

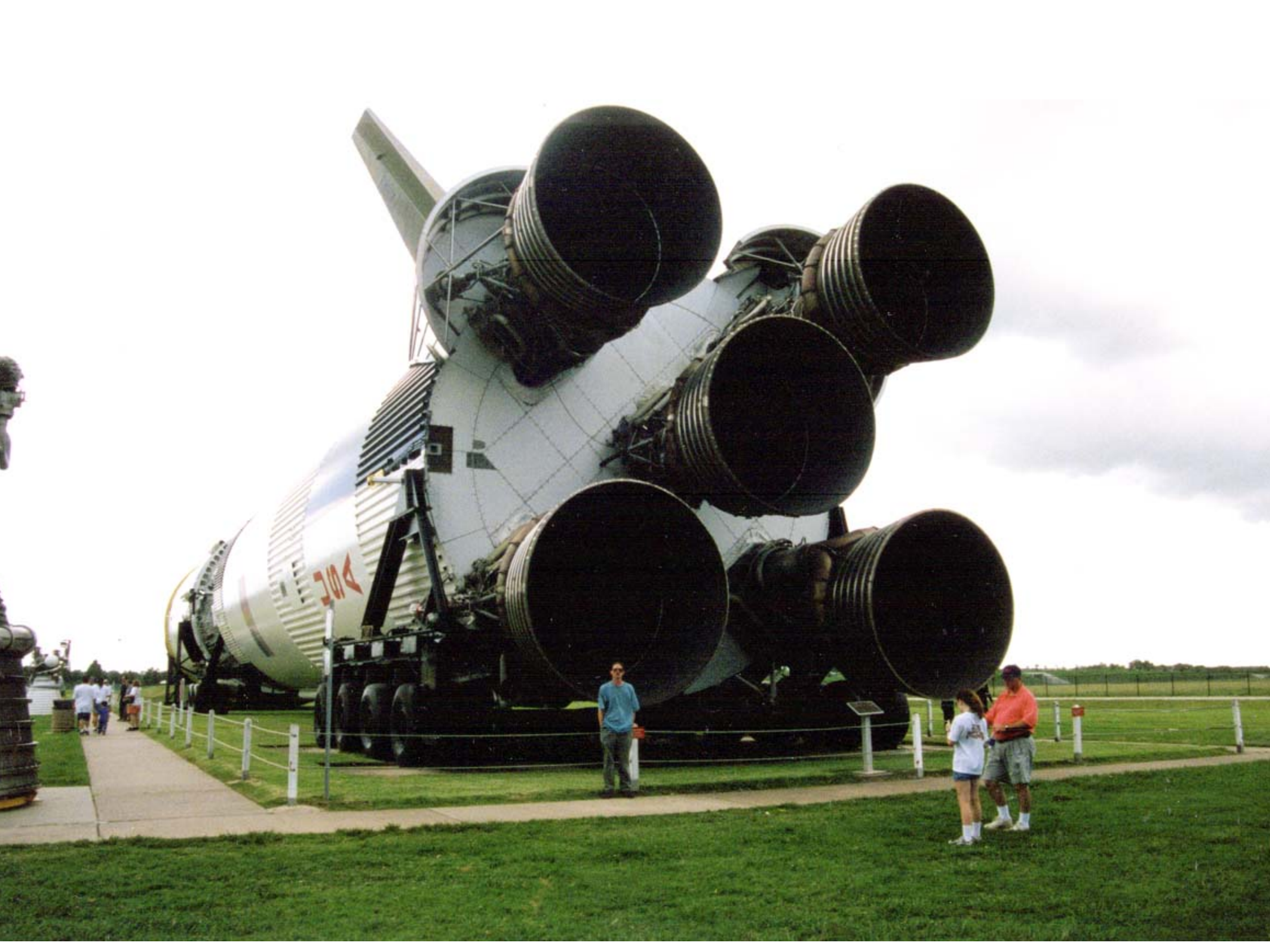
Performance

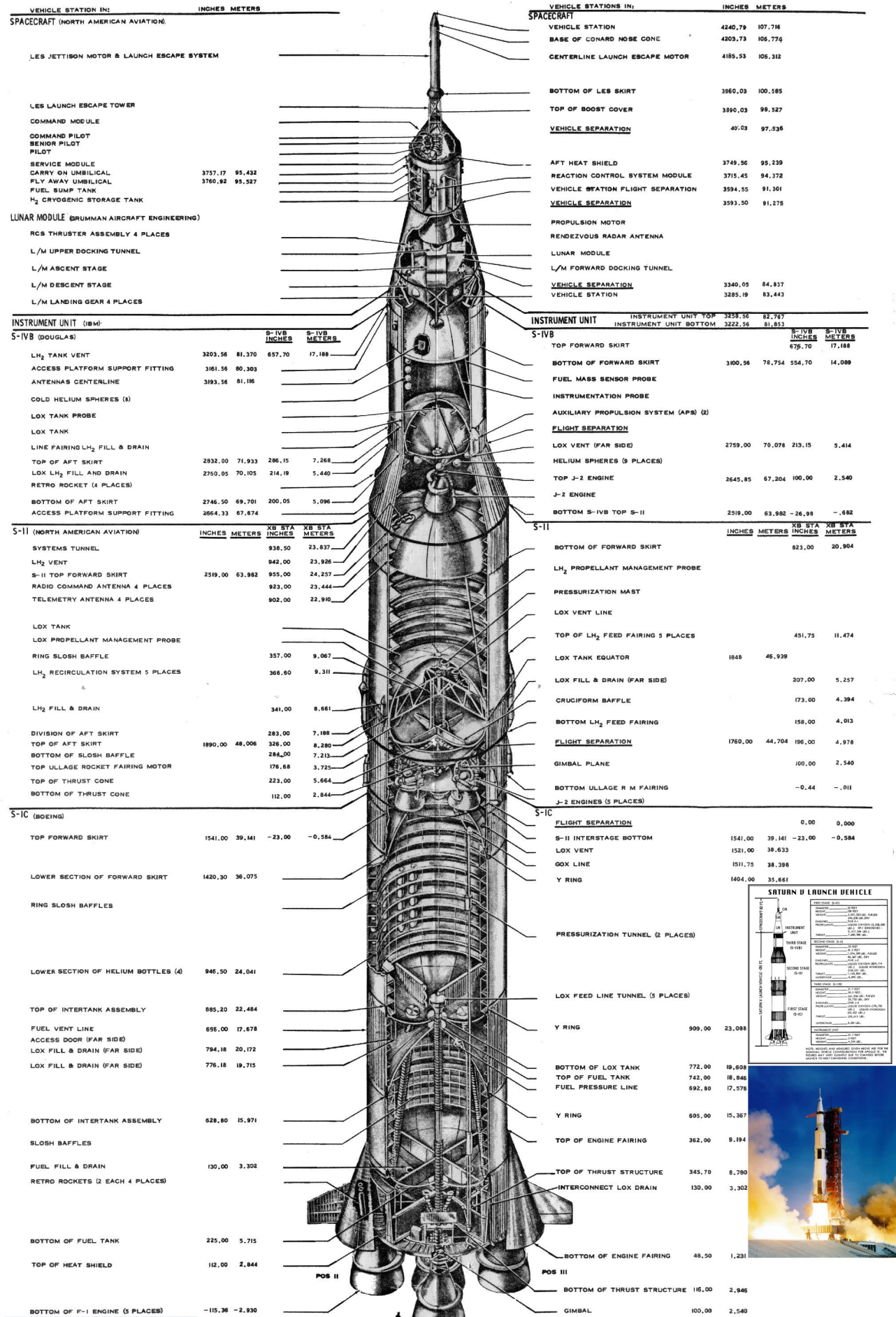
Admin:

Lab next week: work on projects!

Ordering parts: keep all receipts! If paying with a credit card, you must have a receipt that shows at least the last four digits of the card.

If you need a particular part, ask and we can either order it for you or see if we have it already (e.g., ADC and DAC chips).





Command Module
64,000 lbs

Saturn V
6,200,000 lbs

Payload
1.5% of total weight



Falcon 9

Elon Musk





Demo: clear

Optimization Strategies

- **Compiler flags** - leverage automatic optimizations
- **Inlining** - Reduce function call overhead
- **Avoid volatile** - enable more compiler optimizations
- **Aggregate loads/stores** - less instructions per memory operation
- **Loop optimizations** - code hoisting, combination, unrolling
- **Manual assembly** - Be smarter than the compiler

Amdahl's Law

$$S_{latency}(s) = \frac{1}{(1 - p) + \frac{p}{s}}$$

- $S_{latency}$ - the theoretical speedup of the execution of the entire program
- s - the speedup of the part of the program you're optimizing
- p - the proportion of execution time that the part the program you're optimizing originally occupied

