

# Naifeng Zhang

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
College of Engineering  
Carnegie Mellon University

naifengz@cmu.edu  
+1 323 868 5267  
naifengz.com

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, 2026  
Advisor: Prof. Franz Franchetti
- M.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, 2024  
Advisor: Prof. Franz Franchetti
- B.S. Computer Science, University of Southern California, 2021  
Advisor: Prof. Viktor K. Prasanna  
*Thesis: Lightweight Augmented Neural Network For Performance Prediction and Its Applications*  
*W.V.T. Rusch Undergraduate Engineering Honors Program*
- B.S. Mathematics, University of Southern California, 2021  
*Departmental Honors Program*

## AWARDS

- 2024 Best Poster Runner-up  
PRISM Annual Review, Systems & Software track  
*Together with S. Fu (Lead Student) and F. Franchetti*
- 2024 First Place, ACM Student Research Competition  
The International Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques  
*Together with S. Fu (Lead Student) and F. Franchetti*
- 2023 Outstanding Short Paper Award  
IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference  
*Together with P. Brinich, A. Ebel, F. Franchetti, and J. Johnson.*
- 2023 Second Place, ACM Student Research Competition  
The International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization  
*Together with F. Franchetti*
- 2021 Discovery Scholar Distinction  
University of Southern California
- 2018–21 Academic Achievement Award  
University of Southern California

## FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021–22 Carnegie Institute of Technology Dean’s Fellowship
- 2019–21 University of Southern California Provost’s Research Fellowship

## GRANTS

- 2023- *High-Performance Code Generation for Homomorphic Encryption on GPUs using SPIRAL*  
Tuned and benchmarked SPIRAL-generated number theoretic transform (NTT) implementations for homomorphic encryption (HE) applications on start-of-the-art GPUs.  
N. Zhang (PI), F. Franchetti (Co-PI)  
200,000 ACCESS Credits  
NSF

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024- *LLM Cerberus: Guardrails for Generative AI in High-Performance Math Kernels*  
Extended SPIRAL with symbolic execution and theorem proving to derive semantics and provide correctness guarantees for LLM-generated math kernels.  
NSF
- 2023- *Code Synthesis for the PRISM Architecture*  
Extended SPIRAL to target processing-in-memory (PIM) kernels on PRISM architectures.  
SRC JUMP 2.0
- 2022- *Neocortex: SPIRAL Code Generation for Wafer-Scale Engine*  
Extended SPIRAL to target Cerebras second-generation Wafer-Scale Engine (WSE-2).  
NSF
- 2022-23 *Performance Analysis and Optimization of Quantum Library*  
Conducted real-world performance analysis and optimizations of IBM's quantum library Qiskit for Shor's Algorithm.
- 2021-23 *Trebuchet: NTTX for OpenFHE*  
Developed SPIRAL NTTX package to automatically generate high-performance vectorized number theoretic transform (NTT) code for fully homomorphic encryption (FHE) applications.  
DARPA DPRIVE
- 2020-21 *Compiler Abstractions Supporting High Performance on Extreme-scale Resources (CASPER)*  
Developed a compiler-oriented autotuner that automatically profiles a kernel and performs tuning guided by performance prediction.  
DARPA PAPP
- 2019 *Dynamic Data-Aware Reconfiguration, INtegration and Generation (DDARING)*  
Developed a lightweight augmented neural network for performance prediction.  
DARPA SDH

## PUBLICATIONS

### Conference Proceedings

1. N. Zhang, F. Franchetti. "Code Generation for Cryptographic Kernels using Multi-word Modular Arithmetic on GPU." The International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO), 2025. *To appear.*
2. N. Zhang, A. Ebel, N. Neda, P. Brinich, B. Reynwar, A. G. Schmidt, M. Franusich, J. Johnson, B. Reagen, F. Franchetti. "Generating High-Performance Number Theoretic Transform Implementations for Vector Architectures." IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2023.

3. D. Sun, N. Zhang, F. Franchetti. “Optimization and Performance Analysis of Shor’s Algorithm in Qiskit.” IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2023.
4. D. Soni, N. Neda, N. Zhang, B. Reynwar, H. Gamil, B. Heyman, M. N. T. Moopan, A. Al Badawi, Y. Polyakov, K. Canida, M. Pedram, M. Maniatakos, D. B. Cousins, F. Franchetti, M. French, A. Schmidt, B. Reagen. “RPU: The Ring Processing Unit.” IEEE International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (ISPASS), 2023.
5. N. Zhang, A. Srivastava, R. Kannan, V. K. Prasanna. “GenMAT: A General-Purpose Machine Learning-Driven Auto-Tuner for Heterogeneous Platforms.” Workshop on Programming Environments for Heterogeneous Computing (PEHC), in conjunction with the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis (SC), 2021.
6. A. Srivastava\*, N. Zhang\*, R. Kannan, V. K. Prasanna. “Towards High Performance, Portability, and Productivity: Lightweight Augmented Neural Networks for Performance Prediction.” The International Conference on High Performance Computing, Data, and Analytics (HiPC), 2020. *\*Equal contribution.*
7. C. Imes, A. Colin, N. Zhang, A. Srivastava, V. K. Prasanna, J. P. Walters. “Compiler Abstractions and Runtime for Extreme-scale SAR and CFD Workloads.” Workshop on Extreme Scale Programming Models and Middleware (ESPM2), in conjunction with the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis (SC), 2020.

