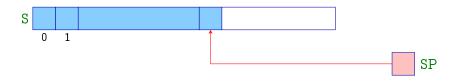
CMa — simple C Abstract Machine

- An abstract machine has set of *instructions* which can be executed in an abstract hardware.
- The abstract hardware may be seen as a collection of certain data structures used by instructions
- ...and controlled by the run-time system.

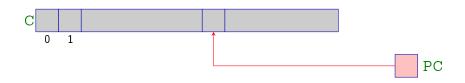
Stack:



- S = Stack memory area for data where insertion and deletion of items uses LIFO principle.
- SP = Stack-Pointer register containing an address of the topmost item.

Simplification: all non-structural values are of the same size and fit into a single cell of the stack.

Code:



- C = Code-store memory area for a program code; each cell contains a single AM instruction.
- PC = Program Counter register containing an address of the instruction to be executed next.

Initially, PC contains the address 0; ie. C[0] contains the first instruction of the program.

Execution of the program:

 Machine loads an instruction at C[PC] to the register IR (Instruction-Register), then increments the program counter PC, and finally executes the instruction:

```
while (true) {
    IR = C[PC]; PC++;
    execute (IR);
}
```

- Execution of an istruction (eg. jump) may change the contents of the program counter PC.
- The main loop of the machine is stopped by the instruction halt, which returns the control back to the environment.
- We will introduce the rest of the instructions step by step as necessary.

Problem: evaluate an expression like (6+2)*4-1; i.e. generate a sequence of instructions which

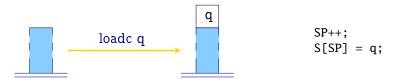
- finds the value of the expression, and
- pushes it to top of the stack.

Idea:

- first evaluate subexpressions,
- save these values to top of the stack, and
- execute an instruction corresponding to the operator.

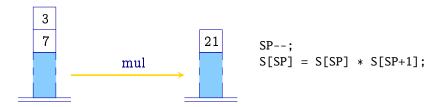
General principles:

- instructions assume arguments to be in topmost cells of the stack,
- an execution of the instruction consumes its arguments,
- the result is saved in top of the stack.



Instruction loadc q doesn't have arguments and pushes the constant q to top of the stack.

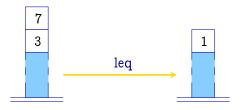
NB! In pictures, the contents of SP is represented implicitly by the height of the stack.



The instruction mul assumes two arguments in the stack, consumes them, and pushes their product to top of the stack

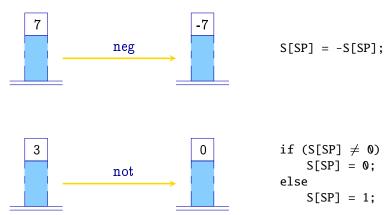
Instructions corresponding to other arithmetic and logic operators add, sub, div, mod, and, or, xor, eq, neq, le, leq, ge and geq work analoguously.

Example: operator leq



NB! The integer 0 represents the boolean "false"; all other integers represent "true".

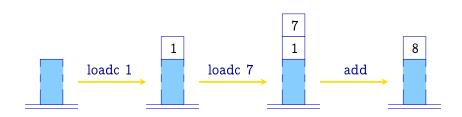
Unary operators neg and not consume one argument and produce a single result value:



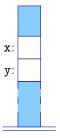
Example: code for the expression 1 + 7:

loadc 1 loadc 7 add

Execution of the code results:



• Variables correspond to cells of the stack S:



- Code generation is specified in terms of functions code, code_L and code_R.
- Parameters: a syntactic construction to be compiled and an address environment (ie. a function mapping variables to their relative addresses in the stack).

- Variables are used in two different ways.
- For instance, in the assignement x = y + 1 we are interested of the *value* of the variable y, but of the *address* of the variable x.
- The syntactic placement of the variable determines wether we need its *L-value* or *R-value*.

```
L-value of a variable = its address
R-value of a variable = its "real" value
```

- Function $code_L \ e \ \rho$ emits a code computing a L-value of the expession e in the environment ρ .
- Function $code_R e \rho$ does the same for the R-value.
- NB! Not every expression has a L-value (eg.: x + 1).

