

SPICE Workshop  
Antiferromagnetic Spintronics: from topology to **neuromorphic computing**  
Schloß Waldthausen, Mainz, Germany  
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# - Tutorial - Neuromorphic Computing with Spintronics

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4. *Center for Science and Innovation in Spintronics, Tohoku Univ.*
5. *WPI-Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku Univ.*



## [Special thanks]

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科研費  
KAKENHI

0. Preface
1. General introduction to neuromorphic computing
2. Status and prospect of spintronics
3. Recent example: probabilistic computing using stochastic magnetic tunnel junction
4. Conclusion

# Definition of terms

- **Neuromorphic computing**

- [Narrow sense]

*Computing using analog circuits that mimic dynamics of nervous system*

Proc. IEEE, 78, 1629 (1990)

- [Broad sense]

*Computing inspired by neuro-biological architecture*

← **Today's definition**

- **Brain-inspired computing**

- *Computing inspired by brain (no strict definition)*

- **Artificial intelligence**

- [Narrow sense]

*Machines with software emulating mechanism of brain*

← **Today's definition**

- [Broad sense]

*Intelligent machines that work and react like humans*

## 1. Engineering aspect

← Today's standpoint

- try to make computer efficient **like brain**  
(capable of executing complex tasks at low power level)

## 2. Brain-scientific aspect

- try to understand information processing **in brain**

## 3. Biomedical-engineering aspect

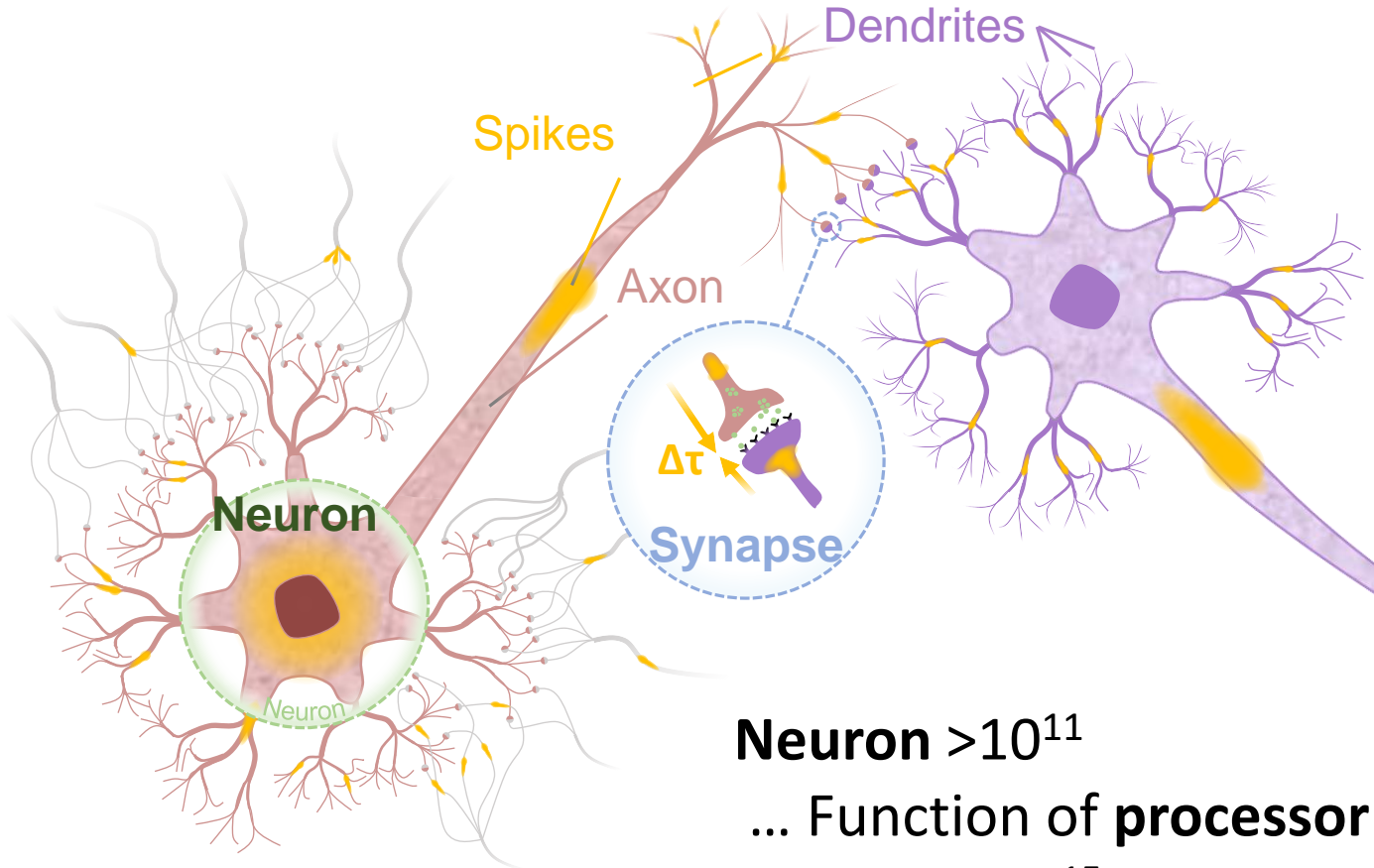
- try to communicate **with brain**  
(e.g., suppression of brain disorder)

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# How different?

Classical computer	Brain
GHz	kHz
Digital	Analog
Rigid hierarchy	disorder
Clock driven Synchronous	Event driven Asynchronous
Sequential	Parallel
Logic/memory separation (von Neumann architecture)	In-memory computing
Minimum redundancy	Highly redundant ( $10^5$ neurons die per day)
<b>Good at well-defined problems, iterative tasks, ...</b>	<b>Good at ill-posed problems, cognitive tasks, ...</b>

# Fundamental units – neuron and synapse



**Neuron**  $>10^{11}$

... Function of **processor**

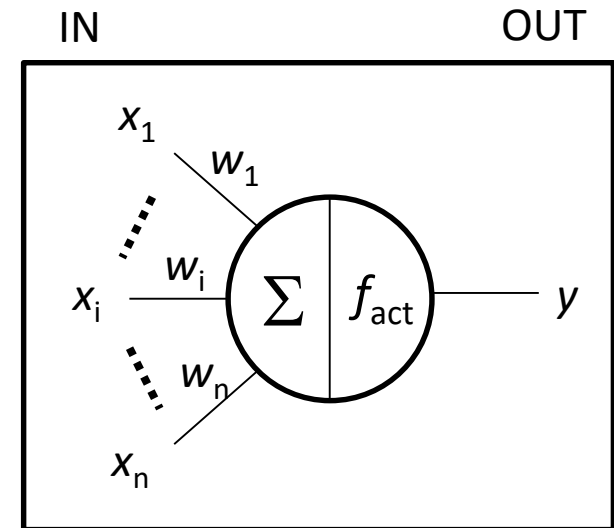
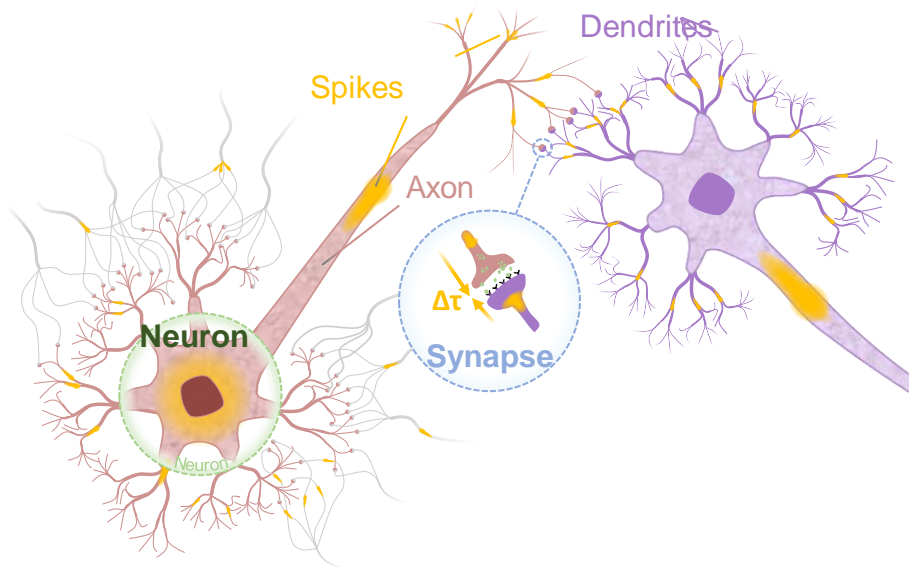
**Synapse**  $>10^{15}$

... Function of **memory**

**→ Needs to reproduce by some means**

# Fundamental units – neuron and synapse

Statically ... Product-sum operation



$$y = f_{act} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i w_i \right)$$

