Lecture 05 Intro to x86-64 Assembly

CS213 – Intro to Computer Systems Branden Ghena – Winter 2022

Slides adapted from:

St-Amour, Hardavellas, Bustamente (Northwestern), Bryant, O'Hallaron (CMU), Garcia, Weaver (UC Berkeley)

Welcome back to in-person classes!

- We're all figuring this out together
 - Please be patient and empathetic, and we will be too
- Masks in class are mandatory
 - I will pause class, point at you, and ask you to put your mask on right
- If you are sick, do not come to class
 - Even if there's an exam that day!!
 - We will be flexible with deadlines as necessary
 - Lectures are being recorded automatically
- Office hours will stay online for now

Administrivia

- Data lab
 - Due this Thursday (1/20) at 11:59 pm
 - If you haven't yet, get started right away!
 - Especially make sure you don't have issues logging into Moore
 - Takes ~24 hours to fix and we won't be giving extensions for it

Today's Goals

- Introduce assembly and the x86-64 Instruction Set Architecture
 - Discuss background of the factors that affected its evolution
- Understand registers: the analogy to variables in assembly

• Explore our first assembly instruction: mov

Outline

Assembly Languages

Registers

- x86-64 Assembly
 - Introduction
 - Move Instruction
 - Memory Addressing Modes

Assembly (Also known as: Assembly Language, ASM)

Purpose of a CPU: execute instructions

High-level programs (like in C) are split into many small instructions

- Assembly is a low-level programming language where the program instructions match a particular architecture's operations
 - Assembly is a human-readable text representation of machine code
 - Each assembly instruction is one machine instruction (usually)

Programs can be written in assembly or machine instructions

C Program (source code)

```
a = (b+c) - (d+e);
```

Assembly Program

addq %rdi, %rsi

addq %rdx, %rcx

subq %rcx, %rsi

movq %rsi, %rax

Machine Instructions

0x4889D3

0x488903

0x53

0x5B

There are many assembly languages

- Instruction Set Architecture: All programmer-visible components of a processor needed to write software for it
 - Operations the processor can execute
 - The system's state (registers, memory, program counter)
 - The effect operations have on system state
- Each assembly language has instructions that match a particular processor's Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)
- Assembly is not portable to other architectures (like C is)

Which instructions should an assembly include?

Each assembly language has its own operations

There are some obviously useful instructions:

- Add, subtract, and bit shift
- Read and write memory

But what about:

- Only run the next instruction if these two values are equal
- Perform four pairwise multiplications simultaneously
- Add two ascii numbers together (2 + 3 = 5)

Instruction Set Philosophies

Early trend: add more instructions to do elaborate operations **Complex Instruction Set Computing** (CISC)

- Handle many different types of operations
- More options for the compiler
- Complicated hardware runs more slowly



Opposite philosophy later began to dominate: **Reduced Instruction Set Computing** (RISC)

- Simpler (and smaller) instruction set makes it easier to build fast hardware
- Let software do the complicated operations by composing simpler ones

Modern reality is somewhere between these two

Mainstream Instruction Set Architectures



x86

Designer Intel, AMD

Bits 16-bit, 32-bit and 64-bit

Introduced 1978 (16-bit), 1985 (32-bit), 2003

(64-bit)

Design CISC

Type Register-memory

Encoding Variable (1 to 15 bytes)

Endianness Little

Macbooks & PCs (Core i3, i5, i7, M) x86 Instruction Set



ARM architectures

Designer ARM Holdings

Bits 32-bit, 64-bit

Introduced 1985; 31 years ago

Design RISC

Type Register-Register

Encoding AArch64/A64 and AArch32/A32

use 32-bit instructions, T32 (Thumb-2) uses mixed 16- and 32-bit instructions. ARMv7 user-

space compatibility^[1]

Endianness Bi (little as default)

Smartphones (iPhone, Android), M1 Macbooks, Raspberry Pi, Embedded systems ARM Instruction Set



