

Bell's Law; P,M,S Structures; Rules of thumb; and Taxonomies

**1957-1998. 41 yrs. 4 generations:
Tubes > transistors > ICs, VLSI (micros)
> clusters - winner take all**

**How computer classes form, evolve ...and die
(according to economically based laws)**

Gordon Bell

Microsoft Research, Silicon Valley Laboratory

References

Moore's Law

<http://www.computerhistory.org/semiconductor/timeline/1965-Moore.html>

Bell's Law:

<http://research.microsoft.com/research/pubs/view.aspx?0rc=p&type=technical+report&id=1389>

Bell, C. G., R. Chen and S. Rege, "The Effect of Technology on Near Term Computer Structures," Computer 2 (5) 29-38 (March/April 1972).

IEEE History Center's Global History Network:

http://ieeeghn.org/wiki/index.php/STARS:Rise_and_Fall_of_Minicomputers

In retrospect...by 1971, the next 50 years of computing was established

1. Moore's Law (1965) transistors/die double every 18 mos.
2. Intel 4004, Processor-on-a-chip (1971)
Clearly, by 1978 16-bit processor-on-a-chip
3. Bell et al 1971 observation...computer evolution
 1. Computers evolve at constant price (Moore's Law)
 2. Computer classes form every decade (Bell's Law)New technology, manufacturers, uses and markets

How I think about computers

- P,M,S describes architectures i.e. the components and how they are interconnected and interact
 - Reveals structure (size, cost, performance, power, etc.)
 - Parallelism, bottlenecks, and rules of thumb
 - Functional evolution to compete with larger computers
- Bell's Law determines classes birth & death
- Rules of thumb determine goodness
- Taxonomies enumerate alternatives

A Walk-Through Computer Architectures from The Largest & Fastest to the Digestible

Computers have evolved from a bi-furcation of:

- calculating (P) aka scientific and record keeping (M) aka commerce to
- control (K),
- interfacing (T/Transduction) including GUIs, NUI, and
- Communication (L), switching (S) and networking (N) Every information carrier from greeting cards to phones is an embedded computer. Similarly, physical carriers from networks to autos can be viewed as computers with wheels, UIs, memory, etc. In each area the choice may be cost, power, reliability, specialization for the task, etc.. Computer structures will include:
- **Cloud and HPC supercomputers are almost indistinguishable.** They are both scalable and constructed from many low cost computing nodes interconnected to each other and to storage (disks). A proposed triple crown measures their Top500, Graph500, and Green500 rankings. Cray Research, Fujitsu, IBM, as well as China all compete for these titles. In 2012 a single HPC computer operates at almost 20 petaflops. The goal of an exa-flops is after 2020.
- **Communications and network computers are a special breed.** Within this category, companies compete for the ability to execute stock trades electronic with the lowest latency. One company Zeptronics claims a delay of less than 10 ns.
- **Game computers for better performance/price than supercomputers.** Graphics Processing Units were introduced in games and have become an HPC component. What makes each special?
- **Wireless Sensor Nets en route to IoT** Industrial control, building automation, and scientific and engineering data acquisition usually boils down to interconnecting a variety of highly distribute, sensors and effectors to some central or distributed computers for control or record keeping. Wireless Sensor Networks provide reliable communication in the face of electrical noise, sharing communication channels with Bluetooth, 802.11x, wireless phones, etc.
- **Body Area Networks and Home Networking for Health Monitoring.**
- **Ingestible and in body** from pill-cams to pacemakers. One of the smallest is designed to remain in the eye for measuring pressure is a 1 mm³ that includes sensing, battery, and telemetry.

P,M,S (Functional) for Computer Structures

- P/Processor or central Processor Pc. The element for fetch-execute
- Mp/Primary Memory ...where instructions are stored and the data operated on.
- Ms/Secondary Memory ... place where data are stored
- S/Switch ... multiple port to allow multiple units to communicate

C/Computer := P-Mp;

- multiprocessor P...-S-Mp...;
- multicomputer C...-S
- K/Control... evokes action in other components. Control is the program or hardware within a processor that defines a system's e.g. processor, computer behavior. Control is contained in a memory or combinatorial logic plus its state.
- T/Transducer...unit to transform the form of data e.g. electric to light
- L/Link ... the interconnection of just two components
- D/Data... unit to transform data value
- N/Network := {C's, S's}
- H/Human... a particular kind of information processor

PDP-8 P,M,S

Structure 1971 and 1982

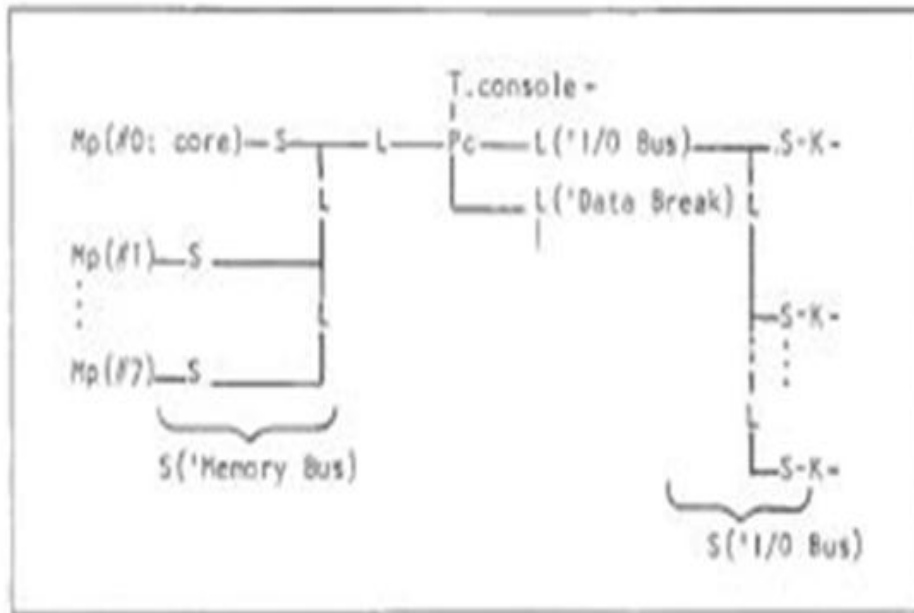
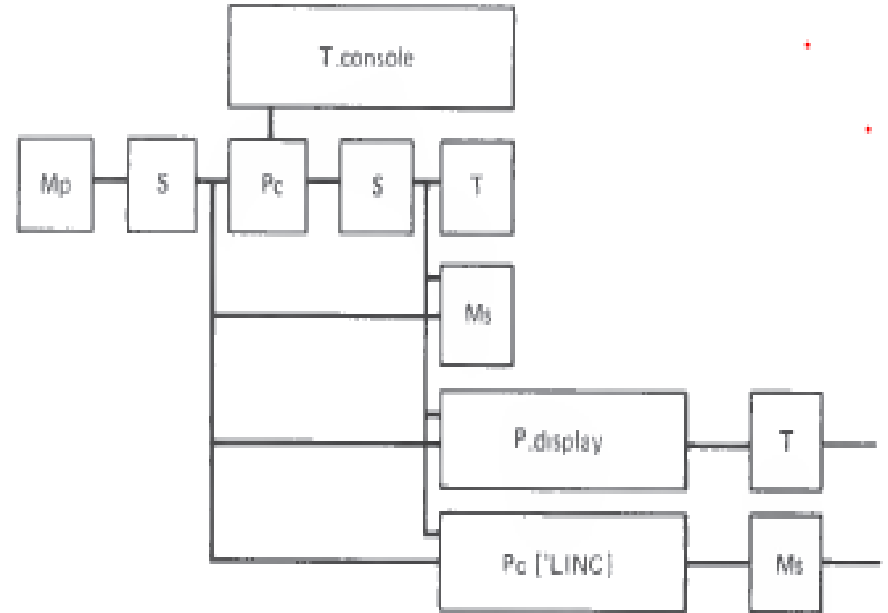
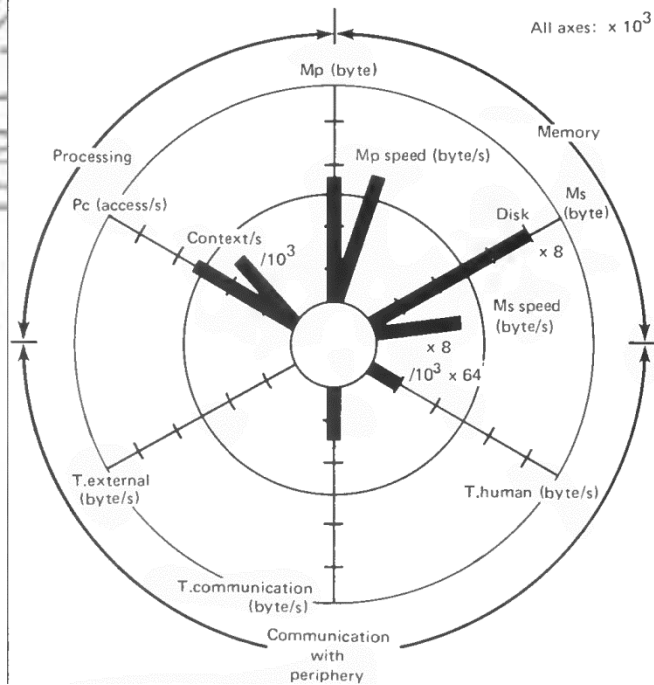
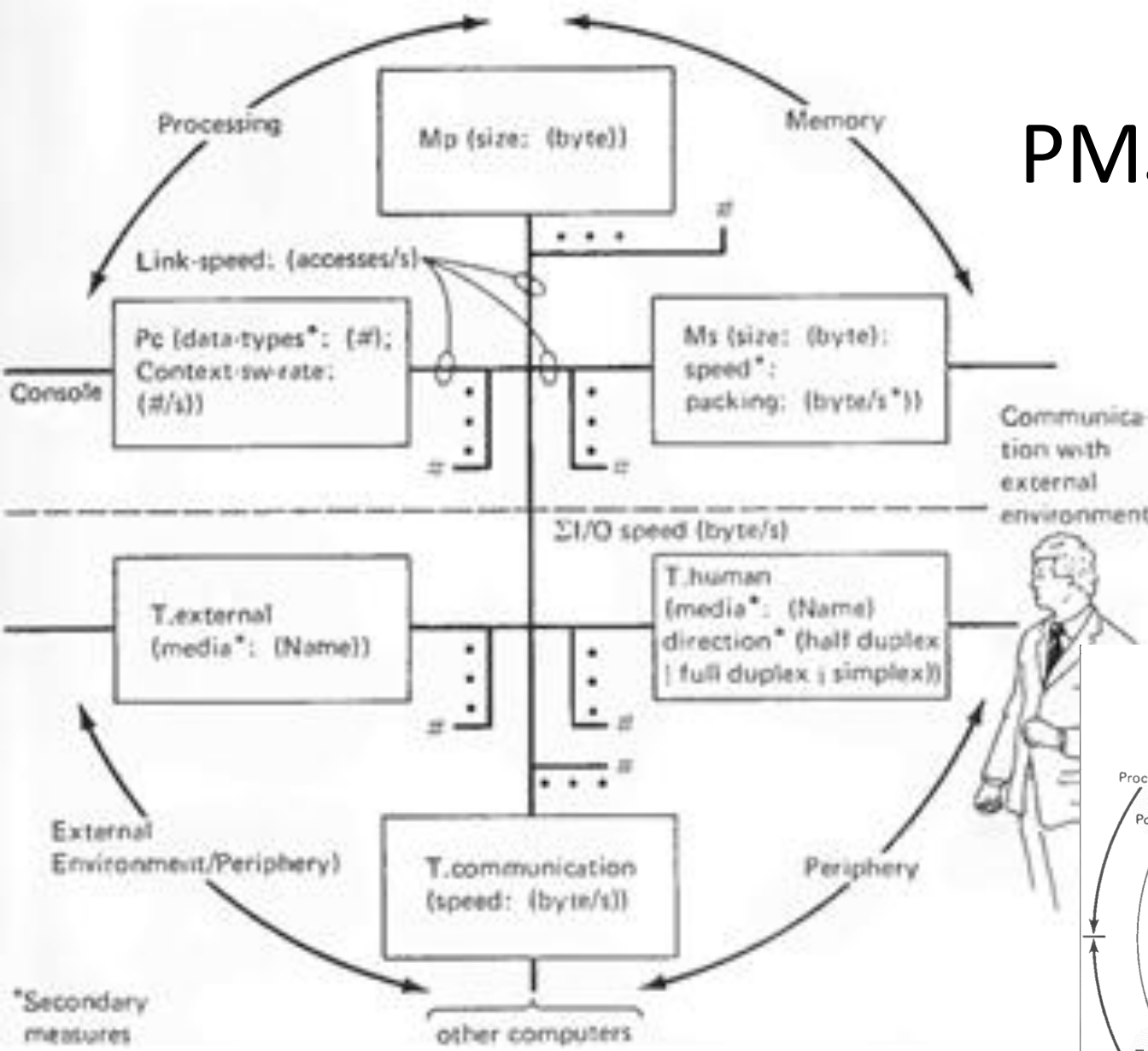


Fig. 3. DEC PDP-8 PMS diagram (simplified).



PMS Structure



*Secondary measures

PMS Model of A Computer

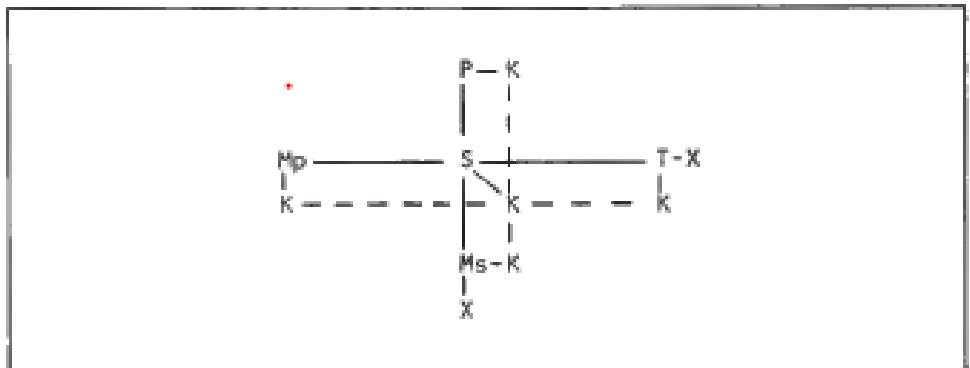
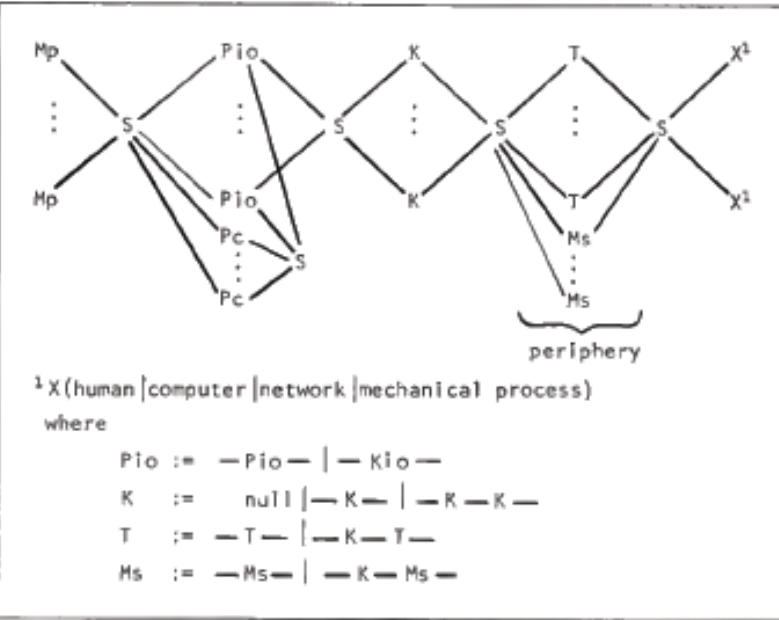


Fig. 7. General computer model (with distributed control) PMS diagram.

