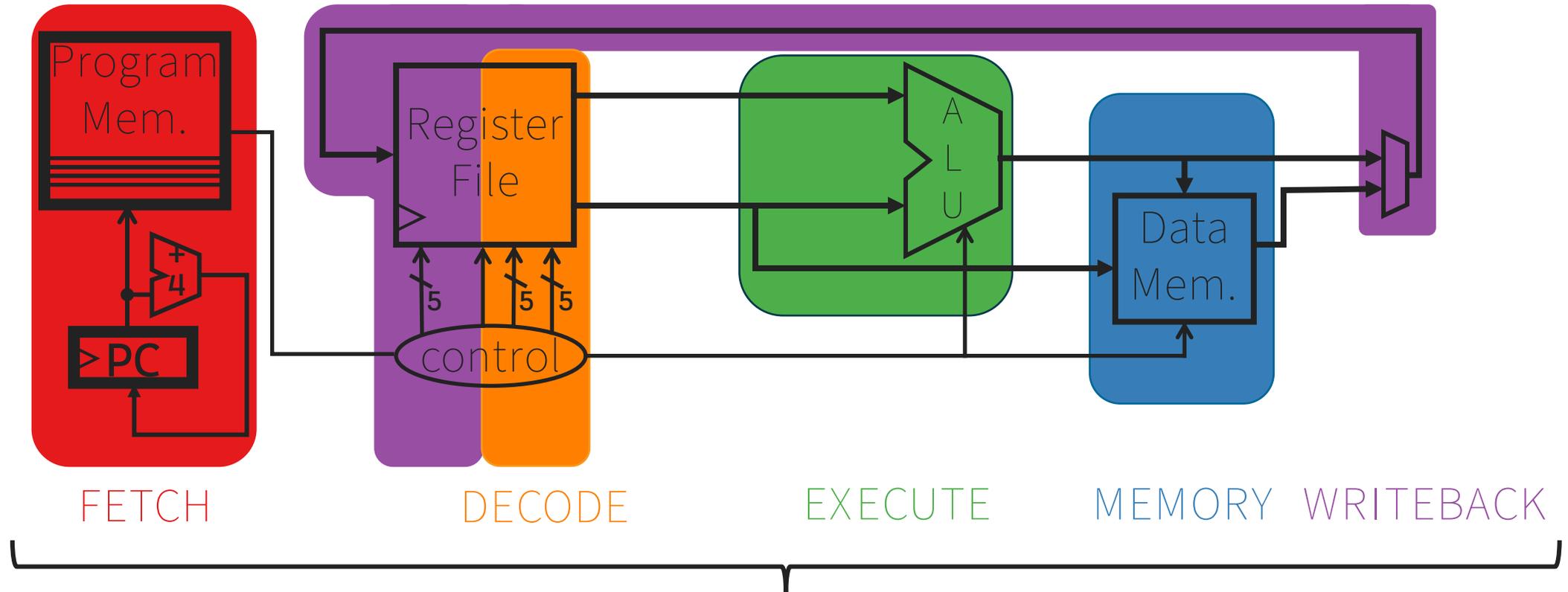


# Calling Conventions

CS 3410: Computer System Organization and Programming

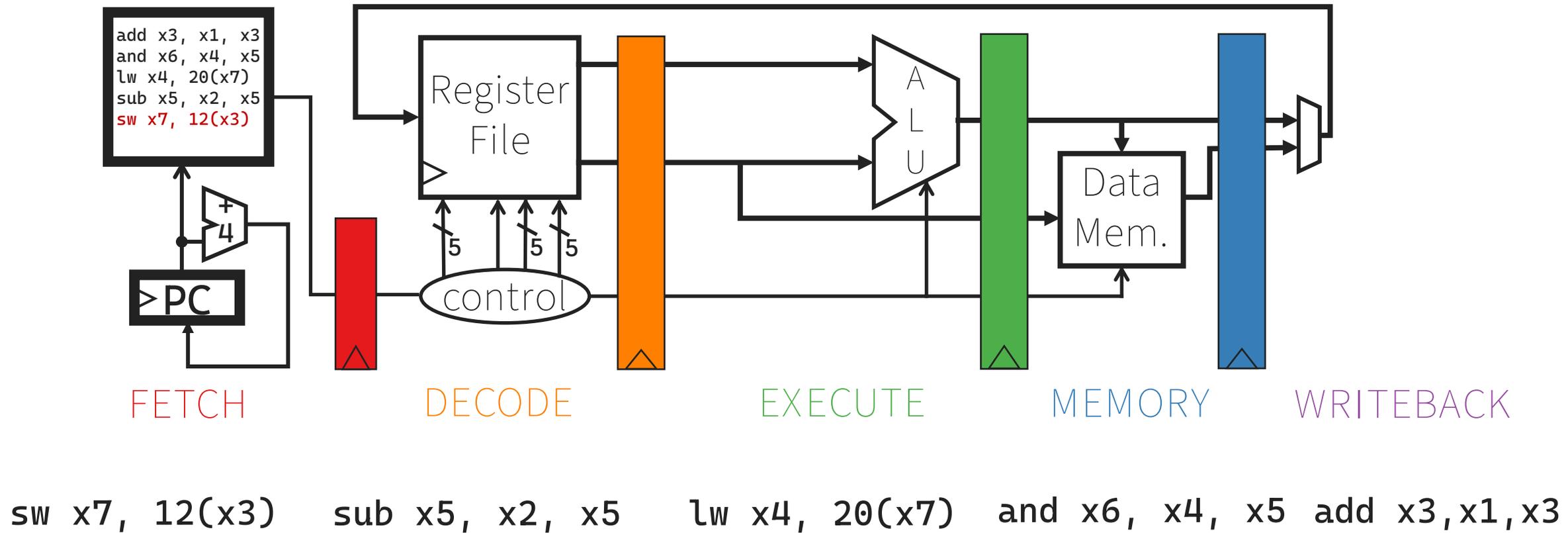


# Recall CPU Performance: Single-Cycle



Clock frequency must be **slow enough** for the very **slowest** instruction to complete in **1 cycle**

# Recall CPU Performance: Pipelined



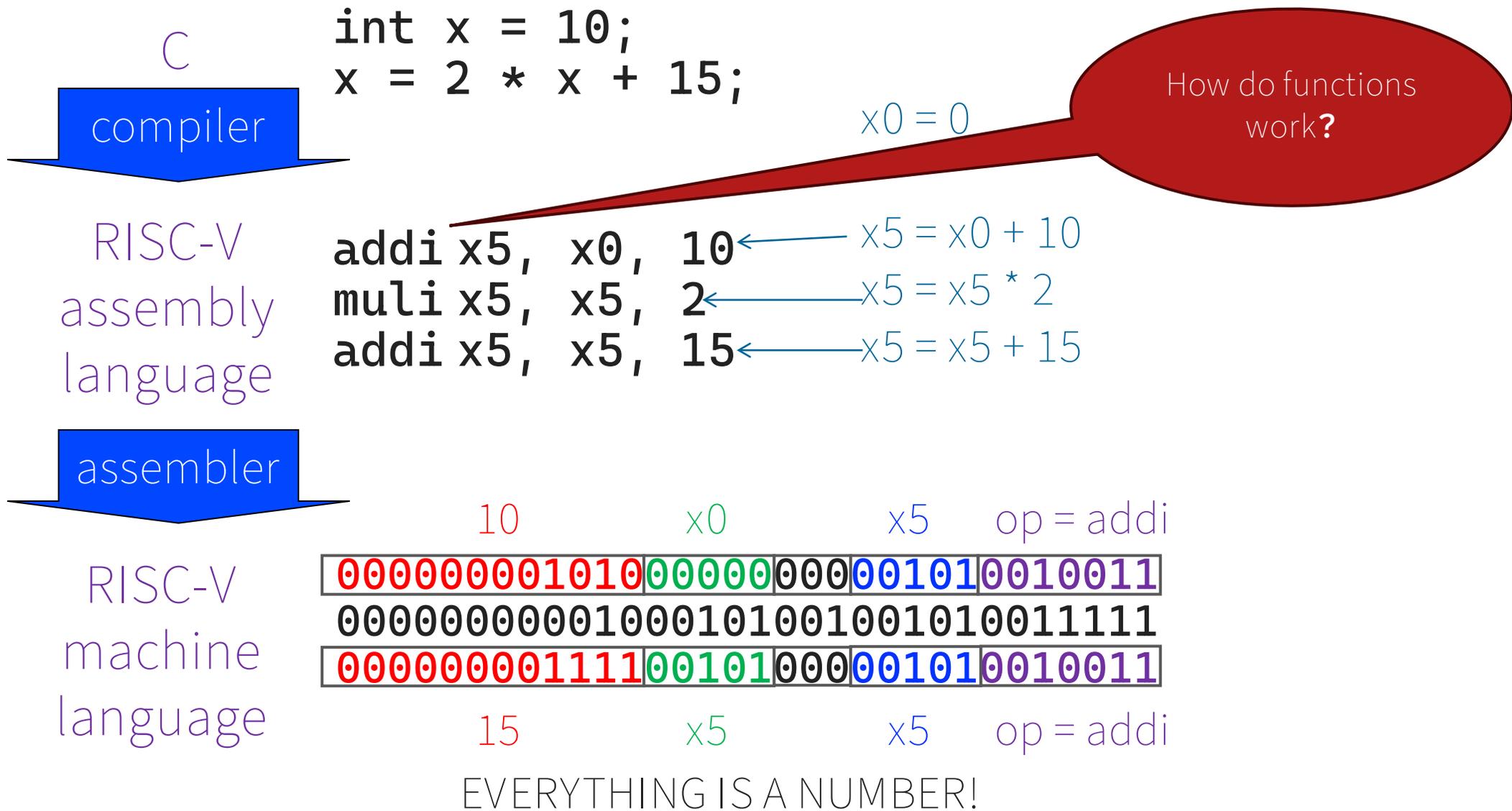
# Recall CPU Performance [PolIEV Question]

Metric	Single Cycle	Multi Cycle	Pipelined
Clock Period (time / cycle)	$F + D + X + M + W$	$\text{MAX}(F, D, X, M, W) + \epsilon$	$\text{MAX}(F, D, X, M, W) + \epsilon$
Cycles Per Instruction (CPI)	1	(It depends!)	1
Performance (time / instruction)	Multiply down to see who wins!		

- How much faster is a Pipelined processor compared to a Single Cycle
- Some concrete numbers:
  - Stage latency:  $F = 170\text{ns}$ ,  $D = 180\text{ns}$ ,  $X = 200\text{ns}$ ,  $M = 200\text{ns}$ ,  $W = 150\text{ns}$ , Register =  $5\text{ns}$
  - **Branch**: 20% (3 cycles), **Load**: 20% (5 cycles), **ALU**: 60% (4 cycles)



# Big Picture: How to Design Program a Processor



# Big Picture: How to Design Program a Processor

C

```
int x = 10;  
x = 2 * x + 15;
```

compiler

RISC-V  
assembly  
language

```
addi x5, x0, 10 ← x5 = x0 + 10  
slli x5, x5, 1 ← x5 = x5 * 2  
addi x5, x5, 15 ← x5 = x5 + 15
```

x0 = 0

How do functions work?

assembler

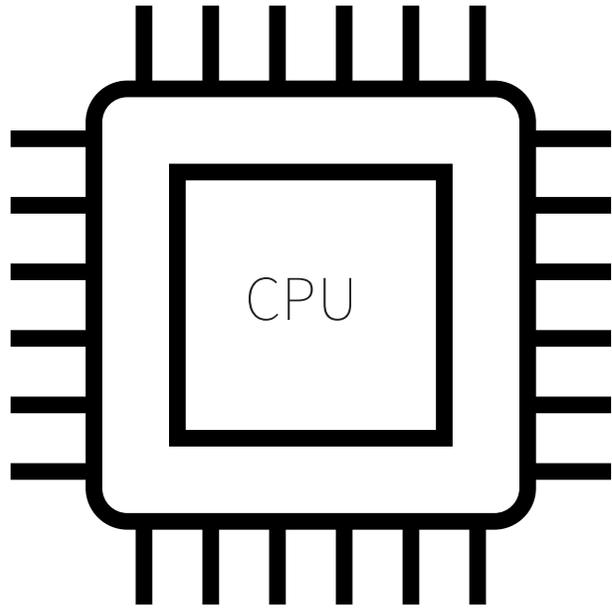
RISC-V  
machine  
language

```
10      x0      x5      op = addi  
00000000101000000000001010011111  
0000000000001001010010010010011111  
0000000011110010100000001010011111  
15      x5      x5      op = addi
```

EVERYTHING IS A NUMBER!

