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# Fundamental Engineering Research to Societal Benefits

Extraordinary Engineering Impacts  
National Academy of Engineering Symposium  
August 18, 2022

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University of California, Irvine

# Professional Evolution

- B. Tech. in Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology. Bombay, India
- MS in Math and PhD in Electrical Engineering, University of Florida
- Rising through the faculty ranks at Universities of Florida, Minnesota, and Michigan

“Kalman Filter”



PhD Mentor: R. E. Kalman

# Evolution of Research Interests

- Control Systems Theory
- Manufacturing: Semiconductor, Reconfigurable
- Renewable Electricity Integration and Smart Power Grids
- Machine Learning and Control
- Funding from NSF, AFOSR, ARO, DARPA and the private sector
- Collaborations with industry: Honeywell, GE, SRC, Xerox, ...



MICHIGAN ENGINEERING

NSF ERC FOR RECONFIGURABLE MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

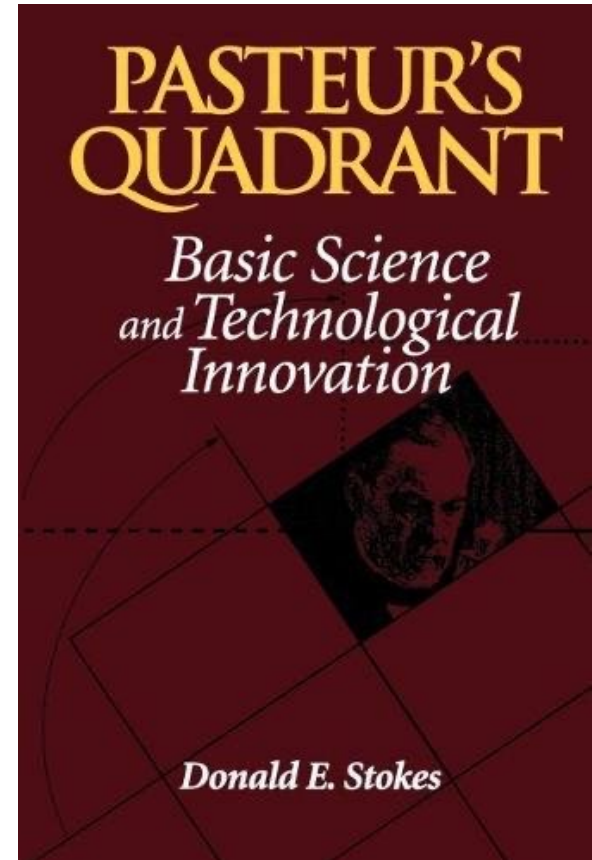
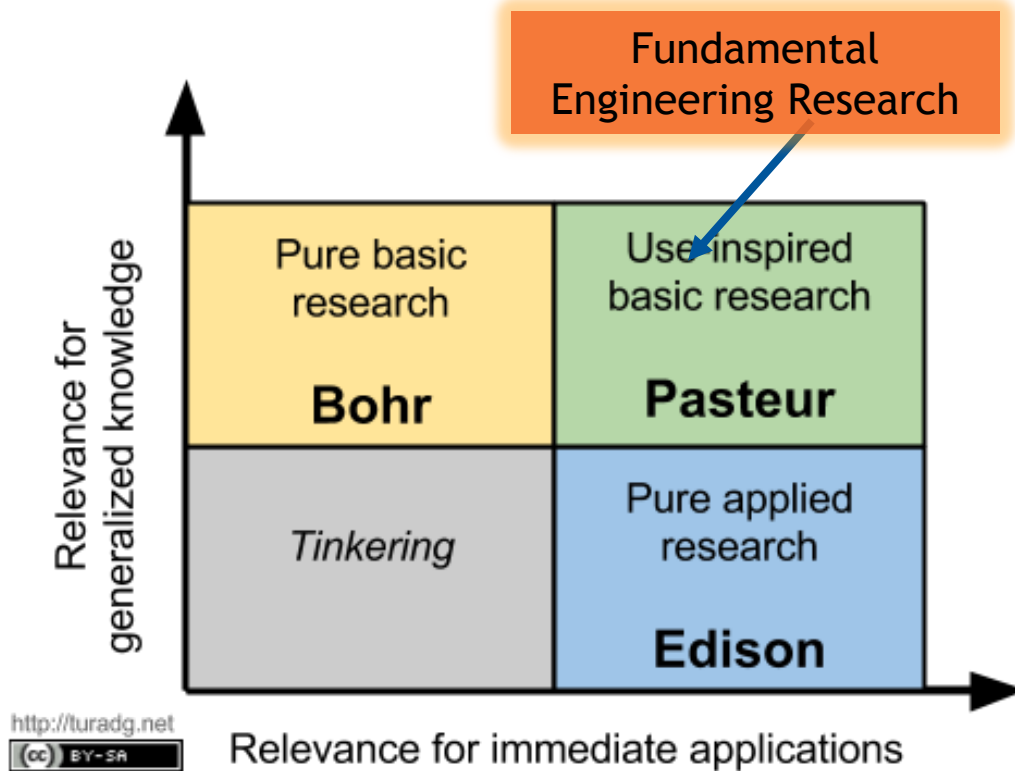
# Professional Evolution: Leadership Roles

