Embedded System Design

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Spot the Computer







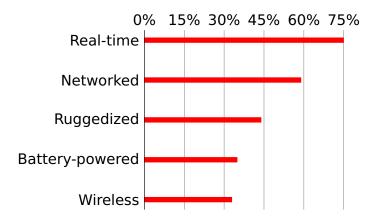
Embedded Systems: Ubiquitous Computers



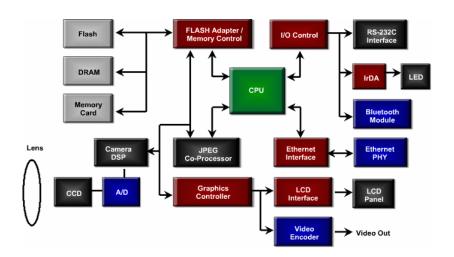
Is Your Current Embedded Project...

0%	159	% 30	0%	45%	60%	75%
Real-time						
Networked						
Ruggedized						
Battery-powered						
Wireless						

Is Your Current Embedded Project...



Digital Camera Block Diagram



Design An Optimal Device that Meets Constraints On



Price



Functionality



Performance



Size



Power



Time-to-market



Maintainability



Safety

Embedded System Technologies



Integrated Circuits



Processing elements



IC Technology



1947: First transistor (Shockley, Bell Labs)



1958: First integrated circuit (Kilby, TI)

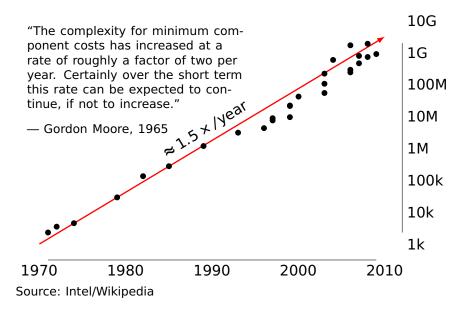


1971: First microprocessor (4004: Intel)

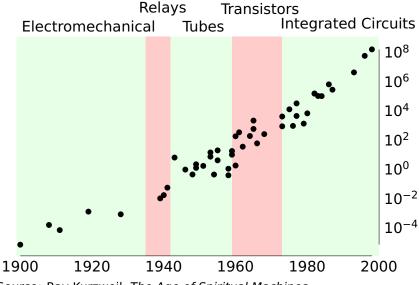


Today: eight wire layers, 45 nm features

Moore's Law: Transistors per chip

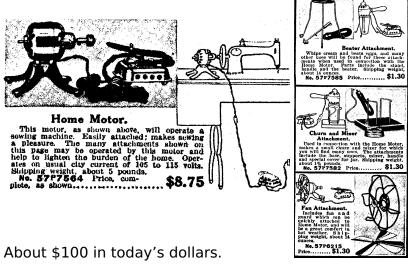


\$1000 Buys You This Many Cycles per Second



Source: Ray Kurzweil, The Age of Spiritual Machines

1918 Sears Roebuck Catalog

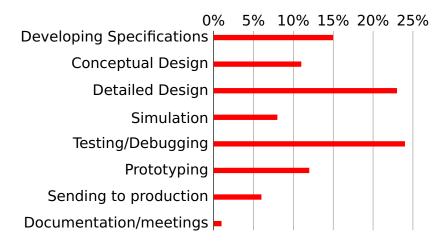


From Donald Norman, The Invisible Computer, 1998.

What Percentage of Time Do You Spend...

0%	%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%
Developing Specifications						
Conceptual Design						
Detailed Design						
Simulation						
Testing/Debugging						
Prototyping						
Sending to production						
Documentation/meetings						

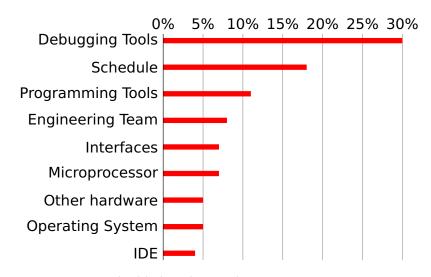
What Percentage of Time Do You Spend...



If You Could Improve One Thing...

0% Debugging Tools	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
Schedule						
Programming Tools						
Engineering Team						
Interfaces						
Microprocessor						
Other hardware						
Operating System						
IDE						

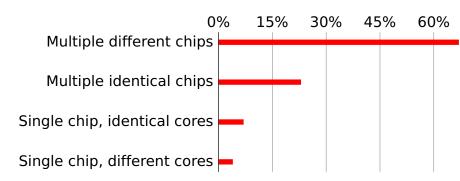
If You Could Improve One Thing...



If Your System Has More Than One Processor, Does It Use...

0.	% 15	5% 30	0% 45	5% 60	%
Multiple different chips					
Multiple identical chips					
Single chip, identical cores					
Single chip, different cores					

If Your System Has More Than One Processor, Does It Use...



Does Your Current Project Contain FPGAs?

Does Your Current Project Contain FPGAs?

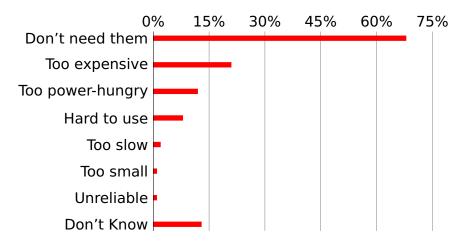
45% Yes

55% No

Why Won't Your Next Project Use FPGAs?

