

Moore's Law: Computer Comparison (20pts.)

Comparing 2 Computers Over Time & Seeing If Moore's Law Succeeded or Failed
(Note: I made two comparisons ...students need only do 1 comparison.)

John Harrington's First Computer Purchase

When: 1986, Junior Year in College (Changed from a manual typewriter to a personal computer with a dot matrix printer.)

Mac SE _ \$2600 (5pts.)

- Processor: 8 MHz 68000 processor,
- Hard Drive: None – 2 floppy discs.
- Display: 9" monochrome.



Mac 21.5" _ \$1099 (5pts.)

- Processor: 1.6GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor
- Hard Drive: 1TB 5400-rpm hard drive;
- Display: 21.5-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit.



Comparison (10pts.)

Question: Has Moore's Law taken place over the years in regards to this computer.

Moore's Law: A Computers Speed/Size/Capacity doubles every 2 years.

1987 to 2017 = 30 years

30 divided by Moore's 2 = A Factor of 15. So $2^{15} = 32,768$

Analysis:

Processor

Conversion: 1Mhz = .001Ghz

- Convert Ghz to Mhz: $1.6\text{Ghz} \times 1000 = 1600 \text{ Mhz}$
- Moore's Law says 8zMhz should grow by a multiple of 32,768 = 262,144Mhz
- **Conclusion:** Today's Mac SE should be 262,144Mhz and it is only 1600Mhz. Thus Moore's Law supposedly failed...supposedly because I have asked several electrical engineers why there is such a tremendous disparity, and they state that it is most likely because I am trying to compare apples and oranges - the processors today are completely different than back in the 80s, so that you can't compare the speeds.

Hard Drive

Conversion: 1 mb = .001Gb

1gb = .001 Tb

- Floppy Disk = 1.44 Mb. New Mac = 1Tb
- Convert Mb to Tb: $1.4 \text{ mb} \times 1000 \times 1000 = .0000014 \text{ Tb}$
- Moore's Law says .0000014 Tb should grow by a multiple of 32,768 = 0.0458752 Tb
- **Conclusion:** Today's Mac SE should be 0.0458752 Tb. It is 1TB Thus Moore's Law succeeded.

