

INFORMS ANNUAL MEETING 2011  
*Charlotte, North Carolina*  
**CPMS Daniel H. Wagner Prize Competition**

# Product Line Design and Scheduling at Intel

**Evan Rash and Karl Kempf**  
**Decision Engineering Group**  
**Intel Corporation**



# Agenda

1. Business Background
2. The Strategic Business Problem
3. Mathematical Formulation
4. Our New Solution
5. Our Custom Implementation
6. Growing Business Impact

# Two Found New Firm

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Two  
founders of Fairchild Semicon-  
ductor Division  
signed last mon-  
day a new in-  
tegrated cir-  
cuits com-

The firm, I  
leased part of  
Middlefield Ro-  
ad, is owned and  
operated by Union  
Pacific Corp. and  
of the firm's  
moved to San

Founders  
Drs. Robert  
Gordon  
among eight  
child Semicon-  
ductor Division  
than 10 years  
build it into  
producer of  
They quit last

*Bob Noyce (co-inventor of the integrated circuit)  
Gordon Moore (author of "Moore's Law")*

Founded  
July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1968

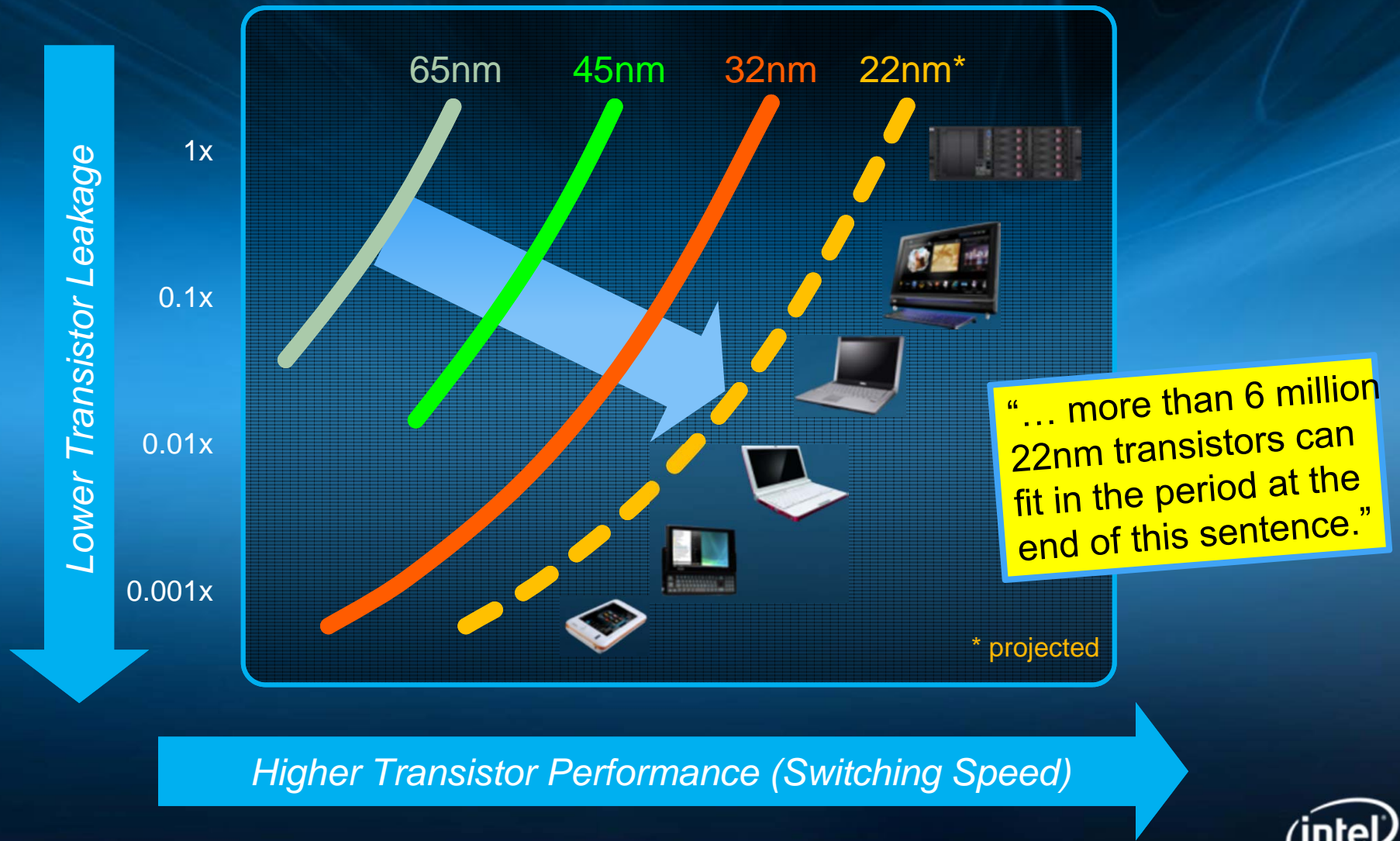


**43 YEARS**  
of  
**Changing  
The World**





# Leading Edge Process Technology



# Leading Edge Product Technology

**DATA  
CENTER**

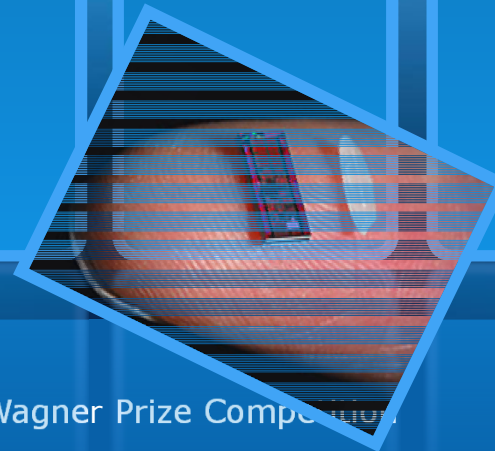
**PC  
CLIENT**

