

# Learning with Memristors

Shahar Kvatinsky

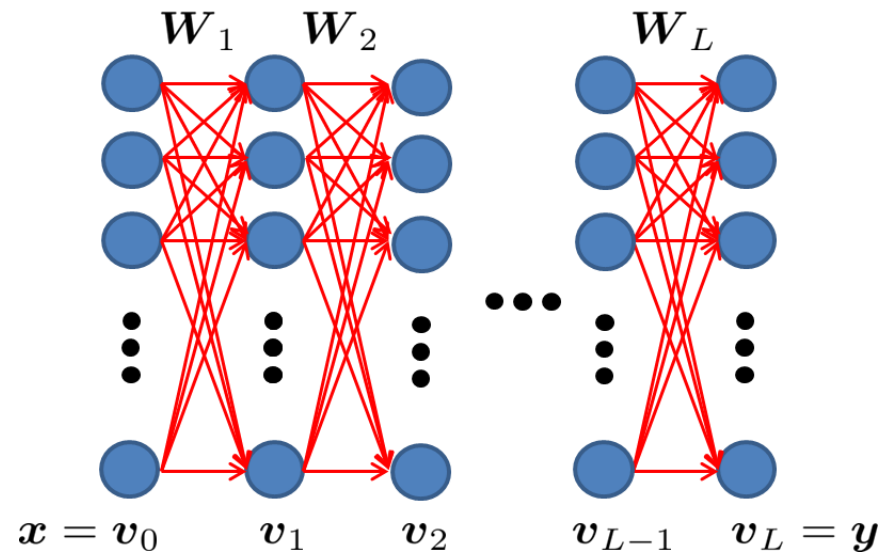
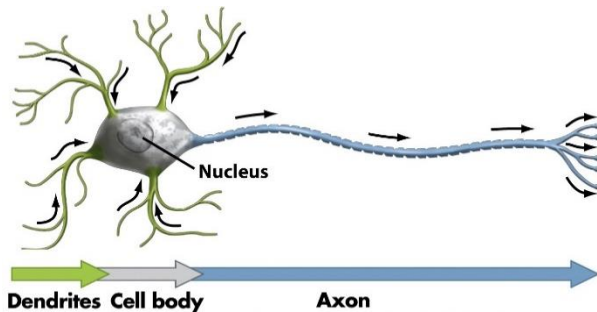
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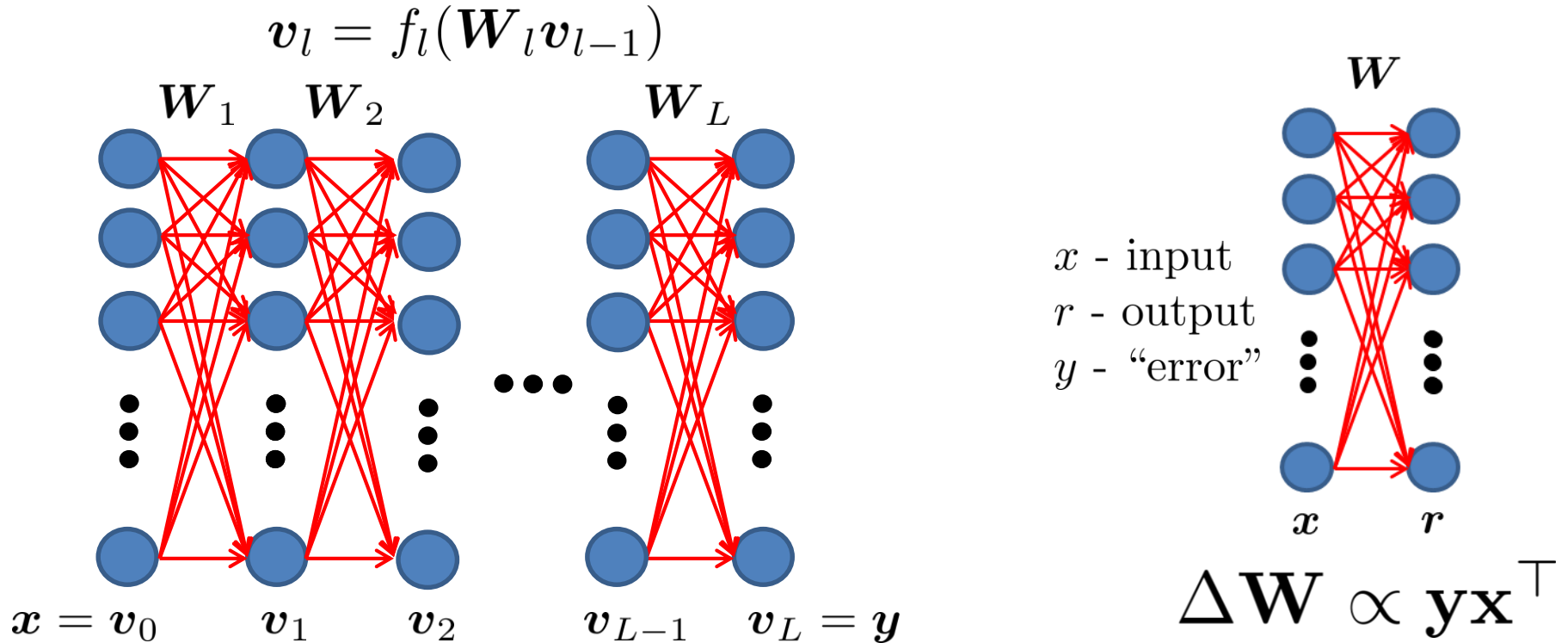


