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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

ECE 150 *Fundamentals of Programming*

# The call stack

Prof. Hiren Patel, Ph.D.  
Prof. Werner Diel, Ph. D.  
Douglas Wilhelm Harder, M.Math. 1994

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Main memory 2

## Outline

- In this lesson, we will:
  - Describe and review the call stack
  - See how the call stack is used to allocate memory for
    - Parameters
    - Local variables
  - Look at two examples in detail

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Main memory 3

## Call stack

- Up to this point, we have seen that:
  - The local variables for `main()` have their memory allocated at the bottom of memory
    - We are calling this region the *call stack*
  - We also have functions that we may call, and those functions also have local variables

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Main memory 4

## Review of functions

- Recall the behavior of a function:
  - A function is called from within another function
    - It is passed arguments
    - When it returns, it generally returns some value
- You cannot *jump* into the middle of a function
- Once a function returns:
  - You cannot you go back to continue executing a function
  - You cannot access the parameters or any local variables
- Functions may call other functions, and those functions may call others

### Main memory 5

## Memory for functions

- Suppose the local variables of main() are stored at the bottom of memory
- When we call a function from main(), we must allocate memory for any
  - Parameters
  - Local variables
- The obvious location is immediately above the memory allocated for main()

main()

ffffffe2	00000000
ffffffe3	00000000
ffffffe4	00000000
ffffffe5	00000000
ffffffe6	00000000
ffffffe7	00000000
ffffffe8	00000000
ffffffe9	00000000
ffffffea	00000000
ffffffeb	00000000
ffffffec	00000000
ffffffed	00000000
ffffffee	00000000
ffffffef	00000000
fffffff0	00000000
fffffff1	00000000
fffffff2	00000000
fffffff3	00000000
fffffff4	00000000
fffffff5	00000000
fffffff6	00000000
fffffff7	00000000
fffffff8	00000000
fffffff9	00000000
fffffffa	00000000
fffffffb	00000000
fffffffc	00000000
fffffffd	00000000
fffffffe	00000000
fffffff	00000000

### Main memory 6

## Example: gcd(...)

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);
    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

- Consider the following:

```

#include <iostream>

// Function declarations
int main();
unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n );

// Function definitions
int main() {
    unsigned int val1(42);
    unsigned int val2(91);

    std::cout << gcd( val1 + 10, val2 )
               << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

### Main memory 7

## Example: gcd(...)

- Let's tabulate the information:

Function	Parameters	Local variables
main()		unsigned int val1 unsigned int val2
gcd(...)	unsigned int m unsigned int n	unsigned int tmp unsigned int rem

### Main memory 8

## Example: gcd(...)

- When executing main(), memory is allocated for the two local variables

```

int main() {
    unsigned int val1(42);
    unsigned int val2(91);

    std::cout << gcd( val1 + 10, val2 )
               << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

main()

ffffffe2	00000000
ffffffe3	00000000
ffffffe4	00000000
ffffffe5	00000000
ffffffe6	00000000
ffffffe7	00000000
ffffffe8	00000000
ffffffe9	00000000
ffffffea	00000000
ffffffeb	00000000
ffffffec	00000000
ffffffed	00000000
ffffffee	00000000
ffffffef	00000000
fffffff0	00000000
fffffff1	00000000
fffffff2	00000000
fffffff3	00000000
fffffff4	00000000
fffffff5	00000000
fffffff6	00000000
fffffff7	00000000
fffffff8	91
fffffff9	42
fffffffa	
fffffffb	
fffffffc	
fffffffd	
fffffffe	
fffffff	

val2

val1

### Example: gcd(...)

- When calling gcd(...), memory is allocated for the two parameters

```

int main() {
  unsigned int val1{42};
  unsigned int val2{91};

  std::cout << gcd( val1 + 10, val2 )
              << std::endl;
  return 0;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	00000000	
fffffe9	00000000	
fffffea	00000000	
fffffeb	00000000	
fffffec	00000000	
fffffed	00000000	
fffffee	00000000	
fffffef	00000000	
ffffff0		n
ffffff1	?	
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5		m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8	91	val2
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

Diagram showing memory layout for gcd(...) and main(). gcd(...) parameters are at higher addresses, and main() variables are at lower addresses.

### Example: gcd(...)

- The arguments are evaluated and the values of those arguments is copied to the parameters

