

How to Build an Impactful Research Group

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19 July 2020

DAC Early Career Workshop Panel

SAFARI

ETH zürich

Carnegie Mellon

Intro & Research Group

A Bit About Myself



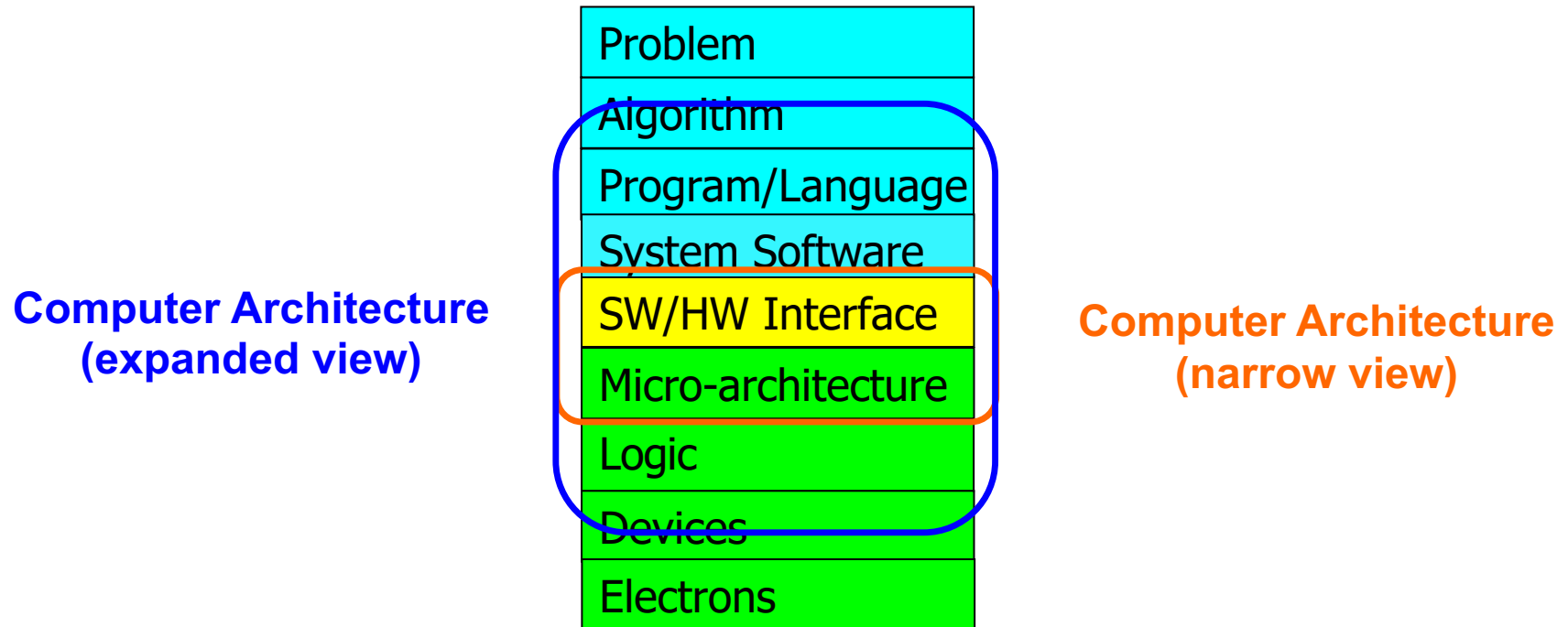
■ Onur Mutlu

- ❑ Full Professor @ ETH Zurich, since September 2015
- ❑ Strecker Professor @ Carnegie Mellon University ECE/CS, 2009-2016, 2016-...
- ❑ PhD from UT-Austin, worked at Google, VMware, Microsoft Research, Intel, AMD
- ❑ <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/>
- ❑ omutlu@gmail.com (Best way to reach me)
- ❑ <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm>

■ Research and Teaching in:

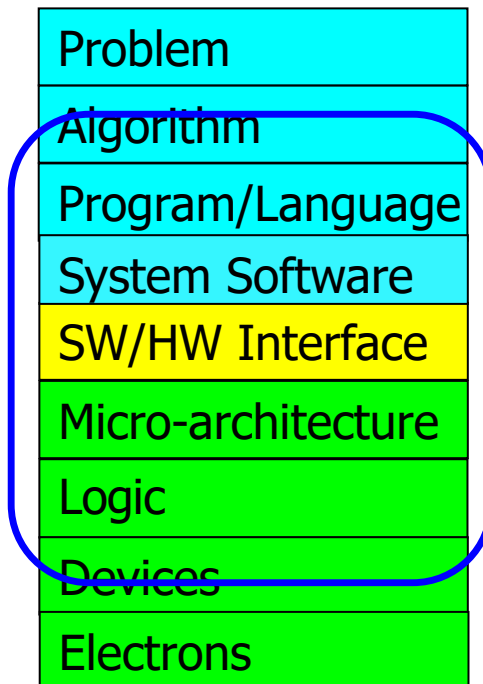
- ❑ Computer architecture, computer systems, hardware security, bioinformatics
- ❑ Memory and storage systems
- ❑ Hardware security, safety, predictability
- ❑ Fault tolerance
- ❑ Hardware/software cooperation
- ❑ Architectures for bioinformatics, health, medicine
- ❑ ...

The Transformation Hierarchy



To achieve the highest **energy efficiency** and **performance**:

we must take the expanded view
of computer architecture

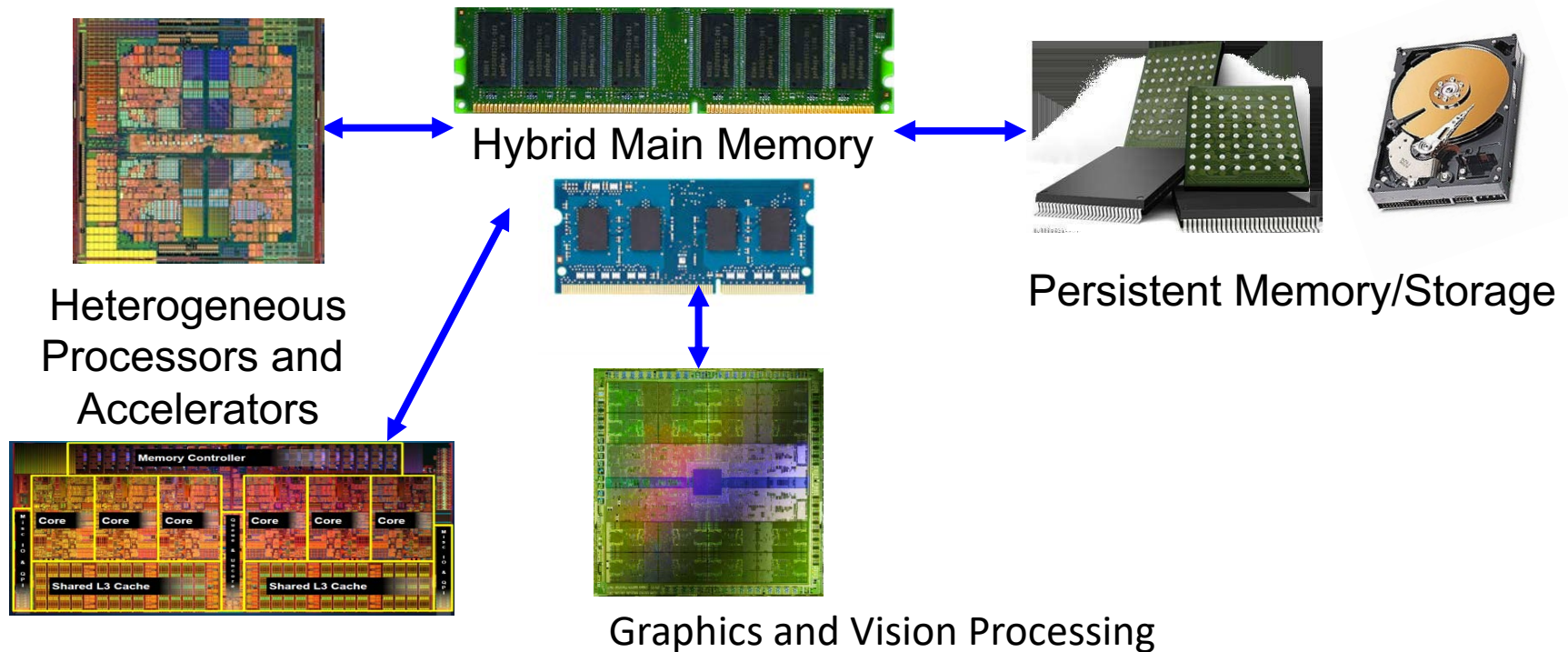


Co-design across the hierarchy:
Algorithms to devices

Specialize as much as possible
within the design goals

Current Research Mission

Computer architecture, HW/SW, systems, bioinformatics, security

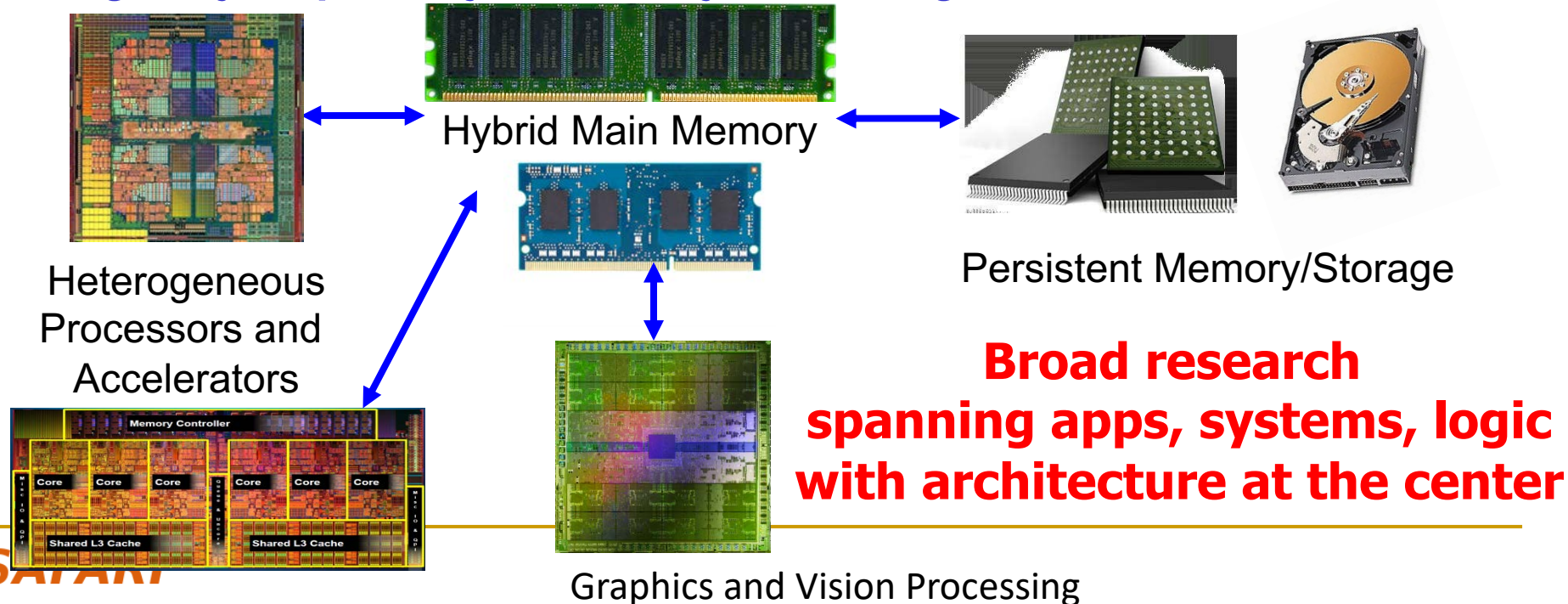


Build fundamentally better architectures

Current Research Focus Areas

Research Focus: Computer architecture, HW/SW, bioinformatics, security

- **Memory and storage (DRAM, flash, emerging), interconnects**
- **Heterogeneous & parallel systems, GPUs, systems for data analytics**
- **System/architecture interaction, new execution models, new interfaces**
- **Hardware security, energy efficiency, fault tolerance, performance**
- **Genome sequence analysis & assembly algorithms and architectures**
- **Biologically inspired systems & system design for bio/medicine**



Research & Teaching: Some Overview Talks

<https://www.youtube.com/onurmutlulectures>

■ Future Computing Architectures

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqiZISOcGFM&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=1

■ Enabling In-Memory Computation

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njX_14584Jw&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=16

■ Accelerating Genome Analysis

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPnSmfwu2-A&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=9

■ Rethinking Memory System Design

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7xZLNMIY1E&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=3

■ Intelligent Architectures for Intelligent Machines

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Aj_A0WSq8&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=22

Accelerated Memory Course (~6.5 hours)

■ ACACES 2018

- ❑ Memory Systems and Memory-Centric Computing Systems
- ❑ Taught by Onur Mutlu July 9-13, 2018
- ❑ ~6.5 hours of lectures

■ Website for the Course including Videos, Slides, Papers

- ❑ <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/acaces2018.html>
- ❑ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi-HXxomthrpDpMJm05P6J9x>

■ All Papers are at:

- ❑ <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm>
- ❑ Final lecture notes and readings (for all topics)

An Interview on Research and Education

- Computing Research and Education (@ ISCA 2019)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ffSEKZhmvo&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi_4oP9LdL3cc8G6NIjD2Ydz
- Maurice Wilkes Award Speech (10 minutes)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcQ3zZ3JpuA&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJI&index=15



Think BIG, Aim HIGH!

