

CSCI 331:  
Introduction to Computer Security

Lecture 13: How C passes arguments

Instructor: Dan Barowy  
**Williams**

## Topics

Solution to Lab 4  
How C passes arguments

## Announcements

1. "The Ph.D. in CS: Getting There and Being Successful" on Monday, November 1 at 7 pm EST.  
Register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3EjUyzw>
2. TA applications due tomorrow.  
Please consider "giving back."
3. Sandia National Labs  
Internships in Cybersecurity R&D  
<https://cg.sandia.gov>  
Job ID: 677929 (Albuquerque, NM)  
Job ID: 677896 (Livermore, CA)  
(American citizens only—sorry!)

## Your to-dos

1. Project partner form, **due Sunday 10/31.**
2. Lab 5, **due Sunday 11/7.**
3. Project part 2, **due Sunday 11/14.**

~~Paper discussion~~

The program you examined in lab 4

```
void foo() {}  
  
int main() {  
    foo();  
}
```

What does it do?

Why am I learning this?

Wise words from my favorite philosopher:



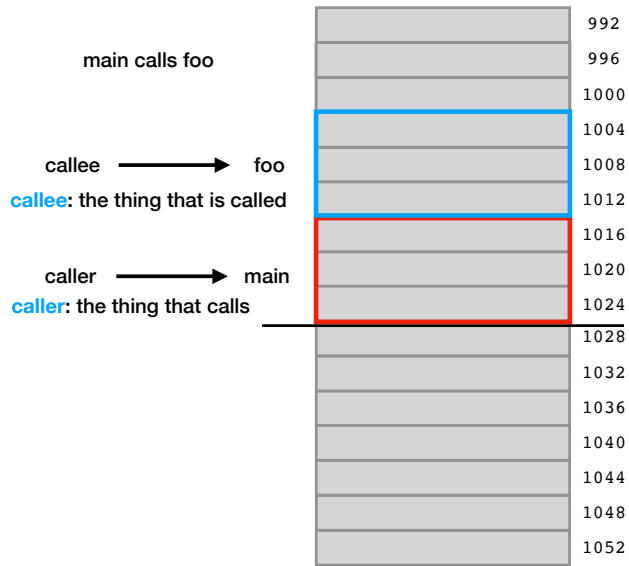
“I find it hard to remember things  
I don’t give a crap about.” —House, M.D.

Why you should “give a crap” about assembly:

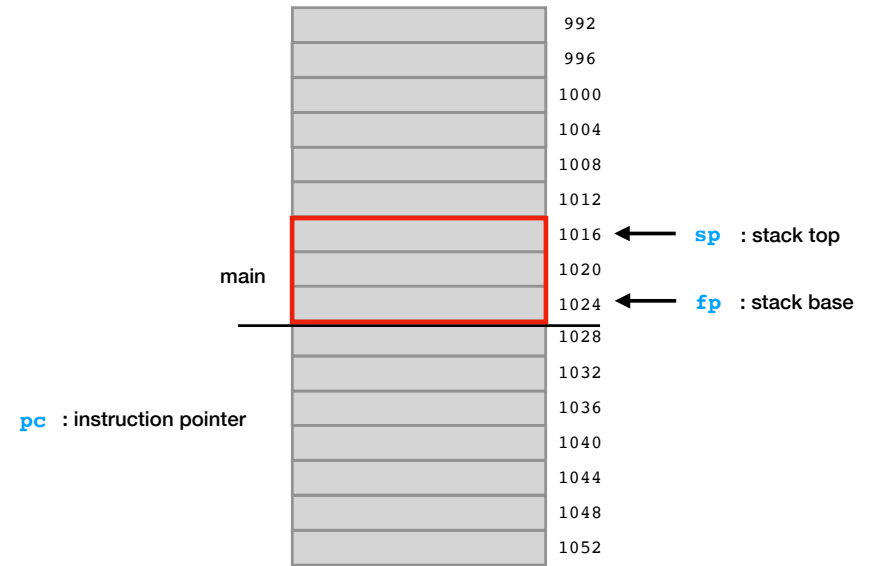


It’s key to understanding control flow integrity  
attacks and defenses.

