



Under the Hood:
The Java Virtual Machine, Part II

Announcements

- A5 due date postponed!
- New due date Monday Dec 8, 11:59pm

CS2110 F08 Quiz 3

Answer briefly the following questions.

1. Explain the difference between shadowing and overriding.
2. Explain the difference between interfaces and abstract classes.
3. Explain the difference between static and dynamic types.

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1. Explain the difference between shadowing and overriding.

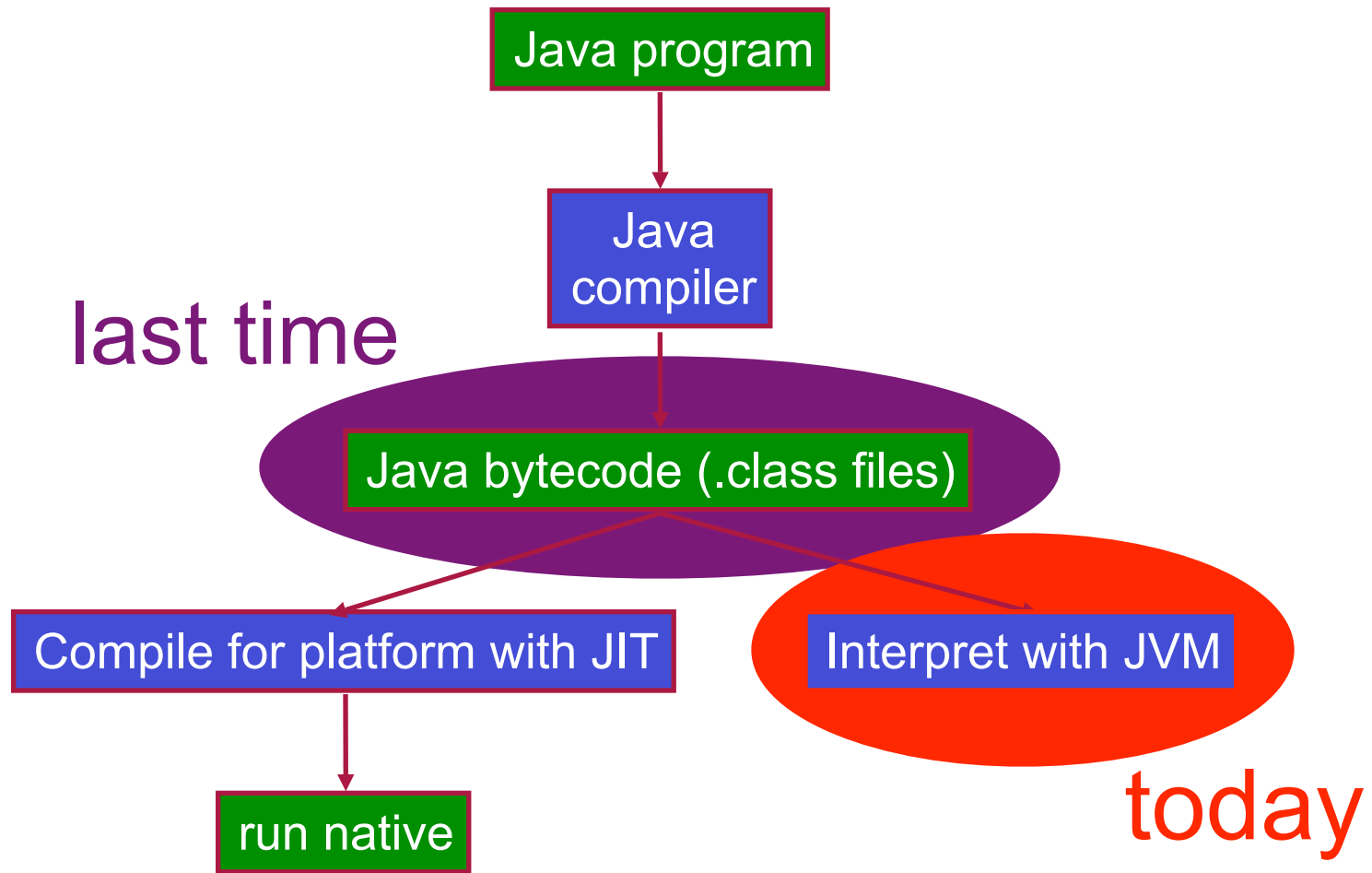
Shadowing occurs when a field of a class has the same name and type as a field of a superclass, or when a local variable of a class has the same name and type as a field of that class. It is useful only in limited circumstances (e.g. initializing a field with a parameter). Overriding occurs when a method of a class has the same name and signature as a method of a superclass, and is one of the most useful features of object oriented languages.

2. Explain the difference between interfaces and abstract classes.

Interfaces may contain only constants and abstract methods (method signatures but no implementations). Abstract classes may contain fields and both abstract and concrete methods. Neither interfaces nor abstract classes can be directly instantiated with new.

3. Explain the difference between static and dynamic types.

Expressions have static types. The type of any expression is known to the Java compiler at compile time, before the program is run. Objects have dynamic types. Dynamic types are only known at runtime. An object receives its dynamic type when it is created with new.



Today

- Class file format
- Class loading and initialization
- Object initialization
- Method dispatch
- Exception handling
- Java security model
 - Bytecode verification
 - Stack inspection

Instance Method Dispatch

`x.foo(...)`

- compiles to `invokevirtual`
- Every loaded class knows its superclass
 - name of superclass is in the constant pool
 - like a parent pointer in the class hierarchy
- bytecode evaluates arguments of `x.foo(...)`, pushes them on the stack
- Object `x` is always the first argument

Instance Method Dispatch

invokevirtual foo (...)V

- Name and type of **foo (...)** are arguments to **invokevirtual** (indices into constant pool)
- JVM retrieves them from constant pool
- Gets the dynamic (runtime) type of **x**
- Follows parent pointers until finds **foo (...)V** in one of those classes – gets bytecode from code attribute

Instance Method Dispatch

- Creates a new *stack frame* on runtime stack around arguments already there
- Allocates space in stack frame for locals and operand stack
- Prepares locals (int=0, ref=null), empty stack
- Starts executing bytecode of the method
- When returns, pops stack frame, resumes in calling method after the **invokevirtual** instruction

Instance Method Dispatch

```
byte[] data;  
void getData() {  
    String x = "Hello world";  
    data = x.getBytes();  
}
```

```
Code(maxStack = 2, maxLocals = 2, codeLength = 12)  
0: ldc "Hello world"  
2: astore_1  
3: aload_0 //object of which getData is a method  
4: aload_1  
5: invokevirtual java.lang.String.getBytes () [B  
8: putfield A.data [B  
11: return
```

Exception Handling

- Each method has an *exception handler table* (possibly empty)
- Compiled from **try/catch/finally**
- An exception handler is just a designated block of code
- When an exception is thrown, JVM searches the exception table for an appropriate handler that is in effect
- **finally** clause is executed last

Exception Handling

- Finds an exception handler → empties stack, pushes exception object, executes handler
- No handler → pops runtime stack, returns exceptionally to calling routine
- **finally** clause is always executed, no matter what

Exception Table Entry

startRange	start of range handler is in effect
endRange	end of range handler is in effect
handlerEntry	entry point of exception handler
catchType	exception handled

- **startRange** → **endRange** give interval of instructions in which handler is in effect
- **catchType** is any subclass of **Throwable** (which is a superclass of **Exception**) -- any subclass of **catchType** can be handled by this handler

