



Shawn Blanton

Professor

Department of ECE

Center for Silicon System Implementation

CMU Laboratory for Integrated Systems Test

<http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~blanton>

Courses:

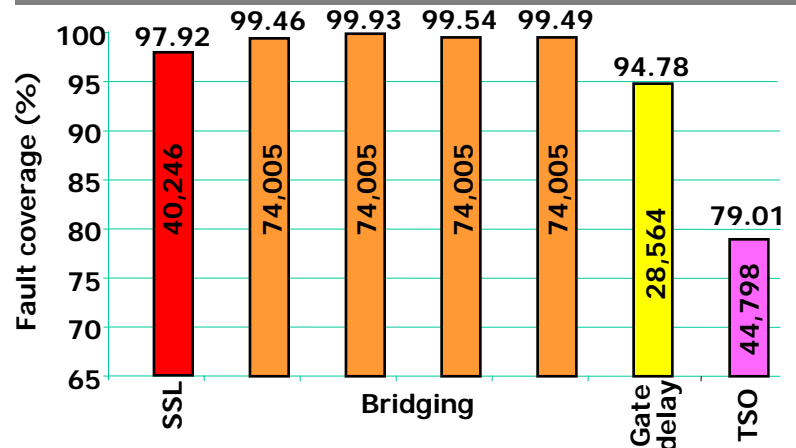
18-240: Fundamentals of Computer Engineering

18-340: Digital Computation

18-441: Verification of Computer Hardware Systems

18-765: Digital Systems Testing and Testable Design

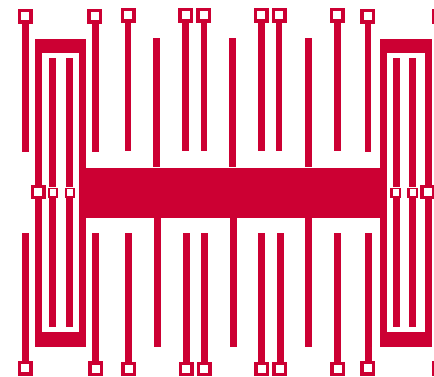
Test and Diagnosis of ICs



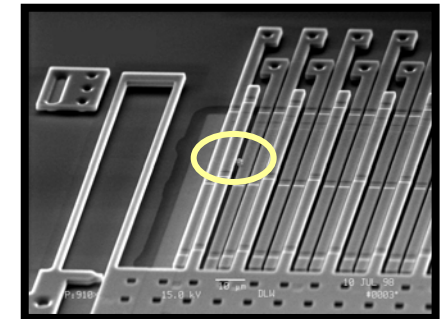
Test grading with **FA**ult **T**uple **S**IMulator

- Defect modeling
- Test methodology development
- CAD tool development
- Defect diagnosis

MEMS Test



μmechanical structure



μmechanical structure affected by a defect

- Defect modeling
- Built-in self test (BIST) design
- Test methodology development

