

High-level programming abstractions and compilation for near and in-memory computing

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Madrid, Spain

cfaed.tu-dresden.de



TECHNISCHE
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DRESDEN

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concept

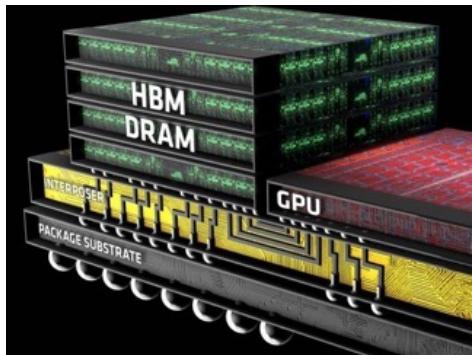


DFG

WR

WISSENSCHAFTSRAT

Emerging systems: Examples



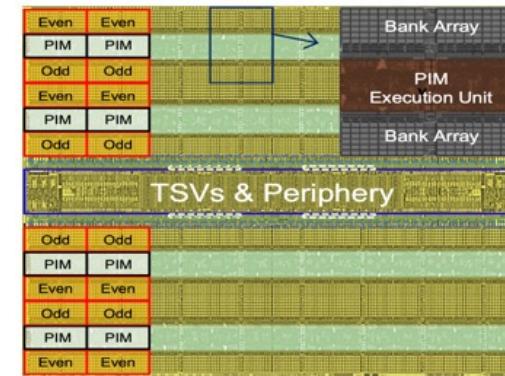
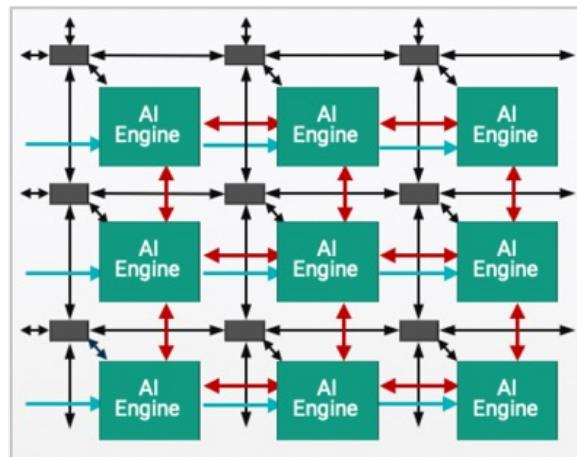
Source: AMD, AnandTech

High-bandwidth
memory

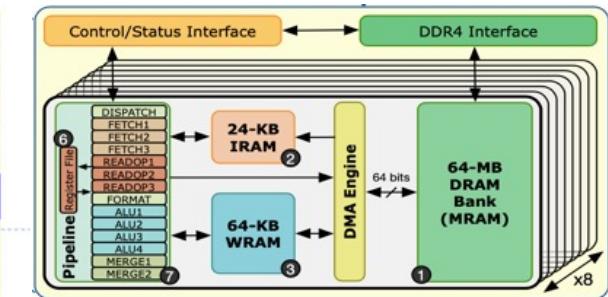
AI accelerators +
Prog. logic



Source: AMD

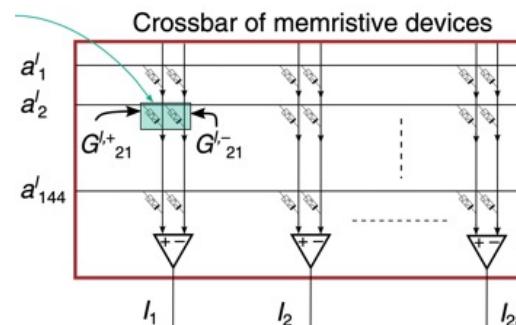


Source: Samsung



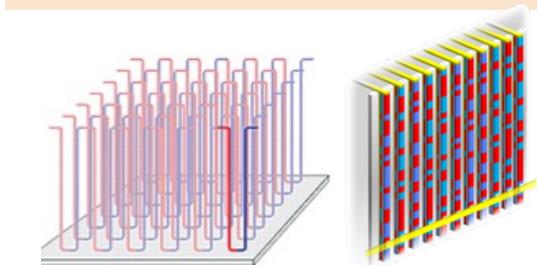
Source: UPMEM

Near-memory computing

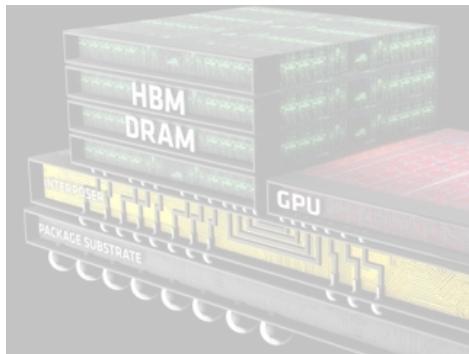


Source: IBM

Emerging memories +
in-memory computing

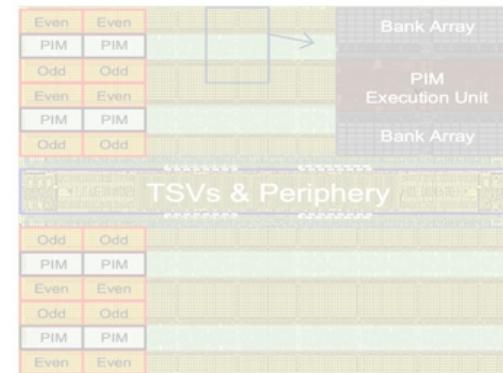


Emerging systems: Examples



Source: AMD, AnandTech

High-bandwidth
memory



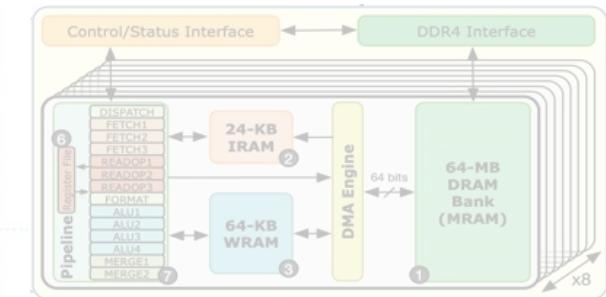
Source: Samsung

AI accelerators +
Prog. logic



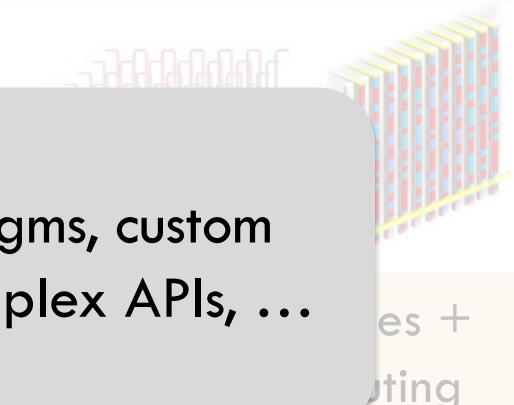
Source: AMD

Extreme heterogeneity, non Von Neumann paradigms, custom number representations, custom data mapping, complex APIs, ...



