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Self-Terminating Write of Multi-Level Cell ReRAM for Efficient Neuromorphic Computing

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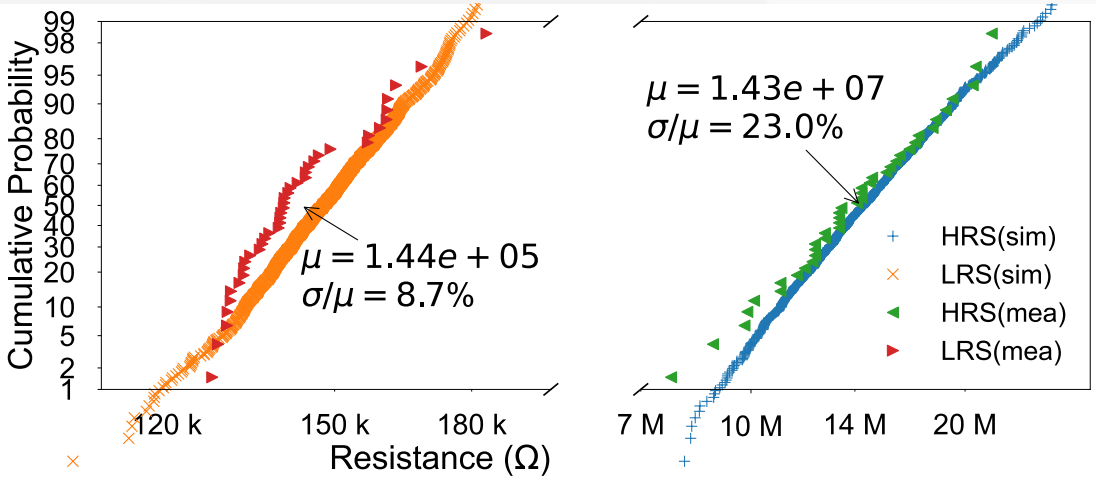
Self-Terminating Write Scheme Overview

Challenges In ReRAM-based PIM

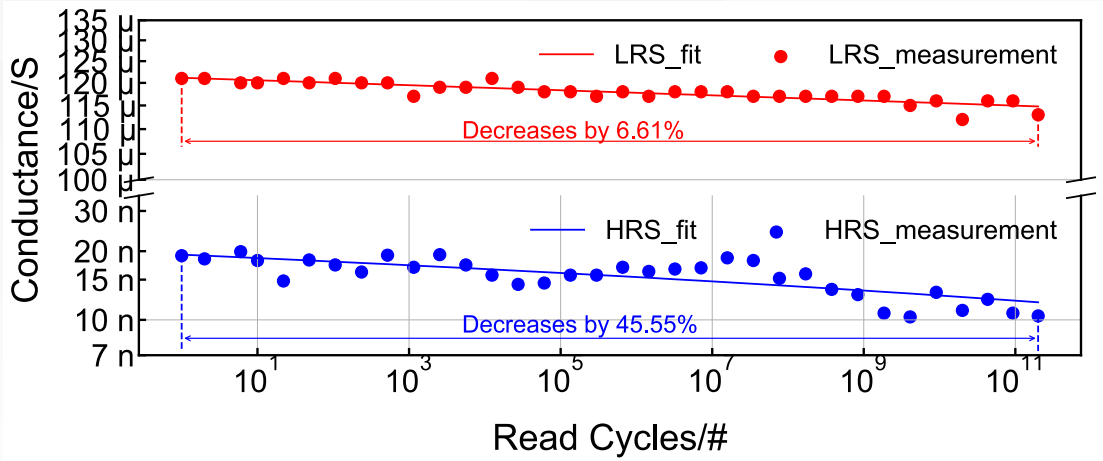
- **ReRAM has intrinsic write variation**
- **Read disturb induces resistance drifting**
- **Write-verify scheme is relative slow**

Write variation (CDF vs resistance)



- Measurement and simulation results comparison
- C2C variation exists in programming
- Set and Reset have significant write variation (8% and 23%, respectively)

Read disturb (conductance vs. #read times)

