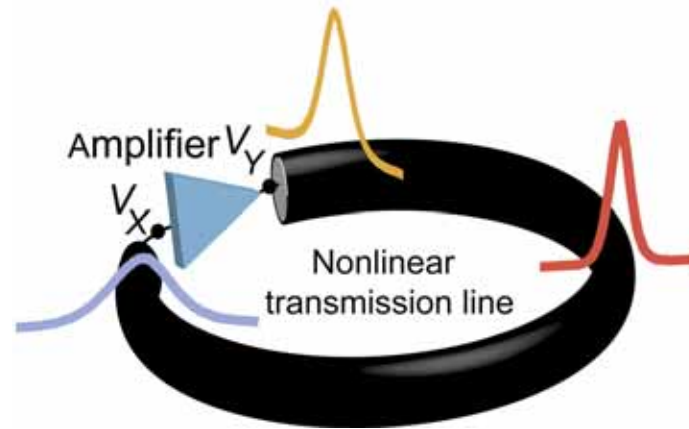


Soliton Electronics

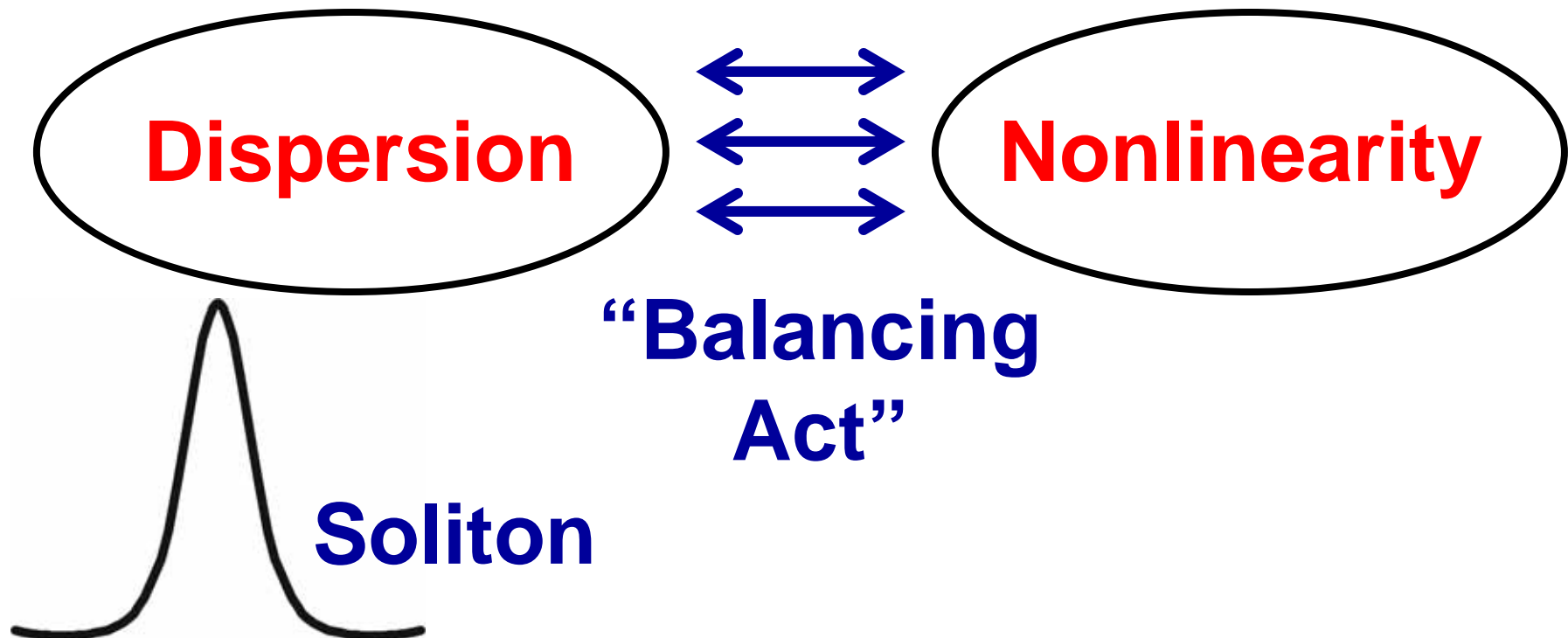


David Ricketts, Xiaofeng Li, & Donhee Ham
Harvard University

Today's speaker — Xiaofeng Li

Solitons: Review

Solitons: Review (1)

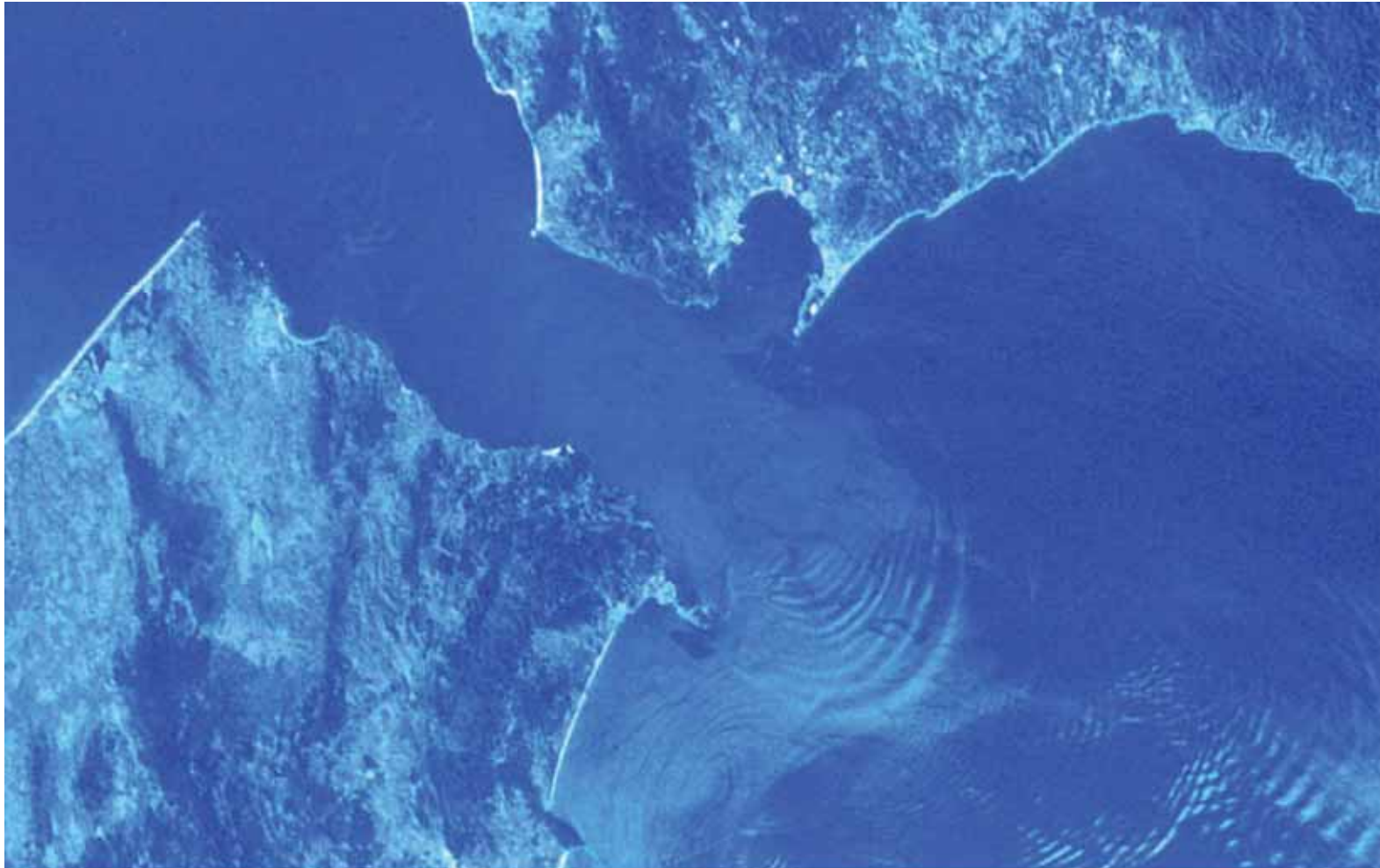


- **Shape maintenance (if loss = 0)**
- **Pulse state maintenance (if loss > 0)**
- **Unique collision & propagation**

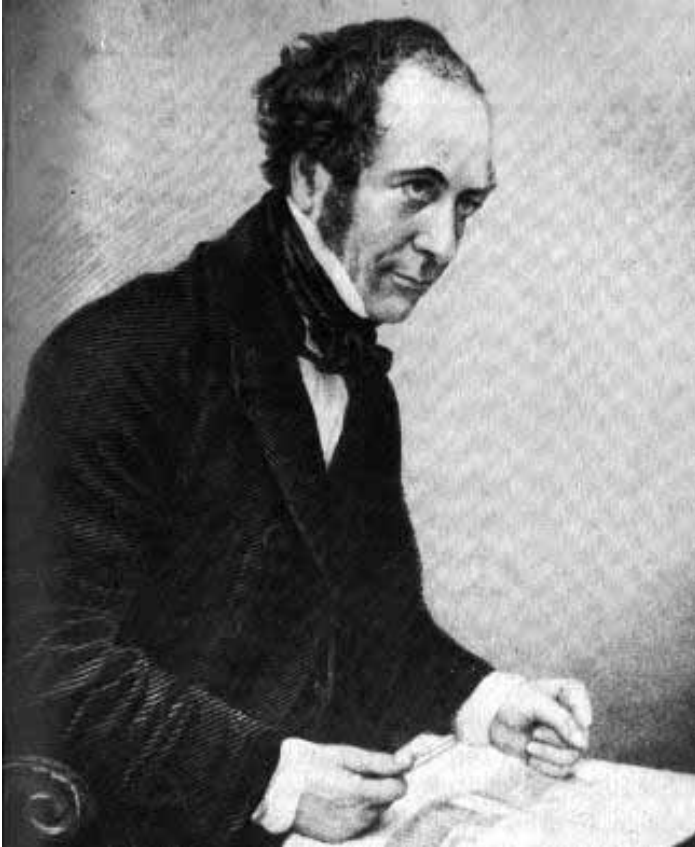
Solitons: Review (2)



Solitons: Review (3)



Solitons: Review (4)



Scott Russell

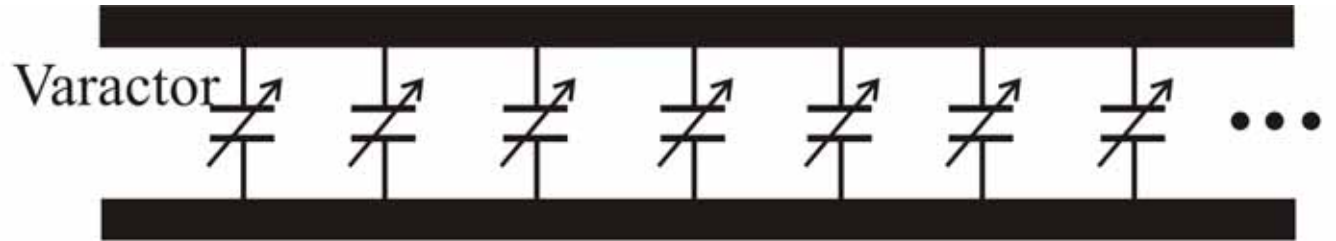


Solitons: Review (5)

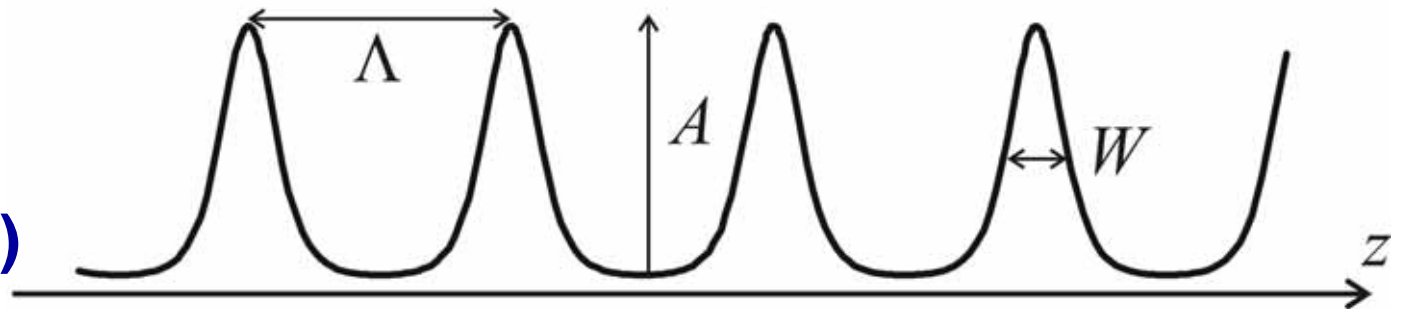
- Water (Russell)
- Mechanical lattice (Fermi)
- Plasma (Zabusky & Kruskal)
- Optical fiber (Haus, Gordon)
- Magnetic films, superconductors, etc.

Electrical Solitons: Review (1)

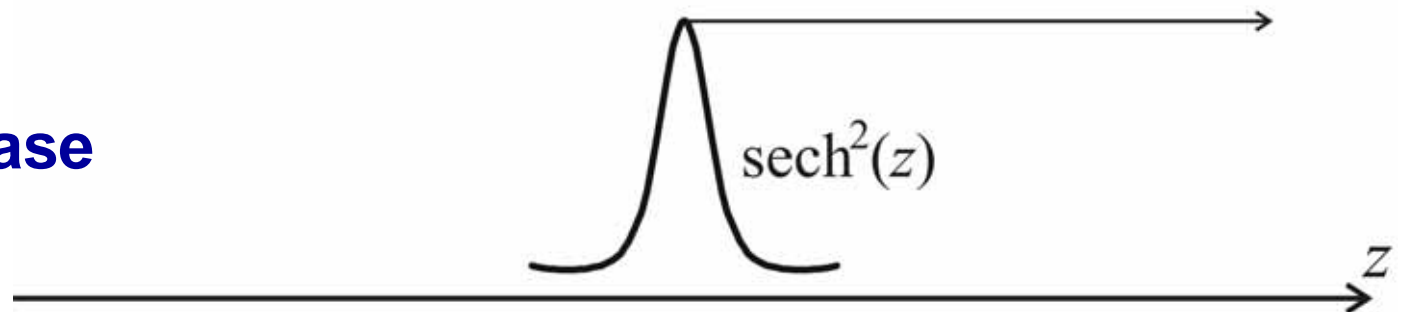
**Nonlinear
Transmission
Line (NLTL)**



**Soliton pulse train
(Cnoidal wave)**

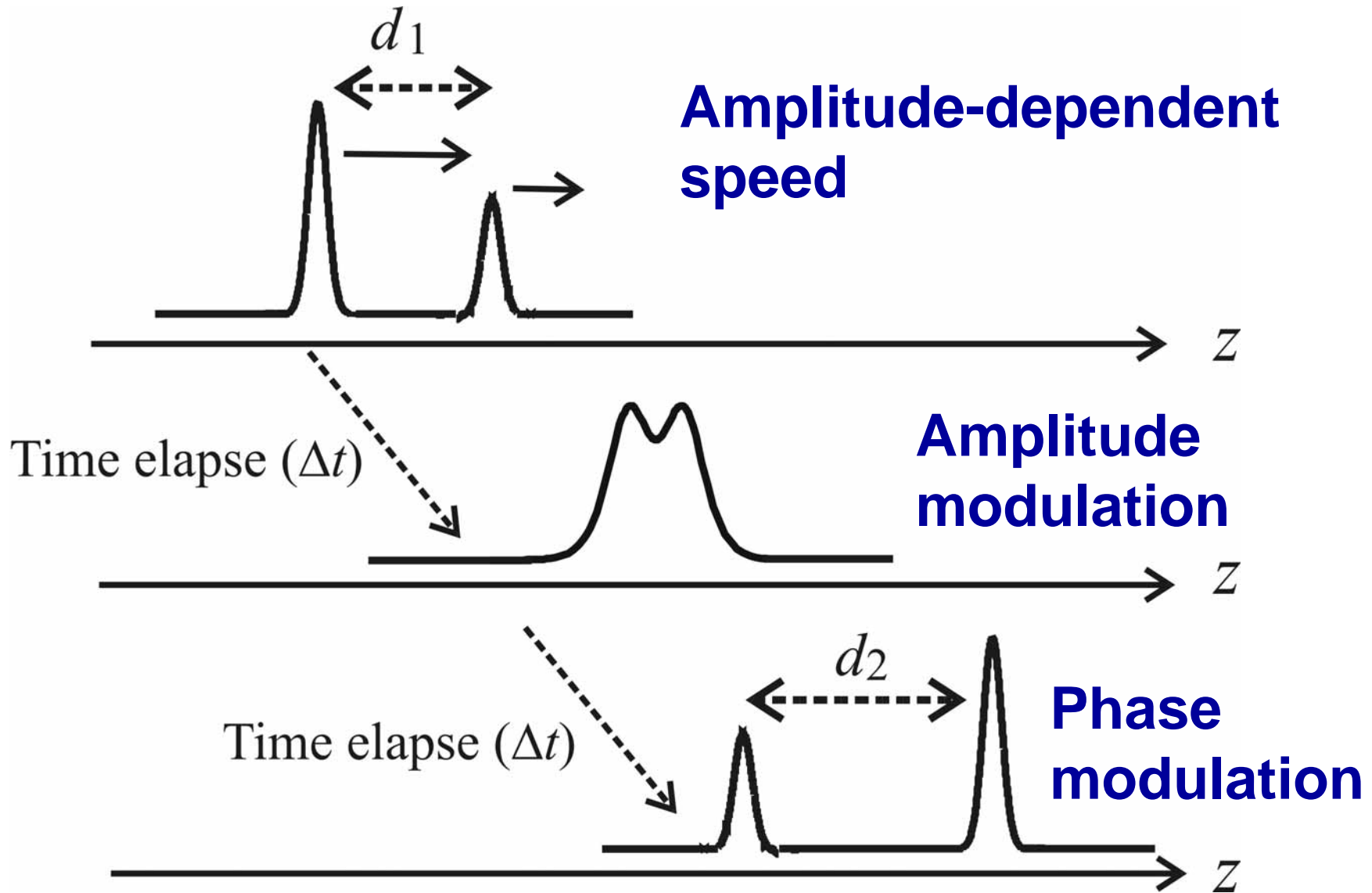


Mono pulse case

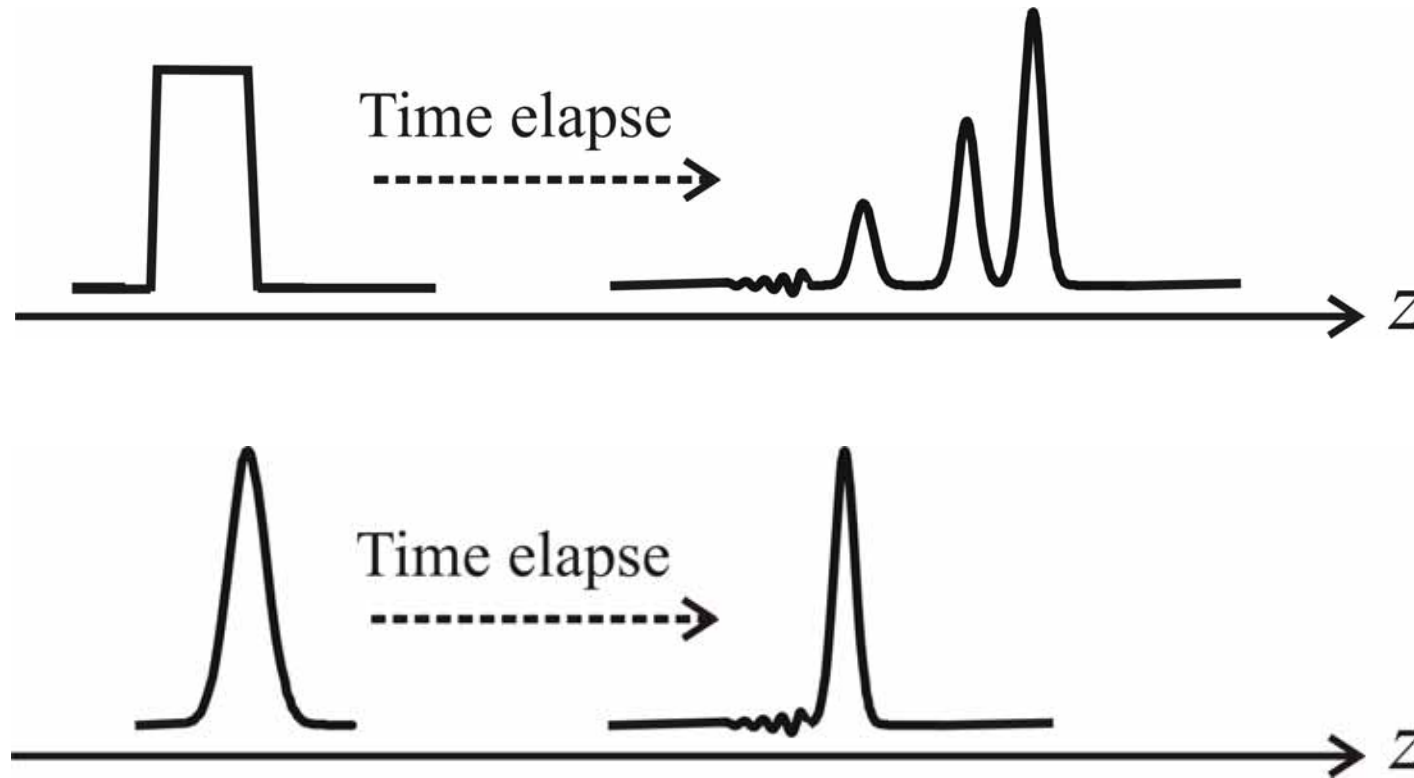


Rodwell *et al*, *Proc. IEEE*, 1994. (Review article)

