

Assembly Language Programming: Procedures

EECE416 uC

Charles Kim
Howard University

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Before we start

- Schedule of the next few weeks
 - T Nov 19: Procedure and Calls (continued)
 - R Nov 21: Coding Project Due
 - R Nov 21: Intel Atom/FPGA Board
 - T Dec 03: Presentation + Demo (for Microcontrollers)
 - R Dec 05: Final Exam
 - Subjects related to all class activities since Exam01
 - Mul/imul, Div/ldiv, Branching, Loop, and Procedure
 - Code reading → Flowchart → Description
 - Description → flowchart → Code writing
 - Coding similar to the GCD practice
 - Terminologies of Intel Atom/FPGA board

Procedure Calling and Stack

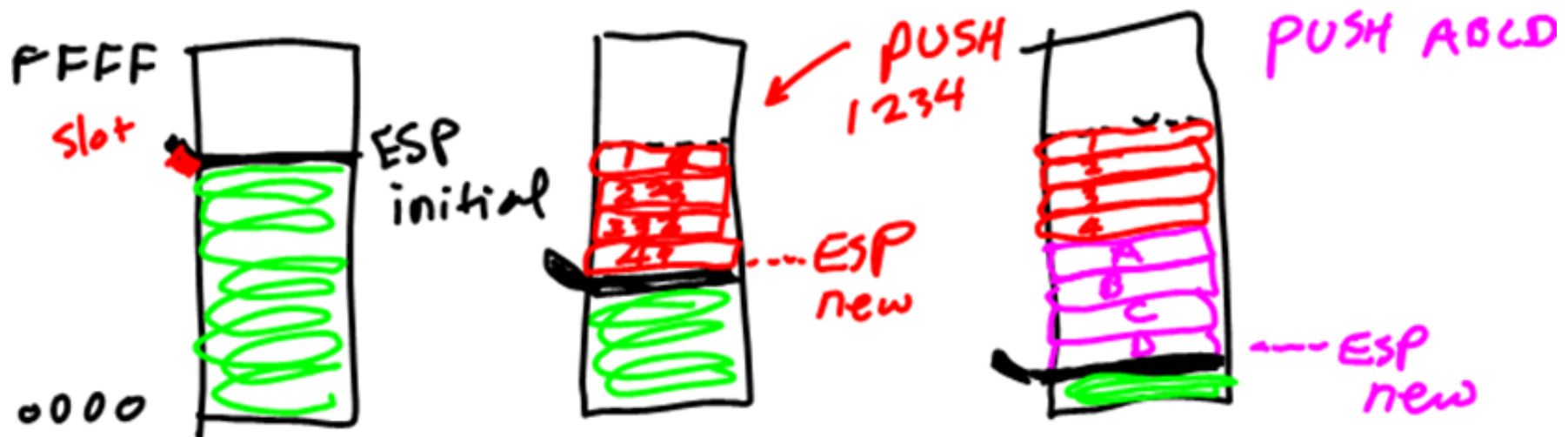
- 3 concepts:
 - How to **transfer** control from a calling [main] program to a procedure and **back**
 - How to **pass parameter values** to a procedure and results **back** from the procedure
 - How to write **procedure code** that is **independent of the calling program**.
- Hardware **stack** is used to accomplish each of the above jobs.
- Focus on 32-bit mode only

80x86 Stack

- Hardware Stack
 - Allocated with directive, for example
`.STACK 4096`
allocates 4096 uninitialized memory **bytes**
 - ESP holds the address of the “**first byte above**” the 4096 bytes in the stack
 - Most access is indirect, through the stack point register ESP
 - Operating system initializes ESP to point to **byte above stack**
 - As program executes, it points to the last item pushed on the stack
 - “Top” of stack is at the highest address
 - Stack grows toward lower address

Push Instruction

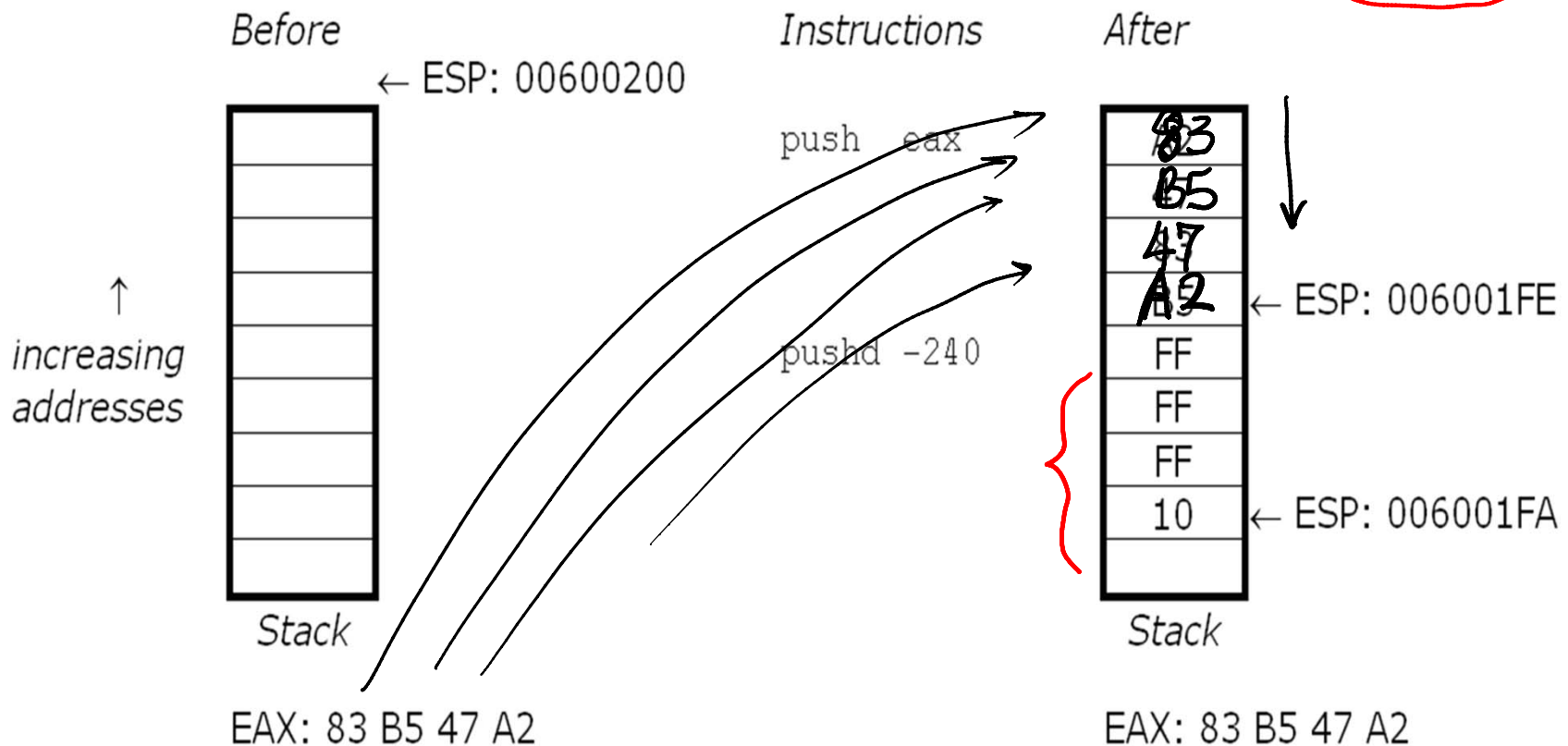
- Usual format: `push source`
 - source can be memory, register or immediate
 - **doubleword** or **word** pushed on the stack
- ESP decremented by size of operand
- Operand stored in stack where ESP points after being decremented
- Flags not changed
- **By Push, stack point goes lower (“grows”) in address (ESP)**
- Push/Pop from the Stack Pointer (ESP register)



