



Module 3:

# Programming in assembly

Introduction to computers II

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# Outline



- ✓ Introduction.
- ✓ Assembly language.
- ✓ Pseudo-instructions.
- ✓ Variables and constants.
- ✓ Expressions.
- ✓ Code organization.
- ✓ Functions.
- ✓ Development workflow.

These slides are based on:

- S.L. Harris and D. Harris. *Digital Design and Computer Architecture. RISC-V Edition.*
- D.A. Patterson and J.L. Hennessy. *Computer Organization and Design. RISC-V Edition.*



# Introduction

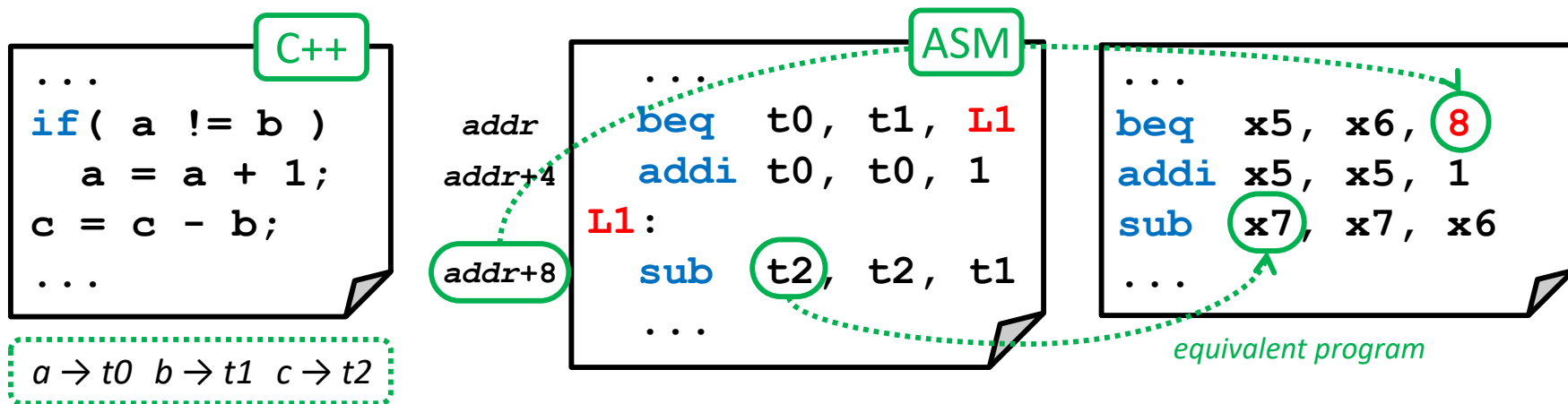
- Computers execute machine code, but programmers develop software using high level languages.
- The **assembly code** is the **halfway point between HW and SW**:
  - High level programs are compiled into assembly.
  - Assembly programs are assembled into machine code.
- An **assembly program** is **mostly composed of assembly instructions**
  - But it can also have other elements that facilitate programming: **labels, directives, comments, pseudo-instructions**, etc...
- Nowadays, **practically nobody programs in assembly**, but **it is important** to know how to do it because it helps:
  - Learn the **abstraction layer** of the **processor architecture**.
  - Understand how **compilers translate high level programs into assembly**.



# Assembly language

## Elements of a program (i)

- An assembly language program:
  - Is composed of a **sequence of instructions** that will be located in memory **in the same order** to be **serially executed**.
    - Most of the times, using alias to indicate used registers.
  - Instruction or data **memory addresses are not explicitly indicated**.
    - But consecutive instructions will have consecutive addresses.
  - If there is a **branch to a certain instruction**, **a label can be defined** to refer its address symbolically.
    - Labels exempt programmers from calculating the PC-relative offsets required by the branch instructions.

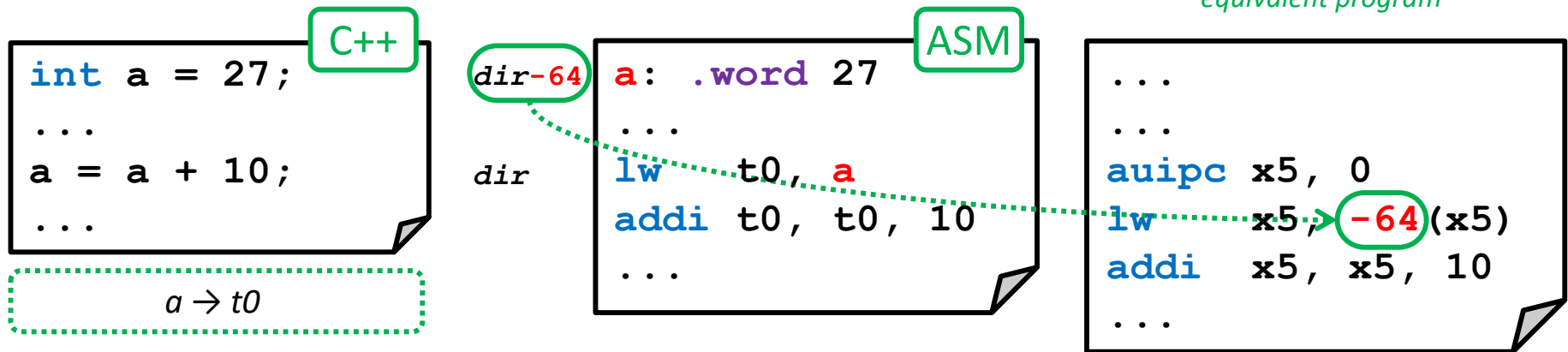




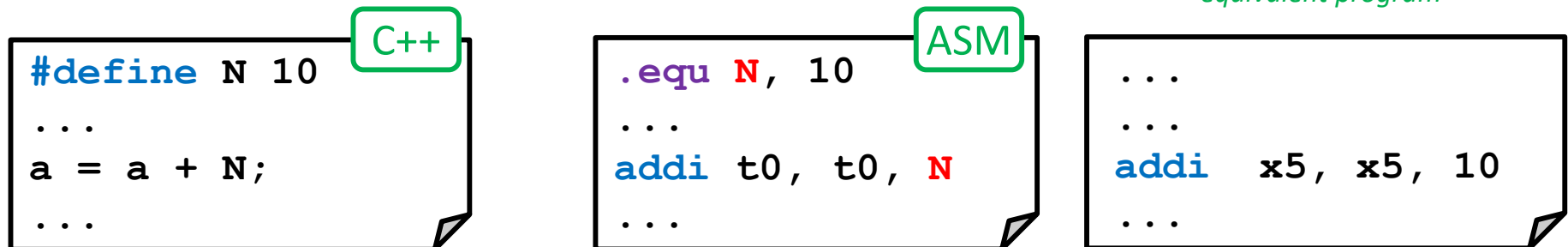
# Assembly language

## Elements of a program (ii)

- An assembly program can also contain:
  - **Labels** to refer **data addresses** symbolically.
    - They exempt programmers from the 32b absolute address management



- **Symbols** to refer **immediate constants** symbolically.
  - They facilitate code readability

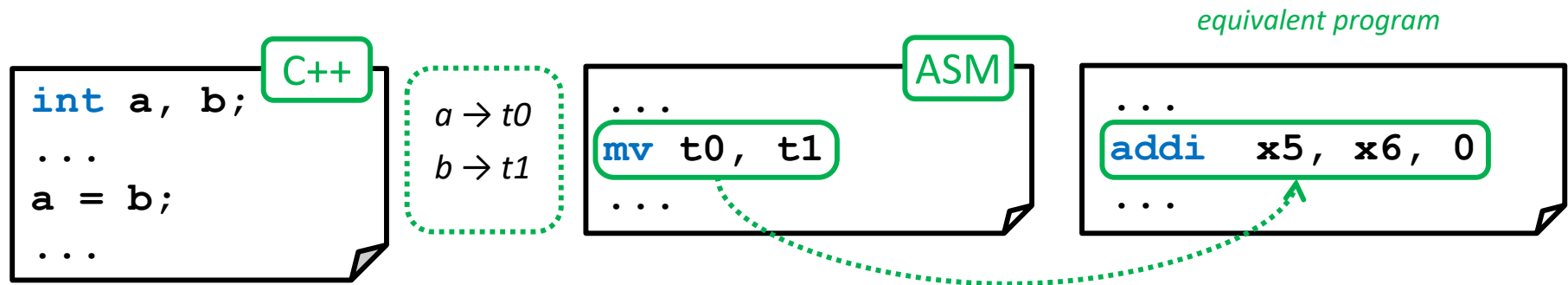




# Assembly language

## Elements of a program (iii)

- Apart from instructions, an assembly program can contain:
  - **Pseudo-instructions:** these are aliases of instructions.
    - They facilitate programmers the use of frequent instructions



- **Comments:** explanatory text that is not translated into machine code
  - They facilitate code readability



- **Other directives:** to control the assembly process.
  - Code and data location, alignment, etc...



# Assembly language

## Elements of a program (iv)

- An **assembly program** is a **sequence of lines**, in which each line contains **at most one of each** of the following elements:
  - **Label**: Symbolic reference to an instruction or data **address**.
    - Each label must start with a letter and end with a colon (:).
    - To use the label, the final colon is omitted.
    - If a label is alone in a line, it refers to the address of the following instruction or data.
  - **Assembly instruction**: composed of an **instruction and its operands**.
    - Operands may be explicit or symbolic.
    - There can be a pseudo-instruction, instead of an instruction.
  - **Directive**: **Auxiliary indication used during the assembly process**.
    - All directives start with a dot (.)
  - **Comment**: **Free text** added by the programmer
    - Comments may be at the end of a line or occupy the whole line.
    - They start with # but also // and /\* \*/ may be used.



# Assembly language

## Sections

- An assembly program is divided into **sections**.
- A **section** represents an **adjacent memory region**, in which a set of data/instructions with the same purpose will be located.
  - **Consecutive instructions/data** within a section will have **consecutive memory addresses**.
  - During the linking process, **each section can be placed** in a **different memory region**.
- An assembly process consists of 3 sections:
  - **text**: contains the **instructions** of the program.
  - **data**: contains the **constants** and global **variables with their initial value**.
  - **bss**: contains global **variables without an initial value**.
  - Other sections can be declared using a special directive (**.section**)





# Assembly language

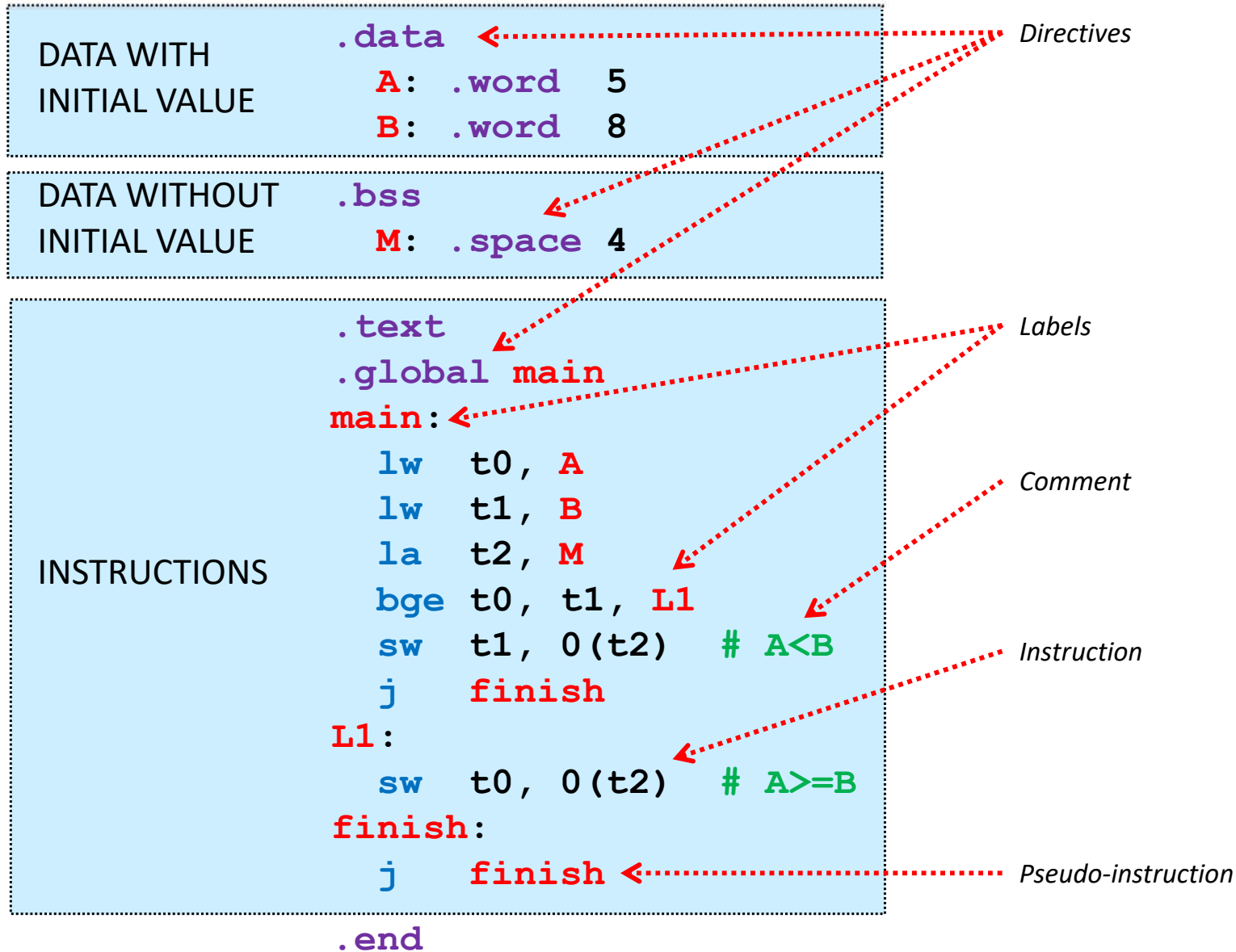
## Directives

Directive	Description
<code>.text</code>	Declares the beginning of the instruction section
<code>.data</code>	Declares the beginning of the global variable section <b>with</b> initial value
<code>.bss</code>	Declares the beginning of the global variable section <b>without</b> initial value
<code>.word</code> $w_1, \dots, w_n$	Reserves memory space for $n$ words with initial values $w_1 \dots w_n$
<code>.half</code> $h_1, \dots, h_n$	Reserves memory space for $n$ half words with initial values $h_1 \dots h_n$
<code>.byte</code> $b_1, \dots, b_n$	Reserves memory space for $n$ bytes with initial values $b_1 \dots b_n$
<code>.zero</code> $n$	Reserves memory space for $n$ bytes with initial values equal to 0
<code>.space</code> $n$	Reserves memory space for $n$ bytes without an initial value
<code>.string</code> " <i>str</i> "	Reserves memory space whose initial value is the " <i>str</i> " string
<code>.align</code> $n$	Aligns data/instructions to addresses that are multiple of $2^n$
<code>.equ</code> <i>sym</i> , <i>val</i>	Define a symbolic constant with the name <i>sym</i> and value <i>val</i>
<code>.global</code> <i>sym</i>	Makes label <i>sym</i> visible out of the file that contains it (global)
<code>.extern</code> <i>sym</i>	Indicates that a symbol is defined in another file of the project
<code>.end</code>	Declares the end of the assembly program



# Assembly language

## Example (i)





# Assembly language

## Example (ii)

DATA WITH INITIAL VALUE	<pre>.data ← A: .word 5 B: .word 8</pre>	<p>Indicates the beginning of the input data section</p> <p>Input data defined as words</p>
DATA WITHOUT INITIAL VALUE	<pre>.bss ← M: .space 4 ←</pre>	<p>Indicates the beginning of the output data section</p> <p>Output data defined as a word</p>
INSTRUCTIONS	<pre>.text ← .global main ← main:     lw t0, A     lw t1, B     la t2, M     bge t0, t1, L1     sw t1, 0(t2) # A&lt;B     j finish L1:     sw t0, 0(t2) # A&gt;=B finish:     j finish</pre>	<p>Indicates the beginning of the code section</p> <p>Makes this label visible out of this file, so that the simulator can know the initial address of the program</p>
	<pre>.end ←</pre>	<p>Indicates the end of the assembly program</p>



# Assembly language

## Example (iii)

```

DATA WITH          .data
INITIAL VALUE     A: .word  5
                  B: .word  8

DATA WITHOUT      .bss
INITIAL VALUE     M: .space 4

INSTRUCTIONS      .text
                  .global main
                  main:
                    lw  t0, A
                    lw  t1, B
                    la  t2, M
                    bge t0, t1, L1
                    sw  t1, 0(t2)
                    j   finish
                  L1:
                    sw  t0, 0(t2)
                  finish:
                    j   finish
                  .end

```

- ← Loads the value inside address **A** into **t0**
- ← Loads the value inside address **B** into **t1**
- ← Loads address **M** into **t2**
- ← Compares the loaded values
- ← Stores the value of **t1 (B)** into address **M**
- ← Branches to the last instruction of the program
- ← Stores the value of **t0 (A)** into address **M**
- ← This instruction is executed indefinitely



# Pseudo-instructions

- **Pseudo-instructions** are **aliases** of **very usual cases** of certain instructions.
  - They perform specific operations with their own **mnemonic and operands**.
  - During the assembly process, they are **translated into actual instructions** that have an equivalent behavior.
  - They **enrich the assembly language** without adding HW complexity.
- For example, it is quite common to **copy the content of a register into another one**:

- To do this, RISC-V has the `mv` pseudo-instruction, with 2 operands:

---

`mv rd, rs1`                       $rd \leftarrow rs1$

---

- But during the assembly process, it is translated into this actual instruction:

---

`addi rd, rs1, 0`                       $rd \leftarrow rs1 + 0$

---

- Programmers may use one or the other, indistinctly.



# Pseudo-instructions

## Arithmetic-logic (i)

- In assembly, **comparisons with 0** are very common.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>seqz rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{if}(rs1 = 0) \text{ then } (1) \text{ else } (0)$	<code>sltiu rd, rs1, 1</code>	set if <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>snez rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{if}(rs1 \neq 0) \text{ then } (1) \text{ else } (0)$	<code>sltu rd, x0, rs1</code>	set if <b>n</b> ot <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>sltz rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{if}(rs1 < 0) \text{ then } (1) \text{ else } (0)$	<code>slt rd, rs1, x0</code>	set if <b>l</b> ess <b>t</b> han <b>z</b> ero
<code>sgtz rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{if}(rs1 > 0) \text{ then } (1) \text{ else } (0)$	<code>slt rd, x0, rs1</code>	set if <b>g</b> reater <b>t</b> han <b>z</b> ero

- Changing the sign** of an operand is also quite common.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>neg rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow -rs1$	<code>sub rd, x0, rs1</code>	<b>n</b> egate <b>o</b> pposite



# Pseudo-instructions

## Arithmetic-logic (ii)

- This performs the **bitwise complement** of an operand.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>not rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow \sim rs1$	<code>xori rd, rs1, -1</code>	<b>not</b> bitwise logical NOT

- It is also useful to **rename instructions** that operate with an immediate.
  - This allows using the same mnemonic for register and immediate operands.

Instruction	Operation	Translation
<code>add rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 + sExt(imm)$	<code>addi rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>slt rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow if (rs1 <_s sExt(imm))$ $then (1) else (0)$	<code>slti rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>sltu rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow if (rs1 <_u sExt(imm))$ $then (1) else (0)$	<code>sltiu rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>and rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 \& sExt(imm)$	<code>andi rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>or rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1   sExt(imm)$	<code>ori rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>xor rd, rs1, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 \wedge sExt(imm)$	<code>xori rd, rs1, imm</code>



# Pseudo-instructions

## Shift

- Same for shift instructions with immediate operands

Instruction	Operation	Translation
<code>sll rd, rs1, imm<sub>5b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 \ll imm$	<code>slli rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>srl rd, rs1, imm<sub>5b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 \gg imm$	<code>srlui rd, rs1, imm</code>
<code>sra rd, rs1, imm<sub>5b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1 \ggg imm$	<code>sraui rd, rs1, imm</code>





# Pseudo-instructions

## Data transfer (i)

- It is common to **load/store data** with a given **absolute address**
  - Normally, PC-relative addressing is used in this case.
  - These pseudo-instructions avoid address calculations.

Instruction	Operation	Translation
<b>lb</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub>	$rd \leftarrow \text{sExt}(\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{7:0})$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>lb</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rd</i> )
<b>lh</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub>	$rd \leftarrow \text{sExt}(\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{15:0})$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>lh</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rd</i> )
<b>lw</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub>	$rd \leftarrow \text{sExt}(\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{31:0})$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>lw</b> <i>rd</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rd</i> )
<b>sb</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub> , <i>rs1</i>	$\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{7:0} \leftarrow rs2_{7:0}$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rs1</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>sb</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rs1</i> )
<b>sh</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub> , <i>rs1</i>	$\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{15:0} \leftarrow rs2_{15:0}$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rs1</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>sh</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rs1</i> )
<b>sw</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>32b</sub> , <i>rs1</i>	$\text{Mem}[\text{PC} + \text{imm}]_{31:0} \leftarrow rs2_{31:0}$	<b>auipc</b> <i>rs1</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>sw</b> <i>rs2</i> , <i>imm</i> <sub>11:0</sub> ( <i>rs1</i> )

(\*) If *imm*<sub>11</sub> is 1, the value of *imm*<sub>31:12</sub> will be incremented by 1



# Pseudo-instructions

## Data transfer (ii)

- To **copy data** from a register to another one.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>mv rd, rs1</code>	$rd \leftarrow rs1$	<code>addi rd, rs1, 0</code>	<b>move</b> register copy

- To **load a constant** into a register.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>li rd, imm<sub>12b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{sExt}(\text{imm})$	<code>addi rd, x0, imm</code>	load <b>i</b> mmediate 12 bits
<code>li rd, imm<sub>32b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{imm}$	<code>lui rd, imm<sub>31:12</sub>*</code> <code>addi rd, rd, imm<sub>11:0</sub></code>	load <b>i</b> mmediate 32 bits

- To **load the address** of a data located in memory.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>la rd, imm<sub>32b</sub></code>	$rd \leftarrow \text{PC} + \text{imm}$	<code>auipc rd, imm<sub>31:12</sub>*</code> <code>addi rd, rd, imm<sub>11:0</sub></code>	load <b>a</b> ddress 32 bits



# Pseudo-instructions

## Conditional branch (i)

- It is common to perform **any kind of comparison** in conditional branches:
  - In the **actual ISA**, there are only these comparison types:  $=, \neq, < y \geq$
  - For the others ( $\leq, >$ ), programmers **must change the operand order**.
  - There are pseudo-instructions to facilitate these:  $\leq, >$

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<b>ble</b> <i>rs1, rs2, imm<sub>13b</sub></i>	<i>if ( rs1 ≤<sub>s</sub> rs2 ) then</i> ( PC ← PC + sExt(imm <sub>12:1</sub> << 1) )	<b>bge</b> <i>rs2, rs1, imm</i>	branch if <b>l</b> ess than or <b>e</b> qual <b>s</b> igned
<b>bgt</b> <i>rs1, rs2, imm<sub>13b</sub></i>	<i>if ( rs1 &gt;<sub>s</sub> rs2 ) then</i> ( PC ← PC + sExt(imm <sub>12:1</sub> << 1) )	<b>blt</b> <i>rs2, rs1, imm</i>	branch if <b>g</b> reater <b>t</b> han <b>s</b> igned
<b>bleu</b> <i>rs1, rs2, imm<sub>13b</sub></i>	<i>if ( rs1 ≤<sub>u</sub> rs2 ) then</i> ( PC ← PC + sExt(imm <sub>12:1</sub> << 1) )	<b>bgeu</b> <i>rs2, rs1, imm</i>	branch if <b>l</b> ess than or <b>e</b> qual <b>u</b> nsigned
<b>bgtu</b> <i>rs1, rs2, imm<sub>13b</sub></i>	<i>if ( rs1 &gt;<sub>u</sub> rs2 ) then</i> ( PC ← PC + sExt(imm <sub>12:1</sub> << 1) )	<b>bltu</b> <i>rs2, rs1, imm</i>	branch if <b>g</b> reater <b>t</b> han <b>u</b> nsigned



# Pseudo-instructions

## Conditional branch (ii)

- In particular, **comparisons with 0** in branches are the most common

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>beqz rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 = 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>beq rs1, x0, imm</code>	branch if <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>bnez rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 \neq 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>bne rs1, x0, imm</code>	branch if <b>n</b> ot <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>bltz rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 < 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>blt rs1, x0, imm</code>	branch if <b>l</b> ess <b>t</b> han <b>z</b> ero
<code>bgez rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 \geq 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>bge rs1, x0, imm</code>	branch if <b>g</b> reater than or <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>blez rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 \leq 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>bge zero, rs1, imm</code>	branch if <b>l</b> ess than or <b>e</b> qual to <b>z</b> ero
<code>bgtz rs1, imm<sub>13b</sub></code>	<i>if</i> ( $rs1 > 0$ ) <i>then</i> ( $PC \leftarrow PC + sExt(imm_{12:1} \ll 1)$ )	<code>blt zero, rs1, imm</code>	branch if <b>g</b> reater <b>t</b> han <b>z</b> ero



# Pseudo-instructions

## Branch to function (ii)

- Register **ra** (alias of **x1**) is frequently used as the register to store the return address when branching to a function.
  - There are **pseudo-instructions that use it explicitly**.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<b>jalr</b> <i>rs1</i>	PC $\leftarrow$ rs1 ra $\leftarrow$ PC+4	<b>jalr</b> ra, rs1, 0	<b>jump and link register</b> branch to a function with base addressing
<b>jal</b> <i>imm<sub>21b</sub></i>	PC $\leftarrow$ PC + sExt(imm <sub>20:1</sub> $\ll$ 1) ra $\leftarrow$ PC+4	<b>jal</b> ra, imm	<b>jump and link</b> branch to a function with PC-relative addressing (nearby)
<b>call</b> <i>imm<sub>21b</sub></i>	PC $\leftarrow$ PC + sExt(imm <sub>20:1</sub> $\ll$ 1) ra $\leftarrow$ PC+4	<b>jal</b> ra, imm	<b>call</b> branch to a function with PC-relative addressing (nearby)
<b>call</b> <i>imm<sub>32b</sub></i>	PC $\leftarrow$ PC + imm ra $\leftarrow$ PC+4	<b>auipc</b> ra, imm <sub>31:12</sub> <sup>*</sup> <b>jalr</b> ra, ra, imm <sub>11:0</sub>	<b>call</b> branch to a function with PC-relative addressing (faraway)
<b>ret</b>	PC $\leftarrow$ ra	<b>jalr</b> x0, ra, 0	<b>return</b> Return from function



# Pseudo-instructions

## Others

- **Unconditional branches** are very useful, but these do not exist in the RISC-V ISA.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>j</code> <i>imm<sub>21b</sub></i>	$PC \leftarrow PC + \text{sExt}(\text{imm}_{20:1} \ll 1)$	<code>jal x0, imm</code>	jump unconditional branch (immediate)
<code>jr</code> <i>rs1</i>	$PC \leftarrow rs1$	<code>jalr x0, rs1, 0</code>	jump register unconditional branch (register)

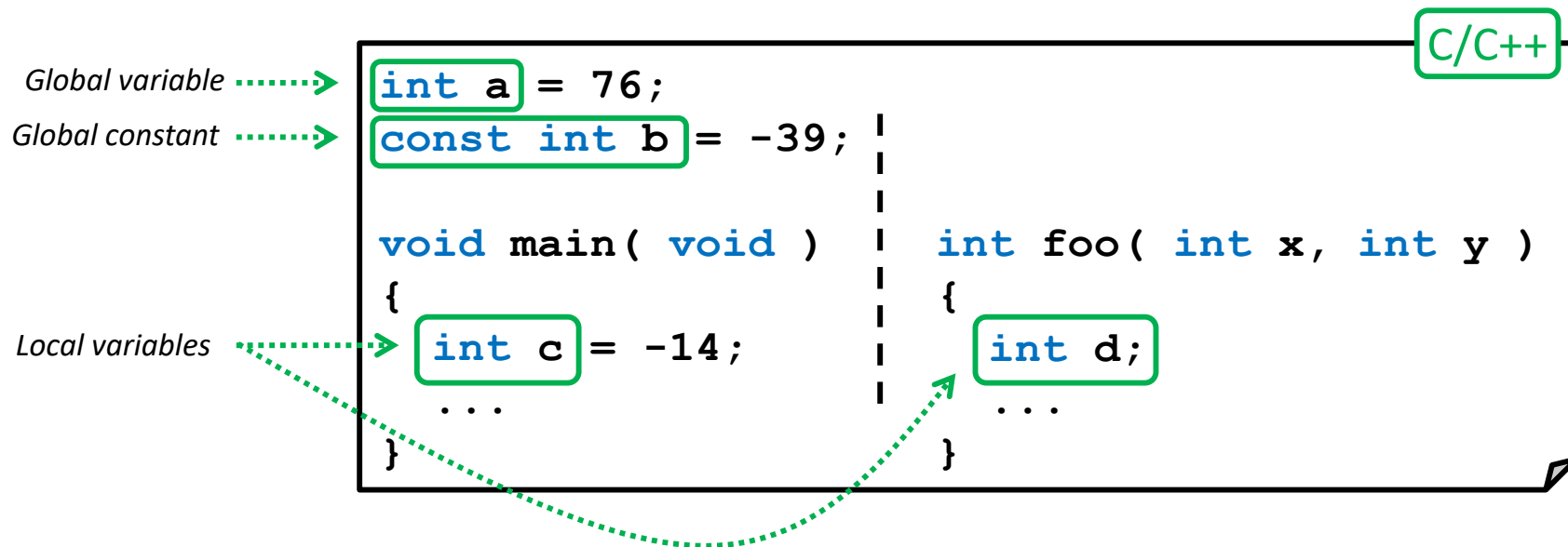
- Sometimes, it is useful **to do nothing**.

Instruction	Operation	Translation	Description
<code>nop</code>	---	<code>addi x0, x0, 0</code>	no operation does nothing



# Variables and constants

- Variables in C/C++ are **typed** and can be **global** or **local**.
  - A **global variable** is declared **outside of functions**
    - It is **visible from any point** of the program.
    - They **persist during the whole execution** of the program (static).
  - A **local variable** is declared **inside a function**.
    - It is **only visible inside the function** where it is declared.
    - By default, it only **persists during the execution of the function** (automatic).
    - The formal parameters of a function behave as local variables.





# Variables and constants

- There are no actual variables in assembly
  - There are data placed in memory, in registers or alternating both locations
    - To operate with them, they must be placed in registers because there are no instructions with operands in memory in RISC-V.
  - In the same way, the memory address or register where the data is located can change throughout the execution of the program.
    - Programmers must trace the location in which the data is at each time.
- There is no distinction between variables and constants in assembly.
  - If the data changes throughout the execution of the program, we consider it to be a variable.
  - If it does not change, we consider it a constant.
- Besides, constants can exist in memory or in the instruction itself (as immediate operands).





# Variables and constants

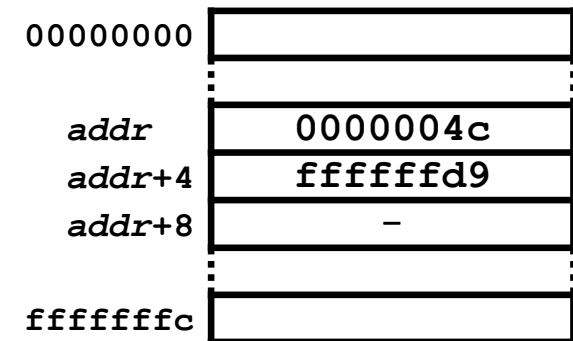
- In the case of **global variables/constants**, labels are used to avoid the use of explicit addresses in the assembly code.
  - These labels are equivalent to the name of the variables in assembly.

C/C++

```
int a = 76;
const int b = -39;
int c;
...
```

ASM

```
a: .word 76
b: .word -39
c: .space 4
...
```



Memory

- In assembly, a **constant value** may be expressed as
  - Decimal:
  - Hexadecimal, with the **0x** prefix:
  - Binary, with the **0b** prefix:

109

0x6d

0b1101101



# Variables and constants

- In short, **the input and output data** of a program can be handled as **global variables**.
  - Initially, the **input data** of the program **are located in memory**.
    - Because they have been **received from a peripheral**.
    - Because they have **an initial value** (determined by the programmer or calculated by a previous program).
  - The **output data** of the program will also have to be stored in **memory**.
    - To **transmit them to a peripheral** or to be used by another program.
  - Data addresses **will be fixed and known** by the programmer.
    - Therefore, input and output data **will be identified by labels**.
- Since **the number of registers is limited**:
  - The rest of the program data are mostly located in memory.
- But, since **accessing a register is much faster than accessing the memory**:
  - Data must be kept in register as long as possible
  - Since it is not possible to keep them all, the most used data are kept.



# Variables and constants

- Data placed in memory:
  - Must be loaded in registers to operate with them.
  - Once the result is calculated, it will be stored in memory.

C/C++

```
int a = 5;
...
a = a + 1;
...
```

$&a \rightarrow t0$   $a \rightarrow t1$

ASM

```
a: .word 5
...
la    t0, a
lw    t1, 0(t0)
addi  t1, t1, 1
sw    t1, 0(t0)
...
```

ASM

```
a: .word 5
...
lw    t1, a
addi  t1, t1, 1
sw    t1, a, t0
...
```

equivalent programs

Immediate constants will be calculated during the assembly process

```
a: .word 5
...
auipc t0, ...
addi  t0, t0, ...
lw    t1, 0(t0)
addi  t1, t1, 1
sw    t1, 0(t0)
...
```

```
a: .word 5
...
auipc t1, ...
lw    t1, ... (t1)
addi  t1, t1, 1
auipc t0, ...
sw    t1, ... (t0)
...
```



# Variables and constants

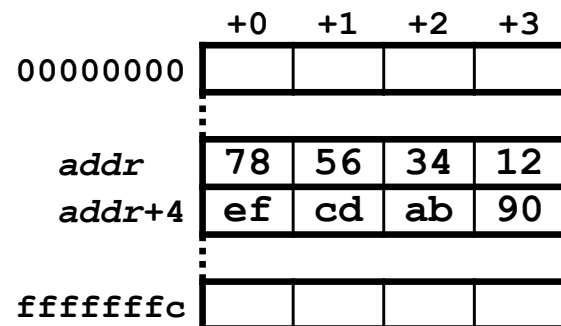
- As with the instructions, data are placed in memory following the same order that they have in the assembly program
  - When loading (during execution) data with different sizes that are consecutively stored, **alignment errors** may happen.
  - To **align them correctly**, the **.align** directive is used

ASM

```

a: .word 0x12345678
b: .word 0x90abcdef
...

```



Memory

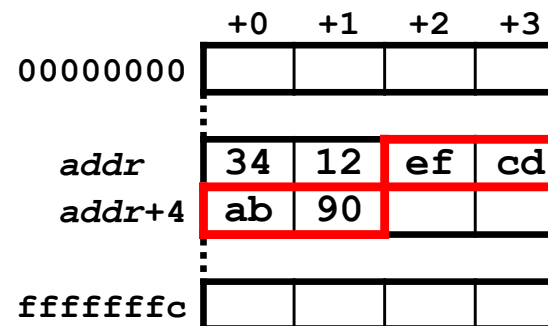
INCORRECT

ASM

```

a: .half 0x1234
b: .word 0x90abcdef
...

```



Memory

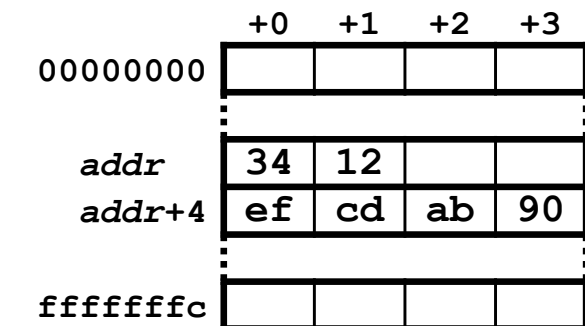
CORRECT

ASM

```

a: .half 0x1234
   .align 2
b: .word 0x90abcdef
...

```



Memory



# Variables and constants

## Types (i)

- In assembly, **variables are not explicitly typed**.
  - Data have a certain bit width, without a reference to how they are encoded.
  - Programmers should keep the coherence between the data encoding and the instructions that operate with it.
- The **equivalence** between C/C++ types and bit widths in assembler is:

C/C++ type	Width	Declaration	Load
[signed] char	8b = 1B	.byte / .space 1	lb
unsigned char	8b = 1B	.byte / .space 1	lbu
[signed] short [int]	16b = 2B	.half / .space 2	lh
unsigned short [int]	16b = 2B	.half / .space 2	lhu
[signed] int	32b = 4B	.word / .space 4	lw
unsigned int	32b = 4B	.word / .space 4	lw
pointer (address)	32b = 4B	.word / .space 4	lw



# Variables and constants

## Types (ii)

- The **load instruction** to use is different depending on the data width and whether they are signed or unsigned.

C/C++

```
unsigned char a = 5;  
...  
a = a + 1;  
...
```

C/C++

```
short a = 5;  
...  
a = a + 1;  
...
```

C/C++

```
int a = 5;  
...  
a = a + 1;  
...
```

$&a \rightarrow t0$   
 $a \rightarrow t1$

ASM

```
a: .byte 5  
...  
la t0, a  
lbu t1, 0(t0)  
addi t1, t1, 1  
sb t1, 0(t0)  
...
```

ASM

```
a: .half 5  
...  
la t0, a  
lh t1, 0(t0)  
addi t1, t1, 1  
sh t1, 0(t0)  
...
```

ASM

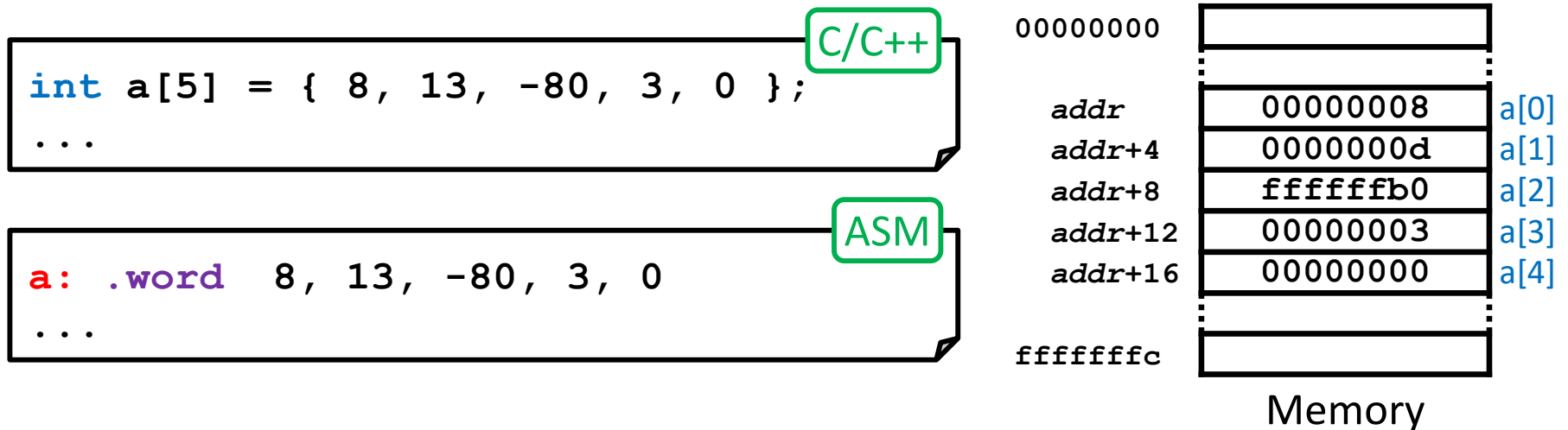
```
a: .word 5  
...  
la t0, a  
lw t1, 0(t0)  
addi t1, t1, 1  
sw t1, 0(t0)  
...
```



# Variables and constants

## Arrays (i)

- An **array** is a collection of data with the same size located in consecutive memory addresses, in increasing index order.
  - The **index** indicates the relative position of the data respect to the first one.



- To access an array element, its address has to be calculated:
  - It is the sum of the array **base address** plus an **offset**
    - The array base address is the address of its first element.
  - The **offset** in bytes is calculated:

$$\text{offset (bytes)} = \text{index} \times \text{data size (bytes)}$$



# Variables and constants

## Arrays (ii)

- The **offset** is calculated by the **programmer** if the **index is a constant**.
- If the **index is variable**, it has to be calculated by the **program**.

```

int a[5];
...
a[0] = a[1] + a[2];
...

```

C/C++

```

int a[5], i;
...
a[i] = a[i] + 1;
...

```

C/C++

$a \equiv \&a[0] \rightarrow t1$   
 $i \rightarrow t1$   
 $a[i] \rightarrow t2$

```

a: .space 20
...
la    t0, a
lw    t1, 4(t0)
lw    t2, 8(t0)
add   t1, t1, t2
sw    t1, 0(t0)
...

```

ASM

Loads a[1] →  
Loads a[2] →  
Stores a[0] →

```

a: .space 20
...
la    t0, a
slli  t1, t1, 2
add   t0, t0, t1
lw    t2, 0(t0)
addi  t2, t2, 1
sw    t2, 0(t0)
...

```

ASM

← Loads the array base address  
← Calculates the offset  $i*4$   
← Adds base and offset  
← Loads a[i]  
← Stores a[i]





# Variables and constants

## Arrays (iii)

- **Character strings** are a special case of an array.
  - They store **ASCII characters** in order.
  - Each ASCII character takes **one byte**.
  - An array ends with the **'\0' character (0x0)**, which acts as the **end-of-string watchdog** (it detects the end of the string).

```

const char a[] = "RISC-V";
...

```

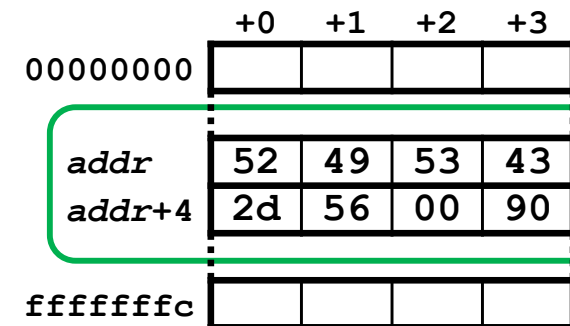
C/C++

```

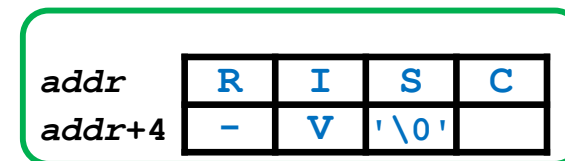
a: .string "RISC-V"
...

```

ASM



Memory





# Variables and constants

## Structures (i)

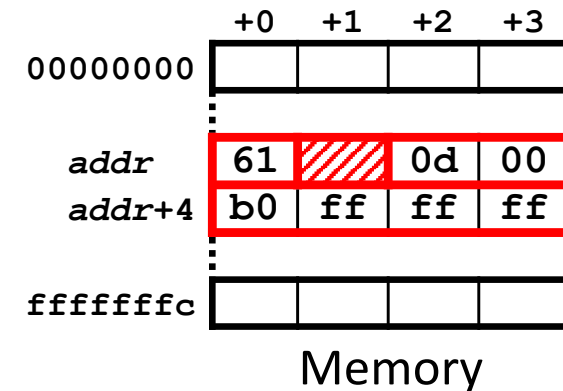
- A **structure** is a collection of data with different sizes located in consecutive memory addresses
  - In C/C++, each member of a structure is identified by a name.
  - The structure and its members must be **aligned** according to its size.

C/C++

```
struct baz {  
    char c;  
    short int si;  
    int i;  
} a = { 'a', 13, -80 };  
...
```

ASM

```
a:  
    .align 2  
    .byte 'a'  
    .align 1  
    .half 13  
    .word -80  
...
```



- To **access a structure member**, its address has to be calculated:
  - It is the sum of the structure **base address** plus an **offset**.
    - The structure base address is the address of its first member.
    - The **offset** in bytes is calculated depending on the member relative position.



# Variables and constants

## Structures (ii)

- The **offset** of each member is always a constant and it is calculated by the programmer.

C/C++

```

struct baz { char c; short int si; int i; } a;
...
a.i = a.c + a.si;
...

```

```

&a → t0
a.c → t1
a.si → t2
a.i → t3

```

ASM

```

a: .space 8
...
la t0, a
lb t1, 0(t0)
lh t2, 2(t0)
add t3, t1, t2
sw t0, 4(t0)
...

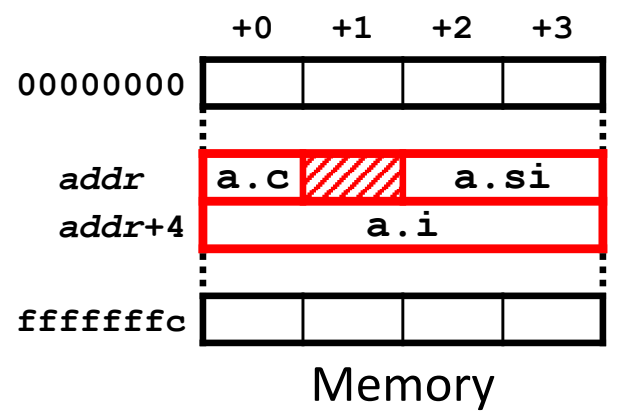
```

← Loads the structure base address

← loads a.c

← loads a.si

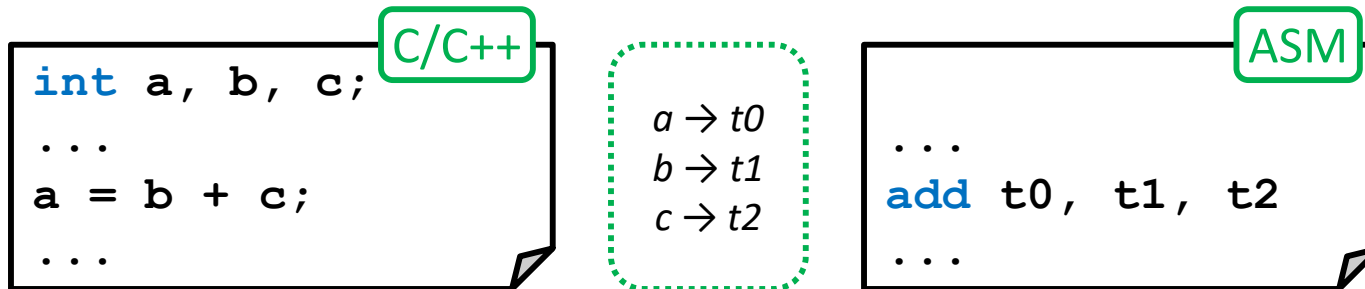
← stores a.i



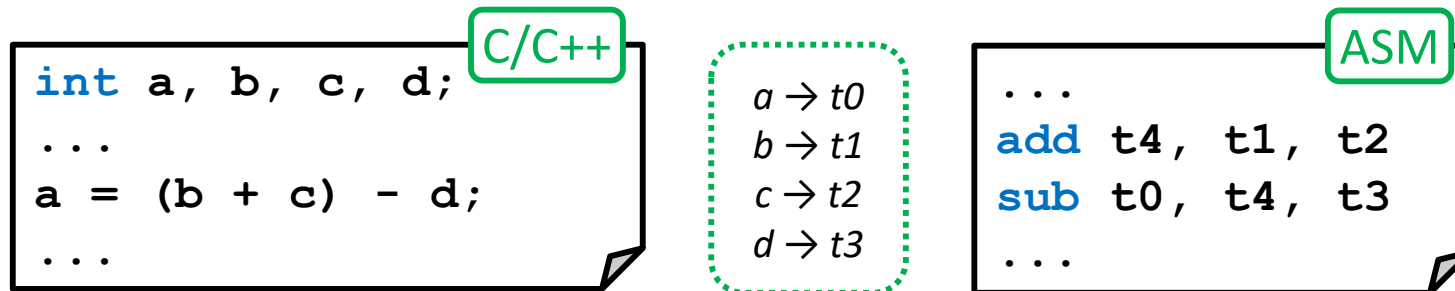


# Expressions

- **Simple expressions** in C/C++ require a **single instruction**
  - Using registers where operands have been previously loaded



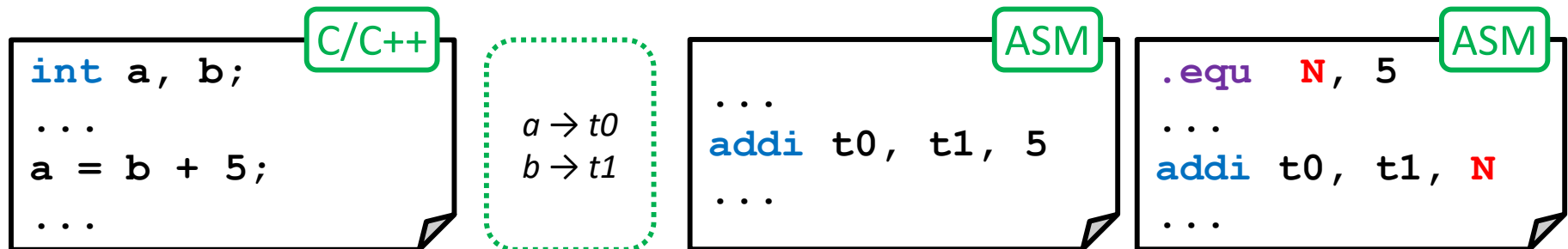
- **Compound expressions** require **more than one instruction**.
  - Using additional registers to store intermediate results



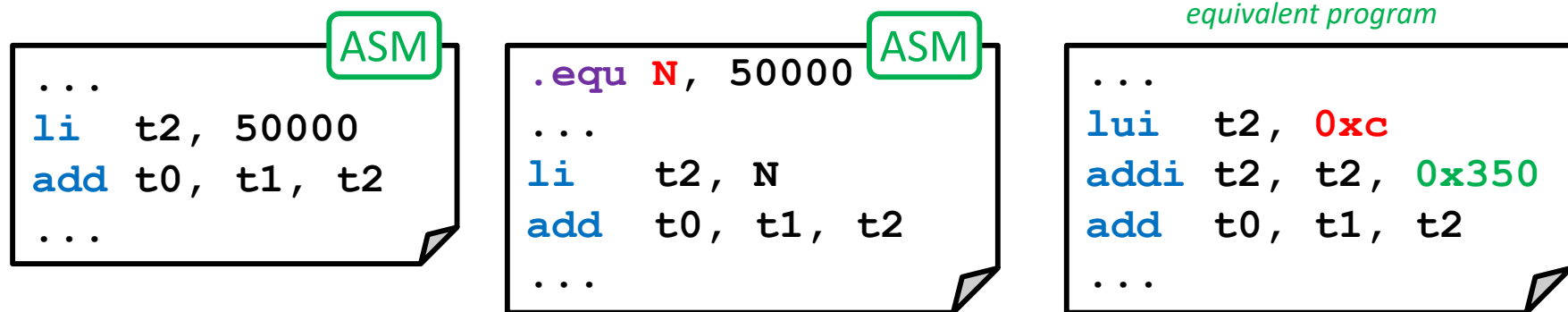


# Expressions

- **Explicit constants** can appear in a **symbolic** form:
  - If the **constant is short** ( $\leq 12b$ ), i.e., in the  $[-2048, +2047]$  range, it can be used directly, as an immediate operand.



- **Long constants** ( $> 12b$ ) must be **previously loaded in a register**
  - To avoid having to divide the constant explicitly (and correct its upper part in the case that bit 11 is 1), **the li pseudo-instruction can be used.**



$$50000_{10} = 0000c350_{16}$$



# Expressions

- Constants must also be loaded into registers when the instructions that use them do not accept immediate operands.
  - Programmers do not have to worry about the constant size, the `li` pseudo-instruction can handle this.

<pre>int a, b; ... a = b * 27; ...</pre>	C/C++	<pre>a → t0 b → t1</pre>	<pre>... li    t2, 27 mul   t0, t1, t2 ...</pre>	ASM	<p><i>equivalent program</i></p> <pre>... addi  t2, x0, 27 mul   t0, t1, t2 ...</pre>
<pre>int a, b; ... a = b * 50000; ...</pre>	C/C++	<pre>a → t0 b → t1</pre>	<pre>... li    t2, 50000 mul   t0, t1, t2 ...</pre>	ASM	<p><i>equivalent program</i></p> <pre>... lui   t2, 0xc addi  t2, t2, 0x350 add   t0, t1, t2 ...</pre>

$50000_{10} = 0000c350_{16}$



# Expressions

- Constants may be defined with expressions formed by other constants (explicit or symbolic) or other expressions.
  - During the assembly process, expressions will be reduced to an explicit numeric constant that will be translated into machine code.

C/C++

```
#define N 5
...
int a[N];
...
a[0] = a[1] + a[2];
...
```

$a \equiv \&a[0] \rightarrow t0$   
 $a[1] \rightarrow t1$   
 $a[2] \rightarrow t2$   
 $a[0] \rightarrow t3$

ASM

```
.equ N, 5
.equ LEN, 4
...
a: .space N*LEN
...
la t0, a
lw t1, 1*LEN(t0)
lw t2, 2*LEN(t0)
add t3, t1, t2
sw t3, 0*LEN(t0)
...
```

equivalent program

```
...
la t0, ...
lw t1, 4(t0)
lw t2, 8(t0)
add t1, t1, t2
sw t1, 0(t0)
...
```



# Code organization

- In assembly, **there are no restrictions** about how to **organize code**:
  - But it is advisable to perform **structured and procedural programming**.
  - **Avoid “spaghetti” programs** full of branches that are difficult to understand, debug and maintain.
- **Structured programming** implies programming in blocks:
  - Each block has a single input point and a single output point
  - A block can be:
    - **Linear**: code without branches.
    - **Conditional** (e.g. **if**, **switch**): blocks that are executed depending on the value of a condition.
    - **Iterative** (e.g. **for**, **while**): blocks that are executed several times depending on the value of a condition.
- **Procedural programming** implies dividing the code into smaller **reusable functions**:
  - They use **local data** and communicate using **parameters**.





# Code organization

## Linear blocks

- Formed by a **sequence of blocks** with no branches.

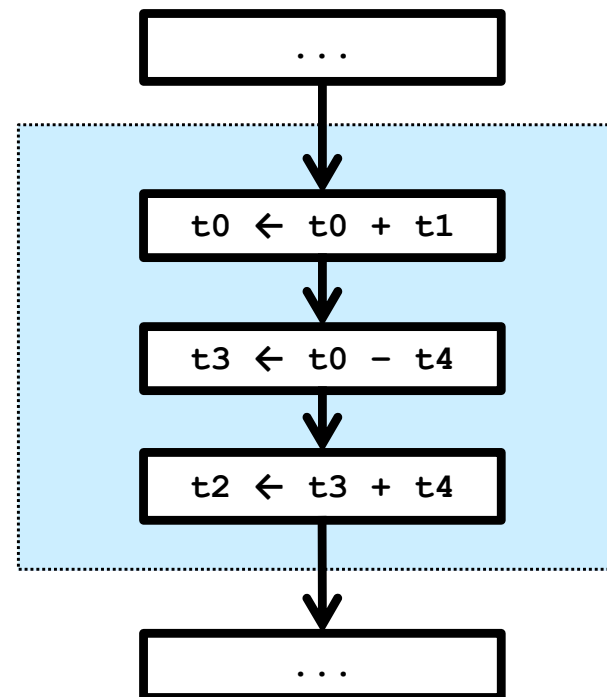
C/C++

```
...  
a = a + b;  
g = a - h;  
f = g + h;  
...
```

```
a → t0 b → t1  
f → t2 g → t3 h → t4
```

ASM

```
...  
add t0, t0, t1  
sub t3, t0, t4  
add t2, t3, t4  
...
```

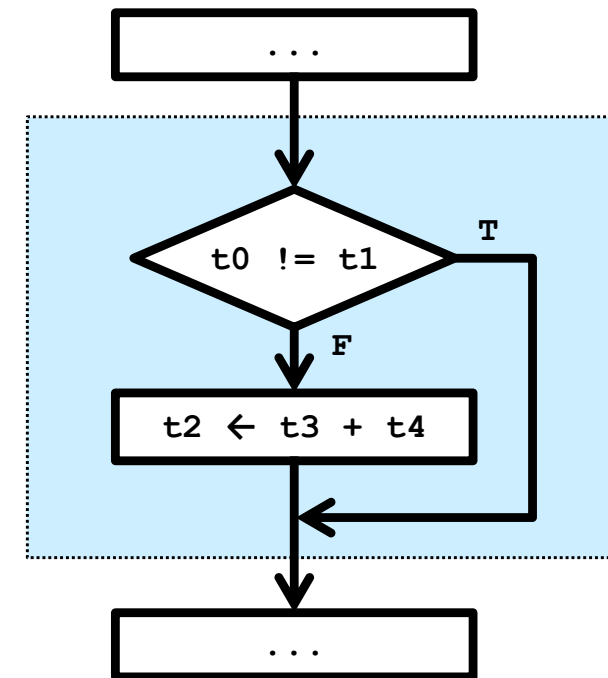
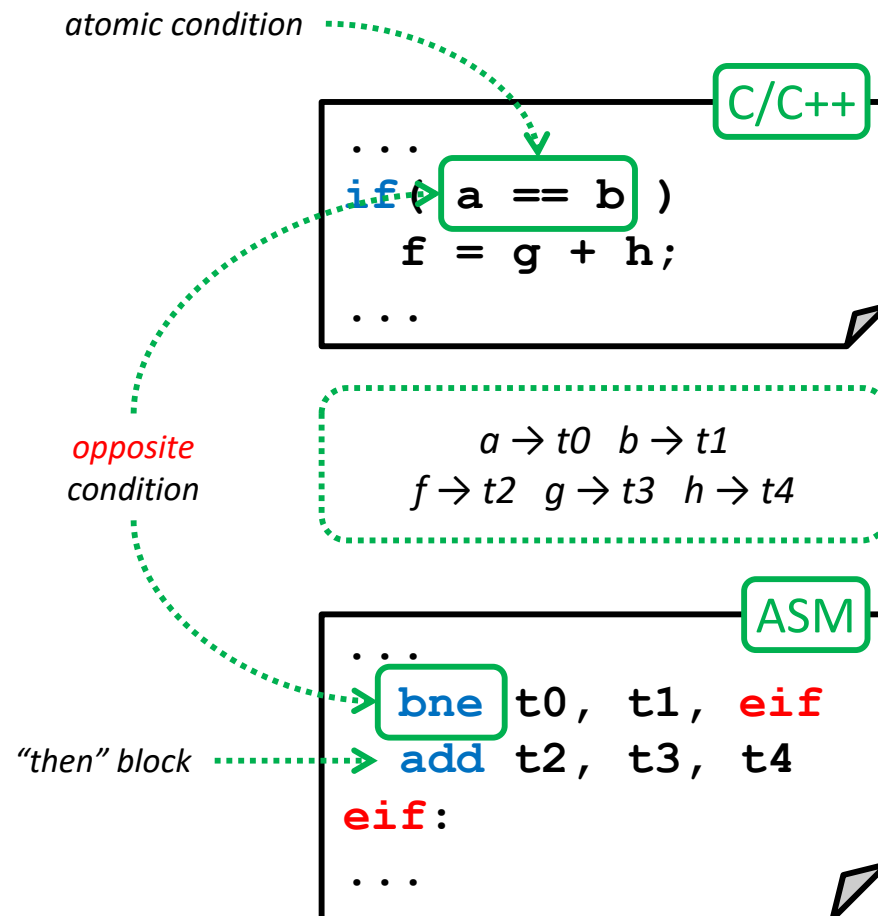




# Code organization

## Simple conditional *if-then* block (i)

- The block is **executed** depending on the value of a **condition**.





# Code organization

## Simple conditional *if-then* block (ii)

- When there is a **composed condition**, all the atomic conditions that form the compound condition are **checked individually**.

*conjunction* compound condition

```
...  
if ( a == b && a > 0 )  
    f = g + h;  
...
```

C/C++

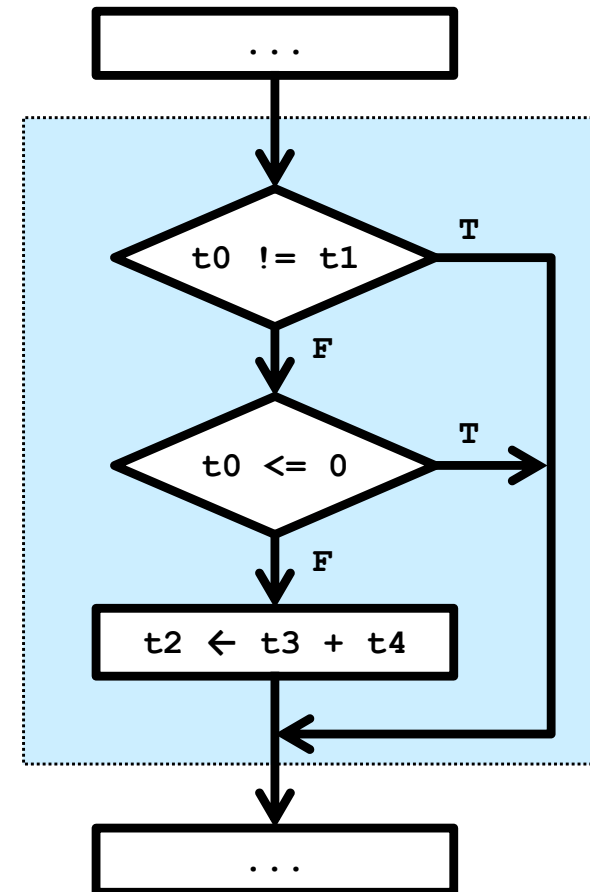
*opposite conditions*

```
a → t0  b → t1  
f → t2  g → t3  h → t4
```

*"then" block*

```
...  
bne t0, t1, eif  
blez t0, eif  
add t2, t3, t4  
eif:  
...
```

ASM





# Code organization

## Simple conditional *if-then* block (iii)

- When there is a **composed condition**, all the atomic conditions that form the compound condition are **checked individually**.

*disjunction* compound condition

```

...
if ( a == b || a > 0 )
    f = g + h;
...

