
CPE 110408423
VLSI Design
Chapter 0: Fundamentals of
VLSI Design

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Hashemite University]

Course Administration

☐ Instructor: Bassam Jamil

☐ Instructor's e-mail: bassam@hu.edu.jo

☐ Office Hours: Posted on my office door

☐ Textbook:

Required: *CMOS VLSI Design: A Circuits and Systems Perspective, 4th Edition*, Neil H. E. Weste, and David Money Harris, [Pearson](#) Publication, Inc., 2011.

Optional: Digital Integrated Circuits: A Design Perspective, Jan M. Rabaey, Anantha Chandrakasan, and Borivoje Nikolic, [Prentice-Hall](#) Publication, Inc., 2002.

Sedra & Smith, Microelectronic Circuits Oxford University Press, 5th Edition.

Slides : pdf on the course web page (Moodle System)

Course Content

❑ Course goals

- The ability to analyze and design of digital integrated circuits families.
- The ability to model datapath subsystems.
- Acquire a basic knowledge to analyze design and circuit optimization of digital building blocks with respect to different quality metrics: cost, speed, power dissipation, and reliability.
- The ability to learn fabrication and layout process, invertors design, clocks and power distribution and memory design.
- The ability to work in groups to do design problems in the assignments and the projects.

❑ Course prerequisites

Digital Integrated Circuits (0408422) Digital Electronics and Integrated Circuits (110408327).

Course Structure

❑ Design focused class:

- Various homework assignments throughout the semester

❑ Lectures:

Ch0. Introduction

Ch11. Datapath Subsystems

Ch12. Array Subsystems

Ch13. Special-Purpose Subsystems **(optional)**

Ch14. Design Methodology Tools

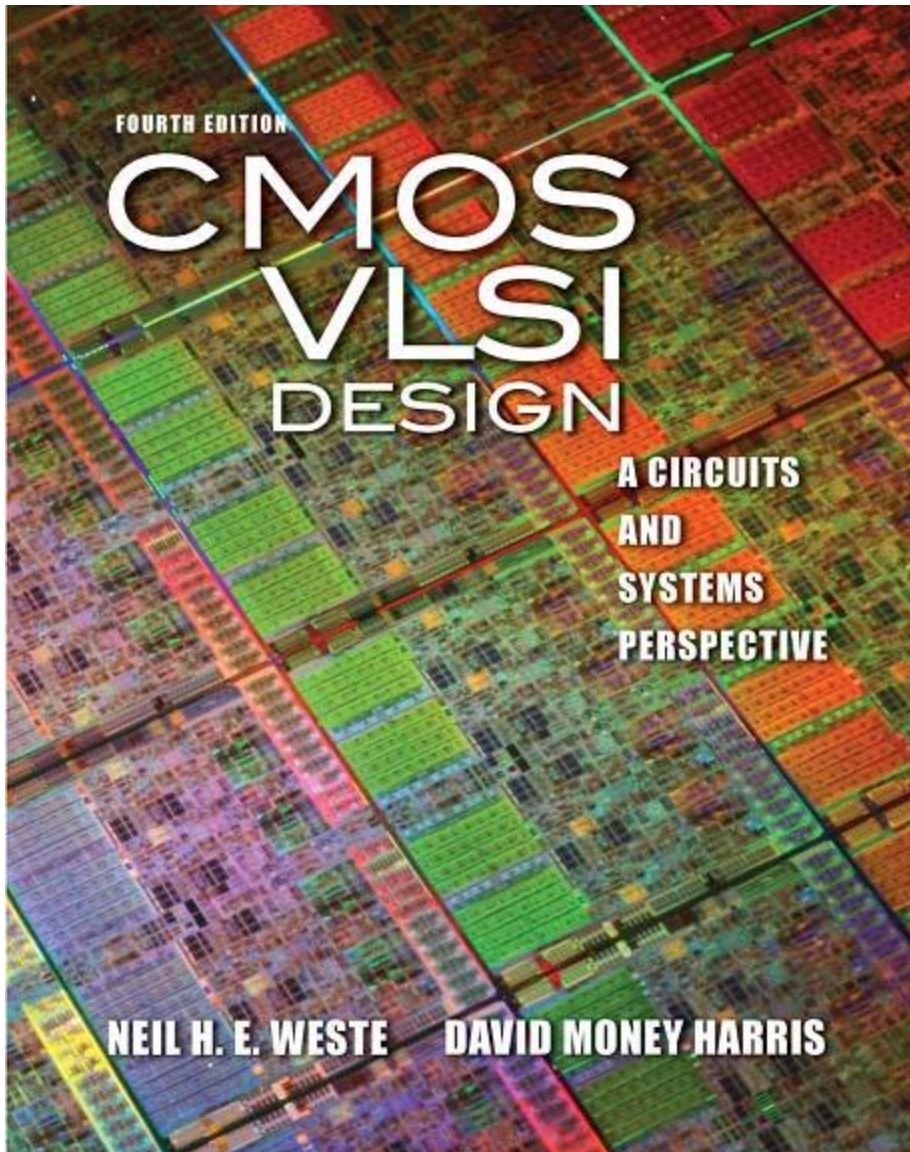
Ch15. Testing, Debugging, and Verification