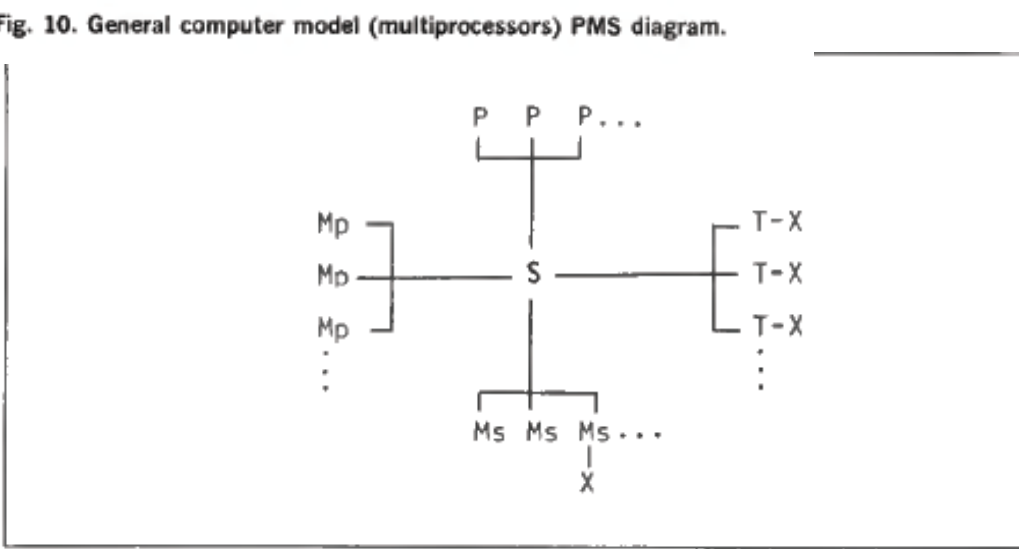


Fig. 9. General computer model (with multiple components)

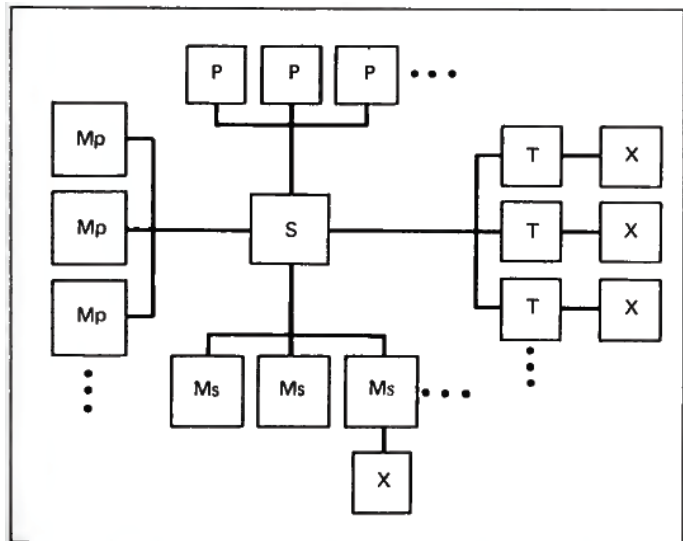
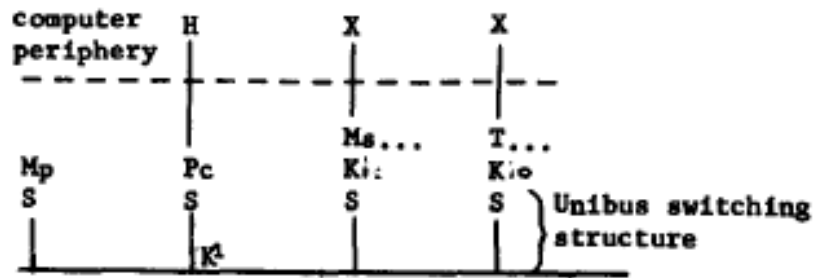


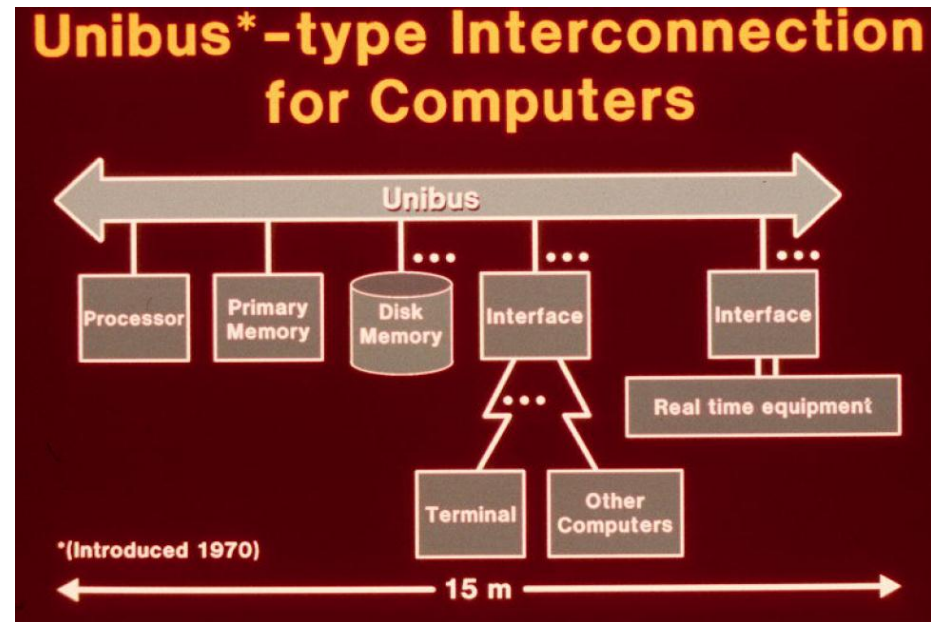
Fig. 11. General computer model (with multiple components) PMS diagram.

General model applied to PDP-11 c1970



¹ Unibus control packaged with Pc

Figure 2—PDP-11 physical structure PMS diagram



```

MARK1 :=
  begin

! The Manchester Mark-I architecture is described.
! The Mark-I was an early (circa 1948) computer.

**MP.State**

  M[0:8191]<0:31>,

**PC.State**

  PI\Present.Instruction<0:15>,
    f\function<0:2> := PI<0:2>,
    s<0:12> := PI<3:15>,
  CR\Control.Register<0:12>,
  ACC\Accumulator<0:31>,

**Instruction.Execution**{tc}

  icycle\instruction.cycle{main} :=
    begin
      REPEAT
        begin
          PI ← M[CR]<0:15> next
          DECODE f =>
            begin
              #0 := CR ← M[s],
              #1 := CR ← CR + M[s],
              #2 := ACC ← - M[s],
              #3 := M[s] ← ACC,
              #4:#5 := ACC ← ACC - M[s],
              #6 := 1F ACC lss 0 => CR ← CR + 1,
              #7 := STOP()
            end next
          CR ← CR + 1
        end
      end
    end
  end
end

```

Instruction-set Architecture ISP Definition

Manchester Mark I c1948

C.Mmp CMU first mP project c1972

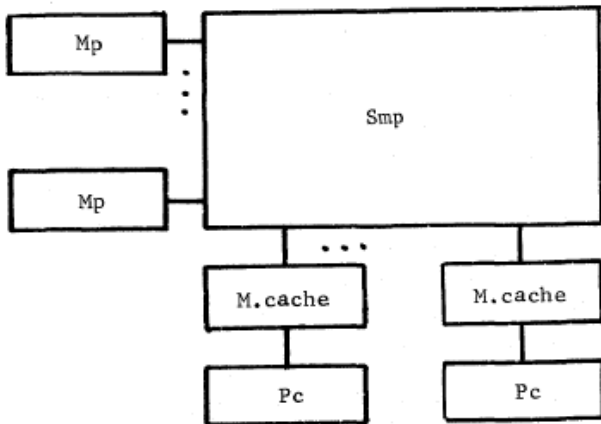


Figure 3—Multiprocessor computer with cache associated with each Pc.

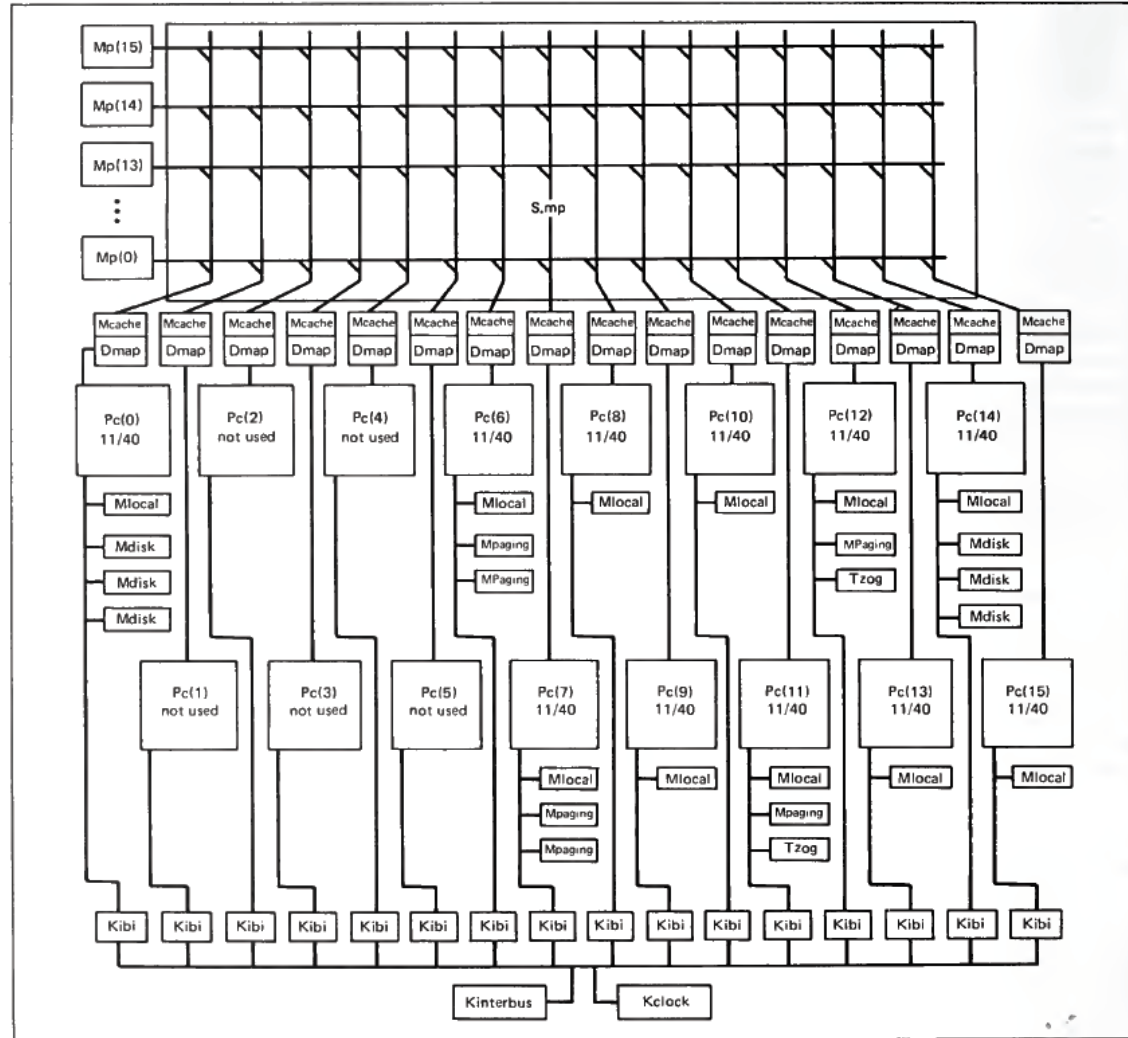


Fig. 2. The PMS structure of C.mmp.

Cm* ... where a computer is the building blocks for bigger computers

Idea was generally outlined: 1973, LSI-11 available: 1975

Architecture: March 1975, Design: fall 1975

One cluster operating: July 1976

10 processor, 3 cluster system and OS : June 1978.

50 processor, 5 cluster: 9/1979

Decommissioned: January 1986

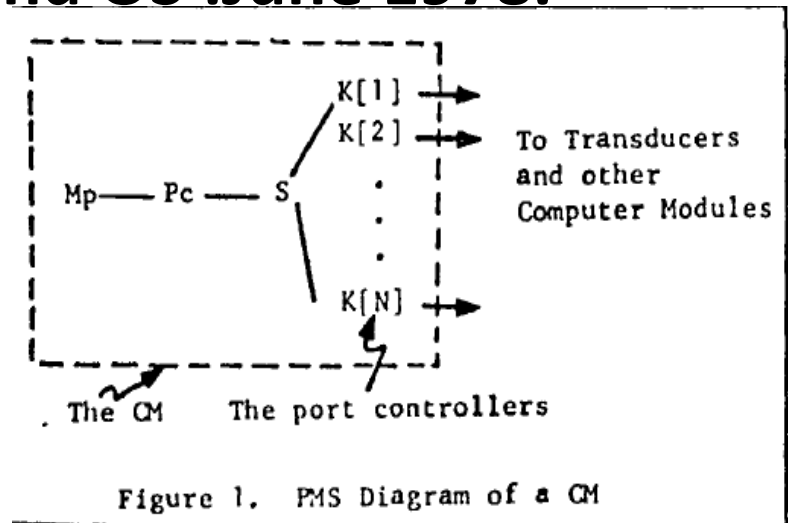
27 papers, 24 PhD, 14 MS

8 faculty, 10 staff,

Many alumni ...

Cost 5 million over 10 year. Gov't was spending 100M/yr.

Therefore 20 books a year...



		Record, TP	Mainframes & Departmental Minis > Web serving clusters
		Calculate	Supercomputers, minisupercomputers > Clusters
		Control (embedded)	Microcomputers, Minicomputers, superminicomputers > Clusters
		Cloud (Store, Proc.,)	Web Servers
	Shared*	Internet & WWW	
		Comm. & Network Processors (Routers, Gteways, etc.)	
		Wireless Sensor Nets (WSN)	
Computer apps & functions			
	Personal & Client	<i>Calculate</i>	Calcutators, Spreadsheets
		Records--	PC, PDA
			Camera* SmartPhone (converged)
			Phone, GPS > Smart Phone
			PC (email, web)
*Unseen infrastr.			
**incl. SenseCam			Personal Audio/Video Devices (e.g. iPOD)
		Entertain/ Retain	PC TV, Media Centers, Home Servers Handheld & Game computers
			Home Netrork for Entertainment, Automation & Control Body Area Nets (Health,fitness,recording)
	Embedded	Appliances	
		Automobiles	Engine Guidance Enterainment Communicaton
		-	
		Robots	

-- Computer types taxonomy

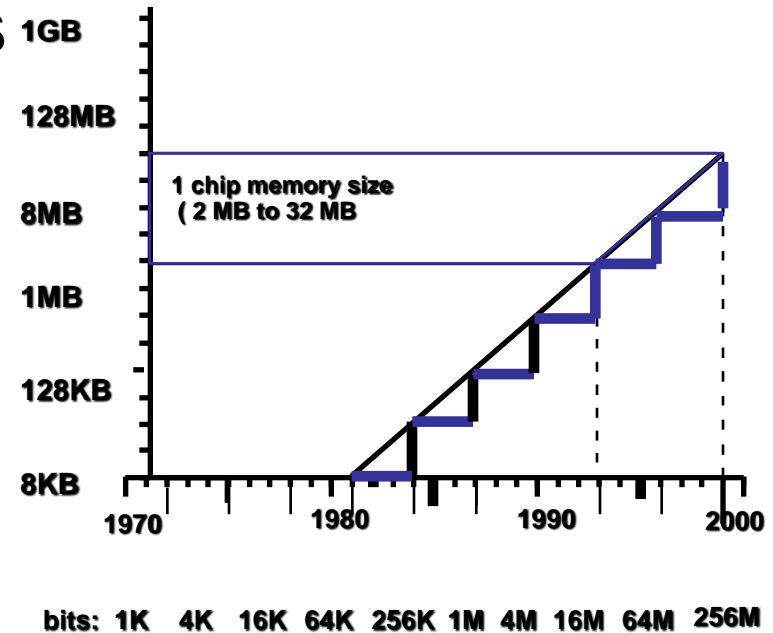
The two great inventions of 20th Century

- The computer (1946).
Computers supplement and substitute for all other info processors, including humans
 - Computers are built from other computers in a recursive fashion
 - Processors, memories, switching, and transduction are the primitives
- The Transistor (1946) and subsequent Integrated Circuit (1957).
 - Computers are composed of a set of well-defined hardware-software levels



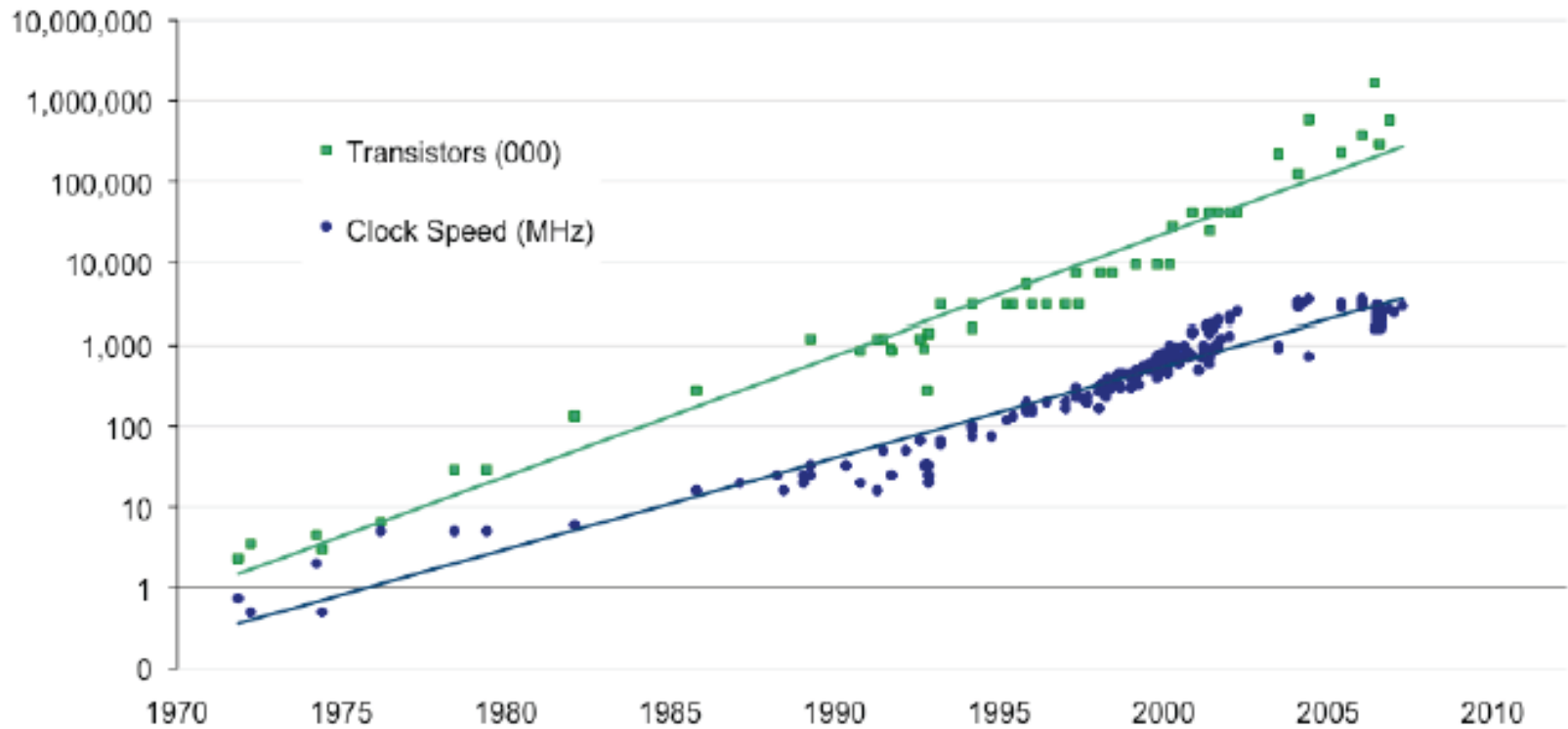
Moore's First Law

- Transistor density doubles every 18 months
60% increase per year
 - Chip density transistors/die
 - Micro processor speeds
- Exponential growth:
 - The past does not matter
 - 10x here, 10x there ... means REAL change
- PC costs have declined faster than any other platform **EXCEPT smart phones**
 - Volume and learning curves
 - PCs are the building bricks of all future systems

