



# 高性能計算基盤

- High Performance Computing Platforms-

#7

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Stochastic Computing

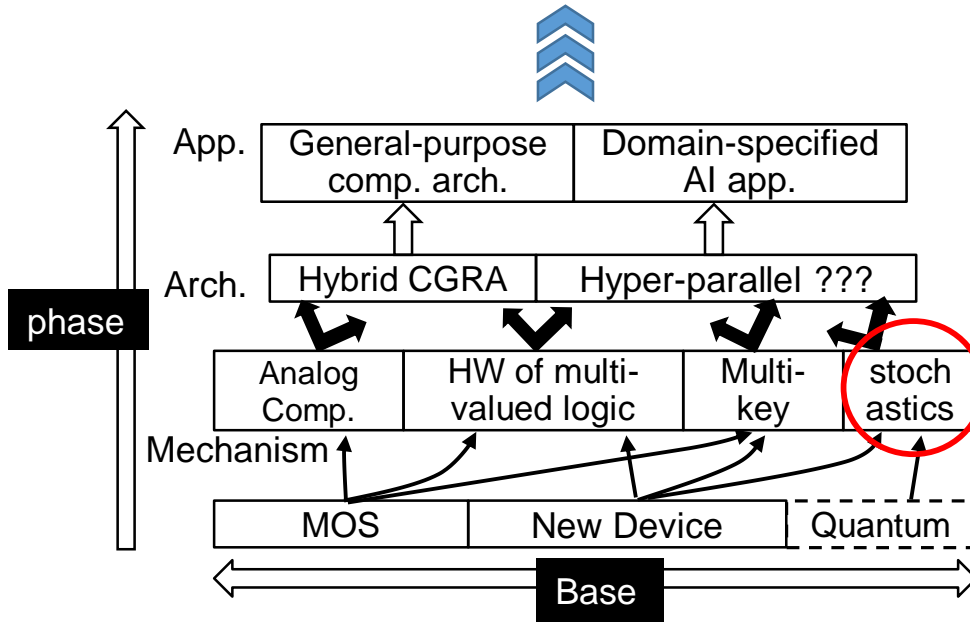
*Renyuan Zhang*

2020/06/18

**NAIST**

# Road-Map of emerging tech.s for computing

## Inventing new topologies and algorithms



### Challenges:

- Almost no Mathematical fundamentals
- How to make good use of Appr. Comp.

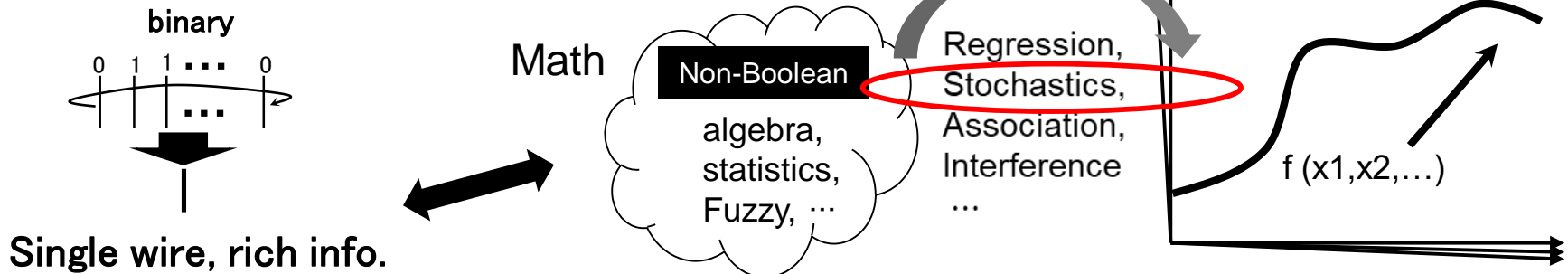
### Key Candidates:

- Programmable Analog Computing
- Multi-Domain Stochastic Computing
- New-device + Neuromorphic

### Platform:

Hybrid Coarse-Grained Reconfigurable Array (CGRA)

## Exploring new computing fundamentals



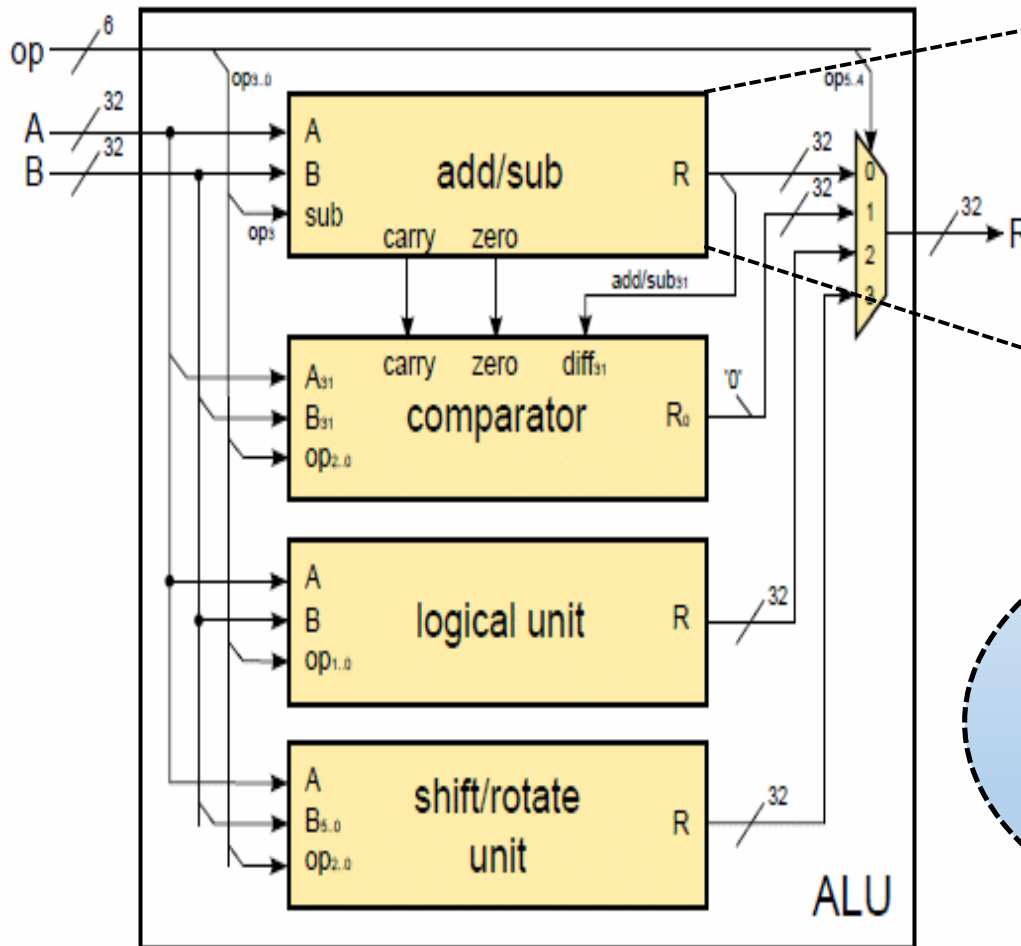
# Outline

- **What is stochastic computing (SC)**
  - Mechanism of SC
  - Elements of SC
  - Implementation of SC
  
- Time based stochastic computing (TBSC)
  - Mechanism of TBSC
  - Hybrid TBSC
  - Analysis

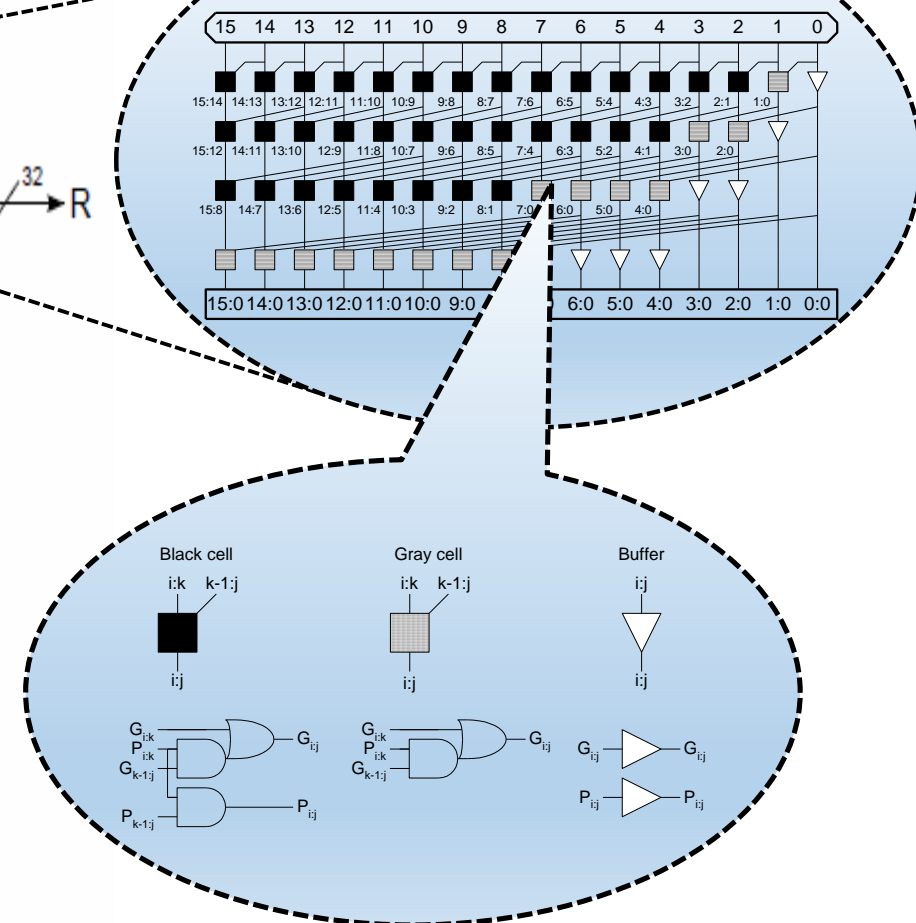
# What is stochastic computing

## Complexity of computational unit

A simple review of digital type ALU (arithmetic logic unit) → core part = adder



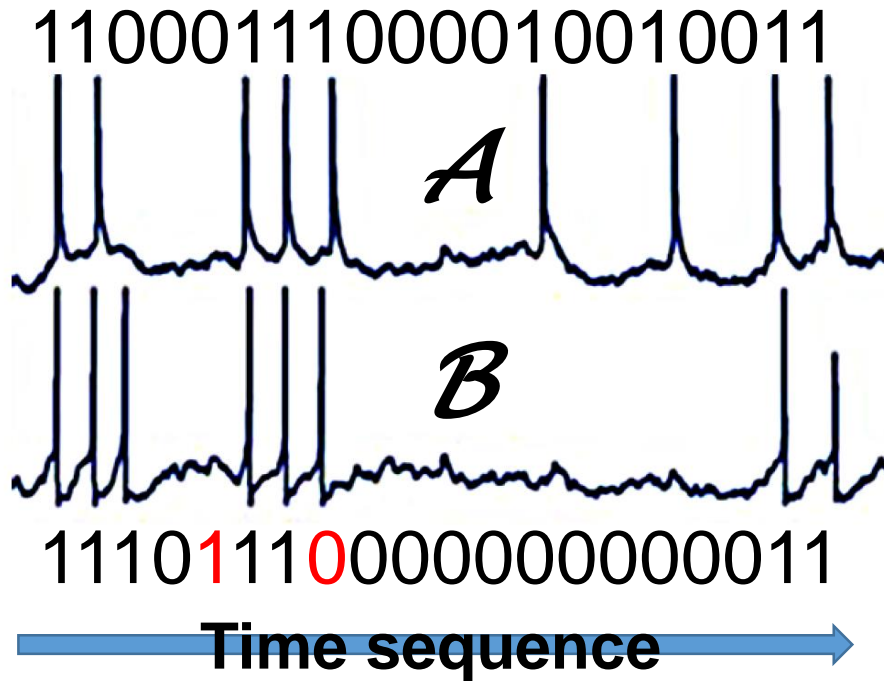
## Kogge-Stone prefix adder



# What is stochastic computing

## To shrink calculator's size

Again, reconsider the data representation: try to use something like "probability"

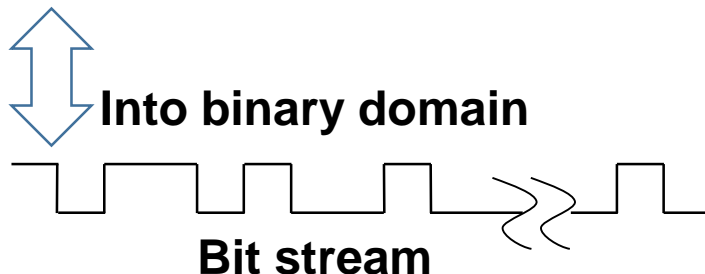


Considering the probability of pulse-appearance:

$$P_A = \frac{9}{20} = 0.45$$

$$P_B = \frac{8}{20} = 0.4$$

Similar but different from bio-signal: irrelevant to timing, positioning, and strength...



