer onto the stack: push %ebp
5.Set frame pointer %ebp to where the end of the stack is right now: %ebp=%esp
6.Push local variables onto the stack; access them as offsets from %ebp

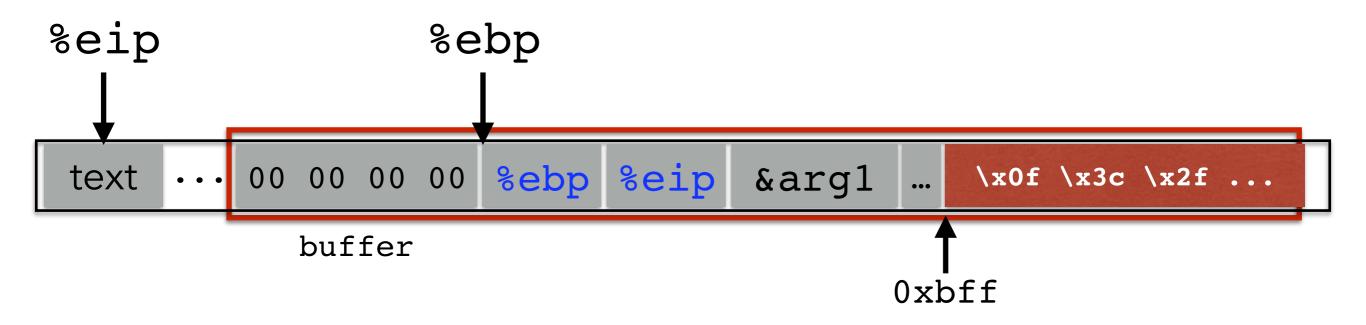
Called function (when returning):

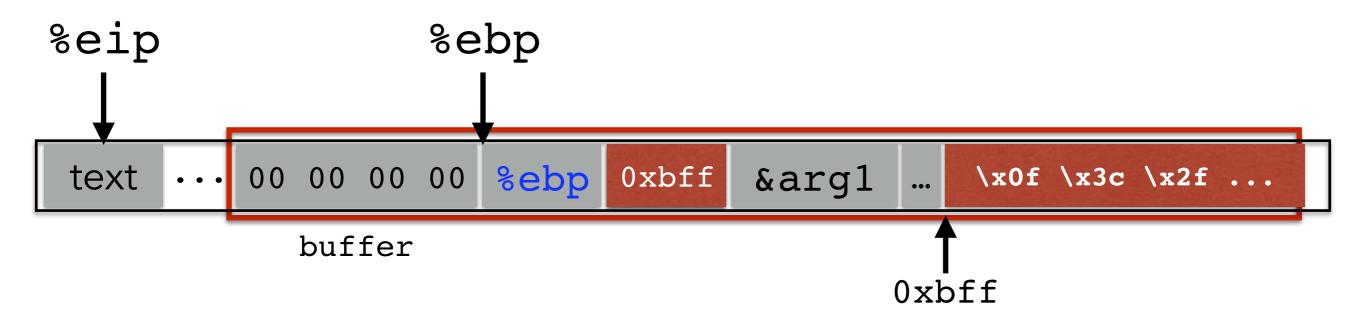
7.Reset the previous stack frame: %esp = %ebp; pop %ebp