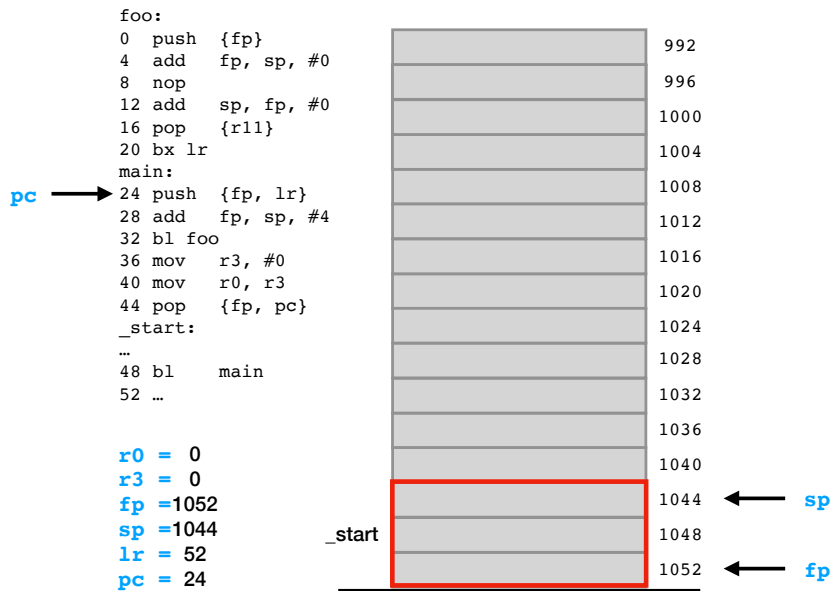
## Caller vs callee



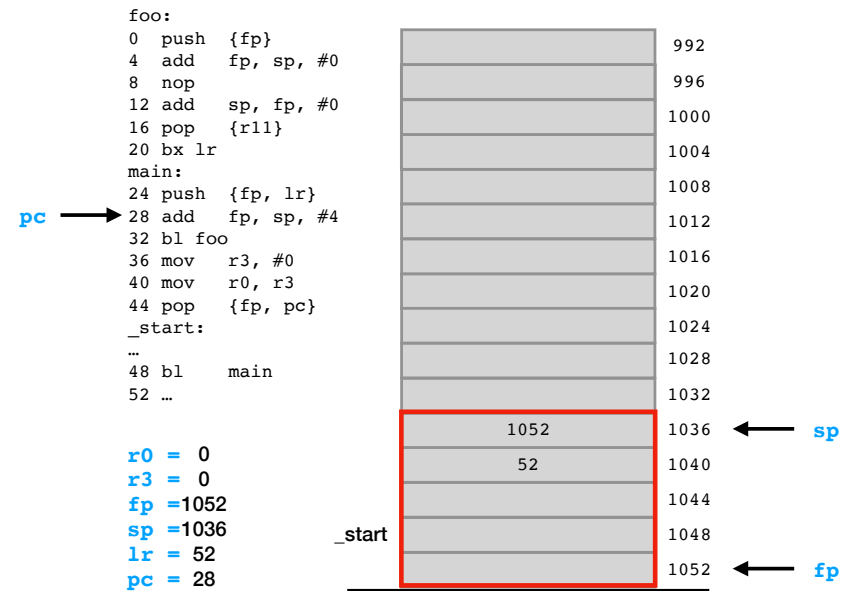
## ARM Calling Convention



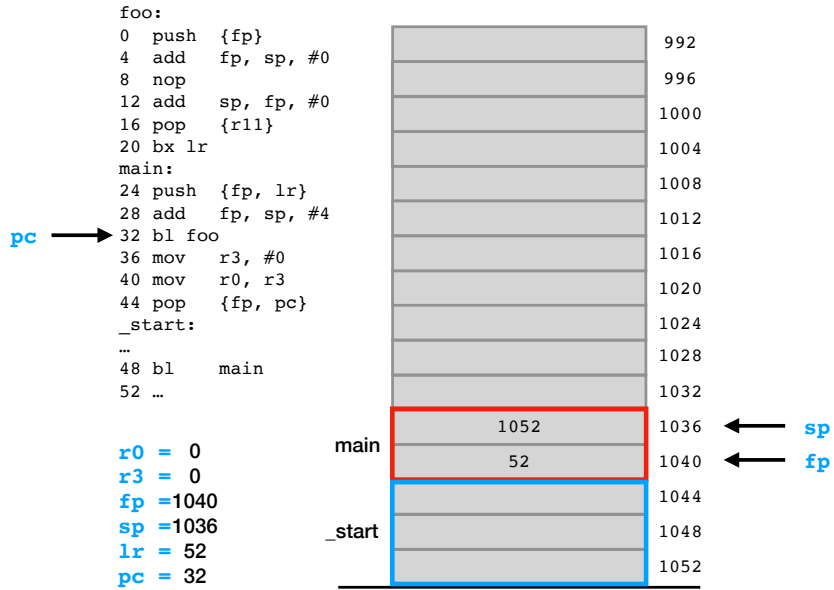
## Class Activity



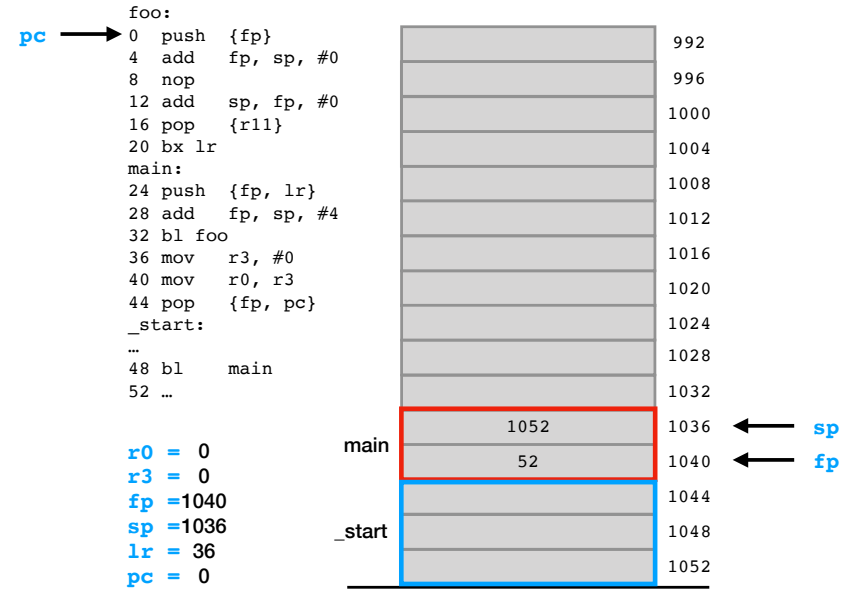
## Class Activity



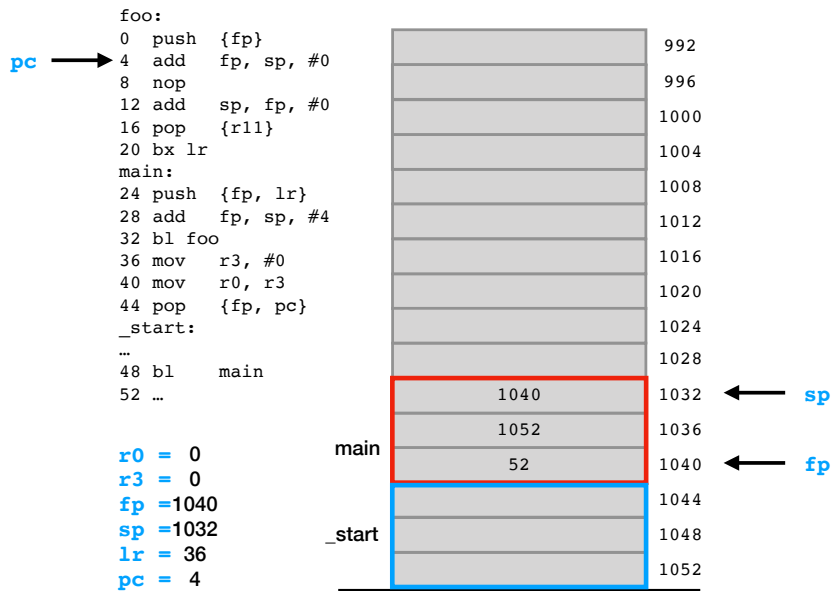
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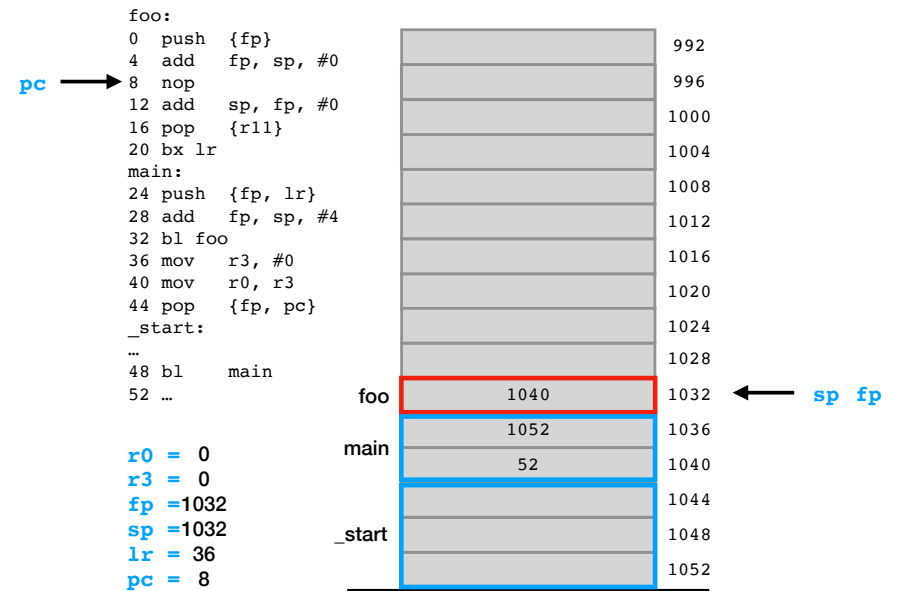
### Class Activity



