



Software-Defined Everything

Processor IP for modern compute architectures

Pieter van der Wolf

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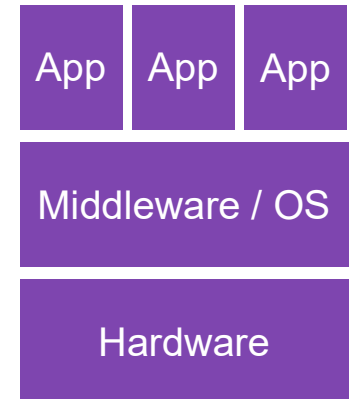
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Outline

- Introduction
 - Software-defined systems
- Architecture of software-defined vehicles
 - Technology shifts and changing business landscape
- SoCs for software-defined vehicles
 - And associated hardware/software development methodologies
- Processor IP for software-defined vehicles
- Conclusion

Software-Defined Systems

- Functionality of the system is software defined
- Using a hardware platform with standardized interfaces
 - With virtualization of hardware resources for ease of use by multiple applications
- Connected to the cloud
 - Continuous updates of features during the lifecycle of the product
- Personalization through software-based configuration of functions and features
- Enablement of new developers and new licensing & pricing models
- Examples
 - Mobile phones
 - Televisions
 - Cars



Increasingly the software needs dictate the hardware requirements

Zonal Architecture Reshaping Automotive SoCs



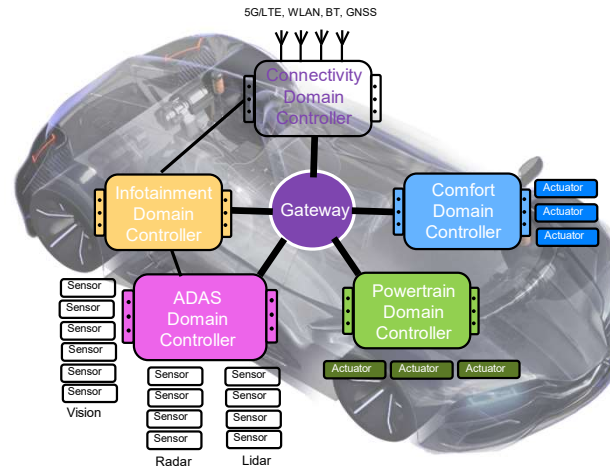
Yesterday

30-100+ ECUs in a car

Growing number of ECUs
Each with processing, power, wiring

Mainstream MCUs
Legacy processing technologies

Hardware-defined

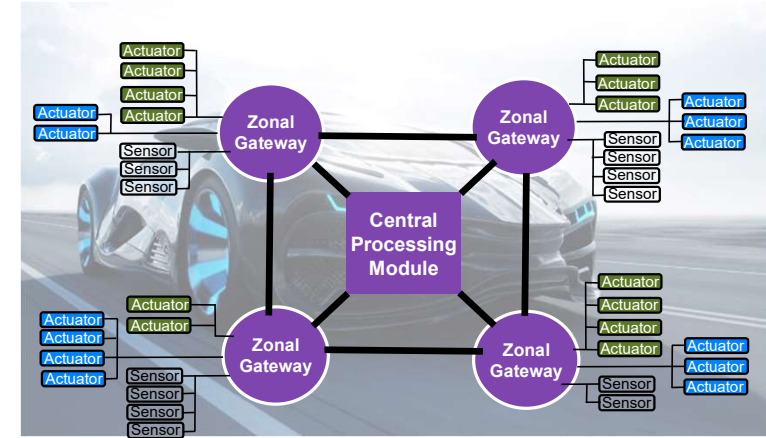


Today

Domain Architecture

Consolidating ECUs into domain controllers
Reduced wiring

Integration of functions into SoCs
Typically 16nm .. 7nm



Tomorrow/Future

Zonal Architecture

Multi-Applications Central Processing
Zone controllers as local gateways
Connected by Ethernet backbone

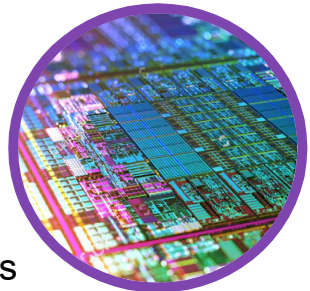
Advanced SoCs / multi-die systems
Advanced technologies, 5nm/3nm