Source: UPMEM

Near-memory computing



Abstractions and compilation

$$v_{ijk,e} = \sum_{i'=0}^p \sum_{j'=0}^p \sum_{k'=0}^p A_{kk'} A_{jj'} A_{ii'} u_{i'j'k'e}$$

What we want

What we (naively) code

```
1 void cfd_kernel(
2   double A[restrict 7][7],
3   double u[restrict 216][7][7][7],
4   double v[restrict 216][7][7][7])
5 {
6   /* element loop: */
7   for(int e = 0; e < 216; e++) {
8     for(int i0 = 0; i0 < 7; i0++) {
9       for(int j0 = 0; j0 < 7; j0++) {
10      for(int k0 = 0; k0 < 7; k0++) {
11        v[e][i0][j0][k0] = 0.0;
12
13        for(int i1 = 0; i1 < 7; i1++) {
14          for(int j1 = 0; j1 < 7; j1++) {
15            for(int k1 = 0; k1 < 7; k1++) {
16              v[e][i0][j0][k0] += A[i0][i1]
17                * A[j0][j1]
18                * A[k0][k1]
19                * u[e][i1][j1][k1];
20
21    } } } } } }
22  /* end of element loop */
23 }
```

100X

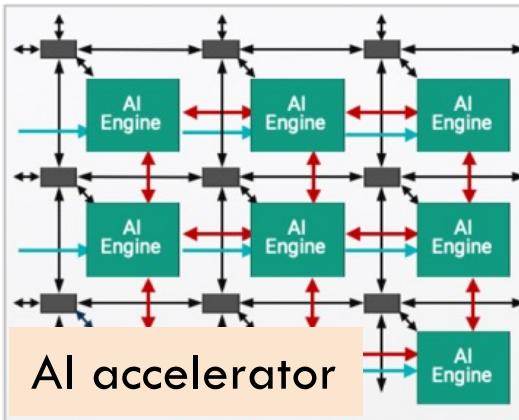
```
1 void cfd_kernel(
2   double A[restrict 7][7],
3   double u[restrict 216][7][7][7],
4   double v[restrict 216][7][7][7])
5 {
6   /* element loop: */
7   #pragma omp for
8   for (int e = 0; e < 216; e++) {
9     double t6[7][7][7];
10   /* 1st contraction: */
11   #pragma simd
12   for (int i0 = 0; i0 < 7; i0++) {
13     for (int i1 = 0; i1 < 7; i1++) {
14     /* #pragma simd */
15     for (int i2 = 0; i2 < 7; i2++) {
16       double t8 = 0.0;
17       for (int i3 = 0; i3 < 7; i3++) {
18         t8 += A[i0][i3] * u[e][i1][i2][i3];
19         t6[i0][i1][i2] = t8;
20     } } } /* end of 1st contraction */
21   double t7[7][7][7];
22   /* 2nd contraction: */
23   #pragma simd
24   for (int i4 = 0; i4 < 7; i4++) {
25     for (int i5 = 0; i5 < 7; i5++) {
26     /* #pragma simd */
27     for (int i6 = 0; i6 < 7; i6++) {
28       double t9 = 0.0;
29       for (int i7 = 0; i7 < 7; i7++) {
30         t9 += A[i4][i7] * t6[i5][i6][i7];
31         t7[i4][i5][i6] = t9;
32     } } } /* end of 2nd contraction */
33   /* 3rd contraction: */
34   #pragma simd
35   for (int i8 = 0; i8 < 7; i8++) {
36     for (int i9 = 0; i9 < 7; i9++) {
37     /* #pragma simd */
38     for (int i10 = 0; i10 < 7; i10++) {
39       double t10 = 0.0;
40       for (int i11 = 0; i11 < 7; i11++) {
41         t10 += A[i8][i11] * t7[i9][i10][i11];
42         v[e][i8][i9][i10] = t10;
43     } } } /* end of third contraction */
44   /* end of element loop */
```

What performance experts code

Abstractions and compilation

$$v_{ijk,e} = \sum_{i'=0}^p \sum_{j'=0}^p \sum_{k'=0}^p A_{kk'} A_{jj'} A_{ii'} u_{i'j'k'e}$$

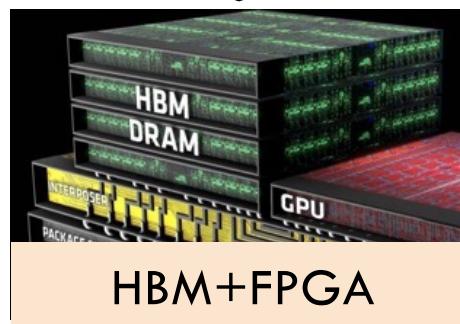
What we want



```

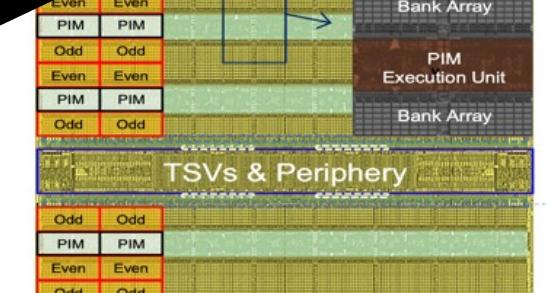
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15        for (int i2 = 0; i2 < 7; i2++) {
16          double t8 = 0.0;
17          for (int i3 = 0; i3 < 7; i3++) {
18            t8 += A[i0][i3] * u[e][i1][i2][i3];
19            t6[i0][i1][i2] = t8;
20          } } } /* end of 1st contraction */
21    double t7[7][7][7];
22    /* 2nd contraction: */
23    #pragma simd
24    for (int i4 = 0; i4 < 7; i4++) {
25      for (int i5 = 0; i5 < 7; i5++) {
26        /* #pragma simd */
27      }
28    }
29  }
30 }
```

100X



```

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2   double A[restrict 7][7],
3   double u[restrict 216][7][7][7],
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18            t8 += A[i0][i3] * u[e][i1][i2][i3];
19            t6[i0][i1][i2] = t8;
20          } } } /* end of 1st contraction */
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26        /* #pragma simd */
27      }
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29  }
30 }
```

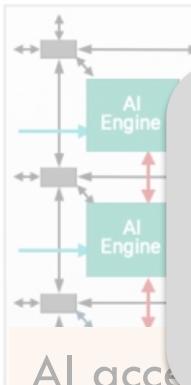


Near-memory computing

Abstractions and compilation

$$v_{ijk,e} = \sum_{i'=0}^p \sum_{j'=0}^p \sum_{k'=0}^p A_{kk'} A_{jj'} A_{ii'} u_{i'j'k'e}$$

What we want



```
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10        /* 1st contraction: */
11        #pragma simd
12        for (int i0 = 0; i0 < 7; i0++) {
13            for (int i1 = 0; i1 < 7; i1++) {
14                /* #pragma simd */
15                for (int i2 = 0; i2 < 7; i2++) {
```

100X

```
16        double t8 = 0.0;
17        for (int i3 = 0; i3 < 7; i3++) {
18            t8 += A[i0][i3] * u[e][i1][i2][i3];
19            t6[i0][i1][i2] = t8;
20        } } } /* end of 1st contraction */
21        double t7[7][7][7];
22        /* 2nd contraction: */
23        #pragma simd
24        for (int i4 = 0; i4 < 7; i4++) {
25            for (int i5 = 0; i5 < 7; i5++) {
26                /* #pragma simd */
27                v[e][i4][i5][0] += A[i0][i1]
```

Need for **higher-level programming abstractions** and next-gen compilers as well as novel **computational and costs models** for emerging accelerators

HBM+FPGA

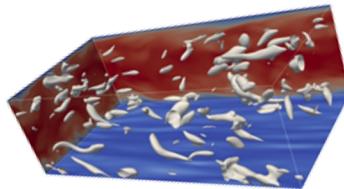
near-memory computing

Abstractions

Abstractions: Tensor expressions (Physics, ML)

