



Universiteit Utrecht

[Faculty of Science  
Information and Computing Sciences]

# Talen en Compilers

2023 - 2024

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## 9. Simple stack machine



# Midterm Summary lecture

- ▶ Tuesday
- ▶ Short summary on contents
- ▶ Send requests for demo-ing old questions!



# Recap: Semantic functions

In the previous lectures, we have seen how to evaluate (interpret) expressions.



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- ▶ We have added variables and talked about environments.
- ▶ We have added local definitions and talked about nesting and blocks.
- ▶ We have added (mutually) recursive definitions and talked about scoping.



# Recap: Semantic functions

In the previous lectures, we have seen how to evaluate (interpret) expressions.

- ▶ We have added variables and talked about environments.
- ▶ We have added local definitions and talked about nesting and blocks.
- ▶ We have added (mutually) recursive definitions and talked about scoping.

Now we are going to generate code in a low-level language instead of interpreting the expression directly.



# This lecture

## Simple stack machine

Architecture of the simple stack machine

Instructions

Translating programs

Functions / methods



# 9.1 Architecture of the simple stack machine





# Simple stack machine

A virtual machine that executes programs consisting of assembly language instructions.



# Simple stack machine

A virtual machine that executes programs consisting of assembly language instructions.

- ▶ The program is a list of instructions with arguments, stored in a continuous block of memory.
- ▶ A **stack** is used to store the current state of execution.
- ▶ There are eight **registers**, four with a special name:
  - ▶ the **program counter** (PC)
  - ▶ the **stack pointer** (SP)
  - ▶ the **mark pointer** (MP)
  - ▶ the **return register** (RR)



# Execution

- ▶ A step in the execution interprets the instruction pointed to by the program counter.
- ▶ Depending on the instruction, the contents of the stack and registers are modified.



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- ▶ Depending on the instruction, the contents of the stack and registers are modified.

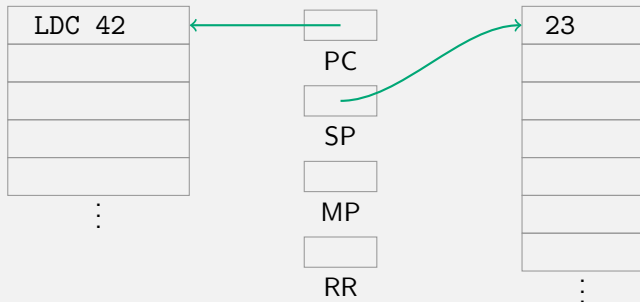
## Example: LDC (load constant)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} SP_{\text{post}} & = SP_{\text{pre}} + 1 & \text{(increment stack pointer)} \\ M_{\text{post}} [SP_{\text{post}}] & = M_{\text{pre}} [PC_{\text{pre}} + 1] & \text{(place argument on stack)} \\ PC_{\text{post}} & = PC_{\text{pre}} + 2 & \text{(adjust program counter)} \end{array} \right.$$



# Visualizing the execution

$$\begin{array}{l} SP_{\text{post}} = SP_{\text{pre}} + 1 \quad (\text{increment stack pointer}) \\ M_{\text{post}} [SP_{\text{post}}] = M_{\text{pre}} [PC_{\text{pre}} + 1] \quad (\text{place argument on stack}) \\ PC_{\text{post}} = PC_{\text{pre}} + 2 \quad (\text{adjust program counter}) \end{array}$$

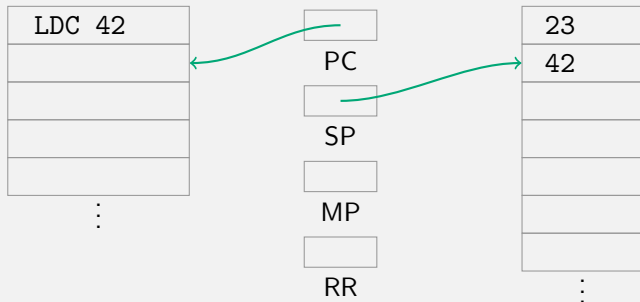


The instruction LDC 42 takes up two words in memory, but we write it in one cell.



## Visualizing the execution

$$\begin{array}{l} SP_{\text{post}} = SP_{\text{pre}} + 1 \quad (\text{increment stack pointer}) \\ M_{\text{post}} [SP_{\text{post}}] = M_{\text{pre}} [PC_{\text{pre}} + 1] \quad (\text{place argument on stack}) \\ PC_{\text{post}} = PC_{\text{pre}} + 2 \quad (\text{adjust program counter}) \end{array}$$



The instruction LDC 42 takes up two words in memory, but we write it in one cell.



## 9.2 Instructions



# Instructions

Most instructions can be classified into the following groups:

- ▶ load instructions
- ▶ store instructions
- ▶ jump instructions
- ▶ arithmetic and logical operations





