ASPLOS XX

Twentieth International Conference

on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems

March 14–18, 2015 Istanbul, Turkey

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ASPLOS 2015 General Chairs' Welcome

On behalf of the ASPLOS organizing committee, we are very pleased to welcome you to Istanbul, Turkey, for the 20th International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (ASPLOS-XX) on March 14-18, 2015. Istanbul is a jewel of a city, with its unique historical accumulation and splendid natural beauty, blended into a modern metropolis. Each civilization that has made Istanbul its home has left its mark in sublime and splendid ways, and the result is a city that gives one the feeling of universal history at every step from the Roman era to the Byzantine and Ottoman eras.

Visitors will enjoy a wide variety of activities in a city where two continents meet on the blue waters of the Bosphorus to offer an abundance of unique natural, historical, cultural, and culinary experiences. Many of the historical sites including the Blue Mosque, Hagia (St.) Sophia, Hippodrome, Grand Covered Bazaar, Obelisk of Theodosius, Serpentine Column, The Maiden's Tower, Galata, and Basilica Cistern will be explored as part of our social activity. The conference banquet will be held at the Bosphorus, where we will enjoy a view of many historic places in Asia and Europe simultaneously.

ASPLOS has been the best place to share and exchange innovative ideas regarding integrative research comprising computer architecture, programming languages, and operating systems. This year is no different thanks to the organizing committee, reviewers, contributing authors, and particularly the program committee and the chair, Sandhya Dwarkadas. She and the program committee did a great job in selecting an extremely interesting program. Several exciting workshops and tutorials will also be part of the conference. This year, we created a new ASPLOS-ACM Student Research Competition (SRC) sponsored by ACM and Microsoft Research. ASPLOS-ACM SRC is a forum for undergraduates and graduate students to share their research results, exchange ideas, and improve their communication skills while competing for prizes. We would like to thank all members of the organizing committee and steering committee as well as the technical program committee and the external reviewers.

We would also like to thank the corporate supporters of ASPLOS who have provided generous financial support: VMware and Intel – our primary supporter this year, Google, ARM, Oracle, Microsoft Research, Facebook, IBM Research, and HP Labs. Our thanks also go to ACM SIGARCH, ACM SIGOPS, ACM SIGPLAN, and the National Science Foundation for providing funding for the student grants.

We hope you find the program exciting as we have a packed program with 48 technical papers, lightning and poster sessions, a banquet, business meeting, two keynotes, a WACI session, and potentially a debate/panel. We hope this provides a stimulating platform and you enjoy staying in Istanbul.

Let us meet where continents meet!

Ozcan OzturkASPLOS 2015 General co-Chair
Bilkent University

Kemal Ebcioglu
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ASPLOS 2015 Program Chair's Message

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as program chair for ASPLOS 2015 - the Twentieth International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems. This year's conference has set new records in terms of the number of submissions, and reinforces ASPLOS's tradition of encouraging work on innovative multidisciplinary research spanning computer architecture and hardware, programming languages and compilers, operating systems and networking, and applications.

The 2015 conference saw a record 287 submissions (compared to 217 in 2014, an increase of 32%), with a total of 1,018 paper authors from 287 institutions spread across at least 22 countries and spanning 5 continents: a clear indication that our community is growing, and that ASPLOS is the premier venue of choice for disseminating high quality interdisciplinary work.

There was a wide diversity in topics, ranging from quantum computing to human computer interaction, with the most popular being scheduling and resource management, memory systems, power/energy/thermal management, and multicore and heterogeneous architectures. 97 papers self-identified as relating to architecture, 72 to parallelism, 70 to operating systems, 51 to programming models and languages, and 34 to compiler optimizations.

Some Notes on the Review Process: All reviewing and discussion, including that at the PC meeting, was double blind. As in past ASPLOS conferences, I used a 2-phase review process, with each paper receiving 3 reviews in round 1, and a minimum of an additional 2 reviews in round 2. In order to improve the quality of review assignment, in conjunction with the paper title and abstract (with sometimes a need to skim the paper directly), I used a combination of topic and interest match with reviewers, and suggestions for reviewers from both the authors and the round 1 reviewers (during the round 2 assignment).