# Deep/Multilayer Neural Networks

- Useful, robust, computationally intensive
- Many applications:
  - Pattern recognition
  - Natural Language Processing
  - Signal processing
  - Data Mining



# Computational Bottlenecks

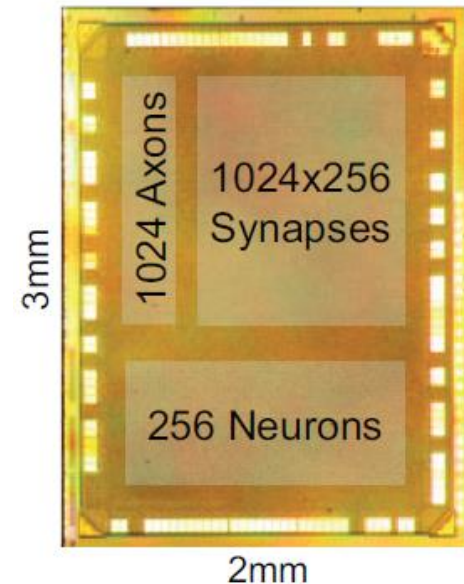


- Propagation  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{W} \mathbf{x}$  costs  $O(N^2)$  operations
- Training each layer also costs  $O(N^2)$  operations

# Common NN Hardware

- Offline training in CPU/GPU
- Dedicated hardware (TrueNorth, DianNao, TPU)
- Online training – hard with CMOS

Design	#Transistors	Comments
Proposed design	2 (+1 memristor)	
[54]	2	Also requires UV light + Weights decay ~ minutes
[55]	6	Weights only increase (unusable)
[56] [57]	39	Must keep training
[58]	52	Must keep training
[59]	92	Weights decay ~ hours
[60]	83	Also requires a “weight unit”
[61]	150	