• Compilation of binary operators:

$$\operatorname{code}_R(e_1 + e_2) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e_1 \rho \\ \operatorname{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \operatorname{add}$$

- Similarly for other binary operators.
- Compilation of unary operators:

$$\operatorname{code}_R(-e) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho$$

- Similarly for other unary operators.
- Compilation of primitive constant values:

$$code_R q \rho = loadc q$$

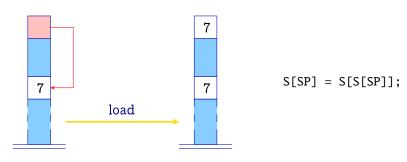
• Compilation of variables:

$$code_L x \rho$$
 = loadc (ρx)
 $code_R x \rho$ = $code_L x \rho$
load

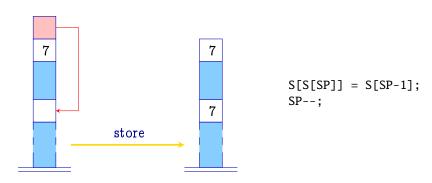
• Compilation of assignement expressions:

$$\operatorname{code}_R (x = e)
ho = \operatorname{code}_R e
ho \\ \operatorname{code}_L x
ho \\ \operatorname{store}$$

Instruction load copies the contents of the stack cell pointed by the argument to top of the stack:



Instruction store saves the contents of the second cell to the stack cell pointed by the topmost cell, but leaves the second cell to top of the stack:



NB! Differs from the analogous P-machine instruction in the Wilhelm/Maurer book.

Example: let
$$e \equiv (x = y - 1)$$
 and $\rho = \{x \mapsto 4, y \mapsto 7\}$,

then $code_R e \rho$ emits the code:

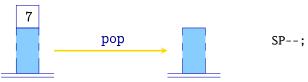
Optimization: introduce special instructions for frequently occuring combinations of instructions, e.g.:

Statements and their sequences

- If e is an expression, then e; is a statement.
- A statement doesn't have any arguments, nor have a value.
- Hence, the contents of the register SP must remain unchanged after the execution of the code corresponding to the statement.

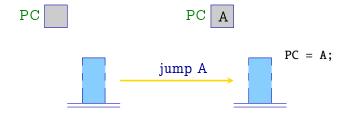
$$\operatorname{code}(e;) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho$$
 pop
 $\operatorname{code}(s s s) \rho = \operatorname{code} s \rho$
 $\operatorname{code} s s \rho$
 $\operatorname{code} \varepsilon \rho = //\operatorname{empty sequence}$

• Instruction pop removes the topmost stack cell:

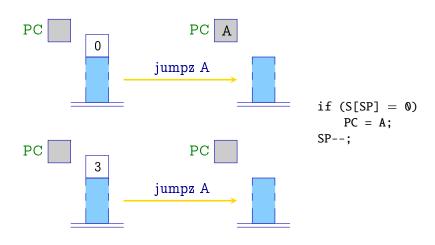


- For simplicity, we use symbolic labels as targets of jumps, which later are replaced by absolute addresses.
- Instead of absolute addresses we could use relative addresses; i.e. relative w.r.t. the actual value of PC.
- Advantages of the last approach are:
 - in general, relative addresses are *smaller*;
 - the code is relocatable.

Instruction jump A performs an unconditional jump to the address A; the stack doesn't change:



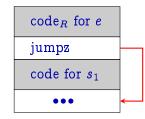
Instruction jumpz A performs a conditional jump; it jumps to the address A only if the topmost stack cell contains 0:



Compilation of if-statements $s \equiv if(e) s_1$:

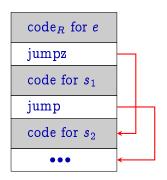
- generate a code for the condition e and statement s_1 ;
- insert the conditional jump instruction in between.

```
\operatorname{code}\left(\mathbf{if}\left(e\right)s_{1}\right)
ho = \\ \operatorname{code}_{R}e\ 
ho \\ \operatorname{jumpz}\ A \\ \operatorname{code}\ s_{1}\ 
ho \\ A : \dots
```