I continued to monitor reviews for papers through both rounds 1 and 2 as they came in for quality, substance, and tone, to correct any expertise mismatch, and to find experts in the multiple areas each paper might span, including experts outside of the program and external review committees, a step that is essential for a conference with the breadth that ASPLOS covers. Reviewer feedback in this process was extremely helpful.

In keeping with ASPLOS'14 and other conferences, not all papers were moved to round 2. In particular, papers with no round 1 reviews advocating acceptance, and with clear consensus (based both on substantive review content and comment exchange) among the reviewers that the paper did not rise above the acceptance bar for the conference, did not move to round 2. Approximately 35% of the papers fell in this category. Each of these decisions involved the active participation of all the reviewers.

After the rebuttal phase, each paper was assigned a discussion lead. The discussion lead's job was to carefully read all reviews, the rebuttal, and prior online comments (several papers had extensive online discussions after both rounds 1 and 2), and then initiate a discussion with the goal of reaching a conclusion on whether papers were to be accepted, rejected, or discussed at the PC meeting. The goal of the discussion lead (and my monitoring) was to ensure that every reviewer participated in the discussion after reading the other reviews and the rebuttal. During this process, if new reviewers were considered required based on the rebuttal content, they were sought.

The program committee meeting was held at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton on November 7th, 2014. All but two PC members were in attendance, both due to medical emergencies. PC members had access to the reviews for all papers for which they had no declared conflict. Paper authors were not revealed during the PC meeting, and since the discussion continued to be blind, PC papers were not singled out for separate discussion. PC members were asked to leave the room for papers for which they were declared as a conflict (which included any papers they were authors on) prior to revealing the paper title and number being discussed.

During the PC meeting, all papers categorized as a preliminary accept (15) were discussed first. The PC also had a chance during and prior to the PC meeting to bring up papers for discussion that were classified as tentatively rejected (i.e., all papers were open for discussion at the PC meeting). The majority of the time during the PC meeting was spent on the papers categorized as needing discussion. The result of the extensive reviewing, online discussion, and PC meeting is now in your hands for your reading pleasure, with 48 accepted papers, 16 of which were shepherded. In addition to the decision process, for every paper where the authors chose to provide a rebuttal, the discussion lead, in collaboration with the other reviewers, provided the authors with a summary outlining the main criteria leading to the decision outcome for the paper (whether or not the rebuttal answered reviewer questions or addressed concerns or shortcomings expressed in the reviews), along with feedback for improvement.

The Program: In addition to the 48 accepted papers, the conference includes two invited keynote speeches. Edward Lee from the University of California at Berkeley will talk about incorporating time into the semantics of programs in support of cyber-physical systems. Guruduth Banavar from IBM will give a talk on the capabilities of and the challenges in realizing cognitive computing. We will maintain the tradition of past ASPLOS conferences in convening a Wild and Crazy Ideas (WACI) session, organized by John Criswell, Arrvindh Shriraman, and Emmett Witchel. Lightning sessions each morning will provide a quick introduction to the key ideas that will be presented in the talks that day. New this year is the ASPLOS-ACM Student Research Competition, which will allow a showcase for student research via poster presentations during the poster session.

Acknowledgements: A big thank you to my 35 program committee members and 68 external review committee members for their hard work and for gracefully handling the extra review load from the unanticipated large increase in the number of papers (up to 23 papers were reviewed by each PC member, and up to 9 papers reviewed by each ERC member, for a total of 1,223 reviews). Thanks also to the 36 outside reviewers who provided additional expert opinions. Andrew Chien handled my conflicts, assigning reviewers to these papers and monitoring both online and PC meeting discussion. John Carter was my double checker in tracking paper outcomes during the PC meeting and allowed me to retain my sanity toward the end of the day. Thanks to Eddie Kohler, HotCRP's author, for the quick follow up to my questions and on fixes for my occasional bug reports; HotCRP and its coloring and tracking features were extremely useful through the review process. Dave Costello, technical staff member here at the University of Rochester, made installing HotCRP a cinch, making himself available at all times to analyze any performance issues and to ensure that the server had no hiccups through the submission and review process. My students Xiaowan Dong and Sharanyan Srikanthan were a tremendous help in tailoring the HotCRP php scripts to my needs. A special thank you to Xiaowan for her attention to detail and her patience in generating summary statistics as I asked for them.

