Chapter 1

***Digital Design and Computer Architecture*, 2nd Edition**

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Chapter 1 :: Topics

- **Background**
- **The Game Plan**
- **The Art of Managing Complexity**
- **The Digital Abstraction**
- ~~**Number Systems**~~
- ~~**Logic Gates**~~
- ~~**Logic Levels**~~
- ~~**CMOS Transistors**~~
- ~~**Power Consumption**~~

Background

- Microprocessors have revolutionized our world
  - Cell phones, Internet, rapid advances in medicine, etc.
- The semiconductor industry has grown from $21 billion in 1985 to $300 billion in 2011
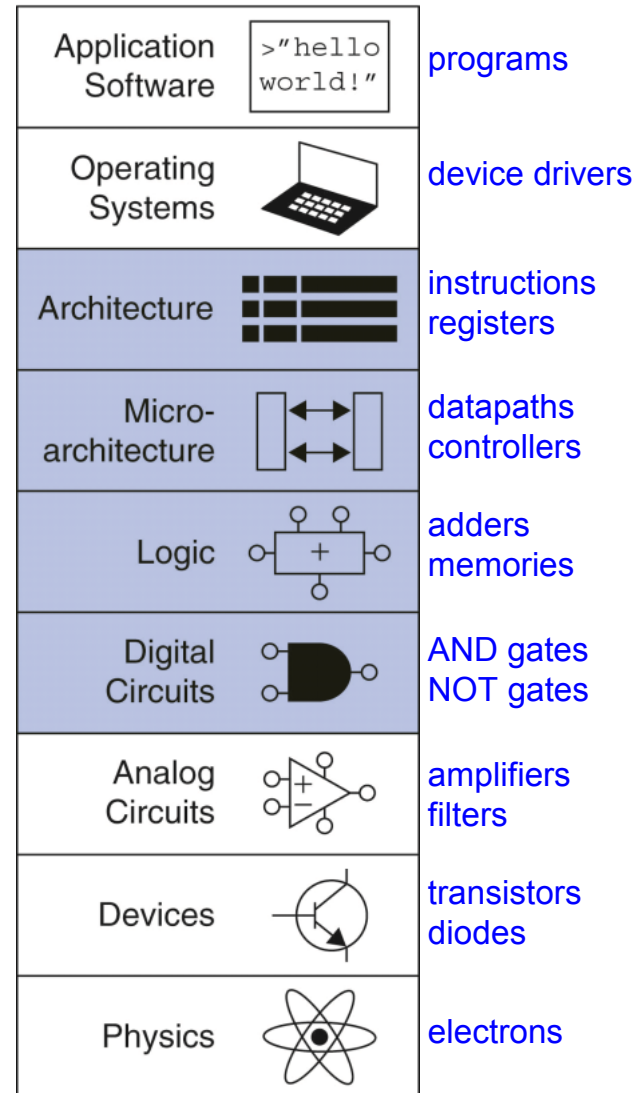
The Game Plan

- Purpose of course:
  - Understand what's under the hood of a computer
  - Learn the principles of digital design
  - Learn to systematically debug increasingly complex designs
  - Design and build a microprocessor

The Art of Managing Complexity

- Abstraction

- Discipline

- The Three –Y's
  - Hierarchy
  - Modularity
  - Regularity

Abstraction

- Hiding details when they aren't important

Application Software	`>"hello world!"`	programs
Operating Systems		device drivers
Architecture		instructions registers
Micro-architecture		datapaths controllers
Logic		adders memories
Digital Circuits		AND gates NOT gates
Analog Circuits		amplifiers filters
Devices		transistors diodes
Physics		electrons

