UCIe™
(Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express™)

Building an open ecosystem of chiplets
for on-package innovations

Presented by

Dr. Debendra Das Sharma
Intel Senior Fellow and Chair UCIe Consortium

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Meet the Presenter

UCIe™
Universal Chiplet
Interconnect Express

Dr. Debendra Das Sharma
Chair, UCIe Board
Intel Senior Fellow and co-GM Memory and I/O Technologies, Intel

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Disclaimer

The information in this presentation may refer to specification still in the development process. This presentation may reflect the current thinking of various UCIe™ workgroups, but all material is subject to change before the specifications are released.

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Agenda

Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express

- Introduction to UCIe
- On-Package Interconnects: Opportunities and Challenges
- Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express (UCIe): An Open Standard for Chiplets
- Future Directions and Conclusions

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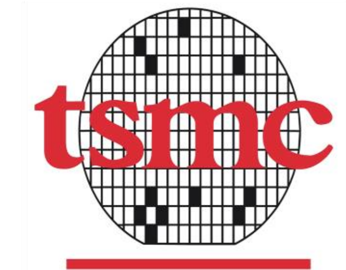
100+ Member Companies and growing!

Board Members

Leaders in semiconductors, packaging, IP suppliers, foundries, and cloud service providers are joining together to drive
The open chiplet ecosystem.

JOIN US!



UCIe Consortium is open for membership

UCIe™ Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express

- UCIe Consortium welcomes interested companies and institutions to join the organization at the **Contributor and Adopter level.**

- **UCIe** was founded in March 2022, incorporated in June 2022. Two levels of memberships: Contributor and Adopter

- **Contributor Membership**
  - Access the Final Specifications (ex: 1.0, 1.1, 2.0, etc.)
  - Implement with the IP protections as outlined in the Agreements
  - Right to attend Corporation trade shows or other industry events as determined by the Board
  - Participate in the technical working groups
  - Influence the direction of the technology
  - Access the intermediate (dot level) specifications
  - Election to get to the Promoter Class/ Board every year when the term of half the board completes

- **Adopter Membership**
  - Access the Final Specifications (ex: 1.0, 1.1, 2.0, etc.), but not intermediate level specifications
  - Implement with the IP protections as outlined in the Agreements
  - Right to attend Corporation trade shows or other industry events as determined by the Board

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On-Package Interconnects: Opportunities and Challenges

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Moore Predicted “Day of Reckoning”

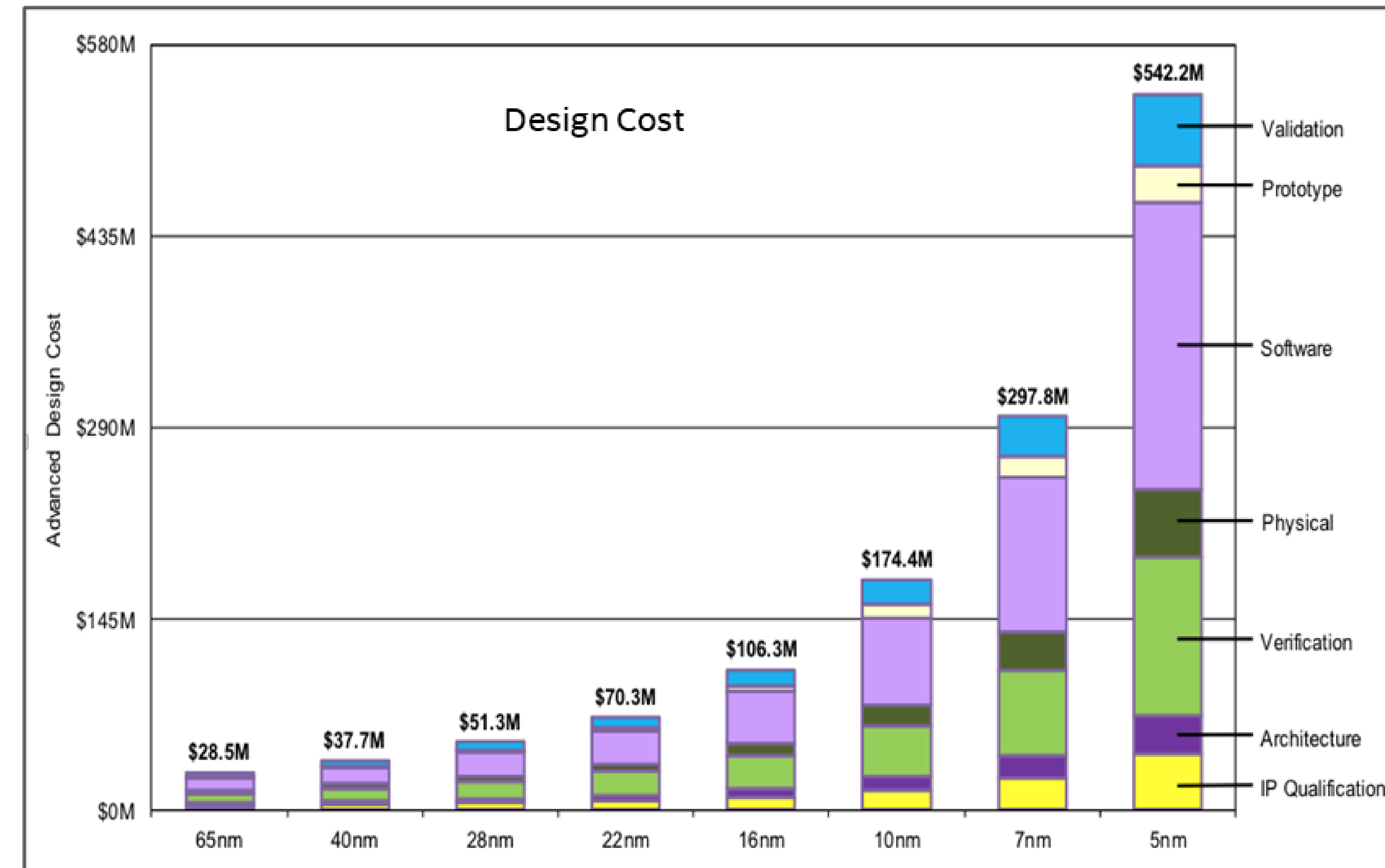
*“It may prove to be more economical to build large systems out of smaller functions, which are separately packaged and interconnected.”**

- Gordon E. Moore

*“Cramming more components onto integrated circuits,” Electronics, Volume 38, Number 8, April 19, 1965

Drivers for On-Package Chiplets

- Reticle Limit, yield optimization, scalable performance
  - →Same dies on package (Scale-up)
- Increasing design costs at leading edge process nodes
  - →Disaggregate dies across different nodes
  - →Deploy latest process node for advanced functionality
- Time to Market (Late binding)
- Easily enables Custom silicon for different customers leveraging a common base product
  - →E.g., Different acceleration functions with common compute
- Different process nodes optimized for different functions
  - →E.g., Memory, logic, analog, co-packaged optics
- High power-efficient bandwidth with low-latency access (e.g., HBM memory)



Source: IBS (as cited in IEEE Heterogeneous Integration Roadmap)

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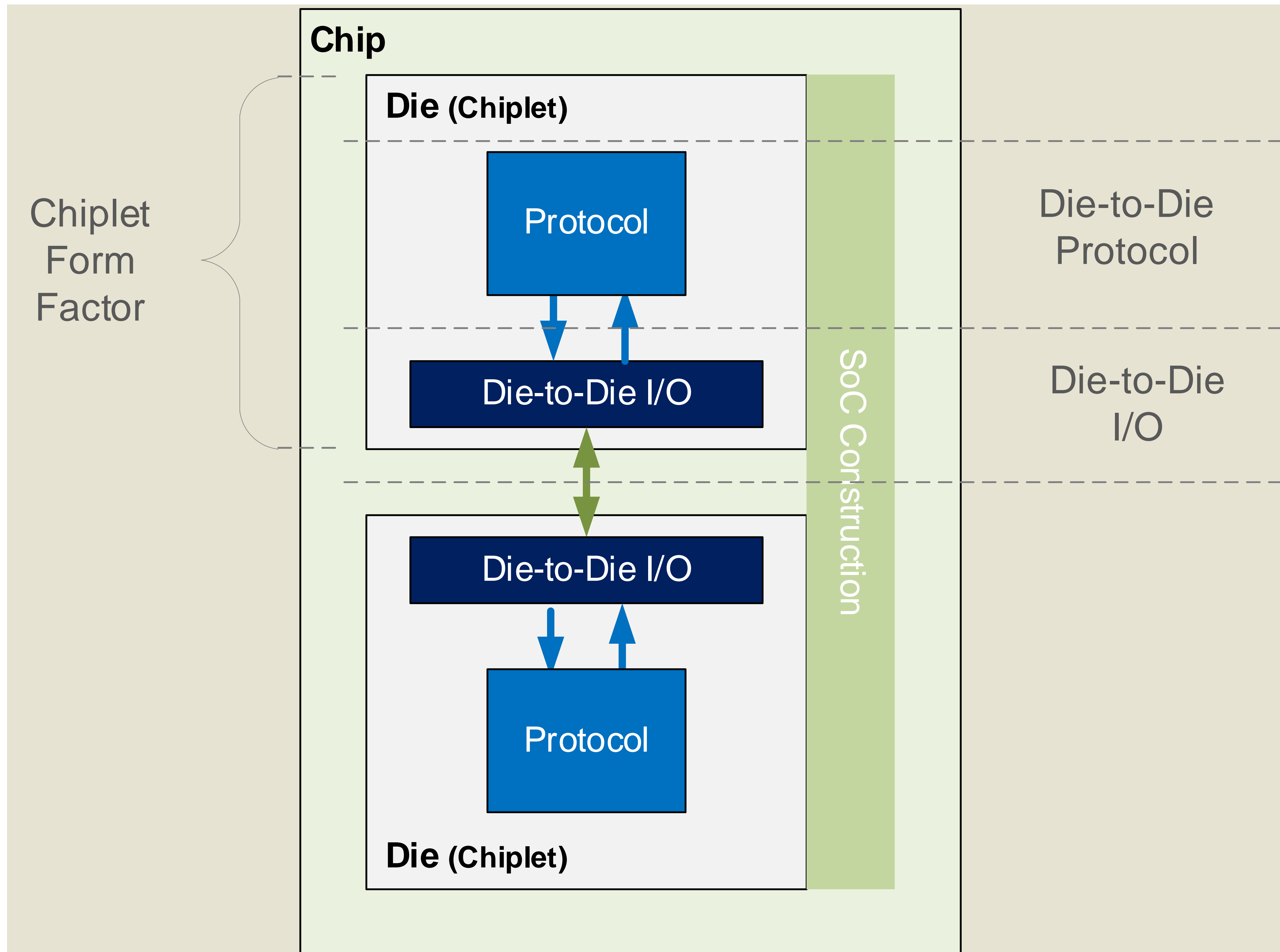
Components of Chiplet Interoperability



