

# Chapter 6: Modular Programming

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N4-02c-92

1



## Learning Objectives

- Describe ARM instructions in implement subroutines
- Describe passing parameters to subroutines using:
  - Registers
  - Memory



2

## Modular Program Design

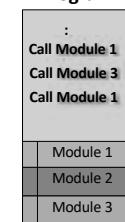
- Real-world applications are very large and complex
  - Google Chrome: ~6.7 Millions line of code
  - Android OS: 12-15 Millions line of code
  - Boeing 787: ~6.5 Millions line of code
- Large software cannot be a single function
- It is decomposed into several less complex **modules**

3



## Modular Program Design

- Software decomposed to several less complex **modules**
  - Modules can be designed and tested **independently**
  - Modules can reduce overall **program size**
    - Same module may be required in several places
  - Modules that are general can be **re-used** in other projects



4

## Characteristics of a Good SW Module

- Loose coupling—**data** within module is entirely **independent** of other modules (local variables)
- Strong modularity—should perform a **single** logically coherent **task**

5

## Example: Standard Deviation

Case 1: all in one c main()

```
int main() {
    ...
    float avg=0.0; //initialization
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        avg +=x[i];
    }
    avg/=N;
    float sigma = 0.0;
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        sigma +=pow(x[i]-avg),2);
    }
    sigma/=N;
    sigma=sqrt(sigma);
    return 0;
}
```

6

6

## Example: Standard Deviation

Case 2: Modular

```
int main() {
    ...
    float avg = sum(x,N)/N;
    float sigma = Sigma_f(x,avg,N);
    return 0;
}

float sum( int* x, int N){
    float tot=0.0; //initialization
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        tot +=x[i];
    }
    return tot;
}

float Sigma_f( int* x, float avg, int N){
    float sigma = 0.0;
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        sigma +=pow(x[i]-avg),2);
    }
    sigma/=N;
    sigma=sqrt(sigma);
    return sigma;
}
```

7

## Example: Standard Deviation

Case 2: Modular

```
int main() {
    ...
    float avg = sum(x,N)/N;
    float sigma = Sigma_f(x,avg,N);
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float sum( int* x, int N){
    float tot=0.0; //initialization
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        tot +=x[i];
    }
    return tot;
}

float Sigma_f( int* x, float avg, int N){
    float sigma = 0.0;
    for(int i=0;i<N;i++){
        sigma +=pow(x[i]-avg),2);
    }
    sigma/=N;
    sigma=sqrt(sigma);
    return sigma;
}
```

How will this be translated to assembly instructions?

How will ARM go to these two functions and return?

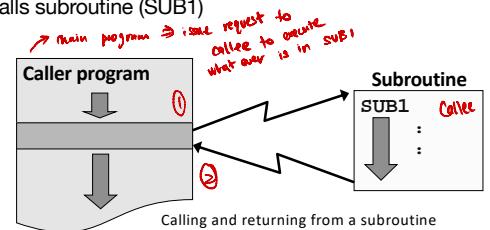
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7

8

## Subroutines

- Modules (e.g., functions in C) are implemented as **subroutines**
- Subroutine can be called from various parts of the program
- Caller and callee
  - Caller: the program that calls subroutine (SUB1)
  - Callee: subroutine (SUB1)

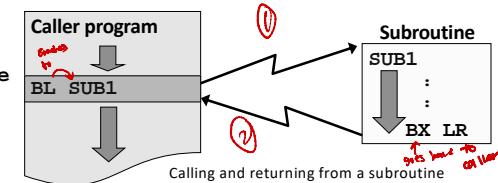


9

## Subroutines

- On completion, subroutine returns control to the caller
  - Exactly after the subroutine was called
- Calling and returning from a subroutine
  - To go to subroutine (SUB1): **BL SUB1**
  - To return to caller program: **BX LR**

**BL:** branch with link  
**BX:** branch and exchange



10

need to store where you should be getting back after ①

## Why **BL** and **BX** and not **B**?

- Main program branches to subroutine:
  - Can be done with **B** → what is the draw back?
    - just takes destination address and goes there
    - does not preserve what you should go back to
  - **B** overwrites value in PC → oldPC value in main program is LOST
  - Maybe add another branch at the end of subroutine → need to know the exact mem location during compilation, not an effective approach
    - may mean subroutine is somehow linked to caller
    - if another program wants to make use of callee, need to create new one

just takes destination address and goes there  
 does not preserve what you should go back to  
 to point to next instruction

11

11

## Branch with Link (**BL**)

- **BL** used to make subroutine call
- Return address (PC contents + 4) is stored in the link register (R14)
 

Condition	101	1	Offset (24 bits)
-----------	-----	---	------------------

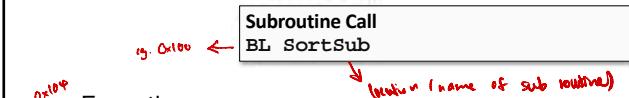
BL inst. location
- We can also conditionally make a functional call (more of this later)
  - E.g., if **BL** instruction is in **0x100**, return address = **0x104**

link register:  
 stores return  
 address so that  
 can go back to  
 main program  
 with any problems

12

## Branch with Link (BL)

- BL used to make subroutine call

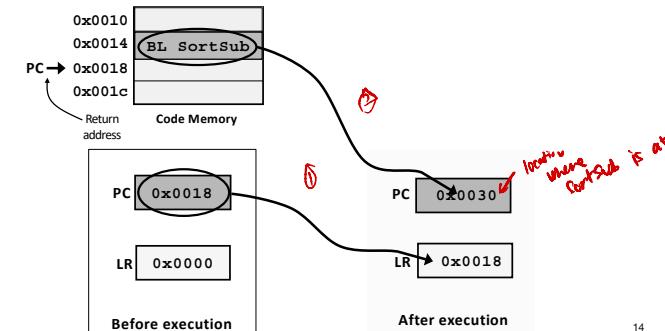


- Execution sequence:
- Return address (PC contents + 4) is stored in the link register (R14)
- The subroutine address is stored to the PC

13

## BL (Execution example)

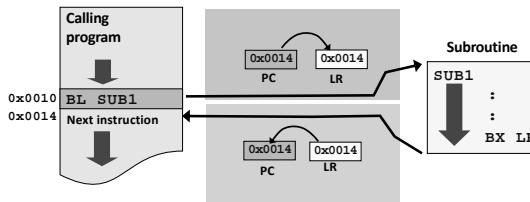
- BL SortSub (assume SortSub is in 0x0030)



14

## BX instruction

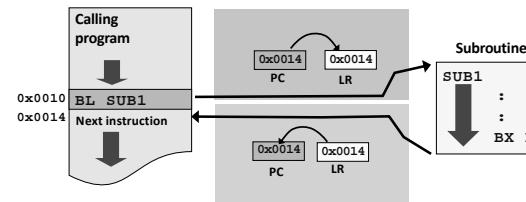
- BX lr returns from subroutine
- lr contains the return address, the instruction copies the value over to PC



15

## BX instruction

- BX lr returns from subroutine
- lr contains the return address, the instruction copies the value over to PC



16

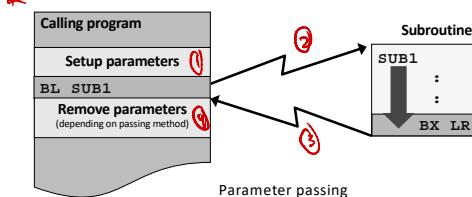
17

may be dangerous  
as overwriting pc value  
however no choice in cortex  
safer, but { sub → MVE lr, [pc+4]  
takes up performance  
2 lines vs 1 line)

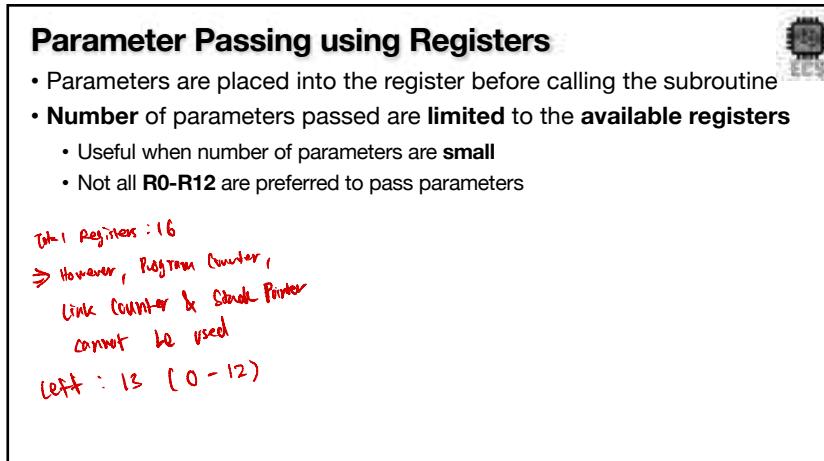
- \* allocate some place in the memory where it has its variable; allocation known to caller then send address to callee to perform operations

## Parameter Passing

- Calling programs need to pass parameters to influence a subroutine's execution.
- Parameters must be setup properly before the subroutine is called and appropriately removed after returning.
- There are three basic methods to pass parameters, via **registers**, **memory block** or the **system stack**.



18



19

## Parameter Passing using Registers

- Parameters are placed into the register before calling the subroutine
- Number of parameters passed are limited to the available registers
  - Useful when number of parameters are small
  - Not all R0-R12 are preferred to pass parameters

"Free to use"

**R0-R3**  
Can be used to pass argument values  
Also used to return values from subroutine  
Subroutine can modify values

- ⇒ Caller can pass parameters
- ⇒ Caller can modify values

### Calling convention

Letter to  
store backup → in the stack

**R4-R11**  
Used to hold local variables  
Not for passing arguments  
Must be preserved in the subroutine

- ⇒ Caller needs to store a copy first in a stack before it can work on its parameters

20

PC always pointing 8 bytes ahead of current instruction  
 ⇒ point program counter to base address of subroutine first  
 ⇒ then it will go 8 bytes ahead after pointing at base address

## Parameter Passing using Registers

- Parameters are placed into the register before calling the subroutine
- Number** of parameters passed are **limited** to the **available registers**
  - Useful when number of parameters are **small**
  - Not all **R0-R12** are preferred to pass parameters

### Calling convention

pass by value or reference ok

#### R0-R3

Can be used to pass argument values  
to return values from subroutine  
Subroutine can modify values

#### R4-R11

Used to hold local variables  
Not for passing arguments  
Must be preserved in the subroutine

sometimes here

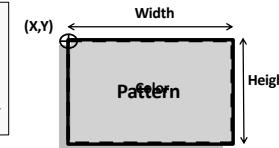
R12: Scratchpad register, does not need to be preserved  
Can be used sometimes as **return register**

21

## Parameter Passing using Registers

- Parameters are placed into the register before calling the subroutine
- Number** of parameters passed are **limited** to the **available registers**
  - Useful when number of parameters are **small**
  - Not all **R0-R12** are preferred to pass parameters

```
Draw_rectangle(
  X,
  Y,
  Height, Width,
  Border, Line_style
  Fill, Color, Pattern,
  Shadow);
```



22

## Parameter Passing using Registers

- Parameters are placed into the register before calling the subroutine
- Number** of parameters passed are **limited** to the **available registers**
  - Useful when number of parameters are **small**
  - Not all **R0-R12** are preferred to pass parameters
  - Pro – efficient** as parameters are already in register within the subroutine and can be used immediately.
  - Con – lacks generality** due to the limited number of registers.