# Big Picture: How to Design Program a Processor

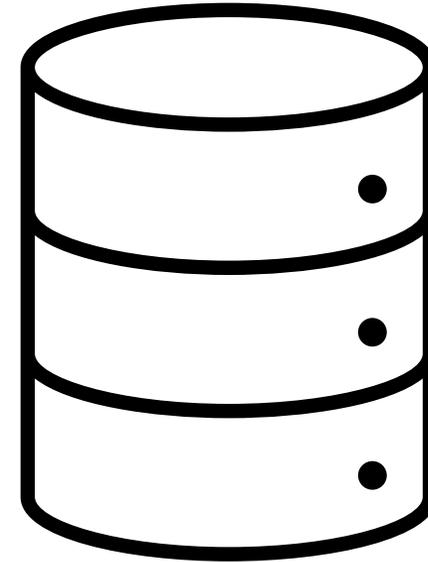
Processor



Runs code; does computations

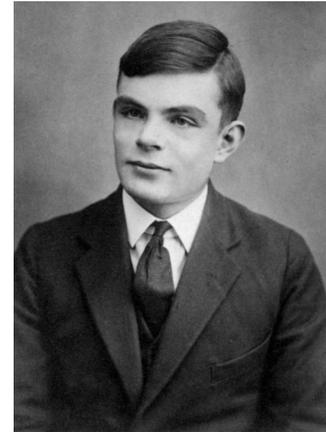
Doesn't remember anything

Memory

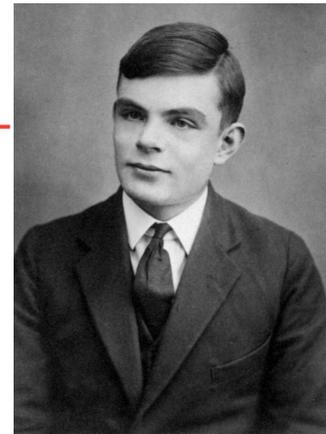


Can't compute anything

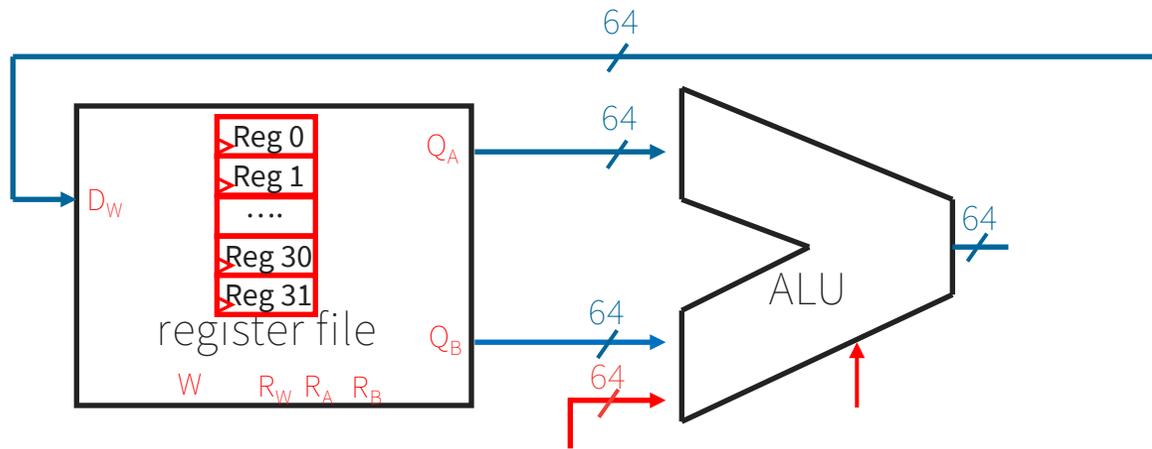
Stores data



# Big Picture: How to Design Processor a Processor



## Processor

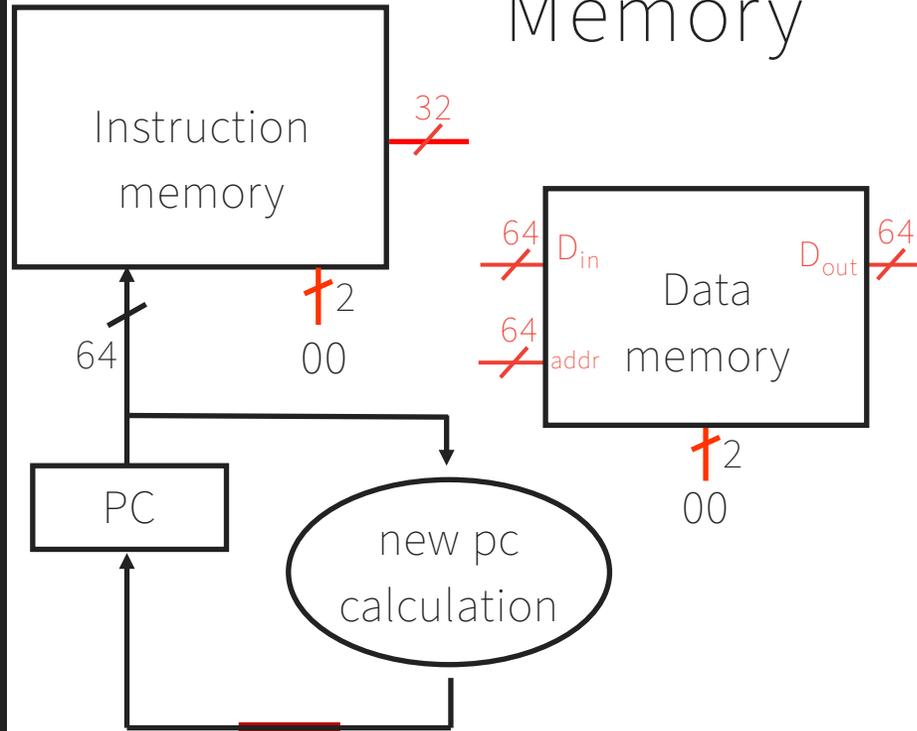


Runs code; does computations



Doesn't remember anything

## Memory

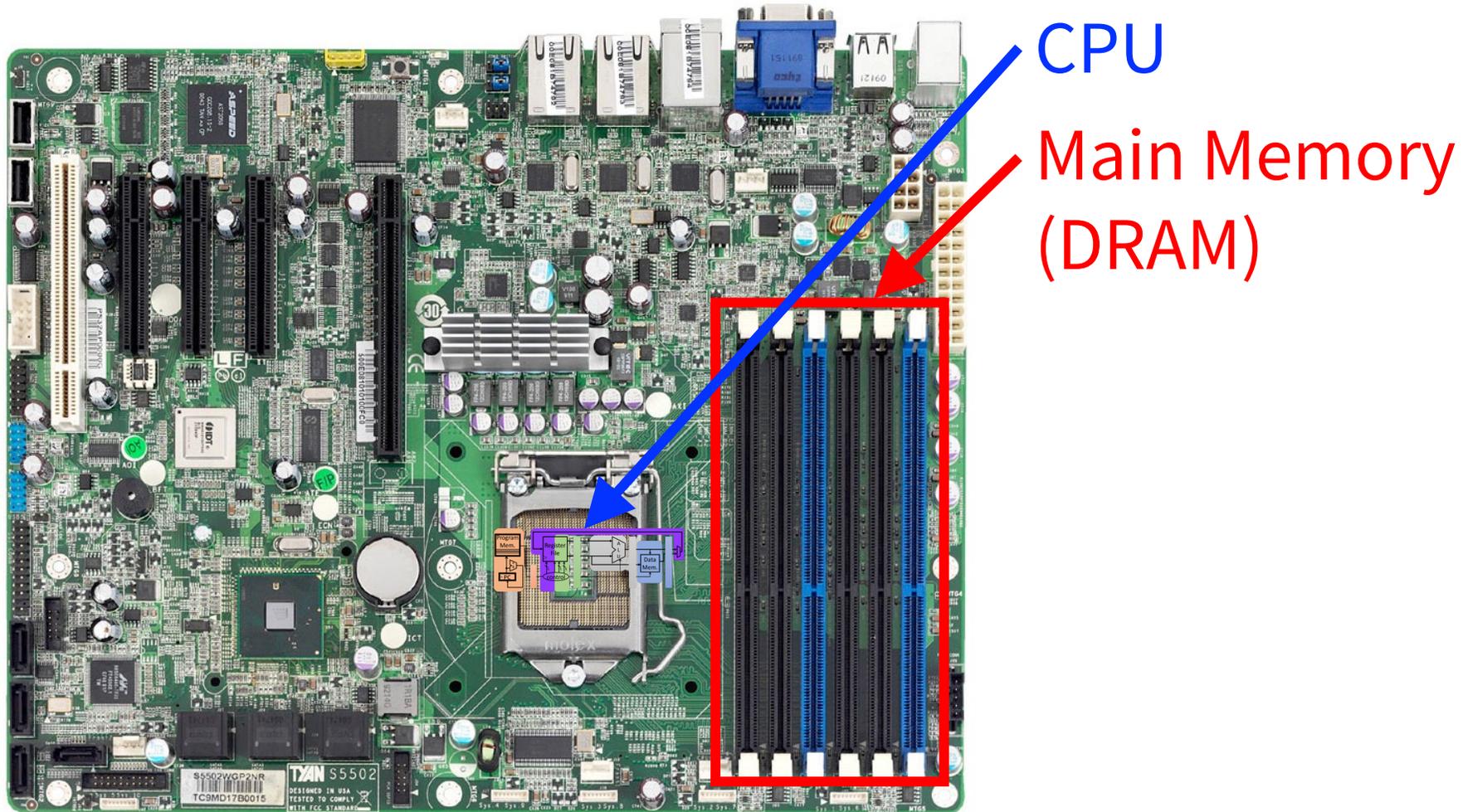


Can't compute anything



Stores data

# Actual picture of memory



# Goals for this week

- Calling Convention for Procedure Calls
- Enable code to be reused by allowing code snippets to be invoked
- Will need a way to
  - call the routine (i.e. transfer control to procedure)
  - pass arguments
    - fixed length, variable length, recursively
  - return to the caller
    - Putting results in a place where caller can find them
  - Manage register

# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- fixed length, variable length, recursively
- Get return value back to the caller

## Manage Registers

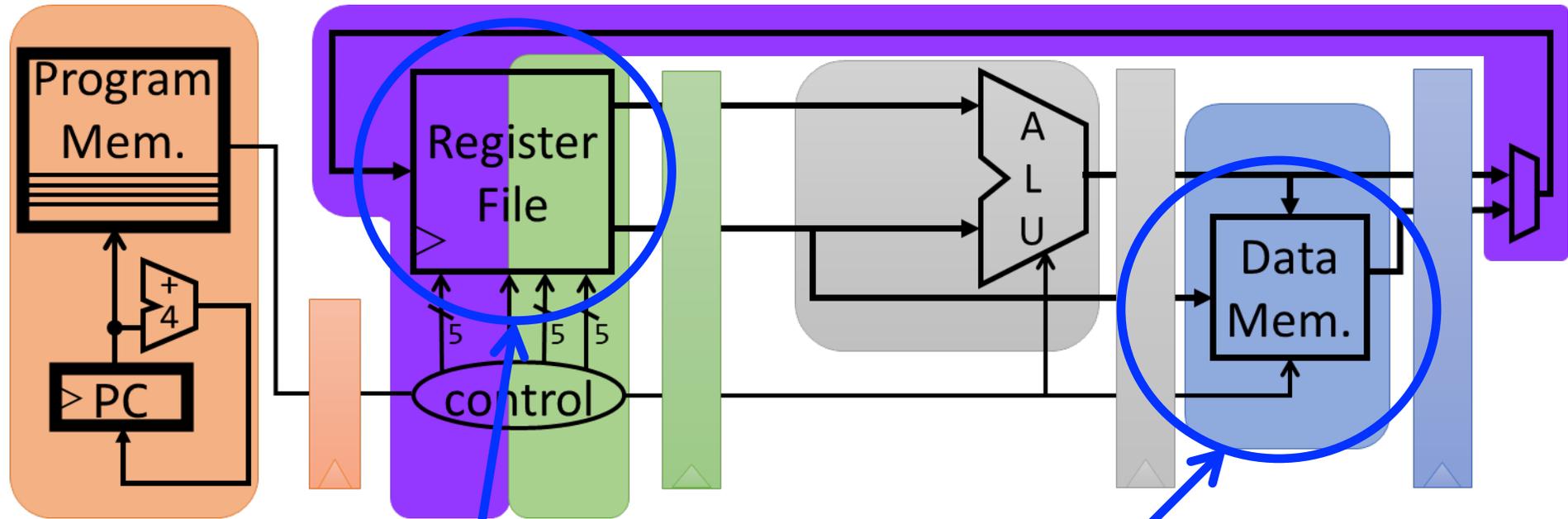
- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

### **What is a Convention?**

**Warning:** There is no one true RISC-V calling convention.  
lecture != book != gcc != spim != web



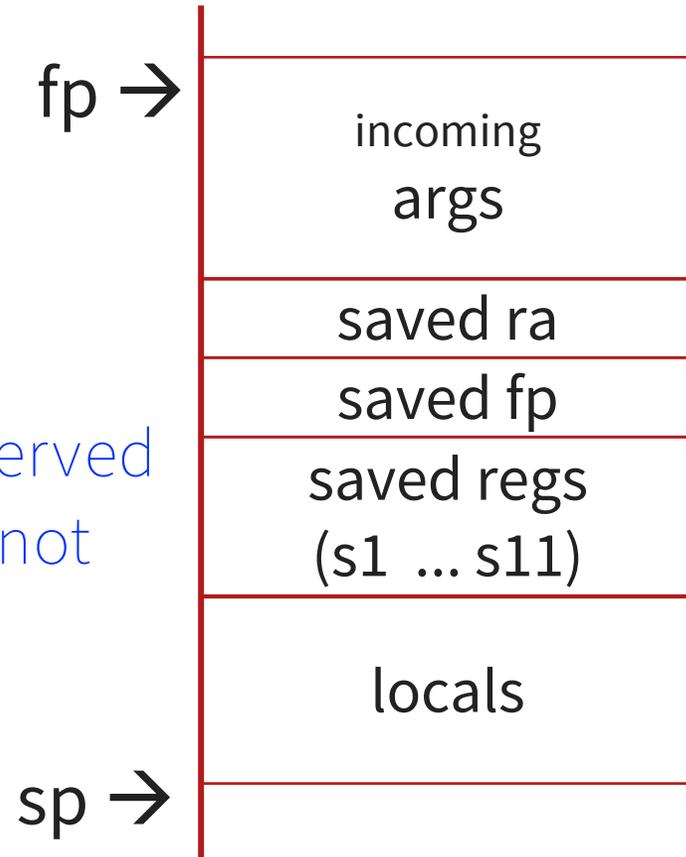
# Cheat Sheet and Mental Model for Today



How do we share registers and use memory when making procedure calls?

# Cheat Sheet and Mental Model for Today

- first eight arg words passed in registers a0, a1, ..., a7
- Space for args passed in child's stack frame
- return value (if any) in a0, a1
- stack frame at `sp`
  - contains `ra` (clobbered on JAL to sub-functions)
  - contains `fp`
  - contains local vars
    - (possibly clobbered by sub-functions)
  - contains space for incoming args
- Saved registers (callee save regs) are preserved
- Temporary registers (caller save) regs are not
- Global data accessed via `gp`



# RISC-V Register

- Return address: x1 (ra)
- Stack pointer: x2 (sp)
- Frame pointer: x8 (fp/s0)
- First eight arguments: x10-x17 (a0-a7)
- Return result: x10-x11 (a0-a1)
- Callee-save free regs: x18-x27 (s2-s11)
- Caller-save free regs: x5-x7, x28-x31 (t0-t6)
- Global pointer: x3 (gp)
- Thread pointer: x4 (tp)



# RISC-V Register Conventions

REGISTER	NAME	USE	SAVER
x0	zero	The constant value 0	N.A.
x1	ra	return address	Caller
x2	sp	stack pointer	Callee
x3	gp	global data pointer	--
x4	tp	thread pointer	--
x5-x7	t0-t2	temporaries	Caller
x8	s0/fp	saved register / frame pointer	Callee
x9	s1	saved register	Callee
x10-x11	a0-a1	fn arguments / return values	Caller
x12-x17	a2-a7	function arguments	Caller
x18-x27	s2-s11	saved registers	Callee
x28-x31	t3-t6	temporaries	Caller



# RISC-V Register Conventions

x0	zero	zero	x15	a5	function arguments
x1	ra	return address	x16	a6	
x2	sp	stack pointer	x17	a7	
x3	gp	global data pointer	x18	s2	<b>saved (callee save)</b>
x4	tp	thread pointer	x19	s3	
x5	t0	<b>temps (caller save)</b>	x20	s4	
x6	t1				
x7	t2				
x8	s0/fp	frame pointer	x23	s7	
x9	s1	<b>saved (callee save)</b>	x24	s7	
x10	a0	function args or return values	x25	s9	
x11	a1				
x12	a2	function arguments	x26	s10	
x13	a3				
x14	a4				
x15	a5				
x16	a6		x28	t3	
x17	a7		x29	t4	
x18	s2		x30	t5	
x19	s3		x31	t6	



# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- fixed length, variable length, recursively
- Get return value back to the caller

## Manage Registers

- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

### **What is a Convention?**

**Warning:** There is no one true RISC-V calling convention.  
lecture != book != gcc != spim != web



# What goes where?

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

```
int padding = 3;
```

```
int addfn(int a) {  
    return a + padding;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum, a = 1, b = 3;  
    sum = addfn(a);  
    printf("padding %d yields %d\n", a, sum);  
    sum = addfn(b);  
    printf("padding %d yields %d\n", b, sum);  
}
```

