

# *Part C*

## CHAPTER 3

### Architecture and Organization



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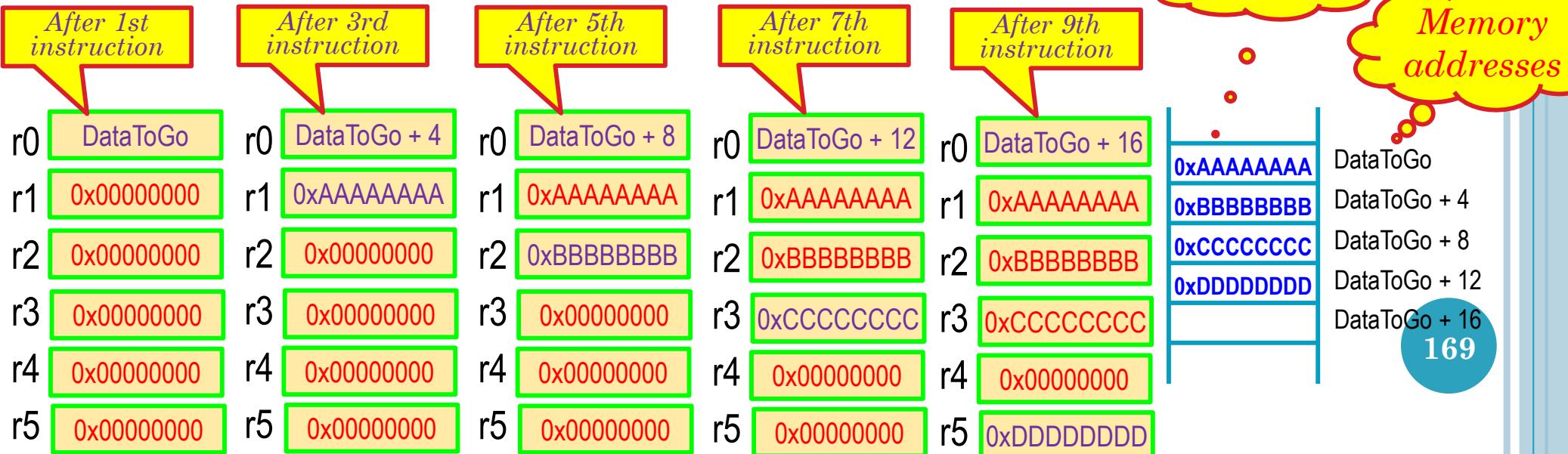
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# Block Move Instructions

- ❑ 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

ADR r0, DataToGo *pointer list.*  
 STMIA r0!, {r1-r3, r5} ;note the syntax of this instruction  
*multiple.* *order is not important.*

*The 1st operand is a pointer without having [ ] around it. This is not the case with STR/LDR.*

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

*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. *4x*
- ❑ 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. *7/8*  
 For example, "STMIA r0!, {r5, r1-r3}" and "STMIA r0!, {r2, r3, r5, r1}" have the same effect as "STMIA r0!, {r1-r3, r5}"

the registers can be discontinued, but the memory is continuous.  
the order of the register in the instruction does not affect the  
order in memory.



# Block Move Instructions

**Registers**

Register	Value
R0	0x00000048
R1	0x11111111
R2	0x22222222
R3	0x33333333
R4	0x00000000
R5	0x55555555
R6	0x00000000
R7	0x00000000
R8	0x00000000
R9	0x00000000
R10	0x00000000
R11	0x00000000
R12	0x00000000
R13 (SP)	0x00000000
R14 (LR)	0x00000000
R15 (PC)	0x00000018
CPSR	0x000000D3
SPSR	0x00000000

**MoveMultiple.asm**

```

01 AREA MoveMultiple, CODE, READWRITE
02 ENTRY
03 0x00000000 LDR r1,=0x11111111 ;Let's set up some nice simple values that we can track
04 0x00000004 LDR r2,=0x22222222
05 0x00000008 LDR r3,=0x33333333
06 0x0000000C LDR r4,=0x44444444
07 0x00000010 LDR r5,=0x55555555
08 0x00000014 STMTA r0!,{r1-r3, r5} ;let's have a stack to put data on
09 0x00000018 MOV r0, #0x18 ;Now move the data
10 0x0000001C LDR r1, =0x20026 ;angel_SWIreason_ReportException
11 0x00000020 SVC #0x123456 ;ADP_Stopped_ApplicationExit
12 0x00000024 SPACE 20 ;ARM semihosting (formerly SWI)
13 Stack SPACE 20 ;leave 20 spaces
14 END ;leave 20 more spaces
  
