

## **“For the Record” - Update #4 (March 26, 2023)**

Andrew B. Kahng  
CSE and ECE Departments, UC San Diego  
[abk@ucsd.edu](mailto:abk@ucsd.edu)

To my colleagues in EDA and IC design:

Again with thanks to many for discussions and expressions of interest, here is a fourth and final update to follow up on [“For the Record”](#) and the previous updates [#1](#), [#2](#) and [#3](#).

Notably, our **ISPD-2023 Invited Paper**, “Assessment of Reinforcement Learning for Macro Placement”, was finalized on February 4 - the camera copy is [here](#).

- Our arXiv posting: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.11014> (may be updated in the future).
- The ISPD-2023 short video with key conclusions is [here](#). (The long video is [here](#).)
- In light of multiple requests, an additional video was recorded for non-experts, [here](#).

All concerns about our work that are known to us as of March 26, 2023 have been addressed in our FAQs [\[link\]](#). In particular, the FAQ includes information about: (i) runtime data which we did not report in the paper due to space limitations; (ii) the confirmations of our work provided by Google engineers; (iii) the relevance of pretraining to our conclusions; and (iv) the impact of using placement information from commercial EDA tools.

As always, the community’s participation and support – along with open technical dialogue – is warmly invited. Replication and sharing of results would be very welcome.

This has been a long journey, starting with service as Reviewer #3 of the Nature paper beginning in November 2020. I hope that our community will be able to close this chapter soon.

Thank you and best wishes to all.