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Before joining the ExaScience Lab he was at Target Compiler Technologies and at the architecture and compiler group in imec working on low energy high performance architectures and compilation techniques. In 2005, Tom Vander Aa obtained a PhD in electrical engineering from KULeuven, Leuven, Belgium on energy optimization for instruction memory of embedded processors. He has a master in computer science degree, also from KULeuven and is a member of the IEEE.