23

23

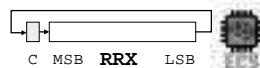
## Example: Bit Counting Subroutine

- Write a subroutine to:
  - Count the number of "1" bits in a word.
  - Return result in register **R0**.
- Design considerations:**
  - How do we transfer the word into the subroutine?
  - Put the word into a **register**, which can then be accessed within the subroutine (e.g. register **R1**).
  - How do we check if each individual bit is a "1" or a "0"?
  - Rotate **R1** right 32 times with the carry bit. After each rotate, test carry bit to check if (**C=1**). If yes, increment bit counter register **R0**.



24

24

**Solution #1**

Count1s

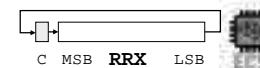
Start by labeling the subroutine  
and placing the return instruction

```
MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

25

**Solution #1**

```
Count1s MOV      R0, #0      ;Clear R0
          MOV      R2, #32     ; Set counter R2 with 32
```

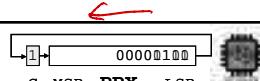
Initialize R0 with 0 and  
the counter register R2 with 32

```
MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

26

**Solution #1**

```
Count1s MOV      R0, #0      ;Clear R0
          MOV      R2, #32     ; Set counter R2 with 32
Loop    RRXS   R1,R1      ; Rotate right and extend R1
          Rotate to the right (arithmetic), and use the carry
          S: set the status registers after rotation
          MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

27

**Solution #1**

```
Count1s MOV      R0, #0      ;Clear R0
          MOV      R2, #32     ; Set counter R2 with 32
Loop    RRXS   R1,R1      ; Rotate right and extend R1
          ADC      R0,R0,#0    ; Add the carry to R0
          Add the carry value to R0
          MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

28

**Solution #1**

```

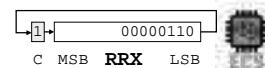
Count1s MOV R0, #0      ; Clear R0
          MOV R2, #32     ; Set counter R2 with 32
Loop    RRXS R1,R1      ; Rotate right and extend R1
        ADC R0,R0,#0    ; Add the carry to R0
        SUBS R2,R2,#1    ; decrement counter by 1
        BNE Loop         ; loop if not zero
        MOV PC, LR       ; same as bx lr

```

Decrement and set  
Status registers

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

**Solution #1**

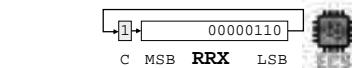
```

Count1s MOV R0, #0      ;Clear R0
          MOV R2, #32     ; Set counterR2 with 32
Loop    RRXS R1,R1      ; Rotate right and extend R1
        ADC R0,R0,#0    ; Add the carry to R0
        SUBS R2,R2,#1    ; decrement counter by 1
        BNE Loop         ; loop if not zero
        MOV PC, LR       ; same as bx lr

```

Issue, the carry of SUBS  
Will be used in RRXS → R1 value is destroyed

Value passed in R1, return value in R0



VisUAL does not support bx lr

30

**Solution #2**

*instead of MOV*

```

Count1s EOR R0,R0,R0      ;Clear R0
          ADD R2, R0, #32   ; Set counterR2 with 32
          ADD R3, R0, #1     ; Set R3 with 1
Loop    AND R4, R3, R1, ROR R2   ; ?
        ADD R0,R0,R4      ; Add the lsb of R0
        SUBS R2,R2,#1      ; decrement counter by 1
        BNE Loop           ; loop if not zero
        MOV PC, LR         ; same as bx lr

```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

**Solution #2**

```

Count1s EOR R0,R0,R0      ;Clear R0
          ADD R2, R0, #32   ; Set counterR2 with 32
          ADD R3, R0, #1     ; Set R3 with 1
Loop    AND R4, R3, R1, ROR R2   ; ?
        ADD R0,R0,R4      ; Add the lsb of R0
        SUBS R2,R2,#1      ; decrement counter by 1
        BNE Loop           ; loop if not zero
        MOV PC, LR         ; same as bx lr

```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0



VisUAL does not support bx lr

32

Do an AND operator using R3 (mask) and rotated value of R1  
 R1, ROR R2 : take value of R1 and rotates it by R2 values  
 stores into R4

## Solution #2

```
Count1s EOR      R0, R0, R0      ;Clear R0
        ADD      R2, R0, #32    ; Set counterR2 with 32
        ADD      R3, R0, #1     ; Set R3 with 1
Loop     AND      R4, R3, R1, ROR R2      ; ?
Set R3 as a mask with a value of 1
Then apply this mask with a rotated value of R1
MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

33

## Solution #2

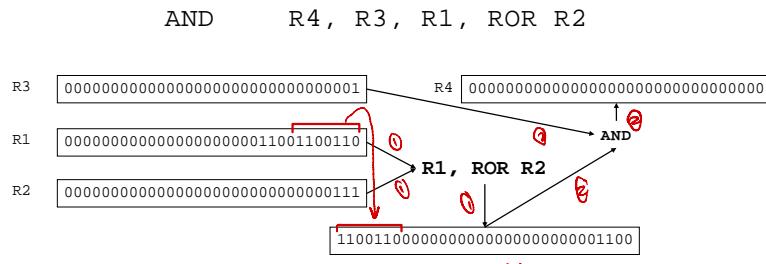
```
Count1s EOR      R0, R0, R0      ;Clear R0
        ADD      R2, R0, #32    ; Set counterR2 with 32
        ADD      R3, R0, #1     ; Set R3 with 1
Loop     AND      R4, R3, R1, ROR R2      ; ?
Set R3 as a mask with a value of 1
Then apply this mask with a rotated value of R1
The rotated R1 is not stored anywhere
MOV      PC, LR      ; same as bx lr
```

Value passed in R1, return value in R0

VisUAL does not support bx lr

34

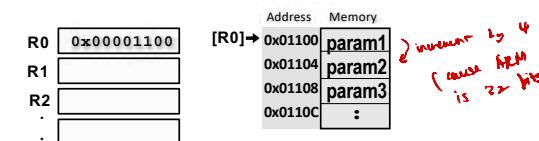
## A Deep Dive



35

## Parameter Passing using Memory

- A region in memory is treated like a mailbox and is used by both the calling program and subroutine.
  - Parameters to be passed are gathered into a **block** at a predefined memory location
  - The start address of the memory block is passed to the subroutine via an **address register**.
  - Useful for passing **large number of parameters**.



36

## Example: Lower to Upper Case Subroutine

- Write a subroutine to:
  - To convert an ASCII string from lower to upper case.
  - The string is terminated by a NULL character (0x00000000).
  - The start address of the string is passed via R0.
  - A segment of the calling program shows how the parameter is setup and the subroutine called:

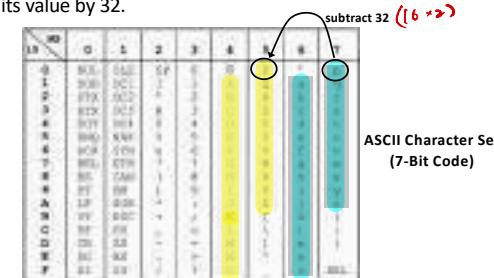
```
;Calling program
:
MOV R0, #0x100 ;move start addr. of string to R0
BL Lo2Up ;branch to Lo2Up subroutine
:
```

Address	Memory
0x100	"a"
0x104	"p"
0x108	"p"
0x10C	"l"
0x110	"e"
0x114	0x000
0x118	:

37

## Algorithm Design

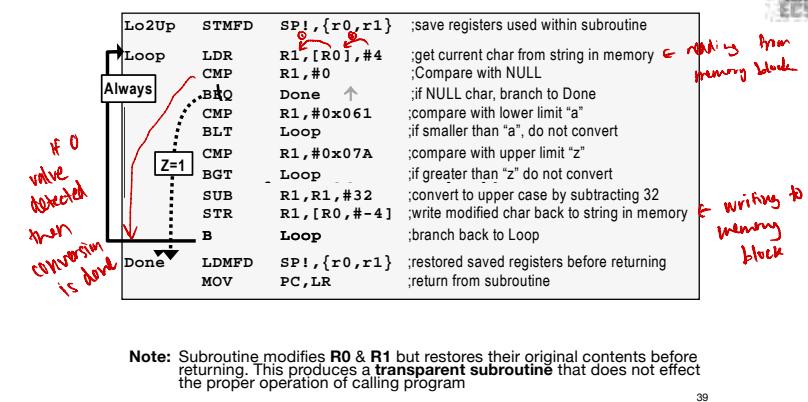
- How to convert an ASCII character from lower to upper case?
  - Check that the character's value is between 'a' and 'z'.
  - If so, subtract its value by 32.



38

37

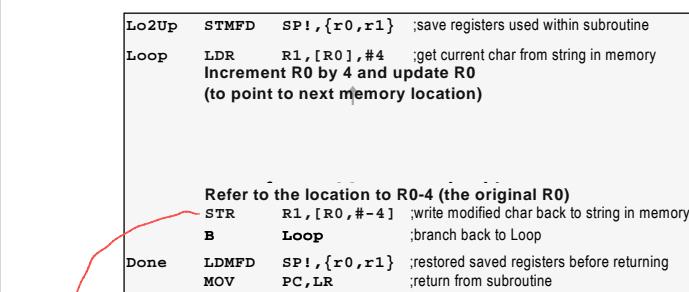
## Possible Solution



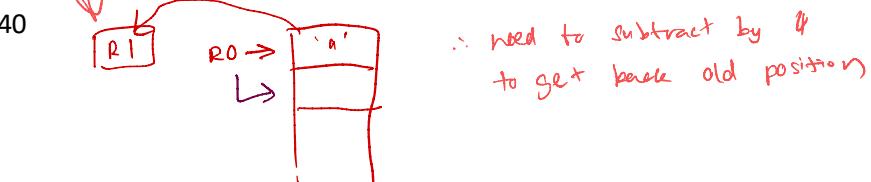
39



## Possible Solution



40



10

## Possible Solution

```

Lo2Up  STMFDE SP!, {r0,r1} ;save registers used within subroutine
      → R0=0x100
Loop   LDR    R1, [R0], #4 ;get current char from string in memory
      Increment R0 by 4 and update R0
      → R0=0x104
      (to point to next memory location)

Refer to the location to R0-4 (the original R0)
STR    R1, [R0, #-4] ;write modified char back to string in memory
B     Loop    ;branch back to Loop

Done   LDMFD  SP!, {r0,r1} ;restored saved registers before returning
      MOV    PC, LR ;return from subroutine
  
```

**Note:** Subroutine modifies R0 & R1 but restores their original contents before returning. This produces a **transparent subroutine** that does not effect the proper operation of calling program



41

41

## Optimizing Memory Usage

- Example assumes each character in 32 bits
  - But each character requires 8 bits only
- Can we access each Byte separately?

Address	Memory
0x100	"a"
0x101	"p"
0x102	"p"
0x103	"l"
0x104	"e"
0x105	0x000
0x106	:



42

42

## Optimizing Memory Usage

- Example assumes each character in 32 bits
  - But each character requires 8 bits only
- Can we access each Byte separately?



Use the {B} option in Access

LDRB  
STRB

Address	Memory
0x100	"a"
0x101	"p"
0x102	"p"
0x103	"l"
0x104	"e"
0x105	0x000
0x106	:

43

43

## Efficient Memory Solution

```

Lo2Up  STMFDE SP!, {r0,r1} ;save registers used within subroutine
      → gets byte from puts in least 8 bits of register after them extend by 0s
Loop   LDRB   R1, [R0], #1 ;get current char from string in memory
      CMP    R1, #0 ;Compare with NULL
      BEQ    Done ↑ ;if NULL char, branch to Done
      CMP    R1, #0x061 ;compare with lower limit "a"
      BLT    Loop    ;if smaller than "a", do not convert
      CMP    R1, #0x7A ;compare with upper limit "z"
      BGT    Loop    ;if greater than "z" do not convert
      SUB    R1, R1, #32 ;convert to upper case by subtracting 32
      STRB   R1, [R0, #-1] ;write modified char back to string in memory
      B     Loop    ;branch back to Loop