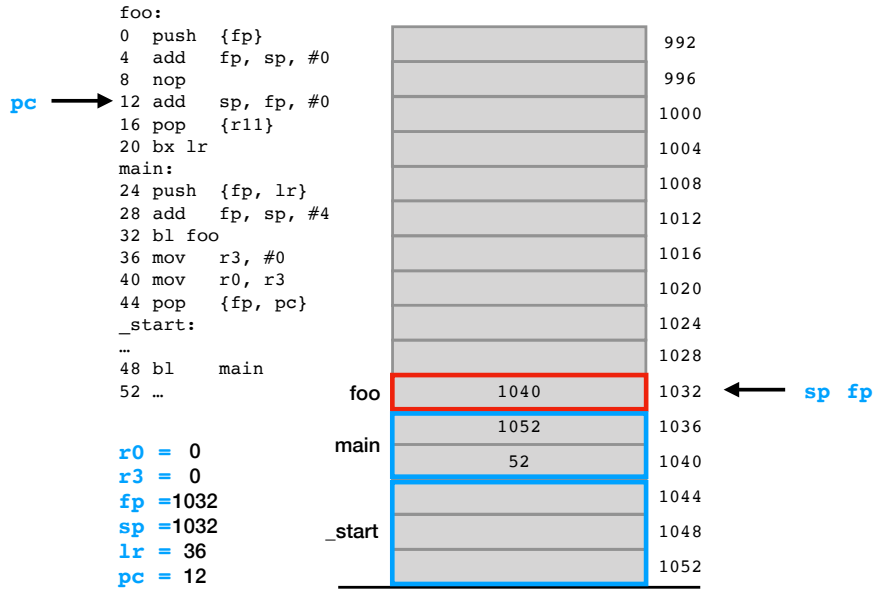
### Class Activity



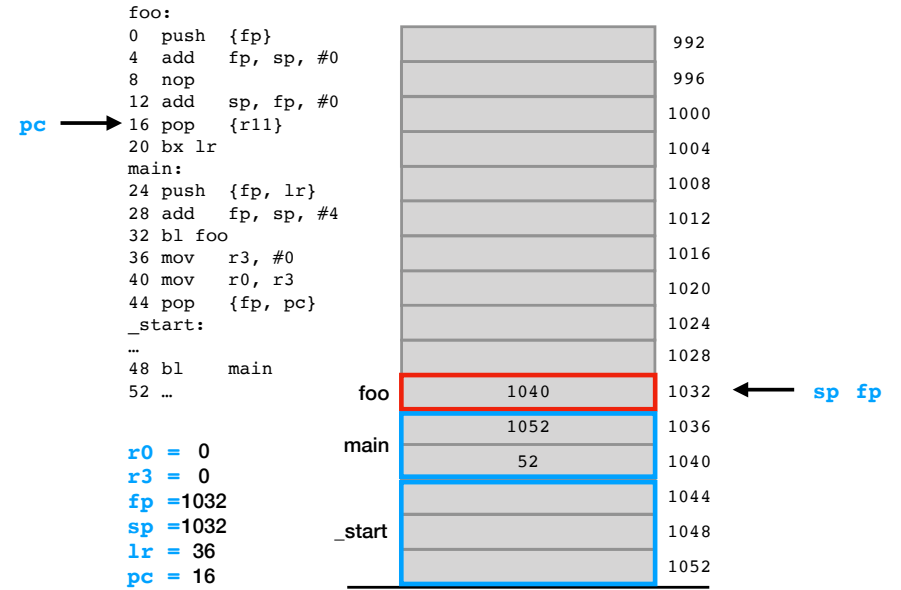
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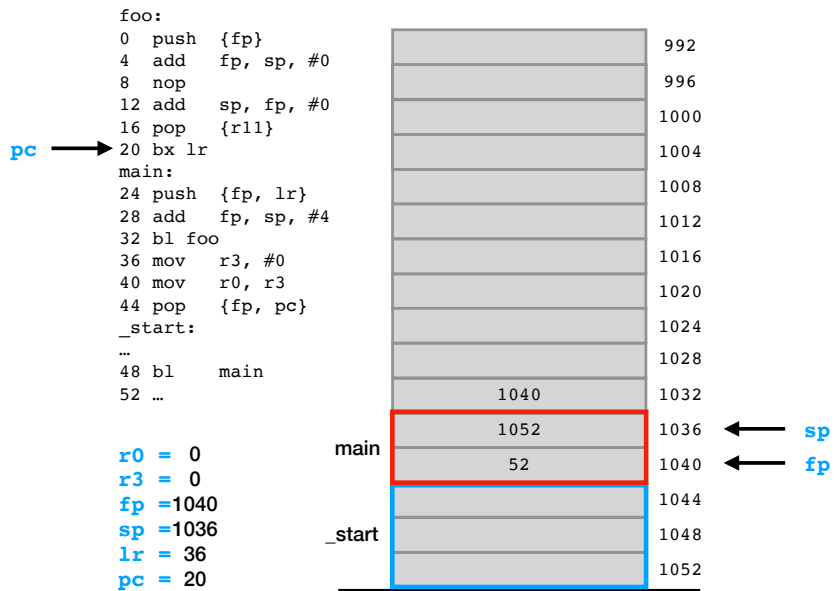
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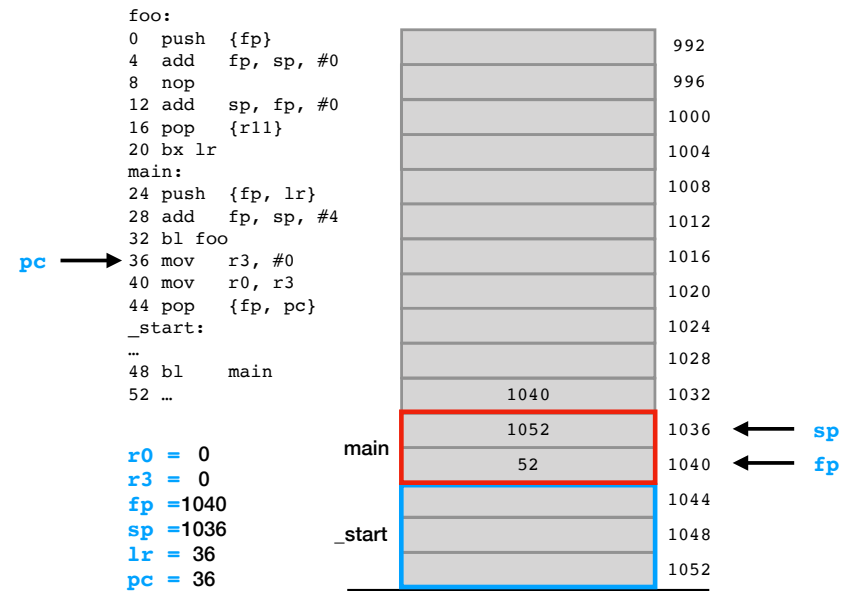
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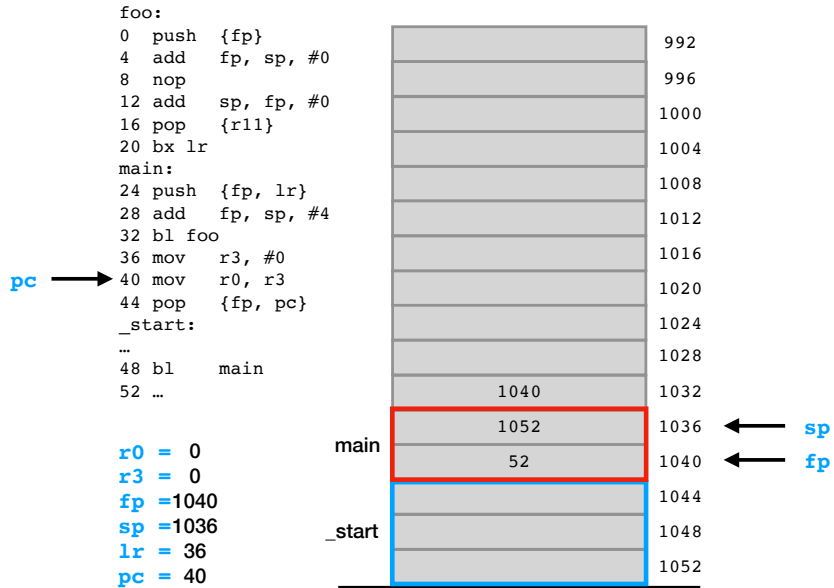
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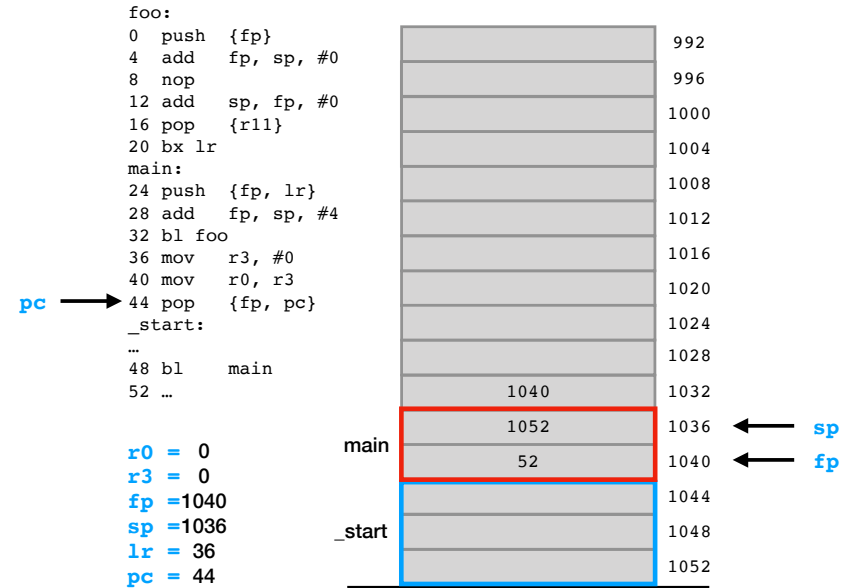
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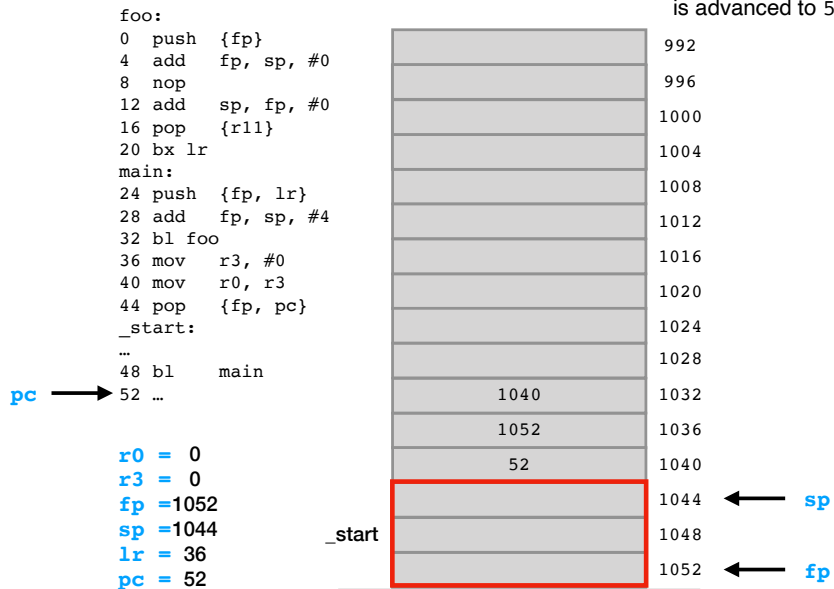


## Class Activity



## Class Activity

Everything is **back to where it started** except pc, which is advanced to 52.



## Observations

- After a function is “torn down,” **everything (that matters) is back where it was** before the call, **except** that pc is **advanced**.
- Notice that the pc saved on the stack is the **next instruction to run** after a return. All instructions except b/bl/bx (and a pop special case) advance pc.
- (You can’t push pc!)
- Values are left on the stack. **Nobody cleans up!**
- Automatic variables: **only sort-of reclaimed**.
- Sometimes gcc **adds** NOP instructions. In general, these are added to align branches to 16-byte boundaries.