```

**Memory 1**

Address	Value
0x0000001C	E5 9F 10 38
0x00000020	EF 12 34 56
0x00000024	00 00 00 00
0x00000028	00 00 00 00
0x0000002C	00 00 00 00
0x00000030	00 00 00 00
0x00000034	00 00 00 00
0x00000038	11 11 11 11
0x0000003C	22 22 22 22
0x00000040	33 33 33 33
0x00000044	44 44 44 44
0x00000048	55 55 55 55
0x0000004C	00 00 00 00
0x00000050	11 11 11 11
0x00000054	22 22 22 22
0x00000058	33 33 33 33
0x0000005C	44 44 44 44
0x00000060	55 55 55 55

**Annotations:**

- Registers preloaded with data (pointing to R0-R5 in the Register window)
- Registers loaded in the constant pool before execution (pointing to the LDR instructions in the code)
- Registers saved on the stack (pointing to the STMTA instruction in the code)
- make the stack available for implementation both upward & down (pointing to the SPACE instructions in the code)
- r0 contains 0x48 which is the value after the data has been stored. (pointing to R0 in the Register window)
- ↑ spare 20 stack. ↓ spare 20. (pointing to the SPACE instructions in the code)
- the memory would be at the end (pointing to the end of the memory dump)

- ❑ 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
	<p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p>	<p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p> <p>Initial SP position (filled)</p>	<p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p>	<p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p> <p>Initial SP position (empty)</p>
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)

this place could be anything the upper space is empty

Descending Full initial position. the final pointer point to the top of the stack

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

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

These two are pseudo instructions.