- EECS Department Chair at Michigan
- Dean of Engineering at Florida
- Vice Chancellor for Research at California, Irvine
- Head of Engineering Directorate at National Science Foundation
- Deputy Director of Technology ARPA-e



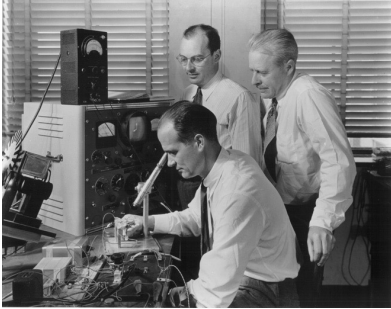
**How does Fundamental Engineering  
Research lead to Societal Benefits?**

# Nature of Fundamental Engineering Research





# Example 1: Semiconductor Chips



Bell Labs  
1947

*“for their researches on semiconductors and their discovery of the transistor effect”*

**The Nobel Prize in Physics  
1956**



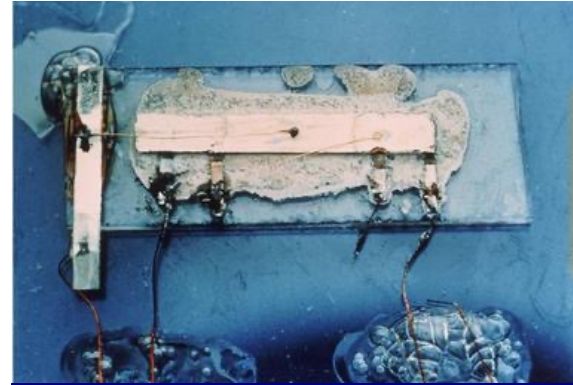
William Bradford  
Shockley  
Prize share: 1/3



John Bardeen  
Prize share: 1/3



Walter Houser  
Brattain  
Prize share: 1/3



Kilby's first  
integrated  
circuit

**The Nobel Prize in Physics 2000**

"for basic work on information and communication technology"

"for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed- and opto-electronics"

"for his part in the invention of the integrated circuit"



Zhores I.  
**Alferov**  
b. 1930



Herbert  
**Kroemer**  
b. 1928



Jack S.  
**Kilby**  
1923–2005

Our World  
in Data

This advancement is important for other aspects of technological progress in computing – such as processing speed or the price of computers.