focus of this course

Discipline

- Intentionally restrict design choices

- Example: Digital discipline
  - Discrete voltages instead of continuous
  - Simpler to design than analog circuits – can build more sophisticated systems
  - Digital systems replacing analog predecessors:
    - i.e., digital cameras, digital television, cell phones, CDs
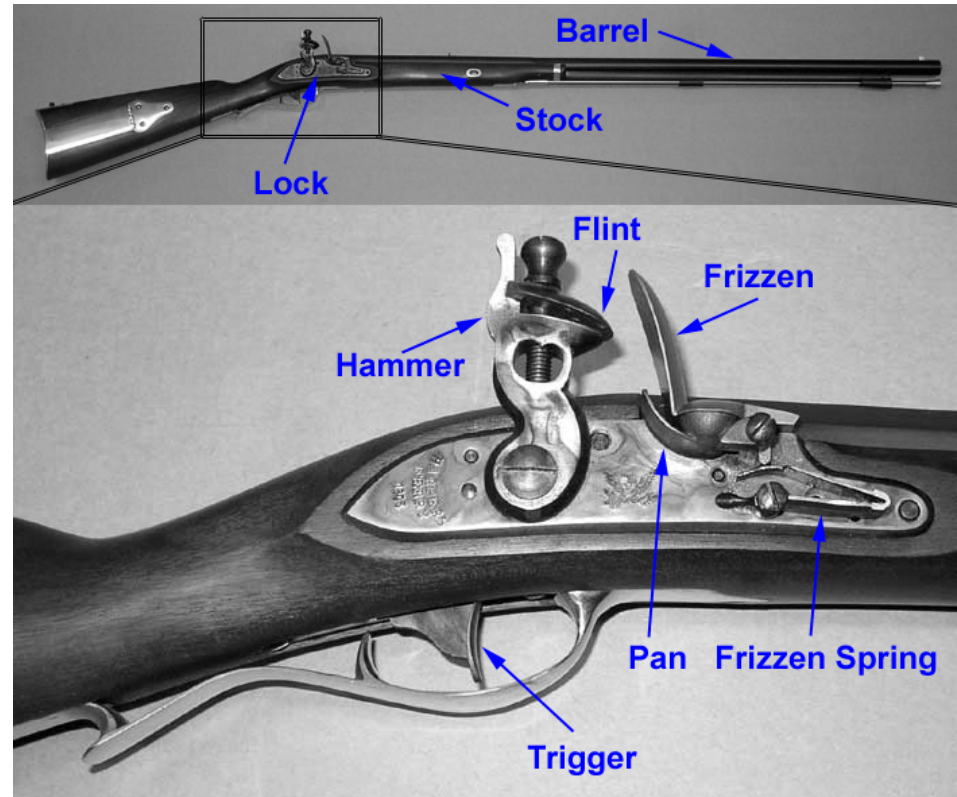
The Three -Y's

- **Hierarchy**
  - A system divided into modules and submodules

- **Modularity**
  - Having well-defined functions and interfaces

- **Regularity**
  - Encouraging uniformity, so modules can be easily reused
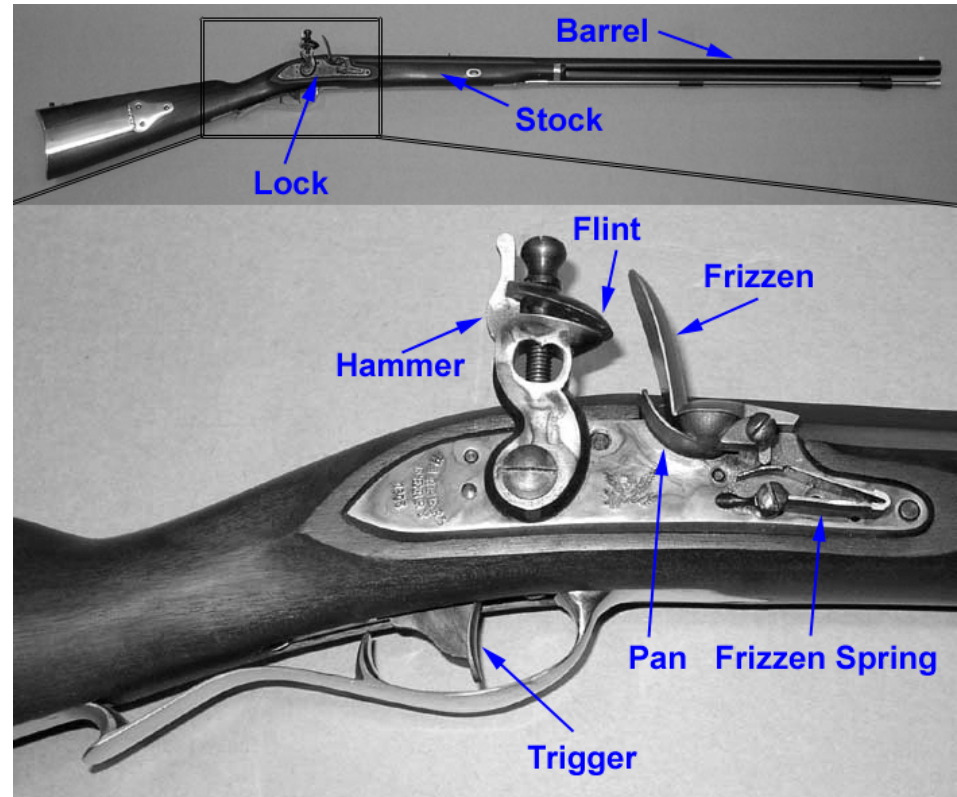
Example: The Flintlock Rifle

- ## **Hierarchy**
  - **Three main modules:** lock, stock, and barrel
  - **Submodules of lock:** hammer, flint, frizzen, etc.

