



CompSci.111

History of Computing

Assoc. Prof. Ian Watson

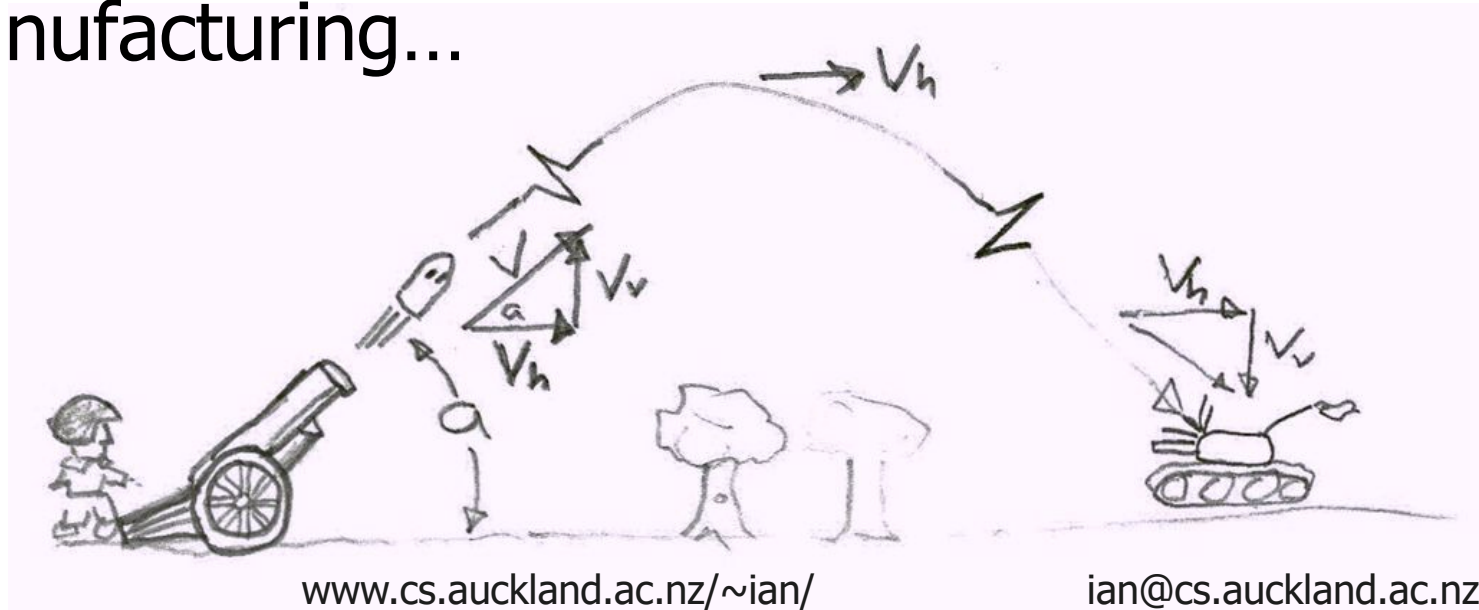


Why?

- Computers are essential to modern life
- Many of the discoveries and decisions made by the pioneers still underpin modern computers
- As a CS student you should be familiar with CS history
- There are a lot of myths and misinformation about CS history

The need for computation

- Prior to the industrial revolution there was little need for computation
- Celestial navigation tables
- Artillery firing tables
- Engineering, architecture, insurance, science, manufacturing...

