

Title: Seidl: Virtual\_Machines (24.04.2013)

Date: Wed Apr 24 16:00:15 CEST 2013

Duration: 90:36 min

Pages: 70

What can we do with pointers (pointer values)?

- set a pointer to a storage cell,
- dereference a pointer, access the value in a storage cell pointed to by a pointer.

There are two ways to set a pointer:

- (1) A call `malloc(e)` reserves a heap area of the size of the value of  $e$  and returns a pointer to this area:

$$\text{code}_R \text{ malloc}(e) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho \text{ new}$$

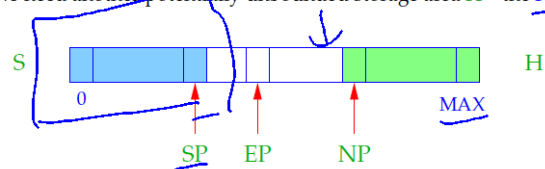
- (2) The application of the address operator `&` to a variable returns a pointer to this variable, i.e. its address ( $\hat{=}$  L-value). Therefore:

$$\text{code}_R (\&e) \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho$$

## 6 Pointer and Dynamic Storage Management

Pointers allow the access to anonymous, dynamically generated objects, whose life time is not subject to the LIFO-principle.

⇒ We need another potentially unbounded storage area  $H$  – the Heap.



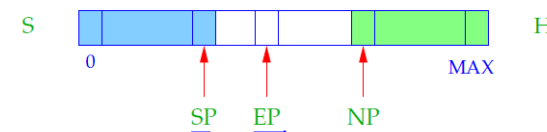
NP  $\hat{=}$  New Pointer; points to the lowest occupied heap cell.

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### Dereferencing of Pointers:

The application of the operator `*` to the expression  $e$  returns the **contents** of the storage cell, whose address is the R-value of  $e$ :

$$\text{code}_L (*e) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho$$

**Example:** Given the declarations

```
struct t { int a[7]; struct t *b; };
int i, j;
struct t *pt;
```

and the expression  $((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a)[i + 1]$

Because of  $e \rightarrow a \hat{=} (*e).a$  holds:

$$\text{code}_L (e \rightarrow a) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho \text{ loadc}(\rho a) \text{ add}$$

