

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kurna people,  
the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gather on.

We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the  
Kurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present  
and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs.



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* ADELAIDE

# Computer Systems

Lecture 01: Course Admin  
& Introduction



# What is this course?

**This course is about the fundamental principles of how computers work, and how hardware and software components interact to create a functioning system.**

- This course is based on the Nand2Tetris curriculum, and the book “Elements of Computing Systems” by Nisan & Schocken
- You will build the core components of a complete computer system, layer by layer, starting with basic logic gates and ending with a compiler.
- Although this course uses the Nand2Tetris curriculum, many of our assessments and areas of focus differ from that course.



# Learning Outcomes

- Understand how the different layers and parts of modern computer systems interact.
- Design the core hardware of a computer from basic components.
- Understand how computers represent programs and data.
- Understand how a computer executes a program.
- Write assembler and machine code
- Understand the translation process from higher level representations into machine language.
- Understand the basics of how computers interact with I/O devices.



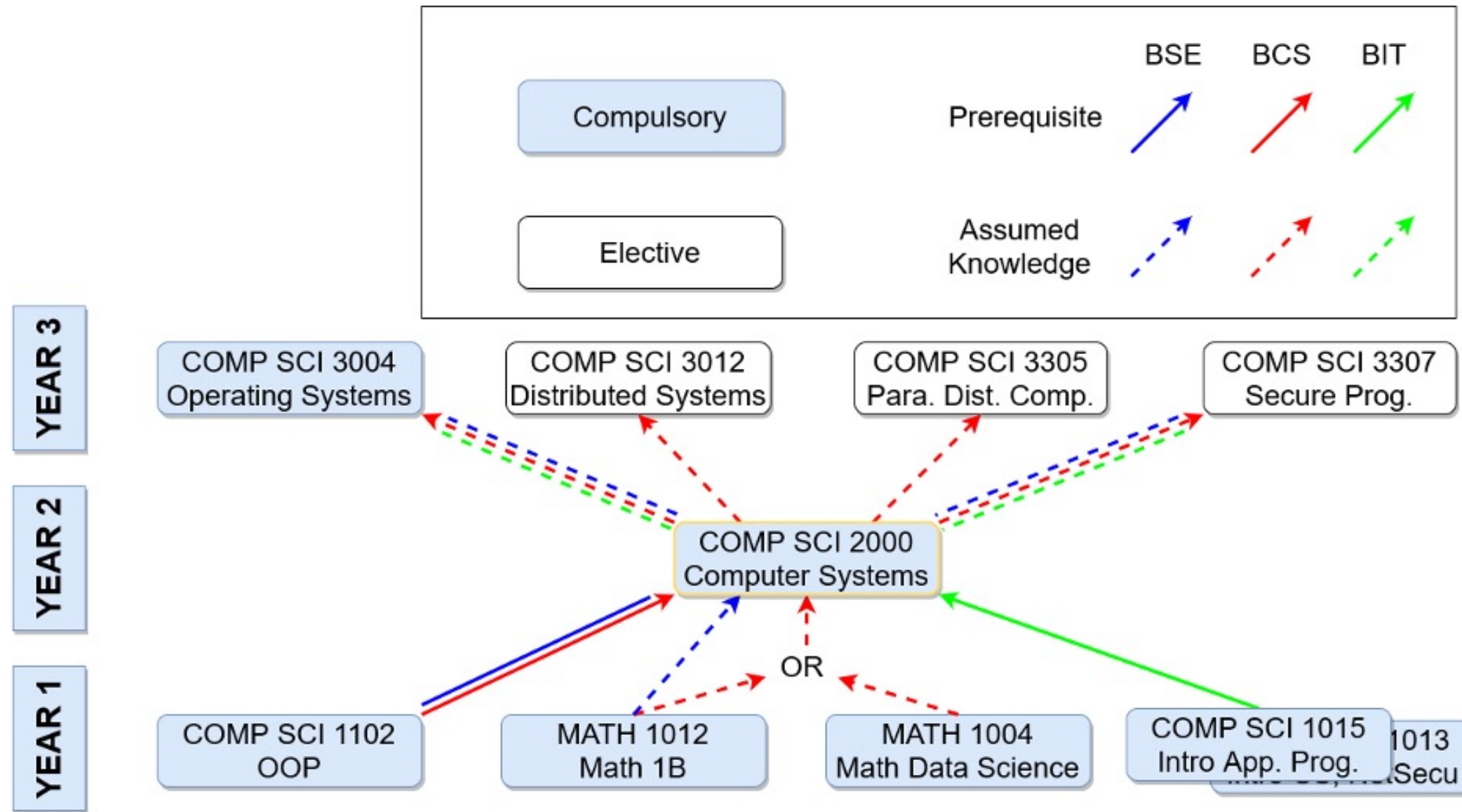
# Should I be in this course?

- ✓ I'm a 2nd-year Computer Science or Engineering Student and have successfully completed
  - COMP SCI 1102 Object Oriented Programming
- ✓ I'm a 2nd-year IT Student and have successfully completed both of
  - COMP SCI 1015 Intro to Applied Programming
  - AND
  - COMP SCI 1013 Intro to Computer Systems, Networks & Security
- ✓ I'm a Postgraduate student
  - Studying an approved program
    - GCertCompSc, GDipCompSc, MComp&Innov, GCertCybSec , GDipCybSec, MCybSec
  - And having successfully completed a foundations course
    - COMP SCI 7202, COMP SCI 7208, COMP SCI 7211, COMP SCI 7103

**Yes; Welcome!**



# Should I be in this course?



# Should I be in this course?

- ✖ I'm a first-year student
- ✖ I haven't passed the pre-requisite courses
  - COMP SCI 1102 OOP  
or both of
  - COMP SCI 1015 IAP/IPIT **AND** COMP SCI 1013 ICSNS  
or any one of
  - COMP SCI 7202/7208, COMP SCI 7211, COMP SCI 7103 PG Foundations course
- ✖ I'm a Postgraduate student studying a non-approved program
  - Master of Computer Science  
or
  - Any PG program that does not have this course listed as an approved elective.
- ✖ I'm also enrolled in COMP SCI 2207 Web & Database Computing
  - Both of these course have a very heavy workload; we recommend taking them separately.

**No:**

**This course has an exceptionally high fail rate.**

**You'll get more out of this course if you are properly equipped to begin with**

# Who I am

**Marian Mihailescu**

Course Coordinator & Lecturer

**Contact**

[MyUni](#)

[marian.mihailescu@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:marian.mihailescu@adelaide.edu.au)



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE



# Class Structure

## Lectures

- Come prepared
- Tuesday's lecture will focus on recapping key concepts and answering questions
- Thursday's lecture will focus on exercises and examples. This will be an interactive session. We will also look at key points covered in each week's quiz during Thursday's session.

## Workshops

- Start week 2
- Guided activities and time to work on assignments
- Remote students have Zoom workshops.
- **During weeks 4 and 8 there are prac exams during your workshop time.**

# Discussion Board

We're using **Piazza!**

- Allows the whole class to collaborate on answers
- Has categories/tags to make searching easier & notifies for similar questions.

## Discussion etiquette

- ***Before Asking***
  - Check the relevant category/tag in Piazza; has this question already been asked/answered?  
Saves everyone time!
- ***When asking/answering questions***
  - Avoid posting large/complete sections of code (even if errors)
- ***When posting anonymously***
  - Don't use Anonymous to everyone if you want one of us to be able to check your work (use Anonymous to Classmates instead)
  - Remember to be polite/civil. We can ban users of anonymous posts.

