



UC Berkeley  
Teaching Professor  
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# CS61C

## Great Ideas in Computer Architecture (a.k.a. Machine Structures)

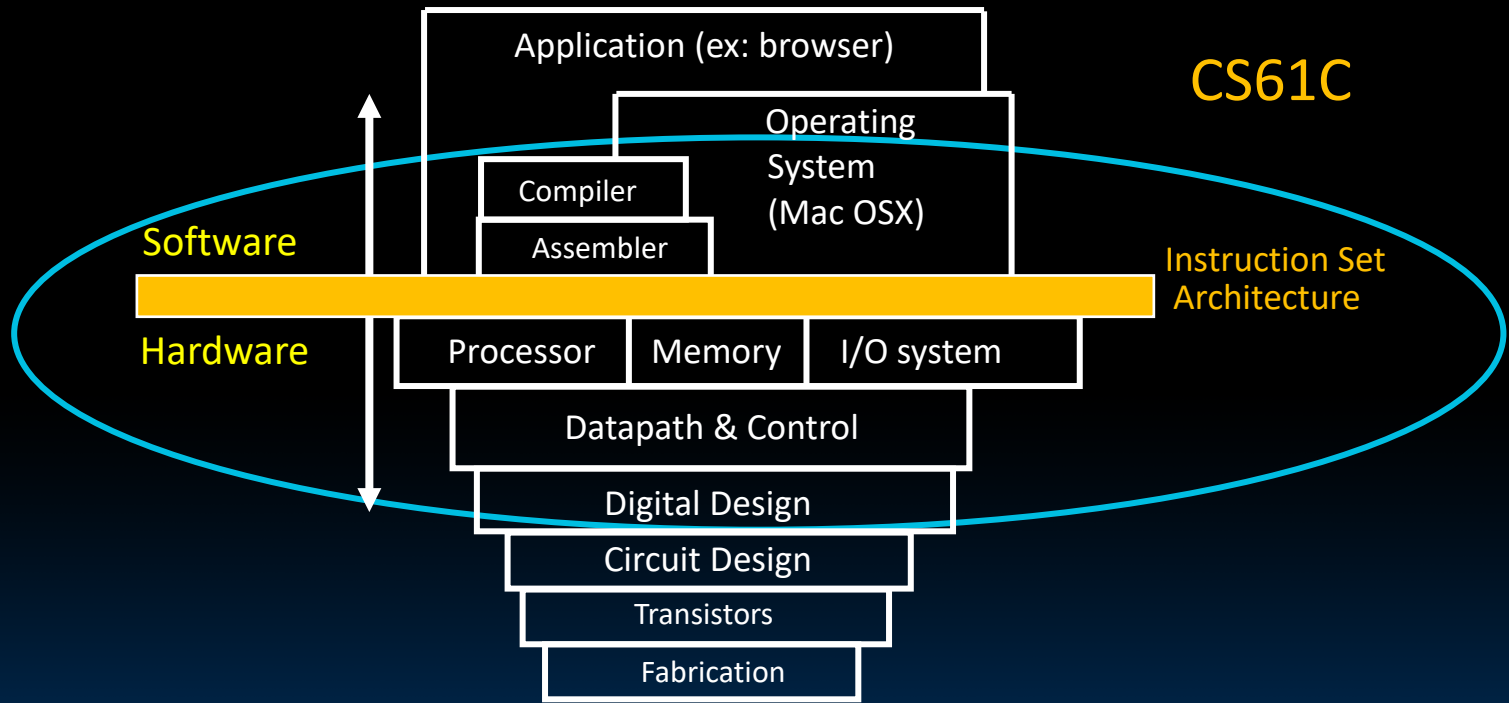


UC Berkeley  
Professor  
Bora Nikolić

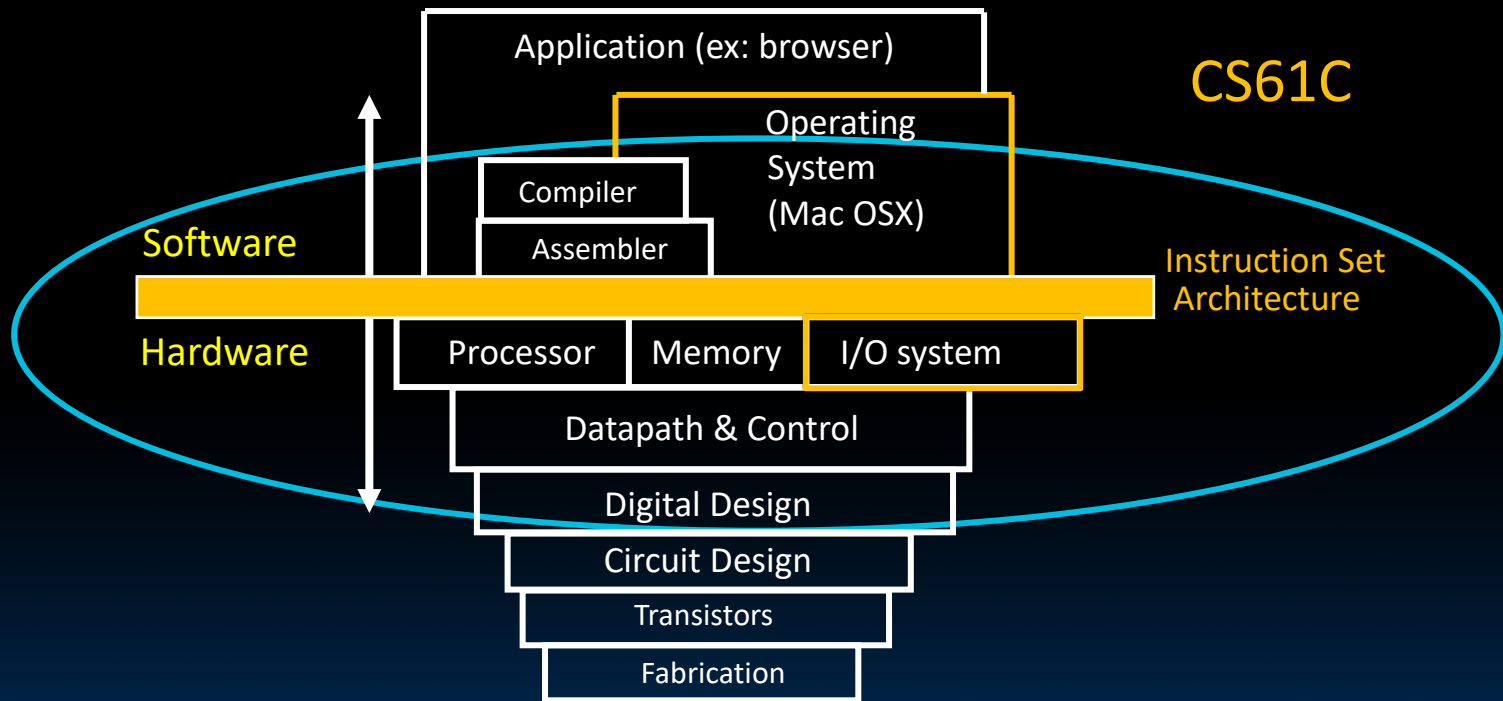
