

# 19. The Stack

## Chapter 10

November 5, 2018

- Data Structures
  - Linked Lists ←
  - Queues ←
- Hardware stack. ————— LIFO
  - Software implementation —
  - PUSH and POP
- Arithmetic using a stack

QUEUE: FIFO  
FIRST IN FIRST OUT

# Stack: An Abstract Data Type

An important abstraction that you will encounter in many applications

We will describe three uses:

## Interrupt-Driven I/O

- The rest of the story...

## Evaluating arithmetic expressions

- Store intermediate results on stack instead of in registers

## Data type conversion

- 2's comp binary to ASCII strings

SUBROUTINE CALLS — RECURSION

# Stacks

A LIFO (last-in first-out) storage structure.

- The **first** thing you put in is the **last** thing you take out.
- The **last** thing you put in is the **first** thing you take out.

This means of access is what defines a stack, not the specific implementation.



Two main operations:

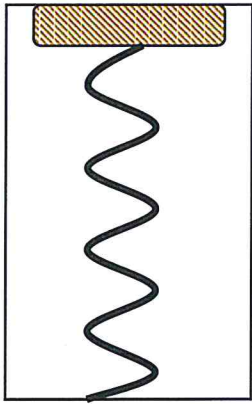
**PUSH:** add an item to the stack

**POP:** remove an item from the stack

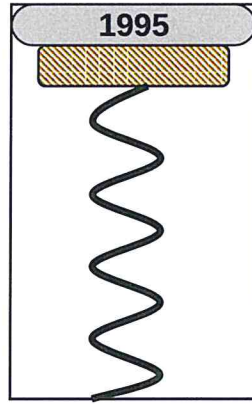
(HARDWARE)

