

# Matthew A. Hammer

Independent Researcher

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## Education

PhD (Computer Science)	University of Chicago	2012
MS (Computer Science)	Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago	2007
BS (Computer Science)	University of Wisconsin	2005

## Industrial Experience

[DFINITY Foundation](#) (Jan 2019–Nov 2023)

Researcher and Engineer

Languages Team & SDK Team

[Motoko Compiler](#), [original base library](#), and [prototype applications](#) ([another one](#)).

## Publications

*[ILC: a calculus for composable, computational cryptography](#)*

Kevin Liao, [Matthew A. Hammer](#) and Andrew Miller.

Programming Language Design and Implementation (**PLDI 2019**).

Phoenix, AZ, USA. June 22-26, 2019

*[Live Functional Programming with Typed Holes](#)*

Cyrus Omar, Ian Voysey, Ravi Chugh, [Matthew A. Hammer](#).

Principles of Programming Languages (**POPL 2019**).

Cascais/Lisbon, Portugal. January 2019.

*[Languages of play: towards semantic foundations for game interfaces](#)*

Chris Martens, [Matthew A. Hammer](#)

Proceedings of the International Conference on the Foundations of Digital Games (**FDG 2017**).

Hyannis, MA. August 2017.

*[Toward a Semantics for Program Editors](#)*

Cyrus Omar, Ian Voysey, Michael Hilton, Joshua Sunshine, Claire Le Goues, Jonathan Aldrich, [Matthew A. Hammer](#).

The 2nd Summit on Advances in Programming Languages (**SNAPL 2017**).

Monterey, California. May 2017.

(Acceptance Rate: 17/28  $\approx$  61%)

*[Hazelnut: A Bidirectionally Typed Structure Editor Calculus](#)*

Cyrus Omar, Ian Voysey, Michael Hilton, Jonathan Aldrich, [Matthew A. Hammer](#).

Principles of Programming Languages (**POPL 2017**).

Paris, France. January 2017.

(Acceptance Rate: 22.7%)

*[A Vision for Online Verification-Validation](#)*

[Matthew A. Hammer](#), Bor-Yuh Evan Chang, David Van Horn

Generative Programming: Concepts & Experience (**GPCE 2016**).

Amsterdam, Netherlands. October 2016.

(Acceptance Rate: 32%)

*The Random Access Zipper: Simple, Purely-Functional Sequences*

Kyle Headley, Matthew A. Hammer.  
Trends in Functional Programming (**TFP 2016**).  
College Park, Maryland. June 2016.

*Incremental Computation with Names*

Matthew A. Hammer, Jana Dunfield, Kyle Headley, Nicholas Labich, Jeffrey S. Foster and Michael Hicks.  
Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages, and Applications (**OOPSLA 2015**).  
Pittsburgh, USA. October 2015.  
(Acceptance Rate: 25%)

*ADAPTON: Composable, Demand-driven Incremental Computation*

Matthew A. Hammer, Yit Phang Khoo, Michael Hicks and Jeffrey S. Foster.  
Programming Language Design and Implementation (**PLDI 2014**).  
Edinburgh, Scotland. June 2014.  
(Acceptance Rate: 20%)

*WYSTERIA: A Programming Language for Generic, Mixed-Mode Multiparty Computations*

Aseem Rastogi, Matthew A. Hammer and Michael Hicks.  
35th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (**IEEE S&P 2014**)  
San Jose, California USA. May 2014.  
(Acceptance Rate: 13.6%)

*Implicit Self-Adjusting Computation for Purely Functional Programs*

Yan Chen, Jana Dunfield, Matthew A. Hammer and Umut A. Acar.  
Journal of Functional Programming 2014 (**JFP 2014**).

*Knowledge Inference for Optimizing Secure Multi-party Computation*

Aseem Rastogi, Piotr Mardziel, Matthew A. Hammer and Michael Hicks.  
Programming Languages and Analysis for Security (**PLAS 2013**).  
Seattle, Washington USA. June 2013.

