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# The Unprecedented Power of Collaborative Research

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# Outline

- ◆ **The Economic/Research Landscape ~1982**
- ◆ **The Case for Collaborative Pre-Competitive Research:**
  - ❖ **SRC Model**
- ◆ **The Impact of Pre-competitive Research**
- ◆ **Research Needs Assessment: The International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors**
- ◆ **Citation Studies on R&D Pipeline Latency**
  - ❖ **Basic Research Life Cycles in Technology**
- ◆ **How might we collaborate in pre-competitive research for future memory technologies?**



## 1950-1980: I will do the research myself!

- ◆ Major semiconductor companies often conducted fundamental research internally
  - ❖ Costly facilities
  - ❖ Significant duplication due to restrictions on cross-industry sharing
  - ❖ Ineffective value extraction
  - ❖ We weren't close to fundamental physical limits for scaling

Economics forced a change in this paradigm



# Economic Landscape in 1982

## ◆ The Recession of 1980-1982

- ❖ the most severe and the most significant in terms of economic impact of the post-World War II recessions.

### U.S. Unemployment Rates Month-by-Month, 1982

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1982	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.8	9.8	10.1	10.4	10.8	10.8

↑  
Sept. 2009

↑  
SRC formed

### Gross Private Domestic Investment in the U.S., 1982

Quarter	Investment Purchases (Billions \$ 1972)
1982I	204.7
1982II	200.4
1982III	194.3
1982IV	177.8

Source: Economic Reports of the President, 1981, 1983 & 1984.

# Semiconductor Landscape in 1982



256 Kbit DRAM in production  
2  $\mu\text{m}$  minimum features



64 Kbit UV-EPROM in production  
No flash memory as we know it today yet exists



**SRC 1982 challenges:**  
64 Mbit DRAM  
0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  minimum features

# Vision (circa 1982):

- ◆ “It is doubtful that one can scale the device dimensions to below 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and gain any advantage in circuit performance because of several **basic limitations**“

Proc. IEEE (1983): *A systems approach to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  NMOS* by M.P. Lepselter, D.S. Alles, H. J. Levinstein, **G. E. Smith** (2009 Nobel Prize Recipient), H. A. Watson

- ◆ “MOS gate lengths of about **0.25 micrometer** are the practical scaling limit” (1<sup>st</sup> SRC Annual Report–1984)
  - ❖ The SRC 0.25 micrometer CMOS research thrust is centered at Cornell University, with contributing projects at Wisconsin, Illinois, Stanford, Colorado State, Arizona, Yale, and Notre Dame

**Table 3** Evolution of the Silicon MOS Random Access Memory (RAM) (1969–1988)

Disclosure Dates <sup>a</sup>	Authors-Inventors Development Team	Institutions or Locations <sup>b</sup>	Memory Density (bit/chip)	Device and Technology <sup>c</sup>	Reduction to Practice <sup>d</sup>	Ref.
1985	IBM Essex Junction		1M	DRAM NMOS 1T2d SAMOS	Prod	[154]
1985	ATT, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Toshiba		1M	DRAM NMOS 1T2d	Eng	[154]
1985	TI		1M	DRAM NMOS 1T3d trench-C	Eng	[154]
1985	IBM E. Fiskill, Yorktown Ht		64k-4M	DRAM PMOS 1T3d trench-C	Lab	[169]
1985	Hitachi, Toshiba, NEC		4M	DRAM NMOS 1t3d trench-C	Lab	[170]
1985	Chatterjee <i>et al.</i>	TI	4M	DRAM NMOS 1T3d > 1 $\mu\text{m}$ TCT	Lab	[173]
1985	IBM Research	IBM	16M	DRAM NMOS 1T2d 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$ EB	Est	[198]
1986	IBM-3090	IBM	1M	DRAM NMOS 1T2d SAMOS	Prod	[154]
1986	MicroVAX-2 Toshiba/Chrislin		1M	DRAM NMOS 16MB/card	Prod	[154]
1988	Matsushita, Toshiba, Hitachi		16M	DRAM CMOS 1T3d trench-C	Eng	[177]–[179]
1995	SRC University Research		64M	DRAM CMOS 1T3d 0.25 $\mu\text{m}$	Est	[130]

CT Sah, *Proc. IEEE* (1988)

# The iPod was un-imaginable circa 1980

Best available storage technology in 1976: IBM 3350

2006



iPod(5G)  
80GB

126 IBM 3350 units needed!

**\$9,000,000 !!!**  
in 1976 dollars  
(storage only)



**Do Basic Research and Applications/Markets will follow!**



## How can industry sustain its science base and technical infrastructure?

- ◆ Acquire smaller companies
- ◆ Depend on government-funded research
- ◆ Develop internal basic research infrastructure
- ◆ Invest in research contracting organizations
- ◆ Collaborate with competitors to fund stand-alone research organizations
- ◆ Collaborate with competitors to fund relevant research in universities (The SRC model)





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# The Case for Collaborative Research

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**27 Years of Semiconductor Research Corporation**



## 1982- current: “Managed Research”

- ◆ The Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC) was established in 1982 as a consortium of semiconductor companies to manage high priority university research
  - ❖ Concept of **pre-competitive research** defined
    - Shared resource, e.g. funding, technical directions etc.
  - ❖ Later, SRC emphasized enhanced interaction with government agencies to focus basic research
  - ❖ Concept of Needs Statements led to global collaboration, e.g.:
    - **National Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors**, *which later became:*
      - **International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors**



# SRC's "Founding Fathers"

Erich Bloch, **IBM** vice president  
Director of the National Science Foundation,  
Recipient of the National Medal of Technology



Robert Noyce, "the Mayor of Silicon Valley", co-founder of **Intel** and co-inventor of the integrated circuit.