$f_{act}$ : signum or sigmoidal function

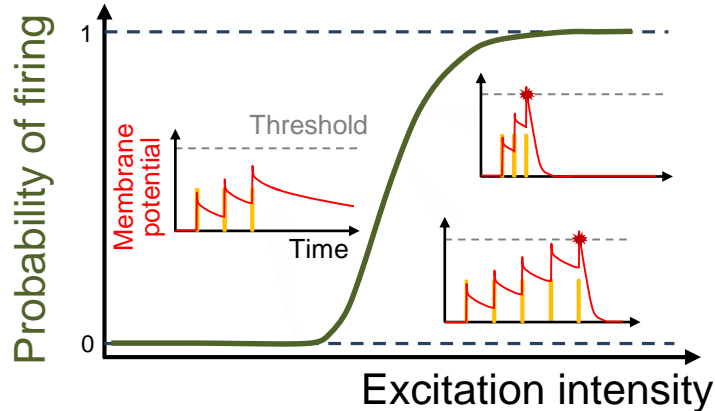
Basis for Deep Neural Network (DNN), Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)



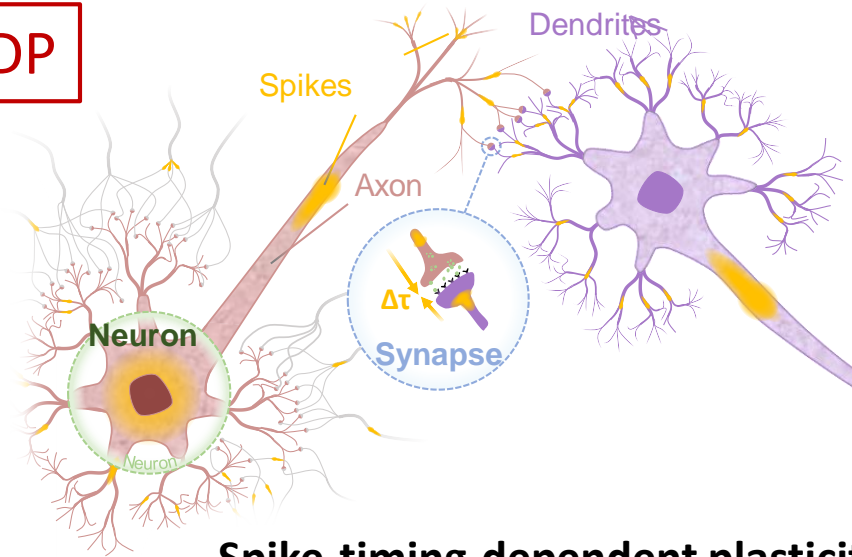
# Fundamental units – neuron and synapse

## Dynamically ... LIF and STDP

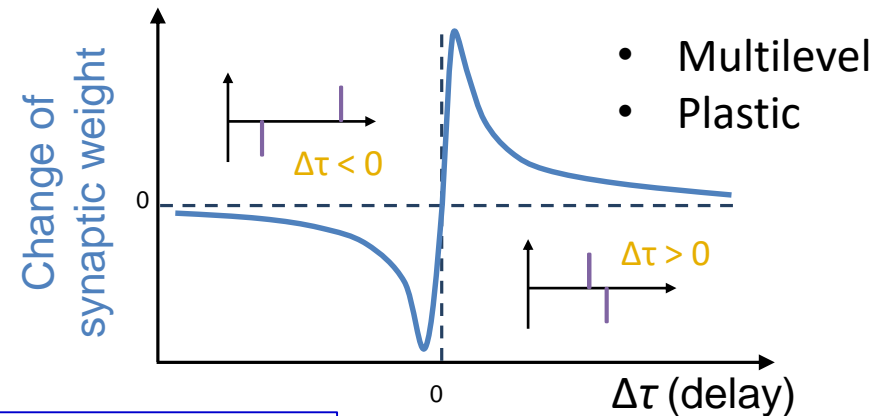
### Leaky Integrate-and-Fire (LIF)



- Binary (Fire/Non-fire)
- Volatile (Leaky)



### Spike-timing-dependent plasticity (STDP)



## Basis for Spiking Neural Network (SNN)

... event-driven asynchronous operation

# Options for neuromorphic computing

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## Model

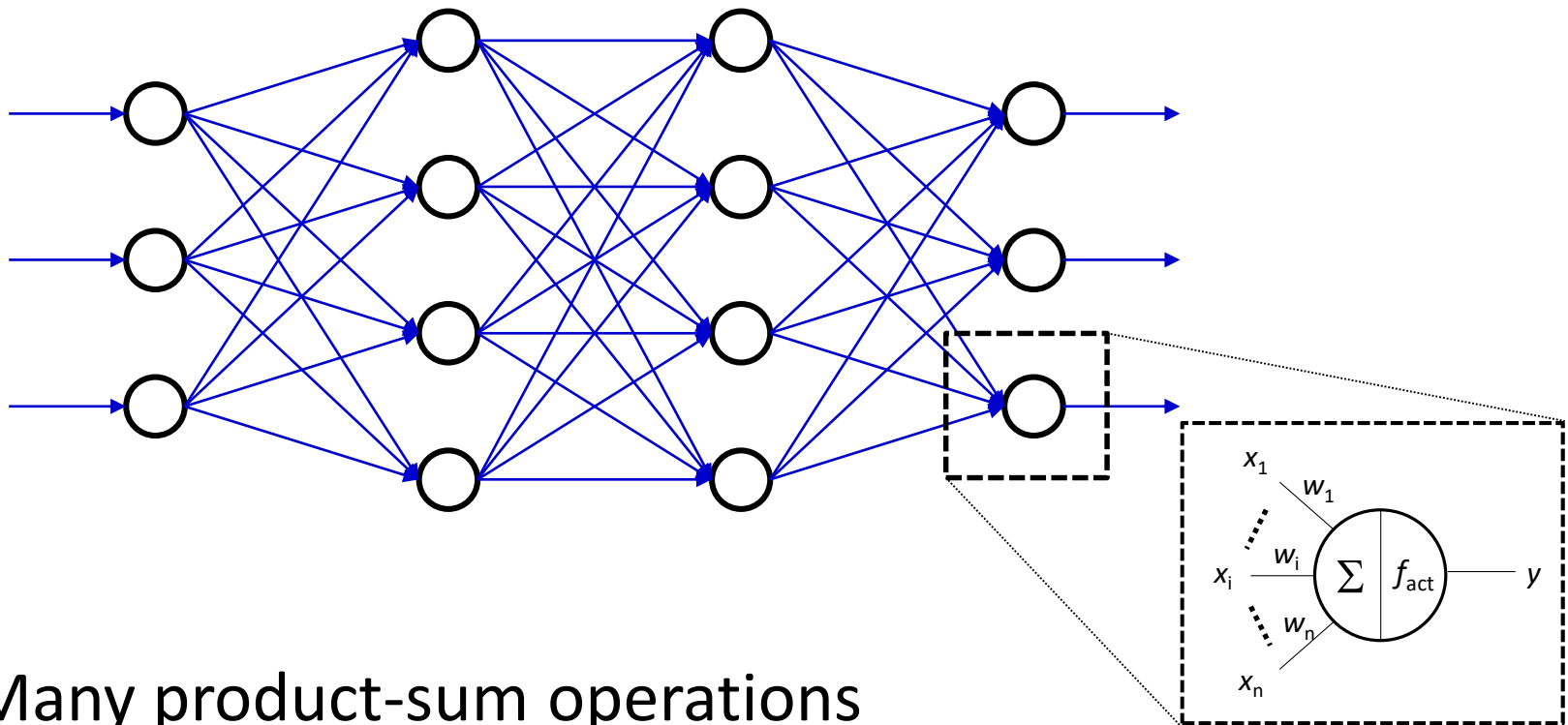
- Deep neural network
- Recurrent neural network
  - Reservoir computing
- Hopfield network
- Stochastic neural network (Boltzmann machine)
- Spiking neural network
- ...

## Hardware

- Conventional (von Neumann) computer
- CMOS-based sophisticated hardware
- CMOS + nonvolatile memory
- Synapse-like and/or neuron-like emerging devices
- ...

