

Data Structure Layout

In HERA/Assembly

Today, we're going to build some data structures in HERA

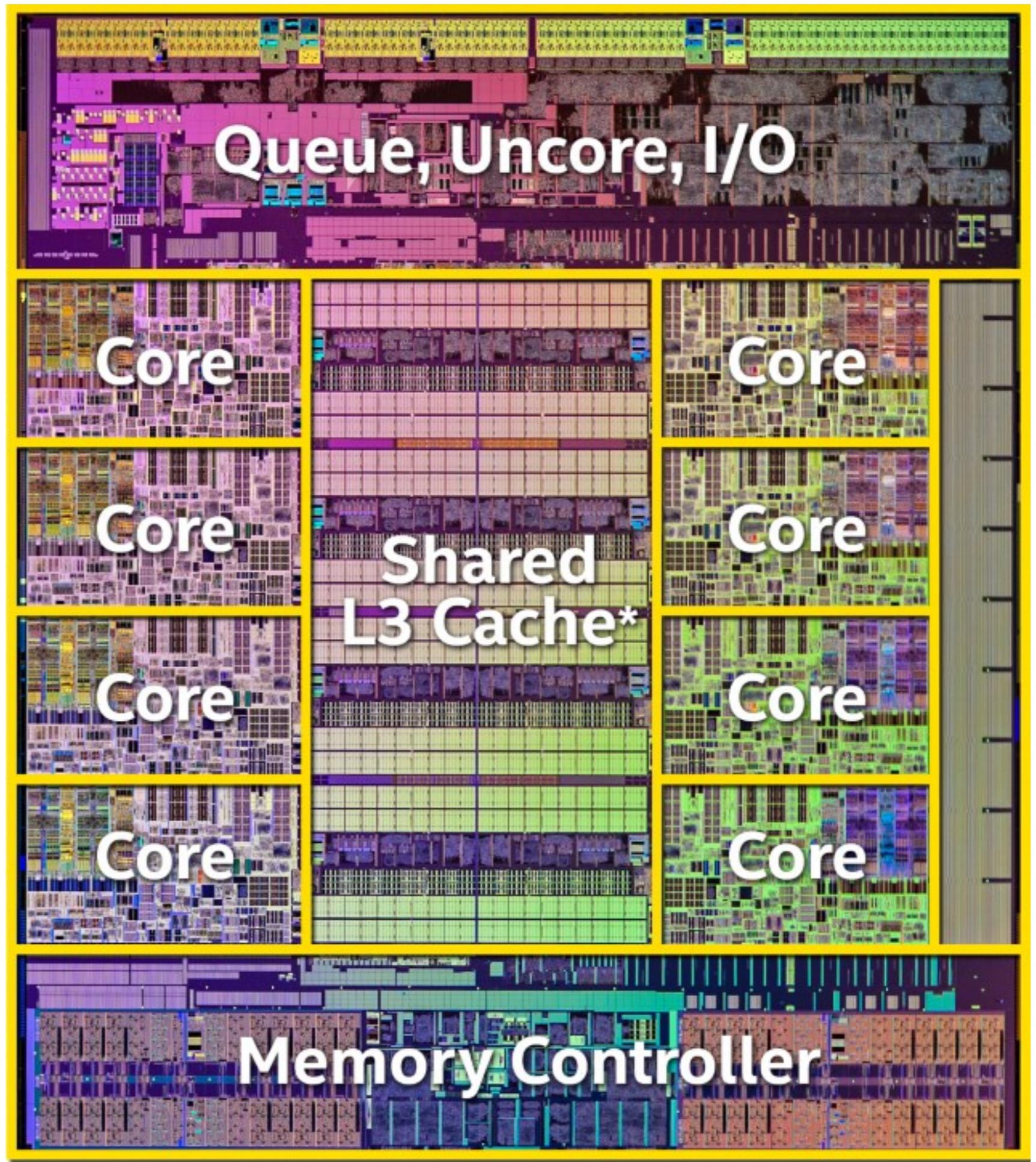
First, a note on memory

Registers are very fast

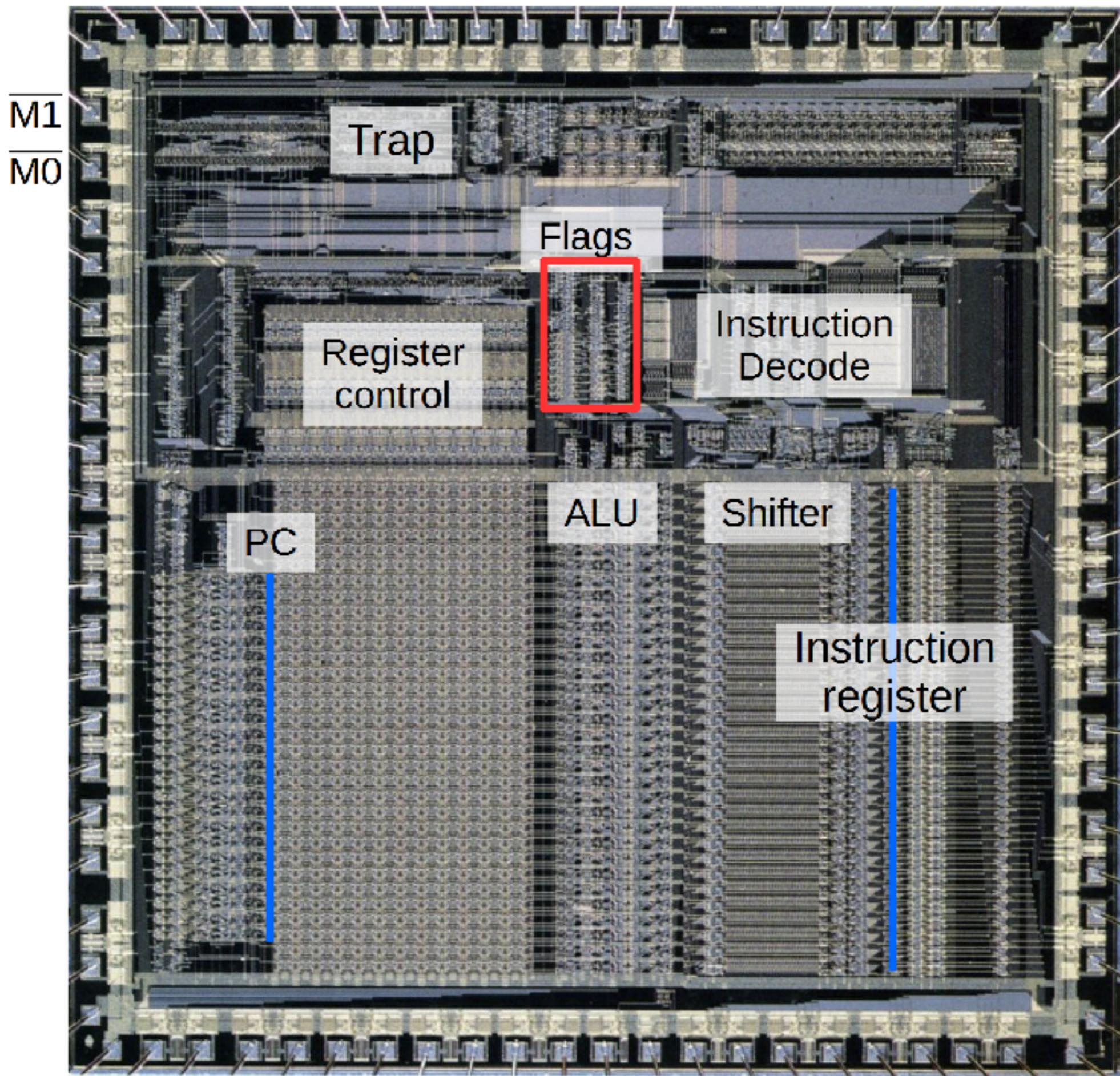
RAM is relatively slow

We use a cache to sit between them

8-core
Haswell chip







Why can't you just do everything in registers?

Here's the moral of today's
lecture...

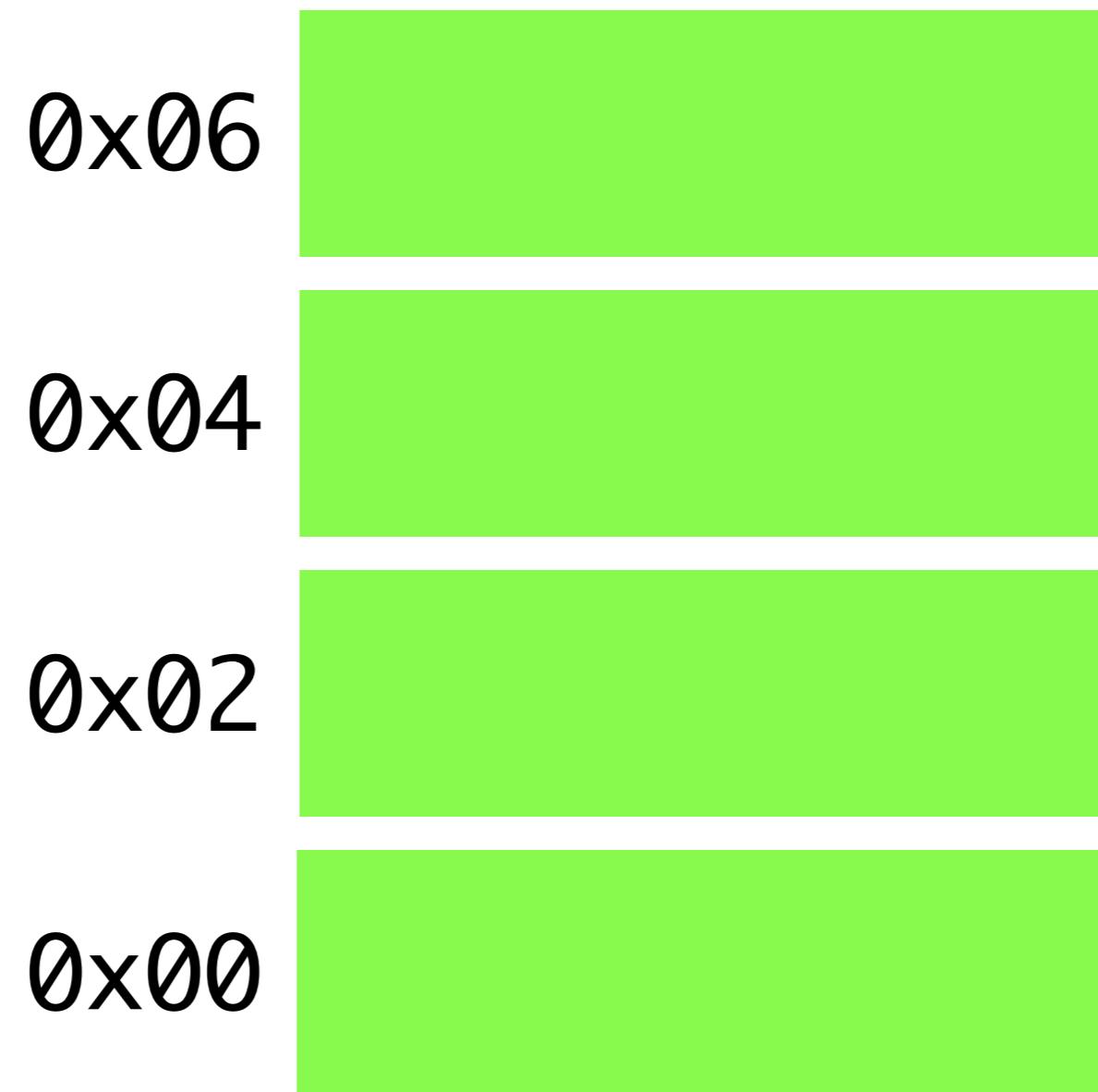
You could, but it would be pretty slow.
Smart programming is about knowing
when to use one vs. the other

One nice thing about C/C++ is that the compiler is **very good** at making these kinds of decisions for you

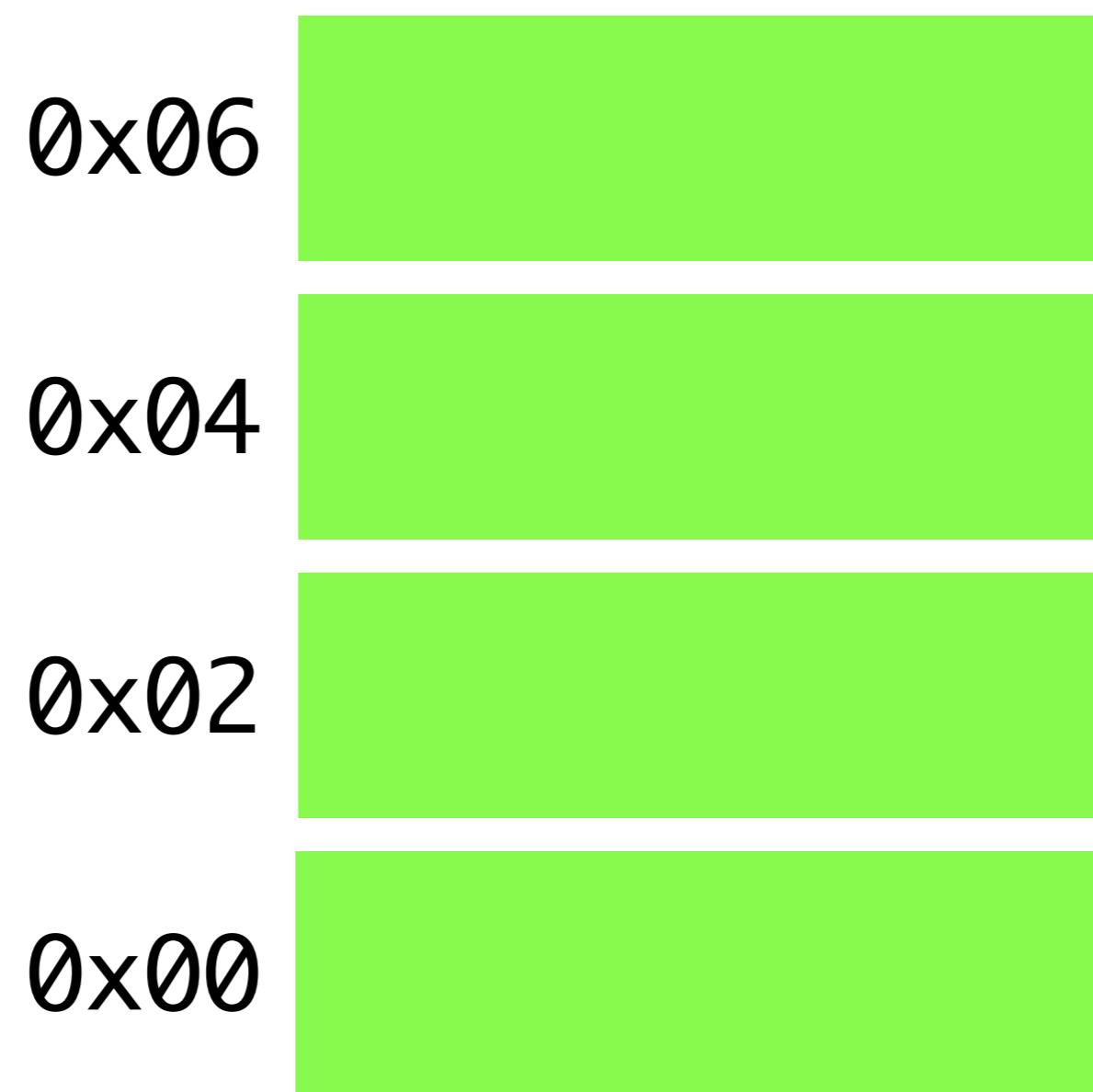
One mistake I made from yesterday

HERA organizes memory into **words**,
two-byte sequences

So I said you would STORE(R_d , 0, R_b) and $R_b = 2$



But I was wrong, it turns out you would use I



**HERA automatically multiplies all of
your indices by 2**

Let's start with a binary tree

In C++

```
struct BinaryTree {  
    int value;  
    BinaryTree *left;  
    BinaryTree *right;  
}
```

2 bytes

Index

Value

Int

0

Left

BinaryTree *

1

Right

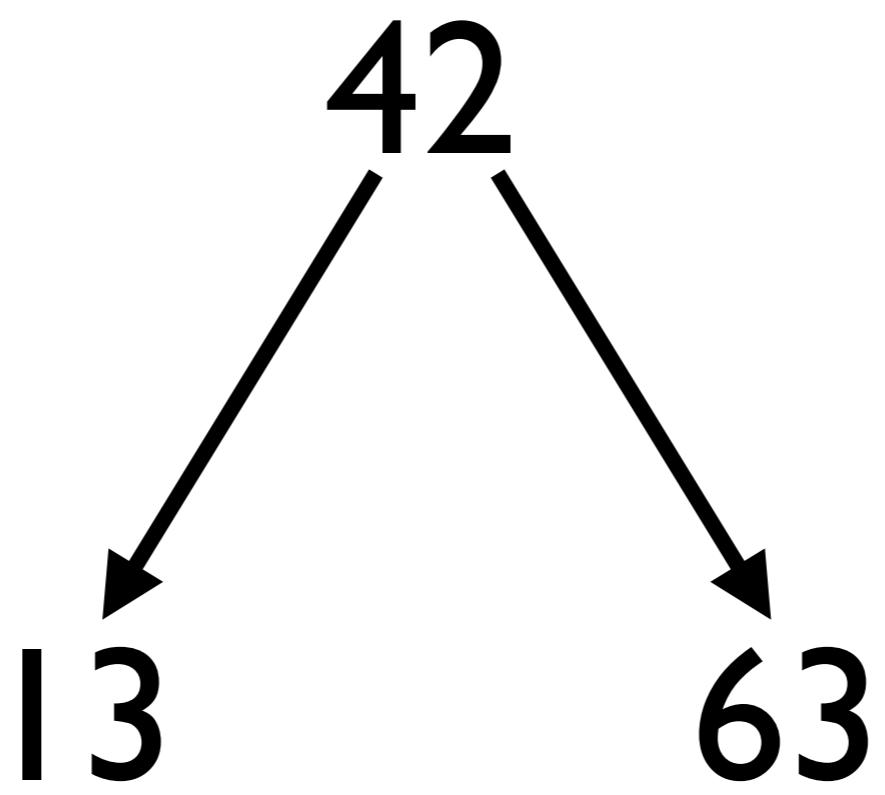
BinaryTree *

2

Use NULL (0) to indicate empty pointer

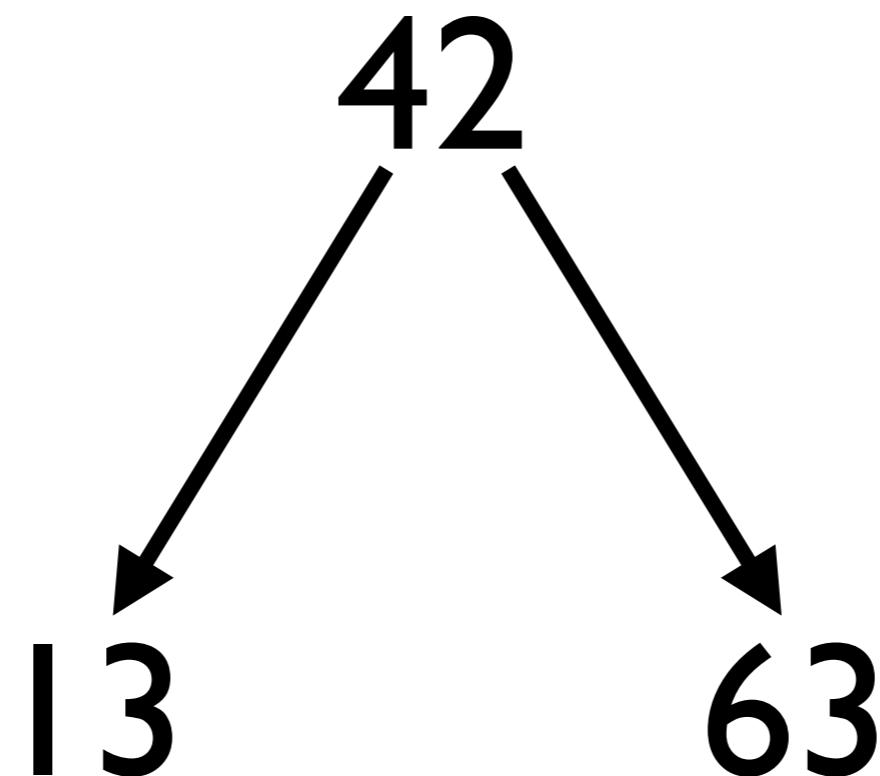
Your job, use INTEGER to create a binary tree containing 42. Label the tree root

Now consider this binary tree



Build this binary tree

Use INTEGER and labels



Functions

Implemented a variety of ways. The simplest way is to pass/return args/result in registers

For now, don't worry about returning from the function

```
int getValue(BinaryTree *t) { return t->value; }
```

```
// Assume R1 contains the tree  
// Result placed in R2  
LABEL(getValue)  
LOAD(R2, 0, R1)
```

Note: the programmer using this has to know
the input / outputs

Figure out how to “call” that function

Now, how do we **return** from
our function?

Answer: pass a pointer to the **next** instruction
when you call it

(Use a HERA label)

“I want you to get the value, and then **next**
I want you to go to label
afterGetValue”



```
// Assume R1 contains the tree
// Assume R2 contains next instr
// Result placed in R3
LABEL(getValue)
    LOAD(R3, 0, R1)
    BR(R2)
```

Your assignment

Call this function, pass in a label to “next” instruction, then add one to the result

Alternatively: instead of passing in label to return to, pass in offset ($I + \text{current instruction}$)

(We'll see how to use this later..)