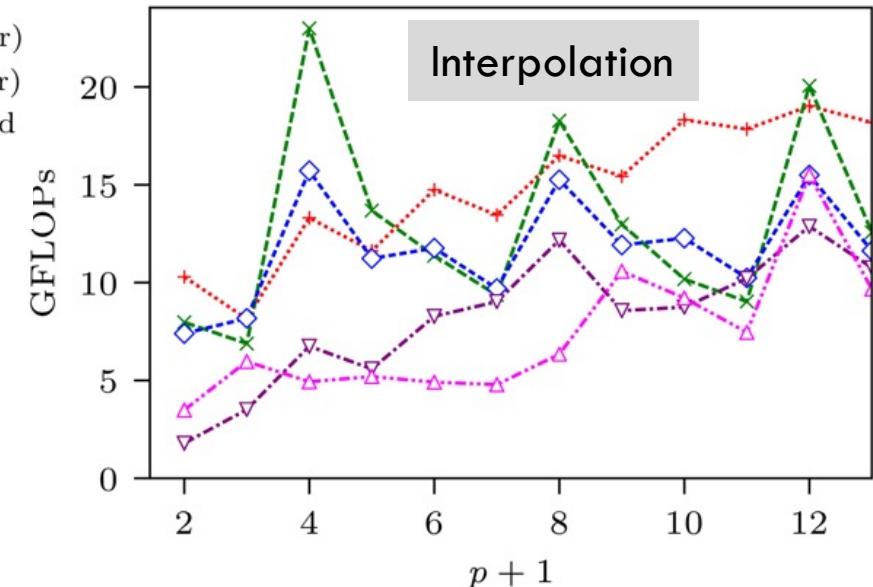
□ CFDlang

$$v_{ijk,e} = \sum_{i'=0}^p \sum_{j'=0}^p \sum_{k'=0}^p A_{kk'} A_{jj'} A_{ii'} u_{i'j'k'e}$$



- CFDlang(outer)
- CFDlang(inner)
- hand-optimized
- DGEMM
- specialized

```
source = ...
var input A    : matrix          &
var input u    : tensorIN        &
var input output v  : tensorOUT &
var input alpha : []            &
var input beta  : []            &
v = alpha * (A # A # A # u .
[[5 8] [3 7] [1 6]]) + beta * v
```



N. A. Rink, et al. "CFDlang: High-level code generation for high-fluid dynamics". RWDSL'18.

Meta-programming for cross-domain tensor E'18, 79-92.

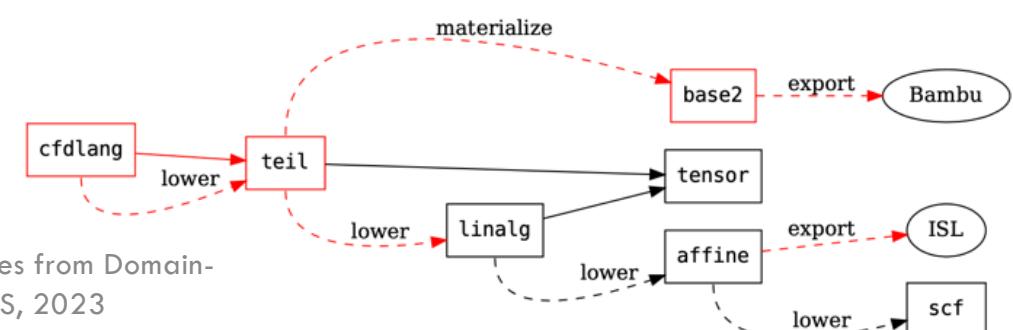
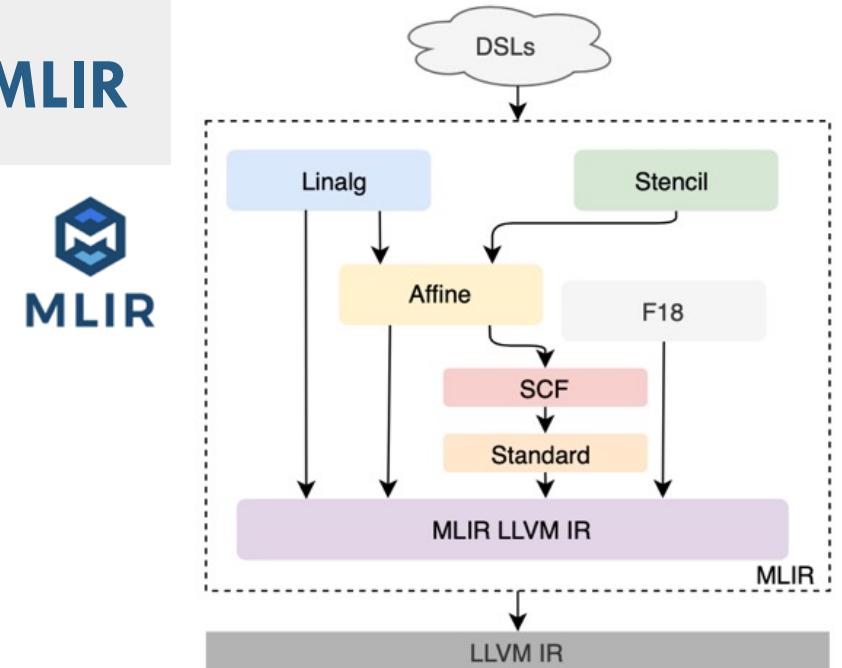
I. J. Castrillon. "TeLL: a type-safe imperative Language", ARRAY'19, pp. 57-68

Plenty of other great DSL examples, e.g., Spiral, TACO, Halide, Lift, Firedrake, ML frameworks, ...

Tensor intermediate language (TeIL) in MLIR

- MLIR: Multi-level intermediate reps.
 - Define own abstractions and transforms
 - Progressive lowering (and raising)
- TeIL: Primitive ops instead of index maps
 - Easier to express identities (big-O trfs)
 - Uses symbolic math, infinite precision
 - Lowers to SW and/or HW (with custom number representations)

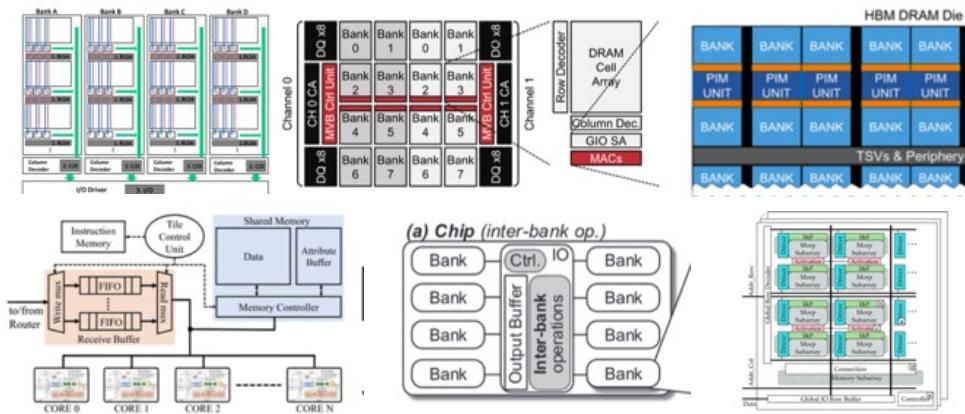
S. Soldavini, et al. "Automatic Creation of High-Bandwidth Memory Architectures from Domain-Specific Languages: The Case of Computational Fluid Dynamics". In: ACM TRETS, 2023
K. F. A. Friebel, J. Bi, J. Castrillon, "BASE2: An IR for Binary Numeral Types", In ACM HEART 2023



Compiling for near/in- memory

Colorful landscape

❑ Lots in and near memory systems!



