Xida Ren (757) 279-4582 | renresear.ch | xida.ren.career@gmail.com

EDUCATION	
University of Virginia	September 2019 – Current
PhD in Computer Science Machine Learning and Computer Architecture GRE: Verbal:167, Quant:168	<i>GP</i> A: 4.0
College of William and Mary	August 2016 – May 2019
Bachelors of Science Double Major in Computer Science and Mathematics	GPA: 3.8
SKILLS	

Programming Languages C++, Python, C, Zig, SQL, MatLab, Haskell Software Pandas, Numpy, Keras, TensorFlow, PyTorch, sklearn, Linux, GNUPLOT Specializations Machine Learning, Queuing Theory, Statistics, Probability, CPU/GPU Performance Profiling Interests Security, Hardware Accelerators, Formal Verification, Hearthstone, FengShui

WORK EXPERIENCE

Stealth Mode Crypto Data Company

Improved Zig Etherium implementation performance by ~2x by migrating to an 100x faster AVX512 vectorized hash function ٠ Intel Labs - Architecture Tooling Group | Research Intern Oct 2022 – Jan 2023

2023

- Accelerate SimPoint generation by 200x using hardware performance counters sampling to avoid instrumentation •
- Achieve <3% CPI and <10% MPKI estimation accuracy while retaining 1,000,000x benchmarking speedup from SimPoint
- University of Virginia Computer Science Department | PhD Candidate Sep 2019 – Current Applied formal verification to ensure that quantized machine learning models remained invulnerable to adversarial attacks using DNNV (https://github.com/dlshriver/dnnv), ONNX, and ReluPlex (https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.01135)
- Discovered 2 critical security flaws that threatened execution integrity and data security in modern x86 processors. •
- Mentored 5 undergraduate students on computer architecture and machine learning projects, breaking down large projects into • digestible chunks, as well as providing instruction on computer architecture, side-channel attacks, machine learning compilers, and ML models (incl. model specification, feature engineering, parameter tuning, and cross-validation).

NXP Semiconductors – Edge Security | ML Research Intern

- May 2022 Aug 2022 Applied statistical and machine learning algorithms (incl. logistic regression, perceptrons, time-convolutional neural networks, decision trees, k-nearest neighbors, random forests, support vector regressions) to monitor CPU performance counters for Spectre and Meltdown type side-channel attacks (Python, scikit-learn, pandas, statsmodels, NumPy, MLJar)
- Leveraged semi-supervised learning-based ML Algorithms (e.g. naive bayes, clustering, mixture models, one-class SVM, isolation • forest) to generalize detectors to zero-day attacks with 85% accuracy (Python, scikit-learn)
- Performed usability testing with VP of Edge Software to iterate on detector parameters and maintain usable levels of overhead •
- Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Computer Architecture Group | PARADISE++ Project Aug 2020 - Nov 2020
- Implement memory subsystem of an optimistically synchronized parallel discrete-event simulator. C++/Valgrind

SELECTED PROJECTS

ProxyVM – In collaboration with Intel Labs and the Semiconductor Research Corporation Jan 2022 - Current

- Augment profiling tools with differential privacy to enable ML hardware supply chain collaboration without loss of privacy •
- Accelerated pre-silicon hardware simulations while maintaining high performance predictability by generating augmented performance traces (basic block vectors augmented with data access pattern vectors).
- Extended existing system to emerging hardware and workloads using LLVM and MLIR as a compatibility layer •
- Modify cross-platform machine learning compiler to generate execution traces for benchmarking on CPU, GPU, FPGA, and ASIC • Sep 2019 – Jan 2021

I See Dead Micro-Ops

- Analyzed Intel x86 processor design documents to discover potential vulnerability, craft microbenchmarks to reverse • undocumented CPU features, and design proof-of-concept exploits for novel vulnerabilities
- Designed micro-architectural benchmarks that characterized undocumented x86 instruction translation mechanisms ٠
- Published novel spectre-type attack in International Symposium on Computer Architecture (15% acceptance rate).
- Published SMT performance-preserving speculative side-channel defenses to protect processors without compromising • performance. USENIX security (18% acceptance rate)

Equity AI (Honors Thesis, Summa Cum Laude)

- Dec 2017 May 2019 Applied multivariate time-series machine learning to investigate inefficiencies in Chinese stock markets
- Implemented distributed hyperparameter search system to exploit unused computing power in undergraduate computer labs .
- Develop paper trading strategies using multi-armed bandit & bayesian optimization for hyperparameter discovery •
- Int'I Genetically Engineered Machines Contest (iGEM 2017, Int'I 2nd Place & Best Model Award) Oct 2016 - Sep 2017 Won 2nd place overall & best math model in international genetic engineering contest (iGEM 2017) •
- Modeled behavior of genetic circuits with partial differential models and tested predictions against wet-lab experimental results ٠
- Designed plasmid to implement protein-protease gene circuit to demonstrate novel gene expression rate control method •
- Infer physical parameters for PDE protein degradation model using bayesian parameter estimation on Monte Carlo simulations •