## Operating Systems and Virtual Memory



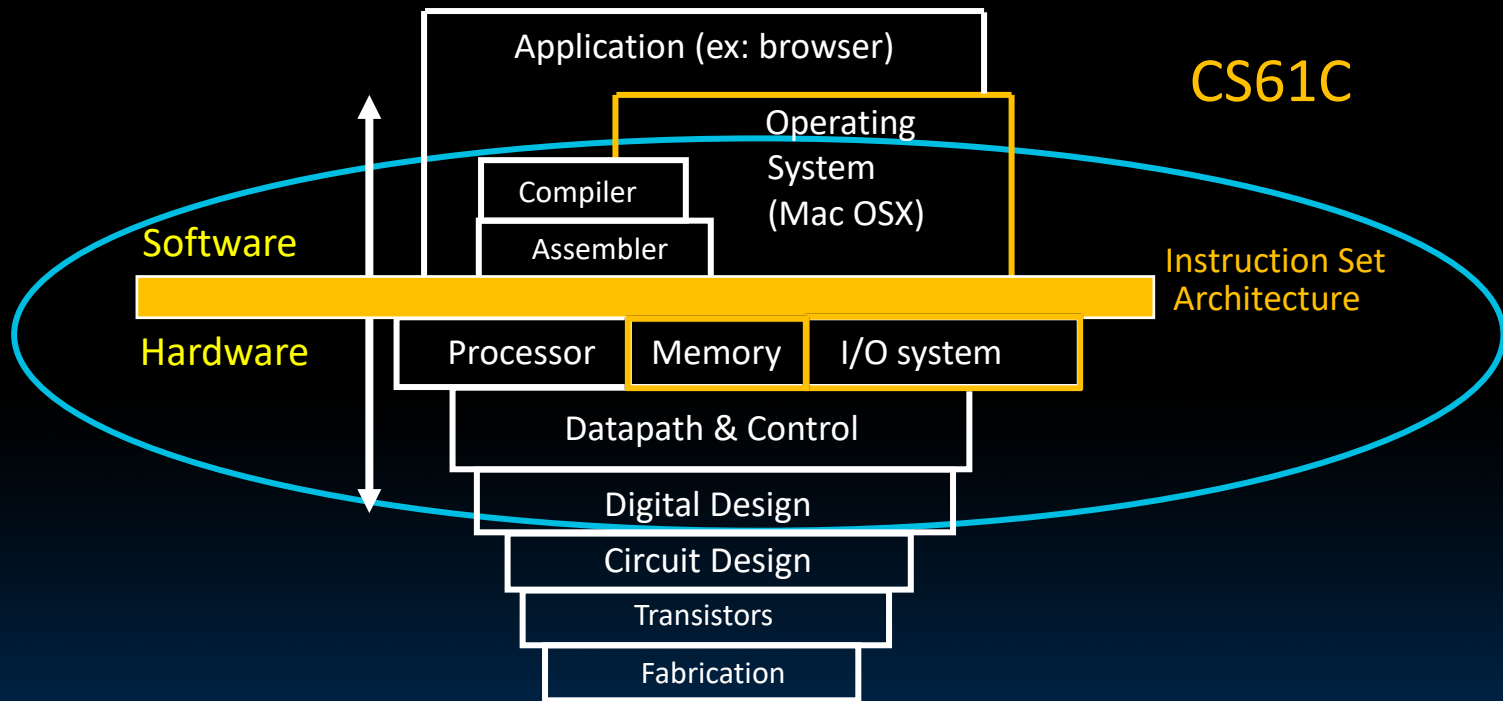
# Machine Structures



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# New-School Machine Structures

## Software

### Parallel Requests

Assigned to computer  
e.g., Search "Cats"