Jack Kilby, Nobel Prize Laureate for the invention of the integrated circuit at **TI**



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PIONEERS IN  
COLLABORATIVE  
RESEARCH®

**Pre-Competitive Research by Industry and Consortia  
Enables Future Business Opportunities**

## **Examples of the Impact of 1980's Basic Research on Products Widely Used Today**

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**Basic research conducted in the 1980s resulted in remarkable  
changes in society today**



# SRC-supported Research Helped to Break the 0.1 $\mu\text{m}$ Barrier (**FET**)

## *Precise Control of Atoms in Semiconductor Materials*

- ◆ To make microchips with hundreds of millions and even billions transistors, it is critical to precisely control positions of impurity atoms and atom-size defects in semiconductor materials
- ◆ A complete understanding was developed in 1981-1989 as result of basic research by Prof. Plummer's group at Stanford under support of **SRC** and U.S. government
- ◆ This basic research has enabled shrinking the critical dimensions of devices on chip to 10-100 nanometers and let to production of e.g.
  - ❖ Micron 2 Gbit memory chip
  - ❖ Intel® Pentium®
  - ❖ AMD Athlon™





# SRC-supported Research Helped to Break the 0.1 $\mu\text{m}$ Barrier (FG/Flash)

*Hot-electron injection in thin films of insulators*

To make a reliable and small FLASH memory with **very high capacity**, it was necessary to understand the physics of hot-electron injection in thin films of insulators

The physics of hot-electron injection in thin insulator films was understood in 1984-1990 from basic research by Prof. Hu's group at Berkeley supported by SRC and U.S. government



This basic research has enabled today's digital cameras, pocket memory sticks, iPod nano etc.





## Nobel Prizes in Physics for Industrial Research in Electronics (Selected Examples)

### Basic Industrial Research Enables Business Opportunities

<b>1956</b>	Shockley Bardeen Brattain	<b>AT&amp;T</b>	<i>Semiconductor transistor</i>
<b>1973</b>	Esaki	<b>Sony</b> (Tokyo Telecom Eng) <b>IBM</b>	<i>Semiconductor Tunnel Diodes</i>
<b>2000</b>	Kilby	<b>Texas Instruments</b>	<i>Semiconductor Integrated Circuit</i>
<b>2009</b>	Boyle Smith	<b>AT&amp;T</b>	<i>Imaging semiconductor circuit – the CCD sensor</i>
<b>201*</b>	???		<i>FLASH memory?</i> <i>Advanced Semiconductor Memory?</i>



# Environmental requirements for successful collaborative research

- ◆ Growth-oriented industry
- ◆ Sufficient industry revenue base to support research
- ◆ Common/congruent technical interests
- ◆ “Can-do” attitude of industry participants to transform pre-competitive research into competitive advantage
- ◆ Benign government policies with respect to pre-competitive research collaboration





# SRC: A “Virtual” Global Laboratory

## Agility by Structure

- ◆ **Research conducted at ~100+ universities throughout the world**
  - ❖ Employ best current experts anywhere in the world
  - ❖ Over 40% of research performers are new in 5-year time horizon
  - ❖ ~ 1/3 of projects turned over every year
  - ❖ No permanent research staff
- ◆ **Programs can be started, adjusted and/or stopped quickly**
  - ❖ Each project reviewed annually by member companies
  - ❖ Allows for rapidly changing needs of member companies
- ◆ **No capital costs**
- ◆ **Minimum overhead costs (best of any consortia in the world)**



# SRC Research Management Methodology

- ◆ Member-driven creation of *needs document*
- ◆ Request and submission of *white papers*
- ◆ Member review and *selection* to seek *proposals*
- ◆ Request for *proposals*
- ◆ Member review and *selection of proposals* to fund
- ◆ Internal SRC Research Management Committee review
- ◆ *Three-year contract* start (Typical) of core programs and research customization projects (RCP) selected by individual companies
- ◆ *Annual member reviews* of progress
- ◆ Submission of *reports and “deliverables”* by researchers



# Lessons Learned About Collaborative Research

- 1. Industry can change technical directions/business model quickly; consortia must be agile; e.g., transitions from IDM to fables by many companies**
- 2. A company can speak with many voices; consortia need to work with top-management to the extent possible**
- 3. Don't over-manage university research for in so doing creativity could be limited; knowledge and learning is their forte'**
- 4. Enter co-sponsorship with other entities only when adequate assurances that the integrity of the research program and member interests are safe-guarded.**
- 5. Consortia must be able to quantify the value of return to members on their investments**



# Lesson Learned About Collaborative Research

- 6. The resolution of pre-existing background intellectual property issues is perpetual, but very important in order for industry to utilize research results**
- 7. The importance of knowledge transfer to members cannot be overemphasized**
- 8. Use the time of member advisory boards wisely; they have day jobs!**
- 9. Control operating expenses for they are in direct conflict with maximizing member leverage**
- 10. Recruiting new members is a way of life for a consortium; the industry landscape constantly changes**
- 11. The ability of a collaborative program to generate critical breakthroughs cannot be over-estimated**



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The power of setting goals

# International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors

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**Collaborative Research Management Requires Strategic Planning and Goal Setting**