For "B", it is incorrect somehow; But it looks like no impact to the representation. Is it true?

# What is stochastic computing

## Definition

Given a bit stream "X" with length of N: "1" appearance counting =  $N_1$ ; "0" appearance counting =  $N_0$ .  $P_X = N_1/N$  or shortly,  $X = P_X$

This bit stream is called stochastic number (SN)



## Property 2-1

1. The SN representation is NOT unique;
2. Only total counting indicates info.,  $\rightarrow$  position&pattern = meaningless;
3. The SN with N bit only represent the number in set  $\{0/N, 1/N, 2/N, \dots, (N-1)/N, N/N\}$  in total of  $N+1$  numbers (= resolution);
4. Range =  $[0, 1]$  (but extendable by following)

Format to address the real number domain

Format	Number value	Number range	Relation to unipolar value $p_X$
Unipolar (UP)	$N_1/N$	$[0, 1]$	$p_X$
Bipolar (BP)	$(N_1 - N_0)/N$	$[-1, +1]$	$2p_X - 1$
Inverted bipolar (IBP)	$(N_0 - N_1)/N$	$[-1, +1]$	$1 - 2p_X$
Ratio of 1's to 0's	$N_1/N_0$	$[0, +\infty]$	$p_X/(1 - p_X)$

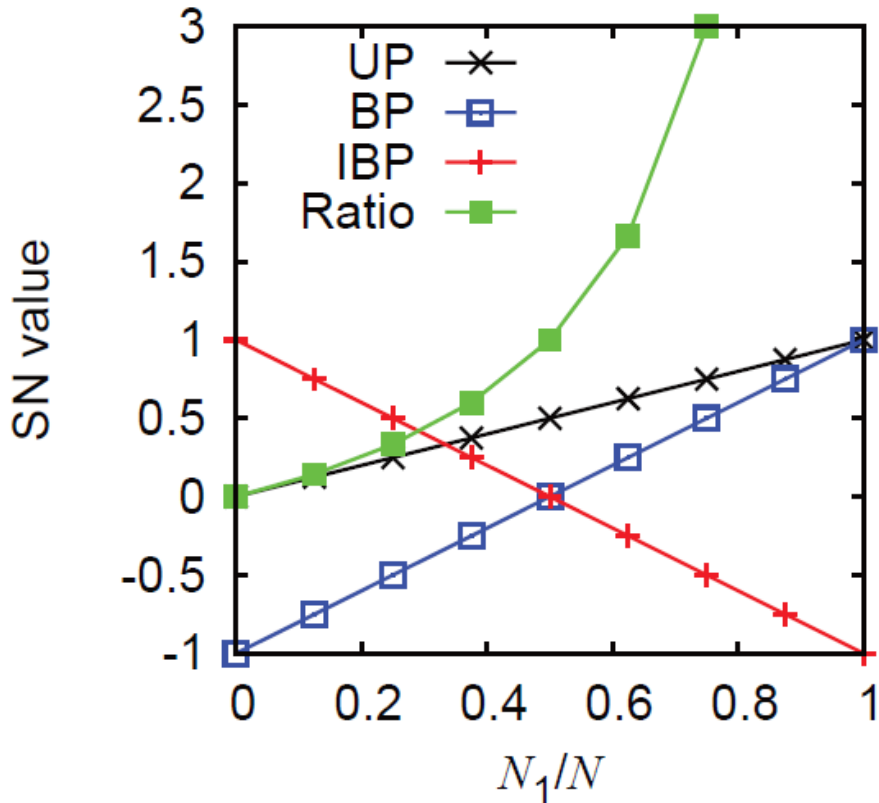
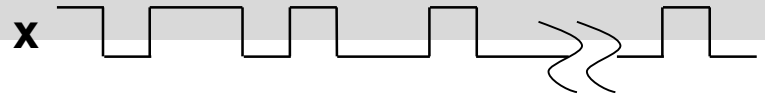
Here, the inaccuracy is observed over data-representation itself  $\rightarrow$  resolution

# What is stochastic computing

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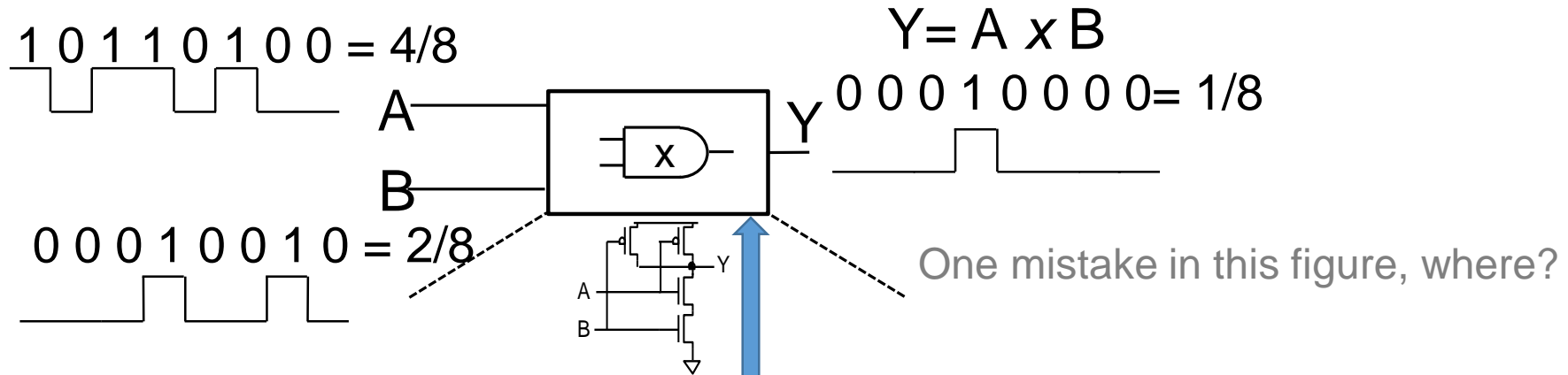
Quiz 2-1 Complete it into full range  
= 5 min.s

Bit-stream	UP	BP	IBP	Ratio
00000000	0	-1	+1	0
00000001	1/8	-3/4	+3/4	1/7
00000011	2/8	-2/4	+2/4	1/3
00000111				
00001111				
00011111				
00111111				
01111111				
11111111				

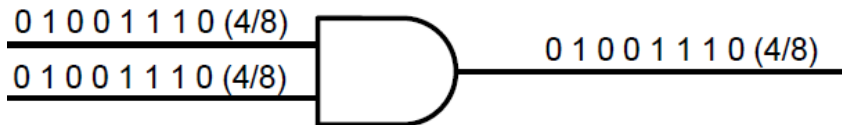
# What is stochastic computing

## To calculate the "probability"

Given two stream of A and B, the logic gate "AND" performs multiplication of  $Y=AxB$



## See other examples:



Here, the inaccuracy is observed over calculation → so far, we suffer from two types of inaccuracy

Why? = position & pattern means something  
 How? = make them "random" and uncorrelated



**STOCHASTIC**

### Property 2-2

$$P_{X \cdot Y} = P_X \cdot P_Y$$

If and only if X and Y are random (Bernoulli) and independent (uncorrelated)



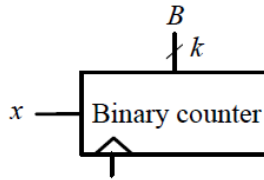
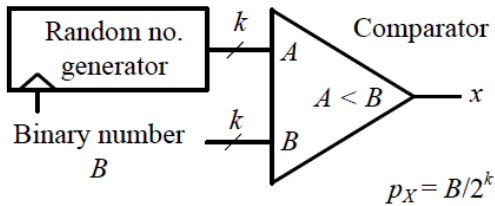
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  - Mechanism of SC
  - **Elements of SC**
  - Implementation of SC
  
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  - Hybrid TBSC
  - Analysis

# Elements of stochastic computing HW

## Generating SN

It is different from generating random number. More than that.



Inaccuracy in SC has several distinct sources: random fluctuations in SN representation, similarities (correlations) among the numbers that are being combined, and physical errors that alter the numbers.

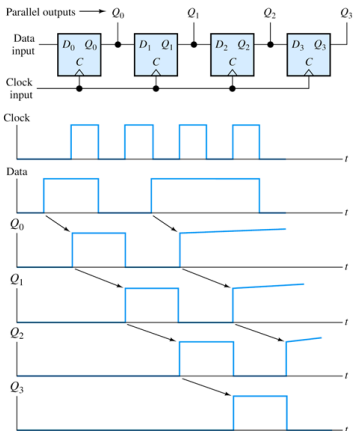


Convert binary to SN

Convert SN to binary

Generally, use long stream...

