

Call Stack and Call Hierarchy

1. Call Hierarchy

Call hierarchy describes the logical order of function calls in a program. It shows which function calls which other function, forming a tree structure.

Example:

```
void C() { }  
  
void B() { C(); }  
  
void A() { B(); }  
  
int main() { A(); }
```

Call hierarchy: $\text{main()} \rightarrow \text{A()} \rightarrow \text{B()} \rightarrow \text{C()}$

2. Call Stack

The call stack is a runtime memory structure that stores active function calls. It follows the Last In, First Out (LIFO) principle.

What the Call Stack Stores:

- 1 Function parameters
- 2 Local variables
- 3 Return address

Stack Example:

```
| C |  
| B |  
| A |  
| main |
```

Call Stack and Debugging

When a program crashes, debuggers show a stack trace. It lists the function calls that led to the error.

Example Stack Trace:

```
#0 C()  
#1 B()  
#2 A()  
#3 main()
```

Call Stack and Recursion

Each recursive call pushes a new frame onto the stack. Without a base condition, this leads to stack overflow.

Invalid Example:

```
void f() { f(); }
```

Summary

- 1 Call hierarchy shows function relationships.

- 2 Call stack manages execution at runtime.
- 3 Stack uses LIFO ordering.