John Wawrzynek, Professor of EECS

- Profession Musician in New York
- JPL/NASA – space craft data systems
- PhD Caltech – electronic music
- Berkeley faculty since 1989
  - IC design, reconfigurable computing, wireless systems

“Wawrzynek” pronounced “Warsnek”, Office Hour Mon 3:30
Class Goals and Outcomes
What this class is all about?

- **Introduction to digital integrated circuit and system engineering**
  - Key concepts needed to be a good digital designer
  - Discover you own creativity!
- **Learn models that allow reasoning about design**
  - Manage design complexity through abstraction and understanding of tools
  - Allow analysis and optimization of the circuit’s performance, power, cost, etc.
- **Learn how to make sure your circuit and system works**
  - *Do you want to be the one that messes up a 1 billion transistor chip?*

*Digital design is not a spectator sport!*
*Learn by doing.*
Prerequisites

- **CS61C**
  - Boolean logic, RISC-V ISA
  - We will review combinational and sequential logic, and RISC-V design (with more details)

- **EE16A/B**
  - Digital gates, RC networks
  - We will review transistor operation and design of CMOS circuits
Course Focus

Deep Digital Design Experience
- Fundamentals of Boolean Logic
- Synchronous Circuits
- Finite State Machines
- Timing & Clocking
- Device Technology & Implications
- Controller Design
- Arithmetic Units
- Memories
- Testing, Debugging
- Hardware Architecture
- Hardware Design Language (HDL)
- Design Flow (CAD)

- EE 130
- EE 16A/B
- CS 61C
- EECS 151

- Programming Languages
- Assembly / Machine Language
- Instruction Set Arch
- Machine Organization
- Hardware Description Language
- FlipFlops
- Gates
- Circuits
- Devices
- Transistor Physics
- IC processing
• Used in lectures as a design example, and you’ll implement in project. We review the microarchitecture, and discuss the design in detail.
Enrollment:

- Our plan is to admit all those on the waitlist with the proper prerequisites, assuming we can get you into a lab section.
- If you are waitlisted for the lecture, make sure you are also waitlisted for a lab session:
  - The FPGA labs (LabB) are nearly full:
  - We opened another ASIC lab (LabA) (please consider taking it):
    LAB 002 LAB 102, Tu 2:00P-4:59P - 111 Cory
- While we are processing the waitlist, attend discussion and labs
- A limited number of Concurrent Enrollment requests will be approved, due to space limitations.
Course Information

- Basic Source of Information, class website:
  https://www.eecs151.org/
  - Lecture notes and recordings
  - Assignments and solutions
  - Lab and project information
  - Exams
  - Ed Discussion Forum
  - Many other goodies …

Print only what you need: Save a tree!
Class Organization

- Lectures (MW 2-3:30PM)
- Discussion sessions (F 10-11AM, 3-4PM, 4-5PM)
- Office hours (coming soon, check website)
- Weekly Problem Sets
- Labs
  - FPGA (Mon 8-11AM, 11AM-2PM, 5-8PM, Tue 8-11AM)
  - ASIC (Tue 11-2PM, 2-5PM)
- Design project
- 2 Exams (1 midterm and 1 final)
Lectures

- Lectures are *critical*:
  - No textbook
  - All course content (minus the labs) are contained in the lectures
  - Problem sets based around lecture material
  - Discussion sessions reinforce lecture material, provide example, problems and solutions.
- Slides available on website before the lecture
- Best practice is to download slides before lecture and annotate them during lecture (or simply take notes)
- Lectures intended to be interactive
  - **Ask questions**, offer comments! Tell me to slow down or speed up
- Attend the lectures!
Class Textbooks

No Required Book this semester

Recommended (previously required)

Useful

Useful LA lab reference (EE151/251A):

- Erik Brunvand: Digital VLSI Chip Design with Cadence and Synopsys CAD Tools
Discussion Sessions