RISC-V

Designer University of California,

Berkeley

Bits 32, 64, 128

Introduced 2010

Version 2.2

Design RISC

Type Load-store

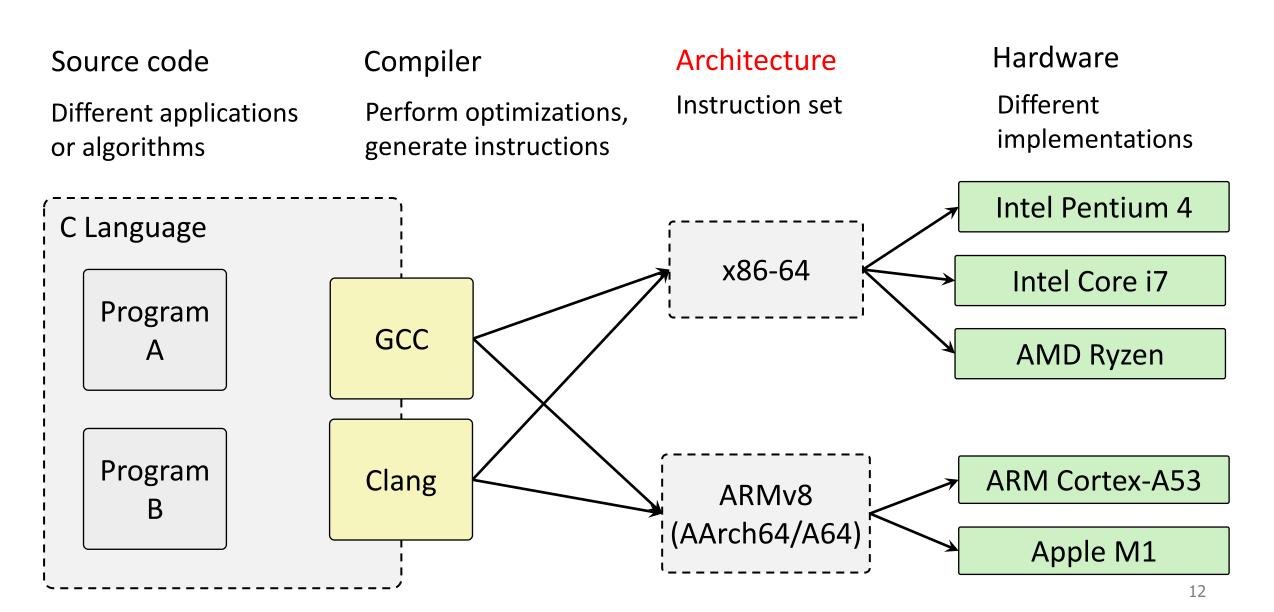
Encoding Variable

Branching Compare-and-branch

Endianness Little

Open-source
Relatively new, designed for cloud computing, embedded systems, academic use
RISCV Instruction Set

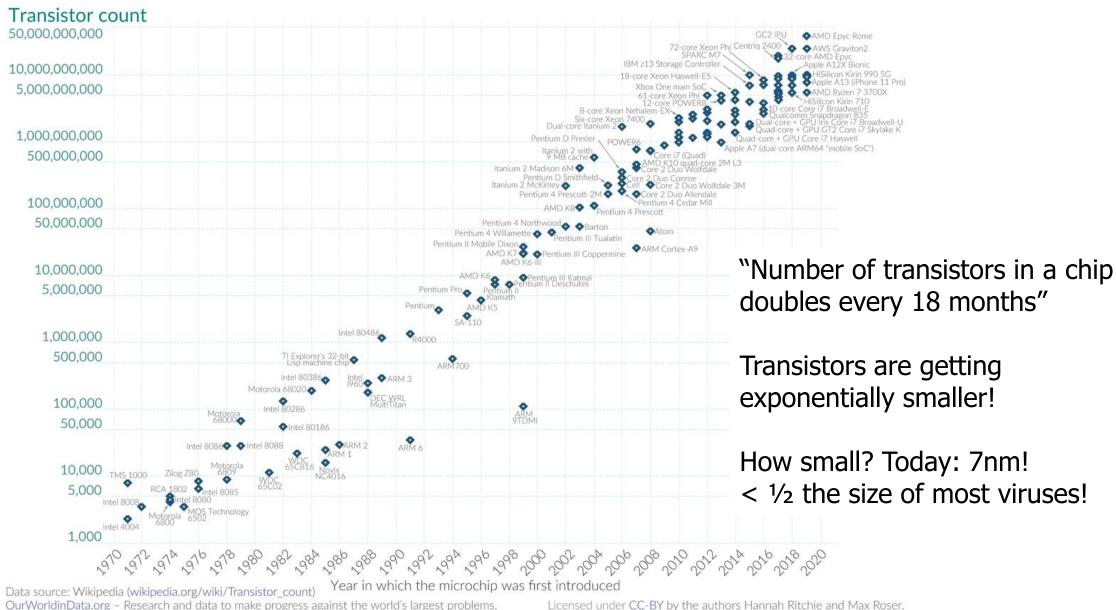
Instruction Set Architecture sits at software/hardware interface