• Compilation of if-else-statements $s \equiv \text{if } (e) \ s_1 \text{ else } s_2$:

```
\operatorname{code}\left(\operatorname{if}\left(e\right)s_{1} \operatorname{else}s_{2}\right)
ho= \\ \operatorname{code}_{R}e\ 
ho \\ \operatorname{jumpz}\ A \\ \operatorname{code}s_{1}\ 
ho \\ \operatorname{jump}\ B \\ A: \operatorname{code}s_{2}\ 
ho \\ B: \dots
```



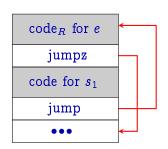
Example: let $\rho = \{x \mapsto 4, y \mapsto 7\}$ and

$$egin{array}{lll} s&\equiv& ext{if } (x>y) & (i) \ &x=x-y; & (ii) \ & ext{else } y=y-x; & (iii) \end{array}$$

then code $s \rho$ emits a code:

• Compilation of while-loops $s \equiv \text{while } (e) \ s_1$:

```
code (while (e) s_1) \rho = A: code_R e \rho
jumpz B
code <math>s_1 \rho
jump A
B: ...
```



```
Example: let 
ho = \{a \mapsto 7, b \mapsto 8, c \mapsto 9\} and s \equiv 	ext{while } (a > 0) \{ (i) \\ c = c + 1; (ii) \\ a = a - b; (iii) \}
```

then code $s \rho$ emits a code:

```
A: loada 7
               loada 9
                             loada 7
                                             jump A
                                          B: . . .
  loadc 0
               loadc 1
                             loada 8
               add
                             sub
  ge
  jumpz B
               storea 9
                             storea 7
               pop
                             pop
    (i)
                 (ii)
                               (iii)
```

• A for-loop $s \equiv \text{for } (e_1; e_2; e_3) \ s_1$ is equivalent with the while-loop e_1 ; while $(e_2) \{s_1 \ e_3;\}$ (assuming, that s_1 doesn't contain any continue-statements)

• In general, switch-statements should be translated into nested if-statements:

 By sorting the labels and using binary seach, it's possible to decrease the number of comparisions to the logarithm of the number of labels.

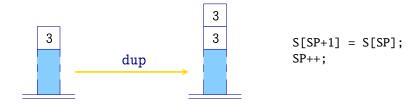
- In specific cases it's possible to have a constant time branching.
- Consider a switch-statement in the form:

```
egin{array}{lll} s & \equiv & \mathrm{switch} \ (e) \ & \mathrm{case} \ 0: & ss_0 \ \mathrm{break}; \ & \mathrm{case} \ 1: & ss_1 \ \mathrm{break}; \ & \ldots \ & \mathrm{case} \ k-1: & ss_{k-1} \ \mathrm{break}; \ & \mathrm{default}: & ss_k \ & \} \end{array}
```

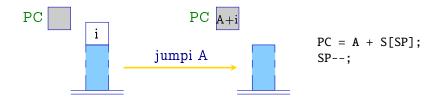
- Macro check 0 k B tests whether the R-value of the condition is in between [0, k], and then performs an indexed jump.
- An *i*-th element of the "jump tabel" B contains a unconditional jump instruction to the beginning of the code corresponding to the *i*-th branch.
- Each branch ends with the unconditional jump.

- The R-value of the condition is used both for comparision and indexing, hence it must be duplicated before comparisions.
- If R-value is not in between [0, k], it will be replaced by the constant k before the jump.

Instruction dup duplicates the topmost cell of the stack:



Instruction jumpi A performs an indexed jump:



- Jump table B may be placed just after the macro check; it allows to save some unconditional jumps.
- If the range of values starts with u (and is not 0), then u
 must be subtracted from the R-value of e before indexing.
- If all potential values of e are in range [0, k], then the macro check is not needed.

Arrays, records and static memory management

- Goal: statically (i.e. compile-time) to bind with each variable x a fixed (relative) address ρx .
- We assume that variables of primitive types (e.g. int, ...) fit into a single memory cell.
- Bind variables to addresses starting from 1 using their declaration order.
- Hence, in the case of declarations $d \equiv t_1 \ x_1; \ \dots \ t_k \ x_k$; (where t_i is primitive type) we get an address environment ρ s.t.

$$ho \ x_i = i, \qquad i = 1, \ldots, k$$

- Array is a sequence of memory cells.
- Uses integer indices for an access of its individual elements.
- Example: declaration int[11]a; defines an array with 11 elements.