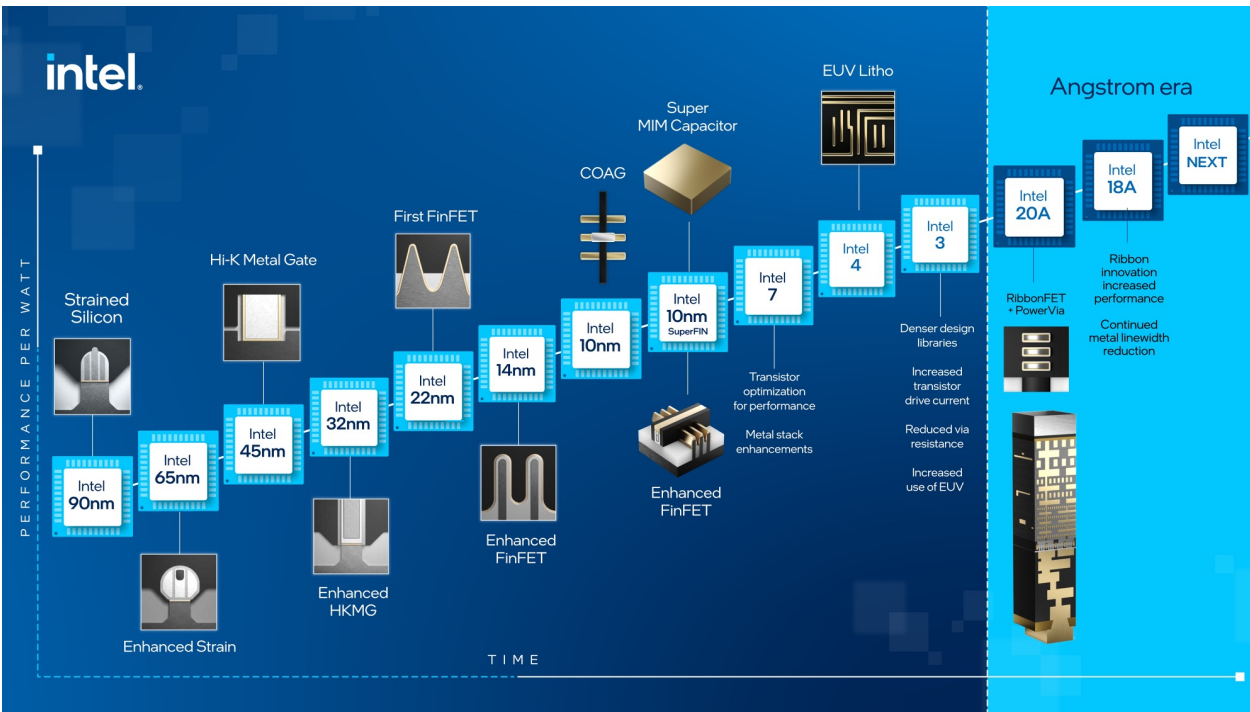
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# Coherent Engineering Research Advances in Materials, Devices, Circuits, Architecture and Manufacturing



Transistor Innovations over Time

## Energy-Efficient Computing: from Devices to Architectures (E2CDA)

A Joint Initiative between NSF and SRC

### PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 16-526



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering  
Division of Computing and Communication Foundations

Directorate for Engineering  
Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems

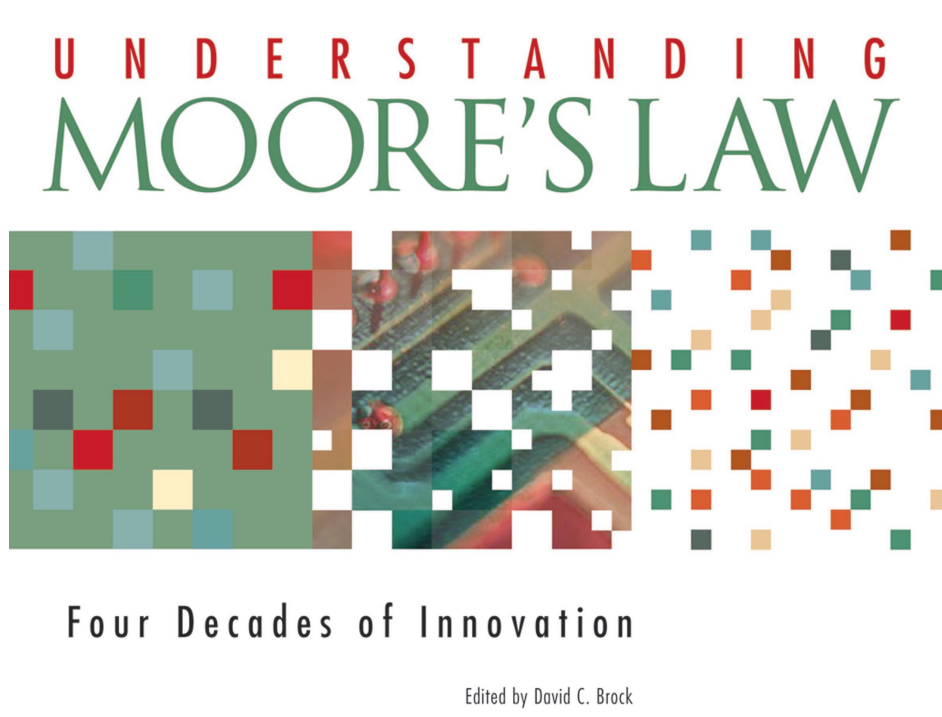


Semiconductor Research Corporation

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

March 28, 2016

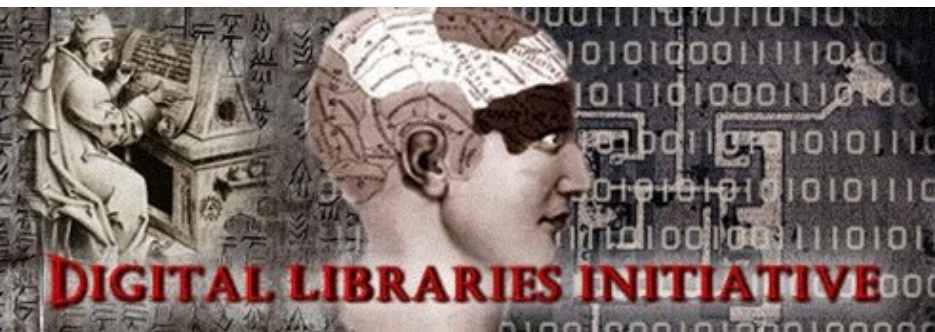
# Moore's Law: Fundamental Research Intertwined with Technological Progress



*“Indeed, the technology led the science in a sort of inverse linear model ...”*

Gordon Moore

# Example 2: Origins of Google



[NSF Digital Libraries Initiative, 1994](#)



S. Brin and L. Page

**Award Abstract # 9411306**

**The Stanford Integrated Digital Library Project**

PI: H. Molina-Garcia  
and T. Winograd

<b>NSF Org:</b>	<a href="#"><u>IIS</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Div Of Information &amp; Intelligent Systems</u></a>
<b>Awardee:</b>	
<b>Initial Amendment Date:</b>	September 16, 1994

# PageRank Algorithm

## The PageRank Citation Ranking: Bringing Order to the Web.

Page, Lawrence and Brin, Sergey and Motwani, Rajeev and Winograd, Terry (1999) *The PageRank Citation Ranking: Bringing Order to the Web*. Technical Report. Stanford InfoLab.

“The importance of a Web page is an inherently subjective matter, which depends on the readers interests, knowledge and attitudes. But there is still much that can be said objectively about the relative importance of Web pages. This paper describes PageRank, a method for rating Web pages objectively and mechanically, effectively measuring the human interest and attention devoted to them.

We compare PageRank to an idealized random Web surfer. We show how to efficiently compute PageRank for large numbers of pages. And, we show how to apply PageRank to search and to user navigation.”