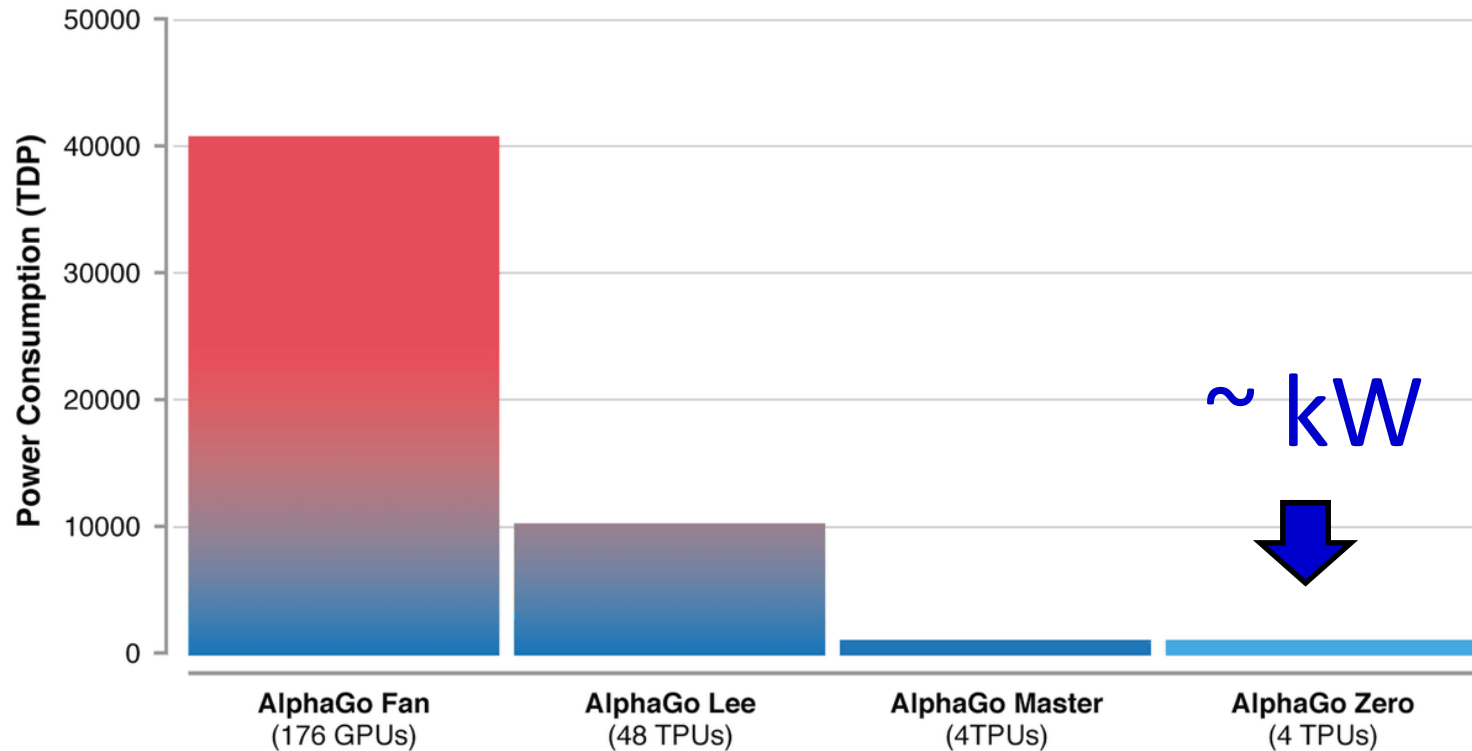
# Road to neuromorphic computing (1)

Deep Neural Network (DNN) + Conventional hardware ... **AI**



- Many product-sum operations
- High compatibility with conventional hardware
- Inefficient in terms of power consumption

# History of AlphaGo



\*TDP: Thermal Design Power

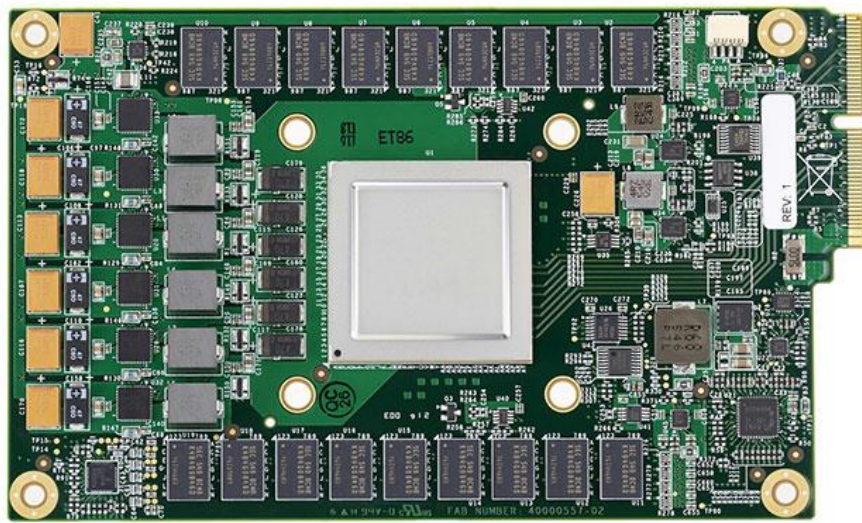
<https://gigazine.net/news/20171020-alphago-zero/>

- Power consumption has been drastically improved by employing **Tensor Processing Unit (TPU)**.

# Road to neuromorphic computing (2)

**Sophisticated architecture with CMOS (ASIC\*)**

## Tensor Processing Unit (TPU) by Google



Taken from IEEE Spectrum

- Specialized for product-sum operation

\*ASIC: Application Specific Integrated Circuit

## Other examples

**TrueNorth**  
by IBM

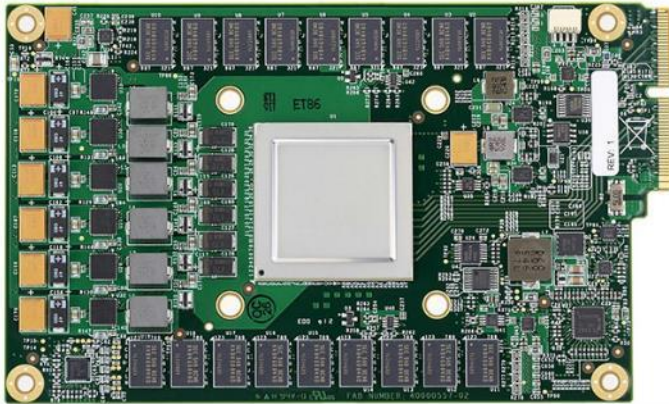
**BrainScaleS**  
by Heidelberg

**Loihi**  
by Intel

# Road to neuromorphic computing (3)

Sophisticated architecture + **nonvolatile MTJ**

**Tensor Processing Unit (TPU)**  
by Google



Taken from IEEE Spectrum

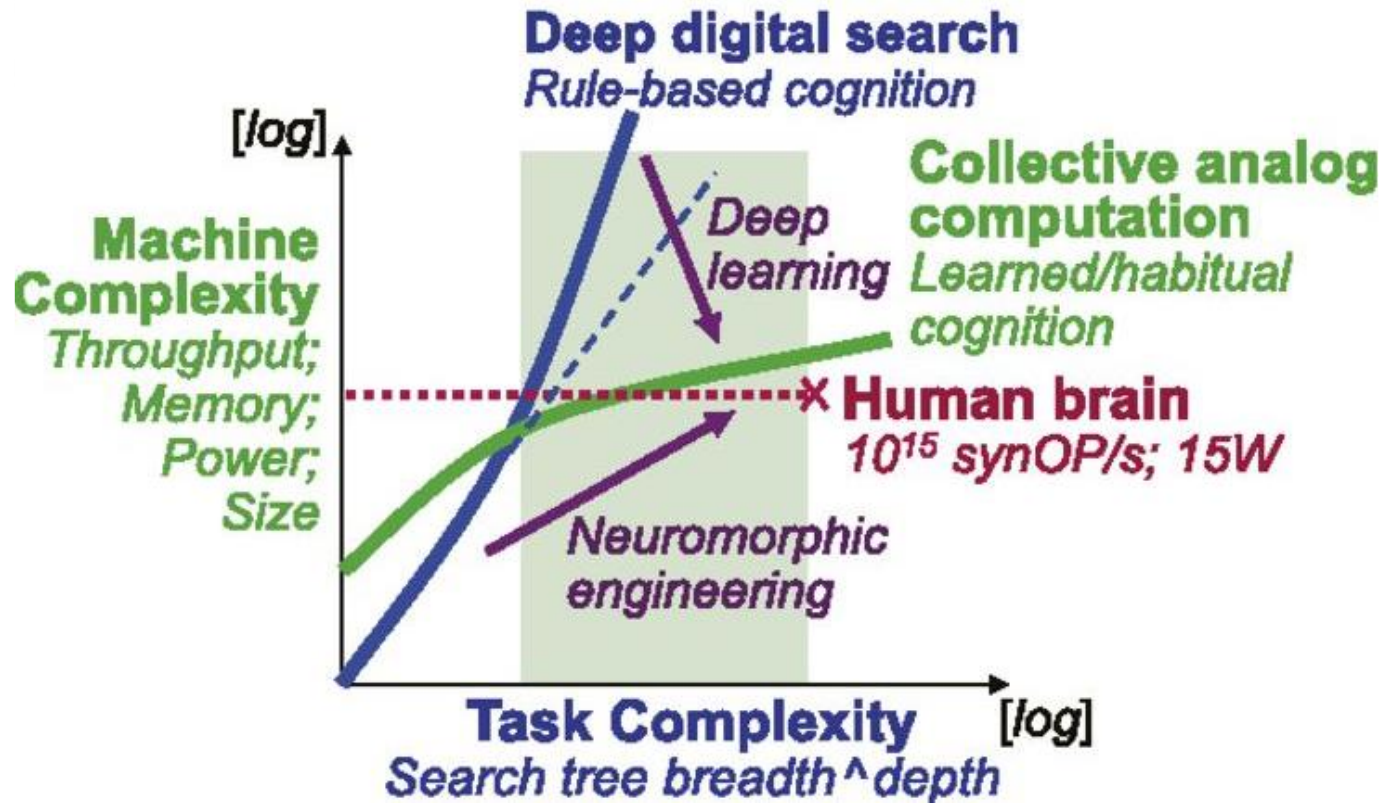
700 MHz

28 – 40 W

**40~57 mW/MHz**

\* Commercially-available AI chips (2018) produced by **Gyr Falcon Technology** use TSMC's eMRAM