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**Example:** Given the declarations

```
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int i, j;
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```

$\rho = \{ i=0, j=1, pt=2 \}$

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Because of  $e \rightarrow a \equiv (*e).a$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{code}_L(e \rightarrow a) \rho &= \text{code}_R e \rho \\ &\quad \text{loadc } (\rho a) \\ &\quad \text{add} \end{aligned}$$

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Be  $\rho = \{ i \mapsto 1, j \mapsto 2, pt \mapsto 3, a \mapsto 0, b \mapsto 7 \}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{code}_L((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a)[i+1] \rho & \\ = \text{code}_R((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a) \rho &= \text{code}_R((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a) \rho \\ \text{code}_R(i+1) \rho &\quad \text{loada } 1 \\ \text{loadc } 1 &\quad \text{loadc } 1 \\ \text{mul} &\quad \text{add} \\ \text{add} &\quad \text{loadc } 1 \\ &\quad \text{mul} \\ &\quad \text{add} \end{aligned}$$

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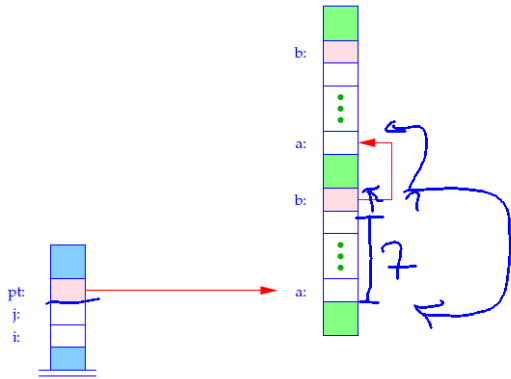
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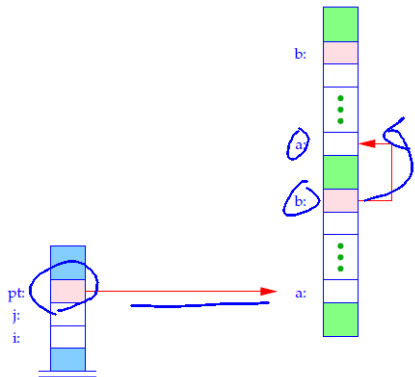
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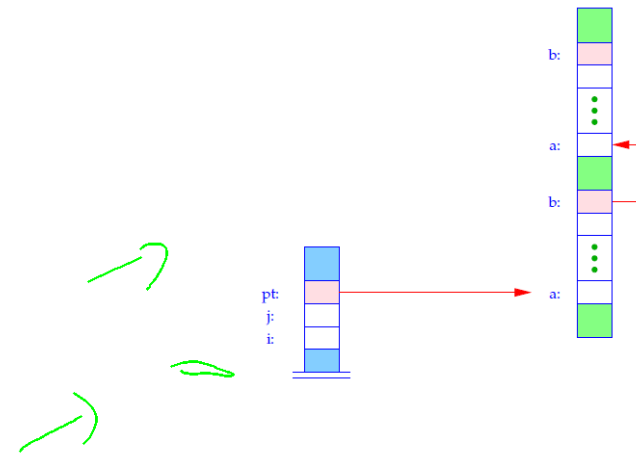
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For arrays, their R-value equals their L-value. Therefore:

$$\text{code}_R((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a) \rho = \text{code}_R(pt \rightarrow b) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{loadc } 3 \\ \text{loadc } 7 \\ \text{add} \\ \text{load} \\ \text{loadc } 0 \\ \text{add} \end{array}$$

In total, we obtain the instruction sequence:

loada 3	load	loada 1	loadc 1
loadc 7	loadc 0	loadc 1	mul
add	add	add	add



$$\text{code}_L(*e) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho$$

$$\text{code}_L x \rho = \text{loadc } (\rho x)$$

$$\text{code}_R(&e) \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho$$

$$\text{code}_R e \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho \quad \text{if } e \text{ is an array}$$

$$\text{code}_R(e_1 \square e_2) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_R e_1 \rho \\ \text{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \text{op} \end{array}$$

op instruction for operator ' $\square$ '

$$\text{code}_R q \rho = \text{loadc } q \quad q \text{ constant}$$

$$\text{code}_R(e_1 = e_2) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \text{code}_L e_1 \rho \\ \text{store} \end{array}$$

$$\text{code}_R e \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho \quad \text{otherwise}$$

int [10] \* b

Example: int a[10], (\*b)[10]; with  $\rho = \{a \mapsto 7, b \mapsto 17\}$ .

For the statement: \*a = 5; we obtain:

$\text{code}_L (*a) \rho = \text{code}_R a \rho = \text{code}_L a \rho = \text{loadc } 7$   
 $\text{code} (*a = 5;) \rho = \text{loadc } 5$   
 $\text{loadc } 7$   
 $\text{store}$   
 $\text{pop}$

As an exercise translate:

$s_1 \equiv b = (\&a) + 2;$  and  $s_2 \equiv *(b + 3)[0] = 5;$

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$\text{code} (s_1 s_2) \rho =$ 

loadc 7		loadc 5
loadc 2		loadc 17
loadc 10	// size of int[10]	load
mul	// scaling	loadc 3
add		loadc 10
loadc 17		mul
store		add
pop	// end of $s_1$	store
		pop
		// end of $s_2$

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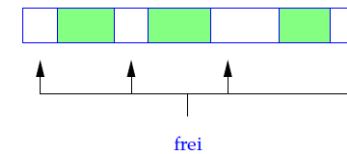
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store		add
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		pop
		// end of $s_2$

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## 8 Freeing Occupied Storage

Problems:

- The freed storage area is still referenced by other pointers (dangling references).
- After several deallocations, the storage could look like this (fragmentation):



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### Potential Solutions:

- Trust the programmer. Manage freed storage in a particular data structure (free list)  $\implies$  `malloc` or `free` may become expensive.
- Do nothing, i.e.:

$$\text{code free}(e); \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho \quad \leftarrow$$

`pop`

$\implies$  simple and (in general) efficient.

- Use an automatic, potentially "conservative" **Garbage-Collection**, which occasionally collects **certainly** inaccessible heap space.

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## 9 Functions

The definition of a function consists of:

- a name by which it can be called;
- a specification of the formal parameters;
- a possible result type;
- a block of statements.

In C, we have:

$$\text{code}_R f \rho = \text{load } c\_f = \text{start address of the code for } f$$

$\implies$  Function names must be maintained within the address environment!

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### Example

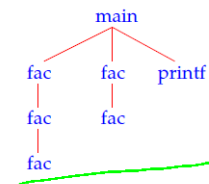
```
int fac(int x) {
  if (x <= 0) return 1;
  else return x * fac(x - 1);
}
```

*osid*