Amdahl's Law



Suppose your original program took **t** cycles to execute

Amdahl's Law



The program is divided into two distinct portions:

- Part **A** takes 75% of the time
- Part **B** takes 25% of the time

Amdahl's Law



If we optimize part B to make it 5 times faster, this only reduces the overall computation time slightly

Amdahl's Law



If we optimize part A to make it just twice as fast, we get a greater overall speedup

Amdahl's Law

Part B is 25% of the overall program ($p = .25$) and we speed it up by a factor of 5 ($s = 5$)

$$S_{latency} = \frac{1}{1 - .25 + \frac{.25}{5}} = 1.25$$

Overall program speedup is 1.25

Amdahl's Law

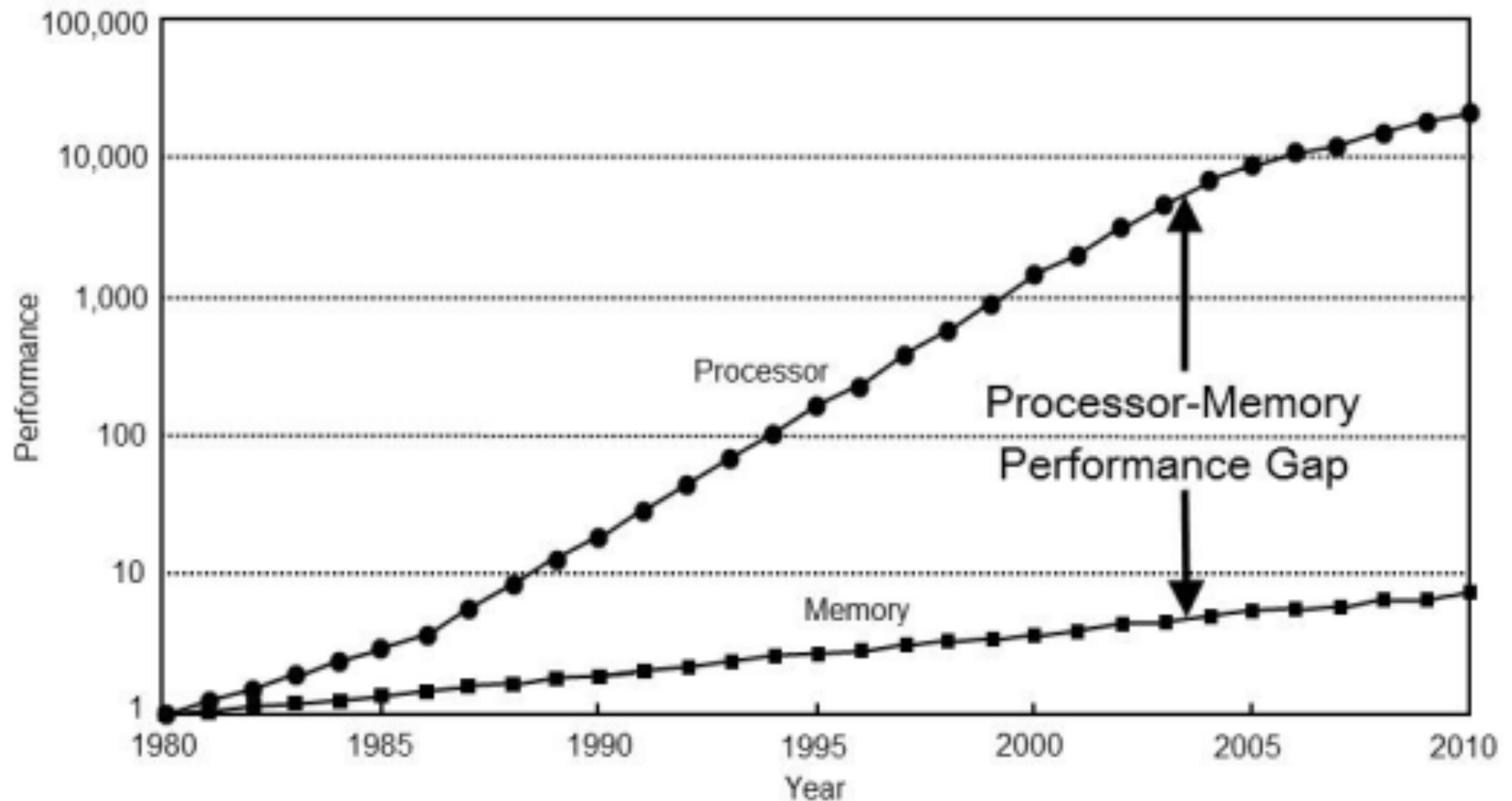
Part A is 75% of the overall program ($p = .75$) and we speed it up by a factor of 2 ($s = 2$)

$$S_{latency} = \frac{1}{1 - .75 + \frac{.75}{2}} = 1.60$$

Overall program speedup is 1.60

Beyond Software Optimization

Processor-Memory Performance Gap



[Hennessy, J.L.; Patterson, D.A. Computer Organization and Design, 2nd ed.]