[visualize](#)

xFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

x7FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

x000000000000000000



# How does a function call work?

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(1,2);  
    sum = addfn(3,4);  
}
```

How does...

- `main` call `addfn`?
- `addfn` return back to `main`?
- `addfn` get its arguments?
- `addfn` return its result?



# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

Pass Arguments to and from the routine

## Manage Registers

- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

Optimizations & Manipulations?

What is a Convention?

**Warning:** There is no one true RISC-V calling convention.  
lecture != book != gcc != web



# JAL/JALR in action!

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

addfn:

```
x040    ADD  
x044    JALR x0,0(x1)
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```

main:

```
x100    JAL x1, -x060  
x104    JAL x1, -x064  
x108
```

JAL	$R[rd] = PC+4;$	$PC = PC+IMM$
JALR	$R[rd] = PC+4;$	$PC = R[rs1]+IMM$

PC x100

x1 ?

x0 cannot be overwritten  
(not using this functionality)

# JAL/JALR in action!

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

addfn:

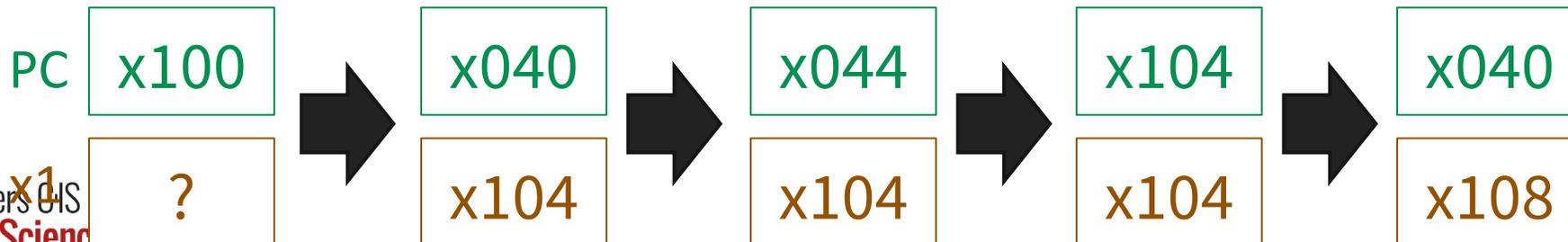
```
x040    ADD  
x044    JALR x0,0(x1)
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```

main:

```
→ x100    JAL x1, -x060  
x104    JAL x1, -x064  
x108
```

JAL	$R[rd] = PC+4; PC = PC+IMM$
JALR	$R[rd] = PC+4; PC = R[rs1]+IMM$



# RISC-V Register Conventions

REGISTER	NAME	USE	SAVER
<b>x0</b>	zero	The constant value 0	N.A.
<b>x1</b>	ra	return address	Caller

# Anybody worried about anything?

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

addfn:

```
x040    ADD  
x044    JALR x0,0(x1)
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```

main:

```
x100    JAL x1, -x060  
x104    JAL x1, -x064  
x108
```



# What about now?

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    printf("hi");  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```

printf:

```
x020    BLAHBLAHBLAH  
x024    JALR x0,0(x1)
```

addfn:

```
x040    JAL x1, -x020  
x044    ADD  
x048    JALR x0,0(x1)
```

main:

```
x100    JAL x1, -x060  
x104    JAL x1, -x064  
x108
```



# Enter: the Call Stack

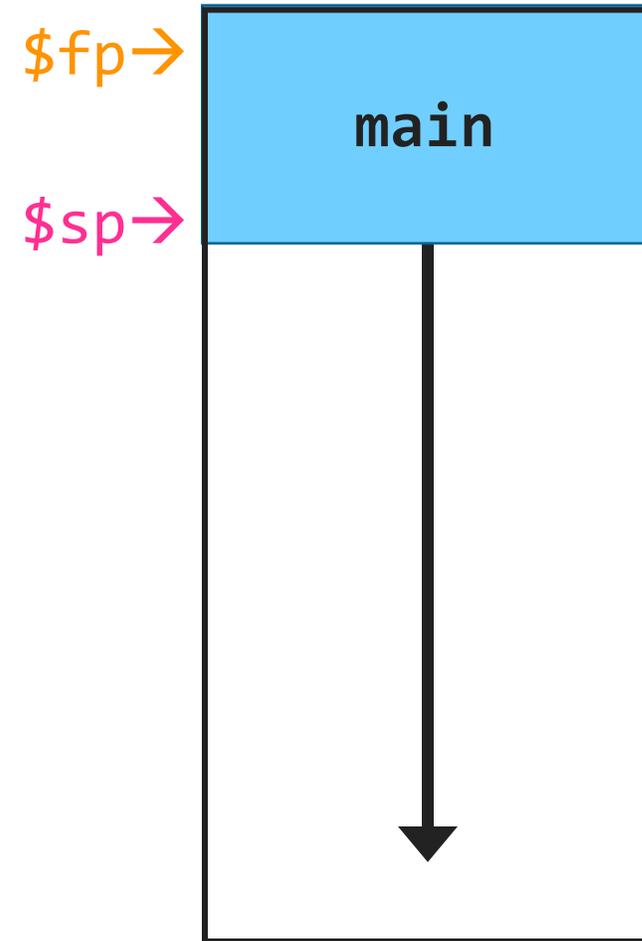
Part of memory that holds function data

- 1 stack frame per *dynamic* function
- exists only for the life of the function
- grows **down**
  - `$fp` points to "bottom"
  - `$sp` points to "top"

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    printf("hi");  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);
```

```
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```



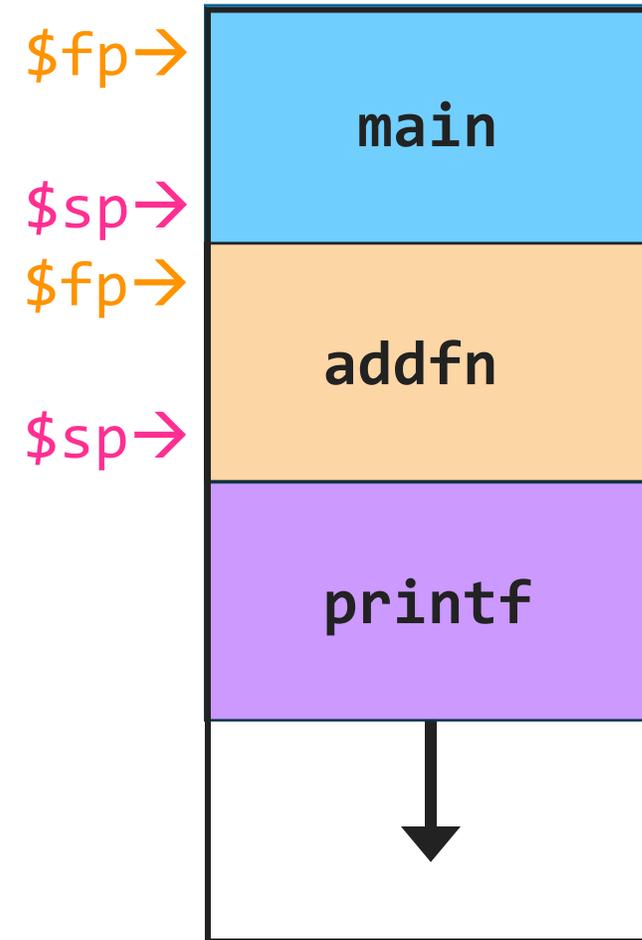
# Enter: the Call Stack

Part of memory that holds function data

- 1 stack frame per *dynamic* function
- exists only for the life of the function
- grows **down**
  - `$fp` points to "bottom"
  - `$sp` points to "top"

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    printf("hi");  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(v1,v2);  
}
```



```
sum = addfn(v1,v2);
```

# RISC-V Register Conventions

REGISTER	NAME	USE	SAVER
x0	zero	The constant value 0	N.A.
x1	ra	return address	Caller
x2	sp	stack pointer	Callee
x8	s0 / fp	frame pointer	Callee

# Stack Manipulations

**PUSH** something onto the stack:

Example: store your \$ra on the stack

- Grow the stack:
- Put \$ra at new "top"

```
ADDI sp, sp, -8
```

```
SD x1, 0(sp)
```

**POP** something off of the stack:

Example: pop your \$ra off the stack

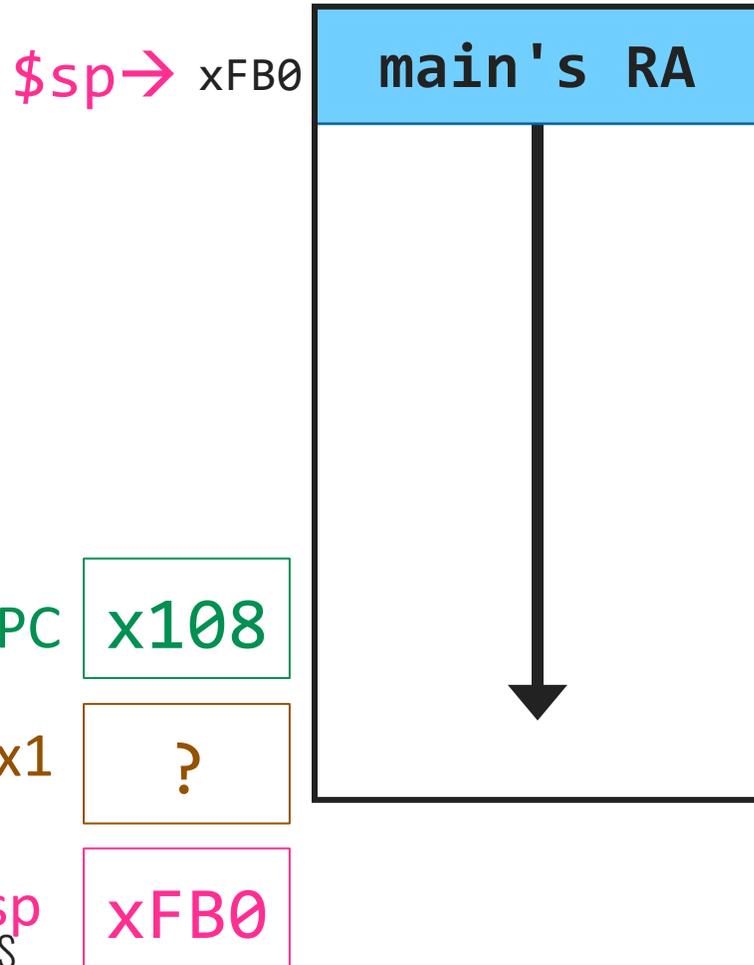
- Put ret addr back in \$ra
- Shrink the stack:

```
LD x1, 0(sp)
```

```
ADDI sp, sp, 8
```



# RA Example (1)



```

x020 printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x024      SD x1, 0(sp)
x028      ...
x0..     JARL x0,0(x1)
          ...

```

```

x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044      SD x1, 0(sp)
x048      JAL x1, -x28
x04c      ADD
x050      LD x1,0(sp)
x054      ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058      JALR x0,0(x1)

```

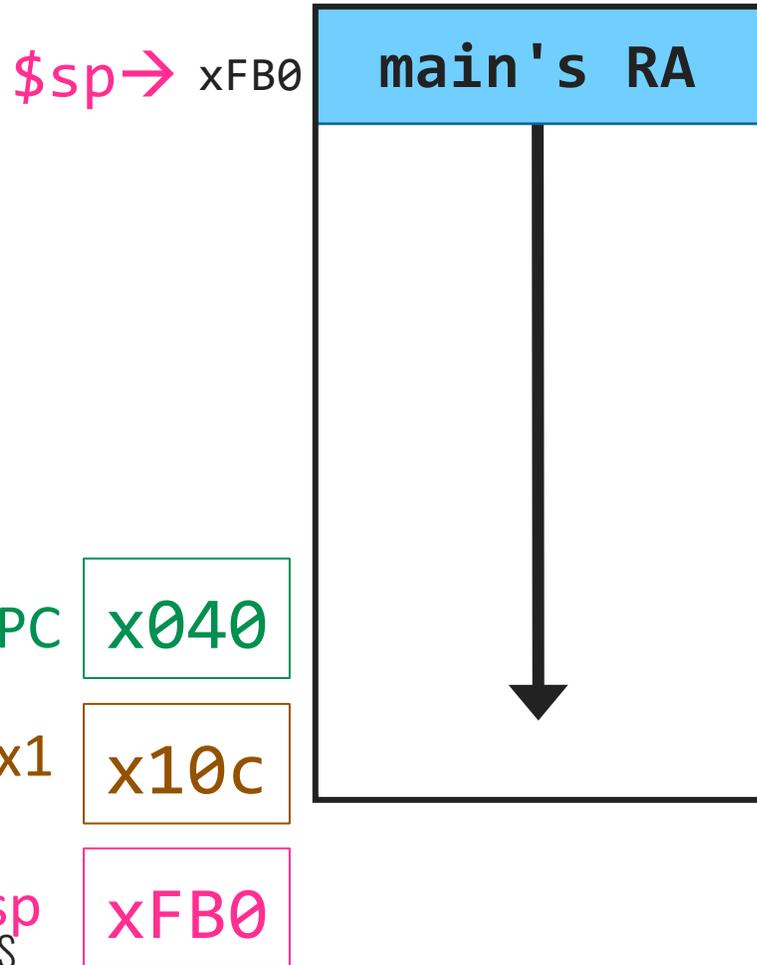
```

x100 main: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104      SD x1, 0(sp)
x108      JAL x1, addfn
x10c      JAL x1, addfn

```



# RA Example (2)



```
x020 printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x024 SD x1, 0(sp)
x028 ...
x0.. JARL x0,0(x1)
...

```

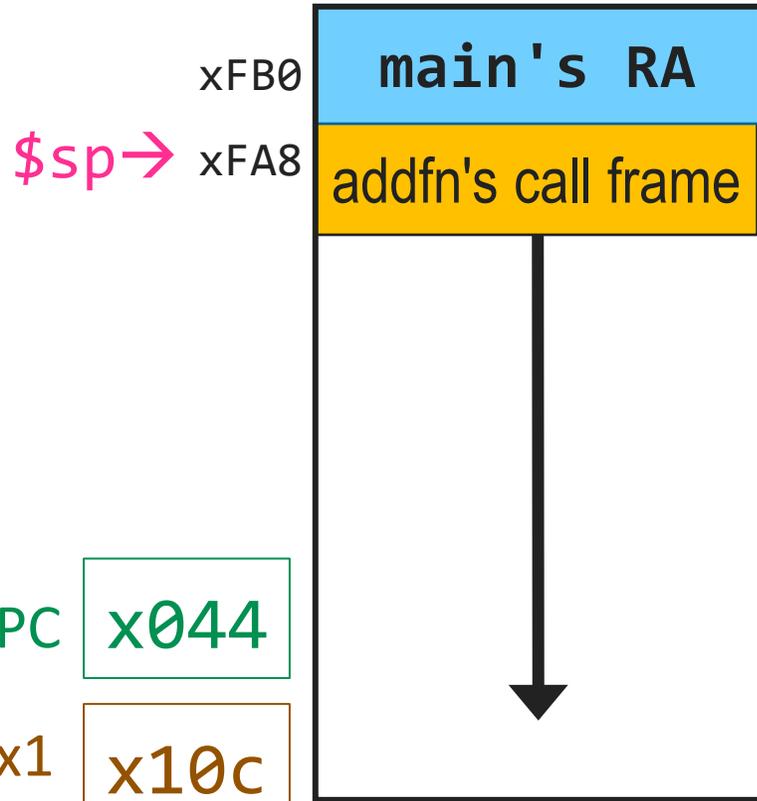
```
x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044 SD x1, 0(sp)
x048 JAL x1, -x28
x04c ADD
x050 LD x1,0(sp)
x054 ADDI sp, sp, 4
x058 JALR x0,0(x1)

```

