

DEEP LEARNING AND GPU ACCELERATION FOR VLSI PHYSICAL DESIGN

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PART 1

DREAMPlace: Deep Learning Toolkit-Enabled GPU Acceleration for Modern VLSI Placement

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PART 2

RouteNet: Routability Prediction for Mixed-Size Designs Using Convolutional Neural Network

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Mark Ren, Brucek Khailany



Yu-Hung Huang, Guan-Qi Fang,
Shao-Yun Fang



Jiang Hu



DREAMPLACE

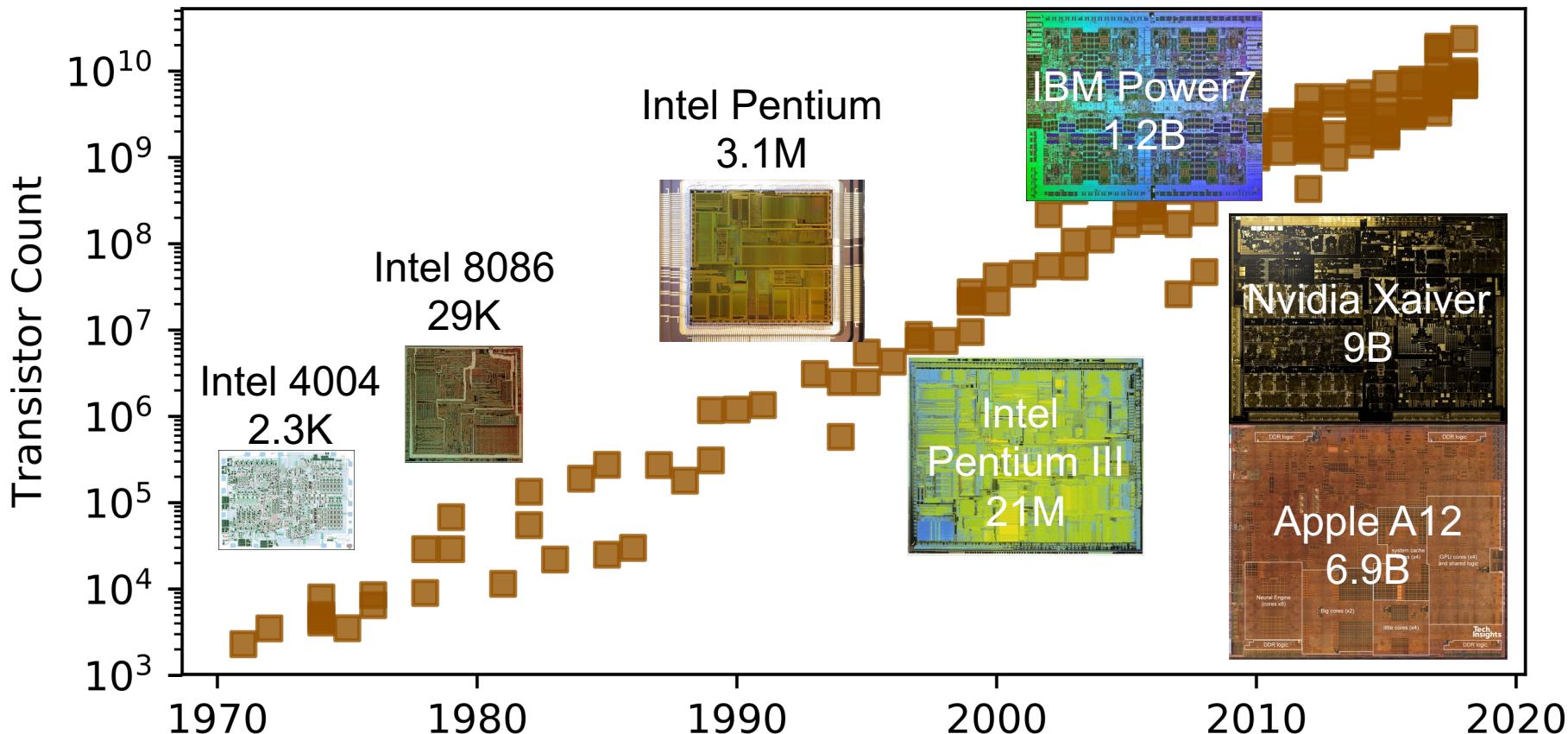
- Introduction
- Problem Formulation & Related Work
- DREAMPlace Framework
- Experiment Results
- Conclusion

INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF IC DESIGNS

Design complexity ↑

Design cycles ↑

Design costs ↑

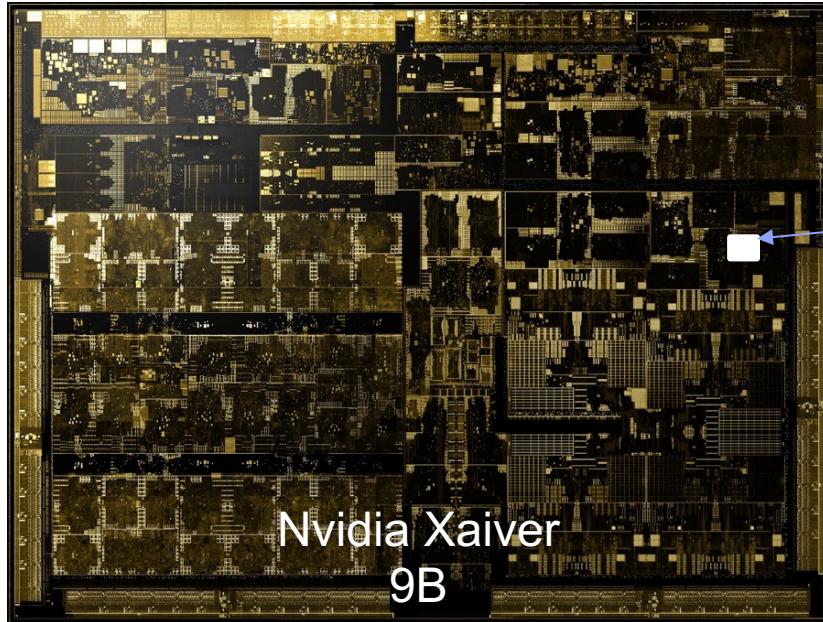


INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF IC DESIGNS

Design complexity ↑

Design cycles ↑

Design costs ↑



Nvidia Xaiver
9B

Divide a chip into small partitions
for backend design
e.g., 1~2M cells per partition

Turn-around time for 1 iteration of backend flow
3~6 days for one partition

Backend flow includes placement and routing optimization, clock tree synthesis, post routing optimization.

STATE-OF-THE-ART VLSI PLACEMENT

Placement is critical to VLSI design quality and design closure

Input

Gate-level netlist

Standard cell library

Output

Legal placement solution

Objective

Optimize wirelength,
routability, etc.

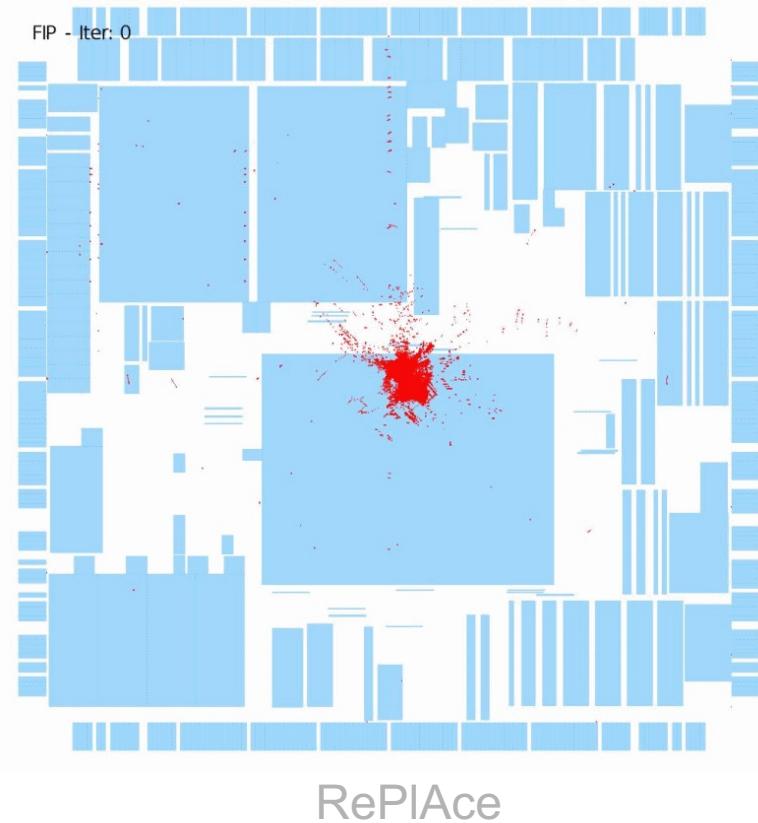
Typical approaches

Quadratic placement

- SimPL: [TCAD'12,Kim+]
- Ripple: [DAC'13'He+]
- POLAR: [TCAD'15,Lin+]

Nonlinear placement

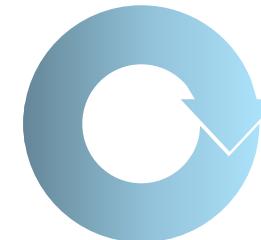
- mPL: [MCP'07,Chan+]
- APlace: [ISPD'06,Kahng+]
- NTUplace: [TCAD'08,Chen+]
- ePlace: [TCAD'15,Lu+]
- RePIAce: [TCAD'18,Cheng+]



TYPICAL NONLINEAR PLACEMENT ALGORITHM

Objective of nonlinear placement

$$\min \underbrace{\left(\sum_{e \in E} WL(e; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \right)}_{\text{Wirelength}} + \lambda \underbrace{D(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}_{\text{Density}}$$



Gradient
descent
iterations

Ultrafast placement
No quality degradation
Low development overhead

What we desire?

Poor runtime-quality trade-off
E.g., >3h for a 10M-cell design
Huge development efforts

What we have?

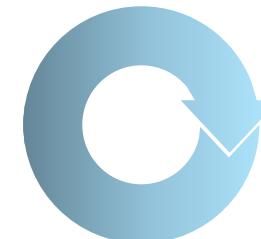
Drop to 5min



TYPICAL NONLINEAR PLACEMENT ALGORITHM

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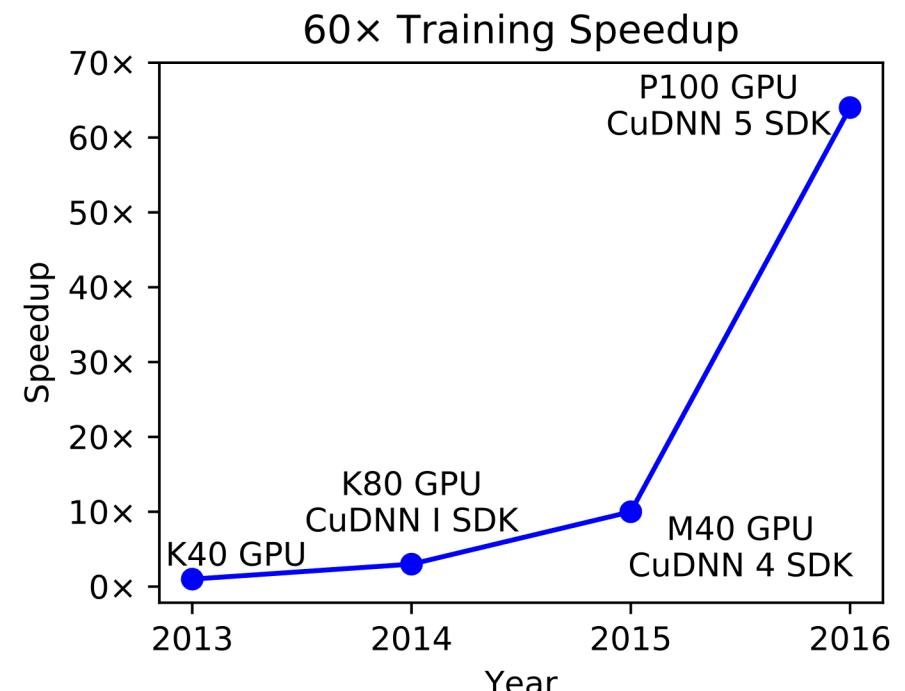
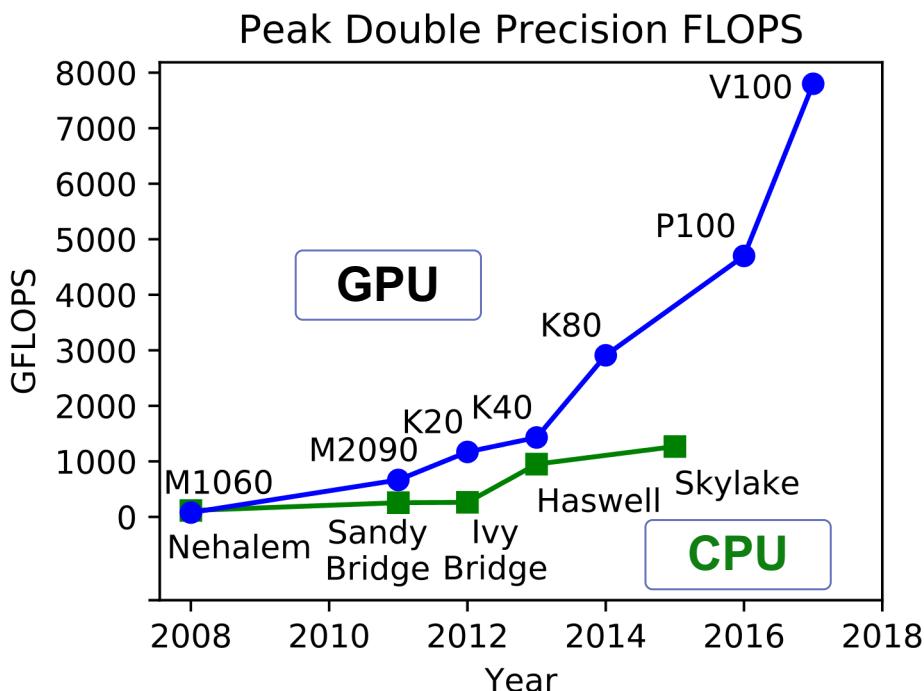
Gradient
descent
iterations

Previous work on acceleration

- POLAR 3.0 [ICCAD'15,Lin+]
 - Quadratic placement
 - Geometric partitioning
 - 4× speedup with 16 threads on CPU
 - 2-6% quality degradation
- mPL GPU acceleration [ICCAD'09,Cong+]
 - Clustering + Nonlinear placement
 - 15× speedup with < 1% quality degradation
 - CUDA development overhead

