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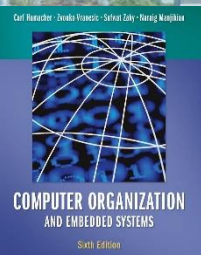
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

# *CSCI2510 Computer Organization*

## **Lecture 05: Program Execution**

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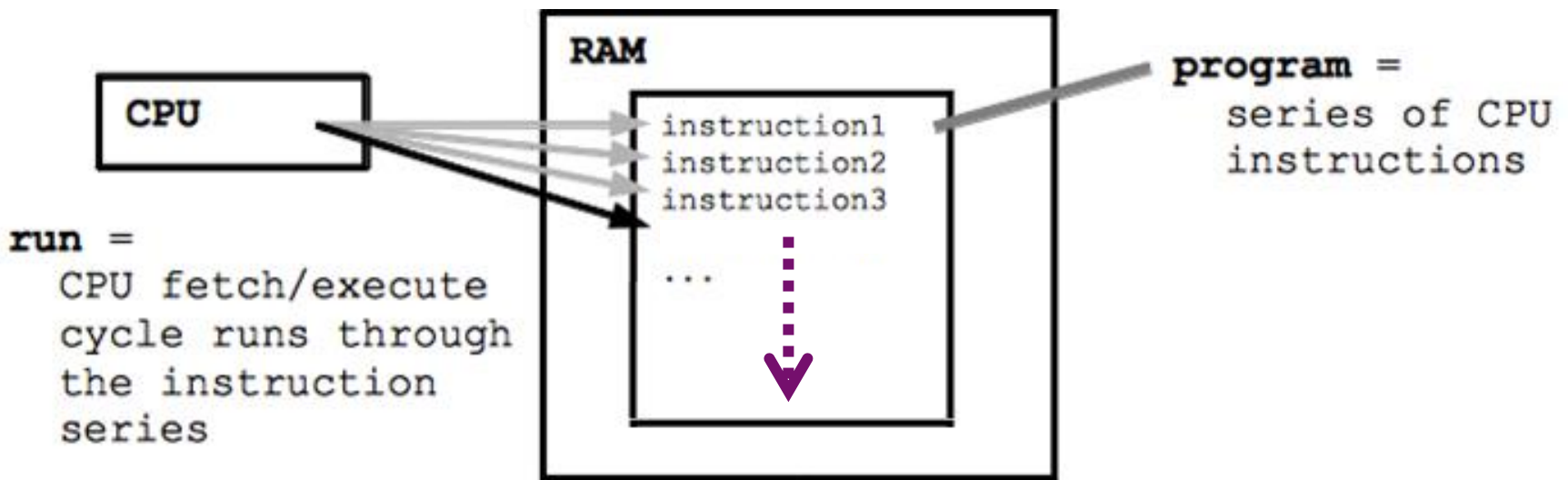


Reading: Chap. 2.3~2.7, 2.10, 4

# Recall: Program Execution



- A computer is governed by instructions.
  - To perform a given task, a **program** consisting of a list of **machine instructions** is stored in the memory.
    - Data to be used as **operands** are also stored in the memory.
  - **Individual instructions** are brought from the memory into the processor, one after another, in a **sequential** way (normally).
  - The processor executes the specified operation/instruction.





- Revisit: Assembly Language Basics
- Program Execution
  - Flow for Generating/Executing a Program
  - Instruction Execution and Sequencing
  - Branching
    - Condition Codes
  - Subroutines
    - Stacks
    - Subroutine Linkage
    - Subroutine Nesting
    - Parameter Passing

# Assembly Language



- Machine instructions are represented by 0s and 1s.
  - Such patterns are *awkward* to deal with by humans!
  - We use **symbolic names** to represent 0/1 patterns!
- **Assembly Language**: a **complete set** of such symbolic names and rules for their use constitutes a programming language.
  - **Syntax**: **the set of rules** for using the *mnemonics* or *notations* and for specifying complete instructions/programs
  - **Mnemonics**: **acronyms** to represent instruction operations
    - E.g. Load → **LD**, Store → **ST**, Add → **ADD**, etc.
  - **Notations**: **shorthand** for registers or memory locations
    - E.g. register 3 → **R3**, a particular memory location → **LOC**

# Assembly Language Syntax



- **Three-operand Instruction:**

`operation dest, src1, src2`

- E.g. “Add A, B, C” means “ $A \leftarrow [B] + [C]$ ”
  - Note: We use [X] to represent the content at location X.

- **Two-operand Instruction:**

`operation dest, src`

- E.g. “Move A, B” means “ $A \leftarrow [B]$ ”
- E.g. “Add A, B” means “ $A \leftarrow [A] + [B]$ ”
  - Note: Operand A is like both the source and the destination.

*Some machines may put  
destination last:*

*operation src, dest*

- **One-operand Instruction:**

- Some PCs have a **special register** called **accumulator (ACC)**.
  - E.g. “Add B” means “ $ACC \leftarrow ACC + [B]$ ”
  - E.g. “Load B” means “ $ACC \leftarrow [B]$ ”
  - E.g. “Store B” means “ $B \leftarrow ACC$ ”



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# Recall: Language Translation



High-level Language

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

C/Java  
Compiler

```
TEMP = V(k);  
V(k) = V(k+1);  
V(k+1) = TEMP;
```

Fortran  
Compiler

Assembly Language

**lw**: loads a word from **memory** into a register

**sw**: saves a word from a register into **RAM**

**\$0, \$1, \$2**: registers

**0 (\$2)**: treats the value of register \$2 + 0 bytes as a location

**4 (\$2)**: treats the value of register \$2 + 4 bytes as a location

```
lw $0, 0($2)  
lw $1, 4($2)  
sw $1, 0($2)  
sw $0, 4($2)
```

MIPS Assembler

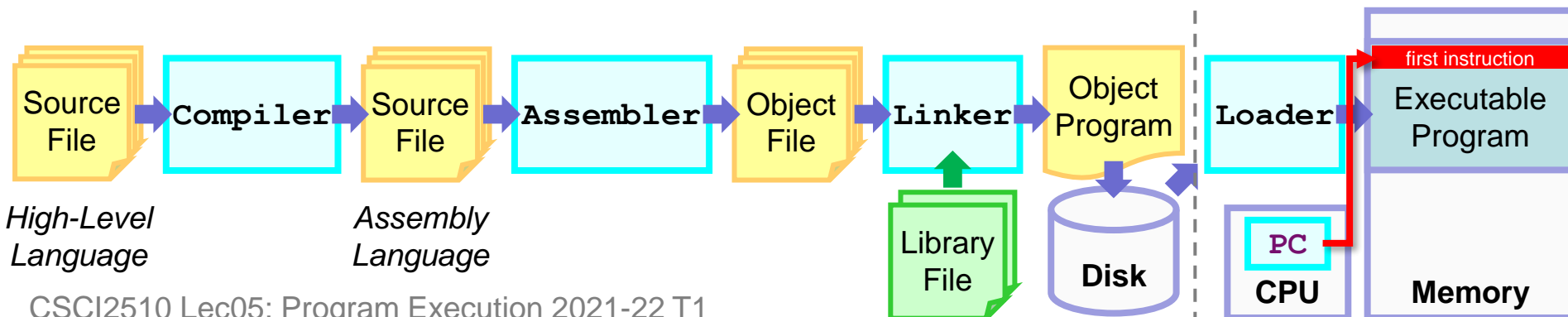
Machine Language

```
0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000  
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110  
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001  
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
```

# Generating/Executing a Program



- **Compiler:** Translate a **high-level language** source programs into **assembly language** source programs
  - **Assembler:** Translate assembly language source programs into object files of **machine instructions**
  - **Linker:** Combine the contents of object files and library files into one **object/executable program**
    - **Library File:** Collect useful subroutines of application programs
- 
- **Loader:** Load the **program** into **memory** and load the address of the **first instruction** into **program counter (PC)**

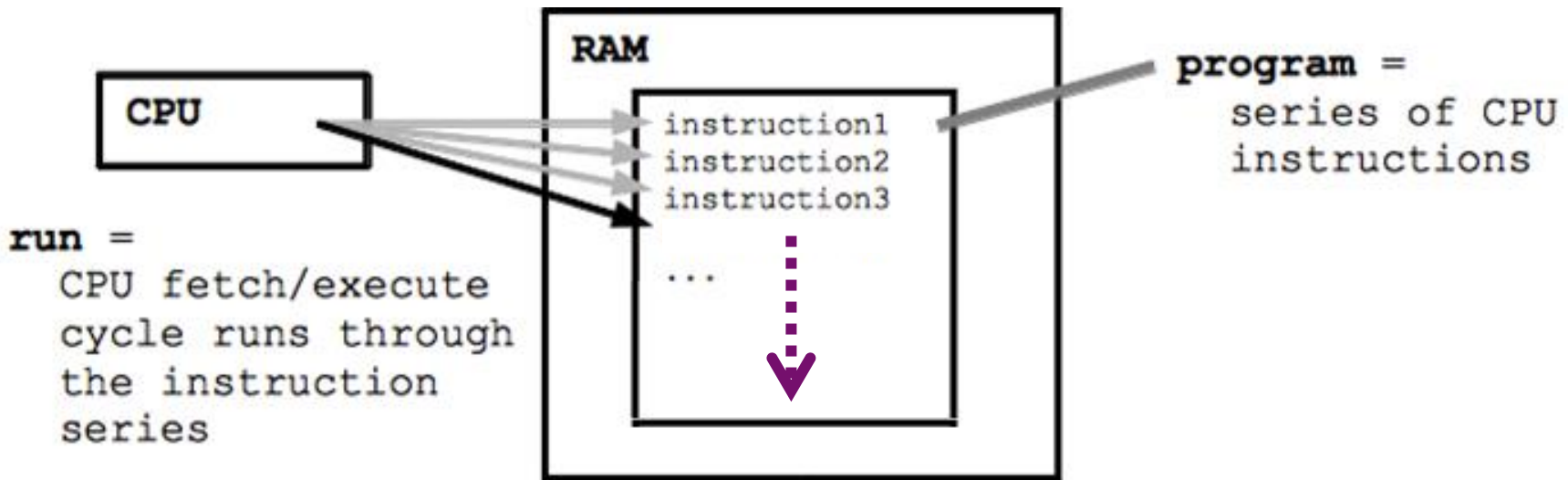




# Activities in a Computer: Instructions



- A computer is governed by **instructions**.
  - To perform a given task, a **program** consisting of **a list of machine instructions** is stored in the memory.
    - Data to be used as **operands** are also stored in the memory.
  - **Individual instructions** are brought from the memory into the processor, one after another, in a **sequential** way (normally).
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# An Example of Program Execution