I follow in the footsteps of past PC chairs, with particular thanks to Sarita Adve for establishing a solid review process and for including me in the 2014 ASPLOS program committee so that I was ready and thinking about 2015. The steering committee provided valuable guidance on interpreting and setting policies. The organizing committee and the general chairs, Ozcan Ozturk and Kemal Ebcioglu, deserve special thanks for taking care of all the logistics and allowing me to focus on the technical program, and for bringing us together for the conference at such a spectacular venue.

Last, but not least, thanks to the 1,018 authors of the submitted papers for sending their work in to ASPLOS. I hope you enjoy reading the papers in these proceedings and continue to submit your interdisciplinary work to ASPLOS. The conference provides a unique opportunity for stimulating interaction with experts across a diverse range of subdisciplines and I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference.

Sandhya Dwarkadas ASPLOS 2015 Program Chair University of Rochester

Table of Contents

ASPLOS 2015 Conference Organization	xii
ASPLOS 2015 Sponsors & Supporters	xvi
Keynote Address I Session Chair: Sandhya Dwarkadas (University of Rochester)	
Architectural Support for Cyber-Physical Systems Edward A. Lee (University of California, Berkeley)	1
Session 1A: Persistent Memory Session Chair: Angela Demke Brown (University of Toronto)	
Mojim: A Reliable and Highly-Available Non-Volatile Memory System Yiying Zhang, Jian Yang, Amirsaman Memaripour, Steven Swanson (University of California, San Diego)	3
• SD-PCM: Constructing Reliable Super Dense Phase Change Memory Under Write Disturbance Rujia Wang, Lei Jiang, Youtao Zhang, Jun Yang (University of Pittsburgh)	19
DEUCE: Write-Efficient Encryption for Non-Volatile Memories Vinson Young, Prashant J. Nair, Moinuddin K. Qureshi (Georgia Institute of Technology)	33
Session 1B: Memory Models I Session Chair: Alvin Lebeck (Duke University)	
• Temporally Bounding TSO for Fence-Free Asymmetric Synchronization	45
Reduced Hardware NOrec: A Safe and Scalable Hybrid Transactional Memory Alexander Matveev, Nir Shavit (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)	59
Synchronization Using Remote-Scope Promotion Marc S. Orr (University of Wisconsin-Madison & AMD Research), Shuai Che, Ayse Yilmazer, Bradford M. Beckmann (AMD Research), Mark D. Hill, David A. Wood (University of Wisconsin-Madison & AMD Research)	73
Session 2A: Memory and Security I Session Chair: John Criswell (University of Rochester)	
• GhostRider: A Hardware-Software System for Memory Trace Oblivious Computation	87
Freecursive ORAM: [Nearly] Free Recursion and Integrity Verification for Position-based Oblivious RAM	103
Christopher W. Fletcher, Ling Ren, Albert Kwon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Marten van Dijk (University of Connecticut), Srinivas Devadas (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)	00
• Beyond the PDP-11: Architectural Support for a Memory-Safe C Abstract Machine	117

Session 2B	: Warehous	e Scale C	Computing I
------------	------------	-----------	-------------

Session Chair: Lingjia Tang (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

