

# Yifan Yuan

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## Research Interests

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- Networking hardware and system software for datacenter
- Hardware-software co-design for distributed/disaggregated systems acceleration
- Modern heterogeneous memory system and software

## Education

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- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** *August 2017 – May 2022*
  - M.S. (2019), Ph.D. (2022) in Computer Engineering
  - Advisor: Prof. Nam Sung Kim
- **Zhejiang University** *September 2014 – June 2018*
  - B.E. in Electronic Information Engineering

## Work Experience

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- **Intel Labs** *July 2022 – Present*
  - Research Scientist at Systems Architecture Lab, Santa Clara, CA
- **Microsoft Research** *June 2020 – August 2020*
  - Research Intern at Systems Research Group, Redmond, WA
- **Intel Labs** *May 2019 – August 2019*  
*May 2018 – August 2018*
  - Research Intern at Networking Platforms Lab, Hillsboro, OR

## Publications

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- **Nomad: Non-Exclusive Memory Tiering via Transactional Page Migration**  
L. Xiang, Z. Lin, W. Deng, H. Lu, J. Rao, **Y. Yuan**, R. Wang  
*The USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI)*, 2024
- **Intel Accelerator Ecosystem: An SoC-Oriented Perspective**  
**Y. Yuan**, R. Wang, N. Ranganathan, N. Rao, S. Kumar, P. Lantz, V. Sanjeevan, J. Cabrera, A. Kwatra, R. Sankaran, I. Jeong, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA, industry track)*, 2024  
**Paper based on real Intel product and software ecosystem**
- **A Quantitative Analysis and Guidelines of Data Streaming Accelerator in Modern Intel Xeon Scalable Processors**  
R. Kuper, I. Jeong, **Y. Yuan**, R. Wang, N. Ranganathan, N. Rao, J. Hu, S. Kumar, P. Lantz, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (ASPLOS)*, 2024  
**Paper based on real Intel product and software ecosystem**
- **BonsaiKV: Towards Fast, Scalable, and Persistent Key-Value Stores with Tiered, Heterogeneous Memory System**  
M. Cai, J. Shen, **Y. Yuan**, Z. Qu, B. Ye  
*The International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB)*, 2024
- **Demystifying CXL Memory with Genuine CXL-Ready Systems and Devices**  
Y. Sun, **Y. Yuan**, Z. Yu, R. Kuper, C. Song, J. Huang, H. Ji, S. Agarwal, J. Lou, I. Jeong, R. Wang, J. H. Ahn, T. Xu, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO)*, 2023  
**The first CXL memory paper based on real CXL systems**  
**Covered by Semiconductor Engineering, Intel Community Blog, Hacker News, The New Stack**
- **STYX: Exploiting SmartNIC Capability to Reduce Datacenter Memory Tax**  
H. Ji, Y. Sun, M. Mansi, **Y. Yuan**, J. Huang, R. Kuper, M. Swift, N. S. Kim  
*The USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC)*, 2023
- **RAMBDA: RDMA-driven Acceleration Framework for Memory-intensive us-scale Datacenter Applications**  
**Y. Yuan**, J. Huang, Y. Sun, T. Wang, J. Nelson, D. Ports, Y. Wang, R. Wang, C. Tai, N. S. Kim  
*The IEEE International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA)*, 2023

- **LADIO: Leakage-Aware Direct I/O for I/O-Intensive Workloads**  
I. Jeong, J. Lou, Y. Son, Y. Park, **Y. Yuan**, N. S. Kim  
*Computer Architecture Letters (CAL)*, 2023
- **IDIO: Network-Driven, Inbound Network Data Orchestration on Server Processors**  
M. Alian, S. Agarwal, J. Shin, N. Patel, **Y. Yuan**, D. Kim, R. Wang, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO)*, 2022
- **Unlocking the Power of Inline Floating-Point Operations on Programmable Switches**  
**Y. Yuan**, O. Alama, J. Fei, J. Nelson, D. R. K. Ports, A. Sapio, M. Canini, N. S. Kim  
*The USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)*, 2022
- **Don't Forget the I/O When Allocating Your LLC**  
**Y. Yuan**, M. Alian, Y. Wang, R. Wang, I. Kurakin, C. Tai, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA)*, 2021  
**Code merged into Intel official RDT (pqos) library**
- **QEI: Query Acceleration Can be Generic and Efficient in the Cloud**  
**Y. Yuan**, Y. Wang, R. Wang, R. Chowdhury, C. Tai, N. S. Kim  
*The IEEE International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA)*, 2021
- **Data Direct I/O Characterization for Future I/O System Exploration**  
M. Alian, **Y. Yuan**, J. Zhang, R. Wang, M. Jung, N. S. Kim  
*The IEEE International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (ISPASS)*, 2020
- **HALO: Accelerating Flow Classification for Scalable Packet Processing in NFV**  
**Y. Yuan**, Y. Wang, R. Wang, J. Huang  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA)*, 2019
- **Accelerating Distributed Reinforcement Learning with In-Switch Computing**  
Y. Li, I. Liu, **Y. Yuan**, D. Chen, A. Schwing, J. Huang  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA)*, 2019
- **Project Almanac: A Time-Traveling Solid-State Drive**  
X. Wang, **Y. Yuan**, Y. Zhou, C. C. Coats, J. Huang  
*The ACM European Conference on Computer Systems (EuroSys)*, 2019
- **A Network-Centric Hardware/Algorithm Co-Design to Accelerate Distributed Training of Deep Neural Networks**  
Y. Li, J. Park, M. Alian, **Y. Yuan**, Q. Zheng, P. Pan, R. Wang, A. Schwing, H. Esmaeilzadeh, N. S. Kim  
*The ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO)*, 2018