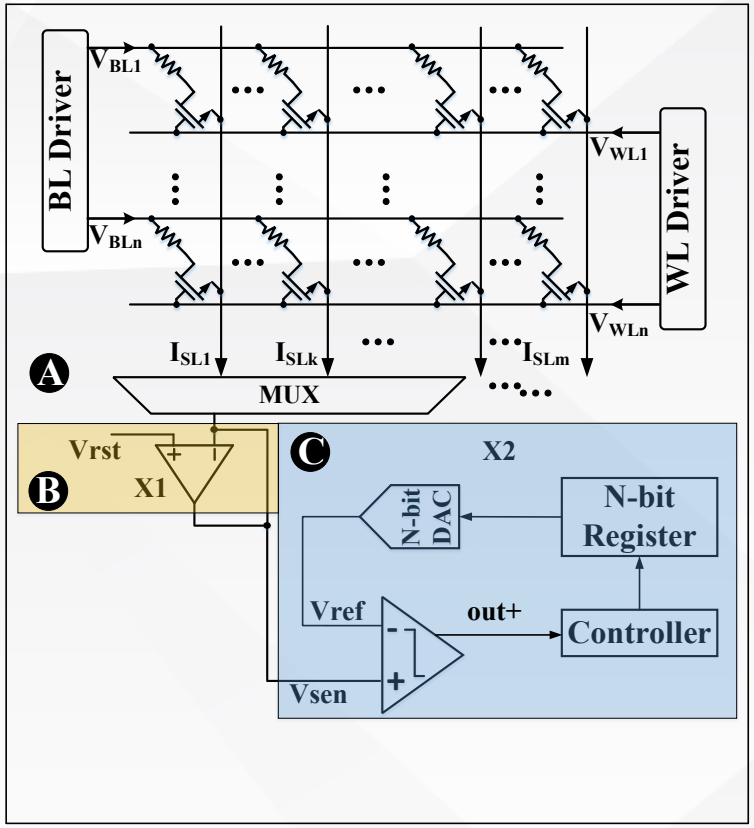


- ReRAM suffers from read induced drifting
- In-Memory computing equivalents to read
- Reliability test shows 6.6% and 45.6% drifting

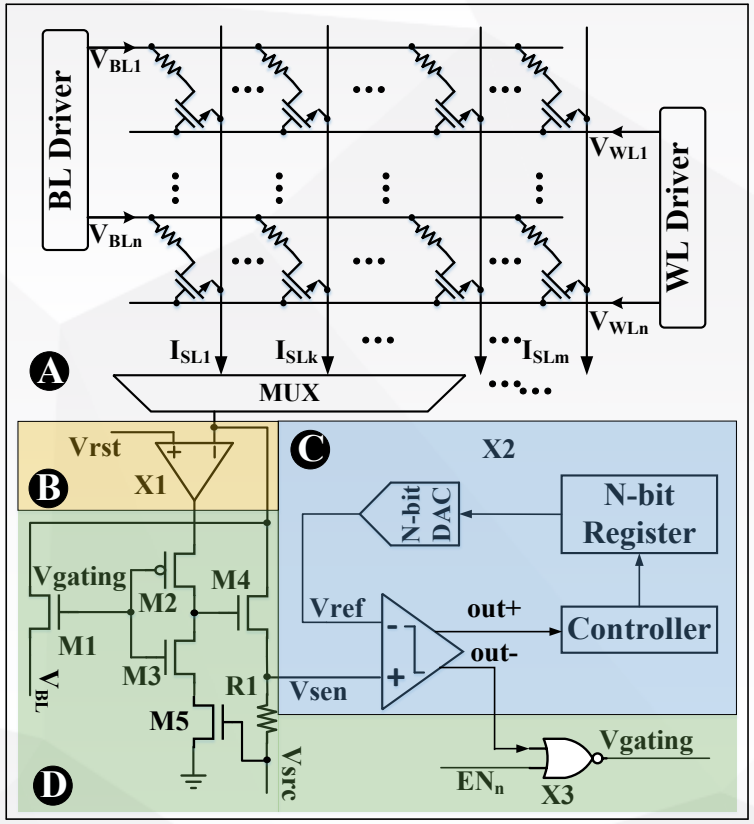
Proposed Solution

- **Heavily peripherals reuse achieves precise self-terminating scheme(2-bit)**
- **Pick appropriate programming range according to circuit design**
- **Compare to Write-verify scheme, Reduce the latency and energy by 4.7x and 2x, respectively**

