

# Liana Valdes Rodriguez

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## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

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Storage, Distributed Systems, Caching Algorithms, ML for Systems, Systems for ML, OS, Management, Team Leadership, Innovation, Motivation, Empathy, Technology, Networking, Creativity, and Relationship Building.

## SUMMARY

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As a Ph.D. graduate student in Computer Science (CS) at the Systems Research Laboratory (SyLab) under the supervision of **Professor Raju Rangaswami**, I have been exploring the fascinating realms of storage systems, distributed systems, operating systems (OS) and the intersection between systems and ML. In my previous research projects, I successfully led a team focused on designing and implementing novel caching algorithms for storage caches, significantly improving performance. I have also actively developed and enhanced distributed systems solutions for today's cloud data centers (DC).

Before graduating from my Ph.D. program at **Florida International University (FIU)**, I gained valuable industry experience. I was a research intern at Microsoft Research (MSR) Cambridge, UK, where I contributed to the Project Silica. In 2021, I further honed my skills as an intern at Seagate Technology. These experiences have enriched my understanding of the field and provided with practical insights to apply to my current research. Before starting my Ph.D., I completed the BSc in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering in Havana, Cuba.

## EDUCATION

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| <b>Florida International University (FIU)</b><br><i>Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (CS)</i><br><i>Advisor: Eminent Scholar Chaired Professor Raju Rangaswami.</i>  | <b>21 August 2017 - 16 December 2023</b><br><i>Miami, FL</i><br>GPA: 3.83/4.0 |
| <i>Graduate Relevant Courses:</i> Operating Systems (OS, COP-5614), Analysis of Algorithms (COT-6405), Theory of Computation (COT-5310), Computer Communication and Networking Technologies (TCN-5030), Introduction to Algorithms (COT-5407), Secure Application Programming (CEN-5079), Data Base Management Systems (DBMS, COP-5725), Introduction to Machine Learning (ML, CAP-5610), Advanced Software Engineering (CEN-5010), Data Visualization (CAP-5738).   |   |
| <b>Florida International University (FIU)</b><br><i>Master of Science in Computer Science (CS)</i><br><i>Advisor: Eminent Scholar Chaired Professor Raju Rangaswami.</i>   | <b>21 August 2017 - 17 December 2022</b><br><i>Miami, FL</i>                  |
| <b>Technological University of Havana “José Antonio Echeverría”, CUJAE</b><br><i>Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering</i><br><i>Faculty of Telecommunications Engineering (FIT).</i>  | <b>1 September 2009 - 28 July 2015</b><br><i>Havana, Cuba</i><br>GPA: 4.48/5  |
| <i>Undergraduate Relevant Courses:</i> Linear Algebra and Analytical Geometry, Drafting, Political Economics of Capitalism, Philosophy and Society, Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Molecular Physics and Mechanics, Computerized and Automated Office Systems (Elective), Programming I, Introduction to Engineering Project, Chemistry, Electric Circuits I, Electric Circuits II, Electromagnetism and Optics, Analog Electronics I, Communication Statistics, Quantum Physics, Materials and Components, Probability and Statistics, Advanced Programming (Elective), Programming II, Differential Equations and Series, Sociopolitical Theory, Electrical Circuits III, Digital Electronics I, Digital Electronics II, Analog Electronics II, Analog Electronics III, Principles of Communications I, Principles of Communications II, Virtual Instrumentation (Elective), |   |

Transmission Lines, Research Methodology, Numerical Methods, Microprocessors I, Social Issues in Science and Technology, Digital Signal Processing, Field Theory, Antennas, Optical Communications, Telephone Communication, Accounting and Finance, Principal of Communications III, Network Management (Elective), Microprocessors II, Radio Electronics I, Radio Electronics II, Radio Propagation, Networks 1, Networks 2, Network Simulators (Elective), Transmission System, Microprocessor Systems, Business Administration, Satellite Communications (Elective), Principles of Television, Network 3, and IP Telephone (Elective).