Electrical Solitons: Review (2)



Electrical Solitons: Review (3)



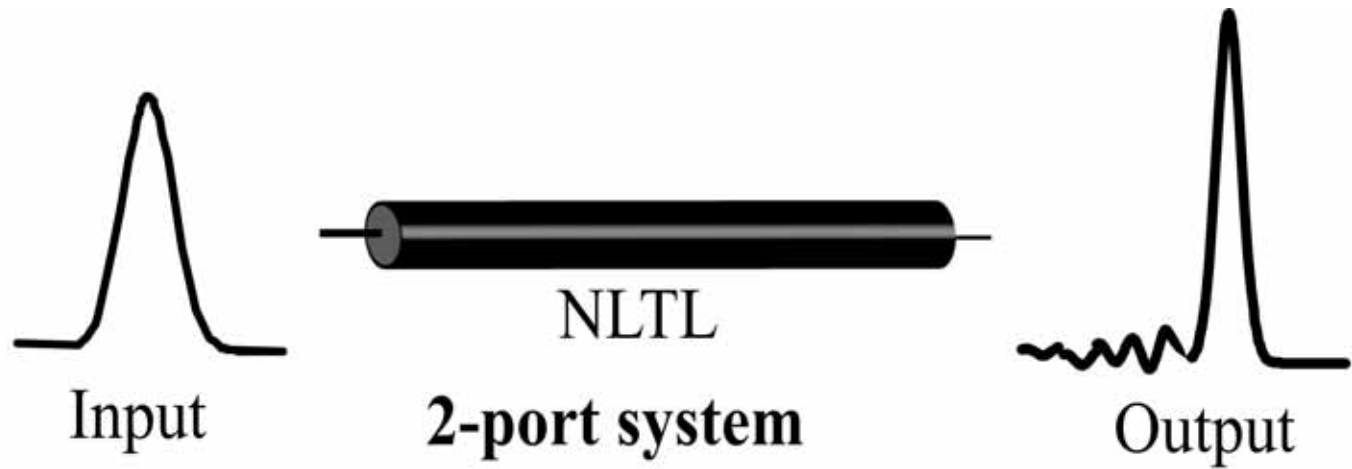
- **Transient, soliton-forming process**
- **2-port applications (Pulse sharpening)**

Rodwell *et al*, *Proc. IEEE*, 1994. (Review article)

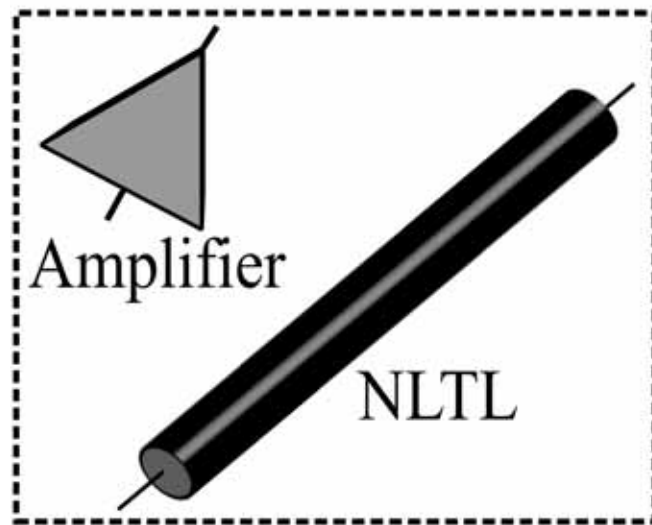
Van der Weide, *APL*, 1994.

Problem Statement

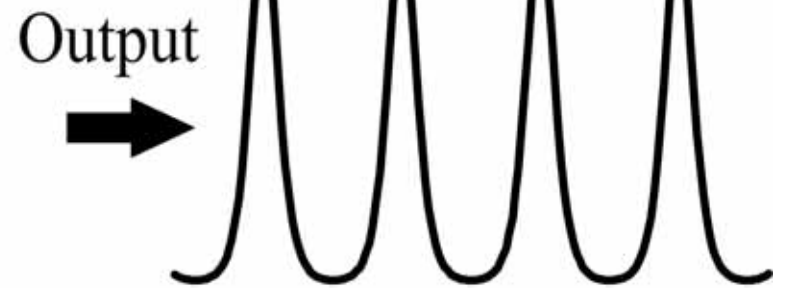
**Past
46 years**



**Can we
build a
soliton
oscillator
?**



1-port soliton oscillator



Donhee Ham

Electrical Soliton Oscillator

- **Original articles (05-07):** *IEEE T-MTT, IEEE ISSCC, & IEEE JSSC*
- **Invited articles:** *IEEE CICC, IEEE LEOS, IEEE RFIC, IEEE Communications Magazine, & McGraw-Hill 2008 Yearbook of Science & Technology*

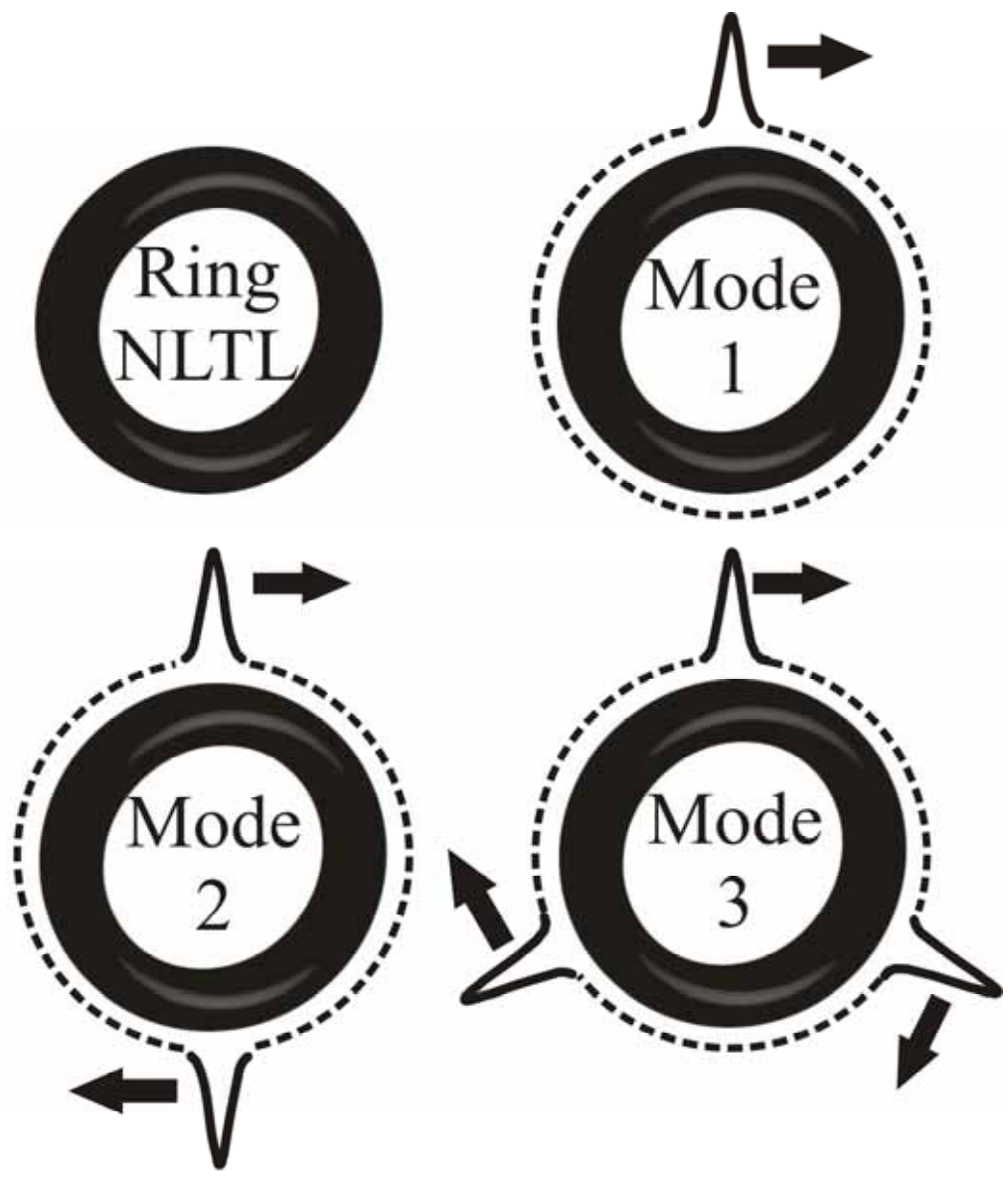
DEVICE PHYSICS

Nature 2006

Electrical solitons come of age

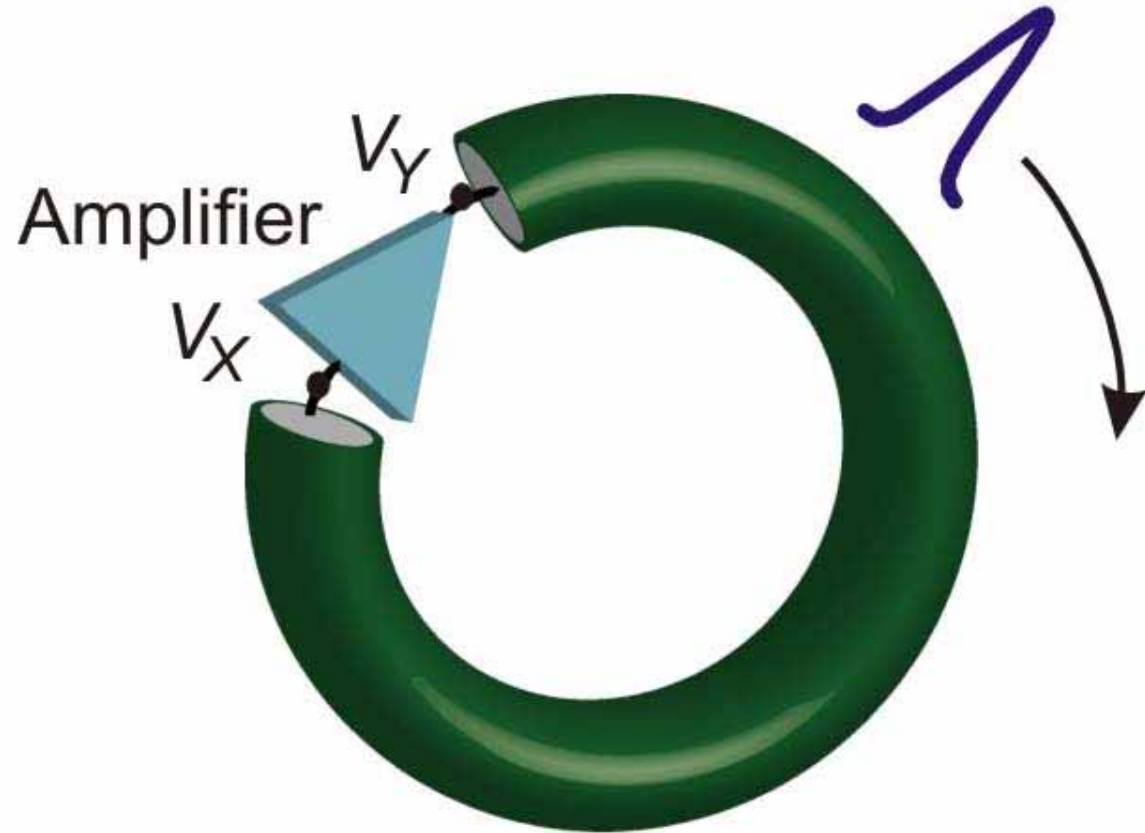
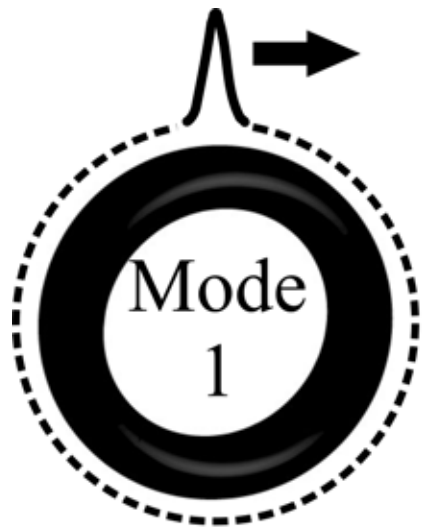
Thomas H. Lee

Ring NLTL



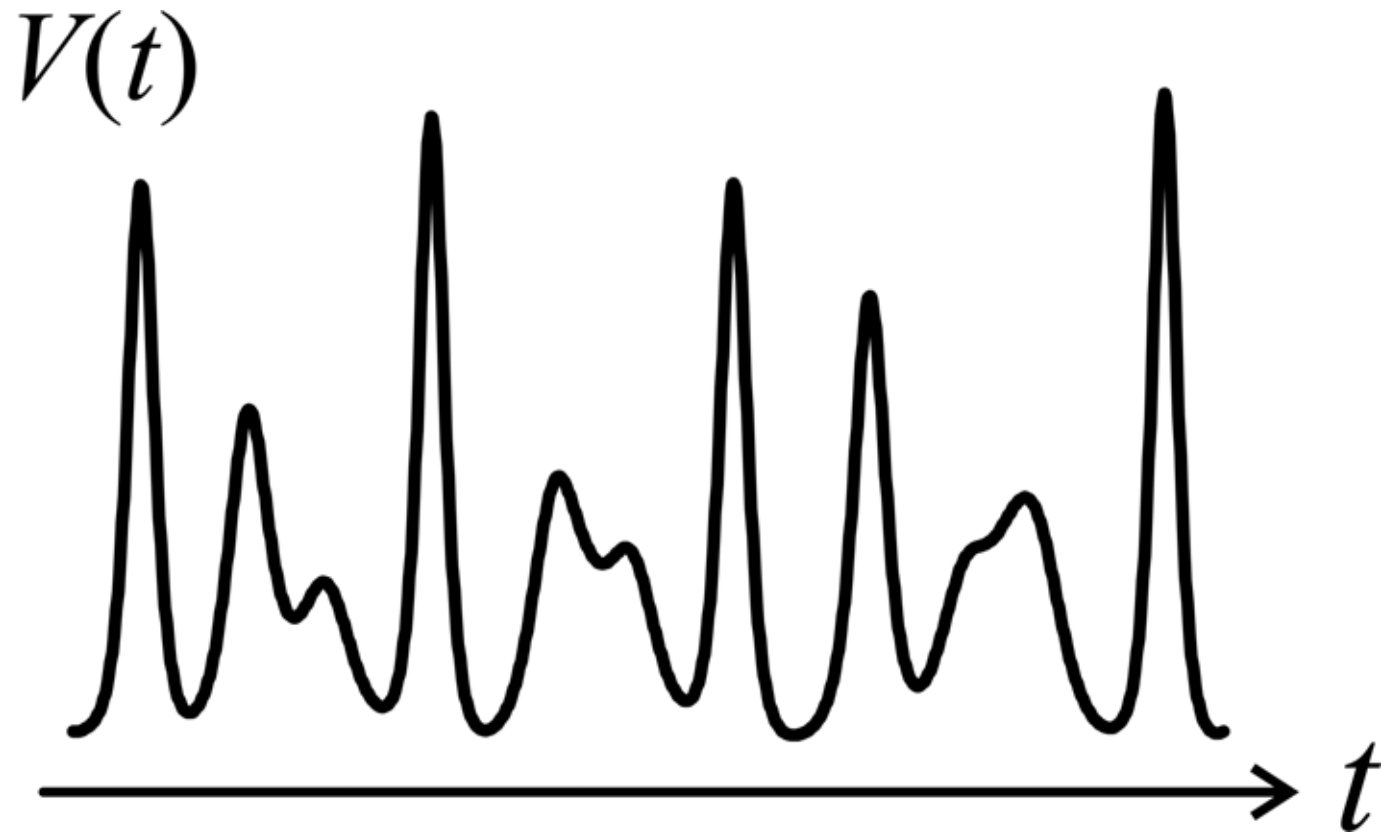
Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