LDMFD = LDMIA

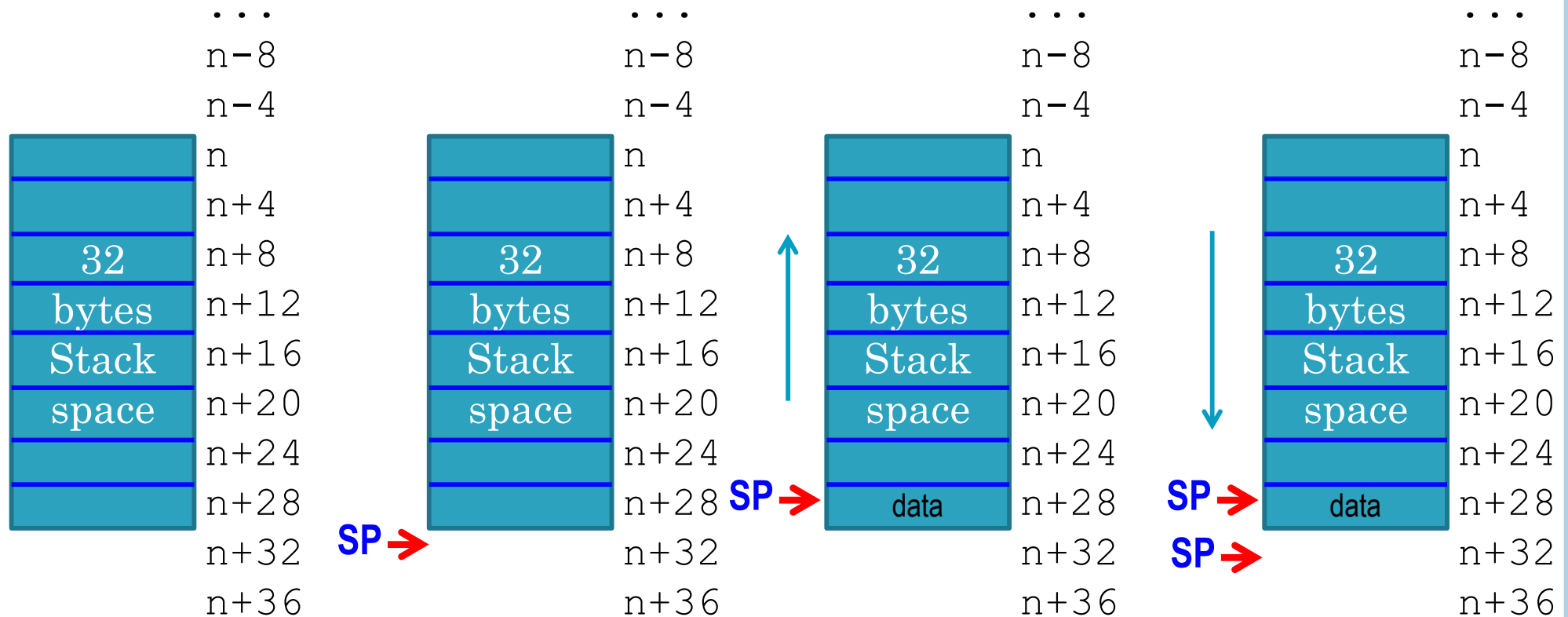
SDMFD = SDMDB



Grows up

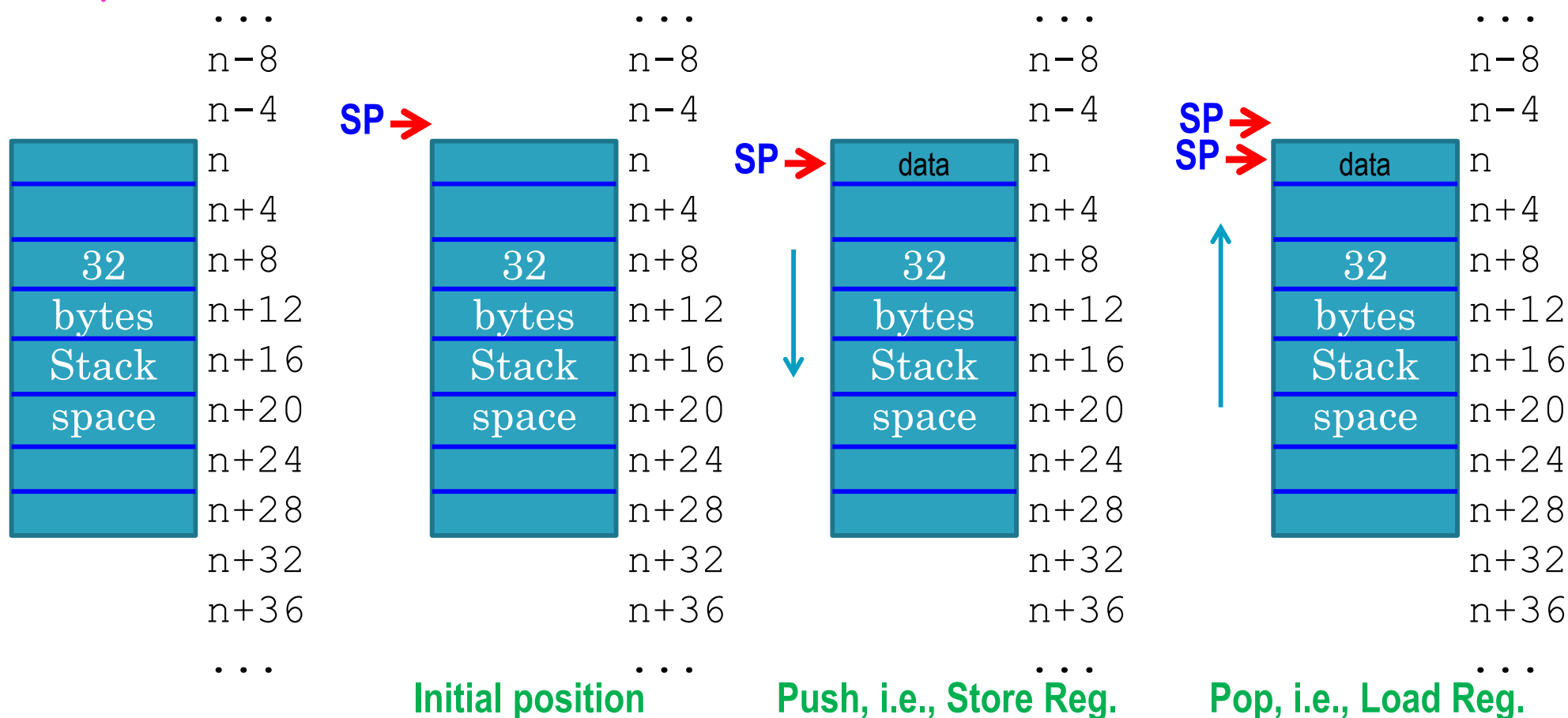
Occupied memory

# 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**ecrement **B**efore (**STMDB**)
  - Popping off the stack → SP to be **I**ncrement **A**fter (**LDMIA**)
- Initially pointing at the top of the stack.*