### Parallel Threads

Assigned to core e.g., Lookup, Ads

### Parallel Instructions

>1 instruction @ one time  
e.g., 5 pipelined instructions

### Parallel Data

>1 data item @ one time  
e.g., Add of 4 pairs of words

### Hardware descriptions

All gates work in parallel at same time

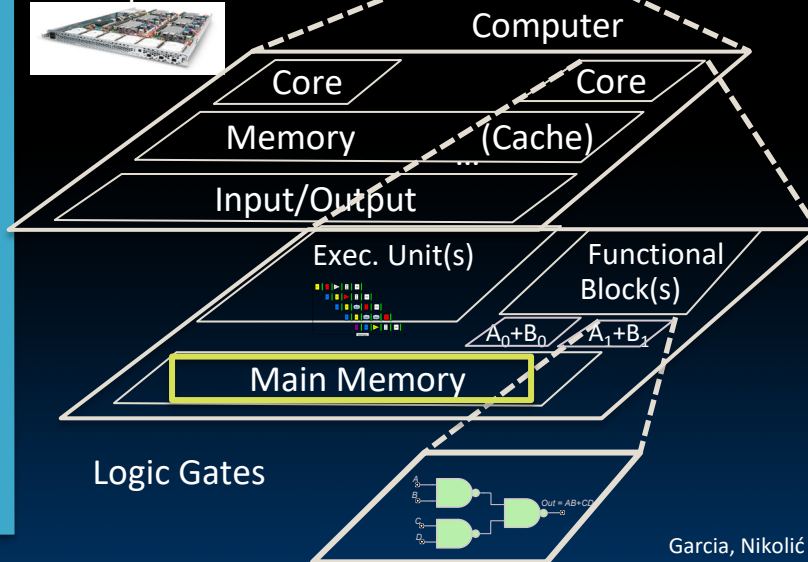
Harness  
Parallelism &  
Achieve High  
Performance