•	Supporting Differentiated Services in Computers via Programmable Architecture for Resourcing-on-Demand (PARD)	131
	Jiuyue Ma (Chinese Academy of Sciences & University of Chineses Academy of Sciences), Xiufeng Sui, Ninghui Sun, Yupeng Li (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Zihao Yu (Chinese Academy of Sciences & University of Chineses Academy of Sciences), Bowen Huang (Chinese Academy of Sciences),	
	Tianni Xu (Chinese Academy of Sciences & University of Chineses Academy of Sciences), Zhicheng Yao (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Yun Chen, Haibin Wang (Huawei Technologies), Lixin Zhang, Yungang Bao (Chinese Academy of Sciences)	
•	Improving Agility and Elasticity in Bare-metal Clouds. Yushi Omote (University of Tsukuba), Takahiro Shinagawa (The University of Tokyo), Kazuhiko Kato (University of Tsukuba)	145
•	Few-to-Many: Incremental Parallelism for Reducing Tail Latency in Interactive Services	161
	ession 3A: Memory and Security II ssion Chair: Dan Tsafrir (Technion – Israel Institute of Technology)	
•	Protecting Data on Smartphones and Tablets from Memory Attacks. Patrick Colp (University of British Columbia), Jiawen Zhang, James Gleeson, Sahil Suneja, Eyal de Lara (University of Toronto), Himanshu Raj, Stefan Saroiu, Alec Wolman (Microsoft Research)	177
•	Nested Kernel: An Operating System Architecture for Intra-Kernel Privilege Separation	191
	ession 3B: Warehouse Scale Computing II ssion Chair: Yunji Chen (Chinese Academy of Sciences)	
•	DIABLO: A Warehouse-Scale Computer Network Simulator Using FPGAs	207
•	Sirius: An Open End-to-End Voice and Vision Personal Assistant and Its Implications for Future Warehouse Scale Computers	223
	Johann Hauswald, Michael A. Laurenzano, Yunqi Zhang, Cheng Li, Austin Rovinski, Arjun Khurana, Ronald G. Dreslinski, Trevor Mudge, Vinicius Petrucci, Lingjia Tang, Jason Mars (University of Michigan)	223
	ession 4A: Energy ssion Chair: Arrvindh Shriraman (Simon Fraser University)	
•	Automated OS-level Device Runtime Power Management	239
•	CoolAir: Temperature- and Variation-Aware Management for Free-Cooled Datacenters	253
•	A Probabilistic Graphical Model-based Approach for Minimizing Energy Under Performance Constraints	267
•	More is Less, Less is More: Molecular-Scale Photonic NoC Power Topologies	283

	ssion 4B: Reliability ssion Chair: Emery Berger (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)	
•	Memory Errors in Modern Systems: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	297
•	CommGuard: Mitigating Communication Errors in Error-Prone Parallel Execution	311
•	Dual Execution for On the Fly Fine Grained Execution Comparison Dohyeong Kim, Yonghwi Kwon (<i>Purdue University</i>), William N. Sumner (<i>Simon Fraser University</i>), Xiangyu Zhang, Dongyan Xu (<i>Purdue University</i>)	325
•	VARAN the Unbelievable: An Efficient N-version Execution Framework Petr Hosek, Cristian Cadar (Imperial College London)	339
	ession 5A: I/O and Accelerators ssion Chair: Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah)	
•	rIOMMU: Efficient IOMMU for I/O Devices that Employ Ring Buffers	355
•	PuDianNao: A Polyvalent Machine Learning Accelerator Daofu Liu, Tianshi Chen, Shaoli Liu, Jinhong Zhou, Shengyuan Zhou (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Olivier Teman (Inria), Xiaobing Feng (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Xuehai Zhou (University of Science and Technology of China), Yunji Chen (Chinese Academy of Sciences)	369
	ession 5B: Approximation ssion Chair: Steve Blackburn (Australian National University)	
•	ApproxHadoop: Bringing Approximations to MapReduce Frameworks	383
•	Monitoring and Debugging the Quality of Results in Approximate Programs	399
	eynote Address II ssion Chair: Kemal Ebcioglu (Global Supercomputing)	
•	Watson and the Era of Cognitive Computing	413
	ession 6A: Parallelism and Compilation ssion Chair: Xipeng Shen (North Carolina State University)	
•	Ziria: A DSL for Wireless Systems Programming	415
•	PolyMage: Automatic Optimization for Image Processing Pipelines	429