(Example SoC showing two chiplets only)

- **Chiplet Form Factor**
  - Die Size / bump location
  - Power delivery
- **SoC Construction** (Application Layer)
  - Reset and Initialization
  - Register access
  - Security
- **Die-to-Die Protocols** (Data Link to Transaction Layer)
  - PCIe/ CXL/ Streaming
  - Plug and play IPs
- **Die-to-Die I/O** (Physical Layer)
  - Electrical, bump arrangement, channel, reset, initialization, power, latency, test repair, technology transition

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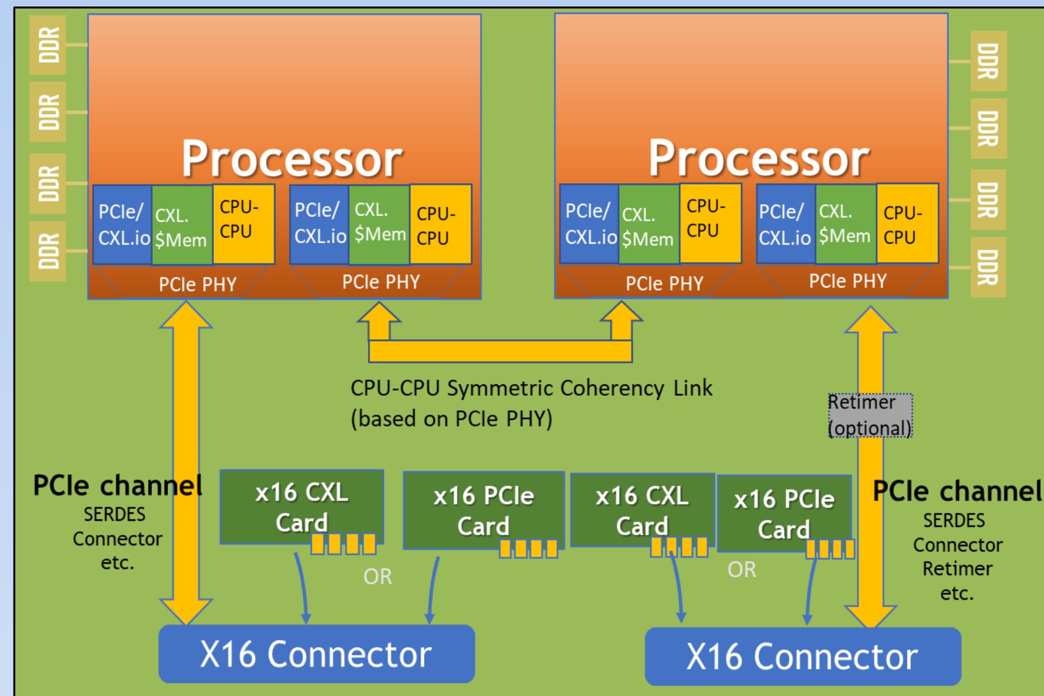
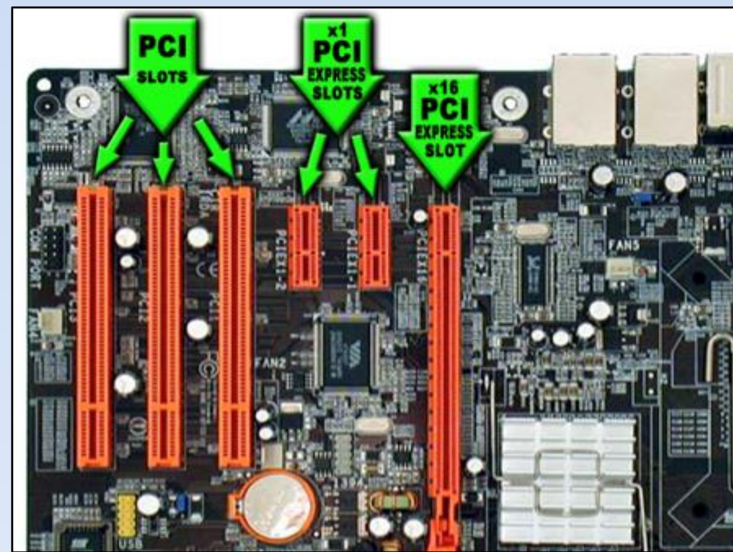
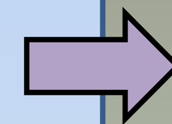
Design Choice: Seamless Integration from Node → Package → On-die

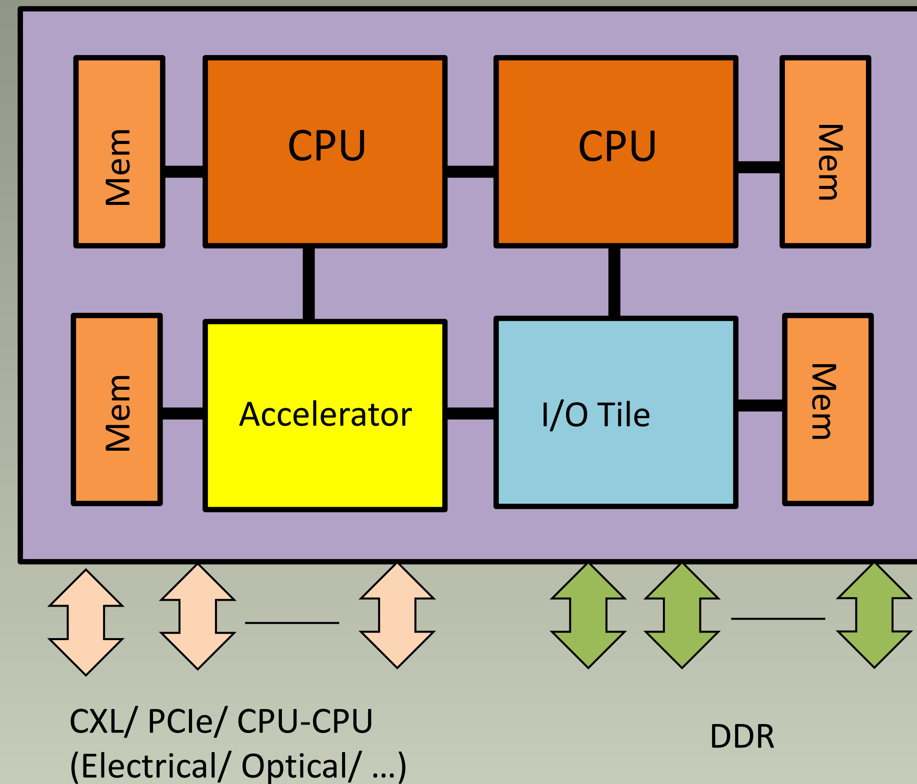
Enables Reuse, Better User Experience





Node / Board Level Integration

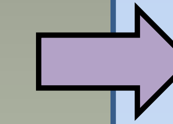


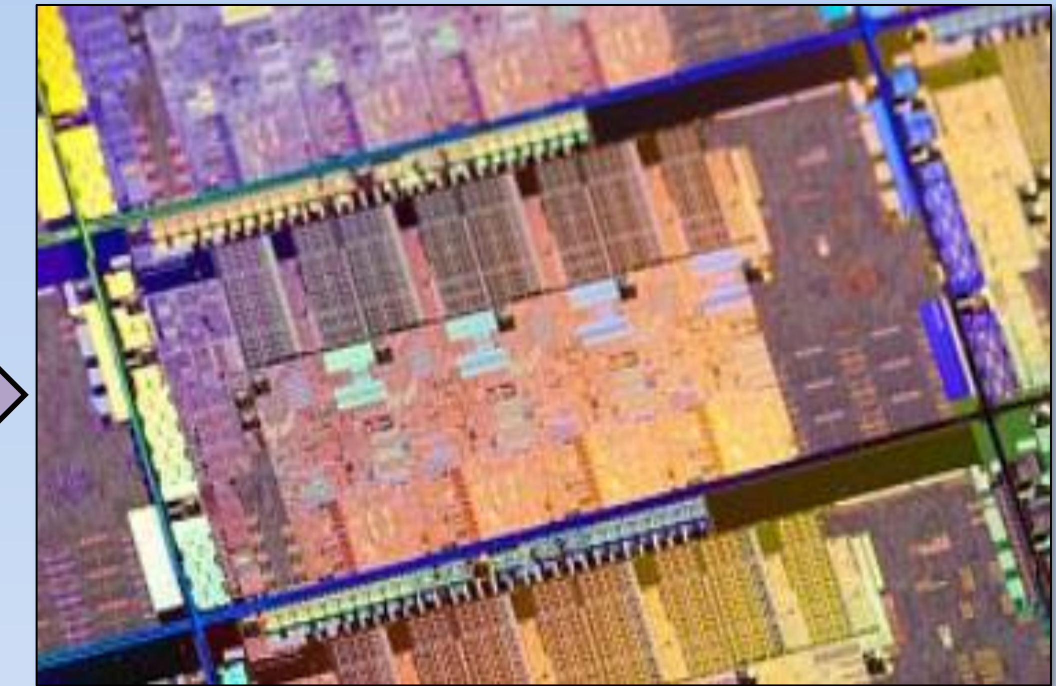


CXL/ PCIe/ CPU-CPU (Electrical/ Optical/ …)

DDR

Package Level Integration (with on-package interconnects)





On-die Integration

Same Software, IP, and Subsystem to build scalable solutions offers economies of scale , time to market advantage, and seamless user experience. Innovations at the open slot in board level needs to migrate to package level for multiple usages!

Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express (UCIe):

An Open Standard for Chiplets

Guiding principles of UCIe

1. Open Ecosystem with Plug-and-play
2. Backward compatible evolution when appropriate to ensure investment protection
3. Best power, performance, and cost metrics across the industry applicable across the entire compute continuum
4. Continuously innovate to meet the needs of evolving compute landscape

(Leveraging decades of experience driving successful industry standards at the board level: PCIe, CXL, USB, etc.)