# Assessment

**Assignments**  
**35%**

**Prac Exams**  
**20%**

**Exam 45%**  
**(HURDLE)**

## Assignments:

- First due in Week 2.
- Further details in each assignment.

## Prac Exams:

- Run in Weeks 4 & 8
- Further details given in Week 2

## Exam:

- 40% Hurdle;
- If you do not achieve at least 40% in the exam, your final grade will be capped at 45F.
- Supp Exam available if final grade in 45-49 range.

**Full details are available on MyUni:**

<https://myuni.adelaide.edu.au/courses/85271/pages/assessment-overview-and-grading>

# Extensions

## Can I get one (TL;DR)

Assignments	✓ YES*	*if conditions are met.
Prac Exams	* CHECK	You will need to send us a formal request with appropriate documentation before it can be approved.
Final Exam	* CHECK	This assessment is run centrally. You will need to submit a formal request to the <b>faculty</b> with appropriate documentation.

We know that life happens. If you need an extension (outside of the automatic extensions in pracs)

- Contact us ASAP.
- The sooner the better.
- If in doubt, ask for one!

**Full details of the extension policy are available on MyUni:**

<https://myuni.adelaide.edu.au/courses/85271/pages/assessment-overview-and-grading>

# Academic Integrity

All students are required to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy

## In brief summary:

- Don't copy other peoples' work.
- Don't submit work that is not 100% your own.
- Don't do anything that gives you an unfair advantage over other students.

We do check your work for Academic Integrity issues and will not hesitate to raise/escalate issues we find.

**This can result in failing assignments, whole courses, or even being excluded.**



# Academic Integrity

... **BUT we also have measures to help you** keep your work's integrity:

- Explicit integrity rules included in the assignment descriptions to avoid confusion.
- For practical assignments, the ability to select which submission you want us to use.

## More details:

- Full details for this course:  
<https://myuni.adelaide.edu.au/courses/85271/pages/academic-integrity>
- The University's course on Academic Integrity: <https://myuni.adelaide.edu.au/enroll/4PKNJH>
- The full policy <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/policies/230/>

**If unsure, speak to your Lecturer**

# PASS for Computer Systems

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) are weekly 50-minute study sessions, run by a former high-achieving student of the course, with a casual, welcoming environment.

You can ask any questions you have and clarify confusing concepts while meeting like-minded fellow students.

- Sessions are free
- No need to sign up; drop in as needed!
- Sessions run 3-4pm Mondays, starting Week 2
- Available face-to-face in Engineering Maths room 324
- There is also a PASS group in MyUni that you can join for additional resources



For more information, see: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/pass/>



# How to get the most out of this course

**Everything makes sense when someone else explains it.**

- Ability to read a solution  $\neq$  ability to write a solution
- This is a hands-on course; try all the things!

**Be active in your learning! Come prepared for discussions and to solve problems**

- This requires discipline if you're only watching the recordings

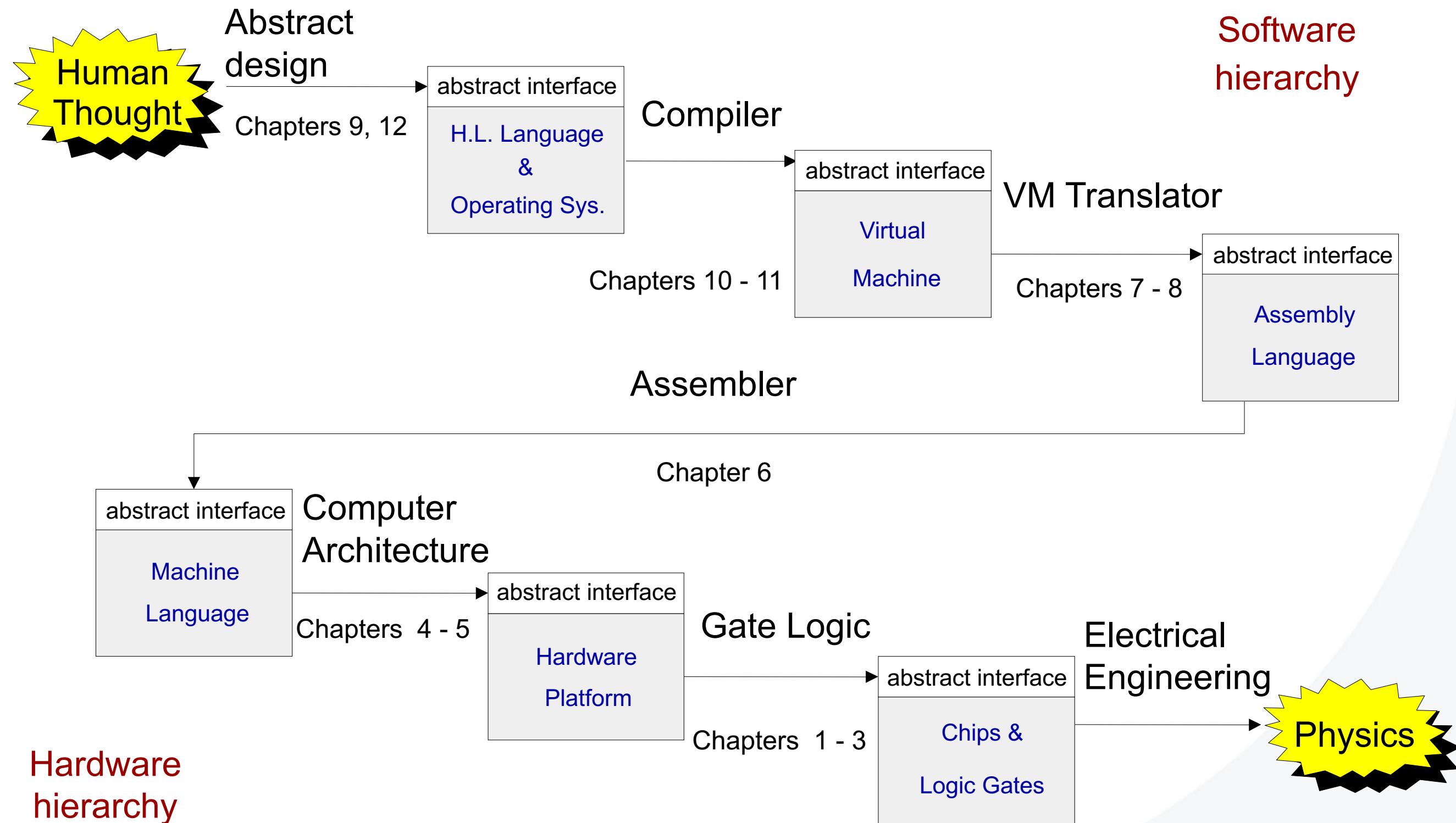
**Do the practical assignments**

- These will help you practice and learn the concepts needed to pass the exams.