- Considering a program of 3 instructions:

**PC** → **I<sub>0</sub>**: **Load R0, LOC**

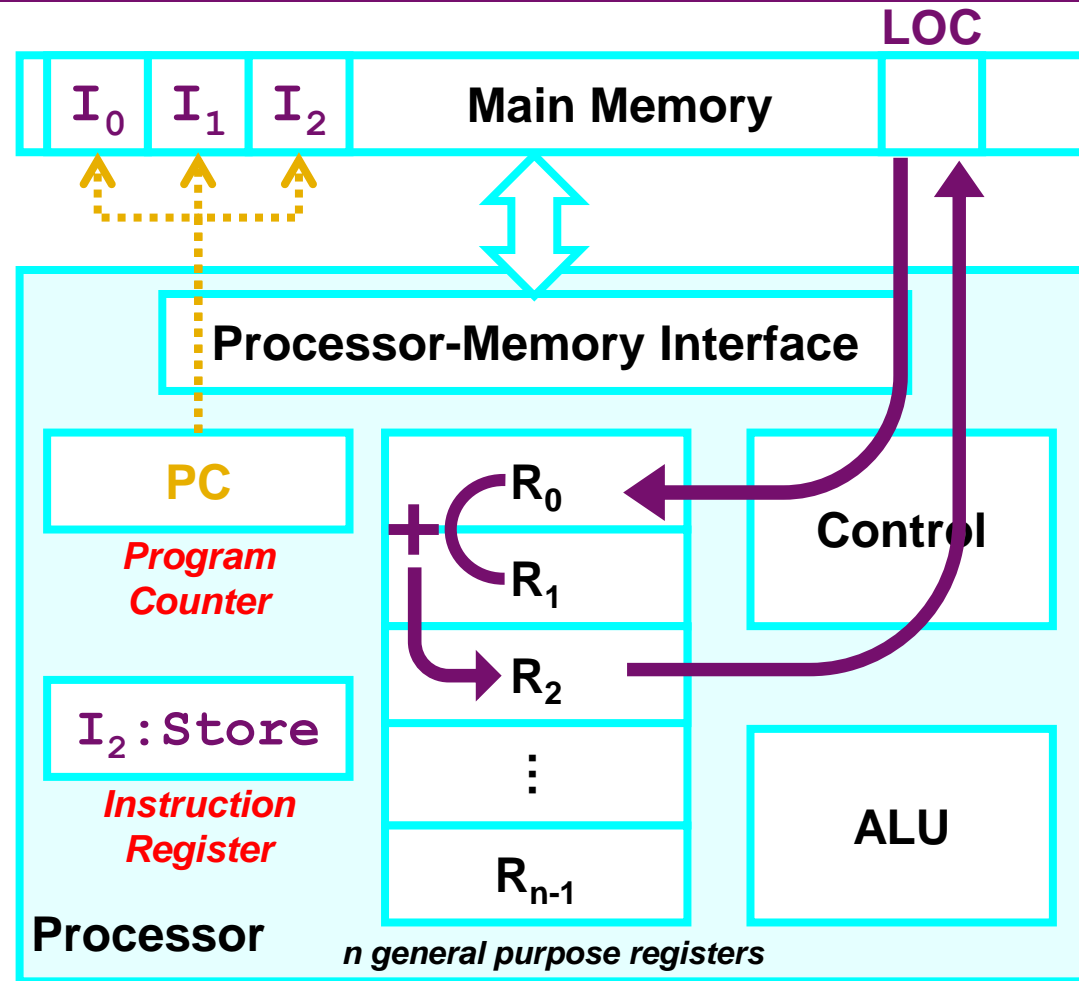
- Reads the contents of a memory location LOC
- Loads them into processor register R0

– **I<sub>1</sub>**: **Add R2, R0, R1**

- Adds the contents of registers R0 and R1
- Places their sum into register R2

– **I<sub>2</sub>**: **Store R2, LOC**

- Copies the operand in register R2 to memory location LOC



**PC**: contains the memory address of the next instruction to be fetched and executed.

**IR**: holds the instruction that is currently being executed.

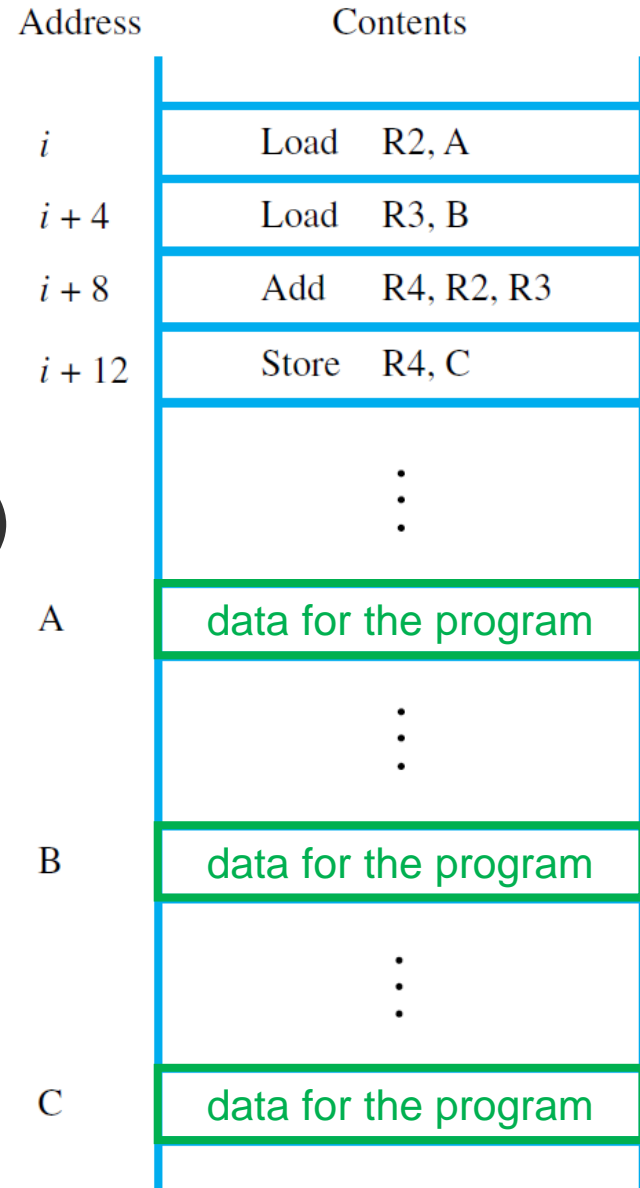
$R_0 \sim R_{n-1}$ :  $n$  general-purpose registers.



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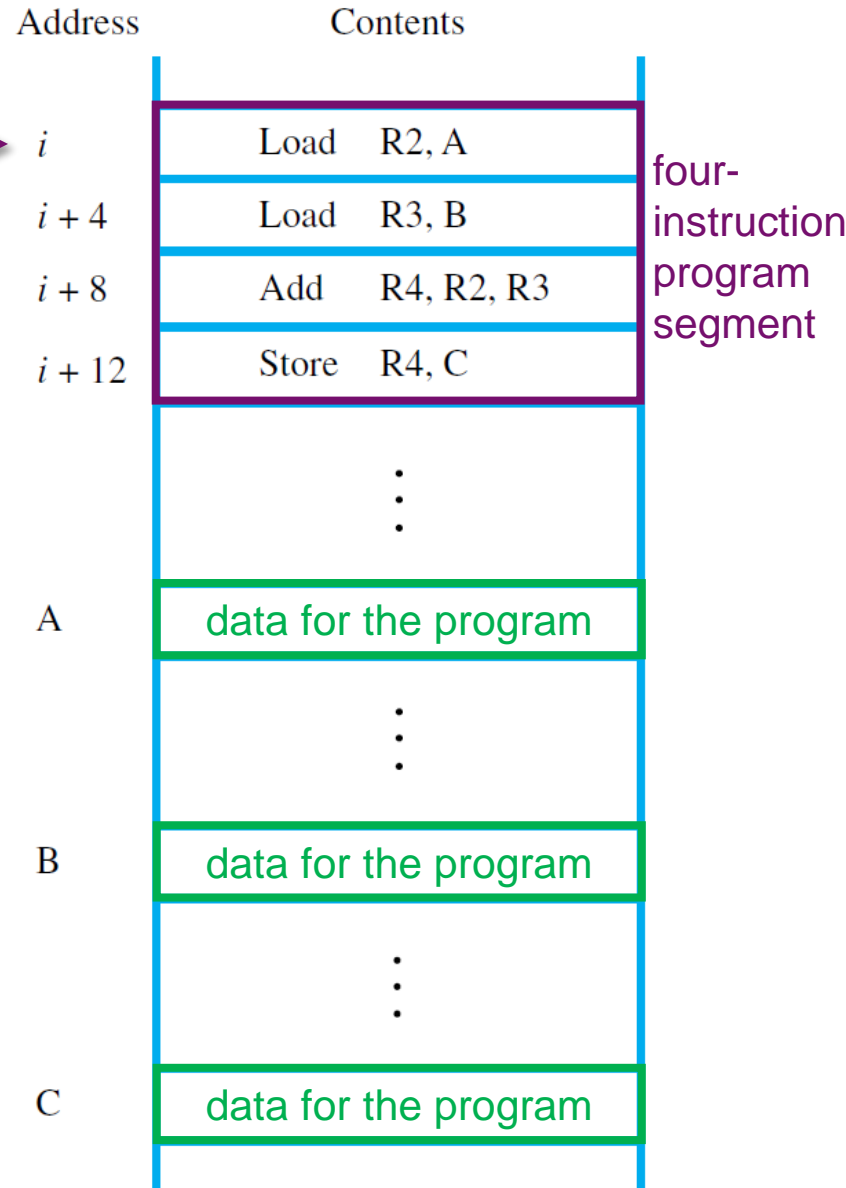
# Instruction Execution & Sequencing (1/3)

- Consider a machine:
  - RISC instruction set
  - 32-bit word, 32-bit instruction
  - Byte-addressable memory
- Given the task  $C=A+B$  (*Lec04*)
  - Implemented as  $C \leftarrow [A] + [B]$
  - Possible RISC-style program segment:
    - Load R2, A
    - Load R3, B
    - Add R4, R2, R3
    - Store R4, C



# Instruction Execution & Sequencing (2/3)

- Assume the 4 instructions are loaded in successive memory locations:
  - Starting at location  $i$
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> instructions are at  $i + 4$ ,  $i + 8$ , and  $i + 12$ 
    - Each instruction is 4 bytes
- To execute this program
  - The program counter (PC) register in the processor should be loaded with the address of the 1<sup>st</sup> instruction.
    - **PC**: holds the address of *the next instruction* to be executed.