#### Other Conference Papers, Technical Reports, Extended Abstracts, and Posters

1. N. Zhang, S. Rao, M. Franusich, F. Franchetti. “Towards Semantics Lifting for Scientific Computing: A Case Study on FFT.” Theory and Practice of Static Analysis Workshop (TPSA), in conjunction with the ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL), 2025, Extended abstract with presentation. *To appear.*
2. S. Fu, N. Zhang, F. Franchetti. “Accelerating High-Precision Number Theoretic Transforms using Intel AVX-512.” The International Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques (PACT), 2024, Extended abstract with poster and presentation. **First Place, ACM Student Research Competition. Best Poster Runner-up** at PRISM Annual Review, Systems & Software track.
3. Y. Eum, N. Zhang, L. Tang, F. Franchetti. “Towards a RISC-V Instruction Set Extension for Multi-word Arithmetic.” IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2024, Extended abstract with poster.
4. N. Zhang, S. McAleer, T. Sandholm. “Faster Game Solving via Hyperparameter Schedules.” arXiv, 2024, Preprint.
5. P. Brinich, N. Zhang, A. Ebel, F. Franchetti, J. Johnson. “Twiddle Factor Generation for a Vectorized Number Theoretic Transform.” IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2023, Extended abstract with poster. **Outstanding Short Paper Award.**
6. H. Mankad, A. Rovinelli, M. Zecevic, P. McCorquodale, F. Franchetti, N. Zhang, S. Rao, R. A. Lebensohn, L. Capolungo “EVPFFTX: A First Look at FFTX Applications in Material Science.” IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2023, Extended abstract with poster.
7. D. B. Cousins, Y. Polyakov, A. Al Badawi, M. French, A. Schmidt, A. Jacob, B. Reynwar, K. Canida, A. Jaiswal, C. Mathew, H. Gamil, N. Neda, D. Soni, M. Maniatakos, B. Reagen, N. Zhang, F. Franchetti, P. Brinich, J. Johnson, P. Broderick, M. Franusich, B. Zhang, Z. Cheng, M. Pedram. “TREBUCHET: Fully Homomorphic Encryption Accelerator for Deep Computation.” Government Microcircuit Applications and Critical Technology Conference (GOMACTech), 2023, Preprint with presentation.

8. N. Zhang, F. Franchetti. “Generating Number Theoretic Transforms for Multi-Word Integer Data Types.” The International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO), 2023, Extended abstract with poster and presentation. **Second Place, ACM Student Research Competition.**
9. N. Zhang, H. Gamil, P. Brinich, B. Reynwar, A. Al Badawi, N. Neda, D. Soni, K. Canida, Y. Polyakov, P. Broderick, M. Maniatakos, A. G. Schmidt, M. Franusich, J. Johnson, B. Reagen, D. B. Cousins, F. Franchetti. “Towards Full-Stack Acceleration for Fully Homomorphic Encryption.” IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2022, Extended abstract with presentation.
10. I. Grosz, N. Zhang, M. Heule. “Towards the shortest DRAT proof of the Pigeonhole Principle.” Pragmatics of SAT International Workshop (PoS), in conjunction with the International Conference on Theory and Applications of Satisfiability Testing (SAT), 2022, Preprint with presentation.

## TALKS

### Conference Presentations

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2023 | <i>Generating High-Performance Number Theoretic Transform Implementations for Vector Architectures</i><br>IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), Sep. 29.<br>Virtual   |
| 2023 | <i>Generating Number Theoretic Transforms for Multi-Word Integer Data Types</i><br>The International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO), Feb. 28.<br>Montreal, Canada   |
| 2022 | <i>Towards Full-Stack Acceleration for Fully Homomorphic Encryption</i><br>IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), Sep. 23.<br>Virtual  |
| 2021 | <i>GenMAT: A General-Purpose Machine Learning-Driven Auto-Tuner for Heterogeneous Platforms</i><br>Workshop on Programming Environments for Heterogeneous Computing (PEHC), in conjunction with the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis (SC), Nov. 19.<br>Virtual |
| 2020 | <i>Towards High Performance, Portability, and Productivity: Lightweight Augmented Neural Networks for Performance Prediction</i><br>The International Conference on High Performance Computing, Data, and Analytics (HiPC), Dec. 16.<br>Virtual  |

### Tutorials Given

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2024 | <i>Open Source SPIRAL 8.5 Tutorial</i><br>IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), Sep. 25. Together with F. Franchetti and M. Franusich.<br>Virtual                |
| 2023 | <i>Open Source SPIRAL 8.5 Tutorial</i><br>IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), Sep. 27. Together with F. Franchetti, M. Franusich, and P. Broderick.<br>Virtual |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Carnegie Mellon University

*Teaching Assistant*

24 Fall Mathematical Foundations of Electrical Engineering  
23 Spring Computational Problem Solving for Engineers

### **University of Southern California**

#### *Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*

21 Spring Special Topics - Accelerated Computing Using FPGAs  
20 Fall Parallel and Distributed Computation  
20 Spring Special Topics - Accelerated Computing Using FPGAs  
Discrete Methods in Computer Science  
19 Fall Parallel and Distributed Computation  
Discrete Methods in Computer Science

### **MENTORING**

#### **Master's**

2024- Yujun Lee  
2023 Kofi Poku  
2022-23 Dewang Sun  
2022 Hongbo Sun

#### **Undergraduate**

2024- Zubin Narayan  
2024- Misho Alexandrov  
2024- Sophia Fu  
2024- Youngjin Eum  
2024- Govind Malasani  
2024 Steven Lee  
2023 Gordon Xu  
2022-23 Matt Ngaw  
2022-23 Jimmy Zhou

### **SERVICE**

#### **Peer Review Assisted**

IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC), 2022-2024  
IEEE International Conference on Big Data (BigData), 2020

#### **Service to the University**

CMU ECE Faculty Hiring Student Council, 2022-

#### **Outreach**

CMU College of Engineering Graduate Student Outreach Committee, 2023-

Updated December 2024