**Plan to attend Workshops/Online Discussions**

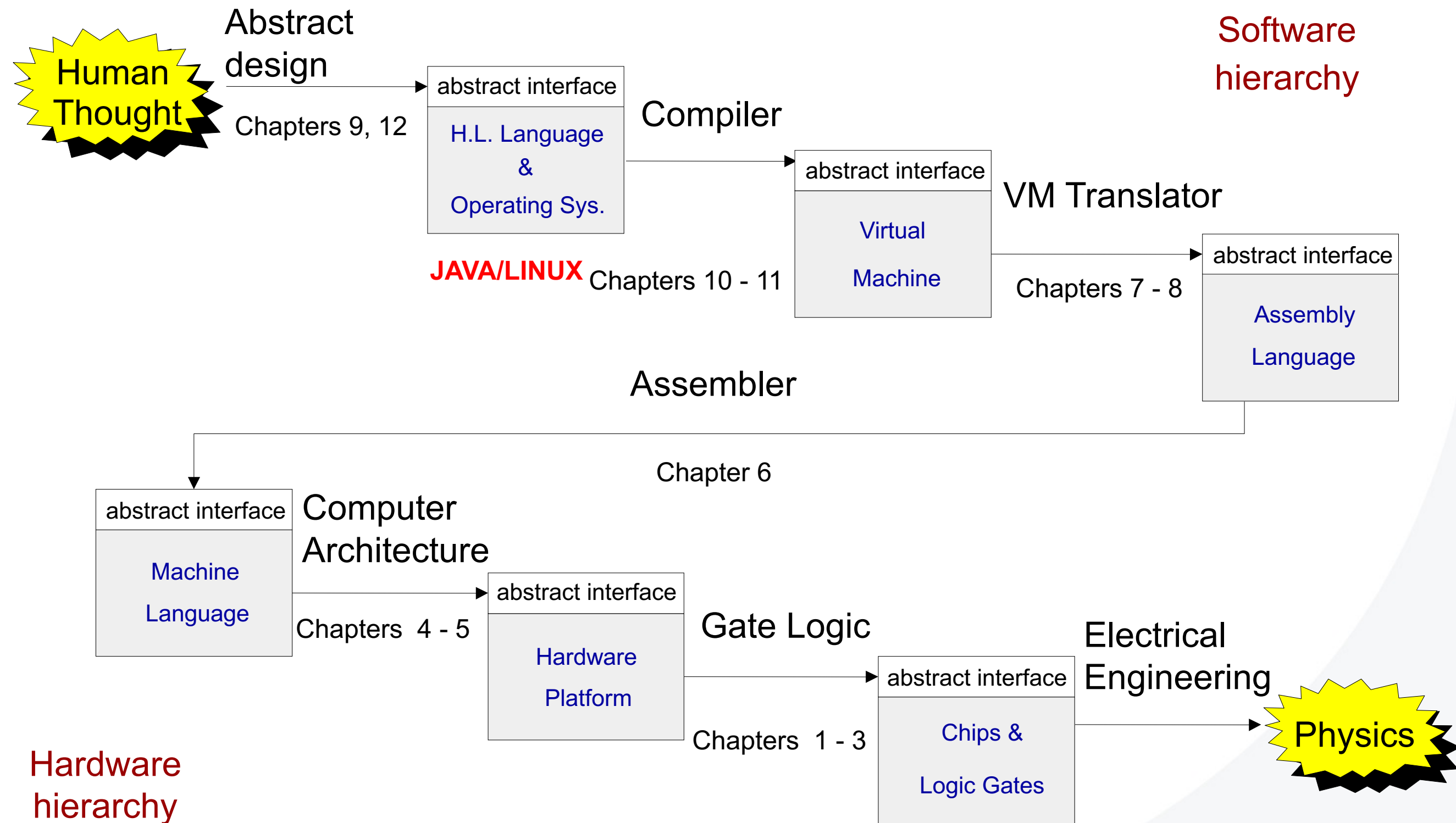
- This is where you will get the most individual feedback and is the best chance to ask questions.
- Join PASS sessions if you need extra help.