**ULTRA  
MOBILITY**

**EMBEDDED  
& COMMS**

**DIGITAL  
HOME**

- 2 Billion  
transistors/core  
- 4 cores/chip



# Feature, Market, and Time Dynamics





# Different Markets Need a Different Mix of Features

Market1	\$13	240,000
Market2	\$15	300,000
Market3	\$14	450,000
Market4	\$12	880,000
Market5	\$ 9	900,000
Marketing	ASP	Vol

***Selling the product in the market brings in revenue***



# Different Markets Need a Different Mix of Features

## *Engineering and manufacturing incurs costs*

Feature1	Feature2	Feature3	Feature4	Feature5	Feature6	Eng & Mfg
\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	Eng Cost
\$ 1.50	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.25	Mfg Cost / u

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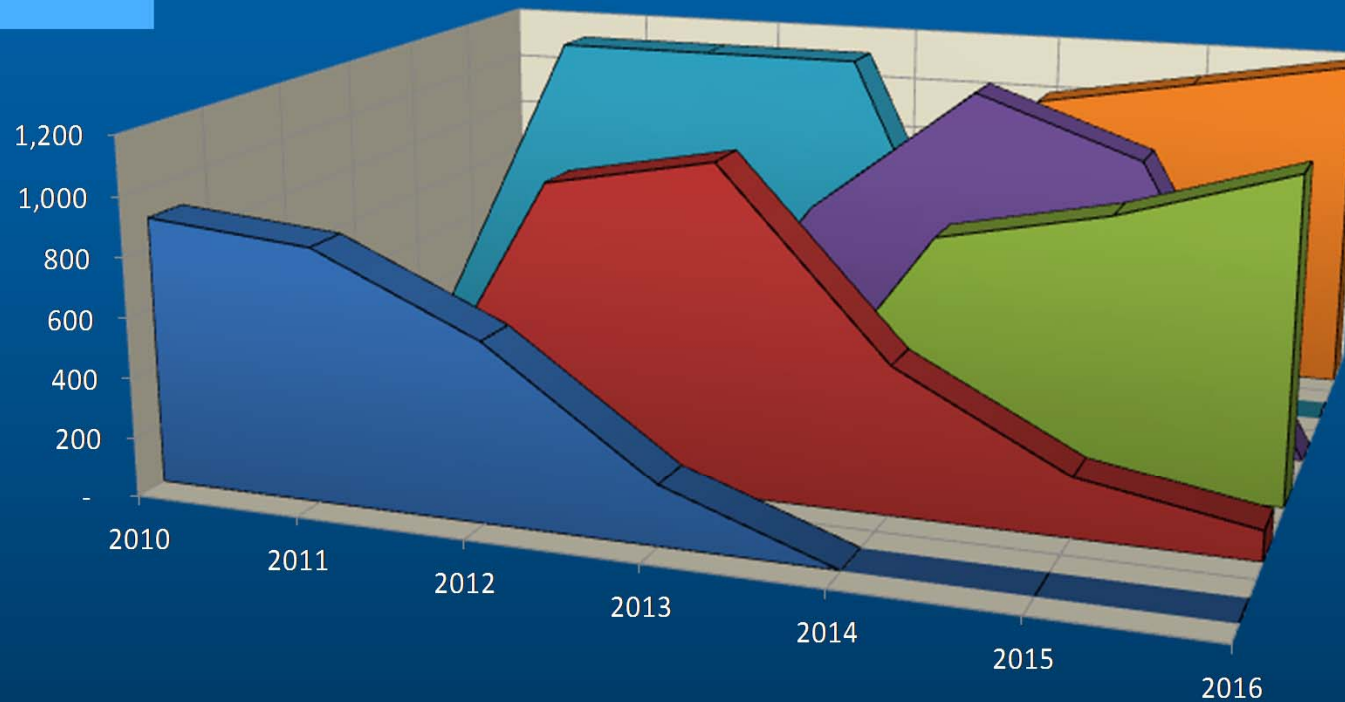
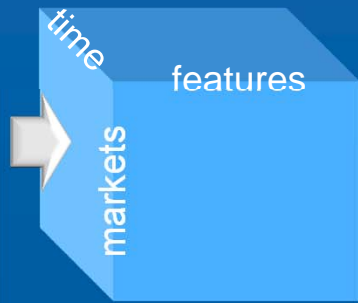


# Different Markets Need a Different Mix of Features

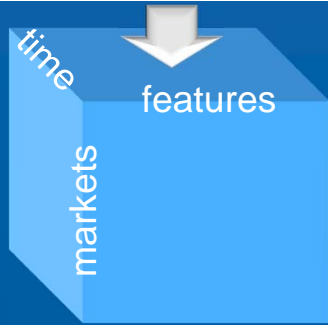
			Feature1	Feature2	Feature3	Feature4	Feature5	Feature6	Eng & Mfg
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Market1	\$13	240,000	1	0	0	1	0	1	
Market2	\$15	300,000	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Market3	\$14	450,000	1	1	2	0	0	0	
Market4	\$12	880,000	2	0	1	0	0	0	
Market5	\$ 9	900,000	1	3	0	0	0	0	
Marketing	ASP	Vol							