```

int main() {
  unsigned int val1{42};
  unsigned int val2{91};

  std::cout << gcd( val1 + 10, val2 )
              << std::endl;
  return 0;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	00000000	
fffffe9	00000000	
fffffea	00000000	
fffffeb	00000000	
fffffec	00000000	
fffffed	00000000	
fffffee	00000000	
fffffef	00000000	
ffffff0		n
ffffff1	91	
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	52	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8	91	val2
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

Diagram showing memory layout after argument evaluation. The values 91 and 52 are now stored in the parameter locations.

### Example: gcd(...)

- The function gcd(...) has two local variables

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }

  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }

  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }

  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8		rem
fffffe9	?	
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed		
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	91	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	52	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8	91	val2
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

Diagram showing memory layout during gcd(...) execution. Local variables rem and tmp are present, and parameters n and m have been updated to 91 and 52 respectively.

### Example: gcd(...)

- The local variable tmp is used if m < n, which is true

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }

  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }

  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }

  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8		rem
fffffe9	?	
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed		
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	91	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	52	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8	91	val2
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

Diagram showing memory layout during gcd(...) execution. The local variable tmp is highlighted with a red box, indicating its use in the swap operation.

### Example: gcd(...)

Main memory 13

- The local variable `tmp` is initialized with the value of `m`

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9	?	tmp
fffffea	91	n
fffffeb	52	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

Main memory 14

- The local variable `tmp` is initialized with the value of `m`

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	91	n
fffffeb	52	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

Main memory 15

- `m` is assigned the value of `n`

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	91	n
fffffeb	52	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

Main memory 16

- `m` is assigned the value of `n`

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	91	n
fffffeb	91	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

• n is assigned the value of tmp

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

Main memory

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	91	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	91	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

• n is assigned the value of tmp

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

Main memory

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1		
ffffff2	52	n
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	91	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

• The condition m == 0 is false, the consequent body is skipped

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

Main memory

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	52	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	91	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main(...)

### Example: gcd(...)

• The local variable rem is initialized with the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

Main memory

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	?	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1		
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	91	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main(...)

Main memory 21

### Example: gcd(...)

- The local variable rem is initialized with the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);
    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

00000000	rem
39	rem
52	tmp
52	n
91	m
91	val2
42	val1

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Main memory 22

### Example: gcd(...)

- The condition rem != 0 is true, the loop body is executed

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);
    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

00000000	rem
39	rem
52	tmp
52	n
91	m
91	val2
42	val1

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Main memory 23

### Example: gcd(...)

- m is assigned the value of n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);
    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

00000000	rem
39	rem
52	tmp
52	n
91	m
91	val2
42	val1

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Main memory 24

### Example: gcd(...)

- m is assigned the value of n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);
    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

00000000	rem
39	rem
52	tmp
52	n
52	m
91	val2
42	val1

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Main memory 25

### Example: gcd(...)

- n is assigned the value of rem

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	39	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea	52	tmp
fffffeb		
fffffec	52	n
fffffed		
fffffee	52	m
fffffef		
ffffff0	91	val2
ffffff1		
ffffff2	42	val1
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5		
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd		
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 26

### Example: gcd(...)

- n is assigned the value of rem

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	39	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea	52	tmp
fffffeb		
fffffec	39	n
fffffed		
fffffee	52	m
fffffef		
ffffff0	91	val2
ffffff1		
ffffff2	42	val1
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5		
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd		
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 27

### Example: gcd(...)

- rem is assigned the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	39	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea	52	tmp
fffffeb		
fffffec	39	n
fffffed		
fffffee	52	m
fffffef		
ffffff0	91	val2
ffffff1		
ffffff2	42	val1
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5		
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd		
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 28

