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6.012
Microelectronic Devices and Circuits

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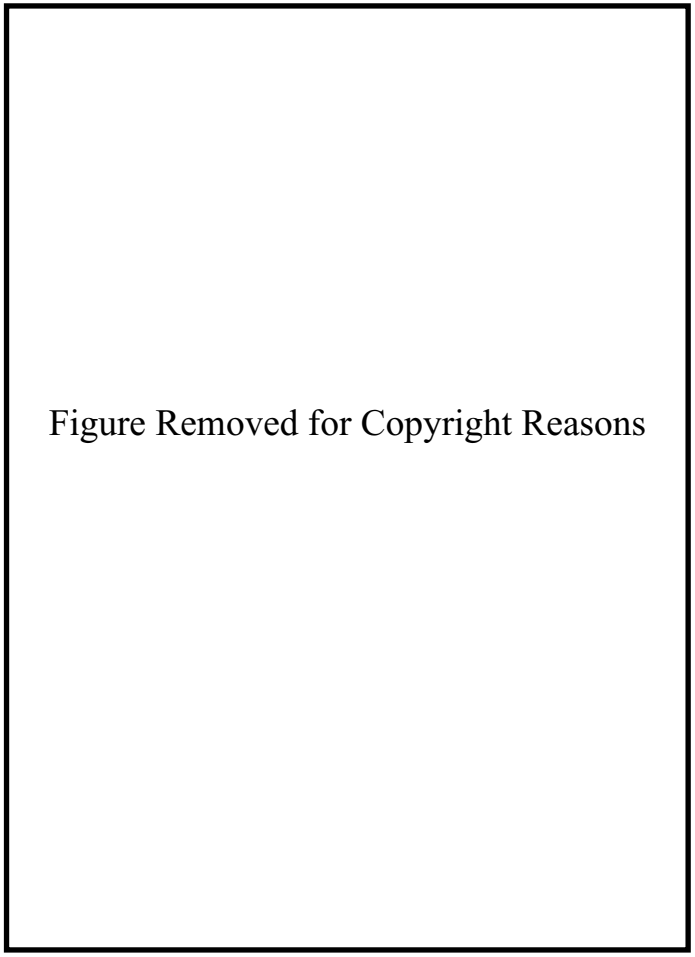
Lecture 1 – 6.012 overview

February 4, 2003

- Contents:
  - Overview of 6.012
- Reading Assignment:
  - Howe and Sodini, Ch. 1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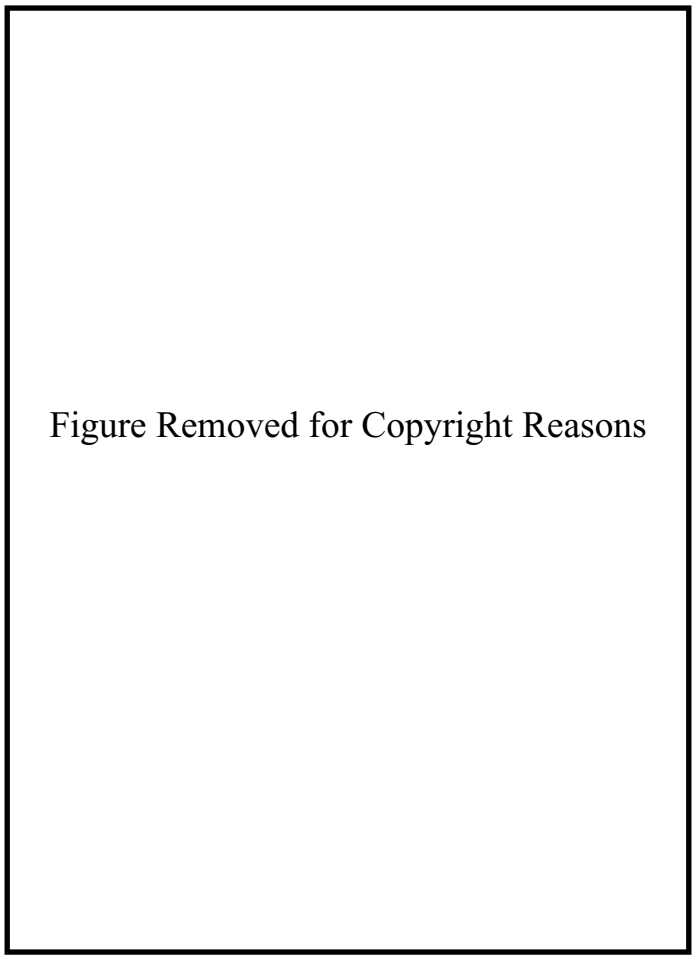
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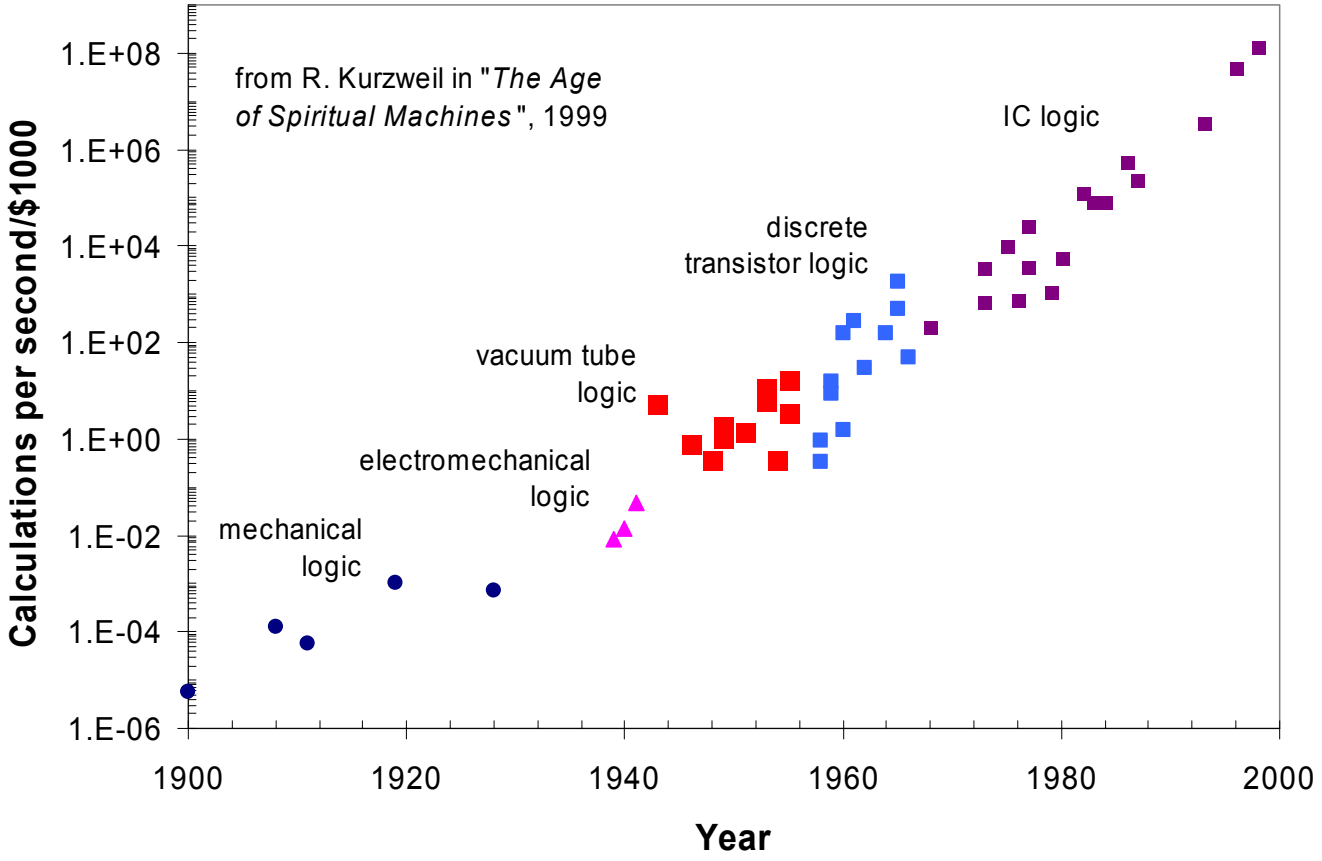
Overview of 6.012