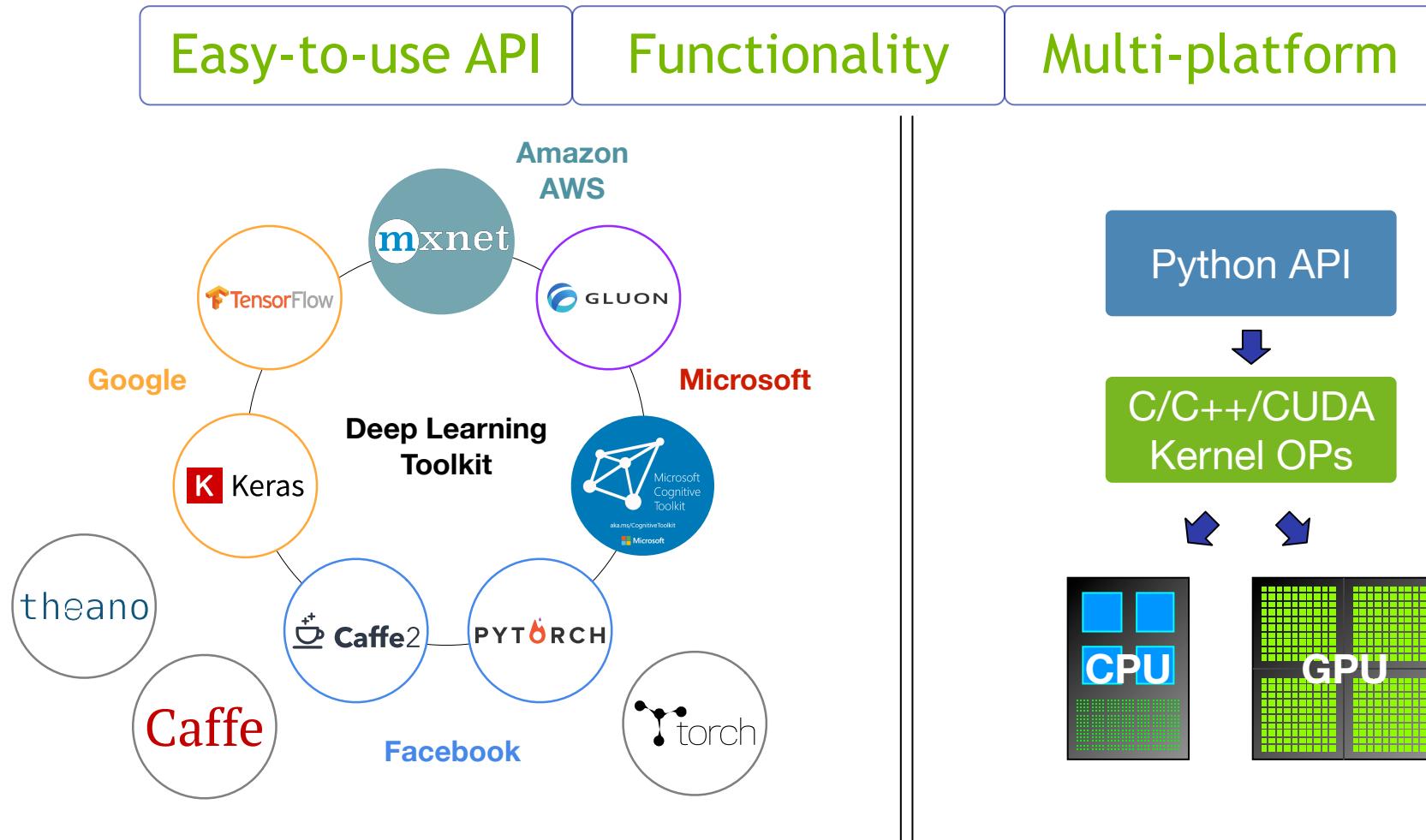
GPU EVOLUTION WITH DEEP LEARNING

Booming performance especially in deep learning

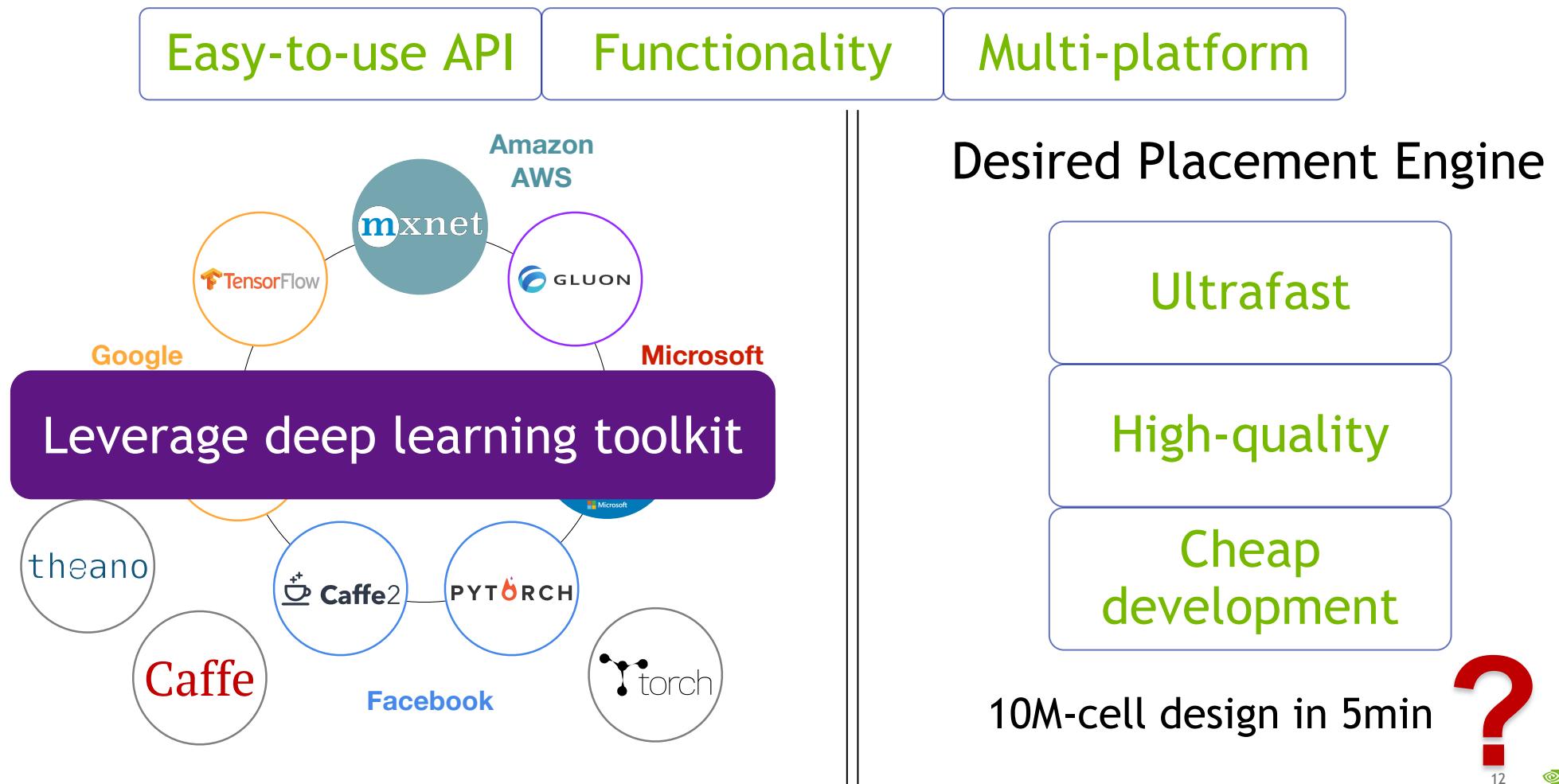


[Courtesy by Nvidia]

ADVANCES IN DEEP LEARNING TOOLKIT

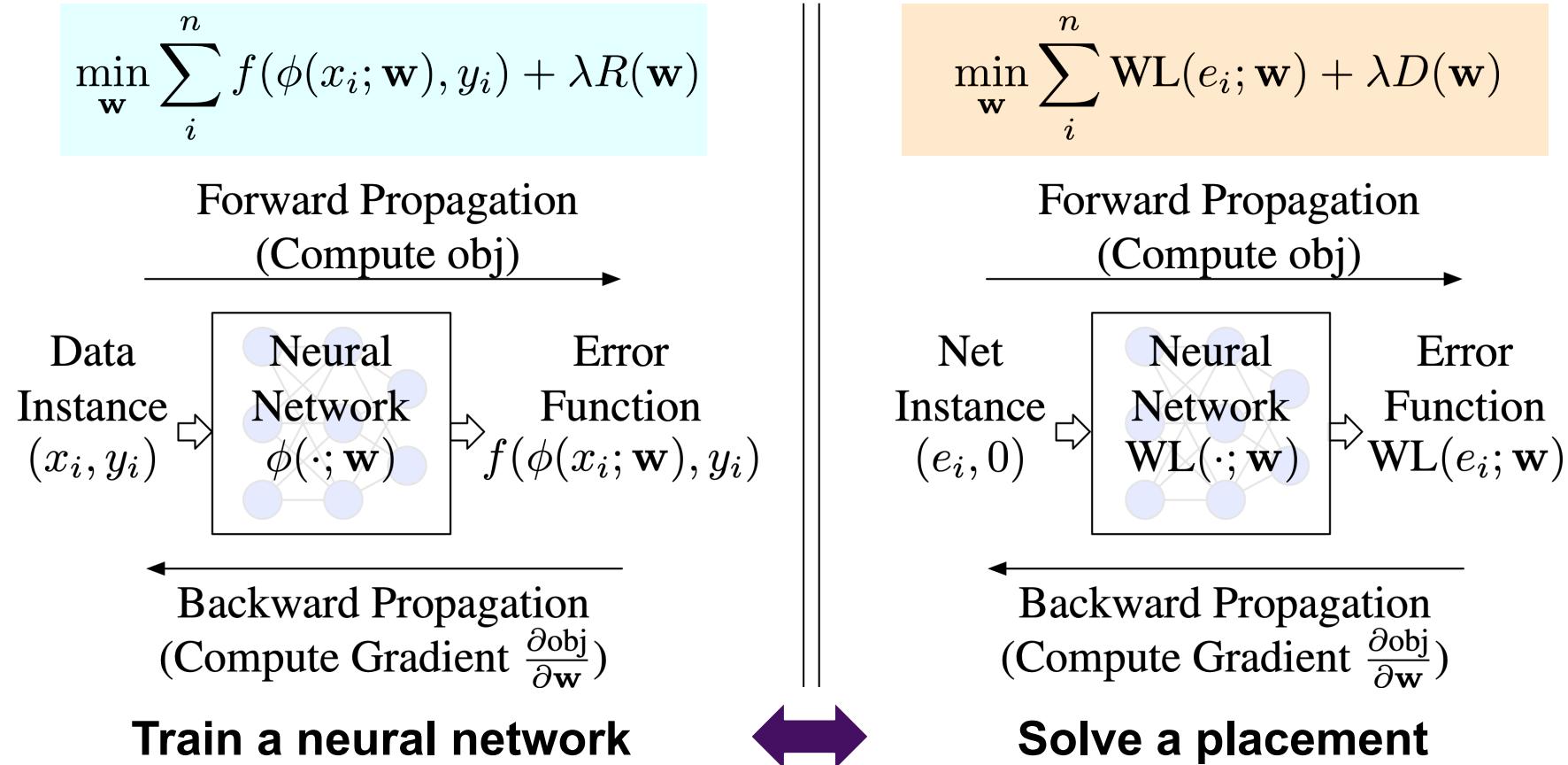


ADVANCES IN DEEP LEARNING TOOLKIT



LEVERAGE DEEP LEARNING TOOLKIT

Accelerating placement using deep learning toolkit ??



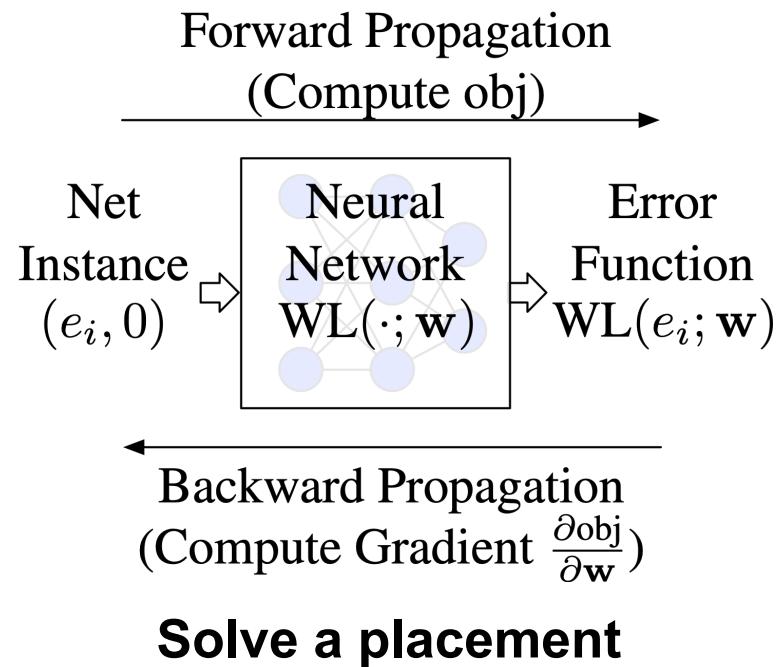
LEVERAGE DEEP LEARNING TOOLKIT

Accelerating placement using deep learning toolkit ??

```
# x: features, y: golden labels  
# define optimizer  
optimizer = SGD(model.parameters())  
for step in range(500):  
    # forward: predict labels  
    y_pred = model(x)  
    loss = loss_fn(y_pred, y)  
    model.zero_grad()  
    # backward: compute gradient  
    loss.backward()  
    # update parameters  
    optimizer.step()
```

Train a neural network

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_i^n \text{WL}(e_i; \mathbf{w}) + \lambda D(\mathbf{w})$$



LEVERAGE DEEP LEARNING TOOLKIT

Accelerating placement using deep learning toolkit ??

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Train a neural network

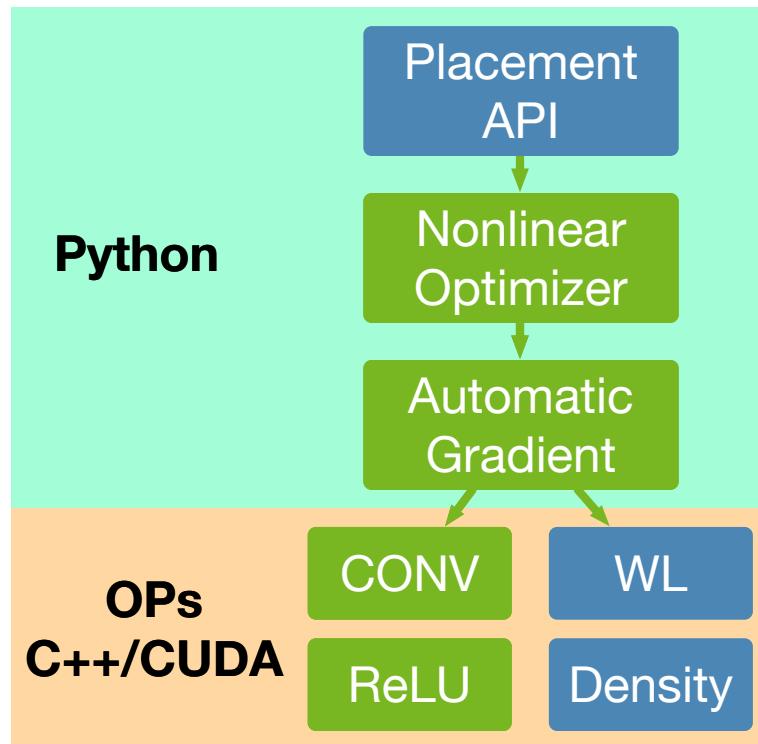
Advantages from the Analogy

- Mature toolkit for placement
 - Well maintained
 - Highly optimized
- Multi-platform support
 - CPU/GPU
- Low development overhead
 - AutoGrad
 - Python API
- Optimization solver options
 - SGD, momentum, Adam, etc.