Grading Information

❑ Grade determinates

- Midterm Exam ~30
- Project ~20%
- Final Exam ~50%

❑ Let me know about any exam conflicts ASAP



Lecture 0: Introduction: Intel Processors

Introduction

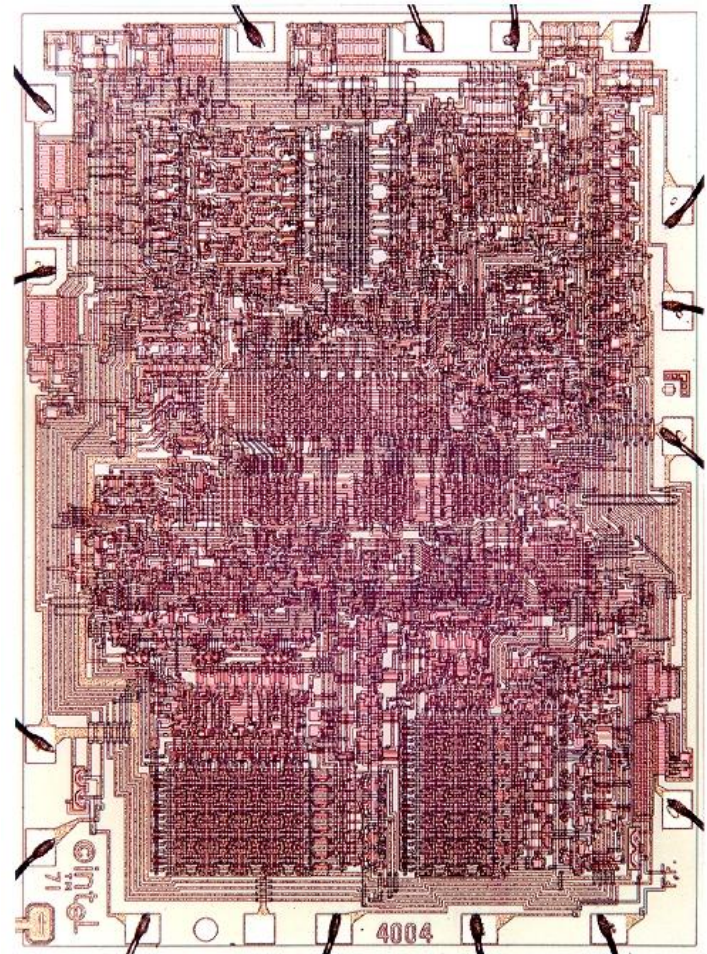
- ❑ Integrated circuits: many transistors on one chip.
- ❑ *Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI)*: bucketloads!
- ❑ *Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor*
 - Fast, cheap, low power transistors
- ❑ Today: How to build your own simple CMOS chip
 - CMOS transistors
 - Building logic gates from transistors
 - Transistor layout and fabrication
- ❑ Rest of the course: How to build a good CMOS chip

Outline

- ❑ Evolution of Intel Microprocessors
 - Scaling from 4004 to Core i7
 - Courtesy of Intel Museum

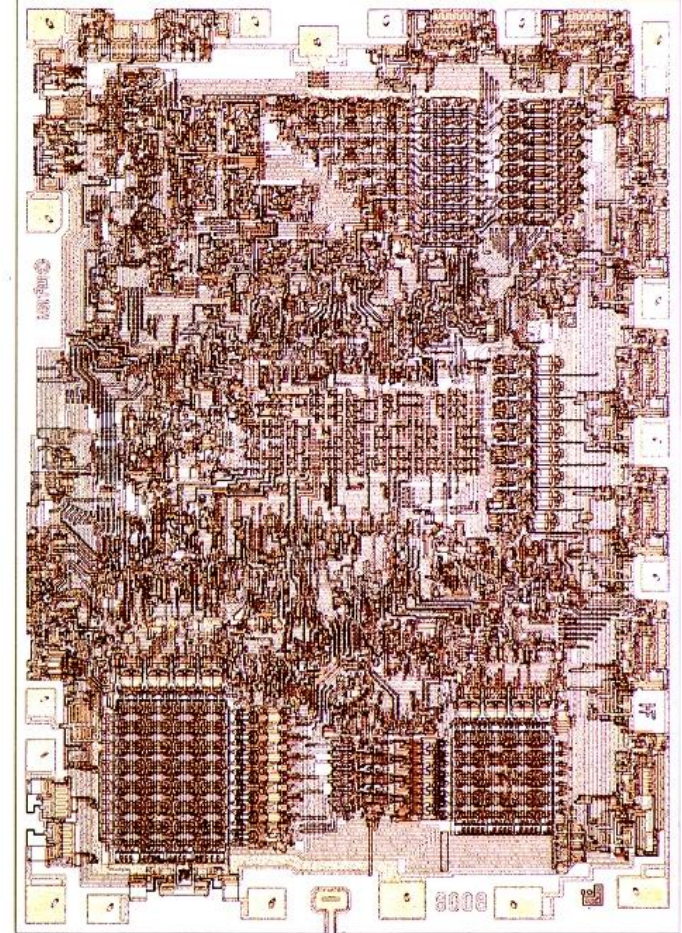
4004

- ❑ **First microprocessor** (1971)
 - For Busicom calculator
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 10 μm process
 - 2300 transistors
 - 400 – 800 kHz
 - 4-bit word size
 - 16-pin DIP package
- ❑ Masks hand cut from Rubylith
 - Drawn with color pencils
 - 1 metal, 1 poly (jumpers)
 - Diagonal lines (!)