```
x100 main: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104 SD x1, 0(sp)
x108 JAL x1, addfn
x10c JAL x1, addfn

```

# RA Example (3)



```

x020 printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x024 SD x1, 0(sp)
x028 ...
x0.. JARL x0,0(x1)
...

```

```

x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044 SD x1, 0(sp)
x048 JAL x1, -x28
x04c ADD
x050 LD x1,0(sp)
x054 ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058 JALR x0,0(x1)

```

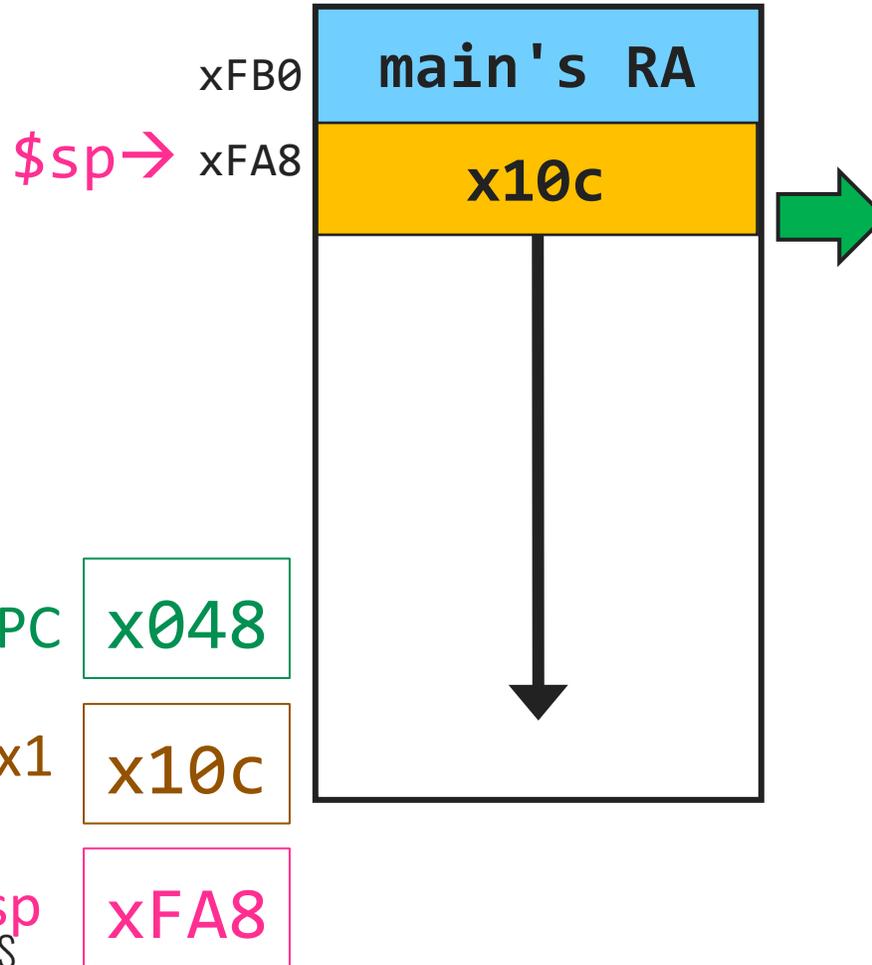
```

x100 main: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104 SD x1, 0(sp)
x108 JAL x1, addfn
x10c JAL x1, addfn

```



# RA Example (4)



```

x020 printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x024 SD x1, 0(sp)
x028 ...
x0.. JARL x0,0(x1)
...

```

```

x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044 SD x1, 0(sp)
x048 JAL x1, -x28
x04c ADD
x050 LD x1,0(sp)
x054 ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058 JALR x0,0(x1)

```

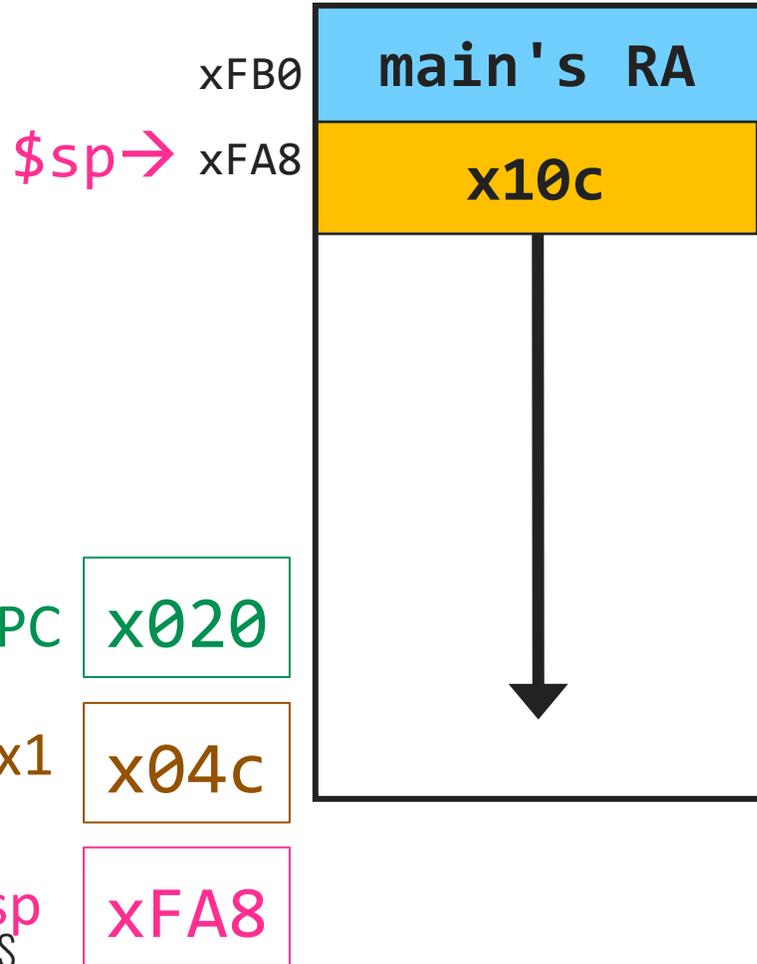
```

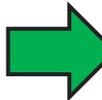
x100 main: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104 SD x1, 0(sp)
x108 JAL x1, addfn
x10c JAL x1, addfn

```



# RA Example (5)




  
 x020
   
 x024
   
 x028
   
 x0..

```

printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
        SD x1, 0(sp)
        ...
        JARL x0,0(x1)
        ...
  
```

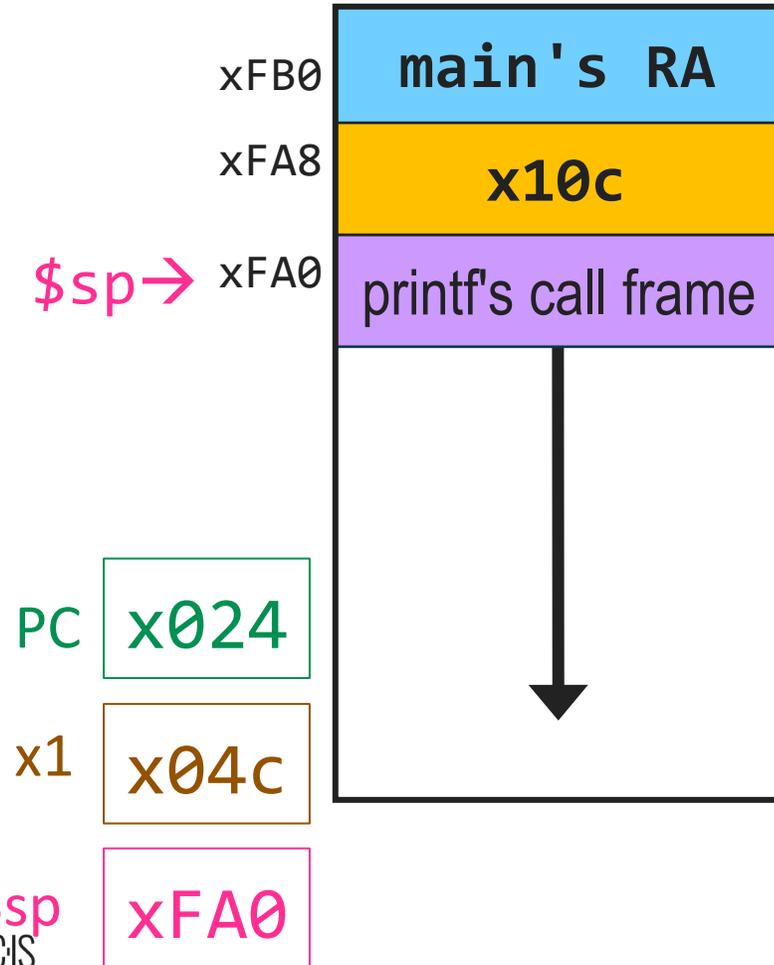
```

x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044        SD x1, 0(sp)
x048        JAL x1, -x28
x04c        ADD
x050        LD x1,0(sp)
x054        ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058        JALR x0,0(x1)
  
```

```

x100 main:  ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104        SD x1, 0(sp)
x108        JAL x1, addfn
x10c        JAL x1, addfn
  
```

# RA Example (6)



➔ x020  
 x024  
 x028  
 x0..

```

printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
        SD x1, 0(sp)
        ...
        JARL x0,0(x1)
        ...
  
```

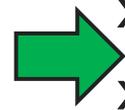
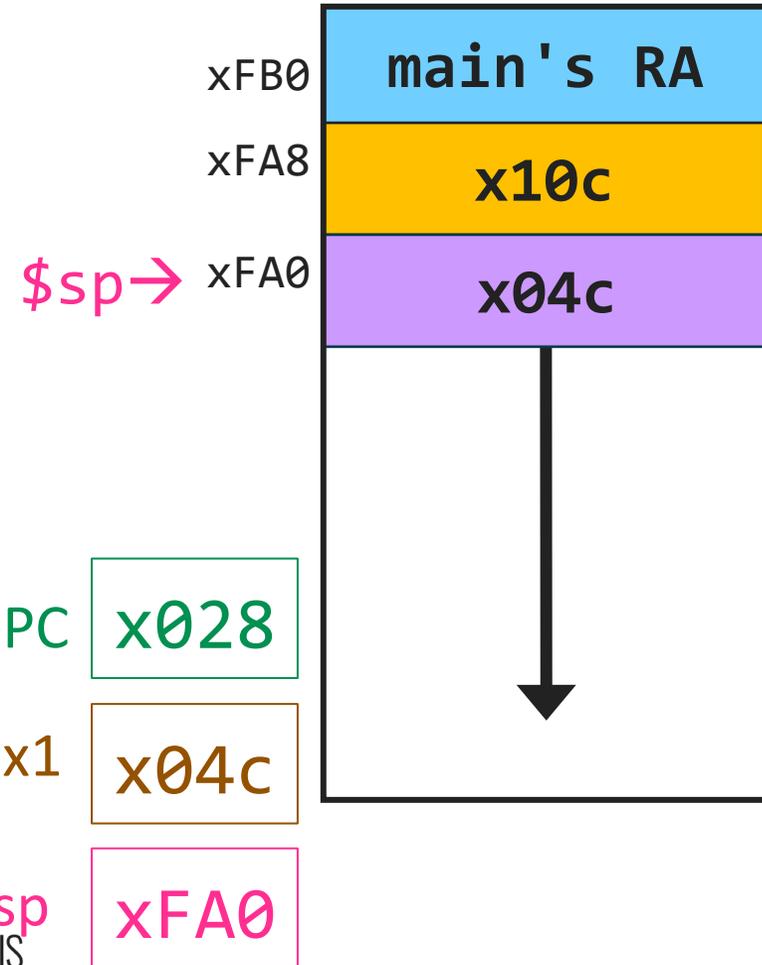
```

x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044        SD x1, 0(sp)
x048        JAL x1, -x28
x04c        ADD
x050        LD x1,0(sp)
x054        ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058        JALR x0,0(x1)
  
```

```

x100 main:  ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104        SD x1, 0(sp)
x108        JAL x1, addfn
x10c        JAL x1, addfn
  
```

# RA Example (7)

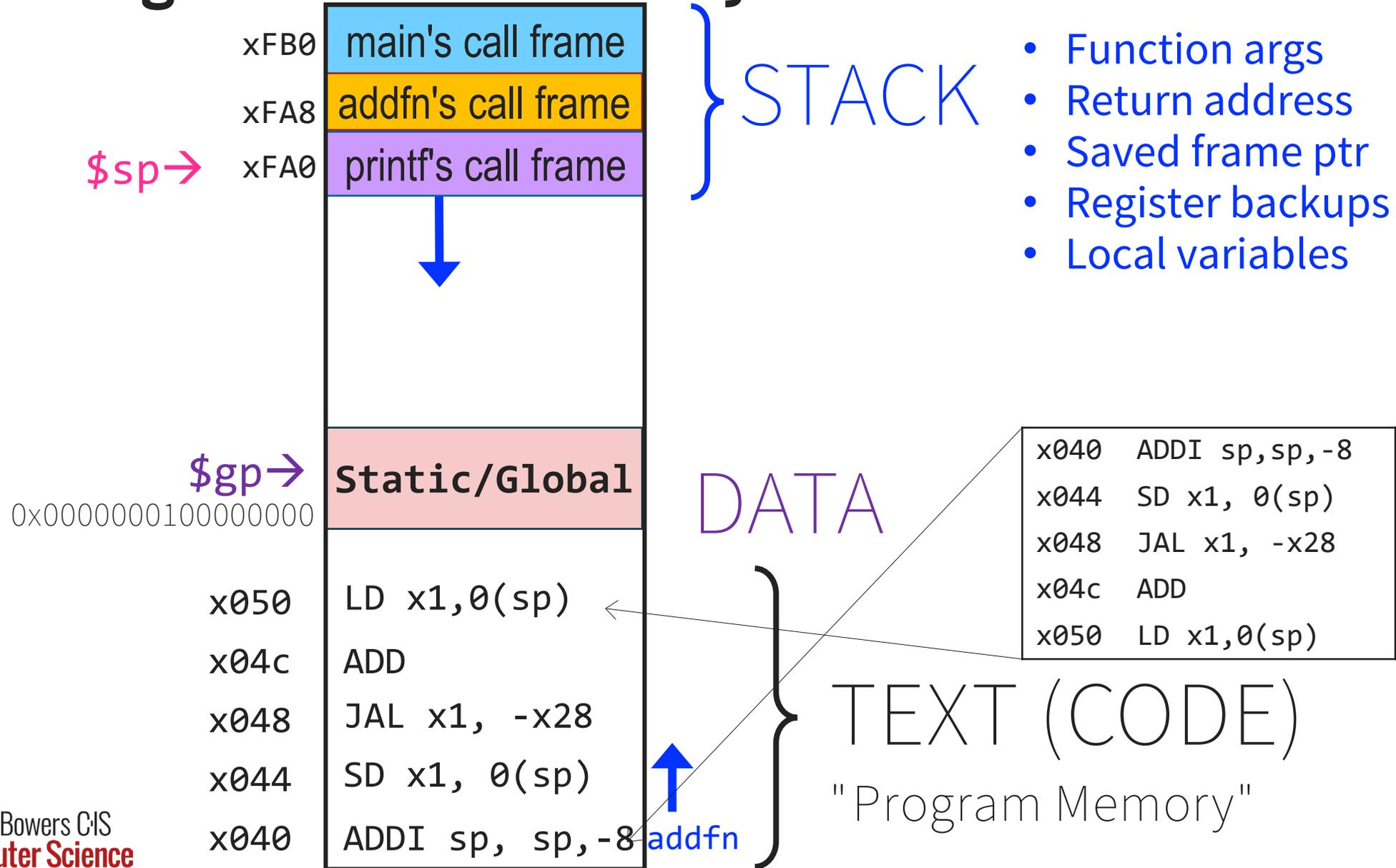


