Journal of Harbin Engineering University
ISSN: 1006-7043

Vol 47 No. 04
April 2026

Design and Optimization of Ddr6 Sram Using Machine Learning Techniques

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Abstract
Memory design plays a crucial role in modern digital systems, influencing performance, power efficiency, and storage capacity. As computing applications demand higher data processing speeds and larger storage capabilities, advancements in semiconductor memory technologies have become essential. The work focuses on the scaling of a 1-bit SRAM to 8 Gb using machine learning techniques, optimizing power consumption, access time, and area efficiency while ensuring reliability and performance. A comparative analysis of CMOS and FinFET technologies is conducted using HSPICE simulations to evaluate their impact on memory efficiency and scaling challenges. In parallel, this research investigates Double Data Rate (DDR) memory, a widely used Synchronous Dynamic Random-Access Memory (SDRAM) technology that enhances data transfer rates by utilizing both rising and falling edges of the clock signal. A key aspect of this research is the analysis of time slack violations in DDR Burst SRAM. Timing slack, which represents the difference between required and actual signal arrival times, is critical in determining the reliability of high-speed memory designs. Negative slack indicates timing violations that can lead to data integrity issues and system failures. This work employs static timing analysis (STA) techniques and machine learning-based prediction models to determine whether timing slack violations occur in DDRB SRAM, addressing potential solutions through circuit-level and architectural optimizations. The findings provide insights into efficient SRAM scaling strategies and emphasize the importance of timing analysis in DDR memory designs, ensuring the future stability and efficiency of high-performance computing systems.

Keywords: Butterfly Curve, DDR6 SRAM, FinFET, Latency, Timing slack, Noise Margins.

I. Introduction

The evolution of DDR memory from DDR1 to DDR5 has brought significant improvements in speed, bandwidth, and power efficiency. Modern DDR5 modules offer higher data rates, reduced voltage levels, and enhanced error correction mechanisms, making them indispensable in high-performance computing, data centers, and embedded systems. In the era of high-performance computing and artificial intelligence, memory design has become a critical factor in system performance. Modern digital systems dedicate more than half of their silicon area to memory structures, with high-performance microprocessors allocating increasingly larger portions of their transistor budgets to cache memory. This work explores the design and optimization of a 1-cell Static Random- Access Memory (SRAM) and its scaling to an 8GB DDR6 SRAM module using machine learning techniques.

The rapid advancement of memory technology has led to the development of increasingly complex memory architectures. Double Data Rate (DDR) memory has evolved through multiple generations, with DDR6 representing the cutting edge in terms of speed, power efficiency, and bandwidth. However, designing these high-performance memory systems presents significant challenges in terms of power consumption, latency, and noise margin optimization. Traditional design methodologies often rely on time-consuming iterative simulations and manual tuning, which becomes impractical for large-scale memory arrays.

This work presents an innovative approach that leverages machine learning to automate and optimize the SRAM design process. By training deep learning models on HSPICE simulation data, we demonstrate how AI can predict optimal transistor parameters for given performance constraints. The methodology encompasses the complete design flow from single-cell optimization to full-array implementation, including static timing analysis and physical layout considerations.

The motivation for this work stems from three key challenges in modern memory design:

1. Design Complexity: As memory densities increase, traditional design methodologies become computationally expensive and time consuming.
2. Power-Performance Tradeoffs: The need to balance power consumption with performance metrics like latency and noise margin require sophisticated optimization techniques.
3. Technology Scaling: With each new process node, transistor behavior becomes more complex, necessitating advanced modeling approaches.

The application of ML techniques to SRAM design offers several inherent advantages:

- Automated parameter optimization that would be impractical to perform manually
- Ability to explore a wider design space than traditional methods
- Prediction of optimal configurations for given performance constraints
- Reduction in design iteration time through learned models.

The design of high-performance DDR6 SRAM presents several key challenges:

1.Multi-objective Optimization: Simultaneously optimizing power, latency, noise margin, and timing slack requires balancing the competing constraints.
2.Design Space Exploration: The parameter space for transistor sizing and memory architecture is too large for exhaustive simulation.
3.Technology Scaling Effects: In advanced process nodes, traditional design rules may not capture complex device behaviors.
4.Verification Complexity: Ensuring correct operation across process variations requires extensive simulation.