- Introductory subject to microelectronic devices and circuits

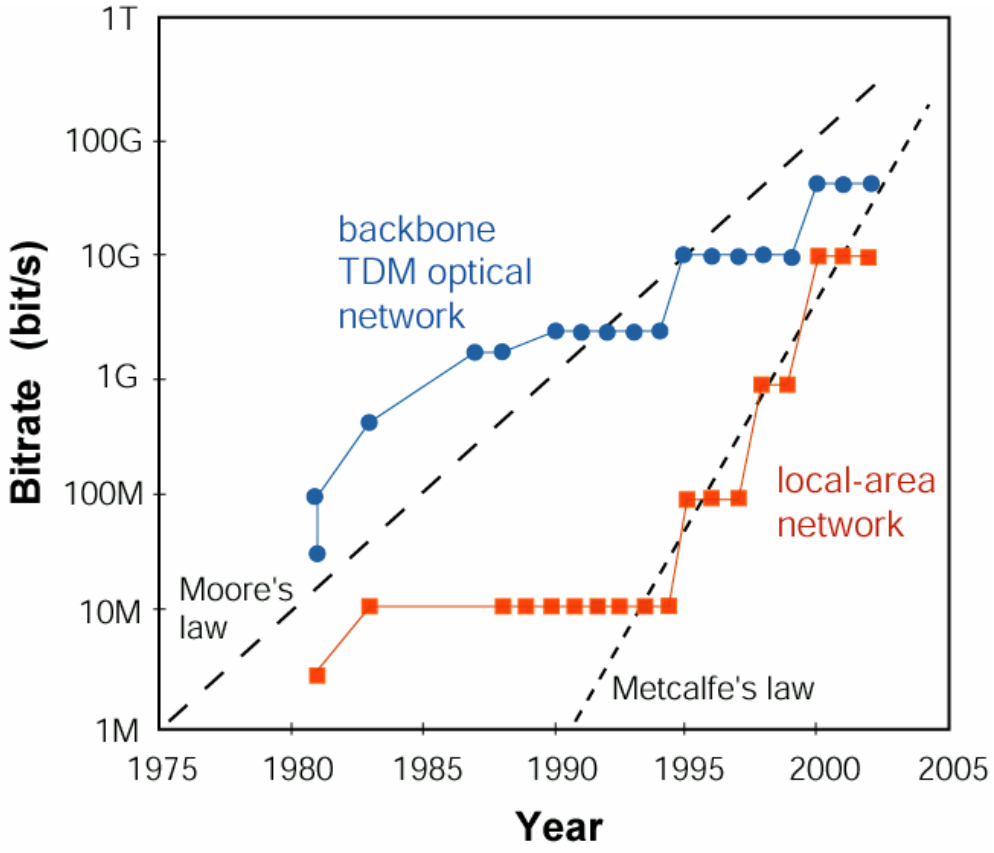
- Microelectronics is cornerstone of:
  - Computer revolution
  - Communications revolution

Microelectronics: cornerstone of computing revolution



In last 30 years, computer performance per dollar has improved more than a million fold!

