



Computers? (and variables)

What is a computer?

What is a computer?

Something that *computes*

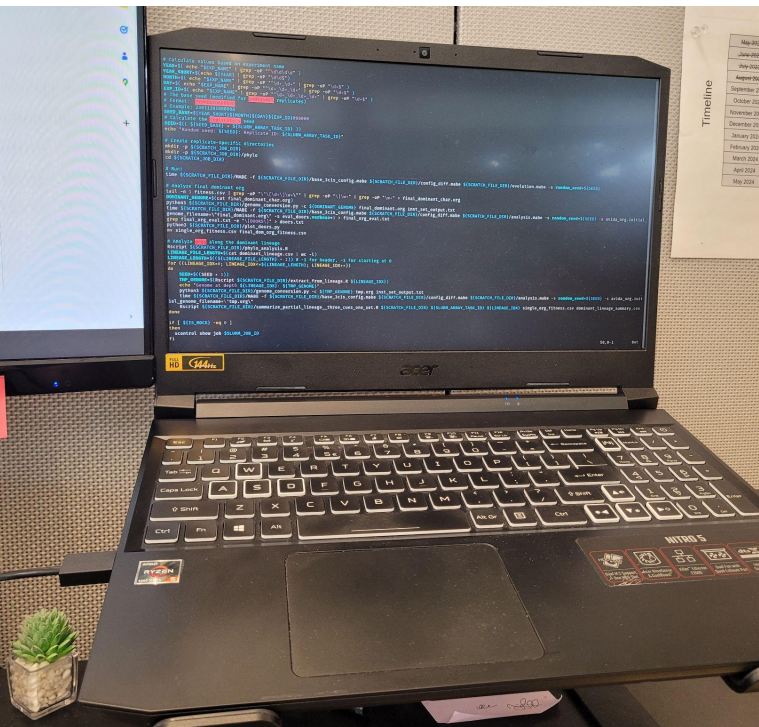
What is a computer?

Something that *computes*

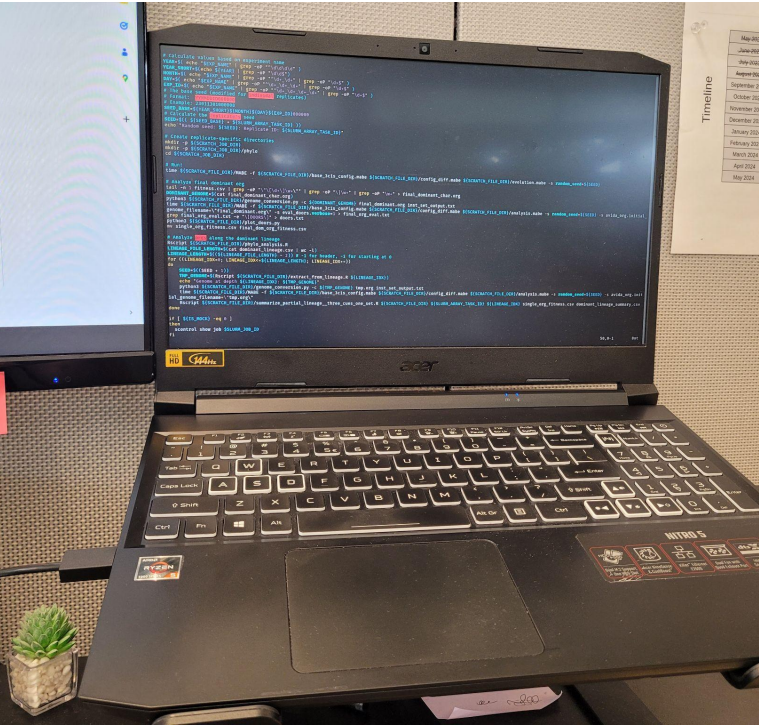
A machine that performs math calculations or other logic

Are these computers?

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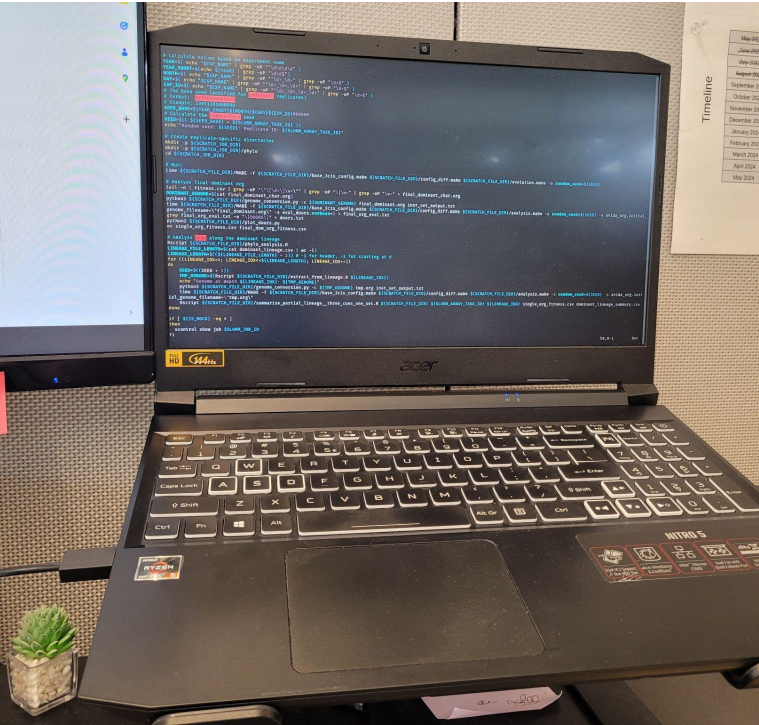


Are these computers?



Sara Kurfeß -
Unsplash

Are these computers?



[Sara Kurfe](#)
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Are these computers?