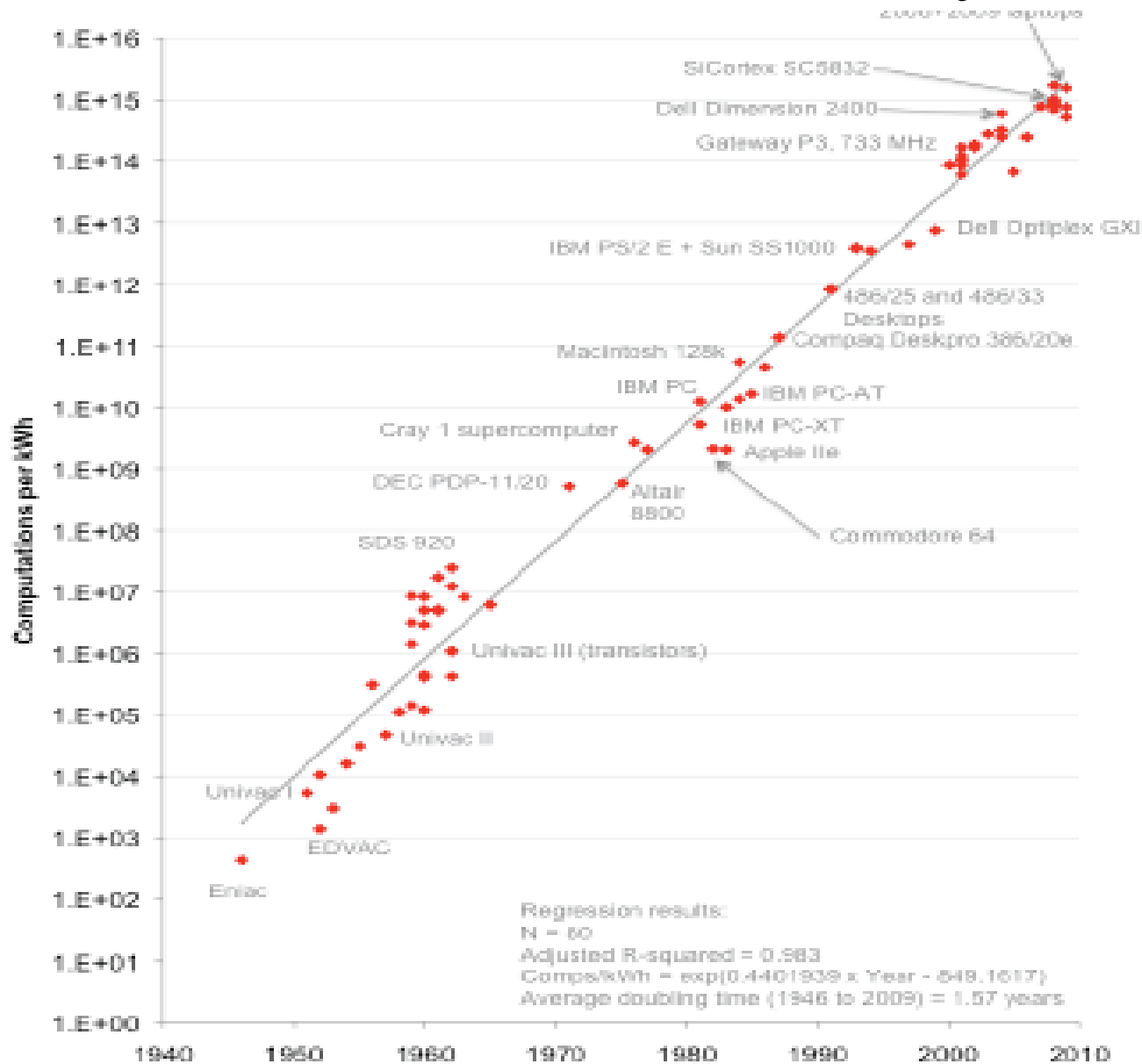


Moore's Law

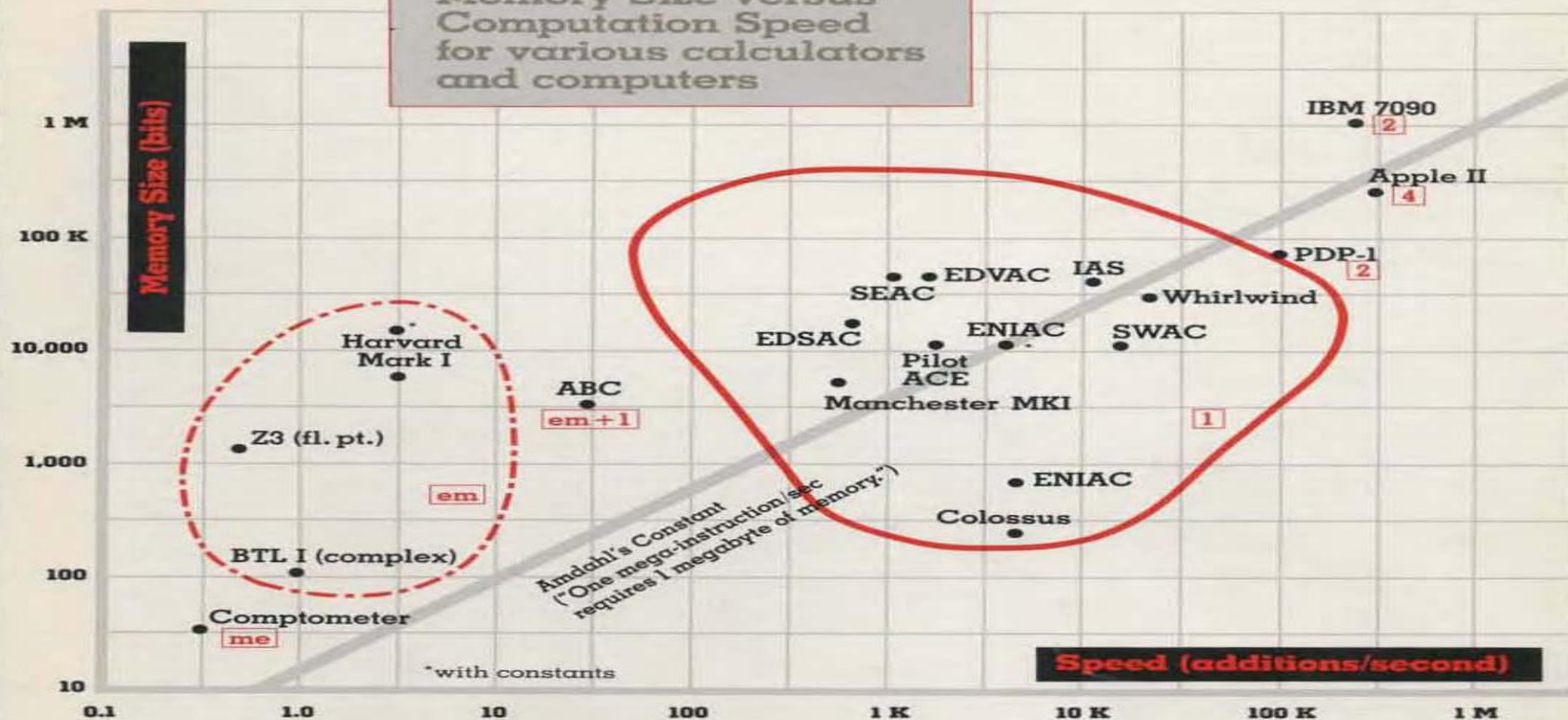
Clock speed and Moore's law



Efficiency



Memory Size versus Computation Speed for various calculators and computers



GENERATIONS:

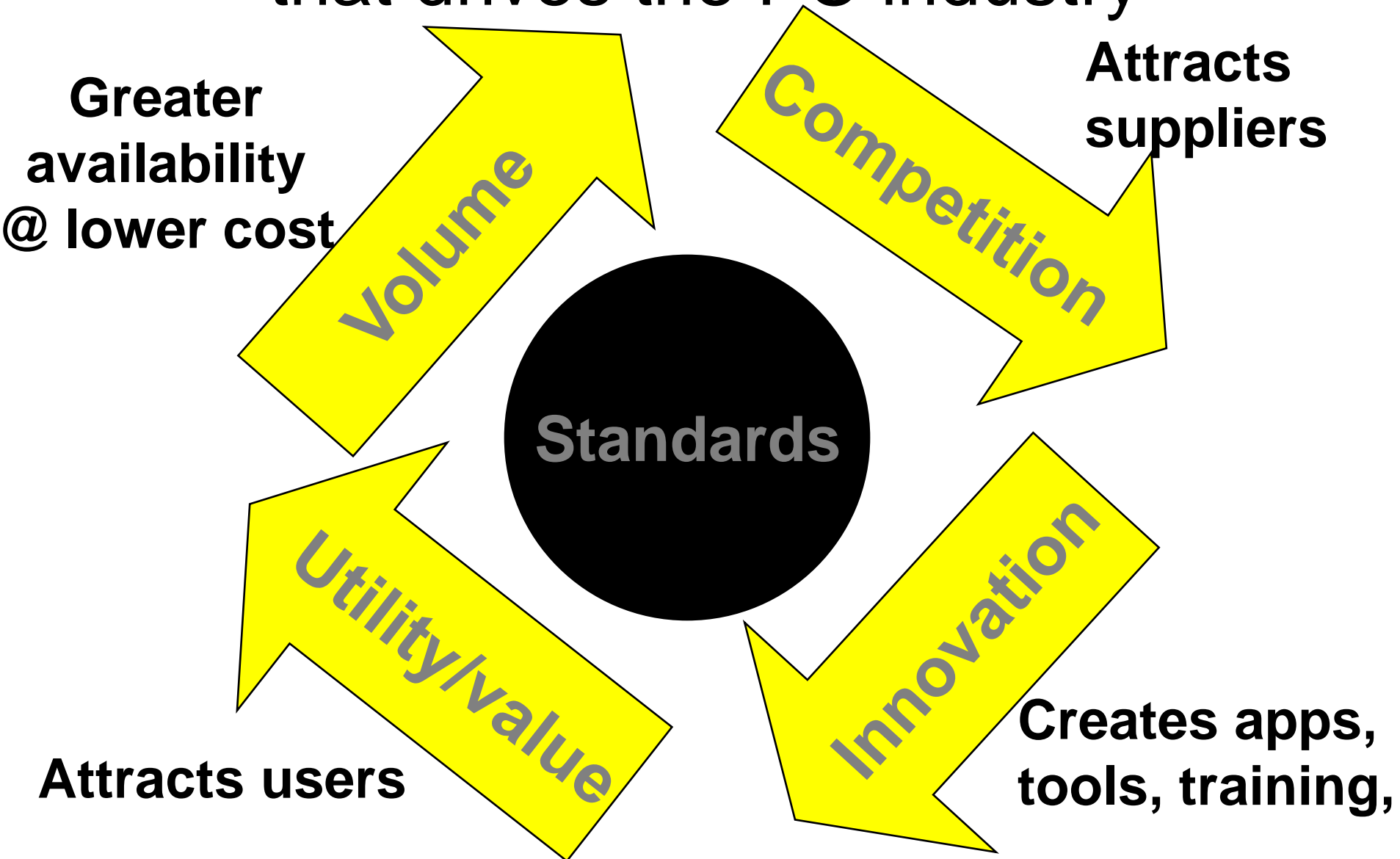
- m = manual
- me = mechanical
- em = electromechanical

- 1 = electronic—vacuum tube
- 2 = transistor
- 3 = integrated circuit
- 4 = large scale integrated circuit

Economics-based laws determine the market

- **Demand: doubles as price declines by 20%**
- **Learning curves: 10-15% cost decline with 2X units that enable Moore's Law and other hardware technology evolution**
- **Bill's Law for the economics of PC *software***
- **Nathan's Laws of Software -- the virtuous circle**
- **Metcalfe's Law of the "value of a network"**
- **Computer classes form and evolve just like modes of transportation, restaurants, etc.**

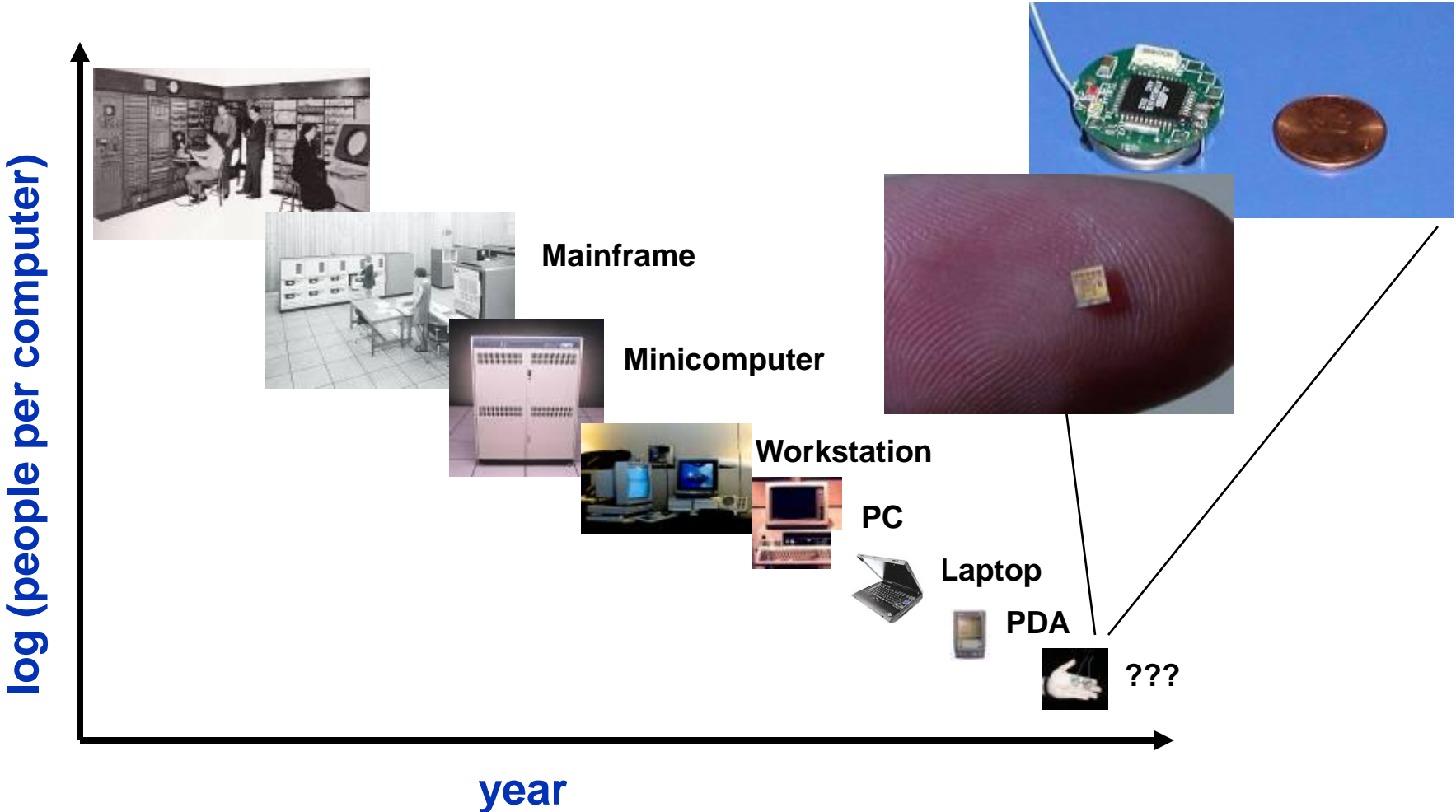
The Virtuous Economic Cycle that drives the PC industry



