

Practice problems

For Exam 2: ISA

https://cs.wellesley.edu/~cs240/



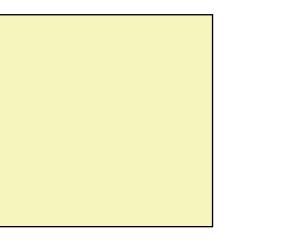
2-D array practice problem

long a[2][3];

1. Draw a picture of how this array is laid out in memory, labeling the indices and byte offset of each element (starting with a [0] [0] at offset +0);

long get elem 1 2(long a[2][3]) { return a[1][2];

Recall: index = C*r + cscale by element size



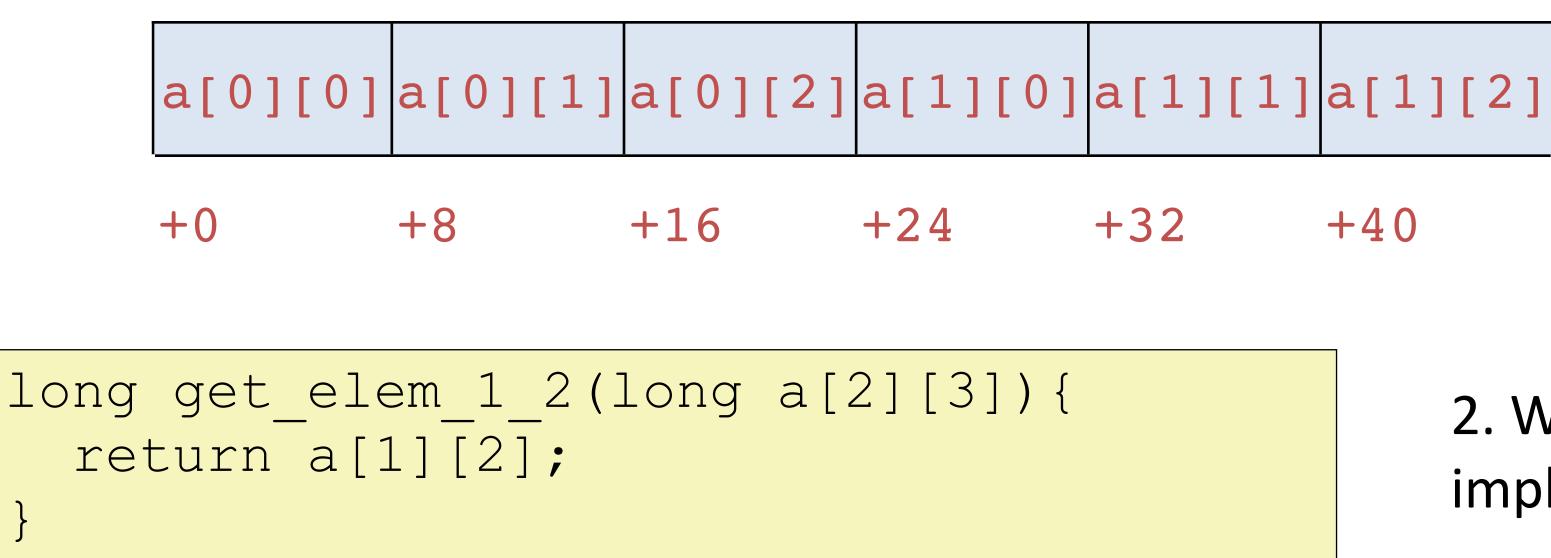
2. Write x86 assembly code to implement this function.



2-D array practice problem: solution

long a[2][3];

offset +0);



Since we know the size, we can calculate $C^{r+c} = 3^{1+2} = 5, 5^{sizeof(long)} = 5^{8} = 40$



1. Draw a picture of how this array is laid out in memory, labeling the indices and byte offset of each element (starting with a [0] [0] at

Recall: index = C*r + cscale by element size

+40

2. Write x86 assembly code to implement this function.

movq 40(%rdi),%rax retq



x86 arithmetic practice problem

long funmath0(long x, long y) {
 return x + 4*y + 21;

long funmath1(long x, long y) {
 return 2*x + 4*y + 21;

long funmath2(long x, long y) {
 return 6*x + 5*y + 21;

Implement the above functions in x86 without addq or mulq.
You can use leaq and any other x86 instruction.

Recall: addressing modes can only multiply by 1, 2, 4, or 8.