<https://safari.ethz.ch>

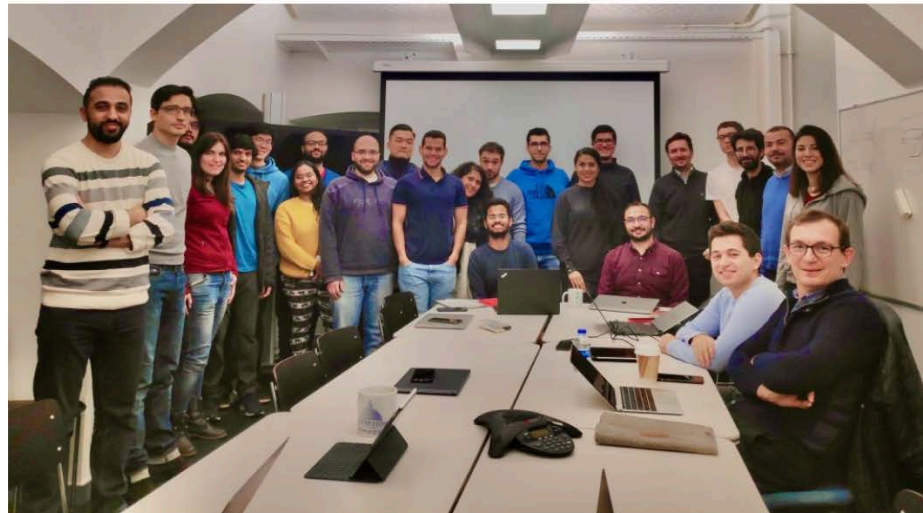
SAFARI Newsletter April 2020 Edition

- <https://safari.ethz.ch/safari-newsletter-april-2020/>



[View in your browser](#)

Think Big, Aim High

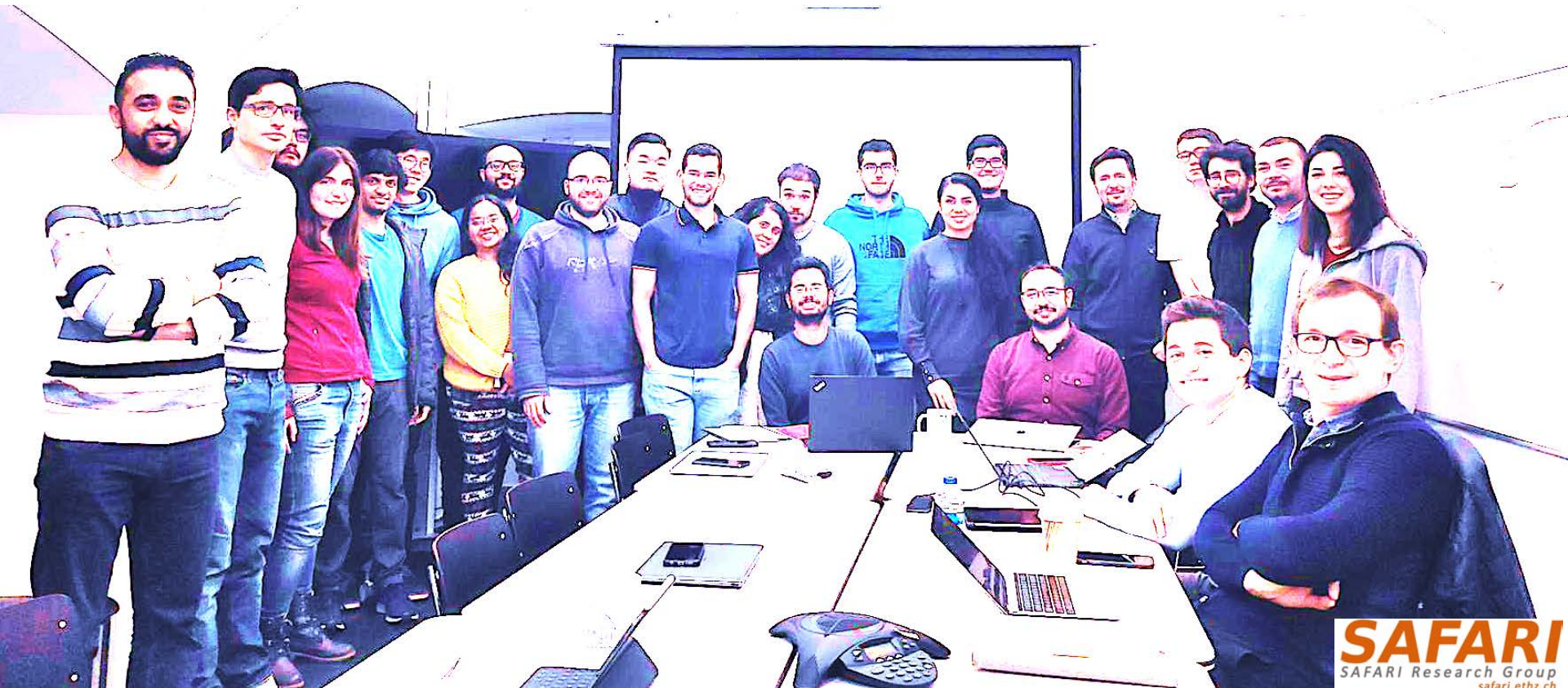


Dear SAFARI friends,

2019 and the first three months of 2020 have been very positive eventful times for SAFARI.

SAFARI Research Group

33 ☺ = 1 Professor, 2 Lecturers & Senior Researchers, 3 Senior Researchers, 12 PhD Students,
5 Masters, 8 PhD/Bachelors Interns, 2 Admins



SAFARI
SAFARI Research Group
safari.ethz.ch

Think BIG, Aim HIGH!

SAFARI

<https://safari.ethz.ch>

SAFARI Group Members @ ETH Zurich



Dr. Mohammed
Alser



Dr. Lois
Orosa



Dr. Yaohua
Wang



Dr. Juan
Gómez-Luna

7 Post-doctoral Researchers

12 PhD Students + 2 at CMU

5 Interns

8 Master's and Bachelor's Researchers



Jeremie Kim



Hasan Hassan



Minesh Patel



Ivan Puddu



Lukas Breitwieser



Giray Yaglikci



Can Firtina



Geraldo F.
de Oliveira



Nika Mansouri



Skanda Koppula



Konstantinos
Kanellopoulos



Nisa Bostanci



Ataberk Olgun



Rokneddin Azizi



Christina
Giannoula



Taha
Shahroodi

SAFARI PhD and Post-Doc Alumni

- <https://safari.ethz.ch/safari-alumni/>
 - Nandita Vijaykumar (Univ. of Toronto, Assistant Professor)
 - Kevin Hsieh (Microsoft Research)
 - Justin Meza (Facebook)
 - Mohammed Alser (ETH Zurich)
 - Yixin Luo (Google)
 - Kevin Chang (Facebook)
 - Rachata Ausavarungnirun (KMUNTB, Assistant Professor)
 - Gennady Pekhimenko (Univ. of Toronto, Assistant Professor)
 - Vivek Seshadri (Microsoft Research)
 - Donghyuk Lee (NVIDIA Research)
 - Yoongu Kim (Google)
 - Lavanya Subramanian (Intel Labs → Facebook)
-
- Samira Khan (Univ. of Virginia, Assistant Professor)
 - Saugata Ghose (Univ. of Illinois, Assistant Professor)

Example Research Topics (I)

Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation

Onur Mutlu^{a,b}, Saugata Ghose^b, Juan Gómez-Luna^a, Rachata Ausavarungnirun^{b,c}

^a*ETH Zürich*

^b*Carnegie Mellon University*

^c*King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok*

Onur Mutlu, Saugata Ghose, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Rachata Ausavarungnirun,
**"Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory
Computation"**

*Invited paper in Microprocessors and Microsystems (**MICPRO**), June 2019.
[arXiv version]*

Example Research Topics (I)

A Workload and Programming Ease Driven Perspective of Processing-in-Memory

Saugata Ghose[†] Amirali Boroumand[†] Jeremie S. Kim^{†§} Juan Gómez-Luna[§] Onur Mutlu^{§†}

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*

[§]*ETH Zürich*

Saugata Ghose, Amirali Boroumand, Jeremie S. Kim, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Onur Mutlu,

"Processing-in-Memory: A Workload-Driven Perspective"

Invited Article in IBM Journal of Research & Development, Special Issue on Hardware for Artificial Intelligence, to appear in November 2019.

[Preliminary arXiv version]

Example Research Topics (II)

- Onur Mutlu,
"The RowHammer Problem and Other Issues We May Face as Memory Becomes Denser"
Invited Paper in Proceedings of the Design, Automation, and Test in Europe Conference (DATE), Lausanne, Switzerland, March 2017.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#) ([pdf](#))]

The RowHammer Problem and Other Issues We May Face as Memory Becomes Denser

Onur Mutlu
ETH Zürich
onur.mutlu@inf.ethz.ch
<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu>

Example Research Topics (III)

- Onur Mutlu,
"Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective"

*Technical talk at MemCon 2013 (**MEMCON**), Santa Clara, CA, August 2013. [[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Video](#)] [[Coverage on StorageSearch](#)]*

Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective

Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University
onur@cmu.edu
<http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~omutlu/>

Example Research Topics (IV)



Proceedings of the IEEE, Sept. 2017

Error Characterization, Mitigation, and Recovery in Flash-Memory-Based Solid-State Drives

This paper reviews the most recent advances in solid-state drive (SSD) error characterization, mitigation, and data recovery techniques to improve both SSD's reliability and lifetime.

By YU CAI, SAUGATA GHOSE, ERICH F. HARATSCH, YIXIN LUO, AND ONUR MUTLU

Example Research Topics (V)

- Onur Mutlu and Jeremie Kim,
"RowHammer: A Retrospective"
IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (TCAD) Special Issue on Top Picks in Hardware and Embedded Security, 2019.
[[Preliminary arXiv version](#)]

RowHammer: A Retrospective

Onur Mutlu^{§‡} Jeremie S. Kim^{‡§}
§ETH Zürich ‡Carnegie Mellon University

Teaching: Online Courses and Lectures

- **Undergraduate Digital Design & Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos** (**2020**, **2019**, **2018**, **2017**, **2015**, **2014**, **2013**)
- **Graduate Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos** (**2019**, **2018**, **2017**, **2015**, **2013**)
- **Seminar in Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos** (**Spring 2020**, **Fall 2019**, **Spring 2019**, **2018**)
- **Parallel Computer Architecture Course Materials** (**Lecture Videos**)
- <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/teaching.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/onurmutlulectures>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/cmu18447>

Some Open Source Tools (I)

- Rowhammer – Program to Induce RowHammer Errors
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/rowhammer>
- Ramulator – Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/ramulator>
- MemSim – Simple Memory Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/memsim>
- NOCulator – Flexible Network-on-Chip Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/NOCulator>
- SoftMC – FPGA-Based DRAM Testing Infrastructure
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC>
- Other open-source software from my group
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/>
 - <http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html>

Some Open Source Tools (II)

- MQSim – A Fast Modern SSD Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/MQSim>
- Mosaic – GPU Simulator Supporting Concurrent Applications
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/Mosaic>
- IMPICA – Processing in 3D-Stacked Memory Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/IMPICA>
- SMLA – Detailed 3D-Stacked Memory Simulator
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SMLA>
- HWASim – Simulator for Heterogeneous CPU-HWA Systems
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/HWASim>
- Other open-source software from my group
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/>
 - <http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html>

More Open Source Tools (III)

- A lot more open-source software from my group
 - ❑ <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/>
 - ❑ <http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for the SAFARI Research Group. The header includes the SAFARI logo and the text 'SAFARI Research Group at ETH Zurich and Carnegie Mellon University'. Below this, it states 'Site for source code and tools distribution from SAFARI Research Group at ETH Zurich and Carnegie Mellon University.' and provides contact information: 'ETH Zurich and Carnegi...', 'http://www.ece.cmu.ed...', and 'omutlu@gmail.com'. The repository statistics show 30 Repositories, 27 People, 1 Teams, and 0 Projects. A search bar is present with filters for Type and Language. The main content area features the 'MQSim' repository, described as a fast and accurate simulator for SSDs. It includes a green waveform icon and a description of its capabilities. The repository has 14 stars and 14 forks, and was updated 8 days ago. On the right, there are sections for 'Top languages' (C++, C, C#, AGS Script, Verilog) and 'Most used topics' (dram, reliability).