## Patents

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- **Method and Apparatus for Batching Pages for a Data Movement Accelerator**  
R. Wang, **Y. Yuan**, R. Kuper  
*US Patent App. 18/477,628*, filed Sep. 2023
- **Efficiently Merging Non-identical Pages in Kernel Same-page Merging (KSM) for Efficient and Improved Memory Deduplication and Security**  
R. Kuper, R. Wang, **Y. Yuan**  
*US Patent App. 18/369,090*, filed Sep. 2023
- **Data Consistency and Durability over Distributed Persistent Memory Systems**  
R. Wang, **Y. Yuan**, Y. Wang, T.-Y. C. Tai, T. Hurson  
*US Patent 11,709,774*, granted Jul. 2023
- **Workload Scheduler for Memory Allocation**  
Y. Wang, R. Wang, T.-Y. C. Tai, **Y. Yuan**, P. Pathak, S. Vedantham, C. Macnamara  
*US Patent App. 16/799,745*, filed Feb. 2020
- **Offload of Data Lookup Operations**  
R. Wang, A. J. Herdrich, T.-Y. C. Tai, Y. Wang, R. Kondapalli, A. Bachmutsky, **Y. Yuan**  
*US Patent 11,698,929*, granted Jul. 2023

## Professional Services and Activities

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- **Live Demo Presenter:** Improve System Performance by Offloading Memory-Intensive Kernel Features to CXL Type-2 Device (OCP Global Summit 2023)
- **Tutorial Organizer and Presenter:** On-chip Accelerators in 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable Processors: Features, Performance, Use Cases, and Future! (ISCA'2023)
- **Program Committee:** NSDI'2025, ISCA'2024 (ERC and industry track committee), HPCA'2024, HPCA'2023 (ERC), EuroSys'2022 (shadow PC)

- **Reviewer:** IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS, 2022), IEEE Computer Architecture Letter (CAL, 2022-2023), ACM Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization (TACO, 2024)

## Research Experience

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- **Datacenter and System Taxes Reduction**

2023 – Present

*Intel Labs*

The concept of the “datacenter and systems taxes” refer to a set of shared low-level software components that consume a significant portion of processor cycles in warehouse-scale computers (WSCs) and distributed systems. We have been conducting various hardware and software innovations to reduce such taxes. The results have been published in **ISCA’24**, **ASPLOS’24**, **OCP 2023 Global Summit**, and **USENIX ATC’23**, and have been transferred to Intel (future) products.

- **Embracing Emerging CXL devices in Modern Datacenter**

2022 – Present

*Intel Labs*

CXL has been attracting much attention as the next generation of device interconnect standard, providing unique features such as memory expansion and cache coherence. **As the pioneer of this direction**, we have been exploring CXL memory devices (**Type 3**) and CXL accelerators (**Type 2**) based on real commodity hardware from different aspects, including both hardware functions enhancements and system software optimizations. The results have been published in **OSDI’24**, **VLDB’24**, **MICRO’23** and **OCP 2023 Global Summit**.

- **Accelerator Design for Network/Application Dataplane Operations**

2018 – 2023

*UIUC and Intel Labs*

Tackling the modern data explosion and the “killer microsecond” problem in datacenters, we design accelerator architecture, programming models, and integration schemes to accelerate a wide range of fine-grained but costly operations in datacenter’s software stacks and applications. The results have been published in **HPCA’23**, **HPCA’21** and **ISCA’19**.

- **I/O Subsystem Design and Optimization for Modern Server CPU**

2018 – 2021

*UIUC and Intel Labs*

High-speed I/O devices can exert significant pressure on the CPU’s cache/memory system. We study the I/O-host interaction behavior in the real system, and build realistic and accurate I/O subsystem models for gem5 simulator. We also propose multiple solutions in both real systems and simulation models to optimize the data transfer, notification, and interference in the I/O subsystem. The results have been published in **CAL’23**, **MICRO’22**, **ISCA’21** and **ISPASS’20**.

- **In-network Computing for Distributed ML Training Acceleration**

2017 – 2021

*UIUC and Microsoft Research*

Distributed ML training is notoriously time- and resource-consuming. We propose to leverage the networking devices, including NICs (for in-network gradient compression) and switches (for in-network gradient aggregation), to facilitate the inter-machine communication, which is the most expensive portion in distributed training. We also explore the new potential for P4 programmable switch to process more complicated (floating-point) operations. The results have been published in **NSDI’22**, **ISCA’19**, and **MICRO’18**.

## Teaching Experience

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- **ECE 411:** Computer Organization and Design (UIUC, SP 2021)

## Skills and Techniques

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- **Programming languages:** C/C++, Verilog HDL, VHDL, Python, P4, Shell script, LaTeX, Matlab, etc.
- **Development skills:** Unix/Linux, FPGA, DPDK, RDMA, programmable switch, CUDA, gem5 simulator, sniper simulator, etc.