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Work Experience

2014-PRESENT

Electronic Design Engineer, Intel Programmable Solution Group (Formerly Altera), UK Develop embedded applications for System-on-Chip FPGA devices, including

- Pedestrian detection system with machine learning and computer vision (OpenCV) accelerated by FPGAs
- Phasor measurement unit for smart grid in distribution network (Conference: 1)
- Drive-on-chip motor control for PMSMs and BLDC motors (Conference: 2; White paper: 1)
- Battery management system for hybrid electric vehicles (Conference: 3)

Support functional safety of programmable electronics (IEC 61508 and ISO 26262), including

- FMEA and FMEDA
- Verification of diagnostic IPs (clock checking, CRC, single event upset)
- Research Assistant, Custom Computing Research Group Imperial College London, UK

Participated in various collaborative research projects, including EPiCS, FASTER, HARNESS and TETRA-

2011-14 Teaching Assistant, Imperial College London, UK

> Supported teaching, lab demonstration, course material preparation and assignment marking of Architecture (2012,2013,2014), Computer Architecture (2014) and Prolog (2011)

2012-13 University Program Coordinator, Altera, UK

> Led 4 undergraduate students in Imperial College and coordinated with Altera engineering managers Developed an air traffic management system using FPGAs

Achieved 40-fold performance improvement over CPUs and published results in an international conference (Journal: 5; Conference: 5,10)

2012-13 Student Project Coordinator, Imperial College London, UK

Supervised 3 MSc and 1 MEng students in their graduation projects

Used FPGAs in medical imaging, power system simulation, message traffic filter and particle filter

Industrial Placement, R&D Department, ARM Ltd., UK

(3 months) In charge of developing a low-footprint floating-point library for Xilinx FPGAs using CORDIC algorithm

2006-07 Design Trainee, Mosway Semiconductor Ltd., Hong Kong

Designed and tested ASICs for McDonalds' electronic toys which have light/sound sensors and motors

Engineering Trainee, Promax Technology Ltd., Hong Kong

(3 months) | Designed and tested digital and analog circuits for camera sensors

EDUCATION

PhD in Computing, Imperial College London, UK

- Awarded full scholarship by the Croucher Foundation
- Research experience: high-performance computing with FPGAs, GPUs and multi-core CPUs
- Authored 19 publications in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and conferences (See Appx.)
- Thesis: "Optimising reconfigurable systems for real-time applications"
- Supervisors: Prof. Wayne Luk, Prof. Peter Y.K. Cheung
- Examiners: Prof. Neil Audsley, Dr. Jeremy Bradley

2008-10 MPhil in Computer Science and Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong GPA: 3.87/4.0

- Supported by Innovation and Technology Fund of the Hong Kong Government
- Collaborated with 2 academic institutions and 2 industrial partners
- Developed and taped out metal-programmable structured ASICs using Synopsys and Candence EDA
- Published in 7 peer-reviewed international journals and conferences (See Appx.)
- Supervisors: Prof. Philip Leong, Prof. David Y.L. Wu, Prof. Oliver C.S. Choy

BEng in Computer Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong 2004-08

1st class

- Dean's List (academic merit, top 3 of the department) 2008
- Bonso Scholarship (academic merit, the only recipient of the year) 2006

