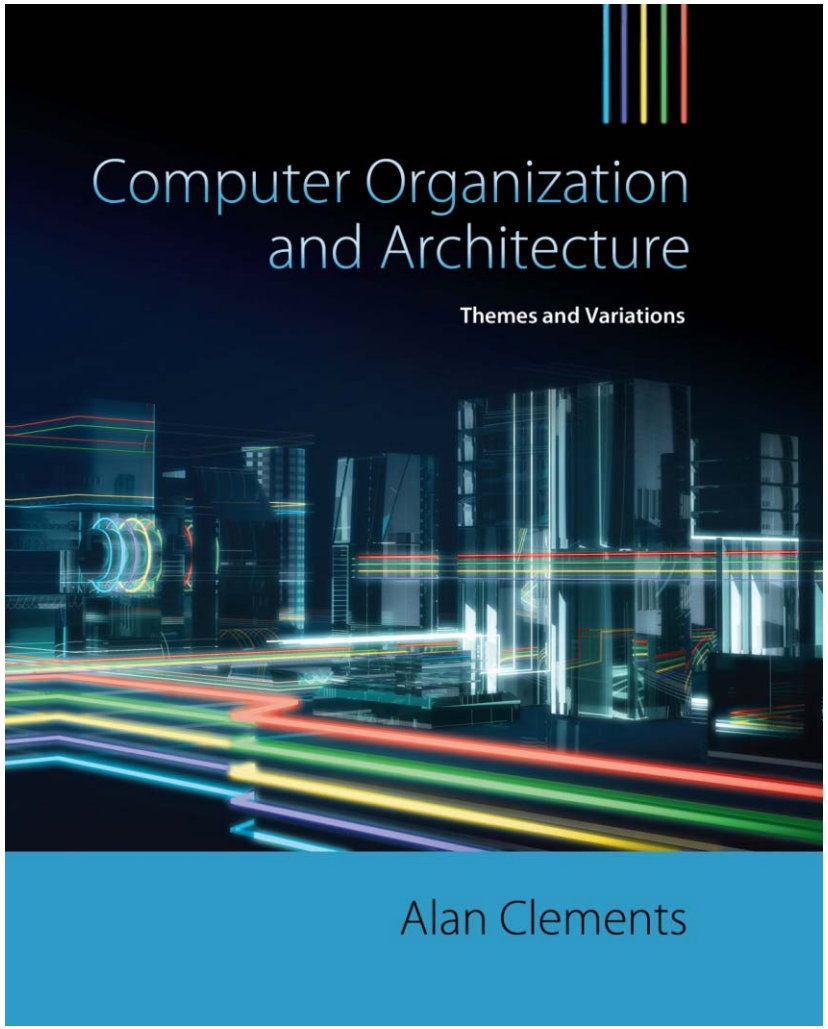
Part 0xC

Chapter 3

Architecture and Organization

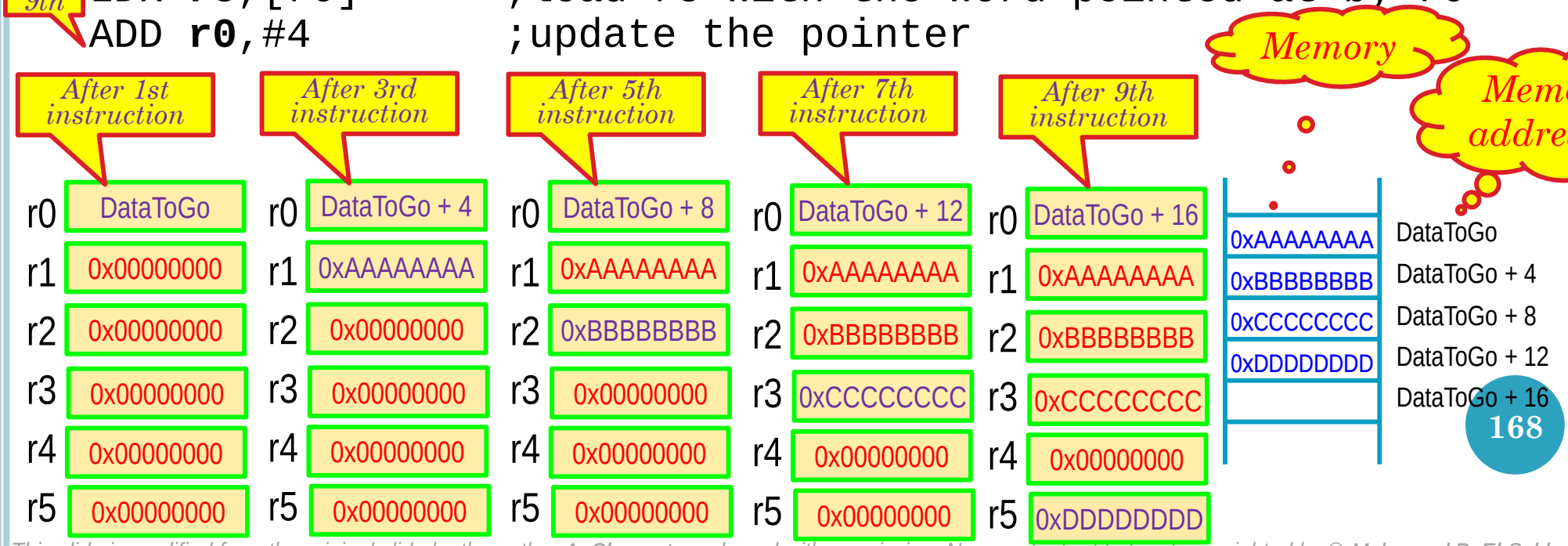


CENGAGE Learning

Block Move Instructions

- The following conventional ARM code demonstrates how to load four registers from ***consecutive*** memory-locations.

```
1st  ADR r0,DataToGo  ;load r0 with the address of the data area
3rd  LDR r1,[r0]      ;load r1 with the word pointed at by r0
     ADD r0,#4        ;update the pointer
5th  LDR r2,[r0]      ;load r2 with the word pointed at by r0
     ADD r0,#4        ;update the pointer
7th  LDR r3,[r0]      ;load r3 with the word pointed at by r0
     ADD r0,#4        ;update the pointer
9th  LDR r5,[r0]      ;load r5 with the word pointed at by r0
     ADD r0,#4        ;update the pointer
```