Software-defined

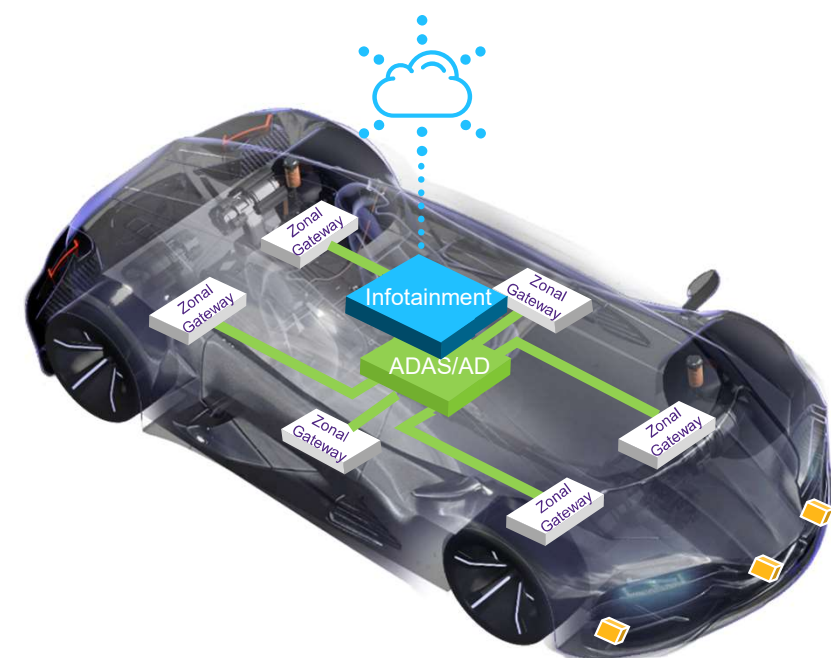
Software-Defined Vehicles

Technology shifts and a changing business landscape

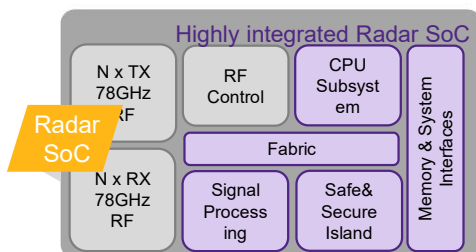
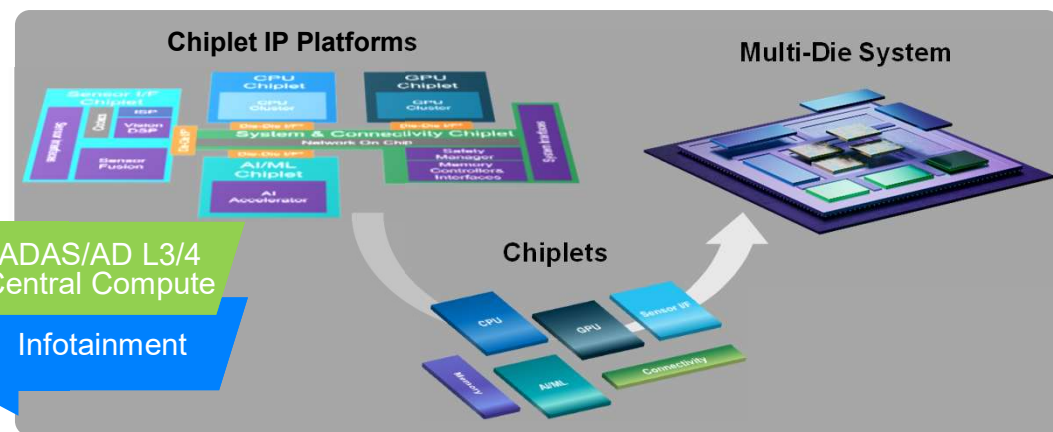
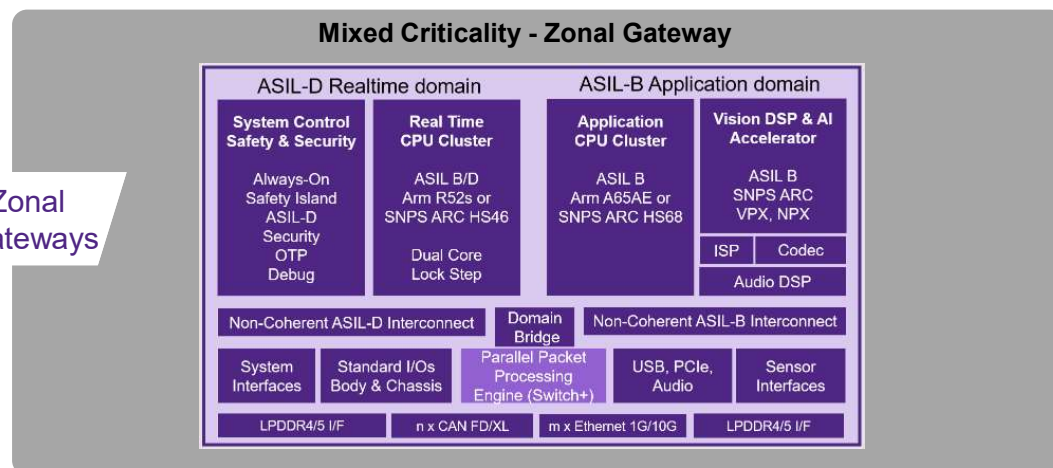
- Software-defined functions implemented on standard hardware abstractions
- Vehicle integrates into the Internet-of-Things through cloud connectivity
 - Over-the-air (OTA) updates over the vehicle's lifespan
 - Continuously deliver software updates and new functionality
- More complex software development and deployment
 - >100M lines of code, written by different companies
- More complex SoCs in advanced technologies
- Increasing safety and security challenges
 - Compliance with safety and security standards such as ISO 26262 and ISO 21434
- Accelerating time to market
- Changing business environment with new players
 - Affects roles of IP suppliers, semiconductor companies, Tier-1's, and OEMs
 - For example, OEMs doing custom SoCs optimized for their requirements and software workloads