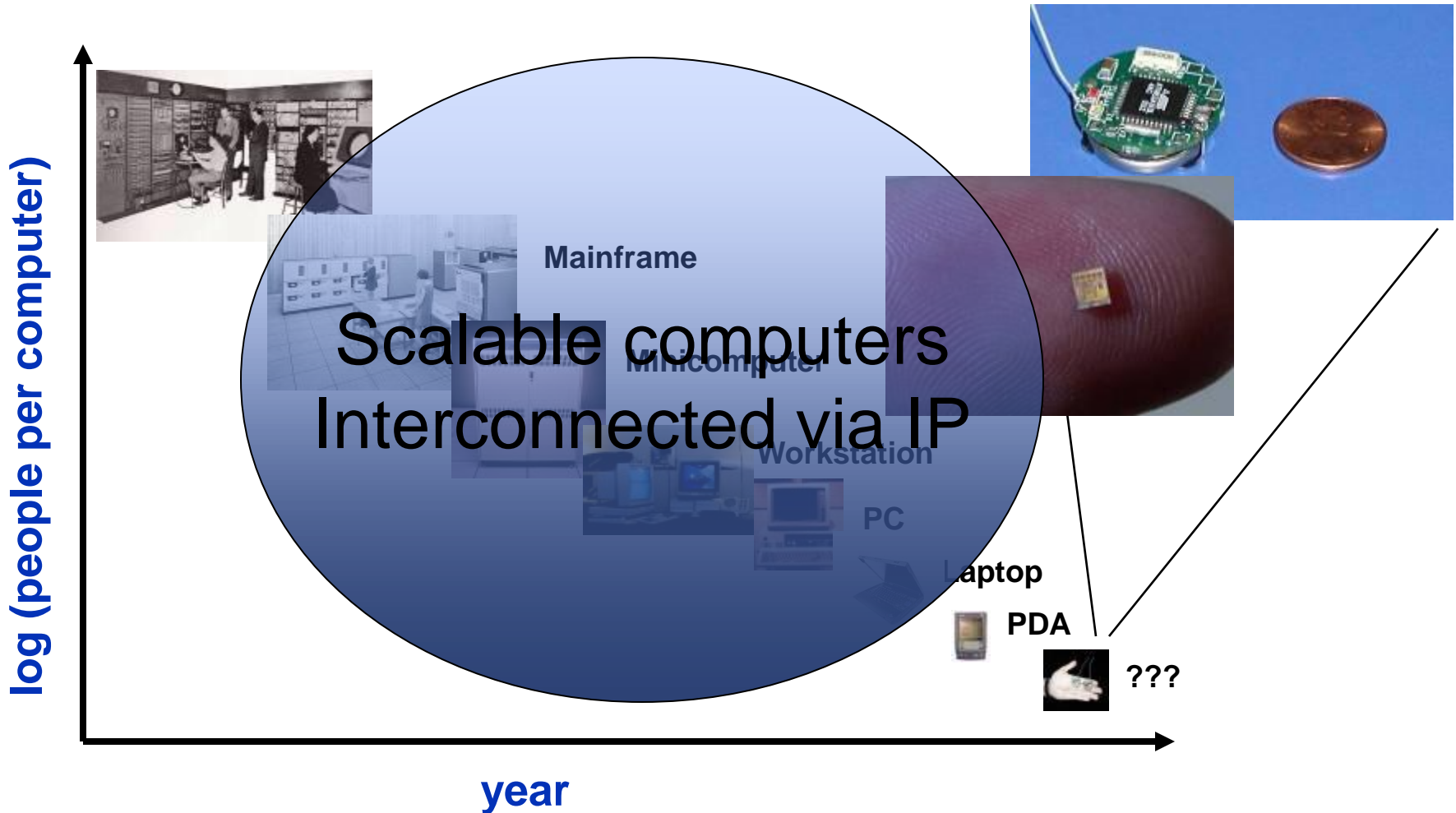
Computer components must all evolve at the same rate

- **Amdahl's law: one instruction per second requires one byte of memory and one bit per second of I/O**
- **Storage evolved at 60%; after 1995: 100**
- **Processor performance evolved at 60%.**
 - **Clock Performance flat >1995 until multi-cores**
 - **Multi processors.**
 - **Graphics Processing Unit to exploit parallelism**
- **Wide Area Network speed evolved at >60%**
- **Local Area Network speed evolved 26-60%**
- **Grove's Law: Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) thwarts speed**

The classes, sans phones, 2006



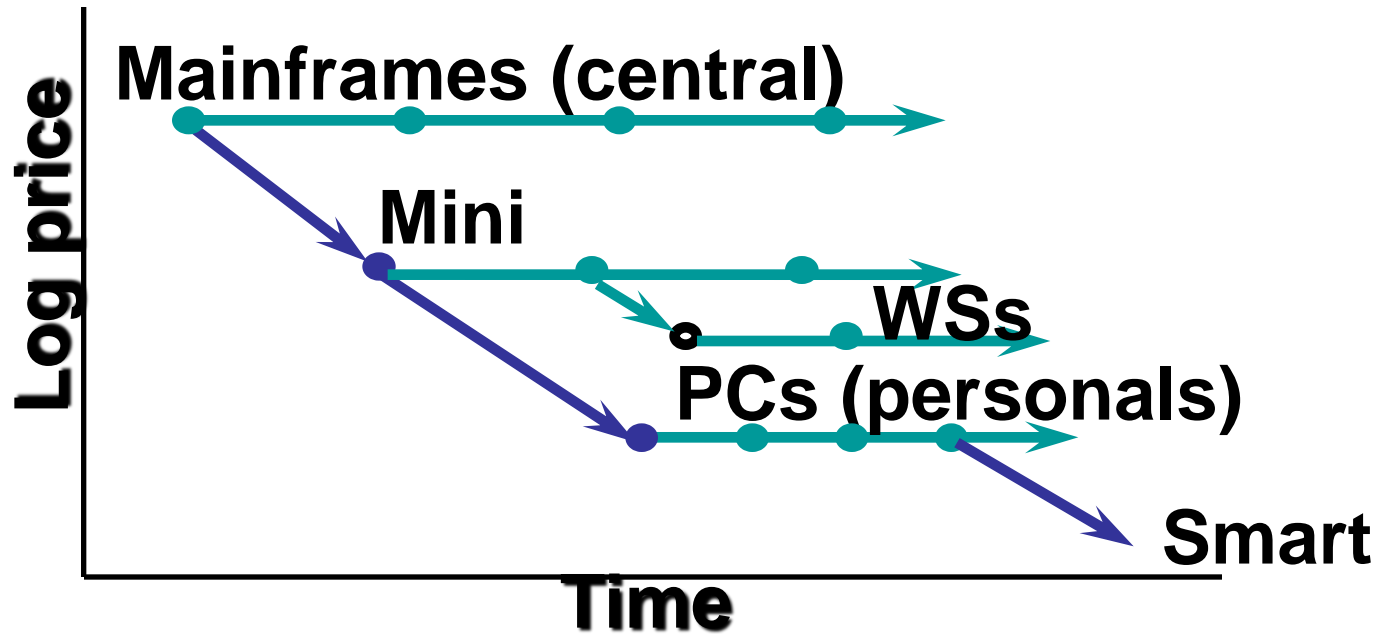
The classes, sans phones, 2006



Bell's Law of Computer Classes

Technology enables two evolutionary paths:

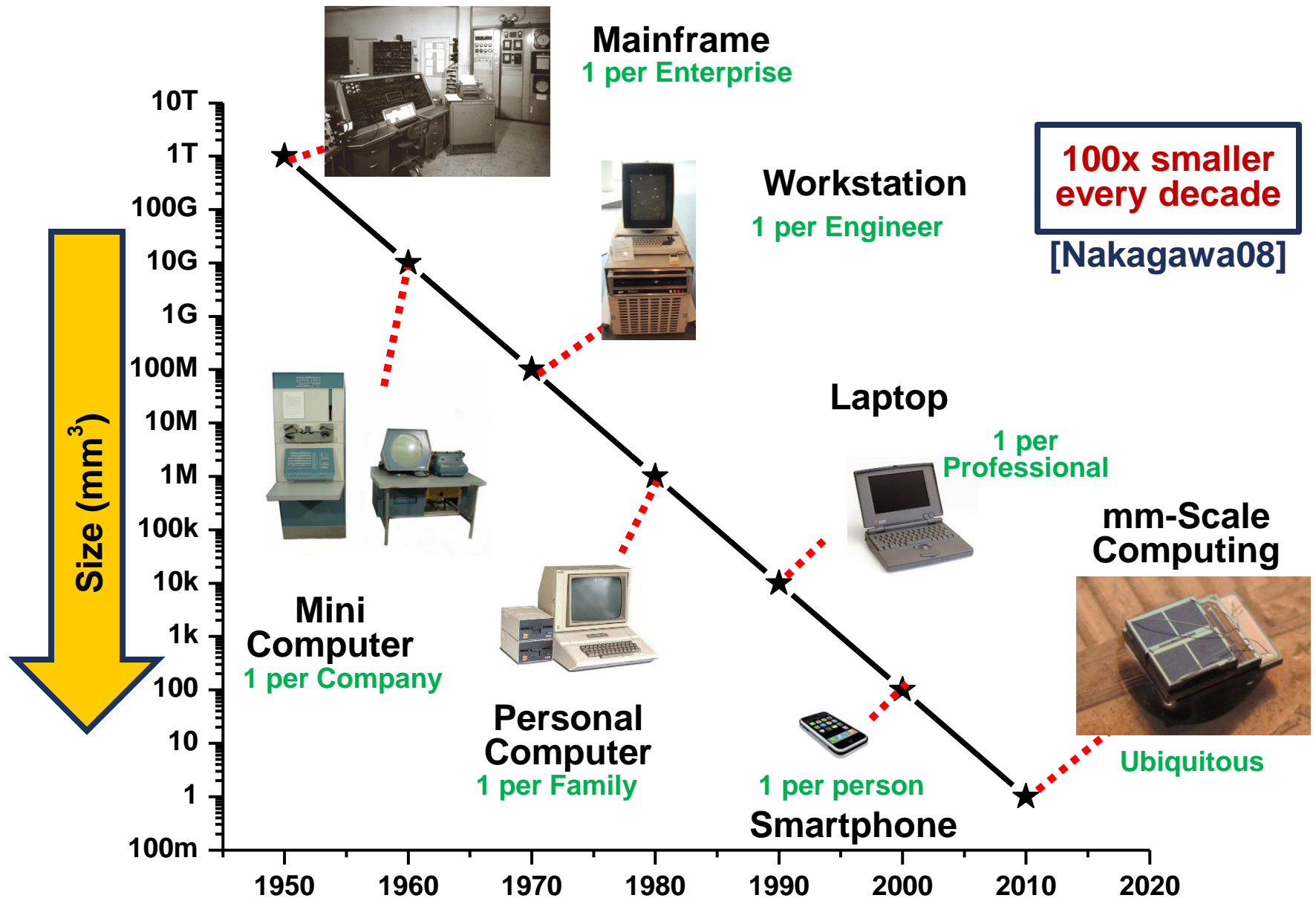
1. constant price, increasing performance
2. constant performance, decreasing price



1.26 = 2x/3 yrs -- 10x/decade; 1/1.26 = .8

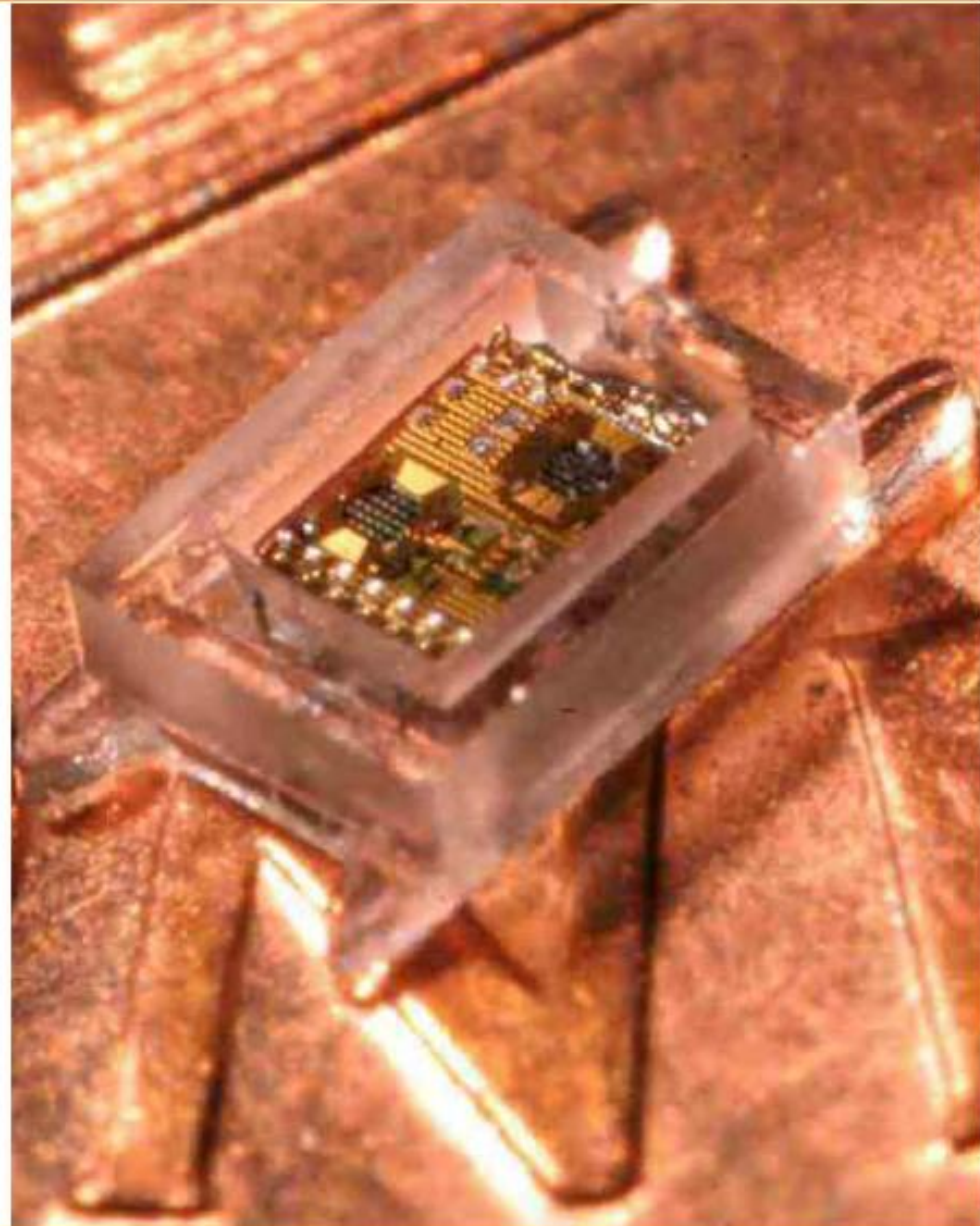
1.6 = 4x/3 yrs --100x/decade; 1/1.6 = .62

Bell's Law – Production Volume



1.5 mm³ Intraocular Pressure Monitor

- Continuous IOP monitoring
- Wireless communication
- Energy-autonomy
- Device components
 - Solar cell
 - Wireless transceiver
 - Cap to digital converter
 - Processor and memory
 - Power delivery
 - Thin-film Li battery
 - MEMS capacitive sensor
 - Biocompatible housing





Q: What do these have in common?



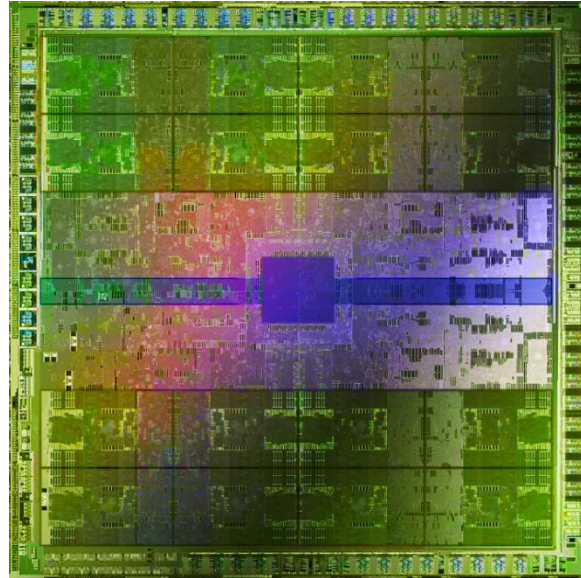
Tianhe 1A
~4PFLOPS peak
2.5PFLOPS sustained
~7,000 NVIDIA GPUs
About 5MW



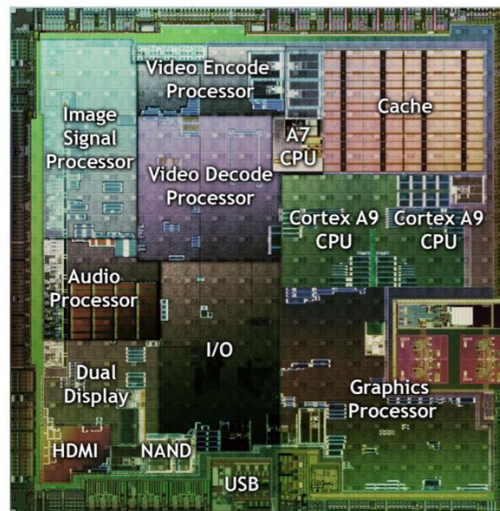
3G smart phone
Baseband processing 10GOPS
Applications processing 1GOPS
and increasing
Power limit of 300mW