*Self-Adjusting Stack Machines*

Matthew A. Hammer, Georg Neis, Yan Chen and Umut A. Acar  
Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages, and Applications (**OOPSLA 2011**).  
Portland, Oregon USA. October 2011.  
(Acceptance Rate: 23%)

*Implicit Self-Adjusting Computation for Purely Functional Programs*

Yan Chen, Jana Dunfield, Matthew A. Hammer and Umut A. Acar  
International Conference on Functional Programming (**ICFP 2011**).  
Tokyo, Japan. September 2011  
(Acceptance Rate: 31%)

*CEAL: A C-Based Language for Self-Adjusting Computation*

Matthew A. Hammer, Umut A. Acar and Yan Chen.  
Programming Language Design and Implementation (**PLDI 2009**).  
Dublin, Ireland. June 2009.  
(Acceptance Rate: 20%)

*Memory Management for Self-Adjusting Computation*

Matthew A. Hammer and Umut A. Acar.  
International Symposium on Memory Management (**ISMM 2008**).  
Tuscon, Arizona. June 2008.  
(Acceptance Rate: 43%)

*A Proposal for Parallel Self-Adjusting Computation*

Matthew Hammer, Umut A. Acar, Mohan Rajagopalan, Anwar Ghuloum  
Workshop on Declarative Aspects of Multicore Programming (**DAMP 2007**).  
Nice, France. January 2007.

[\*Running Quake II on a grid\*](#)

G. Deen, M. Hammer, J. Bethencourt, I. Eiron, J. Thomas, and J. H. Kaufman.  
IBM Systems Journal 2006.

## Theses

[\*Self-Adjusting Machines\*](#)

University of Chicago, December 2012.

Committee:

John Reppy (*Chair*)

Umut A. Acar (*PhD Advisor*)

David MacQueen

Rupak Majumdar

## Patents

*Distributing and geographically load balancing location aware communication device client-proxy applications*

Viktors Berstis, John Bethencourt, Kevin Damm, Glenn Deen, Matthew A. Hammer, James H Kaufman, Toby Lehman

**US Patent 7,702,784**

*Handling of players and objects in massive multi-player on-line games*

Viktors Berstis, John Bethencourt, Kevin Damm, Glenn Deen, Matthew A. Hammer, James H Kaufman, Toby Lehman

**US Patent 8,057,307**

*Concurrent Management of Adaptive Programs*

Matthew Hammer, Mohan Rajagopalan, Anwar Ghuloum

**US Patent App. 11/750,441**

## Funding

[NSF Small: Semantic Foundations for Hole-Driven Development \(\\$250k to CU Boulder\)](#)

Facebook (unrestricted gift, \$30k)

[NSF Small: Online Verification-Validation \(\\$310k to CU Boulder\)](#)

Mozilla Research Funding (unrestricted gift, \$90k)

## Graduated Students

### Undergraduate students:

Byron Becker (senior thesis, 2017–2018) — Coadvised with Ben Shapiro

## CS Department Service

### Committees:

Graduate Program Committee, Fall 2015—Present

Educational Technology Committee, Spring 2017—Present

Colloquium Chair, Fall 2016—Present

**Thesis Committees:**

Byron Becker (CU Undergrad; Fall–Spring 2017)

## External Service

**Workshop/Seminar Organization:**

**[1st Incremental Computing \(IC\) Workshop 2017](#)**

Co-located with Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2017.  
Barcelona, Spain. June 2017.

**[Dagstuhl seminar 16402:](#)**

[Programming Language Techniques for Incremental and Reactive Computing](#)  
Schloss Dagstuhl. Wadern, Germany. October 2016.

**Journal review committee:**

The Programming Journal 2017

The Programming Journal 2018

**Program Committee (PC) member:**

Principles of Programming Languages (POPL) 2019

European Symposium on Programming (ESOP 2018)

GPCE 2017

PLAS 2015

**External Review Committee (ERC) member:**

Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2018

Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2015

**Student Research Competition (SRC) judge:**

Principles of Programming Languages (POPL) 2018

Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2016

**External reviewer:**

Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (OOPSLA 2018)

Principles of Programming Languages (POPL) 2018

European Symposium on Programming (ESOP 2017)

European Symposium on Programming (ESOP 2016)

IEEE S&P 2015

Principles of Programming Languages (POPL) 2015

Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (OOPSLA 2014)

PLAS 2014

SOFSEM 2014

Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2013

Principles of Programming Languages (POPL) 2012

International Conference on Functional Programming (ICFP 2010)

ML Workshop 2009,

Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI) 2008

**Graduate Student Representative.** May 2010–October 2011.

Max Planck Institute for Software Systems.