[Carlo G Croce - Wikimedia](#)



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Are these computers?

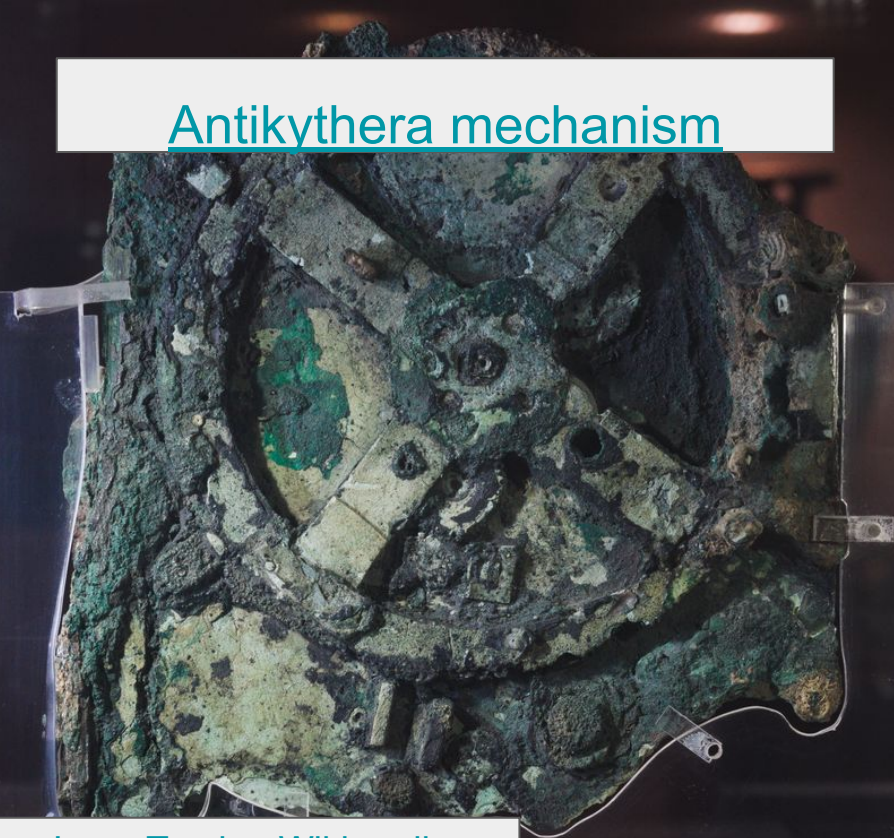


[Orrery / Astrarium](#)



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[Antikythera mechanism](#)



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Are these computers? - All yes!

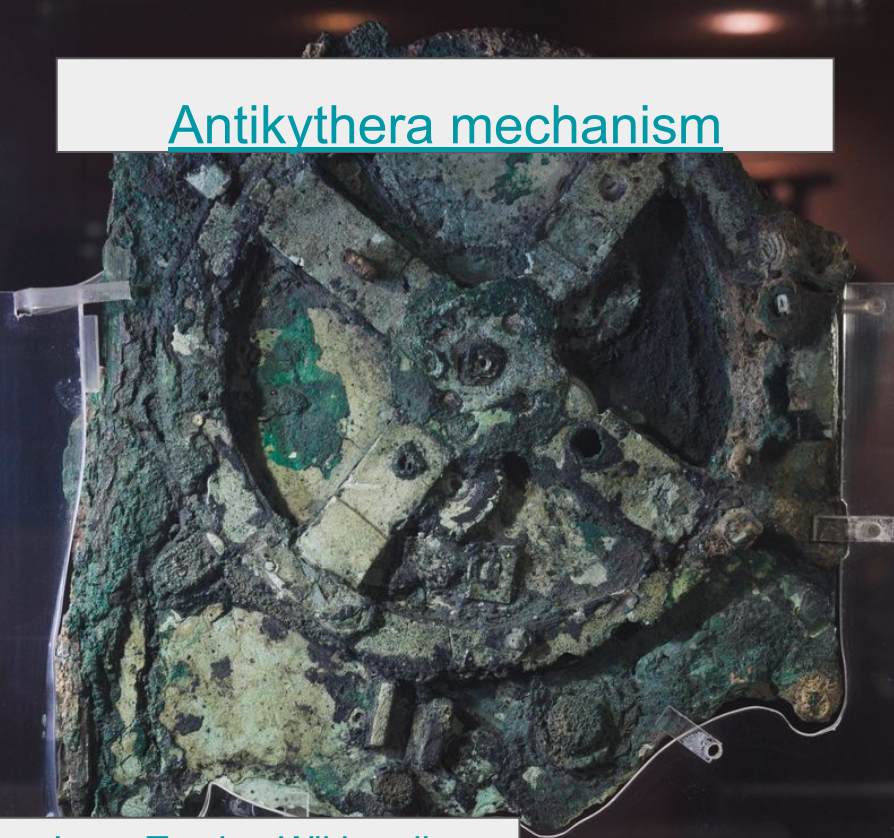


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When we discuss “computers” today, what do we mean?