# Load and store instructions

**LDC** – load constant

**LDR** – load from register

**LDL** – load local

**LDS** – load from stack

**LDLA** – load local address

**LDA** – load via address

**STR** – store to register

**STL** – store local

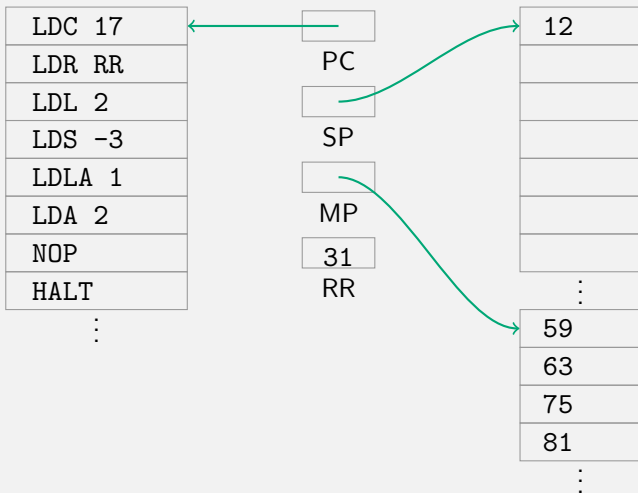
**STS** – store to stack

**SDA** – store via address



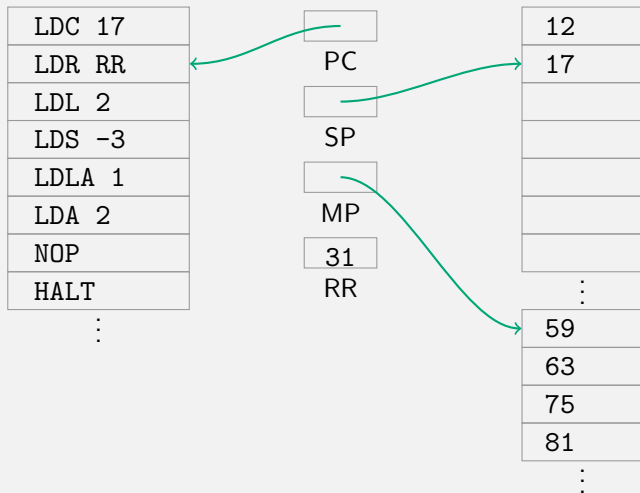
# Load instructions

## LDC – load constant



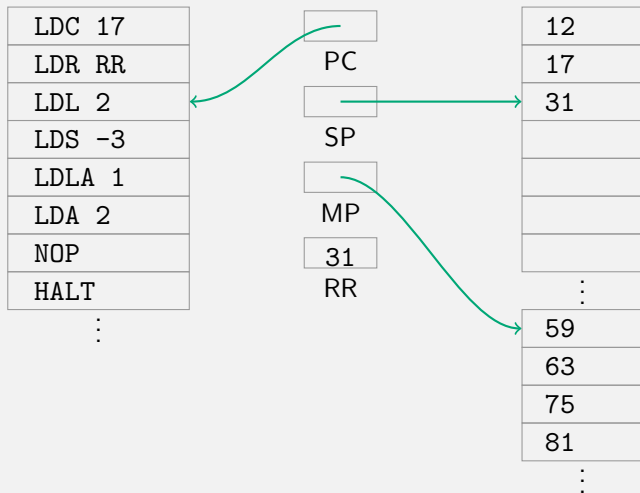
# Load instructions

## LDR – load from register



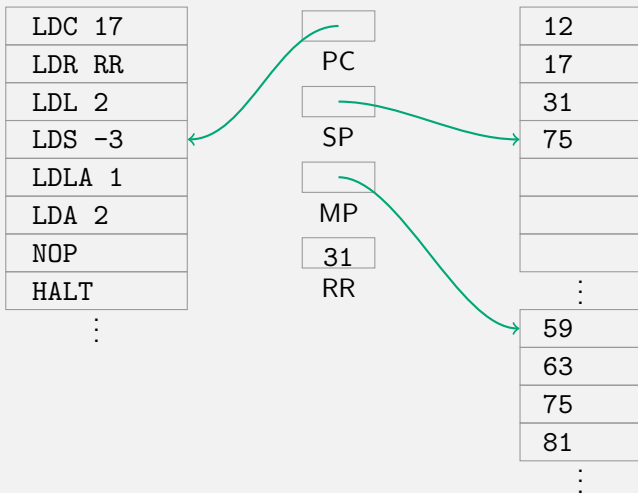
# Load instructions

## LDL – load local



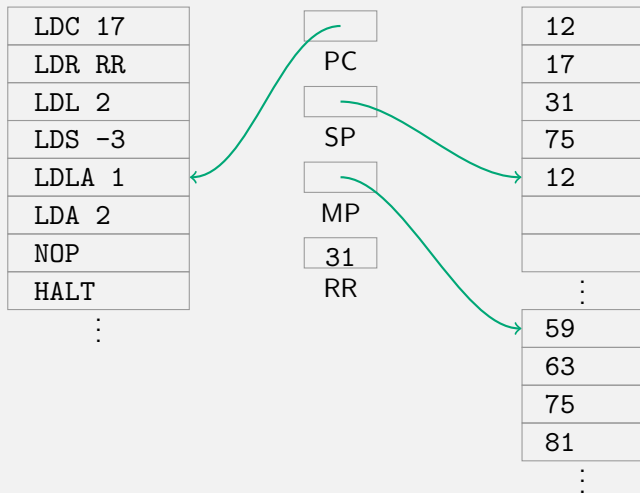
# Load instructions

## LDS – load from stack



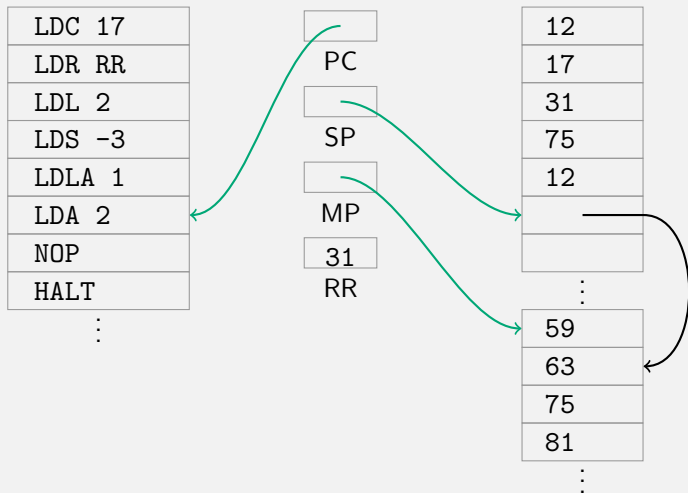
# Load instructions

## LDLA – load local address



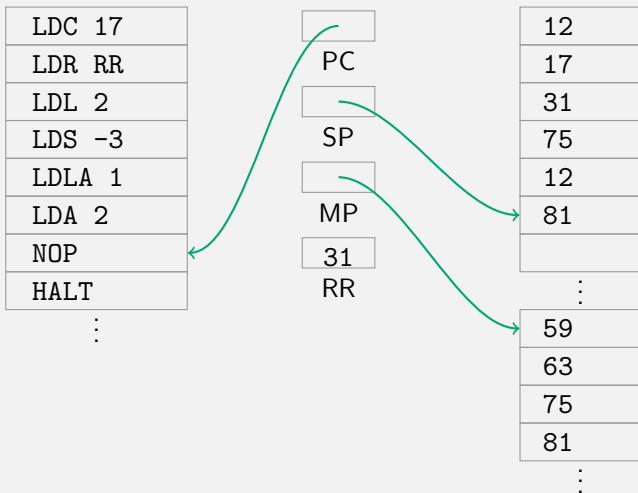
# Load instructions

## LDA – load via address



# Load instructions

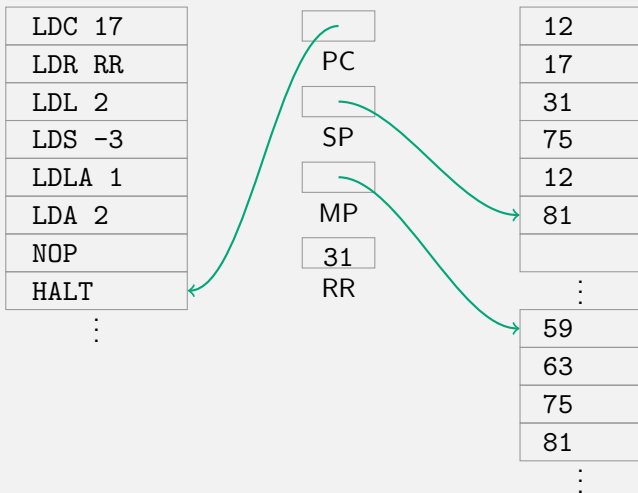
## NOP – noop





# Load instructions

HALT – halt program



# Branch instructions

**BRA** – branch always (unconditional)

**BRT** – branch on true ( $-1$ )

**BRF** – branch on false ( $0$ )

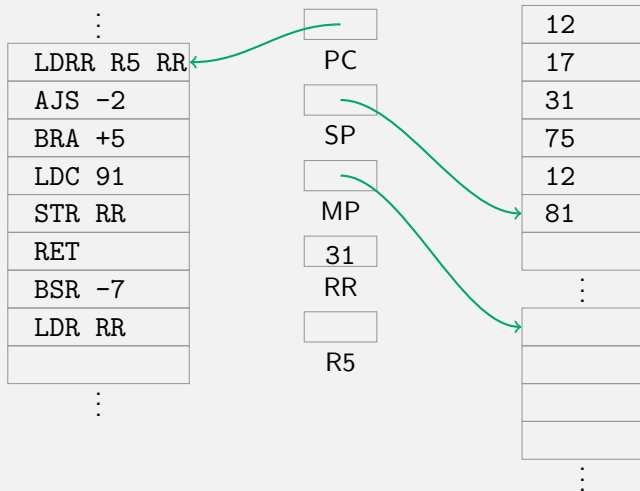
**BSR** – branch to subroutine (push return address on stack)

