

# Efficient Computing for AI and Robotics: From Hardware Accelerators to Algorithm Design

Vivienne Sze ( @eems\_mit)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*In collaboration with Luca Carlone, Yu-Hsin Chen, Joel Emer, Sertac Karaman, Tushar Krishna, Peter Li, Fangchang Ma, Amr Suleiman, Diana Wofk, Nellie Wu, Tien-Ju Yang, Zhengdong Zhang*

Slides available at

<https://tinyurl.com/SzeMITDL2020>

# Processing at “Edge” instead of the “Cloud”



**Communication**



**Privacy**



**Latency**

# Computing Challenge for Self-Driving Cars

JACK STEWART TRANSPORTATION 02.06.18 08:00 AM

## SELF-DRIVING CARS USE CRAZY AMOUNTS OF POWER, AND IT'S BECOMING A PROBLEM



Shelley, a self-driving Audi TT developed by Stanford University, uses the brains in the trunk to speed around a racetrack autonomously.

NIKKI KAHN/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES

# WIRED

(Feb 2018)

Cameras and radar generate  
~6 gigabytes of data every 30 seconds.

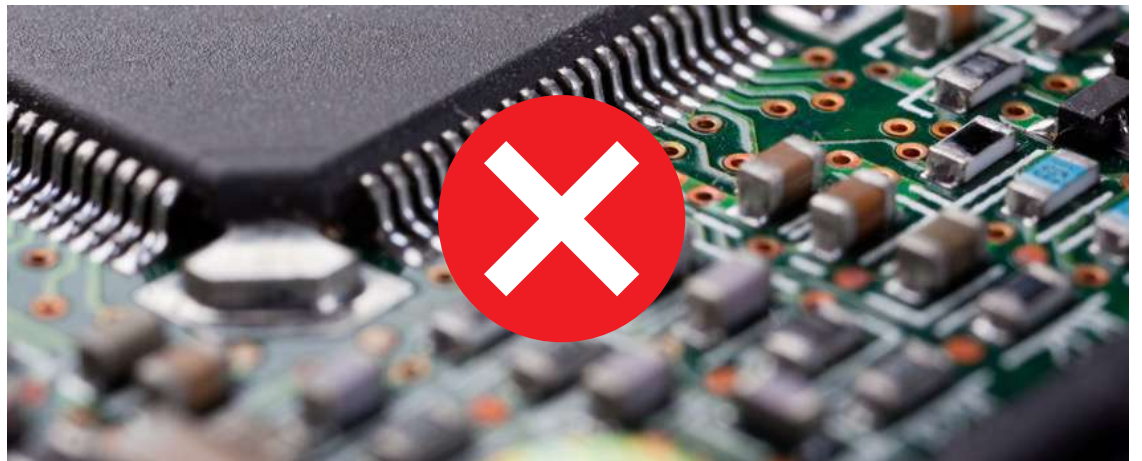
**Self-driving car prototypes use approximately 2,500 Watts of computing power.**

Generates wasted heat and some prototypes need water-cooling!

# Existing Processors Consume Too Much Power



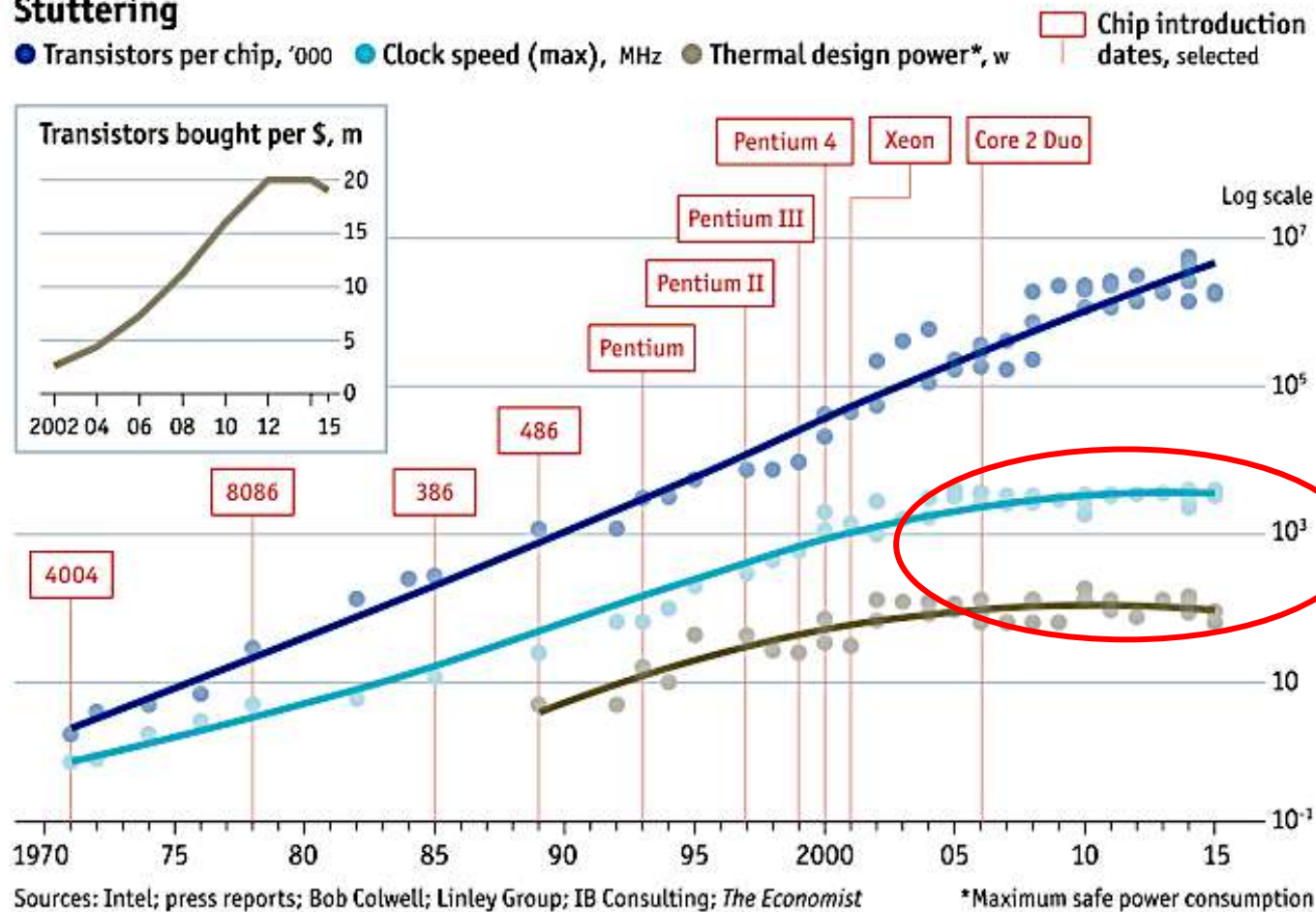
**< 1 Watt**



**> 10 Watts**

# Transistors Are Not Getting More Efficient

## Stuttering



## Slowdown of Moore's Law and Dennard Scaling

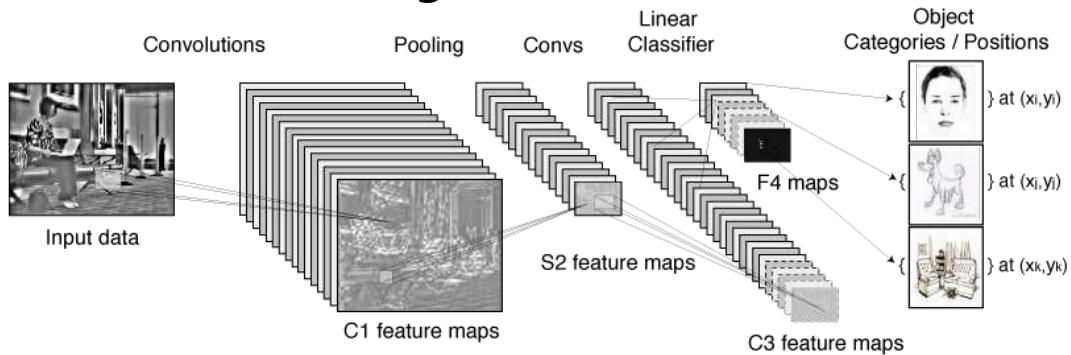
*General purpose microprocessors are not getting faster or more efficient*

**Slowdown**

Need **specialized / domain-specific hardware** for significant improvements in speed and energy efficiency

# Efficient Computing with Cross-Layer Design

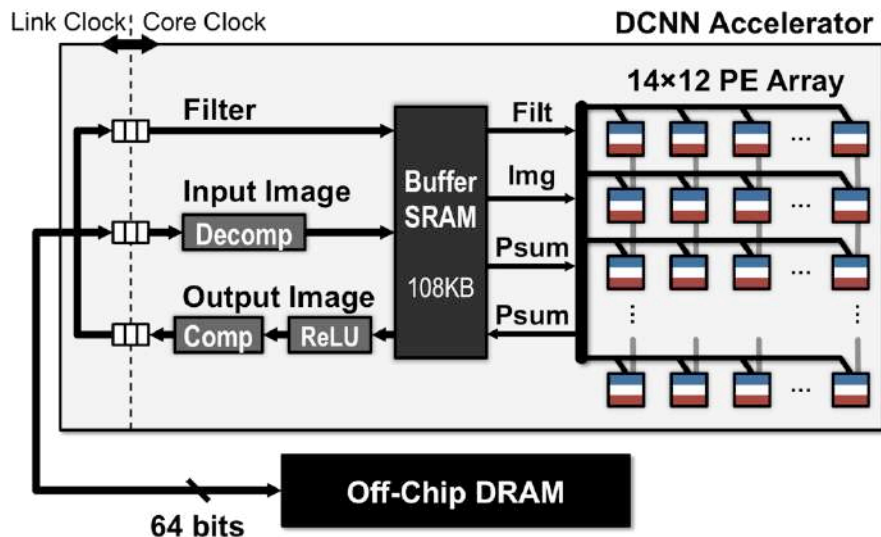
## Algorithms



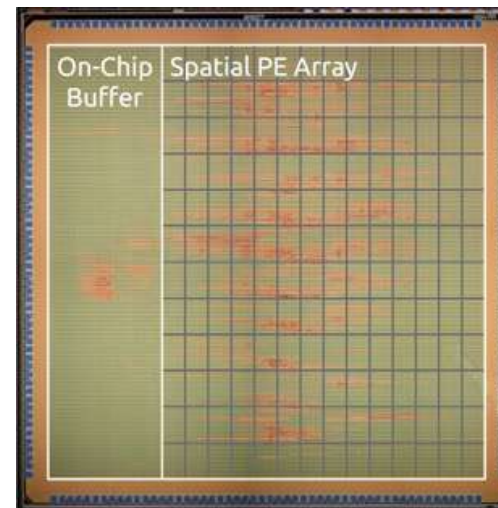
## Systems



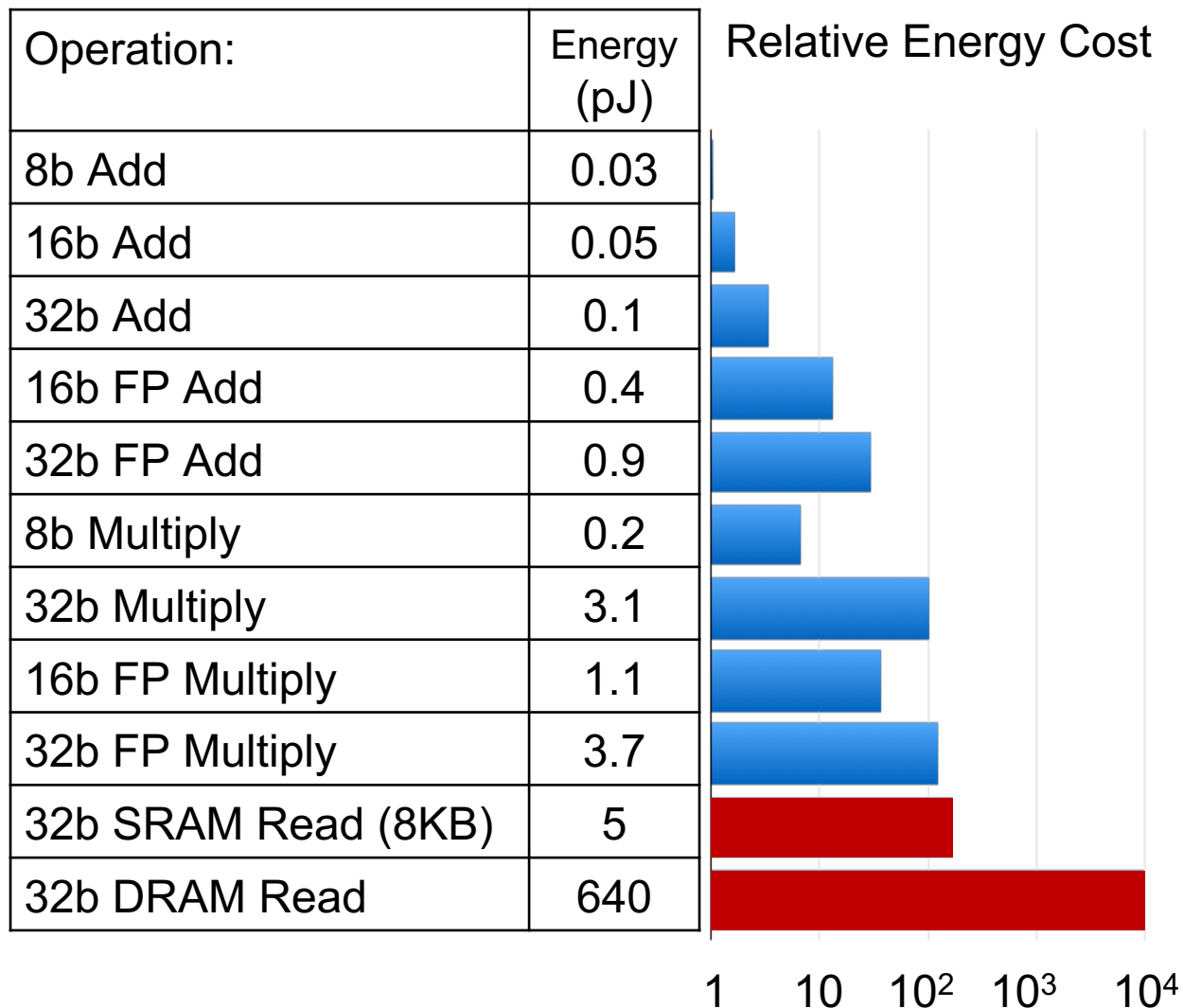
## Architectures



## Circuits



# Energy Dominated by Data Movement



Memory access is **orders of magnitude** higher energy than compute

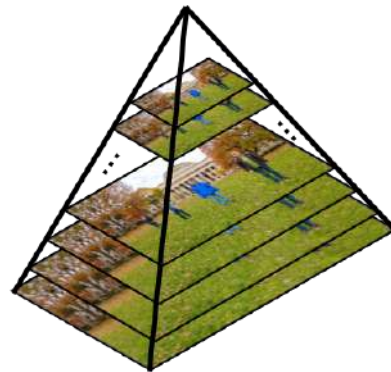
# Autonomous Navigation Uses a Lot of Data

## Semantic Understanding

- High frame rate
- Large resolutions
- Data expansion



2 million pixels



10x-100x more pixels

## Geometric Understanding

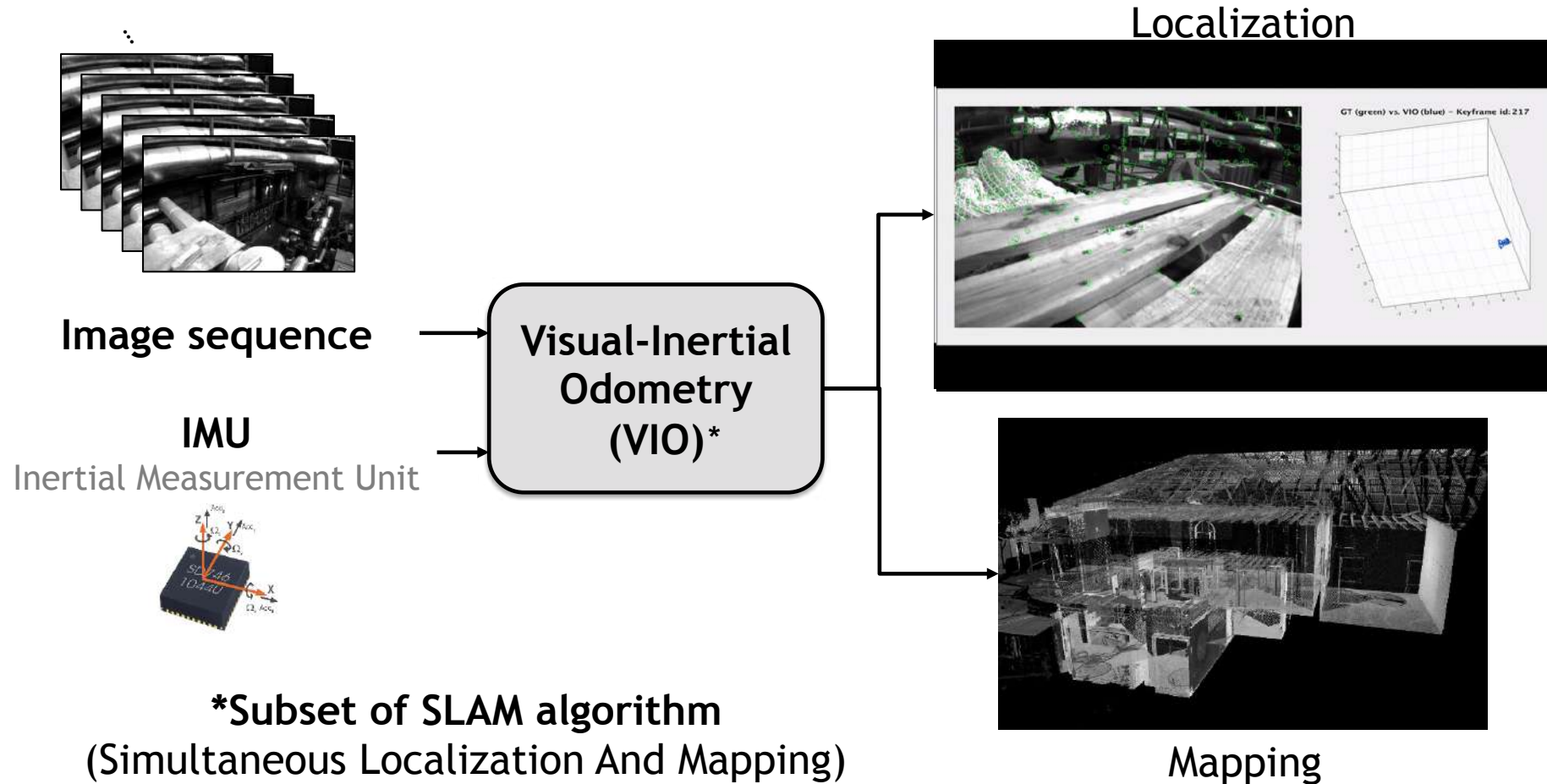
- Growing map size





# Visual-Inertial Localization

Determines location/orientation of robot from images and IMU  
(also used by headset in Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality)



\*Subset of SLAM algorithm  
(Simultaneous Localization And Mapping)

# Localization at Under 25 mW

**First chip** that performs **complete** Visual-Inertial Odometry

## Front-End for camera

(Feature detection, tracking, and outlier elimination)

## Front-End for IMU

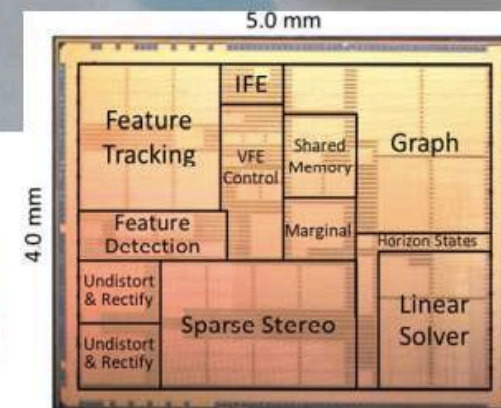
(pre-integration of accelerometer and gyroscope data)

## Back-End Optimization of Pose Graph

Consumes **684×** and **1582×** less energy than mobile and desktop CPUs, respectively



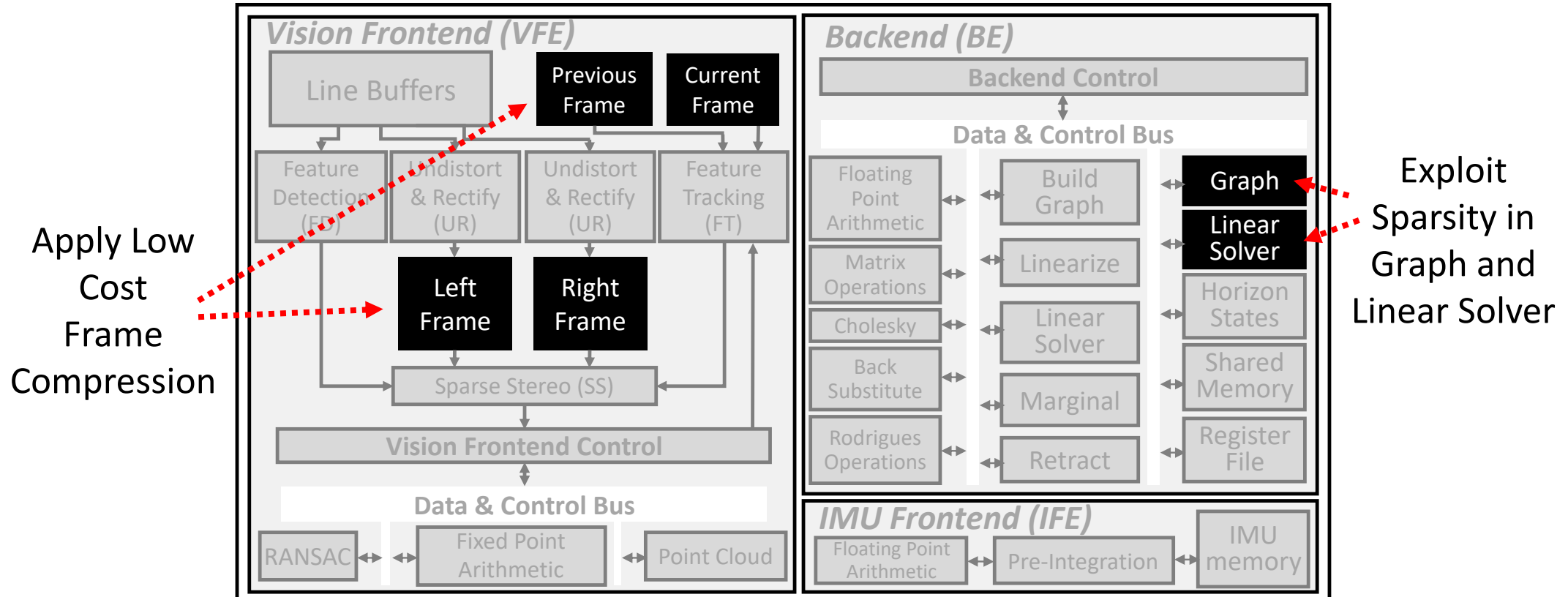
Technology	65nm CMOS	Supply	1 V
Chip area (mm <sup>2</sup> )	4.0 x 5.0	Resolution	752x480
Core area (mm <sup>2</sup> )	3.54 x 4.54	Camera rate	28 - 171 fps
Logic gates	2,043 kgates	Keyframe rate	16 - 90 fps
SRAM	854KB	Average Power	24 mW
VFE Frequency	62.5 MHz	GOPS	10.5 - 59.1
BE Frequency	83.3 MHz	GFLOPS	1 - 5.7



[Joint work with Sertac Karaman (AeroAstro)]

# Key Methods to Reduce Data Size

*Navion: Fully integrated system – no off-chip processing or storage*

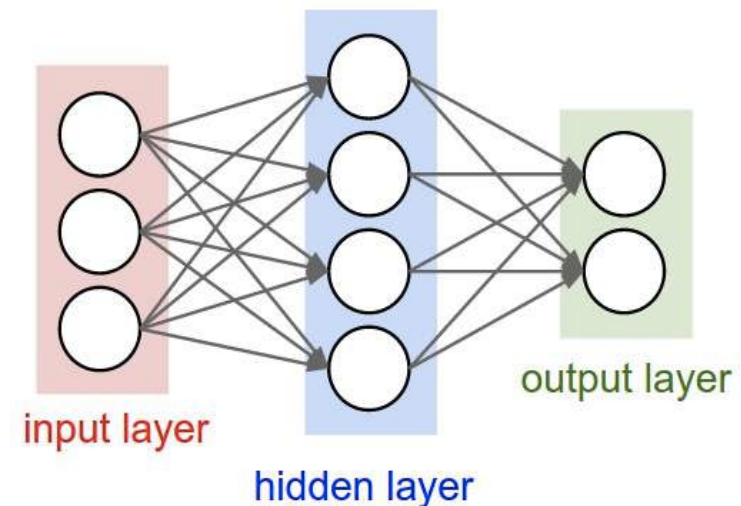
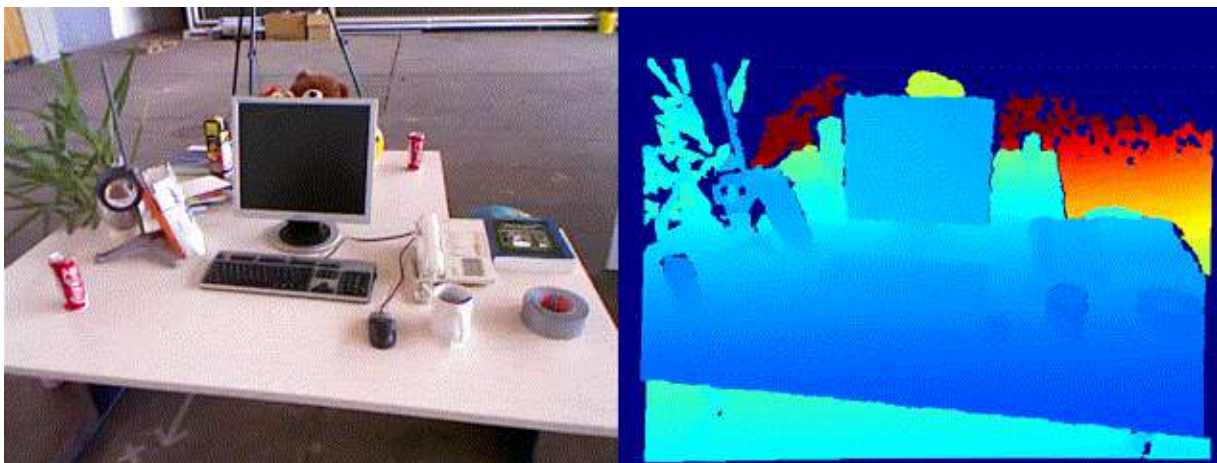


Use **compression** and **exploit sparsity** to reduce memory down to 854kB

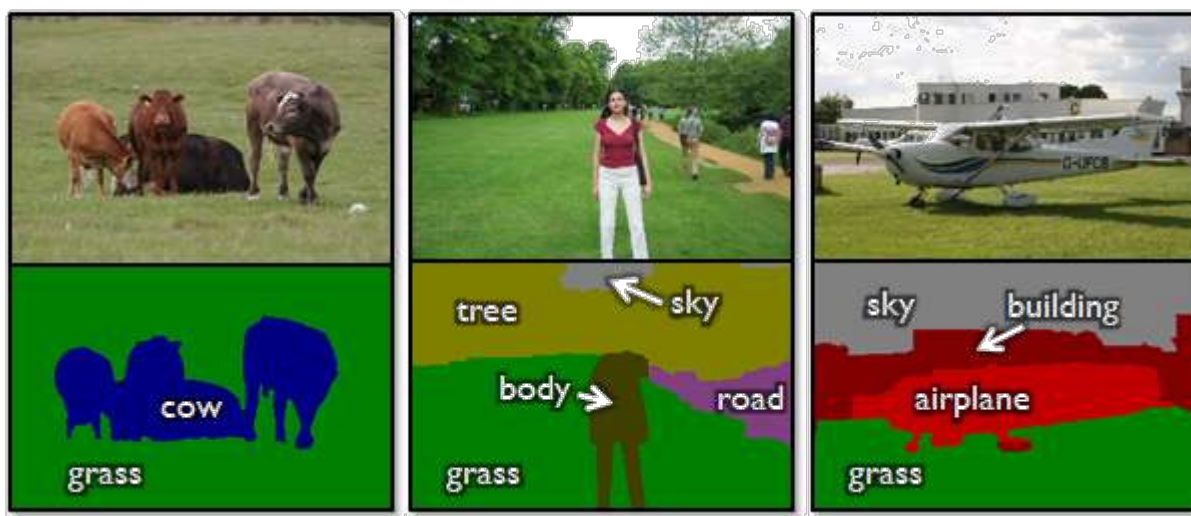
Navion Project Website: <http://navion.mit.edu>