Preliminary, linear feedback shift register (LFSR)

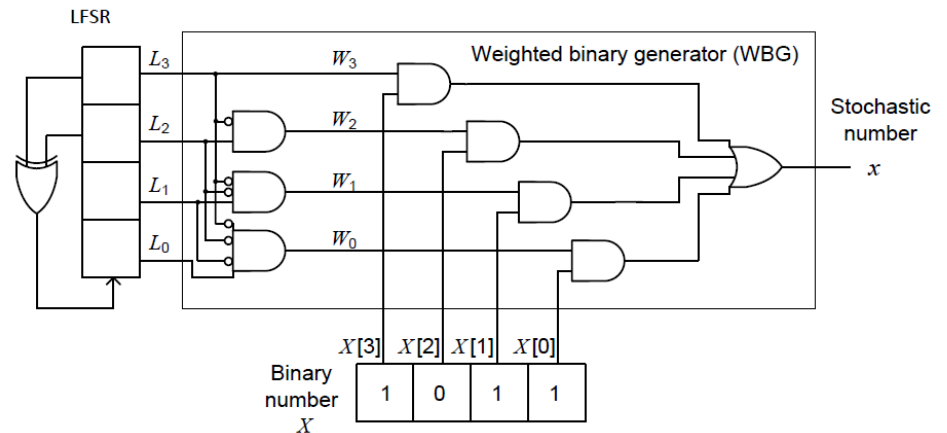


1 0 0 1  
1 0 0 1  
1 0 0 1

Space domain  
Move to right

Time sequence

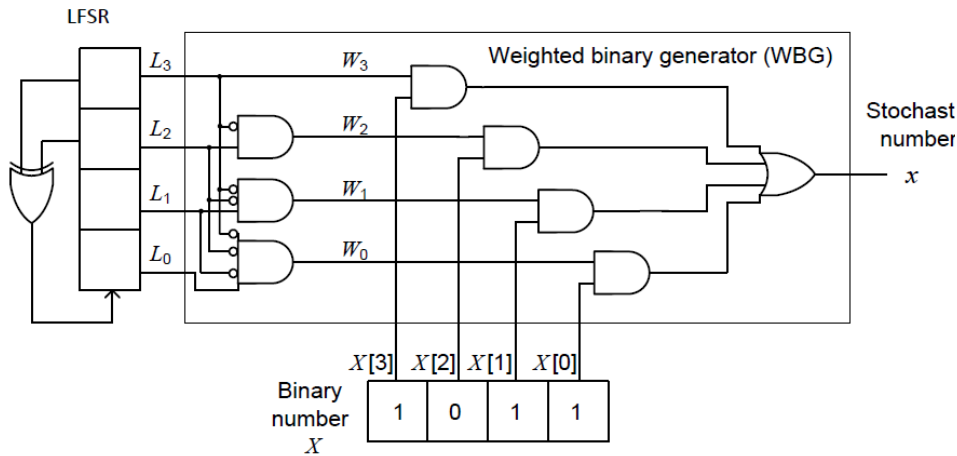
Another (smaller SN generator)



# Elements of stochastic computing HW

## Generating SN

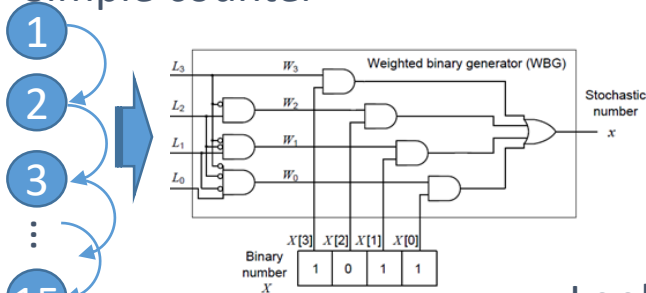
“weight” is attached to final bit stream from the binary radix. **Quiz 2-2: explain why**



Signal	Bit-stream	Value
$L_3$	001010111110000111	8/16
$L_2$	010101111100001110	8/16
$L_1$	101011111000011100	8/16
$L_0$	01011111000011001	8/16
$W_3$	001010111110000111	8/16
$W_2$	0101010000000100	4/16
$W_1$	100000000001000	2/16
$W_0$	000000000010000	1/16
$x$	10101011111011011	11/16

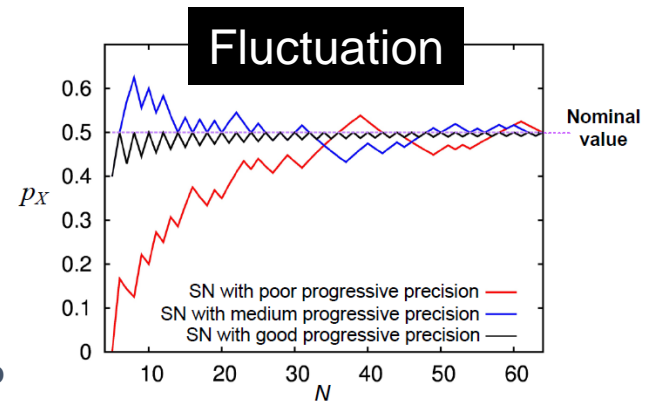
Time sequence →

## Simple counter



Signal	Bit-stream	Value
$L_3$	0000000011111111	8/16
$L_2$	0000111100001111	8/16
$L_1$	0011001100110011	8/16
$L_0$	0101010101010101	8/16
$W_3$	0000000011111111	8/16
$W_2$	0000111100000000	4/16
$W_1$	0011000000000000	2/16
$W_0$	0100000000000000	1/16
$x$	0111100001111111	11/16

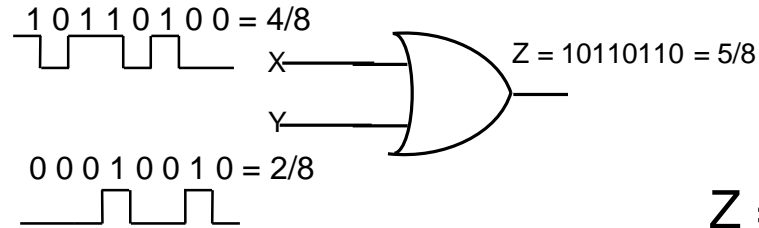
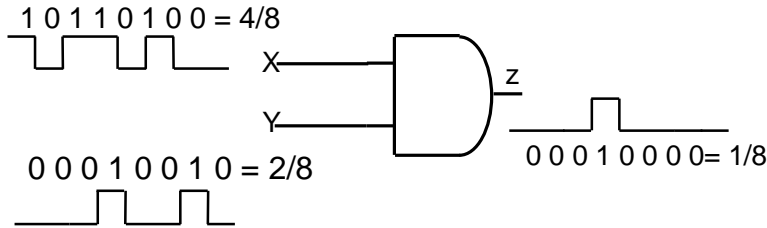
Looks the same, but is that true?



# Elements of stochastic computing HW

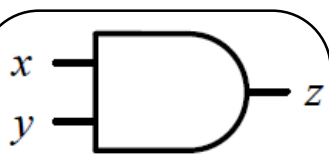
## Calculate SNs

ANG gate is used for multiplication; summation would be = ?? OR gate??



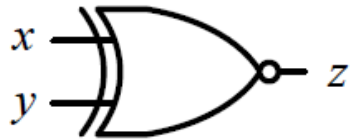
Quiz2-3  
Prove it

$Z = X + Y - XY$



$Z_{AND} = XY$

Multiplier  
for UP



$Z_{NXOR} =$

$(1 - X)(1 - Y) + XY =$   
 $1 - X - Y + 2XY$

For BP,  $X = \frac{X' - 1}{2}$

$\frac{Z'_{NXOR} - 1}{2} =$

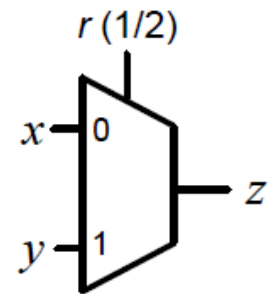
$1 - \frac{X' - 1}{2} - \frac{Y' - 1}{2} + 2\left(\frac{X' - 1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{Y' - 1}{2}\right)$

$Z'_{NXOR} = X'Y'$



$Z''_{AND} = X''Y''$

Multiplier  
for IBP



$Z_{MUX} = Xr' + Yr = 0.5(X + Y)$

Summation for  
UP, BP, IBP

Multiplier for BP

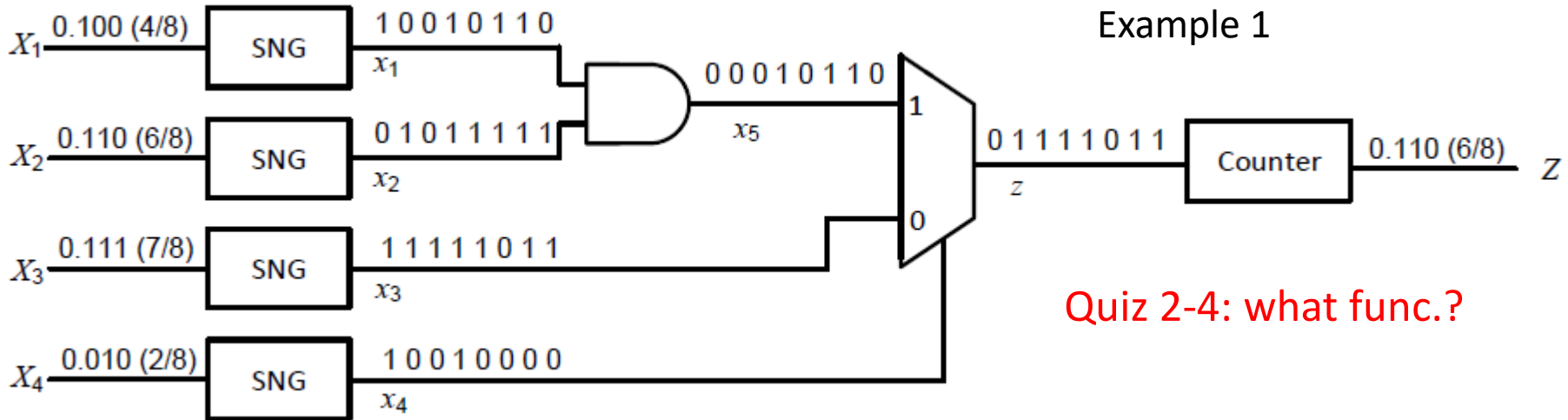
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# Implementation of stochastic computing HW

## Complex func.

Linear combination is achieved by multiplier and adders



But, for the complex NON-linear functions, the simple implementations are insufficient. The ONLY option is to “approximate” them by simple items.

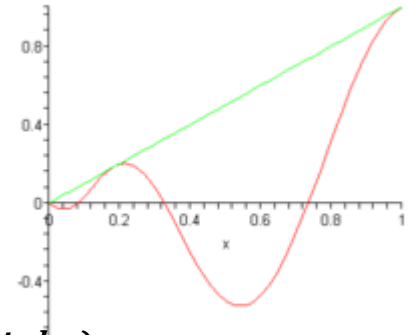
1. Item expansion technologies: arbitrary non-linear function is approximated by, for instance, Taylor Expansion, **Bernstein Polynomial** etc.
2. Machine learning regression: refer to previous lecture
3. Special tech.s for stochastic

# Implementation of stochastic computing HW

## Complex func.

Non-linear functions are approximated by Bernstein Polynomial

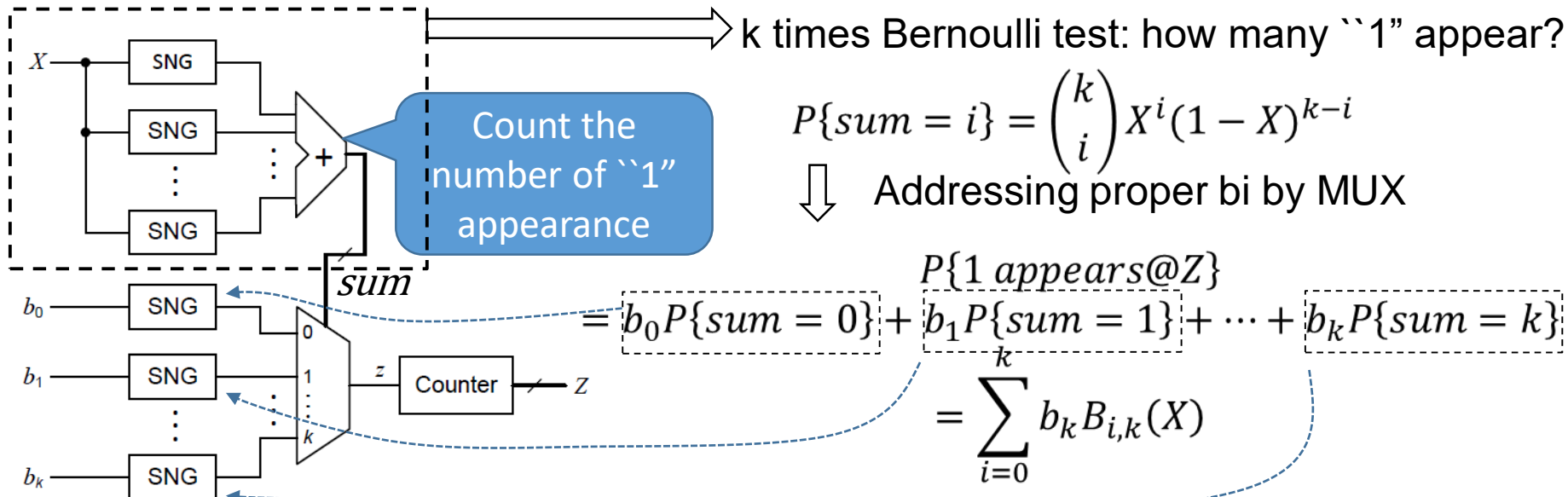
In the mathematical field of numerical analysis, a Bernstein polynomial, named after Sergei Natanovich Bernstein, is a polynomial in the Bernstein form, that is a linear combination of Bernstein basis polynomials. [wikipedia]



$$f(x) \approx \sum_{i=0}^k b_k B_{i,k}(x) \text{ where } B_{i,k}(x) = \binom{k}{i} x^i (1-x)^{k-i}$$

$$\text{for SC, } Z = \sum_{i=0}^k b_k B_{i,k}(X) \text{ where } B_{i,k}(X) = \binom{k}{i} X^i (1-X)^{k-i}$$