# The whole Computer System



(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

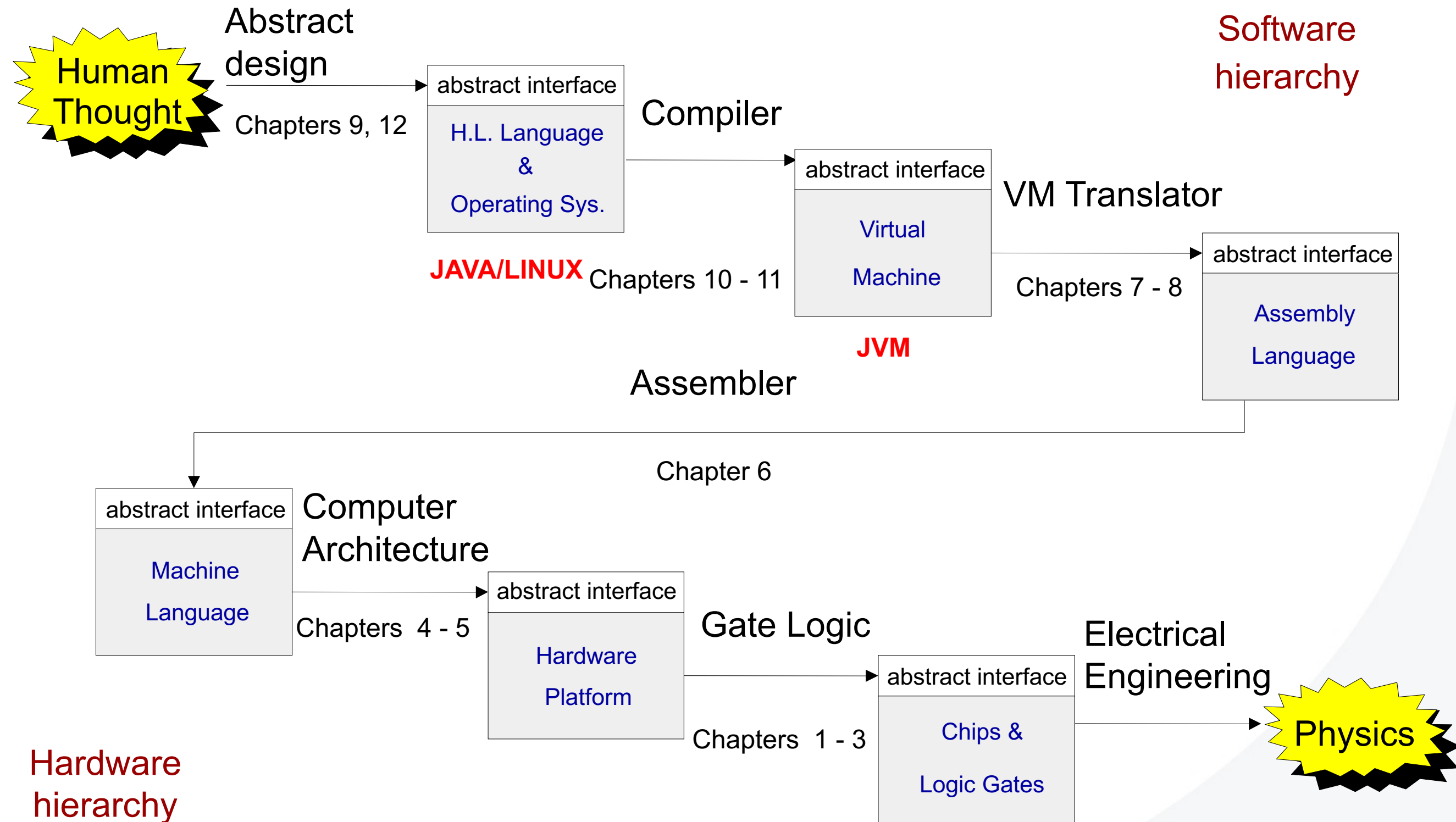
# The whole Computer System



(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

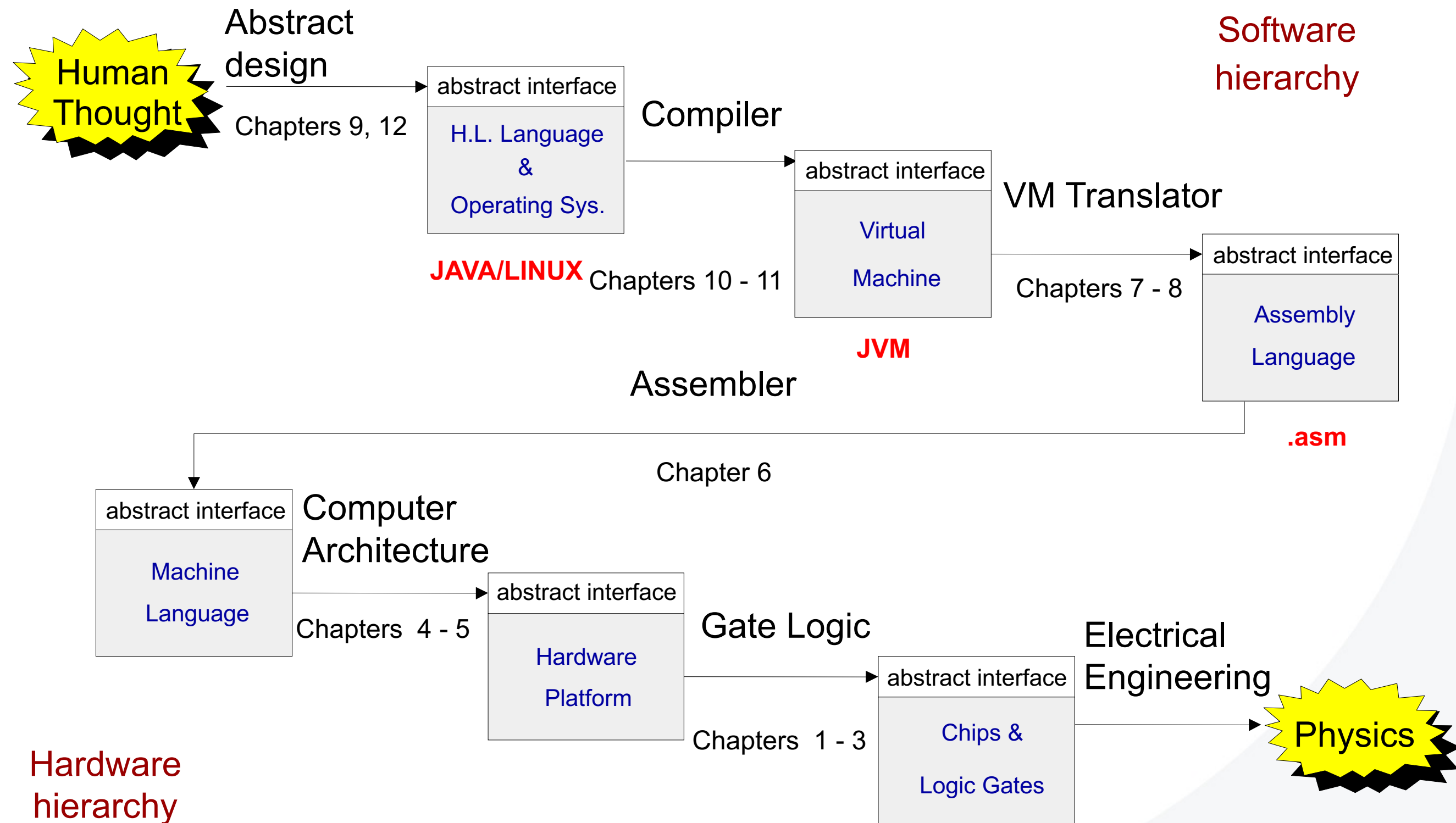


# The whole Computer System



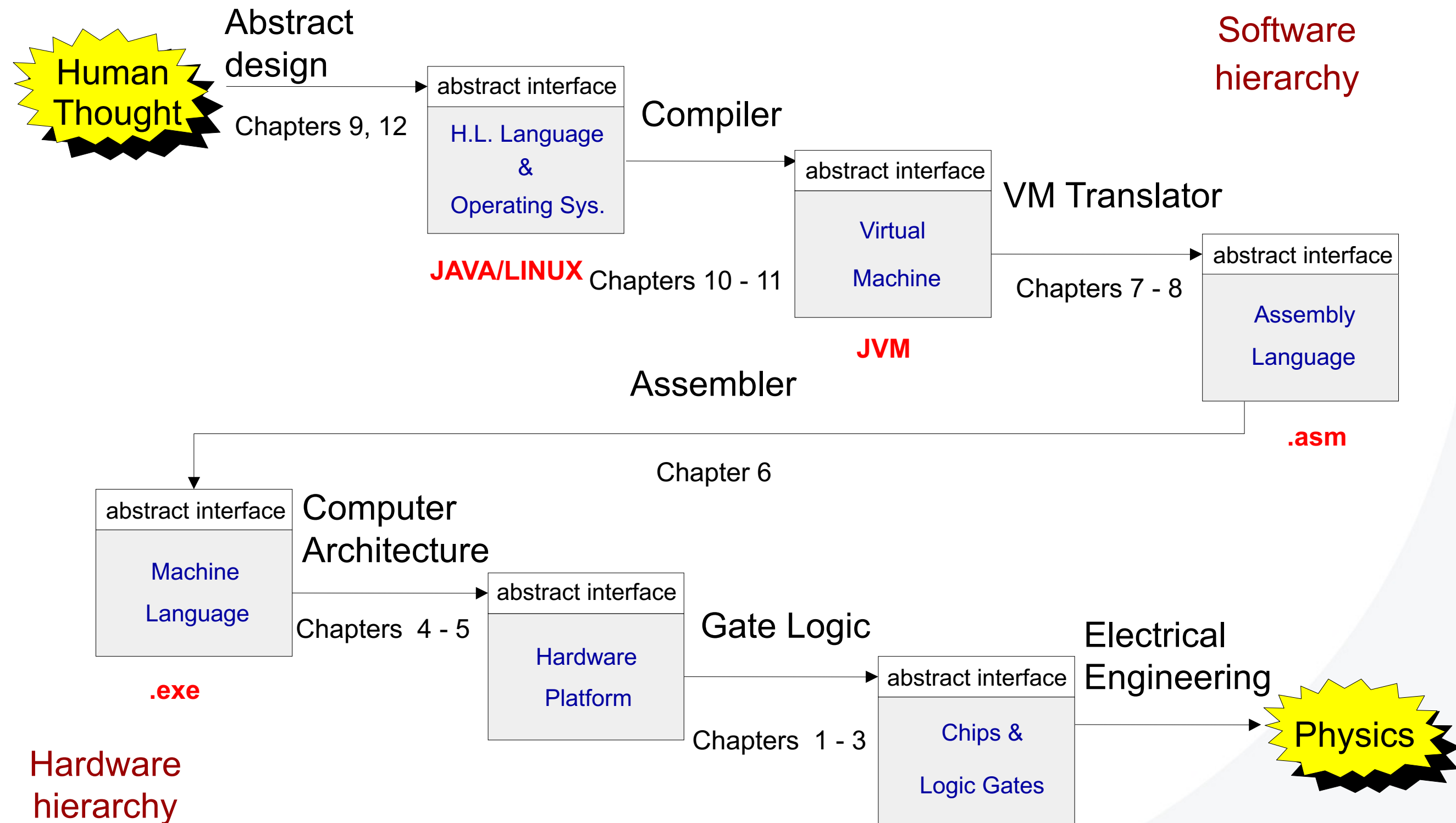
(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