Done   LDMFD  SP!, {r0,r1} ;restored saved registers before returning
      MOV    PC, LR ;return from subroutine
  
```



44

**Note:** Subroutine modifies R0 & R1 but restores their original contents before returning. This produces a **transparent subroutine** that does not effect the proper operation of calling program

44

## Summary

- BL is required to call a subroutine, return address is in LR register
- A return from subroutine is done with BX LR or MOV PC,LR
- Passing parameters **using registers** is the simplest and fastest.
  - Number of parameters that can be passed is **limited** by the **available registers**.
- Passing parameters using a **memory block** can support a **large number** of parameters or data types like arrays.



45

## Review Question

### Q1 - CALL

Ans: What registers may be affected by executing :

BL RegR1

Ans: PC & LR

Take location of instruction "BL RegR1" <sup>+4</sup>, store into Link Register (LR)

Then take RegR1 make a copy of the above memory location  
and put into PC

Stack pointer not affected by BL instruction in this case

### Q2 - CALL

What value will be found  
at the LR after the  
execution of BL MYSUB?

call?

l680: MOV SP, #0KFFC

0A00: BL MYSUB

0A01: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A02: MYSUB

0A03: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A04: MYSUB

0A05: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A06: MYSUB

0A07: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A08: MYSUB

0A09: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A0A: MYSUB

0A0B: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A0C: MYSUB

0A0D: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A0E: MYSUB

0A0F: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A10: MYSUB

0A11: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A12: MYSUB

0A13: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A14: MYSUB

0A15: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A16: MYSUB

0A17: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A18: MYSUB

0A19: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A1A: MYSUB

0A1B: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A1C: MYSUB

0A1D: ADD R0, R0, R0

0A1E: MYSUB

Ans : 0x014

\* Every instruction a fixed 4 bytes.

## BitCnt Question

Give the code to use Countls to count the number of bits in the memory variable at address **0x100** (stored in R0).

Slide 30 Code

E.g.

**(1)** MOV LR, PC  
B Countls  $\Rightarrow$  204 location

$\Rightarrow$  return add here: 208 location

**(2)** BL Countls  $\Rightarrow$  200 location  
 $\Rightarrow$  204  $\Rightarrow$  Return memory location

**(3)** LDR R1, [R0]  
BL Countls

**(4)** MOV R1, [R0]  
B Countls

Assume MOV LR, PC is in address 200

$\Rightarrow$  Value of PC = 208  $\Leftarrow$  or offset of PC itself

① & ② are the same, just that they don't load value in 0x100 into R1

$\Rightarrow$  Branch Link - 4 ahead  
PC - 8 ahead

MOV PC, LR == BX LR

PC point to  
ahead during  
normal execution  
like B instruction

(1) "MOV LR, PC" places PC (address of MOV+8) to LR, followed by a branch  
 $\Rightarrow$  Actually the correct return address  
 However, value not loaded to R1 prior to subroutine

$$\Rightarrow \text{MOV LR, PC} = \text{BL Countls}$$

(2) Have to prepare the parameter first before calling the Countls subroutine  
 Countls requires the parameter to be passed via the R1 register

(3)

1. Set up parameter into R1 register
2. Call Countls subroutine with BL instruction using the appropriate subroutine label

(3) MOV an invalid instruction; cannot be used to read from memory  
 Operands can be only

\* (1) if another instruction was placed between MOV & branch, it would loop infinitely

# Passing params in memory

B = byte

Given the problem to transfer lower-case to upper case, what is the right syntax to read each letter from memory to register R1 (base address is in R0)?

(1)

LDRB R1, [R0]

(2)

LDRB R1, [R0], #1

(3)

LDR R1, [R0], #1

(4)

LDR R1, [R0], #4

0x100	"a"
0x101	"P"
0x102	"P"
0x103	"l"
0x104	"e"
0x105	0x000
0x106	⋮

(1) Byte is read but does not update R0 for the next instruction

⇒ increment R0 in another instruction

E.g. ADD R0, R0, #1

(2) Instruction can read a byte, and increments R0 with 1 after fetching

⇒ by auto indexing

(3) Instruction can read a 32-bit word, and increments R0 with 4 after fetching

"#1" will cause an error → runtime  
cause trying to get unaligned word

"0x100" → "0x101" X "0x104"  
allowed

(4) Instruction can read a 32-bit word, and increments R0 with 4 after fetching

"#4" will not cause an error

# Chapter 6: Modular Programming-Cont

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1

1

## System Stack

- A stack is a **first-in, last-out** linear data structure that is maintained in the memory's data area.

first to →  
put inside,  
last thing to  
take out

Still can  
read all  
data

Stack of warm plates on dispenser

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3

3

## Learning Objectives

- List the stack manipulation operations & its implementation
- Describe passing parameters to subroutines using the stack
- Identify the difference between passing by value and by reference.
- Describe how a transparent subroutine can be implemented.

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**R0 - R3 : Manipulative registers**

**R4 - R11 : local variables**

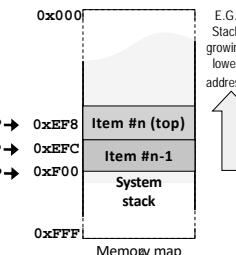
↳ if callee wants to modify, need to make a

**R12 : scratch pad**

## System Stack

- A stack is a first-in, last-out linear data structure that is maintained in the memory's data area.

- The system stack in the ARM processor is maintained by a dedicated stack pointer (**SP, R13**).
- Stack can grow towards lower or higher memory address ! Preferred direction is lower, start from max address ! Why? why not tested.
- The **SP** points to the top item on the system stack.  
→ points to valid data, NOT free space
- The 3 basic stack operations are **push**, **pop** and **access** items on the stack.

Ref: Null & Lobur (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed) section A.2.3 – Stacks

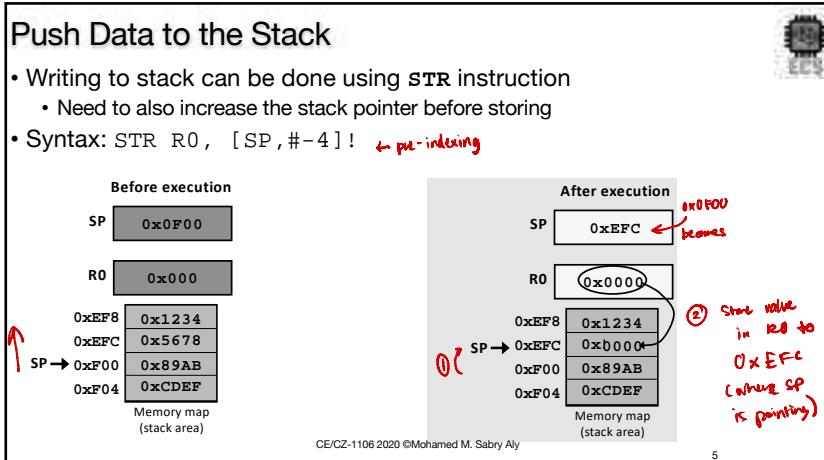
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1

- ① Update value at location one step above (lower address) where the SP is pointing at
- ② Make SP point to the newly added location

## Push Data to the Stack

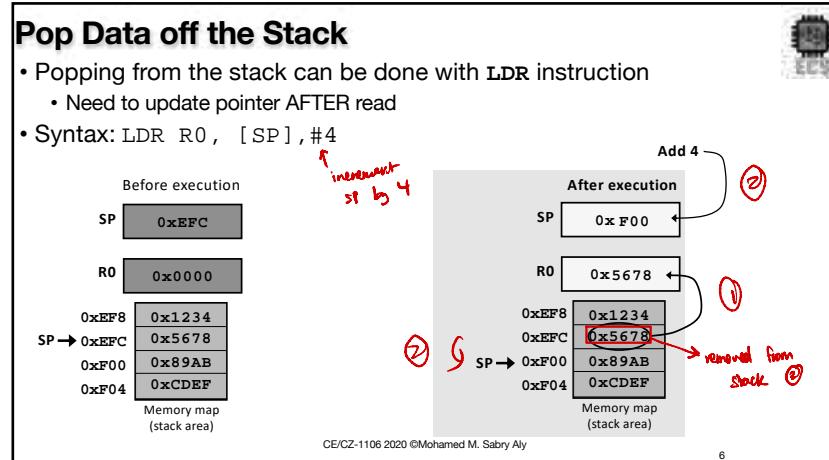
- Writing to stack can be done using **STR** instruction
  - Need to also increase the stack pointer before storing
- Syntax: **STR R0, [SP, #-4]!** ← pre-indexing



5

## Pop Data off the Stack

- Popping from the stack can be done with **LDR** instruction
  - Need to update pointer AFTER read
- Syntax: **LDR R0, [SP], #4**

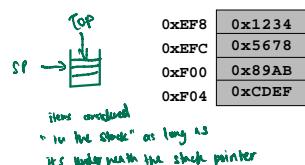


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## Removing from stack

- After popping, is the data **erased** from the stack?

**NO**



only does not exist in data structure of stack

How to retrieve back

- Data still resides in memory and can be read ⇒ as long as not overwritten by another value
  - ⇒ to erase value memory, can just populate with 0

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7

## Pushing Registers to Stack

- E.g., want to push R0 and R1

Method 1:

**STR R0, [SP, #-4]!**

**STR R1, [SP, #-4]!**

Any value to be stored into the stack should be placed into a register first  
⇒ cannot push constant/number directly into stack  
⇒ get the constant, push into register, push register into stack

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8

E.g. STMFD R3, R1  
STMFD R7, R5  
  
Results:  
  
 ↗ separate instructions  
 What happens to LDMFD then?

## Pushing Registers to Stack

- E.g., want to push R0 and R1

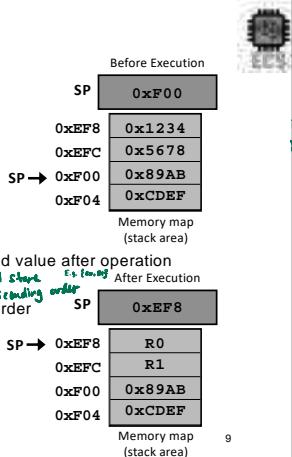
Method 1:

```
STR R0, [SP, #-4]!  
STR R1, [SP, #-4]!
```

descending related to how to update SP

Method 2:

```
STMFD SP!, {R1, R0}  
           ↗ sequence doesn't matter now, will still store in descending order  
           ↗ Write registers in descending order  
           ↗ Store multiple registers fully descending  
(STMFD : ascending)
```



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9

## Pushing and popping to stack

↑ STMFD SP!, {list of registers} e.g. R1, R5, R9

↓ LDMFD SP!, {list of registers} → assumes that you stored in a descending way, hence will read from ascending way

STMFD SP!, {R1, R0} → decremented by 8

LDMFD SP!, {R1, R0} → increase by 8 steps

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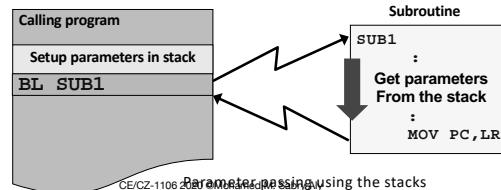
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10 between STMFD & LDMFD, ensure code returns SP back to where STMFD was  
⇒ same set of registers to both instruction



## Parameter Passing using Stack

- Parameters are pushed onto the stack before calling the subroutine and retrieved from the stack within the subroutine.
- Most **general** method of parameter passing – no registers needed, supports recursive programming.
- Large** numbers of parameters can be passed as long as stack does not overflow.

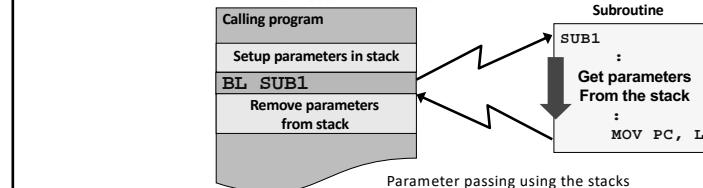


Parameter passing using the stacks

11

11

## Parameter Passing using Stack



removal of parameters DOES NOT happen in subroutine  
→ it has to happen in other program

- Parameters pushed to the stack must be **removed** by the calling program immediately after returning from subroutine. → move right loop
- If not, repeated pushing of parameters to the stack will lead to a stack overflow.

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12

## Sum from 1 to N

- Write a subroutine to:

- Sum the positive numbers from 1 to **N**, where **N** is a value passed to the subroutine.
- The computed sum should be directly updated to a memory variable **Answer**, whose address is **0x100**.
- All parameters are to be passed via the **stack**.

### Solution:

- Push two parameters on stack, the value of **N** and **address** of memory variable **Answer**.

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13

13



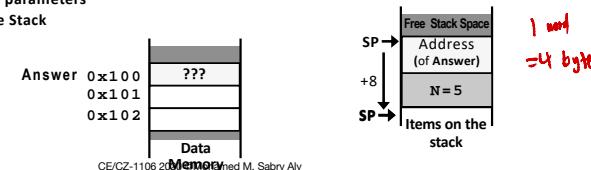
## Calling the Subroutine

```

Parameters setup : ;find the sum of (1+2+3+4+5), where N=5
                  ;Set R0 with #5
                  ;Set R1 with the address
                  ;push R0&R1 to stack
                  ;call subroutine Sum1N
                  ;add 8 to pop the two parameters from stack
                  ;LMFD SP!, {R1,R0} 2 R1 should n't be R0
                                3 R0 be this way?
                                on the top of stack
BL Sum1N
ADD SP,SP,#8
:
LMFD SP!, {R1,R0}

```

Remove parameters  
from the Stack



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14

14

RE decrements from **N** to 0  
with each loop, thereby  
summing 1 to **N**

## Calling the Subroutine

```

Parameters setup : ;find the sum of (1+2+3+4+5), where N=5
                  ;Set R0 with #5
                  ;Set R1 with the address
                  ;push R0&R1 to stack
BL Sum1N
ADD SP,SP,#8
:

```

Note: 1.Parameters set up before calling the subroutine are **removed** immediately after returning from subroutine.

2.Removal is done by returning the contents of the stack pointer to its **original value** before the parameters were pushed to the stack.

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15

15



## Sum from 1 to N Subroutine Possible Solution

```

Sum1N STMFD SP!, {R4,R5,R6} ;save registers to stack
Retrieves stack parameters LDR R5,[SP,#16] ;Load N from stack to R5
LDR R6,[SP,#12] ;Load Answer's From stack → address
Loop MOV R4,#0 ;clear summation register R0 to 0
ADD R4,R4,R5 ;add current value in R5 to R4
SUBS R5,R5,#1 ;decrement current value in R4 by 1
Z=0 BNE Loop ;jump back to Loop if R4 not yet zero
STR R4,[R6] ;write sum to Answer
Z=1 LDMFD SP!, {R4,R5,R6} ;restored saved registers
MOV PC,LR ;return from subroutine

```

Note: The subroutine needs three registers. **R4** to compute the sum from 1 to **N**. **R6** to be an address pointer to the memory variable **Answer** where the results will be written to. **R5** holds the value of **N**, which is decremented by 1 after each loop till it reaches 0.

Use **R4 - R11**  
in subroutine  
(stack)

Write result  
in **R4**  
directly to  
**Answer**

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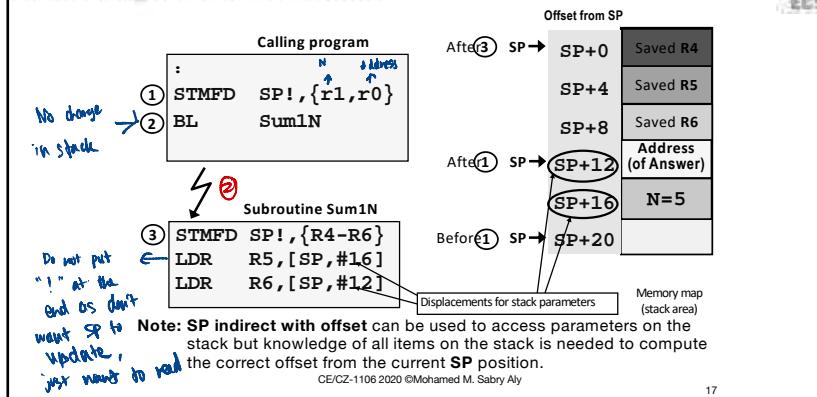
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Explanation:

Why 11? Why 12? ↴

### Sum from 1 to N Subroutine Accessing Stack Parameters



17

### Transparent Subroutines

- A transparent subroutine will **not affect any CPU resources** used by the program calling it.
- To achieve this, all local registers used by the subroutine (R4-R11) must be **saved on the stack** on entry and **restored from stack** before returning.

```
SUB1 STMFD SP!, {R4-R7} ; save R4 to R7 to stack
:
:
LDMFD SP!, {R4-R7} ; restore R4 to R7 from stack
MOV PC, LR ; return to calling program
```

18



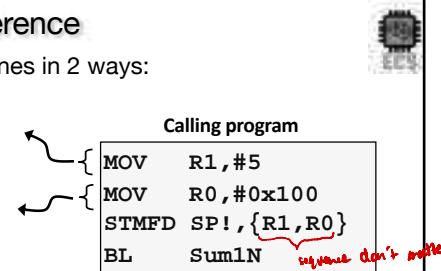
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### Passing by value and by reference

- Parameters are passed to subroutines in 2 ways:
  - Pass by value** – the value of the data (or variable) is passed to the subroutine.  
*e.g. use of integer*
  - Pass by reference** – the address of the variable is passed to the subroutine.  
*e.g. use of pointer*
- When is passing by reference used?
  - When the **parameter** passed is to be **modified** by the subroutine.
  - Large quantity** of data (e.g. array) have to be passed between subroutine and calling program.

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19



19

### C Function Example

- C function to compute the mean value of **N** elements in an integer **Array**.

```
Passing by reference   Passing by value
int Mean (int *Array, int N)
{
    int avg, i;
    int sum = 0; } Local variables used only by the function
    for (i=0; i<N; i++)
        sum = sum + Array[i];
    avg = sum / N;
    return avg; } Function's single output is normally returned via the R0 (or R12) register
```

**Note:** Observe that **local variables** are required by the function to compute the result.

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20

## C Function Example

- C function to compute the mean value of **N** elements in an integer **Array**.
- Pass both parameters **by reference**.

```
int Mean ( int *Array, int *N)
{
    int avg, i;
    int sum = 0;

    for (i=0; i<*N; i++)
        sum = sum + Array[i];
    avg = sum / *N;
    return avg;
}
```

*what ever pointing  
is referring*

Note: Observe that **local variables** are required by the function to compute the result.

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21



21

## Local Variables

- Subroutines often use local variables whose scope and **life span** exist only during the execution of the subroutine.

### Review

- **Characteristics of a good software module.**
- Loose coupling – **data** within module is entirely **independent** of other modules (local variables).

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22



## Local Variables

- Subroutines often use local variables whose scope and **life span** exist only during the execution of the subroutine.
- Memory storage for these variables is **created on entry** into the subroutine and **released on exit** from subroutine.
- The **system stack** is the ideal place to create memory space for temporary variables.
- This temporary memory space is called the **stack frame**.

*Is subset of stack  
→ has variables take  
Used in subroutine*

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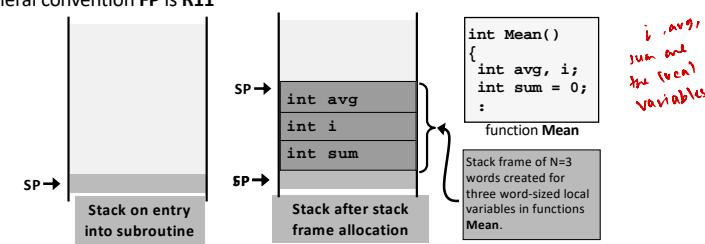
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## Stack Frame

- Stack frame of **N** words is created on the system stack immediately on entry into a subroutine.
- Memory space within the stack frame can be accessed using with a **frame pointer (FP)** or the stack pointer (**SP**).
- Frame pointer in ARM can be any register
  - General convention **FP** is **R11**



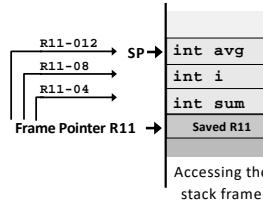
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24

each function call  
only 1 frame pointer  
⇒ 1 function → 1 frame pointer  
frame pointer is a register  
each word → 4 bytes

### Accessing Stack Frame Variables Using the Frame Pointer

- Consider the use of a frame pointer register **R11**.
- Original contents of **R11** is saved on the stack before it is used as the frame pointer.
- Frame pointer (**R11**) now points to the saved **R11** and a stack frame is created by adding frame size **4N** to **SP**.
- R11** is the frame reference and an appropriate negative displacement from **R11** can be used to access any stack frame variable.
- When exiting the subroutine, the stack frame can be destroyed by adding **4N+4** to **SP** and copying the saved **R11** value on the stack back into **R11**.



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25

25

### Accessing Stack Frame Variables Using the Frame Pointer

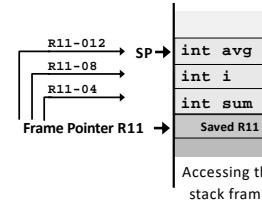
- When exiting the subroutine, the stack frame can be destroyed by adding **4N+4** to **SP** and copying the saved **R11** value on the stack back into **R11**.

For N=3

```

ADD SP, SP, #16
LDR R11,[R11]

```



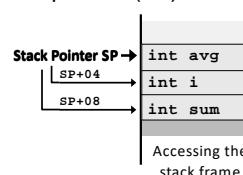
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26

26

### Accessing Stack Frame Variables Using the Stack Pointer

- A more efficient approach is to use the stack pointer (**SP**) itself.
- A stack frame is created by adding frame size **4N** to **SP**.
- SP** is used as a reference to access all local variables.
- Appropriate **positive** displacements from **SP** is used to access any of the stack frame variables.
- Pro** - This method is more efficient because there is no need to setup a frame pointer.
- Con** - More restrictive as system stack cannot be used within subroutine without changing the reference **SP**.



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28 More efficient cause using less resources  
However, if new variable created, might have issue

### Summary

- Using the **stack** is the most favored means of passing parameters.
  - A combination of methods can be used to implement **Functions**, e.g. parameters passed in via stack and a single result value passed out via a register (e.g. **R0**).
  - Stack-based parameter passing supports **recursion**.
- Parameters is passed by **value or reference**.
  - Passing by reference allows the subroutine to directly access memory variables within the calling program .
- A **transparent** subroutine requires registers **used within** the routine to be saved on the **stack** on entry and restore before returning.
- Local variables within a subroutine are usually maintained on the system stack using a **stack frame**.

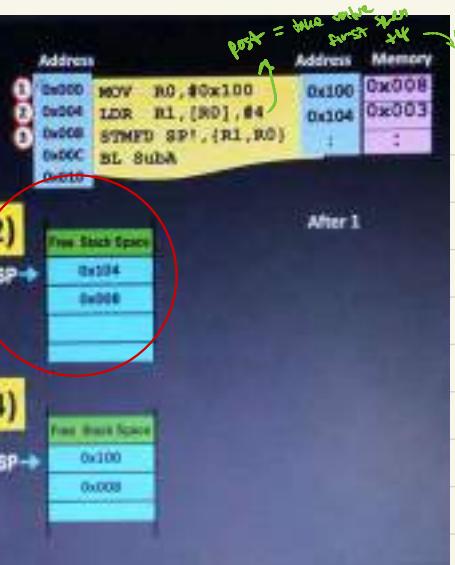
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29

29

## Review Q4 – Stack Passing

Show the known contents on the stack  
on entering subroutine SubA.



After 1

R0	0x100
R1	

After 3

R0	0x104
R1	0x008

↓      ↓      put into stack

After 2

R0	0x104
R1	0x008

R0	0x104
R1	0x008

LDR R1,[R0],#4

- 1) go to address in R0 (0x100),  
take the value (0x008) and  
put into R1
- 2) increment R0 by 4  
(0x100 → 0x104)

Clock cycles of STMFD

- ⇒ For 1 register, 3 cycles.
- ⇒ +1 cycle for each additional register

## What should be the instruction in a

A. LDMFD SP, {R5,R4}

B. LDMFD SPI, {R5,R4}

C. LDMFA SP, {R4,R5}

D. LDMFA SPI, {R4,R5}