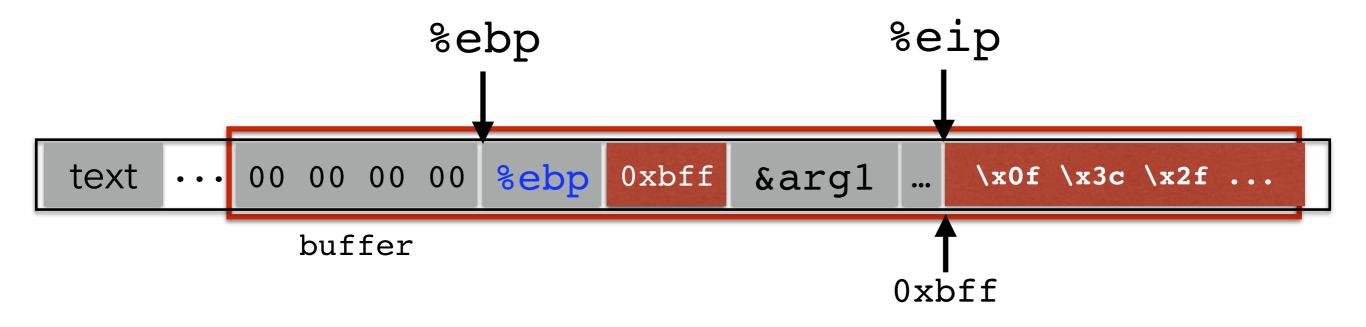
8.Jump back to return address: pop %eip

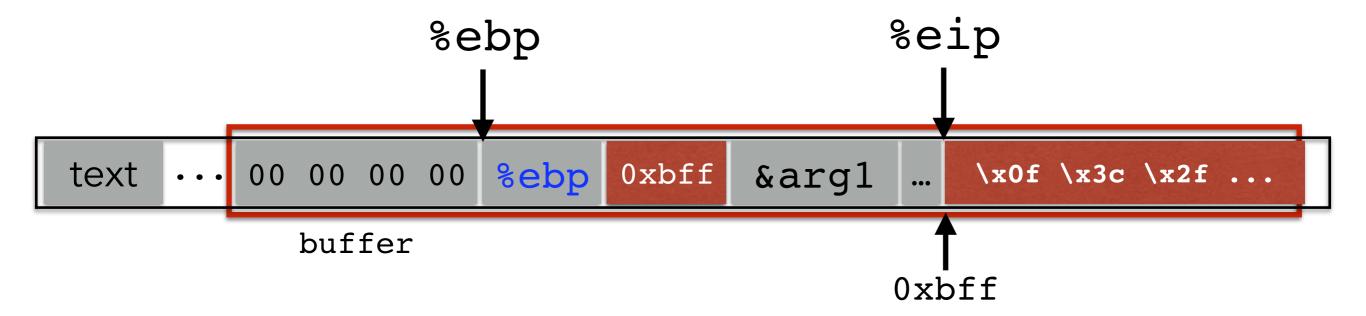
Calling function (after return):

9. **Remove the arguments** off of the stack: %esp = %esp + number of bytes of args