Microelectronics: cornerstone of communications revolution



In last 20 years, communication bandwidth through a single optical fiber has increased by ten-thousand fold.

Si digital microelectronics today

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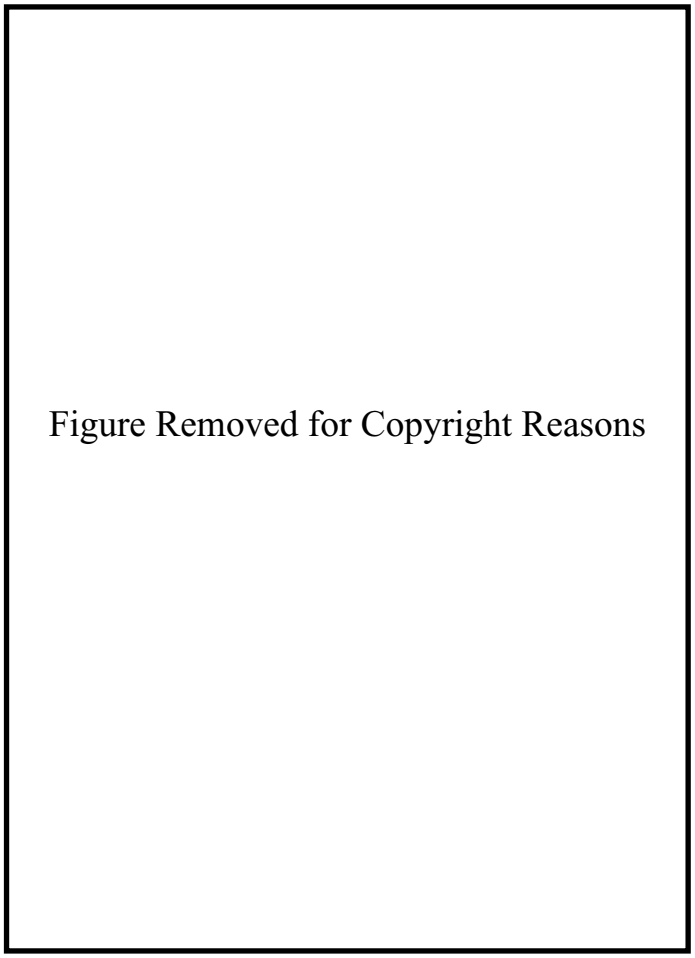
Take the cover off a microprocessor. What do you see?

- A thick web of interconnects, many levels deep.
- High density of very small transistors.

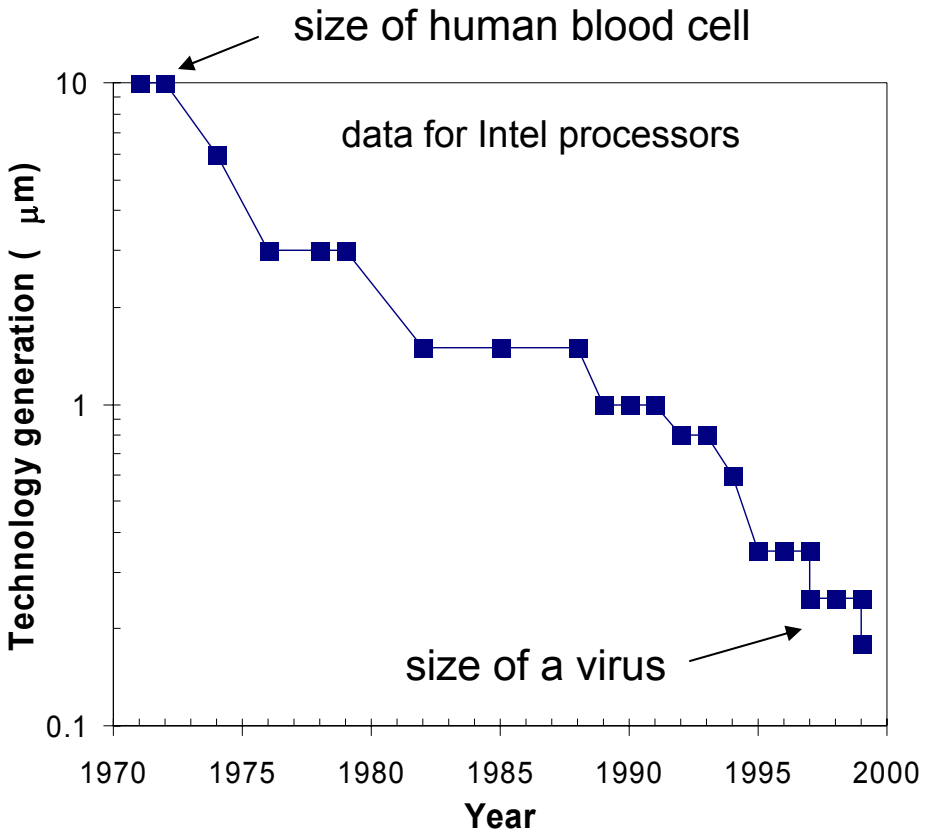
Intel's Pentium IV

Interconnects



Today, as many as 8 levels of interconnect using Cu.