```
x020 printf: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x024 SD x1, 0(sp)
x028 ...
x0.. JARL x0,0(x1)
...
```

```
x040 addfn: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x044 SD x1, 0(sp)
x048 JAL x1, -x28
x04c ADD
x050 LD x1,0(sp)
x054 ADDI sp, sp, 8
x058 JALR x0,0(x1)
```

```
x100 main: ADDI sp,sp,-8
x104 SD x1, 0(sp)
x108 JAL x1, addfn
x10c JAL x1, addfn
```

# The Big Picture of Memory



- Function args
- Return address
- Saved frame ptr
- Register backups
- Local variables

```

x040  ADDI sp, sp, -8
x044  SD x1, 0(sp)
x048  JAL x1, -x28
x04c  ADD
x050  LD x1, 0(sp)
    
```

# An executing program in memory

0xfffffffffffffffffc



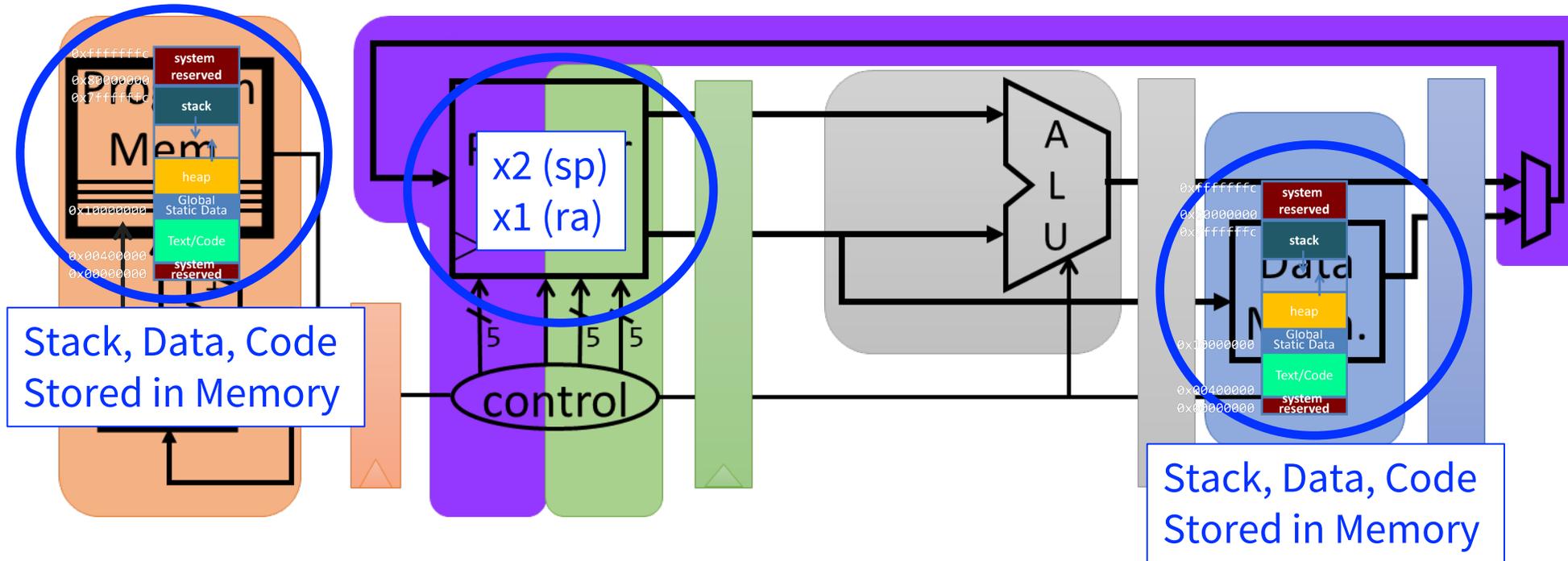
“Data Memory”

← “Program Memory”

0x0000000000400000



# Anatomy of an executing program



# Global Data

How does a function load global data?

- global variables are just above 0x00000000100000000

Convention: *global pointer*

- `x3` is `gp` (pointer into *middle* of global data section)

`gp = 0x00000000100000800`

- Access most global data using LW at `gp +/- offset`

```
LD t0, 0x800(gp)
```

```
LD t1, 0x7FF(gp)
```



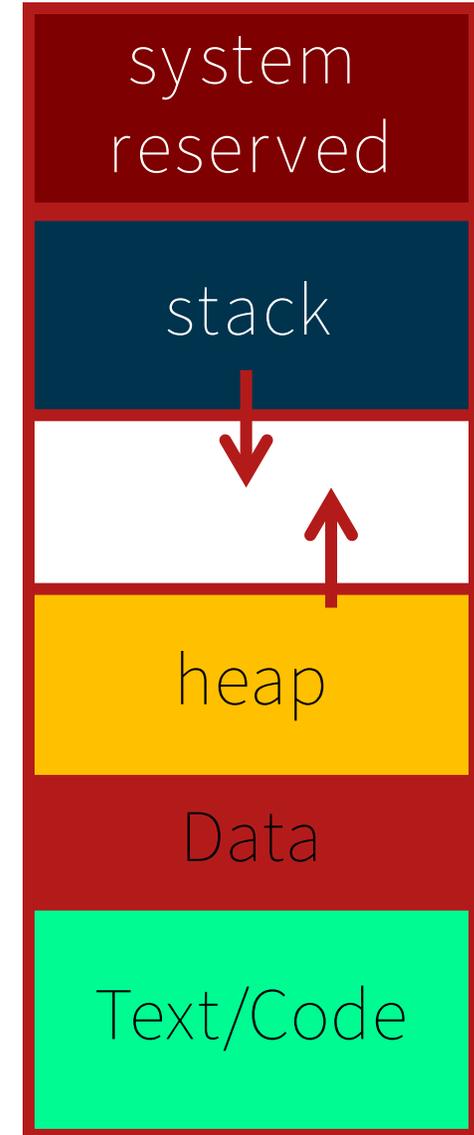
# RISC-V Register Conventions

REGISTER	NAME	USE	SAVER
x0	zero	The constant value 0	N.A.
x1	ra	return address	Caller
x2	sp	stack pointer	Callee
x3	gp	global data pointer	- -
x8	s0 / fp	frame pointer	Callee

# Globals and Locals

Where is...

```
int n = 100;
int main(int argc, char* argv[ ]) {
    int A[100], sum = 0, i;
    int* B = malloc(n*sizeof(int));
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        sum += i; A[i] = B[i]; }
    printf ("Sum 1 to %d is %d\n", n, sum);
}
```



# Globals and Locals [PolLEV Question #2]

Variables	Visibility	Lifetime	Location
Function-Local			
Global			
Dynamic			

```
int n = 100;
int main(int argc, char* argv[ ]) {
    int A[100], sum = 0, i;
    int* B = malloc(n*sizeof(int));
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        sum += i; A[i] = B[i]; }
    printf ("Sum 1 to %d is %d\n", n, sum);
}
```



# How does a function call work?

```
int addfn(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b;  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    int sum;  
    sum = addfn(1,2);  
    sum = addfn(3,4);  
}
```

How does...

- main call `addfn`? ✓
- `addfn` return back to `main`? ✓
- `addfn` get its arguments?
- `addfn` return its result?



# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- Arguments passed to a routine via x10-x17
- Return values passed back to the caller via x10, x11

## Manage Registers

- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

## Optimizations & Manipulations?

Second Lecture Started  
Here



# Next Goal

- Need consistent way of passing arguments and getting the result of a subroutine invocation

# Arguments & Return Values

Need consistent way of passing arguments and getting the result of a subroutine invocation

Given a procedure signature, need to know where arguments should be placed

- `int min(int a, int b);` a0, a1
- `int subf(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f, int g, int h, int i);`
- `int isalpha(char c);` stack?
- `int treesort(struct Tree *root);`
- `struct Node *createNode();` a0
- `struct Node mynode();` a0, a1

Too many combinations of char, short, int, void \*, struct, etc.

Cornell Bowers CIS RISC-V treats char, short, int and void \* identically

# Simple Argument Passing (1-8 args)

```
main() {  
  int x = addfn(6, 7);  
  x = x + 2;  
}
```

```
main:  
  li x10, 6  
  li x11, 7  
  jal addfn  
  addi x10, x10, 2
```

First eight arguments:

passed in registers `x10-x17`

- aka `a0, a1, ..., a7`

Returned result:

passed back in a register

- Specifically, `x10`, aka `a0`
- And `x11`, aka `a1`

Note: This is *not* the entire story for 1-8 arguments.  
Please see *the Full Story* slides.



# Conventions so far:

- args passed in `a0`, `a1`, ..., `a7`
- return value (if any) in `a0`, `a1`
- stack frame at `sp`
  - contains `ra` (clobbered on JAL to sub-functions)

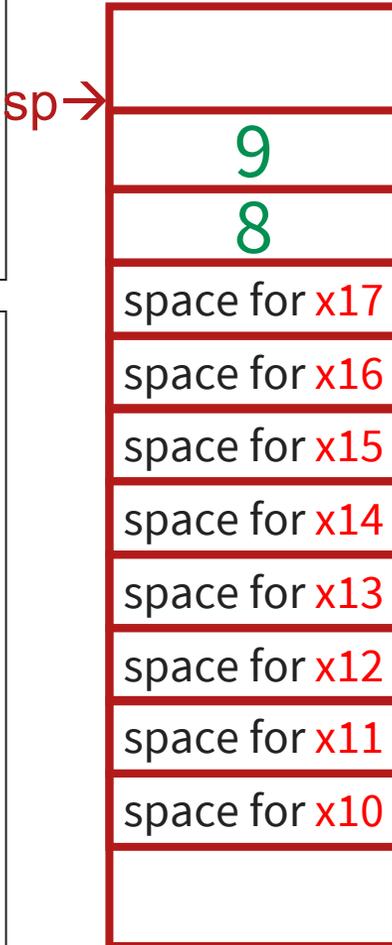
Q: What about argument lists?



# Many Arguments (8+ args)

```
main() {  
    addfn(0,1,2,...,7,8,9);  
    ...  
}
```

```
main:  
    li x10, 0  
    li x11, 1  
    ...  
    li x17, 7  
    li x5, 8  
    sw x5, -16(x2)  
    li x5, 9  
    sw x5, -5(x2)  
    jal addfn
```



First eight arguments:  
passed in registers x10-x17  
• aka a0, a1, ..., a7

Subsequent arguments:  
"spill" onto the stack

Args passed in child's stack frame

Note: This is *not* the entire story for 9+ args.  
Please see *the Full Story* slides.

# Many Arguments (8+ args)

```
main() {  
    addfn(0,1,2,...,7,8,9);  
    ...  
}
```

```
main:  
    li a0, 0  
    li a1, 1  
    ...  
    li a7, 7  
    li t0, 8  
    sw t0, -16(sp)  
    li t0, 9  
    sw t0, -8(sp)  
    jal addfn
```



First eight arguments:  
passed in registers x10-x17  
• aka a0, a1, ..., a7

Subsequent arguments:  
"spill" onto the stack

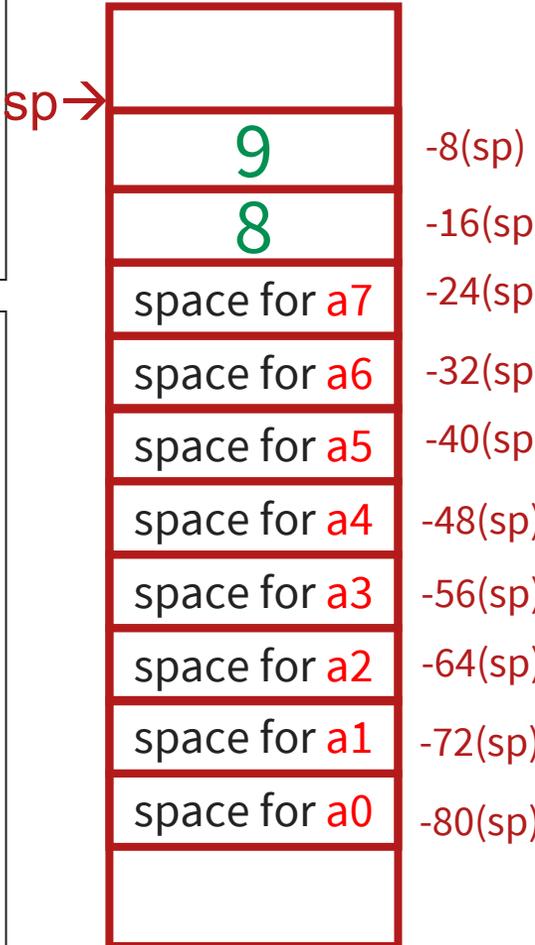
Args passed in child's stack frame

Note: This is *not* the entire story for 9+ args.  
Please see *the Full Story* slides.

# Argument Passing: *the Full Story*

