



PILLAR PLUGGEDIN PRESENTS

# How Computers Really Work

Revealing the magic behind the machine.

# Computer

/kəm'pyʊədər/

*noun* - an electronic device for storing and processing data, typically in binary form, according to instructions given to it in a program

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QUICK, DRAW!



# Computer

/kəm'pyōdər/

*noun* - a magical device that  
identifies our drawings of  
everyday objects

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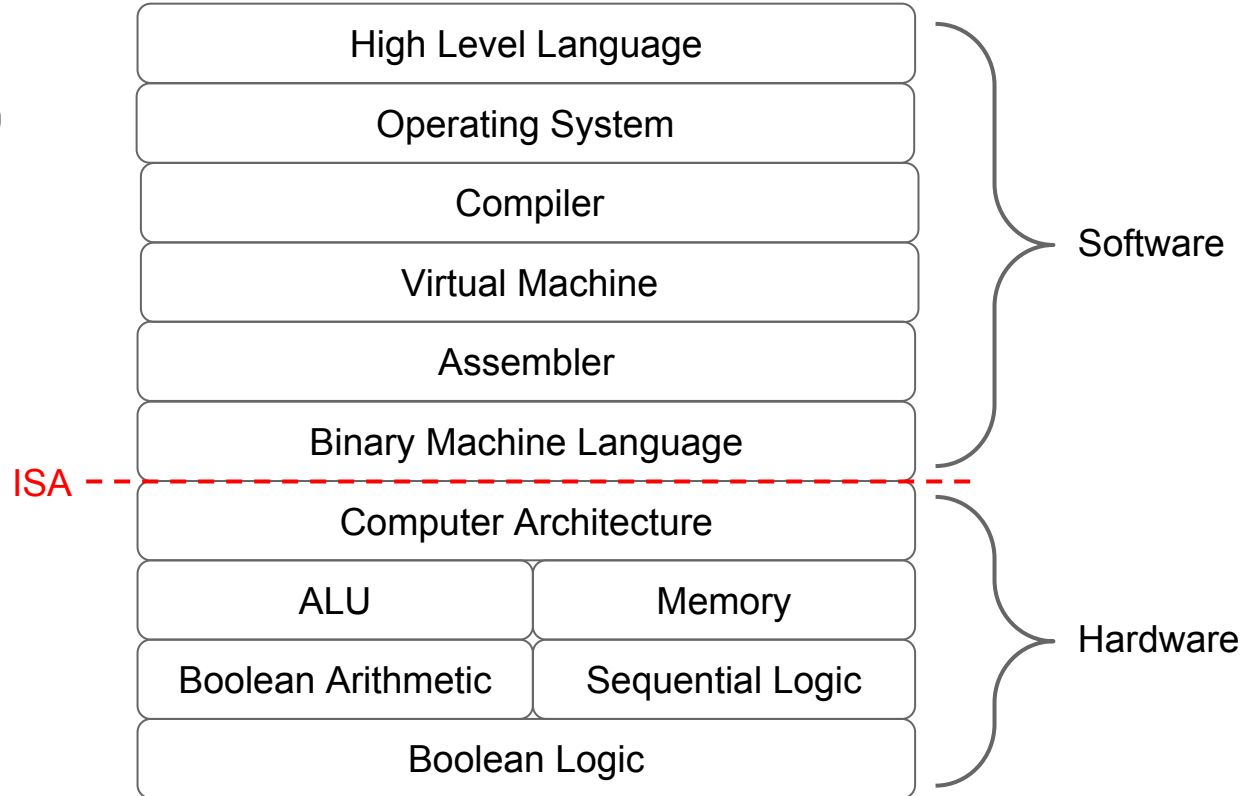
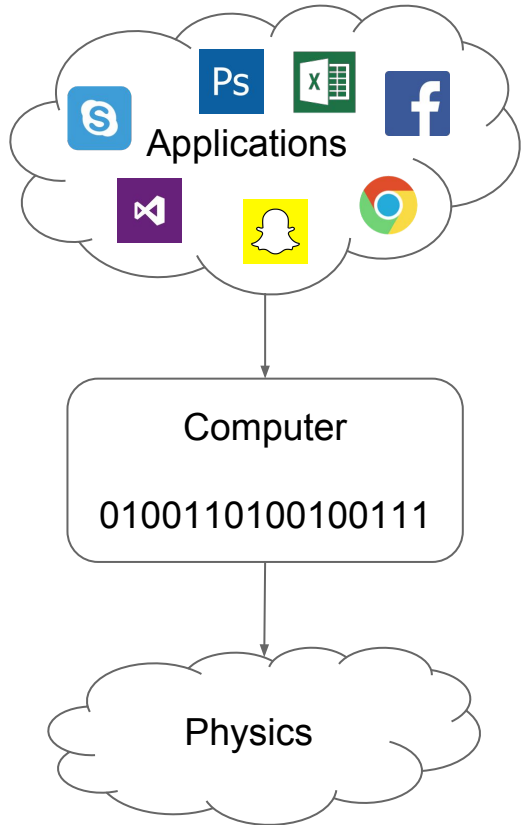
# Computer