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HERA convention: use **temporary** register, R_t / R_{13}

setLeft sets the left child to some value

setLeft(t, node)

Assignment: write **setLeft**



Functions I call can corrupt **my** registers

Consider the following code...

```
// Assume R1 contains the tree  
// Assume R2 contains next instr  
// Result placed in R3  
LABEL(getValue)  
    LOAD(R3, 0, R1)  
    SET(R4, 0)  
    BR(R2)          This overwrites R4
```

So if caller using R4, this fails

A non-contrived example...

```
int sumTree(BinaryTree *t) {  
    if (t == NULL) {  
        return 0;  
    } else {  
        return sumTree(t->left)  
            + sumTree(t->right)  
            + sumTree(t->value);  
    }  
}
```

Attempt I

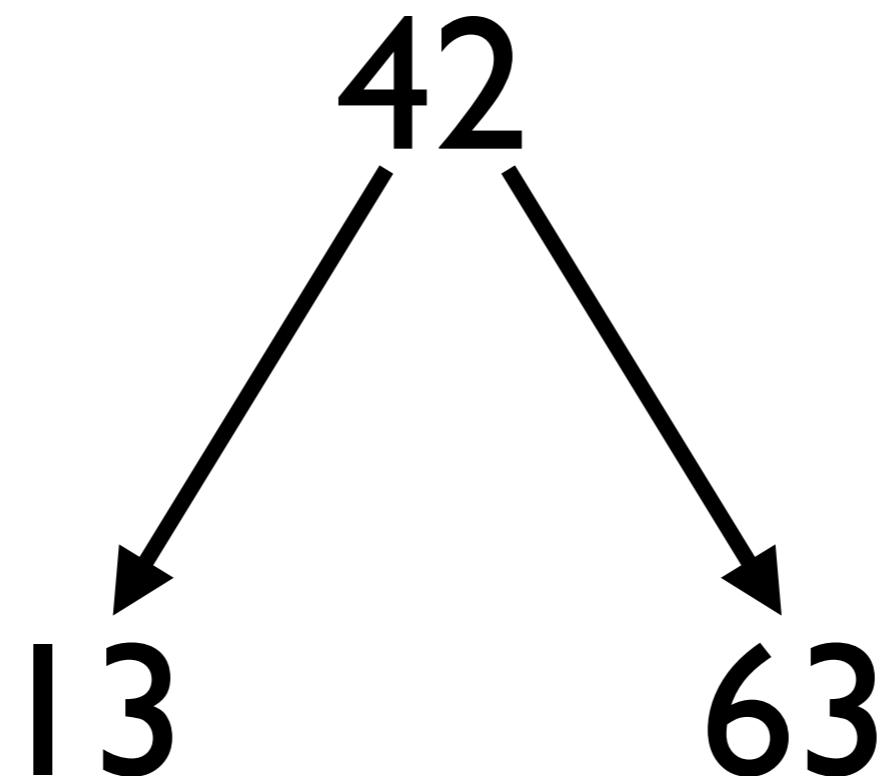
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int sumTree(BinaryTree *t) {  
    if (t == NULL) {  
        return 0;  
    } else {  
        return sumTree(t->left)  
            + sumTree(t->right)  
            + sumTree(t->value);  
    }  
}
```

Does **not** work!

// Assume t is in R1
// Assume return addr in R2
// Return result in R3
LABEL(sumTree)
SUB(R0,R0,R1)
BNZ(not_null)
SET(R3, 0)
BR(R2)
LABEL(not_null)
LOAD(R4, 0, R1)
LOAD(R1, 1, R1)
SET(R2, after1)
BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after1)
ADD(R4,R3,R4)
LOAD(R1, 2, R1)
SET(R2, after2)
BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4,R3,R4)
MOVE(R3,R4)
BR(R2)

Let's see why, using this tree...

(Encoded in HERA...)

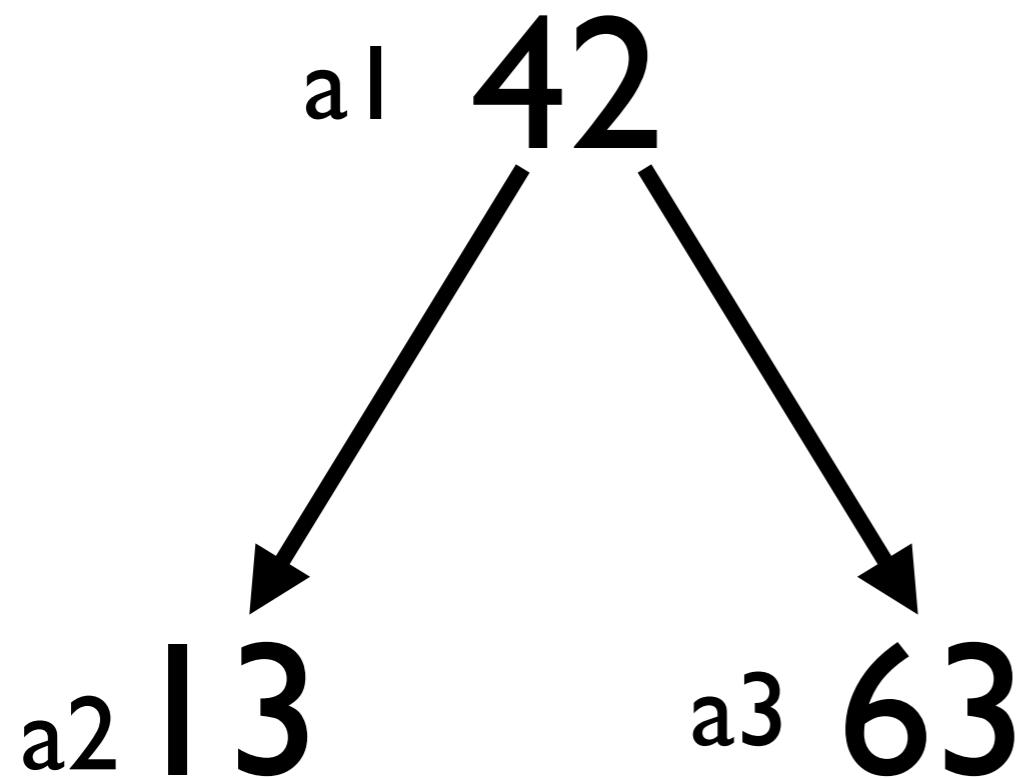


R1 = a1

R2

R3

R4



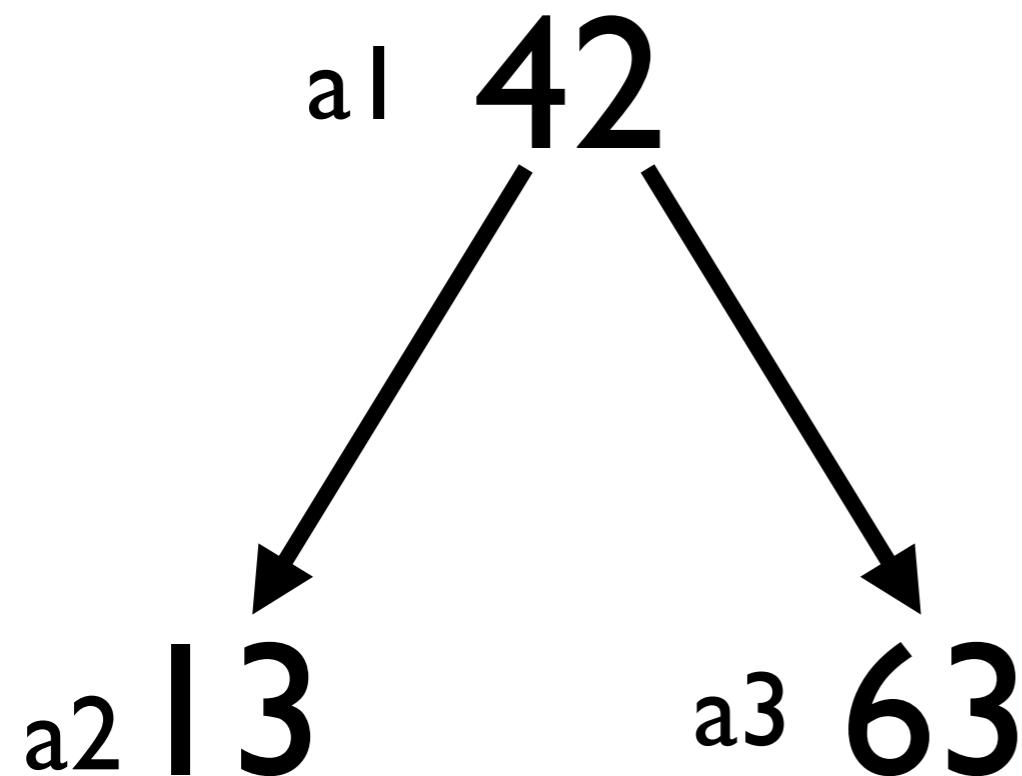
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SET(R2, after2)
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LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4,R3,R4)
MOVE(R3,R4)
BR(R2)

R1 = a1

R2

R3

R4 = 42



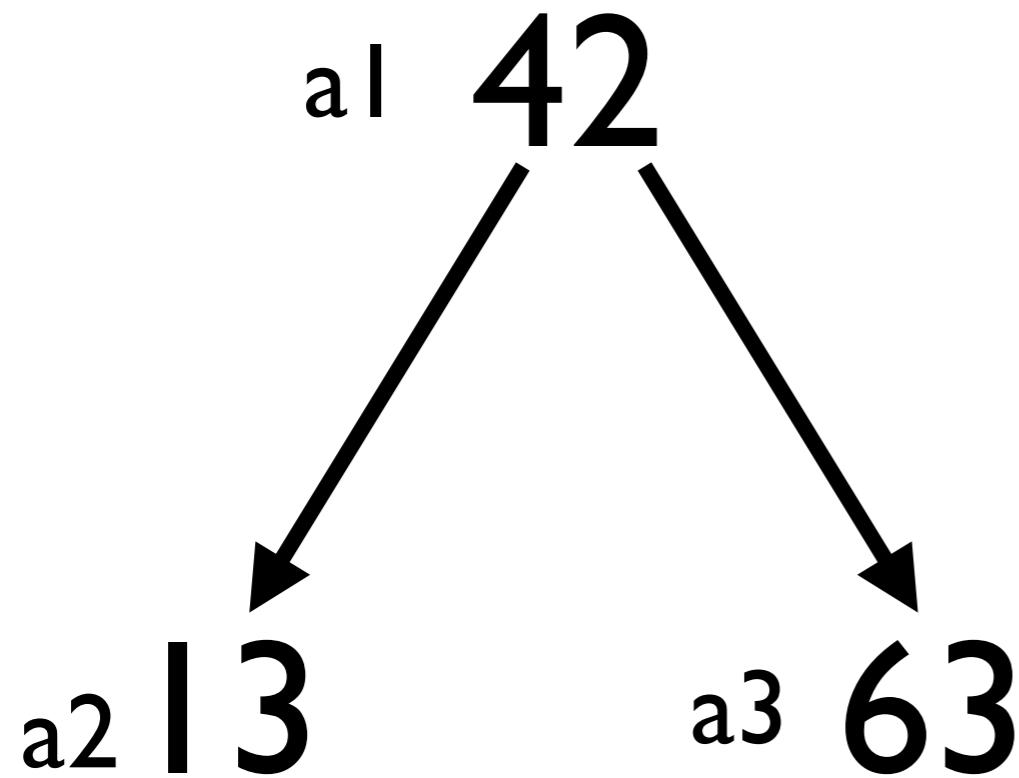
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BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after1)
ADD(R4, R3, R4)
LOAD(R1, 2, R1)
SET(R2, after2)
BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4, R3, R4)
MOVE(R3, R4)
BR(R2)

R1 = a2

R2

R3

R4 = 42



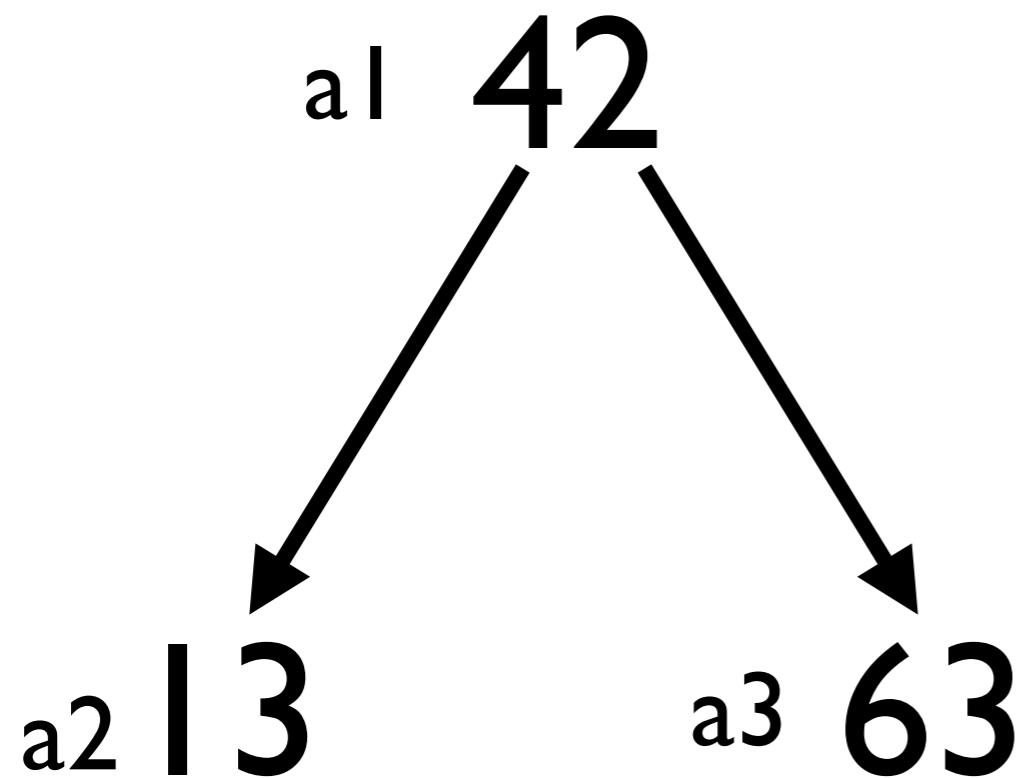
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R1 = a2

R2 = after1

R3

R4 = 42



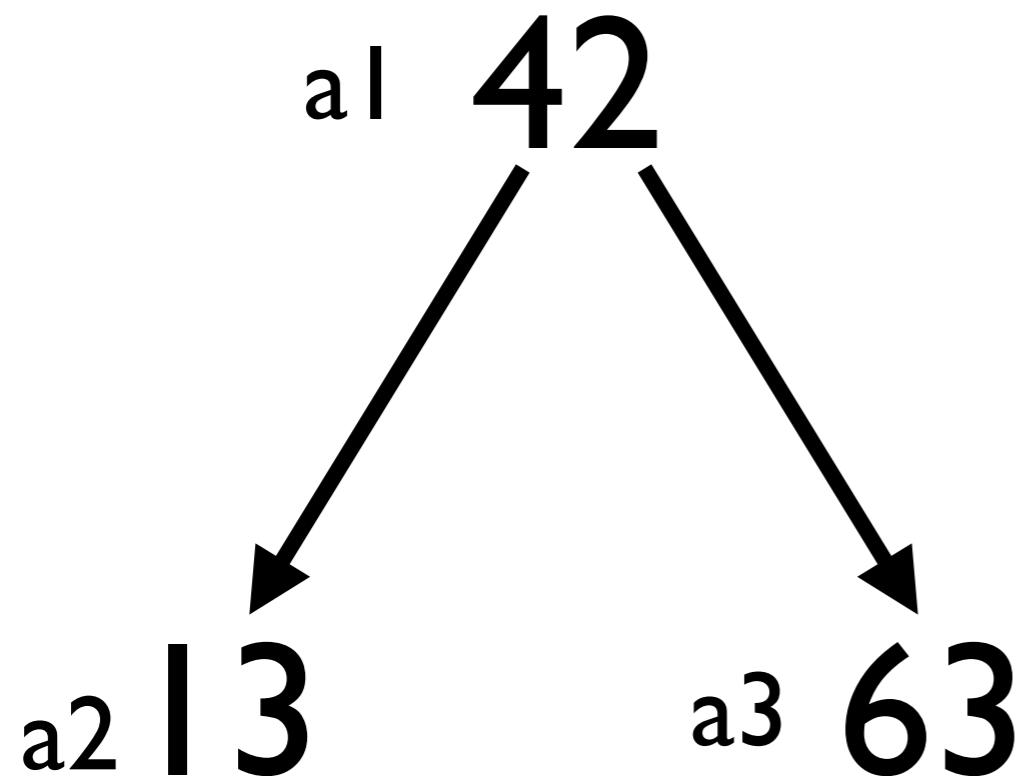
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MOVE(R3, R4)
BR(R2)

R1 = a2

R2 = after1

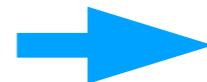
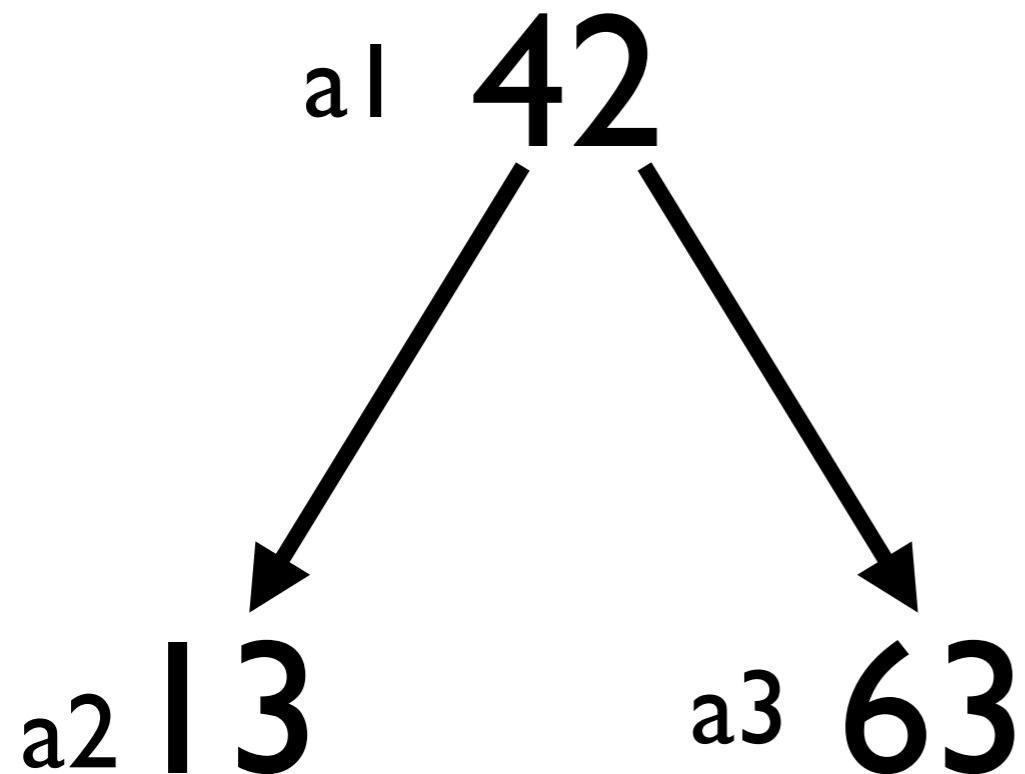
R3

R4 = 42



// Assume t is in R1
// Assume return addr in R2
// Return result in R3
LABEL(sumTree)
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LABEL(after1)
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SET(R2, after2)
BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4, R3, R4)
MOVE(R3, R4)
BR(R2)

R1 = a2
R2 = after1
R3
R4 = 42



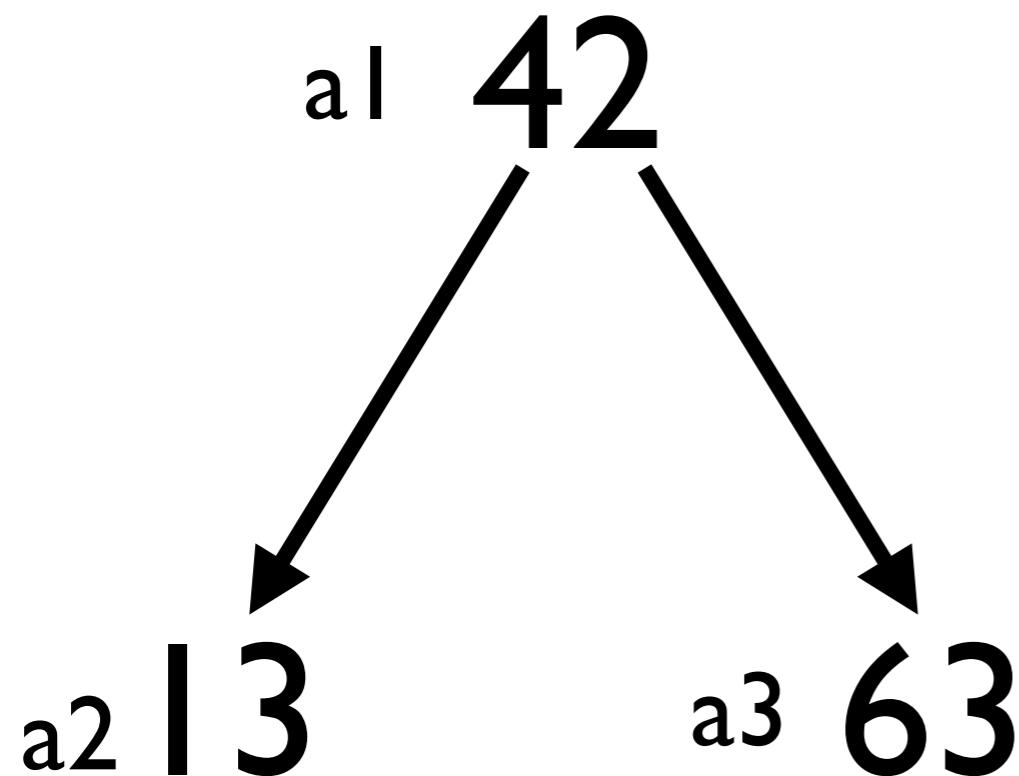
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BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4,R3,R4)
MOVE(R3,R4)
BR(R2)
```

