

If you haven't done it yet, please  
fill out the course policies form!



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Ac0JcTKYuK>

# The Hardware-Software Interface

**No lab tonight!**

# Discussion Policy Summary

- No “requirement” to speak, especially if you’re having a bad day
- Leaving room for others to participate by being conscious of how much you’ve participated
- Electronic use during larger discussions should be non-destructive
- Be willing to be wrong
- In smaller groups, be sure chairs and bodies are positioned to include everyone in the conversation (especially for people behind you!)
- Knowing each other’s names

# AI Policy Summary

- More variance in philosophy of what should be allowed... response ranges from totally disallowed to unlimited use
- Common feedback that the language around debugging is overly restrictive
  - Policy on the course website has softened the language
- One of my goals for this course is to serve as a technical practicum in a controlled environment where you are allowed to fail
  - Using these tools for development on assignments will remain against course policy
  - I am interested in your experience using these tools for some tasks, so I am inclined to allow it for non-assignment warmup labs



Image credit: <https://www.ibm.com/history/650>

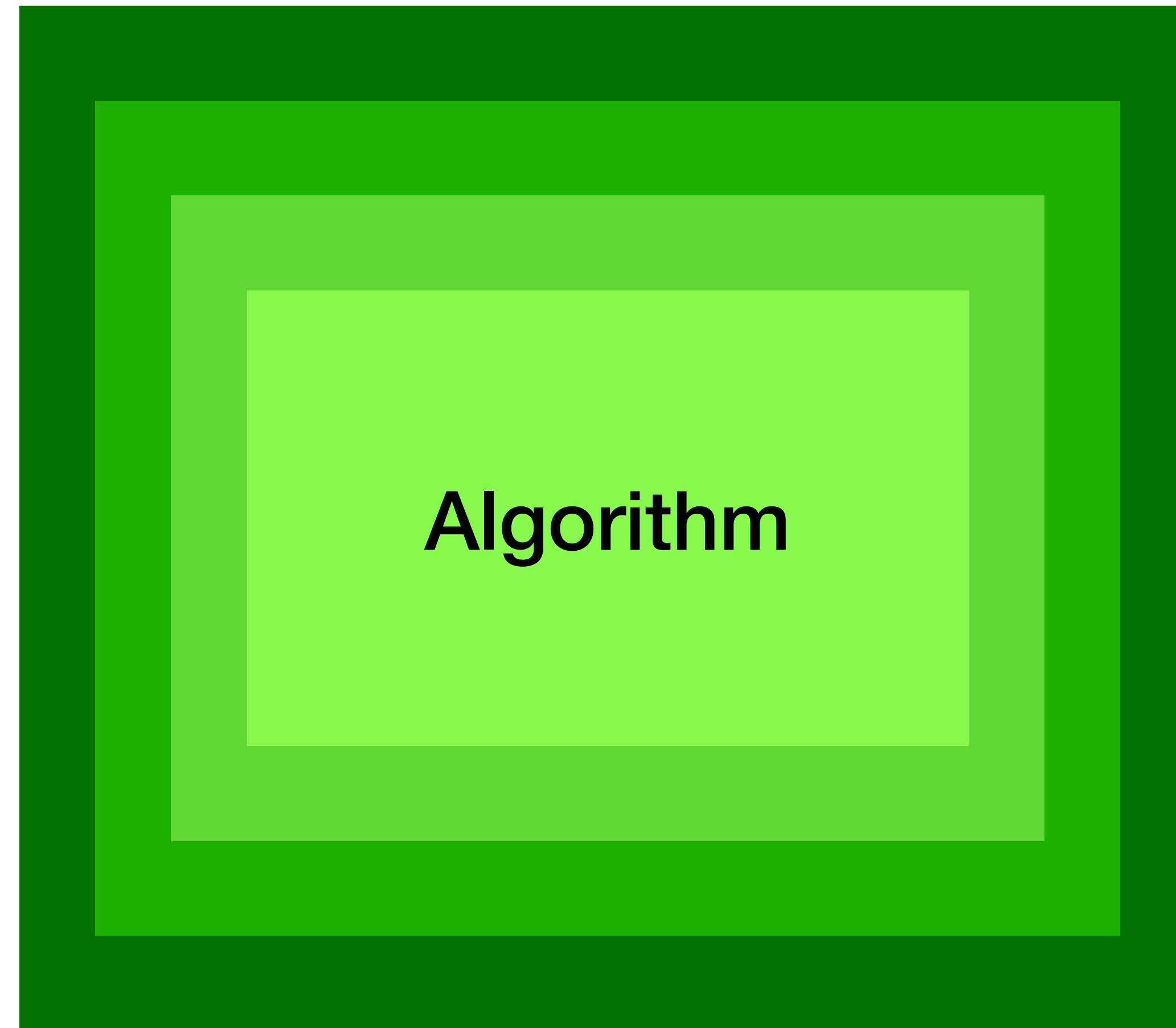


# Today's Outline

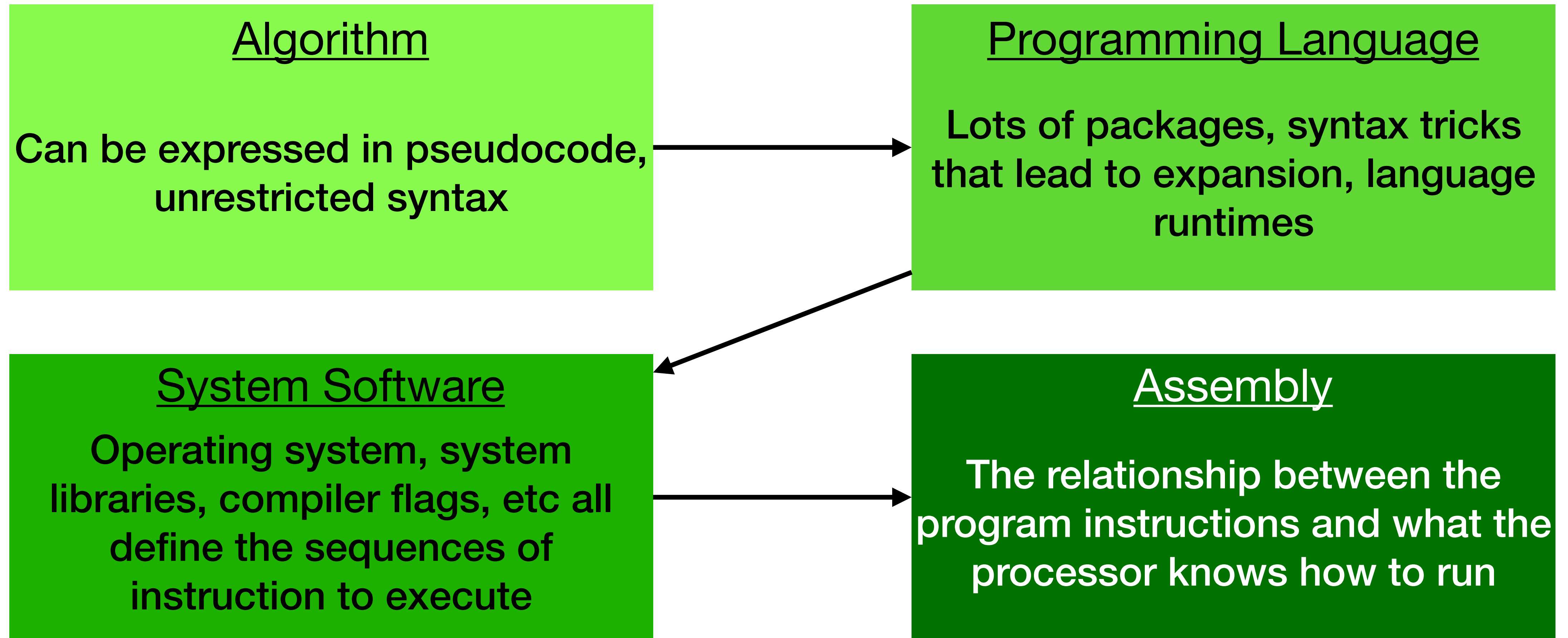
- Software interfaces to hardware
- Introducing instruction sets
- Functions of a processor
- Introducing basic processor components

**Goal: build an intuition for  
the computer architecture  
landscape**

# Unpacking a Program



# Unpacking a Program



# System Software

- Compilers transform *source code* to *assembly*
- Different compilers compile code down to different assembly formats...