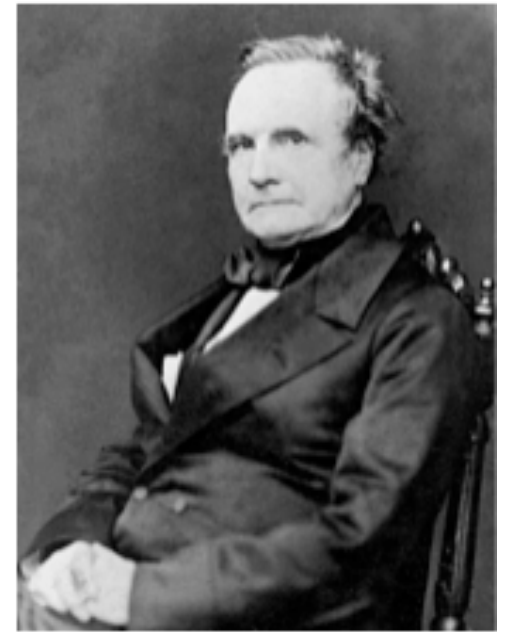


Preparing a table



- 2 *computers* perform the calculations
- A *comparator* checks their results
- If they agree the table is given to a printer
- The printer typesets the table and prints it
- The comparator checks the printed table against the hand made table

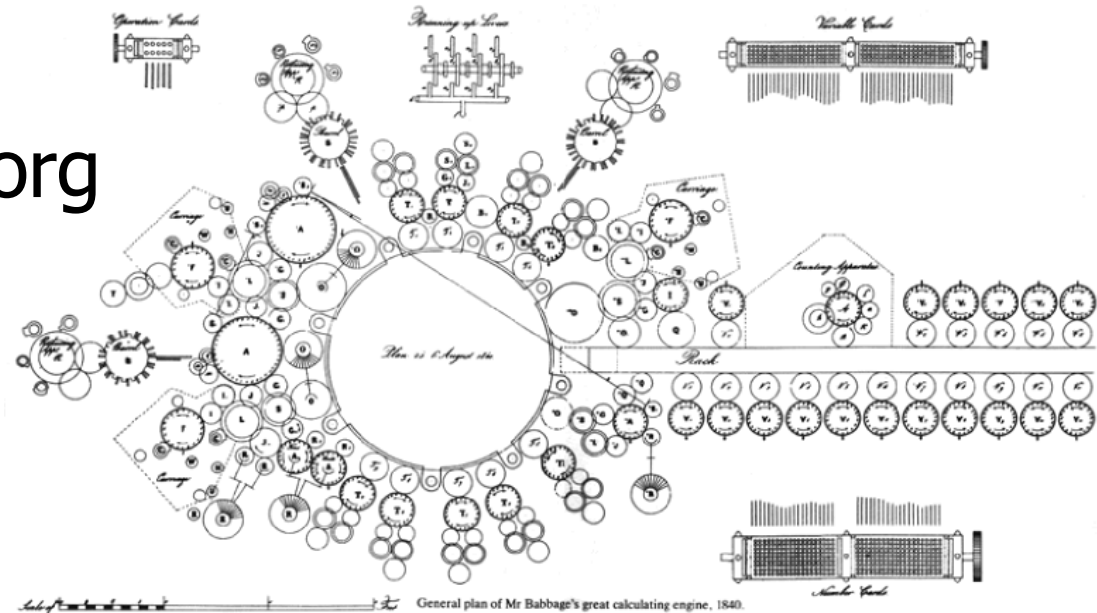
Charles Babbage



- Victorian mathematician and inventor
- *"by God, I wish these tables could be made by steam."*
- Decide to build a calculating engine that would use the method of finite differences to solve polynomial equations

The Analytical Engine

- Architecture similar to a modern computer
- Could solve any problem, not just polynomials
- Could be programmed
- Supported branches, conditionals and loops
- Never built
- www.plan28.org



Ada Lovelace

- Lady Ada Lovelace hypothesised in 1842 that Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine could manipulate symbols other than numbers and hence perhaps could compose music or poems
- The programming language ADA is named after her
- But she did not believe the Engine could think for itself

