

Detecting vulnerabilities in highly concurrent software

Alastair F. Donaldson
Multicore Programming Group

Imperial College
London

Analysis, Verification and Testing at Imperial (INVEST)

Philippa



Reasoning about web and concurrent programs

Part of **Programming Languages and Systems** at Imperial

Cristian



Practical techniques for improving SW reliability and security

More broadly: part of buzzing “London-Cambridge-Oxford” Programming Languages community

Ally



Automated program analysis for multi-/many-core software

Multicore Programming Group

**GPU software
verification**



Nathan



Jeroen



Dan



Adam

**Systematic
Concurrency Testing**

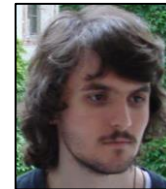


Paul

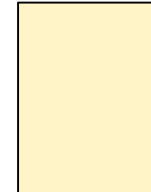


Ethel

**Many-core
compiler validation**



Andrei



Chris

**Programming language
and memory models**



John



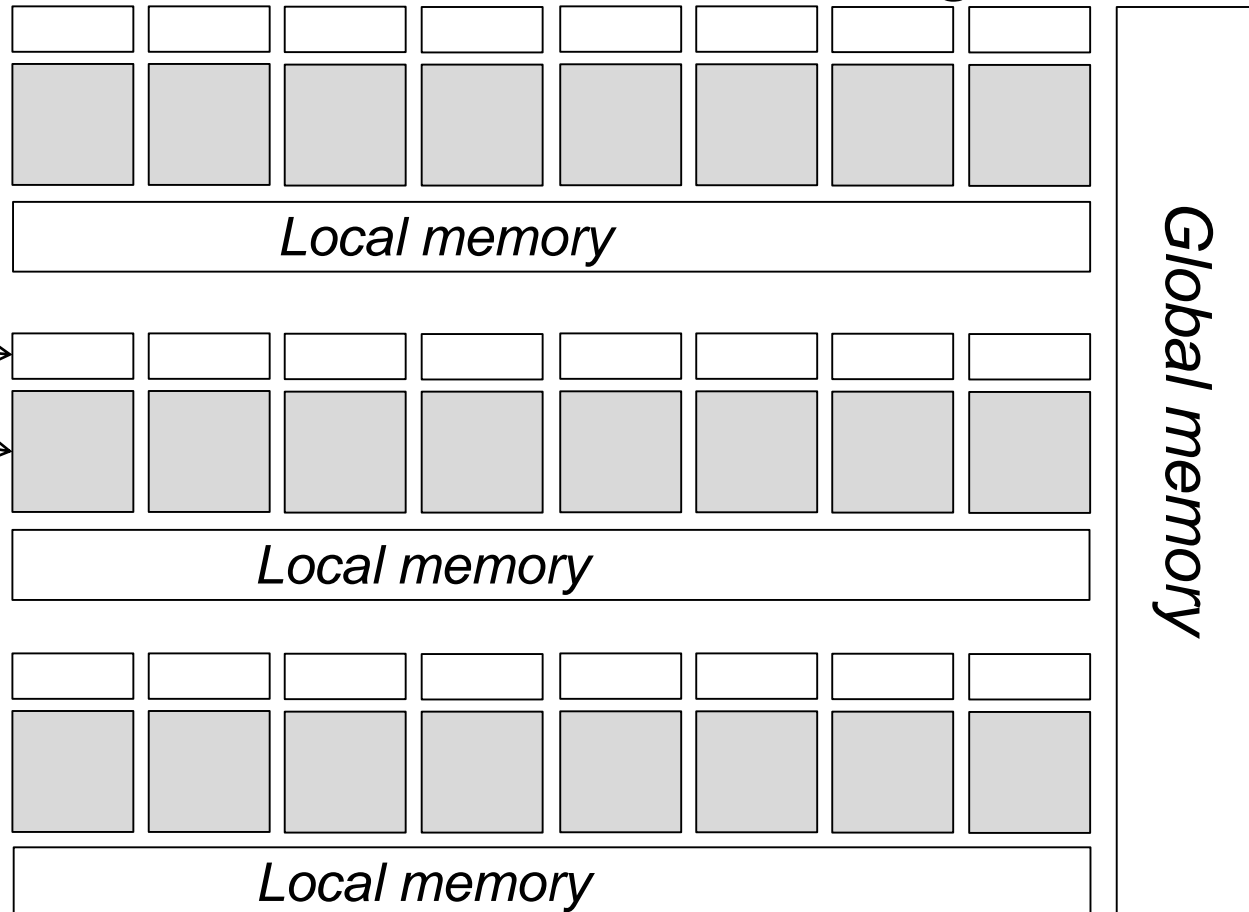
Pantazis

Many-core processors: GPUs

Many PEs

All PEs share
global memory

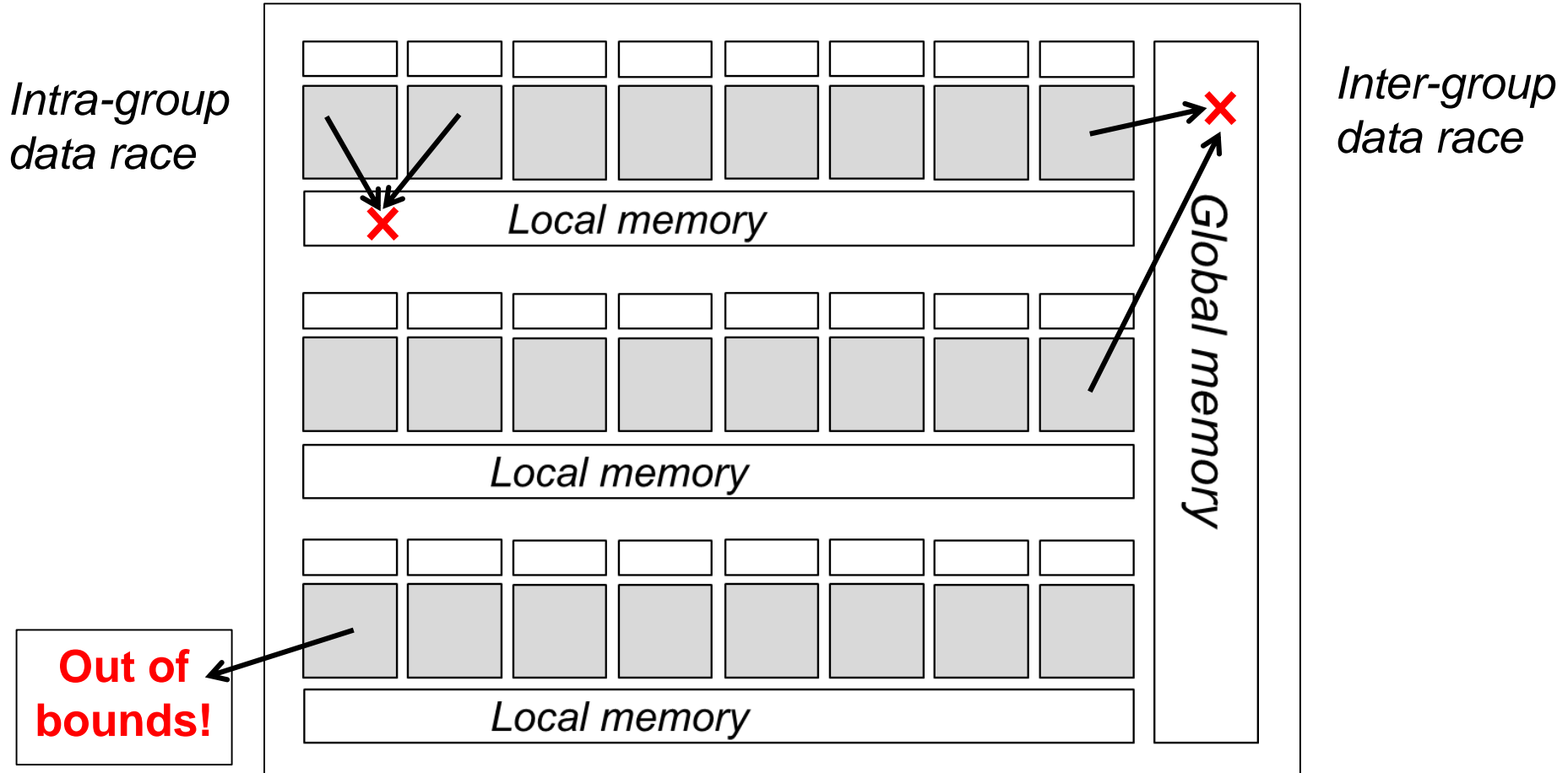
Organised
into groups



Private memory →
Processing
element (PE) →

PEs in same
group share
memory

Memory safety errors in parallel programs



Errors can be security critical as GPUs are widely deployed

WebCL and **RenderScript** – emerging standards for GPUs in **web** and **embedded** programs

GPUVerify: static verification for GPU kernels

Leverages dramatic advances in **static verification** to:

- Find **defects**
 - Prove **absence of defects**
- in **many-core** software

Industrial support from:  ^{Microsoft®} **Research**

Industrial impact:



Mali Graphics debugger


Imagination

3rd party showcase




NVIDIA

Identified software defects

Activities to aid transfer to industry

Engineering (it really works)

Supported by

EPSRC

Pathways to Impact project

Video tutorials



Web interface for tools

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the GPUVerify-OpenCL web interface. The browser address bar shows the URL "http://rise4fun.com/GPUVerify-OpenCL". The page title is "gpuverify-openc1" and the Imperial College London logo is in the top right. The main content area asks "Is this OpenCL kernel correct?" and displays a code editor with the following code:

```
1 //--Local_size=1024 --Global_size=1024
2
3 /*
4  * The intention of this kernel is to increment each
5  * element of 'A' with its neighbouring element,
6  * 'offset' places away.
7  *
8  * Can you spot the deliberate data race bug?
9  */
10
11 __kernel void add_neighbour(__local int *A, int offset) {
12     int tid = get_local_id(0);
13     A[tid] += A[tid + offset];
14 }
15
```

