



**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche,  
Informatiche e Matematiche

## 3. Prestazioni dei Computer

### Architettura dei calcolatori [MN1-1143]

*Corso di Laurea in INFORMATICA*  
(D.M.270/04) [16-215]  
Anno accademico 2022/2023

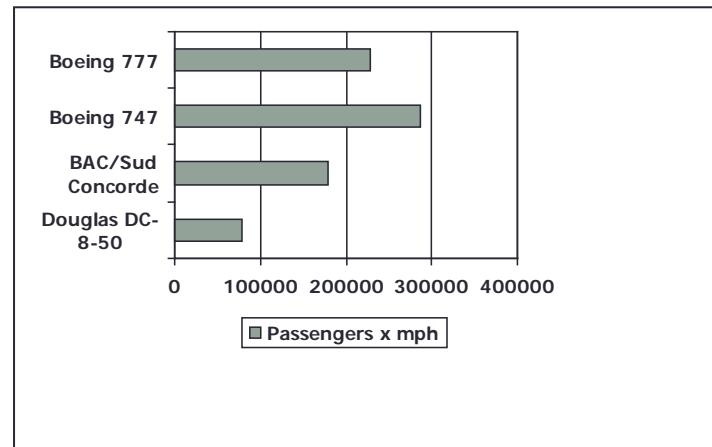
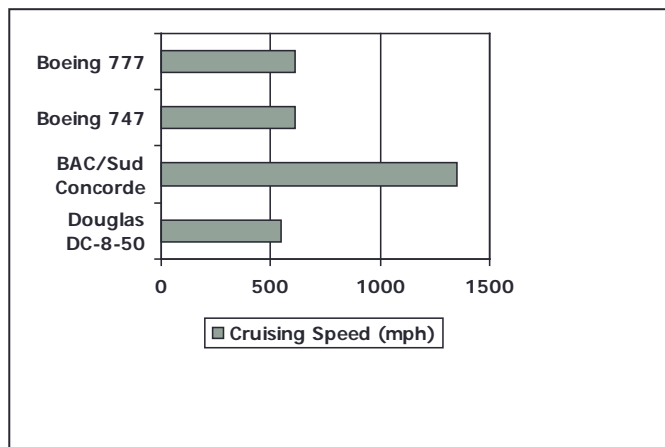
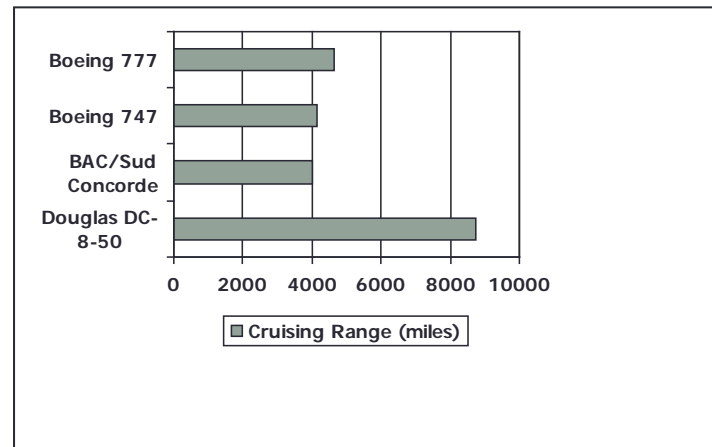
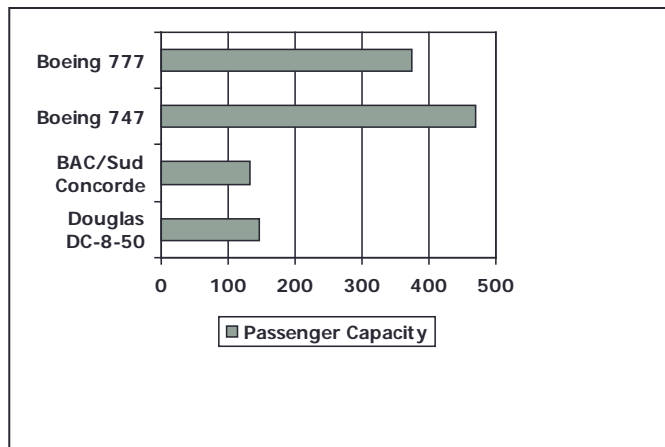
**Prof. Alessandro Capotondi**  
[a.capotondi@unimore.it](mailto:a.capotondi@unimore.it)

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# Defining Performance

- Which airplane has the best performance?



# Response Time and Throughput

- **Response time (latency, execution time)**
  - How long it takes to do a task
- **Throughput**
  - Total work done per unit time
    - e.g., tasks/transactions/... per hour
- How are response time and throughput affected by
  - Replacing the processor with a faster version?
  - Adding more processors?
- We'll focus on response time for now...