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Air traffic management system (Journal: 5; Book Chapters: 1; Conference: 5,8,9,10)
 - Applied sequential Monte Carlo methods and model predictive control to real-time aircraft scheduling
 - Optimised the computation kernel using machine learning techniques (surrogate model, Gaussian progress regressor, support vector machine classifier)
 - Mapped the algorithm to heterogeneous systems with multiple FPGAs and CPUs
 - Achieved 64 times speed up over an unoptimised FPGA implementation
- Robot localisation & navigation (Journal: 2; Conference: 5,12,14)
 - Applied particle filters to track mobile robots in real-time
 - Employed run-time reconfiguration of FPGA to reduce over 30% idle power
 - Achieved 41 times speed up over a 12-core CPU system and 3 times speed up over 4 GPUs
- Imaged-guided medical surgery (Journal: 3,4; Conference: 7)
 - Applied proximity queries to support image guidance (MRI-based) and haptic feedback of surgical robots
 - Optimised the algorithm for multiple FPGAs by functional transformation and reduced precision
 - Achieved 58 times speed up over a 12-core CPU system and 3 times speed up over an unoptimised FPGA implementation
- Structured ASIC (Journal: 6; Conference: 16,17,18,21)
 - Proposed metal-programmable structured ASIC architectures based on 3-input lookup-tables and AOI gates
 - Developed standard-cell compatible design flow and mitigated mask costs by sharing masks across different designs
 - Achieved 27 times area reduction and 5 time speed up over FPGAs; area and delay are comparable to ASICs

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Fluent with RTL Verilog/VHDL for synthesizable logic design
- Experience with high performance computing (CPU, FPGA, GPU) using OpenCL/CUDA, OpenMP, OpenCV, MaxJ (Java for hardware design)
- Proficient in C, C++, Java, Python, Tcl, MATLAB, Simulink, LaTeX
- Confident in Linux including Shell scripting and Makefiles
- Familiarity FPGA design tools of Intel/Altera (Quartus, Qsys, SignalTap, System Console), Xilinx, Maxeler
- Understanding of FPGA IP verification using SystemVerilog, ModelSim, VCS, lint
- Experience with ARM programming and SoC interfaces including Avalon and AMBA AXI
- Short experience with ASIC design flows involving Cadence, Synopsys, SPICE
- Basic knowledge of Perl, Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS, SQL, Prolog
- Open source projects available at https://github.com/thomasccp

ACTIVITIES

- Vice chairman of the Chinese University of Hong Kong UK Alumni Association (2012-present)
 Manage the website and social media platforms and organise outdoor activities for alumni
- Outdoor fitness training
 Train with British Military Fitness once per week and work in groups coached by instructors from the armed forces
- Running & cycling
 Participated in Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon (2007-10)
- Basketball

LANGUAGES

• English (fluent) • Mandarin (fluent) • Cantonese (native)

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Thomas Chau**, Pavel Burovskiy, Michael Flynn and Wayne Luk, "Advances in Dataflow Systems," *Advances in Computers*, Elsevier, 2017, Volume 106.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 1. Xinyu Niu, **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Qiwei Jin, Wayne Luk, Qiang Liu and Oliver Pell, "Automating Elimination of Idle Functions by Runtime Reconfiguration," *ACM Trans. Reconfigurable Technology Syst*, vol. 8, no. 3, 2015.
- 2. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Xinyu Niu, Alison Eele, Jan Maciejowski, Peter Y.K. Cheung and Wayne Luk, "Mapping Adaptive Particle Filters to Heterogeneous Reconfigurable Systems," *ACM Trans. Reconfigurable Technology Syst*, vol. 7, no. 4, 2015.
- Ka-Wai Kwok, Gary C.T. Chow, Thomas C.P. Chau, Yue Chen, Shelley H. Zhang, Wayne Luk, Ehud J. Schmidt, Zion T.H. Tse, "FPGA-based Acceleration of MRI Registration: An Enabling Technique for Improving MRI-guided Cardiac Therapy, "Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, vol. 16, Suppl 1, pp. W11, 2014.
- 4. Ka-Wai Kwok, Yue Chen, **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Wayne Luk, Kent R. Nilsson, Ehud J. Schmidt, Zion T.H. Tse, "MRI-based Visual and Haptic Catheter Feedback: Simulating a Novel System's Contribution to Efficient and Safe MRI-guided Cardiac Electrophysiology Procedures," *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance*, vol. 16, Suppl 1, pp. W11, 2014.
- 5. Thomas C.P. Chau, James Targett, Marlon Wijeyasinghe, Wayne Luk, Peter Y.K. Cheung, Benjamin Cope, Alison Eele and Jan Maciejowski, "Accelerating Sequential Monte Carlo Method for Real-time Air Traffic Management," ACM SIGARCH Computer Architecture News, vol. 41, no. 5, pp. 35-40, 2013.
- Man-Ho Ho, Yan-Qing Ai, Thomas C.P. Chau, Steve C.L. Yuen, Chiu-Sing Choy, Philip H.W. Leong and Kong-Pang Pun, "Architecture and Design Flow for a Highly Efficient Structured ASIC," *IEEE Trans. Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) Syst.*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 424-433, 2013.
- Thomas C.P. Chau, Wayne Luk and Peter Y.K. Cheung, "Roberts: Reconfigurable Platform for Benchmarking Real-time Systems," ACM SIGARCH Computer Architecture News, vol. 40, no. 5, pp. 10-15, 2012.