Transistor size scaling



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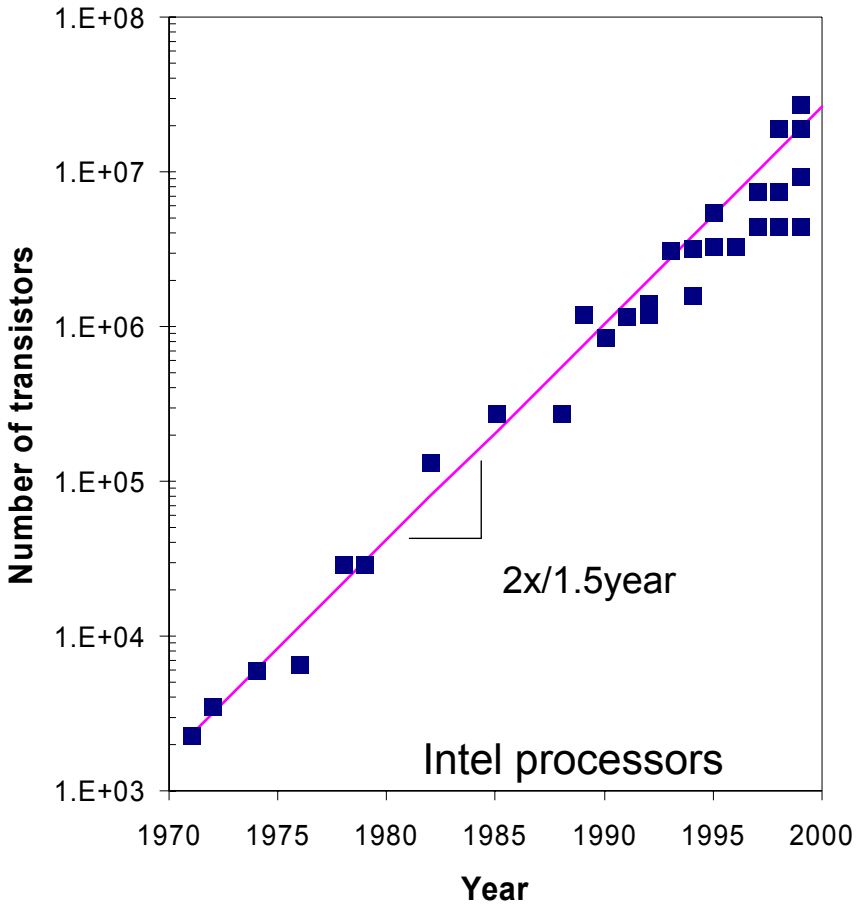
2-orders of magnitude reduction in transistor size in 30 years.

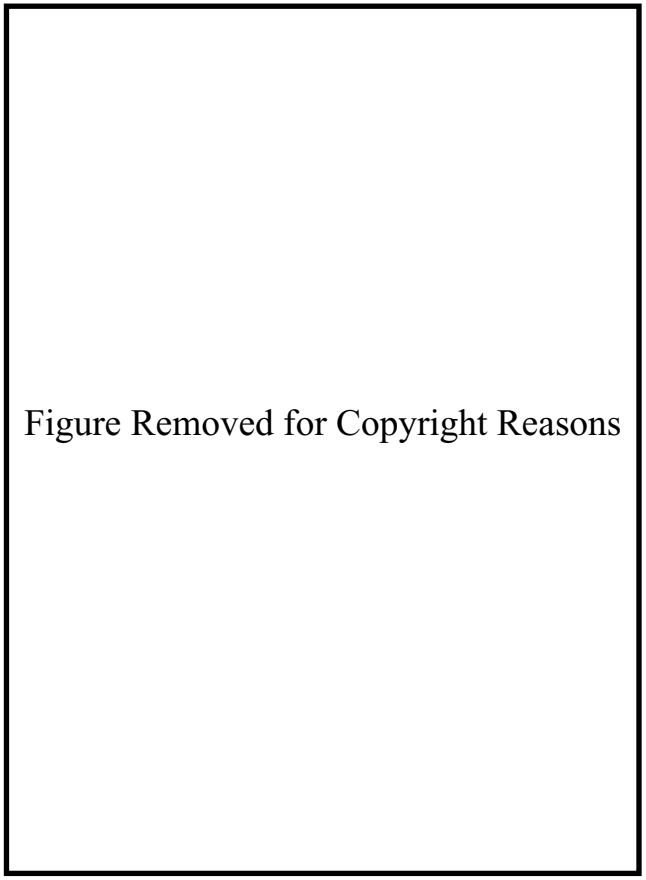
Evolution of transistor density



Moore's Law: doubling of transistor density every 1.5 years

4-orders of magnitude improvement in 30 years.