# Understanding the Environment

## Depth Estimation



## Semantic Segmentation

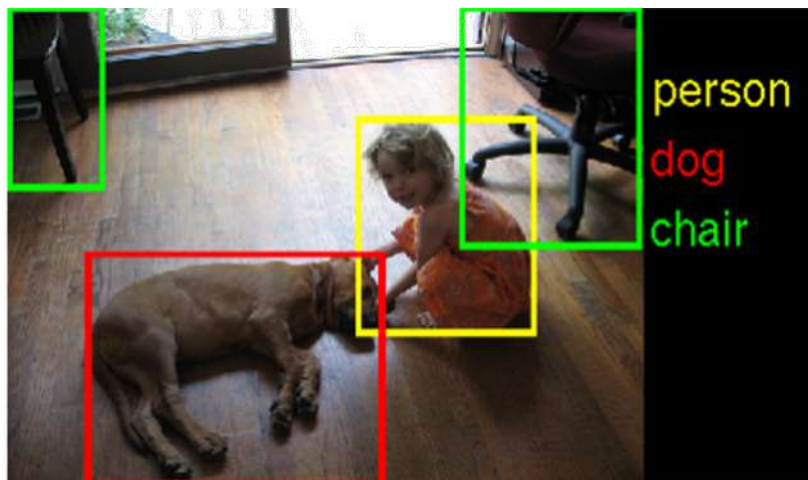


State-of-the-art approaches use **Deep Neural Networks**, which require **up to several hundred millions of operations and weights to compute!**  
*>100x more complex than video compression*

# Deep Neural Networks

*Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) have become a **cornerstone of AI***

## Computer Vision



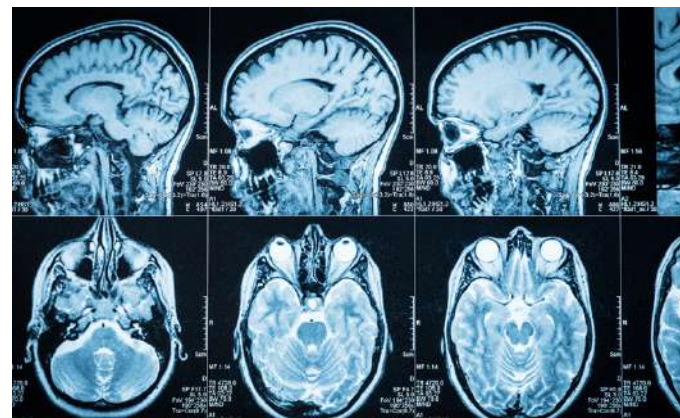
## Speech Recognition



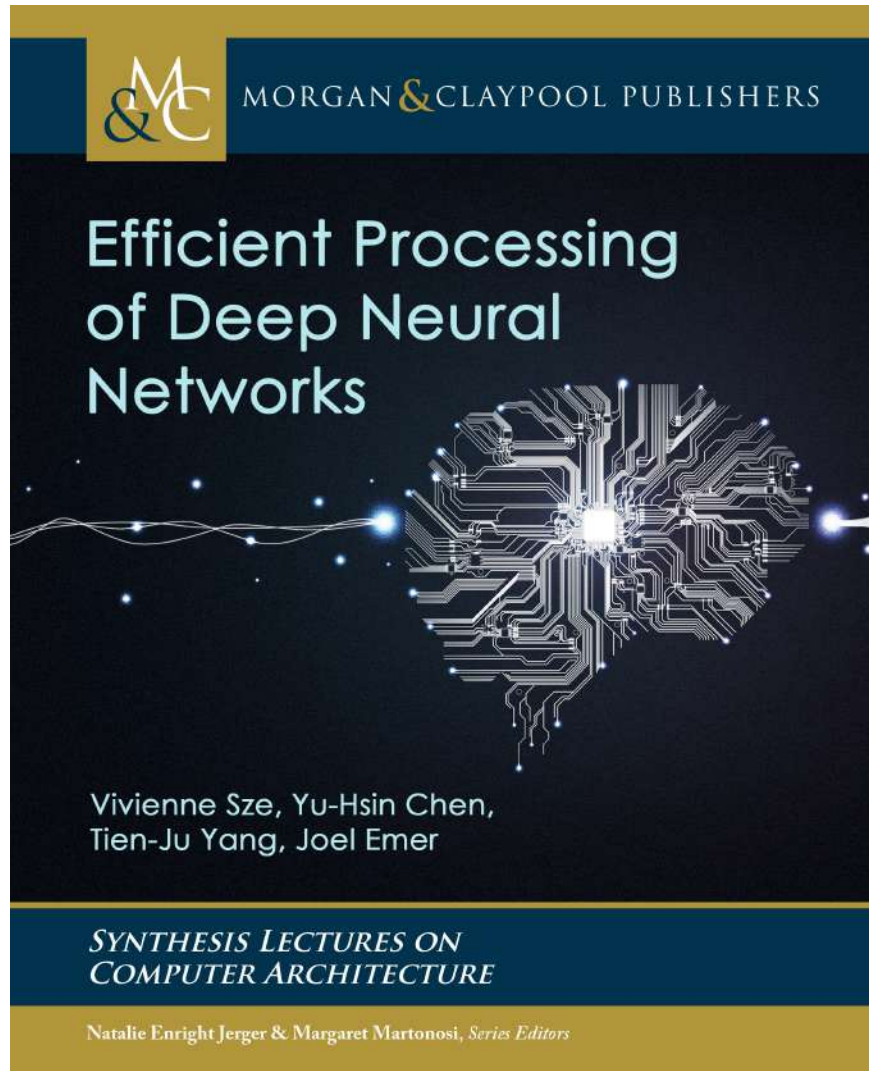
## Game Play



## Medical



# Book on Efficient Processing of DNNs



## ***Part I Understanding Deep Neural Networks***

*Introduction*

*Overview of Deep Neural Networks*

## ***Part II Design of Hardware for Processing DNNs***

*Key Metrics and Design Objectives*

*Kernel Computation*

*Designing DNN Accelerators*

*Operation Mapping on Specialized Hardware*

## ***Part III Co-Design of DNN Hardware and Algorithms***

*Reducing Precision*

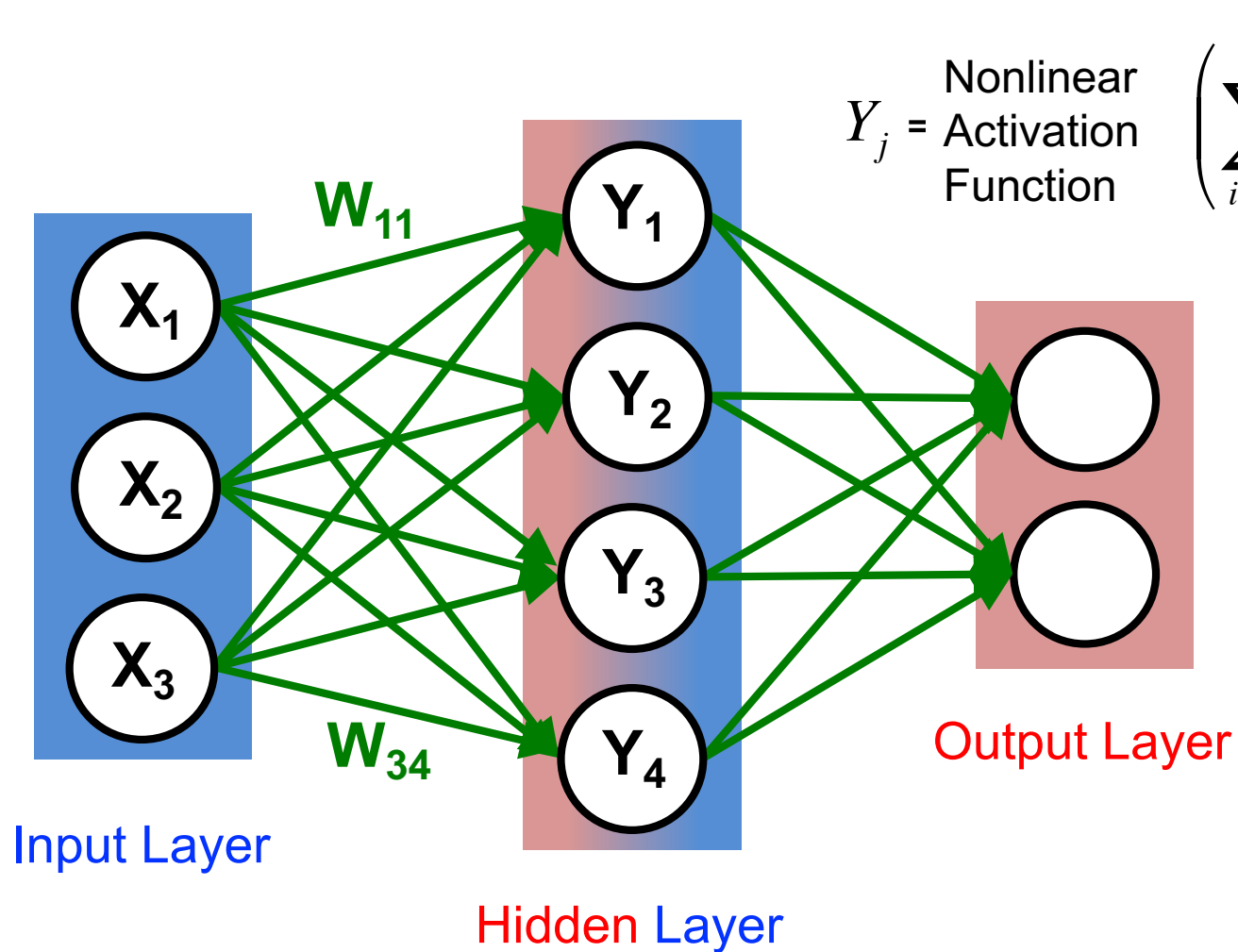
*Exploiting Sparsity*

*Designing Efficient DNN Models*

*Advanced Technologies*

<https://tinyurl.com/EfficientDNNBook>

# Weighted Sums



$Y_j =$  Nonlinear  
Activation  
Function

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^3 W_{ij} \times X_i \right)$$

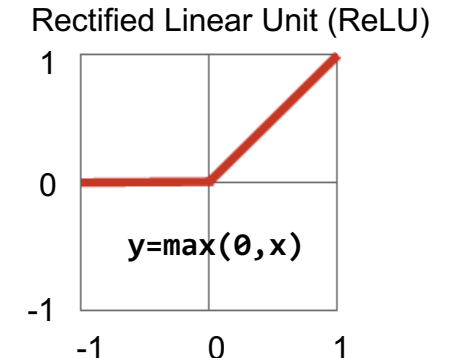
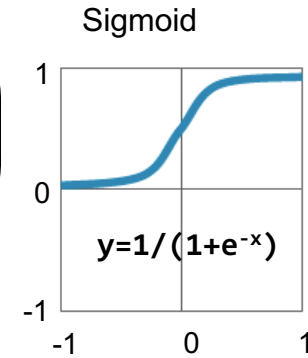
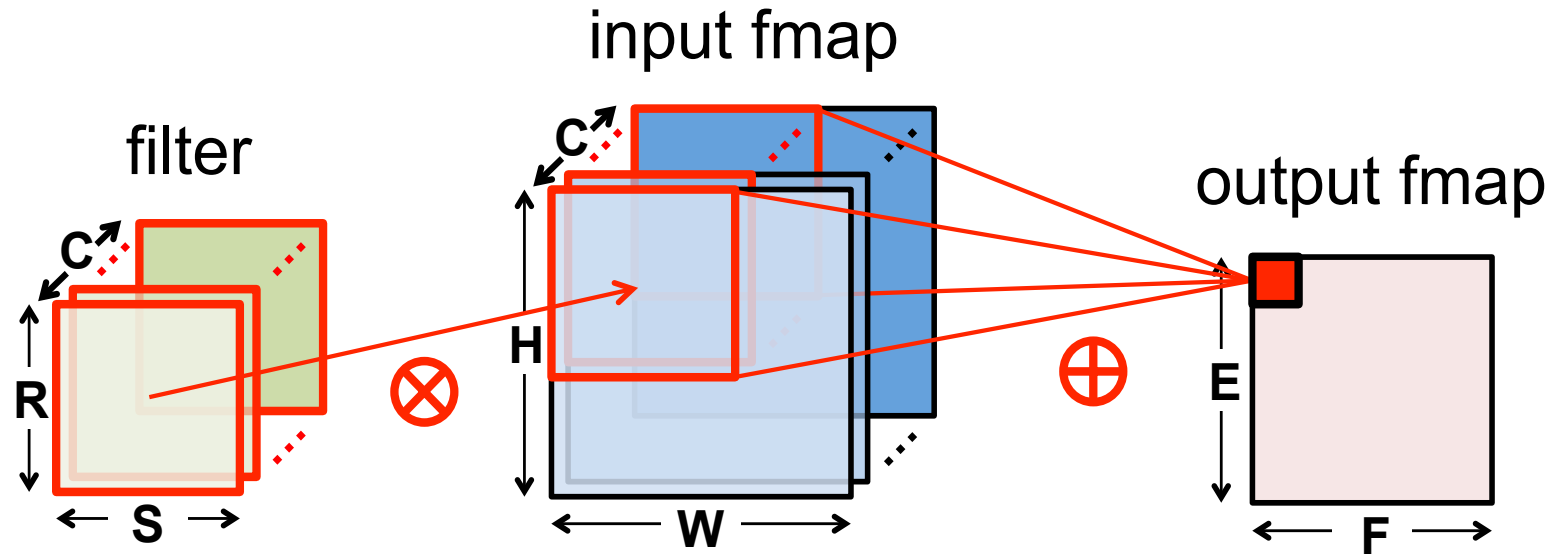


Image source: Caffe tutorial

Key operation is  
**multiply and accumulate (MAC)**  
Accounts for > 90% of computation

# High-Dimensional Convolution in CNN

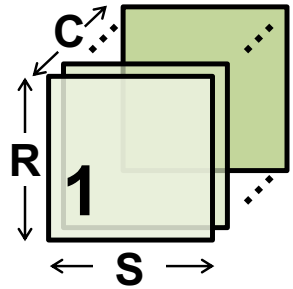


**Many Input Channels (C)**

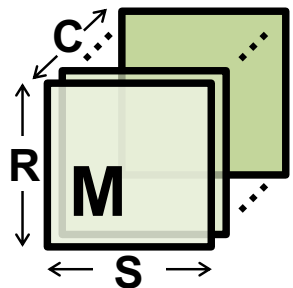


# Define Shape for Each Layer

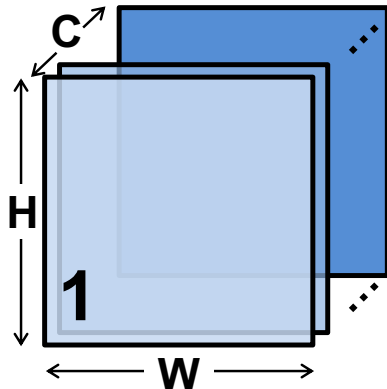
## Filters



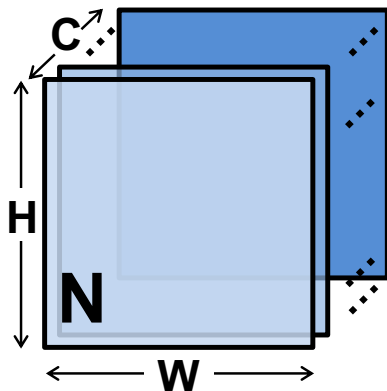
⋮



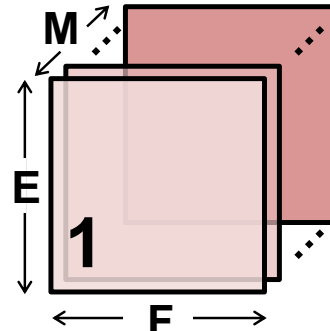
## Input fmaps



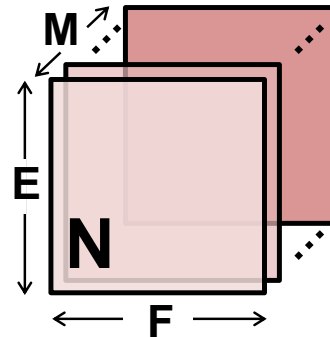
⋮



## Output fmaps



⋮



Shape **varies** across layers

**H** – Height of **input fmap** (activations)  
**W** – Width of **input fmap** (activations)  
**C** – Number of 2-D **input fmaps / filters** (channels)

**R** – Height of 2-D **filter** (weights)

**S** – Width of 2-D **filter** (weights)

**M** – Number of 2-D **output fmaps** (channels)

**E** – Height of **output fmap** (activations)

**F** – Width of **output fmap** (activations)

**N** – Number of **input fmaps/output fmaps** (batch size)

# Popular DNN Models

Metrics	LeNet-5	AlexNet	VGG-16	GoogLeNet (v1)	ResNet-50	EfficientNet-B4
Top-5 error (ImageNet)	n/a	16.4	7.4	6.7	5.3	3.7*
Input Size	28x28	227x227	224x224	224x224	224x224	380x380
<b># of CONV Layers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21 (depth)</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>96</b>
# of Weights	2.6k	2.3M	14.7M	6.0M	23.5M	14M
# of MACs	283k	666M	15.3G	1.43G	3.86G	4.4G
<b># of FC layers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>65**</b>
# of Weights	58k	58.6M	124M	1M	2M	4.9M
# of MACs	58k	58.6M	124M	1M	2M	4.9M
<b>Total Weights</b>	<b>60k</b>	<b>61M</b>	<b>138M</b>	<b>7M</b>	<b>25.5M</b>	<b>19M</b>
<b>Total MACs</b>	<b>341k</b>	<b>724M</b>	<b>15.5G</b>	<b>1.43G</b>	<b>3.9G</b>	<b>4.4G</b>
Reference	Lecun, <i>PIEEE</i> 1998	Krizhevsky, <i>NeurIPS</i> 2012	Simonyan, <i>ICLR</i> 2015	Szegedy, <i>CVPR</i> 2015	He, <i>CVPR</i> 2016	Tan, <i>ICML</i> 2019

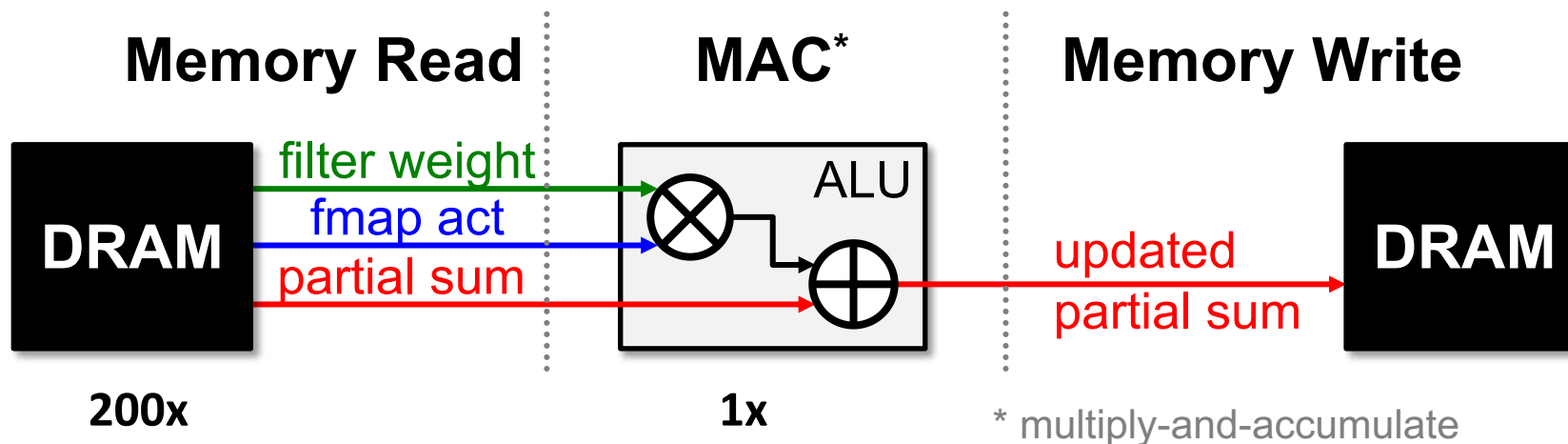
DNN models getting **larger** and **deeper**

\* Does not include multi-crop and ensemble

\*\* Increase in FC layers due to squeeze-and-excitation layers (much smaller than FC layers for classification)

# Properties We Can Leverage

- Operations exhibit **high parallelism**  
→ **high throughput** possible
- Memory Access is the Bottleneck

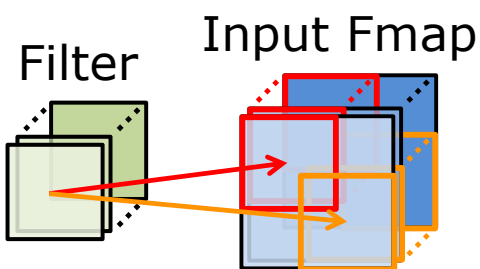


Worst Case: all memory R/W are **DRAM** accesses

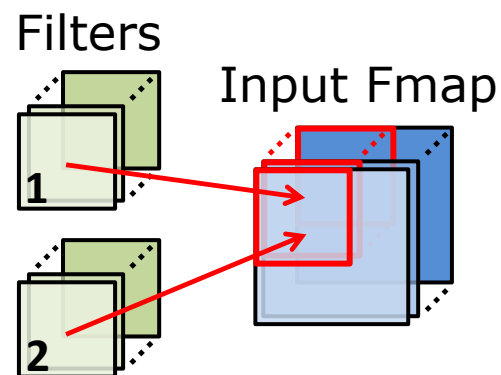
- Example: AlexNet has **724M** MACs  
→ **2896M** DRAM accesses required

# Properties We Can Leverage

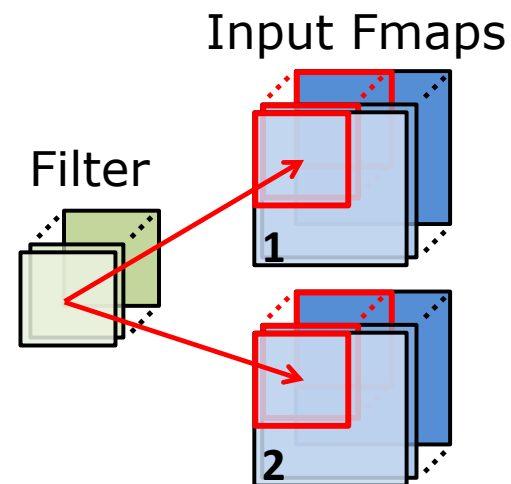
- Operations exhibit **high parallelism**  
→ **high throughput** possible
- Input data reuse** opportunities (**up to 500x**)



**Convolutional Reuse**  
(Activations, Weights)  
CONV layers only  
(sliding window)

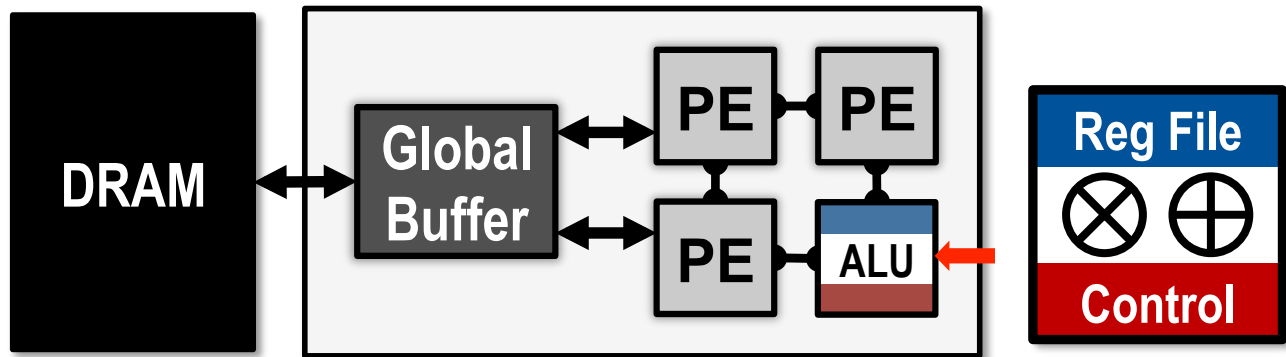


**Fmap Reuse**  
(Activations)  
CONV and FC layers

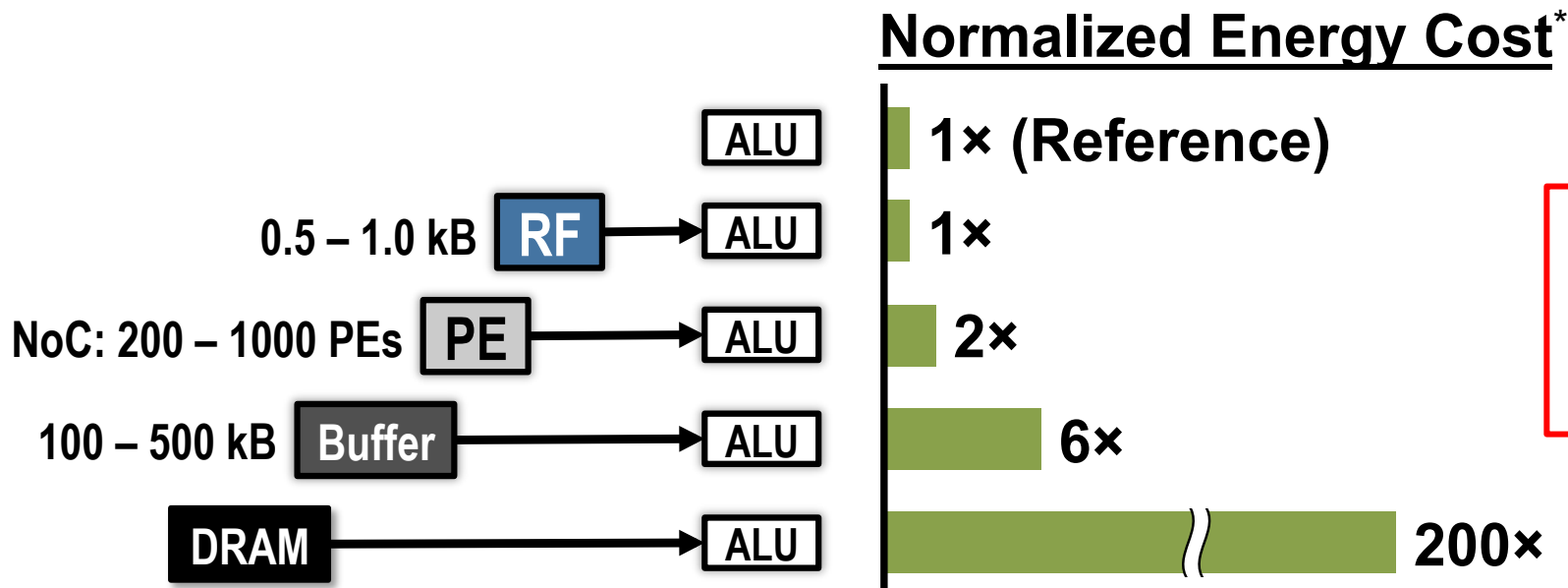


**Filter Reuse**  
(Weights)  
CONV and FC layers  
(batch size > 1)

# Exploit Data Reuse at Low-Cost Memories



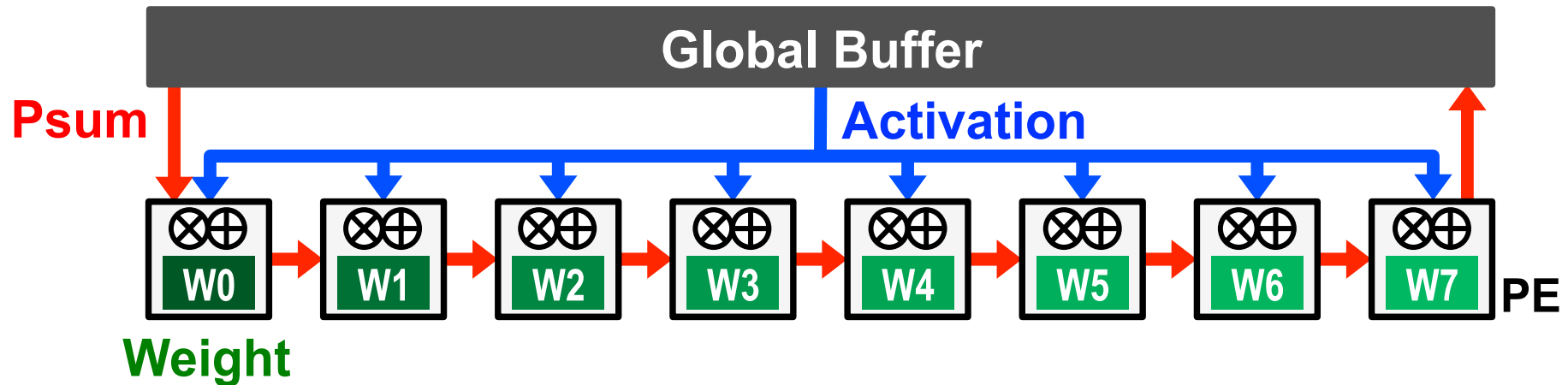
Specialized hardware with small (< 1kB) low cost memory near compute



**Farther and larger memories consume more power**

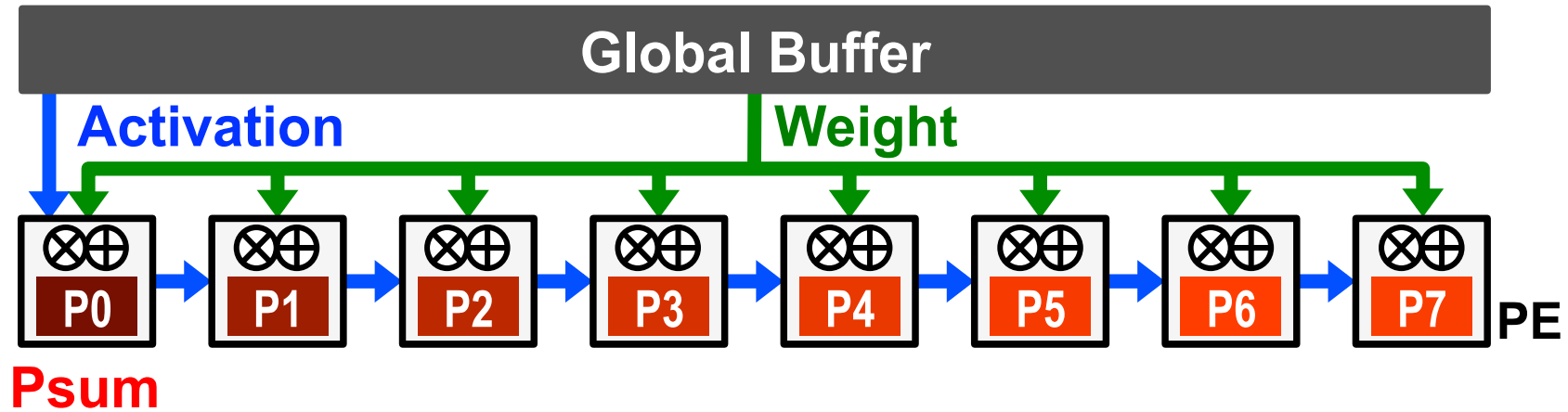
\* measured from a commercial 65nm process

