

EE-606

Nanocomputing: Devices, Circuits and Architectures (2019)

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Cursus	Sem.	Type		
Electrical Engineering		Obl.	Language of teaching	English
			Credits	1
			Session	
			Exam	Project report
			Workload	30h
			Hours	18
			Courses	18
			Number of positions	20

Frequency

Every year

Remark

Every year. Next time: Spring 2019

Summary

This course aims at giving the student a detailed overview of the computation circuits and systems for computations that are expected to become the main actor in the forthcoming scenario, going beyond the ultra-scaled CMOS technologies and focusing the attention on the emerging technologies.

Content

The student will have a good overview of the novel solutions offered by the nanotechnologies. He will have an exhaustive coverage starting from the technology, passing to the devices up to the architectures. One of the training goals of the course is to give to the student a scenario form which to choose a specific topic of particular interest, that will be studied and developed for the preparation of the final Project Report.

1. State of the art: nanocomputing in ULTRA scaled CMOS:

- CMOS scaling trends at device levels: scaling, leakage, double-gate transistors, FinFET, etc.
- Circuit and architectural techniques: dark silicon, dynamic voltage scaling, subthreshold computation, etc.

2. Field coupled nanocomputing (FCN):

- a new principle: computing through field coupling and not through transport
- devices: quantum dot cellular automata (QCA), nano magnetic logic (NML), molecular QCA, silicon based QCA; discussions on technology, behavior, models, energy consumption, speed, area
- interconnections: magnetic domain walls, spin waves, molecular wires
- designing a FCN circuit: a new design paradigm toward intrinsic pipelining
- circuits and architectures based on FCN structures: synchronous, asynchronous, null-convention logic; how to solve feedback problems; cut set retiming; solutions based on systolic arrays and interleaving

3. Nanoarray nanocomputing based on nanowires:

- devices: Gate-All-Around transistors, Ambipolar transistors (silicon based, zinc-oxide, carbon nanotubes, ...)

- circuits: nano-PLA, NanoASIC, reconfigurable nanoFPGA
- architectures: sea of nanoarrays for massive computation and "embarrassingly parallel" elaboration

4. Logic in memory:

- Devices: resistive memories, memristors, nanomagnets and magnetic memories
- Circuits: logic embedded in memory, communications and protocols
- Architectures: caches to the limit, use hic what you need nunc, search nearby what you need later

5. Alternative nanocomputing devices and architectures:

- Molecular computing, Biological computing, Spintronic computing, Cellular automata, Quantum computing

Keywords

Nanocomputing; Beyond CMOS; Quantum Cellular Automata (QCA); Quantum Computing.

Learning Prerequisites

Required courses

Basic courses in silicon technologies and CMOS architectures.

Assessment methods

Project report.