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3 possible answers:

funmath0:

leaq 21(%rdi,%rsi,4), %rax
ret

funmath1:
 leaq (%rdi,%rsi,2), %rax
 leaq 21(%rax,%rax), %rax
 ret

funmath2: leaq (%rdi,%rdi,2), %rdx leaq (%rsi,%rsi,4), %rax leaq 21(%rax,%rdx,2), %rax ret

x86 struct/LinkedList practice problem

nodeFunc2:

.L3:

.L1:

.L5:

pushq	%rbp
pushq	%rbx
subq	\$8, %rsp
movl	%esi, %ebx
movslq	%esi, %rax
testq	%rdi, %rdi
je	.L1
movq	%rdi, %rbp
movl	8(%rdi), %esi
cmpl	%esi, %ebx
jb	.L5
movq	0(%rbp), %rdi
movl	%ebx, %esi
call	nodeFunc2
addq	\$8, %rsp
popq	%rbx
popq	%rbp
ret	
movl	%esi, %ebx
jmp	.L3

} Node; // ???

Consider the above function that calculates something useful about a linked list of unsigned integers using a helper function.

- this case?
- **3.** Identify the recursive case of nodeFunc2. What is the argument passed to the recursive call?

```
typedef struct Node {
 struct Node* next;
 unsigned int value;
```

```
long nodeFunc2(Node* node, unsigned int x) {
long nodeFunc1(Node* node) {
   nodeFunc2(node, 0);
```

1. Identify which pieces of x86 refer to next and value.

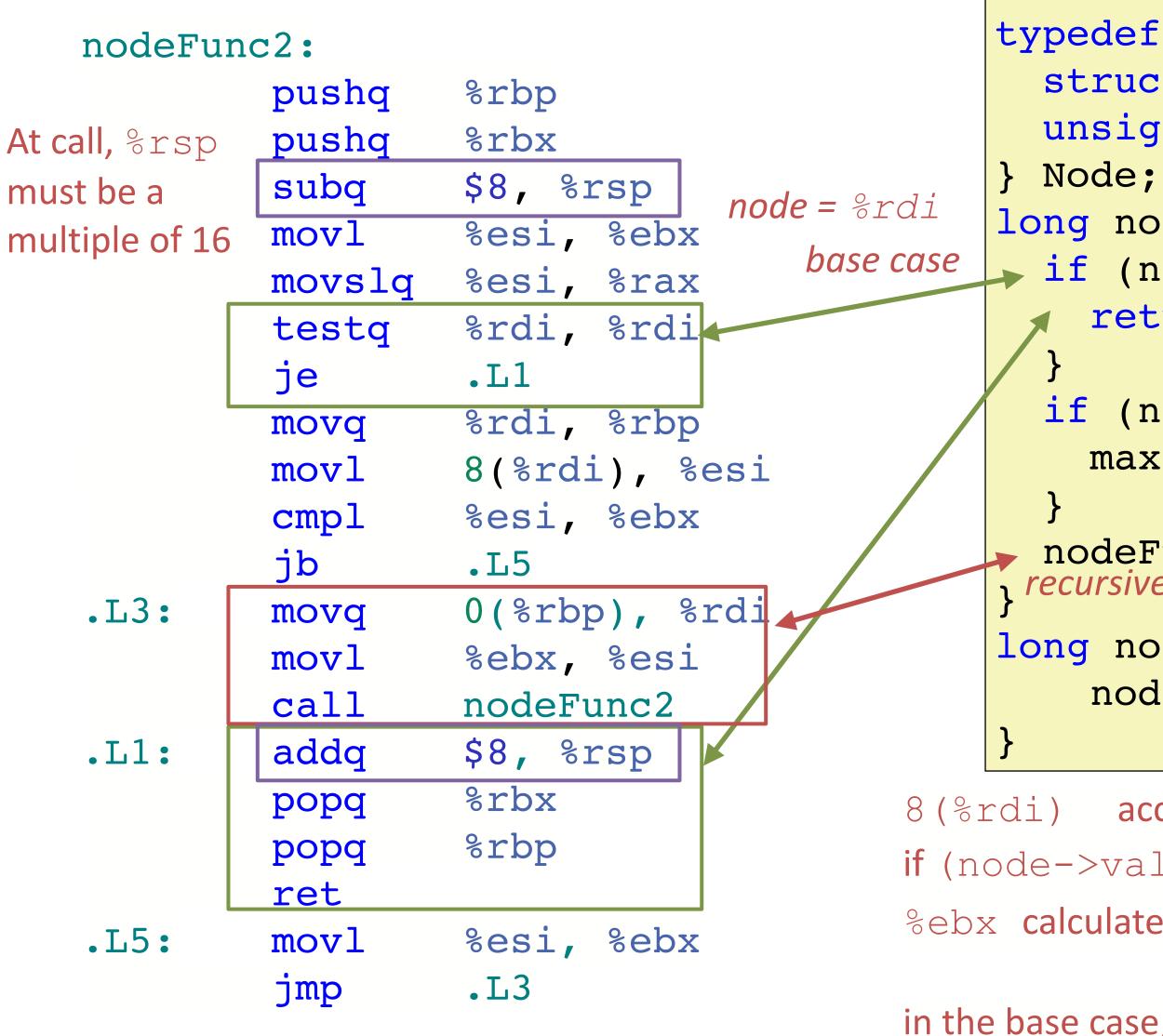
2. Identify the base case of the recursive function nodeFunc2. What is returned in