# The whole Computer System



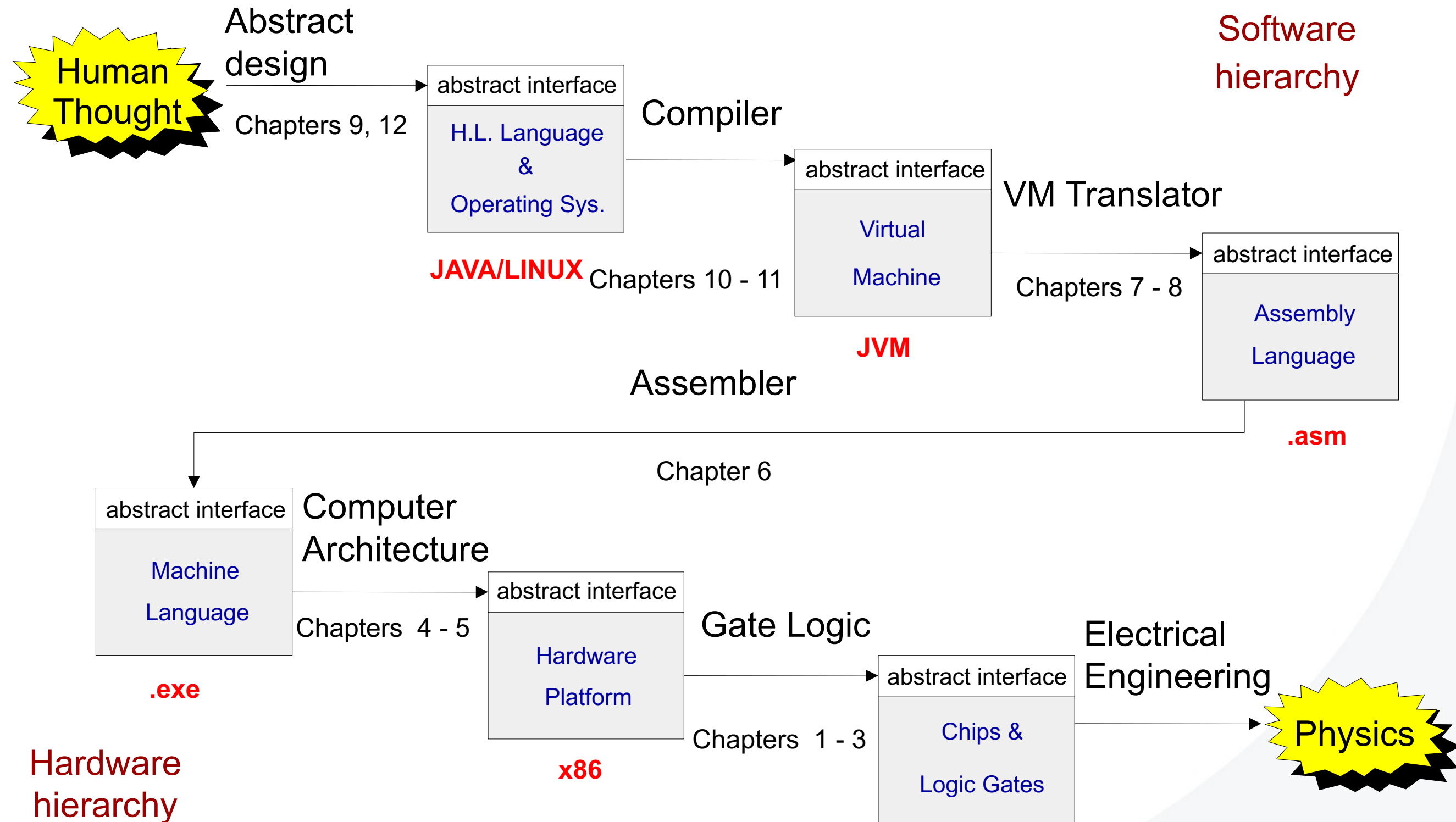
(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

# The whole Computer System



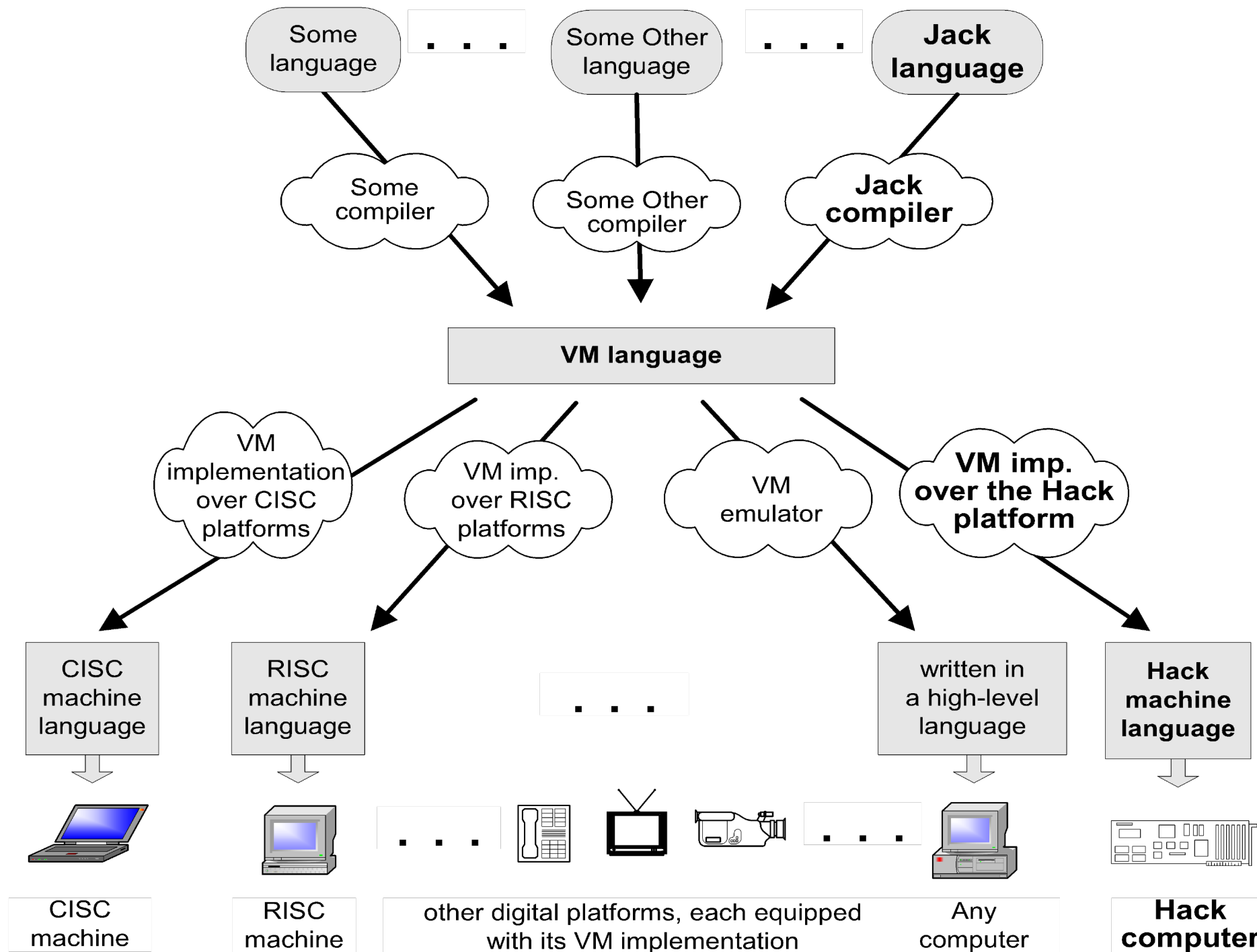
(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