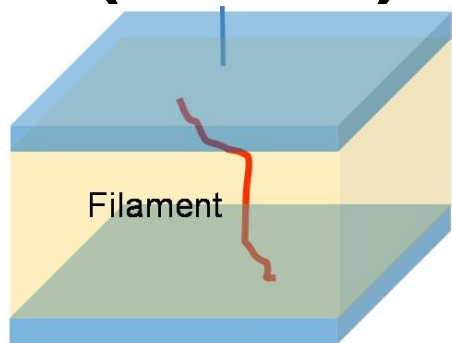


IBM TrueNorth

# Memristors to the Rescue

## Emerging Nonvolatile Memory Technologies

### Resistive RAM (RRAM)



SanDisk® SONY



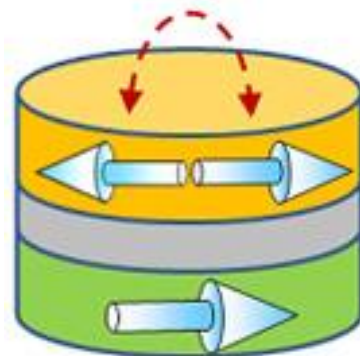
Panasonic®

TOSHIBA



Crossbar

### STT MRAM



HITACHI

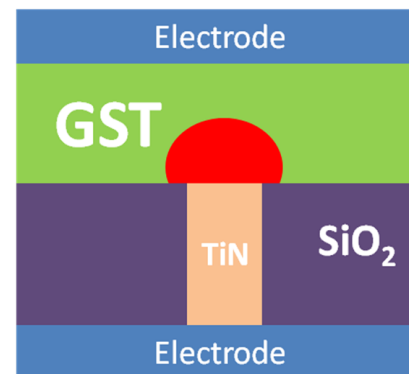


TOSHIBA

QUALCOMM®



### Phase Change Memory (PCM)

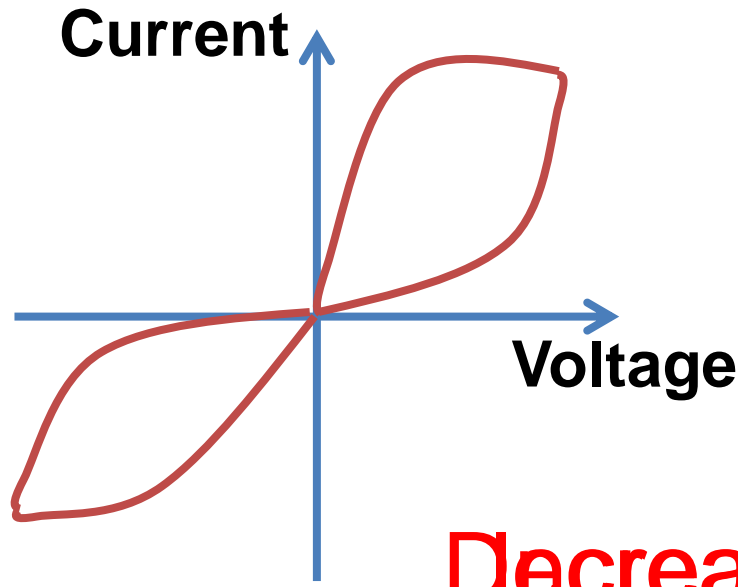


IBM

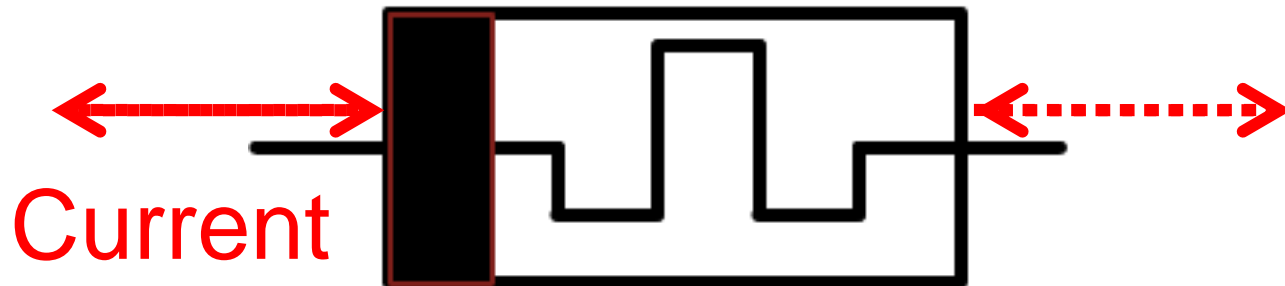


# Memristor – Memory Resistor

## Resistor with Varying Resistance

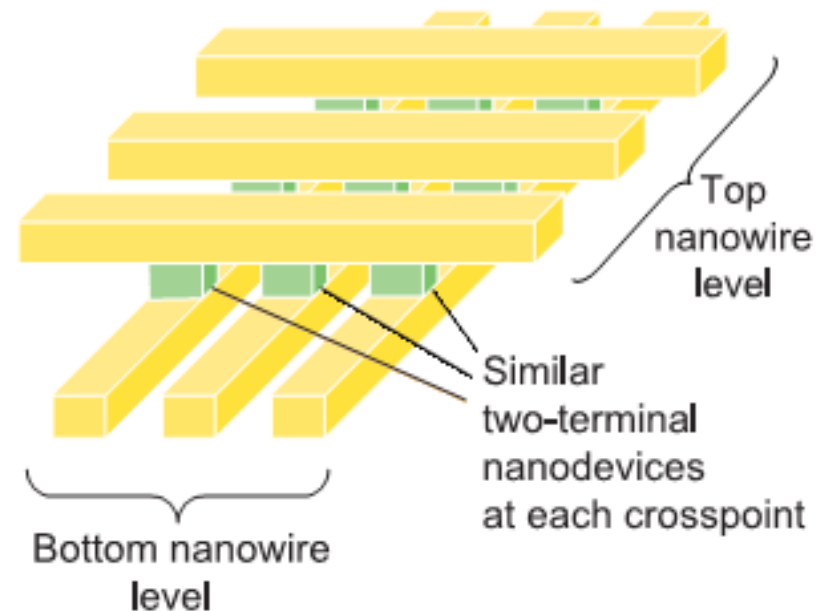


Decrease resistance

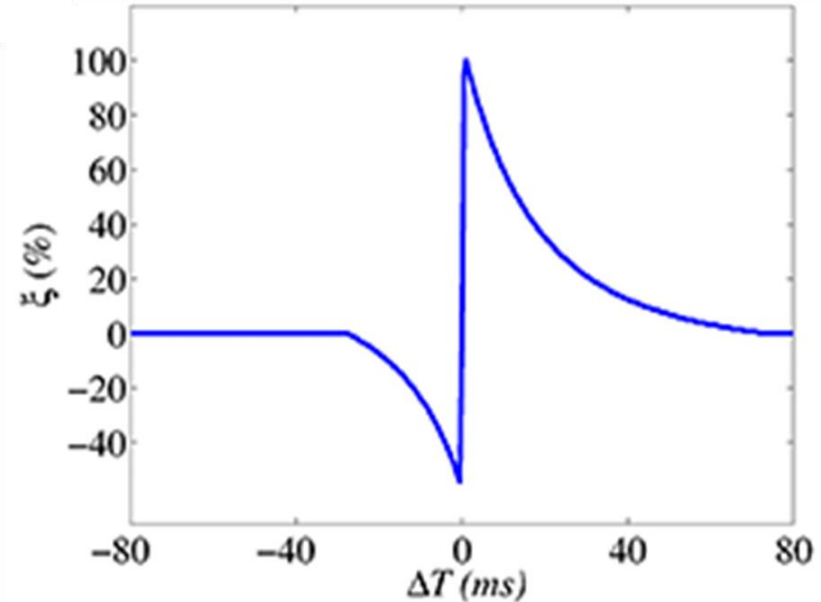
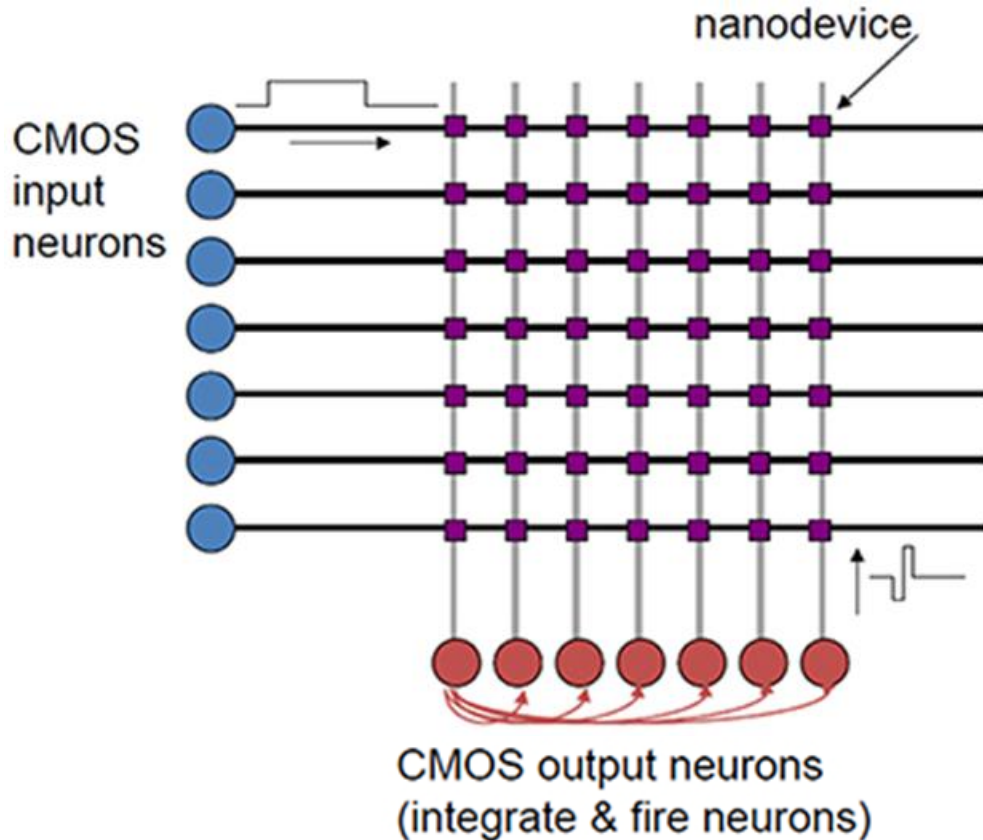