### Example: gcd(...)

- rem is assigned the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                 unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	13	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea	52	tmp
fffffeb		
fffffec	39	n
fffffed		
fffffee	52	m
fffffef		
ffffff0	91	val2
ffffff1		
ffffff2	42	val1
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5		
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9		
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd		
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 29

### Example: gcd(...)

- The condition `rem != 0` is true, the loop body is executed

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	13	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	39	n
fffffeb	52	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 30

### Example: gcd(...)

- m is assigned the value of n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	13	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	39	n
fffffeb	52	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 31

### Example: gcd(...)

- m is assigned the value of n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	13	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	39	n
fffffeb	39	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 32

### Example: gcd(...)

- n is assigned the value of rem

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
                  unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }

    return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	13	rem
fffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	39	n
fffffeb	39	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

gcd(...)

main()



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Main memory 33

### Example: gcd(...)

- n is assigned the value of rem

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
  unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }
  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }
  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }
  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8		rem
fffffe9	13	
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	13	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	39	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 34

### Example: gcd(...)

- rem is assigned the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
  unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }
  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }
  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }
  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8		rem
fffffe9	13	
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1		
ffffff2	13	n
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	39	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 35

### Example: gcd(...)

- rem is assigned the value of m%n

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
  unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }
  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }
  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }
  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	0	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	13	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	39	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

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Main memory 36

### Example: gcd(...)

- The condition rem != 0 is false, we skip the loop body and continue

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
  unsigned int n ) {
  if ( m < n ) {
    unsigned int tmp(m);
    m = n;
    n = tmp;
  }
  if ( m == 0 ) {
    return 0;
  }
  unsigned int rem(m%n);

  while ( rem != 0 ) {
    m = n;
    n = rem;
    rem = m%n;
  }
  return n;
}
    
```

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	0	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea		
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed	52	tmp
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	13	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	39	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd	42	val1
ffffffe		
fffffff		

gcd(...)

main()

### Main memory 37

## Example: gcd(...)

- We must now return the value n
  - Question: where can main() access it?

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
    unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
}
    
```

gcd(...)

main()

ffffffe2	00000000	
ffffffe3	00000000	
ffffffe4	00000000	
ffffffe5	00000000	
ffffffe6	00000000	
ffffffe7	00000000	
ffffffe8	0	rem
ffffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	13	n
fffffeb	39	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

return n;

### Main memory 38

## Example: gcd(...)

- Let's put the returned value at the bottom of the memory for the function gcd(...)

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
    unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
}
    
```

gcd(...)

main()

ffffffe2	00000000	
ffffffe3	00000000	
ffffffe4	00000000	
ffffffe5	00000000	
ffffffe6	00000000	
ffffffe7	00000000	
ffffffe8	0	rem
ffffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	13	n
fffffeb	39	m
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

return value

return n;

### Main memory 39

## Example: gcd(...)

- That location now stores the value 13

```

unsigned int gcd( unsigned int m,
    unsigned int n ) {
    if ( m < n ) {
        unsigned int tmp(m);
        m = n;
        n = tmp;
    }
    if ( m == 0 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    unsigned int rem(m%n);

    while ( rem != 0 ) {
        m = n;
        n = rem;
        rem = m%n;
    }
}
    
```

gcd(...)

main()

ffffffe2	00000000	
ffffffe3	00000000	
ffffffe4	00000000	
ffffffe5	00000000	
ffffffe6	00000000	
ffffffe7	00000000	
ffffffe8	0	rem
ffffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	13	n
fffffeb	13	return value
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

return n;

### Main memory 40

## Example: gcd(...)

- The function main() can now access and use that returned value
  - In this case, the returned value is immediately passed to a function to print that value

```

int main() {
    unsigned int val1(42);
    unsigned int val2(91);

    std::cout << gcd( val1 + 10, val2 )
        << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

gcd(...)

main()

ffffffe2	00000000	
ffffffe3	00000000	
ffffffe4	00000000	
ffffffe5	00000000	
ffffffe6	00000000	
ffffffe7	00000000	
ffffffe8	0	rem
ffffffe9	52	tmp
fffffea	13	n
fffffeb	13	return value
fffffec	91	val2
fffffed	42	val1