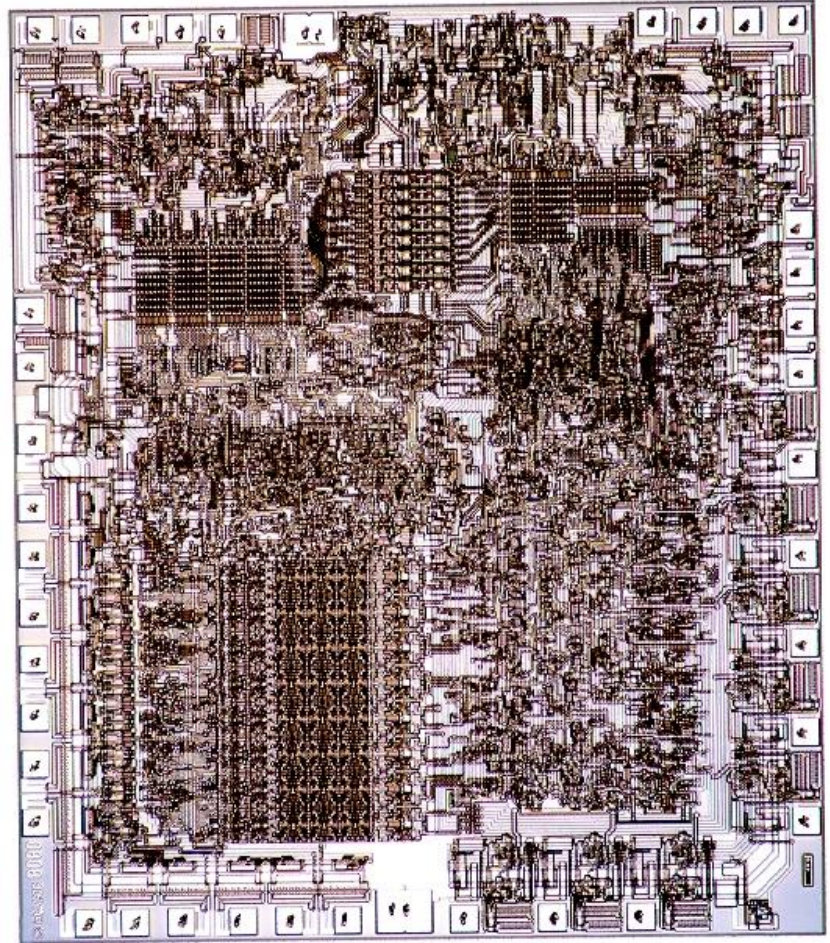
8008

- ❑ **8-bit follow-on** (1972)
 - Dumb terminals
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 10 μm process
 - 3500 transistors
 - 500 – 800 kHz
 - 8-bit word size
 - 18-pin DIP package
- ❑ Note 8-bit datapaths
 - Individual transistors visible



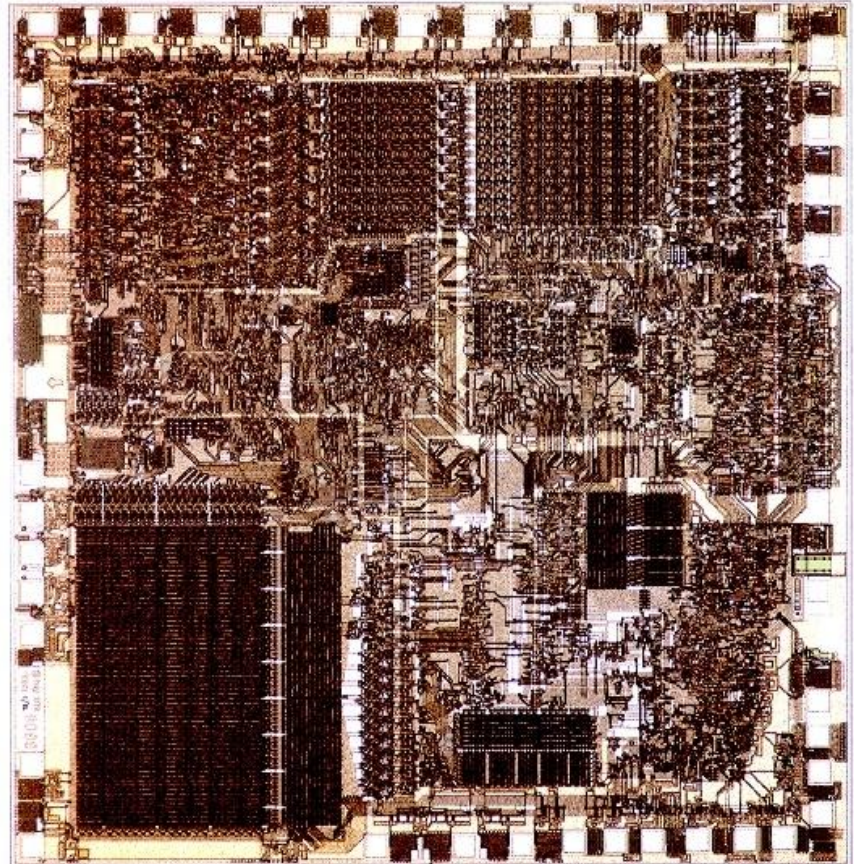
8080

- ❑ **16-bit address bus** (1974)
 - Used in Altair computer
 - (early hobbyist PC)
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 6 μm process
 - 4500 transistors
 - 2 MHz
 - 8-bit word size
 - 40-pin DIP package