Community recognition for tech transfer



The Steering Committee of the
HiPEAC Network of Excellence
has awarded a



HiPEAC Technology Transfer Award

to

The Multicore Programming Group, Imperial College London

for a technology transfer on

GPUVerify

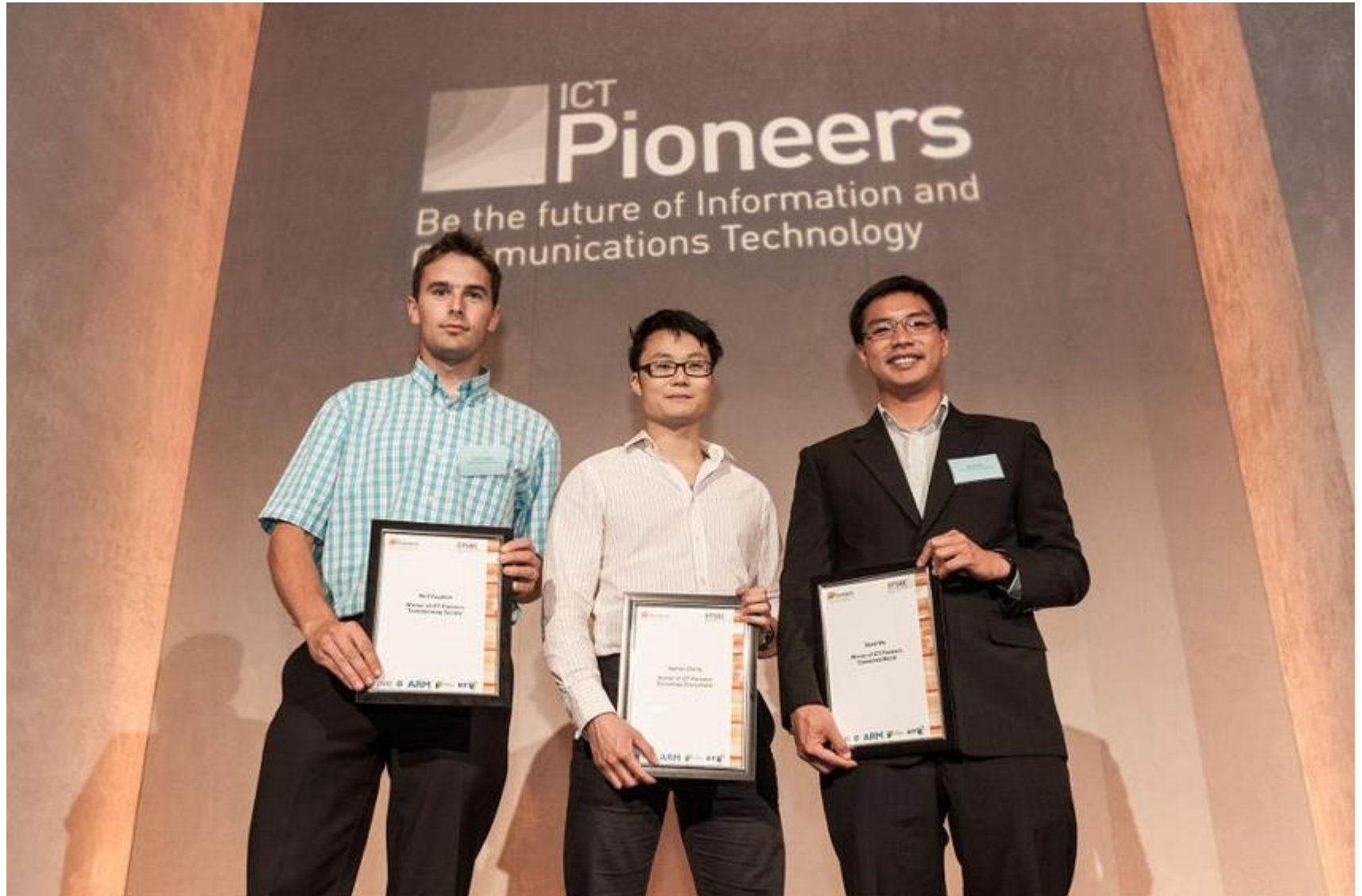
with

ARM

The HiPEAC Coordinator

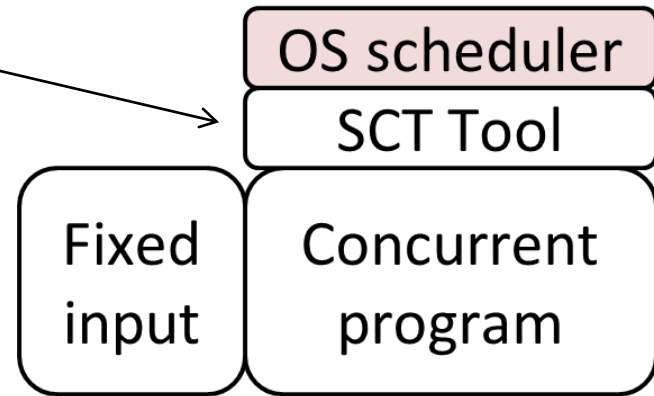
Prof. Koen De Bosschere

