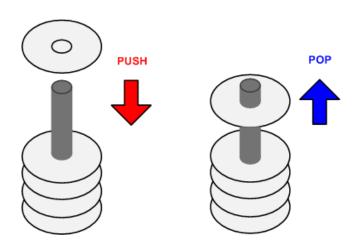
L5 functions

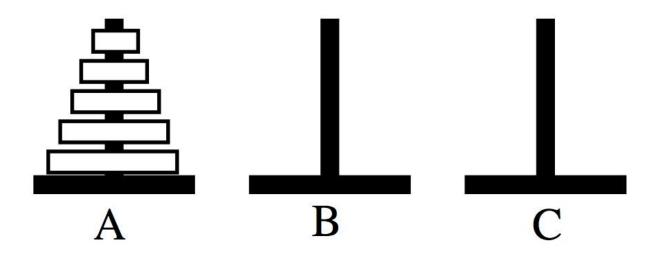
Stack

- A Last-In-First-Out data structure
- Only allow to access the most recently added item
 - Also called the top of the stack
- Key operations:
 - push (add item to stack)
 - pop (remove top item from stack)





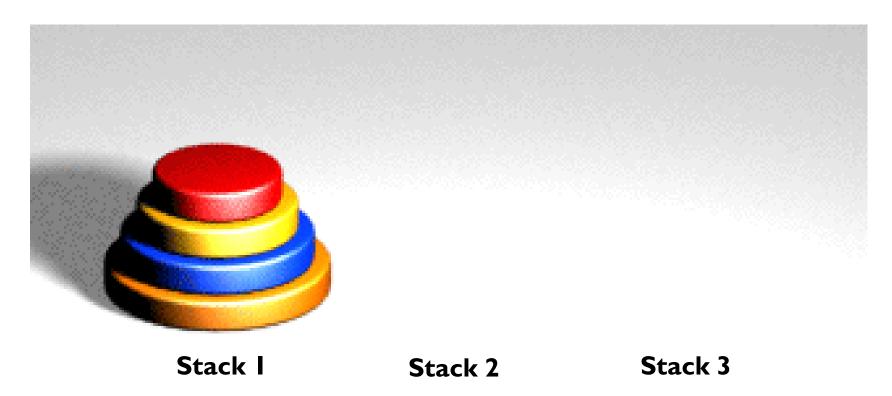
Tower of Hanoi



- Only one disk may be moved at a time.
- Each move consists of taking the upper disk from one of the rods and sliding it onto another rod, on top of the other disks that may already be present on that rod.
- No disk may be placed on top of a smaller disk.

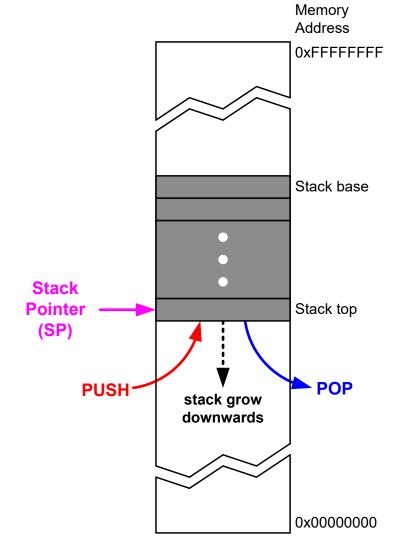
Tower of Hanoi

STACK: Last In First Out



Cortex-M Stack

- Descending stack
 - Grows from top to bottom
- Stack Pointer (SP) (R13) contains memory address of top element of the stack
 - decremented on PUSH
 - incremented on POP
- The assembly file startup.s defines stack space and initializes SP.



Stack

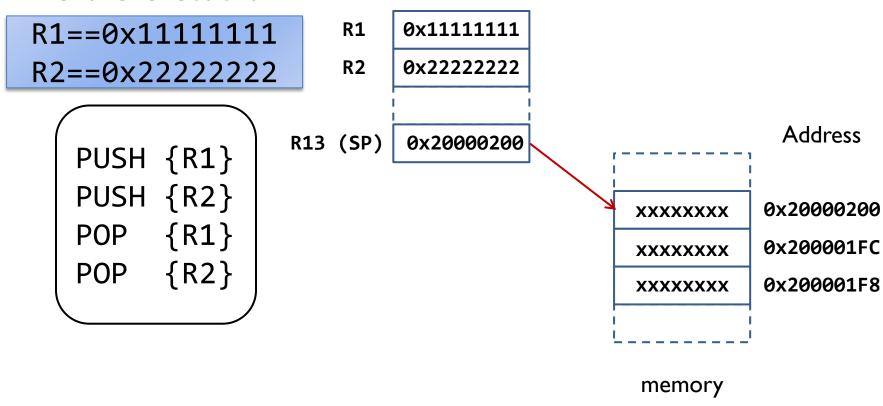
PUSH {*Rd*}

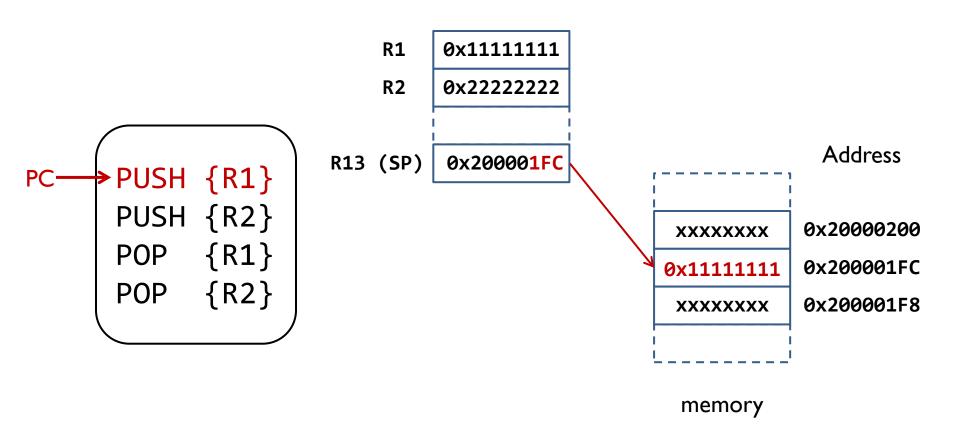
- \triangleright SP = SP-4 \longrightarrow Stack grows downward
- ► (*SP) = Rd → Rd is pushed and assigned to top element of stack (C Syntax)