• Define a function sizeof (notation $|\cdot|$) which finds the required memory amount to represent a value of a given type:

$$|t| = \left\{egin{array}{ll} 1 & ext{if t is a primitive type} \ k\cdot|t'| & ext{if $t\equiv t'[k]$} \end{array}
ight.$$

• Hence, in the case of declarations $d \equiv t_1 \ x_1; \ \dots \ t_k \ x_k;$

$$egin{array}{lcl}
ho \; x_1 & = & 1 \
ho \; x_i & = &
ho \; x_{i-1} + |t_{i-1}| & i > 1 \end{array}$$

• Since $|\cdot|$ can be computed compile-time, it is also possible to compute the address environment ρ in compile-time.

- Let $t \ a[c]$; be an array declaration.
- ullet Then, the address of its *i*-th element is ho $a+|t| imes (ext{rval of }i)$

```
\mathsf{code}_L \; (a[e]) \; 
ho \; \; = \; \; egin{array}{ll} \mathsf{loadc} \; (
ho \; a) \ & \mathsf{code}_R \; e \; 
ho \ & \mathsf{loadc} \; |t| \ & \mathsf{mul} \ & \mathsf{add} \ \end{array}
```

- In general, an array can be given by an expression which must be evaluated before indexing.
- In C, an array is a *pointer-constant* which R-value is the start address of the array.

$$\operatorname{code}_L\left(e_1[e_2]\right)
ho = \operatorname{code}_R e_1
ho \ \operatorname{code}_R e_2
ho \ \operatorname{loadc} |t| \ \operatorname{mul} \ \operatorname{add} \ \operatorname{code}_R e
ho = \operatorname{code}_L e
ho \qquad e \text{ is an array}$$

• NB! In C, the following are equivalent (as L-values):

$$a[2]$$
 $2[a]$ $a+2$

 Normalization: array variables and expressions which evaluate to an array are before indexing brackets; index expressions are inside brackets.

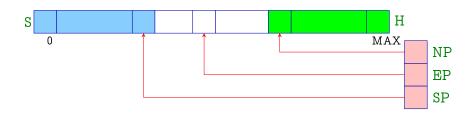
- Record is set of fields; each field may be of different type.
- Fields are accessed by names (selectors).
- For simplicity, we assume that field names are unique.
 - Alternative: for each record type st have a separate environment ρ_{st} .
- Let struct $\{ \text{ int } a; \text{ int } b; \} x; \text{ be a declaration:}$
 - the address of the record x is the address of its first cell;
 - field addresses are relative to the address of the record; i.e. in the example above $a \mapsto 0, b \mapsto 1$.

• Let $t \equiv \text{struct} \{ t_1 c_1; \ldots t_k c_k; \}$, then

$$egin{array}{lll} |t| &=& \sum_{i=1}^k |t_i| \
ho \; c_1 &=& 0 \
ho \; c_i &=&
ho \; c_{i-1} + |t_{i-1}| & i > 1 \end{array}$$

add

• Thus, an address of the field $x.c_i$ is $\rho \ x + \rho \ c_i$ $\operatorname{code}_L \ (e.c) \ \rho = \operatorname{code}_L \ e \ \rho$ $\operatorname{loadc} \ (\rho \ c)$



H = Heap - memory area for dynamically allocated data.

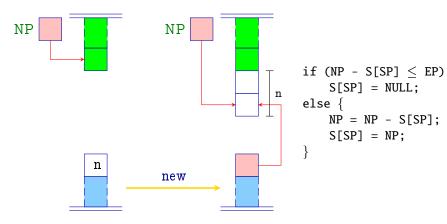
NP = New-Pointer — register containing the address of the lowermost used cell in the heap.

EP = Extreme-Pointer — register containing the address of the topmost cell to where SP may point during execution of the given function.

- Stack and heap grow towards each other and must not overlap (stack overflow).
- Both, incrementing SP or decrementing NP, may result to the overflow.
- Register EP helps to avoid an overflow in the case of stack operations.
- The value of EP can be determined statically.
- But when allocating memory from the heap, one must check for the overflow.