Example

```
Integer x = null;
Object y = new Object();

try {
    x = (Integer)y;
    System.out.println(x.intValue());
} catch (ClassCastException e) {
    System.out.println("y was not an Integer");
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} finally {
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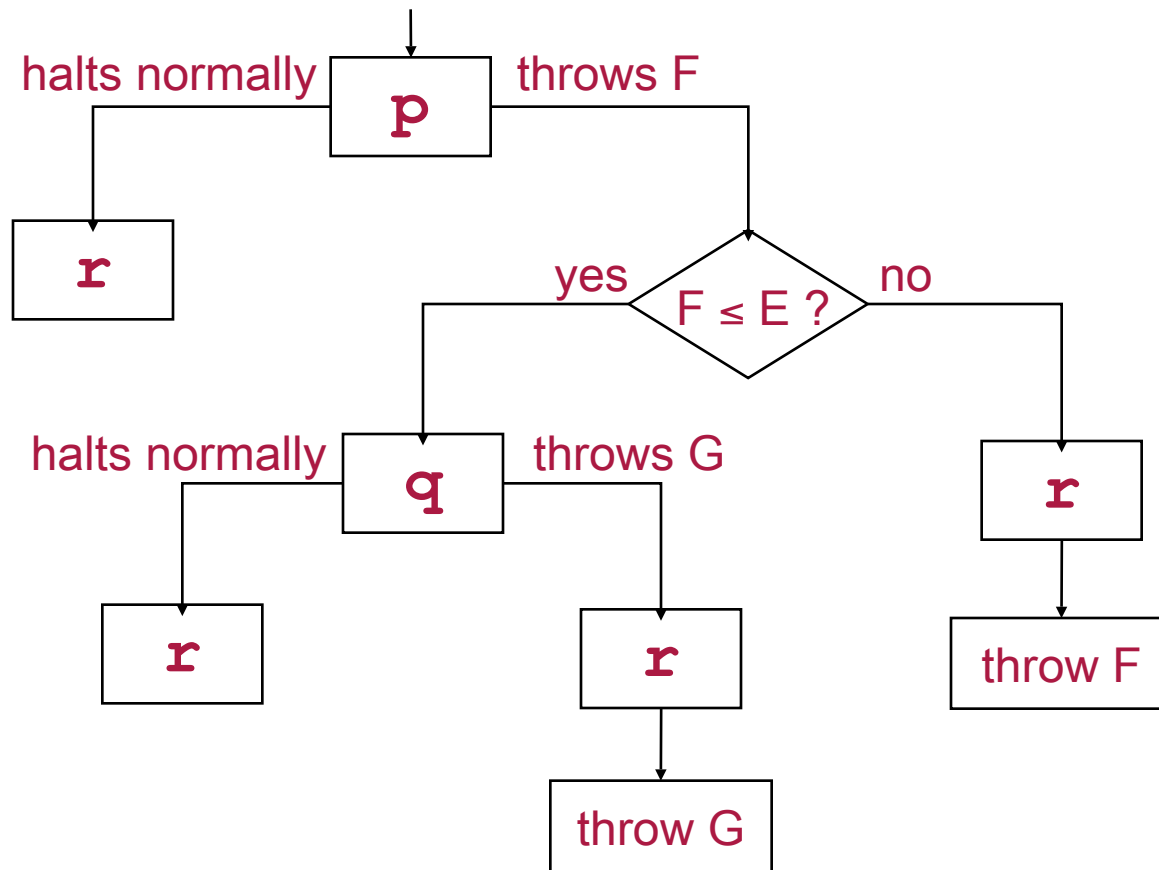
Try/Catch/Finally