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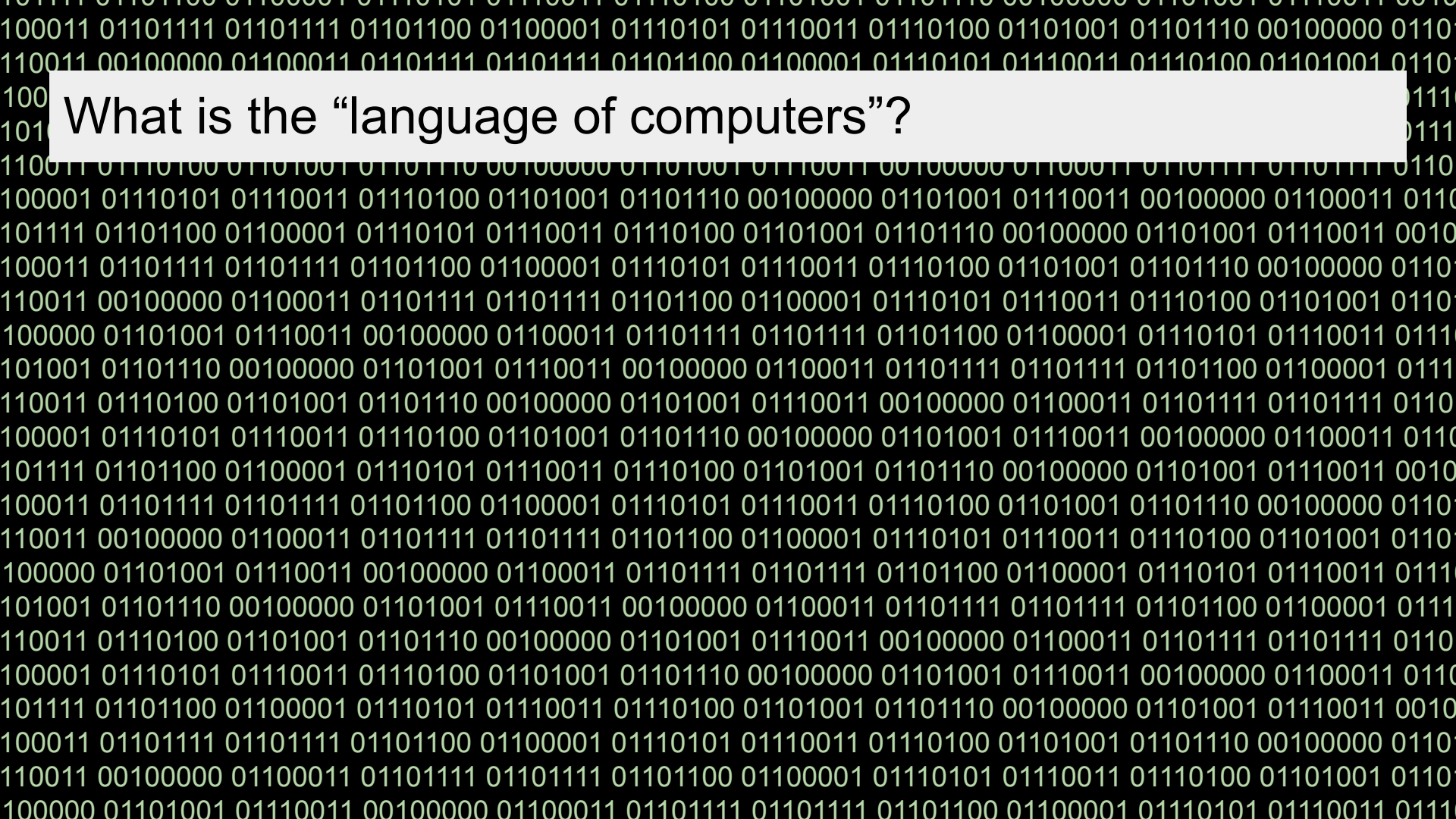
Digital computers!

When we discuss “computers” today, what do we mean?

Digital computers!

Computers that work *symbolically*

What is the “language of computers”?



What is the “language of computers”?

What is the “language of computers”?

Binary! 1s and 0s

What is the “language of computers”?

Binary! 1s and 0s

Everything a non-quantum computer
does is through binary!

Good news!

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You do NOT need to understand binary for this class!

Wait!!

Wait!!

If everything a computer does is through binary, how can we code computers without it???

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Layers of abstraction!

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Layers of abstraction!

Each layer hides some details to make your life easier!

Wait!!

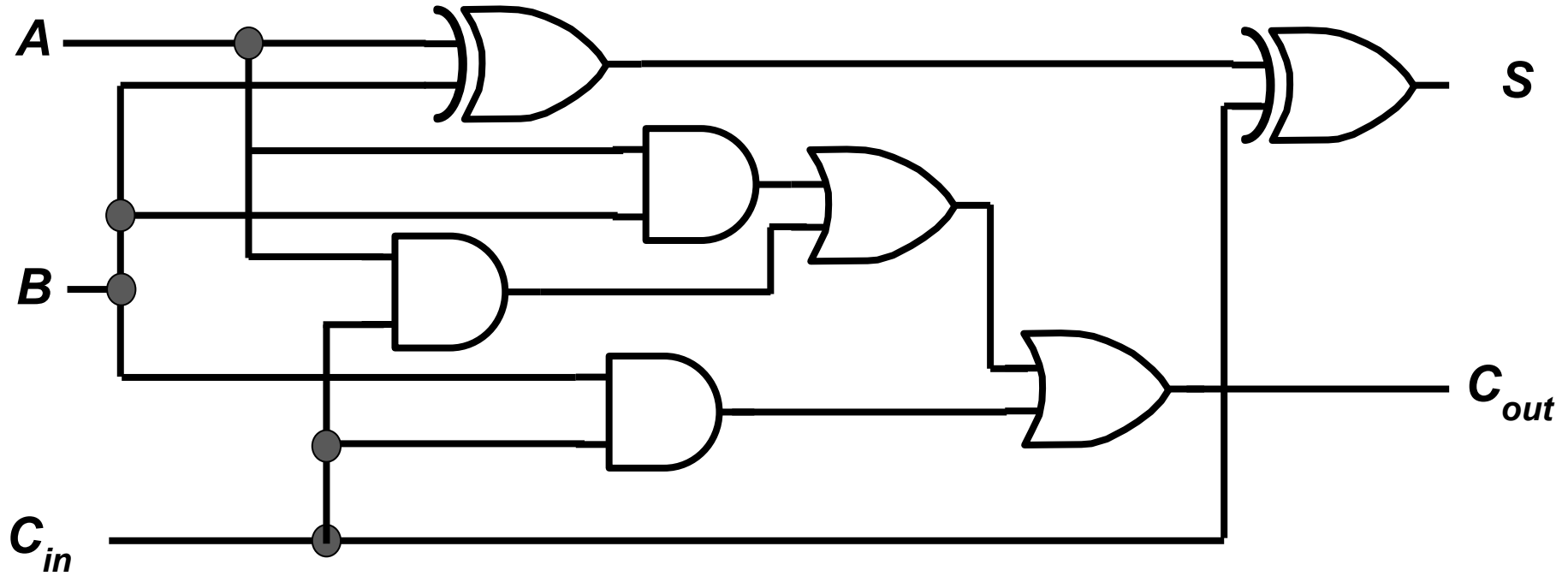
If everything a computer does is through binary, how can we code computers without it???