Push Example

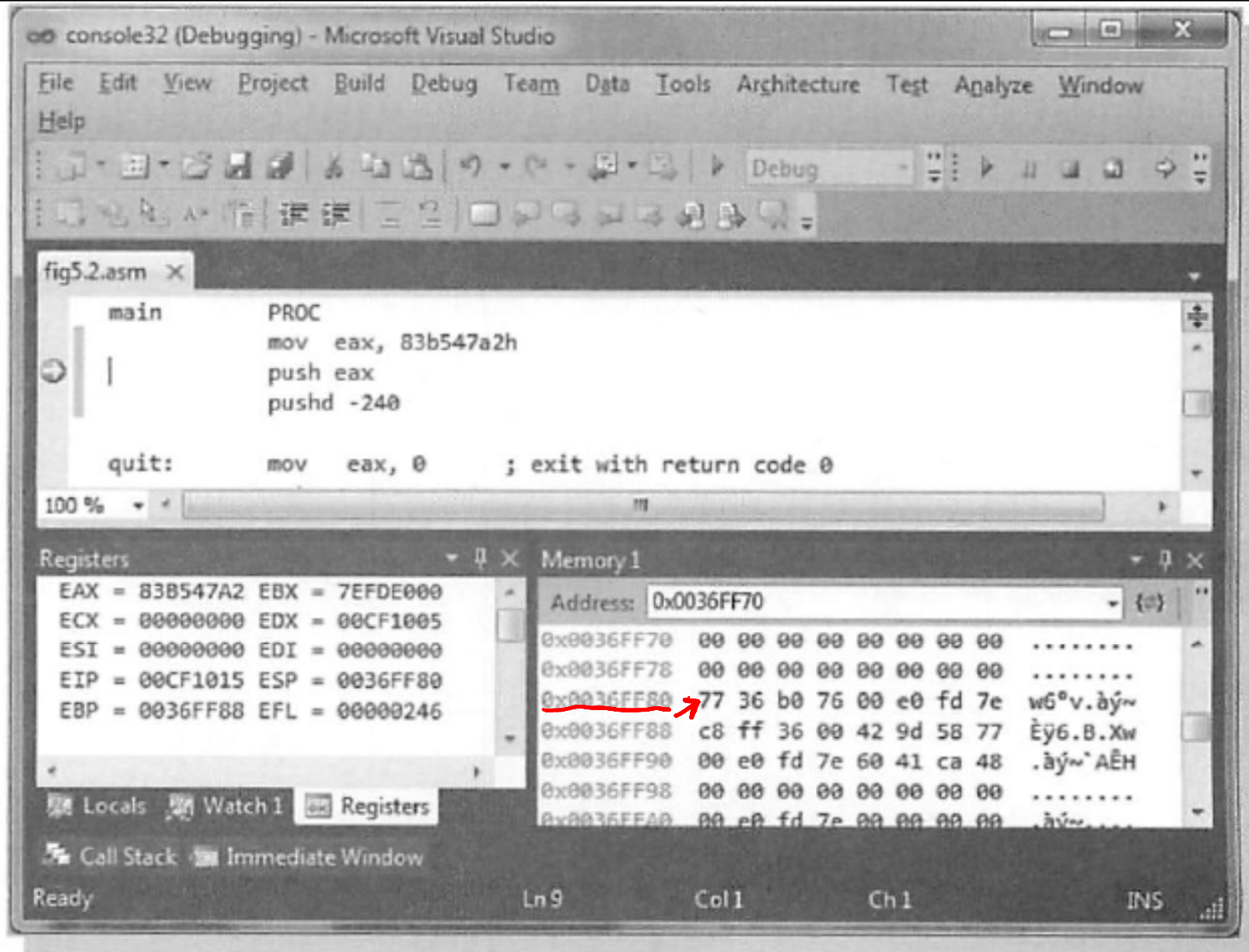
- Pushd --- double size operand
- Pushw --- word size operand

- 240d → F0h → 0000 00 F0
~~FFFFFFFF~~ + 1
(FFFFFFF0)