/kəm'pyōdər/

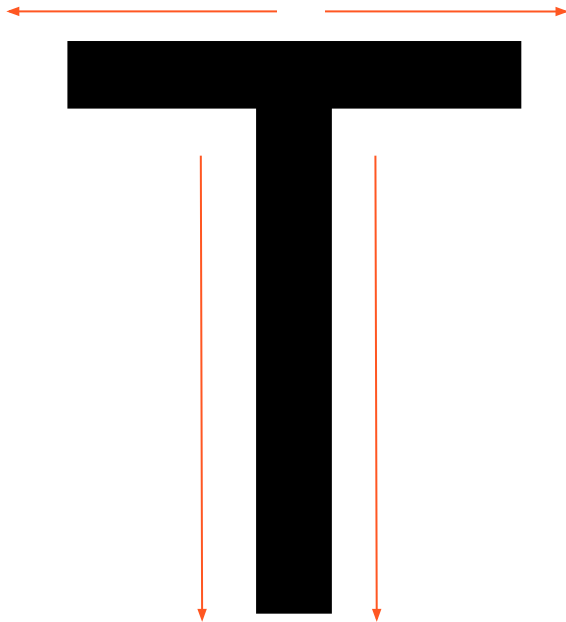
*noun* - a series of abstraction layers that allow powerful operations to be done without thinking about them

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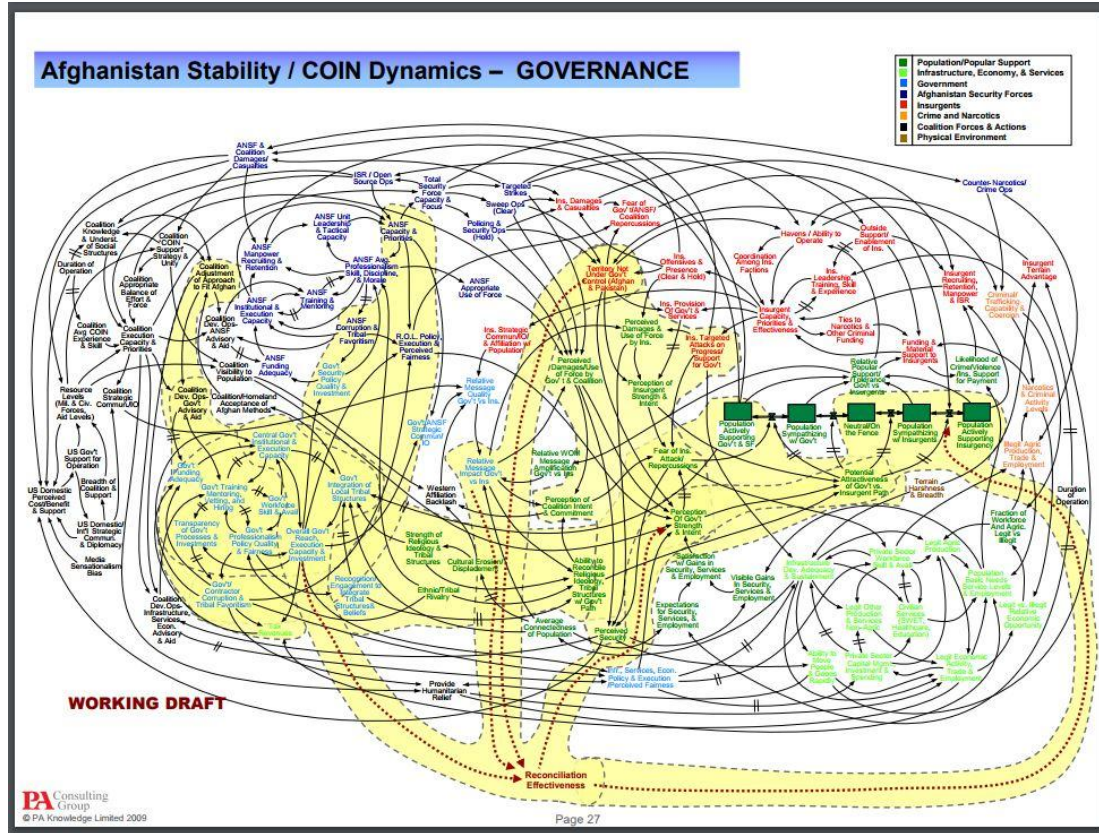
# How does a computer work?