R1 = a2

R2 = after1

R3

R4 = 42



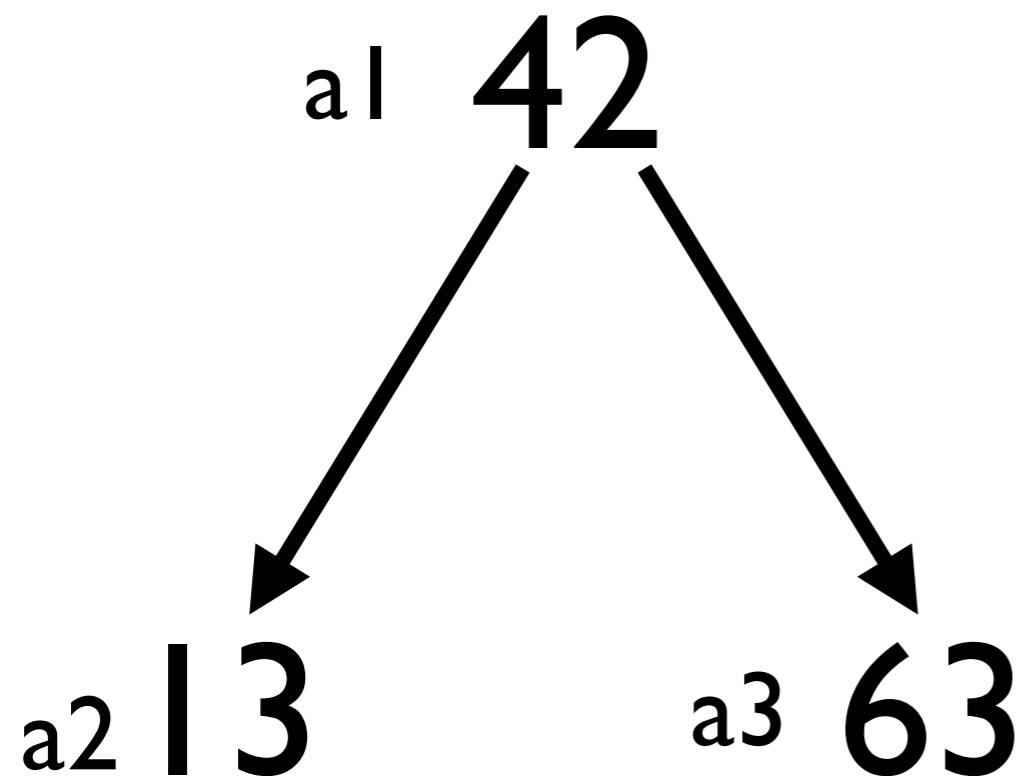
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BR(sumTree)
LABEL(after2)
ADD(R4, R3, R4)
MOVE(R3, R4)
BR(R2)

R1 = a2

R2 = after1

R3

R4 = 13



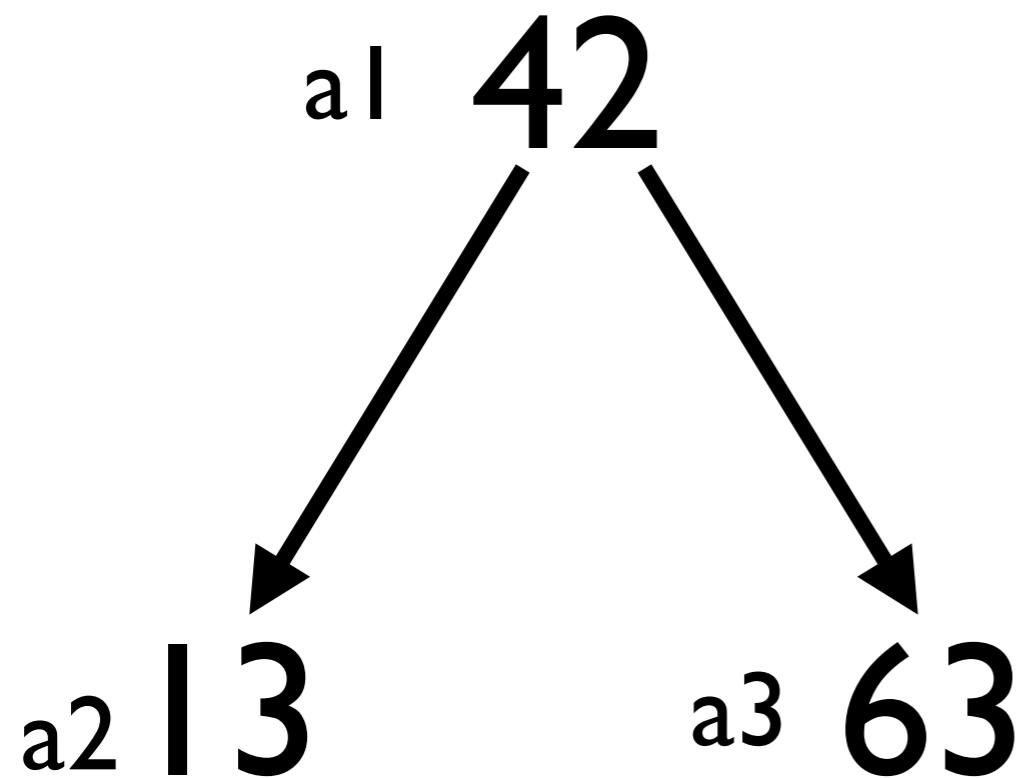
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R1 = 0

R2 = after1

R3

R4 = 13



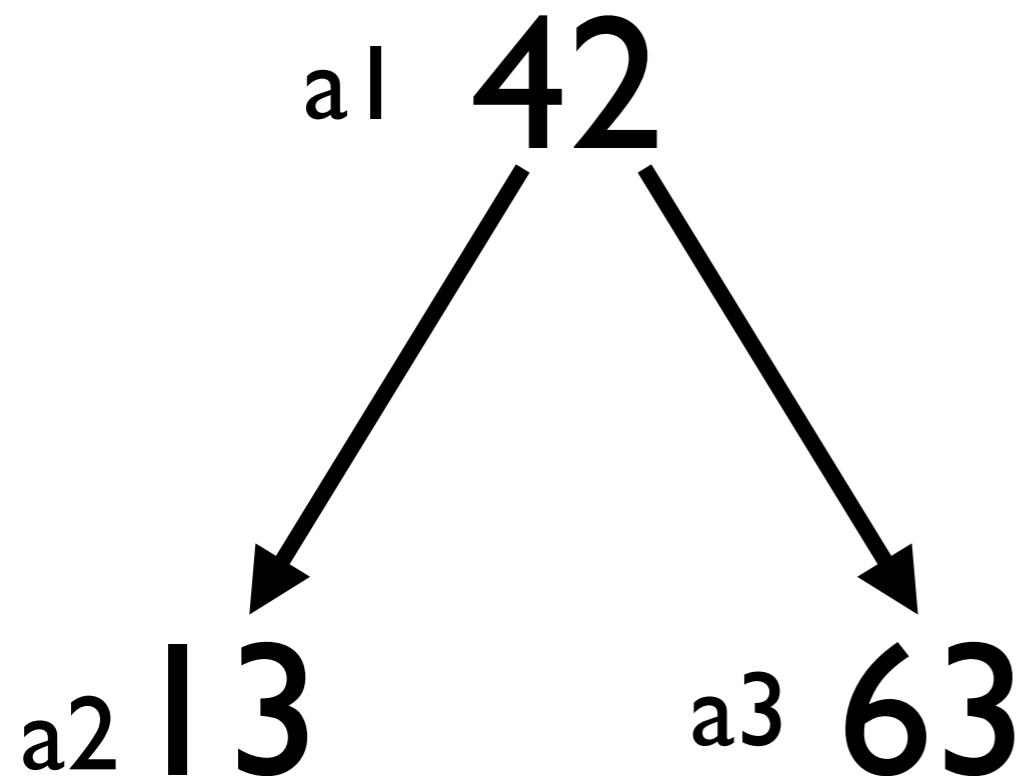
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R3

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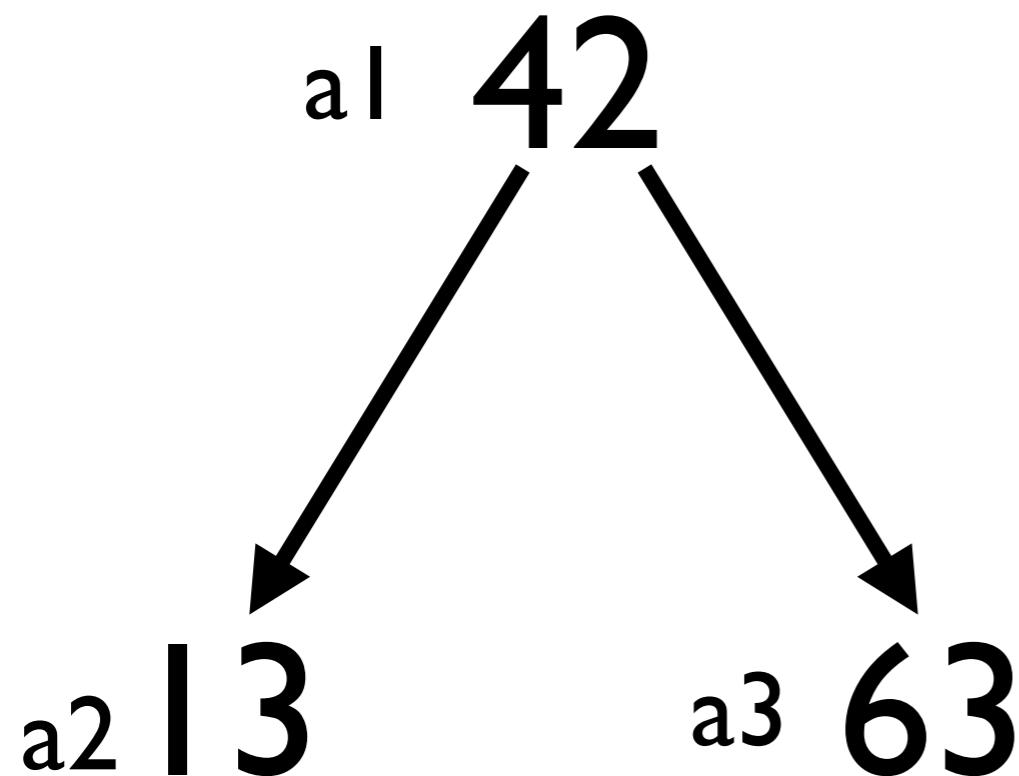
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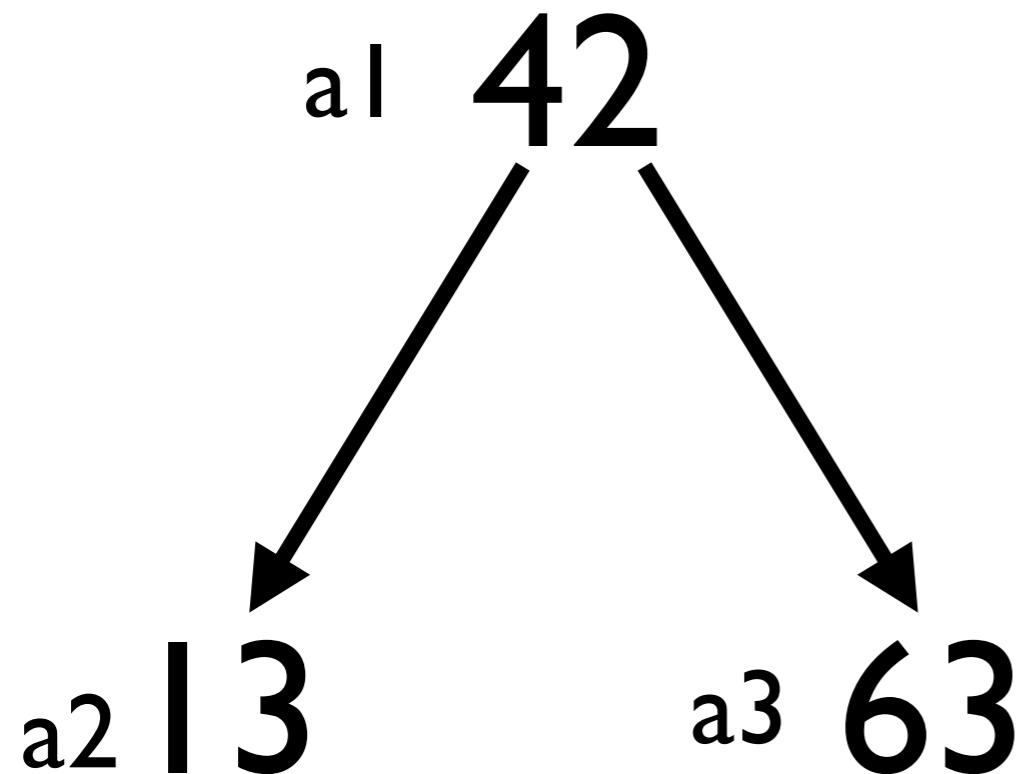
R3

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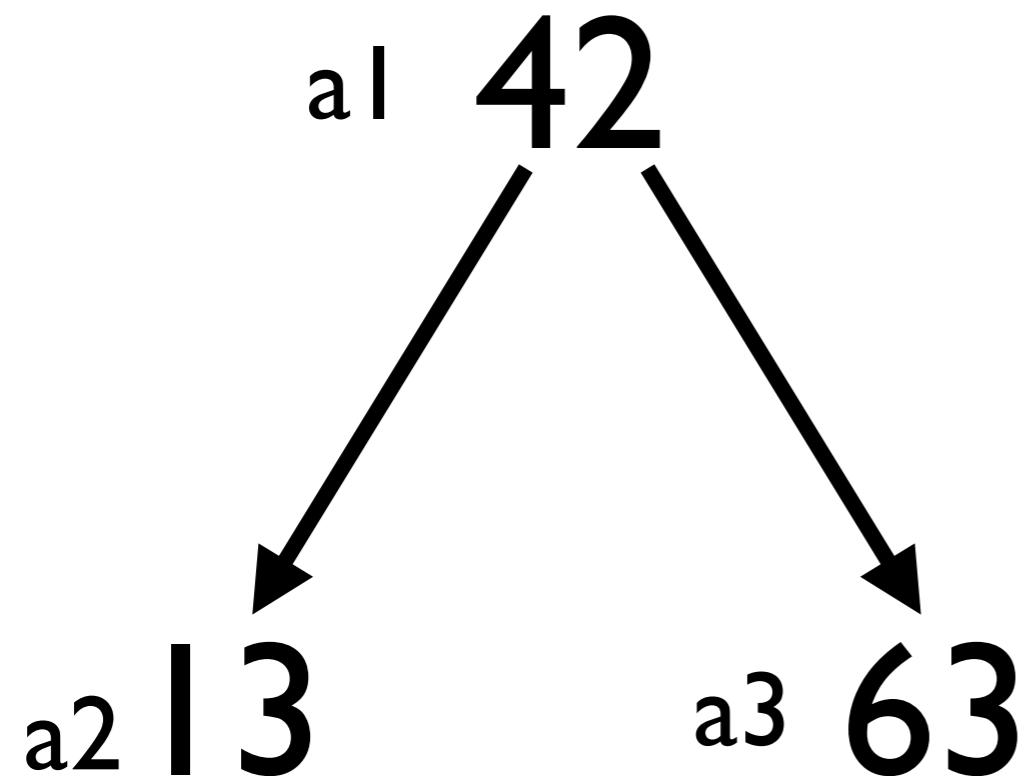
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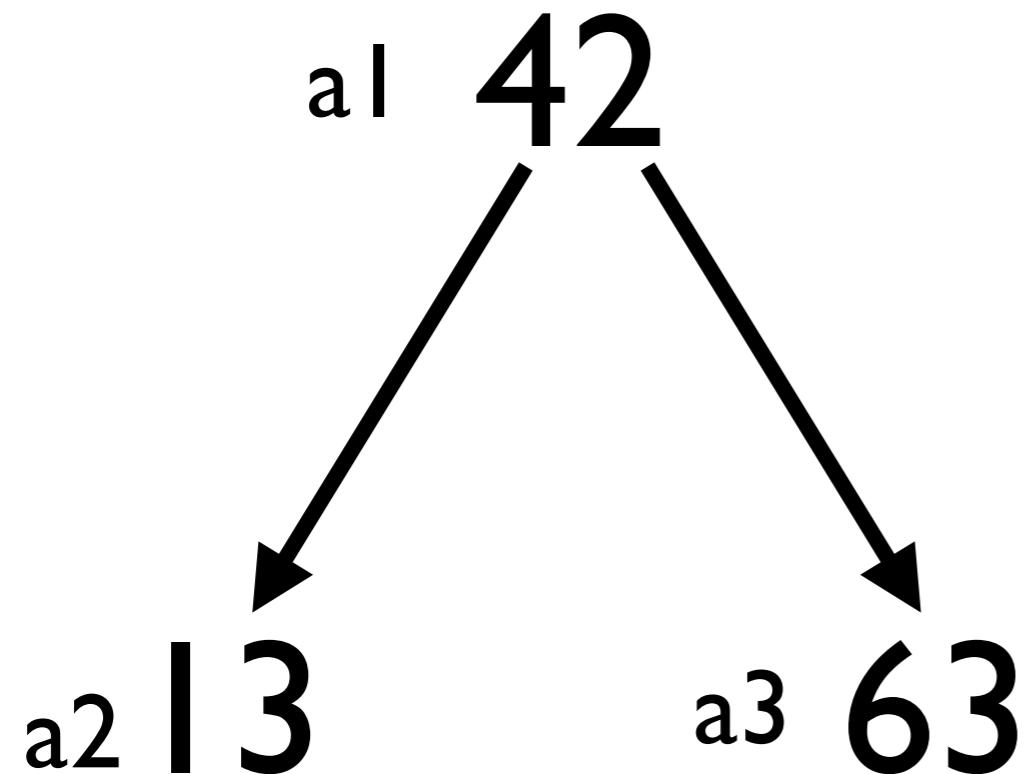
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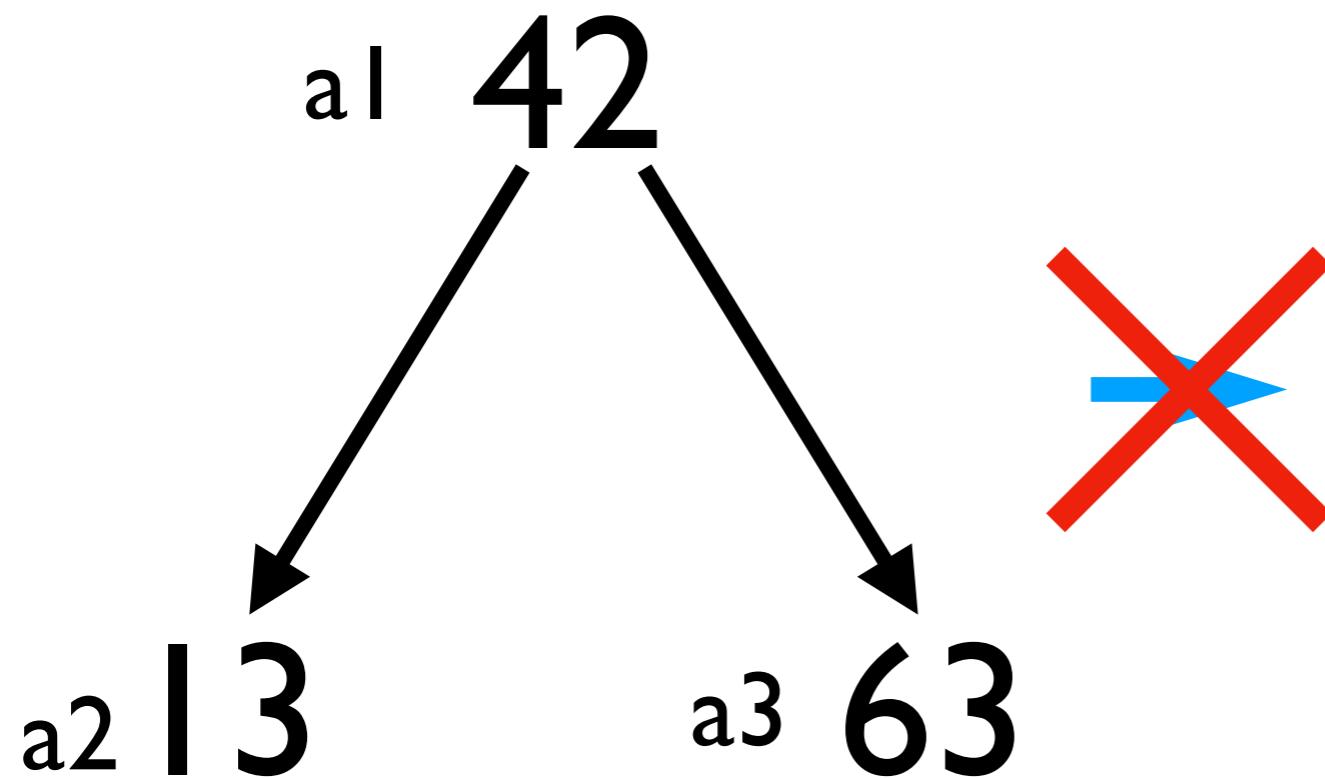
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BR(R2)

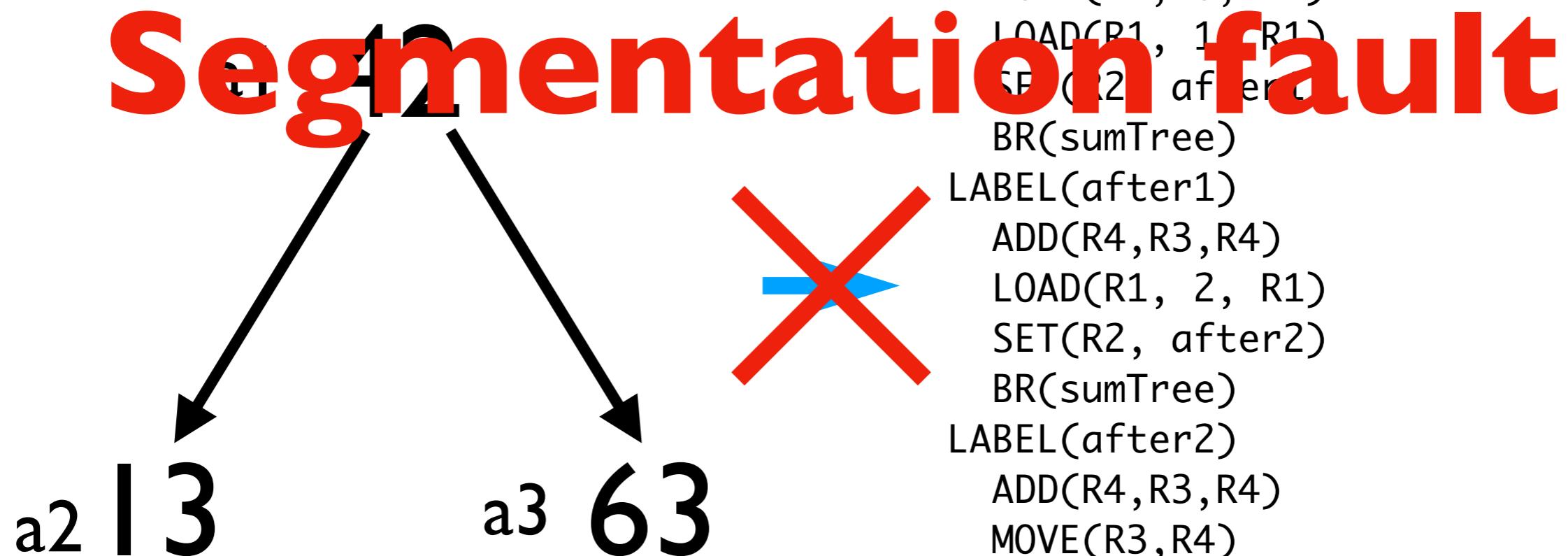
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So... What went wrong?