- Pointers allow access to ananymous, dynamically created, objects which life-time doesn't follow LIFO principle.
- Pointer values are returned by the following operations:
 - a call to the function malloc(e) allocates a memory area of size e and returns a beginning address of the area.
 - an application of the address operator & to a variable returns an address of the variable (ie. its L-value).

```
\operatorname{code}_R (\operatorname{malloc}(e)) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho
\operatorname{new}
\operatorname{code}_R (\&e) \rho = \operatorname{code}_L e \rho
```



- NULL is a special reference constant; equivalent to the integer 0.
- In the case of overflow returns NULL-pointer.

- Referenced values can be accessed by the following ways:
 - an application of the dereferencing operator * to
 expression e returns the content of a memory cell which address is a R-value of e;
 - a record field selection through a pointer $e \rightarrow c$ is equivalent to the expression (*e).c.

$$\operatorname{code}_L(*e) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho$$
 $\operatorname{code}_L(e \rightarrow c) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho$
 $\operatorname{loadc}(\rho c)$
add

Example: let be given the following declarations:

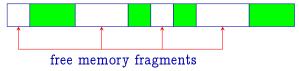
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{struct } t \text{ \{ int } a[7]; \text{ struct } t * b; \text{ }\}; \\ \text{int } i, \ j; \\ \text{struct } t * pt; \end{array}$$

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

For the expression $((pt{ o}b){ o}a)[i+1]$ the following code is emitted:

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

- Memory is freed by calling the C-function free(e).
- The given memory area is marked as a free and is put to the special free list, from where malloc can reuse it if necessary.
- Problems:
 - after freeing, there might be still some accessible references pointing to the memory area (dangling references);
 - over the time, memory might get fragmented;



- keeping track of the free list might be relatively costly.

• Alternative: in the case of functsion free do nothing.

If memory is full, deallocate the unaccessible memory

$$code (free(e);) \rho = code_R e \rho$$

$$pop$$

- automatically using garbage collection.
 - + Allocation and "deallocation" is simple and very efficient.
 - + No "dangling references".
 - + Several garbage collection algorithms defragment the used memory.
 - Garbage collection may take time, hence there might be noticable pauses during the execution of the program.

- A function definition consists of four parts:
 - a name of the function, which is used when function is called;
 - a specification of formal parameters;
 - a return type of the function;
 - a body of the function.
- In C the following holds:

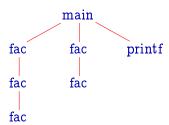
```
\operatorname{code}_R f 
ho = _{-}f = \operatorname{starting} \operatorname{address} \operatorname{of} f \operatorname{code}
```

 Hence, the address environment must also keep track of function names!

• Example:

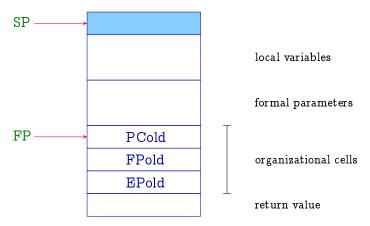
```
\begin{array}{ll} \text{int fac (int $x$) $\{} & \text{main () $\{} \\ & \text{if $(x \leq 0)$ return 1;} & \text{int $n$;} \\ & \text{else return $x*$ fac}(x-1); & n = \text{fac}(2) + \text{fac}(1); \\ & \text{printf("\%$d", $n$);} \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ \end{array} \}
```

 The same function may have several simultaneously active instances.



- Formal parameters and local variables of each instance of the function must be kept separately.
- For this we allocate in stack a special memory region called Stack Frame).
- FP (Frame Pointer) is a register which points to the last organizational cell of the active frame, and which is used for addressing of formal parameters and local variables.

Structure of a frame:



- After function returns, the caller must be able to continue its execution in its own frame.
- Hence, when calling a function the following must be saved:
 - frame address FP of the caller;
 - code address from where to continue after the return (ie. program counter PC);
 - the maximal possible stack address of the caller EP.
- Simplification: we assume that return values fit into a single cell.