Self-Terminating Write Scheme Design



Existing ReRAM-based PIM system



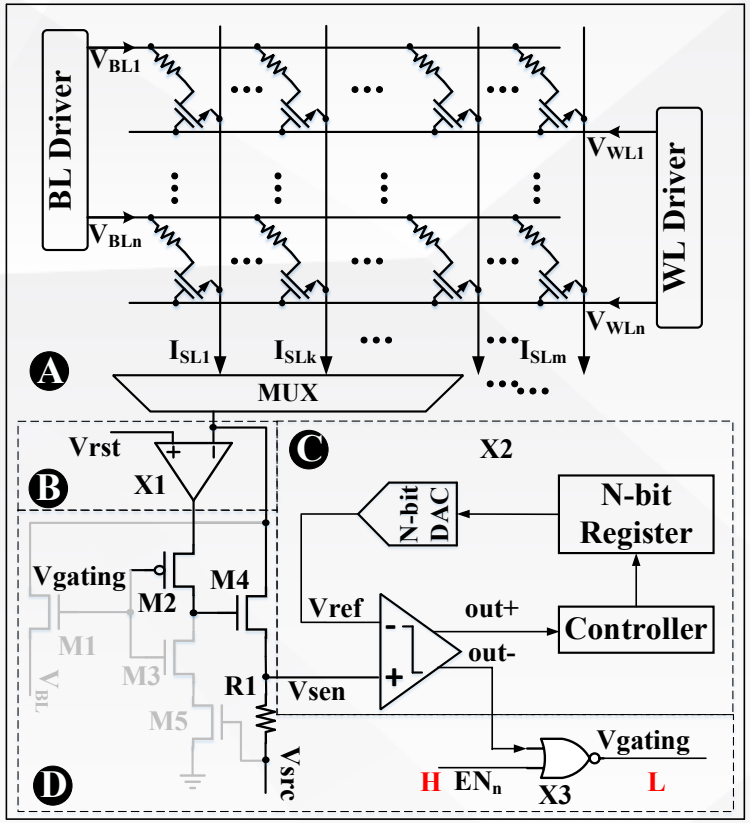
ReRAM MLC STW Schematic

A: ReRAM Array
B: TIA module
C: SAR-ADC
D: Verdict module

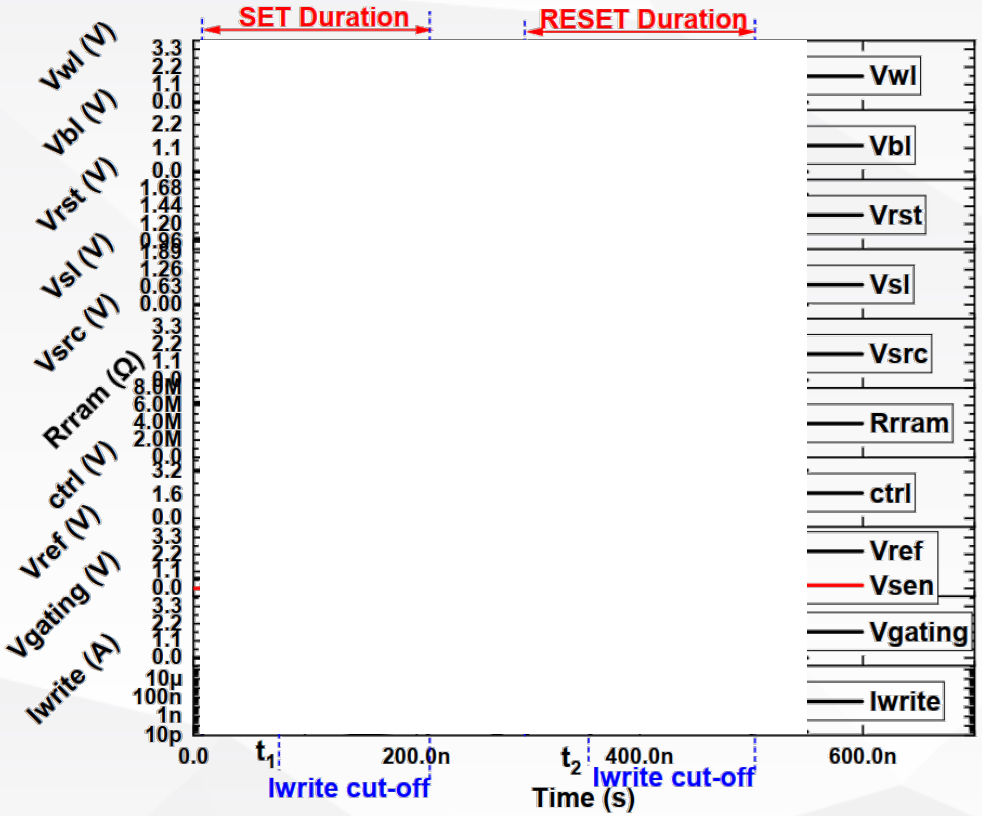
Proposed Self-Terminating Write Scheme

- Heavily reuse the peripherals in ReRAM-based PIM system (3 + 1 modules)
- Implementing both Set and Reset termination with circuit sharing (3 modes)
- Ultra-compact design contributes to low cost and fast feedback (high precision)

