Nanotechnology, Information Storage, and Applied Physics

T.E. Schlesinger Director, Data Storage Systems Center Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA, USA





The Data Storage Systems Center



30 November 2004





Outline

- Information storage today is an application of nanotechnology.
- Further advances in nanotechnology will bring unprecedented storage capacity that will fundamentally change the way we think about information.
- The integration of information storage and information processing will create a new paradigm to take us beyond CMOS technology.





Daniel E. Atkins The University of Michigan Chair, NSF Panel on Cyberinfrastructure January 2003

"....cyberinfrastructure refers to infrastructure based upon distributed computer, information and communication technology. If infrastructure is required for an industrial economy, then we could say that cyberinfrastructure is required for a knowledge economy..... The base technologies underlying cyberinfrastructure are the integrated electrooptical components of computation, storage, and communication that continue to advance in raw capacity at exponential rates."

Electrical & Computer

The Need for Storage

- New stored information grew about 30% a year between 1999 and 2002.
- Information flows through electronic channels -- telephone, radio, TV, and the Internet -- contained almost 18 exabytes (exabyte=10¹⁸ bytes) of new information in 2002, three and a half times more than is recorded in storage media. Ninety eight percent of this total is the information sent and received in telephone calls - including both voice and data on both fixed lines and wireless.
- The World Wide Web contains about 170 terabytes of information on its surface; in volume this is seventeen times the size of the Library of Congress print collections.

http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info-2003/printable_report.pdf



Inside a disk drive





State-of-the-art industrial demo 170 Gbit/inch²





This is nanotechnology...





Nanotechnology

Nano; 1 - 100 nm the length scale at which groups of atoms begin to define their properties in aggregate **Technology**; the **deterministic** manipulation of objects and materials rather than in an "average" sense.



Magnetic Hard Disk Drives





What is a Tera-bit?

Technology goal today 1 Tbit/in²

What does that mean?

At 1 Tbit/in² you can save a picture of every man, women and child on earth on a disk the size of a Compact Disk





Libraries of information

750 byte 30 x 30 pixel 8 bit grayscale .jpeg image

Carnegie Mellon.

Courtesy: T. Rausch



Today's State of the Art in CMOS



How long can physical limits on scaling be avoided?

90 nm lithography





Cost of Production

- \$30 M/tool today
- \$250 M/tool in ten years
- \$1 B/tool in twenty years!





Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography (EUV)

Gordon Moore ISSCC 2003



Human Cytomegalovirus (CMV):



200,000 base pairs Nucleocapsid ~ 100 nm diameter

Information storage density $4x10^5$ bits per $\pi(50x10^{-9})^2$ m⁻²

or about 3x10¹⁶ bits/inch²

A factor of 10⁵ times today's state-of-the-art

or equivalent to > 30 years of development



Relative Sizes





DNA Structure Defined at the Nanoscale

A:T Base Pair





Electrical & Computer

Can we learn too much from nature?



Bald Eagle in flight

F-15 Eagle in flight

Heavier than air flight is possible.....





Competing with Viruses









Nanoparticle Arrays (Size) S. Majetich



7.0 ± 0.8 nm

9.2 ±0.7 nm

"Preparation and Characterization of Monodispersed Fe Nanoparticles", D. Farrell, S.A. Majetich, J.P. Wilcoxon, *J. Phys. Chem.* **107**, 11022(2003).



Capacity

- Limit capacity to 1 Terabyte (8 Terabits)
 - Implies an area of 0.16 inch² (1 cm² media)

For 1 msec rotational latency

1 kHz vibration or 60,000 rpm



r = 0.564 cm $v = \omega r = 2\pi x 1000 x 0.564$ = 35 m/secData rate: 10 Gbits/sec



Writing by Spin Injection (Spintronics)



Courtesy J. Zhu



Memory Intensive Self-Configuring ICs (MISC IC)



Two chips; green represents a CMOS IC that includes a nanofabric or reconfiguration layer, red is a probe layer also fabricated through a CMOS process. These are bonded together.



Applied Physics Course Tree