```
main() {
  int n;
  n = fac(2) + fac(1);
  printf("%d", n);
}
```

At every point of execution, several **instances** (calls) of the same function may be active, i.e., have been started, but not yet completed.

The recursion tree of the example:



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We conclude:

The formal parameters and local variables of the different calls of the same function (the instances) must be kept separate.

Idea

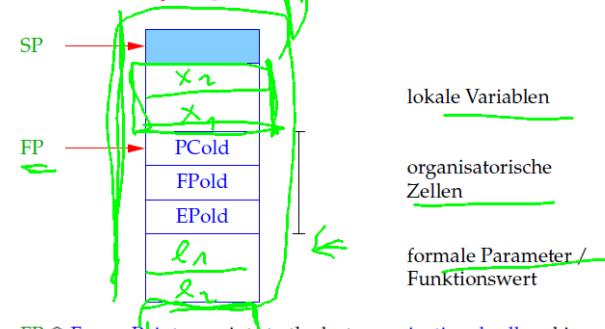
Allocate a dedicated memory block for each call of a function.

In sequential programming languages, these memory blocks may be maintained on a stack. Therefore, they are also called stack frames.

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$f(x_1, x_2)$  —  $x_1, x_2$

### 9.1 Memory Organization for Functions



FP  $\hat{=}$  Frame Pointer; points to the last organizational cell and is used for addressing the formal parameters and local variables.

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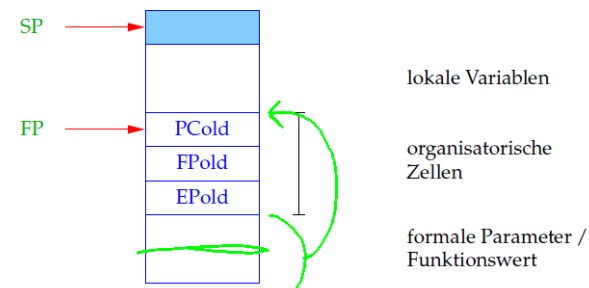
Caveat

- The local variables receive relative addresses +1, +2, ...
- The formal parameters are placed below the organizational cells and therefore have negative addresses relative to FP :-)
- This organization is particularly well suited for function calls with variable number of arguments as, e.g., for `printf`.
- The memory block of parameters is recycled for storing the return value of the function :-))

Simplification      The return value fits into a single memory cell.

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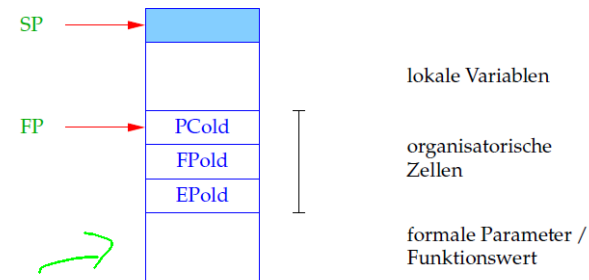
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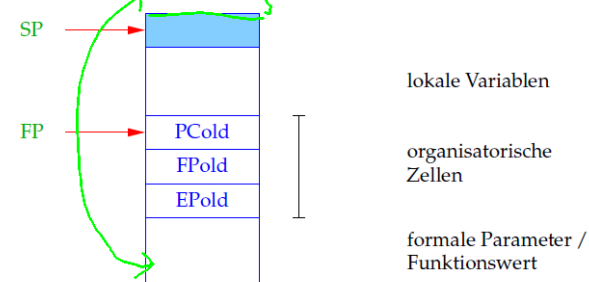
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## Tasks of a Translator for Functions:

- Generate code for the body of the function!
- Generate code for calls!

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## 9.2 Determining Address Environments

We distinguish two kinds of variables:

1. **global**/extern that are defined outside of functions;
2. **local**/intern/automatic (including formal parameters) which are defined inside functions.

The address environment  $\rho$  maps names onto pairs  $(tag, a) \in \{G, L\} \times \mathbb{Z}$ .

### Caveat

- In general, there are further refined grades of visibility of variables.
- Different parts of a program may be translated relative to different address environments!

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## Example