# Weight Stationary (WS)



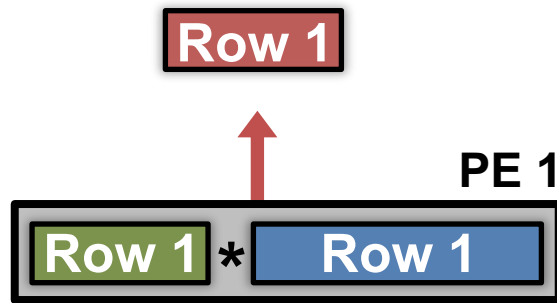
- **Minimize **weight**** read energy consumption
  - maximize convolutional and filter reuse of weights
- **Broadcast **activations**** and **accumulate **partial sums**** spatially across the PE array
- Examples: **TPU** [Jouppi, ISCA 2017], **NVDLA**

# Output Stationary (OS)

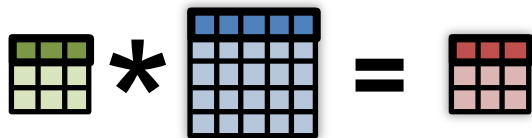


- Minimize **partial sum** R/W energy consumption
  - maximize local accumulation
- Broadcast/Multicast **filter weights** and reuse **activations spatially** across the PE array
- Examples: [**Moons**, *VLSI* 2016], [**Thinker**, *VLSI* 2017]

# Row Stationary Dataflow

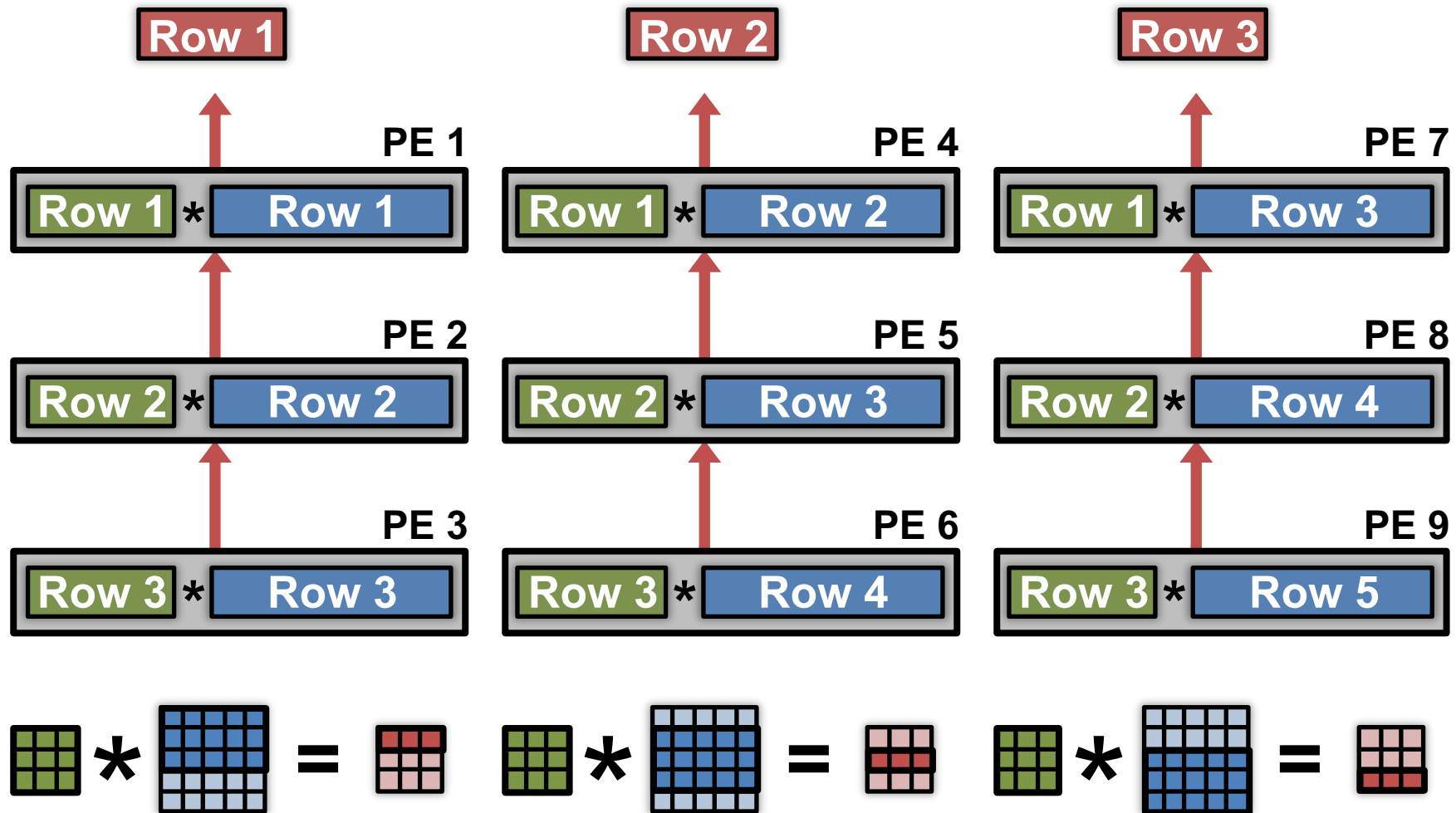


- Maximize row **convolutional reuse** in RF
  - Keep a **filter** row and **fmap** sliding window in RF
- Maximize row **psum accumulation** in RF



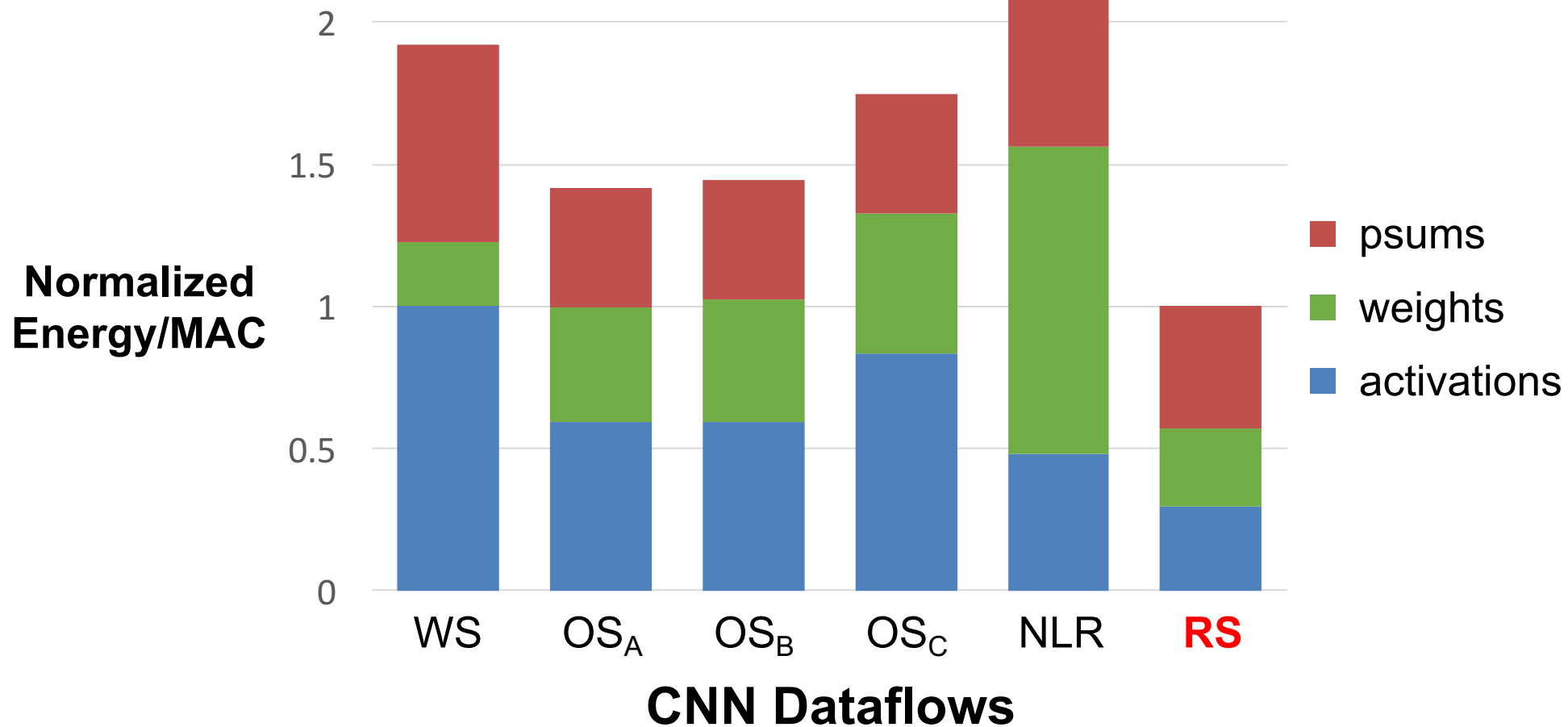


# Row Stationary Dataflow



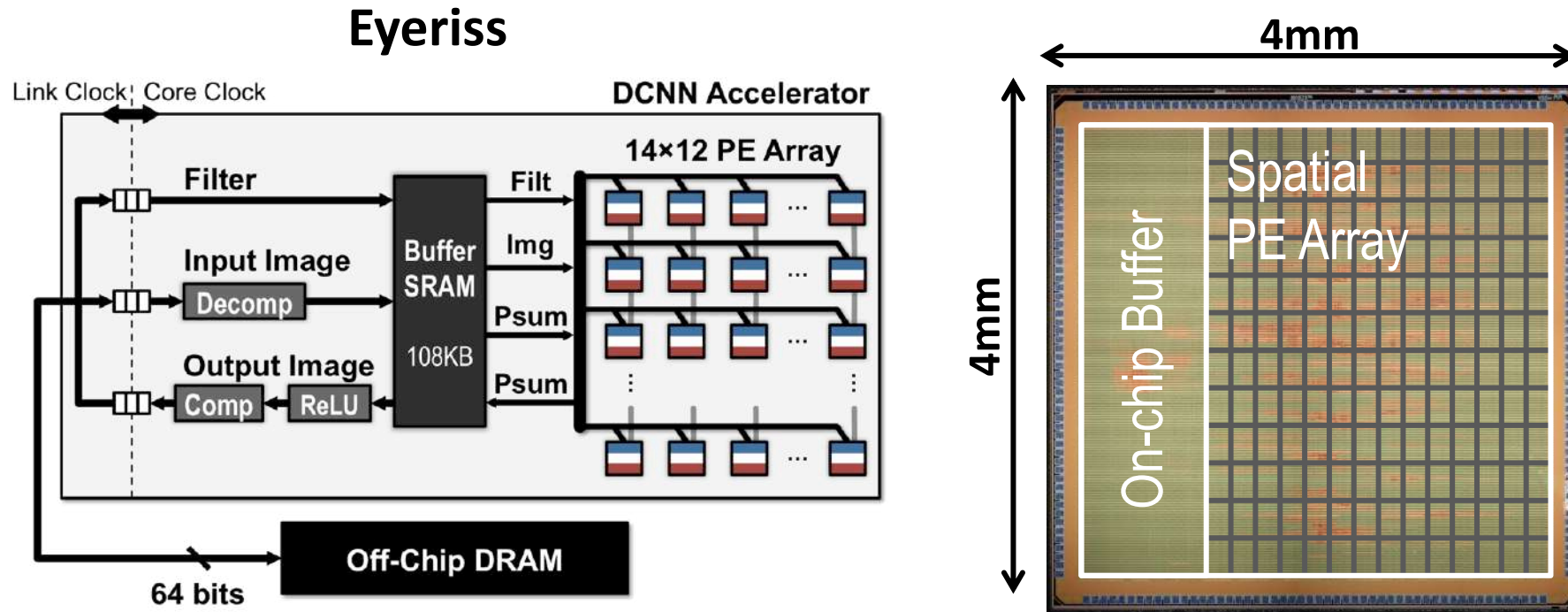
Optimize for **overall energy efficiency** instead  
for only a certain data type

# Dataflow Comparison: CONV Layers



RS optimizes for the best **overall** energy efficiency

# Deep Neural Networks at Under 0.3W



[Chen, ISSCC 2016]

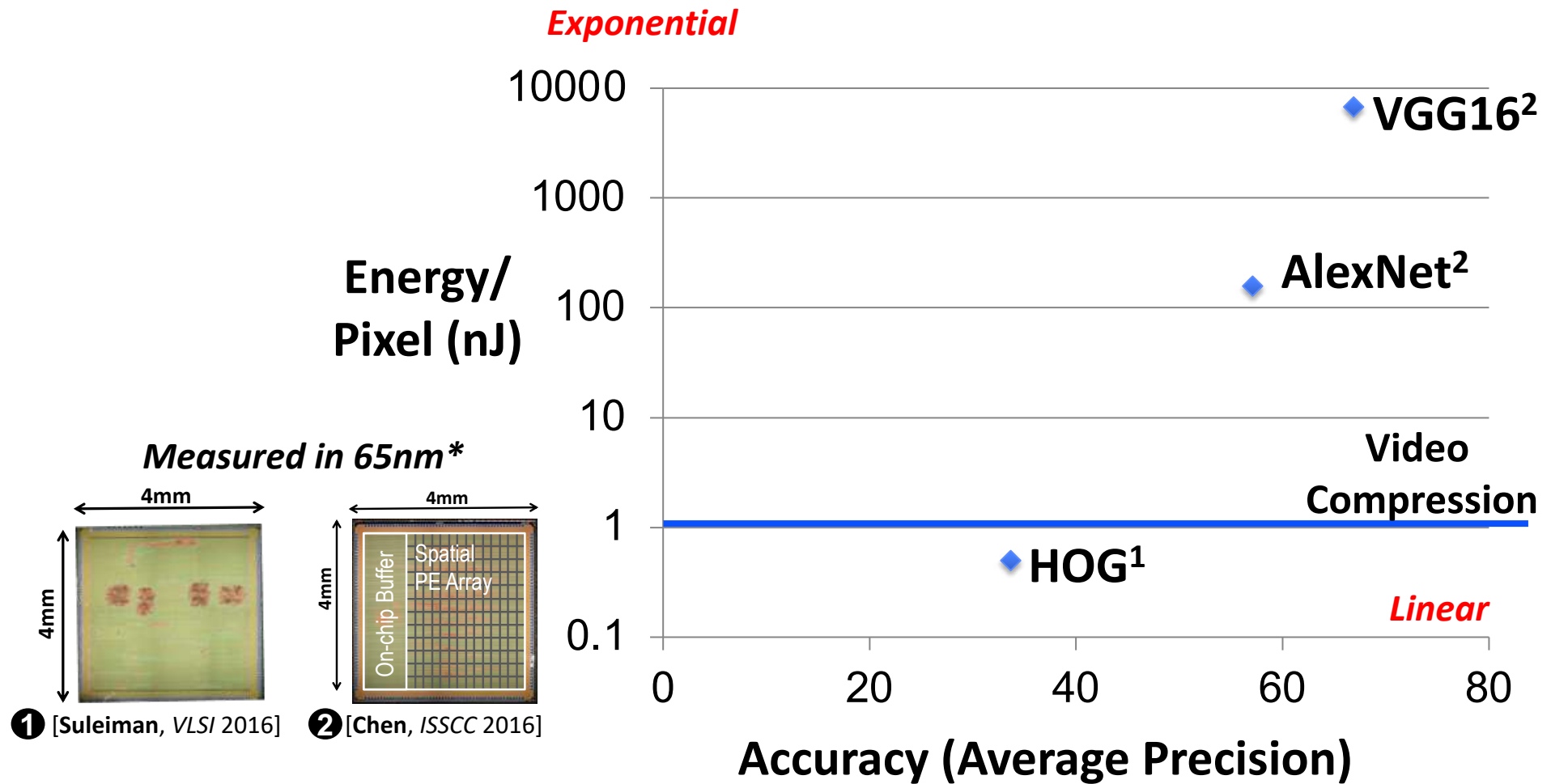
Exploits data reuse for **100x** reduction in memory accesses from global buffer and **1400x** reduction in memory accesses from off-chip DRAM

**Overall >10x energy reduction** compared to a mobile GPU (Nvidia TK1)

Eyeriss Project Website: <http://eyeriss.mit.edu>

Results for AlexNet

# Features: Energy vs. Accuracy



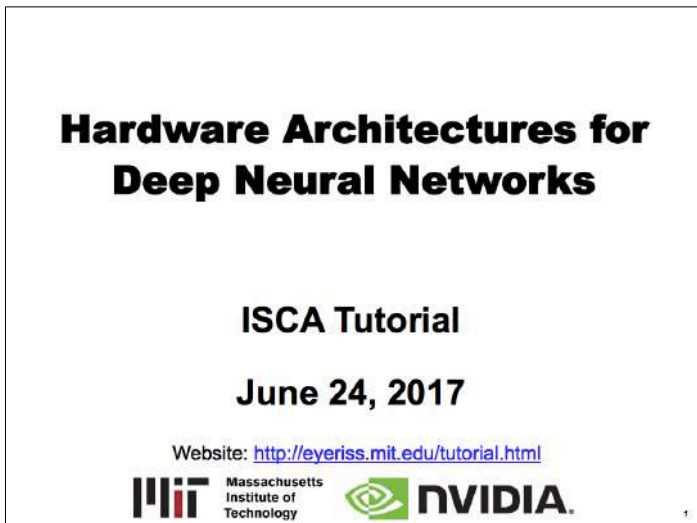
*\* Only feature extraction. Does not include data, classification energy, augmentation and ensemble, etc.*

*Measured in on VOC 2007 Dataset*

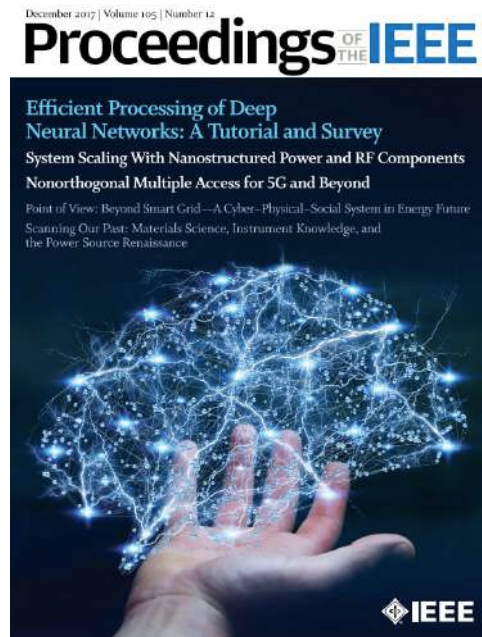
1. DPM v5 [Girshick, 2012]
2. Fast R-CNN [Girshick, CVPR 2015]

# Energy-Efficient Processing of DNNs

A significant amount of algorithm and hardware research on energy-efficient processing of DNNs



<http://eyeriss.mit.edu/tutorial.html>



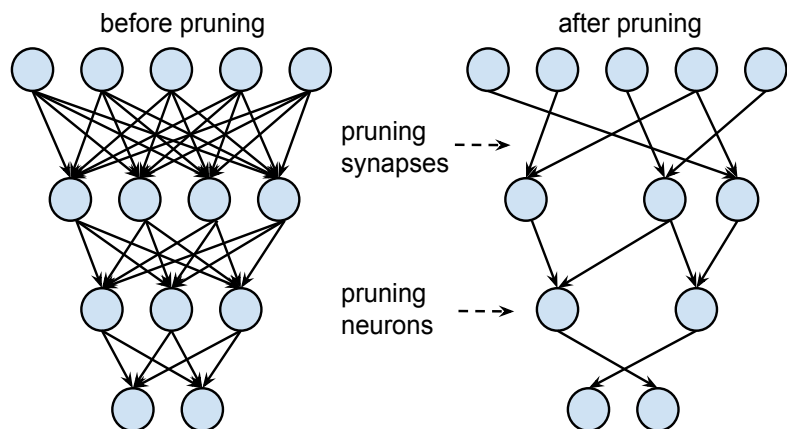
V. Sze, Y.-H. Chen,  
T.-J. Yang, J. Emer,  
***“Efficient Processing of Deep Neural Networks: A Tutorial and Survey,”***  
Proceedings of the IEEE,  
Dec. 2017

We identified various limitations to existing approaches

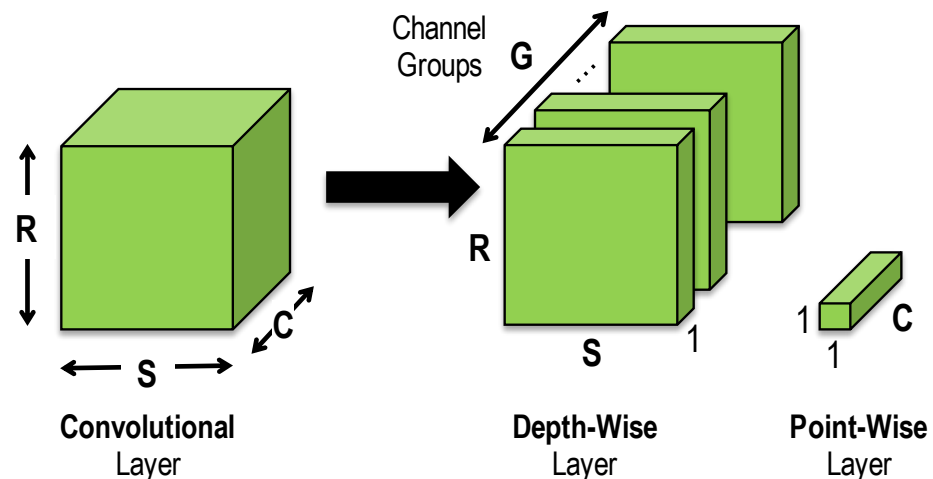
# Design of Efficient DNN Algorithms

Popular efficient DNN algorithm approaches

## Network Pruning



## Efficient Network Architectures



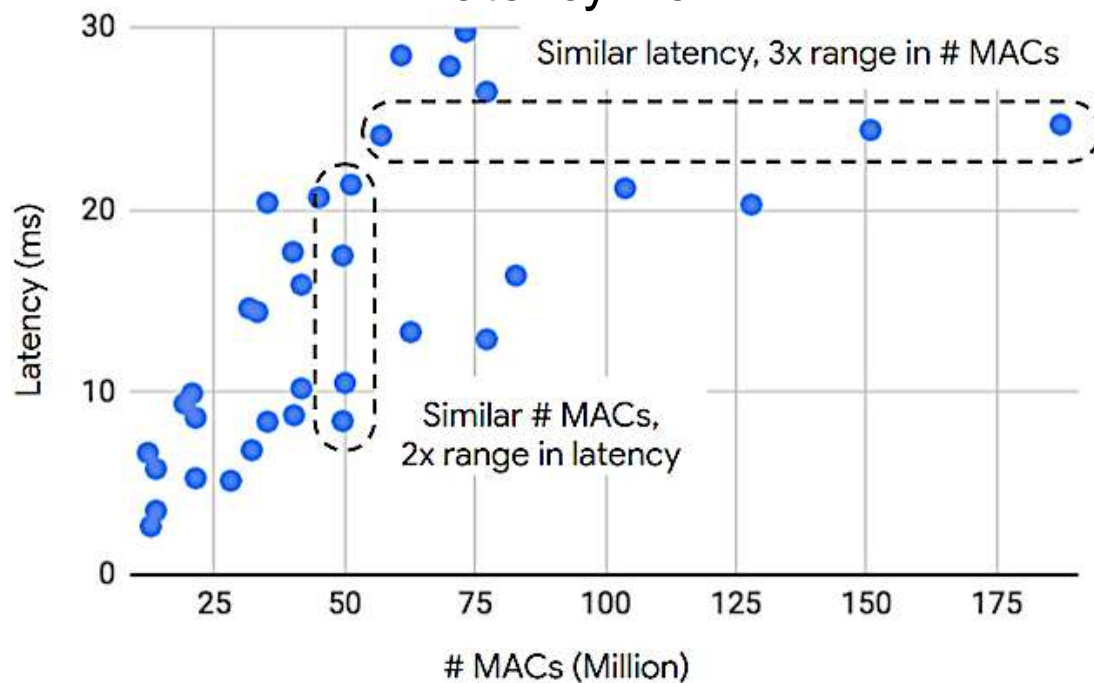
Examples: SqueezeNet, MobileNet

*... also reduced precision*

- Focus on reducing number of MACs and weights
- **Does it translate to energy savings and reduced latency?**

# Number of MACs and Weights are Not Good Proxies

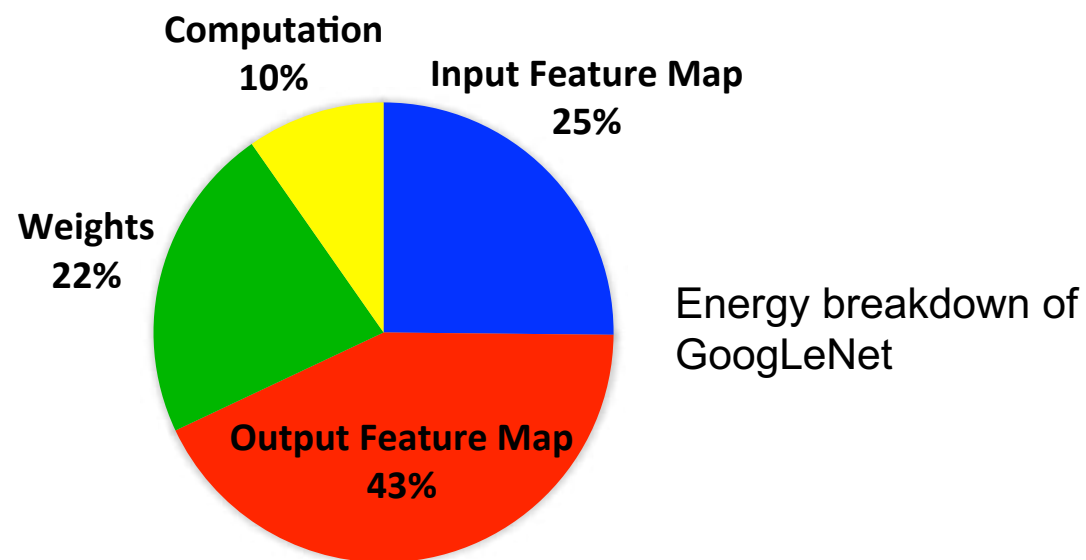
# of operations (MACs) does not approximate latency well



Source: Google

(<https://ai.googleblog.com/2018/04/introducing-cvpr-2018-on-device-visual.html>)

# of weights *alone* is not a good metric for energy  
(All data types should be considered)



<https://energyestimation.mit.edu/>

[Yang, CVPR 2017]

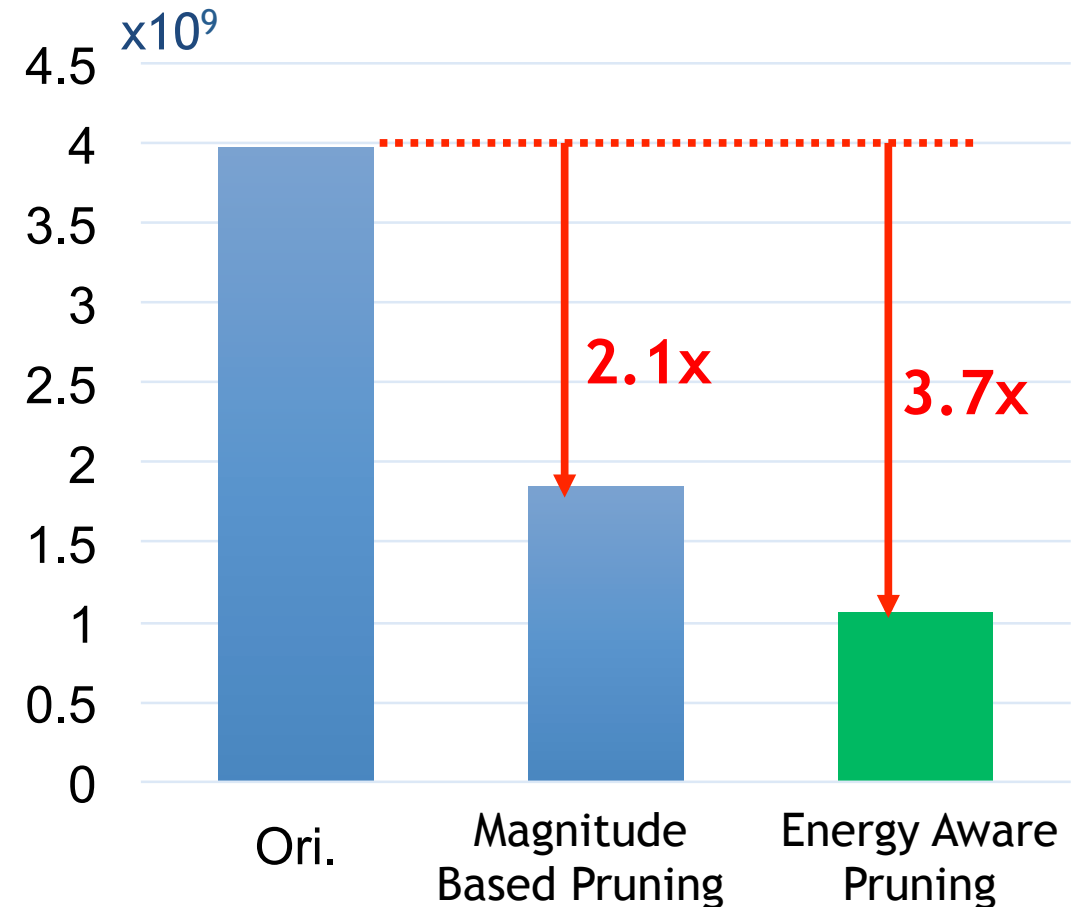
# Energy-Aware Pruning

**Directly target energy**  
and incorporate it into the  
optimization of DNNs to provide  
greater energy savings

- Sort layers based on energy and prune layers that consume the most energy first
- **Energy-aware pruning** reduces AlexNet energy by **3.7x** w/ similar accuracy
- Outperforms magnitude-based pruning by **1.7x**