# Scaling of machine complexity vs task complexity

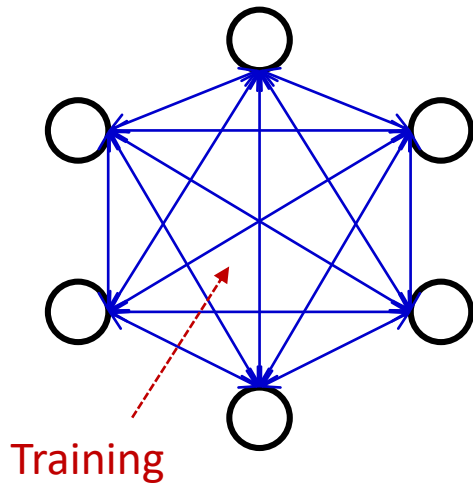


G. Cauwenberghs, PNAS **110**, 15512 (2013)

- As task complexity increases, more brain-like models with brain-like elements are promising.

# Neural network models

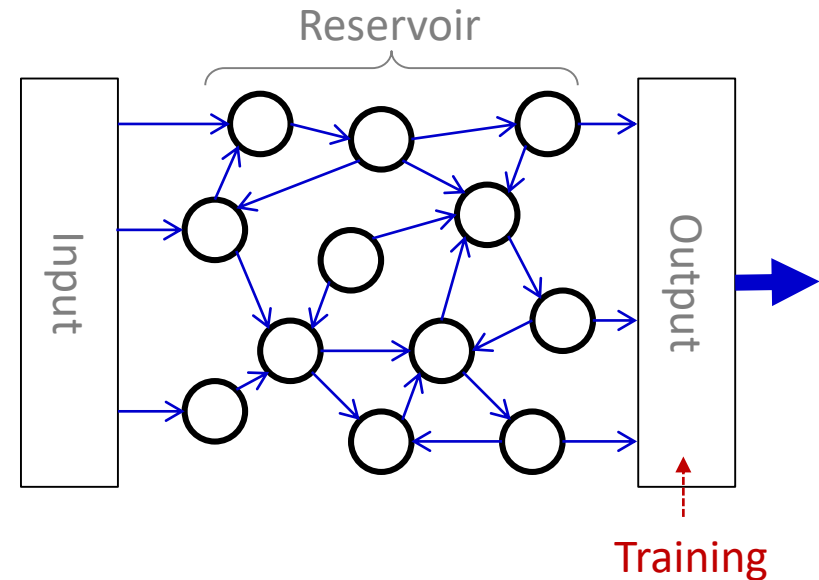
## Hopfield model



J. J. Hopfield, *PNAS* **79**, 2554 (1982).

Artificial synapse with **analog memory functionality** is required.

## Reservoir computing



H. Jaeger & H. Haas, *Science*, **304**, 78 (2004)

Artificial neuron with **non-linearity** and **short-term memory functionality** is required.

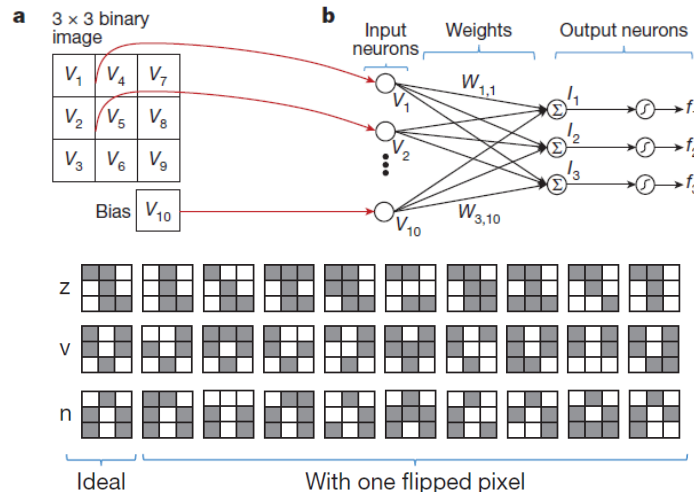
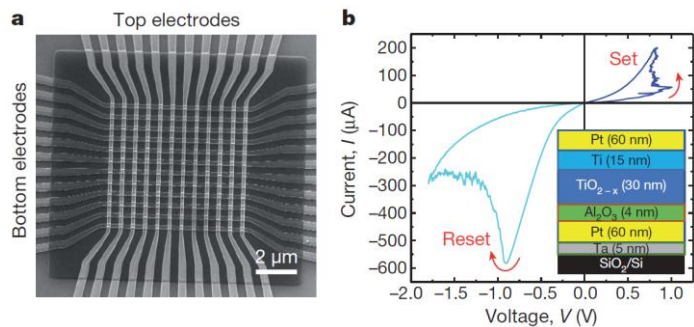
➔ **Emerging devices**



# Road to neuromorphic computing (4)

## Sophisticated architecture with emerging devices (static)

### Metal-oxide memristor ( $\text{TiO}_{2-x}$ )



Pattern classification using single-layer perceptron

M. Prezioso *et al.*, *Nature* **521**, 61 (2015).

### Other examples

**Phase-change**  
Hopfield network  
by IBM (IEDM2013)

**Ferroelectric**  
Hopfield network  
by Panasonic  
(VLSI2013)

**Spintronics**  
Hopfield network  
by Tohoku Univ.  
(APEX2017)

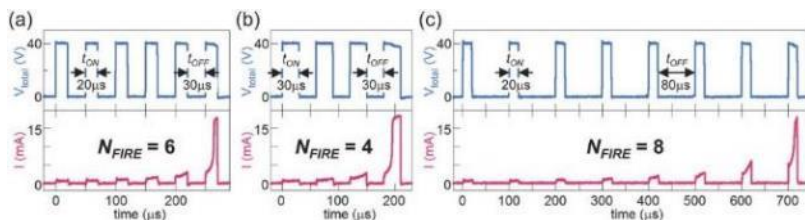
# Road to neuromorphic computing (5A)

## Sophisticated architecture with emerging devices (dynamic)

### Neuron-like element

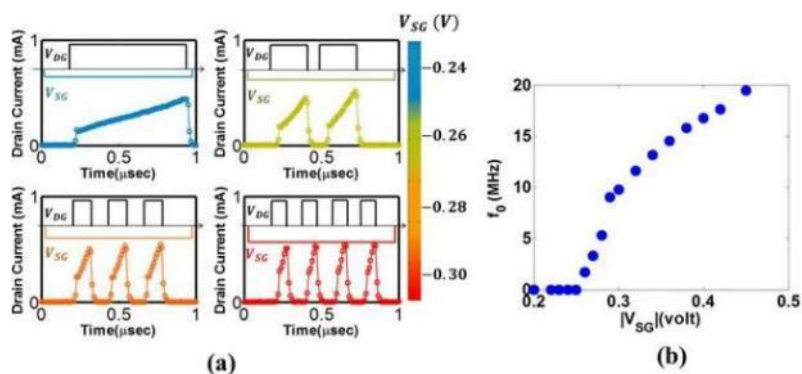
#### Mott Insulator

(Stoliar *et al.*, Adv. Func. Mater. 2017)



#### Floating-body MOSFET

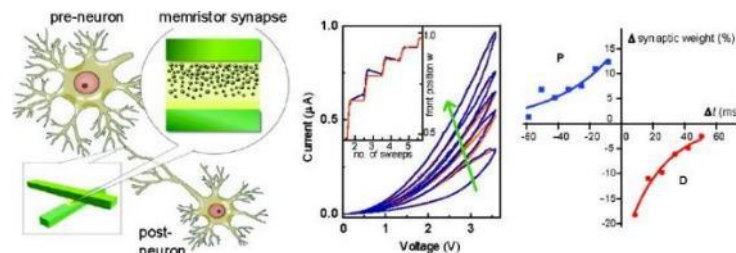
(Datta *et al.*, Sci. Rep. 2017)



### Synapse-like element

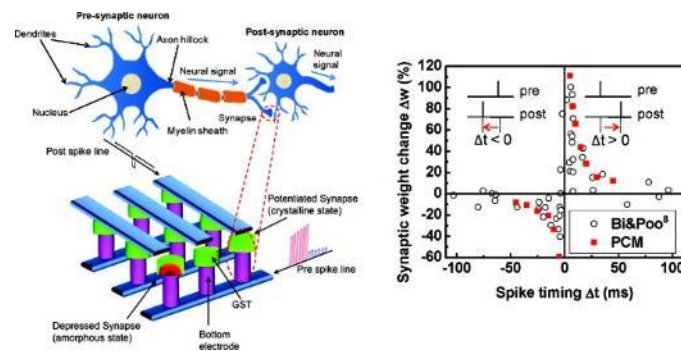
#### Si:Ag (memristor)

(Jo *et al.*, Nano Lett. 2010)



#### Ge<sub>2</sub>Sb<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>5</sub>

(Kazum *et al.*, Nano Lett. 2012)



Spintronics ... Next talk by Aleksandr Kurenkov

# Road to neuromorphic computing (5B)

Sophisticated architecture with **emerging devices (dynamic)**

## Reservoir computing

### **Water in a bucket**

(C. Fernando & S. Sojakka 2003)

### **Memristor array**

(C. Du *et al.* 2017)

### **Octopus**

(K. Nakajima *et al.* 2013)

**Example of spintronics ... described later**

- Software-based approach with **conventional hardware**  
(So-called **AI**)
  - well established
  - requires huge power
- Sophisticated hardware (so-called **ASIC**)
  - can drastically reduce power consumption
- Sophisticated hardware + **MTJ**
  - can further reduce power consumption
- Emerging devices (neuron-like, synapse-like)
  - may have opportunities for **highly-complex tasks** ... what?
  - researches on various material systems on going  
... any chance for spintronics?