Soliton Oscillator Topology



Nonlinear transmission line

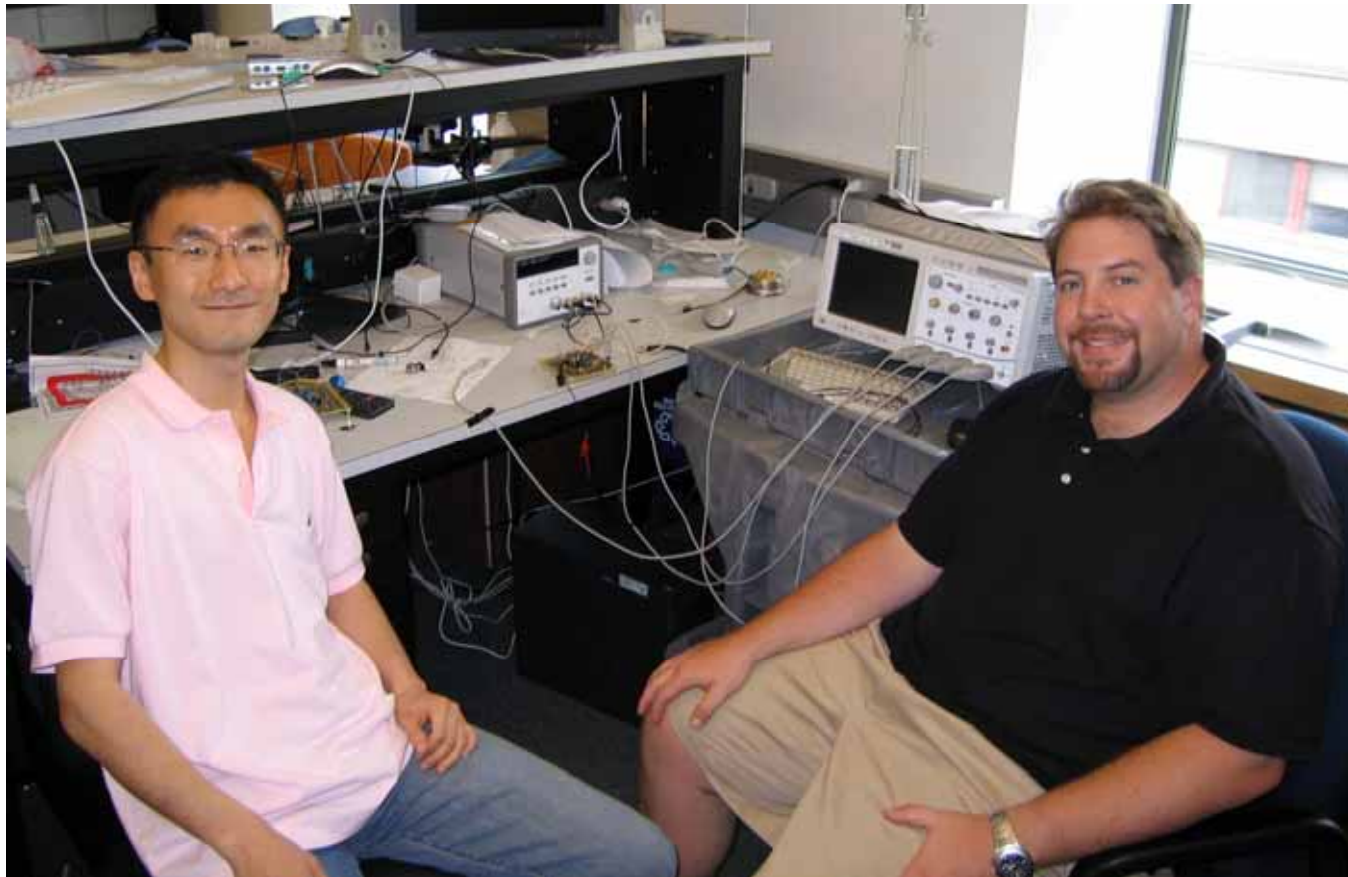
Oscillation Instability Problem



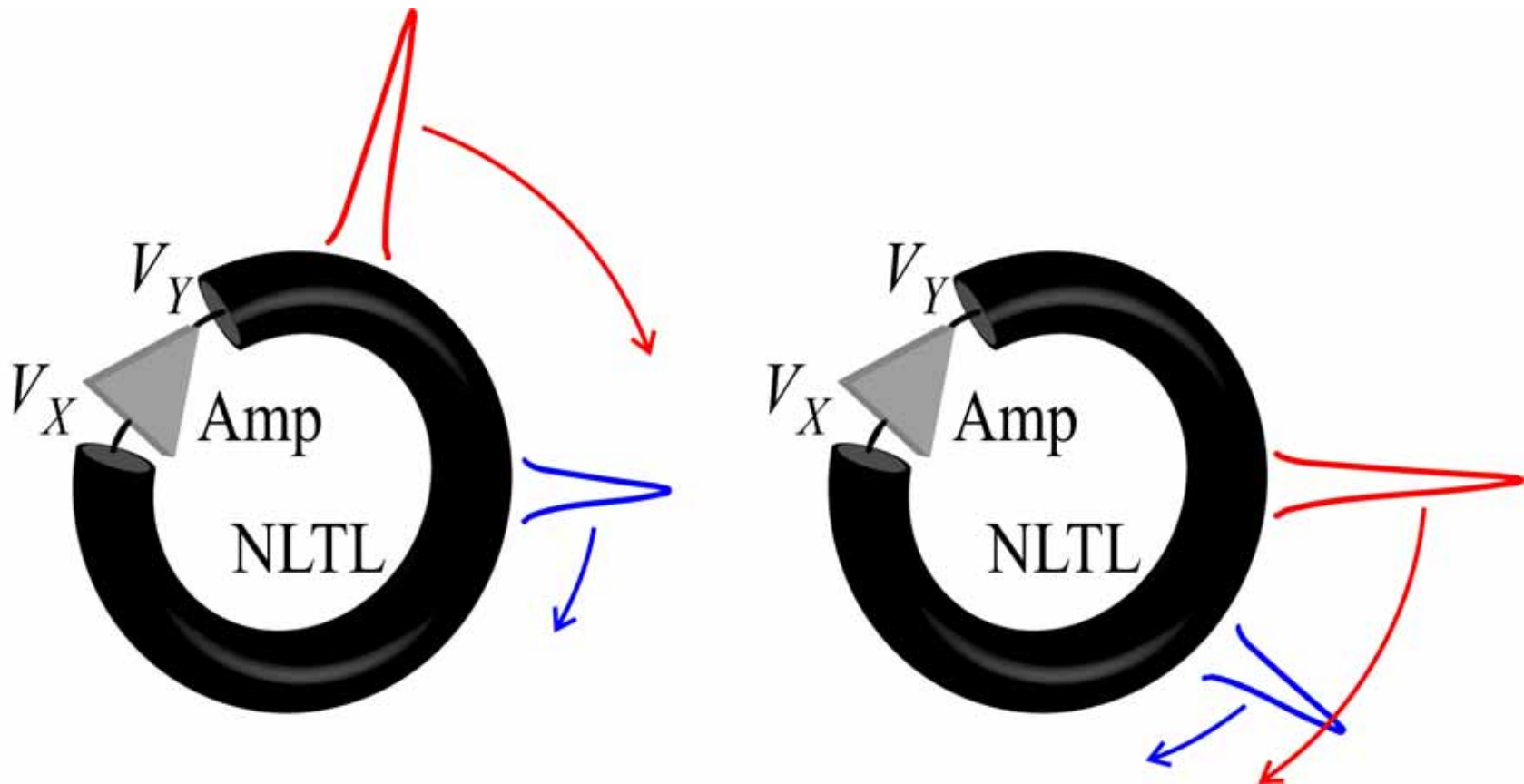
The Soliton Oscillator Team

David Ricketts

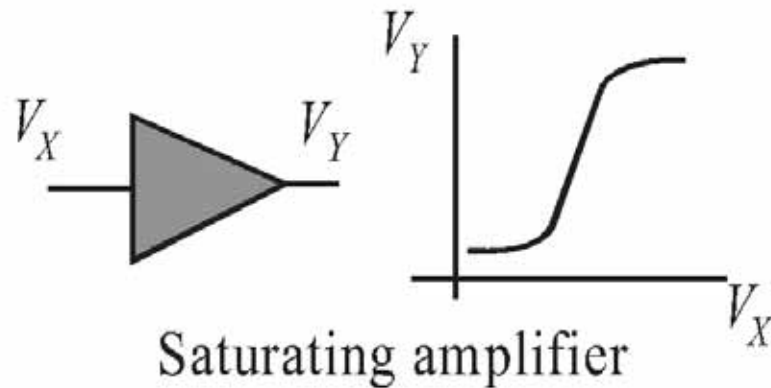
Xiaofeng Li



Sine Qua Non of Oscillation Instability “Soliton Collisions”

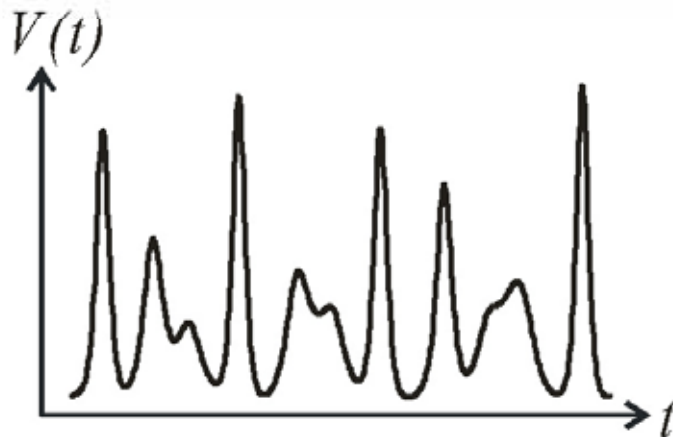


Detailed Instability Mechanisms (1)

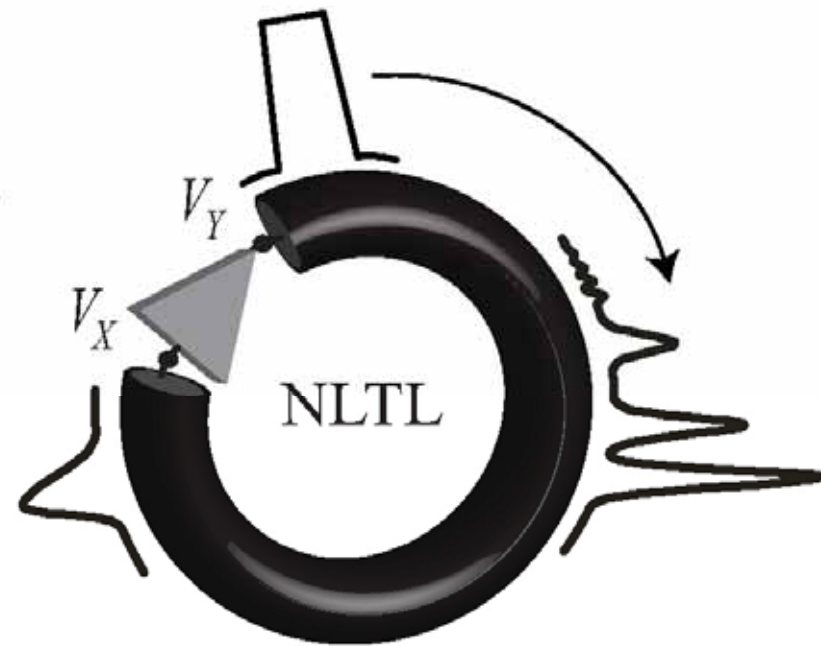


Saturating amplifier

(a)



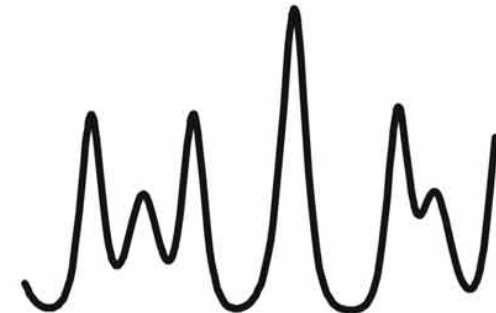
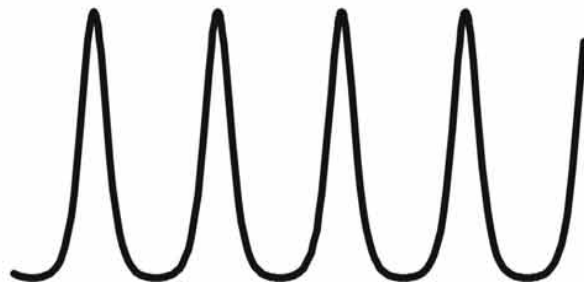
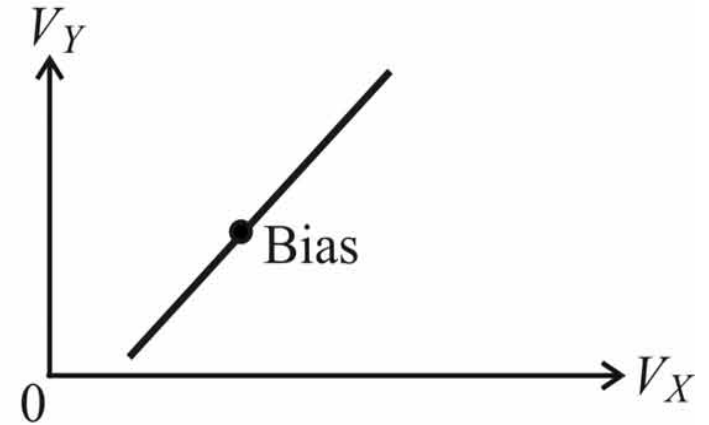
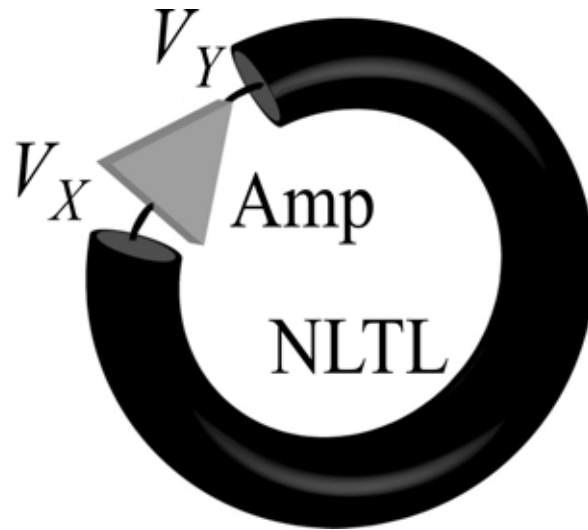
(b)



(c)

“Saturation”

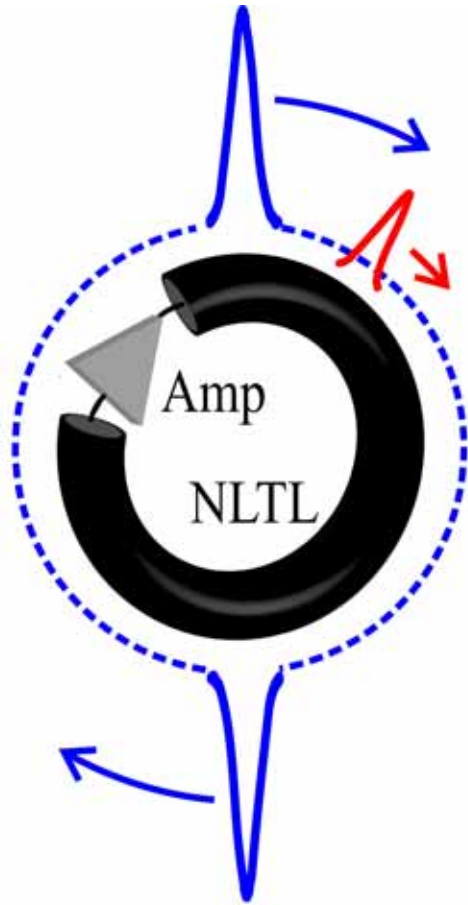
Detailed Instability Mechanisms (2)



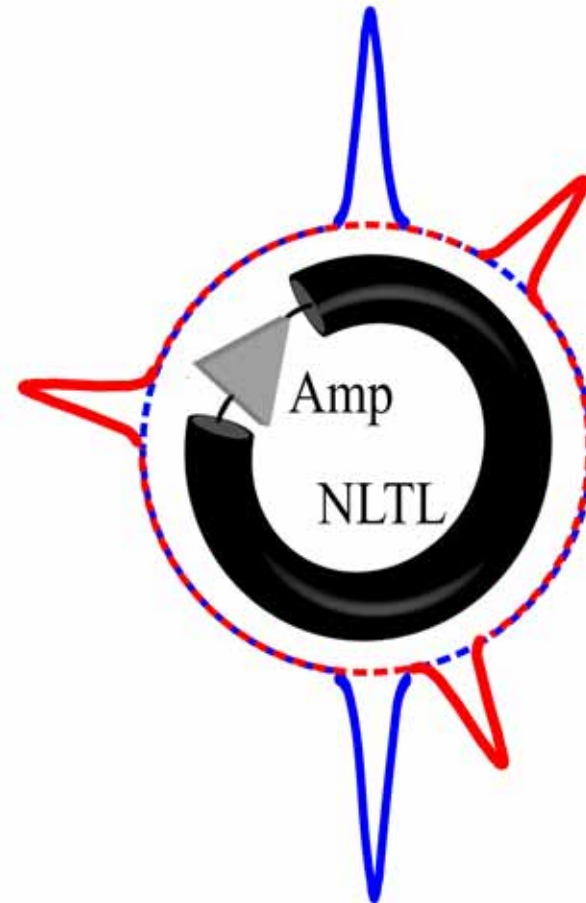
G. J. Ballantyne, PhD dissertation, U. Canterbury, 1994.

Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

Detailed Instability Mechanisms (3)

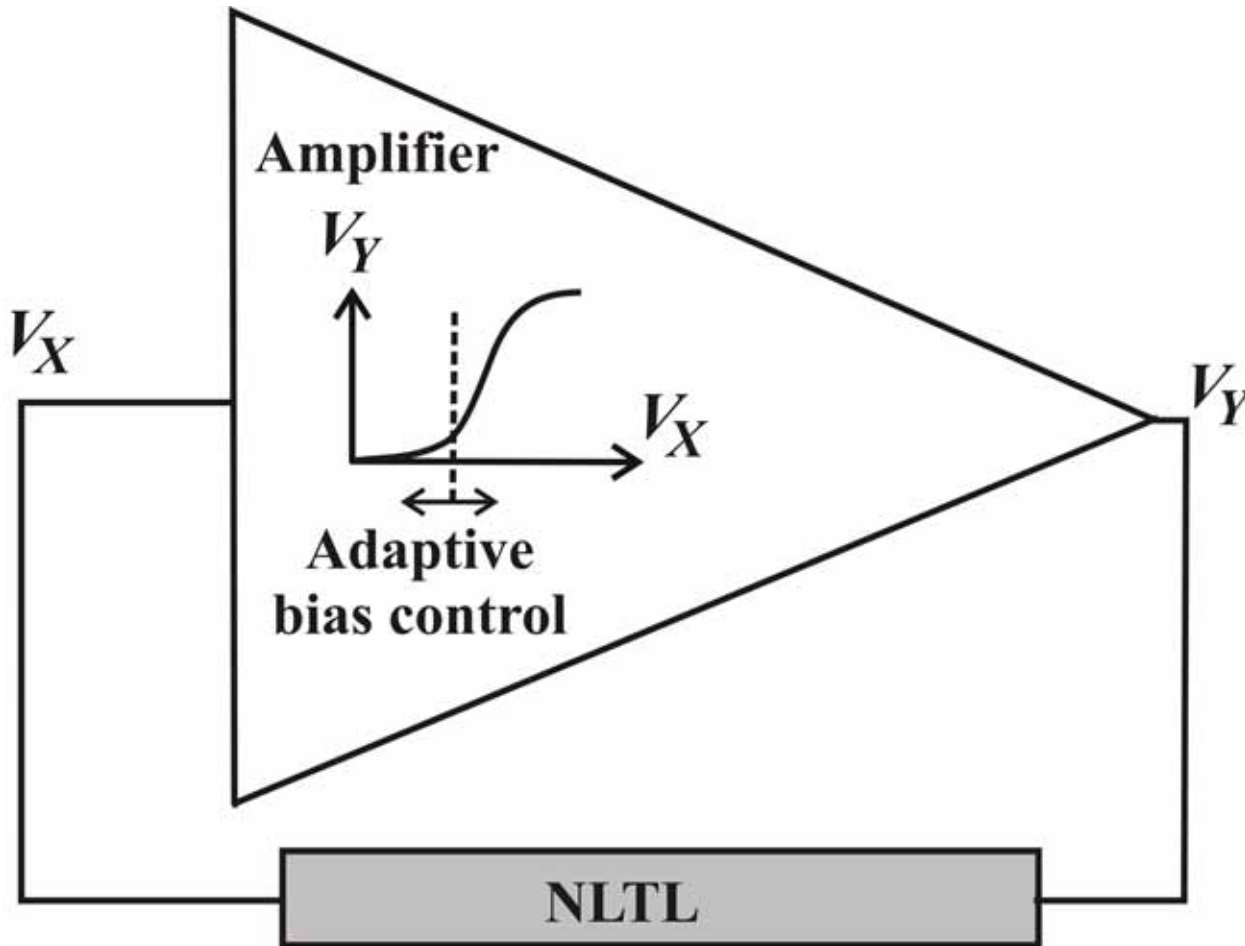


“Perturbations”



“Multi modes”

“Taming the Unruly Solitons”

