
Stack & Subroutines

Ch. 3, part 2

ECE331

Rev.S11



ECE 331, Prof. A. Mason

Stack-Subroutines p.1

Outline

- Stack
 - concept
 - hardware
 - ASM instructions
 - examples
- Subroutines
 - concept
 - ASM instructions
 - examples
- Parameter passing techniques



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Stack-Subroutines p.2

Stack

- Stack = section of memory used for temporary storage
 - often used to store CPU register values before jumping to *subroutines*
 - has first-in/last-out (**FILO**) structure

Example:



- 68HC12 definitions
 - “bottom_of_stack” = highest stack memory address
 - just “below” (higher address) starting point of the stack
 - “top_of_stack” = memory address of last stacked value
 - decreases as values are added to stack
 - addresses above top_of_stack are considered empty
- Stack can generally be any memory location
 - defined starting at \$3F80 for lab evaluation board



Hardware and ASM Instructions

- Stack Hardware
 - Stack Pointer = 16b CPU register holding value of top_of_stack
 - initially set to bottom_of_stack
 - automatically decreases/increases value as items added/taken to/from stack
 - points to top (lowest address) filled stack location
- Stack ASM Instructions
 - LDS**, load stack, set initial value of stack
 - EXAMPLE:
 - PUSH** (PSHA, PSHB, ..D, ..CCR, ..X, ..Y)
 - SP ← SP – 1, copy register data onto stack @ <SP>
 - PULL** (PULA, PULB, ..D, ..CCR, ..X, ..Y)
 - copy stack data to register, SP ← SP + 1
 - Also: STS, INS, DES, TSX, TXS, TSY, TYS

for lab evaluation board

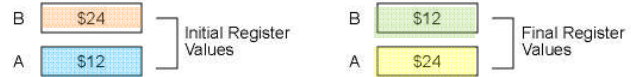
- 16b Push**
 - SP ← SP – 2
 - <SP, SP+1>
- 16b Pull**
 - <SP, SP+1>
 - SP ← SP + 2

order of instr. operations important to understanding how stack works



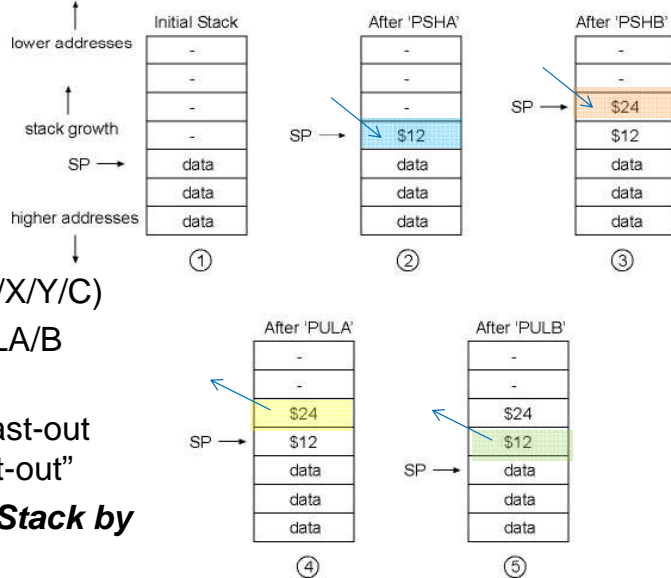
Stack Example

- ASM code executed



- Observations

- SP points to "top of stack"
- SP is decreased by 1 for PSHA/B (by 2 for PSHD/X/Y/C)
- SP is increased by 1 for PULA/B (by 2 for PULD/X/Y/C)
- Stack functions as first-in / last-out (FILO), same as "last-in, first-out"
- Data is not removed from Stack by a PUL instruction**
- data above SP is ignored, not deleted



Explaining Stack ASM Code

- What does the following code do?

```
LDS  # $8000
PSHA
PSHB
PSHX
PSHY
TSX
LDAA 3,X
LDAB 5,X
```

Initial Values

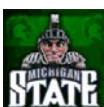
A	AA	
B	BB	
X	11	22
Y	F0	0F
SP	80	00

Stack

	7FF9
	7FFA
	7FFB
	7FFC
	7FFD
	7FFE
	7FFF
	8000

Final Values

A		
B		
X		
Y		
SP		



Subroutines

- Subroutine = independent program module performing a specific task
 - can be called repeatedly by main program or another subroutine
 - similar to a library function in higher level languages
- Advantages of subroutines (relative to branch loops)
 - less program memory than repeating multiple branch loops in a linear sequence
 - write once, use in multiple programs

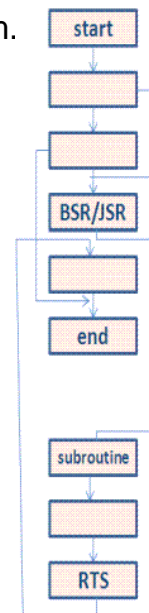


Subroutine ASM Instructions

- **BSR**, branch to s/r (subroutine)
 - adjust PC by -127 to +128 → s/r must be close in program mem.
- **JSR**, jump to s/r
 - s/r can be anywhere in program memory



