Ph.D. in Information Technology Thesis Defense

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Serena CURZEL – XXXV Cycle

MODERN HIGH-LEVEL SYNTHESIS: IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY WITH A MULTI-LEVEL

APPROACH

Supervisor: Prof. Fabrizio Ferrandi

Abstract:

High-Level Synthesis is an invaluable tool in the design of new hardware accelerators, but it suffers

from important limitations when domain experts attempt to use it to synthesize modern data

science and machine learning workloads. This thesis proposes a new approach based on multi-level

compiler technologies to overcome the abstraction gap between python-based high-level

programming frameworks and HLS, to improve performance and portability, and to allow easier

design space exploration. The tools and techniques that were developed to support such an

approach can be extended with domain-specific abstractions and optimizations. An end-to-end

open-source toolchain has been established to provide a fast algorithm-to-chip design flow.

PhD Committee

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