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_lovelace



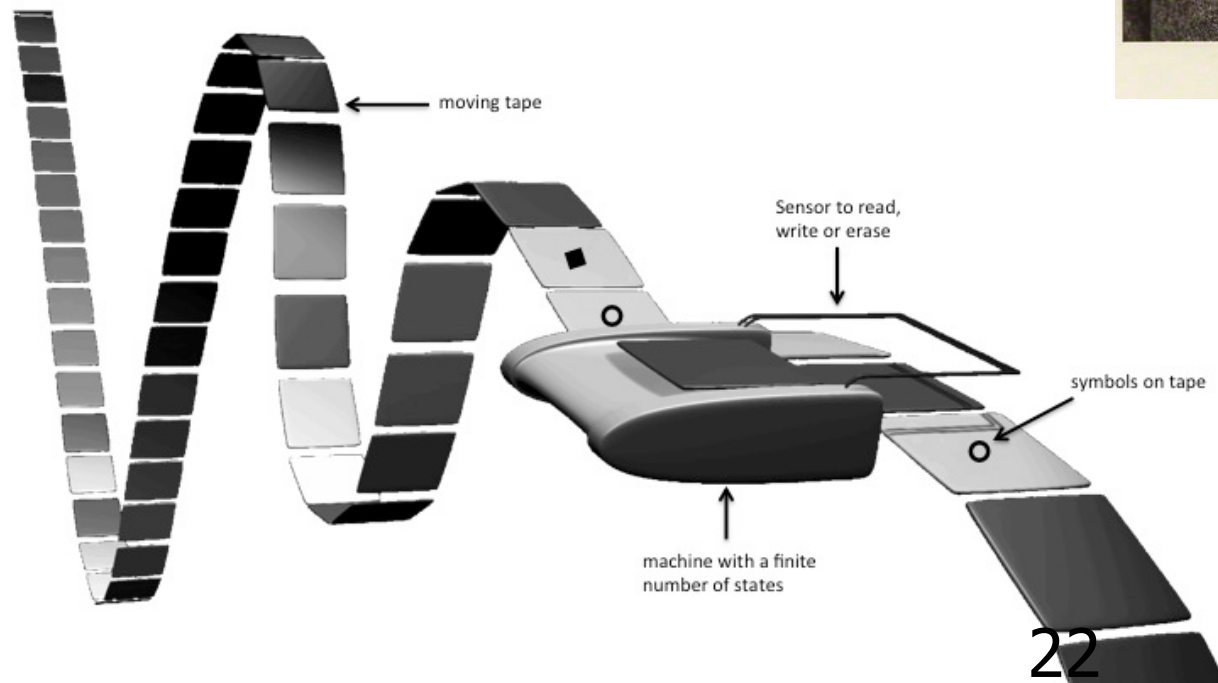
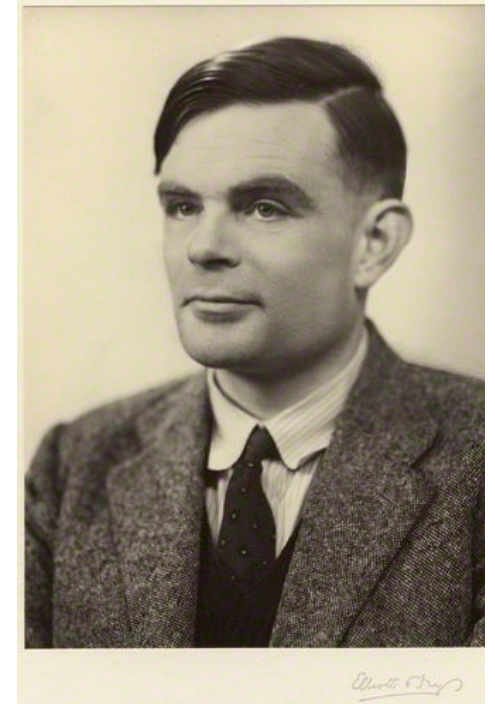


The Universal Machine

- Not much happened until WWII
- BIGGER need for computation
- Artillery firing tables
- Aerospace design
- Cryptography
- ...

