

COSC2473

Introduction

A short history of computing



Mechanical computers

- A 'computer' originally meant a person who performed calculations
- Early mechanical computing tools ranged from the Abacus (~2000 BCE) to the slide rule (1600s)

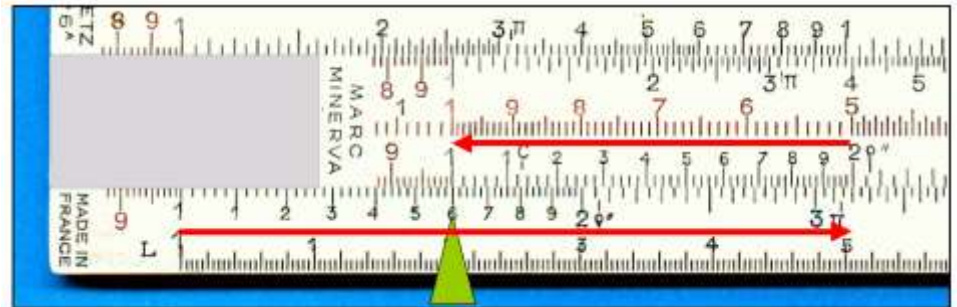
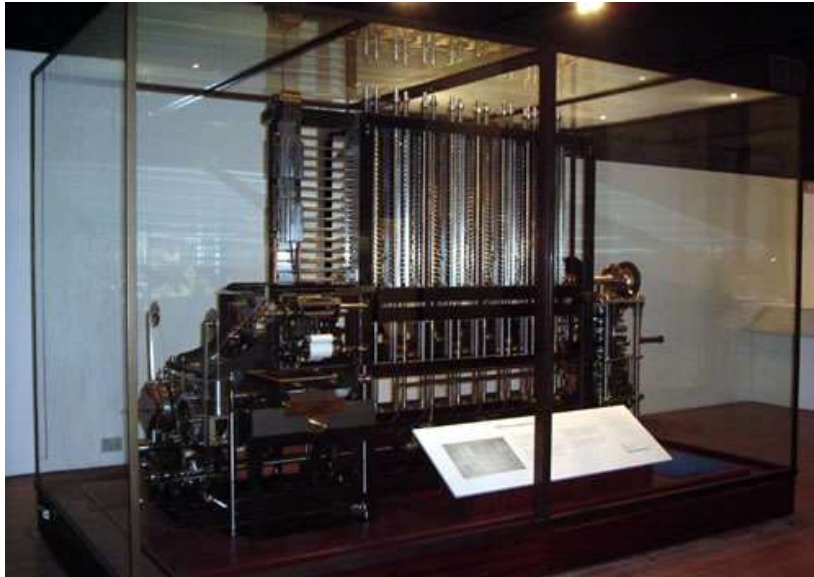


Photo: Jean-Jacques Milan

Mechanical computers

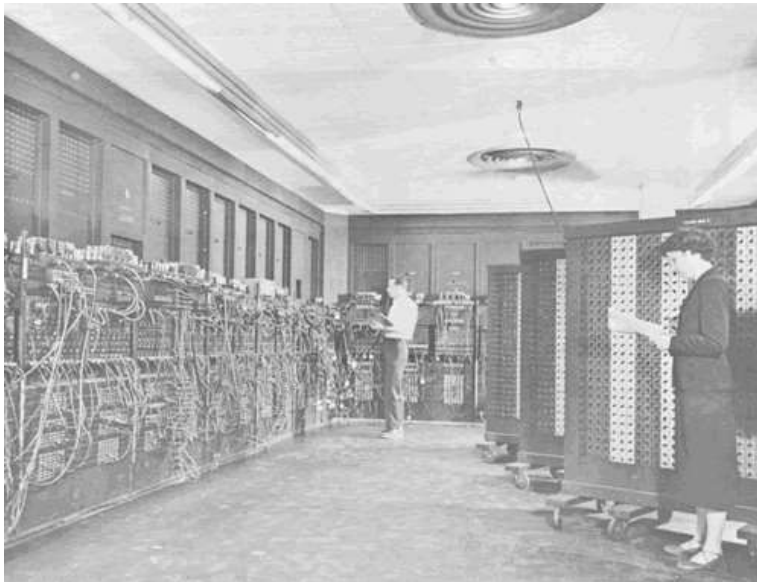
- Charles Babbage designed a Difference Engine in 1822
 - designed to perform complex arithmetic



- And an Analytical Engine in 1834
 - programmable and capable of complex logic

Early electrical computers

- 1941 Konrad Zuse completes the Z3
 - world's first programmable digital computer
 - used relays