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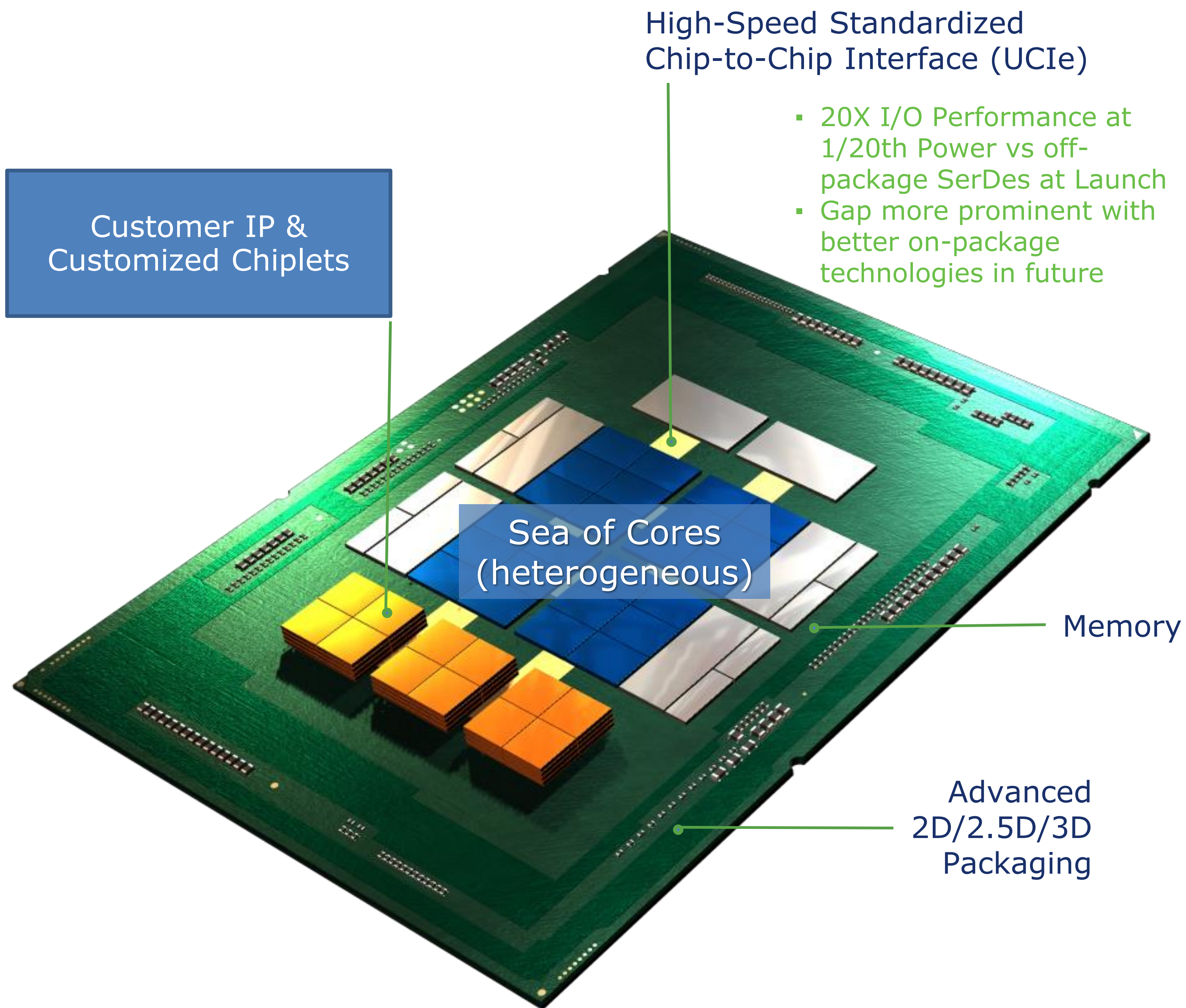
Motivation



UCIe™ Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express

Align Industry around an open platform to enable chiplet based solutions

- Enables construction of SoCs that exceed maximum reticle size
  - Package becomes new System-on-a-Chip (SoC) with same dies (Scale Up)
- Reduces time-to-solution (e.g., enables die reuse)
- Lowers portfolio cost (product & project)
  - Enables optimal process technologies
  - Smaller (better yield)
  - Reduces IP porting costs
  - Lowers product SKU cost
- Enables a customizable, standard-based product for specific use cases (bespoke solutions)
- Scales innovation (manufacturing/ process locked IPs)

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Key Metrics and Adoption Criteria

UCIe™ Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express

Key Performance Indicators

- Bandwidth density (linear & area)
  - Data Rate & Bump Pitch
- Energy Efficiency (pJ/b)
  - Scalable energy consumption
  - Low idle power (entry/exit time)
- Latency (end-to-end: Tx+Rx)
- Channel Reach
- Technology, frequency, & BER
- Reliability & Availability
- Cost (Standard vs advanced packaging)

Factors Affecting Wide Adoption

- Interoperability
- Full-stack, plug-and-play with existing s/w is+
- Different usages/segments
- Technology
  - Across process nodes & packaging options
  - Power delivery & cooling
  - Repair strategy (failure/yield improvement)
  - Debug – controllability & observability
- Broad industry support / Open ecosystem
  - Learnings from other standards efforts

UCIe - Architected and specified from the ground-up to deliver the best KPIs while meeting wide adoption criteria to drive innovations at package level

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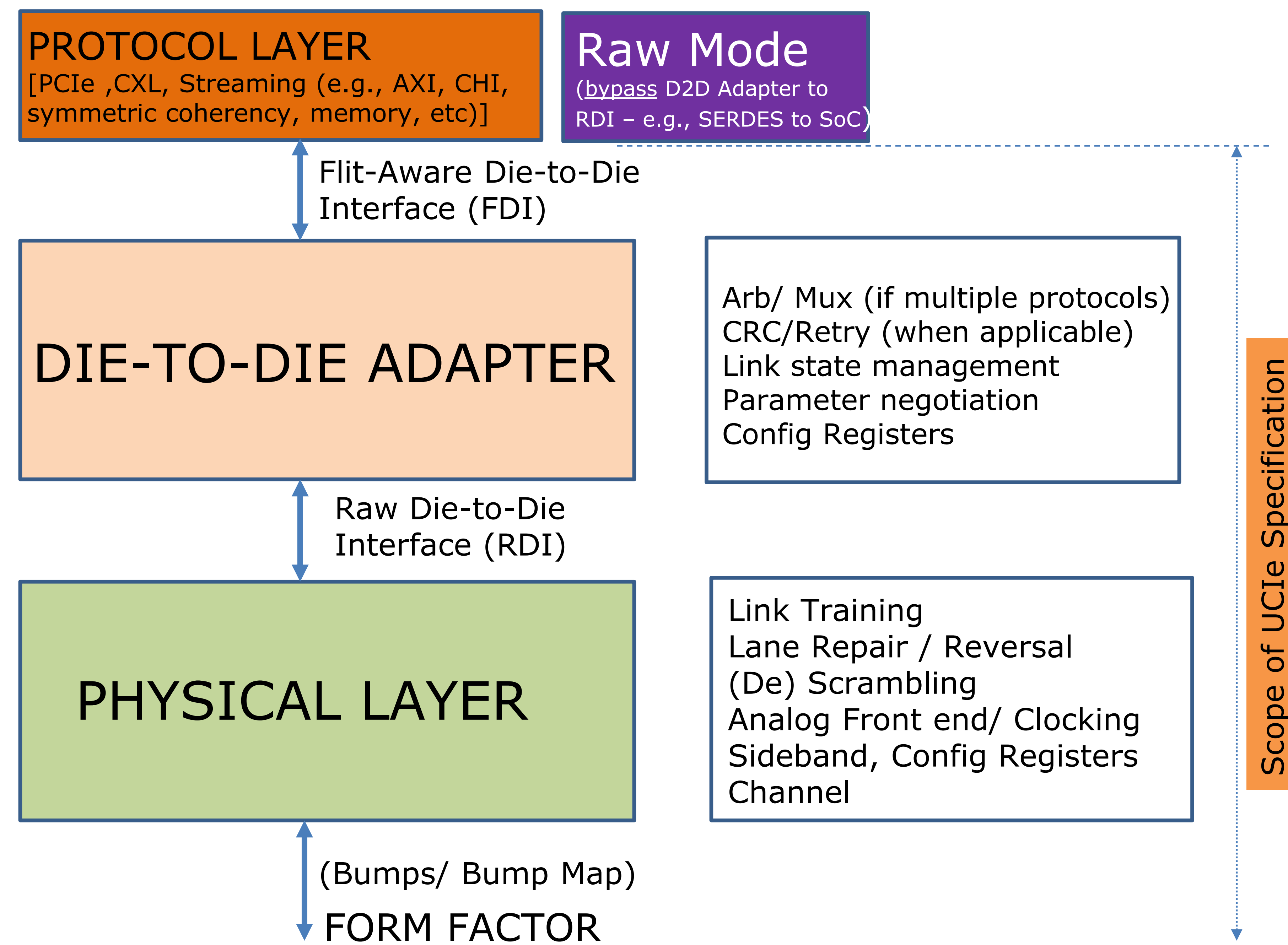
UCIe 1.0 Specification

- **Layered Approach with industry-leading KPIs**
- **Physical Layer:** Die-to-Die I/O
- **Die to Die Adapter:** Reliable delivery
  - Support for multiple protocols: bypassed in raw mode
- **Protocol:** CXL/PCIe and Streaming
  - **CXL™/PCIe® for volume attach and plug-and-play**
    - SoC construction issues are addressed w/ CXL/PCIe
    - CXL/PCIe addresses common use cases
      - I/O attach, Memory, Accelerator
  - **Streaming for other protocols**
    - Scale-up (e.g., CPU/ GP-GPU/Switch from smaller dies)
    - Protocol can be anything (e.g., AXI/CHI/SFI/CPI/ etc)
- **Well defined specification**: interoperability and future evolution
  - Configuration register for discovery and run-time
    - control and status reporting in each layer
    - transparent to existing drivers
  - Form-factor and Management
  - Compliance for interoperability
  - Plug-and-play IPs with RDI/ FDI interface



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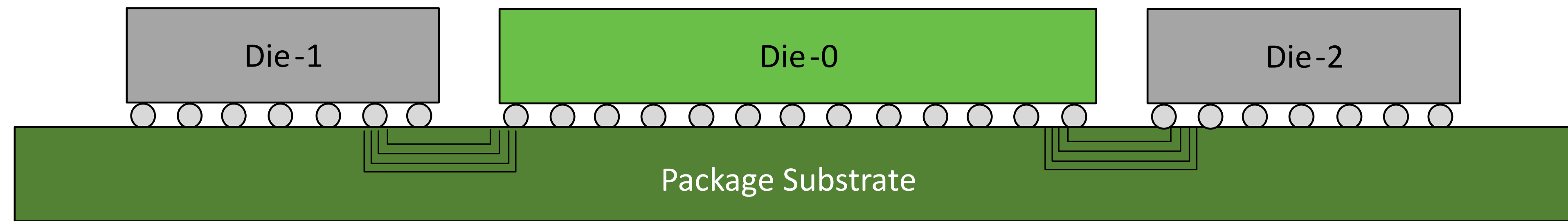
UCIe 1.0: Supports Standard and Advanced Packages