[Yang, CVPR 2017]

Normalized Energy (AlexNet)

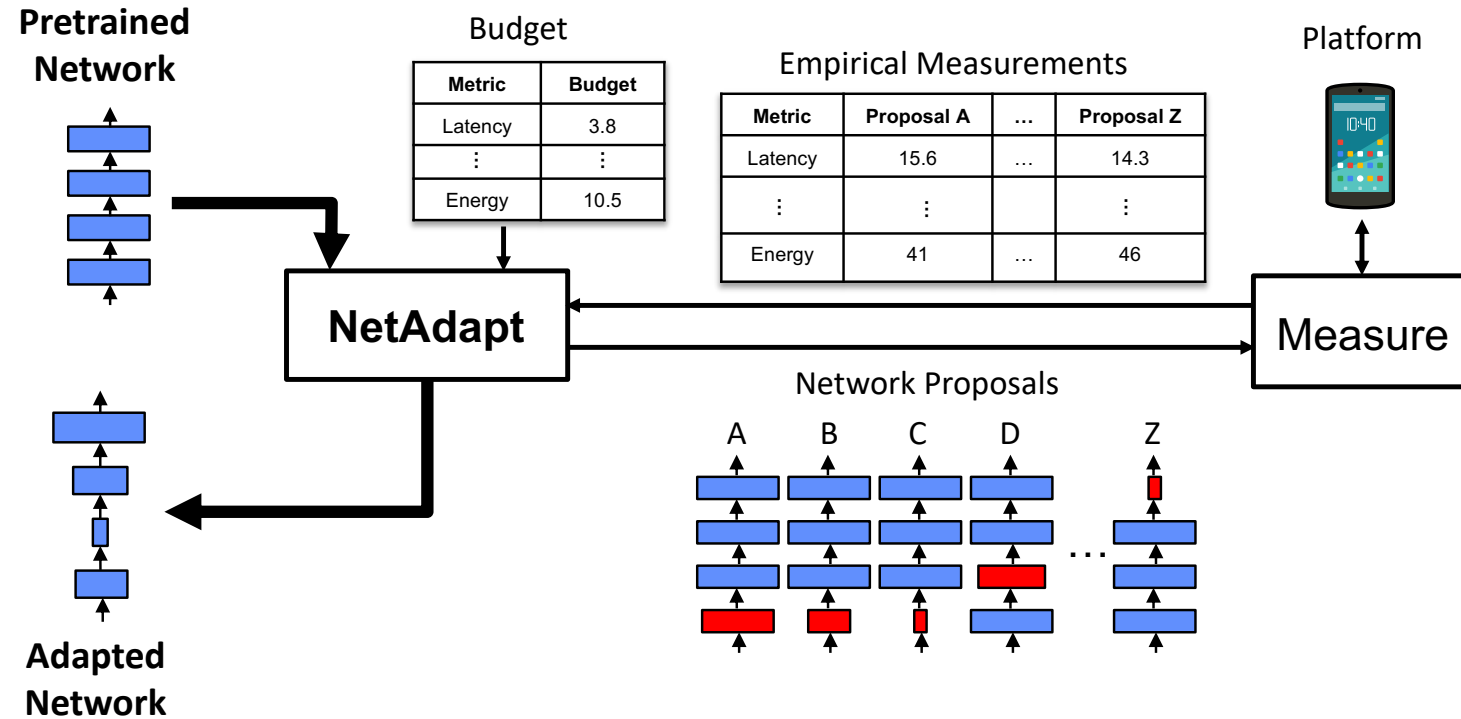


Pruned models available at  
<http://eyeriss.mit.edu/energy.html>



# NetAdapt: Platform-Aware DNN Adaptation

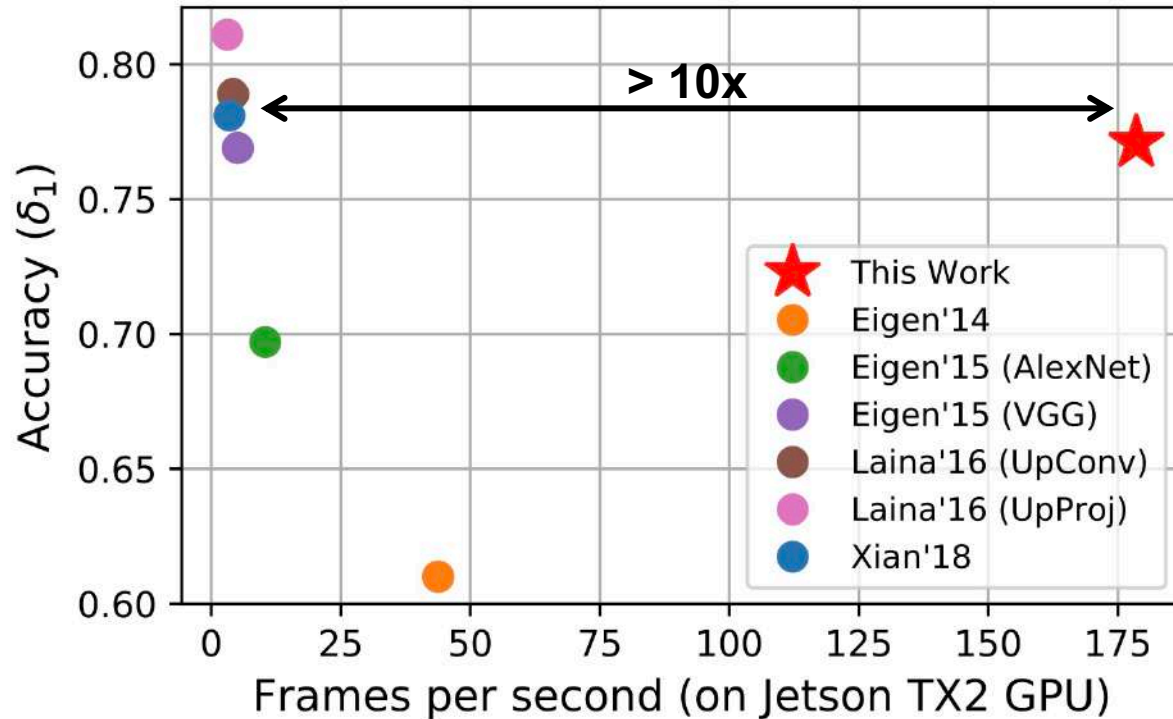
- **Automatically adapt DNN** to a mobile platform to reach a target latency or energy budget
- Use **empirical measurements** to guide optimization (avoid modeling of tool chain or platform architecture)
- **Few hyperparameters** to reduce tuning effort
- **>1.7x speed up** on MobileNet w/ similar accuracy



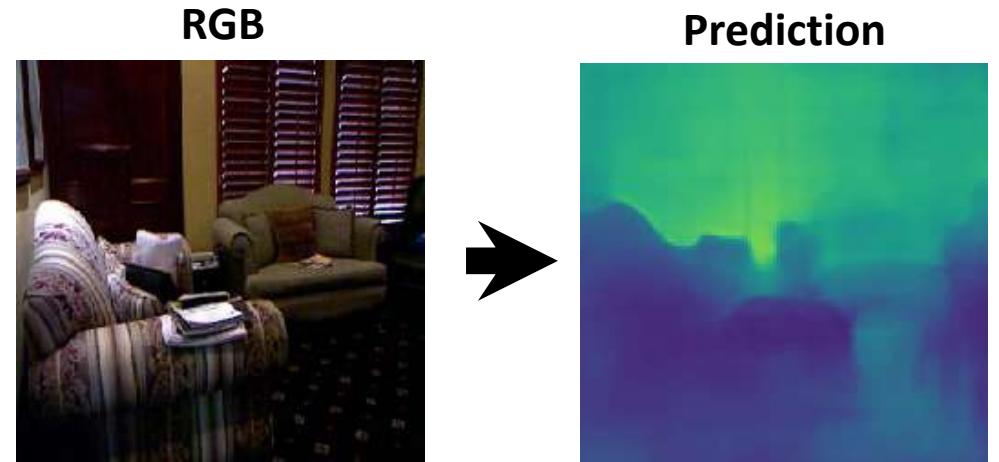
[In collaboration with Google's Mobile Vision Team]

# FastDepth: Fast Monocular Depth Estimation

Depth estimation from a single RGB image desirable, due to the relatively low cost and size of monocular cameras.



Configuration: Batch size of one (32-bit float)



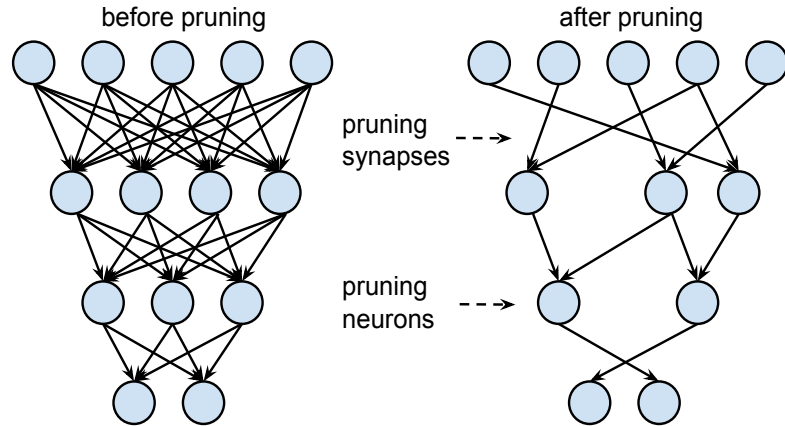
~40fps on  
an iPhone

Models available at  
<http://fastdepth.mit.edu>

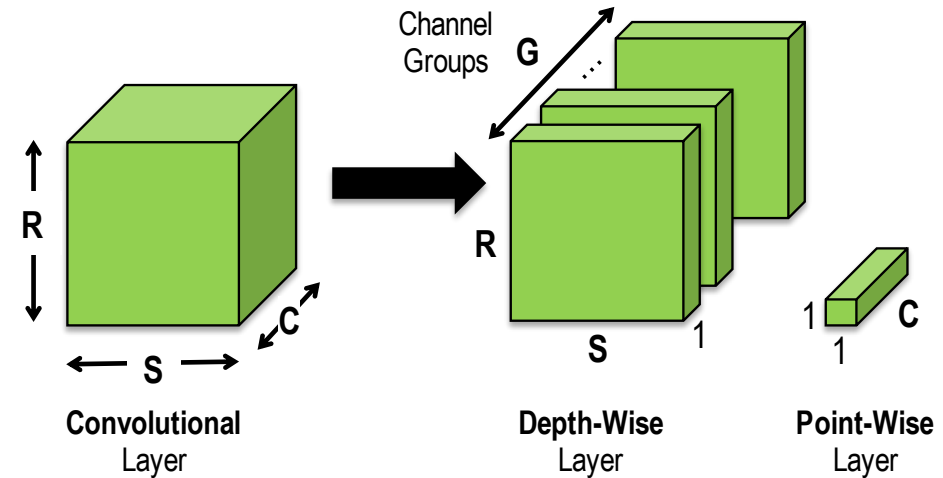
[Joint work with Sertac Karaman]

# Many Efficient DNN Design Approaches

## Network Pruning



## Compact Network Architectures



## Reduce Precision

32-bit float 10100101000000000101000000000100

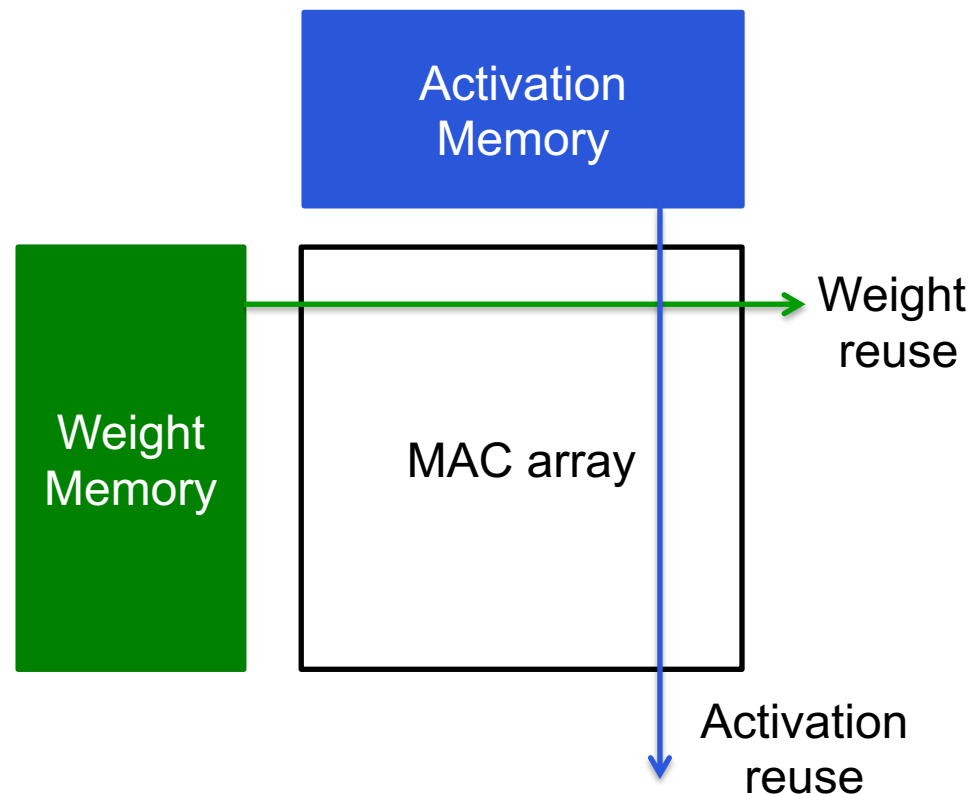
8-bit fixed 01100110

Binary 0

No guarantee that DNN algorithm designer will use a given approach.  
**Need flexible hardware!**

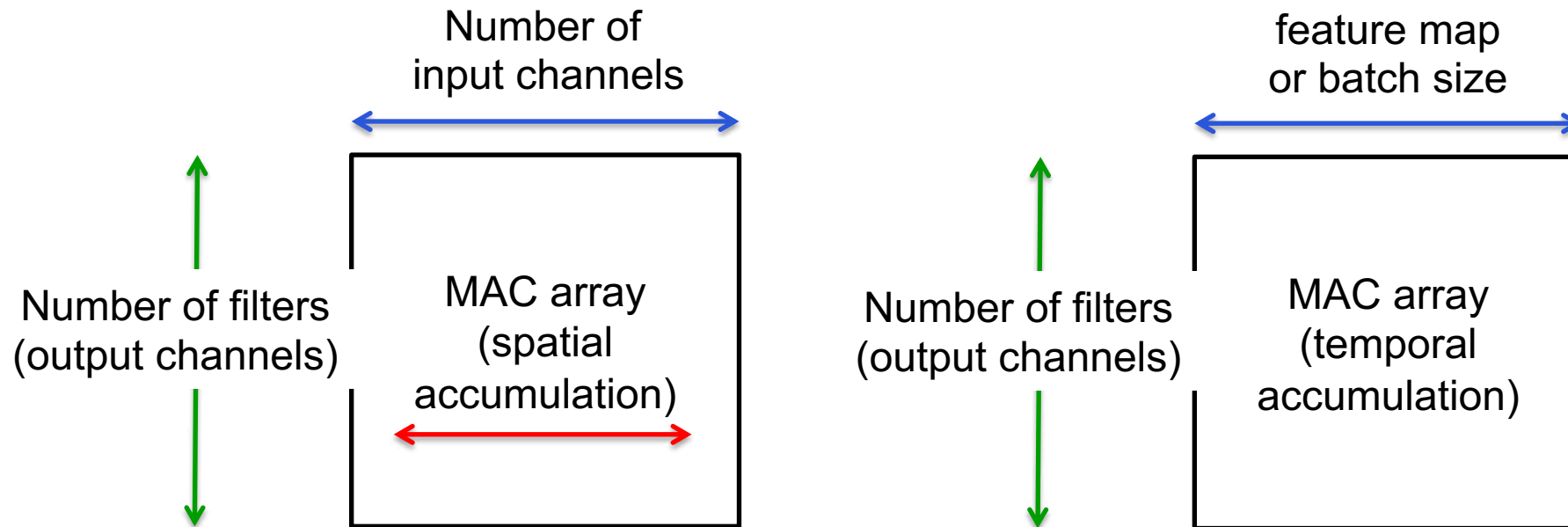
# Existing DNN Architectures

- Specialized DNN hardware often rely on certain properties of DNN in order to achieve high energy-efficiency
- **Example:** Reduce memory access by amortizing across MAC array



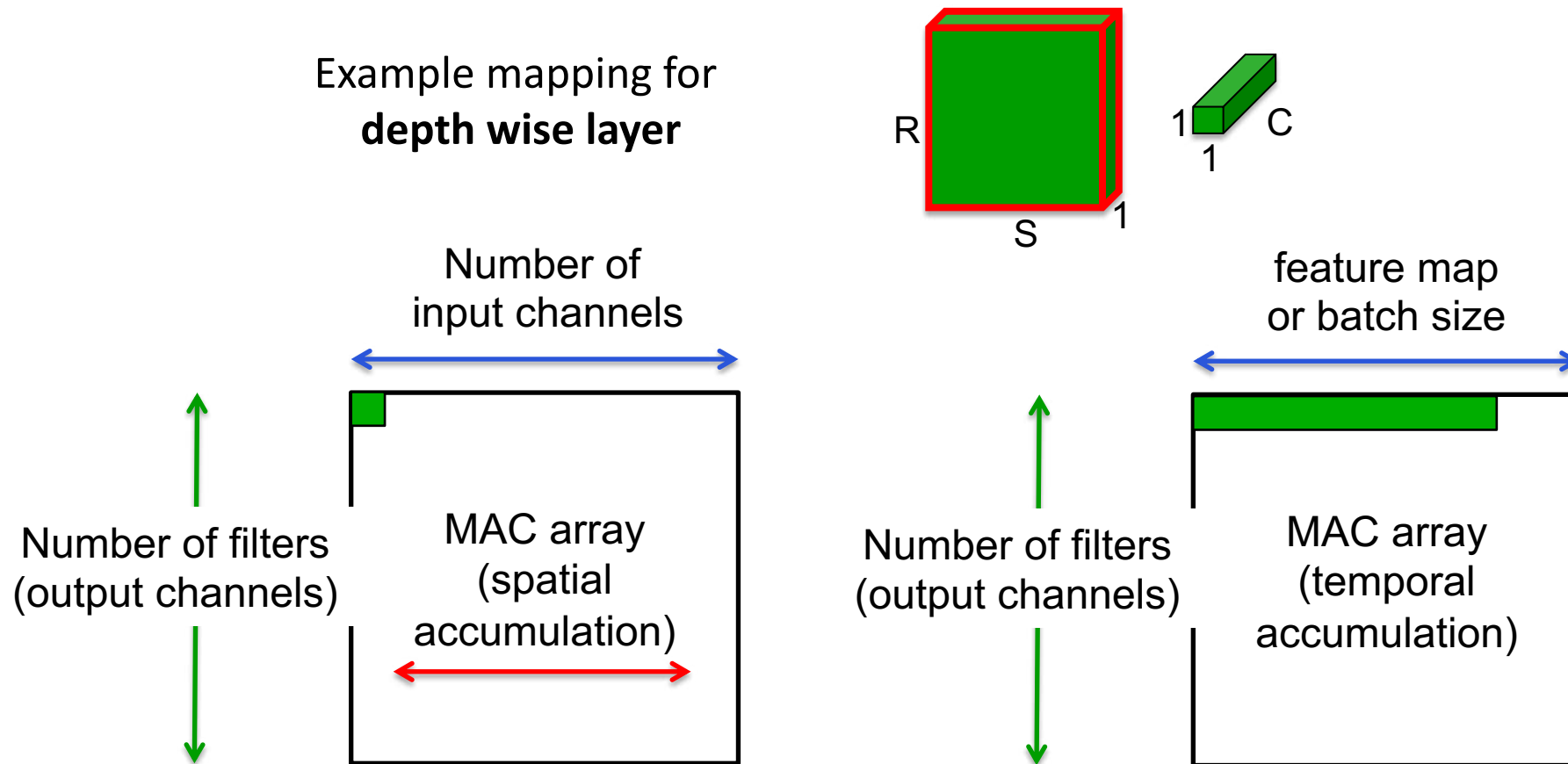
# Limitation of Existing DNN Architectures

- **Example:** Reuse and array utilization depends on # of channels, feature map/batch size
  - Not efficient across all network architectures (e.g., compact DNNs)



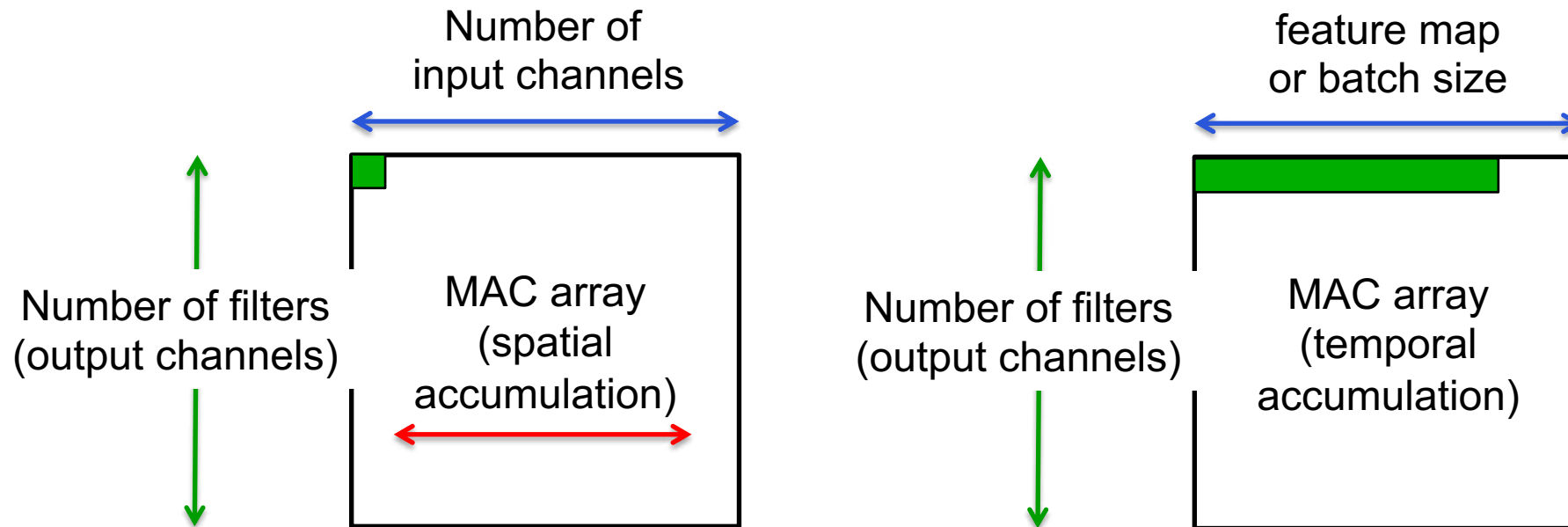
# Limitation of Existing DNN Architectures

- **Example:** Reuse and array utilization depends on # of channels, feature map/batch size
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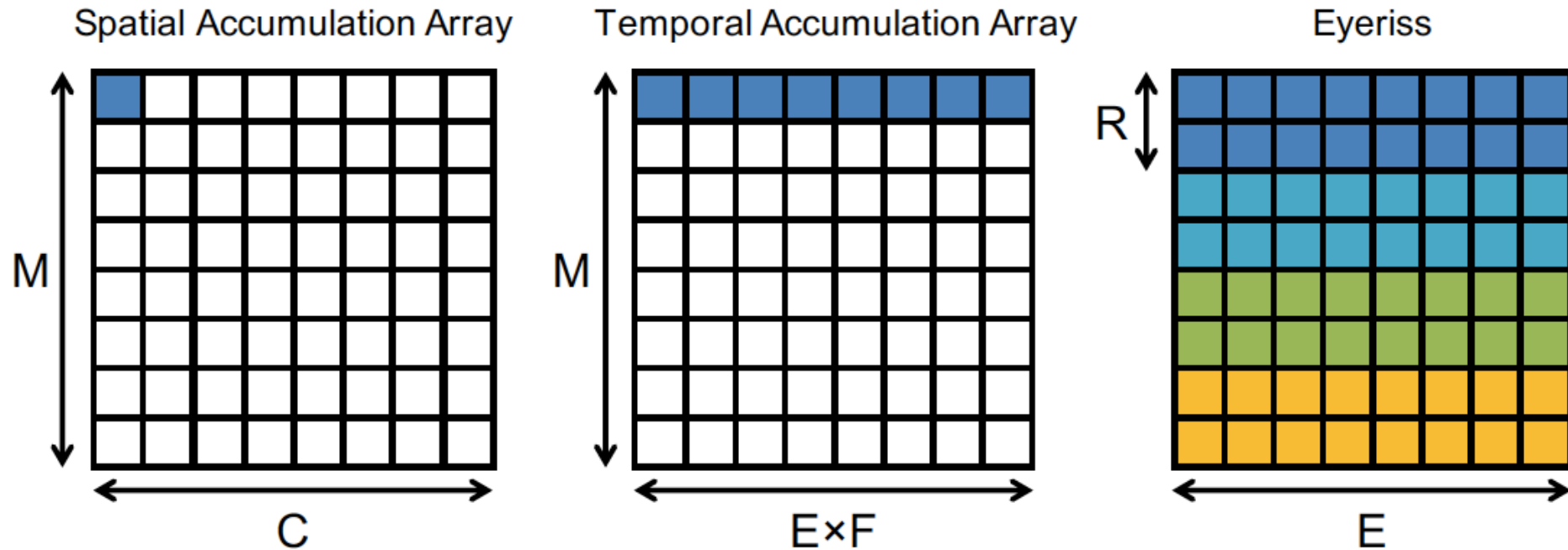
# Limitation of Existing DNN Architectures

- **Example:** Reuse and array utilization depends on # of channels, feature map/batch size
  - Not efficient across all network architectures (e.g., compact DNNs)
  - Less efficient as array scales up in size
  - Can be challenging to exploit sparsity



# Need Flexible Dataflow & Mapping

- Use flexible dataflow (**Row Stationary**) to exploit reuse in any dimension of DNN to increase energy efficiency and array utilization