Community recognition for tech transfer



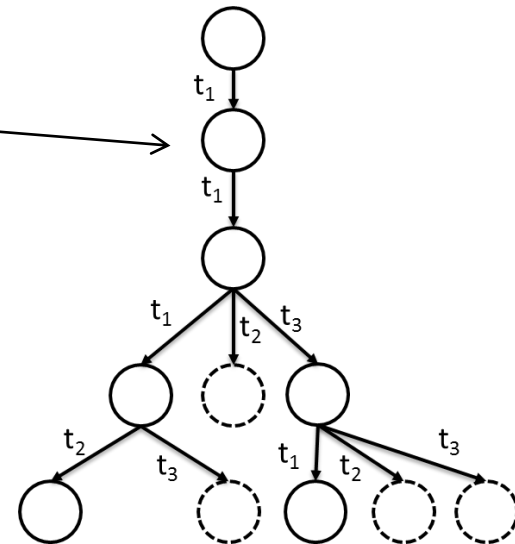
Systematic concurrency testing

Intercept OS scheduler

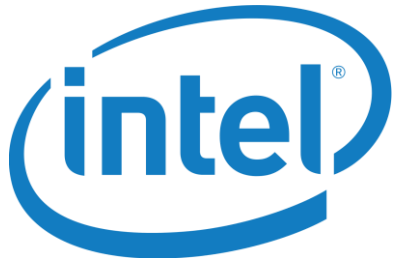


Explore schedule space

Apply **state-space reduction** and **schedule prioritization** to find bugs



Systematic concurrency testing: engagement with industry / government



High assurance device drivers
(2 funded PhD students)