```

**C/C++**

*same* 1<sup>st</sup> condition  
*opposite* 2<sup>nd</sup> condition

```

a → t0  b → t1
f → t2  g → t3  h → t4

```

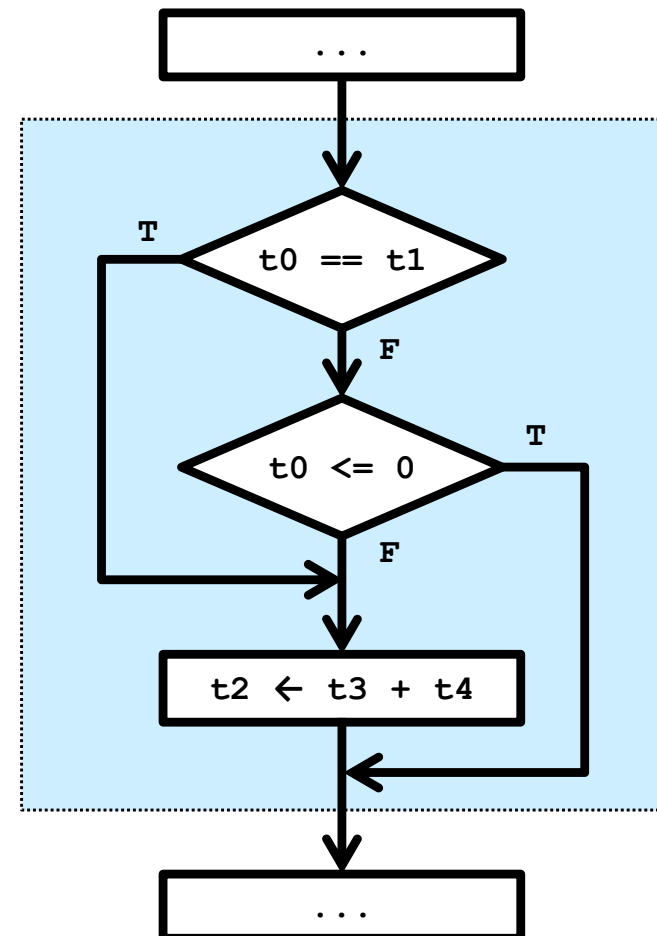
```

...
beq t0, t1, then
blez t0, elif
then:
add t2, t3, t4
elif:
...

```

**ASM**

"then" block





# Code organization

## Double conditional *if-then-else* block

- One of either two blocks is executed, depending on the value of a condition.

C/C++

```

...
if ( a == b )
    f = g + h;
else
    f = g - h;
...

```

*opposed condition*  
 a → t0   b → t1  
 f → t2   g → t3   h → t4

ASM

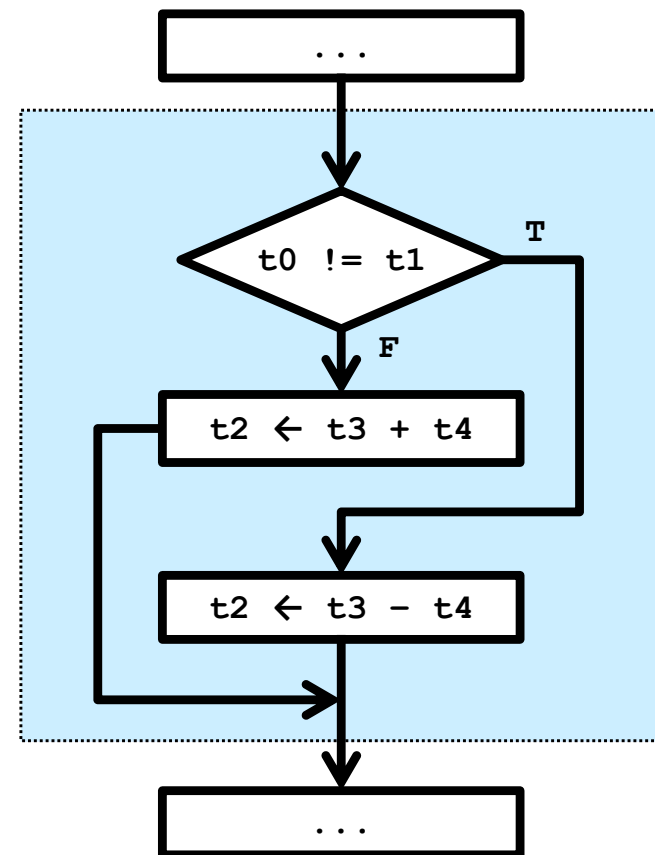
```

...
bne t0, t1, else
add t2, t3, t4
j eif
else:
sub t2, t3, t4
eif:
...

```

"then" block  
branch to the  
"else" block

"else" block





# Code organization

## Double conditional *if-then-else* block

- One of either two blocks is executed, depending on the value of a condition.

```

...
if ( a == b )
    f = g + h;
else if ( a > 0 )
    f = g - h;
...

```

C/C++

```

a → t0  b → t1
f → t2  g → t3  h → t4

```

opposed conditions

```

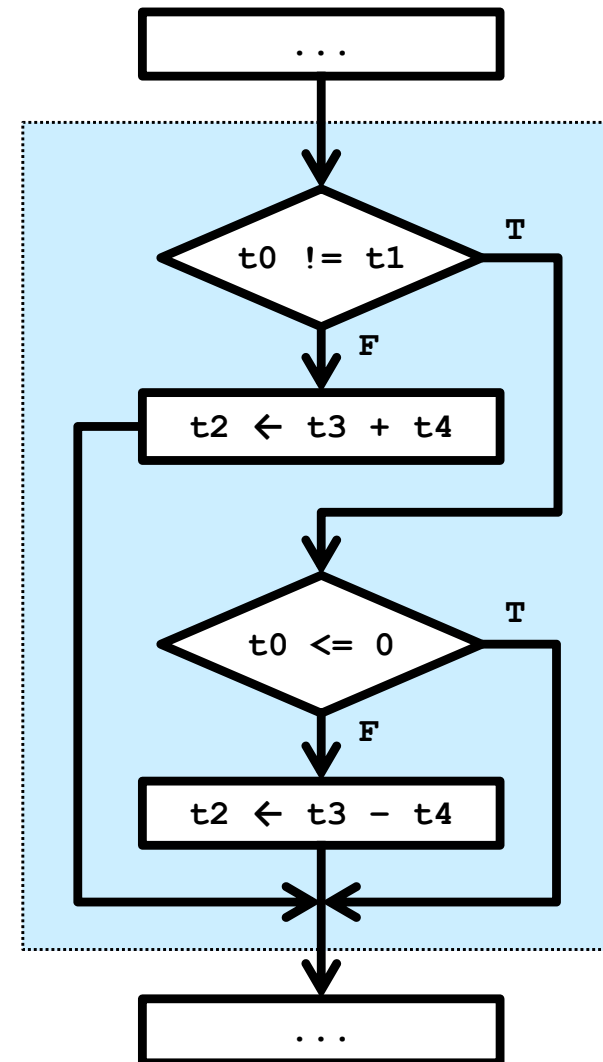
...
bne t0, t1, else
add t2, t3, t4
j eif
else:
blez t0, eif
sub t2, t3, t4
eif:
...

```

ASM

"then" block branch to the "else" block

"else" block





# Code organization

## Selective switch block

- One among several blocks is executed, depending on the value of a variable.

C/C++

```

...
switch( a )
{
    case 0:
        f = g + h;
        break;
    case 1:
        f = g - h;
        break;
    default:
        f = g;
}
...

```

$a \rightarrow t0$   $f \rightarrow t2$   
 $g \rightarrow t3$   $h \rightarrow t4$

ASM

```

switch: .word case0, case1
...
li    t5, 1
bgt  t0, t5, default
la   t5, switch
slli t6, t0, 2
add  t5, t5, t6
lw   t5, 0(t5)
jr   t5
case0:
add  t2, t3, t4
j    eswitch
case1:
sub  t2, t3, t4
j    eswitch
default:
mv   t2, t3
eswitch:
...

```

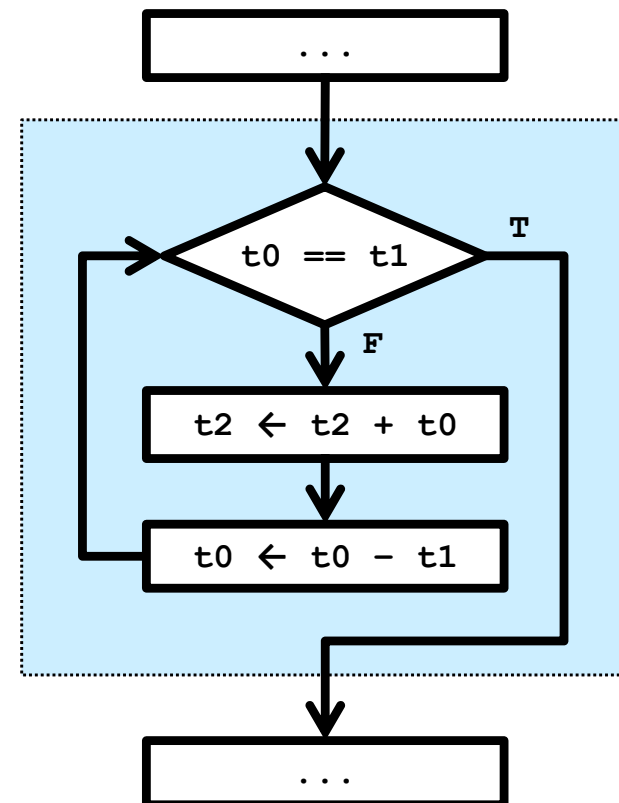
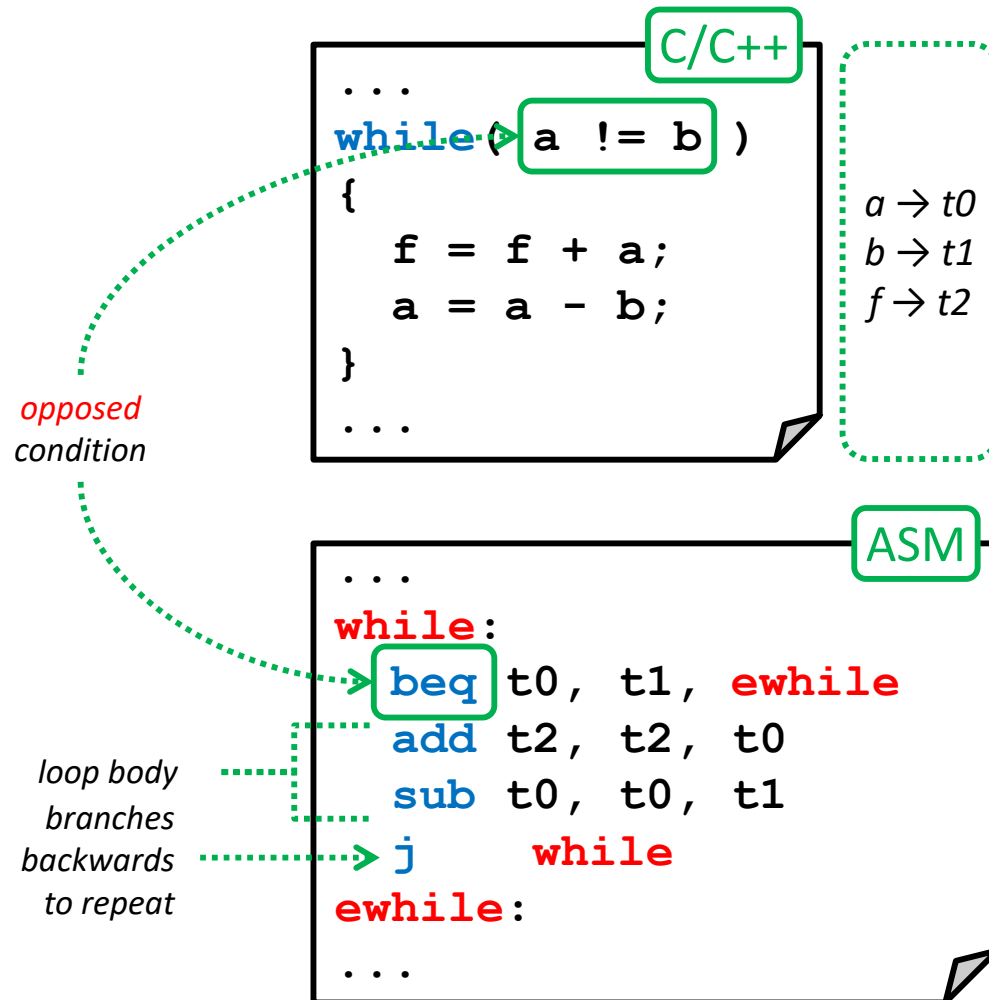
- Address array with the beginning of each block
- Branches to the default block
- Loads the array base address
- Calculates the offset
- Adds base and offset
- Loads branch address
- Branches to the appropriate block



# Code organization

## Iterative *while-do* block

- The execution of a block is repeated depending on the value of a condition that is evaluated **at the beginning of the block**.



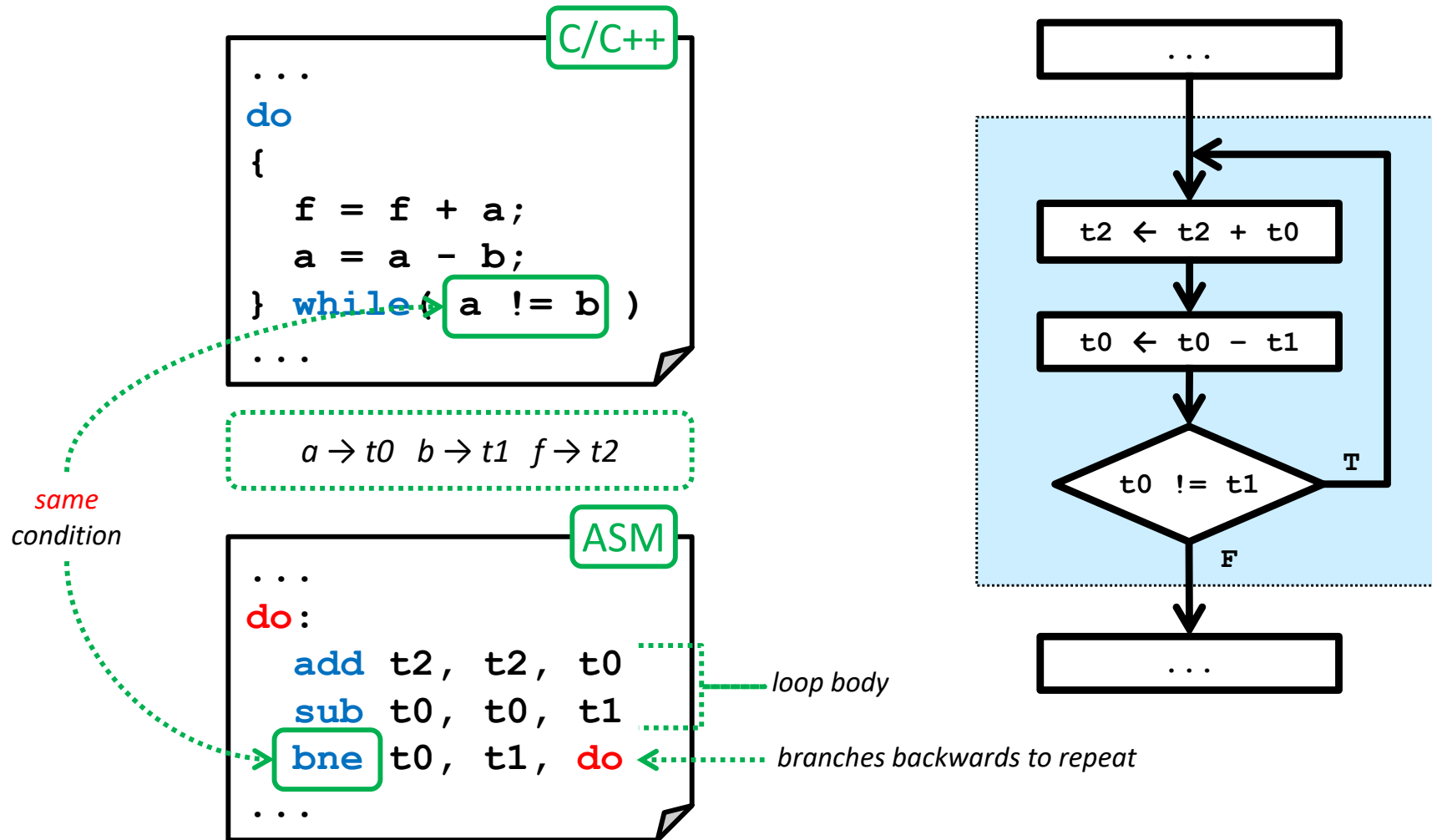




# Code organization

## Iterative *while-do* block

- The execution of a block is repeated depending on the value of a condition that is evaluated **at the beginning of the block**.





# Code organization

## Iterative *for* loop

- The execution of a block is repeated a certain number of times

C/C++

```
...  
for ( a=0; a<10; a=a+1 )  
{  
    f = f + b;  
}  
...
```

$a \rightarrow t0$   
 $b \rightarrow t1$   
 $f \rightarrow t2$

*opposed condition*

*initializes the index*

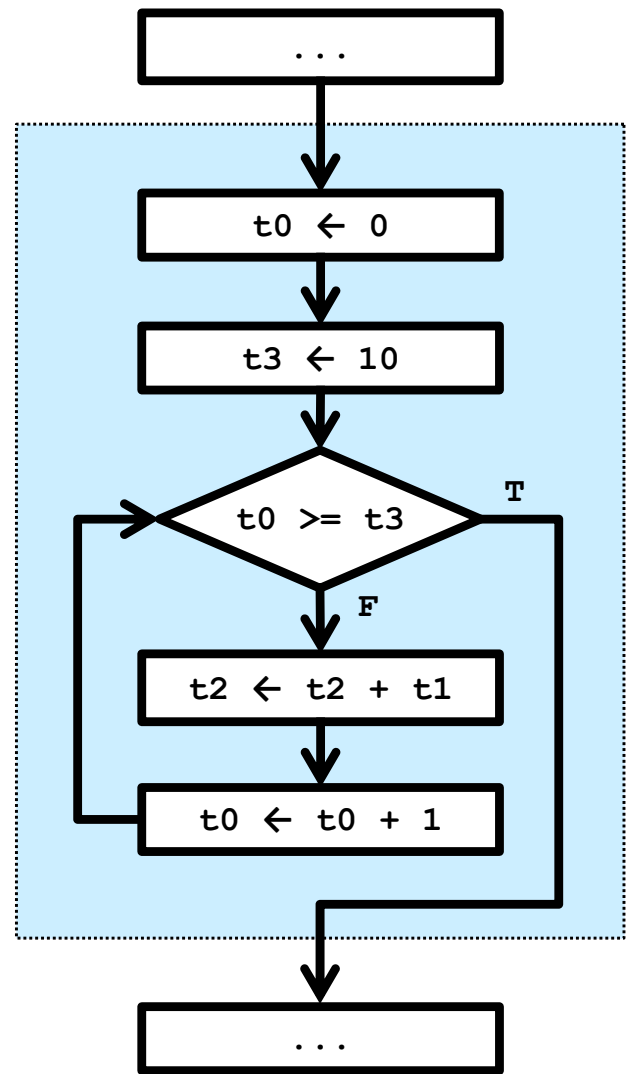
*loop body*

*increments index*

*branches backwards to repeat*

ASM

```
...  
mv t0, x0  
li t3, 10  
for:  
bge t0, t3, efor  
add t2, t2, t1  
add t0, t0, 1  
j for  
efor:  
...
```





# Functions

- **Functions\*** allow **reusing pieces of code** and make a program **more modular and readable**.
  - Functions are not declared in assembly.
  - They are identified by its code initial address with a label.
- When a function (caller) calls another one (callee):
  - The **caller function** must **pass the arguments** and **branch to the beginning** of the callee function.
  - The **callee function** must **return the result** and **branch to the instruction** that is located after the one that made the function call.
  - Since registers and memory are accessible by both functions, **the callee function should not modify anything** that is needed by the caller function.
- In assembler, **the argument and branch management is explicit**
  - Each architecture defines **a standard function call convention** that must be followed in order to guarantee interoperability.

(\* ) Also called procedures, methods or subroutines



# Functions

- The RISC-V registers are interchangeable, but in order to facilitate function management in assembly:
  - By convention, each register has a certain purpose, as well as an easy to remember alias.

# Reg.	Alias	Type	Usual purpose
x0	zero	N/A	Constant value 0
x1	ra	preserved	Stores the caller function return address
x2	sp	preserved	Stores the stack pointer address
x3	gp	N/A	Stores the global data region address of a program
x4	tp	N/A	Stores the local data region address of a thread
x5...x7	t0...t2	temporary	General purpose
x8	s0 fp	preserved	General purpose Stores the frame base address of a function
x9	s1	preserved	General purpose
x10...x11	a0...a1	temporary	Return values to the caller function
x12...x17	a2...a7	temporary	Pass arguments to the callee function
x18...x27	s2...s11	preserved	General purpose
x28...x31	t3...t6	temporary	General purpose



# Functions

## Call and return (i)

- By convention, a **caller function** in RISC-V assembly use:
  - Registers **a0 ... a7** to pass up to 8 arguments to the callee function.
  - Register **ra** to store the return address.
  - Instruction **jal/jalr** to call (branch to) the callee function.

```
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

C/C++

```
a: .space 4
...
la  t0, a
lw  a0, 0(t0)
jal ra, inc
sw  a0, 0(t0)
...
inc:
add a0, a0, 1
jalr x0, ra, 0
...
```

ASM

← loads argument in a0  
← branches to the callee function, saving the return address in ra



# Functions

## Call and return (ii)

- By convention, a **callee function** in RISC-V assembly use:
  - Register **a0** to return the result to the caller function (if the return data is 64b, then **a1** will also be used for the upper part).
  - Instruction **jalr** to return to the caller function.

```
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

C/C++

```
a: .space 4
...
la  t0, a
lw  a0, 0(t0)
jal ra, inc
sw  a0, 0(t0)
...
inc:
add a0, a0, 1
jalr x0, ra, 0
...
```

ASM

The caller function stores the returned result in a0

Stores the result into a0

Returns to the caller function



# Functions

## Call and return (iii)

- Since branching/returning to/from functions is very common:
  - The **caller function** can use the **call** pseudo-instruction
  - The **callee function** can use the **ret** pseudo-instruction

C/C++

```
int a;  
...  
a = inc( a );  
...  
int inc( int x )  
{  
    return x+1;  
}  
...
```

ASM

```
a: .space 4  
...  
la    t0, a  
lw    a0, 0(t0)  
call  inc  
sw    a0, 0(t0)  
...  
inc:  
add   a0, a0, 1  
ret  
...
```

equivalent program

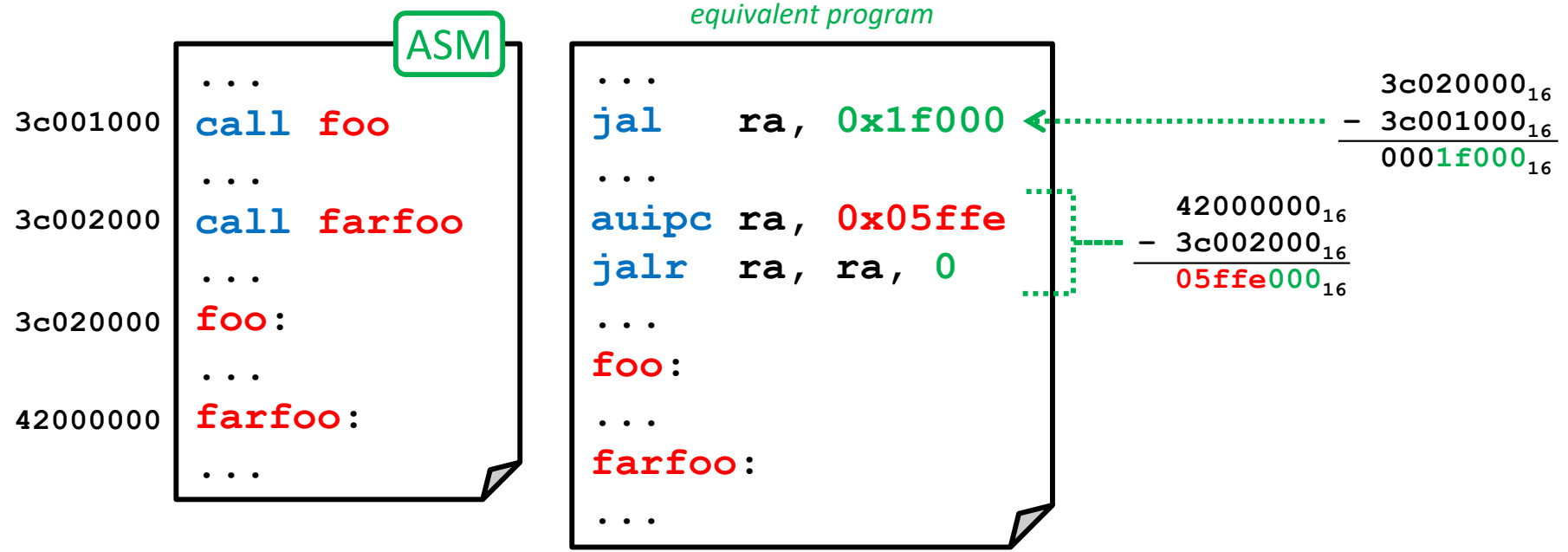
```
a: .space 4  
...  
la    t0, a  
lw    a0, 0(t0)  
jal   ra, inc  
sw    a0, 0(t0)  
...  
inc:  
addi  a0, a0, 1  
jalr  x0, ra, 0  
...
```



# Functions

## Call and return (iv)

- The **call** pseudo-instruction is translated in the assembly process:
  - To a **jal** instruction, if the function is within a  $\pm 1\text{MiB}$  range.
    - The offset of this instruction is C2 21b PC-relative.
  - To the **auipc+jalr** instructions, if the function is located in a further range.
  - This exempts the programmer from knowing the location of the callee function.







# Functions

## Parameters by value vs. reference (i)

- The **input parameters** are passed **by value** to the callee function:
  - The **caller function** passes, as an argument, a **copy of the variable's value** to the callee function.
  - If that value has to be updated, it is done by the caller function.

```
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

```
a: .space 4
...
la    t0, a
lw    a0, 0(t0)
call  inc
sw    a0, 0(t0)
...
inc:
add   a0, a0, 1
ret
...
```

The caller function *copies* the value of *a* into *a0*

The caller function *updates* the value of *a*

*x* is declared as an *input parameter*



# Functions

## Parameters by value vs. reference (ii)

- The **output parameters** are passed **by reference** to the callee function:
  - The **caller function** passes, as an argument, **the address of the variable that has to be updated** to the callee function.
  - The update of the variable's value is done by the callee function.

```
int a;  
...  
inc( a );  
...  
void inc( int & x )  
{  
    x = x + 1;  
}  
...
```

C++

```
a: .space 4  
...  
la    a0, a  
call  inc  
...  
inc:  
lw    t0, 0(a0)  
add   t0, t0, 1  
sw    t0, 0(a0)  
ret  
...
```

ASM

The caller function *copies the address of a into a0*

The callee function *updates the value of a*

*x is declared as an output parameter*



# Functions

## Parameters by value vs. reference (iii)

- The concept of **C/C++ pointer** is an abstraction of the **address of a variable**.
  - C output parameters are pointer-type arguments

C++

```
int a;  
...  
inc( a );  
...  
void inc( int & x )  
{  
    x = x + 1;  
}
```

C

```
int a;  
...  
inc( &a );  
...  
void inc( int *x )  
{  
    *x = *x + 1;  
}
```

ASM

```
a: .space 4  
...  
la    a0, a  
call  inc  
...  
inc:  
lw    t0, 0(a0)  
add   t0, t0, 1  
sw    t0, 0(a0)  
ret
```



# Functions

## Parameters by value vs. reference (iv)

- Arrays are passed **by reference** to the callee function

C/C++

```
int a[10];
...
incArray( a, 10 );
...
void incArray( int x[], int n )
{
    int i;

    for( i=0; i<n; i=i+1 )
        x[i] = x[i] + 1;
}
```

C/C++

```
int a[10];
...
incArray( a, 10 );
...
void incArray( int *x, int n )
{
    int i;

    for( i=0; i<n; i=i+1 )
        x[i] = x[i] + 1;
}
```

ASM

```
a: .space 4*10
...
la    a0, a
li    a1, 10
call  incArray
...
incArray:
    mv    t0, zero
for:
    bge   t0, a1, efor
    sll   t1, t0, 2
    add   t1, a0, t1
    lw    t2, 0(t1)
    add   t2, t2, 1
    sw    t2, 0(t1)
    add   t0, t0, 1
    j     for
efor:
    ret
```



# Functions

## Temporary vs. preserved registers (i)

- The **callee function** may use the **same registers** that are used by the caller function.
  - If the callee function **changes a register used by the caller function**, the program will fail.

```
int a;  
...  
a = inc( a );  
...  
int inc( int x )  
{  
    return x+1;  
}  
...
```

C/C++

```
INCORRECT  
a: .space 4  
...  
la    t0, a  
lw    a0, 0(t0)  
call  inc  
sw    a0, 0(t0)  
...  
inc:  
add   t0, a0, 1  
mv    a0, t0  
ret  
...
```

ASM

The caller function uses `t0` to store the address of `a` temporarily

But the value of `t0` has changed after the call and now it does not contain the address of `a`

The callee function uses `t0` to store the calculation result temporarily

# Functions

## Temporary vs. preserved registers (ii)



- Registers are classified into preserved and temporary, by convention.
- **Preserved registers** (*callee-saved*): The programmer must guarantee that its content does not change after calling a function.
  - Its **value after returning** from the callee function **must be the same** that the one it had before.
  - Therefore, whether the register is not updated in the callee function, or the callee function saves the register at the beginning and restores it at the end.
  - The preserved registers are: **s1 ... s11, sp, ra, s0/fp**
- **Temporary registers** (*caller-saved*): Their content may be updated without restrictions in a function call.
  - Its **value after returning** from the callee function **may be different** from the one it had before.
  - If the caller function needs to keep its value, it must be saved before calling the function and restored after returning.
  - The temporary registers are: **t0 ... t6, a0 ... a7**



# Functions

## Temporary vs. preserved registers (iii)

- According to this convention, the correct approach would be that the caller function uses preserved registers when a data has to be kept.
  - The callee function may use temporary registers, but if it uses preserved registers, these will have to be saved and restored accordingly.

```
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

C/C++

```
CORRECT
a: .space 4
...
la    s0, a
lw    a0, 0(s0)
call  inc
sw    a0, 0(s0)
...
inc:
add   t0, a0, 1
mv    a0, t0
ret
...
```

ASM

The caller function uses s0 to store the address of a temporarily

If inc is correctly programmed, s0 will still contain the address of a

The callee function does not use s0 and therefore its value will not change during its execution

# Functions

## Stack management (i)



- The **stack** is a **memory region** in which **data can be stored** temporarily without knowing the effective address where they are located:
  - Registers that must be preserved.
  - Arguments of a function (when there are more than 8).
  - Local variables of a function when there are not enough registers.
- **Two operations** can be performed on a stack:
  - **Push**: **stores a data** on the top of the stack.
  - **Pop**: **recovers a data** placed at the top of the stack.
  - **Stacks work as LIFO structures** (Last-in First-out): data are written following a certain order and are read in the reverse order.
- In the RISC-V assembly, by convention:
  - The stack is **descending**: **it grows towards lower memory positions**.
  - The **sp** register is used to keep the **address of the top of the stack**, which always **contains the last pushed data**.





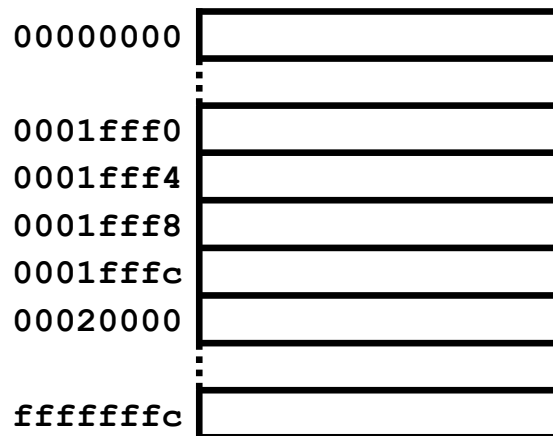
# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

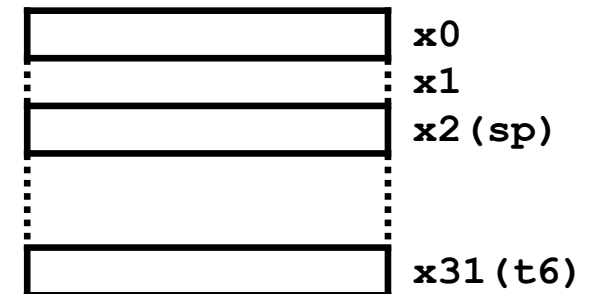
- **Pushing a data** implies:
  - **Decrementing `sp`** (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - **Storing** the data on the **top** of the stack.

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
li    t6, 0x1234  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
mv    t6, zero  
...  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 4  
...  
li    t6, 0x9abc  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...
```



Memory



Registers

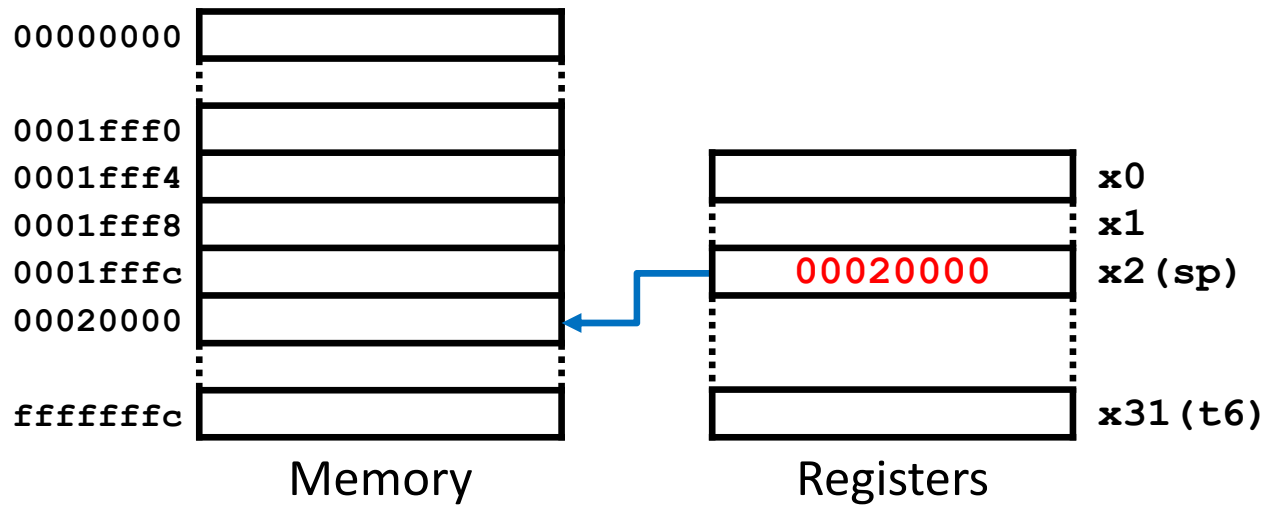


# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

- Pushing a data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - Storing the data on the `top` of the stack.

```
ASM
...
li sp, 0x20000
...
li t6, 0x1234
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
mv t6, zero
...
lw t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 4
...
li t6, 0x9abc
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
...
```



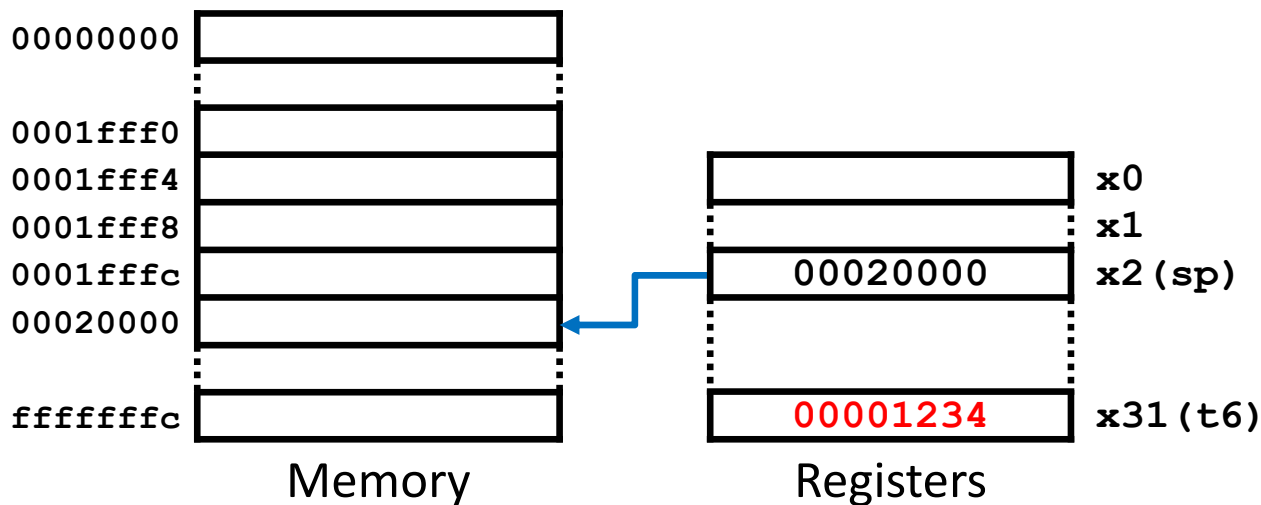


# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

- Pushing a data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - Storing the data on the `top` of the stack.

```
ASM
...
li sp, 0x20000
...
li t6, 0x1234
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
mv t6, zero
...
lw t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 4
...
li t6, 0x9abc
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
...
```



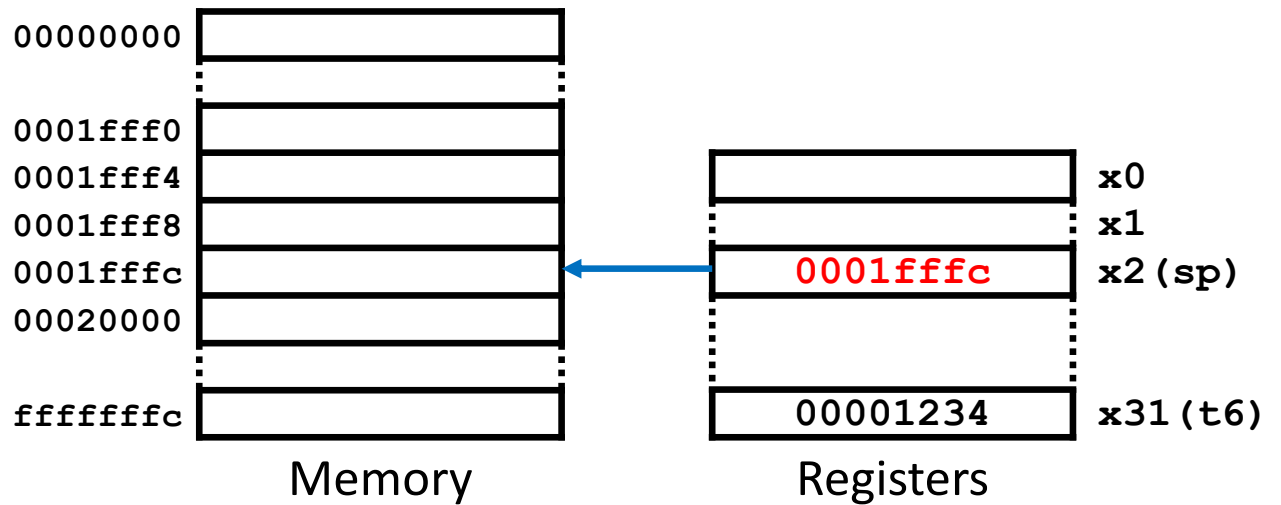


# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

- Pushing a data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - Storing the data on the `top` of the stack.

```
ASM
...
li sp, 0x20000
...
li t6, 0x1234
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
mv t6, zero
...
lw t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 4
...
li t6, 0x9abc
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
...
```



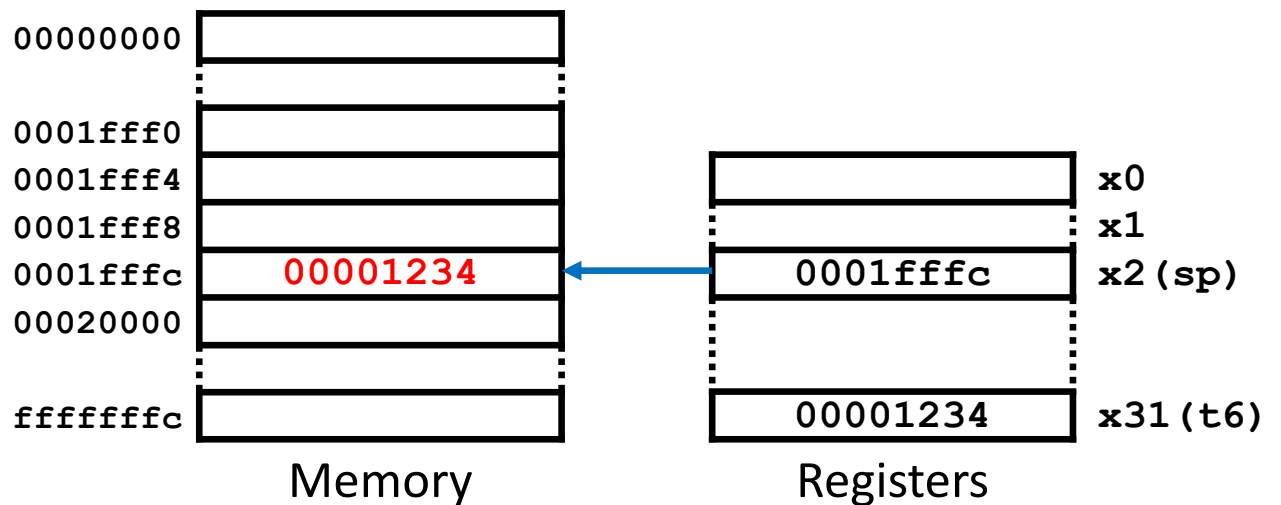


# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

- Pushing a data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - Storing the data on the `top` of the stack.

```
ASM
...
li sp, 0x20000
...
li t6, 0x1234
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
mv t6, zero
...
lw t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 4
...
li t6, 0x9abc
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
...
```



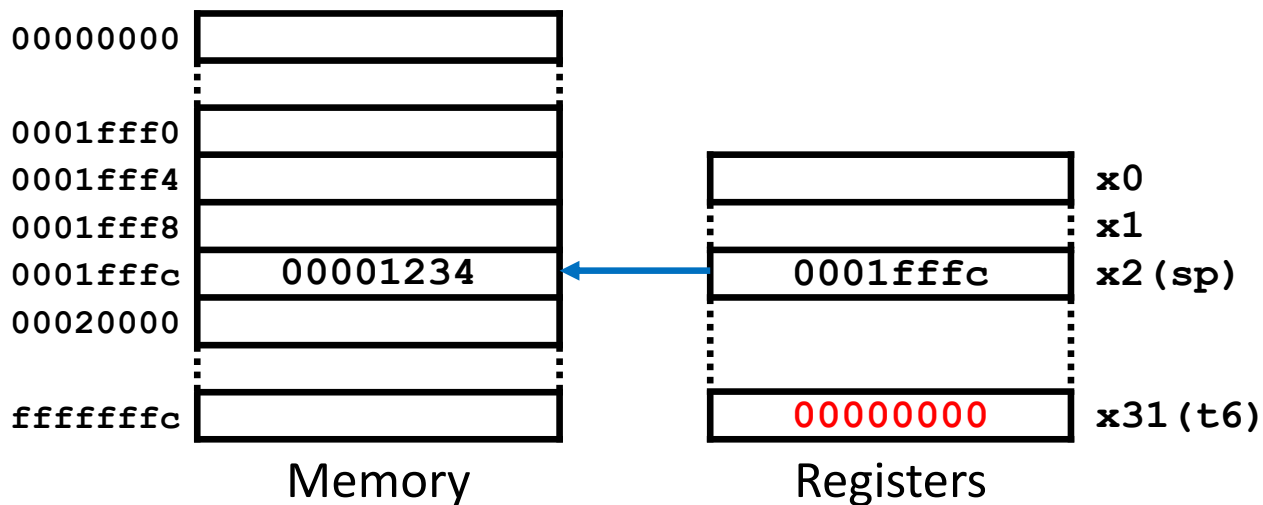


# Functions

## Stack management (ii)

- Pushing a data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).
  - Storing the data on the `top` of the stack.

```
ASM
...
li sp, 0x20000
...
li t6, 0x1234
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
mv t6, zero
...
lw t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 4
...
li t6, 0x9abc
add sp, sp, -4
sw t6, 0(sp)
...
```





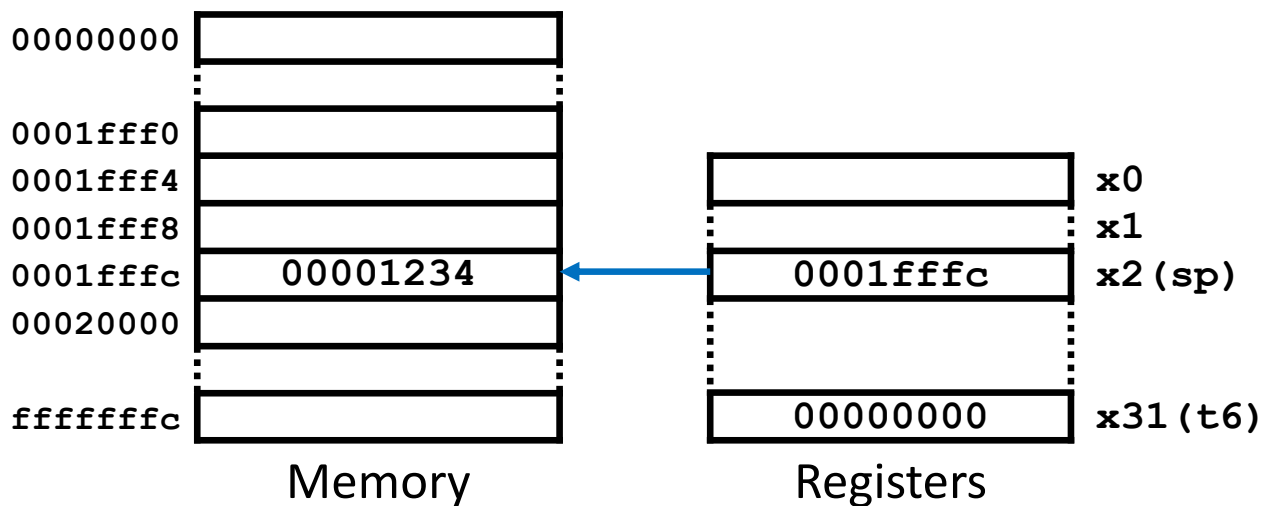
# Functions

## Stack management (iii)

- **Popping a data** implies:
  - Loading the data placed at the **top** of the stack.
  - Incrementing **sp** (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
li    t6, 0x1234  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
mv    t6, zero  
...  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 4  
...  
li    t6, 0x9abc  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...
```



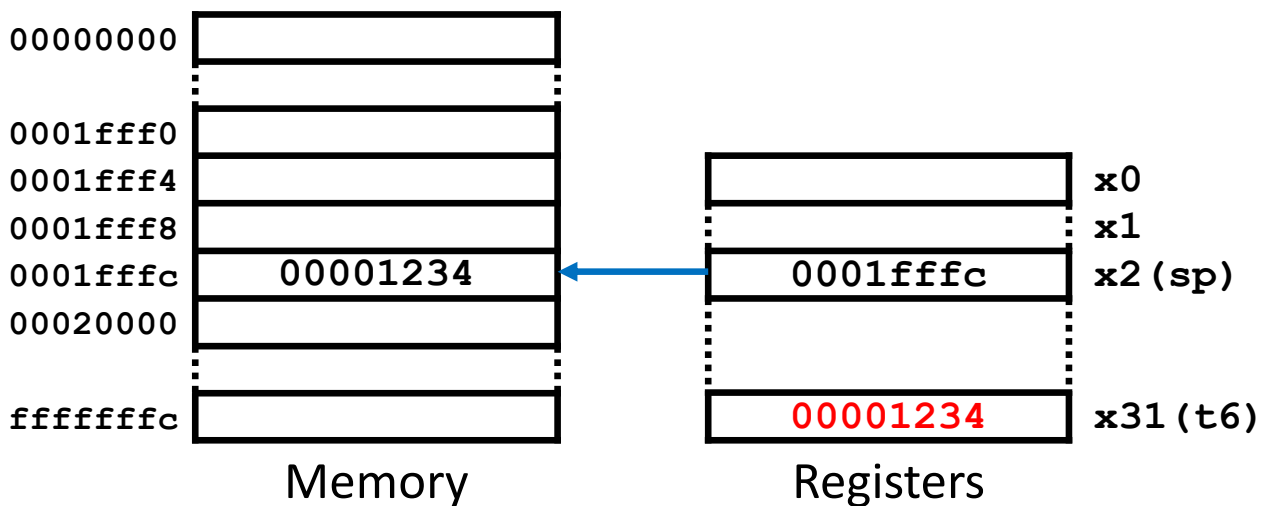


# Functions

## Stack management (iii)

- **Popping a data** implies:
  - Loading the data placed at the **top** of the stack.
  - Incrementing **sp** (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
li    t6, 0x1234
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
mv    t6, zero
...
lw    t6, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 4
...
li    t6, 0x9abc
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
```





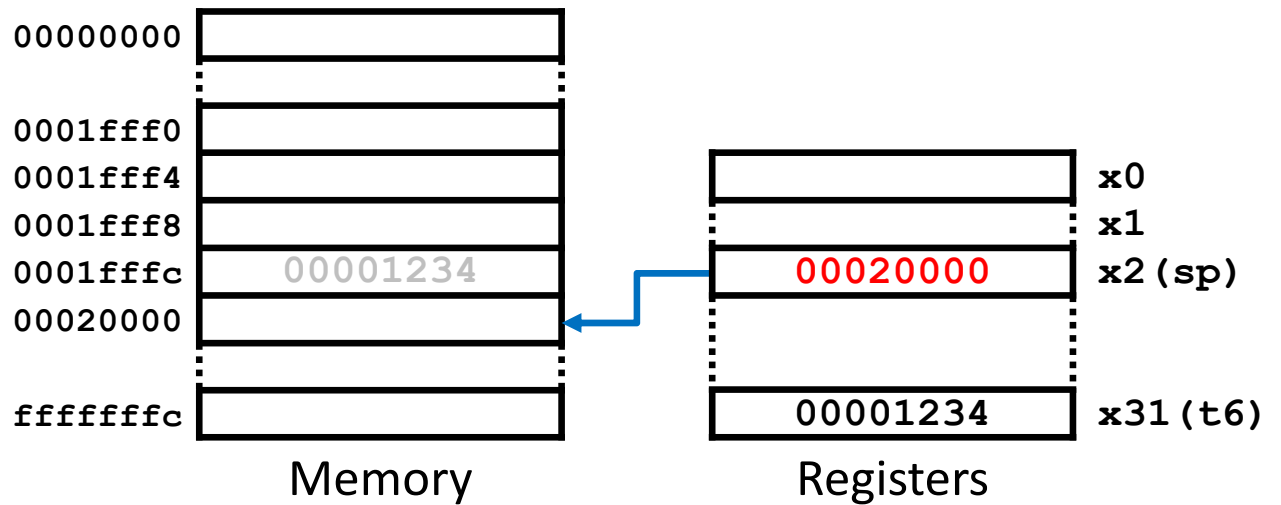


# Functions

## Stack management (iii)

- **Popping a data** implies:
  - Loading the data placed at the **top** of the stack.
  - Incrementing **sp** (the number of bytes of the data, usually 4).

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
li    t6, 0x1234  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
mv    t6, zero  
...  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 4  
...  
li    t6, 0x9abc  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...
```





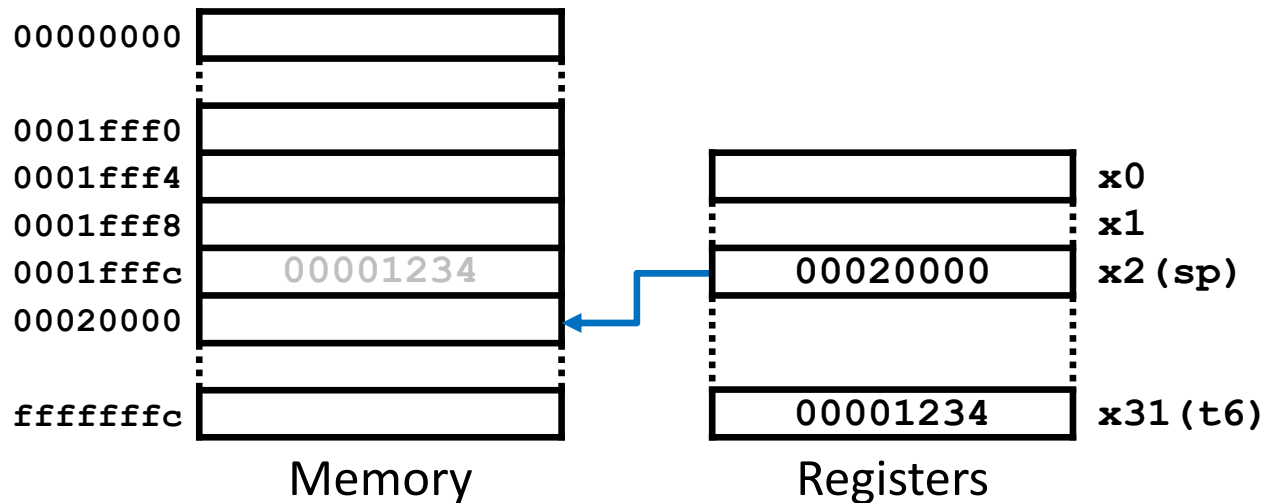
# Functions

## Stack management (iv)

- The popped data remain in the memory
  - But they should not be used anymore because they will be overwritten by the next pushed data.

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
li    t6, 0x1234  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
mv    t6, zero  
...  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 4  
...  
li    t6, 0x9abc  
add   sp, sp, -4  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...
```



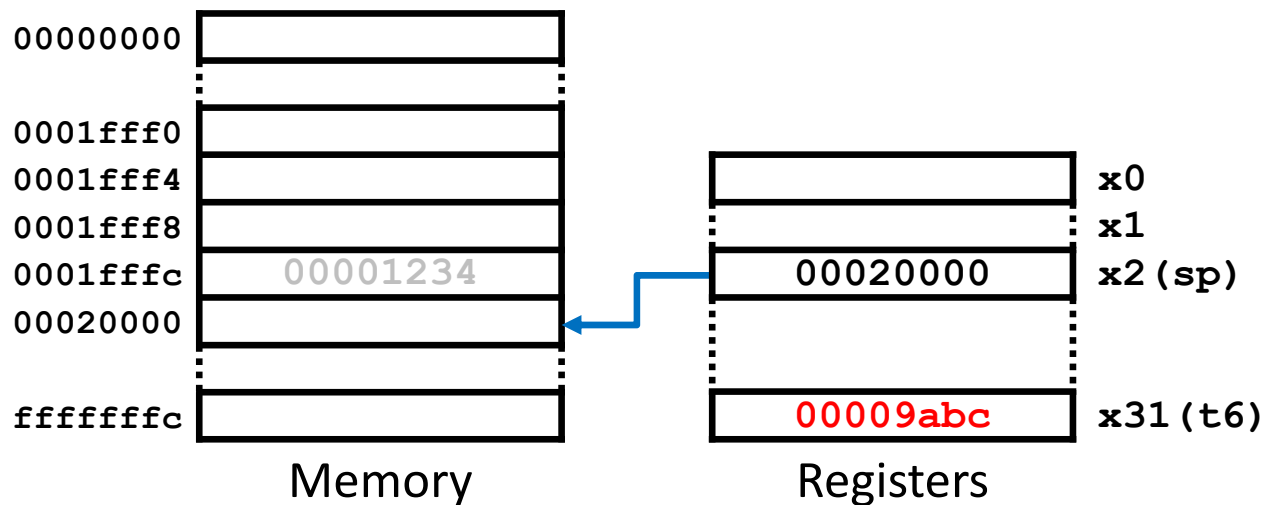


# Functions

## Stack management (iv)

- The **popped data remain in the memory**
  - But they should not be used anymore because they will be overwritten by the next pushed data.

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
li    t6, 0x1234
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
mv    t6, zero
...
lw    t6, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 4
...
li    t6, 0x9abc
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
```



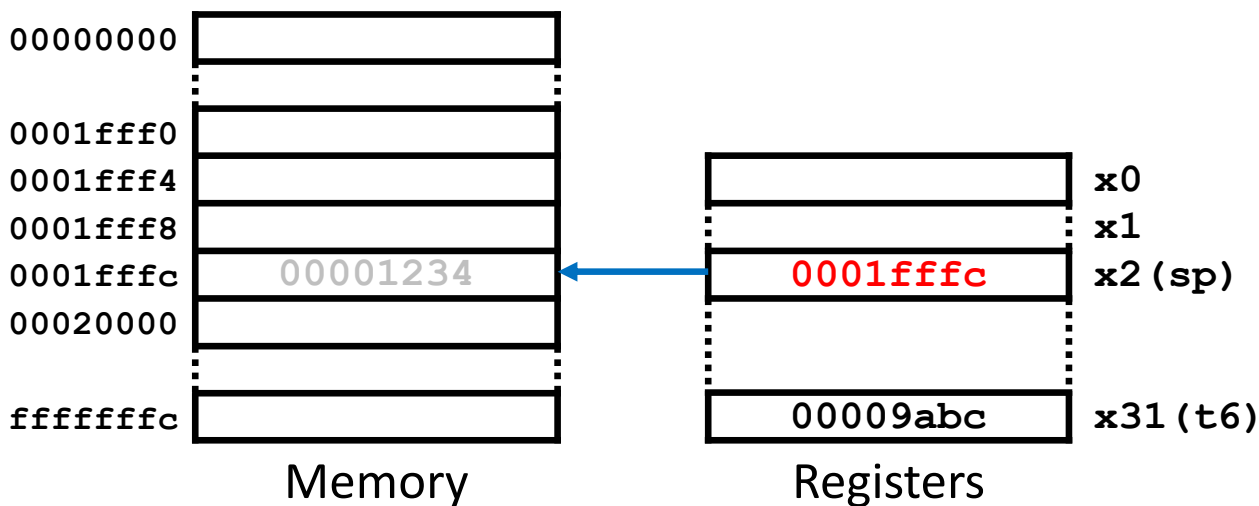


# Functions

## Stack management (iv)

- The popped data remain in the memory
  - But they should not be used anymore because they will be overwritten by the next pushed data.