❑ Commonalities

- ❑ Hierarchical HW
- ❑ Common high-level operations

A. Khan et al, "CINM (Cinnamon): A Compilation Infrastructure for Heterogeneous Compute In-Memory and Compute Near-Memory Paradigms", ASPLOS'25

The Landscape of Compute-near-memory and Compute-in-memory: A Research and Commercial Overview

ASIF ALI KHAN, TU Dresden, Germany

JOÃO PAULO C. DE LIMA, TU Dresden and ScaDS.AI, Germany

HAMID FARZANEH, TU Dresden, Germany

JERONIMO CASTRILLON, TU Dresden and ScaDS.AI, Germany

In today's data-centric world, where data fuels numerous application domains, with machine learning at the

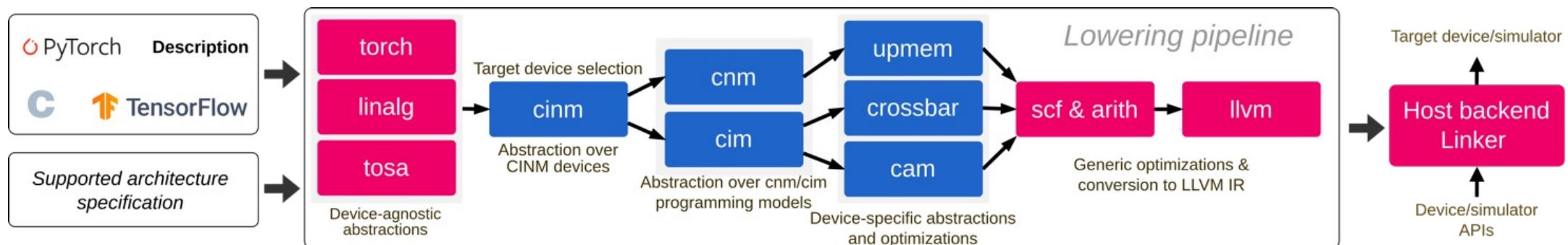
2024

A. Khan, et al "The Landscape of Compute-near-memory and Compute-in-memory: A Research and Commercial Overview." arXiv:2401.1442 (2024)

Operation	Type
cinm.{add,mul,div,min,max}(%lhs, %rhs)	$T \times T \rightarrow T$
cinm.{and,or,xor,not}(%lhs, %rhs)	$T \times T \rightarrow T$
cinm.gemv(%lhs, %rhs)	$S^{m \times n} \times S^n \rightarrow S^m$
cinm.gemm(%lhs, %rhs)	$S^{m \times k} \times S^{k \times n} \rightarrow S^{m \times n}$
cinm.transpose(%in, %perms)	$S^n \times N^n \rightarrow S'$
cinm.{histogram,majority}(%in)	$S^n \rightarrow S^k$
cinm.topk(%in, %k)	$S^n \times N \rightarrow S^k \times N^k$
cinm.simSearch #E, #k (%in1, %in2)	$E \times N^k \times S^n \times S^n \times N \rightarrow S^k$
cinm.mergePartial #op #dir (%lhs, %rhs)	$E \times D \times T \times T \rightarrow T$
cinm.popCount(%in)	$T \rightarrow N$
cinm.reduce #op (%in)	$E \times S^n \rightarrow S$
cinm.scan #op (%in)	$E \times S^n \rightarrow S^n$

CINM: Generalized MLIR infrastructure

- From linear algebra abstractions (common to ML frameworks and beyond)
- Intermediate languages for **in and near memory computing**
- **Pattern recognition, target-specific models and optimizations**



A. Khan et al, "CINM (Cinnamon): A Compilation Infrastructure for Heterogeneous Compute In-Memory and Compute Near-Memory Paradigms", ASPLOS'25

H. Farzaneh et al. "C4CAM: A Compiler for CAM-based In-memory Accelerators", ASPLOS'24



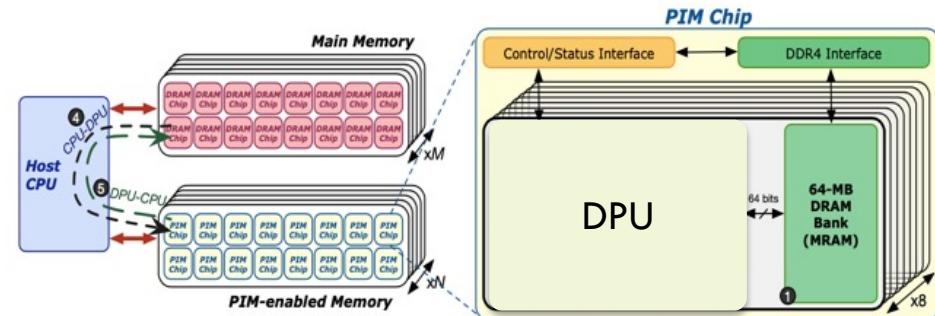
CNM architectures

❑ Commonalities

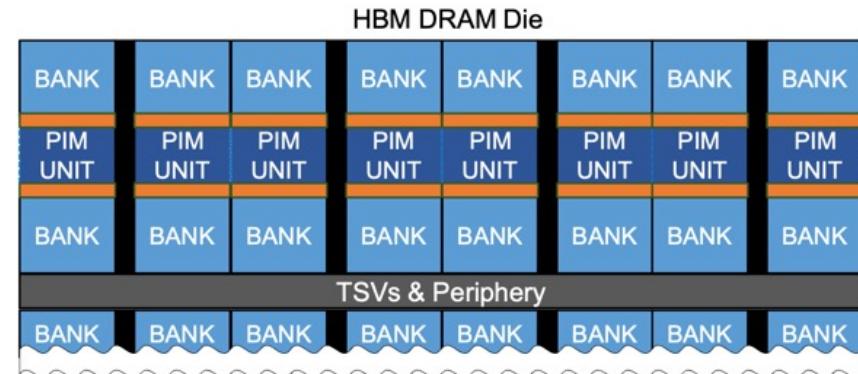
- ❑ Many PIM units, fixed-/multi-function
- ❑ Multiple address spaces
- ❑ Can be synchronous/asynchronous

❑ Abstract programming model similar to GPUs: scatter, execute and gather

Lee et al., FIMDRAM, ISCA 2021

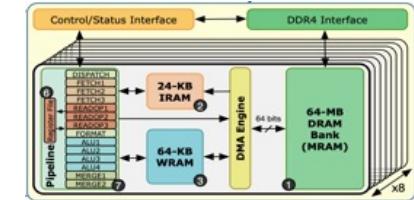


Gómez-Luna, Juan, et al.
arXiv:2105.03814 (2021)



UPMEM example: Matmult

```
BARRIER_INIT(my_barrier, NR_TASKLETS);
int main() {
    ...
    barrier_wait(&my_barrier);
    int32_t point_per_tasklet = (ROWS*COLS)/NR_TASKLETS;
    uint32_t mram_base_addr_A = (uint32_t) (DPU_MRAM_HEAP_POINTER );
    uint32_t mram_base_addr_B = (uint32_t) (DPU_MRAM_HEAP_POINTER + ROWS * COLS *
→     sizeof(T));
    uint32_t mram_base_addr_C = (uint32_t) (DPU_MRAM_HEAP_POINTER + 2 * ROWS * COLS
→     * sizeof(T));
    for(int i = (tasklet_id * point_per_tasklet) ; i < (
→     tasklet_id+1)*point_per_tasklet ) ; i++ ) {
        if( new_row != row ){
            ...
            mram_read((__mram_ptr void const*) (mram_base_addr_A + mram_offset_A),
→         cache_A, COLS * sizeof(T));
        }
        mram_read((__mram_ptr void const*) (mram_base_addr_B + mram_offset_B),
→         cache_B, COLS * sizeof(T));
        dot_product(cache_C, cache_A, cache_B, number_of_dot_products);
        ...
    }
    ...
    mram_write( cache_C, (__mram_ptr void *) (mram_base_addr_C + mram_offset_C),
→     point_per_tasklet * sizeof(T));
}
```



UPMEM example: Matmult

```
def mm(int32(64, 64) A, int32(64, 64) B) -> (int32(64, 64) C) {  
    C(i,j) += A(i,k) * B(k,j)  
        where i in 0:64, k in 0:64, j in 0:64  
}
```

