The Future
Predicting the Future is Always Risky

- "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
  - Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1949

- "There is no reason in the world anyone would want a computer in their home. No reason."
  - Ken Olsen, Chairman, DEC, 1977

- "640K of RAM ought to be enough for anybody."
  - Bill Gates, 1981
Future = Evolution + Revolution

● Evolution
  ■ Relatively easy to predict
  ■ Extrapolate the trends

● Revolution
  ■ A completely new technology or solution
  ■ Hard to Predict

● Paradigm Shifts can occur in both
Outline

- Evolution
  - Trends
  - Architecture
  - Languages, Compilers and Tools
- Revolution
- Crossing the Abstraction Boundaries
Evolution

- Look at the trends
  - Moore’s Law
  - Power Consumption
  - Wire Delay
  - Hardware Complexity
  - Parallelizing Compilers
  - Program Design Methodologies

- Design Drivers are different in Different Generations
The March to Multicore: Moore’s Law

The March to Multicore: Uniprocessor Performance (SPECint)

Specint2000

Prof. Saman Amarasinghe, MIT.
Power Consumption (watts)
Power Efficiency (watts/spec)
Range of a Wire in One Clock Cycle

- 400 mm² Die
- From the SIA Roadmap

Prof. Saman Amarasinghe, MIT.
DRAM Access Latency

Prof. Saman Amarasinghe, MIT.
Improvement in Automatic Parallelization

- Compiling for Instruction Level Parallelism
- Automatic Parallelizing Compilers for FORTRAN
- Prevalence of type unsafe languages and complex data structures (C, C++)
- Typesafe languages (Java, C#)
- Demand driven by Multicores?

Multicores are here
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Novel Opportunities in Multicores

- Don’t have to contend with uniprocessors
  - The era of Moore’s Law induced performance gains is over!
  - Parallel programming will be required by the masses
    - not just a few supercomputer super-users
Novel Opportunities in Multicores

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- Not your same old multiprocessor problem
  - How does going from Multiprocessors to Multicores impact programs?
  - What changed?
  - Where is the Impact?
    - Communication Bandwidth
    - Communication Latency
Communication Bandwidth

● How much data can be communicated between two cores?

● What changed?
  ■ Number of Wires
    – IO is the true bottleneck
    – On-chip wire density is very high
  ■ Clock rate
    – IO is slower than on-chip
  ■ Multiplexing
    – No sharing of pins

● Impact on programming model?
  ■ Massive data exchange is possible
  ■ Data movement is not the bottleneck
    → processor affinity not that important

10,000X

32 Giga bits/sec ~300 Tera bits/sec
Communication Latency

- How long does it take for a round trip communication?

- What changed?
  - Length of wire
    - Very short wires are faster
  - Pipeline stages
    - No multiplexing
    - On-chip is much closer
    - Bypass and Speculation?

- Impact on programming model?
  - Ultra-fast synchronization
  - Can run real-time apps on multiple cores

Impact: ~200 Cycles → ~4 cycles
Past, Present and the *Future*?

Traditional Multiprocessor

Basic Multicore
IBM Power5

Integrated Multicore
16 Tile MIT Raw

Prof. Saman Amarasinghe, MIT.
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The OO Revolution

- Object Oriented revolution did not come out of a vacuum
- Hundreds of small experimental languages
- Rely on lessons learned from lesser-known languages
  - C++ grew out of C, Simula, and other languages
  - Java grew out of C++, Eiffel, SmallTalk, Objective C, and Cedar/Mesa
- Depend on results from research community

1 J. Gosling, H. McGilton, The Java Language Environment
## Object Oriented Languages

- Ada 95
- BETA
- Boo
- C++
- C#
- ColdFusion
- Common Lisp
- COOL (Object Oriented COBOL)
- CorbaScript
- Clarion
- Corn
- D
- Dylan
- Eiffel
- F-Script
- Fortran 2003
- Gambas
- Graphtalk
- IDLscript
- incr Tcl
- J
- JADE
- Java
- Lasso
- Lava
- Lexico
- Lingo
- Modula-2
- Modula-3
- Moto
- Nemerle
- Nuva
- NetRexx
- Nuva
- Oberon (Oberon-1)
- Object REXX
- Objective-C
- Objective Caml
- Object Pascal (Delphi)
- Oz
- Perl 5
- PHP
- Pliant
- PRM
- PowerBuilder
- ABCL
- Python
- REALbasic
- Revolution
- Ruby
- Scala
- Simula
- Smalltalk
- Self
- Squeak
- Squirrel
- STOOP (Tcl extension)
- Superx++
- TADS
- Ubercode
- Visual Basic
- Visual FoxPro
- Visual Prolog
- Tcl
- ZZT-oop

Language Evolution
From FORTRAN to a few present day languages

Source: Eric Levenez
Origins of C++

Source: B. Stroustrup, The Design and Evolution of C++
“Exceptions were considered in the original design of C++, but were postponed because there wasn’t time to do a thorough job of exploring the design and implementation issues.

…

In retrospect, the greatest influence on the C++ exception handling design was the work on fault-tolerant systems started at the University of Newcastle in England by Brian Randell and his colleagues and continued in many places since.”

-- B. Stroustrup, A History of C++
Origins of Java

- Java grew out of C++, Eiffel, SmallTalk, Objective C, and Cedar/Mesa
- Example lessons learned:
  - Stumbling blocks of C++ removed (multiple inheritance, preprocessing, operator overloading, automatic coercion, etc.)
  - Pointers removed based on studies of bug injection
  - GOTO removed based on studies of usage patterns
  - Objects based on Eiffel, SmallTalk
  - Java interfaces based on Objective C protocols
  - Synchronization follows monitor and condition variable paradigm (introduced by Hoare, implemented in Cedar/Mesa)
  - Bytecode approach validated as early as UCSD P-System (‘70s)

Lesser-known precursors essential to Java’s success

Why New Programming Models and Languages?

