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Sonia has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley (1995). Her career spans more than thirty years of software engineering, consulting, research, and research management. Her research contributions include formal specification and verification of control and distributed computing systems, simulation modeling, computer networks, embedded systems, and collaborative computing. She has published in magazines, conferences, workshops, and peer-reviewed journals since the early 1980's.

Sonia joined the Advanced Scientific Computing Research office, DOE Office of Science, in March of 2010. She managed from 2010-2017 the ASCR computer science portfolio in the areas of exascale programming models, programming languages, compilers, runtime systems, operating systems, performance & productivity tools, and hardware architectures. She has since been managing the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF).

Sonia came to DOE from IBM Research, where she managed software projects delivering business performance management products. She also managed the research of multi-agent models of business ecosystems. Prior to IBM Research, Sonia was a principal investigator at the University of California, Berkeley (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Electrical Engineering Department) from 1995-2003, where she managed research projects sponsored by DOE, NSF and DARPA. At UC Berkeley, she was also a program manager for a Caltrans-funded program.

From 2000 to 2004, she was a principal at a startup company (Agile Design, Inc.) that developed embedded software products. As vice-president of engineering at Agile Design, Inc. she established technology directions for the company and managed all technical aspects of contracts, from concept to delivery to clients.

Sonia was a software engineer and a consultant from 1980-1992.