# Neural Networks with Memristors

- Memristor conductance  $\sim$  synaptic weights
- Voltage/current on memristors adapts weights
- Many memristive Spike-Timing-Dependent Plasticity (STDP) papers



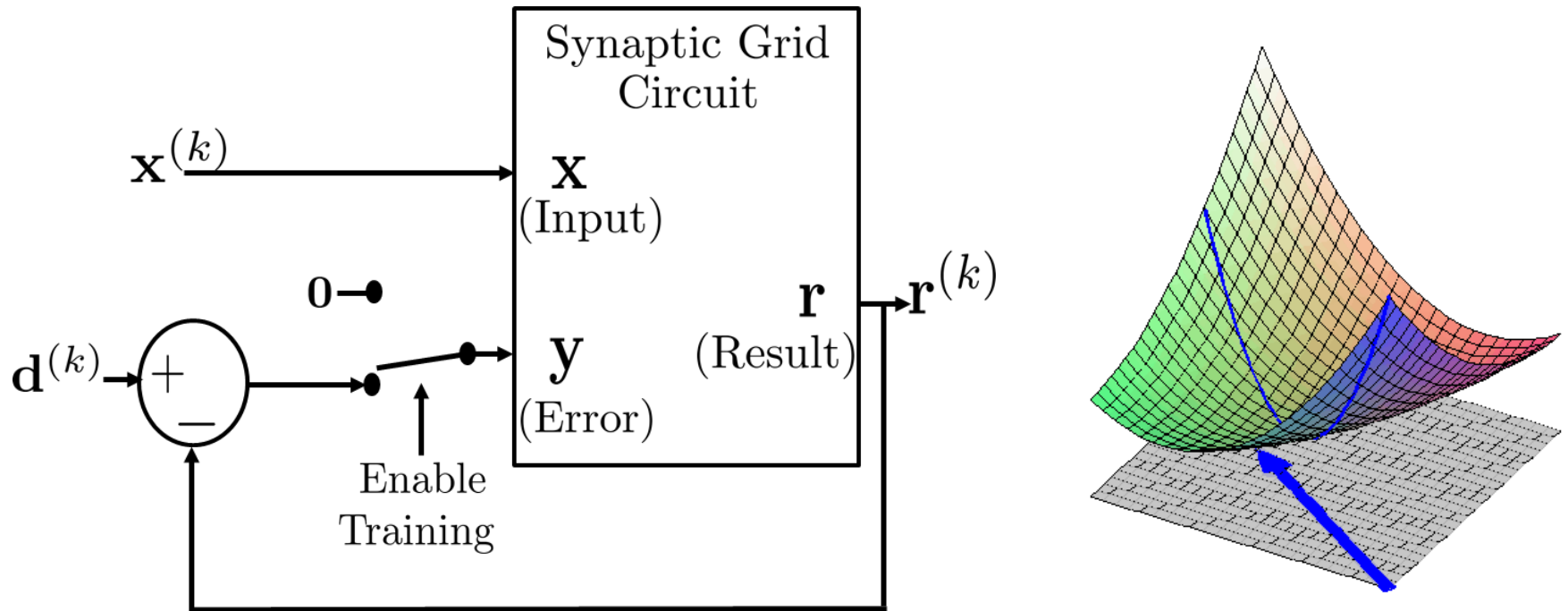
# Spike-Timing-Dependent Plasticity (STDP)