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
li    t6, 0x1234
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
mv    t6, zero
...
lw    t6, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 4
...
li    t6, 0x9abc
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
```



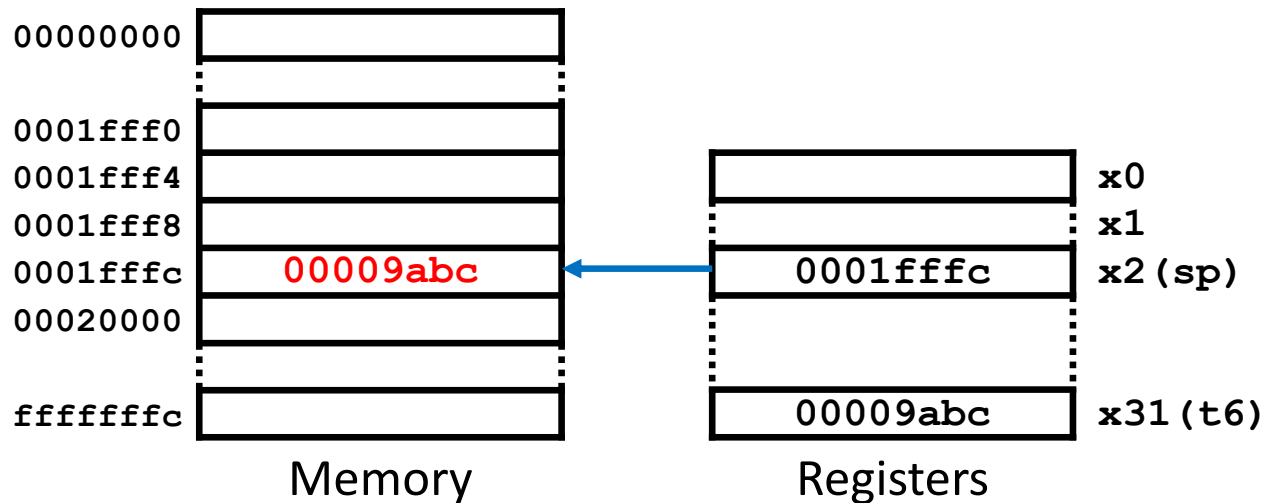


# Functions

## Stack management (iv)

- The popped data remain in the memory
  - But they should not be used anymore because they will be overwritten by the next pushed data.

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
li    t6, 0x1234
add  sp, sp, -4
sw   t6, 0(sp)
mv   t6, zero
...
lw   t6, 0(sp)
add  sp, sp, 4
...
li    t6, 0x9abc
add  sp, sp, -4
sw   t6, 0(sp)
...
```



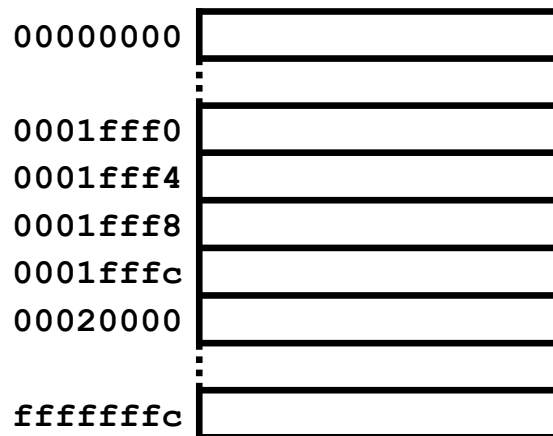


# Functions

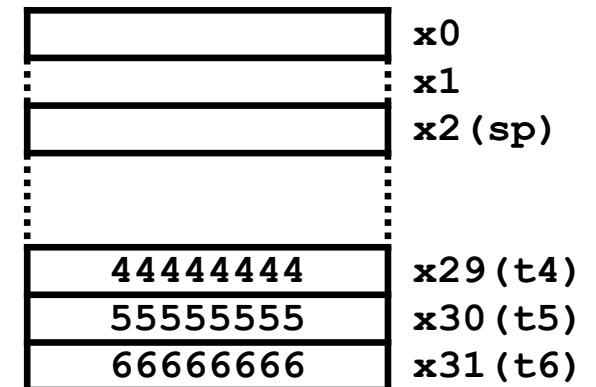
## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add  sp, sp, -12  
sw   t4, 8(sp)  
sw   t5, 4(sp)  
sw   t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv   t4, zero  
...  
lw   t4, 8(sp)  
lw   t5, 4(sp)  
lw   t6, 0(sp)  
add  sp, sp, 12  
...
```



Memory



Registers

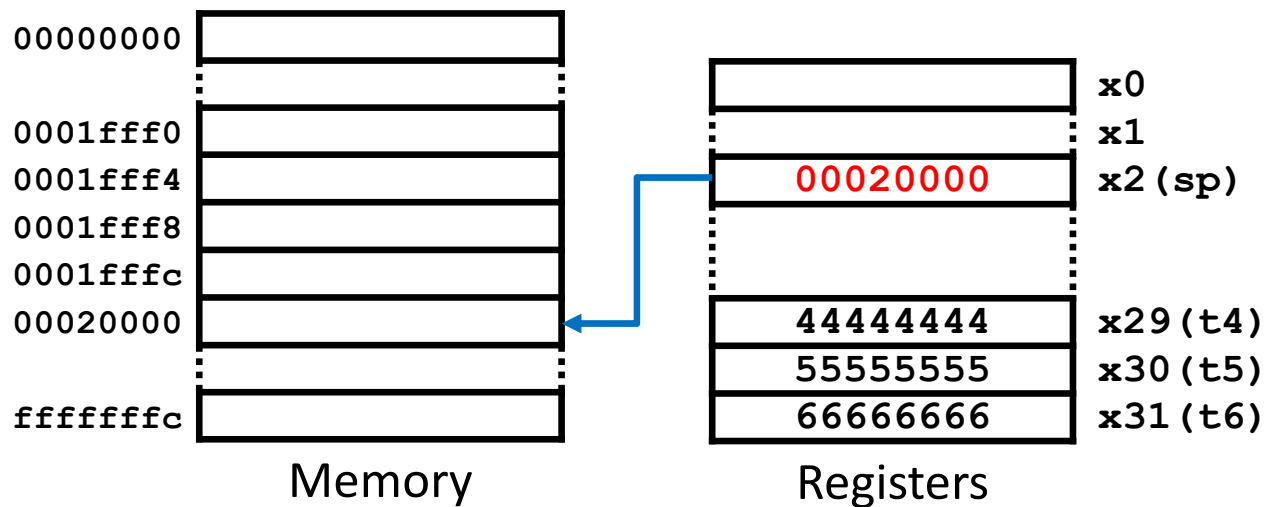


# Functions

## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li sp, 0x20000  
...  
add sp, sp, -12  
sw t4, 8(sp)  
sw t5, 4(sp)  
sw t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv t4, zero  
...  
lw t4, 8(sp)  
lw t5, 4(sp)  
lw t6, 0(sp)  
add sp, sp, 12  
...
```



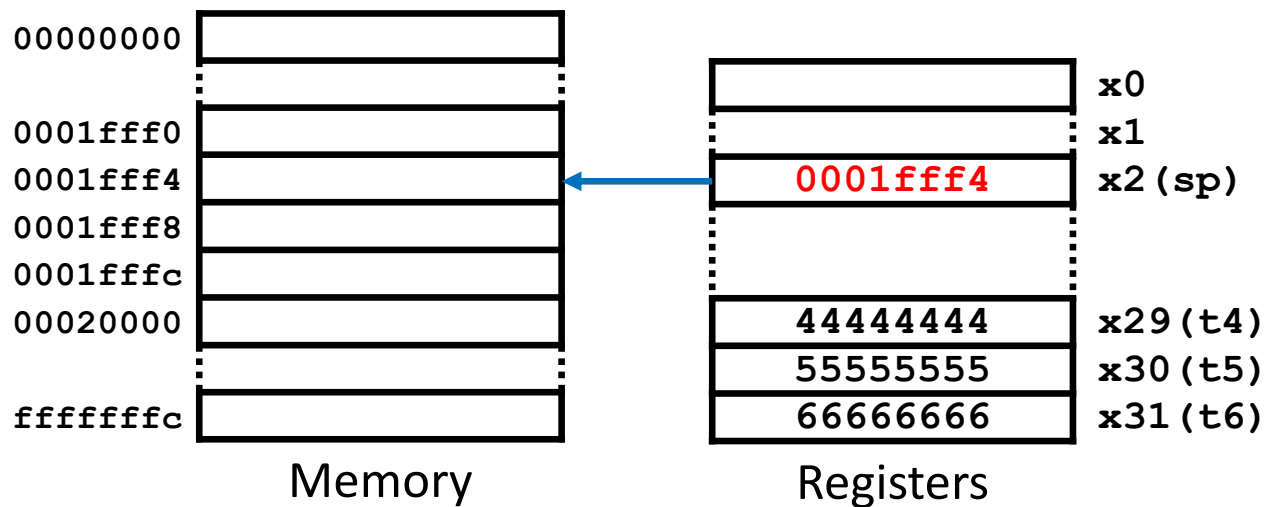


# Functions

## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add   sp, sp, -12  
sw    t4, 8(sp)  
sw    t5, 4(sp)  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv    t4, zero  
...  
lw    t4, 8(sp)  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 12  
...
```





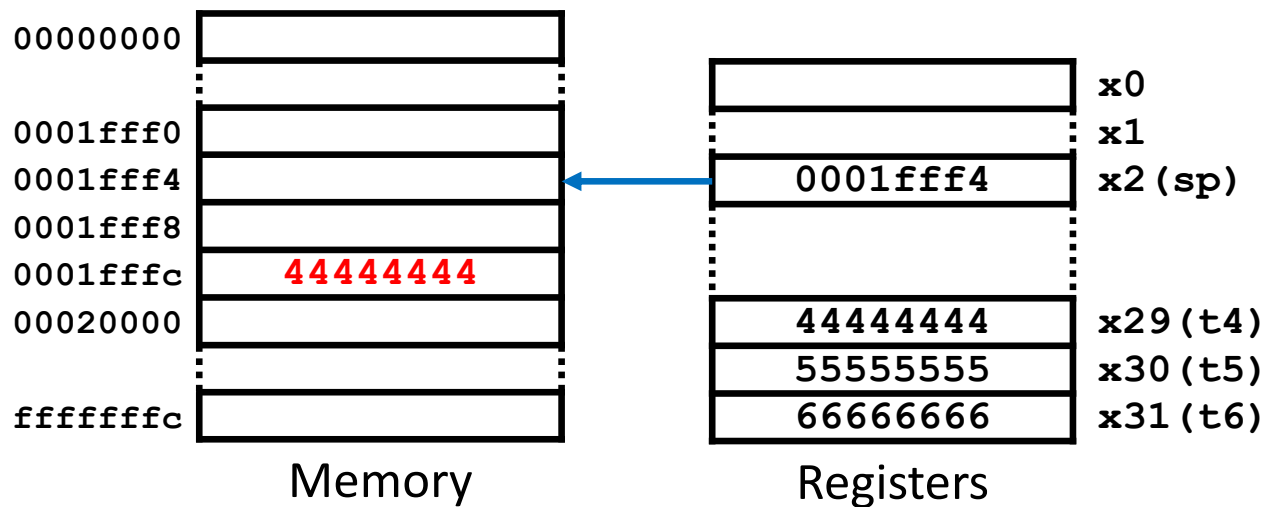


# Functions

## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add   sp, sp, -12  
sw    t4, 8(sp)  
sw    t5, 4(sp)  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv    t4, zero  
...  
lw    t4, 8(sp)  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 12  
...
```



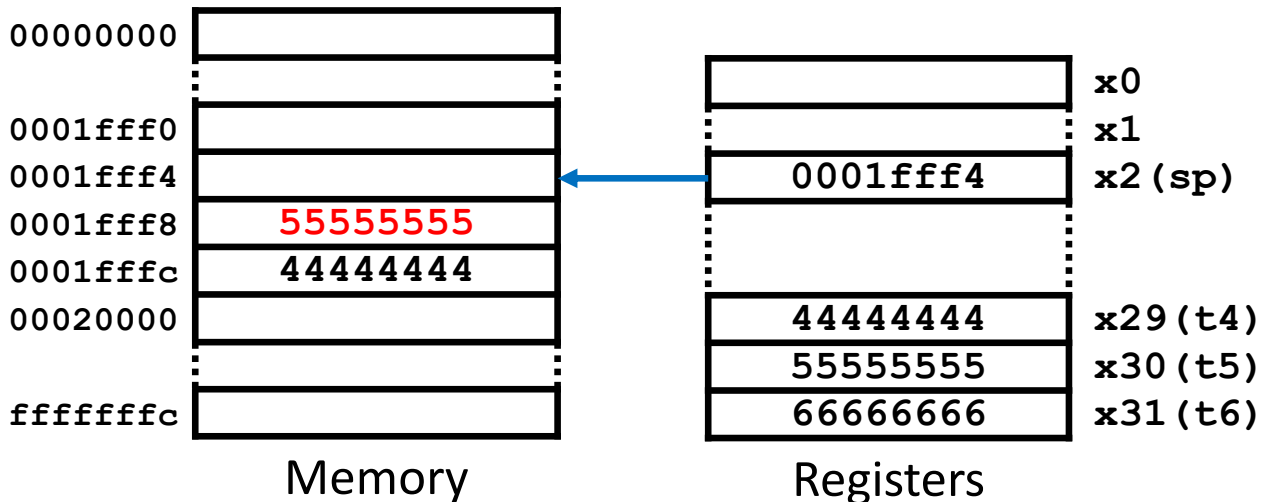


# Functions

## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add  sp, sp, -12  
sw   t4, 8(sp)  
sw   t5, 4(sp)  
sw   t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv   t4, zero  
...  
lw   t4, 8(sp)  
lw   t5, 4(sp)  
lw   t6, 0(sp)  
add  sp, sp, 12  
...
```



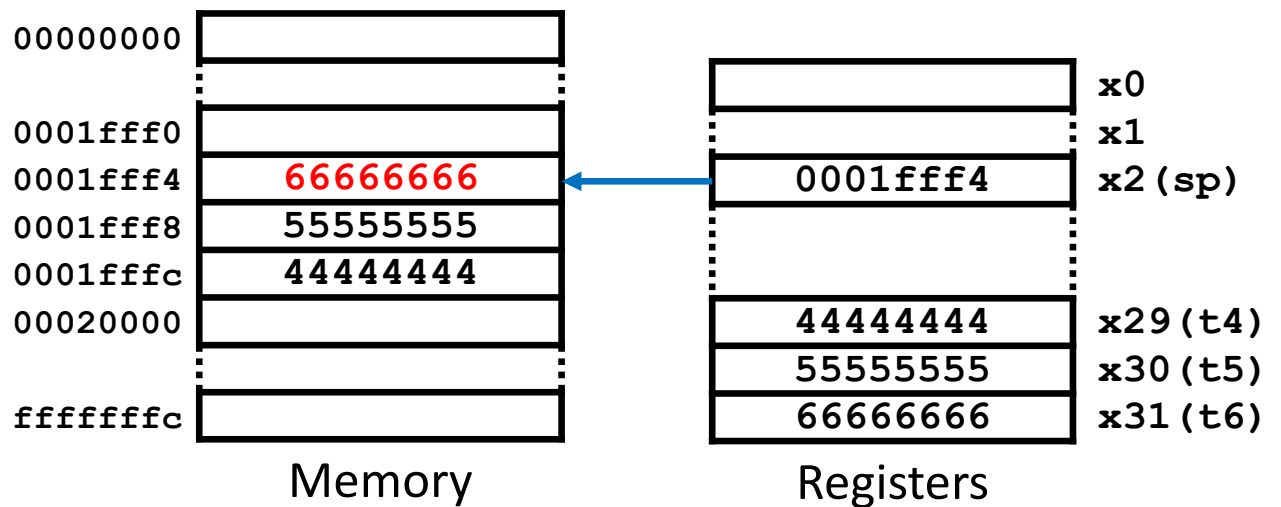


# Functions

## Stack management (v)

- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add  sp, sp, -12  
sw   t4, 8(sp)  
sw   t5, 4(sp)  
sw   t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv   t4, zero  
...  
lw   t4, 8(sp)  
lw   t5, 4(sp)  
lw   t6, 0(sp)  
add  sp, sp, 12  
...
```





# Functions

## Stack management (v)

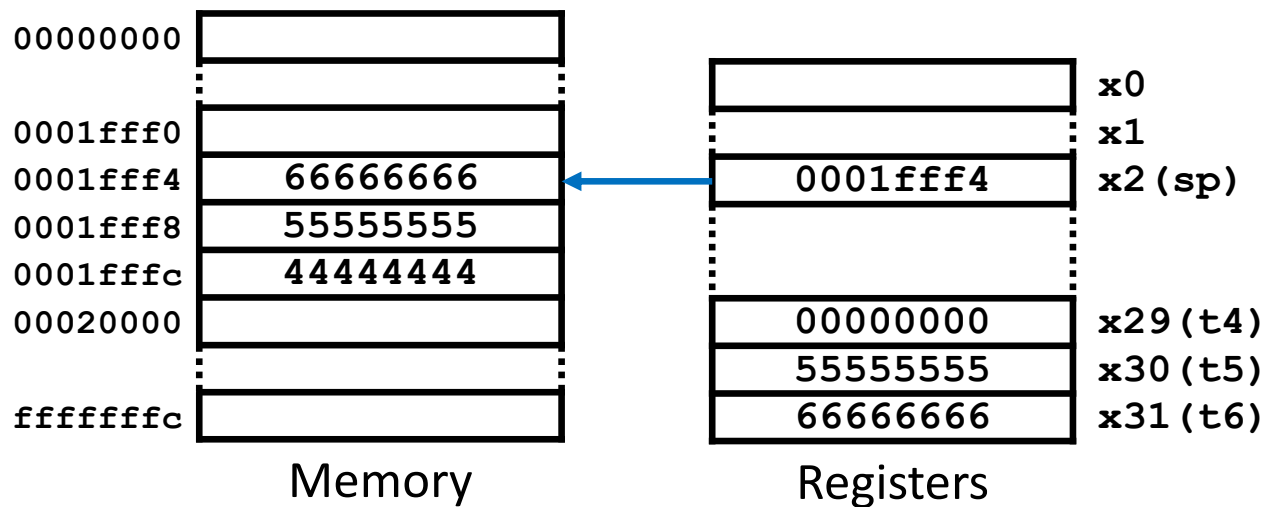
- Pushing a group of data implies:
  - Decrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).
  - Storing each data in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.

```

...
li  sp, 0x20000
...
add sp, sp, -12
sw  t4, 8(sp)
sw  t5, 4(sp)
sw  t6, 0(sp)
...
mv  t4, zero
...
lw  t4, 8(sp)
lw  t5, 4(sp)
lw  t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
...

```

ASM





# Functions

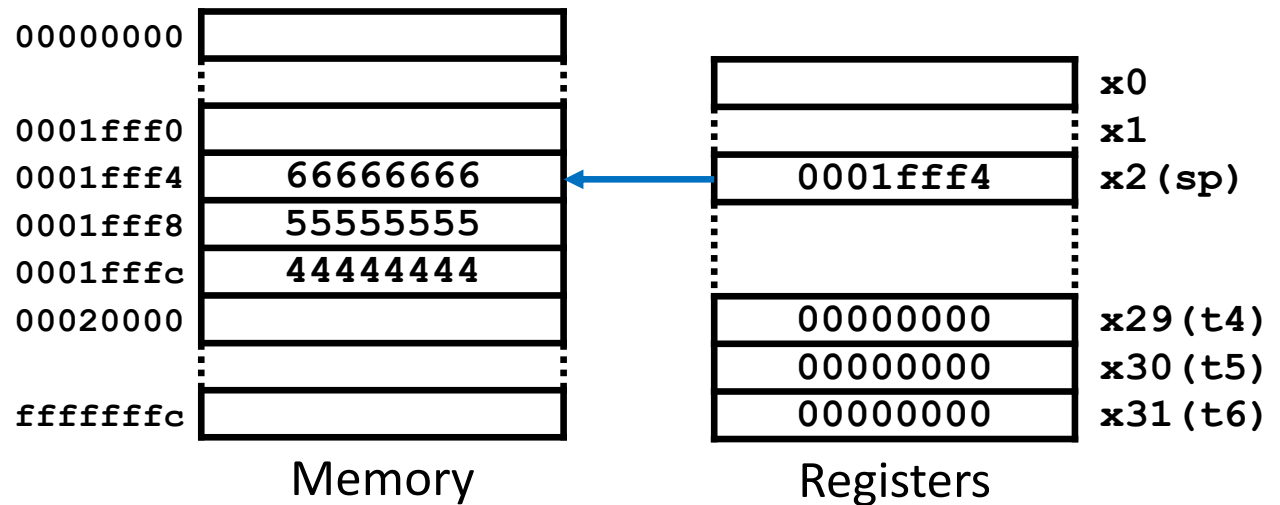
## Stack management (vi)

- **Popping a group of data** implies:
  - Loading the data located in consecutive addresses on the top of the stack.
  - Incrementing `sp` (the number of bytes of all of them).

```

...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
add  sp, sp, -12
sw   t4, 8(sp)
sw   t5, 4(sp)
sw   t6, 0(sp)
...
mv   t4, zero
...
lw   t4, 8(sp)
lw   t5, 4(sp)
lw   t6, 0(sp)
add  sp, sp, 12
...

```



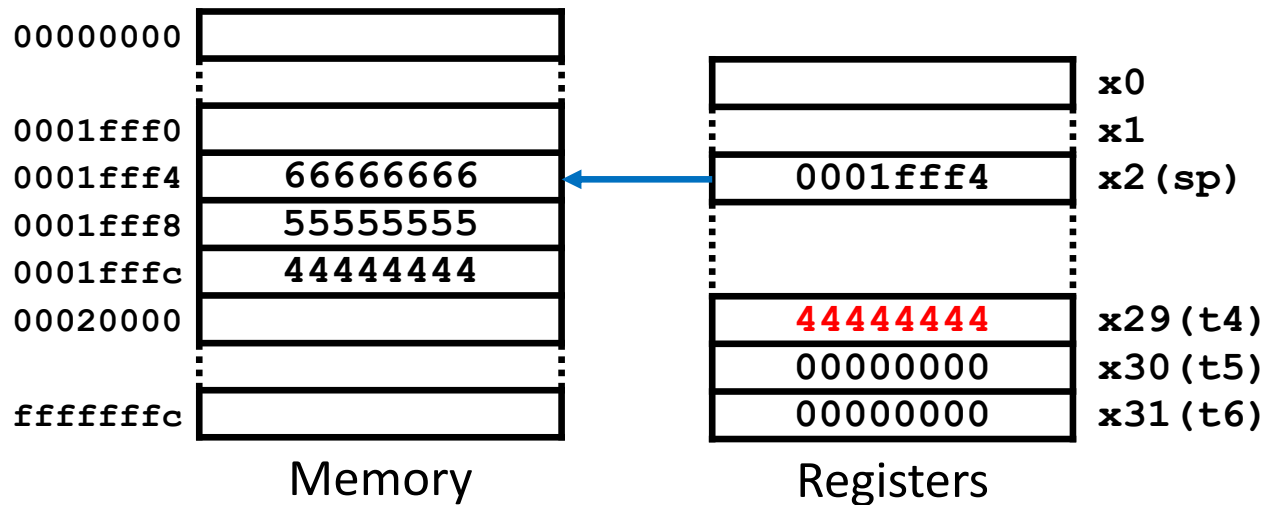


# Functions

## Stack management (vi)

- **Popping a group of data** implies:
  - Loading the data located in **consecutive addresses on the top** of the stack.
  - **Incrementing `sp`** (the number of bytes of all of them).

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
...
add   sp, sp, -12
sw    t4, 8(sp)
sw    t5, 4(sp)
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
mv    t4, zero
...
lw    t4, 8(sp)
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 12
...
```





# Functions

## Stack management (vi)

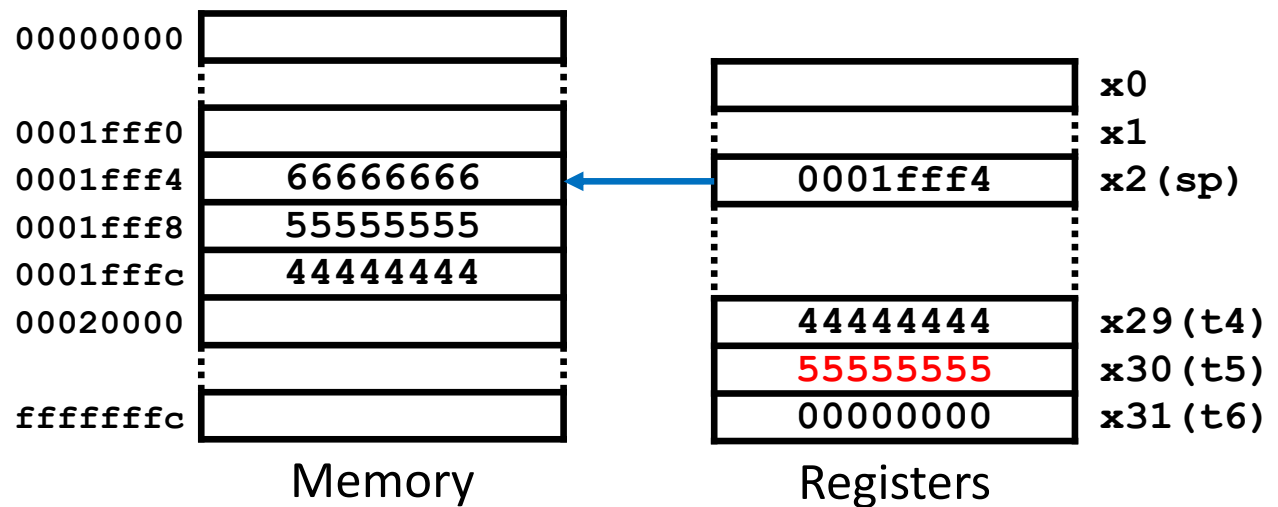
- **Popping a group of data** implies:
  - Loading the data located in **consecutive addresses on the top** of the stack.
  - **Incrementing `sp`** (the number of bytes of all of them).

```

...
li  sp, 0x20000
...
add sp, sp, -12
sw  t4, 8(sp)
sw  t5, 4(sp)
sw  t6, 0(sp)
...
mv  t4, zero
...
lw  t4, 8(sp)
lw  t5, 4(sp)
lw  t6, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
...

```

ASSEMBLY (ASM)



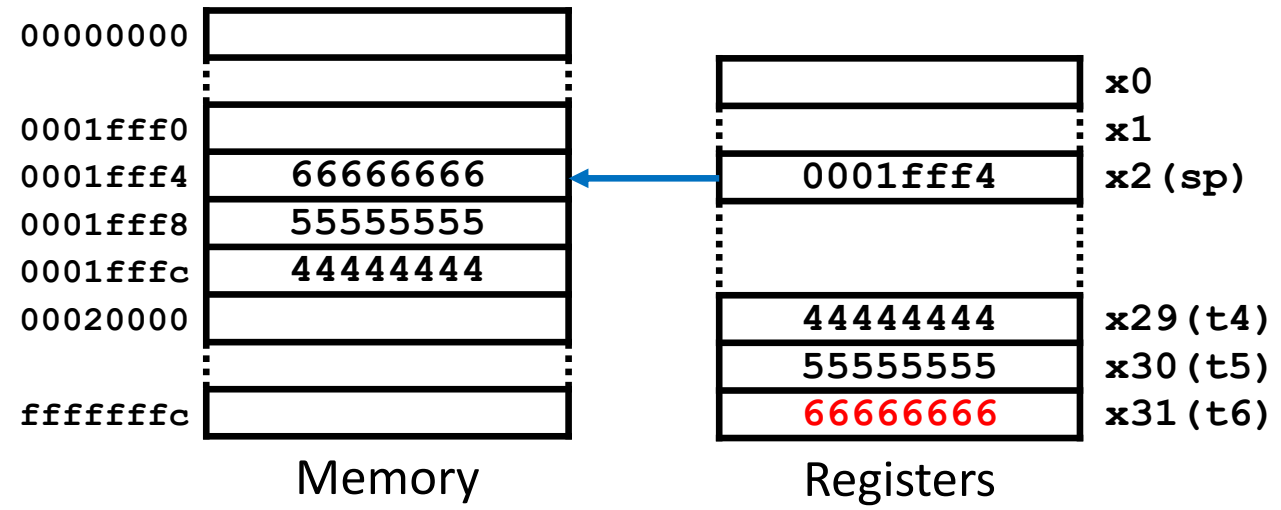


# Functions

## Stack management (vi)

- **Popping a group of data** implies:
  - Loading the data located in **consecutive addresses on the top** of the stack.
  - **Incrementing `sp`** (the number of bytes of all of them).

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add   sp, sp, -12  
sw    t4, 8(sp)  
sw    t5, 4(sp)  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv    t4, zero  
...  
lw    t4, 8(sp)  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
add   sp, sp, 12  
...
```





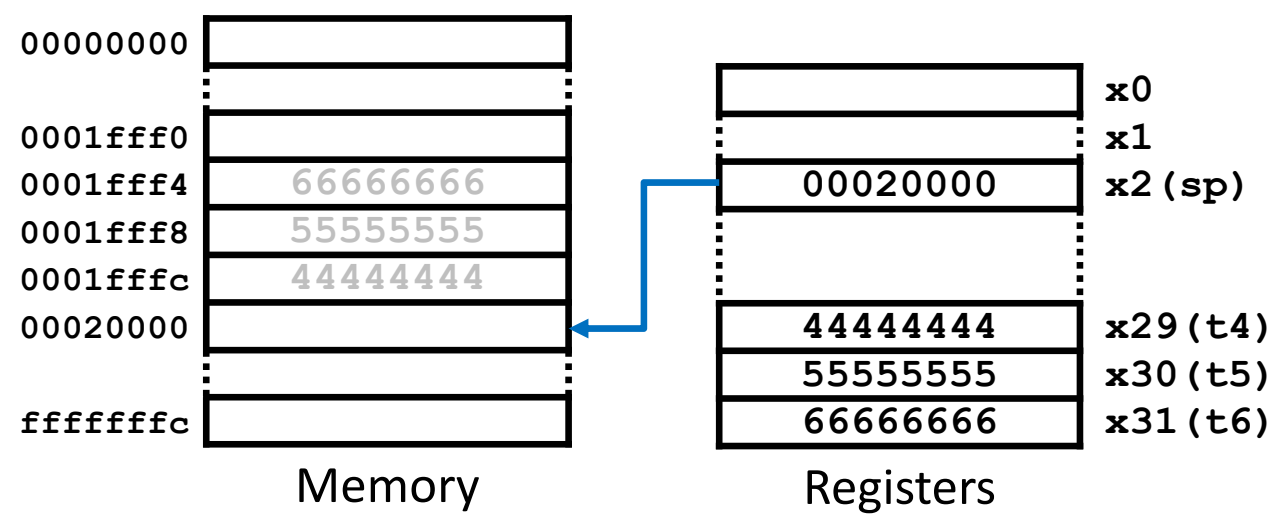


# Functions

## Stack management (vi)

- **Popping a group of data** implies:
  - Loading the data located in **consecutive addresses on the top** of the stack.
  - **Incrementing `sp`** (the number of bytes of all of them).

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
...  
add   sp, sp, -12  
sw    t4, 8(sp)  
sw    t5, 4(sp)  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
mv    t4, zero  
...  
lw    t4, 8(sp)  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
→ add sp, sp, 12  
...
```

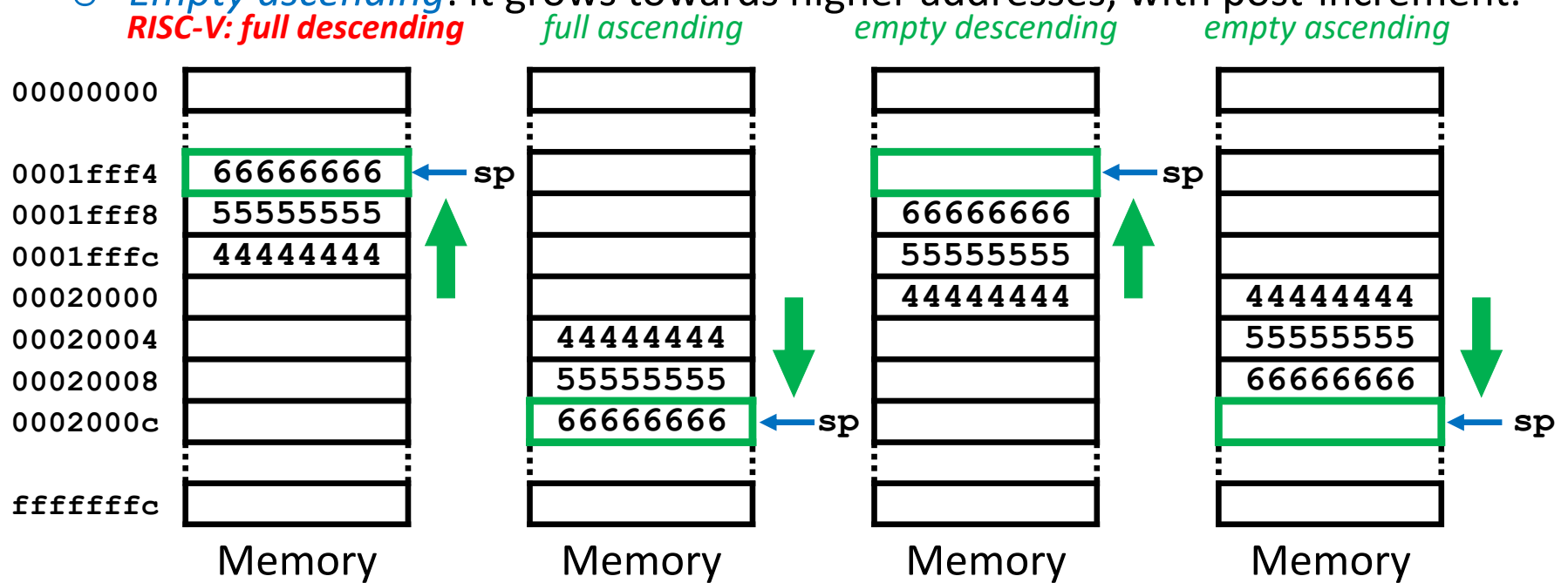




# Functions

## Stack management (vii)

- The RISC-V stack is *full descending* because:
  - It grows towards lower addresses and pushes data by pre-decrementing `sp`, i.e., first `sp` is decremented and after that the data is stored on the top of the stack.
- Other architectures may have different procedures:
  - *Full ascending*: it grows towards higher addresses, with pre-increment.
  - *Empty descending*: it grows towards lower addresses, with post-decrement.
  - *Empty ascending*: it grows towards higher addresses, with post-increment.





# Functions

## Saving registers (i)

- **Rule of the caller function.** The caller function must:
  - Push the temporary registers that contain values that will be needed later before branching to the callee function.
  - Pop those registers after returning from the callee function.

```
C/C++
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

```
ASM
a: .space 4
...
la    t0, a
lw    a0, 0(t0)
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    t0, 0(sp)
call  inc
lw    t0, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 4
sw    a0, 0(t0)
...
inc:
add   t0, a0, 1
mv    a0, t0
ret
...
```

The caller function uses t0 to store the address of a

The caller function pushes the value of t0 before branching to inc, because it will be needed later

The caller function pops the value of t0 before using it again

Since t0 is a temporary register, the callee function may modify it without restrictions



# Functions

## Saving registers (ii)

- **Rule of the callee function.** The callee function must:
  - Push the preserved registers that it uses before updating their value.
    - This set of registers is called the caller function context .
  - Pop those registers after returning to the caller function.

```
C/C++
int a;
...
a = inc( a );
...
int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...
```

```
ASM
a: .space 4
...
la    s0, a
lw    a0, 0(s0)
call  inc
sw    a0, 0(s0)
...
inc:
add   sp, sp, -4
sw    s0, 0(sp)
add   s0, a0, 1
mv    a0, s0
lw    s0, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 4
ret
...
```

The caller function uses s0 to store the address of a

The caller function assumes that register s0 will keep its value after calling inc

Since s0 is a preserved register, the callee function must push its value before modifying it.

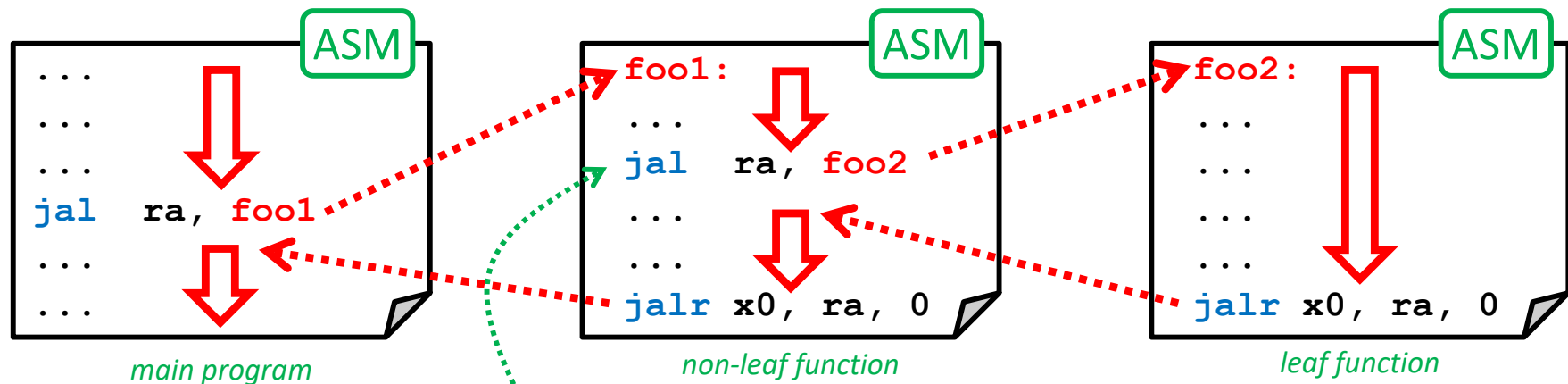
The callee function pops the value of s0 before returning to the caller function



# Functions

## Nesting and recursion (i)

- If a function **does not call another one** (leaf function), it just has to push the preserved registers that it is going to use.
  - If it only uses temporary registers, it does not have to push anything.
- But if a **function calls others** (non-leaf function), apart from pushing the preserved registers that it uses, it also has to push the `ra` register.
  - Because this keeps the return address of the caller function.



This instruction branches to `foo2` and overwrites `ra` with the return address to `foo1`.  
If `ra` is not saved before branching, `foo1` does not return to the main program (it always returns to itself)



# Functions

## Nesting and recursion (ii)

C/C++

```

int a[10];
...
incArray( a, 10 );
...
void incArray( int x[], int n )
{
    int i;

    for( i=0; i<n; i=i+1 )
        x[i] = inc( x[i] );
}

int inc( int x )
{
    return x+1;
}
...

```

$x[] \rightarrow s0, n \rightarrow s1, i \rightarrow s2, \&x[i] \rightarrow s3$

ASM

```

a: .space 4*10
...
la    a0, a
li    a1, 10
jal   ra, incArray
...
incArray:
add   sp, sp, -20
sw    ra, 16(sp)
sw    s0, 12(sp)
...
mv    s0, a0
mv    s1, a1
mv    s2, zero
for:
bge   s2, s1, efor
sll   t0, s2, 2
add   s3, s0, t0
lw    a0, 0(s3)
jal   ra, inc
sw    a0, 0(s3)
add   s2, s2, 1
j     for
efor:
lw    ra, 16(sp)
lw    s0, 12(sp)
...
add   sp, sp, 20
jalr  x0, ra, 0
inc:
add   a0, a0, 1
jalr  x0, ra, 0
...

```

*incArray is a non-leaf function, and therefore it must push its return address before calling inc.*

*also, the 4 used preserved registers must be pushed*

*overwrites register ra*

*incArray restores register ra in order to return to the main program*

*also the 4 used preserved registers must be restored*



# Functions

## Nesting and recursion (iii)

- **Recursive functions** are a specific case of nesting (they call themselves).

C/C++

```

int a;
...
a = fact( 4 );
...
int fact( int x )
{
    if( x <= 1 )
        return 1;
    else
        return x*fact( x-1 );
}
  
```

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
la    t6, a
sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
add   a0, s1, -1
call  fact
mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
  
```

base case

general case

pushes the context

x > 1?

returns 1

fact(x-1)

returns x\*fact(x-1)

pops the context



# Functions

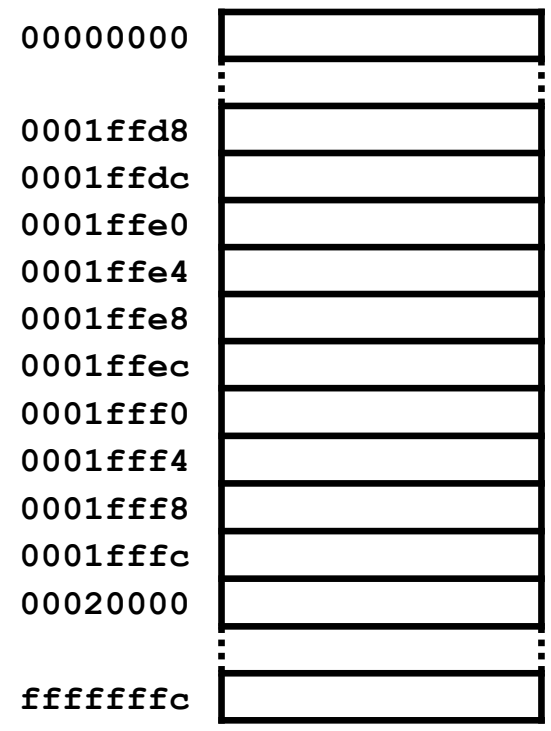
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

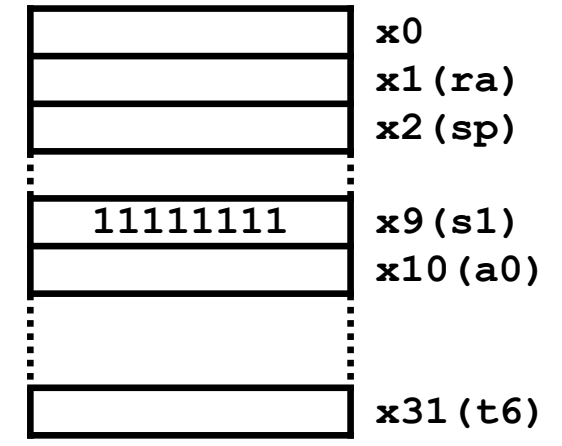
```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```



Memory



Registers





# Functions

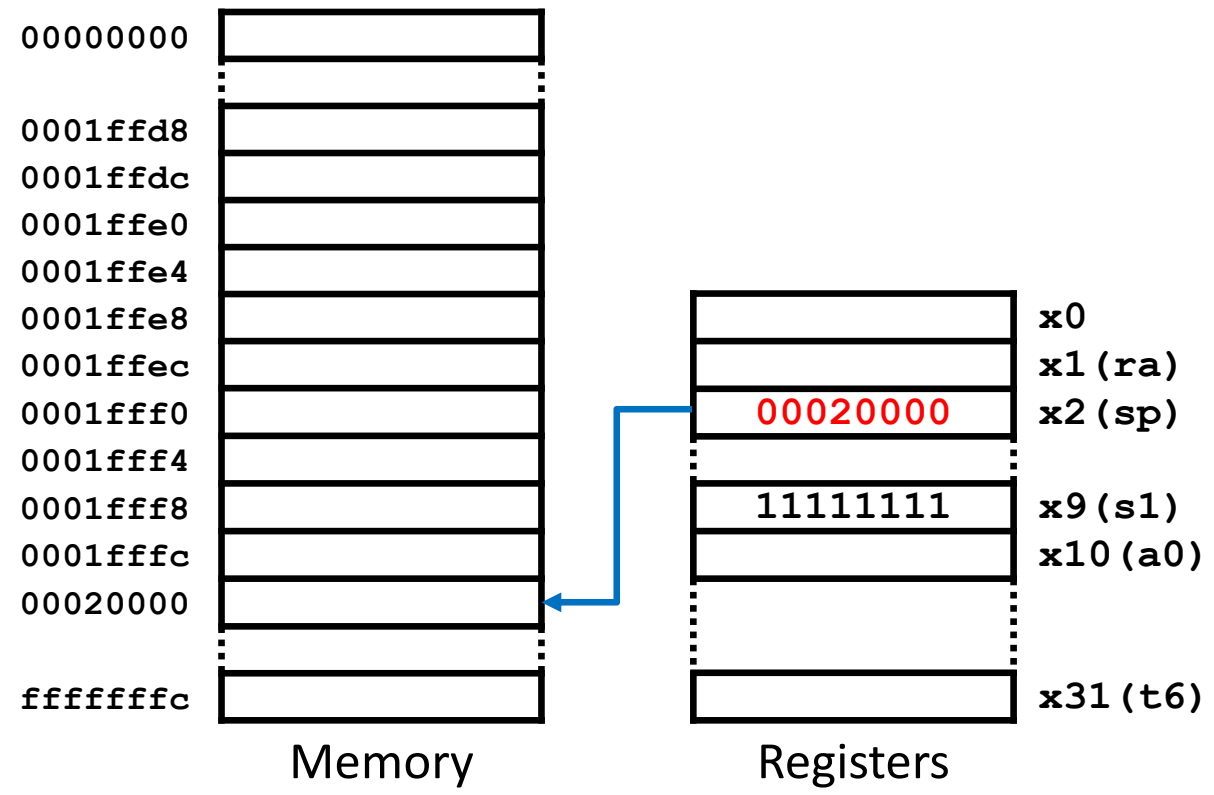
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

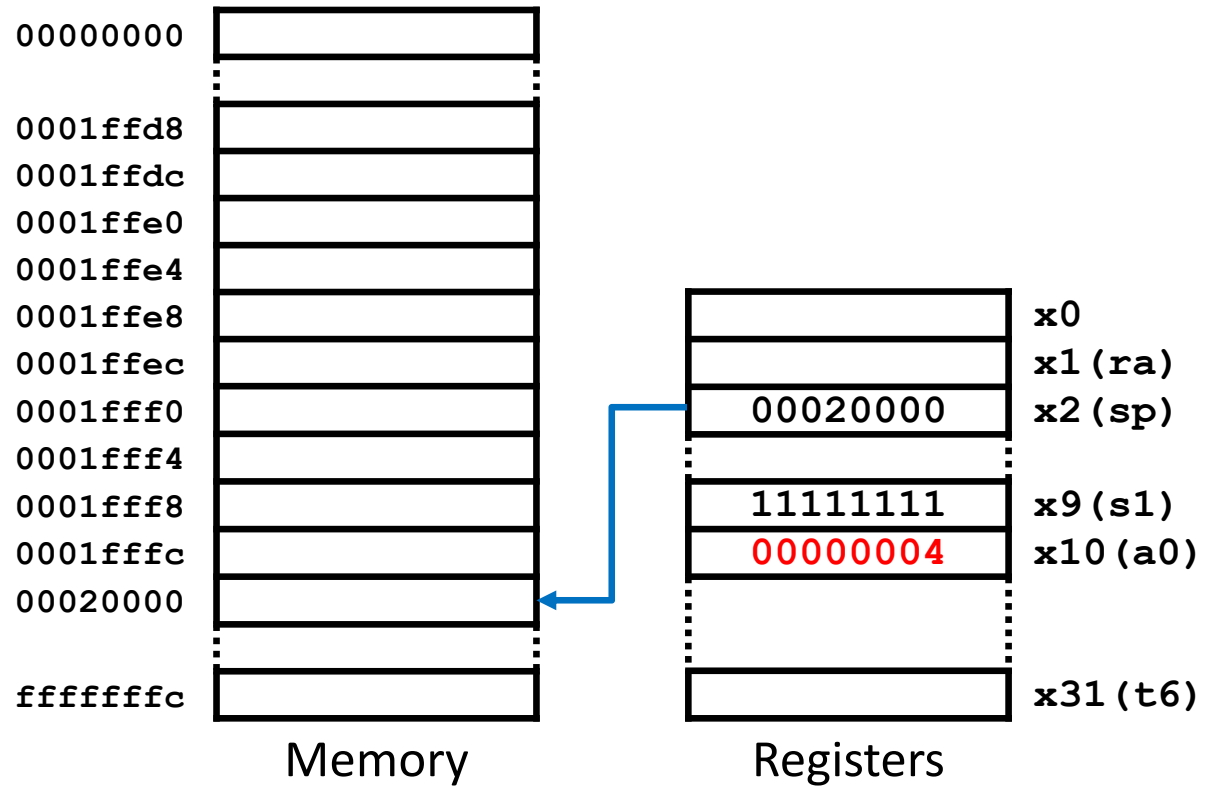
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

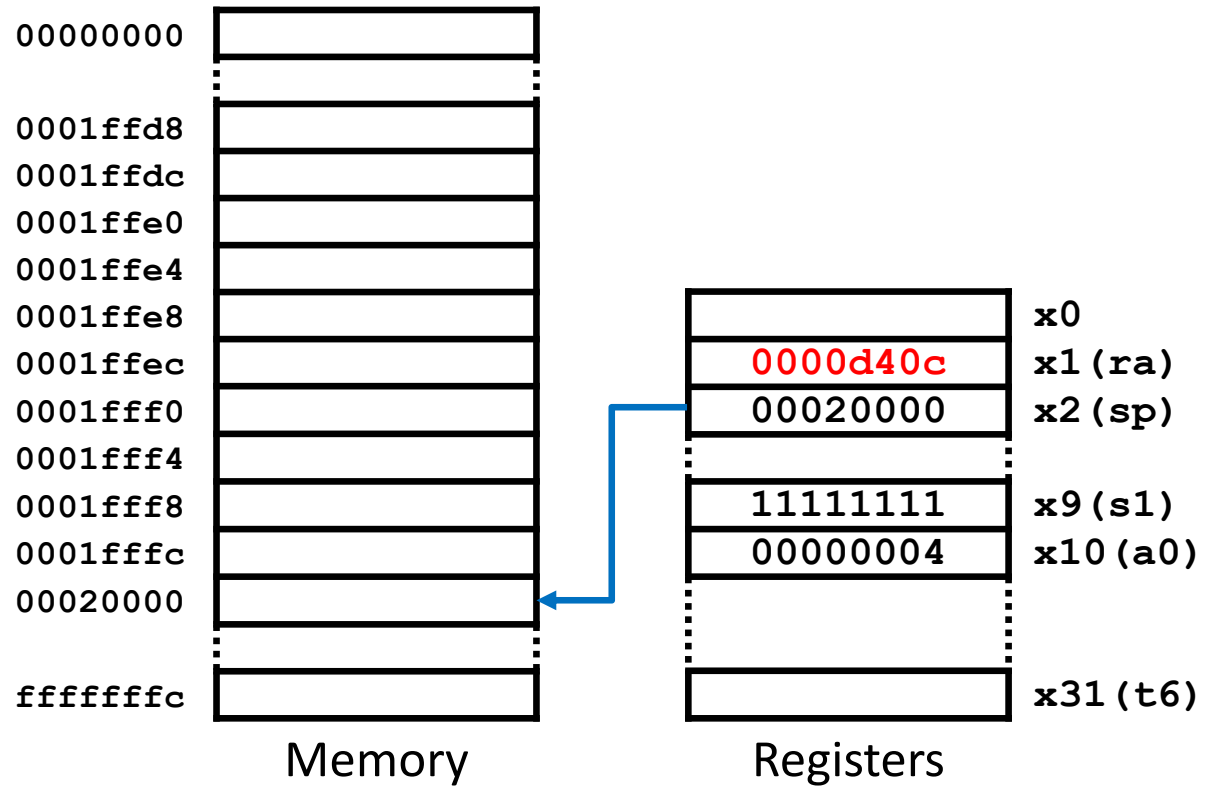
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
add   a0, s1, -1
call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```