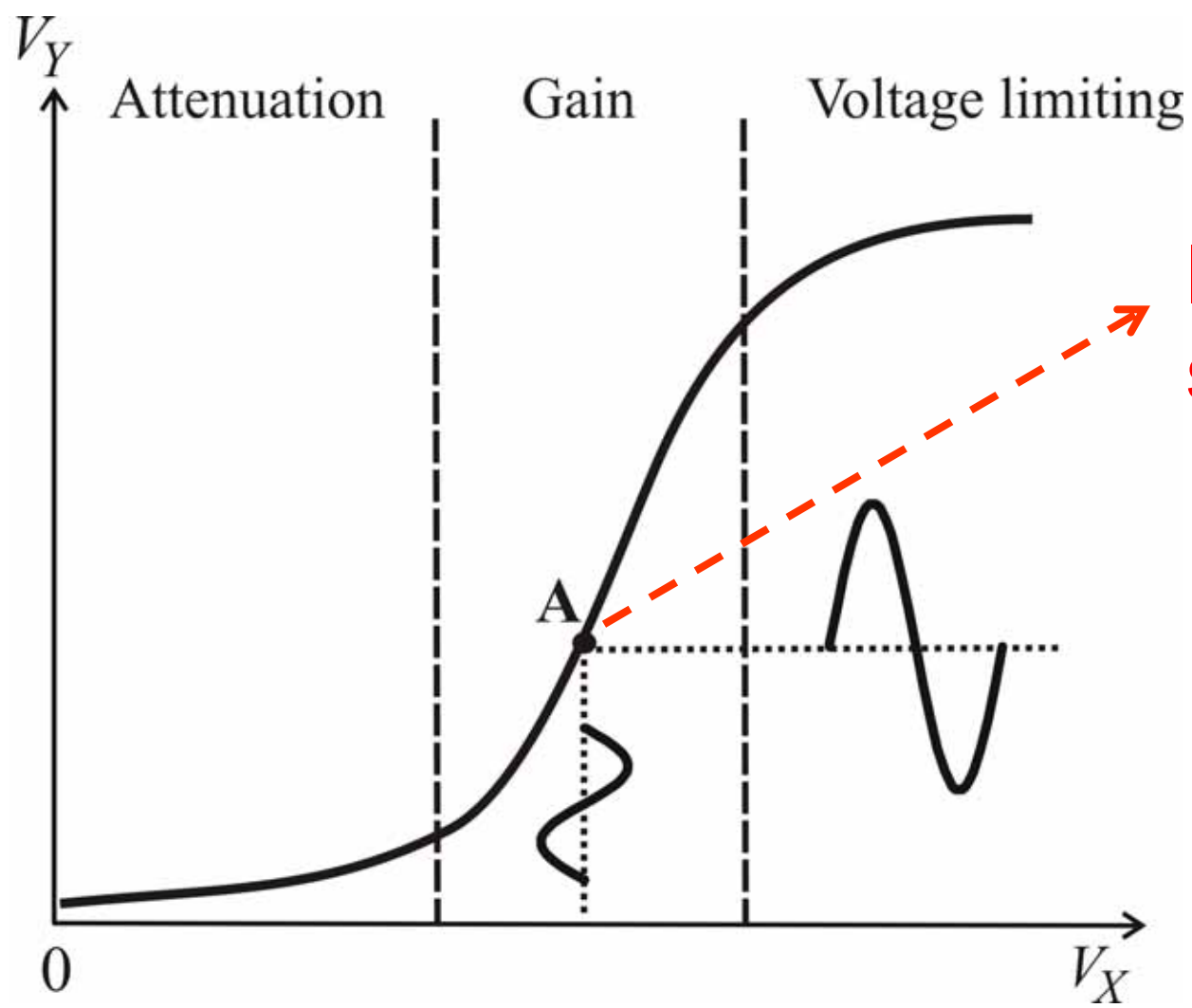
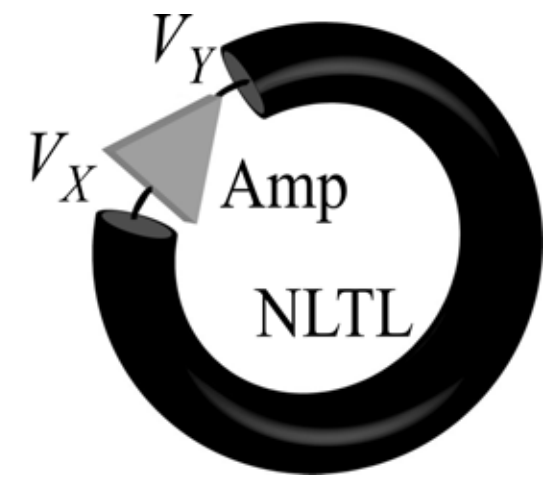


Saturation reduction

Perturbation rejection

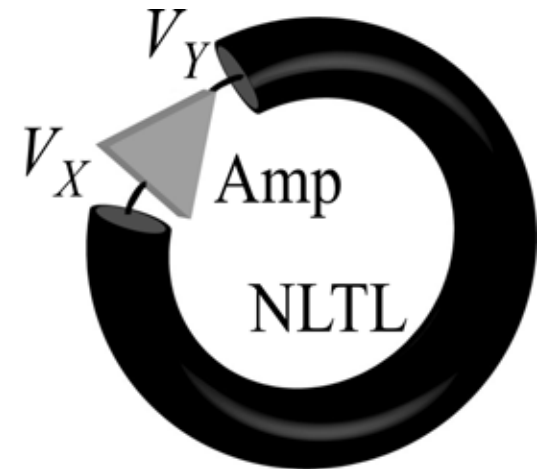
Single mode selection

Operating Principle (1)

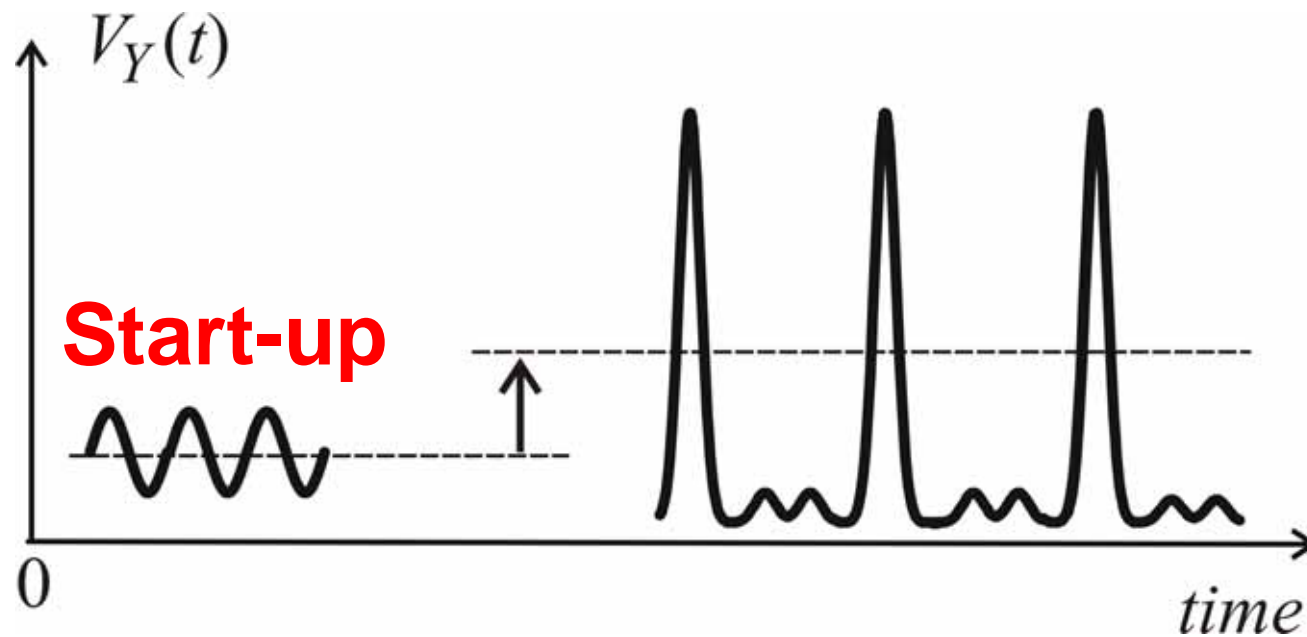


**Initial
start-up bias**

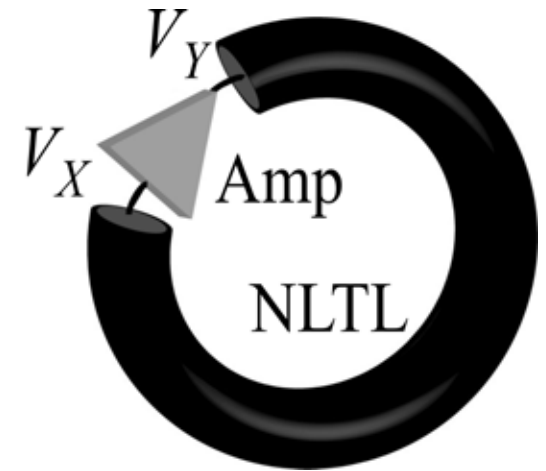
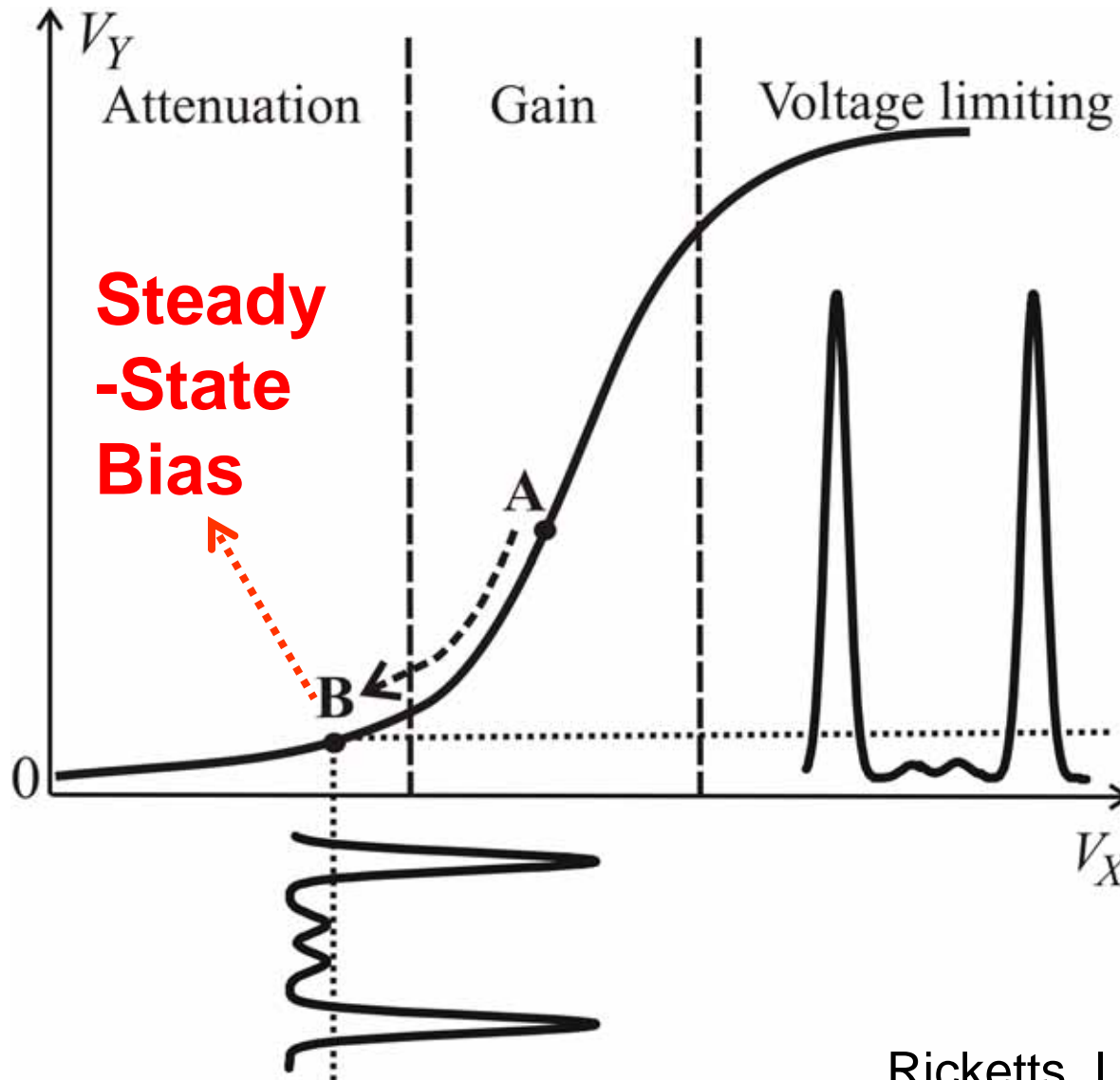
Operating Principle (2)



Start-up transient: *dc* component



Operating Principle (3)

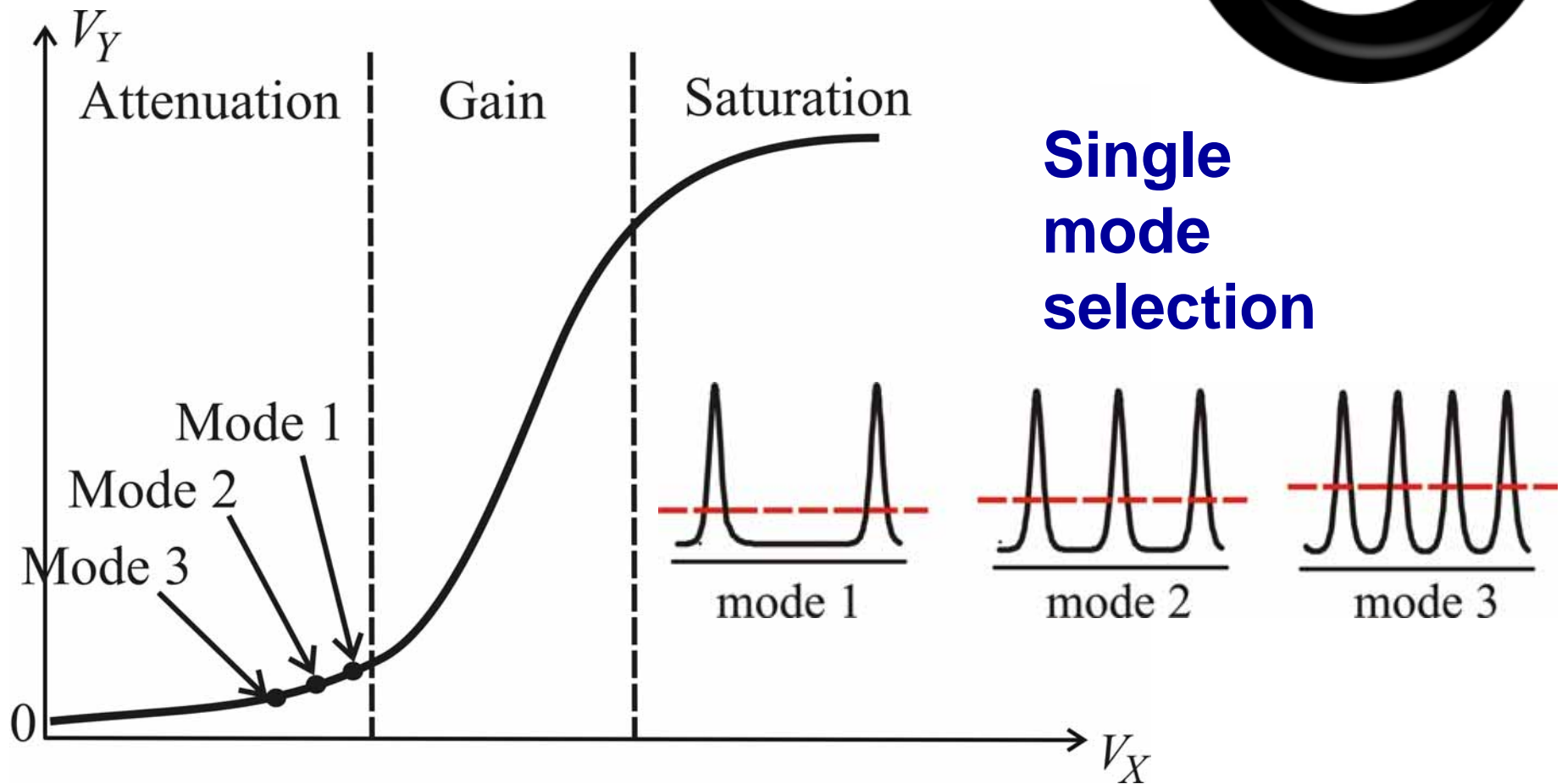
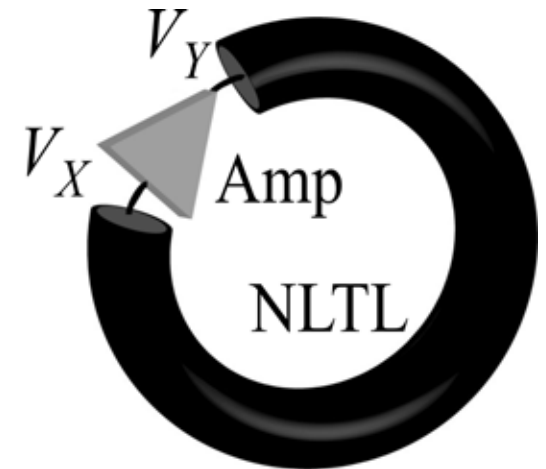


Saturation reduction

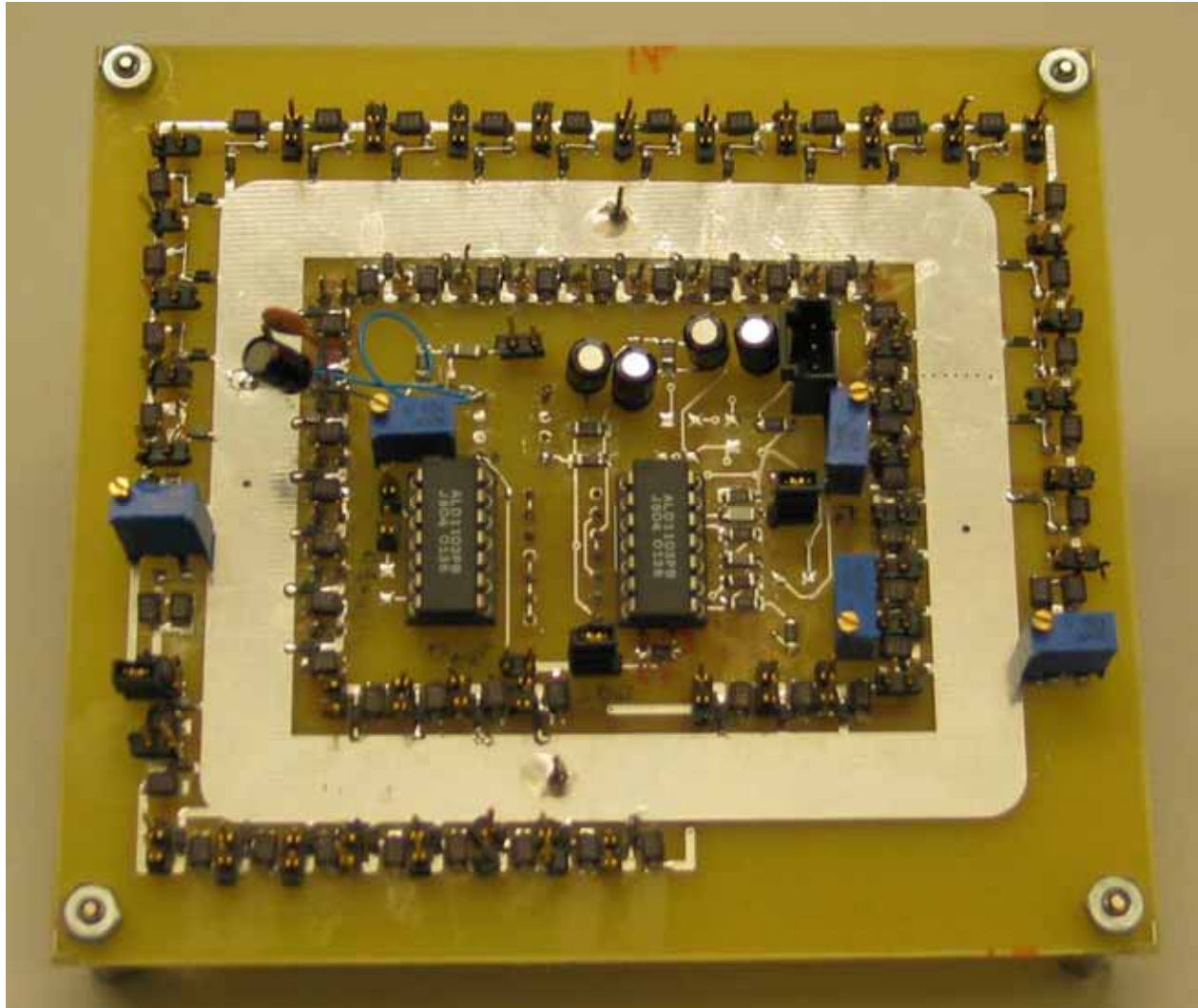
Perturbation rejection

“Saturable Absorption”