Intel x86 Processors

- Dominate laptop/desktop/server market
 - No longer completely dominant in laptops though
- Complex instruction set computer (CISC)
 - Many different instructions with many different formats
 - But, only small subset encountered by normal programs
- Design evolved over time
 - Backwards compatible up until 8086, introduced in 1978
 - Added more features as time goes on
 - Historical legacy has large impact on architecture

Moore's Law – CPU transistors counts



Evolution of x86 ISA

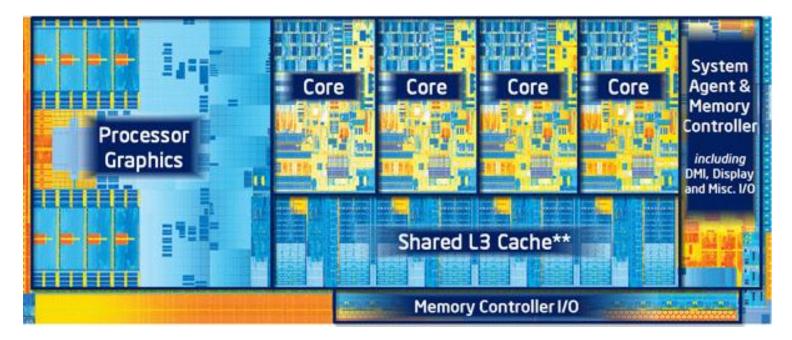
Name	Date	Transistors	Comments
8086	1978	29k	16b processor, basis for IBM PC & DOS; 1MB address space
80286	1982	134K	Elaborate (!useful) addressing; basis for IBM PC and Windows
386	1985	275K	Extended to 32b, added "flat addressing" that Linux/gcc uses
486	1989	1.9M	Improved performance; integrated FP unit into chip
Pentium	1993	3.1M	Improved performance
PentiumPro	1995	6.5M	Conditional move instructions; big change in microarch. (P6)
Pentium II	1997	7M	Merged Pentium/MMZ + PentiumPro, MMX instructions within P6
Pentium III	1999	8.2M	Integer and floating point vector instructions (SSE); Level2 cache
Pentium 4	2001	42M	8B ints and floating point formats to vector instructions
Pentium 4E	2004	125M	Hyperthreading (able to run 2 programs simultaneously), 64b
Core 2	2006	291M	P6-like, multicore, no hyperthreading
Core i7 (Nehalem)	2008	781M	Hyperthreading + multicore, TurboBoost (run fewer cores faster)
Core i3 (Nehalem)	2010	383M+177M	GPU on second silicon die within package (at 2010 version)
Core i3, i5, i7 (Sandy Bridge)	2011	997M (i7 – 4 cores)	Cores and GPU within the same processor die
Core i3, i5, i7 (Ivy Bridge)	2012	1400M (i7 – 4 cores)	Tri-gate transistors, much lower power consumption
Xeon E7 8800 V4 (Broadwell-EX)	2016	>5690M (22 cores)	14nm technology

Backwards Compatibility The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems.

- Programs that worked on one x86 processor should keep working on the next one
 - Old programs work on new processors, which makes upgrading possible
 - Even today's x86-64 processors boot thinking they are 8086s!
- Adding powerful new features while keeping backwards compatibility is a careful balancing act
 - Backwards compatibility introduces a lot of constraints
 - May rule out "cleaner" designs that would break existing programs
 - The cause of some "surprising" aspects of the design of x86-64
 - "The x86 really isn't all that complex—it just doesn't make a lot of sense."
 Mike Johnson (AMD's x86 architect), 1994
- Not just a hardware thing!

In this class

- x86-64/EMT64: The current standard
 - Some asides on IA32: The traditional x86
- Presentation
 - Book covers x86-64; web aside on IA32
 - Labs will be based on x86-64



Outline

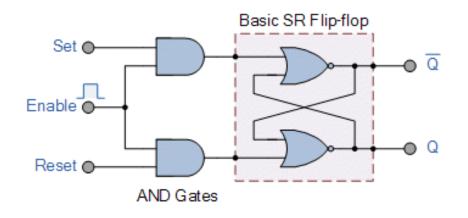
Assembly Languages

Registers

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Hardware uses registers for variables

- Unlike C, assembly doesn't have variables as you know them
- Instead, assembly uses *registers* to store values
- Registers are:
 - Small memories of a fixed size
 - Can be read or written
 - Limited in number
 - Very fast and low power to access
 - not typed like C
 - the operation performed determines how contents are treated



How many registers?

- Tradeoff between speed and availability
 - More registers can hold more variables
 - Simultaneously; all registers are slower
 - Also registers take physical space within the chip
- x86-64 has 16 registers (for integer operations)
 - Historically only 8 registers
 - Added 8 more with 64-bit extensions

How big should each register be?