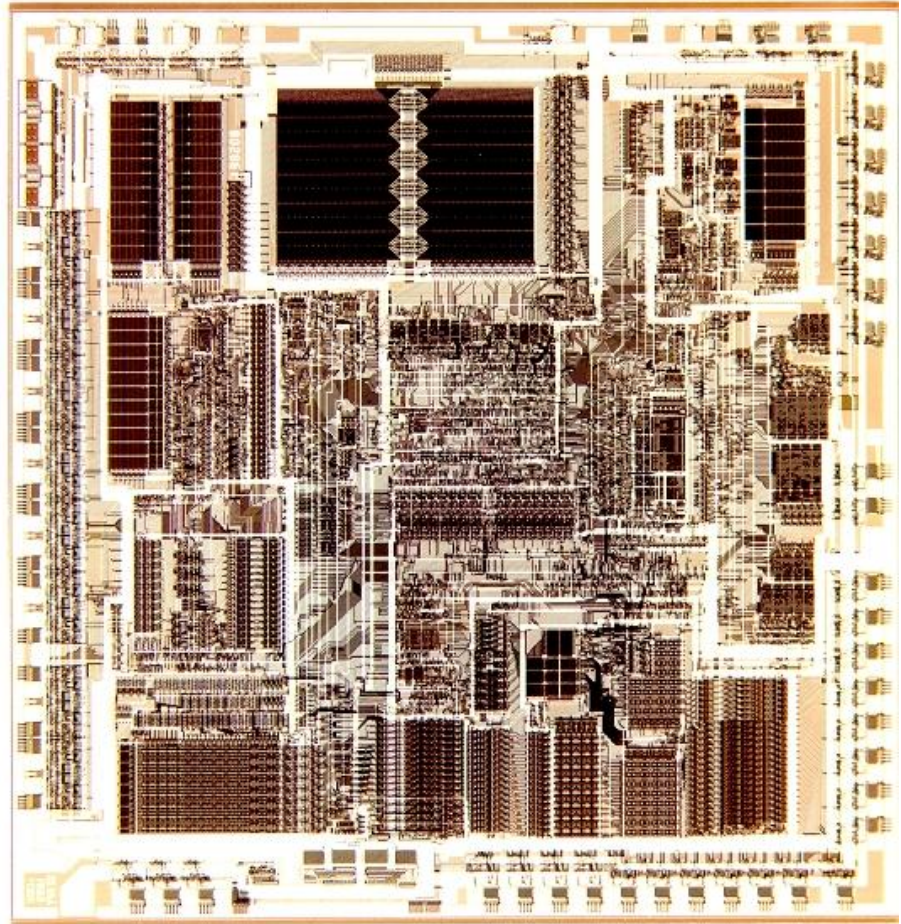
8086 / 8088

- ❑ **16-bit processor** (1978-9)
 - IBM PC and PC XT
 - Revolutionary products
 - Introduced x86 ISA
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 3 μm process
 - 29k transistors
 - 5-10 MHz
 - 16-bit word size
 - 40-pin DIP package
- ❑ Microcode ROM



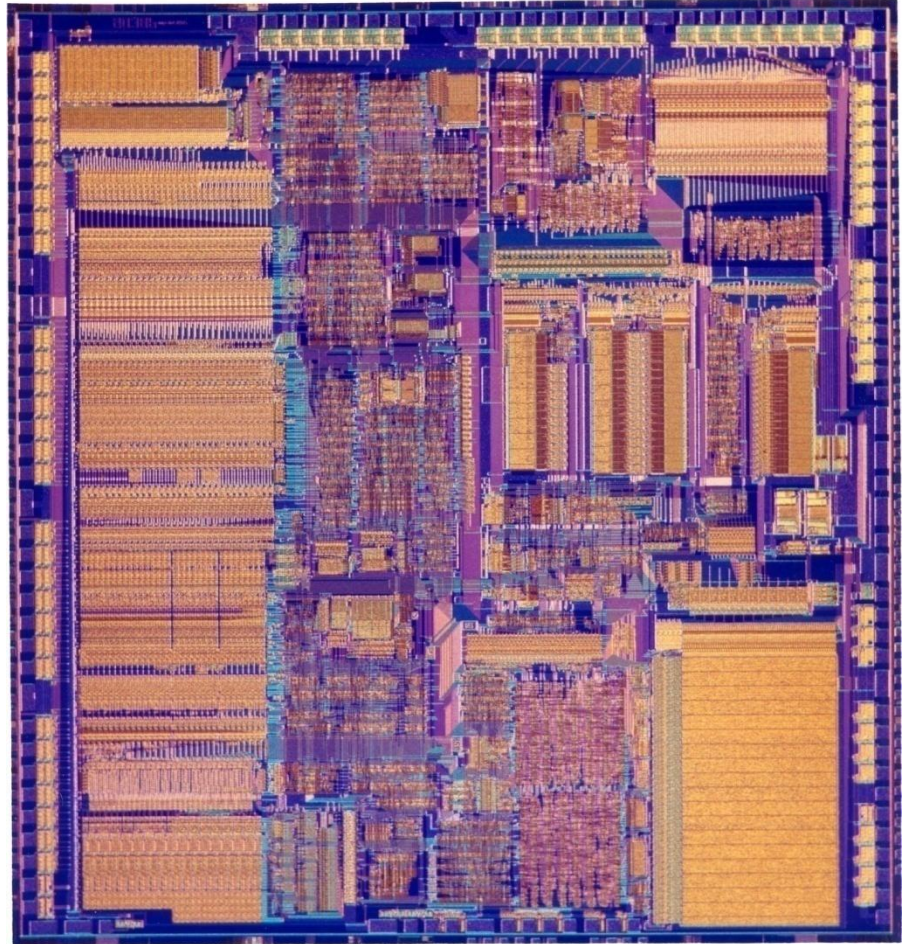
80286

- ❑ **Virtual memory** (1982)
 - IBM PC AT
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 1.5 μm process
 - 134k transistors
 - 6-12 MHz
 - 16-bit word size
 - 68-pin PGA
- ❑ Regular datapaths and ROMs
Bitslices clearly visible



