

# SAAD AHMED

## Curriculum Vitae

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## Research Interests

I build a **sustainable** future for computing by enabling the **Internet of Batteryless Things**; a vision that liberates Internet of Things (IoT) devices from batteries thus allowing maintenance-free operation. I develop **system support** that cuts across the entire system stack and ensures **energy-efficient, reliable, and adaptive** program execution while making computational progress across reboots. I actively look to apply my work in area of mobile health, education, smart cities and environmental monitoring to unlock new **applications**.

My work has appeared in the top computing journals and conferences such as **IMWUT, SenSys, IPSN, EuroSys, ACM TECS** and **ACM TCPS**. It has been invited to the GetMobile magazine for the SIGMOBILE research highlight and has been covered by top media outlets such ACM Tech News, Forbes, Tech Crunch, Gizmodo, and many more. Based on my work, I was also selected for the prestigious **Alexandar Von Humboldt Postdoctoral fellowship**.

## Education

- 2016–2020 **PhD, Computer Science**, LUMS School of Science and Engineering, Pakistan.  
Dissertation: *Fast and Energy-efficient Intermittent Computing*  
Advisor: Dr. Muhammad Hamad Alizai
- 2014–2016 **MS, Computer Science**, LUMS School of Science and Engineering, Pakistan.  
Advisor: Dr. Asim Karim
- 2009–2013 **BS, Computer Science**, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Pakistan.  
Project: *PL/SQL to MySQL Conversion*  
Advisor: Dr. Fakhar-ul-Islam Lodhi  
🏆 **Bronze Medal: Among top 2% in a batch of 200 students**

## Selected Publications

- EuroSys'23 **Efficient and Safe I/O Operations for Intermittent Systems.**  
Eren Yildiz, [Saad Ahmed\\*](#), Bashima Islam, Josiah Hester, Kasim Sinan Yildirim  
To appear in European Conference on Computer Systems (EuroSys'23)  
**Acceptance rate = 14%**  
\* Lead advisor for the student

- SenSys'22 **Protean: Adaptive Battery-free Computing Platform.**  
 Abu Bakar, Rishabh Goel, Jasper de Winkel, Jason Huang, Saad Ahmed, Bashima Islam, Przemysław Pawełczak, Kasim Sinan Yıldırım, Josiah Hester  
 InACM Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems (SenSys'22)  
**ACM SIGMOBILE Research highlight**
- UbiComp'22 **Battery-free MakeCode: Accessible Programming for Intermittent Computing.**  
 Chris Kraemer, Amy Guo, Saad Ahmed, Josiah Hester  
 ACM Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'22)  
 Published in PACM IMWUT, Volume 5, Issue 4  
 Covered by Microsoft Research, ACM Tech News, and Hackster.io and many more
- UbiComp'22 **FaceBit: Smart Facemask Platform.**  
 Alexander Curtiss, Blaine Rothrock, Abu Bakar, Nivedita Arora, Jason Huang, Zachary Englehardt, Aaron-Patrick Empedrado, Chixiang Wang, Saad Ahmed, Yang Zhang, Nabil Alshurafa, Josiah Hester  
 ACM Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'22)  
 Published in PACM IMWUT, Volume 5, Issue 4  
**Fast Company's Innovation by Design Award Finalist**  
 Covered by Top media outlets including Scientific American, TechCrunch, Forbes, Gizmodo and many more.
- EWSN'20 **Intermittent Computing with Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Qurat-ul-Ain, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola, Muhammad Hamad Alizai  
 International Conference on Embedded Wireless Systems and Networks (EWSN'20)  
**🏆 Best Paper Nominee**

## Academic Achievements & Recognitions

- 2023 Nomination for the College of Computing Postdoctoral Researcher Award
- 2023 Protean got selected for the **ACM SIGMOBILE Research Highlight**
- 2022 FaceBit was the **Fast Company's Innovation by Design Award Finalist**
- 2021 Selection for the prestigious **Alexander Von Humboldt** postdoctoral fellowship, Germany.
- 2020 D<sup>2</sup>VFS nominated for **Best Paper Award** at EWSN
- 2017 **First position** in Intermittent Computing Hackathon at IDEA League Doctoral School
- 2013 **🥉Bronze Medal**, Faculty of Computing, NUCES, Pakistan
- 2010-12 **Dean's Honor List**, Faculty of Computing, NUCES, Pakistan
- 2013 Final Year Project among **top 10%**, Faculty of Computing, NUCES
- 2010 Merit Based Selection for visiting UK's & EU's Top Universities, Govt. Of Punjab, Pakistan
- 2009-13 National Talent Scholarship, Govt. Of Punjab, Pakistan
- 2009 Academic Roll of Honour, Govt. College University Lahore, Pakistan
- 2009 **🥇Gold Medal**, Higher Secondary School Exam, Pakistan