- Biological motivation
- Not useful for machine learning



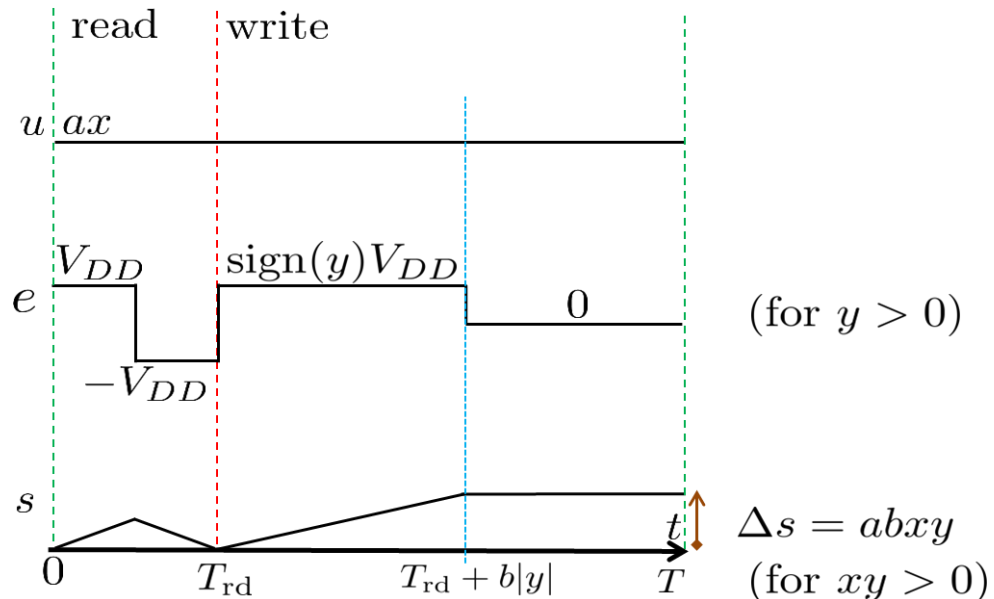
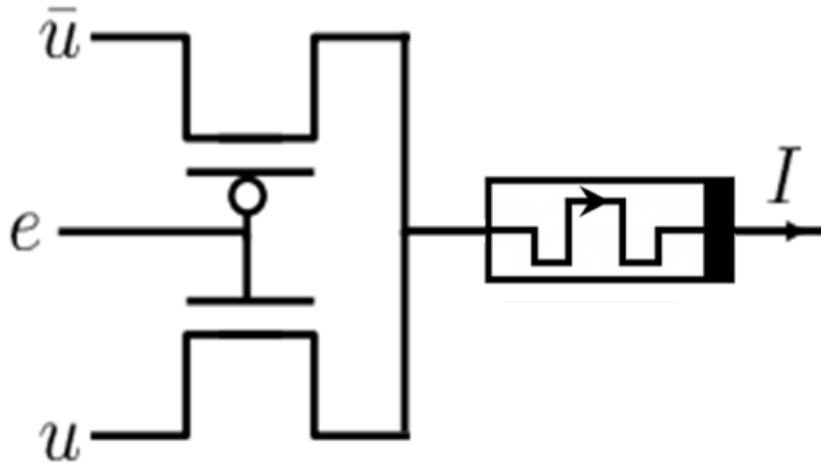
# Gradient Descent Learning



Update rule – a multiplication

$$\Delta W_{nm}^{(k)} = \eta x_m^{(k)} \cdot y_n^{(k)}$$

# Online Memristive Gradient Descent Training

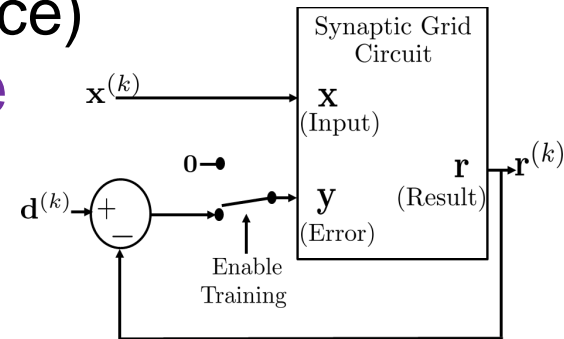


$s$  – Memristor state variable  
(e.g., resistance)

Moving from **voltage** to **time** and **voltage**

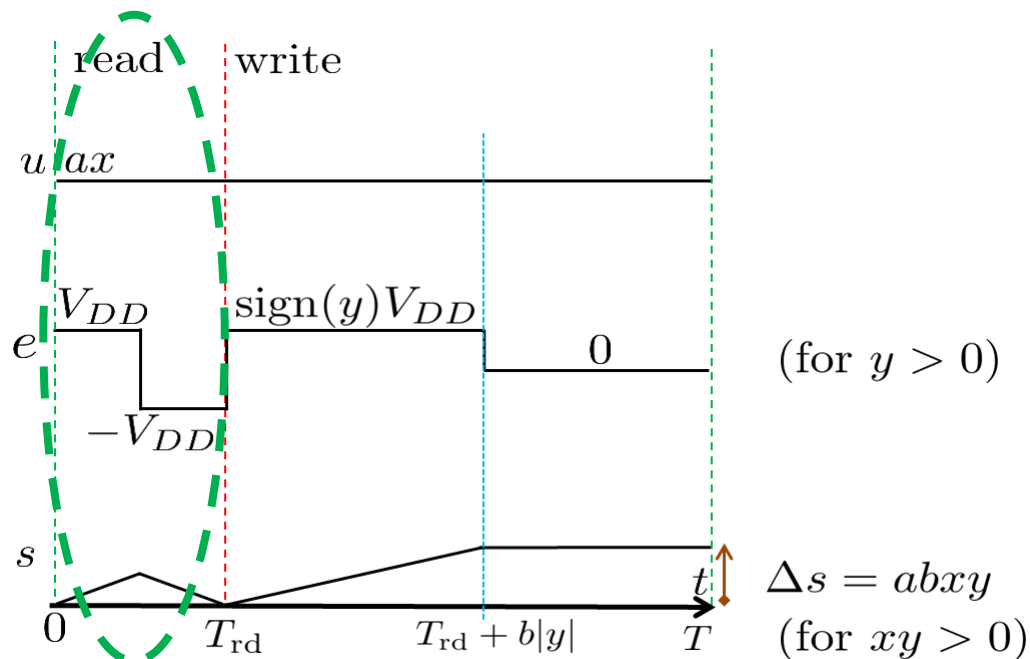
$x \rightarrow u$  (voltage)