Digital Circuit Design

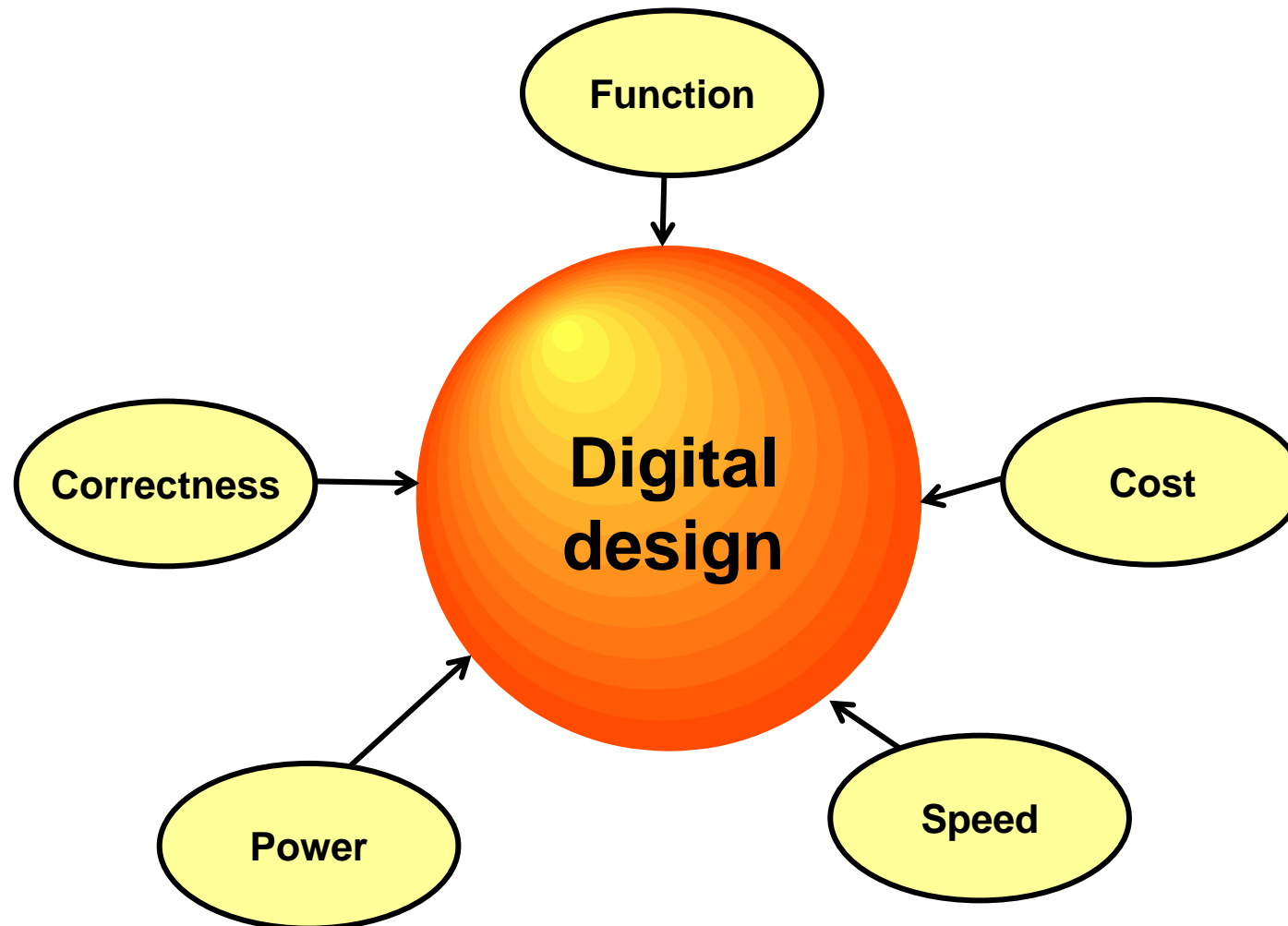
Emerging Trends in Electrical and
Computer Engineering

Shawn Blanton

Fall 2004

blanton@ece.cmu.edu

Components of Digital Design

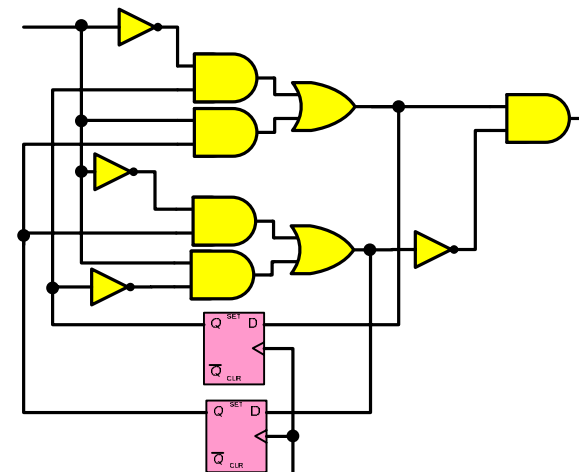
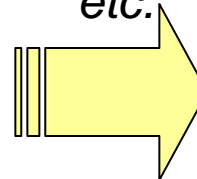


Function

- When we design a circuit to do a particular function, we assume we have primitive gates like AND, OR, *etc.*
- So we build bigger things from smaller things.
- And we have systematic methods (*i.e.*, CAD tools) for building bigger things.