# T-shaped expertise



# What is an abstraction layer?





# Group Activity: Language

- 1) Even though there were many cookies on the dish, I only ate three.
- 2) He left home early in the morning, so he wouldn't miss the train.

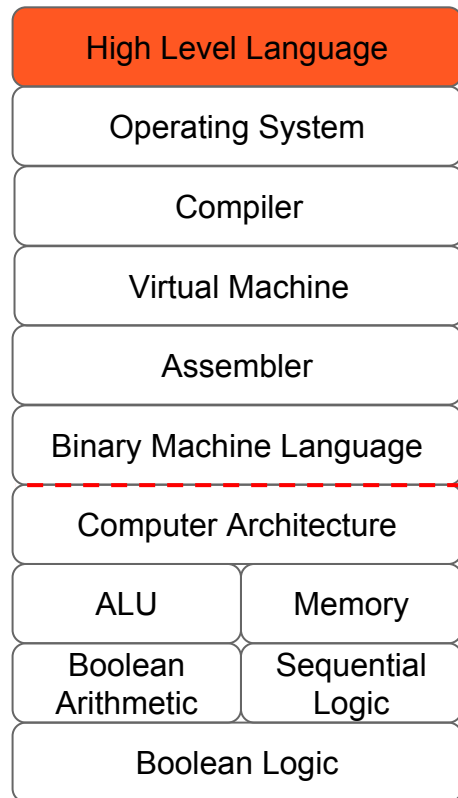
# Impact of an abstraction layer?

The level of abstraction at which you work ultimately determines the level of abstraction at which you are able to think.

“Civilization progresses by extending the number of operations that we can perform without thinking about them.”

- Alfred North Whitehead - Mathematician and Philosopher

# High Level Language



```
import re
from collections import Counter

def words(text): return re.findall(r'\w+', text.lower())

WORDS = Counter(words(open('big.txt').read()))

def P(word, N=sum(WORDS.values())):
    "Probability of `word`."
    return WORDS[word] / N

def correction(word):
    "Most probable spelling correction for word."
    return max(candidates(word), key=P)

def candidates(word):
    "Generate possible spelling corrections for word."
    return (known([word]) or known(edits1(word)) or known(edits2(word)) or [word])

def known(words):
    "The subset of `words` that appear in the dictionary of WORDS."
    return set(w for w in words if w in WORDS)

def edits1(word):
    "All edits that are one edit away from `word`."
    letters = 'abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'
    splits = [(word[:i], word[i:])] for i in range(len(word) + 1)
    deletes = [L + R[1:] for L, R in splits if R]
    transposes = [L + R[1] + R[0] + R[2:] for L, R in splits if len(R)>1]
    replaces = [L + c + R[1:] for L, R in splits if R for c in letters]
    inserts = [L + c + R for L, R in splits for c in letters]
    return set(deletes + transposes + replaces + inserts)

def edits2(word):
    "All edits that are two edits away from `word`."
    return (e2 for e1 in edits1(word) for e2 in edits1(e1))
```