UCIe
Universal Chiplet
Interconnect Express

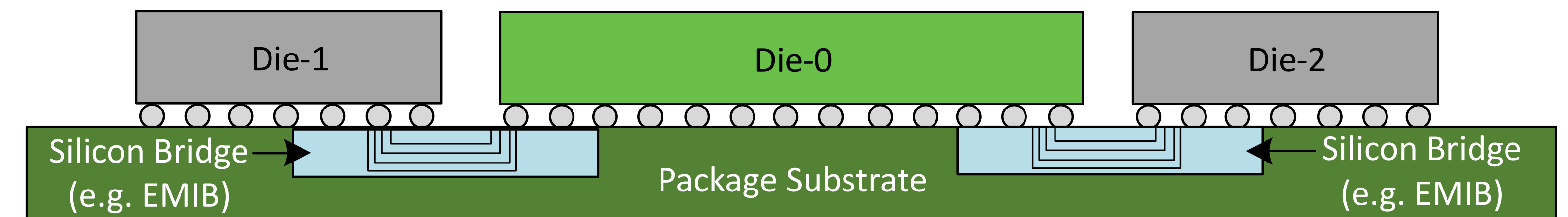


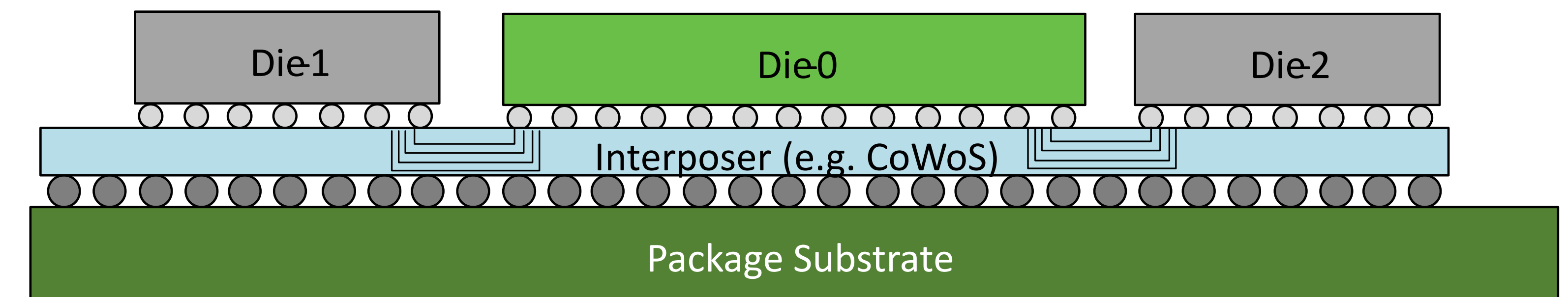
(Standard Package)

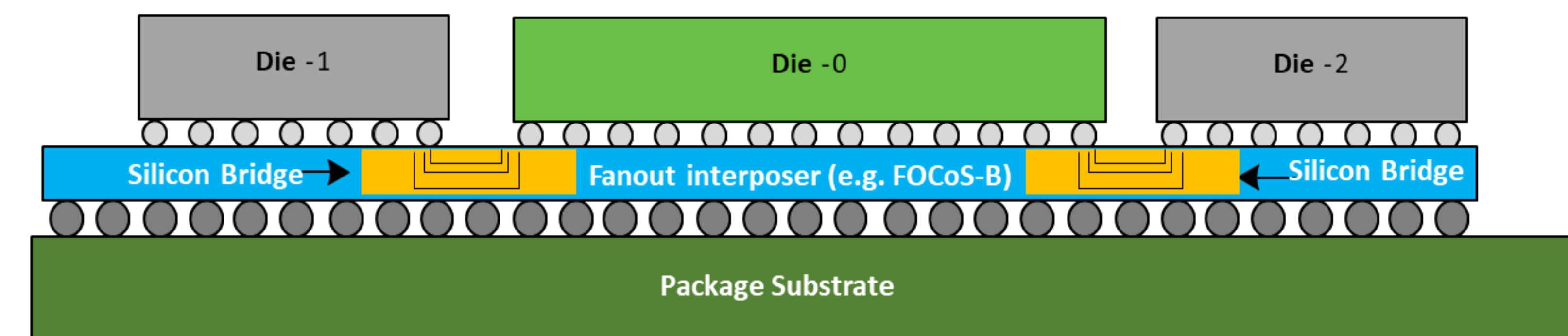
Standard Package: 2D – cost effective, longer distance

Advanced Package: 2.5D – power-efficient, high bandwidth density

Dies can be manufactured anywhere and assembled anywhere – can mix 2D and 2.5D in same package – Flexibility for SoC designer







(Multiple Advanced Package Choices)

One UCIe 1.0 spec supports different flavors of packaging options to build an open ecosystem

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UCIe™ Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express

UCIe PHY: Bump-out for Interoperability

- UCIe architected with process portability in mind
  - Circuit components can be built with common digital/ analog structures
- Bump-out specified in the specification for interoperability even with future bump-pitch reductions
  - Die rotation and mirroring supported

	txdatasb		txcksb		vccaon		vccaon		rxcksb		rxdatasb
vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio	
	vss		vss		vccio		vss		vss		vss
vss		txdata7		txdata9		vss		rxdata8		rxdata6	
	txdata5		txckn		txdata11		rxdata10		rxckp		rxdata4
vss		txdata6		txdata8		vss		rxdata9		rxdata7	
	txdata4		txckp		txdata10		rxdata11		rxckn		rxdata5
vccio		vss		vss		vccio		vss		vss	
	txdata1		txvld		txdata15		rxdata14		rxtrk		rxdata0
vccio		txdata3		txdata13		vccio		rxdata12		rxdata2	
	txdata0		txtrk		txdata14		rxdata15		rxvld		rxdata1
vss		txdata2		txdata12		vss		rxdata13		rxdata3	

(UCIe-S Unstacked Bump-out)

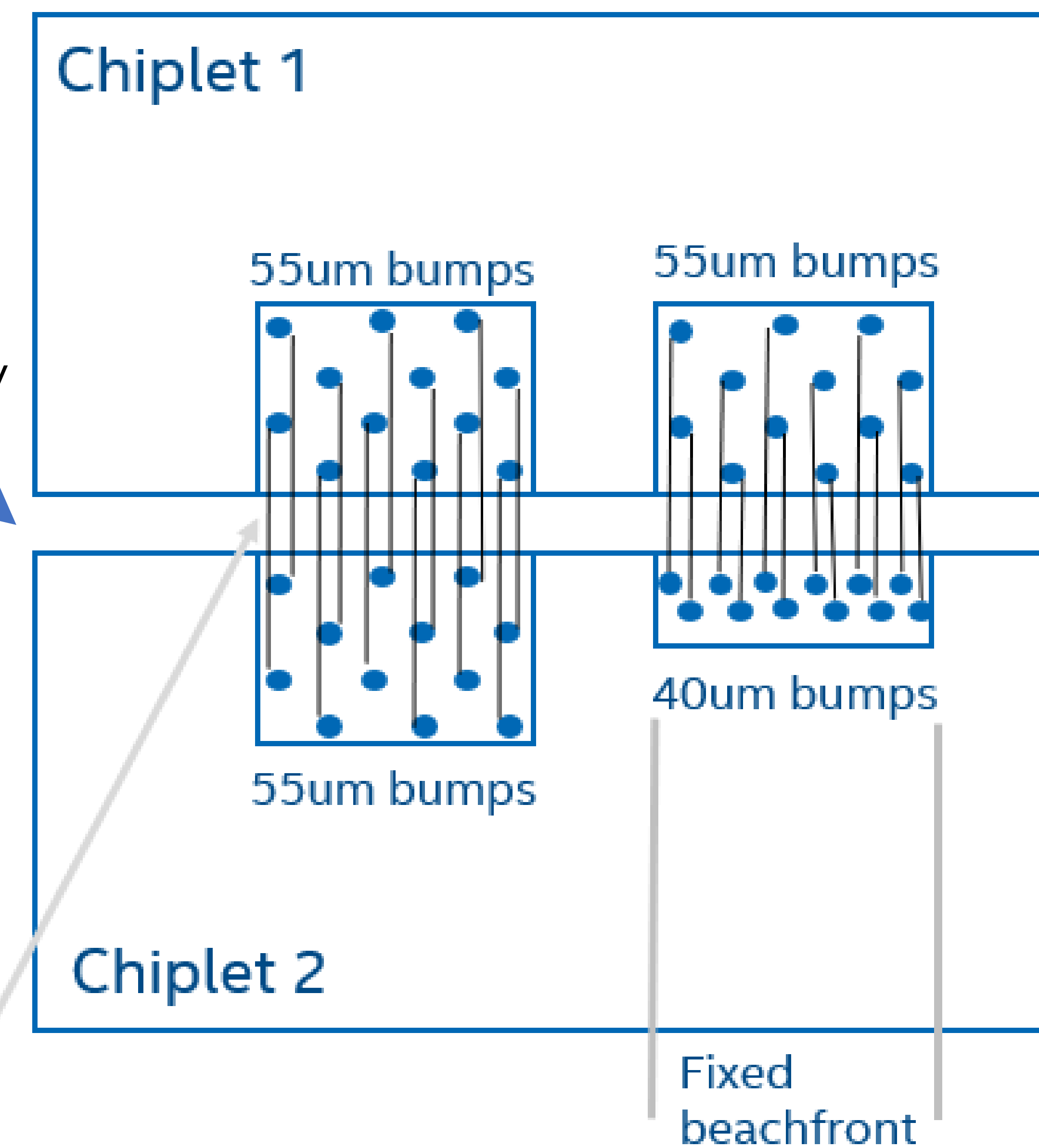
	m2rxdatasb		m2rxcksb		vccaon		m2txcksb		m2txdatasb		vccaon
m1txdatasb		m1txcksb		vccaon		vccaon		m1rxcksb		m1rxdatasb	
	vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio
vss		vss		vss		vss		vss		vss	
	m2rxdata6		m2rxdata8		vss		m2txdata9		m2txdata7		vss
m2rxdata4		m2rxckp		m2rxdata10		m2txdata11		m2txckn		m2txdata5	
	m2rxdata7		m2rxdata9		vss		m2txdata8		m2txdata6		vss
m2rxdata5		m2rxckn		m2rxdata11		m2txdata10		m2txckp		m2txdata4	
	vss		vss		vss		vss		vss		vss
m2rxdata0		m2rxtrk		m2rxdata14		m2txdata15		m2txvld		m2txdata1	
	m2rxdata2		m2rxdata12		vss		m2txdata13		m2txdata3		vss
m2rxdata1		m2rxvld		m2rxdata15		m2txdata14		m2txtrk		m2txdata0	
	m2rxdata3		m2rxdata13		vccio		m2txdata12		m2txdata2		vccio
vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio	
	vss		vss		vccio		vss		vss		vccio
vss		m1txdata7		m1txdata9		vss		m1rxdata8		m1rxdata6	
	m1txdata5		m1txckn		m1txdata11		m1rxdata10		m1rxckp		m1rxdata4
vss		m1txdata6		m1txdata8		vss		m1rxdata9		m1rxdata7	
	m1txdata4		m1txckp		m1txdata10		m1rxdata11		m1rxckn		m1rxdata5
vccio		vss		vss		vccio		vss		vss	
	m1txdata1		m1txvld		m1txdata15		m1rxdata14		m1rxtrk		m1rxdata0
vccio		m1txdata3		m1txdata13		vccio		m1rxdata12		m1rxdata2	
	m1txdata0		m1txtrk		m1txdata14		m1rxdata15		m1rxvld		m1rxdata1
vss		m1txdata2		m1txdata12		vss		m1rxdata13		m1rxdata3	