```
SubX  STMFED SP!, {R5,R4}
      LDR   R4, [SP,#12]
      LDR   R5, [SP,#8]
      :
      :
      ;(a)
      MOV   PC, LR
```

C & D : Since STMFED was used, C & D not valid here

A : does not update stack pointer

# Chapter 6: Modular Programming-Cont

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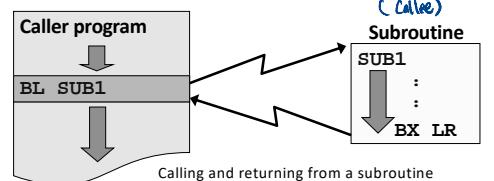
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## Subroutines (Recap)

- Modules (e.g., functions in C) are implemented as **subroutines**
- Subroutine can be called from various parts of the program
- Caller and callee
  - Caller: the program that calls subroutine (SUB1)
  - Callee: subroutine (SUB1)



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## Learning Objectives

- Understand the concept of nested subroutine
- Describe how nested subroutines are implemented in ARM
- Describe recursive functions and their implementation in ARM

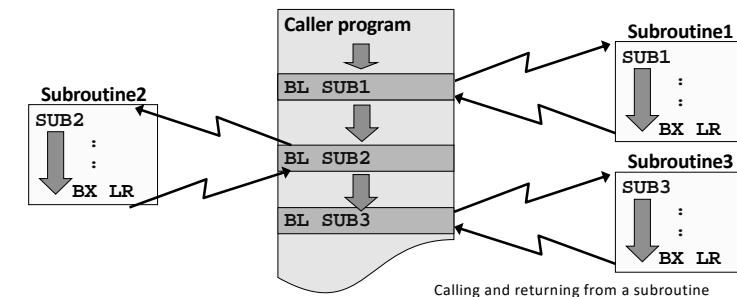
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## Multiple Subroutines

- Caller program can call multiple subroutines
- Support of sequential subroutine execution



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## Do all applications have just 1-level functional call?

No

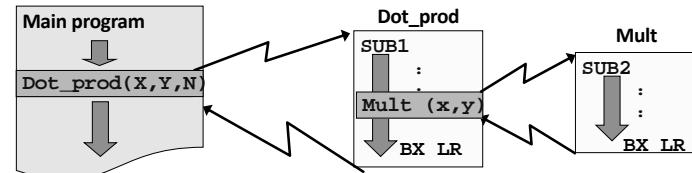
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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine

How to ensure right subroutine branch and return?

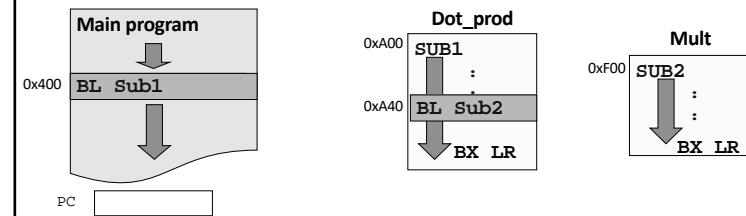
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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



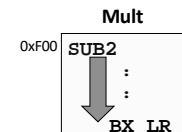
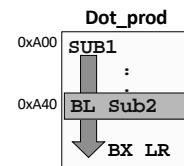
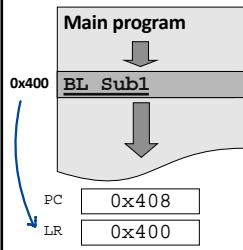
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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



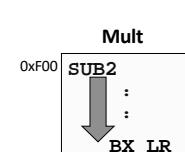
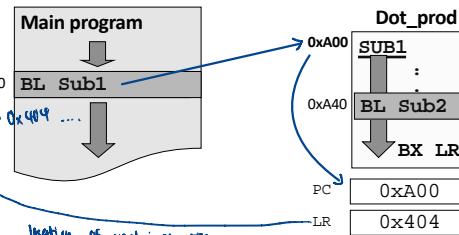
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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



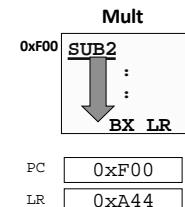
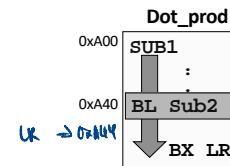
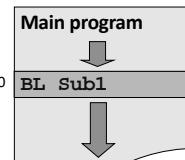
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## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



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12

11

*Was the link to Main program*

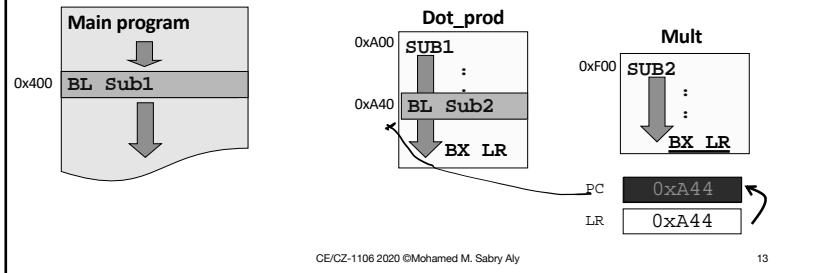
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11

## Example: Dot product of two arrays

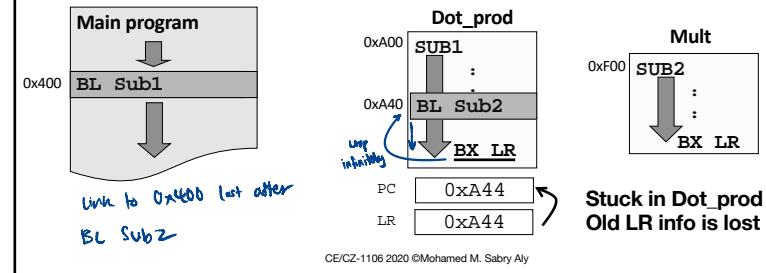
- A subroutine will call another subroutine



13

## Example: Dot product of two arrays

- A subroutine will call another subroutine



14

## Support for nested Subroutine

- LR needs to be saved somewhere safe → **System stack**
- When so save it? Two options:
  - Just before any BL instruction → *nesting approach*
  - At the beginning of each subroutine → *stack approach*

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15

15

## Example: Dot-product

- Write a subroutine that calculates the dot product of two vectors of **positive integers** using this equation:  

$$Z = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} X_i \times Y_i$$

↓  
1 or >1      16 bit
- Base addresses of X (0x100), Y(0x200), the array size N(20) and Z(0x300) are passed through the stack
- The subroutine will call another subroutine to calculate the product of two numbers:
  - Numbers are passed in R0,R1, return value in R12

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16

## Multiplication subroutine

```

Mult    MOV      R12,#0          ;Clear R12
        MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

Start by labeling the subroutine and placing the return instruction  
Clearing (R2)

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17

## Multiplication subroutine

```

Mult    MOV      R12,#0          ;Clear R12
Loop   ADD      R12,R12,R0      ;Add R0 to R12
       SUBS   R1,R1,#1          ;Decrement R1 with 1
       BNE    Loop
       MOV    PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

*Iteratively add R0 to R12 for R1 times*

*R1 ≠ 0*

*R1 = 0*

R12 R1 = 0

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18

## The Dot product Subroutine

```

        4 regs
DotProd STMFD   SP!,{R4-R7} ;Store regs to stack
        LDR      R4 , [SP,#28] ;Read location of X
        LDR      R5 , [SP,#24] ;Read location of Y
        LDR      R6 , [SP,#20] ;Read arrays length

        LDMFD   SP!,{R4-R7} ; Restore registers
        MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

SP →	0x300
(R4) X -	20
(R5) Y -	0x200
(R6) N -	0x100

System stack when entering

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19

- 1 - store addresses of x
- 2 - store addresses of y
- 3 - counter
- 4 - address of destination location

## The Dot product Subroutine

```

DotProd STMFD   SP!,{R4-R7} ;Store regs to stack
        LDR      R4 , [SP,#28] ;Read location of X
        LDR      R5 , [SP,#24] ;Read location of Y
        LDR      R6 , [SP,#20] ;Read arrays length
        MOV      R7, #0          ; Clear R7
Loop1  LDR      R0 , [R4],#4 ; Get X[i] → update ielp with next pointer
        LDR      R1 , [R5],#4 ; Get Y[i]
        BL       Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
        LDMFD   SP!,{R4-R7} ; Restore registers
        MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

*R7 will contain partial sum*

*ielp: 104*

SP →	0x300
20	20
0x200	0x200
0x100	0x100

System stack when entering DotProd

20

**The Dot product Subroutine**

System stack when entering DotProd

SP →	0x300
	20
	0x200
	0x100

```

DotProd    STMFD    SP!, {R4-R7}      ;Store regs to stack
          LDR      R4 , [SP,#28]    ;Read location of X
          LDR      R5 , [SP,#24]    ;Read location of Y
          LDR      R6 , [SP,#20]    ;Read arrays length
          MOV      R7, #0          ; Clear R7 (Sum)
Loop1     LDR      R0 , [R4],#4    ; Get X[i]
          LDR      R1 , [R5],#4    ; Get Y[i]

          BL       Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
          ADD      R7,R7,R12      ; Add the product to R7
          SUBS   R6,R6,#1          ; Reduce the counter by 1
          BNE    Loop1            ; not 0 then repeat

          LDMFD   SP!, {R4-R7}      ; Restore registers
          MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

21

**The Dot product Subroutine**

System stack when entering DotProd

SP →	0x300
	20
	0x200
	0x100

```

DotProd    STMFD    SP!, {R4-R7}      ;Store regs to stack
          LDR      R4 , [SP,#28]    ;Read location of X
          LDR      R5 , [SP,#24]    ;Read location of Y
          LDR      R6 , [SP,#20]    ;Read arrays length
          MOV      R7, #0          ; Clear R7 (Sum)
Loop1     LDR      R0 , [R4],#4    ; Get X[i]
          LDR      R1 , [R5],#4    ; Get Y[i]

          BL       Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
          ADD      R7,R7,R12      ; Add the product to R7
          SUBS   R6,R6,#1          ; Reduce the counter by 1
          BNE    Loop1            ; not 0 then repeat

          LDMFD   SP!, {R4-R7}      ; Restore registers
          MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

22

**The Dot product Subroutine**

System stack when entering DotProd

SP →	0x300
	20
	0x200
	0x100