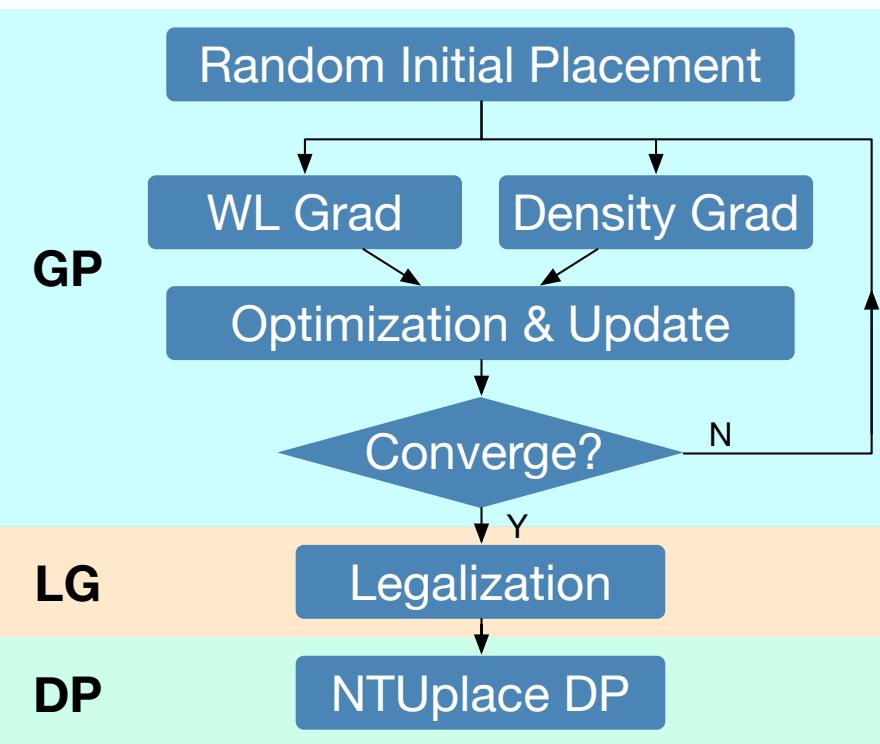
Solve a placement

SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE & OVERALL FLOW

Mature deep learning toolkit



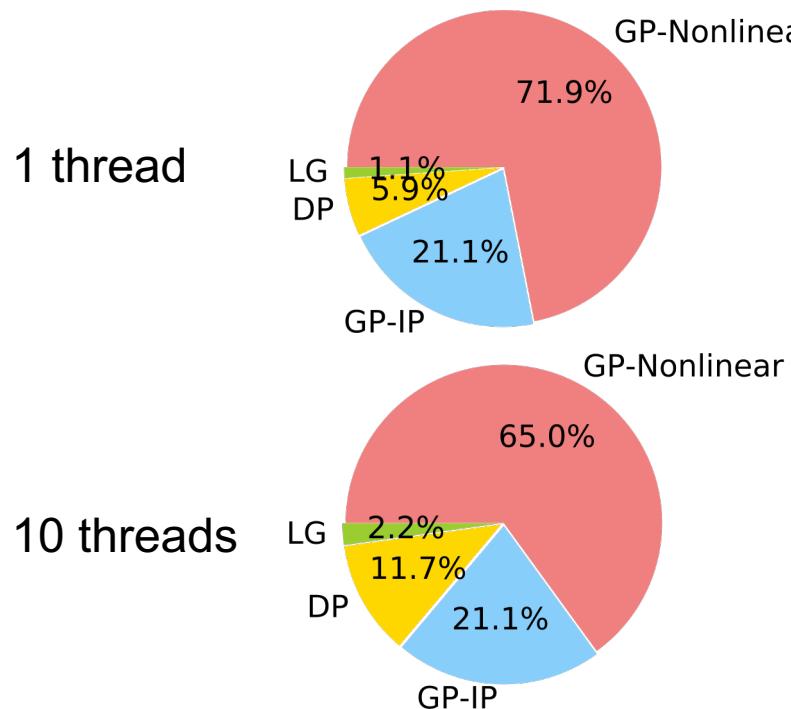
DREAMPlace architecture



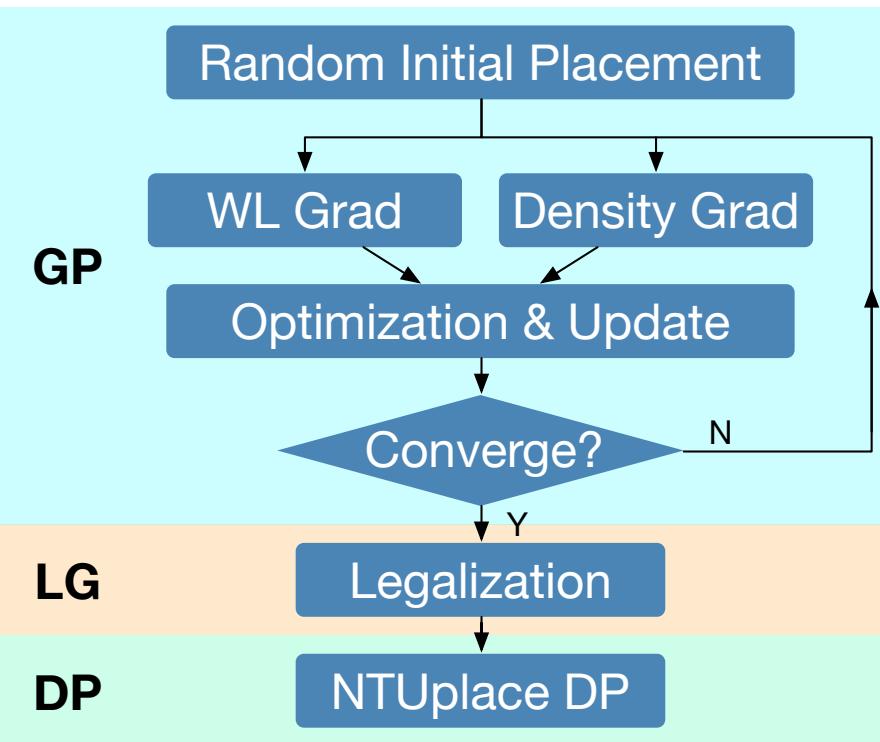
DREAMPlace flow

SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE & OVERALL FLOW

RePLAe runtime breakdown



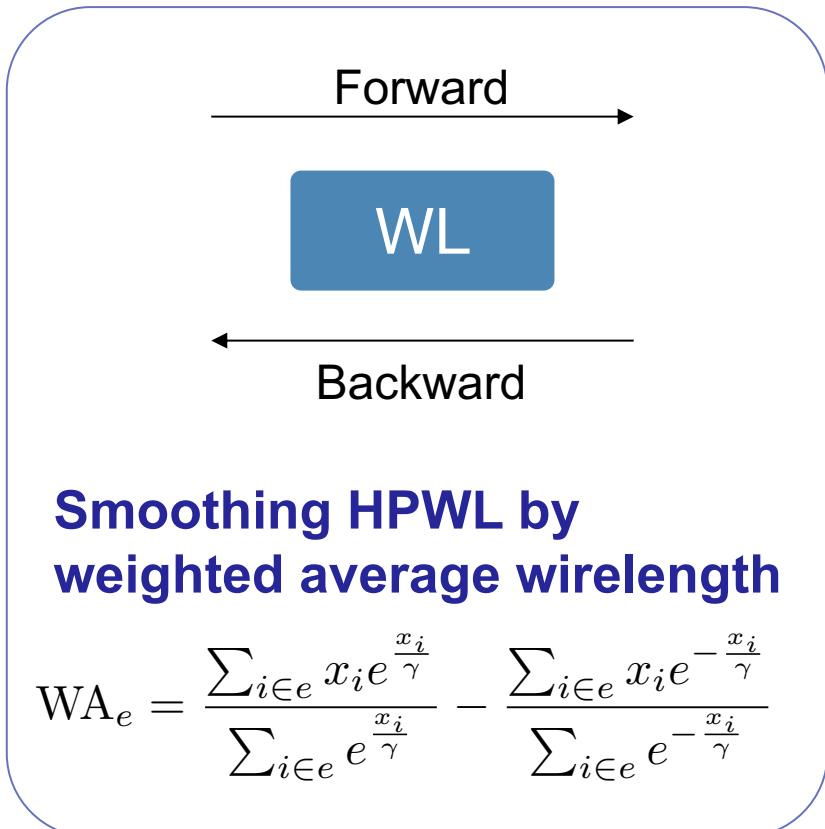
GP take >3h on 10M-cell designs



DREAMPlace flow

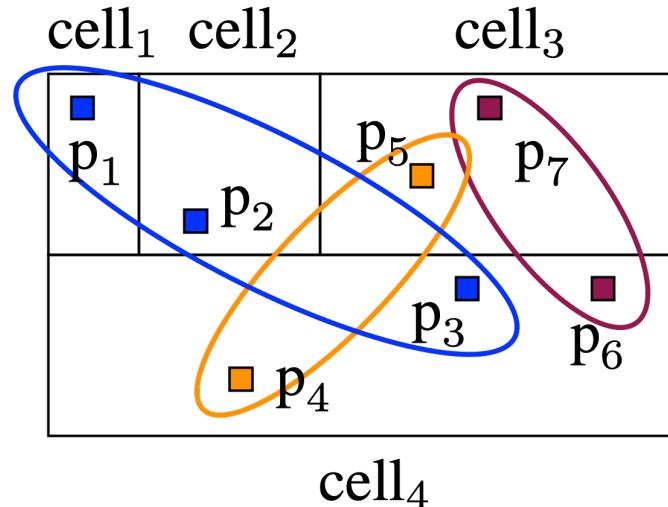
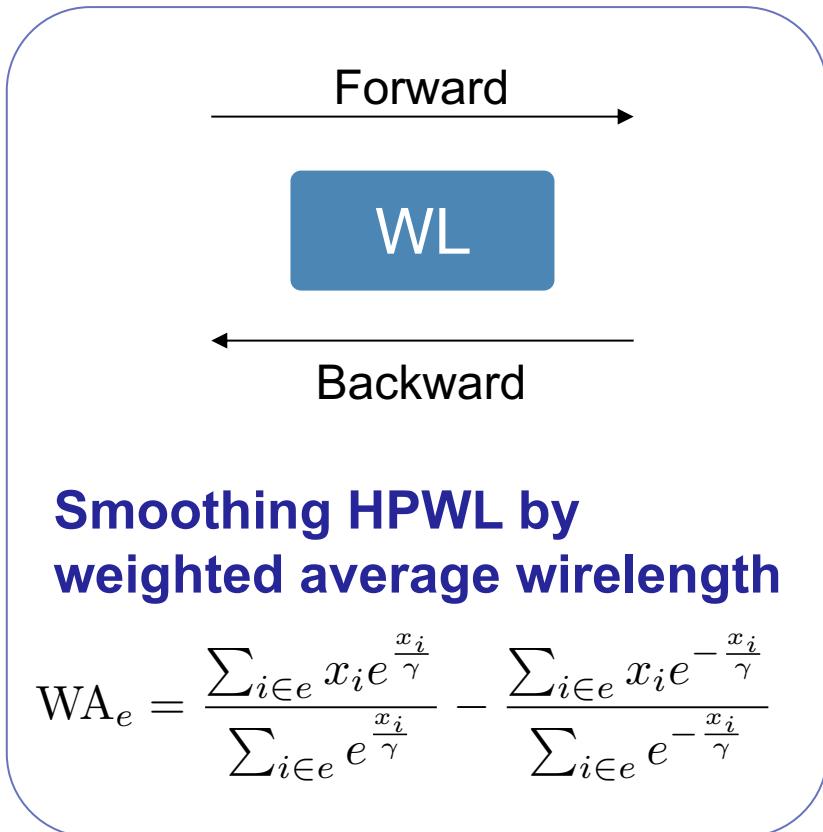
ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

Wirelength OP



ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

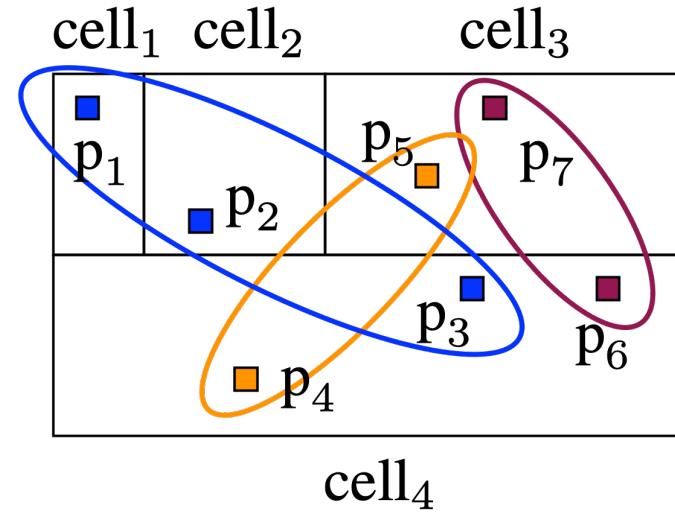
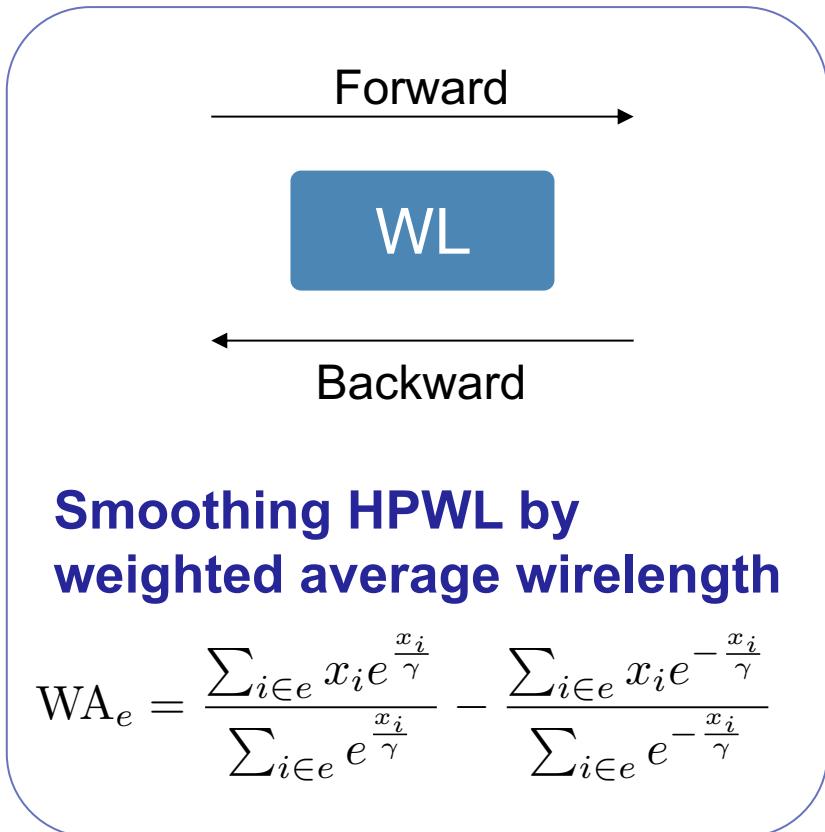
Wirelength OP



- net₁ : {p₁, p₂, p₃}
- net₂ : {p₄, p₅}
- net₃ : {p₆, p₇}

ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

Wirelength OP

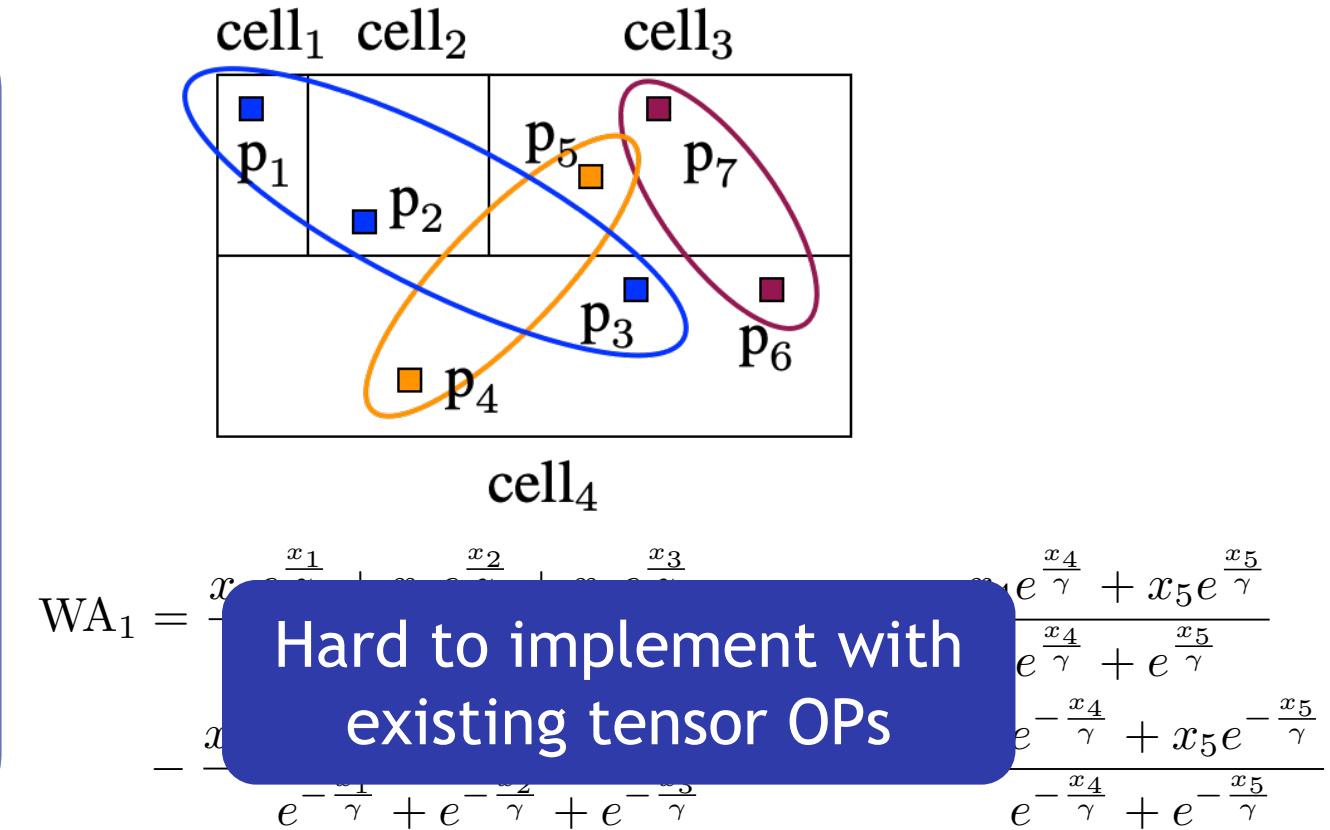
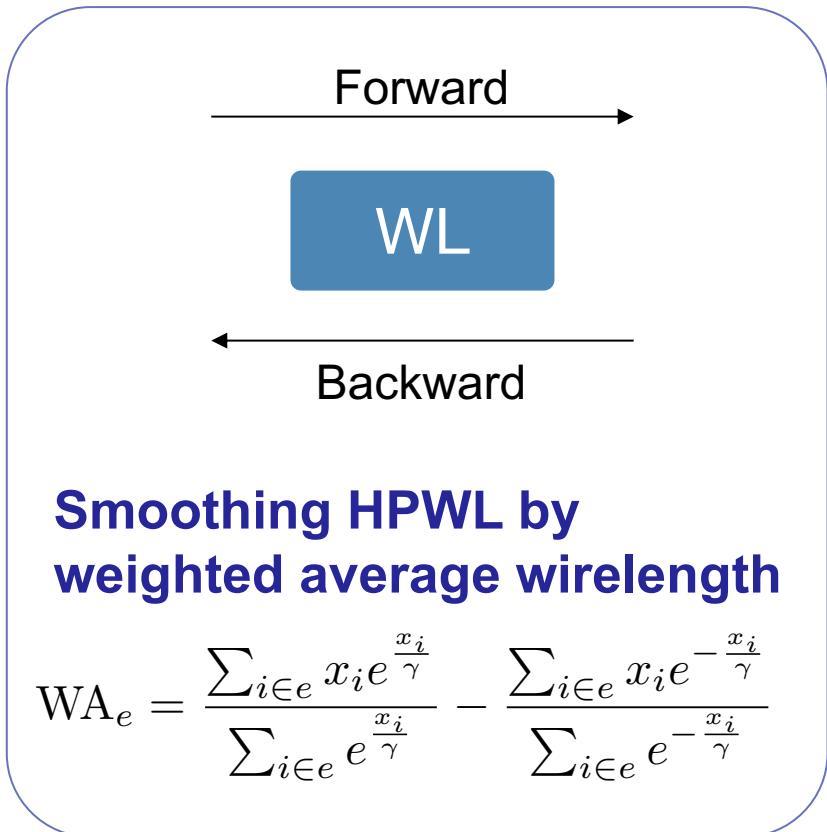


$$WA_1 = \frac{x_1 e^{\frac{x_1}{\gamma}} + x_2 e^{\frac{x_2}{\gamma}} + x_3 e^{\frac{x_3}{\gamma}}}{e^{\frac{x_1}{\gamma}} + e^{\frac{x_2}{\gamma}} + e^{\frac{x_3}{\gamma}}} - \frac{x_1 e^{-\frac{x_1}{\gamma}} + x_2 e^{-\frac{x_2}{\gamma}} + x_3 e^{-\frac{x_3}{\gamma}}}{e^{-\frac{x_1}{\gamma}} + e^{-\frac{x_2}{\gamma}} + e^{-\frac{x_3}{\gamma}}}$$

$$WA_2 = \frac{x_4 e^{\frac{x_4}{\gamma}} + x_5 e^{\frac{x_5}{\gamma}}}{e^{\frac{x_4}{\gamma}} + e^{\frac{x_5}{\gamma}}} - \frac{x_4 e^{-\frac{x_4}{\gamma}} + x_5 e^{-\frac{x_5}{\gamma}}}{e^{-\frac{x_4}{\gamma}} + e^{-\frac{x_5}{\gamma}}}$$

ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

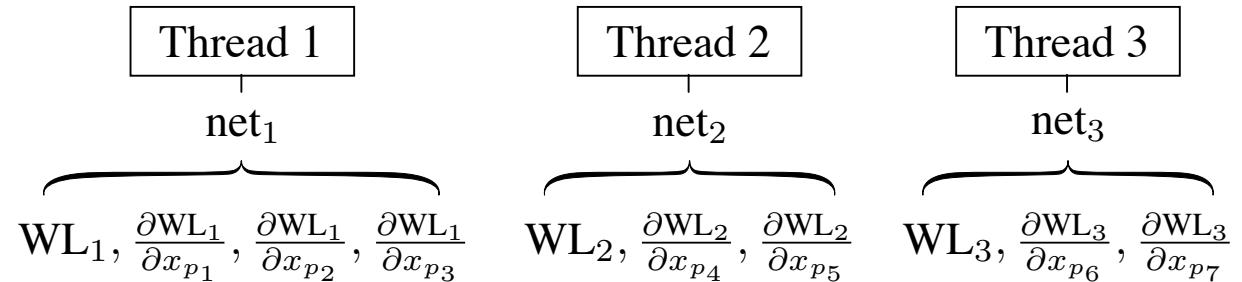
Wirelength OP



MASSIVE PARALLELIZATION STRATEGIES

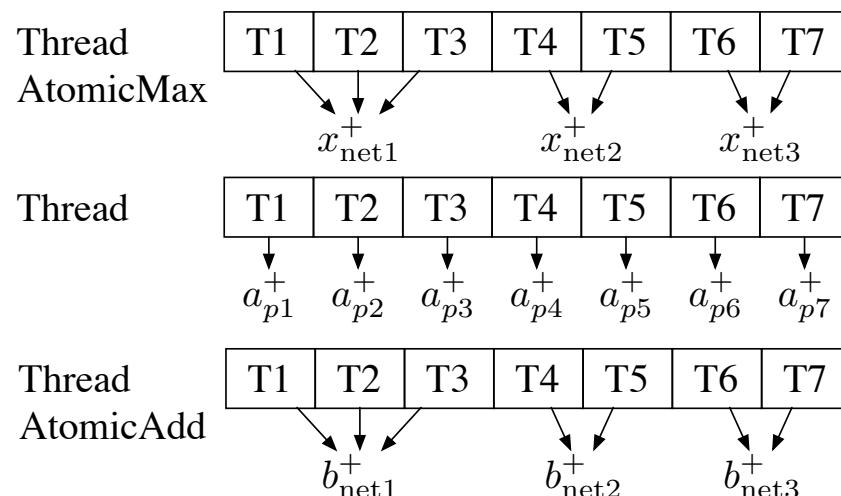
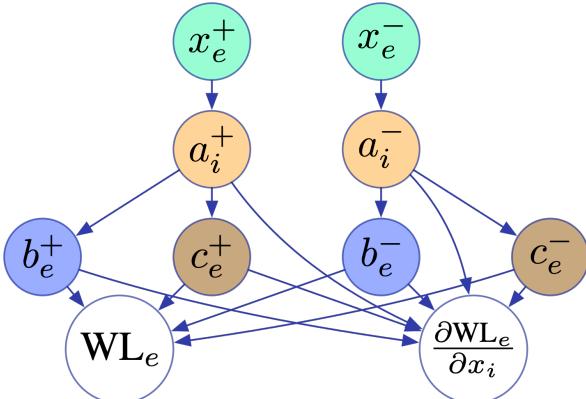
Strategy I: Net-by-Net