# ITRS Origins

- ◆ 1983-1994: SRC announces ten year research goals
- ◆ 1990: SRC leadership in establishing NACS resulting in MICRO TECH 2000 for 0.12 micrometer semiconductor technology by 2000
- ◆ 1992: National Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors effort led by SRC and SIA to define industry five-year goals
- ◆ 1994: NTRS update and extension of horizon to fifteen years
- ◆ 1998: Roadmap is internationalized and becomes the International Roadmap for Semiconductors (ITRS)
- ◆ Two year major ITRS updates implemented

# ITRS Emerging Research Devices Chapter

- ◆ Assess and details the potential of emerging nanoelectronic devices
- ◆ In 2001-2009 ERD affirmed that no currently proposed device approach to “post CMOS” logic is a likely candidate to continue scaling of information processing much beyond that attainable by CMOS.
- ◆ **On the other hand, the assessment for emerging memory device concepts was more encouraging**
  - ❖ **Several Emerging Memory Technologies Show Promise**
    - *Some were addressed in this Forum*



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## Estimates of R&D Pipeline Latency for the Semiconductor Industry

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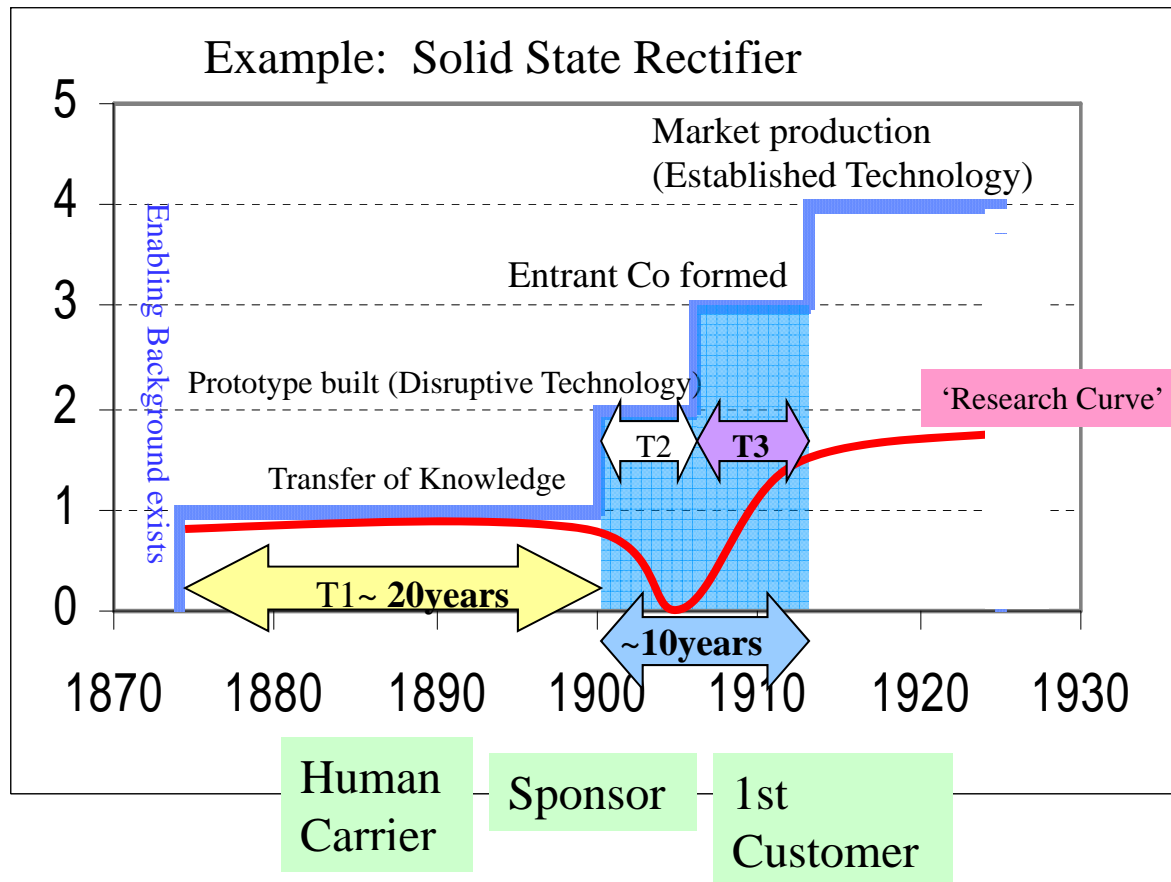
- ◆ A brief review of R&D cycle times for classical electronic technologies
- ◆ Selected recent technology cycle times
- ◆ The case for continuous re-invention of semiconductor technologies

Message: There is ample time for pre-competitive research prior to marketplace competition





# Time Gaps



## Solid State Diode

T1 26 (1874-1900)

T2 7 (1900-1907)

T3 6 (1907-1913)

*Learning Period 13 years*

## Vacuum Tube

T1 20 (1884-1904)

T2 9 (1904-1913)

T3 6 (1913-1919)

*Learning Period 15 years*

## Transistor

T1 25 (1923-1948)

T2 6 (1948-1954)

T3 5 (1954-1959)

*Learning period 11 years*

## Integrated Circuit

T1 17 (1942-1959)

T2 3 (1959-1961)

T3 5 (1961-1966)