•	Compiler Management of Communication and Parallelism for Quantum Computation	445
	Adam Holmes (Cornell University), Daniel Kudrow (University of California, Santa Barbara),	
	Kenneth R. Brown (Georgia Institute of Technology),	
	Diana Franklin, Frederic T. Chong (University of California, Santa Barbara),	
	Margaret Martonosi (Princeton University)	
•	Kinetic Dependence Graphs	457
	M. Amber Hassaan, Donald Nguyen, Keshav Pingali (The University of Texas at Austin)	
C	ession (D. Testing and Tainting Verification and Security	
	ession 6B: Testing and Tainting, Verification and Security ssion Chair: Josep Torrellas (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)	
•	Targeted Automatic Integer Overflow Discovery Using Goal-Directed Conditional Branch Enforcement	173
	Stelios Sidiroglou-Douskos, Eric Lahtinen, Nathan Rittenhouse, Paolo Piselli, Fan Long, Deokhwan Kim,	4/3
	Martin Rinard (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)	
•	Architectural Support for Software-Defined Metadata Processing	487
	Udit Dhawan (University of Pennsylvania), Cătălin Hriţcu (INRIA, Paris),	
	Raphael Rubin, Nikos Vasilakis (University of Pennsylvania), Silviu Chiricescu (BAE Systems),	
	Jonathan M. Smith (University of Pennsylvania), Thomas F. Knight Jr. (Ginkgo Bioworks),	
	Benjamin C. Pierce, André DeHon (University of Pennsylvania)	
•	A Hardware Design Language for Timing-Sensitive Information-Flow Security	503
	Danfeng Zhang, Yao Wang, G. Edward Suh, Andrew C. Myers (Cornell University)	
•	SPECS: A Lightweight Runtime Mechanism for Protecting Software from Security-Critical	-1-
	Processor Bugs	517
	Samuel T. King (Twitter Inc.), Jonathan M. Smith (University of Pennsylvania)	
C	assian 7A. Managy Madala II	
	ession 7A: Memory Models II ssion Chair: Hans Boehm (Google)	
		521
•	Asymmetric Memory Fences: Optimizing Both Performance and Implementability	531
•	DeNovoSync: Efficient Support for Arbitrary Synchronization	
	without Writer-Initiated Invalidations	545
	Hyojin Sung, Sarita V. Adve (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)	
•	Hybrid Static-Dynamic Analysis for Statically Bounded Region Serializability	561
	Milind Kulkarni (Purdue University)	
S	ession 7B: GPUs	
Se	ssion Chair: Ozcan Ozturk (Bilkent University)	
•	GPU Concurrency: Weak Behaviours and Programming Assumptions	577
	Jade Alglave (University College London & Microsoft Research), Mark Batty (University of Cambridge), Alast	air
	F. Donaldson (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen Ketema (Imperial College London), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (University of Utah), Jeroen	
	College London), Daniel Poetzl (University of Oxford), Tyler Sorensen (University College London & University of Utah), John Wickerson (Imperial College London)	ty
		500
•	Chimera: Collaborative Preemption for Multitasking on a Shared GPU Jason Jong Kyu Park (University of Michigan), Yongjun Park (Hongik University),	593
	Scott Mahlke (University of Michigan)	
•	Page Placement Strategies for GPUs within Heterogeneous Memory Systems	607
	Neha Agarwal, David Nellans, Mark Stephenson, Mike O'Connor, Stephen W. Keckler (NVIDIA)	
S	ession 8A: Scalable Parallelism	
	ssion Chair: Osman Unsal (Barcelona Supercomputing Center)	
•	On-the-Fly Principled Speculation for FSM Parallelization	619
-	Zhijia Zhao (College of William and Mary), Xipeng Shen (North Carolina State University)	017

 Asynchronized Concurrency: The Secret to Scaling Concurrent Search Data Structures Tudor David, Rachid Guerraoui, Vasileios Trigonakis (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) 	631
• iThreads: A Threading Library for Parallel Incremental Computation	645
Session 8B: Memory Management Session Chair: Alper Buyuktosunoglu (IBM)	
NumaGiC: A Garbage Collector for Big Data on Big NUMA Machines Lokesh Gidra (UPMC & INRIA), Gaël Thomas (Telecom SudParis), Julien Sopena (UPMC & INRIA), Marc Shapiro (INRIA & UPMC), Nhan Nguyen (Chalmers University of Technology)	661
• FACADE: A Compiler and Runtime for (Almost) Object-Bounded Big Data Applications Khanh Nguyen, Kai Wang, Yingyi Bu, Lu Fang, Jianfei Hu, Guoqing Xu (University of California, Irvine)	675
Architectural Support for Dynamic Linking Varun Agrawal, Abhiroop Dabral, Tapti Palit, Yongming Shen, Michael Ferdman (Stony Brook University)	691
Author Index	703

ASPLOS 2015 Conference Organization

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