

Towards Sentient Chips: Self-Awareness through On-Chip Sensemaking

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#1



Towards **Sentient** Chips: Self-Awareness through On-Chip Sensemaking

sen·tient

/ˈsenCH(ē)ənt/

adjective

adjective: **sentient**

able to perceive or feel things.

"she had been instructed from birth in the equality of all sentient life forms"

synonyms: (capable of) feeling, living, live; [More](#)

Origin

LATIN

LATIN

sentire → sentient- → sentient
feeling early 17th century

early 17th century: from Latin *sentient-* 'feeling,' from the verb *sentire* .

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#2



Towards Sentient Chips: **Self-Awareness** through On-Chip

Self-awareness

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with [Self-concept](#), [Self-consciousness](#), [Self-perception](#), or [Self image](#).


This article has multiple issues. Please help [improve](#) [\[hide\]](#) [it](#) or discuss these issues on the [talk page](#).

- This article **may require [cleanup](#)** to meet Wikipedia's **quality standards**. *(March 2009)*
- This article **needs attention from an expert on the subject**. *(May 2009)*

Self-awareness is the capacity for [introspection](#) and the ability to recognize oneself as an individual separate from the environment and other individuals.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)


- 1 In philosophy
- 2 In biology
 - 2.1 Animals
 - 2.2 Evolution
 - 2.3 Neurological basis



The **mirror test** is a simple measure of self-awareness.

#3

Self-Awareness & Adaptation in Biology



Roger T. Hanlon

[David Gallo: Underwater astonishments, TED]

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Self-Awareness vs Context-Awareness

- **Self-Awareness** [Hinchey2006]: System is aware of its *self states and behaviors*
 - **Context-Awareness** [Parashar 2005] : System is aware of *context – i.e., its operational environment*
-
- *Self-configuring* -> capability of reconfiguring automatically
 - *Self-healing* [Robertson2005] -> *self-diagnosing and self-repairing*
 - *Self-optimizing*-> *capability of self-tuning or Self-adjusting*
 - *Self-protecting* -> capability of detecting dangerous outcomes (e.g. security breaches) and recovering from their effects



A Hierarchical View

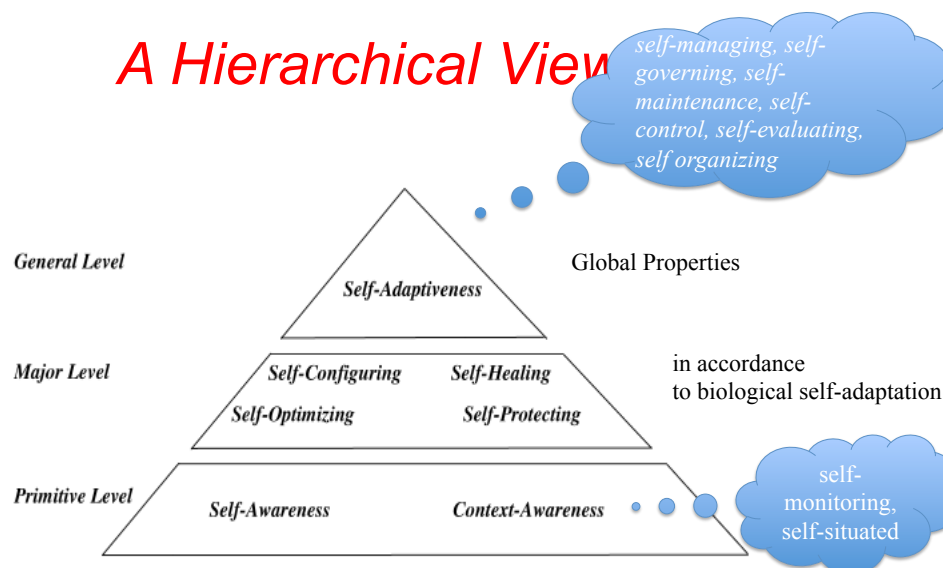


Fig. 1. Hierarchy of the self-* properties.



Self-Reflection



- **Self-Reflection:**
 - Ability to create a *self-model*
 - Ability to model their own body/structure (usually known *self-modeling*)
 - Ability to model their own *behavior*
 - **Metacognition capacity:** '*models one's own thinking*', '*think about thinking*'
 - System with **two/multiple minds:** *one being modeled* and *other doing modeling*
 - **Control Systems Theory:** also called *Dynamical System identification*

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#7



Towards Sentient Chips: Self-Awareness through On-Chip Sensemaking

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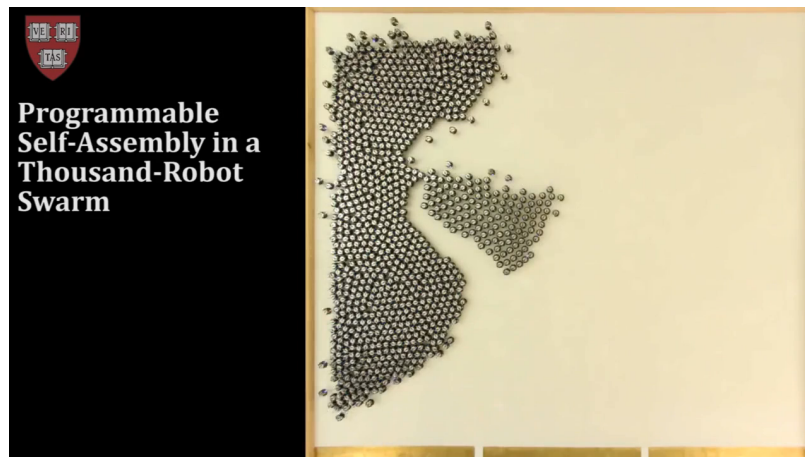
Sensemaking

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Sensemaking is the process by which people give *meaning* to *experience*. While this process has been studied by other disciplines under other names for centuries, the term "sensemaking" has primarily marked three distinct but related research areas since the 1970s: Sensemaking was introduced to *Human-computer interaction* by *PARC* researchers Russell, Stefik, Pirolli and *Card* in 1993, to *information science* by Brenda Dervin, and *organizational studies* by Karl Weick.

In information science the term is most often written as "sense-making." In both cases, the concept has been used to bring together insights drawn from philosophy, *sociology*, and *cognitive science* (especially *social psychology*). Sensemaking research is therefore often presented as an *interdisciplinary research*

Self-Assembling Robots (Sensemaking)



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[Kilobots, Harvard 2014]

#9



Outline

- Self-Awareness, Sentience, Sensemaking
- Cyber-Physical Systems-on-Chip (CPSoC)
- CPSoC Exemplars and Prototype
- Wrap-up

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#10



Outline

- Self-Awareness, **Sentience**, Sensemaking
- Cyber-Physical Systems-on-Chip (CPSoC)
- CPSoC Exemplars and Prototype
- Wrap-up



What are Sentient Chips?

- Sentient chips
 - *Construct model* of behaviors and environment using sensor data
 - Achieve *self-awareness* through on-chip sensors and monitors
 - Experience phenomena
 - Aware of state and behavior
 - The ability to *introspect*
 - *Adapt behavior* based on model of external and internal environment