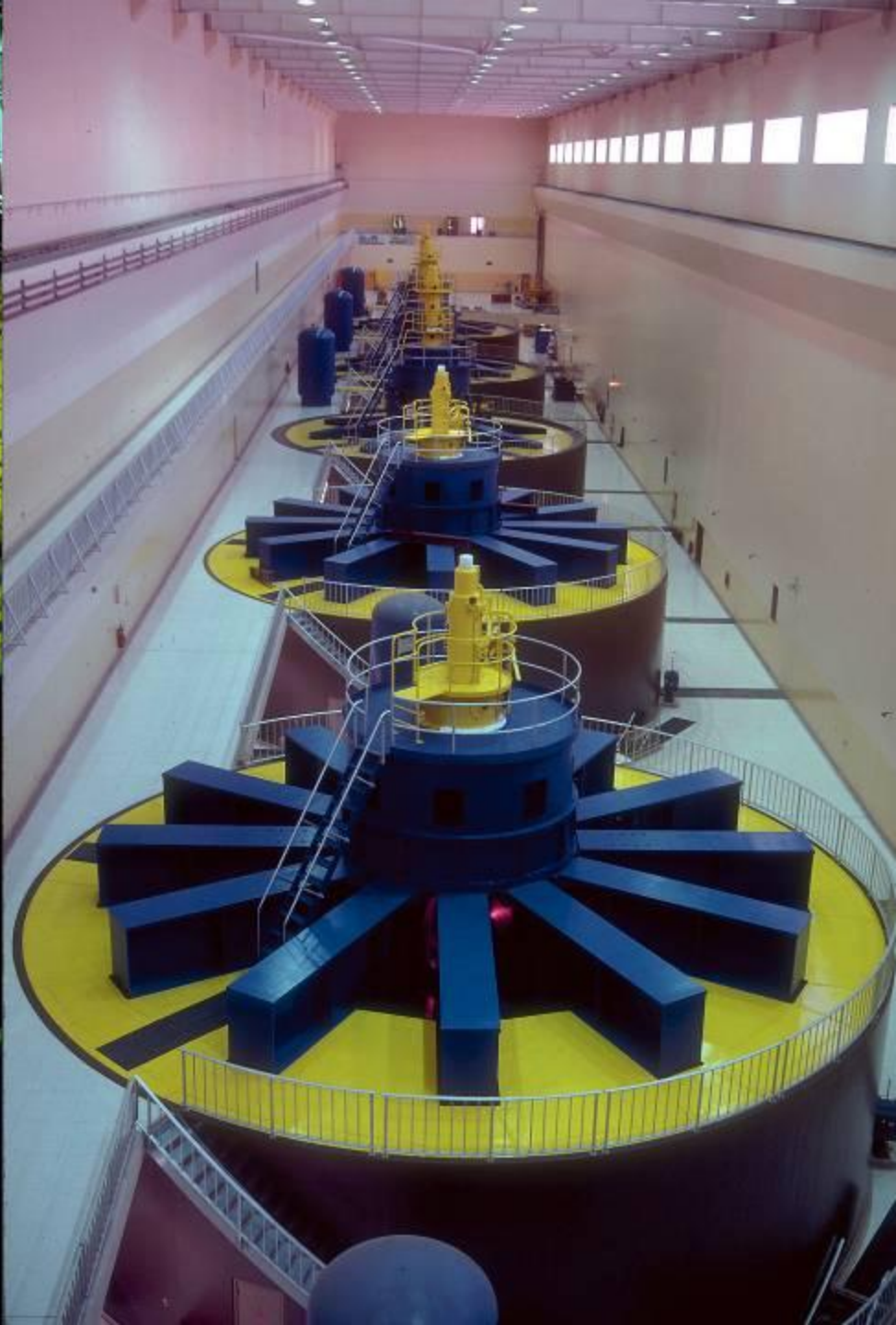
Both are Based on NVIDIA Chips



Fermi
3 x 10⁹ Transistors
512 Cores

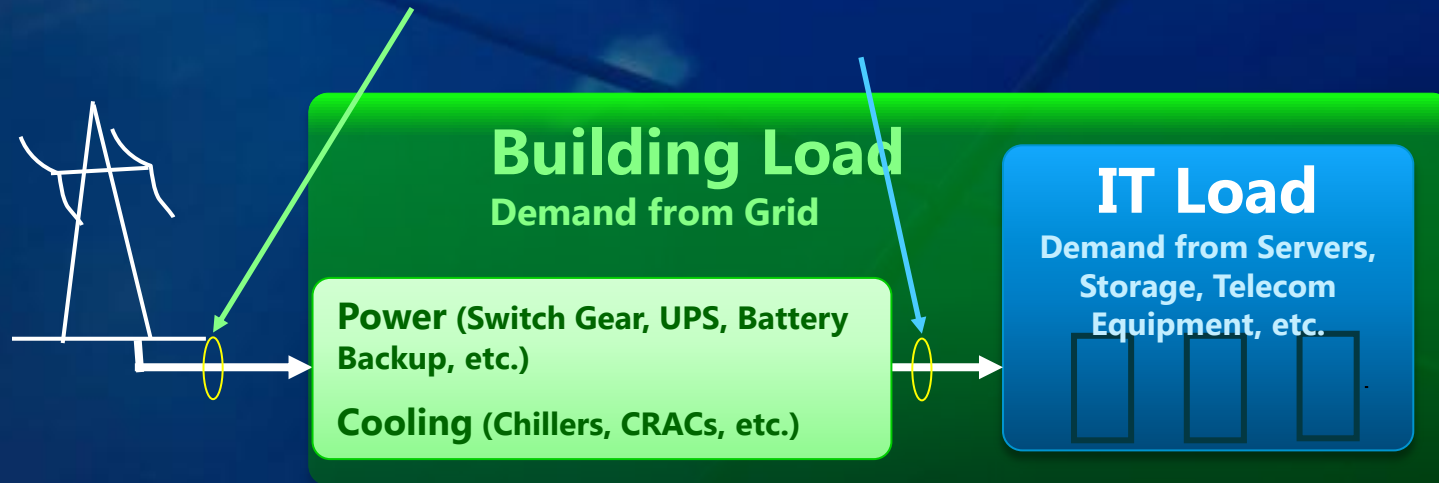


Tegra-2 (T20)
3 ARM Cores
GPU
Audio, Video, etc...



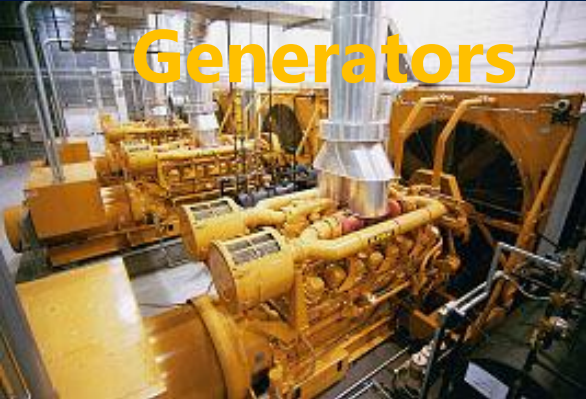
Why Power is Important?

- **Energy Consumption: US power rate 10.27 cents per Kilowatt hour) in 2008 according to DOE/eia**
(http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5_3.html)
- **In a typical data center: for every watt in server power there can be another 0.5 to 1 watt consumed for power distribution losses and cooling**



$$\text{PUE} = \frac{\text{Total Facility Power}}{\text{IT Equipment Power}}$$

Generators



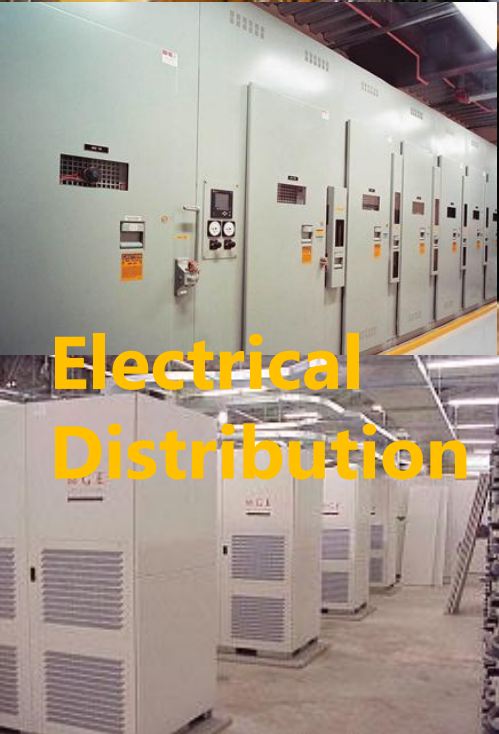
Substation



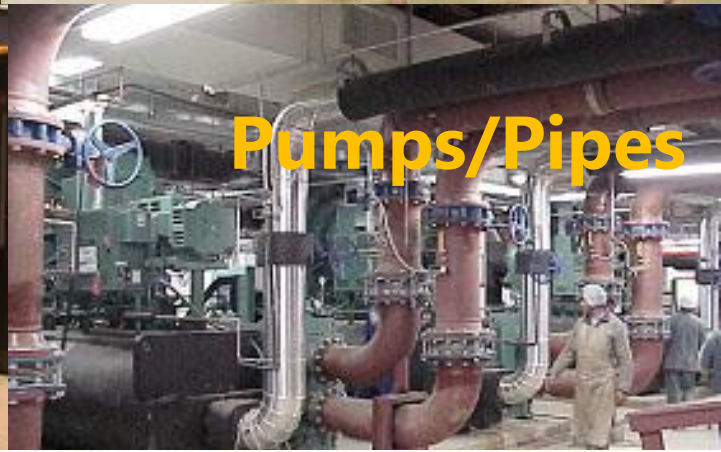
Evaporators



**Electrical
Distribution**



Pumps/Pipes



Chiller Tower



Battery Room



Operations



Traditional Datacenter Builds



**Monolithic design
& construction**

Typical large datacenter = 11 football fields
20 to 50 Megawatts

Huge \$\$\$

Typical construction costs = \$10M to \$20M
per Megawatt

Long lead time

18 to 24 months from design to online

Microsoft Data Center Scale

Microsoft has more than 10 and less than 100 DCs worldwide housing 100s of thousands of servers



Multiple global CDN locations

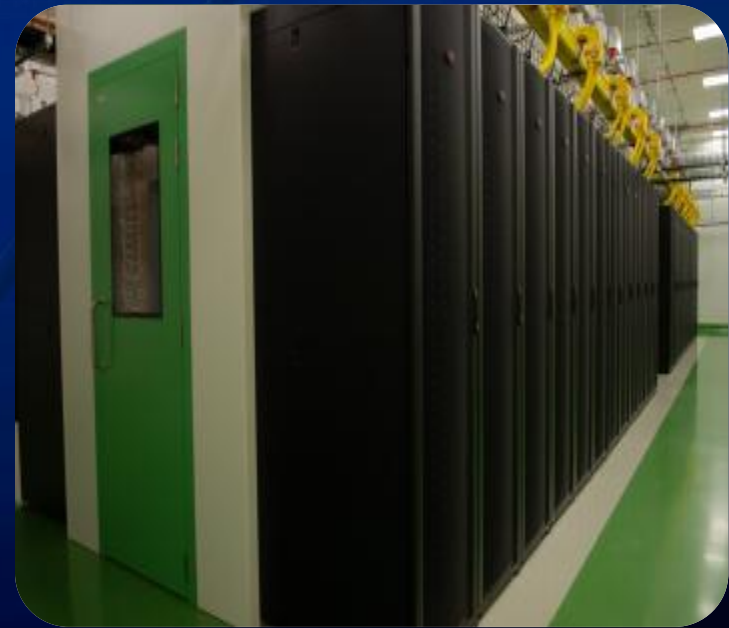
Quincy, Washington	27 MW + ITPACs	100% Hydro power, free air cooled ITPACs
San Antonio, Texas	27 MW	Recycled water for cooling
Chicago, Illinois	30 MW	Water side economization, Containers
Dublin, Ireland	29 MW	Outside air cooling, PODs

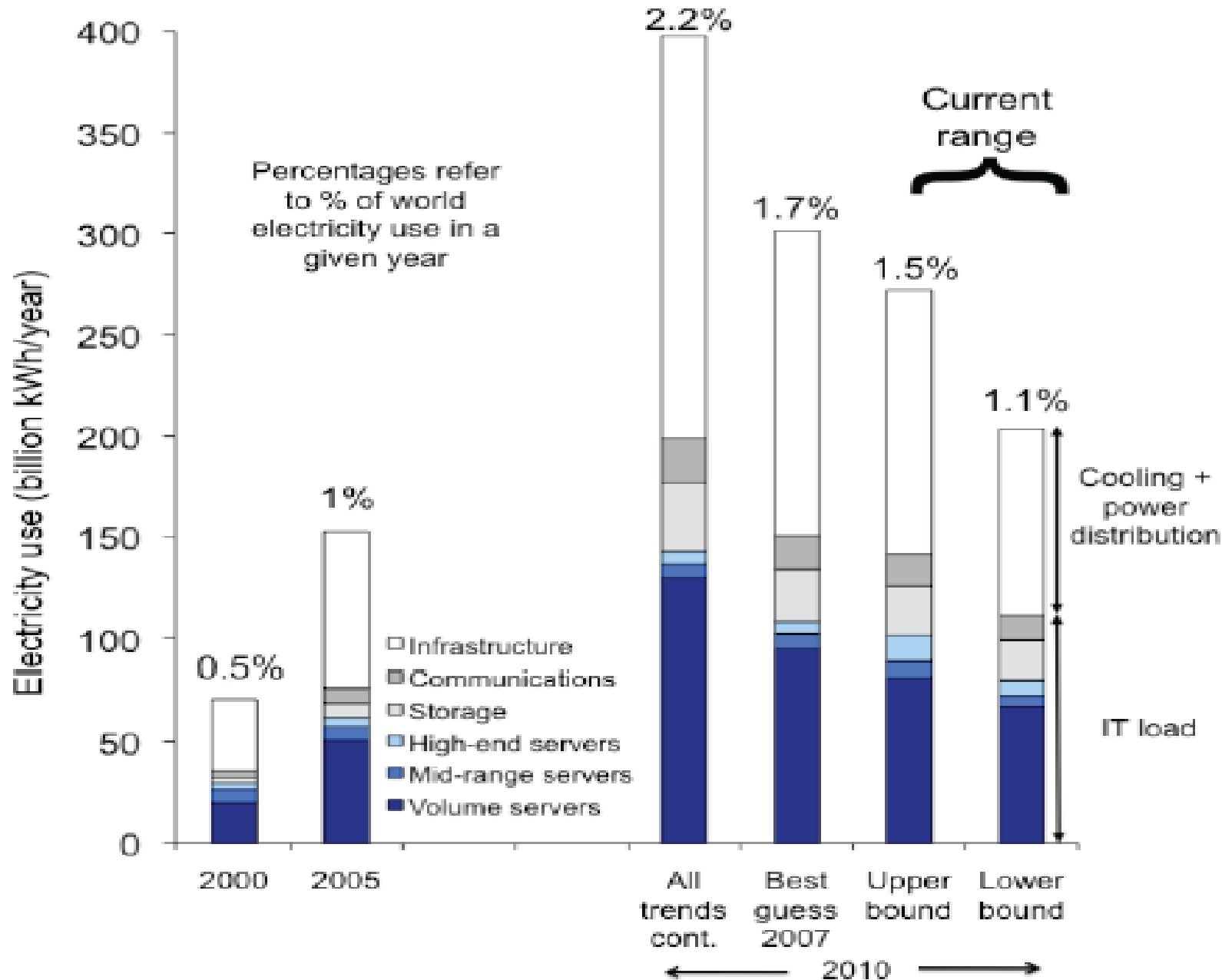
"Data Centers have become as vital to the functioning of society as power stations."

The Economist

Dublin Data Center in 2012

- Single story construction expansion
 - Concrete slab and roof
 - Steel frame and cladding
- Hot aisle isolated PODs
- Free air cooling with outside air
- No raised floor
- No chillers
- No adiabatic assist
- 13.2 MW in 4.4 MW modules





A photograph of the ORNL Titan Cray Supercomputer, showing a long row of server racks in a data center. The racks are illuminated with blue and green lights, and the text "ORNL Titan Cray Supercomputer" is overlaid in white.

ORNL Titan Cray Supercomputer

- **18,688 AMD 16-core Opteron 6274 CPUs. 2.2 GHz**
 - Pc: $18.7K \text{ proc} \times 16 \text{ core/proc.} \times 2.2 \text{ GHz.} = 658 \text{ Tticks; ?? Flops per tick}$
 - Mp: 600 TB
 - 200 cabinets retrofitted with nearly ten thousand XK7 blades... 2 processors/blade?
- **18,688 Nvidia 2.5K-core K20 GPUs. 732 MHz 46.5 M cores**
 - 1.3 TFlops per chip??
 - Mp: 112 Tbytes; 37 GB/proc? ...1/40 of a byte per FLOP on GPU
- **Ms: 13.6 PB driven by 140-Dell servers**
- **9 MW; PUE=??**
- **1-5 weather years per day of simulation**

Bell's Law for the formation of The Birth & Death of Computer Classes

Hardware technology improvements i.e. Moore's Law for semiconductors,... disks, enable two evolutionary paths(t) for computers:

- 1. constant price, increasing performance
direct consequence of Moore's Law**
- 2. Constant or decreasing performance,
decreasing cost by a factor $O(10)X$
.. Leads to new structures & new computer class!**

Bell's Law of Computer Classes...

Every Decade a new class emerges

- Every decade a new, lower (1/10) cost class of computers emerge to cover cyberspace with a
 - New computing platform (e.g. chip density evolution)
 - New Interface to humans or a part of physical world
 - New networking and/or interconnect structure
 - New class --> new function & apps --> new industry with potentially disintegrated structure
- The classes... a decade in price every decade

60s	\$millions	mainframes
70s	\$10K-100K	minis
80s	\$10K	workstations & PCs; <u>MICROs</u>
90s	\$1K	PCs >> NetBooks >> Tablets
00s	\$100s	PDAs >> Smart phones
10s	\$10	WSNs????