```
main() {  
    addfn(0,1,2,...,7,8,9);  
    ...  
}
```

```
main:  
    li a0, 0  
    li a1, 1  
    ...  
    li a7, 7  
    li t0, 8  
    sw t0, -16(sp)  
    li t0, 9  
    sw t0, -8(sp)  
    jal addfn
```



Arguments 1-8:

passed in x10-x17 room on stack

Arguments 9+:

placed on stack

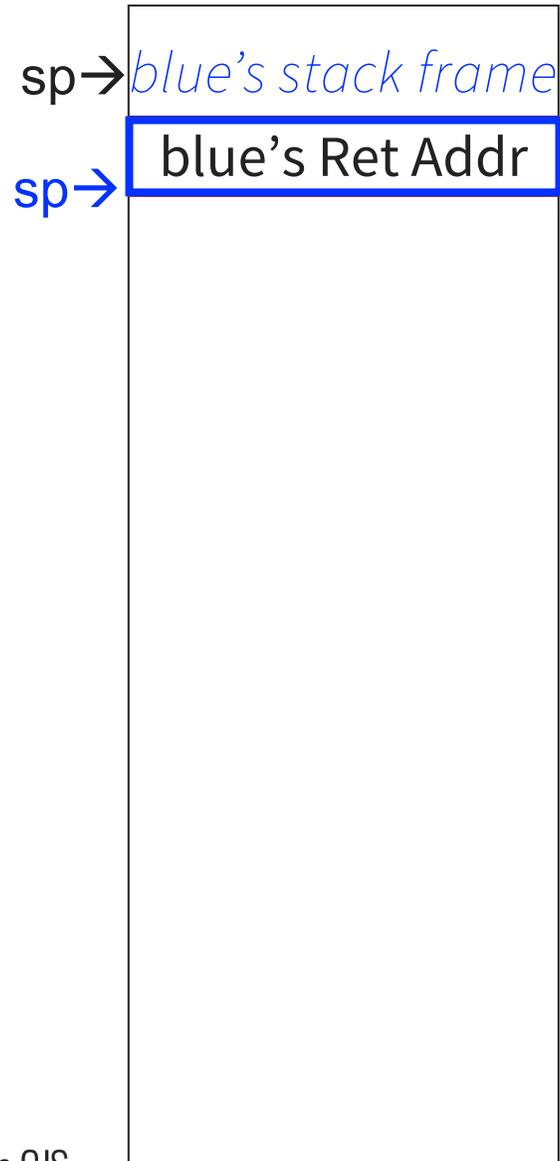
Args passed in child's stack frame

# Pros of Argument Passing Convention

- Consistent way of passing arguments to and from subroutines
- Creates single location for all arguments
  - Caller makes room for `a0-a7` on stack
  - Callee must copy values from `a0-a7` to stack
    - callee may treat all args as an array in memory
  - Particularly helpful for functions w/ variable length inputs: `printf("Scores: %d %d %d\n", 1, 2, 3);`
- Aside: not a bad place to store inputs if callee needs to call a function (your input cannot stay in `a0` if you need to call another function!)

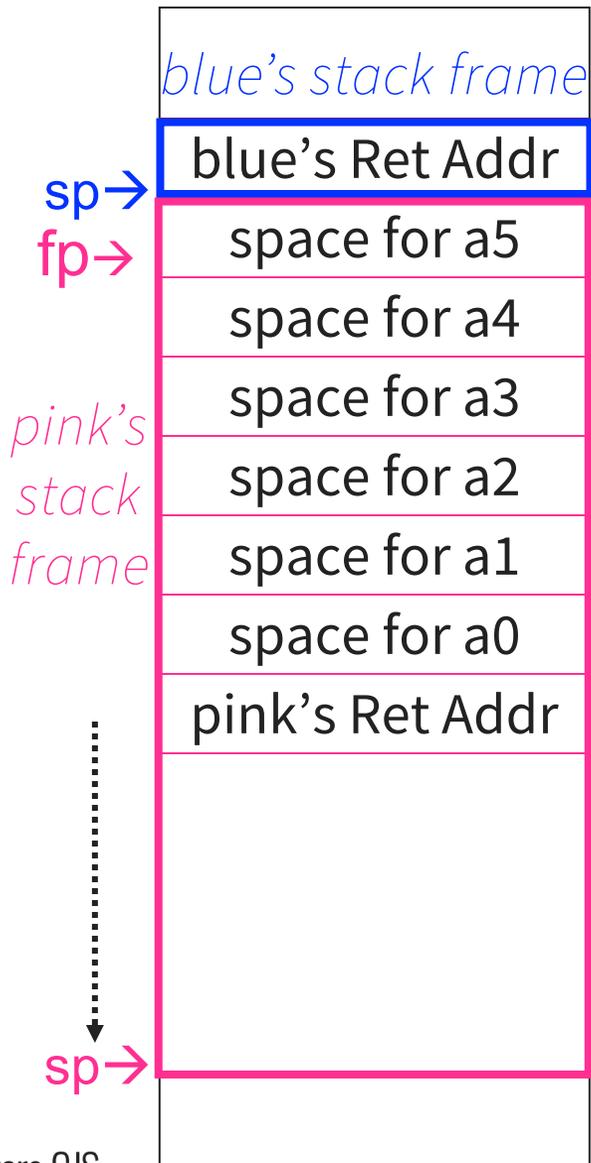


# Frame Layout & the Frame Pointer



```
blue() {  
    pink(0,1,2,3,4,5);  
}
```

# Frame Layout & the Frame Pointer



## Notice

- **Pink's arguments** are on **pink's stack frame**
- **sp** changes as functions call other functions, complicates accesses
- Convenient to keep pointer to bottom of stack == **frame pointer x8 x8, aka fp (also known as s0)** can be used to restore sp on exit

```
blue() {  
    pink(0,1,2,3,4,5);  
}  
pink(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f) {  
    ...  
}
```

# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- Arguments passed to a routine via x10-x17
- Return values passed back to the caller via x10, x11

## Manage Registers

- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

## Optimizations & Manipulations?



# Next Goal

What convention should we use to share use of registers across procedure calls?



# Register Management

Functions:

- Are compiled in isolation
  - Make use of general purpose registers
  - Call other functions in the middle of their execution
    - These functions also use general purpose registers!
    - No way to coordinate between caller & callee
- Need a convention for register management



# Register Usage

Suppose a routine would like to store a value in a register

Two options: *Saved Registers* and *Temporary Registers*

**Saved Registers (Callee-saved)** \$s1-\$s11, \$gp, \$tp, \$sp:

- Assume that another live function is currently using the register
  - On procedure entry: **save** the contents of the register
  - Just before procedure return: **restore** contents to the register
- Contents are safe even if you call a function

**Temporary Registers (Caller-saved)** \$a0-a7, \$t0-\$t6:

- You don't need to protect the contents before you use the register (neither will any function you call)
- If you call a function:
  - Before procedure call: **save** the previous contents to stack
  - After procedure call: **restore** the value back to the register
  - (Otherwise, assume value was destroyed during the call)



# Temporary (Caller-Saved) Registers in Practice

main:

...

[use x5 & x6]

...

addi x2, x2, -16

sd x6, 8(x2)

sd x5, 0(x2)

jal addfn

ld x6, 8(x2)

ld x5, 0(x2)

addi x2, x2, 16

...

[use x5 & x6]

Assume the registers are free for the taking, use with no overhead

Since subroutines will do the same, must protect values needed later:

Save before fn call

Restore after fn call

Notice: Good registers to use if you don't call too many functions or if the values don't matter later on anyway.



# Temporary (Caller-Saved) Registers in Practice

main:

...

[use t0 & t1]

...

addi sp, sp, -16

sd t1, 8(sp)

sd t0, 0(sp)

jal addfn

ld t1, 8(sp)

ld t0, 0(sp)

addi sp, sp, 16

...

[use t0 & t1]

Assume the registers are free for the taking,  
use with no overhead

Since subroutines will do the same, must  
protect values needed later:

Save before fn call

Restore after fn call

Notice: Good registers to use if you don't  
call too many functions or if the values  
don't matter later on anyway.

# Saved (Callee-Saved) Registers in Practice

main:

```
addi x2, x2, -32
```

```
sd x1, 24(x2)
```

```
sd x8, 16(x2)
```

```
sd x18, 8(x2)
```

```
sd x9, 0(x2)
```

```
addi x8, x2, 24
```

...

```
[use x9 and x18]
```

...

```
ld x1, 24(x2)
```

```
ld x8, 16(x2)
```

```
ld x18, 8(x2)
```

```
ld x9, 0(x2)
```

```
addi x2, x2, 32
```

Assume caller is using the registers

Save on entry

Restore on exit

Notice: Good registers to use if you make a lot of function calls and need values that are preserved across all of them.

Also, good if caller is actually using the registers, otherwise the save and restores are wasted. But hard to know this.



# Saved (Callee-Saved) Registers in Practice

main:

```
addi sp, sp, -32
```

```
sd ra, 24(sp)
```

```
sd fp, 16(sp)
```

```
sd s2, 8(sp)
```

```
sd s1, 0(sp)
```

```
addi fp, sp, 24
```

...

[use s1 and s2]

...

