

Driving Moore's Law with Python-Powered Machine Learning

Trent McConaghy, PhD
Founder & CTO @ ADA | Solido | ascribe.io



Outline

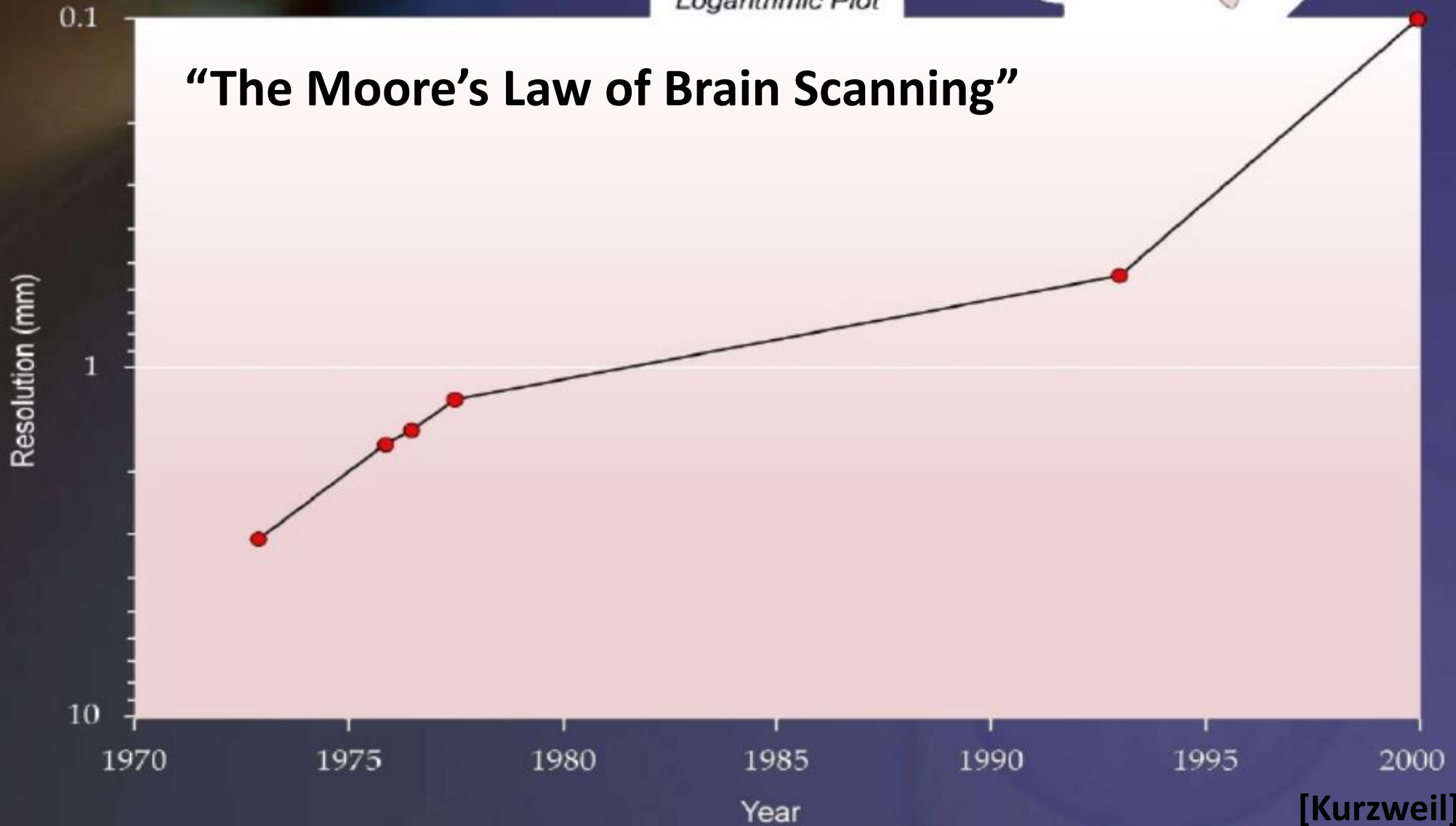
- Moore's Law
- Python, ML, & Moore's Law

Resolution of Noninvasive Brain Scanning

Logarithmic Plot



“The Moore’s Law of Brain Scanning”

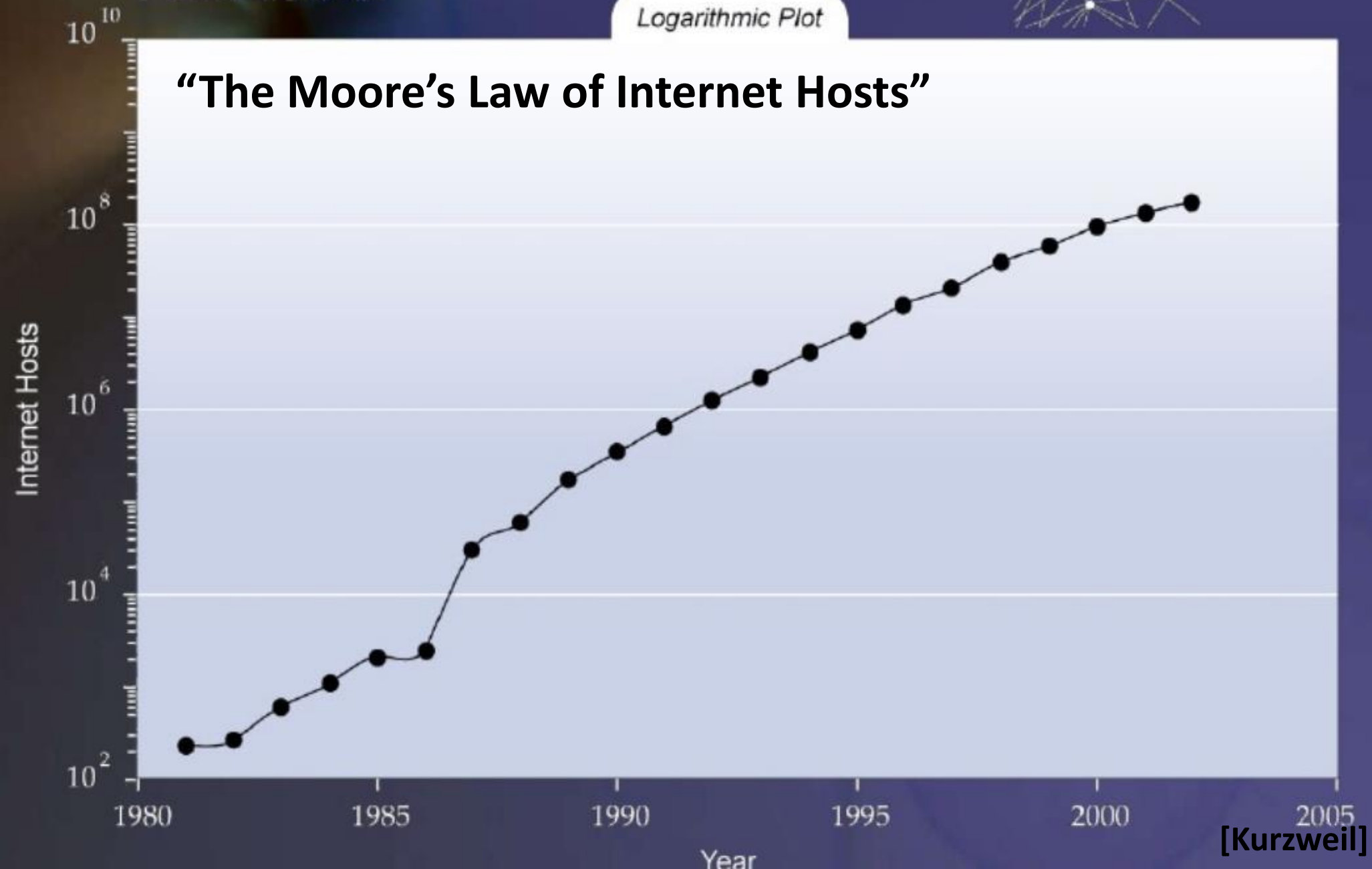


Internet Hosts

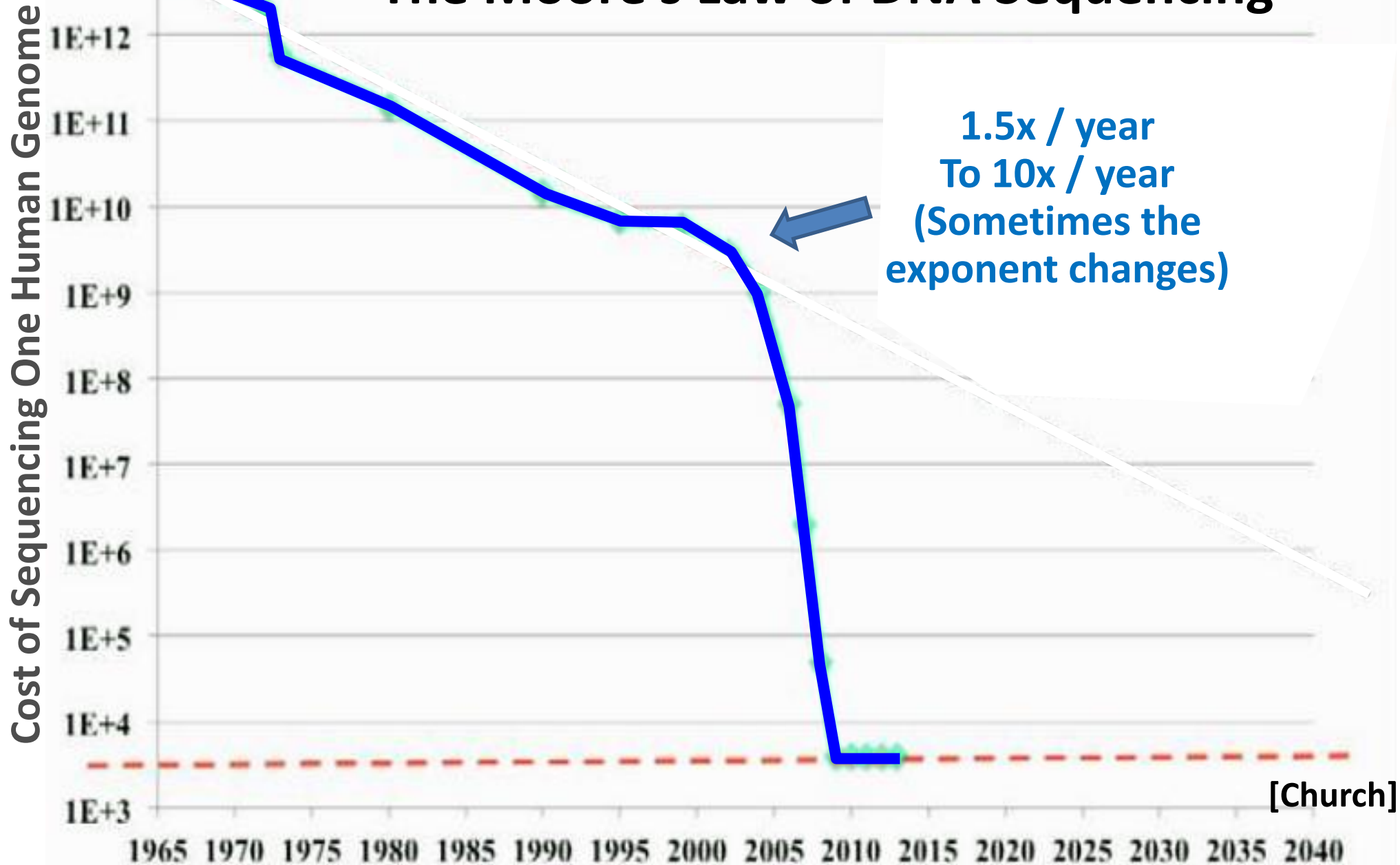
Logarithmic Plot



“The Moore’s Law of Internet Hosts”