- Registers are usually the size of a word
 - The natural unit of data for a processor
 - Width of the data type that a CPU can process in one instruction
 - Likely the size of its registers
 - Imprecise term that will inevitably slip in to explanations

- x86 processors started with 16-bit words
- IA32 upgraded to 32-bit "double word" registers
- x86-64 upgraded again 64-bit "quad word" registers

x86-64 Registers

64-bit names

%rax	%eax
%rbx	%ebx
%rcx	%ecx
%rdx	%edx
%rsi	%esi
%rdi	%edi
%rsp	%esp
%rbp	%ebp

%r8	%r8d
%r9	%r9d
%r10	%r10d
%r11	%r11d
%r12	%r12d
%r13	%r13d
%r14	%r14d
%r15	%r15d

Historical Register Purposes

%rax	%eax
%rbx	%ebx
%rcx	%ecx
%rdx	%edx
%rsi	%esi
%rdi	%edi
%rsp	%esp
%rbp	%ebp

Name Origin (mostly obsolete)

Accumulate

Base

Counter

Data

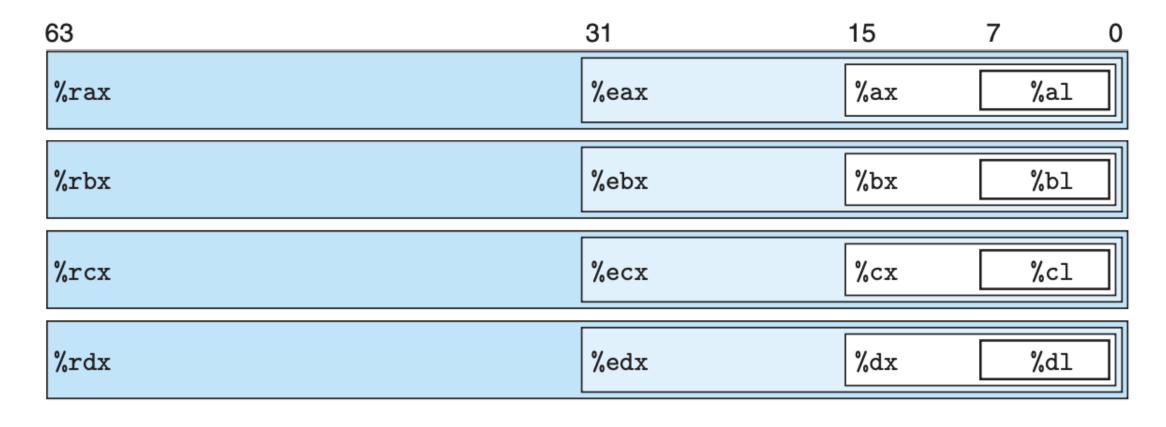
Source Index

Destination Index

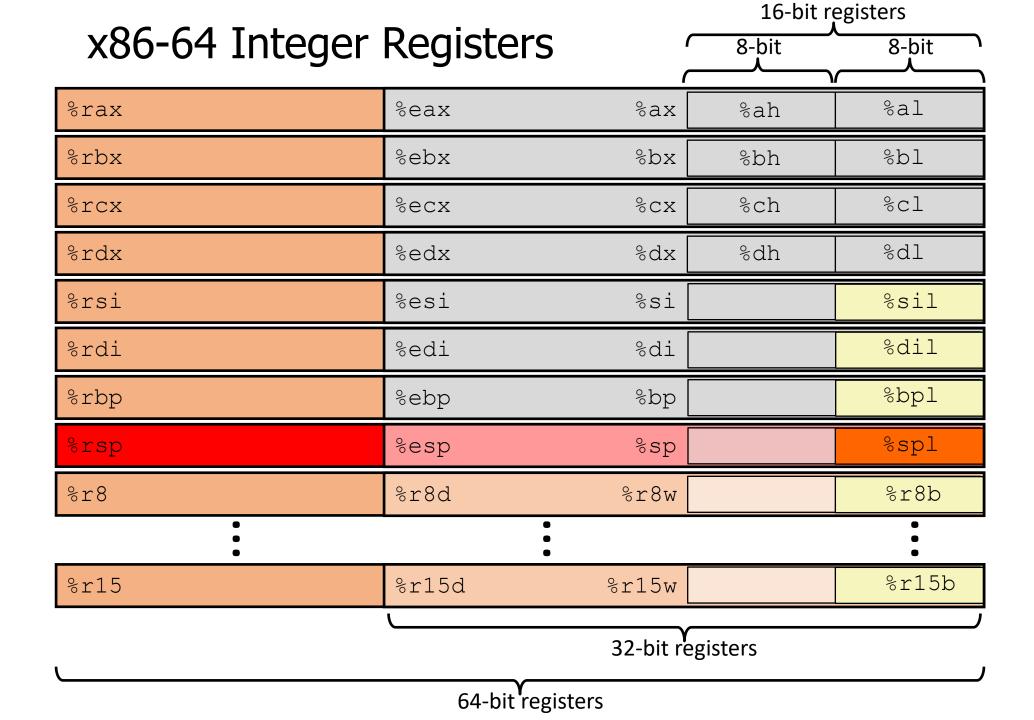
Stack Pointer (still important)