# Instruction Execution & Sequencing (3/3)

- **Straight-Line Sequencing:**

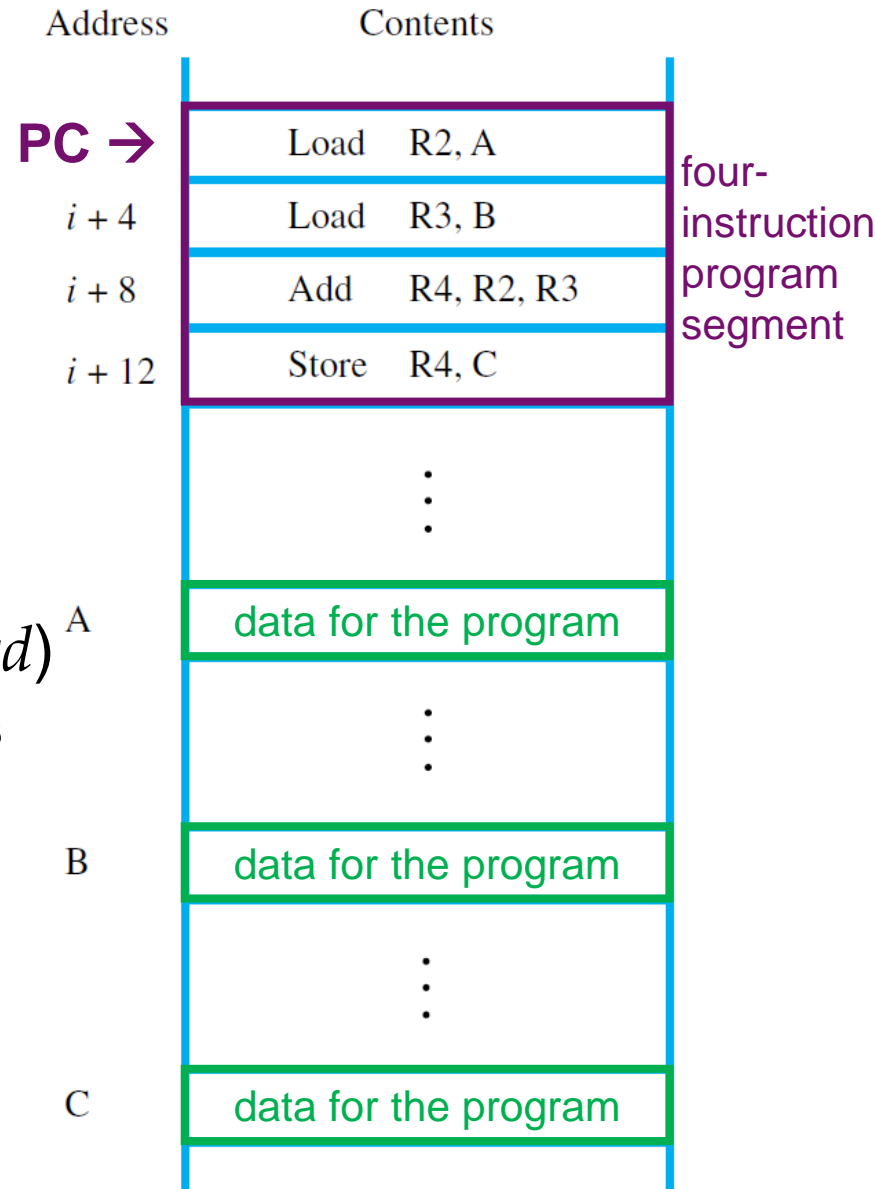
- CPU fetches and executes instructions indicated by PC, one at a time, in the order of increasing addresses.

## 1) Instruction Fetch:

- $IR \leftarrow [PC]$
- $PC \leftarrow [PC] + 4$  (32-bit word)<sup>A</sup>
  - ✓ PC contains the memory address of the next instruction.
  - ✓ IR holds the current instruction.

## 2) Instruction Execute:

- Interpret (or decode) IR
- Perform the operation

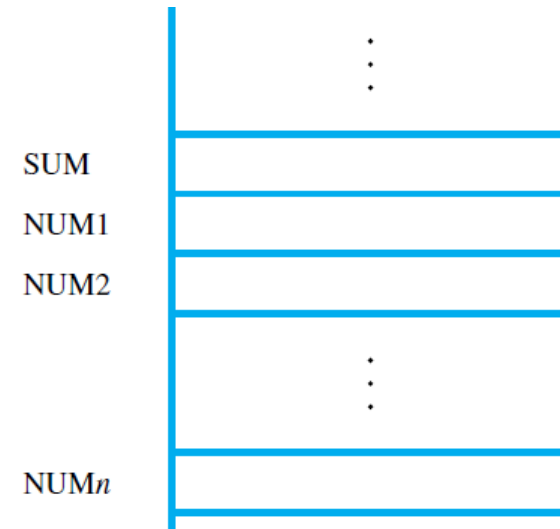


# Class Exercise 5.1

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Consider a task of adding  $n$  num:
  - The symbolic memory addresses of the  $n$  numbers: NUM1, NUM2, ..., NUM $n$
  - The result is in memory location SUM.
- Please write the program segment to add  $n$  num into R2.
- Answer:





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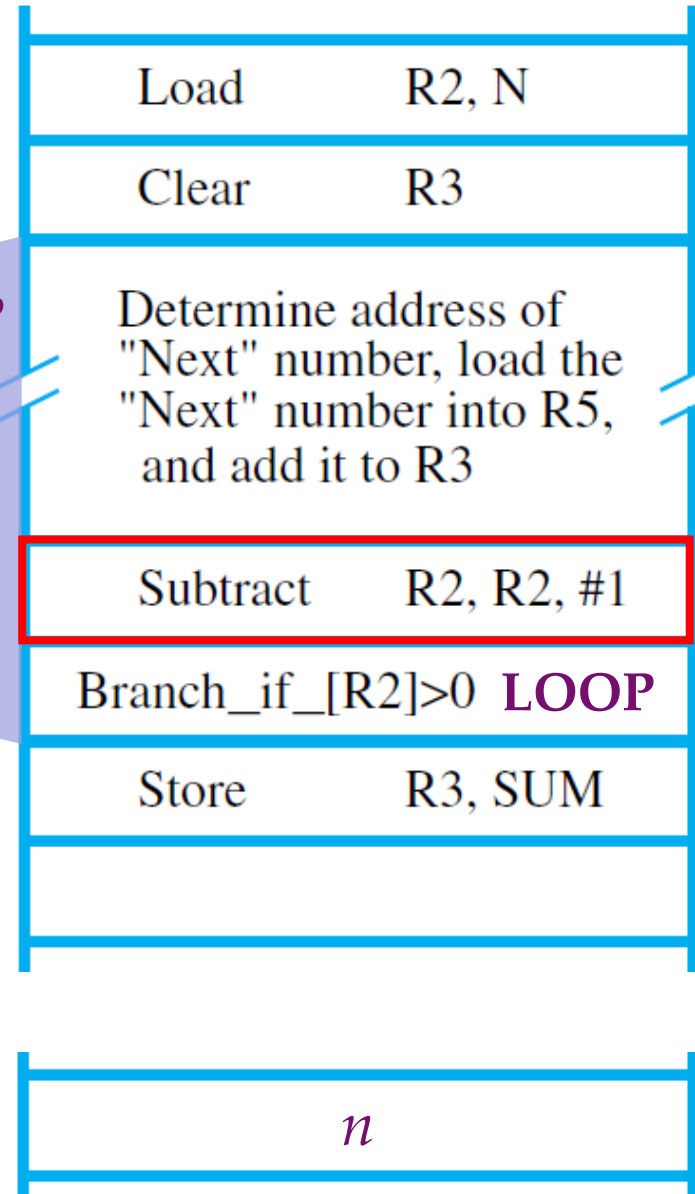


# Branching: Implementing a Loop (1/2)



- The body of the **loop**:
  - Start**: at location **LOOP**
  - Body**: the repeated task
    - E.g. “**Load-Add**” instructions
  - End**: at `Branch_if_[R2]>0`
- Assume that
  - $n$  is stored in memory location `N`.
  - `R2` represents the number of times (i.e.  $n$ ) the loop is executed.
- Within the body of the loop,  
**Subtract `R2, R2, #1`**
  - Decreasing the contents of `R2` by 1 each time through the loop.  $N$