- Start this week (Friday)!
- Review of important concepts from lecture through worksheets (remember no textbook)
- Help with problem sets
- F10-11AM, 3-4PM, 4-5PM
- Attend any one you would like.
Problem Sets

- Approximately 13 over the course of the semester (one per week, most weeks)
- Posted on Friday, due on Monday 11:59pm, 10 days later
- Essential to understanding of the material
  - Hence take them seriously!
  - Ok to discuss with colleagues but need to turn in your own work / write-up / explanations
- Late turn-in: 20% point deduction per day, except with *documented* medical excuse
- Solutions posted Friday of due week
Labs

- Enroll in FPGA or ASIC or both (or another in a later semester)
- ~5 FPGA / ~5 ASIC lab exercises, done solo
  - Lab report (check off) due by next lab session
- Design Project lasts ~7 weeks, done with partner
  - Project demo/interview during RRR week
  - Project report due a few days later
- All Labs start next week!
Exams

- Exam 1 scheduled in evening. No lecture that day.
- (Tentative) Wed March 6, 6-9PM
- Exam 2 during normal final exam slot:
  - Tuesday May 7, 11:30-2:30PM.

Exams formats (open/closed book, cheatsheet, etc. TBA)
Class Discussions

- ed for interactions between Instructors and fellow students
  For fastest response post your questions on ed.

(make sure to logon asap - if you don’t want to miss any of the action)
https://edstem.org/us/courses/53359/discussion/
Cheating Policy

• Details of our cheating policy on the class web site. Please read it and ask questions.
• If you turn in someone else's work as if it were your own, you are guilty of cheating. This includes problem sets, answers on exams, lab exercise checks, project design, and any required course turn-in material.
• Also, if you knowingly aid in cheating, you are guilty.
• We have software that compares your submitted work to others.
• However, it is okay to discuss with others lab exercises and the project (obviously, okay to work with project partner). Okay to discuss problem sets with others. But everyone must turn in their own work.
• Do not post your work on public repositories like github (private o.k.)
• If we catch you cheating, you will get negative points on the assignment: It is better to not do the work than to cheat!
If it is a midterm exam, final exam, or final project, you get an F in the class. All cases of cheating reported to the office of student conduct.
Grading Breakdown

Lecture
- Participation 5%
- Problem Sets 30%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Exam 35%

Labs
- Project 75%
- Labs 25%
Participation Points

1. Be present at lectures
   • ask questions, offer comments
2. Participation in discussion sessions
3. Post to ed
   • help answer fellow student questions about problem sets, labs, project
   • contribute testing or other code to help in project debug
Tips on How to Get a Good Grade

The lecture material is not the most challenging part of the course but is very important.

- You should be able to understand everything as we go along.
- Do not fall behind in lecture and tell yourself you “will figure it out later from the notes”.
- Notes will be online before the lecture (usually the night before). Look at them before class.
- Ask questions in class and stay involved - that will help you understand. Come to office hours to check your understanding or to ask questions.
- Complete all the homework problems - even the difficult ones. Some problems go beyond lecture.
- The exams will test your depth of knowledge. You need to understand the material well enough to apply it in new situations.
- Take the labs very seriously. They are an integral part of the course.
- Choose your project partner carefully. Your best friend may not be the best choice!
- Most important (this comes from 30+ years of hardware design experience):
  - Be well organized and neat with homework, labs, project.
  - In lab, add complexity a little bit at a time - always have a working design.
  - Don’t be afraid to throw away your design and start fresh.
Getting Started

- Discussions start this week, labs next week.
- PS 1 assigned later this week
- Login to ed as soon as possible
- Register for your EECS151 class account at inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/webacct
Digital Integrated Circuits and Systems – From the Past to the Future
And then plenty more ...
Machine Learning Capabilities Scaled Directly with Hardware Advances

- Late 2000’s - renewed interest in NNs, now **deep**
- Driven by availability of high-performance hardware (GPUs)
- ML models and HW development fundamentally linked:
  - Success in LLMs tied directly to massive hardware compute capability (Even more important than algorithm details?)

