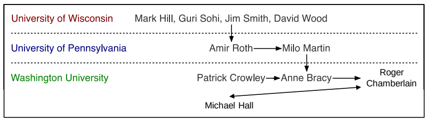
CSE 560
Computer Systems Architecture

Introduction

Visual Etymology



1

1

Administrative Stuff

- Instructor: Michael Hall
  - Office – Green Hall 3155 Email – mhall24@wustl.edu
  - Office Hours – Mon and Wed, 3 pm to 4 pm
  - I am available after class if requested.
- TAs: Zaid Ahmed, TBD
  - Office Hours – TBD
- Office hours for CSE 560M and CSE 362M are combined this semester.
- Prof. Roger Chamberlain
  - Office – McKelvey 1053
  - Office Hours – Tue and Thu, 4 pm to 5 pm
  - Content questions only
- Please use Piazza over email for asking questions
  - Emails get lost in the pile, Piazza posts don't
  - Public post for general questions, private if needed
- Webpage: https://classes.engineering.wustl.edu/cse560m/
- Optional Text: J.-L. Baer, *Microprocessor Architecture: From Simple Pipelines to Chip Multiprocessors*, Cambridge University Press, 2010

2

2

Class Logistics

- Lectures
  - Lectures in Green Hall L0120 – MW 5:30pm-6:50pm
  - Recording available soon after the lecture is complete
- My office hours
  - Either in-person or via Zoom (send me a note)
  - I want to be approachable. Feel free to stop by during office hours for anything you need in this class.
- TA office hours
  - Still TBD
- Assignments
  - Mostly simulation work – using Linux systems
  - Typically due on Fridays (submission on Canvas)
  - One reading assignment (pick and read a conference paper to go deeper into a topic)

3

3

Grading Logistics

- Three elements
  - Practice problems – approx. once per week
  - Assignments – typically simulation experiments
  - Two exams – equal coverage, no comprehensive final
- Practice problems
  - Solutions posted about one week after problems are posted
  - No impact on grades, but they are practice for exams
- Assignments
  - 5 during the course of the semester
- Exams
  - Timed in-class exam
- Grading:
  - Assignments 40%
  - Exams – Oct 16, Dec 4 30% each

4

4

What is Computer Architecture?

"*Computer Architecture* is the science and art of selecting and interconnecting hardware components to create computers that meet functional, performance and cost goals."

- Old WWW Computer Architecture Page

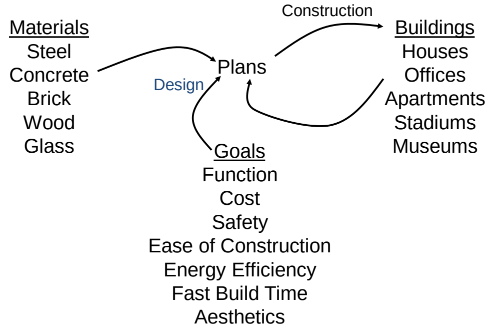
An analogy to architecture of buildings…

5

5

What is ~~Computer~~ Architecture?

The role of a ***building*** architect:



6

6

What is Computer Architecture?

The role of a *computer* architect:

Technology
Logic Gates
SRAM
DRAM
Circuit Techniques
Packaging
Magnetic Storage
Flash Memory

Design → Plans → Manufacturing → Computer

Computer
Desktop
Servers
PDAs
Mobile Phones
Supercomputers
Game Consoles
Embedded

Goals
Function
Performance
Reliability
Cost/Manufacturability
Energy Efficiency
Time to Market

7

Important Differences…

- Age of discipline: 60 years (vs. 5,000 years)
- Automated mass production
  - Advances magnified over millions of chips
- Boot-strapping effect
  - Better computers help design next generation

  When Seymour Cray was told that Apple had just purchased a Cray computer that would be used in designing the next Macintosh, he thought for a minute, and replied that that seemed reasonable, since he was using a Macintosh to design the next Cray.
- Rate of change
  - Technology, Applications, Goals changing **quickly**

8

Survey Time

Which of the following statements is true?