```
try {p} catch (E) {q} finally {r}
```

- **r** is always executed, regardless of whether **p** and/or **q** halt normally or exceptionally
- If **p** throws an exception not caught by the catch clause, or if **q** throws an exception, that exception is *rethrown* upon normal termination of **r**

Try/Catch/Finally

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Java Security Model

- Bytecode verification
 - Type safety
 - Private/protected/package/final annotations
 - Basis for the entire security model
 - Prevents circumvention of higher-level checks
- Secure class loading
 - Guards against substitution of malicious code for standard system classes
- Stack inspection
 - Mediates access to critical resources

Bytecode Verification

- Performed at load time
- Enforces type safety
 - All operations are well-typed (e.g., may not confuse refs and ints)
 - Array bounds
 - Operand stack overflow, underflow
 - Consistent state over all dataflow paths
- Private/protected/package/final annotations

Bytecode Verification

- A form of *dataflow analysis* or *abstract interpretation* performed at load time
- Annotate the program with information about the execution state at each point
- Guarantees that values are used correctly

Types in the JVM

Useless

Object

Integer

Continuations

int, short, byte,
boolean, char



Interface

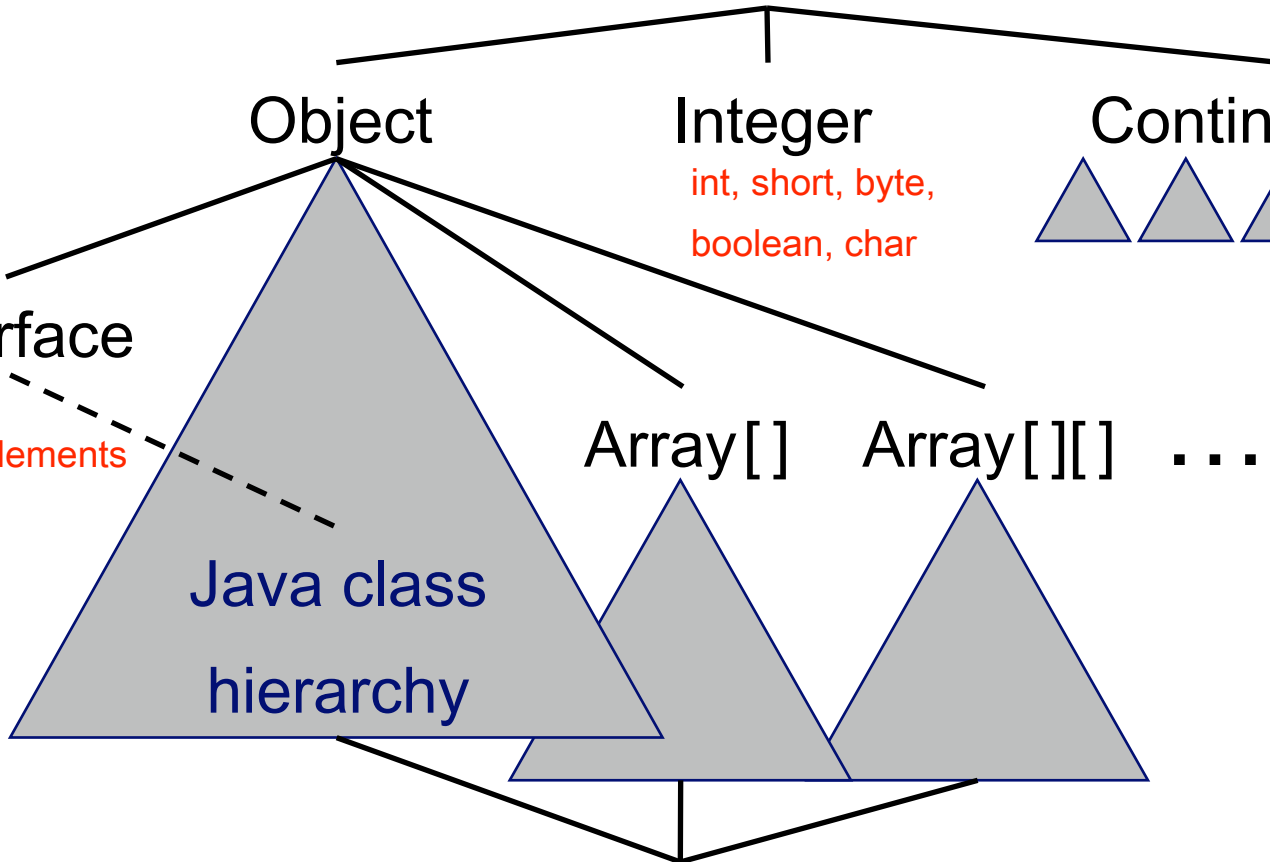
implements

Array[]

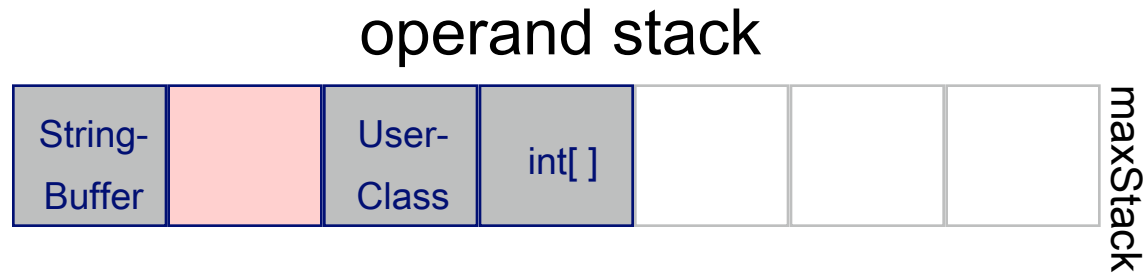
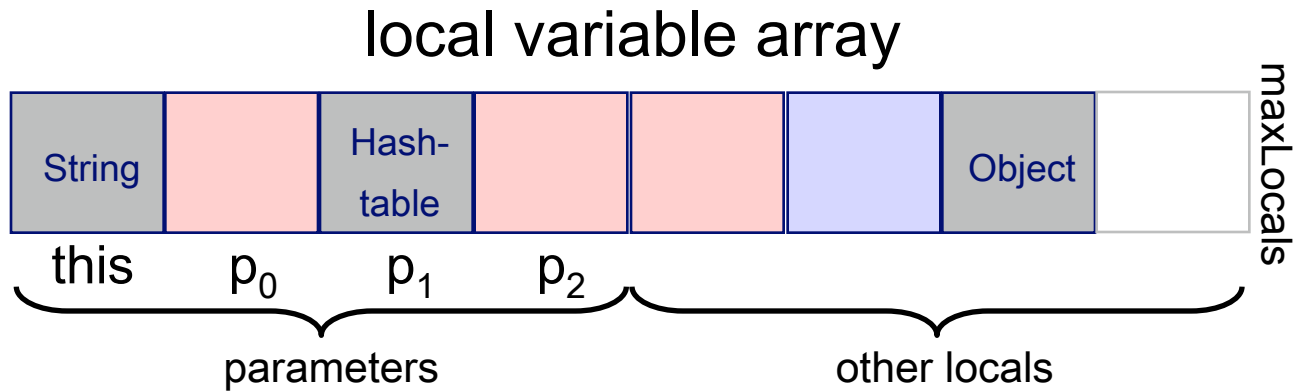
Array[][] ...





Java class
hierarchy

Null

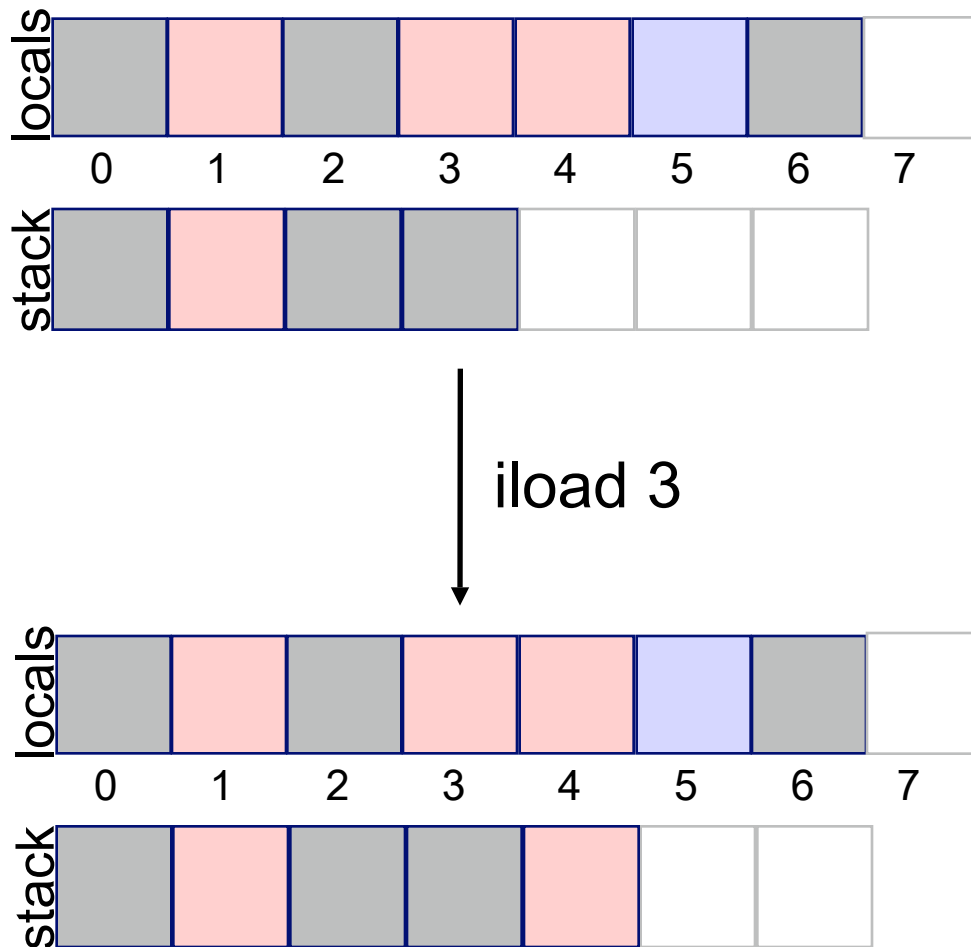


Typing of Java Bytecode



-  = reference type
-  = integer
-  = continuation
-  = useless

Example



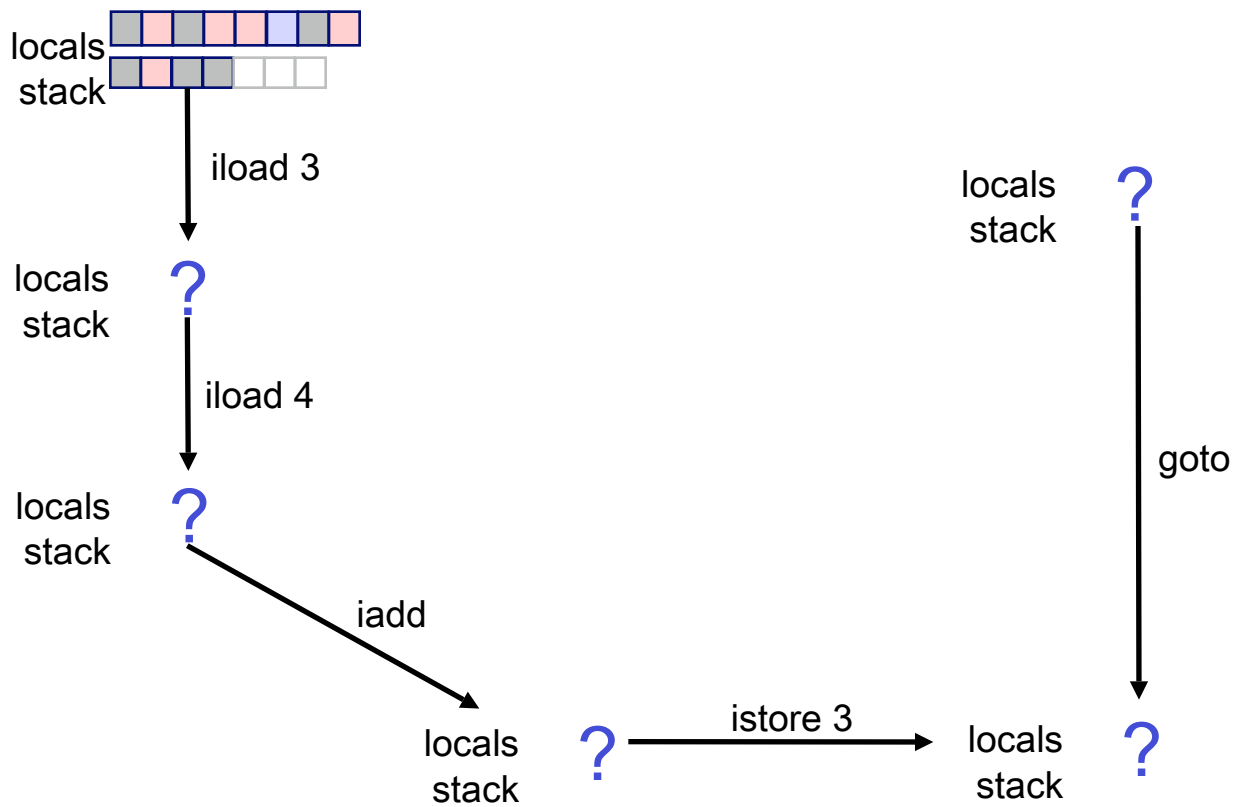
Preconditions for safe execution:

- local 3 is an integer
- stack is not full

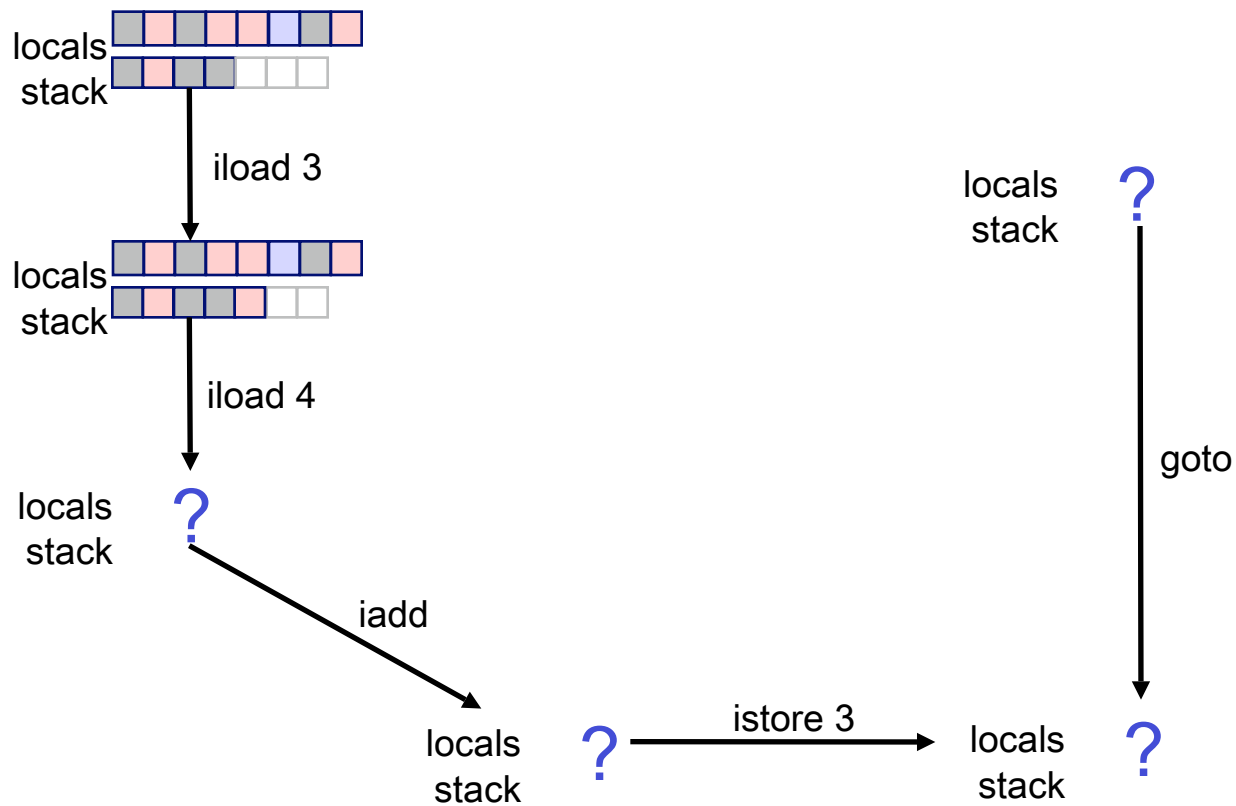
Effect:

- push integer in local 3 on stack

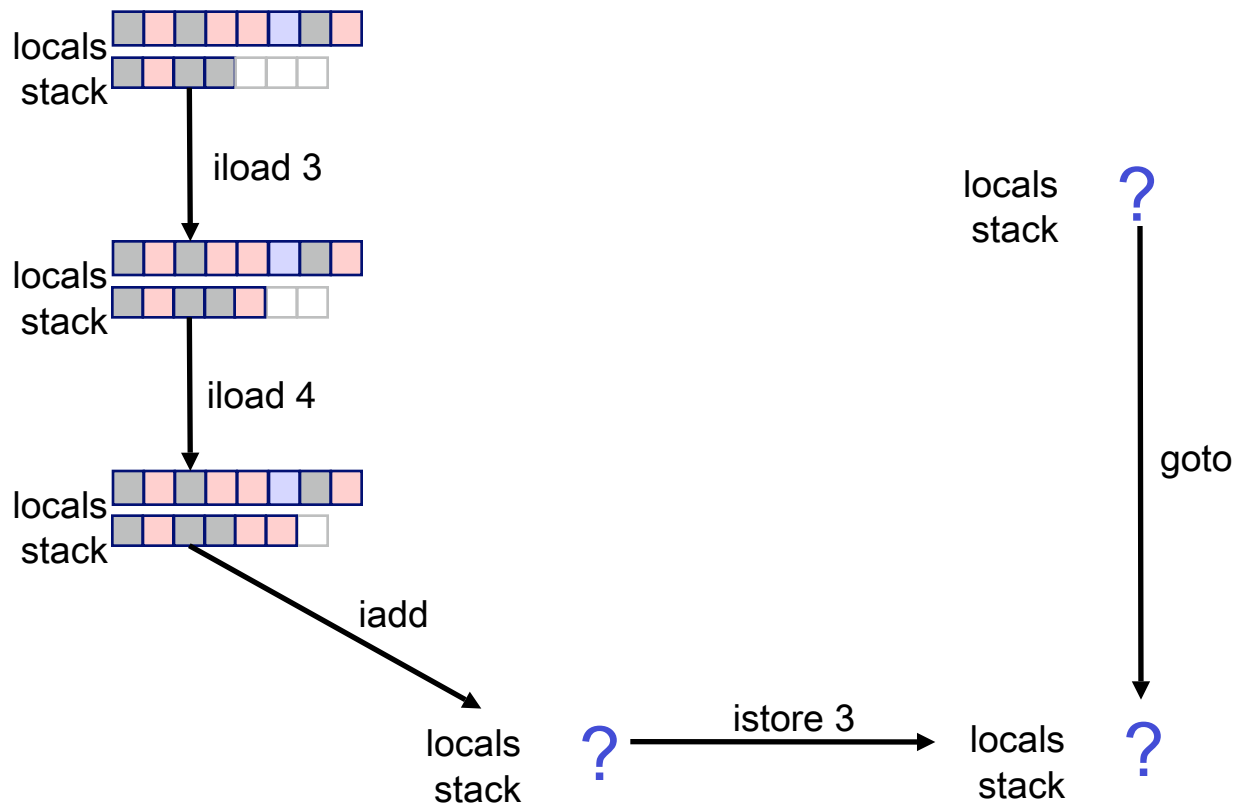
Example



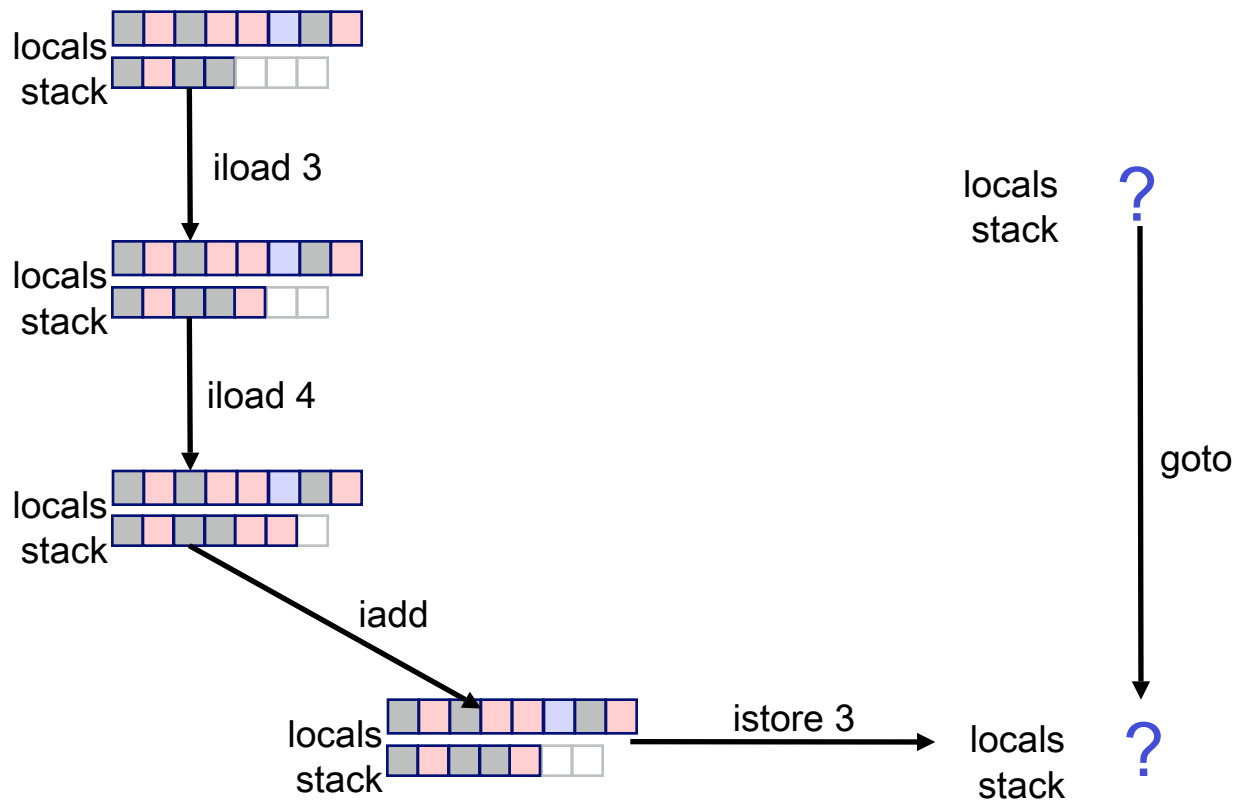
Example



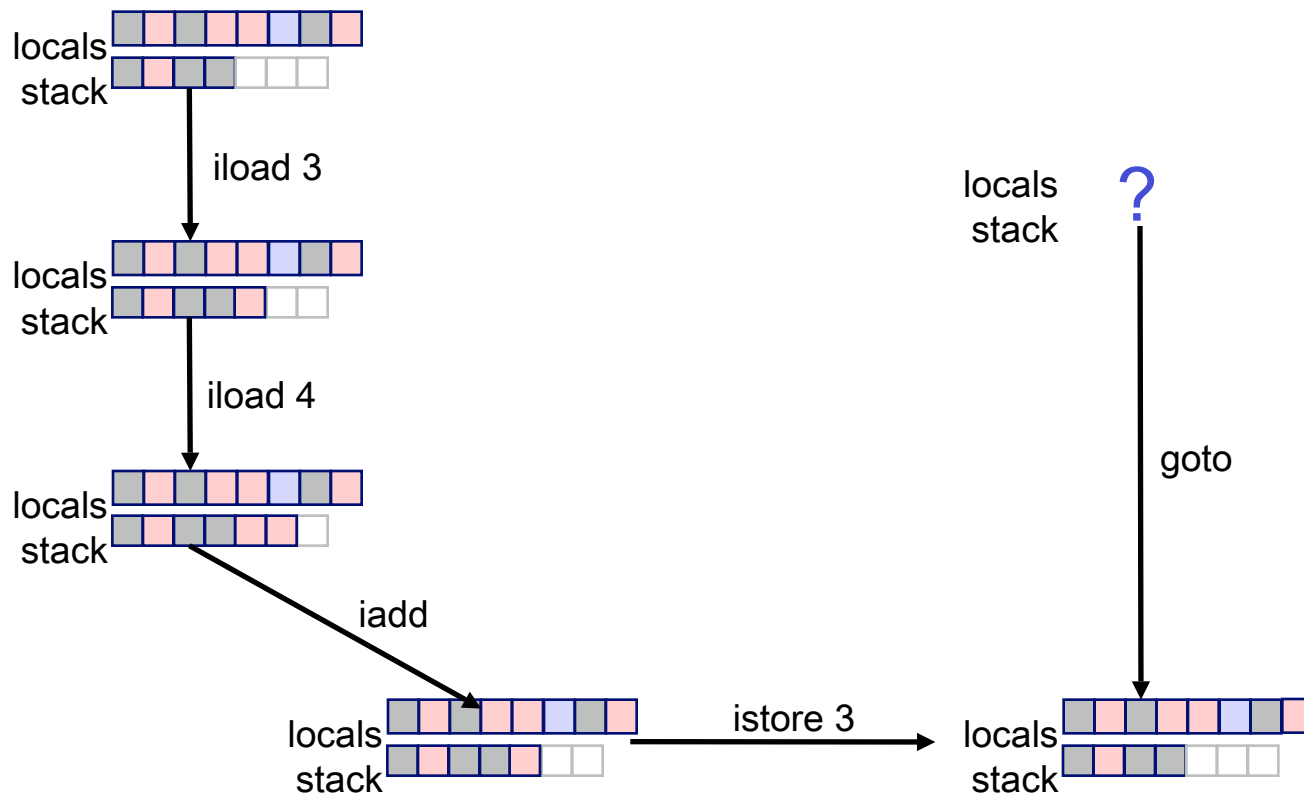
Example



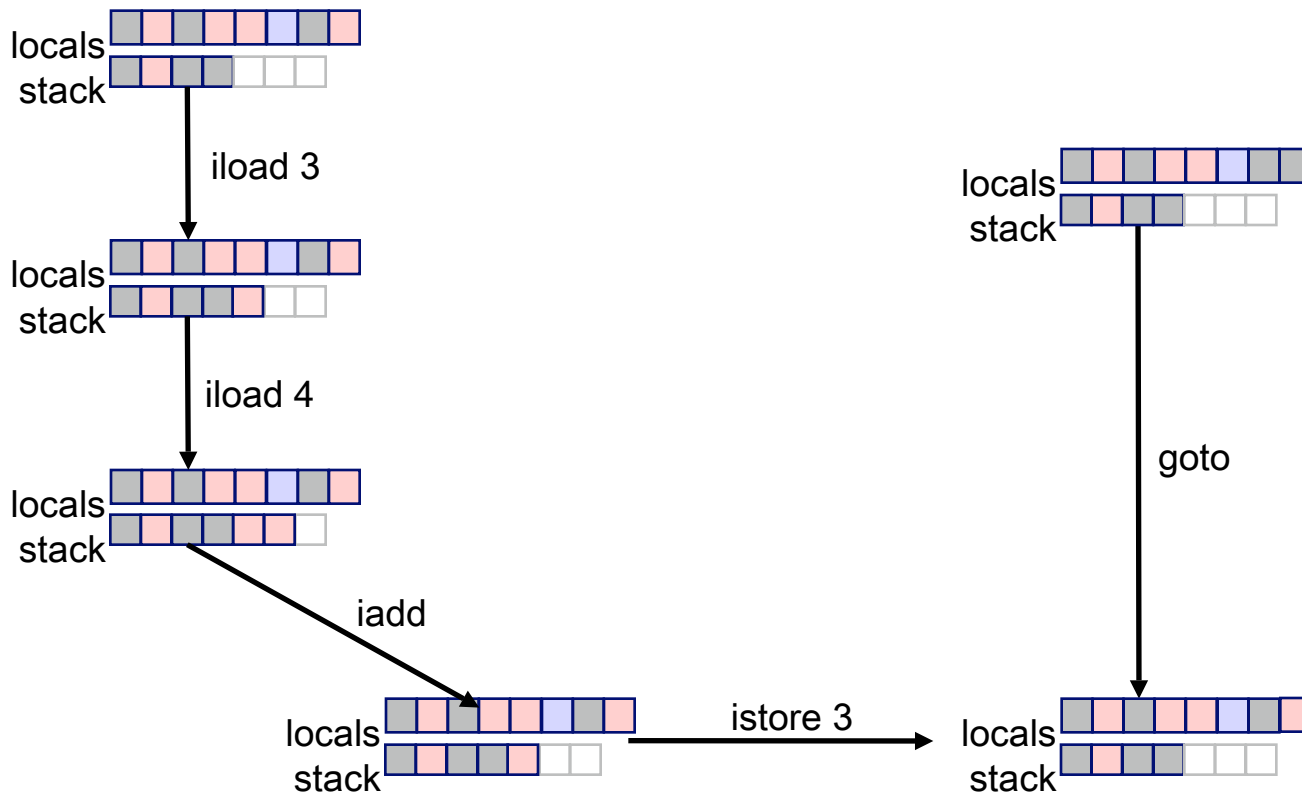
Example



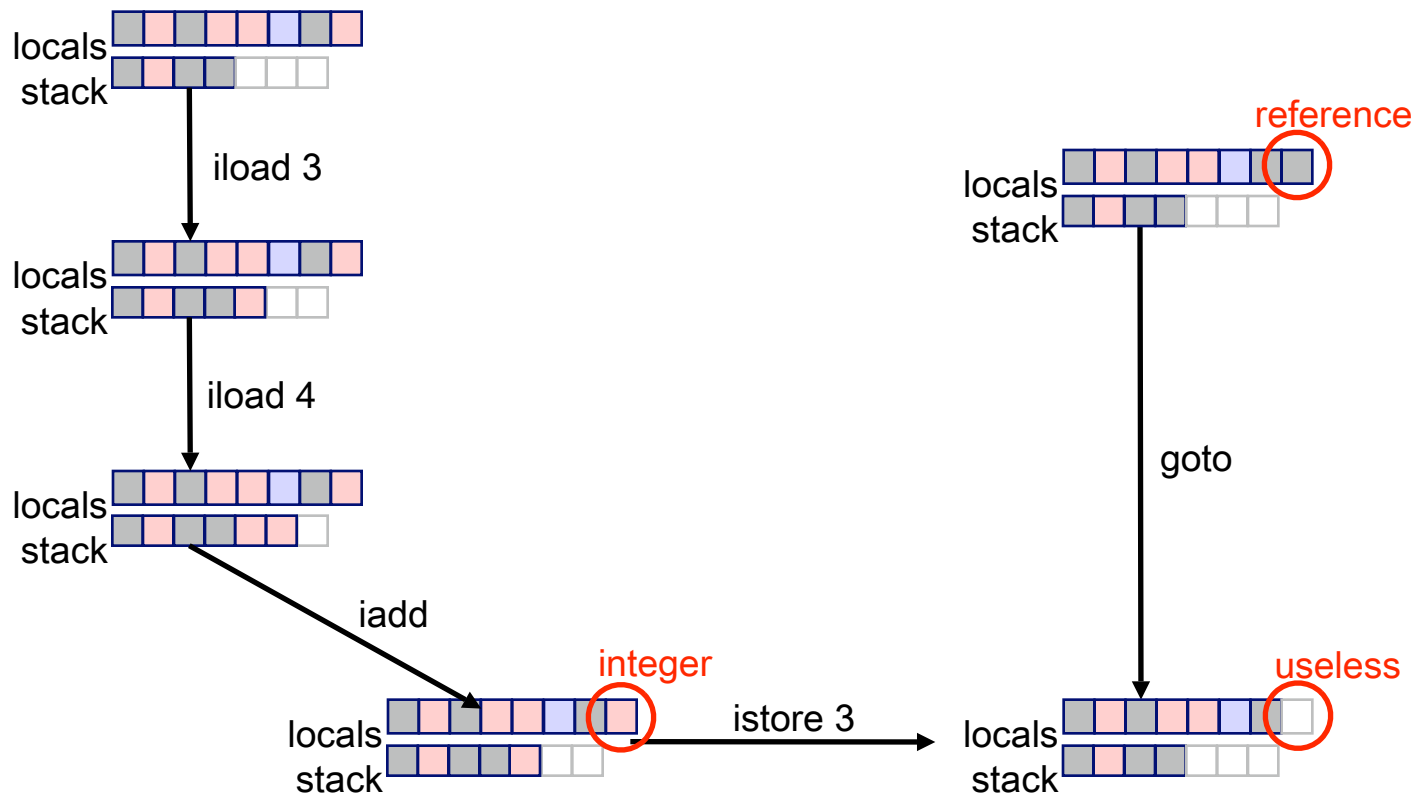
Example



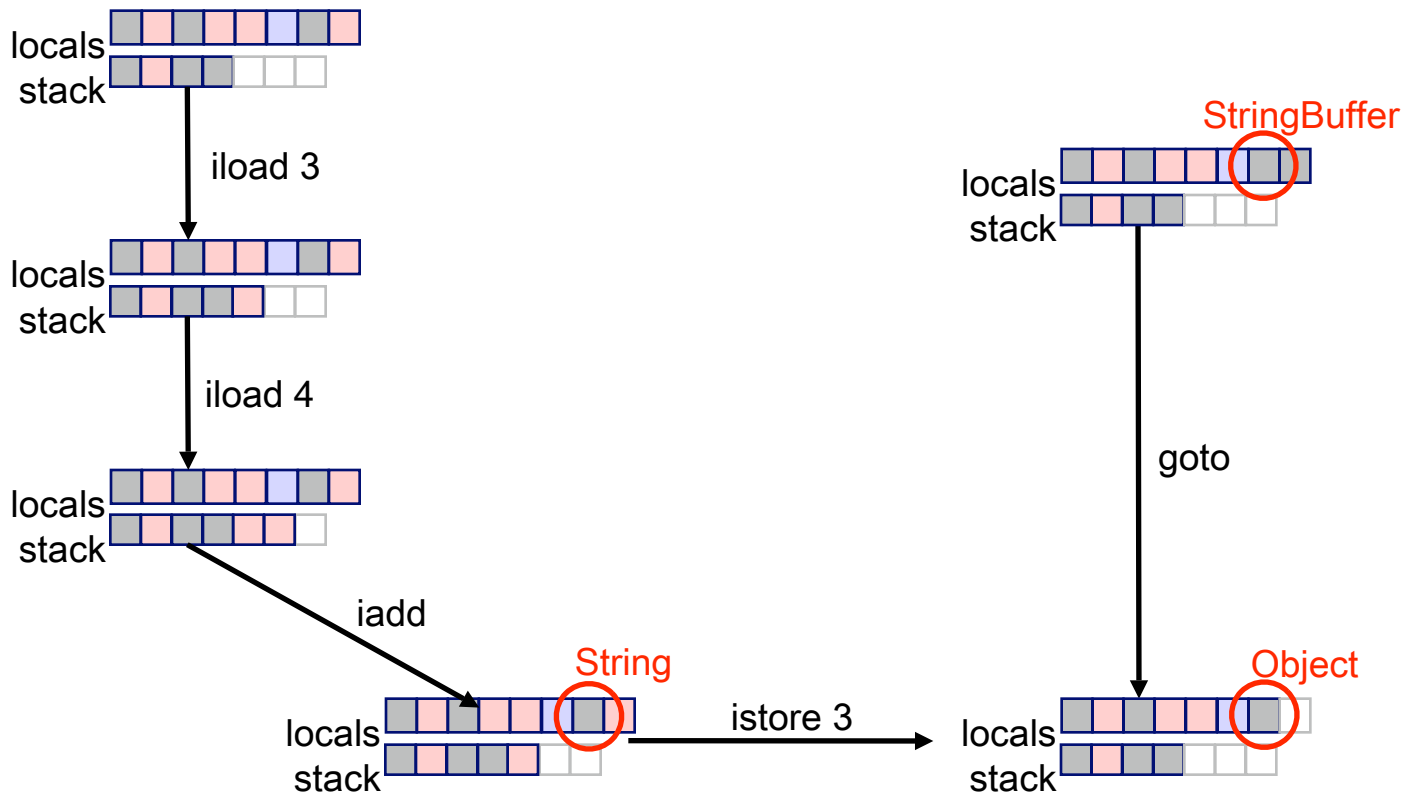
Example



Example



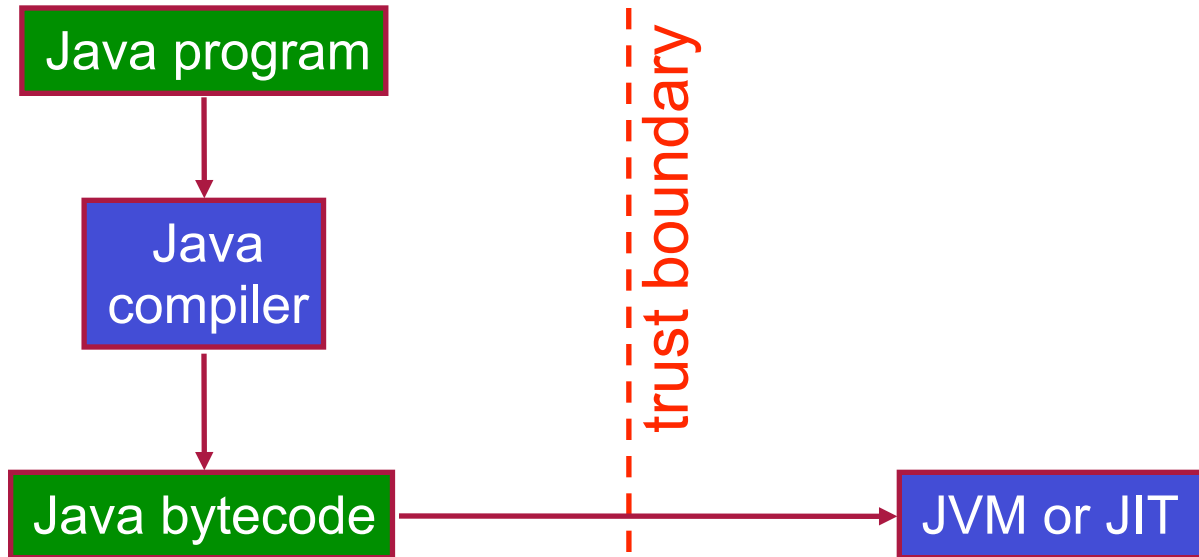
Example



Mobile Code

Software producer
(untrusted)

Software consumer
(trusted)



Mobile Code

Problem: mobile code is not trustworthy!

- We often have *trusted* and *untrusted* code running together in the same virtual machine
 - e.g., applets downloaded off the net and running in our browser
- Do not want untrusted code to perform critical operations (file I/O, net I/O, class loading, security management,...)