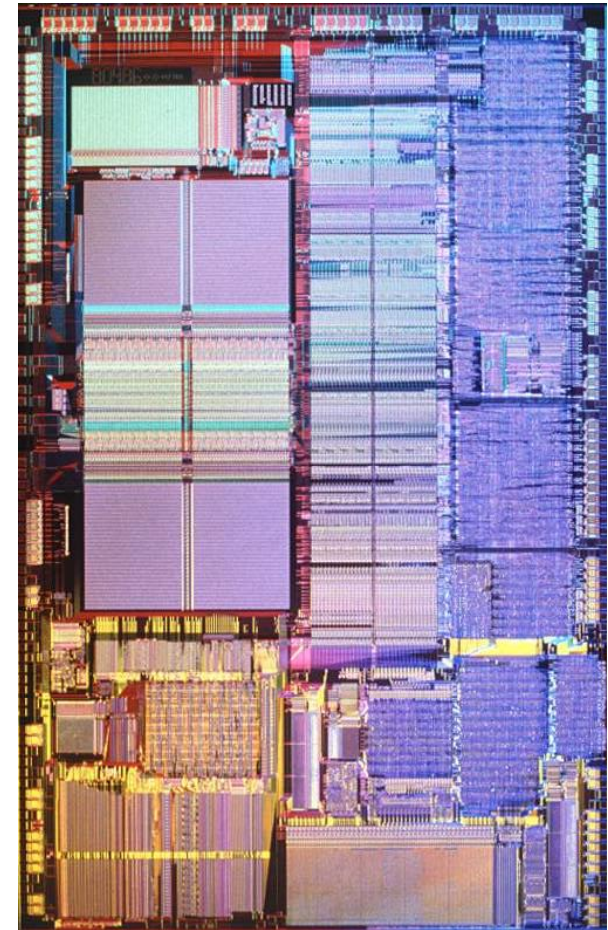
80386

- ❑ **32-bit processor (1985)**
 - **Modern x86 ISA**
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 1.5-1 μm process
 - 275k transistors
 - 16-33 MHz
 - 32-bit word size
 - 100-pin PGA
- ❑ 32-bit datapath,
microcode ROM,
synthesized control



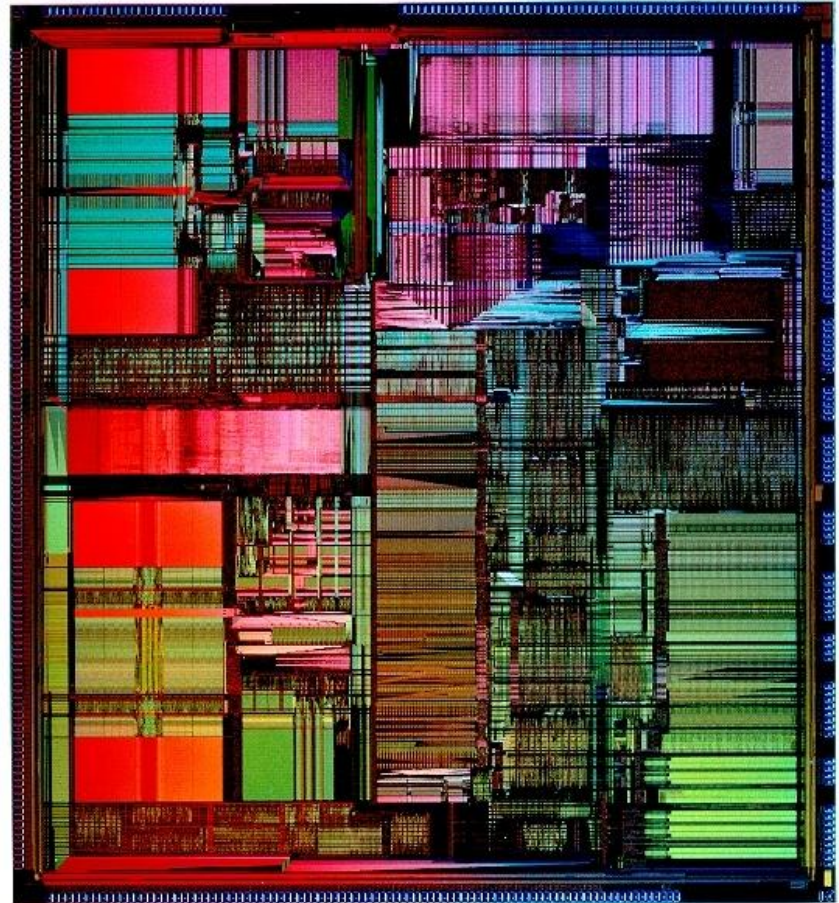
80486

- ❑ **Pipelining (1989)**
 - **Floating point unit**
 - 8 KB cache
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 1-0.6 μm process
 - 1.2M transistors
 - 25-100 MHz
 - 32-bit word size
 - 168-pin PGA
- ❑ Cache, Integer datapath, FPU, microcode, synthesized control



Pentium

- ❑ **Superscalar** (1993)
 - 2 instructions per cycle
 - Separate 8KB I\$ & D\$
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 0.8-0.35 μm process
 - 3.2M transistors
 - 60-300 MHz
 - 32-bit word size
 - 296-pin PGA
- ❑ Caches, datapath, FPU, control