# Understanding Computer Performance

## What determines the performance of a program?

- Algorithm
  - Determines number of operations executed

```
ALGORITHM 1

BEGIN:
    ISTR1
    ISTR2
    ISTR3
    ISTR4
    ...
    ISTR20

END
```

```
ALGORITHM 2

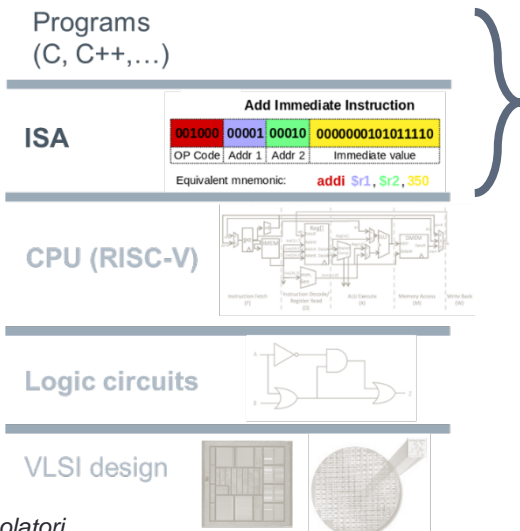
BEGIN:
    ISTR1
    ISTR2
    ISTR3
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    ...
    ISTR15

END
```

# Understanding Computer Performance

## What determines the performance of a program?

- Algorithm
  - Determines number of operations executed
- Programming language, compiler, architecture
  - Determine number of machine instructions executed per operation



High-level  
language  
program  
(in C)

```
swap(int v[], int k)
{int temp;
  temp = v[k];
  v[k] = v[k+1];
  v[k+1] = temp;
}
```

Compiler

Assembly  
language  
program  
(for RISC-V)

```
swap:
  slli x6, x11, 3
  add x6, x10, x6
  ld x5, 0(x6)
  ld x7, 8(x6)
  sd x7, 0(x6)
  sd x5, 8(x6)
  jalr x0, 0(x1)
```

Assembler

language of the CPU

Binary machine  
language  
program  
(for RISC-V)

```
000000000001101011001001100010011
00000000011001010000001100110011
000000000000000110011001010000011
00000000100000110011001110000011
00000000011100110011000000100011
00000000010100110011010000100011
000000000000000100000001100111
```

The HW/SW interface

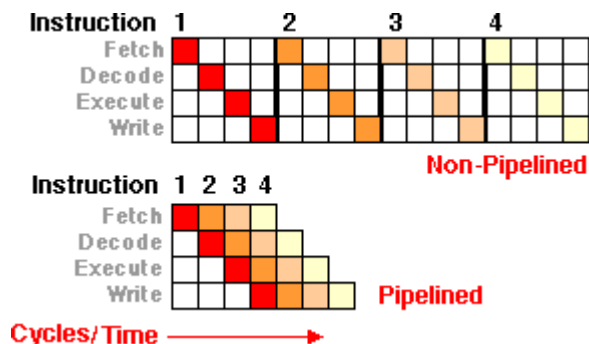
**ISA**

001000	00001	00010	0000000101011110
OP Code	Addr 1	Addr 2	Immediate value

# Understanding Computer Performance

## What determines the performance of a program?

- Algorithm
  - Determines number of **operations** executed
- Programming language, compiler, architecture
  - Determine number of **machine instructions** executed per operation
- Processor and memory system
  - Determine how **fast** instructions are executed



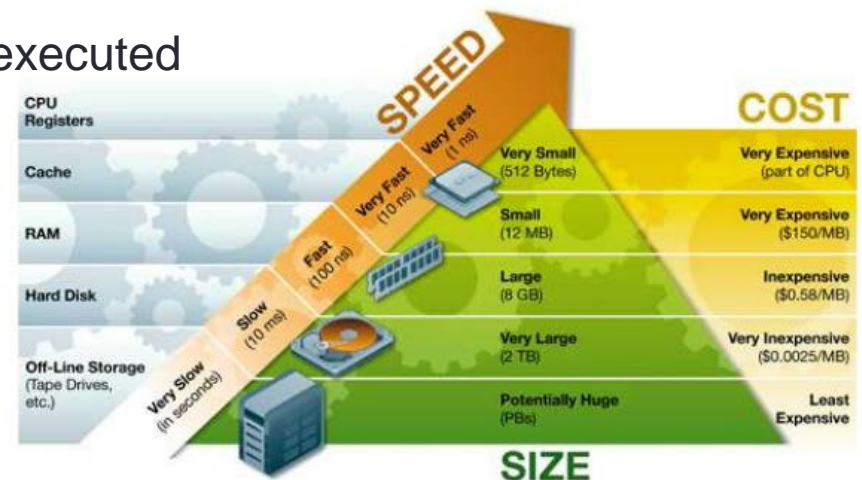
# Understanding Computer Performance

## What determines the performance of a program?

- Algorithm
  - Determines number of **operations** executed
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  - Determine number of **machine instructions** executed per operation

## The HW/SW interface

- Processor and memory system
  - Determine how **fast** instructions are executed
- I/O system (including OS)
  - Determines how fast I/O operations are executed





# Relative Performance

- Define **Performance = 1/Execution Time**
- “X is  $n$  time faster than Y”

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Performance}_X / \text{Performance}_Y \\ &= \text{Execution time}_Y / \text{Execution time}_X = n \end{aligned}$$

- **Example:** time taken to run a program
  - 10s on A, 15s on B
  - $\text{Execution Time}_B / \text{Execution Time}_A$   
 $= 15\text{s} / 10\text{s} = 1.5$
  - So A is 1.5 times faster than B

