

# ANG LI

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in all aspects of computer architecture and digital VLSI design, especially heterogeneous and reconfigurable systems for both high-performance and low-power applications. I enjoy building chips to validate and evaluate my ideas with high fidelity. I am also an advocator of open-source hardware/research as they increase research credibility/reproducibility and encourage community-wide collaboration.

## EDUCATION

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ, USA  
*Ph.D. Candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering* May 2023 (Expected)  
Advisor: Prof. David Wentzlaff

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ, USA  
*M.A. in Electrical Engineering* Jun. 2018  
Advisor: Prof. David Wentzlaff

**Tsinghua University**, Beijing, China  
*B.A. in Electrical Engineering* Jun. 2016  
Minor: Economics

**Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, GA, USA  
*Exchange Student, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering* Aug. – Dec. 2013

## PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS

**[HPCA'23]** (To appear) **Ang Li**, August Ning, and David Wentzlaff, *"Duet: Creating Harmony between Processors and Embedded FPGAs"*, 29th IEEE International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture, Feb. 2023

**[FPGA'21]** **Ang Li**, and David Wentzlaff, *"PRGA: An Open-Source FPGA Research and Prototyping Framework"*, 29th ACM/SIGDA International Symposium on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays, Feb. 2021

**[FPL'20]** **Ang Li**, Ting-Jung Chang, and David Wentzlaff, *"Automated Design of FPGAs Facilitated by Cycle-Free Routing"*, 30th International Conference on Field-Programmable Logic and Applications, Aug./Sep. 2020

**[IEEE Micro]** Jonathan Balkind, Ting-Jung Chang, Paul J. Jackson, Georgios Tziantzioulis, **Ang Li**, Fei Gao, Alexey Lavrov, Grigory Chirkov, Jinzheng Tu, Mohammad Shahrada, and David Wentzlaff, *"OpenPiton at 5: A Nexus for Open and Agile Hardware Design"*, IEEE Micro Vol. 40, No. 1, Jul./Aug. 2020

**[ASPLOS'20]** Jonathan Balkind, Katie Lim, Michael Schaffner, Fei Gao, Grigory Chirkov, **Ang Li**, Alexey Lavrov, Tri M. Nguyen, Yaosheng Fu, Florian Zaruba, Kunal Gulati, Luca Benini, and David Wentzlaff, *"BYOC: A 'Bring Your Own Core' Framework for Heterogeneous-ISA Research"*, 25th International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems, Mar. 2020

**[ISLPED'15]** Shuangchen Li, **Ang Li**, Yuan Zhe, Yongpan Liu, Peng Li, Guangyu Sun, Yu Wang, Huazhong Yang, and Yuan Xie, *"Leveraging emerging nonvolatile memory in high-level synthesis with loop transformations"*, International Symposium on Low Power Electronics and Design, Jul. 2015

**[ASPAC'15]** Shuangchen Li, **Ang Li**, Yongpan Liu, Yuan Xie, and Huazhong Yang, *"Nonvolatile memory allocation and hierarchy optimization for high-level synthesis"*, 20th Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASPAC'15), Jan. 2015

**[Patent]** Xiang Xie, Lifei Ren, **Ang Li**, Yanjun Han, Guolin Li, Jun Hu, Zhong Lv, Wei Song, Yi Zheng, and Zihua Wang, “A Touch Interacting System and Method Based on Adaptive Layered Structured Light”, Chinese National Invention Patent, No. 2013103145347, Jul. 2013

## POSTERS AND WORKSHOPS

**[FPGA’20]** **Ang Li**, and David Wentzlaff, “Cycle-Free FPGA Routing Graphs”, 28<sup>th</sup> ACM/SIGDA International Symposium on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays, Feb. 2020

**[OSDA’19]** **Ang Li**, and David Wentzlaff, “PRGA: An Open-source Framework for Building and Using Custom FPGAs”, 1st Workshop on Open-Source Design Automation (OSDA), Mar. 2019