### Main memory 41

## Example: gcd(...)

- A few observations:
  - The scopes of tmp and rem do not overlap, so almost all compilers would use the same memory location for each
  - Much more information must be put on the stack

gcd(...)

main()

fffffe2	00000000	
fffffe3	00000000	
fffffe4	00000000	
fffffe5	00000000	
fffffe6	00000000	
fffffe7	00000000	
fffffe8	0	rem
fffffe9		
fffffea	52	tmp
fffffeb		
fffffec		
fffffed		
fffffee		
fffffef		
ffffff0		
ffffff1	13	n
ffffff2		
ffffff3		
ffffff4		
ffffff5	13	m
ffffff6		
ffffff7		
ffffff8		
ffffff9	91	val2
ffffffa		
ffffffb		
ffffffc		
ffffffd		
ffffffe	42	val1
fffffff		

### Main memory 42

## Example: is\_prime(...)

- Consider the following:
 

```
#include <iostream>

// Function declarations
int main();
int nprimes( int n );

// Function definitions
int main() {
    int num();
    std::cout << "Enter a number: ";
    std::cin >> num;

    std::cout << nprimes( num )
              << std::endl;

    return 0;
}
```

### Main memory 43

## Example: is\_prime(...)

```
int nprimes( int n ) {
    if ( n <= 1 ) {
        return 0;
    }
    assert( n >= 2 );

    // 0 and 1 are not prime, 2 is prime
    // - All other values initialized to being
    //   assumed to be not prime
    bool is_prime[n + 1]{false, false, true};

    // Assume all odd numbers >= 3 are prime
    // - all multiples of 2 are not prime
    for ( int k{3}; k <= n; k += 2 ) {
        is_prime[k] = true;
    }

    // Looking at the odd numbers,
    // if it is prime, flag all multiples of it
    // to be not prime
    for ( int k{3}; k <= n; k += 2 ) {
        if ( is_prime[k] ) {
            for ( int m{3}; m*k <= n; m += 2 ) {
                is_prime[m*k] = false;
            }
        }
    }

    // Count all the prime numbers
    // and return that value
    int count{0};

    for ( int k{2}; k <= n; ++k ) {
        if ( is_prime[k] ) {
            ++count;
        }
    }

    return count;
}
```

### Main memory 44

## Example: is\_prime(...)

- Let's tabulate the information:
 

Function	Parameters	Local variables
main()		int num
nprimes(...)	int n	int k int k int k int m int count bool is_prime[n + 1]



### Example: is\_prime(...)

- The nprimes(...) function has five local variables of type int
- The local array is of type bool with 11 entries
  - The value of is\_prime is ffffffff9

```

int main() {
    int num{};
    std::cout << "Enter a number: ";
    std::cin >> num;

    std::cout << nprimes( num )
    << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

ffffffd7	?	
ffffffd8	?	
ffffffd9	?	is_prime[0]
ffffffda	?	is_prime[1]
ffffffdb	?	is_prime[2]
ffffffdc	?	is_prime[3]
ffffffdd	?	is_prime[4]
ffffffde	?	is_prime[5]
ffffffdf	?	is_prime[6]
ffffffe0	?	is_prime[7]
ffffffe1	?	is_prime[8]
ffffffe2	?	is_prime[9]
ffffffe3	?	is_prime[10]
ffffffe4	4	count
ffffffe5	?	
ffffffe6	?	
ffffffe7	?	
ffffffe8	?	m
ffffffe9	?	
ffffffea	?	
ffffffeb	?	
ffffffec	?	k <sup>3</sup>
ffffffed	?	
ffffffee	?	
ffffffef	?	k <sup>2</sup>
fffffff0	?	
fffffff1	?	
fffffff2	?	k <sup>1</sup>
fffffff3	?	
fffffff4	?	
fffffff5	?	
fffffff6	?	
fffffff7	?	
fffffff8	10	n
fffffff9	?	
fffffffa	?	
fffffffb	?	
fffffffc	10	num
fffffffd	?	
fffffffe	?	
fffffff	?	

main() ↑

### Example: is\_prime(...)

- When the function is ready to return, the value returned will be copied to the location immediately above that memory allocated for main()

