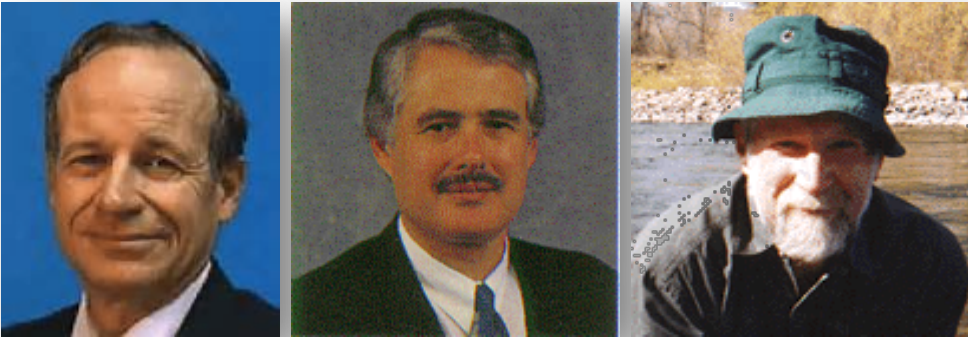


Classic, Hot, and Unrecognized Problems in Programming Languages

Kathryn S McKinley



About me



Mentors

Research



life



Congressional Testimony



Family

**Researchers solve problems
& ask questions**

My undergraduate & graduate research

1983 What is the bottleneck in a local area network?



1984 **TED** A **T**ext **ED**itor to help Fortran programmers produce correct programs



1992 Interactive and automatic parallelization

Performance
Programmer Tools
Optimization

Programming language researchers

Help people make computers do stuff



Classic topics I

Design programming languages

- Correctness, expressiveness, efficiency

Specify semantics for languages & programs

Prove properties about languages & programs

Programming language implementation

Programming languages timeline

<https://www.levenez.com/lang/lang.pdf>

Classic topics II

Compilers & interpreters

- map high level to low level languages
- correct, secure, etc.

Finding bugs in programs

Performance of programs

- Profiling, benchmarks, measurements

Classic topics III



Classic topics III



Tools for programmers, users, & **PL researchers**

- writing programs
- writing programming languages
- proving things about programs
- compiling & optimizing programs
- debugging programs
- profiling programs