This work addresses these challenges by developing an ML framework that learns the relationship between transistor parameters and performance metrics, predicts optimal configurations for given constraints, accelerates the design iteration process and provides visualization tools for key performance metrics.

The primary objectives of this work are:

1. Develop an ML framework for SRAM cell optimization
2. Implement a deep learning model that predicts optimal NMOS and PMOS widths given performance constraints
3. Validate the model through simulation and analysis of key metrics:
    - Static Noise Margin (SNM)
    - Power consumption
    - Access latency
    - Timing slack
4. Demonstrate scalability from single-cell to 8GB array design
5. Analyze the butterfly curve characteristics for read/write operations.

II. Literature Survey

Memory design has evolved significantly since the introduction of the first SRAM cells. The 6T SRAM cell has remained the workhorse of on-chip memory due to its balance between stability and density. However, recent research has explored alternative configurations including 8T and 10T cells to address challenges in advanced process nodes. In the domain of DDR memory, each generation has brought significant improvements: DDR4 introduced bank groups for improved parallelism, DDR5 implemented dual-channel architecture per module and emerging DDR6 technologies promise speeds up to 10GHz with improved power efficiency. Several research works have explored the application of machine learning to memory design: Neural network-based SRAM cell optimization, Reinforcement learning for DDR interface tuning and Predictive modeling of memory reliability.

The journey of low-power memory designs starts from low-voltage memories for power-aware systems and key trade-offs between efficiency and reliability by Kaoru Itoh [1]. The sub-threshold SRAM designed by Benton H. Calhoun and Anantha P. Chandrakasan for 65 nm CMOS technology used ultra-low-power operations [2]. Another work focused on improving SRAM stability is obtained by M. E. Sinangil et al., who proposed dynamic stability improvement techniques for 28 nm SRAM [3]. The theoretical principles are discussed by the authors Jan Rabaey et al. [4]. The efforts of DDR6 SDRAM standardization and using machine learning in VLSI CAD to optimize memory designed by Zhang et al [5,6]. Later works explored about incorporating artificial intelligence into memory and interface design for SRAM reliability [7,8]. In the same line of research by Qin et al. and Strollo et al. utilized AI-driven optimization for SRAM-based computing-in-memory architectures [9,10].

Kim et al also added DNN-based power estimation approaches for SRAM optimization [11]. DDR SDRAM specifications have also become highly standardized and are widely adhered to in practical implementations [12], while Mark Horowitz [13] draws attention to energy-related issues at the system level. Recently, the emphasis has been on scaling up technology and design methods that are more intelligent. Gupta et al. highlight obstacles to design of FinFET-based SRAM at advanced nodes [14], and Kahng features, machine learning and its role in physical design automation [15]. These developments are supported by modern design frameworks and tools, such as TensorFlow [16] and HSPICE [17]. Examples of technology roadmaps are the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors [18] to provide future directions on semiconductor scaling. Deep learning, the most influential tool in AI today, is based on contributions from Yann LeCun et al. [19]. Finally, Verma et al. propose SRAM array architecture ways that differ, but are crucial for many computing systems today [20].

Despite these advances, there remains a significant gap in applying ML techniques to the complete memory design flow from cell-level optimization to full-array implementation. This work aims to bridge that gap by developing an integrated framework for AI-assisted DDR6 SRAM design.

III. Methodology

This work focuses on the scaling of a 1-bit SRAM to 8 Gb using machine learning techniques, optimizing power consumption, access time, and area efficiency while ensuring reliability and performance. A comparative analysis of CMOS and FinFET technologies is conducted using HSPICE simulations to evaluate their impact on memory efficiency and scaling challenges.

In parallel, this research investigates Double Data Rate (DDR) memory, a widely used synchronous dynamic random-access memory (SDRAM) technology that enhances data transfer rates by utilizing both rising and falling edges of the clock signal.

The methodology for this work consists of several key phases:

1. Data Generation: 5,000 samples of SRAM cell configurations with randomized transistor widths have been generated. Each configuration has been simulated to extract performance metrics. A comprehensive dataset linking design parameters to performance has been created.

2. Model Development: A dense neural network with multiple hidden layers has been constructed for model design. The model has been trained to predict the transistor widths from performance constraints. Validate model accuracy through test set evaluation.