Benefits of increasing transistor integration

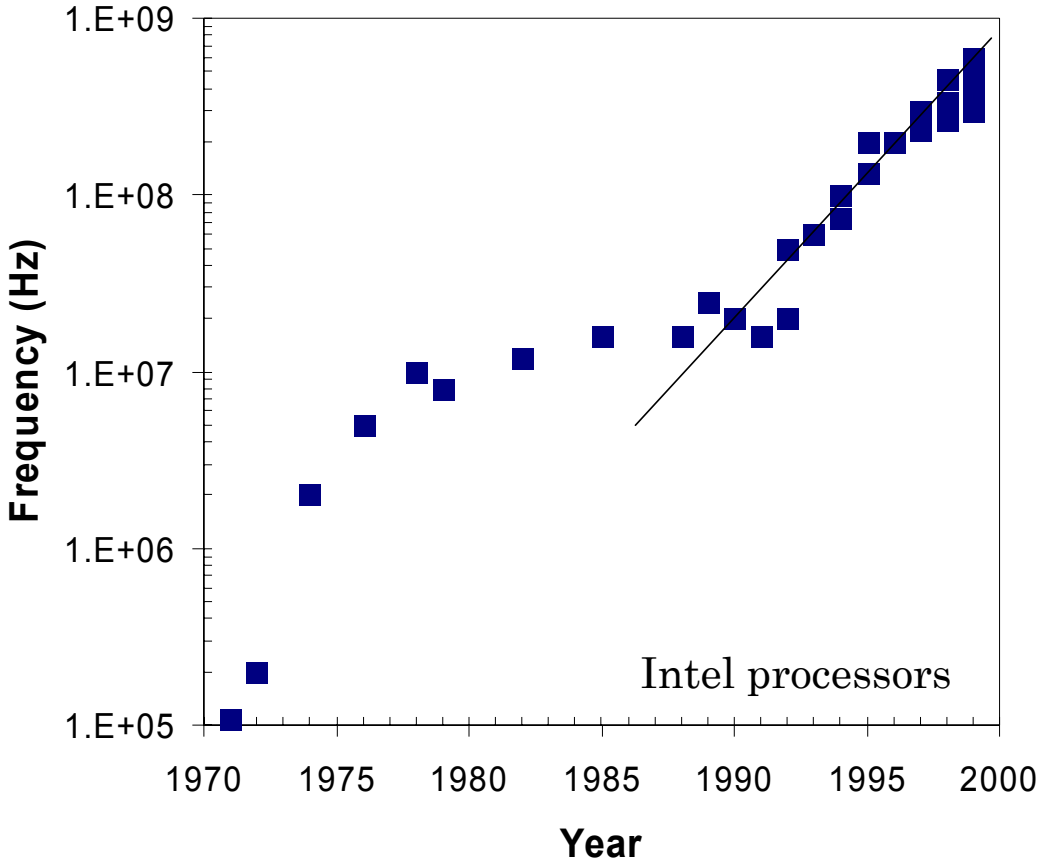


Experimental SOI microprocessor from IBM

Exponential improvements in:

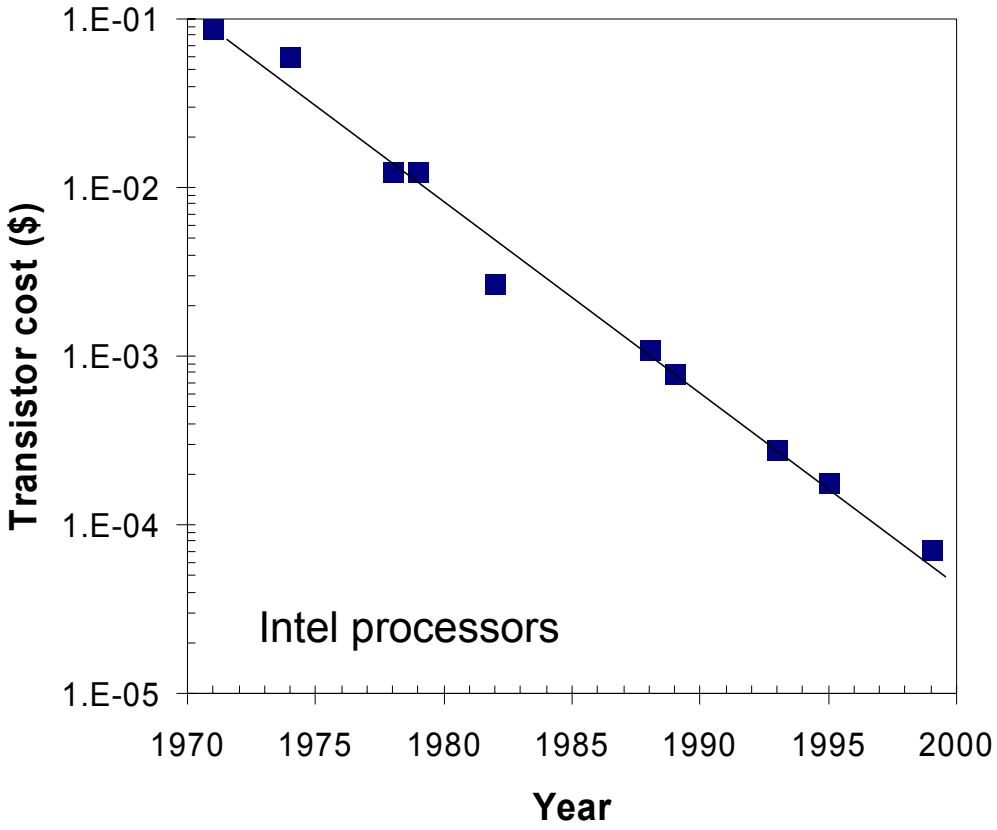
- system performance
- cost-per-function,
- power-per-function, and
- system reliability.