Memory System Performance

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Processor | Alpha 21164 | |
| Machine | AlphaServer 8200 | |
| Clock Rate | 300 MHz | |
| Memory Performance | Latency | Bandwidth |
| I Cache (8KB on chip) | 6.7 ns (2 clocks) | 4800 MB/sec |
| D Cache (8KB on chip) | 6.7 ns (2 clocks) | 4800 MB/sec |
| L2 Cache (96KB on chip) | 20 ns (6 clocks) | 4800 MB/sec |
| L3 Cache (4MB off chip) | 26 ns (8 clocks) | 960 MB/sec |
| Main Memory Subsystem | 253 ns (76 clocks) | 1200 MB/sec |
| Single DRAM component | ≈60ns (18 clocks) | ≈30–100 MB/sec |

[Patterson, David, et al. "A case for intelligent RAM."]

**Moving data between the
cpu and memory is the
bottleneck**

strcpy

```
int len = strlen(src);  
  
for (int i = 0; i <= len; i++) {  
    dst[i] = src[i]  
}
```

All we're doing is loading data from memory into the CPU and storing it back into memory

Avoiding the Memory Bottleneck

- Raspberry Pi has a **DMA Controller** that allows us to read and write memory without having to go through the processor (avoiding the load/store latency)
- Section 4 of BCM2835-ARM-Peripherals.pdf

Demo: dma

Measuring Performance

Don't optimize blind

Profiling

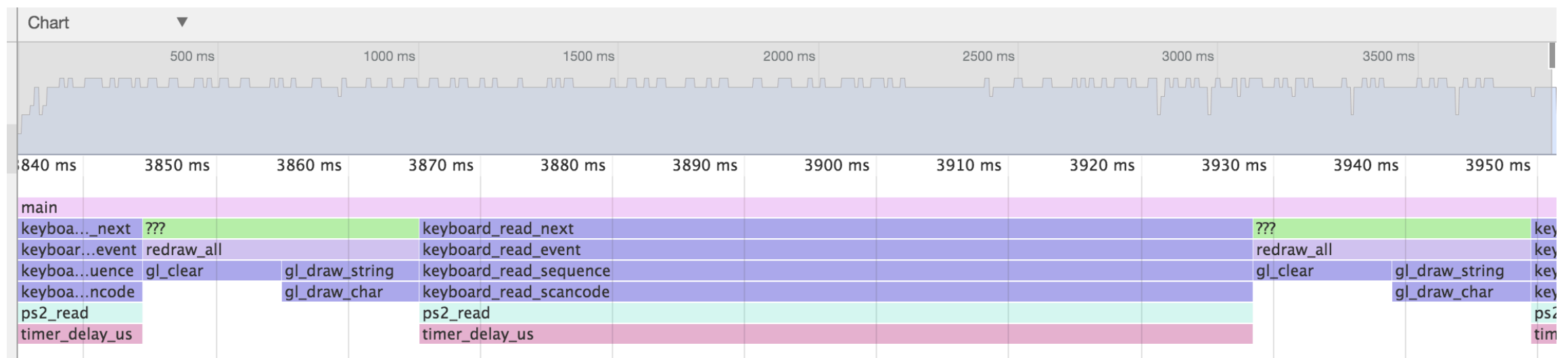
- Analyze your program at runtime to measure characteristics of interest
 - Space/time complexity
 - Frequency of certain instructions
 - Frequency and Duration of Function Calls
- Most often used for guiding optimization

Taking Measurements

- **Hardware interrupts** - gprof.c
- **Code Instrumentation** - timer
- Also: instruction set simulation, OS hooks, performance counters
- Many techniques rely on sampling (statistical profilers) to trade off accuracy for speed

Visualizing Measurements

Chrome Developer Tools



- Output profiling information in standard format (linux *perf*)
- Use **thlorenz/cpuprofilify** to convert into *.cpuprofile* format

Demo: *stackprof*