## Hardware

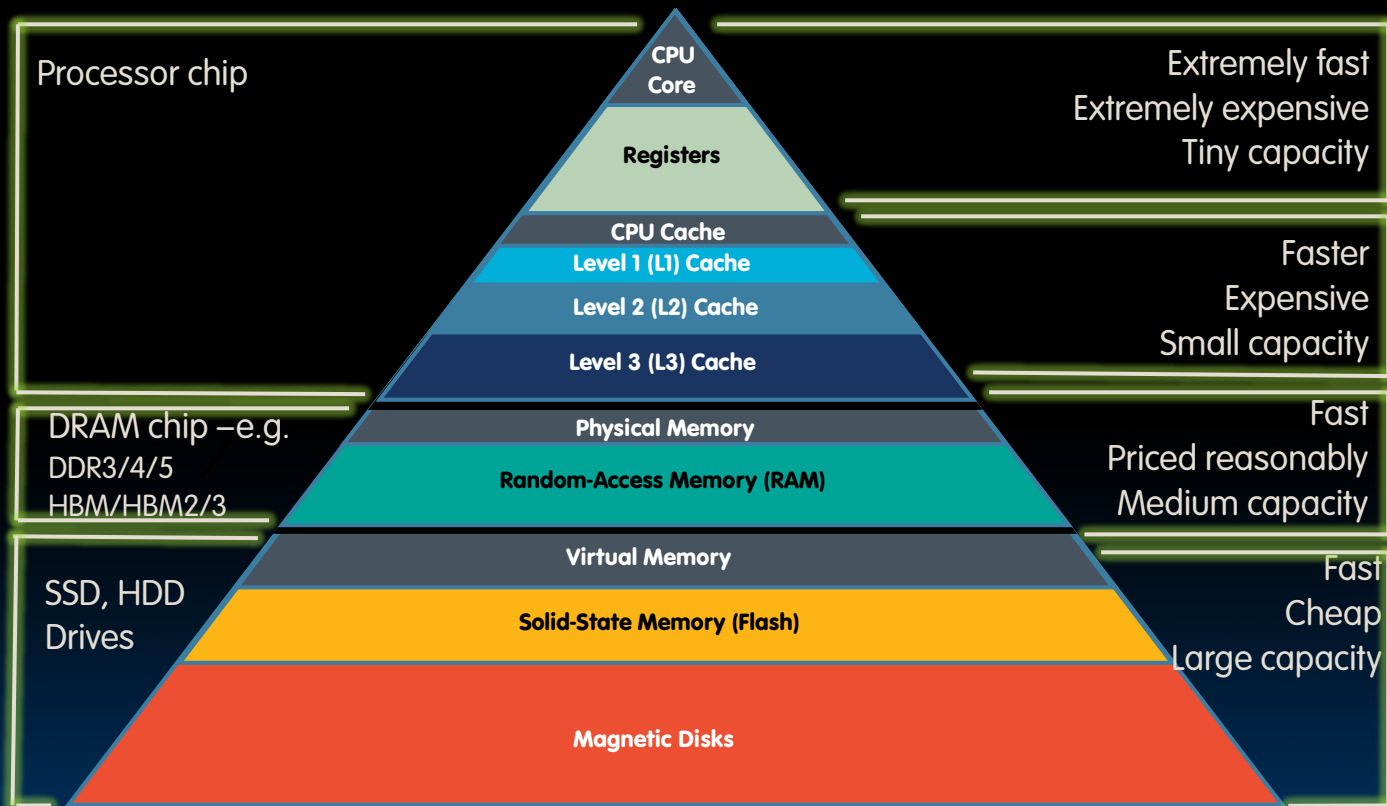
Warehouse  
Scale  
Computer



Smart  
Phone



# Great Idea #3: Principle of Locality / Memory Hierarchy



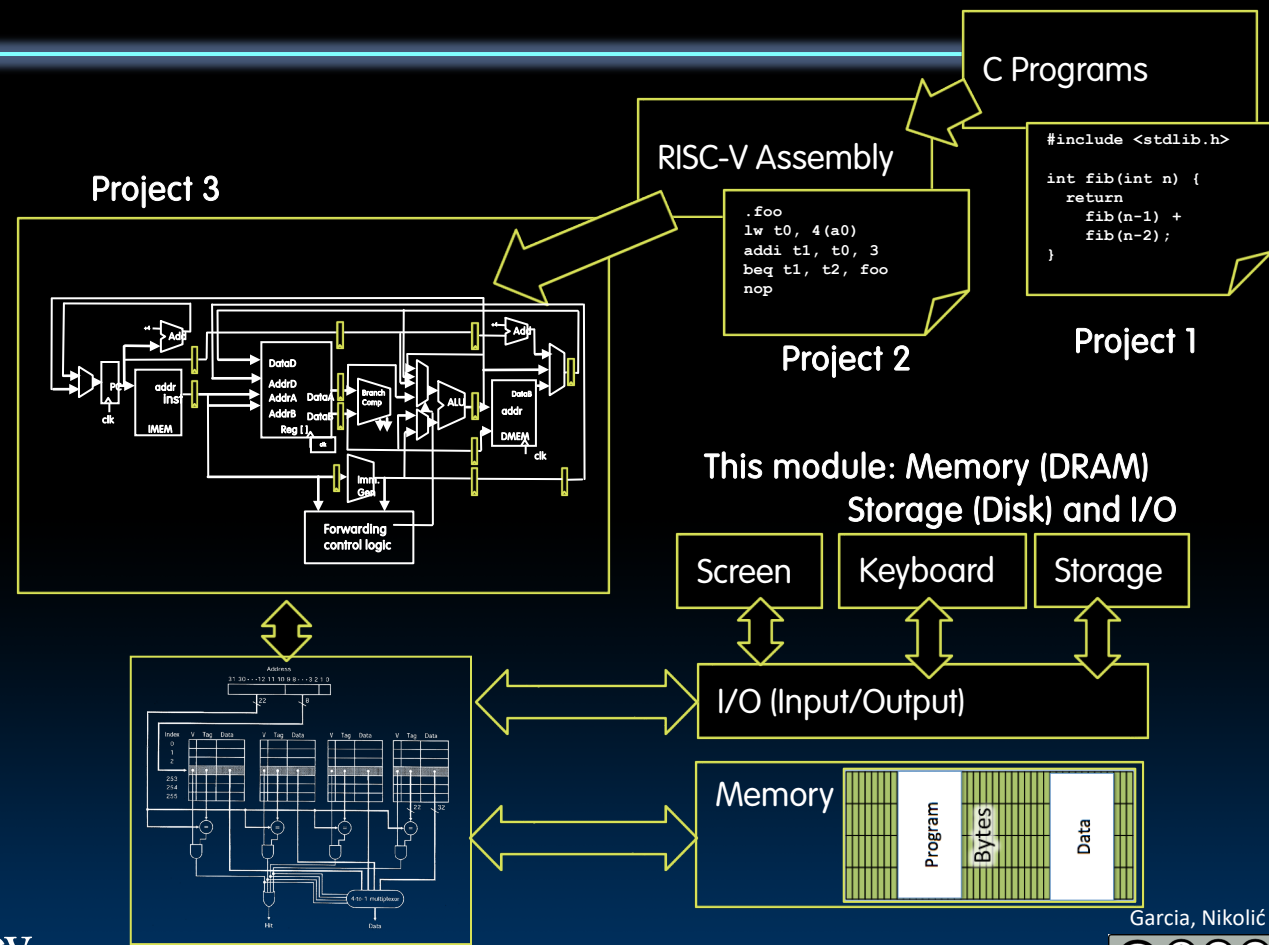


# So How is a Laptop Any Different?

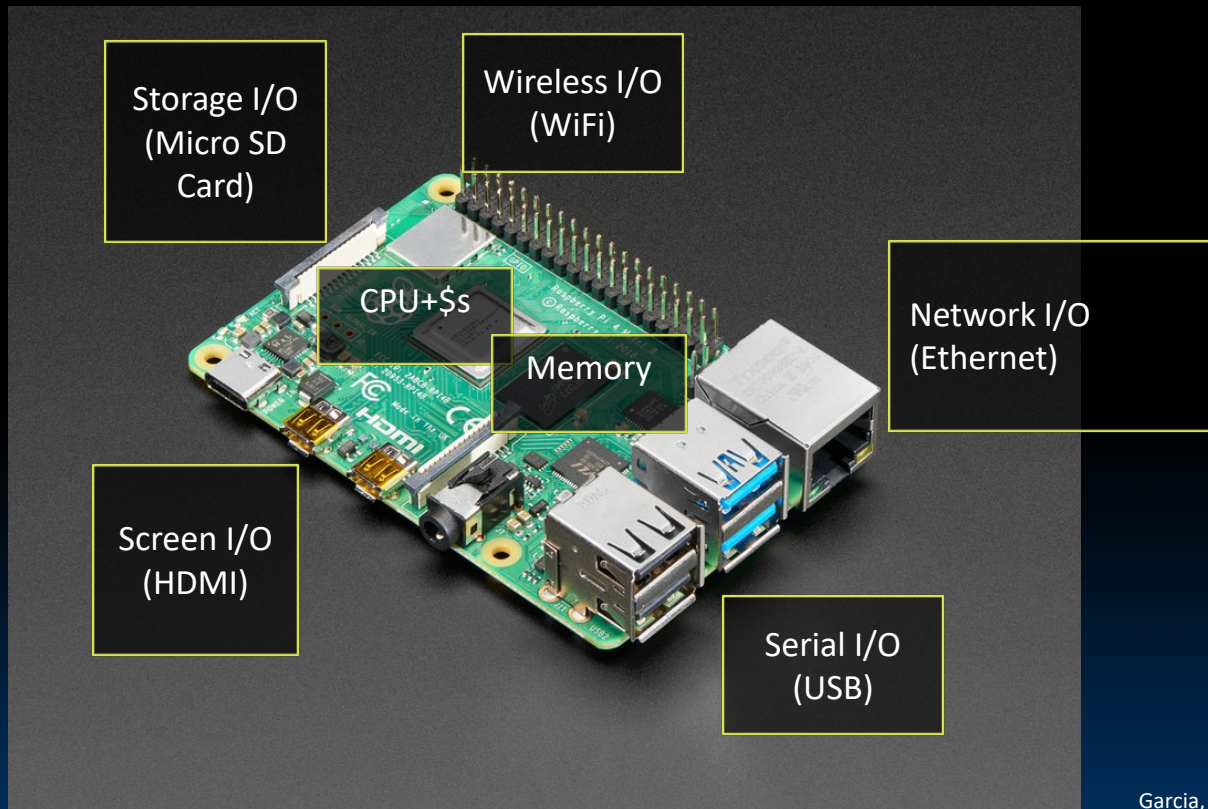




# Adding I/O



# Raspberry Pi (\$35)



# It's a Real Computer!

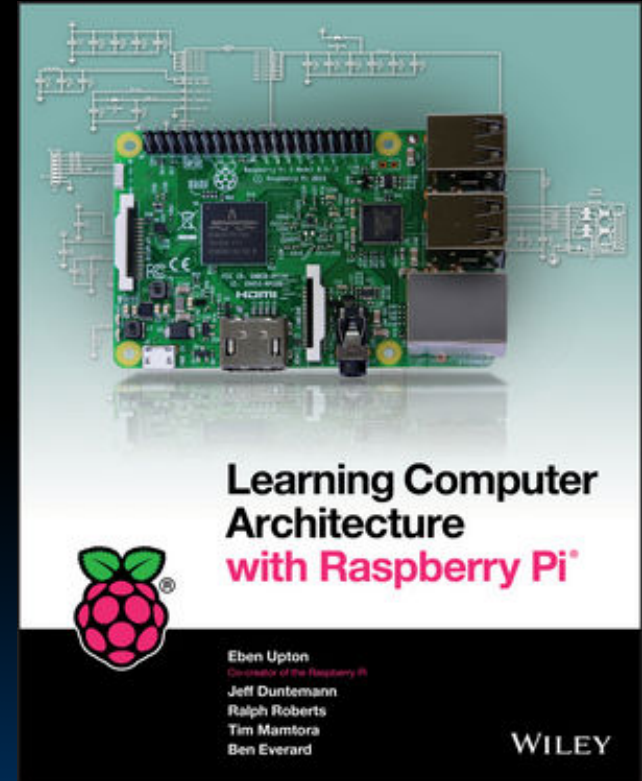


# CS61C with Raspberry Pi?

- Lot's of concepts from 61C covered in a book, with Raspberry Pi exercises