# Measuring Execution Time

- **Elapsed time**

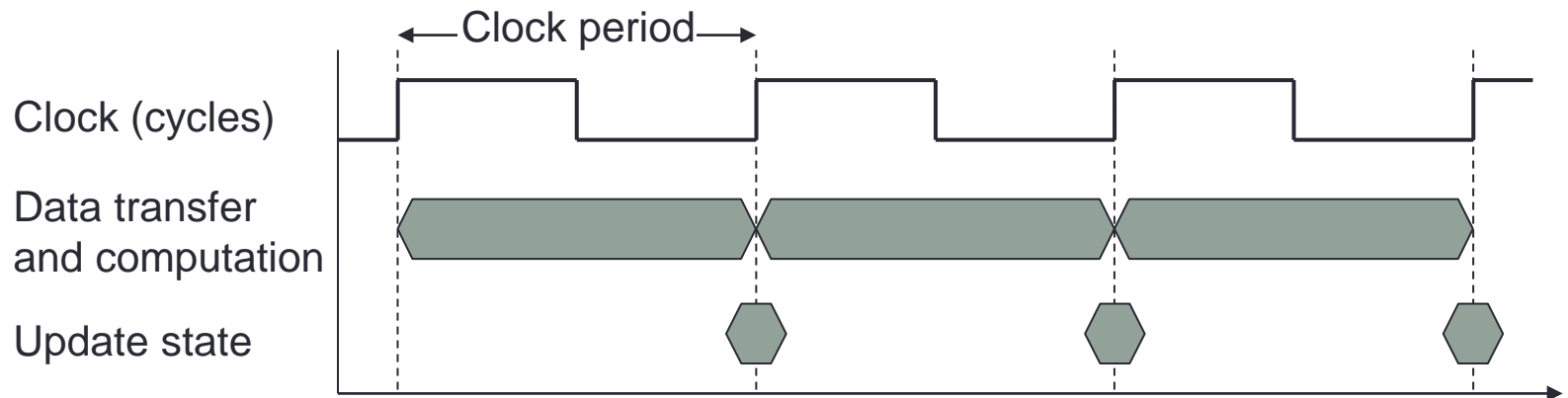
- Total response time, including all aspects
  - Processing, I/O, OS overhead, idle time
- Determines system performance

- **CPU time**

- Time spent processing a given job
  - Discounts I/O time, other jobs' shares
- Comprises user CPU time and system CPU time
- Different programs are affected differently by CPU and system performance

# CPU Clocking

- Operation of digital hardware governed by a constant-rate clock



- **Clock period:** duration of a clock cycle
  - e.g.,  $250\text{ps} = 0.25\text{ns} = 250 \times 10^{-12}\text{s}$
- **Clock frequency (rate):** cycles per second
  - e.g.,  $4.0\text{GHz} = 4000\text{MHz} = 4.0 \times 10^9\text{Hz}$

# CPU Time

CPU Time = CPU Clock Cycles  $\times$  Clock Cycle Time

$$= \frac{\text{CPU Clock Cycles}}{\text{Clock Rate}}$$

- Performance improved by
  - Reducing number of clock cycles
  - Increasing clock rate
  - Hardware designer must often trade off clock rate against cycle count

# CPU Time Example

- Computer A: 2GHz clock, 10s CPU time
- Designing Computer B
  - Aim for 6s CPU time
  - Can do faster clock, but causes  $1.2 \times$  clock cycles
- How fast must Computer B clock be?

Clock Rate<sub>B</sub>

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$\text{Clock Cycles}_A$



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# Instruction Count and CPI

$\text{Clock Cycles} = \text{Instruction Count} \times \text{Cycles per Instruction}$

$\text{CPU Time} = \text{Instruction Count} \times \text{CPI} \times \text{Clock Cycle Time}$

$$= \frac{\text{Instruction Count} \times \text{CPI}}{\text{Clock Rate}}$$

- **Instruction Count** for a program
  - Determined by program, ISA and compiler
- **Average cycles per instruction (CPI)**
  - Determined by CPU hardware
  - If different instructions have different *CPI*
    - Average CPI affected by instruction mix

# CPI Example

- Computer A: Cycle Time = 250ps, CPI = 2.0
- Computer B: Cycle Time = 500ps, CPI = 1.2
- Same ISA
- Which is faster, and by how much?

CPU Time<sub>A</sub>



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$$\text{CPU Time}_B$$

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$$\frac{\text{CPU Time}_B}{\text{CPU Time}_A}$$

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$$\frac{\text{CPU Time}_B}{\text{CPU Time}_A} = \frac{1 \times 600\text{ps}}{1 \times 500\text{ps}} = 1.2$$

...by this much

# CPI in More Detail

- If different instruction classes take different numbers of cycles

$$\text{Clock Cycles} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{CPI}_i \times \text{Instruction Count}_i)$$

- Weighted average CPI

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{\text{Clock Cycles}}{\text{Instruction Count}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \text{CPI}_i \times \underbrace{\frac{\text{Instruction Count}_i}{\text{Instruction Count}}}_{\text{Relative frequency}} \right)$$

# CPI Example

- Alternative compiled code sequences using instructions in classes A, B, C

Class	A	B	C
CPI for class	1	2	3
IC in sequence 1	2	1	2
IC in sequence 2	4	1	1

- Sequence 1: IC = 5

- Clock Cycles  
 $= 2 \times 1 + 1 \times 2 + 2 \times 3$   
 $= 10$

- Avg. CPI =  $10/5 = 2.0$

- Sequence 2: IC = 6

- Clock Cycles  
 $= 4 \times 1 + 1 \times 2 + 1 \times 3$   
 $= 9$

- Avg. CPI =  $9/6 = 1.5$

# Other performance metrics

- **IPC – Instructions Per Cycle**
  - How many instruction (on average) can a processor retire per cycle?