Example: The Flintlock Rifle

- ## **Modularity**
  - **Function of stock:** mount barrel and lock
  - **Interface of stock:** length and location of mounting pins

- ## **Regularity**
  - Interchangeable parts

The Digital Abstraction

- Most physical variables are **continuous**
  - Voltage on a wire
  - Frequency of an oscillation
  - Position of a mass
- Digital abstraction considers **discrete subset** of values

The Analytical Engine

- Designed by Charles Babbage from 1834 – 1871

- Considered to be the first digital computer

- Built from mechanical gears, where each gear represented a discrete value (0-9)

- Babbage died before it was finished
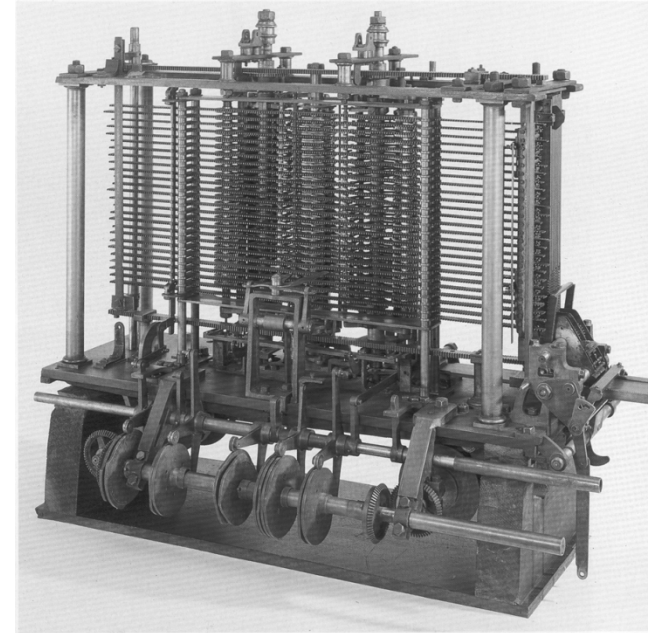
Digital Discipline: Binary Values

- **Two discrete values:**
  - 1's and 0's
  - 1, TRUE, HIGH
  - 0, FALSE, LOW
- **1 and 0:** voltage levels, rotating gears, fluid levels, etc.
- Digital circuits use **voltage** levels to represent 1 and 0
- ***Bit:*** *B*inary dig*it*

George Boole, 1815-1864

- Born to working class parents

- Taught himself mathematics and joined the faculty of Queen's College in Ireland.

- Wrote *An Investigation of the Laws of Thought* (1854)

- Introduced binary variables

- Introduced the three fundamental logic operations: AND, OR, and NOT.
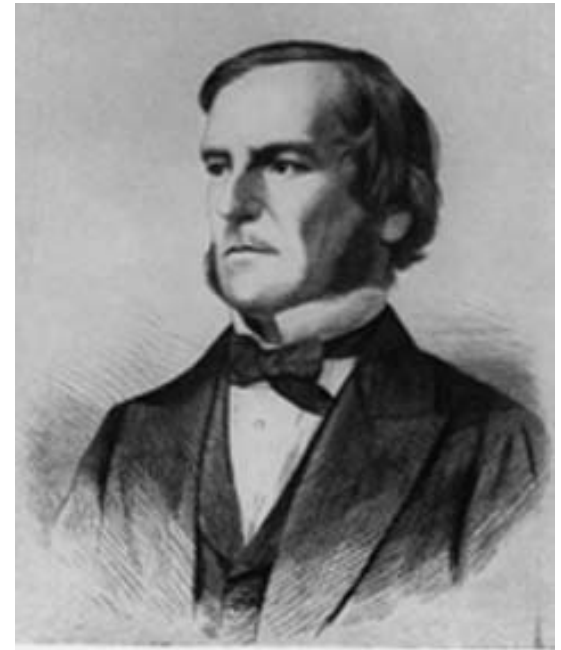
GEORGE BOOLE

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