Base Pointer

x86-64 Register Access Options



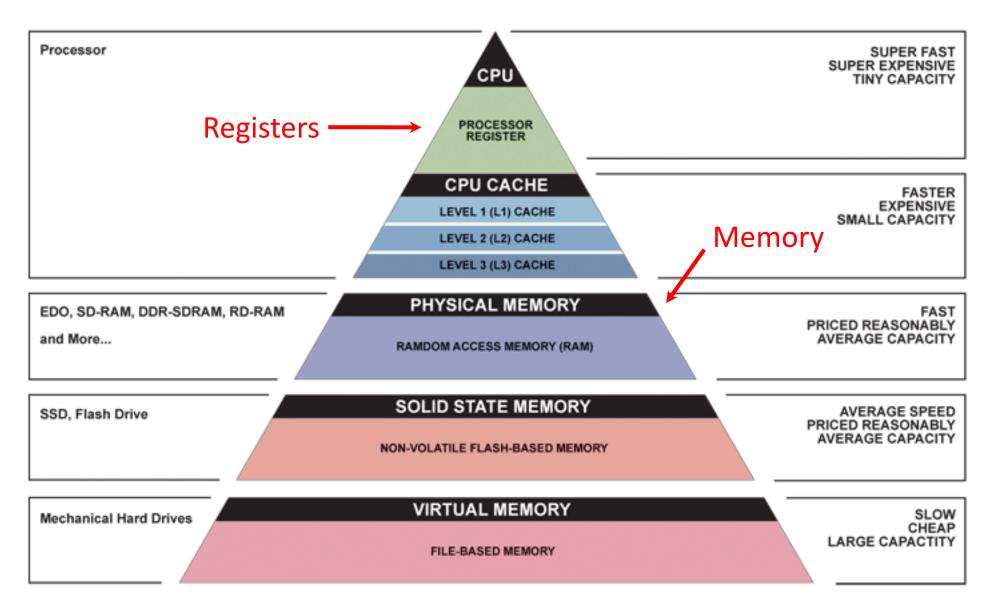
Registers can be accessed by any of these names to work with 8-byte, 4-byte, 2-byte, or 1-byte data



Registers versus Memory

- What if more variables than registers?
 - Keep most frequently used in registers and move the rest to memory (called spilling to memory)
- Why not all variables in memory?
 - Smaller is faster: registers 100-500 times faster
 - Memory Hierarchy
 - Registers: 16 registers * 64 bits = 128 Bytes
 - RAM: 4-32 GB
 - SSD: 100-1000 GB

Memory Hierarchy



Break + Question

Which of these is FALSE?

- [A] Registers are faster to access than memory
- [B] Registers do not have a type
- [C] Registers can have special purposes
- [D] Registers are dynamically created as needed

Break + Question

Which of these is FALSE?

[A] Registers are faster to access than memory

[B] Registers do not have a type

[C] Registers can have special purposes

[D] Registers are dynamically created as needed

There are a fixed number of registers for a given architecture

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Writing Assembly Code? In 2022???

- Chances are, you'll never write a program in assembly, but understanding assembly is the key to the machine-level execution model:
 - Behavior of programs in the presence of bugs
 - When high-level language model breaks down
 - Tuning program performance
 - Understanding compiler optimizations and sources of program inefficiency
 - Implementing systems software
 - What are the "states" of processes that the OS must manage
 - Using special units (timers, I/O co-processors, etc.) inside processor!
 - Fighting malicious software
 - Distributed software is in binary form

```
.text
.globl multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
multstore:
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
   movq %rdx, %rbx
   call mult2
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

```
.text
.globl multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
multstore:
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
   movq %rdx, %rbx
                                           Various assembly
   call mult2
                                           instructions
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

```
.text
.globl multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
                                             Comments use the
multstore:
                                             # symbol
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
   movq %rdx, %rbx
   call mult2
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