Self-Terminating Write Transition Waveform



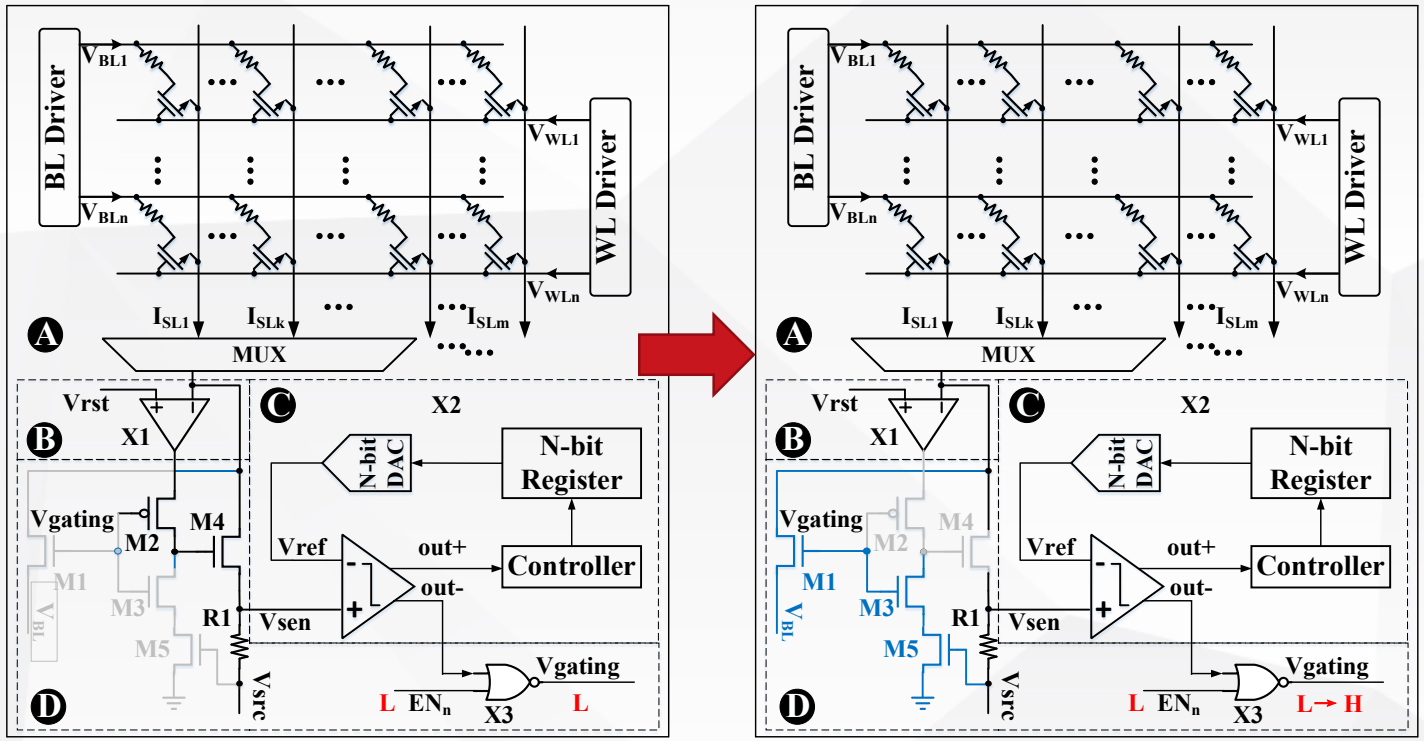
Inference Mode Transition



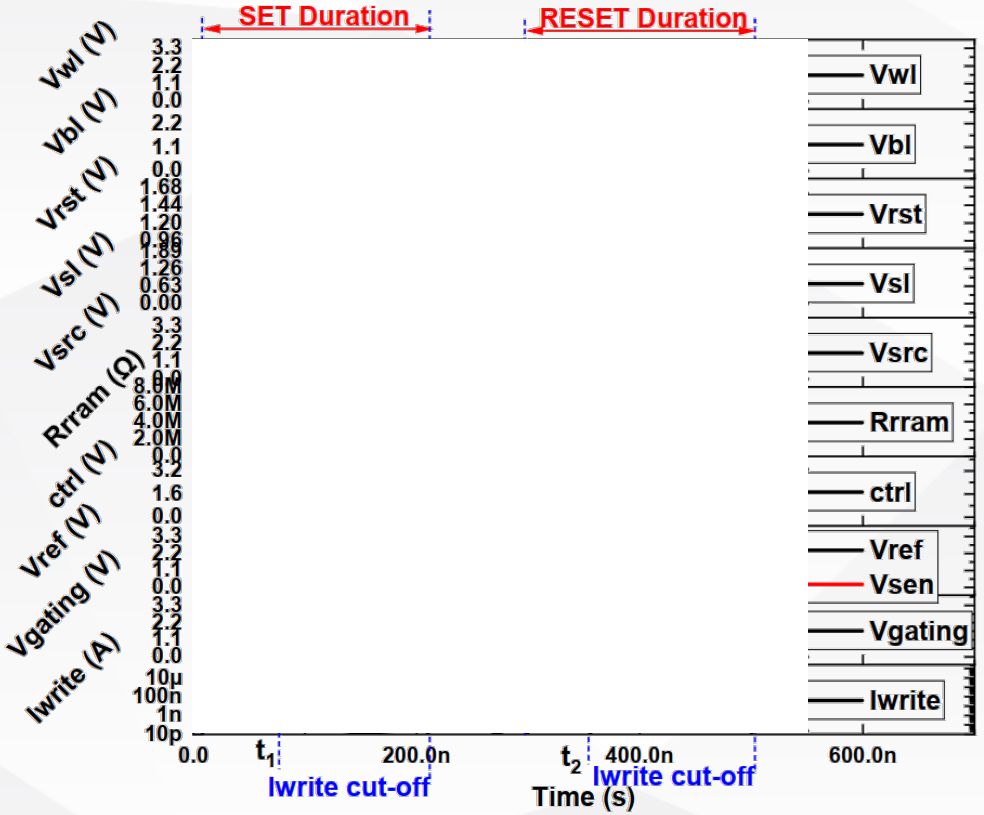
Programming Waveform

MODE	EN_n	VBL	Vsrc	COND	Vsen	Vout-	Vgating
Inference	H	Vread	GND	-	-	-	L
Set_term	L	Vset	GND	↗	↗	↘	↗
Rst_term	L	GND	VDD	↘	↗	↘	↗