- 1943 ENIAC built by US army
 - used valves
 - general purpose computer

First Computer in Melbourne



- 768 20 bit words CSIRO, Sydney, 1949, Melbourne Uni 1955 now in Melbourne Museum

Integrated circuits

- 1947 Transistor invented
 - solid state circuits possible
 - increased reliability and smaller size vs valves
- 1958 Integrated circuit developed



Photo: Texas Instruments



Photo: IBM

- making processor chips possible

Mainframes & supercomputers

- 1960s+ Mainframes
 - designed to be highly reliable
 - IBM System/360 (now Z Series) introduced in 1964



Photo: IBM



Tianhe-2. Photo: NUDT

- Supercomputers
 - at upper limit of computing ability
 - often specialised for particular types of calculations

Personal computers

- 1975 Altair 8800
 - hobby kit
 - used Microsoft's first product: Altair BASIC
 - started an explosion in demand for personal computers



Photo: Tom Carlson



- 1982 IBM PC introduced
 - became dominant desktop standard

PDAs, smart phones & tablets

- 1993 Newton (Apple)
 - personal digital assistant (PDA)
 - a commercial failure but educated consumers



Photo: Rama, Cc-by-sa-2.0-1

- Smartphones
 - merged a phone



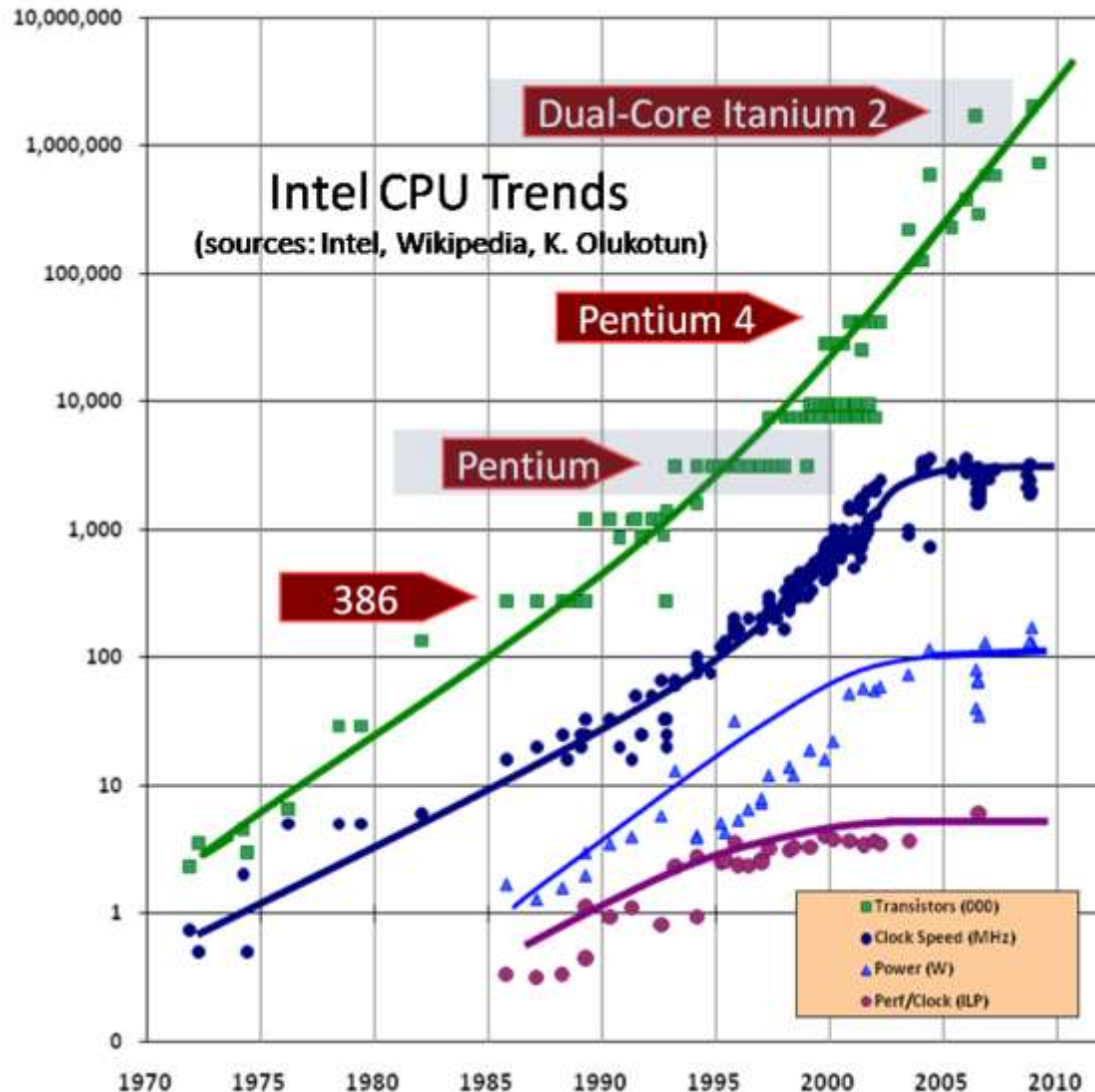
Photo: Apple



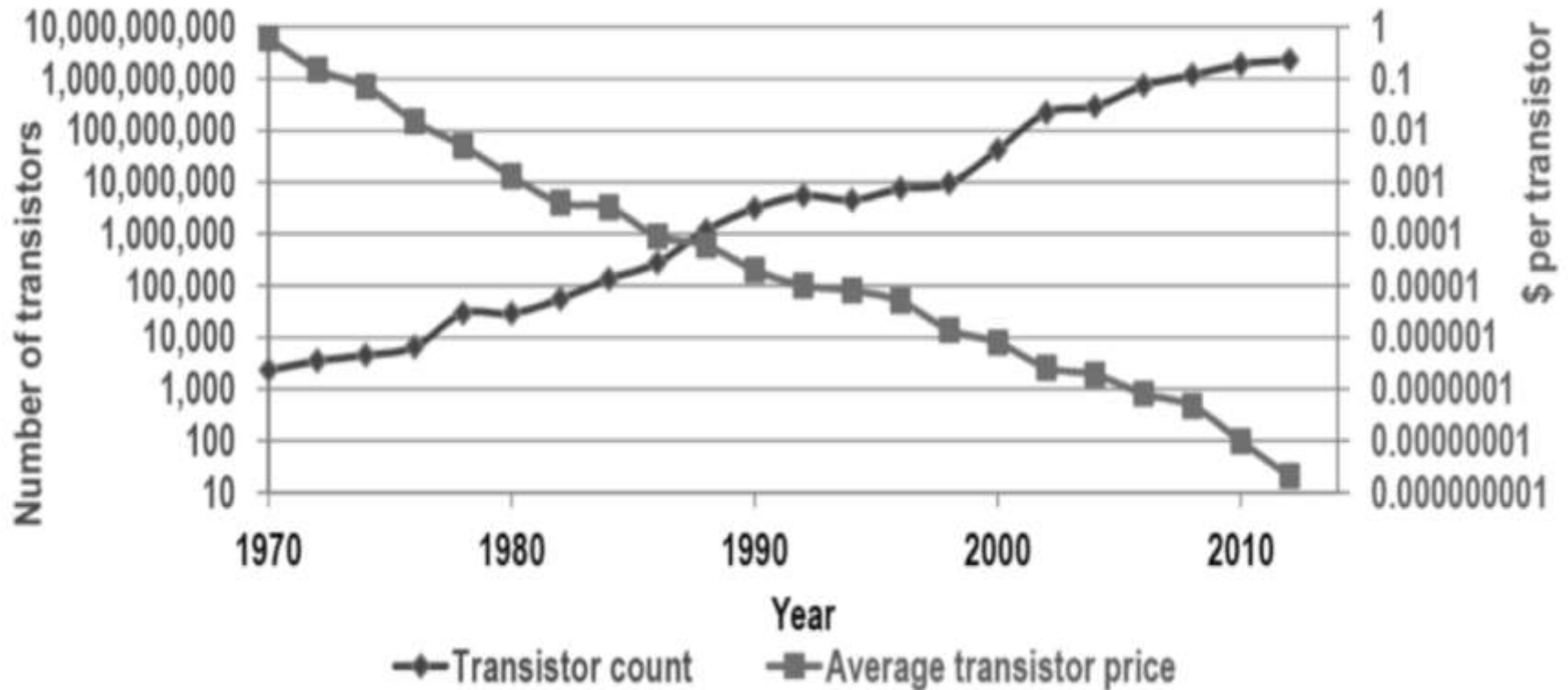
Photo: Samsung

- Tablets
 - mobile computing device
 - uses touch screen for input

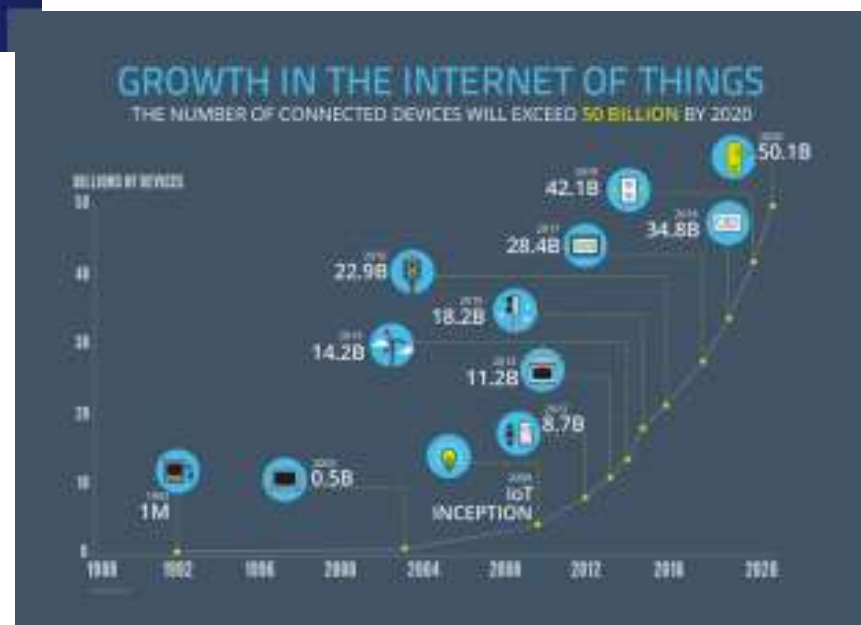
All made possible by miniaturization



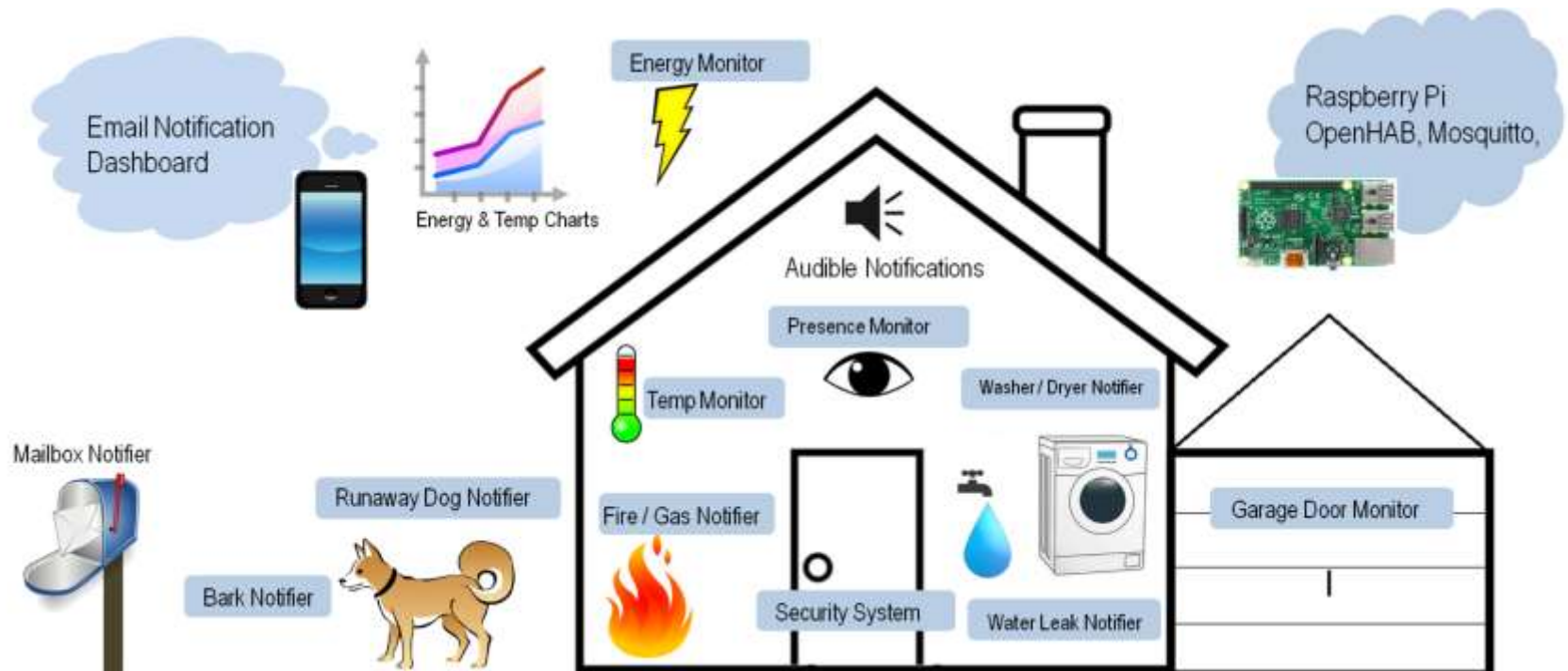
The computing revolution is driven by economics