- Allocate one thread for each net
- No synchronization required
- Lack of parallelization for heterogenous net degrees



Strategy II: by-Pin

- Allocate one thread for each pin

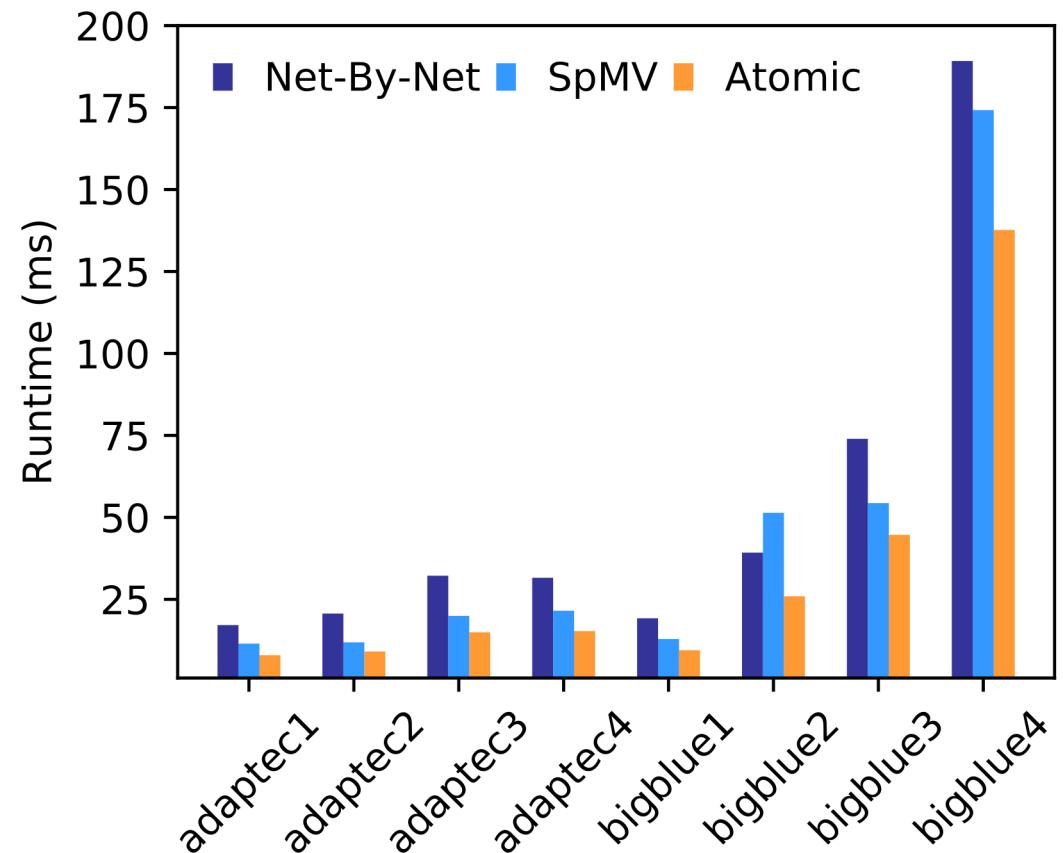


Use SpMV?
[DATE'18, Lin+]

MASSIVE PARALLELIZATION STRATEGIES

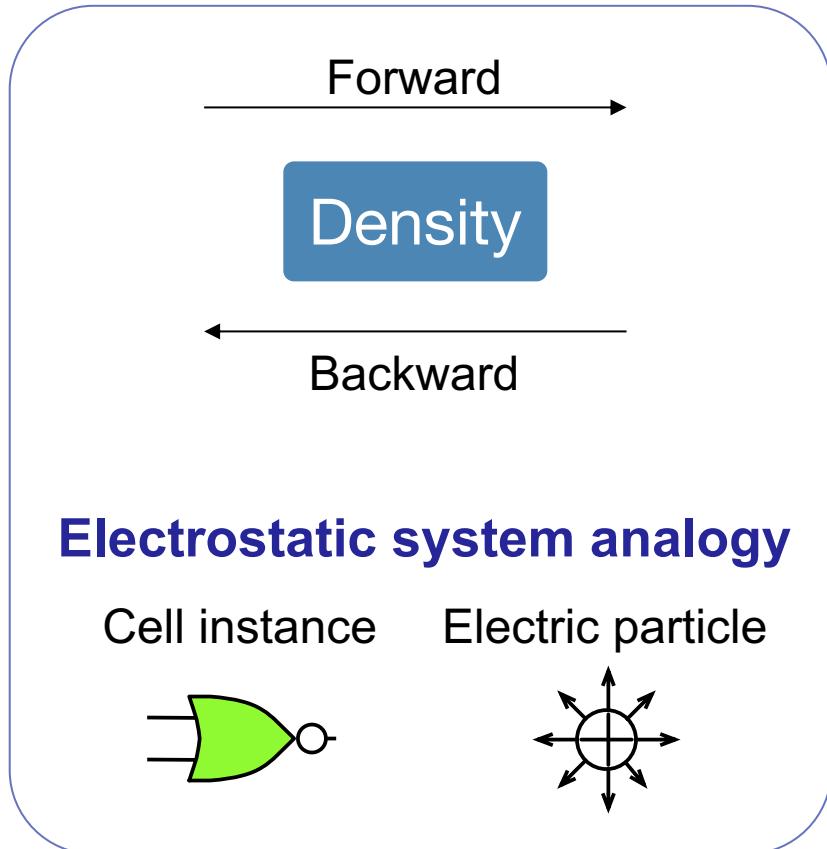
ISPD 2005 Contest Benchmarks

- *Atomic* is **1.9×** faster than *Net-by-Net*
- *Atomic* is **1.4×** faster than *SpMV*
- Speedup is very consistent

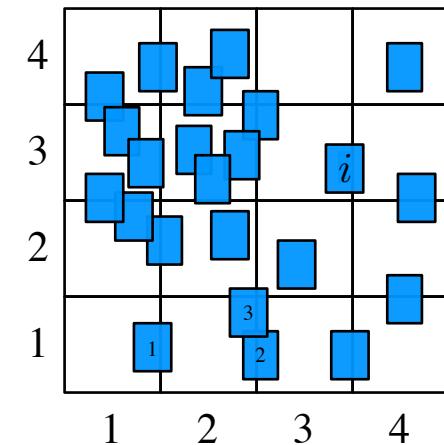


ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

Density OP



ρ

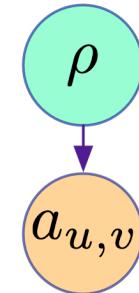
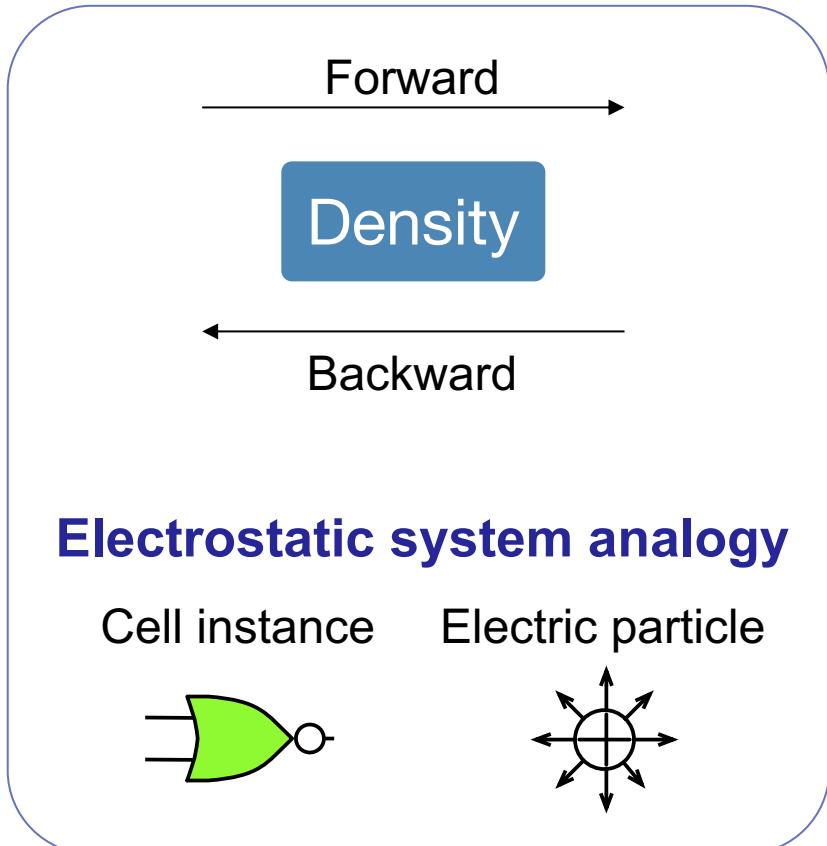


Poisson's Equation

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \nabla \psi(x, y) = -\rho(x, y), \\ \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla \psi(x, y) = \mathbf{0}, (x, y) \in \partial R, \\ \iint_R \rho(x, y) = \iint_R \psi(x, y) = 0 \end{cases}$$

ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

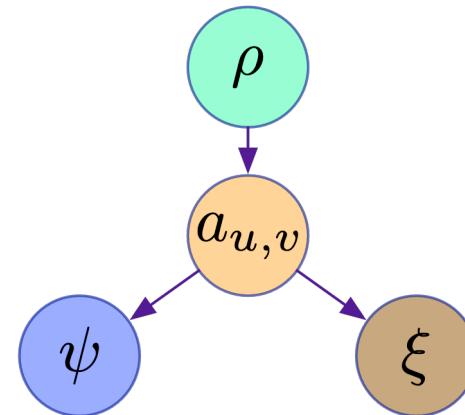
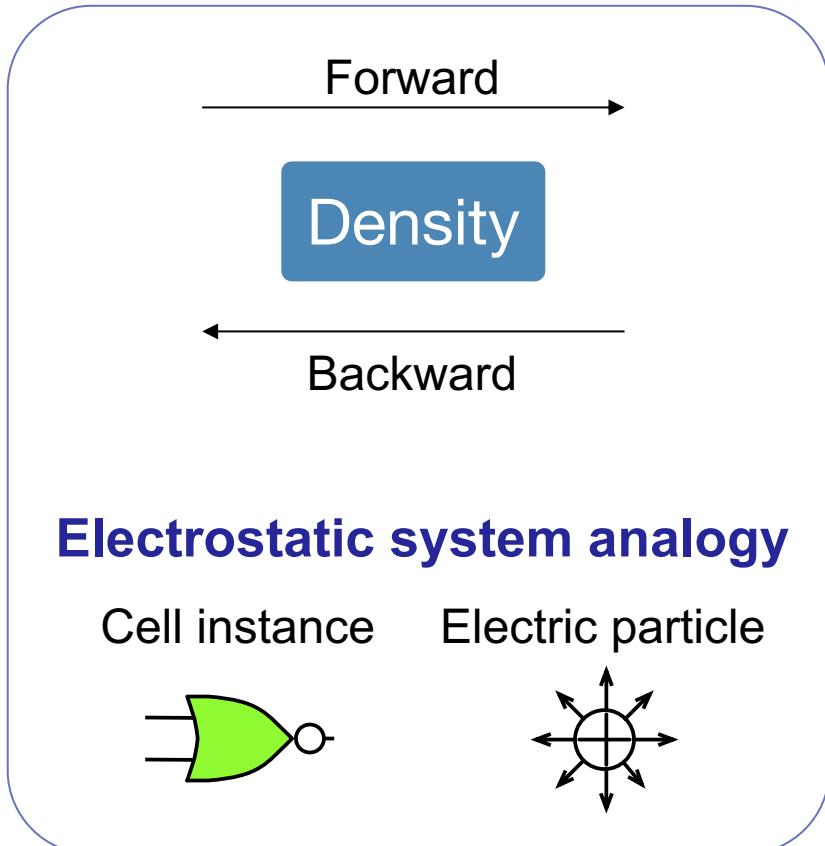
Density OP



$$a_{u,v} = \text{DCT}(\text{DCT}(\rho)^T)^T$$

ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

Density OP



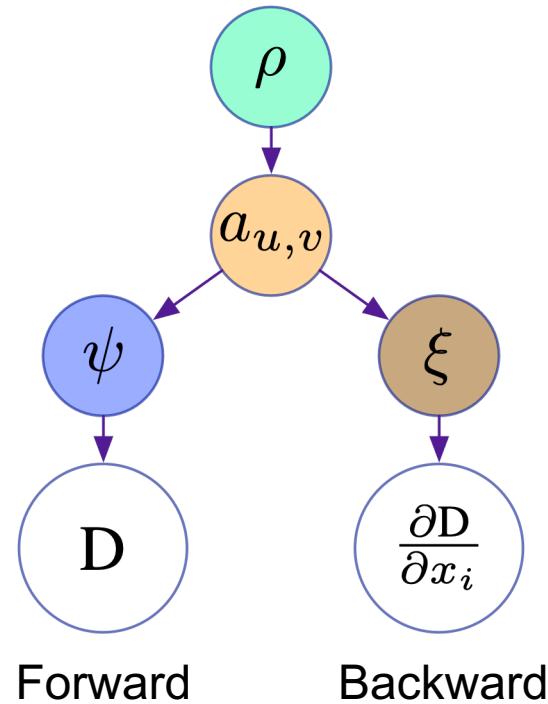
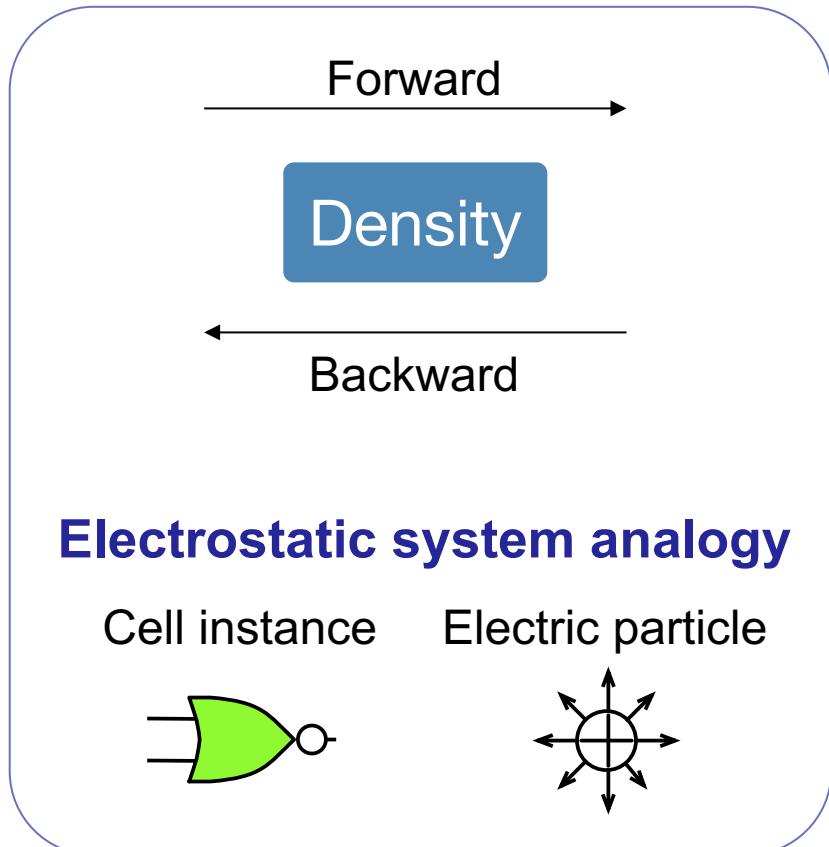
$$a_{u,v} = \text{DCT}(\text{DCT}(\rho)^T)^T$$

$$\psi_{\text{DCT}} = \text{IDCT}(\text{IDCT}(\{a_{u,v}\})^T)^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{\text{DSCT}}^X &= \text{IDXST}(\text{IDCT}(\{\frac{a_{u,v} w_u}{w_u^2 + w_v^2}\})^T)^T \\ \xi_{\text{DCST}}^Y &= \text{IDCT}(\text{IDXST}(\{\frac{a_{u,v} w_v}{w_u^2 + w_v^2}\})^T)^T \end{aligned}$$

ACCELERATING KERNEL OPS

Density OP



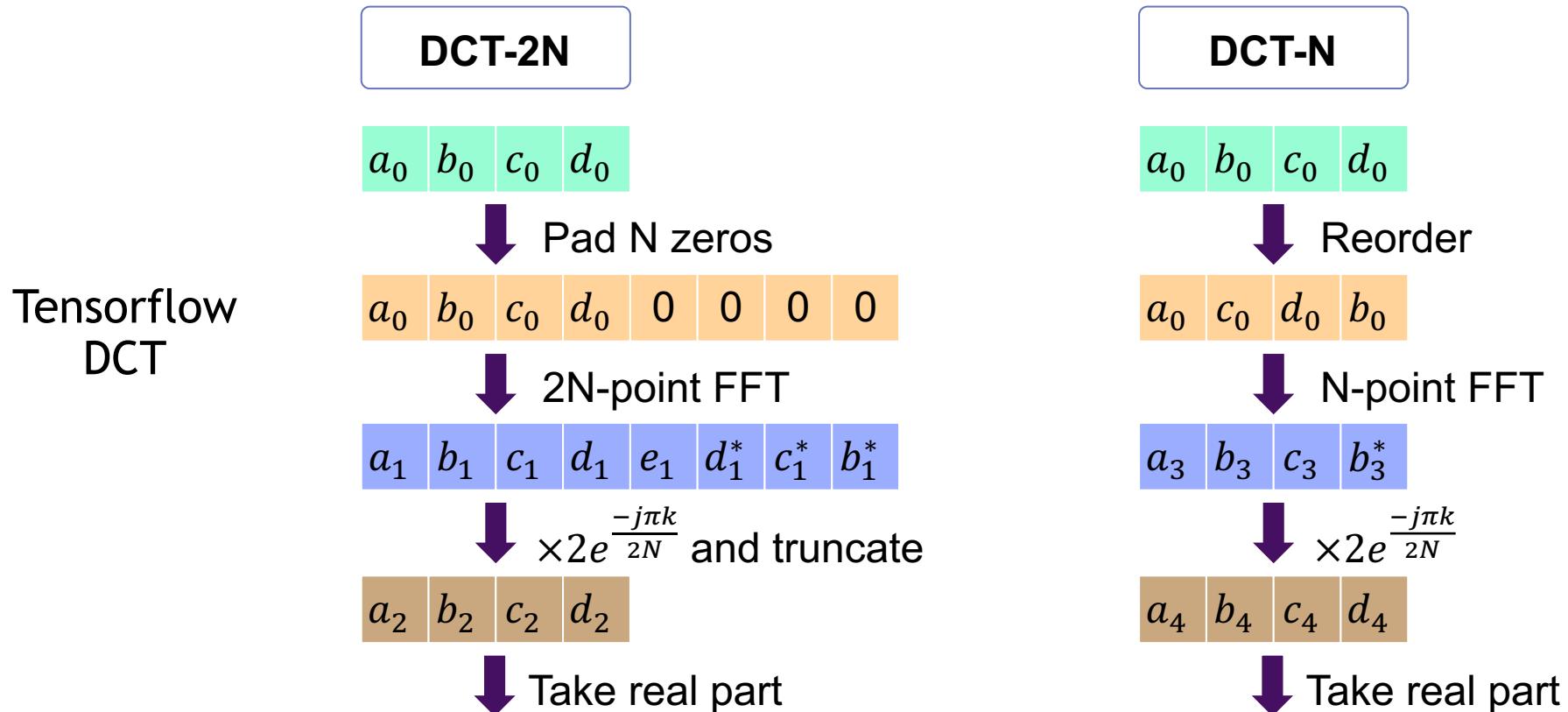
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$$\xi_{\text{DCST}}^Y = \text{IDCT}(\text{IDXST}(\{\frac{a_{u,v} w_v}{w_u^2 + w_v^2}\})^T)^T$$