We will explore these in more detail on Friday!

x86

ARM

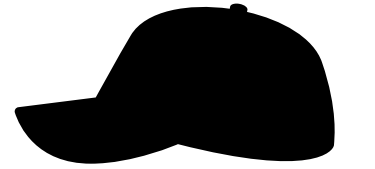
Power

RISC-V

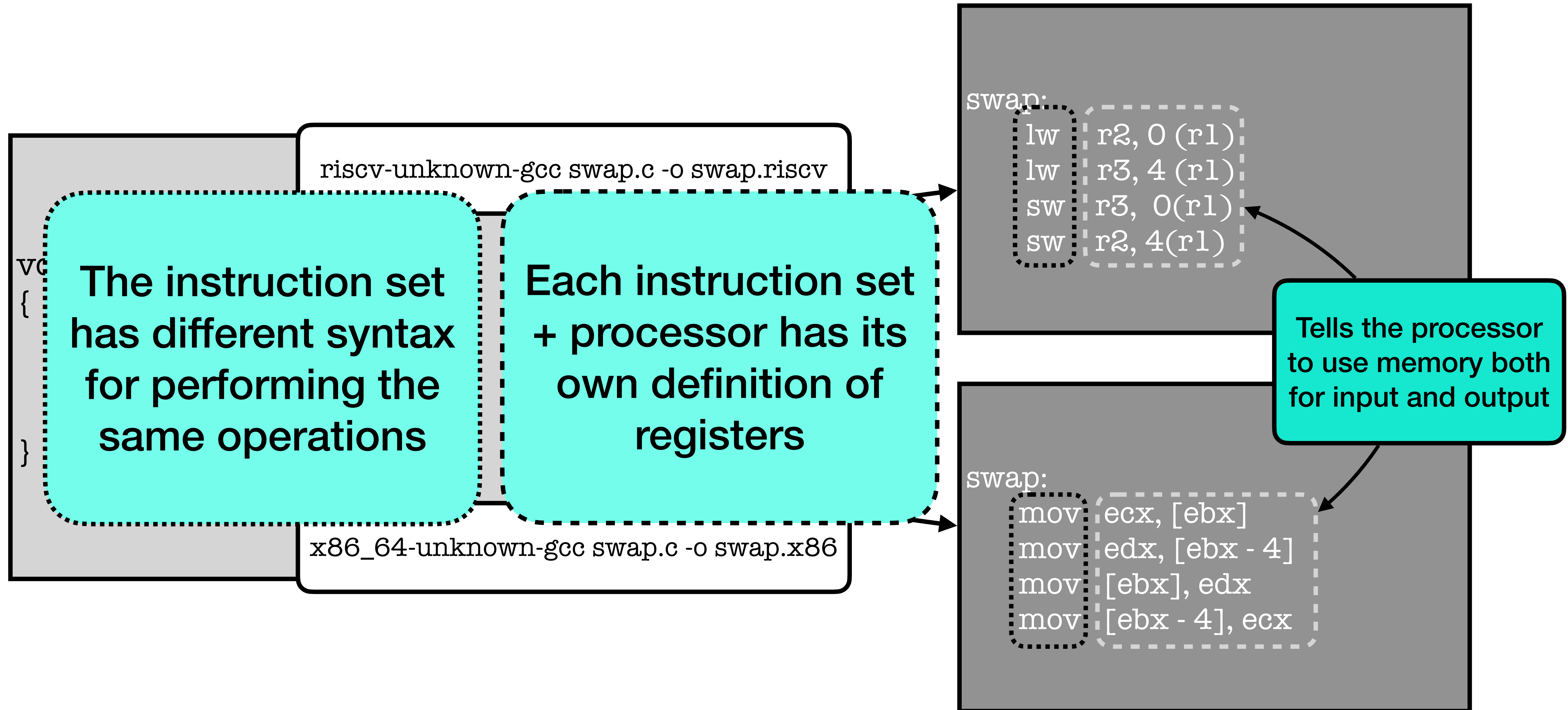
MIPS

- Demo!