A: If you can verify that a chip works correctly, you can be sure it will continue to work correctly in the future.

B: Chip manufacturing today has much better yield (of working chips) than it did decades ago.

C: Building reliable (correctly working) chips today is easier than it was decades ago.

D: It costs ~$300,000,000 to build a fabrication plant.

E: If you have an idea that can make a CPU run at a higher frequency, you should definitely implement it (i.e., it's always a good idea).

9

Survey Time

Which of the following statements is true?

A: If you can verify that a chip works correctly, you can be sure it will continue to work correctly in the future.

B: Chip manufacturing today has much better yield (of working chips) than it did decades ago.

C: Building reliable (correctly working) chips today is easier than it was decades ago.

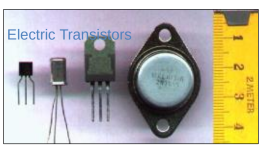
D: It costs ~$300,000,000 to build a fabrication plant.

E: If you have an idea that can make a CPU run at a higher frequency, you should definitely implement it.

Bunch of fab shots

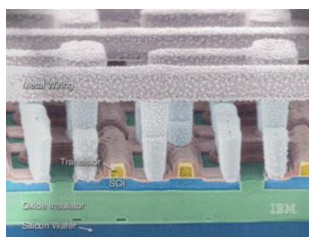
10

Old-school Transistors → Old-school Computers



11

Modern Transistor



IBM SOI Technology

From slides © Krste Asanovic, MIT

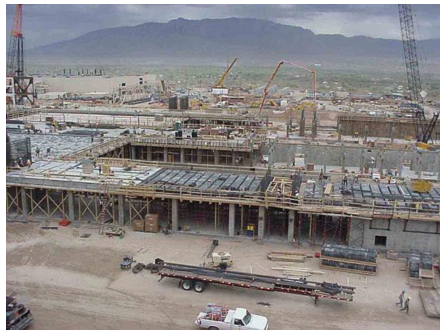
12

Building a Fab

Intel Fab 11x project, Submicron Manufacturing Facility, Rio Rancho, New Mexico: Aug 28, 2000