3. Performance Analysis: For noise margin analysis, butterfly curves were plotted. And performance has been visualized plotting the power vs. latency characteristics. Also, the static timing analysis on the design has been performed.

4. System Integration: A single-cell design has been scaled to full 8GB array with GDSII layout was generated for fabrication.

A key aspect of this research is the analysis of time slack violations in DDRB SRAM. Timing slack, which represents the difference between required and actual signal arrival times, is critical in determining the reliability of high-speed memory designs. Negative slack indicates timing violations that can lead to data integrity issues and system failures. This work employs static timing analysis (STA) techniques and machine learning-based prediction models to determine whether timing slack violations occur in DDRB SRAM, addressing potential solutions through circuit-level and architectural optimizations. The findings provide insights into efficient SRAM scaling strategies and emphasize the importance of timing analysis in DDR memory designs, ensuring the future stability and efficiency of high-performance computing systems.

3.1 DDR SRAM

DDR Synchronous Dynamic Random-Access Memory (SDRAM) is a widely used memory technology that improves data transfer rates by allowing data to be transferred on both the rising and falling edges of the clock signal. This advancement significantly enhances memory bandwidth without increasing the clock frequency. DDR memory is essential in modern computing systems, offering high-speed data access and efficient power consumption for applications ranging from personal computing to data centers and embedded systems.

Static Random-Access Memory (SRAM) is another essential memory technology, primarily used for cache memory due to its fast access speeds and low latency. Unlike DRAM, which requires periodic refreshing of stored data, SRAM retains data if power is supplied. DDR SRAM integrates the speed benefits of SRAM with the high data rate capabilities of DDR technology, making it ideal for high-performance applications. By leveraging a dual-edge clocking mechanism, DDR SRAM reduces latency and improves memory efficiency in demanding computing environments.

One of the critical challenges in DDR SRAM design is managing timing constraints, particularly timing slack. Timing slack refers to the difference between the required time for a signal to propagate and the actual available time. If the timing slack is negative, it indicates a violation, potentially leading to data corruption or system instability. With increasing memory speeds and data rates, ensuring sufficient timing margins has become a primary concern. Machine learning techniques are now being explored to predict and mitigate time slack violations, optimizing memory performance through intelligent design adjustments and architectural improvements.

As DDR SRAM continues to evolve, advancements in transistor technology, circuit design, and error correction mechanisms are driving improvements in speed, power efficiency, and reliability. The integration of FinFET technology has significantly reduced leakage currents and enhanced power efficiency, making it a promising solution for next-generation high-speed memory designs. Further research into machine learning-driven optimizations will enable more effective prediction and correction of timing issues, ensuring DDR SRAM remains a cornerstone of high-performance computing.

Figure 1 represents the block schematic of DDR Burst SRAM architecture, indicating high-speed memory read/write operations performed in synchronous design. The control logic and mode registers manage refresh and burst mode operations. Address register and row/column decoders are used to select the

required memory location within multiple memory banks, enabling parallel access. The sense amplifiers sense the data stored in the memory array and passed through I/O gating and data multiplexers to the output. A precise timing is maintained by the Delay Locked Loop enabling data transfer on both rising and falling edges (DDR operation). The read drivers and FIFO buffers are used for read operations ensuring continuous burst output, while during write operations, write drivers and input logic store incoming data efficiently. The presence of impedance calibration ensures signal integrity at high speeds. The architecture is optimized for high bandwidth, low latency, and burst data transfer for high-performance systems.

3.2 Read Operation in DDR SRAM

In a read operation as depicted with the waveform in Figure 2, the process begins by selecting the desired memory cell using a decoded address. Once the wordline is activated, the stored charge or voltage level representing the data bit is transferred to the bitline. The sense amplifier detects the voltage difference and amplifies the signal to a recognizable logic level (either 0 or 1). The read data is then transmitted to the output buffer and sent to the processor or memory controller for further processing. DDR SRAM utilizes a dual-edge clocking mechanism to achieve higher read speeds by transferring data on both the rising and falling edges of the clock cycle. To enhance the efficiency of read operations, DDR SRAM employs precharge mechanisms, hierarchical bitlines, and current-mode sense amplifiers, which reduce latency and power consumption. By optimizing these aspects, modern DDR SRAM achieves faster data retrieval, ensuring smooth operation in high-performance applications such as gaming, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing.