Self-Terminating Write Transition Waveform



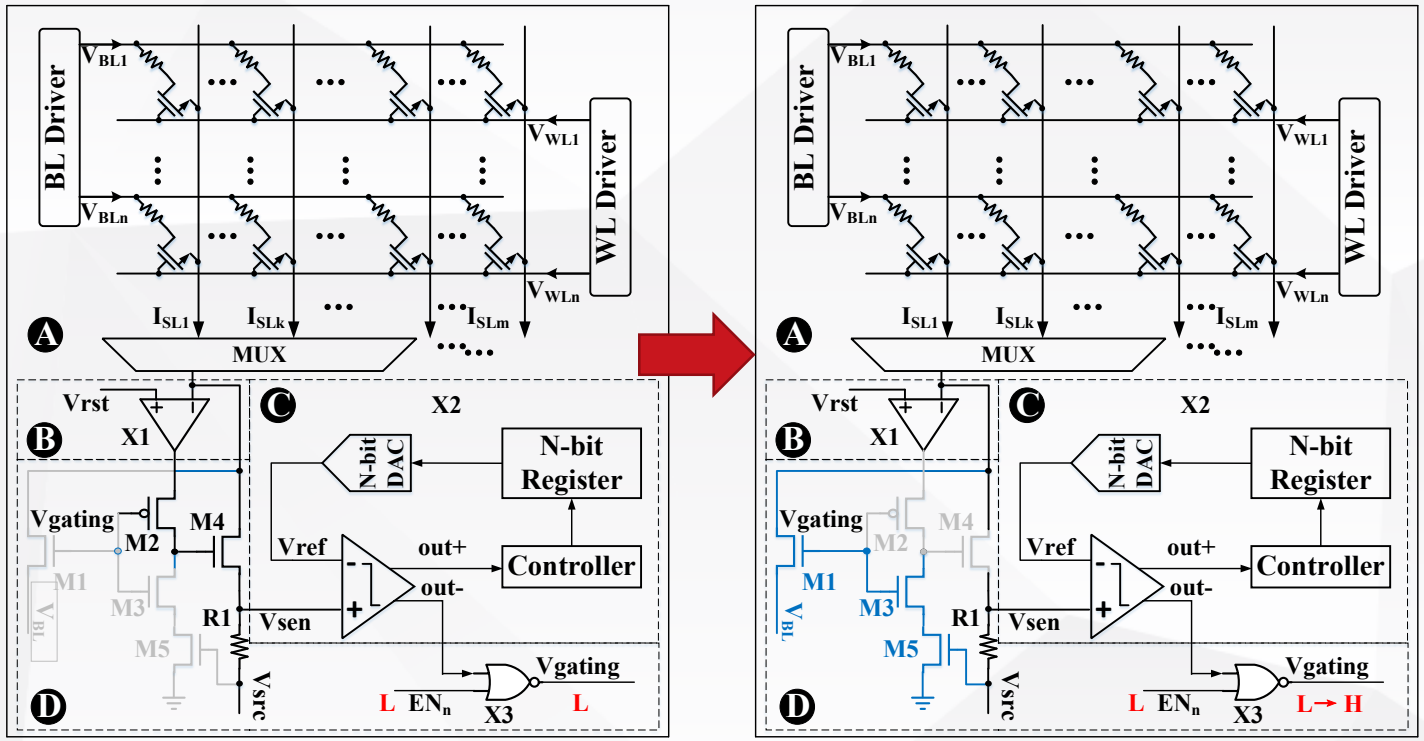
SET Terminating Transition



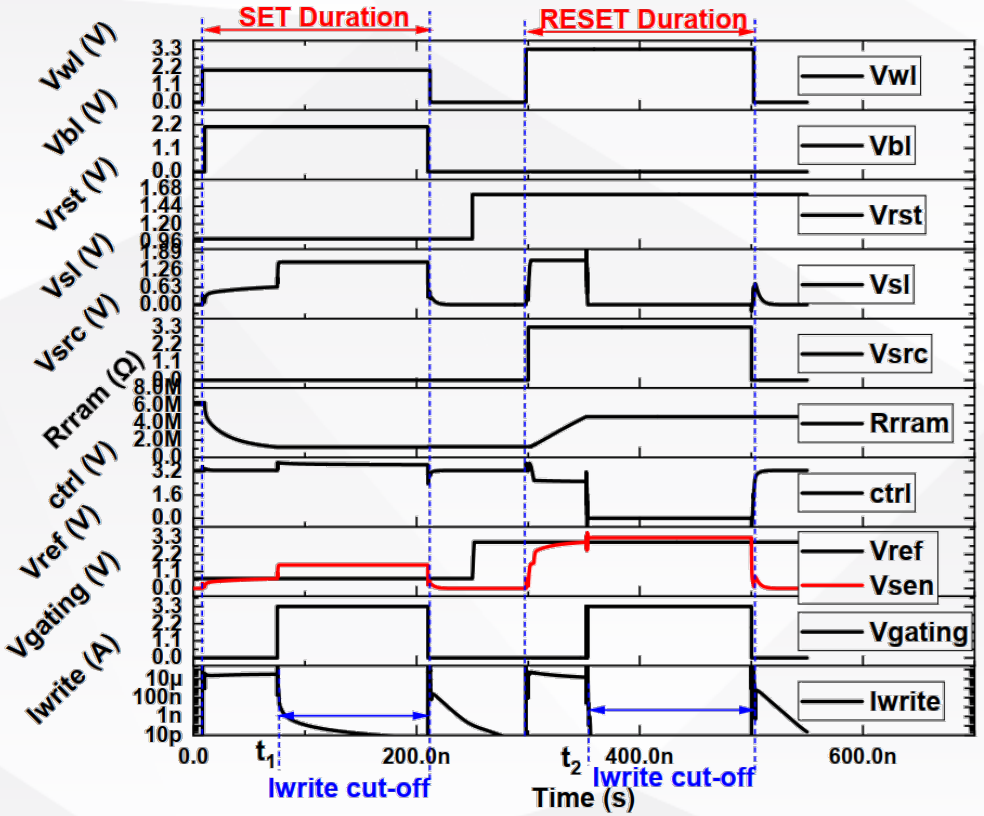
Programming Waveform

MODE	EN_n	VBL	Vsrc	COND	Vsen	Vout-	Vgating
Inference	H	Vread	GND	-	-	-	L
Set_term	L	Vset	GND	↗	↗	↘	↗
Rst_term	L	GND	VDD	↘	↗	↘	↗

Self-Terminating Write Transition Waveform



RESET Terminating Transition



Programming Waveform

MODE	EN_n	VBL	Vsrc	COND	Vsen	Vout-	Vgating
Inference	H	Vread	GND	-	-	-	L
Set_term	L	Vset	GND	↗	↗	↘	↗
Rst_term	L	GND	VDD	↘	↗	↘	↗