Operating Principle (4)

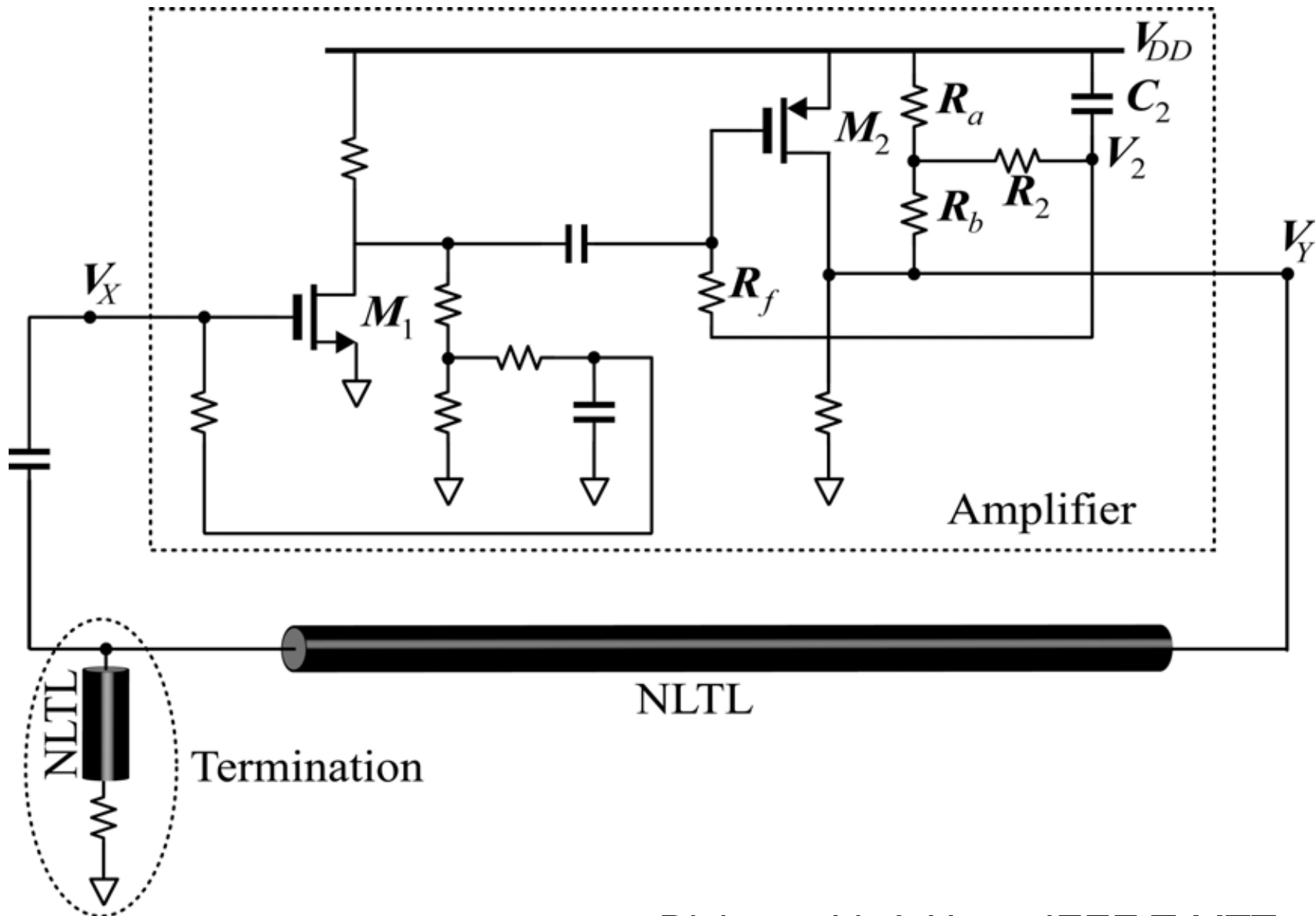


1st Prototype

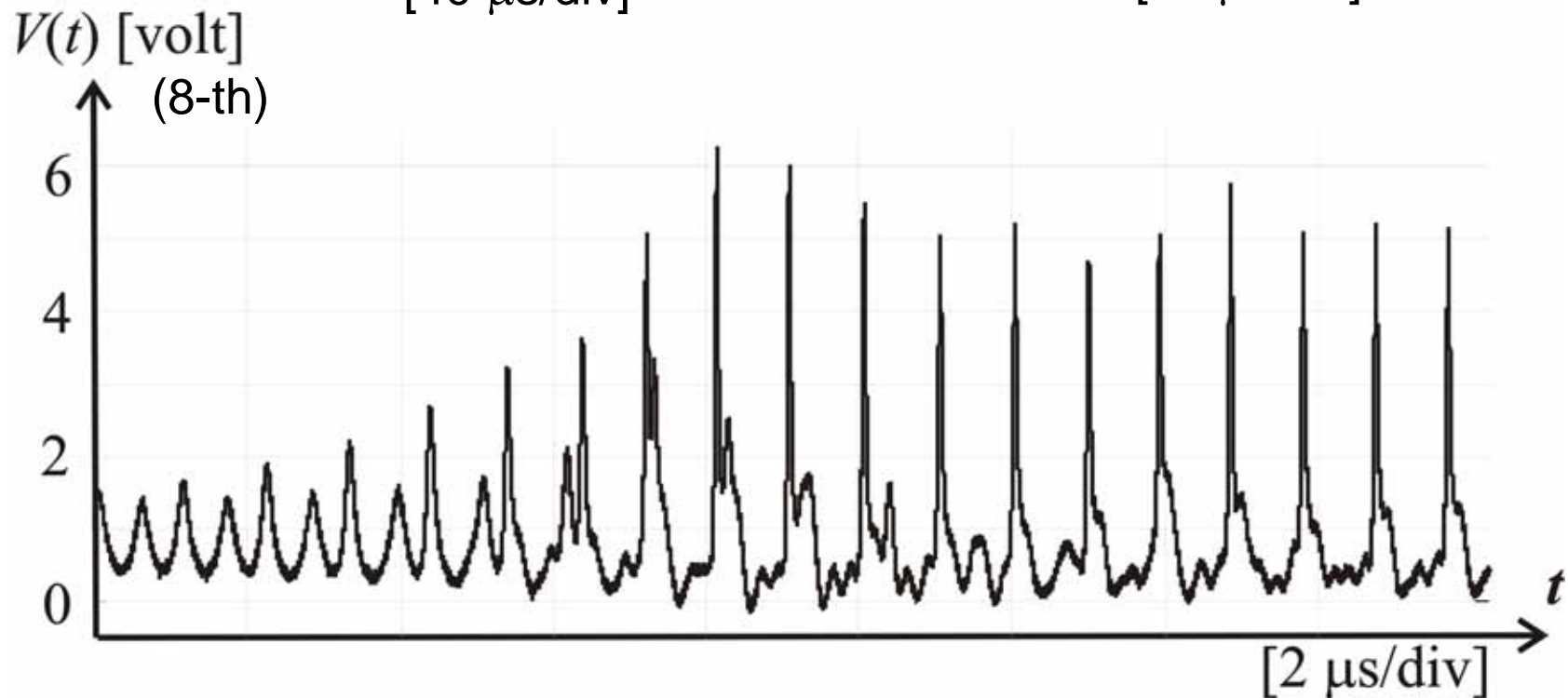
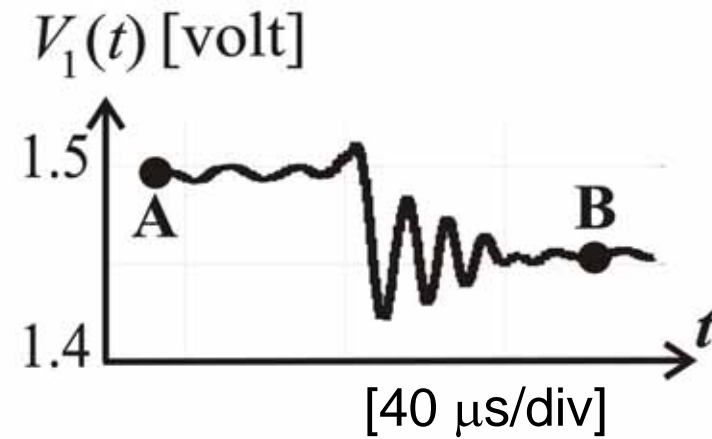
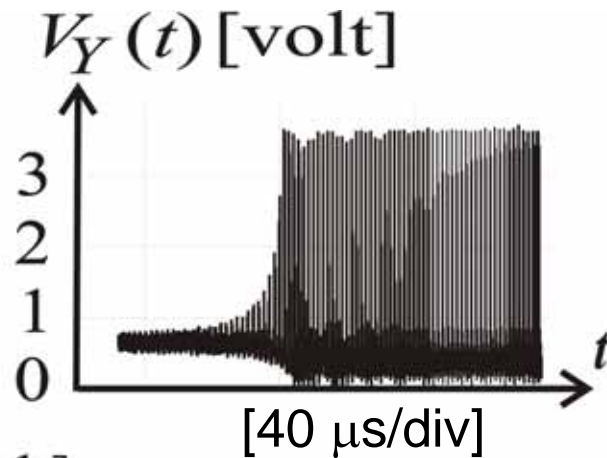


Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

1st Prototype: Schematic

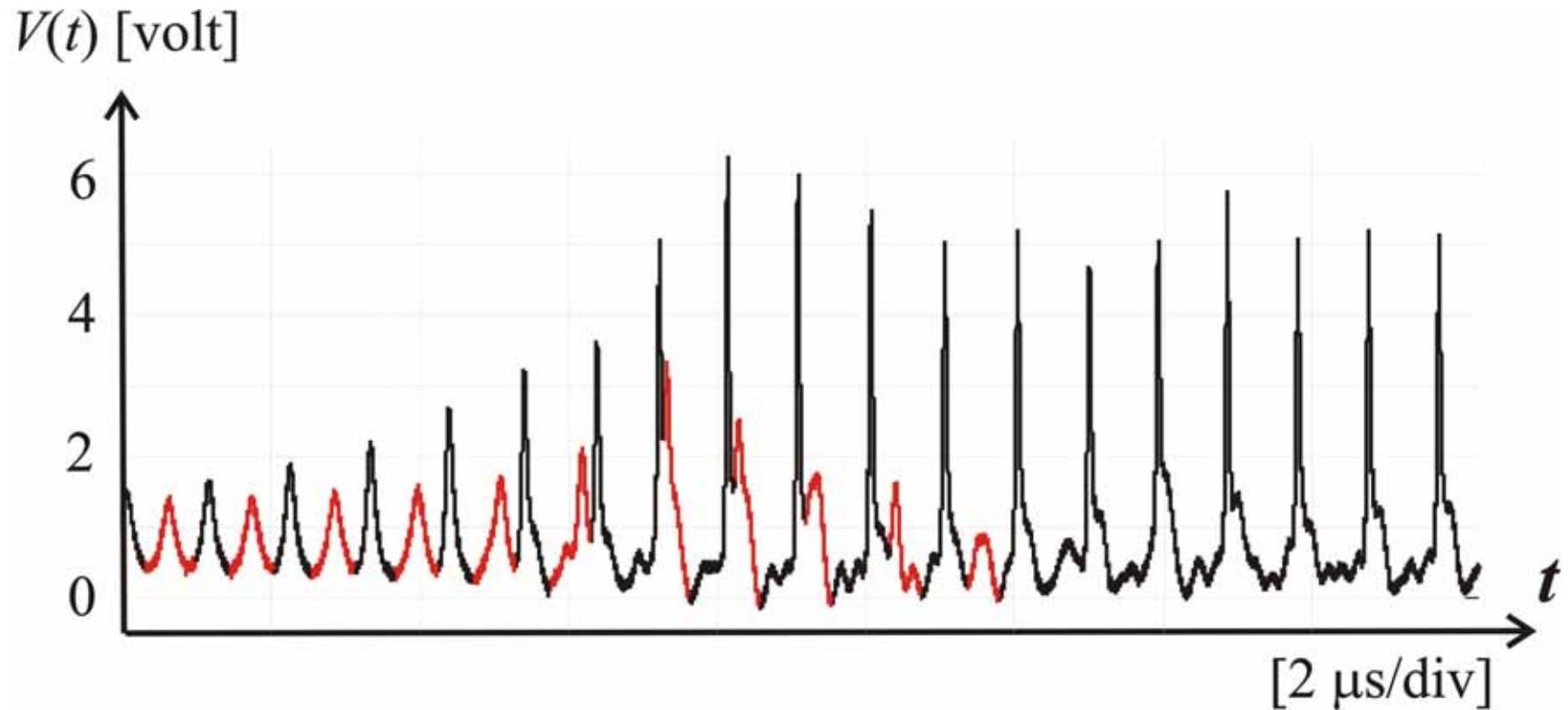


1st Prototype: Startup Dynamics

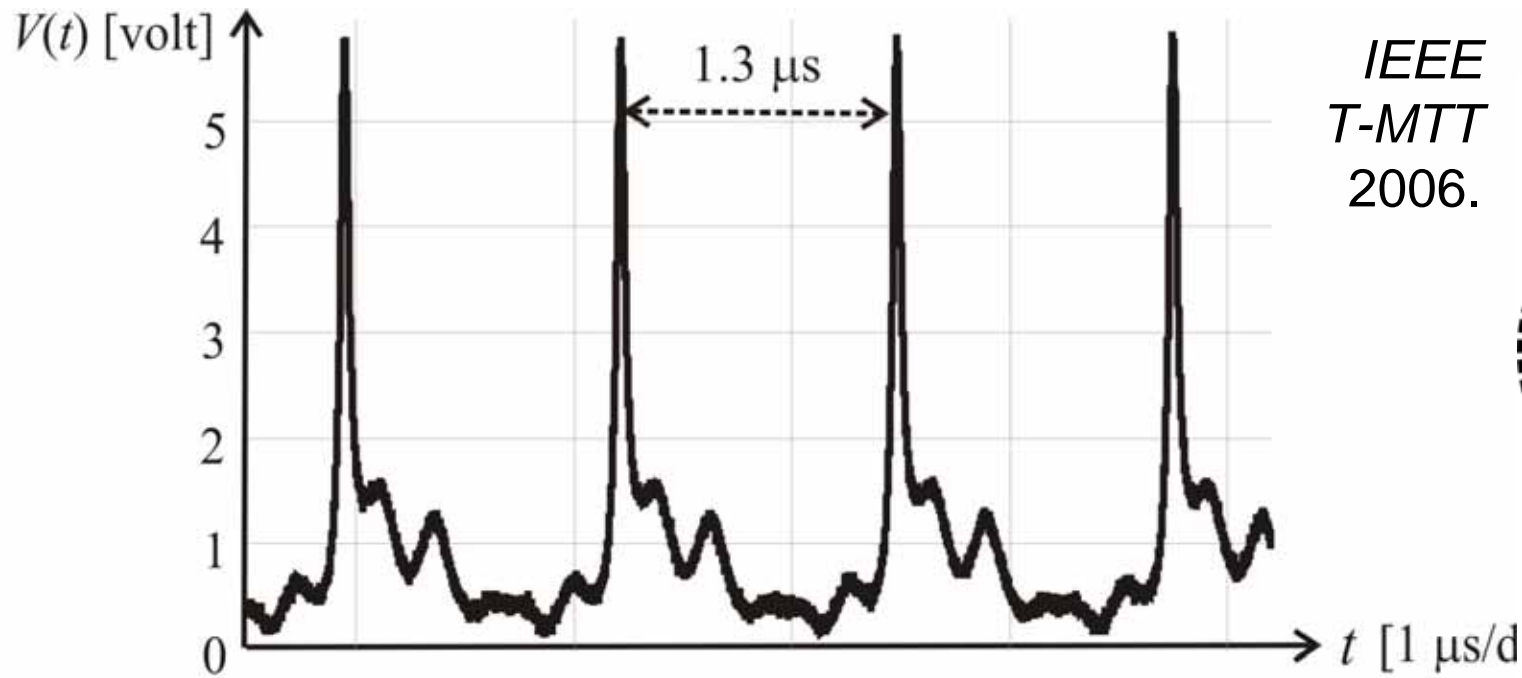


Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

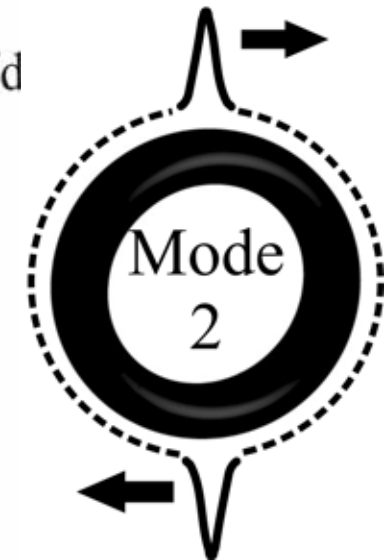
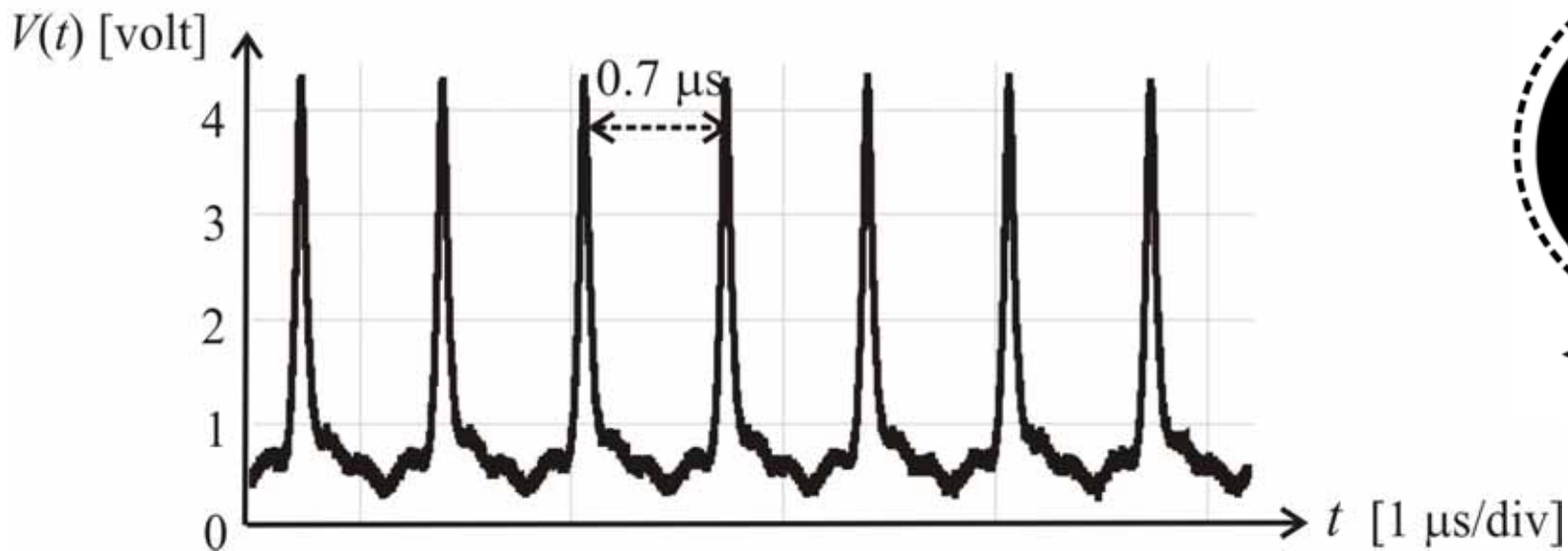
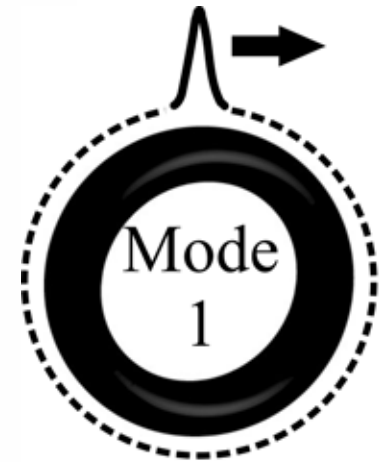
1st Prototype: Startup Dynamics