Block Move Instructions

- *A more efficient way* to load four registers from ***consecutive*** memory-locations.

```
ADR r0,DataToGo  ;load r0 with the address of the data area
LDR r1,[r0],#4   ;load r1 with the word pointed at by r0
                 ;and post-update the pointer
LDR r2,[r0],#4   ;load r2 with the word pointed at by r0
                 ;and post-update the pointer
LDR r3,[r0],#4   ;load r3 with the word pointed at by r0
                 ;and post-update the pointer
LDR r5,[r0],#4   ;load r5 with the word pointed at by r0
                 ;and post-update the pointer
```

- ARM has
  - a ***block move from memory to registers*** instruction, **LDM**, and
  - a ***block move from registers to memory*** instruction, **STM**

  that can copy ***group of registers*** from and to memory.
  This is even more efficient than the above solution.

- Both block move instructions take a **suffix** to describe ***how*** the data is accessed.

Block Move Instructions

- Think of block move instructions as if they are stack operations
  - ***STM:*** *to* ***push*** *a group of registers' content to memory*
  - ***LDM:*** *to* ***pop*** *values from memory and load them to a group of registers*

- Let's start by copying the contents of registers r1, r2, r3, and r5, into ***sequential*** memory-locations with

*This is a different example. It is an **STM** and the example in the previous two slides was **LDM**.*

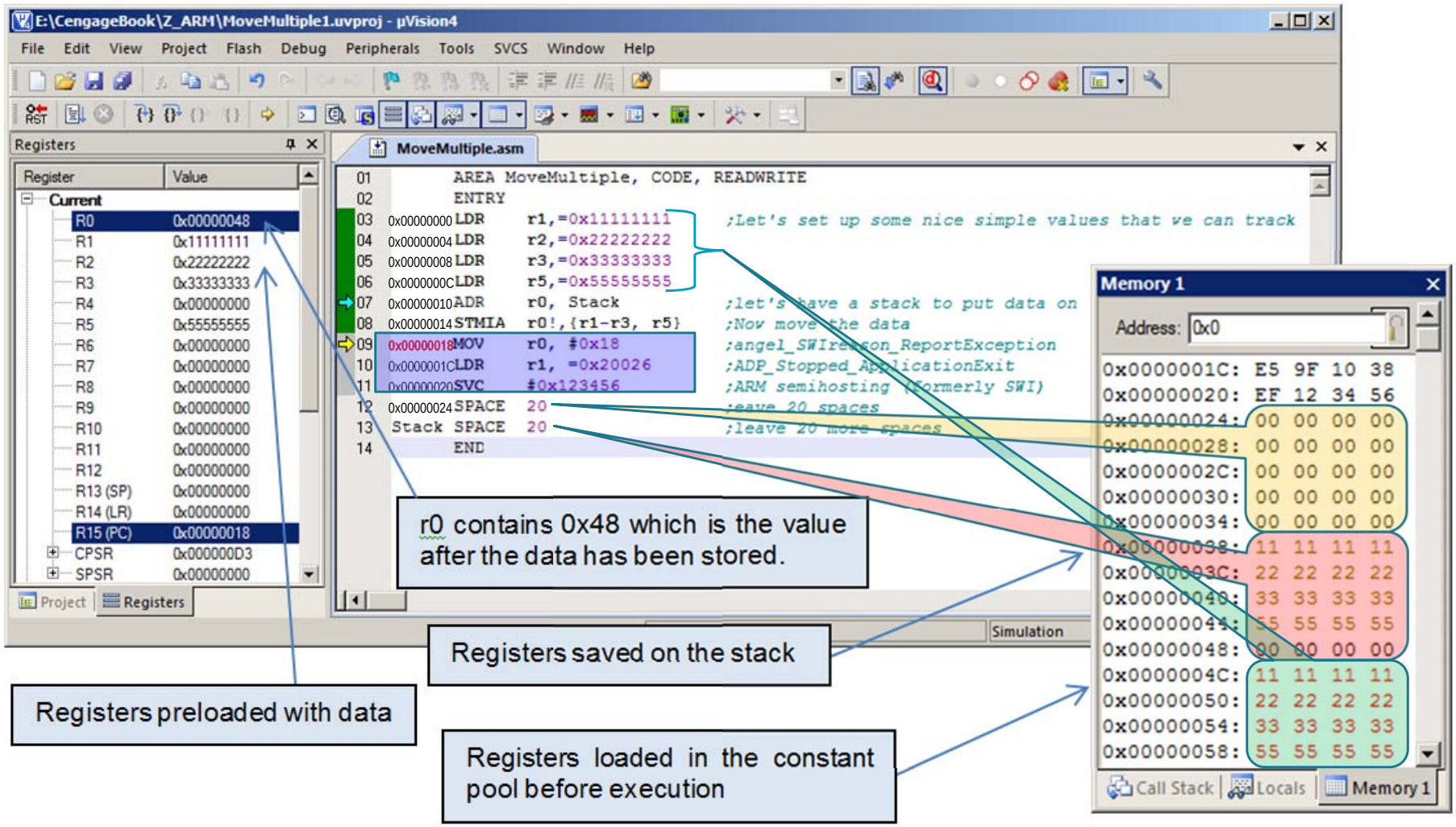
```
ADR r0,DataToGo
STMIA r0!,{r1-r3,r5} ;note the syntax of this instruction
                     ;the register list is put between
                     ;curly braces and it can have a range
```

- This instruction copies registers r1 to r3, and r5, into sequential memory-locations, using r0 as a pointer with *auto-indexing* (indicated by the **!** suffix).