***Markets have unique feature requirements***

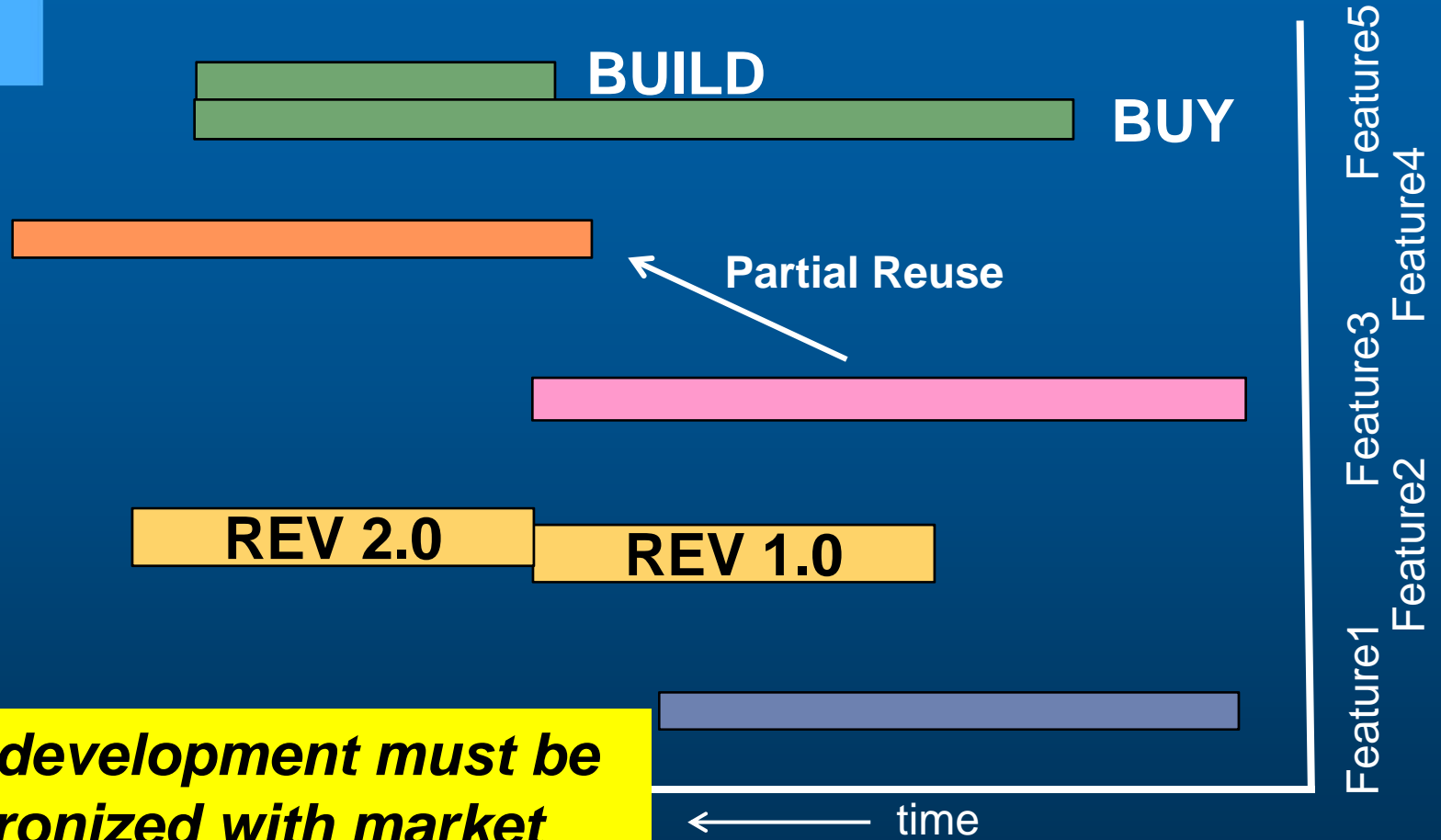
# Different Markets Have Different Timings



***Markets are not all synchronized in time***



# Different Features Have Different Availabilities



***Feature development must be synchronized with market windows***

# Constraints

- Feature sets in the products must meet (or exceed) the needs of the target markets
- Features must be engineered in time to be integrated into the products
- Products must be engineered and manufactured to hit the market timings
- The engineering budget is finite (leading to an emphasis on reuse)

# Objective

- **Maximize Profit** (*Max Revenue, Min Eng and Mfg Cost*)

## Business questions include (at least):

- Given an engineering budget, what set of products maximize revenue or profit?
- Given a revenue target, what set of products minimize cost, with what engineering budget?
- Given a number of Features to engineer, what is the profit maximizing order of development?
- Given a Feature 'build vs. buy' decision (cost, timing), which generates the most profit?