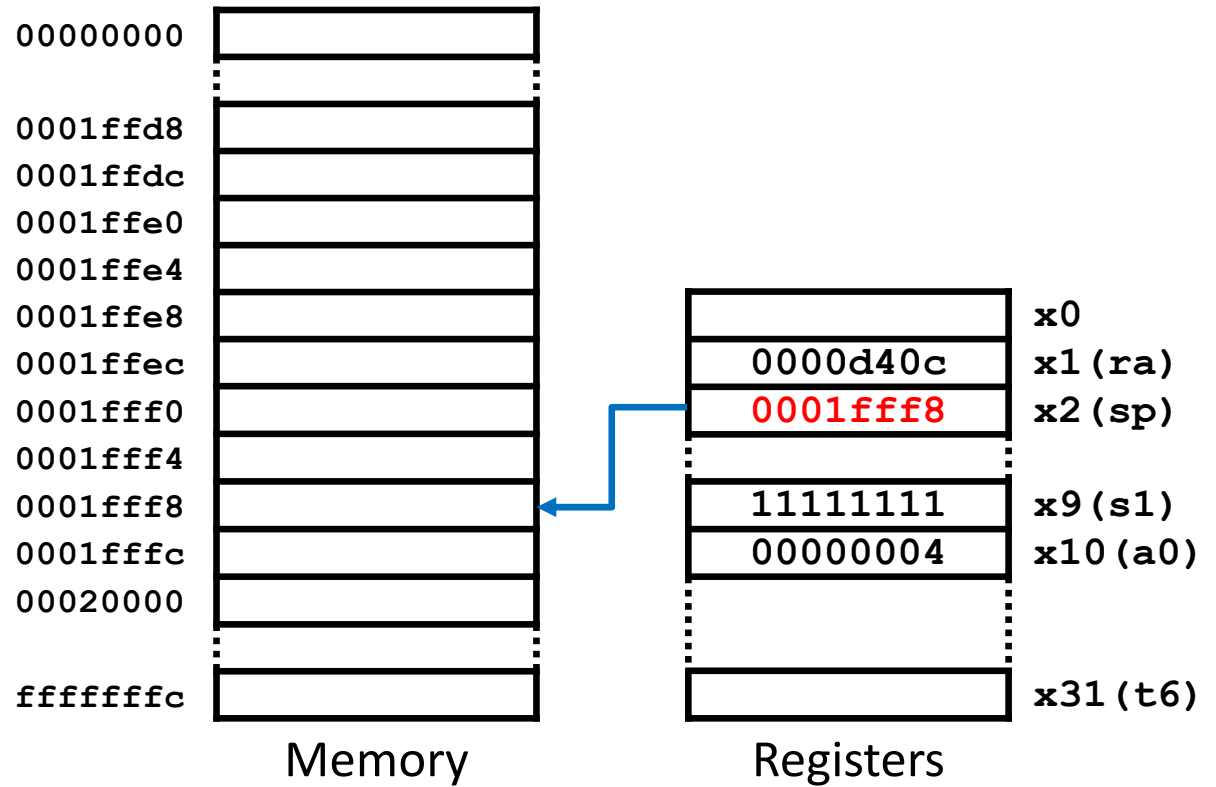


# Functions

## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```
a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret
```





# Functions

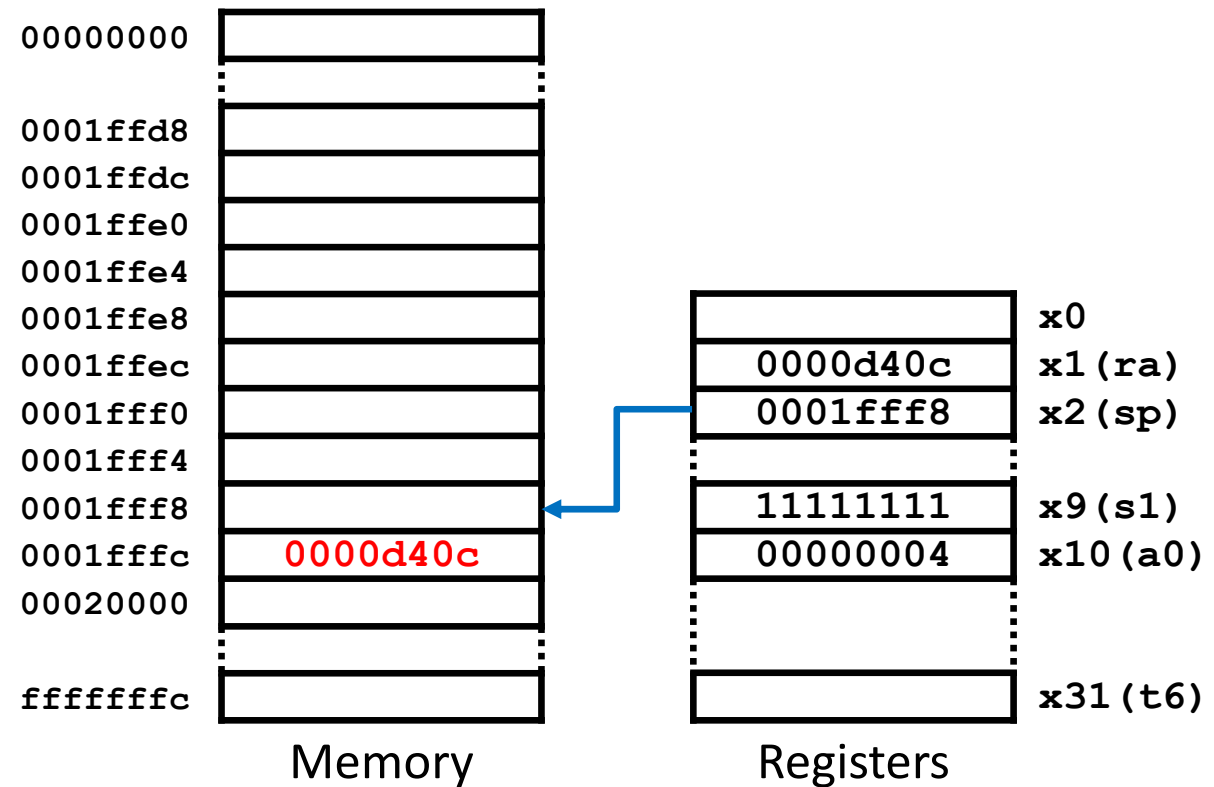
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

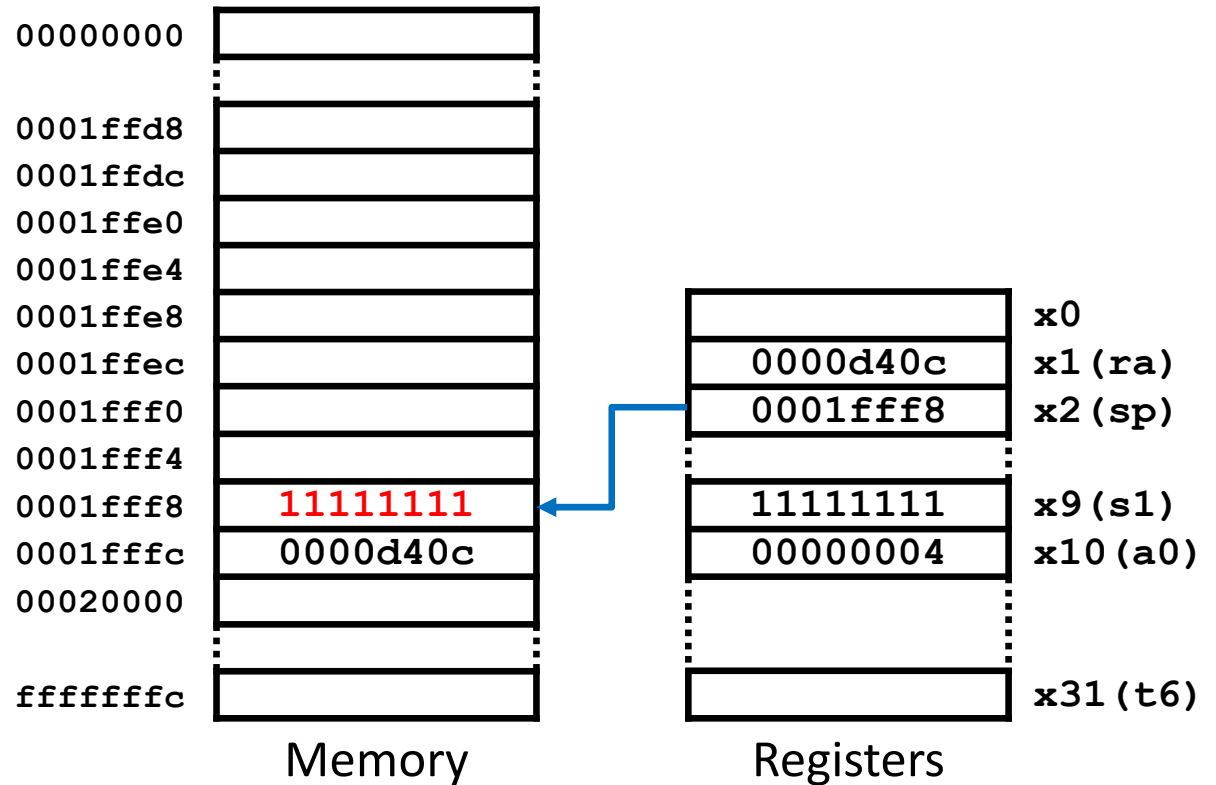
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

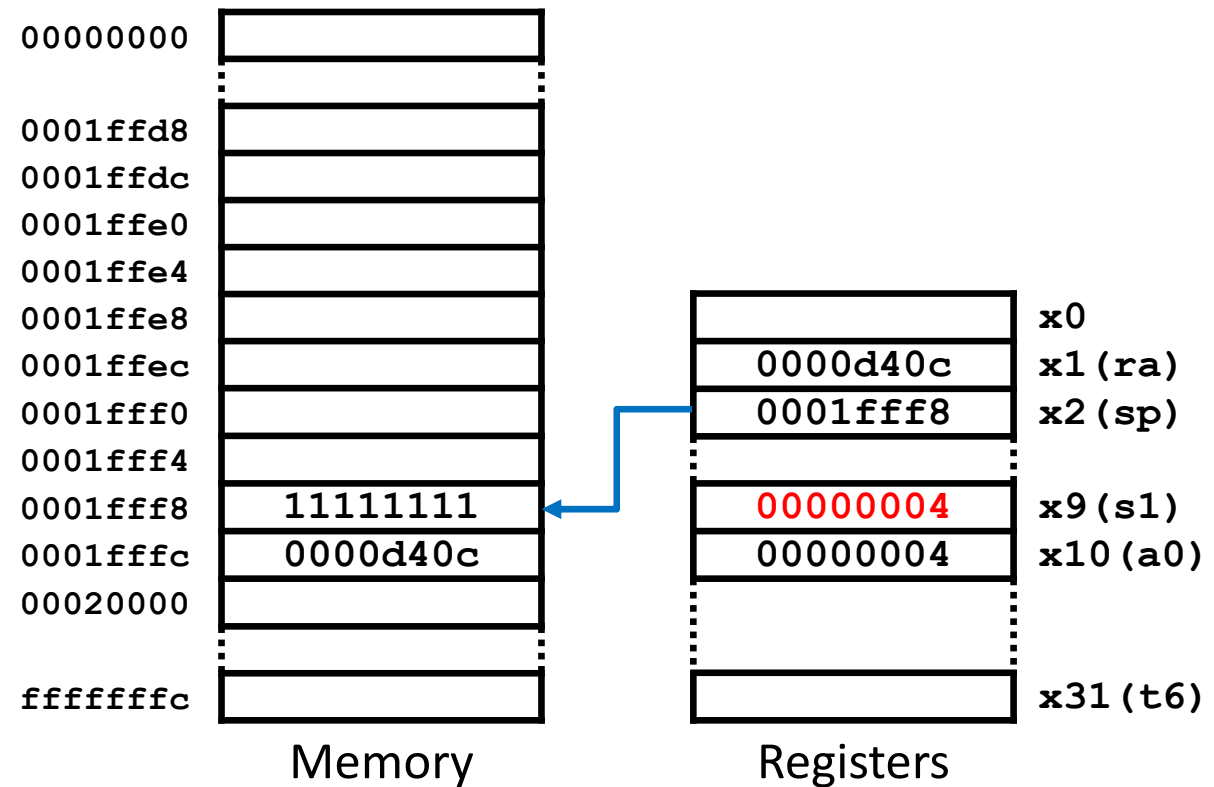
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

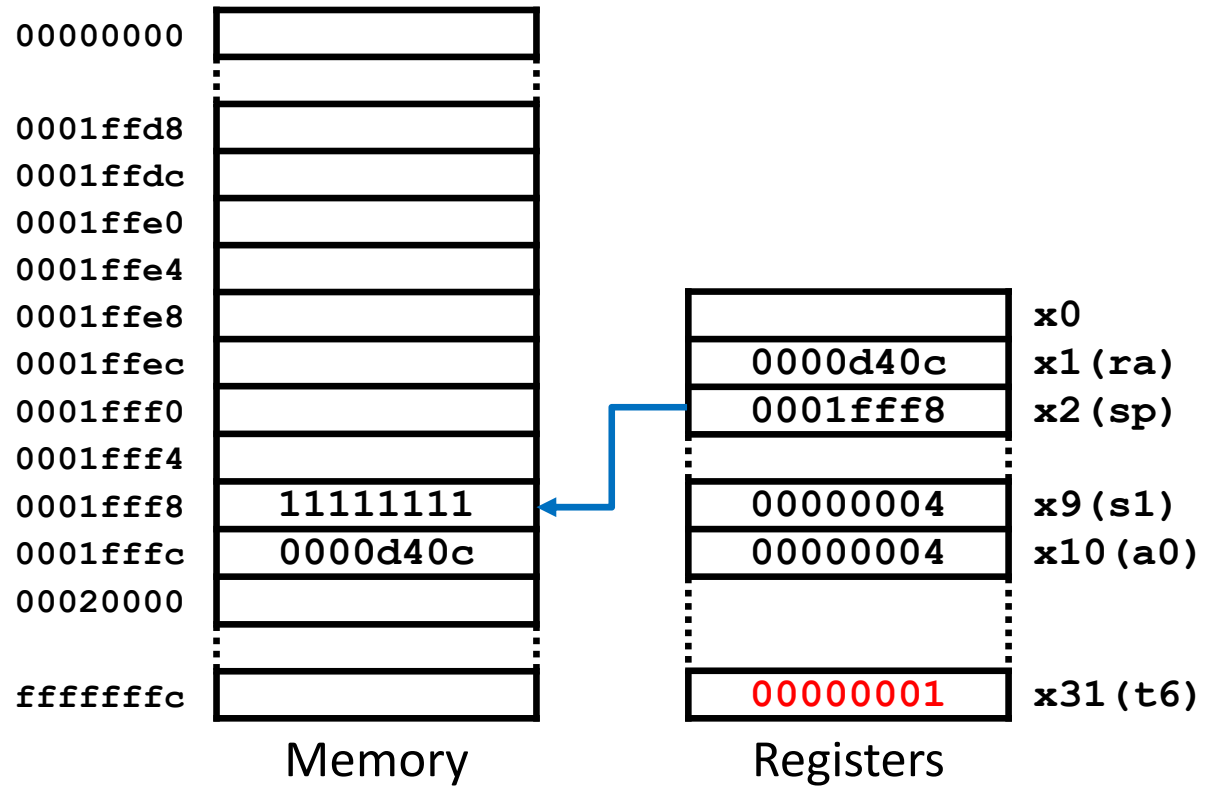
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add  sp, sp, -8
      sw   ra, 4(sp)
      sw   s1, 0(sp)
      mv   s1, a0
      li   t6, 1
      bgt  s1, t6, else
      li   a0, 1
      j    eif
else:
      add  a0, s1, -1
      call fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw   ra, 4(sp)
      lw   s1, 0(sp)
      add  sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

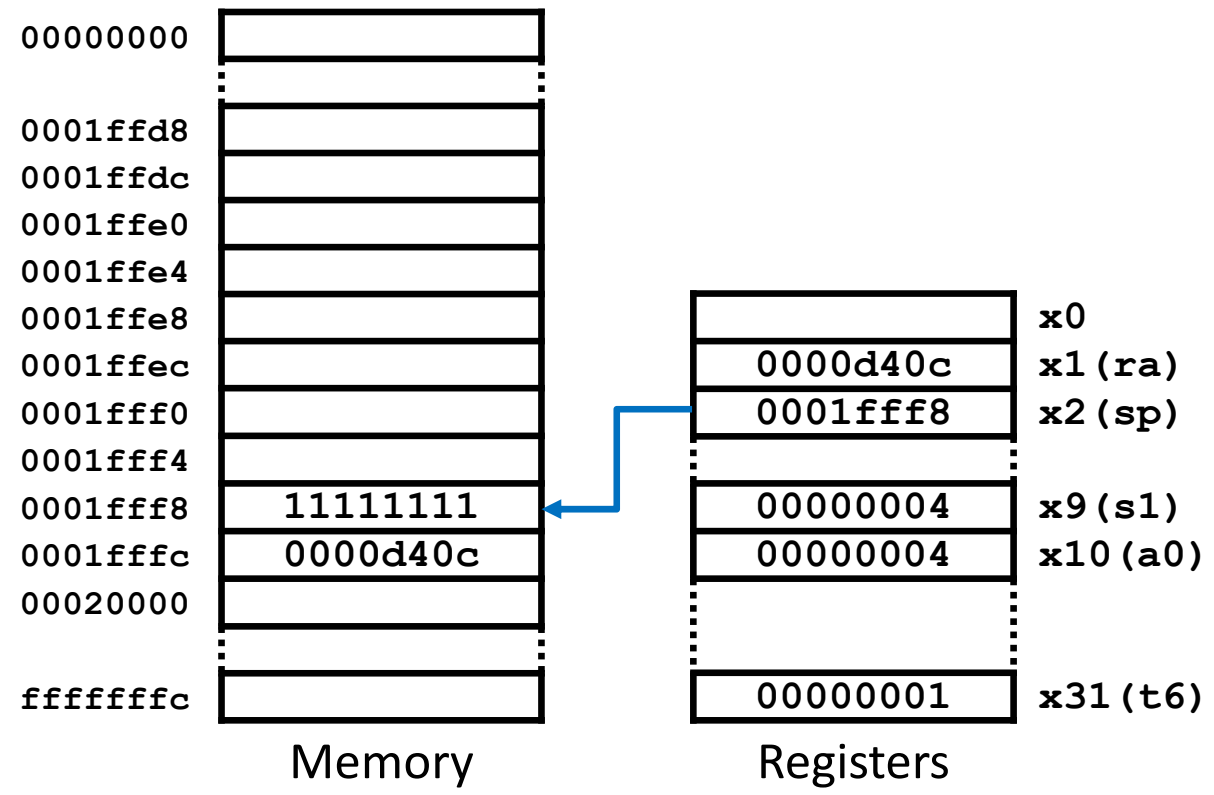
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

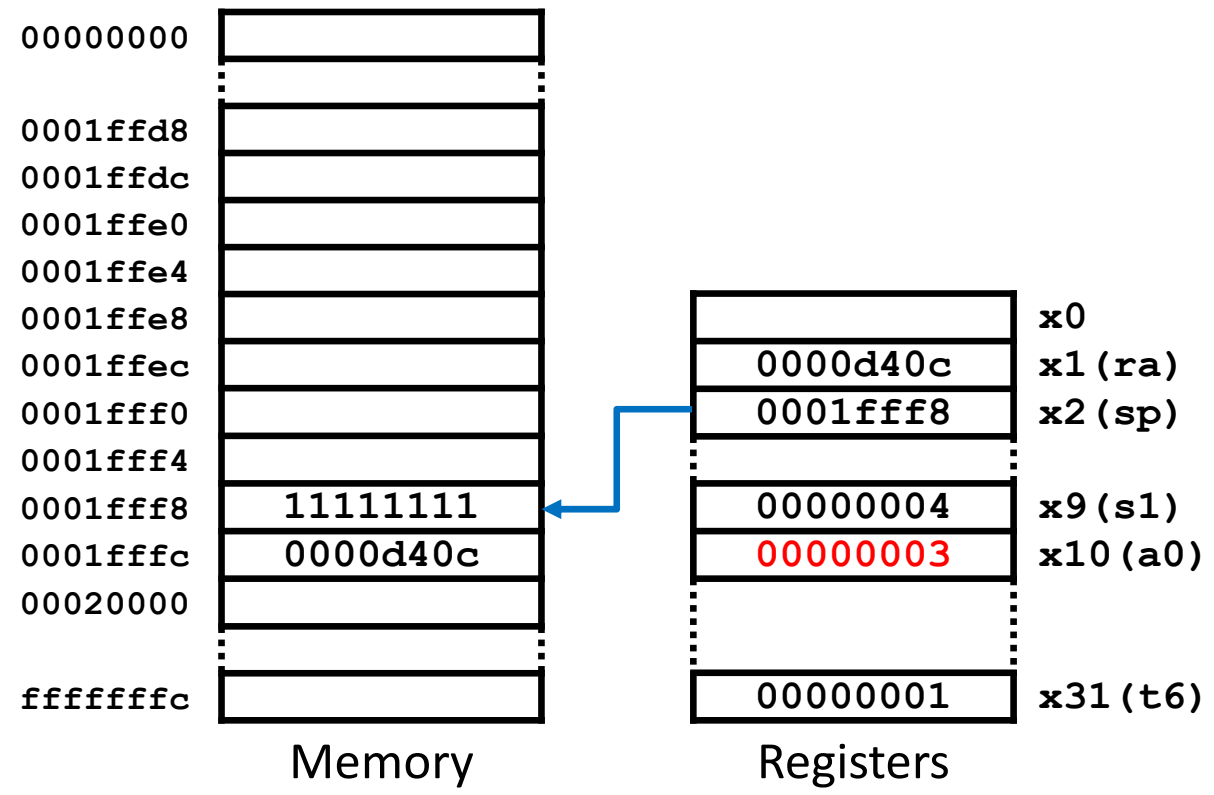
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```





# Functions

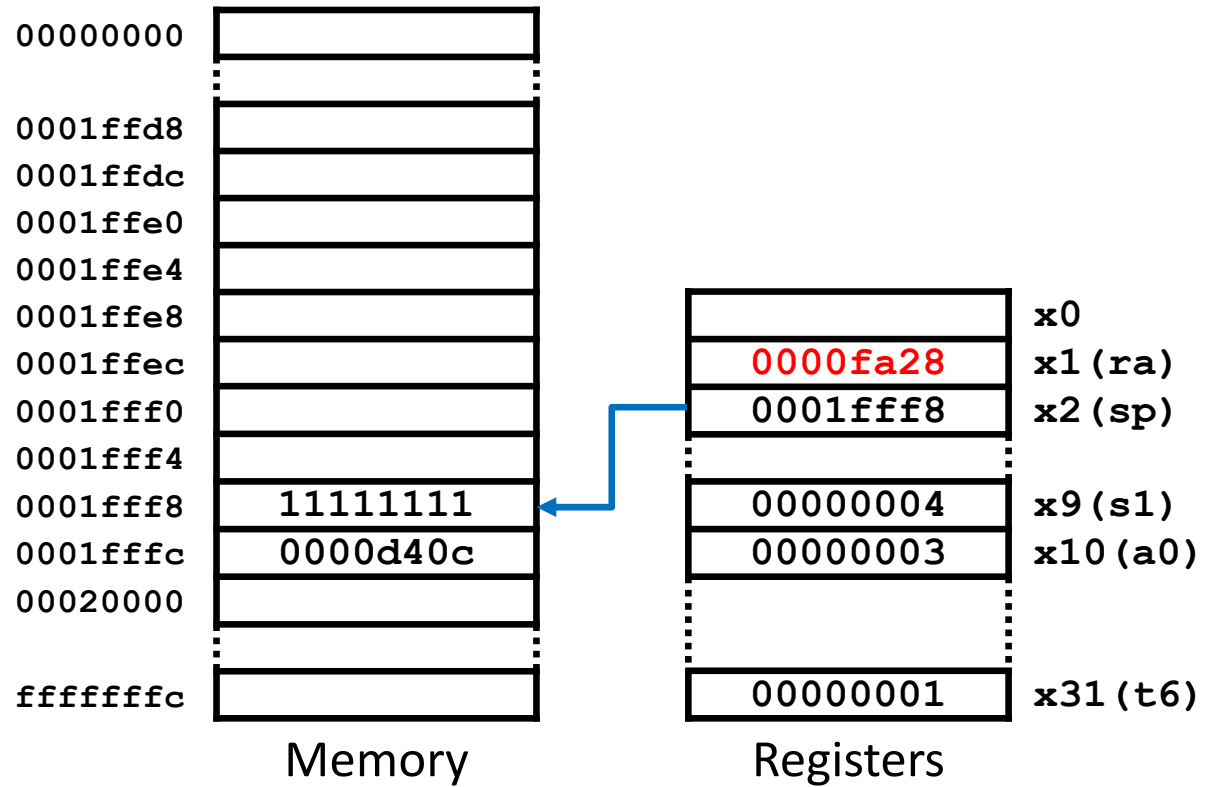
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
      else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

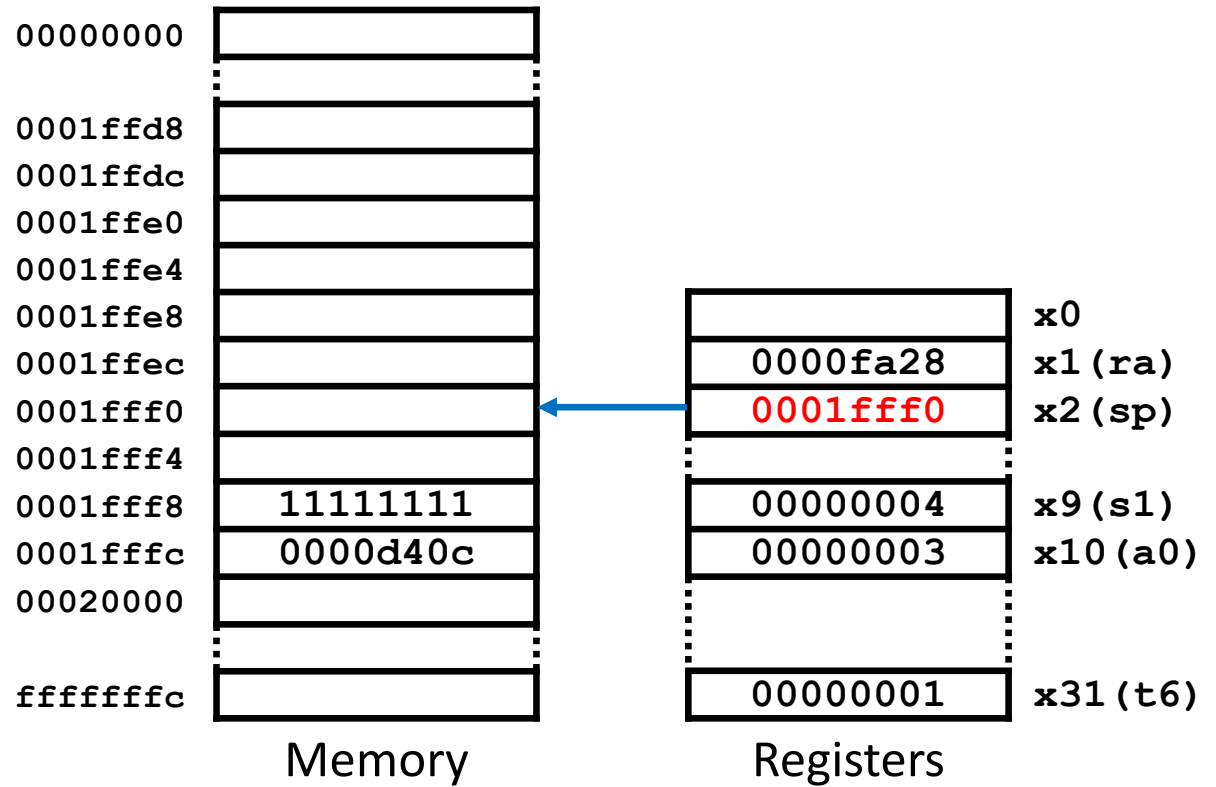
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

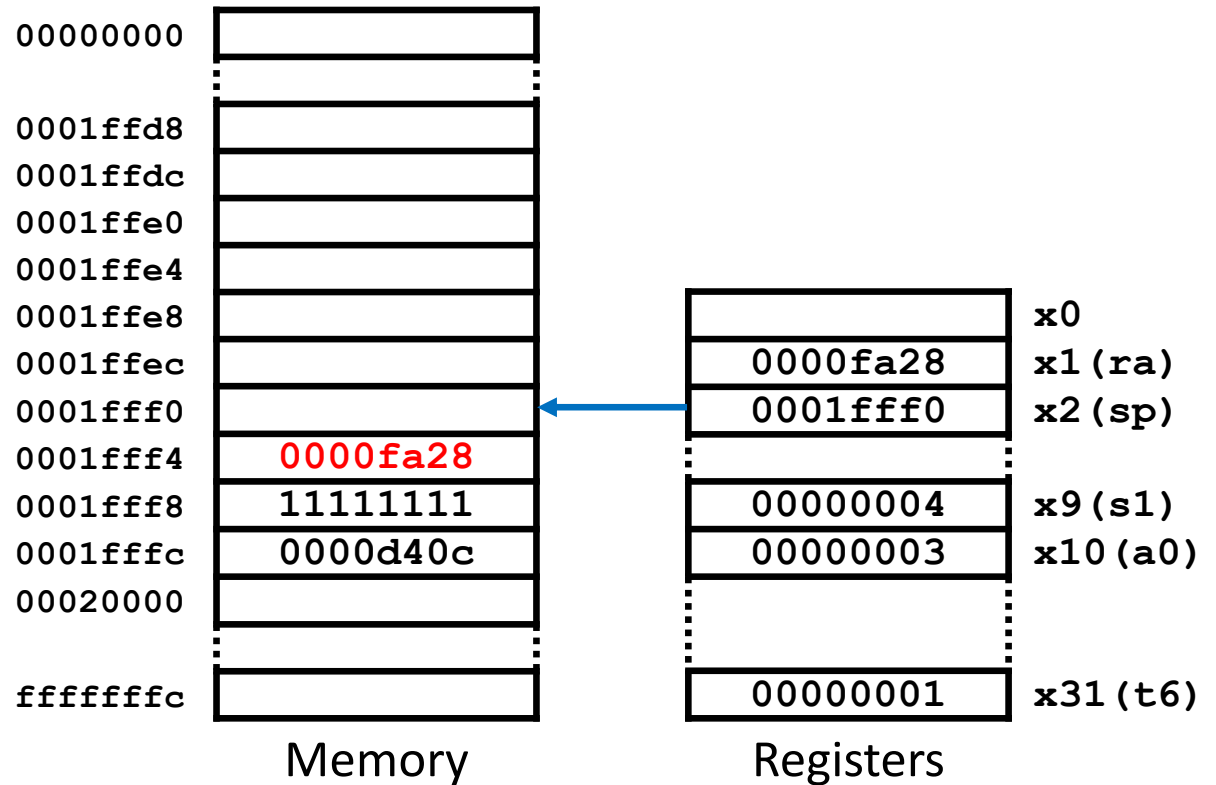
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

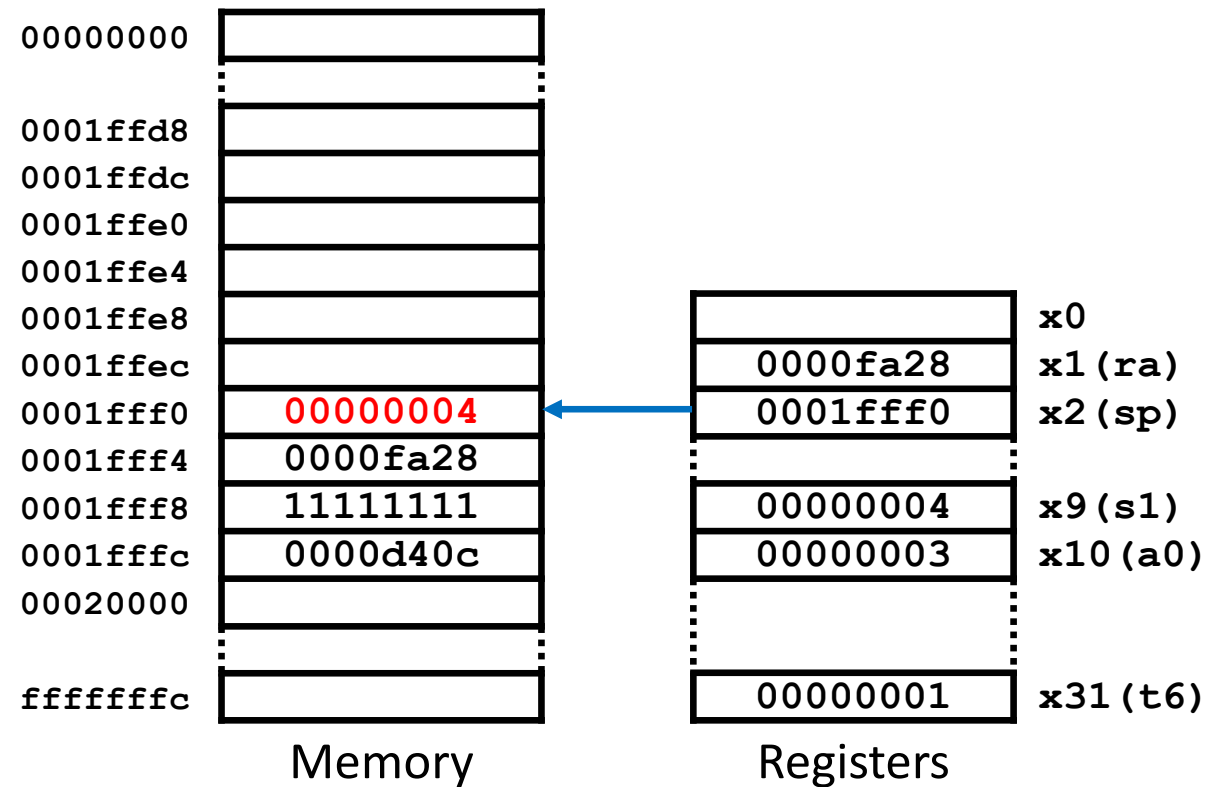
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

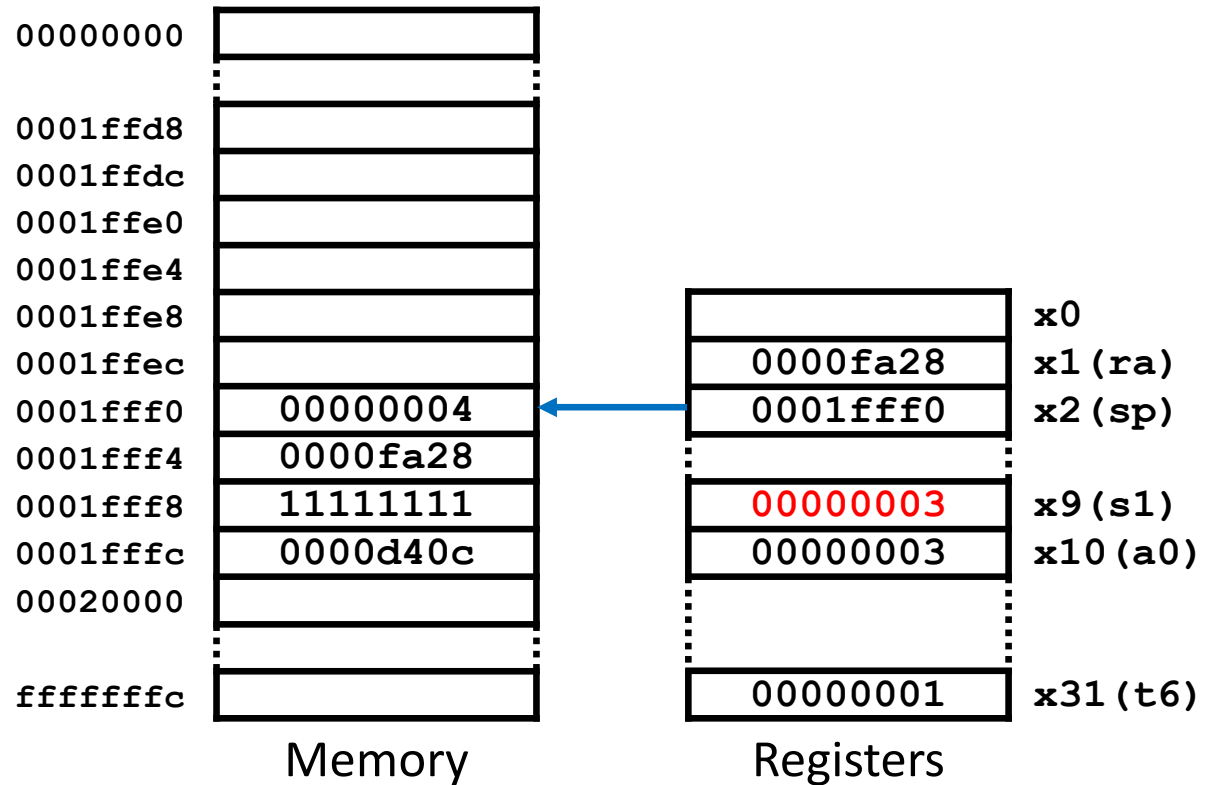
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

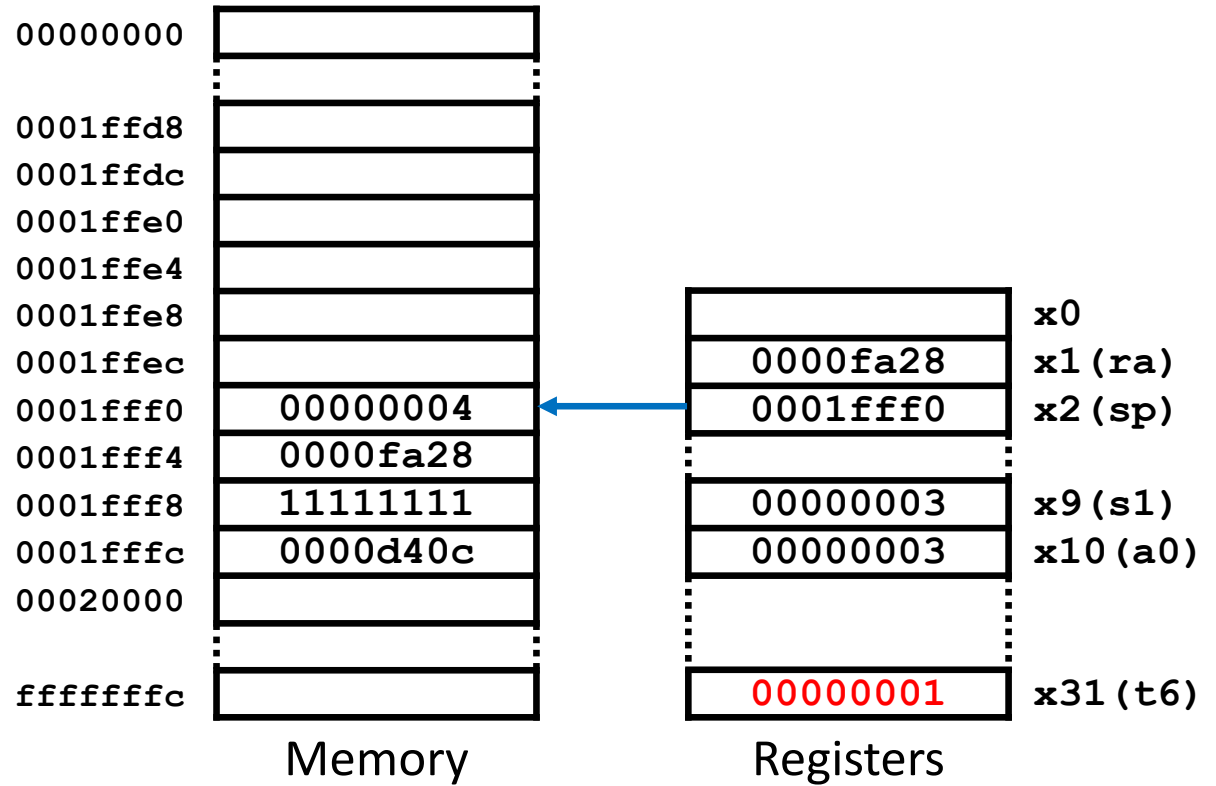
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

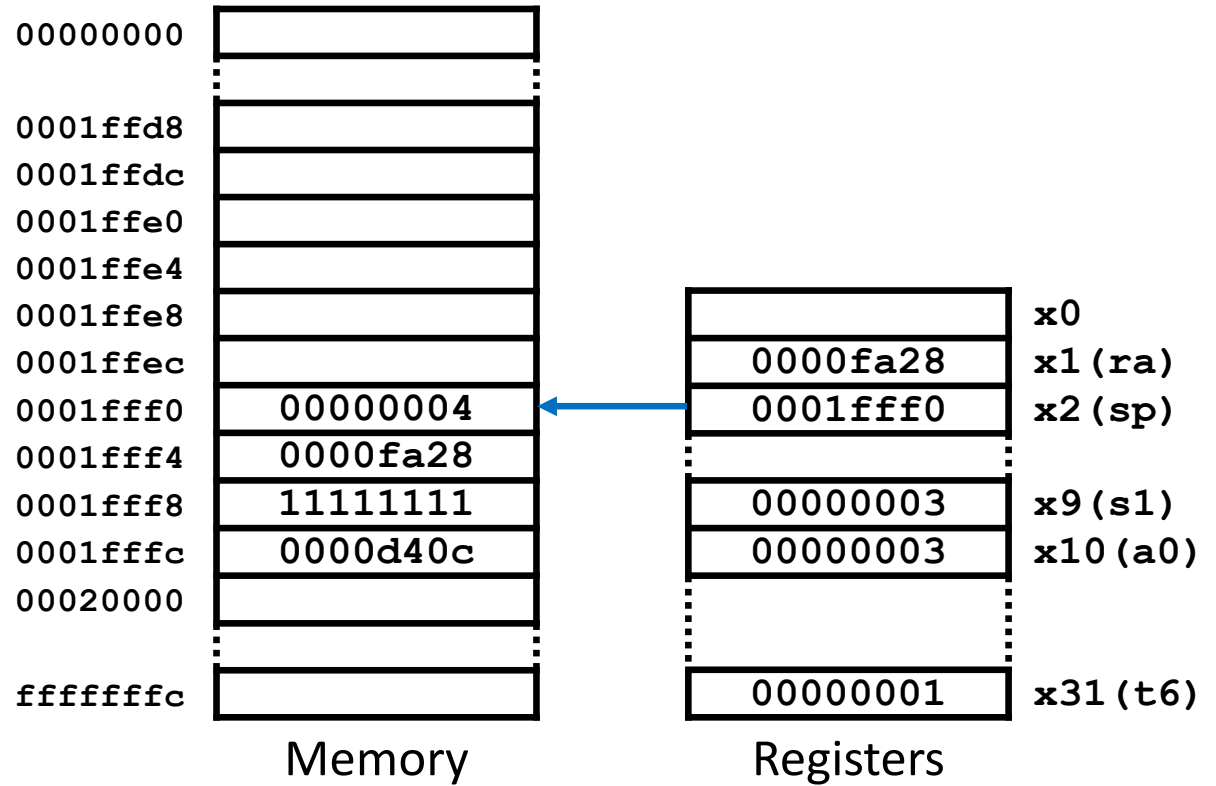
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

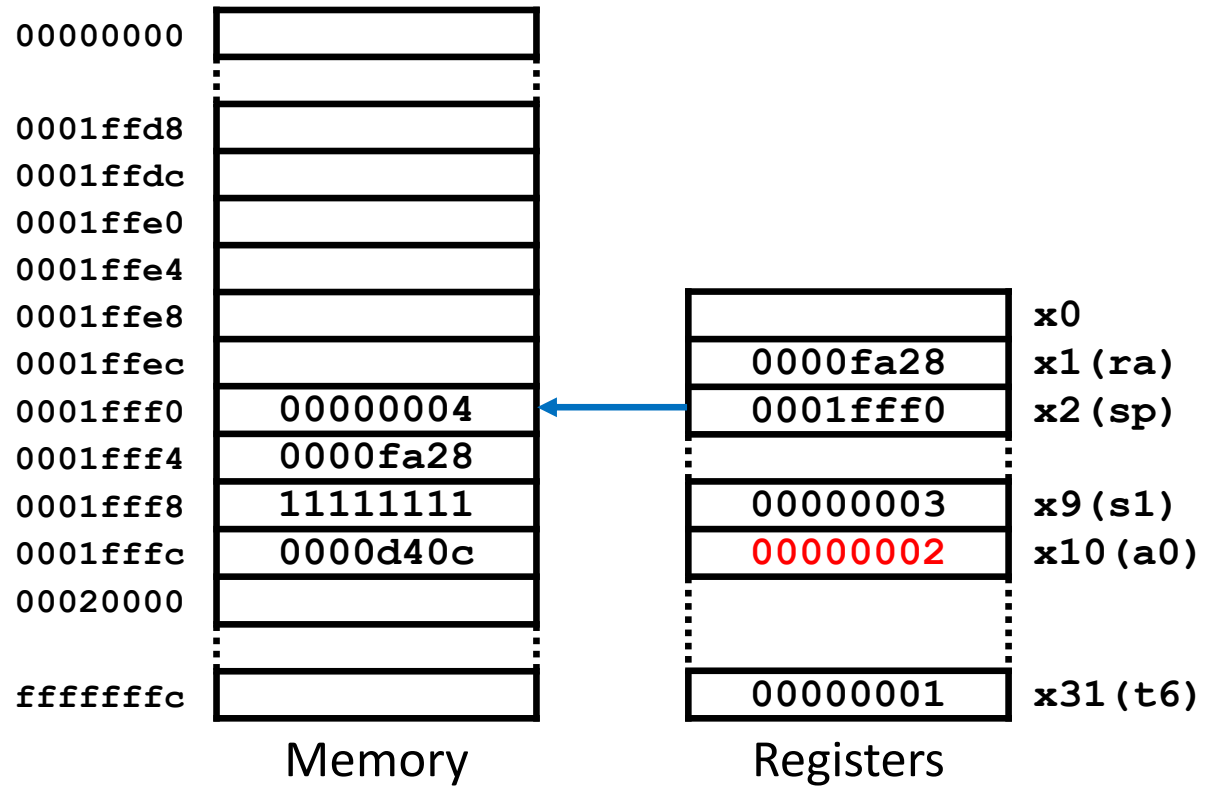
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
      else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

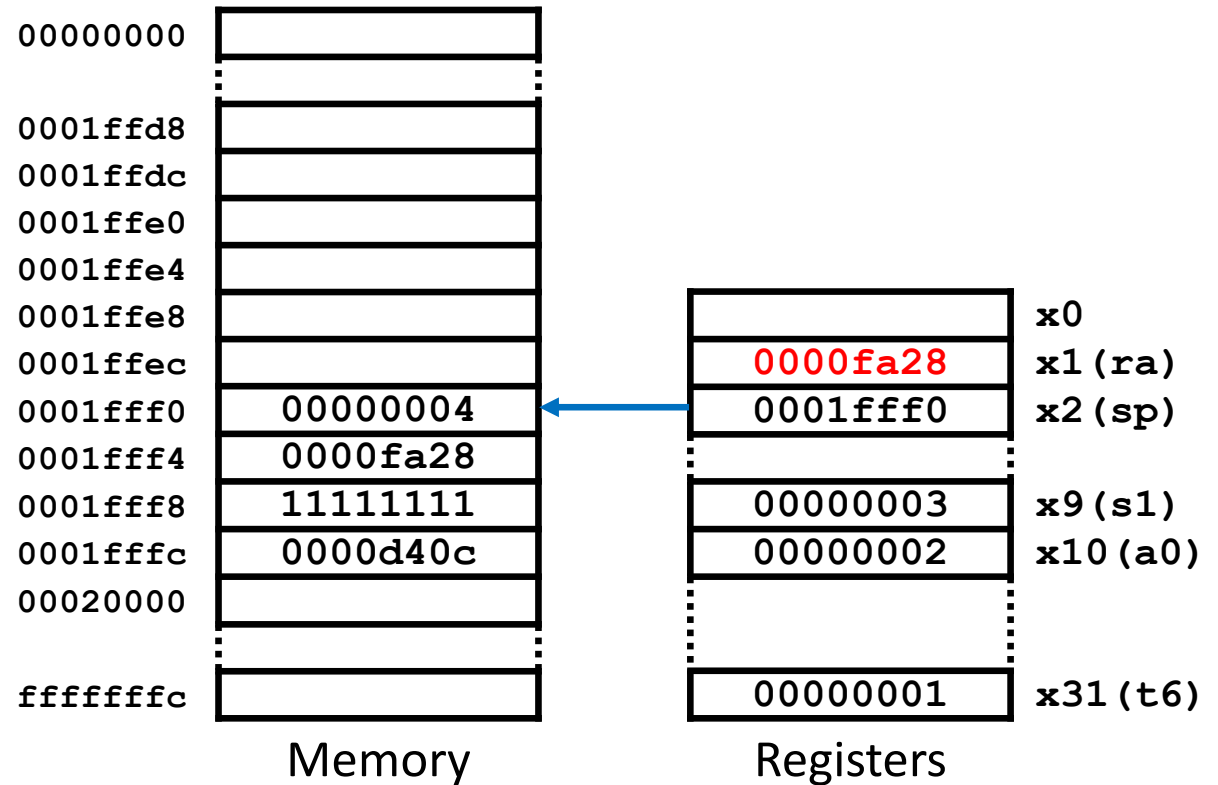
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
      else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

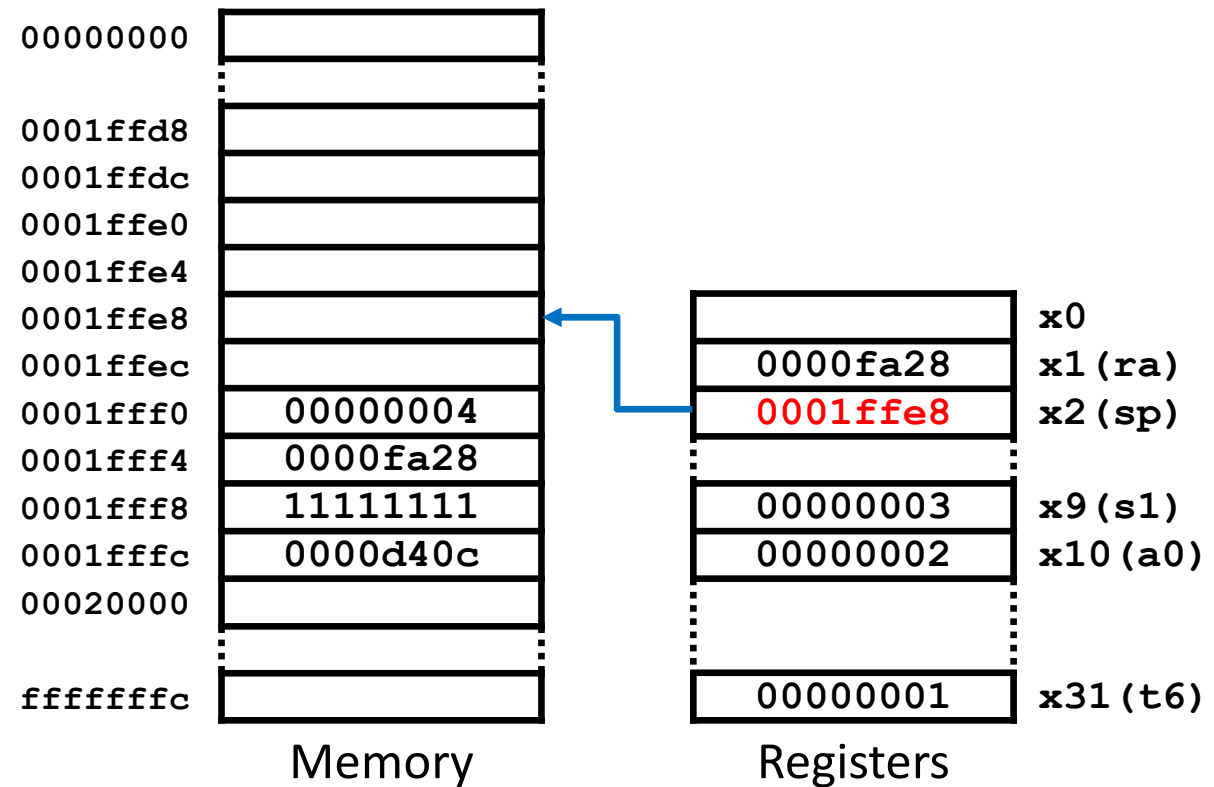
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

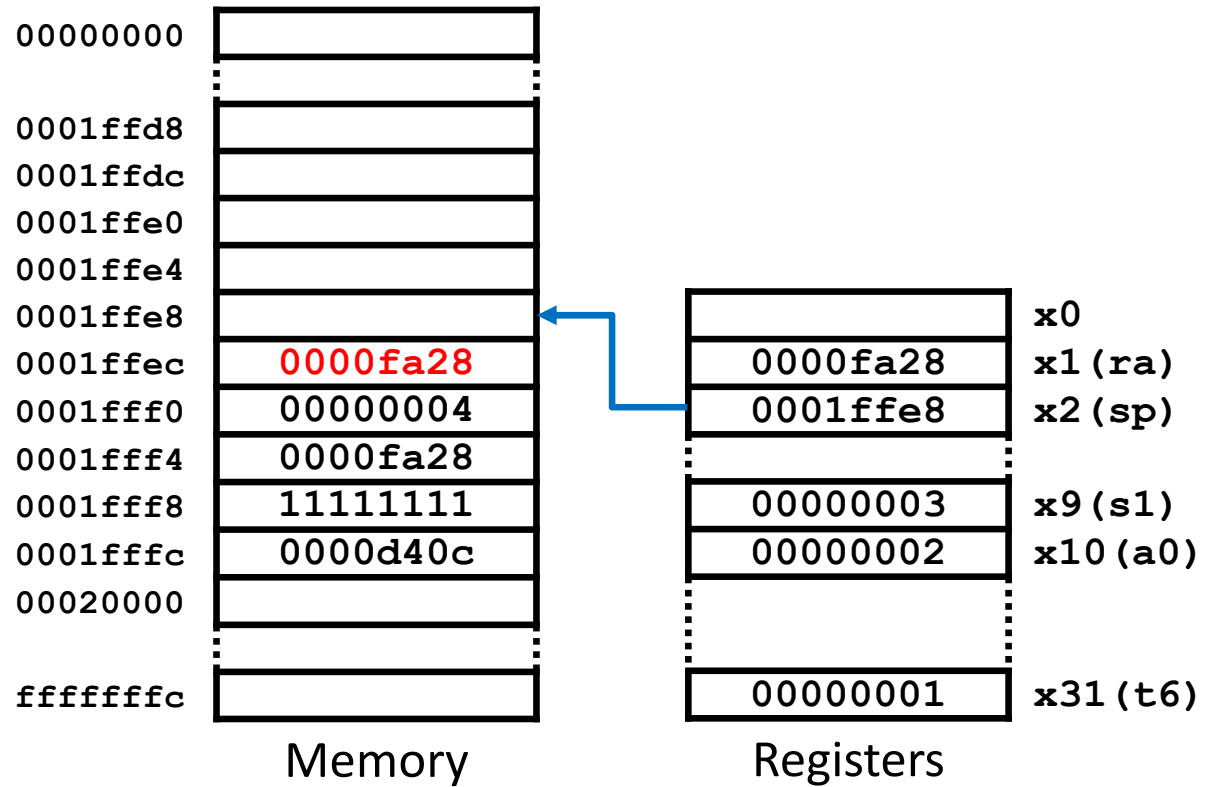
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

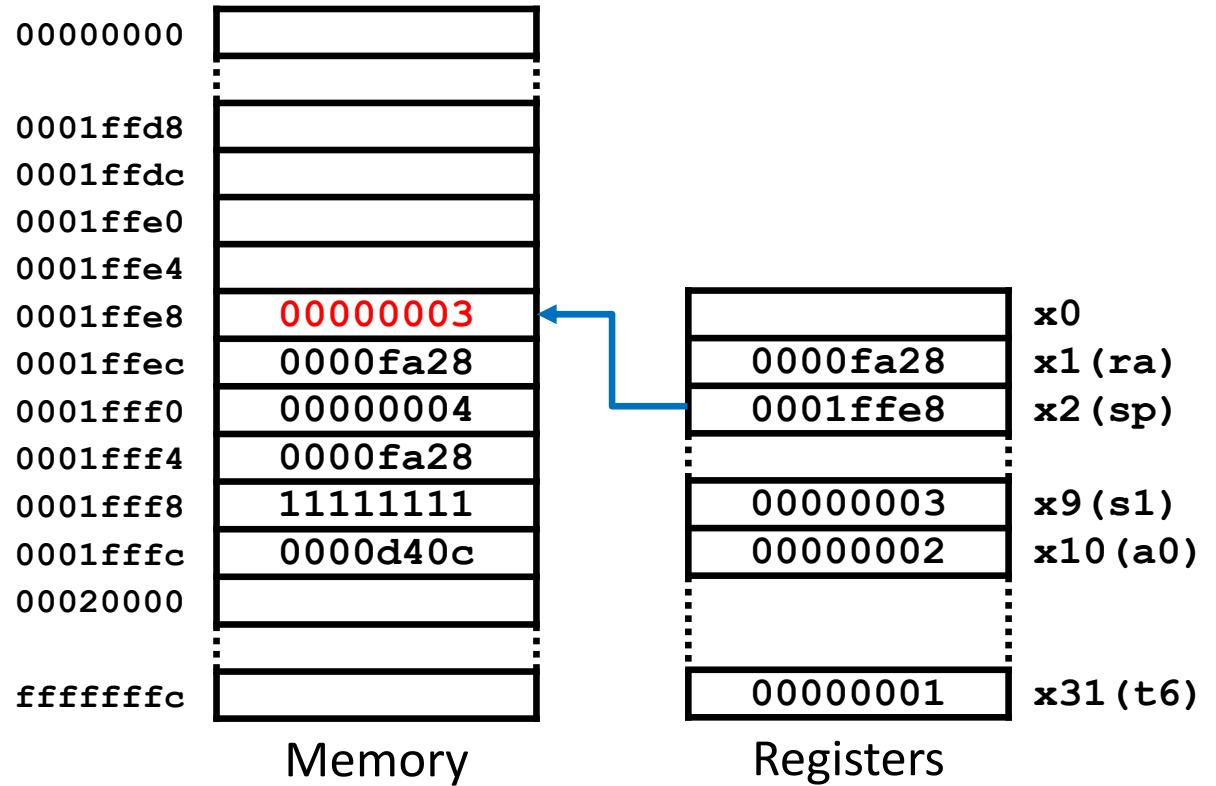
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

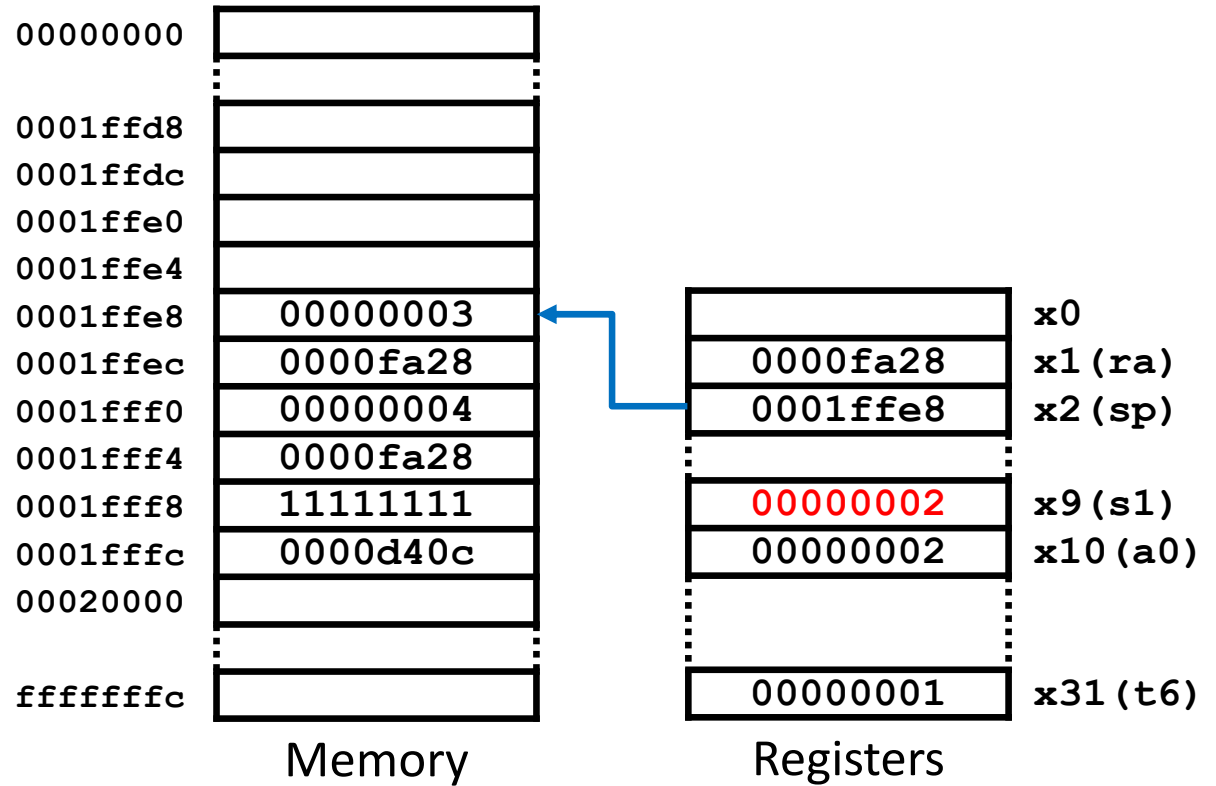
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

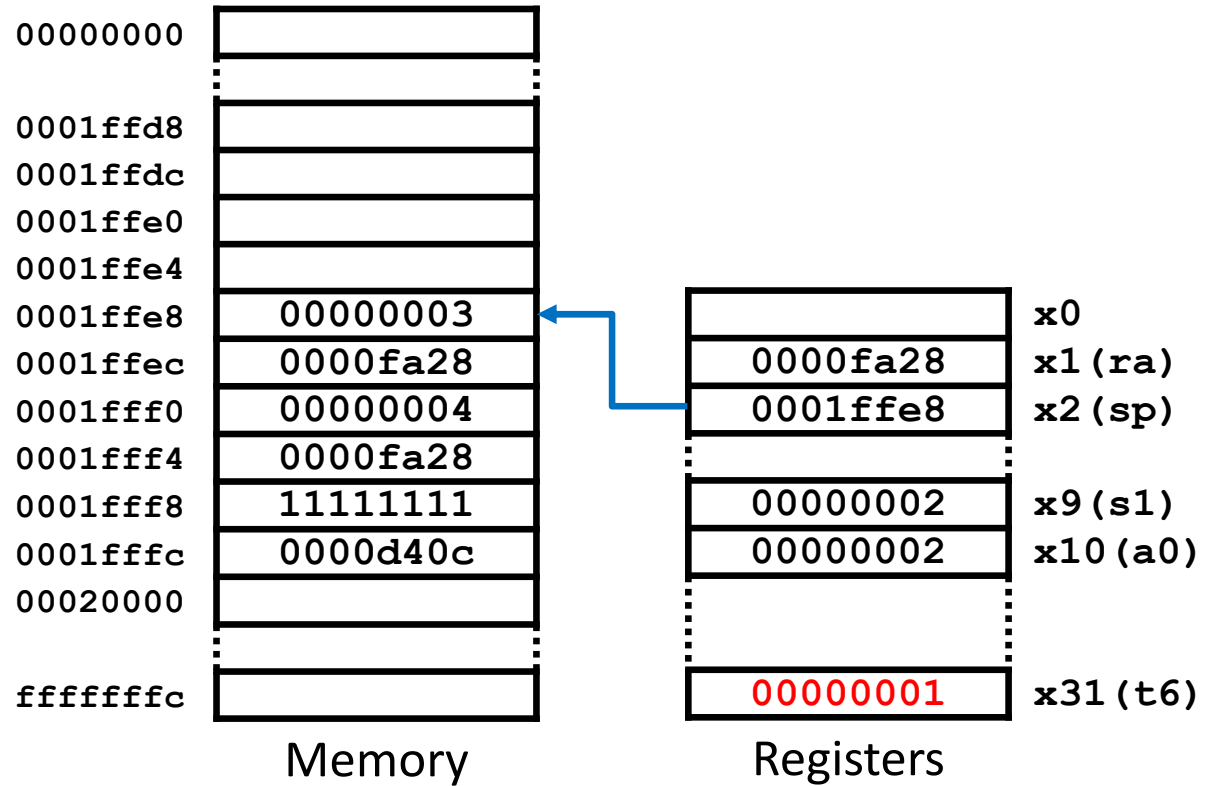
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

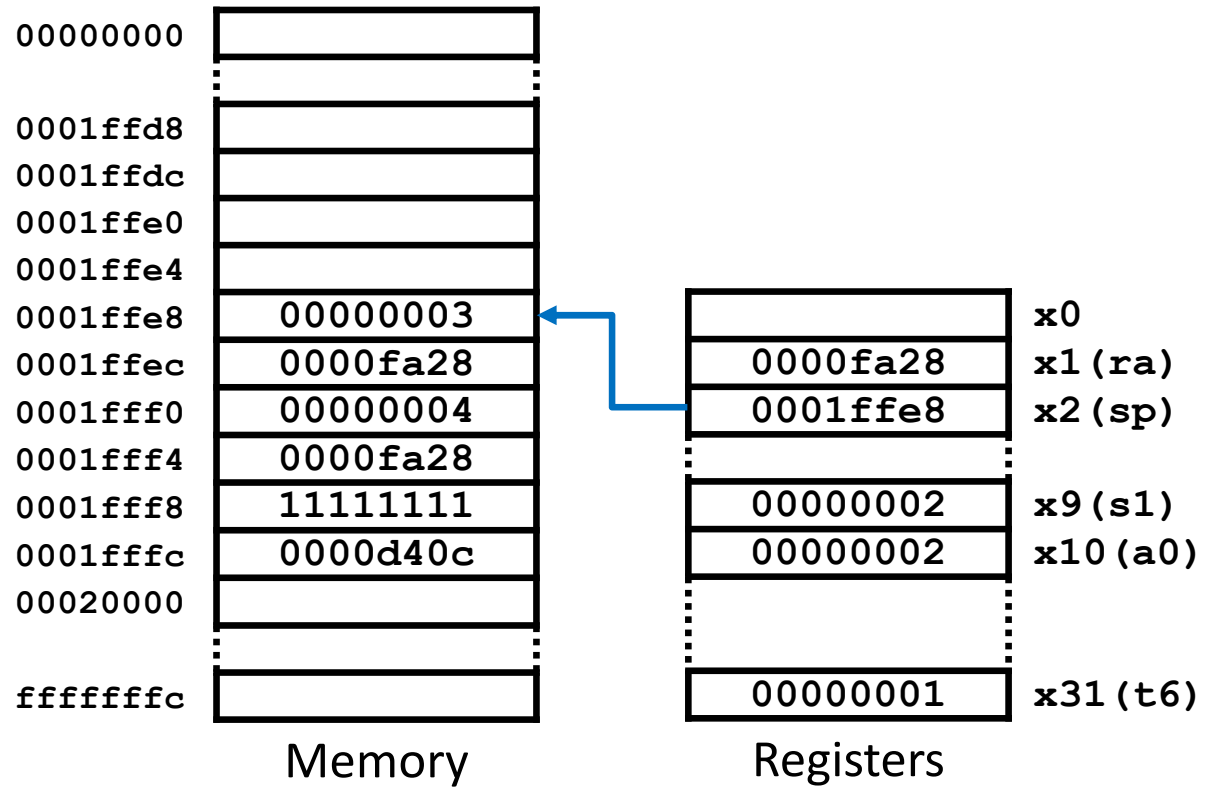
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
        sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
      j    eif
else:
add   a0, s1, -1
call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```





# Functions

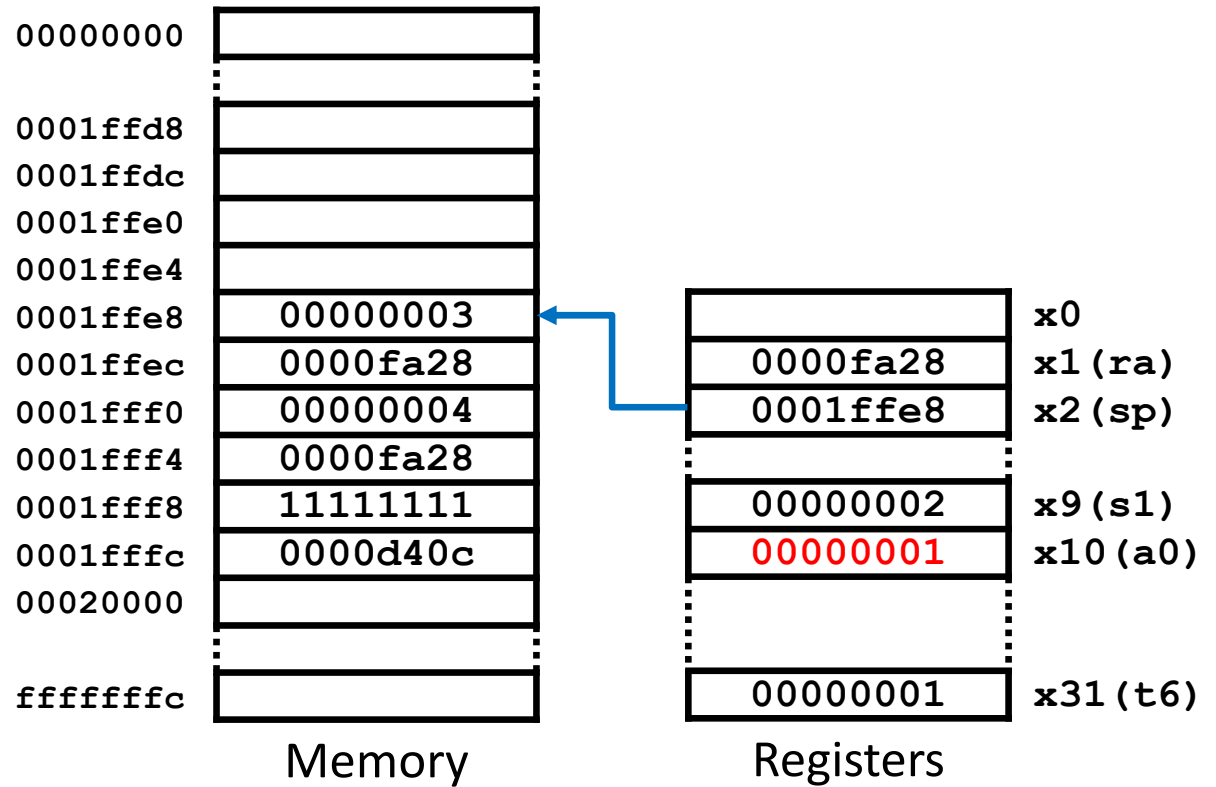
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```





# Functions

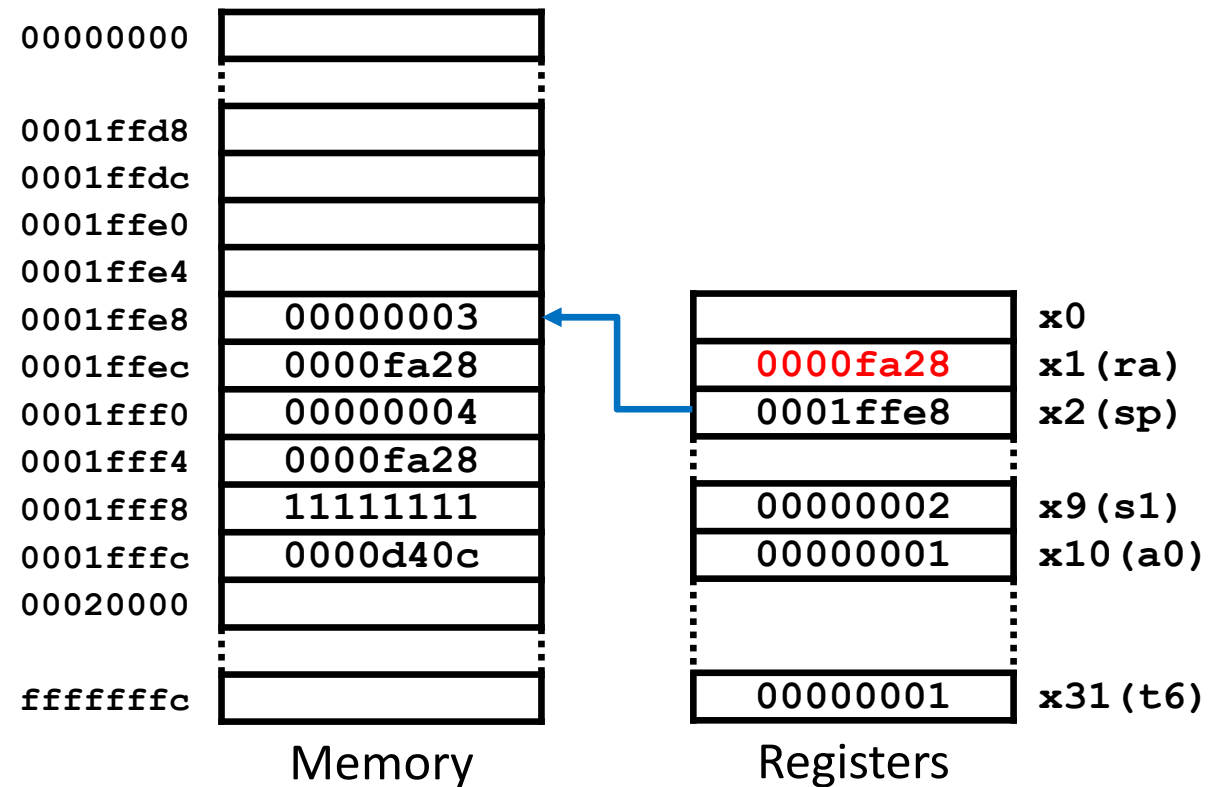
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
      else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

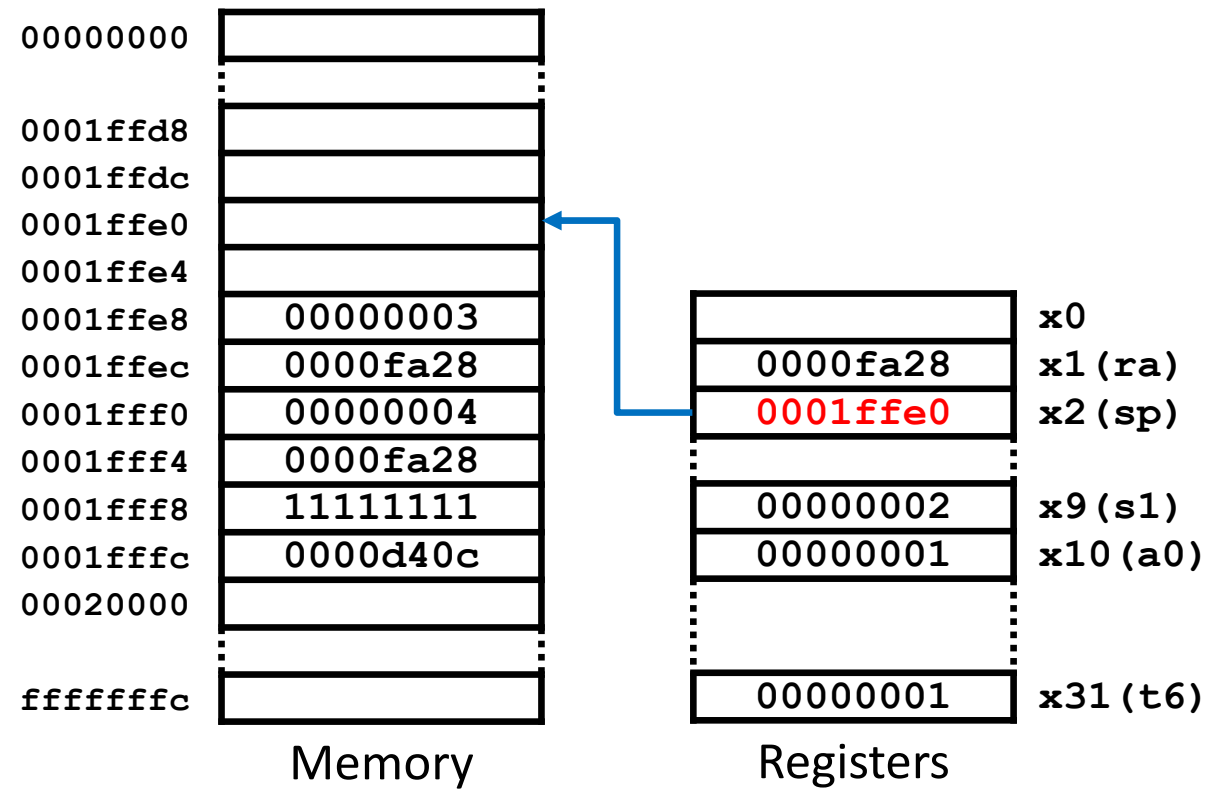
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

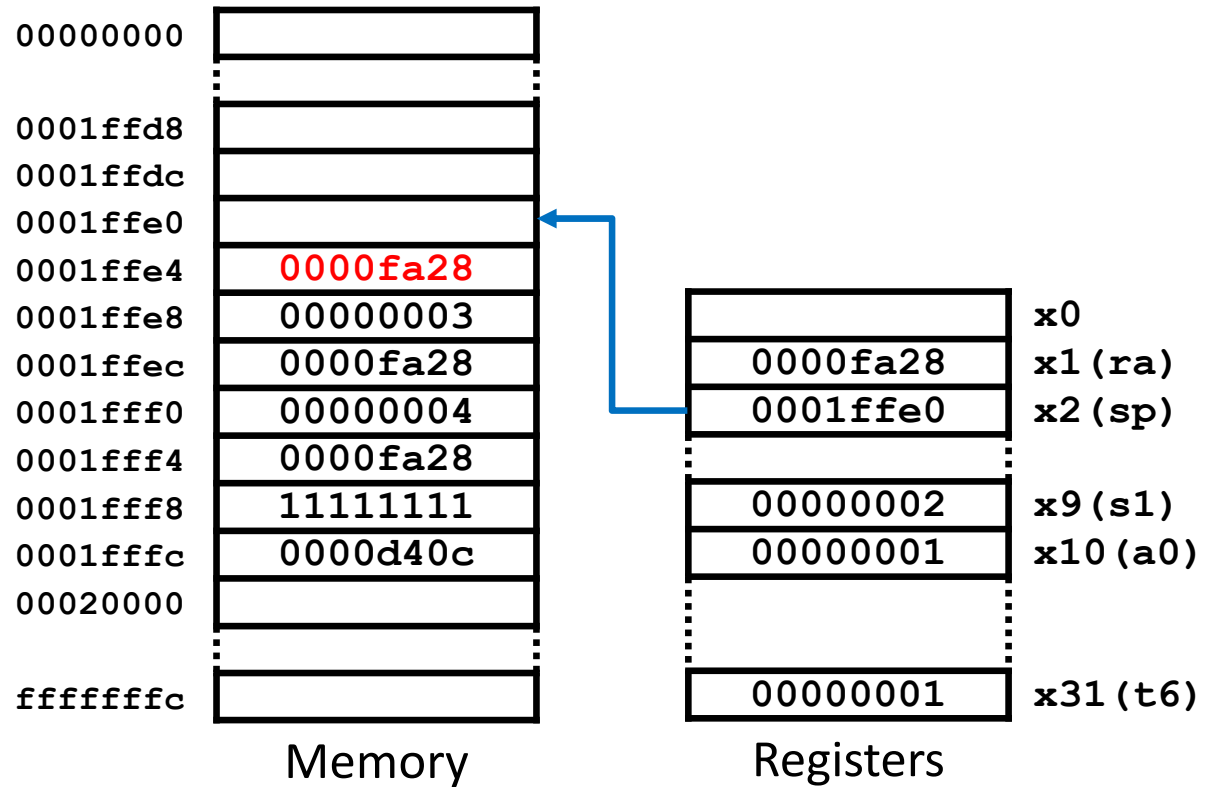
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

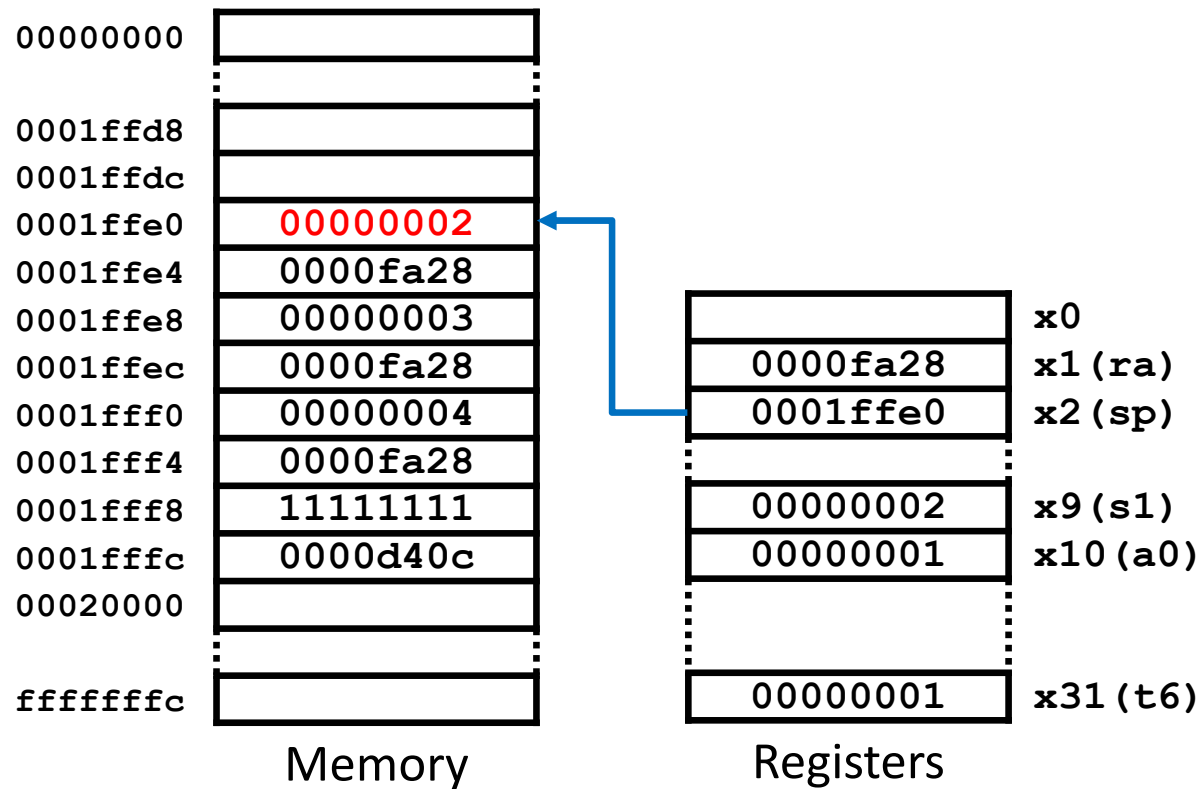
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

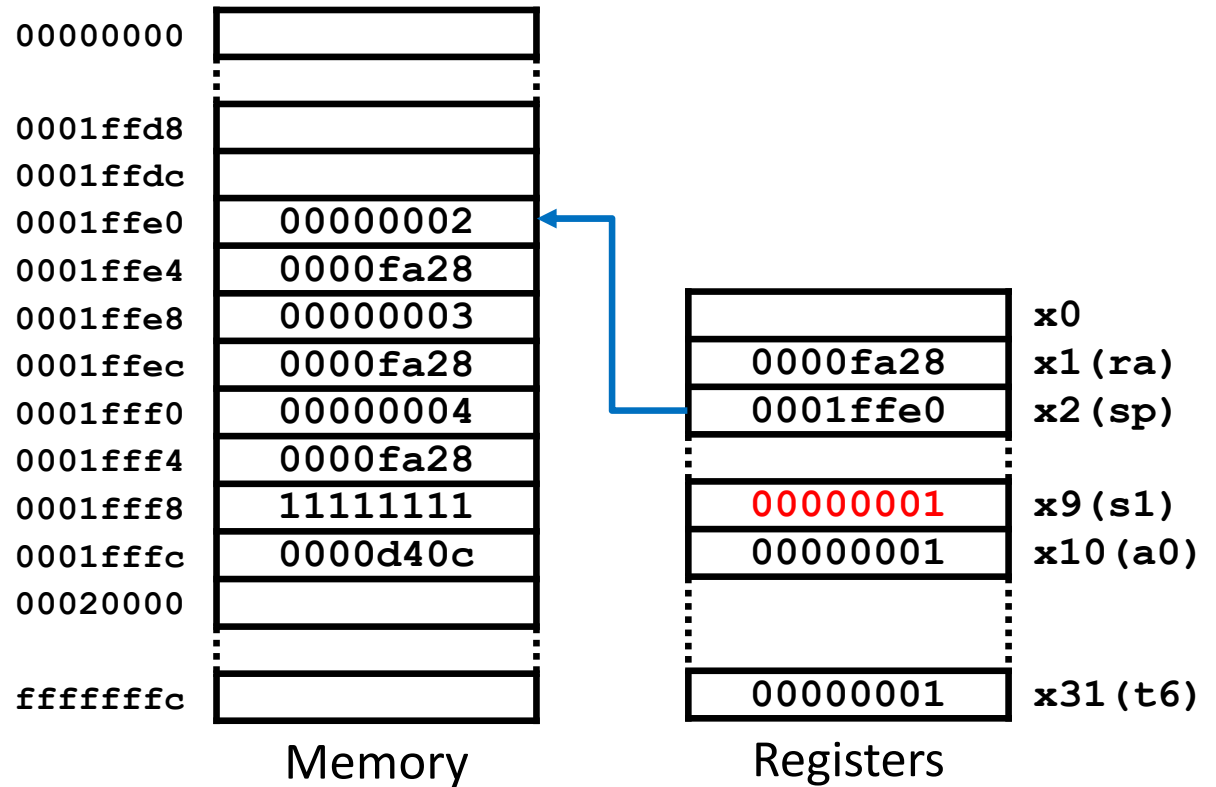
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

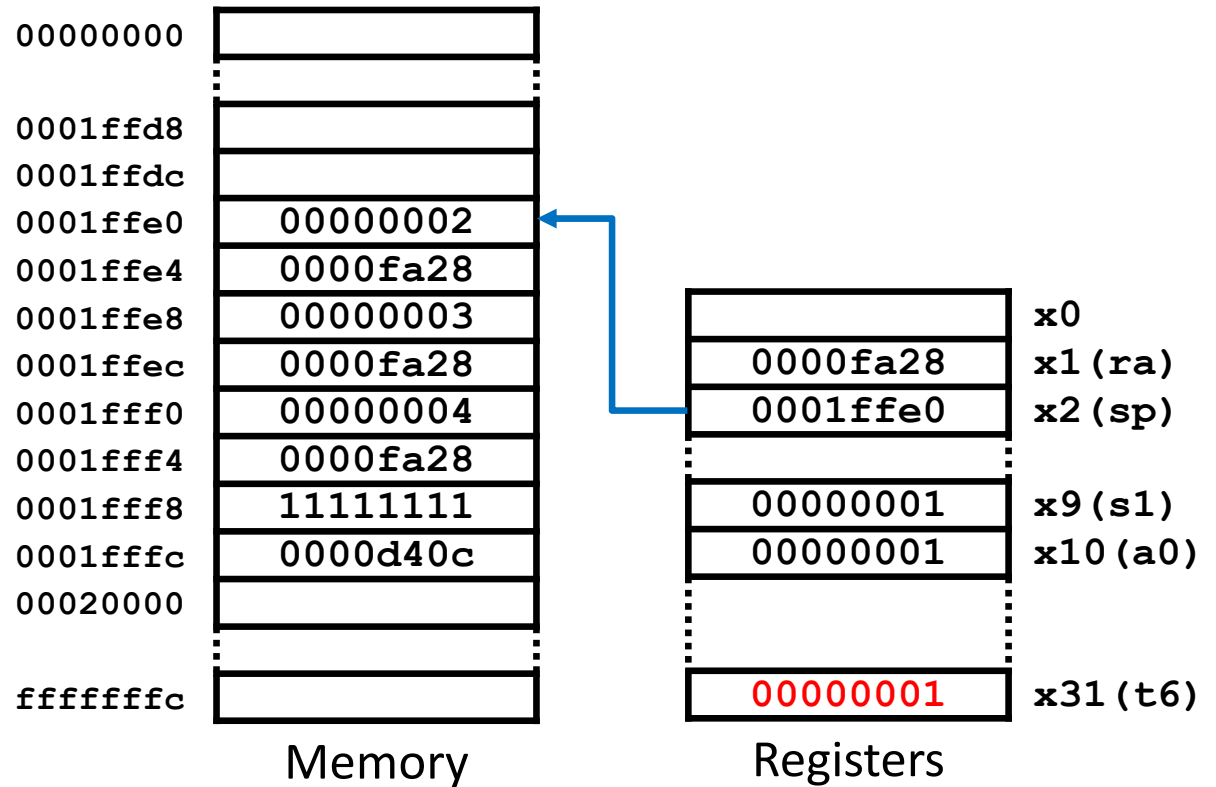
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

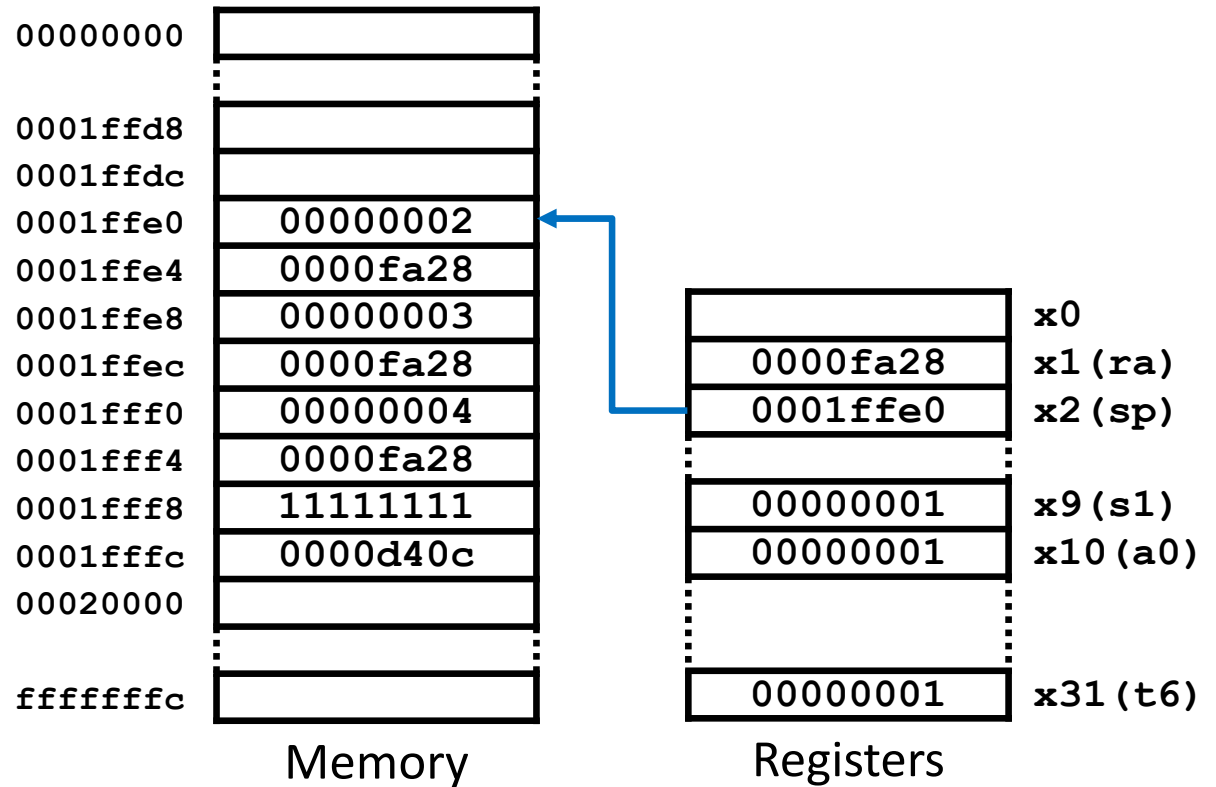
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

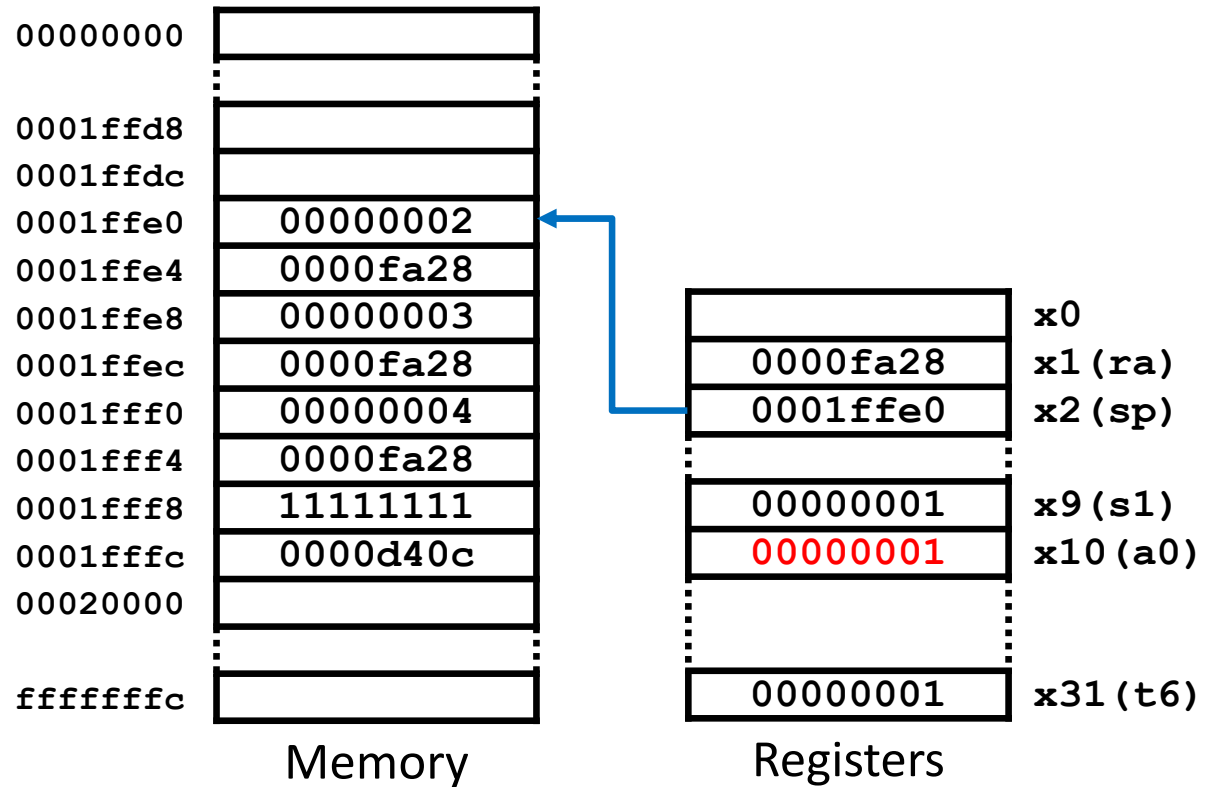
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

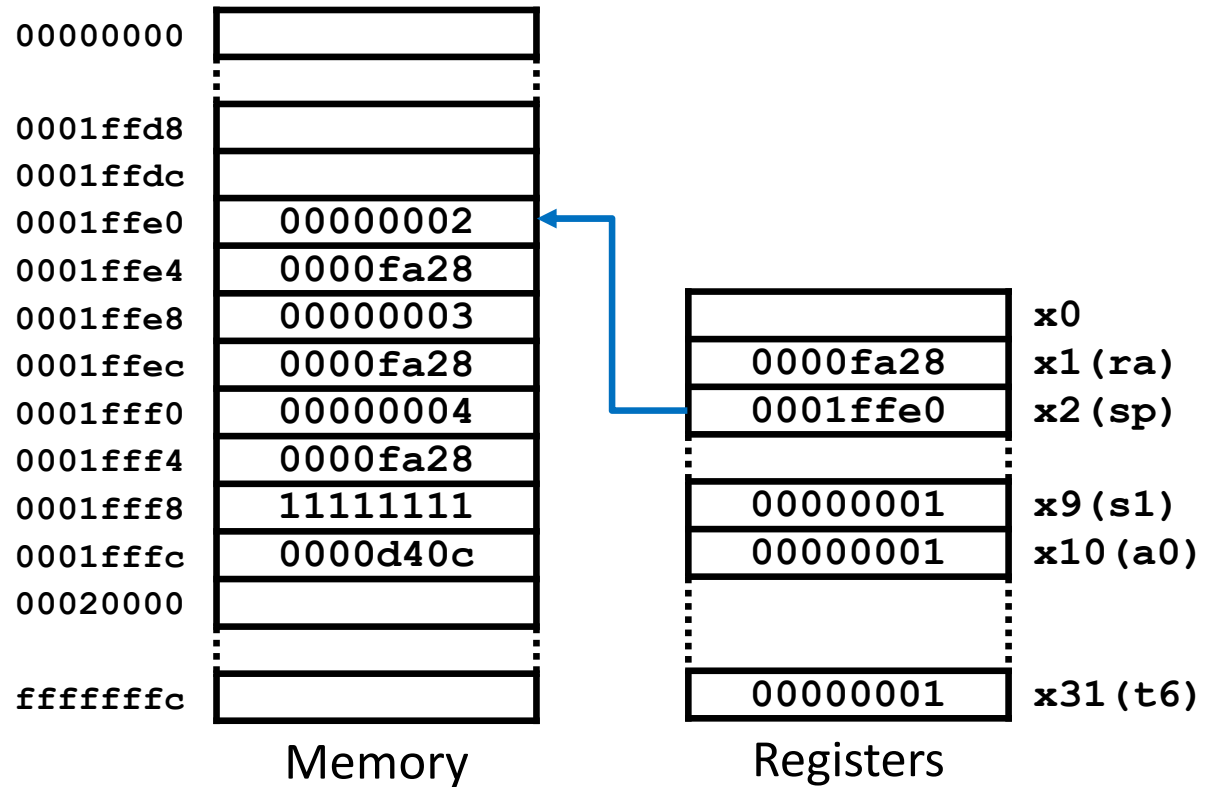
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
        sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
add   a0, s1, -1
call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```





# Functions

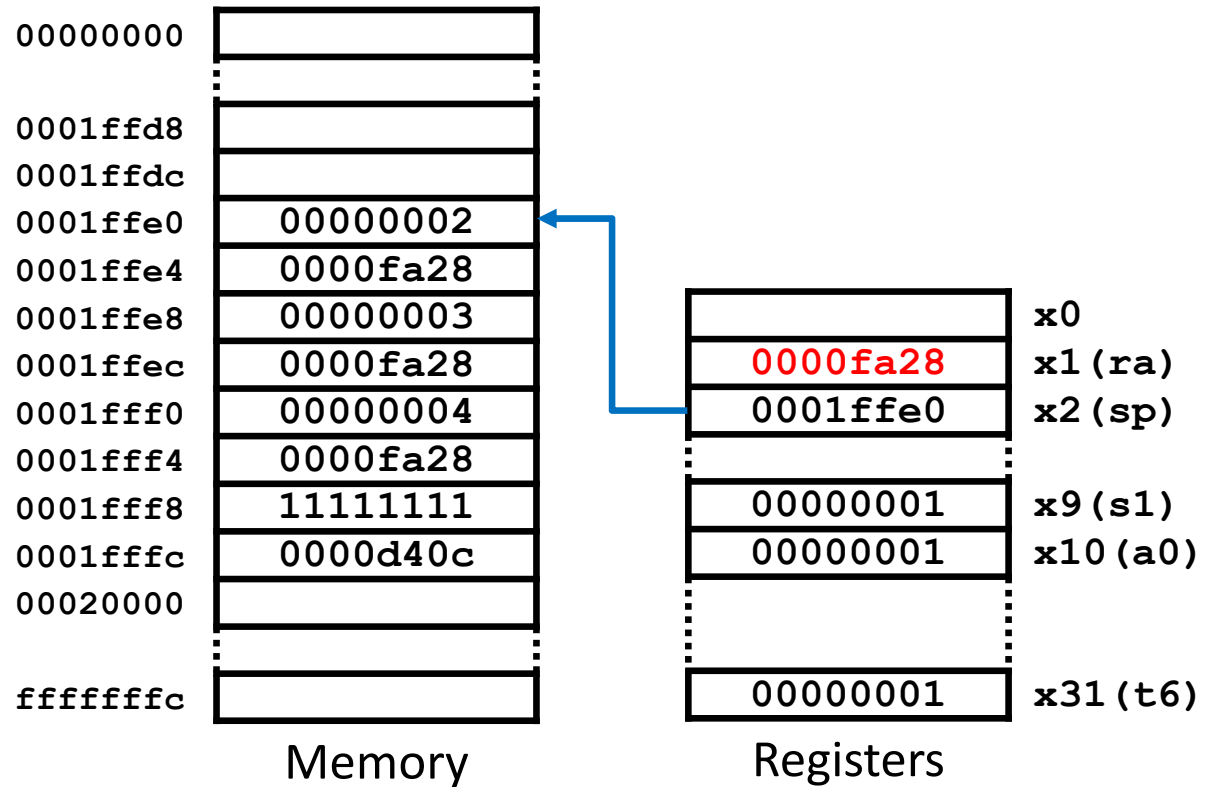
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

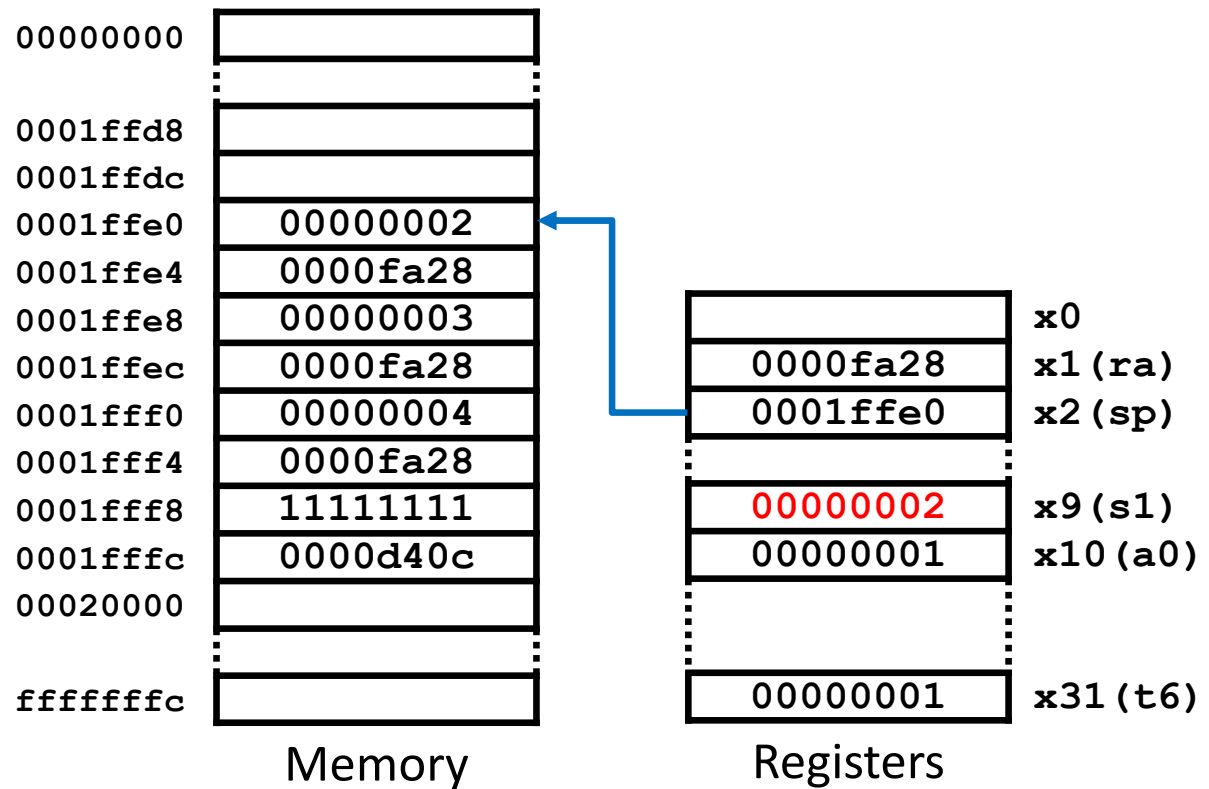
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

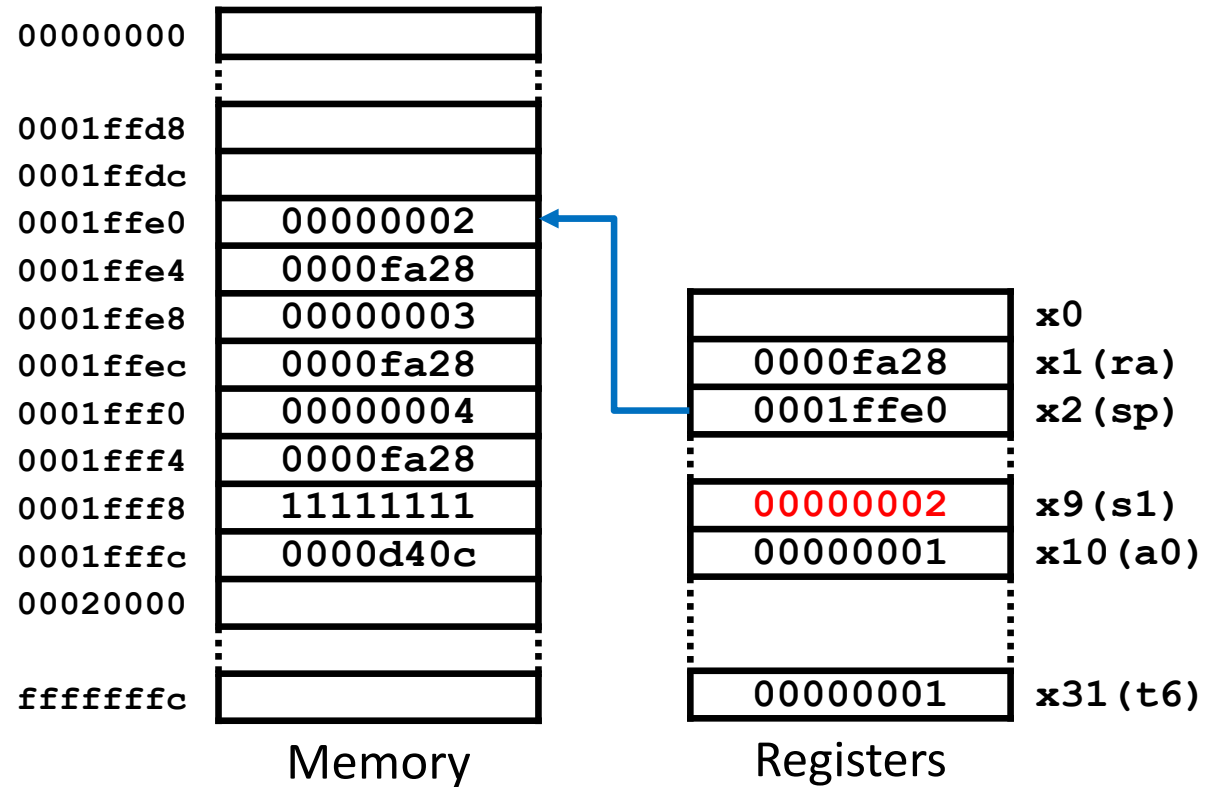
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

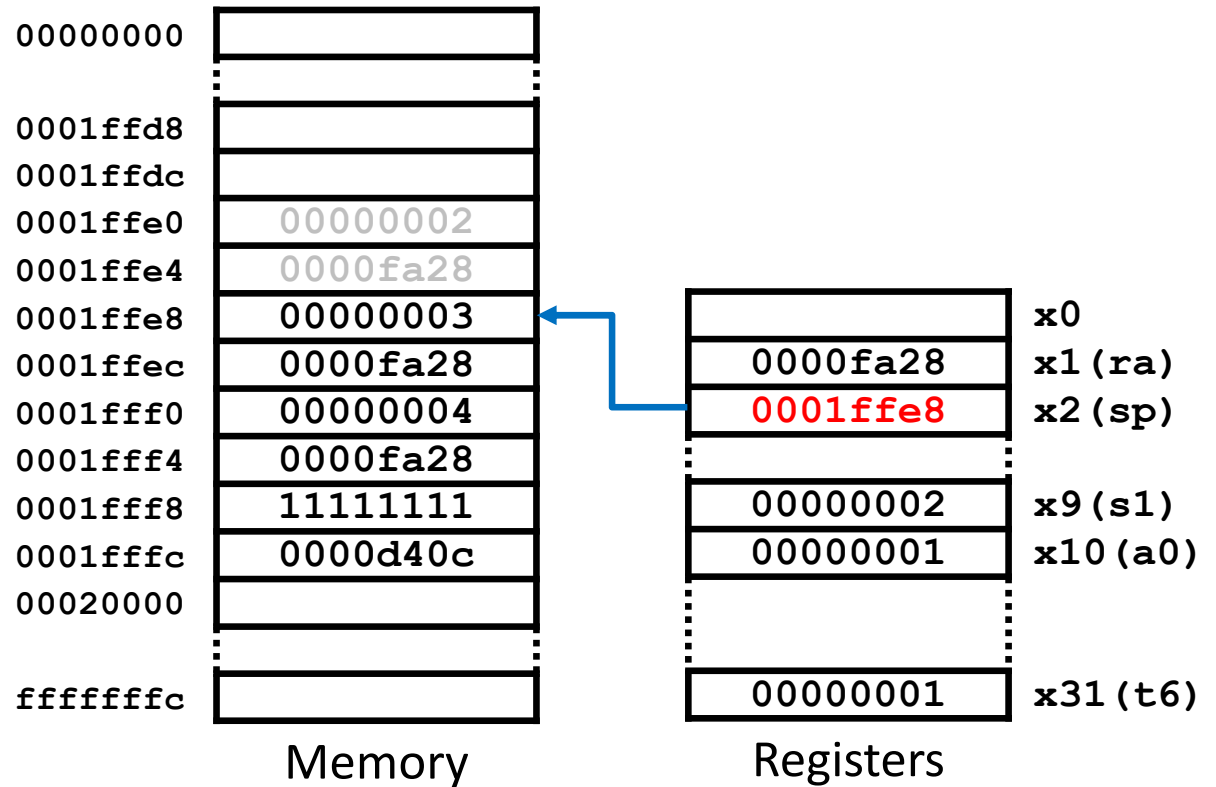
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

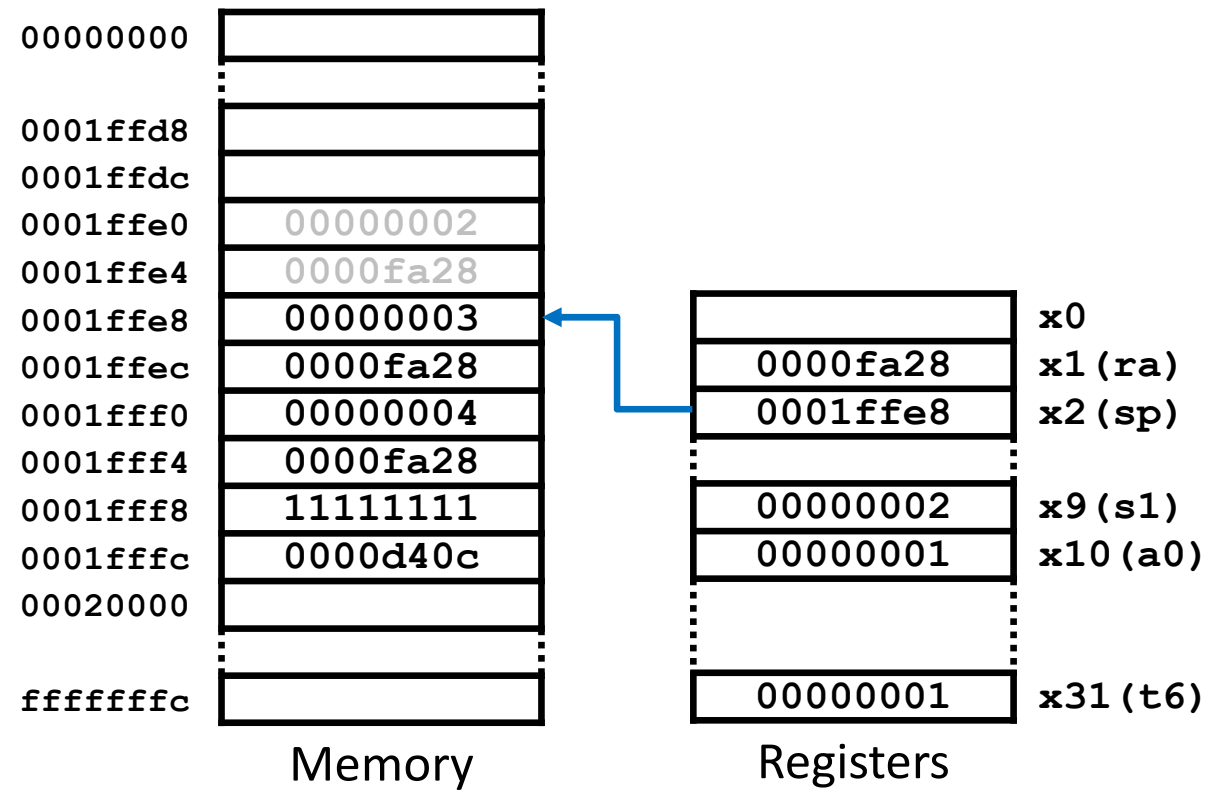
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

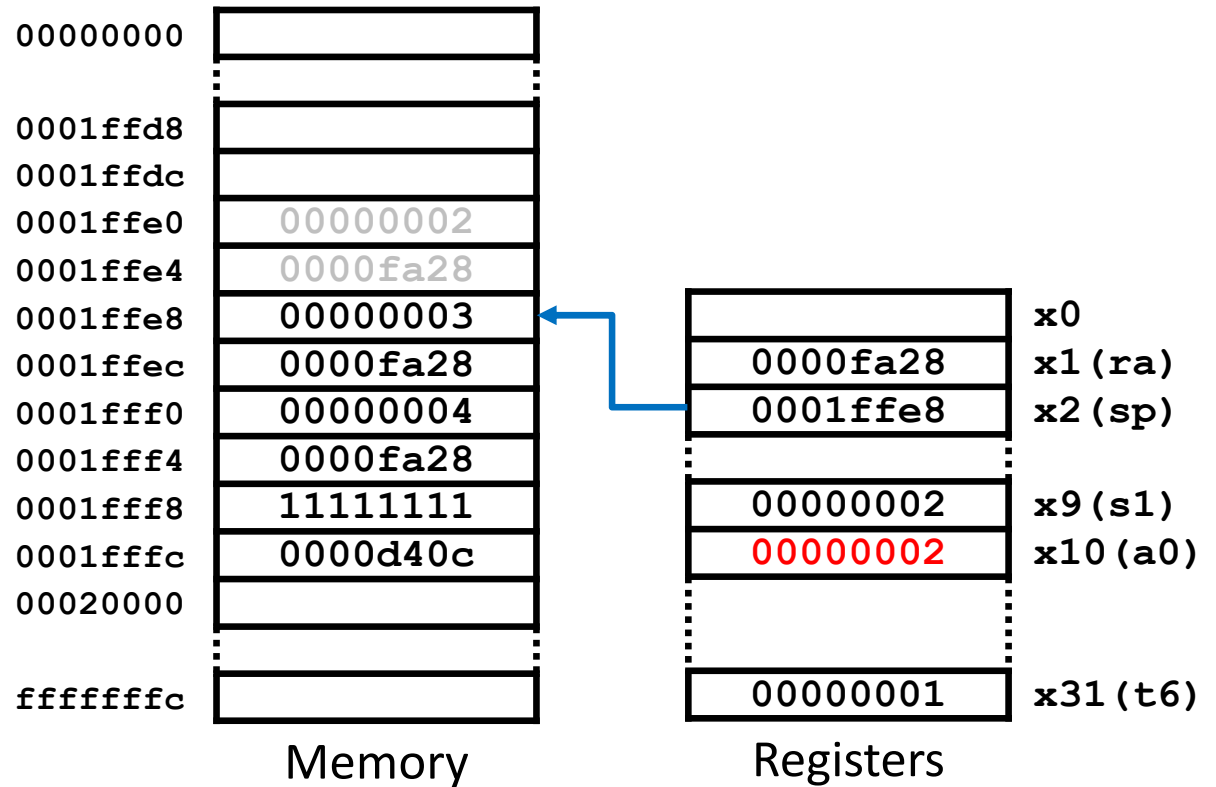
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt  s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j    eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call fact
      mul  a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

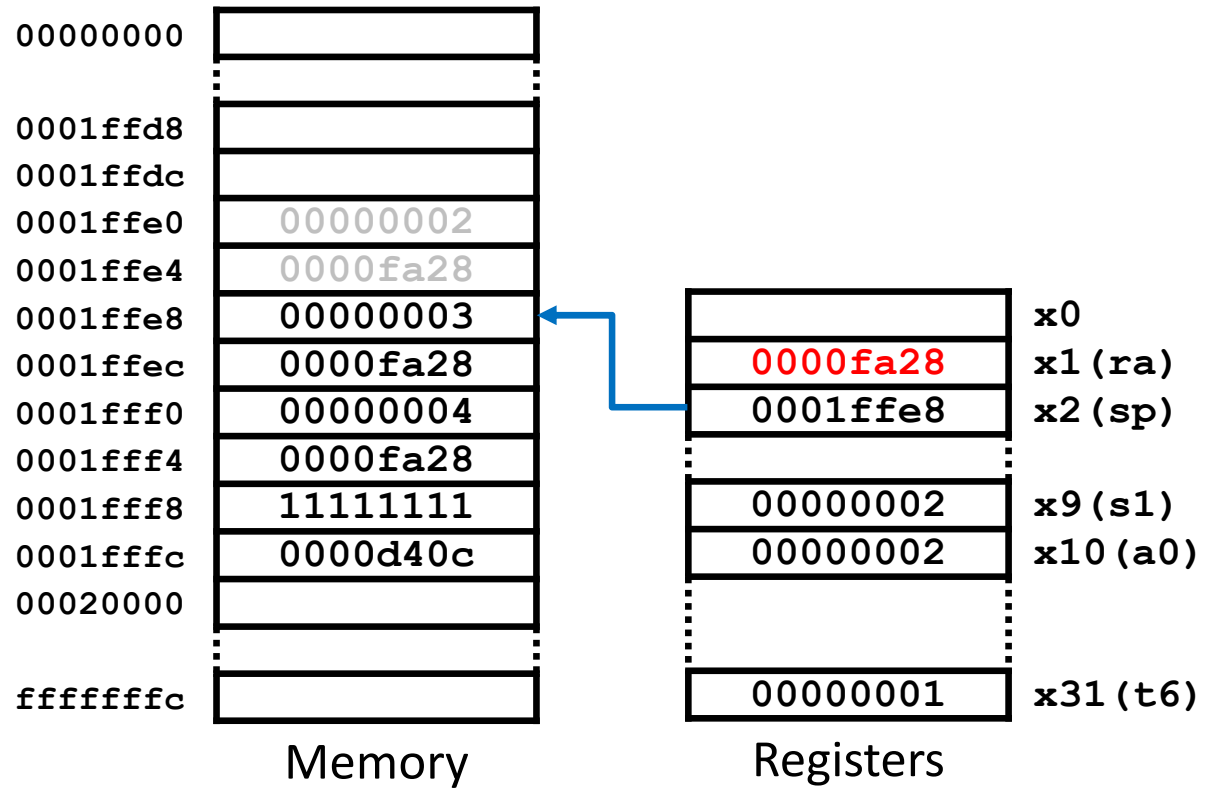
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

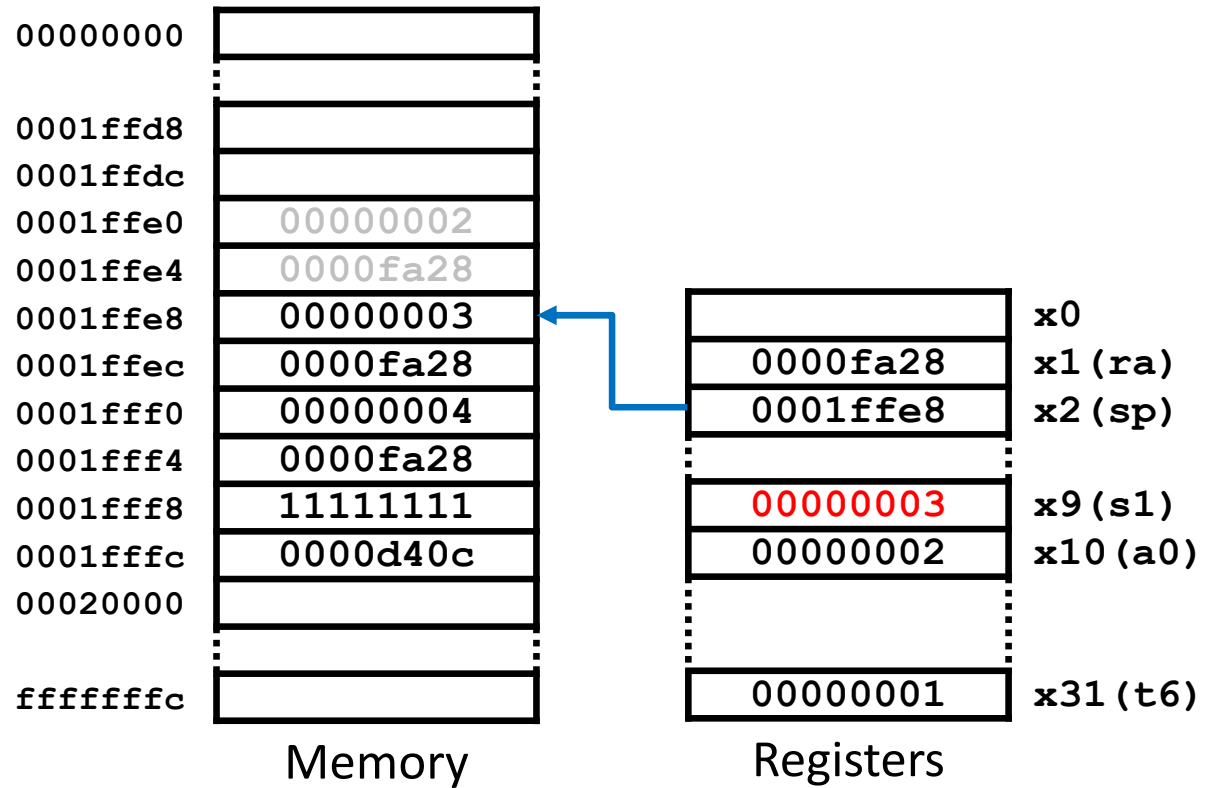
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

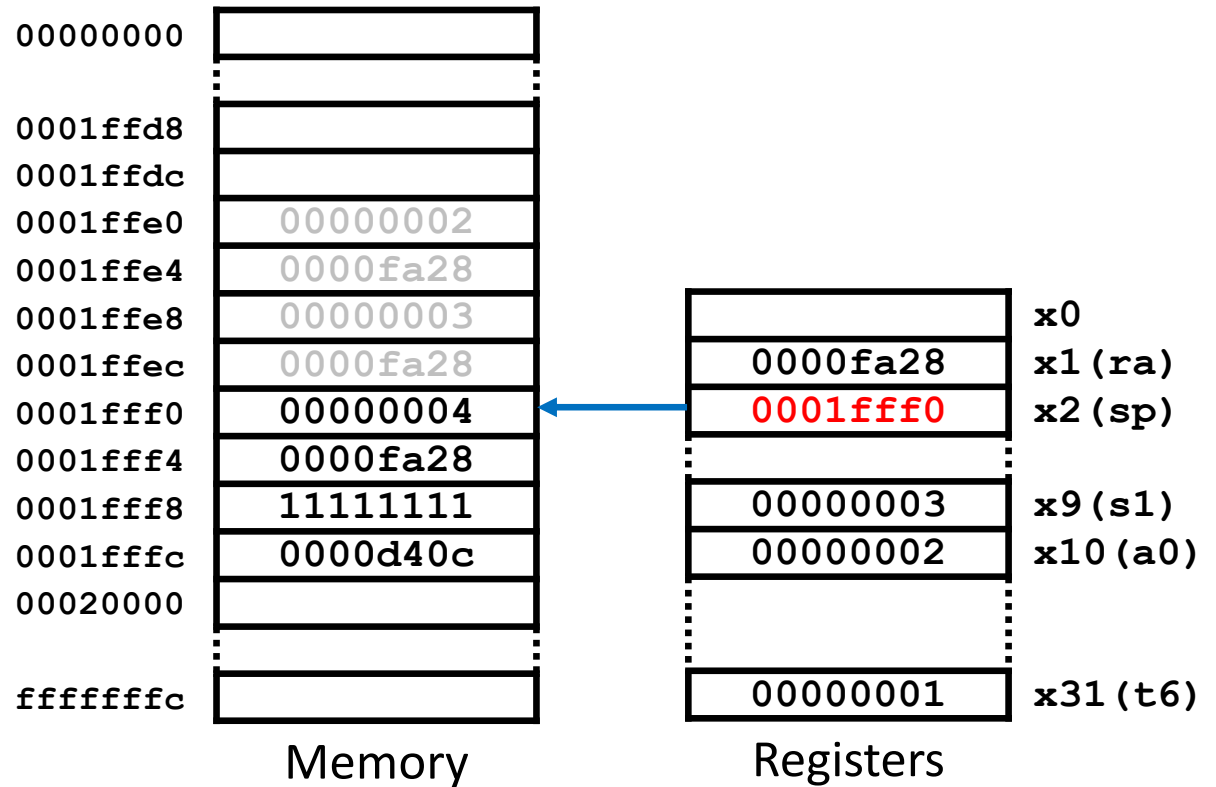
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

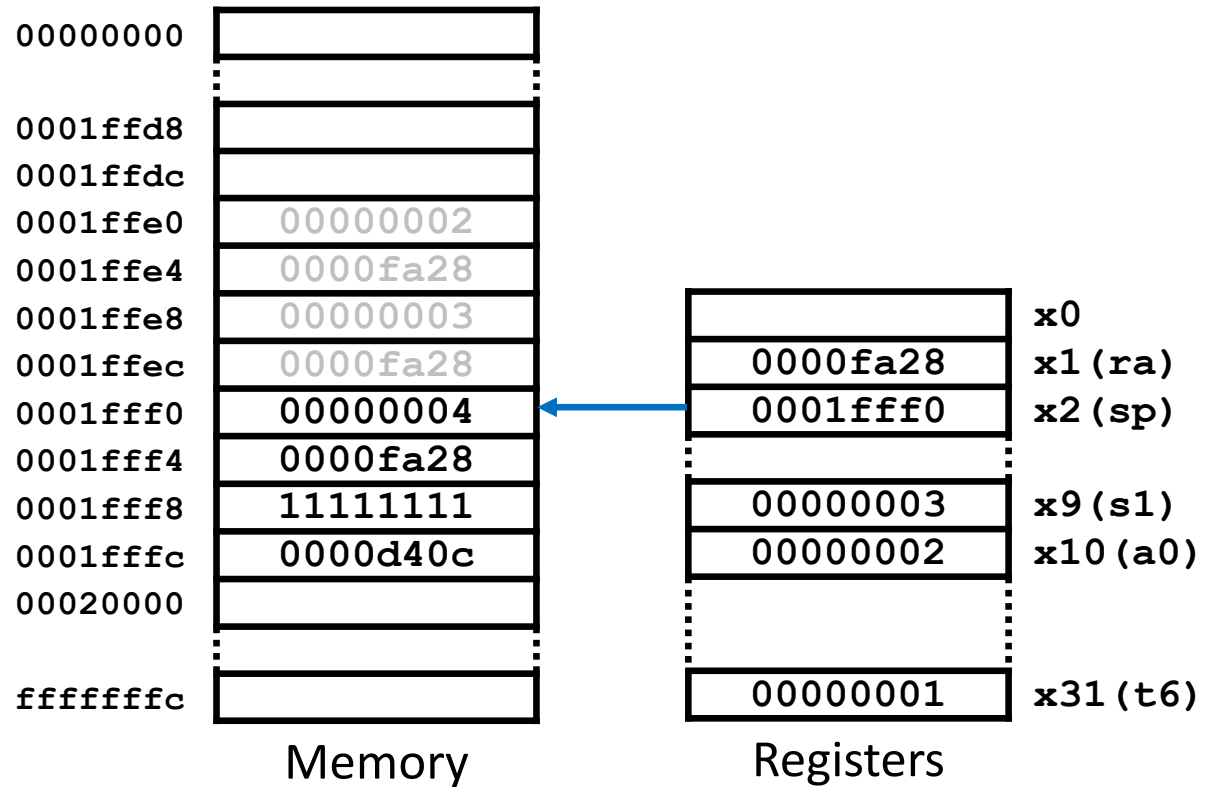
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

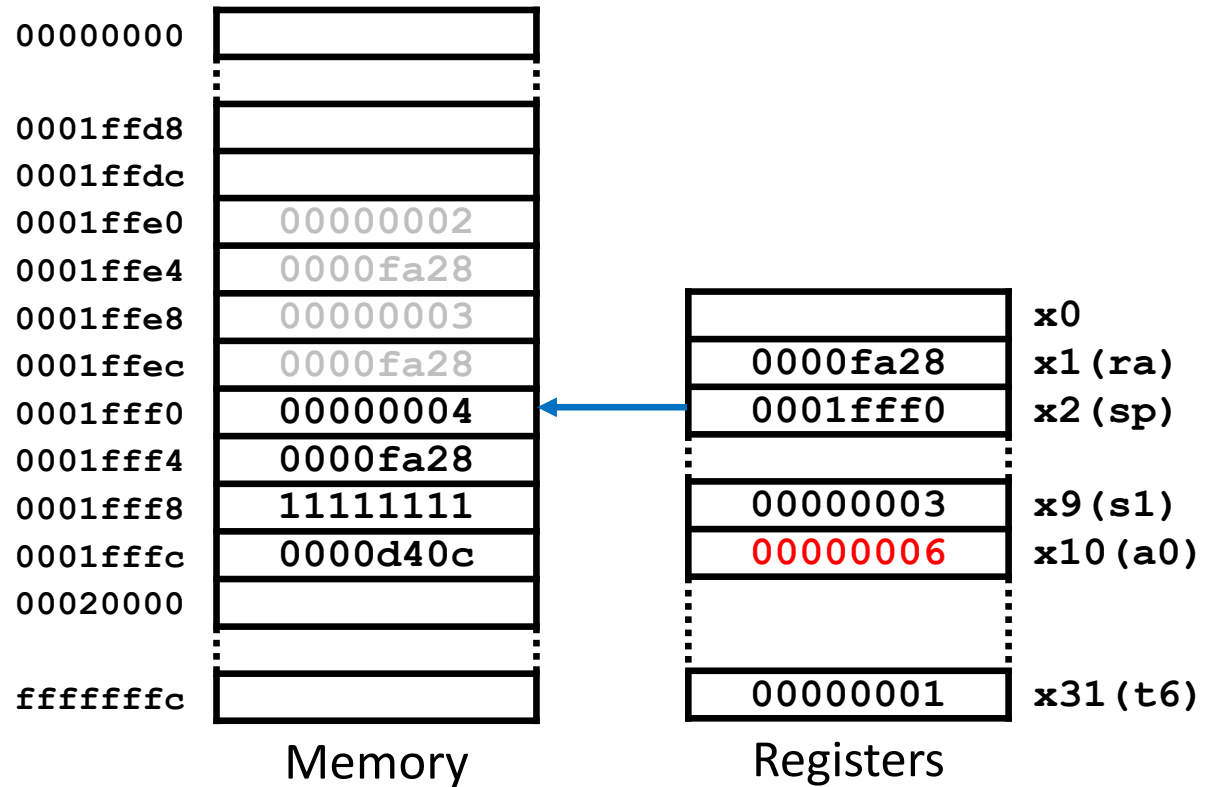
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
      mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

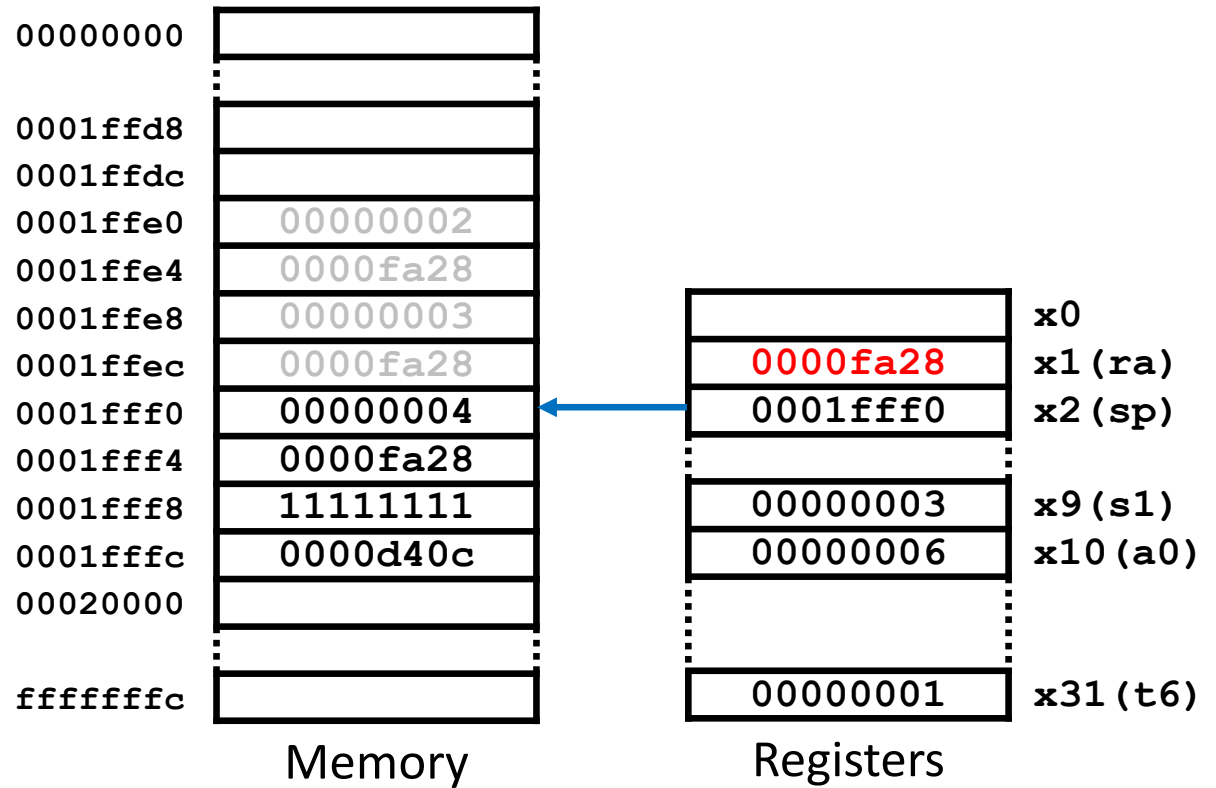
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

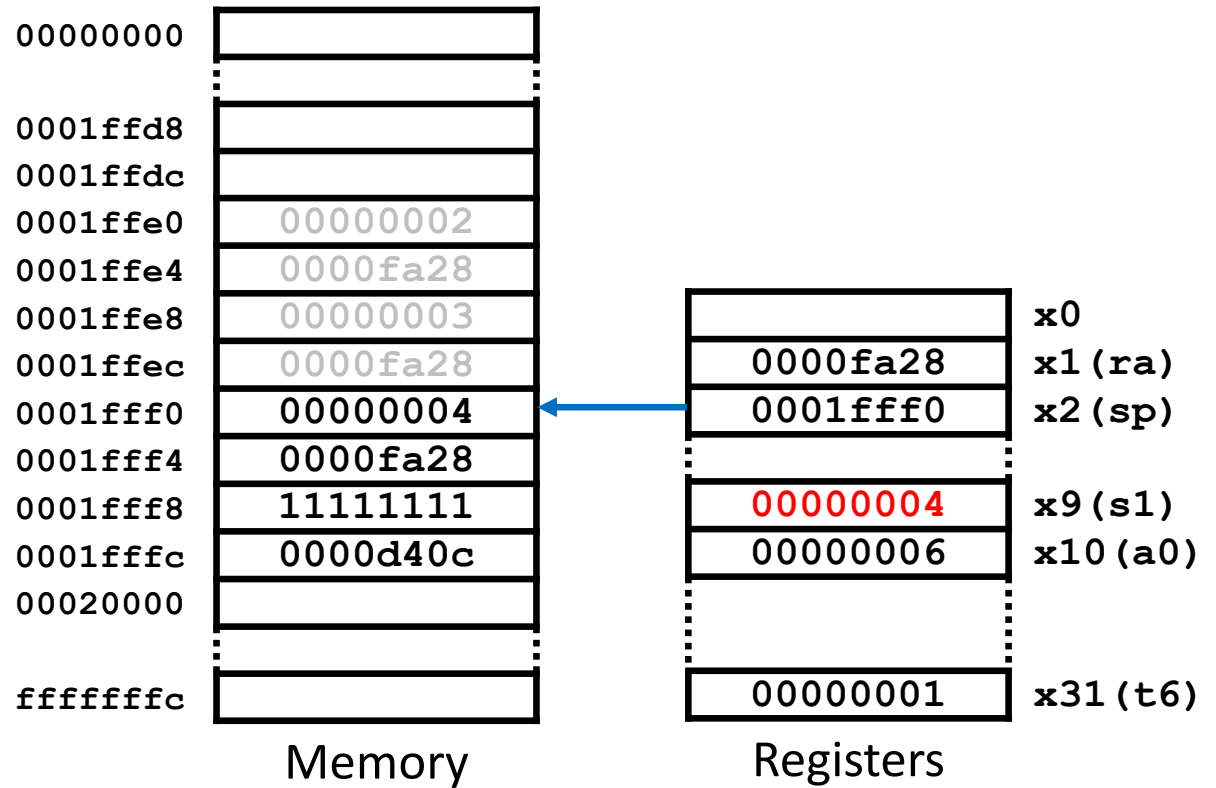
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```







# Functions

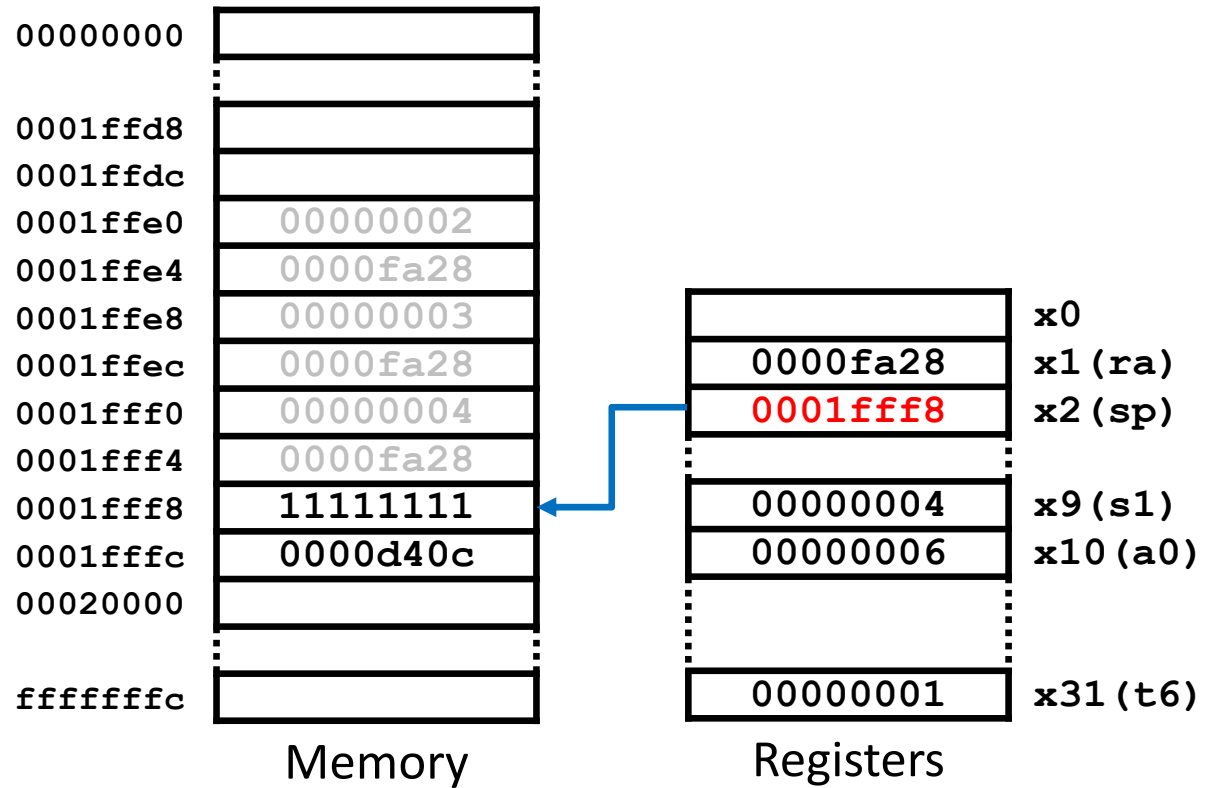
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





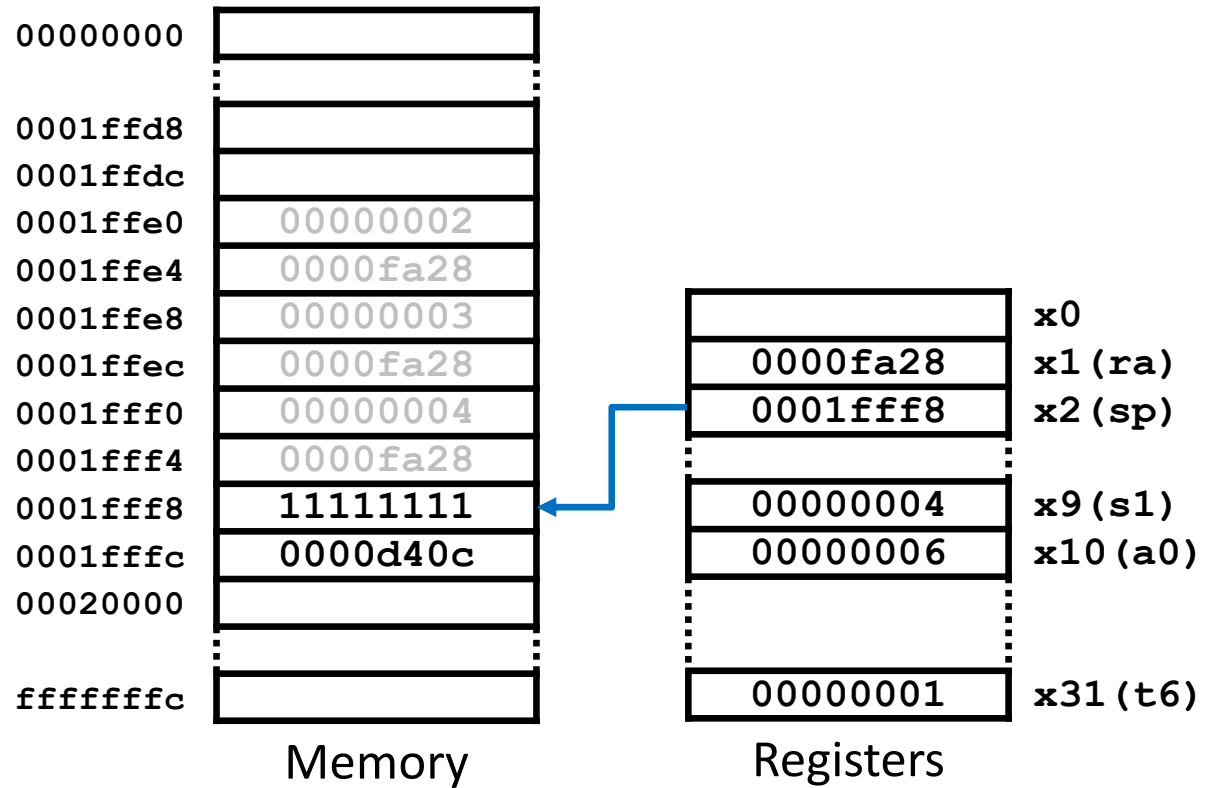
# Functions

## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret
  