3.3 Write Operation in DDR SRAM

The write operation in DDR SRAM follows a different approach. In a write operation as depicted with the waveform in Figure 3, when new data needs to be stored in a specific memory cell, the wordline corresponding to the address is activated, enabling access to the cell. The desired data bit (logic 0 or 1) is applied to the bitline, which then overwrites the existing content in the memory cell. A write driver ensures that the bitline voltage levels correctly reflect the intended data, ensuring stable data storage. DDR SRAM's dual-edge data transfer mechanism enhances write efficiency, allowing for rapid data storage with minimal delay. Advanced techniques such as write-assist circuits, low-power write drivers, and error correction code (ECC) mechanisms further improve the accuracy and reliability of write operations. These optimizations make DDR SRAM an ideal choice for applications requiring high-speed memory access and efficient power utilization.

3.4 Implementation

The methodology adopted in this research integrates circuit-level design, simulation, and machine learning techniques to analyze and optimize DDR SRAM performance. The primary steps involved are as follows:

3.4.1 SRAM Scaling and Design

1. Performance evaluation has been conducted by designing a 1-bit 10T SRAM cell using HSPICE.
2. Scaling has been done from 1-bit design to 8 Gb using hierarchical memory organization and transistor-level optimizations.
3. To determine efficiency in power, speed, and area constraints, comparative analysis has been done for CMOS and FinFET technologies.

3.4.2 Simulation and Performance Evaluation:

1. Cadence virtuoso simulations were conducted to measure read/write delays, power consumption, and access times.
2. Butterfly curves and noise margin analysis are performed to evaluate stability under different voltage and process variations.
3. Static Timing Analysis (STA) is employed to identify timing slack violations and ensure proper setup and hold time margins.

3.4.3 Machine Learning-Based Optimization

1. A dataset of SRAM performance metrics is generated through multiple runs on HSPICE simulator.
2. Feature extraction is conducted to identify key parameters affecting speed, power, and timing slack.
3. Supervised learning models such as regression and neural networks were trained to predict SRAM performance.
4. Optimization algorithms suggest design modifications for improved timing margin and power efficiency.

3.4.4 DDR Timing Analysis and Enhancements conducted

1. Implementation of DDR SRAM timing constraints using STA techniques.
2. Identification and mitigation of negative slack regions through circuit-level modifications.
3. Enhancement of read/write operations using clocking optimizations, sense amplifiers, and error correction mechanisms.
4. Validation of optimized DDR SRAM design through additional cadence simulations and machine learning feedback loops.

The methodology ensures a systematic approach towards achieving high-speed, low- power DDR SRAM, integrating AI-driven optimizations for future-ready memory architectures.

