

# ALEC YEN

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## EDUCATION

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**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** GPA: 5.0/5.0  
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science September 2022 - Present  
M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science September 2020 - August 2022  
Thesis: *Interference Purcell Filter for Fast, Modular, and Hardware-Efficient Quantum Measurement*  
Advisor: Prof. Kevin O'Brien

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville** GPA: 4.0/4.0  
B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Minor in Computer Science August 2016 - May 2020  
Thesis: *A High Slew Rate, Low Power, Compact Operational Amplifier using Recycling Folded Cascode*  
Advisor: Prof. Benjamin Blalock  
Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, College of Engineering Top Graduate

## SKILLS

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*Languages:* Python, Julia, C++, C, MATLAB  
*Design:* Ansys HFSS/Eigenmode/Q3D, SPICE, ADS, Cadence, Solidworks  
*Qubit Packages:* Qiskit Metal, pyEPR, QuCAT, pyWRspice, QuTiP

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Quantum Coherent Electronics Group** September 2021 - Present  
*Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Kevin O'Brien)* Cambridge, MA

- Developing a modular and scalable qubit readout scheme.
- Designed Purcell suppression using interference effects that is compatible with this new scheme.
- Investigated dephasing mechanisms in a multimode cavity coupling two qubits.

**Terahertz Integrated Electronics Group** August 2020 - August 2021  
*Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Ruonan Han)* Cambridge, MA

- Investigated technologies toward chip-scale molecular clock miniaturization.
- Designed tripler to operate at 557 GHz in 65nm CMOS.
- Designed and fabricated micromachined terahertz waveguide on silicon in cleanroom.

**Integrated Circuits and Systems Laboratory** August 2019 - July 2020  
*Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Benjamin Blalock)* Knoxville, TN

- Designed a novel op-amp topology based on the recycling folded cascode and super class-AB.
- Simulated performance achieved highest figure of merit of state of the art for applications requiring high bandwidth, high load capacitance, and low power consumption.
- Implemented compensation scheme to ensure good stability performance.

**Garmin International** May 2019 - August 2019  
*Hardware Design Intern (Aviation and Avionics Group)* Olathe, KS

- Designed adjustable constant current board with 90-95% efficiency for load testing.
- Characterized & modified datalink Bluetooth antennas to meet design requirements.

**TENNLab Research Center** October 2018 - May 2019  
*Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Mark Dean)* Knoxville, TN

- Designed and built the fully neuromorphic two-wheeled, self-balancing robot.
- Developed physics model and performed computer analysis to facilitate training of neural networks.

## Oak Ridge National Laboratory

June 2018 - August 2018

*Research Intern (Advisor: Dr. Hector Santos-Villalobos)*

Oak Ridge, TN

- Designed and implemented vehicle security portal face recognition system.
- Led the efforts of integration of modules of triggering mechanism, camera calibration, image registration, high dynamic range merging, face detection/recognition.

## CURRENT Engineering Research Center

August 2017 - May 2018

*Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Kevin Tomsovic)*

Knoxville, TN

- Independently created new numerical algorithm to optimize compressed sparse matrix operations by exploiting power system equation characteristics.
- Developed numerical solution for differential alg. eq. framework for power system simulations.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**A. Yen**, M. Kim, R. Han, L. Yi, and H. Javadi. “Integrable Timing on Silicon Wafer Supporting CubeSats-based Communications, Navigation and Radio Science,” AIAA Accelerating Space Commerce, Exploration, and New Discovery (ASCEND), Las Vegas, USA, 2022.

L. Yi, H. Javadi, W. Zhang, J. Mckelvy, M. Kim, **A. Yen**, and R. Han. “Sub-Terahertz Heterodyne Spectroscopy of Carbonyl Sulfide,” 2021 Joint Conference of the European Frequency and Time Forum and IEEE International Frequency Control Symposium (EFTF/IFCS), July 2021, pp. 1-2.

**A. Yen** and B. J. Blalock, “A High Slew Rate, Low Power, Compact Operational Amplifier Based on the Super-Class AB Recycling Folded Cascode,” 2020 IEEE 63rd International Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems (MWSCAS), Springfield, MA, USA, 2020, pp. 9-12.

G. Long, M. Ericson, C. Britton, B. Roehrs, E. Farquhar, S. Frank, **A. Yen**, and B. J. Blalock, “A Sub-Threshold Low-Power Integrated Bandpass Filter for Highly-Integrated Spectrum Analyzers,” 27th IEEE Int. Conference on Electronics Circuits and Systems (ICECS), Glasgow, Scotland, 2020, pp. 1-4.

D. Cornett, **A. Yen**, G. Noyola, D. Montez, C. R. Johnson, S. T. Baird, H. J. Villalobos, and D. S. Bolme, *Through the Windshield Driver Recognition*. Electronic Imaging, 2019(13), pp. 140-1.