Where degree  $k$  controls the accuracy of approximation. (see right)



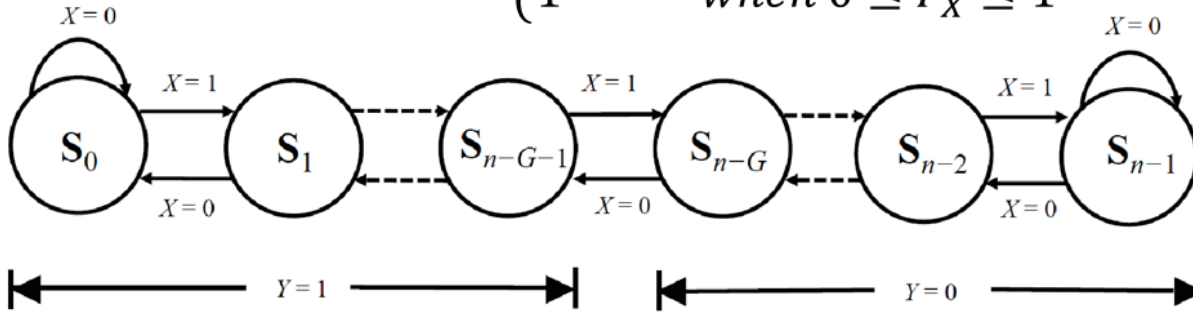
# Implementation of stochastic computing HW

## Complex func.

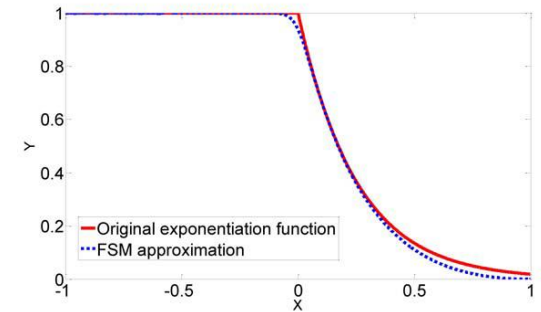
Special technology by finite state machine (FSM) → **ONLY very few func.s are available**

### Example 1

$$P_Y \approx \begin{cases} e^{-2GP_X} & \text{when } 0 \leq P_X \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{when } 0 \leq P_X \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

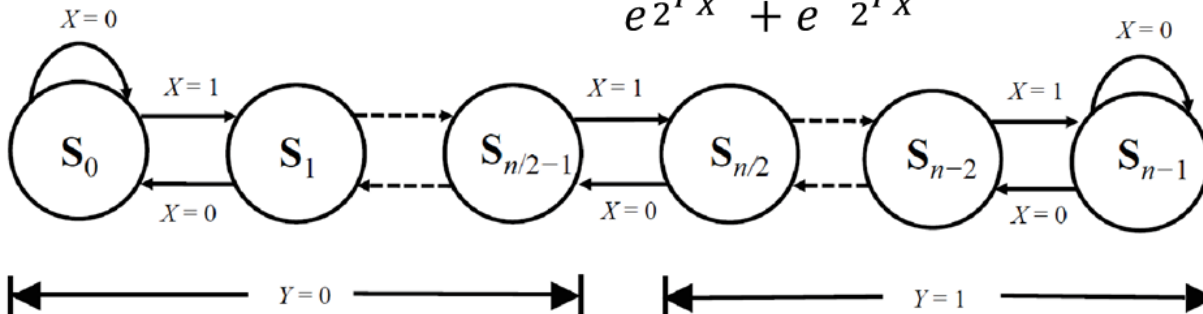


$X = \text{BP}; Y = \text{UP}$

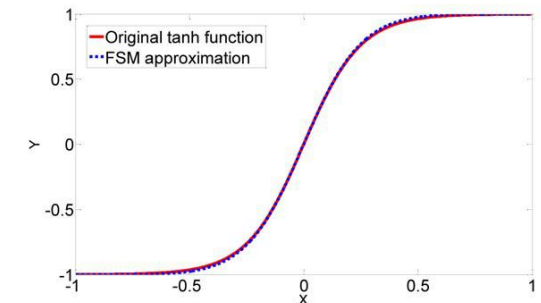


### Example 2

$$P_Y \approx \frac{e^{\frac{n}{2}P_X} - e^{-\frac{n}{2}P_X}}{e^{\frac{n}{2}P_X} + e^{-\frac{n}{2}P_X}}$$



$X = \text{BP}; Y = \text{BP}$





# Implementation of stochastic computing HW

## Summary

	Good	Bad
Circuit size and power	Tiny arithmetic components	Many random number sources and stochastic-binary conversion circuits
Operating speed	Short clock periods Massive parallelism	Very long bit-streams
Result quality	High error tolerance Progressive precision	Low precision Random number fluctuations Correlation-induced inaccuracies
Design issues	Rich set of arithmetic components	Theory not fully understood Little CAD tool support at present

## Error (inaccuracy)

Error type	Why	How
Approximation, Quantization	Non-linear target functions, Low-degree polynomial approximation, Low-precision constant number generation	Increase polynomial degree, Increase number of bits in constant number generation
Random fluctuation	Inherent randomness, Short bit-stream length	Increase bit-streams length, Use deterministic or low-discrepancy sequences
Insufficient randomness	High error tolerance Progressive precision	Increase random sources, De-correlate correlated signals, Use better number sources (larger LFSRs)
Soft errors	Environmental noise, Component variability,	Use circuit-level error-resilience techniques,

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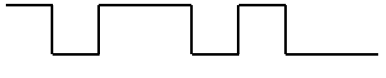
# Time-Based Stochastic Computing

## Original stochastic computing

Counting probability of '0' or '1'

Conventional stochastic computing

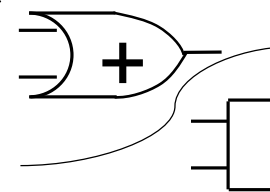
1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 = 4/8



A

B

0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 = 2/8



$$Y = A \times B$$

0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 = 1/8



With benefits,  
But inefficient

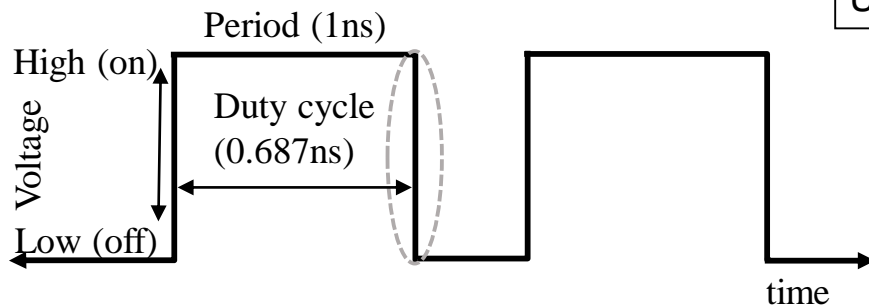
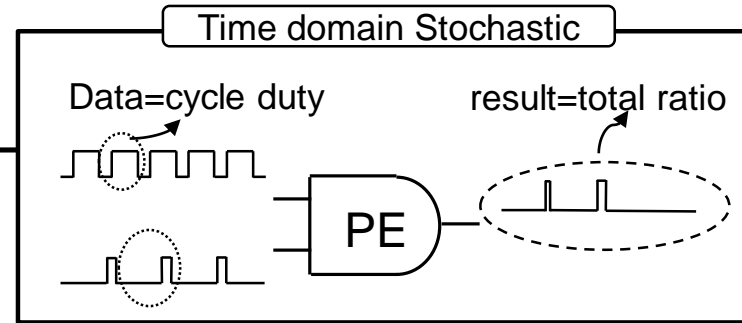


Existing solution

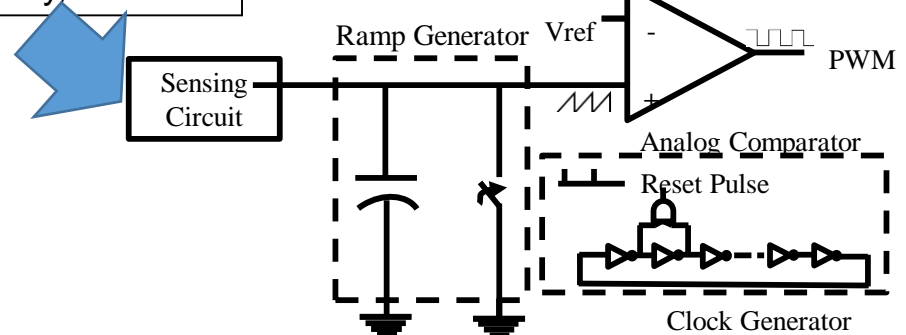
## Make it faster?