<i>y1</i>	<i>y2</i>		<i>x = 0</i>	<i>x = 1</i>
0	0	A	A,0	B,0
0	1	B	B,0	C,0
1	1	C	C,0	D,1
1	0	D	D,1	A,0

K-maps
 Quine-McCluskey
 Boolean Algebra
 Synplicity
etc.



Function cont...

- But what if you wanted to build a fast, 64-bit adder?
- What about using a ripple-carry adder?
- Systematic techniques cannot handle some things we want to build.



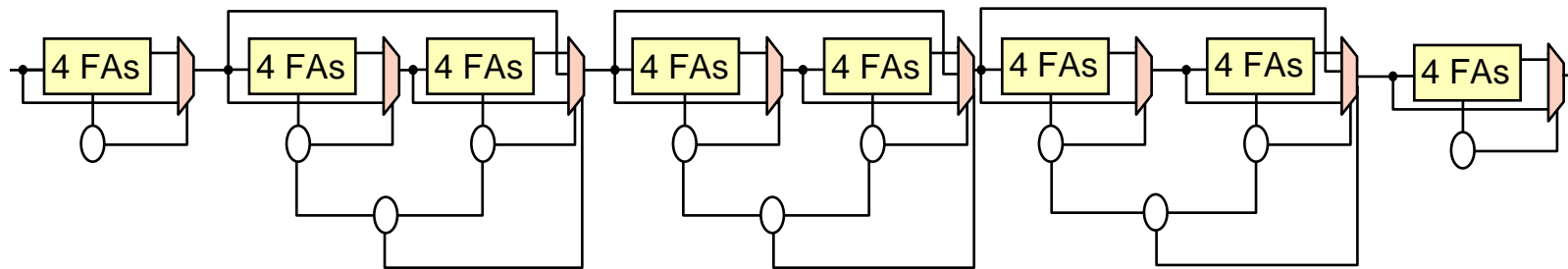
How many rows are in the truth table for a 64-bit adder?

00000000000000000000...000	0
00000000000000000000...001	1
00000000000000000000...00010	1
00000000000000000000...00011	0
00000000000000000000...00100	1
00000000000000000000...00101	1
00000000000000000000...00110	0
:	:
:	:
11111111111111111111...111	1

Function cont...

- There are many known adder architectures.
- To learn how to design an adder for your given application, you must “see” these adders and understand how they work.

32-bit carry-skip adder



- The same is true for other *data-processing* circuits: multipliers, dividers, filters, *etc.*