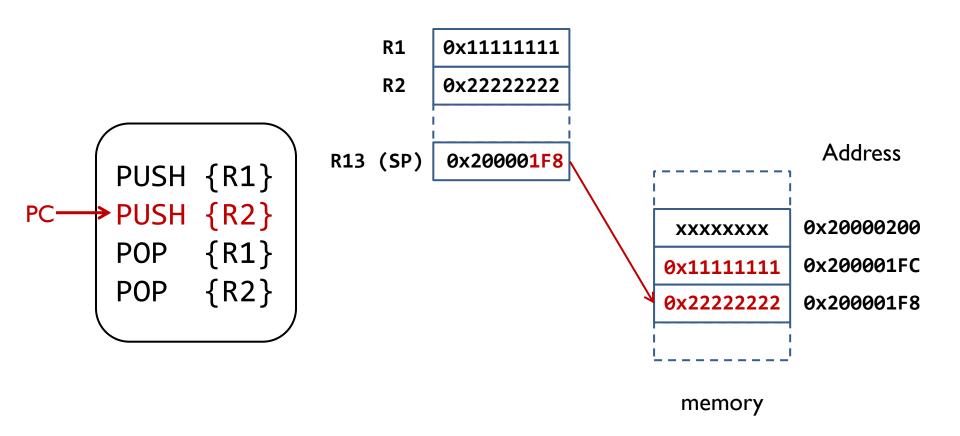
POP {*Rd*}

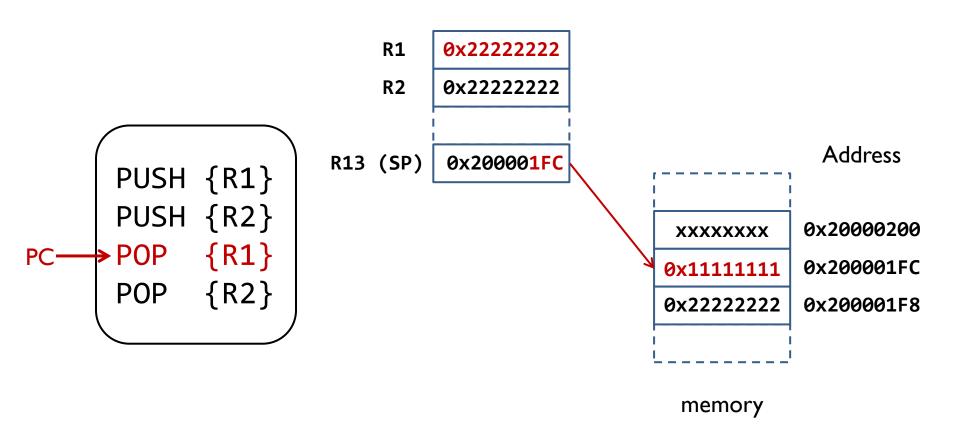
- ► Rd = (*SP) \longrightarrow Top element of stack is popped and assigned to Rd (C Syntax)
- \rightarrow SP = SP + 4 \rightarrow Stack shrinks upward

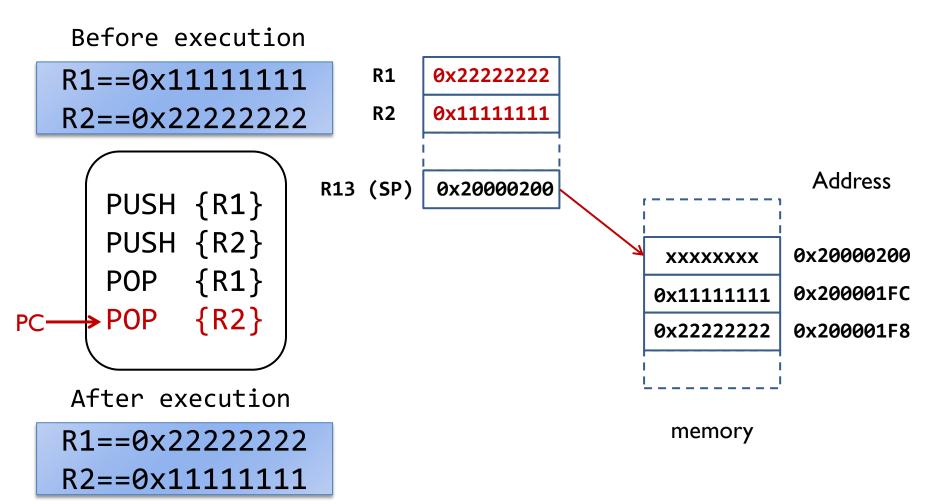
Before execution











Not an efficient approach for swapping numbers! Incurs 4 memory accesses. Much more efficient to use another register to do swap.

PUSH/POP Multiple Registers

```
They are equivalent.

PUSH {r8}

PUSH {r7, r8}

PUSH {r8}

PUSH {r7}

PUSH {r7}

PUSH {r6}

PUSH {r7}

PUSH {r6}

PUSH {r6}

PUSH {r6}

POP {r6, r7, r8}

POP {r8, r7, r6}

POP {r6}

POP {r8}
```

- PUSH/POP multiple registers in a single statement: the order in which registers listed in the {register list} does not matter
 - When pushing multiple registers, these registers are automatically sorted by name and the lowest-numbered register is stored to the lowest memory address, i.e. is stored last.
 - When popping multiple registers, these registers are automatically sorted by name and the lowest-numbered register is loaded from the lowest memory address, i.e. is loaded first.
- PUSH {register list} followed by POP{register list} leaves the values in register list unchanged. Useful for saving and restoring register values in functions.

Quiz

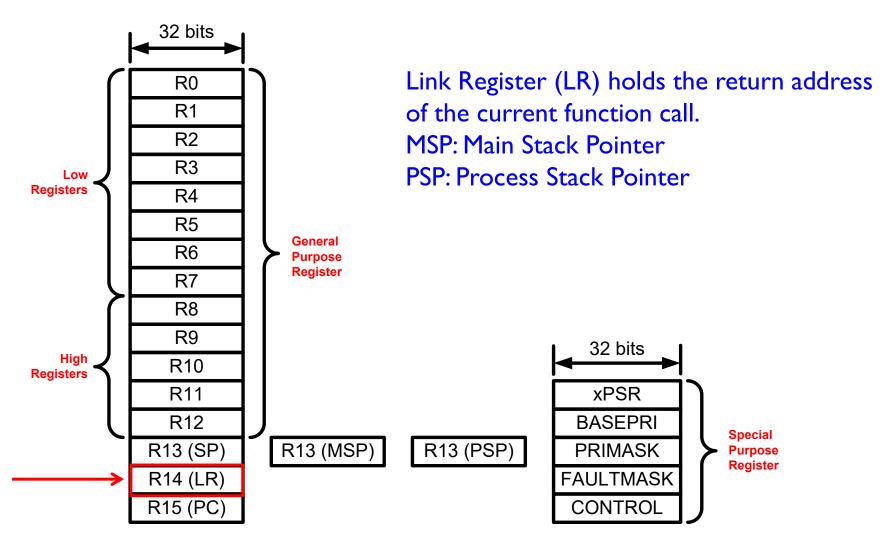
Are the values of R1 and R2 swapped?

```
PUSH {R1, R2}
   POP {R1, R2}
Answer: No. This code is equivalent to:
                                      The following programs perform swap:
  PUSH {R2}
                                          PUSH {R1, R2}
  PUSH {R1}
                                          POP {R2}
                                          POP {R1}
  POP {R1}
  POP {R2}
                                      or
This leaves R1 and R2 unchanged
                                          PUSH {R1}
                                          PUSH {R2}
                                          POP {R1, R2}
```

Function

- A function, also called a subroutine or a procedure
 - Single-entry, single-exit
 - Returns to caller after it exits
- When a function is called, the Link Register (LR) holds the memory address of the next instruction to be executed after the function exits.
 - ▶ PC + 4

Link Register



Calling a function: Two Ways

BL label

```
Equiv. operation:
```

```
\blacktriangleright LR = PC + 4
```

PC = label

BX LR

Equiv. operation:

```
PC = LR
```

```
Caller Program

BL foo
```

```
function/Callee

foo PROC

...

BX LR

ENDP
```

BL label

```
Equiv. operation:
LR = PC + 4
```

```
▶ PC = label
```

PUSH{LR}

. . .

POP{PC}

▶ Equiv. operation:

```
PC = LR
```

```
Caller Program
...
BL foo
...
```

```
function/Callee
foo PROC
    PUSH {LR}
    ...
    POP {PC}
    ENDP
```

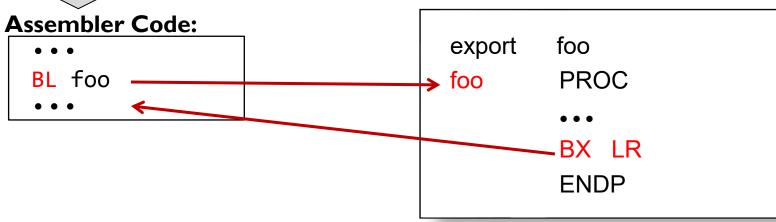
Notes on Previous Slide

- foo is name of function
- The PROC/ENDP directives mark the start/end of a function
 - For programmer's convenience only, they are not present in the final machine code
 - Equivalently: FUNC/ENDFUNC
- The two approaches (BX or PUSH{LR}+POP{PC} in callee) are functionally equivalent
 - ▶ BX approach is more efficient since it does not access memory

Calling a function: BX LR

C Code:



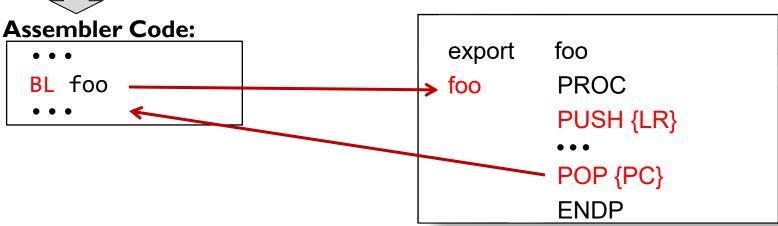


Calling a function: PUSH(LR)+POP(PC)

C Code:

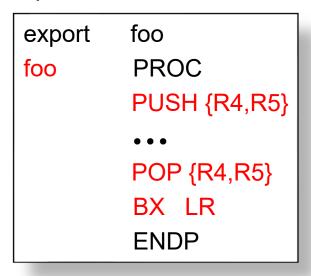
```
void foo(void);
Main() {
      •••
      foo();
      •••}
```





Calling a function w/ Saving/Restoring R4-R11

Option I with BX LR



Option 2 with PUSH{LR}+POP{PC}

```
export foo
foo PROC
PUSH {R4,R5, LR}

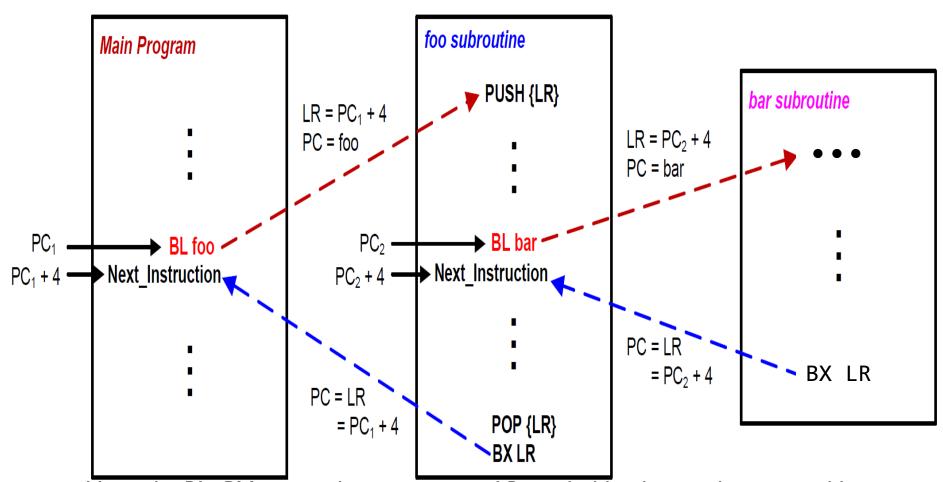
•••
POP {R4,R5, PC}
ENDP
```

Since LR is R14, the above is equivalent to:

```
export foo
foo PROC
PUSH {LR}
PUSH {R4,R5}

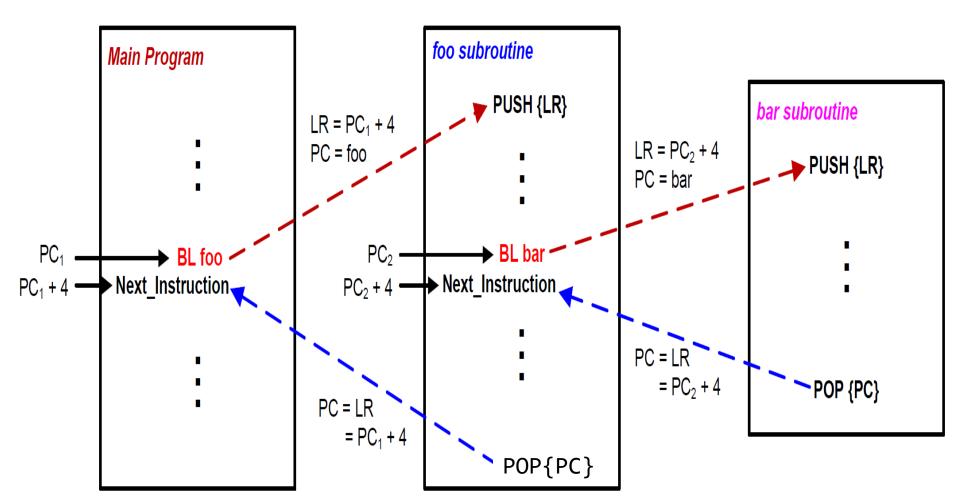
•••
POP {R4,R5}
POP {PC}
ENDP
```

Nested Function Call w/ BX in Callee



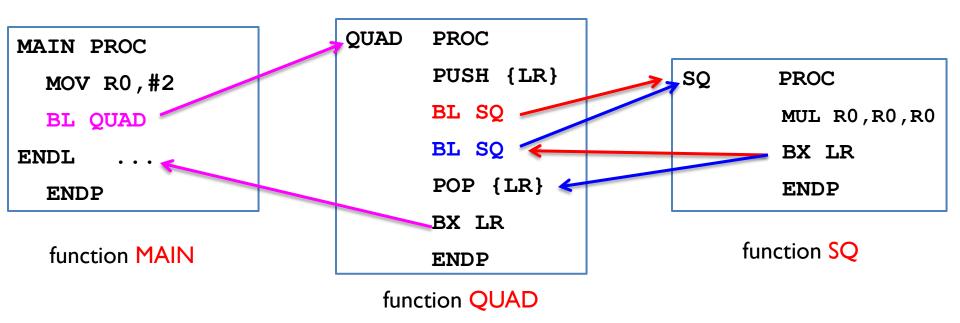
Using the BL+BX approach: since register LR can hold only a single return address, a function that calls other functions must preserve LR at its entry point and restore its original content before returning, by using PUSH(LR) and POP(LR) instructions to store and load the first caller's return address LR in memory.

Nested Function Call w/ PUSH(LR)+POP(PC) in Callee



Using the PUSH{LR}+POP{PC} approach, every function has the same form, so you don't have to modify the code if you add one more level of nested function call

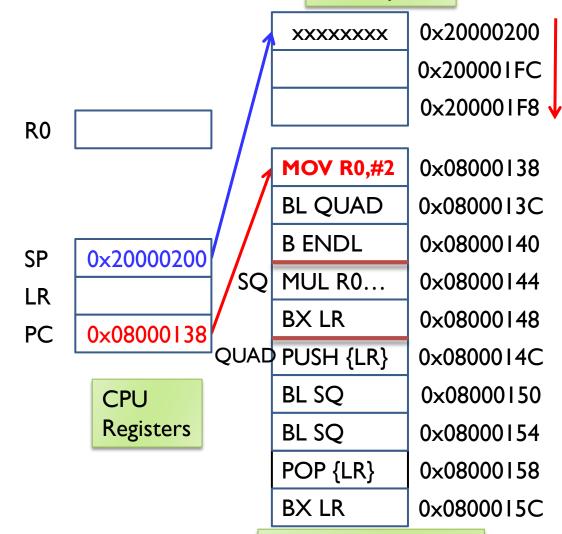
Nested Function Call: R0 = R0⁴



- MAIN calls QUAD, QUAD calls SQ
- Register R0 is used to pass both the argument and the return result $(R0 = R0^4)$
- Assume 32-bit memory address. Every item (register, instruction, data on stack) is 32 bits = 4 Bytes.

Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2
	BL QUAD
	B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO
	BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR}
QUAD	PUSH {LR}
QUAD	
QUAD	BL SQ
QUAD	BL SQ BL SQ

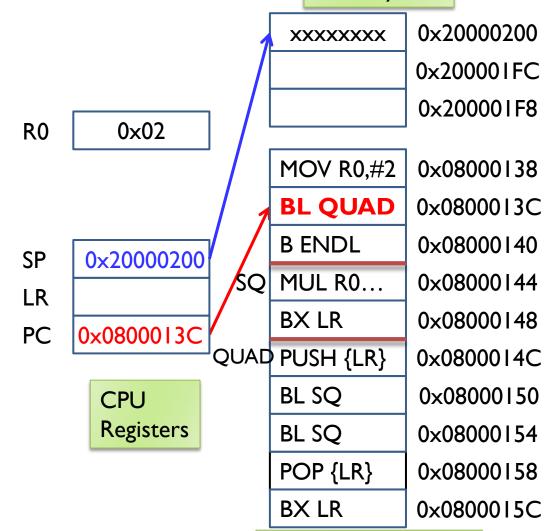


Program in

Instruction memory 24

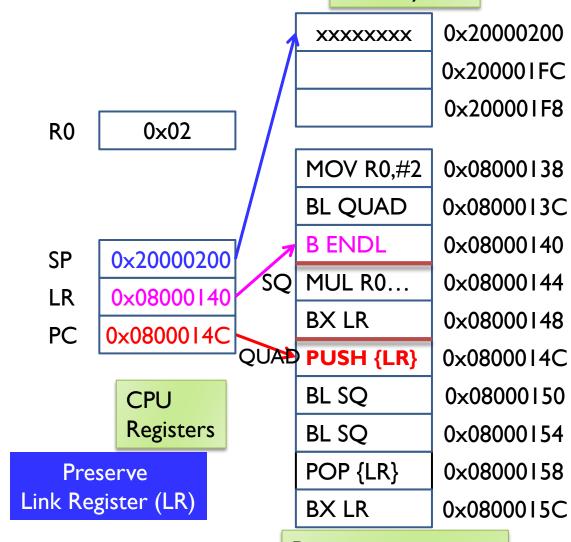
Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
sQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



Stack in Data Memory

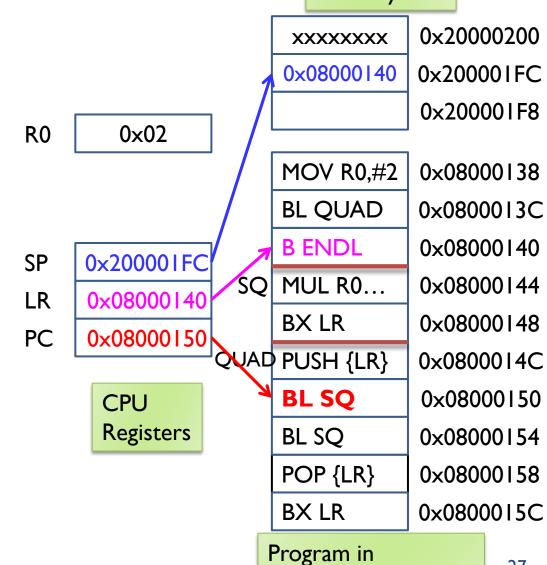
	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



Stack in Data Memory

Instruction memory

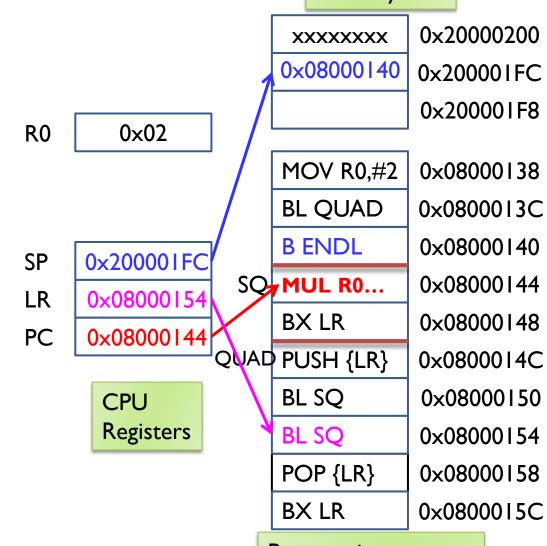
	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



27

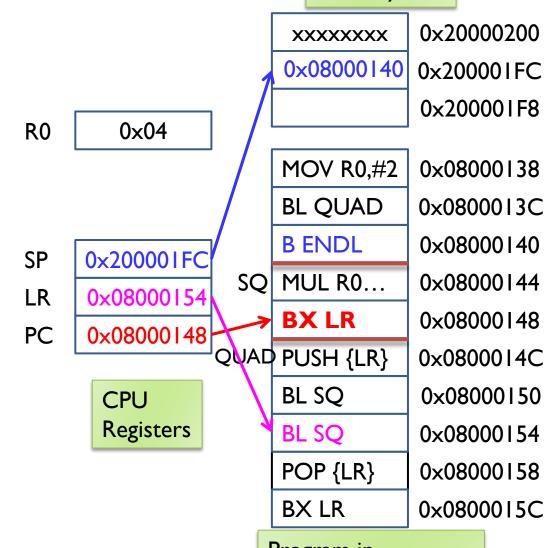
Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



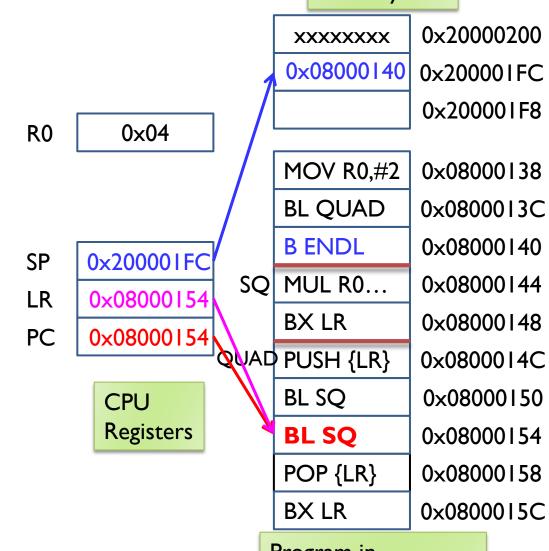
Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR
RNDT	• • •



Stack in Data Memory

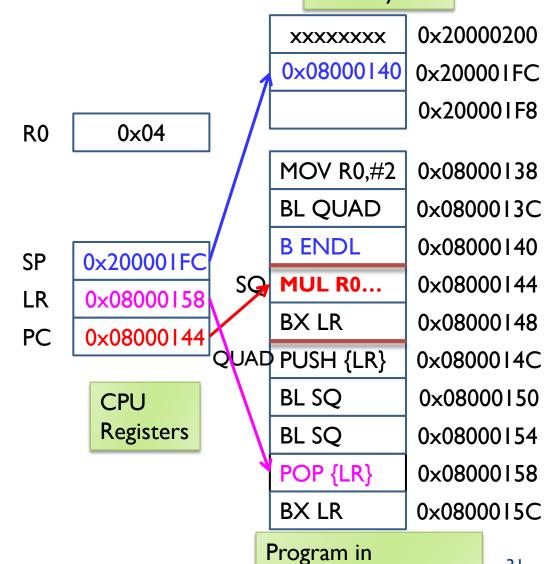
	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



Stack in Data Memory

Instruction memory

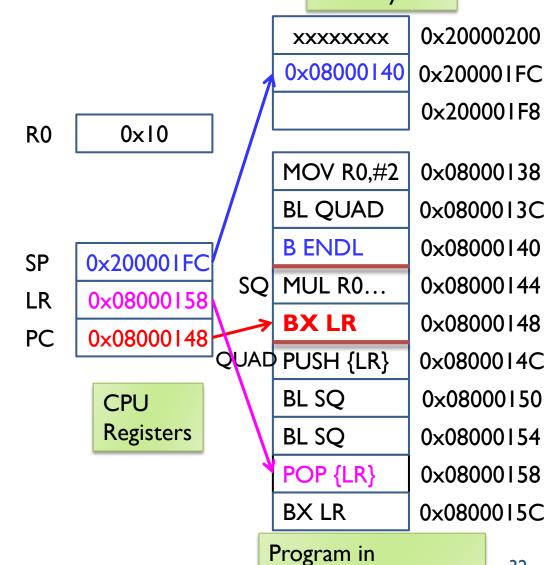
	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
_	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR
ENDL	