(UCIe-S Stacked Bump-out)

	rxcksbRD		rxcksb		vccio			rxdatasb		rxdatasbRD
txdatasbRD		txdatasb		vccio		txcksb		txcksbRD	
	rxdata50		rxdata35		rxdata29		rxdata14		rxdataRD0
rxdataRD3		rxdata49		rxdata34		rxdata28		rxdata13	
	rxdata51		rxdata36		rxdata30		rxdata15		vss
rxdata63		vccio		rxdata33		vccio		rxdata12	
	rxdata52		vss		rxdata31		vss		rxdata0
vss		rxdata48		rxdata32		rxdata27		rxdata11	
	rxdata53		rxdata37		rxdataRD1		rxdata16		rxdata1
rxdata62		rxdata47		rxdataRD2		rxdata26		rxdata10	
	rxdata54		rxdata38		vss		rxdata17		vss
rxdata61		rxdata46		vccio		rxdata25		rxdata9	
	rxdata55		rxdata39		rxckRD		rxdata18		rxdata2
vss		rxdata45		rxvldRD		rxdata24		rxdata8	
	rxdata56		vss		rxckn		rxdata19		rxdata3
rxdata60		rxdata44		rxvld		vss		rxdata7	
	rxdata57		rxdata40		rxckp		rxdata20		vss
rxdata59		rxdata43		rxtrk		rxdata23		rxdata6	
	rxdata58		rxdata41		vss		rxdata21		rxdata4
vss		rxdata42		vccio		rxdata22		rxdata5	
	vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio
vccio		txdata21		vccio		txdata41		txdata58	
	txdata5		txdata22		vss		txdata42		vss
txdata4		txdata20		txckp		txdata40		txdata57	
	txdata6		txdata23		txtrk		txdata43		txdata59
vss		txdata19		txckn		vss		txdata56	
	txdata7		vss		txvld		txdata44		txdata60
txdata3		txdata18		txckRD		txdata39		txdata55	
	txdata8		txdata24		txvldRD		txdata45		vss
txdata2		txdata17		vccio		txdata38		txdata54	
	txdata9		txdata25		vss		txdata46		txdata61
vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio	
	txdata10		txdata26		txdataRD2		txdata47		txdata62
txdata1		txdata16		txdataRD1		txdata37		txdata53	
	txdata11		txdata27		txdata32		txdata48		vss
txdata0		vss		txdata31		vss		txdata52	
	txdata12		vss		txdata33		vss		txdata63
vss		txdata15		txdata30		txdata36		txdata51	
	txdata13		txdata28		txdata34		txdata49		txdataRD3
txdataRD0		txdata14		txdata29		txdata35		txdata50	
	vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio
vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio		vccio	

(UCIe-A Bump-out)

Fixed beachfront allows for
Multi-generational compatibility
As bump pitches decrease



CoWos or EMIB or FoCoS or
similar tight-pitch tech

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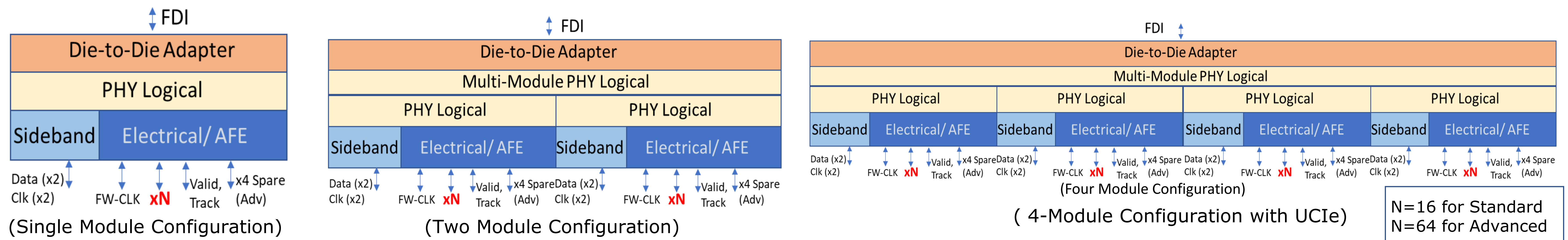
Physical Layer

- Unit is One Module: uni-directional: 1, 2, or 4 modules form a Link
  - 16 (64) SE Lanes for Std (Adv)
  - 1 SE Lane of valid
  - 1 differential pair of forwarded clock
  - 1 lane (SE) calibration - Track
  - Lane reversal on Transmit side
  - Reliability: Spare Lanes in Adv; degradation in Std
  - Supported frequencies: 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32 GHz
  - A component must support all data rates up to its advertised maximum data rate for interoperability
  - B/W per module/ dir: 64 GB/s Std, 256 GB/s Adv: Two module gets 2X, 4-module gets 4X
- Sideband: always on; 2 Lanes/ direction @ 800 MHz – data and clock
  - Used for training, debug, management, etc; Leverages depopulated bumps to ensure no extra shore-line
- Valid used for effective dynamic power management



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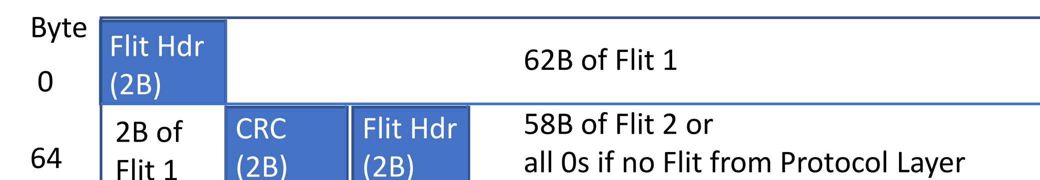
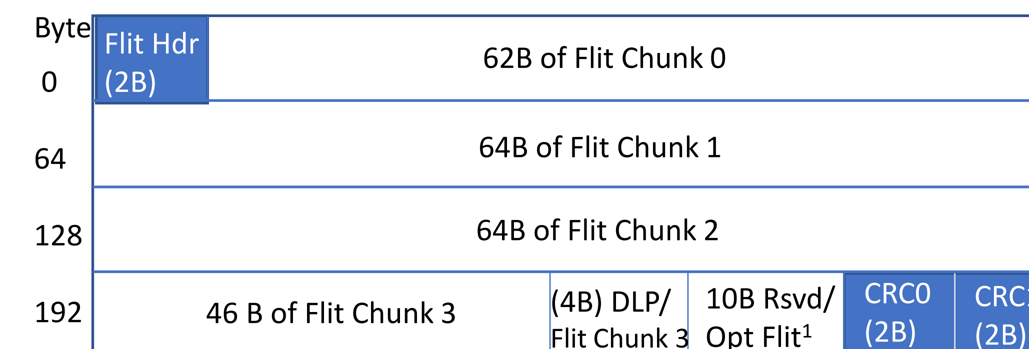
D2D Adapter and Flit Mapping through FDI

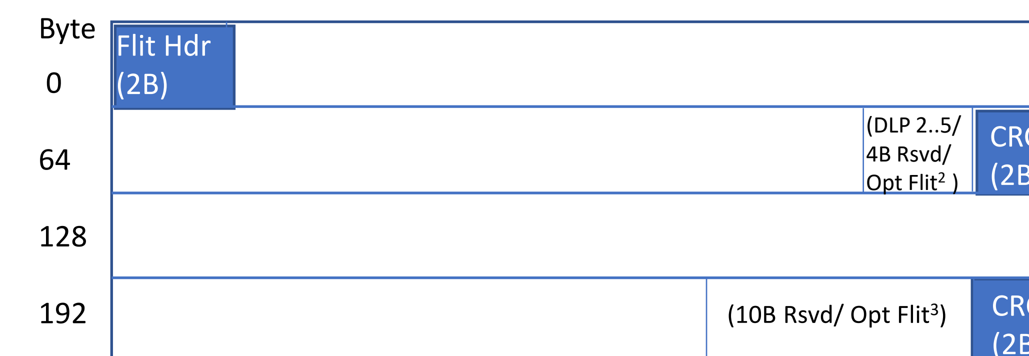
- Responsible for packetization
  - Adds Flit Header (2B) and CRC (2B)
- Supported Flit Sizes: 68B and two flavors of 256B
  - Decided at negotiation
- Flit Hdr (2B): Protocol ID (3b), Credit (1b), Flit Ack/Nak management (2b command + 8b sequence number), Rsvd (2b)
- CRC: Covers 128B payload (smaller payloads are 0-extended)
  - Triple bit flip detection guarantee with 16 bits
  - Replay if CRC fails
  - Sample RTL code for CRC provided in the spec



(a. 68-Byte Flit – usage CXL 2.0/ PCIe Non-Flit Mode/ Streaming)



(b. 256-Byte Flit – usage CXL 3.0/ PCIe 6.0)



(c. 256-Byte Latency-Optimized Flit – usage CXL 3.0/ Streaming)

(Opt Flit is for better link efficiency to use the unused CRC/ FEC bytes in PCIe/ CXL)