*Learning Period 8 years*



# Study of of R&D Latency for a few Semiconductor Technologies

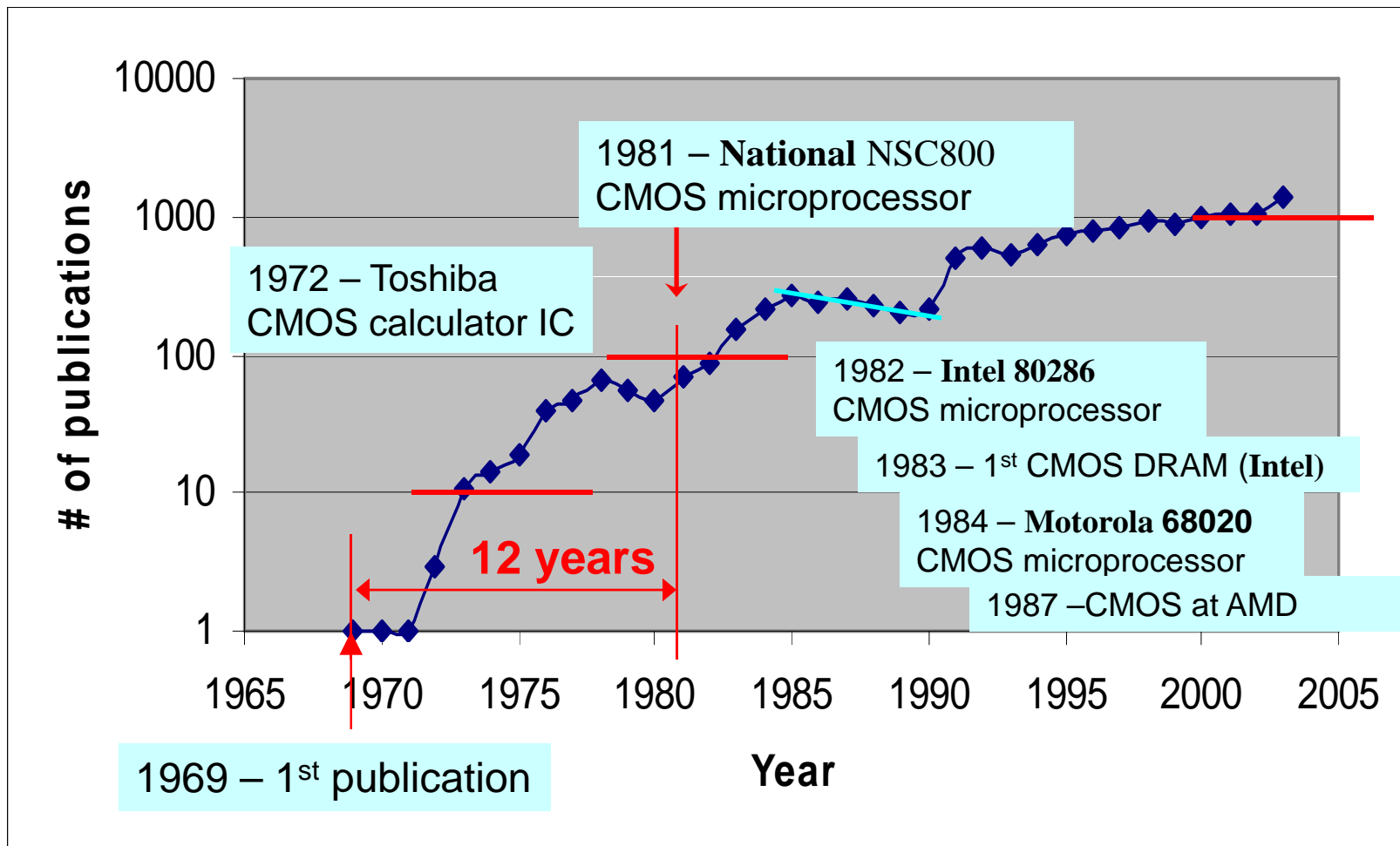
- CMOS transistor
- Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)
- Copper Interconnect
- 193 nm photoresist
- Magnetic Random-Access Memory (RAM)

**Method.** We used the following parameters:

- 1) The first publication on a given technology that appeared in the **Science Citation Index** database
- 2) The number of refereed articles in technical journals by year (**Science Citation Index** database)
- 3) The year of first production for a given technology