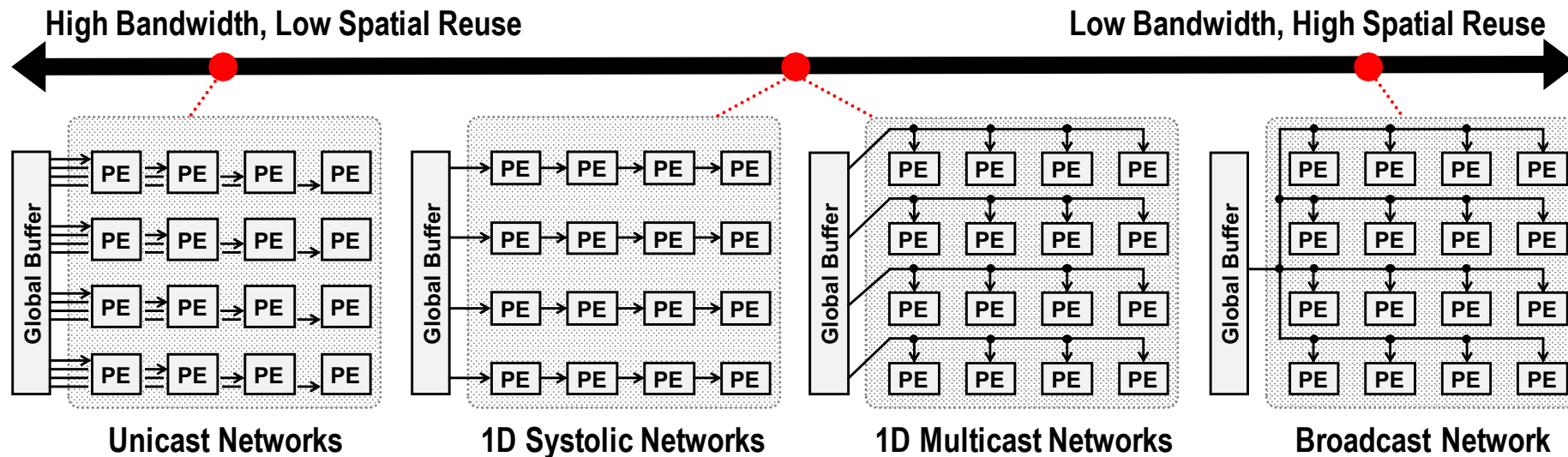


Example: Depth-wise layer

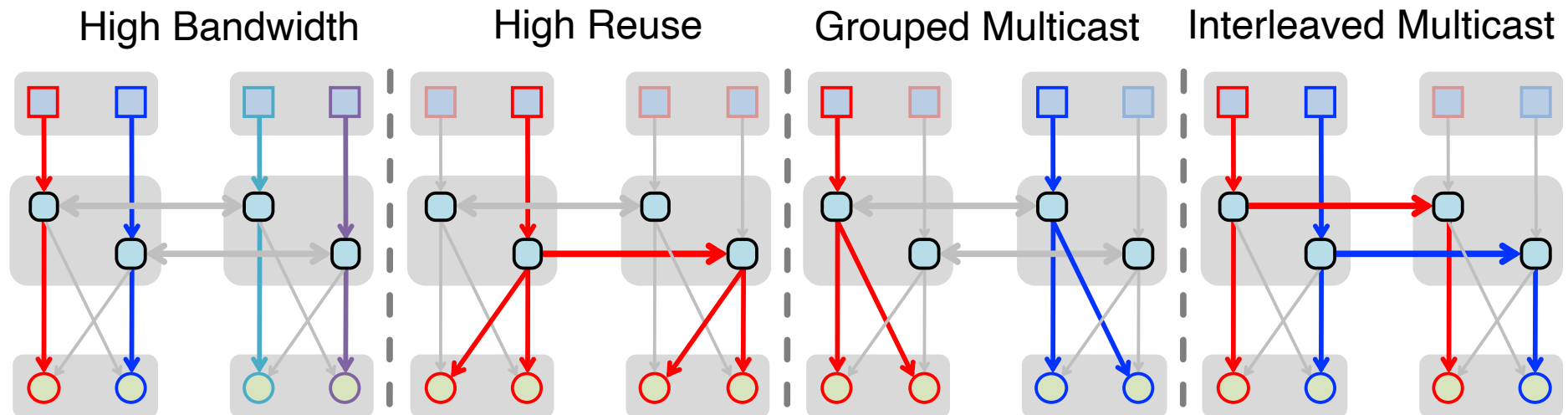
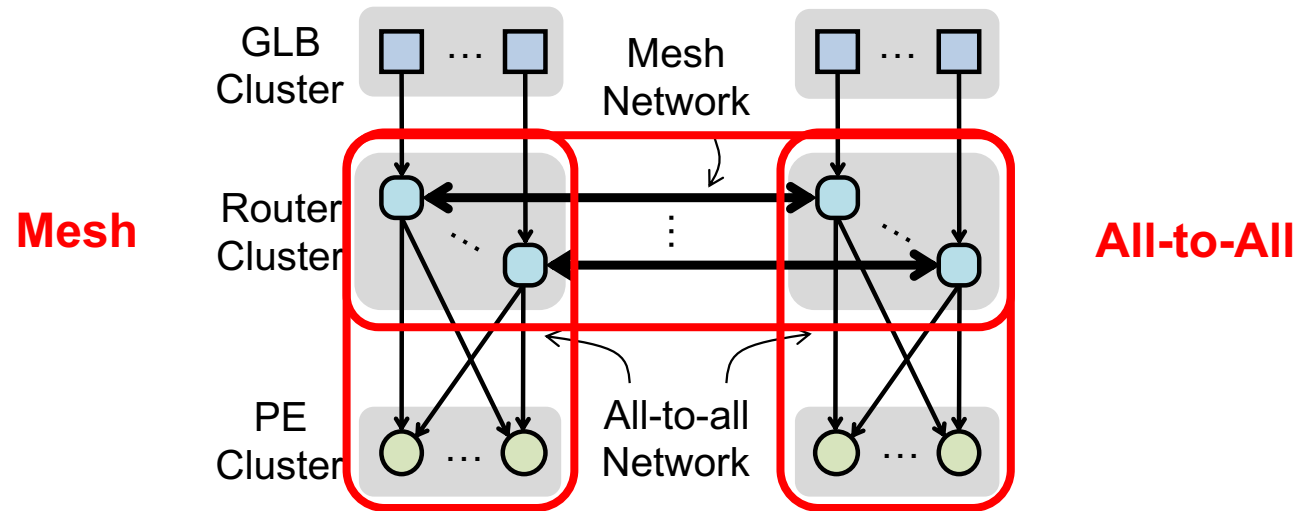


# Need Flexible NoC for Varying Reuse

- When reuse available, need **multicast** to exploit spatial data reuse for energy efficiency and high array utilization
- When reuse not available, need **unicast** for high BW for weights for FC and weights & activations for high PE utilization
- An **all-to-all** satisfies above but too expensive and not scalable



# Hierarchical Mesh



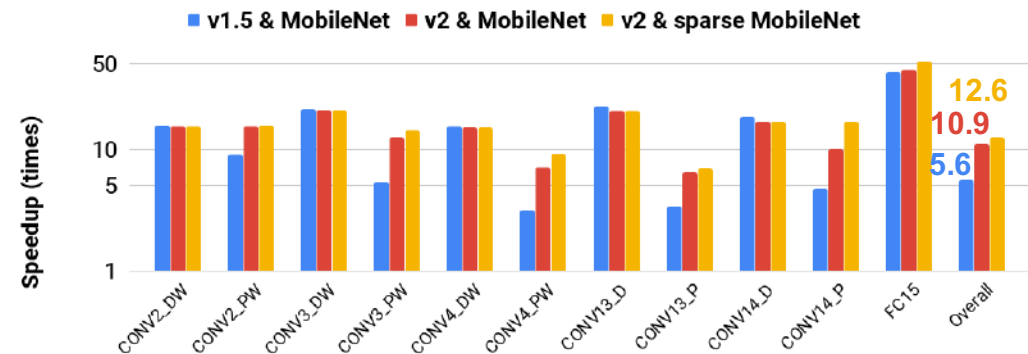
# Eyeriss v2: Balancing Flexibility and Efficiency

- Uses a flexible hierarchical mesh on-chip network to efficiently support

- Wide range of filter shapes
- Different layers
- Wide range of sparsity

- Scalable architecture

Over an order of magnitude faster and more energy efficient than Eyeriss v1

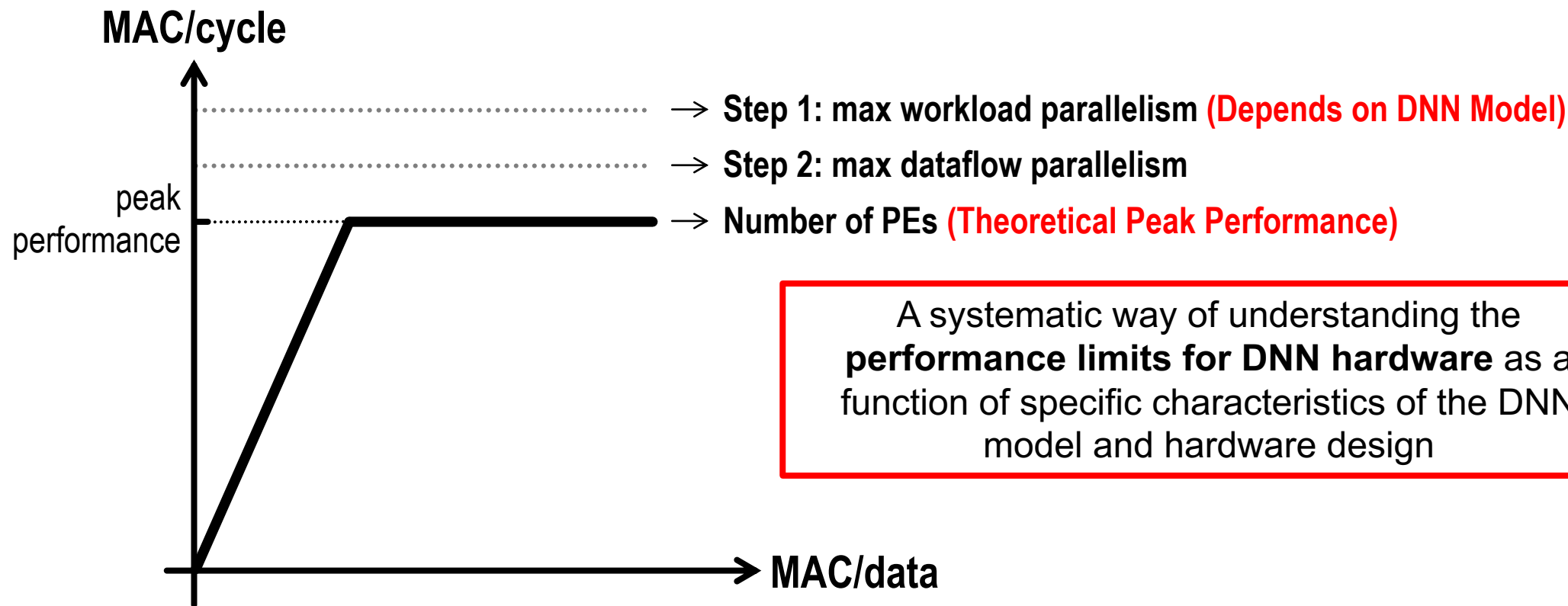


Speed up over Eyeriss v1 scales with number of PEs

# of PEs	256	1024	16384
AlexNet	17.9x	71.5x	1086.7x
GoogLeNet	10.4x	37.8x	448.8x
MobileNet	15.7x	57.9x	873.0x

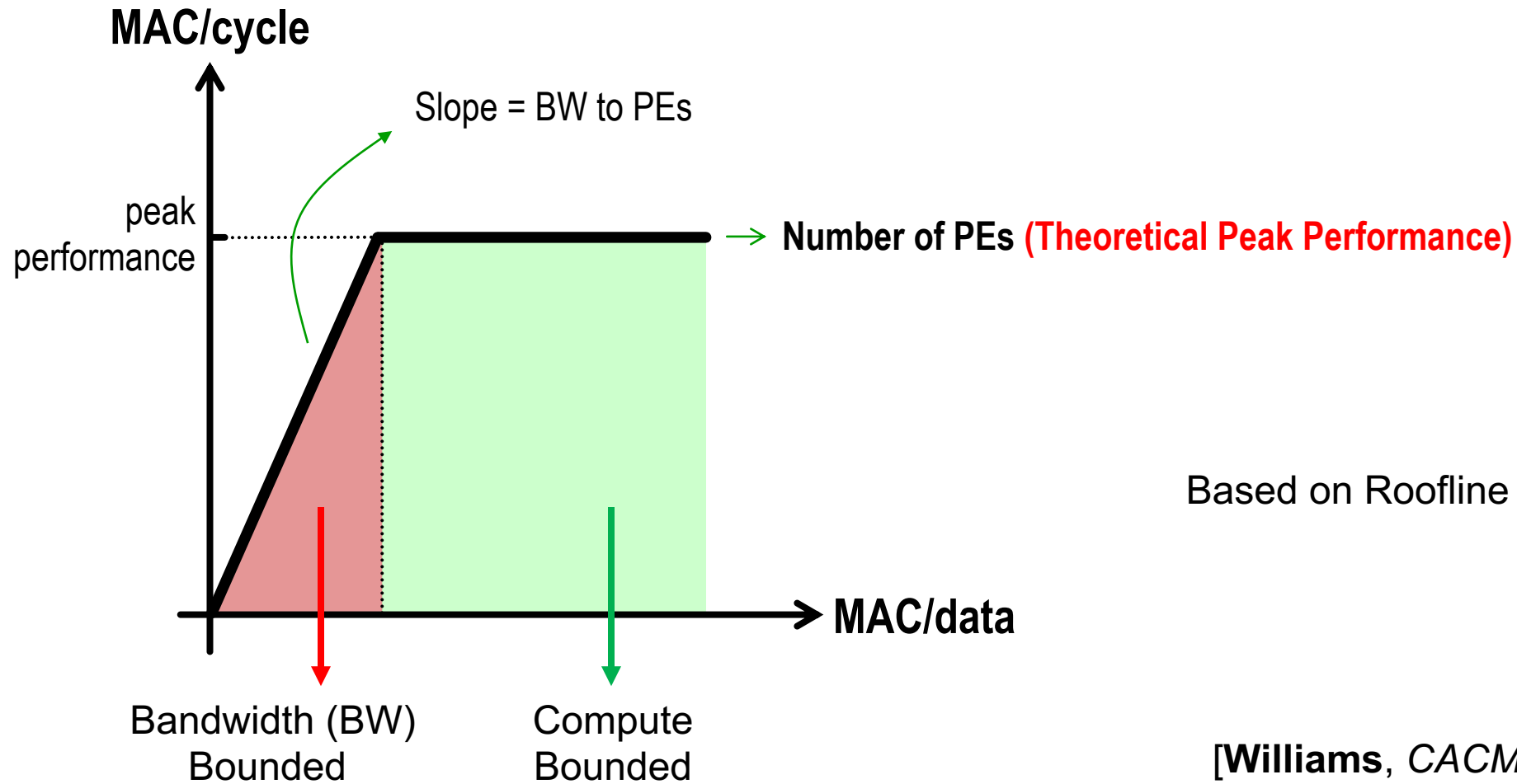
[Joint work with Joel Emer]

# Eyexam: Performance Evaluation Framework

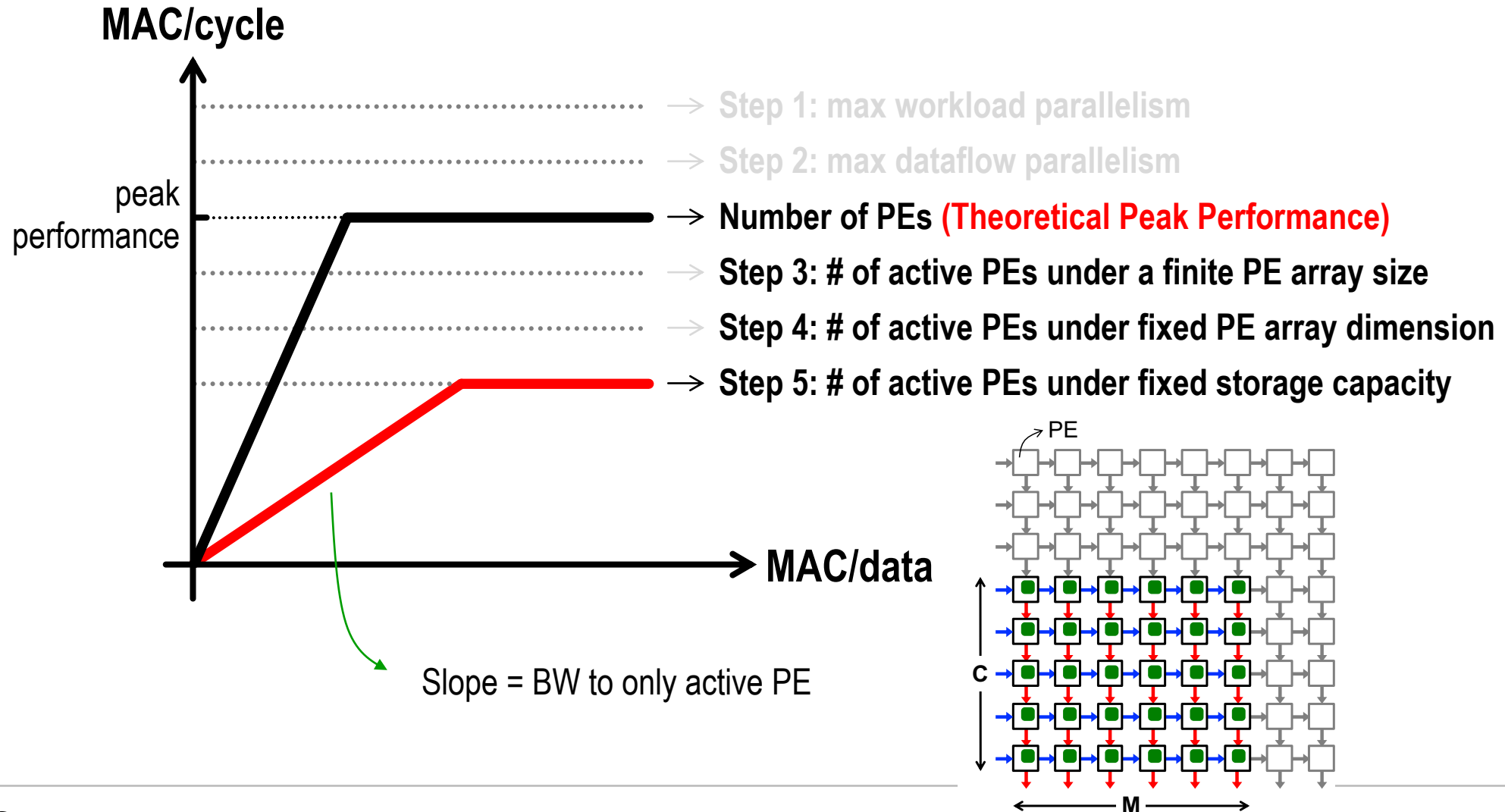


[Chen, arXiv 2019: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07928> ]

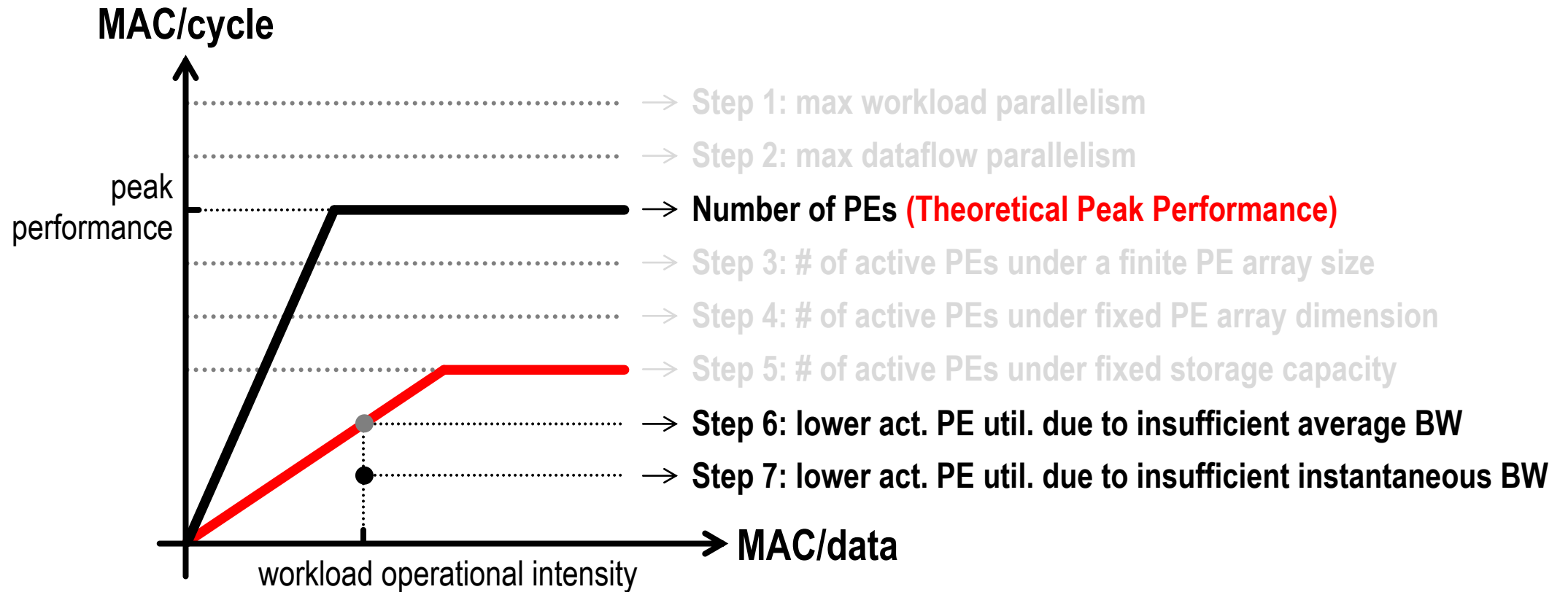
# Eyexam: Performance Evaluation Framework



# Eyexam: Performance Evaluation Framework

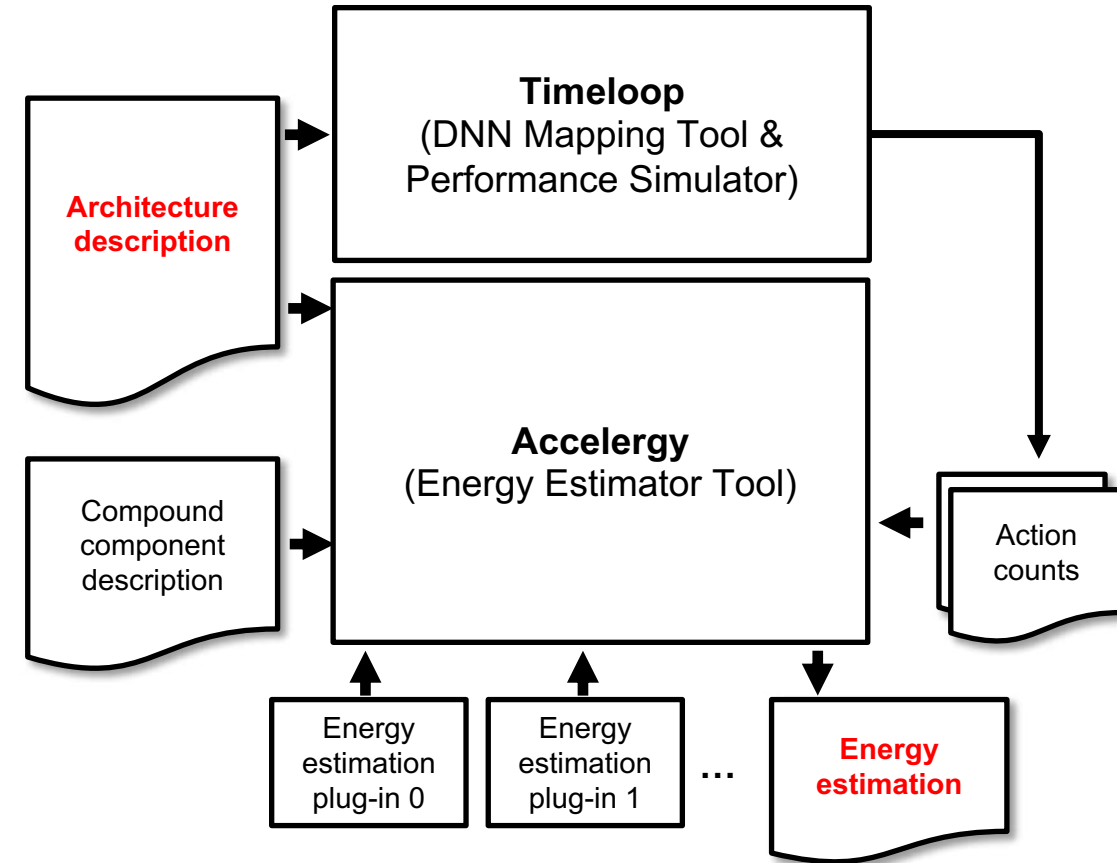


# Eyexam: Performance Evaluation Framework



# DNN Accelerator Evaluation Tools

- Require systematic way to
  - Evaluate and compare DNN accelerators
  - Rapidly explore design space
- **Accelergy** [Wu, ICCAD 2019]
  - Early stage estimation tool at the architecture level
    - Estimate energy based on architecture level components (e.g., # of PEs, memory size, on-chip network)
  - Evaluate architecture level impact of emerging devices
    - Plug-ins for different technologies
- **Timeloop** [Parashar, ISPASS 2019]
  - DNN mapping tool
  - Performance Simulator → Action counts

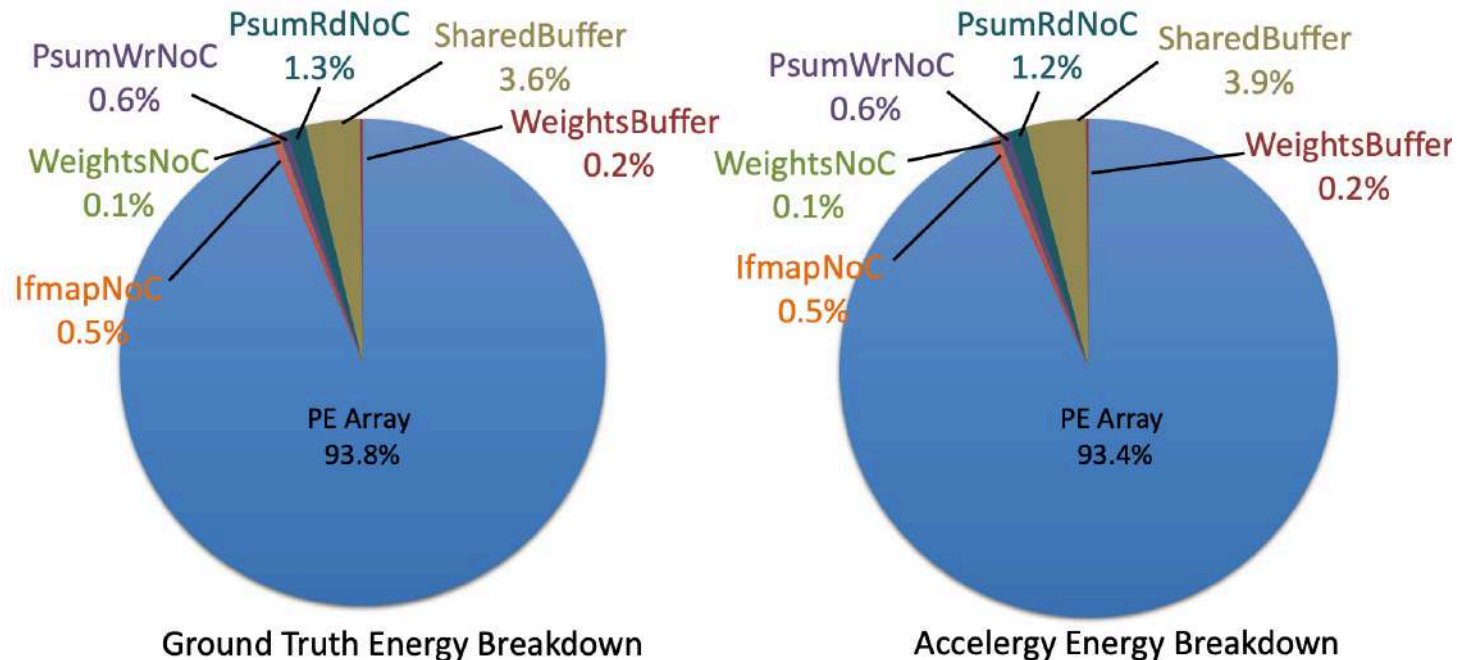


Open-source code available at:  
<http://accelergy.mit.edu>



# Accelergy Estimation Validation

- Validation on Eyeriss [Chen, ISSCC 2016]
  - Achieves 95% accuracy compared to post-layout simulations
  - Can accurately captures energy breakdown at different granularities