## What are the parts of this program?

```
foo:
  push {r11}
  add fp, sp, #0
  nop
  add sp, fp, #0
  pop {r11}
  bx lr
main:
  push {fp, lr}
  add fp, sp, #4
  bl foo
  mov r3, #0
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**func. prologue:** callee sets up stack for **itself**.  
**func. epilogue:** callee restores stack & returns.



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**func. body:** where **callee** does work (nothing here).

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bl foo
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pop {fp, pc}
```

**func. prologue:** **callee** sets up stack for **itself**.

**transfer of control:** **caller** gives control to **callee**.

**return value:** **callee** prepares return value for **caller**.

**func. epilogue:** **callee** restores stack & returns.

Arguments

```

int add(int a, int b) {
    return a + b;
}

int main() {
    return add(1, 2);
}

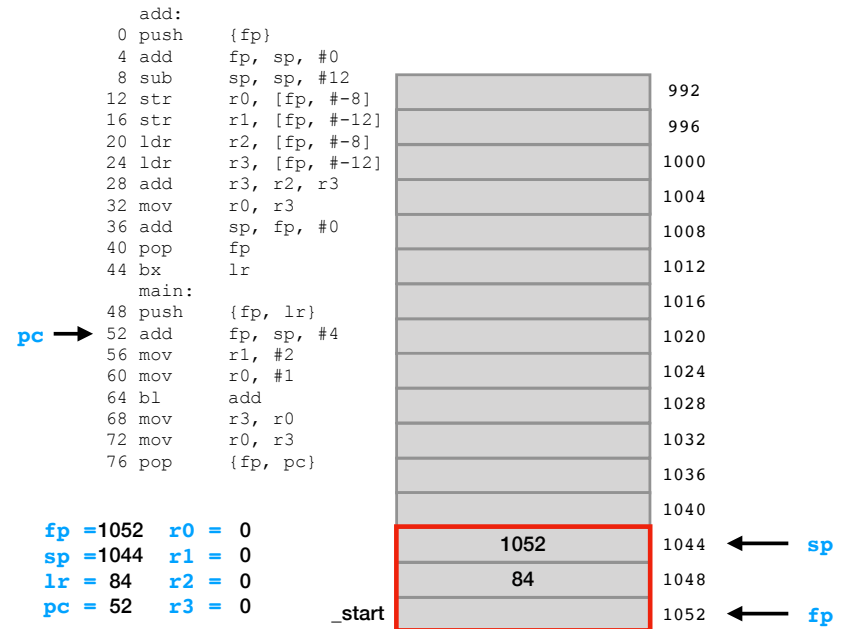
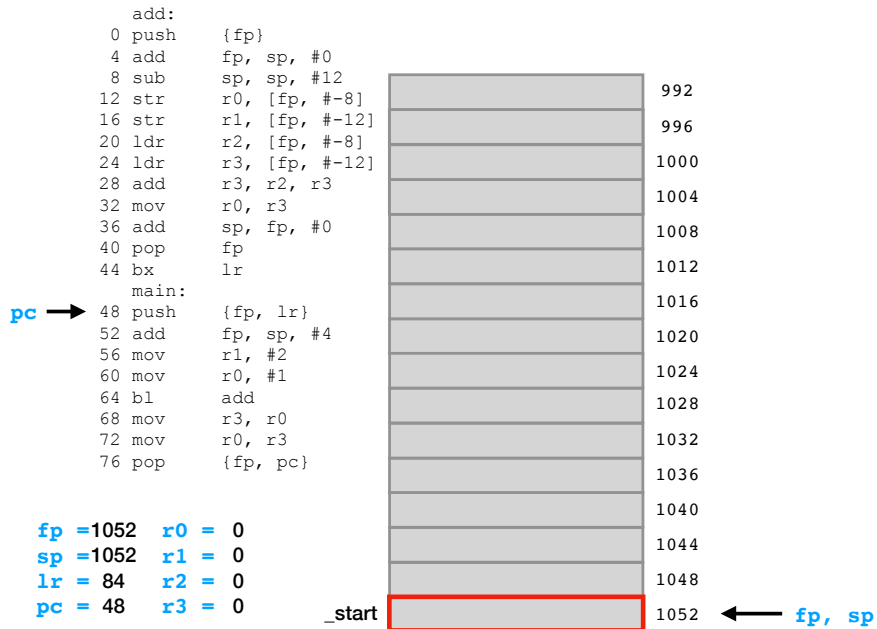
```

