Some uses for the stack

- Short term data storage
  - vs. heap storage – new (C++) / malloc (C)
  - Preserving registers during calculations
    - Some operations only work on a particular register
  - Evaluating expressions with multiple operators (e.g., 5 * 3 + 6 % 2)
- Context
  - Subroutines (return address, arguments)
  - Interrupts (return address, processor state)

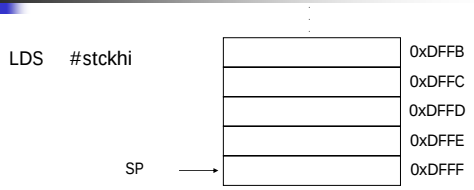
1

Stack instructions (recap)

- PSHA – push A onto stack
- PSHB – push B onto stack
- PSHX – push X onto stack
- PSHY – push Y onto stack
- PULA – pull A from stack
- PULB – pull B from stack
- PULX – pull X from stack
- PULY – pull Y from stack

2

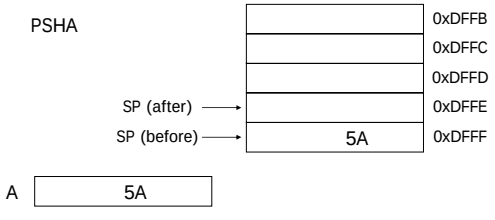
Stack operations – push byte



- SP (stack pointer) points to next available location.
- Stack grows downwards in memory, towards lower memory addresses.

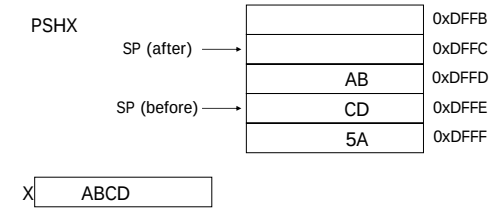
3

Stack operations – push byte



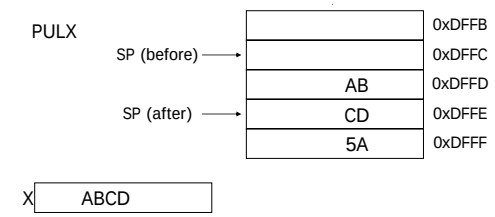
4

Stack operations – push word



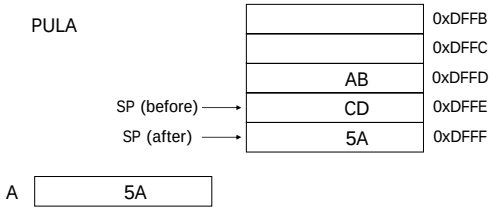
5

Stack operations – pull word



6

Stack operations – pull byte



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Stack pointer instructions

- LDS – load stack pointer
- STS – store stack pointer
- INS – increment stack pointer
- DES – decrement stack pointer
- TSX – transfer stack pointer+1 to X
- TSY – transfer stack pointer+1 to Y
- TXS – transfer X-1 to stack pointer
- TYS – transfer Y-1 to stack pointer

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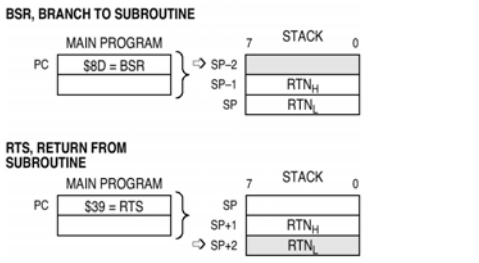
Subroutines



Source: Motorola HC11 Programming Reference Guide

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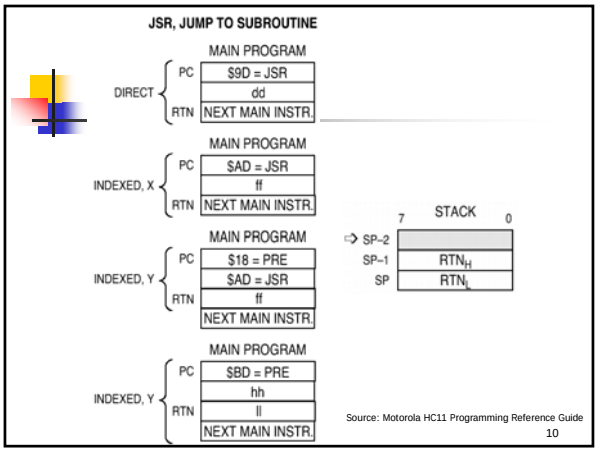

Passing parameters

- Using stack to pass parameters to subrs.:
  - Push parameters onto stack
  - Call subroutine
- More complicated than using registers or global variables
  - Problems with using registers
    - Parameter count limited by register set size
    - Less convenient for some calculated parameters
  - Problems with global variables
    - Waste memory (permanent allocation)
    - Non-reentrant (no recursive function calls; threads)

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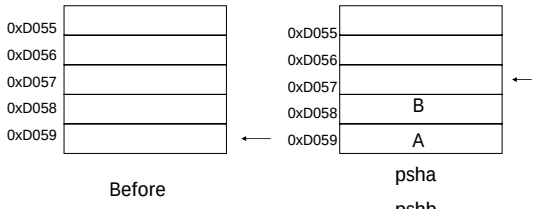
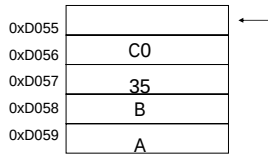
Stack



12

After jsr and pushes



JSR sub (from 0xC032)

in sub:

tsx ; SP+1 to X

IX = D056

0,x = D056

1,x = D057

2,x = D058 (B)

3,x = D059 (A)

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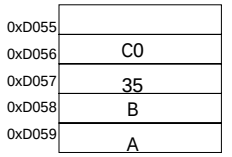
After rts and des



after rts from sub

after ins

ins

in main

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Code - 1

```
main: ...
      ; calculate 1st 8-bit parameter in acc. A
      psha    ; put on stack for sub
      ; calculate 2nd 8-bit parameter in acc. B
      pshb    ; put on stack for sub
      ; other calculations
      bsr     sub
      ins     ; deallocate stack space from 2nd argument
      ins     ; same for 1st arg. (could pull instead)
```

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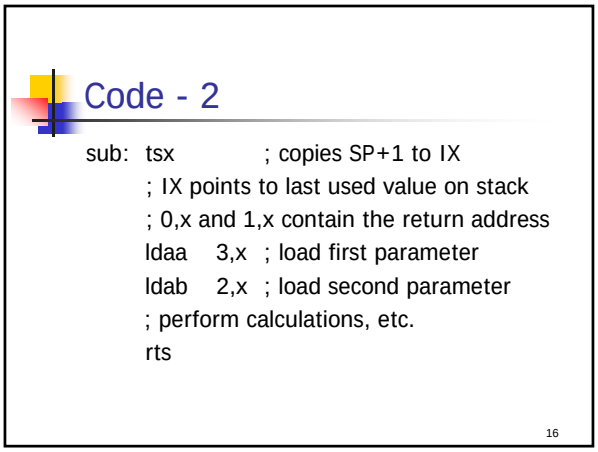
Code - 2
sub: tsx ; copies SP+1 to IX
; IX points to last used value on stack
; 0,x and 1,x contain the return address
ldaa 3,x ; load first parameter
ldab 2,x ; load second parameter
; perform calculations, etc.
rts
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