Layers of abstraction!

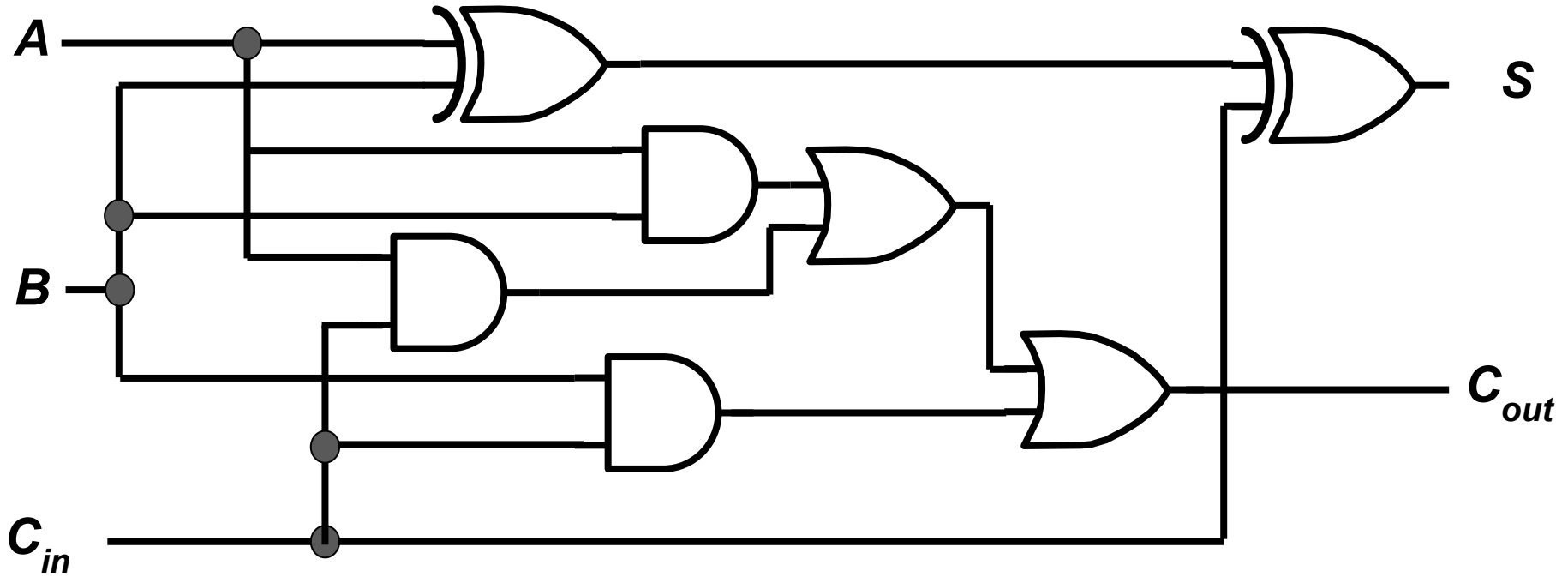
Each layer hides some details to make your life easier!

Hold on!! :^)