1st Prototype: Steady-State Oscillation

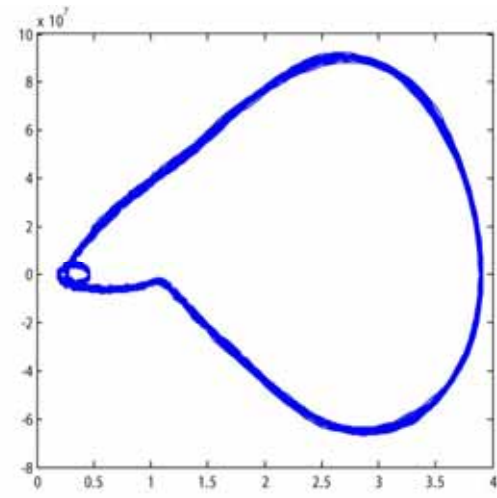
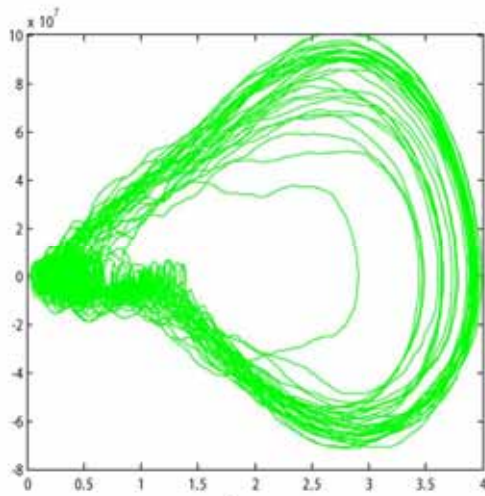
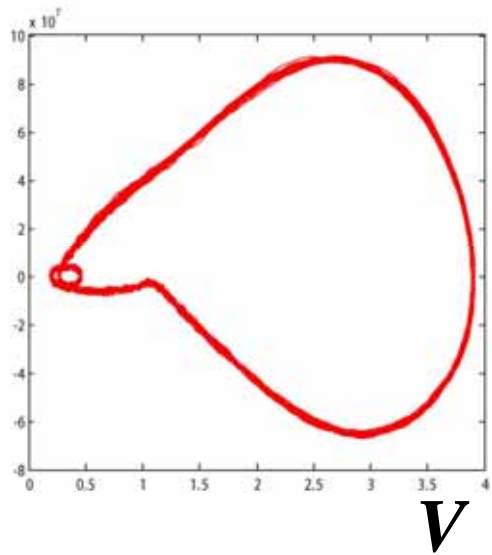


*IEEE
T-MTT
2006.*



1st Prototype: Limit Cycle

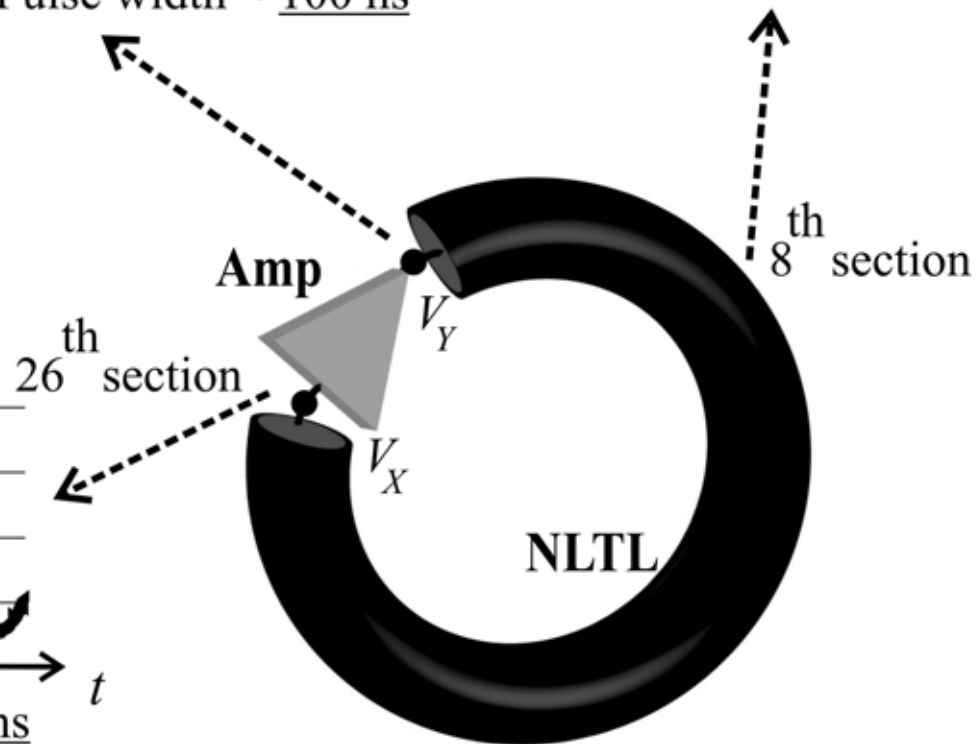
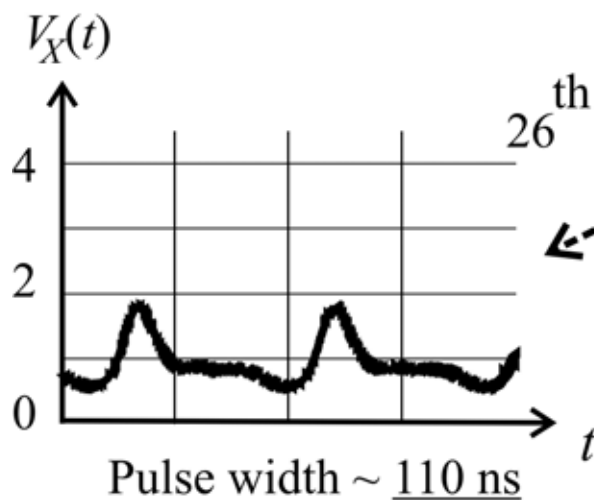
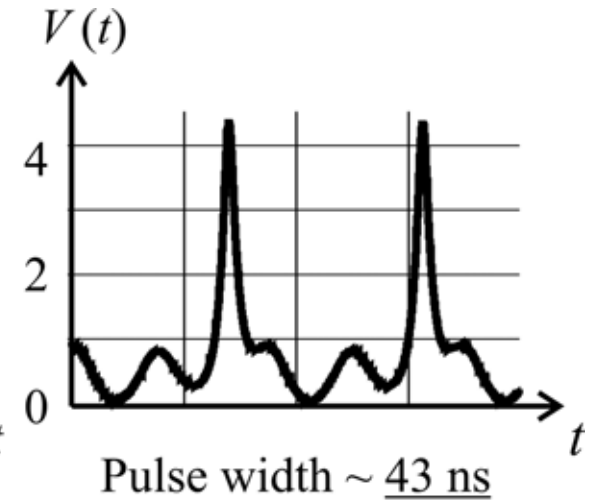
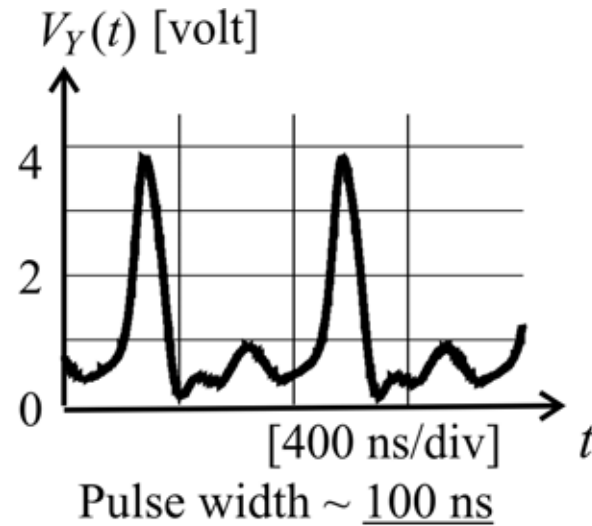
dV/dt



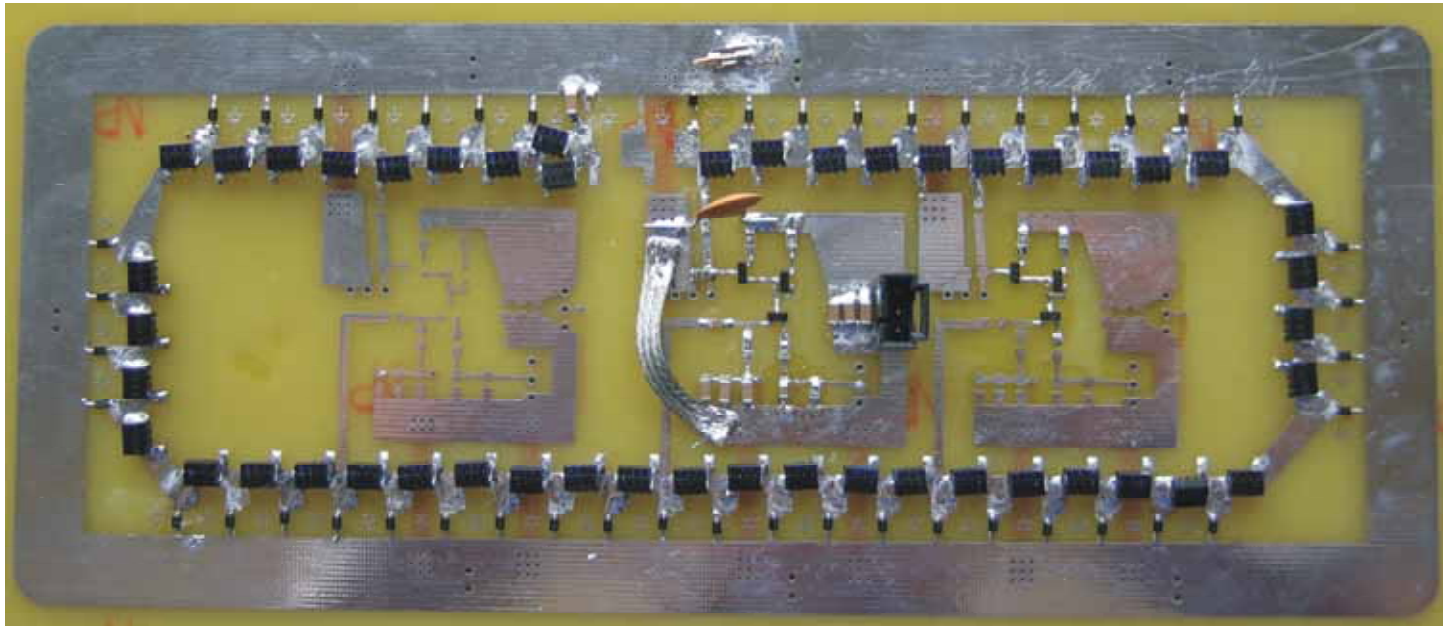
Ricketts, Li, Sun, Woo, & Ham
IEEE JSSC 2007

1st Prototype: Spatial Dynamics

Ricketts, Li, & Ham,
IEEE T-MTT, 2006.