```
0 int i;
  struct list {
    int info;
    struct list * next;
  } * l;

1 int ith(struct list * x, int i) {
  if (i <= 1) return x ->info;
  else return ith(x ->next, i - 1);
}

2 main() {
  int k;
  scanf("%d", &i);
  scanlist(&l);
  printf("\n\t%d\n", ith(l,i));
}
```

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### Address Environments Occurring in the Program:

#### 0 Outside of the Function Definitions:

```
 $\rho_0 :$ 
   $i \mapsto (G, 1)$ 
   $l \mapsto (G, 2)$ 
   $ith \mapsto (G, ith)$ 
   $main \mapsto (G, main)$ 
  ...
```

#### 1 Inside of ith:

```
 $\rho_1 :$ 
   $i \mapsto (L, -4)$ 
   $x \mapsto (L, -3)$ 
   $l \mapsto (G, 2)$ 
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  ...
```

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### Example

#### 0

```
int i;
struct list {
  int info;
  struct list * next;
} * l;
```

#### 1

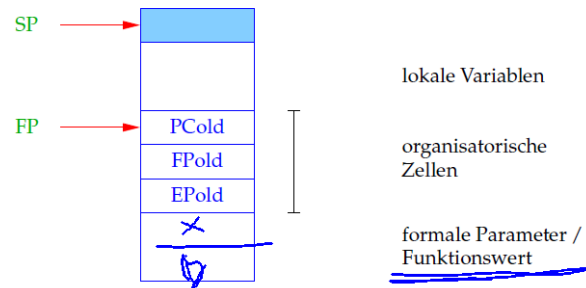
```
int ith (struct list * x, int i) {
  if (i ≤ 1) return x → info;
  else return ith (x → next, i - 1);
}
```

#### 2

```
main () {
  int k;
  scanf ("%d", &i);
  scanlist (&l);
  printf ("\n\t%d\n", ith (l,i));
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```

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## Address Environments Occurring in the Program:

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```

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          l  -> (G, 2)
          ith -> (G, _ith)
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          ...
    
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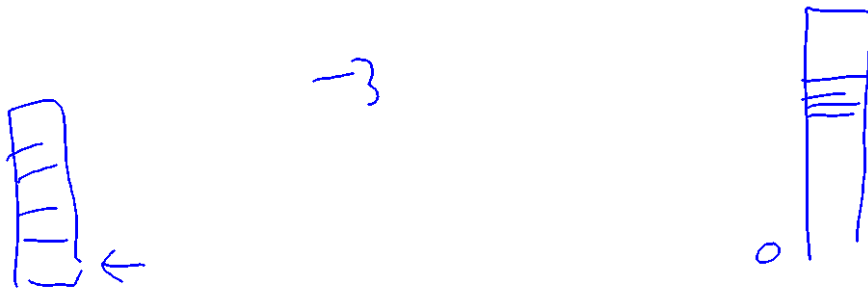
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          ...
    