```

DotProd    STMFD    SP!, {R4-R7}      ;Store regs to stack
          LDR      R4 , [SP,#28]    ;Read location of X
          LDR      R5 , [SP,#24]    ;Read location of Y
          LDR      R6 , [SP,#20]    ;Read arrays length
          MOV      R7, #0          ; Clear R7 (Sum)
Loop1     LDR      R0 , [R4],#4    ; Get X[i]
          LDR      R1 , [R5],#4    ; Get Y[i]

          BL       Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
          ADD      R7,R7,R12      ; Add the product to R7
          SUBS   R6,R6,#1          ; Reduce the counter by 1
          BNE    Loop1            ; not 0 then repeat
          LDR      R4 , [SP],#16    ; read destination address
          STR      R7 , [R4]        ; Store in destination address
          LDMFD   SP!, {R4-R7}      ; Restore registers
          MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```

23

**The Dot product Subroutine**

System stack when entering DotProd

SP →	0x300
	20
	0x200
	0x100

```

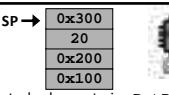
DotProd    STMFD    SP!, {R4-R7}      ;Store regs to stack
          LDR      R4 , [SP,#28]    ;Read location of X
          LDR      R5 , [SP,#24]    ;Read location of Y
          LDR      R6 , [SP,#20]    ;Read arrays length
          MOV      R7, #0          ; Clear R7 (Sum)
Loop1     LDR      R0 , [R4],#4    ; Get X[i]
          LDR      R1 , [R5],#4    ; Get Y[i]
          STR      LR , [SP],#4!    ; Push Link register to SP
          BL       Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
          LDR      LR , [SP],#4      ; Pop Link Register from SP
          ADD      R7,R7,R12      ; Add the product to R7
          SUBS   R6,R6,#1          ; Reduce the counter by 1
          BNE    Loop1            ; not 0 then repeat
          LDR      R4 , [SP],#16    ; read destination address
          STR      R7 , [R4]        ; Store in destination address
          LDMFD   SP!, {R4-R7}      ; Restore registers
          MOV      PC, LR          ; same as bx lr

```



24

## The Dot product Subroutine

SP →   
System stack when entering DotProd

✓ Straight forward, no other impact on the code

*Alternative: STMDA, SP!, {LR}*

```

STR    LR , [SP,#-4]! ; Push Link register to SP
BL     Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
LDR    LR , [SP],#4   ; Pop Link Register from SP
Alternative: LDMFD

```

✗ Different instruction structure

25

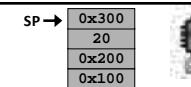
## Support for nested Subroutine

- LR needs to be saved somewhere safe → **System stack**
- When so save it? Two options:
  - Just before any BL instruction
  - At the beginning of each subroutine

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26

## The Dot product Subroutine

SP →   
System stack when entering DotProd

```

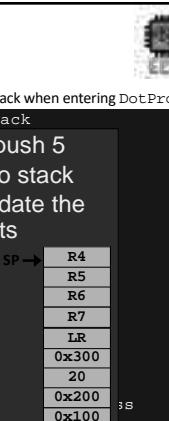
DotProd  STMDA  SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ; Store regs to stack
        LDR    R4 , [SP,#28]  ; Read location of X
        LDR    R5 , [SP,#24]  ; Read location of Y
        LDR    R6 , [SP,#20]  ; Read arrays length
        MOV    R7, #0          ; Clear R7 (Sum)
Loop1   LDR    R0 , [R4],#4  ; Get X[i]
        LDR    R1 , [R5],#4  ; Get Y[i]
if LR not or LR start code
STMDA SP!, {LR}
        BL     Mult           ; Call Mult Subroutine
        ADD    R7,R7,R12       ; Add the product to R7
        SUBS   R6,R6,#1        ; Reduce the counter by 1
        BNE    Loop1          ; not 0 then repeat
        LDR    R4 , [SP,#16]  ; read destination address
        STR    R7 , [R4]         ; Store in destination address
        LDMFD SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ; Restore registers
        MOV    PC, LR           ; same as bx lr

```

27

Simpler &amp; faster code

## The Dot product Subroutine

SP →   
System stack when entering DotProd

We now push 5 registers to stack  
Need to update the offsets

```

DotProd  STMDA  SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ; Store regs to stack
        LDR    R4 , [SP,#28]  ; R
        LDR    R5 , [SP,#24]  ; R
        LDR    R6 , [SP,#20]  ; R
        MOV    R7, #0          ; R
Loop1   LDR    R0 , [R4],#4  ; R
        LDR    R1 , [R5],#4  ; R
        BL     Mult           ; R
        ADD    R7,R7,R12       ; R
        SUBS   R6,R6,#1        ; R
        BNE    Loop1          ; R
        LDR    R4 , [SP,#16]  ; R
        STR    R7 , [R4]         ; R
        LDMFD SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ; R
        MOV    PC, LR           ; same as bx lr

```

28

Purpose of restoring register at the top:  
to not lose the initial values it might  
have after using the registers

## The Dot product Subroutine

System stack when entering DotProd

```

DotProd    STMFD   SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ;Store regs to stack
LDR        R4 , [SP, #32]    ;R
LDR        R5 , [SP, #28]    ;R
LDR        R6 , [SP, #24]    ;R
MOV        R7, #0           ;
Loop1     LDR        R0 , [R4], #4    ;R
LDR        R1 , [R5], #4    ;R
BL         Mult             ;R
ADD        R7,R7,R12       ;R
SUBS      R6,R6,#1          ;R
BNE        Loop1            ;R
LDR        R4 , [SP, #20]    ;R
STR        R7, [R4]           ;R
LDMFD    SP!, {R4-R7,LR}    ;R
MOV        PC, LR           ; same as bx lr

```

We now push 5 registers to stack  
Need to update the offsets

SP → R4  
R5  
R6  
R7  
LR

SP+20 → 0x300  
SP+24 → 20  
SP+28 → 0x200  
SP+32 → 0x100

29

## The Dot product Subroutine

System stack when entering DotProd

```

DotProd    STMFD   SP!, {R4-R7,LR} ;Store regs to stack
LDR        R4 , [SP, #32]    ;R
LDR        R5 , [SP, #28]    ;R
LDR        R6 , [SP, #24]    ;R
MOV        R7, #0           ;
Loop1     LDR        R0 , [R4], #4    ;R
LDR        R1 , [R5], #4    ;R
BL         Mult             ;R
ADD        R7,R7,R12       ;R
SUBS      R6,R6,#1          ;R
BNE        Loop1            ;R
LDR        R4 , [SP, #20]    ;R
STR        R7, [R4]           ;R
LDMFD    SP!, {R4-R7,PC}    ;R

```

We now push 5 registers to stack  
Need to update the offsets

SP → R4  
R5  
R6  
R7  
LR

SP+20 → 0x300  
SP+24 → 20  
SP+28 → 0x200  
SP+32 → 0x100

Why is this correct?

30 NOT recommended though ; for optimization purposes

## Recursive Subroutine

- A recursive routine calls itself within its own body.
- Recursion is an elegant way to solve algorithms or mathematical expressions that have **systematic repetitions**.  
(e.g. factorial  $n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \dots 2 \times 1$ )

```

int factorial(int n){
    if (n<0)
        return -1; //sanity check
    if (n==0)
        return 1; // stop condition
    else
        return n * factorial(n-1);
}

```

31

31

## Recursive Subroutine

- A recursive routine calls itself within its own body.
- Recursion is an elegant way to solve algorithms or mathematical expressions that have **systematic repetitions**.  
(e.g. factorial  $n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \dots 2 \times 1$ )

Main problem: Without saving LR, execution will be stuck

Recursive Code Example

```

Recur : BL Recur ; Subroutine Recur
        ; call Recur with Recur routine
        :
        BX LR ; return to calling program

```

Another problem: Some condition must be reached that allows `BL Recur` to be skipped in order to avoid infinite recursion.

need a  
stopping  
condition

32

## Recursive Subroutine

- A recursive routine calls itself within its own body.
- Recursion is an elegant way to solve algorithms or mathematical expressions that have **systematic repetitions**.  
(e.g. factorial  $n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \dots 2 \times 1$ )

### Recursive Code Example

```

Recur    STMFD SP!,{...,LR}      ; Subroutine Recur
          Condition to terminate the subroutine (branch to Done)
          :
          BL Recur             ; call Recur with Recur routine
          :
Done     LDMFD SP!,{...,LR}
          BX LR               ; return to calling program

```



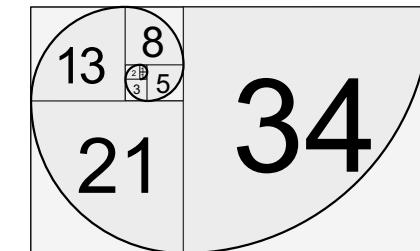
33

33

## Example: Fibonacci Sequence

- Number sequence  
0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55

- Starting from index 1  
 $F(n) = F(n - 1) + F(n - 2)$   
 $F(2) = 1$   
 $F(1) = 0$



not go appear in exam

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34

34

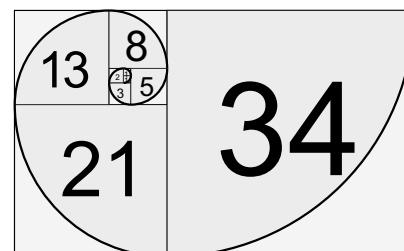
## Example: Fibonacci Sequence

- Number sequence  
0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55

```

int Fibonacci(int n){
    int result;
    if (n==1)
        result=0;
    elseif (n==2)
        result=1;
    else
        result = Fibonacci(n-1) + Fibonacci(n-2);
    return result;
}

```



35

35

## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMFD   SP!,{R4-R6,LR} ; Store regs to stack
                                              SP → 5
                                              System stack when entering Fib

Done   LDMFD   SP!,{R4-R6,LR} ; Restore registers
                                              PC, LR ; same as bx lr

```



## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMF D   SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Store regs to stack
      LDR     R4 , [SP,#16]   ; Read Value of n
      CMP     R4 , #1        ; Compare with 1 (if n==1)
      MOVEQ   R12,#0        ; Assign result with 0
      CMP     R4 , #2        ; Compare with 2 (if n==2)
      MOVEQ   R12,#1        ; Assign result with 1
      BLE    Done           ; if n less than equal 2 finish

      Done   LDMFD  SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Restore registers
          MOV     PC, LR       ; same as bx lr
  
```

System stack when entering Fib

R4	5
SP	→ R4 R5 R6 LR 5
SP+16	→ 5

37

## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMF D   SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Store regs to stack
      LDR     R4 , [SP,#16]   ; Read Value of n
      CMP     R4 , #1        ; Compare with 1 (if n==1)
      MOVEQ   R12,#0        ; Assign result with 0
      CMP     R4 , #2        ; Compare with 2 (if n==2)
      MOVEQ   R12,#1        ; Assign result with 1
      BLE    Done           ; if n less than equal 2 finish
      SUB    R5,R4,#1        ; Get n-1
      STMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Push n-1 to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib(n-1)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Pop from stack