## Research Impact

- 8** peer-reviewed conference papers (all are A or A\* conferences as per CORE 2018)
- 3** peer-reviewed papers in ACM Transactions journals **3** refereed poster abstracts

## Professional Experience

Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Oct 2022 – **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
Present **Mentor: Dr. Josiah Hester.**

Northwestern University, USA

Dec 2020 – **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
Sep 2022 **Mentor: Dr. Josiah Hester.**

Techlogix Inc., Pakistan

May 2013 – **Software Engineer.**  
Nov 2014

## Research Experience

LUMS School of Science and Engineering, Pakistan

May 2020 – **Research Associate**  
Nov 2020 **Advisor: Dr. Muhammad Hamad Alizai.**

May 2016 – **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Nov 2020 **Advisor: Dr. Muhammad Hamad Alizai.**

RWTH Aachen, Germany

July 2016, **Visiting Researcher**  
Aug 2017 **Host: Dr. Klaus Wehrle.**

LUMS School of Science and Engineering, Pakistan

Jan 2016 – **Research Assistant**  
Aug 2016 **Advisor: Dr. Muhammad Hamad Alizai.**

## Community Service

Peer Review

Feb. 2023 IMWUT

Feb. 2023 Ad Hoc Networks

Oct. 2022 Journal of Systems Architecture

March. 2021 Ad Hoc Networks

Oct. 2020 IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing  
July 2020 ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks  
Oct. 2019 International Journal of Computer and Telecommunications Networking  
Sept. 2019 IEEE International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems (ICPADS)  
**Undergraduate Research**  
July 2022 Judge for the undergraduate research expo, Northwestern University

## Talks

Nov-2020 Fast and Energy-efficient Intermittent Computing,  
University of Southampton, UK  
Nov-2020 Fast and Energy-efficient Intermittent Computing,  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden  
Feb-2020 Intermittent Computing with Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling,  
EWSN, Lyon, France  
June-2019 Differential Checkpointing for Intermittent Programs,  
LCTES, Phoenix AZ, USA  
June-2019 Finding the Missing Joules of Transiently-powered Computers,  
LCTES, Phoenix AZ, USA  
Aug-2016 Incremental Checkpoints for Interruptible Computations,  
RWTH Aachen, Aachen, Germany

## Fellowships & Grants

2021 Alexander Von Humboldt Research Fellowship (Selection), Germany  
2020 National Data Center Travel Grant to attend EWSN, LUMS  
2019 Student Travel Grant worth to attend LCTES, LUMS  
2018 CPS Week Travel Grant to attend IPSN, CPS Week  
2017 Travel Grant to attend Doctoral Colloquium at RWTH Aachen, DAAD  
2016 Travel Grant to attend Doctoral Colloquium at RWTH Aachen, DAAD

## Publications

### In Conference Proceedings

C8 **Efficient and Safe I/O Operations for Intermittent Systems.**  
Eren Yildiz, Saad Ahmed\*, Bashima Islam, Josiah Hester, Kasim Sinan Yildirim  
To appear in European Conference on Computer Systems (EuroSys'23)  
**Acceptance rate = 14%**  
\* Lead advisor for the student

- C7 Protean: Adaptive Battery-free Computing Platform.**  
 Abu Bakar, Rishabh Goel, Jasper de Winkel, Jason Huang, [Saad Ahmed](#), Bashima Islam, Przemysław Pawełczak, Kasim Sinan Yıldırım, Josiah Hester  
 In ACM Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems (SenSys'22)  
**ACM SIGMOBILE Research highlight**
- C6 Battery-free MakeCode: Accessible Programming for Intermittent Computing.**  
 Chris Kraemer, Amy Guo, [Saad Ahmed](#), Josiah Hester  
 ACM Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'22)  
 Published in PACM IMWUT, Volume 5, Issue 4  
 Covered by Microsoft Research, ACM Tech News, and Hackster.io and many more
- C5 FaceBit: Smart Facemask Platform.**  
 Alexander Curtiss, Blaine Rothrock, Abu Bakar, Nivedita Arora, Jason Huang, Zachary Englehardt, Aaron-Patrick Empedrado, Chixiang Wang, [Saad Ahmed](#), Yang Zhang, Nabil Alshurafa, Josiah Hester  
 ACM Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'22)  
 Published in PACM IMWUT, Volume 5, Issue 4  
**Fast Company's Innovation by Design Award Finalist**  
 Covered by Top media outlets including Scientific American, Forbes, TechCrunch, Gizmodo and many more.
- C4 No-frills Water Comfort for Developing Regions.**  
 Samar Abbas, Ahmed Ehsan, [Saad Ahmed](#), Sheraz Ali Khan, Tariq Muhammad Jadoon, Muhammad Hamad Alizai  
 International Conference on Information Processing in Sensor Networks (IPSN'20)
- C3 Intermittent Computing with Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling.**  
[Saad Ahmed](#), Qurat-u-Ain, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola, Muhammad Hamad Alizai  
 International Conference on Embedded Wireless Systems and Networks (EWSN'20)  
**🏆 Best Paper Nominee**
- C2 The betrayal of constant power× time: Finding the missing joules of transiently-powered computers.**  
[Saad Ahmed](#), Abu Bakar, Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola  
 Proceedings of the 20th ACM SIGPLAN/SIGBED International Conference on Languages, Compilers, and Tools for Embedded Systems (LCTES'19)
- C1 Efficient intermittent computing with differential checkpointing.**  
[Saad Ahmed](#), Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola  
 Proceedings of the 20th ACM SIGPLAN/SIGBED International Conference on Languages, Compilers, and Tools for Embedded Systems (LCTES'19)