***Difficult to solve with standard techniques due to many different constraints, competing objectives, and interrelated tradeoffs***



# Math

Define Problem & Formulate as Mathematical Programming

Show Complexity & Difficulties involved with Traditional techniques

Solution Methodology & Implementation

# The Core Problem

## **Generate a Product Line**

***Strategic***

Map products into markets

Schedule product development

## **Generate Product Features**

***Tactical***

Meet or exceed market requirements

Schedule feature development

## **Optimize for Profitability**

***Strategic***

Product line must optimize profitability

Must consider engineering budgets

# Generating the Product Line

## Inputs

**Set of markets**

$$\{1, \dots, M\}$$

**Number of products** *At most one product per market*

$$P \leq M$$

**Time horizon**

$$\{1, \dots, T_0, \dots, T\}$$

## Decisions

**How many products to build**

$$\beta_p$$

*Binary*

**When to introduce products**

$$z_p \in \{T_0, \dots, T\}$$

*Integer*

**Which markets to sell products into?**

$$\alpha_{pmt}$$

*Binary*

# Generating Product Features

## Inputs

**Set of features**

$$\{1, \dots, F\}$$

**Market Requirements**

$$D_{mf}$$

## Decisions

**Product Features** *Units of Feature  $f$  in Product  $p$*

$$x_{pf}$$

*Integer*

**Feature Availability**

$$y_f \in \{T_0, \dots, T\}$$

*Integer*

# Optimize for Profitability

## Inputs

Market Volumes and  
Prices

$$v_{mt}, p_{mt}$$

Feature Engineering  
Cost (with Reuse)

$$R_f(t)$$

Product Engineering Cost

$$A$$

Feature Mfg. Cost

$$c_f$$

Expressions  
Revenue

$$\sum_{p=0}^P \sum_{m=0}^M \sum_{t=0}^T \alpha_{pmt} v_{mt} \left( p_{mt} - \sum_{f=0}^F c_f x_{pf} \right)$$

Engineering Cost

$$A \sum_{p=0}^P \beta_p + \sum_{f=0}^F \sum_{t=0}^T R_f(t)$$



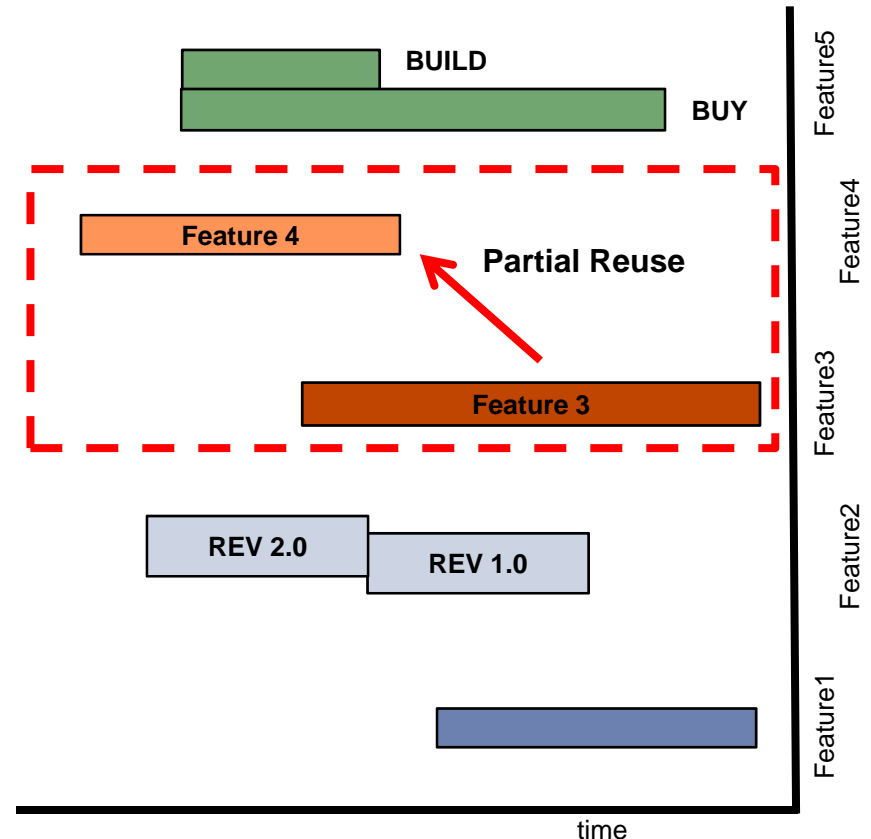
# Reuse Function

Engineering features presents **reuse** opportunities

Developing **Feature 3** may cause developing **Feature 4** to be cheaper/faster

The **Reuse Function** defines these reuse synergies

Typically dynamic and complex



# Reuse Function Example

A hypothetical Reuse Function where developing one feature in a group causes subsequent feature development to be 50% cheaper

Feature $f$	Group $G(f)$	$R_f(t)$ when $t - 1 = y_f$
1	1	1
2	2	.5 if $y_2 > y_3$ , else 1
3	2	.5 if $y_3 > y_2$ , else 1
4	3	.5 if $y_4 > y_5$ , else 1
5	3	.5 if $y_5 > y_4$ , else 1

$$R_f(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_f = \min_{g \in G(f)} y_g \\ .5 & \text{if } \exists g \in G(f) \mid y_g < y_f \end{cases}$$

# Full Formulation

**Objective: Maximize Profit**

$$\max \sum_{p=0}^P \sum_{m=0}^M \sum_{t=0}^T \alpha_{pmt} V_{mt} \left( P_{mt} - \sum_{f=0}^F C_f x_{pf} \right) - \sum_{f=0}^F \sum_{t=0}^T R_f(t) - A \sum_{p=0}^P \beta_p$$