ACCELERATING DCT/IDCT

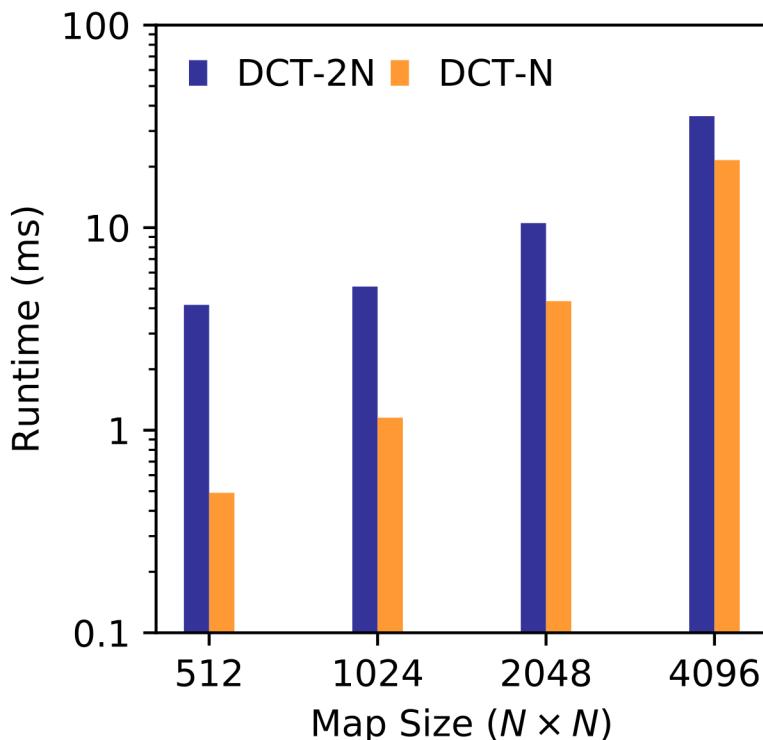
Leverage highly optimized FFT kernels in deep learning toolkit



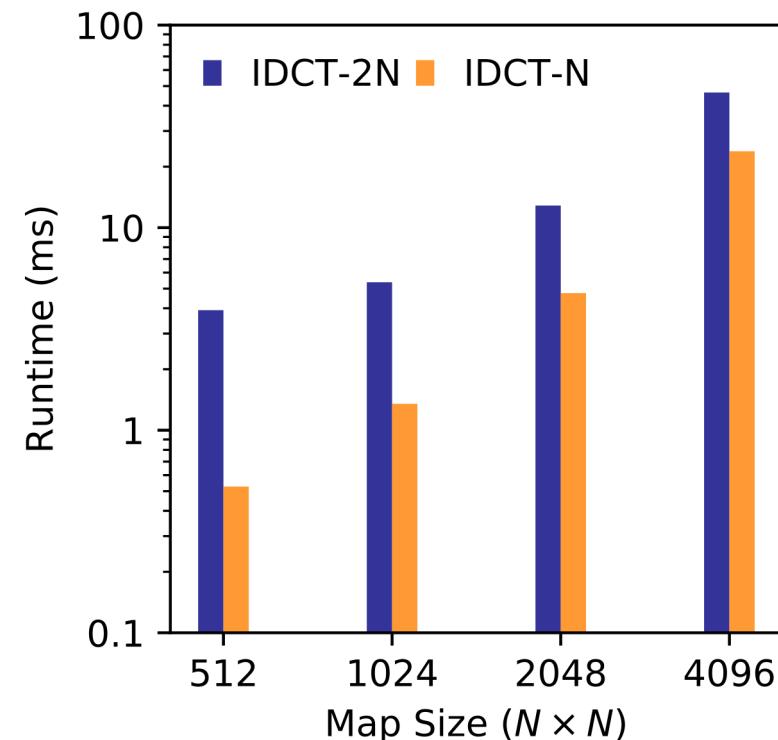
ACCELERATING DCT/IDCT

Leverage highly optimized FFT kernels in deep learning toolkit

DCT-N achieves **1.4×** speedup



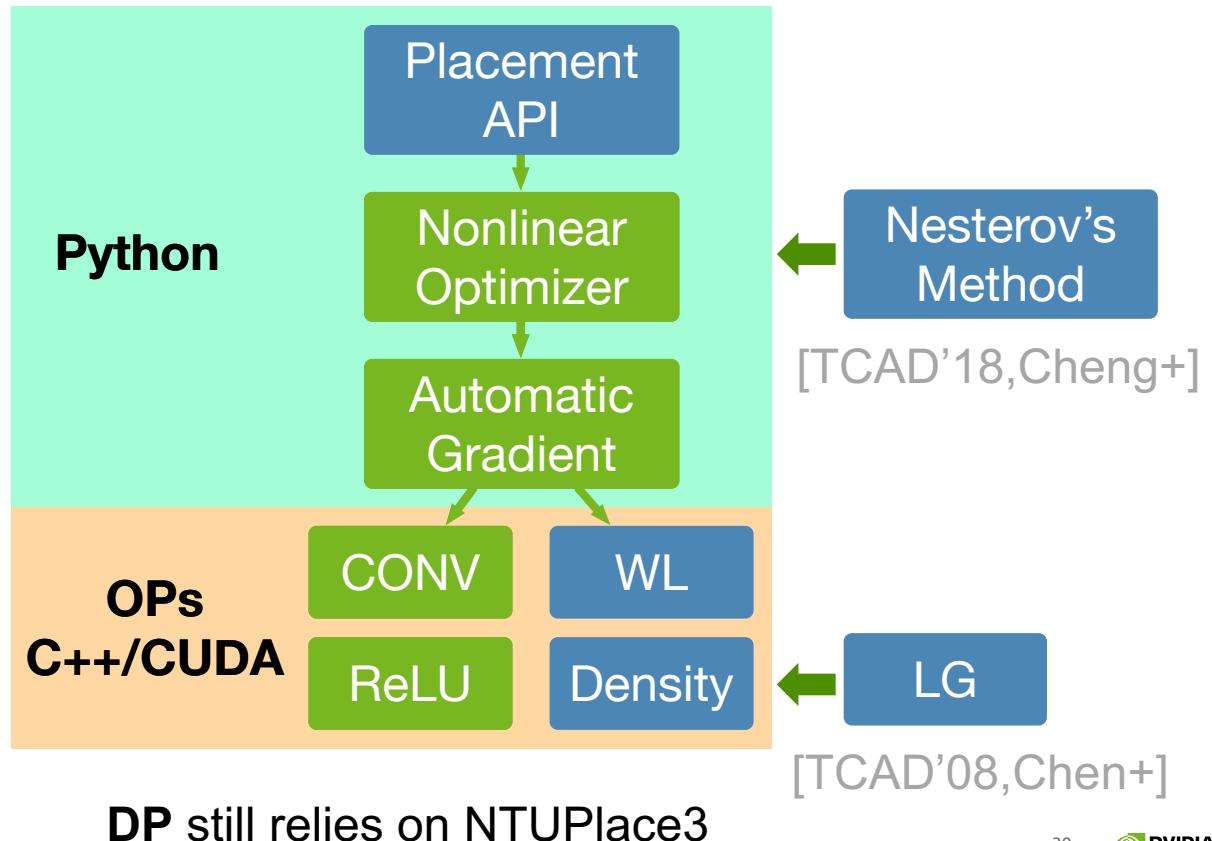
IDCT-N achieves **1.4×** speedup



Typical map sizes in placement

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

DREAMPlace framework



EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

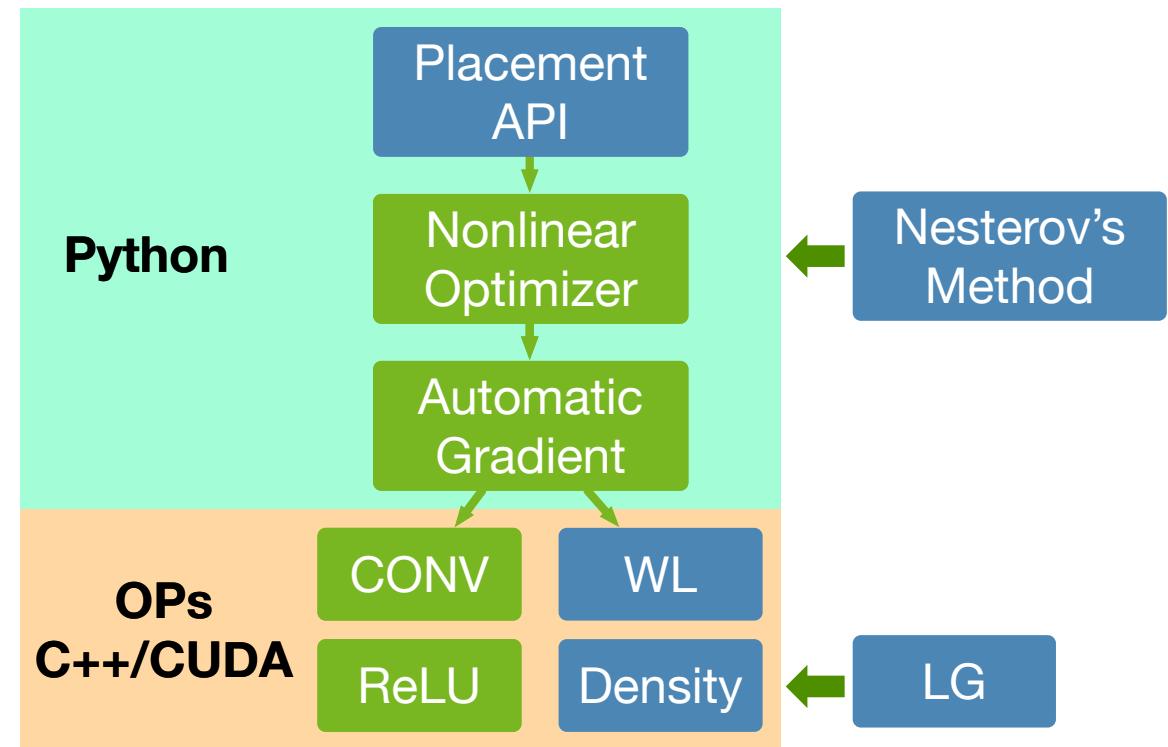
DREAMPlace framework

DREAMPlace

- CPU: Intel E5-2698 v4 @2.20GHz
- GPU: 1 NVIDIA Tesla V100
- Single CPU thread was used

RePIAe [TCAD'18, Cheng+]

- CPU: 24-core 3.0 GHz Intel Xeon
- 64GB memory allocated

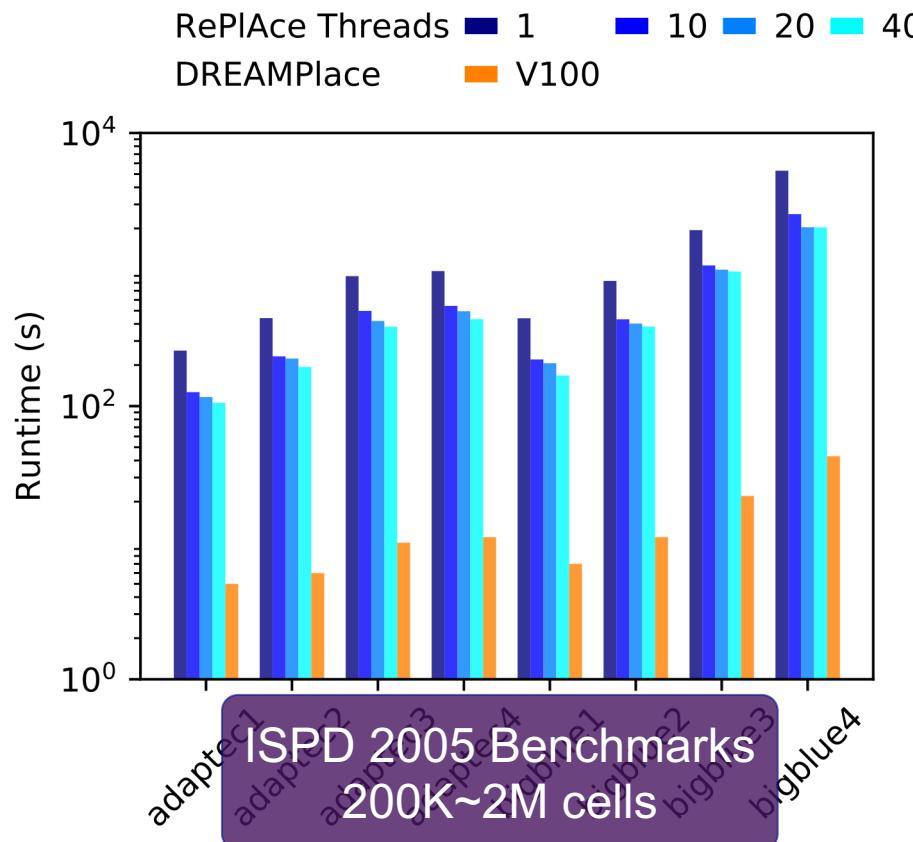


DP still relies on NTUPlace3

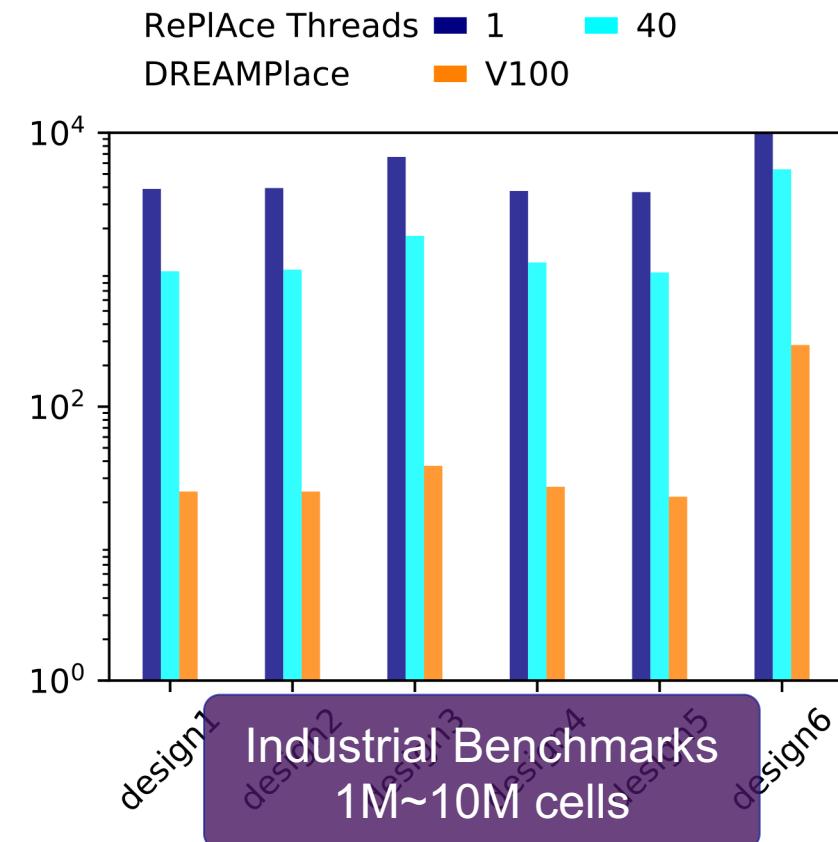
GP RUNTIME COMPARISON

No quality degradation

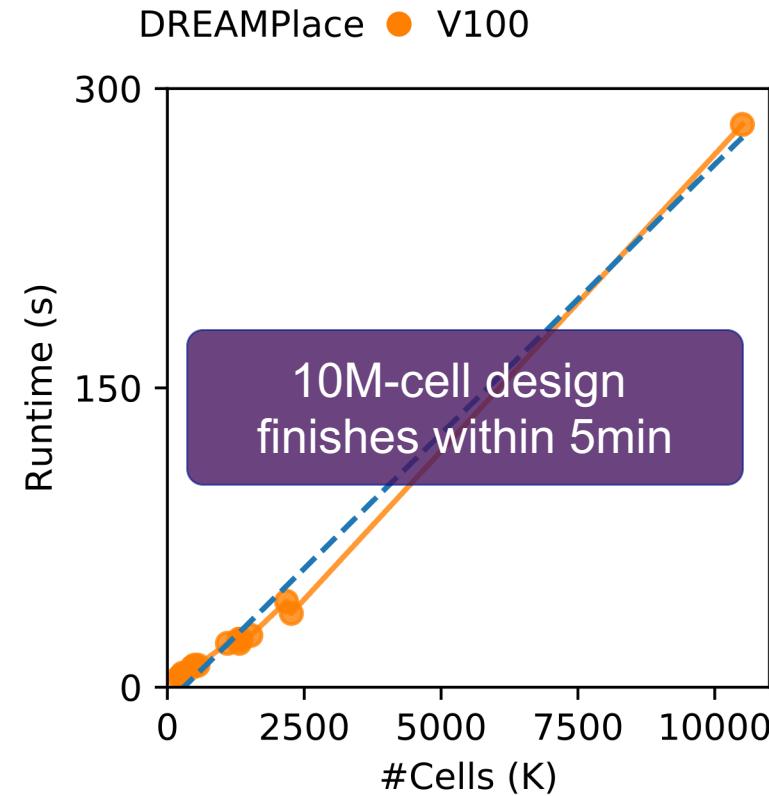
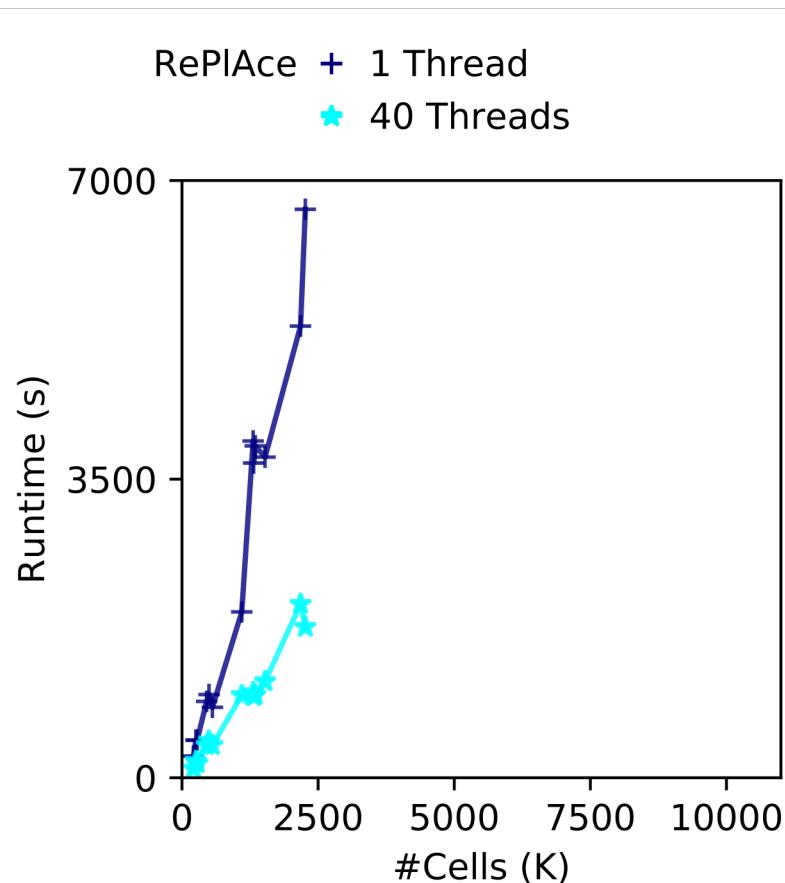
34× speedup by DREAMPlace