# Continuing Innovation in Information Technology

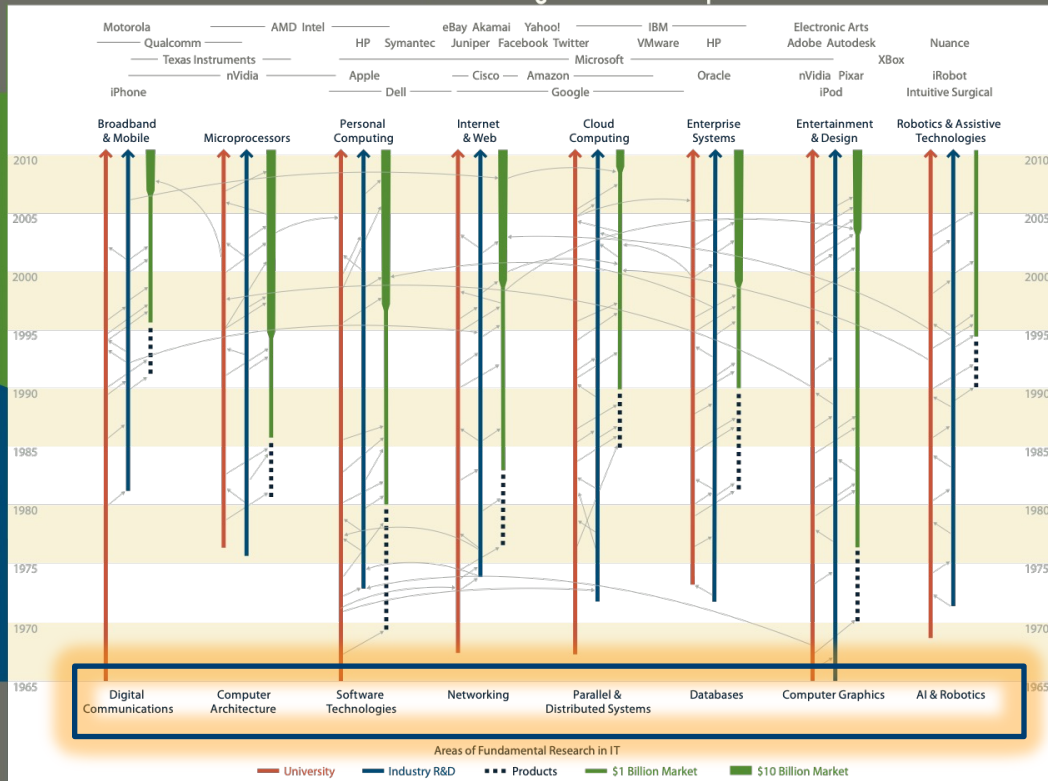
Fundamental research in IT underpins the creation of billion-dollar-plus IT market segments and a vital U.S. IT industry through a complex partnership between universities, industry, and government.

The first version of this figure was published in the 1995 report *Evolving the High Performance Computing and Communications Initiative to Support the Nation's Information Infrastructure*. The original figure, which was updated in 2002 and 2003, dispelled the assumption that the commercially successful IT industry is self-sufficient. It underscored the extent to which industry instead builds on government-funded university research—sometimes through long incubation periods of years and even decades.

As illustrated in this figure from the 2012 report *Continuing Innovation in Information Technology*, computing research and its impacts have since continued to evolve and blossom. The figure illustrates how fundamental research in IT, conducted in industry and universities, has led to the introduction of entirely new product categories that ultimately became billion-dollar industries. It reflects a complex research environment in which concurrent advances in multiple sub-fields have been mutually reinforcing, stimulating and enabling one another and leading to vibrant, innovative industries exemplified by top-performing U.S. firms. Such research often starts as a search for fundamental knowledge but time and again produces practical technologies that enable significant economic impact.

The gray lines illustrate the rich interplay between academic research, industry research, and products and indicate the cross-fertilization resulting from multi-directional flows of ideas, technologies, and people.

IT Sectors with Large Economic Impact



## Fundamental Research in

- Digital Communications
- Computer Architecture
- Software
- Networking
- Distributed Systems
- Database Systems
- Computer Graphics
- AI & Robotics