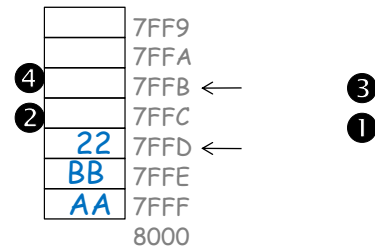
- Operation of BSR,JSR
 - current PC value (points to next instruction) automatically stored to STACK
 - PC value set to location of s/r
- **RTS** , return from s/r
 - restores PC value from STACK
 - s/r must end with SP pointing to exact position when s/r began
 - otherwise, it can't reload correct PC value from STACK



Automatic Subroutine Actions

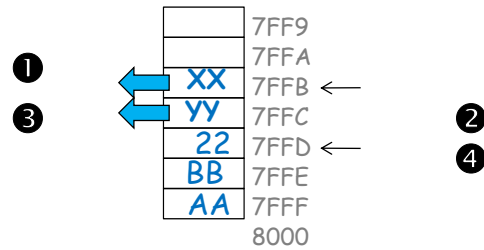
▪ BSR, JSR

1. $SP \leftarrow SP - 1$
2. $PC_L \rightarrow STACK_{SP}$
3. $SP \leftarrow SP - 1$
4. $PC_H \rightarrow STACK_{SP}$



▪ RTS

1. $STACK_{SP} \rightarrow PC_H$
2. $SP \leftarrow SP + 1$
3. $STACK_{SP} \rightarrow PC_L$
4. $SP \leftarrow SP + 1$

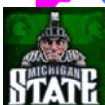


Subroutine/Stack Example

EX1

<p>MAIN PROG</p>	<pre> ORG \$4000 LDS #8000 : 4100 JSR DOIT 4102 : END </pre>	<p>PC SP</p>	<p>Stack SP</p> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFD</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFF</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>8000</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFC</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFD</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFF</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFC</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFD</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFF</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFD</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFE</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>7FFF</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>8000</td></tr> </table>		7FFD		7FFE		7FFF		8000				7FFC		7FFD		7FFE		7FFF				7FFC		7FFD		7FFE		7FFF				7FFD		7FFE		7FFF		8000
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<p>SUBROUTINE</p>	<pre> 43A0 DOIT PSHA ← : 43B5 PULA 43B6 RTS </pre>																																								

Handwritten annotations: A blue arrow points from the JSR instruction at address 4102 to the start of the DOIT subroutine at address 43A0. A pink vertical bar highlights the 'MAIN PROG' and 'SUBROUTINE' labels.



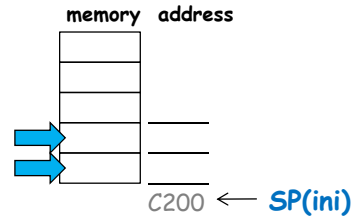
Examples

- **Example 2:** For .lst output below, s/r “bonk” begins at what program memory address?

		prog. address	.lst machine code
LDS	#\$C200	\$COFD	CFC200
BRS	BONK	\$C100	0720
...	...	\$C102	...

- **Example 3:** Fill in STACK when s/r “bonk” begins

- Q1: stack addresses?
- Q2: what “information” is put on stack?
- Q3: what data values go in stack?
- Q4: where is final SP?



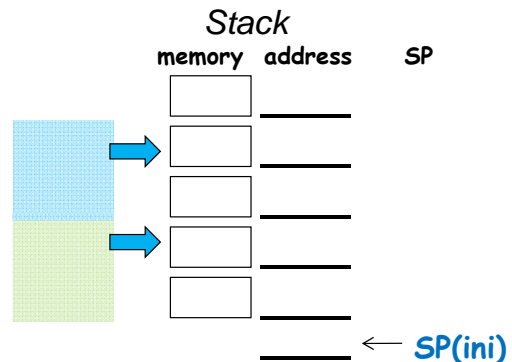
Examples

- **Example 4:** Nested Subroutines

- Illustrate STACK after NOP (no-operation) instruction
 - Q1: what is bottom_of_stack (initial SP value)?
 - Q2: what are remaining STACK addresses?
 - Q3: what information/values go to stack @ BSR?
 - Q4: what information/values go to stack @ JSR
 - Q5: where is SP @ NOP?

```

BB0    LDS  $$BAF
        LDY  $$111
        TYS
BB8    BSR  ONE
BBA    :
BD0    ONE JSR  TWO
BD3    :
C13    TWO NOP
        :
    
```



Subroutine Techniques

- Good Subroutine Is
 - **Independent**: does not rely on other programs or s/r that could change
 - **Transparent**: restores CPU registers to values before s/r
 - typically store CPU registers temporarily to STACK
 - **Relocatable**: data and code is location independent
 - do not rely on data in specific memory locations
 - best to use only variables defined w/in s/r; avoid DIR and EXT addr. modes
- Parameter Passing Techniques
 - How should you pass input/output data to/from a subroutine?
 - store data in CPU registers
 - store address of data in CPU registers
 - push data to STACK (tricky!)
 - **data memory is not a good option**; other program might change it
 - Describe parameter requirements in s/r comments
 - Always restore non-parameter CPU registers
 - return from s/r with values before s/r back in CPU registers