**RET** – return (from subroutine)



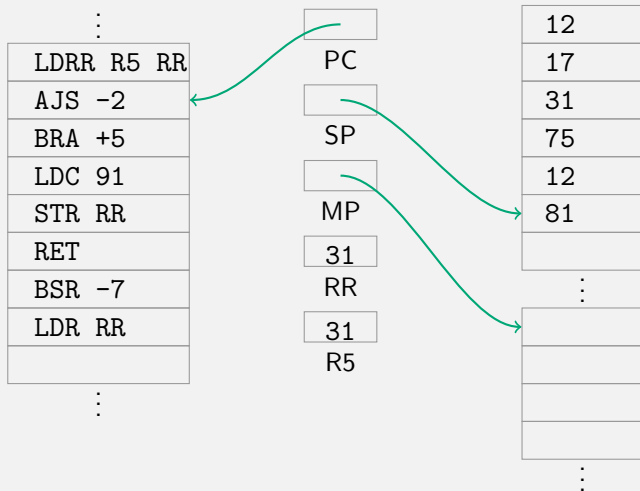
# Register and jump instructions

LDRR – load register from register



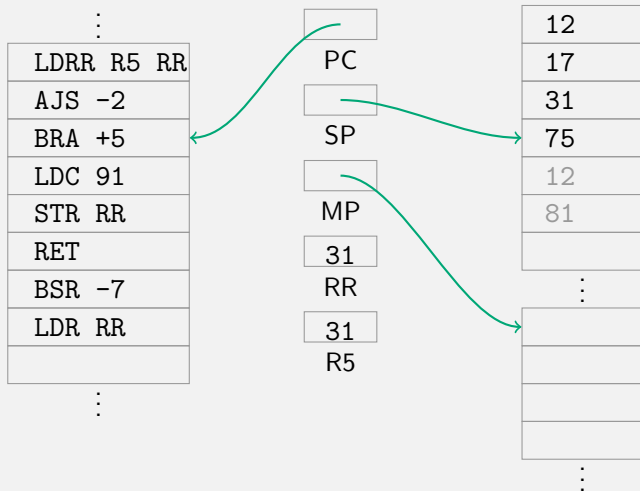
# Register and jump instructions

## AJS – adjust stack pointer



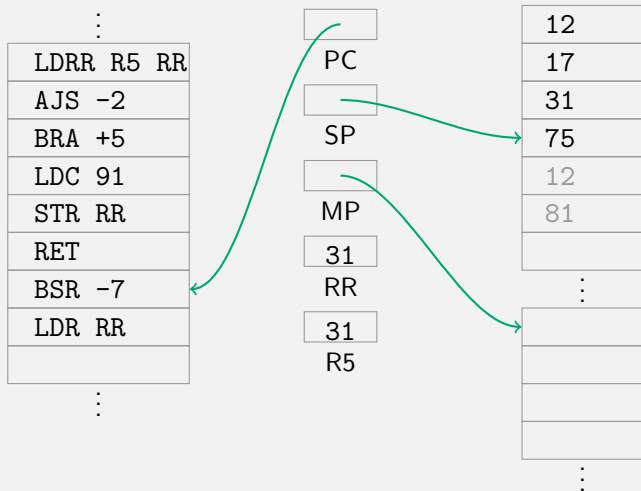
# Register and jump instructions

## BRA – unconditional branch



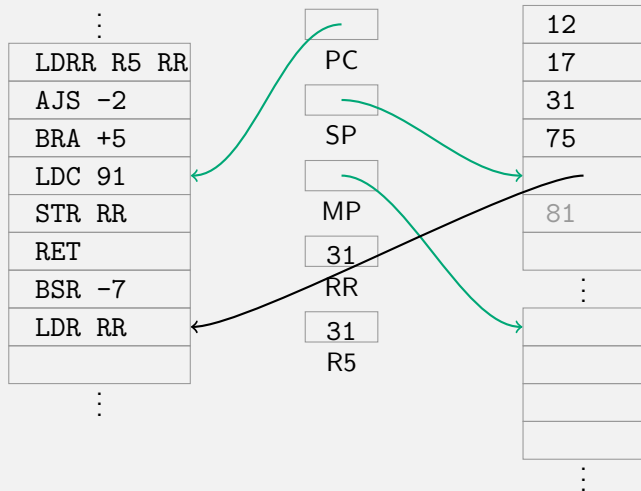
# Register and jump instructions

## BSR – branch to subroutine



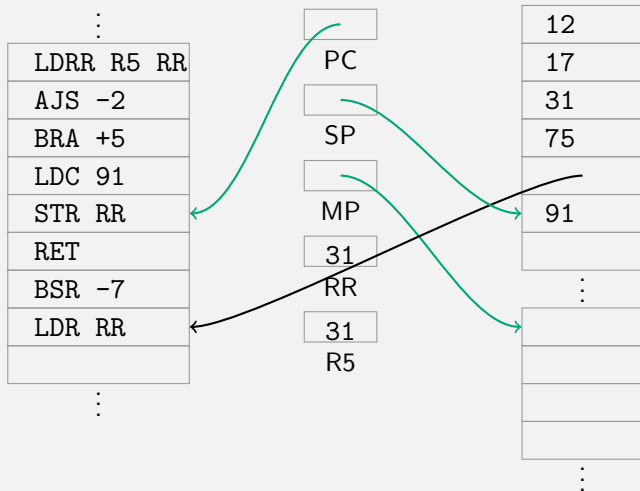
# Register and jump instructions

## LDC – load constant



# Register and jump instructions

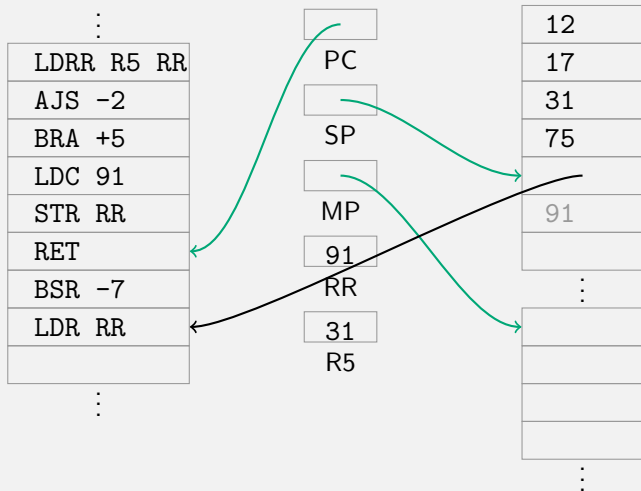
## STR – store to register





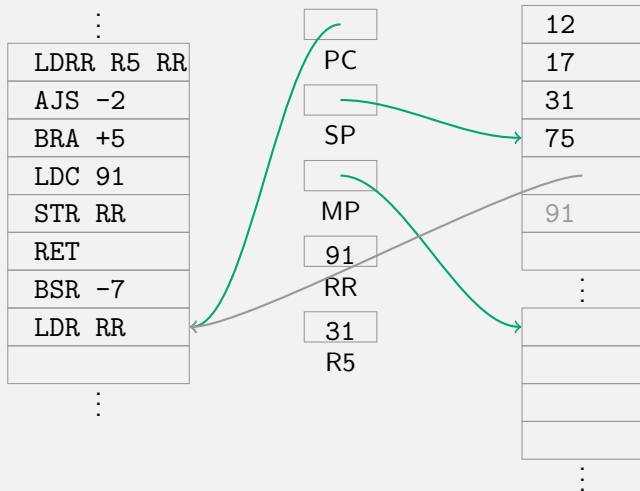
# Register and jump instructions

## RET – return

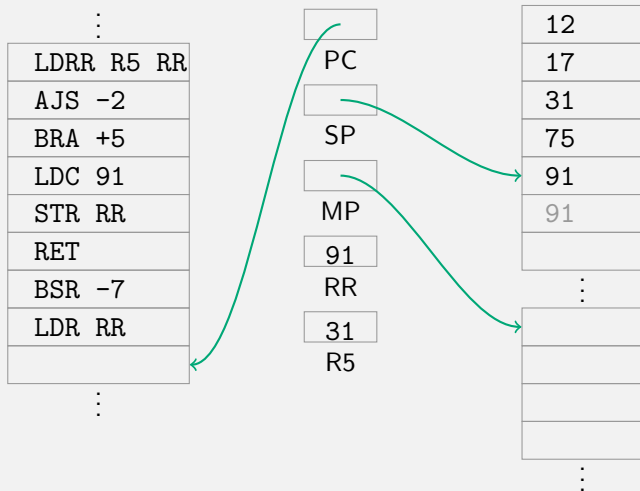


# Register and jump instructions

## LDR – load from register



# Register and jump instructions



# Operators

Operators remove stack arguments and put the result back on the stack.