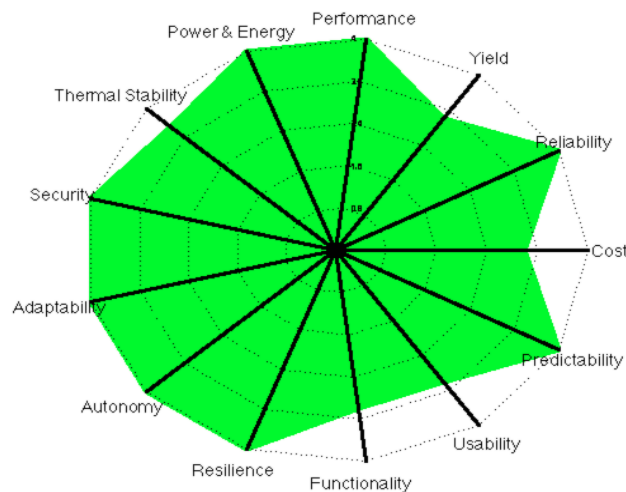


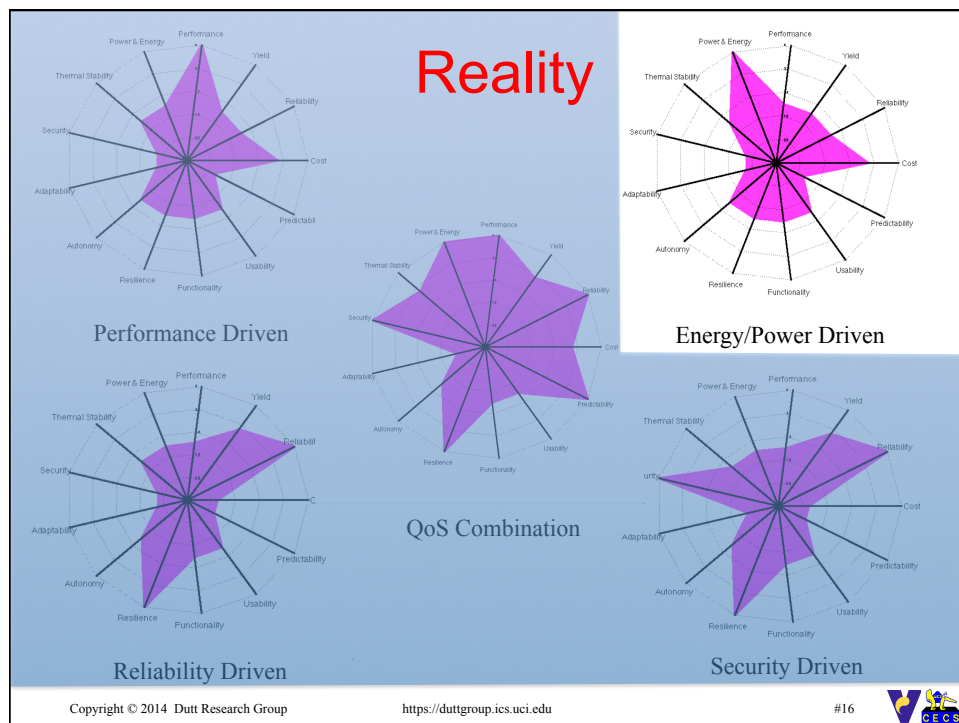
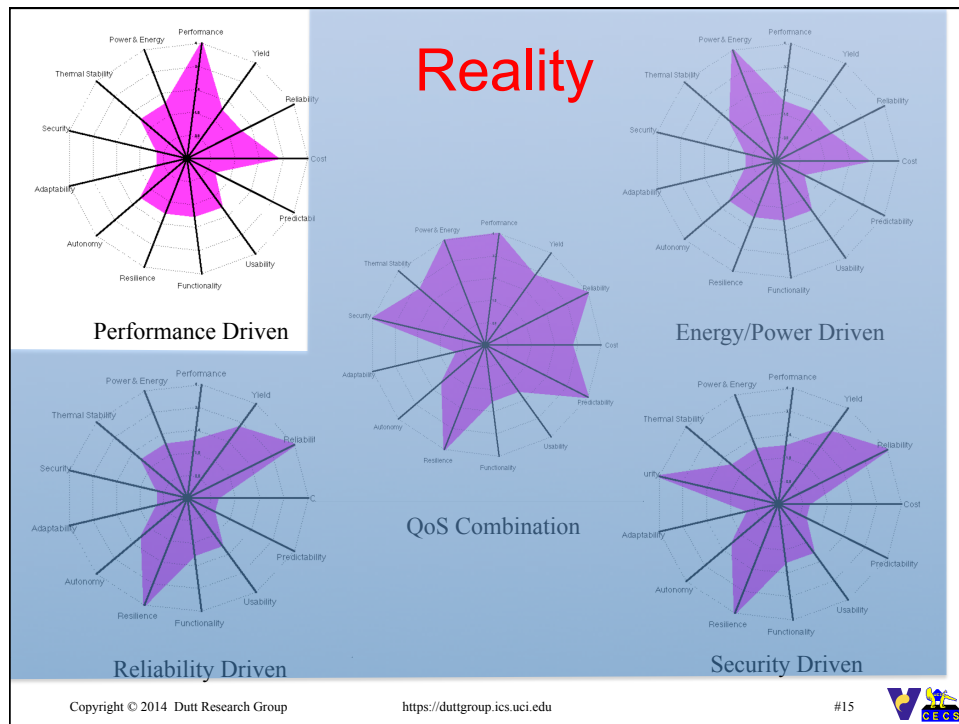
Why On-Chip Self-Awareness?

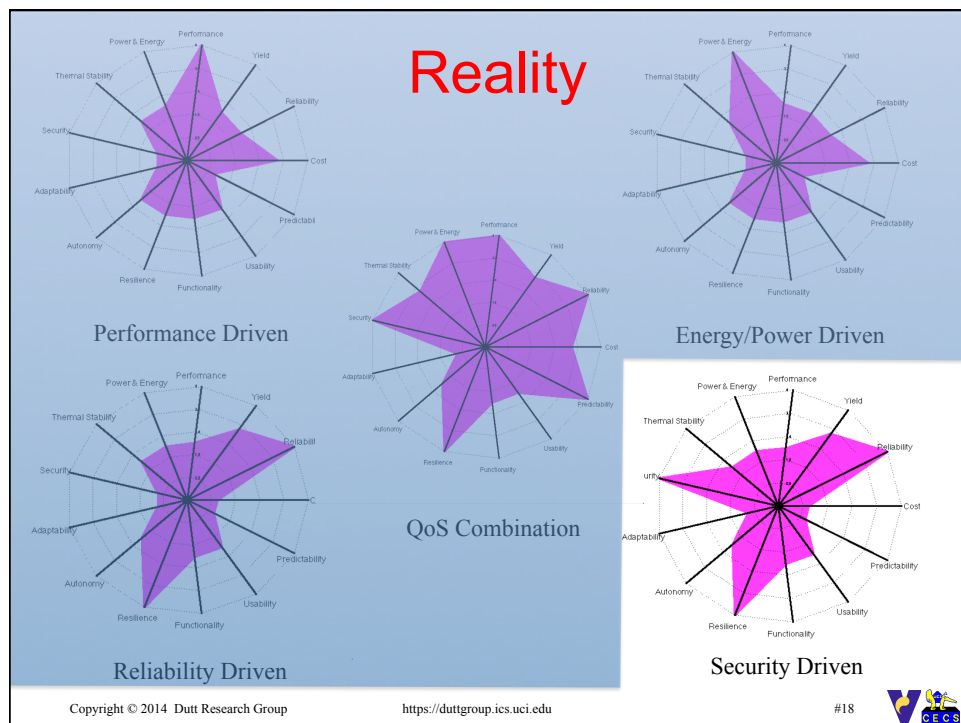
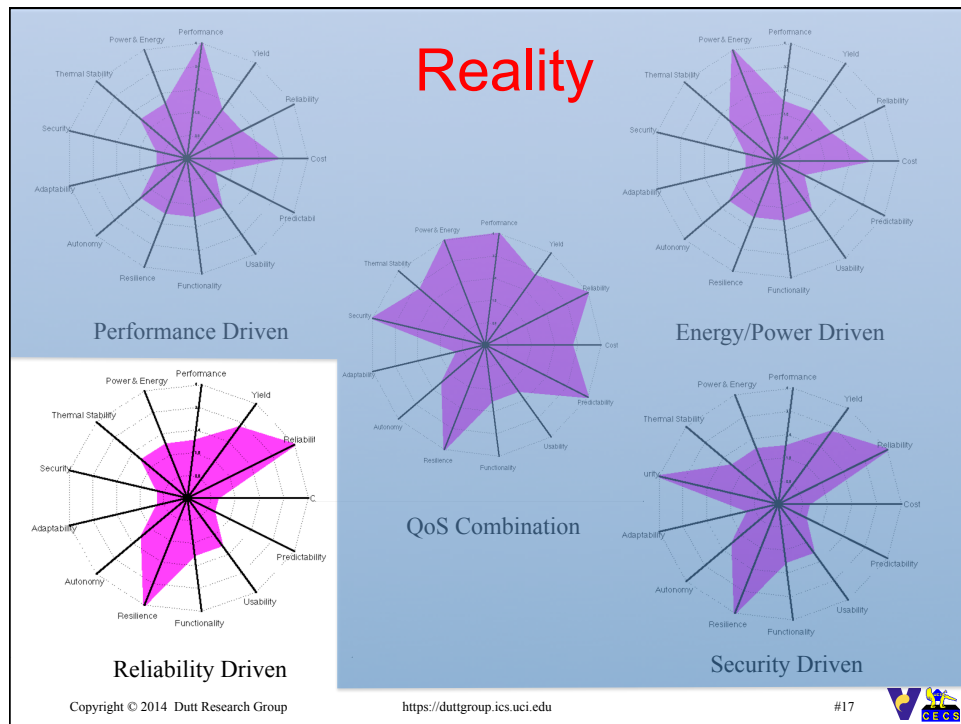
- Tremendous variation in applications, environment, platforms
- Chips must adapt to Dynamic Performance, Power, Resilience, Security,.....
 - See Radar chart (Kiviat graph) examples
- Provide Guarantees
- Exploit trade-offs in several dimensions