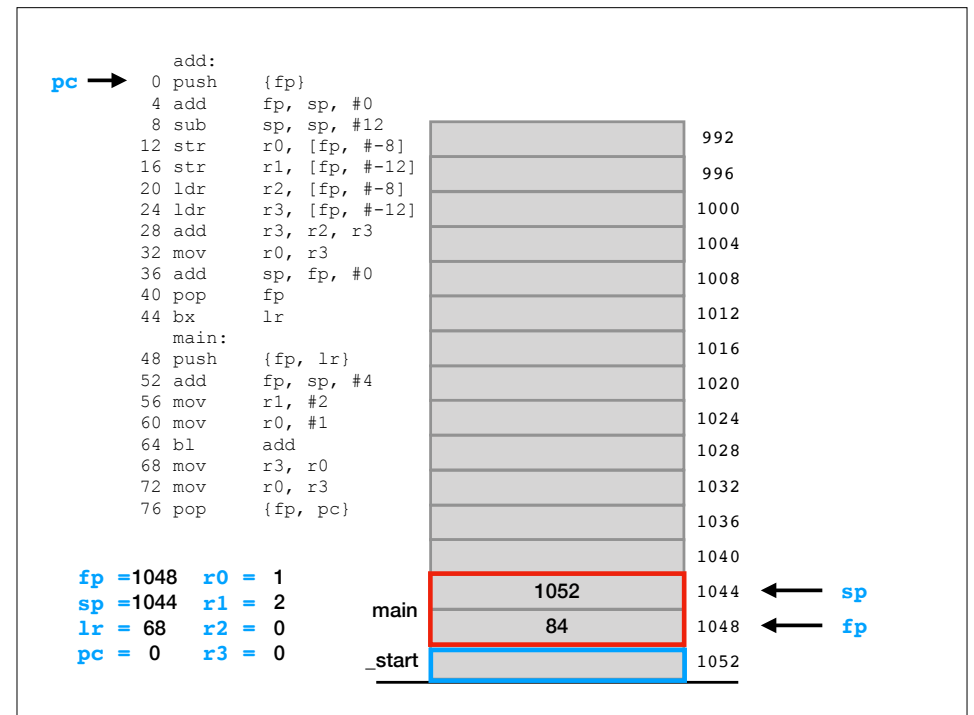
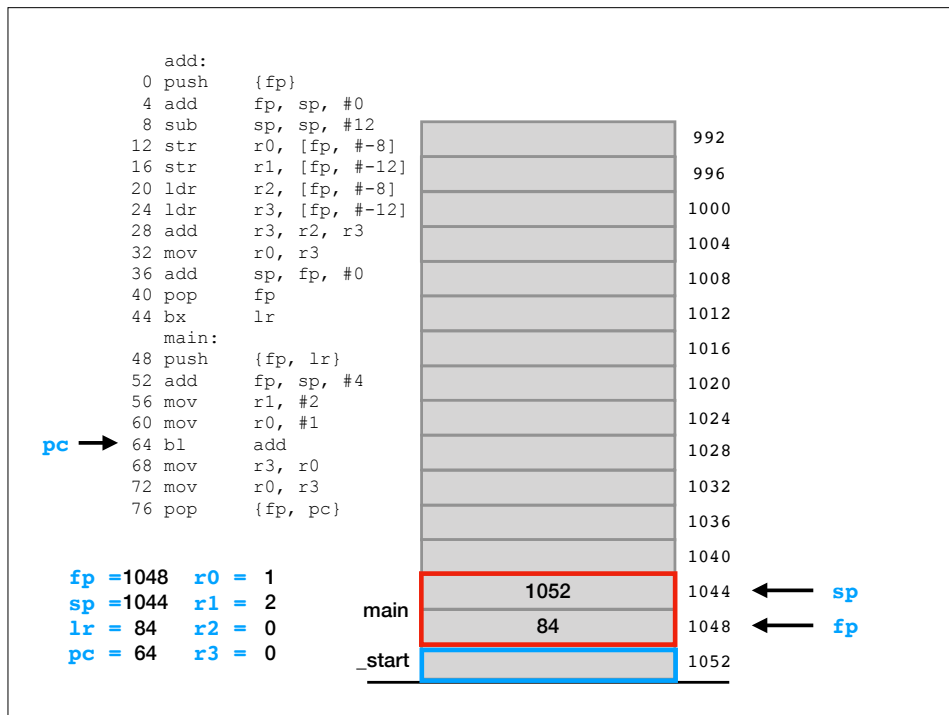
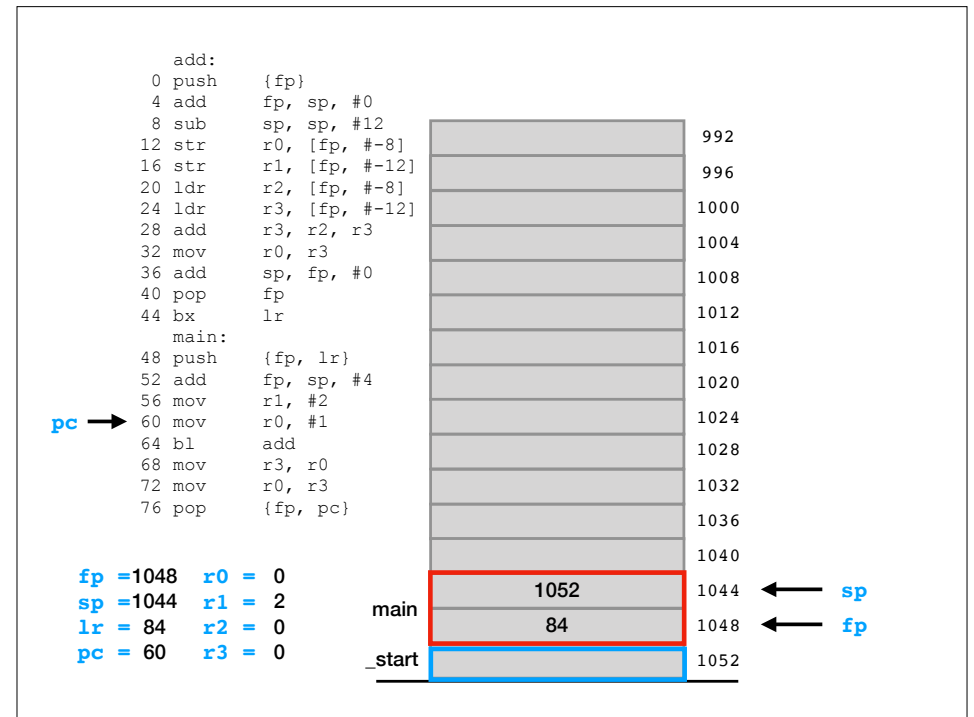
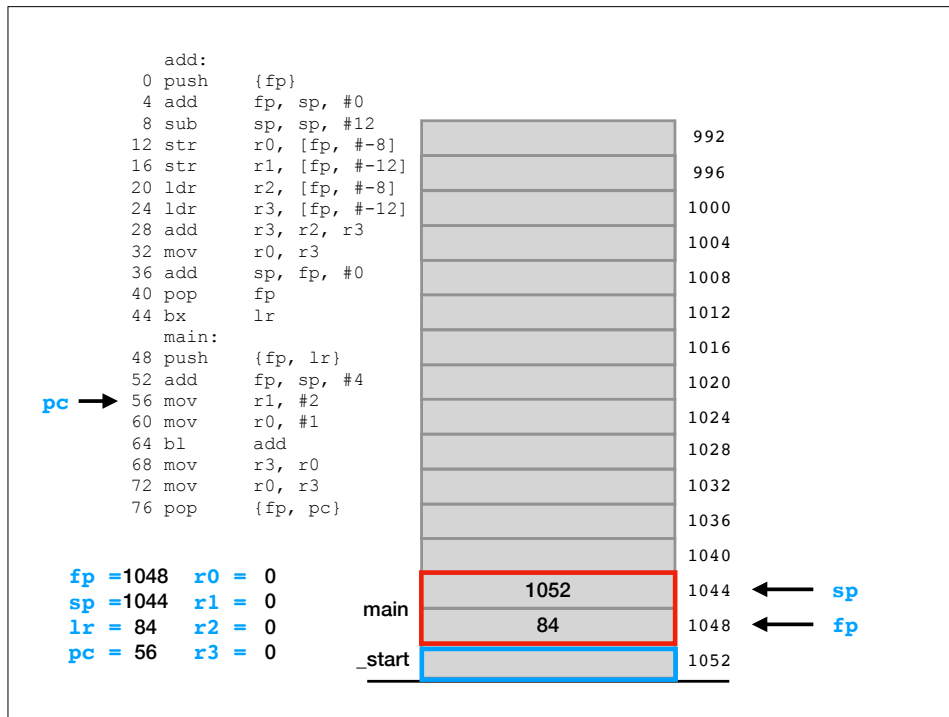
```

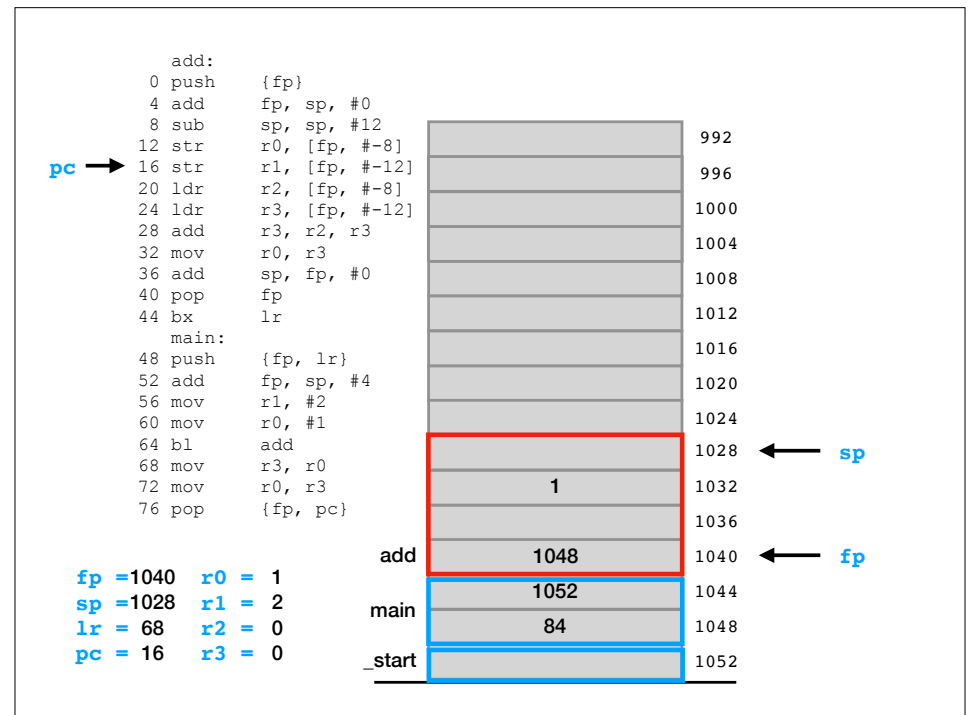
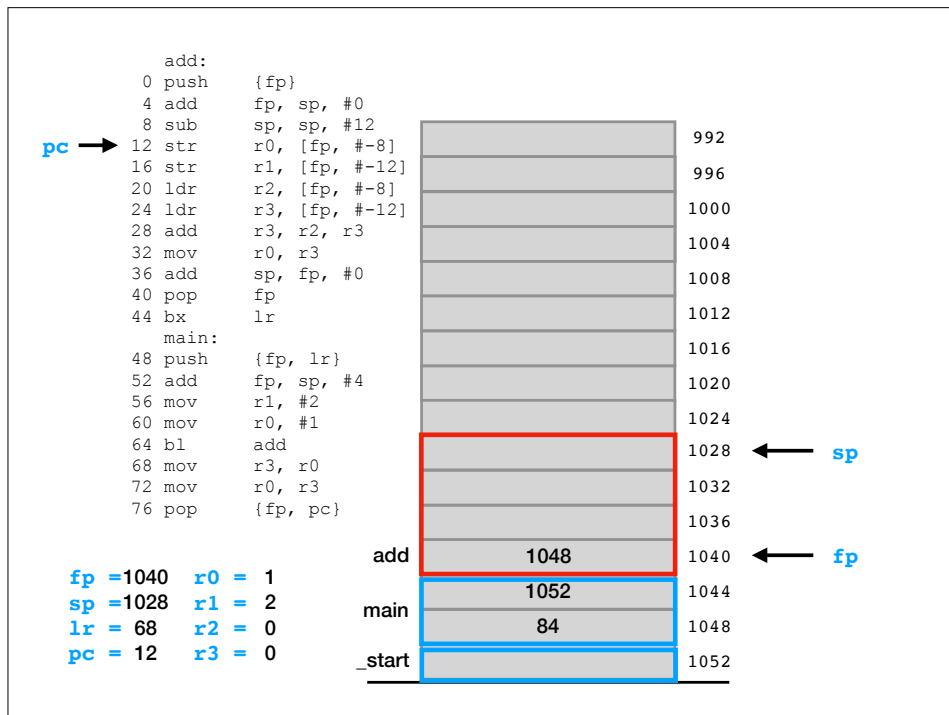
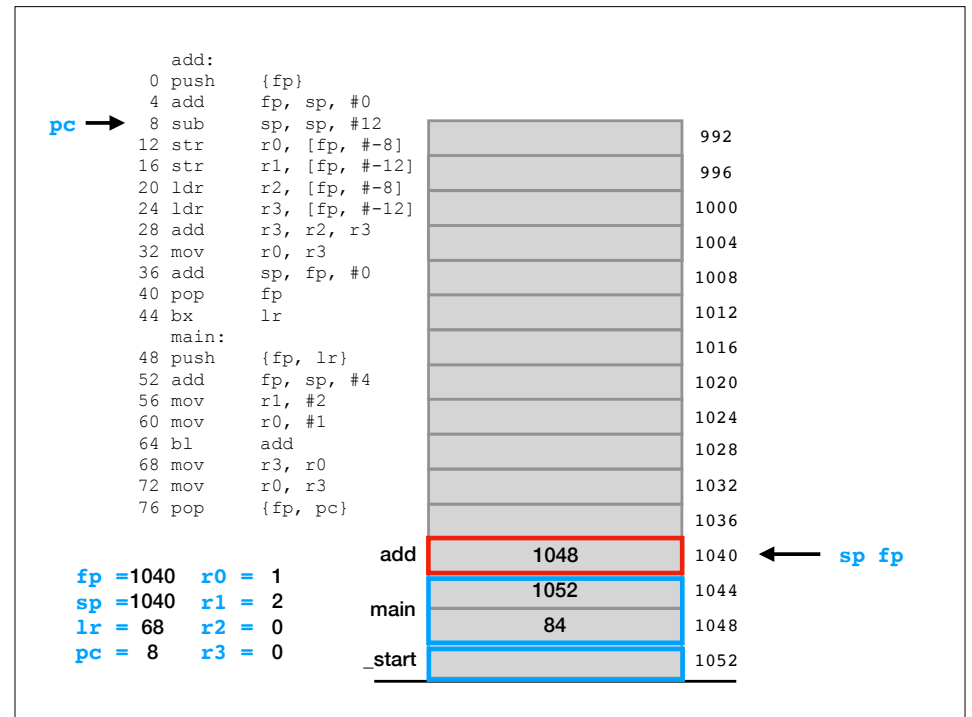
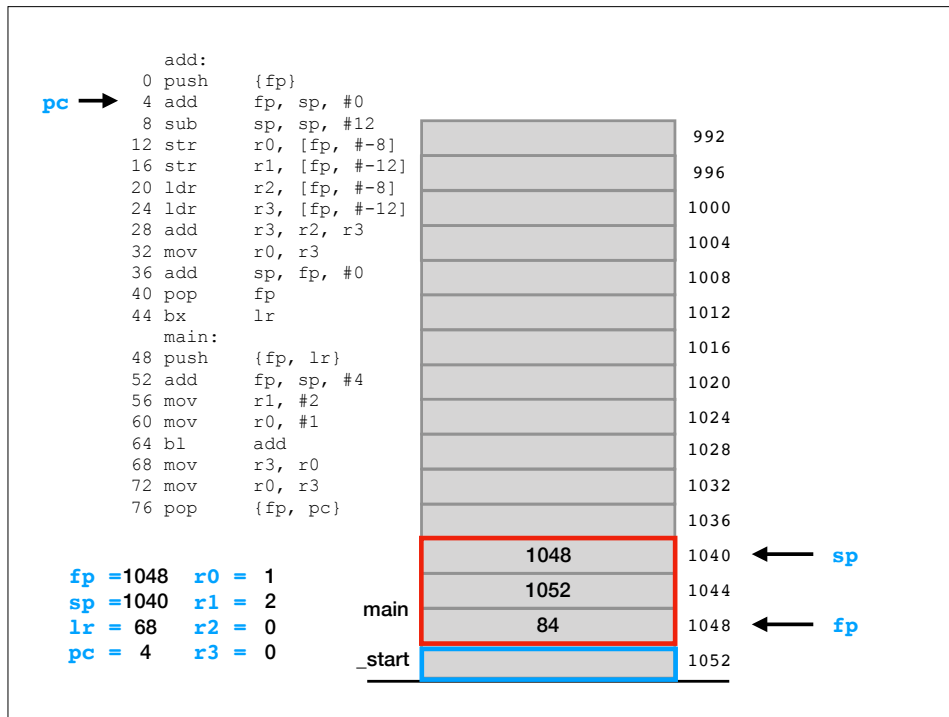
add:
0   push    {fp}