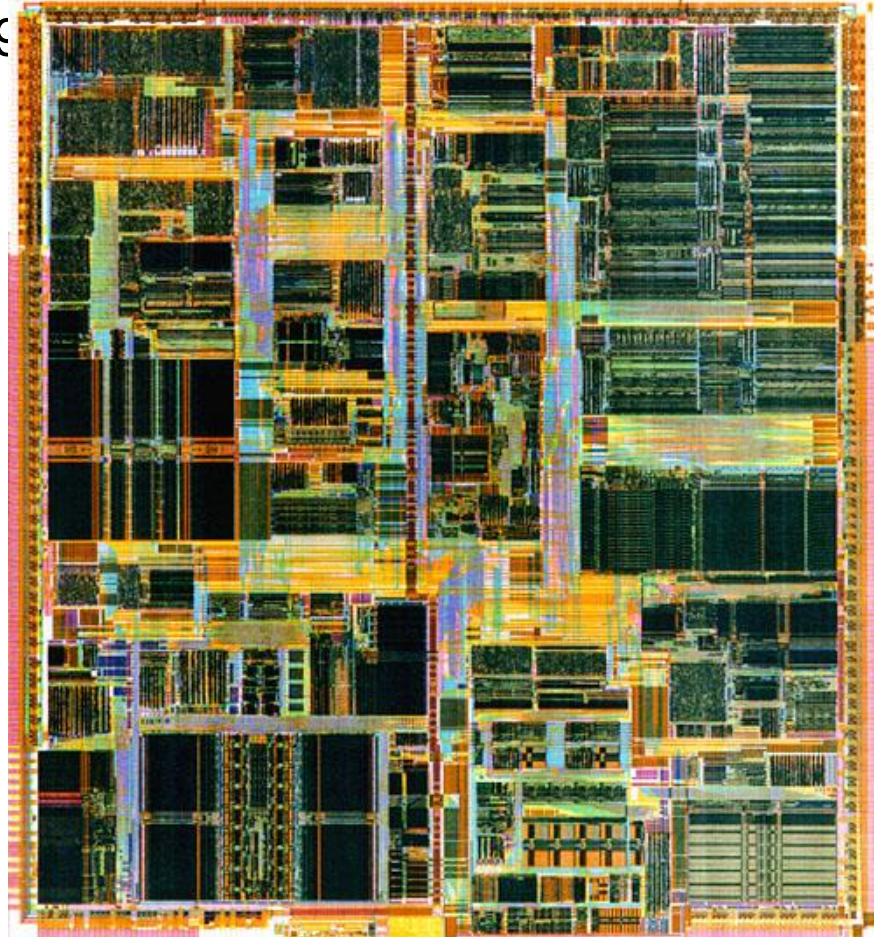
Pentium Pro / II / III

❑ **Dynamic execution** (1995-9

- 3 micro-ops / cycle
- Out of order execution
- 16-32 KB I\$ & D\$
- Multimedia instructions
- PIII adds 256+ KB L2\$

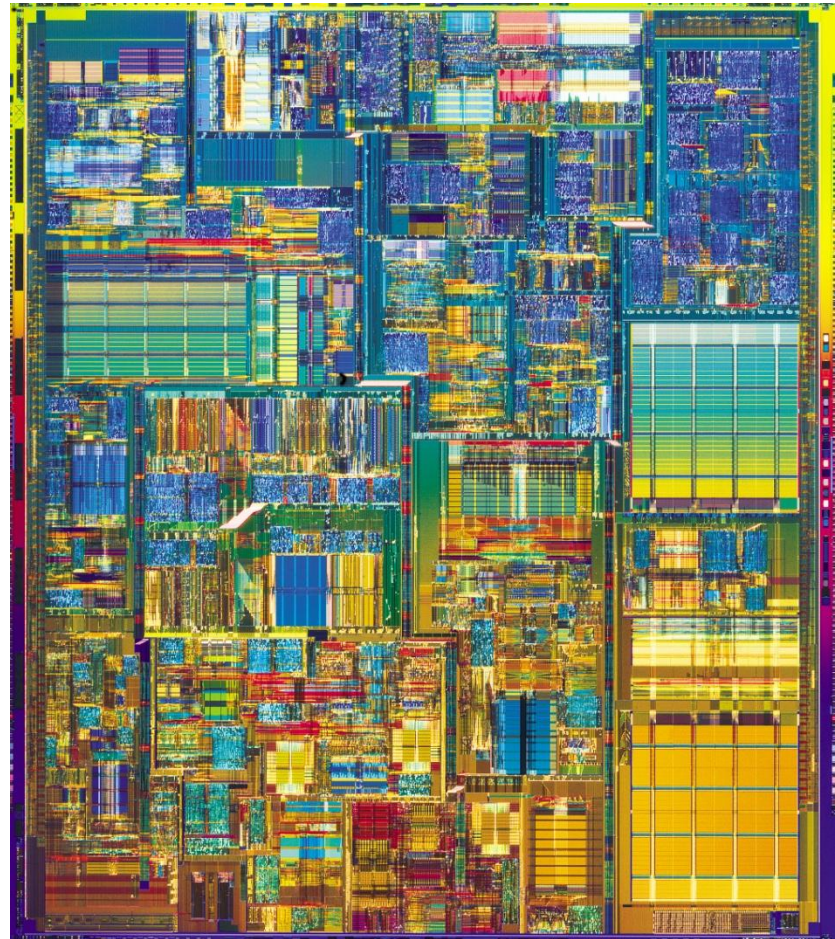
❑ **Characteristics**

- 0.6-0.18 μm process
- 5.5M-28M transistors
- 166-1000 MHz
- 32-bit word size
- MCM / SECC