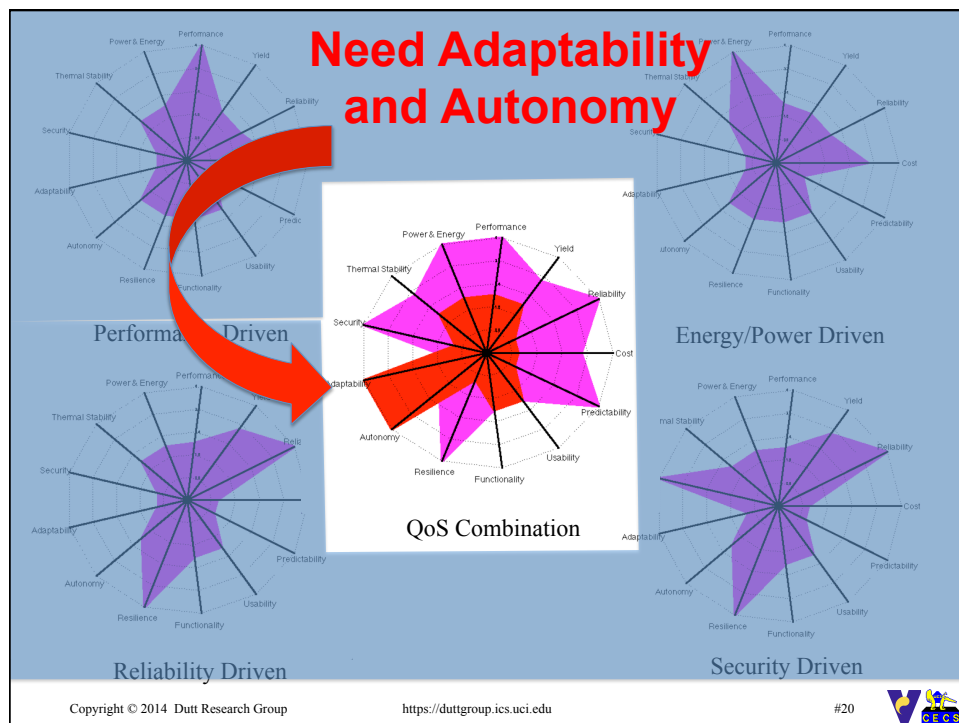
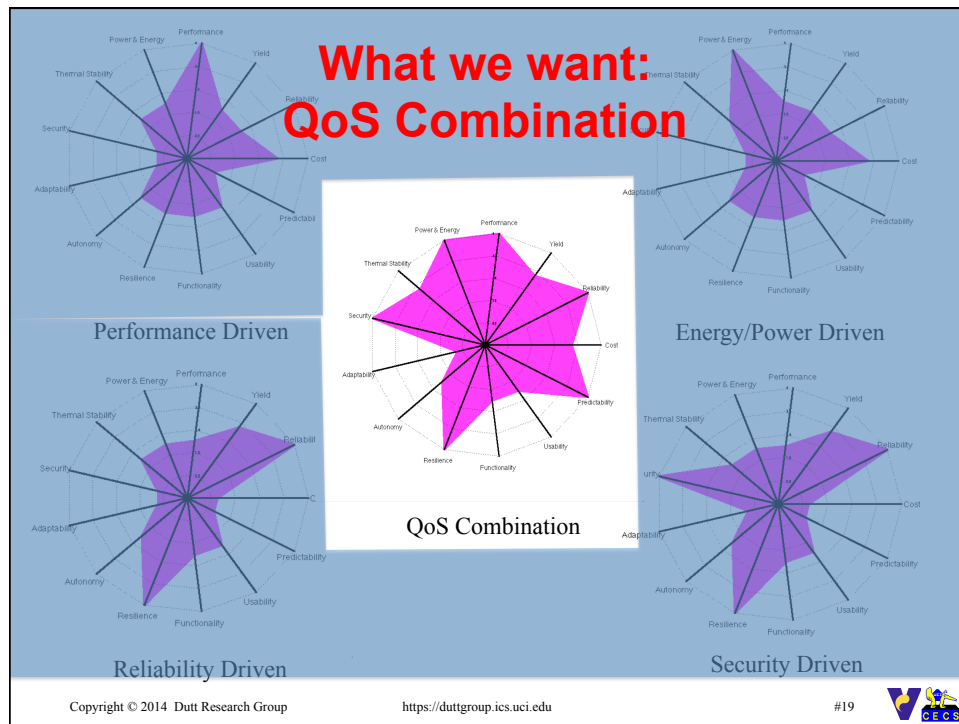


Ideal Radar Chart?









Outline

- Self-Awareness, Sentience, Sensemaking
- Cyber-Physical Systems-on-Chip (CPSoC)
– First Step Towards Sentient Chips
- CPSoC Exemplars and Prototype
- Wrap-up

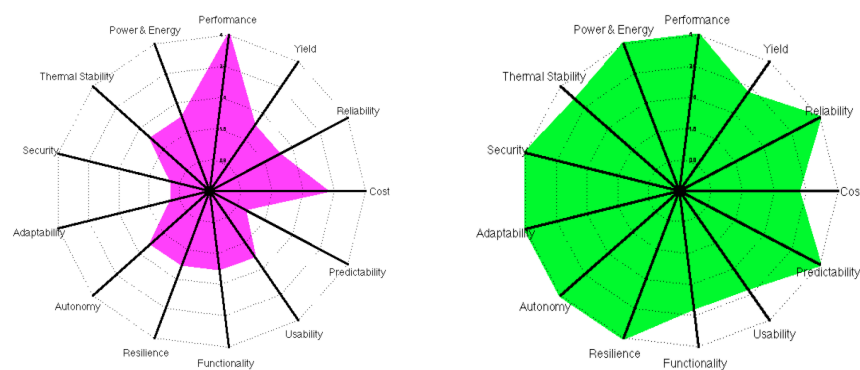
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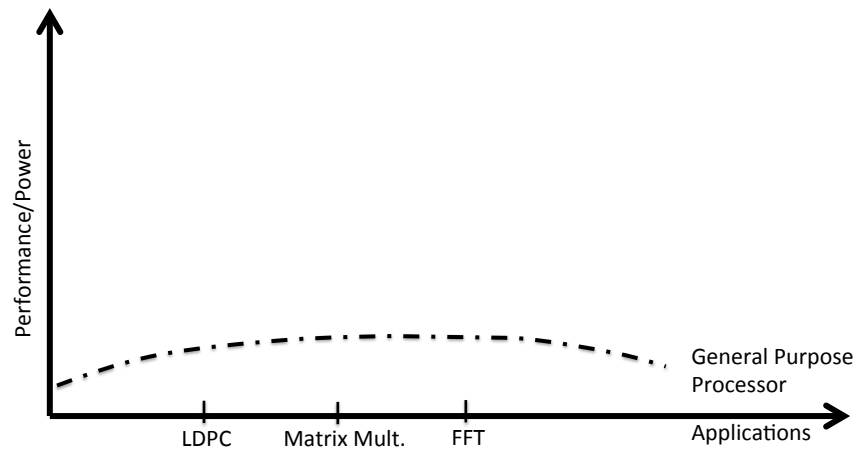


CPSoC Vision: Across Design Features



CPSoC provides opportunity to improve multiple design dimensions (in addition to performance)

CPSoC Vision: Across Applications



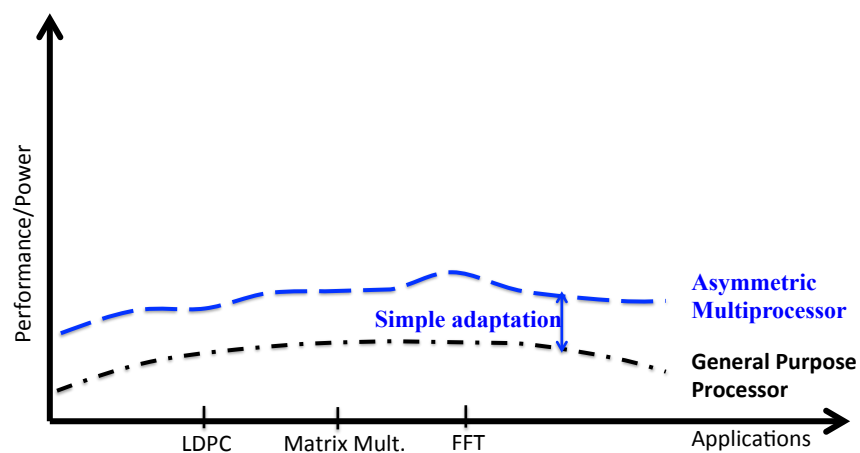
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CPSoC Vision: Across Applications



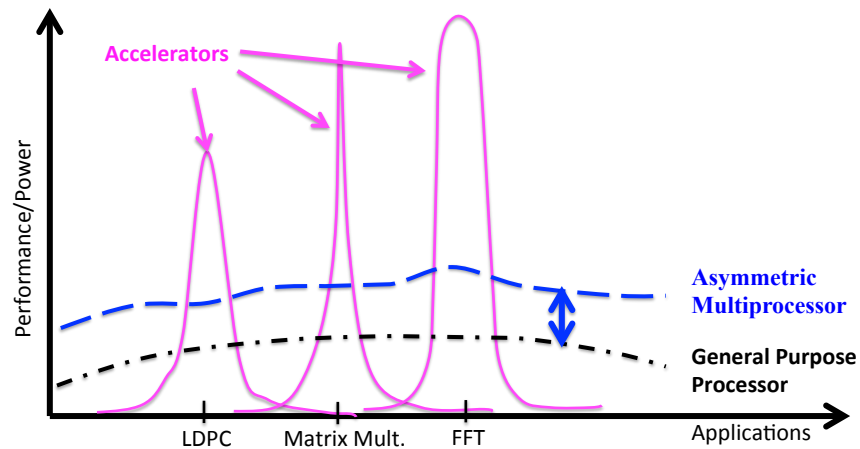
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CPSoC Vision: Across Applications



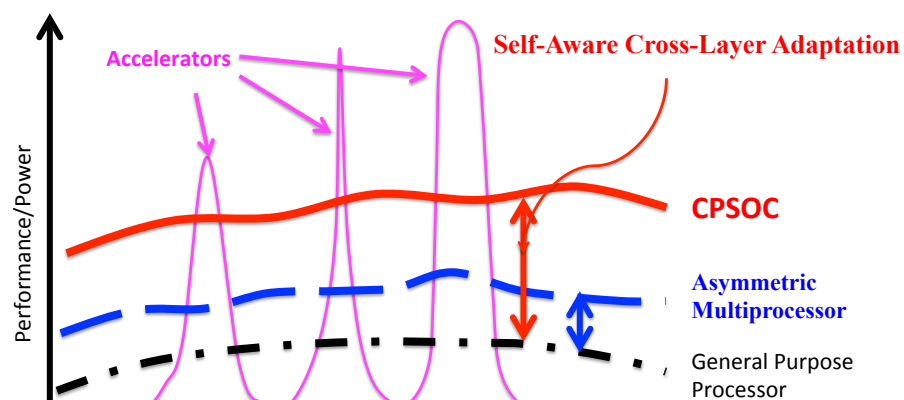
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#25



CPSoC Vision: Across Applications



CPSoC aims to adapt across a wide range of dynamic applications to yield acceptable QoS

Cyber-Physical System-on-Chip (CPSoC)

- **Cross-Layer Virtual and Physical Sensing & Actuation**
 - **Sensor fusion and Actuation**
 - Combine hardware and software sensors
- **Self-Awareness and Adaptation**
 - Combines *Simple* and *Self-Aware* adaptations
 - A reflexive (**Observe-Decide-Adapt**) architecture to achieve closed loop system control
- **Predictive Modeling & Learning**
 - Dynamic characterization of platform variability across multiple levels of the system stack.