# A Physical Stack

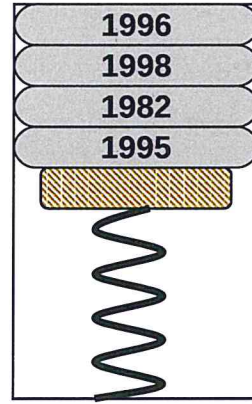
Coin rest in the arm of an automobile



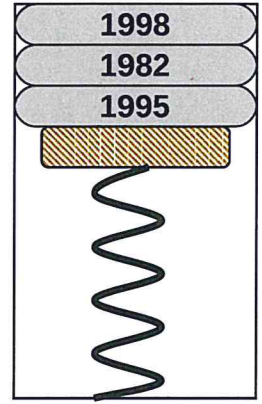
Initial State



After One Push



After Three More Pushes

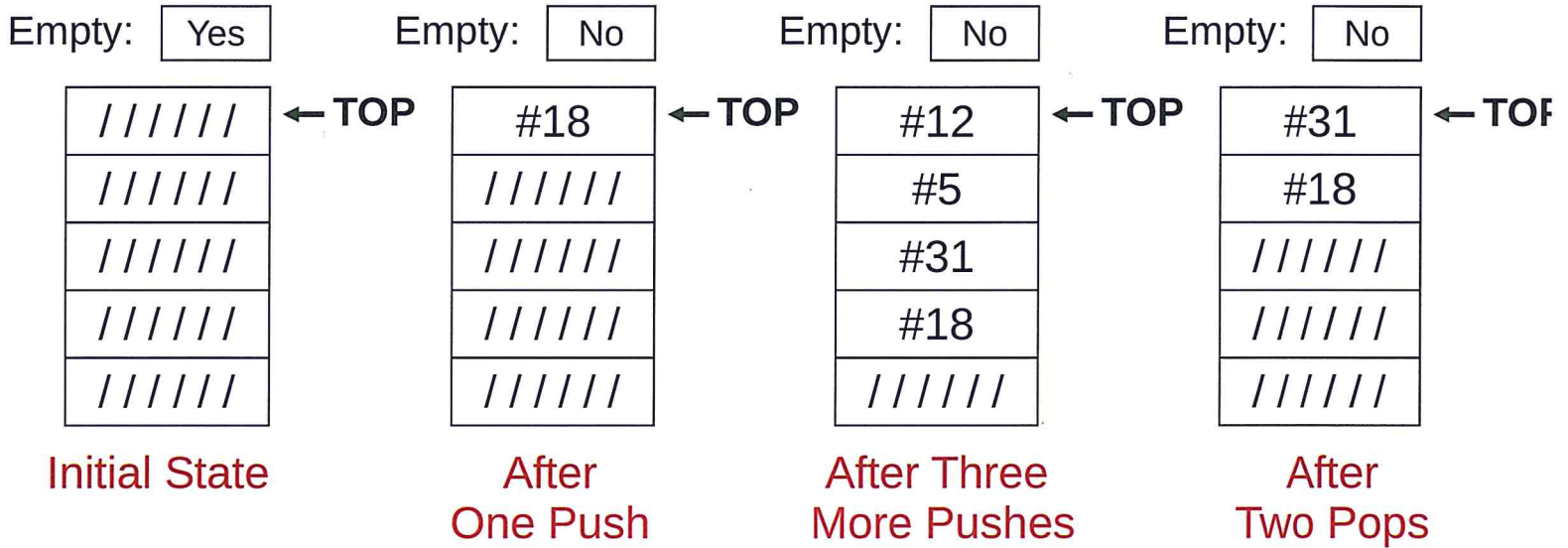


After One Pop

First quarter out is the last quarter in.

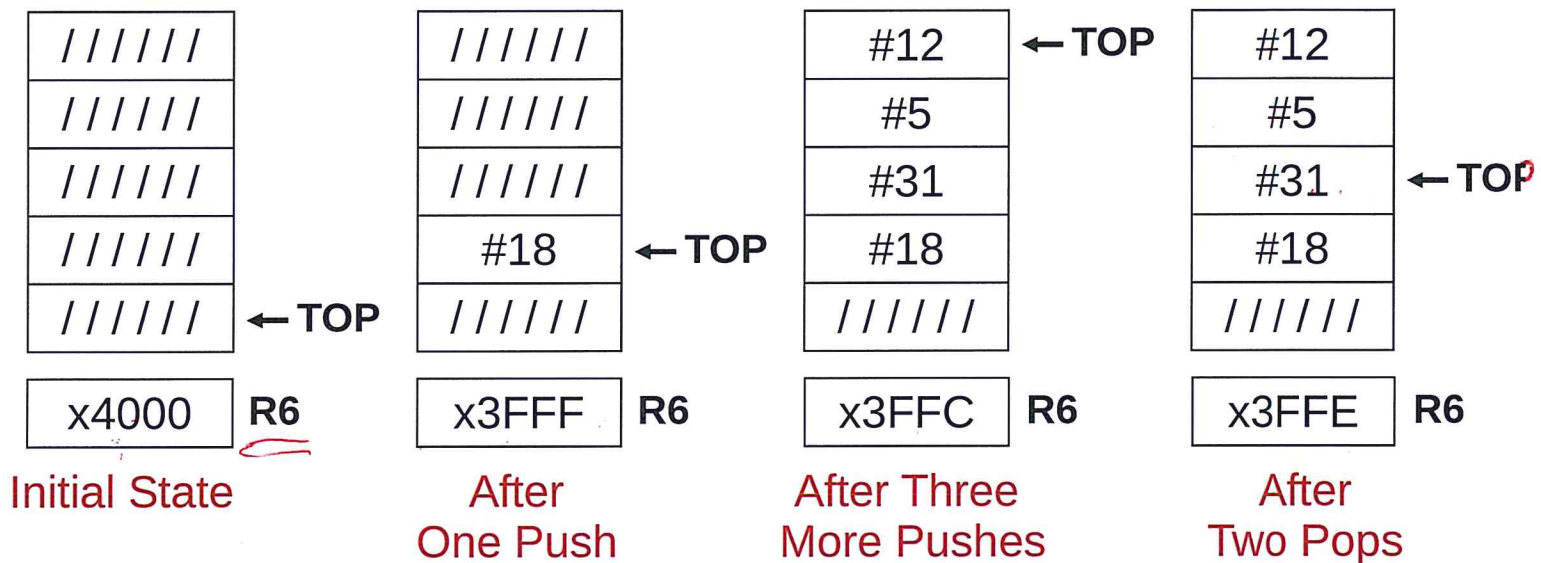
# A Hardware Implementation

Data items move between registers



# A Software Implementation

Data items don't move in memory,  
just our idea about there the TOP of the stack is.



By convention, R6 holds the Top of Stack (TOS) pointer.

## Basic Push and Pop Code

For our implementation, stack grows downward  
(when item added, TOS moves closer to 0) *DATA IN R0*

### Push

```
ADD  R6, R6, #-1 ; decrement stack ptr
STR  R0, R6, #0  ; store data (R0)
```

### Pop

```
LDR  R0, R6, #0  ; load data from TOS
ADD  R6, R6, #1  ; decrement stack ptr
                       increment
```

## Pop with Underflow Detection

If we try to pop too many items off the stack, an **underflow** condition occurs.