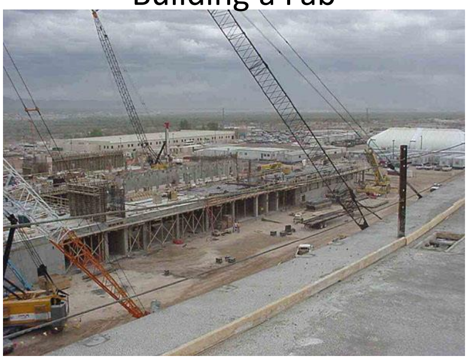
13

Building a Fab



14

Building a Fab



15

Inside a Fab

16

Inside a Fab

17

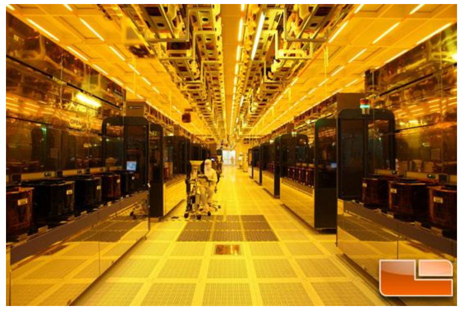
Inside a Fab

18

Inside a Fab

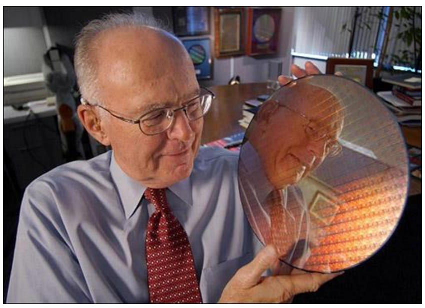
19

Inside a Fab



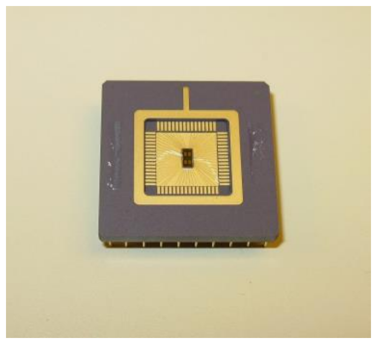
20

Gordon Moore with a Wafer



21

Integrated Circuit



22

Design Goals (1)

- **Functional**
  - Correctness – harder than software
  - What functions should it support?
- **Reliable**
  - Does it ***continue*** to perform correctly?
  - Hard fault vs. transient fault
  - Desktop vs. server vs. space probe reliability
- **High performance**
  - "Fast" — only meaningful in the context of set of tasks
  - Not just GHz – truck vs. sports car analogy
  - Impossible: fastest possible design for all programs

23

Design Goals (2)

- **Low cost:** engineer's dime/fool's dollar
  - Per unit manufacturing cost (wafer cost)
  - Cost of making first chip after design (mask cost)
  - Design cost (huge design teams, why? Two reasons…)
- **Low power/energy – "the new performance"**
  - Energy in (battery life, cost of electricity)
  - Energy out (cooling and related costs)
- **Challenge: balancing these goals**
  - Balance constantly changing
  - Focus for us: **Performance**

24

Shaping Force: Applications/Domains

Another shaping force: **applications** (usage and context)
Different domains → different needs → different designs

- **Scientific**: weather prediction, genome sequencing
  - 1st computing application domain: ballistics tables
  - **Need:** large memory, heavy-duty floating point
  - Examples: Cray XC, IBM BlueGene

  Making a comeback → anything that works on lots of data
- **Commercial**: database/web serving, e-commerce, Google
  - **Need:** data movement, high memory + I/O bandwidth
  - E.g., Intel Xeon, AMD Opteron

25

25

More Applications/Domains

- **Desktop**: home office, multimedia, games
  - **Need:** integer, memory b/w, integrated graphics/network?
  - Examples: Intel Core 2, Core i7, AMD Athlon, PowerPC G5
- **Mobile**: laptops, mobile phones
  - **Need: low power**, integer performance, integrated wireless
  - Laptops: Intel Core 2 Mobile, Atom, AMD Turion
  - Examples: ARM chips by Samsung and others, Intel Atom
- **Embedded**: microcontrollers in automobiles, door knobs
  - **Need:** low power, **low cost**
  - Examples: ARM chips, dedicated digital signal processors (DSPs)
  - Over 1 billion ARM cores sold in 2006 (at least one per phone)

27

27

Application Specific Designs

- This class mostly about **general-purpose CPUs**
  - Processor that can do anything, run a full OS, *etc.*
  - *E.g.*, Intel Core i7, AMD Opteron, IBM Power, ARM
- In contrast to **application-specific chips**
  - Or ASICs (Application specific integrated circuits)
  - Implement critical domain-specific functionality in hardware
    - Examples: video encoding, cryptography
  - General rules
    - \- Hardware is less flexible than software
    - \+ Hardware more effective (speed, power, cost) than software
    - \+ Domain specific more "parallel" than general purpose
      - *But general mainstream processors becoming more parallel!*
- **Trend:** from specific to general (for a specific domain)

28

28

Revolution I: The Microprocessor

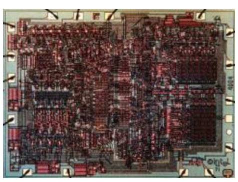
- **Microprocessor revolution:** 16-bit processor on 1 chip!
  - 1970s, ~25K transistors
  - Performance advantages: fewer slow chip-crossings
  - Cost advantages: one "stamped-out" component
- **Out with the old**
  - Microprocessor-based systems replace supercomputers, "mainframes", "minicomputers", *etc.*
- **In with the new**
  - Desktops, CD/DVD players, laptops, game consoles, set-top boxes, cell phones, digital camera, ipods, GPS…