**Security vulnerabilities in
concurrent software** (PhD funding)

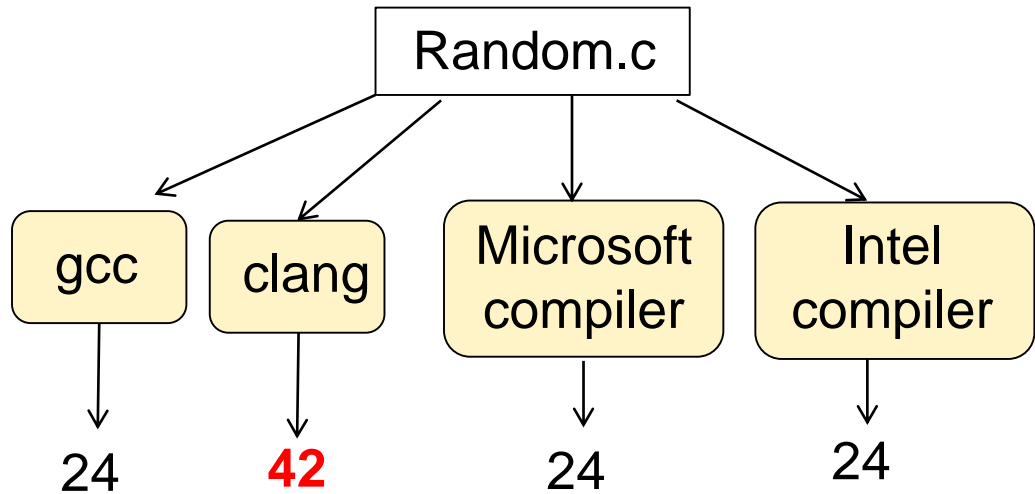
The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue rectangular background.

facebook

Gave recent talk about our
work, following up on
**dynamic analysis of
concurrent Android apps**

Compiler vulnerability analysis

Random differential testing



Pioneered by **Csmith**, University of Utah



We are lifting this idea to
many-core compilers

Discovered defects so far in GPU compilers from all major vendors

Many-core memory models

Not enough time to talk about it!

We have discovered issues with:

OpenCL 2.0 memory model

Published code examples

Compilers from main vendors

GPU chips

With:

- Jade Alglave (UCL)
- Mark Batty (Cambridge)
- Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (Utah)
- Jeroen Ketema (Imperial)
- Daniel Poetzl (Oxford)
- Tyler Sorensen (UCL)
- John Wickerson (Imperial)

All could lead to security vulnerabilities

Interacting with

KHRONOS
GROUP

HSA
FOUNDATION

Builds on pioneering C/C++11 work by various authors including Mark Batty and **Peter Sewell** (Cambridge)



Want to know more? Get in touch!

`alastair.donaldson@imperial.ac.uk`

Funding support



Industrial Collaborators



AMD, ARM, Codeplay, Facebook, Imagination, Intel, Microsoft Research, NVIDIA, Realeyes, Rightware

Multicore Programming Group @ Imperial

Ethel Bardsley, Adam Betts, Nathan Chong, Pantazis Deligiannis, Jeroen Ketema, Andrei Lascu, Chris Lidbury, Dan Liew, Paul Thomson, John Wickerson,

Academic Collaborators

Jade Alglave (UCL), Mark Batty (Cambridge), Albert Cohen (INRIA), Ganesh Gopalakrishnan (Utah), Daniel Kroening (Oxford), Daniel Poetzl (Oxford), Tyler Sorensen (UCL)