**Subject to:**

$\sum_{p=0}^P \alpha_{pmt} \leq 1 \quad \forall m, t$	One Product per Market
$D_{mf} \alpha_{pmt} \leq x_{pf} \quad \forall p, m, t$	Market Satisfaction Constraint
$z_p \geq \max\{f: \beta_p > 0   y_f\}$	Product Availability Constraint
$\alpha_{pmt} = 0 \quad \forall p, m, t < z_p$	Market Coverage Availability Constraint
$MT\beta_p \geq \sum_{m=0}^M \sum_{t=0}^T \alpha_{pmt}$	Product Selling Requirement
$\sum_{f=0}^F R_f(t) \leq S_t$	Resource Constraint
$\beta_p \in \{0,1\}$	Binary Constraint
$\alpha_{pmt} \in \{0,1\}$	Binary Constraint
$x_{pf} \in \{0, \dots, \max D_{mf}\}$	Integral Units of Features Constraint
$y_f \in \{T_0, \dots, T + \Pi\}$	Scheduling Window Constraint
$z_p \in \{T_0, \dots, T + \Pi\}$	Scheduling Window Constraint

# Why Is This a Hard Problem?

## Non-linearity

Reuse Function

Objective Function & Constraints

## Integral & Binary Decisions

Scheduling

Mapping

## Combinatorics & Problem Size

***Difficult to solve by traditional techniques!***  
***Linear/Mixed-Integer Programming***  
***Constraint Programming***

# Our Solution

- Integrate diverse OR techniques
  - Resource-Constrained Job Scheduling
  - Optimal Set Covering
  - Portfolio Optimization
  - Dynamic Programming
- Decompose Problem into Multiple Stages
  - Outer “strategic” Genetic Algorithm
  - Inner “tactical” Heuristics and MIPs
  - Financial Optimization through Genetic Algorithm Fitness



# Decomposition – Product Line Design

## Outer Genetic Algorithm

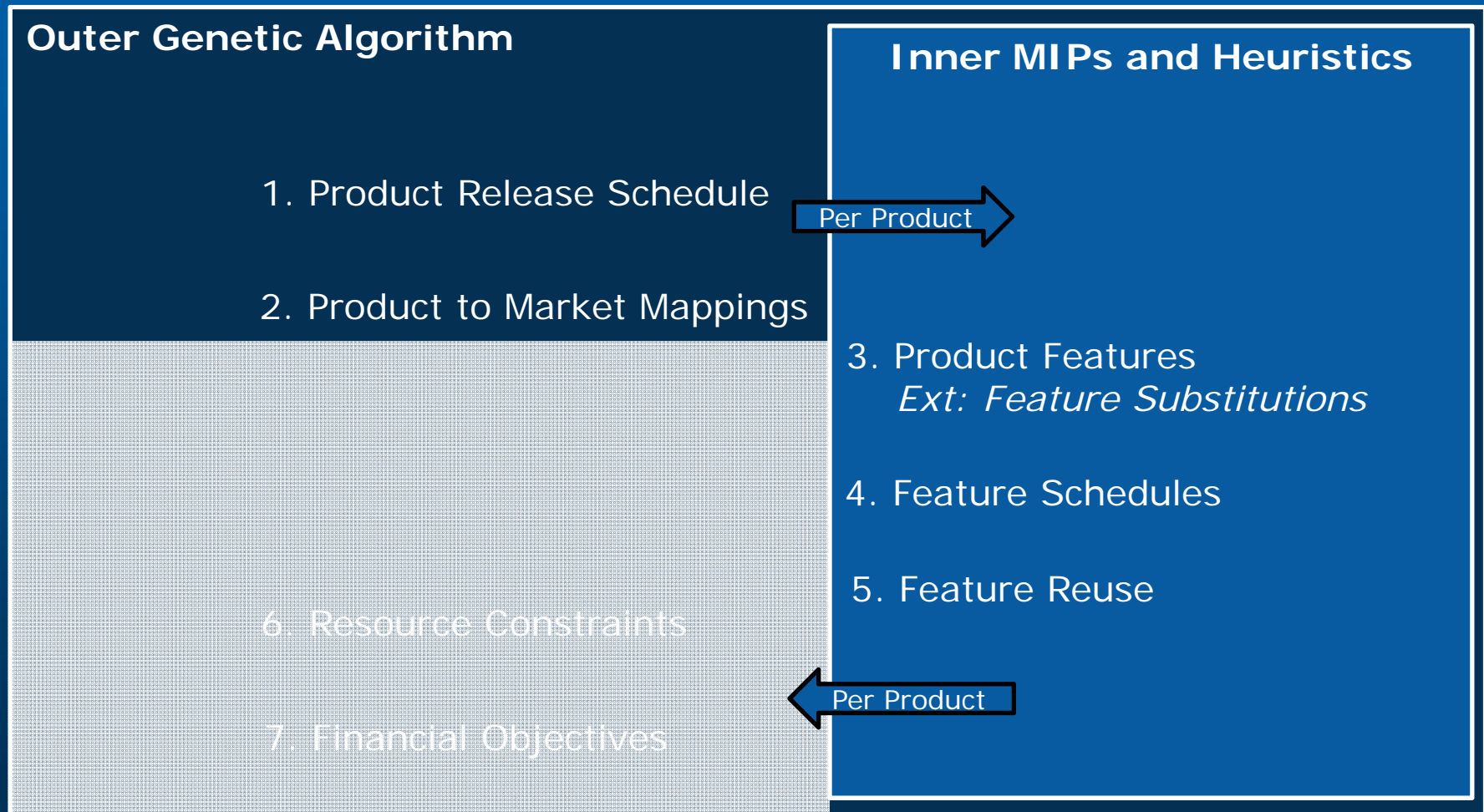
1. Product Release Schedule
2. Product to Market Mappings