Stack in Data Memory

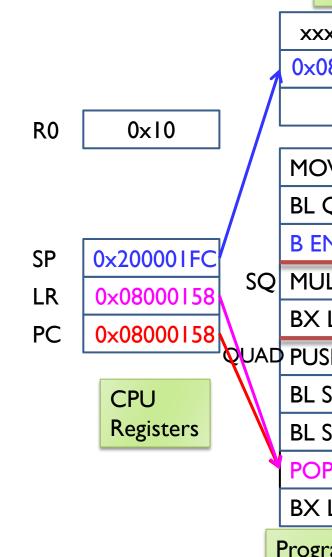
Instruction memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR



Stack in Data Memory

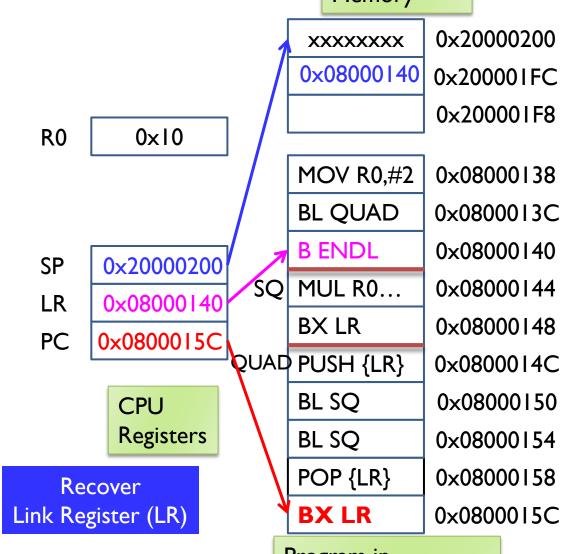
MOV R0,#2
BL QUAD
B ENDL
MUL RO
BX LR
PUSH {LR}
BL SQ
BL SQ
BL SQ POP {LR}
~



0×20000200 **XXXXXXXX** 0×08000140 0x200001FC 0×200001F8 MOV R0,#2 0x08000138 **BL QUAD** 0x0800013C **B ENDL** 0×08000140 MUL RO... 0×08000144 BX LR 0×08000148 **QUAD PUSH {LR}** 0x0800014C **BL SQ** 0×08000150 BL SQ 0×08000154 POP {LR} 0x08000158 BX LR 0x0800015C

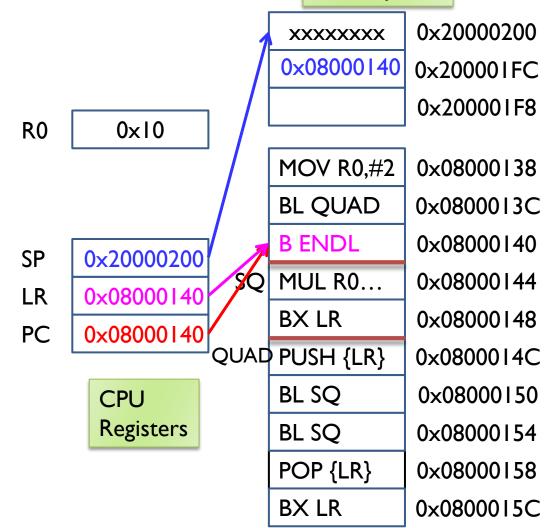
Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
SQ	MUL RO BX LR
_	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR
ENDL	• • •

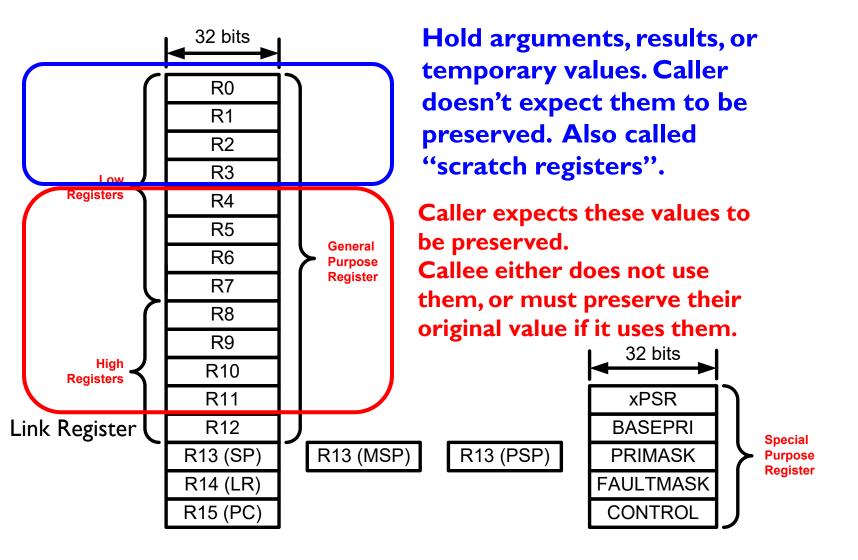


Stack in Data Memory

	MOV R0,#2 BL QUAD B ENDL
sQ	MUL RO BX LR
QUAD	PUSH {LR} BL SQ BL SQ POP {LR} BX LR
ENDL	• • •



Arguments and Return Values



On Conventions

- "Callee must preserve values of R4-R11, but not R0-R3"
 - This is a programming convention adopted by ARM compilers and assemblers that helps with interoperability among software written by different people (the processor hardware doesn't care how you use the registers)
 - Like driving on the right side of the road in North America (the road doesn't care how cars are driven on it)
- What if you don't respect this convention?
 - If you write everything (assembler code, compiler toolchain...) by yourself, free to adopt your own convention, but your code or tool will not interoperate with the rest of the world

Calling a Function without Preserving R4-R11

Caller Program	function/Callee
MOV R4, #100 BL foo % R4 has the incorrect value of 10 ADD R4, R4, #1	foo PROC MOV R4, #10 ; foo changes R4 BX LR ENDP