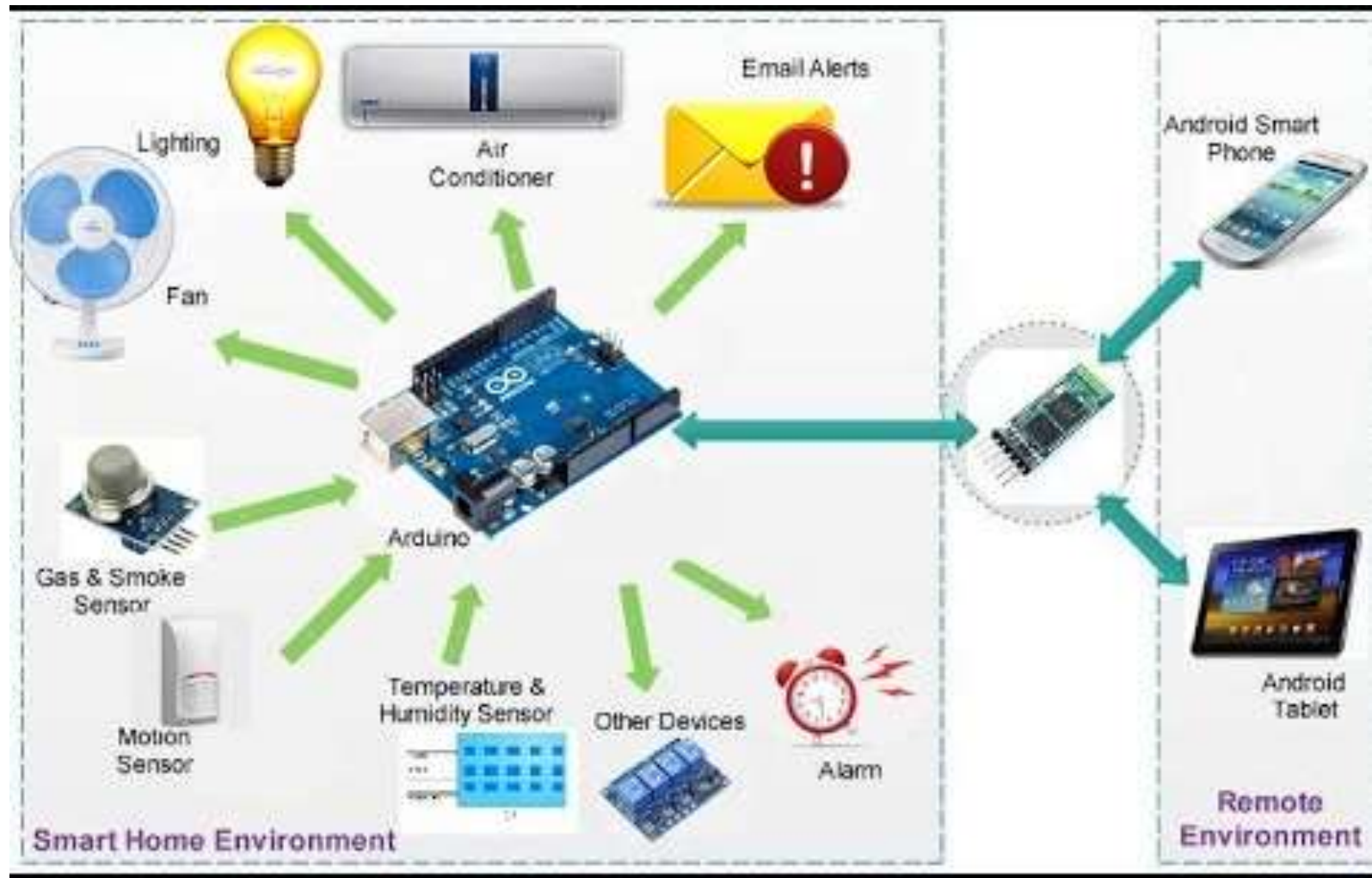
The Internet of Things



IoT at home



IoT at home



Home assistants



BBC Micro:bit