**LOOP**



# Branching: Implementing a Loop (2/2)

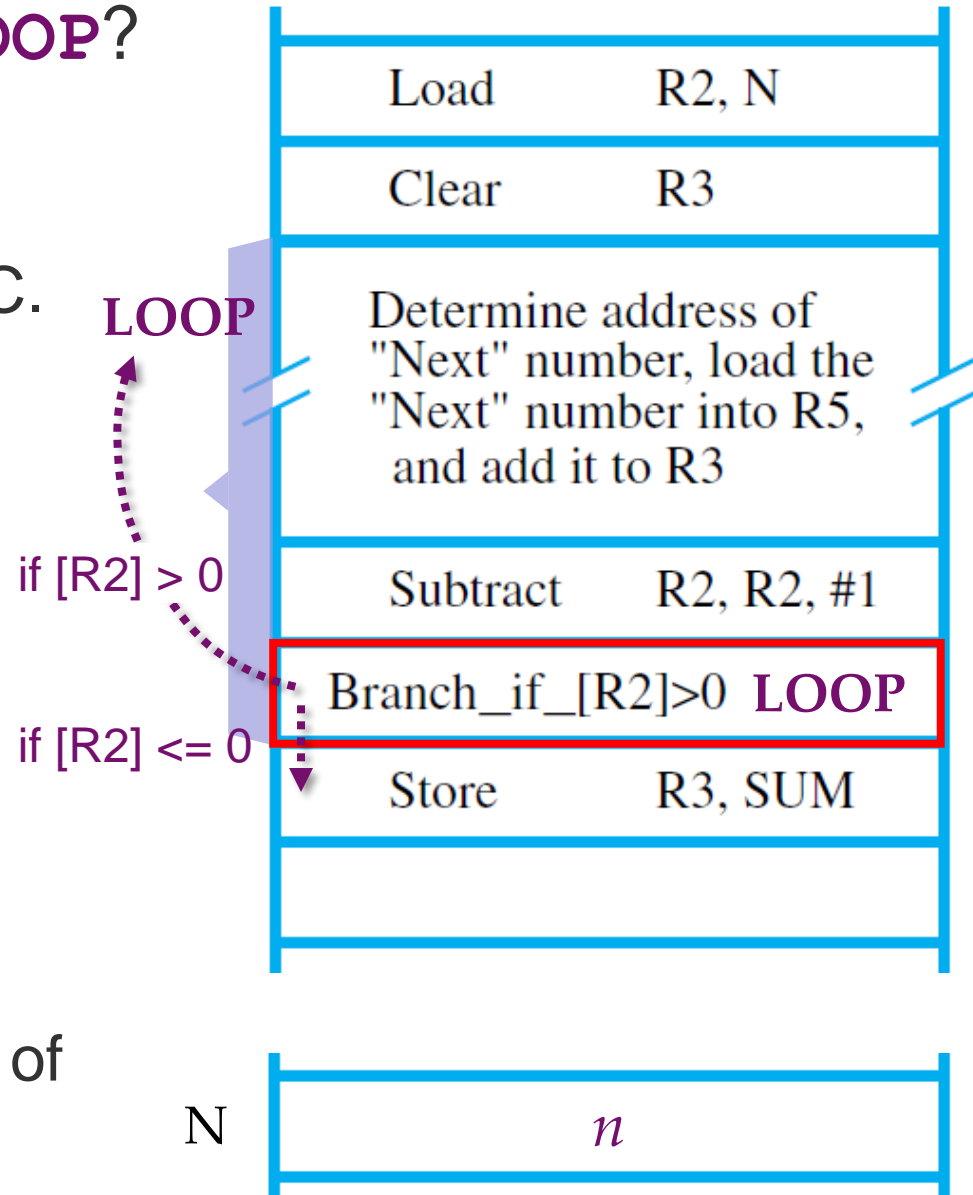


- How to “jump back” to **LOOP**?

- ① **Branch**: loads a new memory address (called branch target) into the PC.
- ② **Conditional Branch**: causes a branch only if a **specified condition** is satisfied.

- **Branch\_if\_[R2]>0 LOOP**

- A **conditional branch** instruction that causes **branch to location LOOP**.
- **Condition**: If the contents of R2 are greater than zero.



# Class Exercise 5.2



- The program for adding a list of  $n$  numbers can be derived as follows. In which, the indirect addressing is used to access successive numbers in the list.
- Please fill in the blank comment fields below:

LABEL	OPCODE	OPERAND	COMMENT
	Load	R2, N	
	Clear	R3	
	Move	R4, addr NUM1	
LOOP:	Load	R5, (R4)	
	Add	R3, R3, R5	
	Add	R4, R4, #4	
	Subtract	R2, R2, #1	
	Branch_if_[R2]>0	LOOP	
	Store	R3, SUM	

# An Example of Nested Loops



Move	R2, <b>addr T</b>	R2 points to string <i>T</i> .
Move	R3, <b>addr P</b>	R3 points to string <i>P</i> .
Load	R4, N	Get the value <i>n</i> .
Load	R5, M	Get the value <i>m</i> .
Subtract	R4, R4, R5	Compute $n - m$ .
Add	R4, R2, R4	The address of $T(n - m)$ .
Add	R5, R3, R5	The address of $P(m)$ .
<b>LOOP1:</b> Move	R6, R2	Use R6 to scan through string <i>T</i> .
Move	R7, R3	Use R7 to scan through string <i>P</i> .
<b>LOOP2:</b> LoadByte	R8, (R6)	Compare a pair of
LoadByte	R9, (R7)	characters in
Branch_if_ <b>[R8]≠[R9]</b>	NOMATCH	strings <i>T</i> and <i>P</i> .
Add	R6, R6, #1	Point to next character in <i>T</i> .
Add	R7, R7, #1	Point to next character in <i>P</i> .
<b>Branch_if_<b>[R5] &gt; [R7]</b></b>	<b>LOOP2</b>	Loop again if not done.
Store	R2, RESULT	Store the address of $T(i)$ .
Branch	DONE	
<b>NOMATCH:</b> Add	R2, R2, #1	Point to next character in <i>T</i> .
<b>Branch_if_<b>[R4] ≥ [R2]</b></b>	<b>LOOP1</b>	Loop again if not done.
Move	R8, #-1	Write -1 to indicate that
Store	R8, RESULT	no match was found.

**DONE:** next instruction



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# Condition Codes (1/2)



- Operations performed by the processor typically generate **number results** of *positive, negative, or zero*.
  - E.g. `Subtract R2, R2, #1` (in the Loop program)
- **Condition Code Flags**: keep the **information** about the results for **subsequent conditional branch (if any)**.
  - **Condition Code Register** (or **Status Register**): groups and stores these flags in a **special register** in the processor.
- Four common flags:

<b>N</b> (negative)	<u>Set to 1</u> if the result is <b>negative</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>Z</b> (zero)	<u>Set to 1</u> if the result is <b>0</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>V</b> (overflow)	<u>Set to 1</u> if <b>arithmetic overflow occurs</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>C</b> (carry)	<u>Set to 1</u> if a <b>carry-out occurs</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>

# Condition Codes (2/2)



- Consider the Conditional Branch example:
  - If condition codes are used, the **branch** instruction (**Branch\_if\_[R2]>0 LOOP**) could be simplified as:  
**Branch>0 LOOP**  
without indicating the register involved in the test.
  - This new instruction causes a branch if neither N nor Z is 1.
    - The **subtract** instruction would cause both N and Z flags to be cleared to 0 if R2 is still greater than 0.

<b>N</b> (negative)	<u>Set to 1</u> if the result is <b>negative</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>Z</b> (zero)	<u>Set to 1</u> if the result is <b>0</b> ; otherwise; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>V</b> (overflow)	<u>Set to 1</u> if <b>arithmetic overflow occurs</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>
<b>C</b> (carry)	<u>Set to 1</u> if a <b>carry-out occurs</b> ; otherwise, <u>cleared to 0</u>

# Class Exercise 5.3



- Given two 4-bit registers R1 and R2 storing signed integers in 2's-complement format. Please specify the condition flags that will be affected by **Add R2, R1**:

*if*  $R1 = (2)_{10} = (0010)_2$ ,  $R2 = (-5)_{10} = (1011)_2$

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*if*  $R1 = (2)_{10} = (0010)_2$ ,  $R2 = (-2)_{10} = (1110)_2$

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*if*  $R1 = (7)_{10} = (0111)_2$ ,  $R2 = (1)_{10} = (0001)_2$

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*if*  $R1 = (5)_{10} = (0101)_2$ ,  $R2 = (-2)_{10} = (1110)_2$

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_





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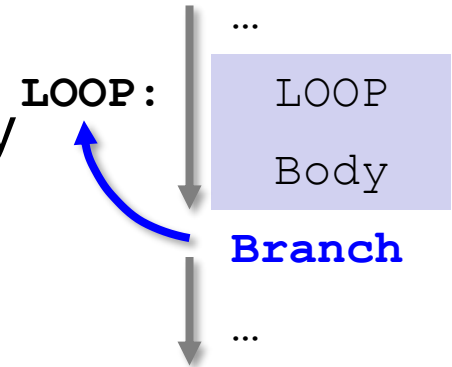
# Branch vs. Subroutine



- **Branch:**

- The instruction jumping to any instruction by loading its memory address into PC.

- It's also common to perform a particular task many times on different values.



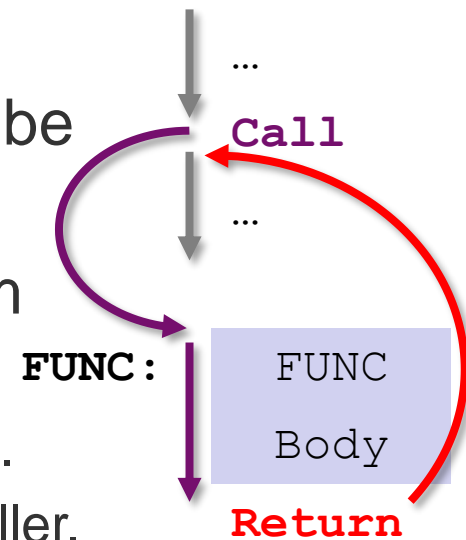
- **Subroutine/Function Call**

- **Subroutine:** a block of instructions that will be executed each time when calling.

- **Subroutine/Function Call:** when a program branches to and back from a subroutine.

- **Call:** the instruction branching to the subroutine.
    - **Return:** the instruction branching back to the caller.

- “**Stack**” is essential for subroutine calls.



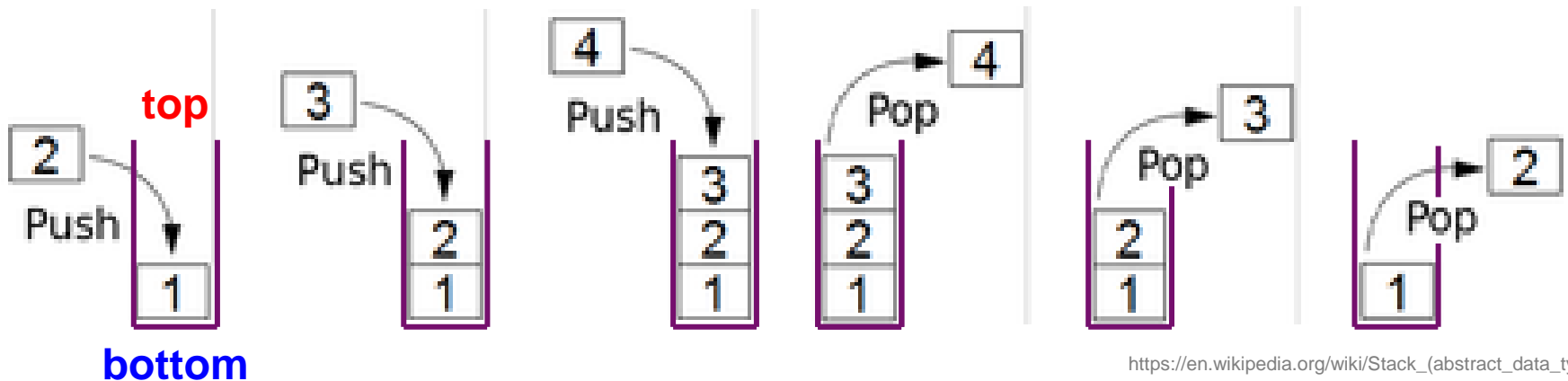


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# Stacks



- **Stack** is a list of data elements (usually words):
  - Elements can only be removed at one end of the list.
    - This end is called the **top**, and the other end is called the **bottom**.
    - Examples: a stack of coins, plates on a tray, a pile of books, etc.
  - **Push**: **Placing** a new item **at the top** end of a stack
  - **Pop**: **Removing the top** item from a stack
  - Stack is often called *LIFO* or *FILO* stack:
    - *Last-In-First-Out (LIFO)*: The last item is the first one to be removed.
    - *First-In-Last-Out (FILO)*: The first item is the last one to be removed.