6. Resource Constraints
7. Financial Objectives

## Inner Set Covering/Heuristics

3. Product Features  
*Ext: Feature Substitutions*
4. Feature Schedules
5. Feature Reuse

# Decomposition – Generate Product Features



# Decomposition – Financial Optimization

## Outer Genetic Algorithm

*Mutation & Crossover*



1. Product Release Schedule

Per Product



2. Product to Market Mappings



*Selection*

6. Resource Constraints

7. Financial Objectives

**Strategic**

## Inner Set Covering/Heuristics

3. Product Features

*Ext: Feature Substitutions*

4. Feature Schedules

5. Feature Reuse

Per Product



**Tactical**

# Outer “Strategic” Algorithm

## 1. Outer: Creating Product Schedules

Generate a random chronologically sorted product schedule, with some products “turned off”.

Use crossover to “zip” different schedules together and mutations to randomly permute schedule by pushing products out and pulling products in

## 2. Outer: Creating Market to Product Mappings

For each market randomly cover or skip the market. If covered, select a random product from the list generated in 1

# Inner “Tactical” Algorithm

## 3. Inner: Determine Product Features (MIPs)

- Cover market requirements with minimum manufacturing cost
- Cover market requirements with minimum engineering cost

Randomly alternate and allow the evolutionary process to pick the best

## 4. Inner: Deduce Feature Schedules

Back out the feature engineering schedule based on when the features need to be available for the product's availability (1)

## 5. Inner: Evaluate Reuse

Evaluate the reuse of the feature schedule from (4)



# Outer “Strategic” Algorithm

## 6. Evaluate Resource Constraint

Evaluate the engineering resources for the entire roadmap

Model engineering resource constraints as soft constraints

Use a Lagrangian penalty approach similar to the concept of an “overtime” cost of exceeding the available engineering resource supply

## 7. Evaluate NPV & Fitness

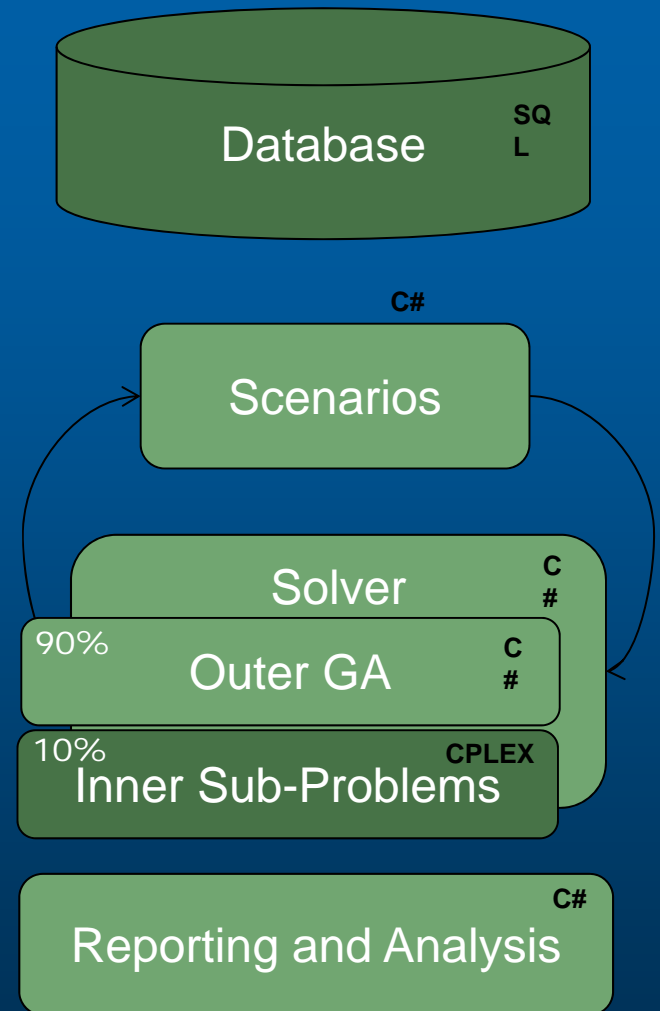
Evaluate the fitness of the product line by determining its NPV and subtracting out any resource overage penalties

# “Pinning” Parts of the Solution

- Planning involves many strategic aspects
  - Not always possible to solve with a “clean slate”
- Solver must be able to “pin” portions of the solution in place and solve using remaining degrees of freedom
- Examples
  - Locking products onto the roadmap
  - Locking feature availability schedules
  - Forcing entry into particular markets

# Implementation

- Custom Implementation (C# .NET)
  - Required Custom Mutation/Crossover and Solution Flow
- Inner sub-problem solved via modular heuristics plugged into larger GA
  - Most Heuristics: C#
  - Feature Substitution: OPL CPLEX



# The Business Process

## BEFORE

- 1) Many spreadsheets with local databases
- 2) Local view by product, sometimes by division
- 3) Few what-ifs

## AFTER

- 1) One tool with global database (HW and SW)
- 2) Holistic view across divisions and products
- 3) Many what-ifs