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Project Silica: Towards Sustainable Cloud Archival Storage in Glass** **October 2023**  
*Liana Valdes, in Acknowledgement, The 29th ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, SOSP'23.*
- Infusing Pub-Sub Storage with Transactions** **July 2022**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, John Bent, Tim Shaffer, and Raju Rangaswami, 14th ACM Workshop, HotStorage'22.*
- Unifying the Data Center Caching Layer - Feasible? Profitable?** **July 2021**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, Alexis Gonzalez, Pratik Poudel, Raju Rangaswami, and Jason Liu, 13th ACM Workshop, HotStorage'21.*
- Learning Cache Replacement with CACHEUS** **February 2021**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, Farzana Yusuf, Steven Lyons, Eysler Paz, Raju Rangaswami, Jason Liu, Ming Zhao, and Giri Narasimhan, 19th USENIX Conference, FAST'21.*
- To Cache or Not to Cache**  
*Steven Lyons, Liana V. Rodriguez, and Raju Rangaswami.*
- Driving Cache Replacement with ML-Based LeCaR** **July 2018**  
*Giuseppe Vietri, Liana V. Rodriguez, Wendy A. Martinez, Steven Lyons, Jason Liu, Raju Rangaswami, Ming Zhao, and Giri Narasimhan, USENIX Workshop, HotStorage'18.*

## PRESENTATIONS

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- CORTX and FDMI | CORTX Meet the Architect Series** **November 2022**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez and John Bent.*
- Infusing Pub-Sub Storage with Transactions | HotStorage'22 Presentation** **July 2022**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, John Bent, Tim Shaffer, and Raju Rangaswami.*
- Unifying the Data Center Caching Layer - Feasible? Profitable? | HotStorage'21 Presentation** **July 2021**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, Alexis Gonzalez, Pratik Paudel, Raju Rangaswami and Jason Liu.*
- Learning Cache Replacement with CACHEUS | Poster Annual FIU SCIS Research Day** **October 2019**  
*Liana V. Rodriguez, Farzana Yusuf, Steven Lyons, Eysler Paz, Raju Rangaswami, Jason Liu, Ming Zhao, and Giri Narasimhan.*
- ANX: Caching with Anxiety | Poster Annual FIU SCIS Research Day** **October 2019**  
*Steven Lyons, Liana V. Rodriguez, and Raju Rangaswami.*
- Driving Cache Replacement with ML-Based LeCaR | HotStorage'18 Poster session** **July 2018**  
*Giuseppe Vietri, Liana V. Rodriguez, Wendy A. Martinez, Steven Lyons, Jason Liu, Raju Rangaswami, Ming Zhao, and Giri Narasimhan.*

## HONORS & AWARDS

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- USENIX Student Travel Award, FAST'18 & FAST'19 & FAST'23. **September 2018, 2019 and 2023**
- GAANN Fellowship from U.S. Department of Education. **January 2022 & January 2023**
- CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference Scholarship. **September 2022**
- Grace Hooper Celebration of Women in Computing FIU Scholarship. **October 2019 & September 2022**

### **Team Leader | Systems Research Laboratory (SyLab), FL, US** **August 2018 - December 2023**

- I worked on setting the teams' goals and communicating them effectively, developing and implementing plans and strategies, and delegating responsibilities to team members. Additionally, I coached members on achieving goals and developing the necessary skills and preparation to get the most effective results for the project. I also worked when roadblocks inevitably emerged during the process of resolving a project problem, analyzing problems objectively, brainstorming solutions, evaluating alternatives, and implementing the optimal approach.
- I monitored the team's performance regularly measuring their output, reviewing their progress against set targets, and providing feedback where necessary. By evaluating how the team completed tasks and how well they achieved their goals, I identified the inefficiencies and areas that required improvement.
- As a team leader, I helped motivate team members and worked to keep them engaged whenever I noticed a decline in their enthusiasm so that the team's productivity grows.

### **Graduate Research Assistant / GAANN Fellow | SyLab, FL, US** **August 2017 - December 2023**

- I have thoroughly analyzed production storage workloads and discovered workload patterns called workload primitives. As a result, I have understood how these workloads function in the real world using a classification based on the composition of workload primitive types. My research dives into the intricacies of the data and examines the effects of different factors, providing valuable insights for professionals in the field. This approach has improved cache performance in novel cache replacement algorithms capable of adapting to the data and demonstrated our ability to tailor solutions to meet workload needs. Furthermore, we have utilized ML techniques to develop novel cache replacement algorithms that enhance storage caching performance and outperform state-of-the-art caches.
- A second project shows significant expertise in working with distributed systems, defined as computer systems of numerous interconnected components that communicate and coordinate their actions via a network. In these systems, ensuring data consistency, scalability, high availability, failover, disaster recovery, and fault tolerance must be addressed to guarantee optimal performance and reliability. Having experience in distributed systems allows us to develop and implement solutions that tackle these challenges, making our clients' systems dependable and efficient.