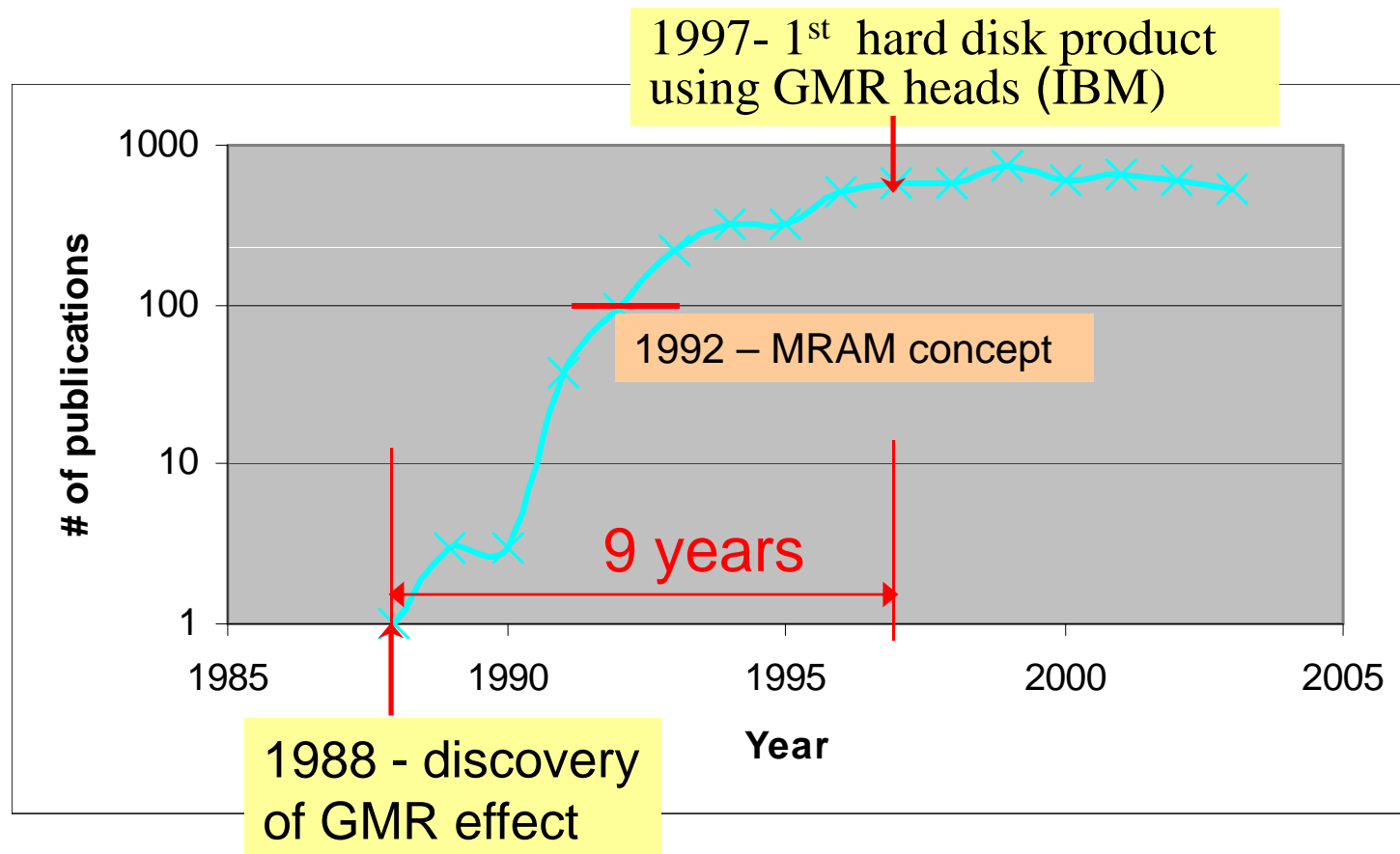


# CMOS



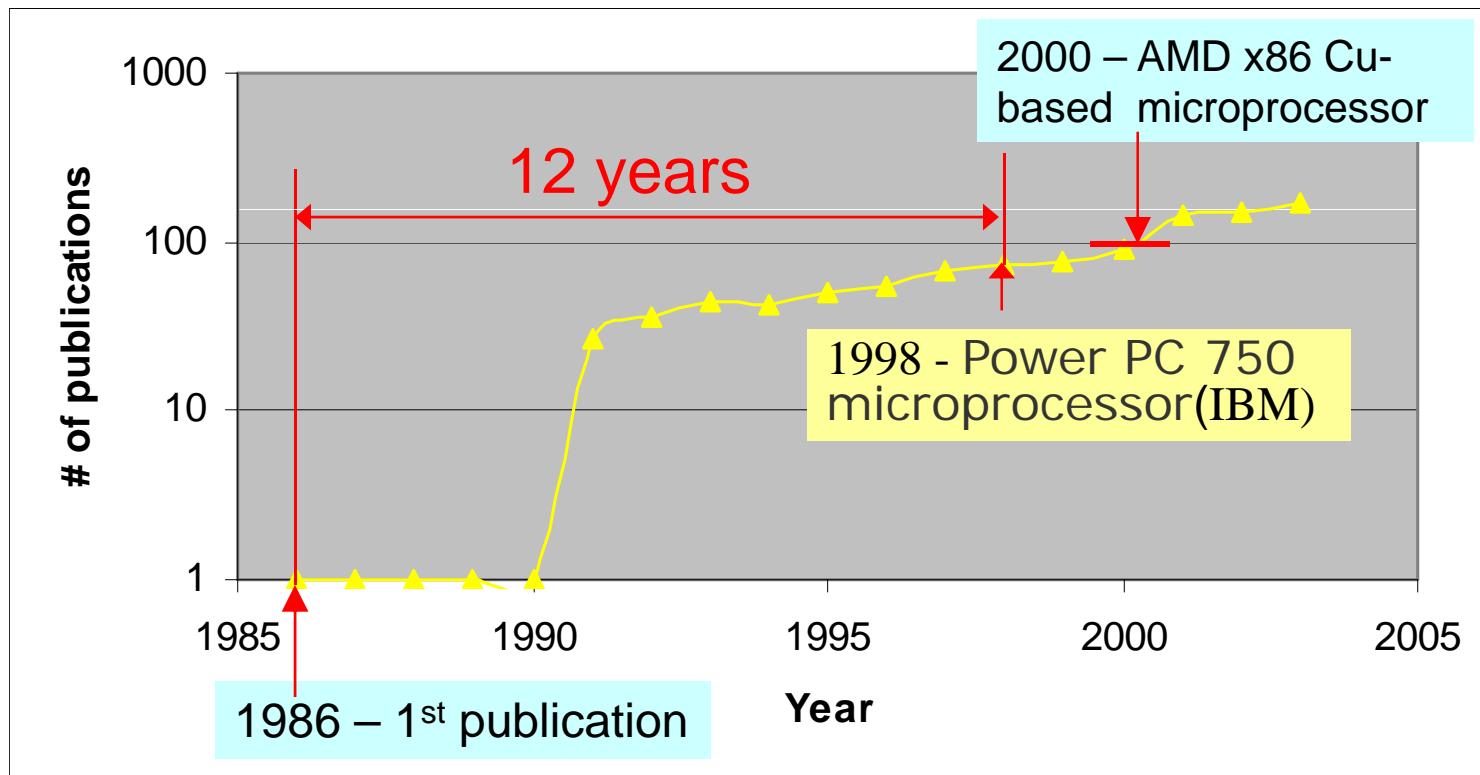


# Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)