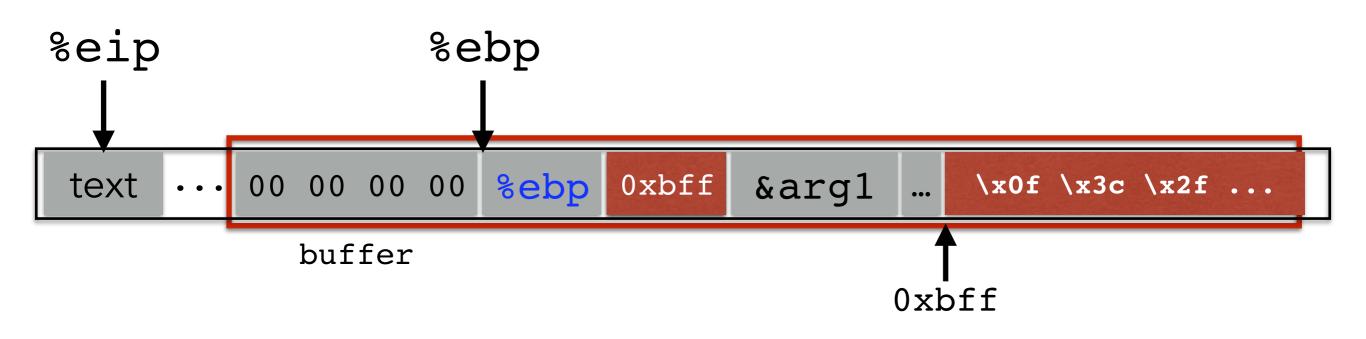




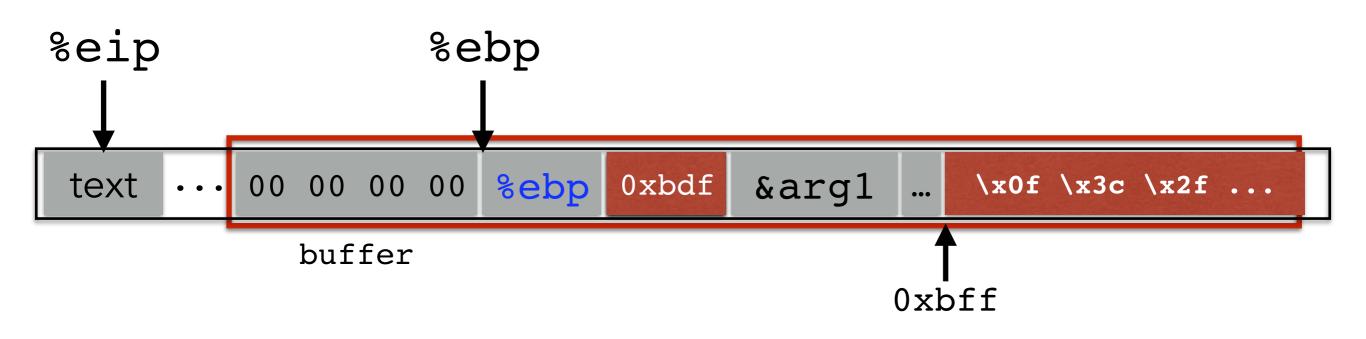


But how do we know the address?

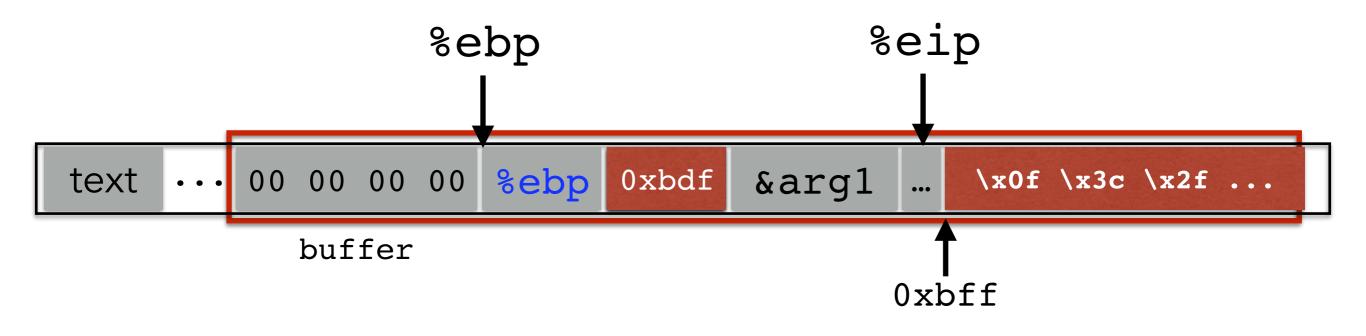
What if we are wrong?



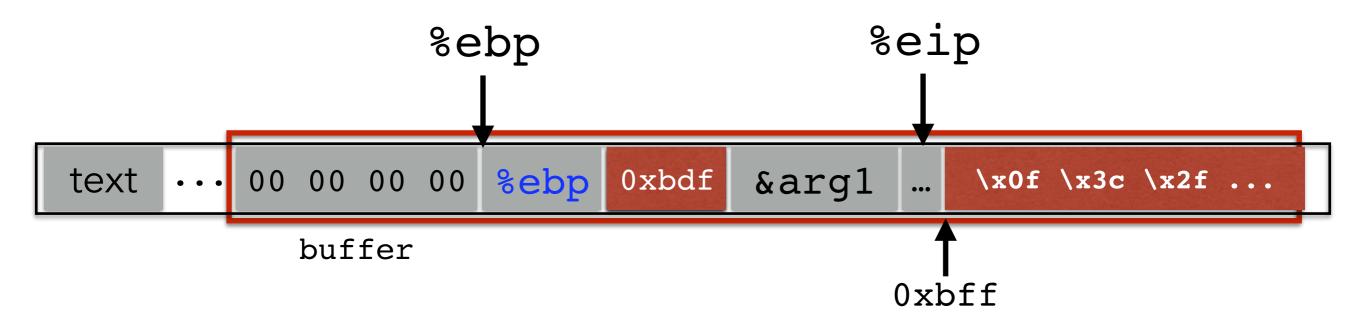
What if we are wrong?