Binary operators

**ADD AND EQ**

**SUB OR NE**

**MUL XOR LT**

**DIV GT**

**MOD LE**

**GE**

Unary operators

**NOT**

**NEG**



## 9.3 Translating programs



# Arithmetic expressions

Expression

|  $3+4*7+2$



# Arithmetic expressions

## Expression

$3+4*7+2$

## Code

LDC 3

LDC 4

LDC 7

MUL

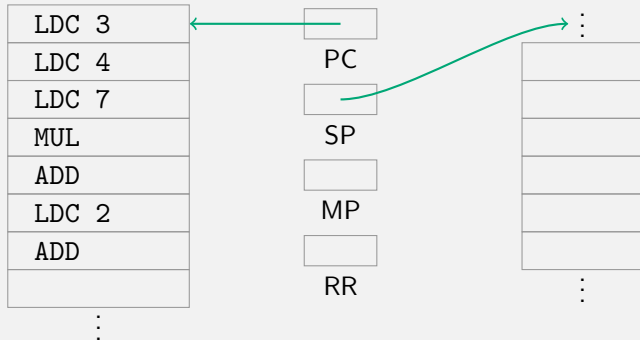
ADD

LDC 2

ADD

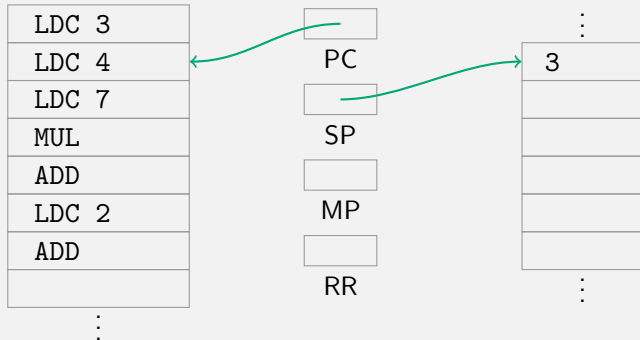


# Arithmetic expression example

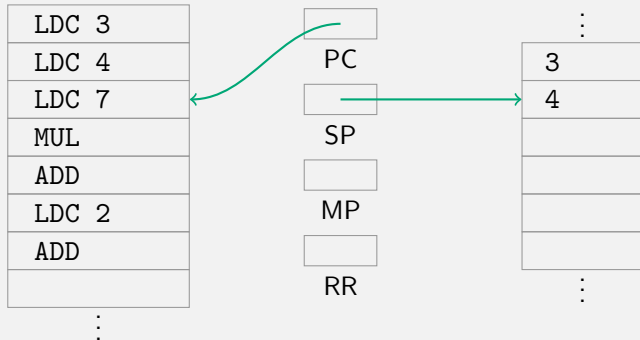




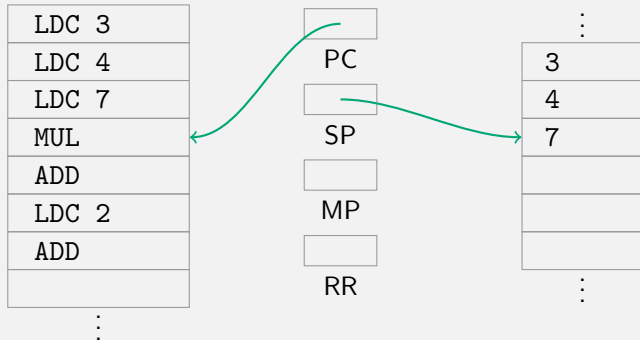
# Arithmetic expression example



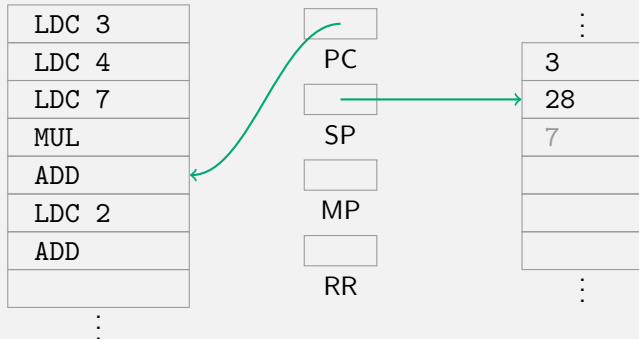
# Arithmetic expression example



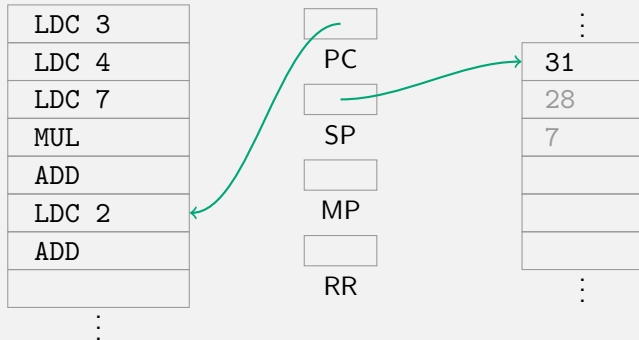
# Arithmetic expression example



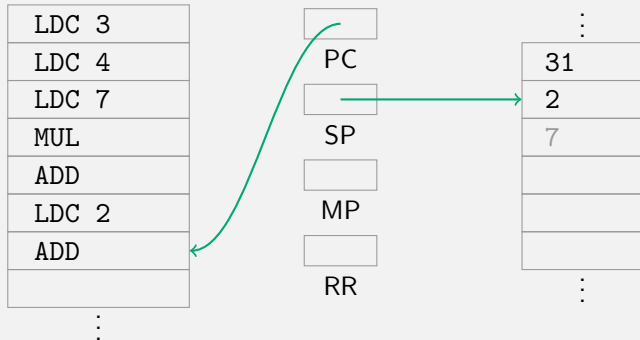
# Arithmetic expression example



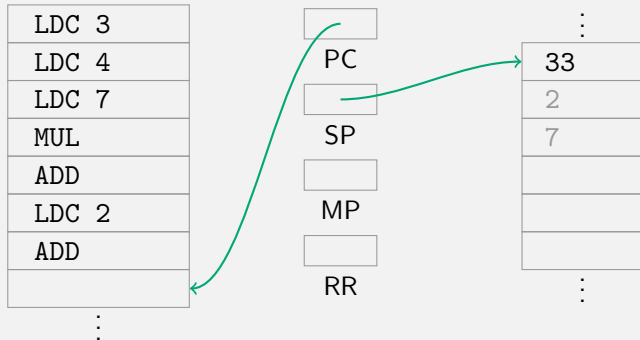
# Arithmetic expression example



# Arithmetic expression example



# Arithmetic expression example



# Representing code in Haskell

```
type Code = [Instr]
```

```
data Instr = LDC Int  
          | LDL Int  
          | ADD  
          | NEG  
          | EQ  
          | ...
```

```
instrSize :: Instr → Int
```

```
instrSize (LDC n) = 2
```

```
instrSize ADD     = 1
```

```
...
```

```
codeSize :: Code → Int
```

```
codeSize = sum . map instrSize
```





# Translating expressions

```
data Expr = Num Int
          | Add Expr Expr
          | Mul Expr Expr
          | Neg Expr
          | Eq Expr Expr
          | ...
```

`code :: Expr → Code`

`code (Num n) = [LDC n]`

`code (Add e1 e2) = code e1 ++ code e2 ++ [ADD]`

`code (Mul e1 e2) = code e1 ++ code e2 ++ [MUL]`

`code (Neg e) = code e ++ [NEG]`

`code (Eq e1 e2) = code e1 ++ code e2 ++ [EQ]`



# Algebra for code generation

```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x  
where  
codeAlg :: ExprAlg Code  
codeAlg = ExprAlg  
  { num =  $\lambda n \rightarrow [\text{LDC } n]$   
  , add =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow l \# r \# [\text{ADD}]$   
  , neg =  $\lambda l \rightarrow l \# [\text{NEG}]$   
  , eq =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow l \# r \# [\text{EQ}]$   
  }
```



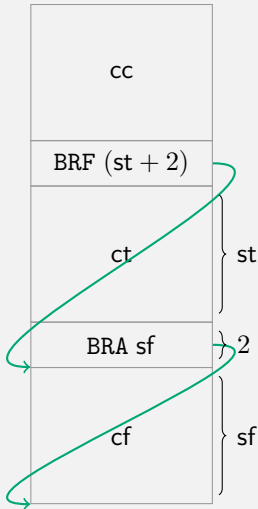
# Translating conditional expressions

```
data Expr = ...
          | If Expr Expr Expr
code :: Expr → Code
...
code (If c t f) = cc          ++
                  [BRF (st + 2)] ++
                  ct          ++
                  [BRA sf] ++
                  cf

where cc = code c
        ct = code t
        cf = code f
        st = codeSize ct
        sf = codeSize cf
```



# Translating conditional expressions – contd.



# Algebra for code generation: Conditionals

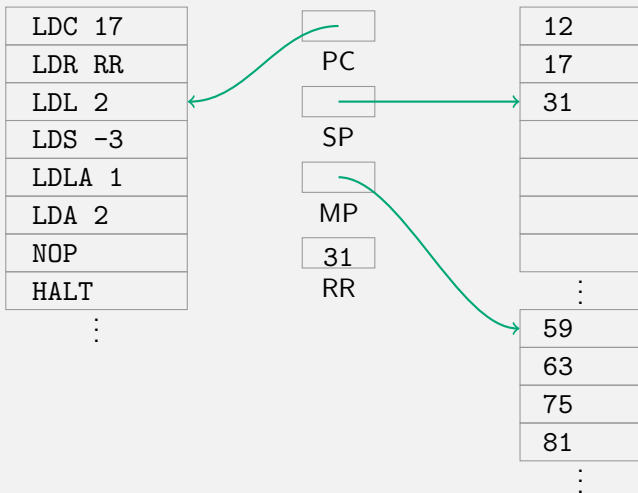
```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr  
| If Expr Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x  
where  
codeAlg :: ExprAlg Code  
codeAlg = ExprAlg  
  { num =  $\lambda n \rightarrow [\text{LDC } n]$   
  , add =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow l ++ r ++ [\text{ADD}]$   
  , neg =  $\lambda l \rightarrow l ++ [\text{NEG}]$   
  , eq =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow l ++ r ++ [\text{EQ}]$   
  , if =  $\lambda c t f \rightarrow$   
    let st = codeSize t  
        sf = codeSize f  
    in c ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++ t ++ [BRA sf] ++ f  
  }
```



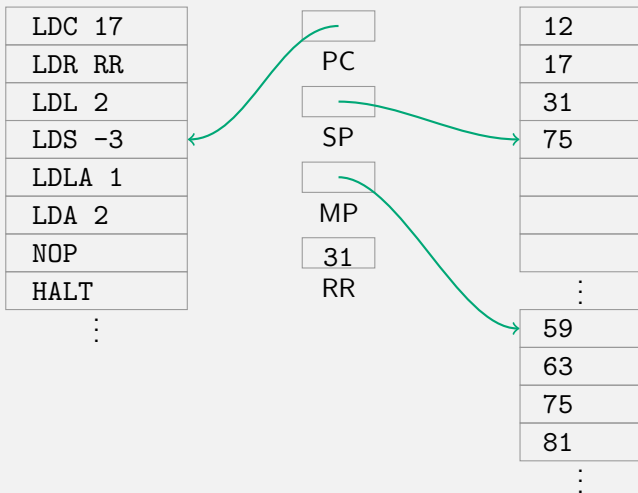
# Load instructions

## LDL – load local variable



# Load instructions

## LDL – load local variable



# Algebra for code generation: Variables

```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr  
| If Expr Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x  
  where  
    codeAlg :: ExprAlg      Code  
    codeAlg = ExprAlg  
      { num =  $\lambda n \rightarrow$       [LDC n]  
      , add =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow$      l ++ r ++ [ADD]  
      , neg =  $\lambda l \rightarrow$        l ++ [NEG]  
      , eq  =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow$      l ++ r ++ [EQ]  
      , if  =  $\lambda c t f \rightarrow$   
          let st = codeSize (t )  
              sf = codeSize (f )  
          in c ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++  
             t ++ [BRA sf] ++ f  
      }
```