# The whole Computer System



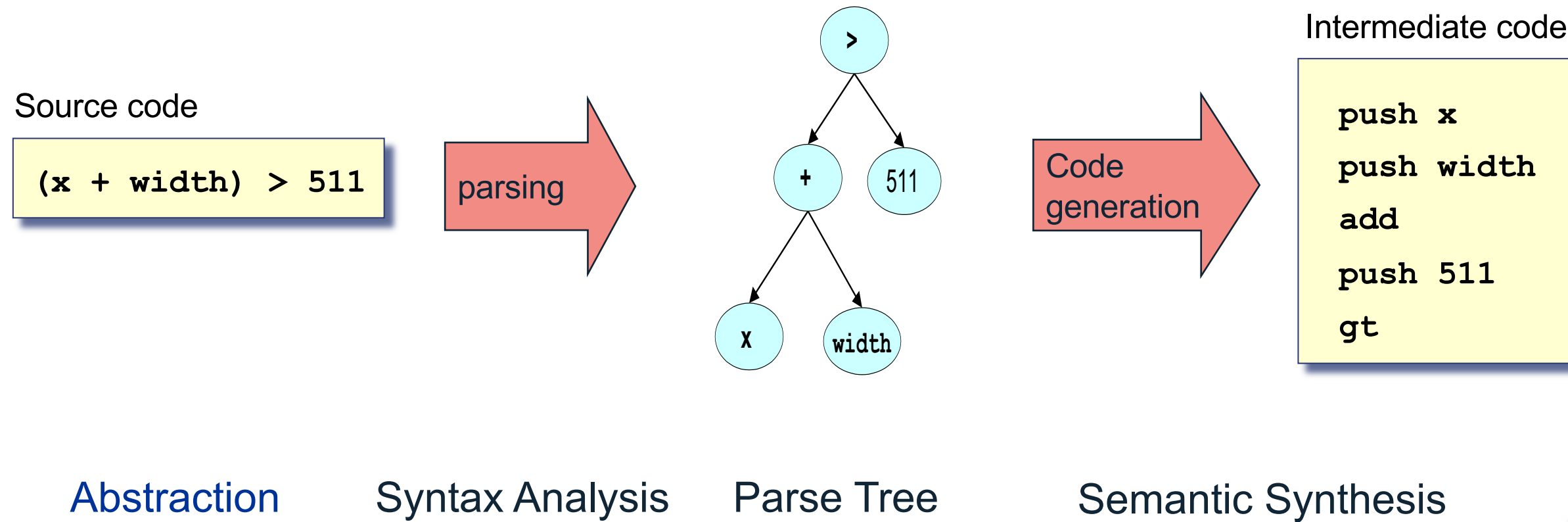
(Abstraction–implementation paradigm)

# A modern compilation model





# Compilation



# Inside a virtual machine

```
if ((x+width)>511)
{
    let x=511-width;
}
```

// VM implementation

push x // s1

push width // s2

add // s3

push 511 // s4

gt // s5

if-goto L1 // s6

goto L2 // s7

L1:

push 511 // s8

push width // s9

sub // s10

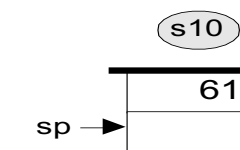
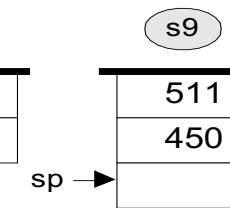
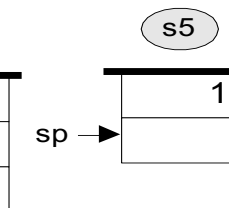
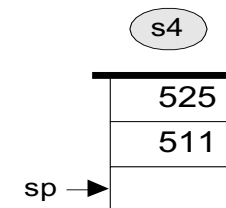
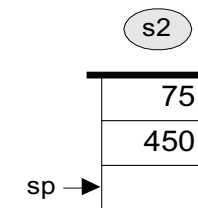
pop x // s11

L2:

...

memory (before)

	...
width	450
	...
x	75
	...



memory (after)

	...
width	450
	...
x	61
	...



# The low-level programming path

For now,  
ignore all  
details!

Virtual machine program

```
...
  push x
  push width
  add
  push 511
  gt
  if-goto L1
  goto L2
L1:
  push 511
  push width
  sub
  pop x
L2:
...
```

VM  
translator

Assembly program

```
// push 511
@511
D=A    // D=511
@SP
A=M
M=D    // *SP=D
@SP
M=M+1  // SP++
```

Assembler

Executable

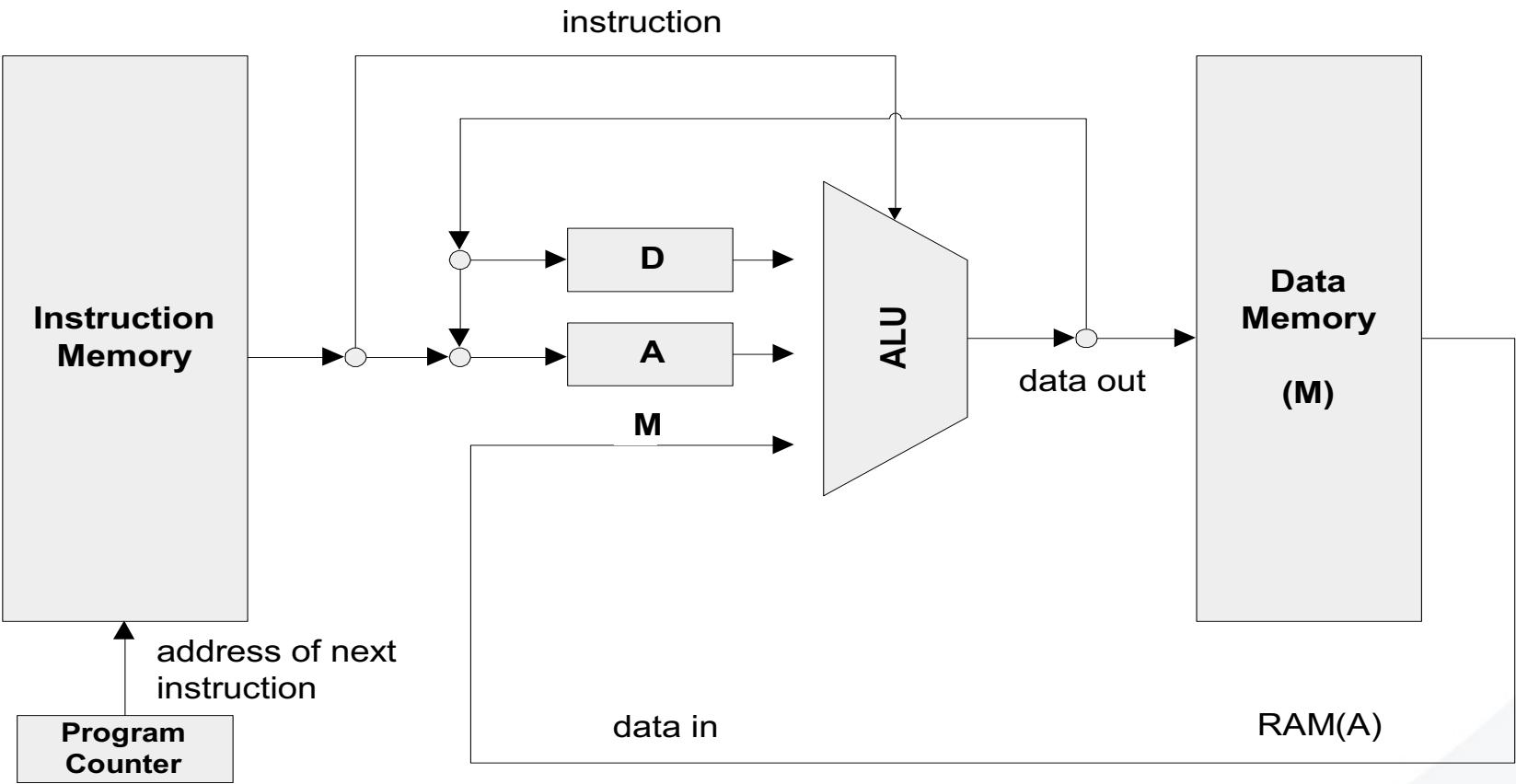
```
0000000000000000
1110110010001000
```