- *How do we prevent this?*

Mobile Code

Early approach: *signed applets*

- Not so great
 - everything is either trusted or untrusted, nothing in between
 - a signature can only *verify* an already existing relationship of trust, it cannot *create* trust
- Would like to allow untrusted code to interact with trusted code
 - just monitor its activity somehow

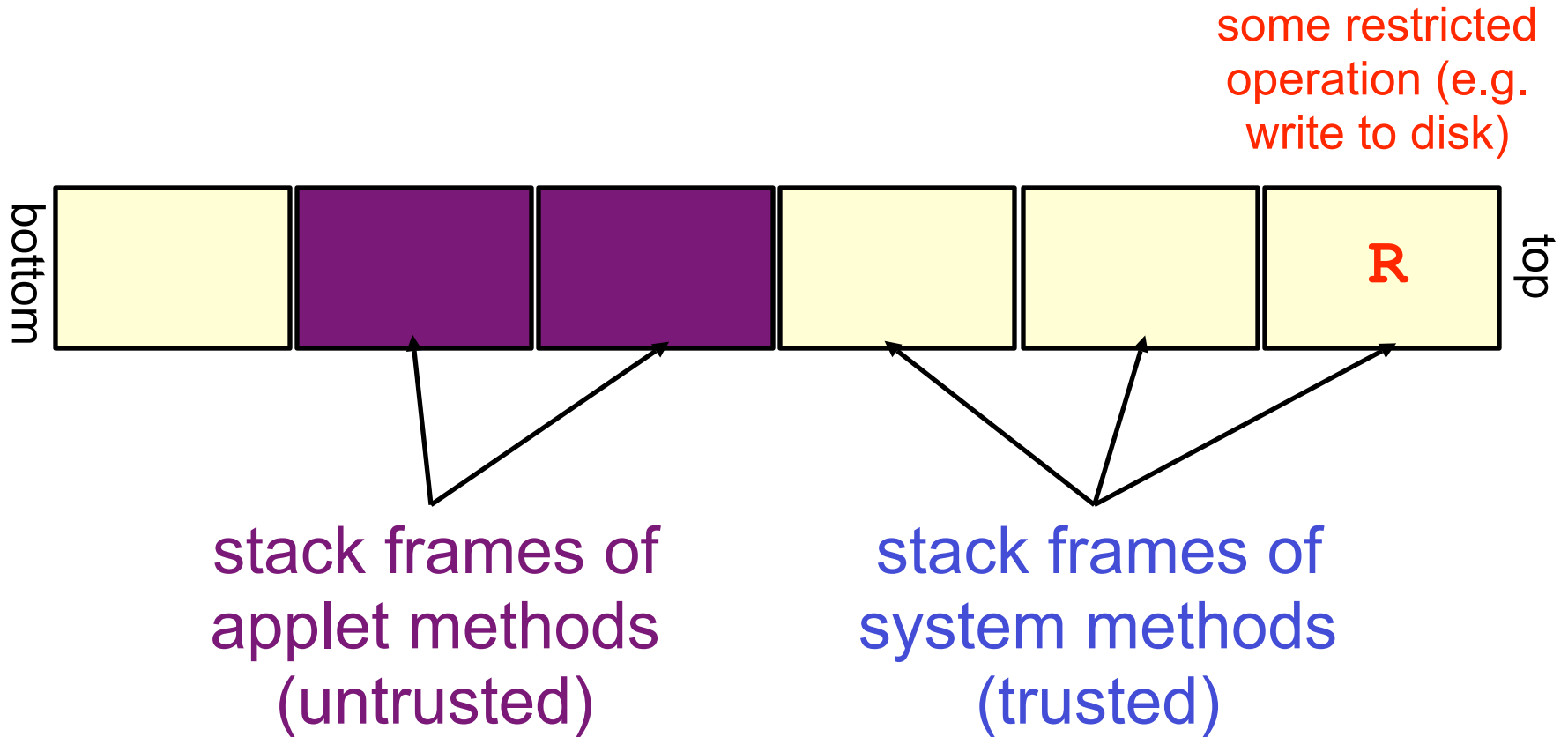
Mobile Code

Q) Why not just let trusted (system) code do anything it wants, even in the presence of untrusted code?

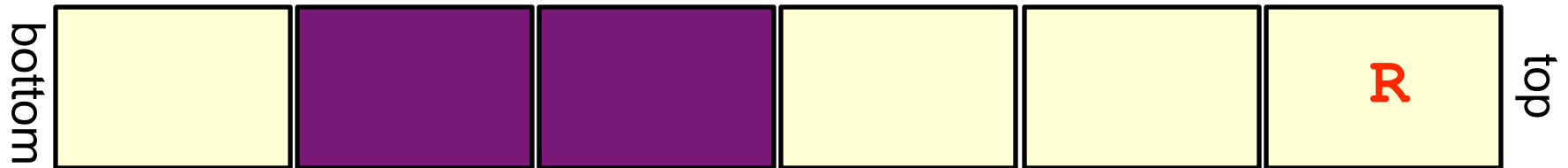
Mobile Code

- Q) Why not just let trusted (system) code do anything it wants, even in the presence of untrusted code?
- A) Because untrusted code calls system code to do stuff (file I/O, etc.) – system code could be operating on behalf of untrusted code

Runtime Stack



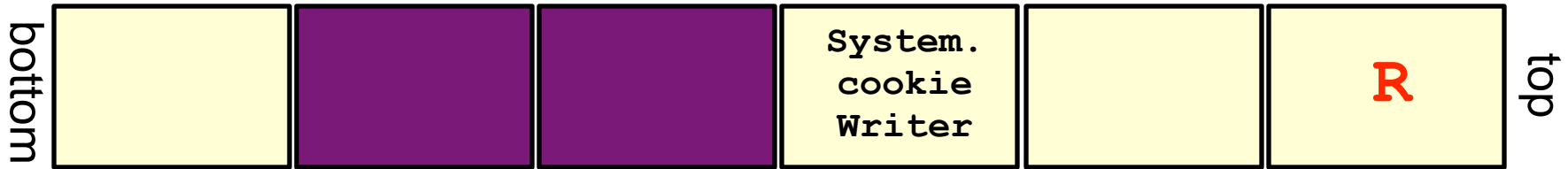