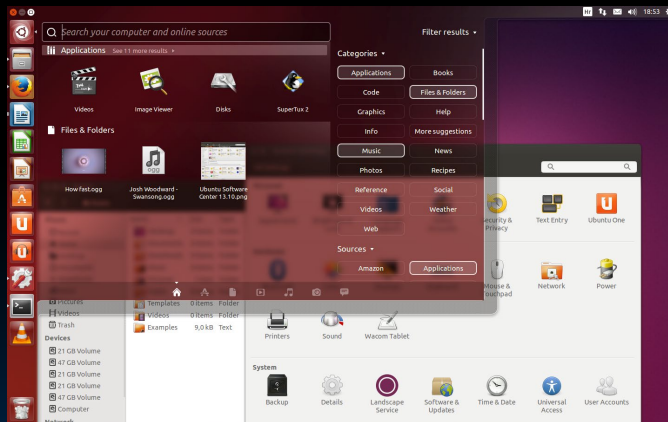
(and it is free to download if you are a Cal student:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781119415534>)



# But Wait...

- That's not the same! When we run VENUS, it only executes one program and then stops.
- When I switch on my computer, I get this:



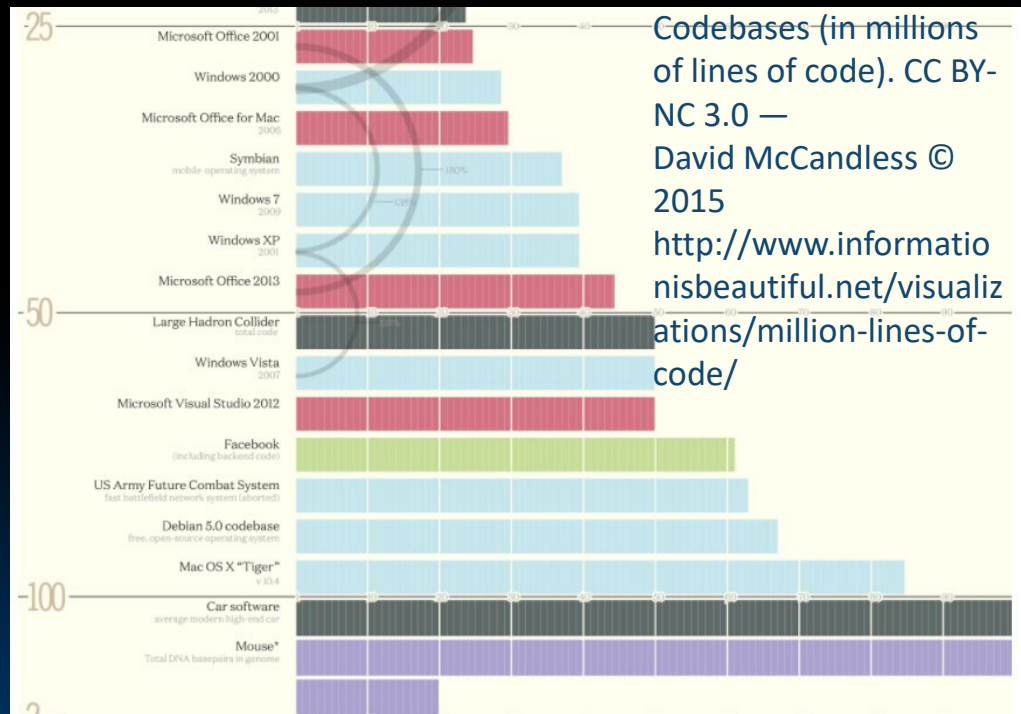
Yes, but that's *just* software! The Operating System (OS)