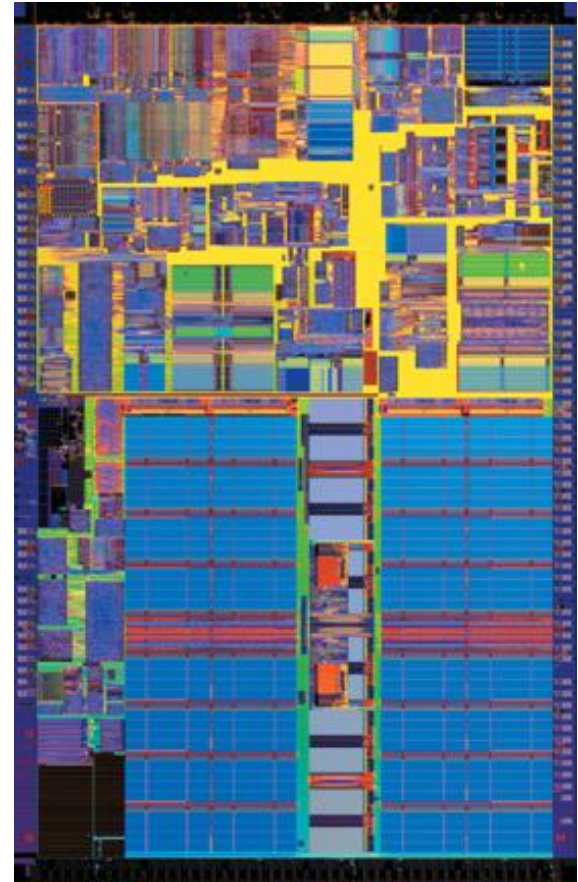
Pentium 4

- ❑ **Deep pipeline** (2001)
 - Very fast clock
 - 256-1024 KB L2\$
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 180 – 65 nm process
 - 42-125M transistors
 - 1.4-3.4 GHz
 - Up to 160 W
 - 32/64-bit word size
 - 478-pin PGA
- ❑ Units start to become invisible on this scale



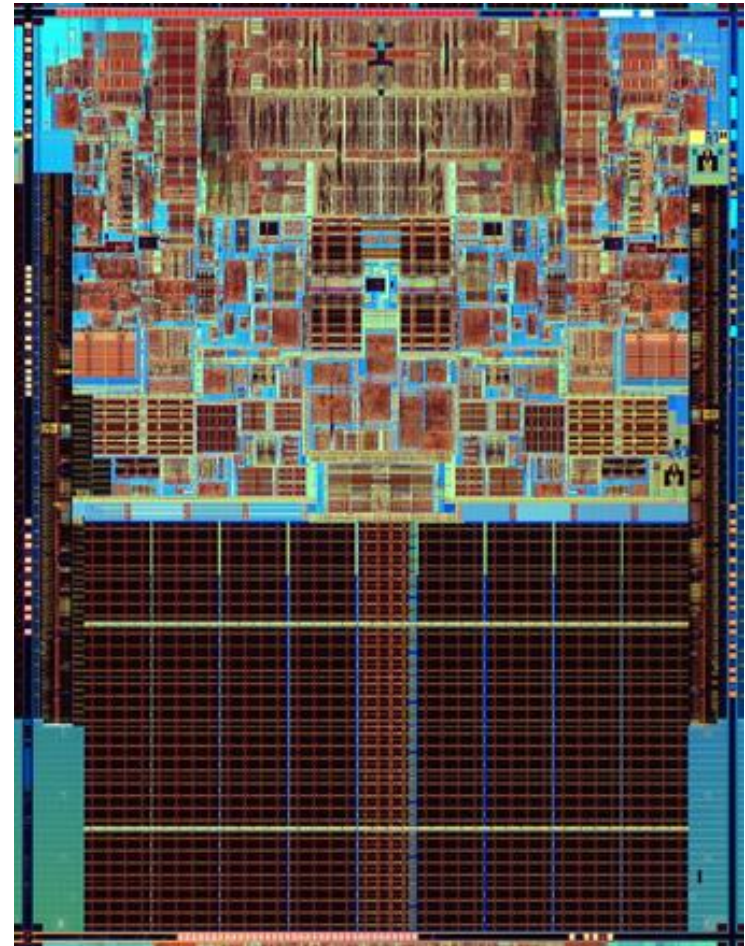
Pentium M

- ❑ Pentium III derivative
 - **Better power efficiency**
 - 1-2 MB L2\$
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 130 – 90 nm process
 - 140M transistors
 - 0.9-2.3 GHz
 - 6-25 W
 - 32-bit word size
 - 478-pin PGA
- ❑ **Cache dominates chip area**



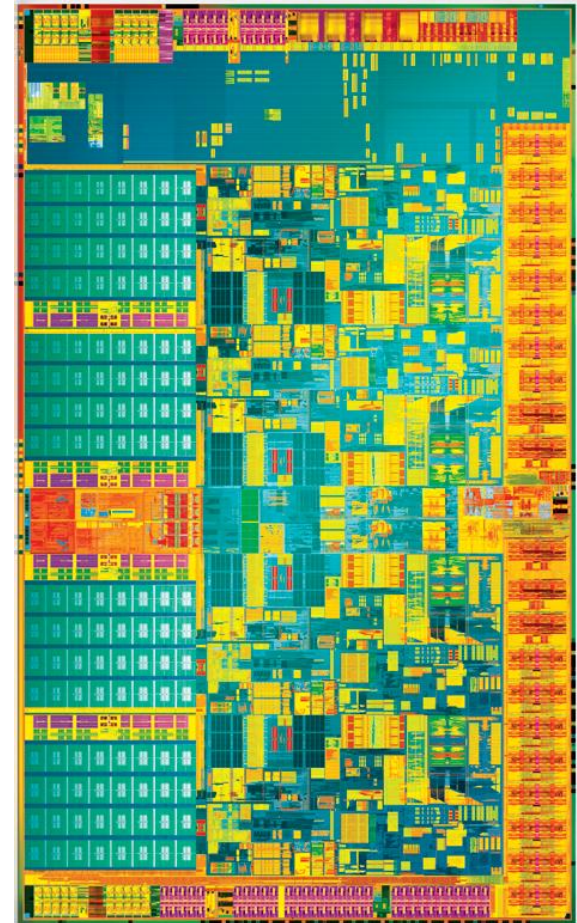
Core2 Duo

- ❑ **Dual core** (2006)
 - **1-2 MB L2\$ / core**
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 65-45 nm process
 - 291M transistors
 - 1.6-3+ GHz
 - 65 W
 - 32/64 bit word size
 - 775 pin LGA
- ❑ Much better performance/power efficiency



