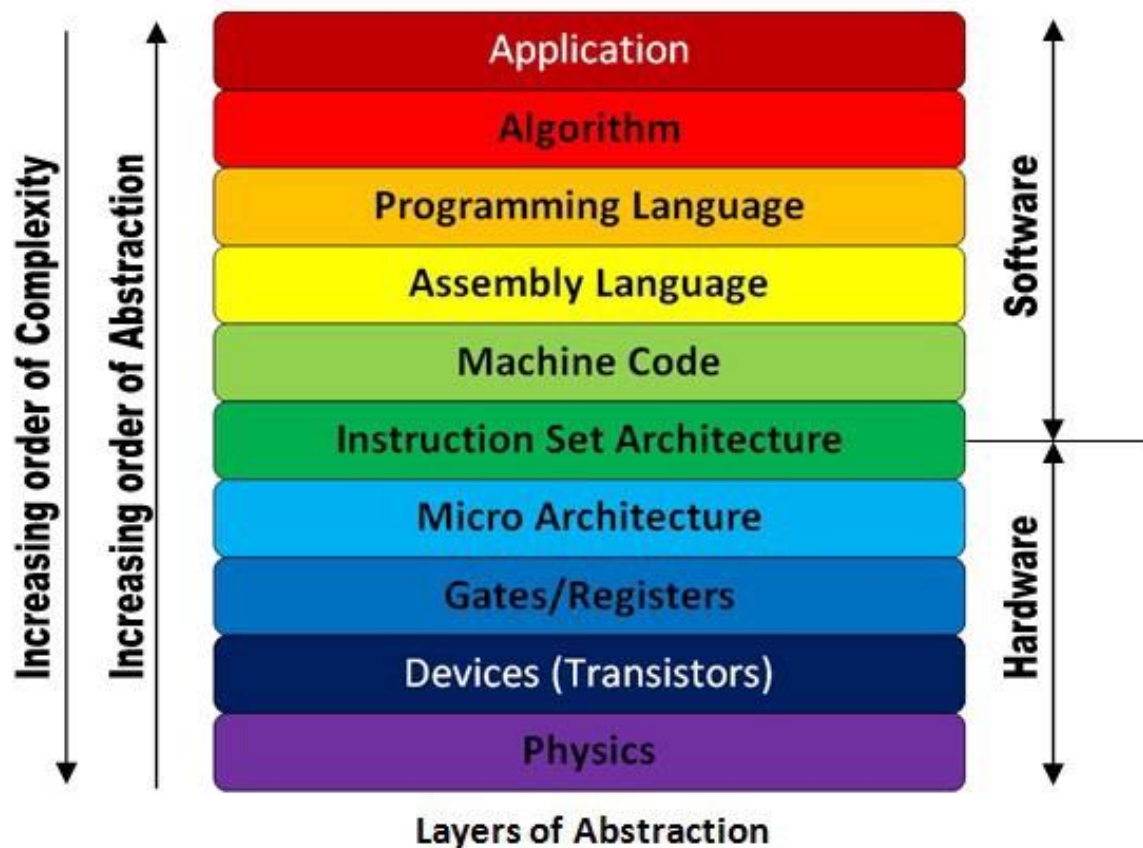


1. Introduction
  - a. About me
    - i. Second time teaching this specific course
    - ii. TAed ECS 154B, next course in the sequence, for almost three years
  - b. About this class (why computer architecture?)
    - i. This is a required class for both CS and CSE
    - ii. "Core material" for most CS graduate programs
    - iii. My goal is to get you to remember some of this knowledge to use in industry or your next computer architecture class
    - iv. My *hope* is that you understand why computer architecture is important after this class
  - c. About this particular class
    - i. Go over syllabus
2. Motivation
  - a. Why do we care about any of this?
    - i. Come back to this in a bit
  - b. First, let's talk about abstraction layers
    - i. What are the different layers of computing, from the software you run to the hardware you run them on?
    - ii. One interpretation below (unsure of original source for this image)



- c. Computing has become exponentially more complex since its inception
  - i. Few people in the world can say they know in detail every layer of the above
  - ii. Most people in academia/industry tend to focus on a few of these areas
  - iii. Very difficult to understand every single layer in detail
- d. Where does computer architecture lie?
  - i. Defined as the “hardware-software interface” by John Hennessy and David Patterson
    - 1. Two famous computer architects from Stanford and UCB, respectively
  - ii. Some debate, but usually consists of the middle three layers
    - 1. Machine code, instruction set architecture, and microarchitecture
  - iii. Back to our original question. Why do we care?
- e. Three reasons to care, taken from Hennessy and Patterson’s 2017 Turing Award Lecture
  - i. Can’t rely on hardware to pick up your slack and make your applications run faster anymore
    - 1. Death of Moore’s law and Dennard scaling
    - 2. Need to understand underlying hardware to keep making programs run faster
    - 3. Example: GPUs have become commonplace for running ML/AI workloads
  - ii. Security becoming a bigger and bigger concern
    - 1. Remember hearing the terms Spectre and Meltdown?
    - 2. Security vulnerability in some CPUs that let rogue processes read all memory
    - 3. Want secure applications as well as secure hardware that runs your applications
  - iii. “Golden Age” of computer architecture is right now according to them
    - 1. Many opportunities to innovate and contribute
    - 2. Great time for architects in academia and industry
- f. This is a very broad topic
  - i. You’re not going to know everything after this class, but will get a general overview
  - ii. ECS 154B covers more
- g. What we’re going to talk about
  - i. Digital design
    - 1. Basic building blocks
    - 2. Gates/registers layer in previous image
  - ii. How to build a computer from those building blocks
    - 1. Instruction set architecture and microarchitecture layers
  - iii. Other pieces of a computer
    - 1. Buses
    - 2. Memory, including caches and virtual memory