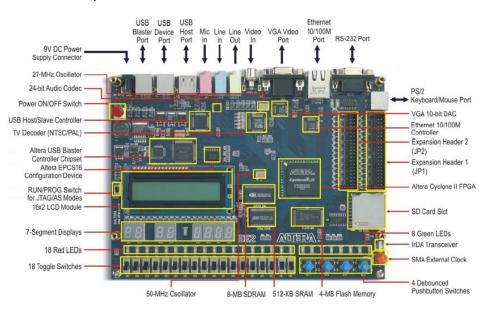
09	% 15 %	6 30%	45%	60%	75%
Don't need them					
Too expensive					
Too power-hungry					
Hard to use					
Too slow					
Too small					
Unreliable					
Don't Know					

Why Won't Your Next Project Use FPGAs?



Your Nemesis: The Altera DE2

DE2 Peripherals



Class Structure

Three Introductory Labs: 2 weeks each

- 1. Access, modify, and display memory in VHDL
- 2. An Ethernet chat client (software only)
- 3. Either
 - an FM audio synthesizer; or
 - a video bouncing ball.

The project: **Design-your-own**

Custom Project Ideas

Broadly: C + VHDL + peripheral(s)



Video game (e.g., Pac-Man)



Video effects processor



Digital photo frame



Very fancy digital clock

More Ideas



Digital tone control



Real-time audio spectrum analyzer



Internet radio



Speech Synthesizer



MIDI synthesizer



Line-following robot with video vision



SAE student vehicle telemetry system



Stereo video vision system



Internet video camera



Pac-man-like video game



Scrabble Timer



Scorched Earth



SAE Auto Shifter



Internet Radio Broadcaster



3D Maze Game



VoIP Telephone



JPEG decoder



Rally-X video game



Video-guided Lego Robot



360° camera de-warper



Videogame with accelerated line-drawing



Voice recorder



JPEG decoder



Pac-Edwards



Button Hero Videogame



Digital Picture Frame: SD card with JPEG to VGA



Networked game of Clue



Conway's Game of Life (60 gps)



Real-time ray tracer



Video-camera-controlled pool game



Real-time video decryption



WiiMote-controlled maze game



Lightsaber video overlay



Networked Video Phone



Sound-controlled videogame

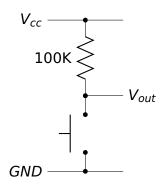


Visual object tracker

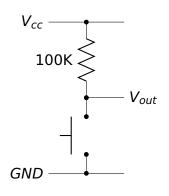
The Three Main Challenges of Embedded Systems

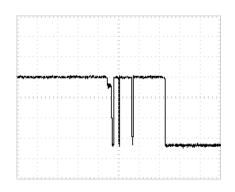
- Coping with Real-world Sensor Data
- Algorithm Design
- Implementation Details

What Does this Circuit Do When You Press the Switch?

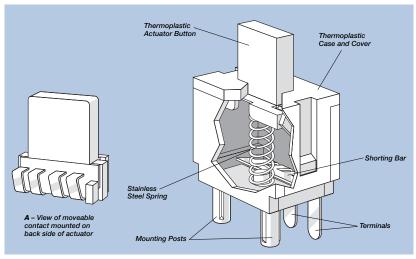


What Does this Circuit Do When You Press the Switch?





Inside a Pushbutton Switch

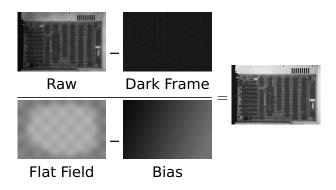


Source: Cherry CS series data sheet

Raw Data from a CCD (zoomed in)

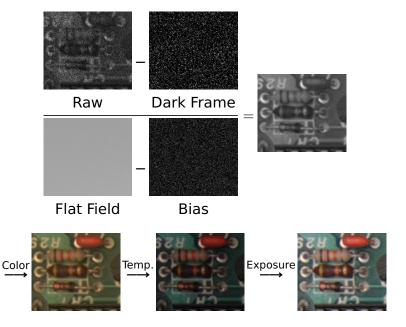
Corrected Image (zoomed in)

Correcting Data from CCDs





Correcting Data from CCDs



Where Does This Noise Come From?

Digital camera sensors are remarkably sensitive.

My high-end Nikon D300 has a 23.6 mm \times 15.8 mm 12.3 megapixel CMOS sensor whose pixels are 5.5 μ m on a side. When each pixel is sampled with the 12-bit A/D converter, the sensor efficiency is



ISO:	LO	200	400	800	1600	3200
G	7.1	5.5	2.7	1.3	0.65	0.33
В	5.8	4.6	2.3	1.1	0.55	0.27
R	4.7	4.5	2.2	1.1	0.54	0.26

The units: *electrons per ADU* (digital unit).

Emil Martinec, A comparison of the Nikon D300 and Canon 40D sensors, 2007.

Development Plan

- 1. Obtain some representative raw sensor data
- 2. Develop an algorithmic prototype using your favorite language (e.g., Java, C, Matlab)
- 3. Plan how to implement it
- 4. Implement while constantly testing