Three Key Areas Where OEMs/Tier1s Develop Custom SoCs



Zonal Gateways



Automotive ADAS Heavily Reliant on Sensor Fusion

Radar



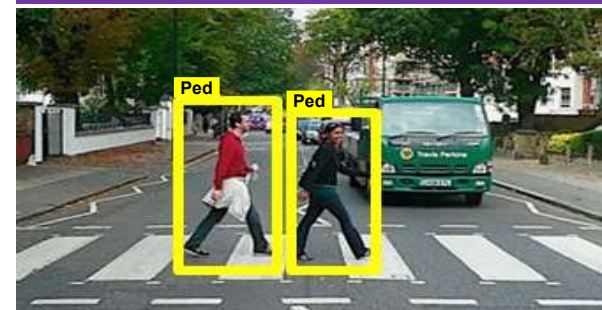
- Detect objects based on reflected microwaves
- Robust operation in different light and weather conditions
- Key component of Level 3+ and autonomous vehicles

LiDAR



- Measures time-of-flight of reflected (laser) light
- Wide field of view with good angular resolution
- Some sensitivity to weather conditions (e.g. heavy rain)

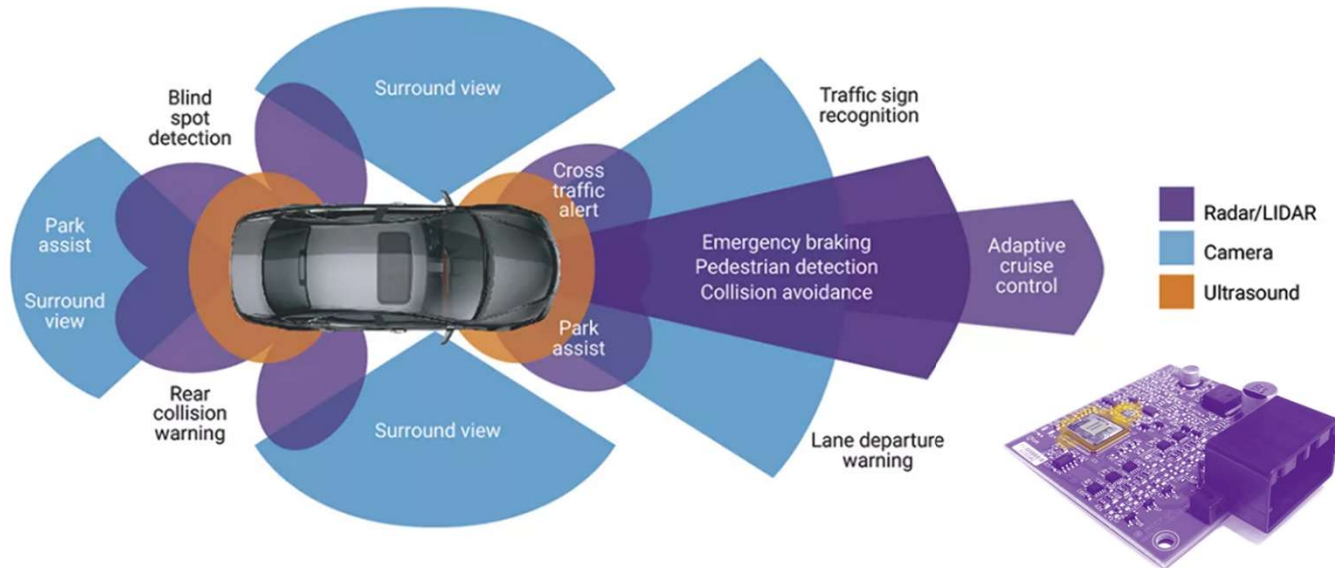
Vision



- Analysis of camera data
- Fast and accurate object classification using AI/ML
- Good angular resolution
- Sensitive to light and weather conditions

Different technologies have complementary strengths

Automotive ADAS Heavily Reliant on Sensor Fusion



SAE Autonomy Level	Estimated Vehicle Sensors
L2+	8 - 16
L3	13 - 26+
L4	17 - 29+

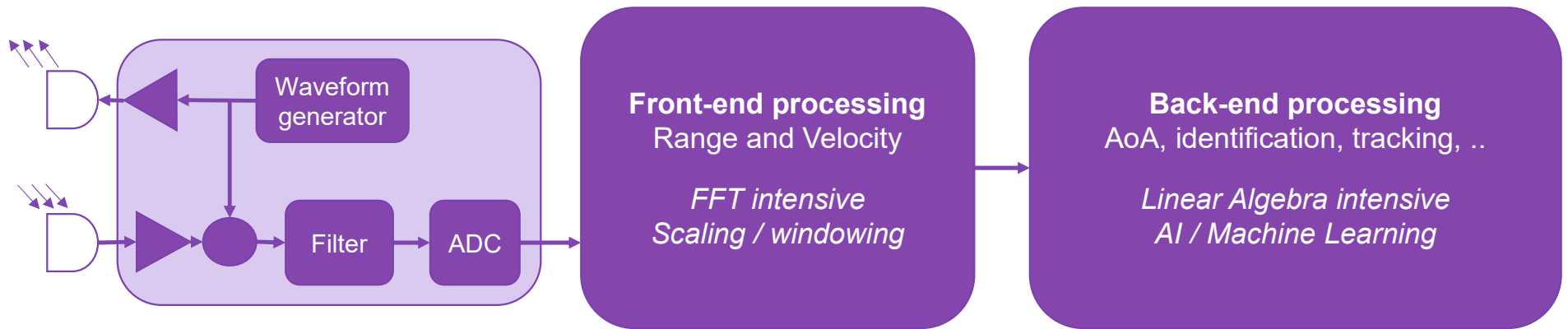
Based on survey of automobile and Robotaxi vendors including radar, camera, lidar and domain controllers