Clock speed



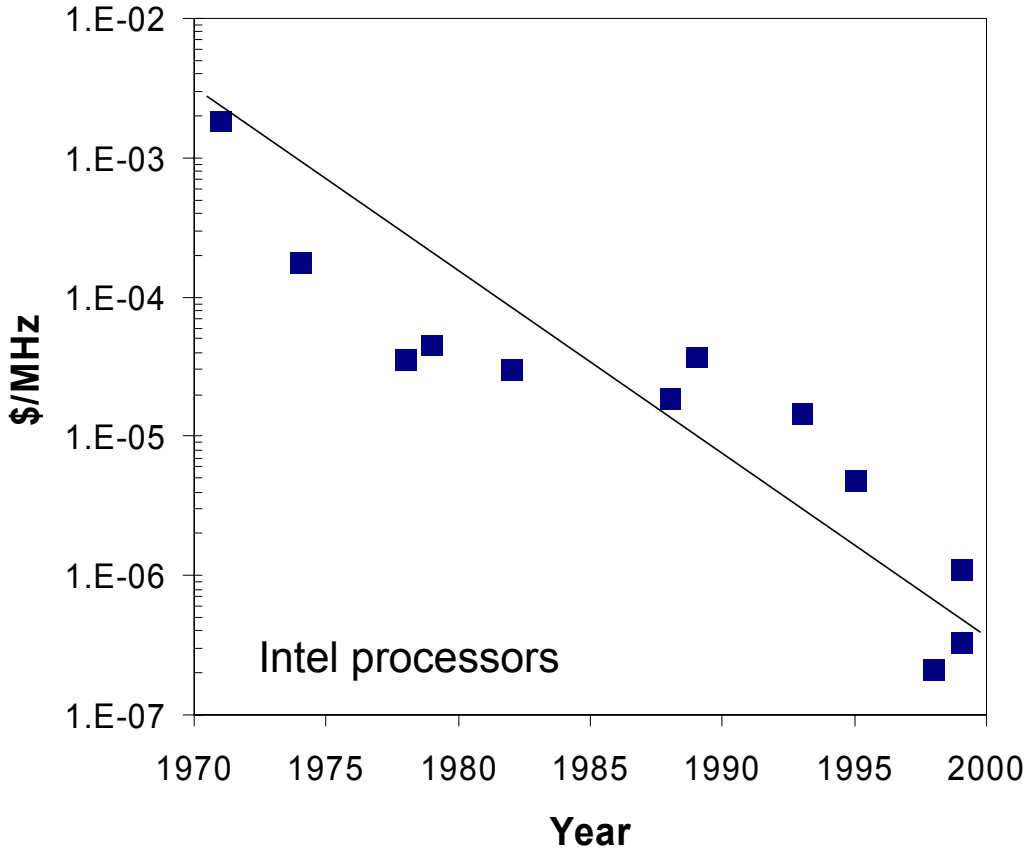
4-orders of magnitude improvement in 30 years.

Transistor cost



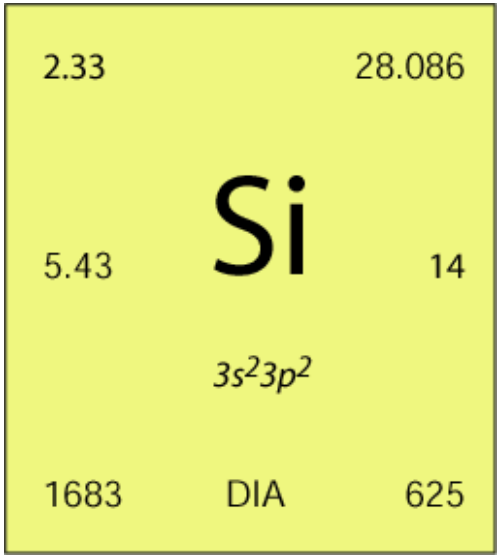
3-order of magnitude reduction in 30 years.

Cost per function



4-order of magnitude reduction in 30 years.

Keys to success of digital microelectronics: I. Silicon

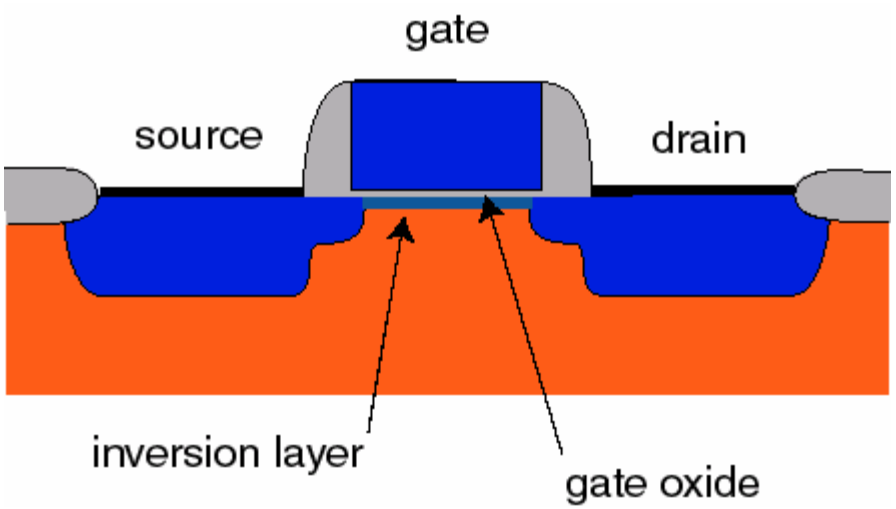


- Cheap and abundant
- Amazing mechanical, chemical and electronic properties
- Probably, the material best known to humankind