**Example: LLMs**
GPT-4 trained on ~25,000 Nvidia A100 GPUs for 90-100 days, 
~1.8 trillion parameters across 120 layers (~13T tokens in training) 
[https://archive.md/2RG8X](https://archive.md/2RG8X)

- How can we continue to scale HW performance (efficiency) to the benefit of ML?
  - **Scalable HW architectures + HW/Algorithm co-design**

Cloud TPU v3 (45 TFLOP/s)
How did this all arise?
The Transistor Revolution

First transistor
Bell Labs, Dec 1947
**First Integrated Circuits (1958-59)**

- **Jack Kilby, Texas Instruments**
- **Bob Noyce, Fairchild**
Moore’s Law – The number of transistors on integrated circuit chips (1971-2016)

Moore’s law describes the empirical regularity that the number of transistors on integrated circuits doubles approximately every two years. This advancement is important as other aspects of technological progress – such as processing speed or the price of electronic products – are strongly linked to Moore’s law.

The data visualization is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find more visualizations and research on this topic.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.
Process
Scaling

Gordon Moore
UCB B.S.
Chemistry,
1950.
Moore’s Law - applied to memory and logic

Graph from S.Chou, ISSCC’2005

Source: Intel
MOS in the 70s

1971 state of the art.

Intel 2102, a 1kb, 1 MHz static RAM chip with 6000 nFETs transistors in a 10 µm process.
By 1971, “Moore’s Law” paper was already 6 years old ...

But the result was empirical.

Understanding the physics of scaling MOS transistor dimensions was necessary ...

Original “Moore’s Law” paper data points.

i2102 SRAM
If we scale the gate length by a factor $\kappa$, how should we scale other aspects of transistor to get the "best" results?

Fig. 1. Illustration of device scaling principles with $\kappa = 5$. (a) Conventional commercially available device structure. (b) Scaled-down device structure.
**Dennard Scaling**

Things we do: scale dimensions, doping, Vdd.

What we get: $\kappa^2$ as many transistors at the same power density!

Whose gates switch $\kappa$ times faster!

Power density scaling ended in 2003 (Pentium 4: 3.2GHz, 82W, 55M FETs).
Between 1978 and 1986, the clock rate improved less than 15% per year while performance improved by 25% per year. During the “renaissance period” of 52% performance improvement per year between 1986 and 2003, clock rates shot up almost 40% per year. Since then, the clock rate has been nearly flat, growing at less than 1% per year, while single processor performance improved at less than 22% per year. We hit the “power wall”
The Key Benefit of Moore’s Law Scaling: Cost
Modern IC Process

Transistor channel is a raised fin.
Gate controls channel from sides and top.

United States Patent
Hu et al. Filed: Oct. 23, 2000

FINFET TRANSISTOR STRUCTURES HAVING A DOUBLE GATE CHANNEL EXTENDING VERTICALLY FROM A SUBSTRATE AND METHODS OF MANUFACTURE

Inventors: Chenming Hu, Alamo; Tsu-Jae King, Fremont; Vivek Subramanian, Redwood City; Leland Chang, Berkeley; Xuejue Huang, Yang-Kyu Choi, both of Albany; Jakub Tadeusz Kedzierski, Hayward; Nick Lindert, Berkeley; Jeffrey Bokor, Oakland, all of CA (US); Wen-Chin Lee, Beaverton, OR (US)
State of the Art

7nm

As of September 2018, mass production of 7 nm devices has begun. The first mainstream 7 nm mobile processor intended for mass market use, the Apple A12 Bionic, was released at their September 2018 event. Although Huawei announced its own 7 nm processor before the Apple A12 Bionic, the Kirin 980 on August 31, 2018, the Apple A12 Bionic was released for public, mass market use to consumers before the Kirin 980. Both chips are manufactured by TSMC. AMD is currently working on their "Rome" workstation processors, which are based on the 7 nanometer node and feature up to 64 cores.