Customized Floating Point Unit

64-bit floating point

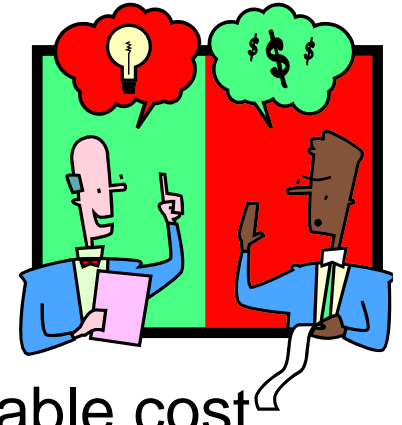


13-bit custom floating



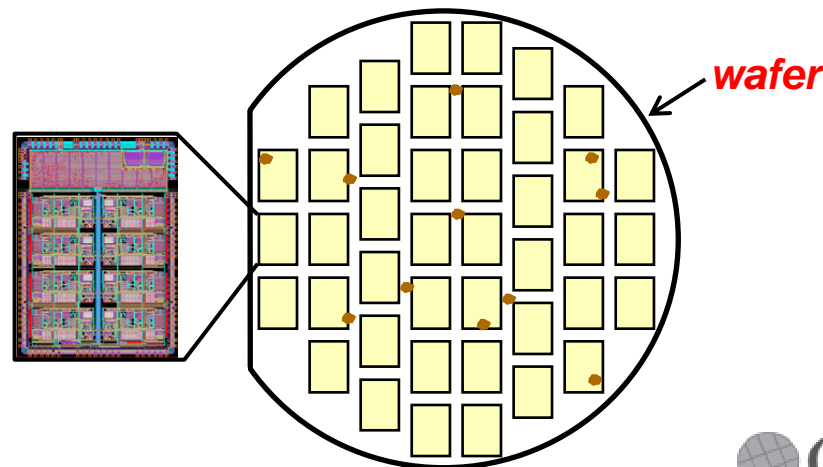
Courtesy of Prof. Rob Rutebna

Cost \$\$\$

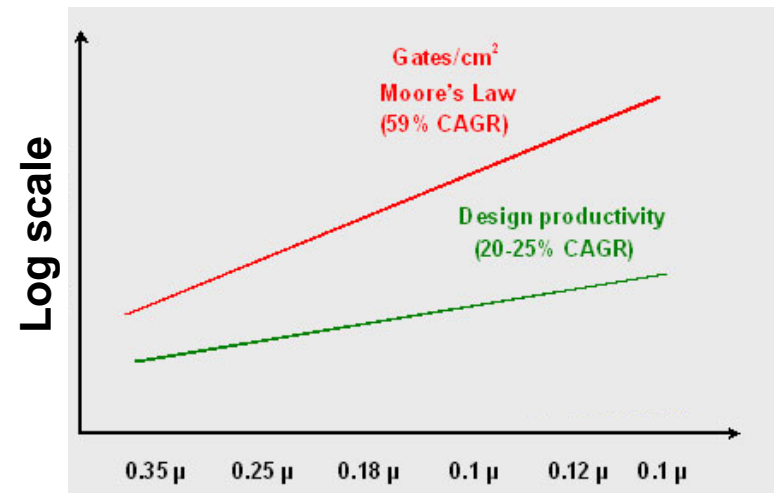


- Many ideas you may have are likely possible.
- But as engineers, it must be possible at a reasonable cost.
- One type of cost has to do with design size.
- Ideally, you want a circuit implementation to take very little “area” for a number of reasons:
 - Small circuits means more can fit onto a “wafer”.
 - Small circuits have a higher “yield”.

$$\text{Yield} = \frac{\text{good chips}}{\text{Total chips}}$$



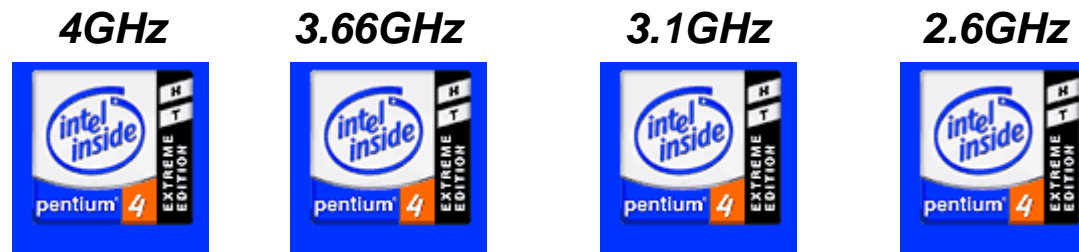
Cost \$\$\$ cont...