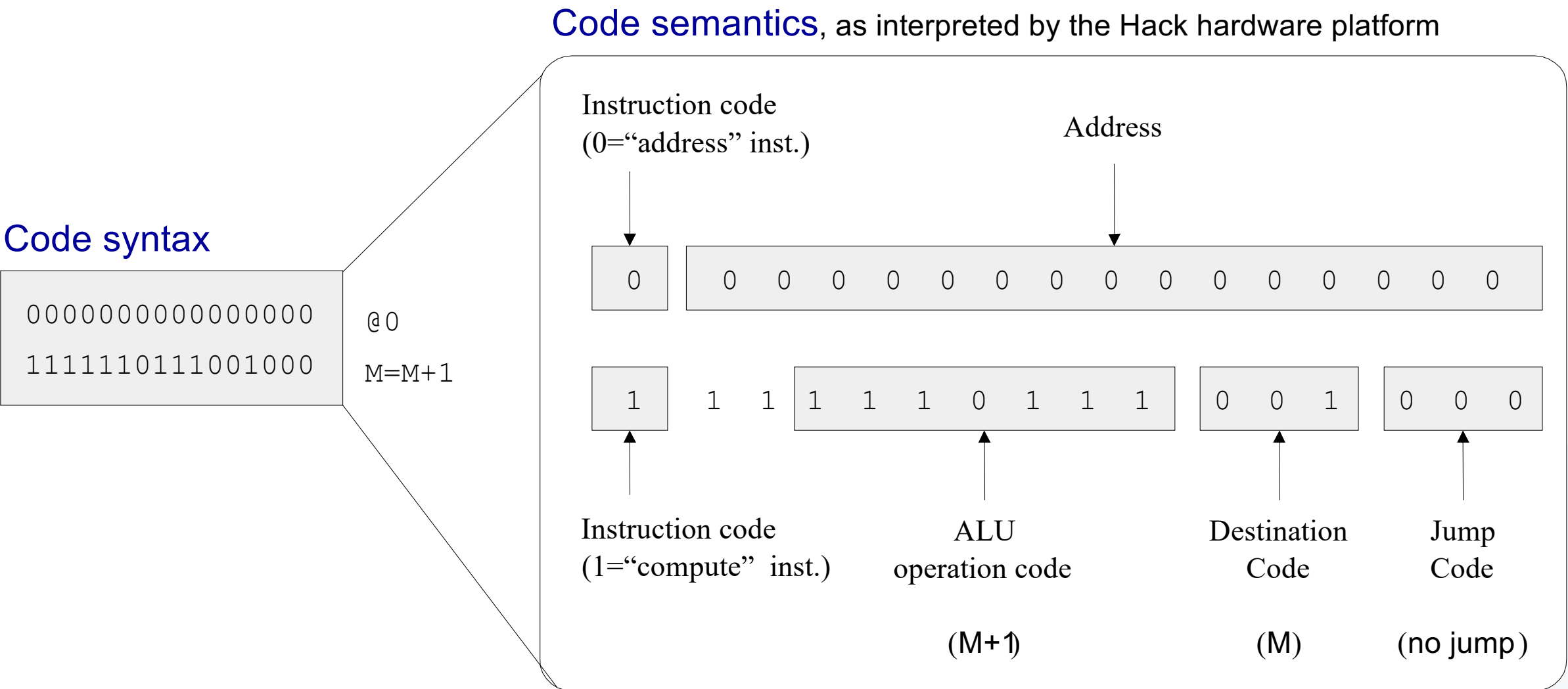
# What do the instructions do?

Executable

```
000000000000000000
1110110010001000
```

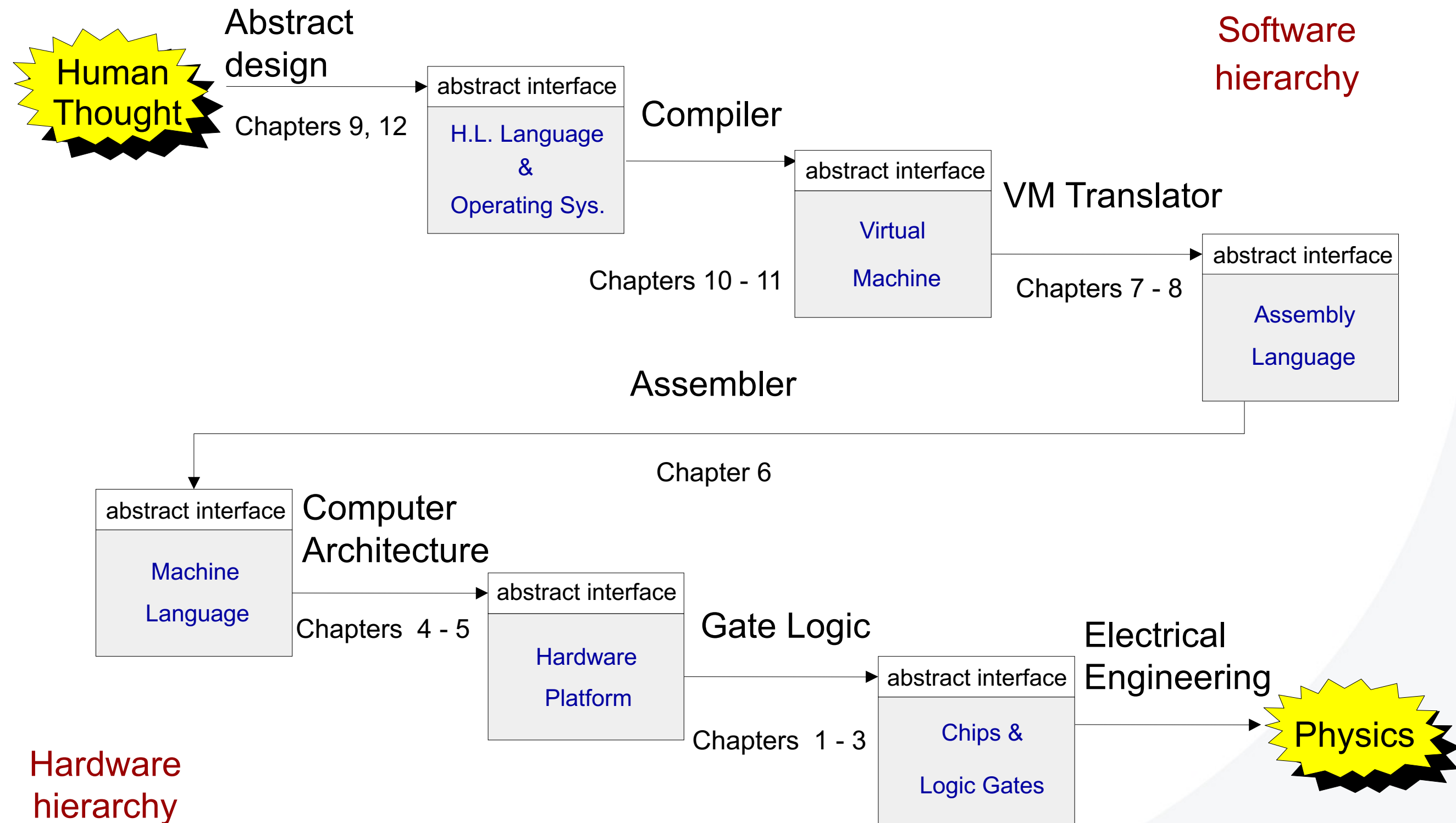


# The code directs elements of the processor in order to achieve results





# The whole Computer System



# Logic design

**Three types of logic we will be using:**

Combinational logic – used for the calculation (e.g., ALU)

