

Procedure

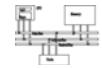
Computer Organization and Assembly Languages
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2008/12/22

with slides by Kip Irvine

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Stack operations

Overview



- Stack Operations
- Defining and Using Procedures
- Stack frames, parameters and local variables
- Recursion
- Related directives

Stacks

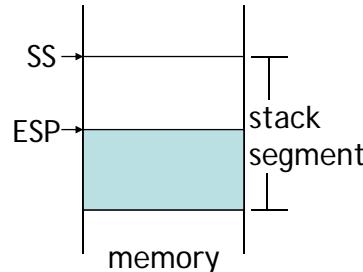


- LIFO (Last-In, First-Out) data structure.
- push/pop operations
- You probably have had experiences on implementing it in high-level languages.
- Here, we concentrate on *runtime stack*, directly supported by hardware in the CPU. It is essential for calling and returning from procedures.

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Runtime stack

- Managed by the CPU, using two registers
 - SS (stack segment)
 - ESP (stack pointer) * : point to the top of the stack usually modified by **CALL**, **RET**, **PUSH** and **POP**



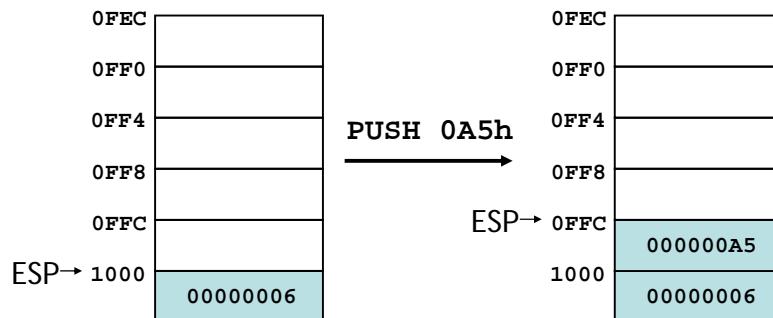
* SP in Real-address mode

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PUSH operation (1 of 2)

- A **push** operation decrements the stack pointer by 2 or 4 (depending on operands) and copies a value into the location pointed to by the stack pointer.



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PUSH and POP instructions

- PUSH** syntax:

- **PUSH r/m16**
- **PUSH r/m32**
- **PUSH imm32**

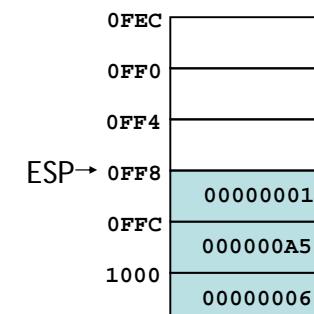
- POP** syntax:

- **POP r/m16**
- **POP r/m32**

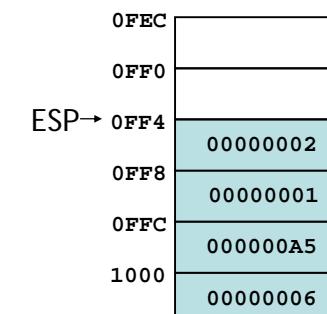
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PUSH operation (2 of 2)

- The same stack after pushing two more integers:



PUSH 01h

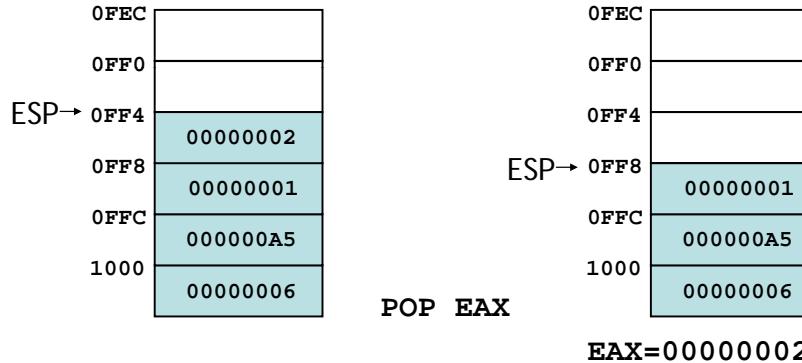


PUSH 02h

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POP operation

- Copies value at stack[ESP] into a register or variable.
- Adds n to ESP, where n is either 2 or 4, depending on the attribute of the operand receiving the data



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Example of using stacks

Save and restore registers when they contain important values. Note that the **PUSH** and **POP** instructions are in the opposite order:

```
push esi          ; push registers
push ecx
push ebx

mov esi,OFFSET dwordVal ; starting OFFSET
mov ecx,LENGTHOF dwordVal; number of units
mov ebx,TYPE dwordVal ;size of a doubleword
call DumpMem        ; display memory

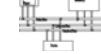
pop ebx            ; opposite order
pop ecx
pop esi
```

