

Kartik Hegde

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I am a computer architect passionate about building domain specific massively heterogeneous systems consisting of multiple hardware accelerators. I have a strong background in designing energy efficient accelerators for deep learning applications.

Education

- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** **Urbana, IL**
Ph.D. in Computer Science 2017–2022
- **National Institute of Technology (NIT-K), Surathkal** **Mangalore, India**
Bachelor of Technology Electronics & Communication Engineering 2011–2015

Experience

- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** **Urbana, IL**
Graduate Research Assistant Aug 2017–Present
 - Building energy efficient accelerators for deep learning applications such as video and image recognition.
 - Developing programmable accelerators to achieve the efficiency of ASICs and the flexibility of general-purpose processors.
- **ARM/ARM Research** **Bangalore/San Jose**
Graduate Engineer July 2015–July 2017
 - Designed a sub-10mw edge accelerator for CNN inference.
 - Worked closely with architects to enable CPU-GPU coherency on mobile SoCs; a crucial step in enabling heterogeneity in modern SoCs.
 - Design & verification of state-of-the-art SoCs with accelerators such as Graphics, Video and Display.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** **Bangalore**
Research Intern May 2015–June 2015
 - Worked in Super-computer Centre (SERC) that hosts India's fastest Supercomputer.
 - Explored the suitability of ARM architecture for micro-servers.
- **ARM** **Bangalore**
Graduate Intern May 2014–July 2014
 - Worked on Error Control Coding for L3 caches for server class ARM CPUs.
 - Worked on verification of many-core ARM server class SoCs.
- **India Innovation Labs** **Bangalore**
Graduate Intern May 2013–July 2013
 - Worked on accelerating image processing workloads on GPUs using OpenCL.

Publications

- [1] *Morph: Flexible Acceleration for 3D CNN-based Video Understanding*, **Kartik Hegde**, Rohit Agrawal, Yulun Yao, Christopher Fletcher, 51st International Symposium on Microarchitecture, [MICRO'18](#)
- [2] *UCNN: Exploiting Computational Reuse in Deep Neural Networks via Weight Repetition*, **Kartik Hegde**,

Jiyong Yu, Rohit Agrawal, Mengjia Yan, Micheal Pellaaur, Christopher Fletcher, 45th International Symposium on Computer Architecture, [ISCA'18](#)

[3] *Adaptive Reconfigurable Architecture for Image Denoising.*, **Kartik Hegde**, Vadiraj Kulkarni, R. Harshavardhan and Sumam David, In Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium Workshop, [IPDPS'15](#)

[4] *High Speed FFT for GPGPUs*, **Kartik Hegde**, Student Research Symposium, 21st International Conference on High Performance Computing, [HiPC'14](#). **Best Student Research Paper Award**

Selected Projects

Academic Projects.....

○ **Dense-Sparse Hardware Accelerators**

- More and more applications, such as CNN inference, rely on dense-sparse tensor computations.
- Project aims to design a fully programmable hardware accelerator for dense-sparse computations.

○ **Flexible Accelerator Design for Video Understanding**

- Video understanding is a compute intensive application of deep learning, that requires hardware acceleration.
- We developed novel hardware-software codesigned accelerator for 3D-CNNs to achieve significant improvement in efficiency [1].

○ **Exploiting Weight Repetition in Modern DNNs**

- We observed that a large amount of computation in DNNs is redundant due to repeated weights.
- Our accelerator, UCNN, exploits such repetition to achieve significant gains in efficiency on modern DNN inference [2].

○ **Dynamic Run-time Reconfiguration in FPGAs**

- We used the feature of Dynamic reconfiguration of hardware on FPGAs to flexibly change the hardware based on the needs of the software in run-time.
- We demonstrated significant improvements in performance in real-life image denoising on FPGAs [3].

○ **Optimizing FFT Kernel for low-end GPUs**

- We developed new kernels that are optimized to low-end GPUs, often found in edge/mobile devices.
- We implemented a highly optimized FFT Kernel that performed better than several industry standard implementations on low-end GPGPUs [4].

Industry Projects.....

○ **Sub-10mw hardware accelerator for CNN Inference**

- Used novel *dataflow* techniques to boost the efficiency and data reuse in the accelerator.
- Accelerator could support CNN/RNN based inference, and scalable in terms of compute and memory.

○ **Smart Scheduler for Accumulators**

- Supported arbitrary sized data-sets in arbitrary order with any number of pipeline stages.
- Advanced power saving methods and throughput optimization helped achieve up to 50% improvement over previous works.

○ **Enabling CPU-GPU Coherency in modern SoCs**

- Worked closely with architects to analyze the performance of CPU-GPU coherency implementations.
- Several bugs found during the project helped seamless integration of system coherency in the SoC.

○ **L3 Cache in modern CPUs with Error Control Coding**

- Enabling RAS (Reliability, Availability and Serviceability) in modern CPUs is of paramount importance.
- This project was aimed to test the ECC in L3 caches with techniques such as random error injections.

Relevant Courses

- **Mathematics:** Soft Computing, Discrete Mathematical Structures, Cryptography, Pattern Recognition
- **Computer Architecture:** Digital Electronics & Computer Architecture, Computer Organization and Design, Digital System Design, Embedded Systems, Microprocessors, DSP Architectures, Parallel Computer Architectures, VLSI design, Low power VLSI design, Advanced Operating Systems
- **DSP:** Digital Signal Processing, Digital Signal Compression, Linear Systems & Signals
- **Independent Coursework:** Electronics(6.002x,MIT), Python(6.00x,MIT), Machine Learning, Parallel Programming, Neural Networks for Machine Learning

Technical skills

- **Programming:** Verilog (Advanced), Python (Advanced), C (Advanced), VHDL (intermediate), OpenCL (intermediate), CUDA (intermediate), Perl (Beginner)
- **EDA/Simulation Tools:** Mentor Graphics Qquestasim, Modelsim, Synopsys VCS, Cadence Incisive
- **Environments/Frameworks:** Xilinx Vivado, Altera Quartus, ARM Keil μ Vision, MATLAB, TensorFlow

Awards and Honors

- Best Student Research Paper award at HiPC-2014.
- Received HR&D Ministry's Fellowship, for top 1% scorers of Pre-University exams in India.
- Ranked 139th in Engineering Entrance Exam out of 100,000+ applicants.
- Outstanding Student Award, 2010 (Pre-University College)
- Academic Excellence award, 2011 (Pre-University College)
- Stood third in National Level Science Exhibition, 2009.