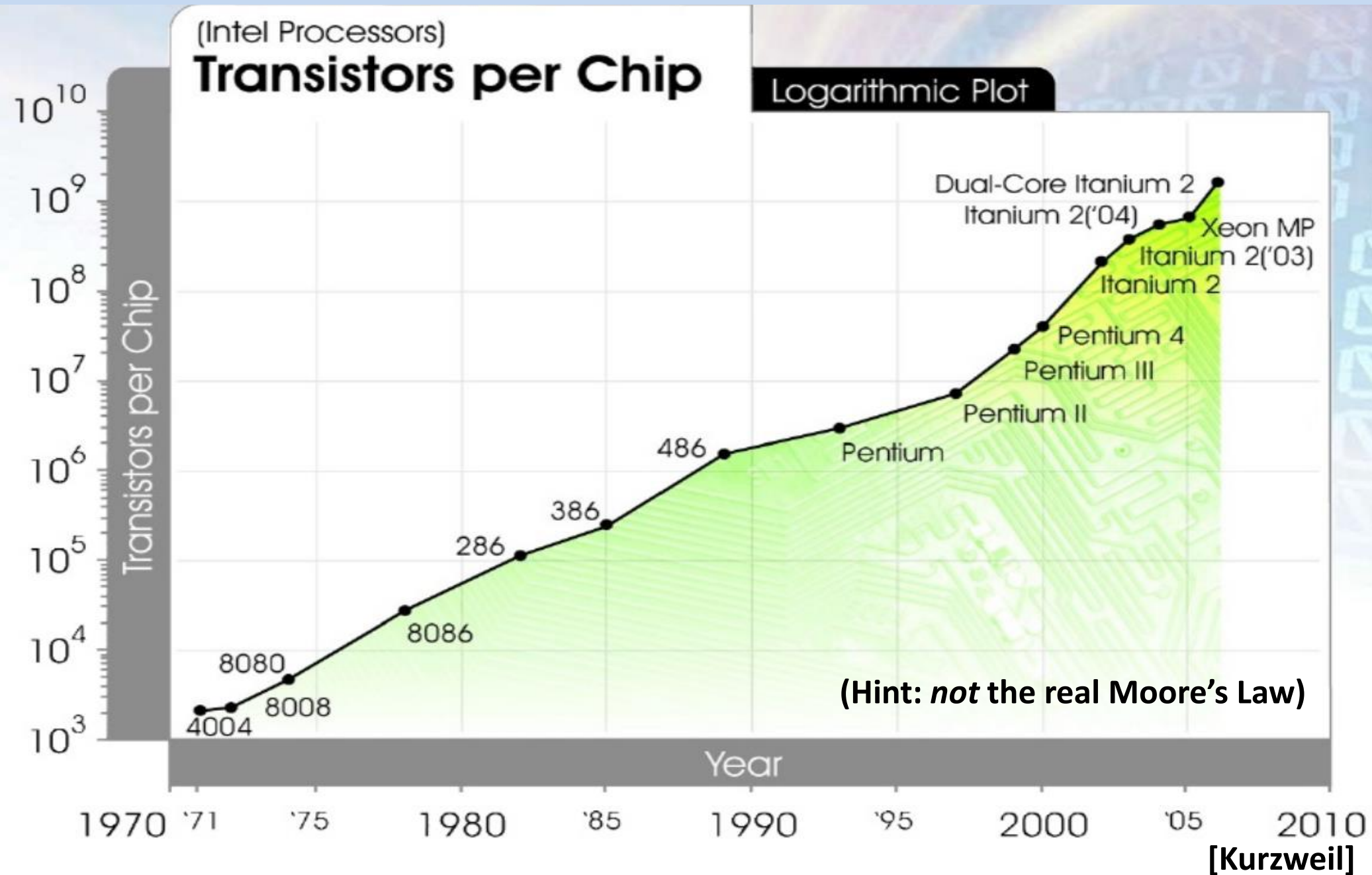


The Moore's Law of DNA Sequencing

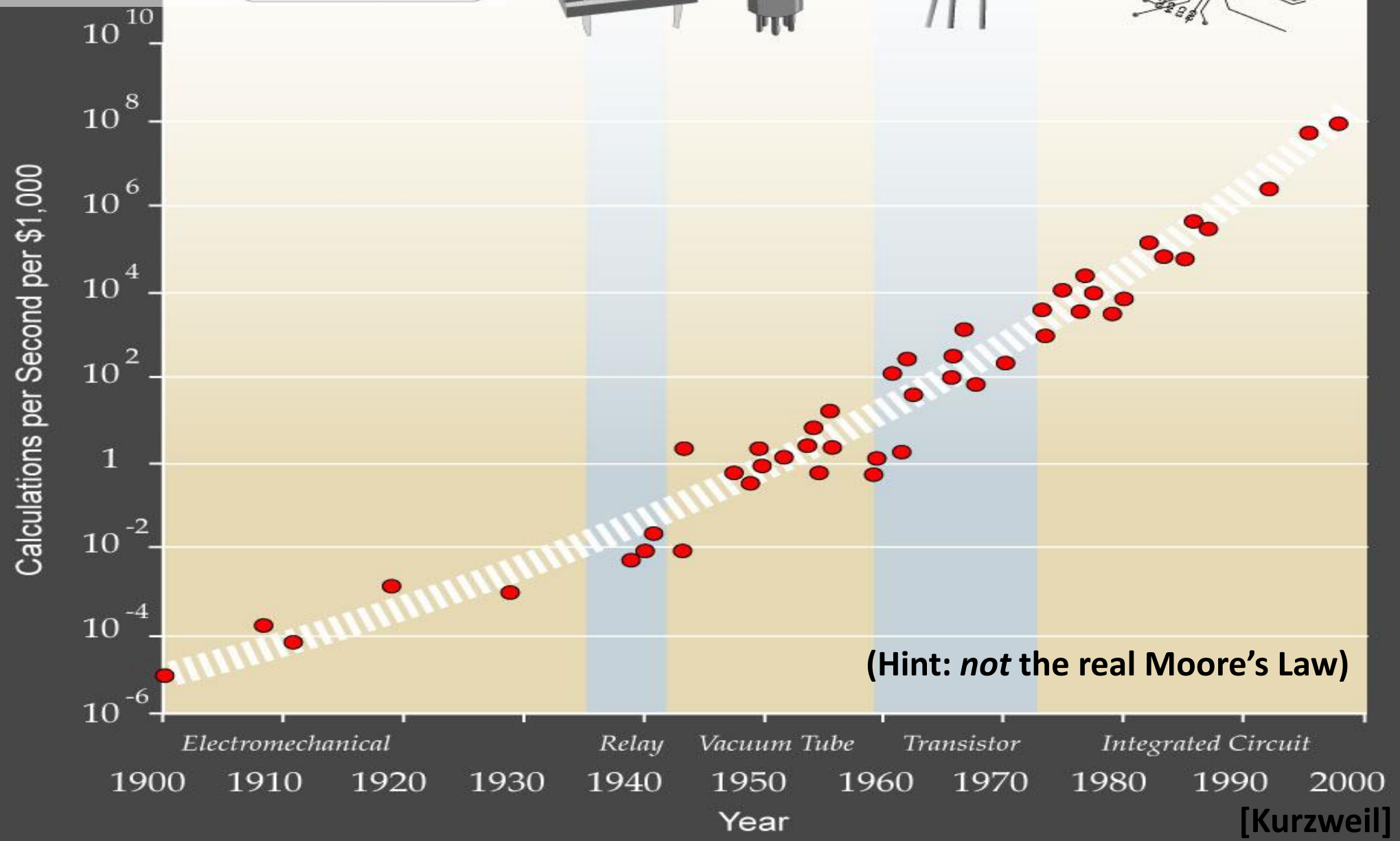
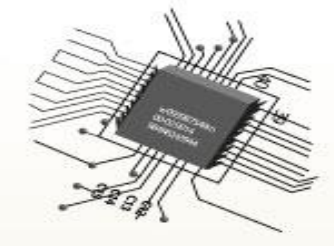


[Church]

Will the Real Moore's Law Please Stand Up? (Please stand up)



The Moore's Law of Calculations per \$

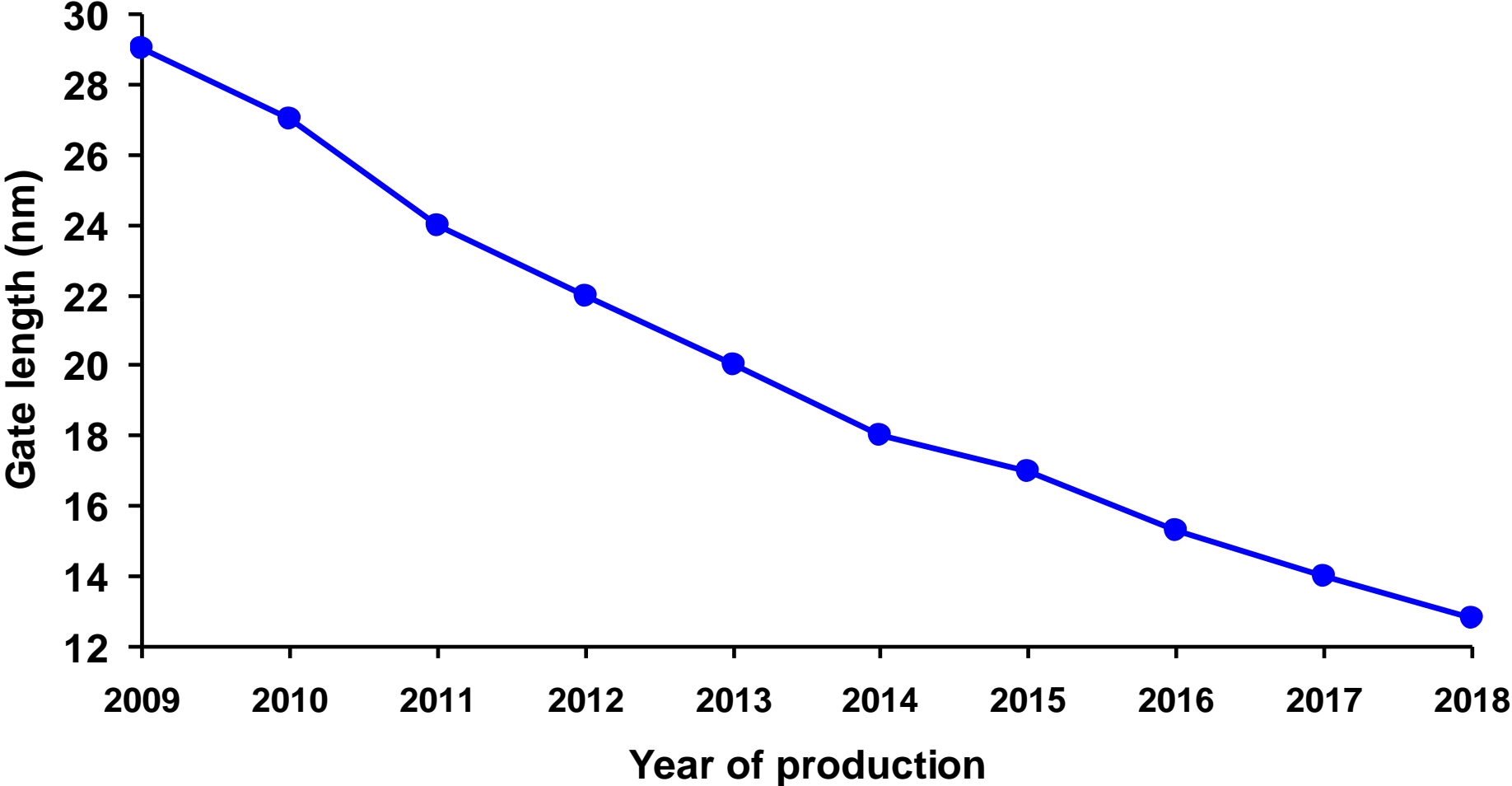


(Hint: *not* the real Moore's Law)

[Kurzweil]

The *Actual* Moore's Law

(About *transistor size*.)

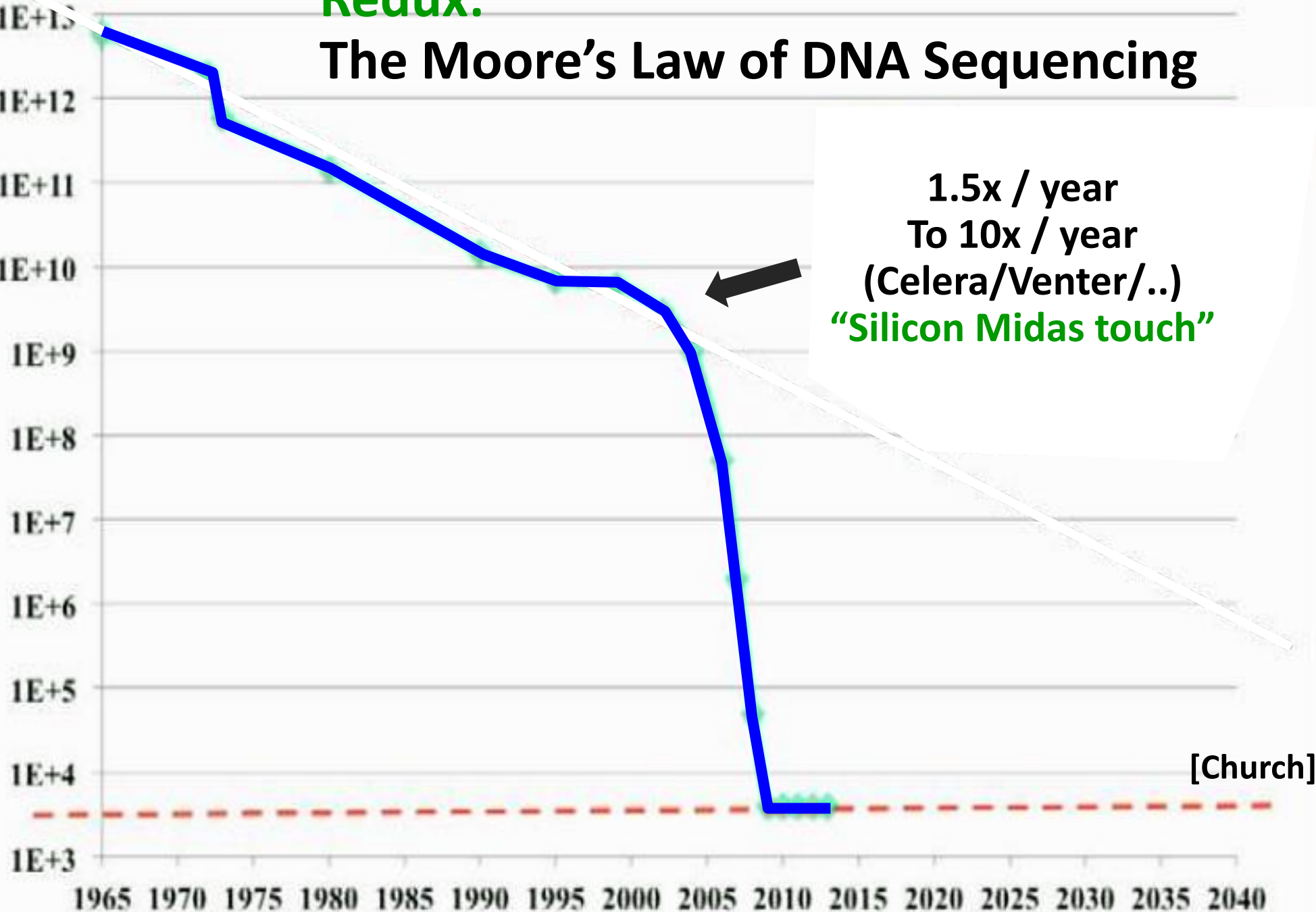


[International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors, 2011]

Redux:

The Moore's Law of DNA Sequencing

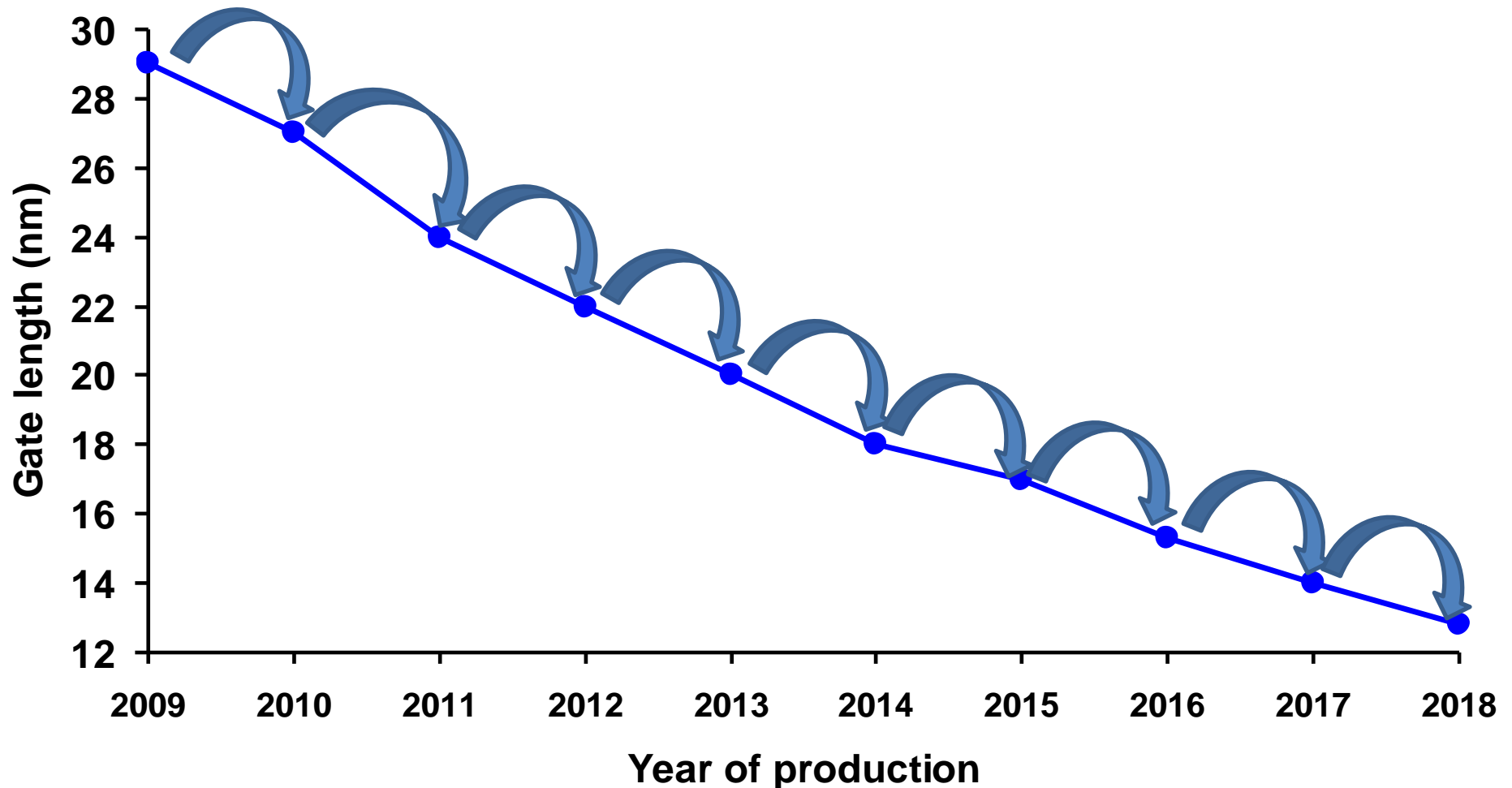
Cost of Sequencing One Human Genome



Moore's Law: *How?*

A: Silicon Midas touch *applied to itself*

One generation of machines, to design the next generation.
The ultimate bootstrap!



Moore's Law is a Bull. Riding It Enables...