The Turing Machine

- Alan Turing, 1936
- A simple (hypothetical) computing machine
- Could solve any problem for which a program could be written
- The basis of all modern computers





The Universal Machine

- An algorithm describes how to solve an individual decision problem
- At this time computers were people
- Turing imagined a hypothetical factory filled with floor upon floor, rows upon rows of hundreds upon hundreds of computers
- each using an algorithm to solve a particular decision problem
- Such a factory could in theory solve the decision problem for all conceivable problems
- This was the ***universal machine***

Watch the video: <http://vimeo.com/33559758>

Colossus

- 1943 First programmable digital computer - Colossus
- 10 machines built for Bletchley Park, England to crack German High Command's Lorenz code
- Designed by Tommy Flowers
- 1,500 valves (vacuum tubes)
- TOP SECRET until 1970's
- ENIAC in 1945 was publicised as the "first computer"



Lorenz machine



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The Stored Program Computer

■ 1943: Colossus Mark 1





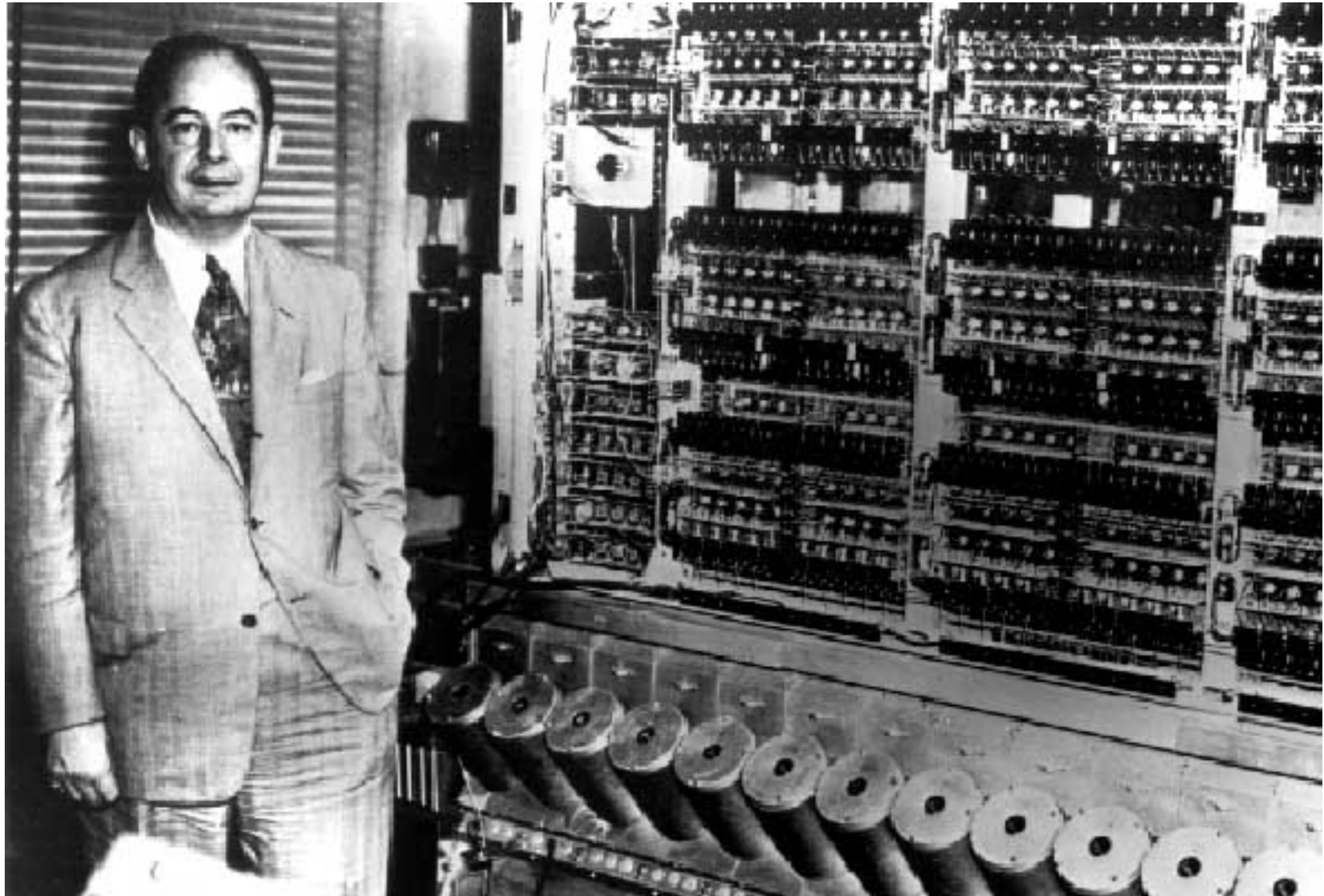
The Stored Program Computer

1945: John von Neumann

- Wrote a report called, *First Draft of a Report on EDVAC*, on the stored program concept,