What if we are wrong?



What if we are wrong?



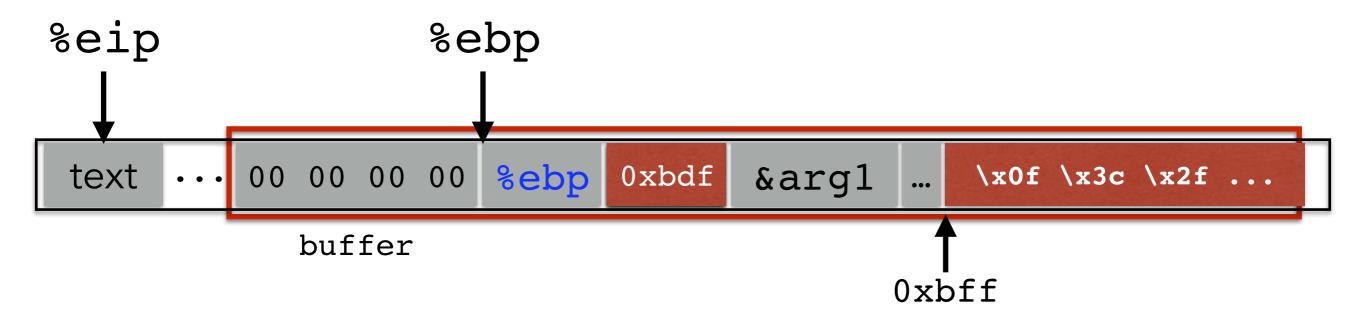
This is most likely data, so the CPU will panic (Invalid Instruction)

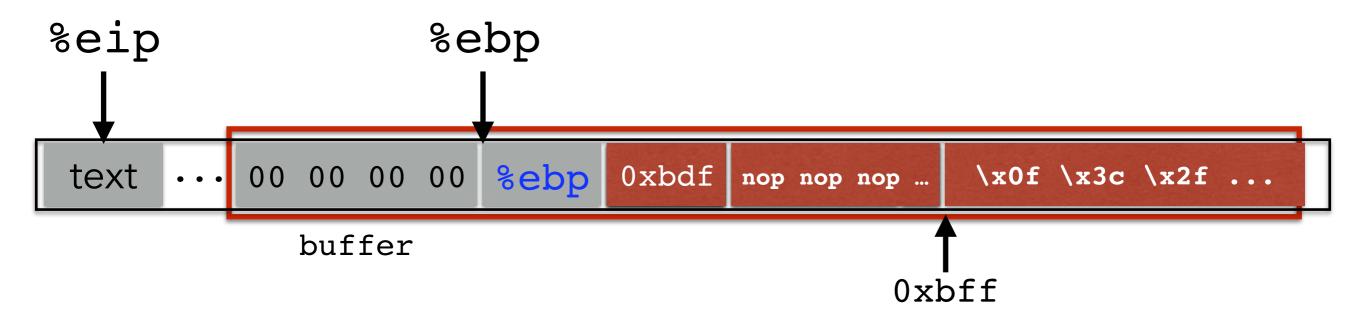
 If we don't have access to the code, we don't know how far the buffer is from the saved %ebp