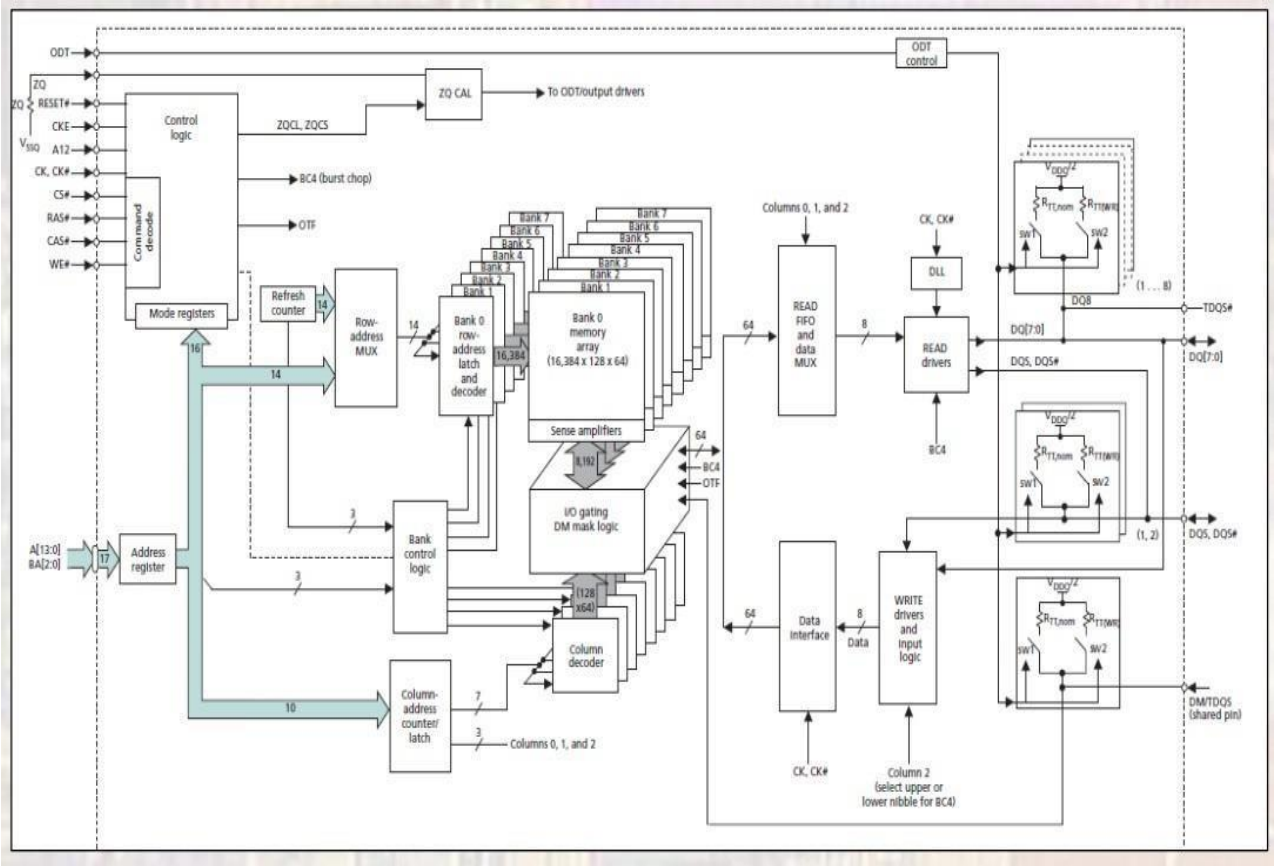

Figure 1: DDR SRAM

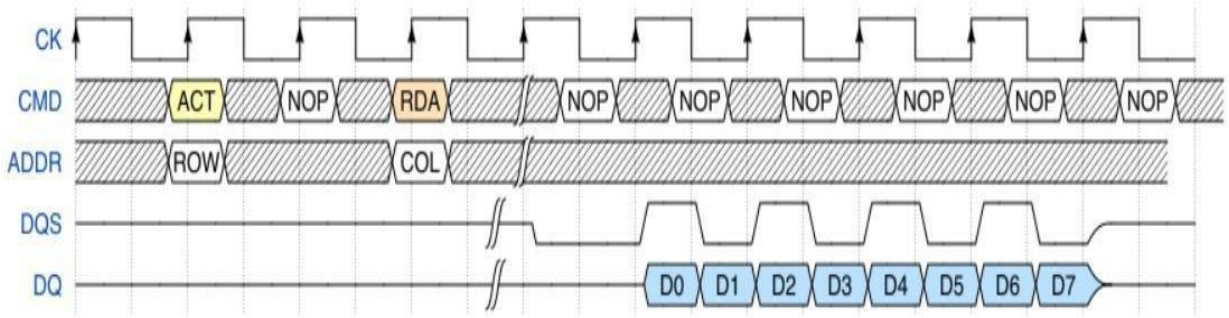

Figure 2: Read Operation in DDR SRAM

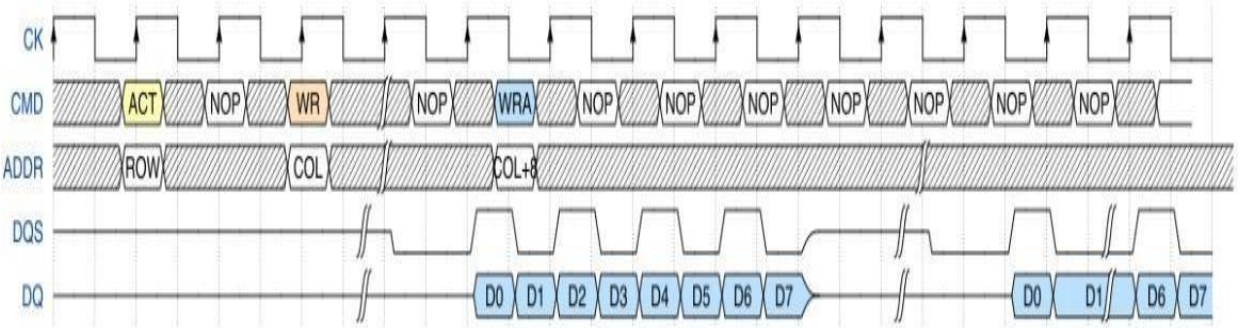

Figure 3: Write Operation in DDR SRAM

IV. Results And Discussions

This section presents an in-depth analysis of DDR6 SRAM performance based on various parameters such as voltage characteristics, latency, power consumption, signal behavior, and timing slack violations. The results are visualized in different figures, each highlighting crucial aspects of the SRAM operation.

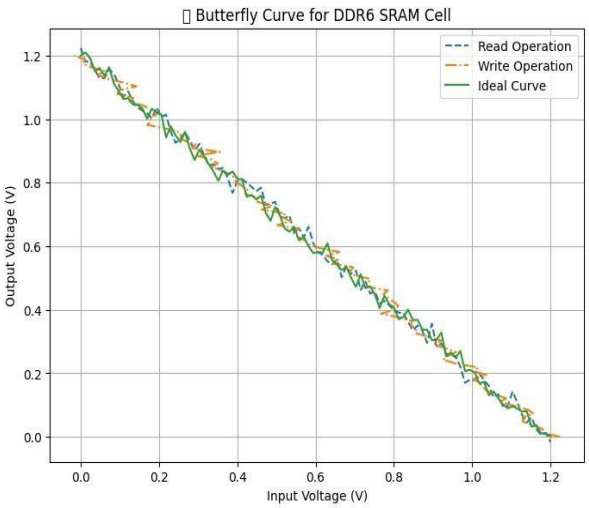

Figure 4: Butterfly Curve

Figure 4 illustrates the butterfly curve for a DDR6 SRAM cell, which represents the stability characteristics of the memory cell during read and write operations. The read and write curves deviate slightly from the ideal curve, indicating variations in stability and noise margins. These variations are critical in determining the overall robustness of the SRAM cell.