# The Business Process

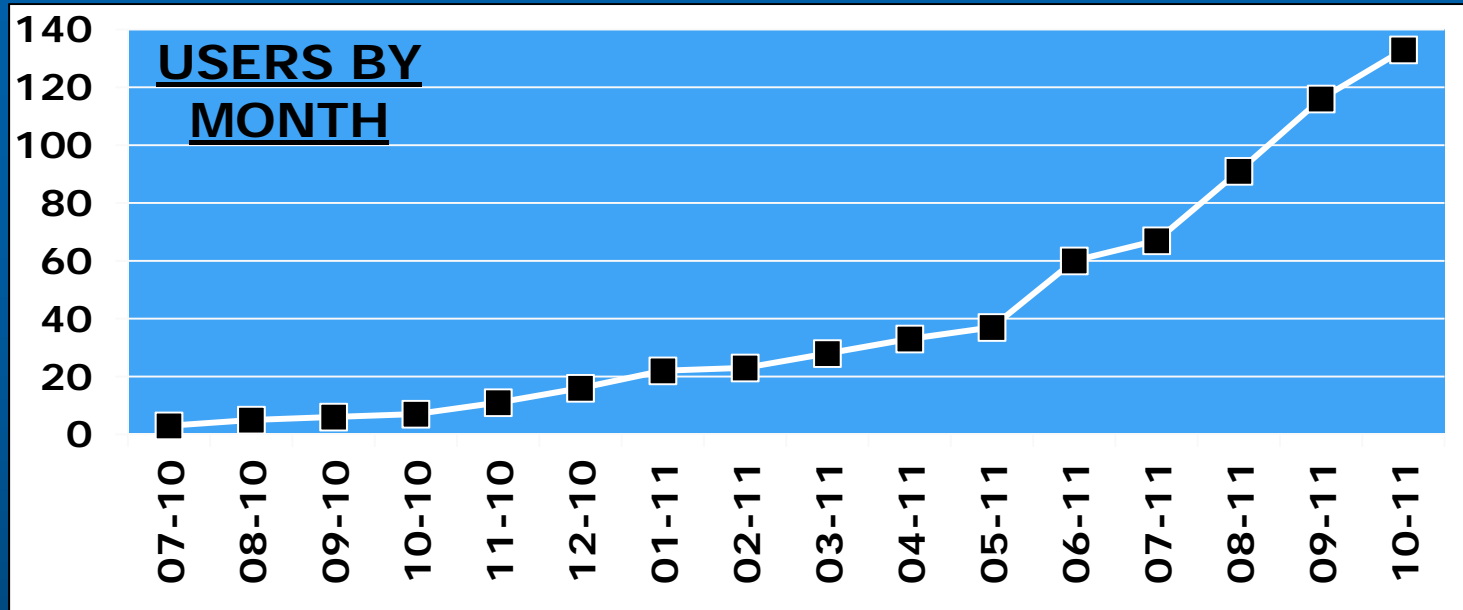
## BEFORE

- 1) Many spreadsheets with local databases
- 2) Local view by product, sometimes by division
- 3) Few what-ifs
- 4) Difficult decision making between finance, planning, and engineering (design and mfg)
- 5) No global optimization and little (if any) local optimization
- 6) Little reuse between divisions and within divisions

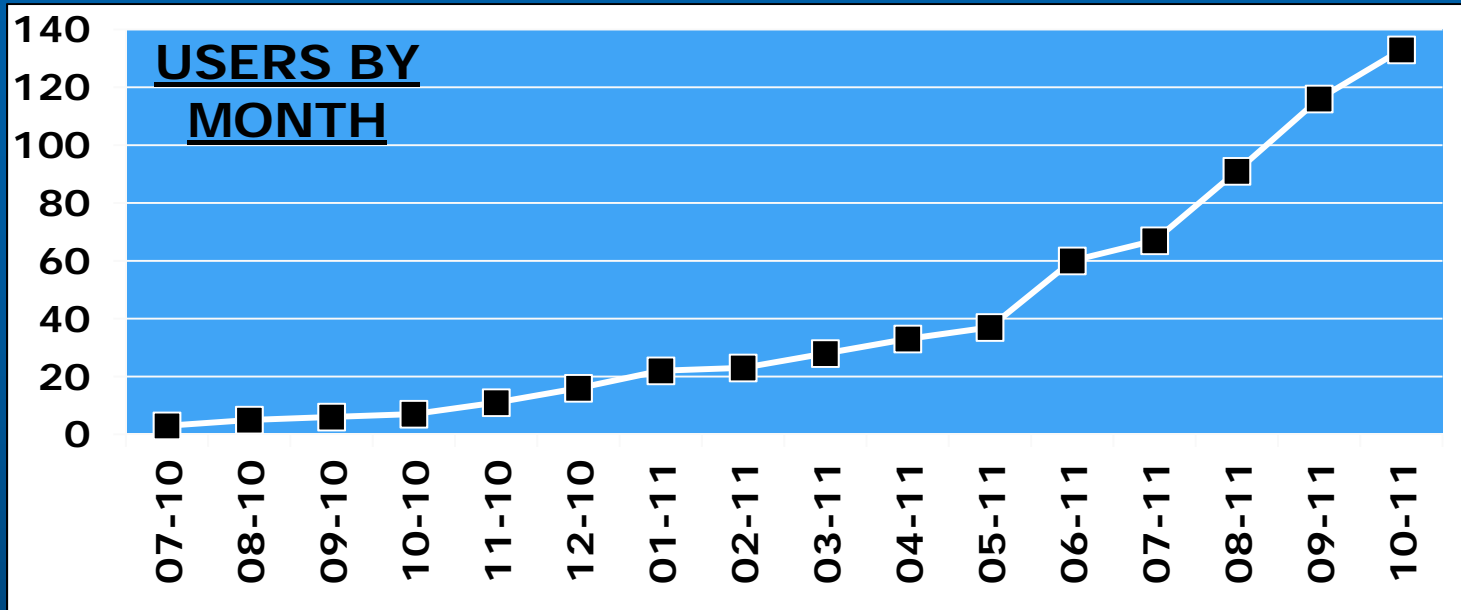
## AFTER

- 1) One tool with global database (HW and SW)
- 2) Holistic view across divisions and products
- 3) Many what-ifs
- 4) Collaborative decision making between all of the product functions
- 5) Global profit optimization
- 6) Increasing reuse across divs and products (few%/mo)

