

Aarav Vidhawan

Computer Engineer – Architecture & Embedded Systems

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering | GPA: 3.85 | Provost Honors

San Diego, CA

2022-Present

RELEVANT COURSEWORK: COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE, DIGITAL SYSTEMS, ADVANCED DIGITAL DESIGN PROJECT, DIGITAL CIRCUITS, LINEAR ALGEBRA, INTRO TO MACHINE LEARNING, COMPUTER ORGANIZATION, DATA STRUCTURES & ALGORITHMS, OPERATING SYSTEMS.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Master of Science, Computer Engineering - Accepted for BS/MS

San Diego, CA

STARTING 2026

EXPERIENCE

CSE DEPARTMENT TUTOR | PROBLEM SOLVING, COMMUNICATION, ARM, C

San Diego, CA

CSE 141/L TUTOR - COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE

June, 2025 – August, 2025

- Led weekly sections and office hours for ~50 undergrads. Prepared targeted problem sets on **ARMv8** pipelines, hazards, caches and memory models. Responded to ~40 forum questions, with avg <2 hrs response time.
- Co-designed and proctored midterms and final. Graded ~80 submissions with a designed rubric.
- 1 on 1 discussion in Office Hours led to an average of ~15 point increase on Midterm 2 and ~10% on the Final.
- Guided 100+ students in CSE 141L through designing custom ISAs and single-cycle CPUs in SystemVerilog. Debugged datapath and control logic, improving synthesis success and comprehension of microarchitecture.

VLSI SYSTEM DESIGN | CH32V, Arduino, Assembly, C++

Bangalore, India

RESEARCH INTERN

October, 2024 – November, 2024

- Profiled **CH32V RISC-V** instruction execution and branch/memory latencies; analyzed 50+ traces and found ~12% stall overhead from load dependencies and mispredictions. All simulation and debugging performed on **VirtualBox** on Win 11.
- Optimized assembly loops, removing redundant loads/stores, cutting execution cycles by ~10% - preserving functionality.
- Built a **MacroPad proof-of-concept** using the VSDSquadron Mini, integrating display and dual-button firmware on CH32V.

UCSD ITS - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | JAVASCRIPT, REACT, HTML, CSS, SERVICENOW

San Diego, CA

DOCUMENT AND CASE MANAGEMENT - STUDENT DEVELOPER

October, 2023 - June, 2024

- Shipped 10+ production forms/workflows (Messaging Colab, Laptop Borrow Request, etc) used by ~3,000+ students and faculty, automation improvements cut manual handling from ~30 min to ~15 min per request (~50%).
- Built 3+ Analysis dashboards using ServiceNow's experience builder. Required 25+ hours of coursework.
- Built QA scripts, and performed over 100+ E2E tests of other developer's work.

PROJECTS

MACROPAD - PROJECT LEAD | C++, KiCAD, LTSPICE, TEAM MANAGEMENT

- Designed a modular ESP32 MacroPad with 9, 64x64 RGB OLEDs, mechanical keys, and 2 rotary encoders.
- Seamless desktop activation via custom, cross-platform Qt companion application. Written in C++ and Objective C.
- Implemented using serial protocol supporting profile switch < 50 ms, and activation latency <40 ms.
- Designed driver circuit for the **SSD1357z** controller, integrated into custom PCB for the keyboard.

Sora v1.0 - Self Designed ISA and CPU | SYSTEMVERILOG, PYTHON, QUARTUS, MODELSIM

- Authored a **9-bit ISA (16 instr, 2 addressing modes, load-store)** with an **8-bit datapath**. Wrote assembler in Python.
- Achieved Hamming Distance Calculation and **double precision** multiplication using only **9 bits**. Fastest execute in the class.
- Single-cycle, with RTL in SystemVerilog, simulated in ModelSim, and resource mapped on Cyclone-V using QuartusPrime.

VITERBI ENCODER/DECODER | SYSTEMVERILOG, MODELSIM, QUARTUS

- Implemented a convolutional encoder (**rate 1/2, K=7**) and a pipelined Viterbi decoder (**ACS + traceback depth 35**). Passed the end-to-end tx/rx testbench and verified **min branch metric = 0** in a no-error channel.
- Built deterministic + random error-injection. Evaluated uncorrected errors across periodic/burst patterns up to a **1/16** rate.
- Synthesized on Cyclone V. Exported RTL-viewer/netlist and wrote state-transition/branch-metric notes for reproducibility.

LEADERSHIP/ EXTRACURRICULAR

HKN (Eta Kappa Nu) - CSE Department Chair (Events)

- Designed and hosted over **10+ technical workshops**, like the Macro Key and I2C Workshop, and also ECE Depths Seminar.
- Communicated with over **20+ professors and alumni** to invite them as panelists and speakers for events.
- Participated in weekly meetings to facilitate the creation and execution of HKN events, ranging from professional to social.

Early Learning and Cognition Lab (UCSD) - Volunteer Engineer

- Designed a child-proof "bicket" machine used to study probabilistic vs deterministic learning.
- Built using an Arduino, 5 hall sensors, a rotary mode switch and an RGB LED. 3D designed enclosure as well.

SKILLS

HARDWARE DESIGN & VERIFICATION: SYSTEMVERILOG, VERILOG, QUARTUS, MODELSIM, VIVADO, PSPICE/LTSPICE

EMBEDDED/FIRMWARE: C, C++, ARDUINO, ESP32, FREERTOS, CH32V, SPI, I2C, USART.

SOFTWARE: PYTHON, JAVA, JAVASCRIPT, HTML, CSS, LINUX, TCL, CUDA

TOOLS: GITHUB, VSCODE, KICAD, JIRA/CONFLUENCE, LAB GEAR (WAVEFORM GENERATOR, OSCILLOSCOPE, SOLDERING IRON)