## Journal Articles

- J3 ASHRAY: Enhancing Water-usage Comfort in Developing Regions using Data-driven IoT Retrofits.**  
 Samar Abbas, Ahmed Ehsan, [Saad Ahmed](#), Sheraz Ali Khan, Tariq Muhammad Jadoon, Muhammad Hamad Alizai  
 ACM Transactions on Cyber-Physical Systems (TCPS)

- J2 **Fast and Energy-efficient State Checkpointing for Intermittent Computing.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola  
 ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (TECS)
- J1 **Demystifying Energy Consumption Dynamics in Transiently-powered Computers.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Muhammad Nawaz, Abu Bakar, Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Luca Mottola  
 ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (TECS)

## Workshops & Posters

- W3 **Towards smaller checkpoints for better intermittent computing.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Luca Mottola  
 17th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Information Processing in Sensor Networks (IPSN'18)
- W2 **Incremental Checkpointing Techniques for Transiently Powered Computers.**  
 Saad Ahmed  
 Doctoral School on Transiently Powered Computing-Collocated with SenSys'17
- W1 **Incremental checkpointing for interruptible computations.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Muhammad Hamad Alizai, Junaid Haroon Siddiqui, Naveed Anwar Bhatti, Luca Mottola  
 Proceedings of the 14th ACM Conference on Embedded Network Sensor Systems (SenSys'16)

## In Preparation

- P2 **Battery-less Health Sensing powered by Intra-body Power Transfer.**  
 Saad Ahmed, Eren Yildiz, Bashima Islam, Kasim Sinan Yildirim, Josiah Hester
- P1 **Data Cache for Intermittent Computing Systems with Non-Volatile Main Memory.**  
 Vito Kortbeek, Sourav Mohapatra, Saad Ahmed, Przemysław Pawełczak

## Teaching Experience

- Spring, 2022 : **Internet of Things**, Co-Instructor, Northwestern University.
- Fall, 2020 : **Introduction to Internet of Things**, Co-Instructor, LUMS.
- Fall, 2018 : **Internet of Things**, Teaching Assistant, LUMS.
- Fall, 2014 : **Operating Systems**, Teaching Assistant, NUCES.
- Spring, 2014 : **Operating Systems**, Lab Instructor, NUCES.
- Operating Systems**, Teaching Assistant, NUCES.
- Fall, 2013 : **Operating Systems**, Teaching Assistant, NUCES.
- Fall, 2013 : **Operating Systems**, Teaching Assistant, NUCES.
- Operating Systems**, Lab Instructor, NUCES.

## Student Mentorship

- 2023 **Shashank Holla**, Research Assistant, GaTech , **CPU Engineer-NVIDIA**.
- 2022-2023 **Eren Yildiz**, Visiting Student, NU.
- 2019-2020 **Qurat-ul-Ain**, MS-Thesis, LUMS.
- 2018-2019 **Muhamamd Nawaz**, Research Assistant, LUMS, **Software Engineer-SIEMENS**.
- 2017-2018 **Abu Bakar**, Research Assistant, LUMS, **Ph.D. candidate at Georgia Institute of Technology**.
- 2016-2017 **Hassan Ali Khan**, MS-Thesis, LUMS, **Ph.D. student at NC State University**.
- 2016-2017 **Ans Fida**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, LUMS, **Senior MTS-SalesForce**.
- 2016-2017 **Kamran Khalil**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, LUMS, **Ph.D. Purdue University**.
- 2016-2017 **Natasha Khan**, MS-Thesis, LUMS, **Software Engineer-CERN**.

## References

### **Dr. Muhammad Hamad Alizai**

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*Department of Computer Science*  
LUMS, Pakistan  
✉ hamad.alizai@lums.edu.pk

### **Dr. Luca Mottola**

*Professor,*  
*Dipartimento di Elettronica,*  
Politecnico di Milano, Italy  
✉ luca.mottola@polimi.it

### **Dr. Kasim Sinan**

*Associate Professor,*  
*Department of Computer Science*  
University of Trento, Italy  
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### **Dr. Junaid Haroon Siddiqui**

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*Department of Computer Science*  
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### **Dr. Bashima Islam**

*Assistant Professor,*  
*School of Science and Engineering*  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
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### **Dr. Josiah Hester**

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