# Cumulative Benefit of Technological Innovation fueled by Engineering Advances

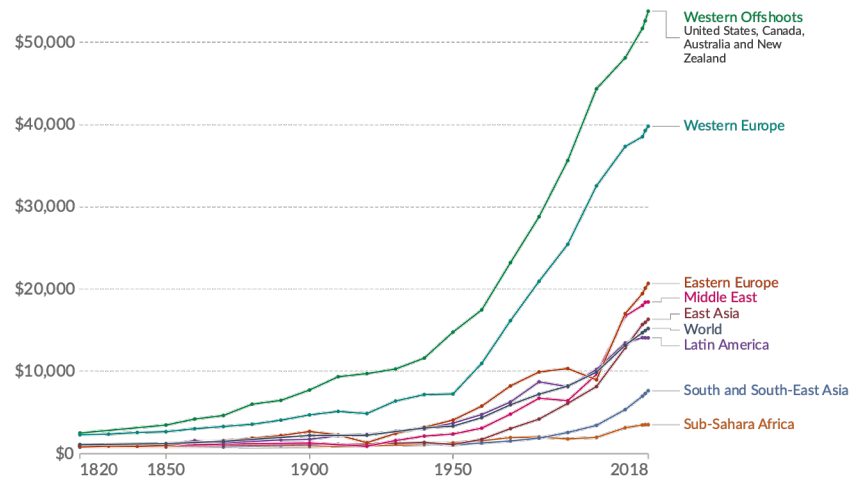
Technological revolution	Popular name for the period	Big-bang initiating the revolution	Year	Core country or countries
First	The Industrial Revolution	Arkwright's mill opens in Cromford	1771	Britain
Second	Age of Steam and Railways	Test of the <i>Rocket</i> steam engine for the Liverpool–Manchester railway	1829	Britain (spreading to Europe and USA)
Third	Age of Steel, Electricity and Heavy Engineering	The Carnegie Bessemer steel plant opens in Pittsburgh, PA	1875	USA and Germany forging ahead and overtaking Britain
Fourth	Age of Oil, the Automobile and Mass Production	First Model-T comes out of the Ford plant in Detroit, MI	1908	USA (with Germany at first vying for world leadership), later spreading to Europe
Fifth	Age of Information and Telecommunications	The Intel microprocessor is announced in Santa Clara, CA	1971	USA (spreading to Europe and Asia)

Source: Perez (2002).

## GDP per capita, 1820 to 2018

GDP per capita adjusted for price changes over time (inflation) and price differences between countries – it is measured in international-\$ in 2011 prices.

Our World in Data



Source: Maddison Project Database 2020 (Bolt and van Zanden, 2020)

OurWorldinData.org/economic-growth • CC BY

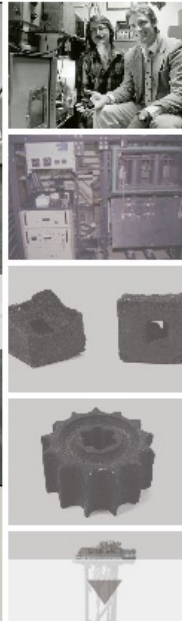
Source: [C. Perez, 2002](#)



# Example 3: Origins of 3D Printing



1 of 8: Dr. Joe Beaman and Carl Deckard, ca. 1989. In the 1980s, student Carl Deckard and his advisor Dr. Joe Beaman developed and patented a type of additive manufacturing called selective laser sintering (SLS).



Source: [Austin American Statesman](#)

## United States Patent [19] Deckard

- [54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING PARTS BY SELECTIVE SINTERING**
- [75] **Inventor:** Carl R. Deckard, Austin, Tex.
- [73] **Assignee:** Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Austin, Tex.
- [21] **Appl. No.:** 920,580
- [22] **Filed:** Oct. 17, 1986

# NSF Role in 3D Printing

“NSF funded precursors of AM technologies in the 1970s (development of computer numerical controlled machining and solid modeling tools) and turned early AM patents in the 1980s into proof-of-concept and prototype machines in two major commercial technology areas (binder jetting and laser sintering).”

**Award Abstract # 8707871**

**Part Generation by Layerwise Selective Sintering**

<b>NSF Org:</b>	<a href="#">CMMI</a> <a href="#">Div Of Civil, Mechanical, &amp; Manufact Inn</a>
<b>Awardee:</b>	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
<b>Initial Amendment Date:</b>	March 6, 1987
<b>Latest Amendment Date:</b>	March 6, 1987

# Fundamental Engineering Research

IEEE Computer, 1977

## Geometric Modeling of Mechanical Parts and Processes

Herbert B. Voelcker and Aristides A. G. Requicha  
University of Rochester

### Acknowledgments

The work reported in this paper was supported primarily by the National Science Foundation under grants GI-34274X and APR76-01034.

SELECTIVE LASER SINTERING

by

CARL ROBERT DECKARD, M.S.M.E., B.S.M.E.