Time-domain SC

Only one problem: how to tune the duty cycle, efficiently



Usually, like this:

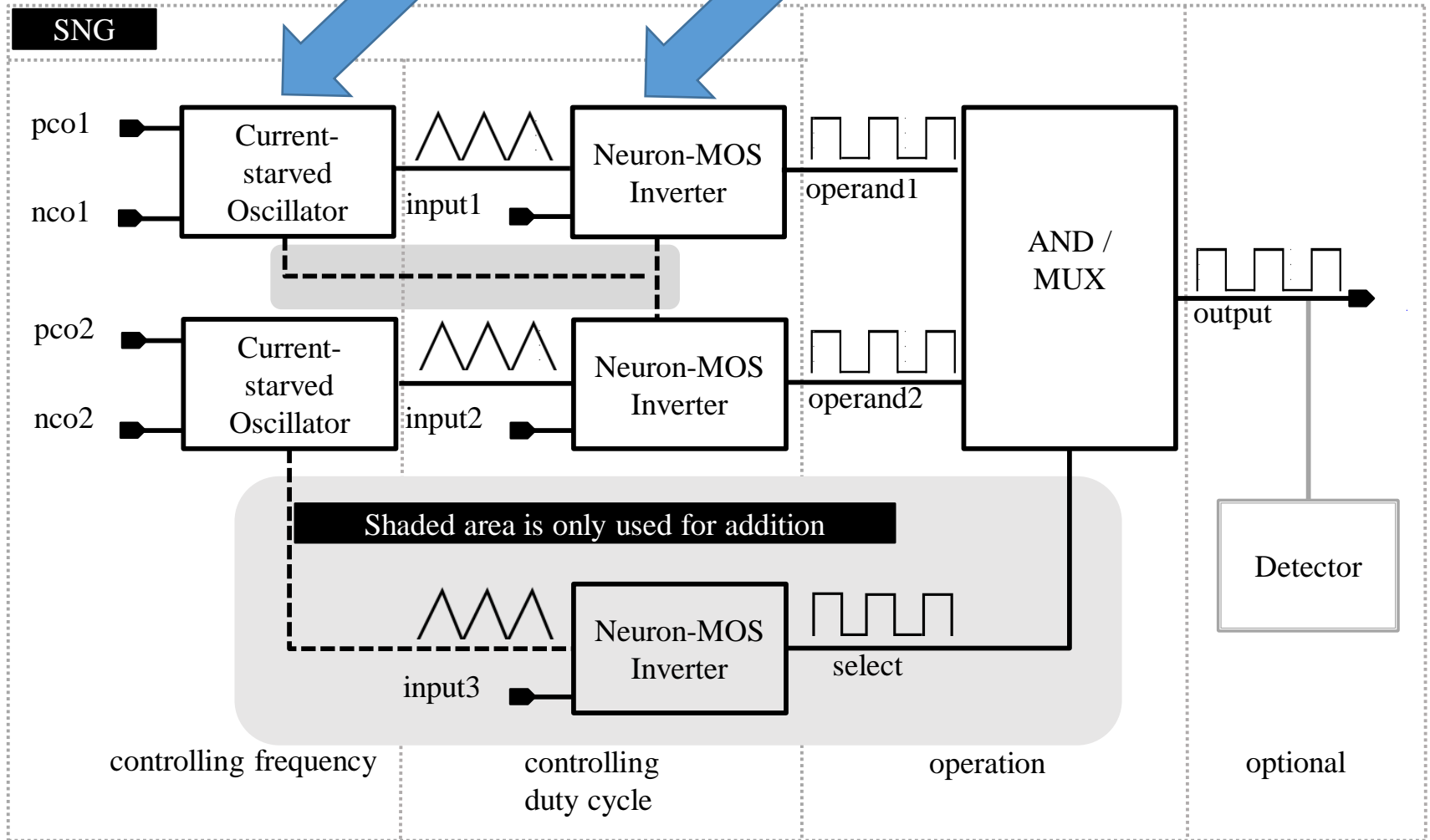


# Time-Based Stochastic Computing

TBSC example

Control frequency

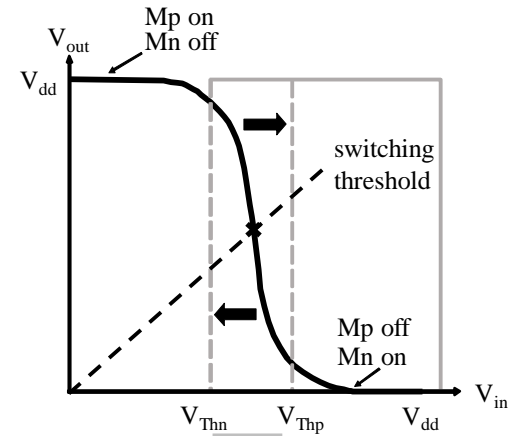
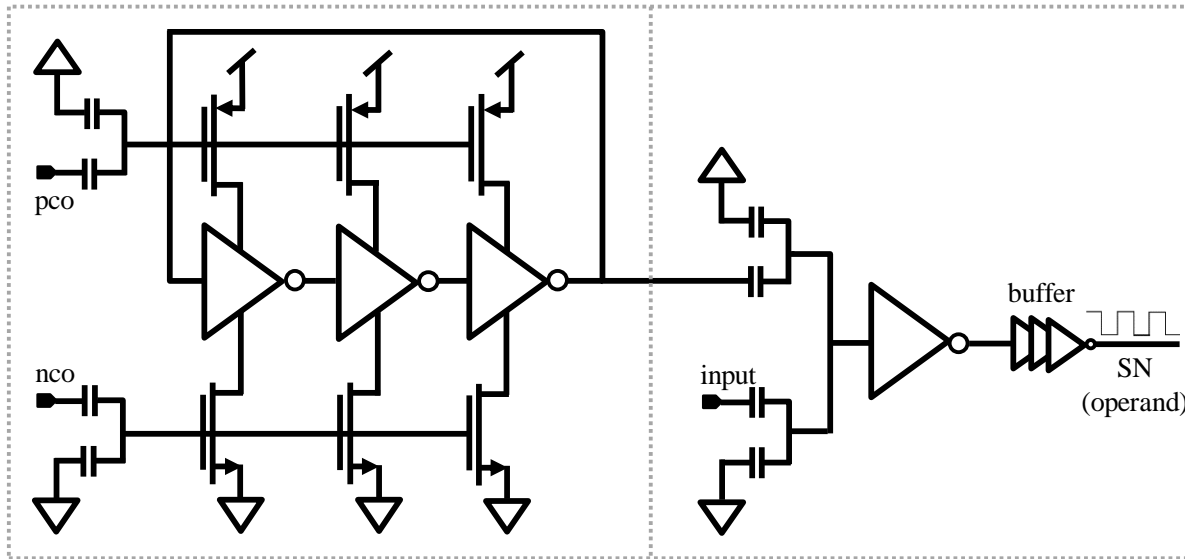
Control duty-cycle



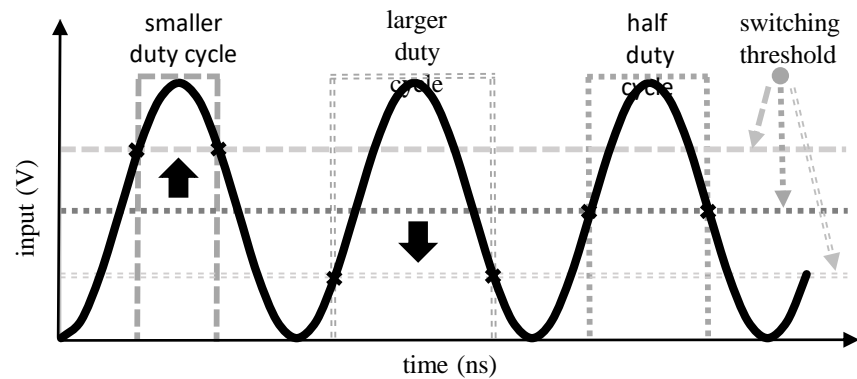
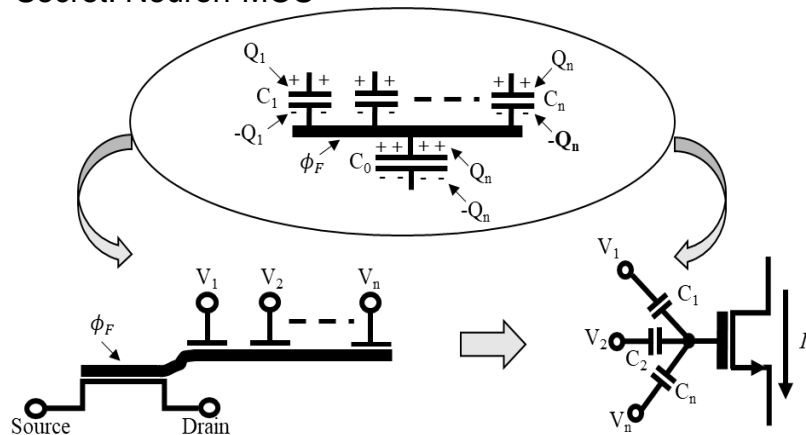
# Time-Based Stochastic Computing

## implementation

Generate stochastic number in time-domain  $\rightarrow$  duty cycle

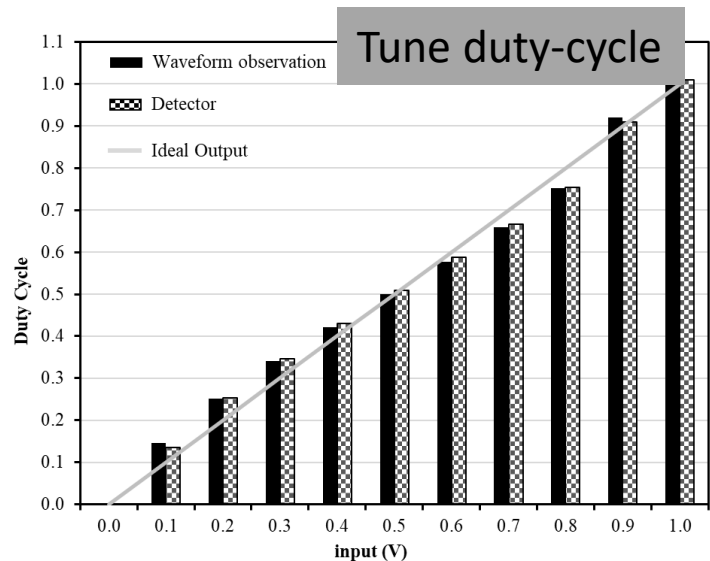
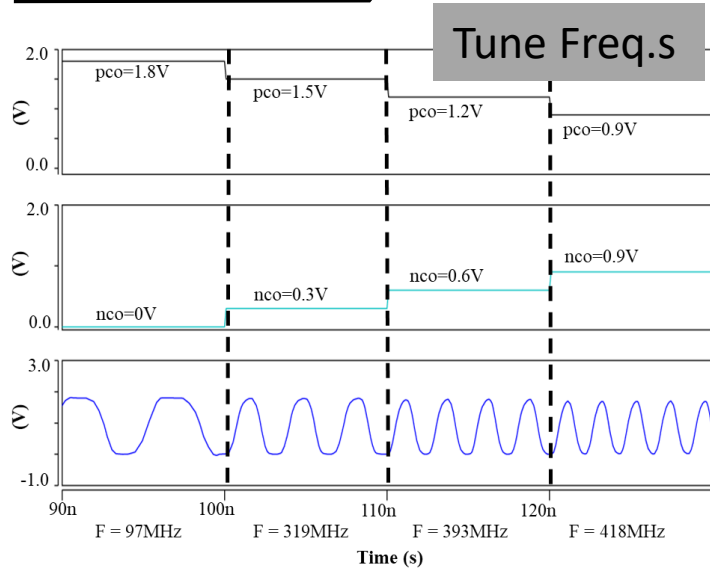