S&P Global Mobility, Autonomy Forecast, March 2024

- Sensor fusion is key to advanced ADAS
 - Combines sensors to make more accurate representations of the environment
 - Using multiple sensors together offsets weaknesses of individual sensors
- Integration challenge
 - How to validate early in the development process that the intended use cases will be correctly supported?

FMCW Radar Processing

Frequency-Modulated Continuous-Wave Radar Processing Requirements



Example RADAR case

- 4 channels, 50 frames/s, 256 chirps/frame, 512 samples/chirp
- Range FFTs: $4 \times 50 \times 256 = 51,200$ complex FFTs of length 512 per second
- Velocity FFTs: $4 \times 50 \times 512 = 102,400$ complex FFTs of length 256 per second
- Size of radar cube with 32b+32b complex data is 4.2MB
- Bandwidth requirement for a single data stream is $50 \times 4.2 = 210\text{MB/s}$

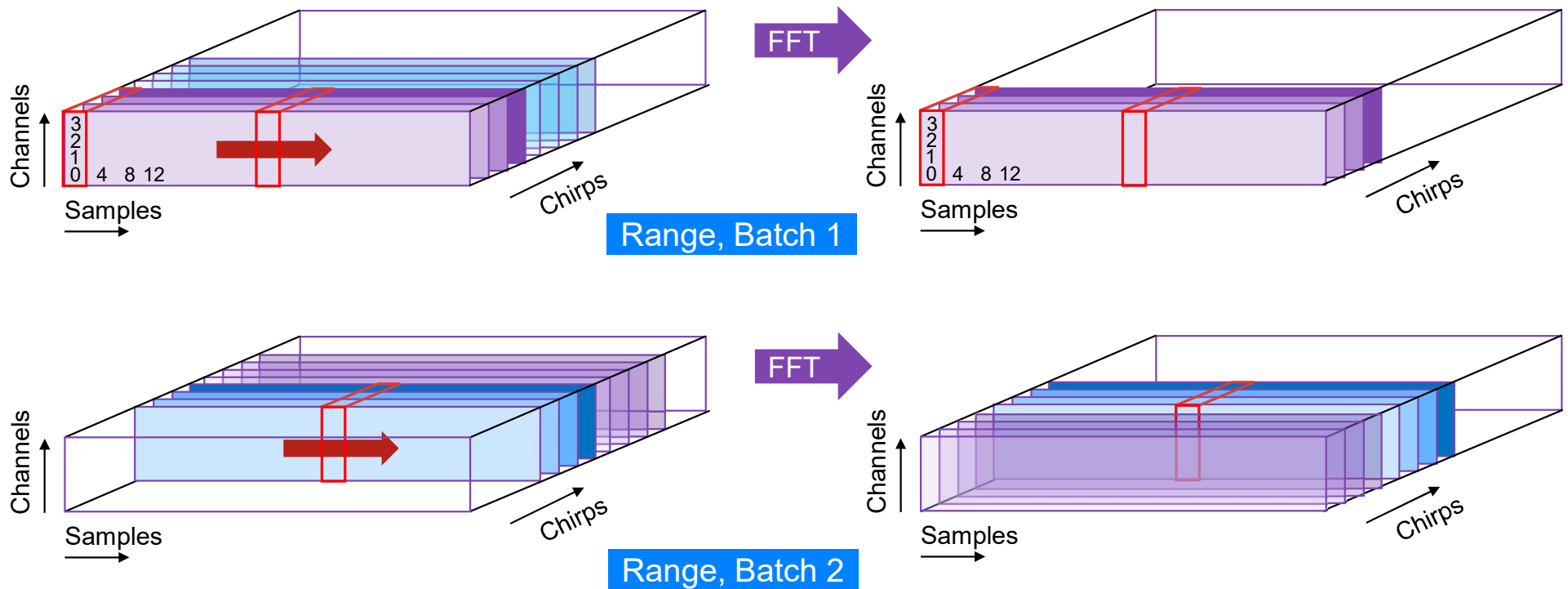
52.4M FFT points per second



Few 10s MHz on DSP that does >1 FFT point per cycle

FFT Processing Example for Radar

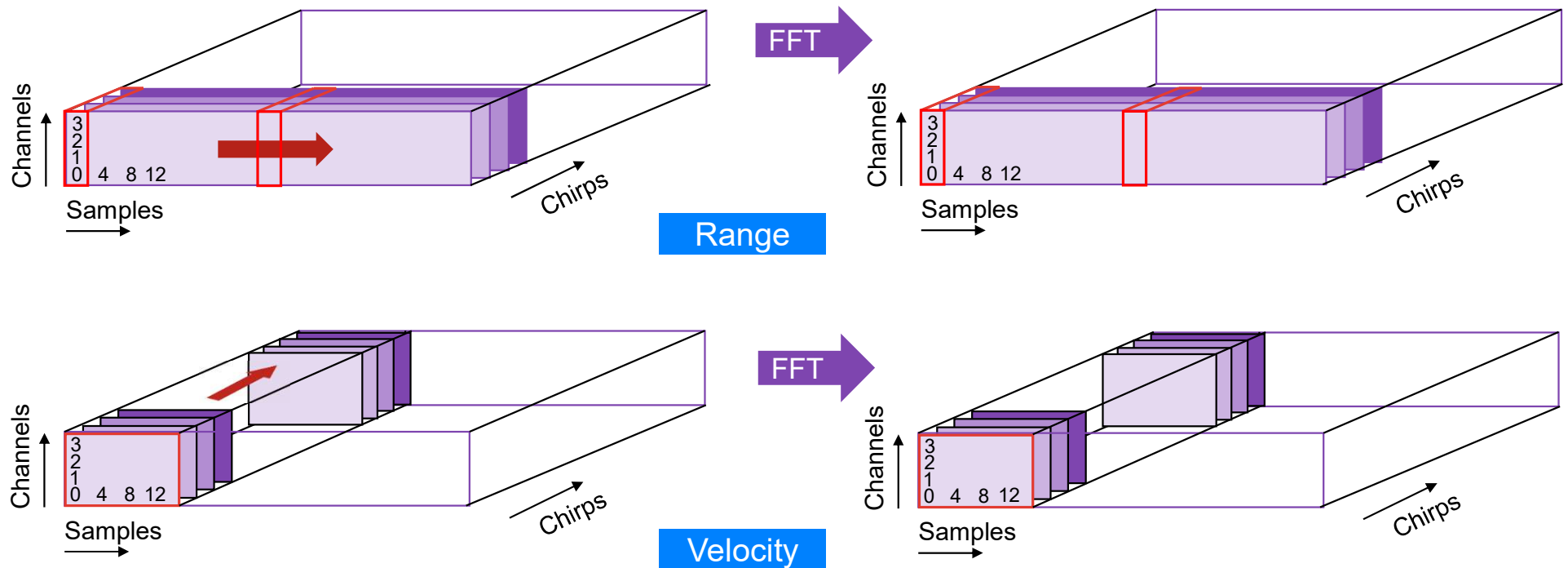
Parallel Processing and DMA Transfers for Batch-of-16 FFTs with Double Buffering