      Done   LDMFD  SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Restore registers
          MOV     PC, LR       ; same as bx lr
  
```

else result = Fibonacci(n-1)

38

## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMF D   SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Store regs to stack
      LDR     R4 , [SP,#16]   ; Read Value of n
      CMP     R4 , #1        ; Compare with 1 (if n==1)
      MOVEQ   R12,#0        ; Assign result with 0
      CMP     R4 , #2        ; Compare with 2 (if n==2)
      MOVEQ   R12,#1        ; Assign result with 1
      BLE    Done           ; if n less than equal 2 finish
      SUB    R5,R4,#1        ; Get n-1
      STMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Push n-1 to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib(n-1)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Pop from stack
      MOV     R6,R12          ; Save result in temp register
      SUB    R5,R4,#2        ; Get n-2
      STMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Push n-2 to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib (n-2)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Pop from stack

      Done   LDMFD  SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Restore registers
          MOV     PC, LR       ; same as bx lr
  
```

result = ... + Fib(n-2)

39

## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMF D   SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Store regs to stack
      LDR     R4 , [SP,#16]   ; Read Value of n
      CMP     R4 , #1        ; Compare with 1 (if n==1)
      MOVEQ   R12,#0        ; Assign result with 0
      CMP     R4 , #2        ; Compare with 2 (if n==2)
      MOVEQ   R12,#1        ; Assign result with 1
      BLE    Done           ; if n less than equal 2 finish
      SUB    R5,R4,#1        ; Get n-1
      STMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Push n-1 to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib(n-1)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Pop from stack
      MOV     R6,R12          ; Save result in temp register
      SUB    R5,R4,#2        ; Get n-2
      STMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Push n-2 to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib (n-2)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R5}       ; Pop from stack
      ADD    R12,R12,R6      ; Calculate Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2)
      STMFD  SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Push result back to stack
      BL     Fib             ; calculate Fib(n)
      LDMFD  SP!, {R4-R6,LR} ; Pop from stack
      MOV     PC, LR       ; same as bx lr
  
```

else result = 2 \* result + 1

40

## Example Solution

```

Fib    STMFD   SP!, {R4-R6,LR}      ;Store regs to stack
      LDR     R4 , [SP,#16]        ;Read Value of n
      CMP     R4 , #1             ;Compare with 1 (if n==1)
      MOVEQ   R12, #0            ;Assign result with 0
      CMP     R4 , #2             ;Compare with 2 (if n==2)
      MOVEQ   R12, #1            ; Assign result with 1
      BLE    Done                ; if n less than equal 2 finish
      SUB    R5,R4,#1            ; Get n-1
      STMFD   SP!, {R5}          ;Push n-1 to stack
      BL     Fib                 ; calculate Fib(n-1)
      LDMFD   SP!, {R5}          ; Pop from stack
      MOV     R6,R12              ;Save result in temp register
      SUB    R5,R4,#2            ; Get n-2
      STMFD   SP!, {R5}          ;Push n-2 to stack
      BL     Fib                 ; calculate Fib (n-2)
      LDMFD   SP!, {R5}          ; Pop from stack
      ADD    R12,R12,R6           ; Calculate Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2)
      LDMFD   SP!, {R4-R6,LR}      ; Restore registers
      MOV     PC, LR              ; same as bx lr

```

41



## Summary

- Nested subroutines are key for truly modular designs
  - Need to ensure that return address is not overwritten.
- Recursive subroutine is very efficient implementation of subroutines
  - Ensure: 1) stopping condition and 2) return address stored

*↙ Stop function*  
*from calling itself*      *↘ to main program*

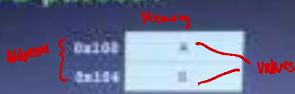
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42



For the shown code segment, how are parameters A and B passed?

```
MOV R0, #0x100  
LDR R1, [R0], #4  
STMDA SP!, {R0,R1}  
BL sub
```



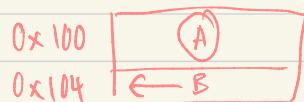
A. A reference, B value

B. A value ~~&~~ value

C. A reference, B reference

D. A value, B reference

0x104 : reference of B  
R1 has the value of A



① R0 has address of A

② post index R0 0x104 ← value of 0x100 updated by 4  
R1 A

MOV doesn't mean always pass by ref, it is case paired with LDR,  
then one value one reference

The segment loads the content of memory address 0x100  
to R1 → value of A

We store in the stack then the value of A and the  
value 0x104 (address of B)

What is the instruction to create a stack frame for 4 local variables (32-bit each)

A. ADD SP, SP, #16

B. SUB SP, SP, #-16

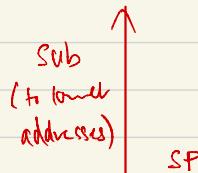
C. SUB SP, SP, #32

D. ADD SP, SP, #32

STR R11, [SP, #-4]!  
MOV R11, SP

Each is 4 bytes

$$\therefore 4 + 4 = 16 \text{ bytes}$$



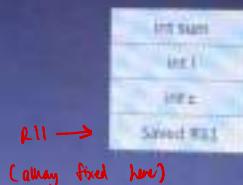
If we are using R11 as frame pointer, what is the instruction to store R4 to local variable c

A. STR R4, [R11,#-1]

B. STR R4, [R11,#-4]

C. STR R4, [R11,#-4]

D. STMFD R11!,{R4}



if r11 was a stack  
pointer, then we would  
have to update it

## Alternative Example of Fibonacci Sequence:

**Length of Linked List (Pointer Chasing)**

- Given this data structure, determine the length

```

int length (DS* X)
{
    int l=1;           ← start with length = 1
    if (X->nxt_address==0)
        return l;
    l = l + length(X->nxt_address)
    return l;
}

```

Length (0x100)      Value (32-bit)  
Next\_address  
0x100      50  
0x104      0x124  
0x124      54  
0x000

length at next add = 2

## Example Solution

	Length	STMFD	SP!, {R4-R5,LR}	; Store regs to stack	SP	R4	R5	LR
		LDR	R4, [SP, #12]	; read address of X				+4
		LDR	R5, [R4, #4]	; get x->nxt_address				+8
		CMP	R5, #0	; Comparing with 0				+12
		MOVEQ	R12, #1	; Initialize l				
	Done	BEQ	Done	Then go to subroutine				
		STMFD	SP!, {R5}	; passing x->nxt_address to stack				
		BL	Length					
		LDMDF	SP!, {R5}					
		ADD	R12, R12, #1	; return l + length (nxt_Address)				
		LDMDF	SP!, {R4-R5,LR}	; Restore registers				
		MOV	PC, LR	; same as bx lr				

main program:

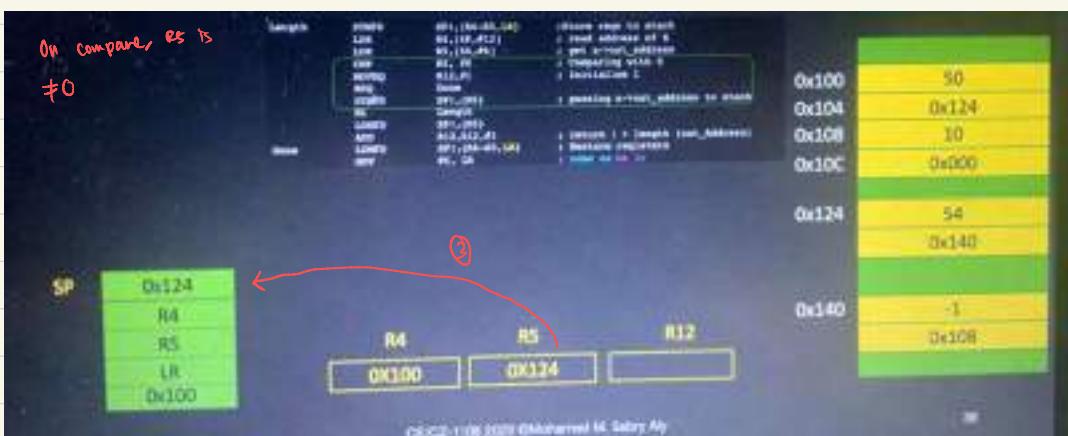
```

MOV R5, #0x100 ; put 0x100 to R5
STMFD SP!, {R5} ; Push to stack
BL Length ; go execute length

```

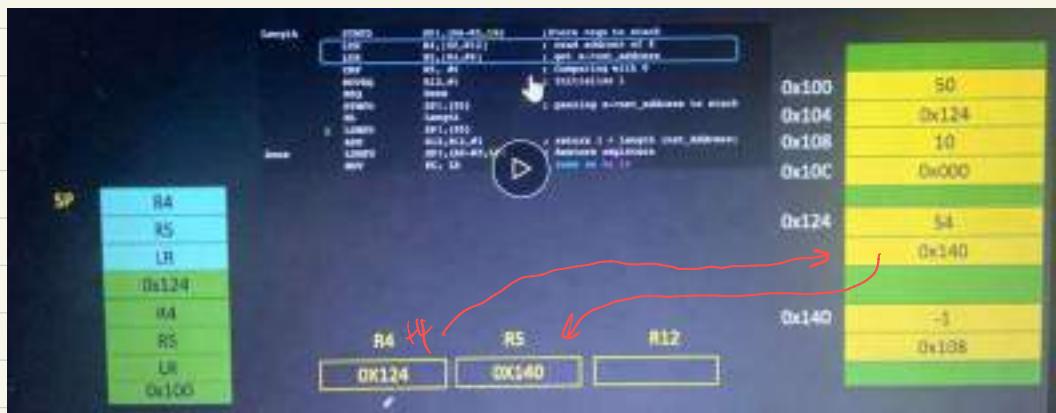


call structure  
use 2 elements  
→ value  
→ address of next element



0x124 → value  
0x108 → address of next element





Registers:

SP	0x140
	R4
	R5
	LR
0x124	R4
	R5
	LR
0x100	R4

Stack:

```

    length: 0x100
    R4: 0x124
    R5: 0x140
    LR: 0x100
  
```

Assembly:

```

    LDR R4, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of X
    LDR R5, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of Y
    SUB R5, R4, R5             ; Compute difference
    ADD R5, R5, R5             ; Double result
    STR R5, [R4, #0]           ; Store result
    BX LR                      ; Return to caller
  
```

Registers:

R4	0x124
R5	0x140
LR	0x100

Stack:

```

    R4: 0x124
    R5: 0x140
    LR: 0x100
  
```

Call Stack:

- 0x100: 50
- 0x104: 0x124
- 0x108: 10
- 0x10C: 0x000
- 0x124: 54
- 0x140: -1
- 0x108: 0x108

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Registers:

SP	R4
	R5
	LR
0x140	R4
	R5
	LR
0x124	R4
	R5
	LR
0x100	R4

Stack:

```

    R4: 0x124
    R5: 0x140
    LR: 0x100
  
```

Assembly:

```

    LDR R4, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of X
    LDR R5, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of Y
    SUB R5, R4, R5             ; Compute difference
    ADD R5, R5, R5             ; Double result
    STR R5, [R4, #0]           ; Store result
    BX LR                      ; Return to caller
  
```

Registers:

R4	0x124
R5	0x140
LR	0x100

Stack:

```

    R4: 0x124
    R5: 0x140
    LR: 0x100
  
```

Call Stack:

- 0x100: 50
- 0x104: 0x124
- 0x108: 10
- 0x10C: 0x000
- 0x124: 54
- 0x140: -1
- 0x108: 0x108

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Registers:

SP	R4
	R5
	LR
0x140	R4
	R5
	LR
0x124	R4
	R5
	LR
0x100	R4

Stack:

```

    R4: 0x124
    R5: 0x140
    LR: 0x100
  
```

Assembly:

```

    LDR R4, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of X
    LDR R5, [R5, #0]           ; Load address of Y
    SUB R5, R4, R5             ; Compute difference
    ADD R5, R5, R5             ; Double result
    STR R5, [R4, #0]           ; Store result
    BX LR                      ; Return to caller
  
```

Registers:

R4	0x140*
R5	0x108
LR	R12

Stack:

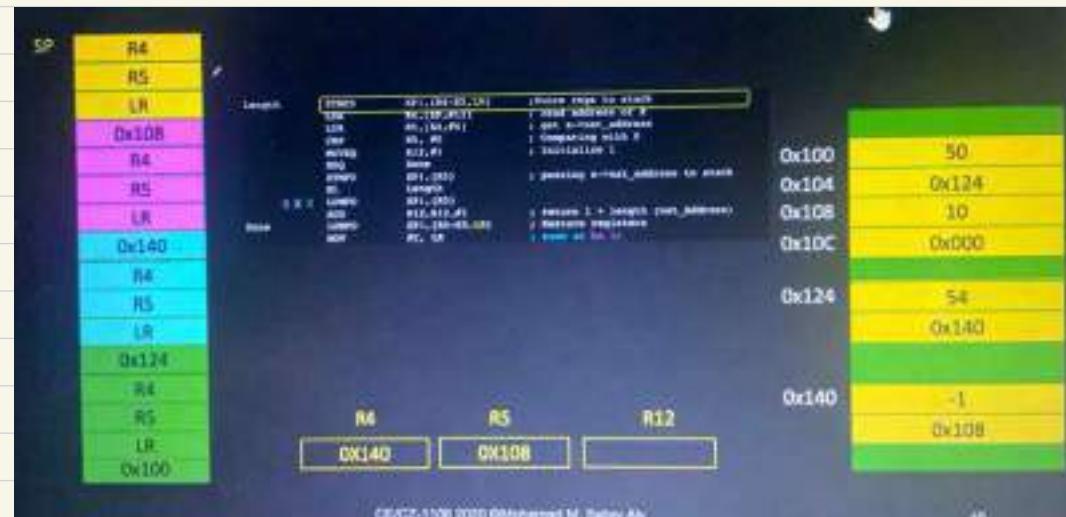
```

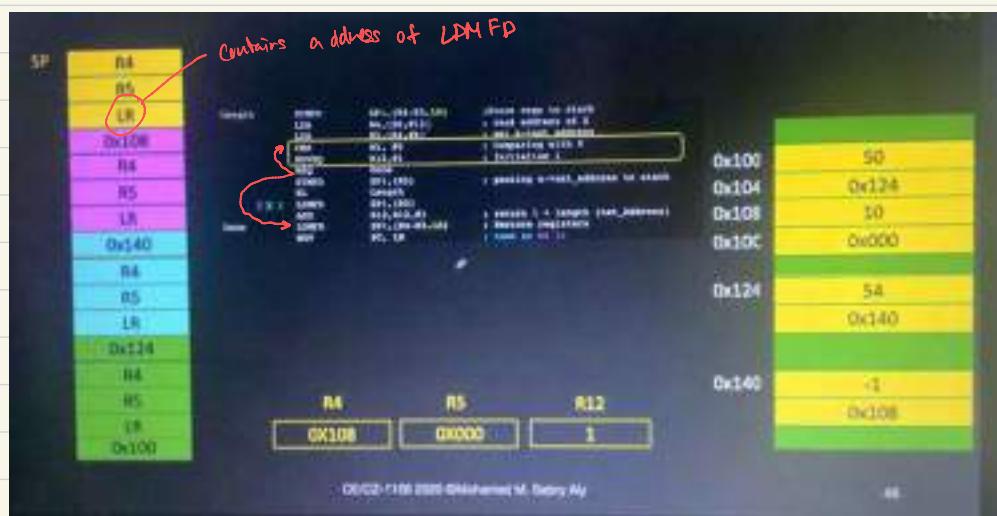
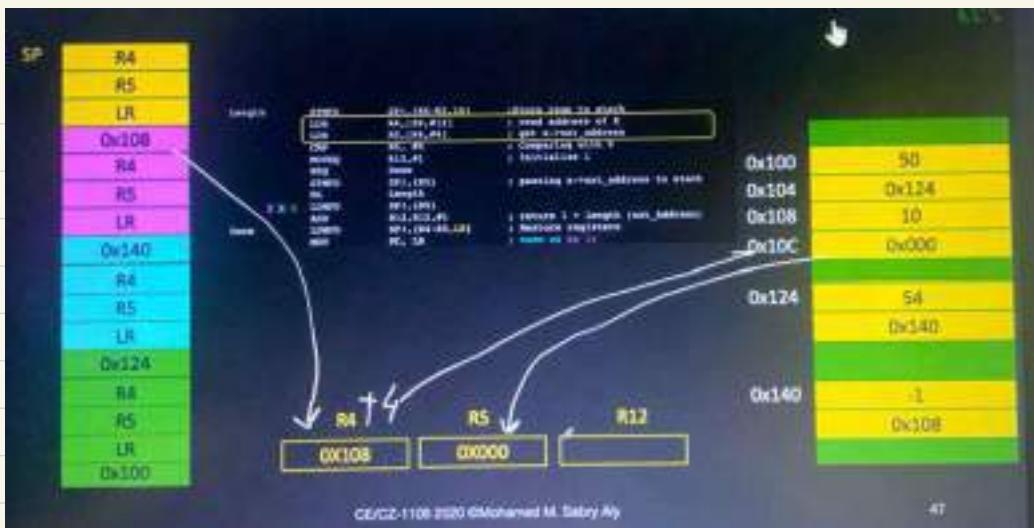
    R4: 0x140*
    R5: 0x108
    LR: R12
  
```

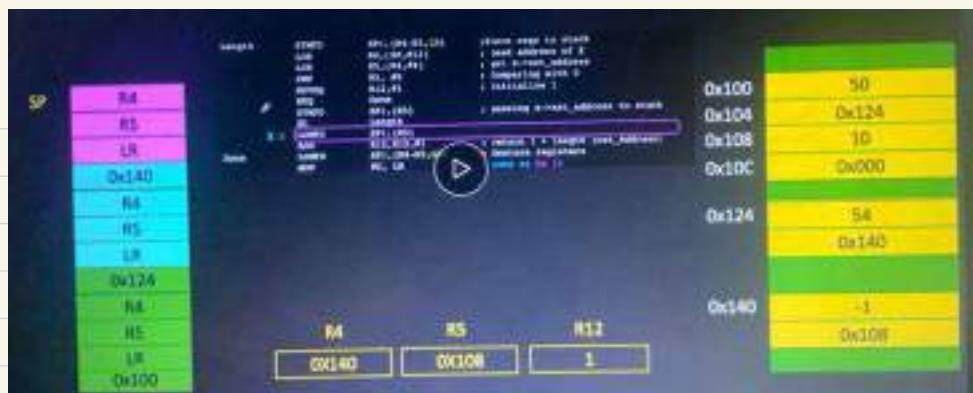
Call Stack:

- 0x100: 50
- 0x104: 0x124
- 0x108: 10
- 0x10C: 0x000
- 0x124: 54
- 0x140: -1
- 0x108: 0x108

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OpCode	OPCODE	Op	Description	Value
LD	0x100	0x100-0x100	Get the value to stack	0x100
LD	0x101	0x101-0x101	Get address of R	0x124
LD	0x102	0x102-0x102	Get R's own address	0x140
CMP	0x103	0x103-0x103	Compare with R	-1
SWP	0x104	0x104-0x104	Swap R's own address	0x000
SWP	0x105	0x105-0x105	Swap R's own address or stack	0x000
AL	0x106	0x106-0x106	Set AL	0x000
ADDRESS	0x107	0x107-0x107	Set Address	0x108
ADD	0x108	0x108-0x108	Set R to Target stack Address	0x108
SWP	0x109	0x109-0x109	Swap R to Target stack Address	0x108
RET	0x10A	0x10A-0x10A	Leave the stack	0x000

Sample: 00000 001,(0A-0B,1A) ;Please input to stack  
00000 001,(0C-0D,1C) ;Read address of A  
00000 001,(0E-0F,1E) ;Get address of B  
00000 001,(0G-0H,1G) ;Comparing value B  
00000 001,(0I-0J,1I) ;Instruction I  
00000 001,(0K-0L,1K) ;possibly return\_address to stack  
00000 001,(0M-0N,1M) ;Update C + Length from \_returnAddress  
00000 001,(0O-0P,1O) ;Allocate registers  
00000 001,(0Q-0R,1Q) ;Input to R1  
  
SP 0x124  
R0  
R5  
LR  
0x100  
  
R4 0x100 R5 0x124 R12 3  
  
CPU: Cortex-A9 (ARMv7-A) / ARMv7-A

0x100	50
0x104	0x124
0x108	10
0x10C	0x000
0x124	54
0x140	0x140
0x140	-1
0x108	0x108

Sample: 00000 001,(0A-0B,1A) ;Please input to stack  
00000 001,(0C-0D,1C) ;Read address of A  
00000 001,(0E-0F,1E) ;Get address of B  
00000 001,(0G-0H,1G) ;Comparing value B  
00000 001,(0I-0J,1I) ;Instruction I  
00000 001,(0K-0L,1K) ;possibly return\_address to stack  
00000 001,(0M-0N,1M) ;Update C + Length from \_returnAddress  
00000 001,(0O-0P,1O) ;Allocate registers  
00000 001,(0Q-0R,1Q) ;Input to R1  
  
SP 0x124  
R0  
R5  
LR  
0x100  
  
R4 0x100 R5 0x124 R12 3  
  
CPU: Cortex-A9 (ARMv7-A) / ARMv7-A

0x100	50
0x104	0x124
0x108	10
0x10C	0x000
0x124	54
0x140	0x140
0x140	-1
0x108	0x108

Sample: 00000 001,(0A-0B,1A) ;Please input to stack  
00000 001,(0C-0D,1C) ;Read address of A  
00000 001,(0E-0F,1E) ;Get address of B  
00000 001,(0G-0H,1G) ;Comparing value B  
00000 001,(0I-0J,1I) ;Instruction I  
00000 001,(0K-0L,1K) ;possibly return\_address to stack  
00000 001,(0M-0N,1M) ;Update C + Length from \_returnAddress  
00000 001,(0O-0P,1O) ;Allocate registers  
00000 001,(0Q-0R,1Q) ;Input to R1  
  
SP R0  
R5  
LR  
0x100  
  
R4 0x100 R5 0x124 R12 3  
  
CPU: Cortex-A9 (ARMv7-A) / ARMv7-A

0x100	50
0x104	0x124
0x108	10
0x10C	0x000
0x124	54
0x140	0x140
0x140	-1
0x108	0x108

	length	0000	001-00-00-00	choose next to move	
	CDR	00	00-00-00-00	read address of R	0x100 50
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	get current address	0x104 0x124
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	compare with R	0x108 10
	ADRP	00	00-00-00-00	copy R to ADR	0x10C 0x000
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	push R onto stack	0x124 54
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	push ADR onto stack	0x130 0x000
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	push R onto stack	0x140 -3
	ADR	00	00-00-00-00	push ADR onto stack	0x144 0x108

MOVER - to act  
for the United States  
being null

MOV R0 - to act  
for the Linked List  
being null

Register	Value	Description
R0	0x100	where heap is stack
R1	0x104	read address of R
R2	0x108	push current_address
R3	0x10C	Comparing with R
R4	0x124	initialization
R5	0x128	passing current_address to stack
R6	0x140	passing R to R
R7	0x144	passing R to R
R8	0x148	passing R to R
R9	0x14C	passing R to R
R10	0x150	passing R to R
R11	0x154	passing R to R
R12	-4	Address of L
R13	0x100	Address of L
R14	0x104	Address of L
R15	0x108	Address of L

Calling subroutine  
(e.g., main)

alt. suggestion:  
ADD SP, RP, #4

pass by  
value

R4      R5      R12

SP      0x100      0x124      -4

(left with what was passed from main program length