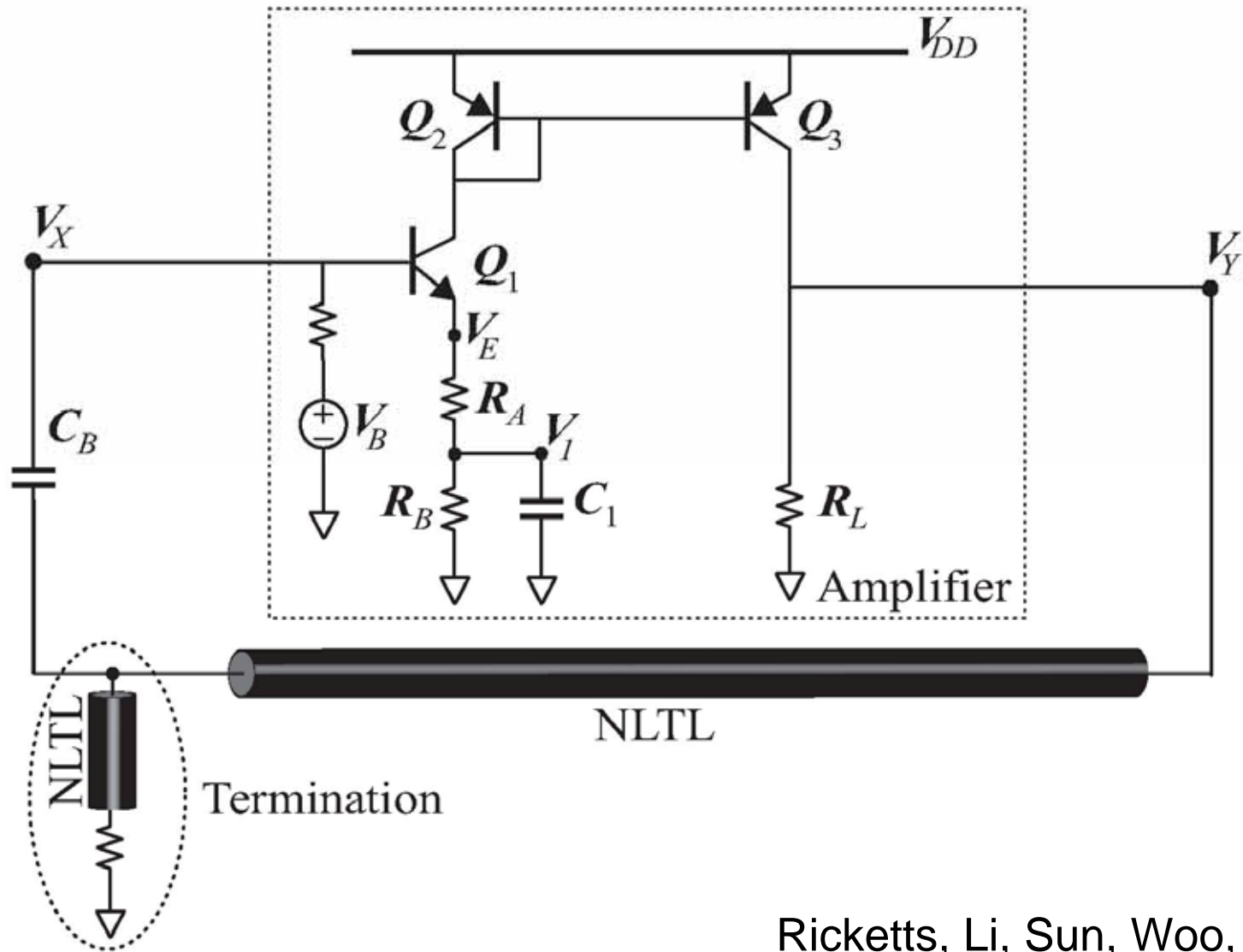


2nd Prototype

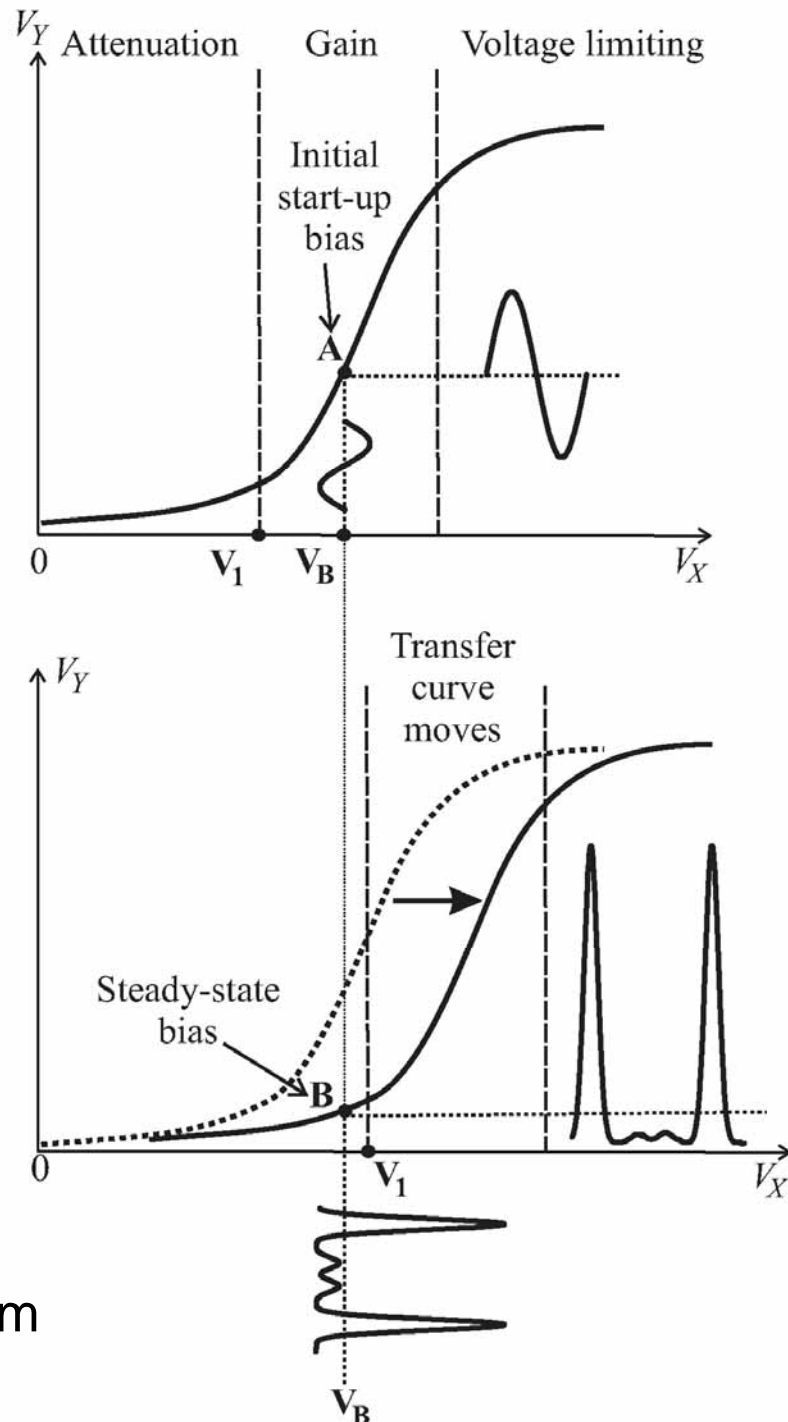


Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

2nd Prototype: Schematic

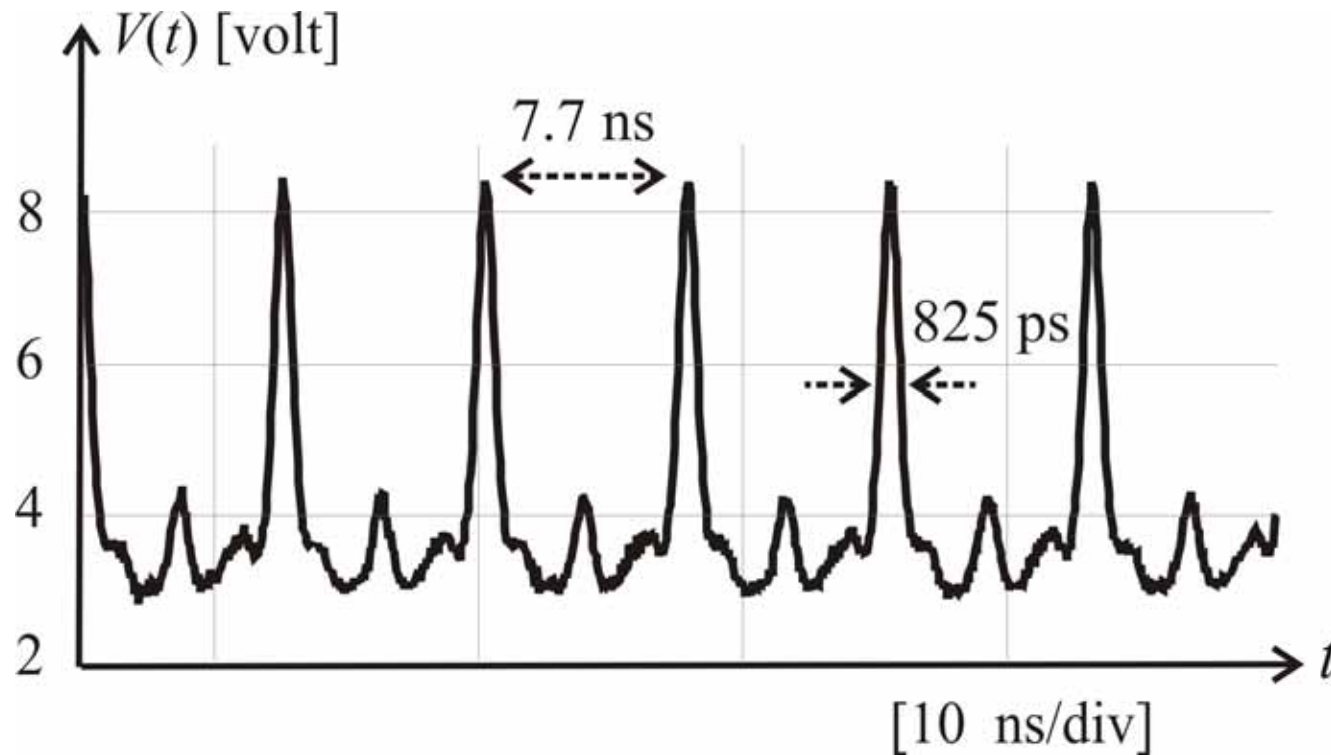


2nd Prototype : Operation



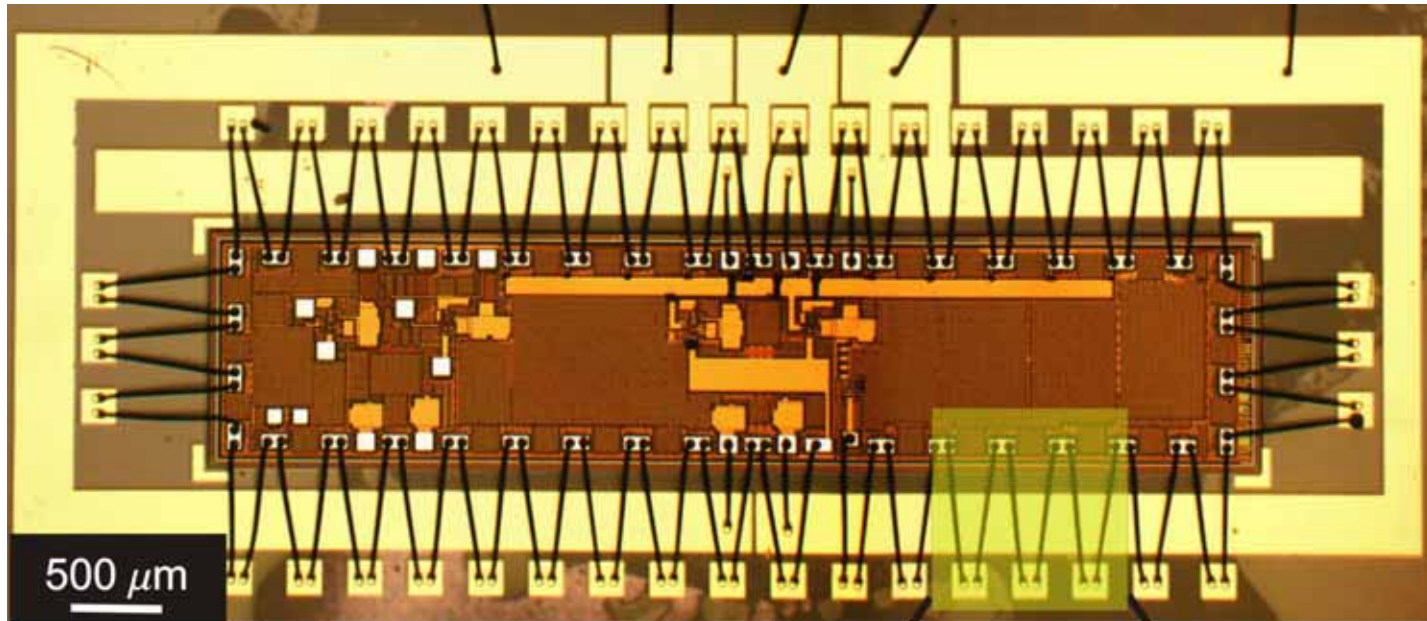
Ricketts, Li, Sun, Woo, & Ham
IEEE JSSC 2007

2nd Prototype: Steady-State Oscillation



Ricketts, Li, & Ham, *IEEE T-MTT*, 2006.

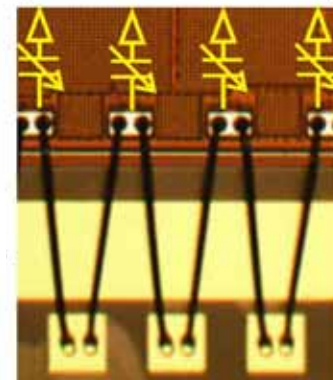
3rd CMOS Prototype



Prototype
7.5mm x 2.7mm



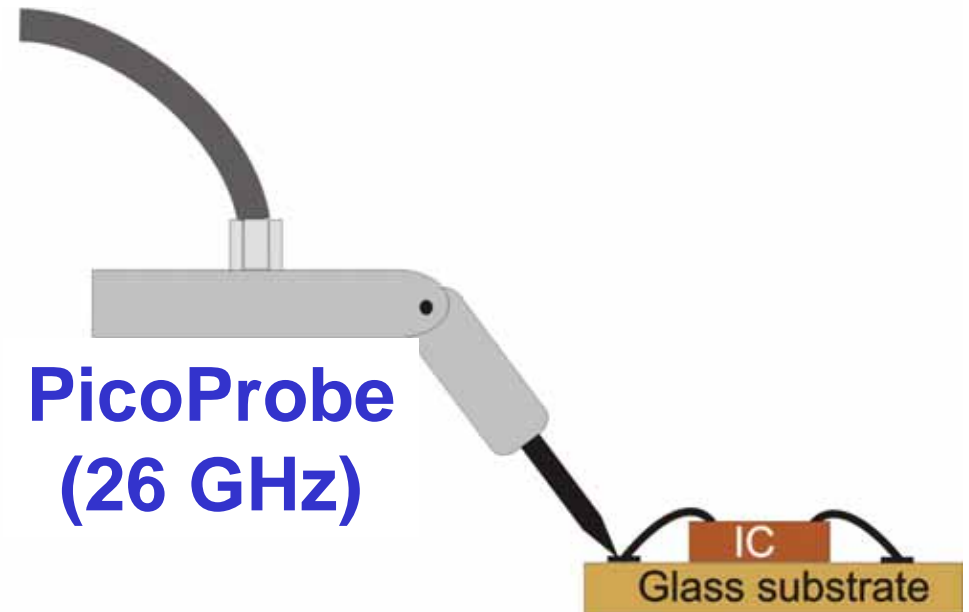
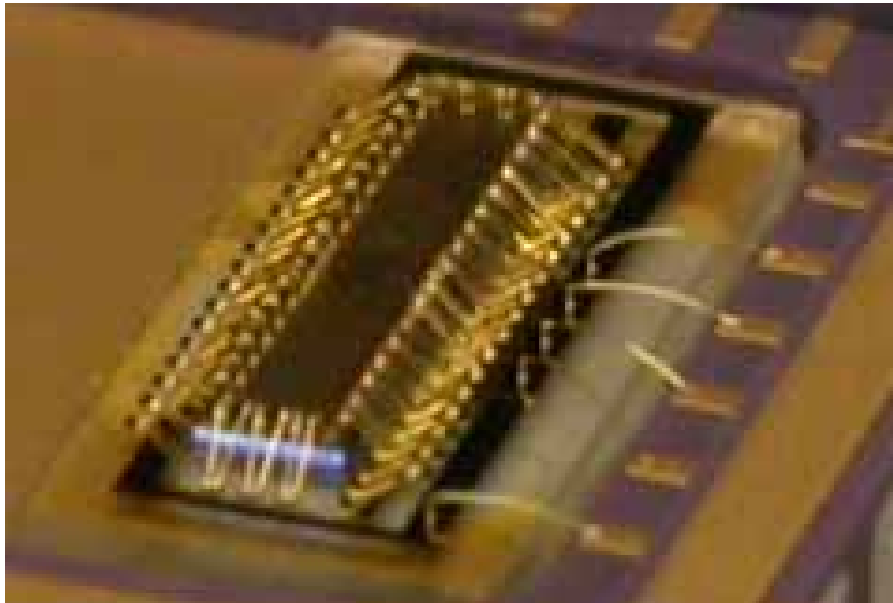
Bondwire
Inductors



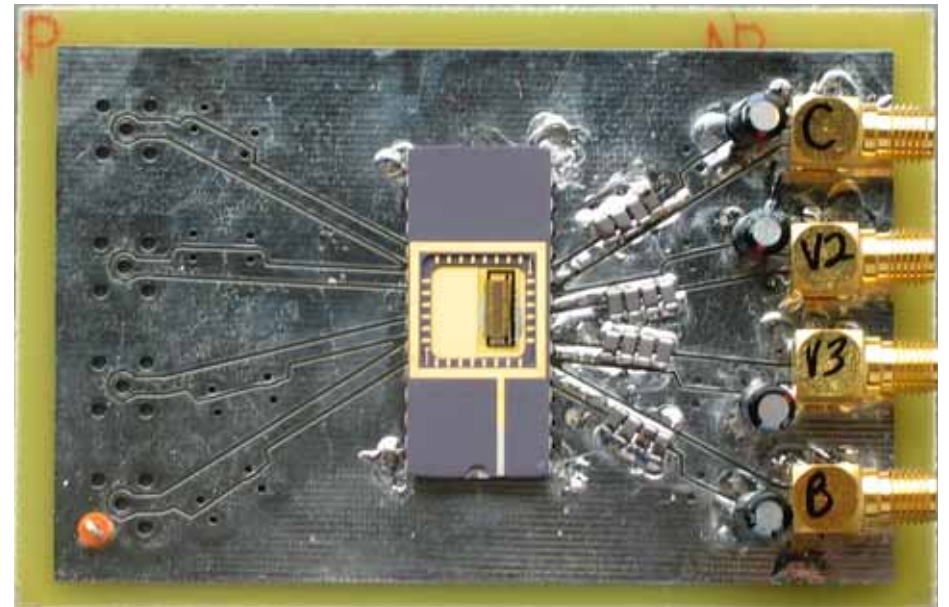
Varactors

3rd CMOS Prototype

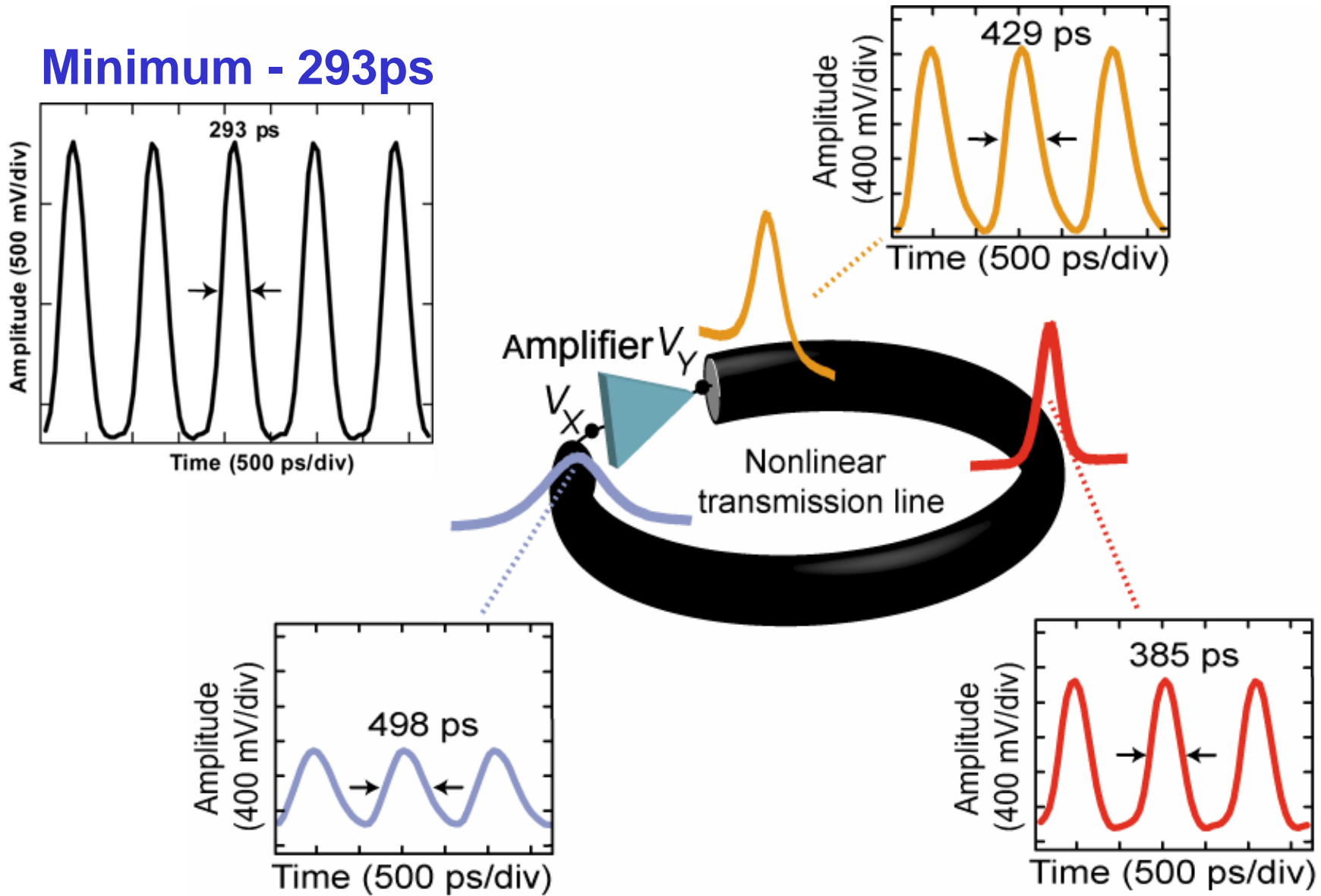
To Oscilloscope
(<7 GHz)



PicoProbe
(26 GHz)



3rd CMOS Prototype



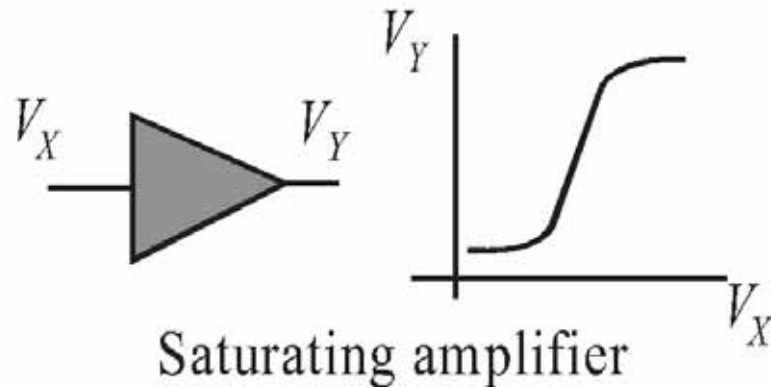
Ricketts & Ham, *IEEE ISSCC*, 2006.

Electrical Soliton Oscillator

- Chaotic Operation -

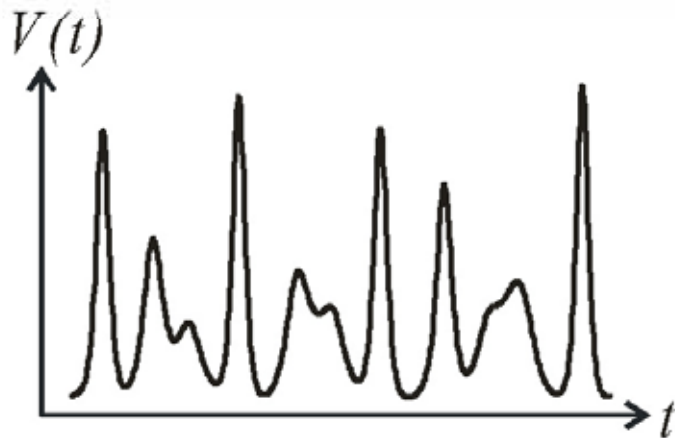
- **Original articles:** *IEEE JSSC*
- **Invited articles:** *IEEE Communications Magazine*

Let's Revisit the Case with a Saturating Amplifier.