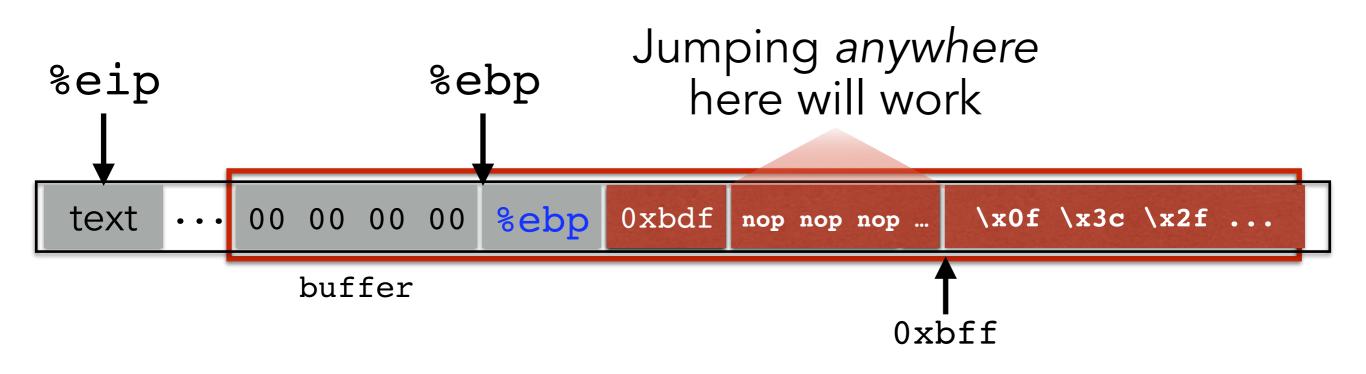
- If we don't have access to the code, we don't know how far the buffer is from the saved %ebp
- One approach: just try a lot of different values!

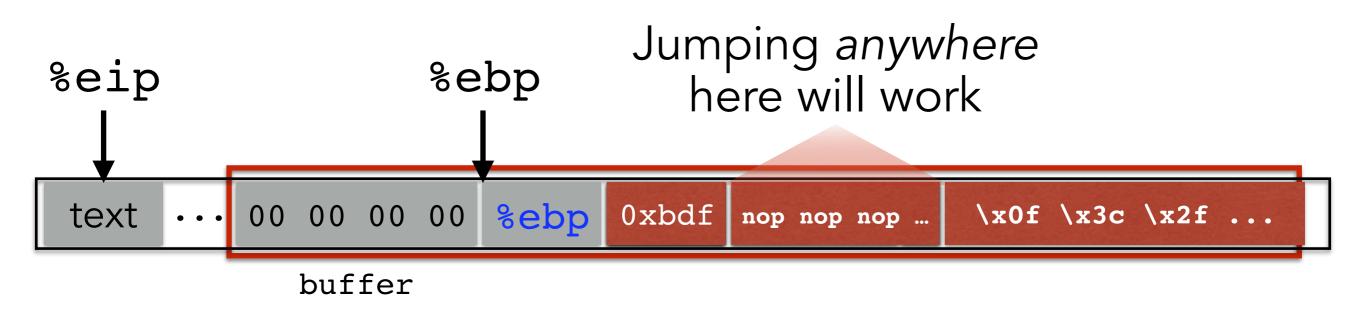
- If we don't have access to the code, we don't know how far the buffer is from the saved %ebp
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- Worst case scenario: it's a 32 (or 64) bit memory space, which means 2³² (2⁶⁴) possible answers

- If we don't have access to the code, we don't know how far the buffer is from the saved %ebp
- One approach: just try a lot of different values!
- Worst case scenario: it's a 32 (or 64) bit memory space, which means 2³² (2⁶⁴) possible answers
- But without address randomization:
 - The stack always starts from the same, fixed address
 - The stack will grow, but usually it doesn't grow very deeply (unless the code is heavily recursive)