<http://norvig.com/spell-correct.html>

# Operating System



# OS X

High Level Language

Operating System

Compiler

Virtual Machine

Assembler

Binary Machine Language

Computer Architecture

ALU

Memory

Boolean  
Arithmetic

Sequential  
Logic

Boolean Logic

```
NtOpenChannel
NtOpenDirectoryObject
NtOpenEnlistment
NtOpenEvent
NtOpenEventPair
NtOpenFile
NtOpenIoCompletion
NtOpenJobObject
NtOpenKey
NtOpenKeyEx
NtOpenKeyTransacted
NtOpenKeyTransactedEx
NtOpenKeyedEvent
NtOpenMutant
NtOpenObjectAuditAlarm
NtOpenPartition
NtOpenPrivateNamespace
NtOpenProcess
NtOpenProcessToken
NtOpenProcessTokenEx
NtOpenRegistryTransaction
NtOpenResourceManager
```

<http://j00ru.vexillum.org/ntapi/>

```
accept(2)
accept4(2)
access(2)
acct(2)
add_key(2)
adjtimex(2)
alarm(2)
alloc_hugepages(2)
bdflush(2)

bind(2)
bpf(2)
brk(2)
cacheflush(2)
capget(2)
capset(2)
chdir(2)
chmod(2)
chown(2)
```

``man syscalls``

```
{ int nosys(void); }
{ void exit(int rval); }
{ int fork(void); }
{ user_ssize_t read(int fd, void *buf, user_ssize_t count); }
{ int open(const char *path, int flags, mode_t mode); }
{ int close(int fd); }
{ int wait4(int pid, int *status, int options, struct rusage *rusage); }
{ int nosys(void); }
{ int link(const char *oldpath, const char *newpath); }
{ int unlink(const char *path); }
{ int nosys(void); }
{ int chdir(const char *path); }
{ int fchdir(int fd); }
{ int mkfifo(const char *path, mode_t mode); }
{ int chmod(const char *path, mode_t mode); }
{ int chown(const char *path, uid_t uid, gid_t gid); }
{ int nosys(void); }
```

<https://opensource.apple.com/source/xnu/xnu-1504.3.12/bsd/kern/syscalls.master>

# Compiler

High Level Language

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hello.c > gcc -S -masm=intel hello.c

hello.s

```
#include <stdio.h>

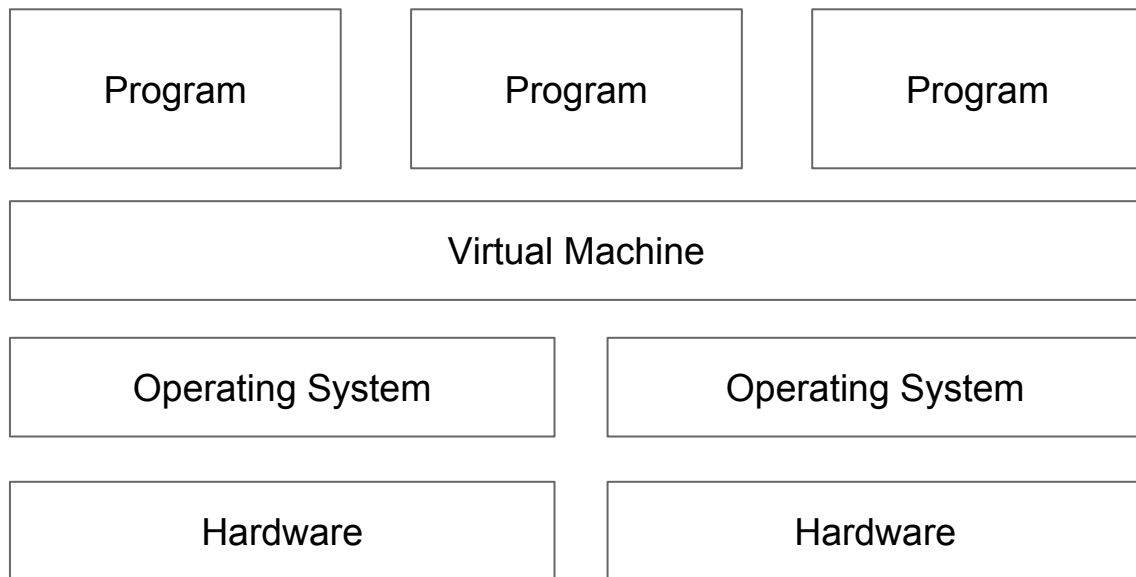
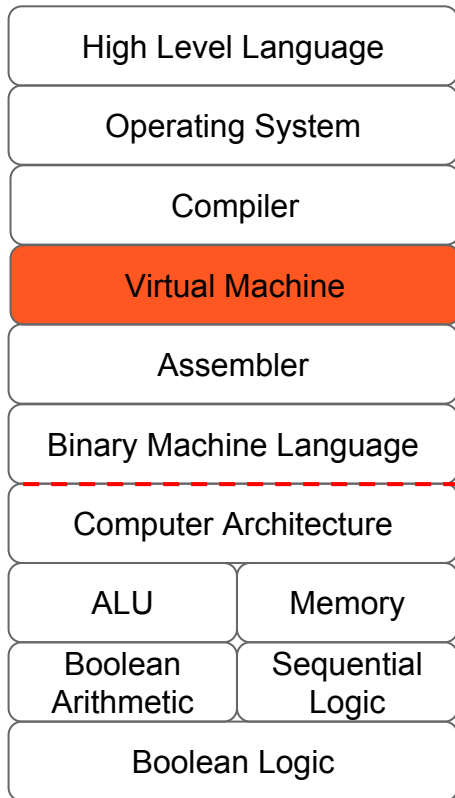
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, World!");
}
```