Content



Cloud Computing



Computing



Communications

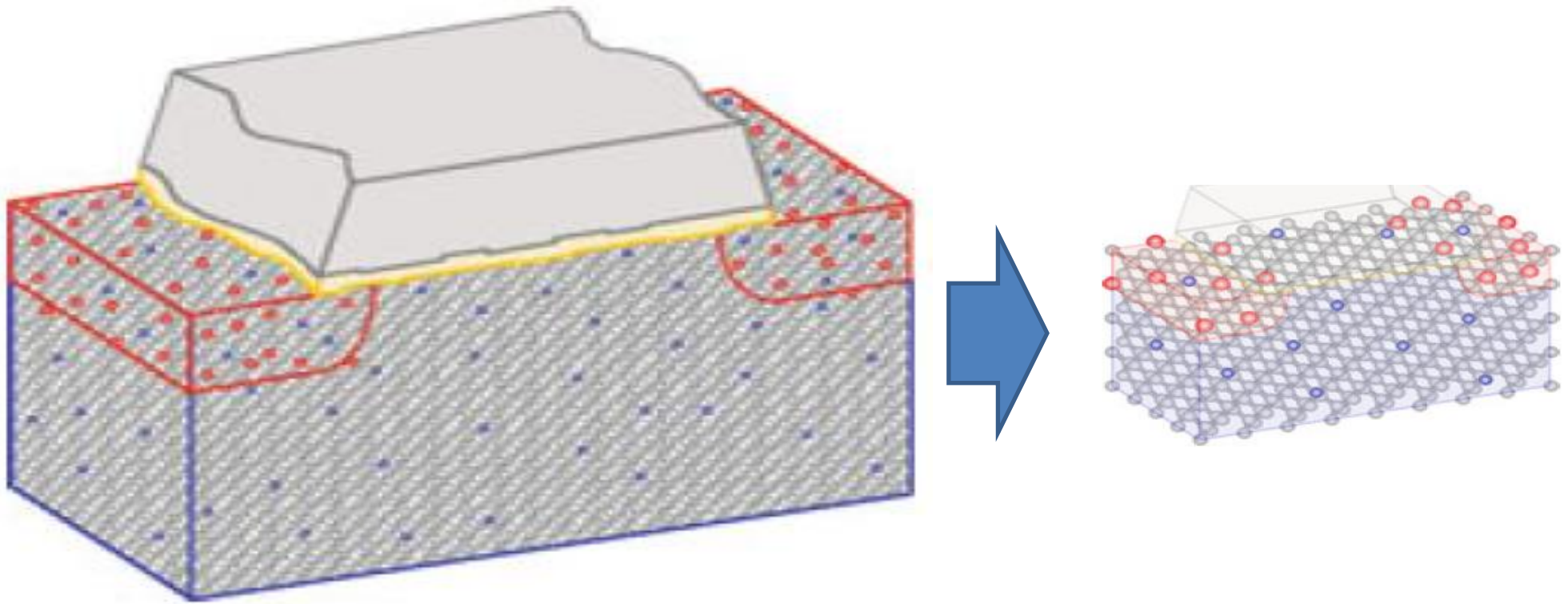


Consumer



A Challenge to Moore's Law: Variation Gone Wild

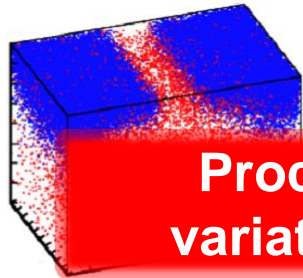
Transistors are shrinking ...but atoms aren't.



At <22 nm (now), *even one atom out of place* is trouble...

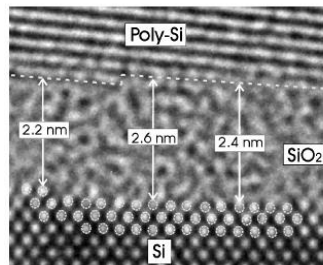
Variation = atoms out of place

...Propagating from devices to performance & yield



**Process
variation ↑**

Random dopant effects

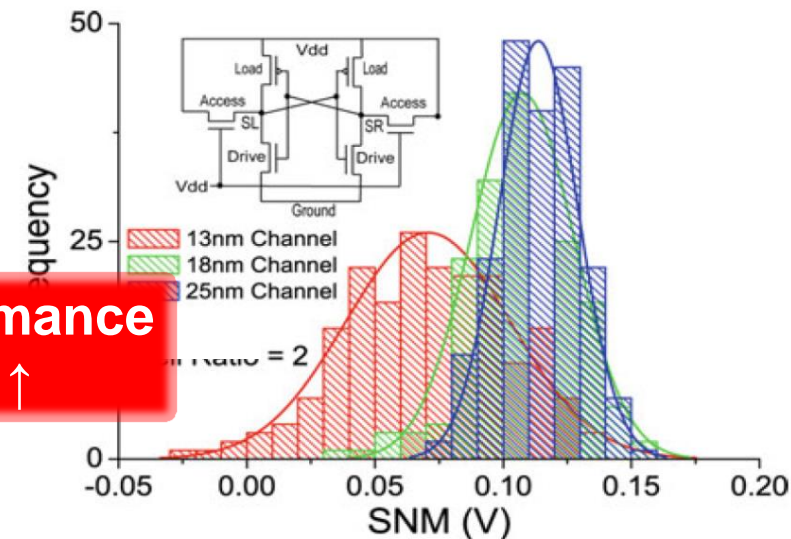


Oxide thickness

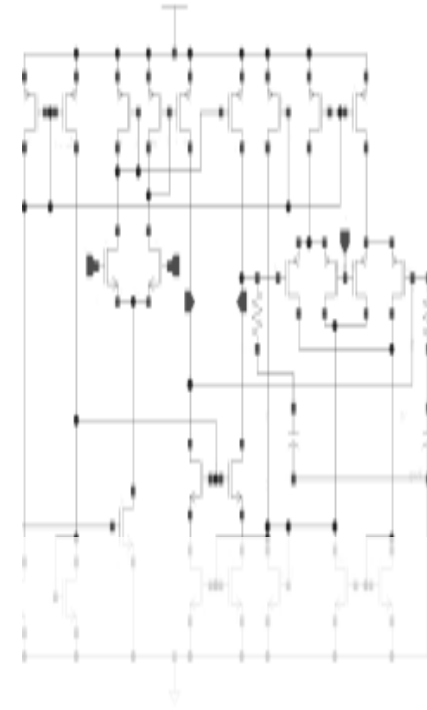
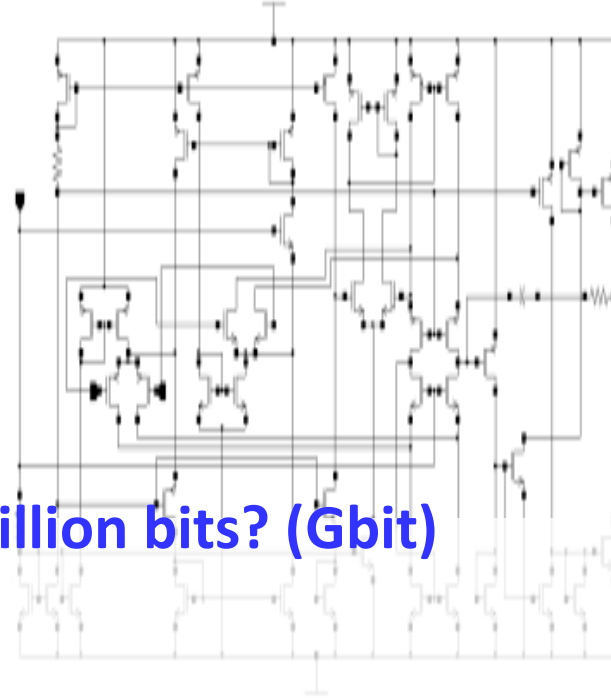
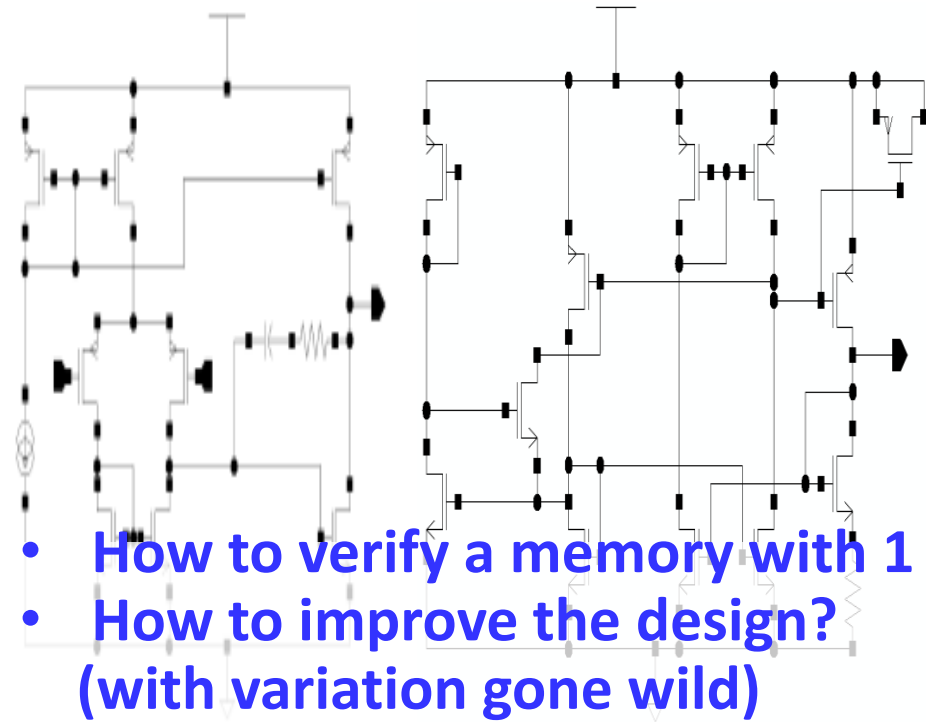
⋮

**Device performance
variation ↑**

**Circuit performance
variation ↑**



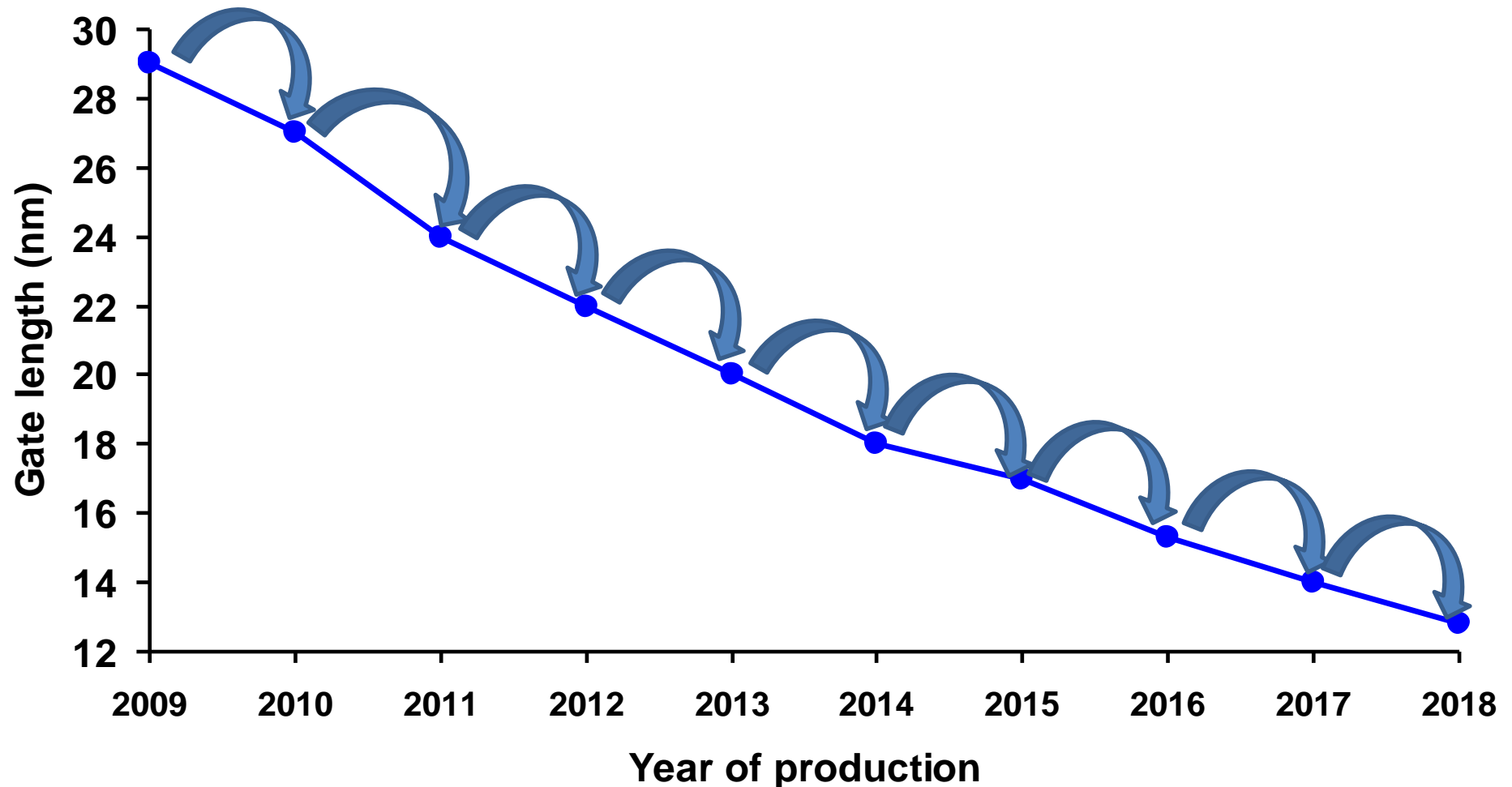
Variation-based Circuit Challenges



- How to verify a memory with 1 billion bits? (Gbit)
- How to improve the design? (with variation gone wild)
- How to verify a PLL with 3375 PVT corners?
- How to improve the design? (with variation gone wild)
- To get lower power, lower delay, lower area, all in less time?

Moore's Law incl. Variation: *How?*

Use ML to abstract away the variation from the perspective of the designer.



Solido Solutions

Memory

Standard Cell

Analog/RF

Block

True Monte Carlo to Six Sigma Analysis at the cell and system level



DeepChip

"The most interesting tool I saw at DAC was Solido's toolset for variation analysis. The GUI and scripts can help designers do faster variation analysis."

-Anonymous User, DeepChip

I build ML-powered CAD tools

To drive Moore's Law

Solido News & Events

SemiWiki Oct 3, 2013 - High-sigma standard cell optimization
DeepChip Sept 27, 2013 - Solido ranked top 4 tool at DAC
SemiWiki Sept 20, 2013 - Process variation is a yield killer
DeepChip July 11, 2013 - DAC custom design trip report
SemiWiki Jun 9, 2013 - First FinFETs manufactured at DAC
SemiWiki May 28, 2013 - Solido on DAC Top 10 Must See List
GarySmith May 21, 2013 - Solido on DAC Must See List
SemiWiki May 18, 2013 - Winning in Monte Carlo DAC Tutorial
DeepChip May 16, 2013 - Solido CTO on Solido 6-sigma
SemiWiki May 11, 2013 - Winning in Monte Carlo
SemiWiki May 2, 2013 - Solido CEO interview
DeepChip May 2, 2013 - Solido SPICE simulation reduction
SemiWiki Apr 27, 2013 - TSMC loves Solido
DeepChip Mar 28, 2013 - User on custom design
DeepChip Feb 1, 2013 - Solido ICCAD trip report
[More News & Events](#)

Customer Case Studies

NVIDIA for memory, std cell, RF design
Huawei-HiSilicon for analog design
Qualcomm for memory design
Qualcomm for custom digital design
TSMC for memory, std cell design
TSMC for memory design
TSMC for analog/RF design
GLOBALFOUNDRIES for analog/RF design
GLOBALFOUNDRIES for memory design
STARC for analog/RF design
Analog/RF design
Memory, standard cell, analog/RF design
DAC 2013 2012 2011 2010 customer reviews
Cooley variation panel at DAC
Survey of 486 engineers on variation

[See a Video Demo](#)

[Variation-Aware Custom IC Design Book](#)

[Solido Memory Design White Paper](#)

[Solido and TSMC Webinar Presentation](#)

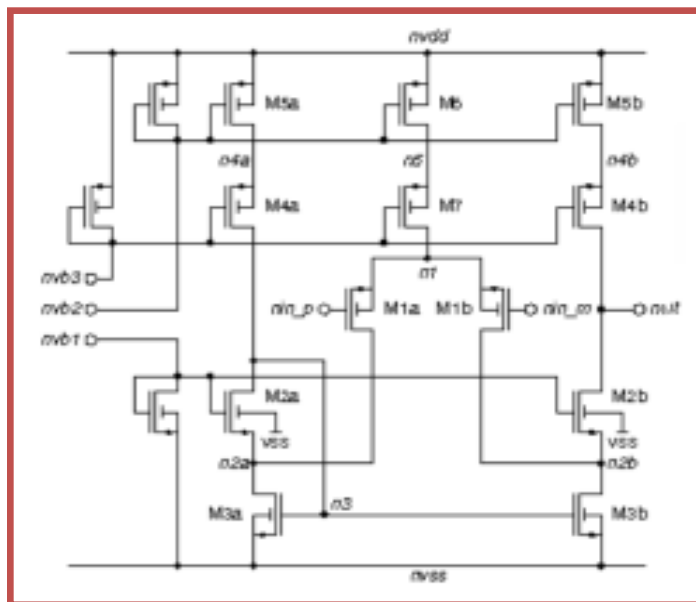
[Cadence Virtuoso with Solido White Paper](#)

[Synopsys HSPICE with Solido White Paper](#)