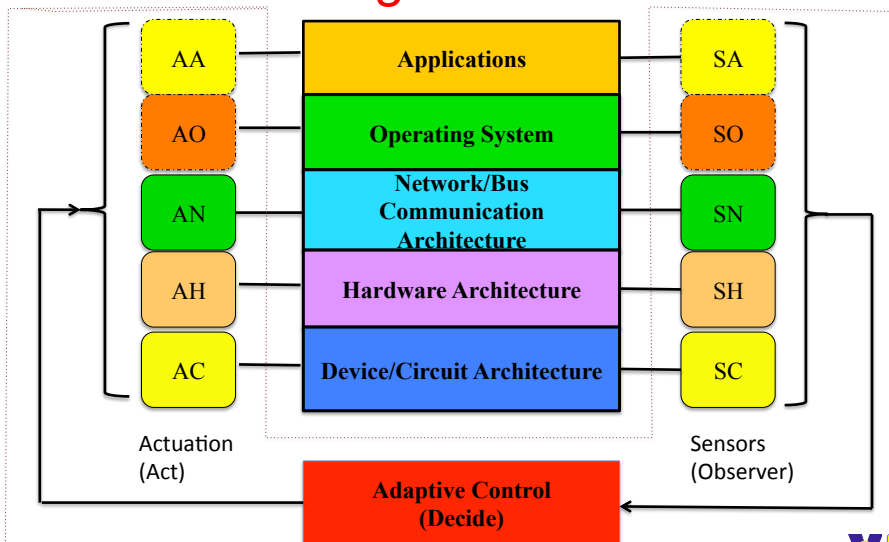
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#27



Cross-Layer Physical/Virtual Sensing & Actuation



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#28



Examples of Virtual Sensors and Actuators Across Layers of CPSoC

Layers	Virtual/Physical Sensors	Virtual/Physical Actuators
Application	Execution Time, Workload Power, Energy,	Loop perforation Algorithmic Choice
Operating System	System Utilization Peripheral States	Task Allocation, Scheduling, Migration, Duty Cycling
Network/Bus Communication	Bandwidth; Packet/Flit status; Channel Status, Congestion, Latency	Adaptive Routing Dynamic Bandwidth Allocation Ch. no and direction
Hardware Architecture	Cache misses, Miss rate; access rate; IPC, Throughput, ILP/MLP, Core asymmetry	Cache Sizing; Reconfiguration, Resource Provision Static/Dynamic Redundancy
Circuit/Device	Circuit Delay, Aging, leakage Temperature, oxide breakdown	DVFS, DFS, DVS ABB, Clock and Power-gating

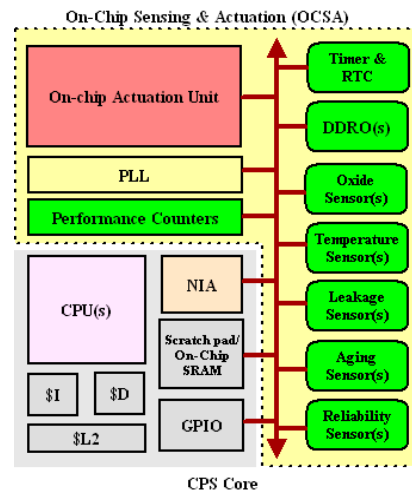
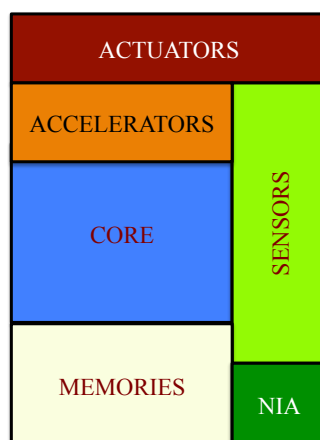
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CPSoC Basic Computational Block



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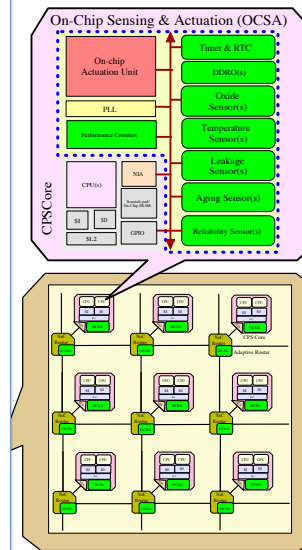
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#30



CPSoC Computational Platform

- Sensor/Actuator-rich SoC fabric
 - **OCSA: On-Chip Sensing and Actuation unit**
- NoC overlay (or separate network)
- SW enabled sensors & actuators
- Adaptive control of platform resources



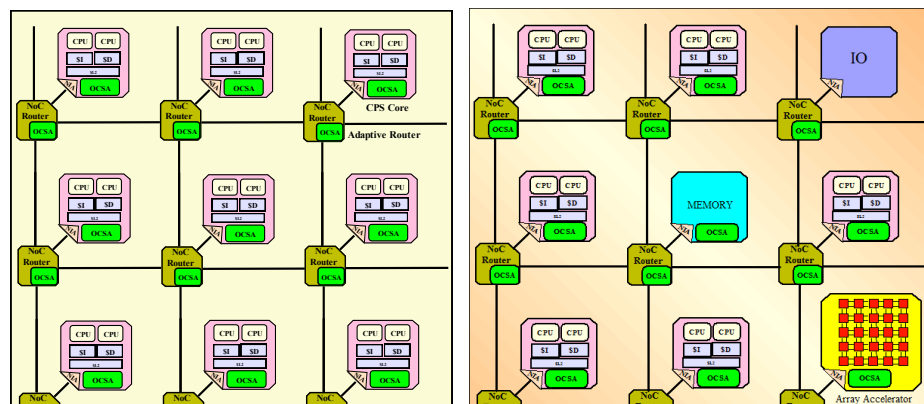
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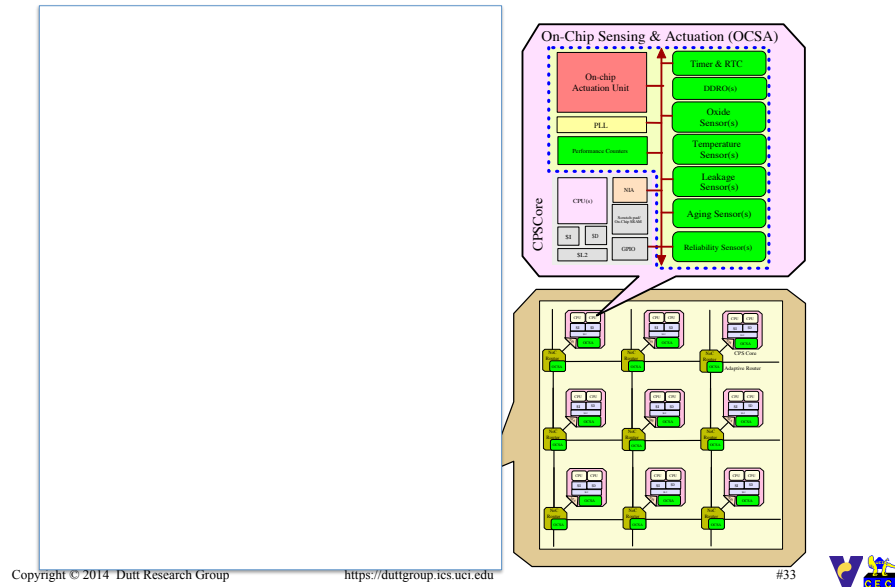