$y \rightarrow e$  (voltage and duration)



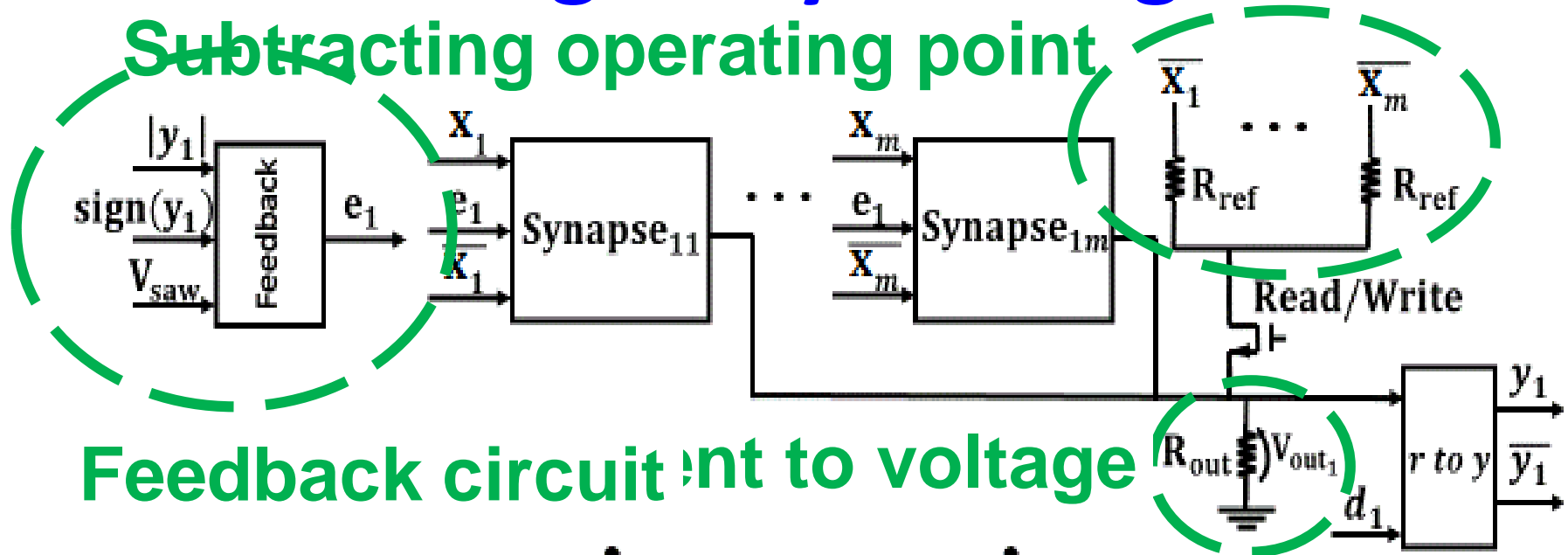
# Synapse with TEAM Model

- TEAM is nonlinear – single step read
- Increasing  $s$  increases resistance,  $0 < s < 1$
- $s = 0.5$  equivalent to  $w = 0$  (negative weights)