Compiler

```
main:
    push    rbp
    mov     rbp, rsp
    sub     rsp, 32
    movabs  rax, .L.str
    mov     dword ptr [rbp - 4], edi
    mov     qword ptr [rbp - 16], rsi
    mov     rdi, rax
    mov     al, 0
    call    printf
    xor     ecx, ecx
    mov     dword ptr [rbp - 20], eax
    mov     eax, ecx
    add     rsp, 32
    pop     rbp
    ret

.L.str:
    .asciz  "Hello, World!"
```

# Virtual Machine



# Assembler

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hello.s

```
main:
    push    rbp
    mov     rbp, rsp
    sub     rsp, 32
    movabs  rax, .L.str
    mov     dword ptr [rbp - 4], edi
    mov     qword ptr [rbp - 16], rsi
    mov     rdi, rax
    mov     al, 0
    call    printf
    xor     ecx, ecx
    mov     dword ptr [rbp - 20], eax
    mov     eax, ecx
    add     rsp, 32
    pop     rbp
    ret

.L.str:
    .asciz  "Hello, World!"
```

> gcc hello.s

Assembler

a.out

```
415e 415f c390 662e 0f1f 8400 0000 0000
f3c3 0000 4883 ec08 4883 c408 c300 0000
0100 0200 4865 6c6c 6f2c 2057 6f72 6c64
2100 0000 011b 033b 3000 0000 0500 0000
0cfe ffff 7c00 0000 4cfe ffff 4c00 0000
42ff ffff a400 0000 6cff ffff c400 0000
dcff ffff 0c01 0000 1400 0000 0000 0000
017a 5200 0178 1001 1b0c 0708 9001 0710
```