**[WOSET’18]** Jonathan Balkind, Alexey Lavrov, Michael McKeown, Yaosheng Fu, Tri Nguyen, Mohammad Shahradd, **Ang Li**, Katie Lim, Yanqi Zhou, Ting-Jung Chang, Paul Jackson, Adi Fuchs, Samuel Payne, Xiaohua Liang, Matthew Matl, and David Wentzlaff, “OpenPiton: An Emerging Standard for Open-Source EDA Tool Development”, Workshop on Open-Source EDA Technology, Nov. 2018

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Efficient, Programmable, and Manufacturable Hardware: The Case for Synthesizable FPGAs”  
*Invited talk at the Intel/VMware Crossroads 3D-FPGA Academic Research Center, Virtual* Nov. 2022  
*Invited talk at University of California, Santa Barbara, Virtual* Dec. 2022

“PRGA: An Open-Source FPGA Research and Prototyping Framework”  
*The 29th ACM/SIGDA Int’l Symposium on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA’21), Virtual* Feb. 2021  
*The 1st Workshop on Open-Source Design Automation (OSDA), Florence, Italy* Mar. 2019

“Automated Design of FPGAs Facilitated by Cycle-Free Routing”  
*The 30th International Conference on Field-Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL’20), Virtual* Aug. 2020

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

**Duet:** Harmonious CPU-FPGA Integration for Fine-Grained Acceleration Mar. 2021 – Present  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University*

Hardware acceleration based on embedded FPGAs balances flexibility and performance/efficiency, yet the conventional *coarse-grained acceleration* paradigm that offloads algorithms in their entirety is ill-suited for dynamic and/or irregular applications. Duet promotes eFPGAs to be equal peers with many-core processors in a hardware-coherent cache system. By innovating the interface between the on-chip network and the eFPGAs, Duet enables *fine-grained, collaborative execution* of the processors and the eFPGA-emulated accelerators. A paper on Duet has been accepted to HPCA’23. The RTL model of Duet is open-source and available at <https://github.com/PrincetonUniversity/Duet>. A Gem5-based simulator for Duet is open-source and available at <https://github.com/angl-dev/gem5-duet>.

**PRGA:** Princeton Reconfigurable Gate Array Oct. 2017 – Present  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University*

A silicon-proven, open-source project for generating customized, synthesizable FPGAs with bespoke, RTL-to-bitstream CAD toolchain [FPGA’21]. I also proposed the cycle-free FPGA routing graph which enables constraint-driven, hierarchical optimization using off-the-shelf digital EDA tools [FPL’20]. PRGA is used in three chip tape-outs (details below). PRGA is open-source and available at <https://github.com/PrincetonUniversity/prga>.

**CIFER: Hetero-Granular Architecture Prototype Chip Tape-out** Nov. 2019 – Present  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University; in collaboration with Computer System Laboratory, Cornell University*

A heterogeneous, cache-coherent SoC integrating OS-capable processors, MIMD tiny-core clusters, and eFPGA fabrics, covering both ends of the parallelization-specialization spectrum via collaborative execution. Prototype chip is taped out in 12nm FinFET and tested in lab. A paper on CIFER is currently under peer review. Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**DECADES: Tiled Heterogeneous Architecture Prototype Chip Tape-out** Dec. 2020 – Present  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University; in collaboration with Martonosi Research Group, Princeton University, and System-Level Design Group, Columbia University*

A heterogeneous, cache-coherent SoC with OS-capable processors, specialized accelerators, intelligent storage units, bit-serial SIMD cores, and eFPGAs. Prototype chip is taped out in 12nm FinFET and tested in lab. A paper on DECADES is currently under peer review. Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**ORDER: An SoC Built with Open-Source Hardware, PDK, & EDA** Feb. – May. 2022  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University*

A RV32I + 512-LUT4/FF SoC designed with open-source hardware frameworks (including PRGA), synthesized using an open-source EDA flow (OpenRoad) and an open-source PDK (SKY130). ORDER is selected for the OpenMPW-6 free shuttle and is in fabrication. ORDER is open-source and available at [https://github.com/angl-dev/caravel\\_mpw5\\_prga](https://github.com/angl-dev/caravel_mpw5_prga) (including a tapeout-ready GDS). Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**Near-Peak-Bandwidth, All-to-All, Many-FPGA Communication over UDP/IP** Jun. – Sep. 2019  
*Research Intern, Microsoft Research, WA, USA*

Proposed and implemented an all-to-all, many-FPGA communication mechanism for a many-FPGA system over a mostly private, stable network, achieving near-peak bandwidth (~98%) of a full duplex network switch. By synchronizing FPGA clocks, characterizing clock error, and tolerating *clock drifting* and PLL variance, the proposed mechanism allows the FPGAs to run in lockstep epochs and saturate network links in a *time-division multiplexing* manner. Advised by Dr. Michael Papamichael.