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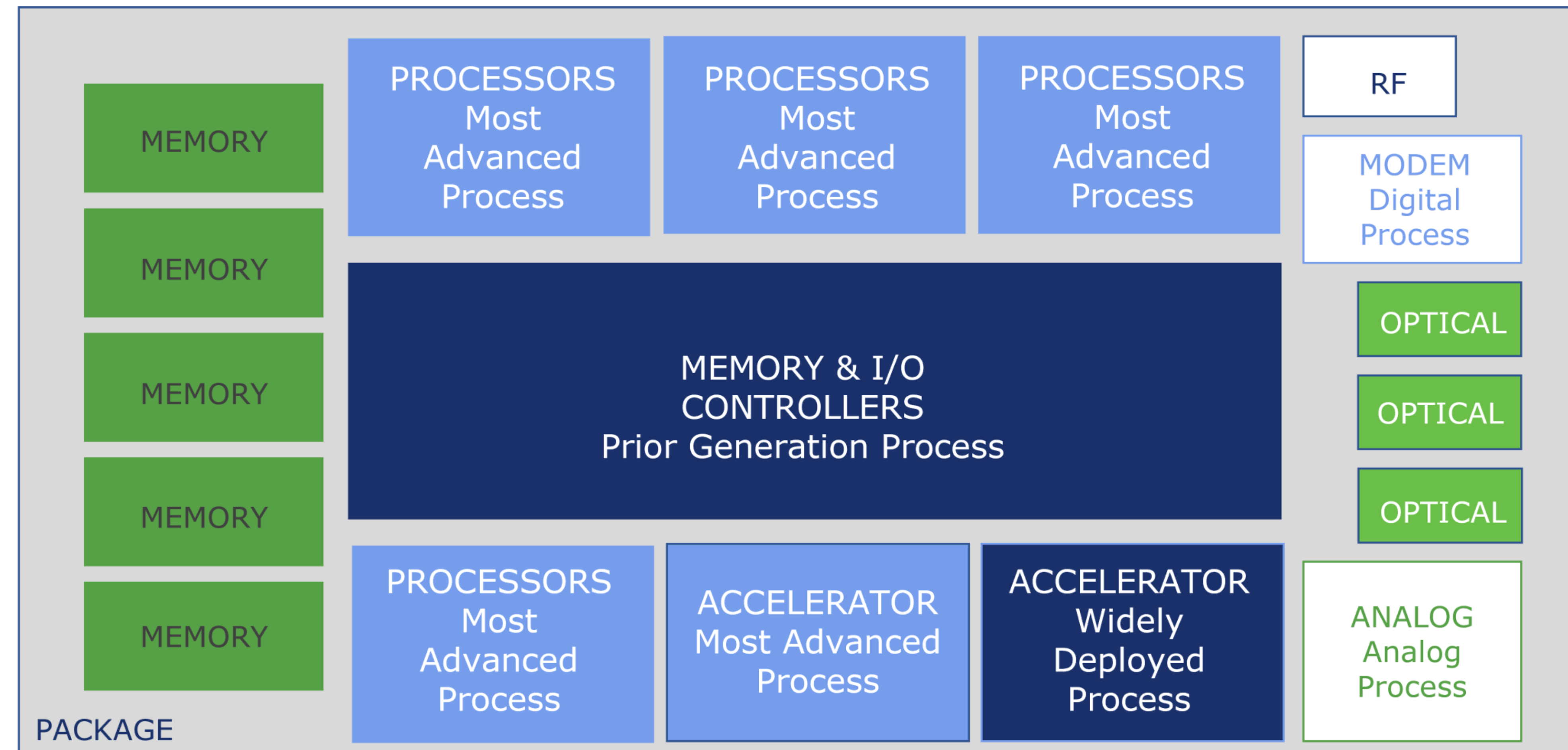
Usage Models for UCIe: SoC at Package level

- SoC as a Package level construct
  - Standard and/ or Advanced package
  - Homogeneous and/or heterogeneous chiplets
  - Mix and match chiplets from multiple suppliers
- Across segments: Hand-held, Client, Server, Workstation, Comms, HPC, Automotive, IoT, etc
- UCIe PHY and D2D adapter common
  - PCIe/CXL protocol for plug-and-play
  - Streaming for others (similar to board level connectivity today where scale-up systems are on PCIe PHY)
  - Similar to PCIe/ CXL at board level



Processors: symmetric coherency protocol mapped on UCIe through FDI
Memory: CXL.Mem mapped on UCIe through FDI
Accelerators: PCIe/ CXL mapped on UCIe through FDI
Modem/ RF/ Optical: Raw mode on UCIe

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Example Scale-up SoC from homogeneous dies: Large Switch with on-die protocol as streaming over UCIe

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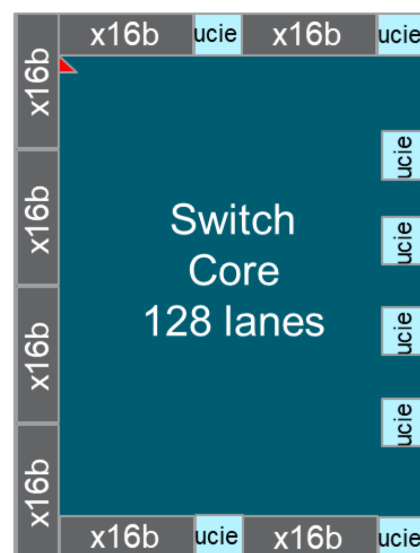
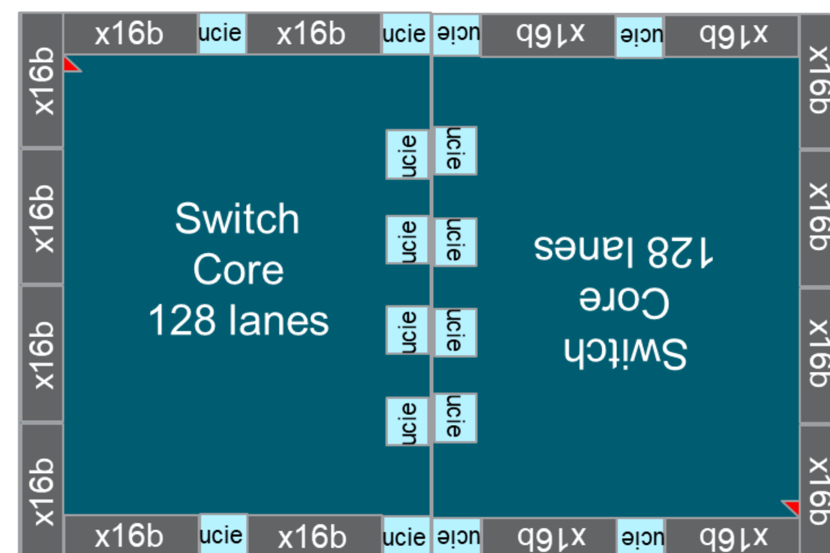
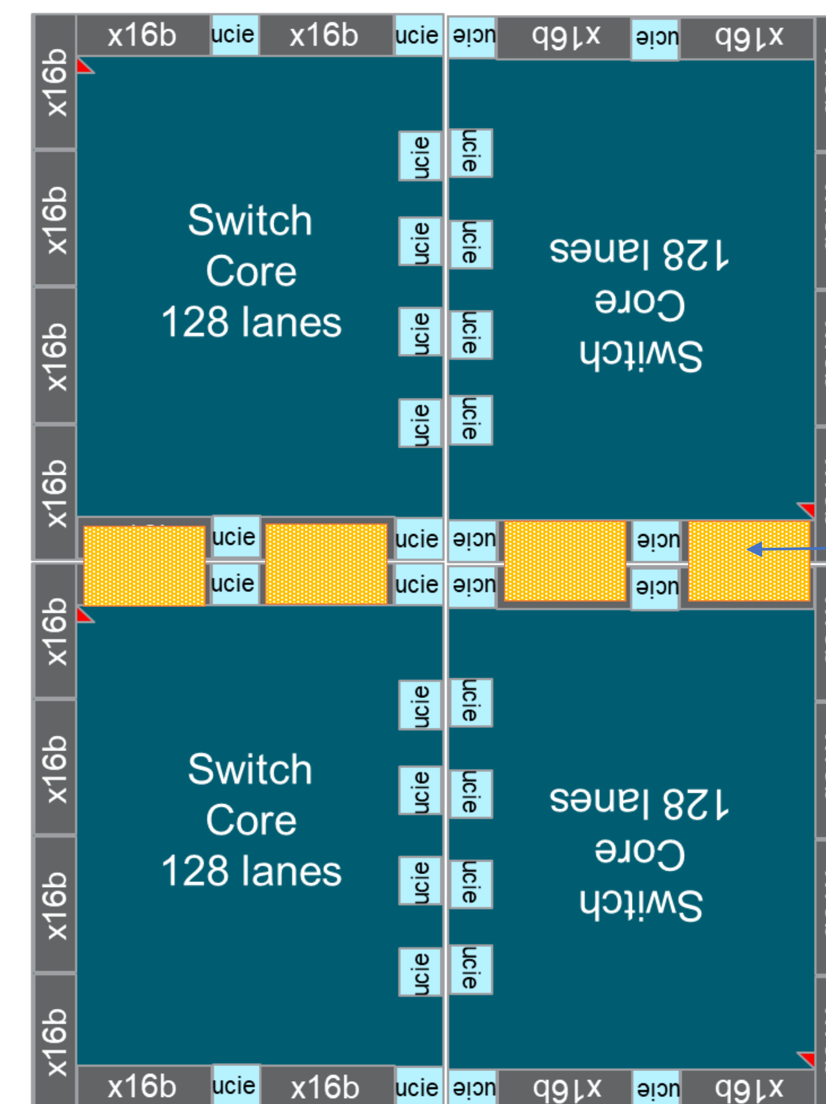
- Need large radix CXL switches – challenges: reticle limit, cost, etc.
- UCIe based Chiplets should help with scalable products
- 64G Gen6 x16b CXL links
- UCIe as d2d interconnect – while this is a scale-up CXL switch , a switch vendor may prefer to have their on-die interconnect protocol be transported over UCIe rather than create a hierarchy of switches which will not work for CXL 2.0 tree-based topology



Small CXL Switch (128 lanes)



Medium-sized CXL Switch (256 lanes)



Large CXL switch (512 lanes)

One can construct CPUs (low, medium, large core-count CPUs) from smaller dies connected through UCIe using the same principle
Here the UCIe PHY and D2D adapter will carry the packetized version of internal CPU interconnect fabric

Ack: Nathan Kalyanasundaram

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Example Scale-up Package using Streaming and open-plug-in using PCIe/ CXL

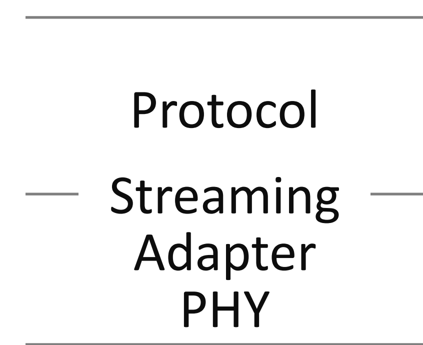
Compute
CPU CPU CPU
CPU CPU CPU
CHI interconnect
Memory controller
UCIe
D2D adapter
PHY

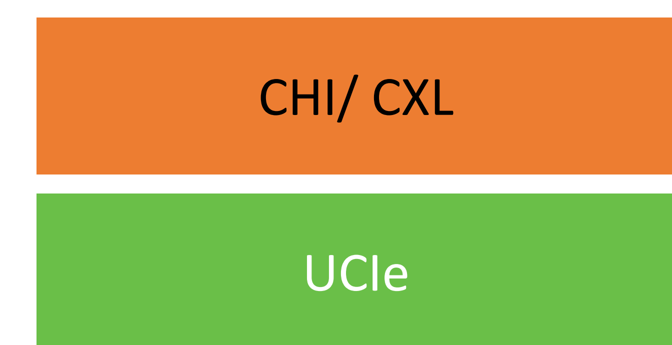
Compute
CPU CPU CPU
CPU CPU CPU
UCIe
PHY
D2D Adapter
CHI interconnect
Memory controller
UCIe
CHI/CXL
D2D Adapter
PHY