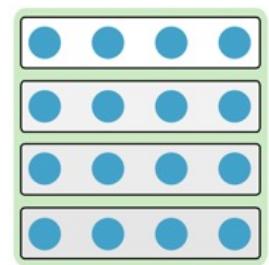
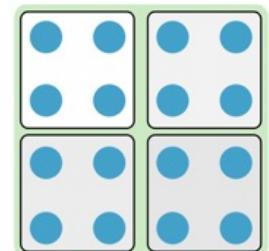
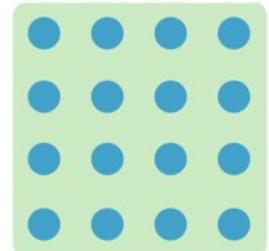


```
%3 = cinm.op.gemm %0, %1 : (tensor<64x64xi32>, tensor<64x64xi32>) -> tensor<64x64xi32>
```

Tiling to fit on hardware



```
%2 = affine.for %arg0 = 0 to 64 step 16 iter_args(%arg1 = %0) -> (tensor<64x64xi32>) {  
    %3 = affine.for %arg2 = 0 to 64 iter_args(%arg3 = %arg1) -> (tensor<64x64xi32>) {  
        %A_slice = tensor.extract_slice %A[%arg0, 0] [16, 64] [1, 1] : ...  
        %B_slice = tensor.extract_slice %0[%arg4, %arg2] [64, 1] [1, 1] : ...  
        %res = cinm.op.gemm %A_slice, %B_slice  
            : (tensor<16x64xi32>, tensor<64x1xi32>) -> tensor<16x1xi32>  
        %t = tensor.insert_slice %res into %C[%arg0, %arg2] [16, 1] [1, 1] : ...  
        ...  
    }  
    affine.yield %3 : tensor<64x64xi32>  
}
```



UPMEM example: Matmult

```
%2 = affine.for %arg0 = 0 to 64 step 16 iter_args(%arg1 = %0) -> (tensor<64x64xi32>) {  
  %3 = affine.for %arg2 = 0 to 64 iter_args(%arg3 = %arg1) -> (tensor<64x64xi32>) {  
    ... // extract slices  
    %5 = cinm.op.gemm %A_slice, %B_slice  
    : (tensor<16x64xi32>, tensor<64x1xi32>) -> tensor<16x1xi32>  
    ... // insert slice back  
  }  
  affine.yield %3 : tensor<64x64xi32>  
}
```



cnm-to-cnm

```
%wg = cnm.workgroup : !cnm.workgroup<1x16x1>  
... // input preparation  
%A_buf = cnm.alloc() for %wg : !cnm.buffer<64xi32 on 1x16x1>  
%B_buf = cnm.alloc() for %wg : !cnm.buffer<64xi32 on 1x16x1>  
%C_buf = cnm.alloc() for %wg : !cnm.buffer<i32 on 1x16x1>  
cnm.scatter %A_slice into %A_buf[#map] of %wg : ... // filling buffers on devices  
cnm.scatter %B_slice into %B_buf[#map1] of %wg : ... // filling buffers on devices  
cnm.launch %wg in(%A_buf, %B_buf : ...) out(%C_buf : ...) {  
  ^bb0(%row: memref<64xi32>, %col: memref<64xi32>, %res: memref<i32>):  
    linalg.reduce ... // %res += %row * %col  
  }  
  cnm.gather %C_buf[#map2] of %wg into %C_slice : ...  
  cnm.free_workgroup %wg : ...
```

UPMEM example: Matmult

Host code

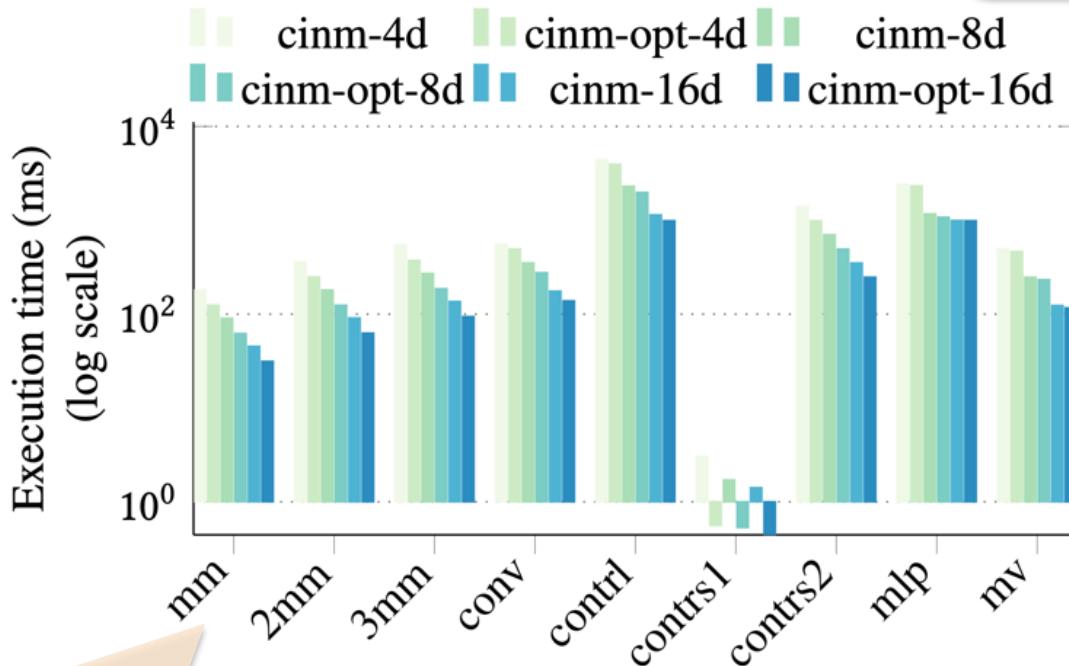
```
func.func @main() {  
    ...  
    %1 = upmem.alloc_dpus : !upmem.hierarchy<1x16x1>  
    scf.for %arg0 = %c0 to %c64 step %c16 {  
        scf.for %arg1 = %c0 to %c64 step %c1 {  
            upmem.scatter %subview[264, 64, #map] onto %1 : ...  
            upmem.scatter %alloc_0[8, 64, #map1] onto %1 : ...  
            upmem.scatter %0[0, 1, #map2] onto %1 : ...  
            upmem.launch_func @dpu_kernels::@main %1 : ...  
            upmem.gather %alloc_1[0, 1, #map2] from %1 : ...  
            ...  
        }  
        upmem.free_dpus %1 : !upmem.hierarchy<1x16x1>  
    return  
}
```

Device code

```
upmem.module @dpu_kernels {  
    upmem.func @main()  
        attributes {num_tasklets = 1 : i64} {  
            ...  
            upmem memcpy mram_to_wram ...  
            upmem memcpy mram_to_wram ...  
            scf.for %arg0 = 0 to 64 {  
                %6 = memref.load %1[%arg0] : memref<64xi32>  
                %7 = memref.load %3[%arg0] : memref<64xi32>  
                %8 = memref.load %5[] : memref<i32>  
                %9 = arith.muli %6, %7 : i32  
                %10 = arith.addi %9, %8 : i32  
                memref.store %10, %5[] : memref<i32>  
            }  
            upmem memcpy wram_to_mram ...  
            upmem.return  
        }  
    }
```