- We need to distinguish two kinds of variables:
 - global variables which are defined outside of functions;
 - local (or automatic) variables (incl. formal parameters)
 which are defined inside of fractions.
- ullet The address environment ho binds variable names with pairs

$$(tag,a) \in \{G,L\} imes \mathbb{N}$$

- NB! Many languages restrict the scope of a variable inside block.
- Different parts of a program generally use different address environments.

int ith (struct list *x, int i) {
 if $(i \le 1)$ return $x \to info$;
 else return ith $(x \to next, i-1)$;

```
main() {
int i;
struct list {
                                                          int k;
  int info;
                                                         \operatorname{scanf}("\%d", \&i);
  struct list *next;
                                                          scanlist(\&l);
                                                         printf("%d", ith(l, i));
} *l;
int ith (struct list *x, int i) {
                                                       global env.
  if (i \le 1) return x \to info;
                                                           i \mapsto (G,1)
                                                 \rho_0
  else return ith(x \rightarrow next, i-1);
                                                            l \mapsto (G,2)
                                                         ith \mapsto (G, _-ith)
                                                       \min \mapsto (G, \_main)
```

```
main () {
int i;
struct list {
                                                          int k;
   int info;
                                                          \operatorname{scanf}("\%d", \&i);
   struct list *next;
                                                          scanlist(\&l);
                                                          printf("%d", ith(l, i));
} *l;
int ith (struct list *x, int i) {
                                                       env. for function ith
   if (i \le 1) return x \to info;
                                                            x \mapsto (L, 1)
                                                 \rho_1
   else return ith(x \rightarrow next, i-1);
                                                            i \mapsto (L,2)
                                                             l \mapsto (G,2)
                                                          ith \mapsto (G, _ith)
```

 $\min \mapsto (G, _main)$

```
main () {
int i;
struct list {
                                                         int k;
  int info;
                                                         \operatorname{scanf}("\%d", \&i);
  struct list *next;
                                                         scanlist(\&l);
                                                         printf("%d", ith(l, i));
} *l;
int ith (struct list *x, int i) {
                                                      env. for function main
  if (i \le 1) return x \to info;
                                                           k \mapsto (L,1)
  else return ith(x \rightarrow next, i-1);
                                                           i \mapsto (G,1)
                                                           l \mapsto (G,2)
                                                         ith \mapsto (G, _ith)
```

 $\min \mapsto (G, _main)$

- Let f be a function which calls another g.
- ullet Function f is the caller and function g the callee.
- The code emitted for a function call is divided between the caller and the callee.
- The exact division depends from who has what information.

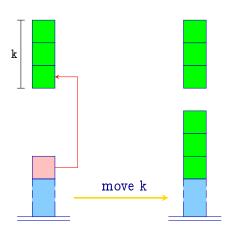
	Actions during the function call and entering to the callee:		
	saving registers FP and EP;	}	mark
	computing actual arguments of the function;		
	3 determining the start address g of the callee;		
	setting a new FP;	١	11
	3 saving PC and jumping to g ;	}	call
	setting a new EP;	}	enter
	allocating space for local variables.	}	alloc
•	Actions on leaving the callee:		
	restoring registers FP, EP and SP;		return
	② returning to f -s code; ie. restoring PC.	ſ	recurr

- Expressions standing for actual parameters are evaluated for their R-value
 - call-by-value parameter passing.
- Function g might be an expression which R-value is callee's starting address.

- Function name is a *pointer constant* which R-value is the starting address of the function code.
- Dereferencing a function pointer returns the same pointer.
 - Example: in the case of the declaration int (*)()g;, the calls g() and (*g)() are equivalent.
- If arguments are structs, they are copied.

```
\operatorname{code}_R f \rho = \operatorname{loadc}(\rho f) f is a function name \operatorname{code}_R (*e) \rho = \operatorname{code}_R e \rho e is a function pointer \operatorname{code}_R e \rho e is a struct of size k move k
```

Instruction move k copies k cells to top of the stack:

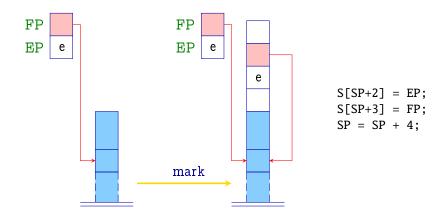


```
for (i=k-1; i \ge 0; i--)

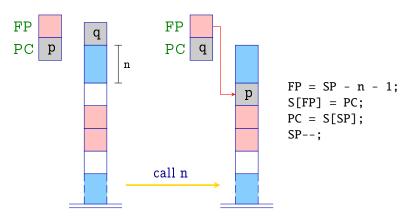
S[SP+i] = S[S[SP]+i];

SP = SP + k - 1;
```