- The suffix **IA** indicates that index register r0 is *incremented after* the transfer, with data transfer in the order of increasing addresses.

- Although ARM's block move instructions have several variations, *ARM always stores the lowest numbered register first at the lowest memory address*, followed by the next lowest numbered register, and so on, regardless of the order in the instruction.
  For example, "`STMIA r0!,{r5,r1-r3}`" and "`STMIA r0!,{r2,r3,r5, r1}`" have the same effect as "`STMIA r0!,{r1-r3,r5}`"

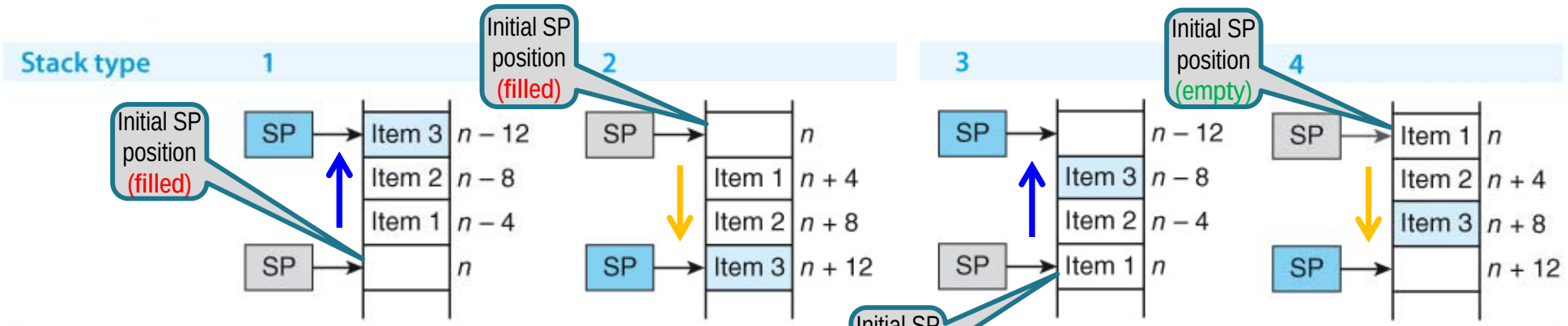
Block Move Instructions



- In LDM/STM, the access happens in the order of increasing register numbers,
  - the lowest numbered register occupies the lowest memory address and
  - the highest numbered register occupies the highest memory address

Block Moves and Stack Operations

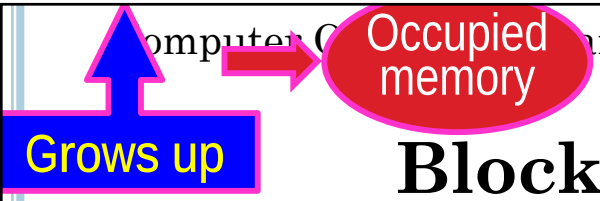
TABLE 3.5 Stack Types and the ARM Block Move Instruction Suffixes