I assumed my locals were my own

Which registers does SumTree overwrite?

Which registers does SumTree overwrite?

R1

R2

R3

R4

So, how do we fix this?

Use the stack

I need to **save** my registers when I call functions



Note: in HERA, unlike some other processors, the stack grows **up**

(This is different than my i7)

...

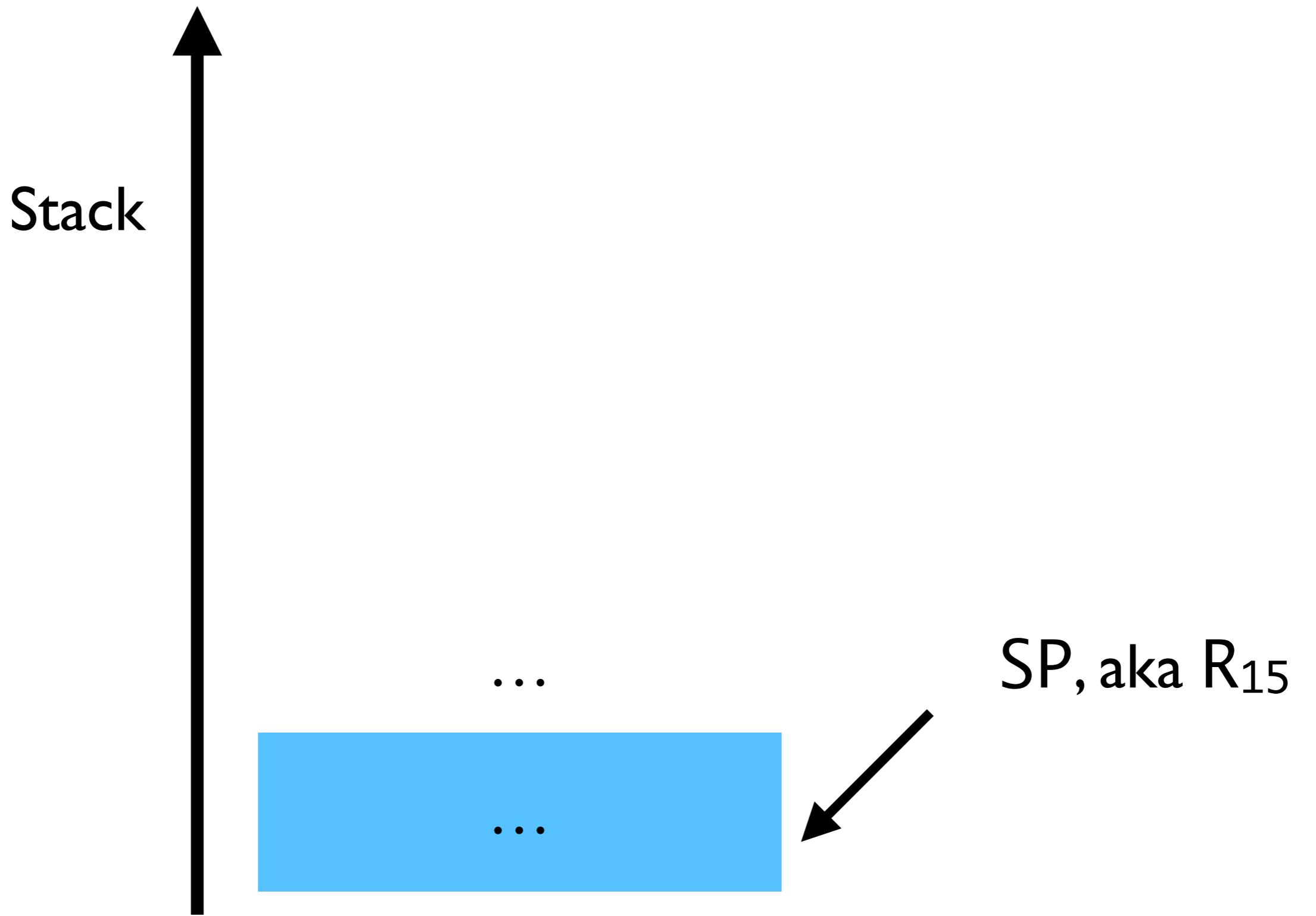
...

“top” of the stack

We can use a pointer to hold a reference
to the top of the stack

This is typically called the **stack pointer**

The stack pointer points at the **next
available word on the stack**





The stack pointer by convention
always points at the top of the stack

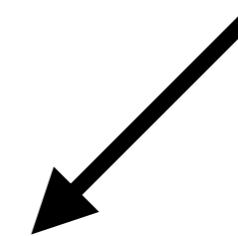
You can change it, nothing stops you

It's just a regular register

...

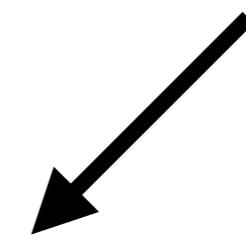
...

SP, aka R₁₅





I want to make myself some space
for some local variables

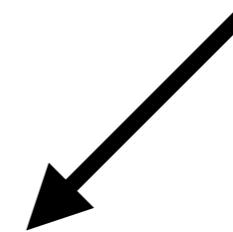
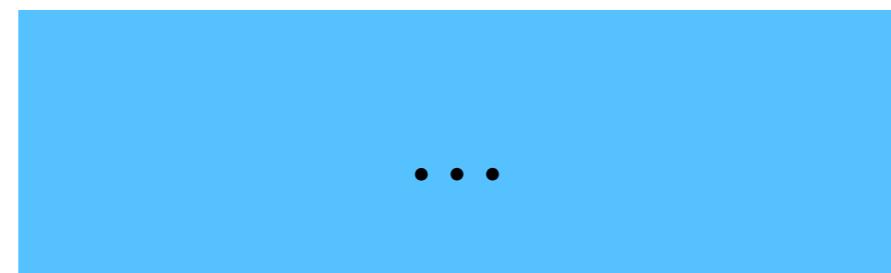


SP, aka R₁₅

Stack



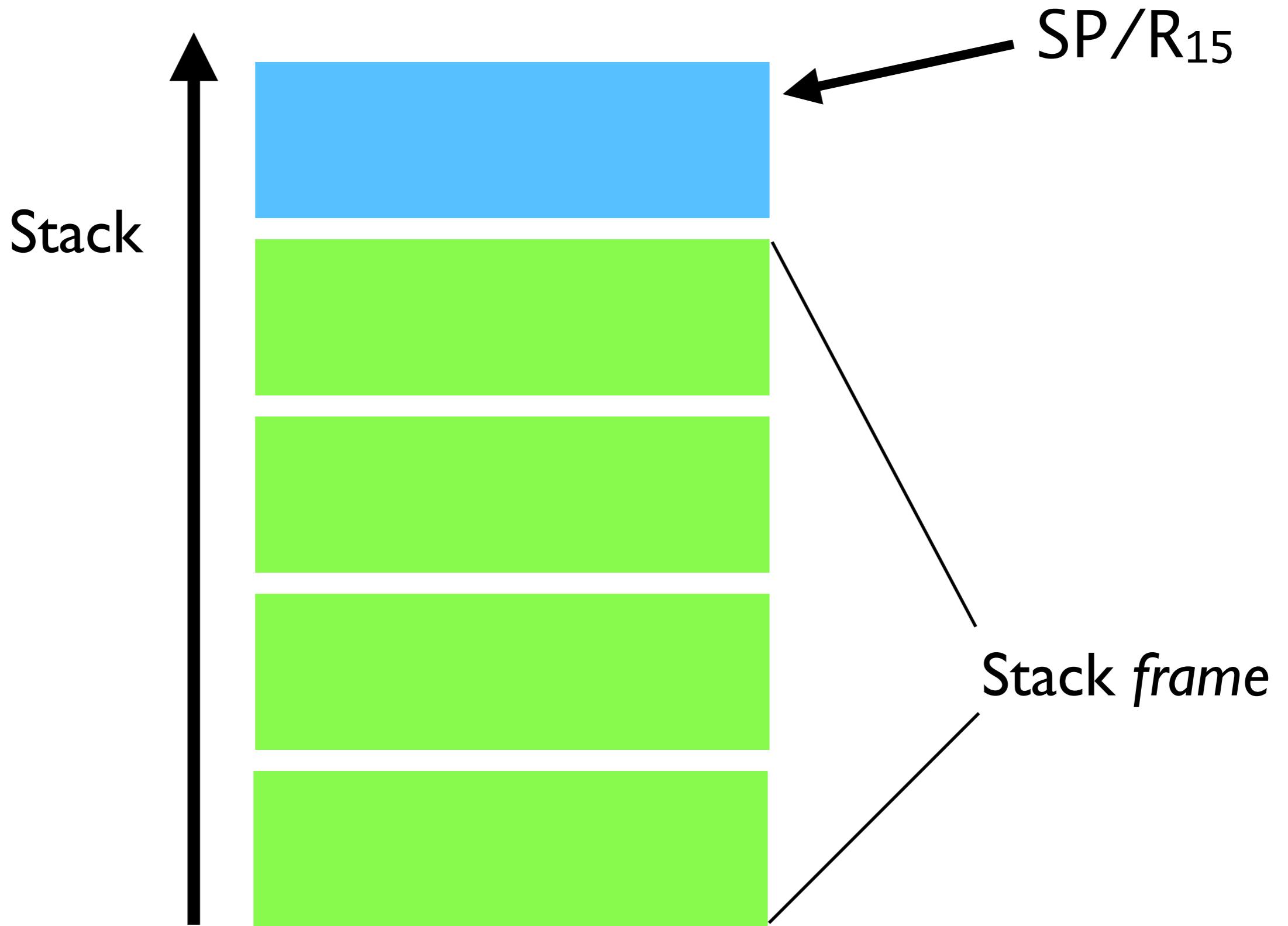
So how do we do that?



SP, aka R₁₅

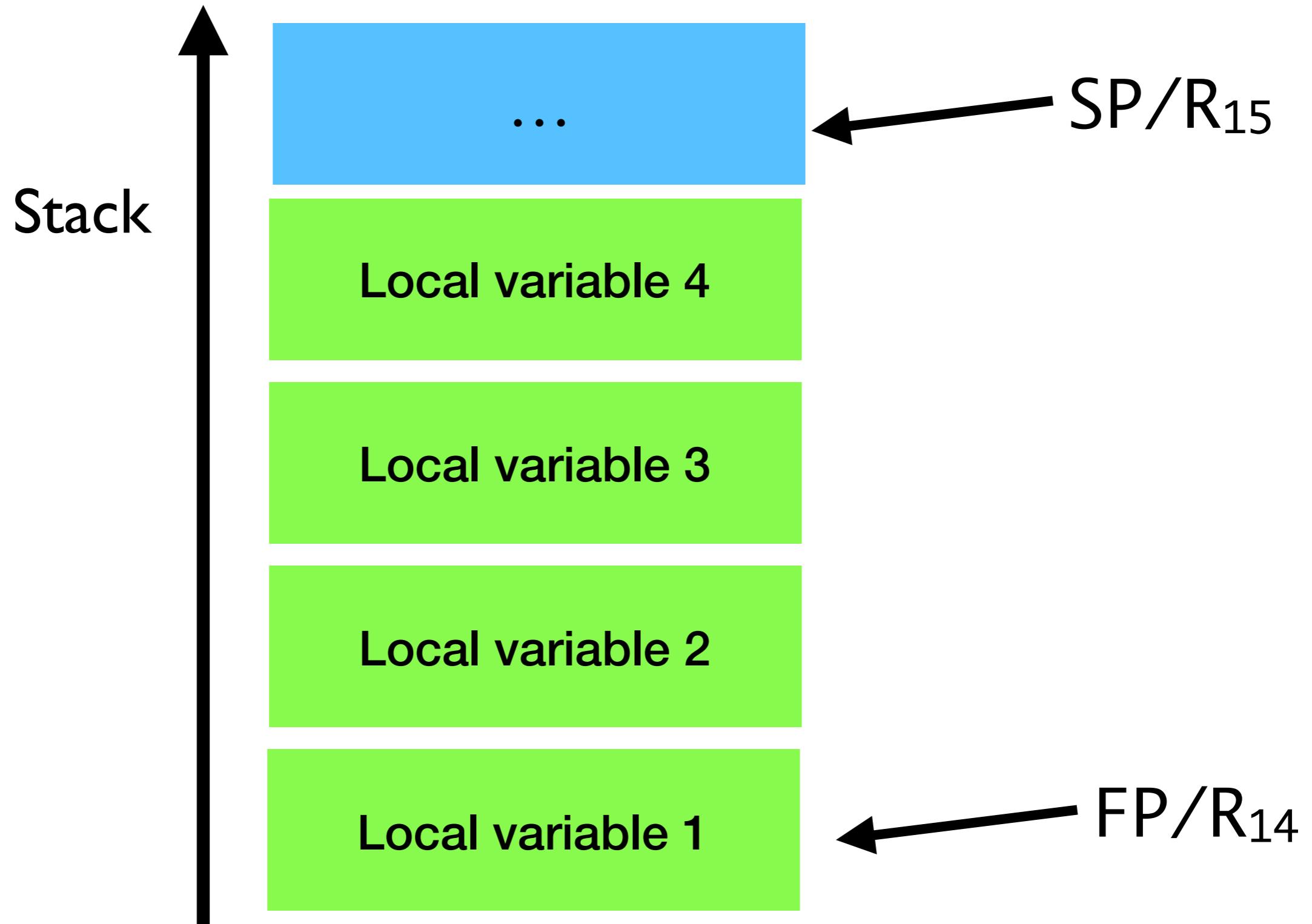
We *increment* the stack pointer

ADD(SP, 4, SP)



Stack Frame: portion of stack that holds local variables for single invocation of some function

By convention we use a *frame pointer* to refer to
the base of the frame



Frame pointer is handy because I can now use

LOAD(R_d , o , FP)

To load from local variable o

STORE(R_b , o , FP)

To store into local variable o

This generalizes to **caller-save** convention

To call a function...

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To call a function...

Caller passes arguments on the stack

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To call a function...

Caller passes arguments on the stack

Saves registers before call

(Also save old SP, FP, and ret. addr)

This generalizes to **caller-save** convention

To call a function...

Caller passes arguments on the stack

Saves registers before call

(Also save old SP, FP, and ret. addr)

Result returned on the stack

The Big Rule

If I'm going to **change** a register, I had
better **save** it first

I have two possibilities:

Either the **caller** saves the registers

Args passed in registers
("Caller save")

Or the **callee** saves the registers

Args passed on stack
("Callee save")

