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Lecture 2 - Technology

What is Moore's Law?

 The number of components that achieves minimum cost on a die doubles about every 18 months.



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What is scaling?

- Feature size shrinks
- Change of metal layer material
- 3D stacks
- Dielectrics
- Testing
- used to be voltage and it was great!!
- mask manufacturing

WHY no 3D?

• Heat!

- Design complexity
- Maybe useful for memory
- Silicon through VIAs and complexity
- Flip chip and MCM is "good enough"

What are the current challenges to Moore's Law?

- How can different transmit channel materials such as carbon nanotubes be integrated into traditional silicon chips?
- What would a new fundamental structure for CMOS look like?
- What kinds of advances in system design can help with power consumption?
- How many of these predictions were incorrect?
- Moore claimed that "it is not even necessary to do any fundamental research or to replace present processes. Only the engineering effort is needed". What is this distinction and for how long did it last
- It would seem that Moore's law must eventually reach a physical limit since presumably transistors cannot be made smaller than atoms
- Who is this written for?
- How many of these "Difficult Challenges" are expected to be solved in the near term?
- What effect would solving some but not all of the challenges listed have on semiconductors in the future?
- How accurate are the long term problem predictions likely to be?

- What happens with this advice? (who is motivated by it.)
- This is primarily evolutionary work how does the energy to solve these problems coexist with more revolutionary redesigns of what a computer is?
- How should computer scientists react to this roadmap? (or what programs will be be able to create in 2016 that we can't now?)
- Moore mentions that moving to integrated circuits solves some of the heat issues of the time. When does heat start being a
 major problem again?
- How reliable were the non-integrated circuit computers?
- Was Moore the first to notice this rate of growth / postulate it would continue for the forceable future?
- Where does his data come from?
- Are there opportunities for better collaboration with device and circuit engineers to innovate at the system level?
- what can we do at our level to better use 3D die stacking, lots of Vdd domains, clock optimizations, etc?
- have design tools been keeping up with complexity in last 6 years?
- Does random logic scaling always catch up to regular structures? (ie design/test innovations can be made so that both eventually hit theoretical technology limits and not complexity/cost limits) (e.g. fpga products hit tech nodes earlier)
- At the architecture/systems level, is integration of heterogeneous processing components the way to go?
- design/verification person hours = complexity / sophistication of tools. How fast is hours increasing?
- Do we need to maintain technology scaling today to continue explosive growth of computer industry?

Does it matter?

How do architects do what they do?

What should HW provide?

Why HW?