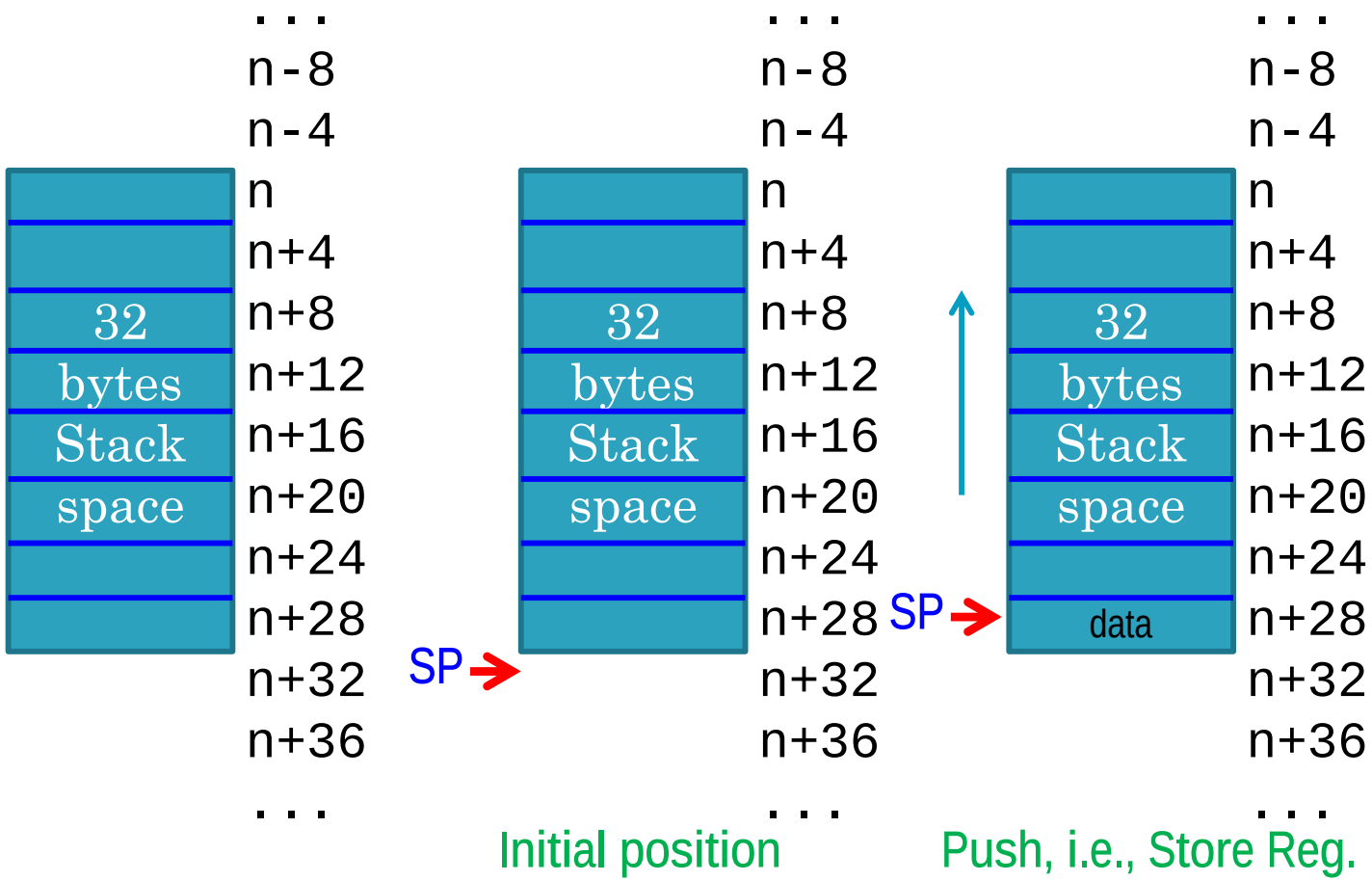
Stack type	1	2	3	4
Stack growth	Descending	Ascending	Descending	Ascending
Class	Full	Full	Empty	Empty
Stack suffix	FD	FA	ED	EA
Load suffix	IA (increment after)	DA (decrement after)	IB (increment before)	DB (decrement before)
Store suffix	DB (decrement before)	IB (increment before)	DA (decrement after)	IA (increment after)