SAFARI SAFARI Research Group at ETH Zurich and Carnegie Mellon University

Site for source code and tools distribution from SAFARI Research Group at ETH Zurich and Carnegie Mellon University.

ETH Zurich and Carnegi... http://www.ece.cmu.ed... omutlu@gmail.com

Repositories 30 People 27 Teams 1 Projects 0 Settings

Search repositories... Type: All Language: All Customize pinned repositories New

MQSim

MQSim is a fast and accurate simulator modeling the performance of modern multi-queue (MQ) SSDs as well as traditional SATA based SSDs. MQSim faithfully models new high-bandwidth protocol implementations, steady-state SSD conditions, and the full end-to-end latency of requests in modern SSDs. It is described in detail in the FAST 2018 paper by A...

C++ ★ 14 🍴 14 🏢 MIT Updated 8 days ago

Top languages

- C++
- C
- C#
- AGS Script
- Verilog

Most used topics

- dram
- reliability

Manage

ramulator-pim

A fast and flexible simulation infrastructure for exploring general-purpose processing-in-memory (PIM) architectures. Ramulator-PIM combines a widely-used simulator for out-of-order and in-order processors (ZSim) with Ramulator, a DRAM simulator with memory models for DDRx, LPDDRx, GDDRx, WIOx, HBMx, and HMCx. Ramulator is described in the IEEE ...

● C++ 🍴 11 ☆ 29 ⓘ 6 📄 0 Updated 19 days ago

SMASH

SMASH is a hardware-software cooperative mechanism that enables highly-efficient indexing and storage of sparse matrices. The key idea of SMASH is to compress sparse matrices with a hierarchical bitmap compression format that can be accelerated from hardware.

Described by Kanellopoulos et al. (MICRO '19)

<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/SMA...>

● C 🍴 1 ☆ 6 ⓘ 0 📄 0 Updated on May 17

MQSim

MQSim is a fast and accurate simulator modeling the performance of modern multi-queue (MQ) SSDs as well as traditional SATA based SSDs. MQSim faithfully models new high-bandwidth protocol implementations, steady-state SSD conditions, and the full end-to-end latency of requests in modern SSDs. It is described in detail in the FAST 2018 paper by A...

● C++ 🍴 MIT 🍴 54 ☆ 62 ⓘ 10 📄 1 Updated on May 15

Apollo

Apollo is an assembly polishing algorithm that attempts to correct the errors in an assembly. It can take multiple set of reads in a single run and polish the assemblies of genomes of any size. Described in the Bioinformatics journal paper (2020) by Firtina et al. at

<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/apollo-technology-independent-genome-asse...>

● C++ 🍴 GPL-3.0 🍴 1 ☆ 12 ⓘ 0 📄 0 Updated on May 10

ramulator

A Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator, with built-in support for modeling many different DRAM technologies including DDRx, LPDDRx, GDDRx, WIOx, HBMx, and various academic proposals. Described in the IEEE CAL 2015 paper by Kim et al. at

http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~omutlu/pub/ramulator_dram_simulator-ieee-cal15.pdf

● C++ 🍴 MIT 🍴 93 ☆ 170 ⓘ 37 📄 2 Updated on Apr 13

Shifted-Hamming-Distance

Source code for the Shifted Hamming Distance (SHD) filtering mechanism for sequence alignment. Described in the Bioinformatics journal paper (2015) by Xin et al. at http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~omutlu/pub/shifted-hamming-distance_bioinformatics15_proofs.pdf

● C 🍴 GPL-2.0 🍴 5 ☆ 20 ⓘ 0 📄 1 Updated on Mar 29

SneakySnake

The first and the only pre-alignment filtering algorithm that works on all modern high-performance computing architectures. It works efficiently and fast on CPU, FPGA, and GPU architectures and that greatly (by more than two orders of magnitude) expedites sequence alignment calculation. Described by Alser et al. (preliminary version at <https://a...>

● VHDL 🍴 GPL-3.0 🍴 3 ☆ 11 ⓘ 0 📄 0 Updated on Mar 10

AirLift

AirLift is a tool that updates mapped reads from one reference genome to another. Unlike existing tools, It accounts for regions not shared between the two reference genomes and enables remapping across all parts of the references. Described by Kim et al. (preliminary version at <http://arxiv.org/abs/1912.08735>)

● C 🍴 0 ☆ 3 ⓘ 0 📄 0 Updated on Feb 19

GPGPUSim-Ramulator

The source code for GPGPUSim+Ramulator simulator. In this version, GPGPUSim uses Ramulator to simulate the DRAM. This simulator is used to produce some of the

Papers

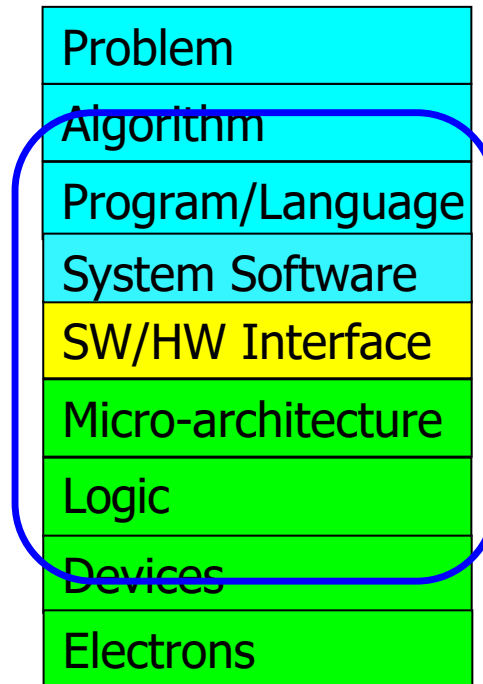
- All are available at

<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm>

<http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7XyGUGkAAAAJ&hl=en>

<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/acaces2018.html>

Revisiting the Entire Stack



Panel Questions

Question 1: Best Practices

- *Which are the best practices that you would suggest to your peers as the essential one for the success of an academic team?*

Before I Start...

- There is no single way of having impact.
- The following is my way, methods and principles.
- There definitely are other ways.
- The critical thing is finding the way that works well for you and your goals.
 - That you can own, cherish and optimize

Principle: Personalized Methods

Find the methods
that work for **you**

Motivation & Mindset

Start out with
the right
motivation and mindset

Motivation Sets The Culture and Goals

- Mindset 1: change the world positively, have high influence
- Mindset 2: enable students to achieve a potential that they did not even think they could ever achieve

- Not papers
- Not fame
- Not money
- ...

- Motivation correction may be needed at times – be ready

Principle: Team of Excellence

Get motivated students

Build a team of
excellence

Principle: Learning and Scholarship

Focus on
learning and scholarship

Some Basics of Research

Slides used in several of my courses:

e.g., https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0y_Nvb9rGA

How To Do Research & Advanced Dev.

- We will talk a lot about this in this course
- Learning **by example**
 - Reading and evaluating strong and seminal papers & designs
- Learning **by doing**
 - Semester-long research/design projects, masters' projects, PhD thesis
- Learning **by open, critical discussions**
 - Paper reading groups, frequent brainstorming and discussions
 - Design sessions
 - Collaborations

Principle: Environment of Freedom

Create an environment
that values

free exploration,
openness, collaboration,
hard work, creativity

What Is The Goal of Research?

- To generate new insight
 - that can enable what previously did not exist
- Research is a hunt for insight that can eventually impact the world

Principle: Insight and Ideas

Focus on Insight

Encourage New Ideas

Some Basic Advice for Good Research

- Choose great problems to solve: Have great taste
 - Difficult
 - Important
 - High impact
- Read heavily and critically
- Think big (out of the box)
 - Do not restrain yourself to tweaks or constraints of today
 - Yet, think about adoption issues
- Aim high
- Write and present extremely well

Many Principles
on the Previous Slide

Set the Bar High

Set the Bar High

- The goal should be to enable students to achieve a potential that they did not even think they could ever achieve
- “Think big, aim high, enable positive change”
- Reward good, positive behavior that helps with this culture
- Recommended reading:
 - Hamming, “[You and Your Research](https://www.cs.virginia.edu/~robins/YouAndYourResearch.html),” Talk at Bell Labs, 1986.
 - <https://www.cs.virginia.edu/~robins/YouAndYourResearch.html>

Principle: Focus on Fundamentals

Fundamentals
and scholarship
are critical
(hypes come and go)

Principle: Focus on Big Problems

Choose Great Problems
and guide your group
toward them
(but give them freedom)

Principle: Teaching and Research

...

Teaching drives Research

Research drives Teaching

...

More on Teaching and Research

- Care about teaching immensely
- Teaching and research are two sides of the same coin → scholarship
- Both long-term and short-term is affected by teaching
- Research motivates teaching motivates research
 - I introduce RowHammer, Processing in Memory, Meltdown/Spectre, DRAM Refresh, Various Technology Scaling problems, and research examples in my Freshman course:
 - <https://safari.ethz.ch/digitaltechnik/spring2020/>
 - All courses can have research examples

Principle: Focus on Communication

Emphasize

Clarity and Rigor
in Communication

(critical for high impact)

Do Everything to Have High Impact

- Engage with companies
- Engage and collaborate with researchers who fit your mindset
 - Collaborate, not fight
- Strive for the highest excellence

Foster collaboration
(within group)
(across groups)
(with companies)

Principle: Reach Out

Inspire and Reach Out

Principle: Reach Out

- Give talks
- Educate others on your work and research
- Listen to everyone
 - Especially your students
- Teach, educate, collaborate

Receive & Address Feedback

(but do not get derailed)

Principle: Receive & Address Feedback

- Address reviewer feedback
 - Take them positively
 - They can be helpful
- Feedback is not always right
 - Need to apply corrections to it
- Do not let rejection derail you – be ready for it
- Remind and encourage your students:
 - <https://www.sciencealert.com/these-8-papers-were-rejected-before-going-on-to-win-the-nobel-prize>

Principle: Resilience

Be Resilient

Follow Your Passion

Principle: Passion Extended

Follow Your Passion
(Do not get derailed
by naysayers)

Principle: Learning and Scholarship

The quality of your work
defines your impact

If In Doubt, See Other Doubtful Technologies

- A very “doubtful” emerging technology
 - for at least two decades



Proceedings of the IEEE, Sept. 2017

Error Characterization, Mitigation, and Recovery in Flash-Memory-Based Solid-State Drives

This paper reviews the most recent advances in solid-state drive (SSD) error characterization, mitigation, and data recovery techniques to improve both SSD's reliability and lifetime.

By YU CAI, SAUGATA GHOSE, ERICH F. HARATSCH, YIXIN LUO, AND ONUR MUTLU

Flash Memory Timeline (1967-2019)



Flash Memory Timeline (1967-2019)



Four Key Current Directions

- Fundamentally **Secure/Reliable/Safe** Architectures
- Fundamentally **Energy-Efficient** Architectures
 - **Memory-centric** (Data-centric) Architectures
- Fundamentally **Low-Latency and Predictable** Architectures
- Architectures for **AI/ML, Genomics, Medicine, Health**

Our Dream (circa 2007)

- An embedded device that can perform comprehensive genome analysis in real time (within a minute)
 - Which of these DNAs does this DNA segment match with?
 - What is the likely genetic disposition of this patient to this drug?
 - . . .