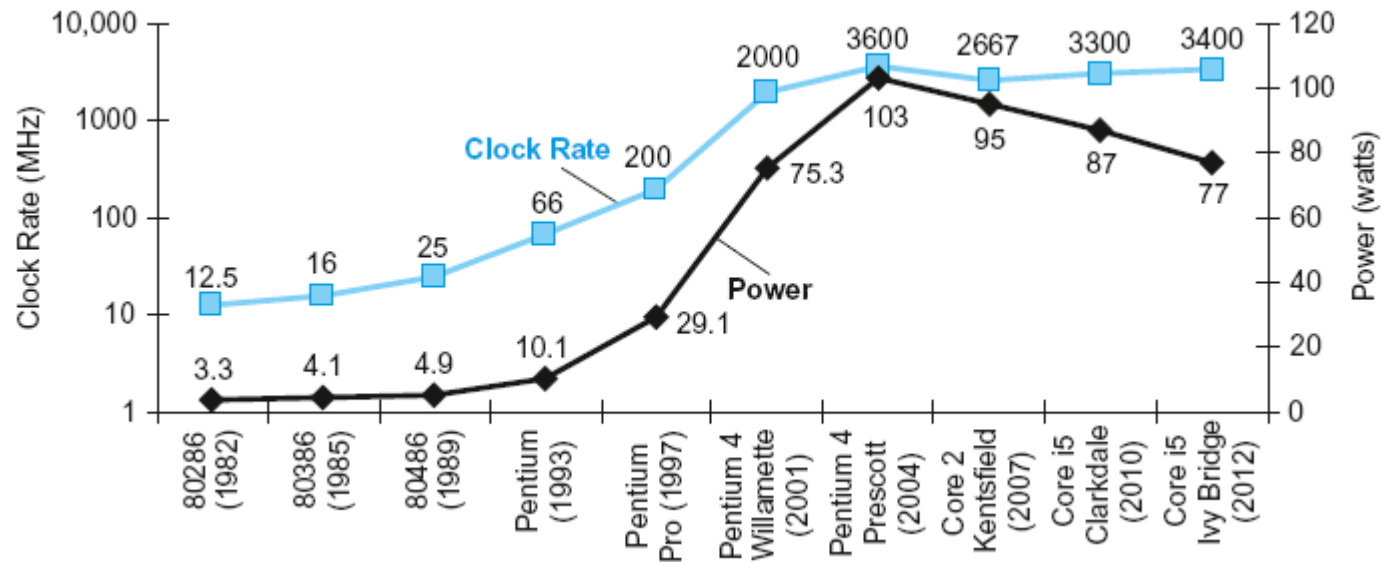
$$\text{IPC} = \frac{\text{Instruction Count}}{\text{Clock Cycles}} = \frac{1}{\text{CPI}}$$

# Performance Summary

$$\text{CPU Time} = \frac{\text{Instructions}}{\text{Program}} \times \frac{\text{Clock cycles}}{\text{Instruction}} \times \frac{\text{Seconds}}{\text{Clock cycle}}$$

- Performance depends on
  - **Algorithm**: affects IC, possibly CPI
  - **Programming language**: affects IC, CPI
  - **Compiler**: affects IC, CPI
  - **Instruction set architecture (ISA)**: affects IC, CPI,  $T_c$

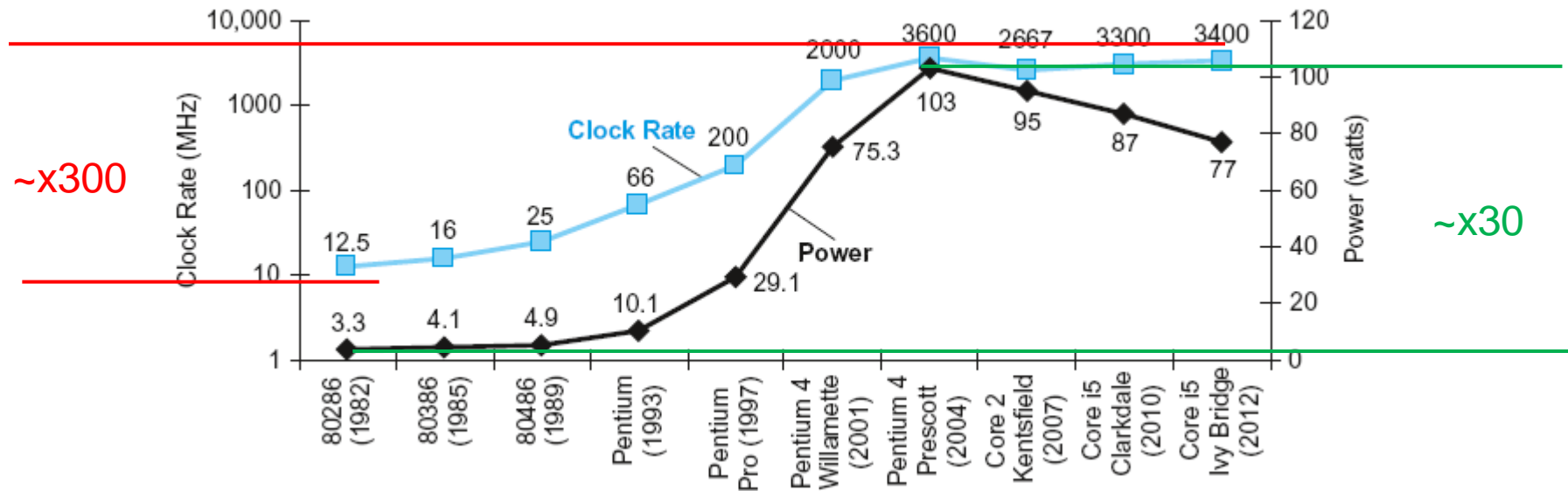
# Power Trends



- In CMOS IC technology

$$\text{Power} = \text{Capacitive load} \times \text{Voltage}^2 \times \text{Frequency}$$