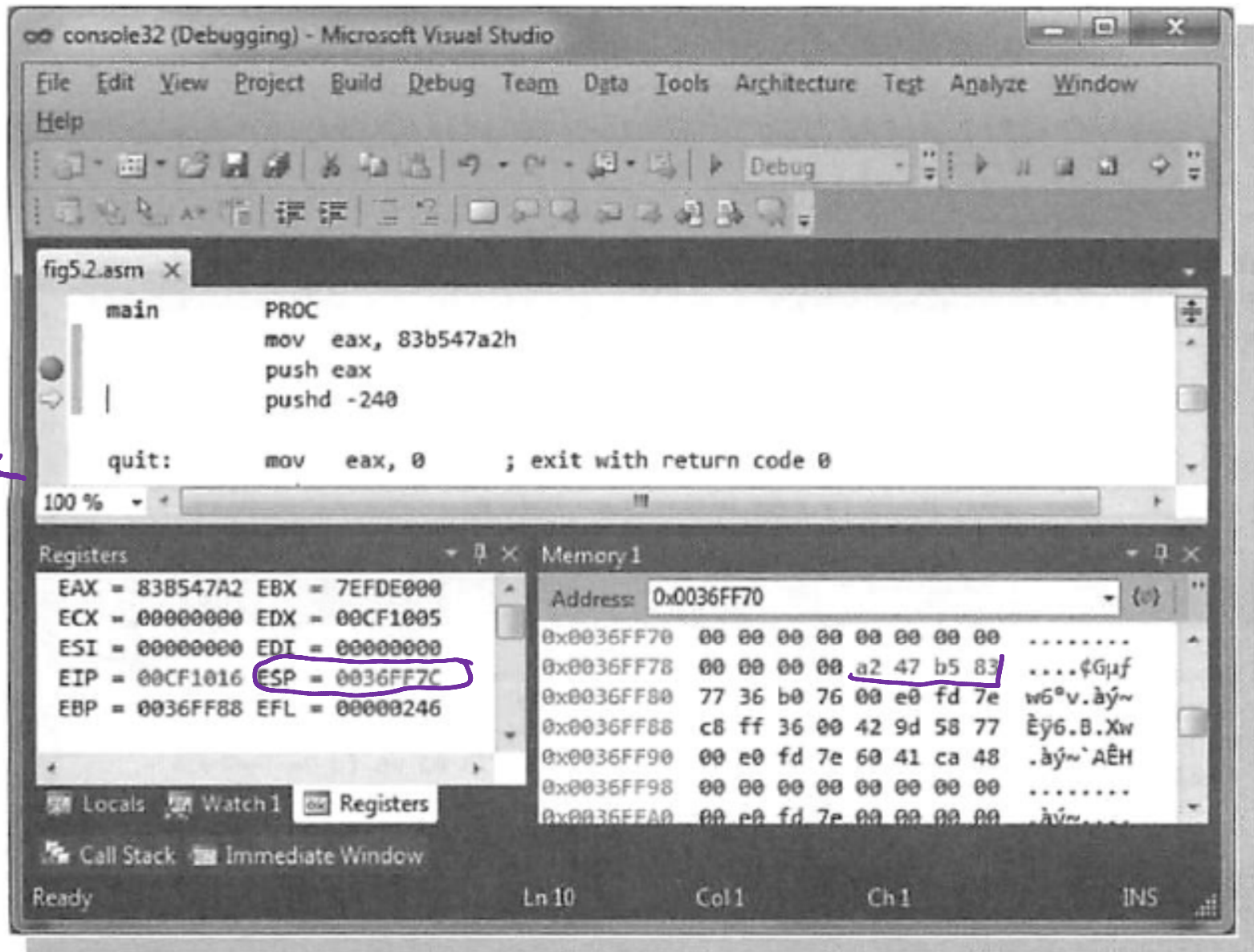
EAX and ESP contents

83
82
81
80 ←
7F
7E
7D
7C
7B
7A
79
78



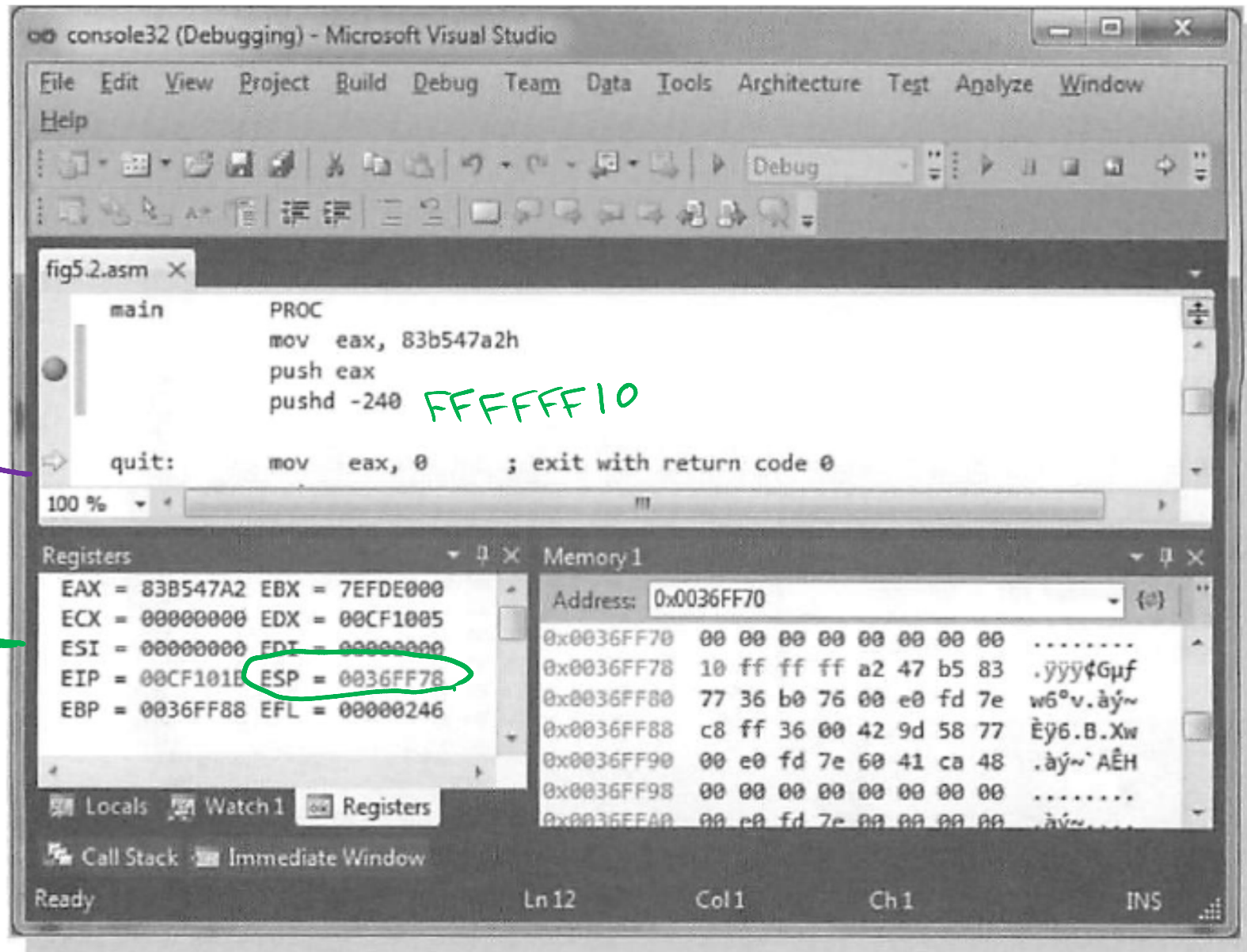
After PUSH

83
82
81
80 ←
7F 83
7E b5
7D 47
7C a2 ←
7B
7A
79
78



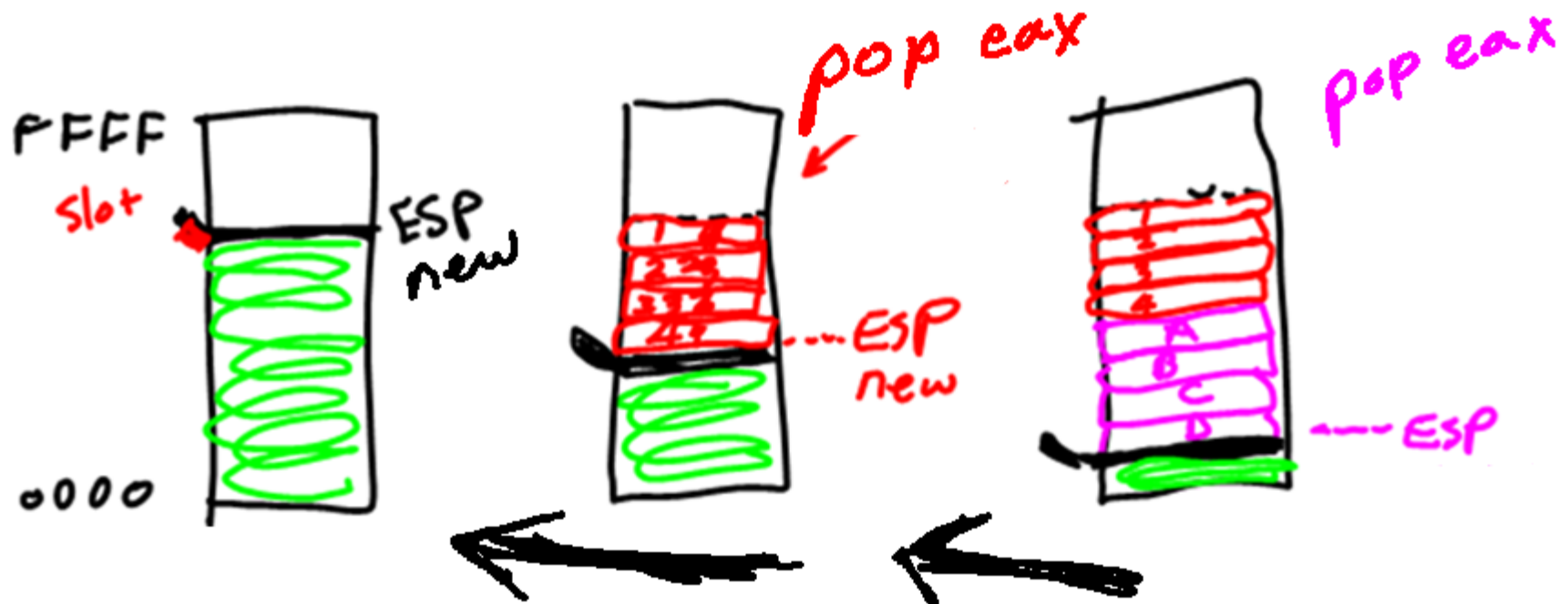
After pushd

83
82
81
80 ←
7F 83
7E B5
7D 47
7C A2 ←
7B FF
7A FF
79 FF
78 10 ←
77
76
75
74

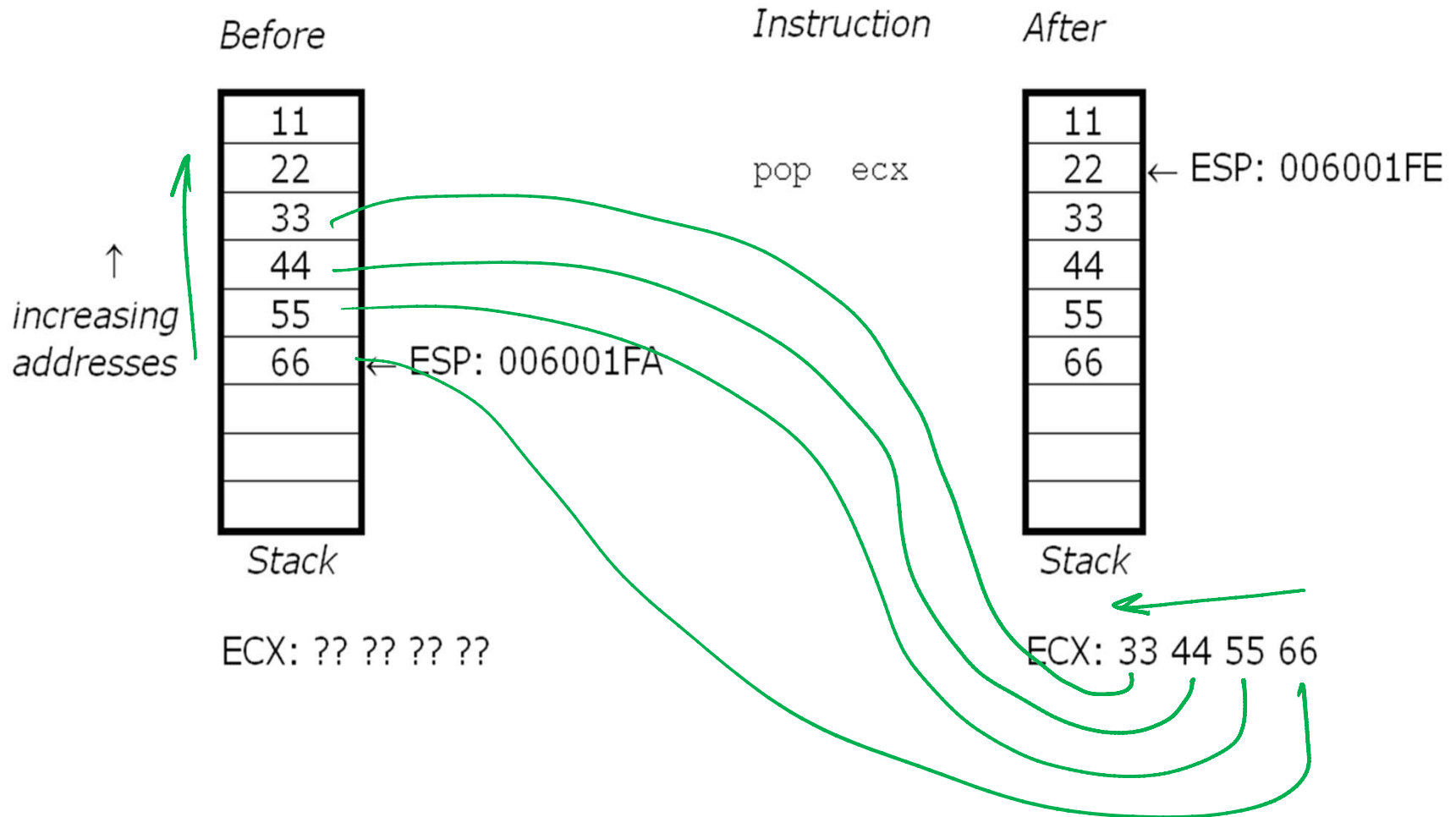


pop Instruction and Execution

- Usual format: `pop destination`
 - **doubleword** *destination* can be **memory** or **register**