CPSoC Hardware Fabric

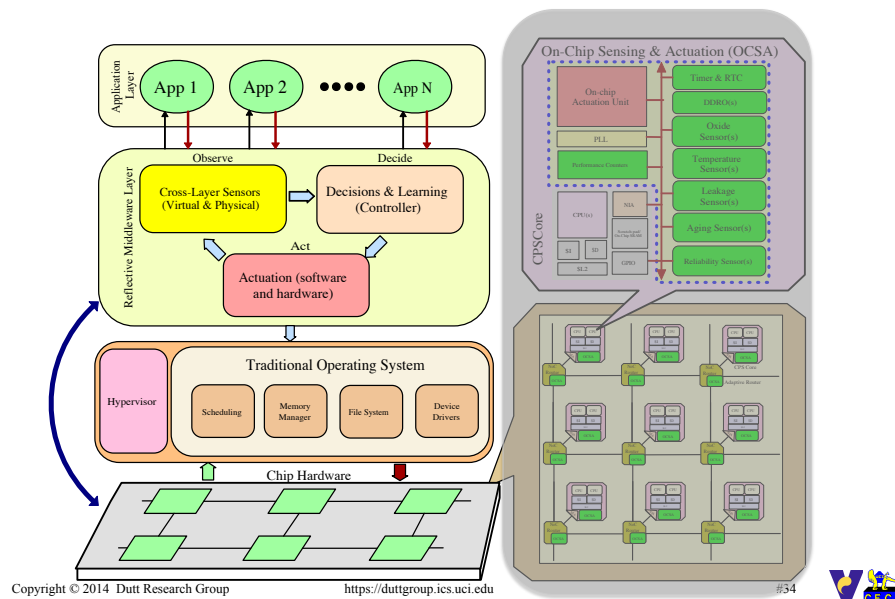


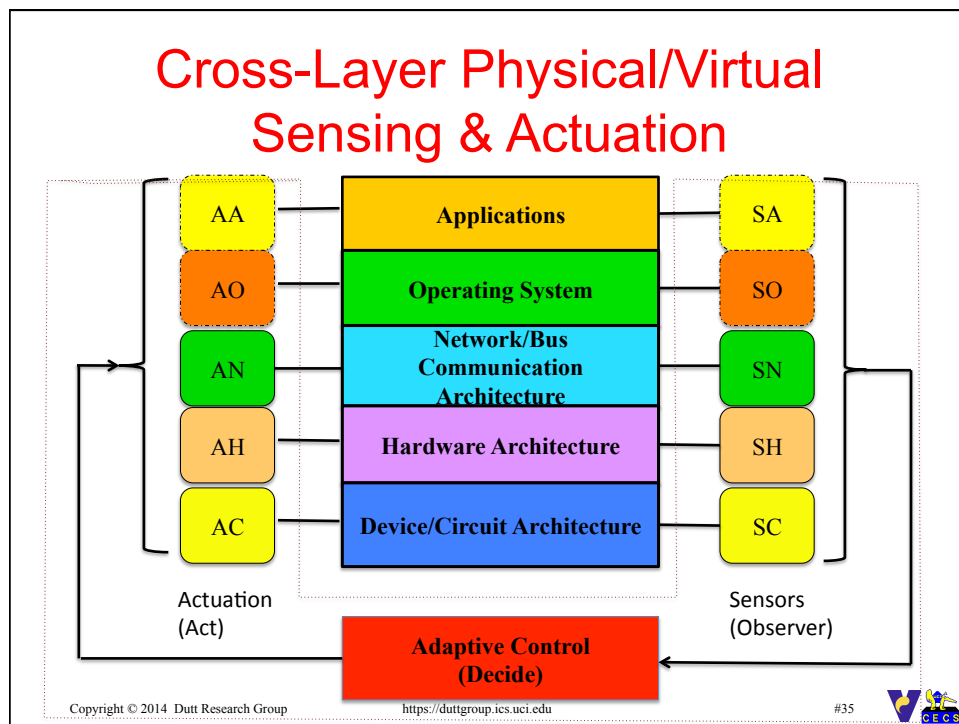
Distributed resources supporting homogeneous or heterogeneous or mixed fabric

CPSoC HW/SW Stack



CPSoC HW/SW Stack



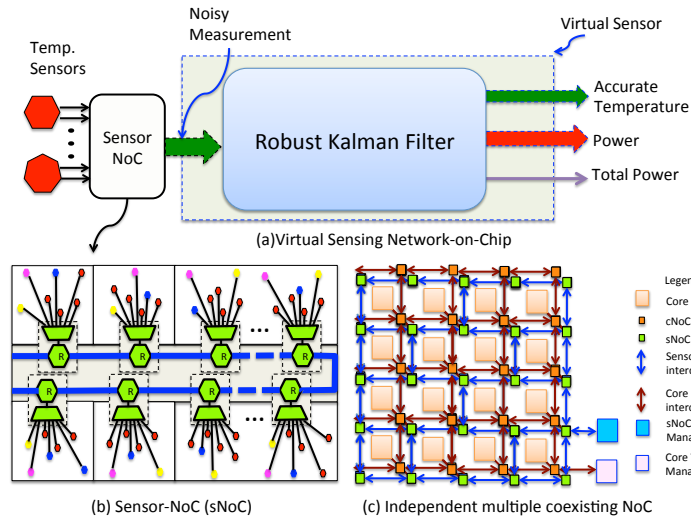


Cross-Layer Physical/Virtual Sensing

- Many restrictions in physical deployment of sensors and test structures in MPSoCs:
 - Resource constraints
 - e.g., Area, Power
 - Limited number, resolution, accuracy, range
 - Placement Restrictions
 - Complexity of sensing and observation structures
 - Inaccessibility or inability of direct measurement
 - Prohibitive cost

Virtual Sensing is a Indirect Computational Approach to overcome several sensing limitations

Example Virtual Power Sensing with few Thermal Sensors



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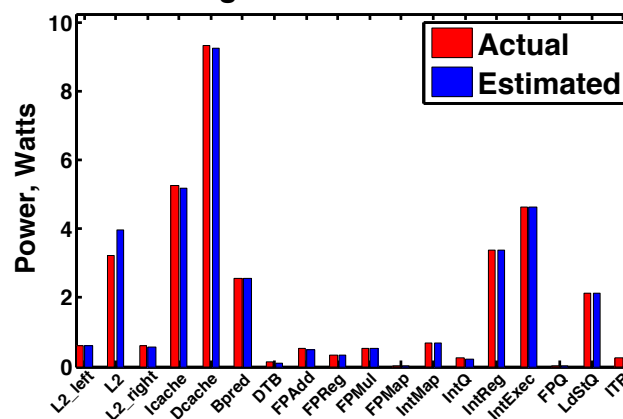
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#37



Example Virtual Power Sensing with few Thermal Sensors

Average Power of Each Blocks



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#38



Cyber-Physical System-on-Chip (CPSoC)

- *Cross-Layer Virtual and Physical Sensing & Actuation*
 - Sensor fusion and Actuation
 - Combine hardware and software sensors
- *Self-Awareness and Adaptation*
 - Combines *Simple* and *Self-Aware* adaptations
 - A reflexive (**Observe-Decide-Adapt**) architecture to achieve closed loop system control
- *Predictive Modeling & Learning*
 - Dynamic characterization of platform variability across multiple levels of the system stack.

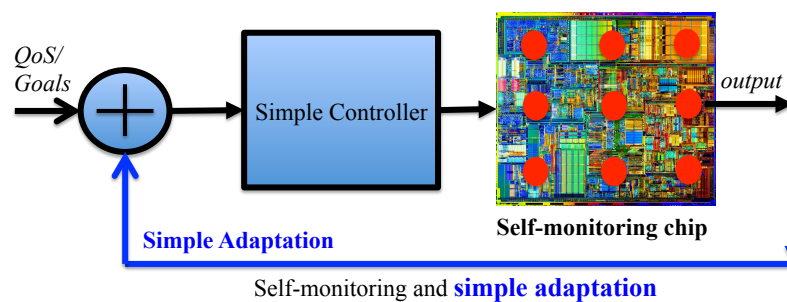
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MPSoC with Simple Adaptation



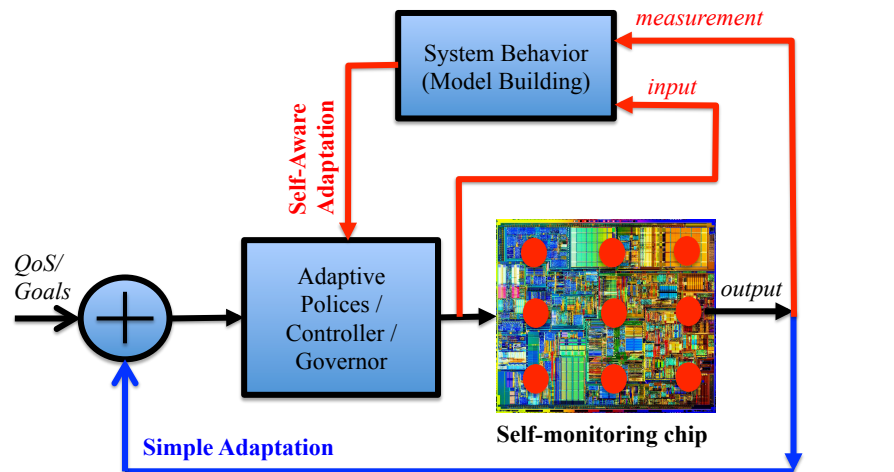
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#40



Sentient Chips (Self-Awareness): CPSoC



Self-monitoring and **behavior modeling** [Sarma14, CODES+ISSS14]

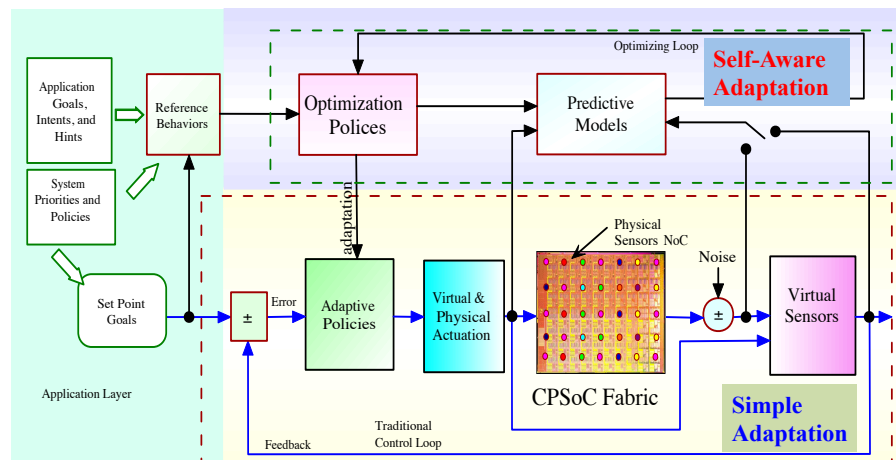
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#41