Sequential logic – used for storage (e.g., RAM)

Gate logic – basic building blocks, putting it all together to get a working computer



# What is gate logic?

Our hardware is an inter-connected set of chips.

Chips are built of simpler chips, down to the simplest structure of all – the elementary logic gate (Nand gate in our course).

Logic gates are hardware implementations of Boolean functions. This allows us to represent logical statements in computer form.

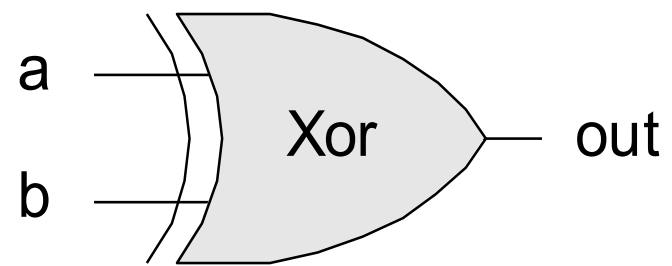
Every chip and gate has:

An interface: Telling us what it does

An implementation: Telling us how it does it.

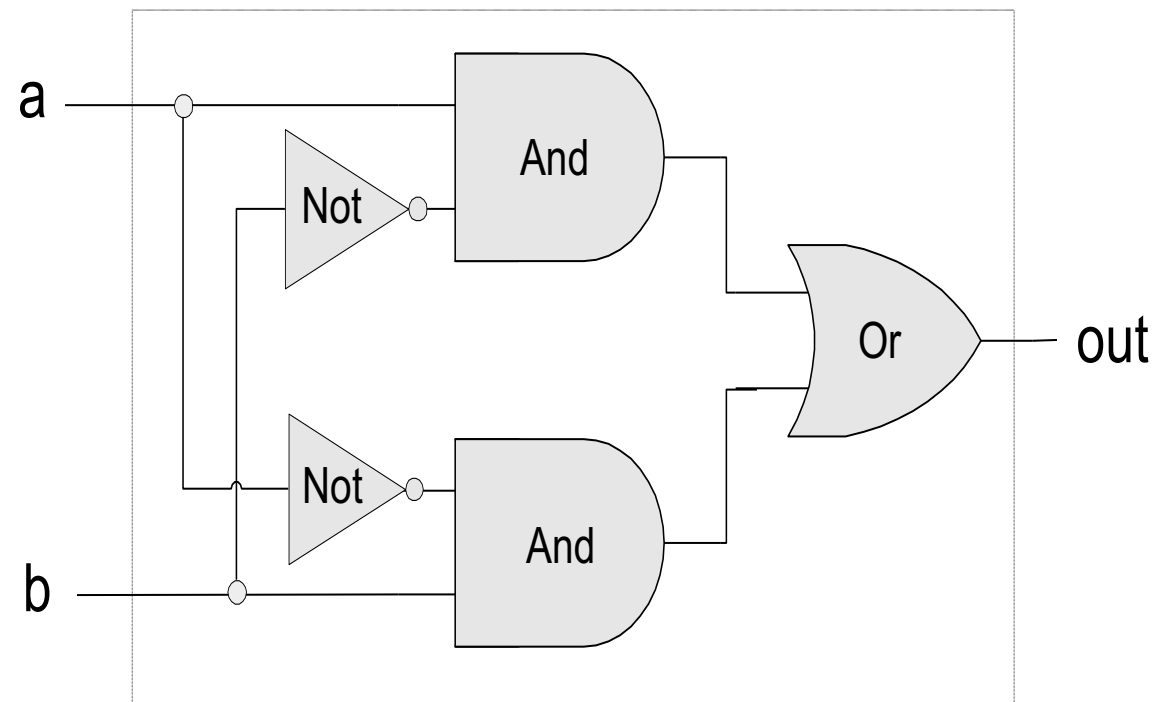
# Example

Interface



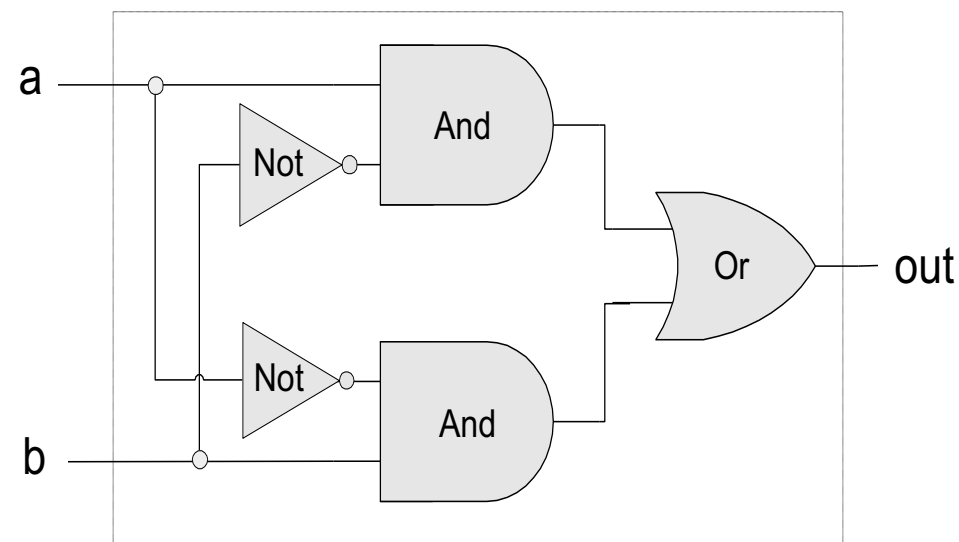
a	b	out
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Implementation



# Building gates

We won't be building physic gates, we'll build them in simulation using a Hardware Description Language (HDL)



```
CHIP Xor {  
  IN a,b;  
  OUT out;  
  PARTS:  
    Not(in=a,out=Nota) ;  
    Not(in=b,out=Notb) ;  
    And(a=a,b=Notb,out=w1) ;  
    And(a=Nota,b=b,out=w2) ;  
    Or(a=w1,b=w2,out=out) ;  
}
```

# Summary

We're going to show you how software and hardware work together to build a computer system.

Over the course, you will build parts of that system and get practice in combinational, sequential and gate logic, as well as learning how high-level languages make things happen in real systems.



# What's Happening

- Thursday's Lecture: more detail on boolean logic and logic gates.
- Workshops start **week 2**
- Review Chapter 1 of the Text Book (if you haven't already)