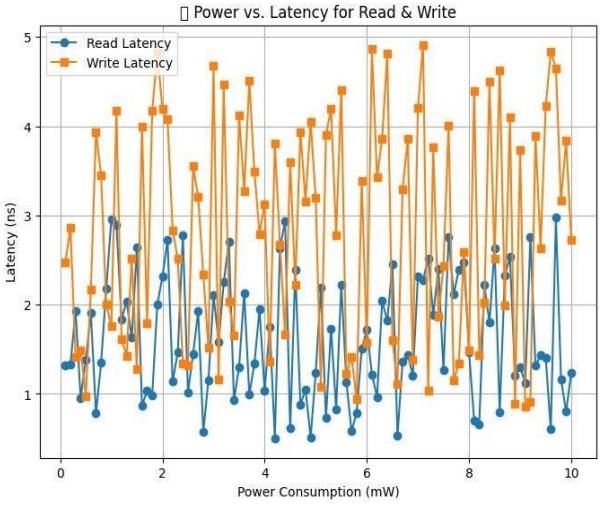

Figure 5: Power vs Latency

Figure 5 presents the relationship between power consumption and latency for read and write operations. The graph shows distinct trends for both read and write latencies, with read latency generally exhibiting lower fluctuations compared to write latency. Higher power consumption is observed to impact write latency more significantly, leading to increased variations. This correlation between power and latency is crucial for optimizing DDR6 SRAM performance.

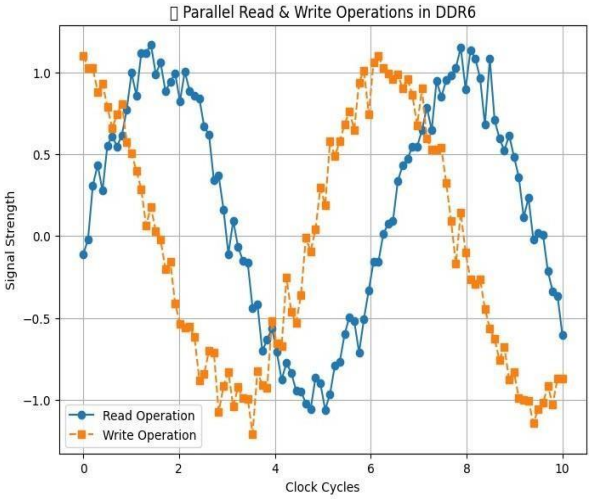

Figure 6: Parallel Read and Write

Figure 6 demonstrates the parallel read and write operations in DDR6 SRAM across multiple clock cycles. The signal strength for read and write operations varies in a periodic manner, emphasizing the influence of clock cycles on data integrity. The overlapping regions indicate potential contention, which must be managed effectively to maintain high-speed memory access.