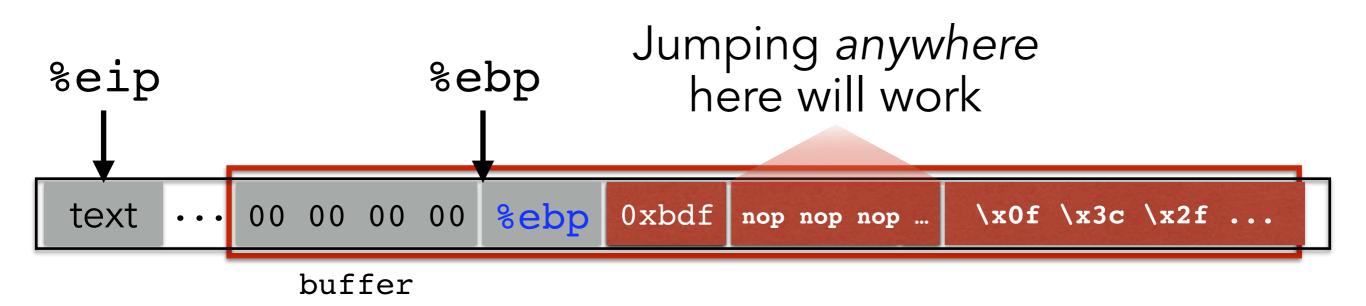




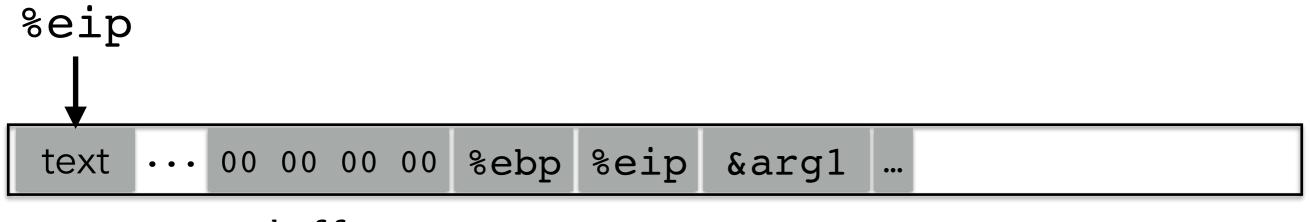




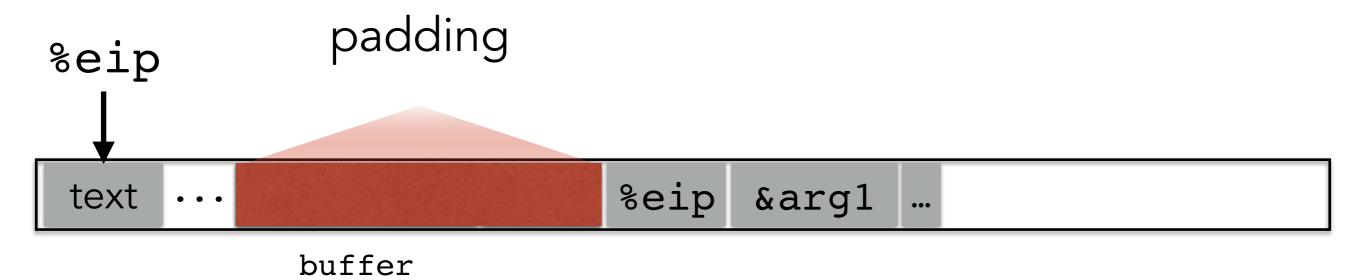
nop is a single-byte instruction (just moves to the next instruction)