Conference Papers

- 1. Paolo Romano, **Thomas Chau**, Ben Jeppesen, Mario Paolone, Elias Ahmed, "A high-performance, low-cost PMU prototype for distribution networks based on FPGA," in Proc. PES PowerTech Conference, to appear.
- Ben Jeppesen, Andrew Crosland, Thomas Chau, "An FPGA-based platform for integrated power and motion control," in Proc. Annual Conference of IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IECON), 2016.
- Rocco Morello, Federico Baronti, Xiang Tian, Thomas Chau, Roberto Di Rienzo, Roberto Roncella, Ben Jeppesen, Will H. Lee, Tak Ikushima, Roberto Saletti, "Hardware-in-the-Loop Simulation of FPGA-based State Estimators for Electric Vehicle Batteries," in Proc. International Symposium on Industrial Electronics (ISIE), 2016.
- 4. Shengjia Shao, Liucheng Guo, Ce Guo, **Thomas C. P. Chau**, David B. Thomas, Wayne Luk, Stephen Weston, "Recursive pipelined genetic propagation for bilevel optimisation," in Proc. International Conference on Field Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL), pp. 1-6, 2015.
- 5. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Maciej Kurek, James Stanley Targett, Jake Humphrey, Georgios Skouroupathis, Alison Eele, Jan Maciejowski, Benjamin Cope, Kathryn Cobden, Philip Leong, Peter Y.K. Cheung and Wayne Luk, "SMCGen: Generating Reconfigurable Design for Sequential Monte Carlo Applications," *in Proc. International Symposium on Field-Programmable Custom Computing Machines (FCCM)*, pp. 141-148, 2014.
- Maciej Kurek, Tobias Becker, Thomas C.P. Chau and Wayne Luk, "Automating Optimization of Reconfigurable Designs," in Proc. International Symposium on Field-Programmable Custom Computing Machines (FCCM), pp. 210-213, 2014.
- Thomas C.P. Chau, Ka-Wai Kwok, Gary C.T. Chow, Kuen Hung Tsoi, Zion Tse, Peter Y.K. Cheung and Wayne Luk, "Acceleration of Real-time Proximity Query for Dynamic Active Constraints," in Proc. Int. Conf. Field-Programmable Technology (FPT), pp. 206-213, 2013.
- 8. Alison Eele, Jan Maciejowski, **Thomas C.P. Chau** and Wayne Luk, "Parallelisation of Sequential Monte Carlo for Real-Time Control in Air Traffic Management," in Proc. IEEE Conf. Decision and Control, 2013.
- Alison Eele, Jan Maciejowski, Thomas C.P. Chau and Wayne Luk, "Control of Aircraft in the Terminal Manoeuvring Area using Parallelised Sequential Monte Carlo," in Proc. AIAA Conf. Guidance, Navigation, and Control, 2013.
- 10. Thomas C.P. Chau, James Targett, Marlon Wijeyasinghe, Wayne Luk, Peter Y.K. Cheung, Benjamin Cope, Alison Eele and Jan Maciejowski, "Accelerating Sequential Monte Carlo Method for Real-time Air Traffic Managements," in Proc. Int. Symp. Highly Efficient Accelerators and Reconfigurable Technologies (HEART), 2013. Best Paper Award Candidate.
- 11. Xinyu Niu, **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Qiwei Jin, Wayne Luk and Qiang Liu, "Automating Elimination of Idle Functions by Run-Time Reconfiguration," in Proc. Int. Symp. Field Programmable Custom Computing Machines (FCCM), pp. 97-104, 2013.