Secret: Neuron-MOS

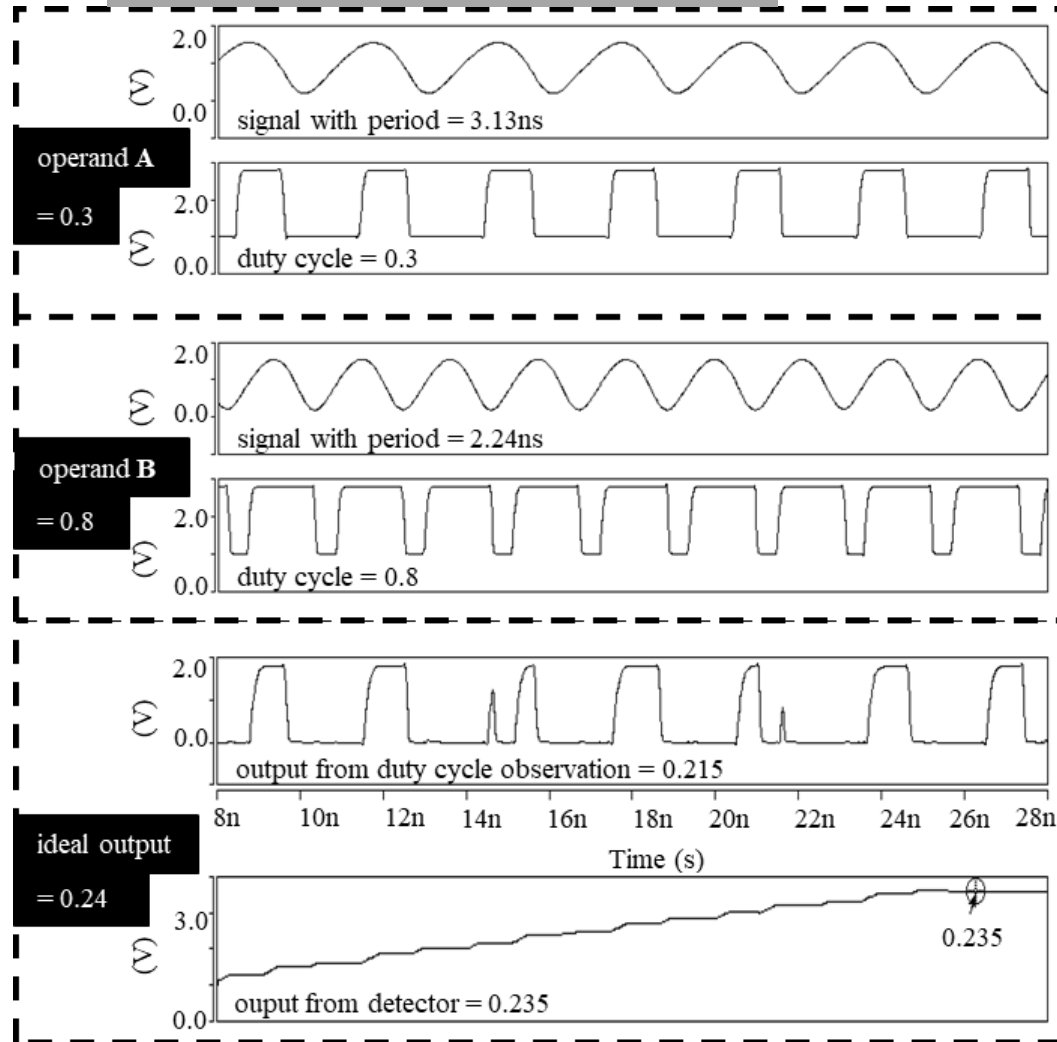


# Time-Based Stochastic Computing

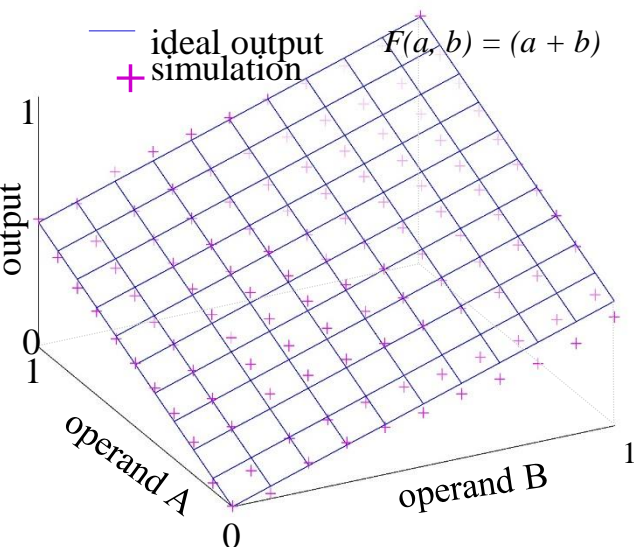
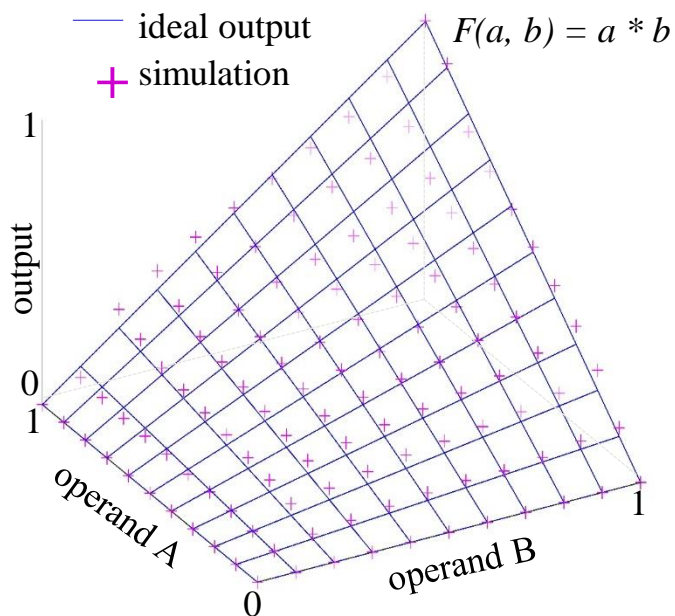
## Result: example



Function  $\rightarrow 0.3 * 0.8 = 0.24$



# Time-Based Stochastic Computing



	*	Proposed Circuit
Technology	45nm	180nm
Strategies	time-based values	time-based values
Components (of SNG)	Comparator Ramp Generator Clock Generator	Current-starved Oscillator Neuron-MOS Inverter PWM Detector (optional)
Input	Analog Current	Analog Voltage
Speed (ns)	7 (mul.) 7 (add.)	7 (mul.) 7 (add.)
Accuracy (%)	98.6 (mul.) 98.6 (add.)	96.6 (mul.) 96.7 (add.)
# of trans.	967 (mul.) 1512 (add.)	140 (mul.) 210 (add.)
Energy (pJ)	4.5 (mul.) 6.8 (add.)	1.8 (mul.) 2.5 (add.)

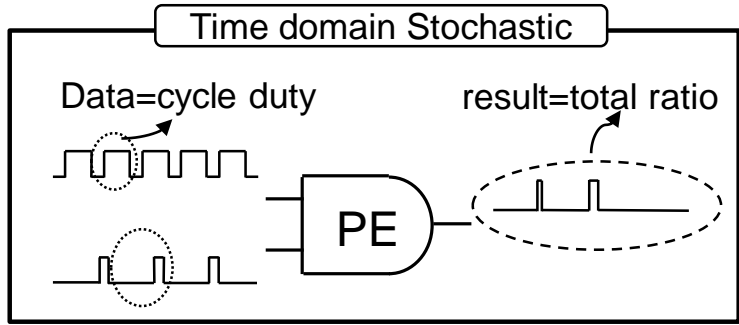
[\*] H. Najafi et al., Time-encoded values for highly efficient stochastic circuits, IEEE Trans. VLSI Systems 2017

# Outline

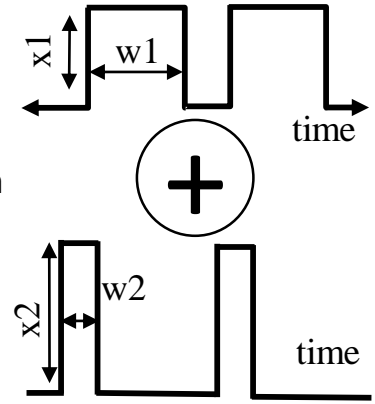
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# Hybrid: stochastic + analog

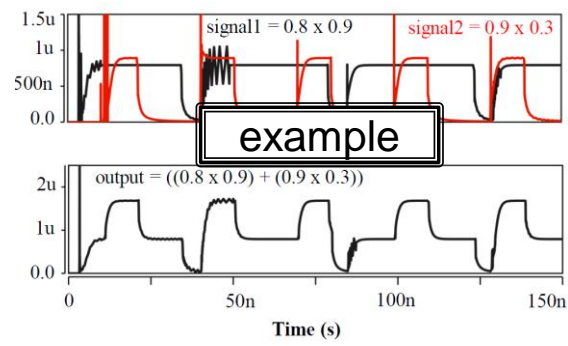
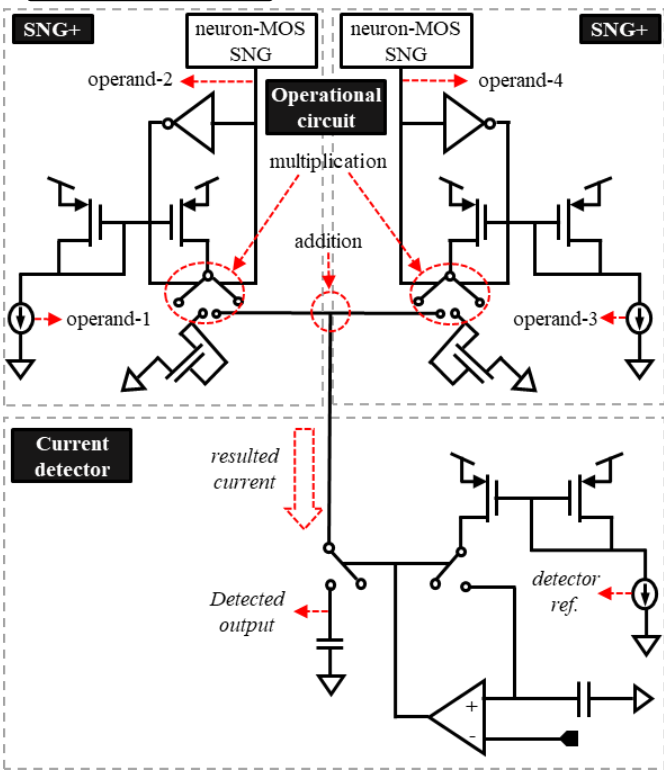


Not only period  
But also strength

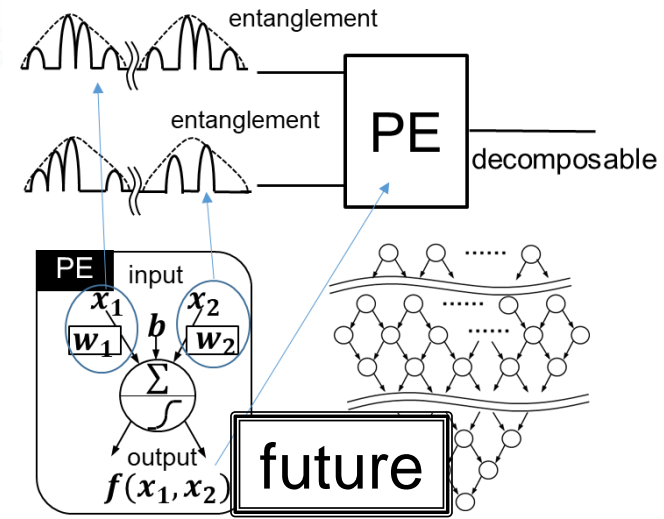
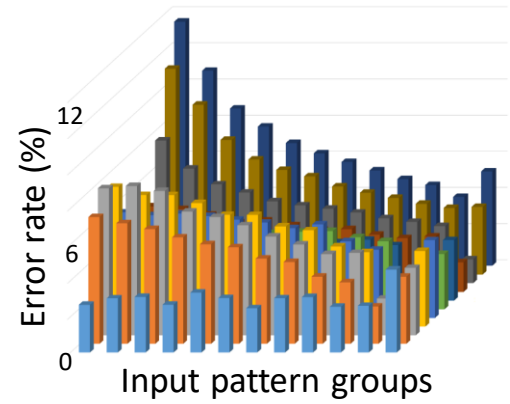