New Genome Sequencing Technologies

Nanopore sequencing technology and tools for genome assembly: computational analysis of the current state, bottlenecks and future directions

Damla Senol Cali ✉, Jeremie S Kim, Saugata Ghose, Can Alkan, Onur Mutlu

Briefings in Bioinformatics, bby017, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bib/bby017>

Published: 02 April 2018 **Article history** ▼



Oxford Nanopore MinION

Senol Cali+, “**Nanopore Sequencing Technology and Tools for Genome Assembly: Computational Analysis of the Current State, Bottlenecks and Future Directions**,” *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 2018.

[[Preliminary arxiv.org version](#)]

Nanopore Genome Assembly Pipeline

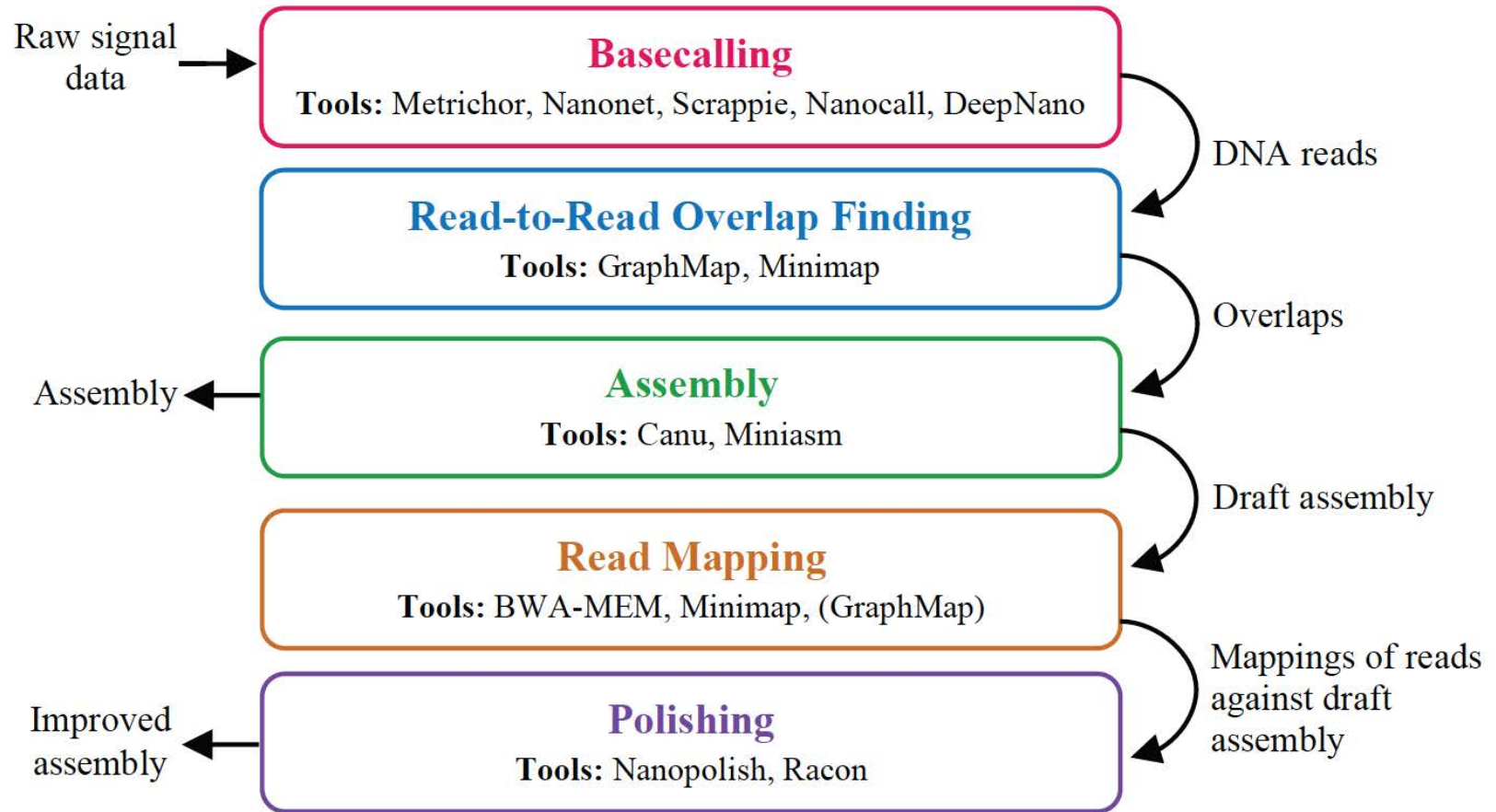


Figure 1. The analyzed genome assembly pipeline using nanopore sequence data, with its five steps and the associated tools for each step.

GateKeeper: FPGA-Based Alignment Filtering

- Mohammed Alser, Hasan Hassan, Hongyi Xin, Oguz Ergin, Onur Mutlu, and Can Alkan
"GateKeeper: A New Hardware Architecture for Accelerating Pre-Alignment in DNA Short Read Mapping"
Bioinformatics, [published online, May 31], 2017.
[[Source Code](#)]
[[Online link at Bioinformatics Journal](#)]

GateKeeper: a new hardware architecture for accelerating pre-alignment in DNA short read mapping

Mohammed Alser ✉, Hasan Hassan, Hongyi Xin, Oğuz Ergin, Onur Mutlu ✉, Can Alkan ✉

Bioinformatics, Volume 33, Issue 21, 1 November 2017, Pages 3355–3363,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btx342>

Published: 31 May 2017 **Article history** ▼

Current State: Shouji [Alser+, Bioinformatics 2019]

Mohammed Alser, Hasan Hassan, Akash Kumar, Onur Mutlu, and Can Alkan,
"Shouji: A Fast and Efficient Pre-Alignment Filter for Sequence Alignment"
Bioinformatics, [published online, March 28], 2019.

[\[Source Code\]](#)

[\[Online link at Bioinformatics Journal\]](#)

Bioinformatics, 2019, 1–9

doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btz234

Advance Access Publication Date: 28 March 2019

Original Paper



Sequence alignment

Shouji: a fast and efficient pre-alignment filter for sequence alignment

**Mohammed Alser^{1,2,3,*}, Hasan Hassan¹, Akash Kumar², Onur Mutlu^{1,3,*}
and Can Alkan^{3,*}**

¹Computer Science Department, ETH Zürich, Zürich 8092, Switzerland, ²Chair for Processor Design, Center For Advancing Electronics Dresden, Institute of Computer Engineering, Technische Universität Dresden, 01062 Dresden, Germany and ³Computer Engineering Department, Bilkent University, 06800 Ankara, Turkey

*To whom correspondence should be addressed.

Associate Editor: Inanc Birol

Received on September 13, 2018; revised on February 27, 2019; editorial decision on March 7, 2019; accepted on March 27, 2019

In-Memory DNA Sequence Analysis

- Jeremie S. Kim, Damla Senol Cali, Hongyi Xin, Donghyuk Lee, Saugata Ghose, Mohammed Alser, Hasan Hassan, Oguz Ergin, Can Alkan, and Onur Mutlu, **"GRIM-Filter: Fast Seed Location Filtering in DNA Read Mapping Using Processing-in-Memory Technologies"** ***BMC Genomics***, 2018.
Proceedings of the 16th Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC), Yokohama, Japan, January 2018.
[arxiv.org Version \(pdf\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1801.00001)

GRIM-Filter: Fast seed location filtering in DNA read mapping using processing-in-memory technologies

Jeremie S. Kim^{1,6*}, Damla Senol Cali¹, Hongyi Xin², Donghyuk Lee³, Saugata Ghose¹, Mohammed Alser⁴, Hasan Hassan⁶, Oguz Ergin⁵, Can Alkan^{4*} and Onur Mutlu^{6,1*}

From The Sixteenth Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference 2018
Yokohama, Japan. 15-17 January 2018

Follow Your Passion

Build Infrastructure to Enable Your Passion (Big Projects)

Example: Our DRAM Infrastructure (since 2012)



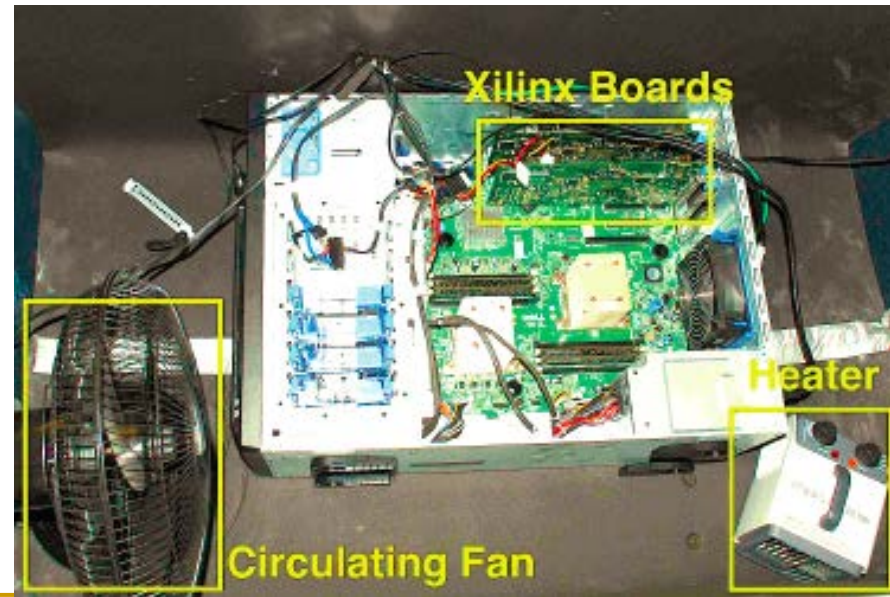
An Experimental Study of Data Retention Behavior in Modern DRAM Devices: Implications for Retention Time Profiling Mechanisms (Liu et al., ISCA 2013)

The Efficacy of Error Mitigation Techniques for DRAM Retention Failures: A Comparative Experimental Study (Khan et al., SIGMETRICS 2014)

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors (Kim et al., ISCA 2014)

Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case (Lee et al., HPCA 2015)

AVATAR: A Variable-Retention-Time (VRT) Aware Refresh for DRAM Systems (Qureshi et al., DSN 2015)

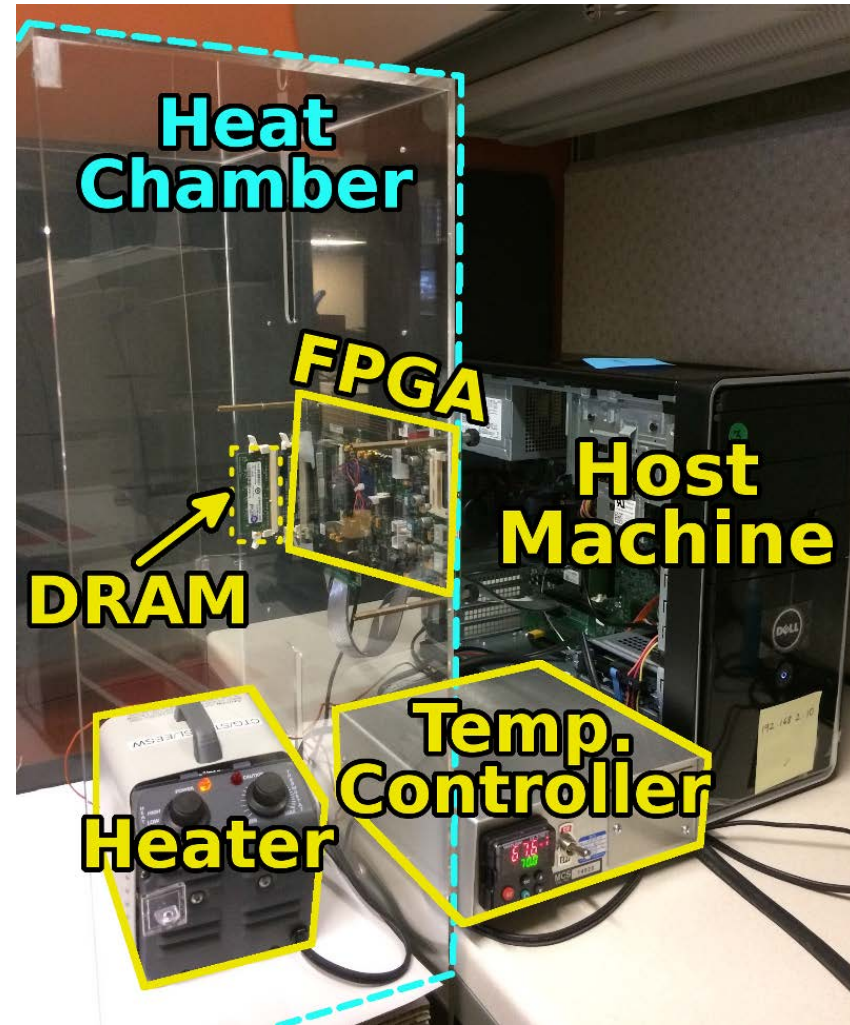


Example: Our DRAM Infrastructure (since 2012)