The basic structure proposed in the draft became known as the “von Neumann machine” (or model)

- a **memory**, containing instructions and data
- a **processing unit**, for performing arithmetic and logical operations
- a **control unit**, for interpreting instructions
- **input/output (I/O) devices**



John von Neumann (1903-1957) with the ENIAC



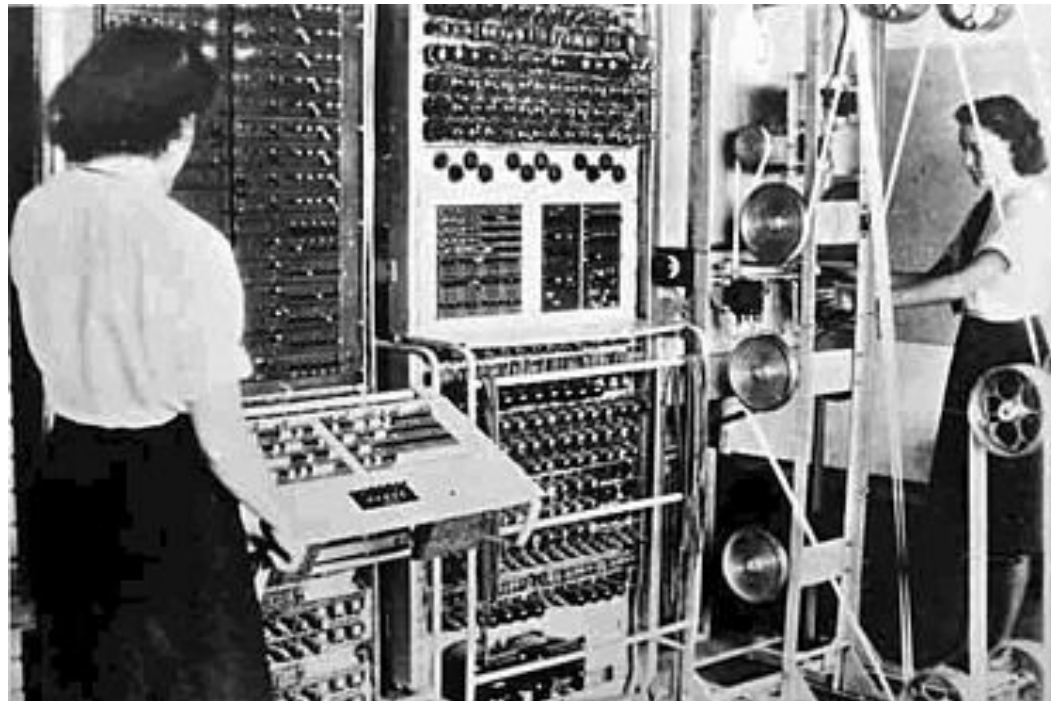
Early Computers

- Babbage's Analytical Engine (1837)
 - Never built, decimal, mechanical, programmable via punch cards
- Universal Turing Machine (1936)
 - Theoretical, binary, programmable – the basis of all computers

Early Computers

- Colossus (1943)

- Binary, electronic, programmable patch cables and switches

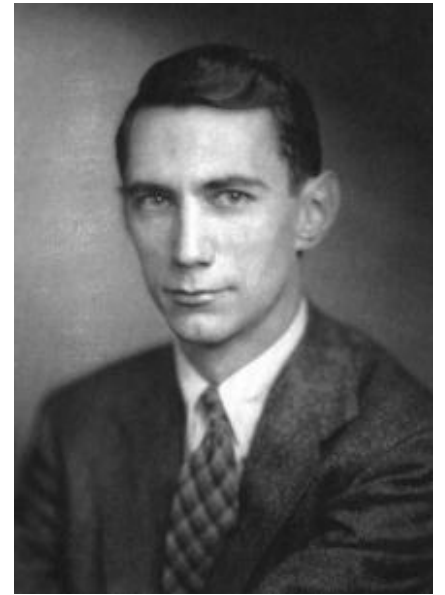


Early Computers

- ENIAC (1946)
 - Decimal, electronic, programmable patch cables and switches



Claude Shannon



- engineering and maths graduate
- 1938 his MSc "A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits" showed that electrical switches could implement boolean algebra and binary arithmetic
- The most influential MSc thesis in history!
- He invented digital logic, his method replaced the ad hoc methods used before
- Worked on cryptography during WWII
- Then pioneered the study of information theory