# Power Trends



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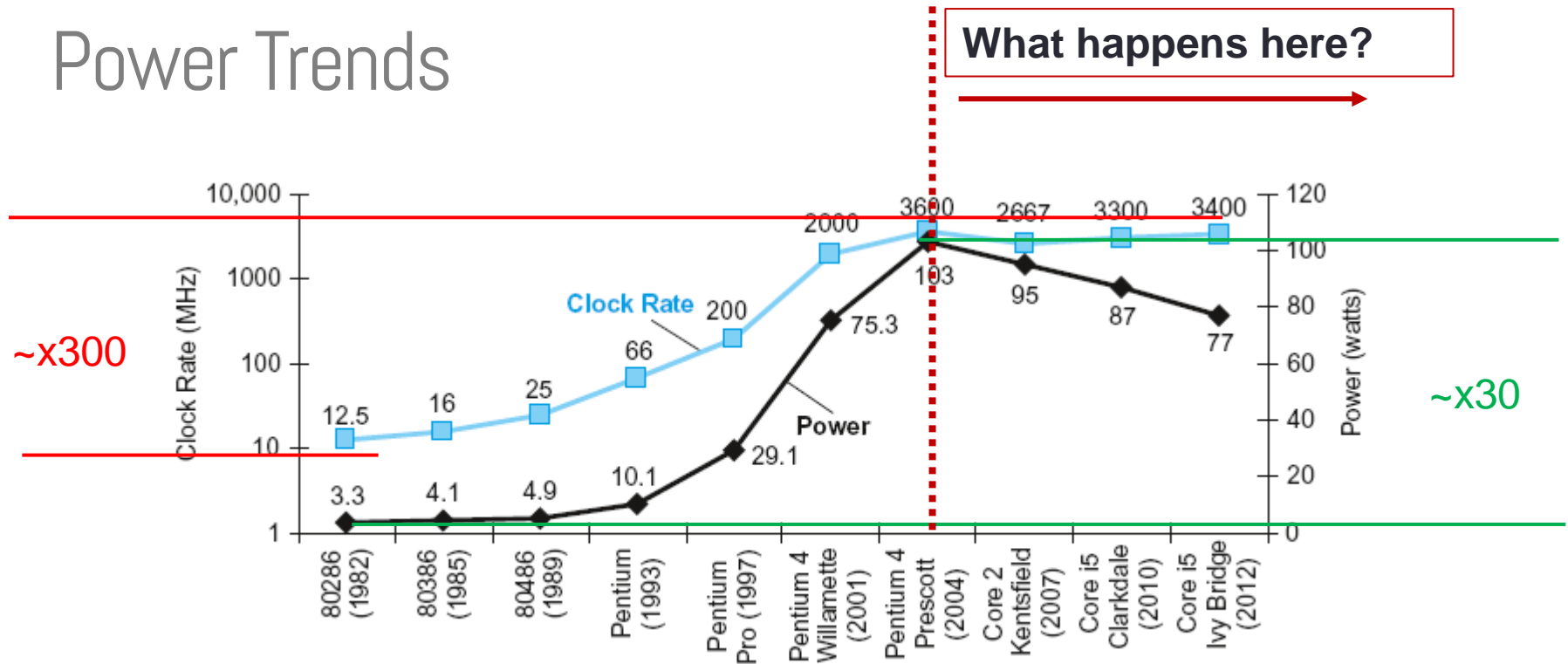
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x30