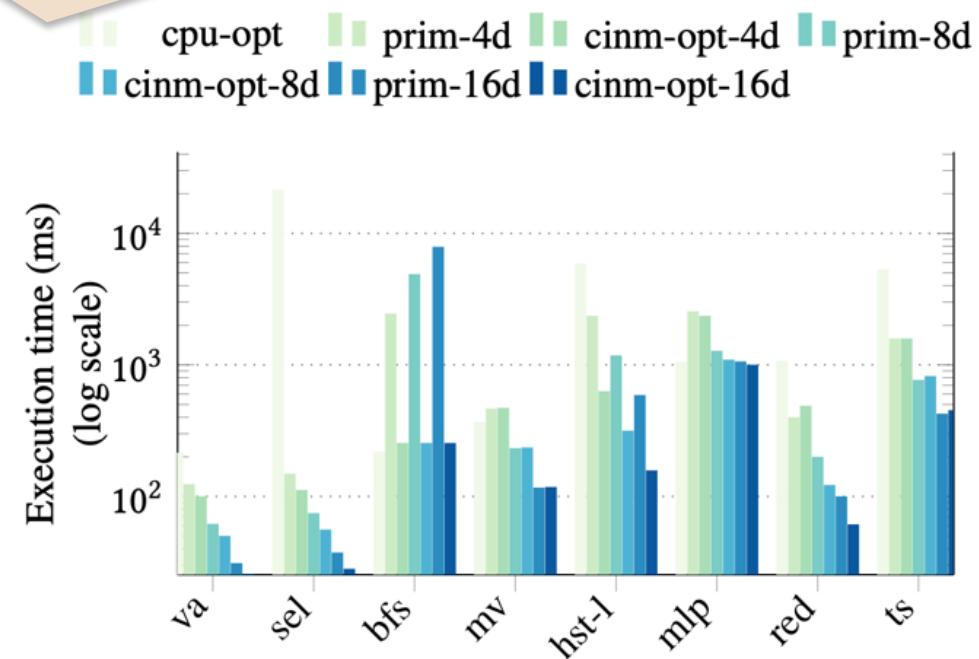
UPMEM example: Results

Manual designs 2-5x faster than CPU. CINM 1.5-2x faster than hand-optimized code



Optimizations achieve
40%-50% speedup
(geomean)

A. A. Khan, et al. "CINM (Cinnamon): A Compilation Infrastructure for Heterogeneous Compute In-Memory and Compute Near-Memory Paradigms", ASPLOS'25

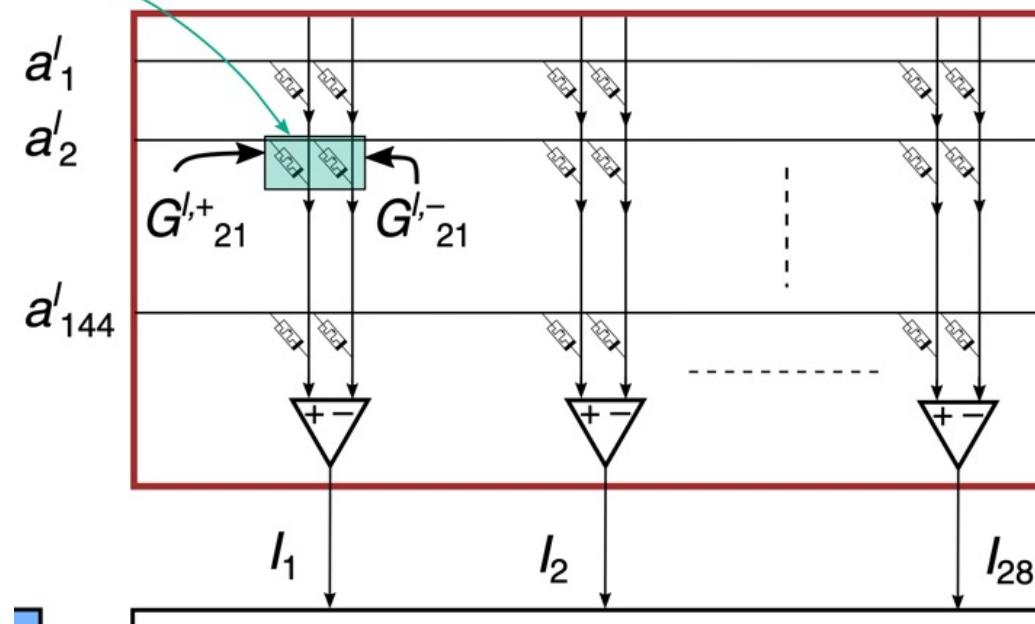


10x-40x less lines
of code

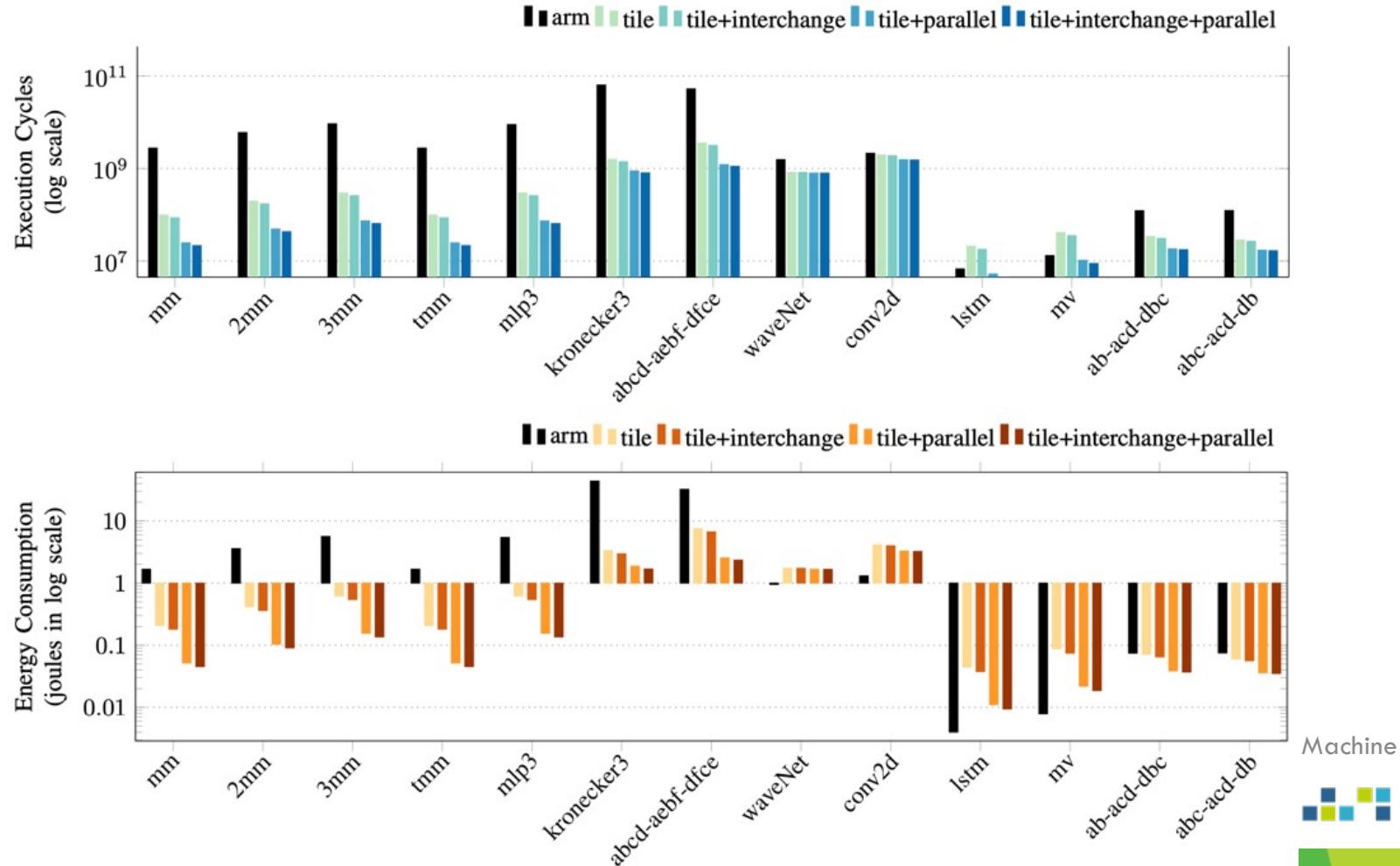
CIM: Lowering examples

```
def contr(int16(K,L,M) A, int16(L,K,N) B  
        -> (int16(M,N) C)  
{  
    C(m,n) += A(k,l,m) * B(l,k,n)  
}
```