Watch the video: <http://go.shr.lc/1oodYtP>

The Mother of All Demos

- Doug Englebart established the Augmentation Research Centre at SRI
- Invented the mouse, bit mapped graphical displays, a collaborative networking environment, video conferencing and hypertext (derived from Vannevar Bush's Memex)
- On Dec 9 1968 he gave "*The Mother of all Demos*" to an audience in San Francisco
- Watch the demo <http://go.shr.lc/1nYcExL>





The Stanford AI Lab

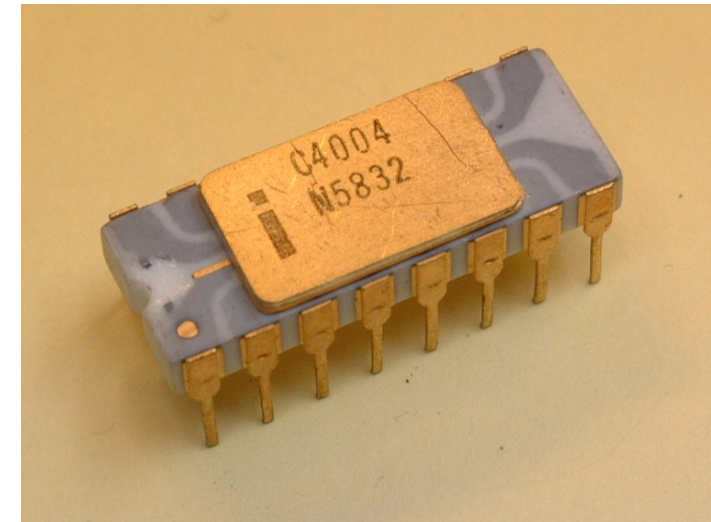
- John McCarthy founded SAIL in 1968
- He coined "Artificial Intelligence"
- Englebart wanted to "augment" human's
McCarthy wanted to replace them
- McCarthy helped design UNIX at Bell Labs
and believed computing power would
become a utility like electricity
- People at SAIL developed A* used in your GPS
satnav for route planning
- Other SAIL researchers pioneered robotics (Shakey)



The first microprocessor

■ Intel

- Formed 1968
- Gordon Moore
- C4004 released 1971
- 8080 released in 1974
- First micro processors
- Entire CPU in a single chip