```

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## Caveat

- The actual parameters are evaluated from **right to left !!**
- The first parameter resides directly below the organizational cells :-)
- For a prototype  $\tau f(\tau_1 x_1, \dots, \tau_k x_k)$  we define:

$$x_1 \mapsto (L, -2 - |\tau_1|) \quad x_i \mapsto (L, -2 - |\tau_1| - \dots - |\tau_i|)$$



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2 Inside of main:

```

rho_2 :   i  -> (G, 1)
          l  -> (G, 2)
          k  -> (L, 1)
          ith -> (G, _ith)
          main -> (G, _main)
          ...
    
```

← FP + 1

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### 9.3 Calling/Entering and Exiting/Leaving Functions

Assume that  $f$  is the current function, i.e., the caller, and  $f$  calls the function  $g$ , i.e., the callee.

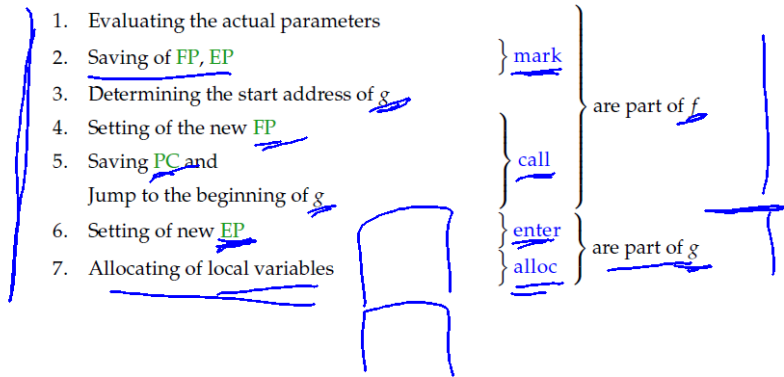
The code for the call must be distributed between the caller and the callee.

The distribution can only be such that the code depending on information of the caller must be generated for the caller and likewise for the callee.

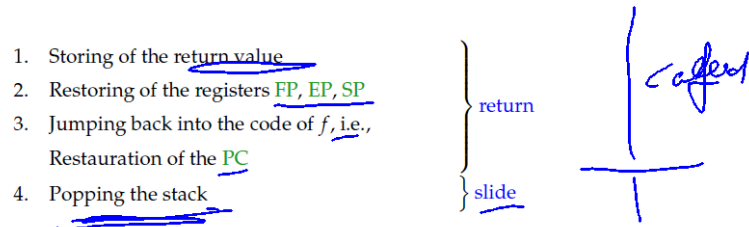
#### Caveat

The space requirements of the actual parameters is only known to the caller ...

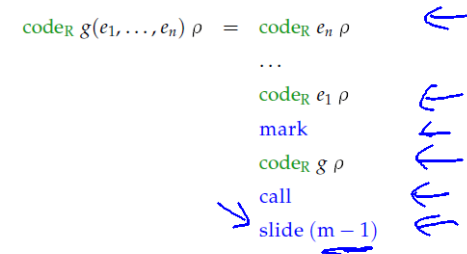
Actions when entering  $g$ :



Actions when terminating the call:



Accordingly, we obtain for a call to a function with at least one parameter and one return value:



where  $m$  is the size of the actual parameters.

Remark

- Of every expression which is passed as a parameter, we determine the **R-value**  $\implies$  call-by-value passing of parameters.
- The function  $g$  may as well be denoted by an **expression**, dessen **R-Wert** die Anfangs-Adresse der aufzurufenden Funktion liefert ...

- Similar to declared arrays, function names are interpreted as **constant pointers** onto function code. Thus, the R-value of this pointer is the start address of the function.

- **Caveat!** For a variable `int (*)() g;` the two calls

`(*g)()` und `g()`

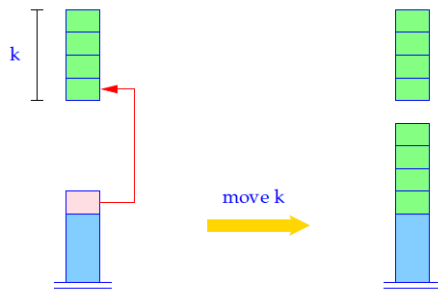
are equivalent! By means of **normalization**, the dereferencing of function pointers can be considered as redundant :-)

- During passing of parameters, these are copied.

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{code}_R f \rho &= \text{loadc}(\rho f) && f \text{ name of a function} \\
 \text{code}_R (*e) \rho &= \text{code}_R e \rho && e \text{ function pointer} \\
 \text{code}_R e \rho &= \text{code}_L e \rho && \\
 & \quad \text{move } k && e \text{ a structure of size } k
 \end{aligned}$$

where