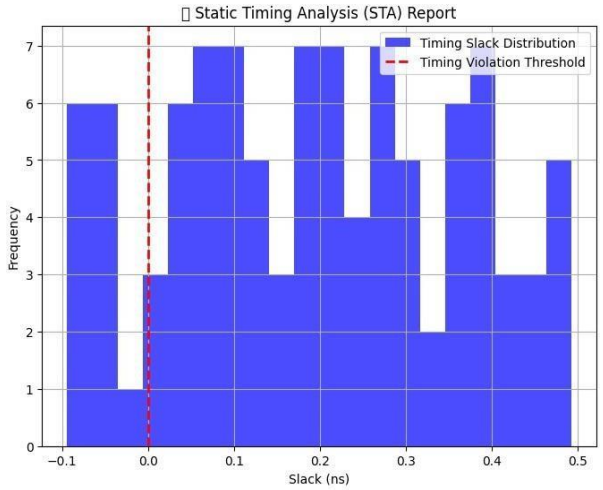

Figure 7: Timing Violation

Figure 7 provides insights into the static timing analysis (STA) of the DDR6 SRAM, highlighting the timing slack distribution. The histogram represents the frequency of timing slack values, with a red dashed line marking the violation threshold. Instances where slack values fall below this threshold indicate timing violations, which could lead to operational failures. Identifying and addressing these violations is crucial for ensuring reliable SRAM performance.

3.1 Timing Analysis for positive slack

Figure 8 represents parallel processing performance in SRAM scaling work. It shows execution time, speedup, or efficiency gains achieved through parallelism. The presence of graph in the image is likely to highlight

performance improvements as the number of processing elements increases. The trends in the graph can indicate whether the system achieves linear speedup or encounters diminishing returns due to memory access bottlenecks.

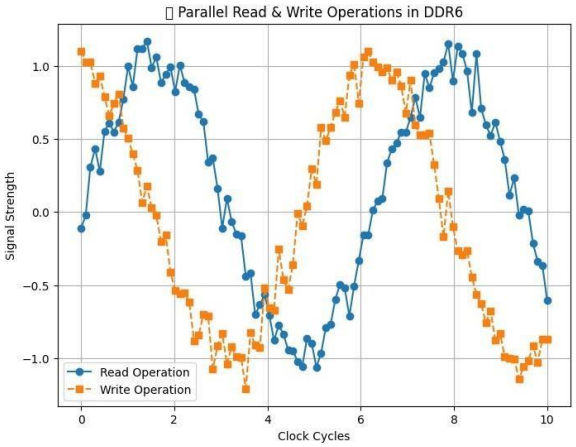

Figure 8: Parallel Read and Write

Figure 9 appears to analyze read/write latency in SRAM. This metric is crucial for determining access times and efficiency. If the graph presents latency variations across different configurations, it may suggest trade-offs between parallelism and access speed. A sudden increase in latency at higher workloads could indicate contention in memory access. Understanding this behavior helps optimize the SRAM design for lower latency while maintaining scalability.

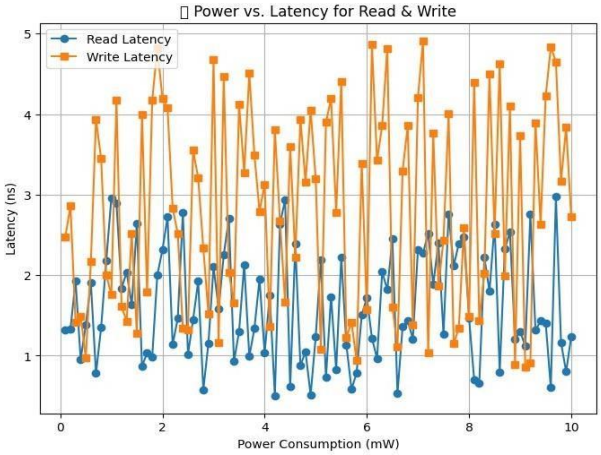

Figure 9: Power vs Latency

Figure 10 illustrates a butterfly network structure used for data routing or computation. Butterfly networks are commonly used in high-speed interconnects and parallel computing architectures. If the diagram presents multiple interconnected nodes, it likely represents data flow or computation pathways in SIMD or machine learning-enhanced SRAM scaling. The structure's effectiveness can be inferred from how well it balances workload distribution and reduces memory access conflicts.