```





# Functions

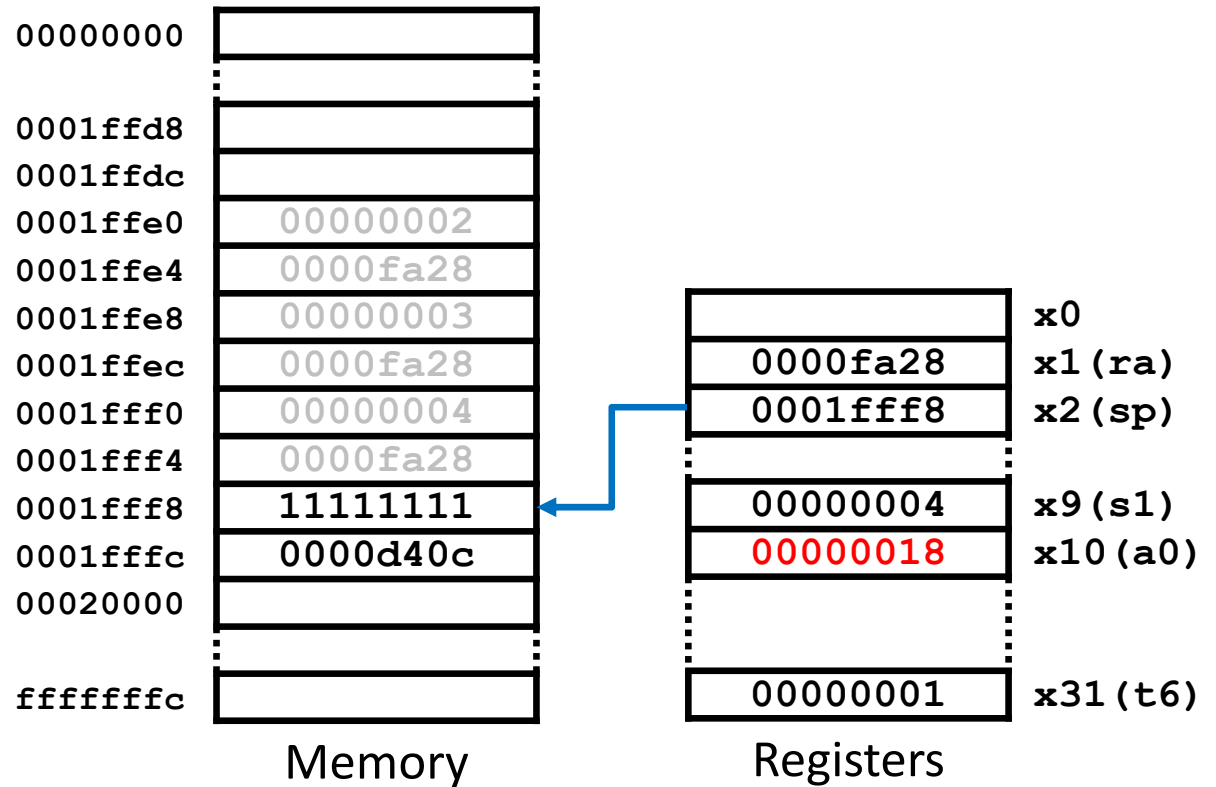
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
      mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

