**Computer Architecture**

**Course Description:**

This course explores how computers are built and how they work. We will cover three main areas:

1. **Instruction Set Architecture (ISA):** is the set of commands that a computer's CPU can understand and execute. It serves as a bridge between software and hardware. Think of ISA as the language of the computer, with its own vocabulary (the instructions) and grammar (the rules for writing those instructions). For example, an ISA might include commands like LOAD, ADD, and STORE, which tell the computer to move data, perform arithmetic, or save results. Each type of computer, such as Intel or ARM, has its own ISA, which means software written for one type may not work on another without modification. ISA is crucial for programmers because it defines how they can communicate with the computer. Understanding ISA allows developers to write efficient programs that can be executed by the hardware. Overall, ISA plays a fundamental role in the design and functionality of computer systems.
2. **Micro-architecture:** When the computer hardware (CPU, memory, buses) receives instructions defined by its **Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)**, the micro-architecture explain how those instructions will be executed by the hardware. It focuses on how different parts of the computer, like the CPU (the brain), memory (where data is stored), and other connections (buses), work together to perform tasks. For example, when the computer needs to add two numbers, micro-architecture decides how to fetch those numbers, perform the addition, and save the result.
3. **System Architecture:** System Architecture is about how all the parts of a computer are organized and how they work together. It looks at the main components, like the CPU (the brain), memory (where data is stored), hard drives (for long-term storage), and devices like keyboards and printers. You can think of it like a city where different buildings (components) are connected by roads (the ways they communicate). For example, when you save a file, the CPU tells the memory where to keep it, and system architecture decides how that information travels between them.

**Course Objectives:**

1. **Discuss Representation of Data and Algorithms:**

We will learn how data is represented in computers (like using 0s and 1s) and how different algorithms (step-by-step instructions) are used to perform tasks on this data. For example, how numbers are stored in memory or how text is encoded.

1. **Demonstrate Different Operations in Terms of Micro-operations:**

**Micro-operations** are the tiny steps that a computer takes to complete a single instruction. When you give the computer a command, it breaks that command down into smaller actions to make it easier to handle. For example, if you want the computer to add two numbers, the steps might include:

1. **Getting the first number** from memory and putting it in a temporary storage area (called a register).
2. **Getting the second number** and putting it in another register.
3. **Adding the two numbers** together using a special part of the computer called the arithmetic logic unit (ALU).
4. **Saving the result** back in memory or another register.

Each of these steps is a micro-operation. By breaking down tasks this way, the computer can manage complex operations more effectively. Understanding micro-operations helps us see how computers perform calculations and process data efficiently. Overall, they are the building blocks that allow computers to carry out larger instructions.

1. **Explain Architecture of Basic Computer and Micro-programmed Control Unit:**
   1. We will look at the basic building blocks of a computer (like the CPU, memory, and input/output systems) and how these parts work together. A micro-programmed control unit is like the manager of these parts, directing them on what to do based on the commands it receives.
2. **Understand Memory and I/O Organization of a Typical Computer System:**

In a typical computer, **memory** is divided into different types, mainly **RAM** (Random Access Memory) and **cache**.

* **RAM** is where the computer keeps the data and programs it is currently using, making it easy for the CPU (the brain of the computer) to access this information quickly.
* **Cache memory** is a smaller and faster type of memory that sits close to the CPU. It stores frequently used data, allowing even faster access when the CPU needs it.

**Input/Output (I/O) devices** are the tools we use to interact with the computer. For example, keyboards allow us to input information, mice help us navigate, and printers output documents. These devices connect to the computer to send and receive data, helping us communicate with the system.

Data moves in and out of the computer through **buses**, which are like pathways that carry information between the CPU, memory, and I/O devices. For instance, when you type on a keyboard, that information goes to the CPU, which processes it and then may send the result to the screen or a printer. Overall, understanding how memory and I/O devices work together helps us see how a computer handles information and interacts with users.

1. **Demonstrate Benefits of Pipelined Systems:**
   1. Pipelining is a technique that allows a computer to work on multiple instructions at the same time, similar to an assembly line in a factory. We will study how this improves performance and speeds up the execution of programs by overlapping different stages of instruction processing.

**Computer Architecture** is the study of how computers are built and work. It covers three main areas:

* **Instruction Set Architecture (ISA):** This is the language computers understand. It defines the commands (instructions) a CPU can execute.
* **Micro-architecture:** This explains how the hardware (CPU, memory, buses) carries out the instructions defined by the ISA.
* **System Architecture:** This focuses on how all the parts of a computer are organized and work together.

The course objectives include:

* Understanding how data is represented in computers and how algorithms are used to process it.
* Learning about micro-operations, the small steps a computer takes to execute instructions.
* Exploring the basic components of a computer and how they work together.
* Understanding memory and input/output (I/O) organization.
* Demonstrating the benefits of pipelining, a technique that allows computers to work on multiple instructions at once.