```
.text
.globl multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
                                          Labels are arbitrary
multstore:
                                          names that mark a
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
                                          section of code
   movq %rdx, %rbx
   call mult2
                                          We'll get back to these
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
                                          later
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

```
.text
.globl multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
multstore:
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
   movq %rdx, %rbx
   call mult2
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

Assembler directives (mostly ignore these)

Can be used to specify data versus code regions, make functions linkable with other code, and many other tasks.

x86-64 Instructions

General Instruction Syntax:

```
op src, dst
```

- 1 operator, 2 operands
 - op = operation name ("operator")
 - src1 = source location ("source")
 - dst = destination location ("destination")

Keep hardware simple via regularity

Careful! Two Syntaxes for Assembly

Intel/Microsoft Format

```
lea eax,[ecx+ecx*2]
sub esp,8
cmp dword ptr [ebp-8],0
mov eax,dword ptr [eax*4+100h]
```

ATT Format

```
leal (%ecx,%ecx,2),%eax
subl $8,%esp
cmpl $0,-8(%ebp)
movl $0x100(,%eax,4),%eax
```

- Intel/Microsoft mnemonics vs. ATT
 - Operands listed in opposite order: mov Dest, Src vs. movl Src, Dest
 - Constants not preceded by '\$', Denote hex with 'h' at end: 100h vs. \$0x100
 - Operand size indicated by operands rather than operator suffix: sub vs. subq
 - Addressing format shows effective address computation: [eax*4+100h] vs. \$0x100(,%rax,4)
- gcc (gas), gdb, objdump work on the ATT format
 - Therefore so do we

Example x86-64 Assembly

```
.text
.glob1 multstore
.type multstore, @function
# multiply and store to memory
multstore:
   pushq %rbx # save to stack
   movq %rdx, %rbx
                                      What might this instruction do?
   call mult2
   movq %rax, (%rbx)
                                      (op src, dst)
   popq # restore from stack
   ret
```

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Three Basic Kinds of Instructions

- 1. Transfer data between memory and register
 - Load data from memory into register
 - %reg = Mem[address]
 - Store register data into memory
 - Mem[address] = %reg

Remember: Memory is indexed just like an array of bytes!

2. Perform arithmetic operation on register or memory data

•
$$c = a + b;$$
 $z = x << y;$ $i = h \& g;$

- 3. Control flow: what instruction to execute next
 - Unconditional jumps to/from procedures
 - Conditional branches

Moving Data

- General form: mov source, destination
 - Missing letter _ specifies size of operands
 - Reminder: backwards compatibility means "word" = 16 bits
 - Lots of these in typical code
- movb src, dst
 - Move 1-byte "byte"
- movw src, dst
 - Move 2-byte "word"

- movl src, dst
 - Move 4-byte "long word"
- movq src, dst
 - Move 8-byte "quad word"
 - Native size for x86-64

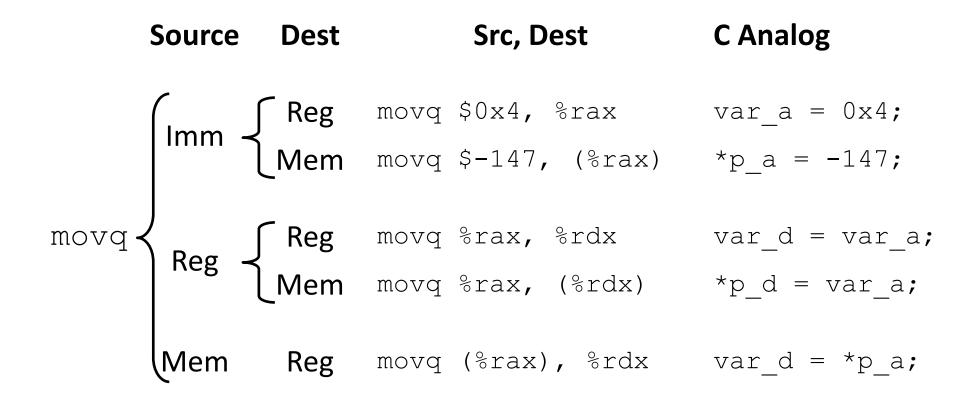
Note: Instructions *must* be used with properly-sized register names

Operand Types (src and dst)

- Immediate: Constant integer data
 - Examples: \$0x400, \$-533
 - Like C literal, but prefixed with `\$'
 - Encoded with 1, 2, 4, or 8 bytes *depending on the instruction*
- **Register:** 1 of 16 integer registers
 - Examples: %rax, %r13
 - But %rsp reserved for special use
 - Others have special uses for particular instructions

- %rax %rcx %rdx %rbx %rsi %rdi %rsp %rbp %rN (r8-r15)
- **Memory:** Consecutive bytes of memory at a computed address
 - Simplest example: (%rax) treats value of %rax as an address \rightarrow access memory
 - Various other "address modes" we'll talk about later

MOV Operand Combinations



Cannot do memory-memory transfer with a single instruction

How would you do it?

MOV Operand Combinations

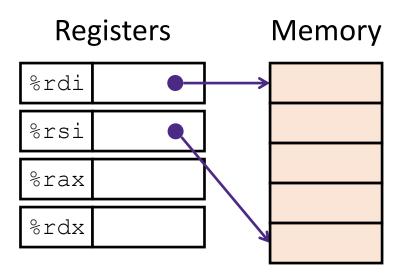
Cannot do memory-memory transfer with a single instruction

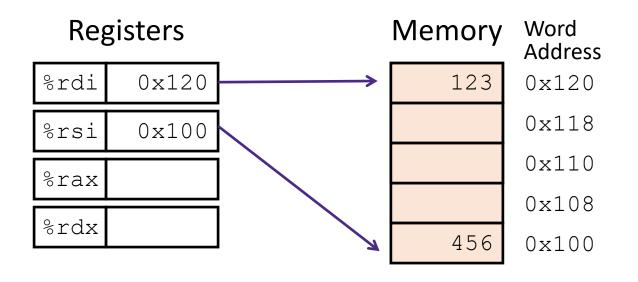
How would you do it? 1) Mem->Reg, 2) Reg->Mem