29

29

First Microprocessor

Intel 4004 (1971)
- Application: calculators
- Technology: 10 μm PMOS
- 2300 transistors
- 13 mm²
- 108 kHz
- 12 Volts
- 4-bit data
- Single-cycle datapath

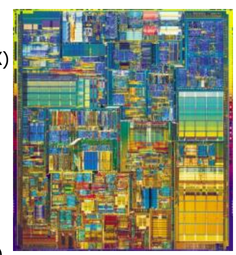


30

30

Pinnacle of Single-Core Microprocessors

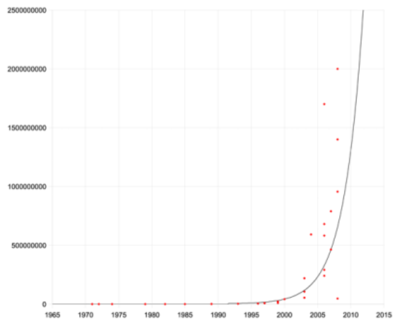
Intel Pentium4 (2003)
- Application: desktop/server
- Technology: 0.09 μm CMOS (1/100X)
- 55M transistors (20,000X)
- 101 mm² (10X)
- 3.4 GHz (10,000X)
- 1.2 Volts (1/10X)
- 32/64-bit data (16X)
- 22-stage pipelined datapath
- 4 instructions per cycle (superscalar)
- Two levels of on-chip cache
- data-parallel (SIMD) instructions, hyper-threading



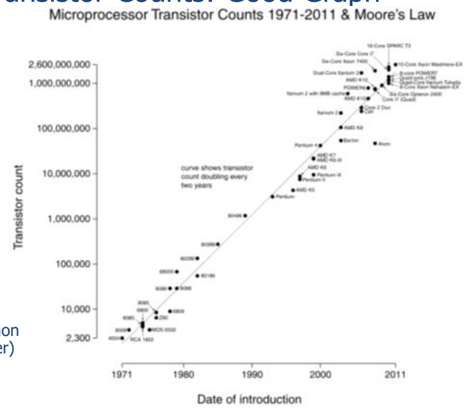
31

31

Transistor Counts: Bad Graph



Transistor Counts: Good Graph



Source: wgsimon (wikipedia user)

What to do with all these transistors?

First things first: expressiveness

- Widen the datapath (4004: 4 bits → Pentium4: 64 bits)
- More powerful instructions
  - To amortize overhead of fetch and decode
  - To simplify programming (done by hand then)

Revolution II: Implicit parallelism

Extract implicit instruction-level parallelism (ILP)

- Hardware parallelizes, software is oblivious

Round 1:

- **Pipelining** → increased clock frequency
- **Caches**: became necessary as frequencies increased
- Integrated floating-point

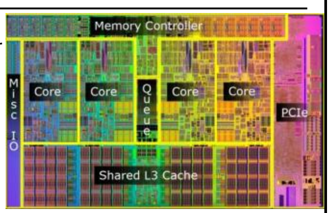
Round 2:

- Deeper pipelines and **branch speculation**
- Multiple issue (**superscalar**)
- Dynamic scheduling (**out-of-order execution**)

Relatively Recent Multicore Processor

Intel Core i7 (2009)

- Application: desktop/server
- Technology: 45nm (1/2x)



- 774M transistors (12x)
- 296 mm^2 (3x)
- 3.2 GHz to 3.6 GHz (~1x)
- 0.7 to 1.4 Volts (~1x)