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# Features of spintronics

- High speed  
(ns ~ sub ns for FM, sub ns ~ ps for AFM)
- High endurance ( $>10^{15}$ )
- Scalable ( $< 10$  nm)
- Nonvolatile ( $> 10$  years)
- Low voltage ( $< 1$  V)
- Can be formed between interconnect

**MRAM**

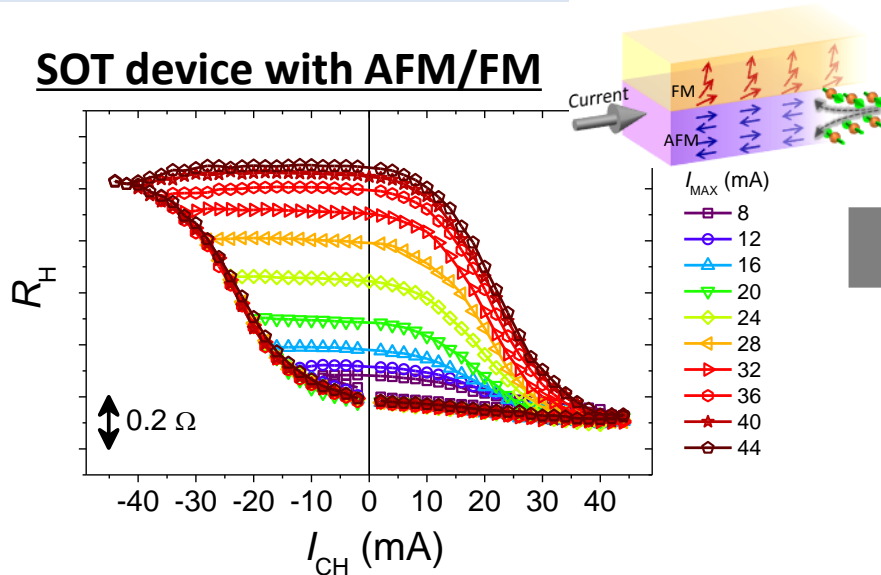
**Neuro-  
morphic**

- **Analog/digital mixed**
- **Short-term memory**
- **Stochasticity**

- [Cons] Low magnetoresistance → needs to be helped by CMOS

# Example 1) Analog memory functionality

## SOT device with AFM/FM



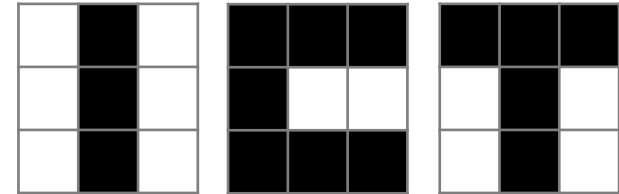
S. Fukami *et al.*, Nature Mater. **15**, 535 (2016).  
Poster by G. Krishnaswamy, SF *et al.*

- Controlling domain structure allows analog memory.

### Similar behavior:

- **CuMnAs** ... P. Wadley *et al.*, Science (2016);  
K. Olejnik *et al.*, NCOMMS (2017).
- **Mn<sub>2</sub>Au** ... S. Y. Bodnar *et al.*, NCOMMS (2018);  
M. Mainert *et al.*, PRAppl (2018).
- **NiO** ... X. Z. Chen *et al.*, PRL (2018);  
T. Moriyama *et al.*, SciRep (2018).

## Associative memory

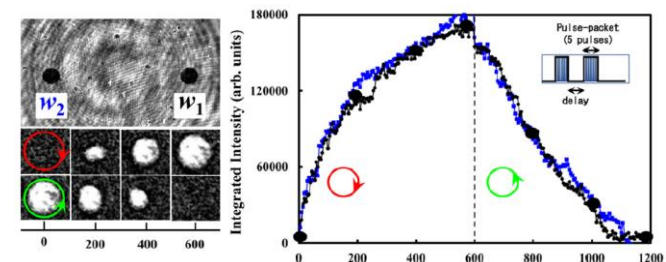


W. A. Borders, SF *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Express **10**, 013007 (2017).

- 36 analog SOT devices used as artificial synapse in Hopfield network.

## Another example

### Helicity-dependent optical switching in Co/Pt

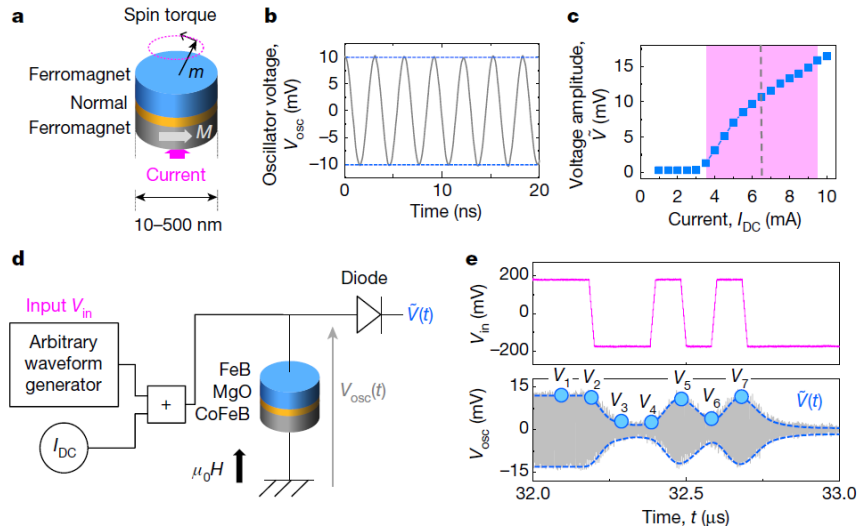


## Supervised perceptron learning demonstrated

A. Chakravarty *et al.*, APL (2019)

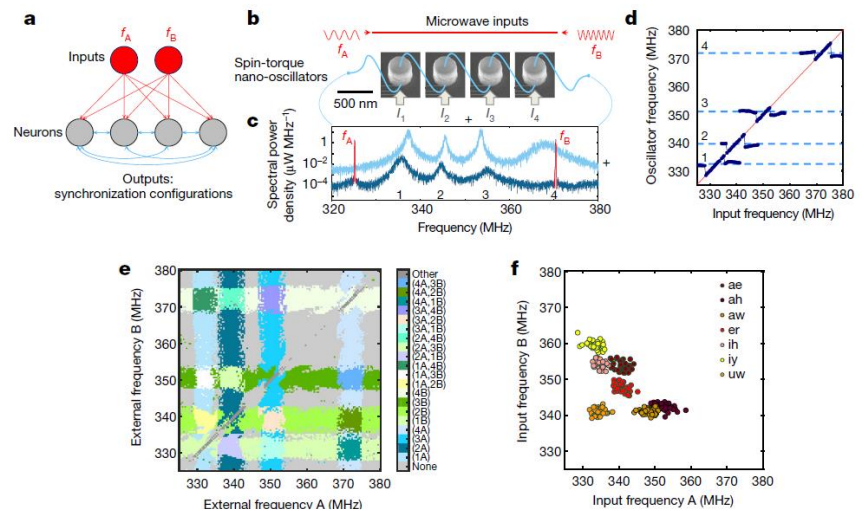
# Example 2) Short-term memory functionality

## Spoken digit recognition



J. Torrejon *et al.*, Nature **547**, 428 (2017)

## Vowel recognition



M. Romera *et al.*, Nature **563**, 230 (2018).

Also, ...

- Synchronization functionality of STO is useful for pattern matching.

M. R. Pufall *et al.*, IEEE J. Explor. Solid-State Comput. Dev. Cir. **1**, 76 (2015).

- Skyrmion fabrics, spin wave in garnet, ... can be used for reservoir layer.