While FFT processes data using one set of buffers, DMA transfers fill/empty another set of buffers

FFT Processing Example for Radar

Organization of Input & Output Data in Vector Memory for Batch of 16 FFTs



Demands advanced DMA capabilities and a vector unit with flexible LD/ST access patterns

ARC VPX DSP Processor IP

Next-Generation DSP Architecture for a Data Centric World

MetaWare Development Tools

Vector C/C++
Development Tools

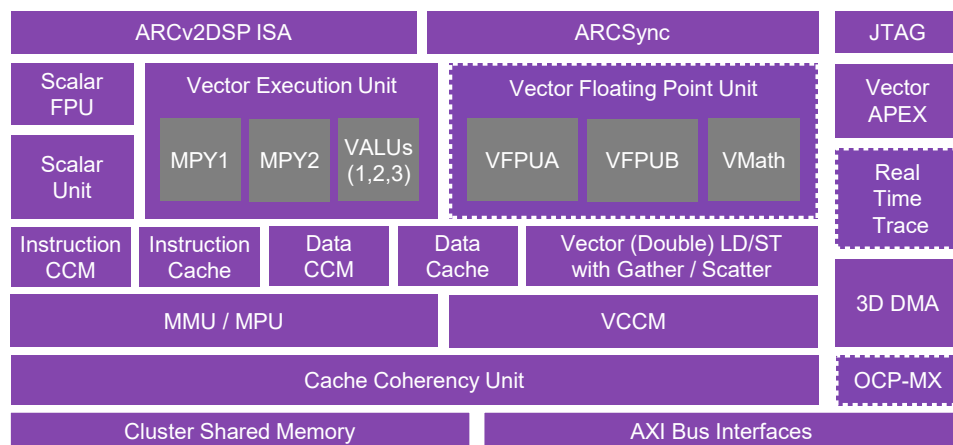
Simulators

Vector DSP, Linear
Algebra Libraries

Vision Library

NN SDK

ARC VPX Processor



VPX6	1024-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX6x2	Dual Core 1024-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX6x4	Quad Core 1024-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX5	512-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX5x2	Dual Core 512-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX5x4	Quad Core 512-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP

VPX3	256-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX3x2	Dual Core 256-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX2	128-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP
VPX2x2	Dual Core 128-bit vector SIMD/VLIW DSP