```

int main() {
    int num{};
    std::cout << "Enter a number: ";
    std::cin >> num;

    std::cout << nprimes( num )
    << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

ffffffd7	?	
ffffffd8	?	
ffffffd9	?	is_prime[0]
ffffffda	?	is_prime[1]
ffffffdb	?	is_prime[2]
ffffffdc	?	is_prime[3]
ffffffdd	?	is_prime[4]
ffffffde	?	is_prime[5]
ffffffdf	?	is_prime[6]
ffffffe0	?	is_prime[7]
ffffffe1	?	is_prime[8]
ffffffe2	?	is_prime[9]
ffffffe3	?	is_prime[10]
ffffffe4	?	
ffffffe5	4	count
ffffffe6	?	
ffffffe7	?	
ffffffe8	?	
ffffffe9	3	m
ffffffea	?	
ffffffeb	?	
ffffffec	?	
ffffffed	?	k <sup>3</sup>
ffffffee	?	
ffffffef	?	
fffffff0	?	
fffffff1	?	k <sup>2</sup>
fffffff2	?	
fffffff3	?	
fffffff4	?	
fffffff5	?	
fffffff6	?	
fffffff7	?	
fffffff8	?	
fffffff9	?	
fffffffa	10	k <sup>1</sup>
fffffffb	?	
fffffffc	?	
fffffffd	?	
fffffffe	?	
fffffff	?	

main() ↑

return value

### Example: is\_prime(...)

- When the function is ready to return, the value returned will be copied to the location immediately above that memory allocated for main()

```

int main() {
    int num{};
    std::cout << "Enter a number: ";
    std::cin >> num;

    std::cout << nprimes( num )
    << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
    
```

ffffffd7	?	
ffffffd8	?	
ffffffd9	?	is_prime[0]
ffffffda	?	is_prime[1]
ffffffdb	?	is_prime[2]
ffffffdc	?	is_prime[3]
ffffffdd	?	is_prime[4]
ffffffde	?	is_prime[5]
ffffffdf	?	is_prime[6]
ffffffe0	?	is_prime[7]
ffffffe1	?	is_prime[8]
ffffffe2	?	is_prime[9]
ffffffe3	?	is_prime[10]
ffffffe4	4	count
ffffffe5	?	
ffffffe6	?	
ffffffe7	?	
ffffffe8	?	
ffffffe9	3	m
ffffffea	?	
ffffffeb	?	
ffffffec	?	
ffffffed	11	k <sup>3</sup>
ffffffee	?	
ffffffef	?	
fffffff0	?	
fffffff1	?	
fffffff2	?	k <sup>2</sup>
fffffff3	?	
fffffff4	?	
fffffff5	?	
fffffff6	?	
fffffff7	?	
fffffff8	?	
fffffff9	?	
fffffffa	?	
fffffffb	?	
fffffffc	?	
fffffffd	?	
fffffffe	?	
fffffff	?	

main() ↑

return value

### Summary

- Following this lesson, you now
  - Have a basic understanding of the call stack
    - The call stack starts at the bottom of memory
  - Understand this memory is used for parameters, local variables, and returned values
  - Have observed two examples of programs using the call stack



## References

- [1] Wikipedia:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Call\\_stack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Call_stack)



## Disclaimer

These slides are provided for the ECE 150 *Fundamentals of Programming* course taught at the University of Waterloo. The material in it reflects the authors' best judgment in light of the information available to them at the time of preparation. Any reliance on these course slides by any party for any other purpose are the responsibility of such parties. The authors accept no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any party as a result of decisions made or actions based on these course slides for any other purpose than that for which it was intended.



## Colophon

These slides were prepared using the Georgia typeface. Mathematical equations use Times New Roman, and source code is presented using Consolas.

The photographs of lilacs in bloom appearing on the title slide and accenting the top of each other slide were taken at the Royal Botanical Gardens on May 27, 2018 by Douglas Wilhelm Harder. Please see

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