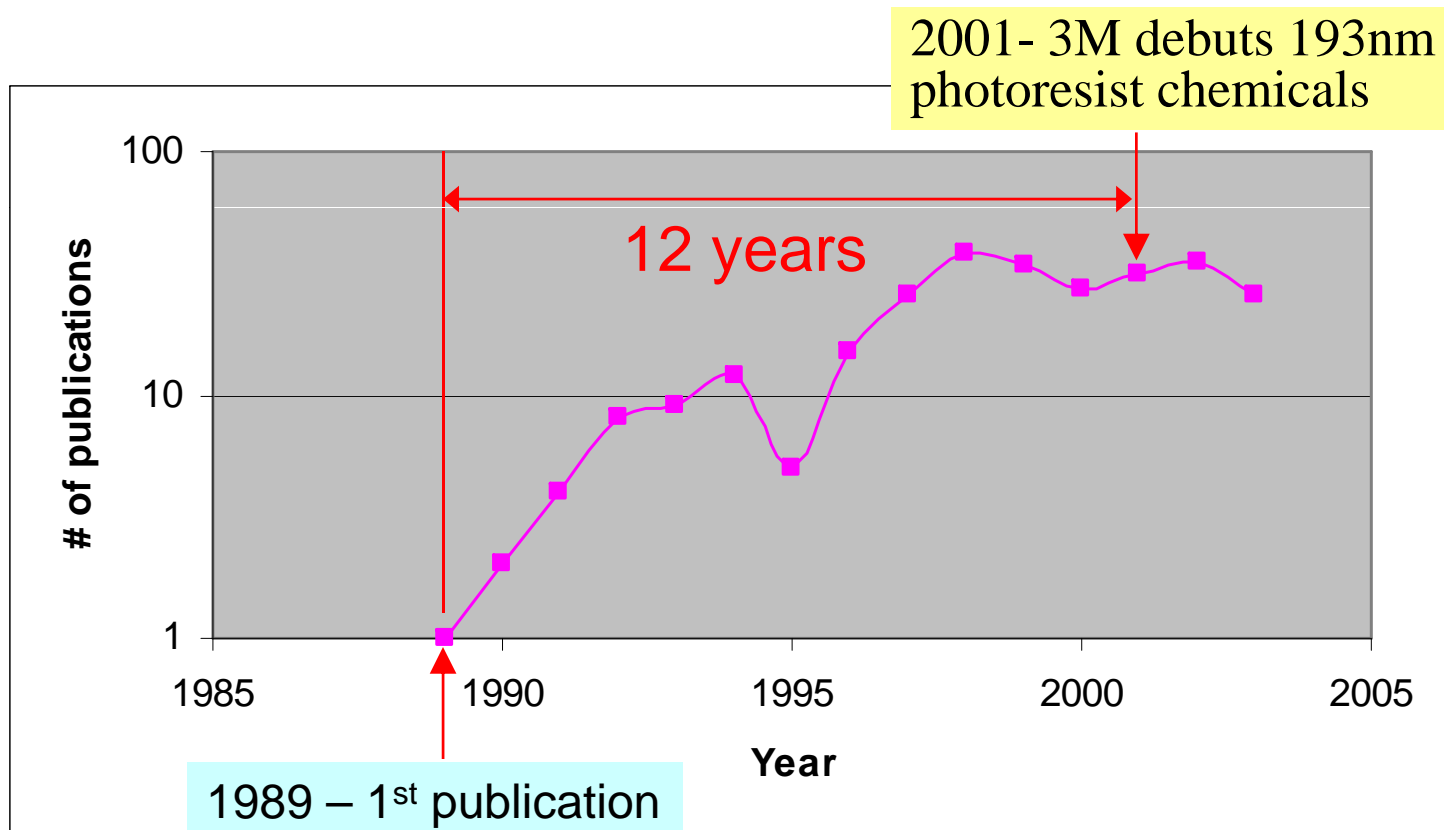


# Copper Interconnect



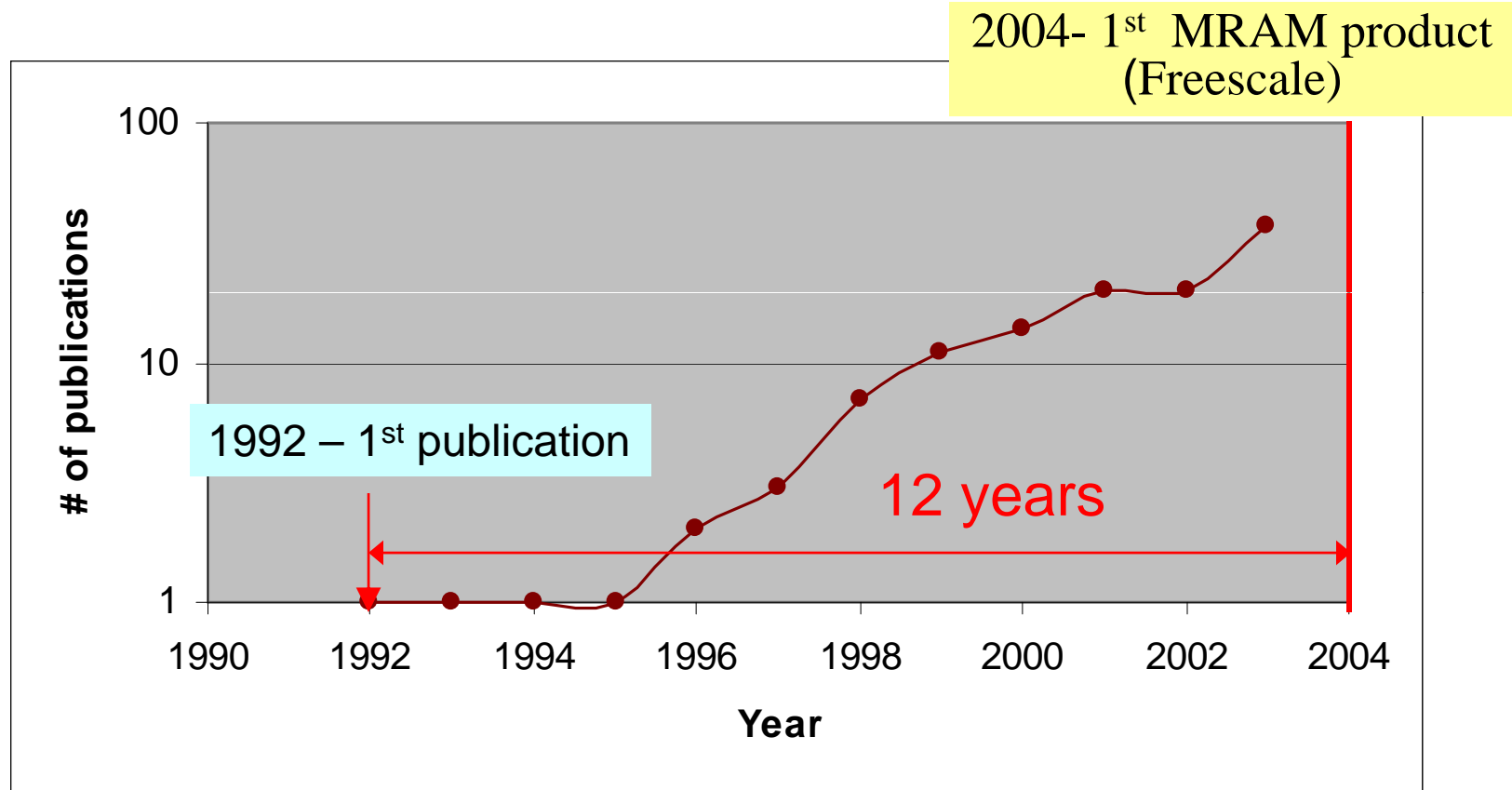


# 193 nm photoresist





# Magnetic RAM



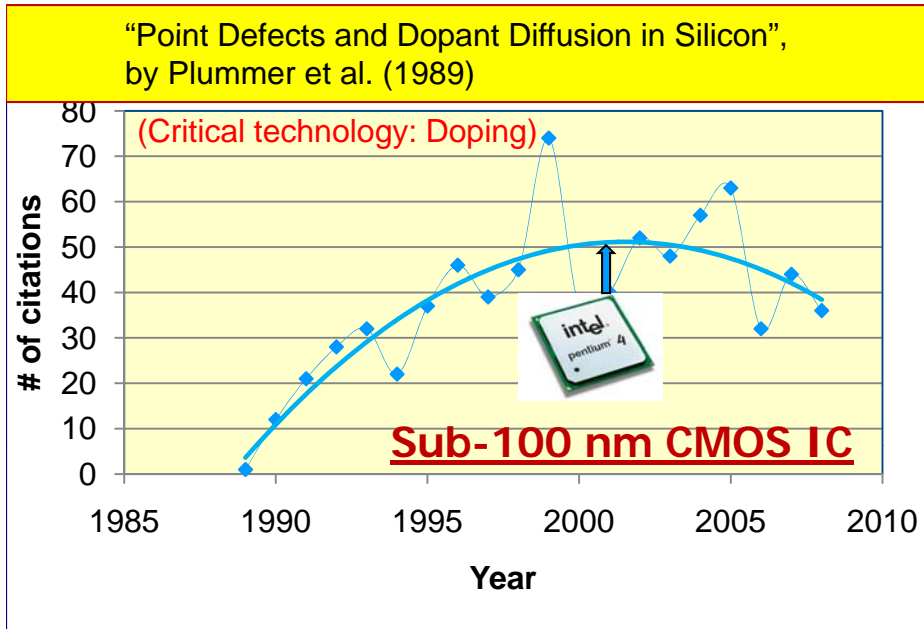


## Observation

- **A typical latency time from 1<sup>st</sup> publication to 1<sup>st</sup> production is about 12 years**
- **What happens 12 years from now?  
2009+12=2021 ?**