Instruction mark allocates space for organizational cells and for the return value, and saves registers FP and EP:



Instruction call n saves the continuation address and assigns new values to FP, SP and PC:



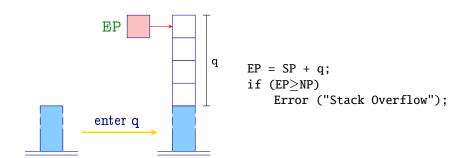
```
where q = maxS + k

maxS = maximum depth of the local stack

k = 	ext{space for local variables}

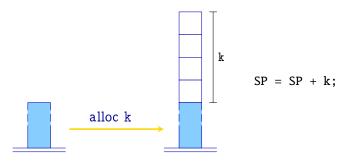
ho_f = f-s aaddress environment
```

Instruction enter q sets the register EP:

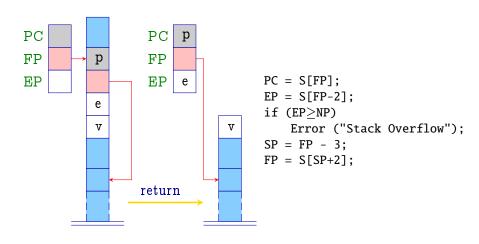


NB! If there is not enough space, the execution is interrupted.

Instruction alloc k allocates space in stack for local variables:



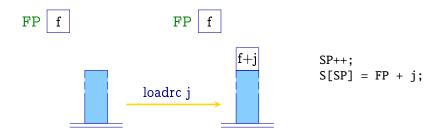
Instruction return restores registers PC, FP and EP, and leaves the return value in top of the stack:



The access to local variables and formal parameters is relative with respect to the register FP:

$$\operatorname{code}_L x \
ho = \left\{ egin{array}{ll} \operatorname{loadc} \ \mathrm{j} & \operatorname{if} \
ho \ x = (G,j) \ \operatorname{loadrc} \ \mathrm{j} & \operatorname{if} \
ho \ x = (L,j) \end{array}
ight.$$

Instruction loadre j calculates the sum of FP and j:



Analoguously to instrctions loada j and storea j we introduce instructions loadr j and storer j:

```
loadr j = loadrc j
load
storer j = loadrc j
store
```

return-statement corresponds to the assignment to a variable with the relative address -3:

```
code (return e;) \rho = code_R e \rho

storer -3

return
```

```
int fac(int x) {
Example:
                  if (x < 0) return 1;
                  else return x * fac(x - 1);
Then \rho_{fac} = \{x \mapsto (L, 1)\} and the code to be emitted is:
 fac: enter 7
                 loadc 1 A: loadr 1
                                               mul
     alloc 0
                 storer -3
                                mark
                                               storer -3
     loadr 1 return
                             loadr 1
                                               return
     loadc 0 jump B
                              loadc 1 B: return
     leq
                                sub
     jumpz A
                                loadc fac
                                call 1
```

Compilation of the complete program

An initial state of the abstract machine:

$$SP = -1$$
 $FP = EP = 0$ $PC = 0$ $NP = MAX$

Let $p \equiv vars \ fdef_1 \dots fdef_n$, where $fdef_i$ is a definition of function f_i and one of the functions has a name main.

The emitted code consists of following parts:

- code corresponding to function definitions fdef_i;
- allocation of memory for global variables;
- code of a call to the function main();
- instruction halt.

Compilation of the complete program

```
egin{array}{lll} {
m code} \; p \; \emptyset & = & {
m enter} \; (k+6) & {
m pop} \ {
m alloc} \; (k+1) & {
m halt} \ {
m mark} & {
holimits}_{1} : {
m code} \; f def_{1} \; 
ho \ {
m loadc} \; {
m main} & \ldots \ {
m call} \; \emptyset & {
holimits}_{1} : {
m code} \; f def_{n} \; 
ho \end{array}
```

where
$$\emptyset = ext{empty address environment}$$
 $ho = ext{global address environment}$
 $ho = ext{space for global variables}$