# Binary Machine Language

High Level Language

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Binary Machine Language

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Memory

Boolean  
Arithmetic

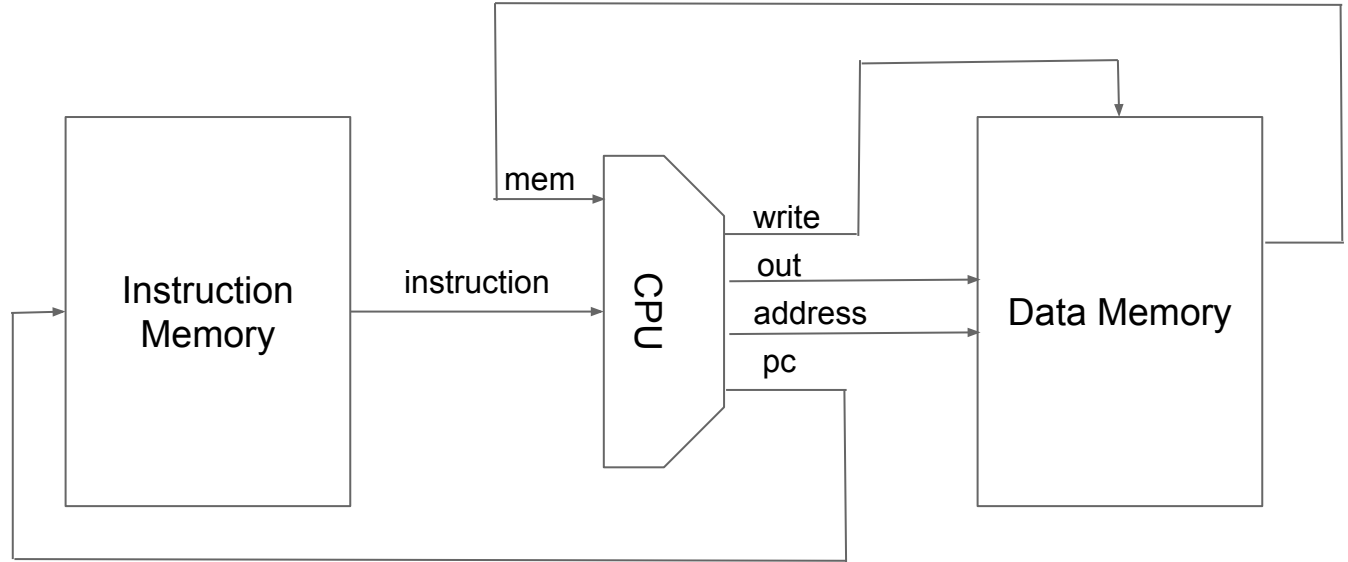
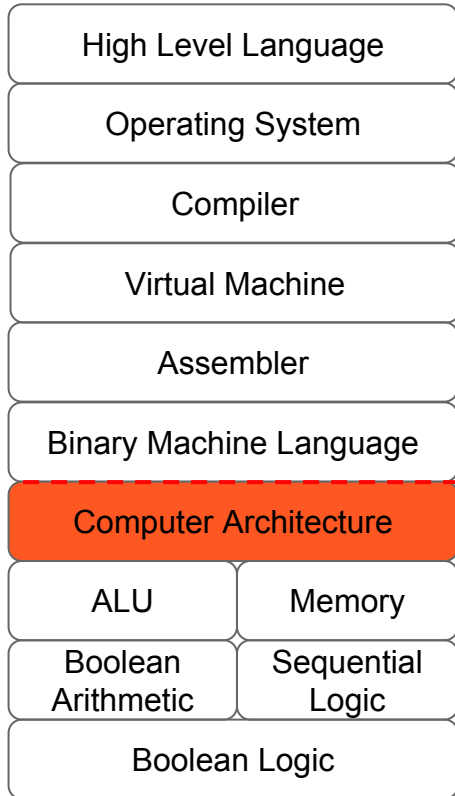
Sequential  
Logic

Boolean Logic

```
01100111 01101100 01101111 01100010 01100001 01101100
01011111 01100100 01110100 01101111 01110010 01110011
01011111 01100001 01110101 01111000 01011111 01100110
01101001 01101110 01101001 01011111 01100001 01110010
01110010 01100001 01111001 01011111 01100101 01101110
01110100 01110010 01111001 00000000 01100110 01110010
01100001 01101101 01100101 01011111 01100100 01110101
01101101 01101101 01111001 00000000 01011111 01011111
01100110 01110010 01100001 01101101 01100101 01011111
01100100 01110101 01101101 01101101 01111001 01011111
01100100 01110101 01101101 01101101 01111001 01011111
01101001 01101110 01101001 01110100 01011111 01100001
01110010 01110010 01100001 01111001 01011111 01100101
01101110 01110100 01110010 01111001 00000000 01101000
01100101 01101100 01101100 01101111 00101110 01100011
00000000 01011111 01011111 01000110 01010010 01000001
01001101 01000101 01011111 01000101 01001110 01000100
```



# Computer Architecture



# Memory

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Boolean Logic

Register

DFF

DFF

...