- Operand stored in stack where ESP points is copied to destination
- ESP **incremented by size of operand** after the value is copied



Pop Example

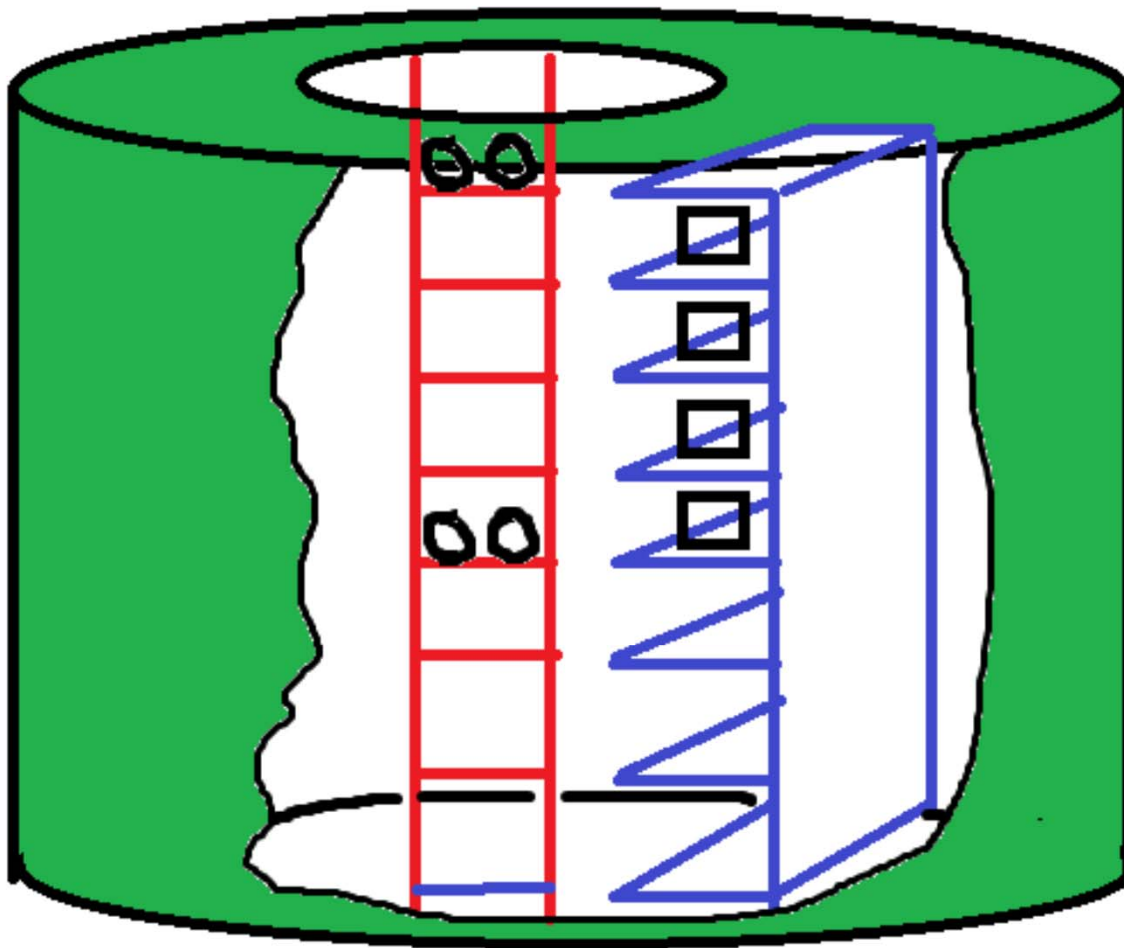


Pushfd and popfd

- `pushfd` pushes EFLAGS register contents onto stack
- `popfd` pops doubleword from top of stack into EFLAGS

Push Pop Illustration (Analogy)

- For the usual double-word operation
- Top is higher in address than bottom



PUSH:

Climb down 4 rungs from where you are, while putting a BYTE at each shelf.