```

for (i = k-1; i ≥ 0; i--)
    S[SP+i] = S[S[SP]+i];
SP = SP+k-1;
    
```

- Similar to declared arrays, function names are interpreted as **constant pointers** onto function code. Thus, the R-value of this pointer is the start address of the function.

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Consequently,

<code>code<sub>R</sub> f ρ</code>	=	<code>loadc (ρ f)</code>	<i>f</i> name of a function
<code>code<sub>R</sub> (*e) ρ</code>	=	<code>code<sub>R</sub> e ρ</code>	<i>e</i> function pointer
<code>code<sub>R</sub> e ρ</code>	=	<code>code<sub>L</sub> e ρ</code>	
		<code>move k</code>	<i>e</i> a structure of size <i>k</i>

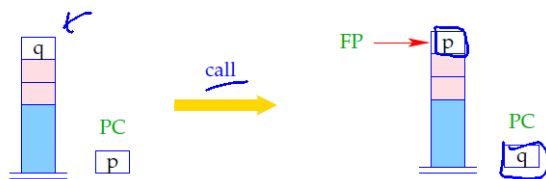
where

The instruction **mark** saves the registers **FP** and **EP** onto the stack.



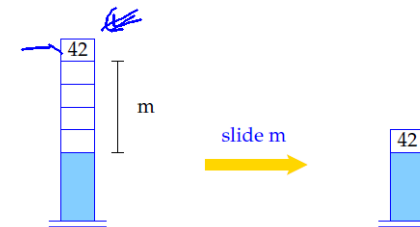
`S[SP+1] = EP;`  
`S[SP+2] = FP;`  
`SP = SP + 2;`

The instruction **call** saves the return address and sets **FP** and **PC** onto the new values.



`tmp = S[SP];`  
`S[SP] = PC;`  
`FP = SP;`  
`PC = tmp;`

The instruction **slide** copies the return values into the correct memory cell:



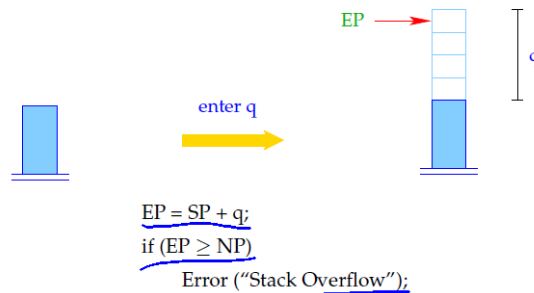
`tmp = S[SP];`  
`SP = SP - m;`  
`S[SP] = tmp;`

Accordingly, we translate a function definition:

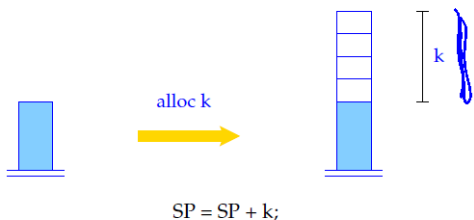
```
code t f (specs){V_defs ss} ρ =
    _f: enter q // initialize EP
        alloc k // allocate the local variables
        code ss ρf
        return // return from call
```

where  $q = \max + k$  with  
 $\max$  = maximal length of the local stack  
 $k$  = size of the local variables  
 $\rho_f$  = address environment for  $f$   
 // takes specs, V\_defs and  $\rho$  into account

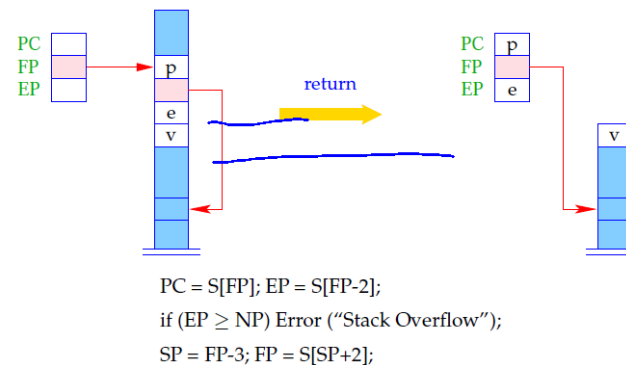
The instruction `enter q` sets the EP to the new value. If not enough space is available, program execution terminates.



The instruction `alloc k` allocates memory for locals on the stack.

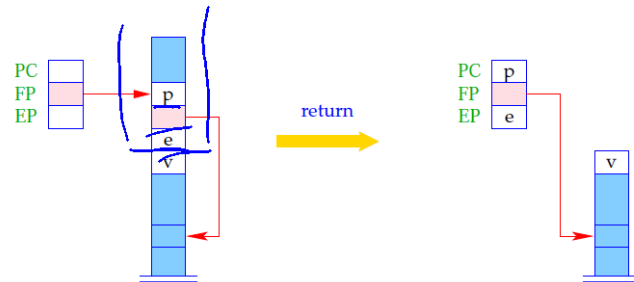


The instruction `return` pops the current stack frame. This means it restores the registers PC, EP and FP and returns the return value on top of the stack.