SoftMC: Open Source DRAM Infrastructure

- Hasan Hassan et al., “**SoftMC: A Flexible and Practical Open-Source Infrastructure for Enabling Experimental DRAM Studies**,” HPCA 2017.
- Flexible
- Easy to Use (C++ API)
- Open-source
github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC



- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC>

SoftMC: A Flexible and Practical Open-Source Infrastructure for Enabling Experimental DRAM Studies

Hasan Hassan^{1,2,3} Nandita Vijaykumar³ Samira Khan^{4,3} Saugata Ghose³ Kevin Chang³
Gennady Pekhimenko^{5,3} Donghyuk Lee^{6,3} Oguz Ergin² Onur Mutlu^{1,3}

¹*ETH Zürich* ²*TOBB University of Economics & Technology* ³*Carnegie Mellon University*
⁴*University of Virginia* ⁵*Microsoft Research* ⁶*NVIDIA Research*

Infrastructure Enabled Research: RowHammer



Infrastructure Enabled Research: RowHammer

- Yoongu Kim, Ross Daly, Jeremie Kim, Chris Fallin, Ji Hye Lee, Donghyuk Lee, Chris Wilkerson, Konrad Lai, and Onur Mutlu,
"Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors"
Proceedings of the 41st International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Minneapolis, MN, June 2014.
[\[Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)\]](#) [\[Lightning Session Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)\]](#) [\[Source Code and Data\]](#)

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors

Yoongu Kim¹ Ross Daly* Jeremie Kim¹ Chris Fallin* Ji Hye Lee¹
Donghyuk Lee¹ Chris Wilkerson² Konrad Lai Onur Mutlu¹

¹Carnegie Mellon University ²Intel Labs

- Onur Mutlu and Jeremie Kim,
"RowHammer: A Retrospective"
IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (TCAD) Special Issue on Top Picks in Hardware and Embedded Security, 2019.
[[Preliminary arXiv version](#)]

RowHammer: A Retrospective

Onur Mutlu^{§‡} Jeremie S. Kim^{‡§}
§ETH Zürich ‡Carnegie Mellon University

Infrastructure Enabled Research: RowHammer

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, A. Giray Yaglikci, Hasan Hassan, Roknoddin Azizi, Lois Orosa, and Onur Mutlu,
"Revisiting RowHammer: An Experimental Analysis of Modern Devices and Mitigation Techniques"
Proceedings of the 47th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Valencia, Spain, June 2020.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Lightning Talk Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Talk Video](#) (20 minutes)]
[[Lightning Talk Video](#) (3 minutes)]

Revisiting RowHammer: An Experimental Analysis of Modern DRAM Devices and Mitigation Techniques

Jeremie S. Kim^{§†} Minesh Patel[§] A. Giray Yağlıkçı[§]
Hasan Hassan[§] Roknoddin Azizi[§] Lois Orosa[§] Onur Mutlu^{§†}
[§]*ETH Zürich* [†]*Carnegie Mellon University*

Infrastructure Enabled Research: RowHammer

- Pietro Frigo, Emanuele Vannacci, Hasan Hassan, Victor van der Veen, Onur Mutlu, Cristiano Giuffrida, Herbert Bos, and Kaveh Razavi, **"TRRespass: Exploiting the Many Sides of Target Row Refresh"**
Proceedings of the 41st IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), San Francisco, CA, USA, May 2020.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Talk Video](#) (17 minutes)]
[[Source Code](#)]
[[Web Article](#)]
Best paper award.

TRRespass: Exploiting the Many Sides of Target Row Refresh

Pietro Frigo^{*†} Emanuele Vannacci^{*†} Hasan Hassan[§] Victor van der Veen[¶]
Onur Mutlu[§] Cristiano Giuffrida^{*} Herbert Bos^{*} Kaveh Razavi^{*}

Infrastructure Enabled Research: Refresh

- Jamie Liu, Ben Jaiyen, Yoongu Kim, Chris Wilkerson, and Onur Mutlu,
"An Experimental Study of Data Retention Behavior in Modern DRAM Devices: Implications for Retention Time Profiling Mechanisms"
Proceedings of the 40th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Tel-Aviv, Israel, June 2013. [Slides \(ppt\)](#) [Slides \(pdf\)](#)

An Experimental Study of Data Retention Behavior in Modern DRAM Devices: Implications for Retention Time Profiling Mechanisms

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Infrastructure Enabled Research: Latency

- Donghyuk Lee, Yoongu Kim, Gennady Pekhimenko, Samira Khan, Vivek Seshadri, Kevin Chang, and Onur Mutlu,
"Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case"
Proceedings of the 21st International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA), Bay Area, CA, February 2015.
[\[Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)\]](#) [\[Full data sets\]](#)

Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case

Donghyuk Lee Yoongu Kim Gennady Pekhimenko
Samira Khan Vivek Seshadri Kevin Chang Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University

Infrastructure Enabled Research: Voltage

- Kevin Chang, A. Giray Yaglikci, Saugata Ghose, Aditya Agrawal, Niladrish Chatterjee, Abhijith Kashyap, Donghyuk Lee, Mike O'Connor, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,

"Understanding Reduced-Voltage Operation in Modern DRAM Devices: Experimental Characterization, Analysis, and Mechanisms"

*Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA, June 2017.*

[[Abstract](#)] [[POMACS Journal Version \(same content, different format\)](#)]

[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]

[[Full Lecture Video](#) (33 minutes)]

[[Full Data Sets and Circuit Model](#)]

Understanding Reduced-Voltage Operation in Modern DRAM Chips: Characterization, Analysis, and Mechanisms

Kevin K. Chang[†] Abdullah Giray Yağlıkçı[†] Saugata Ghose[†] Aditya Agrawal[¶] Niladrish Chatterjee[¶]
Abhijith Kashyap[†] Donghyuk Lee[¶] Mike O'Connor^{¶,‡} Hasan Hassan[§] Onur Mutlu^{§,†}

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[‡]The University of Texas at Austin

[§]ETH Zürich

Infrastructure Enabled Research: ECC

- Minesh Patel, Jeremie S. Kim, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
"Understanding and Modeling On-Die Error Correction in Modern DRAM: An Experimental Study Using Real Devices"
Proceedings of the 49th Annual IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN), Portland, OR, USA, June 2019.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Talk Video](#) (26 minutes)]
[[Full Talk Lecture](#) (29 minutes)]
[[Source Code for EINSim, the Error Inference Simulator](#)]
Best paper award.

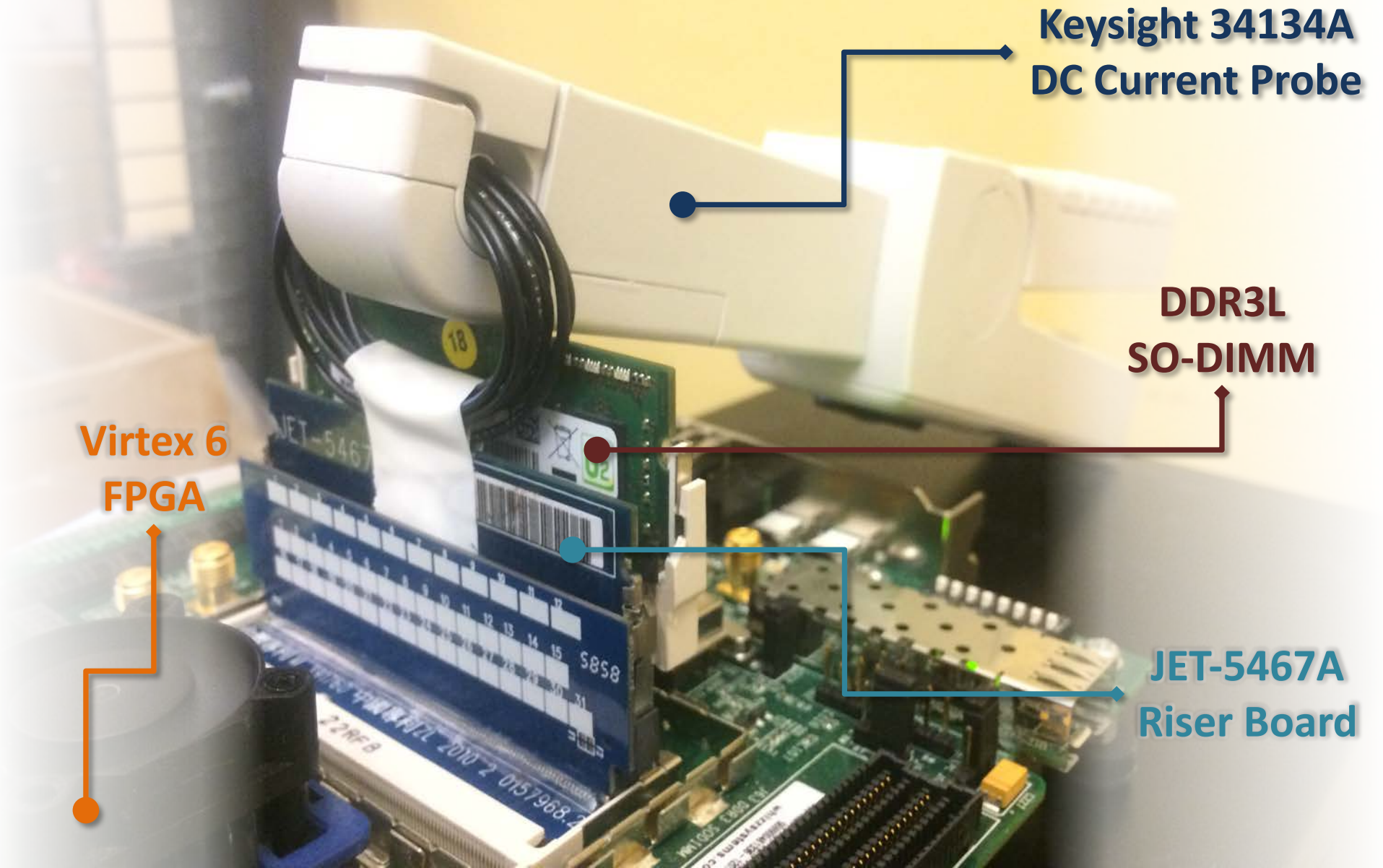
Understanding and Modeling On-Die Error Correction in Modern DRAM: An Experimental Study Using Real Devices

Minesh Patel[†] Jeremie S. Kim^{‡†} Hasan Hassan[†] Onur Mutlu^{†‡}

[†]*ETH Zürich* [‡]*Carnegie Mellon University*

Power Measurement Platform

SAFARI



Infrastructure Enabled Research: Power

- Saugata Ghose, A. Giray Yaglikci, Raghav Gupta, Donghyuk Lee, Kais Kudrolli, William X. Liu, Hasan Hassan, Kevin K. Chang, Niladrish Chatterjee, Aditya Agrawal, Mike O'Connor, and Onur Mutlu,

"What Your DRAM Power Models Are Not Telling You: Lessons from a Detailed Experimental Study"

*Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Irvine, CA, USA, June 2018.*

[\[Abstract\]](#)

[\[POMACS Journal Version \(same content, different format\)\]](#)

[\[Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)\]](#)

[\[VAMPIRE DRAM Power Model\]](#)

What Your DRAM Power Models Are Not Telling You: Lessons from a Detailed Experimental Study

Saugata Ghose [†]	Abdullah Giray Yağlıkçı ^{‡†}	Raghav Gupta [†]	Donghyuk Lee [§]
Kais Kudrolli [†]	William X. Liu [†]	Hasan Hassan [‡]	Kevin K. Chang [†]
Niladrish Chatterjee [§]	Aditya Agrawal [§]	Mike O'Connor ^{§¶}	Onur Mutlu ^{‡†}

[†]Carnegie Mellon University

[‡]ETH Zürich

[§]NVIDIA

[¶]University of Texas at Austin

Infrastructure Enabled Research: PUF

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
"The DRAM Latency PUF: Quickly Evaluating Physical Unclonable Functions by Exploiting the Latency-Reliability Tradeoff in Modern DRAM Devices"
Proceedings of the 24th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA), Vienna, Austria, February 2018.
[[Lightning Talk Video](#)]
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)] [[Lightning Session Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]

The DRAM Latency PUF:

Quickly Evaluating Physical Unclonable Functions

by Exploiting the Latency-Reliability Tradeoff in Modern Commodity DRAM Devices

Jeremie S. Kim^{†§}

Minesh Patel[§]

Hasan Hassan[§]

Onur Mutlu^{§†}

[†]Carnegie Mellon University

[§]ETH Zürich

Infrastructure Enabled Research: TRNG

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, Lois Orosa, and Onur Mutlu, **"D-RaNGe: Using Commodity DRAM Devices to Generate True Random Numbers with Low Latency and High Throughput"**
Proceedings of the 25th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA), Washington, DC, USA, February 2019.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Full Talk Video](#) (21 minutes)]
[[Full Talk Lecture Video](#) (27 minutes)]
Top Picks Honorable Mention by IEEE Micro.