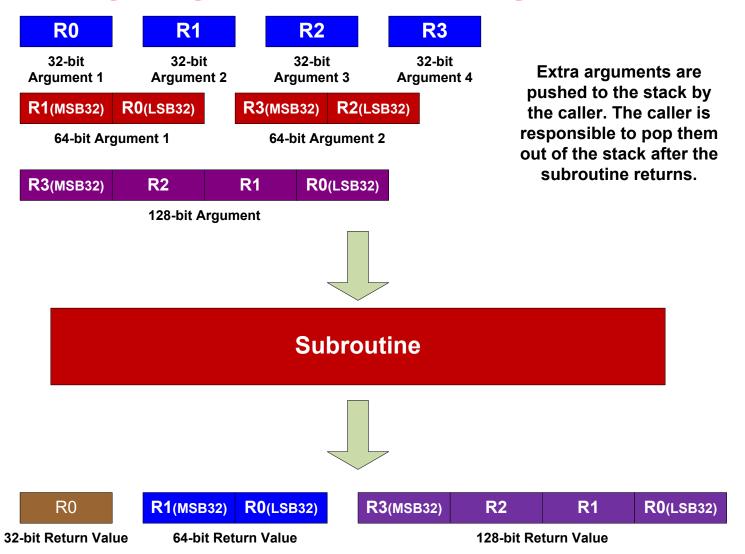
Callee must preserve values of R4-R11

Calling a Function, Preserving r4-r11

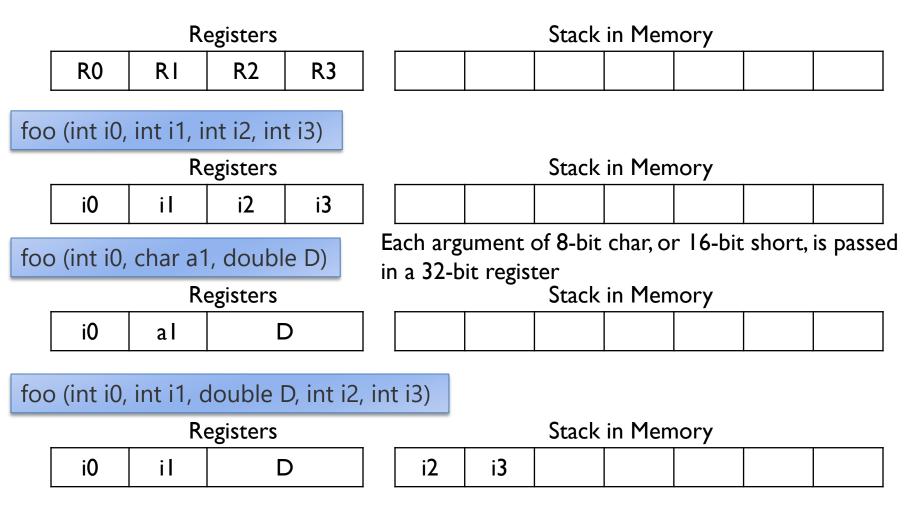
Caller Program	function/Callee
MOV R4, #100 BL foo % R4 has the correct value of 100	foo PROC PUSH {R4} ; preserve R4 MOV R4, #10 ; foo changes R4 POP {R4} ; Recover R4
ADD R4, R4, #1	BX LR ENDP

Callee must preserve values of R4-R11

Passing Arguments via Registers R0-R3



Additional Arguments Passed on Stack



Caller passes arguments i0, i1, D in registers R0-R3 directly; pushes additional arguments i2 and i3 onto the stack before function call (details not covered in this lecture)

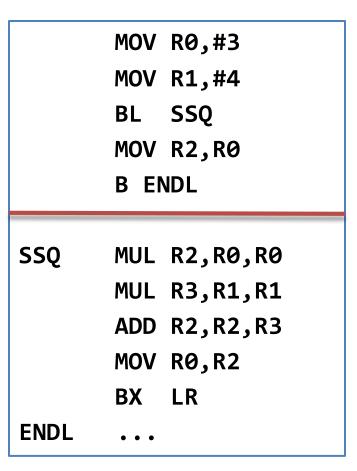
```
MOV R0,#3
      MOV R1,#4
                                    R1: second argument
      BL SSQ
      MOV R2,R0
                               R0: first argument
       B ENDL
SSQ MUL R2, R0, R0
                                    int SSQ(int x, int y){
                                      int z;
      MUL R3,R1,R1
                                      z = x * x + y * y;
      ADD R2, R2, R3
                                      return z;
      MOV R0, R2
      BX LR
                                R0: Return Value
```

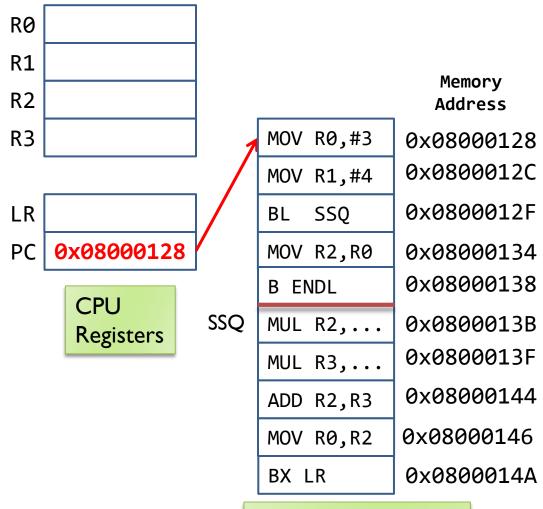
Redundancy?

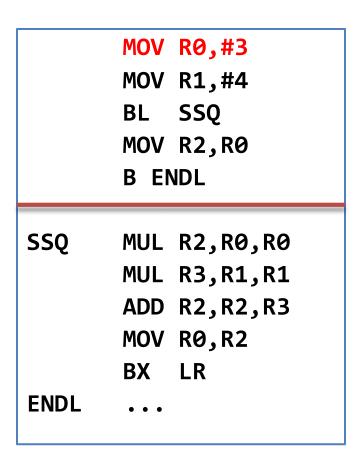
- ▶ This program does not use the stack
 - No nested function calls
 - All arguments fit in R0-R3
- Why do you have "MOV R0, R2" in the callee, and "MOV R2,R0" in the caller? Aren't they redundant?
 - ▶ Return value must be in R0, hence must have "MOV R0, R2" in the callee before return
 - The specification says "R2=R0*R0+R1*R1", hence "MOV R2, R0" in the caller after function return
- Actually the program can be rewritten to improve efficiency. See next slide.

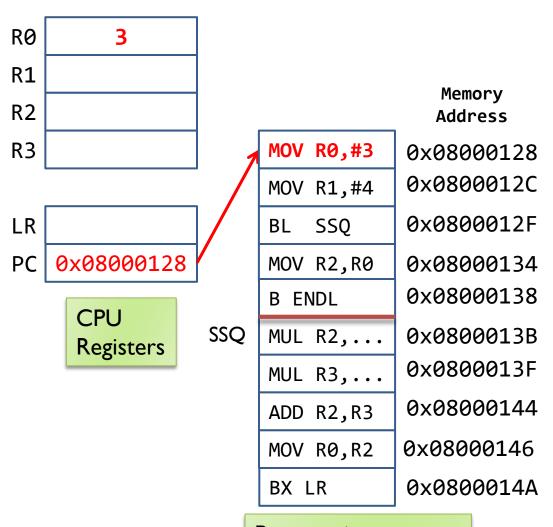
Example simplified: R0 = R0*R0+R1*R1

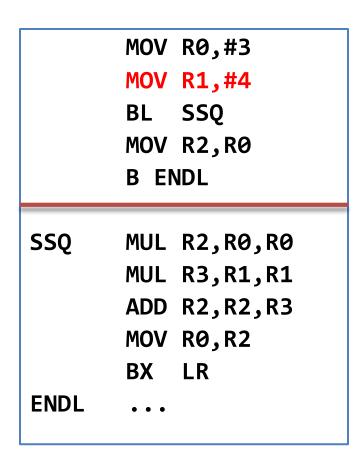
This version uses fewer registers and is more efficient. MOV R0,#3 But we use the previous version for illustration purpose MOV R1,#4 R1: second argument BL SSQ R0: first argument B ENDL MUL R0, R0, R0 SSQ int SSQ(int x, int y){ int z; MUL R1,R1,R1 z = x * x + y * y;ADD R0,R0,R1 return z; BX LR R0: Return Value