Techniques PL researchers use



Language grammars & tools

Lambda calculus

Type theory

Data flow analysis

Static analysis

Dynamic analysis

Simulation

Proof languages

Model checking

Proof assistants

SMT solvers

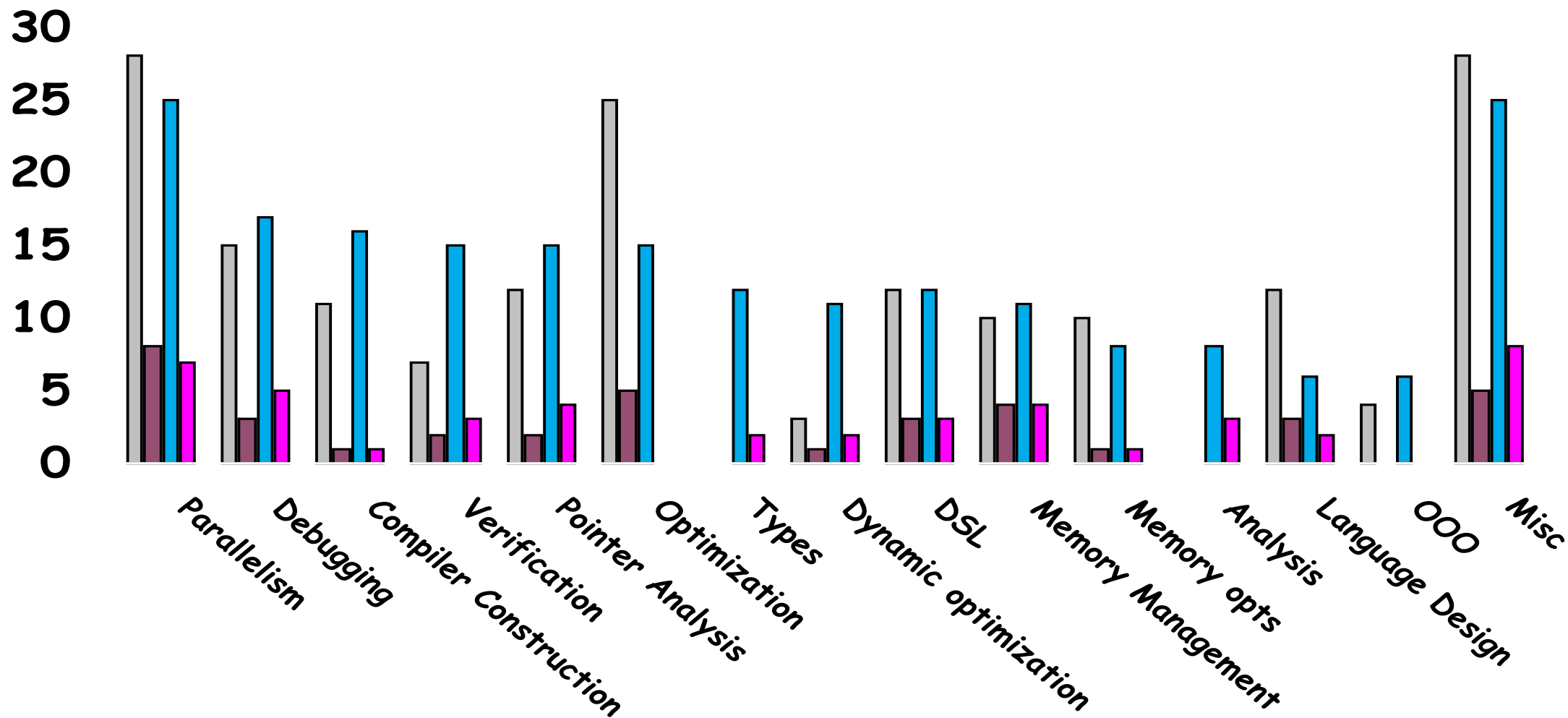
Synthesis

Applications & hardware change

but... they always need a
programming language and implementation

PLDI 06 & 07 Topics Submitted/Accepted

2006 Accept 2006 2007 Accept 2007



Hot Topics in CS become PL topics



Big data & streaming

Approximation

Machine learning

Probabilistic programming

Human computation

Spreadsheets as programs

Hardware

- Multicore
- GPUs, accelerators
- Non volatile memory

Exploring new topics



Enhancing Server Availability and Security Through Failure-Oblivious Computing

OSDI 2004

Martin Rinard, Cristian Cadar, Daniel Dumitrescu, Tudor Leu, and William S. Beeber
*Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139*

**Rejected for
3 years from
PL venues**

Abstract

We present a new technique, *failure-oblivious computing*, that enables servers to execute through memory errors without memory corruption. Our safe compiler for

1 Introduction

Memory errors such as out-of-order pointer accesses are a common source of failures. Safe languages such as

uses and
of program
and Java use dy-

First paper

failure oblivious → approximate computing

Sample reviews

... damage the field

This is utter nonsense.

It seems heavily based on Uncertain<T>

Exploring new topics

Uncertain $\langle T \rangle$: A First-Order Type for Uncertain

ASPLOS 2014

James Bornholt

Todd Mytkowicz

Expressing and Verifying Probabilistic As

PLDI 2014

Adrian Sampson
University of Washington

Pavel Panchekha

Todd Mytkowicz
Microsoft Research

Kathryn S. McKinley

Dan
Univ.

**Rejected next
papers for
3 years from
PL & ML venues**

Two papers

probabilistic programming for the rest of us

Researcher characteristics

thick skin

growth mind set

persistence

PL is fundamental to CS