- Advanced **SIMD / VLIW DSP IP** addresses broad range of DSP workloads including RADAR/LiDAR, vision and sensor fusion
 - Vector lengths of **128-bit, 256-bit, 512-bit and 1024-bit** enable users to select optimum PPA for required workload
 - Scalable, configurable and extensible** to tune area performance and power for specific SoC requirements
- Vector-length agnostic** programming model allows for smooth migration of S/W among members of VPX family
 - Fully C-programmable** with optimizing compiler
- Special features for precision results on latest algorithms
 - Ultra high-performance floating-point** processing
 - Hardware acceleration** for DSP and linear algebra
 - Architecture, data types and software libraries optimized for **efficient machine learning**
- ISO 26262 **ASIL B/C safety** and ISO 21434 **CyberSecurity** compliant versions

ARC VPXxFS DSP Processor IP



ISO 26262 Safety / ISO 21434 CyberSecurity Compliant DSP for Functional Safety Applications

ARC FuSa Software and Tools

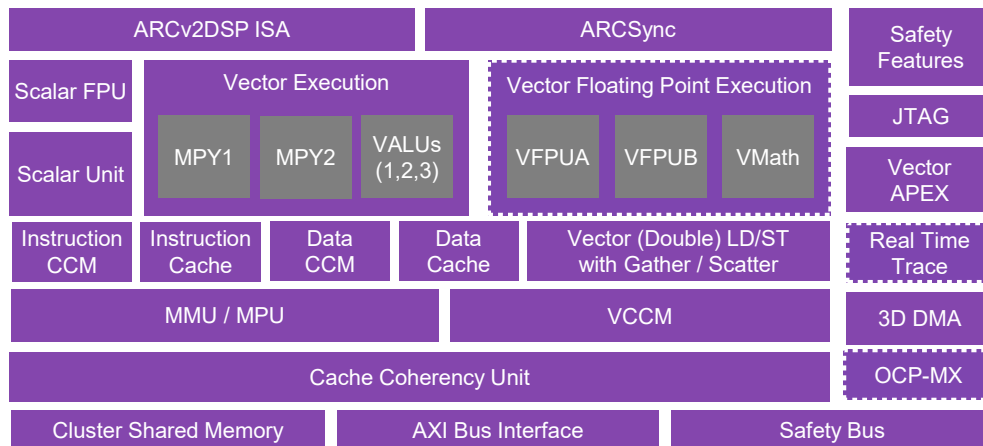
MetaWare Development Tools

C-runtime
Libraries

Software Test
Libraries

SPEED Runtime

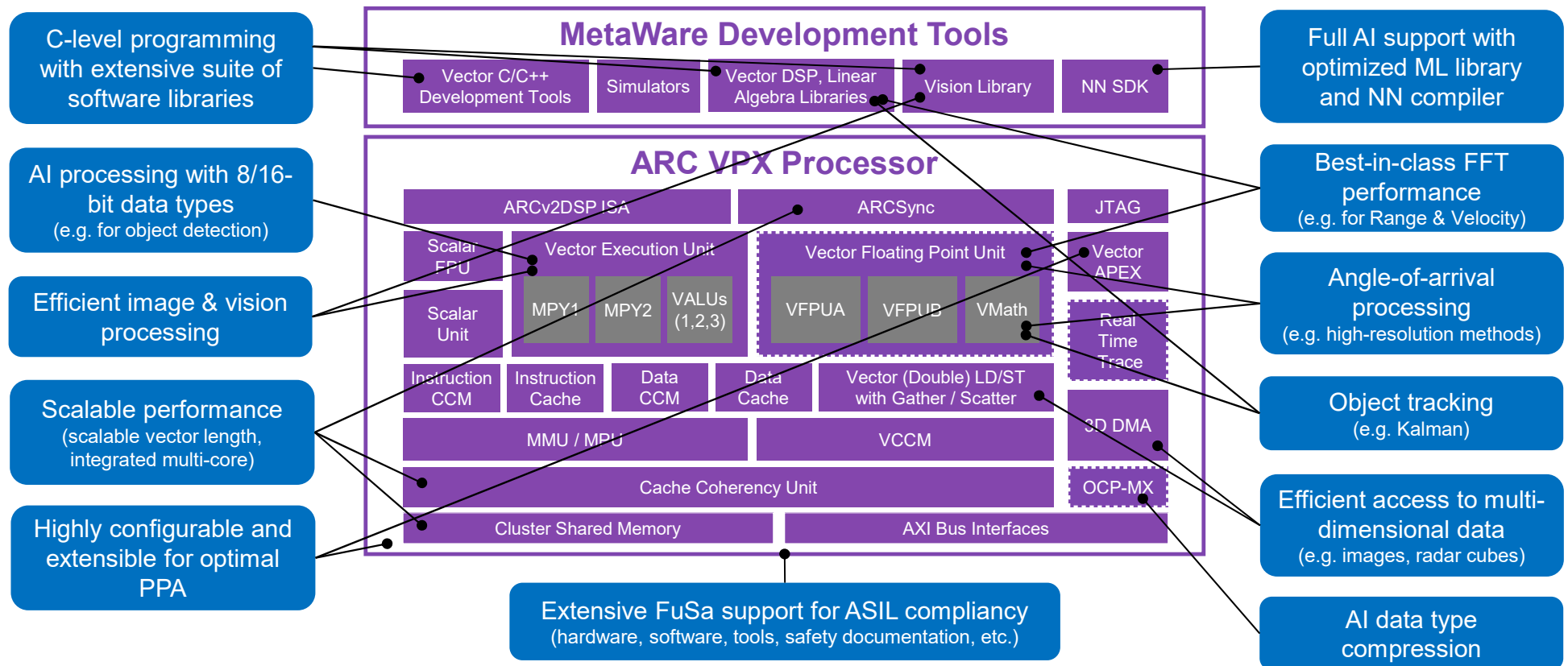
ARC VPXxFS Processor