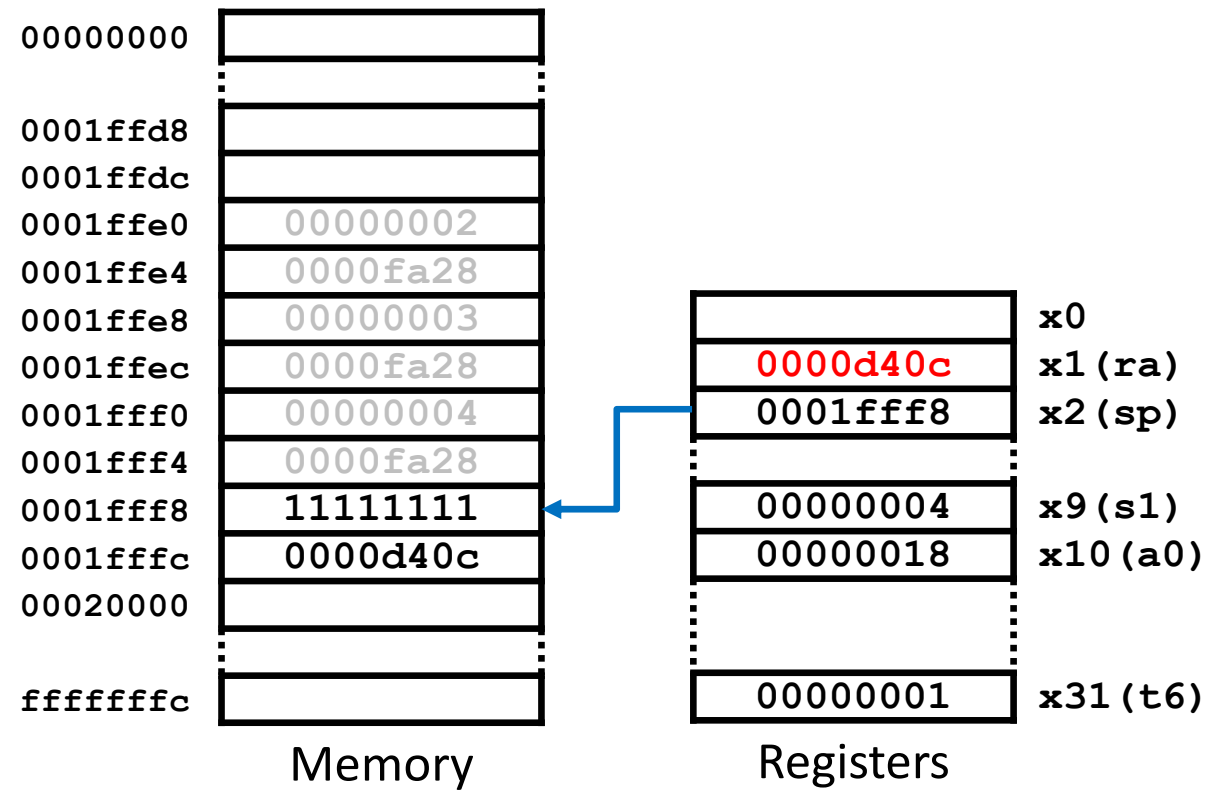
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
      eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

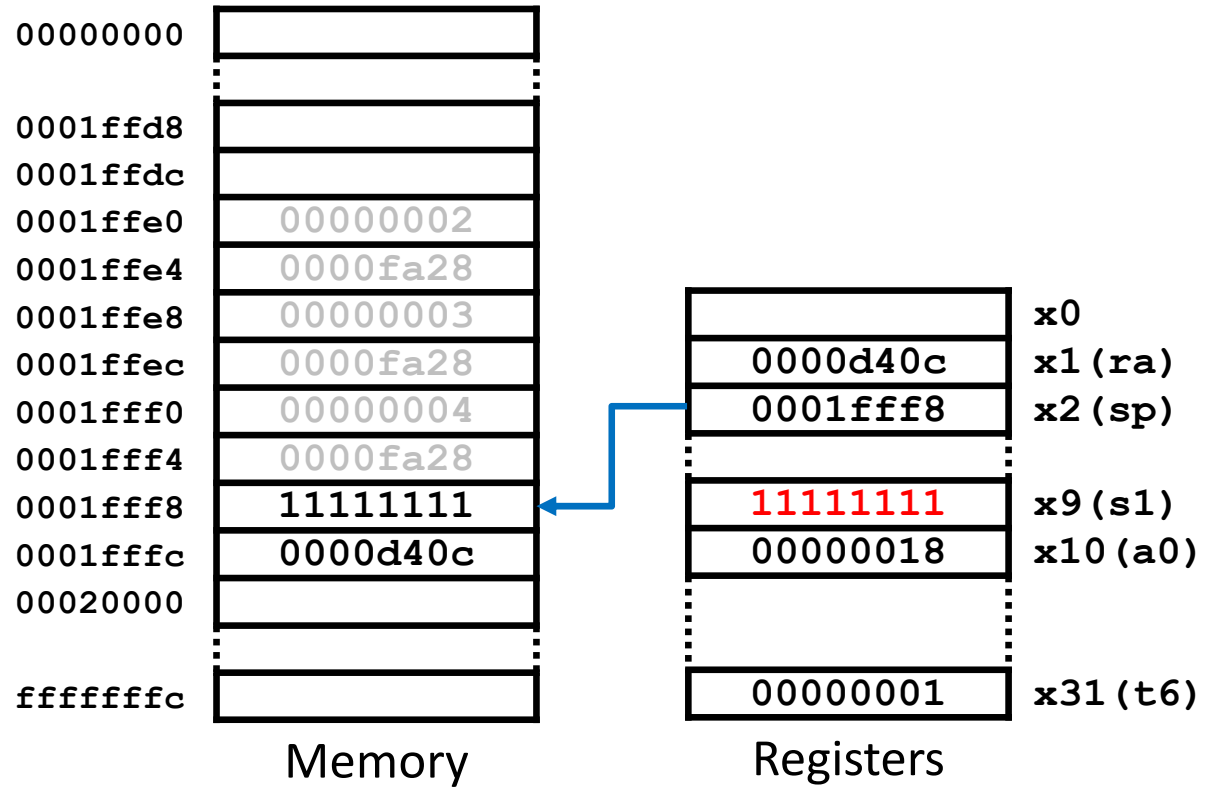
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

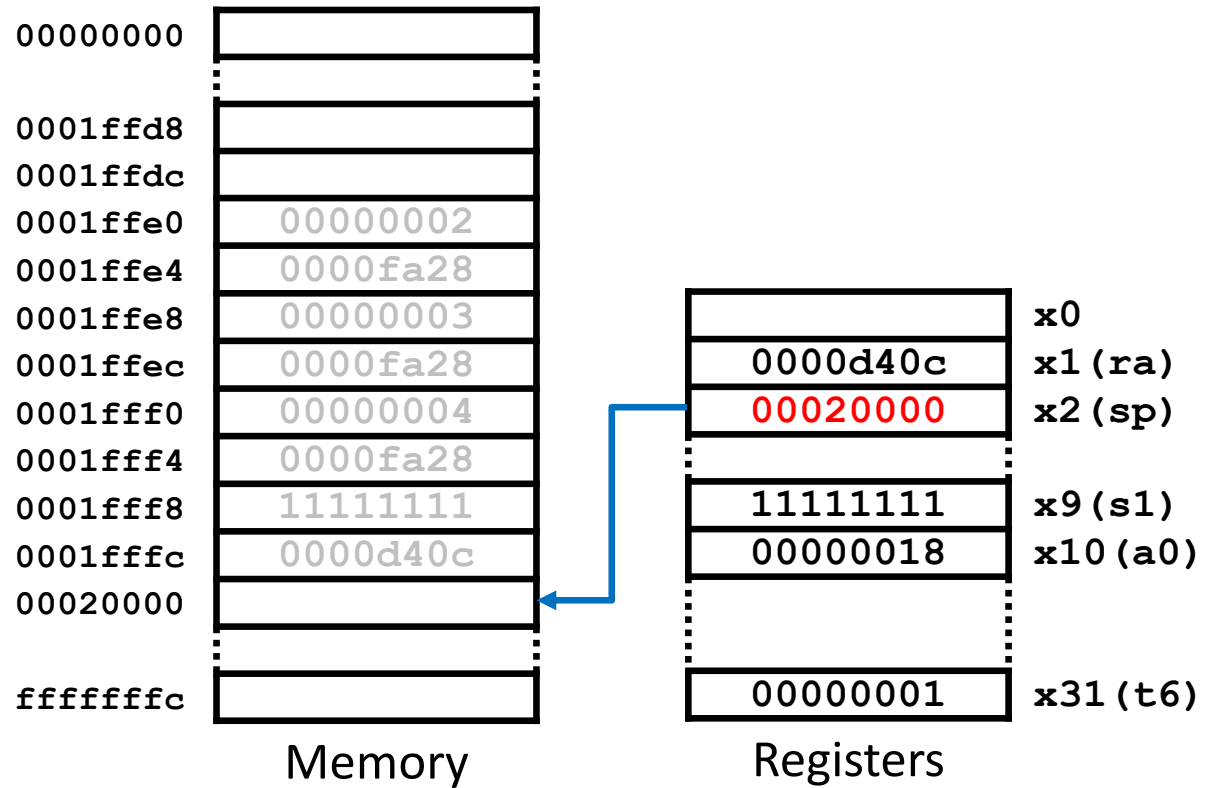
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

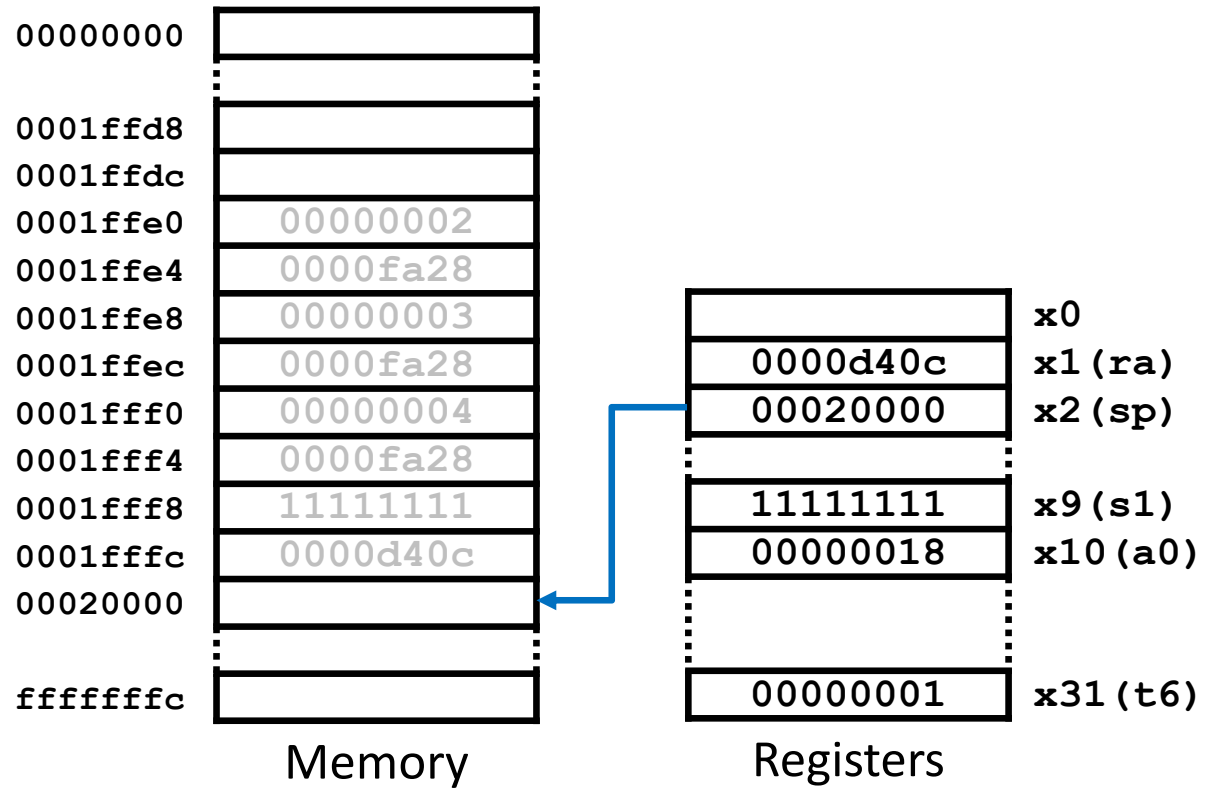
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
0000d40c la    t6, a
      sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
      add   sp, sp, -8
      sw    ra, 4(sp)
      sw    s1, 0(sp)
      mv    s1, a0
      li    t6, 1
      bgt   s1, t6, else
      li    a0, 1
      j     eif
else:
      add   a0, s1, -1
      call  fact
0000fa28 mul   a0, s1, a0
eif:
      lw    ra, 4(sp)
      lw    s1, 0(sp)
      add   sp, sp, 8
      ret

```





# Functions

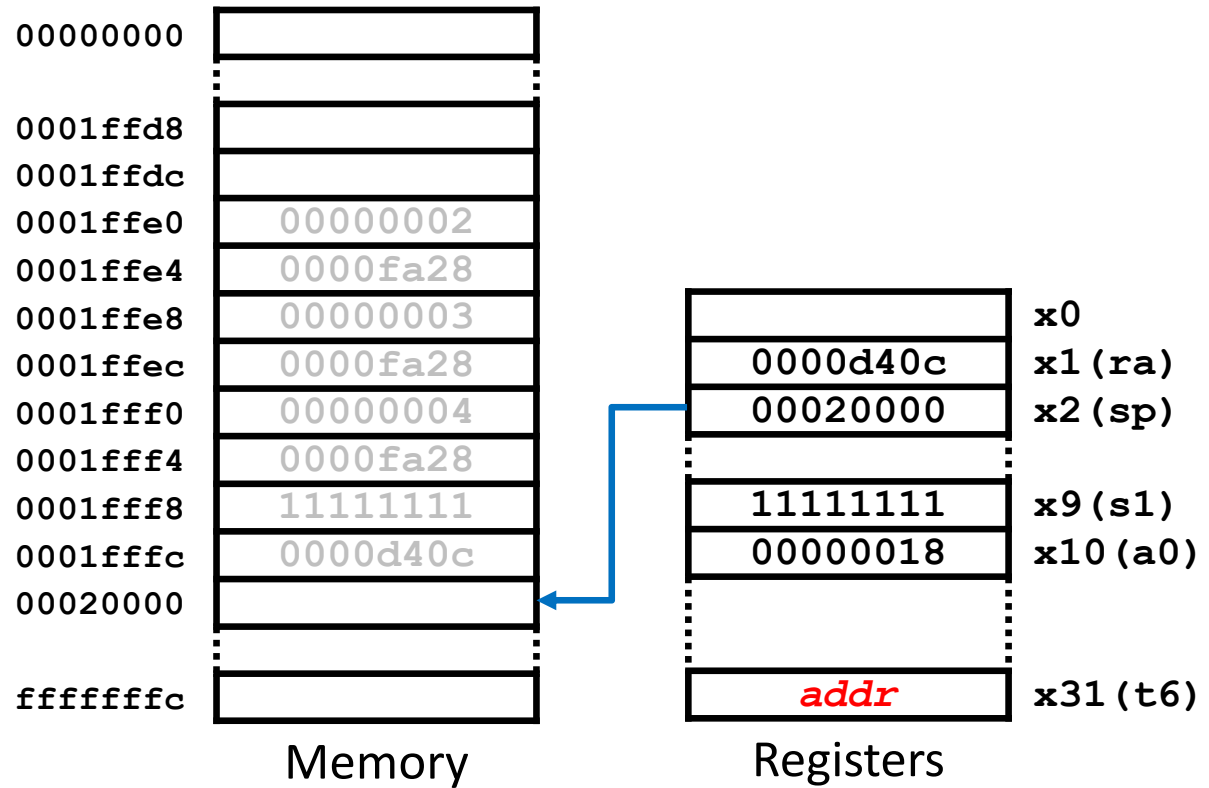
## Nesting and recursion (iv)

ASM

```

a: .space 4
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 4
call  fact
la    t6, a
sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
fact:
add   sp, sp, -8
sw    ra, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
mv    s1, a0
li    t6, 1
bgt   s1, t6, else
li    a0, 1
j     eif
else:
add   a0, s1, -1
call  fact
0000fa28 mul  a0, s1, a0
eif:
lw    ra, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 8
ret

```



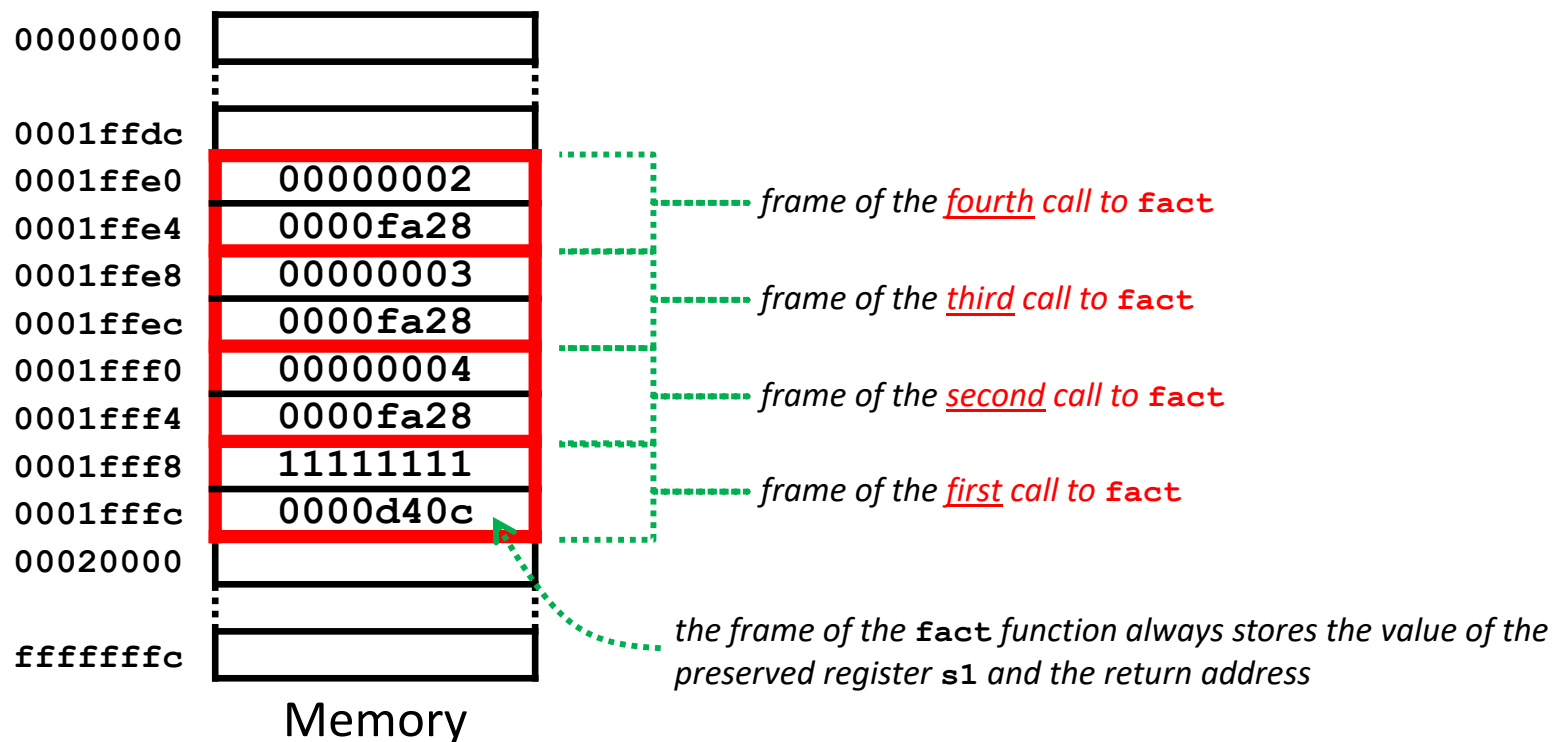




# Functions

## Frames

- A **frame** is a **stack region** where all data related to a function activation are placed.
  - All **frames** have a **fixed structure**
    - They contain the **same type of information** and in the **same relative position**.
  - But in each activation of the function, its frame may be placed in different effective memory positions.





# Functions

## Passing a large number of arguments

- If the **number of parameters** of a function is **larger than 8**, the **caller** function must push the 9th argument (and successive) before branching.

C/C++

```

...
y = foo( 1, 2, 3,
        4, 5, 6,
        7, 8, 9 );
...
int foo( int a, int b, int c,
        int d, int e, int f,
        int g, int h, int i )
{
    return a + b + c + d +
           e + f + g + h + i;
}
...

```

ASM

```

...
li    a0, 1
...
li    a7, 8
add   sp, sp, -4
li    t0, 9
sw    t0, 0(sp)
call  foo
add   sp, sp, 4
...
foo:
add   t0, a0, a1
add   t1, a2, a3
add   t2, a4, a5
add   t3, a6, a7
add   t0, t0, t1
add   t2, t2, t3
add   t0, t0, t2
lw    a0, 0(sp)
add   a0, a0, t0
ret
...

```

the caller function copies the first 8 arguments in registers a0-a7

the caller function pushes the 9th argument

the caller function restores the top of the stack

the callee function reads the first 8 arguments from registers a0-a7

the callee function reads the 9th argument from the stack



# Functions

## Local variables (i)

- When there are not enough available registers, the **local variables** of a function **are placed in the stack** (in the function frame):
  - They are only alive during the execution of the function.
  - Since they do not have fixed effective addresses, **labels cannot be used** to address them, and therefore **immediate offsets** relative to a register are used.

```
int baz( int a, int b,  
        int c, int d )  
{  
    int sum1, sum2;  
  
    sum1 = (a + b);  
    sum2 = (c + d);  
    ...  
    return sum1 - sum2;  
}
```

C/C++

```
baz:  
    add    sp, sp, -8  
    add    t6, a0, a1  
    sw     t6, 4(sp)  
    add    t6, a2, a3  
    sw     t6, 0(sp)  
    ...  
    lw     t5, 4(sp)  
    lw     t6, 0(sp)  
    sub    a0, t5, t6  
    add    sp, sp, 8  
    ret
```

ASM

← reserves stack space for 2 local variables  
← stores a+b in sum1  
← stores c+d in sum2  
← loads sum1  
← loads sum2  
← calculates the return value  
← frees up stack space

sum1 → 4(sp) sum2 → 0(sp)

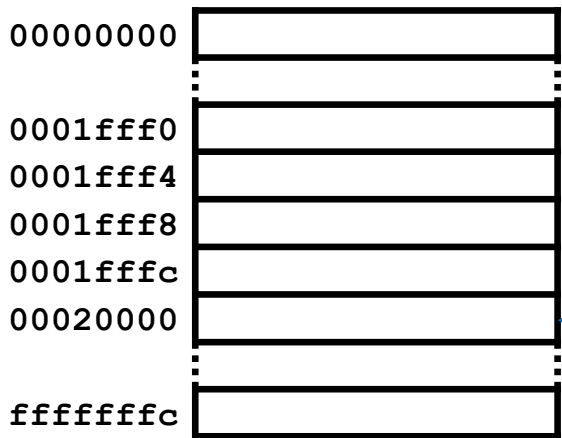


# Functions

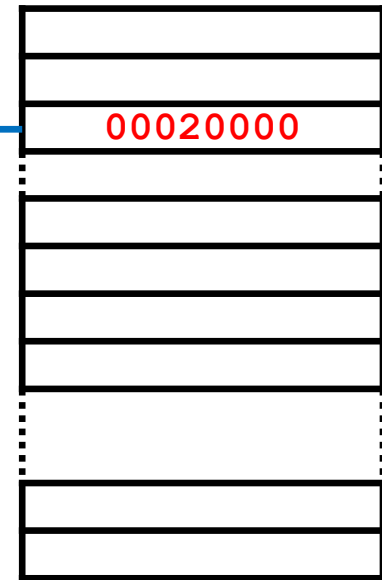
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
0000d40c ...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```



Memory



Registers

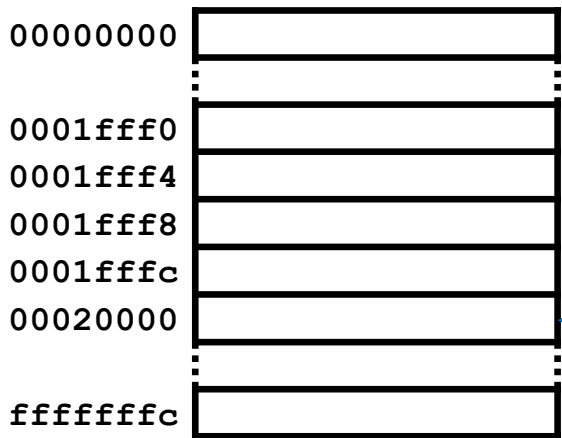


# Functions

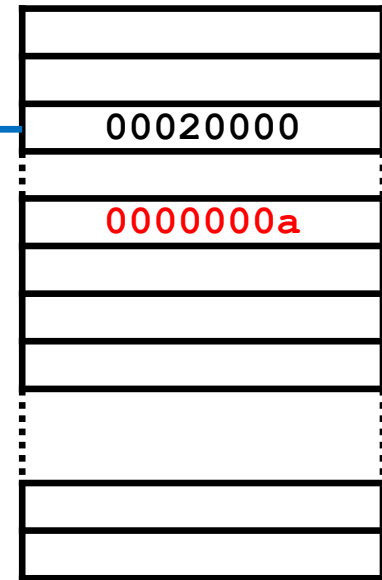
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
0000d40c ...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...
```



Memory



Registers



# Functions

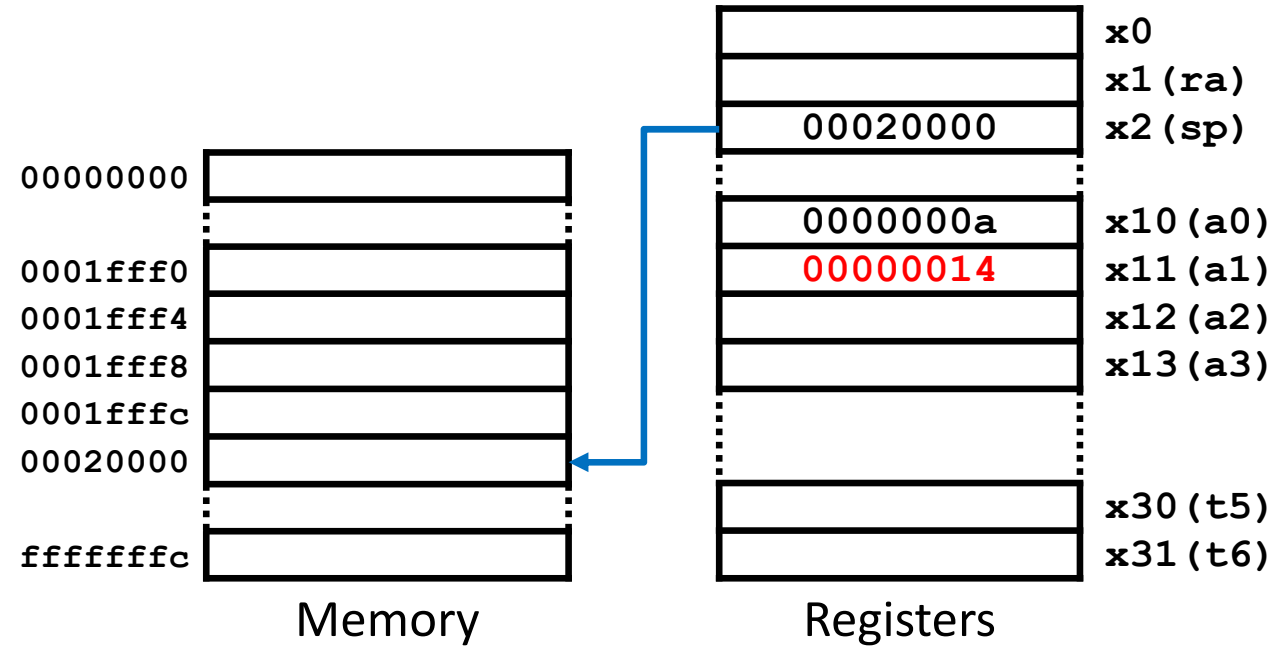
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```

...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
0000d40c ...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```





# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

ASM

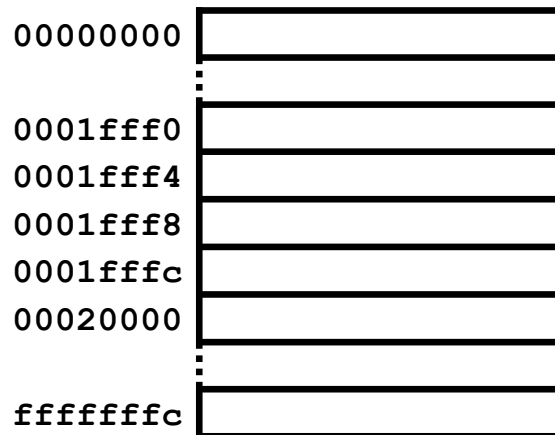
```

...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

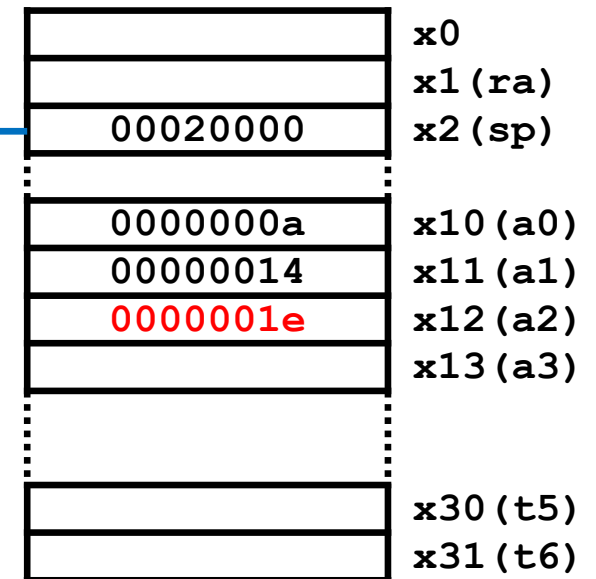
```



0000d40c



Memory



Registers

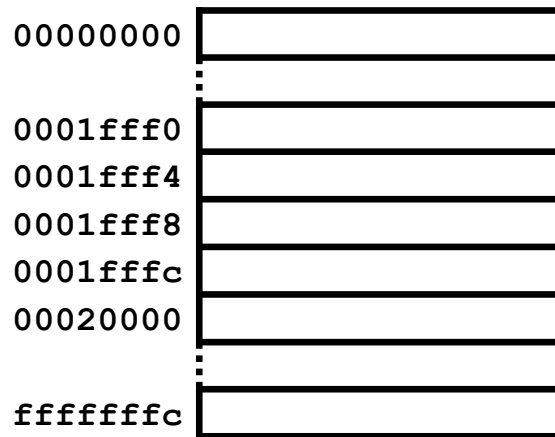


# Functions

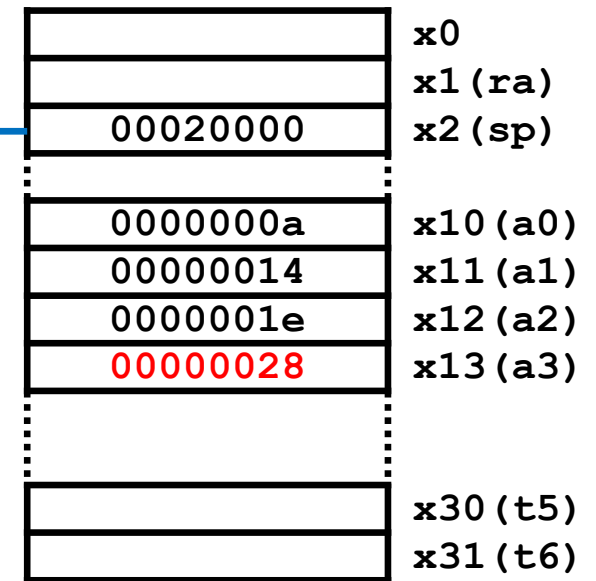
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
0000d40c ...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```



Memory



Registers



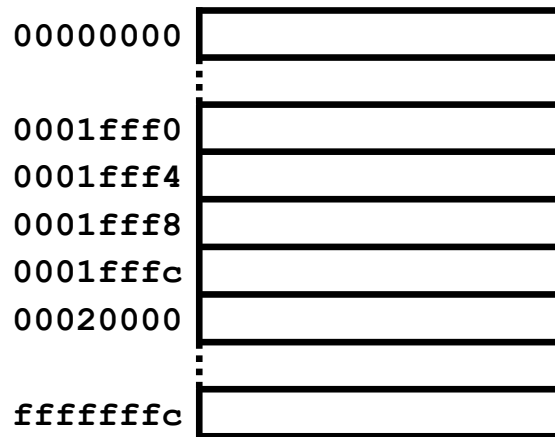


# Functions

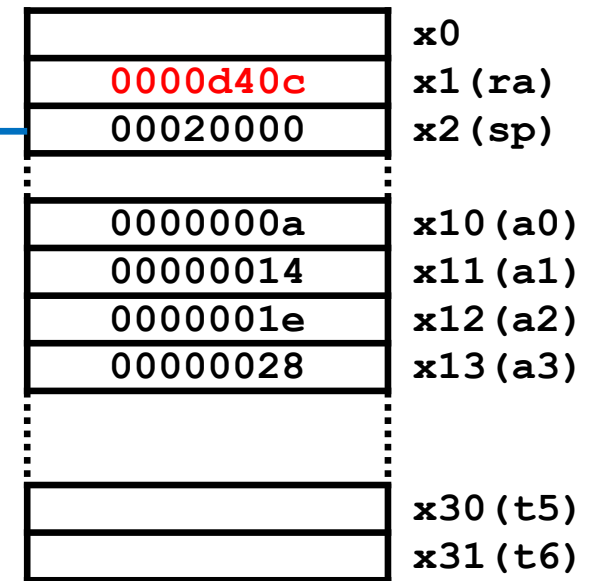
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```



Memory



Registers



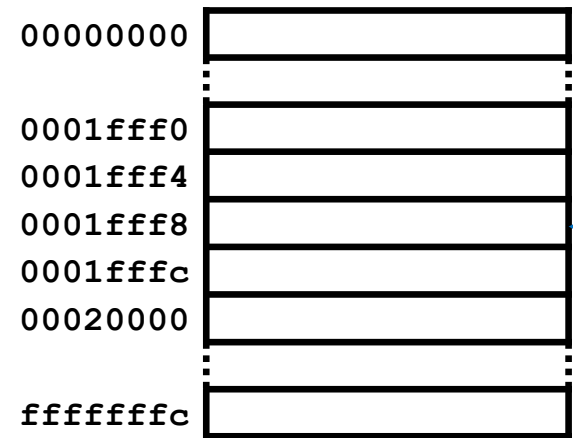
# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

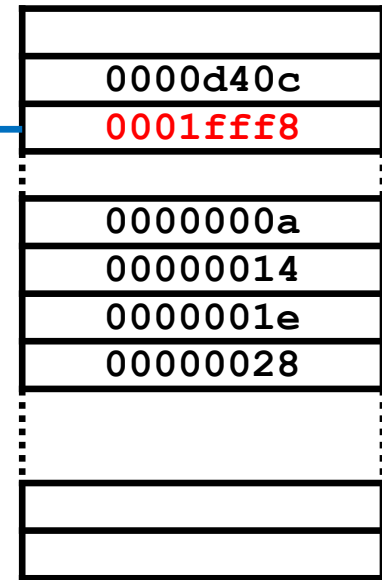
ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers

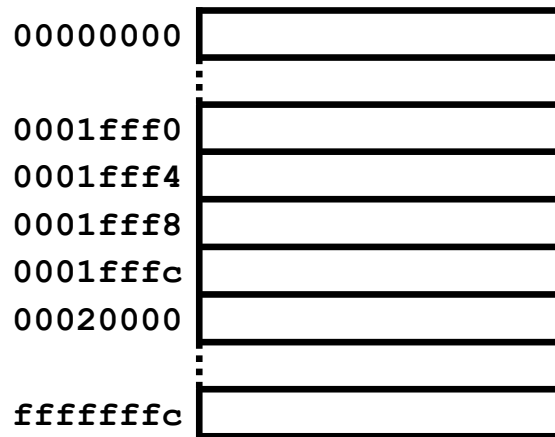


# Functions

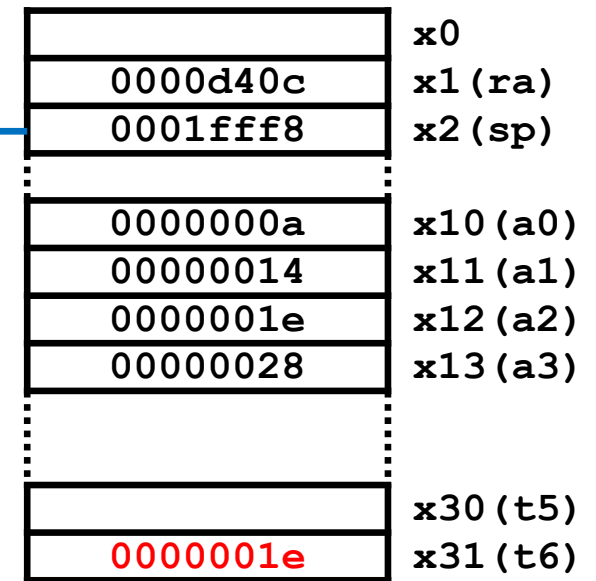
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
0000d40c ...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```



Memory



Registers



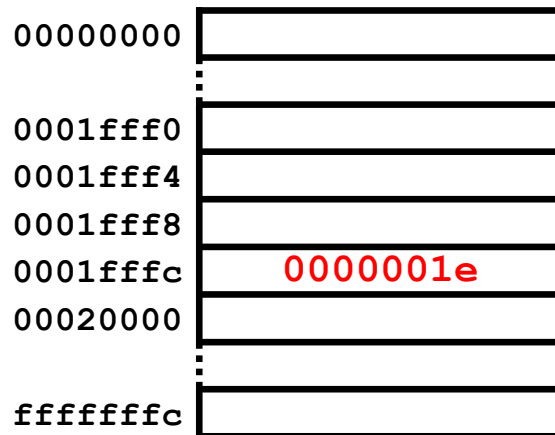
# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

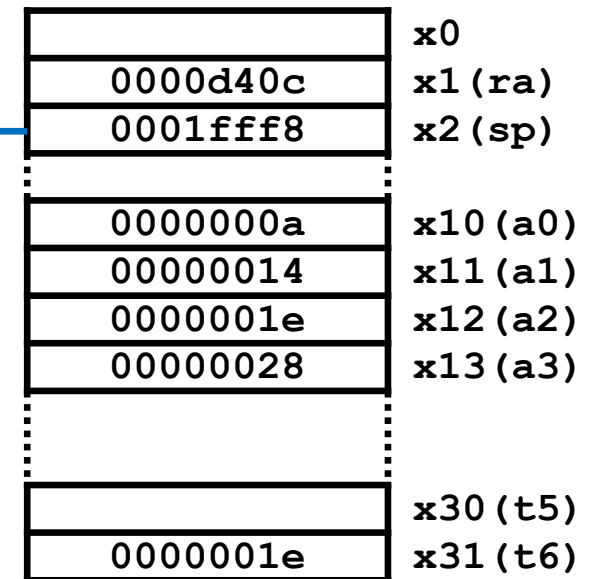
ASM

```
...  
li    sp, 0x20000  
li    a0, 10  
li    a1, 20  
li    a2, 30  
li    a3, 40  
call  baz  
...  
baz:  
add   sp, sp, -8  
add   t6, a0, a1  
sw    t6, 4(sp)  
add   t6, a2, a3  
sw    t6, 0(sp)  
...  
lw    t5, 4(sp)  
lw    t6, 0(sp)  
sub   a0, t5, t6  
add   sp, sp, 8  
ret  
...
```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers

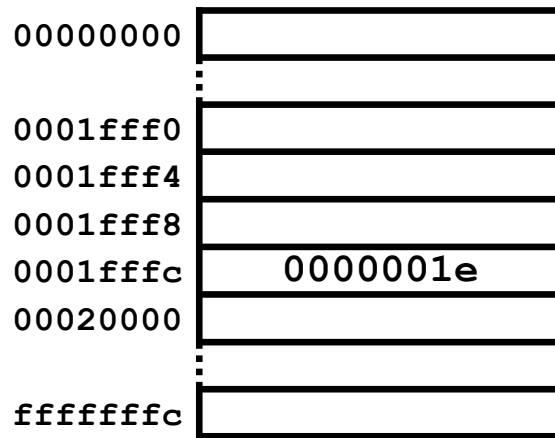


# Functions

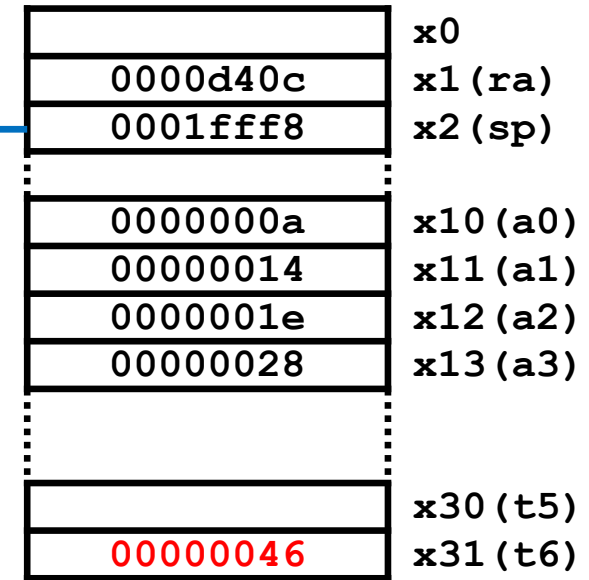
## Local variables (ii)

ASM

```
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
0000d40c ...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...
```



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

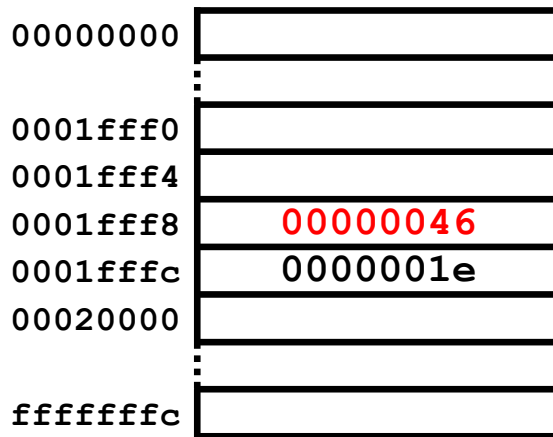
ASM

```

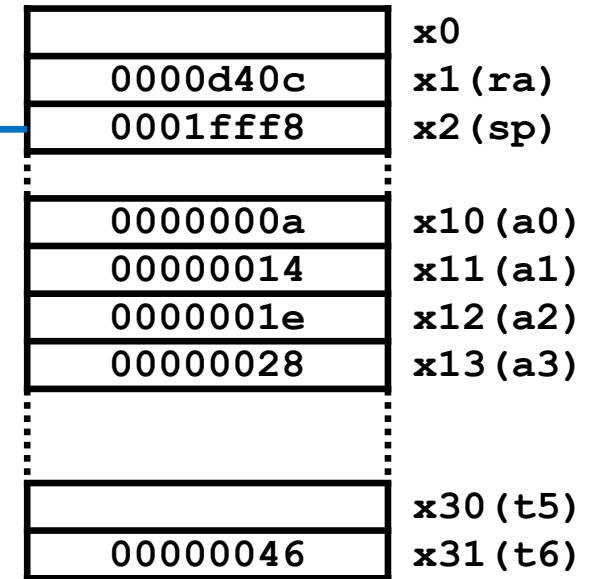
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

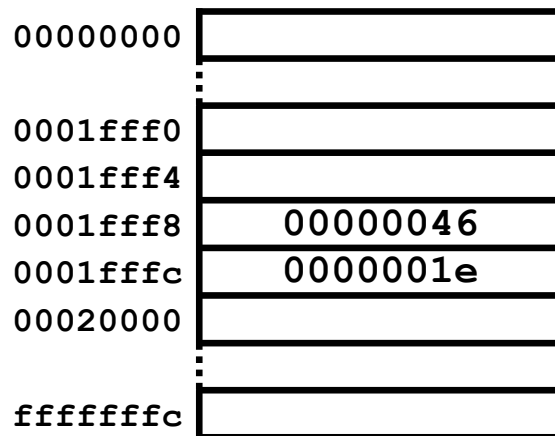
ASM

```

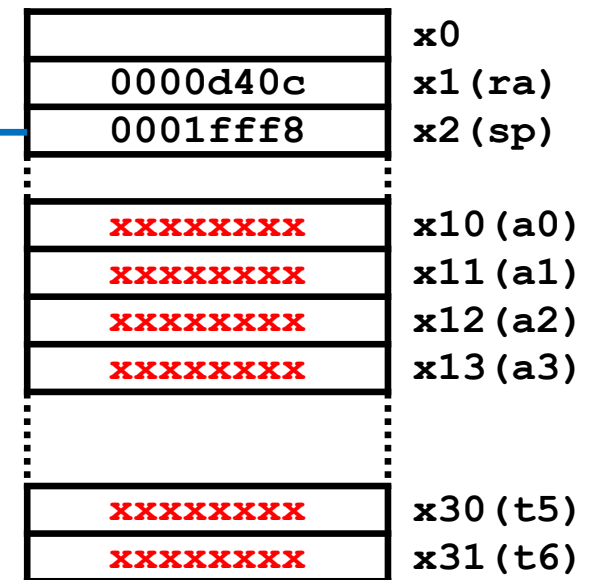
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

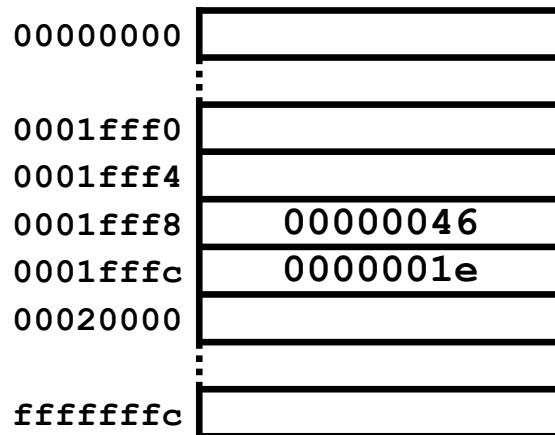
ASM

```

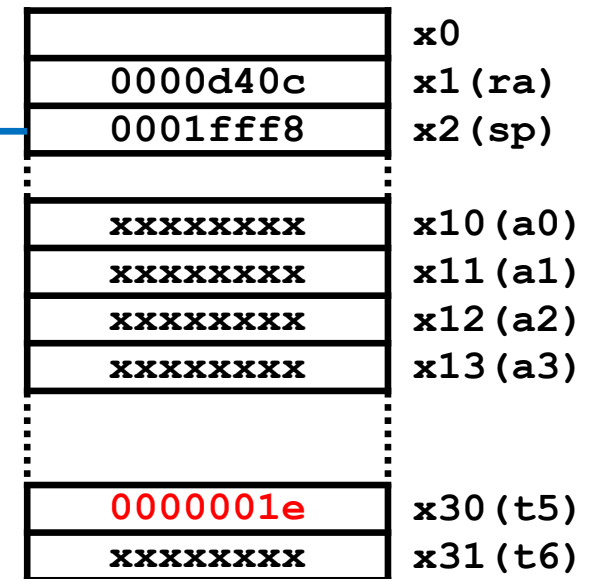
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers





# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

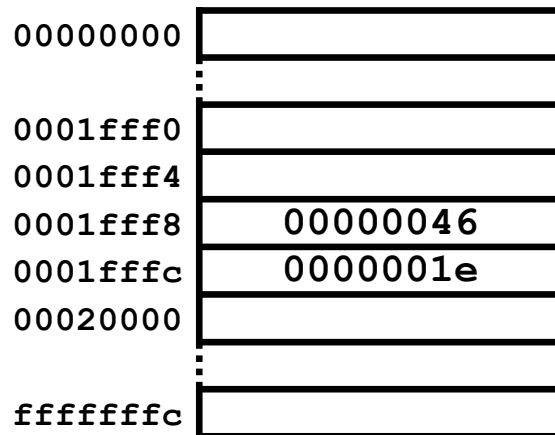
ASM

```

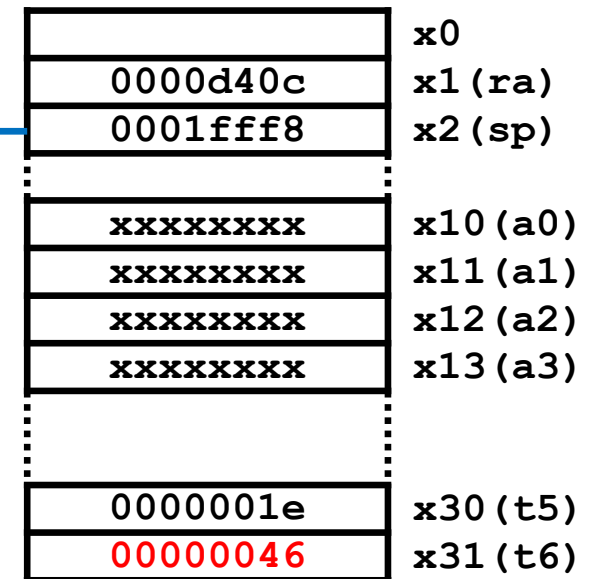
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

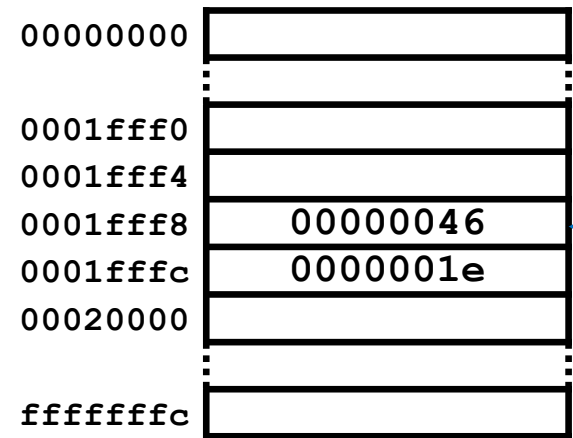
ASM

```

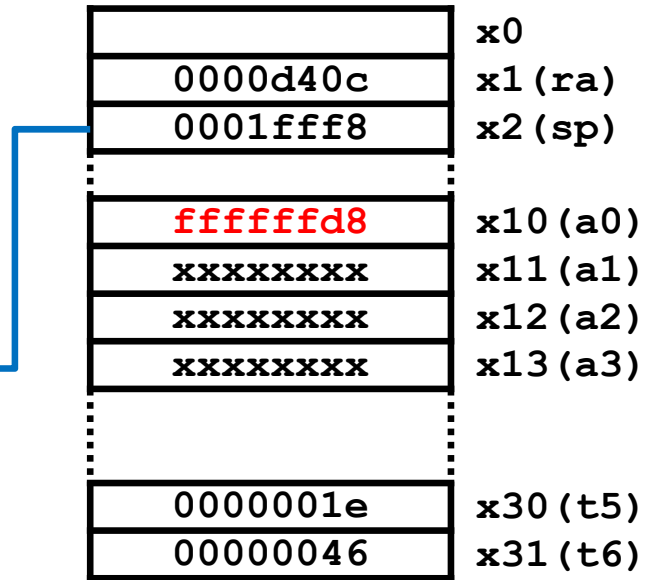
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (ii)

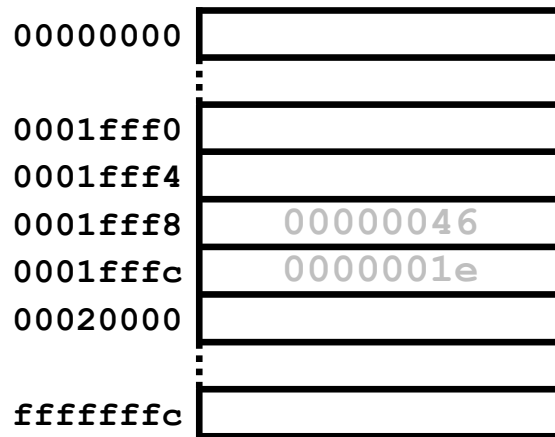
ASM

```

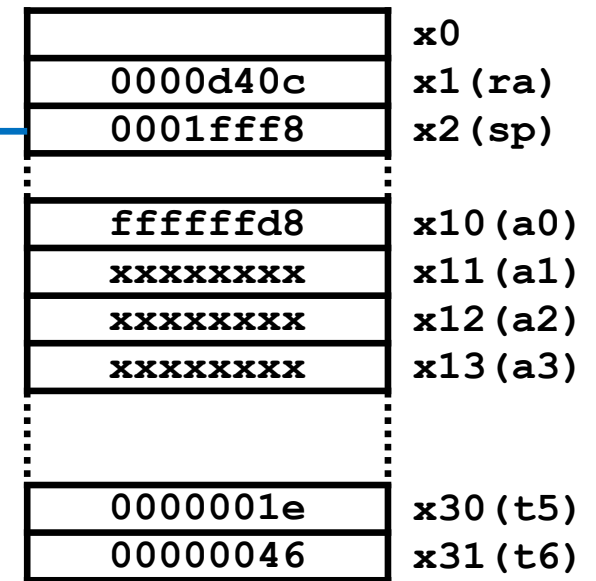
...
li    sp, 0x20000
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 20
li    a2, 30
li    a3, 40
call  baz
...
baz:
add   sp, sp, -8
add   t6, a0, a1
sw    t6, 4(sp)
add   t6, a2, a3
sw    t6, 0(sp)
...
lw    t5, 4(sp)
lw    t6, 0(sp)
sub   a0, t5, t6
add   sp, sp, 8
ret
...

```

0000d40c



Memory



Registers



# Functions

## Local variables (iii)

- **sp** may be used as the base register, but it is risky if the stack changes during the execution of the function:
  - References to the same local variable in the function code might have different offsets relative to **sp**, making it hard to read.