Similar to PUSH, i.e., PUSH from registers to memory

Similar to POP, i.e., POP from memory to these registers

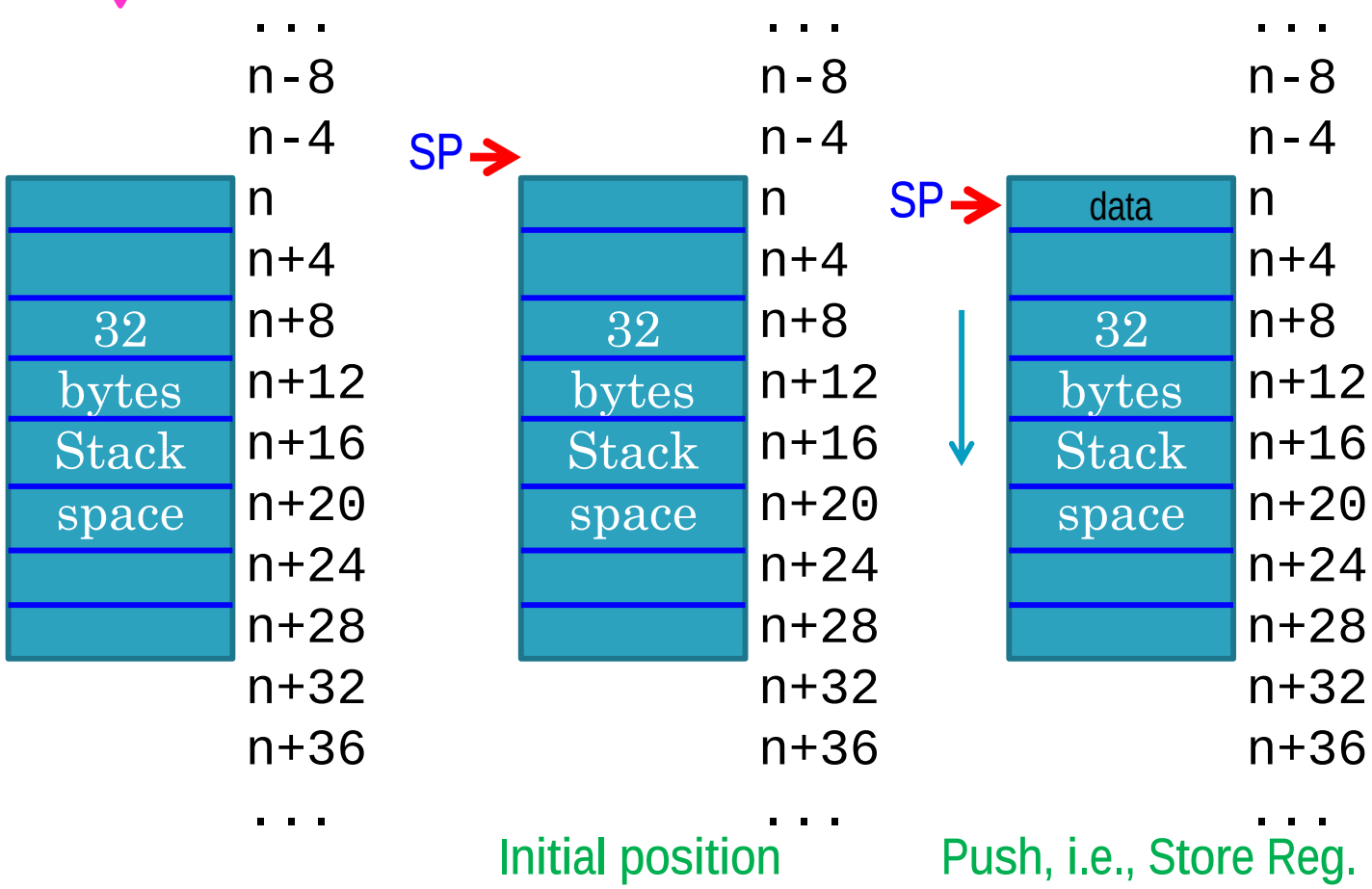


Block Moves and Stack Operations



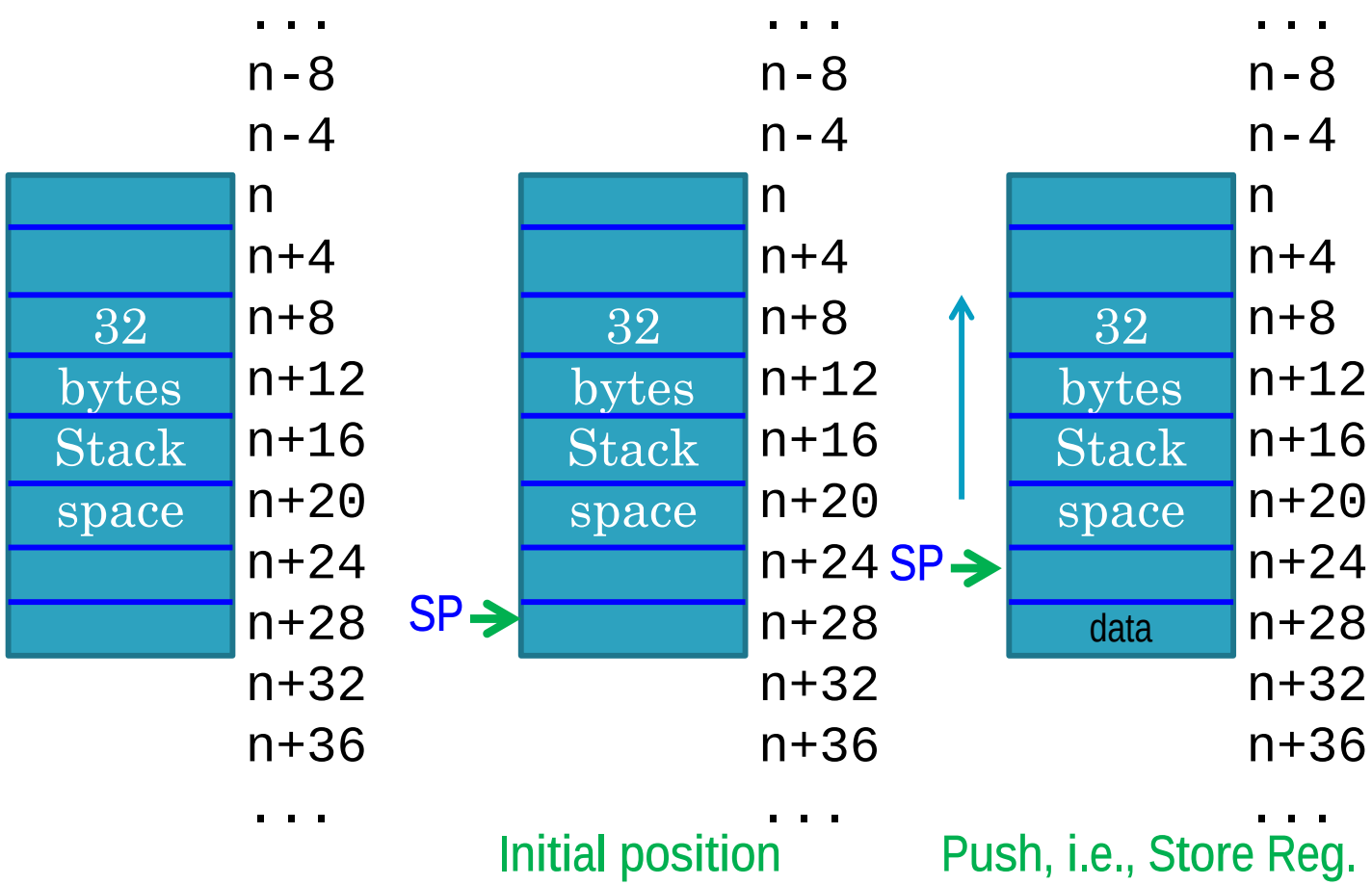
- Stack type: **FD** (i.e., Class=**F**ull and Stack growth=**D**escending)
  (**STMFD** and **LDMFD**)
  - Empty stack ➔ SP points to just after the stack space
  - Pushing on the stack ➔ SP to be **D**ecremented **B**efore (**STMDB**)
  - Popping off the stack ➔ SP to be **I**ncremented **A**fter (**LDMIA**)

