

# Helping *Pythonistas* Become Microarchitects

Using Jupyter Notebooks and CIRCT/MLIR/LLVM

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- 1 Problems in Computer Architecture
- 2 New Golden Era of Computer Architecture + EDA + Compilers
- 3 Python-based IC Design
- 4 Section 3

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# Problems in Computer Architecture (1)

Specifically with General-Purpose Processor Architectures

Golden Era of Computer Architecture (1980s till early 2000s):

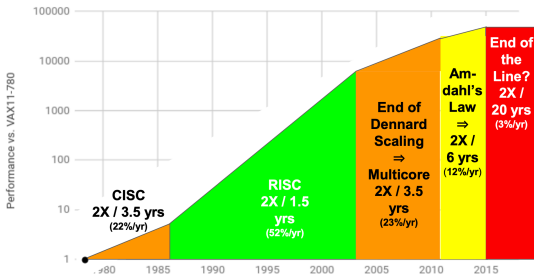
- **Memory Wall** [Wulf1995] [Hennessy1990] [Horowitz2023] [Solihin2002]
- **End of Dennard's scaling** [Dennard1974] [Haensch2006] [Chen2006] [Dennard2007] [Calhoun2008] [Iwai2009] and **Power Wall** [Keshavarzi2007]
- **Dark Silicon** [Esmaeilzadeh2011] [Esmaeilzadeh2012] [Rahmani2017] [Hurson2018]
- **ILP Wall** → **limitations of** [Hennessy2019, §1.11, pp. 39]
- **impending doom of Moore's law** [Duranton2019] [Kelleher2022]
- **decline of general-purpose processors** [Thompson2018]
- **Hardware Accelerator Wall** [Fuchs2019]

# Problems in Computer Architecture (2)

Specifically with General-Purpose Processor Architectures

## End of Growth of Single Program Speed?

40 years of Processor Performance



Based on SPECintCPU. Source: John Hennessy and David Patterson, Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach, 6/e. 2018

**Figure:** Plot of the performance of general-purpose processors over time, from 1980 till the late 2010s [Hennessy2018]



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# New Golden Era of Computer Architecture (1)

And, also for EDA and Compiler Design

Problems → Opportunities [Hennessy2019a]

**Domain-Specific Computing** [Hennessy2019] → **Heterogeneous System Architectures** [HSAFoundationAdministration2016]  
[Hwu2016] [Duranton2019]

**Hardware Security** [Gruss2017] [Szefer2018] [Duranton2021]

**Open-Source ISA** [Patterson2018b], and support ecosystem  
across the hardware/software stack

# New Golden Era of Computer Architecture (2)

And, also for EDA and Compiler Design

**Agile IC Design Methodologies** [Gerstlauer2001] [Hennessy2018]  
[Johnson2018a] + **Python-based IC Design**

**Domain-Specific Compilers** [Lattner2021a] + **Compilers for Heterogeneous Systems**

System-Technology Co-Optimization [Wu2021]:

- **system** → computer systems → hardware/software co-design
- **semiconductor manufacturing technology** (including semiconductor device engineering)





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# Python-based IC Design: Options

Possible options:

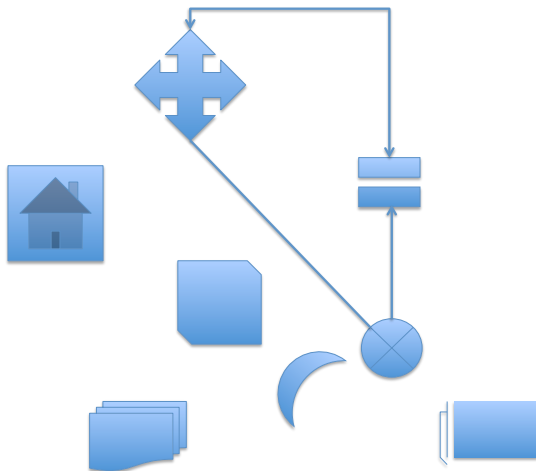
- **MyHDL** (old)
- **PyMTL** (Cornell University)
- **PyRTL** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
- **Jupyter Notebook + Python** -based IC design flow (supported by Google Colab)
- **CIRCT: Circuit IR Compilers and Tools** [Lattner2021]
  - LLVM (initially, Low Level Virtual Machine) [Lopes2014] [Pandey2015] [Sarda2015]
  - Multi-Level Intermediate Representation, MLIR (extension of LLVM ecosystem for domain-specific computing)

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# Slide Title 5

Slide Subtitle 5.



# New Golden Era of Computer Architecture, EDA, and Compiler Design

## Slide Subtitle 3

Problems → Opportunities

Domain-Specific Computing  
→ Heterogeneous System  
Architectures.

Statement 3.

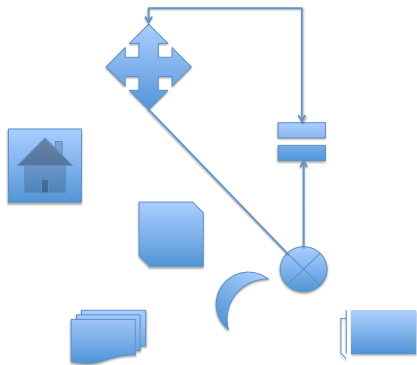


Figure: My caption [?, ?]



# References