# Unpacking a Program (cont.)

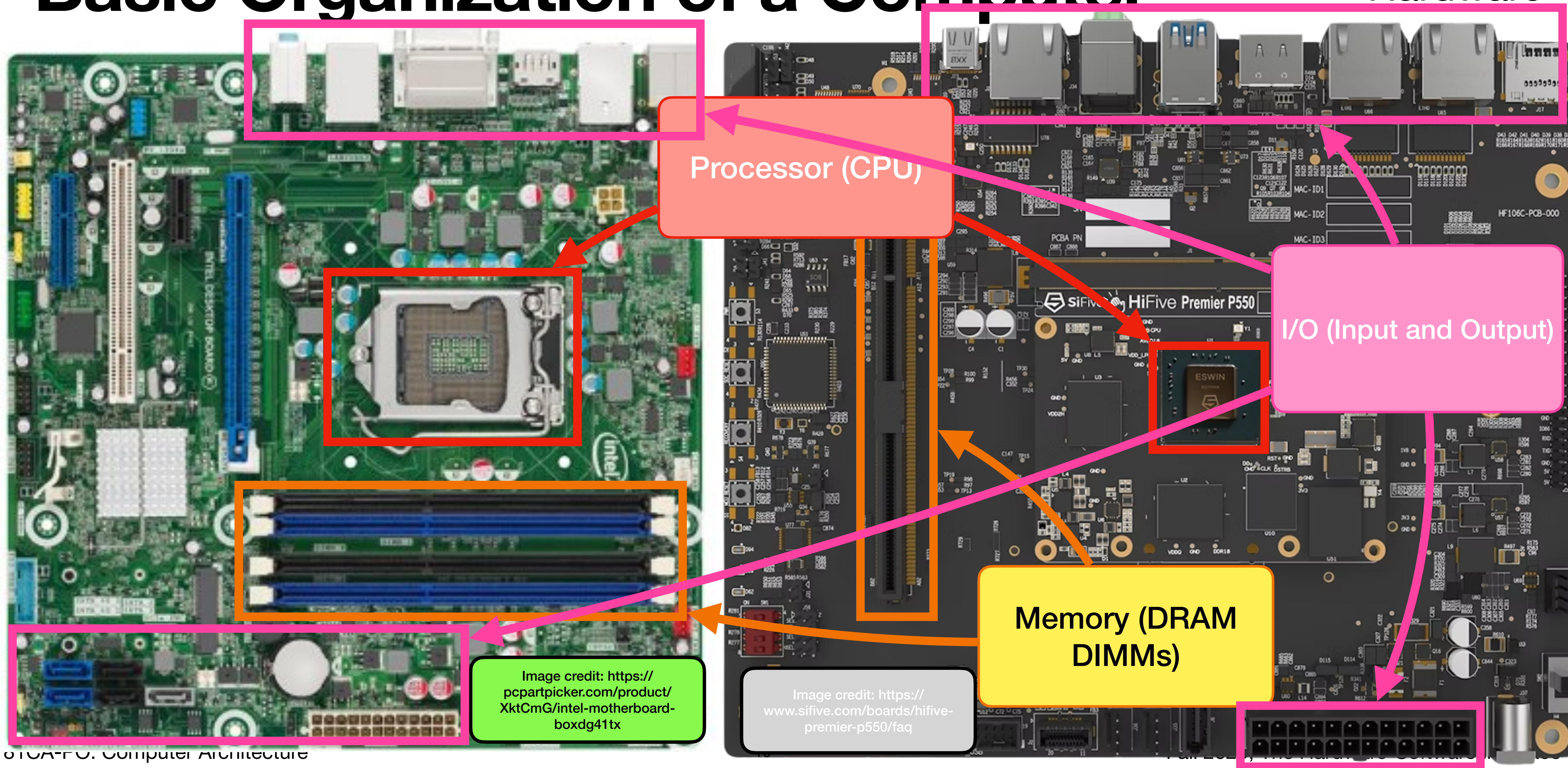


Software



# Basic Organization of a Computer

  
Hardware



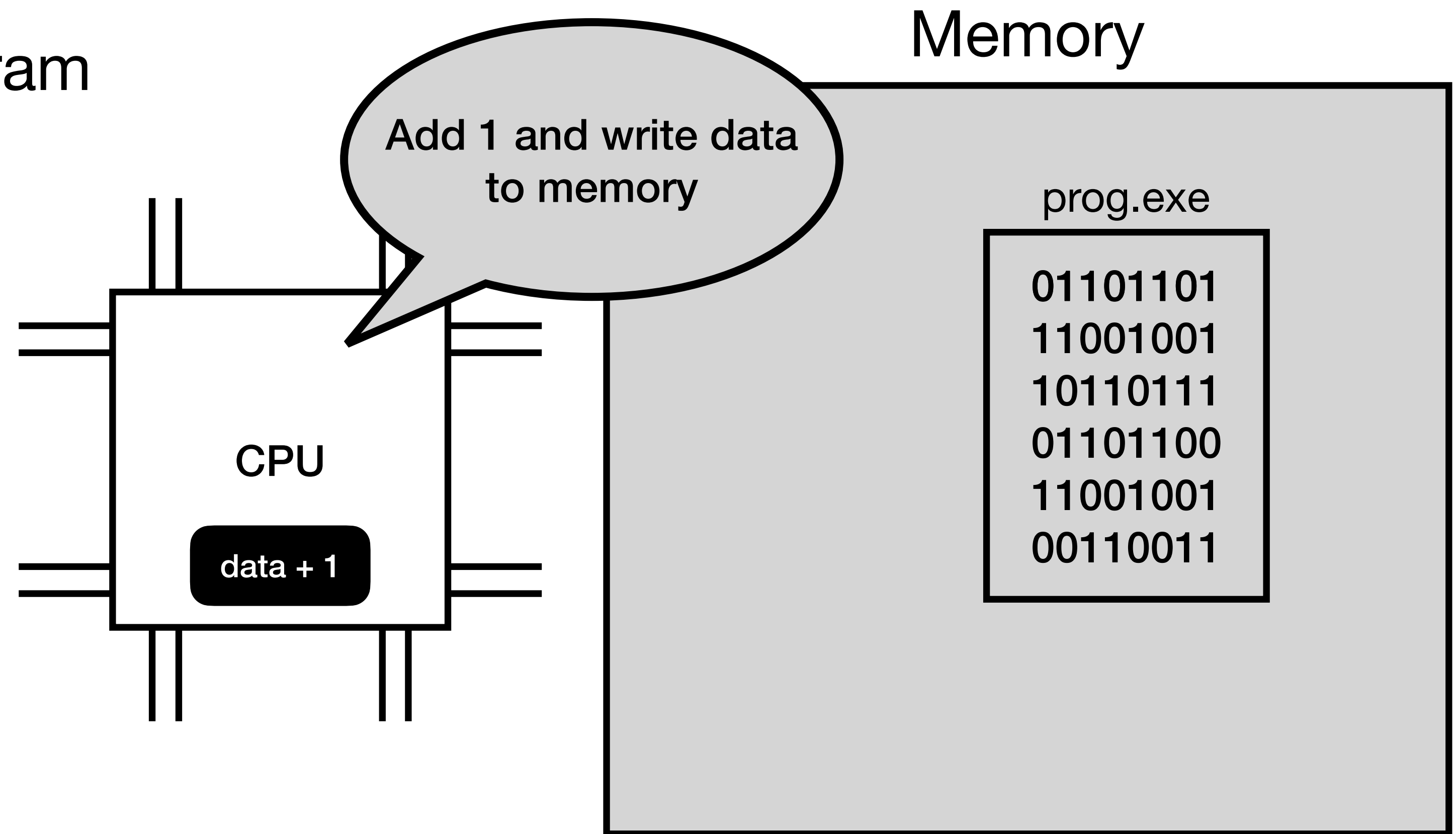
# Basic Organization of a Computer



- Processor: the processor executes programs by implementing the *data path* and *control* that defines how instructions should be executed
  - Data Path: how data flows through a processor
  - Control: the configuration of custom logic in processor components
- Memory: *load* and *store* interface between the processor and memory for data that doesn't fit in registers
- I/O: mouse, keyboard, stdin/stdout files, screen, network card, etc.

# Basic Functions of a Processor

- Track location in the program
- Fetch instructions from memory
- Interpret instructions
- Execute instructions
- Update state



# Chat with your neighbor(s)!



Think about our two assembly programs. What from the assembly syntax will lead to similarities in the basic processor design? Differences?