- Multi-core vector DSP addresses broad range of automotive applications such as ADAS sensors (LiDAR, RADAR), powertrain, sensor fusion, etc.
- Integrated safety-critical hardware features
 - ECC protection for all memories and interfaces
 - Safety Monitor and Safety Bus
 - Lockstep capabilities
- ISO 26262 Safety Certified, ASIL-D Systematic, up to ASIL-C Random
- SAE/ISO 21434 CyberSecurity Compliant
- Safety-certified ARC MetaWare Development Tools speed ISO 26262-compliant software development
- Licensable safety-certified software libraries
- Safety documentation: FMEDA reports & safety manuals speeds functional safety assessments

ARC VPX Optimized for High-Performance Sensor Fusion

Massively Parallel Execution for Efficient Processing of Multiple Sensory Data Streams



Addressing the Hardware/Software Integration Challenge

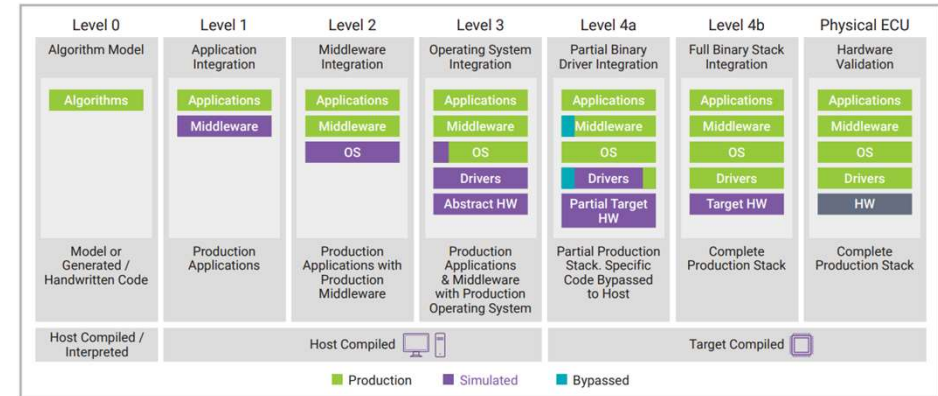
Development and Validation of Complex Software Stacks

- Digital twins

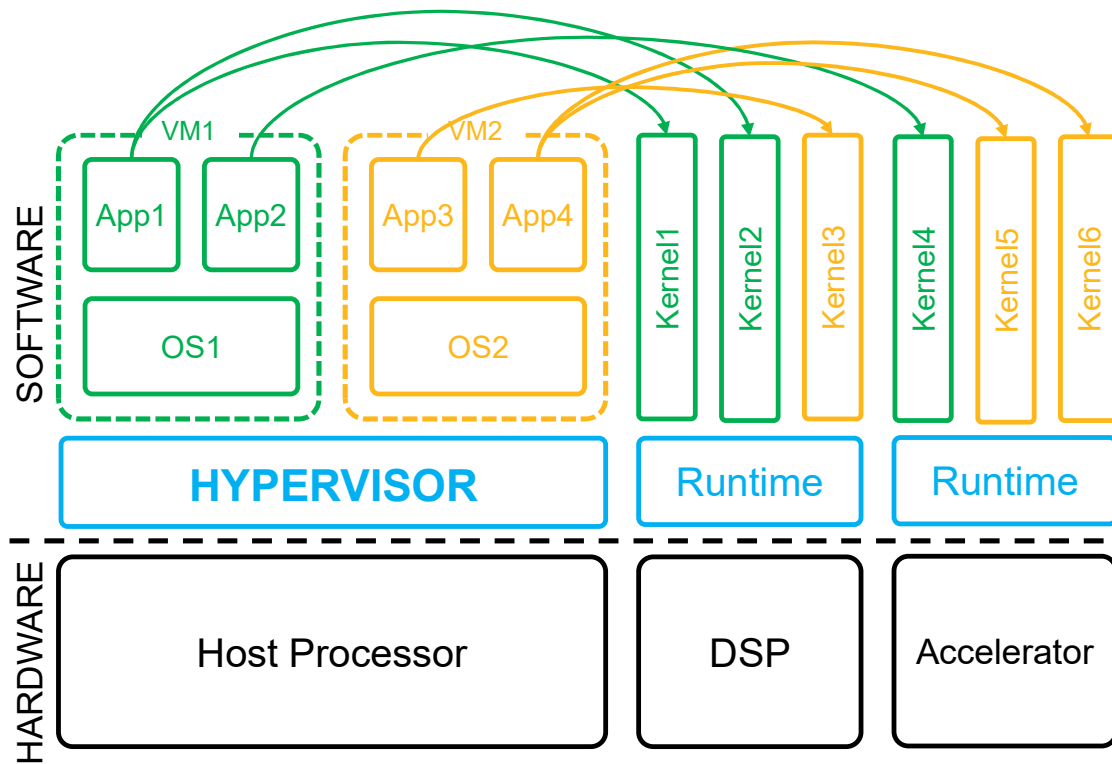
- Enable parallel hardware and software development
- Virtual prototypes for different levels of abstraction
- Early software bring-up with high degree of visibility
- Easy fault injection when validating safety and security
- Host compiled → target compiled