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When to use stacks

- Temporary save area for registers
- To save return address for CALL
- To pass arguments
- Local variables
- Applications which have LIFO nature, such as reversing a string



Example: Nested Loop

When creating a nested loop, push the outer loop counter before entering the inner loop:

```
mov ecx,100      ; set outer loop count
L1:             ; begin the outer loop
    push ecx      ; save outer loop count

    mov ecx,20      ; set inner loop count
L2:             ; begin the inner loop
    ;
    ;
    loop L2        ; repeat the inner loop

    pop ecx        ; restore outer loop count
    loop L1        ; repeat the outer loop
```



Example: reversing a string

```
.data
aName BYTE "Abraham Lincoln",0
nameSize = ($ - aName) - 1

.code
main PROC
; Push the name on the stack.
    mov ecx, nameSize
    mov esi, 0
L1:
    movzx eax, aName[esi]      ; get character
    push eax                  ; push on stack
    inc esi
Loop L1
```



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Example: reversing a string

```
; Pop the name from the stack, in reverse,
; and store in the aName array.
    mov ecx, nameSize
    mov esi, 0
L2:
    pop eax                  ; get character
    mov aName[esi], al        ; store in string
    inc esi
Loop L2

exit
main ENDP
END main
```



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Related instructions

- **PUSHFD** and **POPFD**
 - push and pop the EFLAGS register
 - **LAHF**, **SAHF** are other ways to save flags
- **PUSHAD** pushes the 32-bit general-purpose registers on the stack in the following order
 - **EAX**, **ECX**, **EDX**, **EBX**, **ESP**, **EBP**, **ESI**, **EDI**
- **POPAD** pops the same registers off the stack in reverse order
 - **PUSHA** and **POPA** do the same for 16-bit registers



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Example

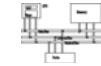
```
MySub PROC
    pushad
    ...
    ; modify some register
    ...
popad
    ret
MySub ENDP
```

Do not use this if your procedure uses registers for return values



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Defining and using procedures



Creating Procedures

- Large problems can be divided into smaller tasks to make them more manageable
- A procedure is the ASM equivalent of a Java or C++ function
- Following is an assembly language procedure named sample:

```
sample PROC  
    .  
    .  
    ret  
sample ENDP
```

A named block of statements that ends with a return.

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Documenting procedures



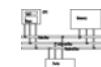
Suggested documentation for each procedure:

- A description of all tasks accomplished by the procedure.
- Receives: A list of input parameters; state their usage and requirements.
- Returns: A description of values returned by the procedure.
- Requires: Optional list of requirements called preconditions that must be satisfied before the procedure is called.

For example, a procedure of drawing lines could assume that display adapter is already in graphics mode.

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Example: SumOf procedure



```
;-----  
SumOf PROC  
;  
; Calculates and returns the sum of three 32-bit  
; integers.  
; Receives: EAX, EBX, ECX, the three integers.  
; May be signed or unsigned.  
; Returns: EAX = sum, and the status flags  
; (Carry, Overflow, etc.) are changed.  
; Requires: nothing  
;  
        add eax,ebx  
        add eax,ecx  
        ret  
SumOf ENDP
```

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CALL and RET instructions

- The **CALL** instruction calls a procedure
 - pushes offset of next instruction on the stack
 - copies the address of the called procedure into **EIP**
- The **RET** instruction returns from a procedure
 - pops top of stack into **EIP**
- We used **j1** and **jr** in our toy computer for **CALL** and **RET**, **BL** and **MOV PC**, **LR** in ARM.



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CALL-RET example (1 of 2)

00000025 is the offset of the instruction immediately following the CALL instruction

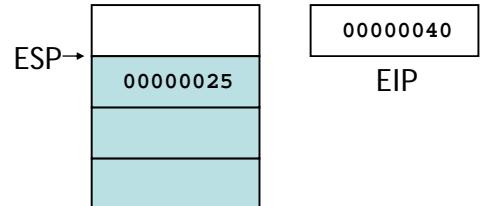
```
main PROC  
00000020 call MySub  
00000025 mov eax,ebx  
. .  
main ENDP  
  
MySub PROC  
00000040 mov eax,edx  
. .  
ret  
MySub ENDP
```



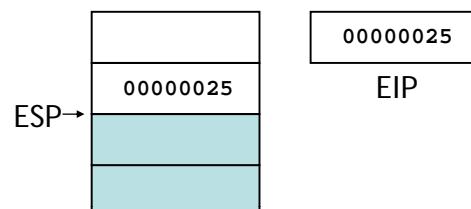
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CALL-RET example (2 of 2)