5V → 1V

x1000

# Power Trends



- In CMOS IC technology

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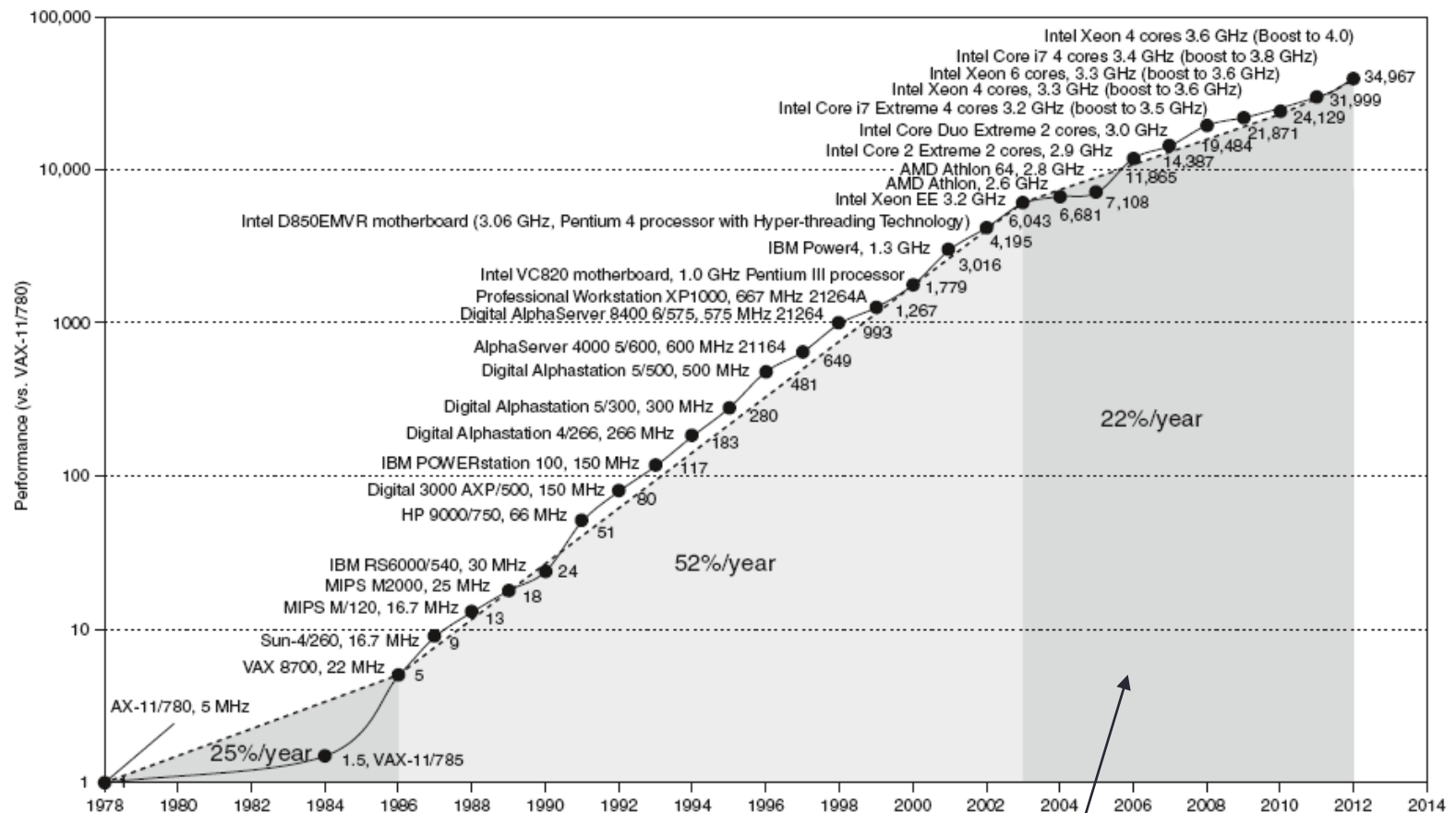
x1000



# Reducing Power

- The power wall (*around 2004...*)
  - We can't reduce voltage further
  - We can't remove more heat
- How else can we improve performance?

