

# ANG LI

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in all aspects of computer architecture, especially heterogeneous and reconfigurable architectures for both high-performance and low-power applications. I am also interested in the VLSI design methodology and software programming model for these architectures. I enjoy building chips so as 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*

Advisor: Prof. David Wentzlaff

May 2023 (Expected)

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ, USA

*M.A. in Electrical Engineering*

Advisor: Prof. David Wentzlaff

Jun. 2018

**Tsinghua University**, Beijing, China

*B.A. in Electronic Engineering*

Minor: Economics

Jun. 2016

**Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, GA, USA

*Exchange Student, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Aug. – Dec. 2013

## EXPERIENCE

**Duet:** Harmonious CPU-FPGA Integration for Fine-Grained Acceleration

Mar. 2021 – Present

*Research Assistant, Princeton Parallel Group, Princeton University*

eFPGA-based hardware acceleration balances flexibility and performance/efficiency. However, 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 NoC and the eFPGAs, Duet enables *fine-grained, collaborative execution* of the processors and the eFPGA-emulated accelerators. A paper on Duet is currently under peer review. Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**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 complementary, 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 (detailed below). Advised by Prof. David Wentzlaff.

**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, parallel tiny core clusters, and eFPGA fabrics, covering both ends of the parallelization-specialization spectrum via collaborative execution. Prototype chip is taped out at 12nm 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 at 12nm 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 (e.g. PRGA), synthesized using an open-source EDA flow (OpenRoad) and an open-source PDK (SkyWater 130nm). ORDER is selected for the OpenMPW-6 free shuttle and will be taped out soon. 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 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. 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-set and 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS

**[FPGA'21]** Ang Li, and David Wentzlaff, "PRGA: An Open-Source FPGA Research and Prototyping Framework", 29<sup>th</sup> 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", 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Shahradd, 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", 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Port Electronics and Design, Jul. 2015

**[ASPDAC'15]** Shuangchen Li, Ang Li, Yongpan Liu, Yuan Xie, and Huazhong Yang, "Nonvolatile memory allocation and hierarchy optimization for high-level synthesis", 20<sup>th</sup> Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASPDAC'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 (Poster)] **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 (Workshop)] **Ang Li**, and David Wentzlaff, "*PRGA: An Open-source Framework for Building and Using Custom FPGAs*", 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Open-Source Design Automation (OSDA), Mar. 2019

[WOSET'18 (Workshop)] 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

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

ECE 462/562 (also COS 462) – Design of Very Large-Scale Integrated (VLSI) Systems Fall 2022  
*Teaching Assistant*

Google Summer of Code – PRGA + FASM: Open-source Bitgen for FPGAs Summer 2020  
*FOSSi Mentor*

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.

Co-Advisory of Undergraduate Research 2019 – Present  
 Jaebyoek 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

**Dr. Michael Papamichael**, Microsoft Research