### **Intern | Seagate Technology, Remote, US** **August 2021 - December 2021**

- Seagate, a leading data storage company, has developed CORTX, an open-source object storage solution. The solution is designed to facilitate the storage and management of massive amounts of unstructured data, such as media files, logs, and backups. CORTX has an integrated software stack comprising several components that work harmoniously to provide a complete object storage solution. I worked on conducting thorough testing to ensure seamless integration and deployment of the software stack. Seagate is committed to delivering a reliable and scalable solution that meets the needs of its customers. I also had the pleasure of organizing the Seagate Global Hackathon. I researched and suggested possible solutions to the challenges, which could help the participants develop their ideas and turn them into viable projects. The event was a resounding success, with participants showcasing their creativity and expertise.
- I thoroughly analyzed the CORTX Storage Extensible Interface, called File Data Manipulation Interface (FDMI). During my research, I used C and Python programming languages to develop distributed systems. By adopting this approach, we can enhance the scalability and fault tolerance of the storage system, making it more resilient, reliable, and scalable. This research aims to contribute to developing more robust and cutting-edge storage solutions that can meet the ever-evolving needs of the modern world. Besides, I conducted a performance study at the Jülich Supercomputing Center (JSC) in Germany on Motr, a distributed object storage system with advanced features and capabilities. Through distributed systems, we can ensure the integrity and availability of data, even in the face of challenging conditions. The study aimed to analyze the system's performance in-depth and evaluate its efficiency in handling large data sets.

### **Research Intern | Microsoft Research (MSR), Cambridge, UK** **January 2020 - March 2020**

- As a member of the Project Silica team at Microsoft, I had the opportunity to work on the Cloud Systems Futures cloud initiative. Specifically, my role involved working on a software stack for a storage system that utilized cutting-edge quartz glass technology. This innovative technology is specifically designed to cater to the requirements of Azure Cloud archival workloads, enabling efficient and cost-effective storage. Unlike traditional storage systems, Project Silica's approach involves creating tiny 'voxels' into quartz glass using a femtosecond laser, which can contain vast amounts of data. Through the co-design of hardware and software, this system offers enhanced vulnerability management, making your data protected for years to come.

- To improve the storage system's software pipeline's error analysis capabilities in Project Silica, I developed ML techniques using Python. Isolation Forest is an anomaly detection algorithm that can help identify unusual patterns in data. Encoders convert categorical data into numerical form, making processing easier for ML algorithms. By using these tools in combination, I developed powerful ML models that can analyze large amounts of data and identify patterns that may be missed by traditional methods. By implementing these models into the storage system's software pipeline, I aimed to improve the accuracy and speed of error analysis, leading to a more efficient and reliable system.

## **Network Engineer | Telecommunications Company (ETECSA)**

**September 2015 - June 2016**

- I have experience in ensuring uninterrupted and efficient communication services, which are crucial for monitoring the core infrastructure of ATM, DSL, PSTN, and public and private VoIP telephone systems. This involves closely observing the hardware, software, and network elements that comprise these systems' backbone. Any potential issues can be detected and resolved promptly by continuously monitoring performance metrics such as speed, latency, and uptime. It's also essential to monitor the security of these systems to prevent unauthorized access and data breaches. With a focus on proactive monitoring and maintenance, these critical communication systems can maintain high reliability and availability, ensuring seamless communication for businesses and individuals.
- To ensure the continuous deployment of the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) networks in Old Havana, we conducted a network assessment. This assessment allowed us to identify the best course of action for deploying the Optical Transport Network (OTN) devices. By utilizing Gigabit Passive Optical Networking (GPON) and Ethernet Passive Optical Networking (EPON) variations of Passive Optical Networking (PON) technology, we were able to establish and enhance network infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.