**A. Yen**, H. Cui and K. Tomsovic, “CXSparse-Based Differential Algebraic Equation Framework for Power System Simulation,” 2018 North American Power Symp. (NAPS), Fargo, ND, 2018, pp. 1-6.

## PRESENTATIONS

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**A. Yen** and B. J. Blalock. A High Slew Rate, Low Power, Compact Operational Amplifier Based on the Super-Class AB Recycling Folded Cascode. Presentation presented at: 2020 IEEE 63rd International Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems (MWSCAS); 2020 August 10-12; Springfield, MA.

**A. Yen**. Design of Adjustable High-Efficiency Constant-Current Device for Load Testing. Poster session presented at: Intern Poster Session at Garmin International; 2019 July 25; Olathe, KS.

**A. Yen**, Y. Mensah, and M. Dean. SABR: Development of a Neuromorphic Balancing Robot. Poster session presented at: Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EUR̄CA) at University of Tennessee; 2019 April 22; Knoxville, TN.

**A. Yen**, D. Montez, G. Noyola, D. Cornett, D. Bolme, and H. Santos-Villalobos. Optimizing Facial Recognition through Vehicle Windshields Using High Dynamic Range Imaging. Poster session presented at: 4th Annual Discovery Day at University of Tennessee; 2018 Aug 30; Knoxville, TN.

**A. Yen**, D. Montez, G. Noyola, D. Cornett, D. Bolme, and H. Santos-Villalobos. Optimizing Facial Recognition through Vehicle Windshields Using High Dynamic Range Imaging. Poster session presented at: 72nd Annual Research Poster Session at Oak Ridge Natl Laboratory; 2018 Aug 9; Oak Ridge, TN.

**A. Yen**, H. Cui, and K. Tomsovic. CXSparse-Based Differential Algebraic Equation Framework for Power System Simulation. Presentation presented at: 50th Annual North American Power Symposium (NAPS); 2018 September 8-11; Fargo, ND.

## FELLOWSHIPS

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NSF Graduate Research Fellow (2021 - 2025)

MIT Jacobs Presidential Fellow (2020 - 2021)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### Research

UTK Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (2020)

UTK Distinction in Undergraduate Research (2020)

1st Place in Engineering at EURēCA, UTK's premier research showcase (2019)

Gold Award at EURēCA, awarded to top 10 research presentations out of 500+ (2019)

### Academic

UTK College of Engineering Top Graduate (2020)

UTK Electrical Engineering Top Graduate (2020)

UTK Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Academic Achievement (2020)

UTK EECS Outstanding Electrical Engineering Junior (2019)

UTK EECS Min H Kao Scholar, highest student honor in department (2018)

### Service and Teaching

UTK EECS Outstanding Undergraduate TA (2020)

UTK CURENT Education Outreach Outstanding Volunteer (2018)

## SERVICE

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MIT Graduate Application Assistance Program (GAAP) Mentor (2021-Present)

UTK IEEE Robotics Team (Hardware Team Lead 2018-19, Team Captain 2019-20)

UTK IEEE Student Chapter (Executive Board 2017-19, Student Advisor 2019-20)

UTK Pursuit Undergraduate Research Journal Review Board (Technical Reviewer 2016-20)

UTK Alternative Break Program (Service Trip Participant 2016-17, Service Trip Leader 2017-18)

## TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

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### Teaching Assistant

August 2019 - December 2019

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Knoxville, TN

- Led and instructed weekly lab sections of ECE 201: Circuits I, introductory circuits course.
- Initiated and organized multiple review sessions to aid students.
- Tutored on one-to-one basis three days a week for class of 56 students.
- Awarded Undergraduate Teaching Assistant of the Year by my department for my efforts.

### Robotics Team Captain

January 2017 - May 2020

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Knoxville, TN

- Led and coordinated yearly effort to build a fully autonomous robot for hardware competition at annual IEEE conference SoutheastCon (5-10 hours a week).
- Led weekly meetings and organize sub-team tasks (software, electrical, mechanical).
- Mentored younger students in electronics/embedded systems fundamentals and PCB design.

### IEEE Student Chapter Treasurer

August 2017 - May 2019

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Knoxville, TN

- Led effort as treasurer for proposal development and budgeting external funding.
- Raised a total of \$15,600 in funding over the course of two years.
- Helped plan and implement IEEE events, such as workshops where students can build a small-scale robot and industry seminars by Texas Instruments and Garmin International.

**Service Trip Leader**

April 2017 - October 2017

*Alternative Break Program*

Birmingham, AL

- Organized and led four-day service trip for students to travel to Birmingham, AL and serve homeless shelters, soup kitchens, supplies closets, and veterans with disabilities.
- Coordinated service sites and housing with multiple institutions.
- Guided daily discussions and reflections on the past day's events, to encourage participants to internalize and understand the impact of their service.