- **Paradigm shift in architecture**
  - From sequential to multicore
  - Need a new “common machine language”

- **New application domains**
  - Streaming
  - Scripting
  - Event-driven (real-time)

- **New hardware features**
  - Transactions
  - Introspection
  - Scalar Operand Networks or Core-to-core DMA

- **New customers**
  - Mobile devices
  - The average programmer!

- **Can we achieve parallelism without burdening the programmer?**
Domain Specific Languages

● There is no single programming domain!
  ■ Many programs don’t fit the OO model (ex: scripting and streaming)

● Need to identify new programming models/domains
  ■ Develop domain specific end-to-end systems
  ■ Develop languages, tools, applications ⇒ a body of knowledge

● Stitching multiple domains together is a hard problem
  ■ A central concept in one domain may not exist in another
    – Shared memory is critical for transactions, but not available in streaming
  ■ Need conceptually simple and formally rigorous interfaces
  ■ Need integrated tools
  ■ But critical for many applications
Some programming models are inherently concurrent
- Coding them using a sequential language is...
  - Harder than using the right parallel abstraction
  - All information on inherent parallelism is lost

There are win-win situations
- Increasing the programmer productivity while extracting parallel performance
StreamIt Performance on Raw

Benchmarks

Throughput Normalized to Single Core Stream
Parallelizing Compilers: SUIF Experience

- **Automatic Parallelism is not impossible**
  - Can work well in many domains (example: ILP)

- **Automatic Parallelism for multiprocessors “almost” worked in the ‘90s**
  - SUIF compiler got the Best SPEC results by automatic parallelization

- **But…**
  - The compilers were not robust
  - Clients were impossible (performance at any cost)
  - Multiprocessor communication was expensive
  - Had to compete with improvements in sequential performance
  - The Dogfooding problem

- **Today: Programs are even harder to analyze**
  - Complex data structures
  - Complex control flow
  - Complex build process
  - Aliasing problem (type unsafe languages)
Compilers

- Compilers are critical in reducing the burden on programmers
  - Identification of data parallel loops can be easily automated, but many current systems (Brook, PeakStream) require the programmer to do it.

- Need to revive the push for automatic parallelization
  - Best case: totally automated parallelization hidden from the user
  - Worst case: simplify the task of the programmer
Tools

- A lot of progress in tools to improve programmer productivity

- Need tools to
  - Identify parallelism
  - Debug parallel code
  - Update and maintain parallel code
  - Stitch multiple domains together

- Need an “Eclipse platform for multicores”
Facilitate Evaluation and Feedback for Rapid Evolution

Language/Compiler/Tools Idea → Implementation

Evaluation

Evaluate → Performance Debugging → Functional Debugging → Develop a Program

Prof. Saman Amarasinghe, MIT.
The Dogfooding Problem
CAD Tools vs. OO Languages

● CAD Tools
  - Universally hated by the users
  - Only a few can hack it
  - Very painful to use

● Object Oriented Languages
  - User friendly
  - Universal acceptance
  - Use by ordinary programmers
  - Huge improvements in programmer productivity

● Origins
  - Developed by CAD experts
  - User community is separate

● Origins
  - Developed by PL experts
  - The compiler is always written using the language/tools
  - Rapid feedback

● High Performance Languages
  - User community is separate
  - Hard to get feedback
  - Slow evolution
Rapid Evaluation

● Extremely hard to get
  ■ Real users have no interest in flaky tools
  ■ Hard to quantify
  ■ Superficial users vs. Deep users will give different feedback
    – Fatal flaws as well as amazing uses may not come out immediately

● Need a huge, sophisticated (and expensive) infrastructure
  ■ How to get a lot of application experts to use the system?
  ■ How do you get them to become an expert?
  ■ How do you get them to use it for a long time?
  ■ How do you scientifically evaluate?
  ■ How do you get actionable feedback?

● A “Center for Evaluating Multicore Programming Environments”??
Identify, Collect, Standardize, Adopt

- Good languages/tools cannot be designed by committee

- However, you need a vibrant ecosystem of ideas

- Need a process of natural selection
  - Quantify Productivity and Performance
  - Competition between multiple teams
  - Winner(s) get to design the final language
Migrate the Dusty Deck

- Impossible to bring them to the new era automatically
  - Badly mangled, hand-optimized, impossible to analyze code
  - Automatic compilation, even with a heroic effort, cannot do anything

- Help rewrite the huge stack of dusty deck
  - Application in use
  - Source code available
  - Programmer long gone

- Getting the new program to have the same behavior is hard
  - “Word pagination problem”

- Can take advantage of many recent advances
  - Creating test cases
  - Extracting invariants
  - Failure oblivious computing
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How about Revolutions?

- What are the far-out technologies?
- Wishful Thinking?
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class of computation

foo(int x)
{
  ..
}

... we use abstractions to make this easier

convenient physical phenomenon
The Abstraction Layers Make This Easier

```c
foo(int x) { .. }
```

- **Computation**
- **Language / API**
- **Compiler / OS**
  - Fortran
- **ISA**
  - IBM 360/RISC/Transmeta
- **Micro Architecture**
- **Layout**
- **Design Style**
- **Design Rules**
  - Mead & Conway
- **Process**
- **Materials Science**
- **Physics**
A Case Against Entrenched Abstractions

foo(int x) { .. }

Computation
Language / API
Compiler / OS
ISA
Micro Architecture
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Materials Science
Physics