CPSoC Context



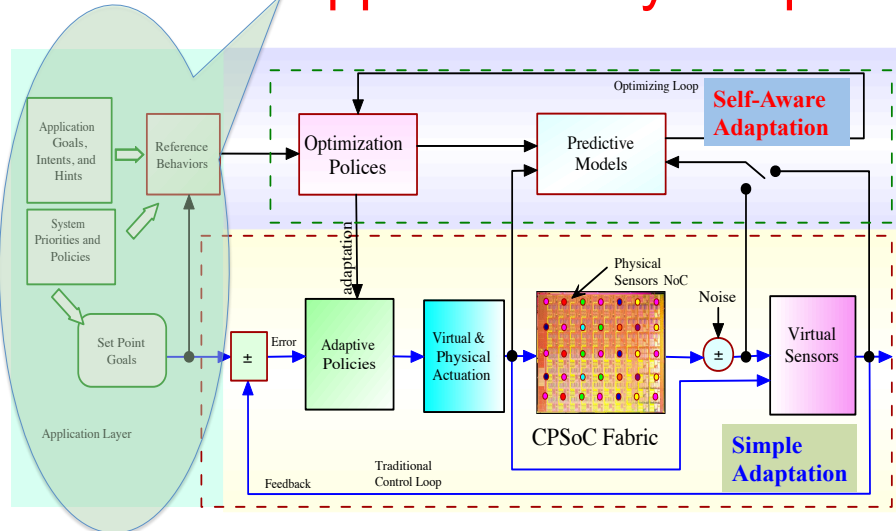
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#42



CPSoC: Application-layer input



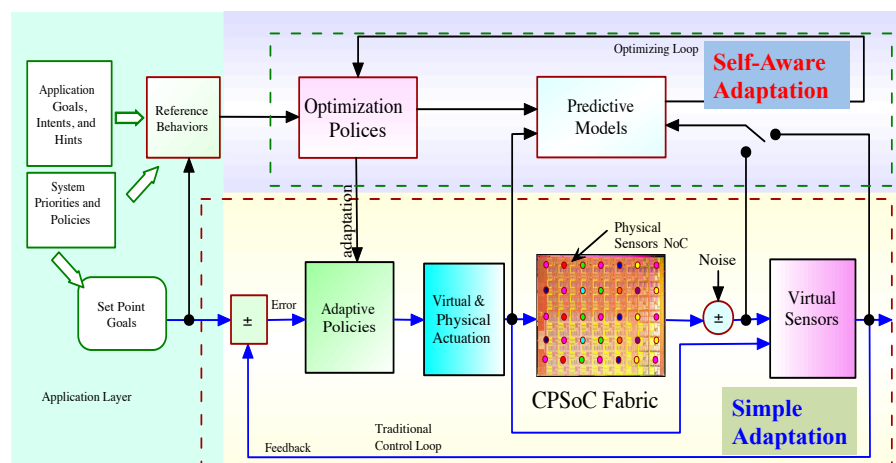
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#43



CPSoC: Two Adaptation Loops



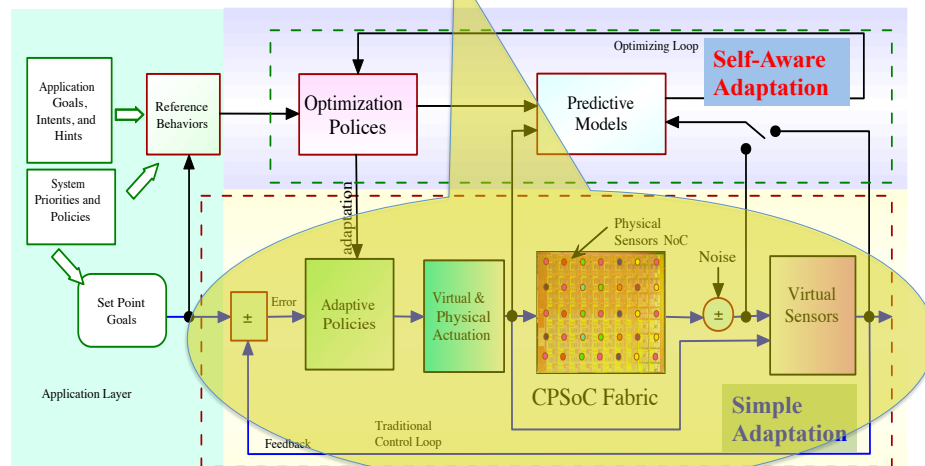
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#44



1. CPSoC Simple Adaptation



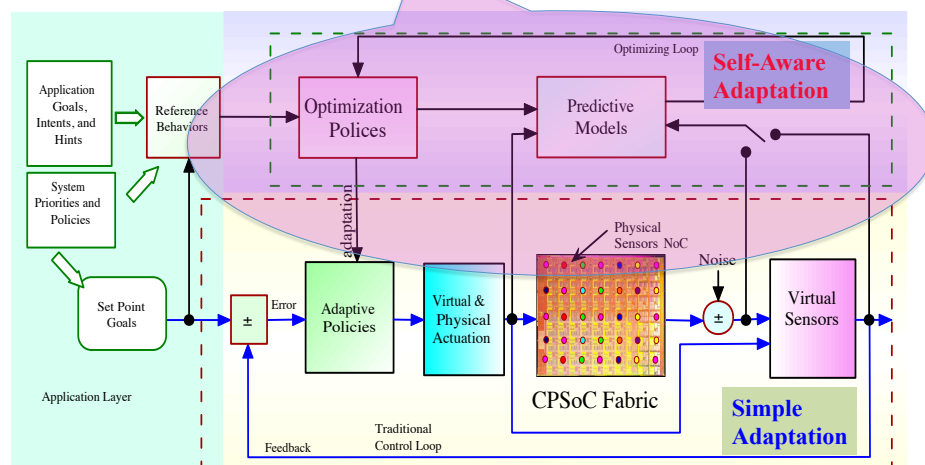
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#45



2. CPSoC Self-Aware Adaptation



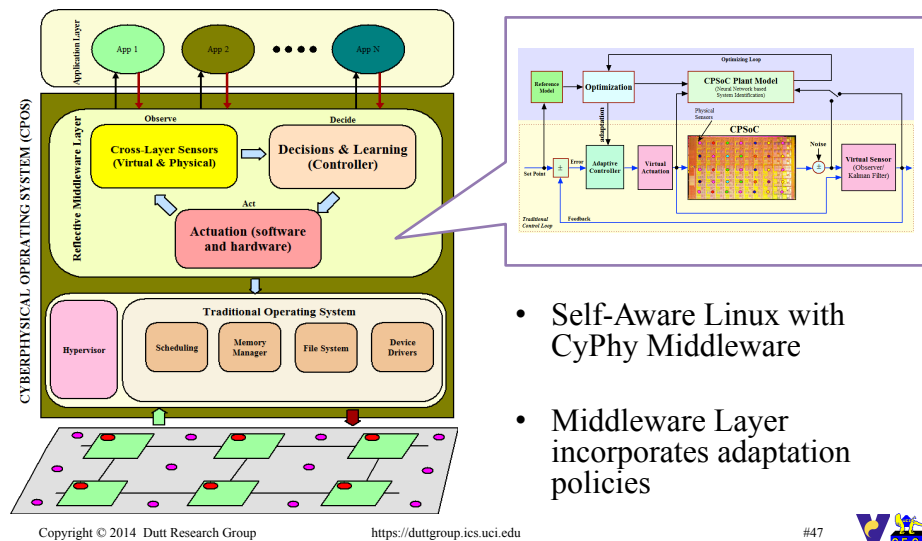
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#46



Adaptive, Reflexive CyPhy Middleware



- Self-Aware Linux with CyPhy Middleware
- Middleware Layer incorporates adaptation policies

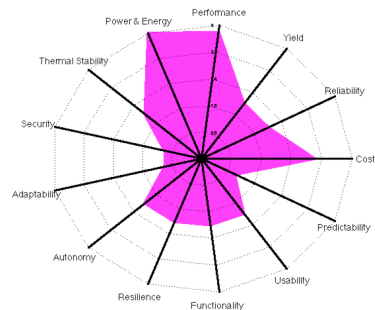
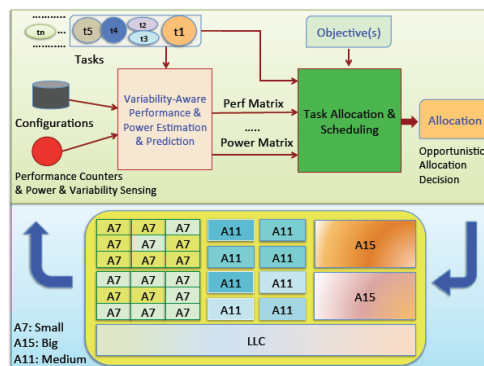
Outline

- Self-Awareness, Sentience, Sensemaking
- Cyber-Physical Systems-on-Chip (CPSoc)
- CPSoc Exemplars and Prototype
- Wrap-up

Sample Application and Use cases

- Energy Efficiency (Throughput/Power)
 - Dynamic Workloads
 - Opportunistic Load balancing
 - Adaptive Scheduler
 - Evolutionary Approach
- Thermal-Aware Performance
 - Dynamic/Adaptive Parallelization
 - Heterogeneous Architecture
 - Adaptive Scheduling
- Aging and Resilience
 - Opportunistic Allocation
 - Duty cycling of Active and Resting periods