# Algebra for code generation: Variables

```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr  
| If Expr Expr Expr  
  
| Var String  
| Let String Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x  
where  
  codeAlg :: ExprAlg      Code  
  codeAlg = ExprAlg  
    { num =  $\lambda n \rightarrow$       [LDC n]  
    , add =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow$     l ++ r ++ [ADD]  
    , neg =  $\lambda l \rightarrow$       l ++ [NEG]  
    , eq  =  $\lambda l r \rightarrow$     l ++ r ++ [EQ]  
    , if  =  $\lambda c t f \rightarrow$   
      let st  = codeSize (t )  
          sf  = codeSize (f )  
      in c ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++  
        t ++ [BRA sf] ++ f  
    , var =  $\lambda s \rightarrow$   
    , let =  $\lambda s d b \rightarrow$   
  
    }
```



# Algebra for code generation: Variables

```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr  
| If Expr Expr Expr  
  
| Var String  
| Let String Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x  
where  
  codeAlg :: ExprAlg      Code  
  codeAlg = ExprAlg  
    { num = λn → [LDC n]  
    , add = λl r → l ++ r ++ [ADD]  
    , neg = λl → l ++ [NEG]  
    , eq = λl r → l ++ r ++ [EQ]  
    , if = λc t f →  
      let st = codeSize (t )  
          sf = codeSize (f )  
      in c ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++  
        t ++ [BRA sf] ++ f  
    , var = λs → [LDL ??]  
    , letT = λs d b →  
  
    }
```



# Algebra for code generation: Variables

```
data Expr =
  Num Int
| Add Expr Expr
| Neg Expr
| Eq Expr Expr
| If Expr Expr Expr

| Var String
| Let String Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x
where
codeAlg :: ExprAlg (Env → Code)
codeAlg = ExprAlg
  { num = λn → [LDC n]
  , add = λl r → l ++ r ++ [ADD]
  , neg = λl → l ++ [NEG]
  , eq = λl r → l ++ r ++ [EQ]
  , if = λc t f →
      let st = codeSize (t )
          sf = codeSize (f )
      in c ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++
         t ++ [BRA sf] ++ f
  , var = λs → λe → [LDL (e!s)]
  , letT = λs d b → λe → d e ++ [STL (size e)]
          ++ b (insert s (size e) e)
  }
```



# Algebra for code generation: Variables

```
data Expr =  
  Num Int  
| Add Expr Expr  
| Neg Expr  
| Eq Expr Expr  
| If Expr Expr Expr  
  
| Var String  
| Let String Expr Expr
```

```
code x = foldExpr codeAlg x empty  
where  
codeAlg :: ExprAlg (Env → Code)  
codeAlg = ExprAlg  
  { num = λn → λe → [LDC n]  
  , add = λl r → λe → l e ++ r e ++ [ADD]  
  , neg = λl → λe → l e ++ [NEG]  
  , eq = λl r → λe → l e ++ r e ++ [EQ]  
  , if = λc t f → λe →  
    let st = codeSize (t e)  
        sf = codeSize (f e)  
    in c e ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++  
        t e ++ [BRA sf] ++ f e  
  , var = λs → λe → [LDL (e!s)]  
  , letT = λs d b → λe → d e ++ [STL (size e)]  
        ++ b (insert s (size e) e)  
  }
```



# Expressions vs. statements

We extend our language with statements:

```
data Stmt =  
  Assign String Expr  
| If      Expr Stmt Stmt  
| While  Expr Stmt  
| Call   String [Expr]
```



# Expressions vs. statements

We extend our language with statements:

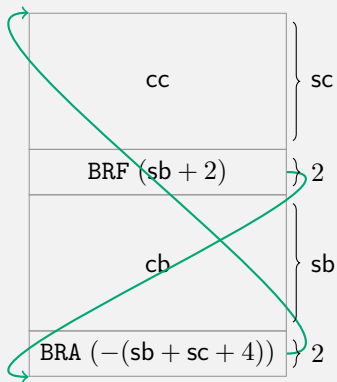
```
data Stmt =  
  Assign String Expr  
  | If      Expr Stmt Stmt  
  | While  Expr Stmt  
  | Call   String [Expr]
```

For many languages, the following invariants hold:

- ▶ Expressions always leave a single result on the stack after evaluation.
- ▶ Statements do not leave a result on the stack after evaluation.



# Translating while loops



# Translating while loops

**data** Stmt = ...  
          | While Expr Stmt

code :: Stmt → Code

...

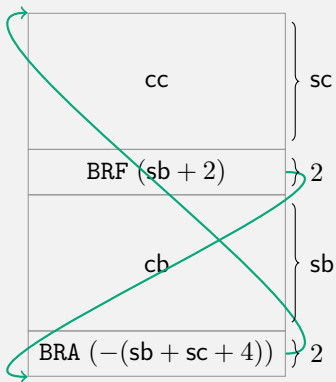
code (While c b) = cc                     $\oplus$   
                                  [BRF (sb + 2)]  $\oplus$   
                                  cb                     $\oplus$   
                                  [BRA (-(sb + sc + 4))]

**where** cc = code c  
          cb = code b  
          sc = codeSize cc  
          sb = codeSize cb

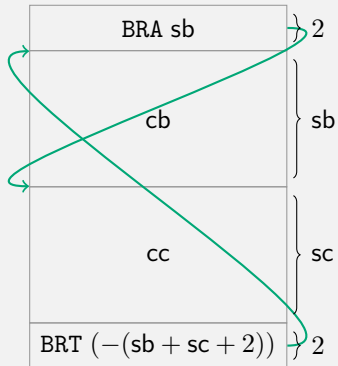
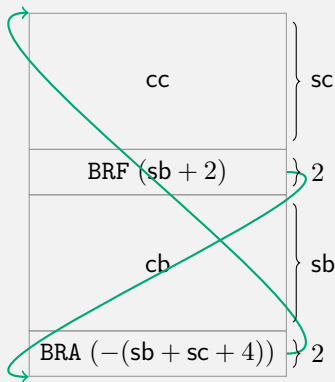




# Translating while loops – contd.



# Translating while loops – contd.



# Translating while loops – contd.

**data** Stmt = ...  
          | While Expr Stmt

code :: Stmt → Code

...

code (While c b) = [BRA sb] ++  
                  cb          ++  
                  cc          ++  
                  [BRT (-(sb + sc + 2))]

**where** cc = code c  
          cb = code b  
          sc = codeSize cc  
          sb = codeSize cb



# Algebra type&fold for Statements&Expressions

```
data SEAlg s e = SEAlg
  { add :: e → e → e
  , num :: Int → e
  , ifE  :: e → e → e → e
  , ifS  :: e → s → s → s
  , asg  :: String → e → s
  , whl  :: e → s → s
  , cal  :: String → [e] → s
  }
```

```
foldSE :: SEAlg s e → Statement → s
foldSE alg { .. } = fs where
  fs (IfS c t f) = ifS (fe c) (fs t) (fs f)
  fe (IfE c t f) = ifE (fe c) (fe t) (fe f)
  fs (Call v ps) = cal v (map fe ps)
  fe (Add x y) = add (fe x) (fe y)
  fe (Num n) = num n
```



# Algebra for code generation

```
data Stmt =  
  Assign String Expr  
| If      Expr Stmt Stmt  
  
| While Expr Stmt  
  
| Call   String [Expr]
```

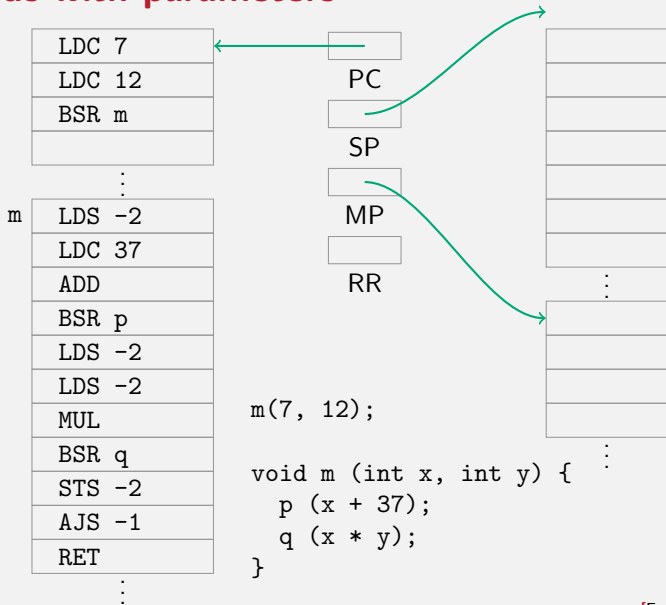
```
code x = foldSE codeAlg x empty  
where  
codeAlg :: SEAlg (Env → Code) (Env → Code)  
codeAlg = SEAlg  
  { asg = λs d e → d e ++ [STL (e ! s)]  
  , ifS = λc t f e →  
    let st = codeSize (t e)  
        sf = codeSize (f e)  
    in c e ++ [BRF (st + 2)] ++  
      t e ++ [BRA sf] ++ f e  
  , whl = λc b e →  
    let sc = codeSize (c e)  
        sb = codeSize (b e)  
    in [BRA sb] ++ b e ++ c e ++  
      [BRT (-(sb + sc + 2))]  
  , cal = λm ps e →  
    concatMap ($) ps ++ [BSR m]  
  , ... } -- components for Expr
```