# Uniprocessor Performance

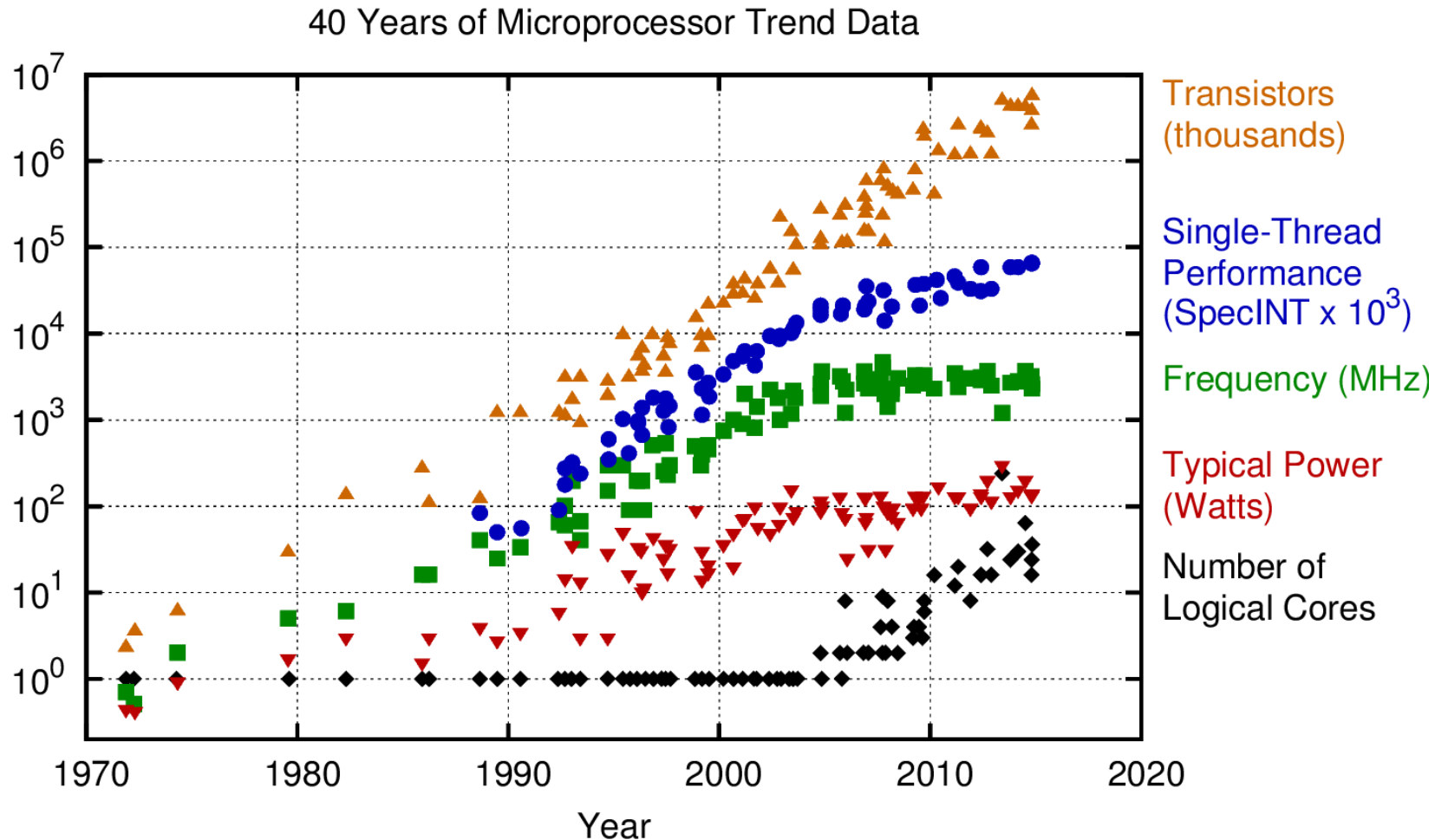


Constrained by power, instruction-level parallelism,  
memory latency

# Multiprocessors

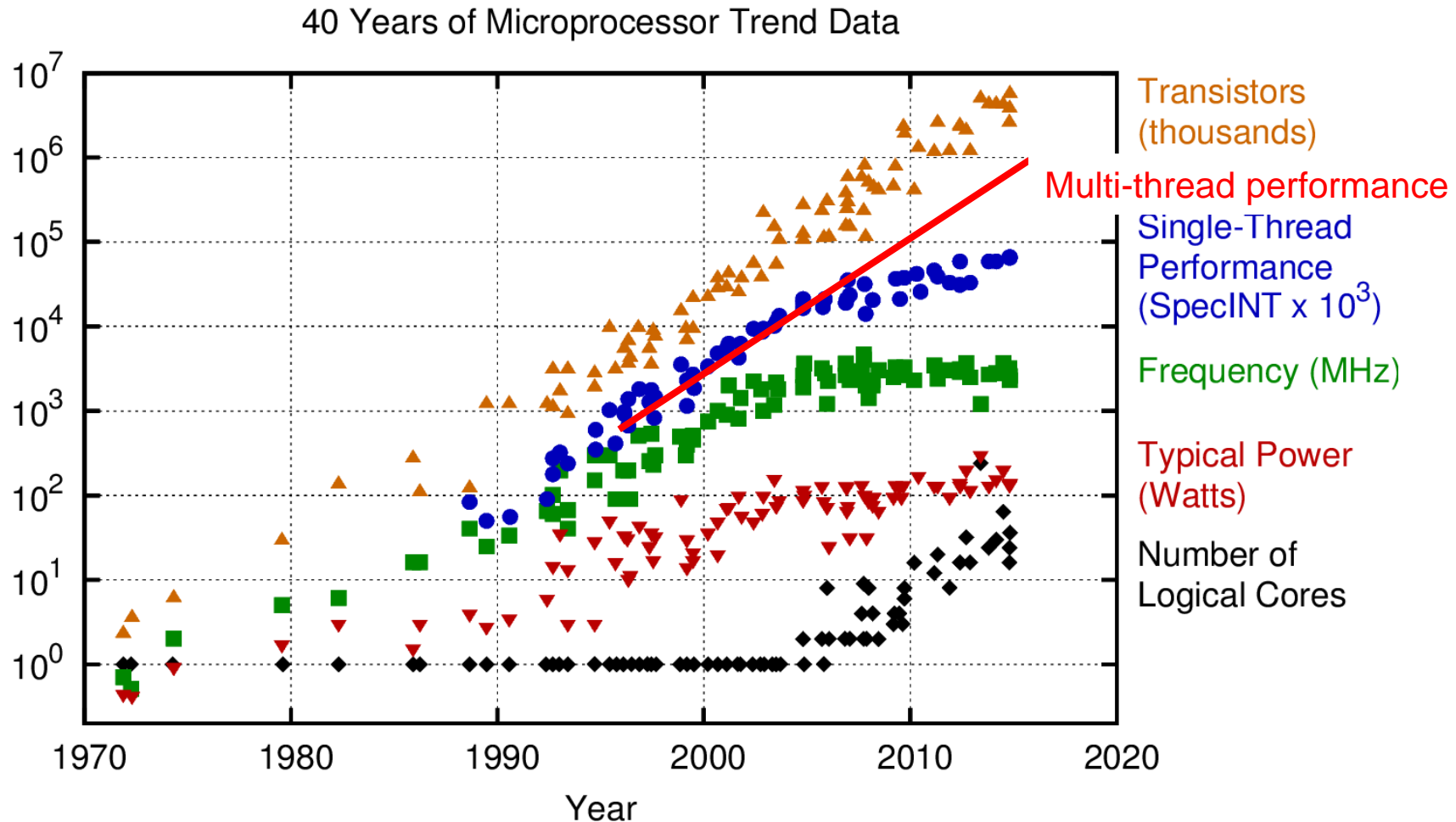
- **Multicore microprocessors**
  - More than one processor per chip

# The multicore revolution



Original data up to the year 2010 collected and plotted by M. Horowitz, F. Labonte, O. Shacham, K. Olukotun, L. Hammond, and C. Batten  
New plot and data collected for 2010-2015 by K. Rupp

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# Multiprocessors

- Multicore microprocessors
  - More than one processor per chip
- Requires explicitly parallel programming
  - Compare with instruction level parallelism
    - Hardware executes multiple instructions at once
    - Hidden from the programmer
  - Hard to do
    - Programming for performance
    - Load balancing
    - Optimizing communication and synchronization