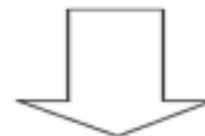


Python, ML & Moore's Law

Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits



SPICE



**Symbolic
Modeling**



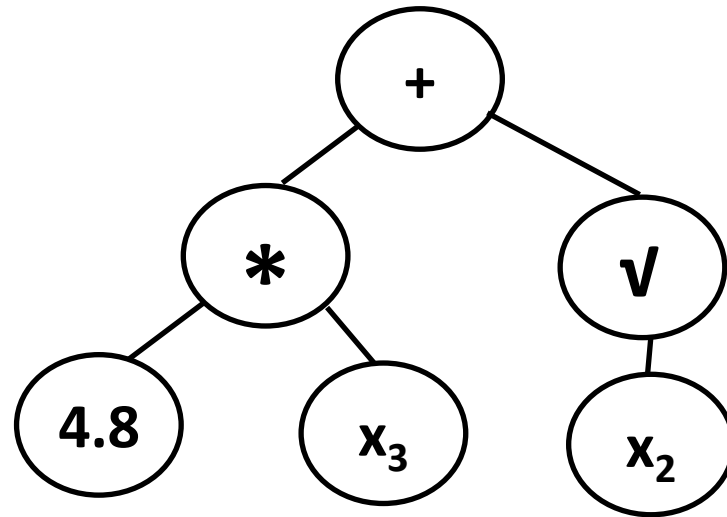
Perf.	Expression
A_{LF}	$-10.3 + 7.08e-5 / id1 + 1.87 * \ln(-1.95e+9 + 1.00e+10 / (vsg1*vsg3) + 1.42e+9 *(vds2*vds5) / (vsg1*vgs2*vsg5*id2))$
f_u	$10^{(5.68 - 0.03 * vsg1 / vds2 - 55.43 * id1 + 5.63e-6 / id1)}$
PM	$90.5 + 190.6 * id1 / vsg1 + 22.2 * id2 / vds2$
V_{offset}	$-2.00e-3$
SR_p	$2.36e+7 + 1.95e+4 * id2 / id1 - 104.69 / id2 + 2.15e+9 * id2 + 4.63e+8 * id1$
SR_n	$-5.72e+7 - 2.50e+11 * (id1*id2) / vgs2 + 5.53e+6 * vds2 / vgs2 + 109.72 / id1$

Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits

How: Genetic Programming

“A function is a *tree*”

$$f(x) = 4.8 * x_3 + \sqrt{x_2}$$

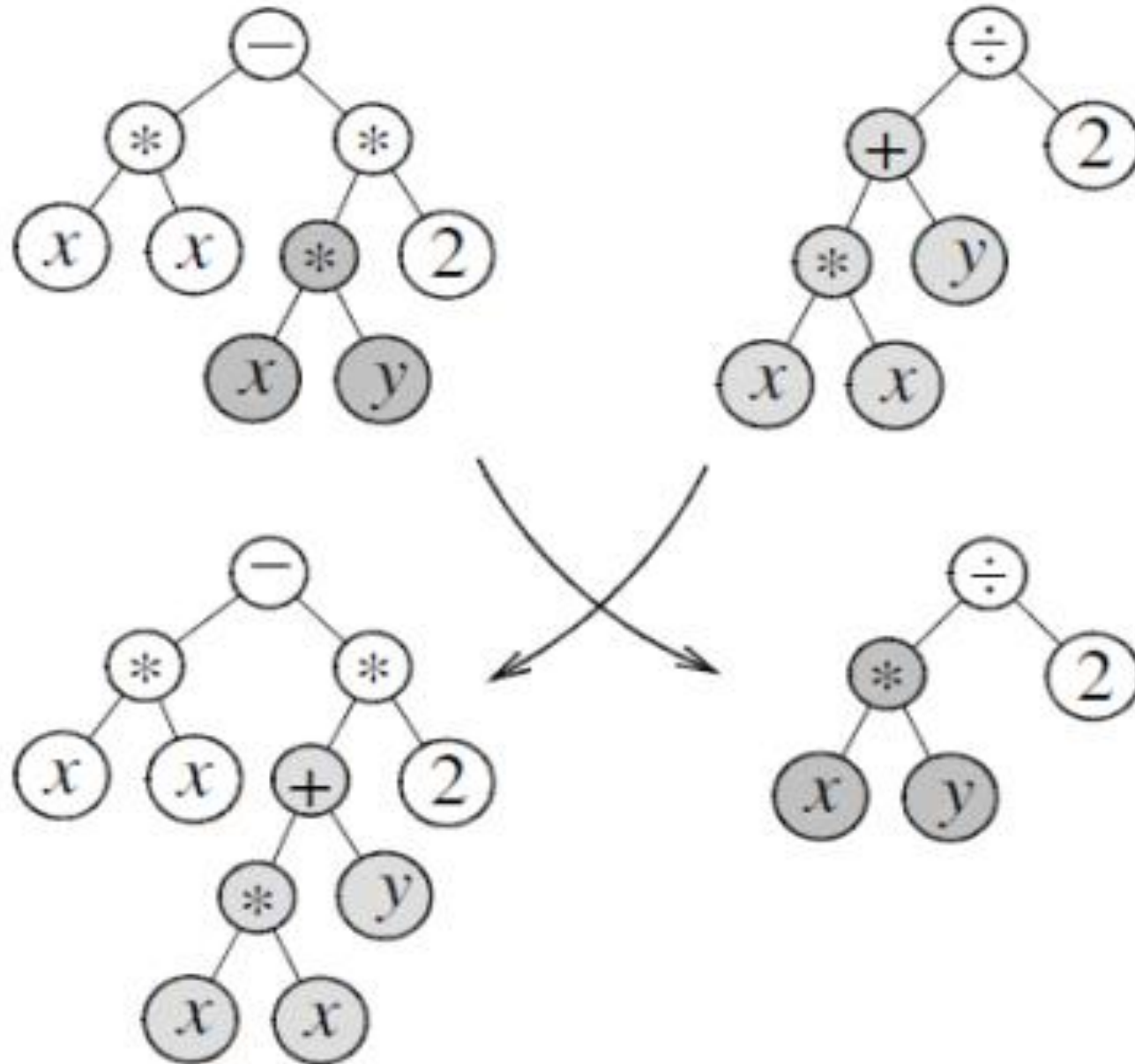


Searches through the space of trees:

1. Initial random population; evaluate
2. Create children from parents via operators; evaluate
3. Select best; goto 2

Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits

Crossover Operator in Genetic Programming



Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits

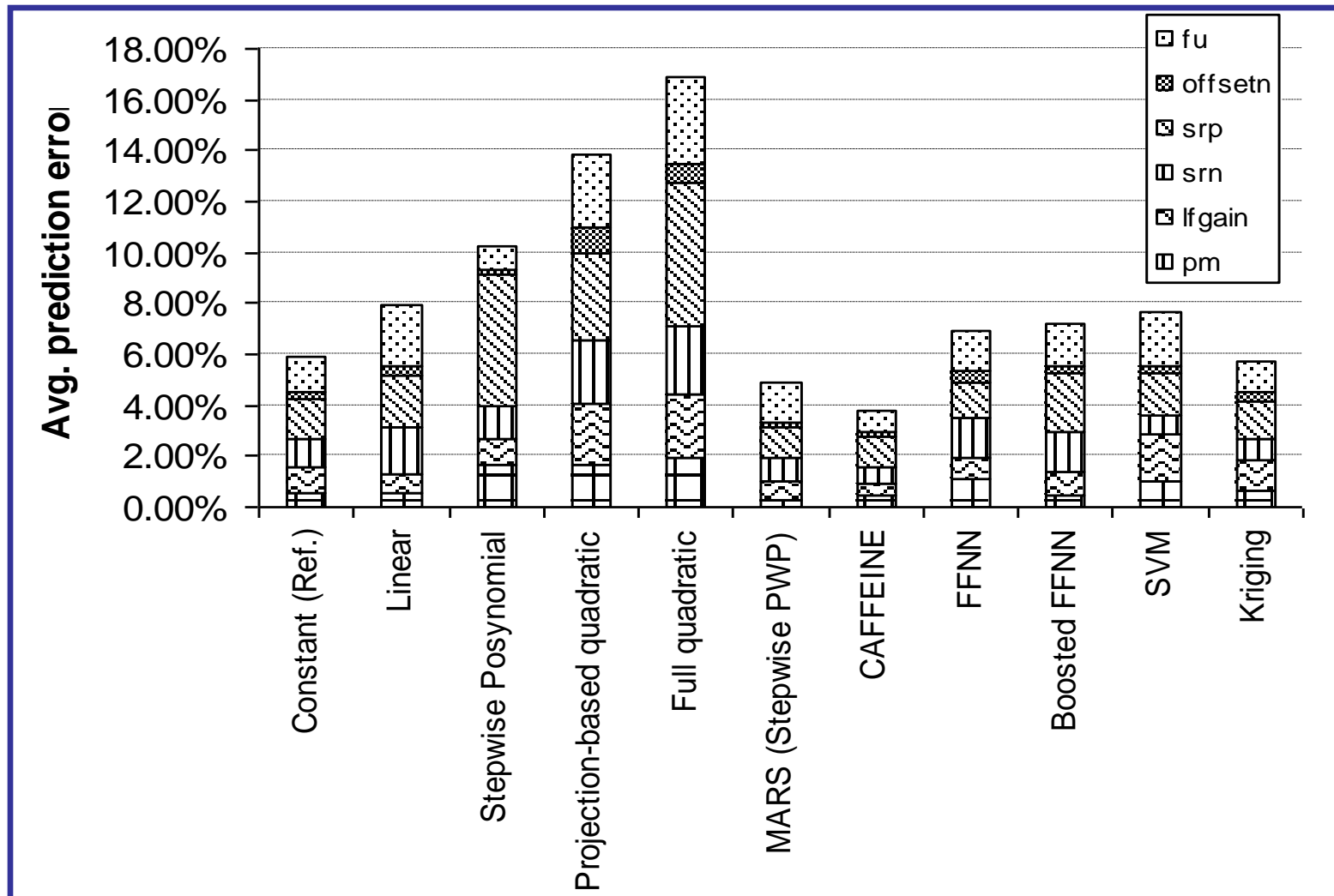
Models with <10% error

Perf.	Expression
A_{LF}	$-10.3 + 7.08e-5 / id1$ $+ 1.87 * \ln(-1.95e+9 + 1.00e+10 / (vsg1*vsg3)$ $+ 1.42e+9 *(vds2*vds5) / (vsg1*vgs2*vsg5*id2))$
f_u	$10^{(5.68 - 0.03 * vsg1 / vds2 - 55.43 * id1 + 5.63e-6 / id1)}$
PM	$90.5 + 190.6 * id1 / vsg1 + 22.2 * id2 / vds2$
V_{offset}	$- 2.00e-3$
SR_p	$2.36e+7 + 1.95e+4 * id2 / id1 - 104.69 / id2 + 2.15e+9 * id2$ $+ 4.63e+8 * id1$
SR_n	$- 5.72e+7 - 2.50e+11 * (id1*id2) / vgs2 + 5.53e+6 * vds2 / vgs2$ $+ 109.72 / id1$

Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits

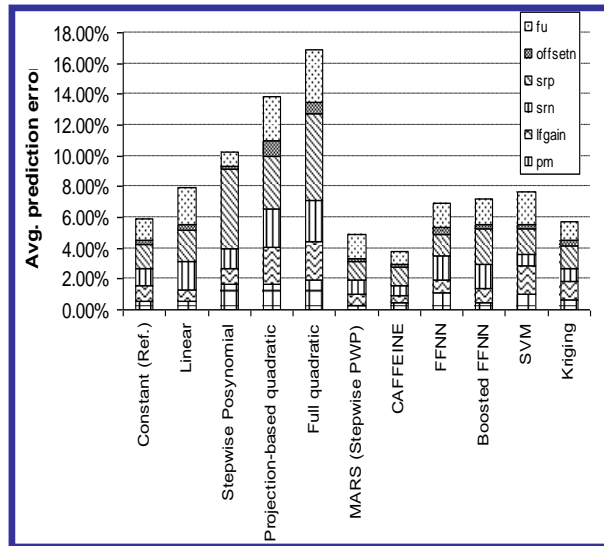
Prediction Performance

Summary: Lower prediction error than FFNNs, Boosted FFNNs, SVMs, GPMs, ..



Example: ML-based whitebox models of circuits

The Stack



- 100% Python
- Python 2.7, numpy, scipy
- Custom ML algorithm
 - grammar-constrained genetic programming
 - function-grammar
- 3rd party circuit simulator

Example: ML-based whitebox models redux (FFX)

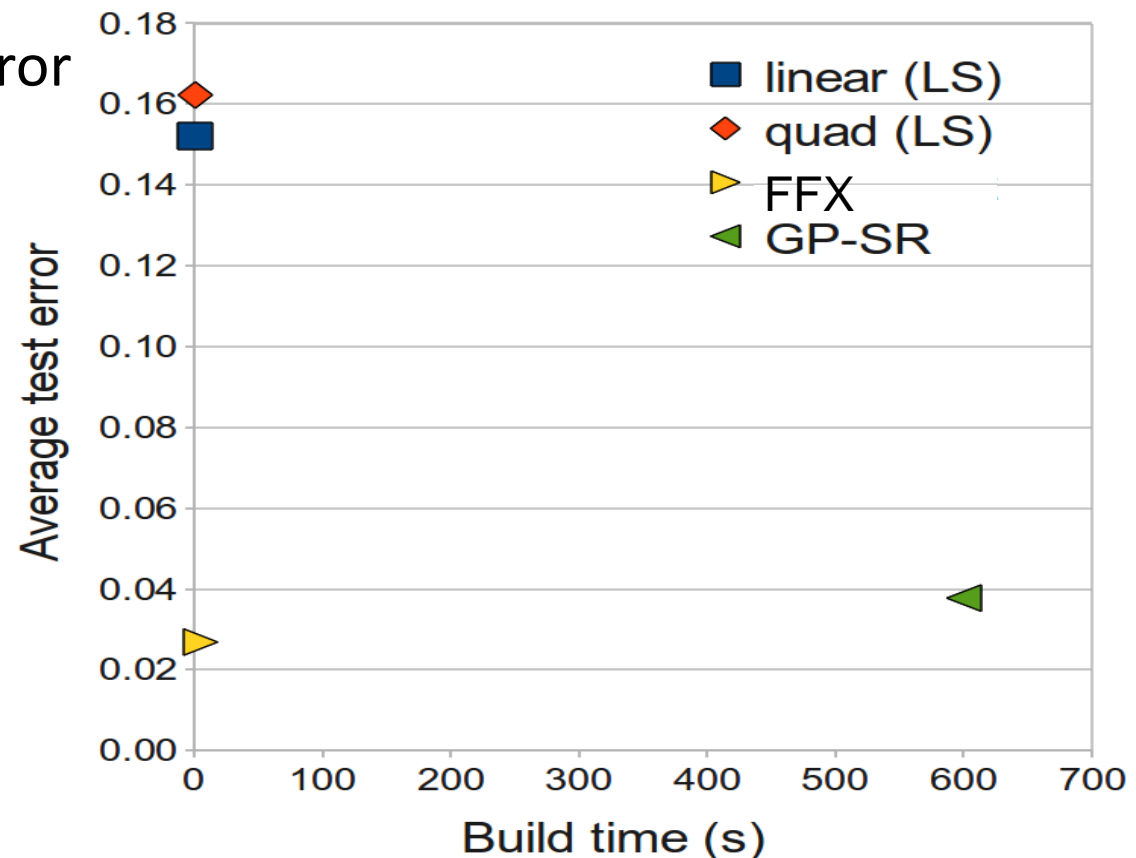
Problem: Scales poorly past >20 variables

Algorithm:

1. Explode # basis functions (e.g. 13 \rightarrow 100K)
2. Pathwise learning on elastic net formulation (**BHALR**), track # variables vs. train error
3. Nondominated filter on test error

Result: scalability & speed \uparrow

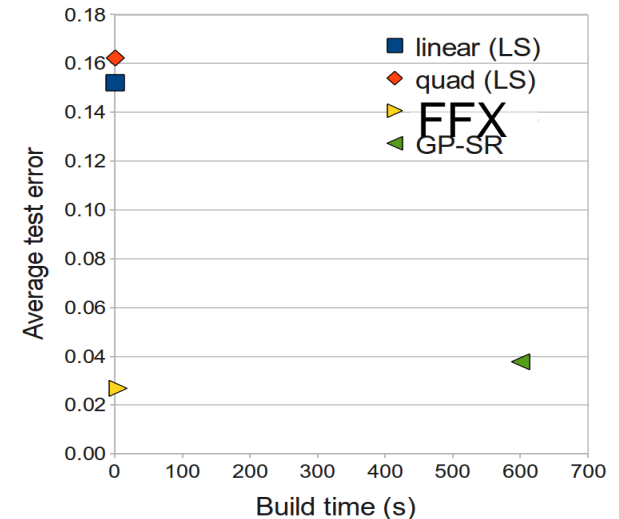
- 10K+ input variables
- 100 – 100K+ training points