The instruction `return` pops the current stack frame. This means it restores the registers `PC`, `EP` and `FP` and returns the return value on top of the stack.



$PC = S[FP]; EP = S[FP-2];$   
 if  $(EP \geq NP)$  Error ("Stack Overflow");  
 $SP = FP-3; FP = S[SP+2];$

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## 9.4 Access to Variables, Formal Parameters and Returning of Values

Accesses to local variables or formal parameters are relative to the current `FP`. Accordingly, we modify `codeL` for names of variables.

For  $\rho x = (tag, j)$  we define

$$\underline{\text{code}}_L x \rho = \begin{cases} \text{loadc } j & tag = G \\ \underline{\text{loadrc}} j & tag = L \end{cases}$$

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The instruction `loadrc j` computes the sum of `FP` and `j`.



$SP++;$   
 $S[SP] = FP+j;$

94

As an optimization, we introduce analogously to `loada j` and `storea j` the new instructions `loadr j` and `storer j`:

$$\text{loadr } j = \underline{\text{loadrc}} j / \text{load}$$

$$\underline{\text{storer}} j = \underline{\text{loadrc}} j / \underline{\text{store}}$$

95

The code for `return e;` corresponds to an assignment to a variable with relative address `-3`.

`code return e; ρ` = `codeρ e ρ`  
`storer -3`  
`return`

*int f() {  
return 7;  
}*

**Example** For function

```
int fac (int x) {  
    if (x ≤ 0) return 1;  
    else return x * fac (x - 1);  
}
```

we generate:

96

As an optimization, we introduce analogously to `loada j` and `storea j` the new instructions `loadr j` and `storer j` :

`loadr j` = `loadrc j`  
`load`

`storer j` = `loadrc j;`  
`store`

95

The code for `return e;` corresponds to an assignment to a variable with relative address `-3`.

`code return e; ρ` = `codeρ e ρ`  
`storer -3`  
`return`

**Example** For function

```
int fac (int x) {  
    if (x ≤ 0) return 1;  
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}
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we generate:

96