Block Moves and Stack Operations



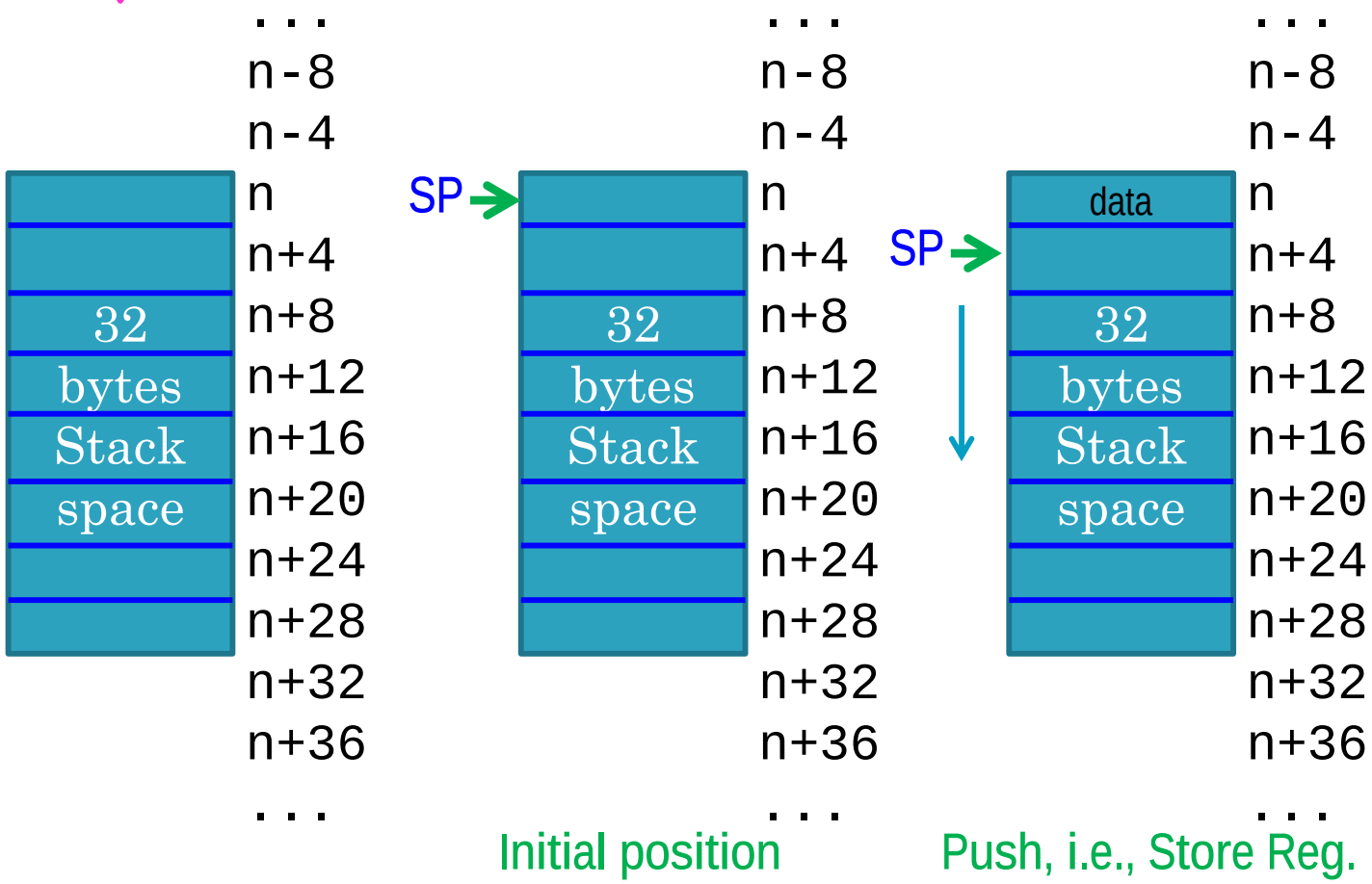
- Stack type: **FA** (i.e., Class=**F**ull and Stack growth=**A**scending)
  (**STMFA** and **LDMFA**)
  - Empty stack ➔ SP points to just before the stack space
  - Pushing on the stack ➔ SP to be **I**ncremented **B**efore (**STMIB**)
  - Popping off the stack ➔ SP to be **D**ecremented **A**fter (**LDMDA**)

Block Moves and Stack Operations



- Stack type: **ED** (i.e., Class=**E**mpty and Stack growth=**D**escending) (**STMED** and **LDMED**)
  - Empty stack ➔ SP points to the last memory word in the stack
  - Pushing on the stack ➔ SP to be **D**ecremented **A**fter (**STMDA**)
  - Popping off the stack ➔ SP to be **I**ncremented **B**efore (**LDMIB**)

Block Moves and Stack Operations



- Stack type: **EA** (i.e., Class=**E**mpty and Stack growth=**A**scending)
  (**STMEA** and **LDMEA**)
  - Empty stack ➔ SP points to the first memory word in the stack
  - Pushing on the stack ➔ SP to be **I**ncremented **A**fter (**STMIA**)
  - Popping off the stack ➔ SP to be **D**ecremented **B**efore (**LDMDB**)

Block Moves and Stack Operations

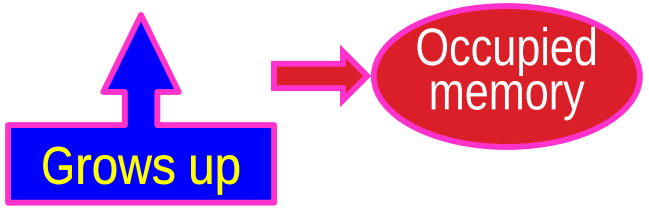
- A stack operation can be described either by
  - ***what*** it does
    - *FD* *Full Descending*
    - *FA* *Full Ascending*
    - *ED* *Empty Descending*
    - *EA* *Empty Ascending*
  - ***how*** it does
    - *DB* *Decremented Before*
    - *DA* *Decremented After*
    - *I B* *Incremented Before*
    - *I A* *Incremented After*

FD, FA, ED, and **EA** are ***pseudo*** notation.

