Recently, Intel announced a way to squeeze even more transistors onto a chip by making them each about 45 nanometers across. Yet, that tiny size did not double the number of transistors. Intel broke Moore’s Law! Turns out that the physics of making computer chips is reaching fundamental limits.

Every ten years or so Moore’s Law is pronounced dead, only to be resuscitated shortly thereafter. This time is different. Chip companies like Intel, AMD and Sun Microsystems have shifted focus to squeezing more and more processors, or “cores” (the part of the processor that does most of the work) onto a chip. First they fit two, then four, and now eight. At this rate, it’s quite possible that within ten years your new laptop will have hundreds, thousands, or even millions of processors in it. As computer scientists, we’ll have lots of work to do, figuring out how to use all of those processors.

Is Moore’s Law dead? Or has it just been refactored? If Mark Twain were giving the eulogy, he’d probably reuse (as computer scientists love to do) his infamous reply to his obituary, with the answer, “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”
Faculty Update

Dr. Mirela Damian’s research investigates wireless ad hoc networks, particularly cooperative strategies for topology control, reducing interference, energy consumption, and extending network lifetime. Although Dr. Damian’s interest in wireless ad hoc networks is recent, she has already contributed several papers in major conferences in the field.

Dr. Vijay Gohlot presented a paper titled “A Formalized and Validated Execution Table Model of the SIP-Based Presence Protocol for Mobile Applications” at the 45th ACM South South Conference. Graduate student and ARCES researcher team member Anush Hayrapetyan is the author of the paper. The presented work was done as part of the ARCES project. Dr. Vijay Gohlot also gave a tutorial session titled “Systems Modeling and Analysis Using Colonel Petri Nets” at the conference. The tutorial was prepared with help from the ARCES team and Prof. Kurt Jensen of Aarhus University, Denmark. The ACM South South Conference is the oldest continuously running annual conference of the ACM.

Dr. Frank Klassner has been researching the role of LEGO robotics in artificial intelligence and computer science education under the auspices of a half million dollar NSF grant. This summer he will direct a “Google Summer of Code” Project.

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