load-store  
architecture

swap:

```
lw    r2, 0(r1)
lw    r3, 4(r1)
sw    r3, 0(r1)
sw    r2, 4(r1)
```

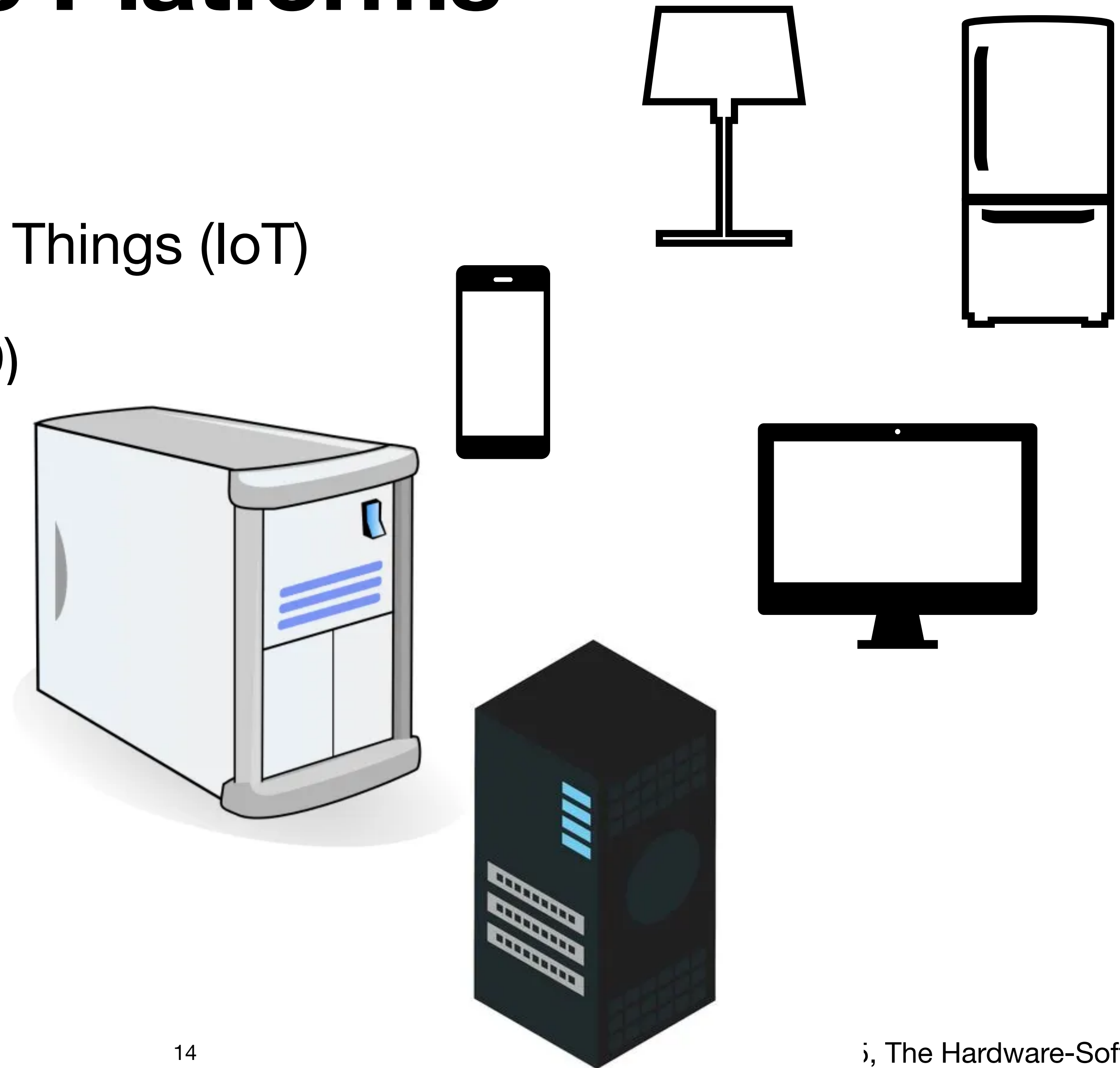
swap:

```
mov    ecx, [ebx]
mov    edx, [ebx - 4]
mov    [ebx], edx
mov    [ebx - 4], ecx
```

register-memory  
architecture

# Types of Hardware Platforms

- Embedded Devices/Internet of Things (IoT)
- Personal Mobile Devices (PMD)
- Desktop
- Server
- Cluster/Warehouse-Scale



# Types of Hardware Platforms

- Embedded Devices/Internet of Things (IoT): cost, energy, specialized application performance
- Personal Mobile Devices (PMD): cost, energy, media performance, responsiveness
- Desktop: combination of price and performance, energy, graphics performance
- Server: throughput, availability, energy, scalability
- Cluster/Warehouse-Scale: throughput, combination of price and performance, energy proportionality

RISC-V

ARMv8-32, x86\_64

ARM, x86

# Takeaways

Always design for the demands of the platform!

Instruction set design influences the hardware design

Hardware design influences the instruction set