43× speedup by DREAMPlace



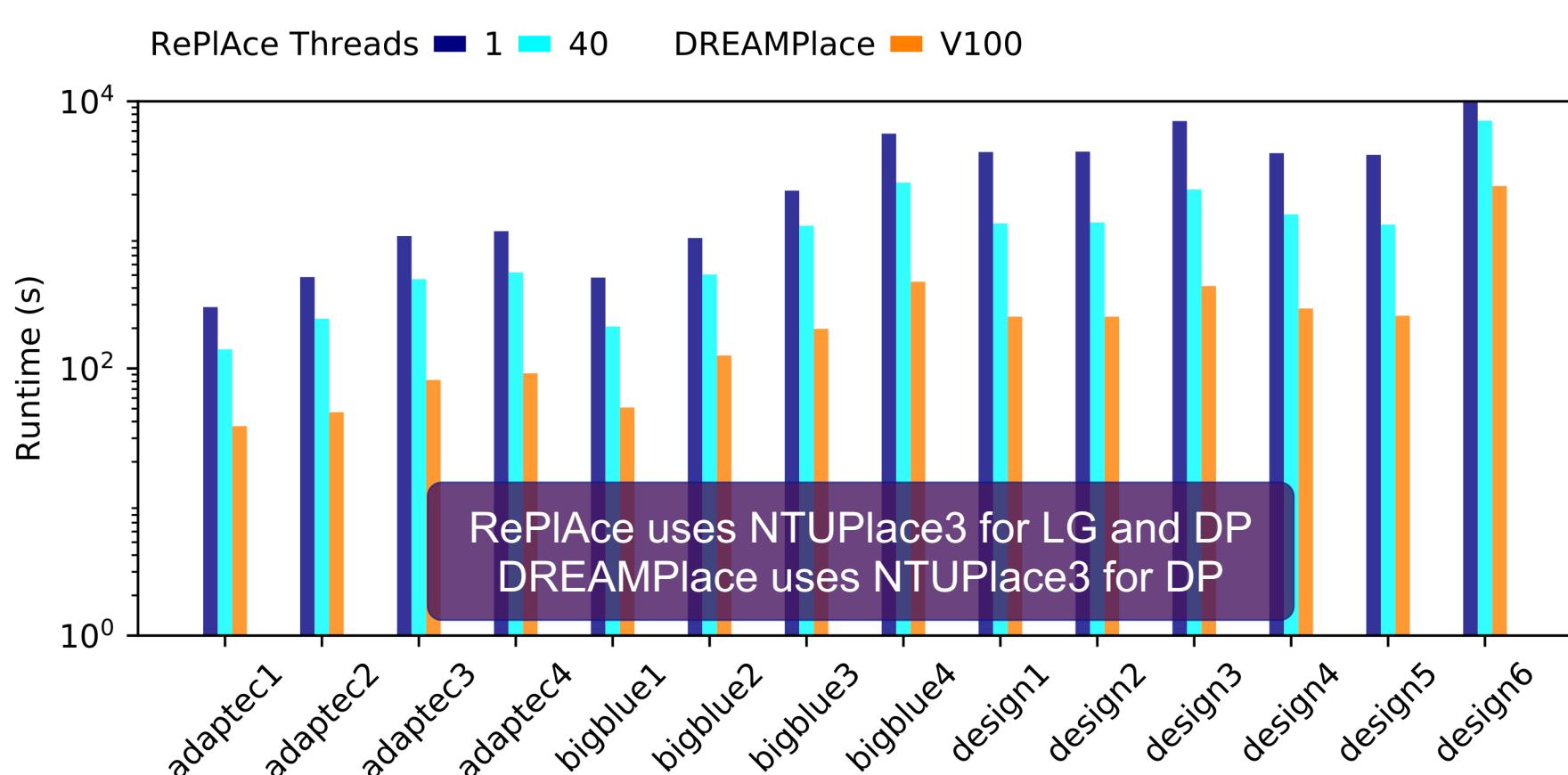
GP RUNTIME SCALING



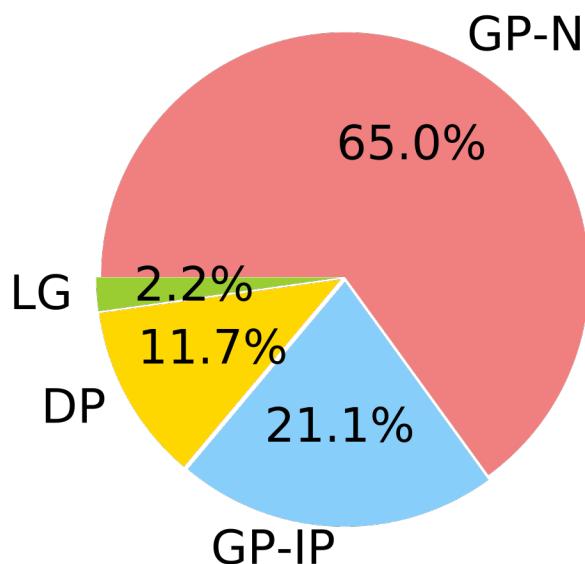
RePIAce crashed on the 10M-cell industry *design6* after using up all the memory allocated

OVERALL RUNTIME COMPARISON

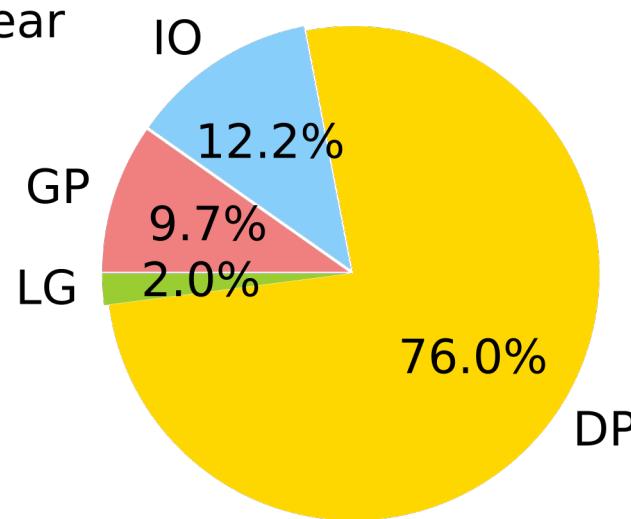
5× speedup in the overall GP+LG+DP flow



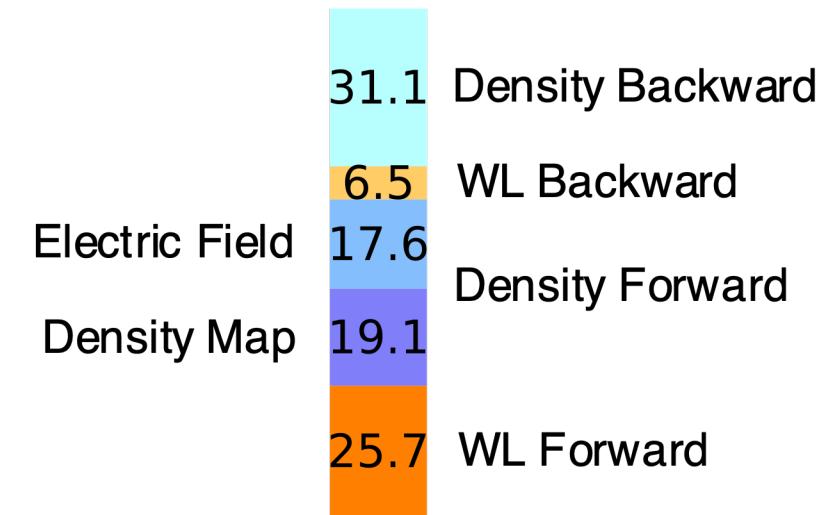
DREAMPLACE RUNTIME BREAKDOWN



RePIAcle (10 threads)



DREAMPlace



Runtime breakdown of one
forward/backward pass

DREAMPLACE - CONCLUSION

- New angle of viewing a placement problem as neural network training
 - Potentially applicable to other CAD problems, e.g., gate sizing, floorplanning
- GPU-accelerated analytical placer with deep learning toolkit *PyTorch*
- Efficient GPU implementations of key kernels, e.g., WL, density
- Over 30× speedup in global placement and legalization without quality degradation over multi-threaded CPU
 - 10M-cell design finishes in 5min on GPU implementation
 - While it takes >3h on CPU implementation

DREAMPLACE - FUTURE PLAN

- GPU-accelerated detailed placement
- Routability and timing considering in global placement
- Improve gradient descent strategies
 - Explore momentum approaches
 - E.g., ADAM, momentum SGD, provided by deep learning toolkit

Code release: <https://github.com/limbo018/DREAMPlace>

PART 2

RouteNet: Routability Prediction for Mixed-Size Designs Using Convolutional Neural Network

Zhiyao Xie, Yiran Chen



Mark Ren, Brucek Khailany



Yu-Hung Huang, Guan-Qi Fang,
Shao-Yun Fang



Jiang Hu



ROUTENET

- Routability Prediction for Mixed-Size Designs
- After detailed routing: Design Rule Checking (DRC)
 - Minimum metal space & width
 - ...
- Less DRC violation -> Higher routability

OUTLINE

- Background
 - Challenge in routability prediction & previous solutions
 - Influence of macros
 - Convolutional Neural Network
- RouteNet
 - Feature extraction
 - Proposed model
- Results
- Conclusion

OUTLINE

- **Background**
 - **Challenge in routability prediction & previous solutions**
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BACKGROUND

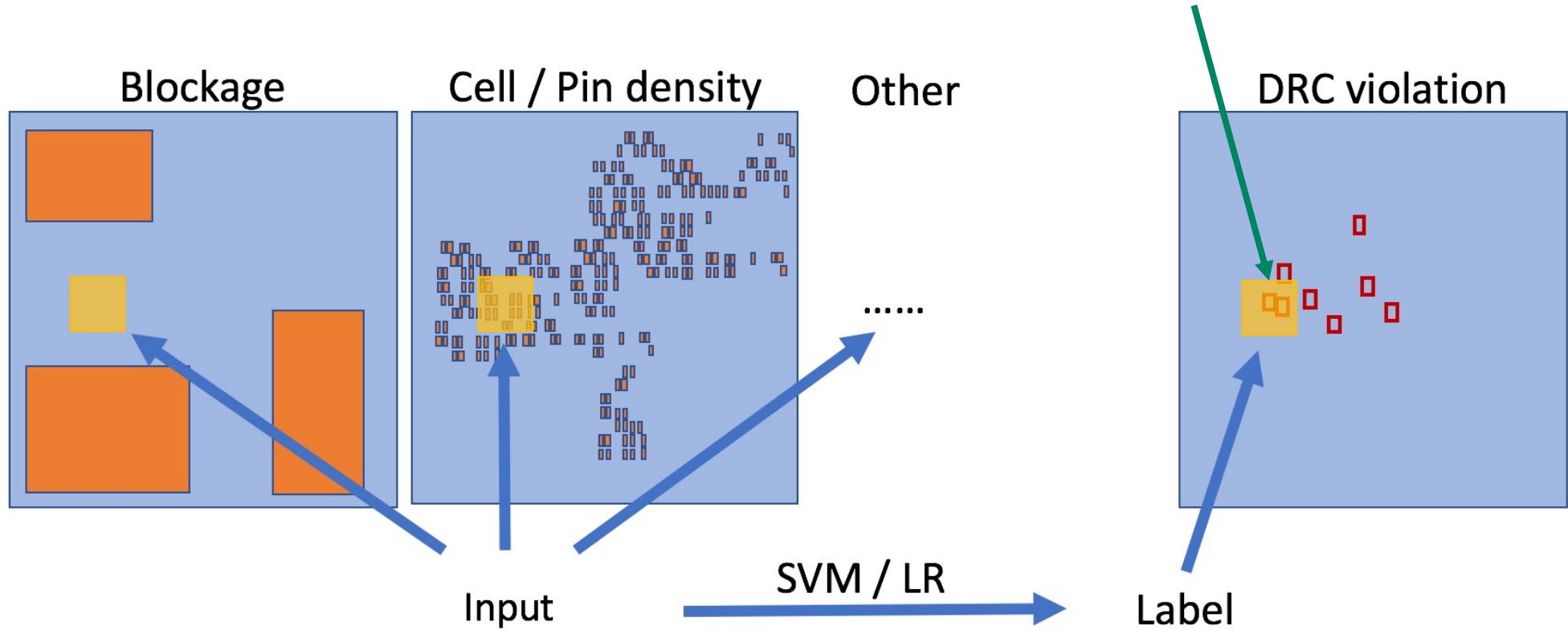
- Challenges in Routability Prediction:
 - Predict routability at placement stage
 - Predict by ‘fast trial global routing’
 - Not fast enough
 - Predict locations of Design Rule Checking (DRC) hotspots
 - Predict by global routing
 - Not accurate enough

BACKGROUND

- Our Attempt on Such Challenges:
 - Fast routability forecast for placement
 - In terms of number of Design Rule Violations (#DRV)
 - To identify more routable placements among many candidates
 - Prediction of DRC hotspot locations
 - In terms of DRC hotspot locations
 - To proactively modify solutions to prevent design rule violations

BACKGROUND

- Previous solutions:
 - Many apply machine learning on every *small* cropped region



BACKGROUND

- Previous solutions:
 - Many fail to consider macros
 - Some require Global Routing information for #DRV prediction

Methods	Use GR?	Predict #DRV?	Predict hotspot?	Handle macros?
[18] (Qi, et al., ICCD14)	Y	Y	N	Y
[26] (Zhou, et al., ASQED15)	Y	Y	N	N
[3] (Chan, et al., ICCD16)	N	Y	N	N
[4] (Chan, et al., ISPD17)	Y	N	Y	N
Our Method {				
RouteNet #DRV prediction	N	Y	N	Y
RouteNet hotspot prediction	Y	N	Y	Y

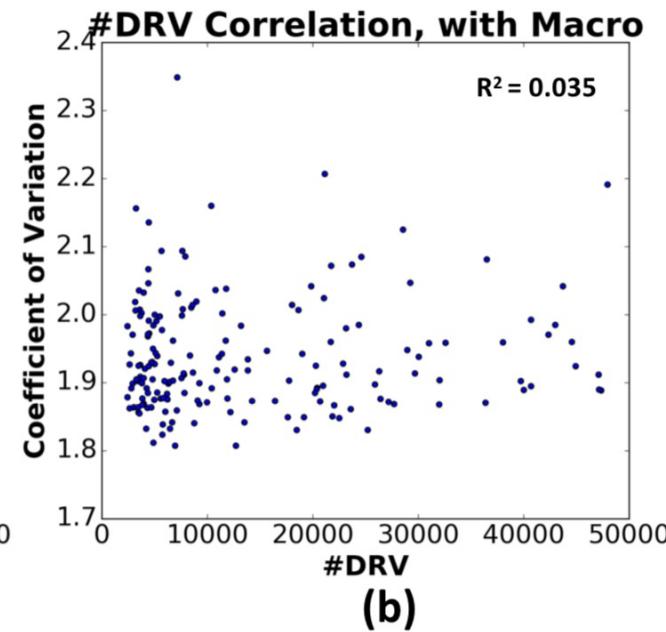
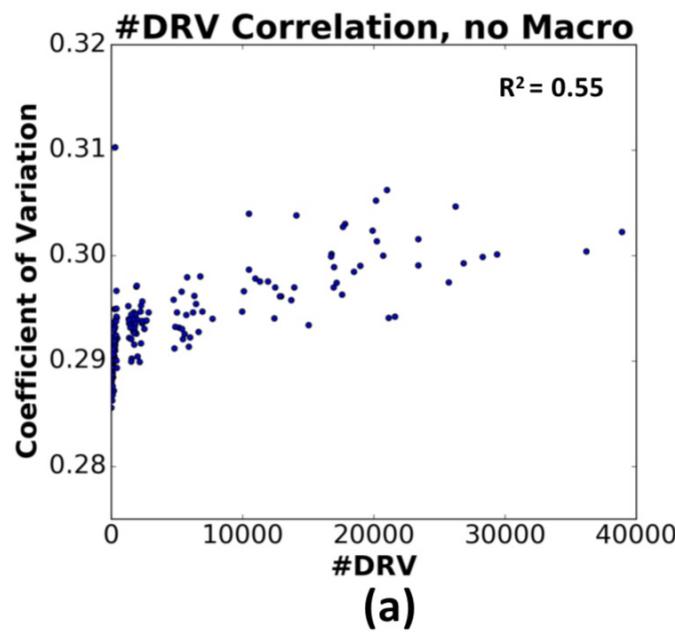
GR means global routing
#DRV means number of DRC violations