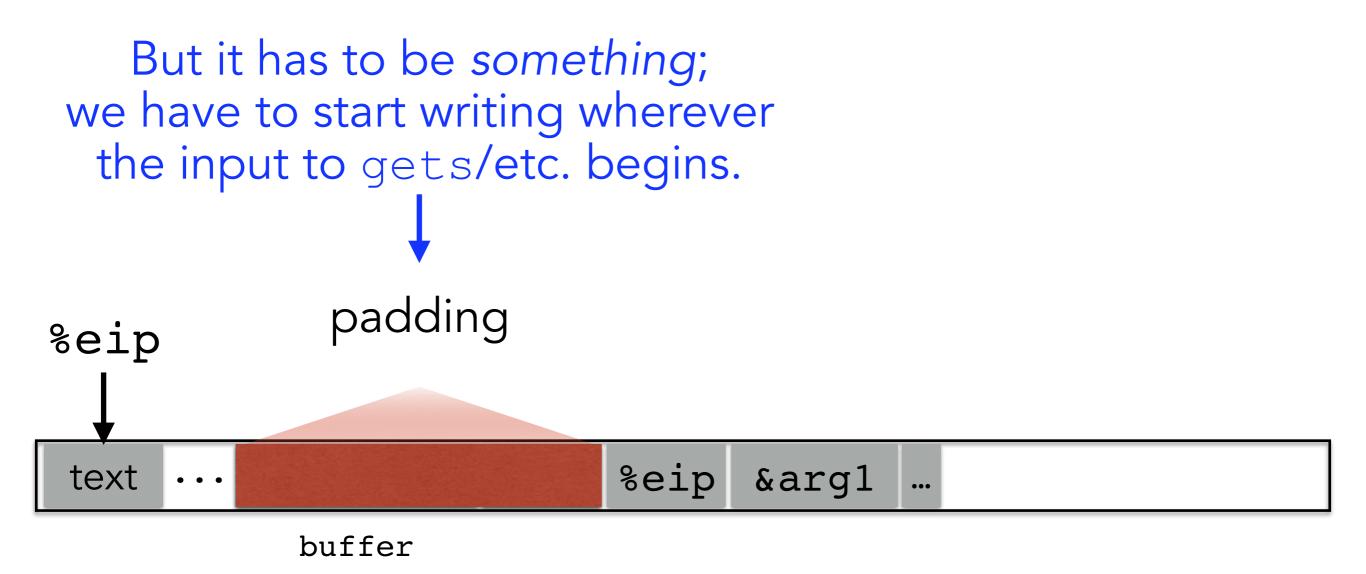


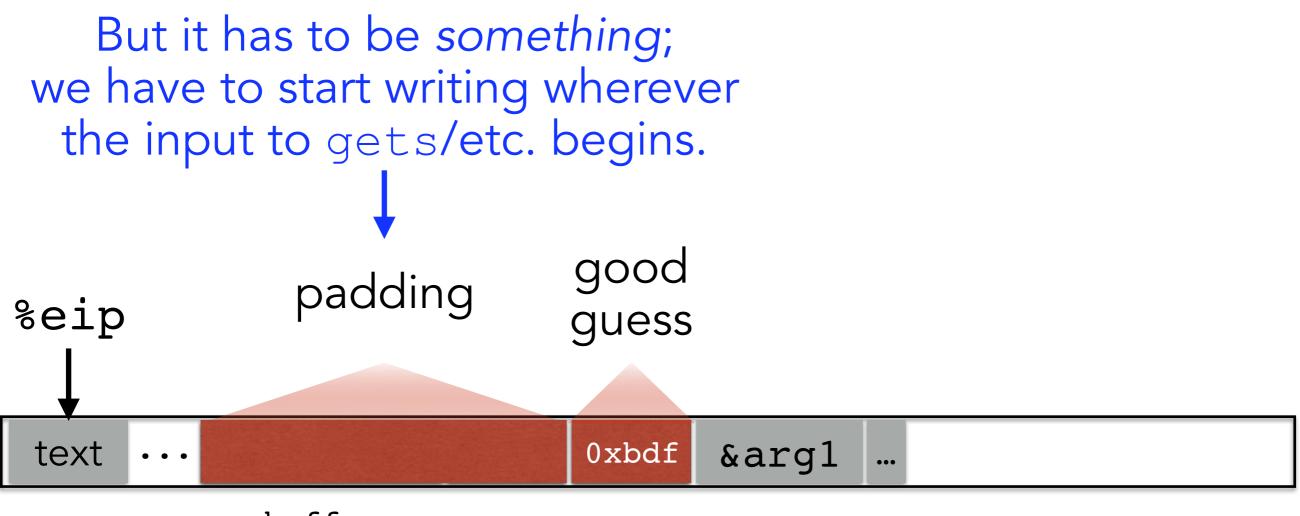
Now we improve our chances of guessing by a factor of #nops



buffer







buffer