```
int baz( int a, int b,
        int c, int d )
{
    int sum1, sum2;

    sum1 = (a + b);
    sum2 = (c + d);
    sum1 = foo( 1, 2, 3,
                4, 5, 6,
                7, 8, sum1 );

    ...
    return sum1 - sum2;
}
```

C/C++

```
baz:
    add sp, sp, -8
    add t6, a0, a1
    sw t6, 4(sp)
    add t6, a2, a3
    sw t6, 0(sp)
    li a0, 1
    ...
    li a7, 8
    add sp, sp, -4
    lw t0, 8(sp)
    sw t0, 0(sp)
    call foo
    add sp, sp, 4
    ...
    ret
```

ASM

sum1 is in 4(sp)  
sum2 is in 0(sp)  
the first 8 arguments are copied in a0-a7  
space is reserved for the 9th argument  
sum1 is pushed, being now in 8(sp);  
if 4(sp) was used, sum2 would be pushed  
After restoring the top of the stack, sum1 will be in 4(sp) again



# Functions

## Local variables (iv)

- In order to avoid risks, **fp** is used as the base register.
  - In this way, all **local variables** will have a **constant and unique offset** inside the function.
  - **fp** is a **preserved register** that is initialized to the top of the stack at the beginning of the function and does not change during its execution.

ASM

```

baz:
  add sp, sp, -8
  add t6, a0, a1
  sw t6, 4(sp)
  add t6, a2, a3
  sw t6, 0(sp)
  ...
  lw t5, 4(sp)
  lw t6, 0(sp)
  sub a0, t5, t6
  add sp, sp, 8
  ret
  
```

sum1 → 4(sp)  
 sum2 → 0(sp)

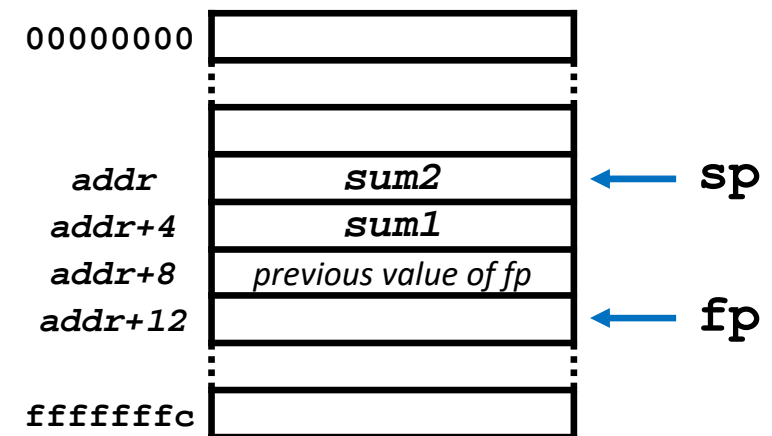
ASM

```

baz:
  add sp, sp, -12
  sw fp, 8(sp)
  add fp, sp, 12
  add t6, a0, a1
  sw t6, -8(fp)
  add t6, a2, a3
  sw t6, -12(fp)
  ...
  lw t5, -8(fp)
  lw t6, -12(fp)
  sub a0, t5, t6
  add sp, sp, 12
  ret
  
```

sum1 → -8(fp)  
 sum2 → -12(fp)

← reserves space for **fp** and 2 local variables  
 ← pushes **fp** since it is a preserved register  
 ← initializes **fp**



Memory



# Functions

## Frame management (i)

### ■ On a function call:

caller  
function

1. Pushes the temporary registers used by the caller function.
2. Passes the input parameters.
3. Saves the return address.
4. Branches to the initial address of the callee function.



**call**  
*pseudo-instruction*

callee  
function

5. Pushes the preserved registers used by the callee function.
6. Reserves space for the local variables of the callee function.
7. Initializes the local variables.

**prologue**  
*(frame construction)*

8. Processes and updates the output parameters.
9. Saves the return value.

**body**

10. Frees up the space occupied by the local variables.
11. Pops the preserved registers.

**epilogue**  
*(frame destruction)*

12. Branches to the return address. ←..... **ret** *pseudo-instruction*

caller  
function

13. Restores the return value.
14. Pops the temporary registers.



# Functions

## Frame management (ii)

C/C++

```

int y;
...
y = foo( 10, 30 );
...
int foo( int a, int b )
{
    int bar = 0xff;
    ...
}

```

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li    a0, 10
li    a1, 30
call  foo
la    t6, y
sw    a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add   sp, sp, -12
sw    ra, 8(sp)
sw    fp, 4(sp)
sw    s1, 0(sp)
add   fp, sp, 12
add   sp, sp, -4
li    t6, 0xff
sw    t6, -16(fp)
...
mv    a0, ...
add   sp, sp, 4
lw    ra, 8(sp)
lw    fp, 4(sp)
lw    s1, 0(sp)
add   sp, sp, 12
ret

```

**prologue** ———→

updates `fp` so that it points to the frame base

————→

**body** ———→

updates `sp` to reserve space in the frame for the local variables  
 $sp + 4 \times (\text{num. of local variables})$

————→

**epilogue** ———→

2. passing the parameters

3. and 4.

5. pushes the context

6. reserves space for `bar`

7. initializes `bar`

9. saves the return value

10. frees up the `bar` space

11. pops the context

12. returns



# Functions

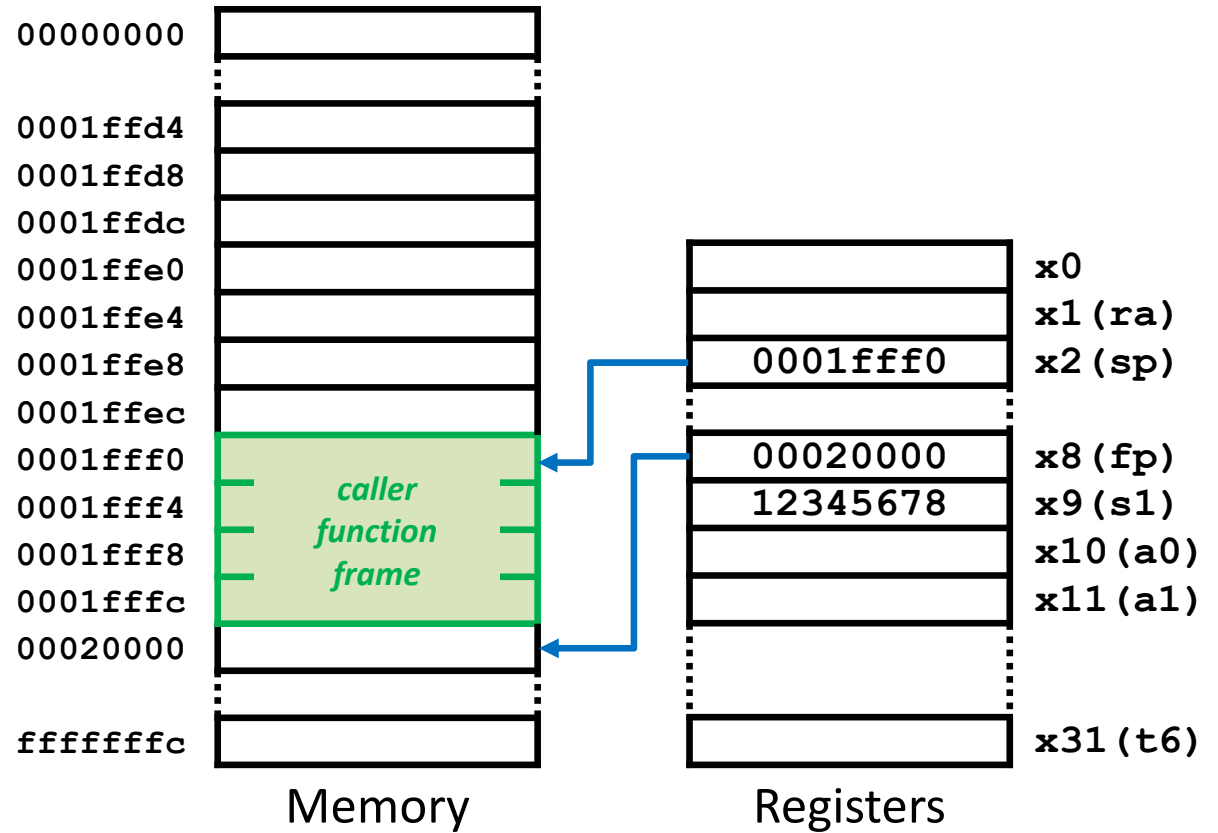
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```







# Functions

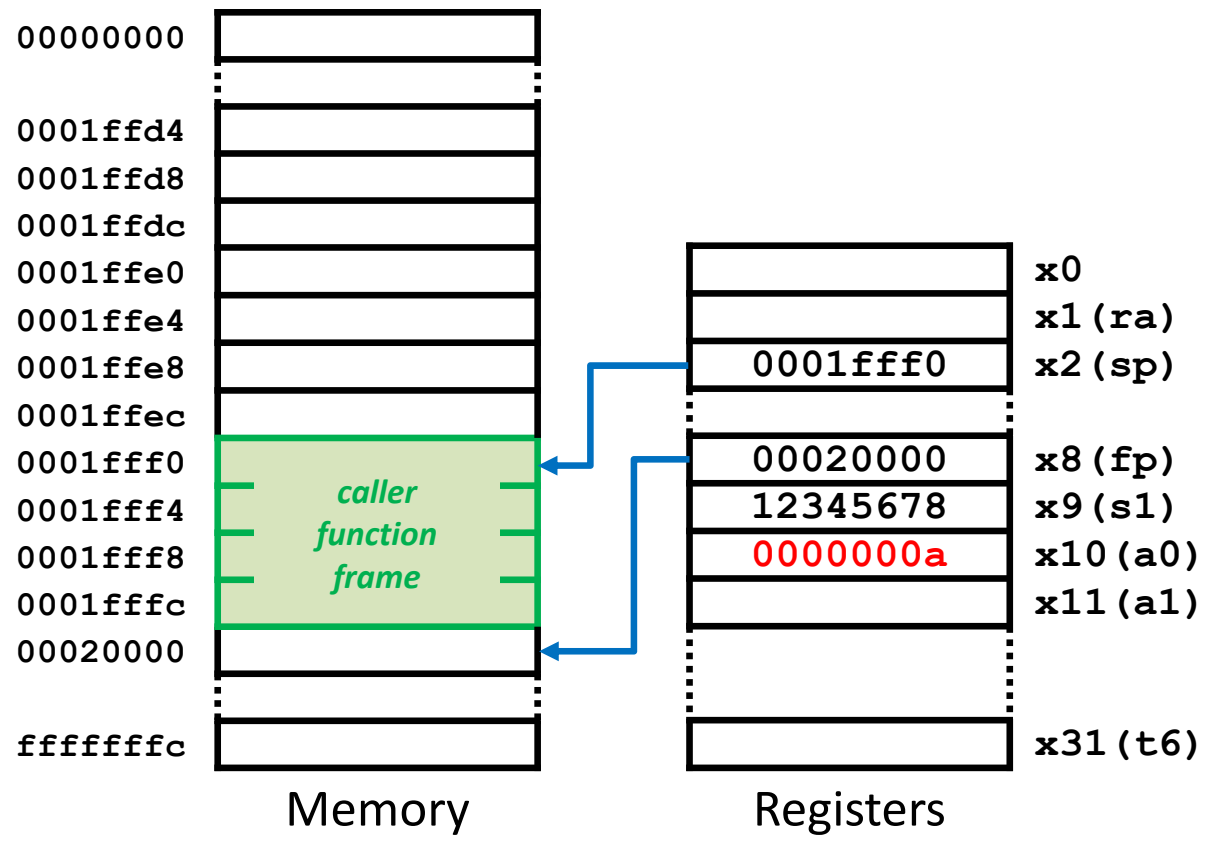
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

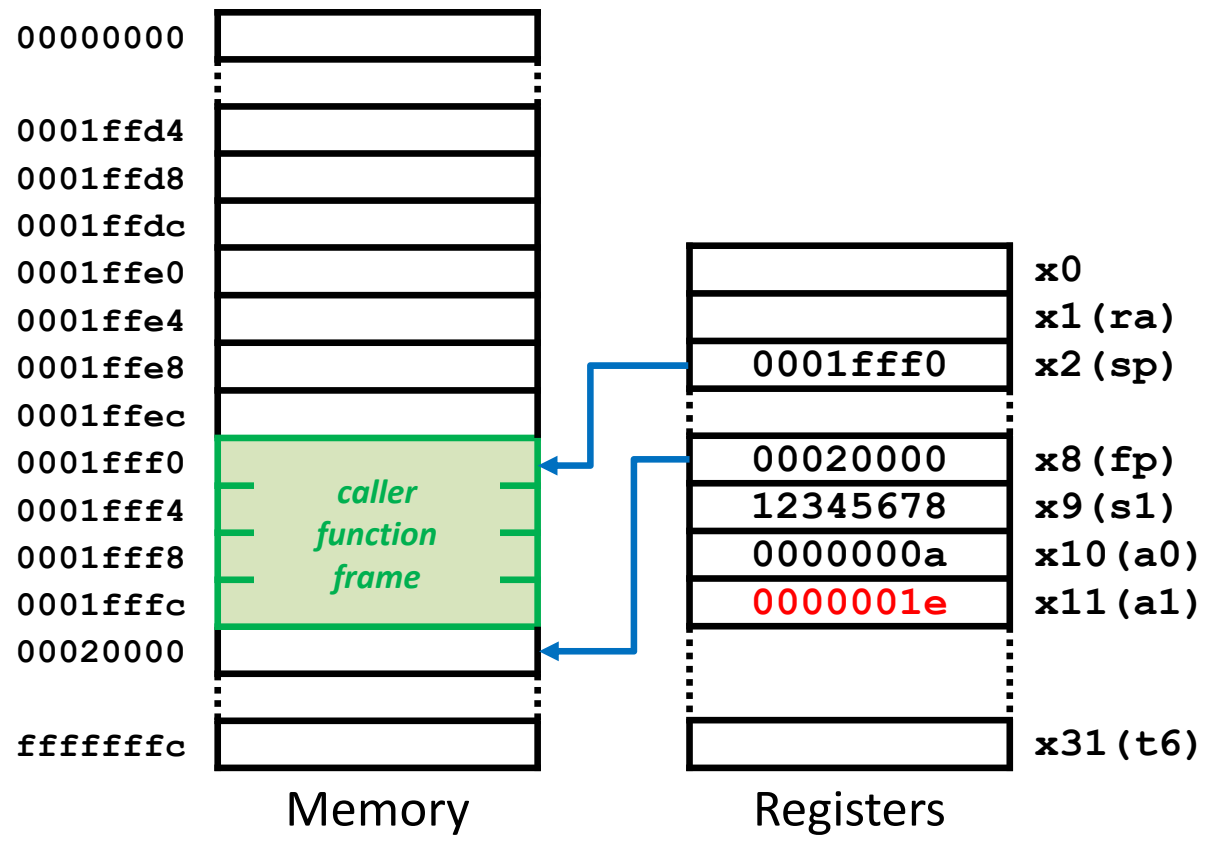
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

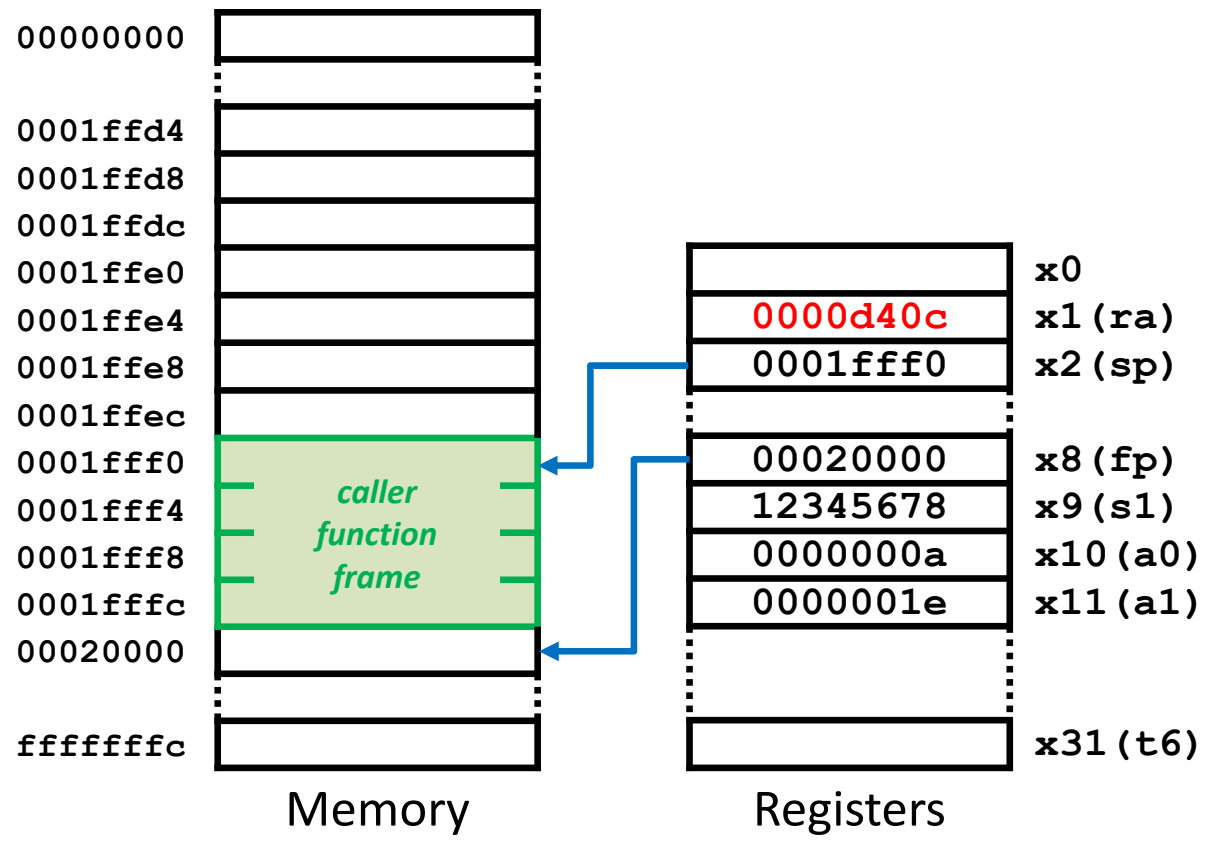
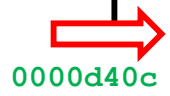
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

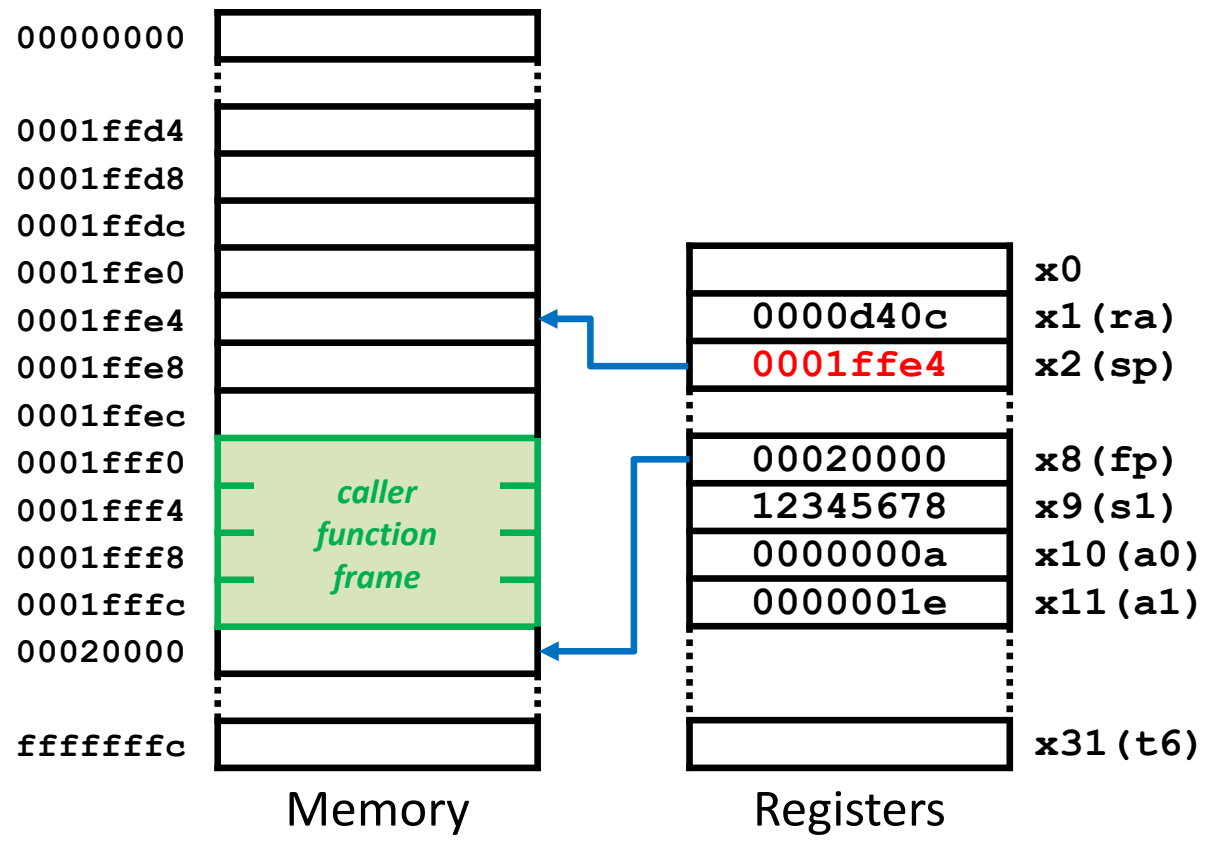
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

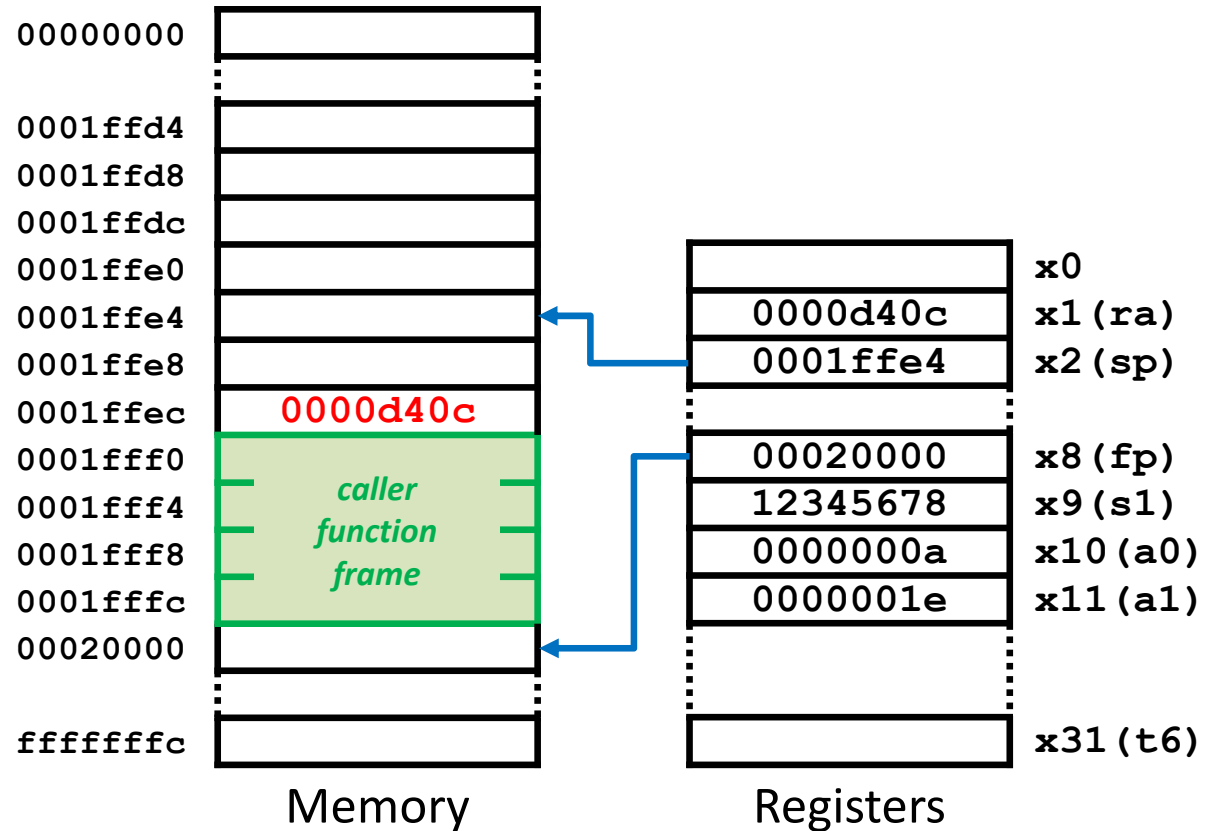
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

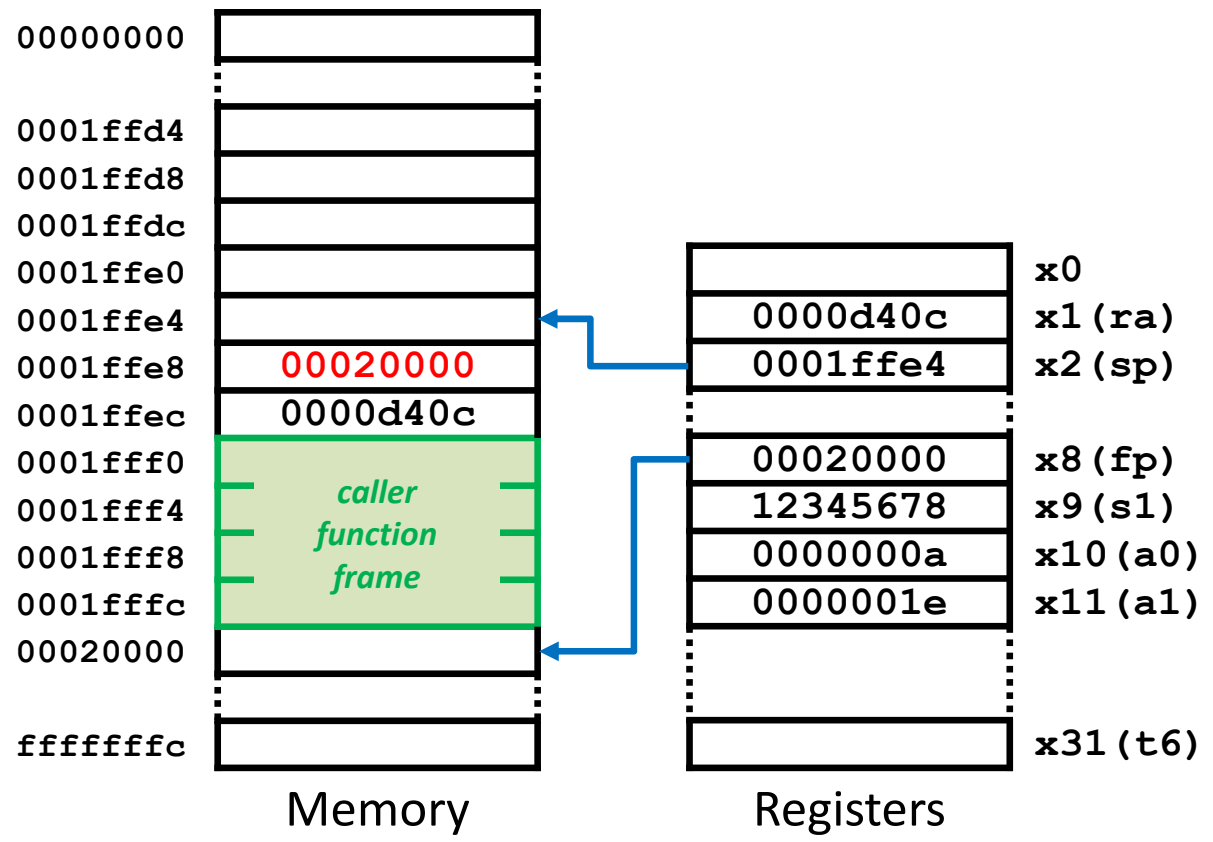
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```



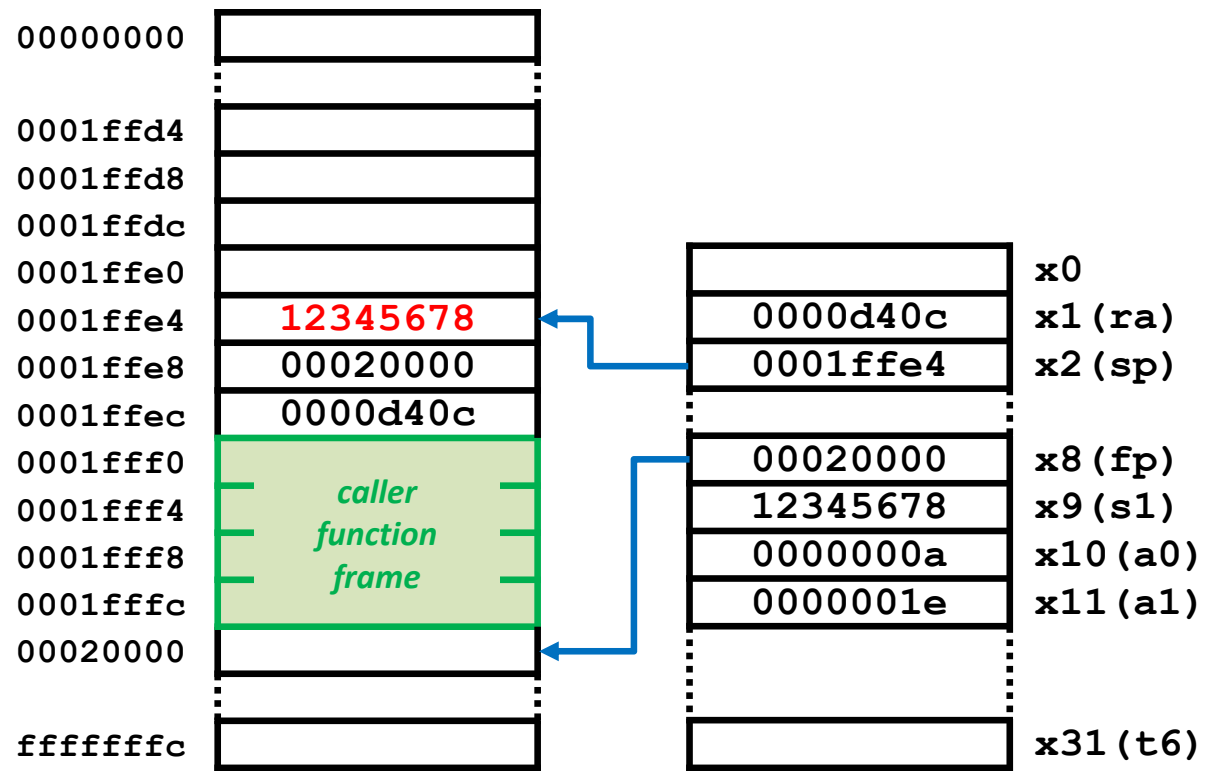


# Functions

## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```
y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret
```



Memory

Registers



# Functions

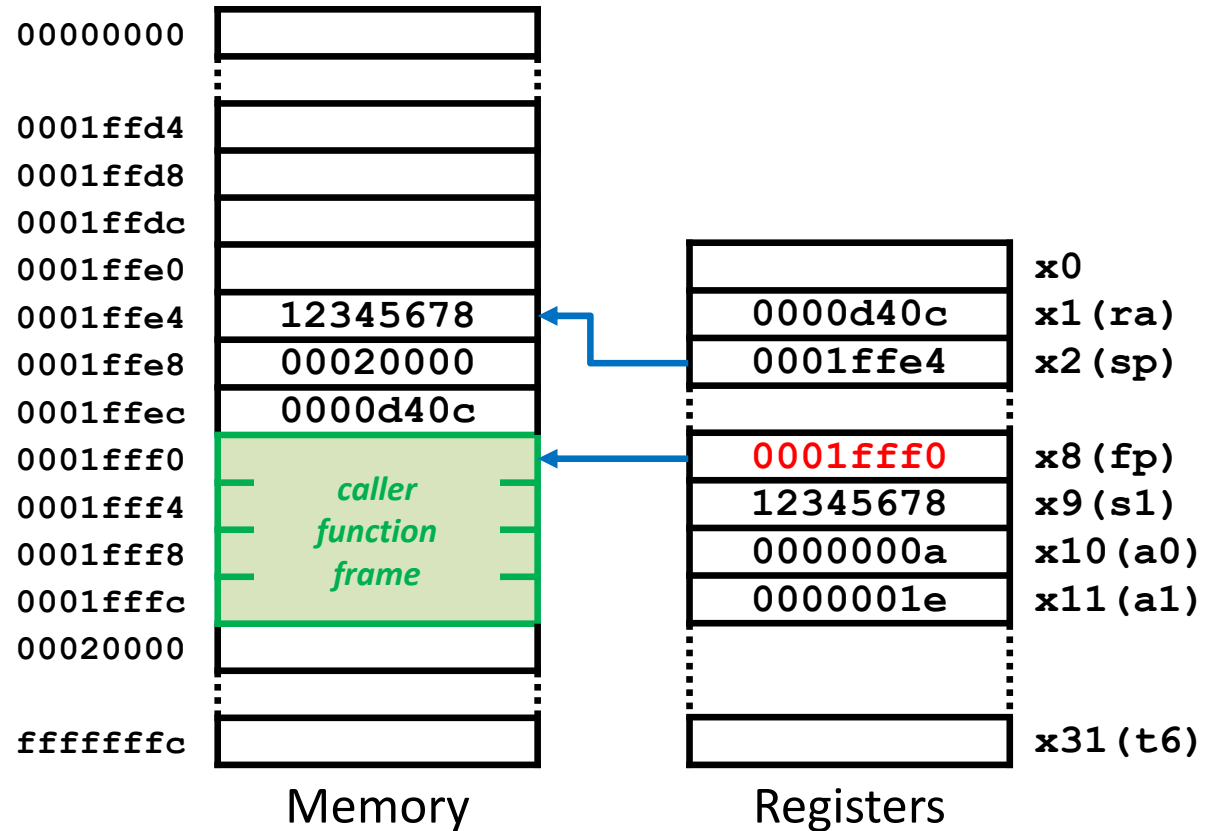
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```







# Functions

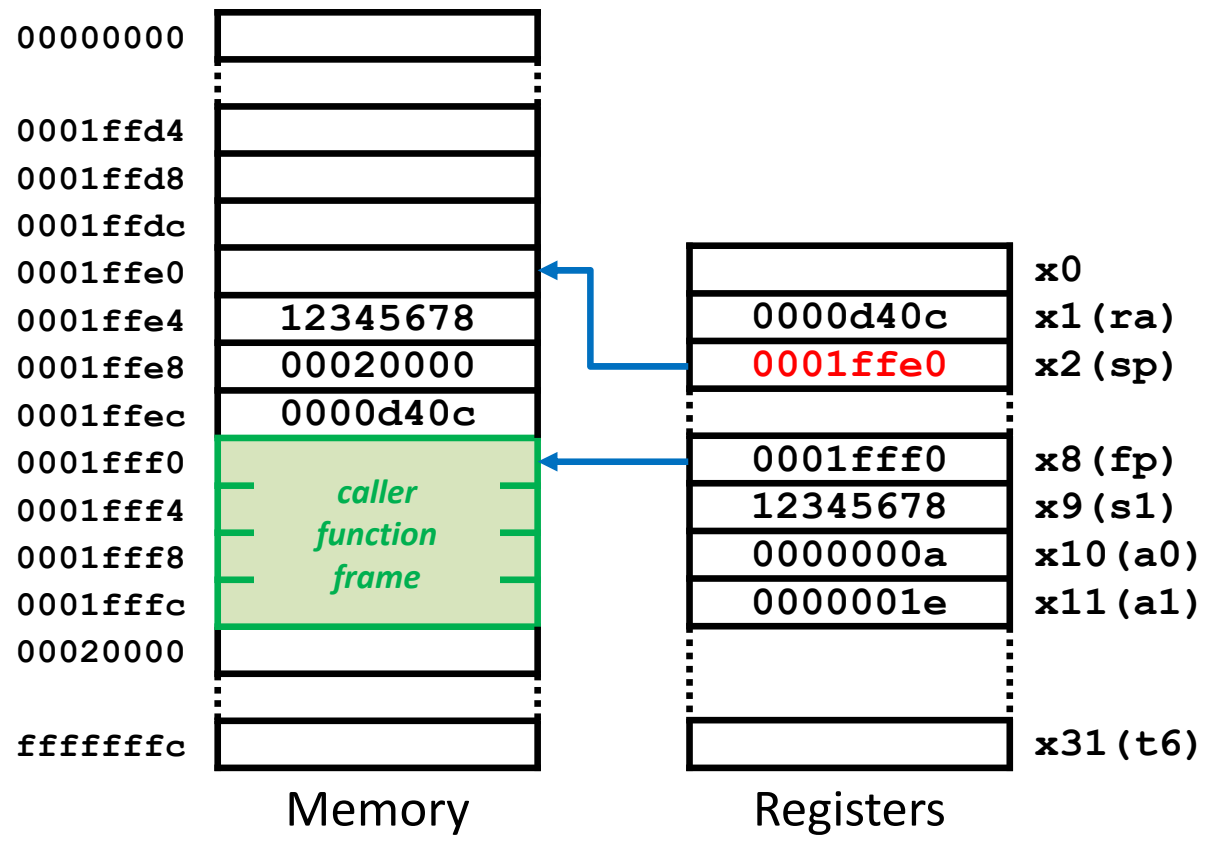
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

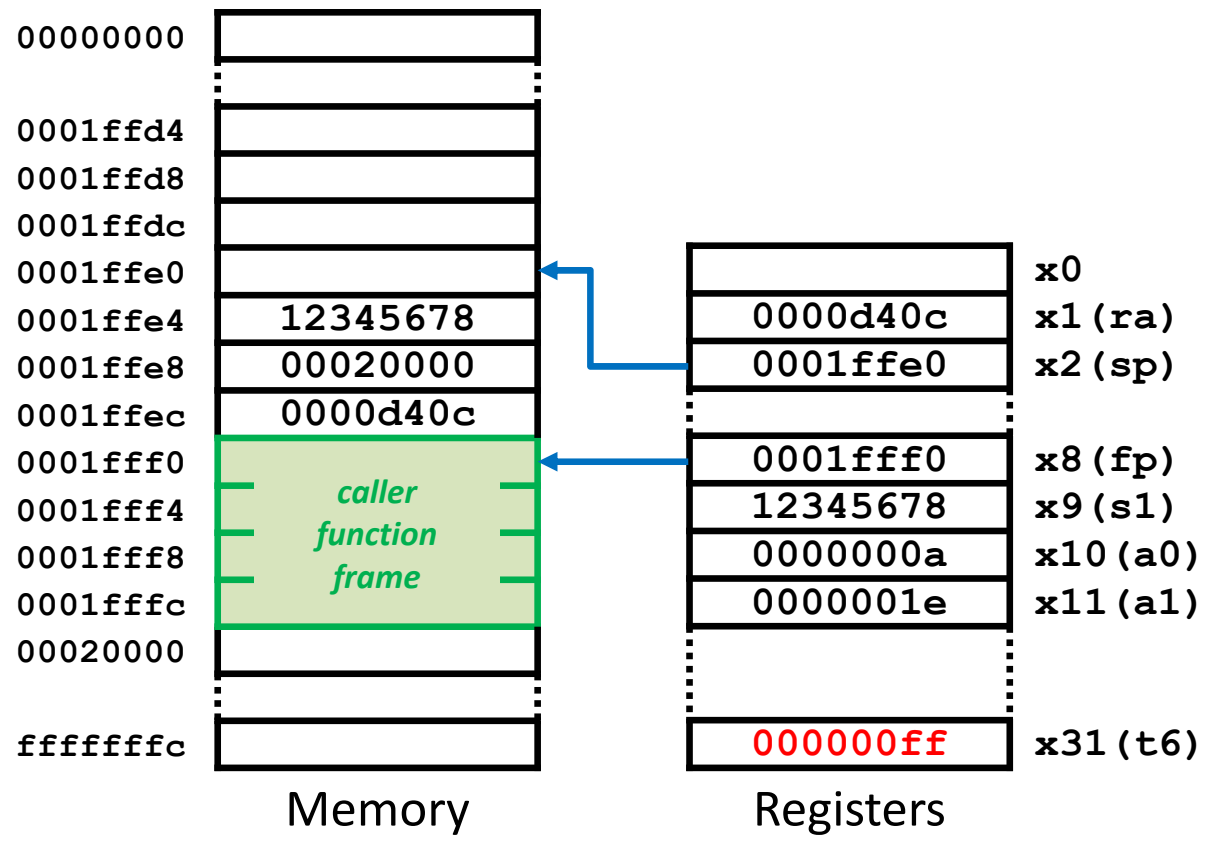
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

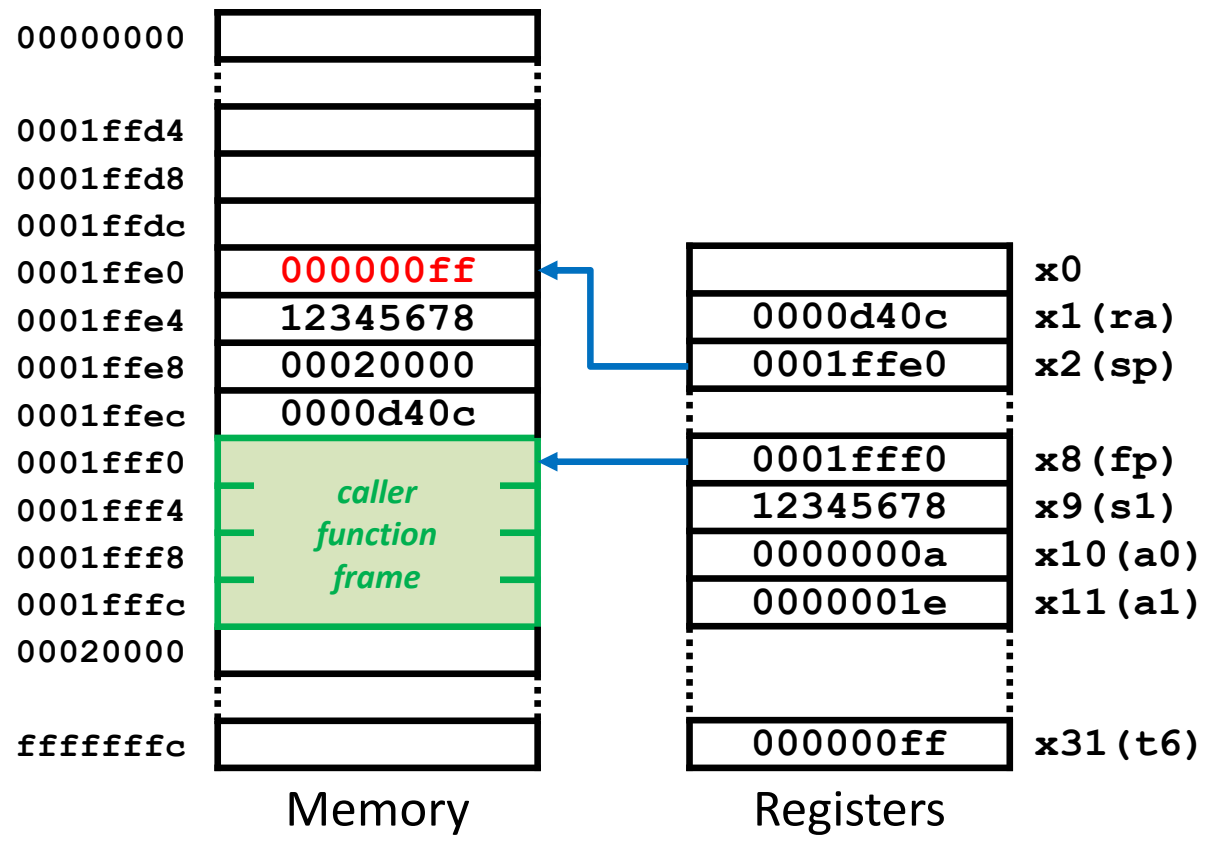
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

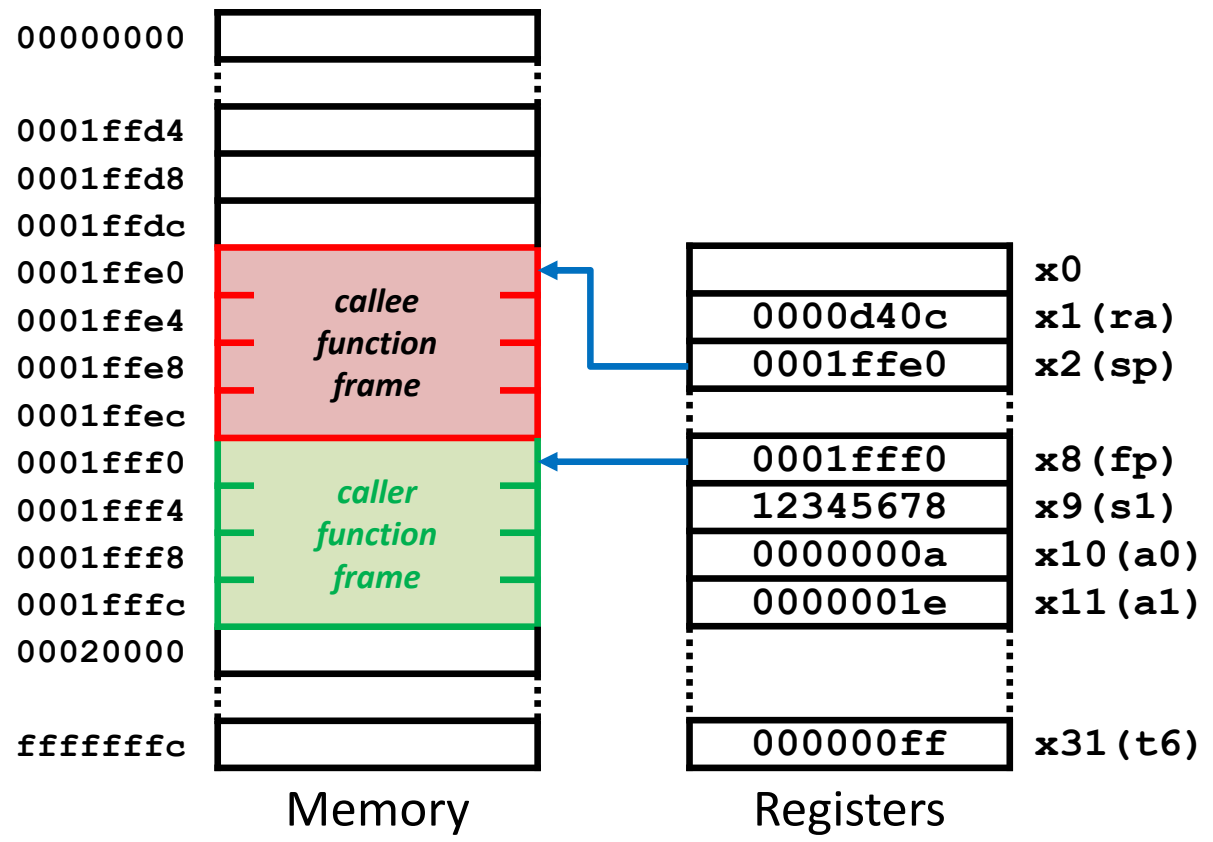
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

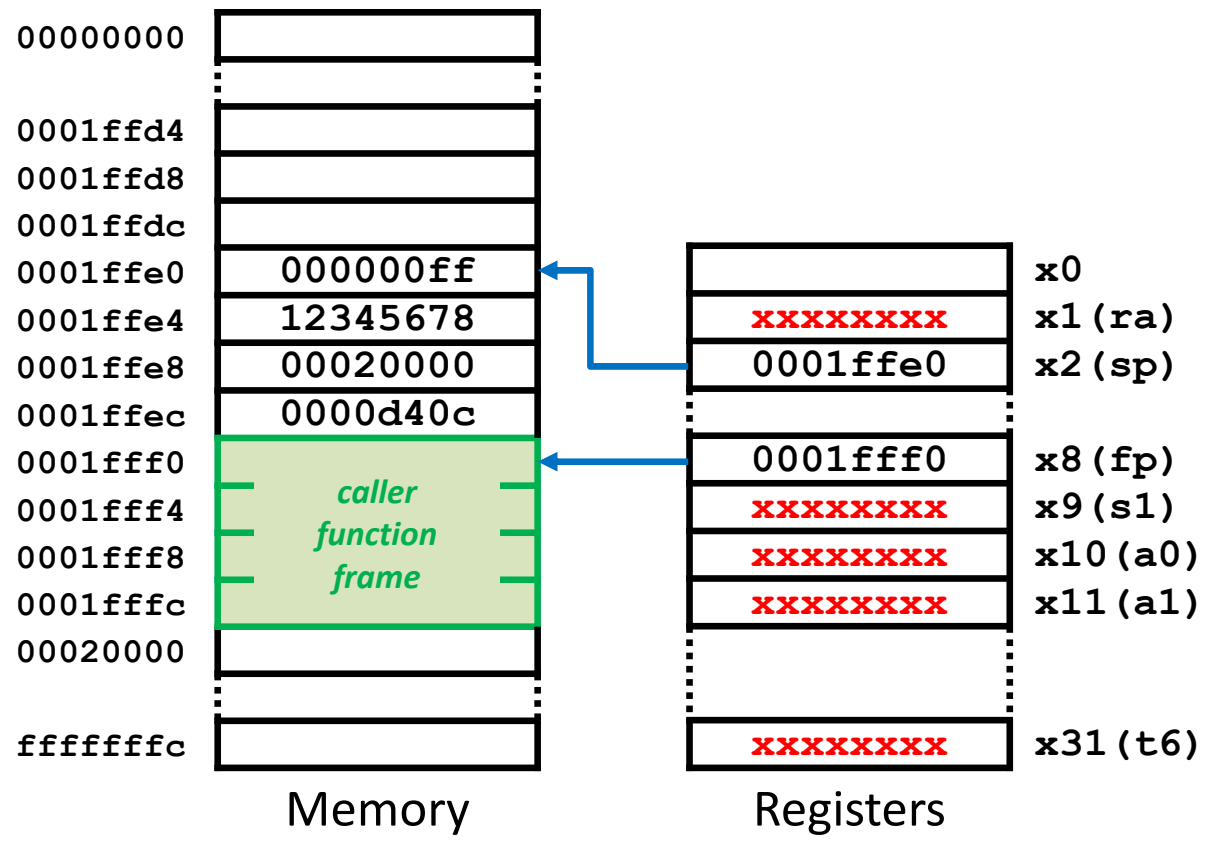
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

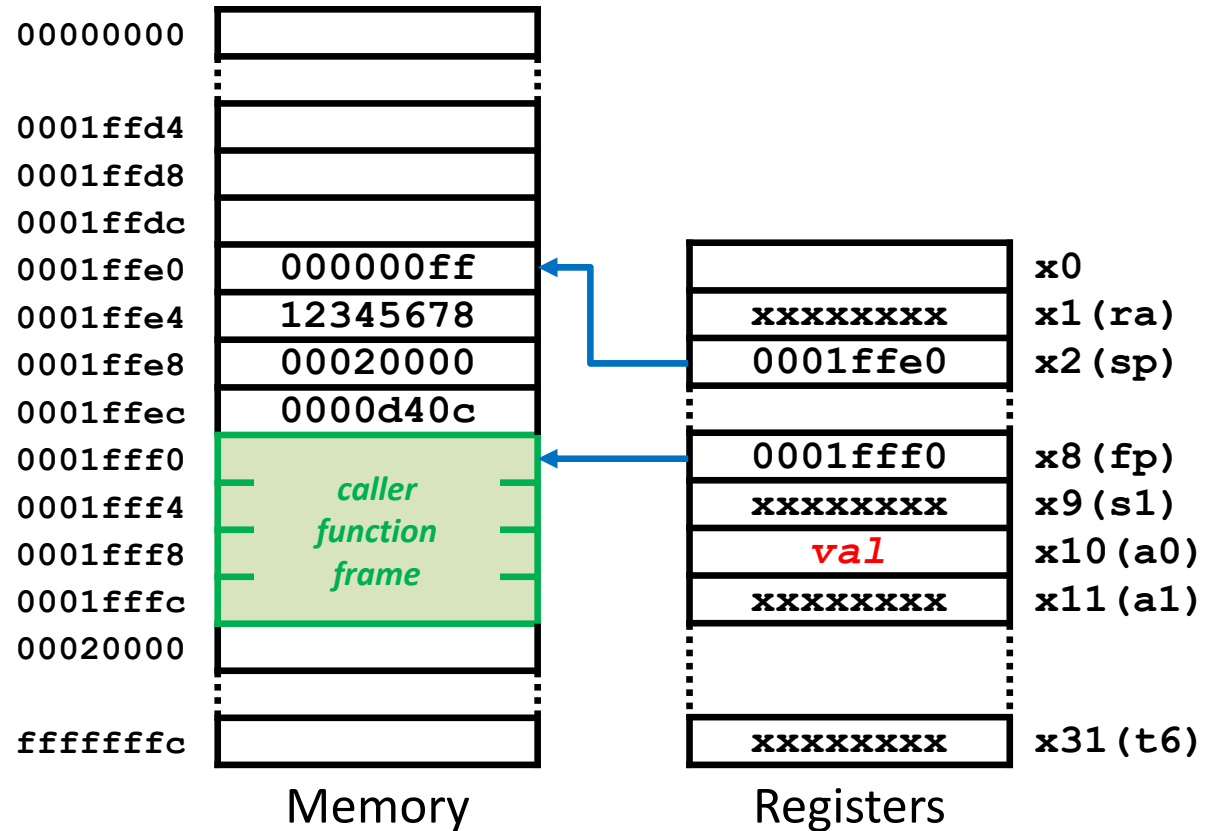
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
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sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
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li t6, 0xff
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...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

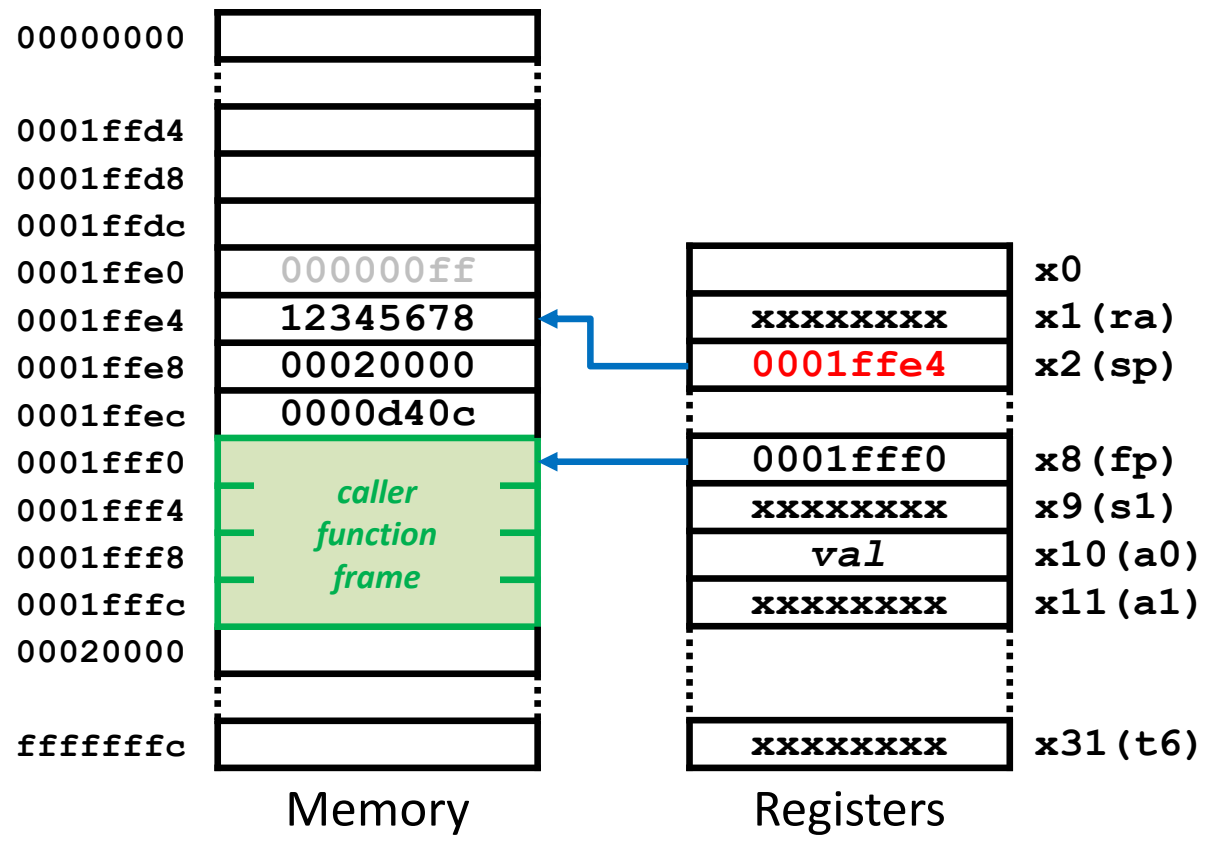
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
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li t6, 0xff
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...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

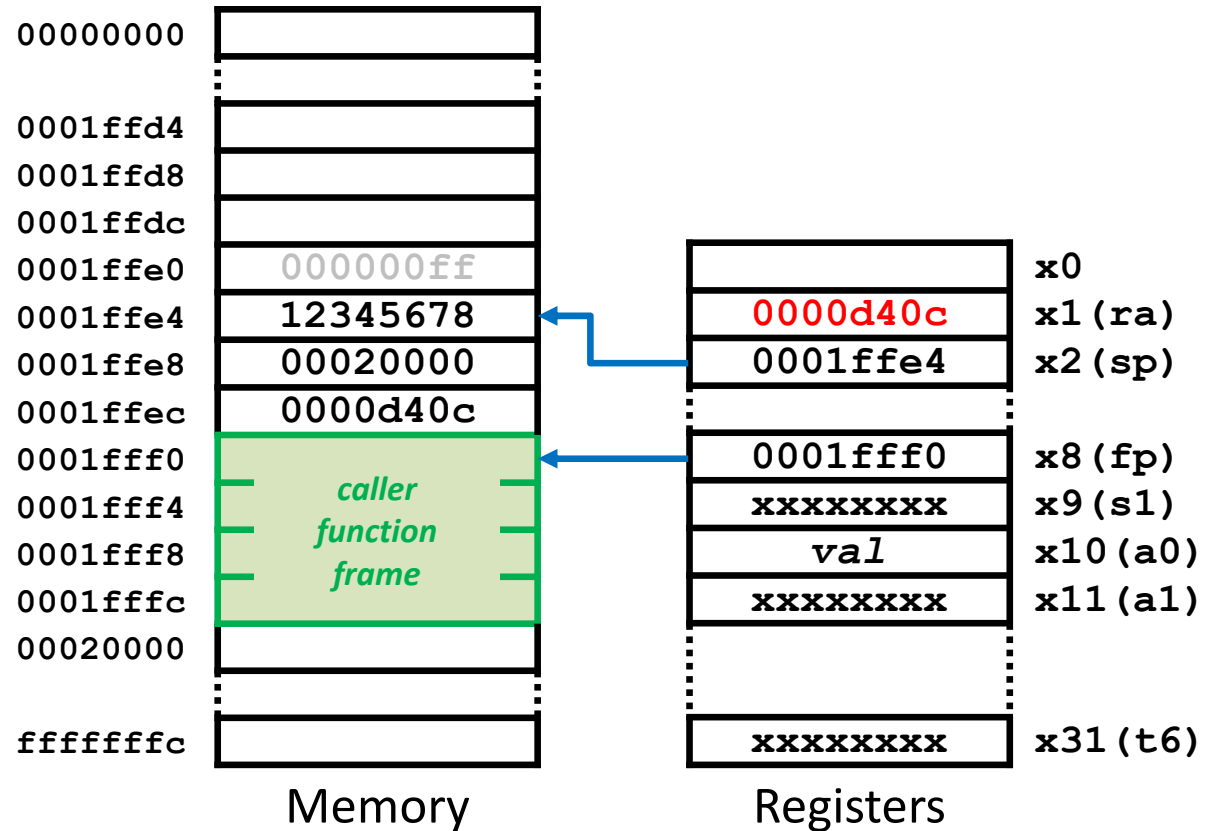
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```







# Functions

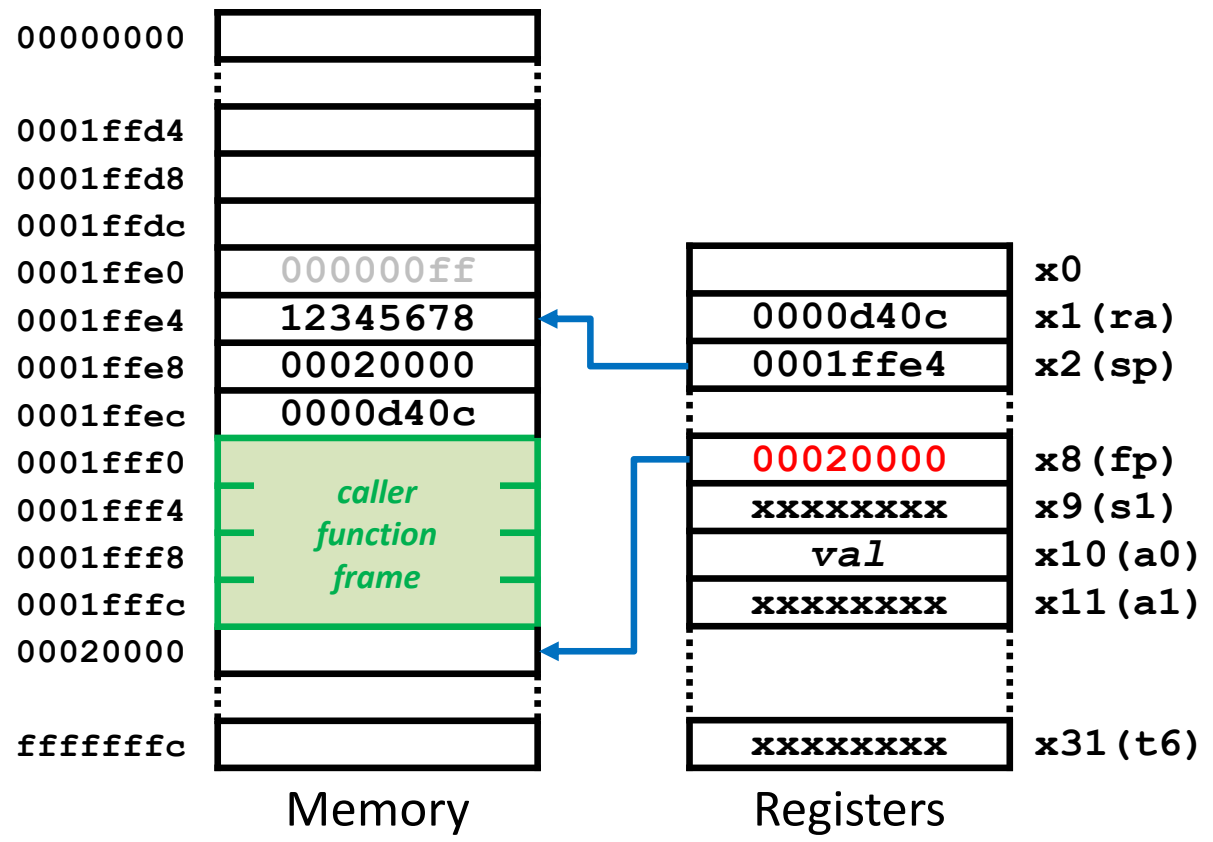
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

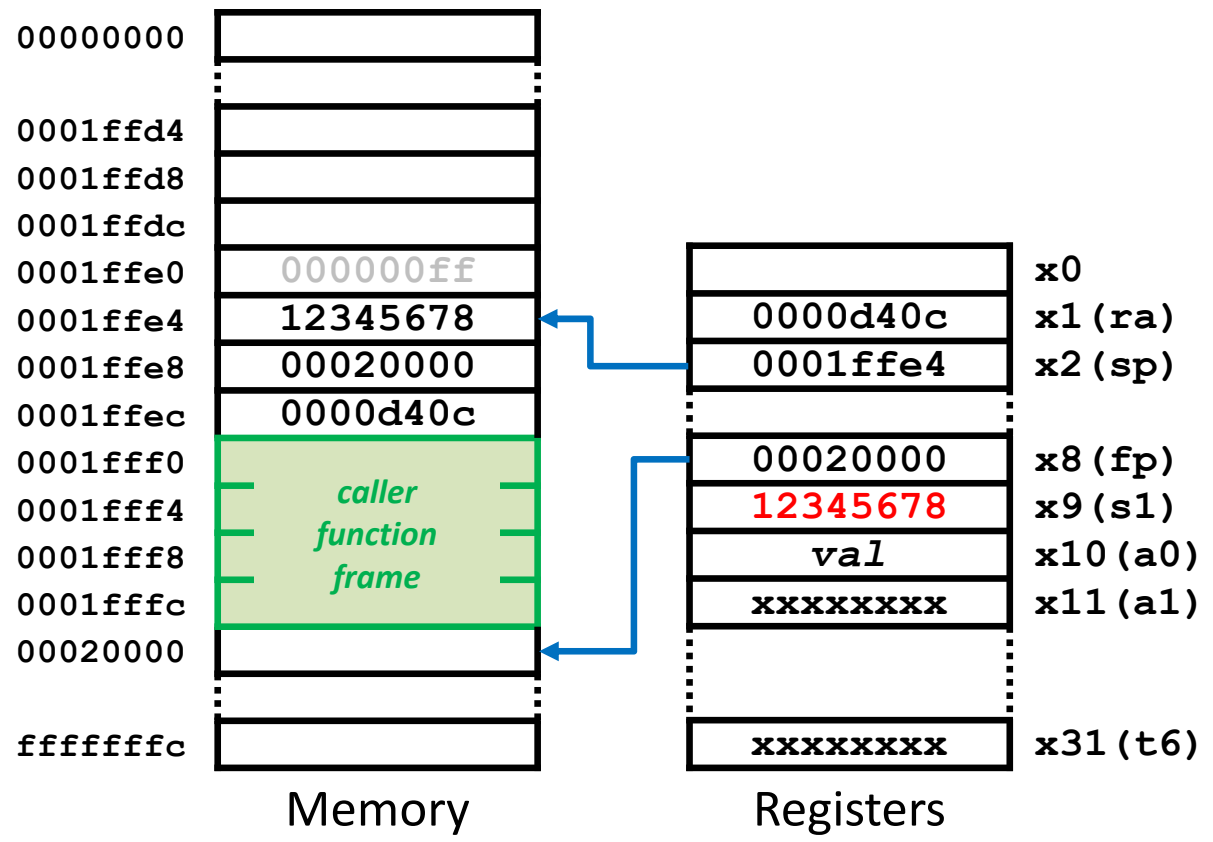
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

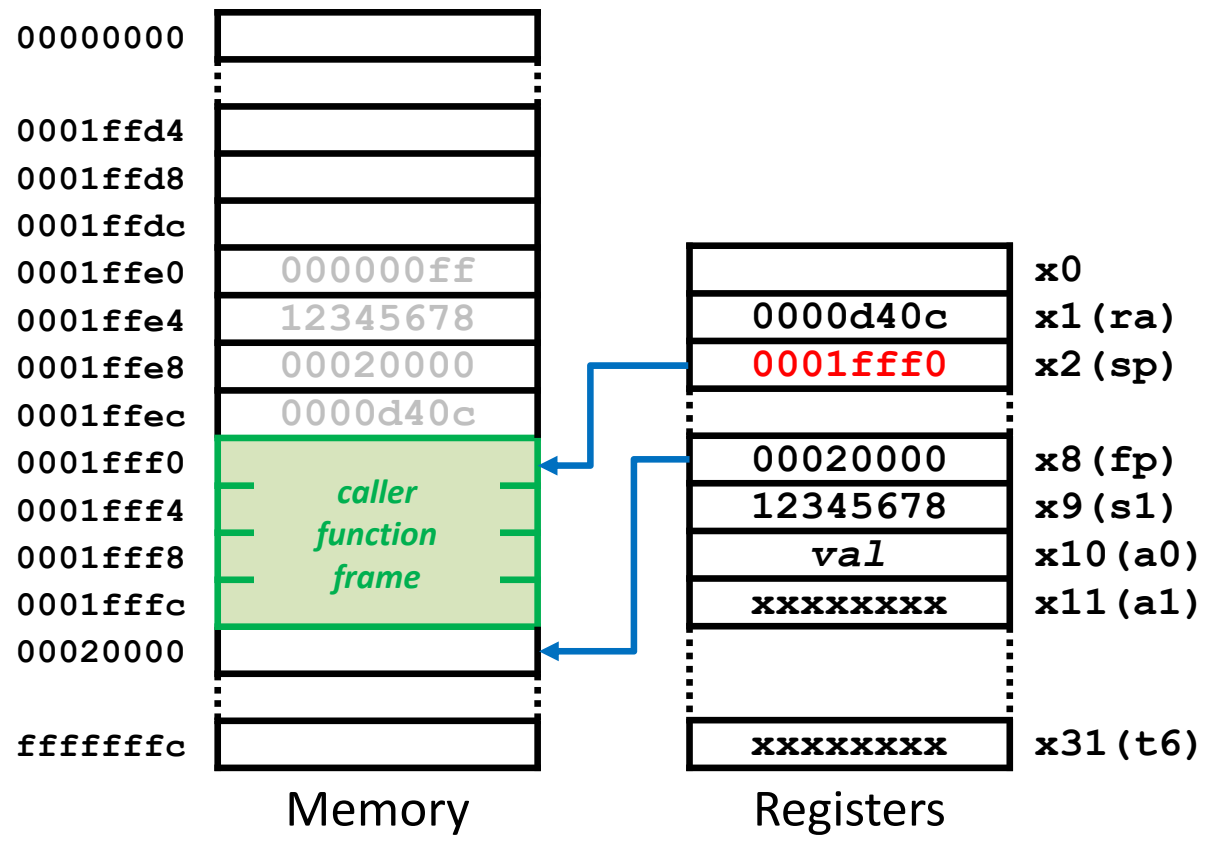
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





# Functions

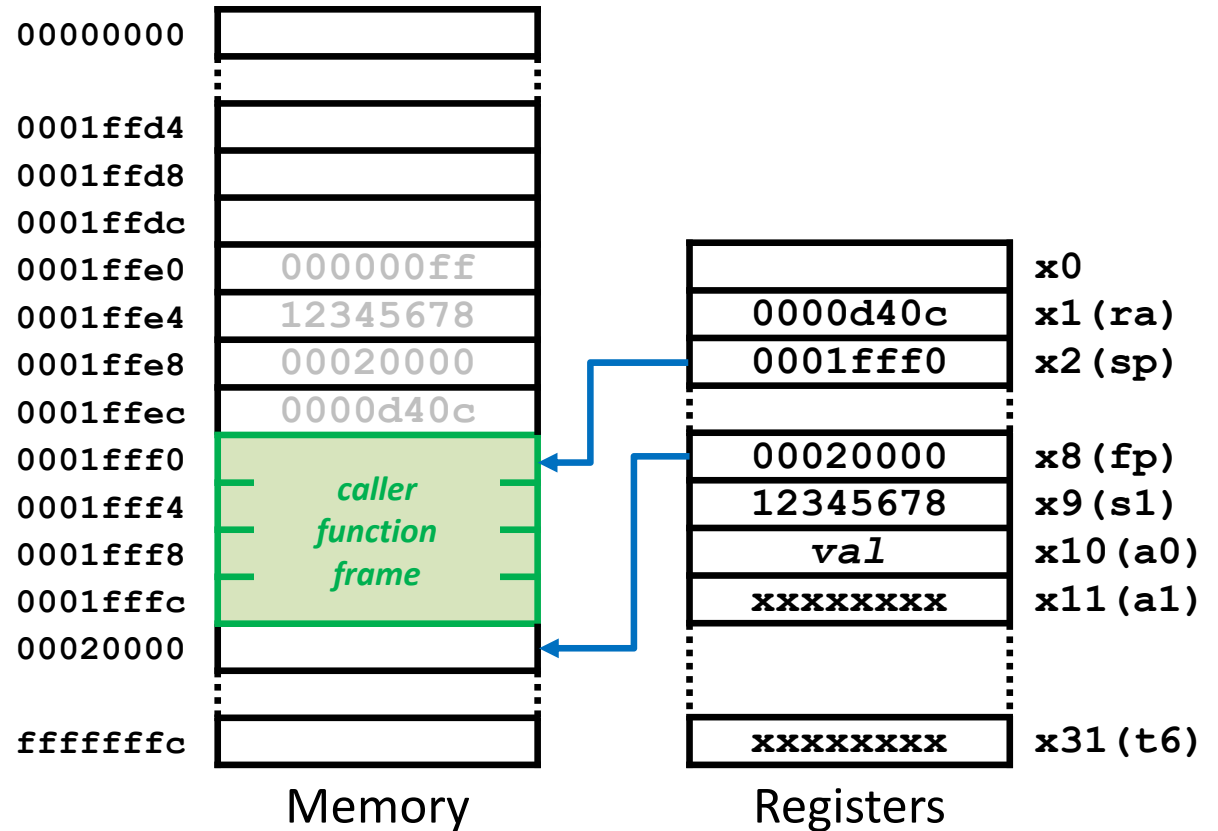
## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
0000d40c la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret

```





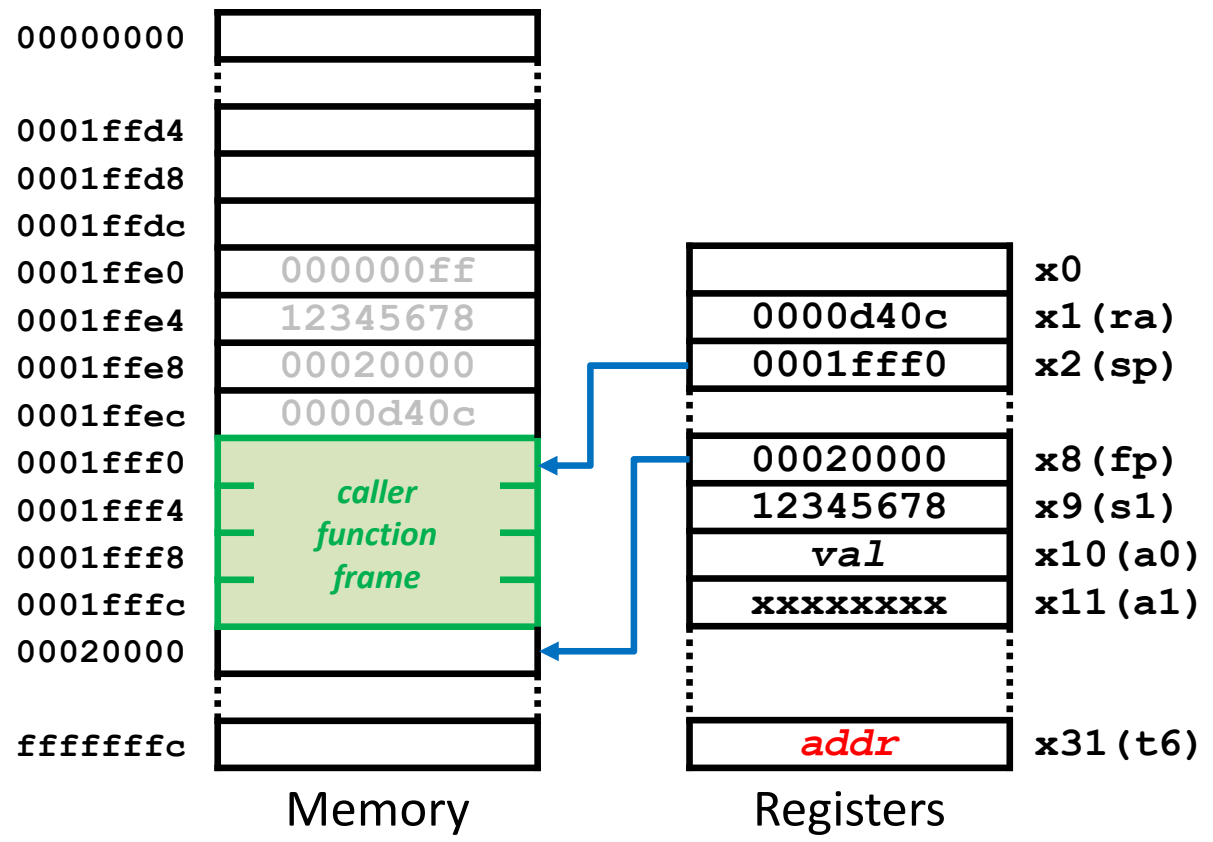
# Functions

## Frame management (iii)

ASM

```

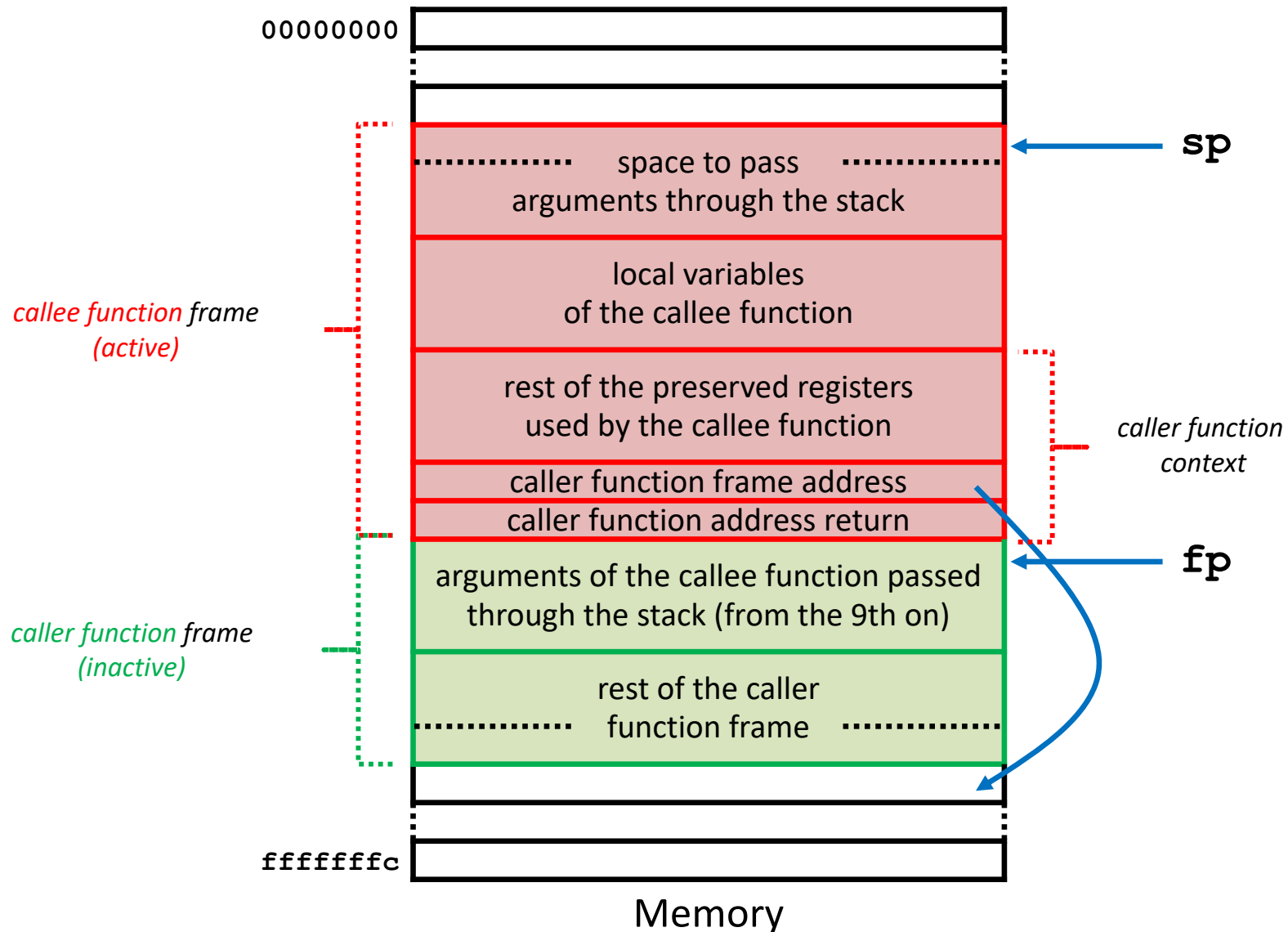
y: .space 4
...
li a0, 10
li a1, 30
call foo
la t6, y
sw a0, 0(t6)
...
foo:
add sp, sp, -12
sw ra 8(sp)
sw fp, 4(sp)
sw s1, 0(sp)
add fp, sp, 12
add sp, sp, -4
li t6, 0xff
sw t6, -16(fp)
...
mv a0, ...
add sp, sp, 4
lw ra 8(sp)
lw fp, 4(sp)
lw s1, 0(sp)
add sp, sp, 12
ret
  
```





# Functions

## Frame management (iv)





# Functions

## Frame management (v)

- According to the call procedure:
  - The **limits of an active frame** are marked by **fp** and **sp**.
  - The **arguments** from the 9th on (passed through the stack by the caller function) always have **positive offsets** respect to **fp**.
  - The **context** of the caller function and the **local variables** of the callee function always have **negative offsets** respect to **fp**.
- However, this **procedure is simpler** depending on the callee function:
  - If it is a **leaf function**, **ra** is not stored in its frame.
  - If it **does not use preserved registers**, these are not stored in its frame.
  - If it has **fewer than 8 parameters**, there are no arguments on the caller function frame.
  - If **all its local variables are stored in registers**, there is no need to save and use the **fp**.



# Functions

## Example (i)

- **Bubble sort algorithm** to sort the elements of an array:

C/C++

```
void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1; j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1]; j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

void swap( int v[], int k )
{
    int temp;

    temp = v[k];
    v[k] = v[k+1];
    v[k+1] = temp;
}
```





# Functions

## Example (ii)

- The **swap function** is a **leaf function** and it **only uses temporary registers**.
  - Context does not have to be saved.
  - It will store its local variable in a register, and therefore **fp** is not used.
- It receives **2 arguments** and it **does not return any result**.
  - It receives the base address of the array to be sorted in **a0**.
  - It receives the index of the element to be swapped with the following one in **a1**.
  - It does not return anything in **a0**.

C/C++

```
void swap( int v[],  
           int k  )  
{  
    int temp;  
  
    temp = v[k];  
    v[k] = v[k+1];  
    v[k+1] = temp;  
}
```

ASM

```
swap:  
    slli t0, a1, 2  ← Calculates the k×4 offset  
    add  t0, a0, t0 ← Adds base and offset  
    lw   t1, 0(t0) ← Loads v[k] into t1  
    lw   t2, 4(t0) ← Loads v[k+1] into t2  
    sw   t2, 0(t0) ← Stores t2 into v[k]  
    sw   t1, 4(t0) ← Stores t1 into v[k+1]  
    ret
```



# Functions

## Example (iii)

- The **sort function** is a **non-leaf function** that will use **preserved registers**.
  - The return address and the context will have to be saved.
  - It will store its local variables in registers, therefore it will not use **fp**.
- It receives 2 arguments and it does not return any result.
  - It receives the base address of the array to be sorted in **a0**.
  - It receives the number of elements of the array in **a1**.
  - It does not return anything in **a0**.

```
void sort( int v[], int n )  
{  
    int i, j;  
  
    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )  
        for( j=i-1; j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1]; j-- )  
            swap( v, j );  
}
```

C/C++



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
            j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
            j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1

```

PROLOGUE

The arguments are copied

```

...
ret

```

EPILOGUE



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```
void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
              j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
              j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}
```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```
sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori
...
efori:
    ...
    ret
```

PROLOGUE  
The arguments are copied  
 $i = 0$   
 $i \geq n?$   
EPILOGUE



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
              j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
              j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori

```

*PROLOGUE*  
*The arguments are copied*  
*i = 0*  
*i ≥ n?*

```

    add   s3, s3, 1
    j     fori
efori:
    ...
    ret

```

*Increments i*  
*EPILOGUE*



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
            j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
            j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

ASM

```

sort:
    ... ← PROLOGUE
    mv    s1, a0 ← The arguments are copied
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero ← i = 0
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori ← i ≥ n?
    add   s4, s3, -1 ← j = i-1
forj:
    blt   s4, zero, eforj ← j < 0?

eforj:
    add   s3, s3, 1 ← Increments i
    j     fori
efori:
    ... ← EPILOGUE
    ret

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
            j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
            j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ... ← PROLOGUE
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero ← i = 0
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori ← i ≥ n?
    add   s4, s3, -1 ← j = i-1
forj:
    blt   s4, zero, eforj ← j < 0?
    sll   t0, s4, 2 ← Calculates the offset j×4
    add   t0, s1, t0 ← Adds base and offset
    lw    t1, 0(t0) ← Loads v[j] into t1
    lw    t2, 4(t0) ← Loads v[j+1] into t2
    ble   t1, t2, eforj ← v[j] ≤ v[j+1]?

eforj:
    add   s3, s3, 1 ← Increments i
    j     fori
efori:
    ... ← EPILOGUE
    ret

```



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
            j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
            j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori
    add   s4, s3, -1
forj:
    blt   s4, zero, eforj
    sll   t0, s4, 2
    add   t0, s1, t0
    lw    t1, 0(t0)
    lw    t2, 4(t0)
    ble   t1, t2, eforj

    add   s4, s4, -1
j     forj
eforj:
    add   s3, s3, 1
j     fori
efori:
    ...
    ret

```

PROLOGUE  
 The arguments are copied  
 i = 0  
 i ≥ n?  
 j = i-1  
 j < 0?  
 Calculates the offset j×4  
 Adds base and offset  
 Loads v[j] into t1  
 Loads v[j+1] into t2  
 v[j] ≤ v[j+1]?  
 Decrements j  
 Increments i  
 EPILOGUE





# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
              j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
              j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori
    add   s4, s3, -1
forj:
    blt   s4, zero, eforj
    sll   t0, s4, 2
    add   t0, s1, t0
    lw    t1, 0(t0)
    lw    t2, 4(t0)
    ble   t1, t2, eforj
    mv    a0, s1
    mv    a1, s4
    call  swap
    add   s4, s4, -1
    j     forj
eforj:
    add   s3, s3, 1
    j     fori
efori:
    ...
    ret

```

PROLOGUE  
 The arguments are copied  
 i = 0  
 i ≥ n?  
 j = i-1  
 j < 0?  
 Calculates the offset j×4  
 Adds base and offset  
 Loads v[j] into t1  
 Loads v[j+1] into t2  
 v[j] ≤ v[j+1] ?  
 swap( v, j )  
 Decrements j  
 Increments i  
 EPILOGUE



# Functions

## Example (iv)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
              j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
              j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    ...
    mv    s1, a0
    mv    s2, a1
    mv    s3, zero
fori:
    bge   s3, s2, efori
    add   s4, s3, -1
forj:
    blt   s4, zero, eforj
    sll   t0, s4, 2
    add   t0, s1, t0
    lw    t1, 0(t0)
    lw    t2, 4(t0)
    ble   t1, t2, eforj
    mv    a0, s1
    mv    a1, s4
    call  swap
    add   s4, s4, -1
    j     forj
eforj:
    add   s3, s3, 1
    j     fori
efori:
    ...
    ret

```

PROLOGUE  
 The arguments are copied  
 i = 0  
 i ≥ n?  
 j = i-1  
 j < 0?  
 Calculates the offset j×4  
 Adds base and offset  
 Loads v[j] into t1  
 Loads v[j+1] into t2  
 v[j] ≤ v[j+1] ?  
 swap( v, j )  
 Decrements j  
 Increments i  
 EPILOGUE



# Functions

## Example (v)

C/C++

```

void sort( int v[], int n )
{
    int i, j;

    for( i=0; i<n; i++ )
        for( j=i-1;
            j>=0 && v[j]>v[j+1];
            j-- )
            swap( v, j );
}

```

$v[] (a0) \rightarrow s1$   
 $n (a1) \rightarrow s2$   
 $i \rightarrow s3$   
 $j \rightarrow s4$

ASM

```

sort:
    add sp, sp, -4*5
    sw ra, 4*4(sp)
    sw s1, 3*4(sp)
    sw s2, 2*4(sp)
    sw s3, 1*4(sp)
    sw s4, 0*0(sp)
    ...
fori:
    ...
forj:
    ...
eforj:
    ...
efori:
    lw ra, 4*4(sp)
    lw s1, 3*4(sp)
    lw s2, 2*4(sp)
    lw s3, 1*4(sp)
    lw s4, 0*0(sp)
    add sp, sp, 4*5
    ret

```

PROLOGUE:  
Pushes context

Function body

EPILOGUE:  
Pops context



# Local vs. global variables

- Accessing a global variable with a label requires performing between 2 and 3 instructions.

```
a: .word 5
...
la    t0, a
lw    s1, 0(t0)
...
```

ASM

```
a: .word 5
...
lw    s1, a
...
```

ASM

```
a: .word 5
...
auipc t0, ...
addi  t0, t0, ...
lw    s1, 0(t0)
...
```

```
a: .word 5
...
auipc s1, ...
lw    s1, ...(s1)
...
```

- To make **the access faster**, immediate offsets relative to registers are commonly used.
  - Similar to how local variables are addressed.

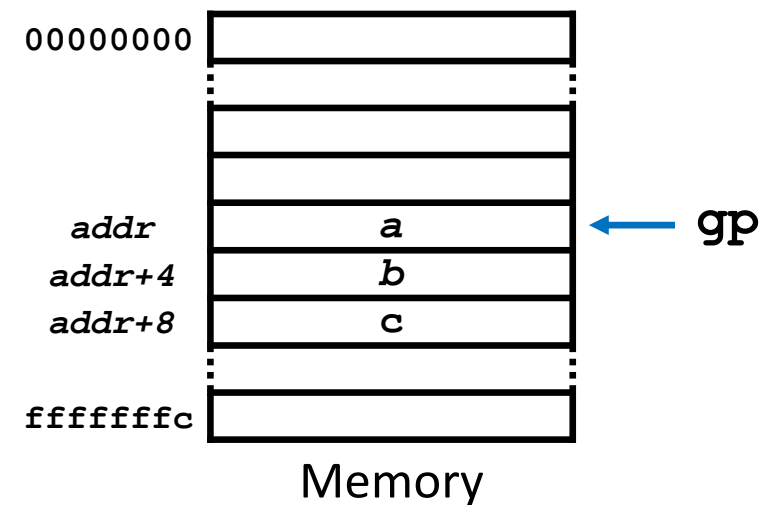


# Local vs. global variables

- For **global variables**, the **gp** register is used as the base.
  - At the beginning of the program, **gp** is initialized to point the region memory where the global variables are placed, and it never changes.
  - All global variables may be identified by a **constant and unique offset** related to **gp**.

```
ASM
a: .word 76
b: .word -39
c: .space 4
...
la t0, a
lw s1, 0(t0)
la t0, b
lw s2, 0(t0)
add s1, s1, s2
la t0, c
sw s1, 0(t0)
...
```

```
ASM
a: .word 76
b: .word -39
c: .space 4
...
la gp, a
...
lw s1, 0(gp)
lw s2, 4(gp)
add s1, s1, s2
sw s1, 8(gp)
...
```

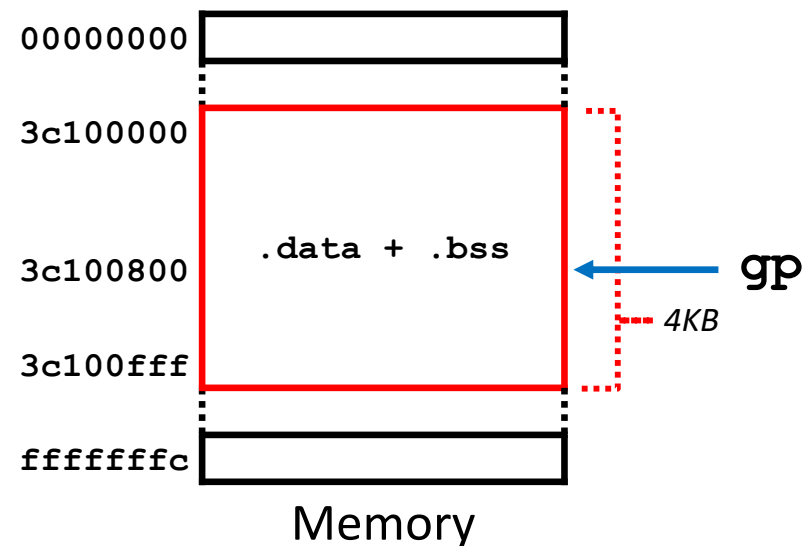
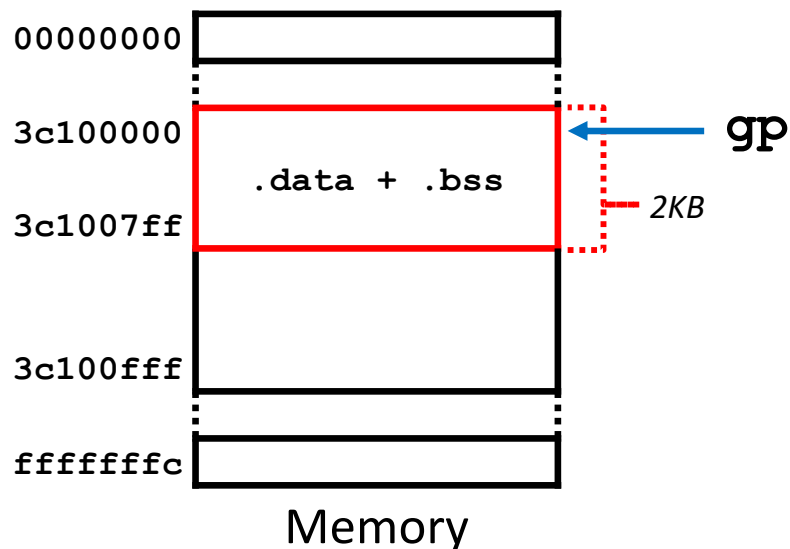


- In **multithread applications**, the **tp** register is used in a similar way so that each thread has access to its space of local variables.



# Local vs. global variables

- Offsets in the `lw/sw` instructions are represented in C2 with 12b.
  - If `gp` points to the beginning of the global data section, this region could have a size of at most 2KiB:  $gp + [0..2^{11}-1]$
  - So, it is usual to initialize `gp` so that it points to the middle of that section. With this, a whole region of 4KiB could be addressed:  $gp \pm [0..2^{11}-1]$ 
    - i.e., adding 0x800 to the initial address of the section.





# Local vs. global variables

- **Global variables** (static)
  - They are located in the main memory, in the `.data` or `.bss` sections
  - They have a fixed address during the whole execution of the program.
    - To address them, a label or an offset relative to `gp` are used.
  - They persist (are alive) during the whole execution of the program.
    - They are created (are available) when the program starts.
    - They are destroyed (their addresses are reused) when the program ends.
  
- **Local variables** (automatic)
  - They are located in the stack, in the activation frame of the function.
    - The stack is a memory region different from the code or global variable regions.
  - They have a different address in each function call.
    - To address them, relative offsets to `sp` or `fp` are used.
  - They persist (are alive) only during the execution of the function.
    - They are created after the function call (in the function prologue).
    - They are destroyed before returning (in the function epilogue).



# Local vs. global variables

## Dynamic variables

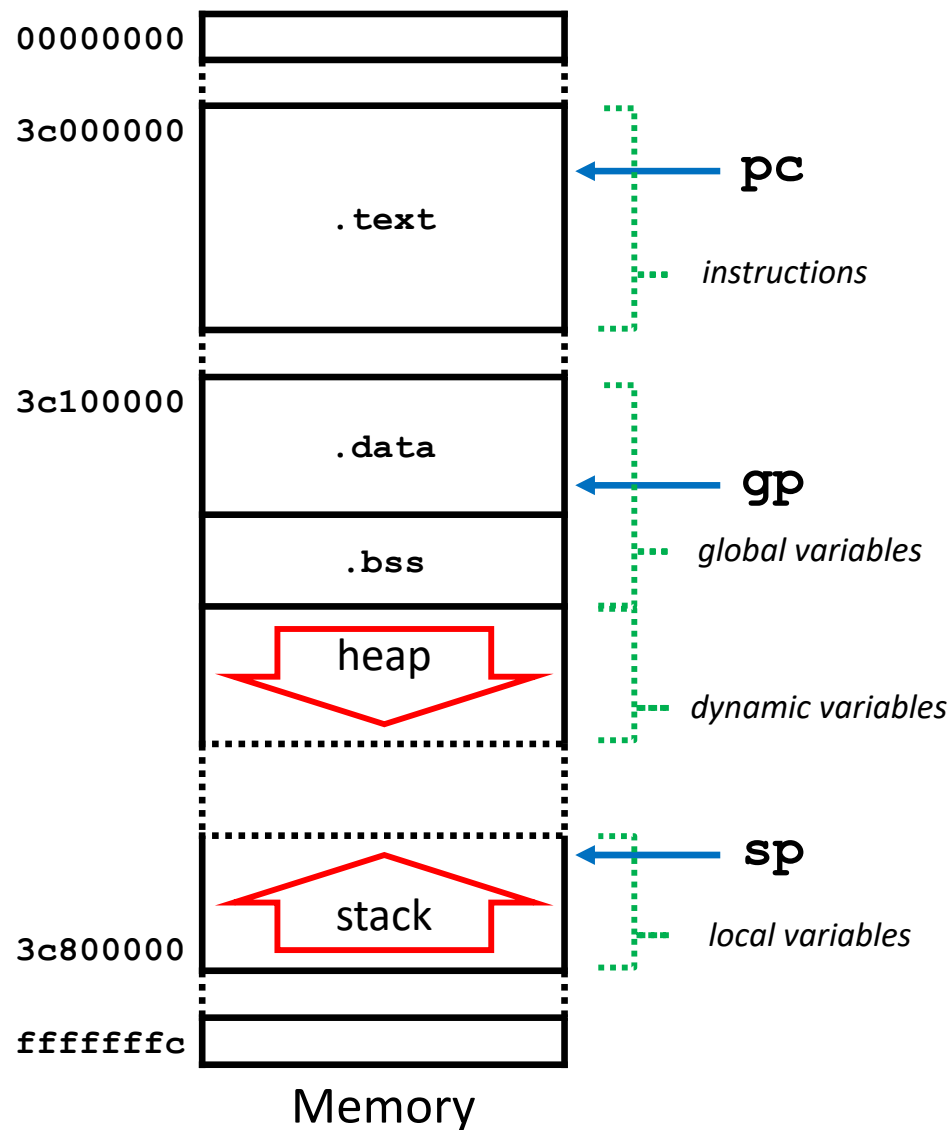
- In C/C++, besides, there are **dynamic variables**
  - Which are **created and destroyed explicitly by the programmer** during the execution of a program, using `malloc/free` (C) or `new/delete` (C++).
- The **heap** is a **memory region** where the dynamic variables of a program are located.
  - It is usually placed in the memory side opposite to the stack, and it grows in the opposite direction.
- There are many alternatives to manage the dynamic memory of a computer. For example:
  - `malloc/new` returns the address of an adjacent region of free memory in the heap, with the requested size.
    - This region is accessed with offsets relative to a base register, which stores the address returned by `malloc/new`.
  - `free/delete` marks the region whose address is given as free, so that it can be reused.





# Local vs. global variables

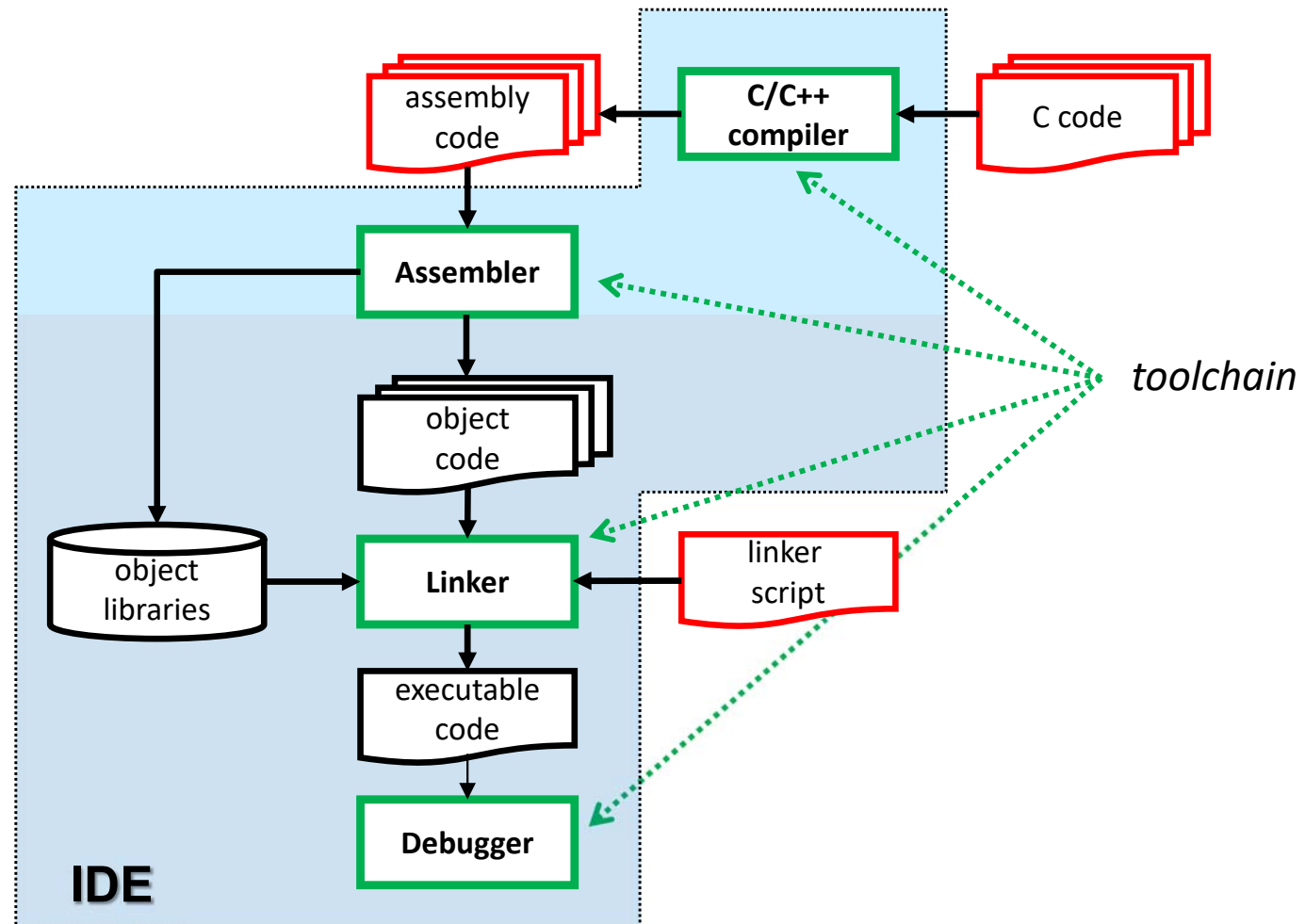
## Memory map





# Development workflow

- To develop applications, an **IDE** (*I*ntegrated *D*evelopment *E*nvironment) is used, which works as a **toolchain** interface.





# Development workflow

- The **assembler**:
  - Interprets the assembly directives.
  - Expands pseudo-instructions and macros.
  - Transforms local labels of instructions and data into:
    - Branches and PC-relative offsets so that the code is relocatable.
  - Transforms constants and constant expressions into their binary representation.
  - Translates instructions into machine code.
  - Creates an object code file for each source file containing:
    - Header, sections, symbol table and debugging information.
  
- The **linker**, following the instructions in a script:
  - Combines object code input sections into output sections.
  - Assigns an adjacent memory region to each output section.
  - Resolves crossed references transforming the global labels.
  - Creates a unique file of executable machine code.

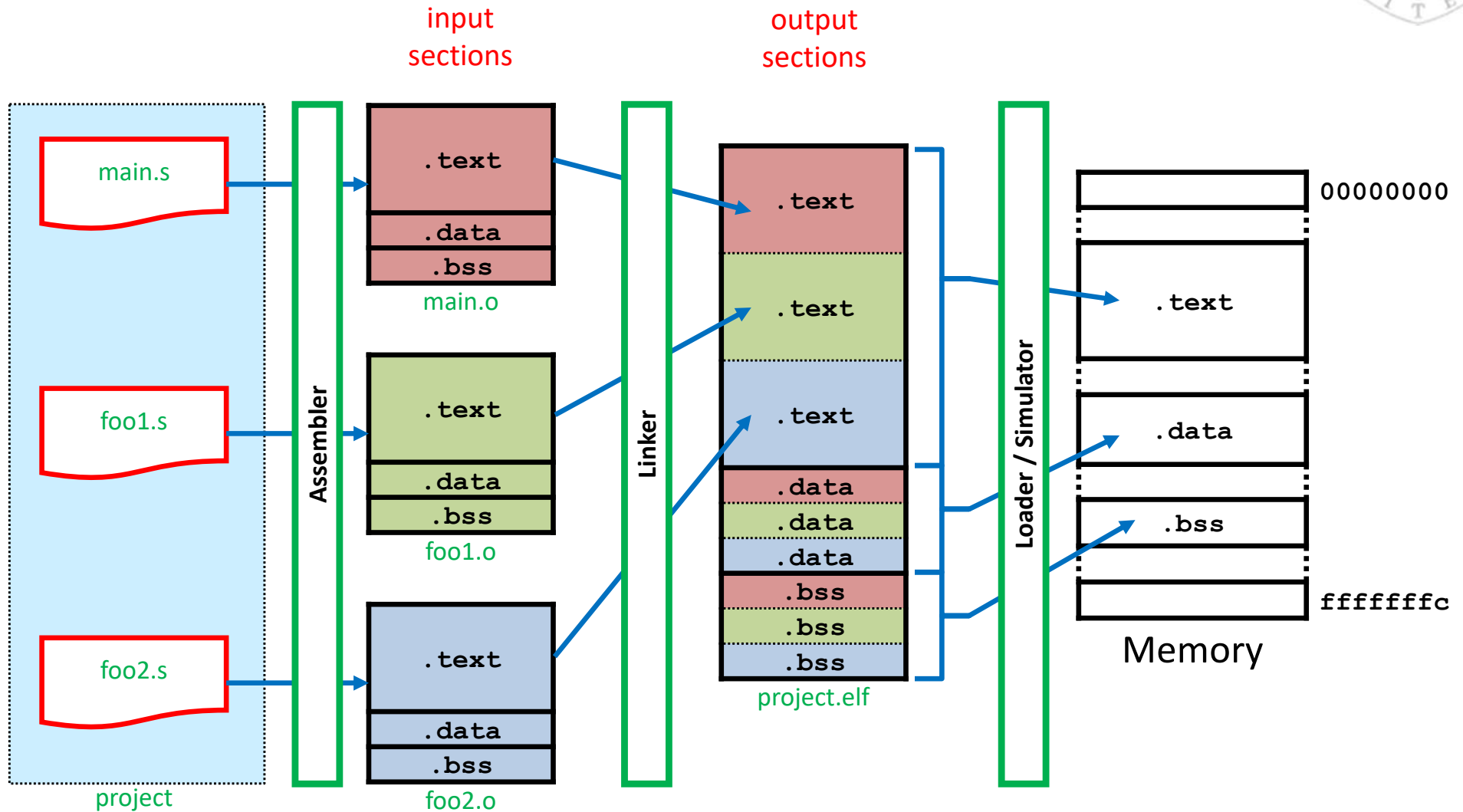


# Development workflow

- The **loader**:
  - Copies in memory an executable file located in a secondary storage device and jumps to its first instruction.
  
- The **debugger**:
  - Allows executing a program instruction by instruction in order to inspect code and data.
  
- Applications can be developed in 2 scenarios:
  - **Direct development**: the application is compiled, assembled and linked in the same computer in which it is executed and debugged.
    - Or it is executed in a computer with the same architecture.
  - **Crossed development**: the application is compiled, assembled and linked in a different computer from the one in which it is executed and debugged.
    - Typically because the architectures of both computers are different.



# Development workflow

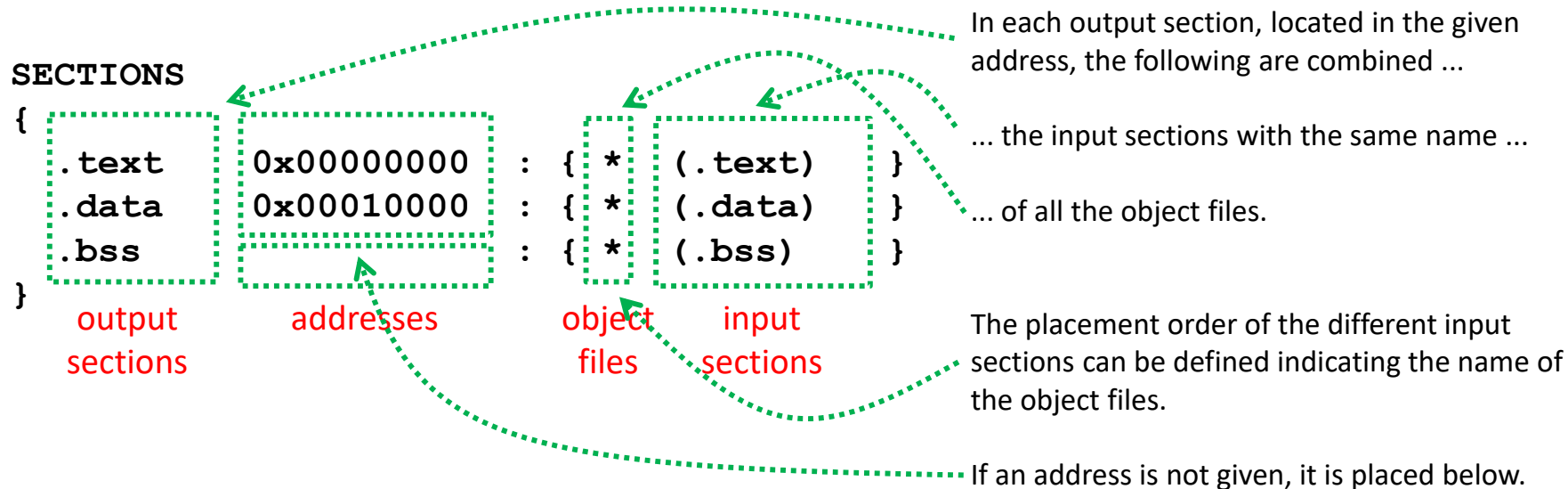




# Development workflow

## Linker script (i)

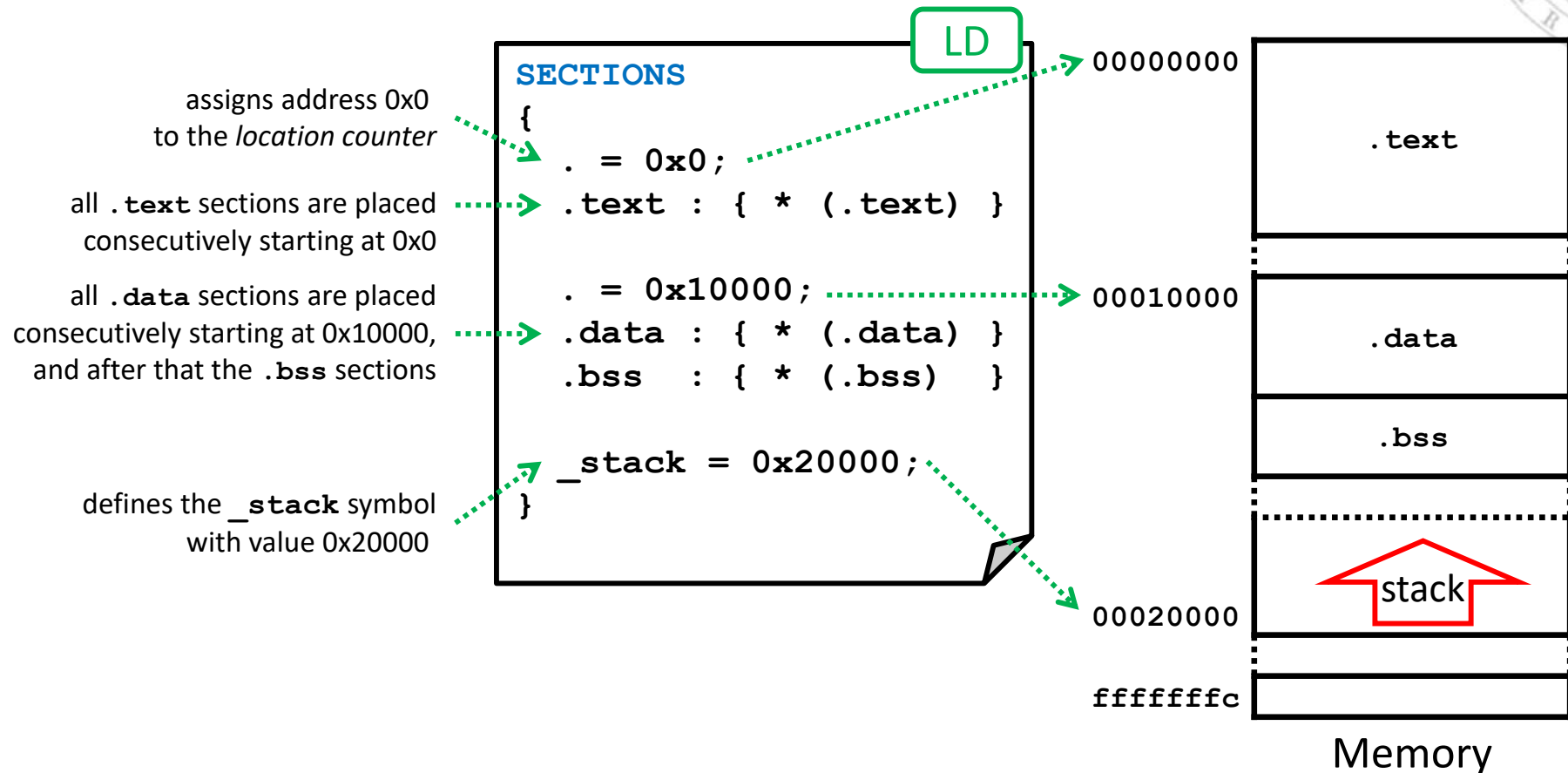
- A **linker script** is formed by a **collection of commands** that allow the programmer **to direct the linking process**.
  - It can define variables addressable by the source code.
  - The *location counter* (.) variable is predefined, which contains the current linking address of the output sections.
- The most important command is **SECTIONS**, which allows defining the **name, location and content** of the executable output sections.





# Development workflow

## Linker script (ii)



- Addresses must be carefully chosen, in order to avoid errors
  - A **stack overflow** happens when the stack grows too much and it overwrites other sections of the program.



# Development workflow

## Combining assembly language and C/C++ (i)

- The usual scenario is that a program is **mostly written in C/C++**, with just a **very small portion in assembly**.
  - Therefore, it will be necessary to call C/C++ functions and access global variables from the assembly code, and vice versa.
  
- By default:
  - The **functions and global variables in C/C++** are visible from any project file.
    - However, their names are usually declared in the assembly code using the `.extern` directive, for readability's sake.
  - The **functions and global variables in assembly** are only visible inside the file where they are defined.
    - To make them visible outside, the `.global` directive must be used.
  - The **C/C++ compiler follows the call convention** defined in RISC-V
    - If the assembly programmer also follows this convention, the C/C++ and assembly codes will be able to interact seamlessly.

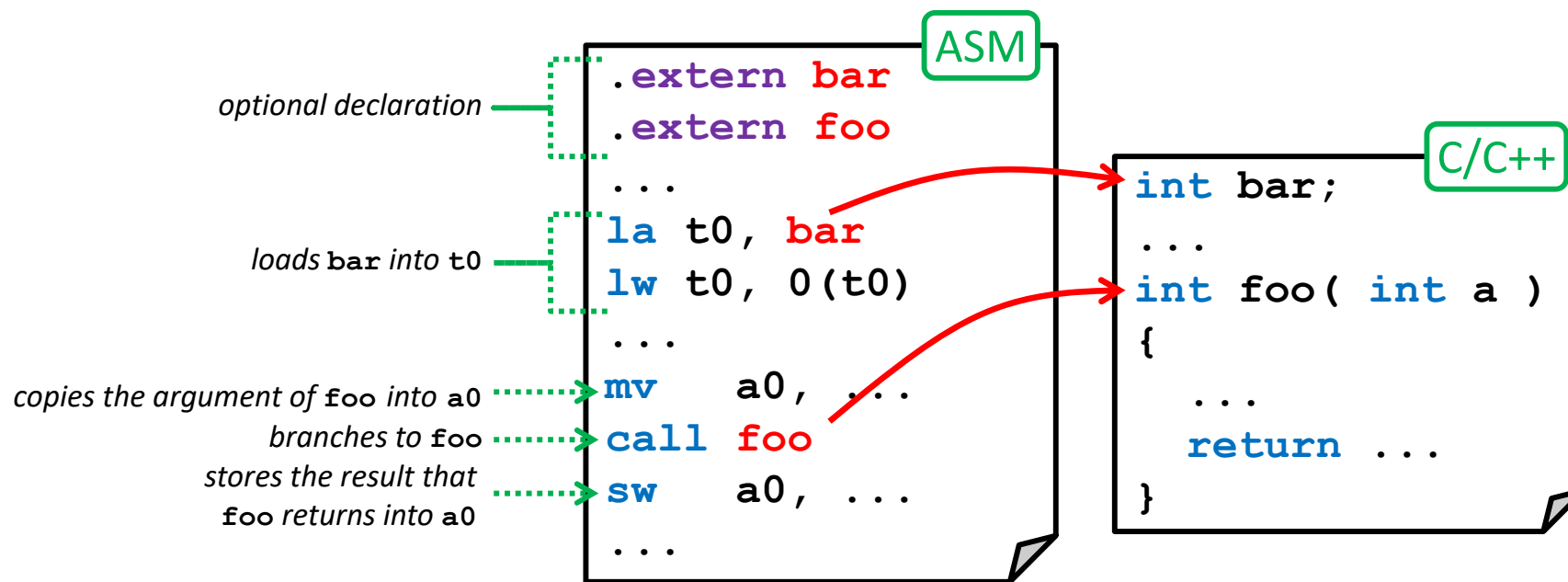




# Development workflow

## Combining assembly language and C/C++ (ii)

- To access a global variable declared in C/C++ from assembly:
  - Its identifier must be used as an operand.
- To call a function defined in C/C++ from assembly:
  - Its identifier is used as the branch destination.
  - The C/C++ function arguments must be passed following the RISC-V convention:
    - Using registers a0...a7 for the first 8, and the rest through the stack.
  - The compiled C/C++ function will return the result in register a0.

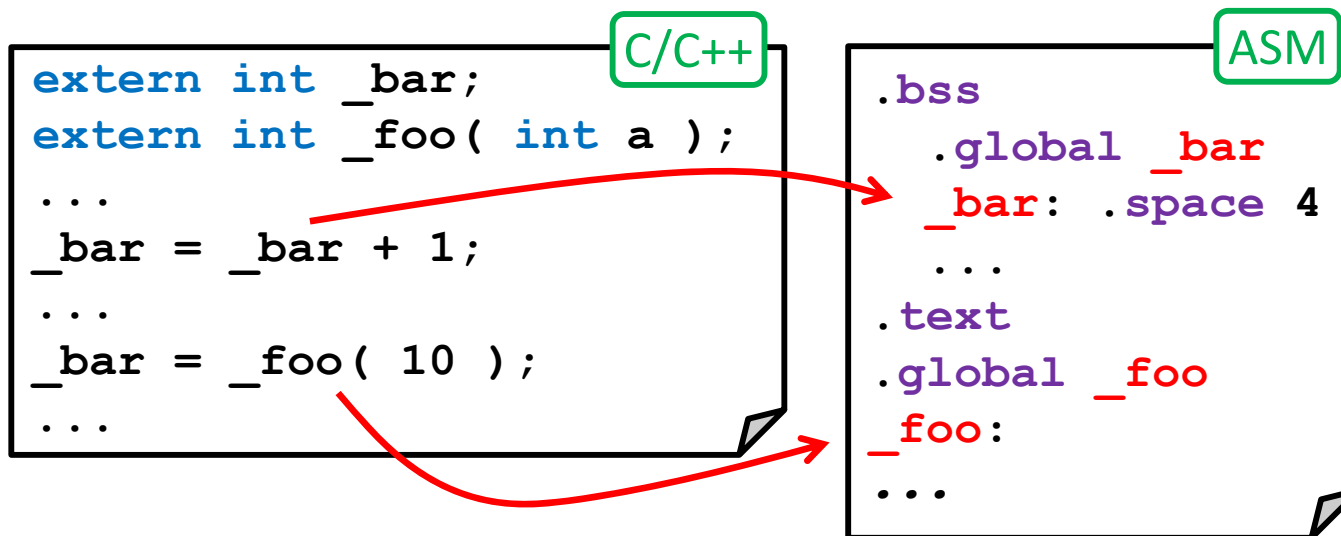




# Development workflow

## Combining assembly language and C/C++ (iii)

- To access a global variable declared in assembler from C/C++:
  - It has to be declared as `extern`, and then it can be used normally.
- To call a function defined in assembly from C/C++:
  - Its prototype has to be declared as `extern`, and then it can be called normally.
  - The compiled C/C++ function passes its arguments following the RISC-V convention:
    - The assembly function will find the first 8 in registers `a0...a7` and the rest in the stack.
  - The assembly function must return the result in register `a0`.

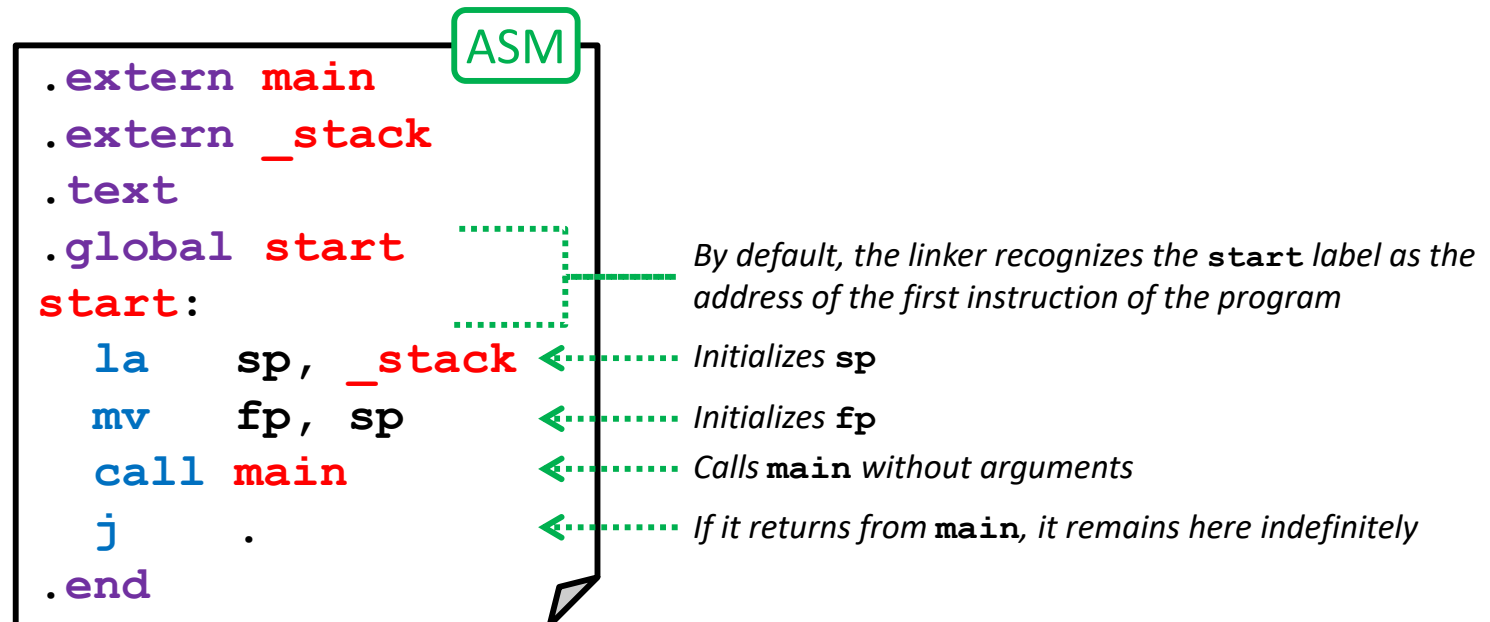




# Development workflow

## Starting a program

- In C/C++, the **main** program is handled as another function.
  - With its own arguments, its return value and its local variables.
  - It is the operating system which, in order to execute a program, calls its **main** function, passing the arguments and receiving the return value.
  - Besides, the operating system has previously initialized the system.
- In computers without an operating system (*bare metal*), the system initialization and the branch to **main** are done by the **startup code**.






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