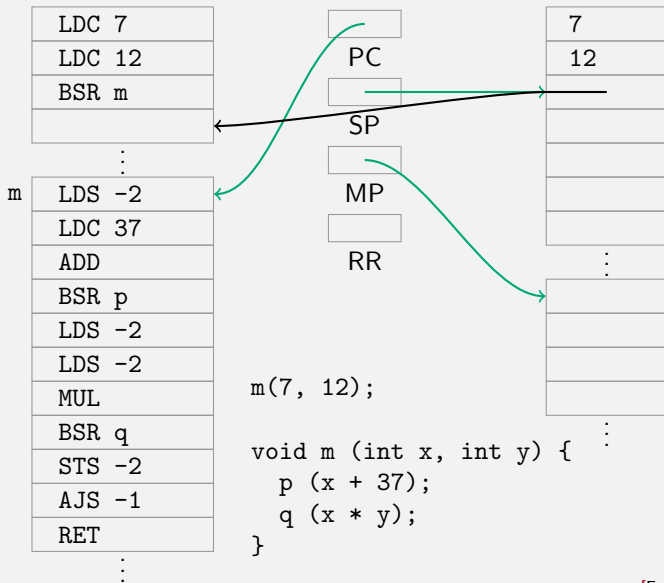
## 9.4 Functions / methods



# Methods with parameters

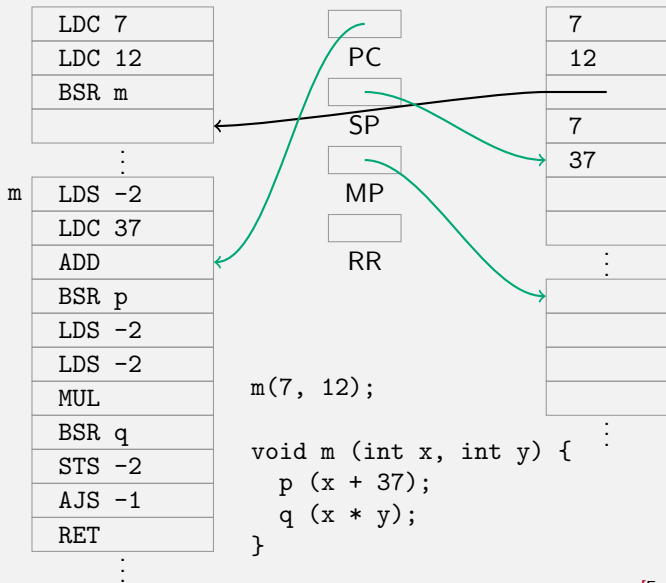


# Methods with parameters

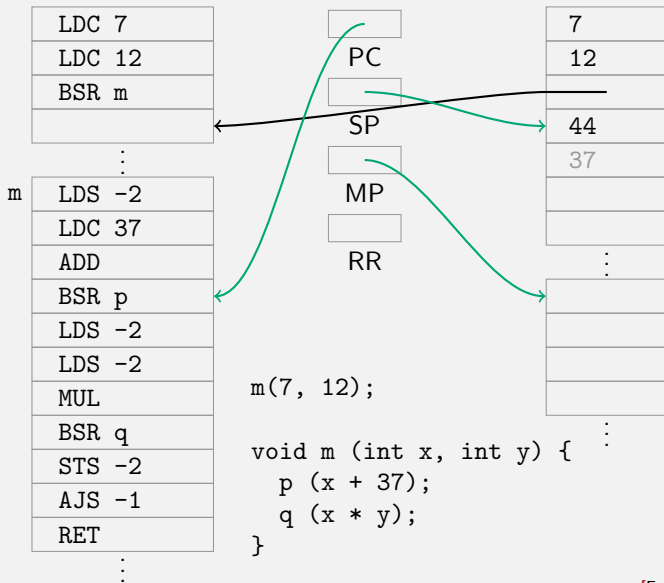




# Methods with parameters

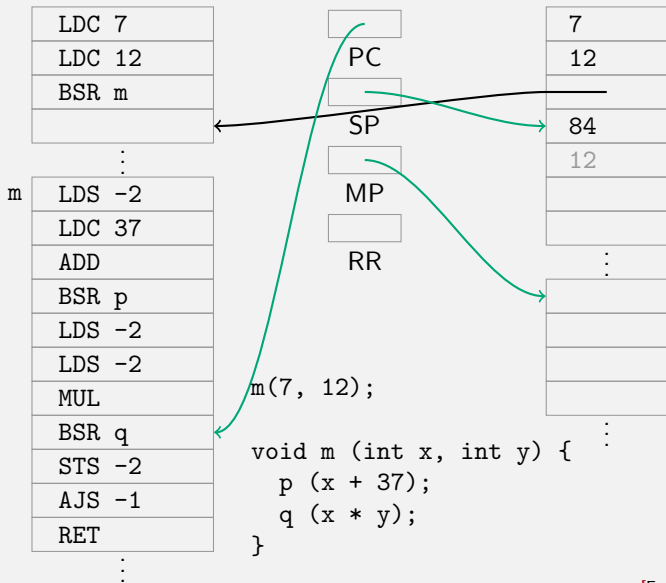


# Methods with parameters

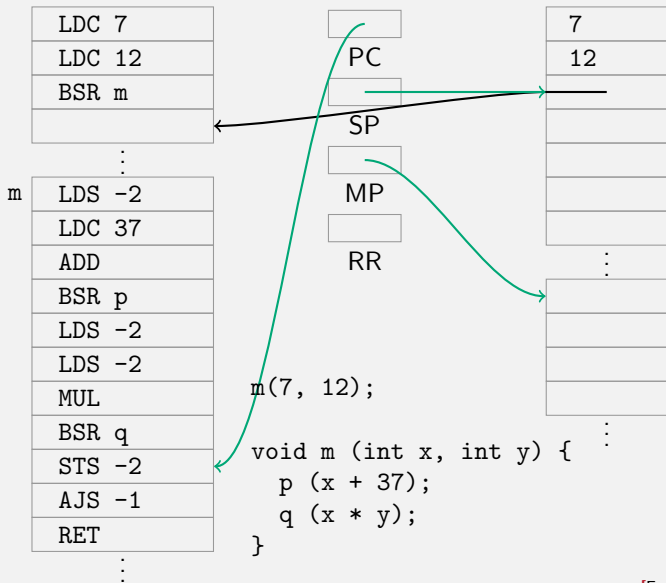




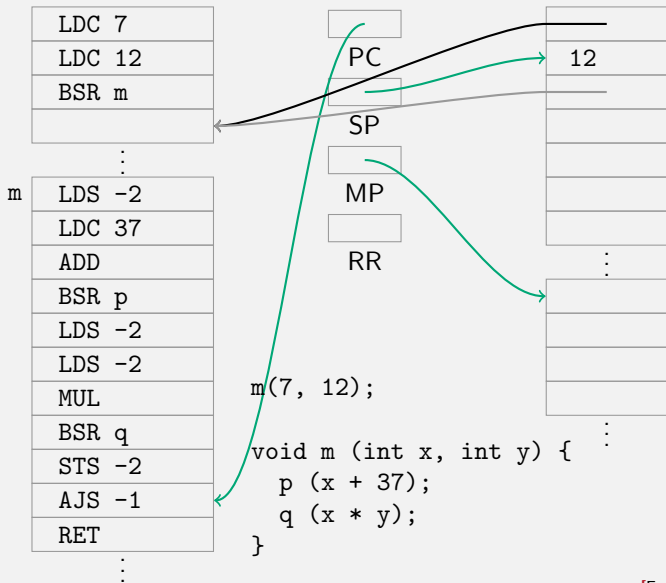
# Methods with parameters



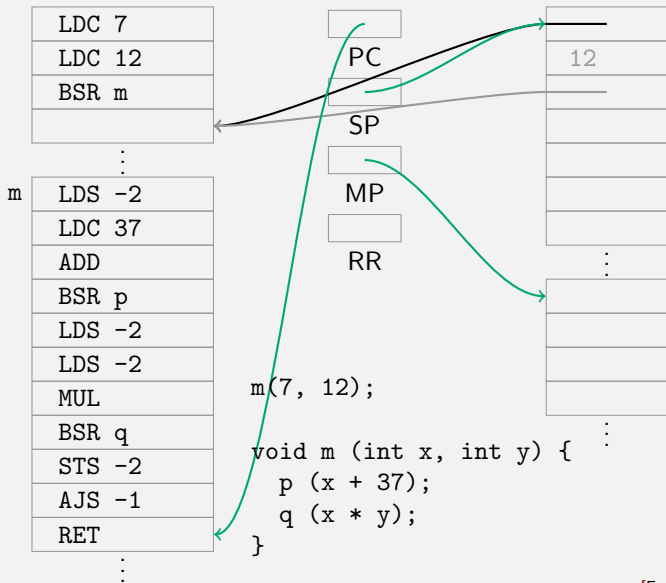
# Methods with parameters



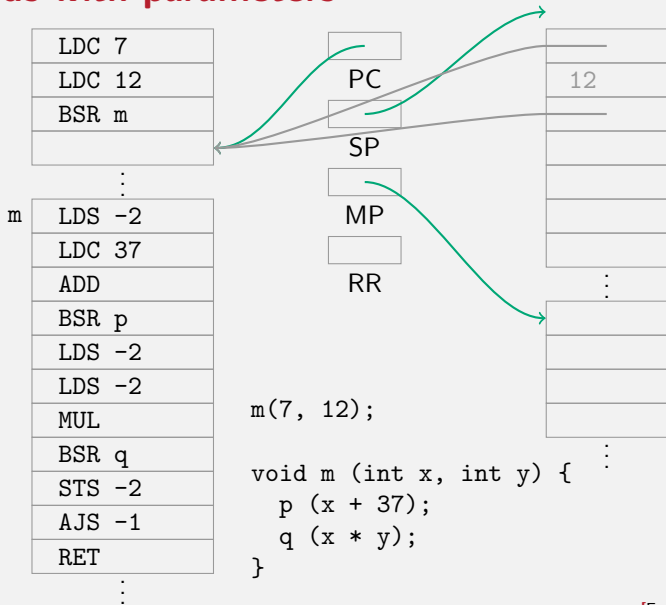
# Methods with parameters



# Methods with parameters



# Methods with parameters





# Method translation

## Method call

- ▶ Put parameters on the stack.
- ▶ Call BSR with the method label.



# Method translation

## Method call

- ▶ Put parameters on the stack.
- ▶ Call BSR with the method label.