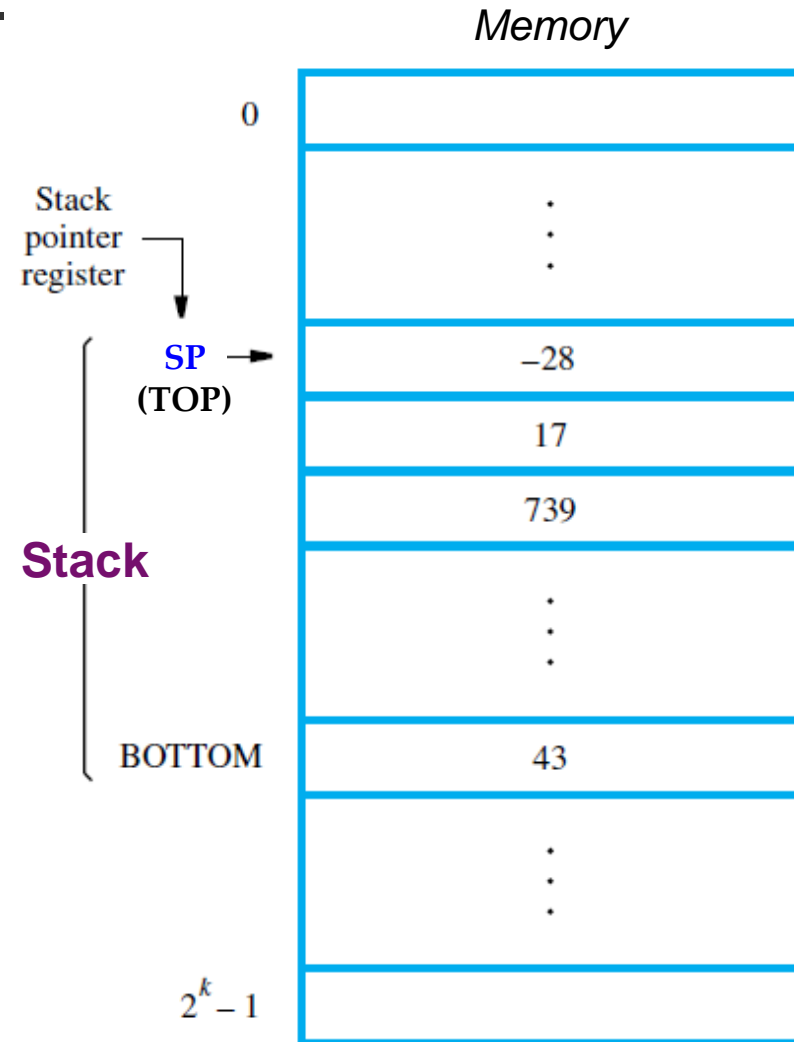


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack\\_\(abstract\\_data\\_type\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_(abstract_data_type))

# Processor Stack (1/2)



- Modern processors usually provide **native support** to stack (called **processor stack**).
  - A processor stack can be implemented by using a portion of the main memory.
    - Data elements of a stack occupy **successive** memory locations.
    - The **first** element is placed in location **BOTTOM** (*larger address*).
    - The **new** elements are pushed onto the **TOP** of the stack.
  - **Stack Pointer (SP)**: a **special processor register** to keep track of the address of the **TOP** item of processor stack.



# Processor Stack (2/2)



- Given a stack of word data items, and consider a **byte-addressable** memory with a **32-bit** word:

– **Push** an item in  $R_j$  onto the stack:

**Subtract**       $SP, SP, \#4$

**Store**           $R_j, (SP)$

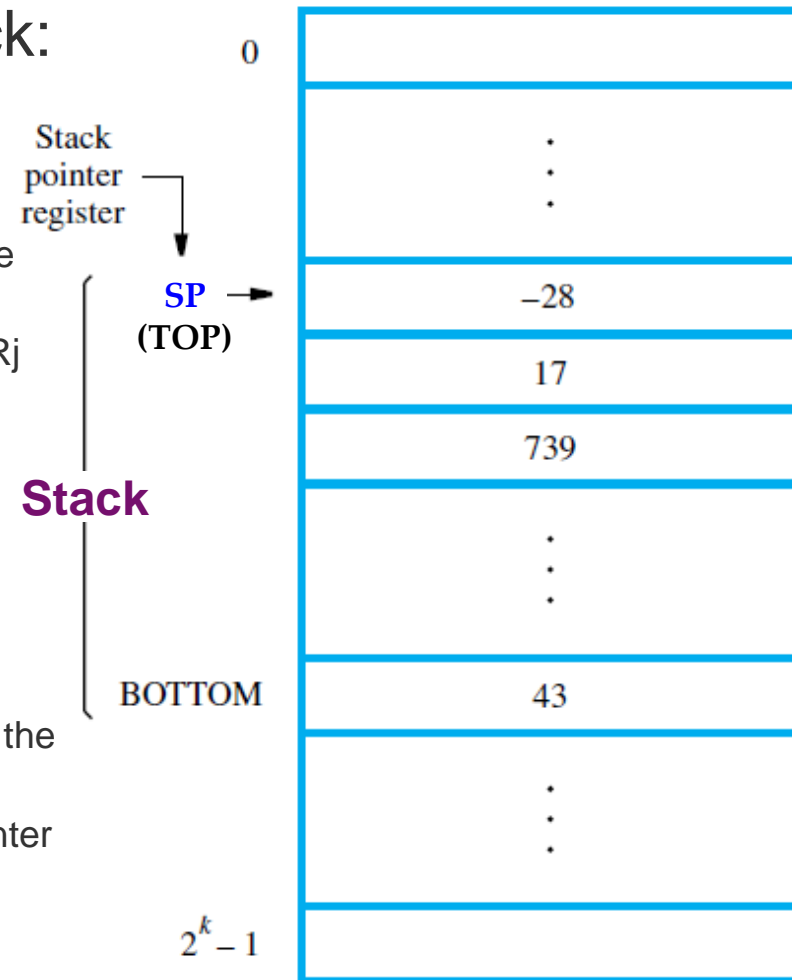
- The **Subtract** instruction first subtracts 4 from the contents of SP and places the result in SP.
- The **Store** instruction then places the content of  $R_j$  onto the stack.

– **Pop** the top item into  $R_j$

**Load**           $R_j, (SP)$

**Add**             $SP, SP, \#4$

- The **Load** instruction first loads the top value from the stack into register  $R_j$
- The **Add** instruction then increments the stack pointer by 4.



# Recall: Additional Addressing Modes



- Most **CISC processors** have all of the five basic addressing modes—Immediate, Register, Absolute, Indirect, and Index.
- **Three additional addressing modes** are often found in CISC processors:

Address Mode	Assembler Syntax	Addressing Function
1*) Autoincrement	$(Ri) +$	$EA = [Ri]$ $Ri = Ri + S$
2*) Autodecrement	$-(Ri)$	$Ri = Ri - S$ $EA = [Ri]$
3*) Relative	$X(PC)$	$EA = [PC] + X$

*EA: effective address*

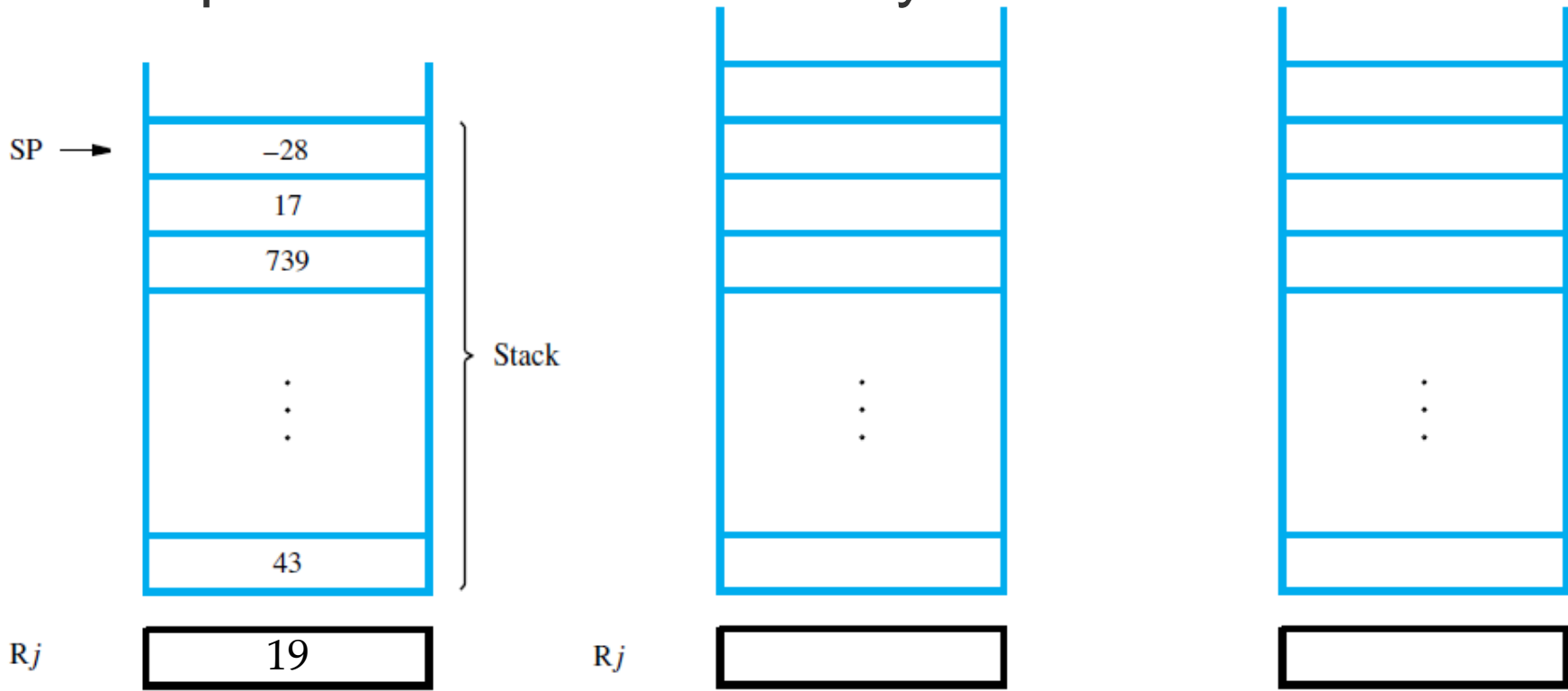
*X: index value*

*S: increment/decrement step*

# Class Exercise 5.4



- Given the contents of the stack and the register Rj as below. Specify the location of SP and the content of register Rj after one **push** and one **pop** operations are performed consecutively.