# Block Moves and Stack Operations

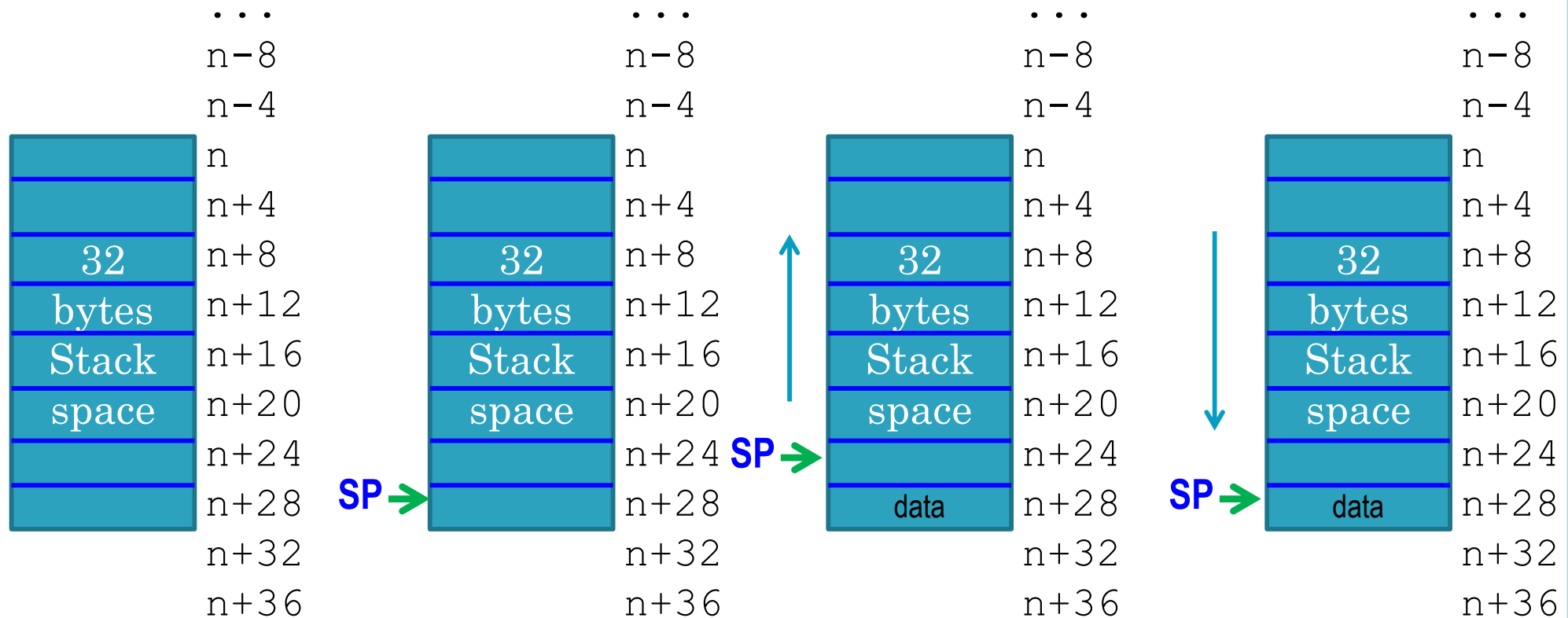


□ Stack type: **FA** (i.e., Class=**F**ull and Stack growth=**A**scending)  
(**STMFA** and **LDMFA**)

- 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 (**LMDA**)

Grows up

## Block Moves and Stack Operations



Initial position

Push, i.e., Store Reg.