```
ld ra, 24(sp)
```

```
ld fp, 16(sp)
```

```
ld s2, 8(sp)
```

```
ld s1, 0(sp)
```

```
addi sp, sp, 32
```

Assume caller is using the registers

Save on entry

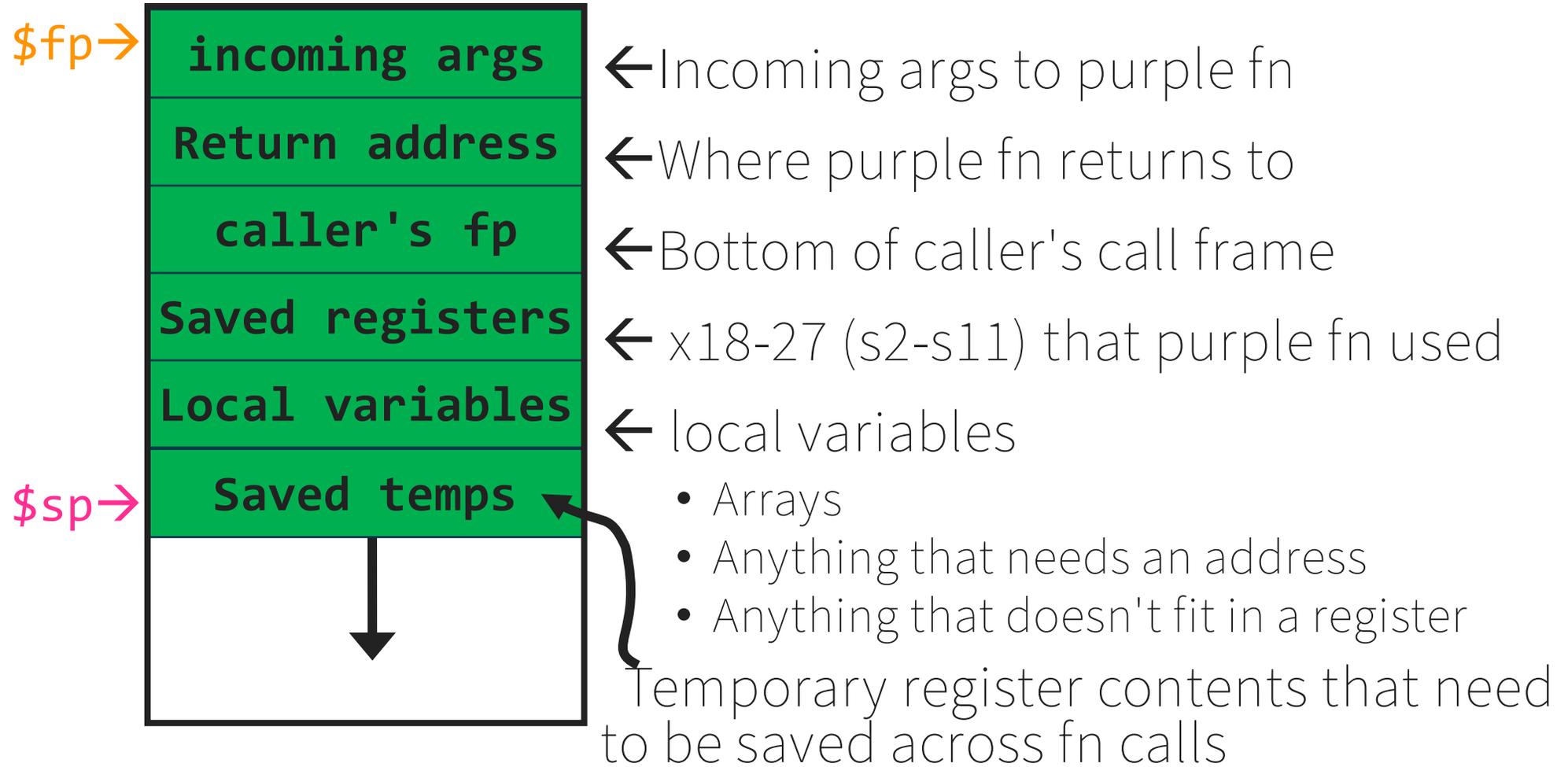
Restore on exit

Notice: Good registers to use if you make a lot of function calls and need values that are preserved across all of them.

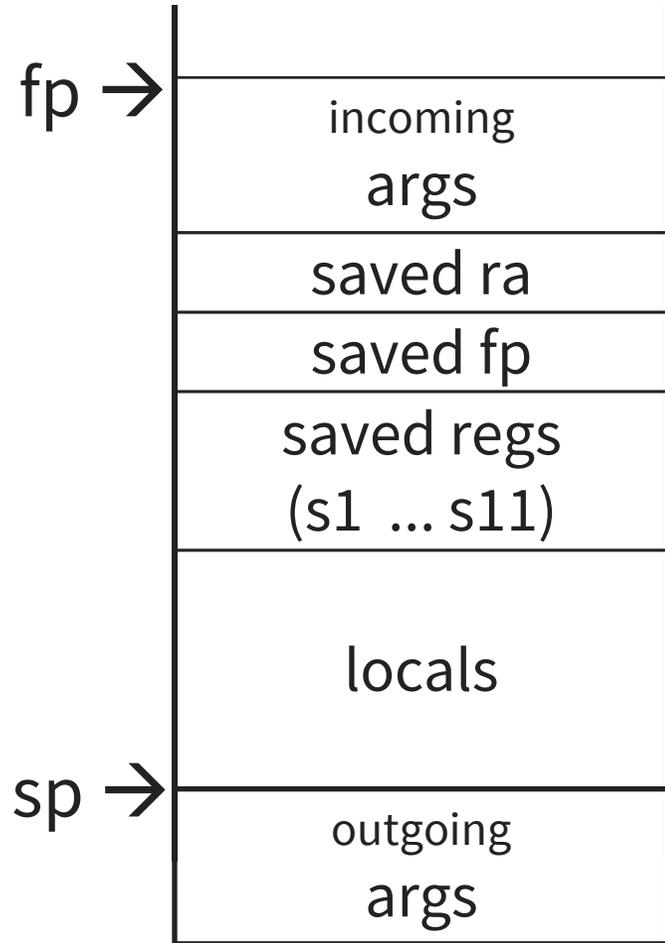
Also, good if caller is actually using the registers, otherwise the save and restores are wasted. But hard to know this.



# So... What's in a Stack Frame?



# Frame Layout on Stack



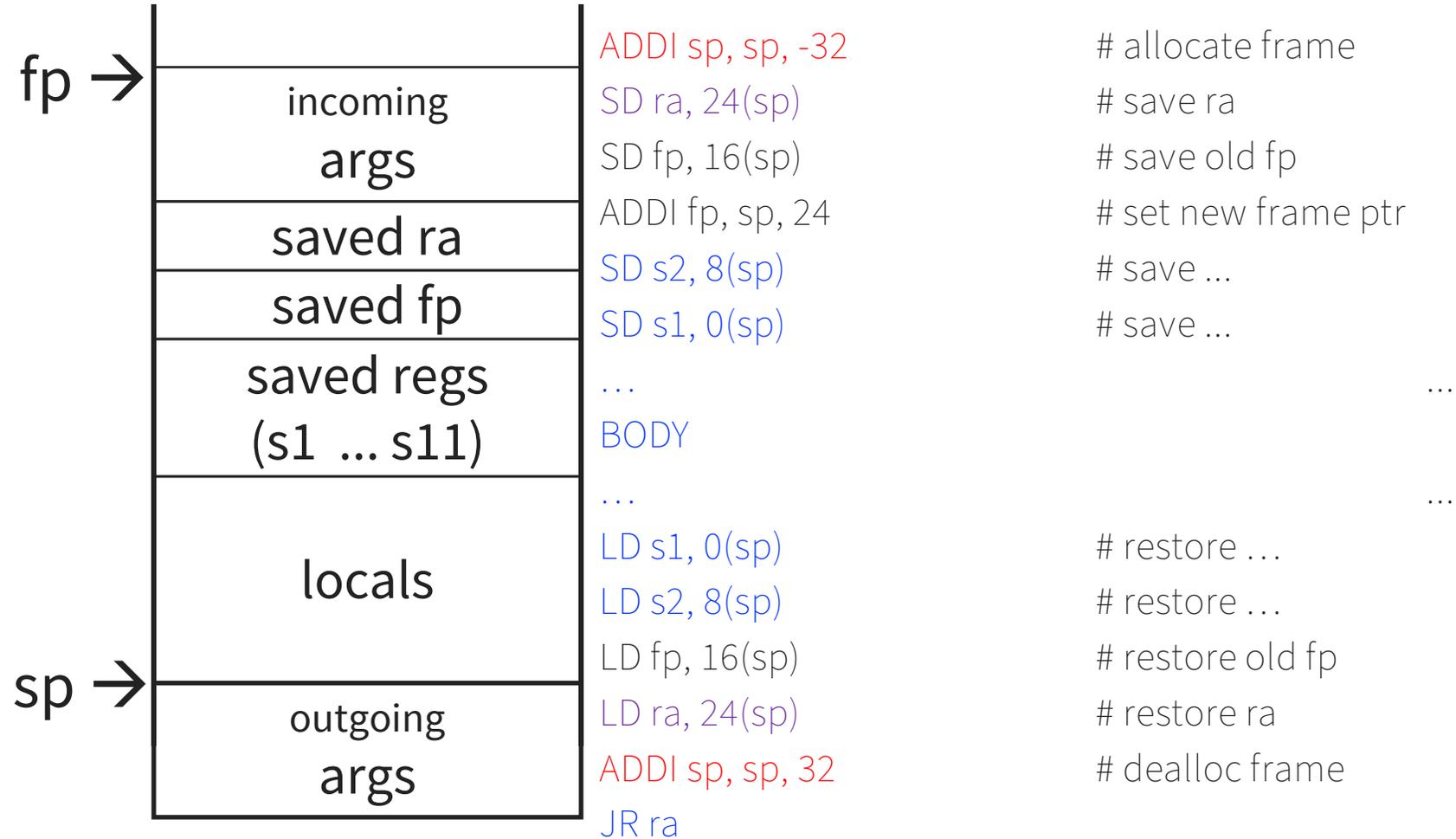
Assume a function uses two callee-save registers.

How do we allocate a stack frame? How large is the stack frame?

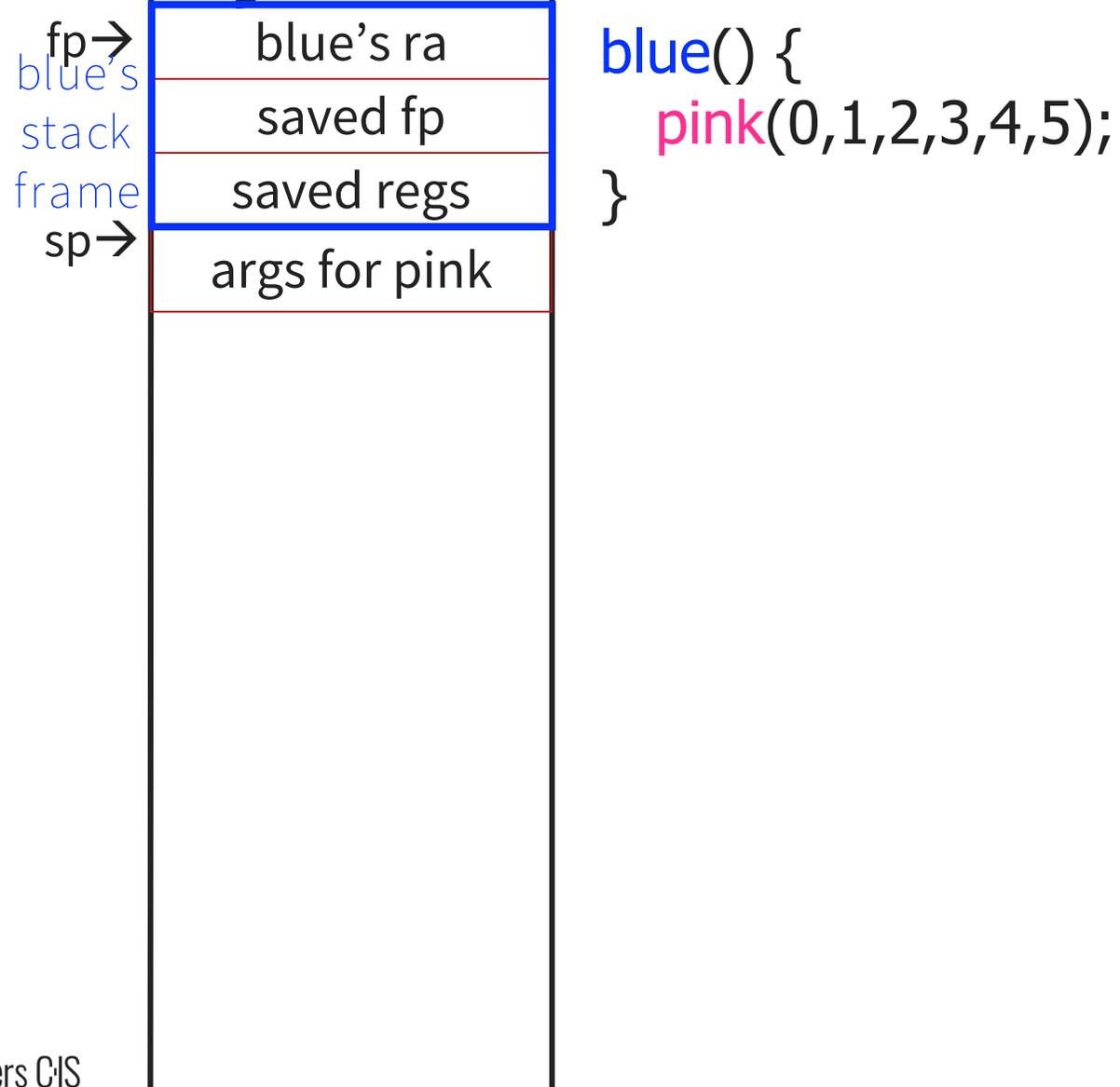
What should be stored in the stack frame?

Where should everything be stored?

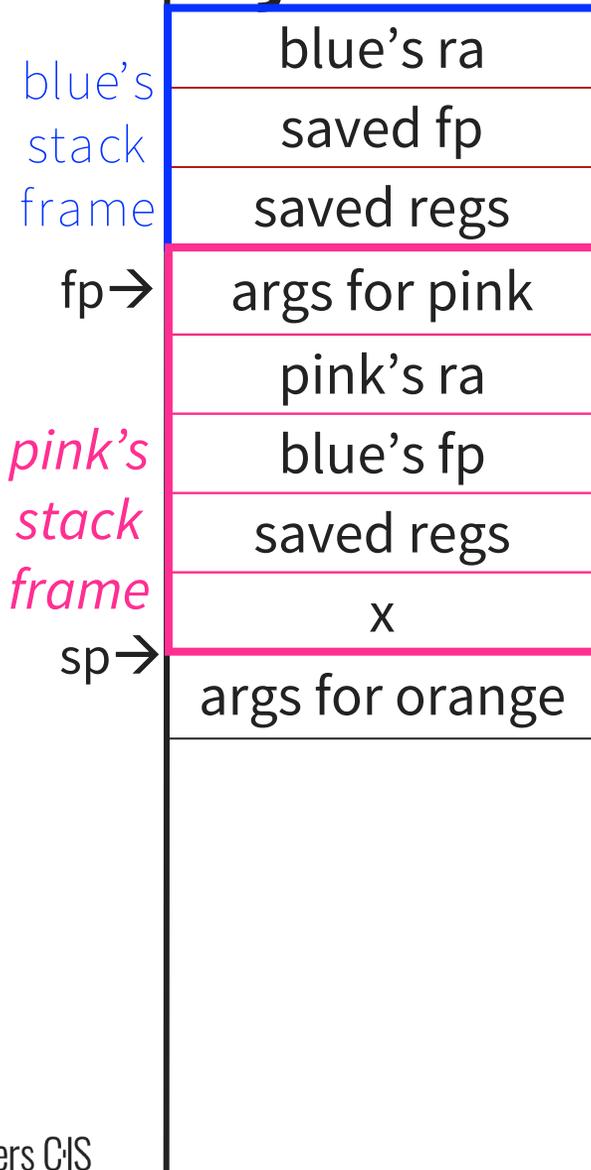
# Frame Layout on Stack



# Frame Layout on Stack

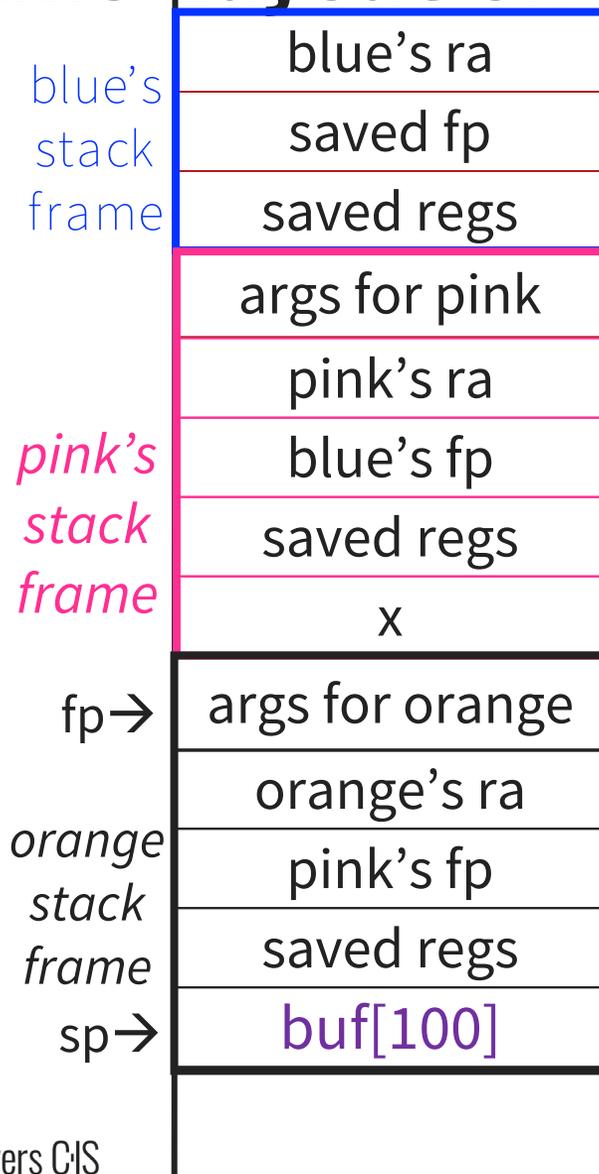


# Frame Layout on Stack



```
blue() {  
    pink(0,1,2,3,4,5);  
}  
pink(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f) {  
    int x;  
    orange(10,11,12,13,14);  
}
```

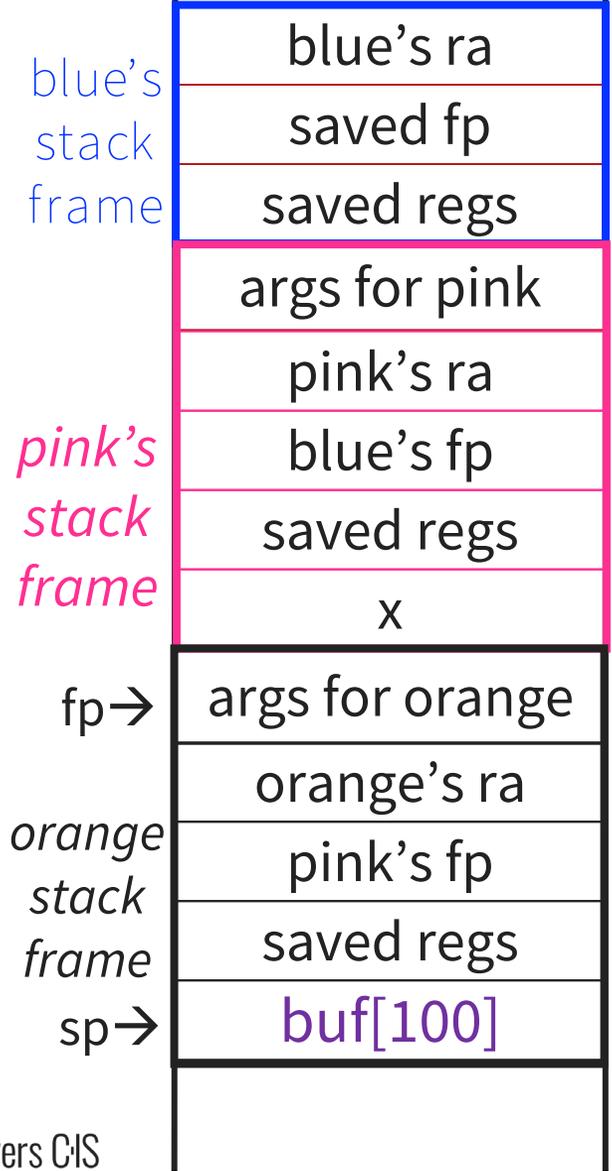
# Frame Layout on Stack



```
blue() {  
    pink(0,1,2,3,4,5);  
}  
pink(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f) {  
    int x;  
    orange(10,11,12,13,14);  
}  
orange(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e) {  
    char buf[100];  
    gets(buf);    // no bounds check!  
}
```

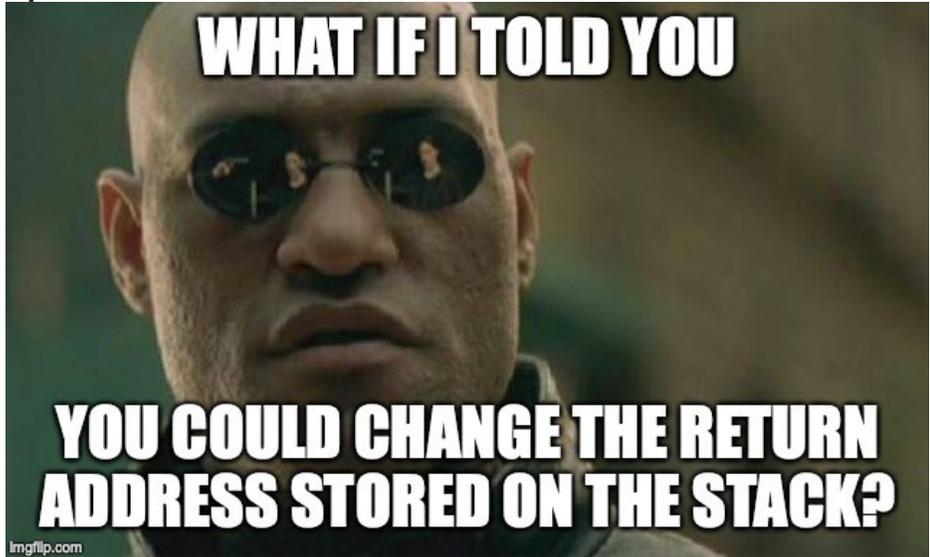
What happens if more than 100 bytes is written to **buf**?

# Buffer Overflow