Platform, Interface, Network

Computer Class Enablers

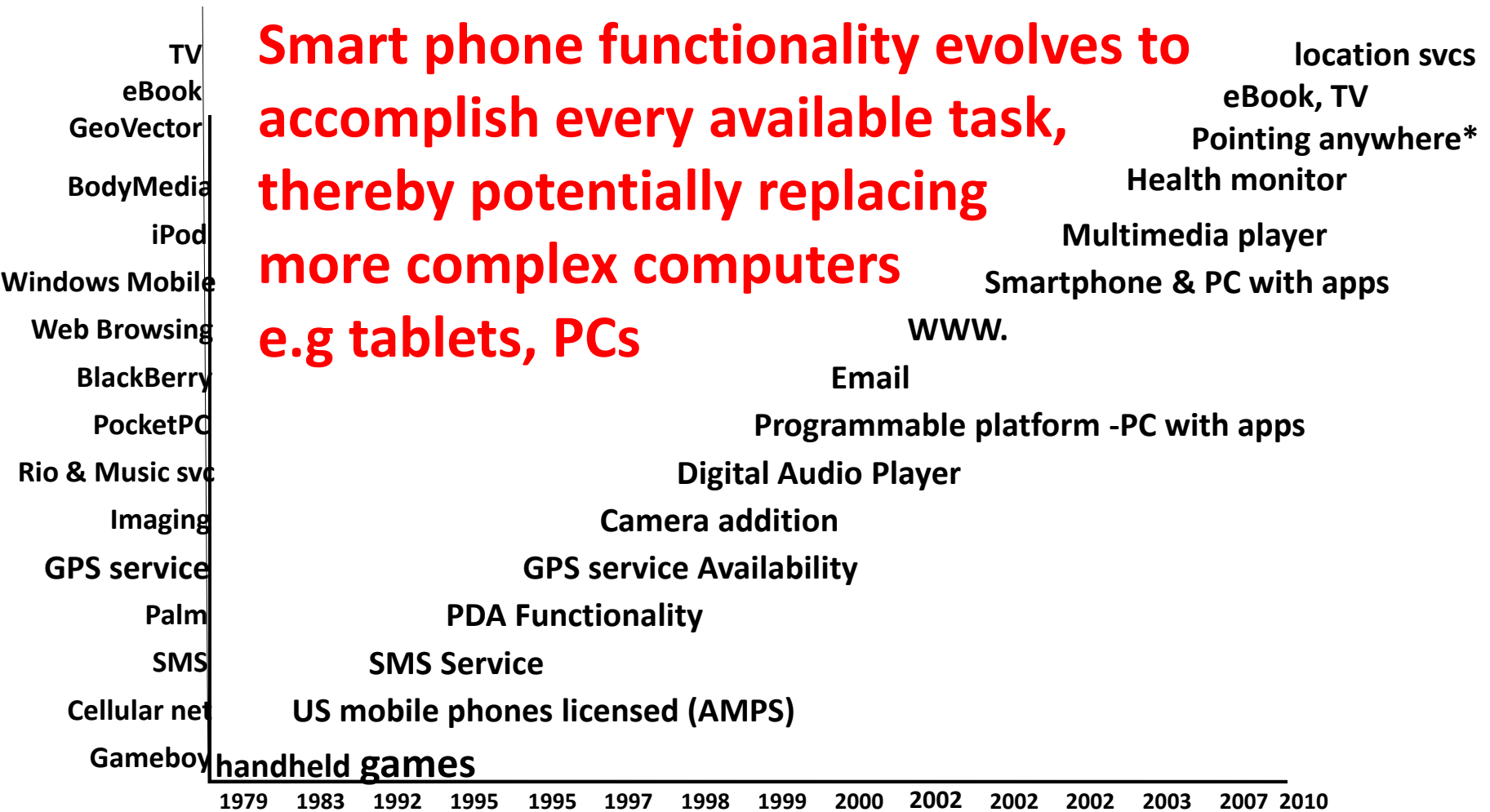
What	“The Mainframe”	Minicomputer >> Timesharing	Super	WS & PC
When	1950-'64-...	1965-1985	1965, '75, '95	1982-...
How	tube, core, drum, tape, batch O/S	SSI-MSI, disk, timeshare O/S	Vector mP, Clusters/ GPU/... Proc-in-Mem.	“microproc’r” floppy, display, mouse, dist’d O/S
USE	direct > batch	terminals via commands	Batch	WIMP
FCN	M	K, T	P	T, P&M
Net.	--, POTS	POTS, WAN	WAN	LAN
Who	IBM & 7	Digital	Cray, IBM	IBM & SUN

Future Computer Classes

When, who	1997+	2000	2010	??
what	client-side platforms net computer telecomputer tv computer	Wintels “upsizing” SNAP scalable network & platforms	embedded apps do what I say chips for 1000s of apps	helpful robots, ns in cyber & real space
platform	low cost term. Telephone, TV & computer	commodity platform & nets	common sense	mobility to for home & office
user inter’f	point to, speech, audio & video	browser access	Speak to it! Radar & vision	vision
netwk	Internet via phone & cable	System Area Net	IP dial-tone, home, body nets	no new tech.

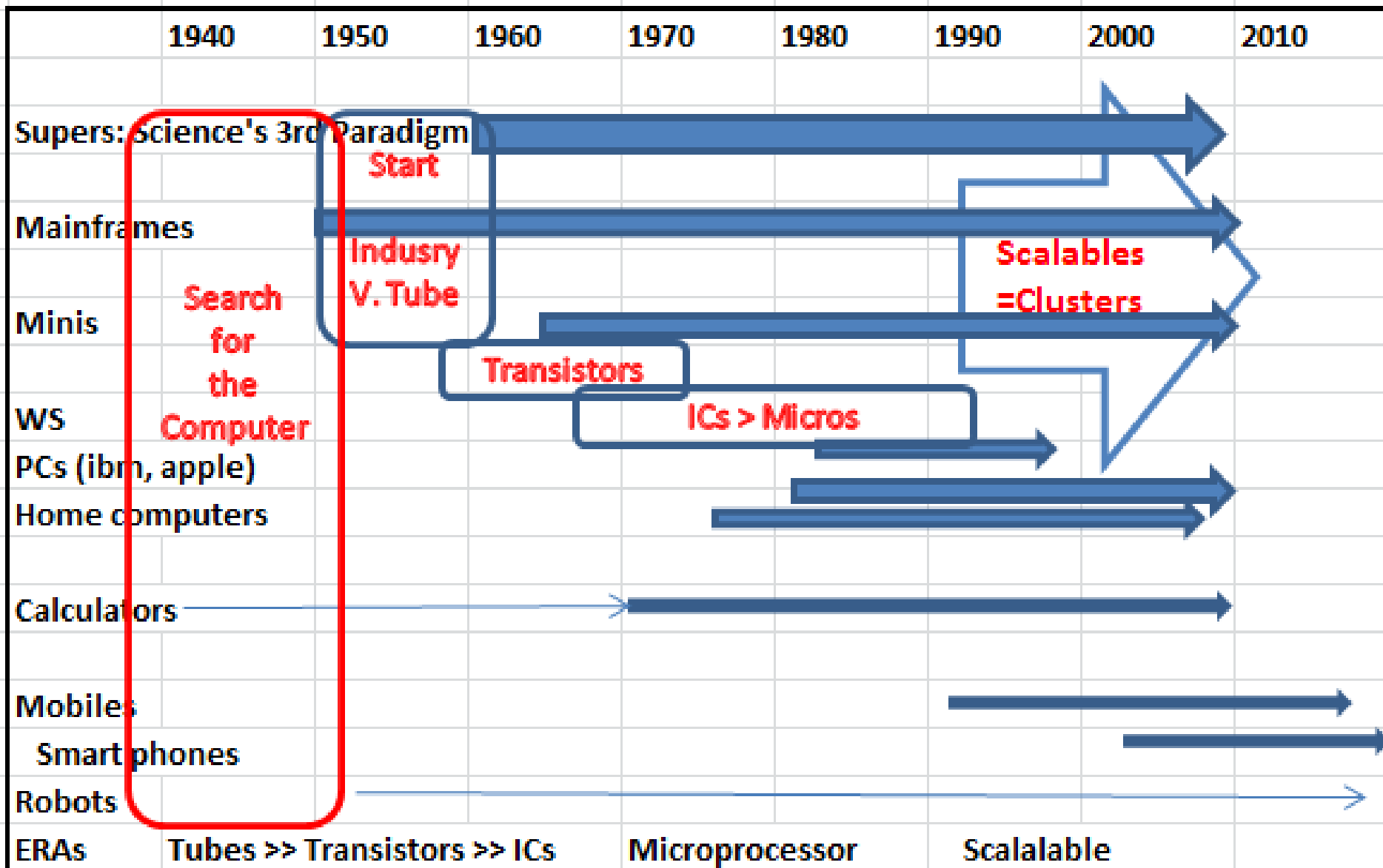
Cell aka Mobile >> Smart Phone evolution

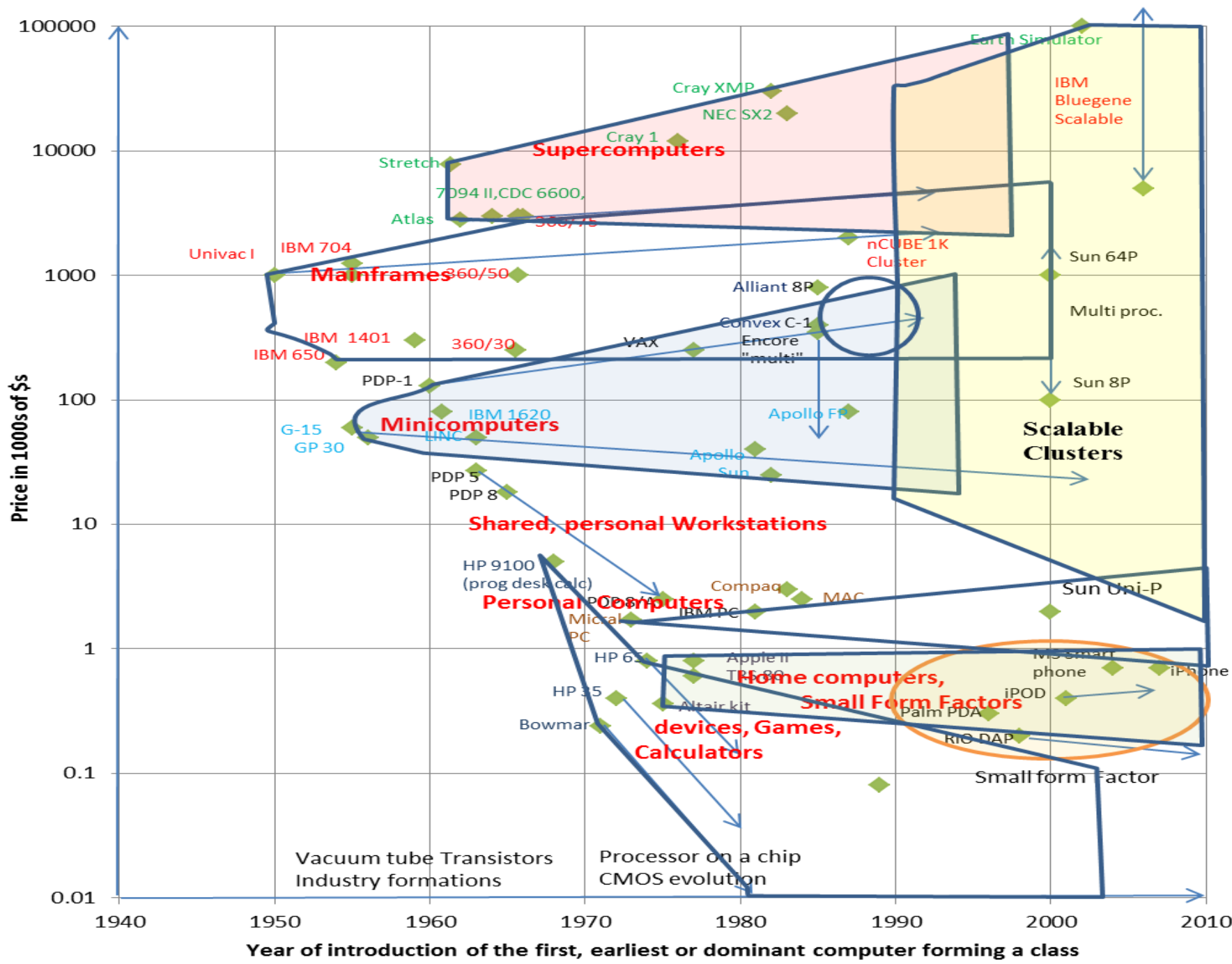
Smart phone functionality evolves to accomplish every available task, thereby potentially replacing more complex computers e.g tablets, PCs

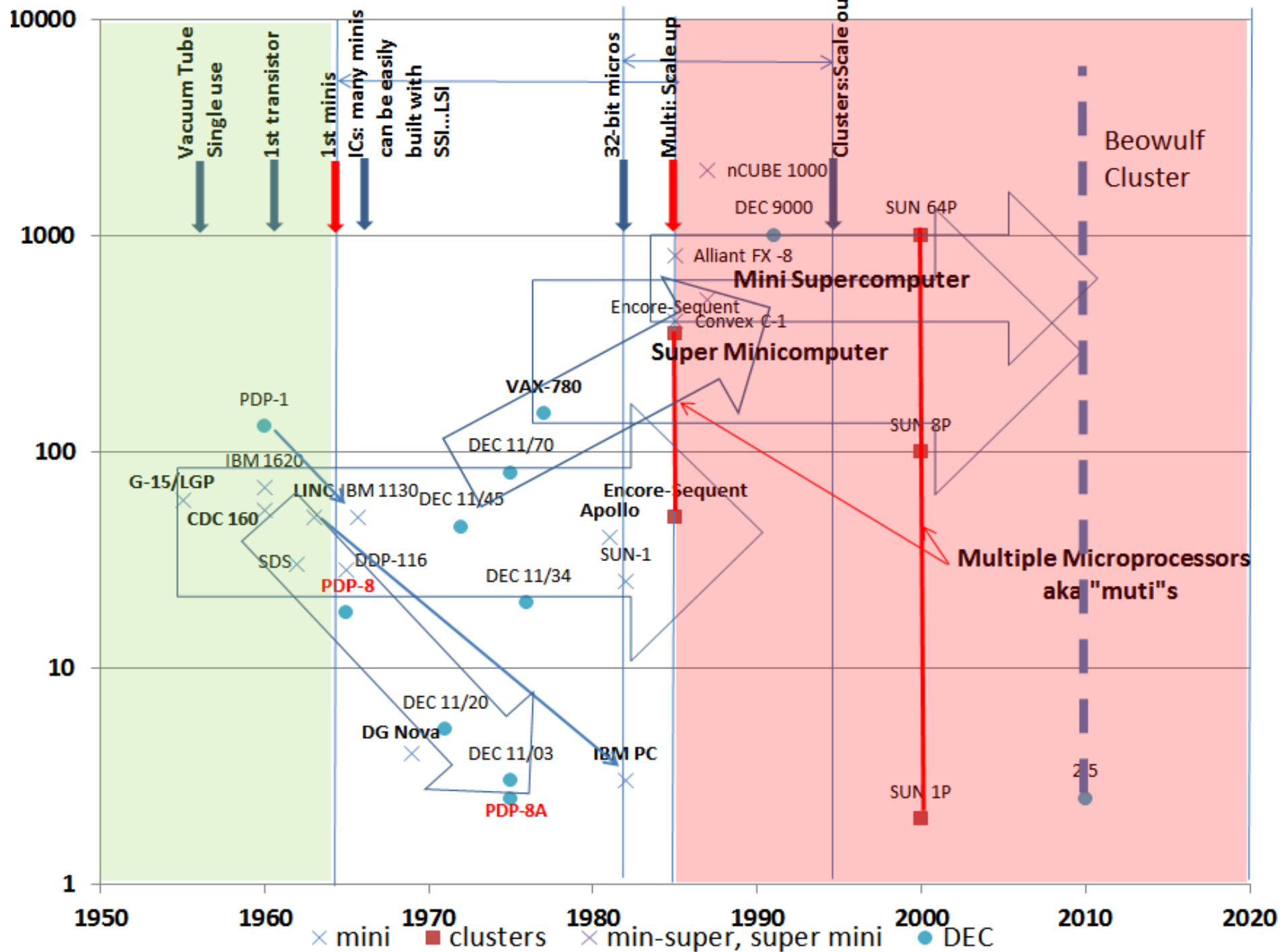


Notes: Increasing bandwidth protocols e.g. GSM, service generations enabler not shown
 Audio recording, video capture, videophone, and mobile TV not shown
 *GPS: location lat, long, alt. 3 axis compass; 6 axis accel.

Timeline of Computer Classes







1994: Computers will All be Scalables

Thesis: SNAP: Scalable Networks as Platforms

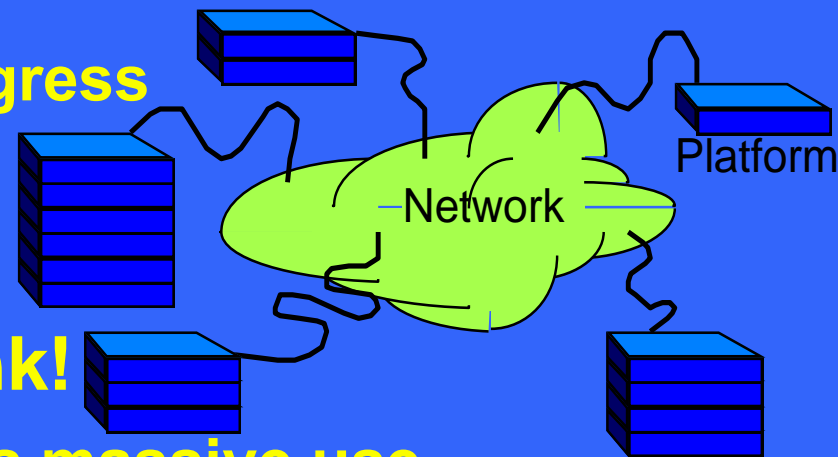
- upsize from desktop to world-scale computer
- based on a few standard components

Because:

- Moore's law: exponential progress
- standards & commodities
- stratification and competition

When: Sooner than you think!