**Hardware Transactional Memory on OpenPiton** Jan. – Jun. 2018  
*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University*

Implemented an in-cache, hardware transactional memory (HTM) on OpenPiton. The HTM employs lazy version management and lazy conflict detection. It uses each processor's private cache to buffer the read-/write-set of a transaction and commits to the last-level cache if a transaction is validated. Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**Real-World OCR with Gated-RNN and MD-LSTM** Aug. 2015 – Feb. 2016  
*Research Intern, Sensetime Co., Ltd., Beijing, China*

Implemented Gated-RNN and MD-LSTM on the Caffe deep learning framework.

**High-Level Synthesis with Non-Volatile Memory** Apr. 2013 – Jan. 2015  
*Research Assistant, Nanoscale Integrated Circuits and System Lab, Tsinghua University*

Proposed an algorithm to optimize loop transformation for NVM-SRAM hybrid on-chip buffer allocation. Advised by Prof. Yongpan Liu.

### Hardware Model Research on HICAMP

Jun. 2014 – Sep. 2014

*Research Intern, Computer Systems Laboratory, Stanford University*

Hierarchical Immutable Content-Addressable Memory Processor (HICAMP) is an architecture that organizes the memory in a tree-like structure with content-addressability and data deduplication. I proposed and implemented a fast *compare* instruction exploiting the content-addressable tree. I improved the *iteration register file* (similar to a private cache) with intra- and inter-processor coherence. I proposed and implemented an out-of-order commit, transaction manager for the hardware-supported, software-implemented transactional memory based on HICAMP. Advised by Prof. David Cheriton.

### Interactive Projection System Based on Structured Light

Nov. 2012 – Jul. 2013

*Research Assistant, Nanoscale Integrated Circuits and System Lab, Tsinghua University*

Proposed an algorithm to recognize users' interactions (multi-finger tapping, dragging, pinching, etc.) using one projector and one camera, without depth sensors. Advised by Prof. Xiang Xie.

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

ECE 462/562 (also COS 462) – Design of Very Large-Scale Integrated (VLSI) Systems

Fall 2022

*Teaching Assistant*

Co-designed the final project on creating a minimal-area, DRC/LVS-clean, 4x4 SRAM block.

ECE 475/575 (also COS 475) – Computer Architecture

Fall 2018

*Teaching Assistant*

Upgraded the labs from implementing the PARC ISA to the RISC-V (RV32IM) ISA. Materials that I developed are still used in the course today.

Google Summer of Code

Summer 2020

*FOSSi Mentor*

Ansh Puvvada, *Automating Hardware and Bitstream Verification for PRGA with cocotb*

Co-Advisory of Undergraduate Research

2019 – Present

Jaeyeok Yoon, *Architecture and Physical Design of Specialized FPGAs*

Marlon Escobar, *CPU-FPGA Integration*

Kevin Liu, *Creating Multimode Logic Elements for a Reconfigurable Gate Array*

## AWARDS AND HONORS

**First Prize** Scholarship for Excellent Student (10 out of 300+)

Oct. 2013

**Top prize** in 7<sup>th</sup> “Challenge Cup” Beijing Undergraduates’ Extracurricular

Technology Innovation Competition (40 out of 500+)

Jul. 2013

**First Prize** Scholarship for Excellent Student (10 out of 300+)

Oct. 2012

## REFERENCES

Contact info available upon request.

**Prof. David Wentzlaff**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Princeton University

**Prof. Christopher Batten**, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cornell University

**Prof. Vaughn Betz**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Toronto

**Prof. Michael Taylor**, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Washington

**Dr. Michael Papamichael**, Microsoft Research