Pop, i.e., Load Reg.

(inside of the stack)

point at an empty location

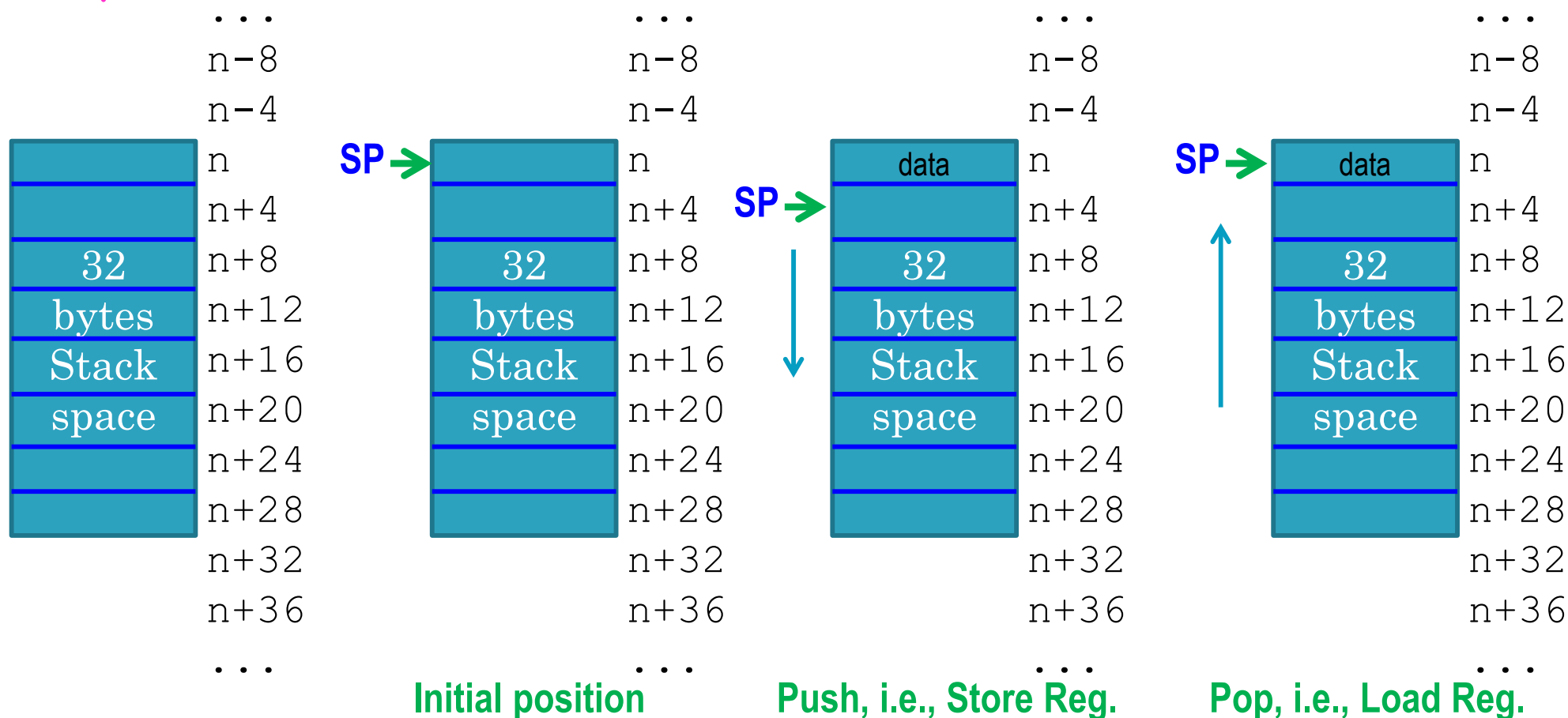
□ Stack type: **ED** (i.e., Class=**E**Empty and Stack growth=**D**escending)