Caller save

Here's what I do

Let's say I'm currently using R4 and R5

And foo expects R4/R5 as arguments

R4

23

R5

89

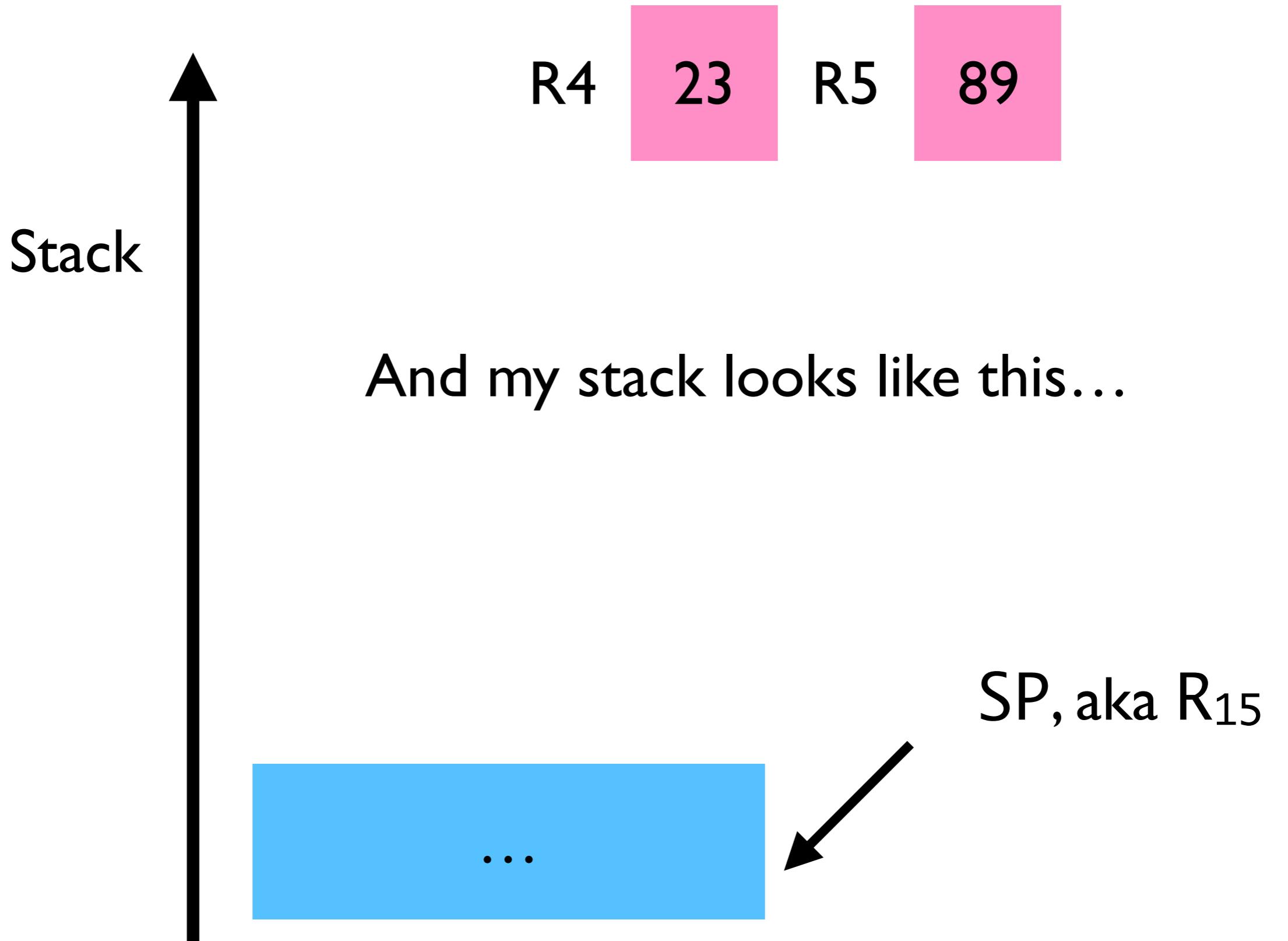
R4

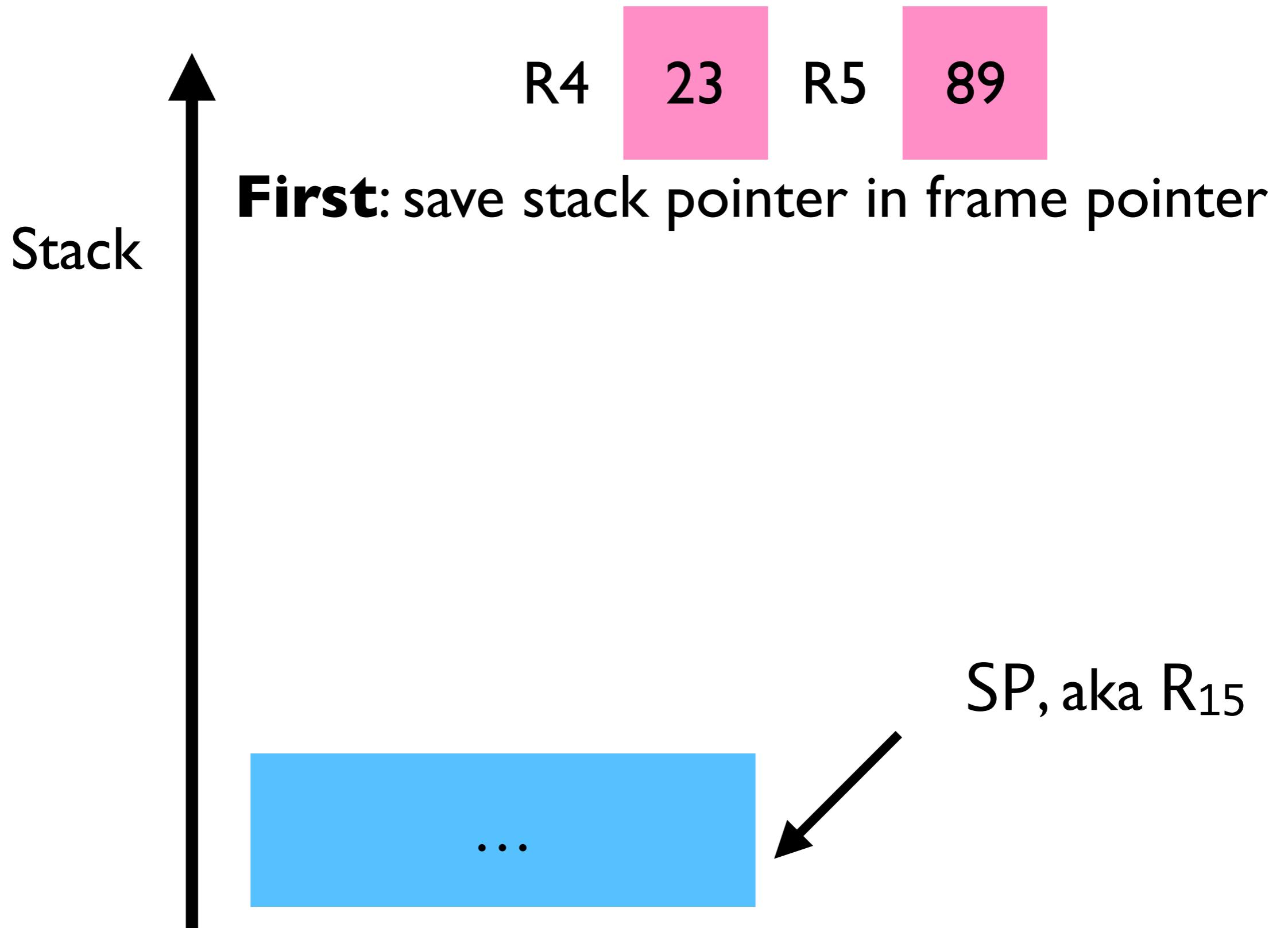
23

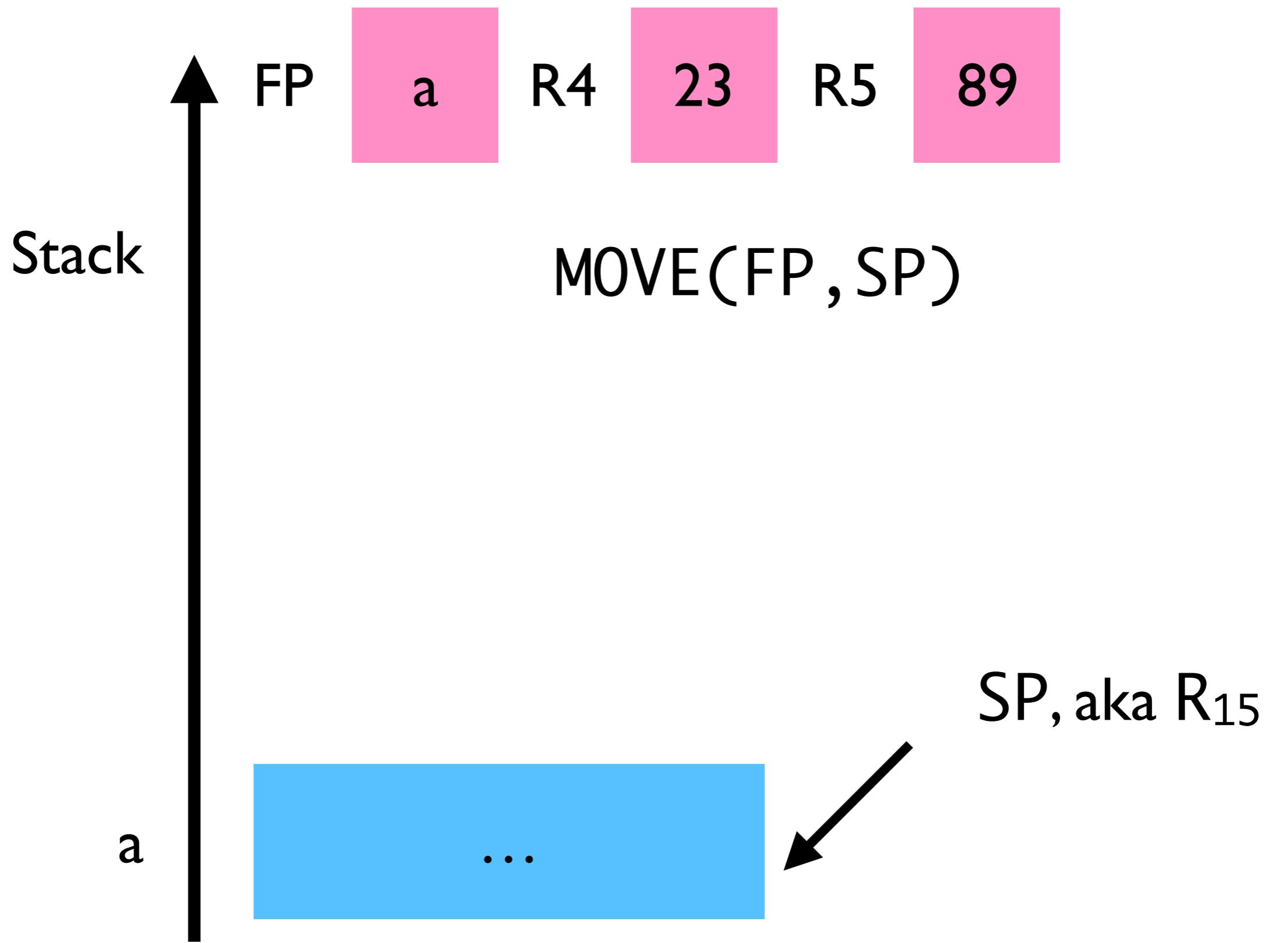
R5

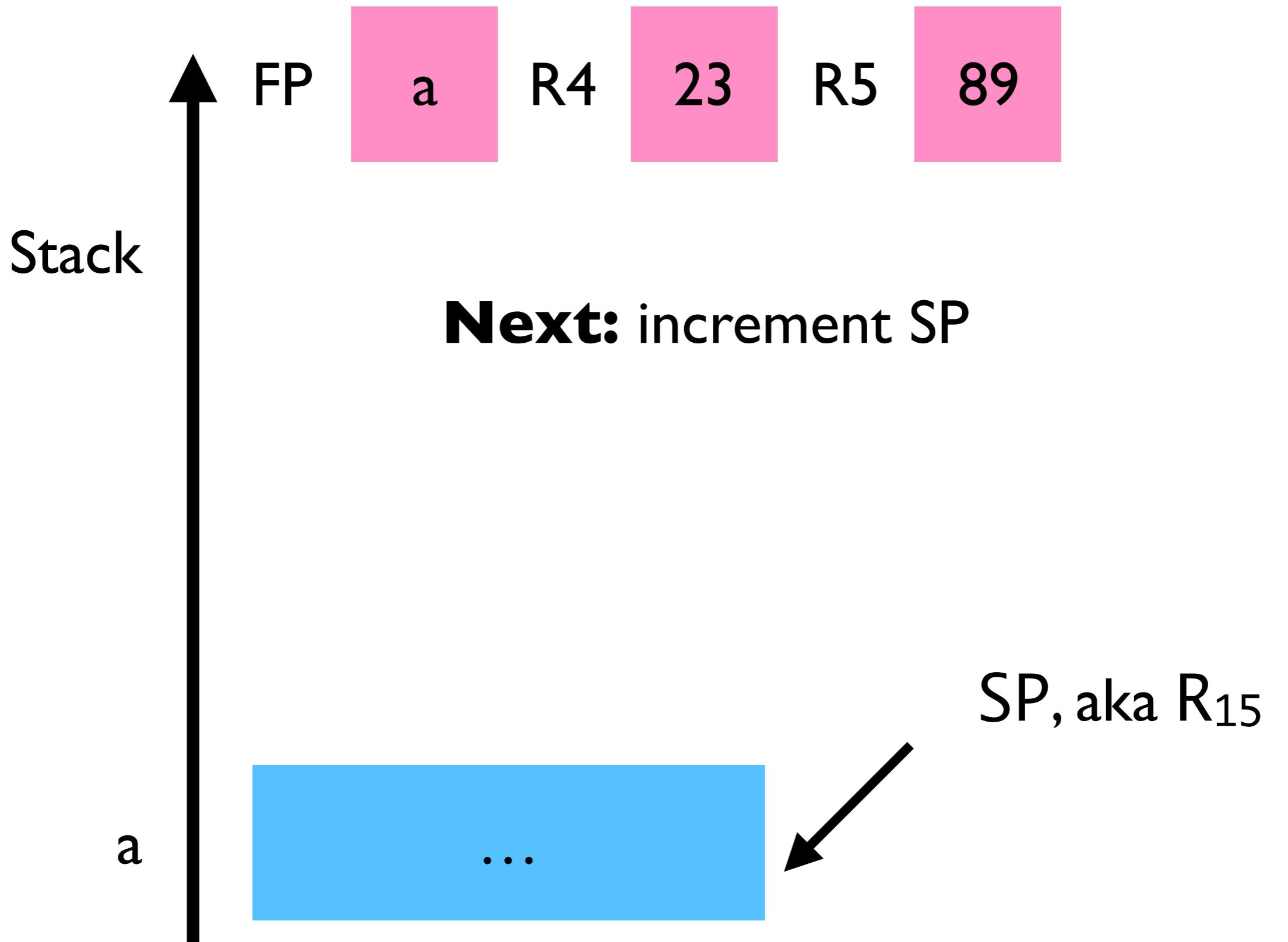
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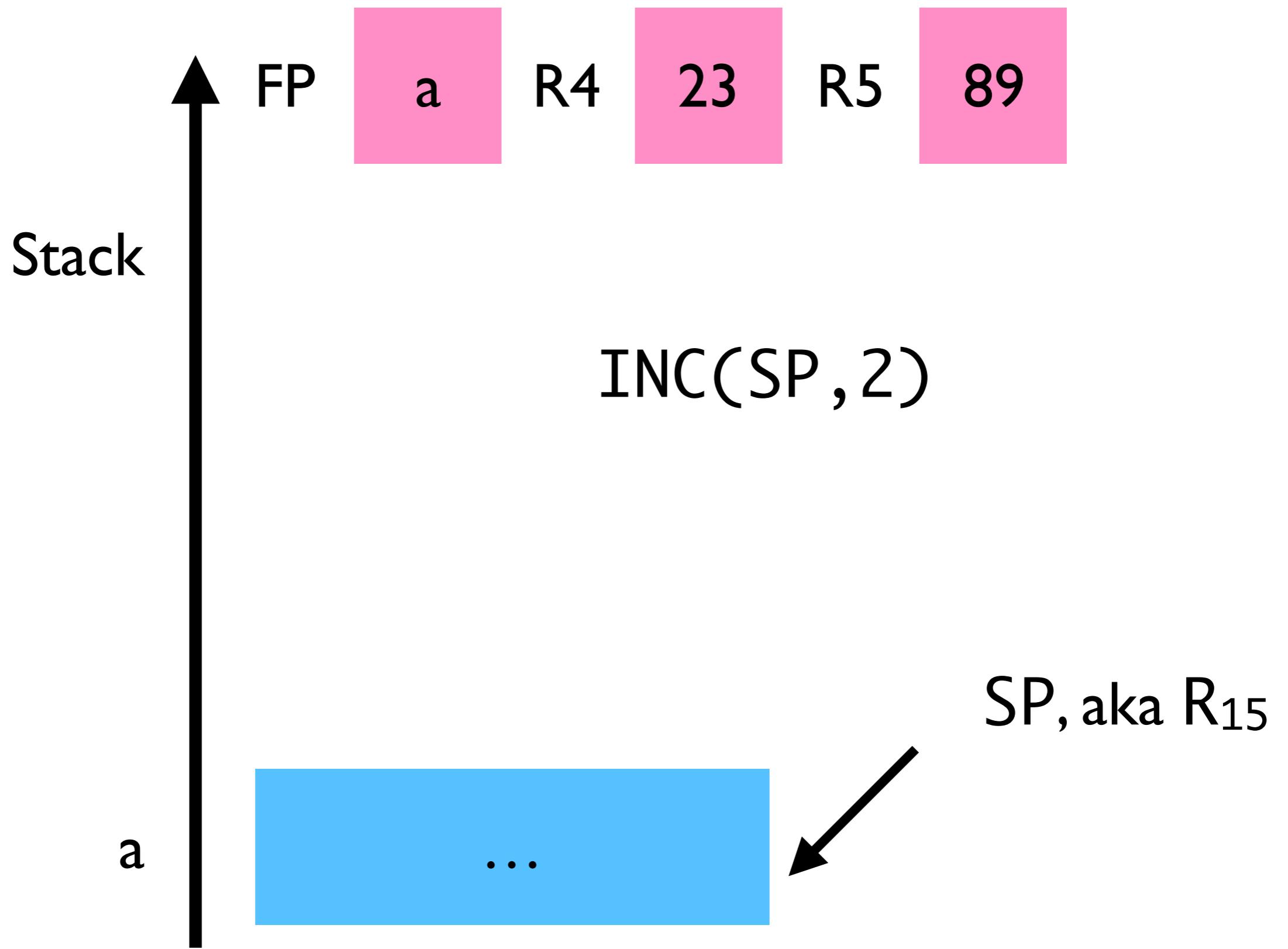
And my stack looks like this...