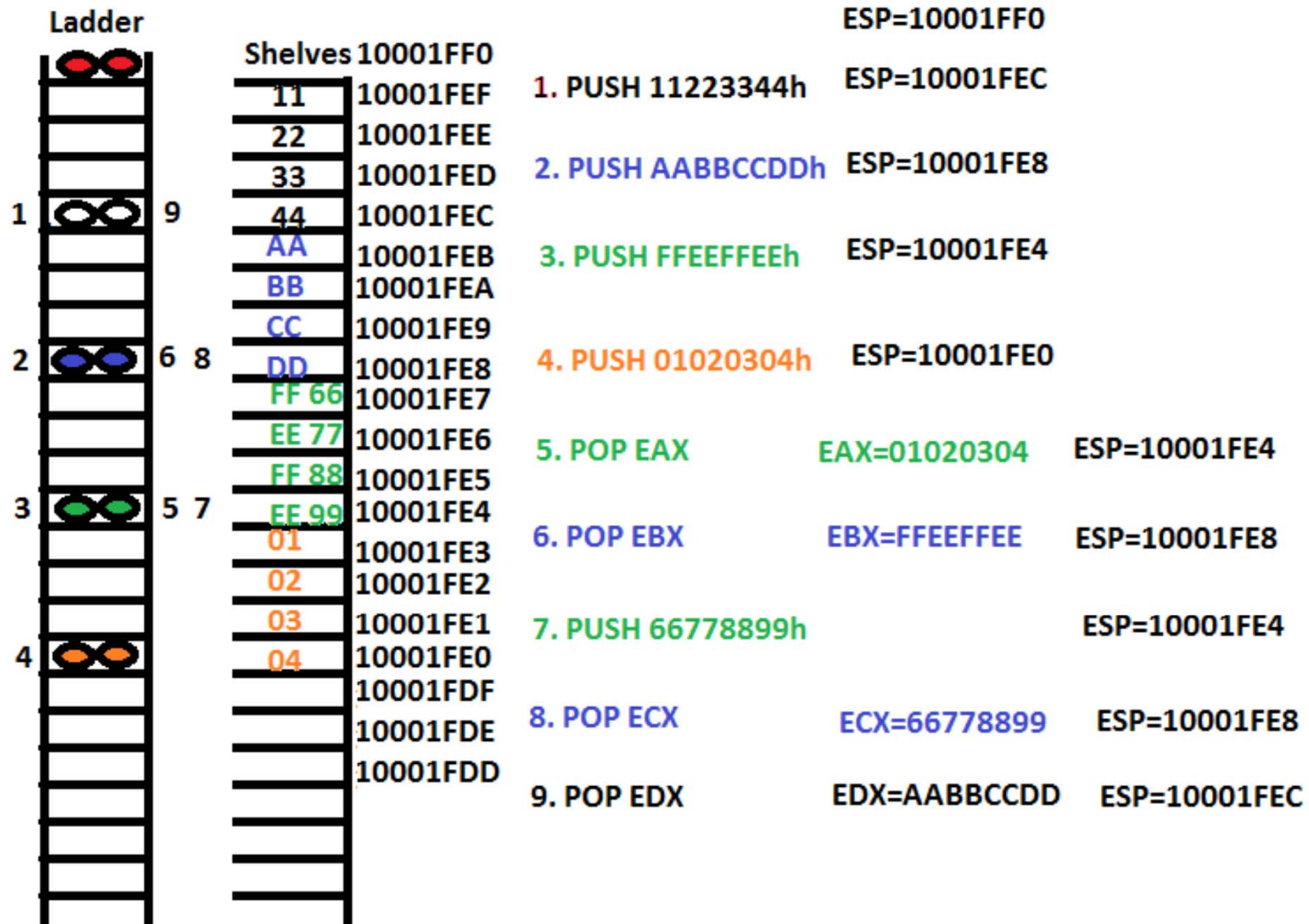
POP:

Climb up 4 rungs from where you are, while taking a BYTE from each shelf.

ESP:

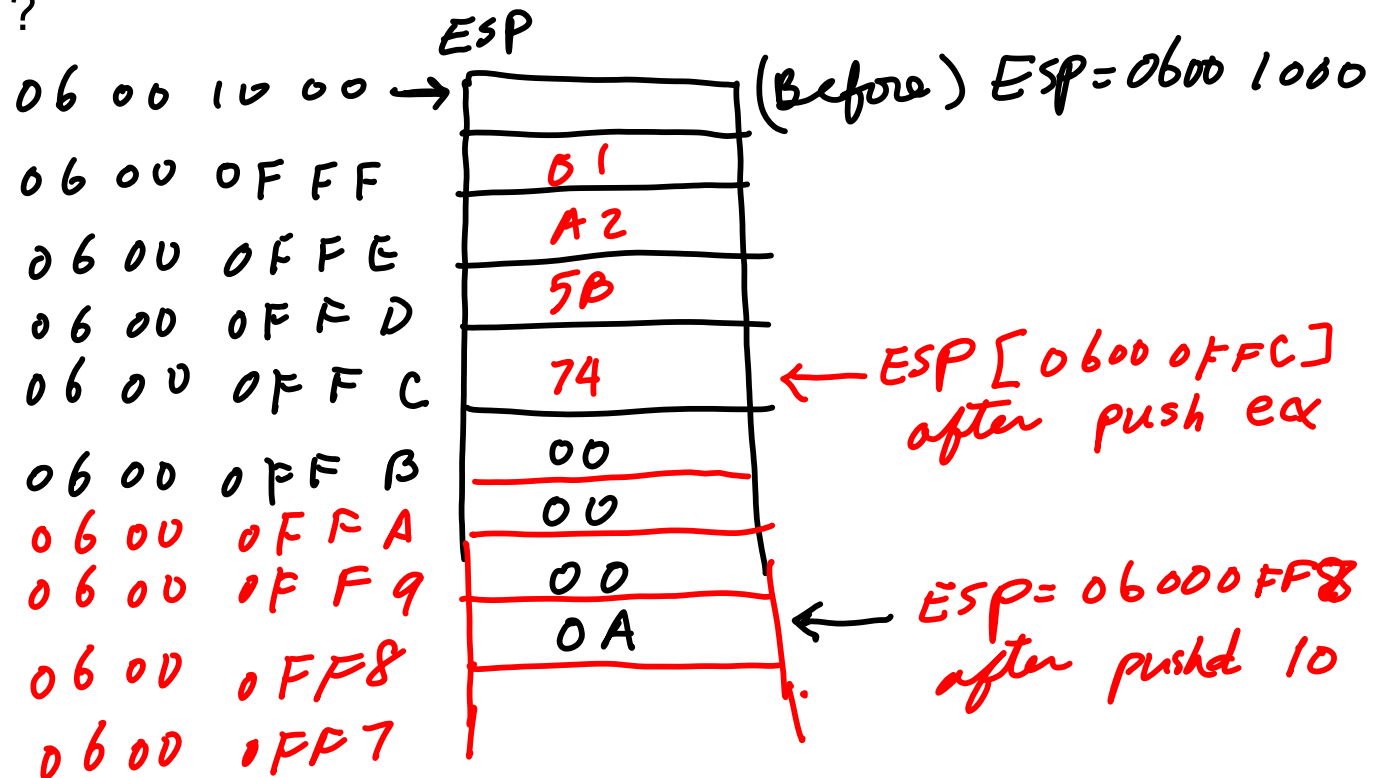
Your current feet location.

Example (with original ESP=10001FF0)



Push Exercise

- Before
 - [ESP]=06 00 10 00
 - [ECX]=01 A2 5B 74
- After push ecx:
- After pushd 10:
 - [STACK]= ?