(**STMED** and **LDMED**)

initially

- Empty stack → SP points to the last memory word in the stack
- Pushing on the stack → SP to be **D**ecrement **A**fter (**STMED**)
- Popping off the stack → SP to be **I**ncrement **B**efore (**LDMED**)

# Block Moves and Stack Operations



□ Stack type: **EA** (i.e., Class=**E**Empty and Stack growth=**A**scending)  
(**STM****EA** and **LD****ME****EA**)

- Empty stack → SP points to the first memory word in the stack
- Pushing on the stack → SP to be **I**ncremented **A**fter (**STM****IA**)
- Popping off the stack → SP to be **D**ecremented **B**efore (**LD****MD****B**)

# Block Moves and Stack Operations

□ A stack operation can be described either by

▪ **what** it does (*pseudo instruction*)

- **FD** Full Descending
- **FA** Full Ascending
- **ED** Empty Descending
- **EA** Empty Ascending

▪ **how** it does (*actual instruction*)

- **DB** Decrement Before
- **DA** Decrement After
- **IB** Increment Before
- **IA** Increment After

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

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

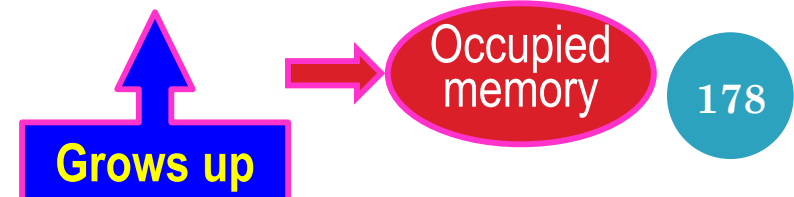
For example, **STMDB**

□ 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

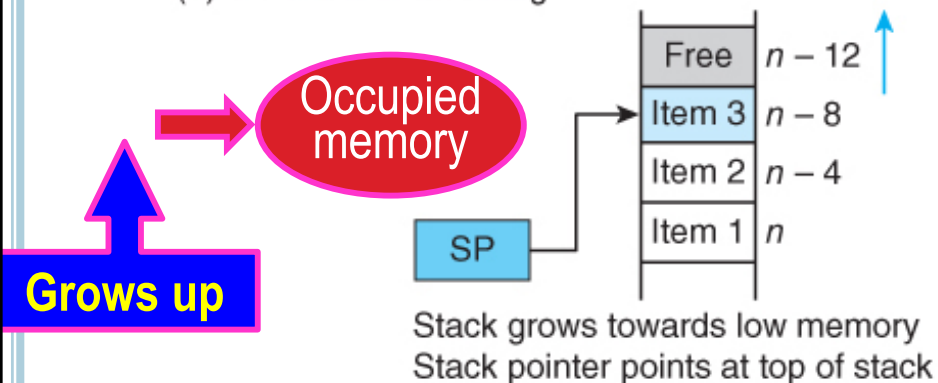
❑ The ARM's literature uses four terms to describe stacks:

- 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

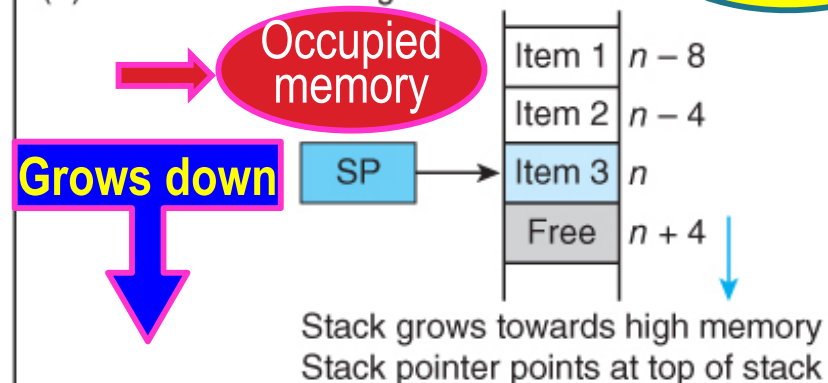
**FIGURE 3.59** ARM's four stack modes

In Figure 3.59, each item is 4 bytes.  
Yet, in general, each item can be a BLOCK of multiple of 4 bytes.

