**ECS 154A** 

## 1. Introduction

- a. About me
  - i. First time being an instructor of record for a class
  - ii. If you have any comments or constructive feedback, let me know!
- b. About this class (why computer architecture?)
  - i. This is a required class for both CS and CSE
  - ii. "Core material" for most CS graduate programs
  - iii. My goal is to get you to remember some of this knowledge to use in industry or your next computer architecture class
  - iv. My hope is that I get some of you interested in computer architecture

## 2. About the class itself

- a. Discussions on second half of Wednesdays by our TA, Yuan
- b. Three guizzes (20%), one midterm (20%), and one final (30%)
  - i. All of these will be on Thursdays, which are in a different room!
  - ii. First quiz on Thursday, will get back to you before the drop deadline
- c. Four to five labs (30%, still debating on number)
  - i. Mostly in Logisim, one might be in C++
  - ii. First assignment will get you used to Logisim
  - iii. Can turn in up to 48 hours late for non-linear penalty
- d. Regrades
  - i. One week from return of assignment
  - ii. Office hours only
- e. Websites (there's a lot of them)
  - i. Github is where all the course materials get posted
  - ii. Canvas is for submitting assignments
  - iii. Gradescope is for returning your tests
  - iv. Piazza is for discussion
- f. Textbook
  - i. Reading schedule on Github
  - ii. Digital McLogic Design provided on Canvas for some of the digital design stuff
  - iii. Otherwise, Computer Organization and Design for everything else
    - 1. 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> edition is fine

## 3. Computer architecture

- a. Abstraction layers
  - i. Software
    - Applications, OS
    - 2. Could divide the OS further into file system, drivers, kernels...
  - ii. Hardware
    - 1. Hardware devices, gates, wires, transistors, electrons
    - 2. Again, could subdivide further
  - iii. Computer architecture
    - 1. The "hardware-software interface" according to Hennessey and Patterson of Stanford and UCB

# Introduction, history, performance

- iv. Computer architecture is a broad topic
  - 1. You're not going to know everything after this class
  - 2. Get a general overview
  - 3. Some of the material could be useful in industry, say, a SWE position
    - a. Example: designing an application's working set to fit in L2 cache
- v. What we're going to talk about
  - 1. Digital design basic building blocks
  - 2. Design parts of a CPU and memory
  - 3. Learn about busses and about memory
  - 4. Do this in a different order than the book
    - a. Memory is important
    - b. Bussing is also important, but doesn't lend itself to good homework
- b. Definitions
  - i. Computer architecture
    - 1. Attributes of a system visible to the programmer
    - 2. Those which impact the logical execution of a program
  - ii. Computer organization
    - 1. Operations, units
    - 2. Their interconnections that realize the architectural specifications
- c. Tasks of a computer
  - i. Transfer data between external devices
    - 1. Keyboard to monitor
    - 2. Microphone to speaker, so on
  - ii. Storage device
    - 1. Network to memory
  - iii. Data processing
    - 1. Internal or external source and destination
  - iv. Control external devices
- d. Parts of a computer
  - i. I/O
- 1. Mouse, keyboard main examples we think of
- 2. Other peripherals count too (like speakers)
- ii. Main memory: RAM, caches
- iii. System bus
- iv. CPU
  - 1. Registers, store values
  - 2. ALU, perform operations
  - 3. Internal bus, transfer data
  - 4. Control unit
    - a. Sequencing logic, where to go next
    - b. Control unit registers, decoders
    - c. Control memory
- 4. History of computing
  - a. Mechanical
    - i. 1801 Joseph-Marie Jacquard's loom
    - ii. 1842 Charles Babbage
      - 1. Difference engine to compute polynomials
      - 2. Analytical engine, like modern machines

## b. Electromechanical

- i. 1936 Alan Turing "universal computing machine"
- ii. Data and program on single tape

#### c. Electronic

- i. First generation vacuum tubes
  - 1. 1945 John Von Neumann working on the Manhattan Project
    - a. With team, designs architecture that is used by nearly every machine today
    - b. Von Neumann architecture get to this later
  - 2. 1946 Electronic Numerical Integrator Analyzer and Computer, or ENIAC
    - a. Used to calculate trajectories for bombing runs
    - b. Not very good 20% made it within 1000'
    - c. Huge, 80' long and 8.5' high
    - d. Difficult to program, using patch boards
- ii. Second generation transistors
  - 1. 1959 memory via small ferro-magnetic donuts with wires running through them
  - 2. Source of the term "core memory"
  - 3. 1K memory was the size of a shoe box
- iii. Third generation planar transistors
  - 1. 1964 transistors on pieces of silicon
  - 2. Printed circuit boards (PCBs)
- iv. Fourth generation CPU on one chip
  - 1. 1971 use very-large-scale-integration (VLSI) to accomplish
- v. Fifth generation now(?)
  - 1. Lines are fuzzy
  - 2. Standard chips, programmable logic devices (PLAs)
  - 3. Field programmable gate array (FPGAs)
  - 4. Application specific integrated circuits (ASICs)
    - a. Today, commonly heard with crypto mining

## 5. Designing for performance

- a. Increase CPU performance
  - i. Increase clock frequency
  - ii. Increase size and speed of caches on CPU
  - iii. More parallelism
    - 1. Pipelining and other instruction-level parallelism techniques
    - 2. Branch prediction
    - 3. Speculative execution
  - iv. Improve interface between RAM and CPU
- b. Power wall
  - i. Want to increase clock frequency
  - ii.  $P = cfv^2$  (p = power, c = capacitance, f = frequency, v = voltage)
  - iii. Lower voltage to increase frequency, effective because of the squared term
  - iv. Need a certain voltage to differentiate 0 and 1, we're at that point
  - v. Can't increase power further without burning chips
  - vi. Hit this power wall around 2006
- c. Gordon Moore's law, 1965
  - i. Every 18 months, number of transistors on a chip will double
  - ii. Still holding (roughly), but dark silicon problem
  - iii. Can't power all the transistors at once without burning the chip

- d. (Robert) Dennard scaling, 1974
  - i. As transistors get smaller, power density stays constant
  - ii. Make a transistor smaller, uses less power
  - iii. Broke down around 2006