4. What is nodeFunc1 calculating with helper nodeFunc2?





x86 struct/LinkedList practice problem



nodeFunc1 uses its helper to find the maximum value within a linked list.

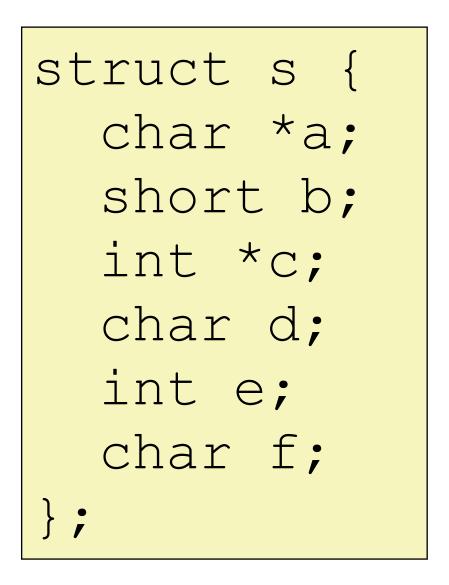
```
typedef struct Node {
  struct Node* next;
 unsigned int value;
long nodeFunc2(Node* node, unsigned int max) {
if (node == 0) {
    return max;
 if (node->value > max) {
    max = node->value;
  nodeFunc2(node->next, max);
 recursive case
long nodeFunc1(Node* node) {
    nodeFunc2(node, 0);
```

8(%rdi) accesses node->value if (node->value > x), jump to .L5, sets %ebx to node->value %ebx calculates the max of node->value and x

in the base case, returns second arg, \times (the maximum value found so far)



Struct practice problem (similar to CSAPP 3.45)



Recall: a short is 2 bytes in C

new offsets and the total size.



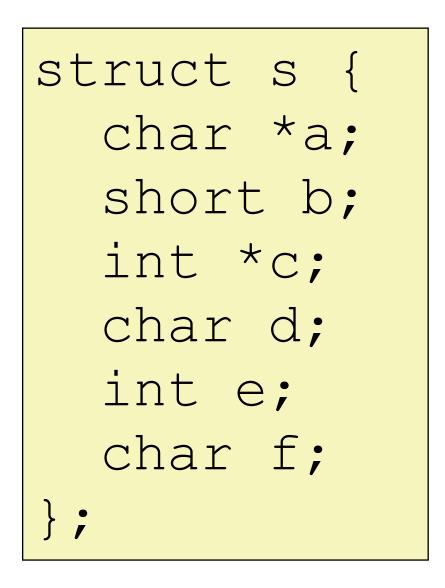
1. Draw a picture of how this struct is laid out in memory, labeling the byte offset of each field (starting with a at offset +0);

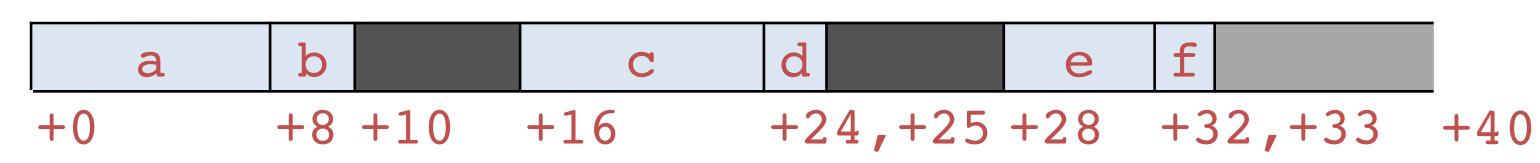
2. Modify your picture to show how much space a single element of this struct would take if used as an element of an array (e.g., the total size).