# Operating System Basics



# Well, “Just Software”

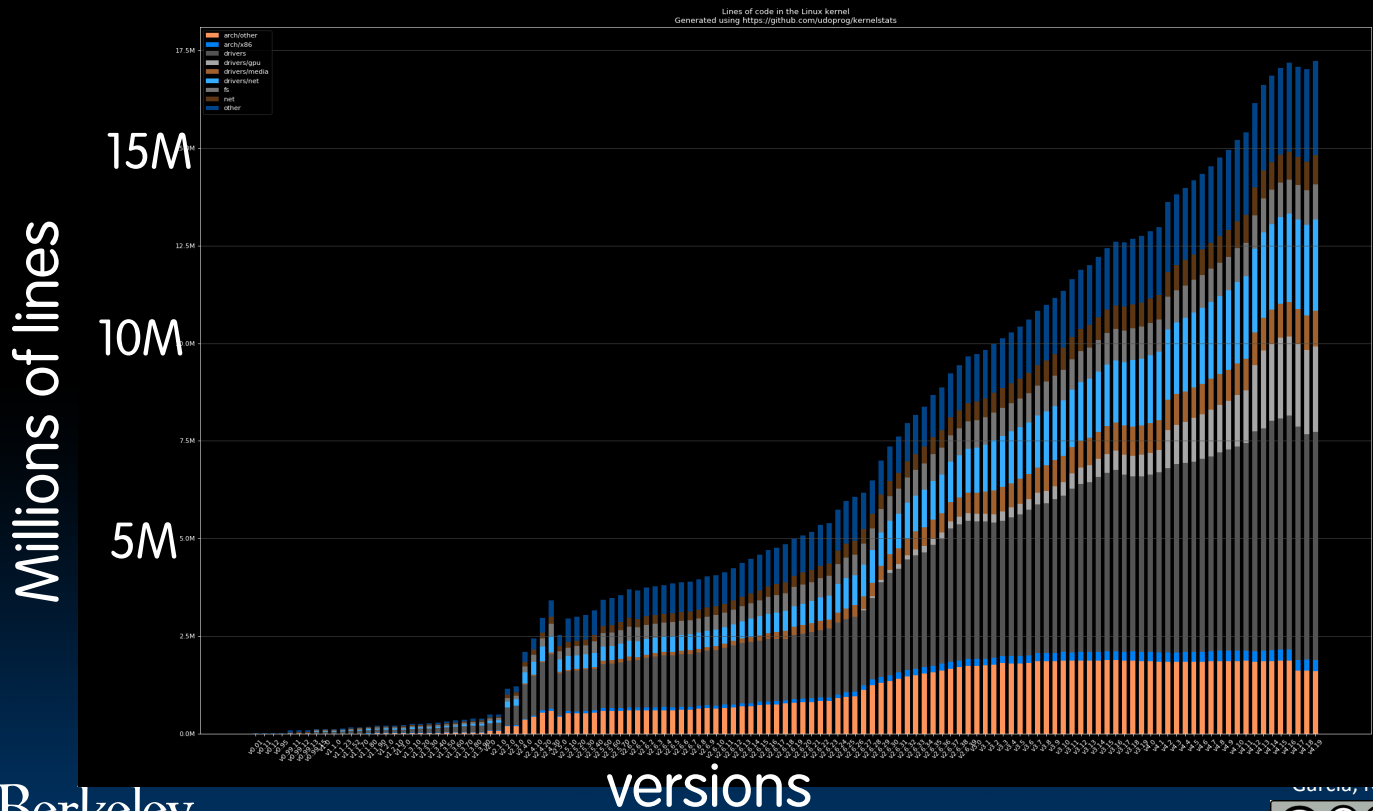
- The biggest piece of software on your machine?
- How many lines of code? These are guesstimates:





# Operating System

## Lines of code in Linux kernel





# What Does the OS do?

- OS is the (first) thing that runs when computer starts
- Finds and controls all devices in the machine in a general way
  - Relying on hardware specific “device drivers”
- Starts services (100+)
  - File system,
  - Network stack (Ethernet, WiFi, Bluetooth, ...),
  - TTY (keyboard),
  - ...
- Loads, runs and manages programs:
  - Multiple programs at the same time (time-sharing)
  - Isolate programs from each other (isolation)
  - Multiplex resources between applications (e.g., devices)