The CALL instruction pushes 00000025 onto the stack, and loads 00000040 into EIP



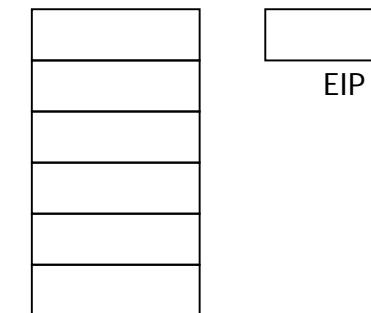
The RET instruction pops 00000025 from the stack into EIP



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Nested procedure calls

```
main PROC  
. .  
call Sub1  
exit  
main ENDP  
  
0050 Sub1 PROC  
. .  
call Sub2  
ret  
Sub1 ENDP  
  
0100 Sub2 PROC  
. .  
call Sub3  
ret  
Sub2 ENDP  
  
0150 Sub3 PROC  
. .  
ret  
Sub3 ENDP
```



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Local and global labels



A local label is visible only to statements inside the same procedure. A global label is visible everywhere.

```
main PROC
    jmp L2           ; error!
L1::          ; global label
    exit
main ENDP

sub2 PROC
L2:          ; local label
    jmp L1           ; ok
    ret
sub2 ENDP
```

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Procedure parameters (1 of 3)

- A good procedure might be usable in many different programs
- Parameters help to make procedures flexible because parameter values can change at runtime
- General registers can be used to pass parameters

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Procedure parameters (2 of 3)



The ArraySum procedure calculates the sum of an array. It makes two references to specific variable names:

```
ArraySum PROC
    mov esi,0           ; array index
    mov eax,0           ; set the sum to zero

L1:
    add eax,myArray[esi] ; add each integer to sum
    add esi,4           ; point to next integer
    loop L1             ; repeat for array size

    mov theSum,eax      ; store the sum
    ret
ArraySum ENDP
```

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Procedure parameters (3 of 3)

This version returns the sum of any doubleword array whose address is in ESI. The sum is returned in EAX:

```
ArraySum PROC
; Receives: ESI points to an array of doublewords,
;           ECX = number of array elements.
; Returns:  EAX = sum
;-----
    push esi
    push ecx
    mov eax,0           ; set the sum to zero
L1: add eax,[esi]        ; add each integer to sum
    add esi,4           ; point to next integer
    loop L1             ; repeat for array size
    pop ecx
    pop esi
    ret
ArraySum ENDP
```

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Calling ArraySum

```
.data  
array DWORD 10000h, 20000h, 30000h, 40000h  
theSum DWORD ?  
.code  
main PROC  
    mov     esi, OFFSET array  
    mov     ecx, LENGTHOF array  
    call    ArraySum  
    mov     theSum, eax
```



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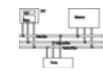
USES operator

- Lists the registers that will be saved (to avoid side effects) (return register shouldn't be saved)

```
ArraySum PROC USES esi ecx  
    mov eax,0 ; set the sum to zero  
    ...
```

MASM generates the following code:

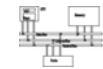
```
ArraySum PROC  
    push esi  
    push ecx  
    .  
    .  
    pop ecx  
    pop esi  
    ret  
ArraySum ENDP
```



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Stack frames, parameters and local variables

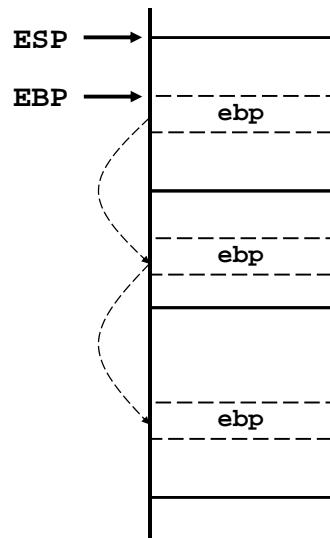
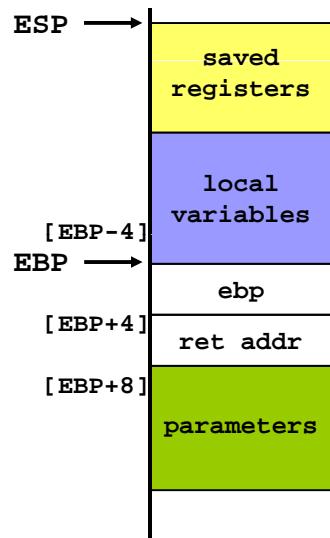
Stack frame



- Also known as an activation record
- Area of the stack set aside for a procedure's return address, passed parameters, saved registers, and local variables
- Created by the following steps:
 - Calling procedure pushes *arguments* on the stack and calls the procedure.
 - The subroutine is called, causing the *return address* to be pushed on the stack.
 - The called procedure pushes *EBP* on the stack, and *sets EBP to ESP*.
 - If *local variables* are needed, a constant is subtracted from *ESP* to make room on the stack.
 - The *registers needed to be saved* are pushed.