- massive standardization gives massive use
- economic forces are enormous



Bell's Nine Computer Price Tiers

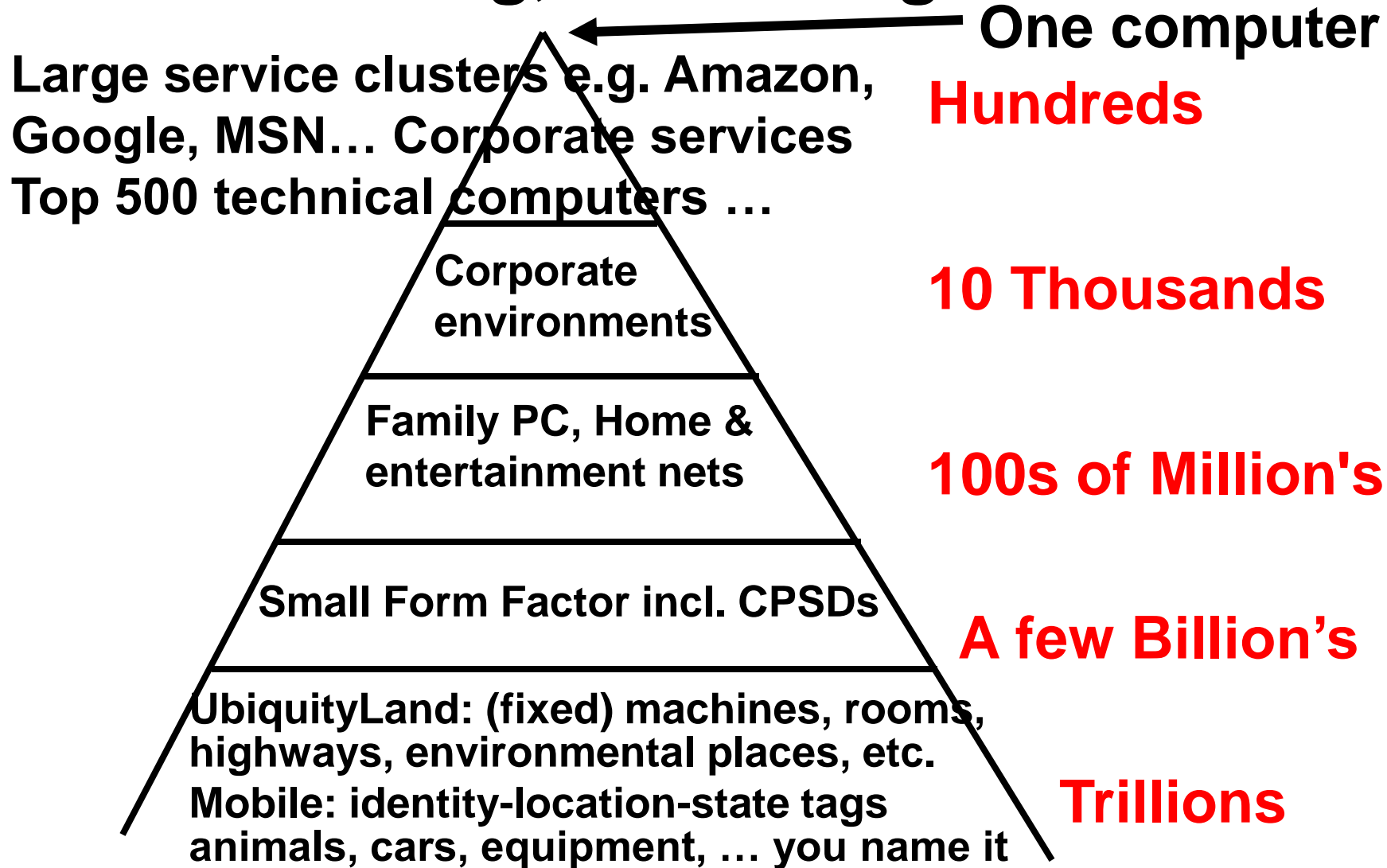
1\$:	embeddables e.g. greeting card
10\$:	wrist watch & wallet computers
100\$:	pocket/ palm computers
1,000\$:	portable computers
10,000\$:	personal computers (desktop)
100,000\$:	departmental computers (closet)
1,000,000\$:	site computers (glass house)
10,000,000\$:	regional computers (glass castle)
100,000,000\$:	national centers

Super server: costs more than \$100,000

“Mainframe”: costs more than \$1 million

an array of processors, disks, tapes, comm ports

Pyramid of networked - computing, communicating, and storage devices



Bell's Law of Computer Classes: Their Formation and Death

End

How did minicomputers form and die

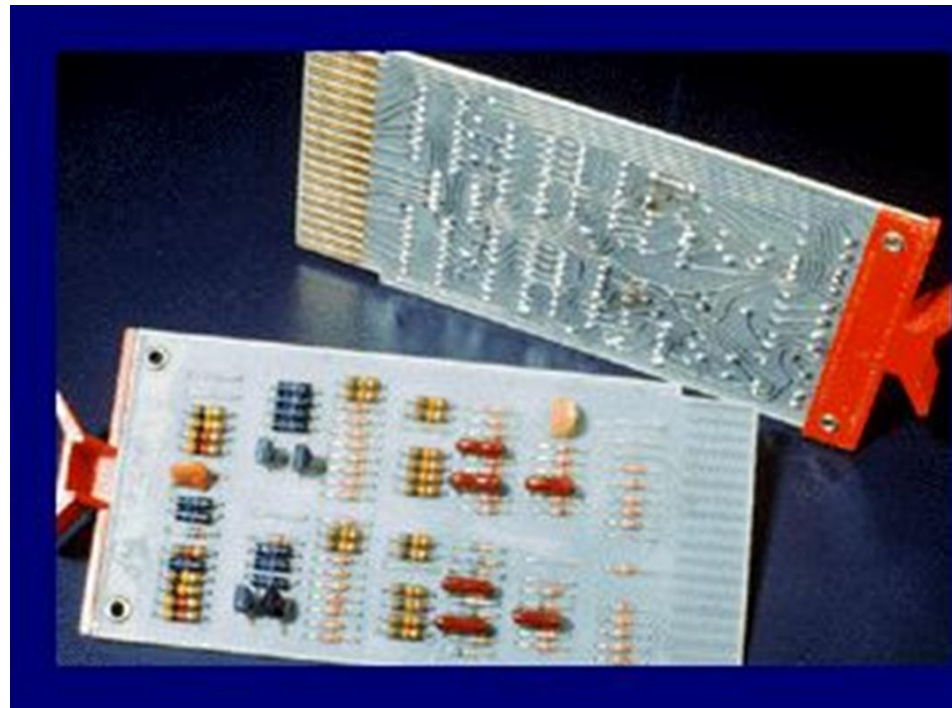
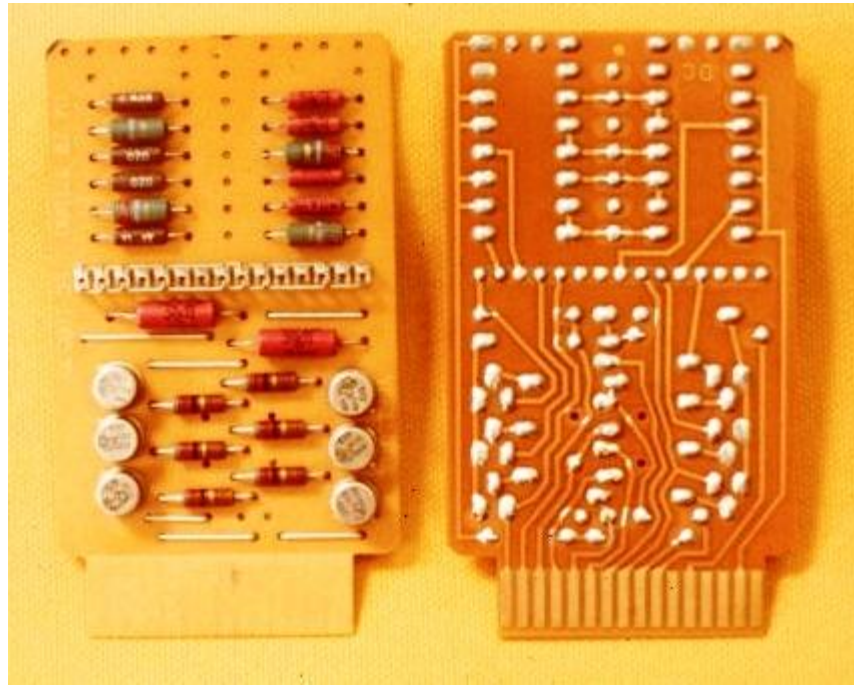
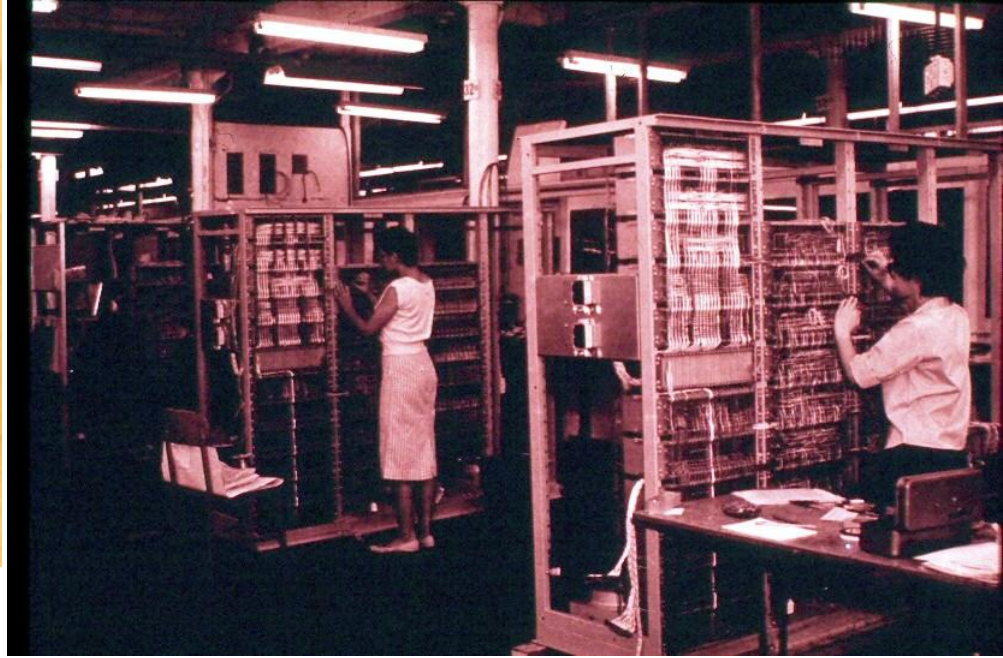
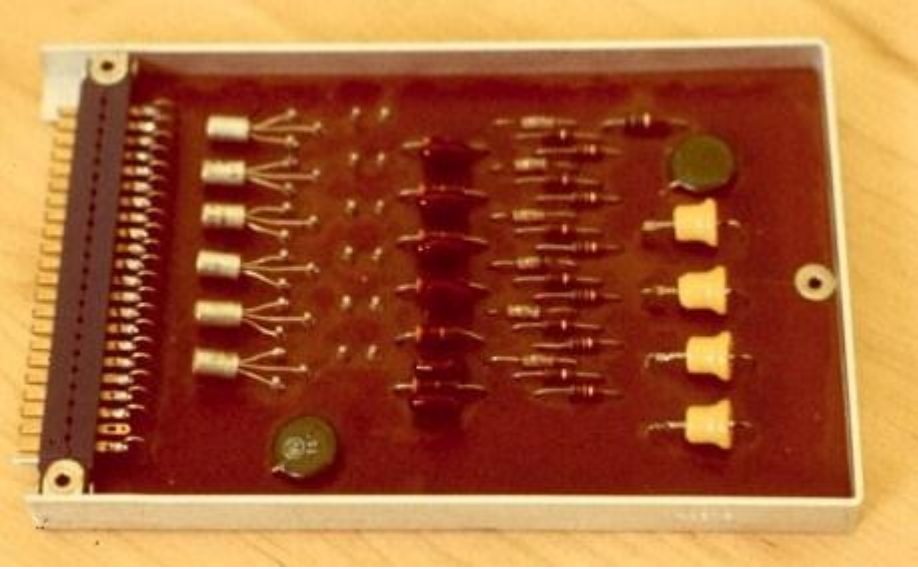
Enable by small scale integrated circuits whereby 100 companies designed and built their own, proprietary architecture computers successfully for:

1. Control, switching, and interfacing (thereby avoiding mainstream computing and business)
2. Sold through Original Equipment Manufacturer market channel
3. Significantly smaller or minimal.
Named for “mini” auto and mini-skirt c.1967

Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-8



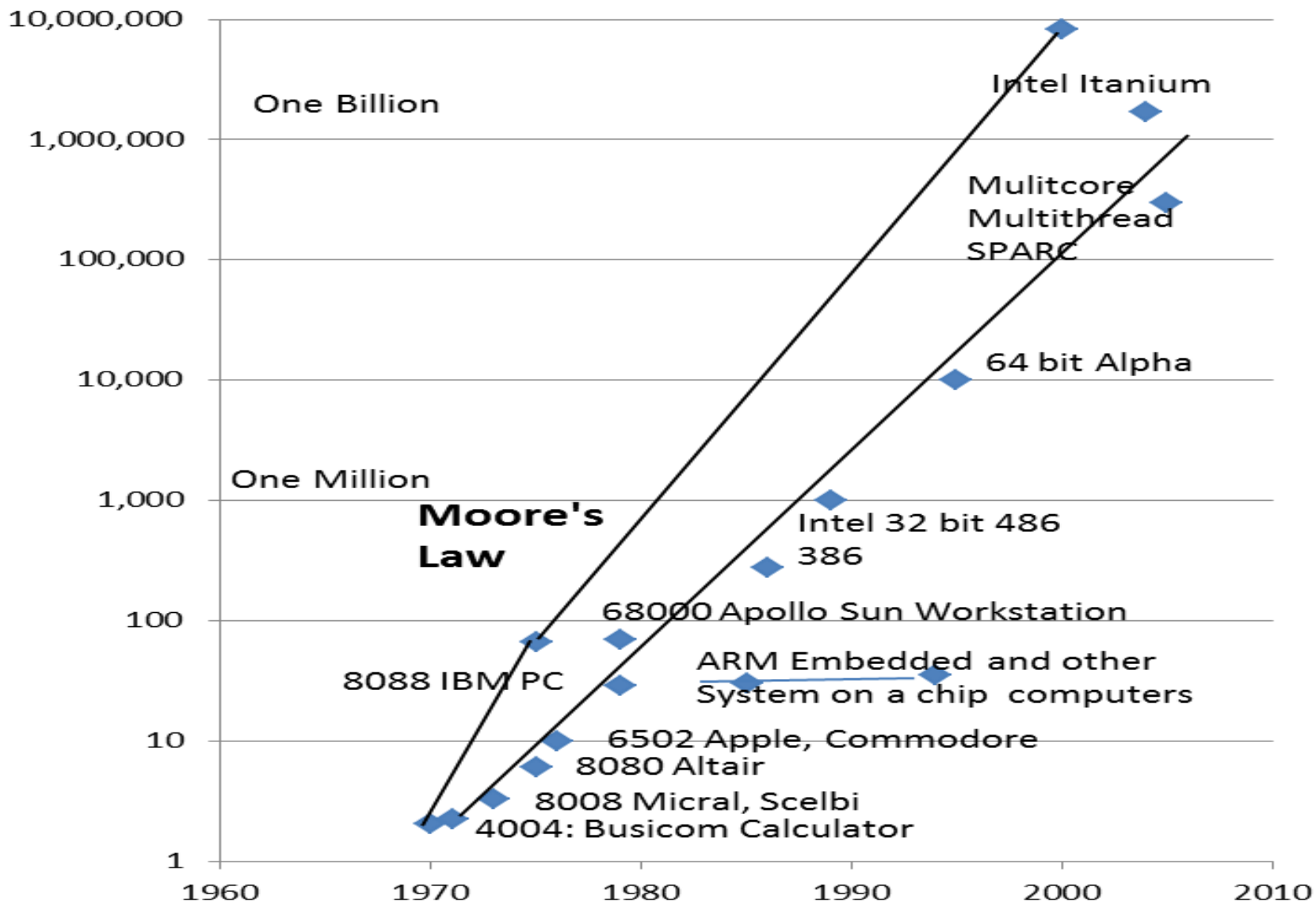
1965 introduction
12 bit word (1.5 bytes)
4,096 word memory
1.5 usec memory
cycle time, or
300,000 ops per sec.
\$18,000 including
Teletype ASR printer,
paper tape reader
and punch



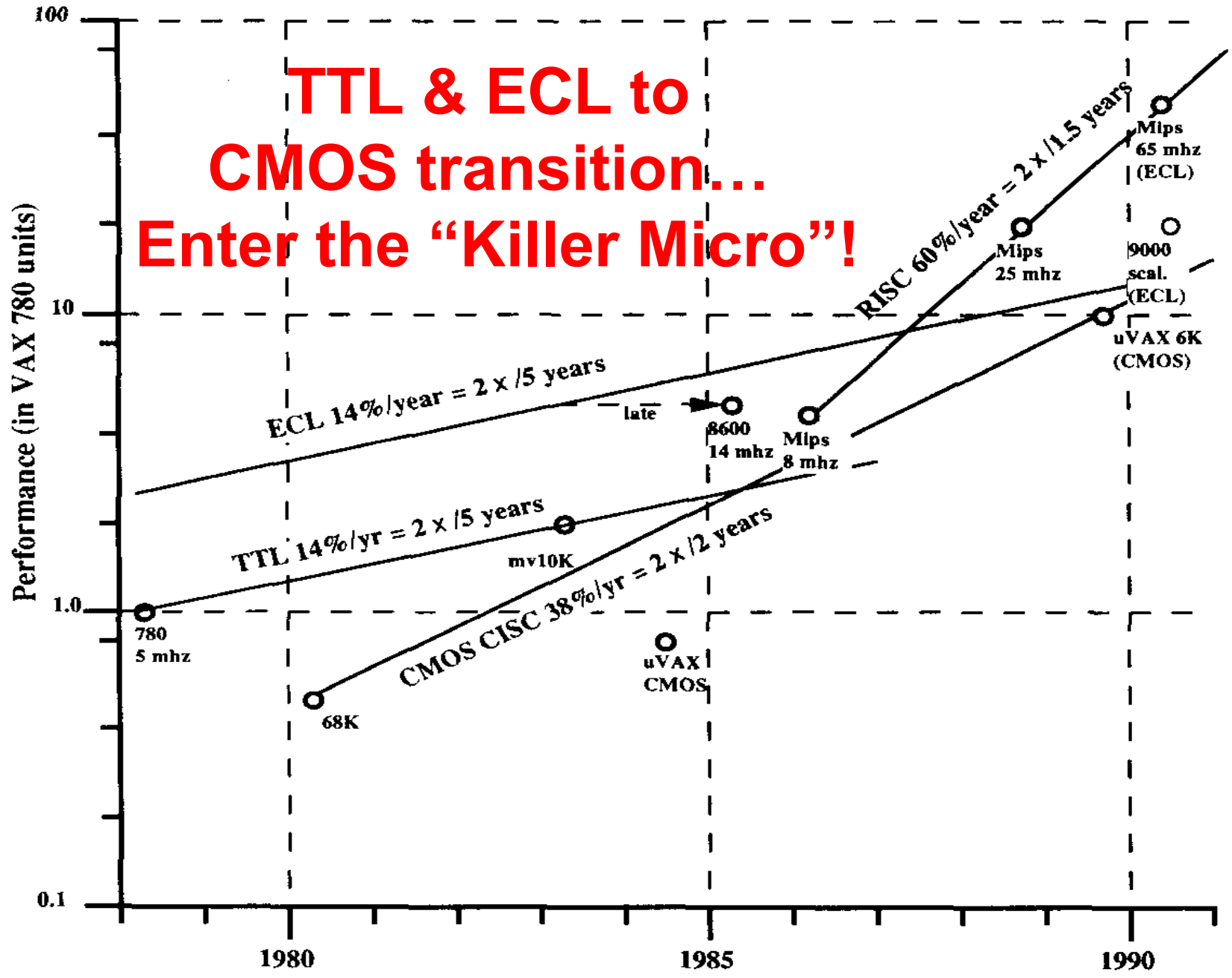
1971 4004 Introduction:
The beginning of the end
&
The end of the beginning



Transistors (1000s) of each microprocessor or microcomputer



TTL & ECL to CMOS transition... Enter the "Killer Micro"!