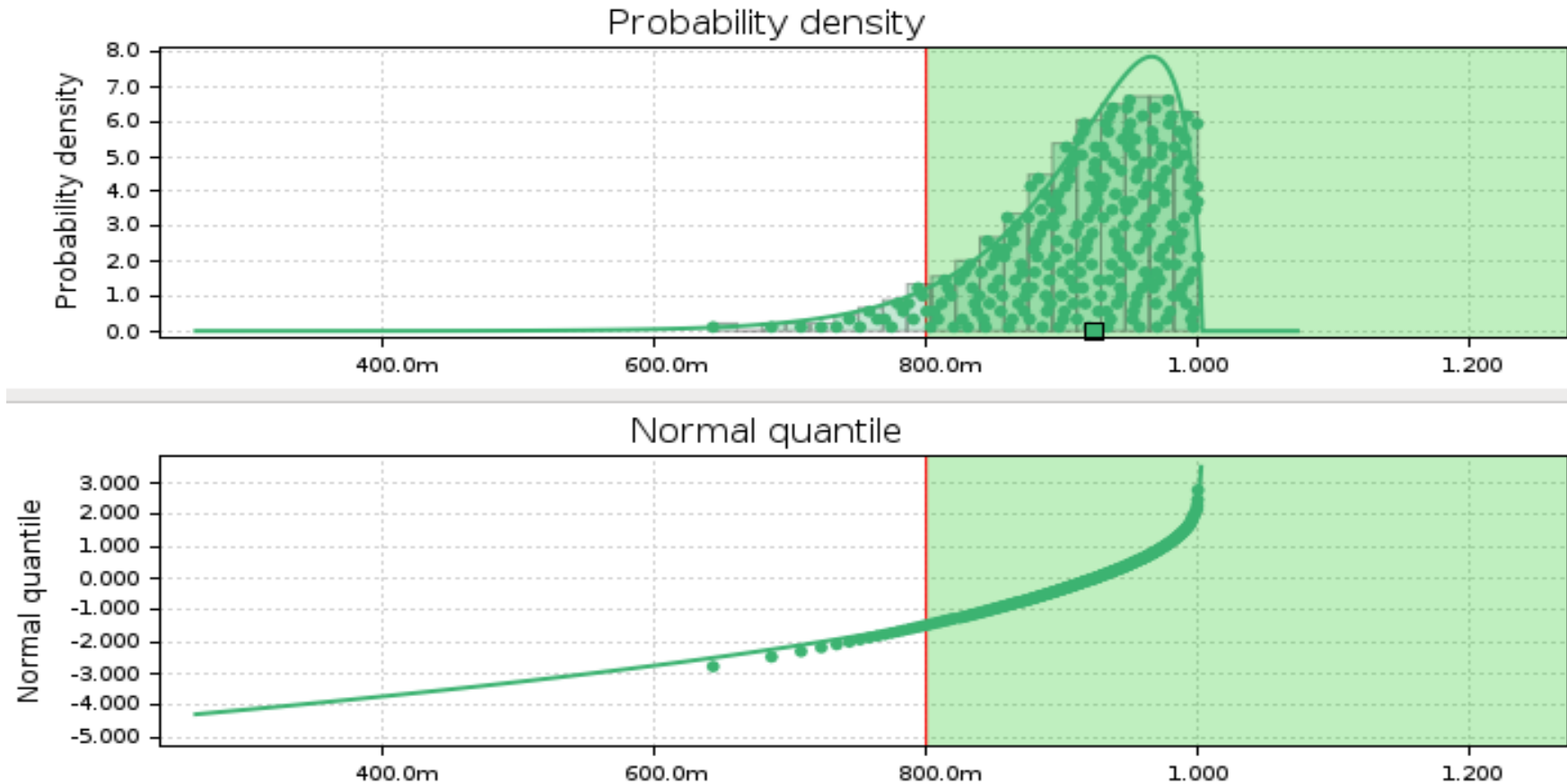
Example: ML-based whitebox models redux (FFX)

The stack

- 100% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy
 - Scikit-learn
 - Coordinate descent pathwise learning
 - Custom ML: FFX
 - Explode # basis functions
 - Nondominated filtering
- General enough for other domains
- Extends to classification too
- Open source at trent.st/ffx



Example: Density Estimation with Sane Extrapolation

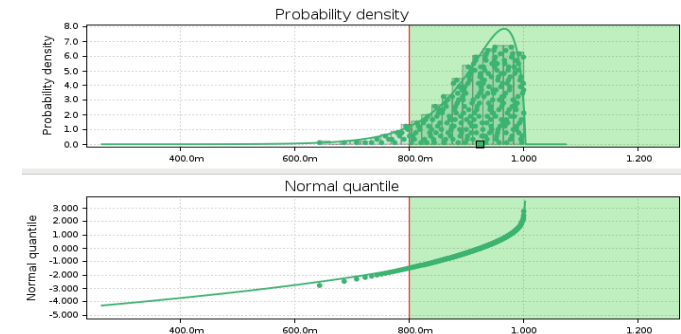


Algorithm:

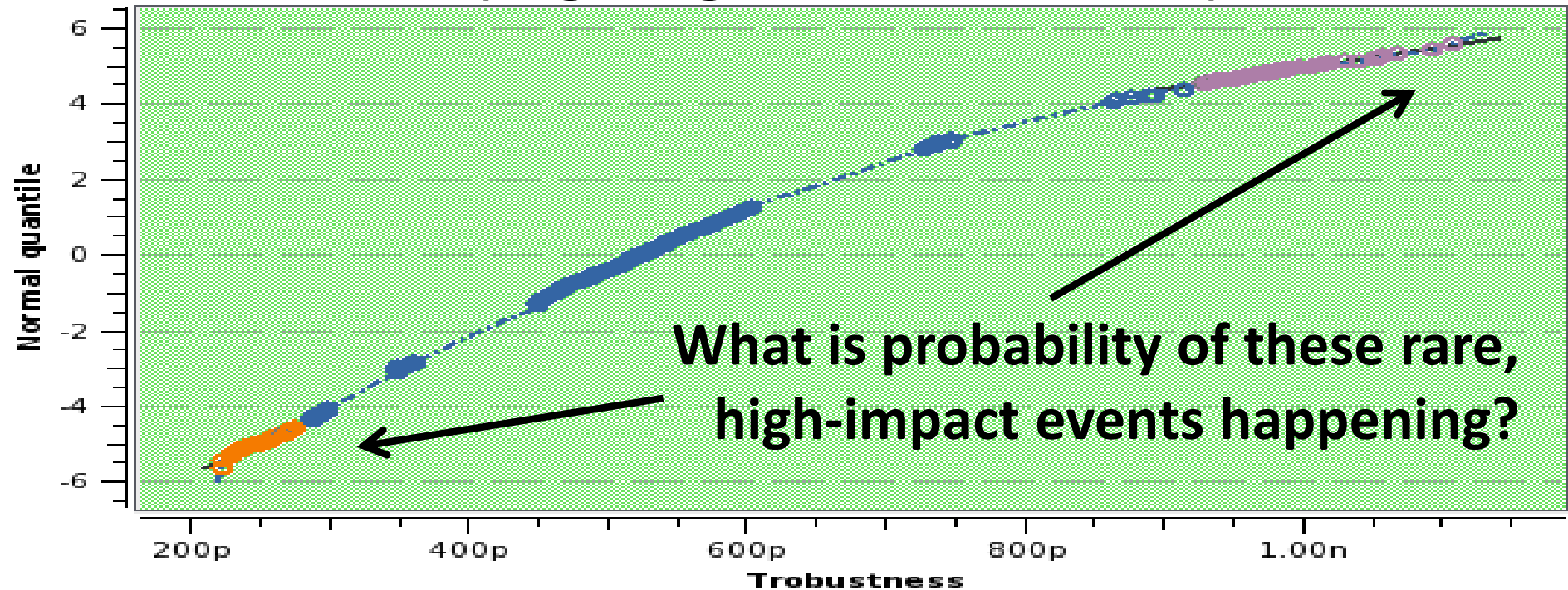
1. Build many different density models: Gaussian, mixture of 2-4 Gaussians, lognormal, uniform, Rayleigh, KDE, and more.
2. Pick model with the best fit in NQ space (*not MLE*).

Example: Density Estimation with Sane Extrapolation: The Stack

- 100% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy
 - Scipy – kde, optimize (BFGS), specific distributions
- Custom ML algorithm
 - Conversion to/from NQ space
 - Special-case distributions (e.g. uniform, spike)
- 3rd party circuit simulator



Example: ML-driven Rare Event Estimation (High Sigma Monte Carlo)



Problem: Brute force takes 2 months on 100 cores

Algorithm:

1. Active learning on 10K+ dimensions to learn $X \rightarrow y$
2. Draw & rank 10G pts (\approx scale of Google search)
3. Simulate from highest-rank first (\approx top 10 search results)

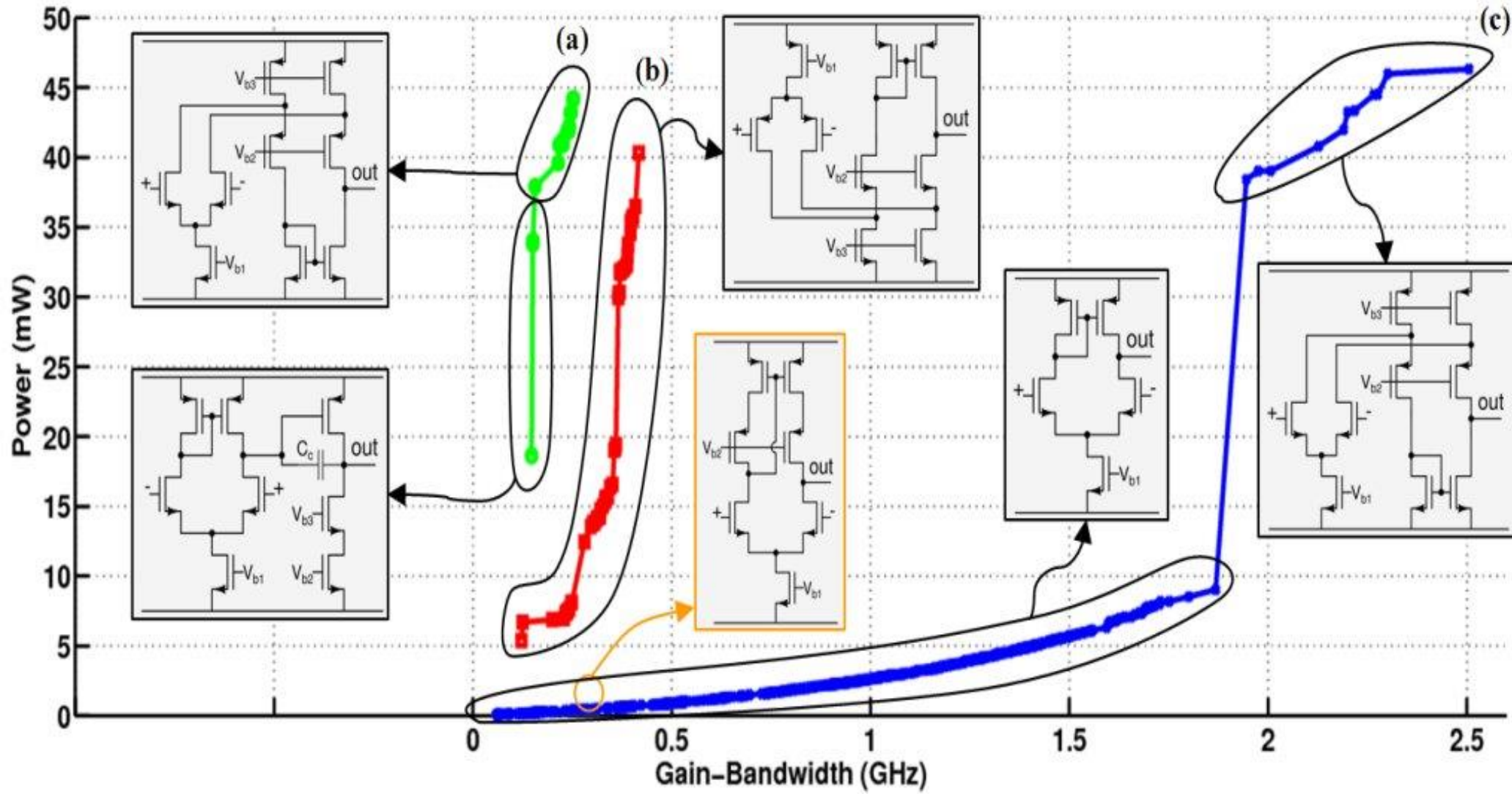
Result: 20 min on 10 cores

Example: ML-driven Rare Event Estimation (High Sigma Monte Carlo): The Stack

- 99% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy, scipy
 - scikit-learn pathwise learning
 - Custom high-dimensional regression (FFX)
 - Qt4, Chaco
- 1% C
 - Random number generation - Mersenne Twister.
(incidentally, traditional LCG is inadequate because period is too small.)
 - Simulate regressor on each of 10G points
- 3rd party circuit simulator, env't

Example: ML to synthesize analog circuit topologies

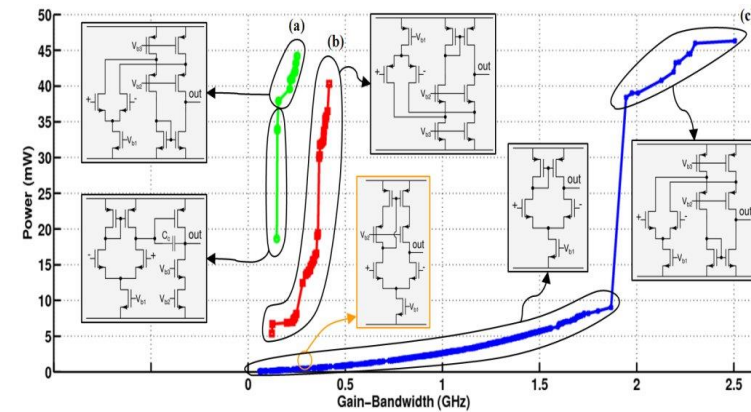
How: Design a language for circuit topologies; populate it; then do grammar-constrained multi-obj. tree search



Example: ML to synthesize analog circuit topologies:

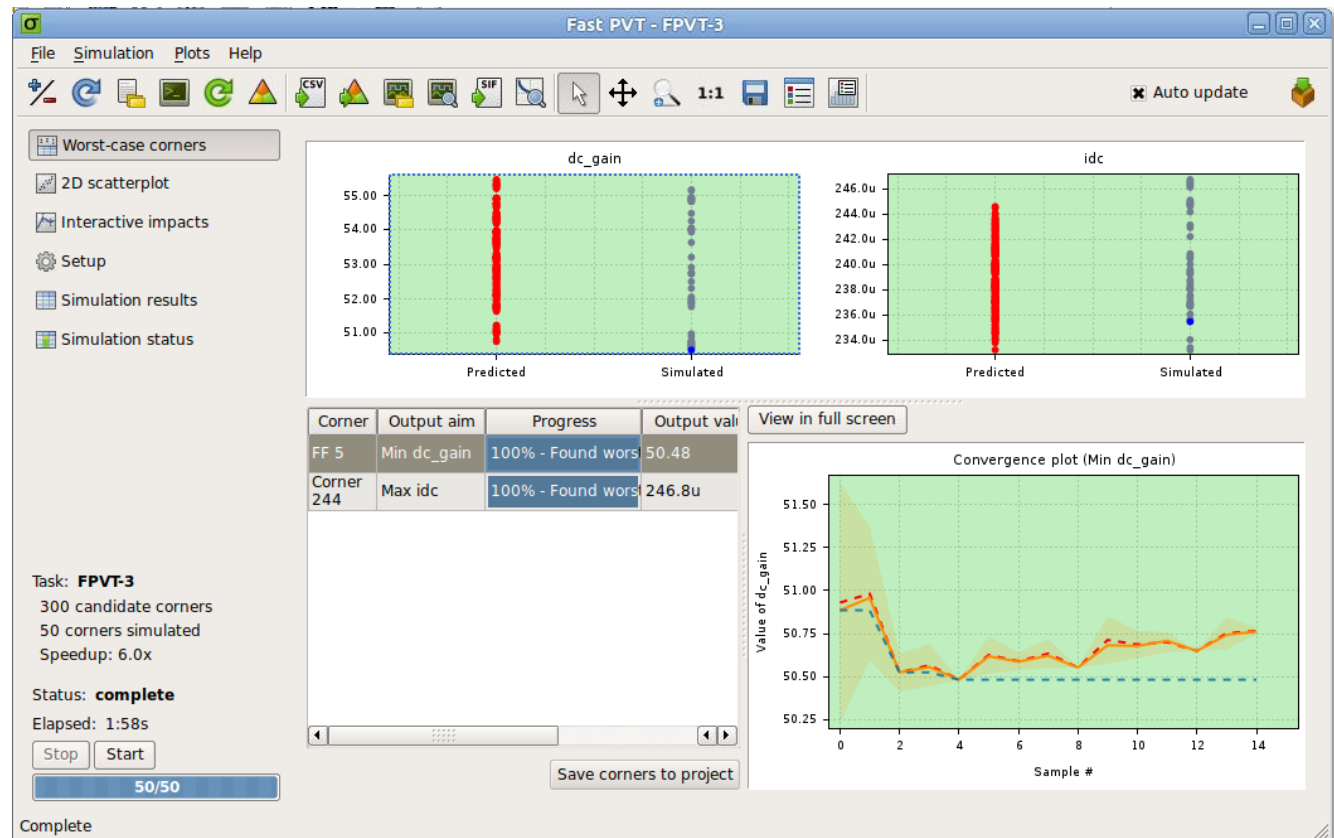
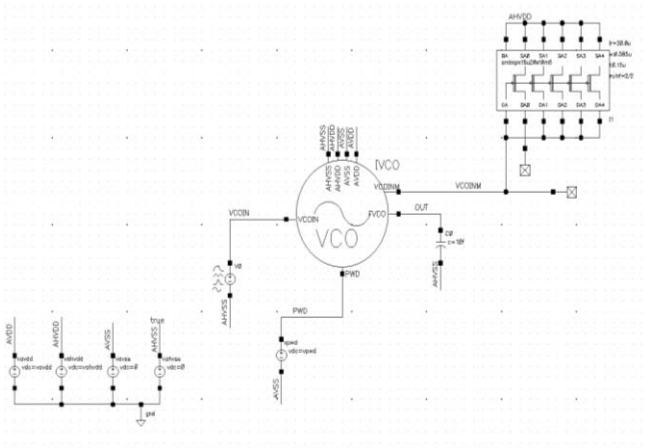
The Stack