D-RaNGe: Using Commodity DRAM Devices to Generate True Random Numbers with Low Latency and High Throughput

Jeremie S. Kim^{‡§}

Minesh Patel[§]

Hasan Hassan[§]

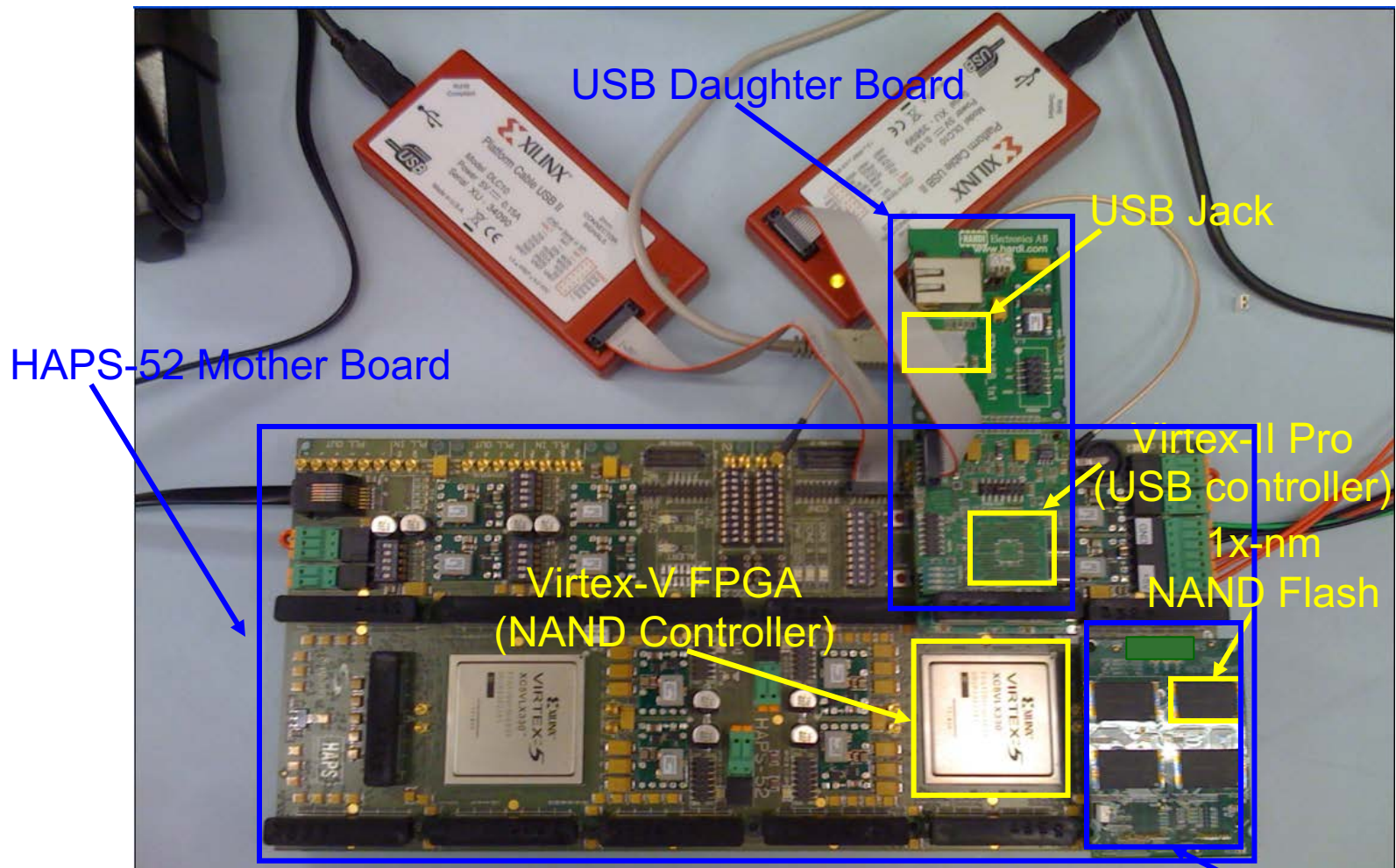
Lois Orosa[§]

Onur Mutlu^{§‡}

[‡]Carnegie Mellon University

[§]ETH Zürich

Our NAND Flash Infrastructure



[DATE 2012, ICCD 2012, DATE 2013, ITJ 2013, ICCD 2013, SIGMETRICS 2014, HPCA 2015, DSN 2015, MSST 2015, JSAC 2016, HPCA 2017, DFRWS 2017, PIEEE 2017, HPCA 2018, SIGMETRICS 2018]

NAND Daughter Board

Cai+, "Error Characterization, Mitigation, and Recovery in Flash Memory Based Solid State Drives," Proc. IEEE 2017.



Proceedings of the IEEE, Sept. 2017



Error Characterization, Mitigation, and Recovery in Flash-Memory-Based Solid-State Drives

This paper reviews the most recent advances in solid-state drive (SSD) error characterization, mitigation, and data recovery techniques to improve both SSD's reliability and lifetime.

By YU CAI, SAUGATA GHOSE, ERICH F. HARATSCH, YIXIN LUO, AND ONUR MUTLU

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.08642>

Ramulator – DRAM Simulation Infrastructure

<i>Segment</i>	<i>DRAM Standards & Architectures</i>
Commodity	DDR3 (2007) [14]; DDR4 (2012) [18]
Low-Power	LPDDR3 (2012) [17]; LPDDR4 (2014) [20]
Graphics	GDDR5 (2009) [15]
Performance	eDRAM [28], [32]; RLDram3 (2011) [29]
3D-Stacked	WIO (2011) [16]; WIO2 (2014) [21]; MCDRAM (2015) [13]; HBM (2013) [19]; HMC1.0 (2013) [10]; HMC1.1 (2014) [11]
Academic	SBA/SSA (2010) [38]; Staged Reads (2012) [8]; RAIDR (2012) [27]; SALP (2012) [24]; TL-DRAM (2013) [26]; RowClone (2013) [37]; Half-DRAM (2014) [39]; Row-Buffer Decoupling (2014) [33]; SARP (2014) [6]; AL-DRAM (2015) [25]

Table 1. Landscape of DRAM-based memory

Kim+, “[Ramulator: A Flexible and Extensible DRAM Simulator](#)”, IEEE CAL 2015.

Ramulator Paper and Source Code

- Yoongu Kim, Weikun Yang, and Onur Mutlu,
"Ramulator: A Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator"
IEEE Computer Architecture Letters (**CAL**), March 2015.
[[Source Code](#)]
- Source code is released under the liberal MIT License
 - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/ramulator>

Ramulator: A Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator

Yoongu Kim¹ Weikun Yang^{1,2} Onur Mutlu¹
¹Carnegie Mellon University ²Peking University

Ramulator-PIM Paper and Source Code

- Gagandeep Singh, Juan Gomez-Luna, Giovanni Mariani, Geraldo F. Oliveira, Stefano Corda, Sander Stujik, Onur Mutlu, and Henk Corporaal,
"NAPEL: Near-Memory Computing Application Performance Prediction via Ensemble Learning"
Proceedings of the 56th Design Automation Conference (DAC), Las Vegas, NV, USA, June 2019.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Poster \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]
[[Source Code for Ramulator-PIM](#)]
- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/ramulator-pim>

ZSim+Ramulator - A Processing-in-Memory Simulation Framework

ZSim+Ramulator is a framework for design space exploration of general-purpose Processing-in-Memory (PIM) architectures. The framework is based on two widely-known simulators: ZSim [1] and Ramulator [2][3].

Infrastructure Enabled Research: PIM (I)

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Youngsok Kim, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Eric Shiu, Rahul Thakur, Daehyun Kim, Aki Kuusela, Allan Knies, Parthasarathy Ranganathan, and Onur Mutlu,

"Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks"

Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (ASPLOS), Williamsburg, VA, USA, March 2018.

[[Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)](#)] [[Lightning Session Slides \(pptx\) \(pdf\)](#)] [[Poster \(pptx\) \(pdf\)](#)]

[[Lightning Talk Video](#) (2 minutes)]

[[Full Talk Video](#) (21 minutes)]

Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks

Amirali Boroumand¹

Saugata Ghose¹

Youngsok Kim²

Rachata Ausavarungnirun¹

Eric Shiu³

Rahul Thakur³

Daehyun Kim^{4,3}

Aki Kuusela³

Allan Knies³

Parthasarathy Ranganathan³

Onur Mutlu^{5,1}

Infrastructure Enabled Research: PIM (II)

Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation

Onur Mutlu^{a,b}, Saugata Ghose^b, Juan Gómez-Luna^a, Rachata Ausavarungnirun^{b,c}

^a*ETH Zürich*

^b*Carnegie Mellon University*

^c*King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok*

Onur Mutlu, Saugata Ghose, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Rachata Ausavarungnirun,
**"Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory
Computation"**

*Invited paper in Microprocessors and Microsystems (**MICPRO**), June 2019.
[arXiv version]*

Infrastructure Enabled Research: PIM (III)

A Workload and Programming Ease Driven Perspective of Processing-in-Memory

Saugata Ghose[†] Amirali Boroumand[†] Jeremie S. Kim^{†§} Juan Gómez-Luna[§] Onur Mutlu^{§†}

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*

[§]*ETH Zürich*

Saugata Ghose, Amirali Boroumand, Jeremie S. Kim, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Onur Mutlu,

"Processing-in-Memory: A Workload-Driven Perspective"

Invited Article in IBM Journal of Research & Development, Special Issue on Hardware for Artificial Intelligence, to appear in November 2019.

[Preliminary arXiv version]

Infrastructure Enabled Research: PIM (IV)

- Vivek Seshadri and Onur Mutlu,
"In-DRAM Bulk Bitwise Execution Engine"
Invited Book Chapter in Advances in Computers, to appear
in 2020.
[[Preliminary arXiv version](#)]

In-DRAM Bulk Bitwise Execution Engine

Vivek Seshadri
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visesha@microsoft.com

Onur Mutlu
ETH Zürich
onur.mutlu@inf.ethz.ch

Question 2: Heterogeneity & Inclusiveness

- *How much is important the heterogeneity of the group?
What about the inclusion?*

Principle: Diversity & Heterogeneity

- Diversity is very important
- No two people are the same -- everyone brings perspective
- Critical to be diverse, accepting, inclusive, heterogeneous
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Experience level
 - Education level
 - Geography (maybe natural in our field?)
- Critical for open, expressive culture
- Set a common goal and common culture

Create an environment
that values

free exploration,
openness, collaboration,
hard work, creativity

Question 3: Choosing Students

- *Which are the main characteristics and skills one should take into account when choosing PhD students and researchers for new and (possibly) impactful research groups?*

How to Select PhD Students & Researchers

- Motivation and Mindset
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Hard work
- Boldness
- Perseverance, commitment
- Intellectual strength
- Openness to feedback
- Communicativeness
- Ability to execute things until the end
- ...