(a) Before **Push & Pop**

(b) After **Push**

(c) After **Pop**



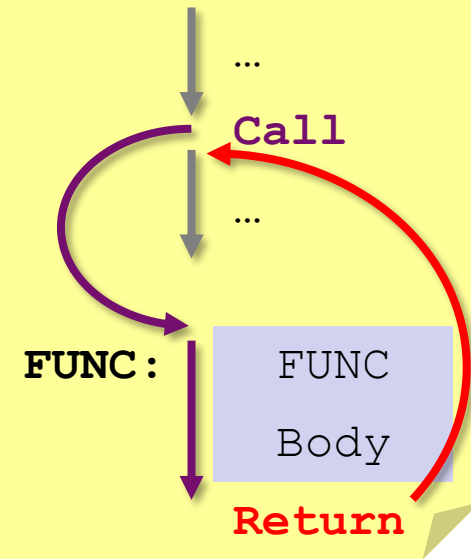


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# Revisit: Subroutine



- Recall:
  - When a program branches to a subroutine we say that it is **calling** the subroutine.
  - After a subroutine calling, the subroutine is said to **return** to the program that called it.
    - Continuing immediately after the instruction that called the subroutine.



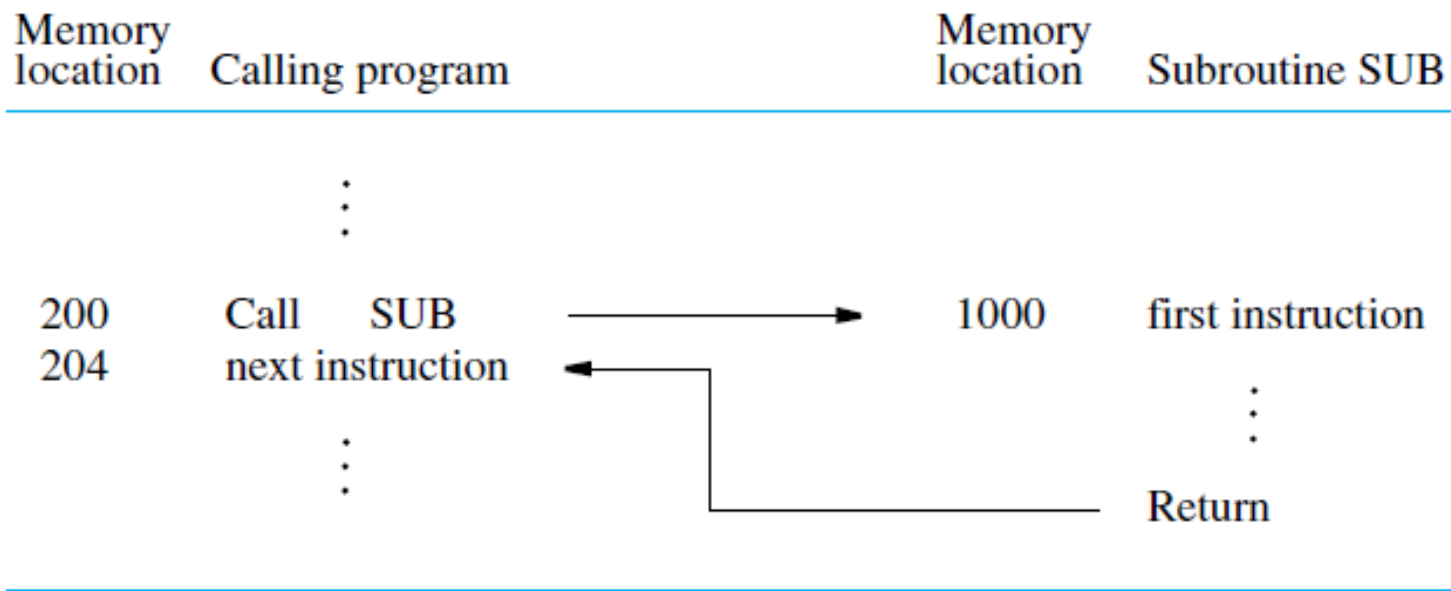
- However, the subroutine may be called from any places in a calling program.
- Thus, provision must be made for **returning** to the appropriate location.
  - That is, the content of the PC must be saved by the Call instruction to enable correct return to the calling program.

# Subroutine Linkage



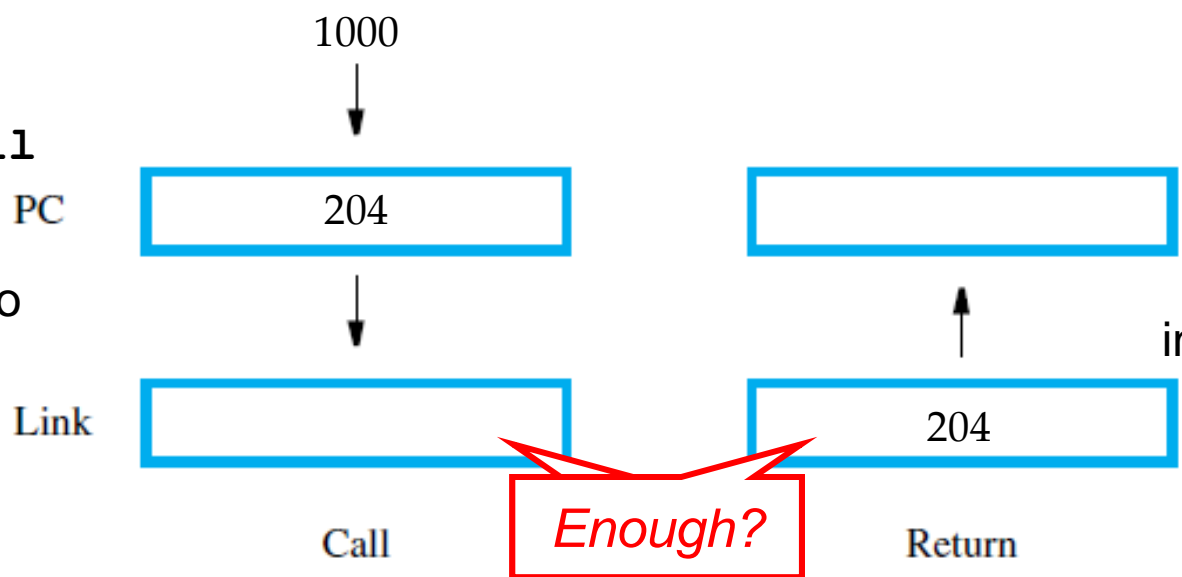
- **Subroutine Linkage** method: the way makes it possible to **Call** and **Return** from subroutines.
- The simplest method: saving the return address in a special processor register called the **link register**.
  - The **Call** instruction can be implemented as a special *branch* instruction:
    - ① Keep the content of the PC in the **link register**.
    - ② Branch to the target address specified by **Call** instruction.
  - The **Return** instruction can be implemented as a special *branch* instruction as well:
    - Branch to the address kept in the **link register** by **Return** instruction.

# Example of Subroutine Linkage



② Branch to the target address specified by `Call`

① Keep [PC] into the link register.



Branch back to the address kept in the link register by `Return`

*Enough?*

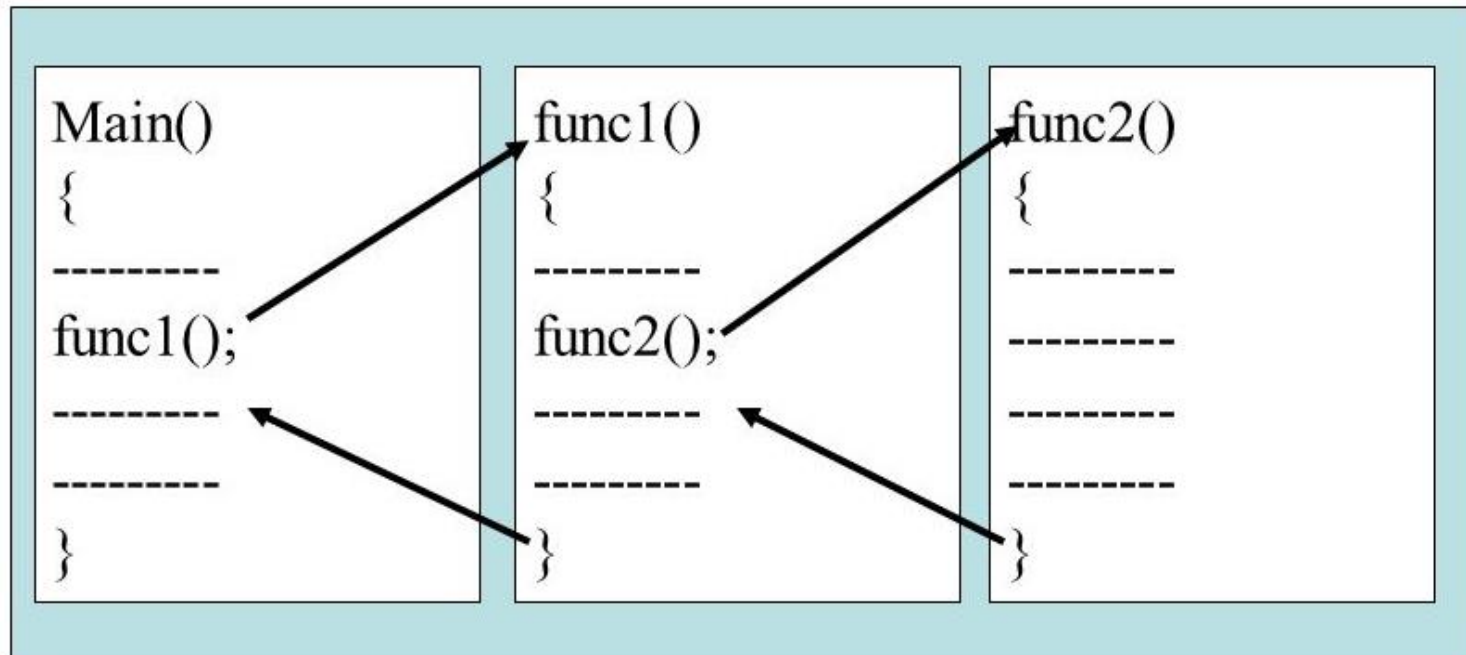


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# Subroutine Nesting (1/3)