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Stack frame



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Explicit access to stack parameters

- A procedure can explicitly access stack parameters using constant offsets from **EBP**.
 - Example: `[ebp + 8]`
- EBP** is often called the base pointer or frame pointer because it holds the base address of the stack frame.
- EBP** does not change value during the procedure.
- EBP** must be restored to its original value when a procedure returns.

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Parameters

- Two types: register parameters and stack parameters.
- Stack parameters are more convenient than register parameters.

```
pushad  
mov esi,OFFSET array  
mov ecx,LENGTHOF array  
mov ebx,TYPE array  
call DumpMem  
popad
```

register parameters

```
push TYPE array  
push LENGTHOF array  
push OFFSET array  
call DumpMem
```

stack parameters

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Parameters

call by value

```
int sum=AddTwo(a, b);
```

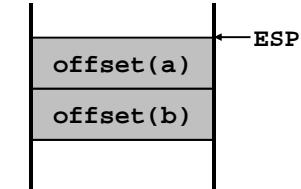
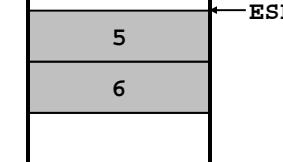
call by reference

```
int sum=AddTwo(&a, &b);
```

```
.date  
a DWORD 5  
b DWORD 6
```

```
push b  
push a  
call AddTwo
```

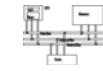
```
push OFFSET b  
push OFFSET a  
call AddTwo
```



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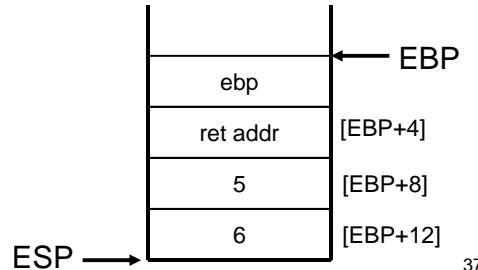


Stack frame example



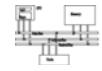
```
.data  
sum DWORD ?  
.code  
    push 6          ; second argument  
    push 5          ; first argument  
    call AddTwo    ; EAX = sum  
    mov sum,eax    ; save the sum
```

```
AddTwo PROC  
    push ebp  
    mov  ebp,esp  
    .  
    .
```



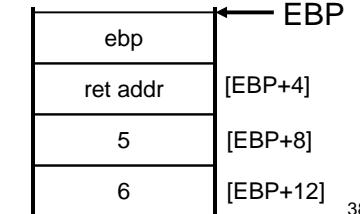
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Stack frame example



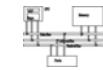
```
AddTwo PROC  
    push ebp  
    mov  ebp,esp      ; base of stack frame  
    mov  eax,[ebp + 12] ; second argument (6)  
    add  eax,[ebp + 8]  ; first argument (5)  
    pop  ebp          ; clean up the stack  
AddTwo ENDP          ; EAX contains the sum
```

Who should be responsible to remove arguments? It depends on the language model.



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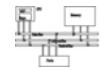
RET Instruction



- Return from subroutine
- Pops stack into the instruction pointer (EIP or IP). Control transfers to the target address.
- Syntax:
 - RET
 - RET *n*
- Optional operand *n* causes *n* bytes to be added to the stack pointer after EIP (or IP) is assigned a value.

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Passing arguments by reference



- The **ArrayFill** procedure fills an array with 16-bit random integers
- The calling program passes the address of the array, along with a count of the number of array elements:

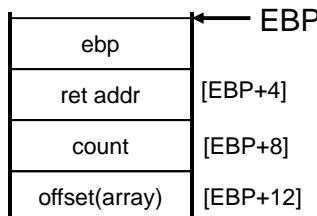
```
.data  
count = 100  
array WORD count DUP(?)  
.code  
    push OFFSET array  
    push COUNT  
    call ArrayFill
```

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Passing arguments by reference

ArrayFill can reference an array without knowing the array's name:

```
ArrayFill PROC
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    pushad
    mov esi, [ebp+12]
    mov ecx, [ebp+8]
    .
    .
```



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Passing 8-bit and 16-bit arguments