- 100% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy, scipy
 - Custom ML algorithms
 - grammar-constrained genetic programming
 - circuit grammar
 - derivative-free optimizer
 - high-resolution interpolator
- 3rd party circuit simulator
- General enough for other domains
- Open source at trent.st/mojito



Example: ML-driven Corners Analysis(Fast PVT)

- TSMC 28nm, VCO of a PLL
- Specs: $48.3 < \text{duty cycle} < 51.7 \%$, $3 < \text{Gain} < 4.4\text{GHz/V}$
- **Traditional: 3375 PVT corners to simulate** (temp, voltage1, ..)
- **With ML: 275 corners to simulate, as thorough as before**

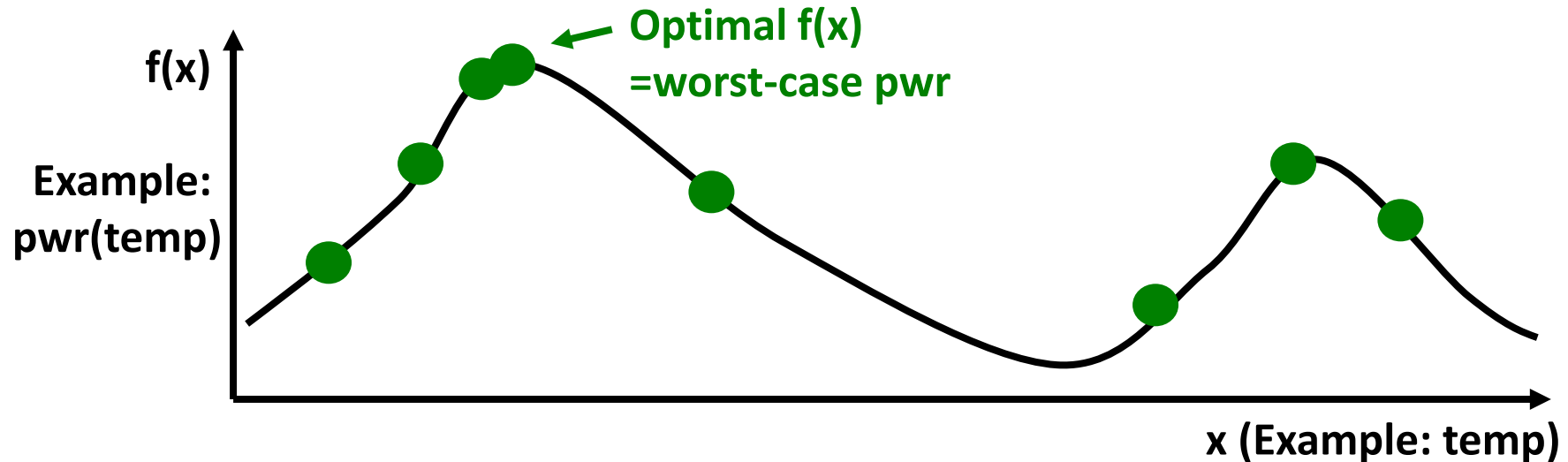


Example: ML-driven Corners Analysis

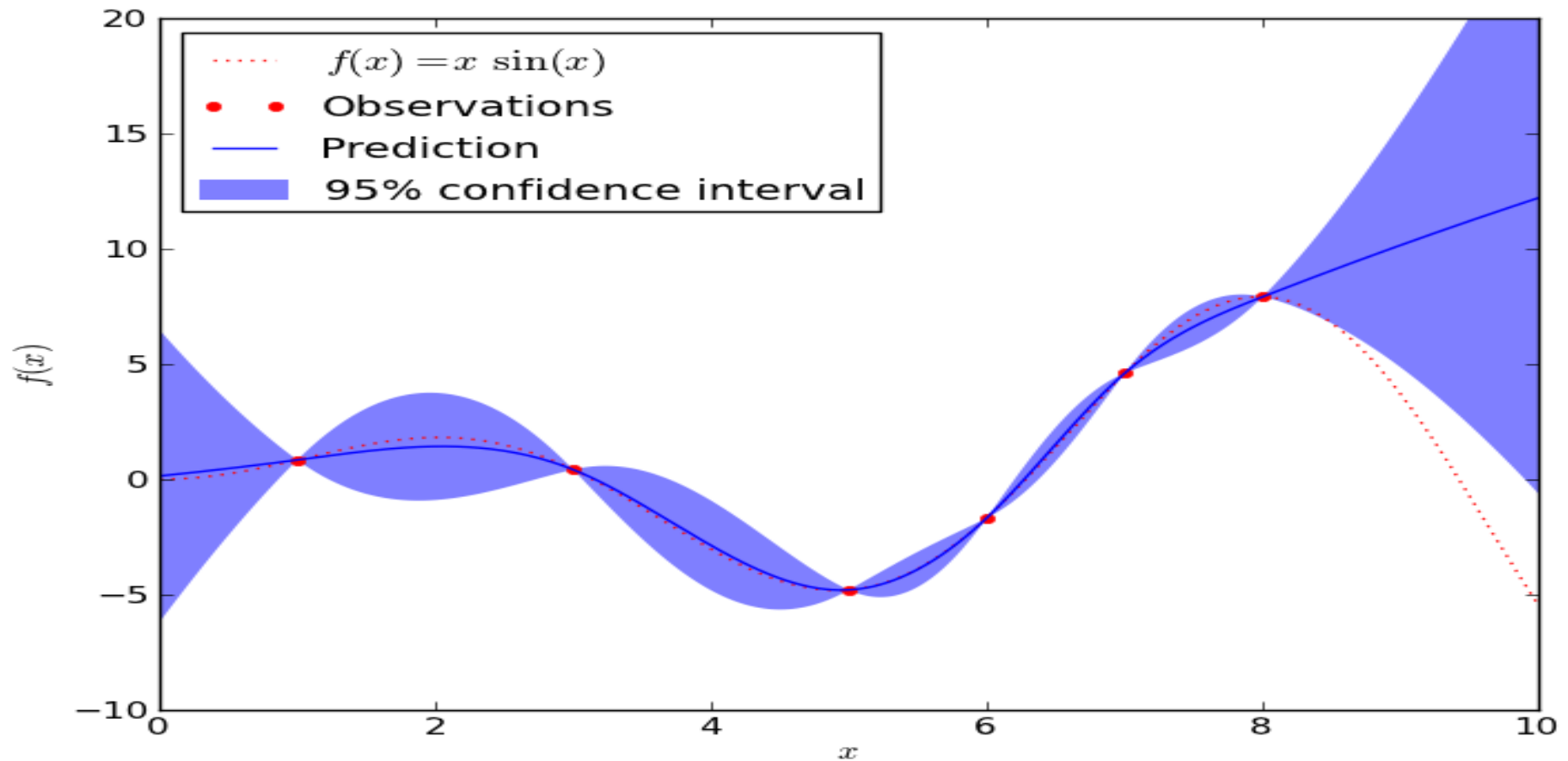
Cast PVT verification as a global optimization problem:

- Search through space of “corners” - x
- Minimize / maximize simulated output value $f(x)$

Then, solve the optimization problem reliably.



ML-driven Corners Analysis: underlying Model

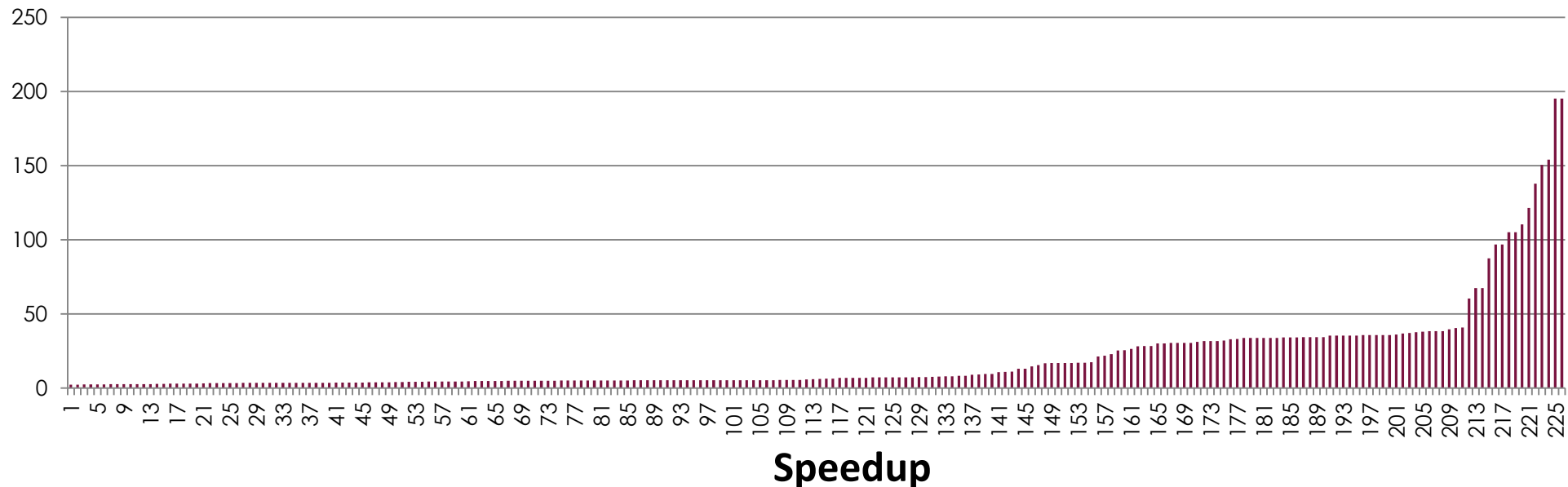


- Typically a Gaussian Process Model (GPM)
 - Natural interpolator
 - Convenient confidence intervals
 - Well-behaved, no crazy extrapolation (usually)

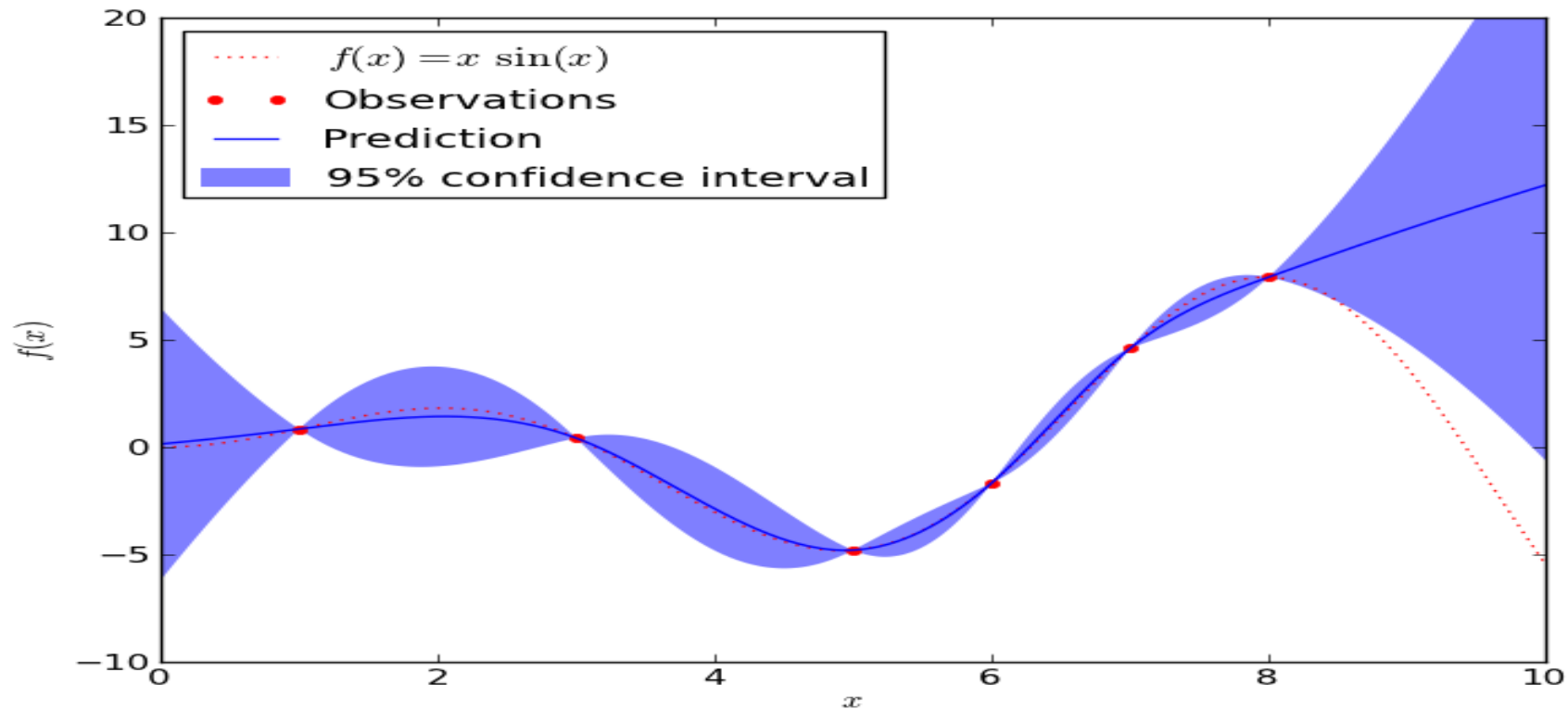
ML-driven Corners Analysis

Benchmarks on 226 Circuit PVT Verification Problems

- 226 test cases in benchmark suite:
 - From Solido customers, in-house realistic cases, and in-house corner cases targeting challenging problems
 - Many contain complex interactions, non-linearities, discontinuities, etc.
- **226/226 (100%) of cases find true optimum**
- Speedup **2.34X to 226X**
- **Median speedup is 22X**

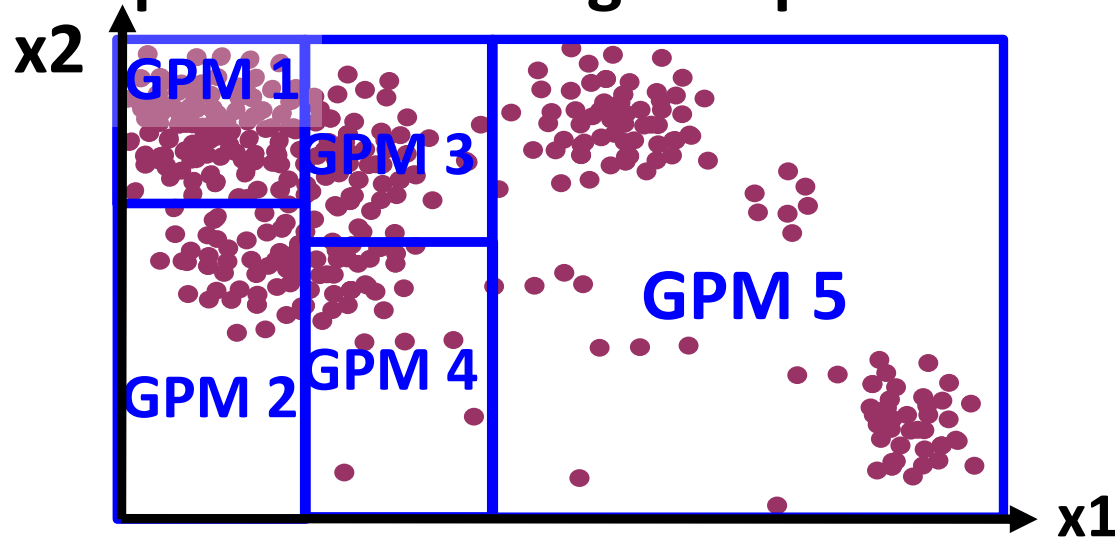


ML-driven Corners Analysis: Scalability Challenge



- **Problem: GPM training is $O(N^3)$ on # Training Samples**
- **Becomes *very* unhappy when >1000 samples**
- This happens for circuit verification problems with larger # dimensions and highly nonlinear circuit
- First solution: just cut loose and sim all
- Is there a better way?