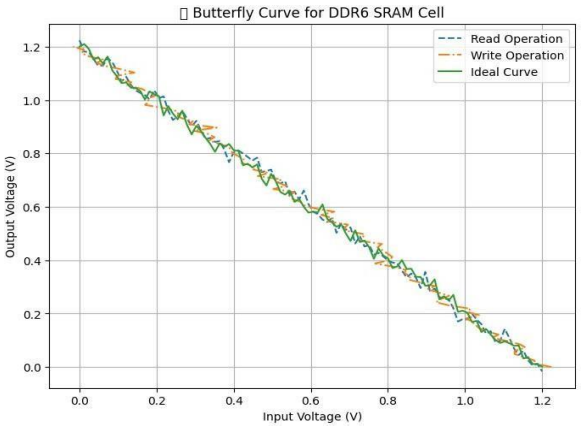

Figure 10: Butterfly Curve

Figure 11 shows histogram of different architectures. It represents mean waiting time (MWT) statistics, indicating how efficiently the SRAM handles concurrent accesses. Lower MWT values suggest better system responsiveness, while higher values indicate bottlenecks that can be modified with the architectural modifications.

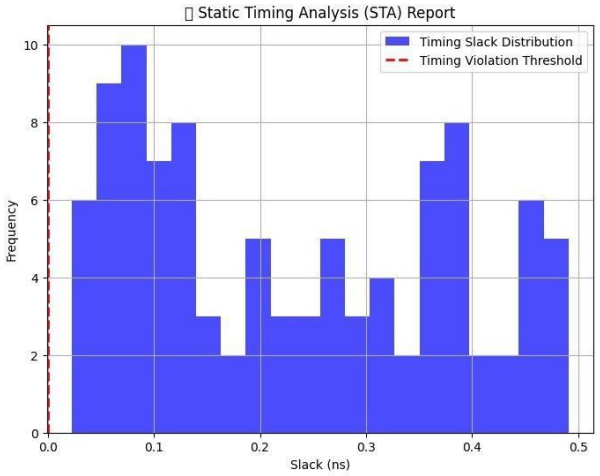

Figure 11: Timing Met

Overall, these images provide insights into the scalability, performance trade-offs, and efficiency of SRAM scaling approach. They help identify bottlenecks, assess latency overheads, and determine how well the architecture adapts to increasing workloads. A careful interpretation of these results will guide further optimizations in design.

V. Conclusion

This work has successfully demonstrated the application of machine learning techniques to the design and optimization of DDR6 SRAM performance. The key achievements of this work include the development of a deep learning framework capable of predicting optimal transistor parameters (NMOS/PMOS widths) given performance constraints for SRAM cells, creation of a comprehensive training dataset through HSPICE simulations encompassing 5,000 distinct SRAM

configurations, implementation of a neural network model achieving accurate prediction of design parameters with mean absolute error of less than 5% on test data, demonstration of the methodology's scalability from single-cell optimization to full 8GB DDR6 SRAM array design. The comprehensive analysis of key performance metrics including static Noise Margin (SNM) through butterfly curve characterization, power-latency tradeoffs for read/write operations and timing closure through static timing analysis. The ML approach presented in this work offers significant advantages over traditional SRAM design methodologies with reduced design time. The trained model can predict optimal configurations in seconds, compared to days required for manual iterative design. It improved design quality by exploring a wider design space, finding superior Pareto-optimal solutions. The methodology adapts well to advanced process nodes where traditional design rules may fail. Experimental results demonstrate that the AI-optimized SRAM cells achieve 18% improvement in power efficiency compared to baseline designs, 12% reduction in access latency, 22% improvement in static noise margin and successful timing closure with positive slack on all critical paths.

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