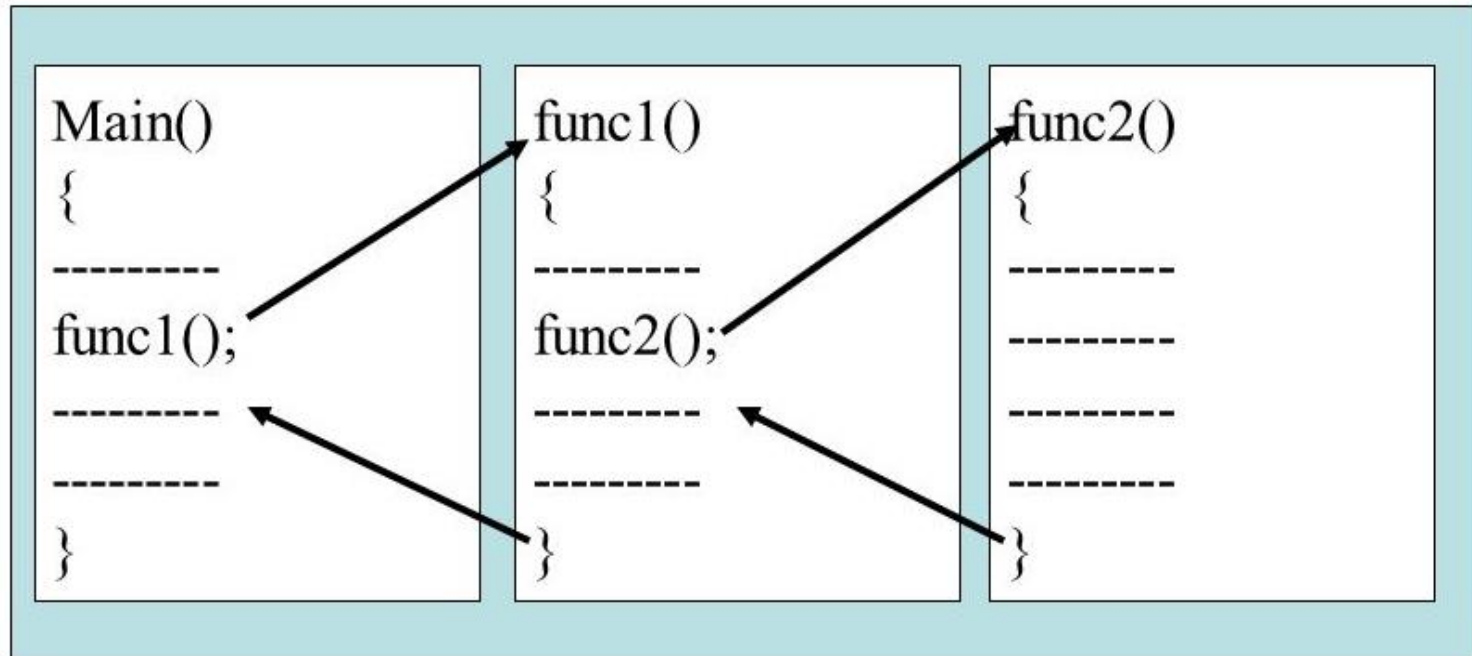
- **Subroutine Nesting:** One subroutine calls another subroutine or itself (i.e. recursion).
  - If the return address of the second call is also stored in the link register, the first return address will be lost ... **ERROR!**
  - Subroutine nesting can be carried out to **ANY DEPTH** ...



# Subroutine Nesting (2/3)



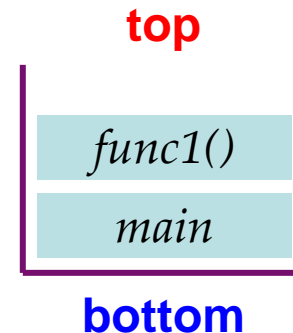
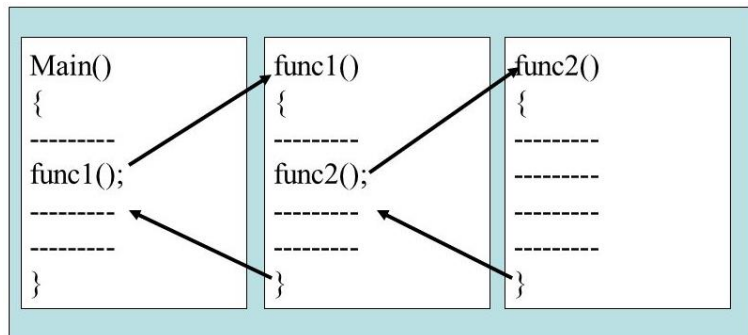
- *Observation:* The return address needed for the first return is the last one generated in the nested calls.
  - That is, return addresses are generated and used in a **last-in–first-out (LIFO)** order.



# Subroutine Nesting (3/3)



- **Processor stack** is useful to store subroutine linkage:
  - **Call** instruction:
    - ~~⊕ Store the contents of the PC in the link register~~
    - ① **Push** the contents of the PC to the **processor stack**
    - ② Branch to the target address specified by **Call** instruction.
    - ② (*Unchanged*)
  - **Return** instruction:
    - ~~• Branch to the address contained in the link register~~
    - Branch to the address **popped out** from the processor stack





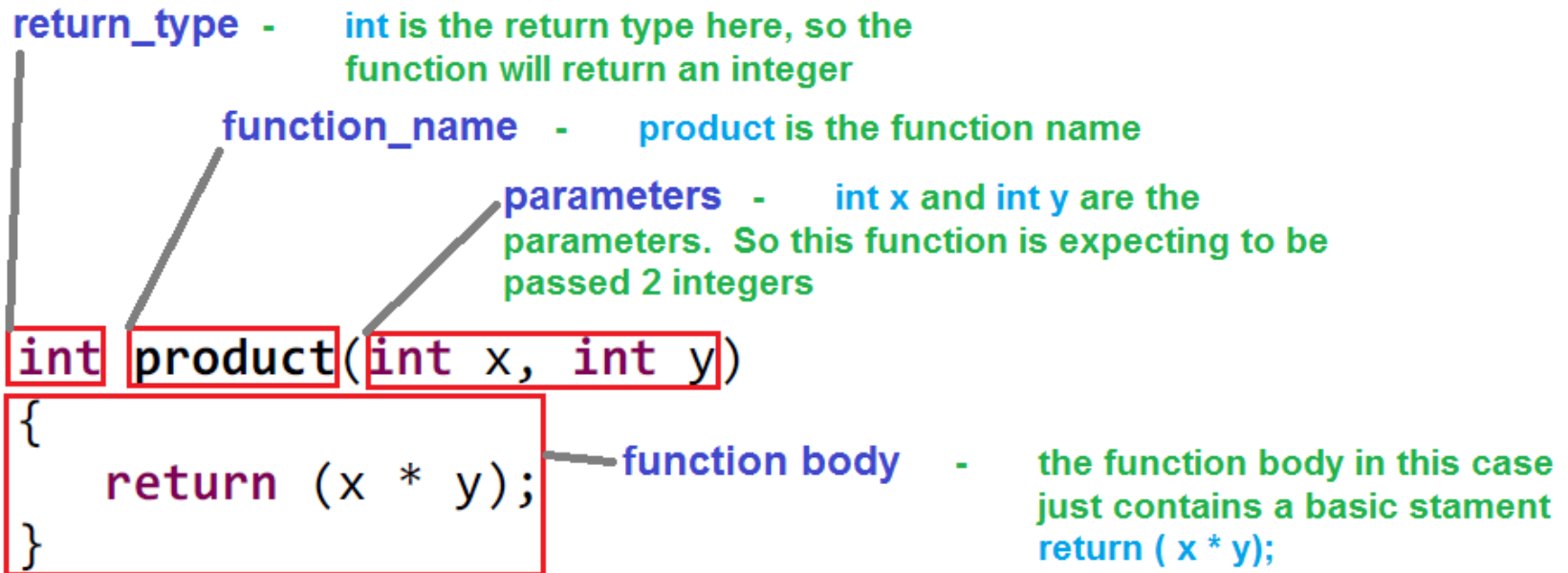


- Revisit: Assembly Language Basics
- **Program Execution**
  - Flow for Generating/Executing a Program
  - Instruction Execution and Sequencing
  - Branching
    - Condition Codes
  - **Subroutines**
    - Stacks
    - Subroutine Linkage
    - Subroutine Nesting
    - **Parameter Passing**

# Parameter Passing



- **Parameter Passing:** The exchange of information between a calling program and a subroutine.
  - When calling a subroutine, a program must provide the **parameters** (i.e. operands or their addresses) to be used.
  - Later, the subroutine returns other parameters, which are the **results** of the computation.



# Parameter Passing via Registers



- The simplest way is placing parameters in **registers**.
- This program can be implemented as a subroutine:
  - **R2** & **R4** pass the list size & the address of the first num;
  - **R3** passes back the sum computed by the subroutine.