## Teaching

**CSCI 4830: Principles of functional programming**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Spring 2018.

**CSCI 3155: Principles of programming languages**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Fall 2017.

**CSCI 7000: Programming languages for incremental computing**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Spring 2017.

**CSCI 5535: Foundations of programming languages**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Fall 2016.

**CSCI 7000: Programming language design for interaction**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Spring 2016.

**CSCI 5535: Foundations of programming languages**

University of Colorado, Boulder. Fall 2015.

**CMSC 631: Program Analysis and Understanding.**

University of Maryland, College Park. Spring 2013.

Co-instructed with Michael Hicks, Jeffrey S. Foster and Stevie Strickland.

**Teaching assistant for CMCS 336: Type Systems for Programming Languages.**

Toyota Technological Institute / University of Chicago. Winter 2008.

Instructors: Umut Acar and Amal Ahmed.

## Invited Talks

*Incremental Computation with Adaption*

Facebook, May 2017

*At the 1st Programming language enthusiasts mind melt (PLEMM) 2017*

## Talks

*A Vision for Online Verification-Validation*

Matthew A. Hammer, Bor-Yuh Evan Chang, David Van Horn

Generative Programming: Concepts & Experience (GPCE 2016).

Amsterdam, Netherlands. October 2016.

*Incremental Computation with Names*

Matthew A. Hammer, Jana Dunfield, Kyle Headley, Nicholas Labich, Jeffrey S. Foster and Michael Hicks.

Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages, and Applications (OOPSLA 2015).

Pittsburgh, USA. October 2015.

WYSTERIA: A Programming Language for Generic, Mixed-Mode Multiparty Computations

**Dagstuhl seminar 14492: The synergy between programming languages and cryptography.**

Schloss Dagstuhl. Wadern, Germany. December 2014.

*ADAPTON: Composable, Demand-driven Incremental Computation*  
 Programming Language Design and Implementation (**PLDI 2014**).  
 Edinburgh, Scotland. June 2014.

*Self-Adjusting Stack Machines*  
 Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages, and Applications (**OOPSLA 2011**).  
 Portland, Oregon USA. October 2011.

*Self-Adjusting Stack Machines and the CEAL Compiler*  
 Invited talk. Max Planck Institute for Software Systems advisory board visit day.  
 Frankenstein, Rhineland-Palatinate Germany. May 2011.

*A Compilation Framework for Self-Adjusting Computation*  
 Dissertation proposal.  
 Chicago, Illinois USA. December 2010.

*CEAL: A C-Based Language for Self-Adjusting Computation*  
 Programming Language Design and Implementation (**PLDI 2009**).  
 Dublin, Ireland. June 2009.

*Memory Management for Self-Adjusting Computation*,  
 International Symposium on Memory Management (**ISMM 2008**).  
 Tuscon, Arizona. June 2008.

*A Proposal for Parallel Self-Adjusting Computation*,  
 Workshop on Declarative Aspects of Multicore Programming (**DAMP 2007**).  
 Nice, France. January 2007.

## Software

[ADAPTON: Composable, Demand-Driven Incremental Computation](#). ADAPTON provides library primitives (currently in OCaml and Rust, and previously, in Python) for creating incremental computation (IC). Unlike prior approaches, ADAPTON supports demand-driven IC (e.g., computations that use laziness).

[WYSTERIA: A Programming Language for Generic, Mixed-mode Multiparty Computation](#). WYSTERIA is a high-level functional programming language for writing mixed-mode secure computations. Such computations interleave local, private computations with secure multiparty computations.

[CEAL: A C-based language \(compiler and run-time system\) for self-adjusting computation](#). CEAL extends C with a small set of primitives that allow programmers to write self-adjusting computations in a manner similar to conventional C programming.

## Student Internships

Intel, Programming Systems Lab at Santa Clara (June 2007–September 2007)  
*Graduate Research Intern*

Intel, Programming Systems Lab at Santa Clara (June 2006–September 2006)  
*Graduate Research Intern*

IBM, Almaden Research Center (May 2005–September 2005)  
*Research Intern*

IBM, Almaden Research Center (May 2004–August 2004)  
*Research Intern*

IBM, Extreme Blue Program (June 2003–August 2003)  
*Computer Science Intern*

Last updated: December 9, 2025