- Virtualization

- Multiple mixed-criticality software stacks running on same SoC
 - For example, advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and in-vehicle infotainment (IVI) functions
- Hardware must provide separation mechanisms to support modular development
 - Allow functions to be developed, verified and validated largely separately
 - Offering mechanisms for spatial and temporal isolation
- Virtualization is key feature of compute platform to enable freedom-from-interference
 - Supporting modular development and validation of complex mixed-criticality software stacks
- → Software-friendly hardware



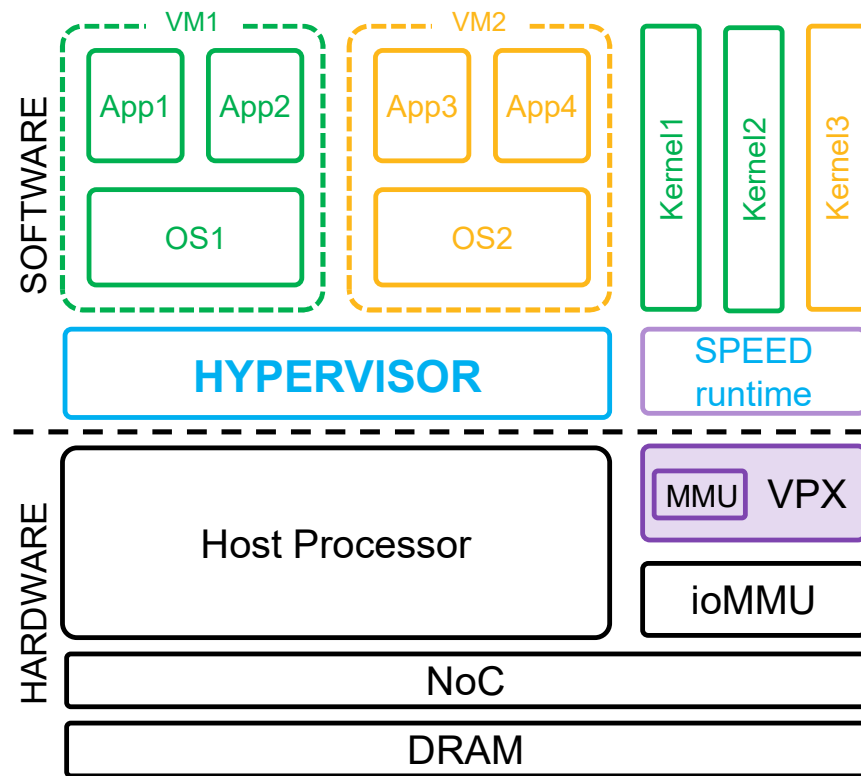
High-Level HW/SW View of SoC



- Host may run multiple operating systems
- Every operating system may run multiple applications
- Applications invoke kernels on DSPs and accelerators
- Hypervisor controls switching between virtual machines, with associated allocation of hardware resources
- Need controlled sharing of DSPs, accelerators and peripherals to achieve isolation between virtual machines

High-Level HW/SW View of SoC

Virtualization to enable freedom-from-interference



- Host sets up address maps for VMs/applications
 - Host controls ioMMUs
- Host allocates shared buffers for applications
 - Passing pointers to shared buffers to VPX
- Host triggers VM/application switches on VPX
 - Passing StreamID/SubStreamID and QoS parameters to VPX
- Device-side runtime schedules VM/application on VPX
 - Setting registers for (Sub)StreamID and QoS parameters
- Device-side runtime controls local MMU of VPX
 - For address translation supporting large physical address space
- VPX passes sideband signals on AXI interfaces
 - Sideband signals for (Sub)StreamID and QoS parameters
- VPX DMA accesses are sandboxed by ioMMU
 - With zero-copy data sharing
- Virtualization enables spatial and temporal isolation
 - While allowing hardware resources to be shared
 - Supporting modular software development
 - Enhancing safety and security

Conclusion

Trend towards software-defined systems

- And software-defined vehicles in particular

Increased dynamics in automotive

- Evolving system architectures
- New functionalities
- New development methodologies
- Changing business landscape

New requirements for processor IP for advanced automotive SoCs

- Advanced capabilities for processing and data movement
- Support for Safety and Security (hardware, software, tools, documentation, ..)
- Support for modular software development (virtualization)



Thank you