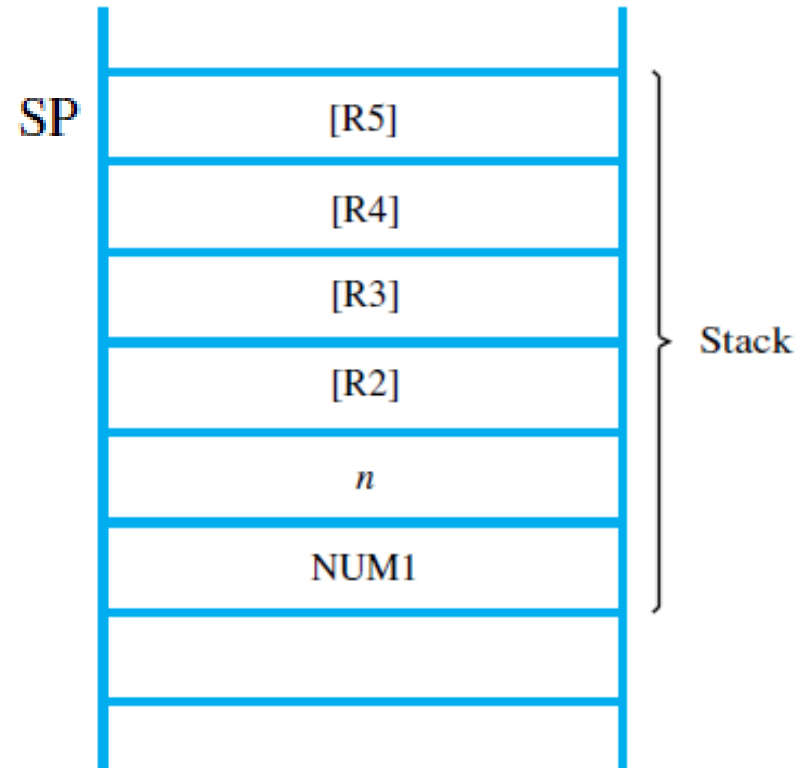
<b>Calling Program</b>		Load	<b>R2</b> , N	<u>Parameter 1</u> is list size.
		Move	<b>R4</b> , addr NUM1	<u>Parameter 2</u> is list location.
		Call	LISTADD	Call subroutine.
		Store	R3, SUM	Save result.
		:		
<b>Subroutine</b>	LISTADD:	Subtract	SP, SP, #4	Save the contents of
		Store	R5, (SP)	R5 on the stack.
		Clear	<b>R3</b>	<u>Initialize sum to 0.</u>
	LOOP:	Load	R5, (R4)	Get the next number.
		Add	<b>R3</b> , <b>R3</b> , R5	Add this number to sum.
		Add	R4, R4, #4	Increment the pointer by 4.
		Subtract	R2, R2, #1	Decrement the counter.
		Branch_if_[R2]>0	LOOP	
		Load	R5, (SP)	Restore the contents of R5.
		Add	SP, SP, #4	
		Return		Return to calling program.

# Parameter Passing on Stack (1/3)



- What if there are more parameters than registers?
- What if the subroutine calls itself (recursion)?
- The processor stack once again provides a good scheme to pass (an arbitrary number of) parameters.
- What can we pass via stack?

- ① We can **push** *all parameters to be computed* onto stack.
- ② We can **push** *the contents of all “to-be-used” registers* onto the stack.
- ③ We can also **push** *the computed result* before the return to the calling program.

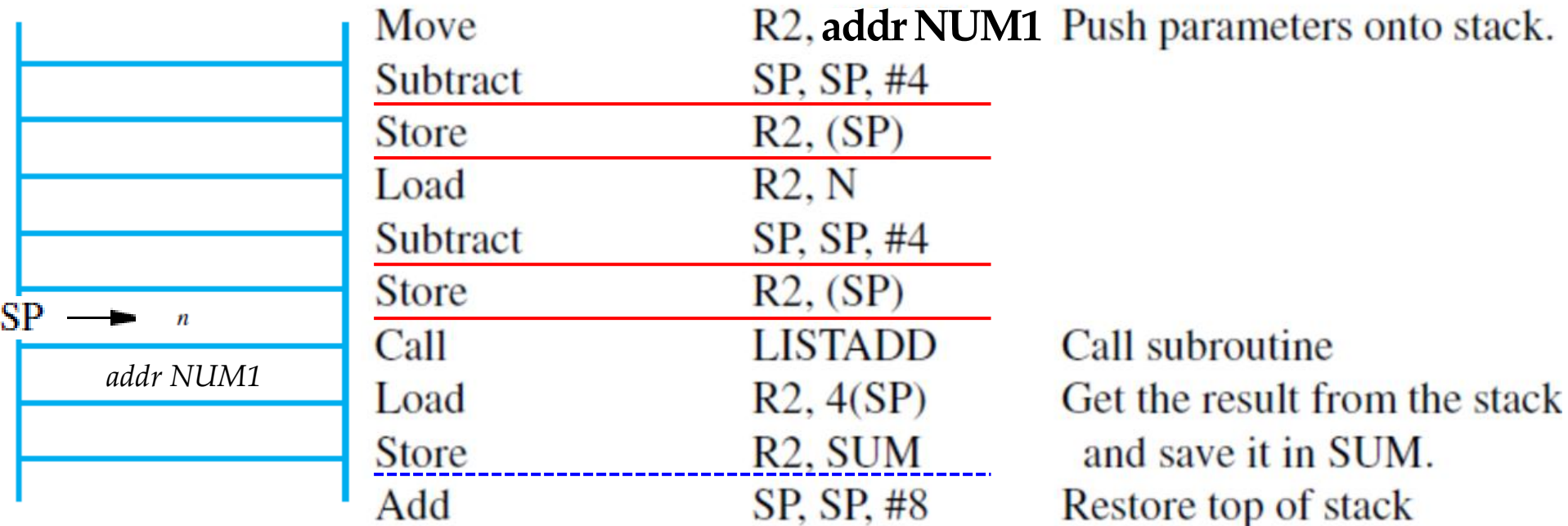


# Parameter Passing on Stack (2/3)



- Consider the program that adds a list of  $n$  numbers. It now uses the processor stack for parameter passing.

## Calling Program



① **push** *all parameters to be computed* onto stack

# Parameter Passing on Stack (3/3)



## Subroutine LISTADD:

② push *“to-be-used” registers*

③ push *the computed result*

```
Subtract    SP, SP, #16
Store       R2, 12(SP)
Store       R3, 8(SP)
Store       R4, 4(SP)
Store       R5, (SP)
```

Save registers

```
Load        R2, 16(SP)
Load        R4, 20(SP)
```

Initialize counter to  $n$ .  
Initialize pointer to the list.

```
Clear       R3
Load        R5, (R4)
Add         R3, R3, R5
Add         R4, R4, #4
Subtract    R2, R2, #1
Branch_if_[R2]>0 LOOP
```

Initialize sum to 0.  
Get the next number.  
Add this number to sum.  
Increment the pointer by 4.  
Decrement the counter.

```
Store       R3, 20(SP)
```

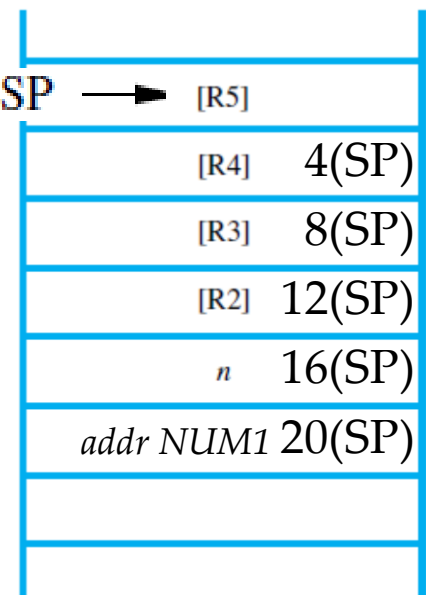
Put result in the stack.

```
Load        R5, (SP)
Load        R4, 4(SP)
Load        R3, 8(SP)
Load        R2, 12(SP)
Add         SP, SP, #16
```

Restore registers.

Return

Return to calling program.



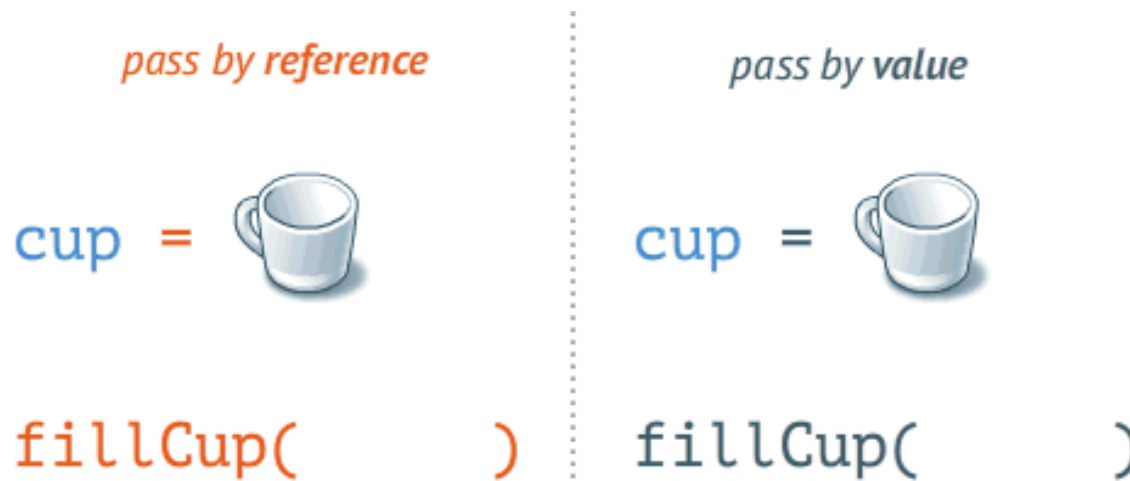
# Class Exercise 5.5



- In the [example program](#) that uses the processor stack for parameter passing, the result is passed back to the calling program by **Store R3, 20(SP)**. To pass back the result, can we use the instruction **Store R3, 16(SP)** instead?

# Parameter Passing by Value / Reference

- What kind of parameters can we pass?
- **Passing by Value**
  - The actual number is passed by an immediate value.
- **Passing by Reference (more powerful, be careful!)**
  - Instead of passing the actual values in the list, the routine passes the starting address (i.e. reference) of the number.





# Class Exercise 5.6



- The below program adds a list of  $n$  numbers, in which
  - The size  $n$  is stored in memory location/address **N**, and
  - **NUM1** is the memory address for the first number.
- Are **N** and **NUM1** used as values or references?

LABEL	OPCODE	OPERAND	COMMENT
	Load	R2 , <b>N</b>	<i>Load the size of the list.</i>
	Clear	R3	<i>Initialize sum to 0.</i>
	Move	R4 , <b>addr NUM1</b>	<i>Get address of the first number.</i>
LOOP:	Load	R5 , (R4)	<i>Get the next number.</i>
	Add	R3 , R3 , R5	<i>Add this number to sum.</i>
	Add	R4 , R4 , #4	<i>Increment the pointer to the list.</i>
	Subtract	R2 , R2 , #1	<i>Decrement the counter.</i>
	Branch_if_[R2]>0	LOOP	<i>Branch back if not finished.</i>
	Store	R3 , <b>SUM</b>	<i>Store the final sum.</i>



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