ISA

- An ISA defines the interface between software and hardware. Software is converted to machine instructions using software (compiler/interpreter). Then the instructions are executed using hardware.

- Good ISA
  - Programmability
  - Implementability
  - Compatibility
    - Backward compatibility
    - Forward compatibility

Basic ISA classes

- Stack Architectures
- Accumulator Architectures
- Register-set Architectures
  - Register-to-Register