Push – Practice (sub 1)

- Before:
 - [ESP]=02 00 0B 7C
 - [EBX]=12 34 56 78
- Stack Diagram and [ESP]
 - After `pushd 20`
 - After `push ebx`

Push-Pop Practice (sub 2)

- Before:
 - [ESP]=00 10 F8 3A
 - [EAX]=12 34 56 78
- Stack Diagram, [EAX], [EBX], & [ESP]
 - After
 - Push eax
 - Pushd 30
 - Pop ebx
 - Pop ecx

Procedures with Value Parameters

- Main program call(s) a procedure
- Main Program transfers the parameter values
- Procedure receives (retrieves) them
- Procedure may do a task or it may return a value
 - value-returning procedure is sometimes called a *function*

Procedure in Coding

- In a code segment with body statements bracketed by PROC and ENDP directives giving procedure name

.CODE

procName PROC

; procedure body

...

procName ENDP

- Transfer Control to a Procedure
 - In the “main” program, use
call *procName*
 - The next instruction executed will be the first one in the procedure
- Returning from a Procedure
 - In the procedure, use
ret
 - The next instruction executed will be the one following the call in the “main” program

How Call/Ret Works

- **Call:**

- The address of the instruction EIP following the `call` is pushed on the stack (**so ESP has grown by 4 --- ESP address is lowered by 4**) [**Equivalent to Push EIP**]
- The instruction pointer register EIP is loaded with the address of the first instruction in the procedure

- **Ret:**

- The doubleword on the **top of the stack** is popped into the instruction pointer register EIP (**so ESP has decreased by 4 ---- ESP address is increased by 4**) [**Equivalent to Pop EIP**]
- this is the address of the instruction following the call, that instruction will be executed next
- If the stack has been used for other values after the call, these must be removed before the `ret` instruction is executed

Alternative Ret Format

- `ret n`
- *n* is added to ESP after the return address is popped
- This is most often used to logically remove procedure parameters that have been pushed onto the stack
 - Used in **Stdcall** Protocol
- Protocol?
 - Transfer of control from calling program to procedure and back
 - Passing parameter values to procedure and results back from the procedure
 - Having procedure code that is independent of the calling program

Procedure protocols for Stack Clean-Up

- 2 Protocols for Procedure handling
 - Cdecl (“C Declaration”) --- Caller Clean-Up
 - Stdcall (“Standard Call”) --- Callee Clean-Up



“Clean-up” means move Stack Pointer back to the original position

Cdecl (“C Declaration”)

- Caller Clean-up convention
- used by many **C systems** for the x86 architecture.
- Default in Visual Studio --- Our Default !!
- **Function parameters are pushed on the stack.**
- **Function return values are returned in the EAX register**
- Registers EAX, ECX, and EDX are available for use in the function.
- The **calling program cleans the stack after the function call returns**

```
/* example of __cdecl */  
push arg1  
push arg2  
push arg3  
call function  
add sp,12          // effectively "pop; pop; pop"
```

```
:_MyFunction1  
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp  
mov eax, [ebp + 8]  
mov edx, [ebp + 12]  
add eax, edx  
pop ebp  
ret
```

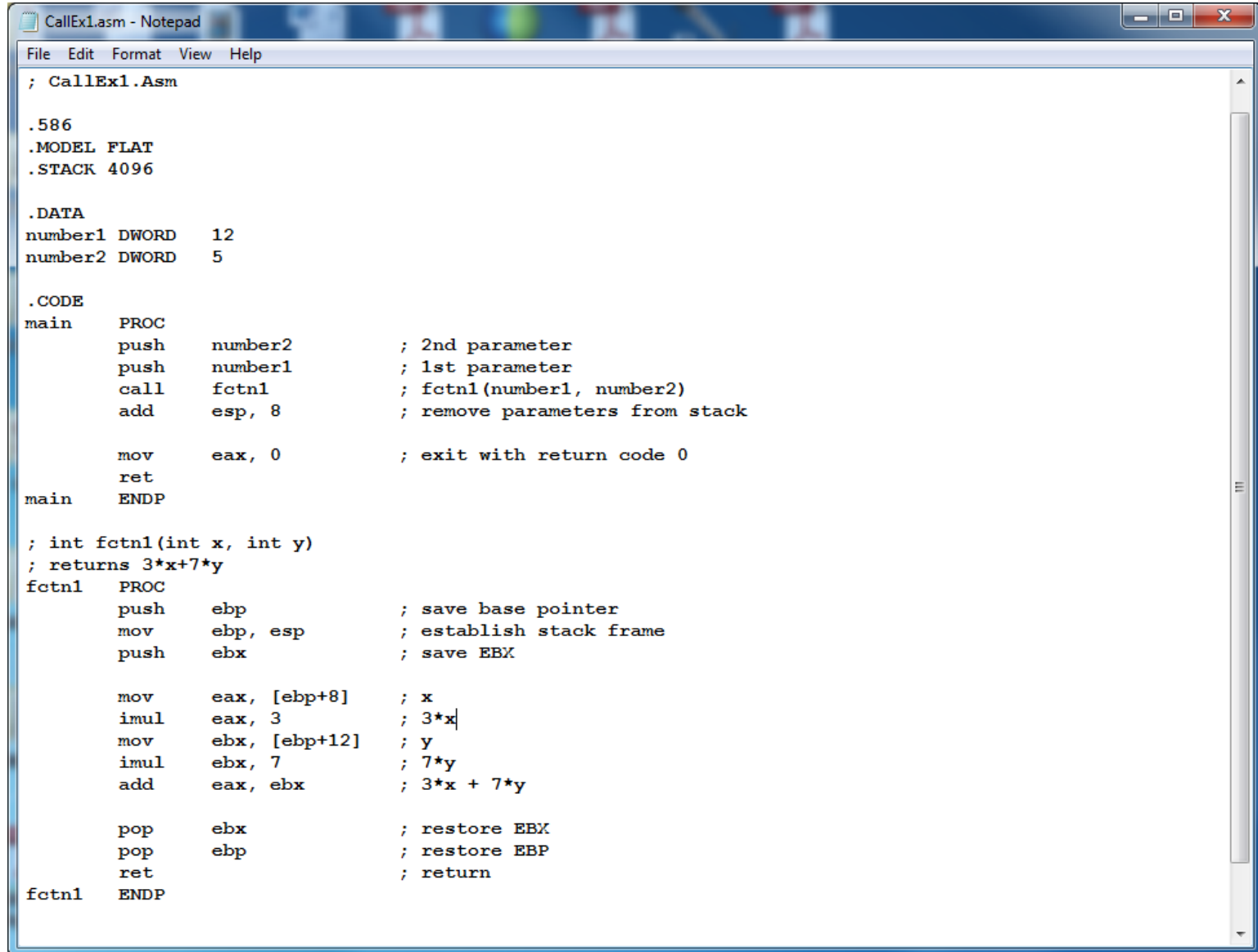
Stdcall

- Callee Clean-up Convention
- A variation on the **Pascal calling convention**
- Callee is responsible for cleaning up the stack
 - Ret N
 - N is added to ESP
- Parameters are pushed to the stack
- **Registers EAX, ECX, and EDX are designated for use within the function.**
- Return values are stored in the EAX register.
- **Standard calling convention for the Microsoft Win32 API.**

```
/* example of __stdcall */  
push arg1  
push arg2  
push arg3  
call function  
// no stack cleanup - callee does this
```

```
:_MyFunction@8  
push ebp  
mov ebp, esp  
mov eax, [ebp + 8]  
mov edx, [ebp + 12]  
add eax, edx  
pop ebp  
ret 12
```