Crossbar of memristive devices



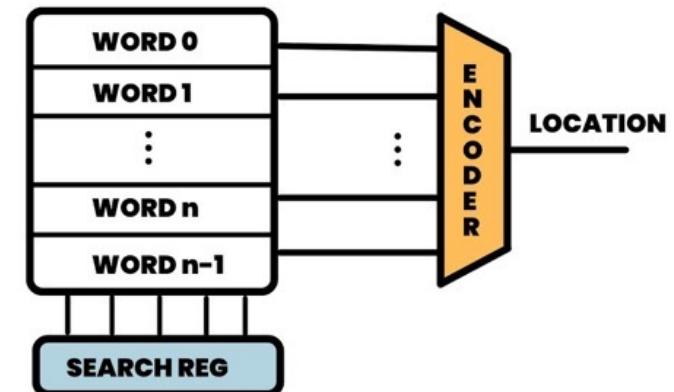
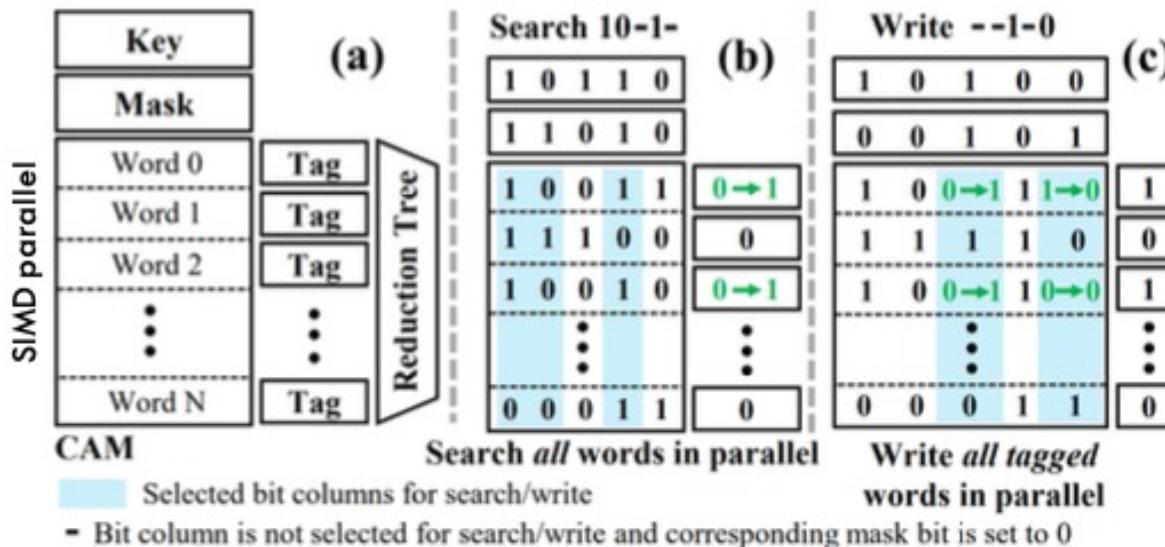
Optimization results: Crossbars beyond matmult



A. Siemieniuk, L
Learning Optim

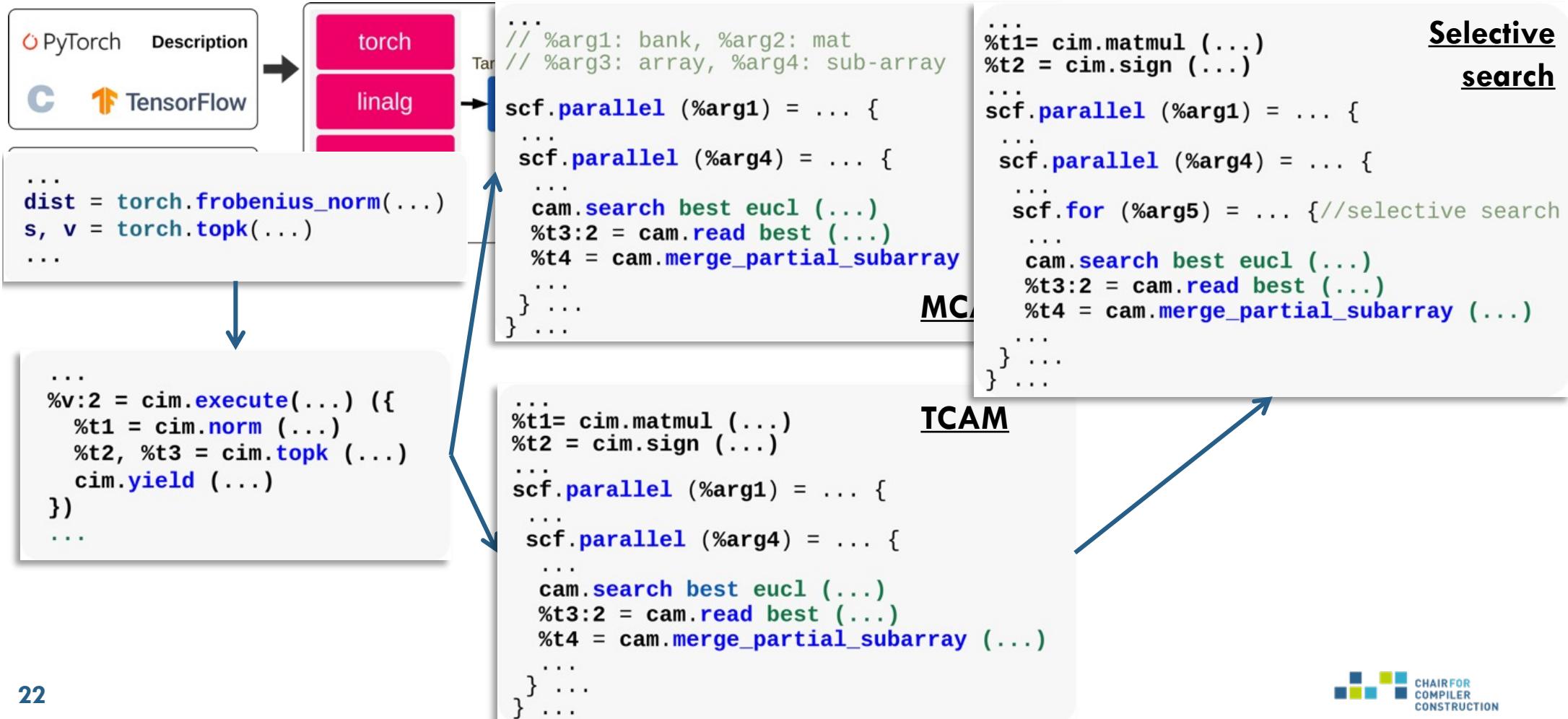
Content-addressable memories (CAMs) and Processors

- Emerging Content-addressable memories (CAMs) and associative processors (APs)
- APs: Different programming paradigm based on **search** and **write**