```

blue() {
    pink(0,1,2,3,4,5);
}
pink(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e, int f) {
    int x;
    orange(10,11,12,13,14);
}
orange(int a, int b, int c, int, d, int e) {
    char buf[100];
    gets(buf); // no bounds check!
}
    
```



n 100



# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- Arguments passed to a routine via x10-x17
- Return values passed back to the caller via x10, x11

## Manage Registers

- Allow each routine to use registers
- Prevent routines from clobbering each others' data

## Optimizations & Manipulations?

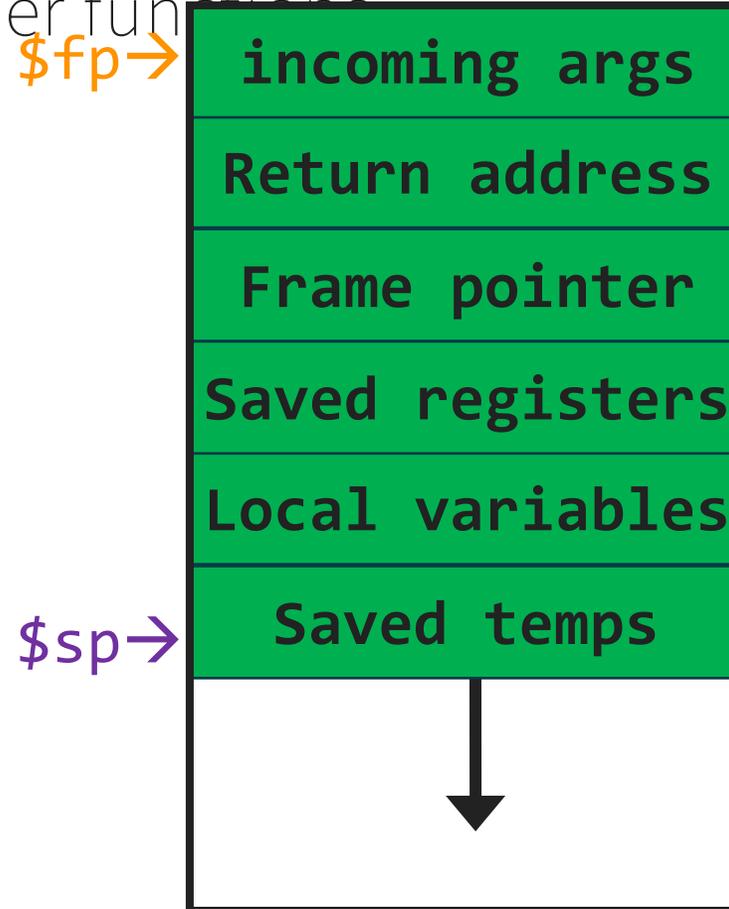


# Minimum stack size for a standard function?

*Leaf function* does not invoke any other functions

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

Optimizations?



# Calling Convention for Procedure Calls

## Transfer Control

- Caller → Routine
- Routine → Caller

## Pass Arguments to and from the routine

- Arguments passed to a routine via x10-x17
- Return values passed back to the caller via x10, x11

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## Optimizations & Manipulations?

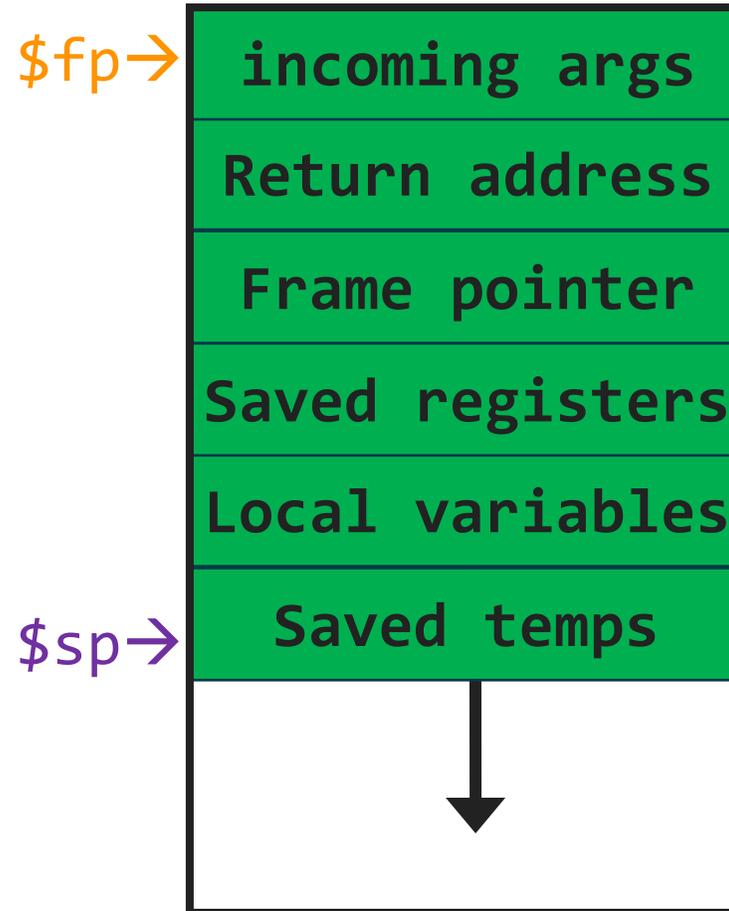


# Minimum stack size for a standard function?

*Leaf function* does not invoke any other functions

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

Optimizations?



# Putting it all together

1. Body First
2. Determine Stack Frame size
3. Prologue
4. Epilogue

See this in action

1. At the end of this slide deck
2. Textbook (2.13 "A C Sort Example to Put it All Together")
3. Lab Section!



# Activity #1: Calling Convention Example

```
int test(int a, int b) {  
    int tmp = (a&b)+(a|b);  
    int s = sum(tmp,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8);  
    int u = sum(s,tmp,b,a,b,a);  
    return u + a + b;  
}
```

## Correct Order:

1. Body First
2. Determine stack frame size
3. Complete Prologue/Epilogue



# Activity #1: Calling Convention Example

```
int test(int a, int b) {  
    int tmp = (a&b)+(a|b);  
    int s = sum(tmp,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8);  
    int u = sum(s,tmp,b,a,b,a);  
    return u + a + b;  
}
```



# Activity #2: Calling Convention Example: Prologue, Epilogue

```
# allocate frame
# save ra
# save old fp
# callee save ...
# callee save ...
# set new frame ptr
...
...
# restore ...
# restore ...
# restore old fp
# restore ra
# dealloc frame
```



# Next Goal

Given a running program (a process), how do we know what is going on (what function is executing, what arguments were passed to where, where is the stack and current stack frame, where is the code and data, etc)?

# An executing program in memory

0xfffffffffffffffffc

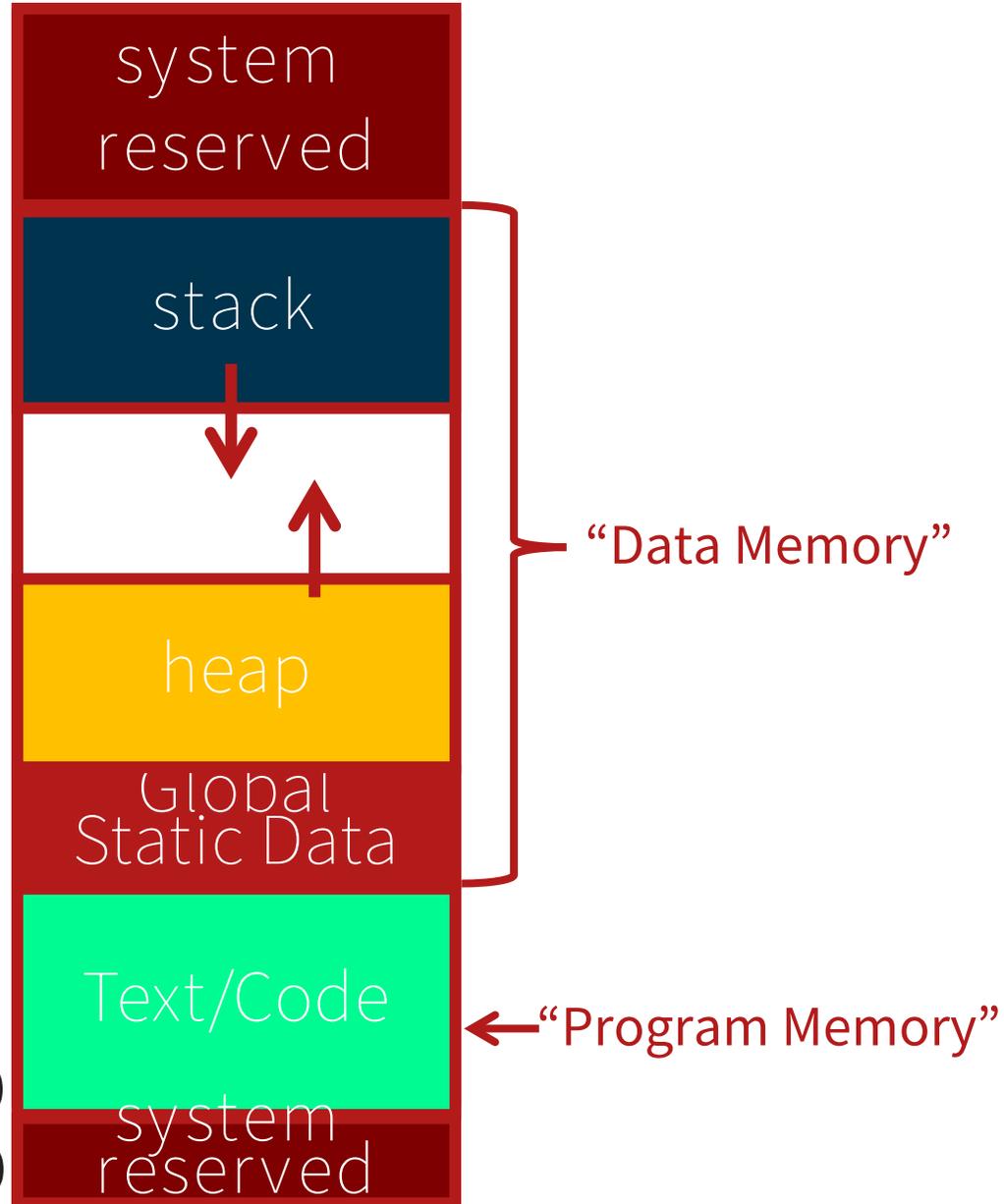
0x8000000000000000

0x7fffffffffffffffcc

0x0000000100000000

0x0000000000040000

0x0000000000000000



# Activity #3: Debugging

```
init():      0x0000000000040000  
printf(s, ...): 0x000000000004002B4  
vnorm(a, b): 0x0000000000040107C  
main(a, b): 0x000000000004010A0  
pi:         0x00000000010000000  
str1:       0x00000000010000004
```

What func is running?

Who called it?

Has it called anything?

Will it?

Args?

Stack depth?

Call trace?

CPU:

pc=0x0000000004003C0

sp=0x7FFFFFFF7FEA0

ra=0x000000000401090

0x0000000000000000

0x00000000040010c

0x7FFFFFFF7FF58

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000004010c4

0x7FFFFFFF7FF28

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000000000000

0x0000000000000015

0x7FFFFFFF7FEB0 0x0000000001000004

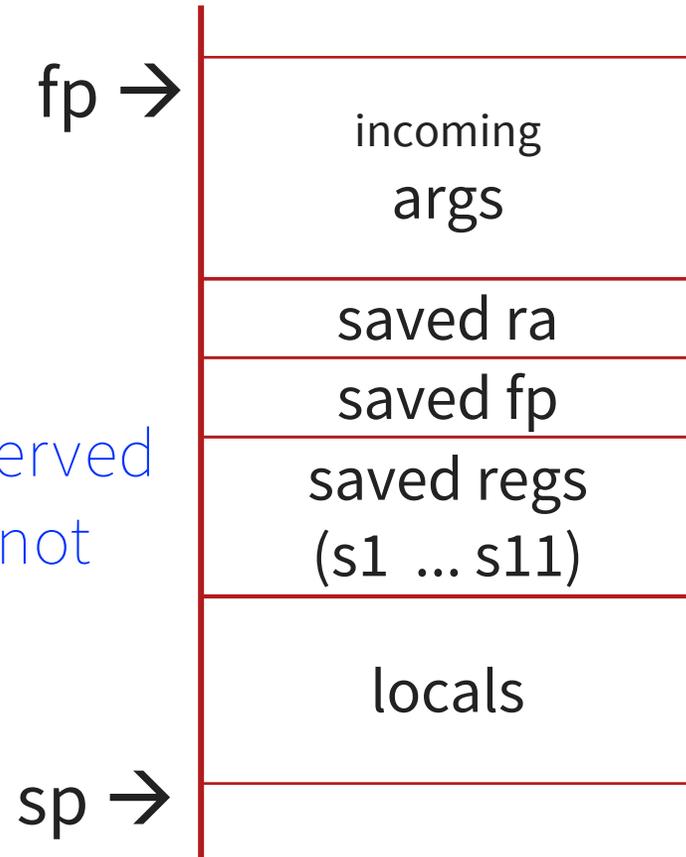
0x000000000401090

0x7FFFFFFF7FEF8



# Cheat Sheet and Mental Model Recap

- first eight arg words passed in registers a0, a1, ..., a7
- Space for args passed in child's stack frame
- return value (if any) in a0, a1
- stack frame at `sp`
  - contains `ra` (clobbered on JAL to sub-functions)
  - contains `fp`
  - contains `local vars`  
(possibly clobbered by sub-functions)
  - contains `space for incoming args`
- Saved registers (callee save regs) are preserved
- Temporary registers (caller save) regs are not
- Global data accessed via `gp`



# RISC-V Register Conventions

REGISTER	NAME	USE	SAVER
x0	zero	The constant value 0	N.A.
x1	ra	return address	Caller
x2	sp	stack pointer	Callee
x3	gp	global data pointer	--
x4	tp	thread pointer	--
x5-x7	t0-t2	temporaries	Caller
x8	s0/fp	saved register / frame pointer	Callee
x9	s1	saved register	Callee
x10-x11	a0-a1	fn arguments / return values	Caller
x12-x17	a2-a7	function arguments	Caller
x18-x27	s2-s11	saved registers	Callee
x28-x31	t3-t6	temporaries	Caller



# Calling Conventions

CS 3410: Computer System Organization and Programming