# SRC Influential Papers: Citation Trajectories

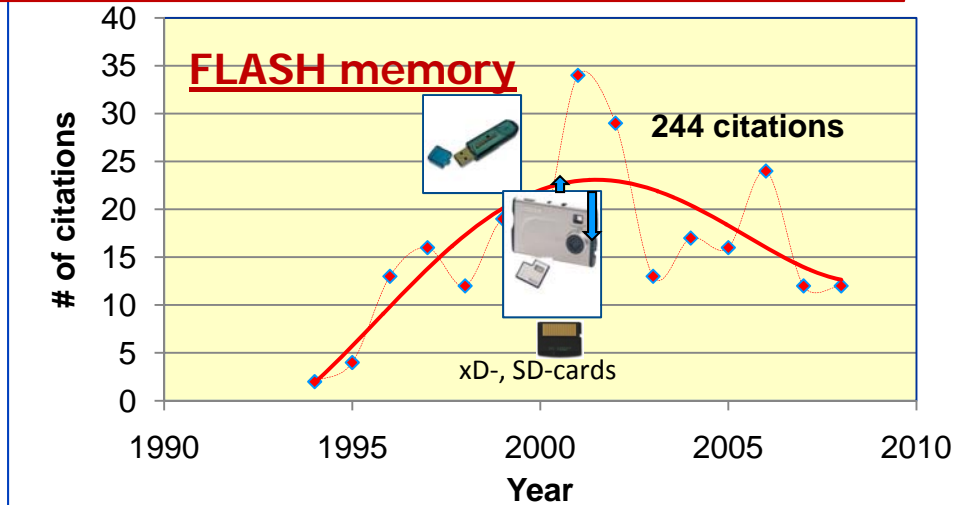


**780 citations (33% by industry)**

Technology citation trajectories peak about time of product introduction

Demonstrates the need for continuous innovation

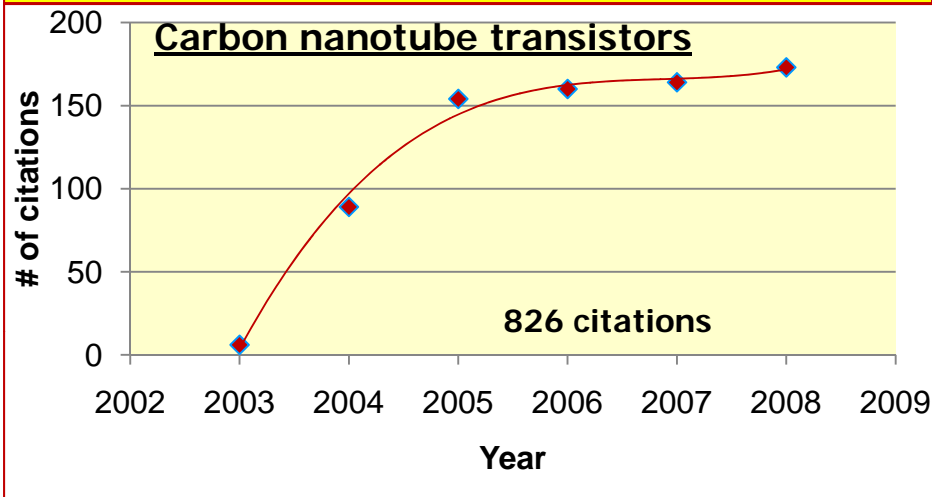
"Hole injection SiO<sub>2</sub> breakdown model for very low voltage lifetime extrapolation", by Schuegraf and Hu (1994)



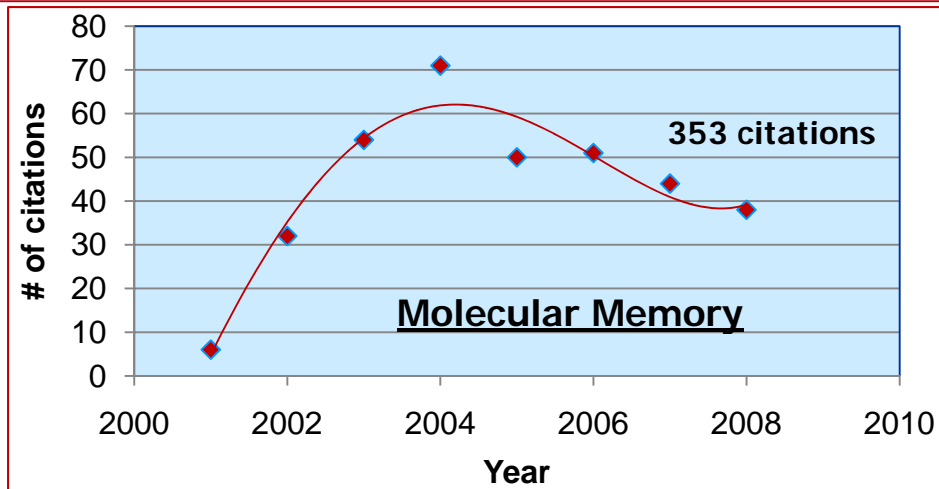
**244 citations (40% by industry)**

# Citation Trajectories: Emerging Nanotechnologies

“Ballistic carbon nanotube field-effect transistors”,  
by Javey et al. (2003)



“Molecular random access memory cell” by Reed et al (2001)



Citation Trajectories are  
an indication of perceived  
opportunities



# The Case for Research Collaboration in Memory Technologies

- ◆ **Memory research is fragmented and often lacking critical mass**
- ◆ **The limits for scaling/extension of several classical memory technologies is foreseeable**
- ◆ **CMOS embeddable memory technologies are needed**
- ◆ **Energy consumption from memory operations is becoming a significant fraction of system energy usage**
- ◆ **Processing technologies for extremely scaled memory systems are limiting progress; e.g., lithography**
- ◆ **Novel and more efficient memory systems are needed to support emerging applications; e.g. machine learning**



# How Might We Collaborate?

- ◆ **We think that the SRC model would work**
  - ❖ Needs statements by industry partners
  - ❖ Fees from member sponsors and from governments
  - ❖ Research in university laboratories/institutes
  - ❖ Formal program reviews on periodic basis
  - ❖ Proof-of-concept in selected facilities?
  
- ◆ **SRC has developed the Topical Research Collaboration (TRC) model to implement targeted programs, e.g.:**
  - ❖ **(existing) Energy, Nanotechnology**
  - ❖ **(projected) bioelectronics, memory etc.**



**Thank you**