- When passing stack arguments, it is best to push 32-bit operands to keep ESP aligned on a doubleword boundary.

```
Uppercase PROC
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    mov al, [ebp+8]
    cmp al, 'a'
    jb L1
    cmp al, 'z'
    ja L1
    sub al, 32
L1: pop ebp
    ret 4
Uppercase ENDP
```

```
push 'x' ; error
Call Uppercase
```

```
.data
charVal BYTE 'x'
.code
movzx eax, charVal
push eax
Call Uppercase
```

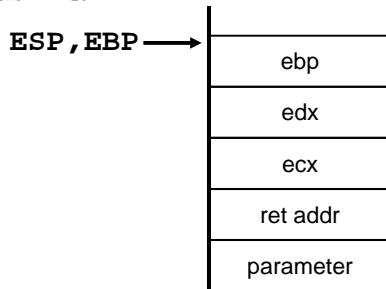
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Saving and restoring registers

- When using stack parameters, avoid **USES**.

```
MySub2 PROC USES ecx, edx
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    mov eax, [ebp+8]
    pop ebp
    ret 4
MySub2 ENDP
```

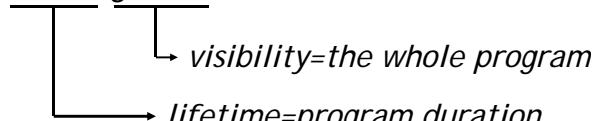


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```
MySub2 PROC
    push ecx
    push edx
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    mov eax, [ebp+8]
    pop ebp
    pop edx
    pop ecx
    ret 4
MySub2 ENDP
```

Local variables

- The variables defined in the data segment can be taken as *static global variables*.



- A local variable is created, used, and destroyed within a single procedure (block)
- Advantages of local variables:
 - Restricted access: easy to debug, less error prone
 - Efficient memory usage
 - Same names can be used in two different procedures
 - Essential for recursion

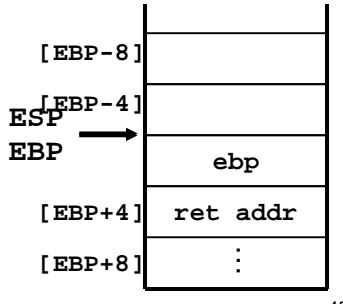
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Creating local variables

- Local variables are created on the runtime stack, usually above EBP.
- To explicitly create local variables, subtract their total size from ESP.

```
MySub PROC
    push ebp
    mov  ebp,esp
    sub  esp,8
    mov  [ebp-4],123456h
    mov  [ebp-8],0
    .
    .
```



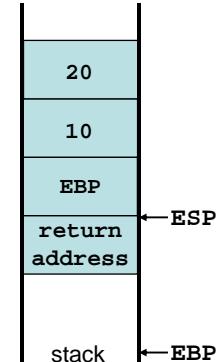
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Local variables

- They can't be initialized at assembly time but can be assigned to default values at runtime.

```
MySub PROC
    push ebp
    mov  ebp, esp
    sub  esp, 8
    int X=10;   mov  DWORD PTR [ebp-4], 10
    int Y=20;   mov  DWORD PTR [ebp-8], 20
    ...
    mov  esp, ebp
    pop  ebp
    ret
MySub ENDP
```



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Local variables

```
x_local EQU DWORD PTR [ebp-4]
y_local EQU DWORD PTR [ebp-8]
```

```
MySub PROC
    push ebp
    mov  ebp, esp
    sub  esp, 8
    mov  x_local, 10
    mov  y_local, 20
    ...
    mov  esp, ebp
    pop  ebp
    ret
MySub ENDP
```



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LEA instruction (load effective address)

- The **LEA** instruction returns offsets of both direct and indirect operands at run time.
 - **OFFSET** only returns constant offsets (assembly time).
- **LEA** is required when obtaining the offset of a stack parameter or local variable. For example:

```
CopyString PROC,
    count:DWORD
    LOCAL temp[20]:BYTE

    mov edi,OFFSET count; invalid operand
    mov esi,OFFSET temp ; invalid operand
    lea edi,count        ; ok
    lea esi,temp         ; ok
```

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LEA example

```
void makeArray()          makeArray PROC
{
    char myString[30];      push ebp
    for (int i=0; i<30; i++)  mov ebp, esp
        myString[i]='*';    sub esp, 32
    }                      lea esi, [ebp-30]
                           mov ecx, 30
                           L1: mov BYTE PTR [esi], '*'
                           inc esi
                           loop L1
                           add esp 32
                           pop ebp
                           ret
makeArray ENDP
```



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ENTER and LEAVE

- **ENTER** instruction creates stack frame for a called procedure
 - pushes EBP on the stack **push ebp**
 - set EBP to the base of stack frame **mov ebp, esp**
 - reserves space for local variables **sub esp, n**
- **ENTER nbytes, nestinglevel**
 - **nbytes** (for local variables) is rounded up to a multiple of 4 to keep ESP on a doubleword boundary
 - **nestinglevel**: 0 for now

```
MySub PROC
    enter 8,0
```

```
MySub PROC
    push ebp
    mov ebp,esp
    sub esp,8
```

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ENTER and LEAVE

- **LEAVE** reverses the action of a previous **ENTER** instruction.