## Method definition

- ▶ Use parameters: from LDS  $-(n + d)$  to LDS  $-(1 + d)$ , where  $n$  is the number of parameters and  $d$  is your current offset (this becomes easier with the mark pointer).
- ▶ Clean up: STS  $-n$  followed by AJS  $-(n - 1)$ .
- ▶ Return: RET



# Method translation

## Method call

- ▶ Put parameters on the stack.
- ▶ Call BSR with the method label.

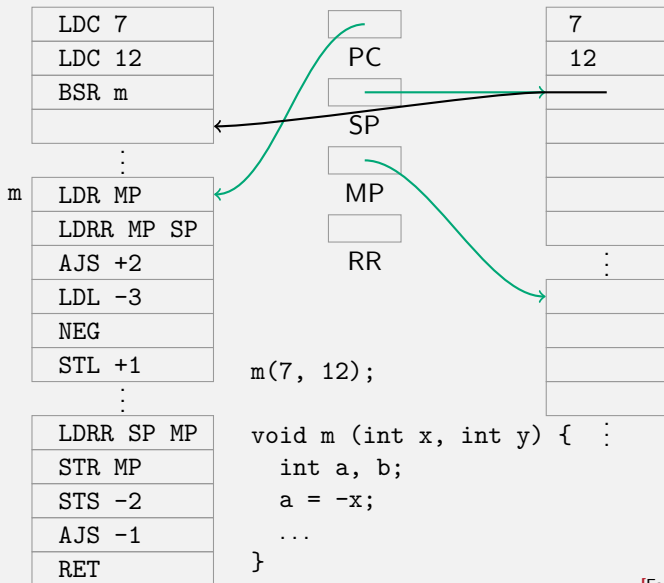
## Method definition

- ▶ Use parameters: from LDS  $-(n + d)$  to LDS  $-(1 + d)$ , where  $n$  is the number of parameters and  $d$  is your current offset (this becomes easier with the mark pointer).
- ▶ Clean up: STS  $-n$  followed by AJS  $-(n - 1)$ .
- ▶ Return: RET

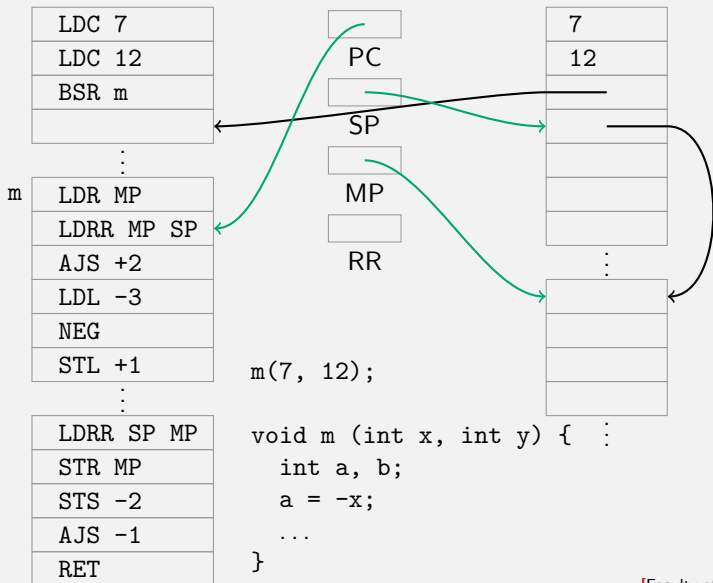
It is also possible, but less common, to let the caller clean up after a method call.