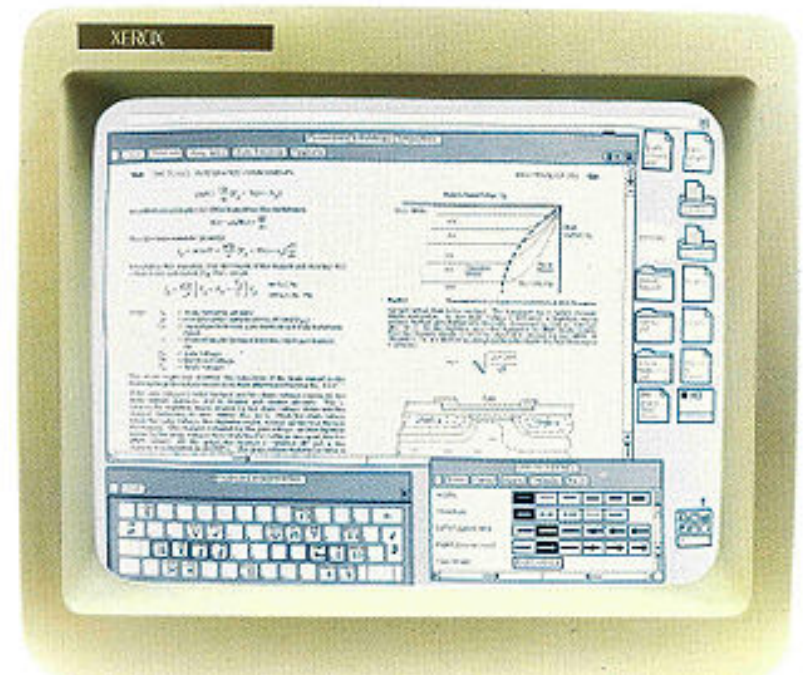
Intel C 4004
cpu-zone.com

■ Moore's Law

- Coined in 1965: Predicts number of components in integrated circuits will double every year
- Revised in 1975: doubles every two years
- Revised in 2010: doubles every 2 ½ years
- Exercise: Compute your PC/laptop specs Moor's law

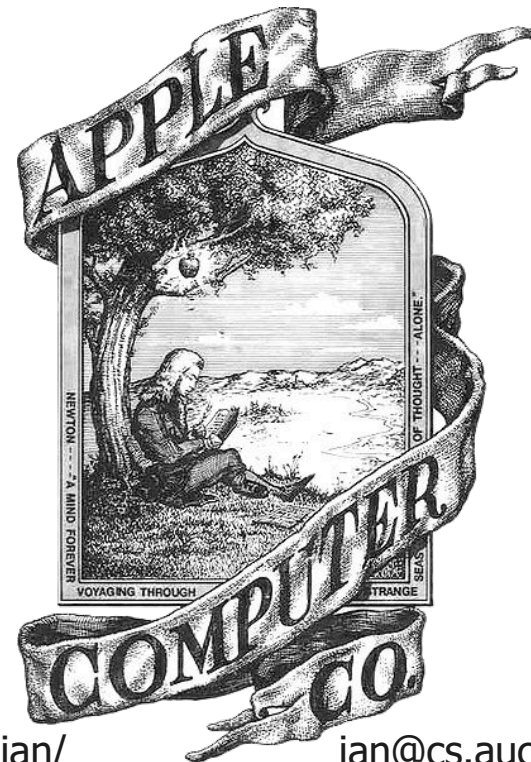
Xerox PARC

- Interested in the “office of the future”
- Opened a research centre on the US West Coast removed from head office
- They invented:
 - The GUI
 - WISWYG word processing
 - Ethernet
 - Postscript
 - The laser printer
 - Object oriented programming
 - The personal computer
- They commercialised none of it!!!