- The number of gates available in the same area is doubling every 18 months (“Moore’s Law”).
- Designer productivity is not increasing at the same rate. This leads to the “design gap”.
- **Solution:** Better CAD tools for design and analysis!

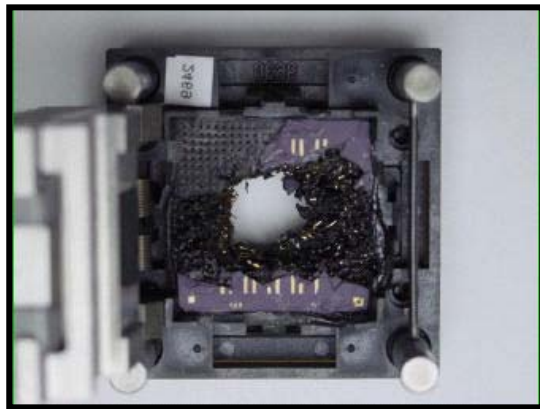
Speed

- Your new adder design may “add”, but does it add fast enough?
- Digital design requires you to understand how to accurately predict the speed of your circuit.
- Lots of factors affect speed:
 - Design structure
 - Fabrication technology
 - Environment
- Actually, you cannot really predict speed that accurately.



Power

- Power is now the number one challenge for digital circuit designers!
- Why? Many electronic systems are portable.
- Low power means longer battery life.
- High power generates lots of heat so designs must be cooled.



*What happens
when the
CPU cooler is
removed?*



www.tomshardware.de
www.tomshardware.com

Correctness

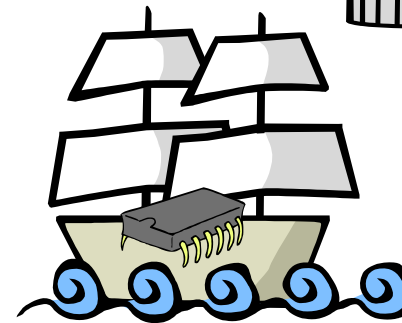
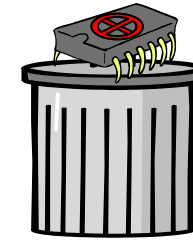
- Designers make mistakes.
- How do you find errors in a design?
- In 18-240, your method for finding mistakes is either *ad hoc* or impractical.
- You need systematic approaches that utilize CAD tools that include simulators, equivalence checkers, model checkers, *etc.*
- Big companies still make mistakes. Intel made an error designing a divider circuit. It cost Intel **\$470M**.

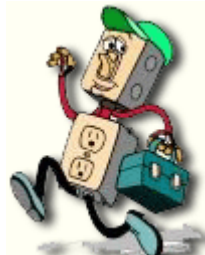
Correctness cont...

- Manufacturing is not perfect.
- How do you find imperfections in the fabricated design?
- You must test each and every chip to ensure it works.

Test and Diagnosis

- Test is a binary endeavor
 - Chip doesn't work – trash it!
 - Chip works – ship it!



- Diagnosis 
 - Why doesn't the chip work???
 - Required for silicon debug, process tuning, *etc.*

What do you test for?

- Test the chip function?
 - Portions of the chip are tested this way.
 - Too costly however for the entire chip.
- It is more cost-effective to test for the things that can **go wrong**.

What can go wrong?

One or more **defects** can occur!

- A defect can be extra or missing material or changes in material properties
 - Defects can affect wires and vias
 - Defects can affect transistors
- Defect-based test is impractical
 - Too many possible locations (billions)
 - Too many different types ($N \times$ billions)
- To keep test manageable, abstraction is necessary