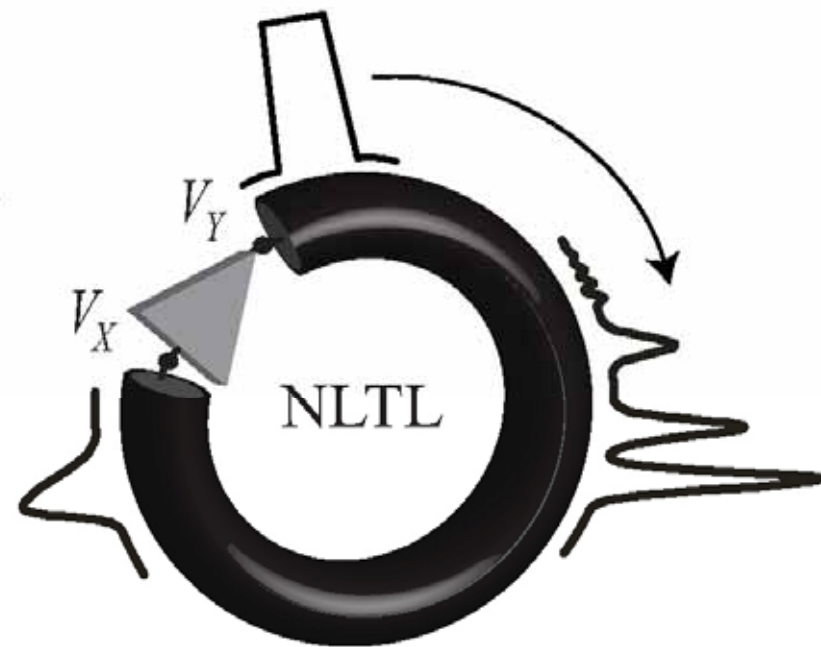


Saturating amplifier

(a)

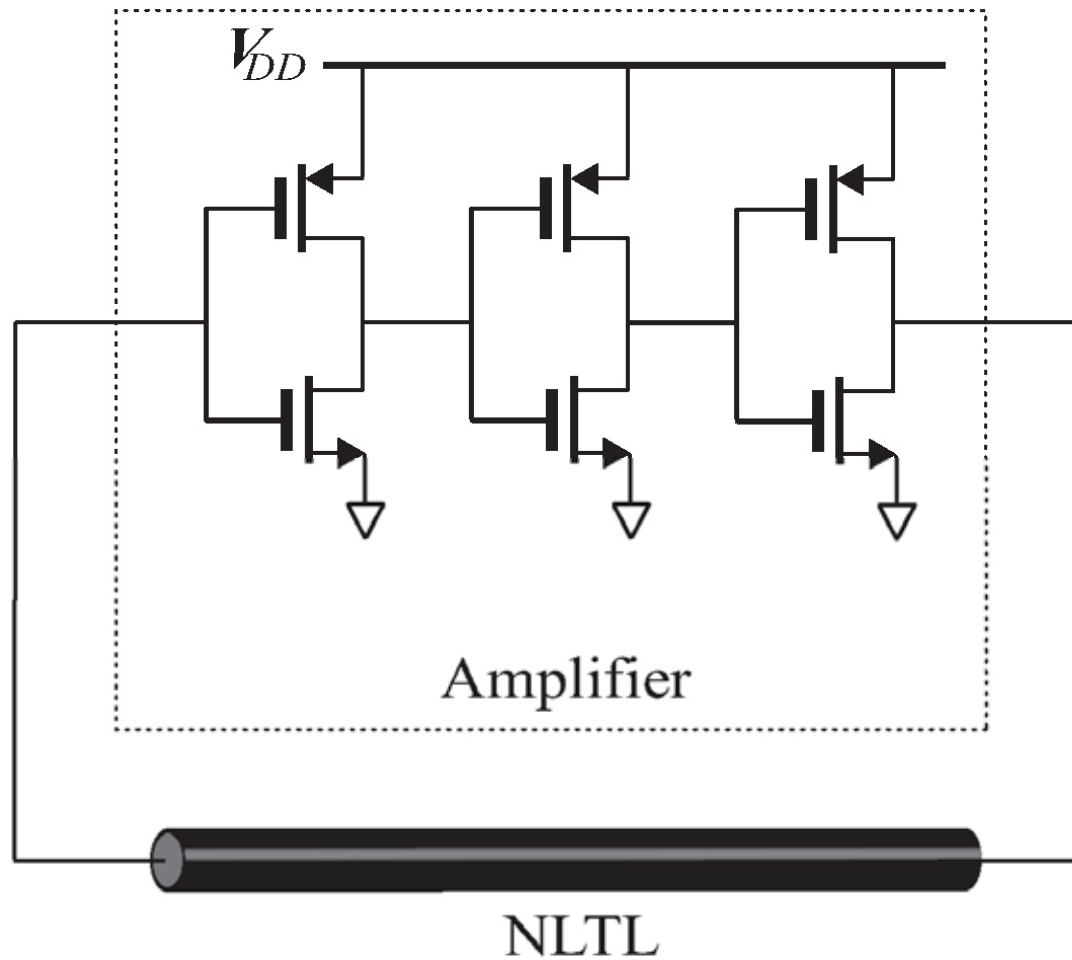


(b)



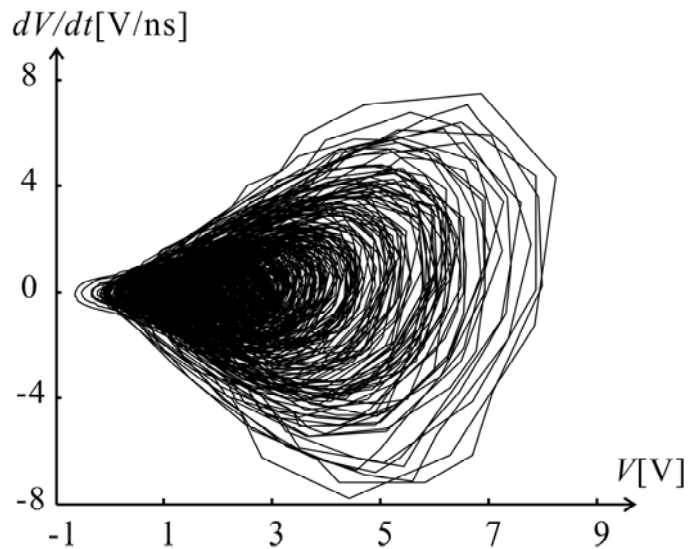
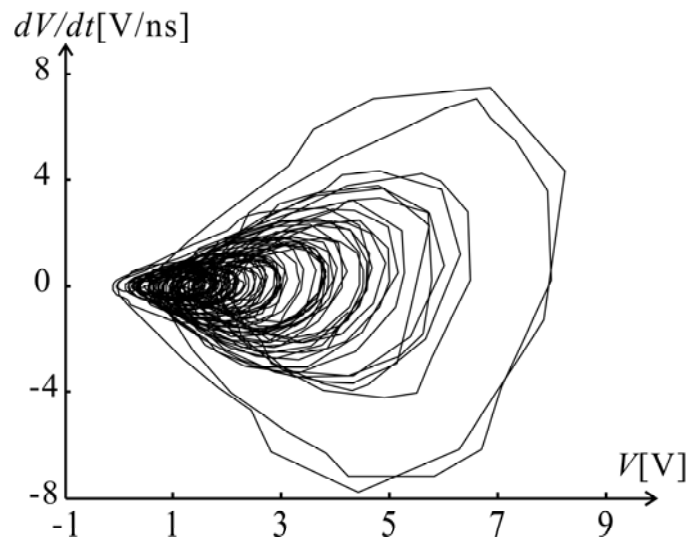
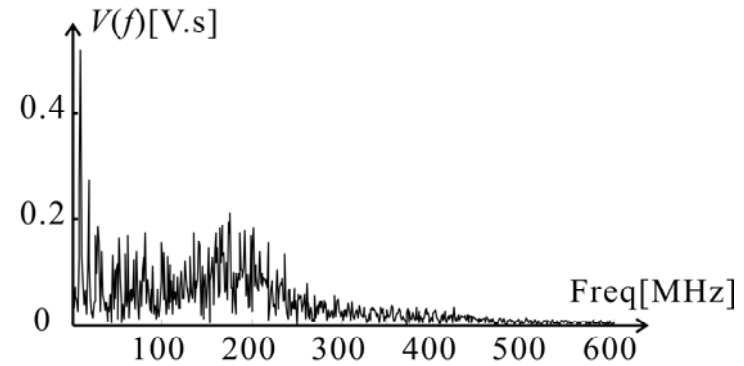
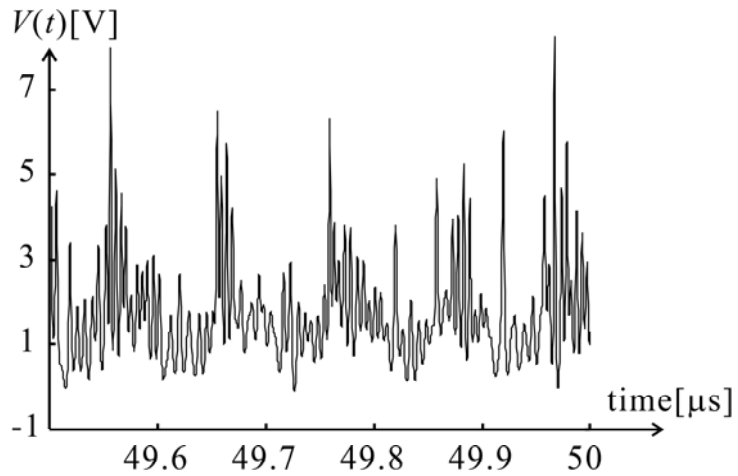
(c)

Simple Chaotic Soliton Oscillator

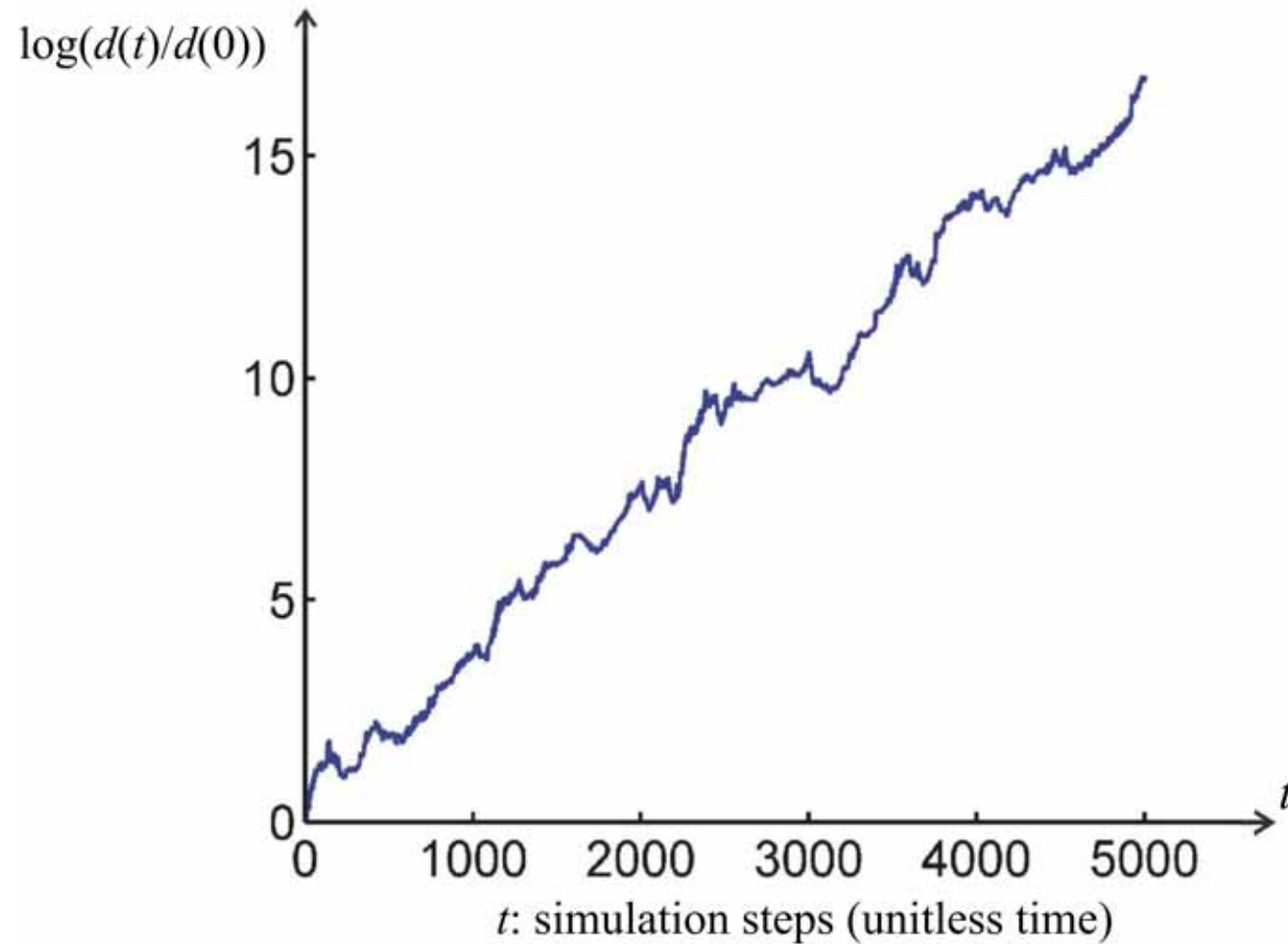


Ricketts, Li, Sun, Woo, & Ham
IEEE JSSC 2007

Chaotic Oscillation



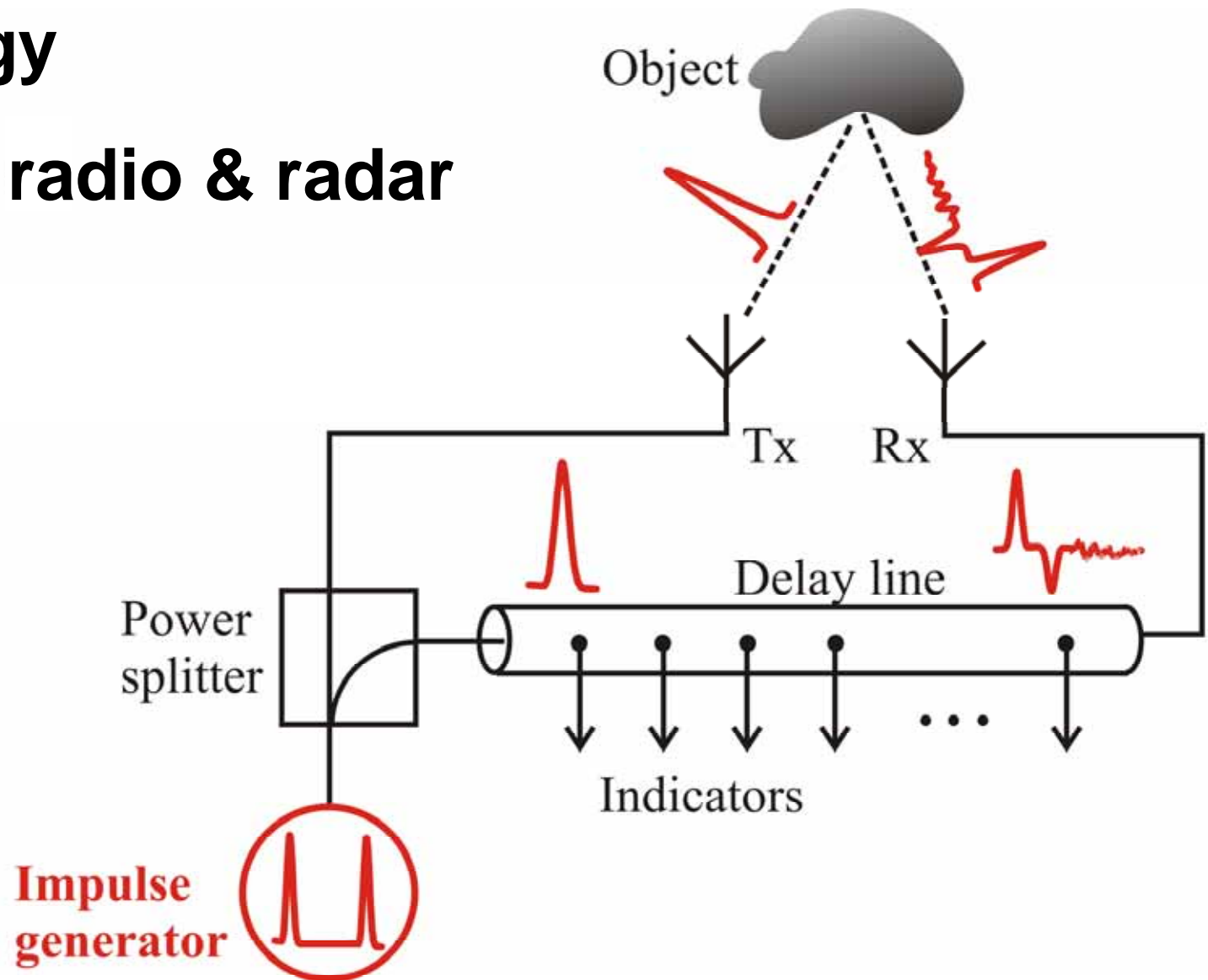
Lyapunov Analysis



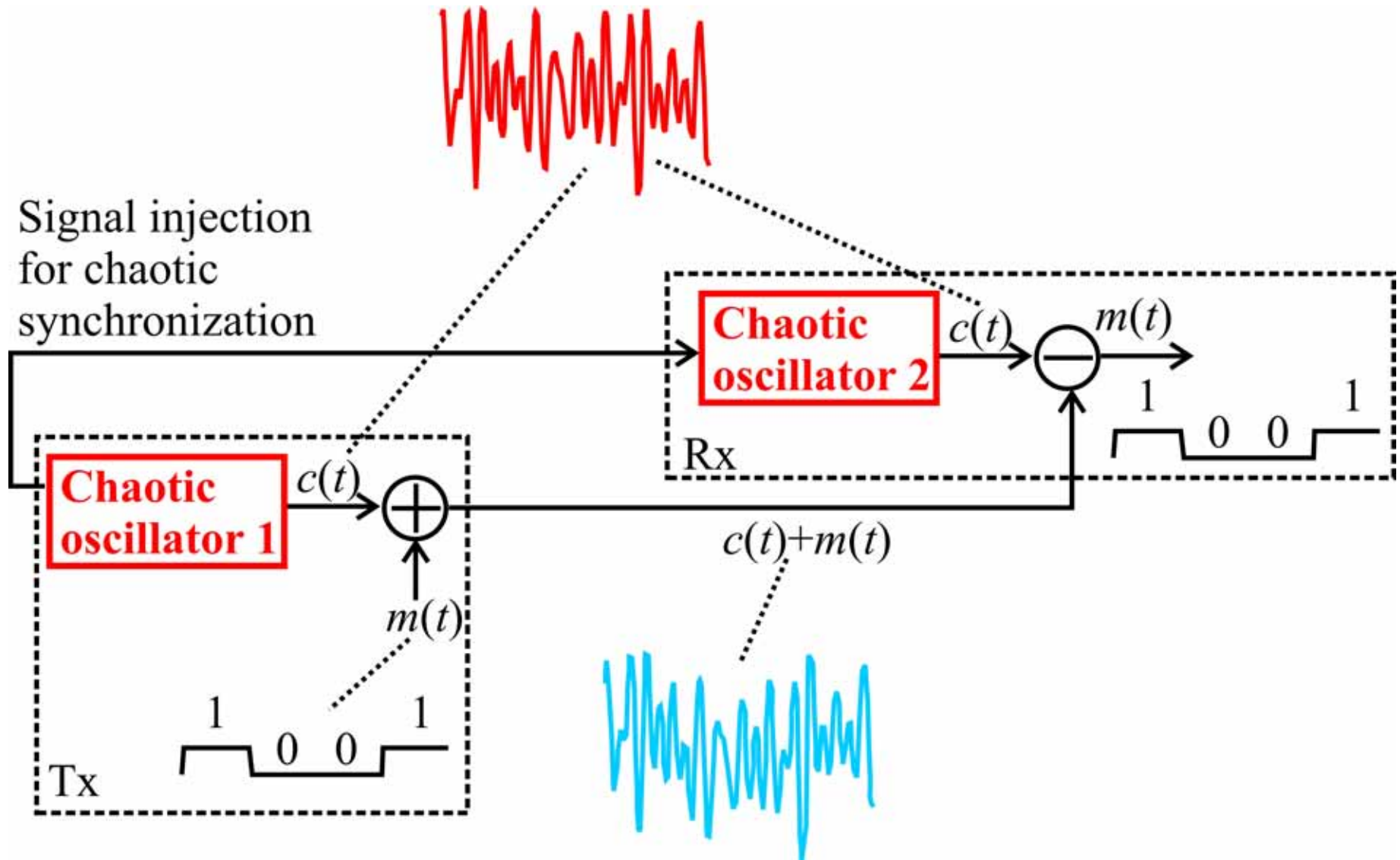
Ricketts, Li, Sun, Woo, & Ham
IEEE JSSC 2007

Applications

- Ultra-fast time-domain metrology
- Impulse radio & radar (“X”WB)



Chaotic Communication



Acknowledgement

- **MIT:** Charles G. Sodini & Kevin Kyungbum Ryu
- **Analog Devices:** Larry Devito & Rick Sullivan
- **U. Canterbury:** Gary Ballantyne & Desmond Taylor
- **Harvard:** Matt DePetro, Ali Belabbas, & Roger Brockett
- **Stanford:** Thomas H. Lee