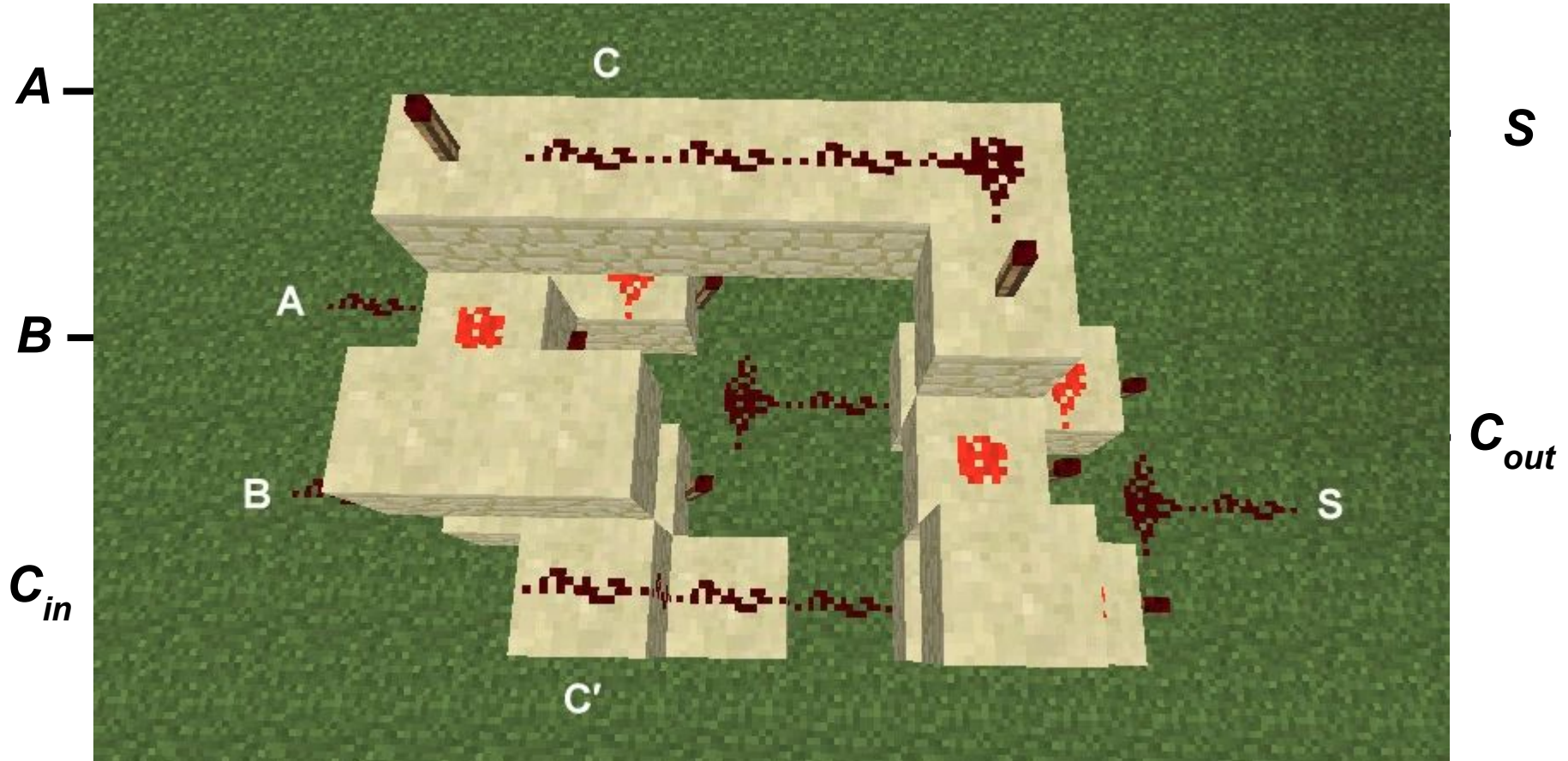
Any idea what this is?



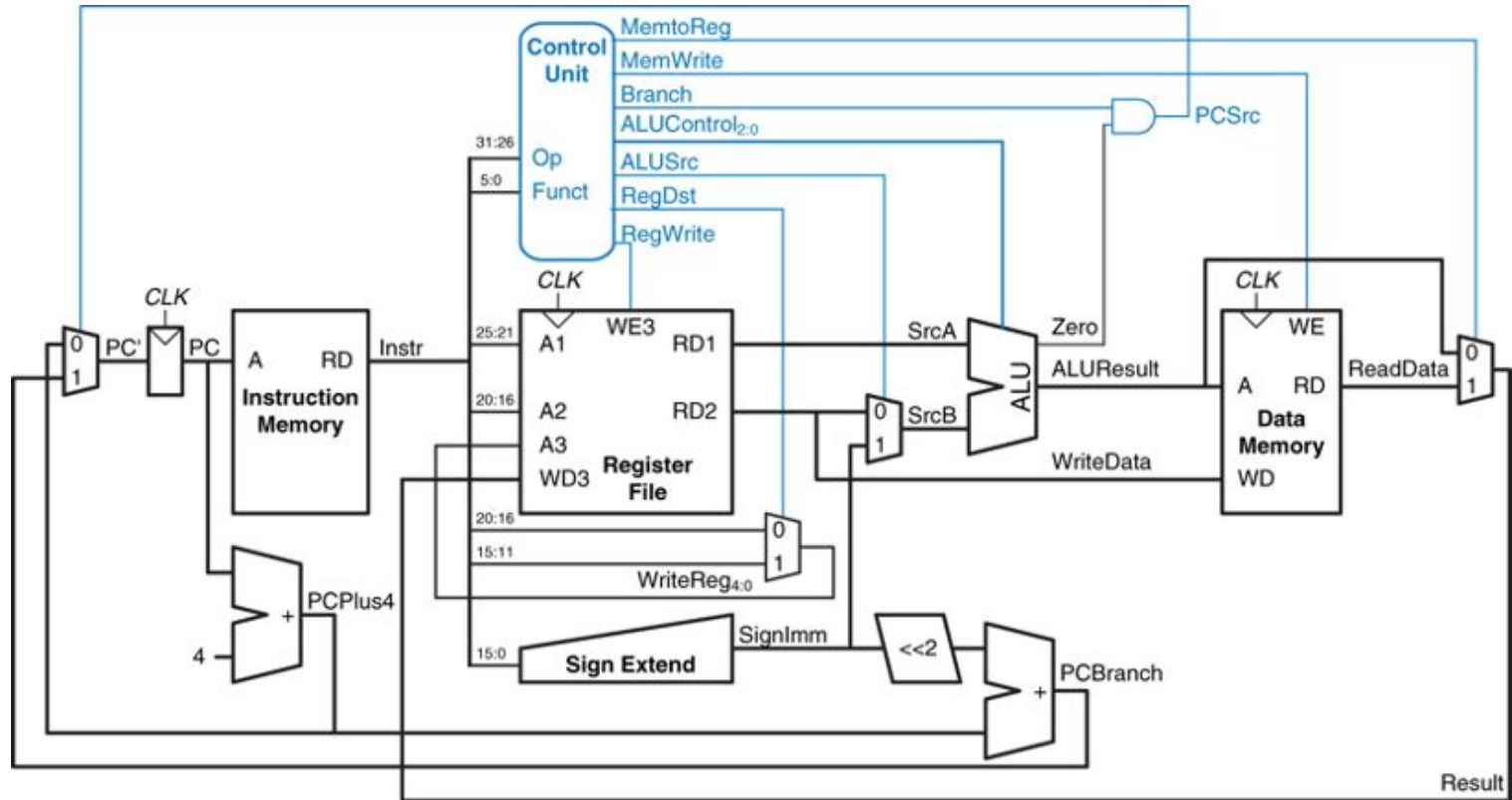
Any idea what this is? An adder circuit!