5nm

The 5 nm node was once assumed by some experts to be the end of Moore's law. Transistors smaller than 7 nm will experience quantum tunnelling through the gate oxide layer. Due to the costs involved in development, 5 nm is predicted to take longer to reach market than the two years estimated by Moore's law. Beyond 7 nm, it was initially claimed that major technological advances would have to be made to produce chips at this small scale. In particular, it is believed that 5 nm may usher in the successor to the FinFET, such as a gate-all-around architecture.


3.5nm

3.5 nm is a name for the first node beyond 5 nm. In 2018, IMEC and Cadence had taped out 3 nm test chips. Also, Samsung announced that they plan to use Gate-All-Around technology to produce 3 nm FETs in 2021.

* From Wikipedia
Recent Cost Trend

L. Su, HotChips, August 2019.

Cost nearly doubled!
CS150/EECS151 Project Complexity

1980 Pong game
10’s of logic gates

1995 MIDI synthesizer
1000’s of logic gates

2000-2010 eTV tuner
10K’s logic gates

2010-2017 MIPS CPU or BYO
1M logic gates

2018 MIPS CPU
Programmable SOC: dual-core ARM, 85K logic cells, 220 MACC
The other outcomes
Frequency

Frequency Trends in Intel's Microprocessors

Has been doubling every 2 years, but quickly turned flat
Power Dissipation

Power Trends in Intel's Microprocessors

Has been > doubling every 2 years

Has to stay ~constant
For reasons of power efficiency, performance scaling now comes from multiple cores and “accelerators”, not from higher clock frequency.
The other Demon: Complexity
Complexity and Productivity Trends

Complexity outpaces design productivity

Source: Sematech

Courtesy, ITRS Roadmap
• These are non-recurring (NRE) costs, need to be amortized over the lifetime of a product
The answers

- Design methodology!
  - Abstraction
  - Hierarchy
  - Reuse
- Computer Aided Design tools
Digital System Design:
A few basic concepts
Example Digital Systems

- General Purpose Server
  - Designed to maximize performance - “Optimized for speed”.
  - Expensive and high power

- Handheld Calculator
  - Usually designed to minimize cost. “Optimized for low cost”
  - Of course, low cost comes at the expense of speed.
Example Digital Systems

- Digital Watch

- Low power operation comes at the expense of:
  - lower speed
  - higher cost

Designed to minimize power.
Single battery must last for years.
Design Space & Optimality

Low-performance at low-cost

High-performance at high-cost

"Pareto Optimal" Frontier

Performance (tasks/sec)

Cost (# of components)

Low-performance at low-cost
• Improve on one at the expense of the others
• **Tradeoffs exist at every level in the system design**
• Design Specification
  - Functional Description
  - Performance, cost, power constraints
• Designer must make the tradeoffs needed to achieve the function within the constraints
Hierarchy in Designs – Complexity Control

- **Design Abstraction**
  - Hide details and reduce number of things to handle at any time

- **Modular design**
  - Divide and conquer
  - Simplifies implementation and debugging
Design Methodologies

- Top-Down Design
  - Starts at the top (root) and works down by successive refinement.

- Bottom-up Design
  - Starts at the leaves & puts pieces together to build up the design.

- Which is better?
  - In practice both are needed & used
  - Top-down to handle the complexity (divide and conquer)
  - Bottom-up since structure influenced by available primitives
    (in a well designed system)
Digital Design: What’s it all about?

Given a functional description and performance, cost, & power constraints, come up with an implementation using a set of primitives.

- How do we learn how to do this?
  1. Learn about the primitives and how to use them.
  2. Learn about design representations.
  3. Learn formal methods and tools to manipulate the representations.
  4. Look at design examples.
  5. Use trial and error - CAD tools and prototyping. Practice!

- Digital design is in some ways more an art than a science. The creative spirit is critical in combining primitive elements & other components in new ways to achieve a desired function.

- However, unlike art, we have objective measures of a design:

  Performance  Cost  Power
End of Lecture 1