Procedure Example – CallEX1.asm



```
; CallEx1.Asm

.586
.MODEL FLAT
.STACK 4096

.DATA
number1 DWORD 12
number2 DWORD 5

.CODE
main PROC
    push    number2        ; 2nd parameter
    push    number1        ; 1st parameter
    call    fctn1           ; fctn1(number1, number2)
    add     esp, 8          ; remove parameters from stack

    mov     eax, 0          ; exit with return code 0
    ret
main ENDP

; int fctn1(int x, int y)
; returns 3*x+7*y
fctn1 PROC
    push    ebp             ; save base pointer
    mov     ebp, esp        ; establish stack frame
    push    ebx             ; save EBX

    mov     eax, [ebp+8]     ; x
    imul    eax, 3           ; 3*x
    mov     ebx, [ebp+12]    ; y
    imul    ebx, 7           ; 7*y
    add     eax, ebx         ; 3*x + 7*y

    pop     ebx             ; restore EBX
    pop     ebp             ; restore EBP
    ret
fctn1 ENDP
```

LST file

```
CallEx1_ADDR.lst - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help

.586
.MODEL FLAT
.STACK 4096

00000000      .DATA
00000000 0000000C  number1 DWORD 12
00000004 00000005  number2 DWORD 5

00401020      .CODE
00401020  main    PROC
00401020      push    number2      ; 2nd parameter
00401026      push    number1      ; 1st parameter
0040102C      call    fctnl      ; fctnl(number1, number2)
00401031      add     esp, 8      ; remove parameters from stack

00401034      mov     eax, 0      ; exit with return code 0
00401039      ret
0040103A  main    ENDP

; int fctnl(int x, int y)
; returns 3*x+7*y
0040103A  fctnl   PROC
0040103A      push    ebp      ; save base pointer
0040103B      mov     ebp, esp    ; establish stack frame
0040103D      push    ebx      ; save EBX

0040103E      mov     eax, [ebp+8] ; x
00401041      imul    eax, 3      ; 3*x
00401044      mov     ebx, [ebp+12] ; y
00401047      imul    ebx, 7      ; 7*y
0040104A      add     eax, ebx    ; 3*x + 7*y

0040104C      pop     ebx      ; restore EBX
0040104D      pop     ebp      ; restore EBP
0040104E      ret
0040104F  fctnl   ENDP

END
```

Follow EIP, ESP, and Result

ADDRESS	MACHINE CODE	LABEL	INSTRUCTION	EAX	EBX	EIP	ESP	EBP	STACK	[STACK]
		.DATA								
00000000	0000000C	number1	DWORD 12							
00000004	00000005	number2	DWORD 5							
		.CODE								
00401020		main	PROC	00000000	7FFDE000	00401020	0013FFC4	0013FFF0	0013FFC4	
00401020	FF 35 00000004 R		push number2						C2	
00401026	FF 35 00000000 R		push number1						C1	
0040102C	E8 00000009		call fctnl						C0	
00401031	83 C4 08		add ESP,8						BF	
									BE	
00401034	B8 00000000		mov EAX,0						BD	
00401039	C3		ret						BC	
0040103A		main	ENDP						BB	
									BA	
			; int fctnl(int x, int y)						B9	
			; returns 3*x+7*y						B8	
0040103A		fctnl	PROC						B7	
0040103A	55		push EBP						B6	
0040103B	8B EC		mov EBP,ESP						B5	
0040103D	53		push EBX						B4	
									B3	
0040103E	8B 45 08		mov EAX,[EBP+8]						B2	
00401041	6B C0 03		imul EAX,3						B1	
00401044	8B 5D 0C		mov EBX,[EBP+12]						B0	
00401047	6B DB 07		imul EBX,7						AF	
0040104A	03 C3		add EAX,EBX						AE	
									AD	
0040104C	5B		pop EBX						AC	
0040104D	5D		pop EBP						AB	
0040104E	C3		ret						AA	
0040104F		fctnl	ENDP						A0	
		END								

Post-Mortem:

```

00401020 .CODE
00401020 main PROC
00401020         push    number2
00401026         push    number1
0040102C         call   fctnl
  
```

Eq. Push EIP

ESP+8

EIP
for Return

After RET, ESP is still 8 below

```

00401031         add     ESP,8
00401034         mov     EAX,0
00401039         ret
0040103A main     ENDP
  
```

"Clean up"

STACK	[STACK]
0013FFC4	
0013FFC3	00
C2	00
C1	00
C0	05
BF	00
BE	00
BD	00
BC	0C
BB	00
BA	40
B9	10
B8	31
B7	00
B6	13
B5	FF
B4	F0
B3	7F
B2	FD
B1	D0
B0	00
AF	
AE	
AD	
AC	
AB	
AA	
A0	

Reference for
Parameters

```

; int fctnl(int x, int y)
; returns 3*x+7*y
  
```

```

fctnl PROC
        push    EBP
        mov     EBP,ESP
        push    EBX

        mov     EAX,[EBP+8]
        imul    EAX,3
        mov     EBX,[EBP+12]
        imul    EBX,7
        add     EAX,EBX

        pop     EBX
        pop     EBP
        ret
fctnl ENDP
  
```

Eq. Pop EIP

EBP holds the ESP for (x, y, and EBP)

Summary

MAIN CODE

1. Parameter values passed on the stack
2. Call a procedure (this pushes the return address in EIP to the stack)

PROCEDURE

1. **Push EBP** and **Copy ESP to EBP** (EBP becomes the reference for retrieving the parameter values) – fixed location on the stack while ESP may vary.
2. Push Register(s) if necessary
3. Retrieve Parameter values referenced to EBP
4. Do the functions
5. Pop the Register(s) if pushed
6. Pop EBP
7. Ret (this pops the return address to EIP)

MAIN CODE

1. Clean-up process (Add $4*N$ to ESP) --- N is the number of parameters pushed before Call.

Alternative 32-bit Procedure Options

- Reference Parameters
 - The **address of the argument** instead of its value is passed to the procedure
 - Reference parameters are used:
 - To send a large argument (for example, an array or a structure) to a procedure
 - To send results back to the calling program as argument values
- Passing an Address
 - **lea** instruction can put address of an argument in a register, and then the contents can be pushed on the stack (**Load Effective Address**)

```
lea    eax, minimum ;  
push  eax
```

PTR operator

- Register indirect mode:
 - The register contains the location of the data to be used in the instruction (not the data itself)
 - Example: `add eax, [edx]` ; when source and destination is known as doubleword
 - » `CF: add eax DQWORD PTR [edx]`
 - Example: `mov [ebx], 0` ; ambiguous size. Source - byte, word, etc?
 - `Mov BYTE PTR [ebx], 0`

Procedure using Address Parameter - CallEx2.asm

```
CallEx2.asm - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
;CallEx2.asm

.586
.MODEL FLAT
.STACK 4096

.DATA
minimum      DWORD    ?
maximum      DWORD    ?
nbrArray      DWORD    25, 47, 95, 50, 16, 84 DUP (?)

.CODE
main PROC
    lea     eax, maximum ; 4th parameter
    push   eax
    lea     eax, minimum ; 3rd parameter
    push   eax
    pushd  5              ; 2nd parameter (number of elements)
    lea     eax, nbrArray ; 1st parameter
    push   eax
    call    minMax        ; minMax(nbrArray, 5, minimum, maximum)
    add     esp, 16        ; remove parameters from stack

quit:  mov     eax, 0      ; exit with return code 0
       ret
main   ENDP
```

DUP: DUP directive tells the assembler to duplicate an expression a given number of times