A PhD is a long road. It is not for everyone. Commitment & resilience are critical.

How to Select Students

- <https://safari.ethz.ch/apply/>

Question 4 and Answer: Mentoring

- *Can mentoring young students and managing a group be taught?*
- Answer: Yes (and, the mentoring process can be managed)
- Mentoring is a critical part of a PhD

Question 5 and Answer: Emotional Intelligence

- *Emotional intelligence is considered today a key skill for managers and entrepreneurs. Do you believe that is it crucial also for research groups leaders?*
- Answer: Yes, absolutely
- Communication, understanding, mindset are all critical
 - And part of Emotional Intelligence

Question 6 and Answer: Hierarchy

- *How does the group's internal hierarchy impact work effectiveness? Is a strong hierarchy implying a reduction of diversity and heterogeneity or not?*
- Answer: Less hierarchy is better. Yet, tasks of different types of students are different (postdoc vs PhD students)
- Openness and valuing of every single person and idea, regardless of level or experience
- Valuing of mentorship
 - Inexperienced folks learn from experienced ones
- Everyone collaborates
- No (artificial) barriers between people

Food for Thought: Three Quotes

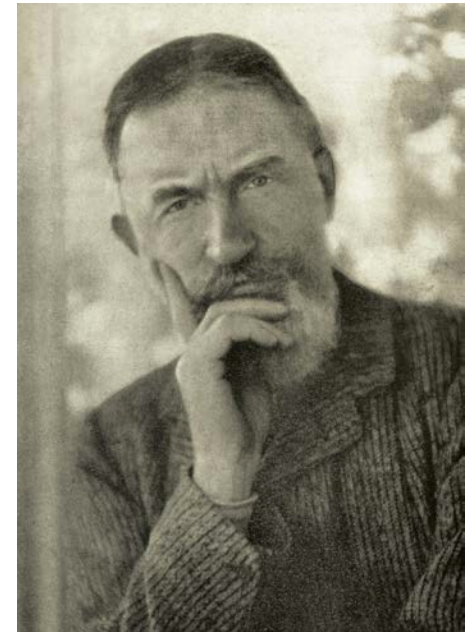
*The reasonable man adapts himself to the world;
The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.
Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.*

Progress is impossible without change,
and those who cannot change their minds
cannot change anything.

George Bernard Shaw

My heart is in the work.

Andrew Carnegie



How to Build an Impactful Research Group

Onur Mutlu

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<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu>

19 July 2020

DAC Early Career Workshop Panel

SAFARI

ETH zürich

Carnegie Mellon

Backup Slides

Some Resilience Examples from Our Research

Enabling DRAM to Compute at Low Cost

RowClone [MICRO'13]

- Vivek Seshadri, Yoongu Kim, Chris Fallin, Donghyuk Lee, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Gennady Pekhimenko, Yixin Luo, Onur Mutlu, Michael A. Kozuch, Phillip B. Gibbons, and Todd C. Mowry,
"RowClone: Fast and Energy-Efficient In-DRAM Bulk Data Copy and Initialization"
Proceedings of the 46th International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO), Davis, CA, December 2013. [[Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)] [[Lightning Session Slides \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)] [[Poster \(pptx\)](#)] [[pdf](#)]

RowClone: Fast and Energy-Efficient In-DRAM Bulk Data Copy and Initialization

Vivek Seshadri Yoongu Kim Chris Fallin* Donghyuk Lee
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Carnegie Mellon University †Intel Pittsburgh

Ambit [MICRO'17]

- Vivek Seshadri et al., “**Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology**,” MICRO 2017.

Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology

Vivek Seshadri^{1,5} Donghyuk Lee^{2,5} Thomas Mullins^{3,5} Hasan Hassan⁴ Amirali Boroumand⁵
Jeremie Kim^{4,5} Michael A. Kozuch³ Onur Mutlu^{4,5} Phillip B. Gibbons⁵ Todd C. Mowry⁵

¹Microsoft Research India ²NVIDIA Research ³Intel ⁴ETH Zürich ⁵Carnegie Mellon University

- Vivek Seshadri and Onur Mutlu,
"In-DRAM Bulk Bitwise Execution Engine"
Invited Book Chapter in Advances in Computers, to appear
in 2020.
[[Preliminary arXiv version](#)]

In-DRAM Bulk Bitwise Execution Engine

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In-Memory Bulk Bitwise Operations

- We can support in-DRAM COPY, ZERO, AND, OR, NOT, MAJ
 - At low cost
 - Using analog computation capability of DRAM
 - Idea: activating multiple rows performs computation
 - **30-74X performance and energy improvement**
 - Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.
 - New memory technologies enable even more opportunities
-

Ambit Sounds Good, No?

Review from ISCA 2016

Paper summary

The paper proposes to extend DRAM to include bulk, bit-wise logical operations directly between rows within the DRAM.

Strengths

- Very clever/novel idea.
 - Great potential speedup and efficiency gains.
-

Weaknesses

- Probably won't ever be built. Not practical to assume DRAM manufacturers with change DRAM in this way.
-

Another Review

Another Review from ISCA 2016

Strengths

The proposed mechanisms effectively exploit the operation of the DRAM to perform efficient bitwise operations across entire rows of the DRAM.

Weaknesses

This requires a modification to the DRAM that will only help this type of bitwise operation. It seems unlikely that something like that will be adopted.

Yet Another Review

Yet Another Review from ISCA 2016

Weaknesses

The core novelty of Buddy RAM is almost all circuits-related (by exploiting sense amps). I do not find architectural innovation even though the circuits technique benefits architecturally by mitigating memory bandwidth and relieving cache resources within a subarray. The only related part is the new ISA support for bitwise operations at DRAM side and its induced issue on cache coherence.

RowClone & Bitwise Ops in Real DRAM Chips

ComputeDRAM: In-Memory Compute Using Off-the-Shelf DRAMs

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Pinatubo: RowClone and Bitwise Ops in PCM

Pinatubo: A Processing-in-Memory Architecture for Bulk Bitwise Operations in Emerging Non-volatile Memories

Shuangchen Li^{1*}, Cong Xu², Qiaosha Zou^{1,5}, Jishen Zhao³, Yu Lu⁴, and Yuan Xie¹

University of California, Santa Barbara¹, Hewlett Packard Labs²

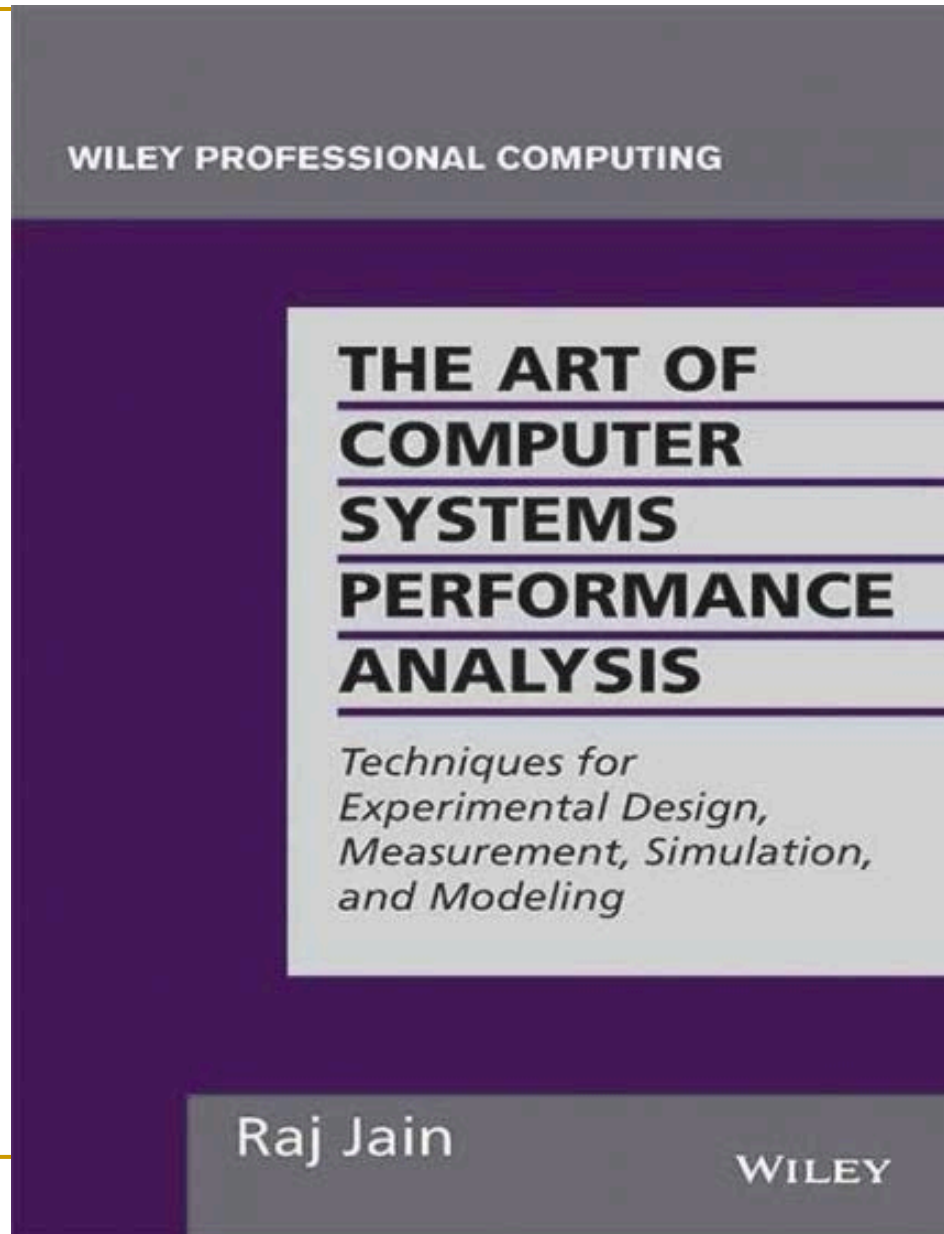
University of California, Santa Cruz³, Qualcomm Inc.⁴, Huawei Technologies Inc.⁵
{shuangchenli, yuanxie}@ece.ucsb.edu¹

We Have a Mindset Issue...

- There are many other similar examples from reviews...
 - For many other papers...
- And, we are not even talking about JEDEC yet...
- How do we fix the mindset problem?
- By doing more research, education, implementation in alternative processing paradigms

We need to work on enabling the better future...

Aside: A Recommended Book



Raj Jain, "[The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis](#)," Wiley, 1991.

10.8 DECISION MAKER'S GAMES

Even if the performance analysis is correctly done and presented, it may not be enough to persuade your audience—the decision makers—to follow your recommendations. The list shown in Box 10.2 is a compilation of reasons for rejection heard at various performance analysis presentations. You can use the list by presenting it immediately and pointing out that the reason for rejection is not new and that the analysis deserves more consideration. Also, the list is helpful in getting the competing proposals rejected!

There is no clear end of an analysis. Any analysis can be rejected simply on the grounds that the problem needs more analysis. This is the first reason listed in Box 10.2. The second most common reason for rejection of an analysis and for endless debate is the workload. Since workloads are always based on the past measurements, their applicability to the current or future environment can always be questioned. Actually workload is one of the four areas of discussion that lead a performance presentation into an endless debate. These “rat holes” and their relative sizes in terms of time consumed are shown in Figure 10.26. Presenting this cartoon at the beginning of a presentation helps to avoid these areas.

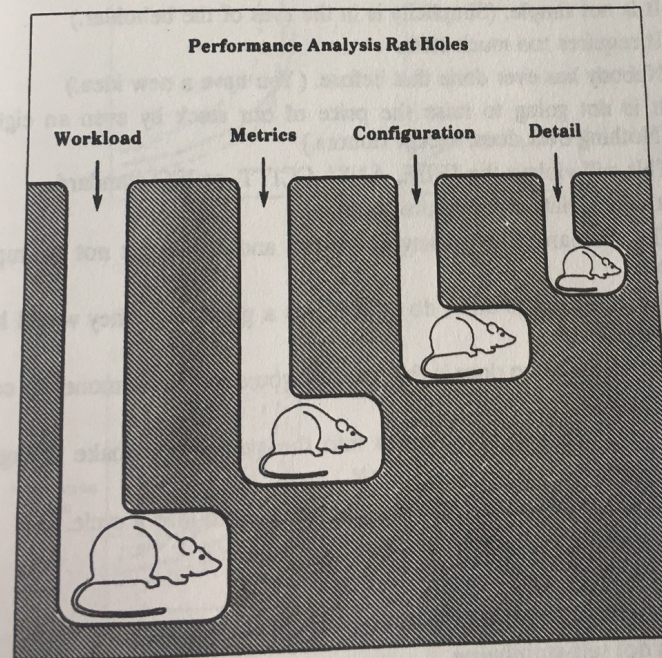


FIGURE 10.26 Four issues in performance presentations that commonly lead to endless discussion.