OUTLINE

- **Background**
 - Challenge in routability prediction & previous solutions
 - **Influence of macros**
 - Convolutional Neural Network
- RouteNet
 - Feature extraction
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BACKGROUND

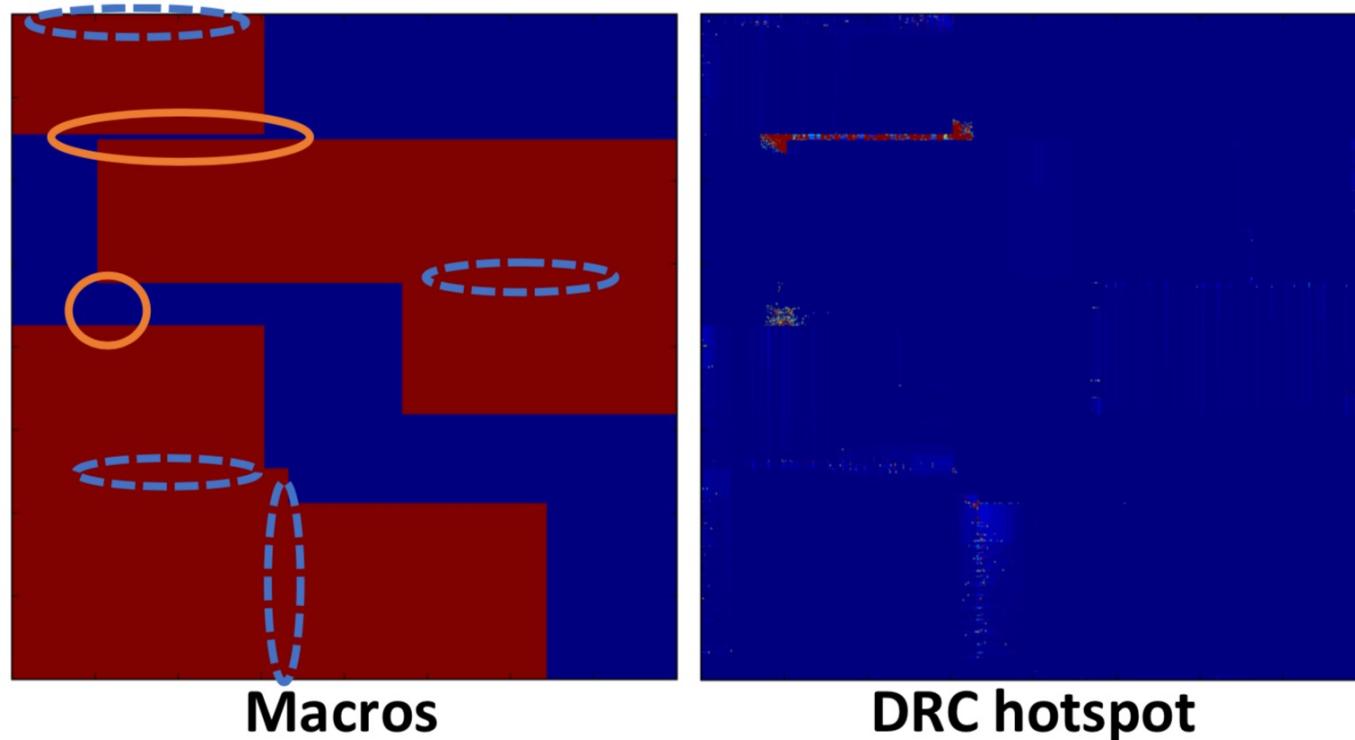
- Challenges of Macros on #DRV prediction:
 - Correlation between pin density and #DRV largely disappears with macro



Correlation between #DRV and coefficient of variation ($\frac{\sigma}{\mu}$) of pin density.
Each point corresponds to one placement

BACKGROUND

- Challenges of Macros on hotspot detection:
 - Hotspots tend to aggregate at small gaps between neighboring macros



BACKGROUND

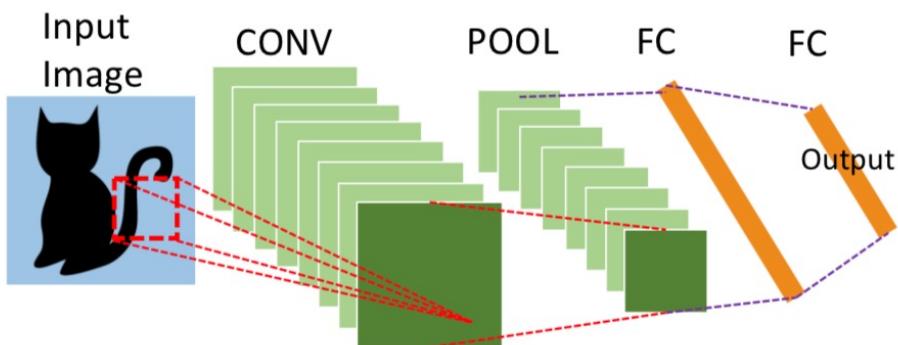
- Challenges of Macros:
 - A layout with macros is much less **homogeneous**
 - **Homogeneity** implies resemblance among different regions of layout
 - Need a larger region to capture global view
 - **Use deep neural network!**

OUTLINE

- **Background**
 - Challenge in routability prediction & previous solutions
 - Influence of macros
 - **Convolutional Neural Network**
- RouteNet
 - Feature extraction
 - Proposed model
- Results
- Conclusion

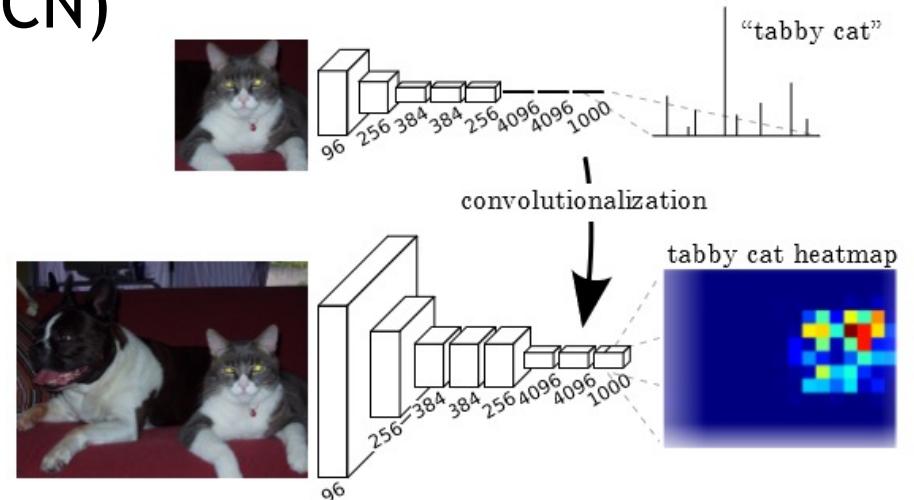
BACKGROUND

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)



Convolutional (CONV), Pooling (POOL) and Fully Connected (FC) layers
Widely used in image classification

Fully Convolutional Network (FCN)



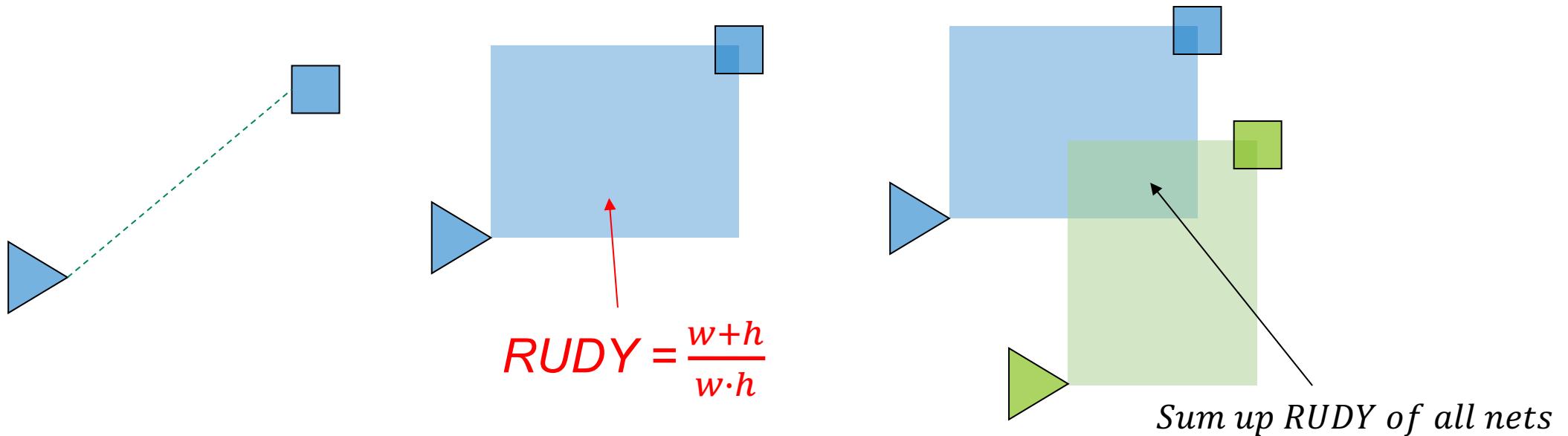
Eliminate FC layers
May use transposed-convolutional to up-sample
Used in image segmentation, object detection

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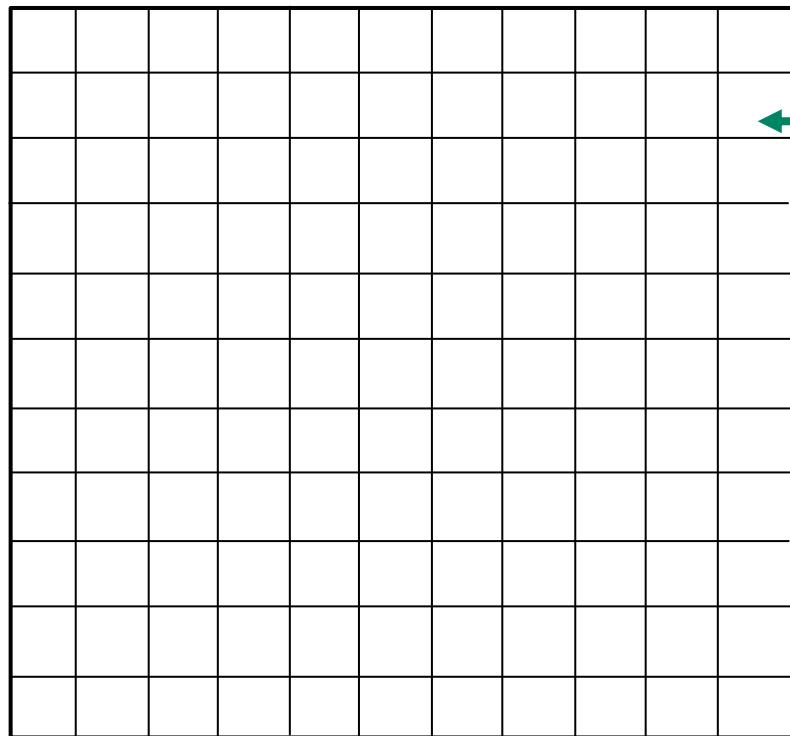
FEATURES EXTRACTION

- RUDY (Rectangular Uniform wire DensitY) (P. Spinder et al. 2007)
 - RUDY is a pre-routing congestion estimator
 - RUDY at a point is superposition of RUDYs of multiple nets



FEATURES EXTRACTION

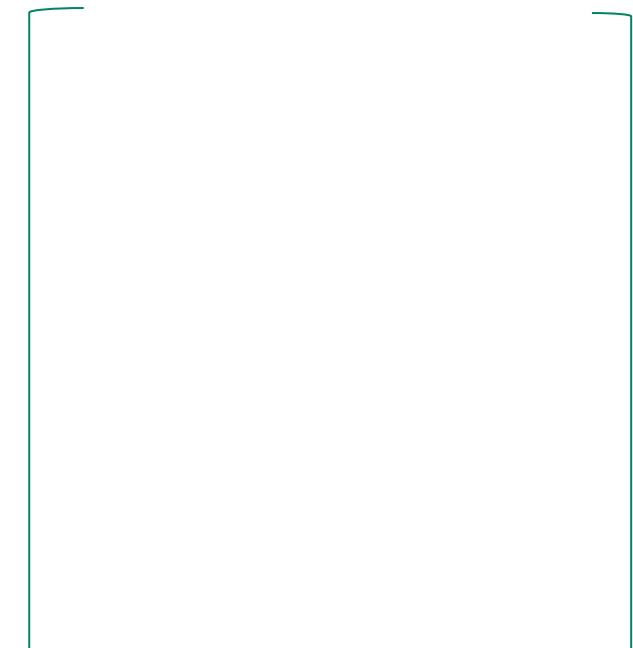
$X_{ij} = j^{th}$ feature in i^{th} placement



$l \mu m$
Grid size: $l \mu m$

$$h = \frac{H}{l}$$
$$w = \frac{W}{l}$$

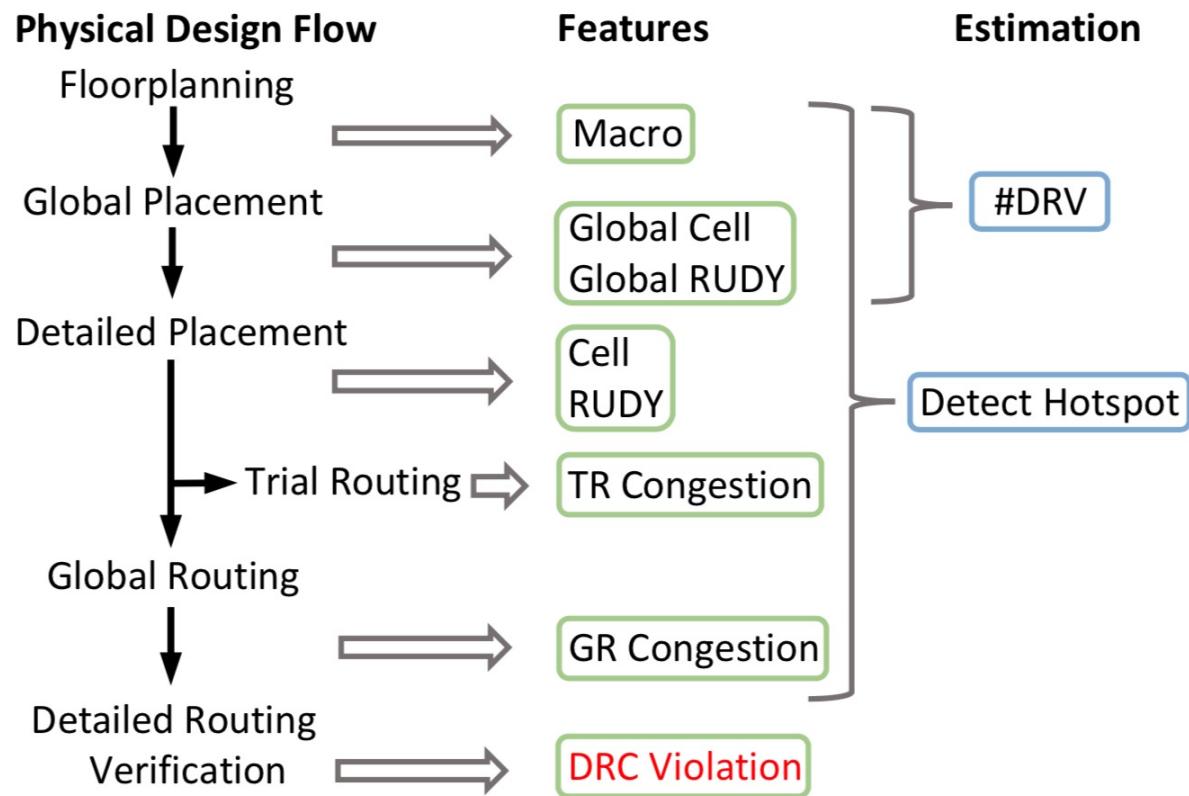
$X_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h}$



$W \mu m$

FEATURES EXTRACTION

- Macro:
 - region occupied by macros
 - density of macro pins in each layer
- Cell:
 - density of cells
 - density of cell pins
- Global cell:
 - cell features at global placement
- Global RUDY:
 - RUDY features calculated by global placement results



FEATURES EXTRACTION

- RUDY

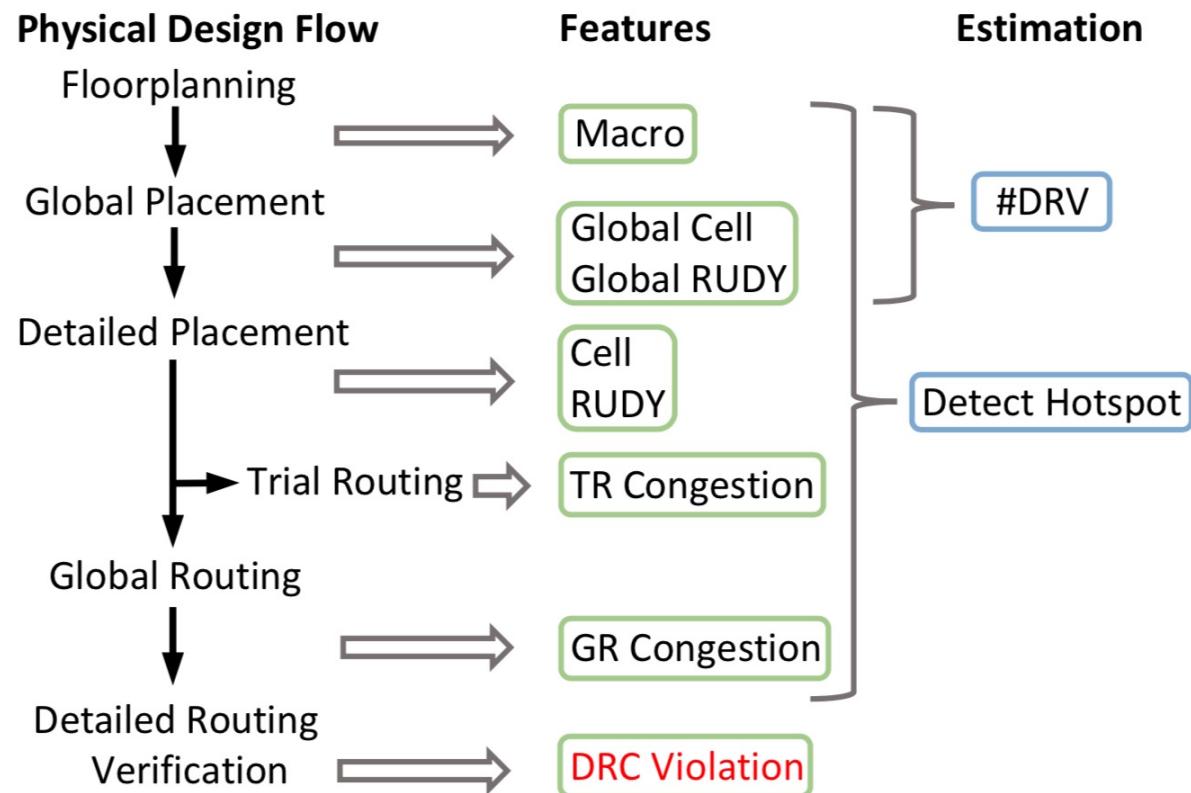
- long-range RUDY
 - RUDY from long-range nets
- short-range RUDY
 - DURY from short-range nets
- RUDY pins
 - pins with density value equal to the RUDY value of its net