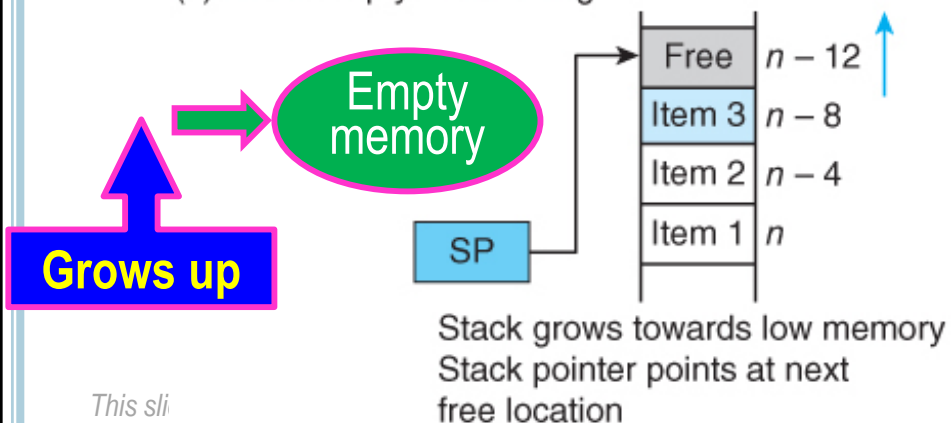
(a) Stack full descending



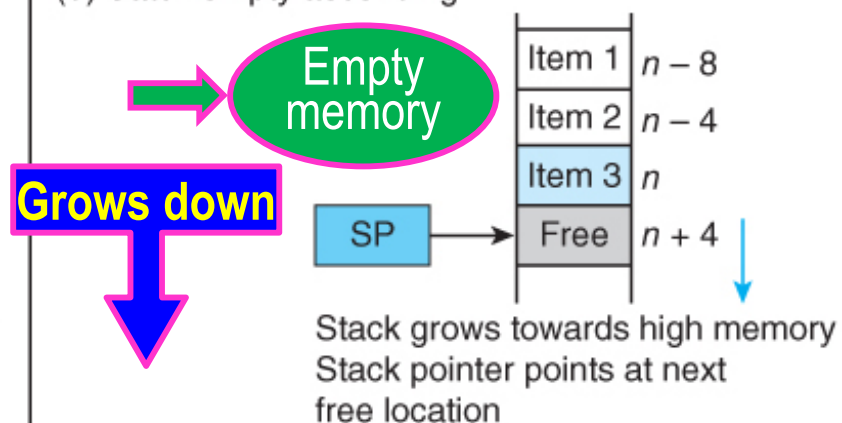
(b) Stack full ascending



(c) Stack empty descending



(d) Stack empty ascending



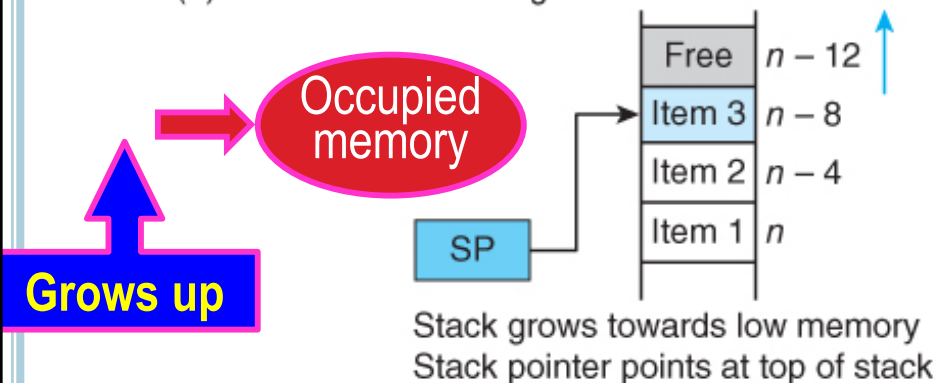


# Block Moves and Stack Operations

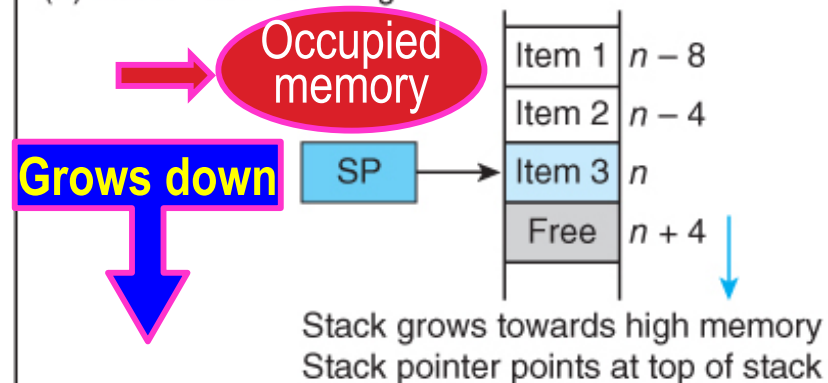
- ❑ A stack is described as *full* if the stack pointer *points to the top element* of the stack.
- ❑ If the stack pointer *points to the next free* element in the stack, then the stack is called *empty*.

**FIGURE 3.59** ARM's four stack modes

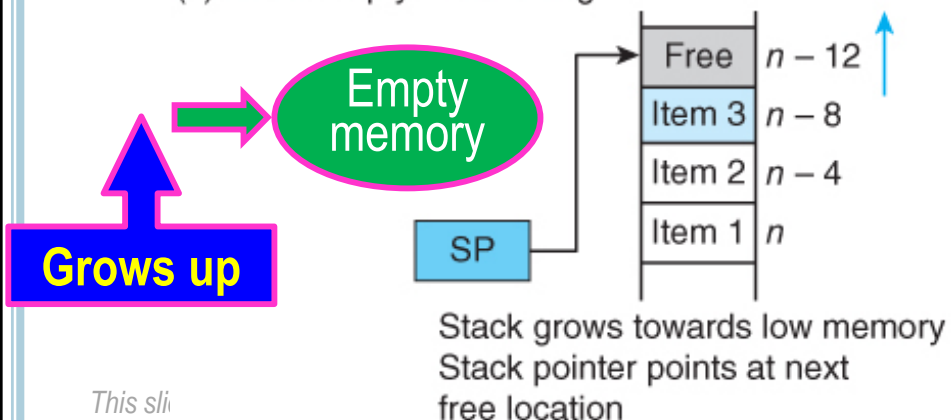
(a) Stack full descending



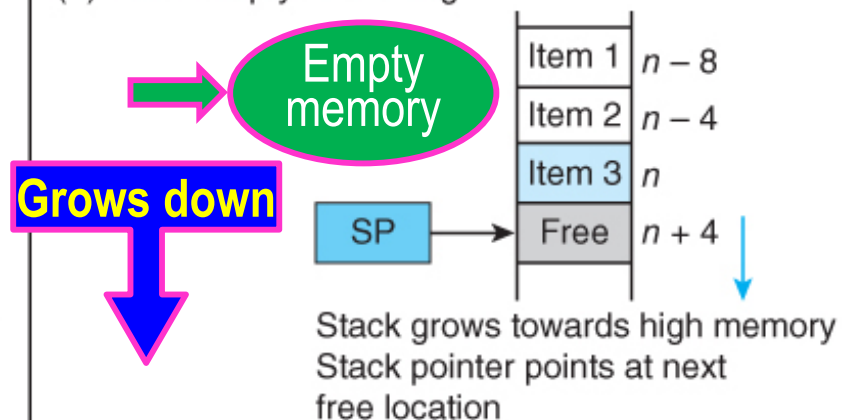
(b) Stack full ascending



(c) Stack empty descending



(d) Stack empty ascending



## 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*)

Bit#23 (Up/down)

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 <sup>E</sup>
  - the item currently at the top of the stack or
  - the next free item on the stack.

Bit#24 (Pre-post)

T

## Block Move Example

- ❑ The block move provides a convenient means of copying data between memory regions. *In this case, it 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

- ❑ 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
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      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.