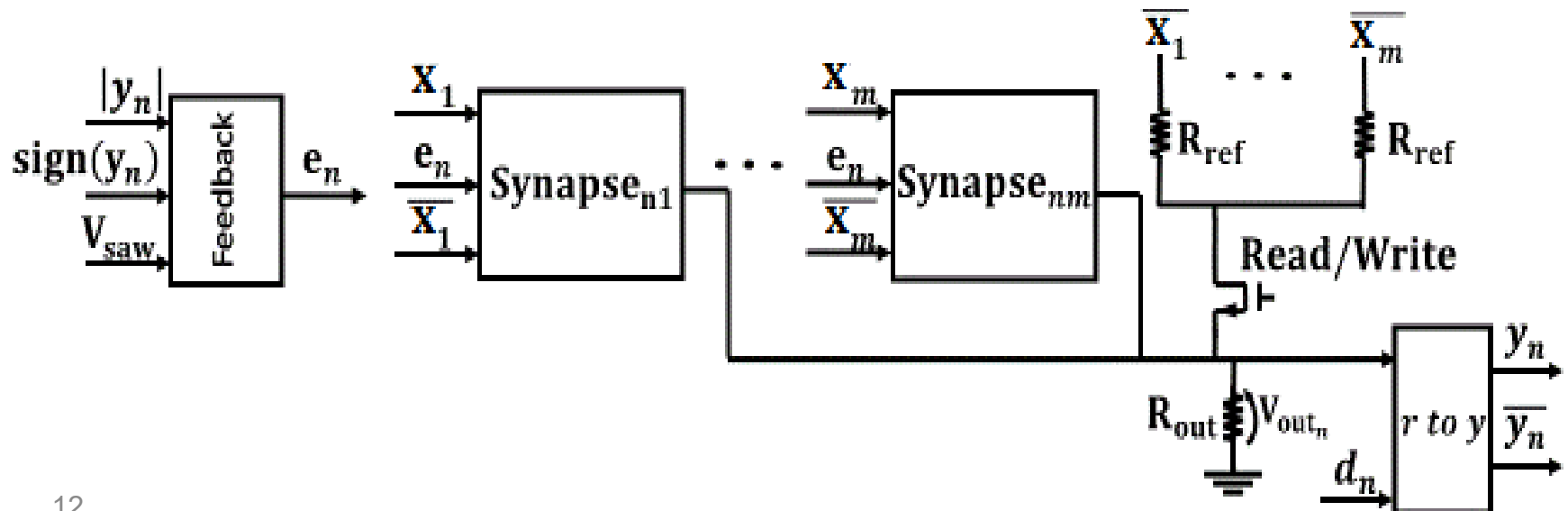


# Single Layer Design

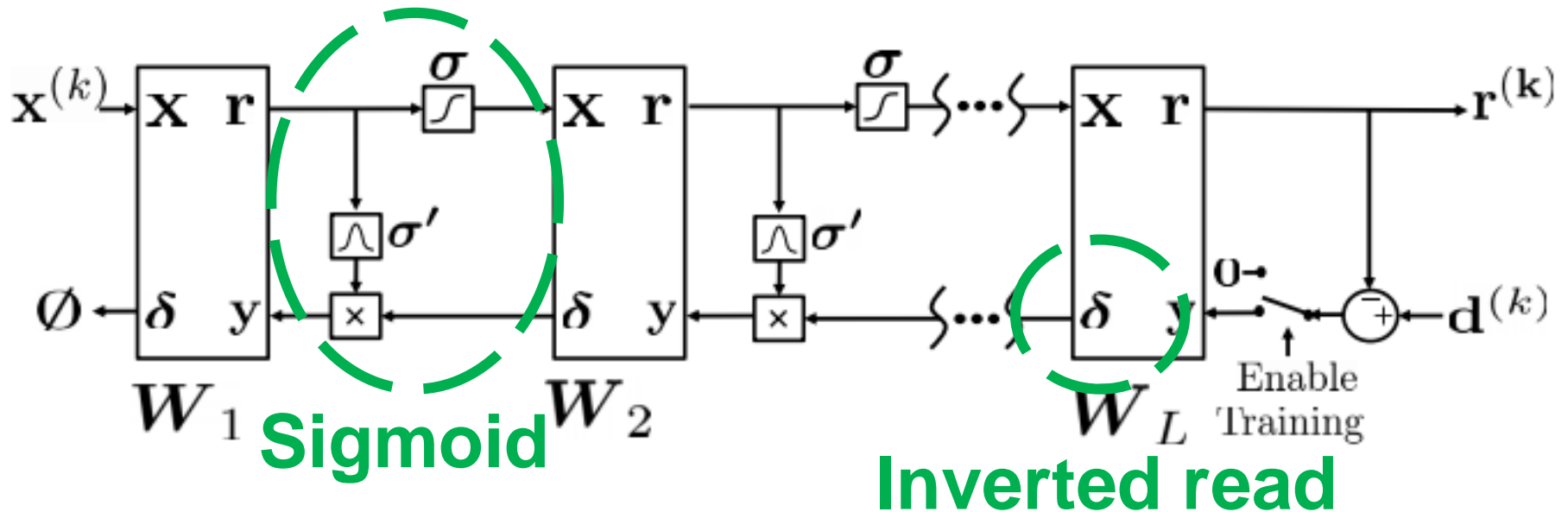
Subtracting operating point



Feedback circuit out to voltage



# Multi-Layer Design



# Results – Single Layer

Dataset	Unique Training Samples	Unique Test Samples	No. of Inputs	No. of Outputs	NN Size
<i>Wisconsin Diagnostic Breast Cancer</i>	300	120	30	2	30x2
<i>Wine</i>	96	48	13	3	13x3
<i>Iris</i>	90	60	4	3	4x3

		Simulation Type - Error %			Runtime		
		Noisy Analog Model	Matlab	Analog	Analog	Matlab	
Wine	1200	3.75% ± 0.52%	2.5% ± 0.52%	2.29% ± 1.09%	18ms	~35 min	278.5ms
Breast Cancer	1200	3% ± 0.5%	4.67% ± 0.67%	3.1% ± 1.83%	18ms	~30 min	210ms
Iris	1080	15.67% ± 0.79%	16.5% ± 0.67%	15.33% ± 0.03%	16.2ms	~20 min	95.3ms

