Physical Design for Nanometer ICs

Time/Location/Course#: Tuesdays 2:20–5:30pm; BL-114; #943/U0280.
Instructor: Yao-Wen Chang.
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Office Hours: Wednesday 5–6pm; other times by appointment.
Teaching Assistant: Chau-Chin Huang (wlkb83@eda.ee.ntu.edu.tw); BL-406; (Tel) 23635251 ext. 6406;
Office hours: Mondays 12:30–1:30pm.
Prerequisites: data structures, algorithms, and logic design.
Required Text: You may choose either of the following two books:


References: Selected reading materials from recent publications (see the course web site).
Course Contents:

- Introduction to VLSI design flow/styles and technology roadmap
- Physical design processes: partitioning, floorplanning, placement, routing (global, detailed routing), clock and power/ground routing, post-layout optimization
- Signal/power integrity: crosstalk, IR drop
- Timing issues: timing modeling & optimization, performance-driven design
- Design methodology: large-scale design, interconnect-centric design flow, buffer/wiring planning
- Design for manufacturability & reliability: process variation, antenna effects, redundant via, optical proximity correction, chemical mechanical polishing, multiple patterning, e-beam, EUV, directed self-assembly (DSA), nanowire, electromigration, thermal issue, etc.

Grading Policy:

- Homework assignments + quizzes (on the homework due dates): 25%
- Programming assignments + lab: 25%
- One in-class open-book, open-note final exam: 30% (June 9)
- A final project due + presentation + demo: 20% (June 23). A 1-page project proposal is due on May 19.
- Plus, bonus for class participation
Attention: The grades on homework/programming assignments and the test are considered final one week after they have been handed back, so you should bring any questions to the grader’s attention promptly.

Default project: See http://cad-contest.el.cycu.edu.tw/reg/default.html for Problems C, D, and E of the 2015 MOE domestic IC/CAD Contest. You only need to pick one. Note that Problem C is also for the 2015 international CAD Contest at ICCAD.

Homework: Students may discuss the homework problems with one another but must write up their solutions separately. Homework must be handed in at the beginning of the class on which it is due in order to avoid a late penalty. Late homeworks will incur a penalty of 20 percent of the total score per day for the first five days (Saturdays and Sundays included) and will not be accepted afterwards.


Academic Honesty: Cheating is very uncivilized behavior and is to be avoided at all cost. Oral discussion about homeworks is not considered cheating. Copying someone else’s homework/test or part of an homework/test is cheating. If cheating is discovered, all students involved will receive no credit for the homework/test, possibly an F grade for the course.