- Check for underflow by checking TOS before removing data.
- Return status code in R5 (0 for success, 1 for underflow)

```
POP    LD    R1, EMPTY    ; EMPTY = -x4000
      ADD  R2, R6, R1    ; Compare stack pointer
      BRZ  FAIL          ; with x3FFF
      LDR  R0, R6, #0
      ADD  R6, R6, #1
      AND  R5, R5, #0    ; SUCCESS: R5 = 0
      RET
FAIL   AND  R5, R5, #0    ; FAIL: R5 = 1
      ADD  R5, R5, #1
      RET
EMPTY  .FILL  xC000
```



## Push with Overflow Detection

If we try to push too many items onto the stack, an **overflow** condition occurs.

- Check for underflow by checking TOS before adding data.
- Return status code in R5 (0 for success, 1 for overflow)

```
PUSH  LD  R1, MAX      ; MAX = -x3FFB
      ADD R2, R6, R1  ; Compare stack pointer
      BRZ FAIL        ; with x3FFF
      ADD R6, R6, #-1
      STR R0, R6, #0
      AND R5, R5, #0 ; SUCCESS: R5 = 0
      RET
FAIL  AND R5, R5, #0 ; FAIL: R5 = 1
      ADD R5, R5, #1
      RET
MAX   .FILL xC005
```

# Saving Registers when using Stack

## Using R1, R2 and R5

Save R1 and R2 in PUSH and POP routines then restore before return

- Calling program does not have to know that these registers are being used
- **“Callee-save”**

R5 is needed to report success or failure

- Calling program needs to save R5 before the JSR routine is executed
- **“Caller-save”**

# Arithmetic Using a Stack

Instead of registers, some ISAs use a stack for source and destination operations: a **zero-address** machine

- Example:

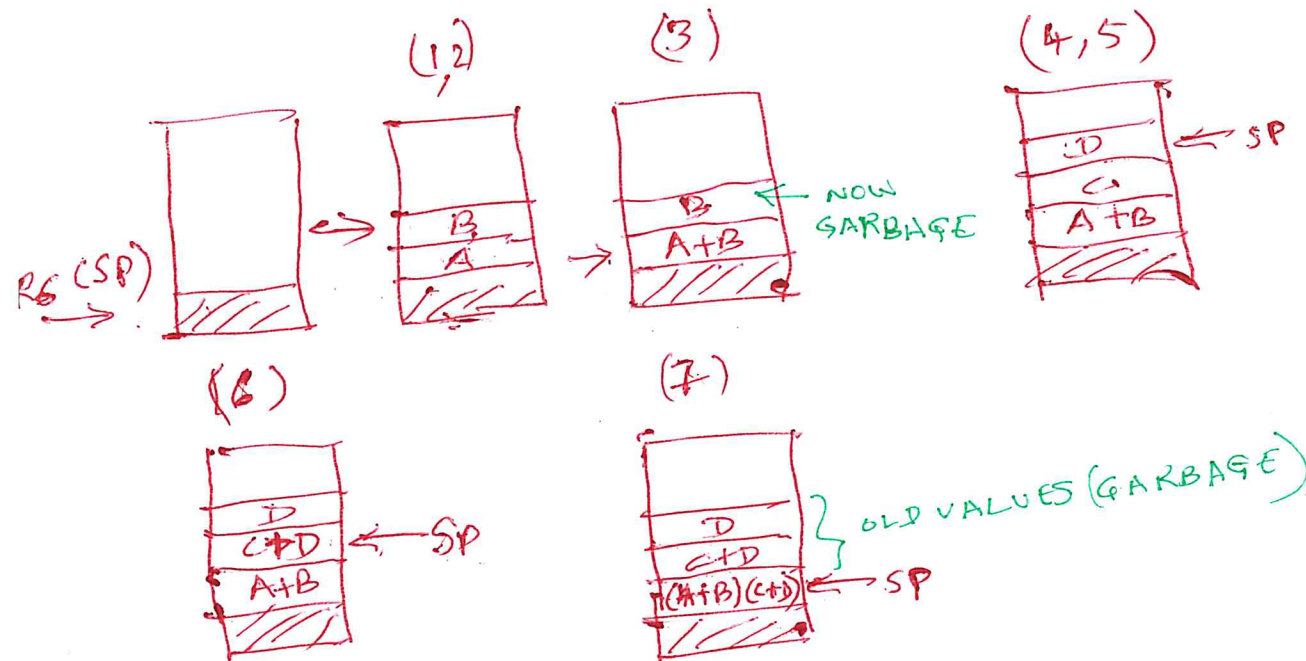
ADD instruction pops two numbers from the stack, adds them, and pushes the result to the stack.