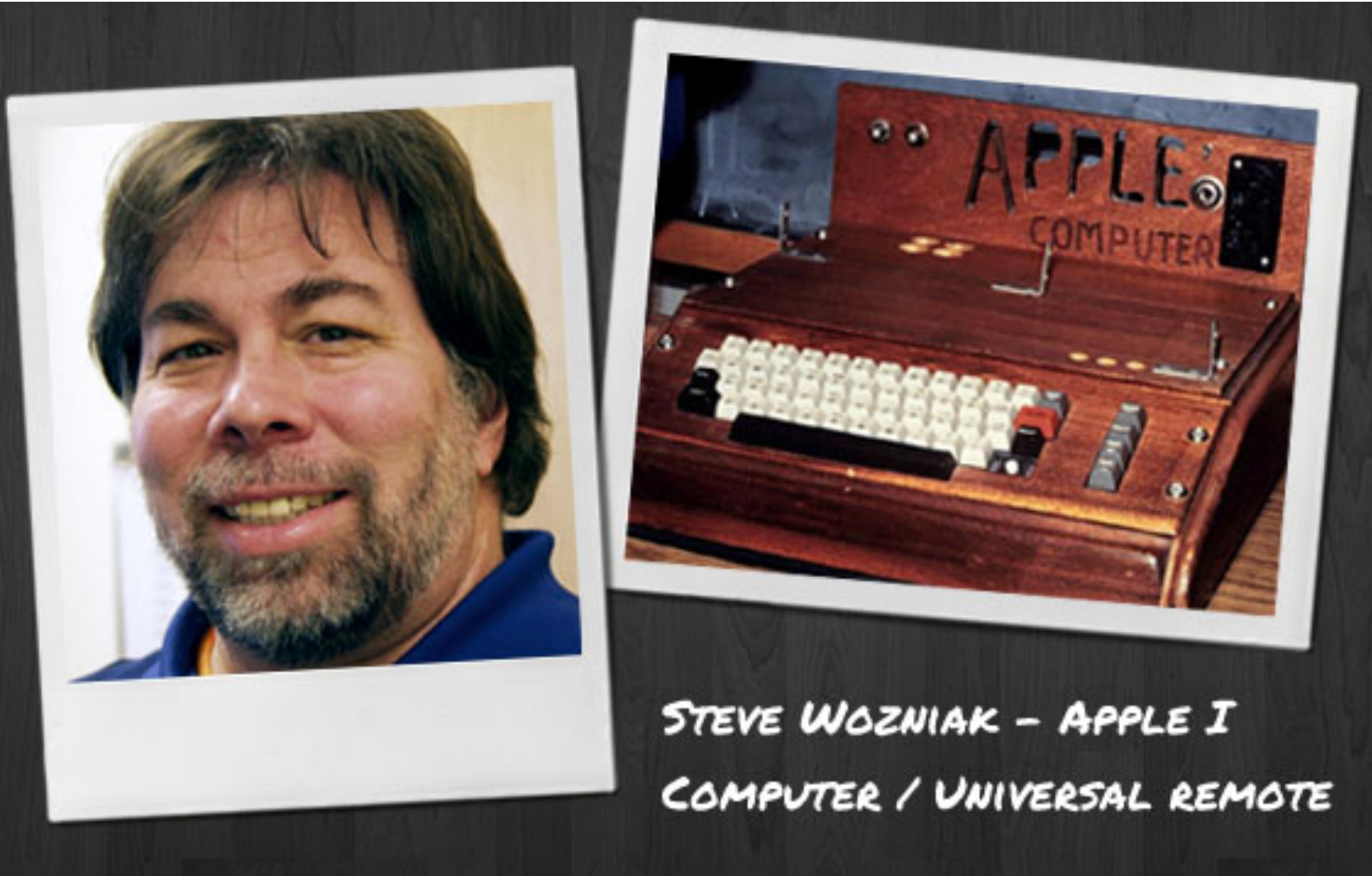
Apple

- Two friends Steve “Woz” Wozniak and Steve Jobs started by building a selling a device for phone phreaking (hacking)
- In 1976 Woz built the Apple I and they started selling them as a kit for \$666.66
- BYO keyboard and home TV
- The Apple II was released in 1977
- Sold for 15 years!





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Predicting the future?

So we went to Atari and said 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and so what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary and we'll come work for you.' And they said "No."

So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, "Hey, we don't need you. You haven't even made it through college yet."

Steve Jobs, talking about the Apple II



Visicalc

Dan Bricklin, Bob
Frankston, 1979

1st Killer application

Spreadsheet

Proved necessity of
owning an Apple II

Apple captured 50% of
market by 1980

C11 (L) TOTAL					C1
					25
	A	B	C	D	
1	ITEM	NO.	UNIT	COST	
2	---	---	---	---	
3	MUCK RAKE	43	12.95	556.85	
4	BUZZ CUT	15	6.75	101.25	
5	TOE TONER	250	49.95	12487.50	
6	EYE SNUFF	2	4.95	9.90	
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The IBM PC

- In 1981 IBM launched the PC to compete with the Apple II
- Invited Microsoft to make its operating system
- Licensed MSDOS from Microsoft
- IBM allowed others to “clone” the PCs hardware
- Compaq, HP and others quickly flooded the market

“My own IBM computer. Imagine that!”



The Macintosh



- Steve Jobs was working on the Lisa a successor to the Apple II
- He visited Xerox PARC and was shown the Star with its GUI
- Started working on a secret project that would become the Macintosh
- Released on January 1984
- 1st mass-market computer with a GUI and mouse