- Congestion

- trial global routing congestion
- global routing congestion

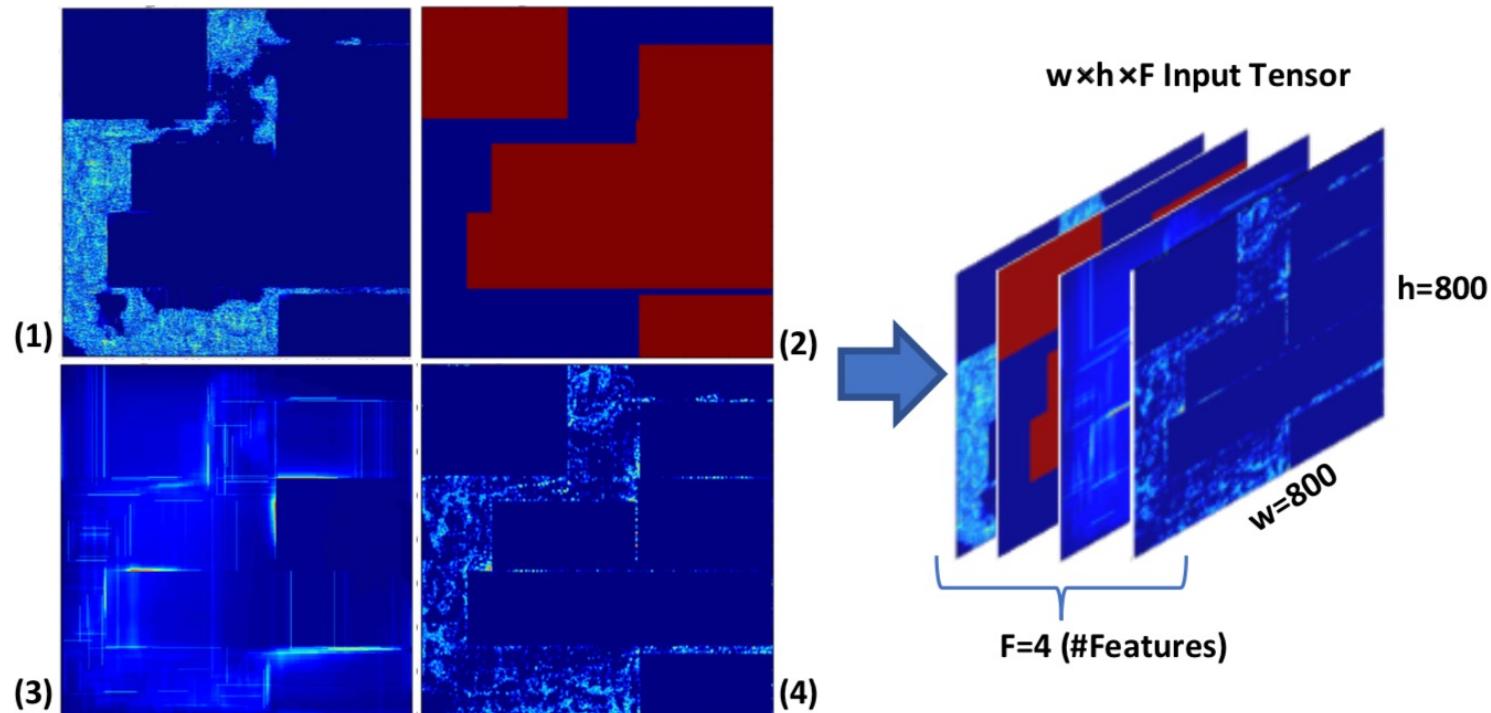
- DRC violation

- prediction target / label



For i^{th} placement with size $w \times h$ and F features
 $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times F}$

FEATURES EXTRACTION



Input tensor constructed by stacking 2D features:

- (1) Pin density, (2) macro (3) long-range RUDY, (4) RUDY pins

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PROPOSED MODEL

Problem 1 (#DRV prediction). Find an estimator $f_{\#DRV}^*$ of DRV count in a placement:

$$f_{\#DRV} : X_i^{(\#DRV)} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times F_1} \rightarrow y_i \in \mathbb{N}$$

Convolutional Neural Network
(CNN)

$$f_{\#DRV}^* = \arg \min_f Loss(f(X_i^{(\#DRV)}), y_i)$$

Problem 2 (Hotspot prediction). Find a detector $f_{hotspot}^*$ of hotspots.

It reports locations of all DRC hotspots in a placement.

$$f_{hotspot} : X_i^{(hotspot)} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times F_2} \rightarrow V_i \in \{0, 1\}^{w \times h}$$

Fully Convolutional Network
(FCN)

$$f_{hotspot}^* = \arg \min_f Loss(f(X_i^{(hotspot)}), V_i)$$

$$Y_i \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h} \quad V_{i_{mn}} = \mathbb{1}(Y_{i_{mn}} > \epsilon)$$

PROPOSED MODEL - #DRV PREDICTION

Algorithm 1 Algorithm of RouteNet for #DRV Prediction

Input: Number of training placements: N , Features:

$\{X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times 3} \mid i \in [1, N]\}$, Targets: $\{y_i \in \mathbb{R} \mid i \in [1, N]\}$

Preprocess:

```
1: for each int  $i \in [1, N]$  do
2:   Resize  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times 3}$  into  $X_i^{\#DRV} \in \mathbb{R}^{224 \times 224 \times 3}$ 
```

3: Find 25%, 50%, 75% quantiles of y_i : q_1, q_2, q_3

4: for each int $i \in [1, N]$ do

5: $C_i \leftarrow 0$

6: for each int $t \in [1, 3]$ do

7: if $y_i > q_t$ then

8: $C_i \leftarrow t$, break

9: Form dataset $\{(X_i^{\#DRV}, C_i) \mid i \in [1, N]\}$

10: Training set $\{(X_i^{\#DRV}, C_i) \mid C_i = 0 \text{ or } C_i = 3\}$

Training:

1: Get pretrained ResNet18 $f_{Res} : \mathbb{R}^{224 \times 224 \times 3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{1000}$

2: Replace output layer, s.t. $f_{\#DRV} : \mathbb{R}^{224 \times 224 \times 3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

3: Choose MSE as loss function, SGD for optimization

4: Train $f_{\#DRV}$ with preprocessed dataset for ~30 epochs

Output: $f_{\#DRV}$ estimating #DRV level

Resize input to 224*224, to utilize models pre-trained on images with size 224*224

PROPOSED MODEL - #DRV PREDICTION

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7:     if  $y_i > q_t$  then
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9: Form dataset  $\{(X_i^{\#DRV}, C_i) \mid i \in [1, N]\}$ 
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Assign placements to 4 different classes (c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3) based on their level of violations (#DRV)

c_0 represents least #DRV, while c_3 represents most

PROPOSED MODEL - #DRV PREDICTION

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Download a pre-trained CNN model named ResNet18

PROPOSED MODEL - #DRV PREDICTION

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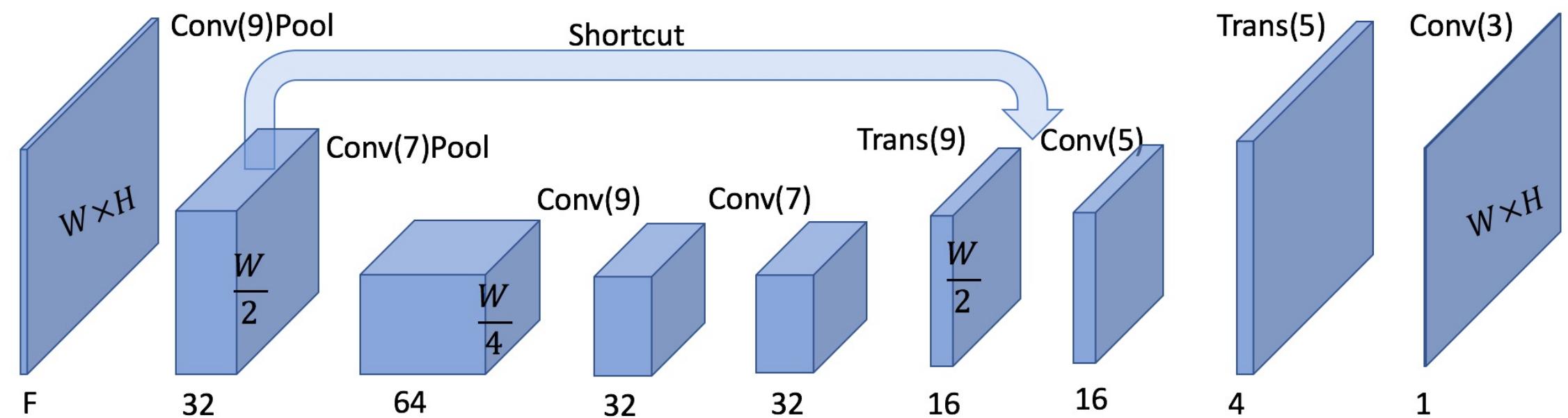
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- 3: Choose MSE as loss function, SGD for optimization
- 4: Train $f_{\#DRV}$ with preprocessed dataset for ~ 30 epoches

Output: $f_{\#DRV}$ estimating #DRV level

← Fine-tune CNN with preprocessed data

PROPOSED MODEL - HOTSPOT DETECTION



$$Y_{i,mn}^{clip} = \min(Y_{i,mn}, c)$$

$$Loss = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^w \sum_{n=1}^h \|f_{hotspot}(X_{i,mn}) - Y_{i,mn}^{clip}\|_2 + \lambda \|W\|_2$$

← Pixel-wise loss function

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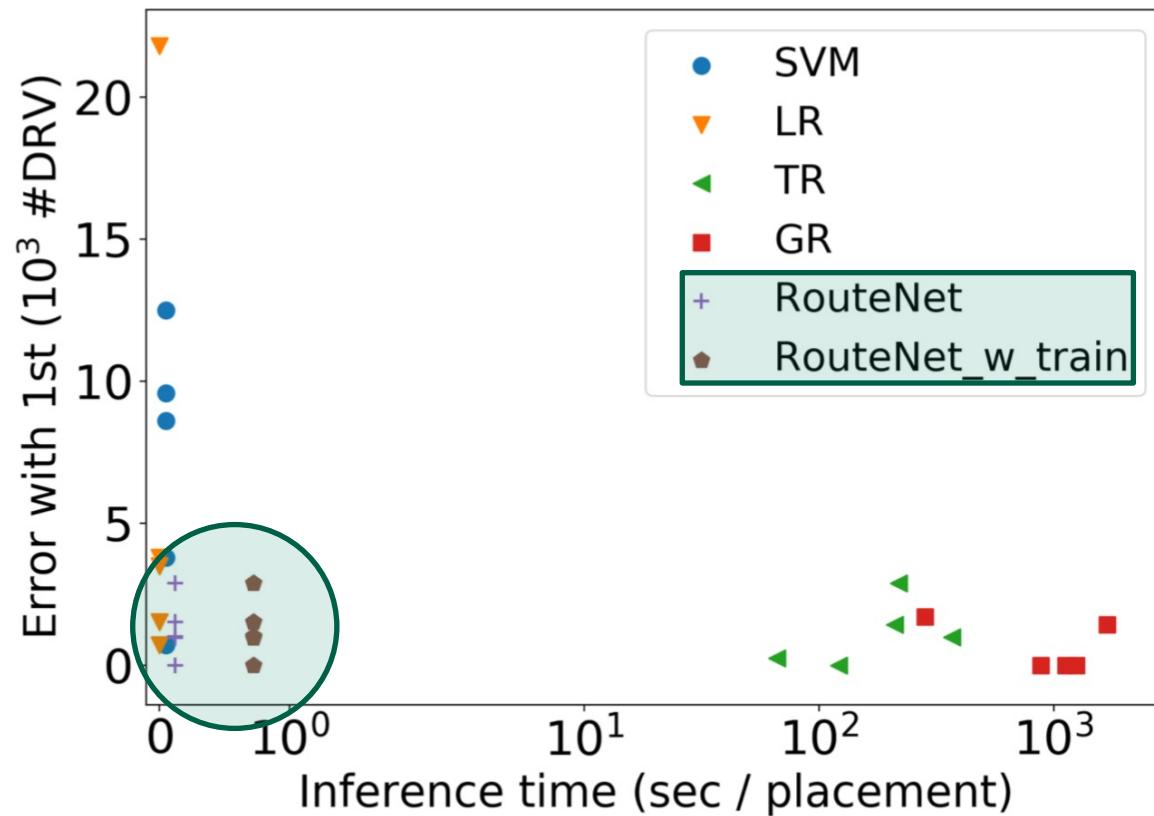
DATA

- Five designs from ISPD 2015
- ~300 different placements by placing macros in different way
- When each design tested, model trained only on four other designs
- SVM and Logistic Regression (LR) methods for comparison

Circuit Name	#Macros	#Cells	#Nets	Width (μm)	#Placements
des_perf	4	108288	110283	900	600
edit_dist	6	127413	131134	800	300
fft	6	30625	32088	800	300
matrix_mult_a	5	149650	154284	1500	300
matrix_mult_b	7	146435	151614	1500	300

#DRV PREDICTION EVALUATION

- Y: gap between the ‘best in 10’ and the actually 1st-ranked placement with least #DRV
 - X: inference time taken for each method
 - RouteNet achieves low inference time and high accuracy at the same time



DRC HOTSPOT DETECTION EVALUATION

- Same decision threshold is used for all designs
- Slight different FPR, but all under 1%
- RouteNet is superior to all methods and improves global routing accuracy by 50%

Circuit Name	FPR (%)	TPR (%)					RouteNet
		TR	GR	LR	SVM		
des_perf	0.54	17	56	54	42	74	
edit_dist	1.00	25	36	38	28	64	
fft	0.30	21	45	54	31	71	
matrix_mult_a	0.21	13	30	34	12	49	
matrix_mult_b	0.24	13	37	41	20	53	
Average	0.46	18	41	44	27	62	

Label

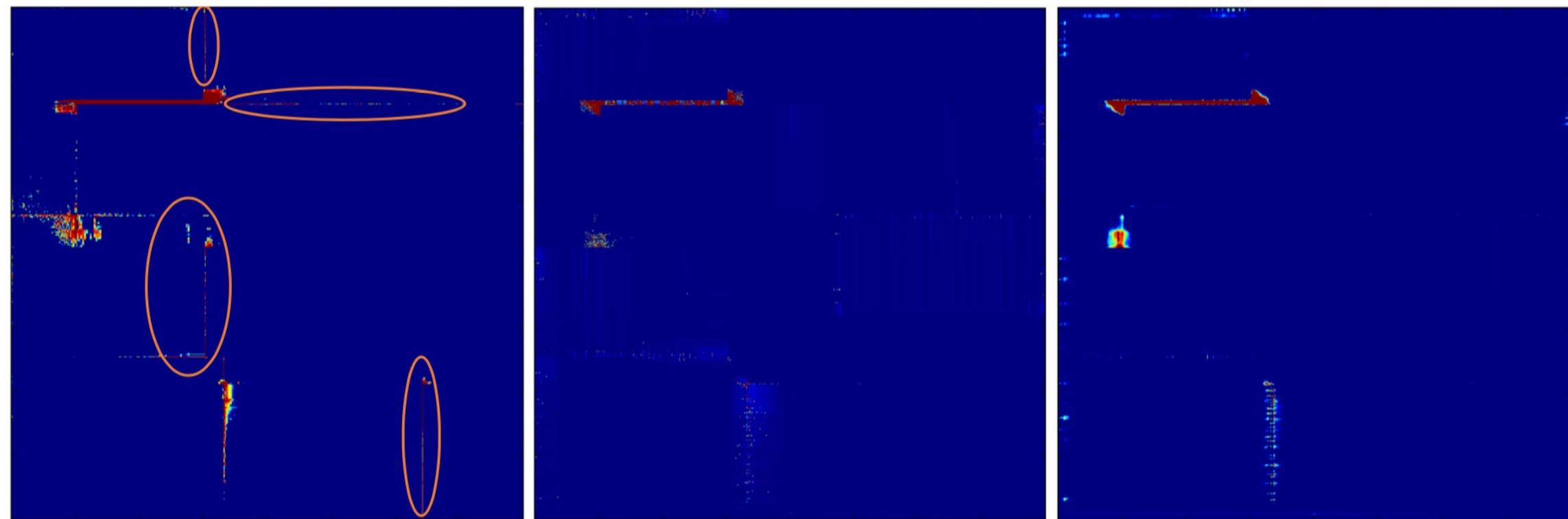
Prediction Result		
	Positive	Negative
Positive	<i>TP</i>	<i>FN</i>
Negative	<i>FP</i>	<i>TN</i>

$$TPR = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

TPR (True Positive Rate)
FPR (False Positive Rate)

DRC HOTSPOT DETECTION EVALUATION



LR

Ground Truth

RouteNet

DRC HOTSPOT DETECTION EVALUATION

- Variations of FCN
 - No short: Shortcut structure is removed
 - Less conv: Three convolutional layers are removed
 - No pool: Pooling layers are removed

Circuit Name	FPR (%)	TPR (%)					
		Infer seen	Less data	No short	Less conv	No pool	Route Net
des_perf	0.54	77	71	71	73	68	74
edit_dist	1.00	68	61	63	62	55	64
fft	0.30	74	70	68	68	69	71
matrix_mult_a	0.21	51	46	45	45	45	49
matrix_mult_b	0.24	58	50	51	50	50	53
Average	0.46	66	60	60	60	57	62

Importance of large receptive region and global information

SUMMARY OF ROUTENET

- We propose RouteNet:
 - Enables a global view for less homogeneous layout
 - Faster overall routability forecast at placement
 - More accurate hotspot detection at global routing



BACKUP