Energy Efficiency Improvement

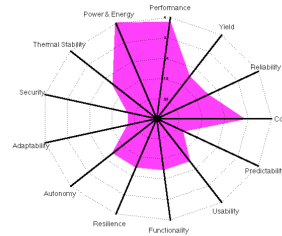
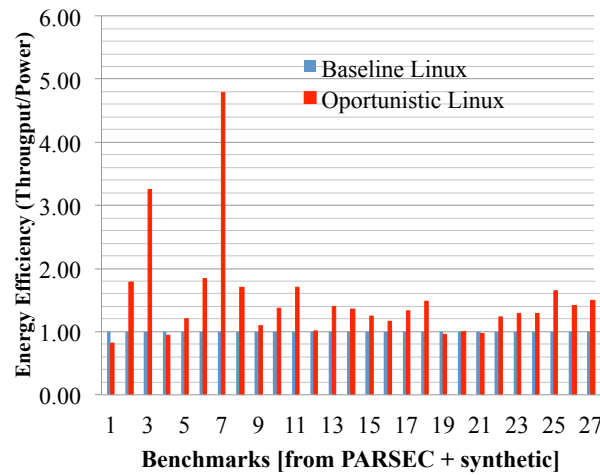


Goal:

- Energy Efficiency

[Sarma13, CECS TR]

Energy Efficiency Improvement



51% Average Improvement for Quad-core

[Sarma13, CECS TR]

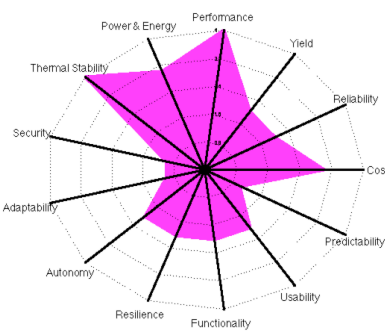
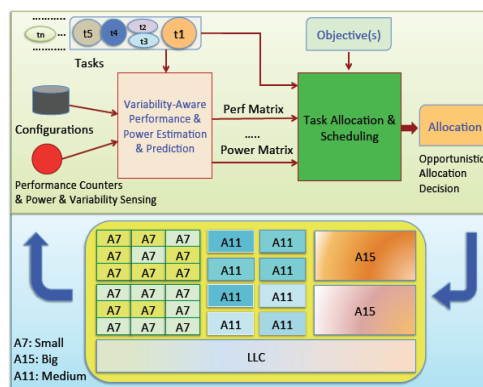
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#51



Thermal-Aware Performance



Goal:

- Improve throughput under max temp & power constraint

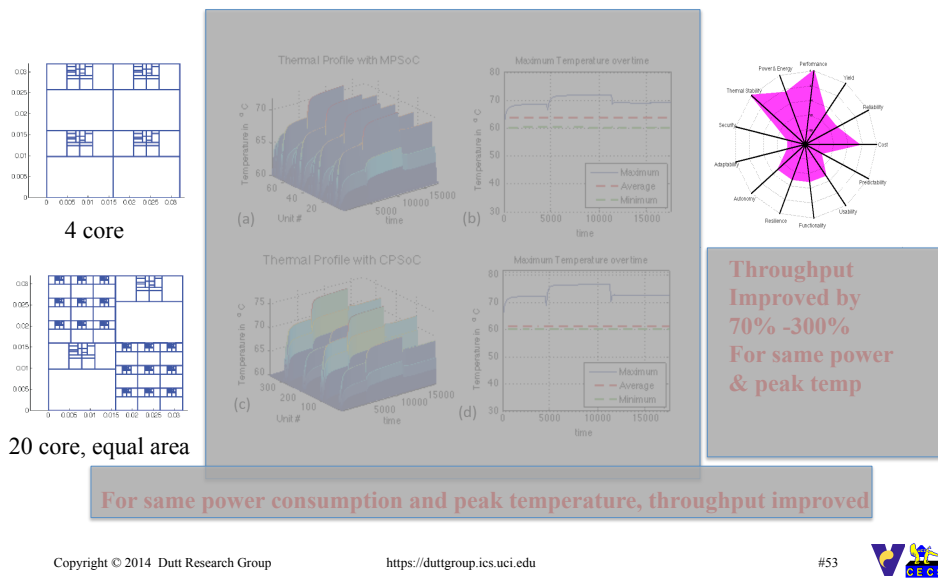
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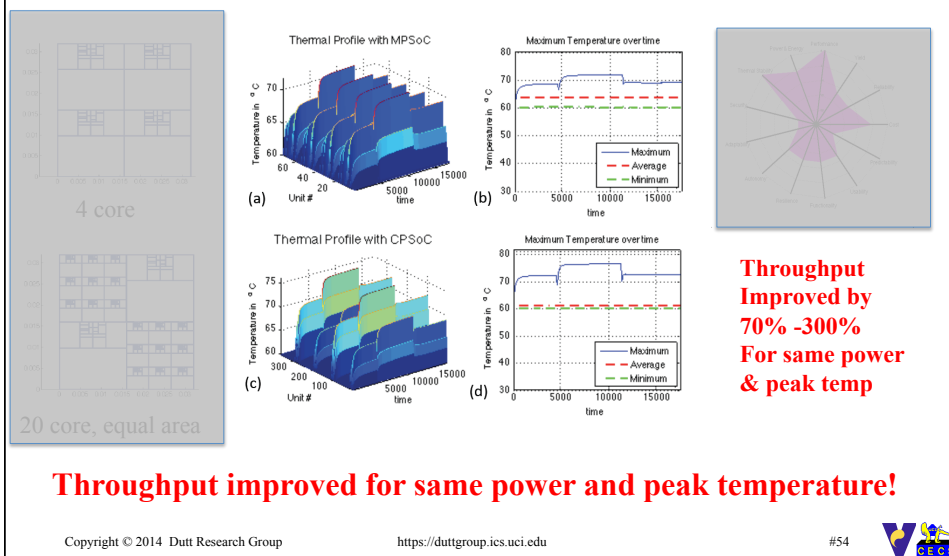
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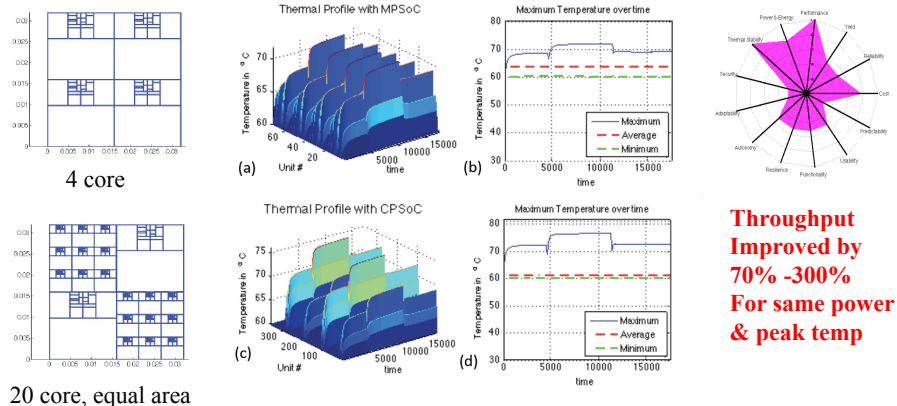
Thermal-Aware Performance



Thermal-Aware Performance



Thermal-Aware Performance



For same power consumption and peak temperature, throughput improved

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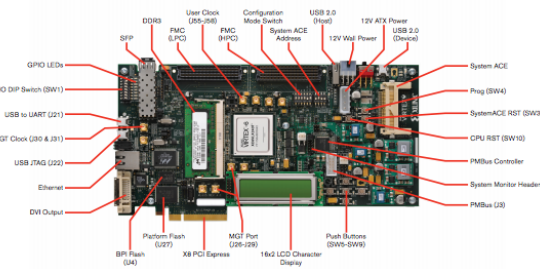
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#55



CPSoC FPGA Prototype

- Goal: validate simulation studies for task migration, temperature, wear-out, etc.
- Platforms: Virtex 5 and Virtex 6
- Processor Core : SPARC/Leon 3, Leon 2, S1
- No Of Processor : 2-8
- NoC : Mesh Connected, 200-800 MBPS Bandwidth
- On-chip Memory : 16-64kB per core
- External Memory: 4 GB of DRAM
- Sensors:
 - Ring Oscillators: 20-50
 - Thermal: 20-40
 - Aging: 10-20
 - Razor/EDS: 20-50
- OS: Linux 2.x/3.x

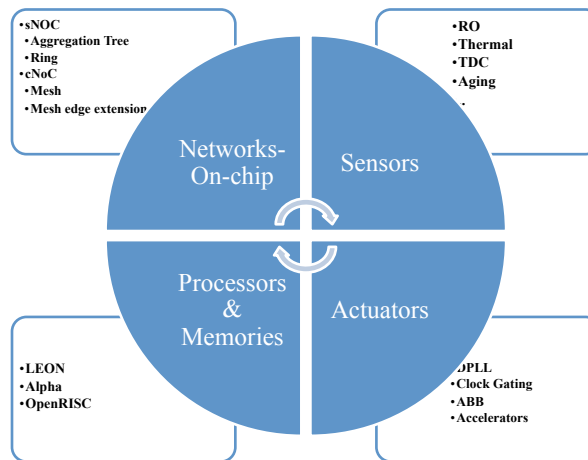


Xilinx Virtex 6 Board

[Sarma14, RSP14]

NSF Expedition in Computing, Variability-Aware Software for Efficient Computing with Nanoscale Devices <http://variability.org>