# What Does the Core of the OS Do?

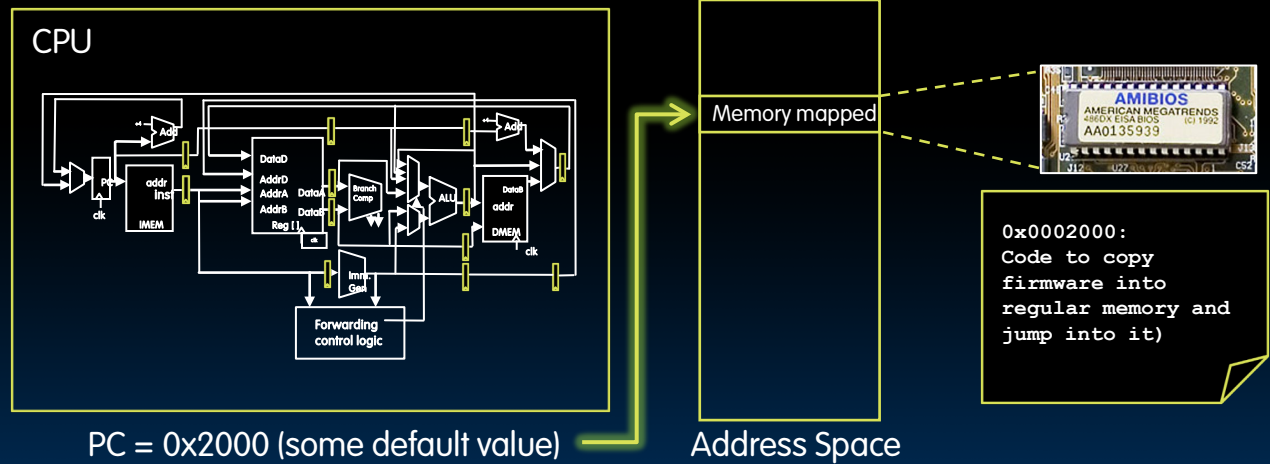
- Provide *isolation* between running processes
  - Each program runs in its own little world •
- Provide *interaction* with the outside world
  - Interact with "devices": Disk, display, network, etc... 11

# What Does OS Need from Hardware?

- Memory translation
  - Each running process has a mapping from "virtual" to "physical" addresses that are different for each process
  - When you do a load or a store, the program issues a virtual address... But the actual memory accessed is a physical address
- Protection and privilege
  - Split the processor into at least two running modes: "User" and "Supervisor"
    - RISC-V also has "Machine" below "Supervisor"
  - Lesser privilege **can not** change its memory mapping
    - But "Supervisor" **can** change the mapping for any given program
    - And supervisor has its own set of mapping of virtual->physical
- Traps & Interrupts
  - A way of going into Supervisor mode on demand

# What Happens at Boot?

- When the computer switches on, it does the same as VENUS: the CPU executes instructions from some start address (stored in Flash ROM)



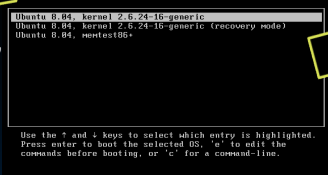
[illegible]

## \*BIOS: Basic Input Output System



### 3. OS Boot:

Initialize services, drivers, etc.



# Operating System Functions

# Launching Applications

- Applications are called “processes” in most OSs
  - Thread: shared memory
  - Process: separate memory
  - Both threads and processes run (pseudo) simultaneously
- Apps are started by another process (e.g., shell) calling an OS routine (using a “syscall”)
  - Depends on OS; Linux uses **fork** to create a new process, and **execve** (execute file command) to load application
- Loads executable file from disk (using the file system service) and puts instructions & data into memory (.text, .data sections), prepares stack and heap
- Set argc and argv, jump to start of main
- Shell waits for main to return (**join**)

# Supervisor Mode

- If something goes wrong in an application, it could crash the entire machine. And what about malware, etc.?
- The OS enforces resource constraints to applications (e.g., access to memory, devices)
- To help protect the OS from the application, CPUs have a **supervisor mode** (e.g., set by a status bit in a special register)
  - A process can only access a subset of instructions and (physical) memory when not in supervisor mode (user mode)
  - Process can change out of supervisor mode using a special instruction, but not into it directly – only using an interrupt
  - Supervisory mode is a bit like “superuser”
    - But used much more sparingly (most of OS code does *not* run in supervisory mode)
    - Errors in supervisory mode often catastrophic (blue “screen of death”, or “I just corrupted your disk”)



- What if we want to call an OS routine? E.g.,
  - to read a file,
  - launch a new process,
  - ask for more memory (malloc),
  - send data, etc.
- Need to perform a **syscall**:
  - Set up function arguments in registers,
  - Raise **software interrupt (with special assembly instruction)**
- OS will perform the operation and return to user mode
- This way, the OS can mediate access to all resources, and devices

# Interrupts, Exceptions

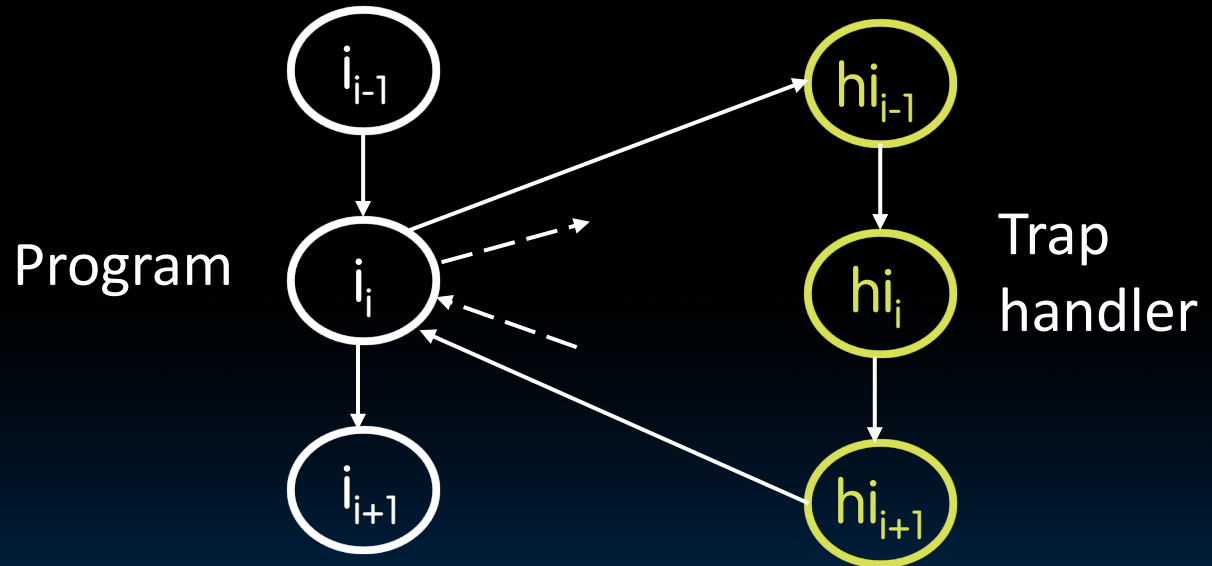
- We need to transition into Supervisor mode when "something" happens
- **Interrupt:** Something external to the running program
  - Something happens from the outside world
- **Exception:** Something done by the running program
  - Accessing memory it isn't "supposed" to, executing an illegal instruction, reading a csr not supposed at that privilege
- **ECALL:** Trigger an exception to the higher privilege
  - How you communicate with the operating system: Used to implement "syscalls"
- **EBREAK:** Trigger an exception within the current privilege