Evaluating  $(A+B) \cdot (C+D)$  using a stack:

- (1) push A
- (2) push B
- (3) ADD
- (4) push C
- (5) push D
- (6) ADD
- (7) MULTIPLY
- (8) pop result

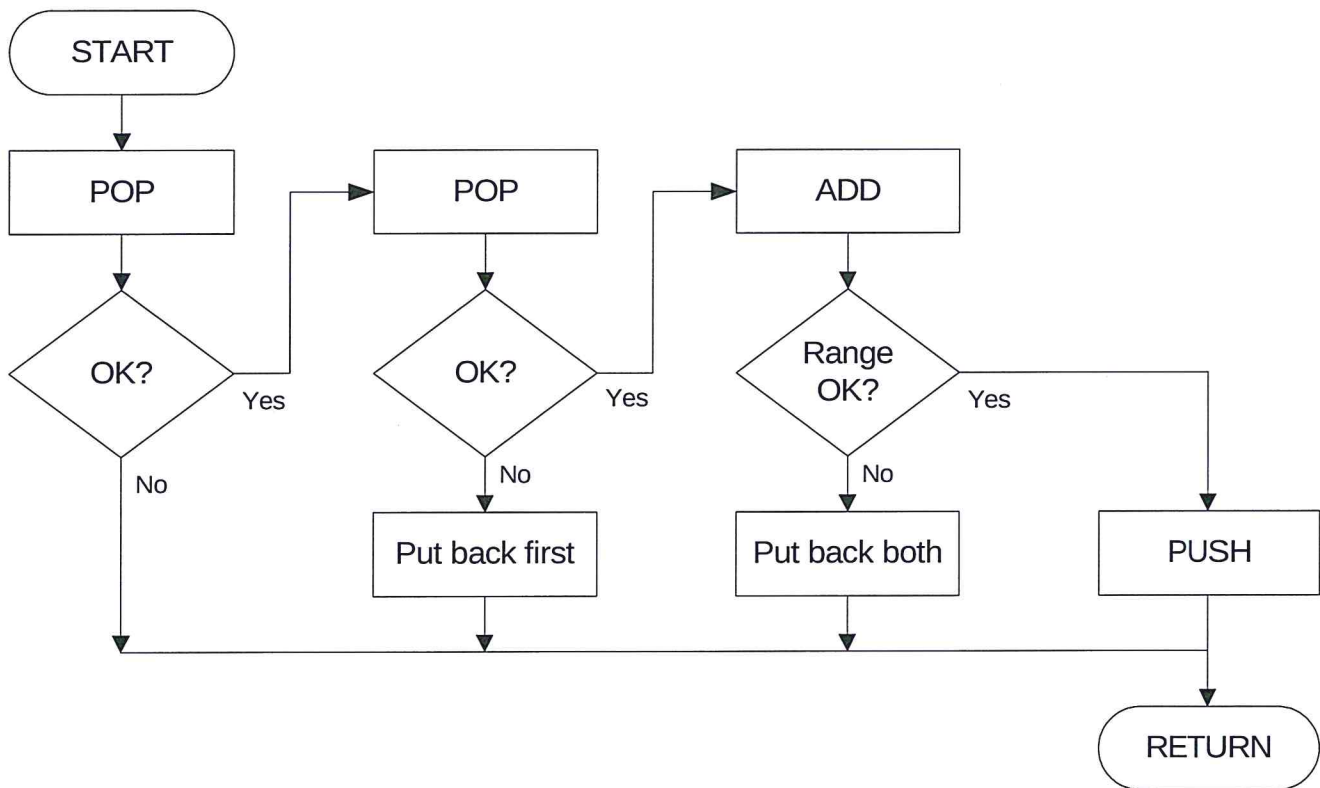
### Why use a stack?

- Limited registers.
- Convenient calling convention for subroutines.
- Algorithm naturally expressed using ~~FIFO~~ LIFO data structure.



# Example: OpAdd

POP two values, ADD, then PUSH result.



## Example: OpAdd

```
OpAdd   JSR POP           ; Get first operand.
        ADD R5, R5, #0    ; Check for POP success.
        BRp Exit         ; If error, bail.
        ADD R1, R0, #0    ; Make room for second.
        JSR POP           ; Get second operand.
        ADD R5, R5, #0    ; Check for POP success.
        BRp Restore1     ; If err, restore & bail.
        ADD R0, R0, R1    ; Compute sum.
        JSR RangeCheck   ; Check size.
        BRp Restore2     ; If err, restore & bail.
        JSR PUSH         ; Push sum onto stack.
        RET
Restore2 ADD R6, R6, #-1  ; Decrement stack pointer
        ; (undo POP)
Restore1 ADD R6, R6, #-1  ; Decrement stack pointer
Exit    RET
```

ISSUE WITH R7 (SUBROUTINE CALLING ANOTHER SUBROUTINE)  
SAVE R7 IN MEMORY OR PUSH/POP ON/FROM STACK