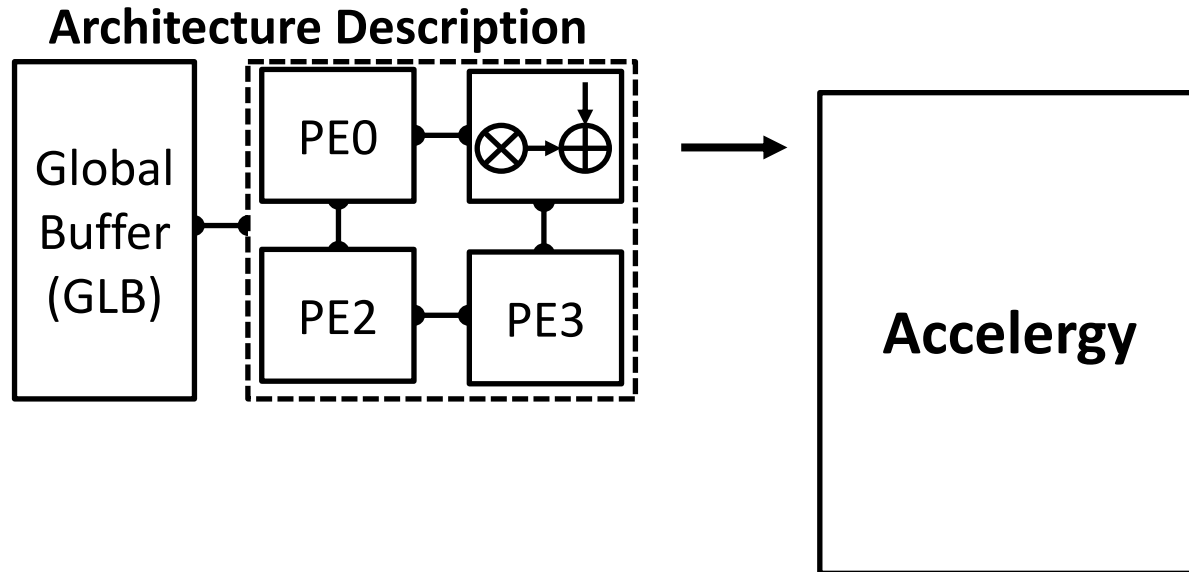


*\*Total energy might not add up to exact 100.0% due to rounding*

Open-source code available at: <http://accelergy.mit.edu>

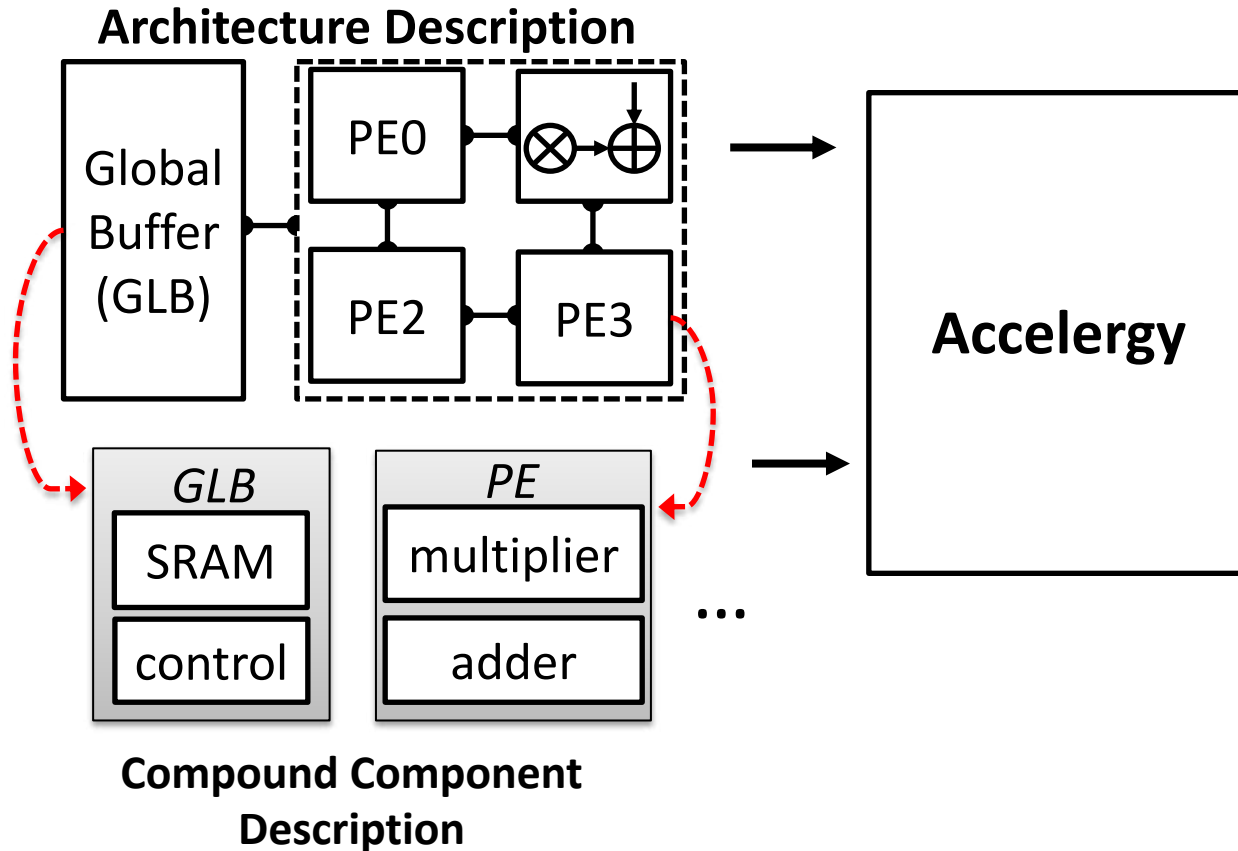
# Accelergy Infrastructure

Open-source code available at:  
<http://accelergy.mit.edu>



# Accelergy Infrastructure

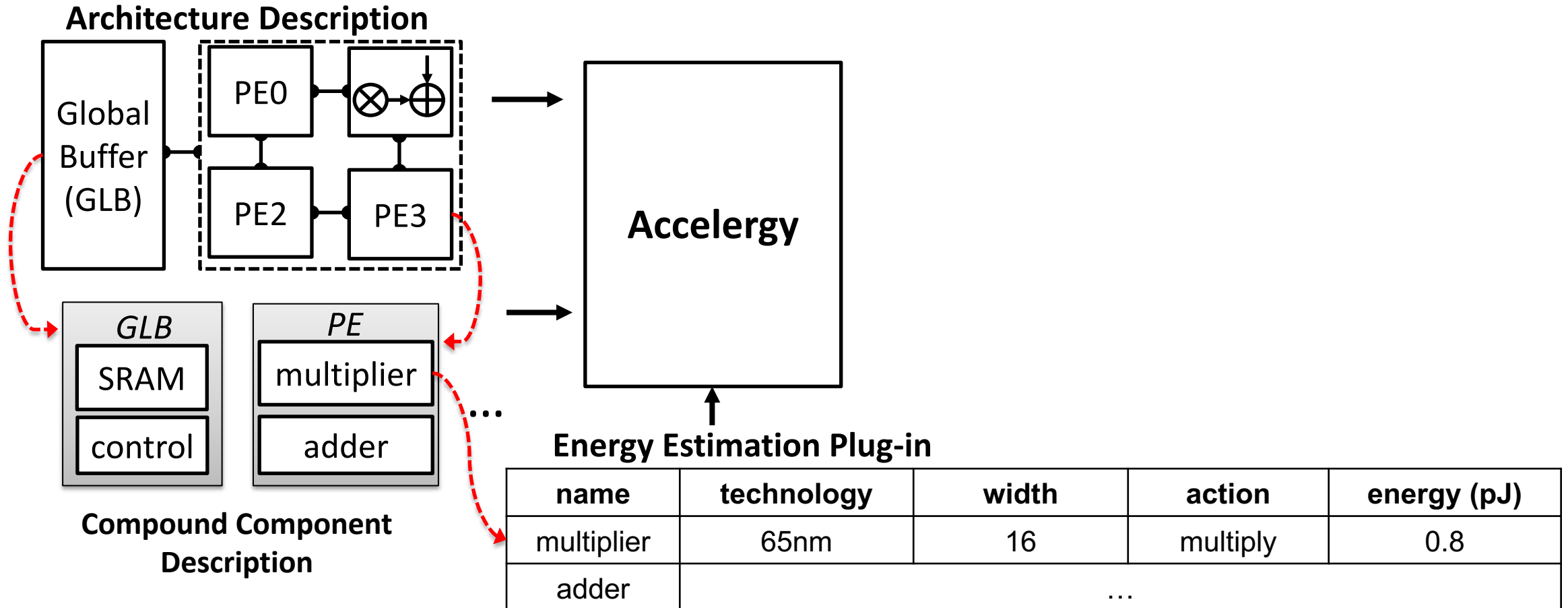
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# Accelergy Infrastructure

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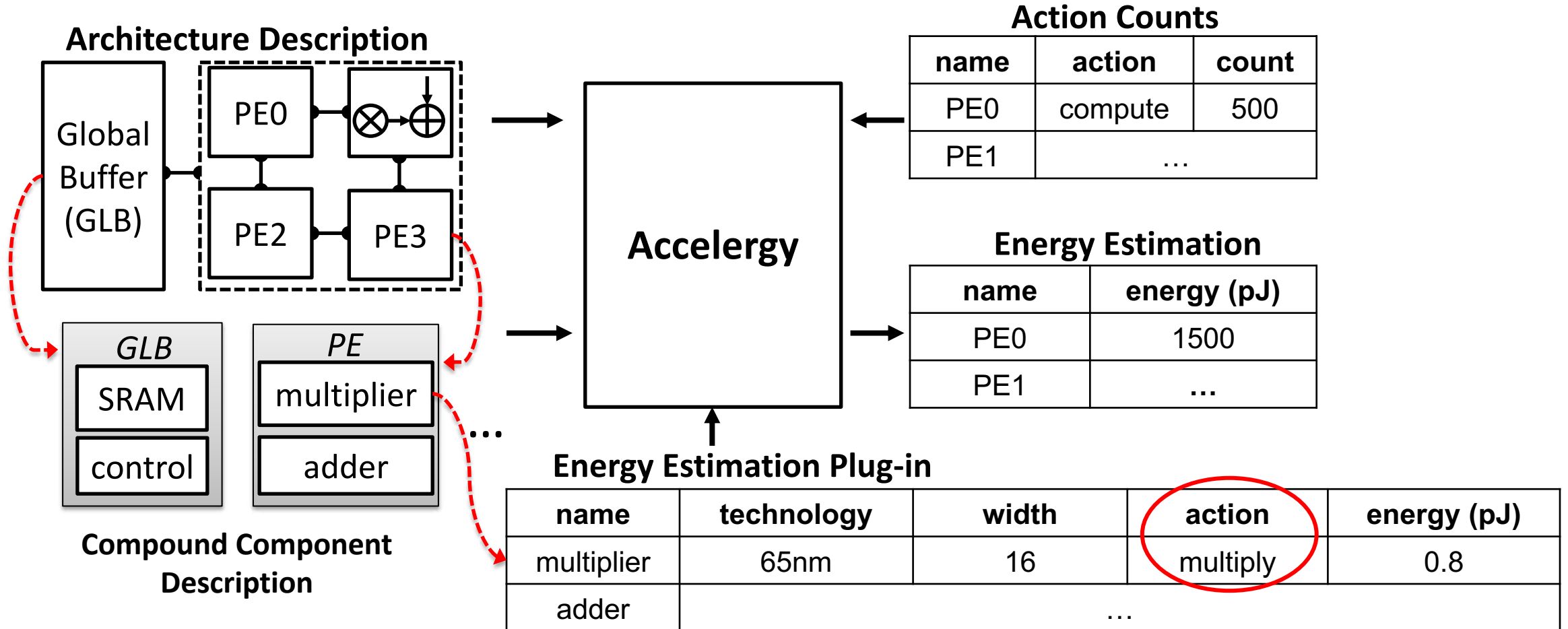
<http://accelergy.mit.edu>



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Open-source code available at:

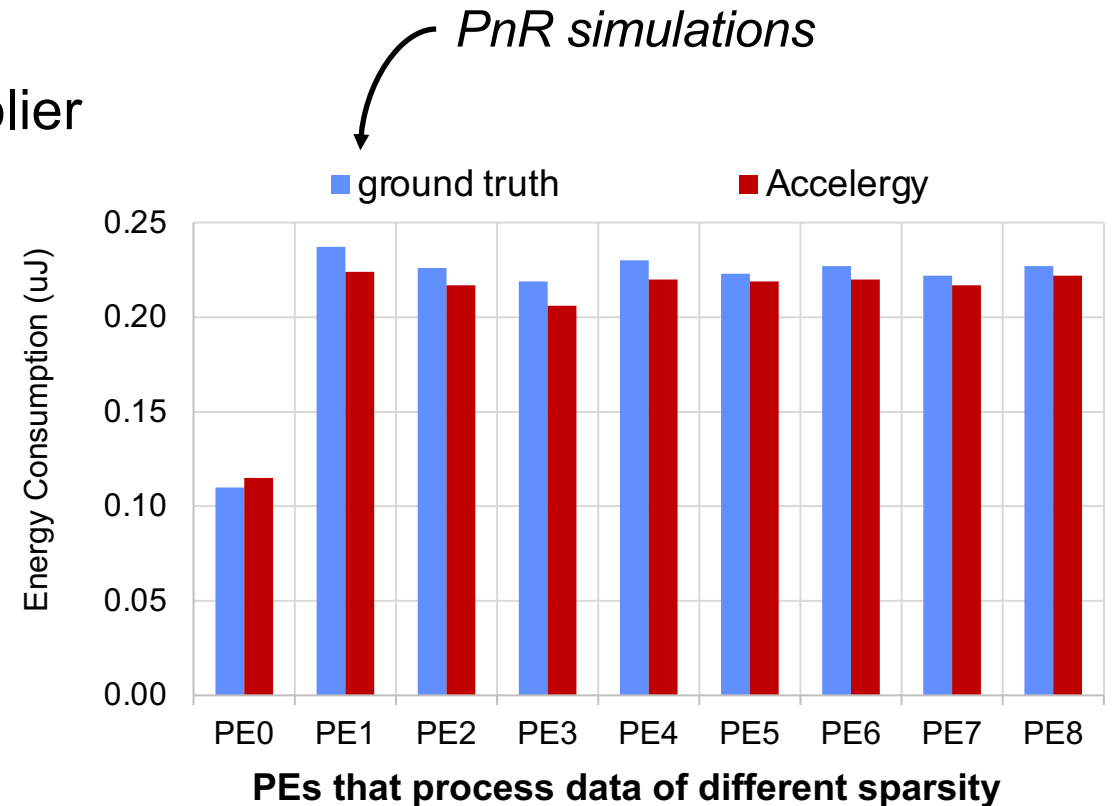
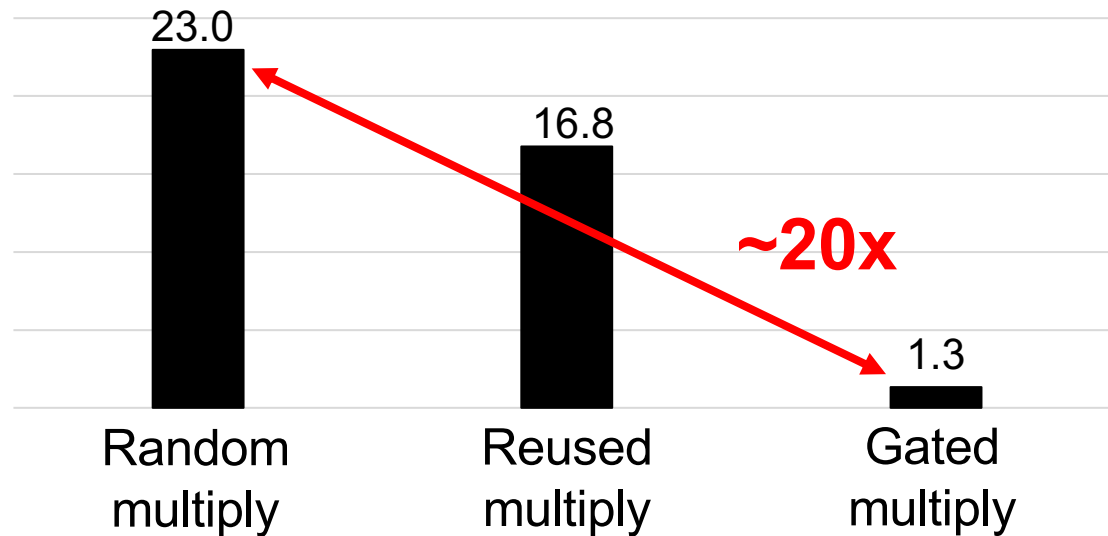
<http://accelergy.mit.edu>



# Plug-ins for Fine-Grain Action Energy Estimation

- External energy/area models that accurately reflect the properties of a macro
  - e.g., multiplier with zero-gating

Energy characterizations of the zero-gated multiplier  
(normalized to idle)

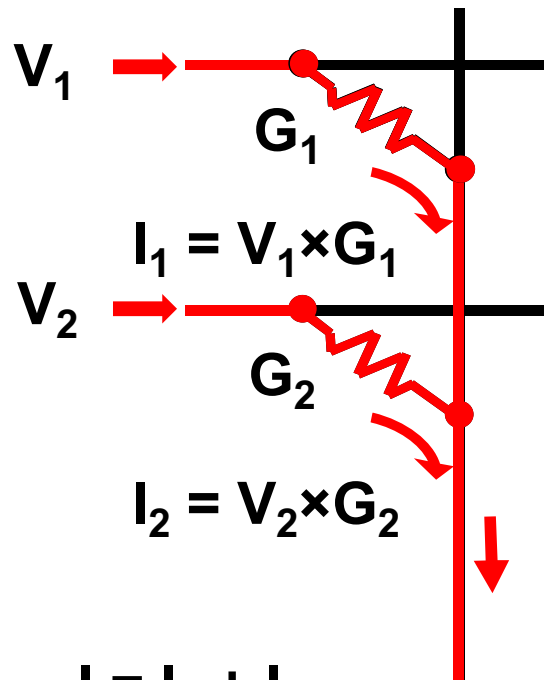


With the characterization provided in the plug-in,  
we can capture the energy savings for sparse workloads

# In-Memory Computing (IMC\*)

Activation is input voltage ( $V_i$ )

Weight is resistor conductance ( $G_i$ )



$$I_1 = V_1 \times G_1$$

$$I_2 = V_2 \times G_2$$

Psum  
is output  
current

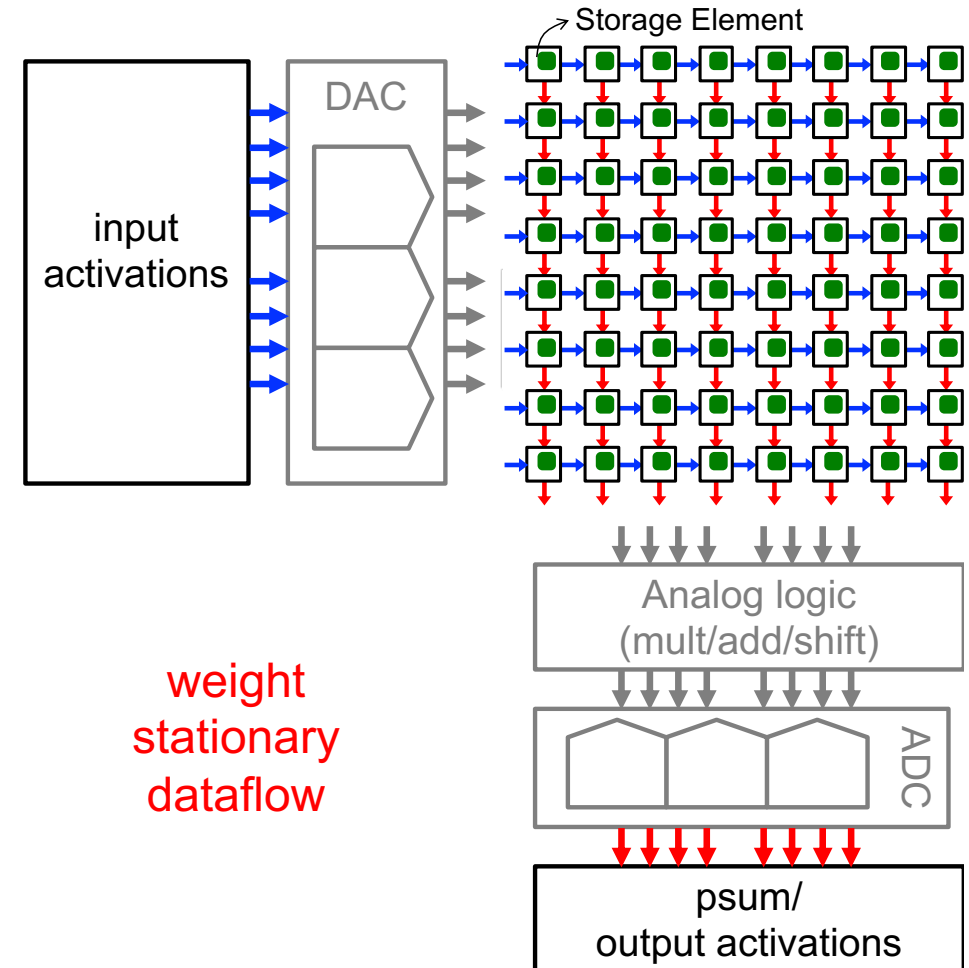
$$I = I_1 + I_2 \\ = V_1 \times G_1 + V_2 \times G_2$$

Image Source: [Shafiee, /SCA 2016]

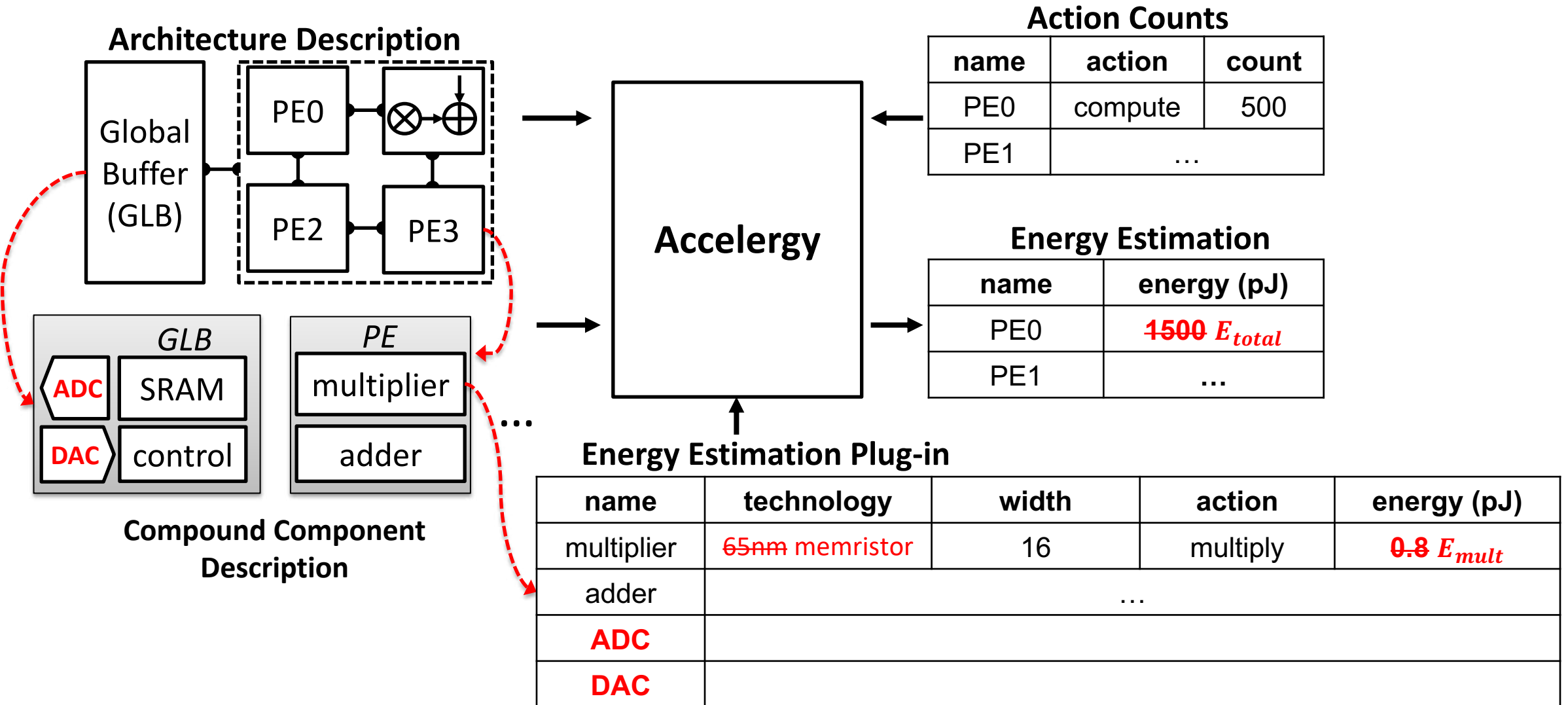
- Reduce data movement by **moving compute into memory**
- Compute MAC with memory storage element
- **Analog Compute**
  - Activations, weights and/or partial sums are encoded with analog voltage, current, or resistance
  - Increased sensitivity to circuit non-idealities
  - A/D and D/A circuits to interface with digital domain
- Leverage **emerging memory device technology**

# In-Memory Computing (IMC)

- **Implement as matrix-vector multiply**
  - Typically, matrix composed of stored weights and vector composed of input activations
- **Reduce weight data movement by moving compute into the memory**
  - Perform MAC with storage element or in peripheral circuits
  - Read out partial sums rather than weights → fewer accesses through peripheral circuits
- **Increase weight bandwidth**
  - Multiple weights accessed in parallel to keep MACs busy (high utilization)
- **Increase amount of parallel MACs**
  - Storage element can be higher area density than digital MAC
  - Reduce routing capacitance



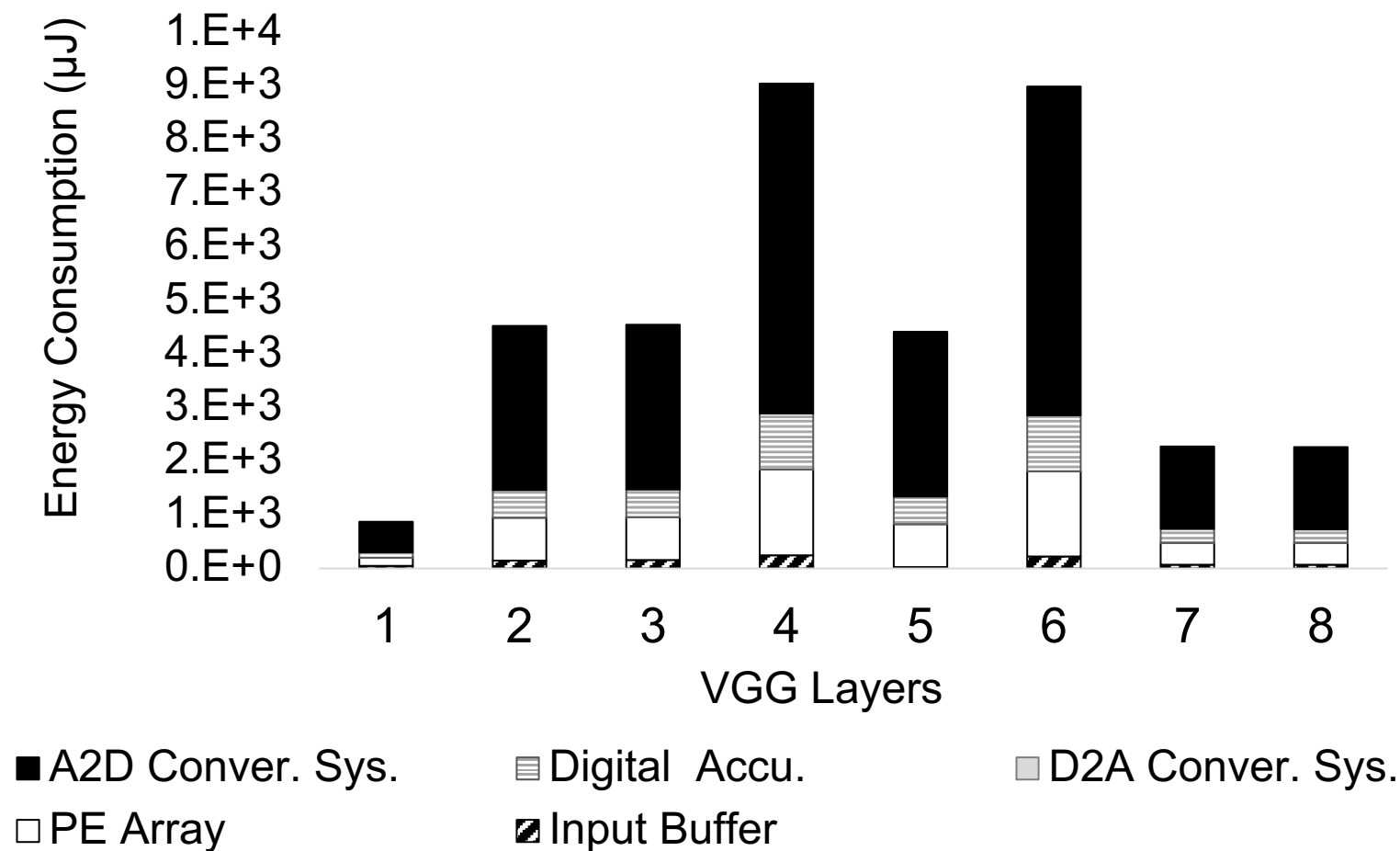




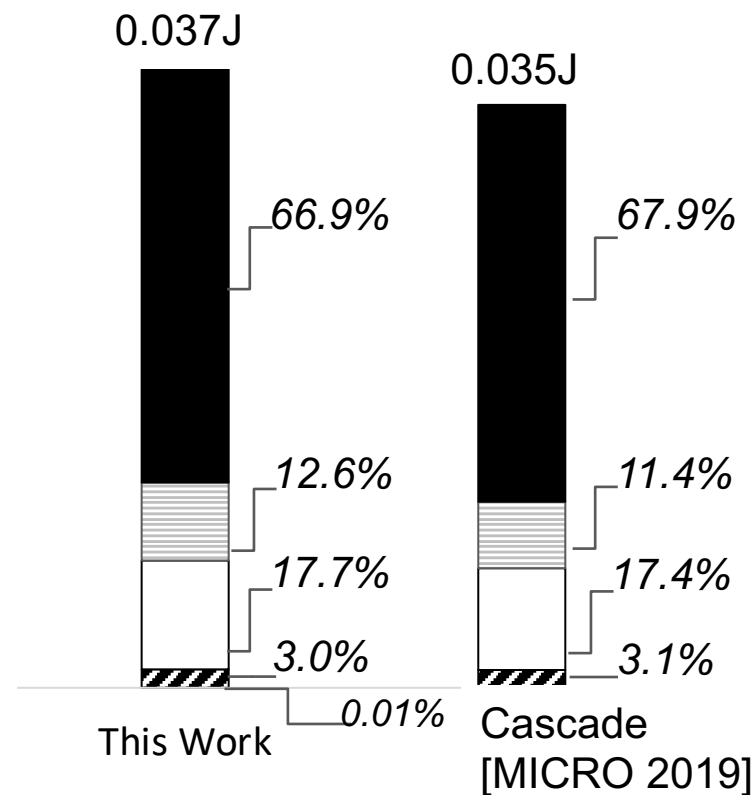
# Accelergy for IMC

Open-source code available at:  
<http://accelergy.mit.edu>

Energy breakdown across layers



Achieves ~95% accuracy



# Accelergy + Timeloop Tutorial

Tutorial material available at <http://accelergy.mit.edu/tutorial.html>  
***Includes videos and hands-on exercises***

**Timeloop**

**Accelergy**

Angshuman Parashar NVIDIA  
 Yannan Nellie Wu MIT  
 Po-An Tsai NVIDIA  
 Vivienne Sze MIT  
 Joel S. Emer NVIDIA, MIT