# Terminology (In 61C)

- **Interrupt** – caused by an event *external* to current running program
  - E.g., key press, disk I/O
  - Asynchronous to current program
    - Can handle interrupt on any convenient instruction
    - “Whenever it’s convenient, just don’t wait too long”
- **Exception** – caused by some event *during* execution of one instruction of current running program
  - E.g., memory error, bus error, illegal instruction, raised exception
  - Synchronous
    - Must handle exception *precisely* on instruction that causes exception
    - “Drop whatever you are doing and act now”
- **Trap** – action of servicing interrupt or exception by hardware jump to “interrupt or trap handler” code

# Trap Handling

- Altering the regular execution flow

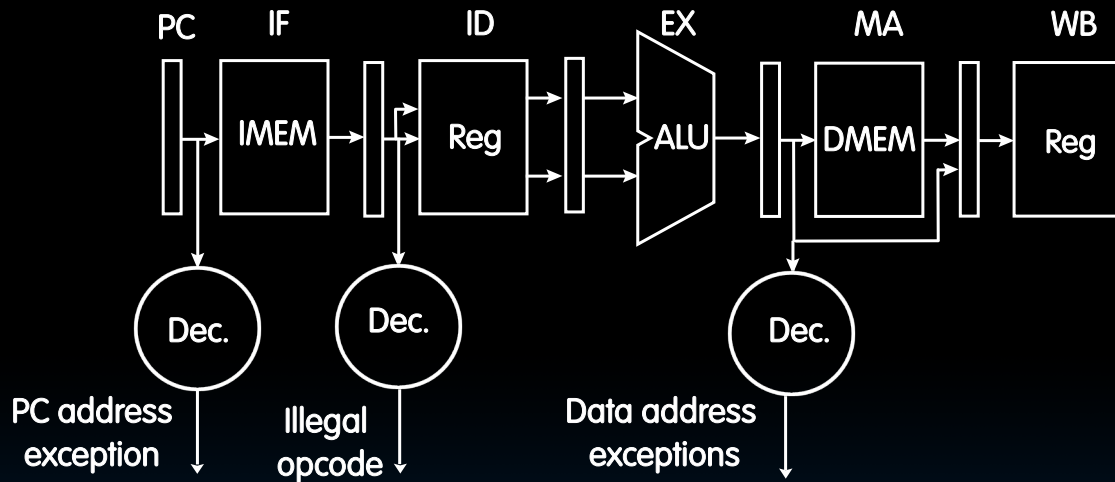


An *external or internal event* that needs to be processed - by another program; often handled by OS. The event is often unexpected from original program's point of view.

# Precise Traps

- *Trap handler's view of machine state is that every instruction prior to the trapped one (e.g., memory error) has completed, and no instruction after the trap has executed.*
- Implies that handler can return from an interrupt by restoring user registers and jumping back to interrupted instruction
  - Interrupt handler software doesn't need to understand the pipeline of the machine, or what program was doing!
  - More complex to handle trap caused by an exception than interrupt
- Providing precise traps is tricky in a pipelined superscalar out-of-order processor!
  - But a requirement for things to actually work right!

# Exceptions in a 5-Stage Pipeline



# Trap Handling

- Exceptions are handled *like pipeline hazards*
  - 1) Complete execution of instructions before exception occurred
  - 2) Flush instructions currently in pipeline (i.e., convert to **nops** or “bubbles”)
  - 3) Optionally store exception cause in status register
    - Indicate type of exception
- 4) Transfer execution to trap handler
- 5) Optionally, return to original program and re-execute instruction

# Multiprogramming

- The OS runs multiple applications at the same time
- But not really (unless you have a core per process)
- Switches between processes very quickly (on human time scale) – this is called a “context switch”
- When jumping into process, set timer (we will call this ‘interrupt’)
  - When it expires, store PC, registers, etc. (process state)
  - Pick a different process to run and load its state
  - Set timer, change to user mode, jump to the new PC
- Deciding what process to run is called **scheduling**



# Protection, Translation, Paging

- Supervisor mode alone is not sufficient to fully isolate applications from each other or from the OS
  - Application could overwrite another application's memory.
  - Typically programs start at some fixed address, e.g. 0x8FFFFFFF
    - How can 100's of programs share memory at location 0x8FFFFFFF?
  - Also, may want to address more memory than we actually have (e.g., for sparse data structures)
- Solution: **Virtual Memory**
  - Gives each process the *illusion* of a full memory address space that it has completely for itself