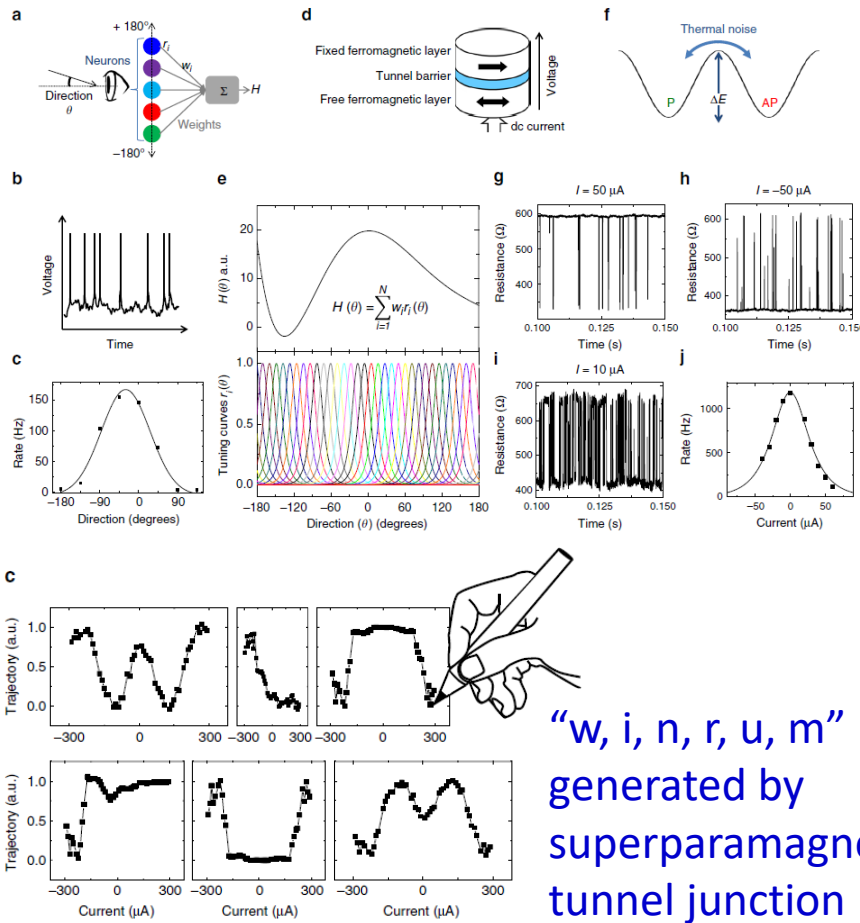
D. Prychynenko *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Appl. **9**, 014034 (2018).

R. Nakane *et al.*, IEEE Access **6**, 4462 (2018).



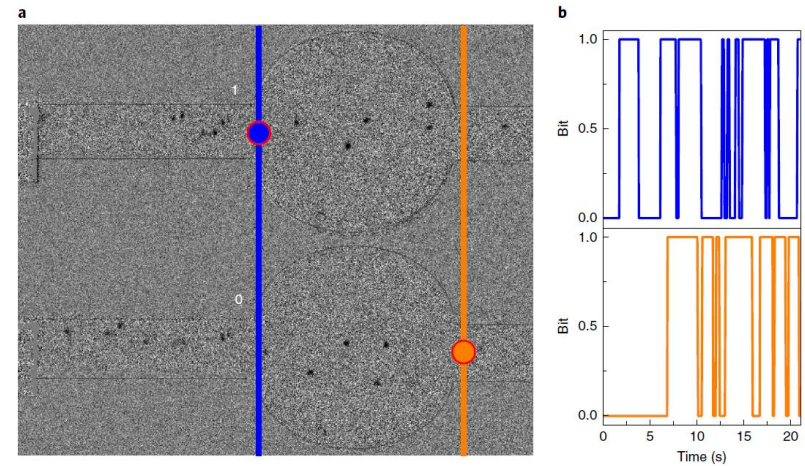
# Example 3) Stochasticity

## Population coding



A. Mizrahi *et al.*, NCOMMS 9, 1533 (2018).

## Stochastic computing



Brownian motion of skyrmion to generate uncorrelated random bit

J. Zázvorka *et al.*, NNANO 14, 658 (2019).

Probabilistic computing  
... described later

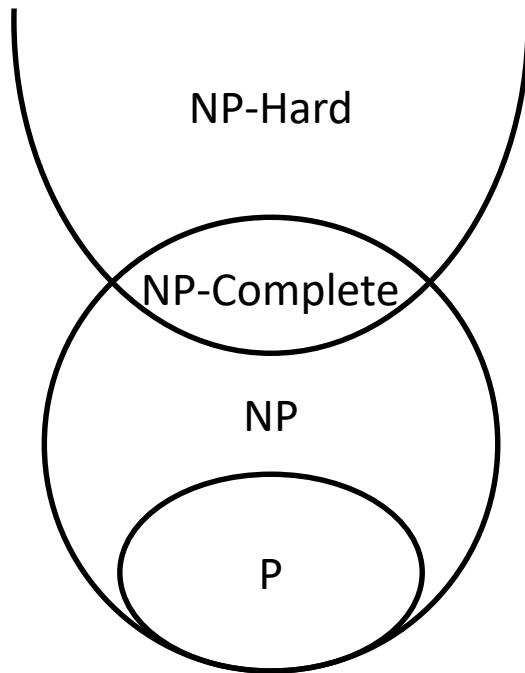
# Challenges and opportunities of spintronics

(my thought)

- Spintronics is attractive in terms of rich attributes (**analog, dynamics, stochastic, ...**) and controllability.
- **Small-scale proof-of-concept demonstration** has been going well.
- **Large-scale performance demonstration** compared with competing technologies will be demanded in future.
- Need to be conscious of **integration into CMOS** circuits.
- Need to find applications that are difficult for other technologies.

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# Computational complexity



## Class P

Problems that can be solved by a deterministic Turing machine using a polynomial time.

## Class NP

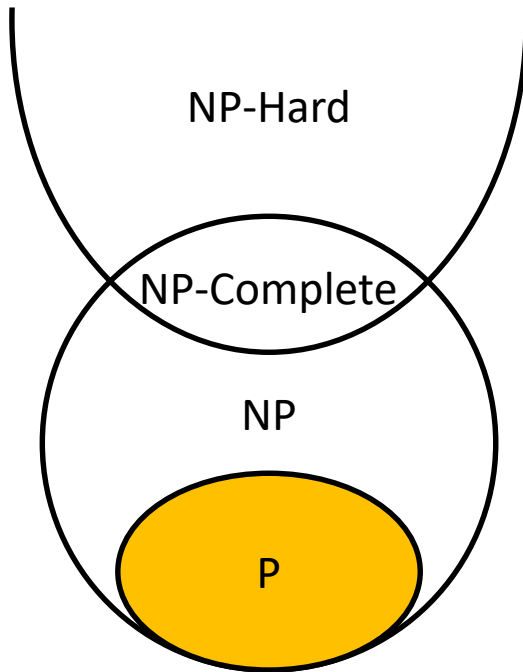
Problems where the validity of answer can be verified with polynomial time.

## Class NP-Hard

Problems that are informally "at least as hard as the hardest problems in NP".

# Problem 1) Class P

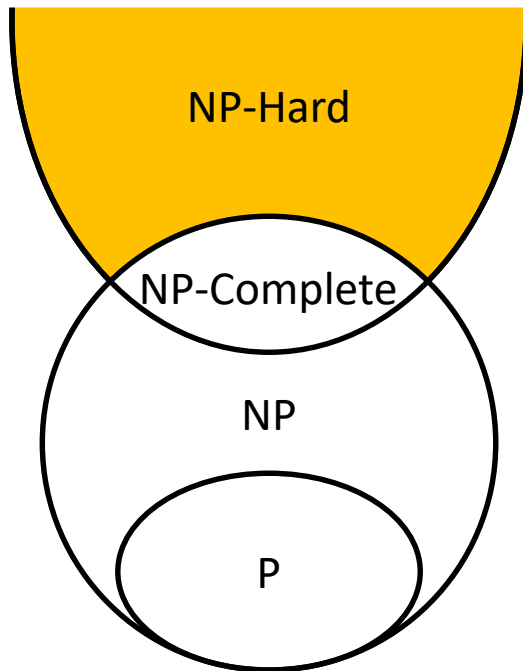
Q. You will travel the cities below.  
How long does it take?