Raj Jain, “The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis,” Wiley, 1991.

Box 10.2 Reasons for Not Accepting the Results of an Analysis

1. This needs more analysis.
2. You need a better understanding of the workload.
3. It improves performance only for long I/O's, packets, jobs, and files, and most of the I/O's, packets, jobs, and files are short.
4. It improves performance only for short I/O's, packets, jobs, and files, but who cares for the performance of short I/O's, packets, jobs, and files; its the long ones that impact the system.
5. It needs too much memory/CPU/bandwidth and memory/CPU/bandwidth isn't free.
6. It only saves us memory/CPU/bandwidth and memory/CPU/bandwidth is cheap.
7. There is no point in making the networks (similarly, CPUs/disks/...) faster; our CPUs/disks (any component other than the one being discussed) aren't fast enough to use them.
8. It improves the performance by a factor of x , but it doesn't really matter at the user level because everything else is so slow.
9. It is going to increase the complexity and cost.
10. Let us keep it simple stupid (and your idea is not stupid).
11. It is not simple. (Simplicity is in the eyes of the beholder.)
12. It requires too much state.
13. Nobody has ever done that before. (You have a new idea.)
14. It is not going to raise the price of our stock by even an eighth. (Nothing ever does, except rumors.)
15. This will violate the IEEE, ANSI, CCITT, or ISO standard.
16. It may violate some future standard.
17. The standard says nothing about this and so it must not be important.
18. Our competitors don't do it. If it was a good idea, they would have done it.
19. Our competition does it this way and you don't make money by copying others.
20. It will introduce randomness into the system and make debugging difficult.
21. It is too deterministic; it may lead the system into a cycle.
22. It's not interoperable.
23. This impacts hardware.
24. That's beyond today's technology.
25. It is not self stabilizing.
26. Why change—it's working OK.

Raj Jain, "The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis," Wiley, 1991.

Suggestions to Reviewers


- Be fair; you do not know it all
- Be open-minded; you do not know it all
- Be accepting of diverse research methods: there is no single way of doing research
- Be constructive, not destructive
- Do not have double standards...

Do not block or delay scientific progress for non-reasons

Initial RowHammer Reviews

Disturbance Errors in DRAM: Demonstration, Characterization, and Prevention

Rejected (R2)

 863kB

Friday 31 May 2013 2:00:53pm PDT

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You are an **author** of this paper.

+ ABSTRACT

+ AUTHORS

	OveMer	Nov	WriQua	RevExp
Review #66A	1	4	4	4
Review #66B	5	4	5	3
Review #66C	2	3	5	4
Review #66D	1	2	3	4
Review #66E	4	4	4	3
Review #66F	2	4	4	3

Missing the Point **Reviews from Micro 2013**

PAPER WEAKNESSES

This is an excellent test methodology paper, but there is no micro-architectural or architectural content.

PAPER WEAKNESSES

- Whereas they show disturbance may happen in DRAM array, authors don't show it can be an issue in realistic DRAM usage scenario
- Lacks architectural/microarchitectural impact on the DRAM disturbance analysis

PAPER WEAKNESSES

The mechanism investigated by the authors is one of many well known disturb mechanisms. The paper does not discuss the root causes to sufficient depth and the importance of this mechanism compared to others. Overall the length of the sections restating known information is much too long in relation to new work.

Dismissing Science

Reviews from ISCA 2014

PAPER WEAKNESSES

1) The disturbance error (a.k.a coupling or cross-talk noise induced error) is a known problem to the DRAM circuit community.

2) What you demonstrated in this paper is so called DRAM row hammering issue - you can even find a Youtube video showing this! - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3-gQSnBcdo>

2) The architectural contribution of this study is too insignificant.

PAPER WEAKNESSES

- Row Hammering appears to be well-known, and solutions have already been proposed by industry to address the issue.

- The paper only provides a qualitative analysis of solutions to the problem. A more robust evaluation is really needed to know whether the proposed solution is necessary.

Final RowHammer Reviews

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors

Accepted



639kB

21 Nov 2013 10:53:11pm CST |

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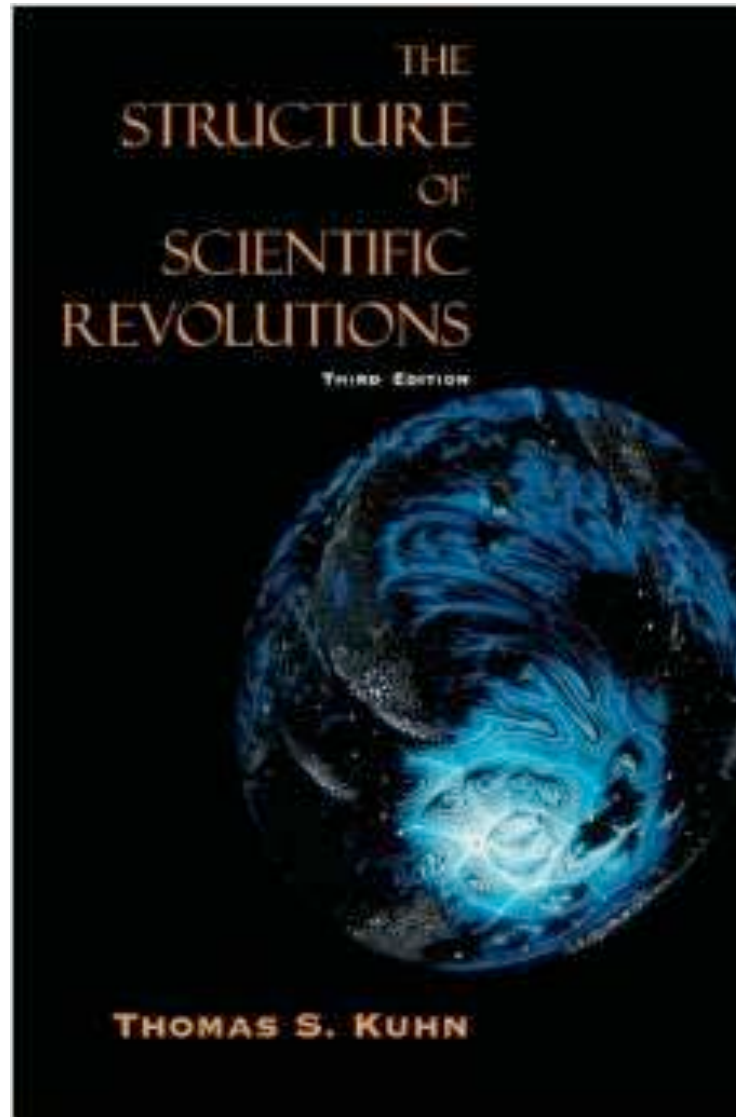
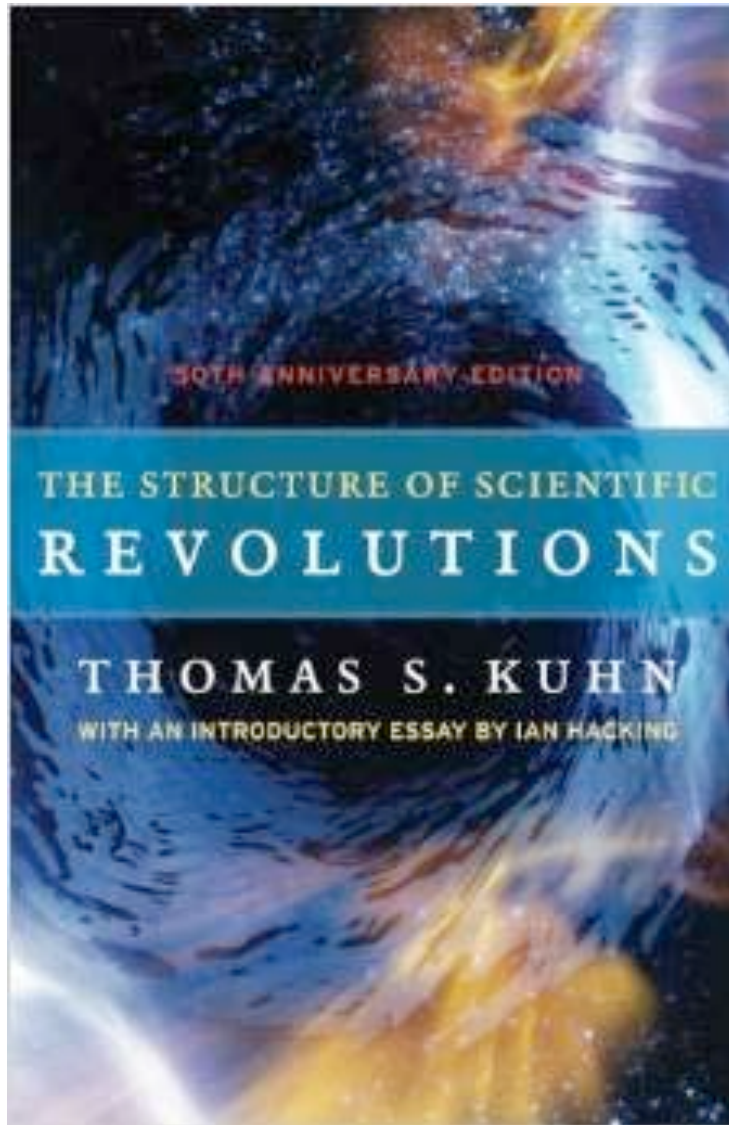
You are an **author** of this paper.

	OveMer	Nov	WriQua	RevConAnd
Review #41A	8	4	5	3
Review #41B	7	4	4	3
Review #41C	6	4	4	3
Review #41D	2	2	5	4
Review #41E	3	2	3	3
Review #41F	7	4	4	3

We Need to Fix the Reviewer Accountability Problem

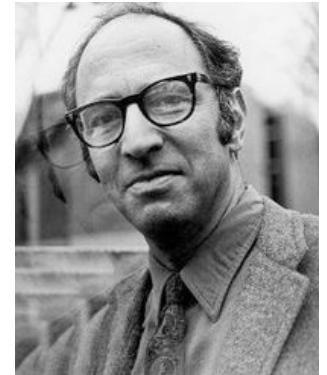
Eliminate
Double Standards

Another Recommended Book



Computer Architecture Today

- You can revolutionize the way computers are built, if you understand both the hardware and the software (and change each accordingly)
- You can invent new paradigms for computation, communication, and storage
- Recommended book: Thomas Kuhn, “[The Structure of Scientific Revolutions](#)” (1962)
 - Pre-paradigm science: no clear consensus in the field
 - Normal science: dominant theory used to explain/improve things (business as usual); exceptions considered anomalies
 - Revolutionary science: underlying assumptions re-examined



Suggestion to Researchers: Principle: Passion

Follow Your Passion
(Do not get derailed
by naysayers)

Suggestion to Researchers: Principle: Resilience

Be Resilient

Principle: Learning and Scholarship

Focus on
learning and scholarship

Principle: Learning and Scholarship

The quality of your work
defines your impact

More Thoughts and Suggestions

- Onur Mutlu,
"Some Reflections (on DRAM)"
*Award Speech for ACM SIGARCH Maurice Wilkes Award, at the **ISCA** Awards Ceremony, Phoenix, AZ, USA, 25 June 2019.*
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#) ([pdf](#))]
[[Video of Award Acceptance Speech \(Youtube; 10 minutes\)](#) ([Youku; 13 minutes](#))]
[[Video of Interview after Award Acceptance \(Youtube; 1 hour 6 minutes\)](#) ([Youku; 1 hour 6 minutes](#))]
[[News Article on "ACM SIGARCH Maurice Wilkes Award goes to Prof. Onur Mutlu"](#)]
- Onur Mutlu,
"How to Build an Impactful Research Group"
Design Automation Conference Early Career Workshop, Las Vegas, NV, USA, June 2019.
[[Slides \(pptx\)](#) ([pdf](#))]

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- CyLab