Runtime Stack



Maybe we want to disallow it

- the malicious applet may be trying to erase our disk
- it's calling system code to do that

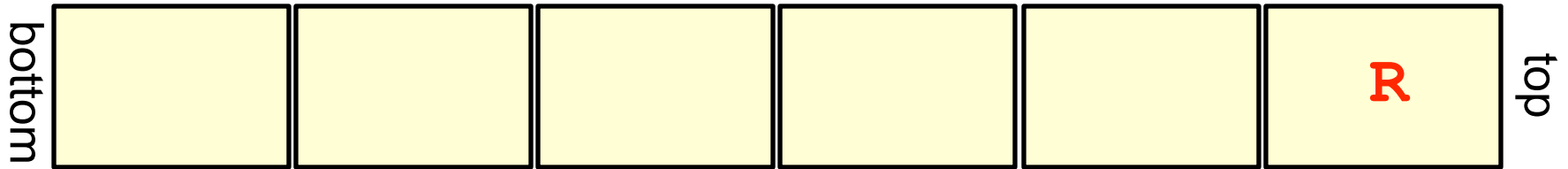
Runtime Stack



Or, maybe we want to allow it

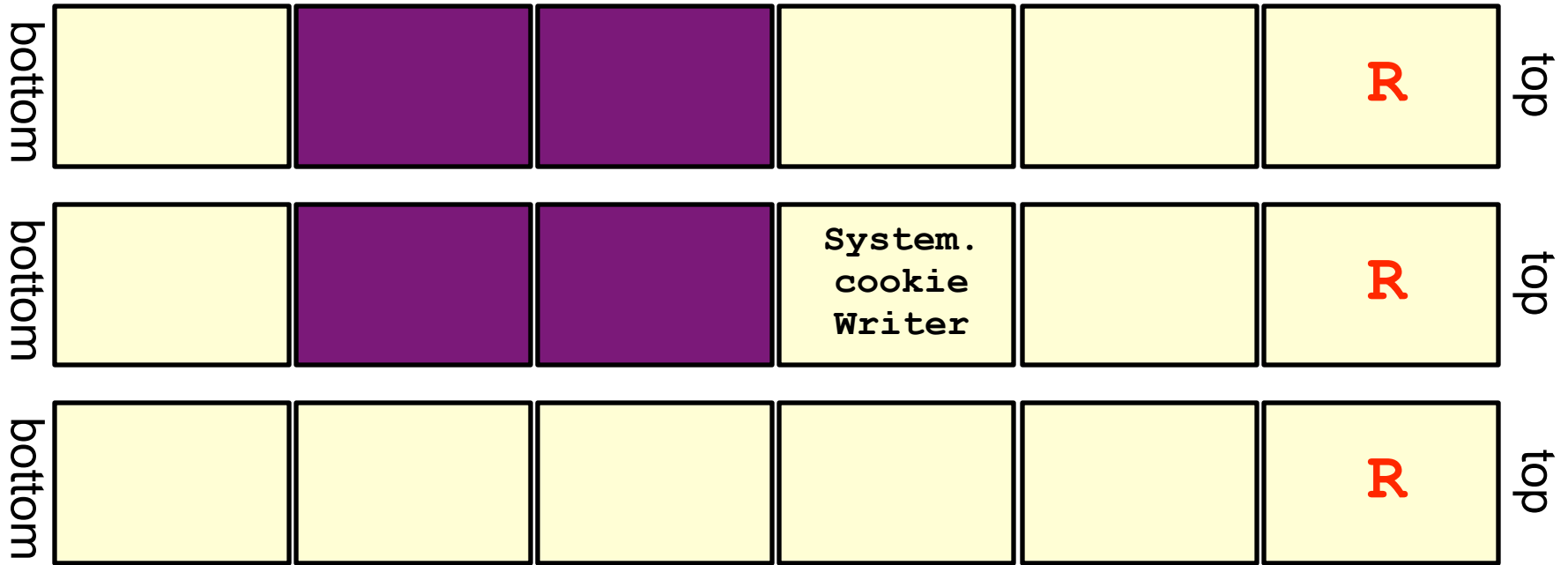
- it may just want to write a cookie
- it called `System.cookieWriter`
- `System.cookieWriter` knows it's ok

Runtime Stack



Maybe we want to allow it for another reason

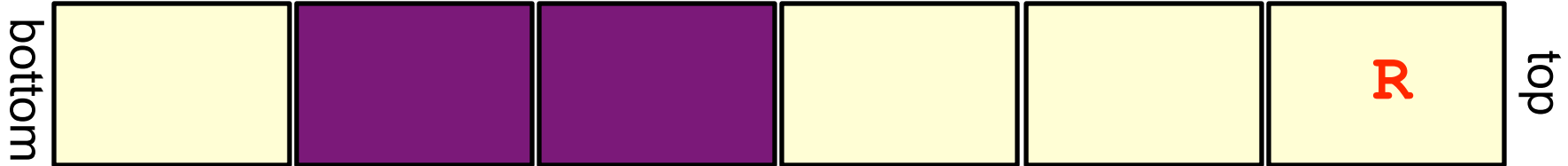
- all running methods are trusted



Q) How do we tell the difference between these scenarios?

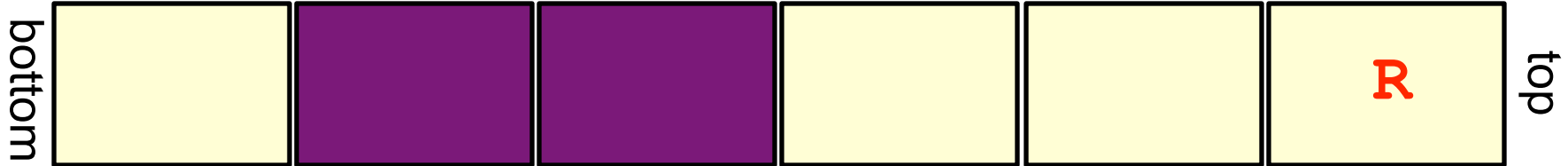
A) *Stack inspection!*

Stack Inspection

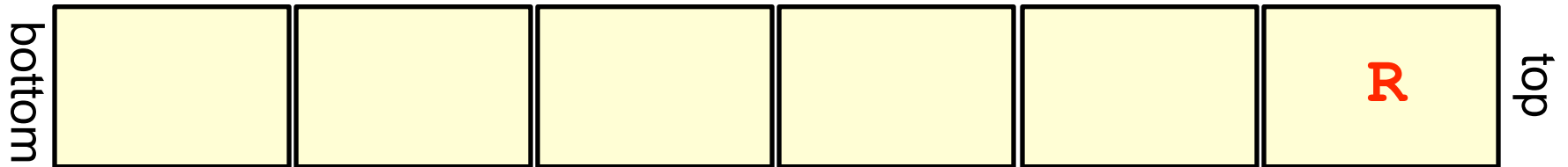
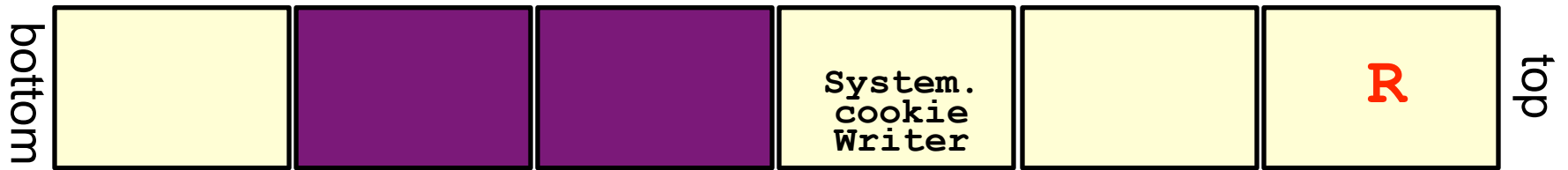
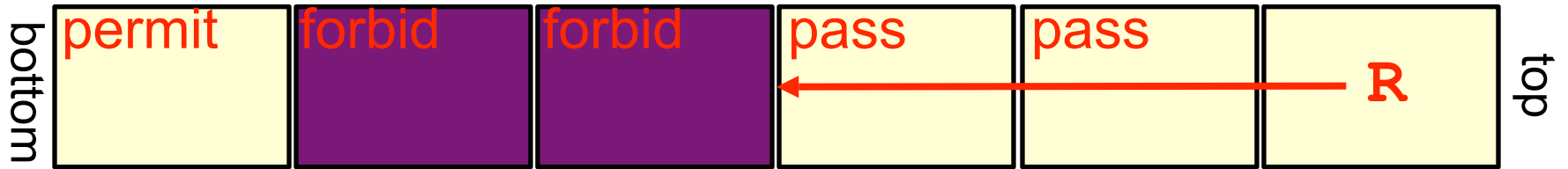


- An invocation of a trusted method, when calling another method, may either:
 - *permit* R on the stack above it
 - *forbid* R on the stack above it
 - *pass* permission from below (be transparent)
- An instantiation of an untrusted method must *forbid* R above it

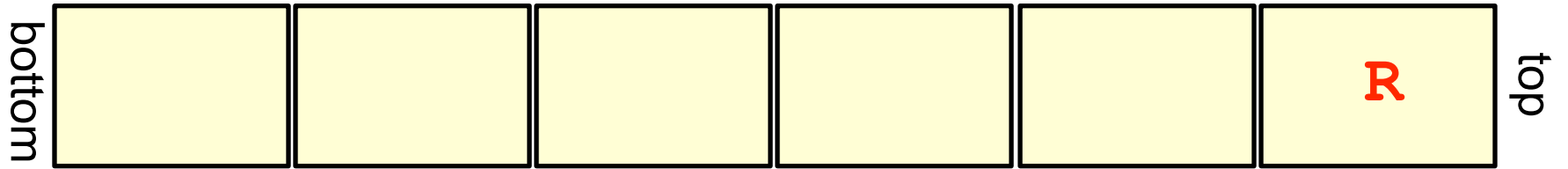
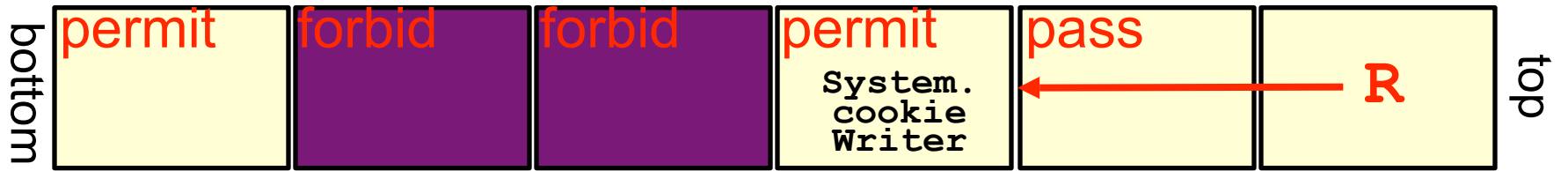
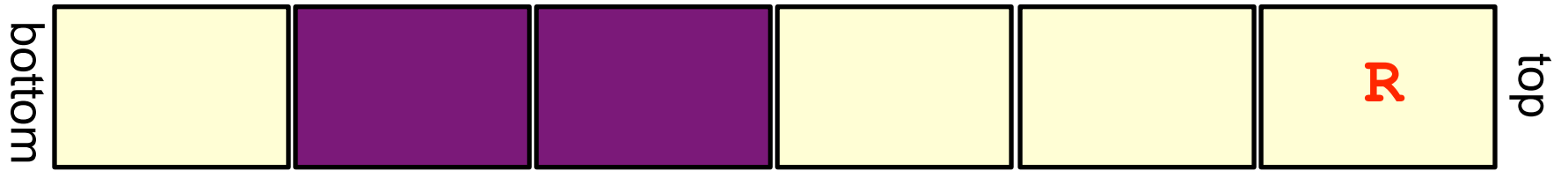
Stack Inspection



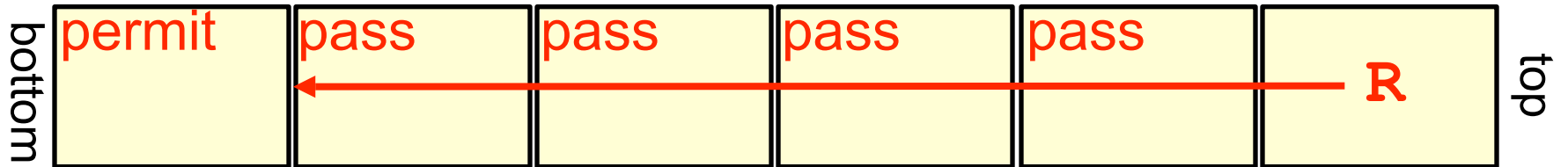
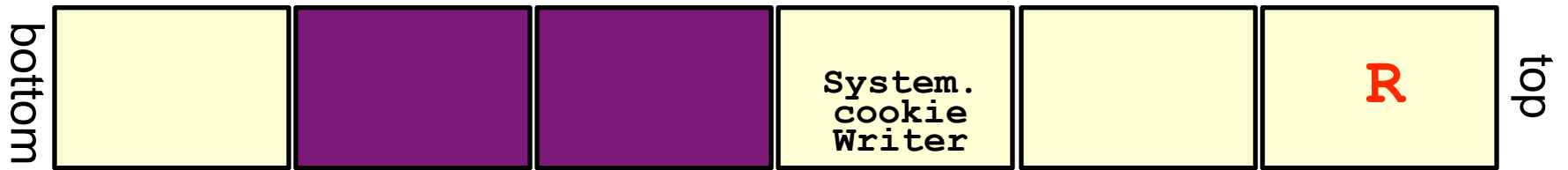
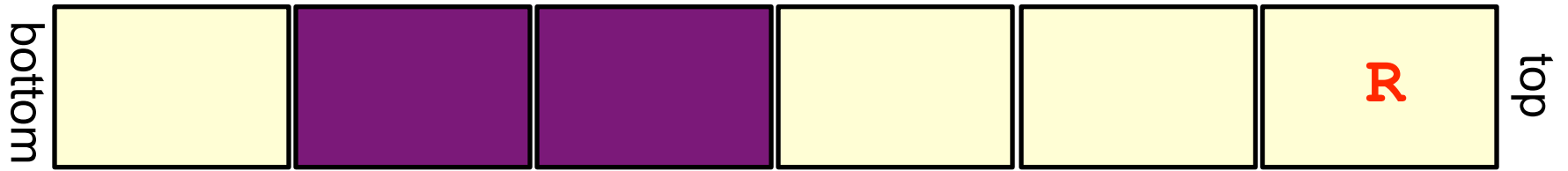
- When about to execute R, look down through the stack until we see either
 - a system method permitting R -- do it
 - a system method forbidding R -- don't do it
 - an untrusted method -- don't do it
- If we get all the way to the bottom, do it (IE, Sun JDK) or don't do it (Netscape)



Case A: R is not executed



Case B: R is executed



Case C: R is executed

Conclusion

Java and the Java Virtual Machine:
Lots of interesting ideas!