Kunal Chandan

B.A.Sc Honours Electrical Engineering '23

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Languages: Python (PyTorch, Numpy, Pandas, Flask), C++ (CUDA, Boost), MATLAB, Rust, Go, SQL, RISC-V, Verilog

Tools: Docker, Postman, REST, KiCAD, LTSpice, Cadence Virtuoso, LayoutEditor, Quartus Prime

Experience

POST-SILICON VALIDATION ENGINEER

NVIDIA - Contractor (6 months)

March 2024 - Present | Santa Clara, CA, USA

- Debug PCIe 5.0 failures on current and upcoming SoCs and GPUs
- Developed testing software in Python for validation during bringup of upcoming SoCs
- Identified high speed IO failure modes during bringup of upcoming and existing products

SOFTWARE ENGINEER - HPC FIRMWARE

Grog Inc.

Jan 2022 - Apr 2022 | Mountain View, CA, USA

- Designed algorithms for resource allocation involving SRAM and ALUs on Groq's Tensor Processing Unit (TPU)
- Developed Python and C++ firmware APIs to improve throughput and minimize end to end latency of instructions and data
- Leveraged timing analysis to prevent data stream conflicts while maximizing ALU utilization
- Leveraged PyBind11 for interoperability between C++ and Python firmware during codebase migration

SOFTWARE ENGINEER - DIGITAL COMPRESSION

Huawei Technologies

May 2020 - Aug 2020 | Waterloo, ON, CA

- Designed non-cryptographic hash functions (NCHF) with linear algebra, SAT and self-designed GF(2) matrix solver to verify properties like collision resistance, distribution uniformity, and computational efficiency
- Benchmarked the optimized SIMD hashing function against existing NCHFs using Rust and C++
- Implemented novel border detection algorithms in Go using probabilistic data structures to maximize performance

SOFTWARE ENGINEER - MACHINE LEARNING

MappedIn @

Sept 2019 - Dec 2019 | Waterloo, ON, CA

- Engineered Clustering + SVM + Random Forest ensemble models to replace existing LSTMs, reducing inference costs 2x while maintaining prediction accuracy
- Increased prediction accuracy from 40% to 80% on existing LSTM models with feature engineering, hyperparameter optimization, and automated data cleaning (Python, SQL)
- Designed pipelines for data cleaning and analysis and integrated new SQL data warehouse

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH ASSISTANT - DISPLAY SEMICONDUCTORS

University of Waterloo @

Sept 2022 - Apr 2023 | Waterloo, ON, CA

- Designed custom PCBs in KiCAD for driving small μ LED active/passive matrix displays using STM32 MCU
- Developed research plan for packaging μ LEDs onto TFT backplane using indium electroplating
- Designed characterization setups for μ LEDs in Fusion360 and Arduino interfaced with Python
- Validated flip-chip diebonding results with thermal and electrical simulations in MATLAB
- Designed and validated new µLED layouts to improve mechanical and electrical performance

TEST AUTOMATION ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL COMPLIANCE

Enphase Energy @

Aug 2023 - Mar 2024 | Fremont, CA, USA

- Devloped software systems in Python to test high and low voltage electrical systems under a variety of strenuous conditions
- Implemented Jenkins to enhance testing platform reliability by reducing software errors
- Engineered a logging and traceability system using Go, Gin, and MySQL to reduce errors during regulatory submission

Education

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO - B.A.SC ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 2018 - 2023

- Key Courses: Computer Architecture, Multivariable Control Systems, Analog/Digital Integrated Circuits
- Select Awards and Certifications: Baylis Medical Capstone Design Award, QNFCF and G2N Cleanroom Certifications



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Projects

C++ COMPILER FOR C++ LIKE LANGUAGE ∅

- Designed a lexical tokenizer and compiler in C++ to generate RISC-V assembly for custom programming language
- Used Spike RISC-V simulator to verify correctness of assembly
- Used CMake (build management tool), Catch (unit-testing framework), Boost (graph library/dotviz generator)

3D RAY TRACING ENGINE ∅

- Implemented 3D recursive path-tracing for arbitrary materials on basic geometric shapes
- Used nalgebra for arbitrary rotations and positions of camera and objects
- Parallel processing of ray-tracing using rayon yielding ~10X performance speed-up on CPU

BEAMFORMING HEARING AID SYSTEM ∅

- Designed 4-channel microphone array PCB with active analog bandpass filtering, diff. amp., and multichannel ADC over SPI to R-Pi (KiCAD)
- Created Flask server on R-Pi to compress and transfer audio data to Pytorch neural network for further digital filtering and beamforming
- Adapted and trained Pytorch quantized voice isolation model to minimize latency while maintaining desired audio quality
- Used multiprocessing, asyncio, and websockets to maximize system throughput, providing continuous audio output

PIPELINED RISC-V CORE

- Designed 5-stage pipelined RISC-V 32-bit core in Verilog using only synthesizable constructs
- Added pipeline registers and feedback/data-forwarding paths to optimize performance for branching, memory and write-back operations
- Core synthesized on FPGA and successfully ran branching and recursive algorithms. Testbenches used to ensure cycle accuracy

MULTIPLE SEQUENCE ALIGNER ∅

- Wrote sequence aligner for novo assembly of short sequences using Progressive Alignment Construction using the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm
- Written in Go to take advantage of light weight green threads, used greedy heuristics to reduce O(n!) problem to $O(n^2)$

HYBRID MUSIC SYNTHESIZER ∅

- Designed and fabricated a hybrid synthesizer for realtime music synthesis; digital synthesis on Teensy 4.1 Cortex-M7 MCU and analog synthsis using ADC/DAC and analog filters
- Designed PCB in KiCAD, wrote UI and audio processing code using Rust
- RTIC (RTOS library) used to manage concurrency on MCU, Slint library used to manage UI on display; priority based scheduling
 used to prevent timing conflicts between UI updates, audio synthesis, and input handling
- Developed custom digital signal processing (DSP) modules for oscillators, filters, and envelope generators in Rust, optimizing for low latency and high throughput
- Achieved sub-millisecond latency and low power consumption while maintaining high (24-bit) quality audio
- Applied real-time audio synthesis techniques, including wavetable synthesis, FM synthesis, and subtractive synthesis, to generate
 a wide range of sounds and effects