# User Data and Feedback



# User Data and Feedback

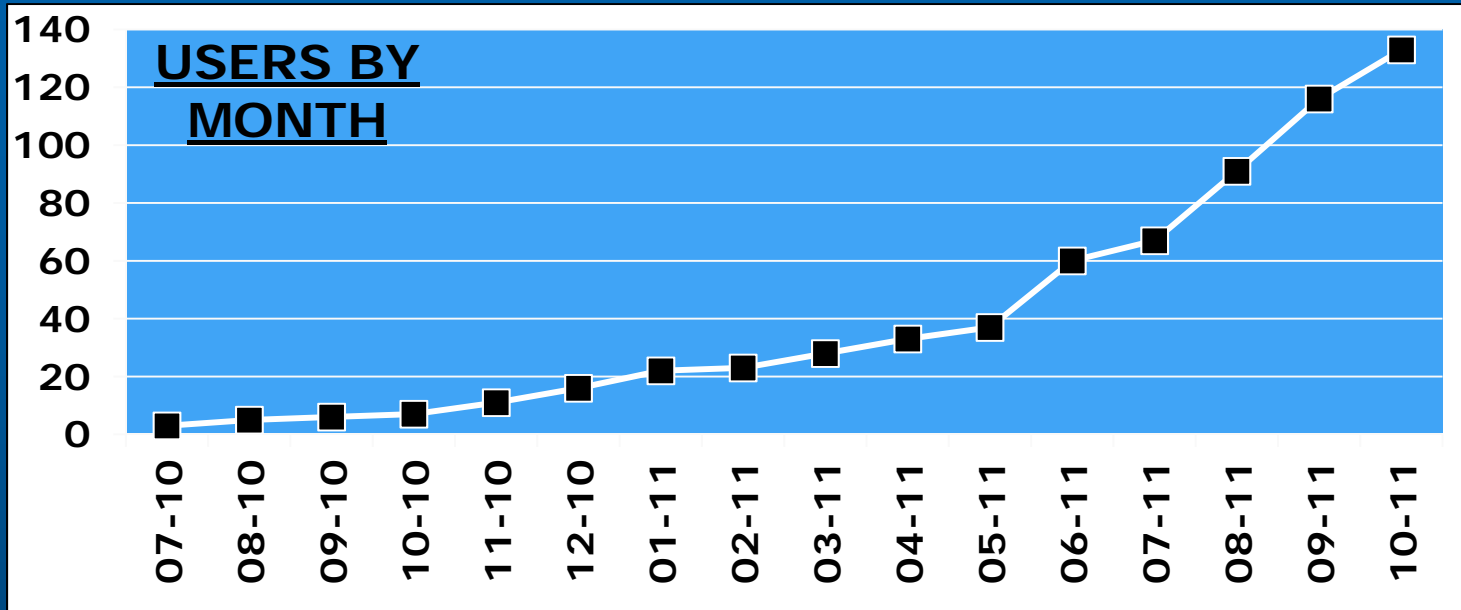


<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u># USERS</u>	<u>HRS USED</u>
STRATEGIC PLANNERS	16	996
PROJECT/PROGRAM MANAGER	39	476
PRODUCT DESIGN ENGINEER	23	394
FINANCIAL ANALYST	39	342
PRODUCT MARKETING ENGINEER	5	63
OPERATION MANAGER	3	21
PRODUCT SOFTWARE ENGINEER	8	4
TOTAL	133	2296

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u># OF</u>
<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>USERS</u>
Div-1	58
Div-2	25
Div-3	12
Div-4	11
Div-5	9
Div-6	4
Div-7	3
Div-8	3
Div-9	2
Div-Admin	3
Misc	3
TOTAL	133



# User Data and Feedback



"No idea how we can optimize market coverage without a tool like this."

"We are finally working in a transparent system instead of spreadsheets on random shared drives."

"Useful as an acumen tool as well as learning about where synergies exist for our products."

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TOTAL	133

# Conclusion

- This is a complex problem considering market, feature, and product time dynamics
- Extremely difficult to solve with traditional techniques
- Developed and implemented a custom solution to the problem
- The system currently has users across divisions and job roles
- We believe the system (over time) will become crucial to Intel's continuing success

A person wearing a white protective suit, hood, and safety goggles is working in a laboratory setting. The person is looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other laboratory equipment and possibly other people in similar attire.

...JUST  
WHAT WE MAKE.

IT'S WHAT WE  
MAKE POSSIBLE.



Corporate Overview

# Extensions

- Feature Substitution
  - Feature A or Feature B can be interchanged
- Time to Market Penalties
  - Late products suffer in the marketplace
- Minimum vs. Target Market Requirements
  - Feature A is a must-have, Feature B is a value-add
- Build vs. Buy decisions
  - Develop in house or license?
- NPV Optimization