Conclusion

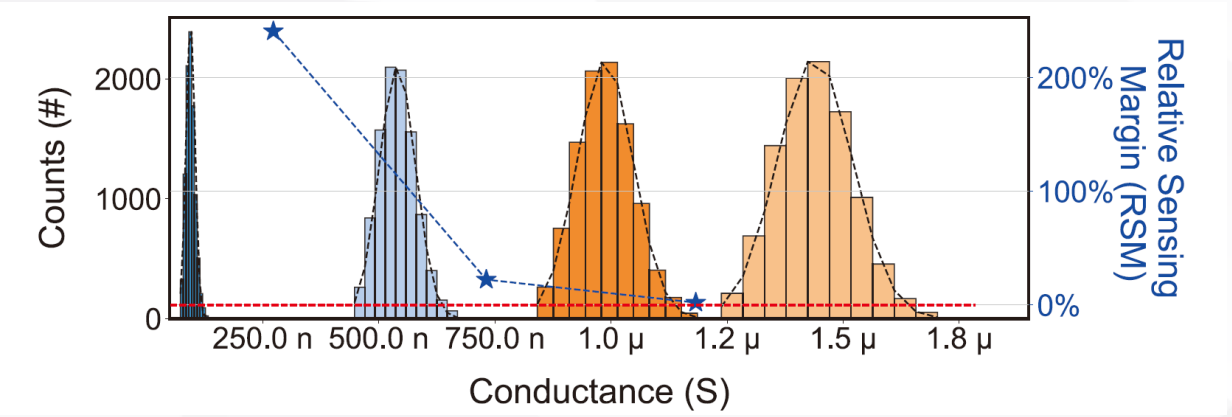
- No difference between set & reset

Self-Terminating Write Scheme Evaluation

	Structure	Area	Terminate	Precision
This work	**2Amp+5T+NOR**	**Medium**	**both**	**2 bits**
JSSC-2013 [10]	2Amp+R+30T +DelayUnit+others	Large	both	1 bit
ISSCC-2014 [24]	4T	Small	set	1 bit
IEDM-2017 [6]	RESET: Amp+4SW+6T SET: 5T	Medium	both	1 bit
ISSCC-2021 [25]	2Amp+R+5T+3INV +AND+Delay Unit	Large	set	1 bit

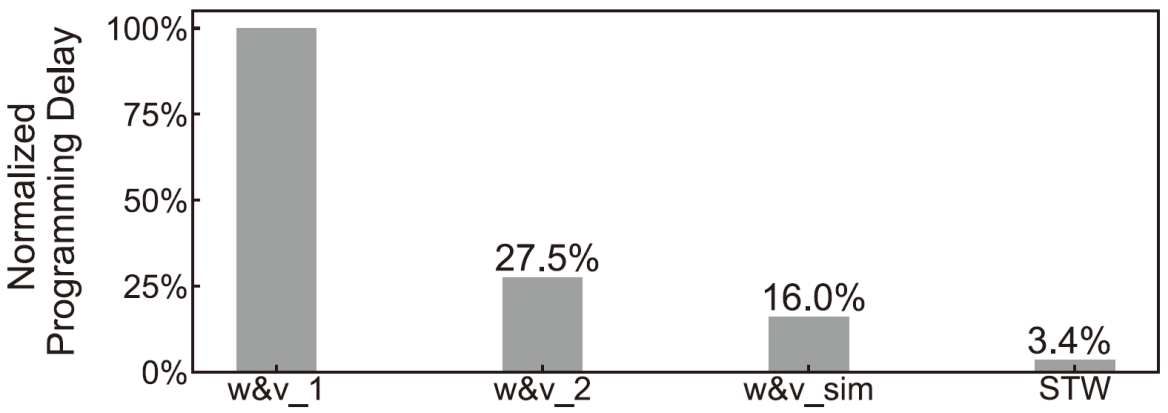
Comparison with previous works (area, programming polarity and precision) :

- Reduces area overhead by peripherals reuse
- Supports both Set and Reset termination
- Achieves 2-bit MLC self-terminating