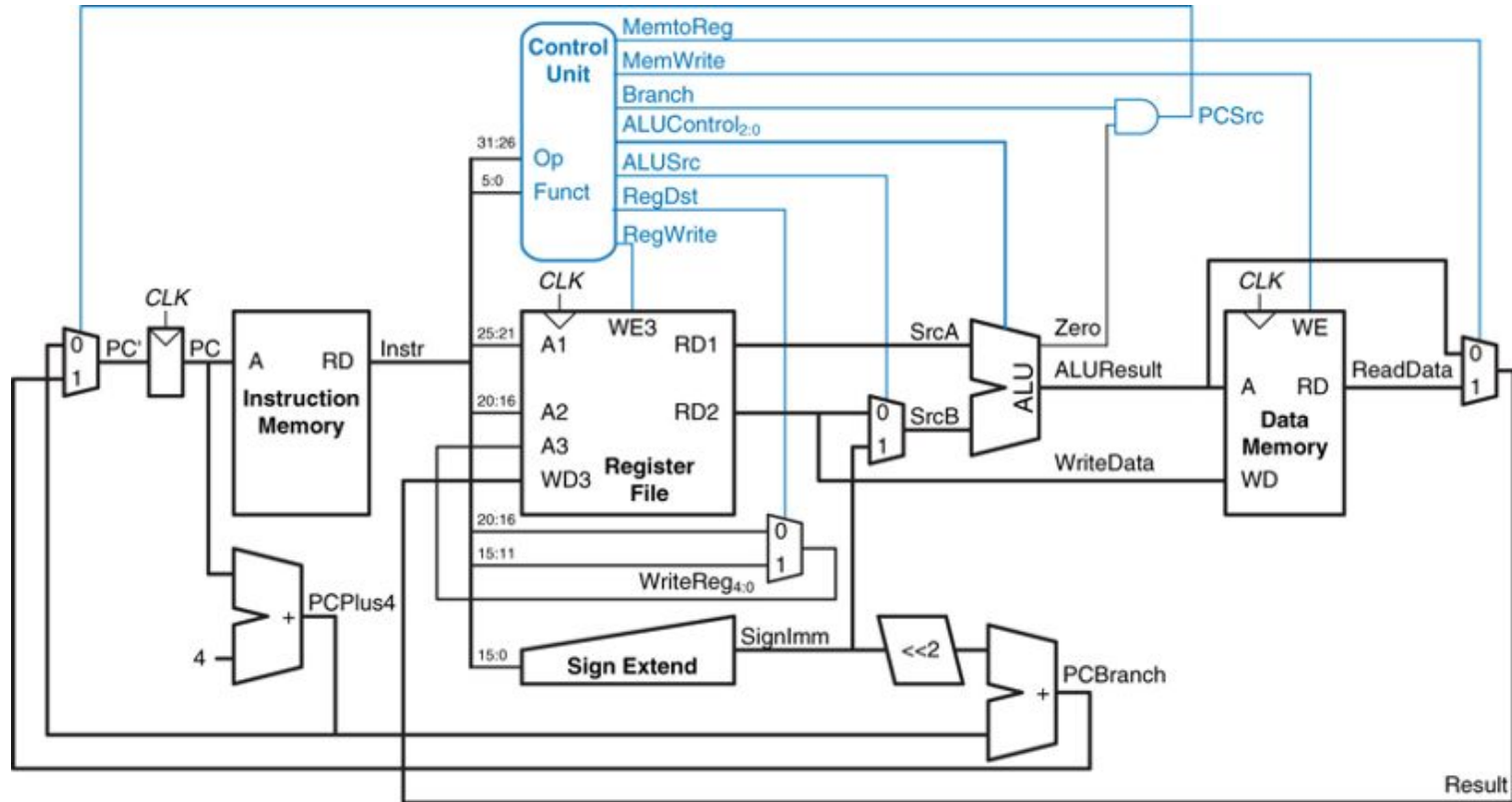
Any idea what this is? An adder circuit!



What about this?



What about this? A simple CPU!



And this?

```
addi $s0, $s0, 1
```

And this? Assembly code, adding one to a number

```
addi $s0, $s0, 1
```

Last one, I promise!