**ISCA Tutorial**  
 May 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Timeloop**

**Accelergy**

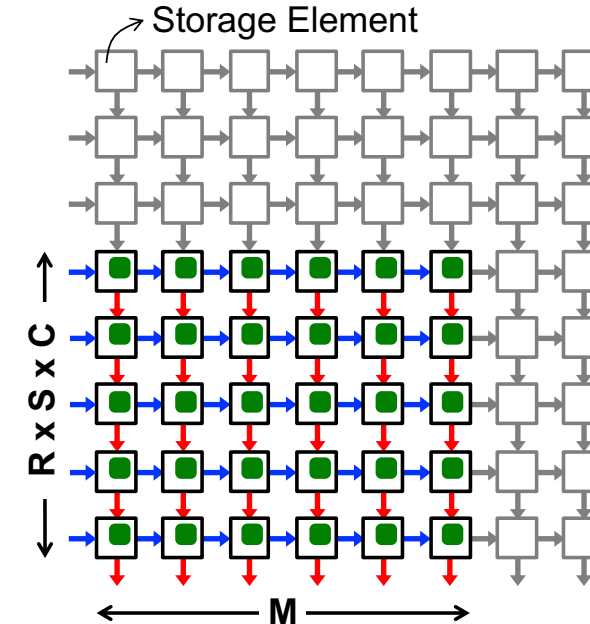
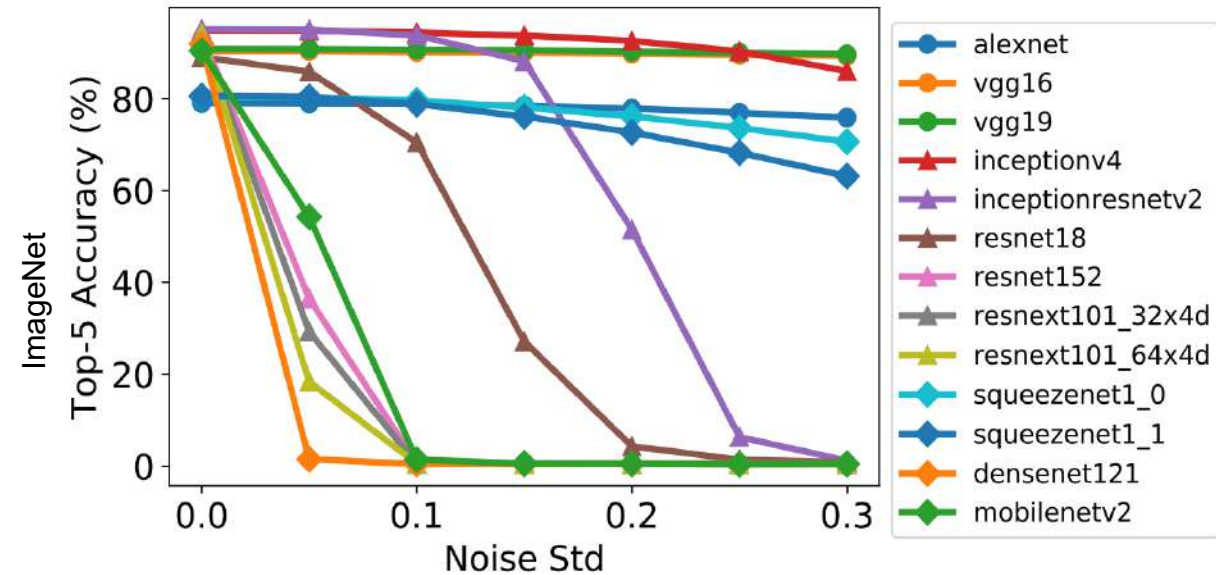
Angshuman Parashar NVIDIA  
 Yannan Nellie Wu MIT  
 Po-An Tsai NVIDIA  
 Vivienne Sze MIT  
 Joel S. Emer NVIDIA, MIT

**ISCA Tutorial**  
*Hands-on session*  
 May 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

# Designing DNNs for IMC

- Designing DNNs for IMC may differ from DNNs for digital processors
- Highest accuracy DNN on digital processor may be different on IMC
  - Accuracy drops based on robustness to non-idealities
- Reducing number of weights is less desirable
  - Since IMC is weight stationary, may be better to reduce number of activations
  - IMC tend to have larger arrays  $\rightarrow$  fewer weights may lead to low utilization on IMC



## Advanced Technologies

As highlighted throughout the previous chapters, data movement dominates energy consumption. The energy is consumed both in the access to the memory as well as the transfer of the data. The associated physical factors also limit the bandwidth available to deliver data between memory and compute, and thus limits the throughput of the overall system. This is commonly referred to by computer architects as the “memory wall.”<sup>1</sup>

To address the challenges associated with data movement, there have been various efforts to bring compute and memory closer together. Chapters 5 and 6 primarily focus on how to design spatial architectures that distribute the on-chip memory closer to the computation (e.g., scratch pad memory in the PE). This chapter will describe various other architectures that use *advanced memory, process, and fabrication technologies* to bring the compute and memory together.

First, we will describe efforts to bring the off-chip high-density memory (e.g., DRAM) closer to the computation. These approaches are often referred to as *processing near memory* or *near-data processing*, and include memory technologies such as embedded DRAM and 3-D stacked DRAM.

Next, we will describe efforts to integrate the computation *into* the memory itself. These approaches are often referred to as *processing in memory* or *in-memory computing*, and include memory technologies such as Static Random Access Memories (SRAM), Dynamic Random Access Memories (DRAM), and emerging non-volatile memory (NVM). Since these approaches rely on mixed-signal circuit design to enable processing in the analog domain, we will also discuss the design challenges related to handling the increased sensitivity to circuit and device non-idealities (e.g., nonlinearity, process and temperature variations), as well as the impact on area density, which is critical for memory.

Significant data movement also occurs between the sensor that collects the data and the DNN processor. The same principles that are used to bring compute near the memory, where the weights are stored, can be used to bring the compute *near* the sensor, where the input data is collected. Therefore, we will also discuss how to integrate some of the compute *into* the sensor.

Finally, since photons travel much faster than electrons and the cost of moving a photon can be *independent* of distance, processing in the optical domain using light may provide significant improvements in energy efficiency and throughput over the electrical domain. Accordingly, we will conclude this chapter by discussing the recent work that performs DNN processing in the optical domain, referred to as *Optical Neural Networks*.

<sup>1</sup>Specifically, the memory wall refers to data moving between the off-chip memory (e.g., DRAM) and the processor.

## *Many Design Considerations for In-Memory Computing*

- Number of Storage Elements per Weight
- Array Size
- Number of Rows Activated in Parallel
- Number of Columns Activated in Parallel
- Time to Deliver Input
- Time to Compute MAC

Tradeoffs between energy efficiency, throughput, area density, and accuracy, which *reduce the achievable gains over conventional architectures*

Available on DNN tutorial website  
<http://eyeriss.mit.edu/tutorial.html>

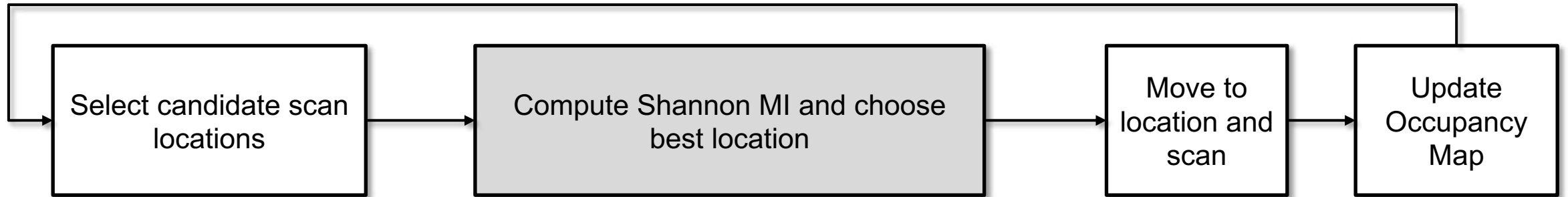
# Where to Go Next: Planning and Mapping

## Robot Exploration



# Where to Go Next: Planning and Mapping

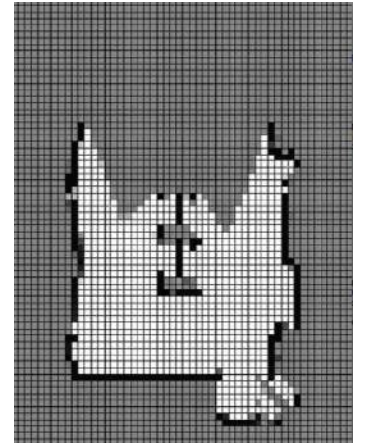
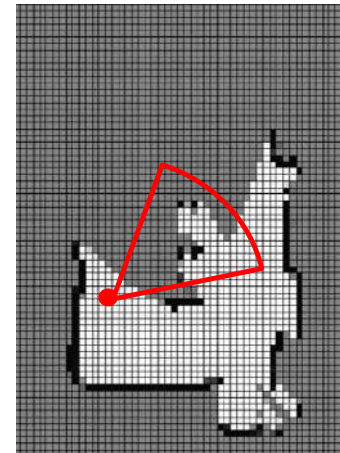
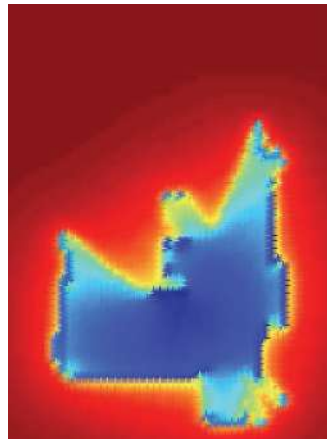
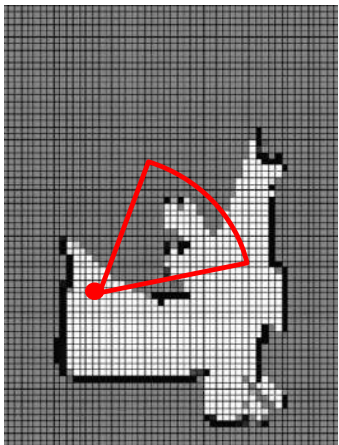
*Robot Exploration: Decide where to go by computing Shannon Mutual Information*



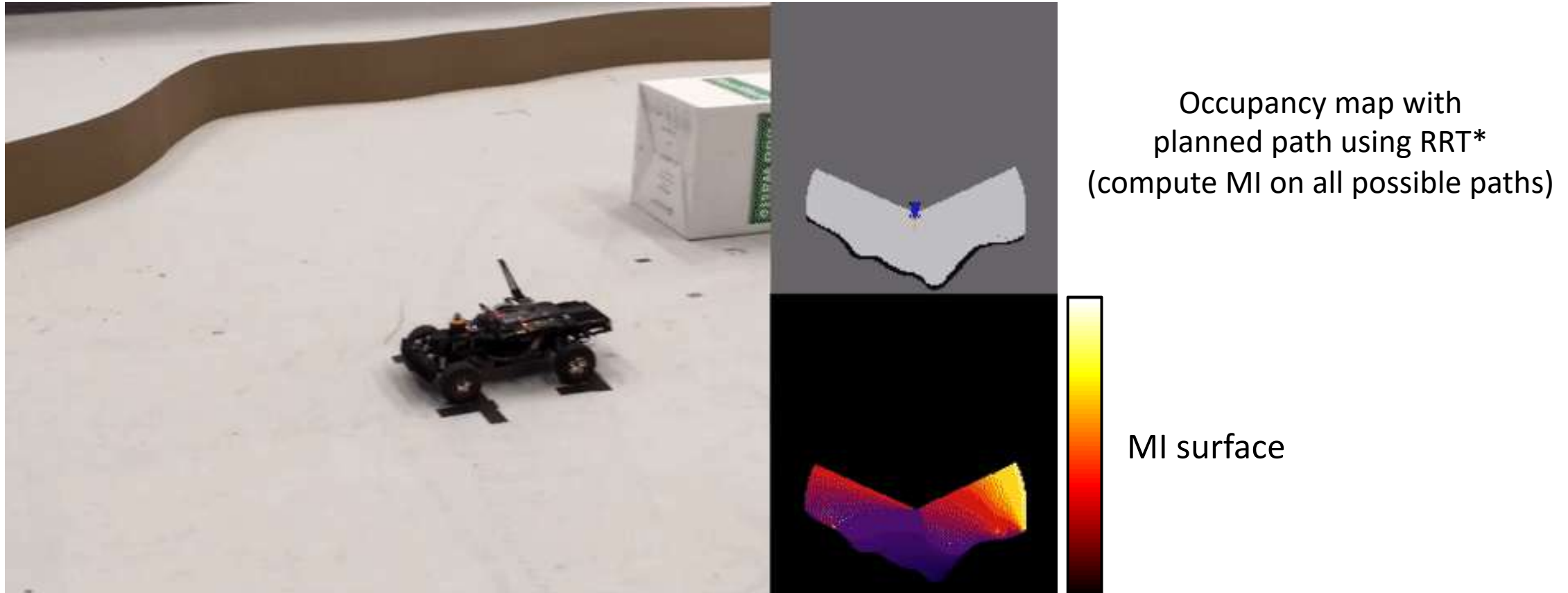
Where to scan?

Mutual Information

Updated Map



# Experimental Results (4x Real Time)



Exploration with a mini race car using motion capture for localization



# Building Hardware Accelerator to Compute MI

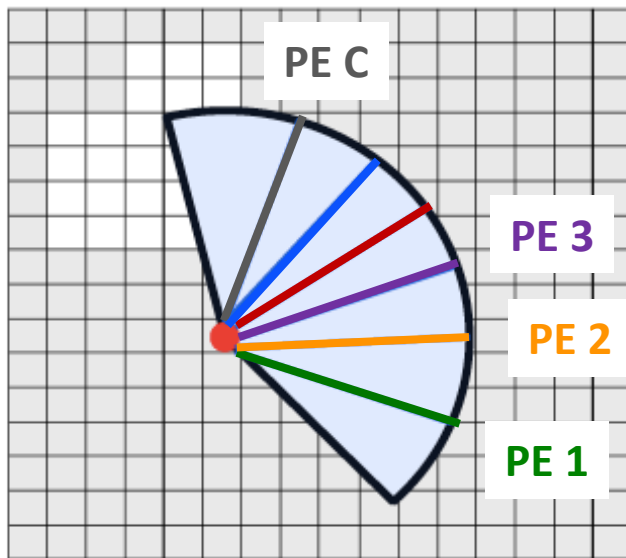
**Motivation:** Compute MI faster for faster exploration!

$$I(M; Z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=j-\Delta}^{j+\Delta} P(e_j) C_k G_{k,j}$$

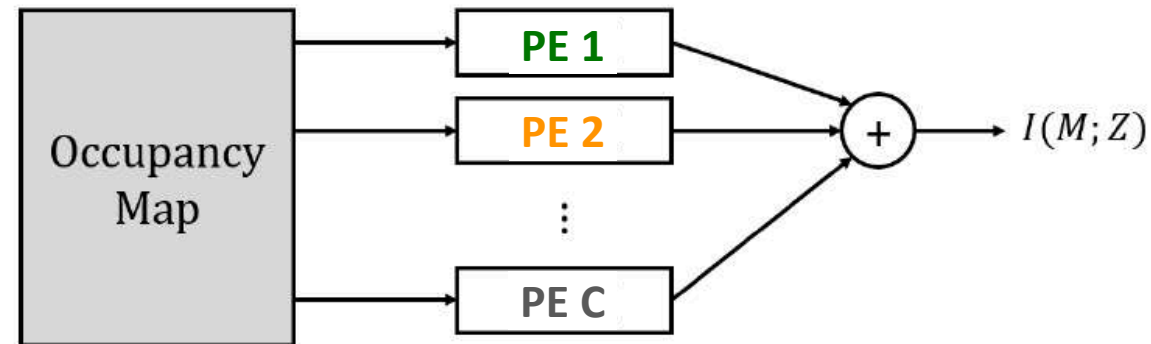
Fast Shannon  
Mutual Information (FSMI)  
[Zhang, ICRA 2019]

Algorithm is *embarrassingly* parallel!

High throughput *should* be possible with multiple processing elements (PE)

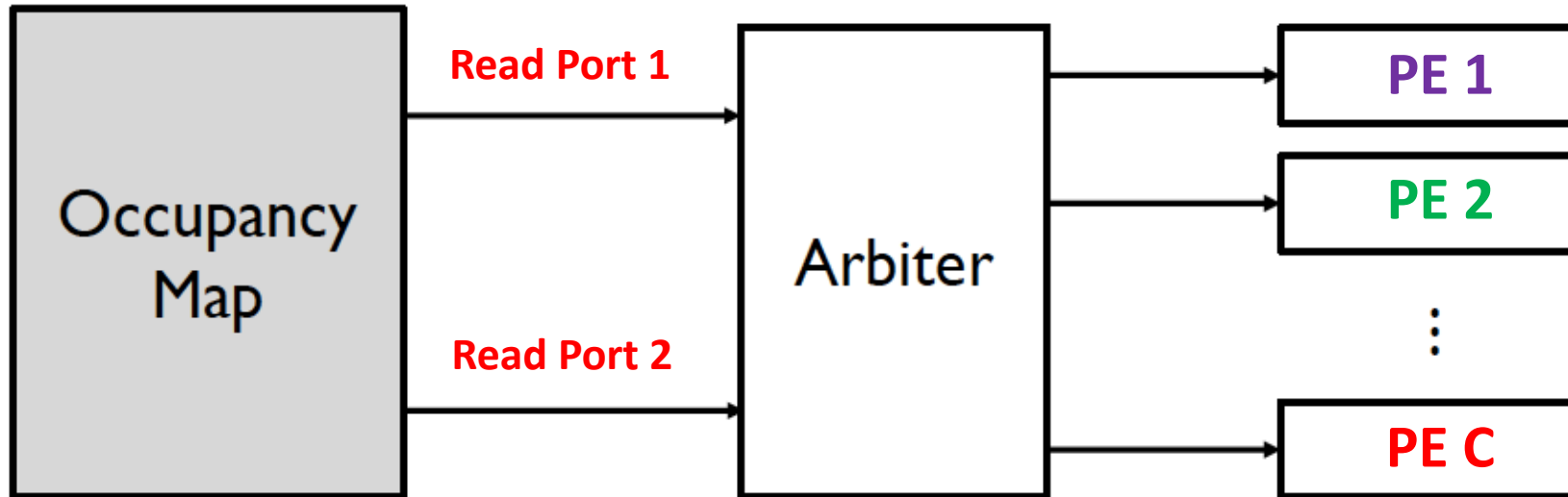


Process sensor beams in parallel with multiple PEs



# Challenge is Data Delivery to All PEs

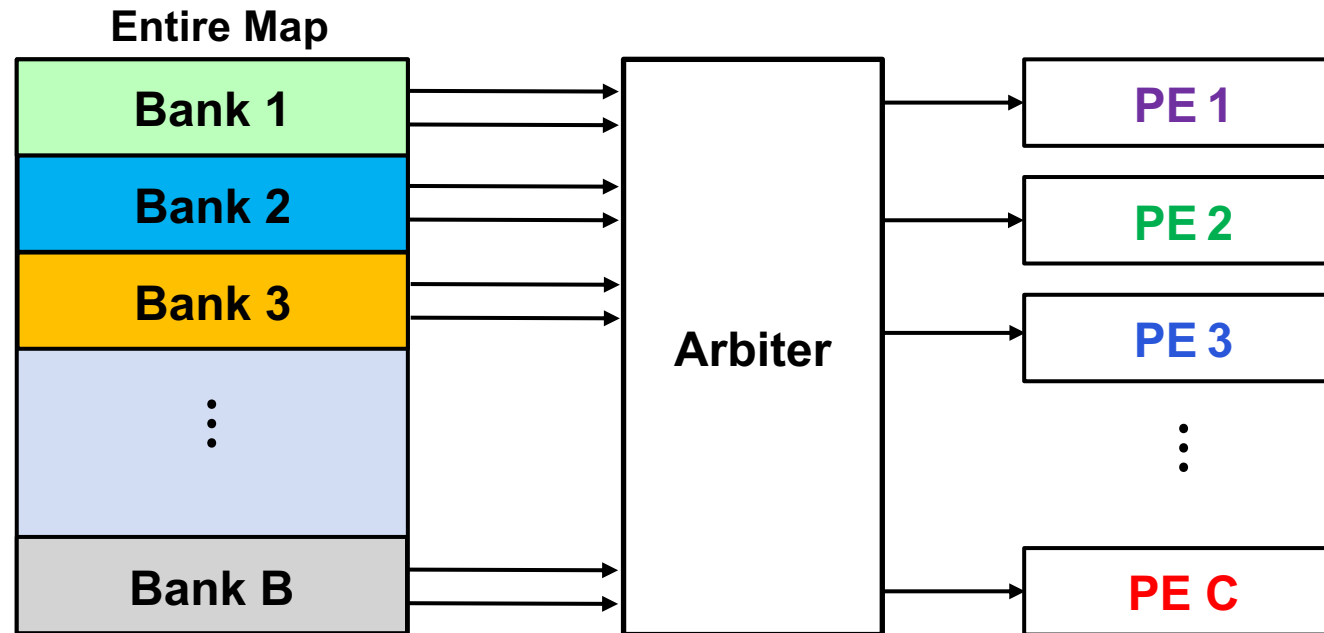
Power consumption of memory scales with number of ports.  
**Low power SRAM limited to two-ports!**



Data delivery, specifically memory bandwidth,  
limits the throughput (not compute)

# Proposed Accelerator Architecture

Increasing memory bandwidth (read ports) by partitioning the map storage into multiple banks



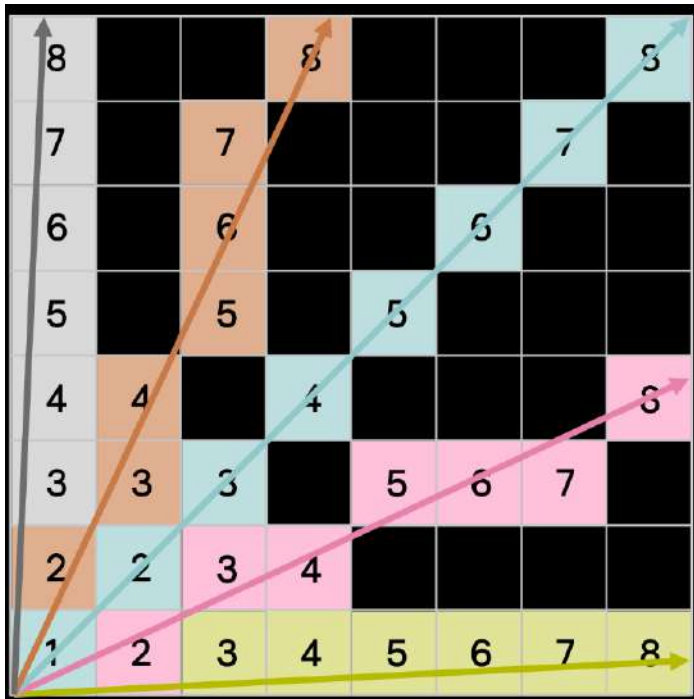
**Proposed architecture includes**

- 1) Memory banking pattern** that minimizes memory access conflicts among all PEs
- 2) Efficient arbiter** that quickly identifies and resolves memory access conflicts among all PEs

# Memory Access Pattern

- Design a **fixed** banking pattern that minimizes the number of memory access collisions.
- **Challenge:** memory access pattern is dependent on the scan location and sensor angle.

## Memory access pattern at every cycle

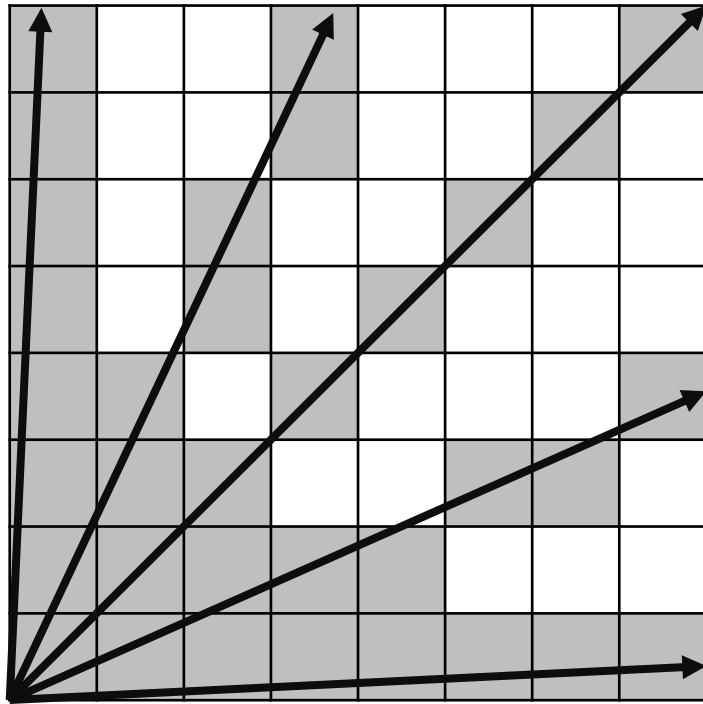


- The number denotes the order of memory access in each PE.
- During every cycle, PEs access the map locations in the same column or row.

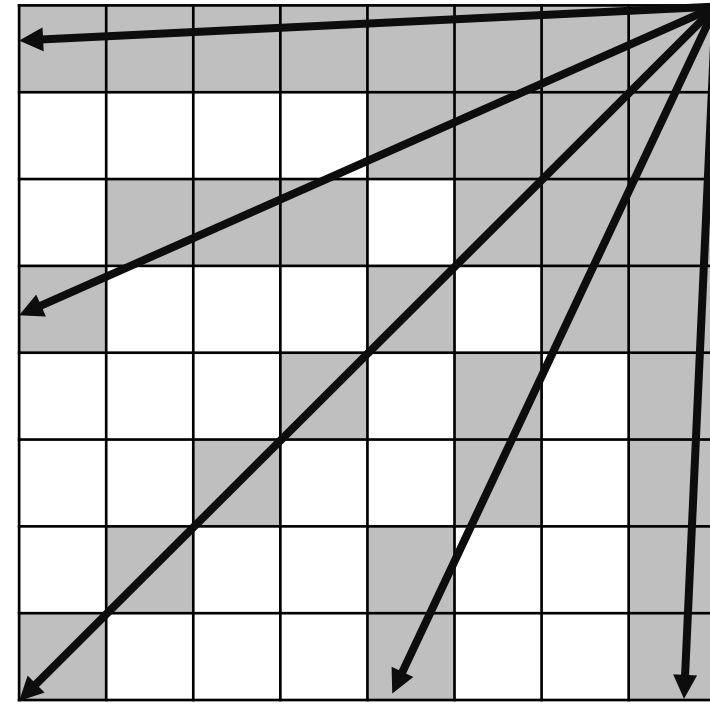
# Memory Access Pattern

- Design a **fixed** banking pattern that minimizes the number of memory access collisions.
- **Challenge:** memory access pattern is dependent on the scan location and sensor angle.

Memory access pattern at location A



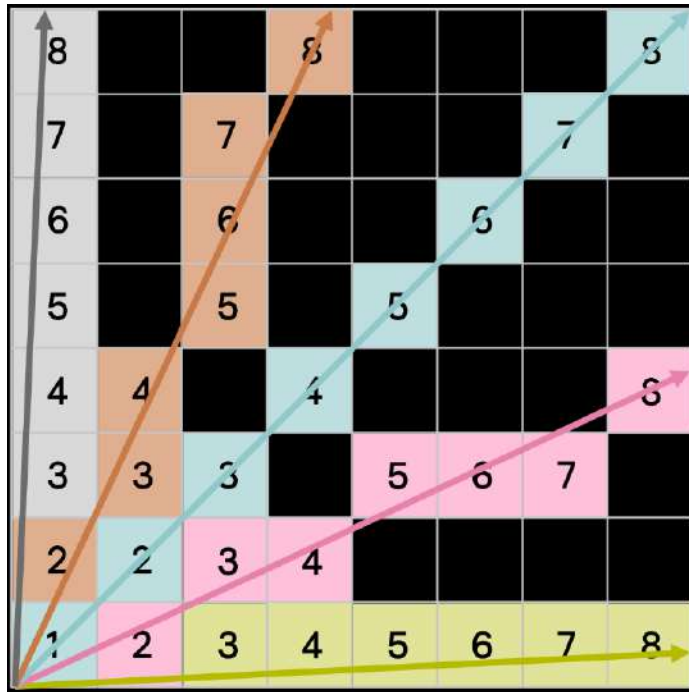
Memory access pattern at location B



# Naïve Memory Banking Pattern

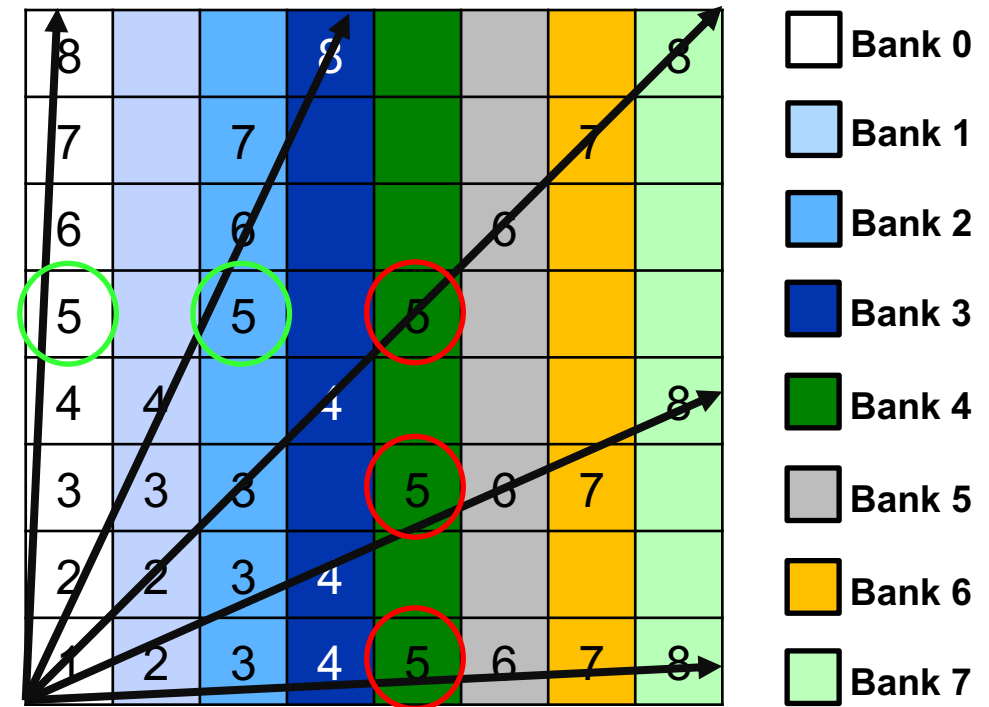
**Challenge:** memory access pattern is scan location and sensor angle dependent.