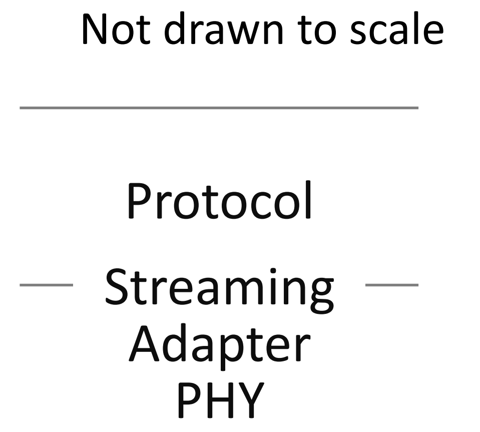
Acceleration
Accelerators
UCIe
PHY
D2D Adapter
CHI/CXL
Internal (e.g., CHI) interconnect
Mem controller

(3 dies on one package)

- Transporting the same on-chip protocol allows seamless use of architecture specific features without protocol conversion
- Streaming interface with additional flit formats provide link robustness using UCIe defined data-link CRC and retry







- Any device type in this open plug-in slot with CXL (or CHI if both support it)

Ack: Marvin Denman, Bruce Mathewson, Francisco Socal, Durgesh Srivastava, Dong Wei

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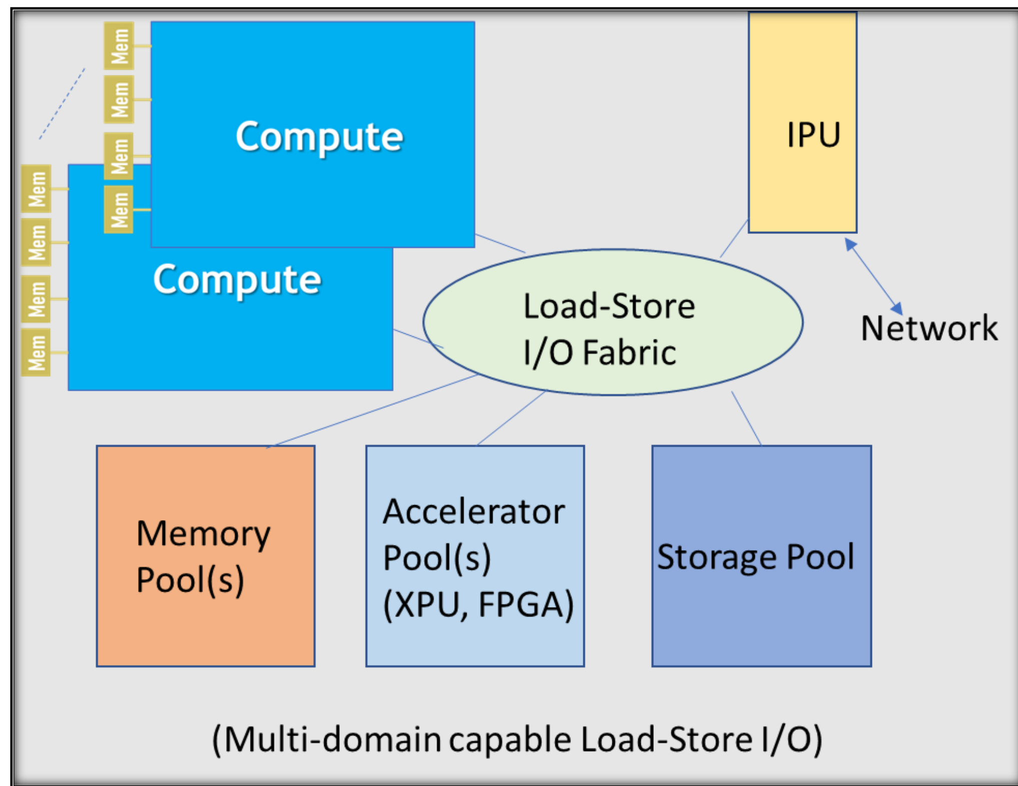
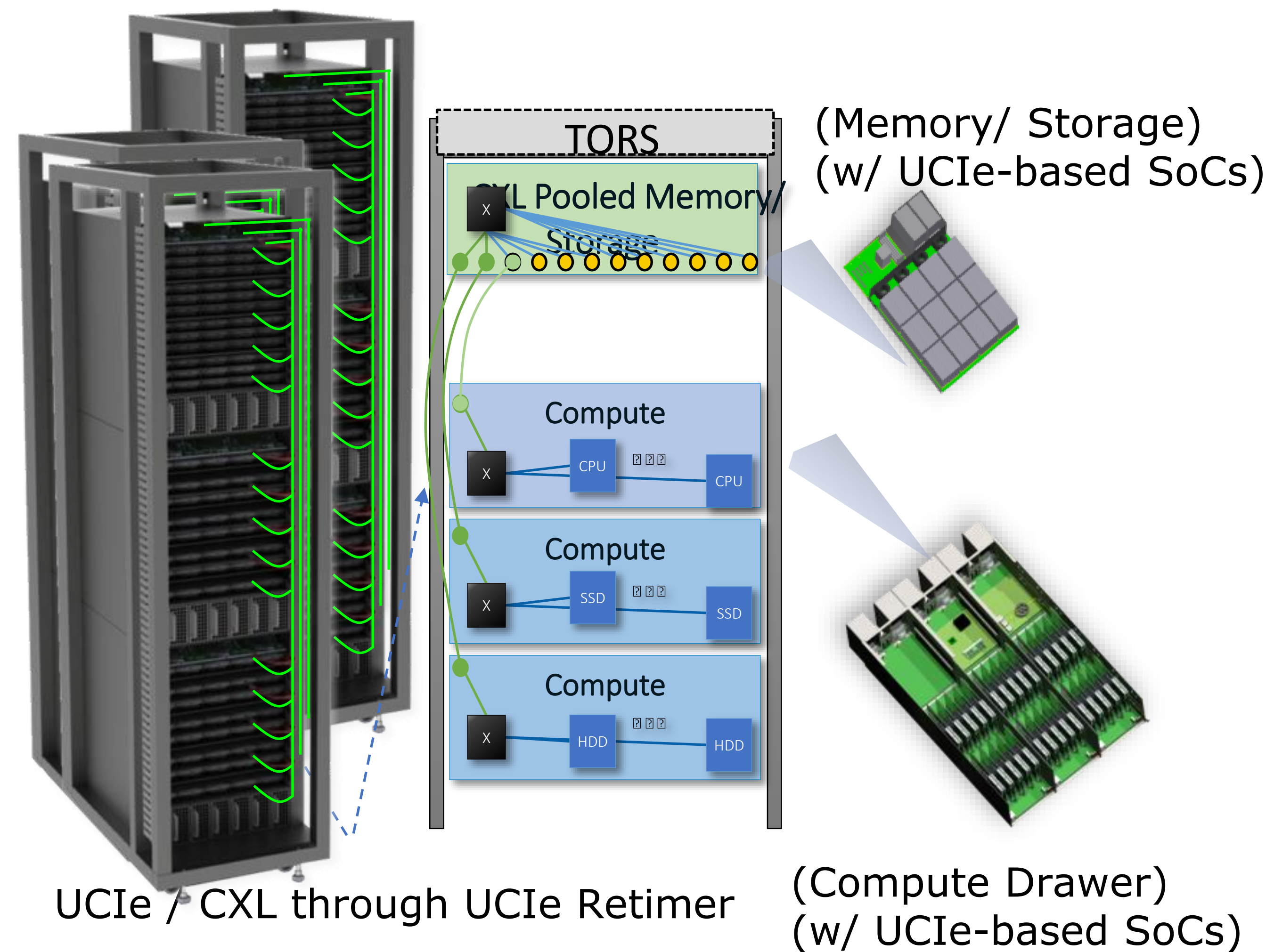
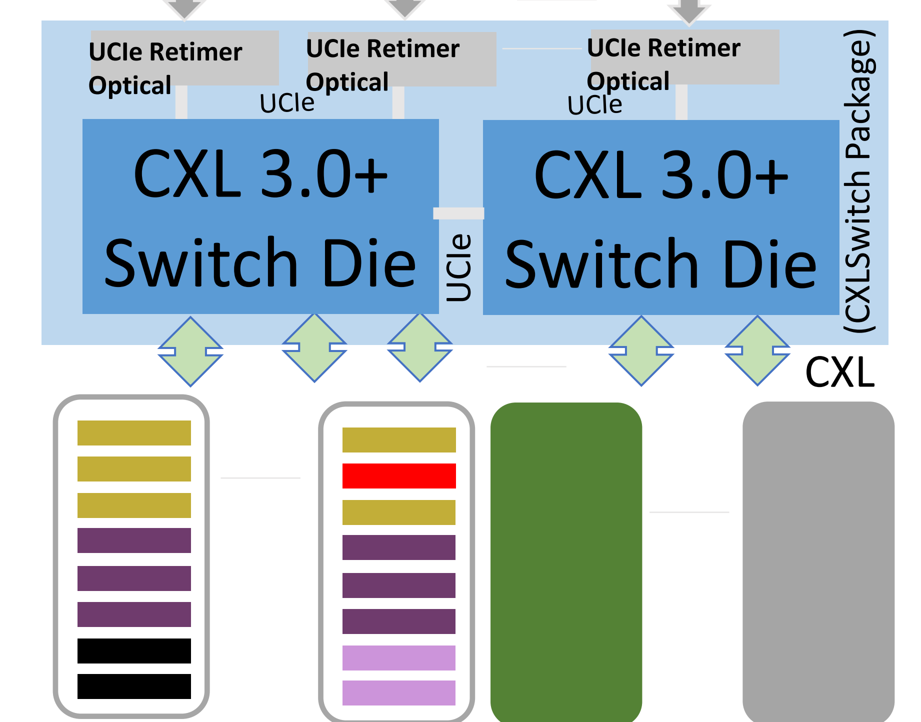
UCIe Usage: Off-package connectivity w/ Retimers



(Use Case: Load-Store I/O (CXL) as the fabric across the Pod providing low-latency and high bandwidth resource pooling/ sharing as well as message passing)