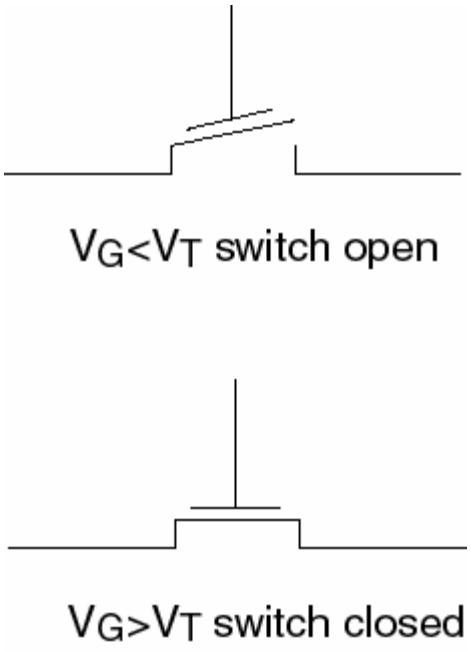
Keys to success of digital microelectronics: II. MOSFET

Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor

Field-Effect Transistor

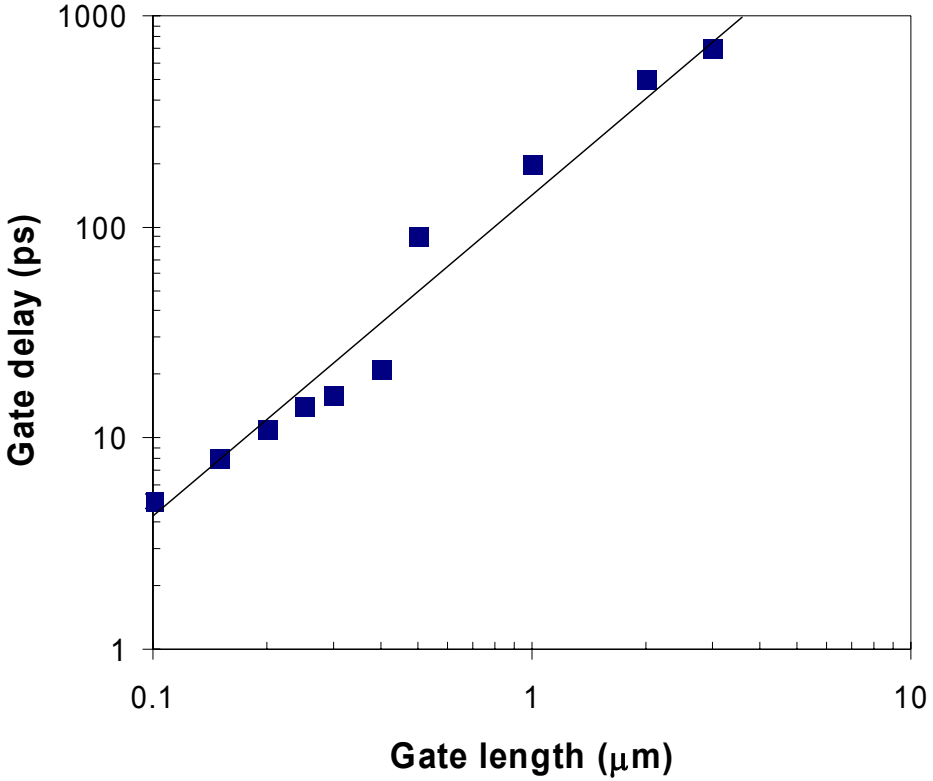


MOSFET = switch



Good gain, isolation, and speed

Keys to success of digital microelectronics: III. MOSFET scaling

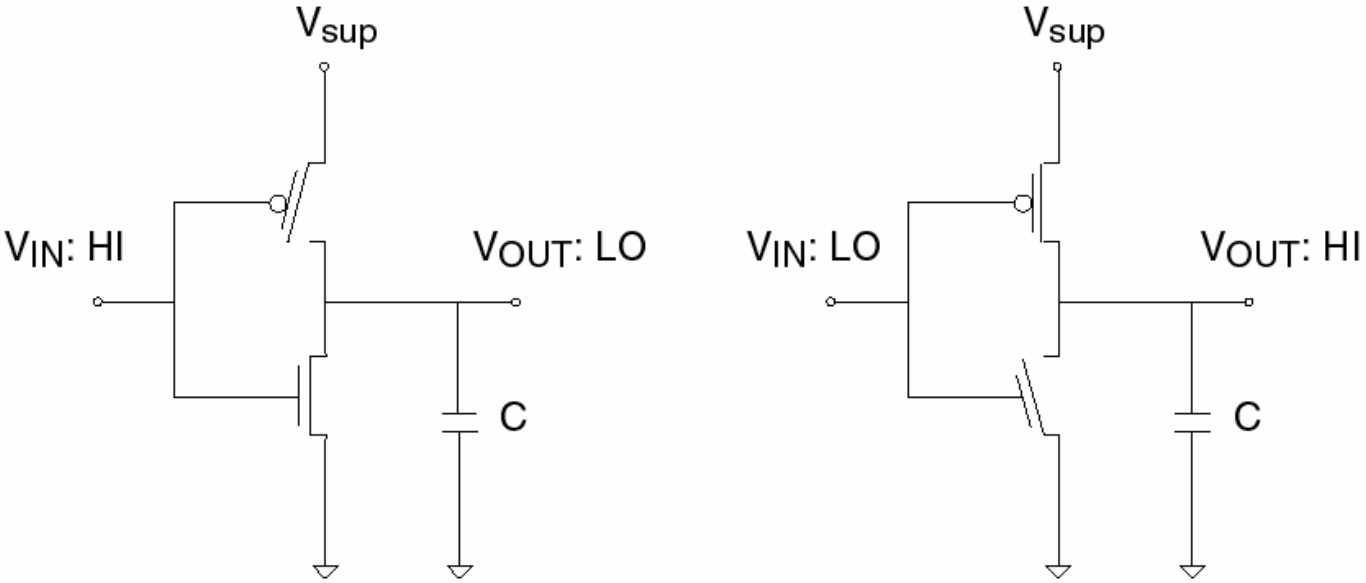


MOSFET performance improves as size is decreased:

- Shorter switching time
- Lower power consumption

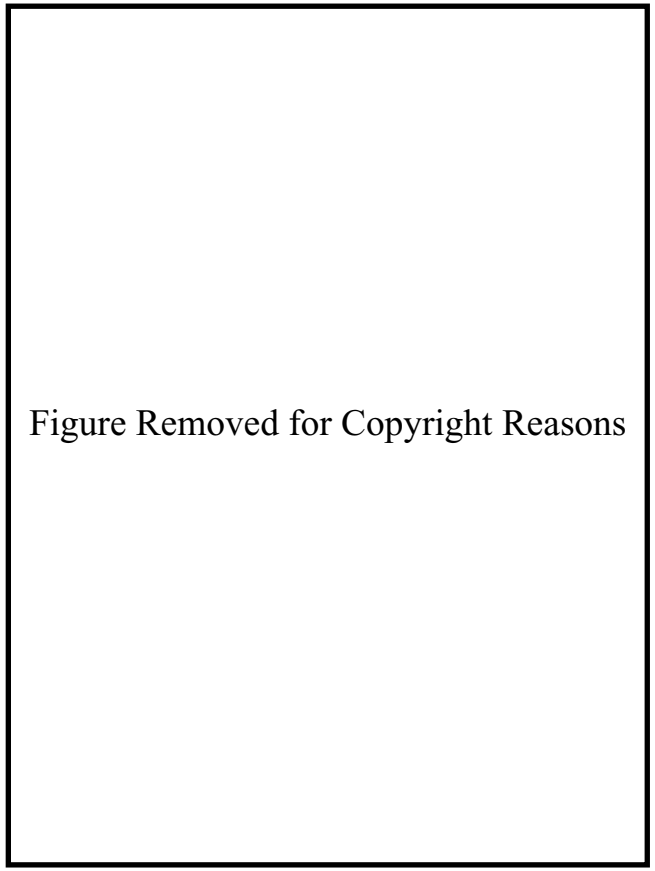
Keys to success of digital microelectronics: IV. CMOS

CMOS: Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor



- "Complementary" switch activates with V<0.
- Logic without DC power consumption.

Keys to success of digital microelectronics: V. Microfabrication technology



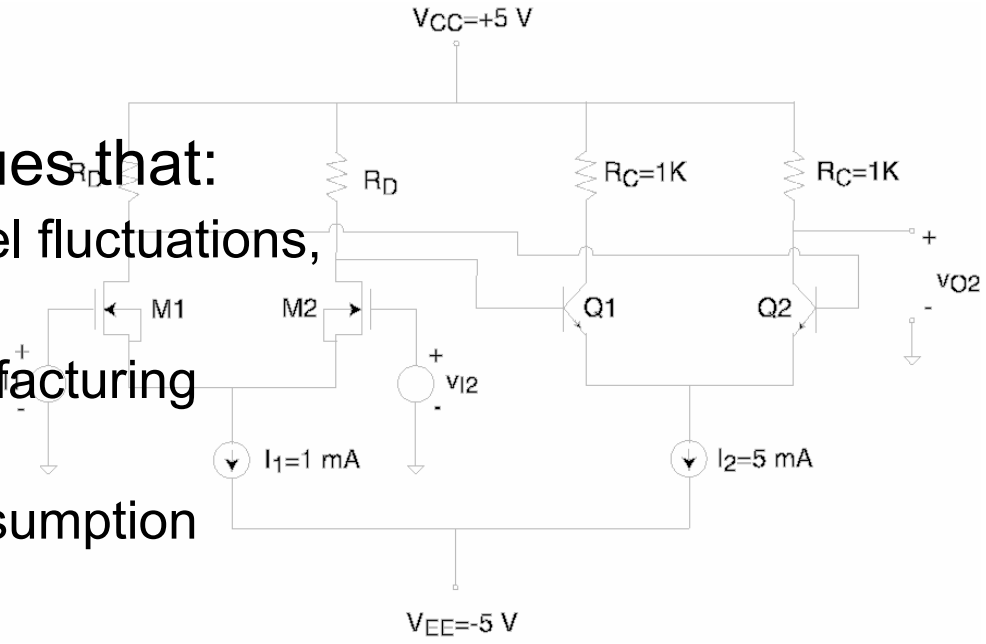
DSP core from IBM

- Tight integration of dissimilar devices with good isolation
- Fabrication of extremely small structures, precisely and reproducibly
- High-volume manufacturing of complex systems with high yield.

Keys to success of digital microelectronics: VI. Circuit engineering

- Simple device models that:
  - are based on physics
  - allow analog and digital circuit design
  - permit assessment of impact of device variations on circuit performance

- Circuit design techniques that:
  - are tolerant to logic level fluctuations, noise and crosstalk
  - are insensitive to manufacturing variations
  - require little power consumption



Content of 6.012

- Deals with **microelectronic devices…**
  - Semiconductor physics
  - Metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET)
  - Bipolar junction transistor (BJT)

- … and **microelectronic circuits**
  - Digital circuits (mainly CMOS)
  - Analog circuits (BJT and MOS)

“One shouldn’t work on semiconductors, that is a filthy mess; who knows if they really exist!”

Wolfgang Pauli, 1931

“To the electron –

may it never be of any use to anybody.”

favorite toast at annual dinners at Cavendish Laboratory, early 1900’s