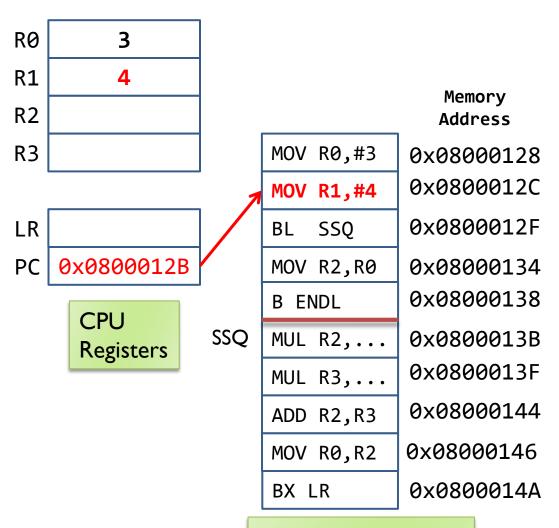


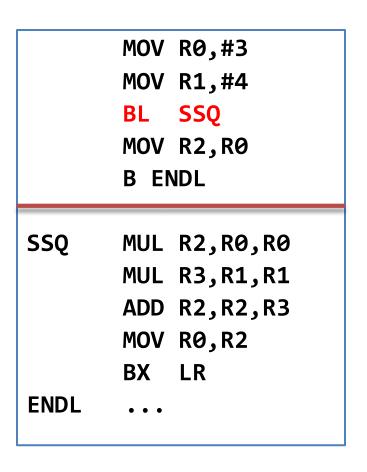


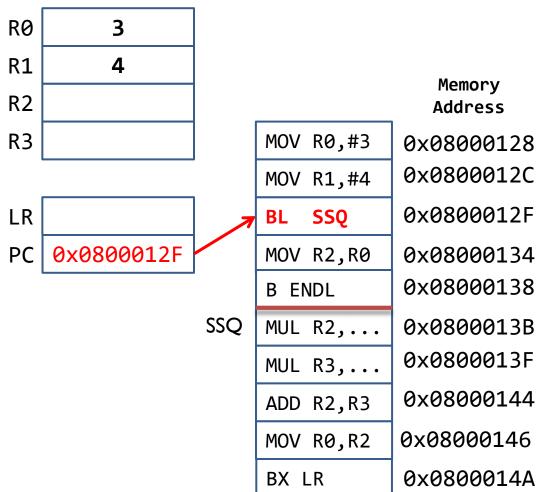


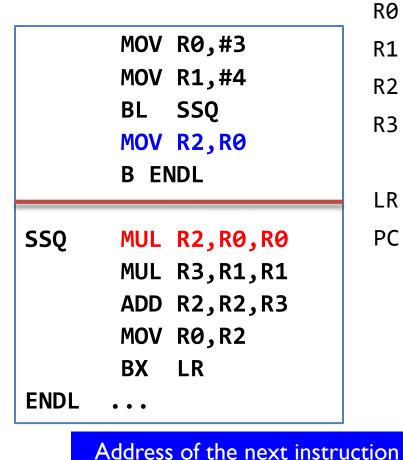


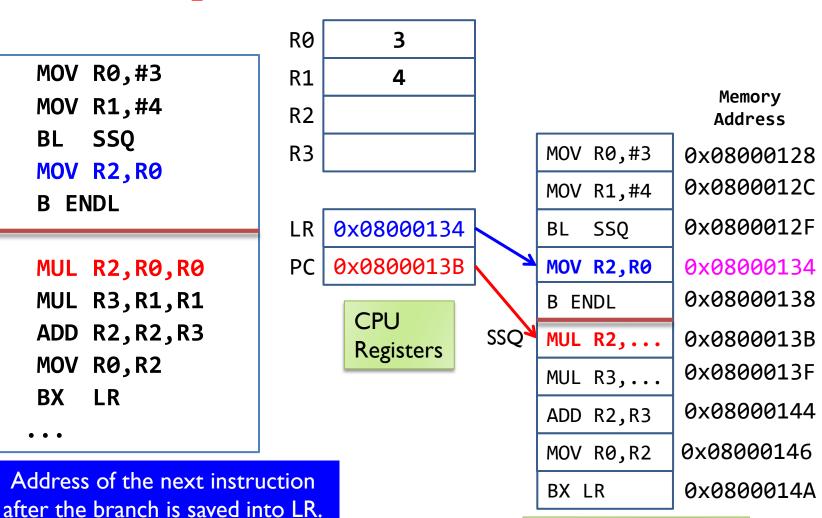


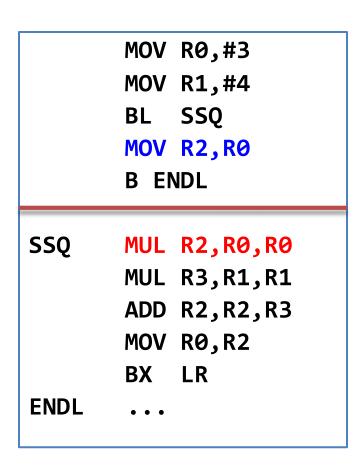


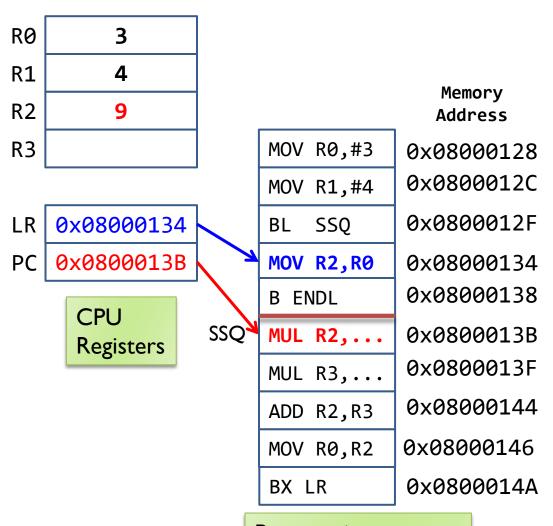


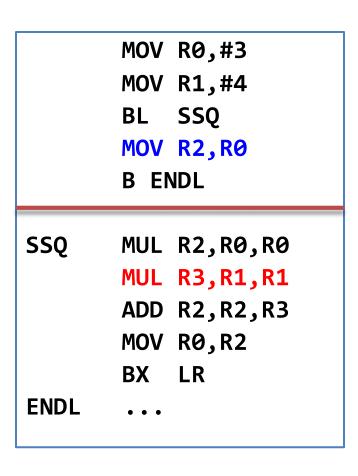


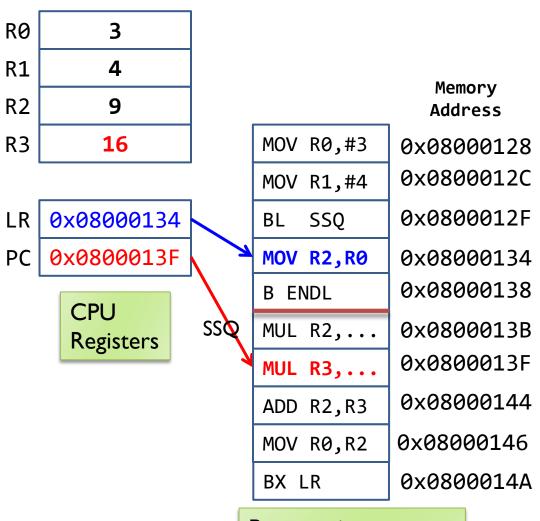


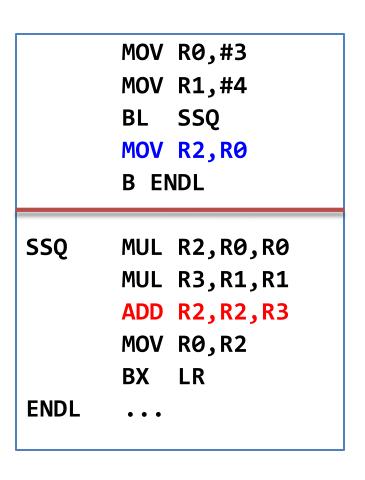


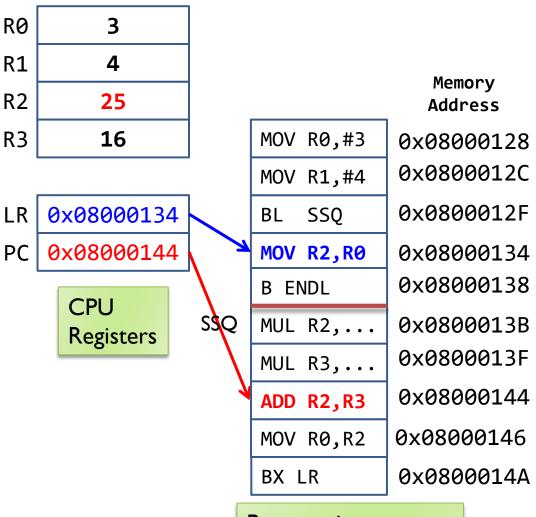


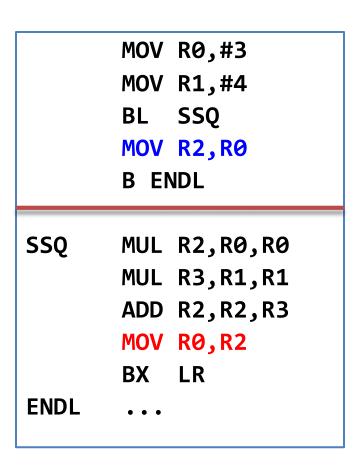


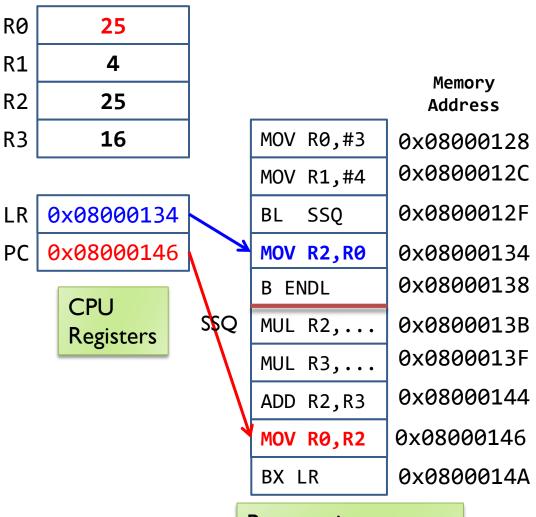


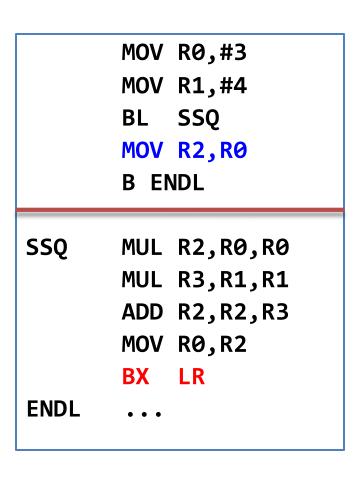


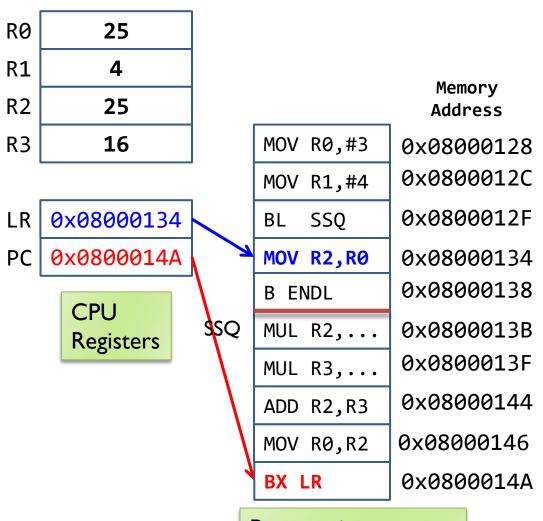