**Il contenuto del corso di High Performance Computing alla magistrale**

# Relative Performance – Speedup

- “X is  $n$  time faster than Y”

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Performance}_X / \text{Performance}_Y \\ &= \text{Execution time}_Y / \text{Execution time}_X = n \end{aligned}$$

- **Speedup** is the relative performance of a “new” or *improved* system compared to an “old” system

- **Speedup** =  $T_{\text{old}} / T_{\text{new}}$ 
  - Execution time of the “new” (**improved**) system
  - Execution time of the “old” system

# Pitfall: Amdahl's Law

- Improving an aspect of a computer and expecting a proportional improvement in overall performance

$$T_{\text{improved}} = \frac{T_{\text{affected}}}{\text{improvement factor}} + T_{\text{unaffected}}$$

- Example: multiply accounts for 80s/100s
  - How much improvement in multiply performance to get Speedup=5?

$$T_{\text{old}} = 100 = T_{\text{affected}} + T_{\text{unaffected}} = 80 + 20$$

$$T_{\text{new}} = T_{\text{improved}} = \frac{80}{n} + 20$$

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{T_{\text{old}}}{T_{\text{new}}} = 5 \rightarrow \frac{T_{\text{old}}}{5} = T_{\text{new}} \rightarrow \frac{100}{5} = \frac{80}{n} + 20 = 20$$

Can't be done!



# Other performance metrics

- **MIPS: Millions of Instructions Per Second**

- Doesn't account for
  - Differences in ISAs between computers
  - Differences in complexity between instructions

$$\begin{aligned}\text{MIPS} &= \frac{\text{Instruction count}}{\text{Execution time} \times 10^6} \\ &= \frac{\text{Instruction count}}{\frac{\text{Instruction count} \times \text{CPI}}{\text{Clock rate}} \times 10^6} = \frac{\text{Clock rate}}{\text{CPI} \times 10^6}\end{aligned}$$

- › CPI varies between programs on a given CPU

# Many more...

- Single Precision Floating Point Operations per seconds (FLOPs/s)
- Power Efficiency (Throughput/Power)  $\rightarrow$  FLOPS/s / W
- Area Efficiency (Throughput/Area)  $\rightarrow$  FLOPS/s / mm<sup>2</sup>

# Recap

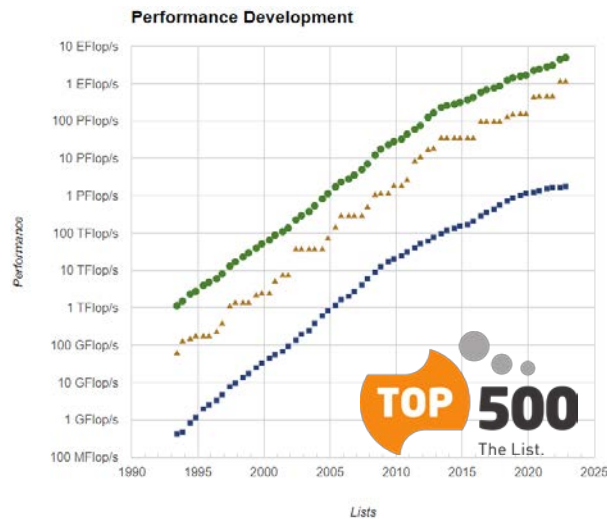
- **Performance Metrics**

- CPU Time
- Throughput (Inst/Cycles)
- CPI / IPC

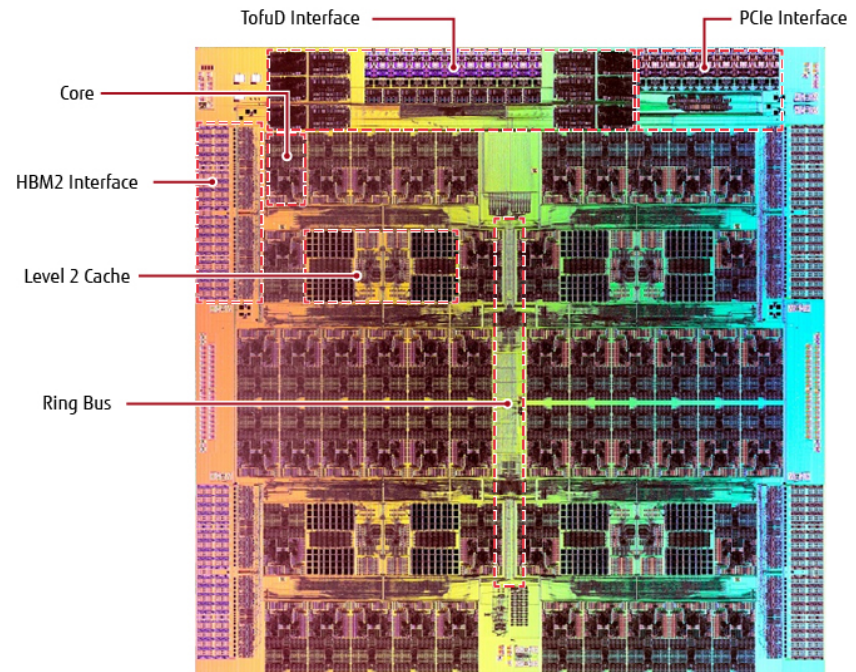
- **Comparative Metrics**

- Speedup
- Amdahl's Law

- **Multi-core Evolution**



<https://www.top500.org>



# Evaluation (it is your moment)

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