ML-driven Corners Analysis: Divide-and-Conquer on Training Samples



- New model is a *set* of Gaussian Process Models (GPM)
- One GPM for each region of input x space
- Regions are automatically determined at build time
 - Via classic CART learning
 - Stop at a leaf when < 700 samples
- Build a GPM on each leaf's samples (and k neighbors)
 - Each GPM is $O(1)$ on # training samples because $N = \text{const}$
 - CART learning is $O(N \log N)$ on # samp with tiny constant

ML-driven Corners Analysis: Benchmarking: GPM vs Divide-and-Conquer GPM									
				GPM			Divide-and-conquer GPM		
Problem	# vars	# train pts	# test pts	Build Time (s)	Test Time (s)	Error	Build Time	Test Time	Error
<i>Low-dimensional</i>									
opamp-pvt-bandwidth	10	4425	1475	667.4	91.1	0.044	55.6	7.4	0.006
opamp-pvt-dc_gain	10	4425	1475	741.9	91.5	0.001	57.9	8.5	0.003
opamp-pvt-gain_margin	10	4425	1475	319.9	92.2	0.313	59.6	8.2	0.168
opamp-pvt-gbw	10	4425	1475	845.7	92.8	0.010	62.4	8.8	0.008
opamp-pvt-idc	10	4425	1475	775.2	91.7	0.000	41.2	8.2	0.000
opamp-pvt-phase_margin	10	4425	1475	268.2	90.9	0.149	49.8	6.6	0.155
<i>High-dimensional</i>									
senseamp_pwr	125	3750	1250	failed	failed	failed	165.8	37.9	4.139
opamp_AV	215	600	200	38.3	18.2	2.933	23.3	9.8	3.628
opamp_SR	215	600	200	34.8	18.2	2.604	37.3	9.5	2.515
compar_bw	639	1502	500	246.2	56.9	16.010	73.7	23.0	16.458
opamp_PM	215	600	200	63.9	18.3	3.678	26.7	9.4	2.441
opamp_BW	215	600	200	34.9	18.3	1.800	31.6	9.6	2.084
mem	385	7500	2500	failed	failed	failed	422.4	78.3	0.480
senseamp_delay	125	3750	1250	failed	failed	failed	286.0	38.4	5.135

ML-driven Corners Analysis: The Stack

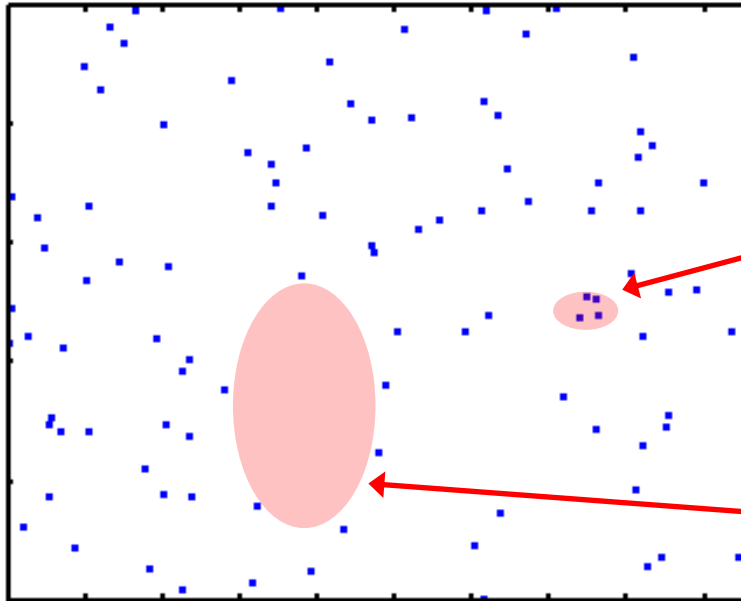
- 100% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy, scipy
 - scikit-learn for base GPM
 - Custom ML:
 - Customized GPM for high # samples
 - Inner optimization via random search and derivative-free optimization
 - Qt4, Chaco
- 3rd party circuit simulator, environment

Example: Low-Discrepancy Sampling

Status quo: Pseudo-Random Sampling

- The typical simplistic approach to generate samples
- Draws each point separately from other points, using a pseudo-random number generator (e.g. Mersenne Twister)
- Has issues...

**100 samples drawn from 2-d
uniform distribution:**



**Points clumping together in
small region**

Large region has no points

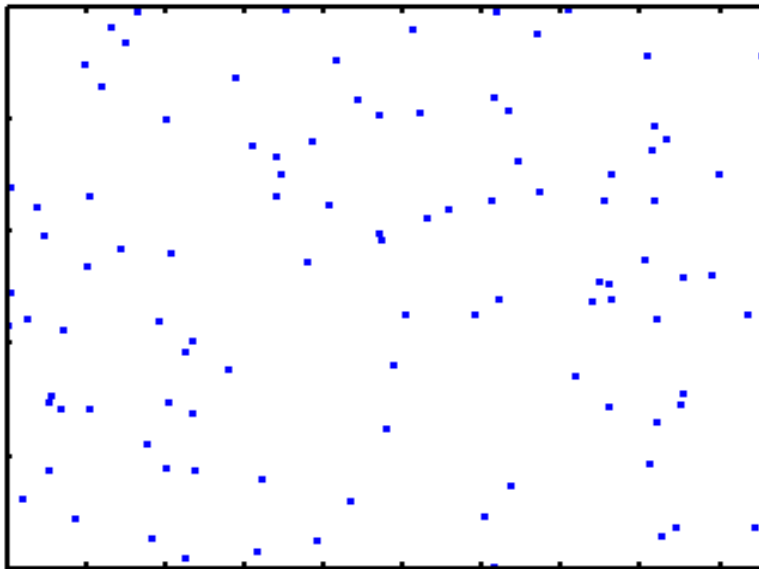
Example: Low-Discrepancy Sampling

Approach: Lattice Rules

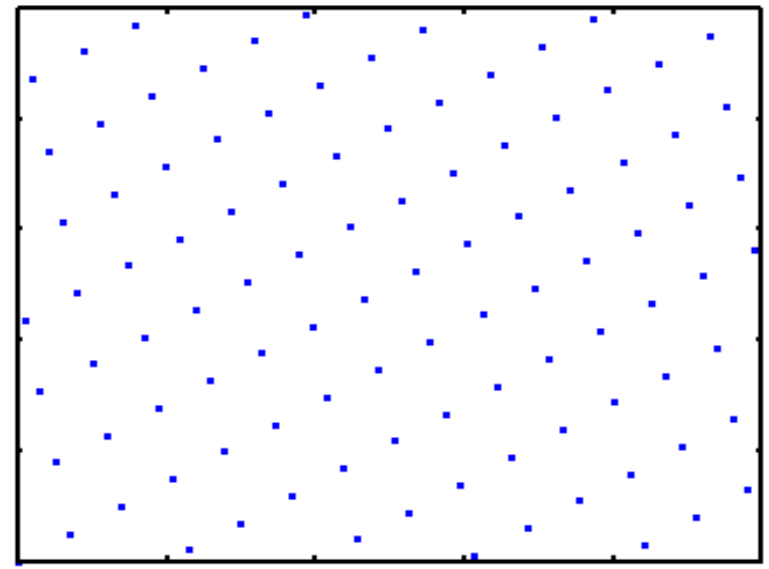
- Considers all the variables simultaneously (unlike Latin Hypercube)
- Works well in high dimensionality (unlike digital nets, e.g. Sobol')
- No heuristics necessary (unlike modified Sobol')

Example: 100 uniformly-distributed 2d points:

Pseudo-Random

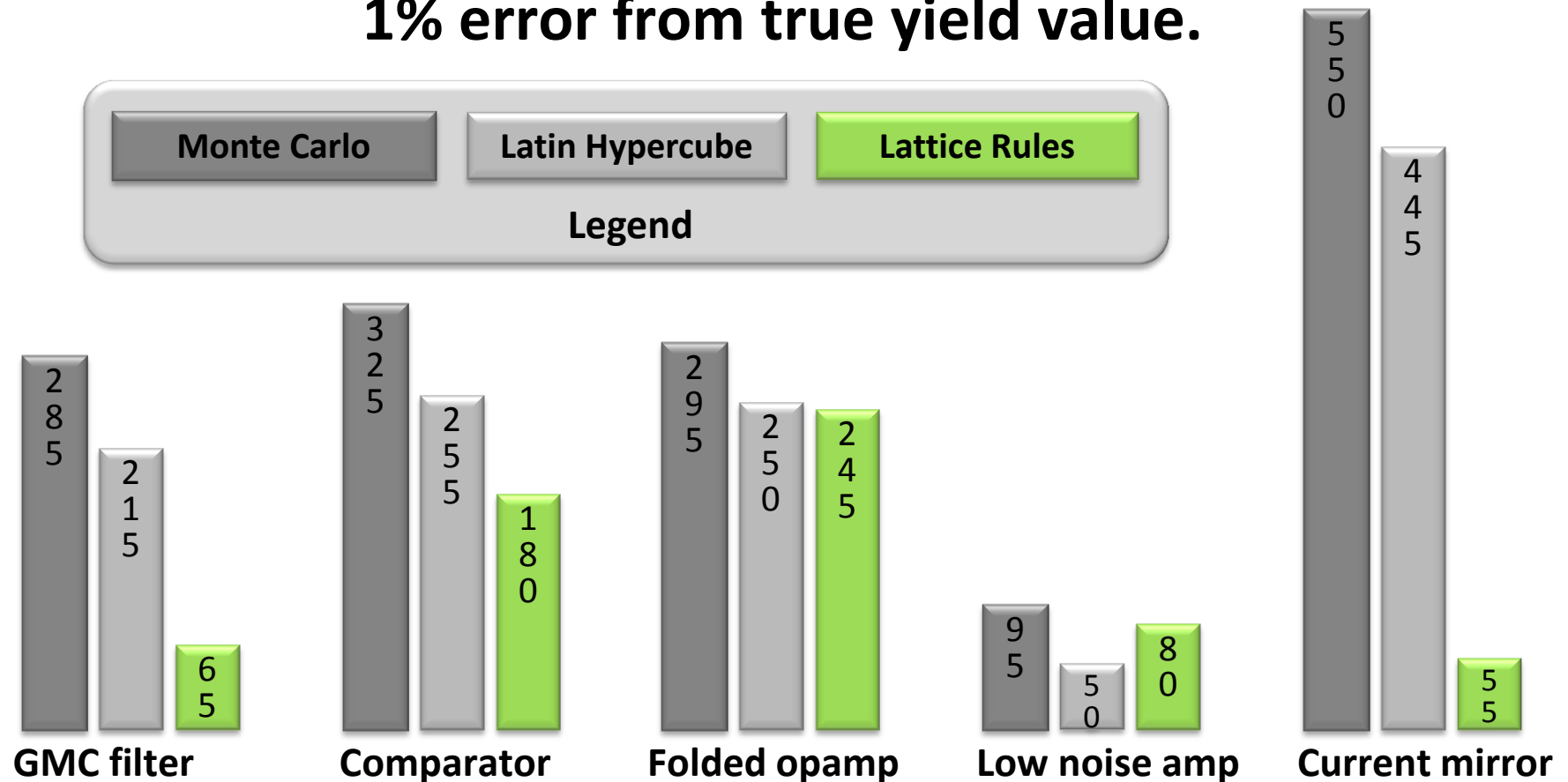


Lattice Rules



Example: Low-Discrepancy Sampling Benchmark for Yield Estimation

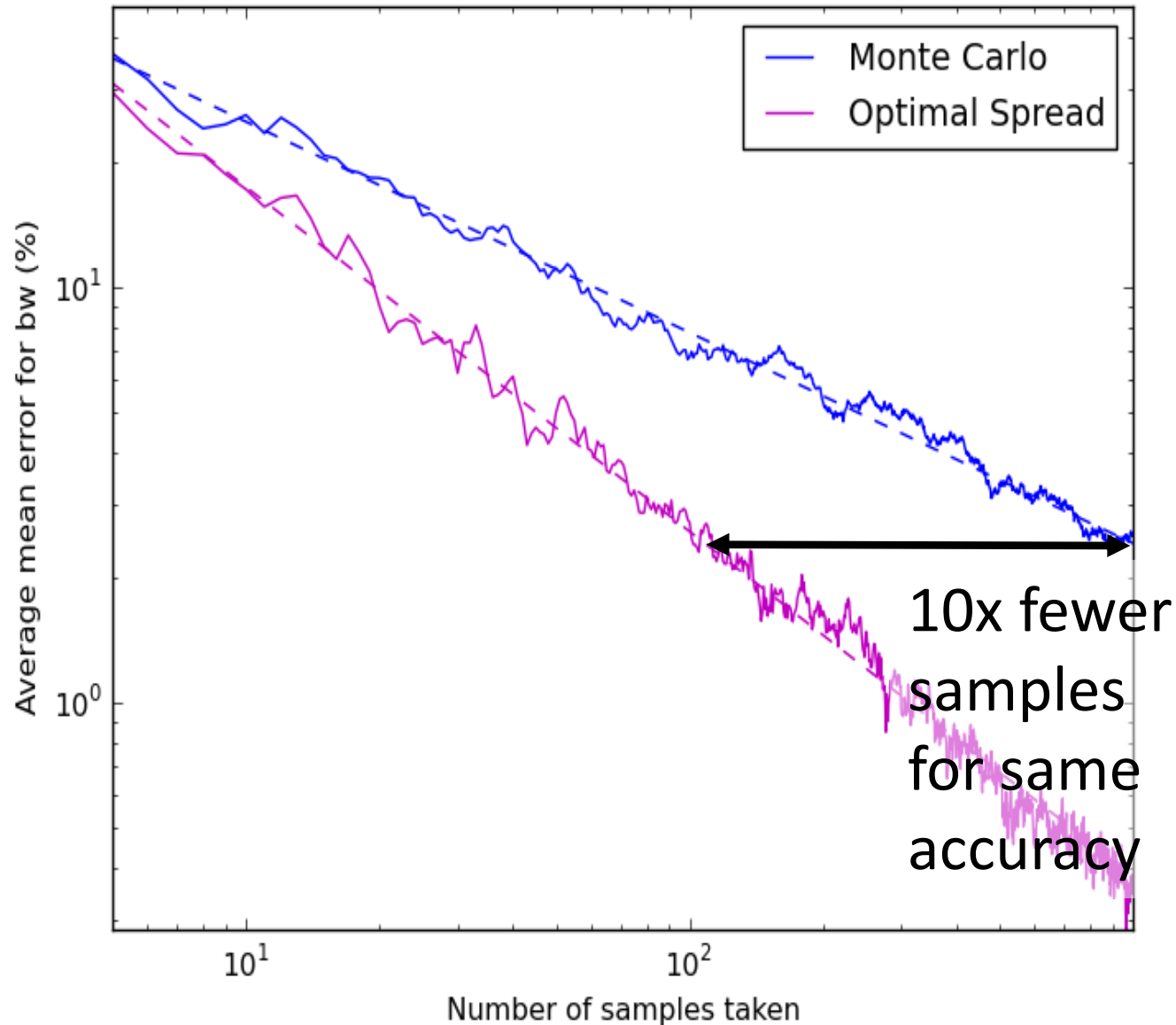
Average number of samples to achieve
1% error from true yield value.