10^4 trials MC simulation with range selection algorithm

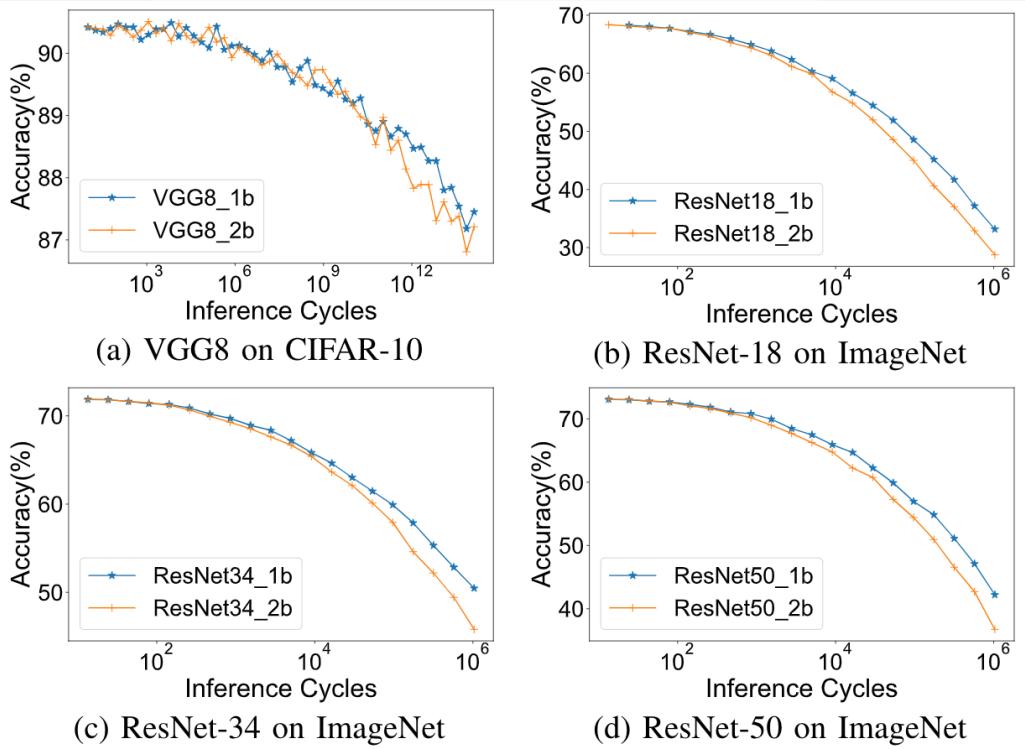
- the proposed STW scheme achieves 2-bit precision



Latency comparison between different schemes

- STW scheme shows 4.7x speedup (conservative)

Self-Terminating Write Scheme Evaluation

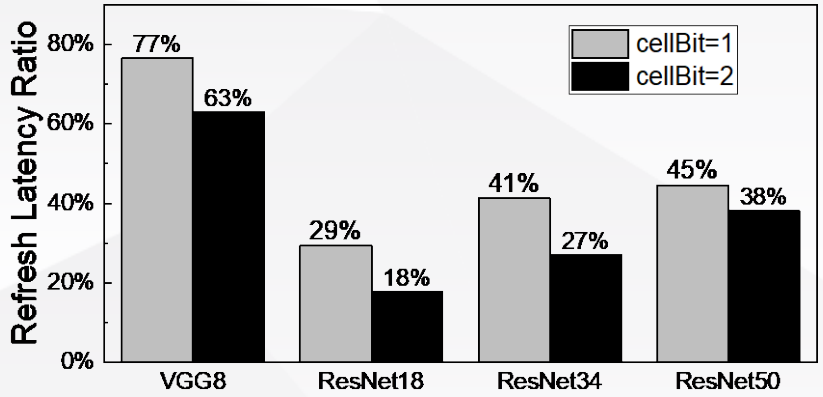


(a) VGG8 on CIFAR-10 (b) ResNet-18 on ImageNet

(c) ResNet-34 on ImageNet (d) ResNet-50 on ImageNet

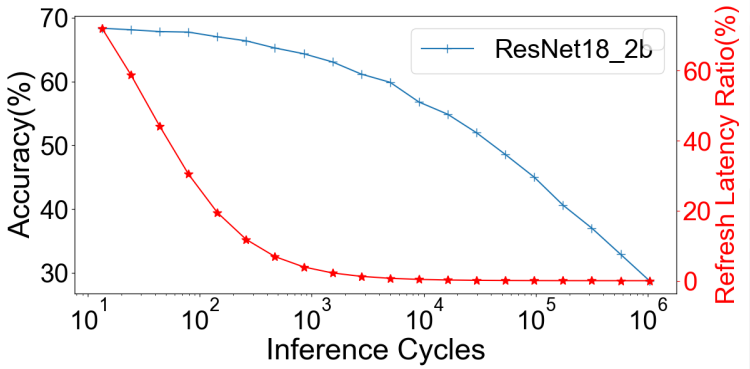
Impact of Read disturb on inference accuracy:

- Accuracy loss with the continuous inference after the network deployed
- MLC can reduce the storage/computation cost, but it is more vulnerable to read disturb



Proportion of delay on different networks

- Ratio of refresh latency is low on compact networks
- From the perspective of deployment cost, programming delay is an important factor



Refresh Frequency and Accuracy Balancing:

- The lower the refresh frequency, the lower the proportion of refresh delay, but the lower the accuracy

Conclusion

1. An auto-calibrate Framework

- Provides an easy-use and confident ReRAM compact model

2. A valid self-terminated programming scheme for MLC

- Heavily reuses the original peripheral
- Compact design achieves low cost and high precision
- Reduce the latency and energy by 4.7x and 2x, respectively

3. Cross-layer simulation (device/circuit/system) to validate the design

Thanks for Listening

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