## **Intern | Radiocommunications Company (RadioCuba)**

**March 2012 - July 2015**

- We made significant changes to the board layout to modify the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) communication modules from the Phase Alternate Line (PAL) to the National Television Standard Committee (NTSC) television standards. This modification was made to improve the frequency of the television signal, and the results were quite impressive. With the new board layout, the frequency of the television signal had been enhanced, resulting in a much more precise and higher-quality picture.
- I have experience designing radiofrequency (RF) matching networks that use passive components to achieve maximum power transfer to a 50-ohm or a real-world load, such as a television (TV) antenna. This involves analyzing the properties of the radiofrequency (RF) signal and determining the best arrangement of passive components to match the load's impedance. To ensure the accuracy of the design, I used MATLAB simulations, which modeled the results and use virtual instrumentation of E-field sensors and spectrum/network analyzers. The simulations allowed me to visualize and analyze the radiofrequency (RF) signal's properties, including frequency, amplitude, and phase.

## **LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES**

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- Selected to plan and organize a 1-day event for Seagate's global CORTX Hackathon, focusing on the integration challenges, possible solutions, and the open-source object storage software.
- Selected as a participant and anonymous reviewer nationwide for a peer-reviewed journal article for the ACM Transactions on Storage (TOS), the premier journal for publishing advancements in data storage research.
- Selected as a presenter for an annual meeting for the Women in Computer Science (WiCS), focusing on sharing experiences and strategies for achieving academic success in the field of computer science.
- Participated in Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) activities including workshops, presentations, tutorials and leadership events to develop leadership skills, build industry connections, and achieve academic success.
- Selected as a volunteer for an 8-month teaching program for the Google CS First initiative, focusing on coding skills and learning computer science concepts using the programming language called scratch for kids under 8.
- Selected as the team leader for four research projects at the Systems Research Laboratory at Florida International University.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- Extensible Distributed Storage Systems | Seagate Technology & SyLab (FIU)** **August 2021**
- Developed TxFuse architecture to enhance CORTX's distributed storage system with plugins.
  - Created a plugin taxonomy that utilizes transactional coupling and a reliable notification system.
  - Evaluated plugin prototypes based on performance and development complexity.
- Distributed Caches in Data Centers | SyLab, ModLab, DAMRL (FIU) & HASLab (UMinho)** **May 2020**
- Developed CaaS, a distributed caching service for cloud storage production workloads.
  - Improved the latency and performance of cache read and write operations compared to the back-end storage.
  - Developed a simulation framework to model a writable caching system's various components.
- Caching Algorithms for Storage Caches | SyLab, BioRG (FIU) & VISA (ASU)** **August 2017**
- Analyzed storage workloads of different cloud service providers.
  - Developed novel cache replacement algorithms to improve cache hit rate for cloud application workloads.
  - Reduced the cost of accessing SSD-based caches by reducing the total of writes sent to the devices.

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

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- Operating Systems (Undergraduate course)** **August 2018 & January 2019**  
Florida International University Miami, FL
- Transmission Systems II** **2011 - 2012**  
Technological University of Havana "José Antonio Echeverría", CUJAE Havana, Cuba
- Analog Electronics I** **2010 - 2011**  
Technological University of Havana "José Antonio Echeverría", CUJAE Havana, Cuba

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Languages:** Python, C#, C, C++, Go, R, R++, TeX, Visual Basic, High Level Assembly (HLA).  
**Tools:** GitLab, Docker, VirtualBox, VMware Workstation, VsCode, Tableau, MATLAB, LabVIEW, LaTeX.

## CERTIFICATIONS

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CompTIA A+ 220-801 Certification Exam.  
CompTIA A+ 220-802 Certification Exam.

## LANGUAGE

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**Spanish:** Native.  
**English:** Fluent and Full Professional Proficiency.

## HOBBIES

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**Music:** Traditional Cuban Music, Country Music, Pop Music, Blues, and Jazz.  
**Poetry:** Cuban Poetry, Latinoamerican Poetry, Spanish Poetry, American Poetry, and Russian Poetry.  
**Chess:** Chess Play Online Application with Time Control, Tournaments and Matches, and Titles and Rankings.  
**Fitness:** Physical Fitness, Exercise, Training, Walking.  
**Animation:** Computer Animation, Disney Animation, Japanese Animation, and Russian Animation.

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

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Relationship Building, Emotional Intelligence, Forward-thinking, Problem-solving, Empowerment, Adaptability, Motivation, Innovation, Inspiration, Active Listening, Empathy, Presentation, Authenticity, Honesty, Creativity, Integrity, Decision-making, Accountability, Strategic Thinking, Communication, Coaching, and Management.