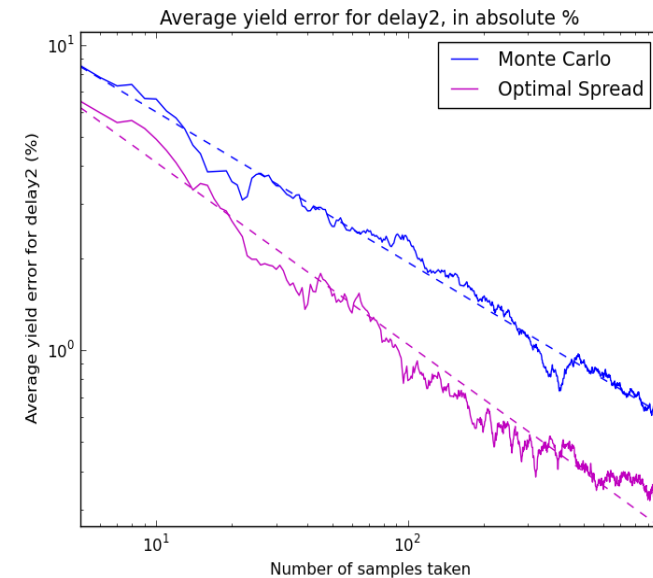
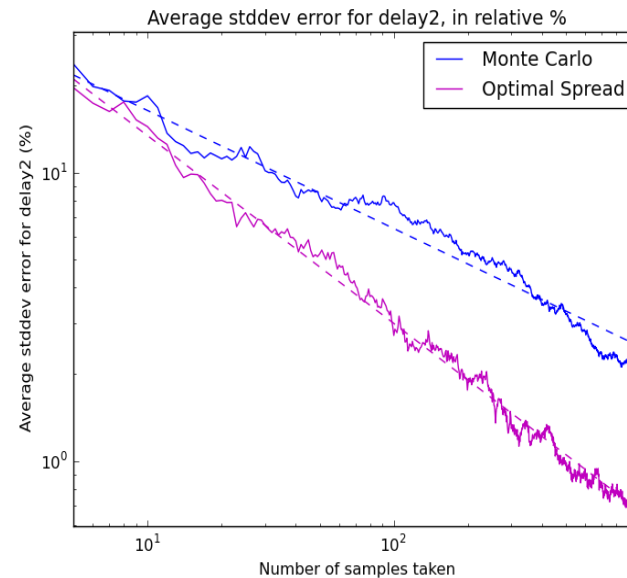
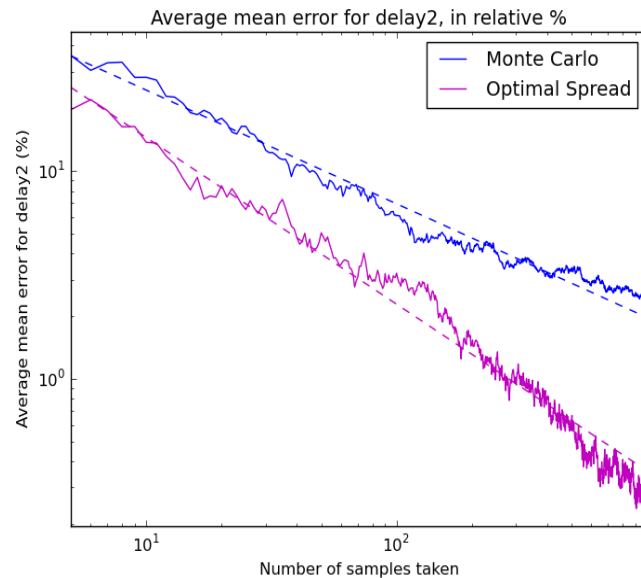
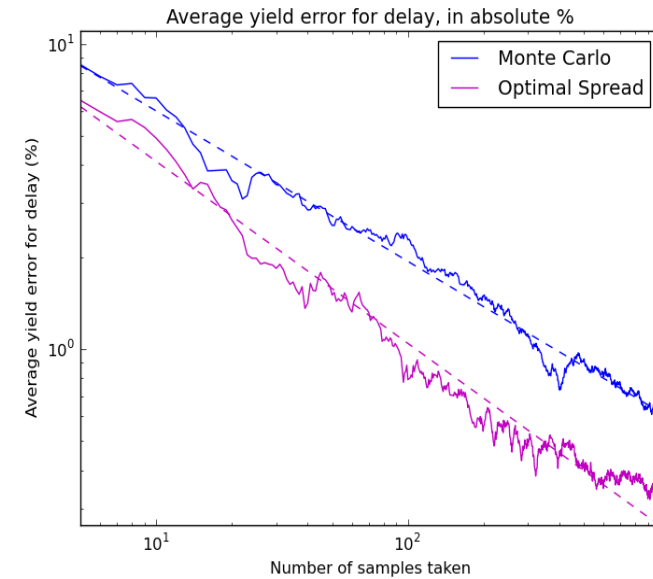
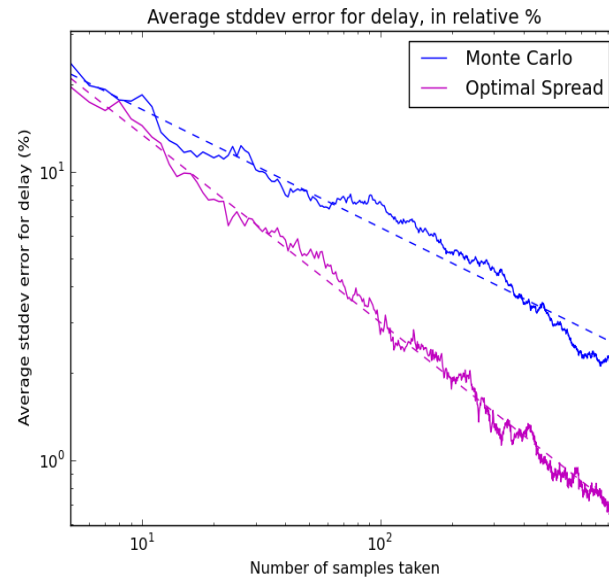
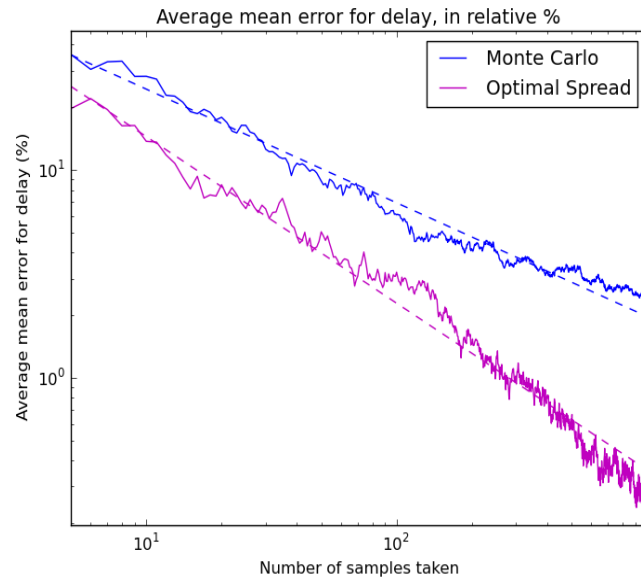
Example: Low-Discrepancy Sampling

Convergence of Pseudo-Random vs. OSS

(In estimating mean of VGA bw)



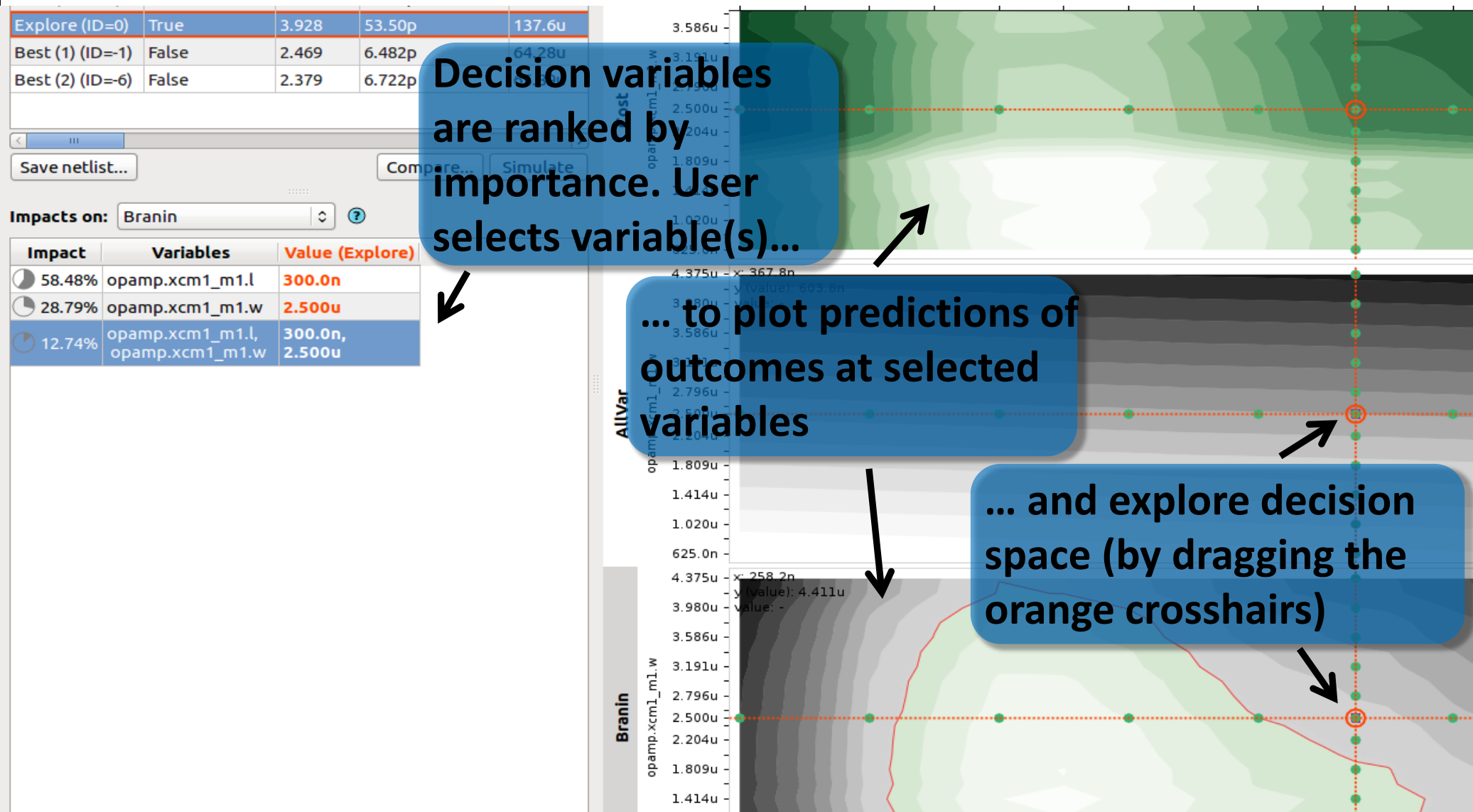
Example: Low-Discrepancy Sampling On Ring Oscillator



Example: ML-driven Design Space Exploration

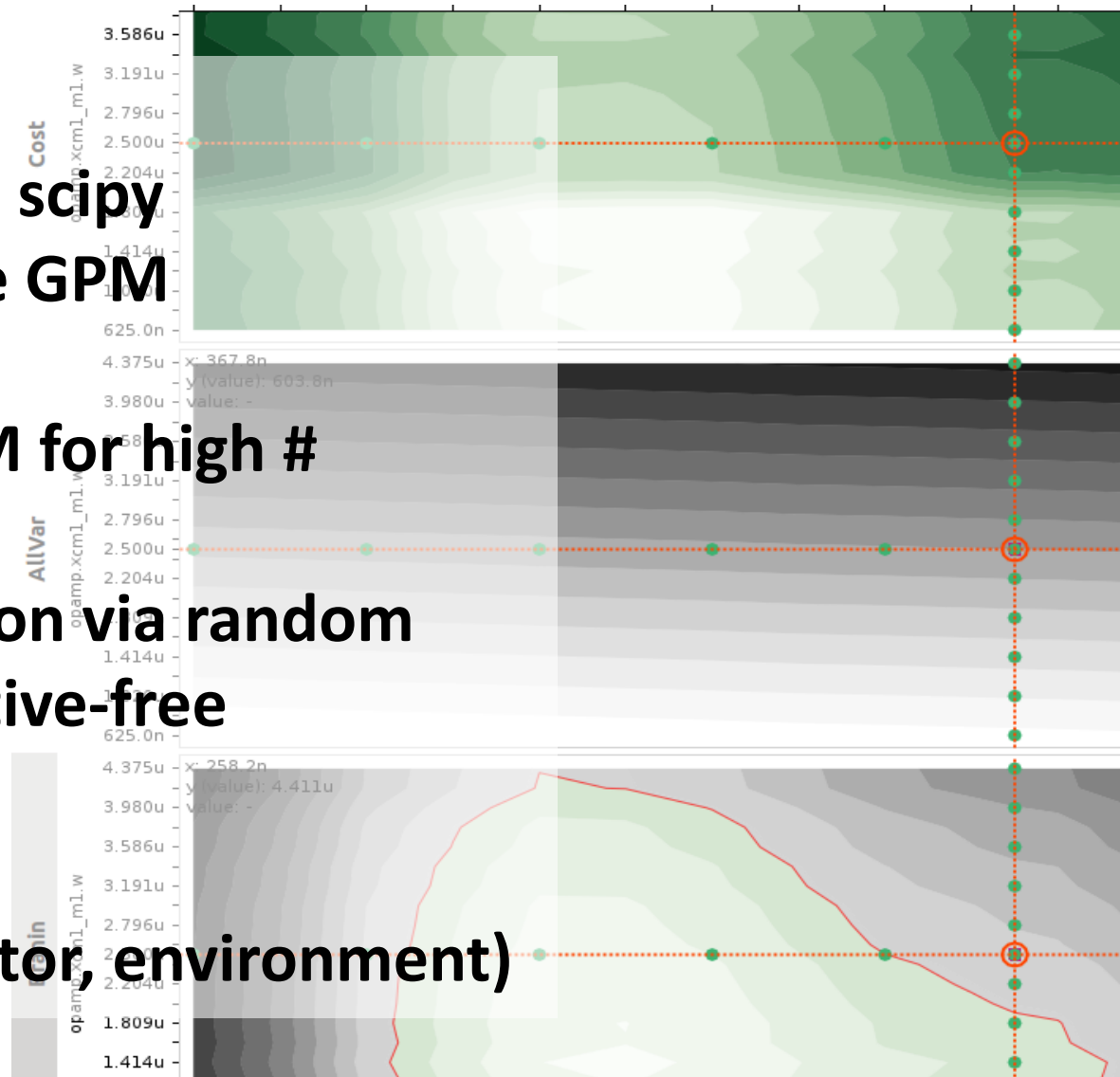
How: GPMs / high-dim Bayesian opt. + natural interface

Benefit: Speed of opt. with control & insight of manual



ML-driven Design Space Exploration: The Stack

- 100% Python
 - Python 2.7, numpy, scipy
 - scikit-learn for base GPM
 - Custom ML:
 - Customized GPM for high # samples
 - Inner optimization via random search & derivative-free optimization
 - Qt4, Chaco
- 3rd party circuit simulator (environment)



Summary of Python-powered ML inside Solido

- Regression with interpolation & CIs (KRC: scalability via divide-and-conquer on GPM)
- Model-based optimization, reliably finds global optimum by accounting for error in CIs

- 1-d density estimation (extrapolate via NQ)
- Low-discrepancy sampling (High dimensionality via modified Lattice Rules)
- Data mining for variable sensitivities
- Fast-evaluation opt. (evolutionary progr.)
- Regression w/ interpolation; model-based opt.

- Rare-event estimation (HSMC algorithm: transform into ranking problem, solve with adaptive sampling)
- High-dimensional regression (FFX: pathwise learning on huge # basis functions)
- High-dimensional classification (FFXC: pathwise ..)
- Data mining for variable sensitivities

Fast PVT
2-50X faster
verification across
PVT corners

Fast MC
2-10x faster 3 σ
verification, statistical
corners

High-Sigma MC
Fast, accurate,
scalable, verifiable
6 σ Monte Carlo

Hier. MC
Fast statistical
memory array /
column analysis

Cell Optimizer
Auto variation-aware design space exploration
of memory/std cells

Fast Design Sweep
Fast, thorough manual variation-aware
design space exploration

- Model-based optimization
- Regression with interpolation & CIs (KRC: scalability via divide-and-conquer on GPM)

- Active learning via model-based optimization
- Regression with interpolation & CIs (KRC: scalability via divide-and-conquer on GPM)
- High-dimensional visualization / sweep exploration
- Data mining for variable sensitivities
- Data mining for variable-interaction sensitivities

- MC sampling on hierarchically organized design (Fast Hier MC algorithm: transform into ranking problem, solve with adaptive sampling)
- High-dimensional regression (FFX)
- High-dimensional classification (FFXC)
- Data mining for variable sensitivities

Conclusion: Python & ML Help Drive Moore's Law

Silicon Midas touch *applied to itself*

(It helped to design the phone in your pocket, the servers on the cloud, ...)