3. Rearrange the fields of the struct to minimize wasted space. Draw the



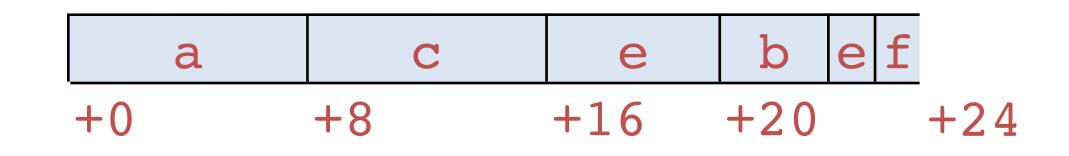
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x86 recursive procedure practice problem

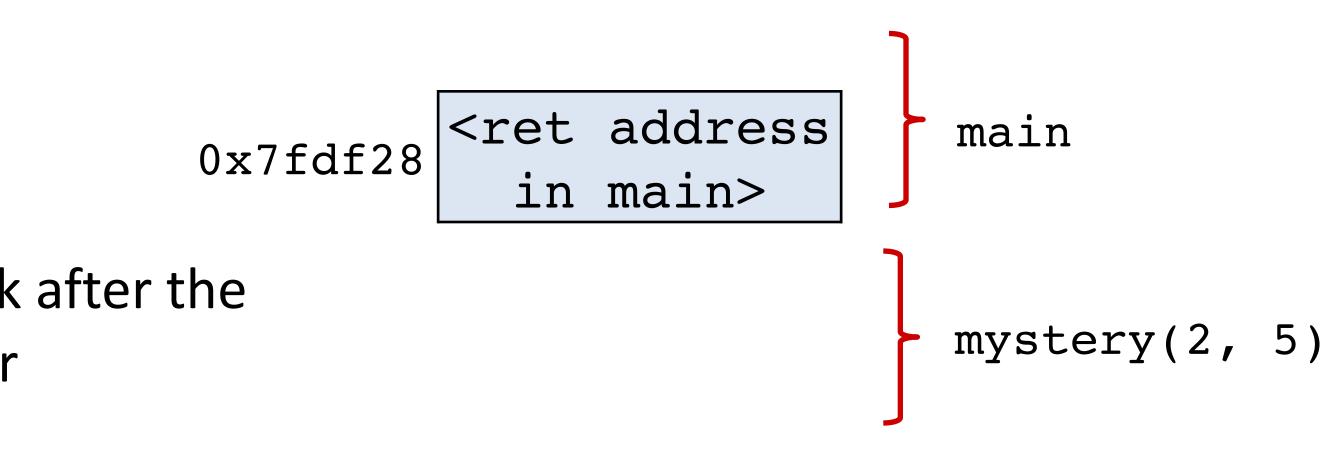
mystery: \$0x0,%eax 401106 mov %edi,%edi 40110b test 40110d jne 401110 <mystery+0xa> 40110f ret 401110 push %rbx 401111 mov %esi,%ebx 401113 sub \$0x1,%edi 401116 call 401106 <mystery> 40111b movslq %ebx, %rsi 40111e add %rsi,%rax 401121 pop %rbx 401122 ret

> 4. Fill in the top of this stack after the function returns to main for mystery(2, 5).

What is each value returned, in order?



- 1. What registers is being saved to the stack? Why?
- 2. What instruction address gets saved to the stack? Why?
- 3. What is this function computing?