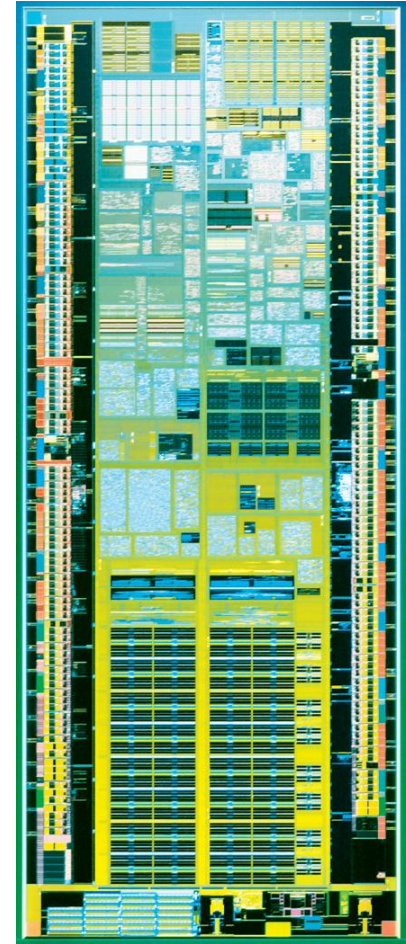
Core i7

- ❑ **Quad core (& more)**
 - Refinement of Core architecture
 - 2 MB L3\$ / core
- ❑ **Characteristics**
 - 45-32 nm process
 - 731M transistors
 - 2.66-3.33+ GHz
 - Up to 130 W
 - 32/64 bit word size
 - 1366-pin LGA
 - Multithreading
- ❑ **On-die memory controller**



Atom

- ❑ **Low power CPU for netbooks**
 - Pentium-style architecture
 - 512KB+ L2\$
- ❑ Characteristics
 - 45-32 nm process
 - 47M transistors
 - 0.8-1.8+ GHz
 - 1.4-13 W
 - 32/64-bit word size
 - 441-pin FCBGA
- ❑ Low voltage (0.7 – 1.1 V) operation
 - Excellent performance/power



Summary

❑ 10^4 increase in transistor count, clock frequency over 3 decades!

| Processor | Year | Feature Size (μm) | Transistors | Frequency (MHz) | Word Size | Power (W) | Cache (L1 / L2 / L3) | Package |
|-------------|------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 4004 | 1971 | 10 | 2.3k | 0.75 | 4 | 0.5 | none | 16-pin DIP |
| 8008 | 1972 | 10 | 3.5k | 0.5–0.8 | 8 | 0.5 | none | 18-pin DIP |
| 8080 | 1974 | 6 | 6k | 2 | 8 | 0.5 | none | 40-pin DIP |
| 8086 | 1978 | 3 | 29k | 5–10 | 16 | 2 | none | 40-pin DIP |
| 80286 | 1982 | 1.5 | 134k | 6–12 | 16 | 3 | none | 68-pin PGA |
| Intel386 | 1985 | 1.5–1.0 | 275k | 16–25 | 32 | 1–1.5 | none | 100-pin PGA |
| Intel486 | 1989 | 1–0.6 | 1.2M | 25–100 | 32 | 0.3–2.5 | 8K | 168-pin PGA |
| Pentium | 1993 | 0.8–0.35 | 3.2–4.5M | 60–300 | 32 | 8–17 | 16K | 296-pin PGA |
| Pentium Pro | 1995 | 0.6–0.35 | 5.5M | 166–200 | 32 | 29–47 | 16K / 256K+ | 387-pin MCM PGA |
| Pentium II | 1997 | 0.35–0.25 | 7.5M | 233–450 | 32 | 17–43 | 32K / 256K+ | 242-pin SECC |
| Pentium III | 1999 | 0.25–0.18 | 9.5–28M | 450–1000 | 32 | 14–44 | 32K / 512K | 330-pin SECC2 |
| Pentium 4 | 2000 | 180–65 nm | 42–178M | 1400–3800 | 32/64 | 21–115 | 20K+ / 256K+ | 478-pin PGA |
| Pentium M | 2003 | 130–90 nm | 77–140M | 1300–2130 | 32 | 5–27 | 64K / 1M | 479-pin FCBGA |
| Core | 2006 | 65 nm | 152M | 1000–1860 | 32 | 6–31 | 64K / 2M | 479-pin FCBGA |
| Core 2 Duo | 2006 | 65–45 nm | 167–410M | 1060–3160 | 32/64 | 10–65 | 64K / 4M+ | 775-pin LGA |
| Core i7 | 2008 | 45 nm | 731M | 2660–3330 | 32/64 | 45–130 | 64K / 256K / 8M | 1366-pin LGA |
| Atom | 2008 | 45 nm | 47M | 800–1860 | 32/64 | 1.4–13 | 56K / 512K+ | 441-pin FCBGA |