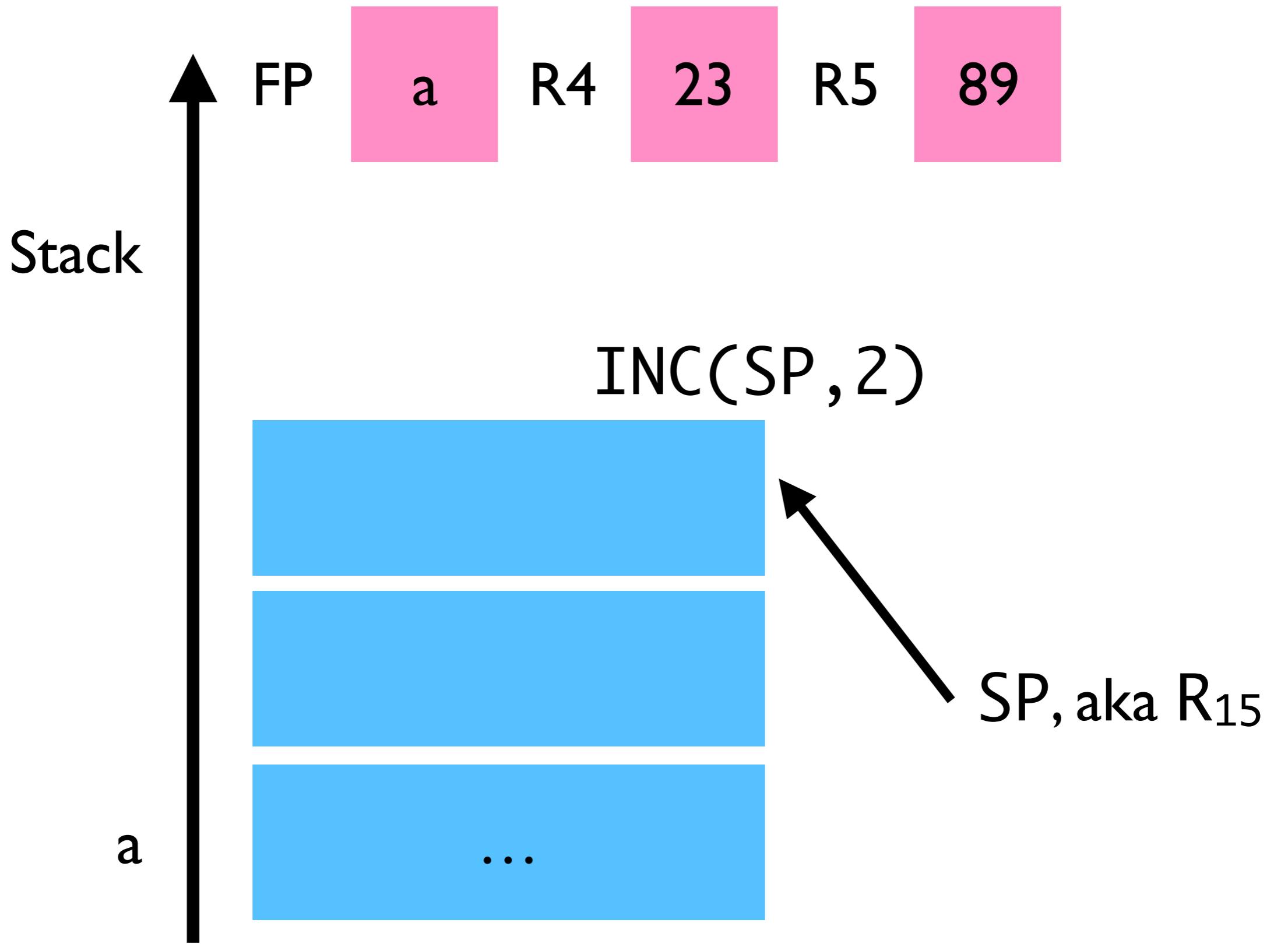


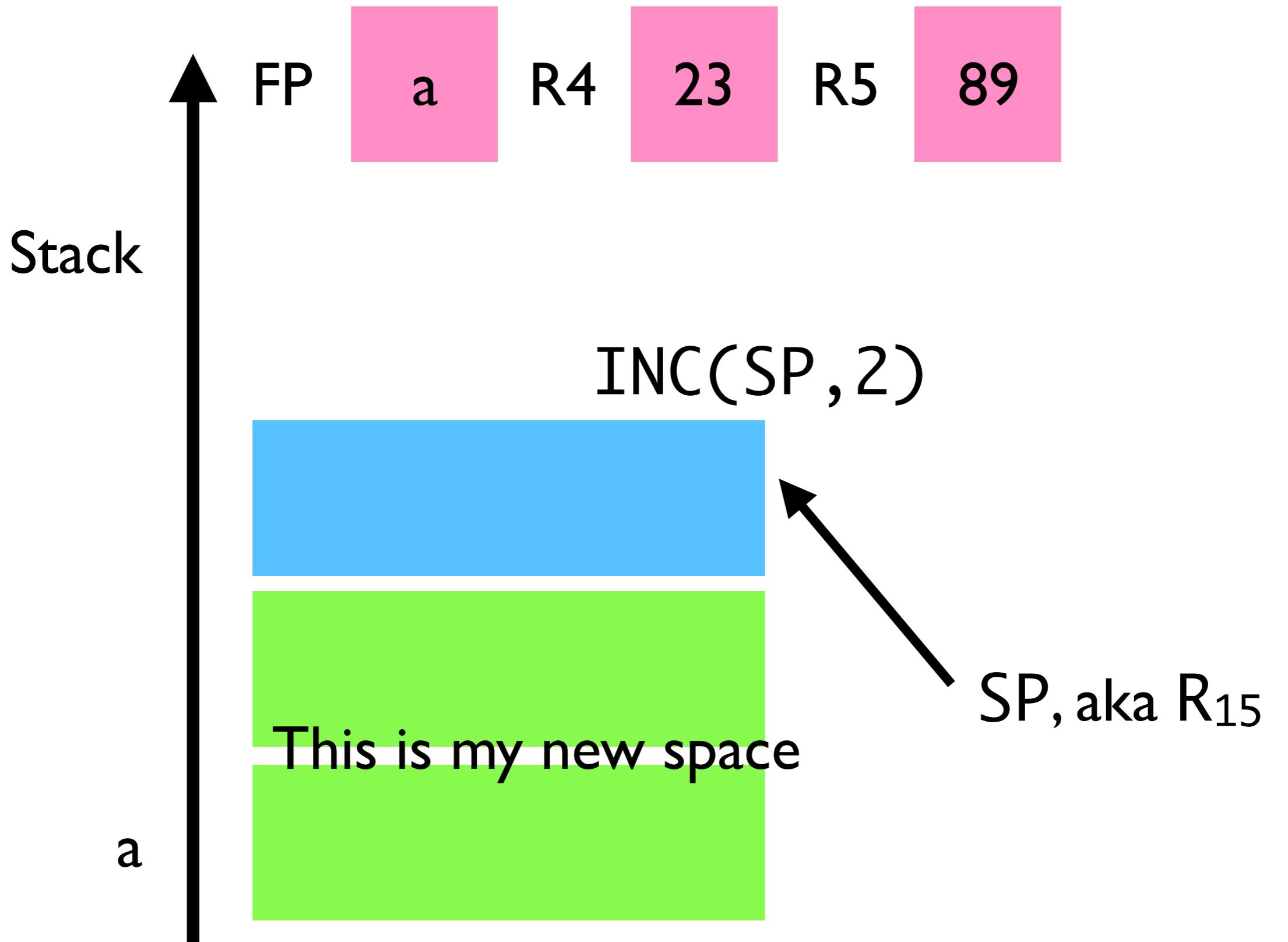




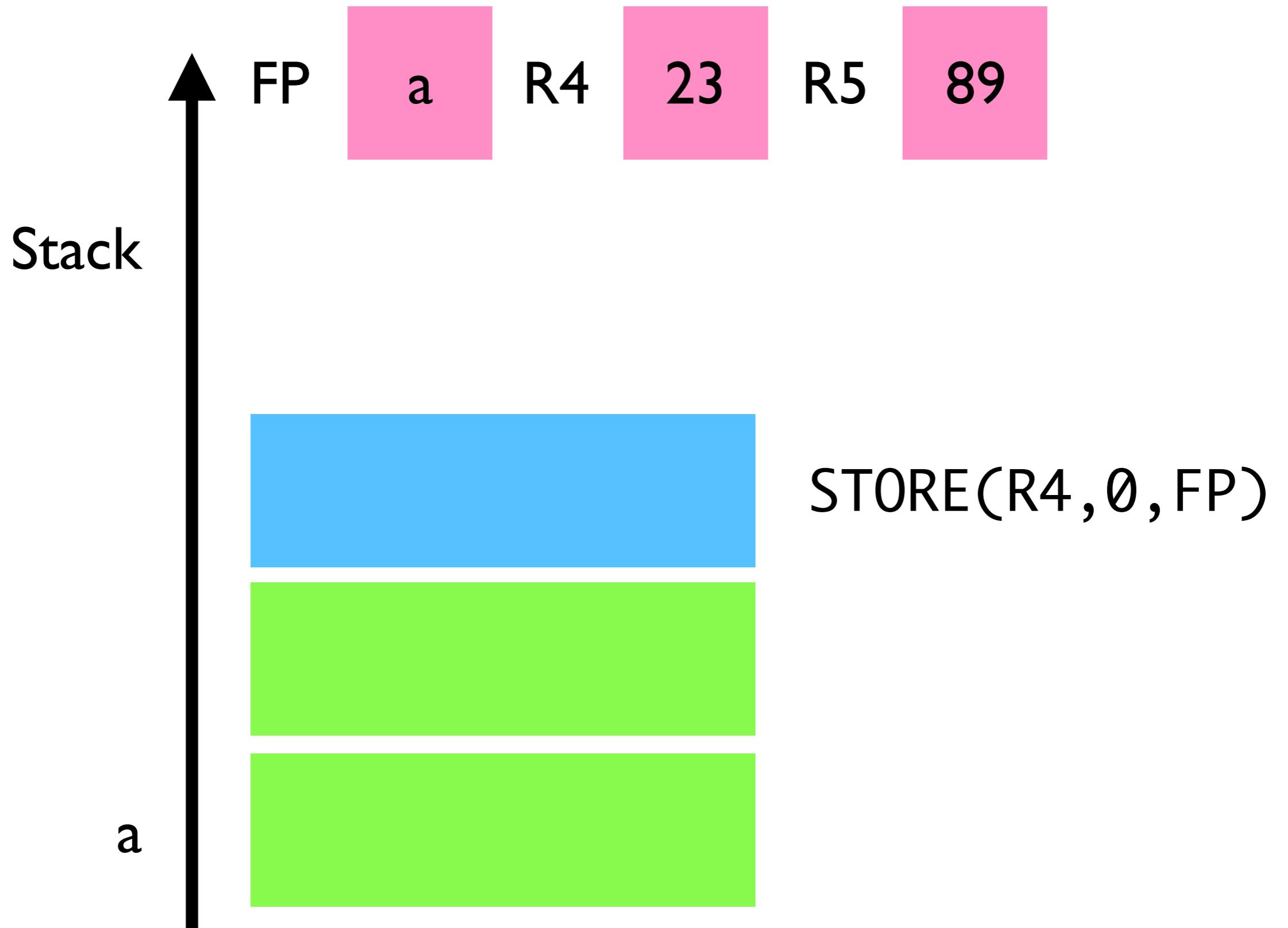


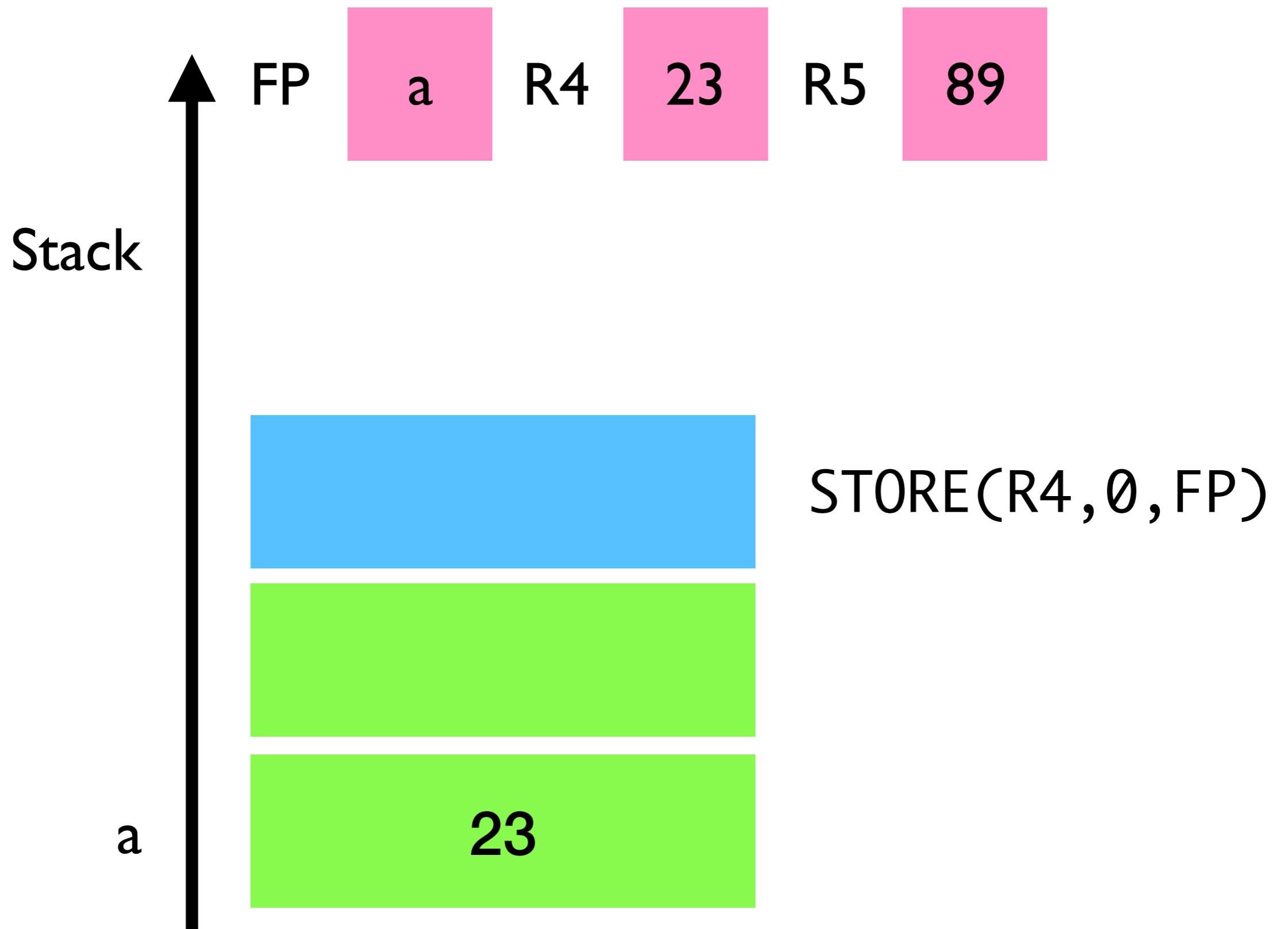


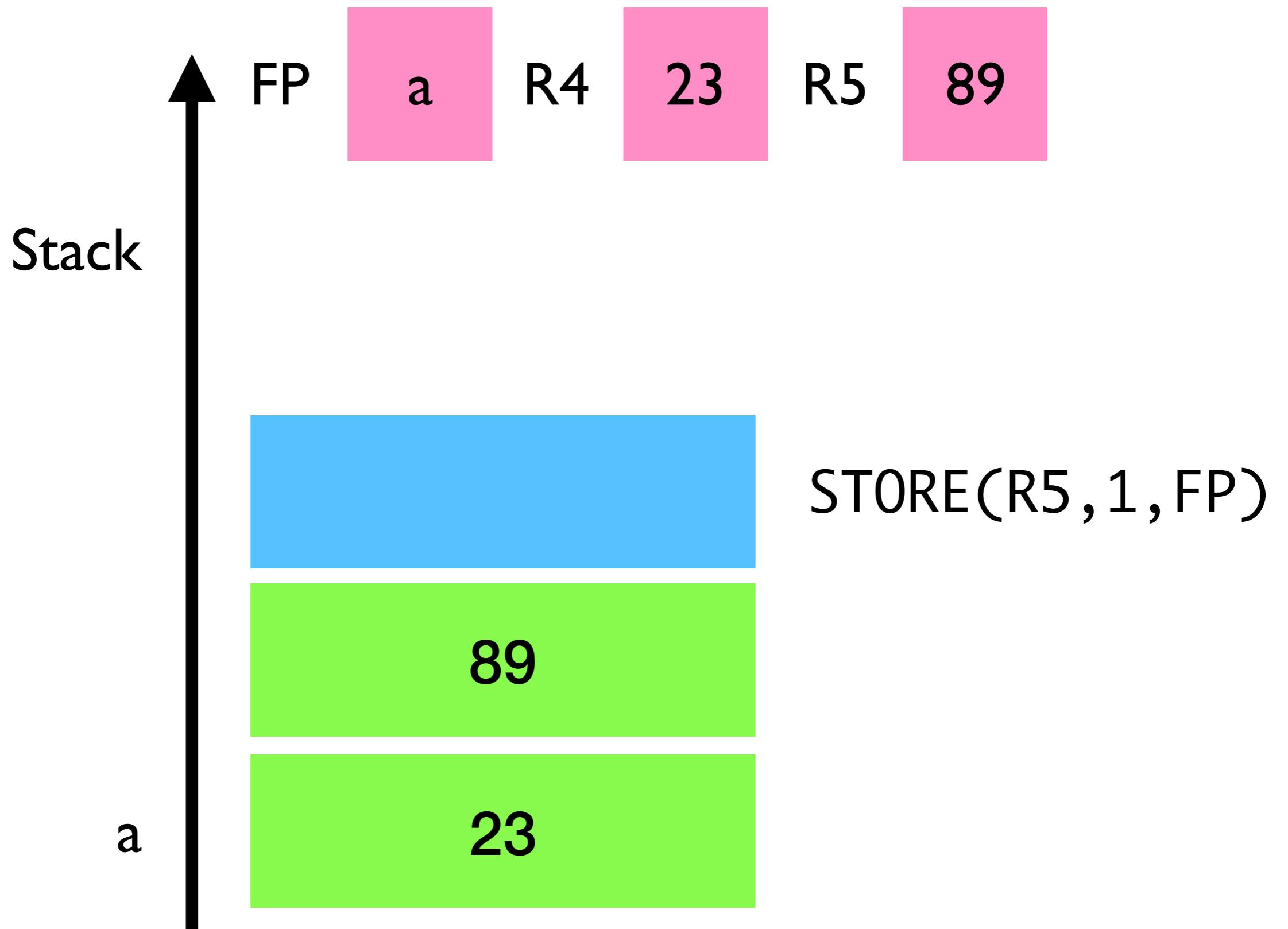


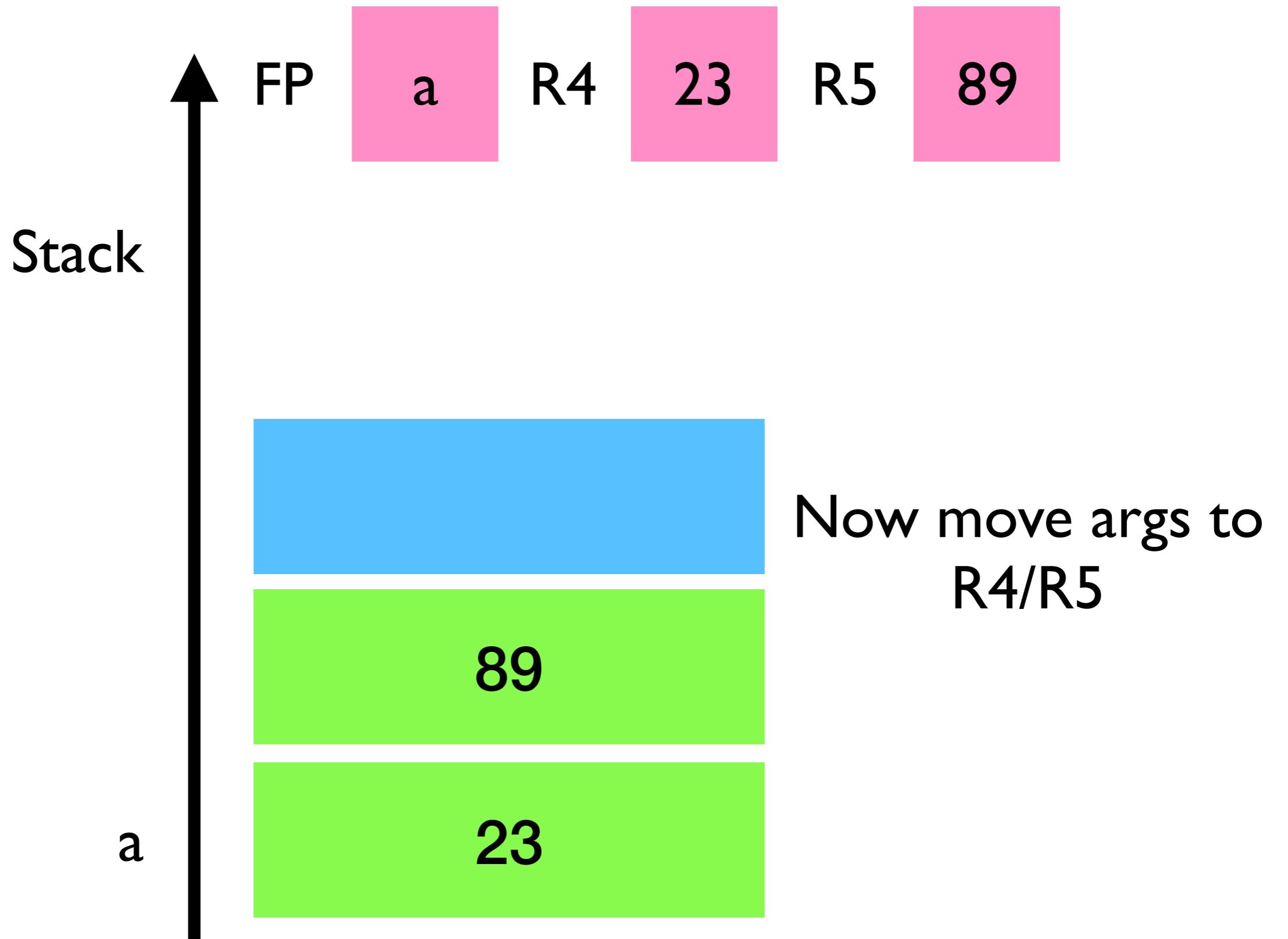


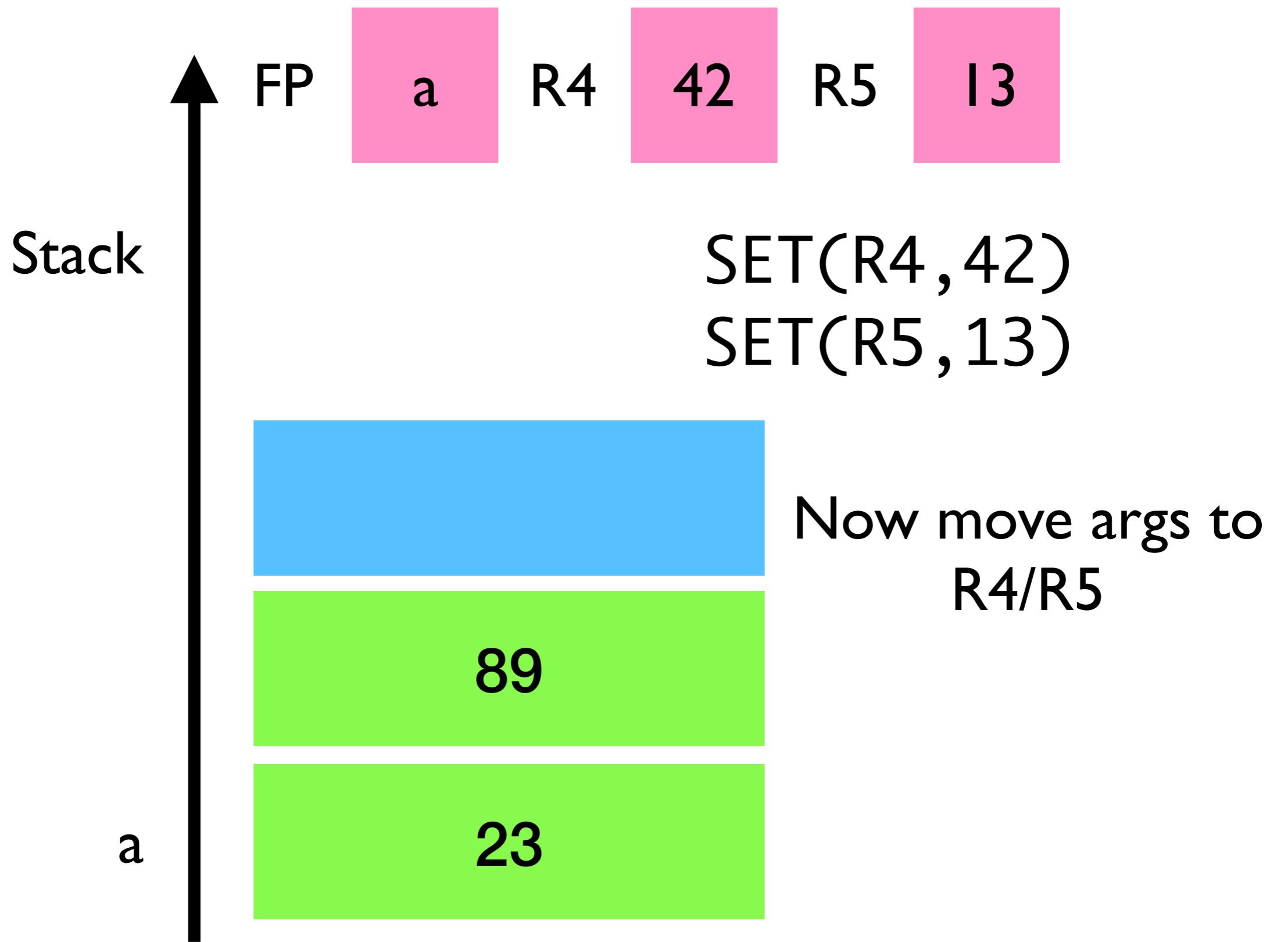
Next: save R4 and R5 there

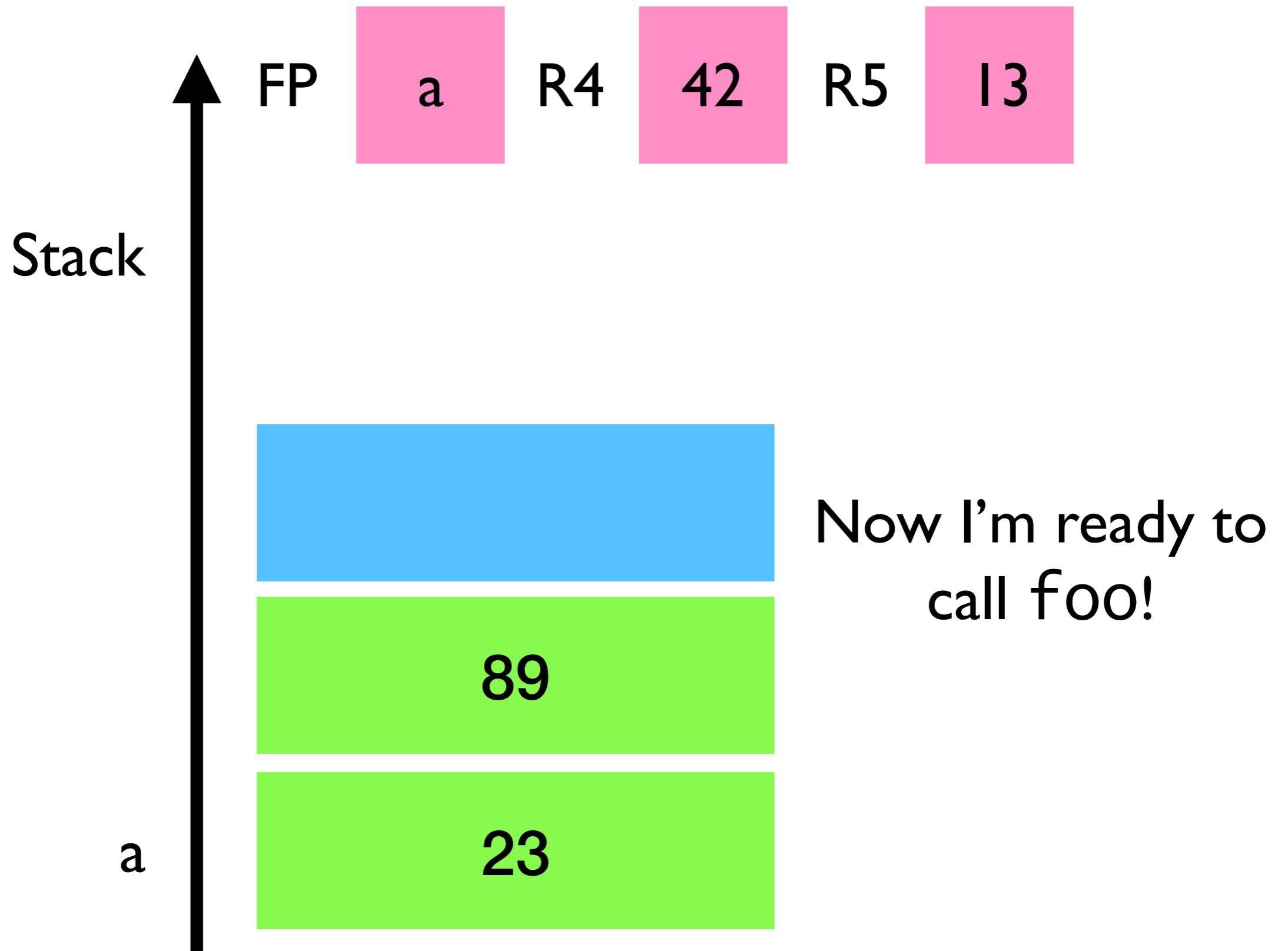


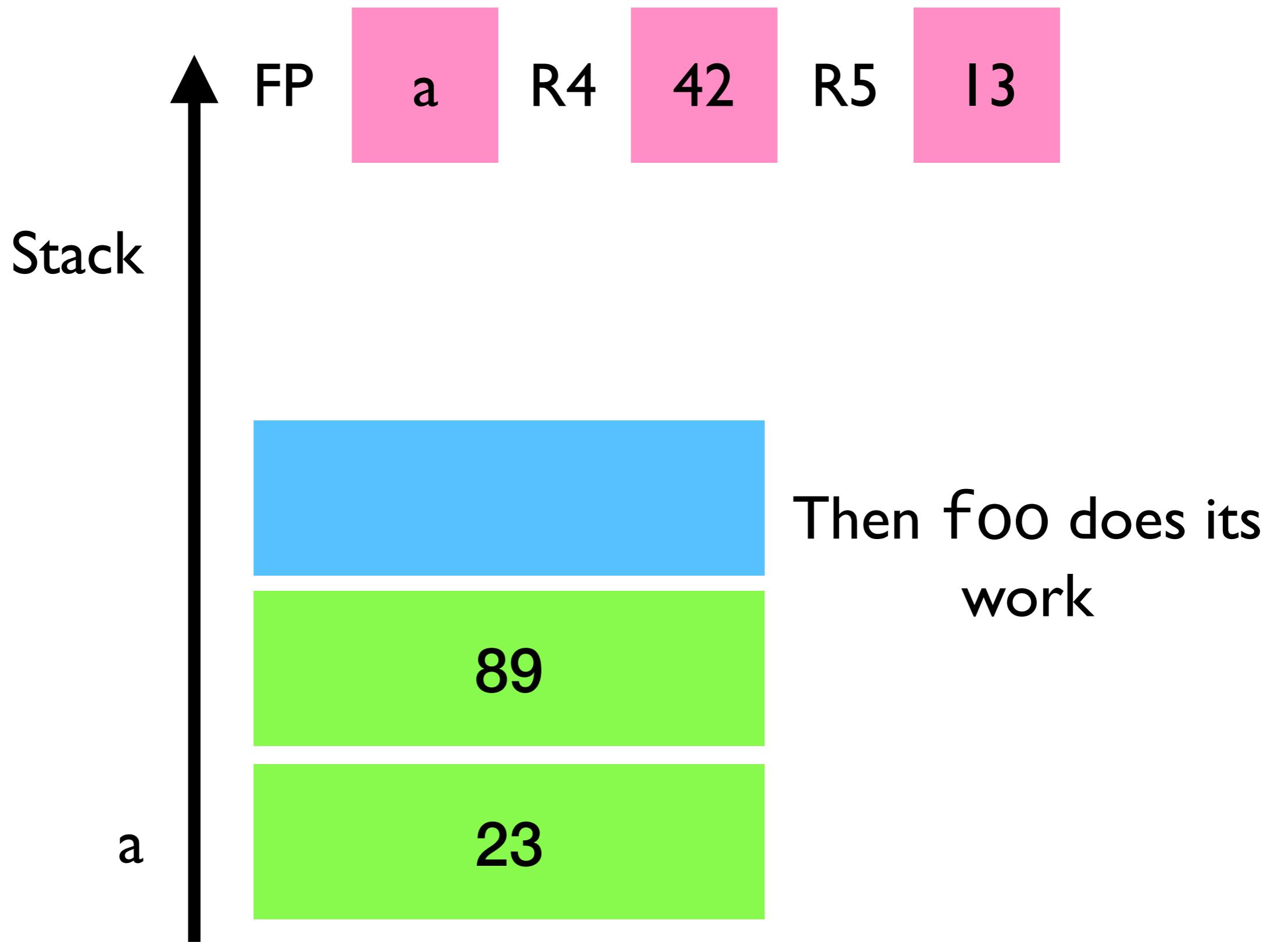


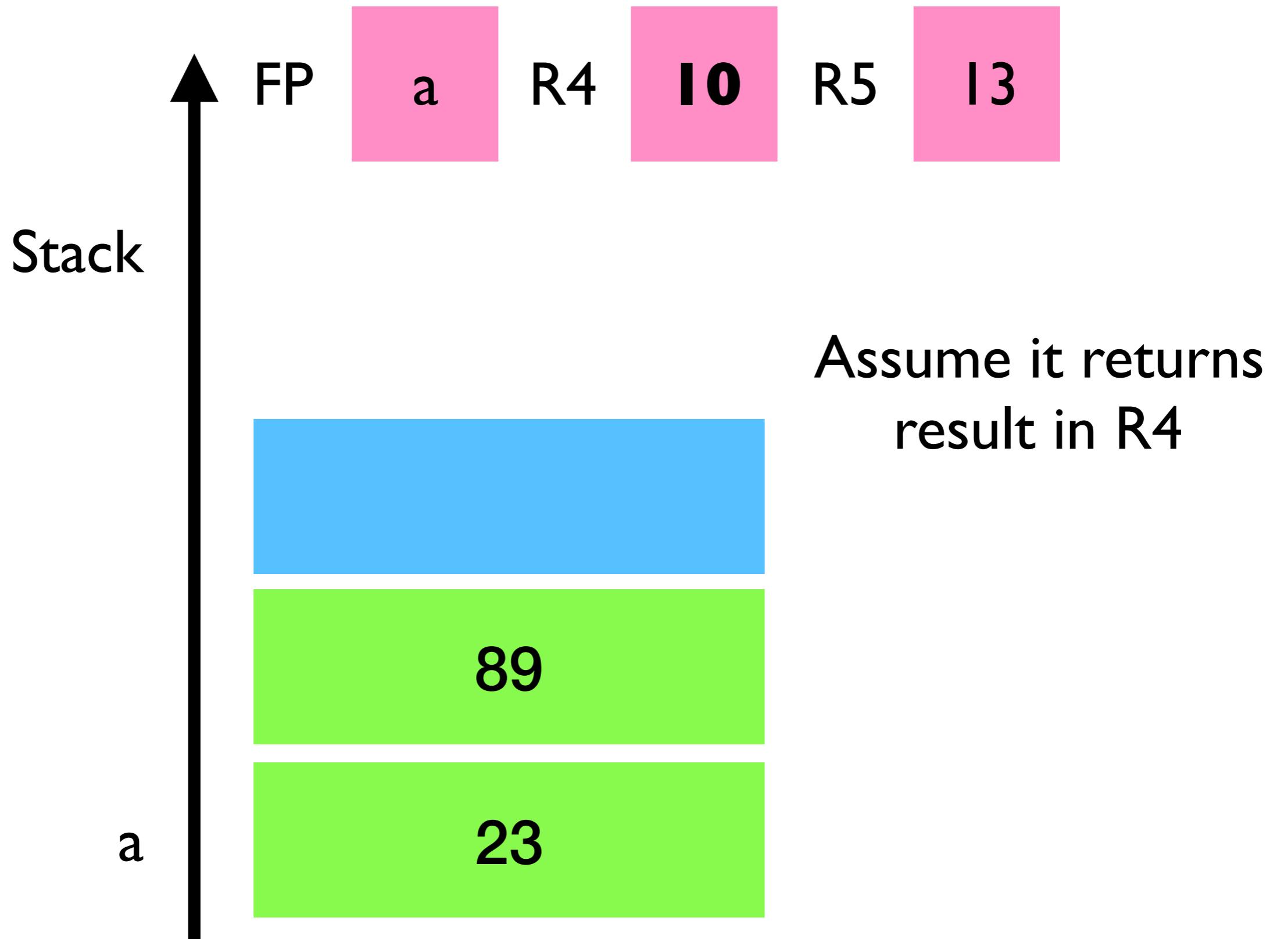


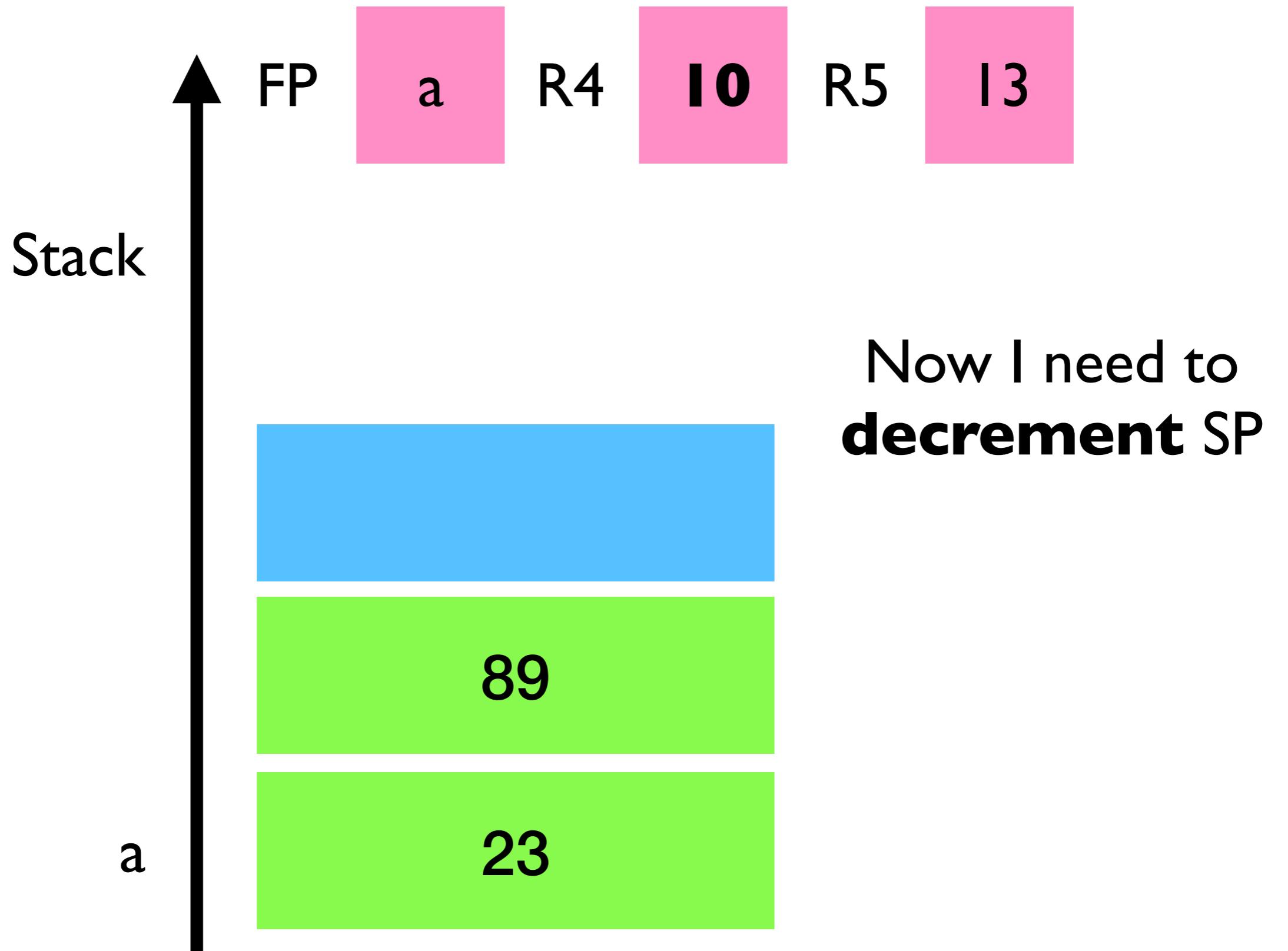


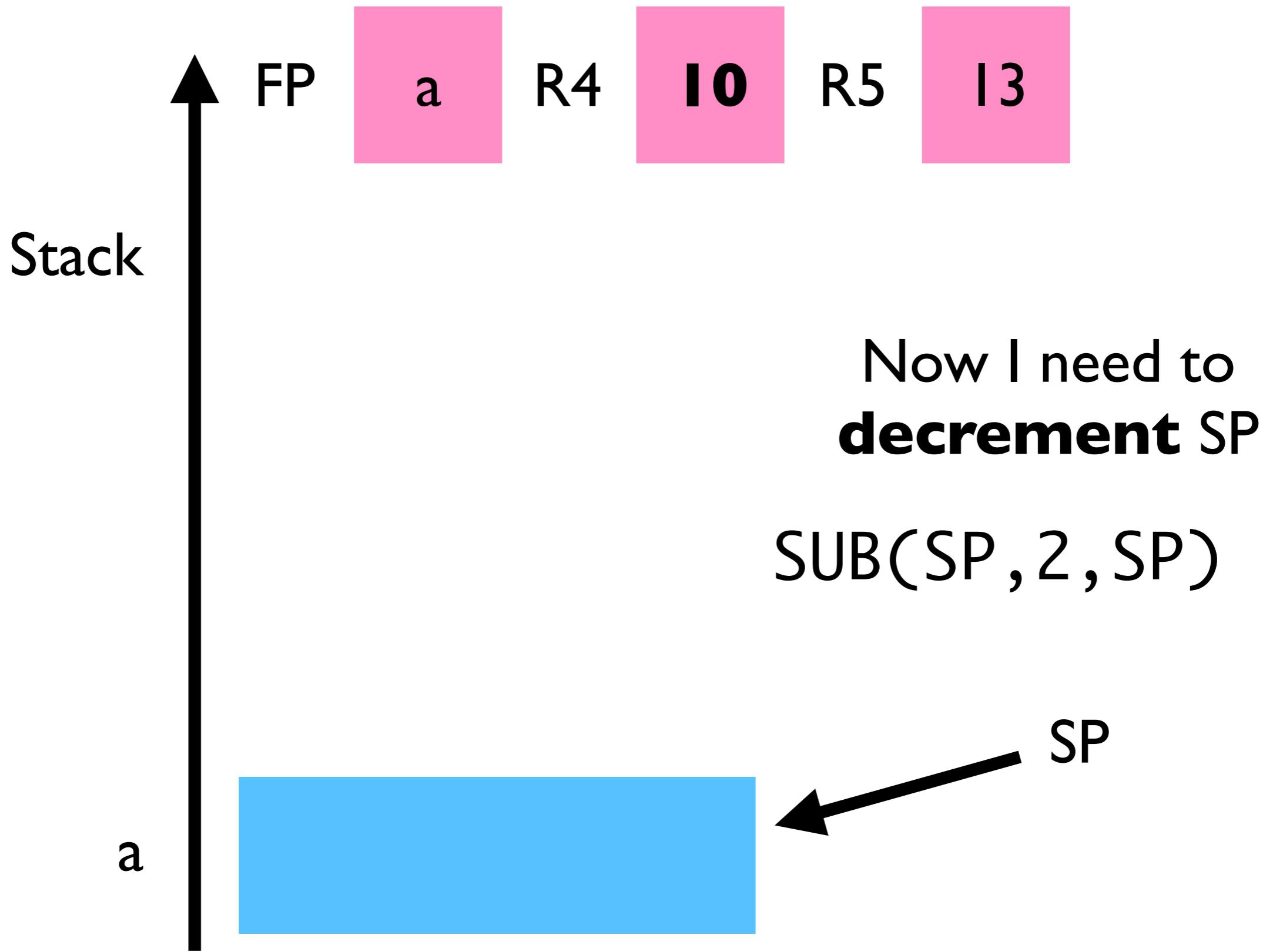










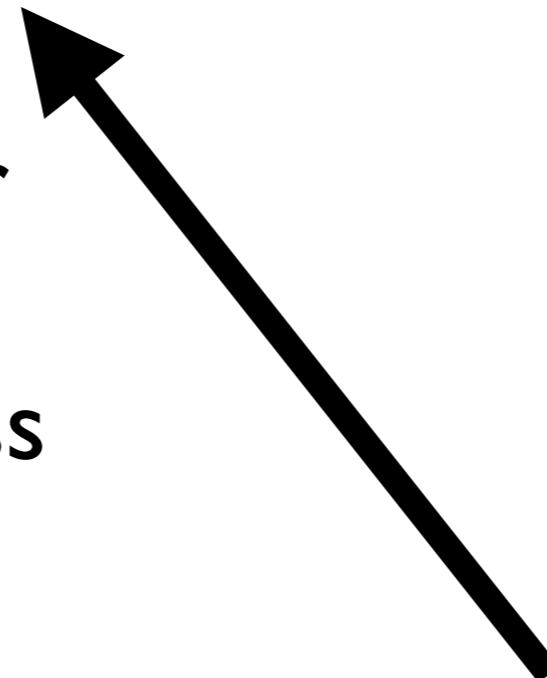


Note: when we call a function, we **may** also need to save three other registers...

- Stack pointer
- Frame pointer
- Return address

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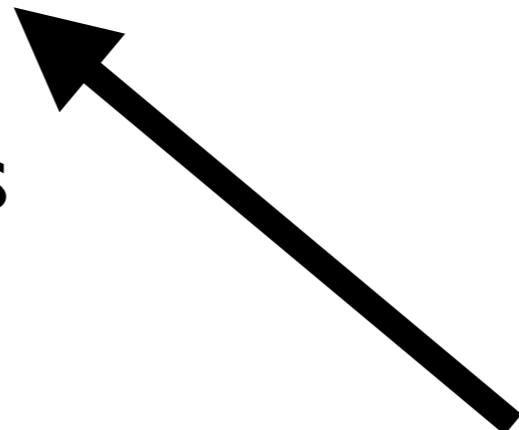
Remember, I'm going to increment the stack pointer

Note: when we call a function, we **may** also need to save three other registers...

- Stack pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the stack was
- Frame pointer
- Return address

Note: when we call a function, we **may** also need to save three other registers...

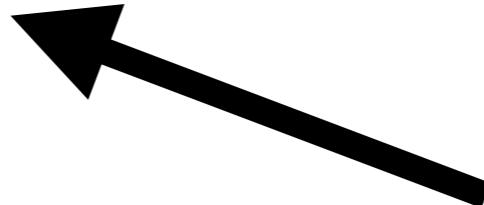
- Stack pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the stack was
- Frame pointer
- Return address



I'm going to add a frame, too...

Note: when we call a function, we **may** also need to save three other registers...

- Stack pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the stack was
- Frame pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the frame was
- Return address



I'm going to update the return address...

Note: when we call a function, we **may** also need to save three other registers...

- Stack pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the stack was
- Frame pointer
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where the frame was
- Return address
 - If I didn't, I'd forget where to go next

CALL and RETURN instructions

CALL(R_a, R_b)

Calls function at address R_b with new stack
frame starting at R_a

Typically you will use the current SP for R_a

CALL(R_a, R_b)

PC \leftarrow R_b

R_b \leftarrow PC + I

FP \leftarrow R_a

R_a \leftarrow FP

So CALL handles all of the common things
to save FP/SP/RT and then set the frame
pointer appropriately...