```
void swap(long* xp, long* yp)
{
  long t0 = *xp;
  long t1 = *yp;
  *xp = t1;
  *yp = t0;
}
```

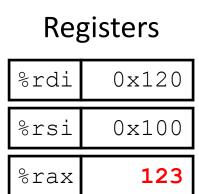
```
RegisterVariable%rdi\Leftrightarrow xp%rsi\Leftrightarrow yp%rax\Leftrightarrow t0%rdx\Leftrightarrow t1
```

```
swap:
  movq (%rdi), %rax
  movq (%rsi), %rdx
  movq %rdx, (%rdi)
  movq %rax, (%rsi)
  ret
```

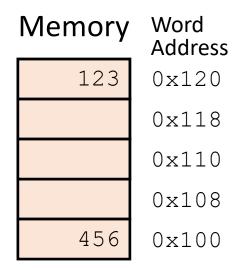




```
swap:
    movq (%rdi), %rax # t0 = *xp
    movq (%rsi), %rdx # t1 = *yp
    movq %rdx, (%rdi) # *xp = t1
    movq %rax, (%rsi) # *yp = t0
    ret
```



%rdx

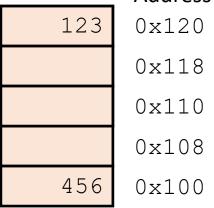


```
swap:
    movq (%rdi), %rax # t0 = *xp
    movq (%rsi), %rdx # t1 = *yp
    movq %rdx, (%rdi) # *xp = t1
    movq %rax, (%rsi) # *yp = t0
    ret
```

Registers

%rdi	0x120
%rsi	0x100
%rax	123
%rdx	456

Memory Word Address

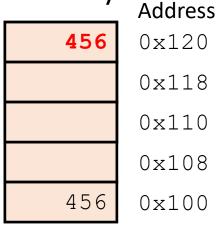


```
swap:
    movq (%rdi), %rax # t0 = *xp
    movq (%rsi), %rdx # t1 = *yp
    movq %rdx, (%rdi) # *xp = t1
    movq %rax, (%rsi) # *yp = t0
    ret
```

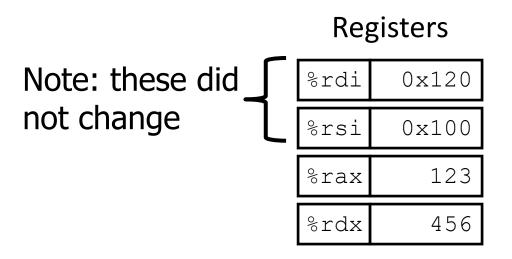
Registers

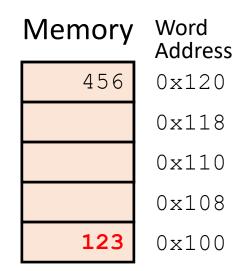
%rdi	0x120
%rsi	0x100
%rax	123
%rdx	456

Memory Word



```
swap:
  movq (%rdi), %rax # t0 = *xp
  movq (%rsi), %rdx # t1 = *yp
  movq %rdx, (%rdi) # *xp = t1
  movq %rax, (%rsi) # *yp = t0
  ret
```