1. Frankfurt
2. Munich
3. Roma
4. Milano
5. Marseille
6. Barcelona
7. Madrid
8. Paris
9. London
10. Amsterdam
11. Stockholm
12. Warsaw
13. Frankfurt

# Problem 2) Class NP-Hard

Q. You are at Frankfurt. You should visit the cities below once and return to Frankfurt. What's the shortest route?



- Munich
- Roma
- Milano
- Marseille

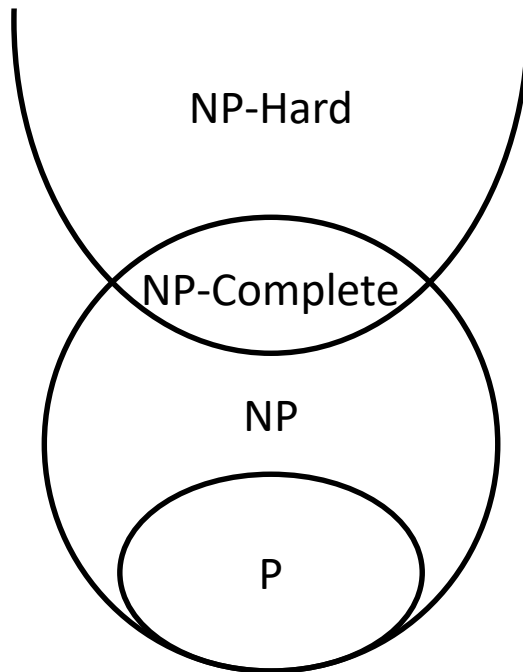
- Amsterdam
- Stockholm
- Warsaw

30 cities →  $4.42 \times 10^{30}$  patterns →  $10^{13}$  years !!! by high-performance computer  
(Lifetime of sun ...  $10^9$  years)

# Integer factorization

$$35 = 5 \times 7$$

$$161 = 23 \times 7$$



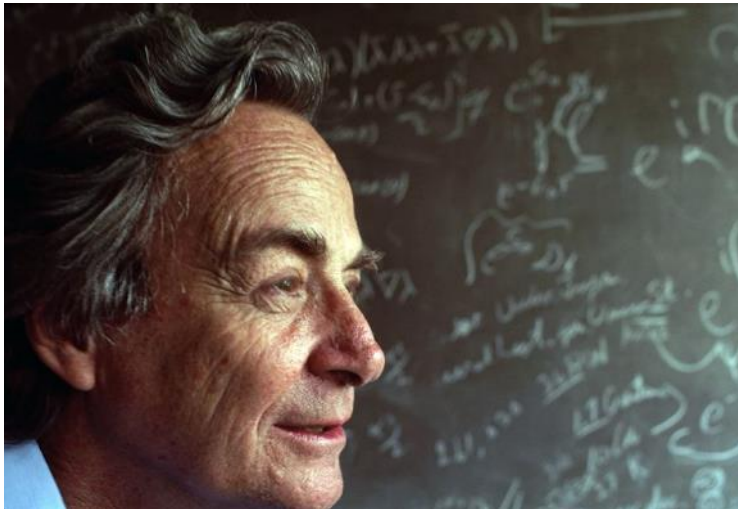
- Belong to Class NP(-hard) (controversial)
- Very difficult for classical computers
  - State-of-the-art computer at 2007 took 2.5 years to factorize 768 bit.  
T. Kleinjung *et al.*, Advances in Cryptology – CRYPTO 2010 p. 333 (2010)
- Applied to data encryption
- Known to be efficiently solved by quantum computer (Shor's algorithm)

Other examples in difficult-class problem:

- Calculation of wave function of molecules, weather forecast, ...

# Richard Feynman said ...

## “Simulating Physics with Computers”



<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02781-4>

Physics of Computation Conference  
at MIT  
on May 6-8, 1981

*“If you want to make a simulation of nature, you’d better make it quantum mechanical, ...”*



**Quantum computing**

*“...the other way to simulate a probabilistic nature is by a computer which itself is probabilistic, ...”*



**Probabilistic computing**



$$P(E, T) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp \left[ -\frac{E(\Gamma)}{k_B T} \right]$$

... Boltzmann distribution

The lowest energy state is most-frequently observed.

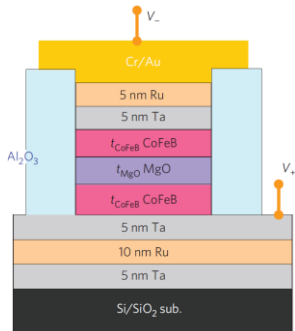
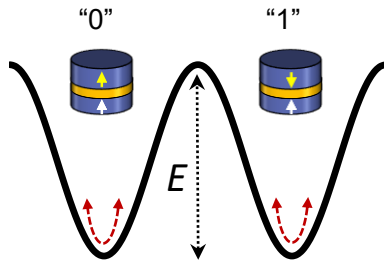
(The lowest energy state is observed at  $T \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow$  Annealing)

## Procedure of probabilistic computing

1. Defining **energy (cost function)** for the given problem.
2. Mapping to **physical system with probabilistic nature**.
3. Taking **statistics** of stochastic neurons.
4. You will obtain the answer as the state **that had been observed most frequently**.

# Stochastic magnetic tunnel junction

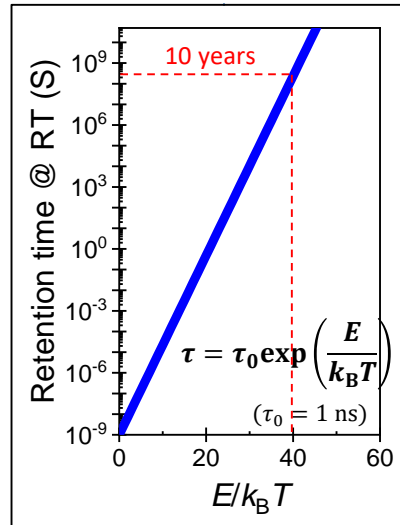
## MRAM



$$\frac{E}{k_B T} = 40$$

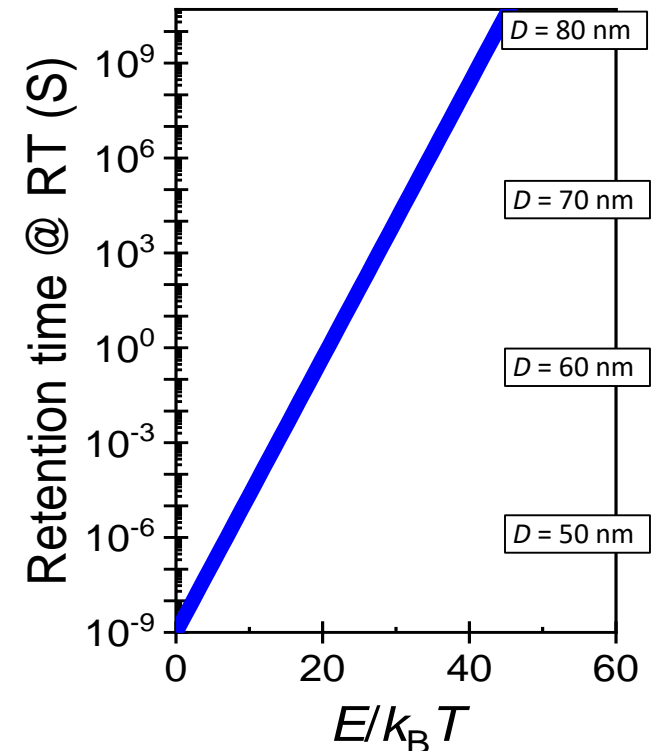
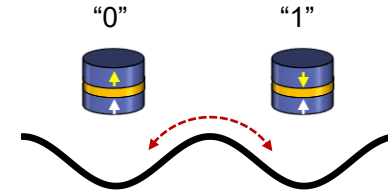
@  $t_{\text{CoFeB}} = 1.7 \text{ nm}$

S. Ikeda *et al.*, NMAT 9, 721 (2010)


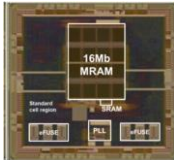


W. F. Brown, Phys. Rev. 130, 1677 (1963).


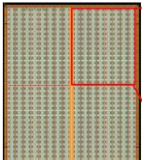
## Probabilistic bit (p-bit)