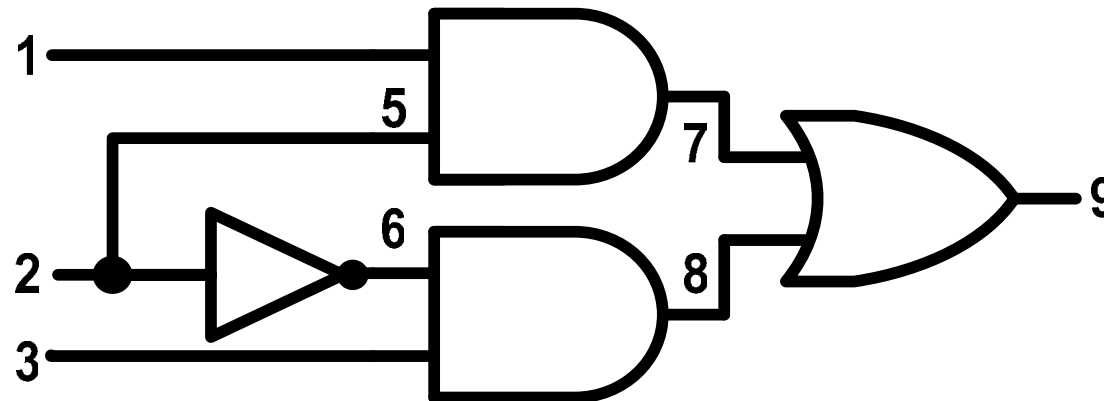
Defect Abstraction

- **Abstraction involves**
 - Moving from physical level to higher level
 - Reducing number of defects
 - Simplifying defect behavior
- **Defect abstraction \equiv fault model**

SSL Fault Model

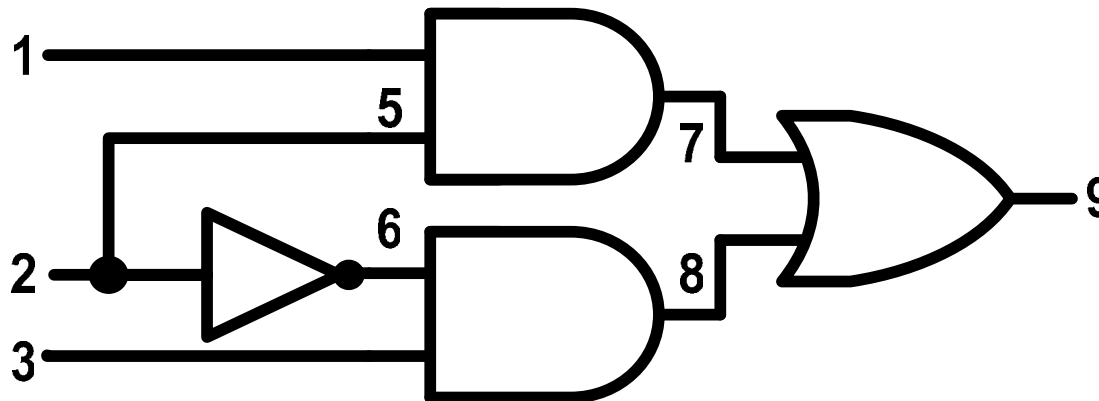
- The most widely-used abstraction is **single stuck-line** (SSL) fault model.
- First published use was for vacuum tube test in 1957 by R. Eldred.
- SSL fault model properties:
 - a gate-level model
 - assumes gates are unaffected
 - only a single logic line can be faulty
 - faulty line is permanently stuck-at 0 or 1

Stuck-at Testing



- The circuit above has 9 logical lines.
- Each line is susceptible to either a **stuck-at-0** or **stuck-at-1** fault, for a total of 18 faults.
- Must find tests that distinguish the 18 faulty circuits from the “good” circuit.

Stuck-at Testing cont'd



Test set

1. 001
2. 011
3. 100
4. 111

1 2 3	9	9/1	7/1	2/1	9/0	7/0	5/1	8/0	1/1	2/0	3/1	6/1
0 0 0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
0 0 1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
0 1 0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
0 1 1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
1 0 0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1 0 1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
1 1 0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
1 1 1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Digital Design Courses

Learn more by taking various courses in digital design.