4   add     fp, sp, #0
8   sub     sp, sp, #12
12  str     r0, [fp, #-8]
16  str     r1, [fp, #-12]
20  ldr     r2, [fp, #-8]
24  ldr     r3, [fp, #-12]
28  add     r3, r2, r3
32  mov     r0, r3
36  add     sp, fp, #0
40  pop     fp
44  bx     lr

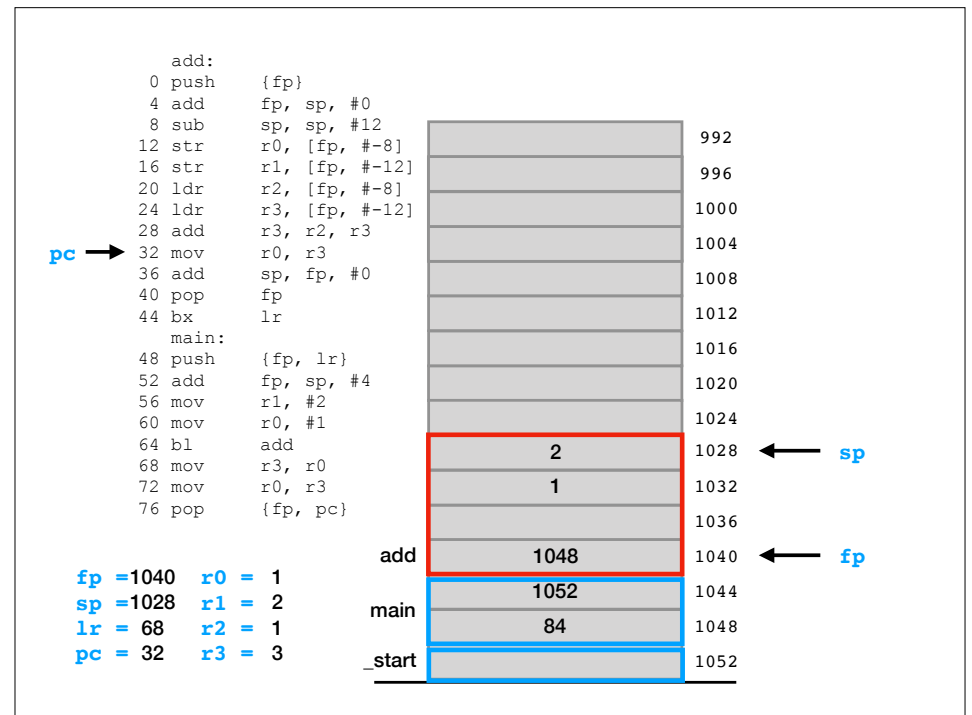
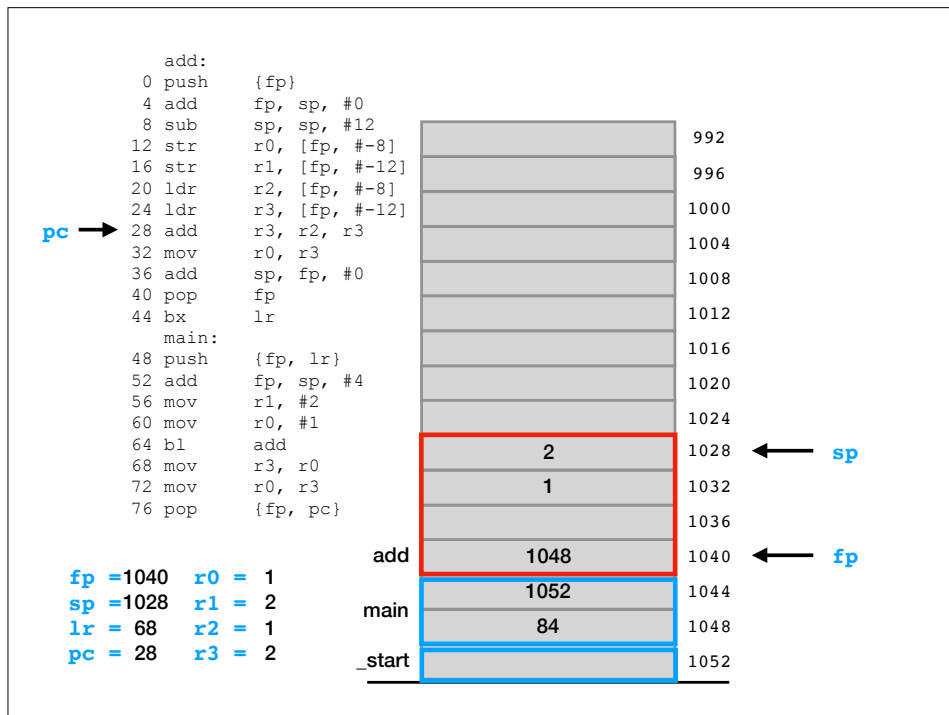
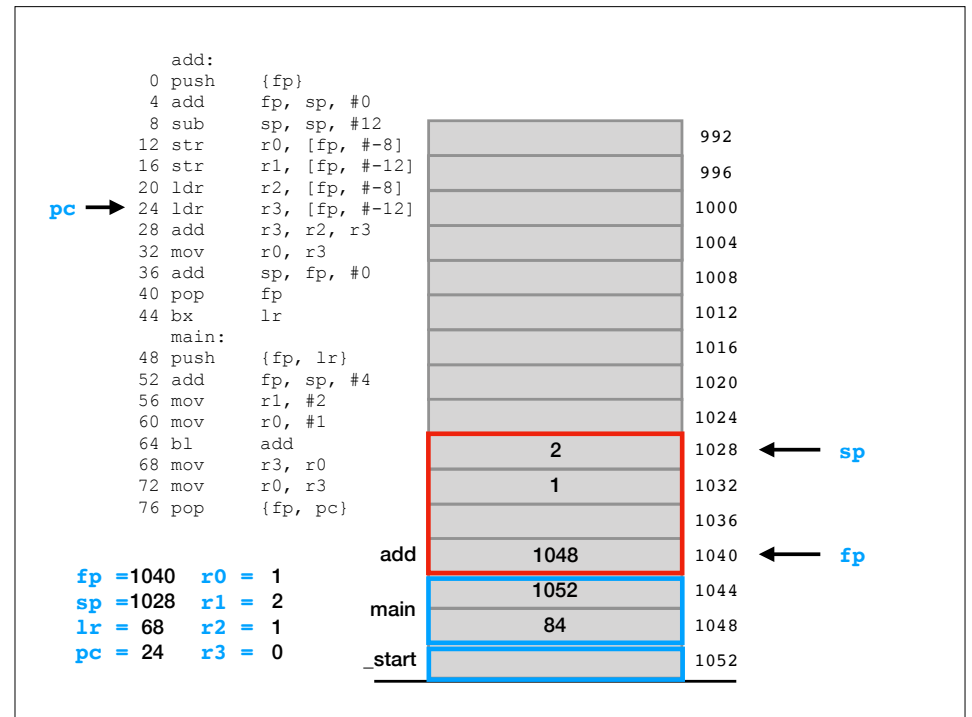
