Lei Zhao
PhD of Computer Science

Department of Computer Science, University of Pittsburgh
210 S. Bouquet Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

☎ (+1) 412-708-4514 | ✉ leizhao@cs.pitt.edu | ⌂ https://leizhaocs.github.io

Research

Hardware level: Computer Architecture (CPU/GPU), In-Memory Computing, Emerging Memory Technology, AI Accelerator Design, Hardware-Software Co-design

Software level: Deep Learning, Secure Machine Learning, Machine Learning Framework Development

Education

University of Pittsburgh *Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.*
PH.D. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE *August 2014 - April 2022*
- Co-advised by Youtao Zhang and Jun Yang

Northwestern Polytechnical University *Xi'an, Shaanxi, China*
MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE *August 2011 - April 2014*

Northwestern Polytechnical University *Xi'an, Shaanxi, China*
BACHELOR OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING *August 2007 - July 2011*

Work Experience

Meta, Inc., USA *Postdoc Research Scientist*
REALITY LABS *Janurary 2022 - Present*
- In-memory computing accelerator design for codec avatars in AR/VR. (One paper submitting, one patent filing)
- AR/VR deep learning model optimization for in-house systolic array accelerator / SOC.
- AR/VR deep learning model deployment on SOC in existing head mounted devices.

National Key Lab of Process Optimization and Intelligent Decision, Ministry of Education, China *Research Intern*
SMART MEDICAL SYSTEM TEAM *July 2018 - August 2018*
- Maintaining our previously developed privacy-preserving neural network training framework.
- Convert and optimize our DNN model into a privacy-preserving friendly fashion.

National Key Lab of Process Optimization and Intelligent Decision, Ministry of Education, China *Research Intern*
SMART MEDICAL SYSTEM TEAM *August 2017 - Septempber 2017*
- Developed a privacy-preserving neural network training framework in C++ with CUDA acceleration.

Projects

Machine Learning Accelerators *University of Pittsburgh*
DESIGNER AND CONDUCTOR *April 2017 - Present*
- Design ASIC accelerators based on existing or emerging memory technologies to improve performance and energy efficiency of machine learning computations with a focus on model security and user privacy.
- Three conference papers in [ICCAD'17] [ICS'19] [DAC'20] and one U.S. patent.

Privacy-Preserving Medical Data Analysis *Hefei University of Technology*
RESEARCH ASSISTANT *August 2017 - August 2018*
- Evaluate Neural Networks on medical data with homomorphic encryption to protect patient's private information.
- One journal paper in ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT).

Privacy-Preserving Neural Network Framework   *University of Pittsburgh*
Dᴇsɪɢɴᴇʀ ᴀɴᴅ Dᴇᴠᴇʟᴏᴘᴇʀ   *August 2017 - September 2017*

- A neural network framework that targets at privacy-preserving and architecture research.
- Written in C++ and CUDA. Support fixed-point computing, stochastic-computing and homomorphic encryption.
- Open sourced on github: https://github.com/leizhaocs/ArchNet.

Emerging Memory Design   *University of Pittsburgh*
Dᴇsɪɢɴᴇʀ ᴀɴᴅ Cᴏɴᴅᴜᴄᴛᴏʀ   *September 2014 - April 2016*

- Circuit level optimization of non-volatile memory for machine learning acceleration.
- Developed a cycle-accurate out-of-order architecture simulator based on MIPS ISA. Open sourced on github: https://github.com/leizhaocs/Monichi.
- Four conference papers in [ICCD'15] [ISQED'17] [NVMSA'17] [ICCAD'17] and one journal paper in IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (TCAD).

Publications

Cᴏɴғᴇʀᴇɴᴄᴇ Pʀᴏᴄᴇᴇᴅɪɴɢs

- **Lei Zhao**, Yuecheng Li, Jae-sun Seo, H. Ekin Sumbul, Edith Beigne, and Dawei Wang. (2023). ReARVR: A ReRAM-Based DNN Accelerator for Mobile Devices. Design Automation Conference (Poster Session). (DAC'23)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2022). A DNN Protection Solution for PIM Accelerators With Model Compression. IEEE Computer Society Annual Symposium on VLSI. (ISVLSI'22)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2022). SRA: A Secure ReRAM-Based DNN Accelerator. Design Automation Conference. (DAC'22)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2021). Flipping Bits to Share Crossbars in ReRAM-BasedDNN Accelerator. International Conference on Computer Design. (ICCD'21)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2020). SCA: A Secure CNN Accelerator for both Training and Inference. Design Automation Conference. (DAC'20)

- **Lei Zhao**, Quan Deng, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2019). RFAcc: A 3D ReRAM Associative Array based Random Forest Accelerator. International Conference on Supercomputing. (ICS'19)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2017). AEP: An Error-bearing Neural Network Accelerator for Energy Efficiency and Model Protection. International Conference On Computer Aided Design. (ICCAD'17)

- Wen Wen, **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2017). Speeding Up Crossbar Resistive Memory by Exploiting In-memory Data Patterns. International Conference On Computer Aided Design. (ICCAD'17)

- **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2017). Mitigating Shift-Based Covert-Channel Attacks in Racetrack Last Level Caches. Non-Volatile Memory Systems and Applications Symposium. (NVMSA'17)

- **Lei Zhao**, Lei Jiang, Youtao Zhang, Nong Xiao, and Jun Yang. (2017). Constructing Fast and Energy Efficient 1TnR based ReRAM Crossbar Memory. International Symposium on Quality Electronic Design. (ISQED'17)

- Xianwei Zhang, **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2015). Exploit Common Source-Line to Construct Energy Efficient Domain Wall Memory based Caches. International Conference on Computer Design. (ICCD'15)

Jᴏᴜʀɴᴀʟ Aʀᴛɪᴄʟᴇs

- Zijie Yue, Shuai Ding, **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, Zehong Cao, M. Tanveer, Alireza Jolfaei, and Xi Zheng. (2020). Privacy-preserving Time Series Medical Images Analysis Using a Hybrid Deep Learning Framework. ACM Transactions on Internet Technology.

- Wen Wen, **Lei Zhao**, Youtao Zhang, and Jun Yang. (2019). Exploiting In-memory Data Patterns for Performance Improvement on Crossbar Resistive Memory. IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems.

Patents

  – Youtao Zhang, **Lei Zhao**, and Jun Yang. (2019). System and method of deploying an artificial neural network on a target device. U.S. Patent, 11,531,877 B2.

  – Shuai Ding, **Lei Zhao**, Shanlin Yang, Hao Wang and Zijie Yue. (2020). The architecture, image processing method and process of an artificial intelligence chip for medical endoscope. Chinese. Patent, CN108055454B.

Skills

Programming	C/C++, Python, Java, CUDA
Algorithms	Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Homomorphic Encryption
Tools	Gem5, DRAMSim2, numpy, PyTorch, Homomorphic Encryption Libraries(SEAL, HEAAN), Linux/Unix

Honors & Awards

2021	**Best Paper Candidate**, 39th International Conference on Computer Design (ICCD)	*Virtual Conference*
2017	**Best Paper Candidate**, 18th International Symposium on Quality Electronic Design (ISQED)	*Santa Clara, CA, USA*
2014	**Outstanding Master Degree Thesis**, Graduation Commencement of Northwestern Polytechnical University	*Xi'an, Shaanxi, China*