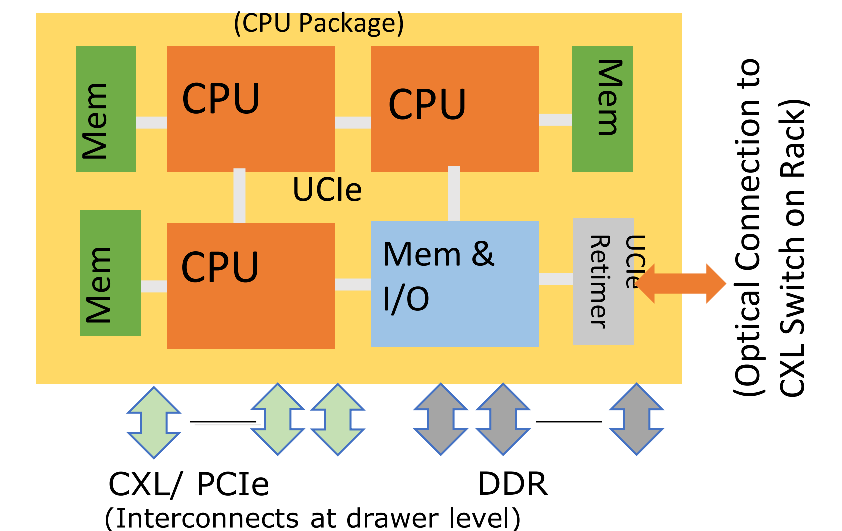


Provision to extend off-package with UCIe Retimers connecting to other media (e.g., optics)



(Switch dies connected through UCIe PHY + Adapter Running a proprietary switch internal protocol)

(Another example can be multi-terabit networking switches Constructed from UCIe-based co-packaged optics and partitionable networking switch dies connected through UCIe on package



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UCIe 1.0: Characteristics and Key Metrics

CHARACTERISTICS	STANDARD PACKAGE	ADVANCED PACKAGE	COMMENTS
Data Rate (GT/s)	4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32		Lower speeds must be supported -interop (e.g., 4, 8, 12 for 12G device)
Width (each cluster)	16	64	Width degradation in Standard, spare lanes in Advanced
Bump Pitch (um)	100 – 130	25 - 55	Interoperate across bump pitches in each package type across nodes
Channel Reach (mm)	<= 25	<=2	

KPIs / TARGET FOR KEY METRICS	STANDARD PACKAGE	ADVANCED PACKAGE	COMMENTS
B/W Shoreline (GB/s/mm)	28 – 224	165 – 1317	Conservatively estimated: AP: 45u; Standard: 110u; Proportionate to data rate (4G – 32G)
B/W Density (GB/s/mm^2)	22-125	188-1350	
Power Efficiency target (pJ/b)	0.5	0.25	
Low-power entry/exit latency	0.5ns <=16G, 0.5-1ns >=24G		Power savings estimated at >= 85%
Latency (Tx + Rx)	< 2ns		Includes D2D Adapter and PHY (FDI to bump and back)
Reliability (FIT)	0 < FIT (Failure In Time) << 1		FIT: #failures in a billion hours (expecting ~1E-10) w/ UCIe Flit Mode

UCIe 1.0 delivers the best KPIs while meeting the projected needs for the next 5-6 years across the compute continuum.

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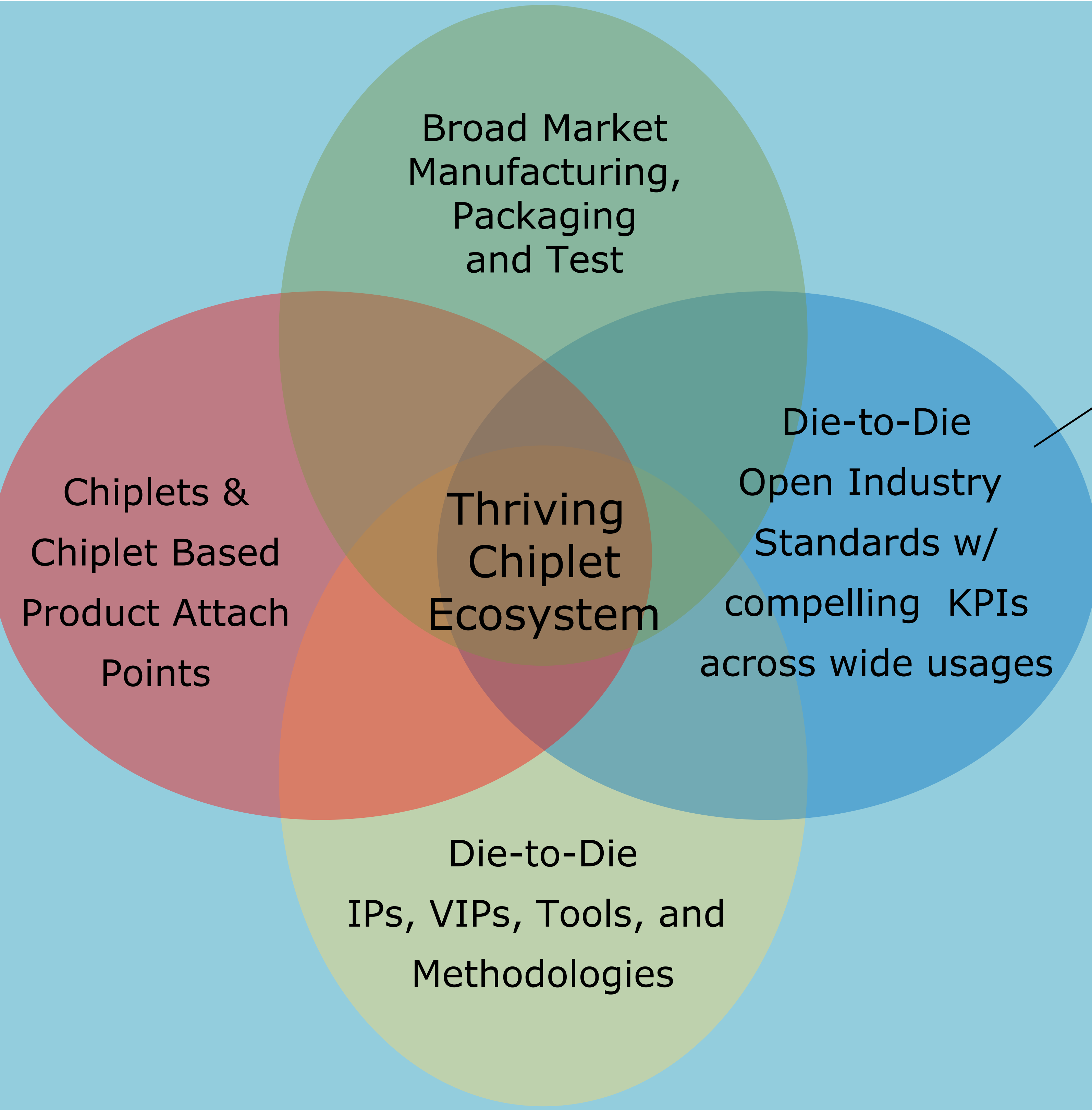
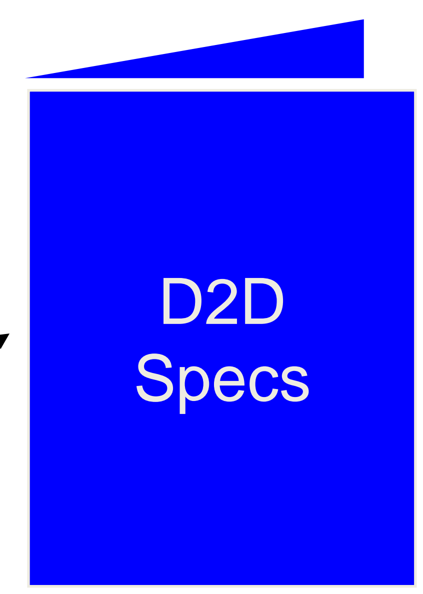
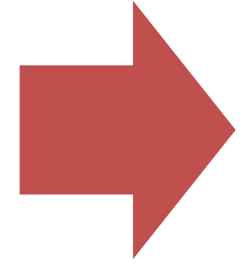
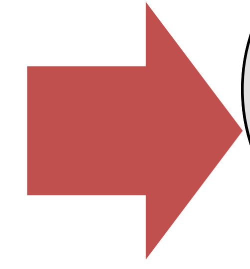
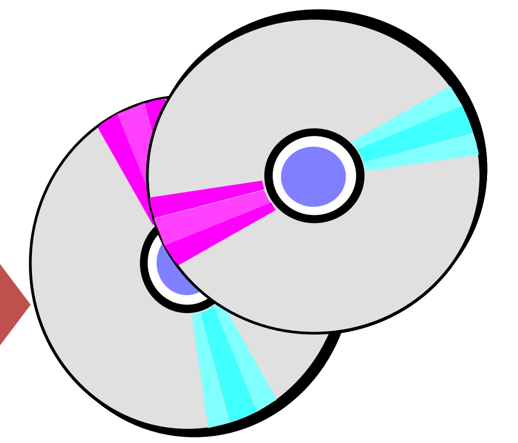
Ingredients for a broad inter-operable chiplet ecosystem











Test Tools And Procedures

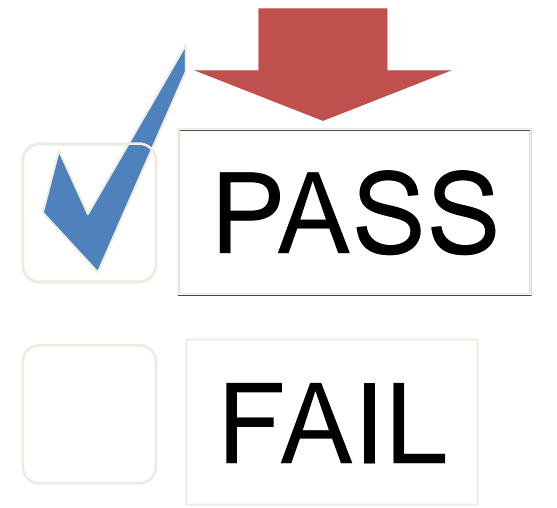
Well-defined Specs

(Electrical, Logical, Protocol (e.g., PCIe/ CXL) Software, Form-Factor, Management)

Test criteria based on Specs

(Test Definitions, Pass/Fail Criteria: Electrical, Logical, Protocol, Software)

Test H/W & S/W *Validates* Test criteria
- Compliance
- Interoperability



Predictable path to design compliance with UCIe

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Summary

- **UCIe Consortium is incorporated with board elections in June 2022 adding two board members**
- **UCIe is an open industry standard that establishes an open chiplet ecosystem and ubiquitous interconnect at the package level.**
  – Tremendous support across the industry with several companies announcing IP/VIP availability
  – Poised to be the interconnect of SoCs the same way PCIe and CXL are at the board level
  – UCIe 1.0 Specification is available to the public https://www.uciexpress.org/specification
- UCIe Consortium welcomes interested companies and institutions to join the organization at the **Contributor or Adopter level**.
- 5 **Technical Working Groups** (Electrical, Protocol, Form Factor/Compliance, Manageability / Security, Systems and Software) and **Marketing Working Group** driving the technology forward
  – Plenty of innovations happening in the consortium
- **Join us if you have not done so! Learn more by visiting** www.UCIexpress.org

Q&A

Please share your questions in the Q&A Chat

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Thank You

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