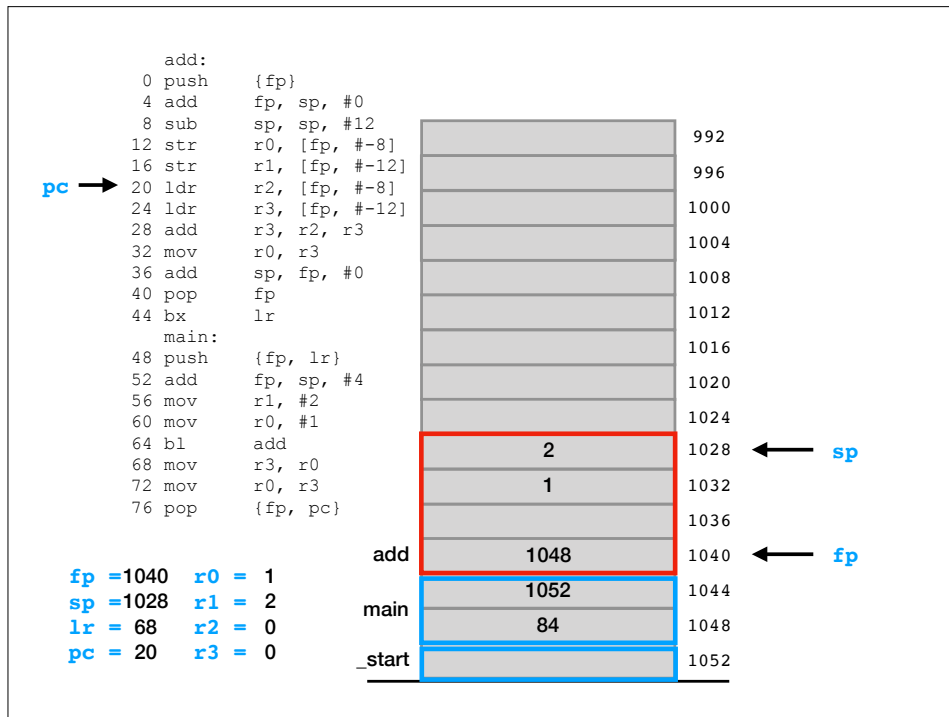
main:
48  push    {fp, lr}
52  add     fp, sp, #4
56  mov     r1, #2
60  mov     r0, #1
64  bl     add
68  mov     r3, r0
72  mov     r0, r3
76  pop     {fp, pc}

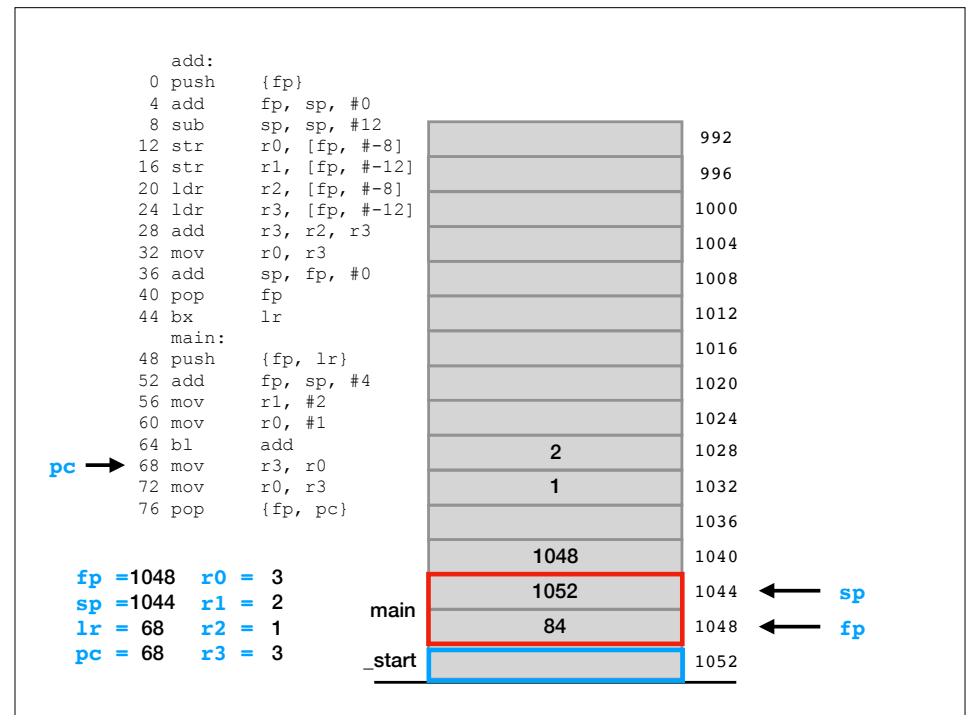
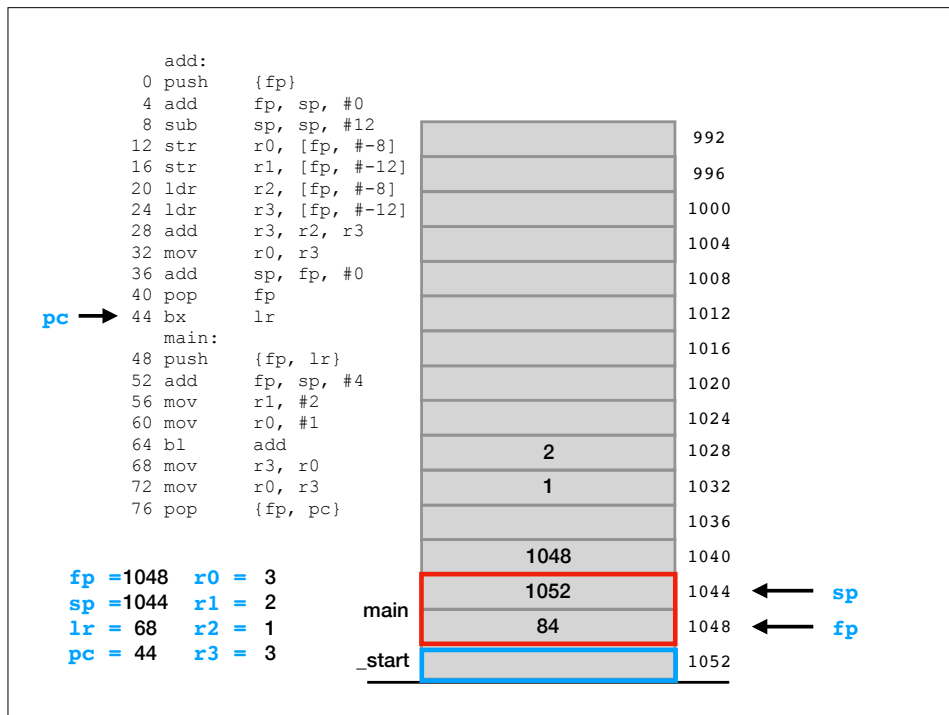
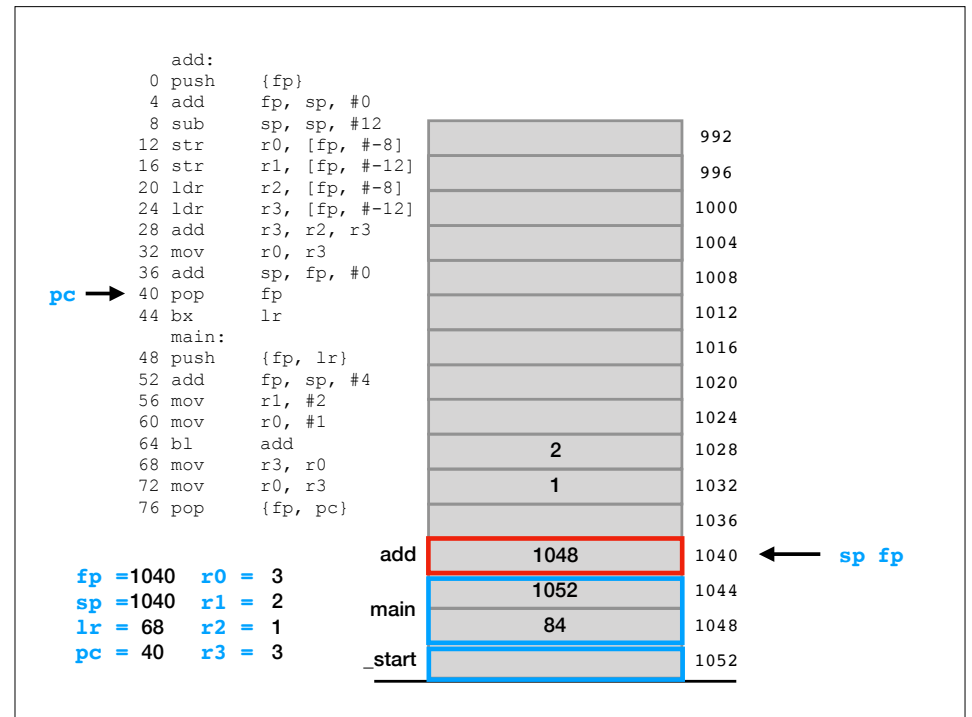
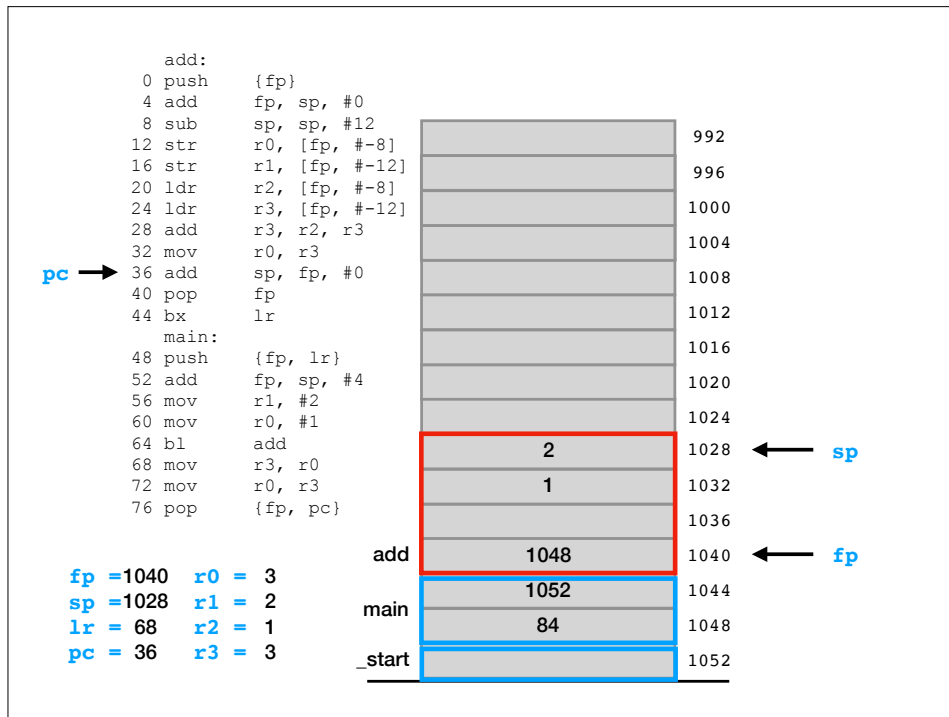
```