## Memory access pattern at every cycle



PEs read the map at the **same row or column every cycle**

## Vertical Banking Pattern

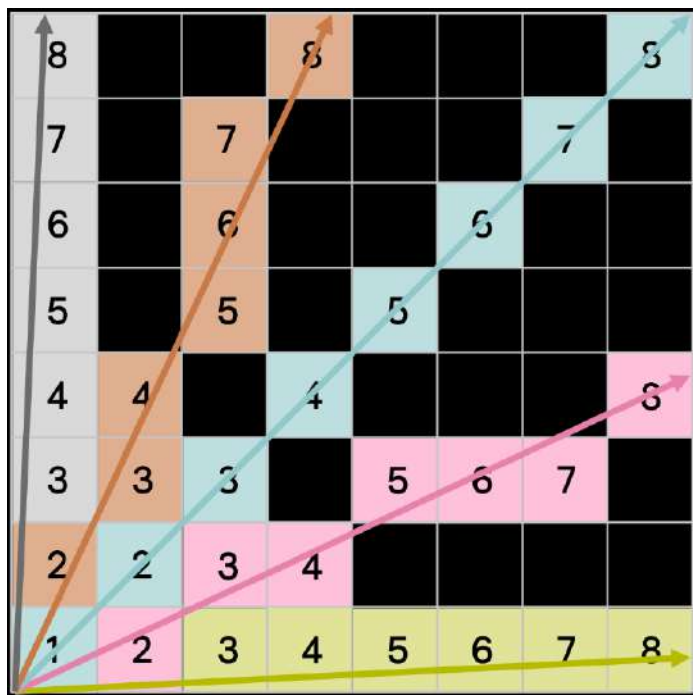


**Conflicts when same column**

# Proposed Memory Banking Pattern

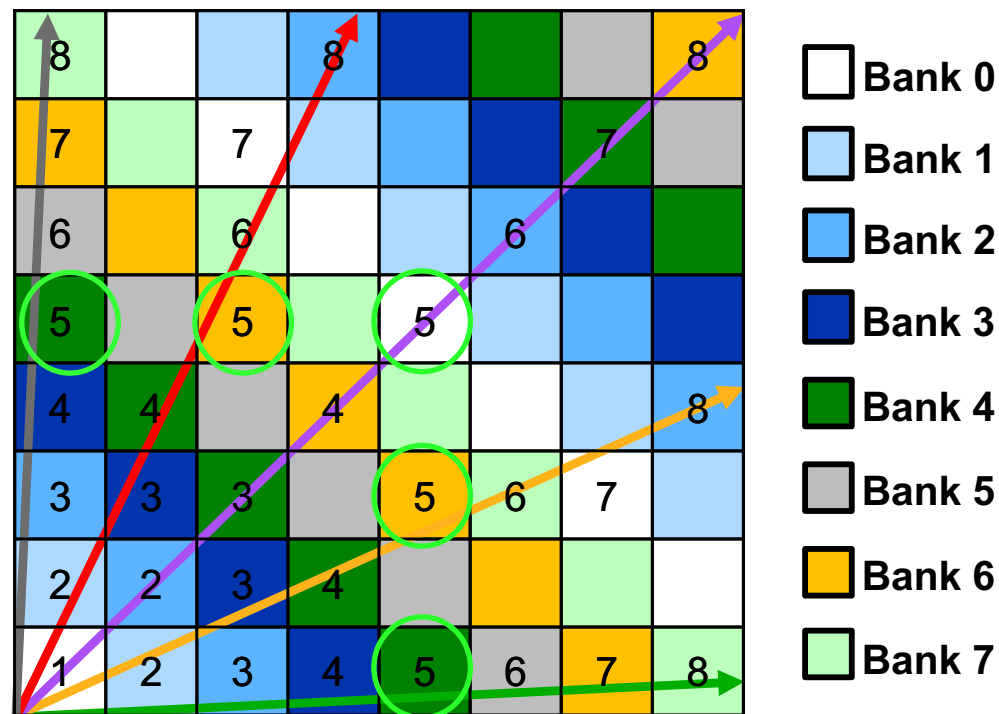
**Challenge:** memory access pattern is scan location and sensor angle dependent.

## Memory access pattern at every cycle



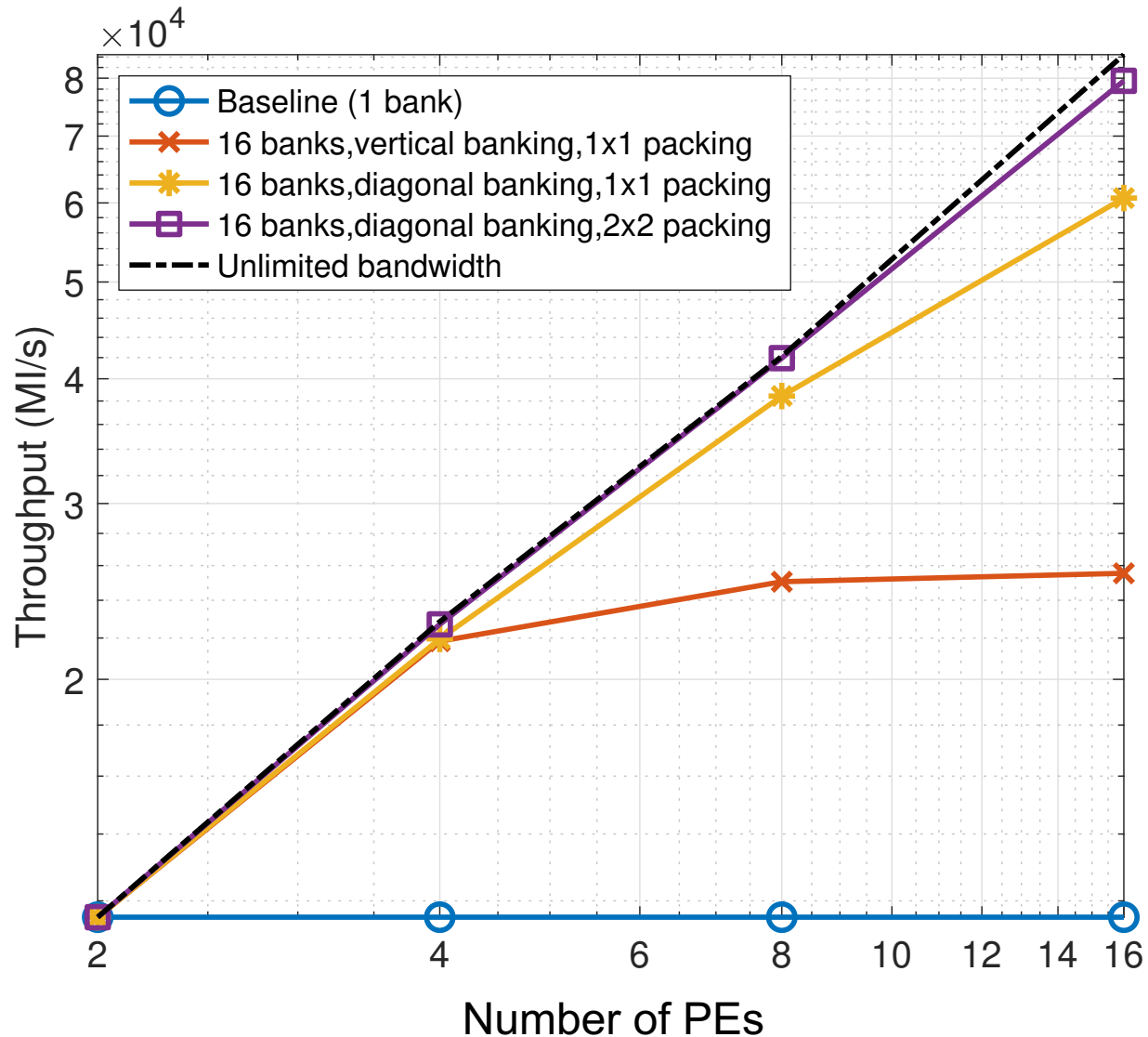
PEs read the map at the **same row or column every cycle**

## Diagonal Banking Pattern



**Reduced conflicts across banks**

# Experimental Results



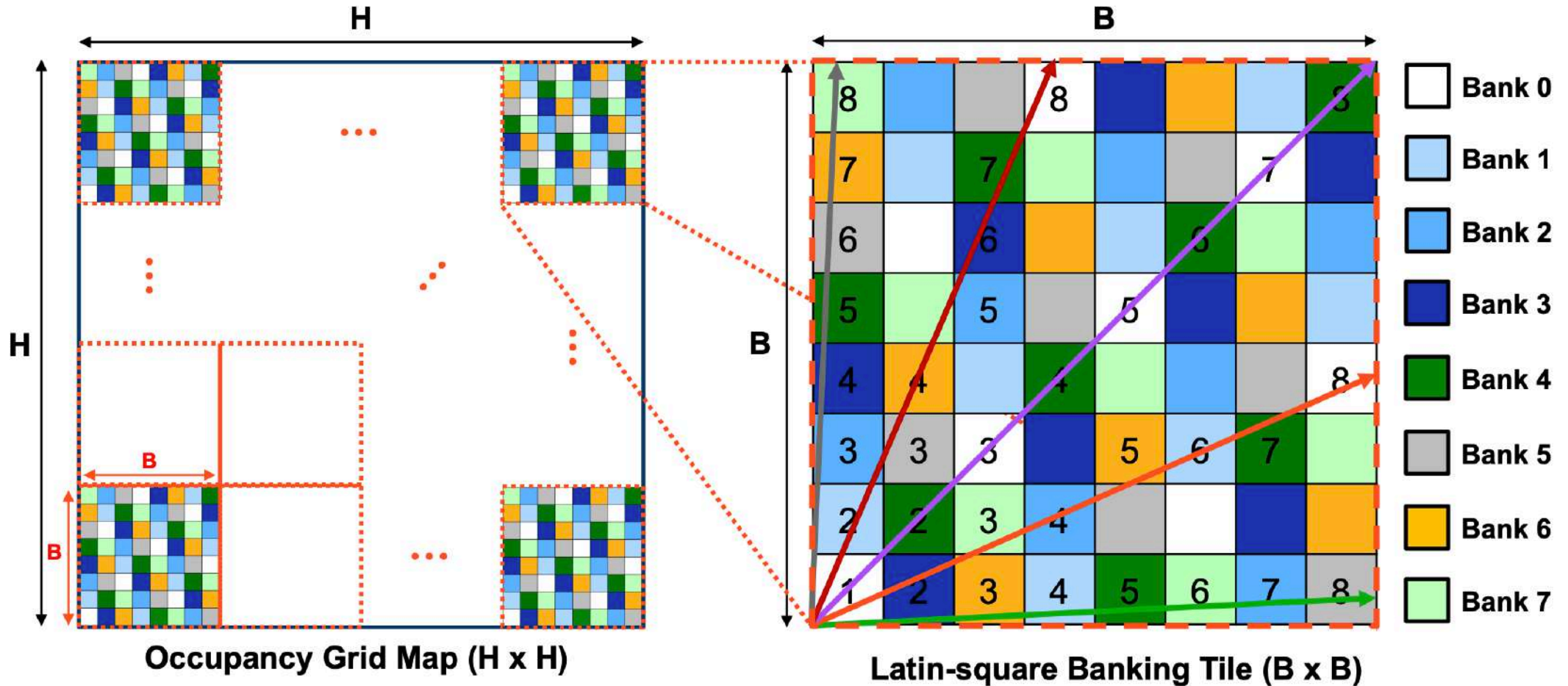
Specialized banking, efficient memory arbiter and packing multiple values at each address results in throughput **within 94% of theoretical limit** (unlimited bandwidth)

Compute MI for an **entire map** of 20m x 20m at 0.1m resolution **in under a second** on a ZC706 FPGA  
(100x faster than CPU at 10x lower power)



# Generalize to a Class of Banking Patterns

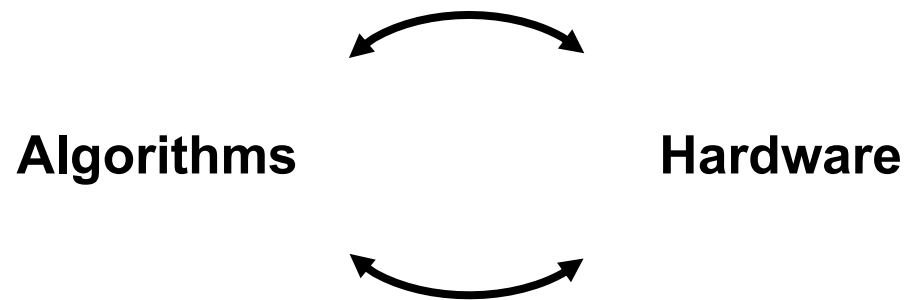
- **Latin-square banking tile:** cells in each column and row is assigned to different banks



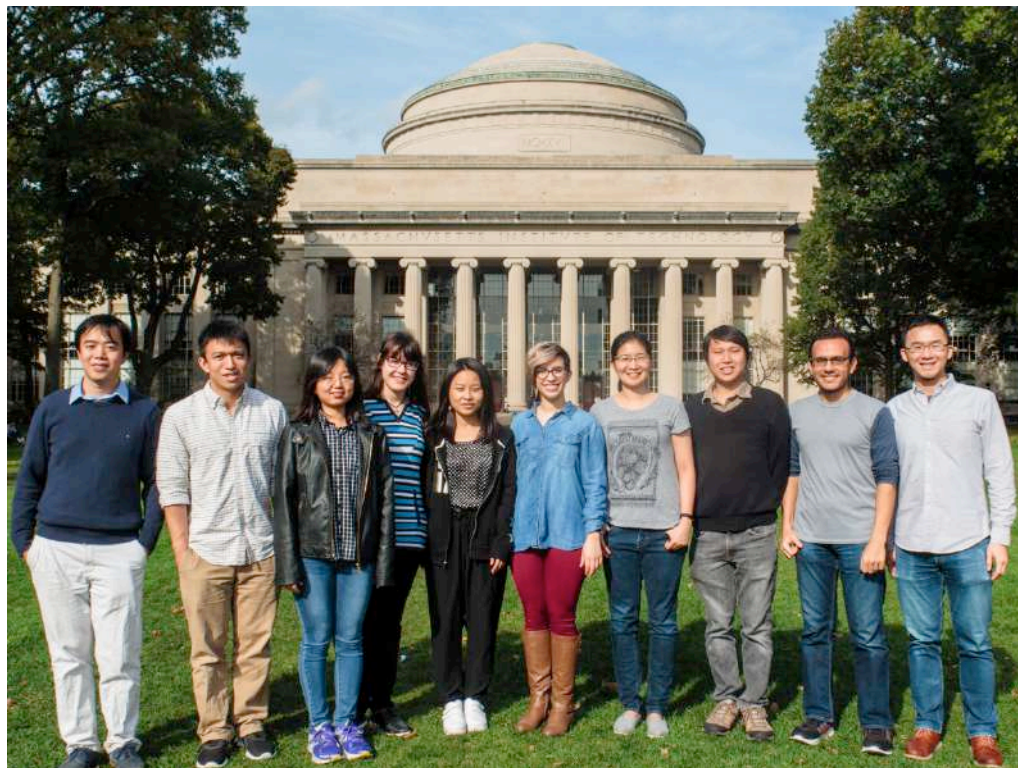
We rigorously proved that Latin-square tiles usage minimizes read conflicts between PEs

# Summary

- Efficient computing is critical for advancing the progress of AI & autonomous robots  
→ **Critical step to making AI & autonomy ubiquitous!**
- In order to meet computing demands in terms of power and speed, need to redesign computing hardware from the ground up → **Focus on data movement!**
- Specialized hardware creates new opportunities for the co-design of algorithms and hardware → **Innovation opportunities for the future of AI & robotics!**



# Acknowledgements



Joel Emer



Sertac Karaman

Research conducted in the **MIT Energy-Efficient Multimedia Systems Group** would not be possible without the support of the following organizations:



# Low-Energy Autonomy and Navigation (LEAN) Group



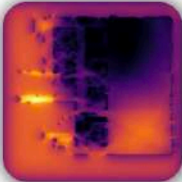
A broad range of next-generation applications will be enabled by low-energy, miniature mobile robotics including insect-size flapping wing robots that can help with search and rescue, chip-size satellites that can explore nearby stars, and blimps that can stay in the air for years to provide communication services in remote locations. While the low-energy, miniature actuation, and sensing systems have already been developed in many of these cases, the processors currently used to run the algorithms for autonomous navigation are still energy-hungry. Our research addresses this challenge as well as brings together the robotics and hardware design communities.

We enable efficient computing on various key modules of other autonomous navigation systems including perception, localization, exploration and planning. We also consider the overall system by considering the energy cost of computing in conjunction with actuation and sensing.



## Motion Planning

Many motion planning and control algorithms aim to design trajectories and controllers that minimize actuation energy. However, in low-energy robotics, computing such trajectories and controls themselves may consume a large amount of energy. We develop algorithms that optimize this trade-off.



## Mutual Information for Exploration

Computing mutual information between the map and future measurements is critical to efficient exploration. Unfortunately, mutual information computation is computationally very challenging. We develop new algorithms and hardware for efficient computation of mutual information, and demonstrate real-time computation for the whole map in a reasonably-sized map.



## Depth Sensing and Perception

Depth sensing is a critical function for robotic tasks such as localization, mapping and obstacle detection. State-of-the-art single-view depth estimation algorithms are based on fairly complex deep neural networks that are too slow for real-time inference on an embedded platform, for instance, mounted on a micro aerial vehicle. We address the problem of fast depth estimation on embedded systems.



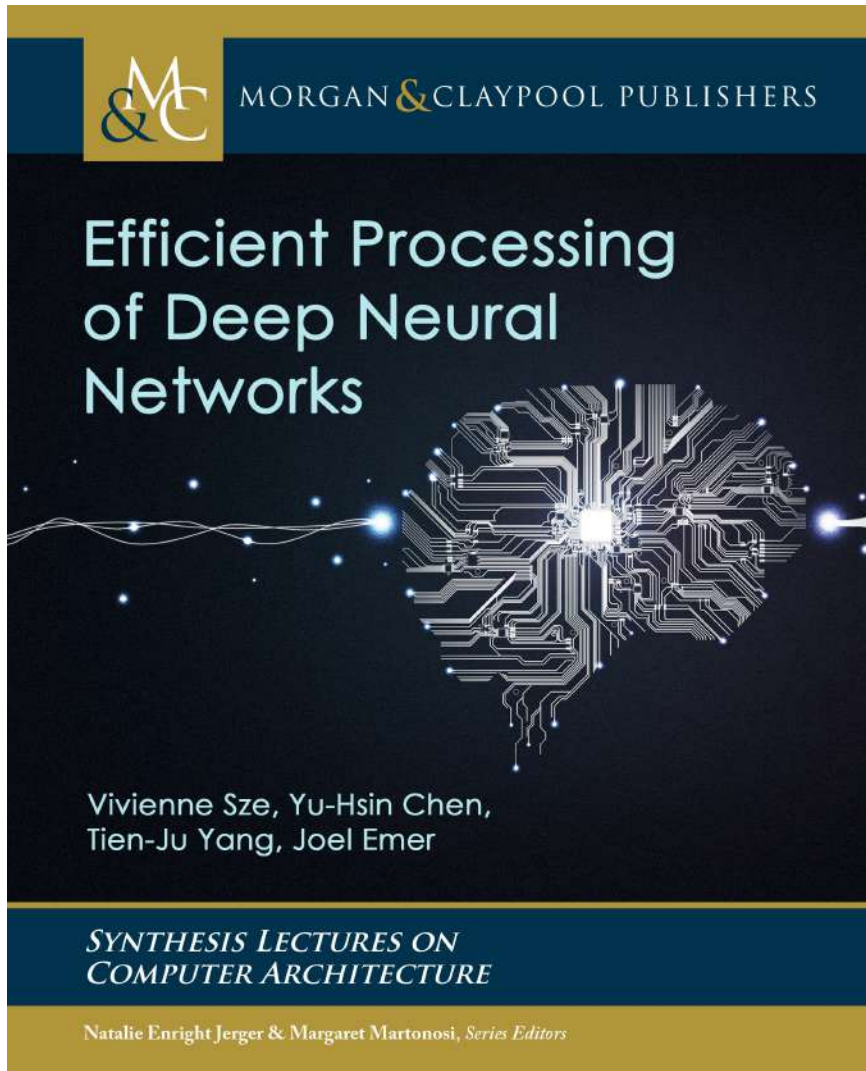
## Localization and Mapping

Autonomous navigation of miniaturized robots (e.g., nano/pico aerial vehicles) is currently a grand challenge for robotics research, due to the need for processing a large amount of sensor data (e.g., camera frames) with limited on-board computational resources. We focus on the design of a visual-inertial odometry (VIO) system in which the robot estimates its ego-motion (and a landmark-based map) from on-board camera and IMU data.



Group Website: <http://lean.mit.edu>

# Book on Efficient Processing of DNNs



## ***Part I Understanding Deep Neural Networks***

*Introduction*

*Overview of Deep Neural Networks*

## ***Part II Design of Hardware for Processing DNNs***

*Key Metrics and Design Objectives*

*Kernel Computation*

*Designing DNN Accelerators*

*Operation Mapping on Specialized Hardware*

## ***Part III Co-Design of DNN Hardware and Algorithms***

*Reducing Precision*

*Exploiting Sparsity*

*Designing Efficient DNN Models*

*Advanced Technologies*

<https://tinyurl.com/EfficientDNNBook>

## CHAPTER 3

## Key Metrics and Design Objectives

Over the past few years, there has been a significant amount of research on efficient processing of DNNs. Accordingly, it is important to discuss the key metrics that one should consider when comparing and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of different designs and proposed techniques and that should be incorporated into design considerations. While efficiency is often only associated with the number of operations per second per Watt (e.g., floating-point operations per second per Watt as FLOPS/W or tera-operations per second per Watt as TOPS/W), it is actually composed of many more metrics including accuracy, throughput, latency, energy consumption, power consumption, cost, flexibility, and scalability. Reporting a comprehensive set of these metrics is important in order to provide a complete picture of the trade-offs made by a proposed design or technique.

In this chapter, we will

- discuss the importance of each of these metrics;
- breakdown the factors that affect each metric. When feasible, present equations that describe the relationship between the factors and the metrics;
- describe how these metrics can be incorporated into design considerations for both the DNN hardware and the DNN model (i.e., workload); and
- specify what should be reported for a given metric to enable proper evaluation.

Finally, we will provide a case study on how one might bring all these metrics together for a holistic evaluation of a given approach. But first, we will discuss each of the metrics.

### 3.1 ACCURACY

*Accuracy* is used to indicate the quality of the result for a given task. The fact that DNNs can achieve state-of-the-art accuracy on a wide range of tasks is one of the key reasons for their popularity and wide use of DNNs today. The units used to measure accuracy vary by task. For instance, for image classification, accuracy is reported as the percent of correctly classified images, while for object detection, accuracy is reported as the mean average precision (mAP), which is related to the trade off between the true positive rate and false

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## CHAPTER 10

## Advanced Technologies

As highlighted throughout the previous chapters, data movement dominates energy consumption. The energy is consumed both in the access to the memory as well as the transfer of the data. The associated physical factors also limit the bandwidth available to deliver data between memory and compute, and thus limits the throughput of the overall system. This is commonly referred to by computer architects as the “memory wall.”<sup>1</sup>

To address the challenges associated with data movement, there have been various efforts to bring compute and memory closer together. Chapters 5 and 6 primarily focus on how to design spatial architectures that distribute the on-chip memory closer to the computation (e.g., scratch pad memory in the PE). This chapter will describe various other architectures that use *advanced memory, process, and fabrication technologies* to bring the compute and memory together.

First, we will describe efforts to bring the off-chip high-density memory (e.g., DRAM) closer to the computation. These approaches are often referred to as *processing near memory* or *near-data processing*, and include memory technologies such as embedded DRAM and 3-D stacked DRAM.

Next, we will describe efforts to integrate the computation *into* the memory itself. These approaches are often referred to as *processing in memory* or *in-memory computing*, and include memory technologies such as Static Random Access Memories (SRAM), Dynamic Random Access Memories (DRAM), and emerging non-volatile memory (NVM). Since these approaches rely on mixed-signal circuit design to enable processing in the analog domain, we will also discuss the design challenges related to handling the increased sensitivity to circuit and device non-idealities (e.g., nonlinearity, process and temperature variations), as well as the impact on area density, which is critical for memory.

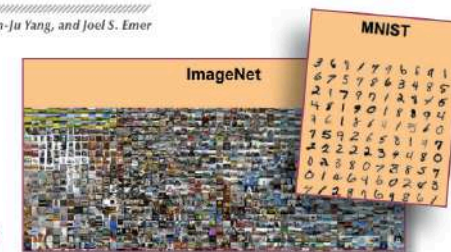
Significant data movement also occurs between the sensor that collects the data and the DNN processor. The same principles that are used to bring compute near the memory, where the weights are stored, can be used to bring the compute *near* the sensor, where the input data is collected. Therefore, we will also discuss how to integrate some of the compute *into* the sensor.

Finally, since photons travel much faster than electrons and the cost of moving a photon can be *independent of distance*, processing in the optical domain using light may provide significant

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## ISSCC 2020 TUTORIAL

Vivienne Sze, Yu-Hsin Chen, Tien-Ju Yang, and Joel S. Emer



## How to Evaluate Deep Neural Network Processors

TOPS/W (alone) Considered Harmful

A significant amount of specialized hardware has been developed for processing deep neural networks (DNNs) in both academia and industry. This article aims to highlight the key concepts required to evaluate and compare these DNN processors. We discuss existing challenges, such as the flexibility and scalability needed to support a wide range of neural networks, as well as design considerations for both the DNN processors and the DNN models themselves. We also describe specific metrics that can be used to evaluate and compare processors beyond the commonly used metrics of operations per second per Watt. This article is based on the tutorial “How to Understand and Evaluate Deep Learning Processors” given at the 2020 Interna-

tional Solid-State Circuits Conference, as well as excerpts from the book, *Efficient Processing of Deep Neural Networks* [36].

### Motivation and Background

Over the past few years, there has been a significant amount of research on enabling the efficient processing of DNNs. The challenge of efficient DNN processing depends on balancing multiple objectives:

- high performance (including accuracy) and efficiency (including cost)
- enough flexibility to cater to a wide and rapidly changing range of workloads
- good integration with existing software frameworks.

DNN computations are composed of several processing layers (Figure 1), where, for many layers, the main computation is a weighted sum; in other words, the main computation for DNN processing is often a

multiply-accumulate (MAC) operation. The arrangement of the MAC operations within a layer is defined by the layer shape; for instance, Table 1 and Figure 2 highlight the shape parameters for layers used in convolutional neural networks (CNNs), a popular type of DNN. Because the shape parameters can vary across layers, DNNs come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, depending on the application. (The DNN research community often refers to the shape and size of a DNN as its *network architecture*). However, to avoid confusion with the use of the word *architecture* by the hardware community, we talk about *DNN models* and their shape and size in this article.) This variety is one of the motivations for flexibility, and it causes the objectives listed previously to be highly interrelated.

Figure 3 illustrates the hardware architecture of a typical DNN processor, which is composed of an array

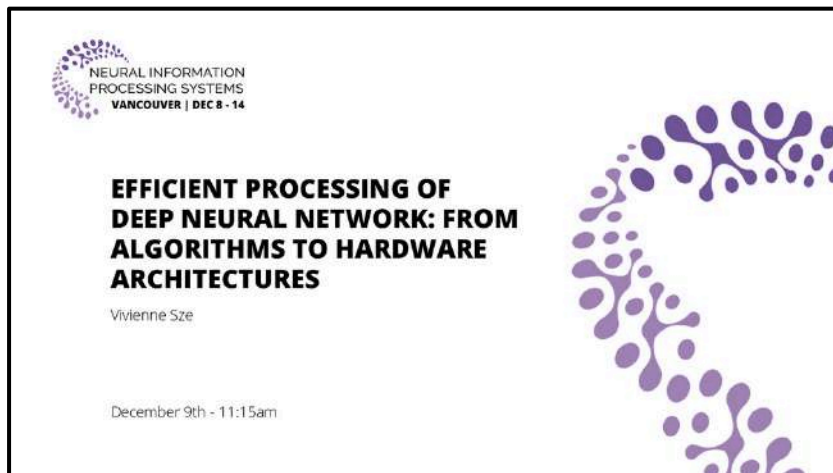
Available on DNN tutorial website  
<http://eyeriss.mit.edu/tutorial.html>

paper: 10.1109/ISSCC.2020.1002340  
 online: 25 August 2020

# Additional Resources

## Talks and Tutorial Available Online

<https://tinyurl.com/SzeMITDL2020>



# You Tube

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