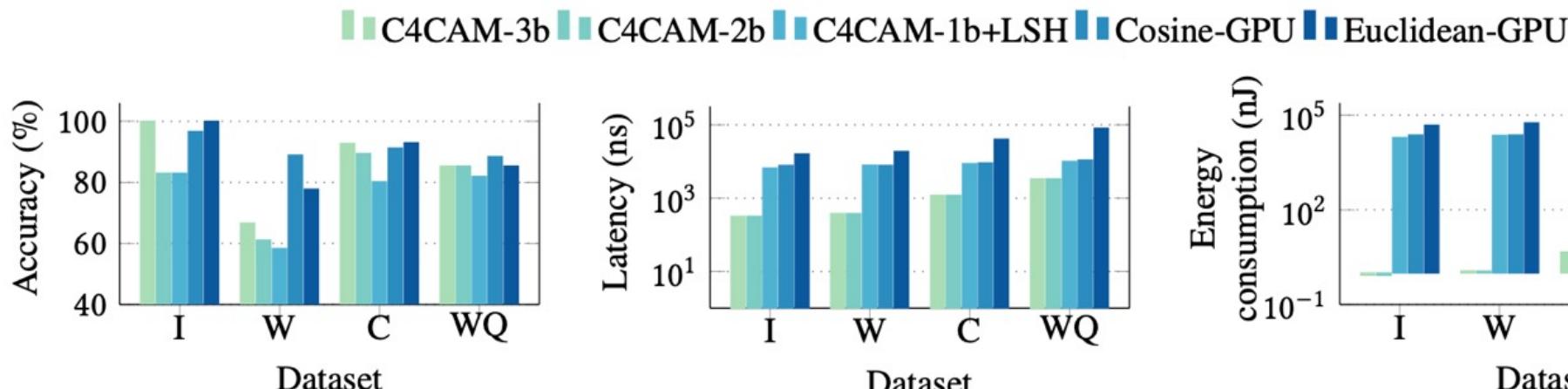
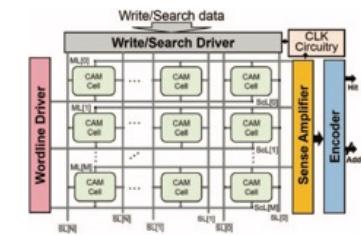
Zha, Yue, and Jing Li. "Hyper-AP: Enhancing associative processing through a full-stack optimization." 2020 ACM/IEEE 47th Annual International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA). IEEE, 2020.

CINM: Lowering for different CAM-based acc.



Content addressable memories (CAMs)

- ❑ NVM-based CAMs: Great for **KNNs**, One-shot learning, ...
- ❑ CINM support for **similarity** and **CAM arch exploration**
- ❑ Automatic flow from TorchScript **matches manual designs**

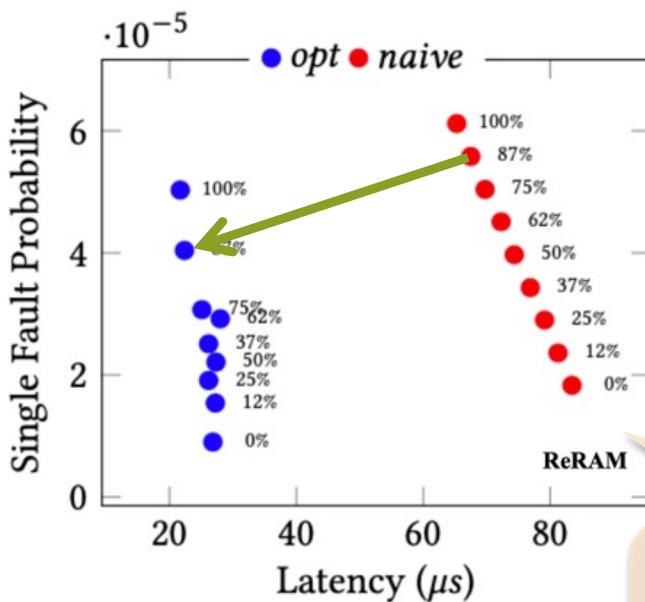


H. Farzaneh, et al. "C4CAM: A Compiler for CAM-based In-memory Accelerators", ASPLOS, 2024

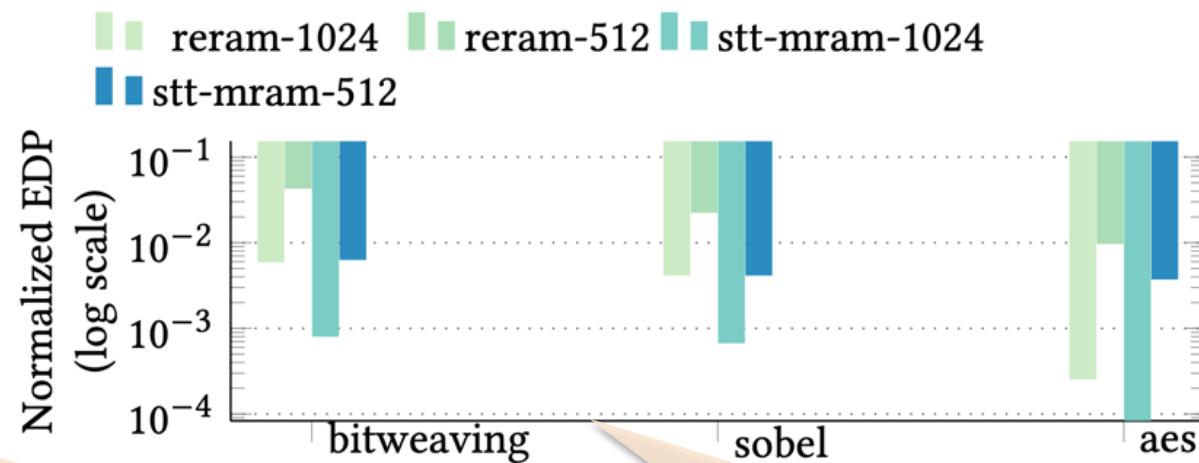
KNN results (128x128 CAM): **14x faster and ~10⁴ less energy** compared to GPU

Logic-in-memory in NVMs

- Massively parallel multi-operand bit-wise operations in-memory
- Complex mapping of operands, operations and temporaries to columns



H. Farzaneh, et al. "SHERLOCK:
Scheduling Efficient and Reliable Bulk
Bitwise Operations in NVMs", DAC 2024



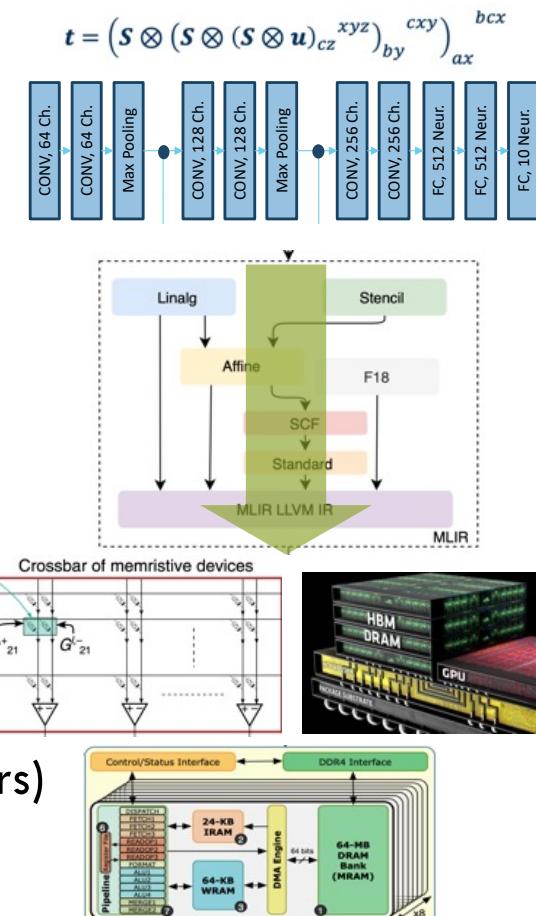
Optimized mapping: Less
latency (3x), better
reliability (~1.4x)

Orders of magnitude
better EDP vs CPU baseline

Closing

Summary

- Automatic optimization for heterogeneous in-memory computing
 - Domain-specific abstractions
 - Abstract primitives, compute model, trade-offs
 - Safe and correct optimization with high-level compilers
- Challenges
 - Still work on (formal) modeling primitives
 - Simulators, prototypes in interdisciplinary research efforts
 - From **algorithmic** abstractions to **geometry** (device parameters)



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