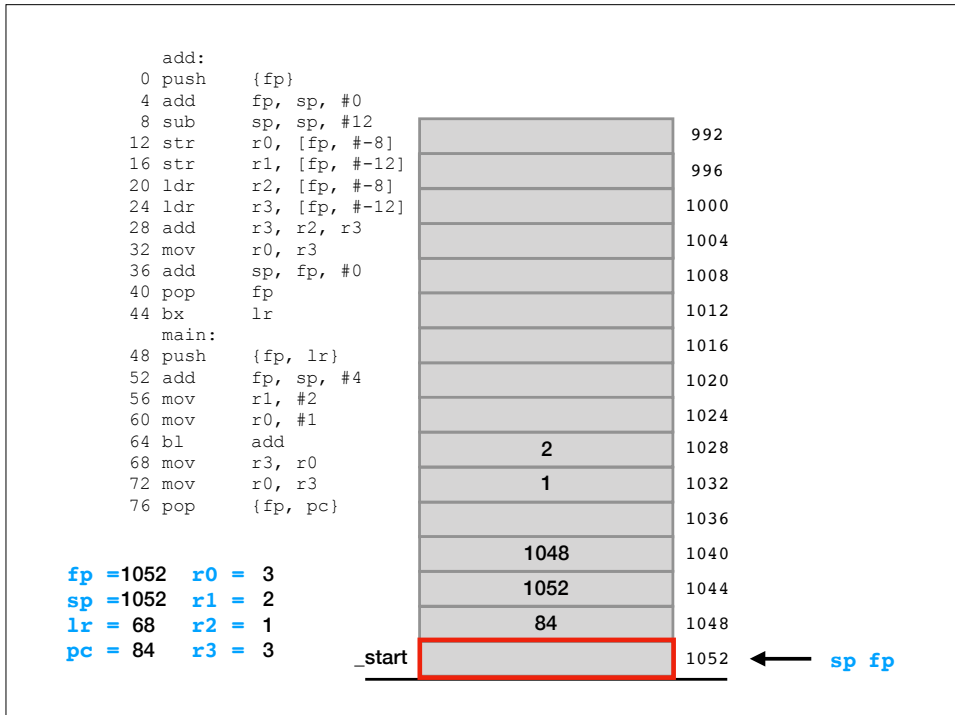
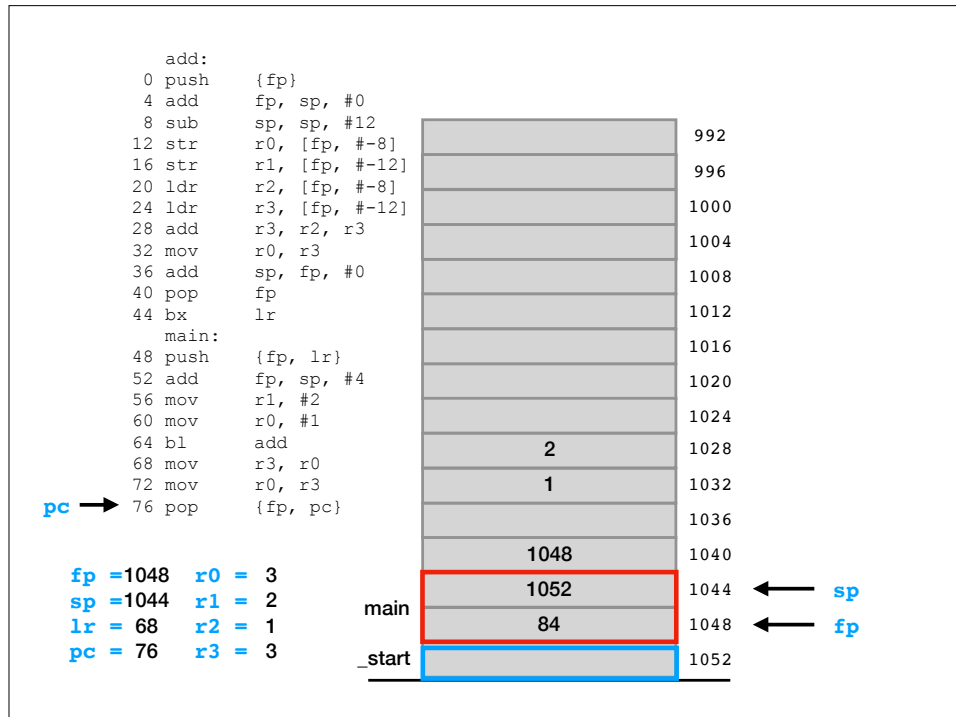
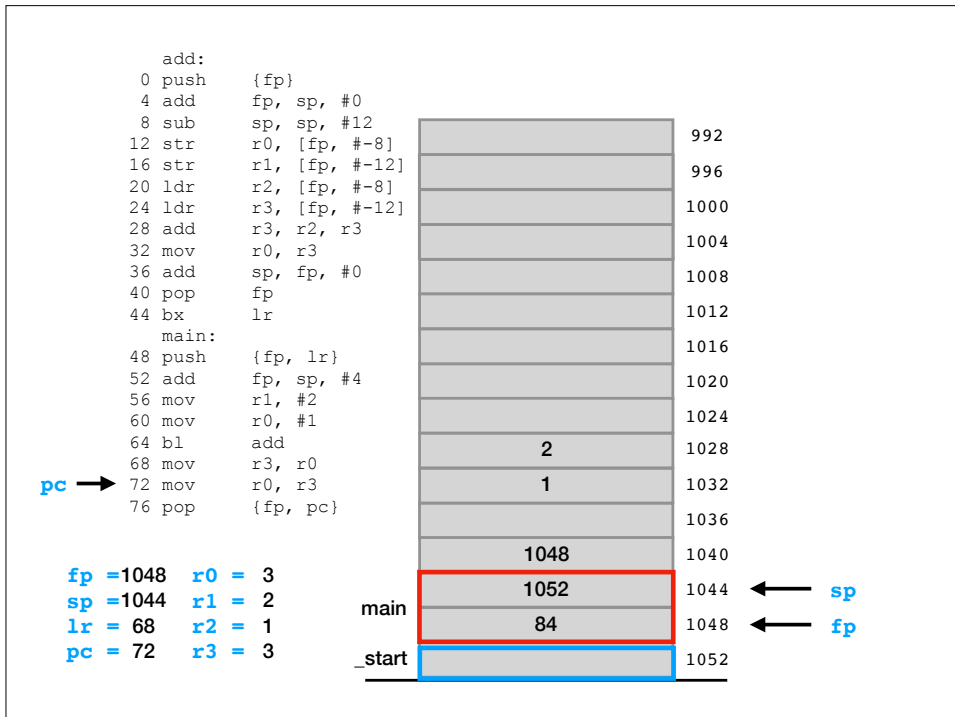












# Lab 3 walkthrough



## Recap & Next Class

### Today we learned:

How argument passing works

### Next class:

globalthermonuclearwar  
and other string vulnerabilities