VAX-11/780 c1978

32 bit super minicomputer



32 bit word
VAX = virtual
address extension
\$250,000
1-2 Mbytes

Serial 3? delivered
to CMU's John
Pople for
Computational
Chemistry
As a PC.

CMOS microprocessor effects in 1985 to destroy & eliminate Minicomputer industry

Technology cross-over of vanity architectures in favor of Intel and Motorola microprocessors

1. Bell's Law of a new class. 1982 introduction of PCs at good enough performance & lower cost
2. Workstations introduced in 1981 at minicomputer cost and same performance
 - a. Microprocessor computers standards
 - b. Complete disintegration
3. Multiple microprocessors i.e. multis in 1985
 - 1) More performance at price of supermini
 - 2) High redundancy, high reliability

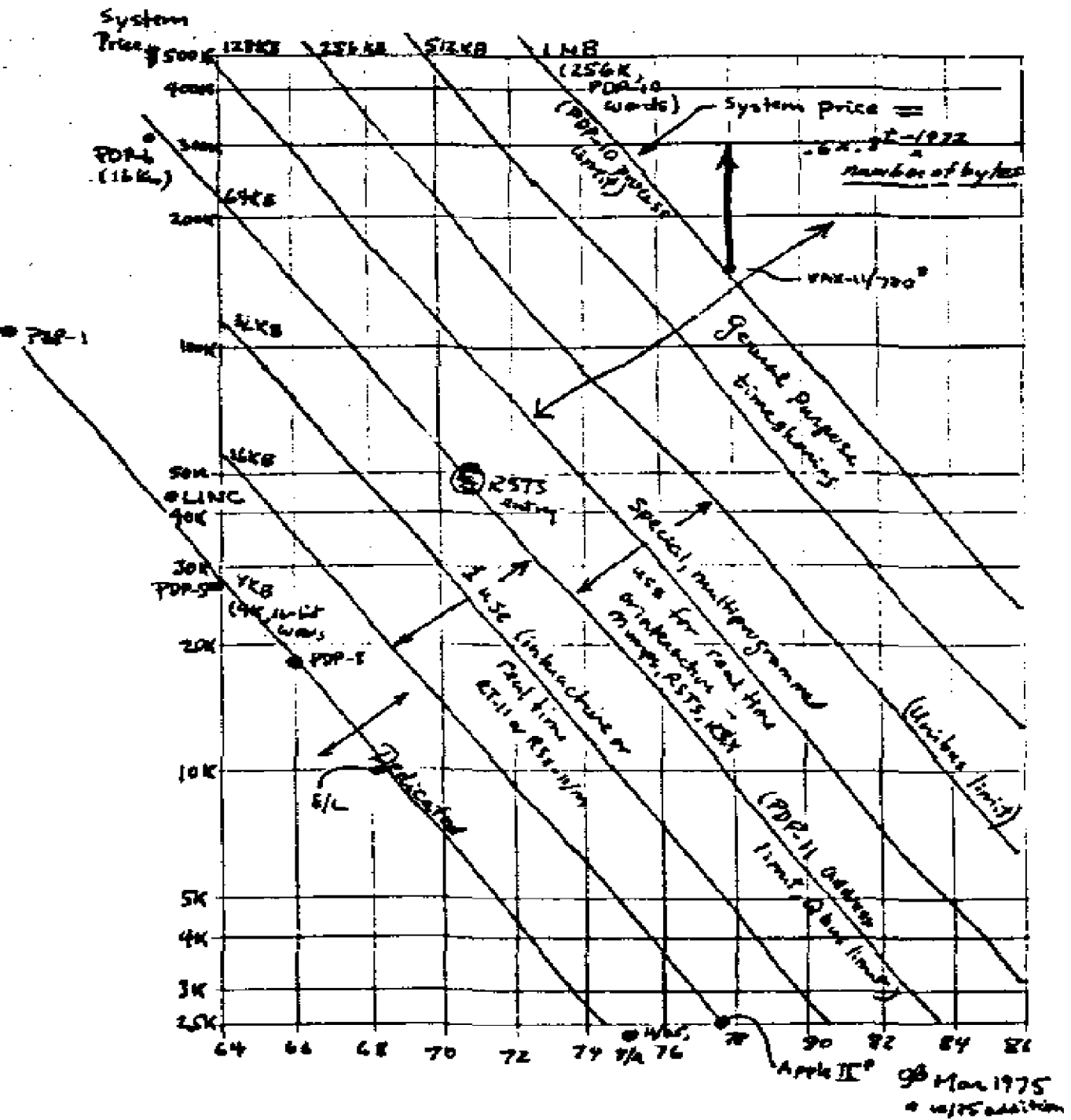
VAX-A Bluebook 1 April 1975

Bell, Cutler, Hastings, Lary, Rothman, Strecker

Had we the foresight, it was clear the pure, 16-bit 11 was born to have a short, happy, prolific, profitable life. In 1969, an address of 16-18 bits, and a system size being sold of 13-15 bits, left only 3 bits of address growth left. At the constant-price historical memory growth rates of 26 to 41 percent per year, only 6 to 9 years of comfortable lifetime is allowed, bringing it to 1975-1978.

“There is only one mistake that can be made in a computer design that is difficult to recover from – not providing enough address bits for memory addressing and memory management. The PDP-11 followed the unbroken tradition of nearly every known computer.

VAX Planning Model

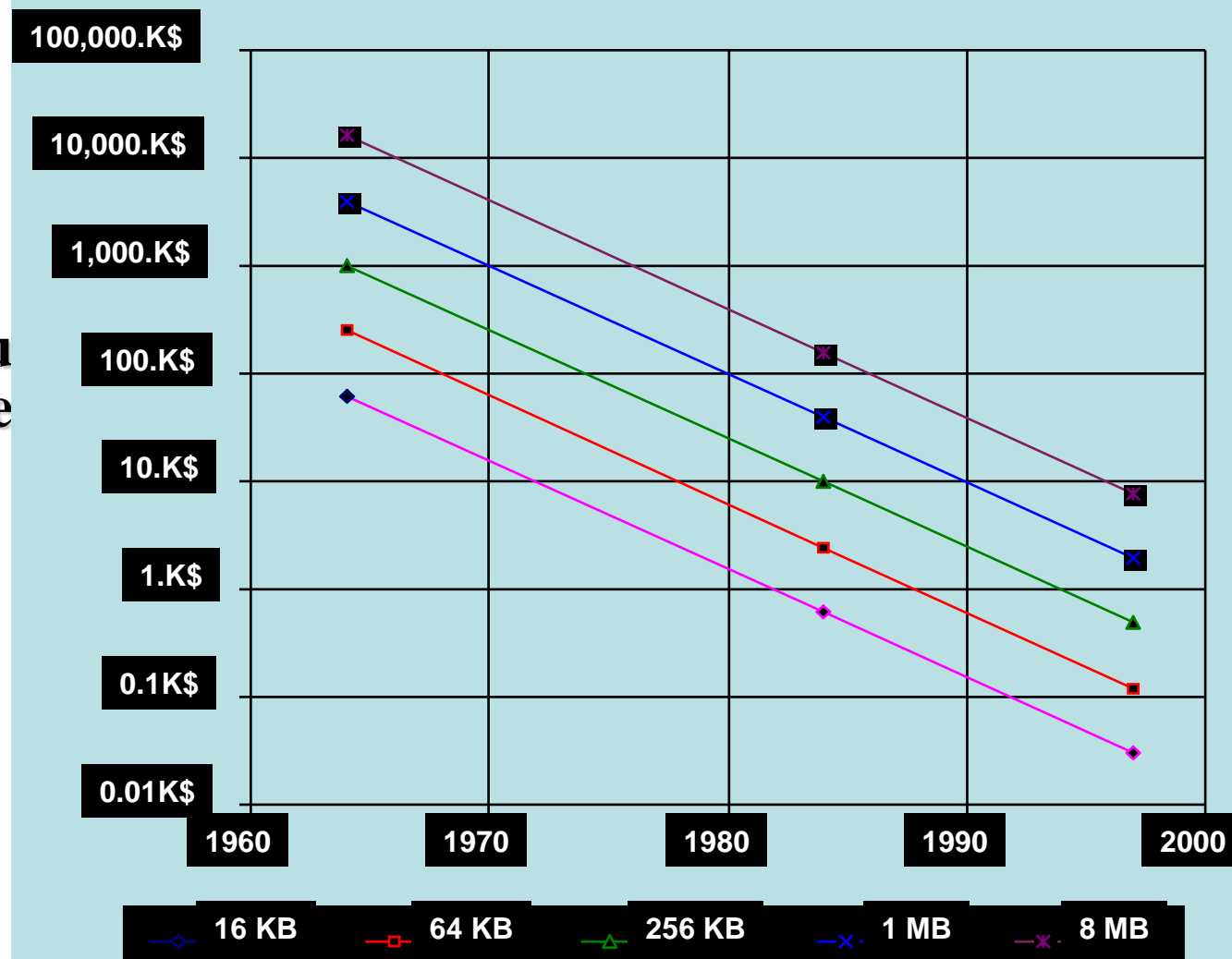


Gordon Bell's 1975 VAX Planning Model...

I Didn't Believe It!

$$\text{System Price} = 5 \times 3 \times .04 \times \text{memory size} / 1.26^{(t-1972)} \text{ K\$}$$

- ◆ **5x: Memory is 20% of cost**
- ◆ **3x: DEC market**
- ◆ **.04x: \$ per byte**
- ◆ **Didn't believe: the projection \$500 machine**
- ◆ **Couldn't comprehend implications**



IBM PC c1982 ...older than graduates



A perfect storm killed minicomputers formed from proprietary architectures and implemented with TTL semiconductors

CMOS technology evolved on a faster track due to higher volume and inherently lower cost, enabling the microprocessor to form new companies for:

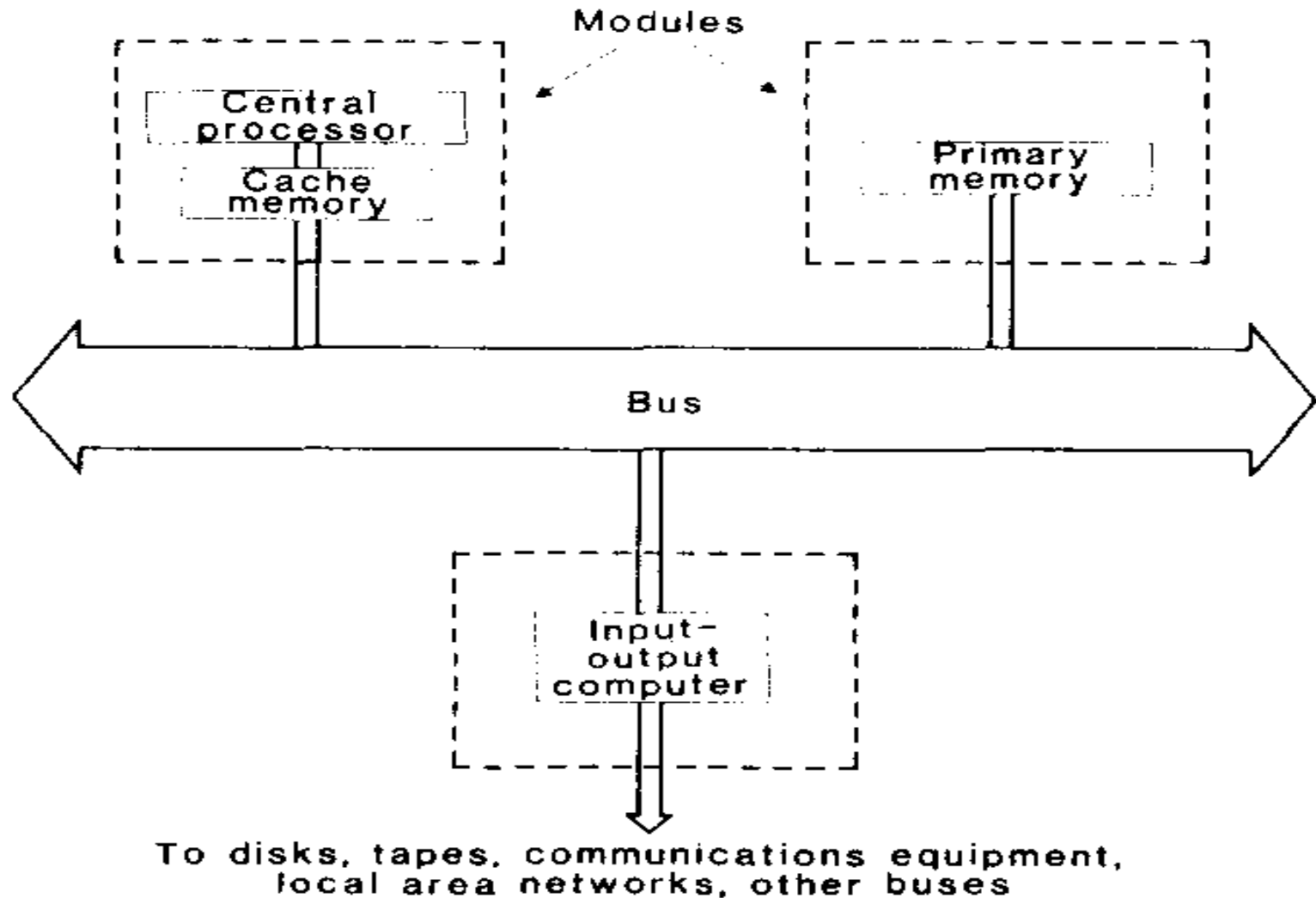
1. Personal computers (much lower cost)
2. CMOS microprocessors and UNIX (lower cost, same functions, lower performance)
3. Multiple microprocessors at minicomputer price with greater performance and/or functionality

Motorola 68K, UNIX License, PC Standard: Anyone can manufacture computers

```
procedure Entrepreneur_Venture_Cycle
  begin
    while Frustration > Reward {Push
      from Old_co} and
      Greed > Fear {Pull to New
        company} do
      begin
        get (PC, spreadsheet);
        IF System_Company then
          write (Beat_Vax_Plan);
        ELSE
          write (Plan)_
            New_Company
        get (Venture_capital);
          {from Old_Venture_Co}
        exit {job};
          start (New_Company);
```

```
get (UNIX License, developers)
  get (Vax, development_tools);
  build (product); sell (product);
  sell (New_Company);
    { @ 100 × sales }
  venture_funds := Co._Sale
  start (New_Venture_Co.);
  end
end
```

Multis: Multiple, shared memory Microprocessors (Bell, Science 4/25/1985)



The Challenge: Dealing with technology *transitions* and any ensuing standards

Technology = Change = Disruption

- 1957: Vacuum tube to Transistor circuits (high bar)
- 1965: Transistors to ICs... 100 mini companies
- 1971: 8 bit Microprocessor >> master VLSI;
- 1981: IBM PC >> failure to embrace, only extend
- 1983: VLSI overtakes TTL AND ECL>> 9000 fail
- 1984+?+: UNIX and 32-bit micros >> standards fail
“Either make the standard, or follow the standard.
If you fail to set the standard, you get to do it twice.”
- 1992: WWW, Altavista, servers, clients. Mrkt'ng fail.

To think about

- Given an environment e.g. body area, home, car, small business, an industrial structure, what is the structure and IT taxonomy of the network, computers, storage, etc. showing function
 - Now, in 5 years, in 10 years
- How will Moores's Law change computing
 - In 5 years, in 10 years
- What new computers could you envision that Bell's Law might enable
 - In 5 years, in 10 years

More to think about

- Name, classify, and construct a taxonomy of all the platforms i.e. dominant programming environments after the PC, WIMP*
 - What year
 - Programming environment
 - Key apps
- What will IoT add to the platform and classes?

*These could encompass Internet 1.0 and 2.0

The End