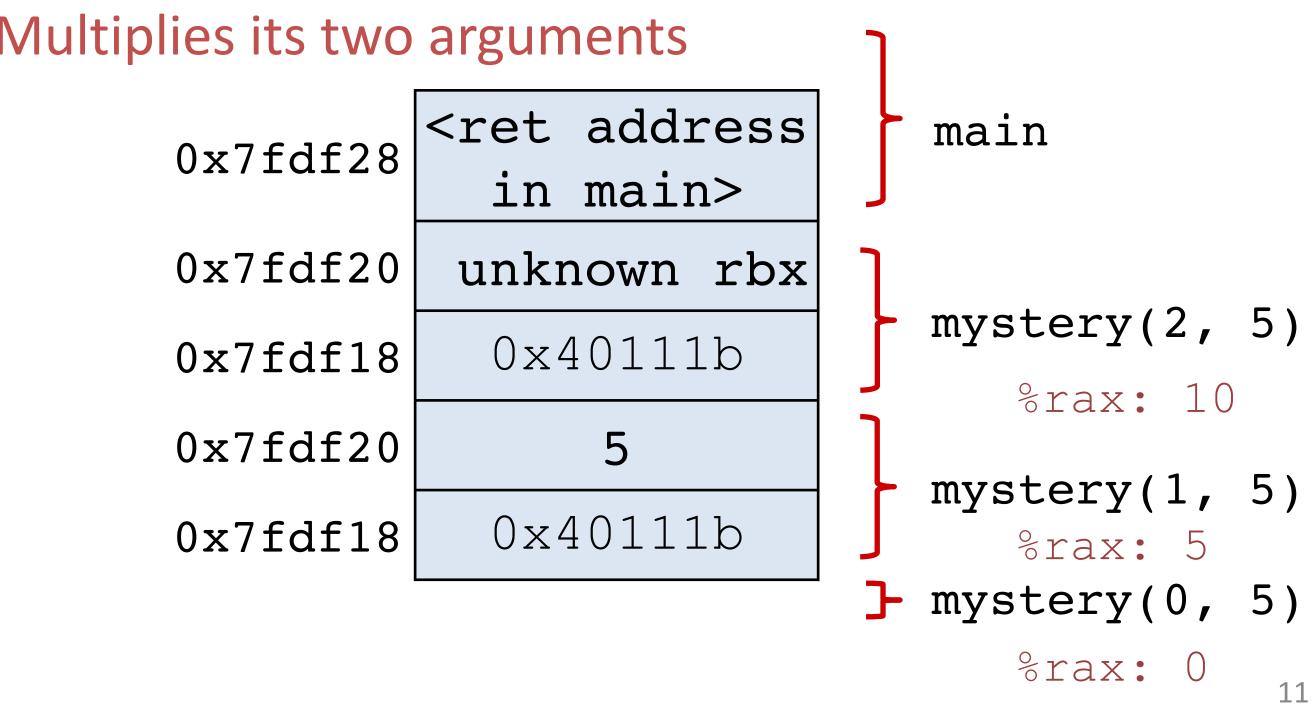


x86 recursive procedure practice problem

mystery: \$0x0, %eax 401106 mov 1. What registers is being saved to the stack? Why? 40110b test %edi,%edi <code>%rbx, so that it is not overwritten in the recursive call</code> 40110d jne 401110 <mystery+0xa> 2. What instruction address gets saved to the stack? Why? 40110f ret 0x40111b, return address after recursive call 401110 push %rbx %esi,%ebx 401111 mov 3. What is this function computing? 401113 sub \$0x1,%edi 401106 <mystery> 401116 call Multiplies its two arguments 40111b movslq %ebx, %rsi <ret address 40111e add main %rsi,%rax 0x7fdf28 401121 pop grbx in main> 401122 ret

```
int mult(int x, int y) {
    if (x == 0) return 0;
    return y + mult(x - 1, y);
%rax: 0
```







x86 short answer practice problems

stack pointer?

using for x86 in class?

3. Describe the general idea of a buffer overflow exploit in C code compiled to x86.



1. Which x86 instructions implicitly modify the stack? In what ways does each change the

2. What are some things defined by the word size in x86? What is the word size we have been

x86 short answer practice problems

- stack pointer? pushq popq %rsp -= 8 %rsp += 8
- using for x86 in class?

Register size, address size NOT instruction size (variable-width instruction size)

3. Describe the general idea of a buffer overflow exploit in C code compiled to x86.

Buffer overflow occurs when there is no bounds checking when writing untrusted input to a destination region of memory that is too small. Buffer overflow attacks can overwrite the return address of the current caller function if the destination is memory on the stack.



1. Which x86 instructions implicitly modify the stack? In what ways does each change the

	call	ret
8	%rsp -= 8	%rsp += 8

2. What are some things defined by the word size in x86? What is the word size we have been