FPGA Library for CPSoC



**Develop an
FPGA library
to construct
CPSoC**

[Sarma14, RSP14]

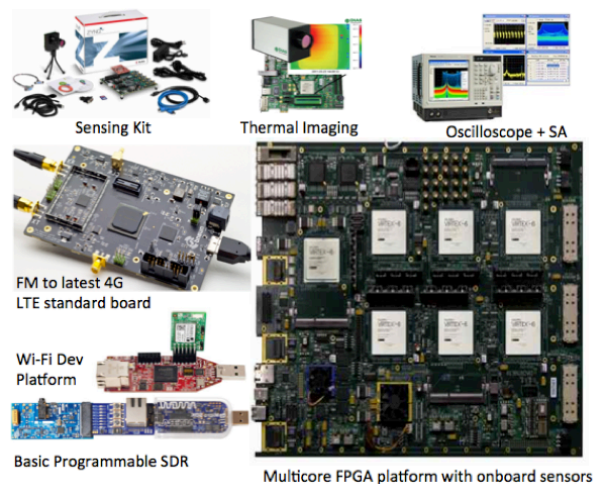
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#57



CPSoC Multi-FPGA Distributed Platform



[Sarma13, CECS TR]

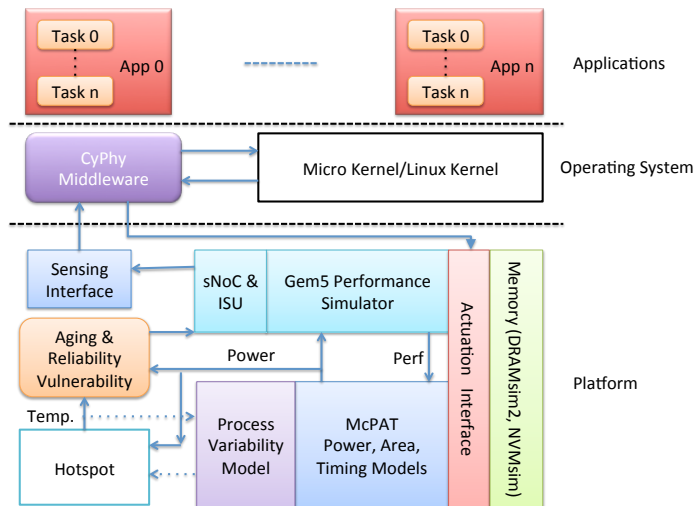
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#58



CPSoC Simulation Framework



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[Sarma14, RSP14]

#59



Self-* Computing: Related Efforts

- Autonomic Computing (IBM)
- SEEC (MIT & Milano)
 - Software centric/focused adaptation with homogeneous arch
 - Uses ODA loop for feedback control
- Invasive Computing (Erlangen & KIT)
 - Adaptive use of computing platform resources
 - Distributed management
 - No Self-modeling and system behavior identification

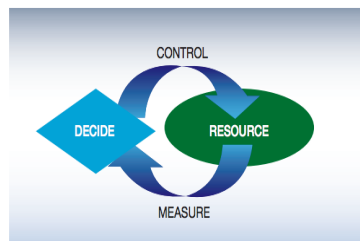
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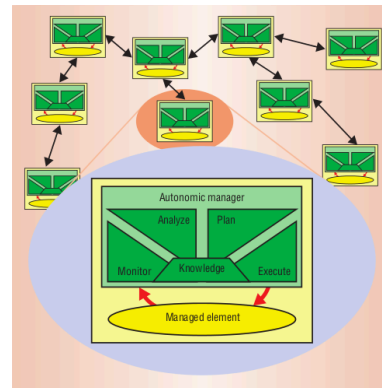
#60



Self-Awareness in Software Systems (IBM's Autonomic Computing)



From *Autonomic Computing Concepts*, IBM White Paper, 2001



[Kephart2003]

[Autonomic Computing, IBM]

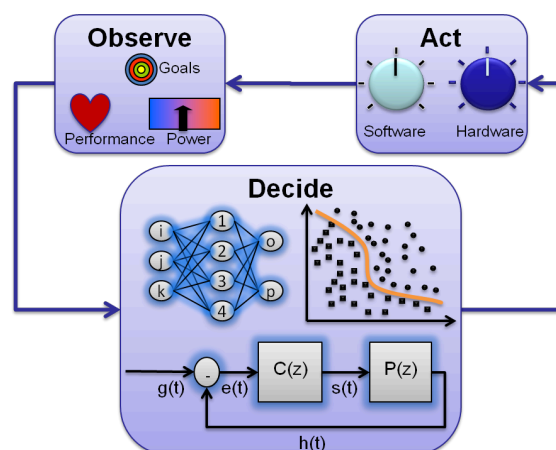
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#61



SEEC [MIT+Milano]



[Hoffmann2012, DAC]

ODA loop in the self-aware computing model

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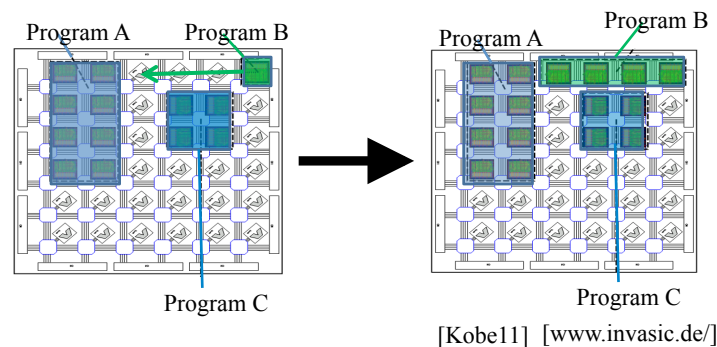
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#62



Invasive Computing (Erlangen/KIT)

- **Definition: Invasive Programming** denotes the capability of a program running on a parallel computer to request and temporarily claim processor, communication and memory resources and to be capable to subsequently free these resources again.



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#63



Outline

- Self-Awareness, Sentience, Sensemaking
- Cyber-Physical Systems-on-Chip (CPSoC)
- CPSoC Exemplars and Prototype
- Wrap-up

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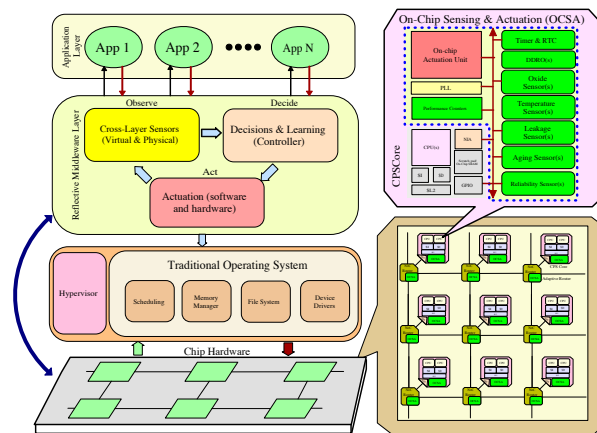
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#64



Key Take-Aways

CPSoC: First step towards Sentient Chips



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#65

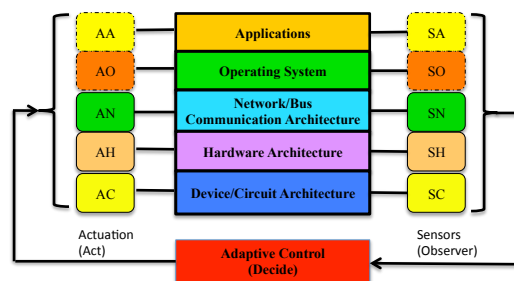


Key Take-Aways

CPSoC: First step towards Sentient Chips

Key CPSoC features:

- **Cross-Layer Virtual and Physical Sensing & Actuation**
 - Combine hardware and software sensors across multiple layers



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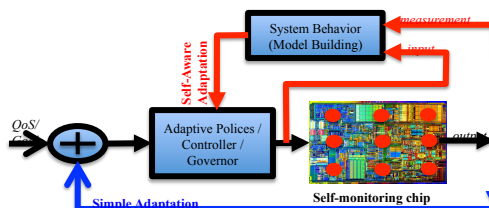
#66



Key Take-Aways

CPSoC: First step towards Sentient Chips

Key CPSoC features:



- *Self-Awareness and Adaptation*
 - *Simple* and *Self-Aware* adaptations
 - Adaptive, reflexive architecture (*Observe-Decide-Adapt*)
- *Predictive Modeling & Learning*
 - Dynamic platform characterization across multiple levels

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#67



Key Take-Aways

CPSoC: First step towards Sentient Chips

Key CPSoC features:

- *Cross-Layer Virtual and Physical Sensing & Actuation*
 - Combine hardware and software sensors
- *Self-Awareness and Adaptation*
 - *Simple* and *Self-Aware* adaptations
 - Adaptive, reflexive architecture (*Observe-Decide-Adapt*)
- *Predictive Modeling & Learning*
 - Dynamic platform characterization across multiple abstraction levels

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#68



Quo Vadis, Sentient Chips?

Good?

or

Evil?



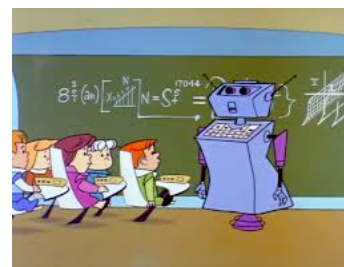
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#69



Professor's Worst Nightmare: MOOCs + Sentient Robots



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#70



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- NSF Variability Expedition Project Team
 - www.variability.org

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#71



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#72




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