```
MySub PROC
    enter 8, 0
    .
    .
    .
    .
    leave
    ret
MySub ENDP
```

```
MySub PROC
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    sub esp, 8
    .
    .
    .
    .
    mov esp, ebp
    pop ebp
    ret
MySub ENDP
```



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LOCAL directive

- The **LOCAL** directive declares a list of local variables
 - immediately follows the **PROC** directive
 - each variable is assigned a type
- Syntax:
LOCAL varlist

Example:

```
MySub PROC
    LOCAL var1:BYTE, var2:WORD, var3:SDWORD
```



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MASM-generated code

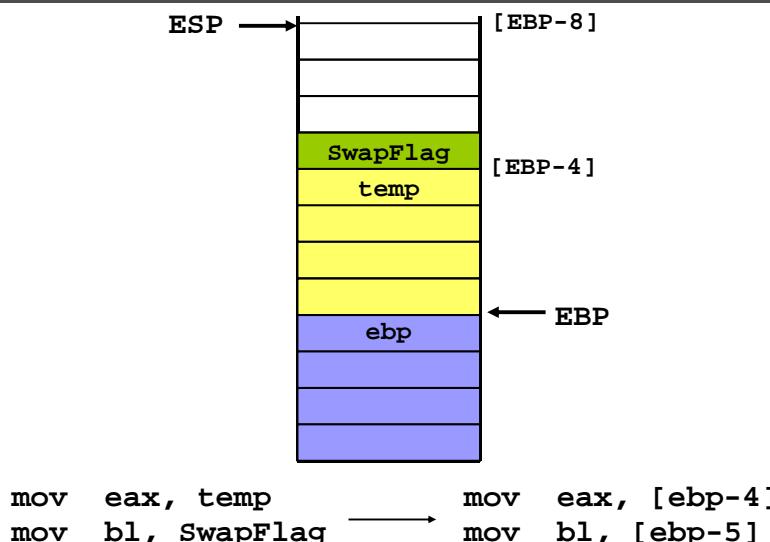
```
BubbleSort PROC  
    LOCAL temp:DWORD, SwapFlag:BYTE  
    . . .  
    ret  
BubbleSort ENDP
```

MASM generates the following code:

```
BubbleSort PROC  
    push ebp  
    mov ebp,esp  
    add esp,0FFFFFFF8h ; add -8 to ESP  
    . . .  
    mov esp,ebp  
    pop ebp  
    ret  
BubbleSort ENDP
```

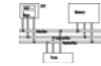
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MASM-generated code



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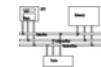
Non-Doubleword Local Variables



- Local variables can be different sizes
- How are they created in the stack by `LOCAL` directive:
 - 8-bit: assigned to next available byte
 - 16-bit: assigned to next even (word) boundary
 - 32-bit: assigned to next doubleword boundary

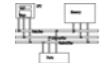
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Reserving stack space



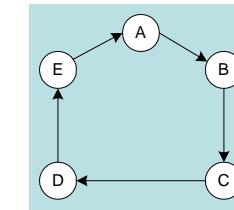
- `.STACK 4096`
 - `Sub1` calls `Sub2`, `Sub2` calls `Sub3`, how many bytes will you need in the stack?
- ```
Sub1 PROC
 LOCAL array1[50]:DWORD ; 200 bytes
```
- ```
Sub2 PROC  
    LOCAL array2[80]:WORD ; 160 bytes
```
- ```
Sub3 PROC
 LOCAL array3[300]:WORD ; 300 bytes
```
- 660+8(ret addr)+saved registers...

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## Recursion

- The process created when . . .
  - A procedure calls itself
  - Procedure A calls procedure B, which in turn calls procedure A
- Using a graph in which each node is a procedure and each edge is a procedure call, recursion forms a cycle:



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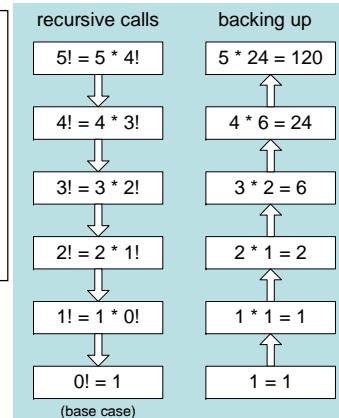
## Calculating a factorial



This function calculates the factorial of integer  $n$ .  
A new value of  $n$  is saved in each stack frame:

```
int factorial(int n)
{
 if (n == 0)
 return 1;
 else
 return n*factorial(n-1);
}
```

```
factorial(5);
```



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## Calculating a factorial



```

Factorial PROC
 push ebp
 mov ebp,esp
 mov eax,[ebp+8] ; get n
 cmp eax,0 ; n > 0?
 ja L1 ; yes: continue
 mov eax,1 ; no: return 1
 jmp L2
L1:dec eax
 push eax ; Factorial(n-1)
 call Factorial

ReturnFact:
 mov ebx,[ebp+8] ; get n
 mul ebx ; edx:eax=eax*ebx

L2:pop ebp ; return EAX
 ret 4 ; clean up stack
Factorial ENDP

```

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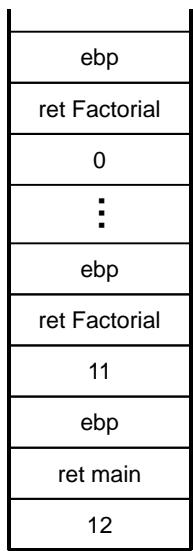
## Calculating a factorial

push 12  
call Factorial

```
Factorial PROC
 push ebp
 mov ebp,esp
 mov eax,[ebp+8]
 cmp eax,0
 ja L1
 mov eax,1
 jmp L2
L1:dec eax
 push eax
 call Factorial

ReturnFact:
 mov ebx,[ebp+8]
 mul ebx

L2:pop ebp
 ret 4
Factorial ENDP
```



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## Related directives

### .MODEL directive



- **.MODEL** directive specifies a program's memory model and model options (language-specifier).
- Syntax:  
`.MODEL memorymodel [,modeloptions]`
- **memorymodel** can be one of the following:
  - tiny, small, medium, compact, large, huge, or flat
- **modeloptions** includes the language specifier:
  - procedure naming scheme
  - parameter passing conventions
- **.MODEL flat, STDCALL**

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### Memory models



- A program's memory model determines the number and sizes of code and data segments.
- Real-address mode supports tiny, small, medium, compact, large, and huge models.
- Protected mode supports only the flat model.

Small model: code < 64 KB, data (including stack) < 64 KB.  
All offsets are 16 bits.

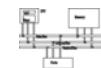
Flat model: single segment for code and data, up to 4 GB.  
All offsets are 32 bits.

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## Language specifiers

- STDCALL (used when calling Windows functions)
  - procedure arguments pushed on stack in reverse order (right to left)
  - called procedure cleans up the stack
  - `_name@nn` (for example, `_AddTwo@8`)
- C
  - procedure arguments pushed on stack in reverse order (right to left)
  - calling program cleans up the stack (variable number of parameters such as `printf`)
  - `_name` (for example, `_AddTwo`)
- PASCAL
  - arguments pushed in forward order (left to right)
  - called procedure cleans up the stack
- BASIC, FORTRAN, SYSCALL

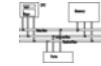
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## INVOKE directive

- The **INVOKE** directive is a powerful replacement for Intel's **CALL** instruction that lets you pass multiple arguments
- Syntax:  
`INVOKE procedureName [, argumentList]`
- **ArgumentList** is an optional comma-delimited list of procedure arguments
- Arguments can be:
  - immediate values and integer expressions
  - variable names
  - address and ADDR expressions
  - register names

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## INVOKE examples

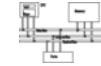
```
.data
byteVal BYTE 10
wordVal WORD 1000h
.code
; direct operands:
Invoke Sub1,byteVal,wordVal

; address of variable:
Invoke Sub2,ADDR byteVal

; register name, integer expression:
Invoke Sub3,eax,(10 * 20)

; address expression (indirect operand):
Invoke Sub4,[ebx]
```

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## INVOKE example

```
.data
val1 DWORD 12345h
val2 DWORD 23456h
.code
Invoke AddTwo, val1, val2

push val1
push val2
call AddTwo
```

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## ADDR operator

- Returns a near or far pointer to a variable, depending on which memory model your program uses:
  - Small model: returns 16-bit offset
  - Large model: returns 32-bit segment/offset
  - Flat model: returns 32-bit offset
- Simple example:

```
.data
myWord WORD ?
.code
INVOKE mySub, ADDR myWord
```

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## PROC directive

- The **PROC** directive declares a procedure with an optional list of named parameters.
- Syntax:

```
label PROC [attributes] [USES] paramList
```

- **paramList** is a list of parameters separated by commas. Each parameter has the following syntax:

*paramName:type*

*type* must either be one of the standard ASM types (BYTE, SBYTE, WORD, etc.), or it can be a pointer to one of these types.

- Example: **foo PROC C USES eax, param1:DWORD**

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## ADDR example

```
.data
Array DWORD 20 DUP(?)
.code
...
INVOKE Swap, ADDR Array, ADDR [Array+4]
```

```
push OFFSET Array+4
push OFFSET Array
Call Swap
```

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## PROC example

- The AddTwo procedure receives two integers and returns their sum in EAX.
- C++ programs typically return 32-bit integers from functions in EAX.

```
AddTwo PROC,
val1:DWORD,
val2:DWORD

mov eax, val1
add eax, val2
ret
AddTwo ENDP
```

```
AddTwo PROC,
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
mov eax, dword ptr [ebp+8]
add eax, dword ptr [ebp+0Ch]
leave
ret 8
AddTwo ENDP
```

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## PROC example

```
Read_File PROC USES eax, ebx,
 pBuffer:PTR BYTE
 LOCAL fileHandle:DWORD

 mov esi, pBuffer
 mov fileHandle, eax
 .
 .
 ret
Read_File ENDP
```

```
Read_File PROC
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 add esp, 0FFFFFFFCh
 push eax
 push ebx
 mov esi, dword ptr [ebp+8]
 mov dword ptr [ebp-4], eax
 .
 .
 pop ebx
 pop eax
 ret
Read_File ENDP
```

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## PROTO directive

- Creates a procedure prototype
- Syntax:  
– *label* PROTO *paramList*
- Every procedure called by the **INVOKE** directive must have a prototype
- A complete procedure definition can also serve as its own prototype

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## PROTO directive

- Standard configuration: **PROTO** appears at top of the program listing, **INVOKE** appears in the code segment, and the procedure implementation occurs later in the program:

```
MySub PROTO ; procedure prototype

.code
INVOKE MySub ; procedure call

MySub PROC ; procedure implementation
 .
 .
MySub ENDP
```

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## PROTO example

- Prototype for the **ArraySum** procedure, showing its parameter list:

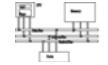
```
ArraySum PROTO,
 ptrArray:PTR DWORD, ; points to the array
 szArray:DWORD ; array size
```

```
ArraySum PROC USES esi, ecx,
 ptrArray:PTR DWORD, ; points to the array
 szArray:DWORD ; array size
```

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## Multimodule programs



### Multimodule programs

- A multimodule program is a program whose source code has been divided up into separate ASM files.
- Each ASM file (module) is assembled into a separate OBJ file.
- All OBJ files belonging to the same program are linked using the link utility into a single EXE file.
  - This process is called static linking

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## Advantages



- Large programs are easier to write, maintain, and debug when divided into separate source code modules.
- When changing a line of code, only its enclosing module needs to be assembled again. Linking assembled modules requires little time.
- A module can be a container for logically related code and data
  - encapsulation: procedures and variables are automatically hidden in a module unless you declare them public

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## Creating a multimodule program



- Here are some basic steps to follow when creating a multimodule program:
  - Create the main module
  - Create a separate source code module for each procedure or set of related procedures
  - Create an include file that contains procedure prototypes for external procedures (ones that are called between modules)
  - Use the INCLUDE directive to make your procedure prototypes available to each module

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## Multimodule programs

- MySub PROC PRIVATE
- sub1 PROC PUBLIC
- 
- EXTERN sub1@0:PROC
- 
- PUBLIC count, SYM1
- SYM1=10
- .data
- count DWORD 0
- 
- EXTERN name:type



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## Main.asm

```
TITLE Integer Summation Program

INCLUDE sum.inc

.code
main PROC
 call Clrscr

 INVOKE PromptForIntegers,
 ADDR prompt1,
 ADDR array,
 Count

 ...
 call Crlf
 INVOKE ExitProcess,0
main ENDP
END main
```



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## INCLUDE file



The sum.inc file contains prototypes for external functions that are not in the Irvine32 library:

```
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc

PromptForIntegers PROTO,
 ptrPrompt:PTR BYTE, ; prompt string
 ptrArray:PTR DWORD, ; points to the array
 arraySize:DWORD ; size of the array

ArraySum PROTO,
 ptrArray:PTR DWORD, ; points to the array
 count:DWORD ; size of the array

DisplaySum PROTO,
 ptrPrompt:PTR BYTE, ; prompt string
 theSum:DWORD ; sum of the array
```

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