DISSERTATION

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate  
School of

The University of Texas at Austin

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements

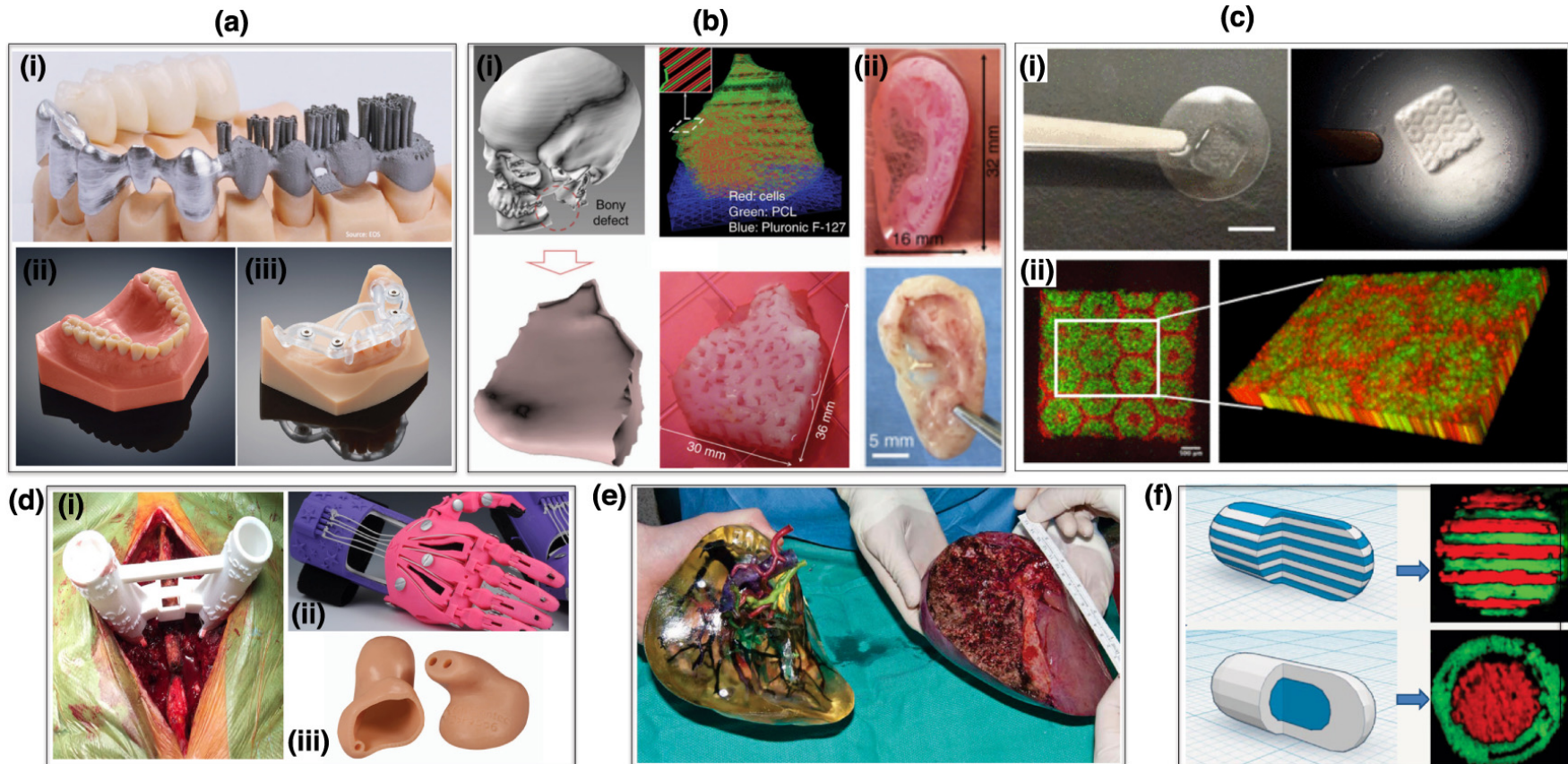
for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

December, 1988.

# Societal Impact of 3D Printing: Medical Applications



Source: C.Y. Liaw and M. Guvendiren, Biofabrication, 2017

## **Big Challenge and Aspirational Goal**

**Accelerate and optimize  
the engineering research to innovation to  
technology to society interconnected system to  
assist people and society to flourish.**



# Thank you!

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<http://faculty.sites.uci.edu/khargonekar/>