W. A. Borders *et al.*, Nature 573, 390 (2019).


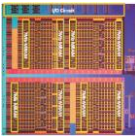
**16 Mb.**  
VLSI2018

**128 Mb.**  
IEDM2018

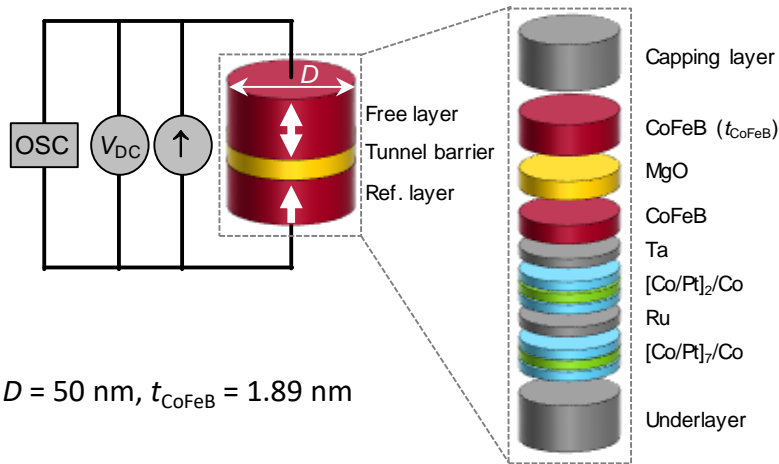



**8 Mb.**  
IEDM2018

**7 Mb.**  
ISSCC2019

# Spintronics p-bit

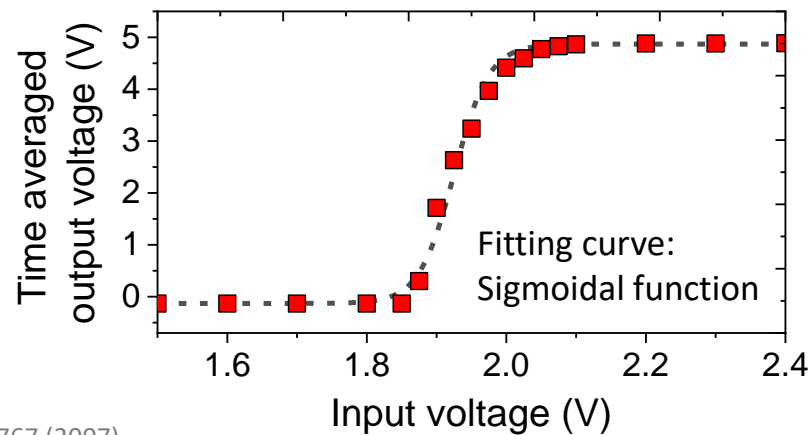
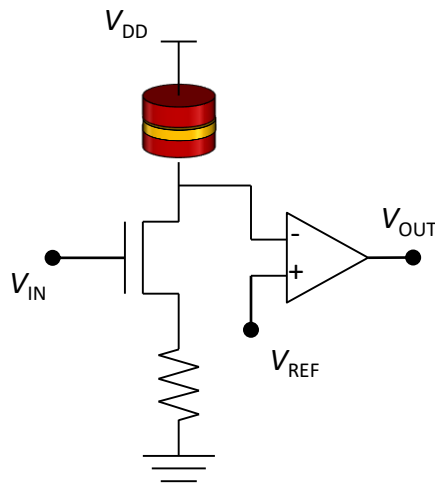


$D = 50 \text{ nm}$ ,  $t_{CoFeB} = 1.89 \text{ nm}$

$I = -13.0 \mu\text{A}$

$I = -11.0 \mu\text{A}$

$I = -9.0 \mu\text{A}$



Stochastic neuron!

# Used algorithm for integer factorization

$$E = (XY - F)^2$$

Optimum combination of X and Y that minimize E  
(Optimization problem)

$$\begin{cases} X = 1 + 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 8x_3 + \dots \\ Y = 1 + 2y_1 + 4y_2 + 8y_3 + \dots \end{cases}$$

## ◆ Example) Factorizing 35 (= F) by 4 bits ( $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2$ )

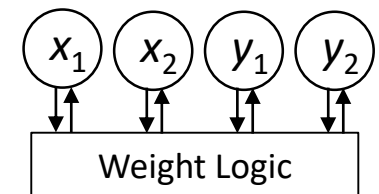
coefficients are rounded off to have one significant digit.

$$E = -0.3x_1 - 0.7x_2 - 0.3y_1 - 0.7y_2 - x_2y_1 - 1.4x_2y_2 - 0.6x_1y_1 - x_1y_2 + 0.3x_1y_1y_2 + x_2y_1y_2 + 0.3x_1x_2y_1 + x_1x_2y_2 + 0.7x_1x_2y_1y_2$$

3-body interaction

4-body interaction

$$\begin{cases} I_{x_1} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_1} = 0.3 + 0.6y_1 + 1.0y_2 - 0.3y_1y_2 - 0.3x_2y_1 - 1.0x_2y_2 - 0.7y_1x_2y_2 \\ I_{x_2} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_2} = 0.7 + 1.0y_1 + 1.4y_2 - 1.0y_1y_2 - 0.3x_1y_1 - 1.0x_1y_2 - 0.7x_1y_1y_2 \\ I_{y_1} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial y_1} = 0.3 + 0.6x_1 + 1.0x_2 - 0.3x_1y_2 - 1.0x_2y_2 - 0.3x_1x_2 - 0.7x_1x_2y_2 \\ I_{y_2} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial y_2} = 0.7 + 1.0x_1 + 1.4x_2 - 0.3y_1x_1 - 1.0y_1x_2 - 1.0x_1x_2 - 0.7x_1x_2y_1 \end{cases}$$

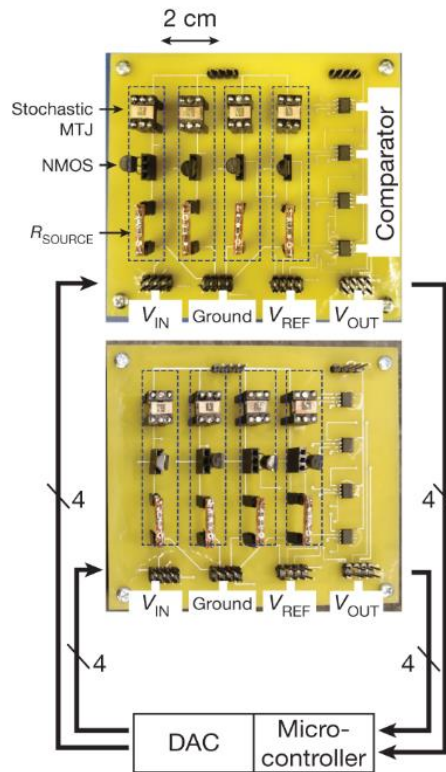


# Result of integer factorization

$F = 35$

$F = 161$

$F = 945$



# Points

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- Possible to operate at **room temperature**
- Based on **Mb-level** of STT-MRAM technology
- Easy to implement **many-body interaction**
- Small

0. Preface
1. General introduction to neuromorphic computing
2. Status and prospect of spintronics
3. Recent example: probabilistic computing using stochastic magnetic tunnel junction
4. Conclusion

# ● Announcement #1



<http://www.spin.riec.tohoku.ac.jp/17thRIEC/index.html>

## Topics

Antiferromagnetic spintronics,  
Spin-orbitronics,  
Unconventional computing

## Special Lecturers

**Irina Kataeva** (DENSO Corp.)

“Tutorial on neuro-computing for automotive applications”

**Masayuki Ohzeki** (Tohoku University)

“Tutorial on Quantum Annealing”

Free of charge

Submit an abstract for poster presentation

## Confirmed Invited Speakers

Johan Åkerman (Gothenburg)  
Martin Aeschlimann (Kaiserslautern)  
Jingsheng Chen (Singapore)  
Tomasz Dietl (Warsaw)  
Atsufumi Hirohata (York)  
Aleš Hrabec (Zürich)  
Stéphane Mangin (Lorraine)  
Keith McKenna (York)  
Shigemi Mizukami (Tohoku)  
Yuriy Mokrousov (Jülich)  
Teruo Ono (Kyoto)  
Yoshichika Otani (Tokyo)  
Daniele Pinna (Mainz)  
Philipp Pirro (Kaiserslautern)  
Günter Reiss (Bielefeld)  
Eiji Saitoh (Tohoku/Tokyo)  
Takeshi Seki (Tohoku)  
Masafumi Shirai (Tohoku)  
Mark Stiles (NIST)  
Yoshishige Suzuki (Osaka)  
Rie Umetsu (Tohoku)  
Seonghoon Woo (IBM)  
Jörg Wunderlich (Cambridge)



## ● Announcement #2

# JAP Special Topic: **Antiferromagnetic Spintronics**

This Special Topic includes - but is not limited to - the following areas:

- Electrical or optomagnetic control of antiferromagnets
- Spin-orbit interactions and torques
- Ultrafast spin dynamics
- Antiferromagnetic textures: Domain walls, skyrmions, etc.
- Spin waves
- Characterization and imaging of antiferromagnets
- Microfabrication and thin film deposition techniques
- Spin transport properties including spin hall effect, spin galvanic effect, etc.
- Topological Hall effect
- Chiral anomaly
- Controlled exchange coupling
- Interaction with topologically protected electronic states
- Calculations of magnetic structure
- Insulating and metallic antiferromagnets
- Collinear vs noncollinear antiferromagnets
- Antiferromagnet/ferromagnet interfaces
- Synthetic antiferromagnets
- Memory devices
- Neuromorphic/brain-inspired computing

**Submission  
Deadline:  
February 28, 2020**

### **Guest Editors**

Virginia O. Lorenz  
(University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Shunsuke Fukami  
(Tohoku University)

Olena Gomonay  
(Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

# Take-home messages

- Classical computing hardware is inefficient for complex tasks.
- Employing brain-like architecture and nonvolatile memory drastically reduce power consumption.
- Employing emerging devices may have a chance for further complex tasks. But what are they?
- Spintronics is attractive. But, competitive?
- Spintronics p-bit is promising for optimization problems.

W. A. Borders *et al.*, *Nature* **573**, 390 (2019).

## Review paper:

1. S. Fukami and H. Ohno, "Perspective: Spintronic synapse for artificial neural network," *J. Appl. Phys.* **124**, 151904 (2018).
2. J. Grollier, D. Querlioz, K. Y. Camsari, K. Everschor-Sitte, S. Fukami, M. D. Stiles "Neuromorphic spintronics" to be published in *Nature Electronics* (2019).