$$w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2$$

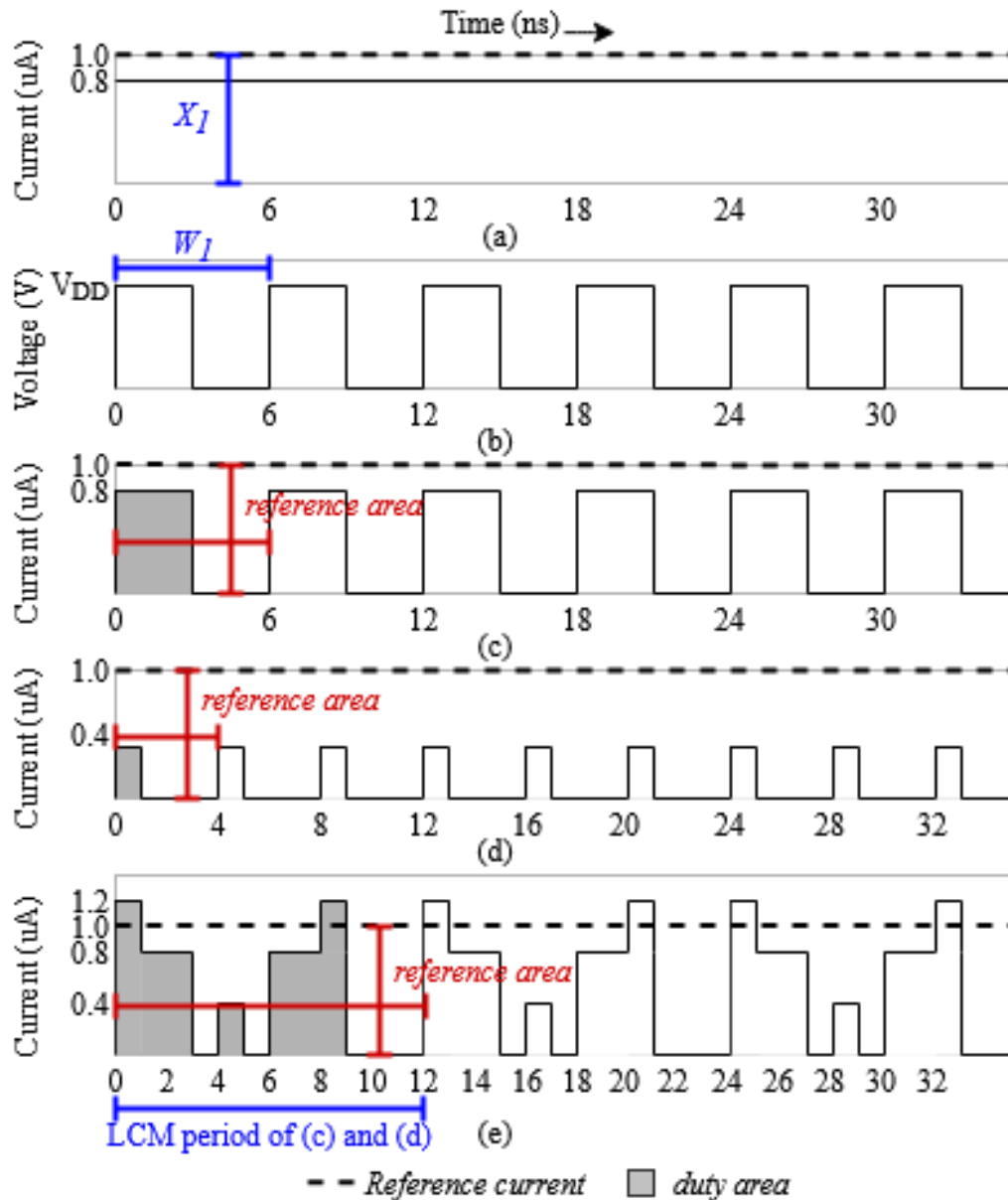
## Circuits



Very possible to  
implement for DiaNet



# Hybrid: stochastic + analog



Key idea:

In stochastic computing, we concern "probability". Then, why always use discrete fashion?

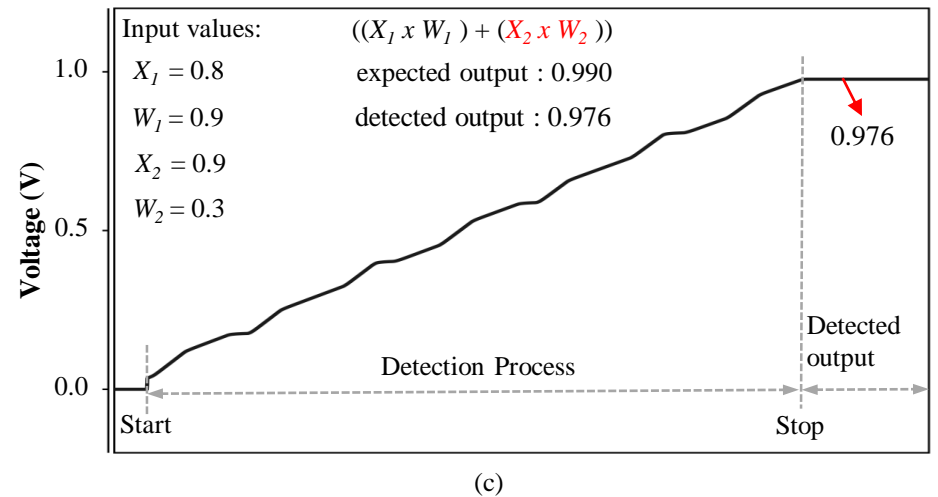
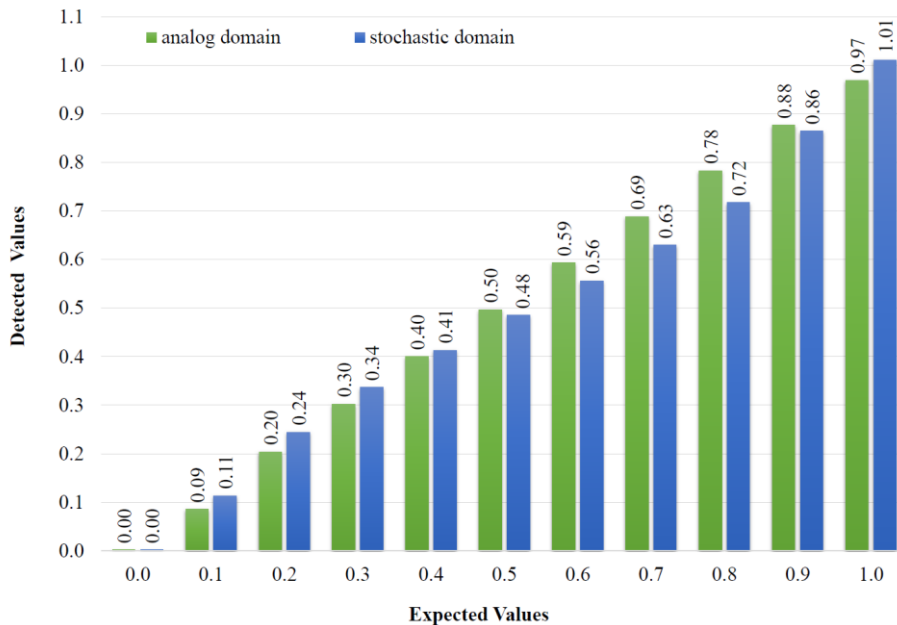
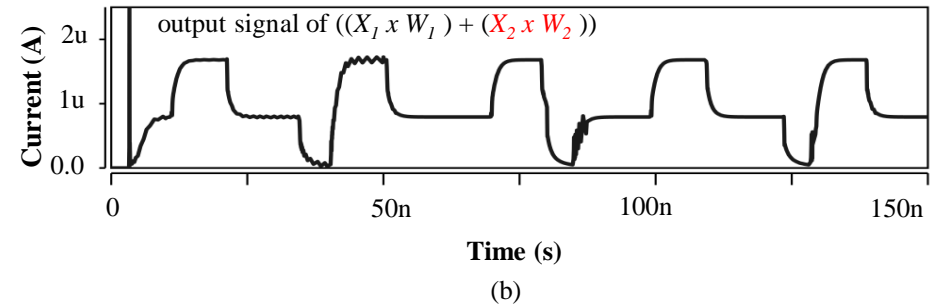
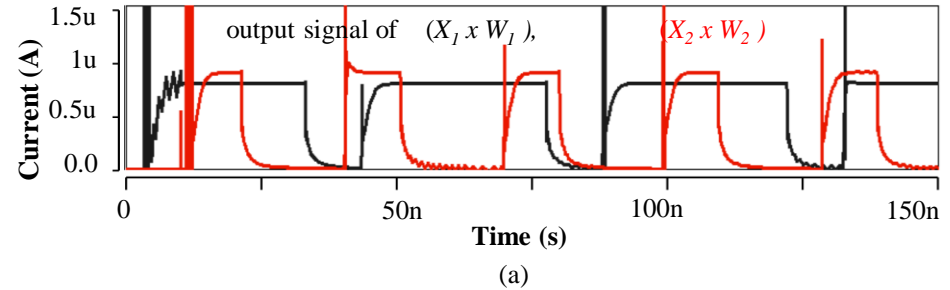
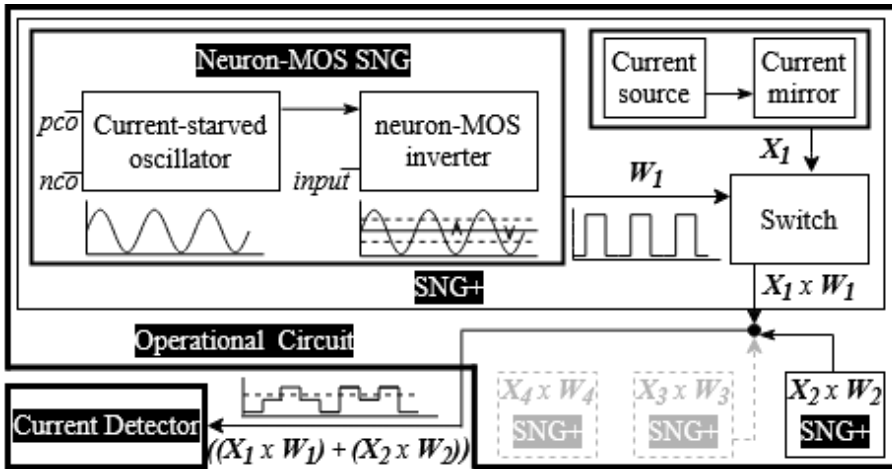
Hybrid: use continuous probability distribution instead of discrete Bernoulli test; integral instead of bit counting

