

Yousef Alaa Awad

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EDUCATION

University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

May 2027

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering with Honors | GPA: 3.73

Relevant Courses: Verification & Validation of Digital Systems, Digital Systems, Linear Circuits I & II

Affiliations: IEEE-HKN (Zeta Chi Chapter), IEEE, ACM

WORK EXPERIENCE

Embedded Systems Engineering Intern

Orlando, FL

Lockheed Martin – Missiles and Fire Control

Apr 2025 – Present

- Designing a system-level Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) simulation environment in C++/Qt5, enabling high-fidelity testing of hardware designs for a 20+ engineer team by implementing a CIGI v2 compliant image generator for realistic scenario stimulus.
- Engineering the migration of a legacy C++/Qt tooling environment from Visual Studio to a modern CMake build system, slashing compilation times by 50% and establishing a modular architecture to improve future scalability and productivity.
- Developing custom C++ automation tools for Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) test environments, reducing manual data analysis efforts by 20% and further optimized CI/CD pipeline Bash scripts to decrease software integration time by 10%.

PROJECTS

Chikorita Filter – FPGA Vision Accelerator – Solo Project

Aug 2025 – Present

- Architecting a low-latency FPGA DSP pipeline in Verilog for the 2026 IEEE SoutheastCon Competition, implementing parallel modules for real-time vision preprocessing, motor control, and IR communication all on the Red Pitaya 125-14.
- Developing and verifying the **FPGA-to-CPU interface** (AXI/Memory-Mapped) to stream sensor data for Kalman filter processing, enabling successful hardware/software sensor fusion using SystemVerilog and the UVM library.

KnightCore – Full RISC-V SoC – 2025 AMD Hardware Competition – Group Project

Apr 2025 – Aug 2025

- Architected a modular, reusable verification environment from scratch in Python (CocotB) to validate a custom 32-bit RISC-V SoC against the **RV32I** instruction set architecture (ISA).
- Developed a comprehensive test suite with directed tests for all ISA-defined instructions and constrained-random stimulus generation to stress the ALU and branch prediction logic, leading to the discovery and resolution of 5 critical RTL bugs.

Anqa 32-bit RISC-V Processor – Solo Project

Feb 2025 – Present

- Designing a 32-bit RISC-V CPU core, implementing key components like a parameterized adder (half/full/multi-bit) and instruction decoding logic for the **RV32I** base instruction set (arithmetic, logical, load/store, branch).
- Developing a Verilog implementation plan using Vivado, detailing the ALU, register file, single-cycle datapath design, and instruction pipeline stages, with comprehensive documentation for future development.

2025 SouthEastCon Robotics Competition – Embedded Software Lead – Group Project

Sep 2024 – Apr 2025

- Led software pipeline for 10+ team using ROS2, enabling low-latency control between modular hardware and decision nodes. Used Gazebo and OpenCV for validation, contributing to 1st place in Design and 2nd in Performance at competition.
- Developed embedded firmware on Teensy 4.1 for sensor fusion and actuator control with modular, real-time C++ code. Optimized for high-frequency loops and low resource use, improving system responsiveness and performance.

LEADERSHIP

IEEE-HKN Zeta Chi

Vice President & Treasurer

Apr 2025 – Present

- Leading the re-establishment of the dormant IEEE-HKN chapter, positioning the organization to achieve national 'Key Chapter' status by growing membership to 13 students and developing a new recruitment pipeline.
- Architecting the chapter's operational revival by engineering foundational processes for member induction and organizational scope, while simultaneously managing the financial and logistical strategies to double national conference delegation.

IEEE UCF

Treasurer

Apr 2025 – Present

- Managing the IEEE UCF chapter's finances, developing and tracking over a \$10,000+ budget across multiple projects and events, ensuring accurate allocation of resources and financial accountability.
- Facilitating over \$6500 in sponsorship funding through effective communication with industry partners, directly supporting student project development and participation in competitions like the SouthEastCon Hardware Competition.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Verilog, SystemVerilog, C++, Python, C, Rust, Bash, Assembly (x86, RISC-V, MIPS)

Hardware Verification: UVM Methodologies, Testbench Architecture, Functional Coverage, Constrained Randomization

Computer Architecture: RISC-V ISA, AXI/Memory-Mapped Interfaces, Pipelining, Caching, Memory Hierarchy

Hardware & EDA Tools: Xilinx Vivado, Synopsys VCS, Verilator

Systems & Scripting: Linux, Git, ROS/ROS2, Real-Time C++, CMake