Thea assembler will translate these ***pseudo*** notation to the **IA, DB, DA,** and **IB** notation.

For example,

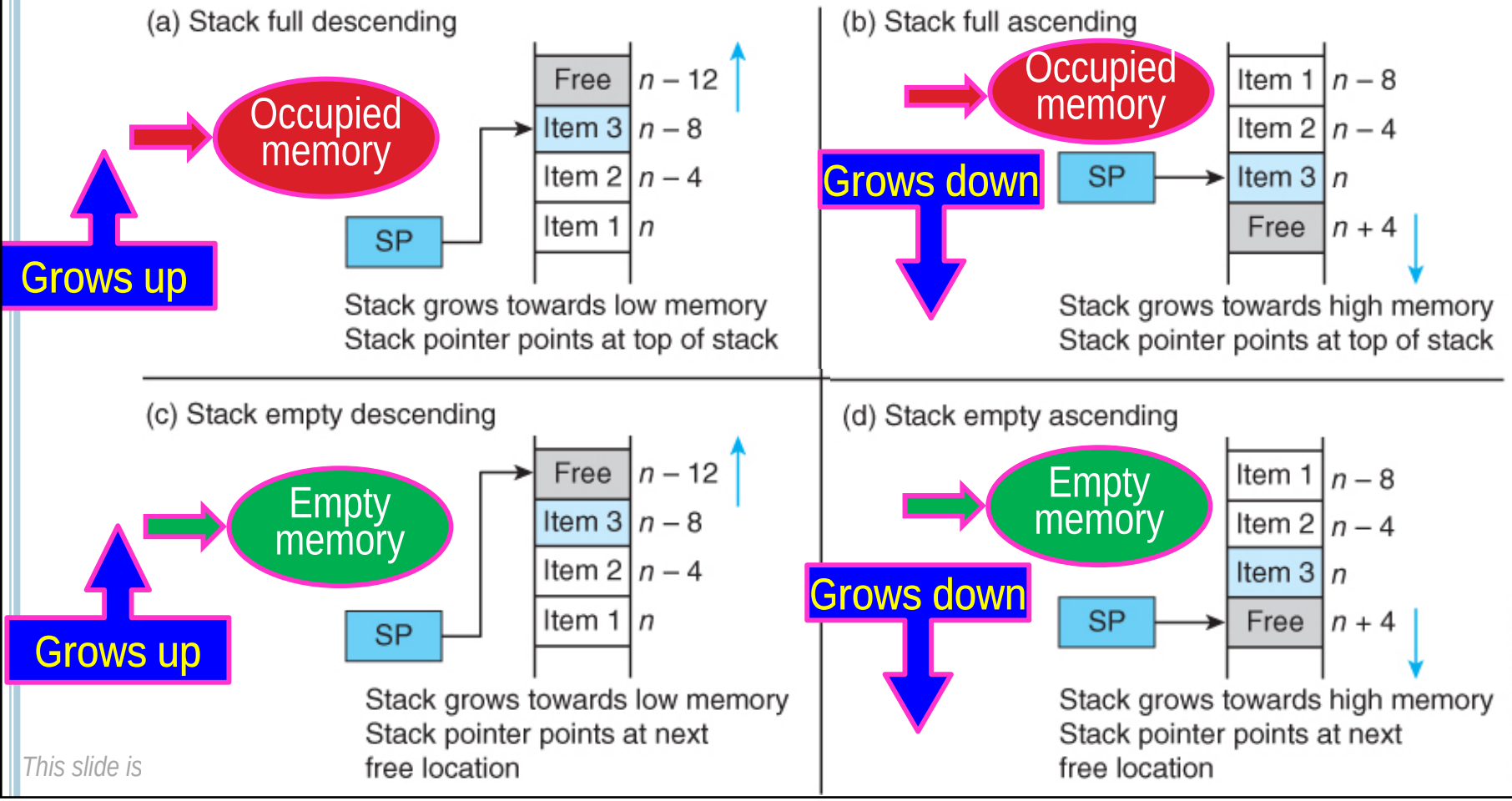
- We can write `STMFD sp!,{r0,r1}` when pushing r0 and r1 onto the stack,
  - Also can be written as `STMDB sp!,{r0,r1}`
- We can write `LDMFD sp!,{r0,r1}` when popping r0 and r1 off the stack.
  - Also can be written as `LDMIA sp!,{r0,r1}`



Block Moves and Stack Operations

- The ARM's literature uses four terms to describe stacks:
  a) FD *full descending* Figure 3.52a
  b) FA *full ascending* Figure 3.52b
  c) ED *empty descending* Figure 3.52c
  d) EA *empty ascending* Figure 3.52d