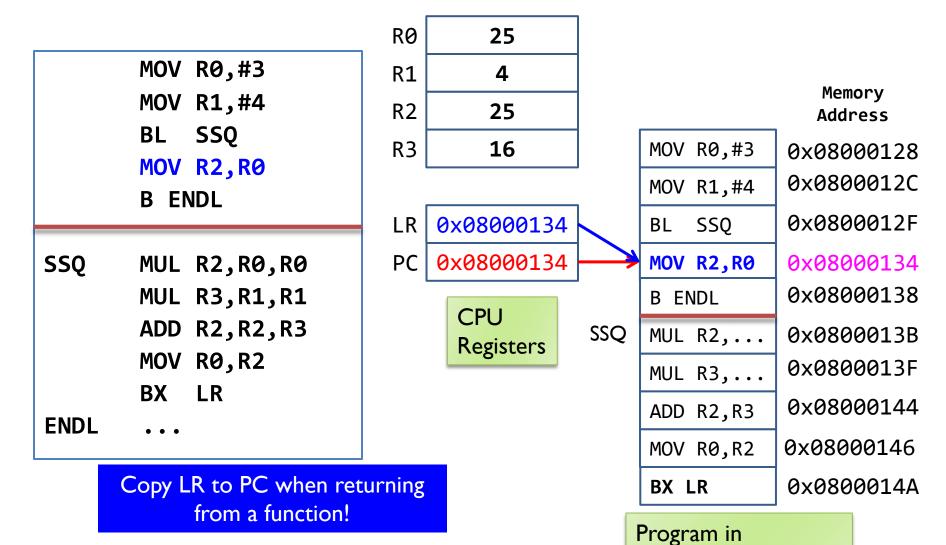




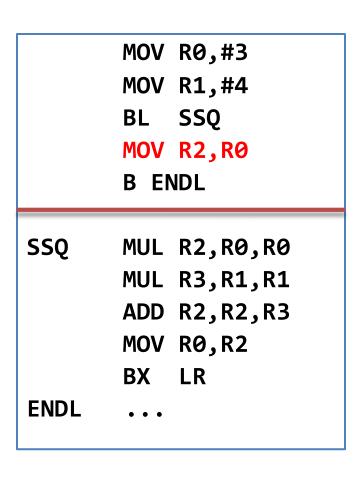


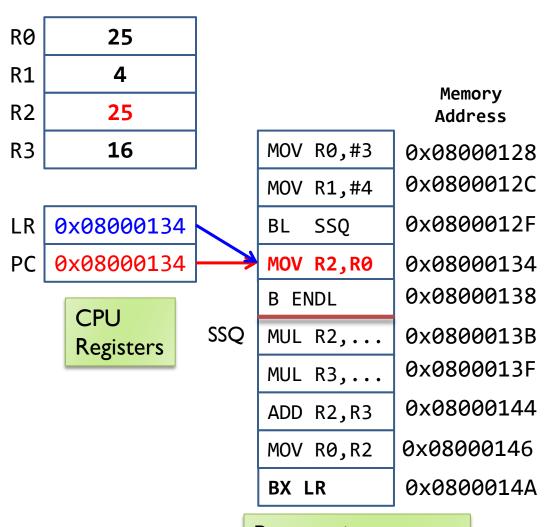


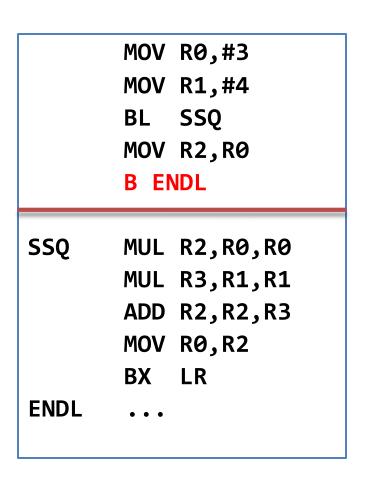


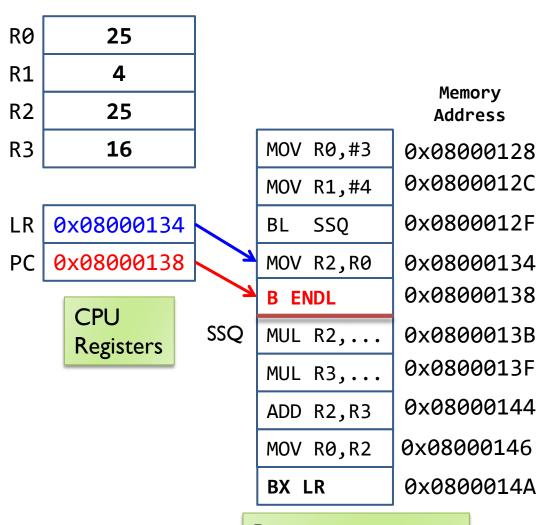


Instruction memory









Summary

- Stack
 - PUSH and POP operations
- Calling a function
 - ▶ Either BX, or PUSH(LR)+POP(PC) in callee
- Calling conventions
 - ▶ R0-R3: scratch registers that can be changed by callee
 - ▶ R4-R11: caller expects their value to stay unchanged before and after a function call
- Passing arguments and returning a value
 - Arguments passed in R0-R3, plus stack if necessary
 - ▶ Value returned in R0-R3, depending on its size