- 128-bit data (2x)
- 14-stage pipelined datapath (0.5x)
- 4 instructions per cycle (~1x)
- Three levels of on-chip cache
- data-parallel vector (SIMD) instructions, hyperthreading
- **Four-core multicore** (4x)

Revolution III: Explicit Parallelism

Support explicit data & thread level parallelism

- HW provides parallel resources, SW specifies usage
- Why? Diminishing returns on ILP

Round 1: Vector instructions…, Intel's SSE

- One instruction → 4 parallel multiplies

Round 2: Support for multi-threaded programs

- Coherent caches, hardware synchronization primitives

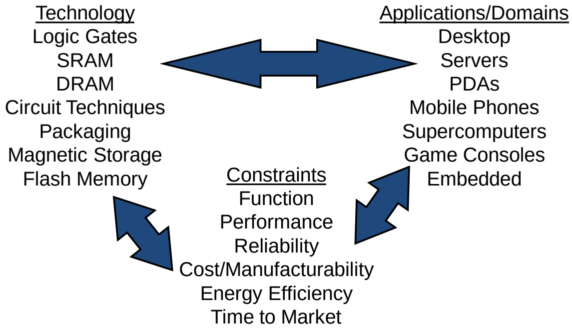
Round 3: Support for multiple concurrent threads on chip

- Single-core **multi-threading** → **multi-core**

Round 4: highly parallel Graphics processing units (GPUs)

- Converging with general-purpose processors (CPUs)?
- AMD bought ATI, Intel making GPUs

Constant Change



Technology Disruptions

Classic examples:
- The transistor
- Microprocessor

More recent examples:
- Multicore processors
- Flash-based solid-state storage

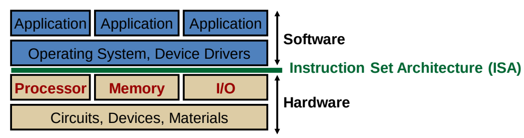
Near-term potentially disruptive technologies:
- Phase-change memory (non-volatile memory)
- Chip stacking (also called 3D die stacking)

Disruptive "end-of-scaling"
- "If something can't go on forever, it must stop eventually"
- Can we continue to shrink transistors for ever?
- Even if more transistors, not getting as energy efficient as fast

Pervasive Idea: Abstraction and Layering

- **Abstraction**: divide complex systems into objects with:
  - **Interface:** for the common folk
  - **Implementation**: "black box" for the specialists
  - E.g., car, only mechanics understand implementation
- **Layering**
  - Implement X using interface of layer just below
  - Ignore lower layers (sometimes helps)
- **Inertia**: a dark side of layering
  - Interfaces become stagnant ("standards")
  - – Getting layers to cooperate (Intel & Microsoft)
  - *"Company X now making product Y"*
- **Opacity**: hard to reason about performance across layers

Abstraction, Layering, and Computers



- **Computer architecture**
  - Define **ISA** to facilitate software implementation layers
- This course mostly about **computer organization**
  - Design **Processor**, **Memory**, I/O to implement **ISA**
- Touch on compilers & OS (N+1), circuits (N-1) as well

Why Study Computer Architecture?

- **Understand where computers are going**
  - Future capabilities drive the (computing) world
  - Real impact: better computers make more things possible
- **Get a (design or research) hardware job**
  - Intel, AMD, IBM, ARM, Apple, NVIDIA, NEC, Samsung
- **Get a (design or research) software job**
  - Best software designers understand hardware
  - Need to understand hardware to write high quality software

Course Goals

- **Understand "big ideas" in computer architecture**
  - Including spectre and meltdown security lapses!
- **Be a better scientist:** this is a *great* scientific playground
  - Good & bad engineering
  - Experimental evaluation/analysis ("science" in CS)
    - Computer performance and metrics
    - Quantitative data and experiments
    - Experimental design & Results presentation
- **Get your geek on**: think/speak like a computer architect
  - Possibly whether you want to or not ☺