Caller save

Code using foo

```
MOVE(FP,SP)
INC(SP,1)
STORE(R4,0,FP)
SET(R2,foo)
CALL(SP,R2)
LOAD(R4,0,FP)
SUB(SP,1,SP)
```

Definition of foo

```
LABEL(getValue)
    LOAD(R3, 0, R1)
    SET(R4, 0)
    BR(R2)
    RETURN()
```

Callee save

In **callee** save, arguments are passed on stack,
and result *returned* on stack

```
int two_x_plus_y(int x, int y) {  
    return x+x+y;  
}
```

This is how I'm going to call two_x_plus_y

```
SETCB()
MOVE(R12, SP)
INC(SP, 5)
SET(r7,2)
STORE(r7, 3,R12)           // parameter 1 = 2
SET(r7,10)
STORE(r7, 4,R12)           // parameter 2 = 10
CALL(R12, foo)
LOAD(r1, 3,R12)            // retrieve result
DEC(SP, 5)
```

```
SETCB()
MOVE(R12, SP)
INC(SP, 5)
SET(r7,2)
STORE(r7, 3,R12)
SET(r7,10)
STORE(r7, 4,R12)
CALL(R12, foo)
LOAD(r1, 3,R12)
DEC(SP, 5)
```

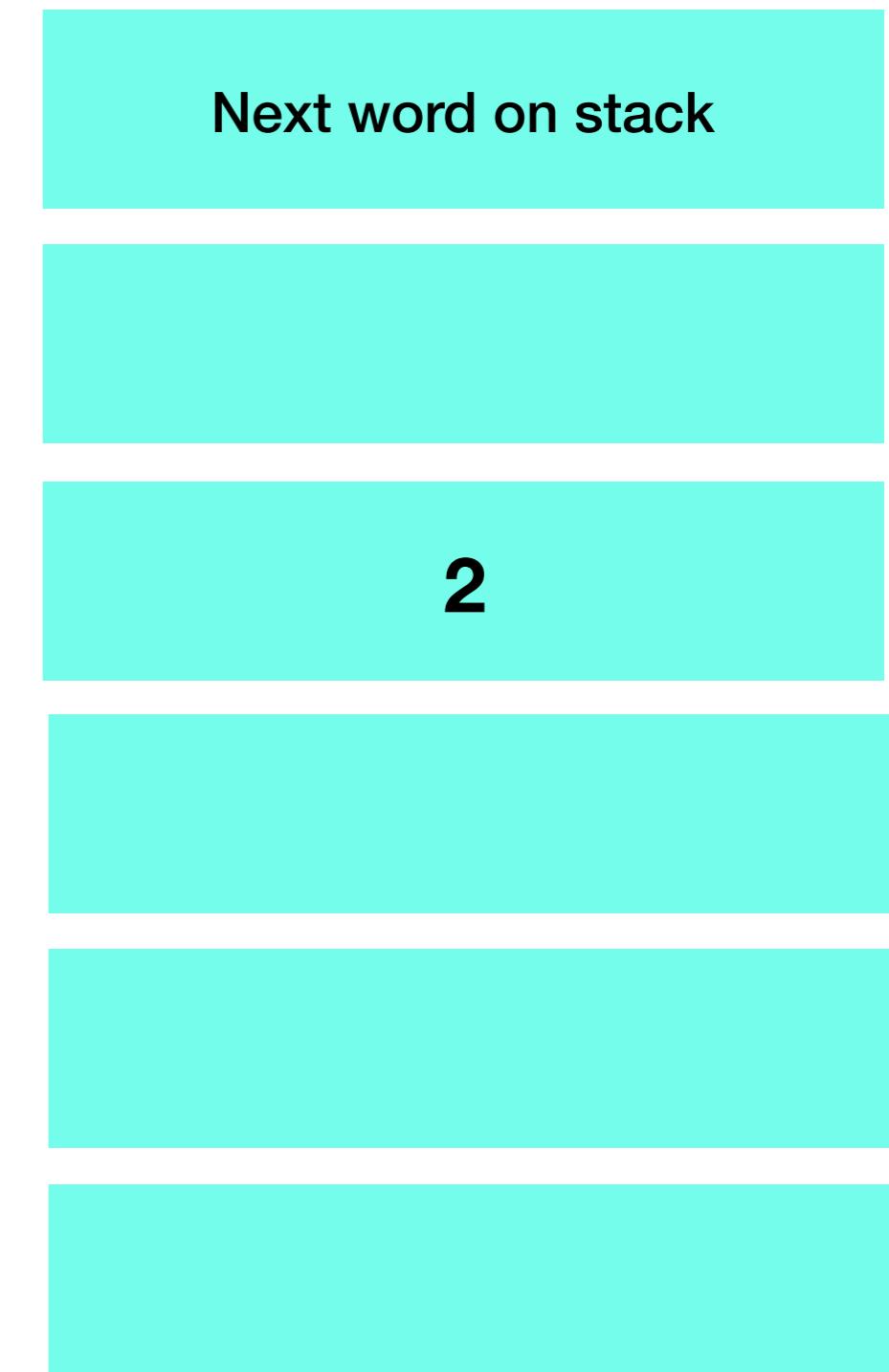
SP

Next word on stack

SETCB()	
MOVE(R12, SP)	SP
INC(SP, 5)	
SET(r7, 2)	FP+4
STORE(r7, 3, R12)	
SET(r7, 10)	FP+3
STORE(r7, 4, R12)	
CALL(R12, foo)	FP+2
LOAD(r1, 3, R12)	
DEC(SP, 5)	FP+1
	FP

Next word on stack

SETCB()	
MOVE(R12, SP)	SP
INC(SP, 5)	
SET(r7, 2)	FP+4
STORE(r7, 3, R12)	
SET(r7, 10)	FP+3
STORE(r7, 4, R12)	
CALL(R12, foo)	FP+2
LOAD(r1, 3, R12)	
DEC(SP, 5)	FP+1
	FP



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SETCB()
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STORE(r7, 3,R12)
SET(r7,10)
STORE(r7, 4,R12)
CALL(R12, foo)
LOAD(r1, 3,R12)
DEC(SP, 5)
```

SP

FP+4

FP+3

FP+2

FP+1

FP

Next word on stack

10

2

`two_x_plus_y`
receives this

SP

Next word on stack

FP+4

10

FP+3

2

FP+2

FP+1

FP

```
LABEL(two_x_plus_y)
// FIRST, make space to save r1 and r2 and then save Rt, R12, and them
INC(SP, 2)
STORE(Rt, 0,FP)      // Return address, i.e. PC+1 from before CALL
STORE(R12, 1,FP)      // Control Link, i.e. FP from before the CALL
STORE(r1, 5,FP)      // skip FP+3 and FP+4, where a and b will be...
STORE(r2, 6,FP)      // ... and save r1 and r2 in FP+5/FP+6

// Load "x" and "y" from stack frame (calling func. put them there)
LOAD(r1, 3,FP)      // r1 = x
LOAD(r2, 4,FP)      // r2 = y

// Compute the result
ADD(r1, r1,r1)      // r1 = x+x
ADD(r1, r1,r2)      // r1 = x+x+y

// Store the result where the caller of two_x_plus_y will find it
STORE(r1, 3,FP)

// FINALLY, restore registers (including Rt and R12) and return
LOAD(r2, 6,FP)      // Restore r2
LOAD(r1, 5,FP)      // Restore r1
LOAD(Rt, 0,FP)      // Restore Rt to provide R.A. for return
LOAD(R12, 1,FP)      // Restore R12 (C.L.) to provide old FP for return
DEC(SP, 2)
RETURN(R12, Rt)
```

Let's dive into this code...

What we've got now..

SP

Next word on stack

FP+4

Value of y

FP+3

Value of x

FP+2

Unused

FP+1

Unused

FP

Unused

```
LABEL(two_x_plus_y)
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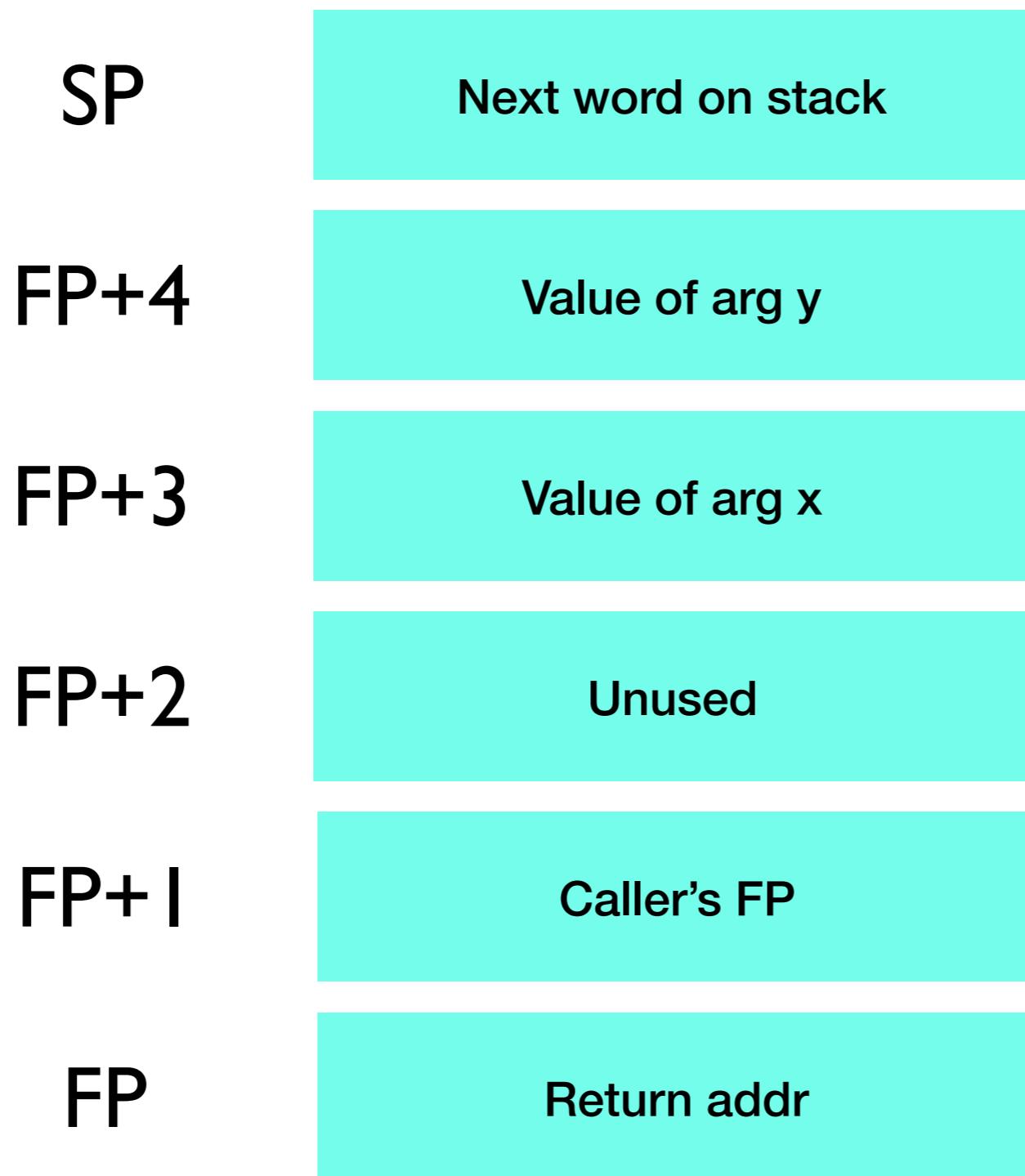
// Store the result where the caller of two_x_plus_y will find it
STORE(r1, 3,FP)

// FINALLY, restore registers (including Rt and R12) and return
LOAD(r2, 6,FP)      // Restore r2
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LOAD(Rt, 0,FP)      // Restore Rt to provide R.A. for return
LOAD(R12, 1,FP)      // Restore R12 (C.L.) to provide old FP for return
DEC(SP, 2)
RETURN(R12, Rt)
```

SP	Next word on stack
FP+4	Value of arg y
FP+3	Value of arg x
FP+2	Unused
FP+1	Caller's FP
FP	Return addr

`two_x_plus_y` wants to use R1 and R2

So make space by incrementing SP



SP

Next word on stack

FP+6

Space to save R2

FP+5

Space to save R1

FP+4

Value of arg y

INC(SP, 2)

FP+3

Value of arg x

FP+2

Unused

FP+ 1

Caller's FP

FP

Return addr

SP

Next word on stack

FP+6

Previous R2

FP+5

Previous R1

FP+4

Value of arg y

FP+3

Value of arg x

FP+2

Unused

FP+ 1

Caller's FP

FP

Return addr

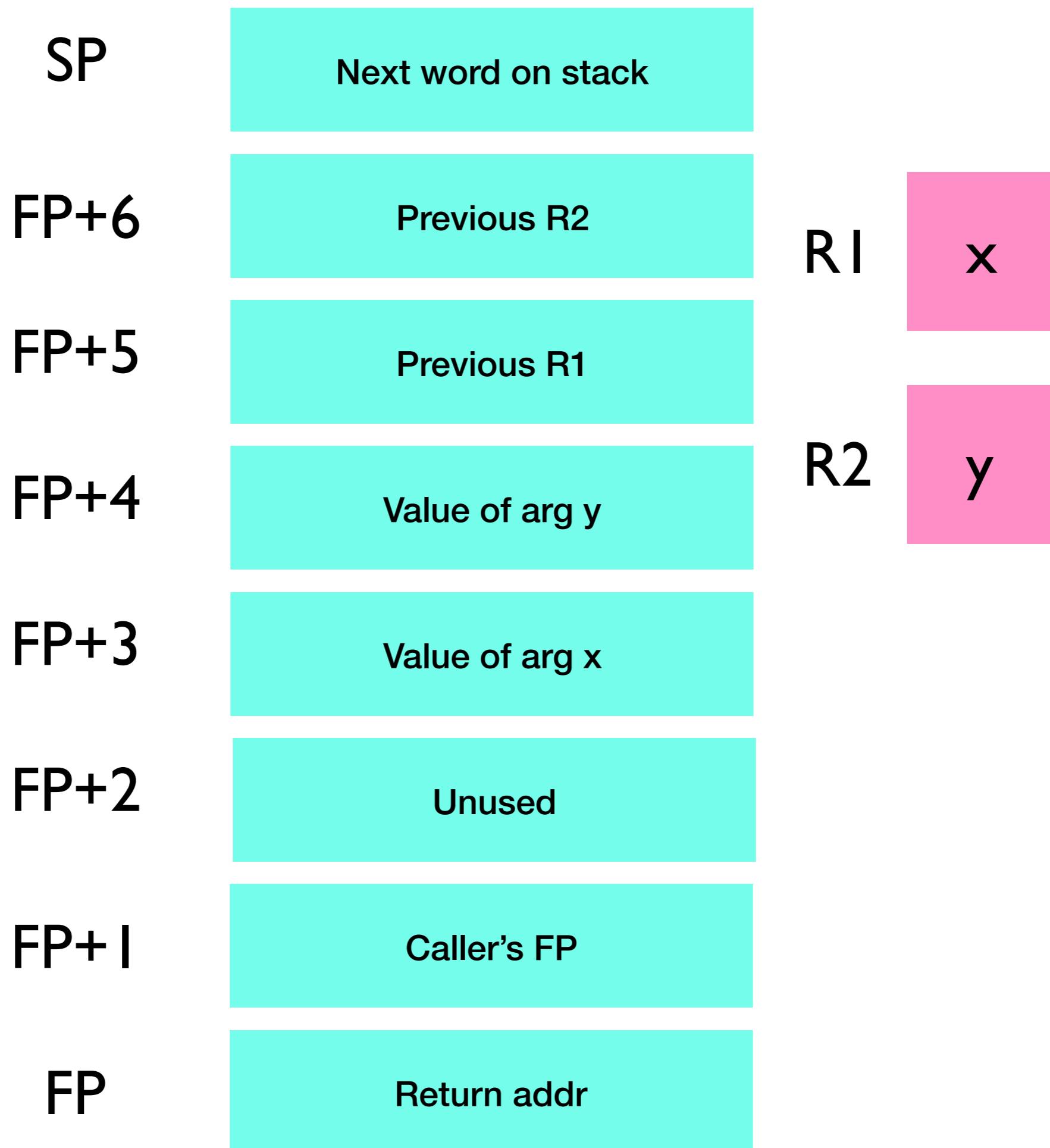
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LOAD(r2, 6,FP)      // Restore r2
LOAD(r1, 5,FP)      // Restore r1
LOAD(Rt, 0,FP)      // Restore Rt to provide R.A. for return
LOAD(R12, 1,FP)      // Restore R12 (C.L.) to provide old FP for return
DEC(SP, 2)
RETURN(R12, Rt)
```

SP

Next word on stack

FP+6

Space to save R2

R1

ans

FP+5

Space to save R1

R2

y

FP+4

Value of arg y

FP+3

Return value (ans)

FP+2

Unused

FP+1

Caller's FP

FP

Return addr

```
LABEL(two_x_plus_y)
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Next word on stack

FP+6

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R1

FP+5

FP+5

Space to save R1

R2

FP+6

FP+4

Value of arg y

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// Store the result where the caller of two_x_plus_y will find it
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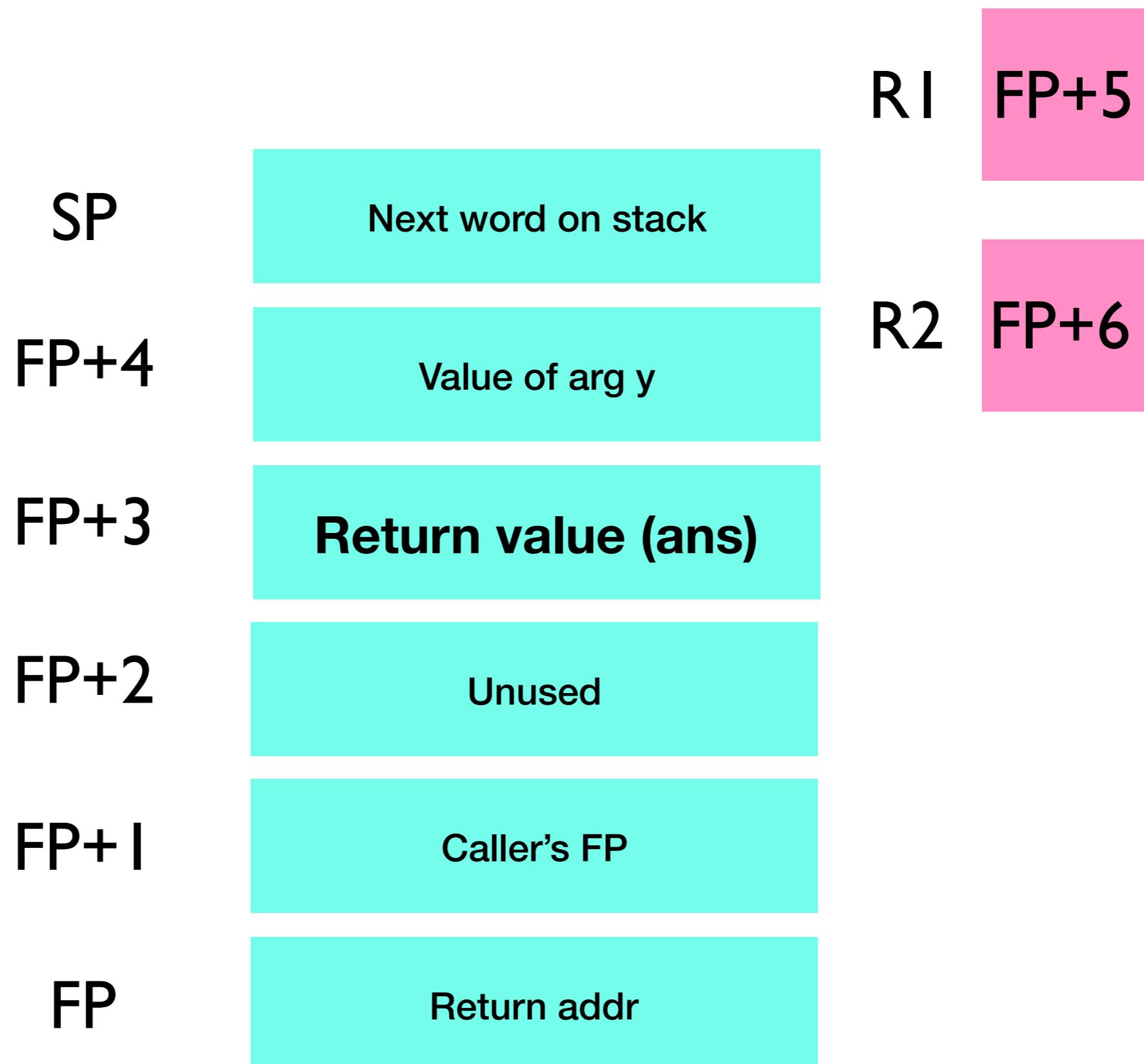
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ADD(r1, r1,r2)      // r1 = x+x+y

// Store the result where the caller of two_x_plus_y will find it
STORE(r1, 3,FP)

// FINALLY, restore registers (including Rt and R12) and return
LOAD(r2, 6,FP)      // Restore r2
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LABEL(two_x_plus_y)
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// Compute the result
ADD(r1, r1,r1)      // r1 = x+x
ADD(r1, r1,r2)      // r1 = x+x+y

// Store the result where the caller of two_x_plus_y will find it
STORE(r1, 3,FP)

// FINALLY, restore registers (including Rt and R12) and return
LOAD(r2, 6,FP)      // Restore r2
LOAD(r1, 5,FP)      // Restore r1
LOAD(Rt, 0,FP)      // Restore Rt to provide R.A. for return
LOAD(R12, 1,FP)      // Restore R12 (C.L.) to provide old FP for return
DEC(SP, 2)
RETURN(R12, Rt)
```

Now caller clears these by decrementing SP

SP	Next word on stack
FP+4	Value of arg y
FP+3	Return value (ans)
FP+2	Unused
FP+1	Caller's FP
FP	Return addr

So which one should you use?

You **could** mix and match

Much better to pick one and stick to it

One big reason: if other code wants to interact with your code, you need a common calling convention

The **ABI** defines your
calling convention

Application Binary Interface

If functions use the same ABI, they can work even if
they were written in **different languages**

For example, mixing C and C++

Or call assembly from C++

(This is useful for high-performance apps)