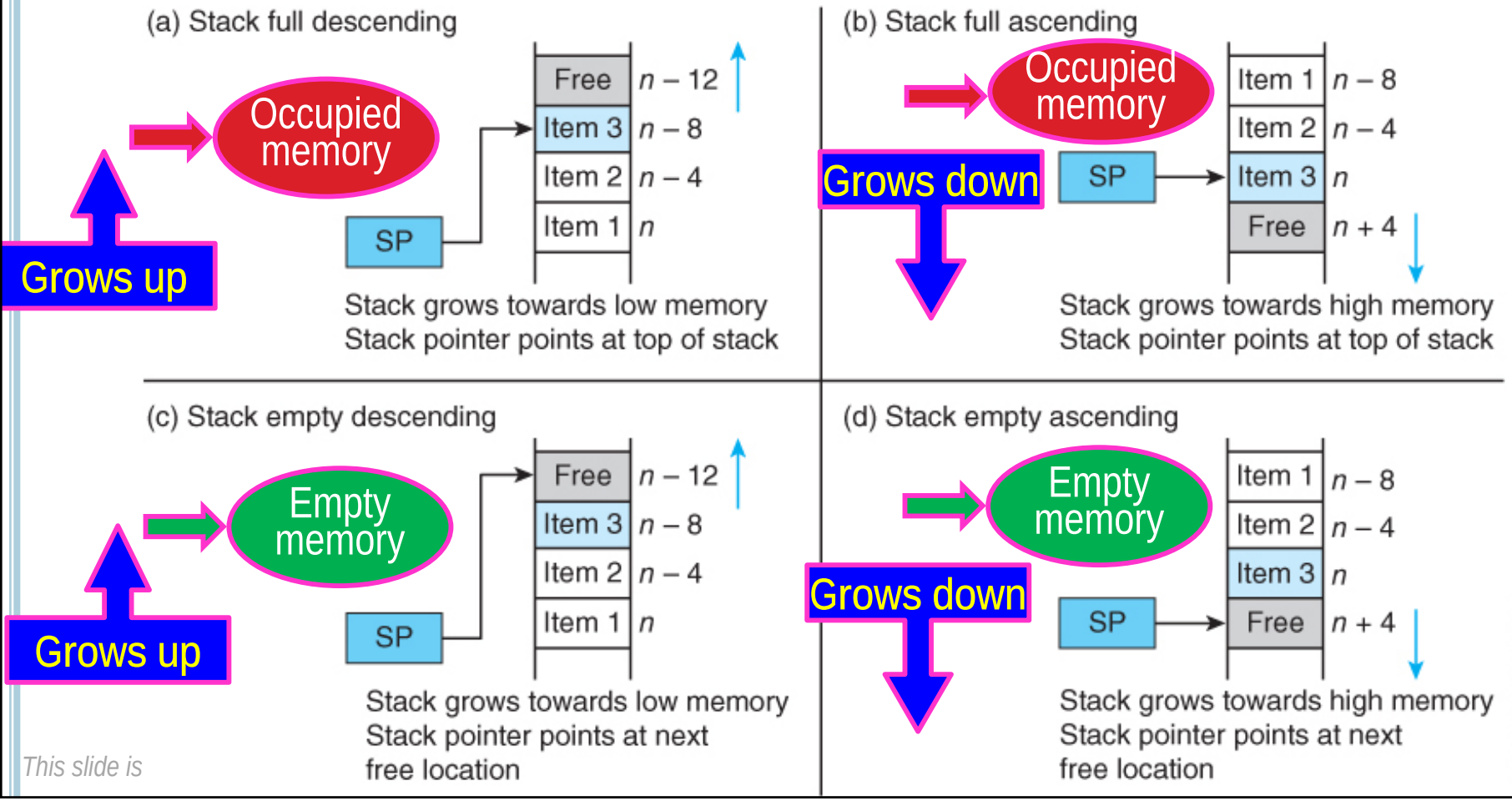
FIGURE 3.59 ARM's four stack modes



Block Moves and Stack Operations

- A stack is described as *full* if the stack pointer *points to the top element* of the stack.
- If the stack pointer *points to the next free* element in the stack, then the stack is called *empty*.

FIGURE 3.59 ARM's four stack modes



Block Moves and Stack Operations

- ARM's block move instruction is useful because it supports ***four*** possible ***stack types***.
- The differences among these four types are
  - the *direction* in which the stack grows
    - up (i.e., *descending toward lower addresses*), *or*
    - down (i.e., *ascending toward higher addresses*)

    ARM uses the terms ***ascending*** and ***descending*** to describe the growth of the stack toward ***higher*** or ***lower*** addresses, respectively.

  - whether the *stack pointer points at*
    - the item currently at the *top of the stack* or
    - the *next free item* on the stack.

Bit#23 (Up/down)

Bit#24 (Pre-post)

Block Move Example

- The block move provides a convenient means of copying data between memory regions. ***This is NOT a stack application.***
- In the next example we copy 256 words (1024 bytes) from Table 1 to Table 2.

```
     ADR     r0,Table1     ;r0 points to source
                           ;(note pseudo-op ADR)
     ADR     r1,Table2     ;r1 points to the destination
     MOV     r2,#32        ;32 blocks of 8 = 256 words to move
Loop LDMFD   r0!,{r3-r10}  ;REPEAT Load 8 registers (r3 to r10)
     STMFD   r1!,{r3-r10}  ;store the registers at
                           ;their destination
     SUBS    r2,r2,#1      ;decrement loop counter
     BNE     Loop          ;UNTIL all 32 blocks of
                           ;8 registers moved
```

Is it right to use LDMFD and STMFD?

- The two block move instructions above allow us to move eight registers (i.e., 32 bytes) at once.

Block Move Example

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Loop LDMIA  r0!,{r3-r10}  ;REPEAT Load 8 registers (r3 to r10)
    STMIA   r1!,{r3-r10}  ;store the registers at
                          ;their destination
    SUBS    r2,r2,#1      ;decrement loop counter
    BNE     Loop          ;UNTIL all 32 blocks of
                          ;8 registers moved
```

LDMIA and **STMIA**,
not **LDRFD** and **STRFD**
Not correct in the book page 220

- The two block move instructions above allow us to move eight registers (i.e., 32 bytes) at once.