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main( ){
    int x = 18;
    printf("Original number is: %d\n", x);
    x = x + 1;
    printf("New number is: %d\n", x);
    return 0;
}
```

Last one, I promise! C code!

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main( ){
    int x = 18;
    printf("Original number is: %d\n", x);
    x = x + 1;
    printf("New number is: %d\n", x);
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}
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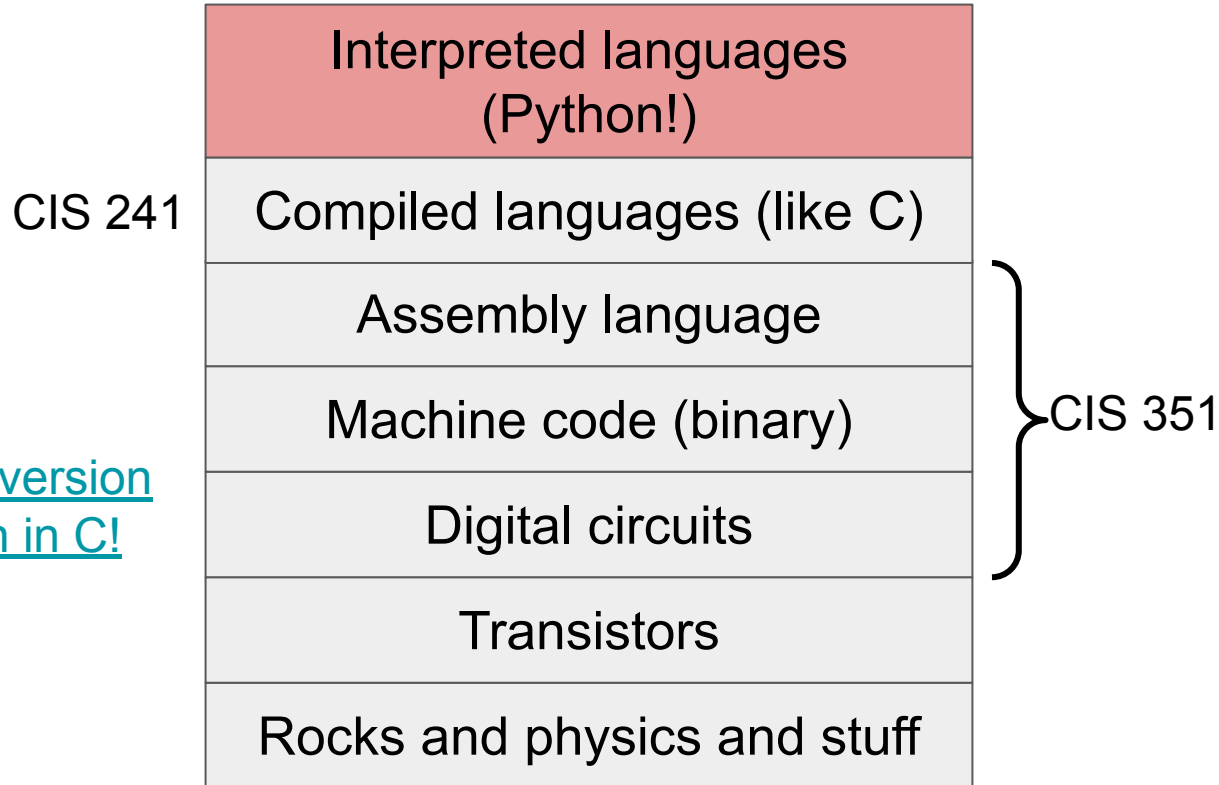
Why tell you all of this?

When we code with Python, we leverage ALL these layers!

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Interpreted languages (Python!)
Compiled languages (like C)
Assembly language
Machine code (binary)
Digital circuits
Transistors
Rocks and physics and stuff

When we code with Python, we leverage ALL these layers!



Python (or one version of it), is written in C!

Shew!

Shew!

Now back to Python...

What *entities* might we represent in a program?

What *entities* might we represent in a program?

- Numbers
- Text
- People
- Places
- Molecules
- Populations
- Shapes
- etc!

How do we represent these things in a computer?

- Numbers are straightforward
- Text is a sequence of letters, numbers, and symbols
- What about something more complex?
 - A (polygon) shape is a *number* of points
 - Each point can be defined as 2D coordinates
 - I.e., with two numbers!

My claim: we can represent any entity as a combination of one or more numbers/text!

We will discuss *how* to do this much later!

We may have a LOT of numbers and text, how do we keep track of it all?

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You also know a lot of people. How do you keep track of them?

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Names!

We may have a LOT of numbers and text, how do we keep track of it all?

You also know a lot of people. How do you keep track of them?

Names!

In Python, we use *variables*, which have a name, a type, and a value

Assigning variables

```
num_dogs = 2
```

Assigning variables

Name



```
num_dogs = 2
```

Assigning variables

Name






```
num_dogs = 2
```






Assignment operator

Assigning variables




Name		Value
		
num_dogs	=	2
		
	Assignment operator	

Assigning variables

Name		Value
		
num_dogs	=	2
		
	Assignment operator	

What *type* is the variable?

Assigning variables

Name		Value
		
num_dogs	=	2
		
	Assignment operator	

What *type* is the variable?

It's a number, but specifically it is an integer (int) because it has no decimal part!

Other variables

```
username = "hello 2 u!"
```

Name:

Other variables

```
username = "hello 2 u!"
```

Name: username

Value:

Other variables

```
username = "hello 2 u!"
```

Name: username

Value: "hello 2 u!"

Type:

Other variables

```
username = "hello 2 u!"
```

Name: username

Value: "hello 2 u!"

Type: A string

Other variables

```
username = "hello 2 u!"
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Name: username

Value: "hello 2 u!"

Type: A string

A string is a sequence of characters (letters, numbers, and symbols)

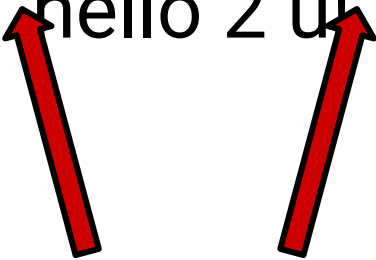
Other variables

username = "hello 2 u!"

Name: username

Value: "hello 2 u!"

Type: A string



Must begin and end with
quotes (double or single)

A string is a sequence of characters (letters, numbers, and symbols)

Even more variables

```
pizzas_remaining = 3.33
```


Even more variables

```
pizzas_remaining = 3.33
```

This is a *float*!

Floats are also numbers, but they can have decimals

Variable names

Variable names should be helpful!!