Similar accuracy  
as software

10X faster than software

# Results – Multi Layer

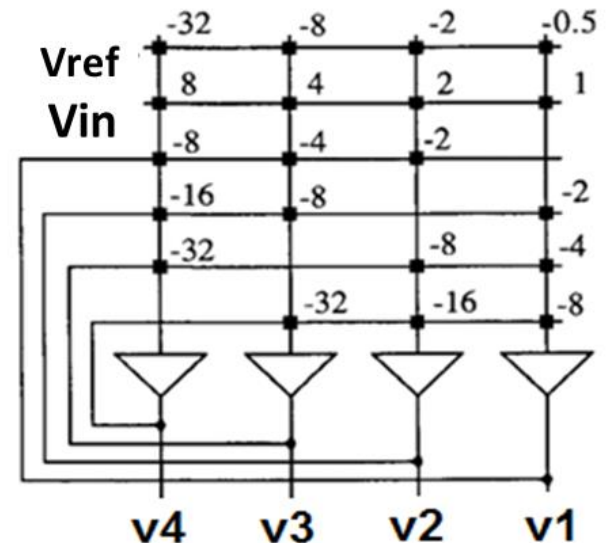
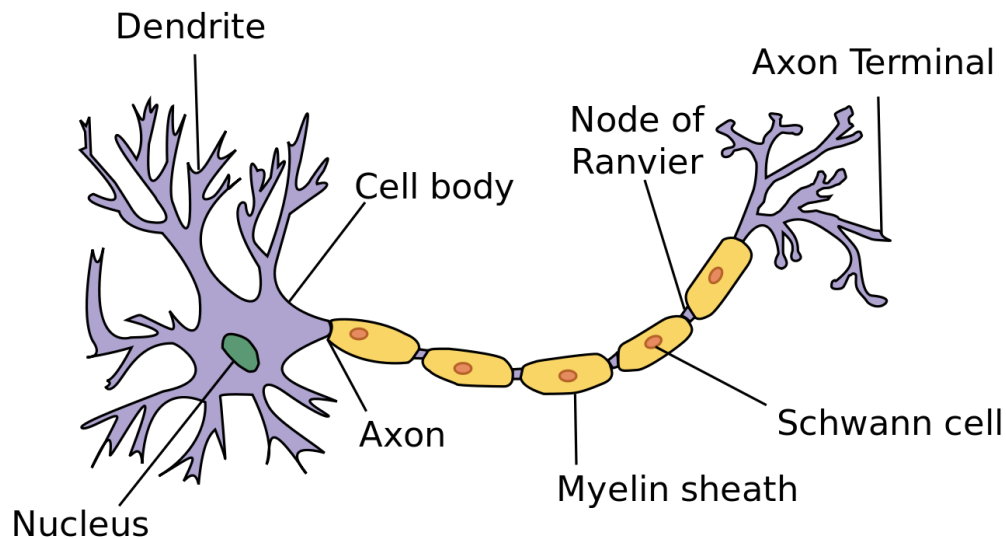
Dataset	Unique Training Samples	Unique Test Samples	No. of Inputs	No. of Outputs	NN Size
<i>Iris</i>	90	60	4	3	4x4x3

Total Training Samples	Simulation Type - Error %			Runtime		
	Analog Model	Noisy Analog Model	Matlab Model	Analog Model	Analog Model Wall Clock	Matlab Model
2160	8.16 ± 1.47%	9.83% ± 1.06%	4.5% ± 1.93%	43.2ms	~10 hours	16.6s

**2X more accurate 1400X faster than software**  
**Worse than software (why?)**

# Ongoing Directions

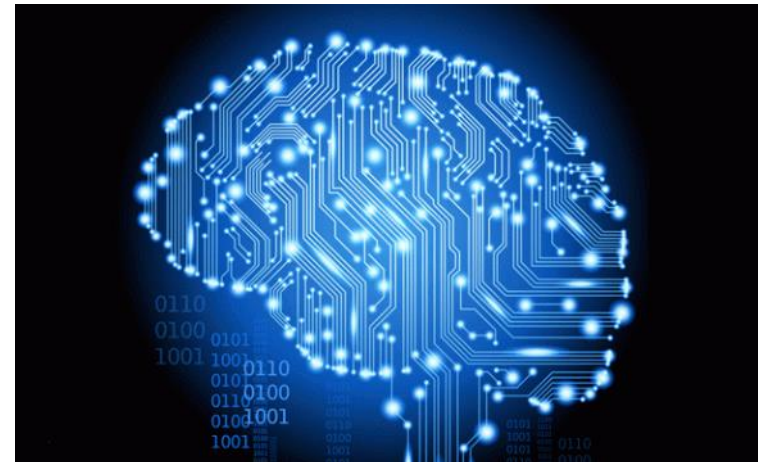
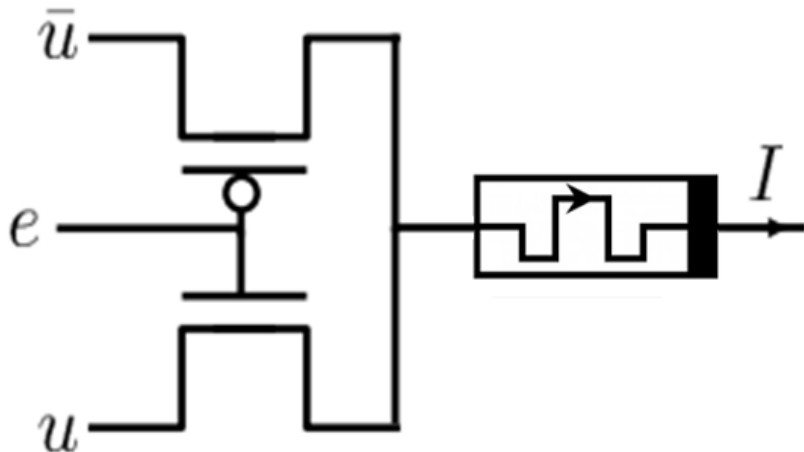
- Machine learning accelerators
- Reconfigurable adaptive hardware (ADC, DAC, etc.)
- Memristors for excitation





# Conclusions

- Neuromorphic accelerators have **huge potential** for machine learning
  - Fast (400X for small network)
  - Accurate (with noise and variations)
  - Dense (2T1M synapse)



# Thanks!