DFF

RAM 8

Register

Register

⋮

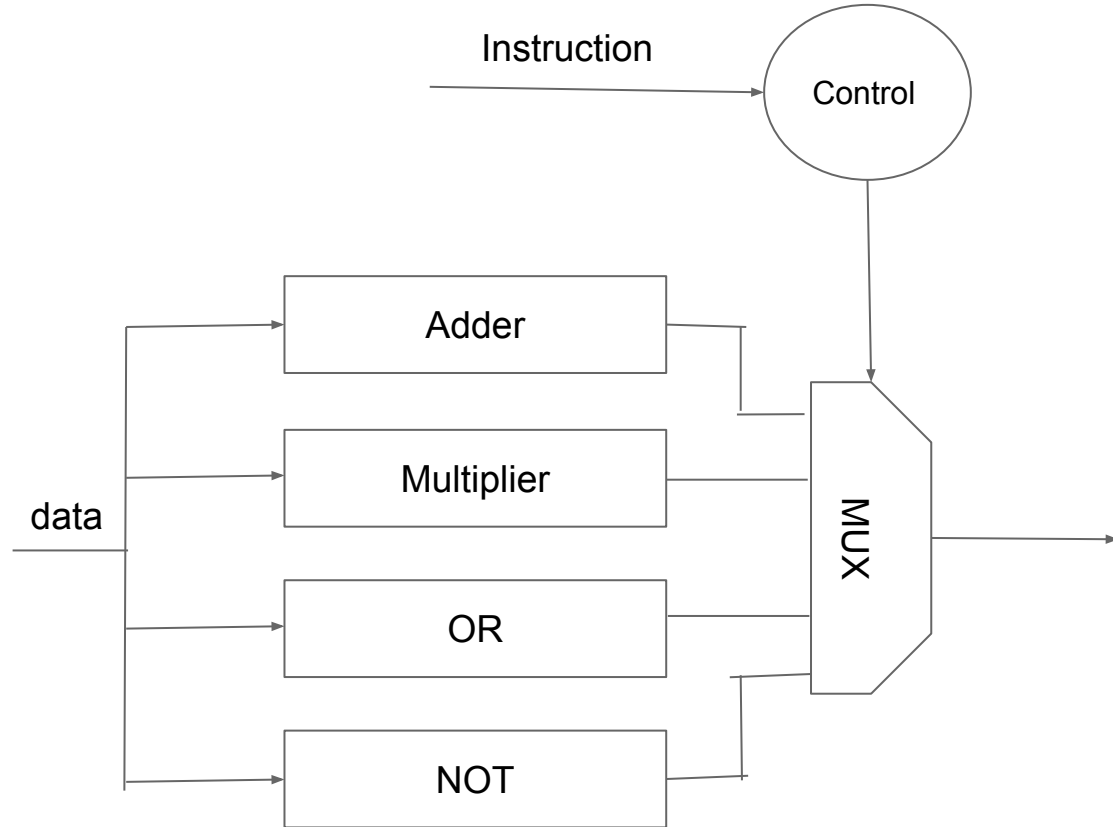
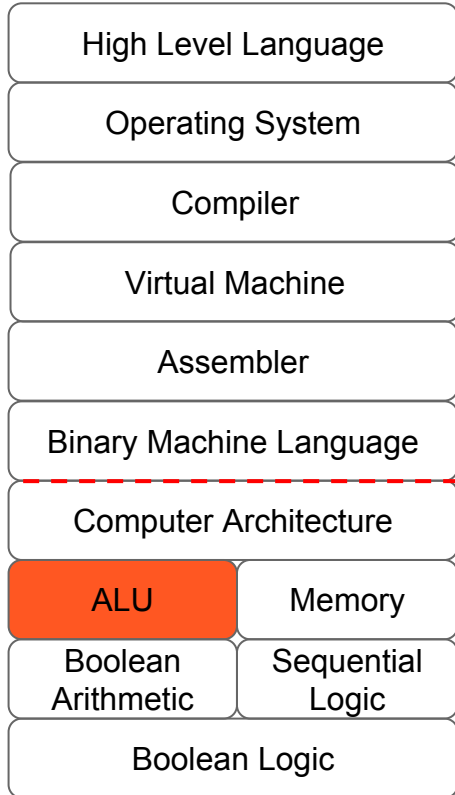
Register