Merits: short time; infinite range; easy for summation; light SNG

Demerit: almost no theory; **circuit design expertise**

# Hybrid: stochastic + analog

## implementation



# Outline

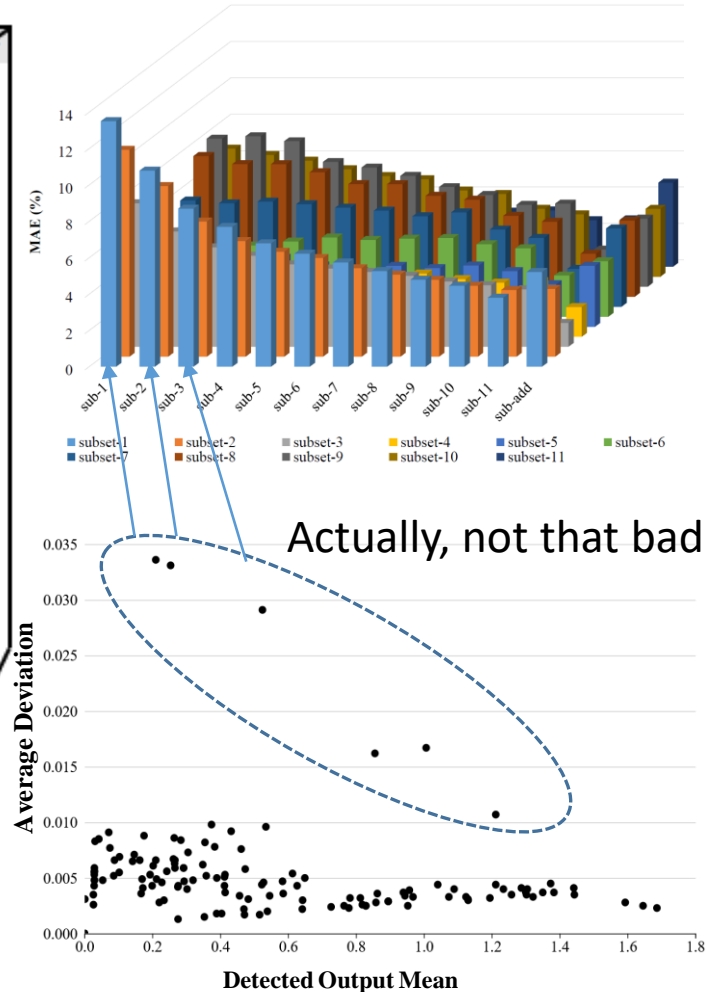
- **What is stochastic computing (SC)**
  - Mechanism of SC
  - Elements of SC
  - Implementation of SC
  
- **Time based stochastic computing (TBSC)**
  - Mechanism of TBSC
  - Hybrid TBSC
  - Analysis

# Hybrid: stochastic + analog

## Error analysis

$X_1*w_1+X_2*w_2$  contains four operands, full pattern test is impossible. Thus, sampling.

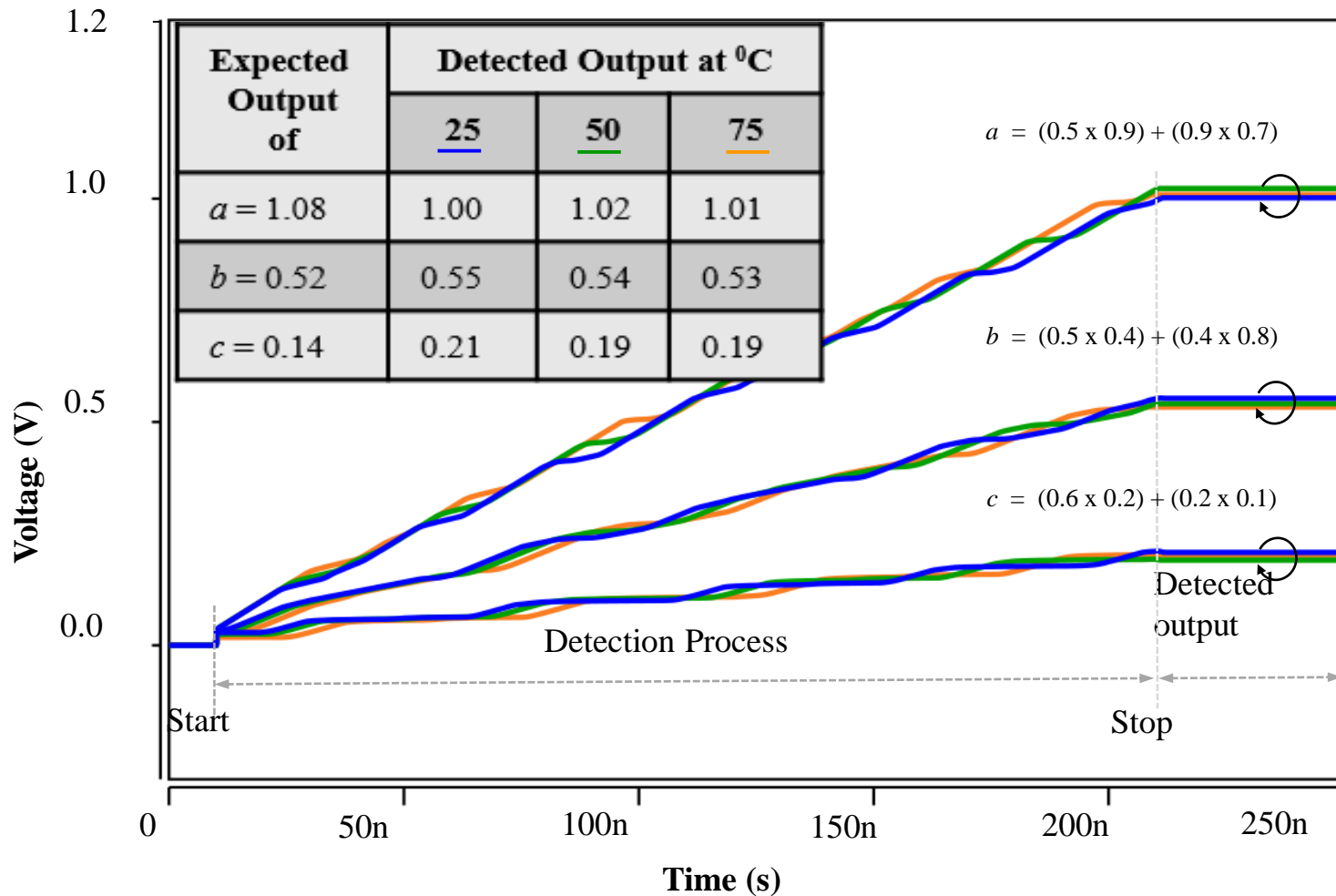
	$X_1$	$W_1$	$X_2$	$W_2$	$X_1$	$W_1$	$X_2$	$W_2$	$X_1$	$W_1$	$X_2$	$W_2$				
sub-add	0	1	1	1	0	0.9	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
sub-11	0	1	1	0.9	0	0.9	1	0.9	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	1	0.9
sub-2	0.9	1	1	1	0.9	0.9	1	1	0.9	0	1	1	0.9	0	1	1
sub-1	1	1	1	1	1	0.9	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
set-1	1	1	1	0.9	1	0.9	1	0.9	1	0	1	0.9	1	0	1	0.9
	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	1	1	1	0.1	1	0.9	1	0.1	1	0	1	0.1	1	0	1	0.1
	1	1	1	0	1	0.9	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
subset-1	1	1	0.9	1	1	0.9	0.9	1	1	0	0.9	1	1	0	0.9	1
	1	1	0.9	0.9	1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1	0	0.9	0.9	1	0	0.9	0.9
	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	1	1	0.9	0.1	1	0.9	0.9	0.1	1	0	0.9	0.1	1	0	0.9	0.1
1	1	0.9	0	1	0.9	0.9	0	1	0	0.9	0	1	0	0.9	0	
subset-2	1	1	0	1	1	0.9	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	1	1	0	0.9	1	0.9	0	0.9	1	0	0	0.9	1	0	0	0.9
	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	1	1	0	0.1	1	0.9	0	0.1	1	0	0	0.1	1	0	0	0.1
1	1	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
subset-11	1	1	0	1	1	0.9	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	1	1	0	0.9	1	0.9	0	0.9	1	0	0	0.9	1	0	0	0.9
	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	1	1	0	0.1	1	0.9	0	0.1	1	0	0	0.1	1	0	0	0.1
1	1	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	



# Hybrid: stochastic + analog

## Error analysis

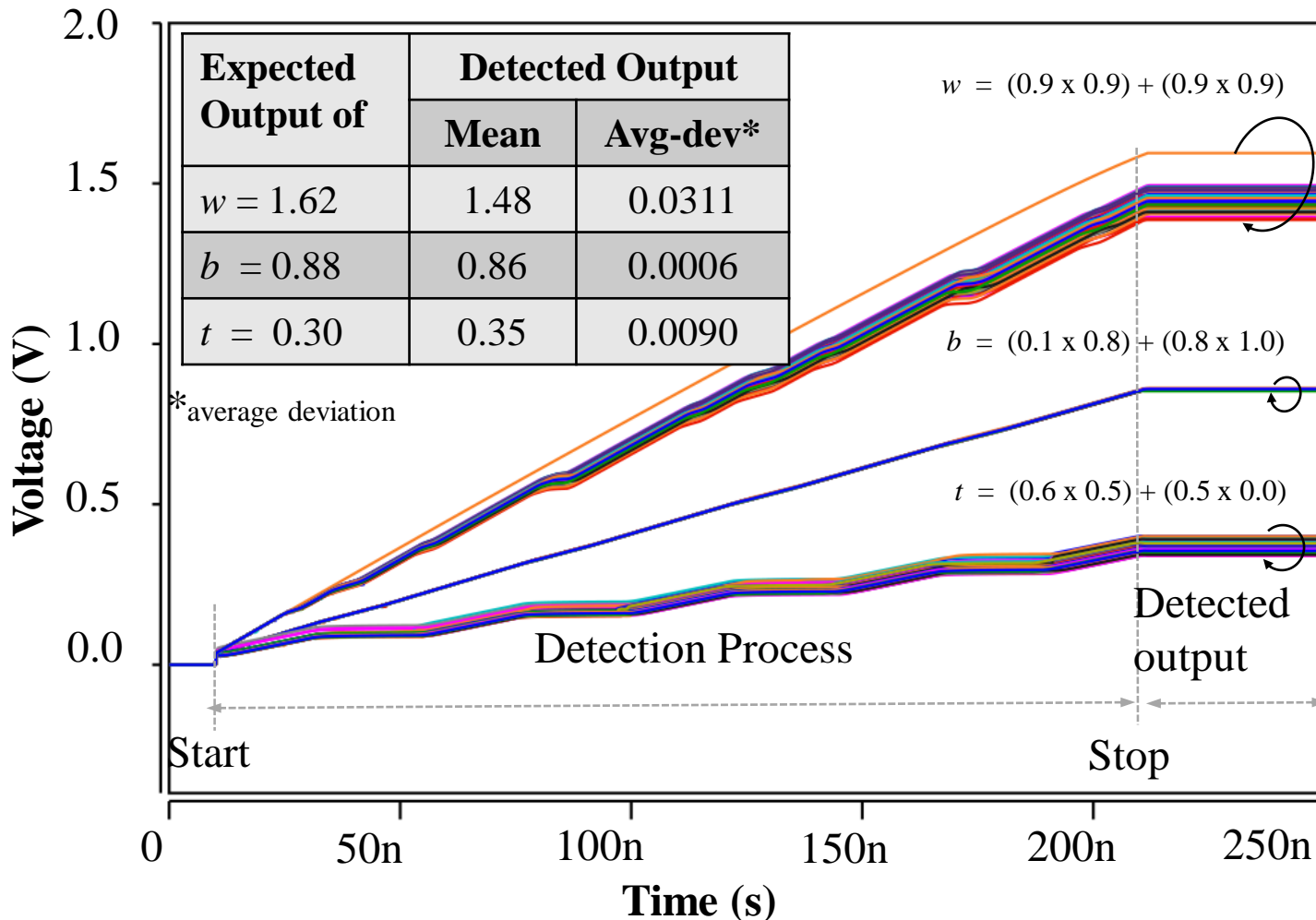
Errors also come from the analog side: process and temperature variations etc.



# Hybrid: stochastic + analog

## Error analysis

Errors also come from the analog side **process** and temperature variations etc.



Thousands of trials for each by Monte Carlo



Much better than pure analog



inaccuracy is eaten up by SN error-tolerance somehow

# End

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Thank you very much.