ARR1 Byte 10 DUP (?); 10 uninitialized bytes

ARR2 DWORD 100 dup (0); 100 Dwords initialized as 0

Procedure using Address Parameter - CallEx2.asm

```
; void minMax(int arr[], int count, int& min, int& max);
; Set min to smallest value in arr[0],..., arr[count-1]
; Set max to largest value in arr[0],..., arr[count-1]
minMax PROC
    push    ebp                ; save base pointer
    mov     ebp,esp            ; establish stack frame
    push    eax                ; save registers
    push    ebx
    push    ecx
    push    edx
    push    esi

    mov     esi,[ebp+8]        ; get address of array arr
    mov     ecx,[ebp+12]       ; get value of count
    mov     ebx,[ebp+16]       ; get address of min
    mov     edx,[ebp+20]       ; get address of max

    mov     DWORD PTR [ebx], 7fffffffh ; largest possible integer
    mov     DWORD PTR [edx], 80000000h ; smallest possible integer
    jecxz   exitCode           ; exit if there are no elements

forLoop:
    mov     eax,[esi]          ; a[i]
    cmp     eax,[ebx]           ; a[i] < min?
    jnl     endIfSmaller       ; skip if not
    mov     [ebx], eax          ; min := a[i]
endIfSmaller:
    cmp     eax,[edx]           ; a[i] > max?
    jng     endIfLarger        ; skip if not
    mov     [edx], eax          ; max := a[i]
endIfLarger:
    add     esi, 4              ; point at next array element
    loop    forLoop            ; repeat for each element of array
```

Procedure using Address Parameter - CallEx2.asm

```
exitCode:
    pop     esi           ; restore registers
    pop     edx
    pop     ecx
    pop     ebx
    pop     eax
    pop     ebp
    ret                     ; return
minMax    ENDP
END
```

LST File

```
00404000          .DATA
00404000 00000000      minimum      DWORD    ?
00404004 00000000      maximum      DWORD    ?
00404008 00000019      nbrArray      DWORD    25, 47, 95, 50, 16, 84 DUP (?)
0040400C 0000002F
00404010 0000005F
00404014 00000032
00404018 00000010
0040401C 00000054 [
                00000000
                ]

00401020          .CODE
00401020      main      PROC
00401020      8D 05 00000004 R      lea     eax, maximum ; 4th parameter
00401026      50          push    eax
00401027      8D 05 00000000 R      lea     eax, minimum ; 3rd parameter
0040102D      50          push    eax
0040102E      6A 05          pushd 5 ; 2nd parameter (number of elements)
00401030      8D 05 00000008 R      lea     eax, nbrArray ; 1st parameter
00401036      50          push    eax
00401037      E8 00000009      call    minMax ; minMax(nbrArray, 5, minimum, maximum)
0040103C      83 C4 10      add     esp, 16 ; remove parameters from stack

0040103F      B8 00000000      quit:   mov     eax, 0 ; exit with return code 0
00401044      C3          ret
00401045      main      ENDP
```

LST file --- Procedure part

```

00401045          minMax PROC
00401045 55          push    ebp          ; save base pointer
00401046 8B EC      mov     ebp,esp      ; establish stack frame
00401048 50          push    eax          ; save registers
00401049 53          push    ebx
0040104A 51          push    ecx
0040104B 52          push    edx
0040104C 56          push    esi

0040104D 8B 75 08      mov     esi,[ebp+8] ; get address of array arr
00401050 8B 4D 0C      mov     ecx,[ebp+12] ; get value of count
00401053 8B 5D 10      mov     ebx,[ebp+16] ; get address of min
00401056 8B 55 14      mov     edx,[ebp+20] ; get address of max

00401059 C7 03 7FFFFFFF    mov     DWORD PTR [ebx], 7fffffffh ; largest possible integer
0040105F C7 02 80000000    mov     DWORD PTR [edx], 80000000h ; smallest possible integer
00401065 E3 13      jecxz   exitCode ; exit if there are no elements

00401067          forLoop:
00401067 8B 06      mov     eax,[esi] ; a[i]
00401069 3B 03      cmp     eax,[ebx] ; a[i] < min?
0040106B 7D 02      jnl     endIfSmaller ; skip if not
0040106D 89 03      mov     [ebx], eax ; min := a[i]
0040106F          endIfSmaller:
0040106F 3B 02      cmp     eax,[edx] ; a[i] > max?
00401071 7E 02      jng     endIfLarger ; skip if not
00401073 89 02      mov     [edx], eax ; max := a[i]
00401075          endIfLarger:
00401075 83 C6 04      add     esi, 4 ; point at next array element
00401078 E2 ED      loop   forLoop ; repeat for each element of array

0040107A          exitCode:
0040107A 5E          pop     esi ; restore registers
0040107B 5A          pop     edx
0040107C 59          pop     ecx
0040107D 5B          pop     ebx
0040107E 58          pop     eax
0040107F 5D          pop     ebp
00401080 C3          ret     ; return
00401081          minMax ENDP

```

Follow EIP, ESP, and Result

ADDRESS	MACHINE CODE	LABEL	INSTRUCTION	EAX	EIP	ESP	STACK	[STACK]
.DATA								
00404000	00000000	minimum	DWORD ?					
00404004	00000005	maximum	DWORD ?					
00404008	00000019	nbArray	DWORD 25,47,95,50,16, 84 DUP (?)					
0040400C	0000002F							
00404010	0000005F							
00404014	00000032							
00404018	00000010							
0040401C	00000054 [00000000]							
.CODE								
00401020		main	PROC	EAX	EIP	ESP	0013FFC4	
00401020				00000000	00401020	0013FFC4	0013FFC3	
00401020	8D 05 00000004 R		lea eax, maximum				C2	
00401026	50		push eax				C1	
00401027	8D 05 00000000 R		lea eax, minimum				C0	
0040102D	50		push eax				BF	
0040102E	6A 05		pushd 5				BE	
00401030	8D 05 00000008 R		lea eax, nbArray				BD	
00401036	50		push eax				BC	
00401037	E8 00000009		call minMax				BB	
0040103C	83 C4 10		add esp, 16				BA	
0040103F	B8 00000000	quit:	mov eax, 0				B9	
00401044	C3		ret				B8	
00401045		main	ENDP				B7	
							B6	
							B5	
							B4	
							B3	
00401045	55		push ebp				B2	
00401046	8B EC		mov ebp, esp				B1	
00401048	50		push eax				B0	
00401049	53		push ebx				AF	
0040104A	51		push ecx				AE	
0040104B	52		push edx				AD	
0040104C	56		push esi				AC	
0040104D	8B 75 08		mov esi, [ebp+8]				AB	

Follow EIP, ESP, and Result - continued

00401050	8B 4D 0C		mov	ecx,[ebp+12]					AA
00401053	8B 5D 10		mov	ebx,[ebp+16]					A9
00401056	8B 55 14		mov	edx,[ebp+20]					A8
00401059	C7 03 7FFFFFFF		mov	DWORD PTR [ebx],7FFFFFFF					A7
0040105F	C7 02 80000000		mov	DWORD PTR [edx],80000000					A6
00401065	E3 13		jecxz	exitCode					A5
00401067	8B 06	forLoop:	mov	eax,[esi]					A4
00401069	3B 03		cmp	eax,[ebx]					A3
0040106B	7D 02		jnl	endIfSmaller					A2
0040106D	89 03		mov	[ebx],eax					A1
0040106F	3B 02	endIfSmaller:	cmp	eax,[edx]					A0
00401071	7E 02		jng	endIfLarger					9F
00401073	89 02		mov	[edx],eax					9E
00401075	83 C6 04	endIfLarger:	add	esi,4					9D
00401078	E2 ED		loop	forLoop					9C
0040107A	5E	exitCode:	pop	esi					9B
0040107B	5A		pop	edx					9A
0040107C	59		pop	ecx					99
0040107D	5B		pop	ebx					98
0040107E	58		pop	eax					97
0040107F	5D		pop	edp					96
00401080	C3		ret						95
00401081		minMax	ENDP						94
END									

	0	1	2	3	4	5	
00404000							min
00404004							max
00404008							
0040400C							
00404010							
00404014							
00404018							
0040401C							