RAM 8

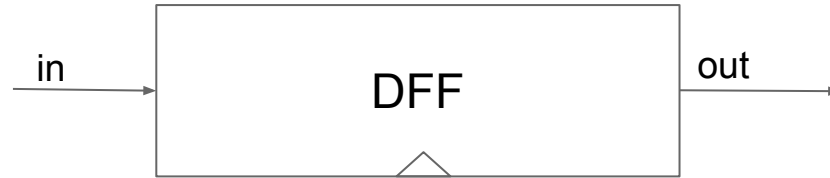
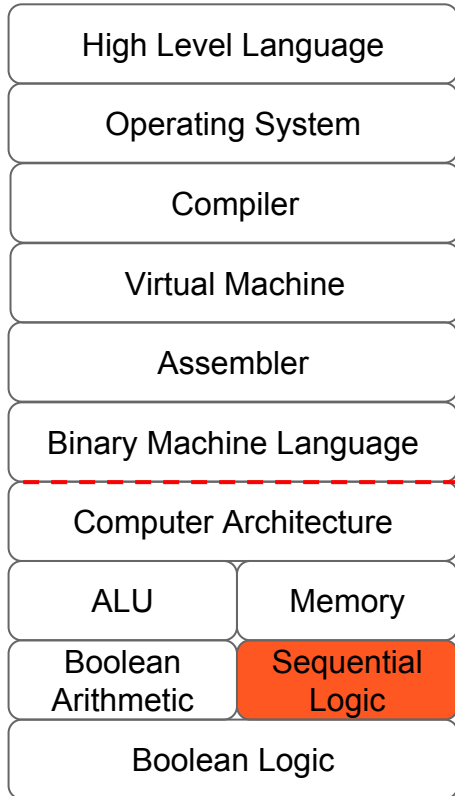
⋮

RAM 8

# ALU



# Sequential Logic



$$\text{out}(t) = \text{in}(t-1)$$

# Boolean Arithmetic

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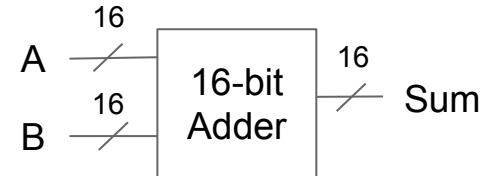
Sequential  
Logic

Boolean Logic

2's complement binary values

0	0000		
1	0001	-1	1111
2	0010	-2	1110
3	0011	-3	1101
4	0100	-4	1100
5	0101	-5	1011
6	0110	-6	1010
7	0111	-7	1001
		-8	1000

$$\begin{array}{r} \dots 1011 \\ + \dots 0010 \\ \hline \dots 1101 \end{array}$$



# Boolean Logic

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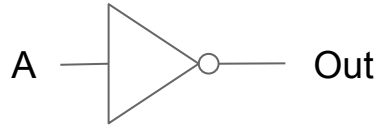
ALU

Memory

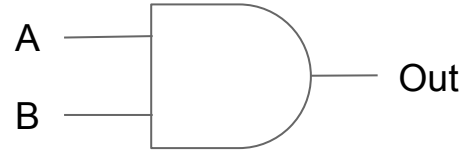
Boolean  
Arithmetic

Sequential  
Logic

Boolean Logic



A	Out
0	1
1	0



A	B	Out
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

- AND
- OR
- NOT
- XOR
- NAND
- NOR
- MUX
- DEMUX

# Code



# Why?





# Credits

The Elements of Computing Systems by Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

<http://nand2tetris.org/>

<https://gcc.godbolt.org/>

<http://norvig.com/spell-correct.html>



# Questions?



# RETRO



What went well?

What didn't go well?

What can be improved?



# Build Your Creative Thinking Toolbox!

Goals, uses and intended outcomes of various types of frameworks.

# PLUGGED IN

AUGUST 22, 2017 5:30-7:30PM



**RSVP: [bit.ly/ihrpithink](https://bit.ly/ihrpithink)**



# Thank You

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