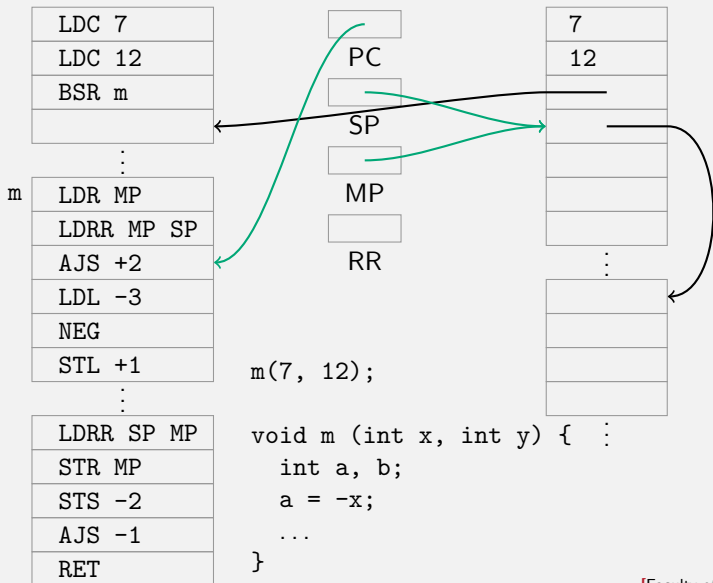
# Methods with local variables



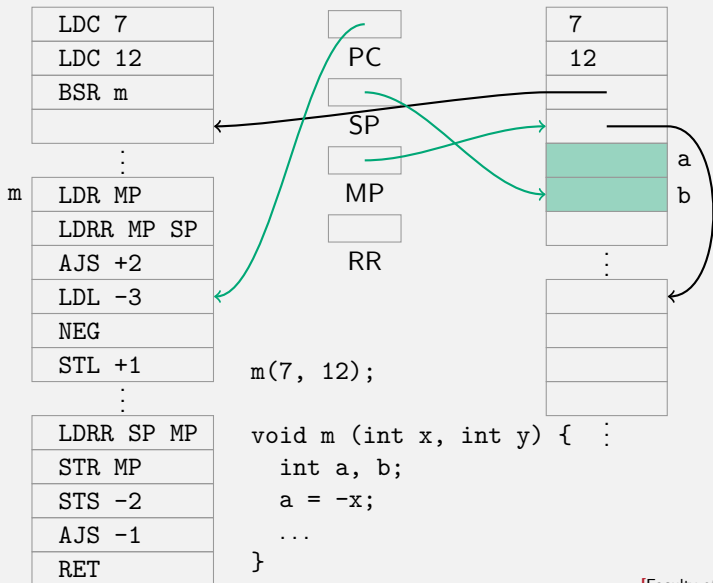
# Methods with local variables



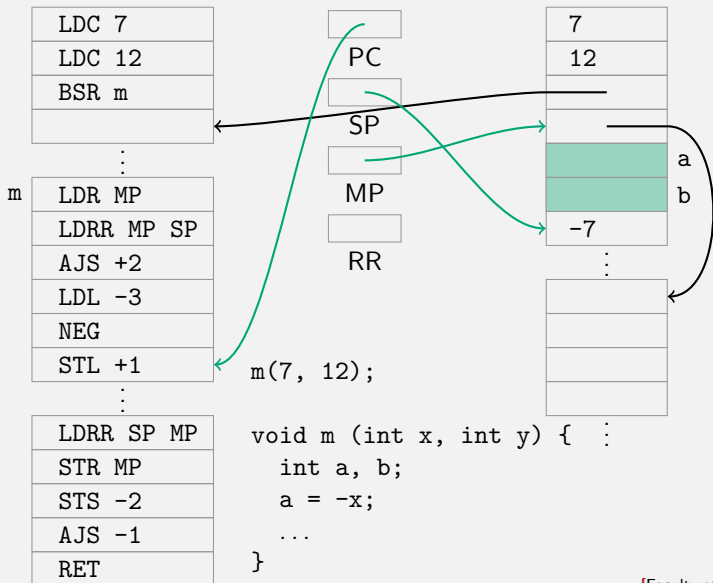
# Methods with local variables



# Methods with local variables

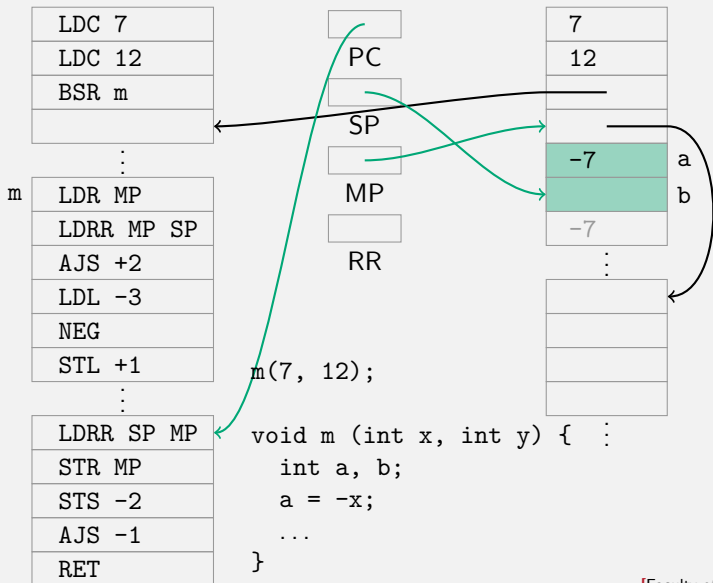


# Methods with local variables

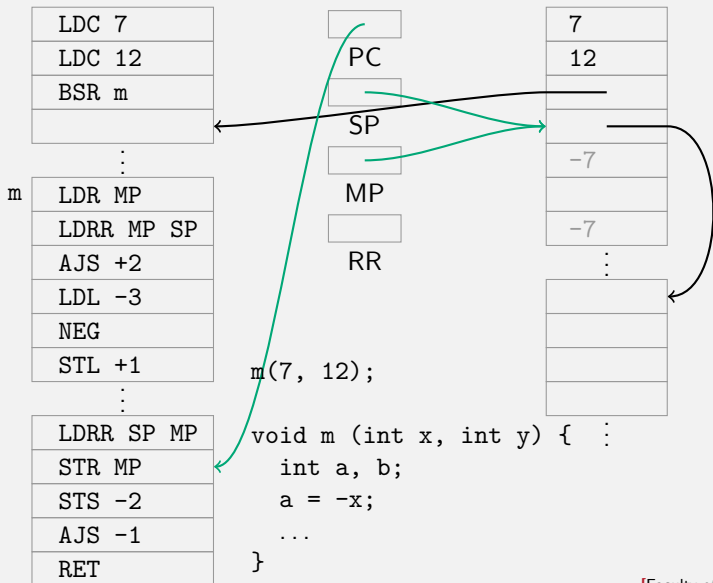




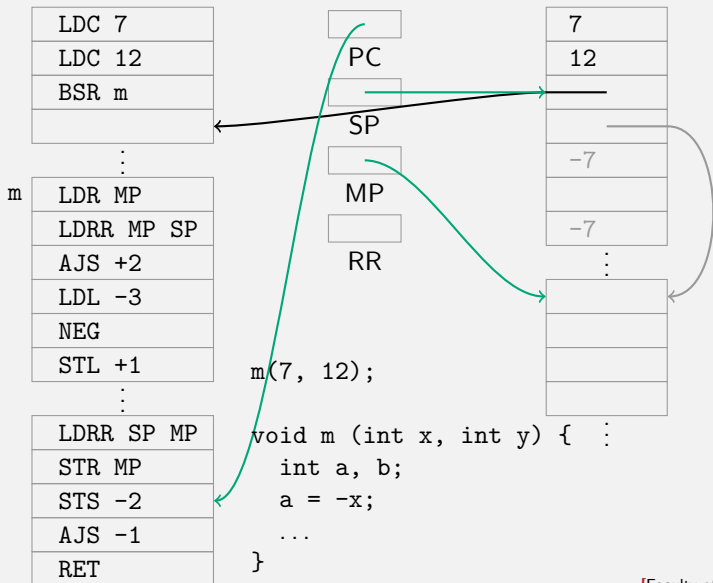
# Methods with local variables



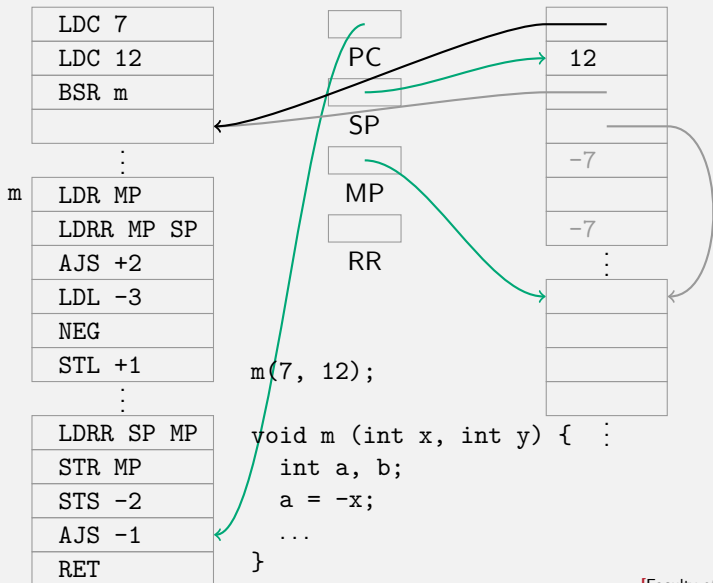
# Methods with local variables



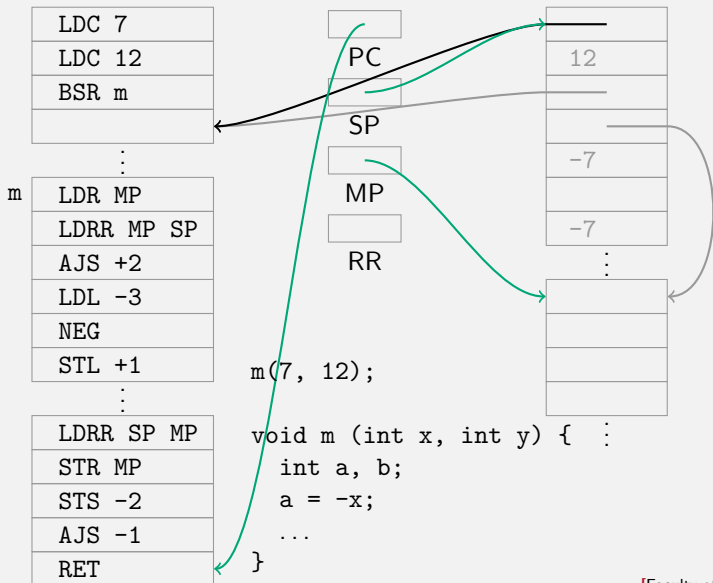
# Methods with local variables



# Methods with local variables



# Methods with local variables



# Method translation with local variables

Method call as before.



# Method translation with local variables

Method call as before.

## Method definition ( $n$ parameters, $k$ local variables)

- ▶ Create room for local variables: LDR MP to save the mark pointer, LDRR MP SP to reset the mark pointer, AJS  $+k$  to adjust the stack pointer. (Also available as a single instruction LINK  $k$ .)
- ▶ Use parameters: from LDL  $-(n + 1)$  to LDL  $-2$ .
- ▶ Use local variables: from LDL  $+1$  to LDL  $+k$ .
- ▶ Clean up local variables: LDRR SP MP to reset the stack pointer, and STR MP to restore the mark pointer. (Also available as a single instruction UNLINK.)
- ▶ Clean up: STS  $-n$  followed by AJS  $-(n - 1)$ .
- ▶ Return: RET



# Methods with return values

Two options.





# Methods with return values

Two options.

## Result on stack

- ▶ Leave the result as the final value on the stack.
- ▶ Adapt the cleanup code so that this works.



# Methods with return values

Two options.

## Result on stack

- ▶ Leave the result as the final value on the stack.
- ▶ Adapt the cleanup code so that this works.

## Result in register

- ▶ Place the result of a method call in a fixed free register (RR for example).
- ▶ Use the value from there at the call site.