- 12. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Xinyu Niu, Alison Eele, Wayne Luk, Peter Y.K. Cheung and Jan Maciejowski, "Heterogeneous Reconfigurable System for Adaptive Particle Filters in Real-Time Applications," in Proc. Int. Symp. Applied Reconfigurable Computing (ARC), pp. 1-12, 2013.
- 13. Xinyu Niu, **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Qiwei Jin, Wayne Luk and Qiang Liu, "Automating Resource Optimisation in Reconfigurable Design," in Proc. Int. Symp. Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA), pp. 275, 2013.
- 14. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Wayne Luk, Peter Y.K. Cheung, Alison Eele and Jan Maciejowski, "Adaptive Sequential Monte Carlo Approach for Real-time Applications," in Proc. Int. Conf. Field Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL), pp. 527-530, 2012.
- 15. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Wayne Luk and Peter Y.K. Cheung, "Roberts: Reconfigurable Platform for Benchmarking Real-time Systems," in Proc. Int. Workshop Highly Efficient Accelerators and Reconfigurable Technologies (HEART), 2012. **Best Paper Award Candidate**.
- Sam M.H. Ho, Steve C.L. Yuen, Hiu Ching Poon, Thomas C.P. Chau, Yan-Qing Ai, Philip H.W. Leong, Oliver C.S. Choy and Kong-Pang Pun, "Structured ASIC: Methodology and Comparison," in Proc. Int. Conf. Field-Programmable Technology (FPT), pp. 377-380, 2010.
- 17. Thomas C.P. Chau, David W.L. Wu, Yan-Qing Ai, Brian P.W. Chan, Sam M.H. Ho, Oscar K.L. Lau, Kong-Pang Pun, Oliver C.S. Choy, Philip H.W. Leong, "Design of a Single Layer Programmable Structured ASIC Library," in Proc. Int. Symp. Design and Diagnostics of Electronic Circuits and Systems (DDECS), pp. 32-35, 2010.
- Steve C.L. Yuen, Yan-Qing Ai, Brian P.W. Chan, Thomas C.P. Chau, Sam M.H. Ho, Oscar K.L. Lau, Kong-Pang Pun, Philip H.W. Leong, Oliver C.S. Choy, "Rapid Prototyping on a Structured ASIC Fabric," in Proc. Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conf. (ASP-DAC), pp. 379-380, 2010.
- 19. Eddie Hung, Steve Wilton, Haile Yu, **Thomas C.P. Chau**, and Philip H.W. Leong, "A Detailed Delay Path Model for FPGAs," in Proc. Int. Conf. Field Programmable Technology (FPT), pp. 96-103, 2009.
- 20. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Sam M.H. Ho, Philip H.W. Leong, Peter Zipf, and Manfred Glesner, "Generation of Synthetic Floating-point Benchmark Circuits," in Proc. Int. Symp. Parallel and Distributed in Proc.ssing (IPDPS), pp. 1-9, 2009.
- 21. **Thomas C.P. Chau**, Philip H.W. Leong, Sam M.H. Ho, Brian P.W. Chan, Steve C.L. Yuen, Kong-Pang Pun, Oliver C.S. Choy, and Xinan Wang, "A Comparison of Via-programmable Gate Array Logic Cell Circuits," in *Proc. Int. Symp. Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA)*, pp. 53-61, 2009.

WHITE PAPERS

1. **Thomas Chau**, Ben Jeppesen, Kevin Smith, Andrew Crosland, and Stefano J. Zammattio, "Motor Control Designs with an Integrated FPGA Design Flow," *Altera white paper*, 2016.