```
swap:
  movq (%rdi), %rax # t0 = *xp
  movq (%rsi), %rdx # t1 = *yp
  movq %rdx, (%rdi) # *xp = t1
  movq %rax, (%rsi) # *yp = t0
  ret
```

Break + Open Question

How does the number of available registers affect a system?

• What if x86-64 only had two registers?

• What if x86-64 instead had 512 registers?

Break + Open Question

- How does the number of available registers affect a system?
 - What if x86-64 only had two registers?
 - "Register Pressure" becomes a problem
 - Accessing 3+ things at once requires memory
 - Way more memory reads/writes
 - What if x86-64 instead had 512 registers?
 - Most of the registers would never be used
 - For any realistic program
 - Could have spent that silicon on something more important

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Memory Addressing Modes: Basic

- Common need: interact with memory
 - Exact address might be made of multiple parts
- Indirect: (R) Mem[Reg[R]]
 - Data in register R specifies the memory address
 - Like pointer dereference in C
 - Example: movq (%rcx), %rax
- **Displacement:** D(R) Mem[Reg[R]+D]
 - Data in register R specifies the *start* of some memory region
 - Constant displacement D specifies the offset from that address
 - Example: movq 8(%rbp), %rdx

Complete Memory Addressing Modes

General:

- D(Rb,Ri,S) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]*S+D]
 - Rb: Base register (any register)
 - Ri: Index register (any register except %rsp)
 - S: Scale factor (1, 2, 4, 8) why these numbers?
 - D: Constant displacement value (a.k.a. immediate)

Sizes of common C types!

• **Special cases** (see textbook Figure 3.3 or next slide)

- D(Rb,Ri) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]+D] (S=1)
- (Rb,Ri,S) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]*S] (D=0)
- (Rb, Ri) Mem[Reg[Rb]+Reg[Ri]] (S=1, D=0)
- (,Ri,S) Mem[Reg[Ri]*S] (Rb=0,D=0)

Full list of addressing mode forms

Туре	Form	Operand value	Name
Immediate	\$Imm	Imm	Immediate
Register	\mathbf{r}_a	$R[r_a]$	Register
Memory	Imm	M[Imm]	Absolute
Memory	(r _a)	$M[R[r_a]]$	Indirect
Memory	$Imm(r_b)$	$M[Imm + R[r_b]]$	Base + displacement
Memory	(r_b, r_i)	$M[R[r_b] + R[r_i]]$	Indexed
Memory	$Imm(r_b, r_i)$	$M[Imm + R[r_b] + R[r_i]]$	Indexed
Memory	$(,\mathbf{r}_i,s)$	$M[R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$Imm(,r_i,s)$	$M[Imm + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$(\mathbf{r}_b, \mathbf{r}_i, s)$	$M[R[r_b] + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed
Memory	$Imm(\mathbf{r}_b,\mathbf{r}_i,s)$	$M[Imm + R[r_b] + R[r_i] \cdot s]$	Scaled indexed

Figure 3.3 Operand forms. Operands can denote immediate (constant) values, register values, or values from memory. The scaling factor s must be either 1, 2, 4, or 8.

%rdx	0xf000
%rcx	0x0100

Expression	Address Computation	Address
0x8(%rdx)		
(%rdx,%rcx)		
(%rdx,%rcx,4)		
0x80(,%rdx,2)		

%rdx	0xf000
%rcx	0x0100

Expression	Address Computation	Address
0x8(%rdx)	%rdx + 0x8	0xf008
(%rdx,%rcx)		
(%rdx,%rcx,4)		
0x80(,%rdx,2)		

%rdx	0xf000
%rcx	0x0100

Expression	Address Computation	Address
0x8(%rdx)	%rdx + 0x8	0xf008
(%rdx,%rcx)	%rdx + %rcx*1	0xf100
(%rdx,%rcx,4)		
0x80(,%rdx,2)		

%rdx	0xf000
%rcx	0x0100

Expression	Address Computation	Address
0x8(%rdx)	%rdx + 0x8	0xf008
(%rdx,%rcx)	%rdx + %rcx*1	0xf100
(%rdx,%rcx,4)	%rdx + %rcx*4	0xf400
0x80(,%rdx,2)		

%rdx	0xf000
%rcx	0x0100

Expression	Address Computation	Address
0x8(%rdx)	%rdx + 0x8	0xf008
(%rdx,%rcx)	%rdx + %rcx*1	0xf100
(%rdx,%rcx,4)	%rdx + %rcx*4	0xf400
0x80(,%rdx,2)	%rdx*2 + 0x80	0x1e080

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