Variables names:

- Can contain letters, numbers, and underscores (_)
- Cannot start with a number
- Cannot be a “special” word in Python
- Usually are in snake_case
 - Not camelCase or PascalCase

Working with variables

We can print variables to see their value:

```
num_dogs = 2  
print(num_dogs)
```

Working with variables

We can print variables to see their value:

```
num_dogs = 2  
print(num_dogs)
```

We can also re-assign variables:

```
num_dogs = 0  
num_dogs = 1  
print(num_dogs)
```

Working with variables

We can use variables in many places!

```
x = 5 + 8
```

```
y = x / 2
```

```
print(x)
```

```
print(y)
```

Working with variables

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$$z = 2 + 8 / 2$$

Working with variables

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Variable



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Working with variables

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Variable



z = 2 + 8 / 2



Literals

Working with variables

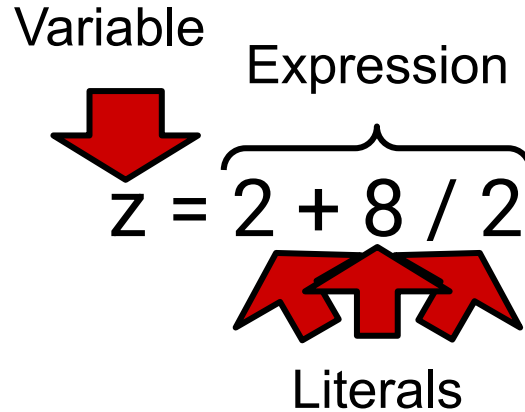
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Working with variables

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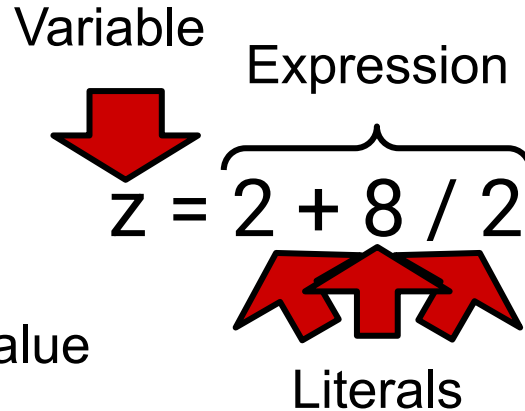
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Expressions *evaluate* to a value



Working with variables

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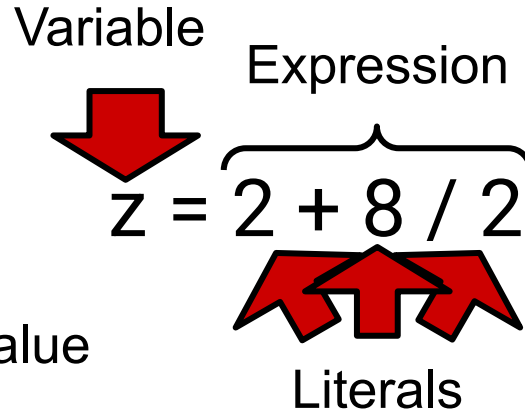
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Expressions *evaluate* to a value
Value here?



Working with variables

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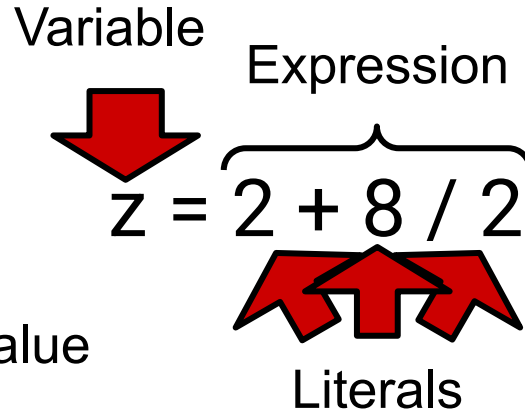
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```
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```

```
print(y)
```

Expressions *evaluate* to a value
Value here? 6



Working with variables

We can use variables in many places!

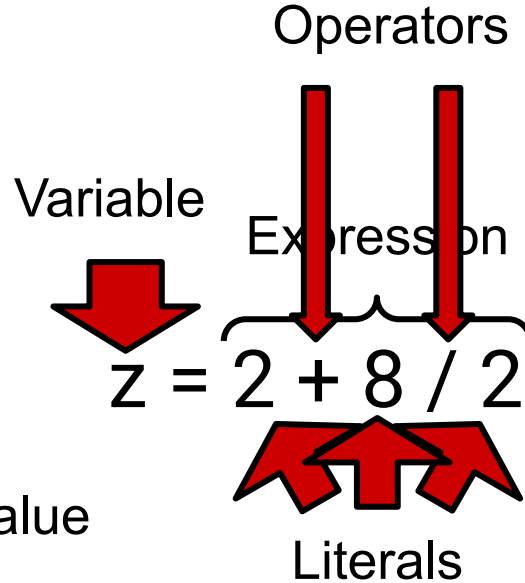
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```
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```

```
print(x)
```

```
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```

Expressions *evaluate* to a value
Value here? 6



Math in Python

List of operators with examples:

$a + b$, Addition, $x = 3 + 4 \rightarrow x$ is 7

$a - b$, Subtraction, $x = 7 - 2 \rightarrow x$ is 5

$a * b$, Multiplication, $x = 2 * 4 \rightarrow x$ is 8

a / b , Division, $x = 5 / 3 \rightarrow x$ is 1.6667

Math in Python

Fancier operators with examples:

$a // b$, Integer division, $x = 5 / 3 \rightarrow x$ is 1, ignore remainder

$a \% b$, Modulo, $x = 5 \% 3 \rightarrow x$ is 2, keep just the remainder

$-a$, Negation, $x = -2 \rightarrow x$ is negative 2

$a ** b$, Exponentiation, $x = 7 ** 2 \rightarrow x$ is 49

Math in Python

Order of operations **DO** apply!

Math in Python

Order of operations **DO** apply!

Order of precedence:

1. () (parentheses)
2. ** (exponentiation)
3. Unary - (negation)
4. * (multiply), / (divide), % (modulo), // (integer divide)
5. + (addition), - (subtraction)